

Biosecurity Advisory Group – Central


Meeting Minutes

Group	Canterbury Central
Date	Tuesday 22 August 2023
Time	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Venue	Dunsandel Community Centre, 1456 Tramway Road, Dunsandel
Invited	Fiona McDonald, Karl Dean, Kevin Gallagher, Nicky Snoyink, Roger Bray, Rose Mitchell, Sarah Kross, Shannon McAleer, Virginia Marroni, Cr Paul Dietsche, Bob Mugford, Leen Braam Carl Diamond, Laurence Smith, Tia Matchitt, Morgan Shields, Bruce Marshall, Alice Wills
In attendance	Fiona McDonald, Shannon McAleer, Kevin Gallagher, Nicky Snoyink, Roger Bray, Sarah Kross. (Online) Cr Dietsche, Karl Dean Laurence Smith, Tia Matchitt, Morgan Shields, Bruce Marshall, Alice Wills
Apologies	Carl Diamond, Rose Mitchell, Virginia Marroni, Cr Bod Mugford, Cr Leen Braam
Chair	Fiona McDonald

Item	Subject	Actions
1	Welcome, Karakia, apologies, introductions	
2	Previous Meeting Recap & Actions	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team Channel: Currently with IT Share groups email address: Completed Media Training for Chairs: Completed Keep Paige up to date on any community events, markets, fetes, that would be beneficial attending: Ongoing Share events Calendar: Currently being worked on/ In process 	
3	Biosecurity Group Administration	
4	Public in Attendance <i>This time is for members of the public who have requested an opportunity to address the group to do so.</i>	
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiona addressed the group that they can bring along a member of the public but please let her know beforehand. It's our role to make people aware and bring them along to meetings. Sarah – Are there any groups that have attended the Biosecurity Advisory groups in the past? 	Action: To advertise the meetings wider for members of the public to attend.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laurence – MPI, National Wallaby Eradication Programme. Keith from DOC about wild goats. Subgroup for nassella tussock formed from discussion during Northern group meeting. Northern BAG group are having Ruth Brittan from Kiwirail attend their meeting to talk about pests on the rail lines. • Kevin – Carl would be able to bring updates on Wilding Confer. • Laurence – We will be moving into the Wilding Confer transition to landowner soon. The BAG's might get involved in this transition process • Kevin – need to work hard to not to give up on future funding. We have a wilding confer issue in the back country. What can we do to assist with this process? 	
5	Main Agenda Items	
5.1	Biosecurity Briefings	
	Questions arising from feral ungulate update provided	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laurence – A lot of pressure coming from the community on the increasing number of feral deer and pigs etc. The issue is that they are destroying the native forest. There was a lot of discussion around where the programme is going and no assistance for private landowners. The community just want the animals gone. They don't want to protect them. • Kevin – Would be good to reflect on the Tahr and Wallaby programme. It failed due to animal movement. Are they trying to eradicate ungulates? Conflict from the people who want them on their land for hunting. • Laurence – Room for both, could have a level of ungulates. A lot of farms in the open country hire contractor to kill them. This happens every few years. • Nicky – There is a back story on the framework of the project. In the past it has been done behind closed doors. Now it has become public, and people have been asking for help when there hasn't been input before. Major problem, they want the animals but then want the biodiversity. • They have a lot of work and enquiries around farms who have QE2 covenants. • Could be useful for this group to write to DOC or Government Ministers. • Laurence – first steps would be to go to Environment Canterbury's Council and have a discussion. • Shannon – interesting to see the feral ungulate information from Environment Canterbury first rather than through the Deer Association. 	
	Nassella Tussock Advisory Group	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laurence recently met with Nassella Tussock subgroup members. 1460 properties have or have 	

	<p>had nassella-affected land. There is a small percentage of landowners who have done little or no control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reason we are having an increase, people are doing poor jobs of grubbing. Farmers are concerned. • How do we get people to do a better job. Contractors are charging up to \$70 an hour. • Notes and actions have been taken from the meeting around education and perhaps training people. Contractors themselves have a high turnover and sometimes aren't doing sufficient control. • It's a regional interest not just North Canterbury. A lot of seeds have been moved around by vehicles, machinery, and stock. Not a lot of biosecurity hygiene happening on the properties that have them. • Fiona – Is nassella tussock climate sensitive? Yes, change in climate, things get drier. Grasses will increase. • Roger – Need to acknowledge the resistance on the landowners for spending money on pest control. • Laurence – This issue has been addressed. How to approach the programme. Spread it out and start early as possible. Do the work yourself rather than hire a contractor. • Kevin – Landowner reluctance, if they don't do it, they won't have a farm. If they have high stakes (loss of farm risk), they should be doing the job. • Laurence – Over the years, Environment Canterbury has reduced the funding for nassella tussock. We are now only able to inspecting about 30% of properties. • Regional teams are focused on the future. Going into the climate model. What are the pests coming at us that can be the most invasive. 	<p>ACTION: Circulate information to Central BAG Group about the Nassella Tussock subgroup.</p> <p>If there is anyone that would like to attend the meetings, please get in contact and an invite will be sent.</p>
	Key Topics/theme for BAG meetings	
	[for next meeting]	
	Gold Clam Update/Asian Gold Clam	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh water clam. Found in the Waikato River and has only recently been found. • Laurence describes the clam. Never been eradicated where they have been found. • At this stage MPI have set up a communication and engagement group and they are going to try educate to eradicate. • Environment Canterbury have done water sampling testing on three areas around Canterbury. Avon River, Roto Kohatu and Lake Hood. Results came back negative. • Braided rivers aren't a high risk. • Check Clean Dry programme is being used to stop spreading. Work around awareness for boating, wake boarding, jet boats, kayaking etc • Rowing clubs could have an influence on the spread. 	

5.2	Overview on Biosecurity at Environment Canterbury	
	Laurence presented an Overview on Biosecurity at Environment Canterbury.	
5.4	Future Focussed Biosecurity: Farm Biosecurity	
	<p>1) <i>Identify the barriers to the community which prevent people taking actions to prevent pest spread.</i></p> <p>2) <i>Generate ideas for how to increase actions uptake.</i></p> <p>1) Environment Canterbury along with other groups are promoting hygiene when moving on and off properties. What are the barriers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of the barriers that have been raised with us is time and cost. Lack of concern around things being moved on and off the properties until things become a bigger problem. • How much is an issue of inaccurate identification of nassella tussock? Concern around places outside of the Hurunui District. Issues with people who can't properly identify nassella. They grub out the medium size plants but leave the small and big plants. <p>2) How to increase uptake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash down. Some utes have built in washdown. Encourage to wash down the ute before entering the property and exiting. It's about money and time. • Sarah – Is there data on how many utes drive across properties with nassella present? No, Environment Canterbury doesn't have the resources to find out this information. <p>[Can be added to the next agenda for continued dicussion]</p>	<p>ACTION: If anyone wants a ute guide, please let us know and we can send you one.</p>
5.5	Wallaby Report and Update on Fencing	Brent Glentworth
	Presentation attached	 <p>DRAFT - 1 Securing the Western Wallab</p>
5.6	Group Member Item	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mycoplasma Bovis – Environment Canterbury haven't been asked to respond. It coincides with animal welfare and should be focused on a farm lead programme. MPI should be running this programme with a veterinary background. Where do we draw the line with the Government stopping contribution, to putting it back onto the farm owner? • What is the surveillance around this virus? Animal testing etc. 	

6	Group Business <i>The floor is open for any matters of general business.</i>	
6.1	NIL	
7	Meeting Summary & Take-Aways	
7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Tia on next meeting's agenda • Wilding conifer update for next meeting, our role as a committee and helping with next stage. • Goat Update – Bruce Marshall • Put our name forward to different organisations. • Overview presentation from Environment Canterbury's Biodiversity team - Frances Schmechel 	Fiona McDonald
8	Next Meeting and closing Karakia	
8.1	<p>Online suggested for next meeting to carry group momentum.</p> <p>Around 20 November was suggested for next physical meeting.</p>	Fiona to work with Tia on next meeting date and location.
	Meeting closed – 6pm	