

Central Biosecurity Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Group	Central
Date	Monday, 27 November 2023
Time	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Venue	Environment Canterbury, 4 McNally Street, Ashburton
Invited	Fiona McDonald, Karl Dean, Kevin Gallagher, Nicky Snoyink, Roger Bray, Rose Mitchell, Sarah Kross, Shannon McAleer, Virginia Marroni, Cr Paul Dietsche, Cr Bob Mugford, Cr Leen Braam; Michael McMillan Carl Diamond, Laurence Smith, Tia Matchitt, Morgan Shields, Paige Lawson, Bruce Marshall, Alice Wills
In attendance	Fiona McDonald, Virginia Marroni, Roger Bray, Rose Mitchell, Kevin Gallagher, Cr Paul Dietsche (online). Laurence Smith, Tia Matchitt, Bruce Marshall, Alice Wills,
Apologies	Carl Diamond, Sarah Kross, Karl Dean, Shannon McAleer, Cr Mugford, Cr Braam, Michael McMillan, Morgan Shields
Chair	Fiona McDonald

Item	Subject	Actions
1	Welcome, karakia, apologies, introductions	
2	Previous meeting recap and actions	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising - next year will investigate advertising the meetings with notes available for the public. Circulate information to the group about Nassella Tussock sub-group. Ute group – for farm biosecurity. Still available if anyone wants a guild. Brent's wallaby presentation. 	Action: Tia to re-send Wallaby Presentation to group.
3	Biosecurity Group administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mileage Sharepoint update – IT is working on a Teams channel. Environment Canterbury staff will arrange to show the Group if needed. 	
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"> NIL 	

5	Main agenda items	
5.1	Nassella Tussock Advisory Group	Laurence Smith
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Northern Biosecurity Advisory group have been discussing nassella quite a bit. Recently have found larger nassella patches down south. • Two meetings with the Nassella Tussock Advisory Group to date. Members are from across Waitaha Canterbury. • The role of Environment Canterbury is to check whether property owners are doing their own checks and grubbing. Compliance inspections are done this time of year. • Concerns that some property owners haven't done control work and/or are telling inspectors not to come. • We will go to Action on Default if we need to. Over 300 inspections last year and only AOD twice last year. • Generally, the people who don't do control work are of an older demographic. • A lot of seeds are moved around from things like stock, machinery, vehicles. Landowners need to be treating their farm gate as a border • Biocontrol – study that we invested in. • Subdividing - Environment Canterbury doesn't find out from Councils when there is a subdivision going in, we learn only as we do inspections. • The earlier the work is done the better outcome. • Landowners/occupants who have great track record of control can get exemption till 15 November for things like life event, death in family etc. • Why don't we send more information out? People do get a lot of information before the season starts. • Aim is to contain at levels it is now. • Are we winning or losing? We are seeing a swing up in levels. Inspections have shown nassella in several new properties. Going backwards. • Investing in control to not let it get back to levels of the 50's. • Can be expensive for control with a contractor. • Contractors work around 70 properties. • Getting paid can sometimes be an issue ie a \$10,000 job with a \$2000 budget. • Nassella only grows to a certain elevation. • What is the key feature for nassella tussock? Run fingers down the leaves, sticky like sandpaper. Can break seeds into individual plants. • How viable is the seed? 97% that is dropped annually either dies or is eaten. Three percent takes root and grows. • All the plants being found now are from plants that have dropped seed up to five years ago. • What advancement is coming about aerial images? The initial work was done with a fixed wing aircraft. Very Successful. Costs \$6000 for 180 hectares. The higher you can fly the more cost savings, but the 	

	<p>image resolution is less reliable. Satellite imagery likely not suitable for finding nassella.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Found a lot of nassella in the Waipara river, used to allow cattle in the riverbed to stop the nassella. • 50% of region is covered. Grass species becoming more of a problem. • Tussock in South Canterbury looks different. Doesn't flower as much but flowers for longer periods. • Advantage of Advisory group – local farmer on property and the peer pressure. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin – situation with Chilean needle grass. • Laurence – growing and out of control. • Stock, human activities move it. • Look at other regions – sprayed the buffer zone and they didn't do the rest. • Comes down to financial ability. 	
	Southern Biosecurity Advisory Group update and plan	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Group are keen to attend some events throughout the year and get a caravan up and running to take to events. • Opportunities for a lot of events, e.g., the Check, Clean, Dry programme. • After Xmas in the new year, number of events we will be attending for Check, Clean, Dry. • Is there a cross over with Zone Committee's and Biosecurity? • Arrange for the Zone Lead to attend the next BAG meeting for an update. 	<p>Let the group know about Events in the New Year.</p> <p>Action: arrange for Zone Lead to attend meeting and provide an update.</p>
	Long Term Plan overview	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal for new marine freshwater position has been put forward. • Great Willow Herb budget. Environment Canterbury have taken over ownership of Great Willow Herb from National programme MPI. • Environment Canterbury have already contracted six of the major sites. • Paul – Still discussion going on. Bit more with change in Government. Watch this space. • Public consultation will be around March. • Group can look at submitting individual submissions. • Terms of Reference will need to be checked if Group want to make a submission. 	<p>Action: Tia will send out public consultation dates.</p> <p>Kevin to touch base with group on agreement on submission for LTP.</p> <p>Next Meeting around time of submission process.</p> <p>Tia to check ToR</p>
	Top ten weeds	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shannon has sent through his list of weeds: gorse, crack willow, grey willow, broom, cotoneaster, silver birch, ivy, old man's beard, honey suckler, blackberry. • From the rest of the Group: russell lupin, hawthorn, rowan, Spanish heath, wilding conifers – (larch), 	<p>Action: To share information out with group.</p>

	<p>harakeke (flax), wilding cherry, tutu, manuka, kanuka, agapanthus, Himalayan balsam, yellow flag iris, nut sedge, buttercups, blackberry, creeping oak tail, hoarhound, buddleia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every weed has potential to spread. • All will be on the list that Morgan Shields is looking at. • Some of the above are still able to be purchased at nurseries. • Our programme has expanded to nursery inspections to ensure they're not selling pest plants. We are moving into local markets, fetes, Facebook Marketplace, garden clubs etc. • Promoting planting of natives, raise the profile of eco-sourcing. Plant me instead. 	Tia to create poll with group to narrow down list.
6	<p>Group member item</p> <p><i>The floor is open for any matters of general business.</i></p>	
6.1	Debrief: Cat Management Act presentation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice about what to do next: talk to local MPs and push for a Cat Act to manage domestic cats. Then we can move onto feral cats. • Some councils have done bylaws around limits to cats. • Roger – wants to hear more about what Selwyn District Council did. Compulsory microchipping and desexing. • Selwyn is the only council to consider a bylaw. • Buller have hearing next week to have the toughest rule in the country. • Laurence – in the past, some farmers saw four to five cats a day but didn't control. • Castle Hill – just put in a live trapping system. 	<p>Action: Send link out of cat presentation</p> <p>Once the Government is decided, group to put together submission for new local MPs on Cat Act.</p>
7	General business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send information about great willow herb. If on your travels these holidays and you see any, please report it. • Ashburton Lakes - Good neighbour rule isn't working up there. Broom is dealt with on the farmland, but not on DOC land. Could be contained if agencies put their heads together, DOC, LINZ, Environment Canterbury. • One issue is if volunteer groups keep going to DOC land, they are going to put there money elsewhere. Best for volunteer groups and DOC work on areas together. • In terms of wilding conifers, bring Rich Langley into the conversation. If there is no budget for this year, it may be considered for next year. • New Government could be keen on wilding trees. 	Action: Tia to send information about great willow herb.
8	Meeting summary & take-aways	

8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete poll on weeds • Review LTP and align the next meeting for consultation period • Talk to water zone team lead for update. Any action plans. • Cats: recommendation on next steps for Forest and Bird. • Cat presentation to be sent around 	<p>Fiona McDonald</p> <p>Action: Tia to send out Cat presentation</p>
9	Next meeting and closing karakia	
	Meeting closed @ 5:45pm	
	<p>Next meeting to align with the LTP consultation period. Maybe a quick one-hour online meeting mid-February.</p> <p>Tia to send poll with next meeting options.</p>	<p>Tia to send out poll with next meeting options in the new year.</p>