

# Biosecurity Advisory Group – Northern

## Meeting notes

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| Group         | Northern Biosecurity Advisory Group  |
| Date          | Monday, 11 September 2023  |
| Time          | 3:00pm – 6.00pm  |
| Venue         | Cheviot Trust Hotel, 43 Hall Street  |
| Invited       | Clint McConchie; Cr Grant Edge; Cr Niki Mealings; Duncan Lundy; Hamish Roxburgh; Lorna Sandeman; Mark Giles; Richard Reed; Ted Howard; Vince Daly; William Knox; Winton Dalley;<br>Carl Diamond, Laurence Smith, Tia Matchitt, Morgan Sheilds, Paige Lawson, Matt Smith, Alice Wills |
| In attendance | Ted Howard, Cr Grant Edge, Mark Giles, Winton Dalley, William Knox, Hamish Roxburgh, Richard Reed.<br>Laurence Smith, Matt Smith, Noel Crump, Tia Matchitt, Alice Wills  |
| Apologies     | Niki Mealings, Duncan Lundy, Carl Diamond, Paige Lawson  |
| Chair         | Hamish Roxburgh  |

| Item | Subject   | Actions                                |
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| 1    | <b>Welcome, Karakia, apologies, housekeeping, introductions</b>   |  |
| 2    | <b>Previous Meeting Recap &amp; Actions</b>   |  |
|      | <b>Timebank – Seed swap.</b><br><b>7<sup>th</sup> October – Waimakariri seed swap.</b>  | Action: To catch up with John Clemens. |
| 3    | <b>Biosecurity Group Administration</b>   |  |
|      | Teams channel & Sharepoint page – Work in progress.<br>Meeting frequency. A maximum of four meetings per group budgeted per financial year.<br>If there are any quick updates to meet online in between meetings. The long-term plan (LTP) is current in process. If there are any updates regarding the LTP, that could be a reason to meet online to discuss. |  |
| 4    | <b>Public in Attendance</b>   |  |
| 4.1  | NIL<br>Feel free to invite members of the public along to future Biosecurity Advisory Group meetings.   |  |

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| 5   | <b>Main Agenda Items</b>  |  |
| 5.1 | Kiwi Rail update  |  |
|     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spartina update. Group being formed from Hurunui District Council and other agencies. Both roadside sights.</li> <li>• More of a threat to coastal environments.</li> <li>• Cr Grant: How do you deal with spartina?</li> <li>• Environment Canterbury deals with pests declared in Pest management plan. If few sites in Canterbury, we get rid of it. Very selective.</li> </ul>   |  |
|     | <p>KiwiRail – Ruth Brittain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laurence: Ruth was unable to attend meeting and provide feedback due to being away for five weeks on leave. She is keen to provide an update on the programme in the future.</li> <li>• Noel has had a look at the site and it does need some work.</li> <li>• It's best to get the updates from KiwiRail rather than their contractor.</li> <li>• Could be an idea to draft a letter from the group noting their concerns. Wait till after update from KiwiRail.</li> <li>• If they do have an annual programme, it will be good to hear from them.</li> <li>• If Ruth was able to come out to Canterbury, we could take her out and show her the sites. Ruth is based in Auckland.</li> <li>• Laurence: she does come down to Canterbury sometimes. Could be arranged in the future.</li> </ul> |  |
| 5.2 | Break and Members Photos  |  |
|     | Photos not taken. To be added to next meeting's agenda  |  |
| 5.3 | <b>Biosecurity briefing:</b>  |  |
|     | <b>Nassella Tussock Advisory Group</b>  |  |
|     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nassella Tussock Advisory Group are made up of landowners around Canterbury.</li> <li>• Hamish brought to the group the issue around the Nassella Tussock Advisory Group being reimbursed for their expenses.</li> <li>• Winton: Does the Chilean Needle Grass Sub Group receive any funding from Environment Canterbury? No, they only met once or twice a year.</li> <li>• Cr Grant: What is their aim, overall outcome?</li> <li>• Laurence: Concerns with nassella over the years and future control, enforcement, and public perspective</li> <li>• Who does the group report to? Hamish or Environment Canterbury? There is a lot of work to be done e.g. approved terms of reference, funding etc</li> </ul>  |  |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every one of them has enthusiasm for the job which has to be encouraged.</li> <li>• Conversations around Contractors. Hard to get good contractors. Nassella tussock is getting away and harder to control. Group should be working with contractors and Councils.</li> <li>• Laurence: We organised a meeting with all contractors on our list. Training was talked about due to high turnover with staff.</li> <li>• Mark: Will be good to know what their problems are and why they can't do the job.</li> <li>• They are experiencing things like lack of contractors. They wait until mid-November to start grubbing.</li> <li>• Cr Grant: With labour shortage, is there anything that we could help with?</li> <li>• Might take a few industries to work together. Cost of nassella to the community is huge. Jobs for Nature has been put forward. Could something like "jobs for nature" be run by contractors.</li> <li>• Important thing about contractors is not dissolving their work. We want to work with contractors.</li> <li>• Hamish: nassella tussock is Canterbury wide. It needs to be made public.</li> </ul>   |  |
|  | <p><b>Gold Clam</b></p>   |  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Freshwater clam</a> has been found in 100km of the Waikato River. Survives in low level water, slower moving lakes, rivers, lagoons etc. Has been there for some time. Not recommended for consumption.</li> <li>• Never successfully eradicated from anywhere in the world. Spreads by boats, kayak, canoe, general freshwater use.</li> <li>• Check clean dry (CCD) programme will help with awareness for this pest.</li> <li>• Meeting regularly with Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI). Unfortunately, this isn't an CCD issue. MPI have declared it as an unwanted organism.</li> <li>• World jet boat champs in October in Canterbury. A lot of boats coming from the states.</li> <li>• Huge risks. Blocking up turbines. Economic issue for Canterbury. Braided Rivers aren't a huge risk more Lake Ellesmere, Brooklands Lagoon.</li> <li>• Environment Canterbury response, talking to our science team who take water samples regularly. At present Lake Ruataniwha, Avon River, Lake Hood (Ashburton) are negative. Same samples from 27 water bodies from Canterbury, has been negative.</li> <li>• Yet to map where samples were taken. Working with Environment Canterbury's Harbourmasters, Rivers, Biodiversity and Zone Groups.</li> <li>• Waitaki lakes weeds surveillance programmes. Lake Benmore, control and surveillance. Which one or two pests are we not going to do due to funding issues.</li> <li>• Working with MPI on narrowing it down to high risk areas if it arrives in Canterbury.</li> </ul> |  |

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|     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does it survive in colder waters? Yes - Survives in 2-30 degrees.</li> <li>• Educational awareness is the best process going forward.</li> <li>• If it is found within the river, would Environment Canterbury try and eradicate? Would be very hard to eradicate the clam. The time from finding till eradicate would be too far and the spread would be very wide.</li> </ul>   |  |
|     | <b>Key Topics/Themes for BAG Meetings</b>  |  |
|     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biosecurity Data. One of our issues. Environment Canterbury has a very old database. Like to report better both visual and verbally. It is becoming more of a need to share data with MPI and across the nation.</li> <li>• Community involvement passive surveillance. <a href="#">Find a Pest</a> app.</li> <li>• Pathway management – trying to stop things moving onto and off properties is extremely difficult.</li> <li>• Nassella tussock down south, whose been onto that property since.</li> <li>• Is there any way the cycleways can course spread of pests? Has Environment Canterbury done any work on cycleways? No, not that we are aware of.</li> <li>• Change to Biosecurity Act review. Start collating discussion topics once it's open to consultation.</li> </ul> |  |
|     | <b>Feral Ungulate Programme update replaced by TB discussion</b>   |  |
|     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the past, community was funded for TB programme. Kept the levels controlled.</li> <li>• OSPRI goal to have <a href="#">TB eradicated by 2055</a>.</li> <li>• Levels were up about 1200 farms effected. Now they are down to last five to ten farms.</li> <li>• In relation to North canterbury and Marlborough area's levels haven't changed since the mid 90's.</li> <li>• Laurence will be attending meetings in future and will reporting back with updates.</li> </ul>   |  |
| 5.4 | <b>Future Focussed Biosecurity: Farm Biosecurity</b><br><u>Objective</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Identify the barriers to the community which prevent people taking actions to prevent pest spread.</li> <li>2) General ideas for how to increase action uptake</li> </ol>   |  |
|     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Canterbury give away free Biosecurity signs that you put on your farm fence.</li> <li>• Environment Canterbury trucks have inbuilt washdown systems.</li> <li>• Contractors moving from property-to-property aren't aware of washing down their trucks. Do you think contractors should be more aware? If they have mud</li> </ul>  |  |

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|          | <p>stuck under the truck. Up to the property owner with what they see from day to day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• William: Landowners are pushing back and asking for clean trucks all over the South Islands.</li> <li>• There is a cultural/educational shift. How do we influence this cultural change? Celebrate it, acknowledge it.</li> <li>• Mark: A lot of contractors would like to wash down their gear, but they don't have the facilities to do it.</li> <li>• Laurence – Part of our role, is where there are limited sites, put a programme on that site.</li> <li>• Winton: Roadside mowing, just mow and don't know there are pests there.</li> <li>• Keep the information flowing. Simple as possible.</li> <li>• Cr Grant – If the Nassella Tussock Advisory group are talking to people, they could have a checklist for what to ask people.</li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Group member item</b>  |  |
| 6.1      | <i>Discussion time for agenda items requested by members of the Biosecurity Advisory Group in advance of the meeting.</i>   | Action: Laurence to arrange OSPRI and KiwiRail to present on their programmes  |
| <b>7</b> | <b>General Business</b>   |  |
| 7.1      | <p><i>The floor is open for any matters of general business</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feral Goats pamphlet – where are they available? Who can get a copy of them. PDF attached.</li> <li>• We are advisory groups, who are we advising? How does the network work? Everyone here has some sort of network. If there is any information that is needed, we can provide that.</li> <li>• Rich collected at some point what everyone's network is. Tia to take this over and update information.</li> <li>• If people want general information and pamphlets, where can they go to get this information? Environment Canterbury's website and reception area <a href="https://www.ecan.govt.nz/">https://www.ecan.govt.nz/</a>.</li> <li>• Biosecurity Bulletin – quarterly newsletter – latest edition recently released. Tia to send out the link to members to <a href="#">sign up to newsletter</a>.</li> <li>• Biocontrol for nassella – things have gone quiet. Was a sustainable farming project. Idea was to find if there was anything in NZ or AUS that we could use for biocontrol. Landcare are involved and looking at biocontrol for nassella.</li> <li>• Matt: Work done with Artificial Intelligence (AI). Slowly progressing. Had the old model where we found area of tussock. Refining new model for new properties for tussock. Apply that same model to lower resolution imaging to properties, most cost effective.</li> <li>• If you use it at the moment on the resolution we are using at the moment its still cheaper then a contractor</li> </ul> | <p>Action: Tia to collate information about groups network's</p> <p>Action: Tia to send out link for members to <a href="#">sign up for newsletter</a>.</p> <p>Action: Noel to look into another spray that would work on tussock.</p> <p>Action: Matt to report back about AI at next meeting</p> |

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|          | <p>and possibly more accurate. If it works, in the future we could be doing this with several species. E.g. wilding pines, with the transition to landowner control, we will be able to use that technology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next steps, use AI on a property that has annual control, rather than a property who has a huge control.</li> <li>• Field day has just been for down south. Good turnout in Hakatamea. Do you see a benefit for a field days up at North Canterbury? There are a lot of young farmers that don't know what they are facing.</li> <li>• Potential for training at with the Nassella Tussock Advisory Group e.g. grubbing day.</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Next Meeting and closing Karakia</b>   |  |
| 8.1      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covered good ground and had a good discussion.</li> <li>• Next meeting suggested for new year.</li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>9</b> | <b>Closing Karakia</b>  |  |

**Meeting closed at 5:45**