
MINUTES
of the
REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT JOINT COMMITTEE
MEETING
held
9.30 am, Wednesday, 2 August 2017
at
Tasman District Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street,
Richmond

Present: Tasman District Councillors S Bryant, S Brown, D McNamara
Nelson City Councillors B McGurk, K Fulton, M Lawrey

In Attendance: Tasman District Council: Co-ordinator Biosecurity and Biodiversity (P Sheldon), Independent Contractor (L Vaughan), Executive Assistant (H Simpson)
Nelson City Council: (R Frizzell)

Part Attendance: Tasman District Council: Biosecurity Officer (R van Zoelen), Biosecurity Officer (L Barber), Biosecurity Officer (K Wright)

1 OPENING, WELCOME

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Moved Cr Brown/Cr McNamara
RPMC17-08-13

That apologies be accepted for lateness from Crs Fulton and Lawrey.

CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr Frizzell noted an amendment to the minutes to include the correct naming of Mount Richmond Forest Park.

Moved Councillor McGurk/Cr Brown
RPMC17-08-14

That the minutes of the Regional Pest Management Joint Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 26 April 2017, be confirmed as amended as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 REPORTS

7.1 Report to Regional Pest Management Joint Committee 2017-08-02

Co-ordinator Biosecurity and Biodiversity, Paul Sheldon spoke to this report. Independent Contractor Lindsay Vaughan was also present to answer questions.

Cr Lawrey joined the meeting at 9.37am.

Cr Fulton joined the meeting at 9.38am.

Mr Sheldon provided Councillors with a brief account of the drafting instructions for the Regional Pest Management Plan (the Plan) and of the work done by staff to ensure the proposal is compliant with these instructions. Mr Sheldon told Councillors that staff had engaged in pre-consultation conversations with agencies such as the Department of Conservation (DOC) and had considered their feedback when compiling the draft Plan. He said that staff hoped to continue these conversations going forward. Mr Sheldon also said that staff had attempted to engage with local Iwi, but that Iwi had indicated their preference to consult on the Plan at a later stage when they had the resources available to consider this.

Councillors discussed the inclusion of wilding conifers in the Plan. Mr Vaughan advised that there was some movement outside of the plan to eradicate wilding conifers, but that management of some private plantations remained unresolved. He said that DOC continued to work with owners.

Councillors discussed the sustainability of volunteer support in the district, acknowledging that many volunteers are of retirement age or older. The need to engage with younger volunteers and support volunteer groups with bringing in younger volunteers was discussed. Mr Vaughan said that funding is a serious consideration for many of these groups and that a value proposition was needed to support biosecurity and biodiversity work in the region.

Mr Vaughan spoke to the Plan. He talked about the Plan in relation to the Biosecurity Act (the Act) and highlighted the area covered by the Plan.

Councillors discussed the 10-year duration of the Plan and asked whether this prohibited the opportunity to add to the plan, should a new pest be discovered for instance. Mr Sheldon advised that legislation now allowed for parts of the plan to be reviewed at any time without requiring a review of the whole plan. In response to a further question, Mr Sheldon confirmed

that with new pests the Ministry for Primary Industries would commonly be the lead agency involved. He said that Council might be called on to support these larger agencies with local knowledge in these situations, but that the Plan was not designed to cover these and there were well established procedures in place.

When asked about the scope of the Plan, Mr Vaughan said that the legislation was very specific about the requirements and that the Plan must follow National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015 (national policy direction).

Councillors talked about where responsibility lies for pest management on road reserves.

Councillors discussed the management of pests outside of the Plan. They noted some of the species that had been excluded since the previous version of the Plan came to the Committee, including Australian magpies, ants, rats and possums. Mr Sheldon said that management of these species did not fit within the narrow parameters set by the legislation or with the national policy direction in terms of cost benefit. He said that Councils did not have the tools or resources to effectively eradicate or manage these pests on a large scale. For that reason, they could not place a legal obligation on people to control these species by including them in the Plan. Mr Sheldon said that Council staff would still be available to advise the public on management of other pests not included in the Plan.

Councillors discussed having a publically available list of all known pests in the region including those not identified in the Plan. Councillors suggested that this list could offer a brief commentary as to why certain species had not been included and identify any programmes outside of the Plan, including community or volunteer programmes, that looked to manage these species. Councillors agreed that this list should be included as material for noting in a non-statutory appendix to the Plan.

Councillors discussed where the Good Neighbour Rules applied. Mr Vaughan clarified that the Good Neighbour Rules were to bind the Crown and that nothing looked at so far met the criteria for applying these rules. Councillors also discussed the ambiguity around the 'responsible party' for pest management and asked whether commentary should be included to indicate that the landowner is responsible if no other party is listed. Mr Vaughan said that the rules contained within the Plan outlined this responsibility in detail.

The meeting broke for morning tea at 10.50am and reconvened at 11.05am.

Councillors asked why Awaroa had been excluded from the Plan as a zone for the eradication of feral rabbits. Biosecurity Officer, Ken Wright said this was because feral rabbits were already colonised in this area, which is something that would not be tackled by the Plan but rather managed in time.

Councillors discussed feral and colony cats and asked that a definition of colony cats be included in the glossary.

In relation to the specific rule applying to pest fish, Councillors asked that notification be made to the Department of Conservation (rather than the Motueka Field Centre) but that a commentary to be included to request that sightings be reported to the Motueka Office in particular.

Councillors noted that the management of feral cats, stoats and weasels would be reallocated from the regional to specific site led programmes.

Councillors discussed funding and asked whether provision could be made within the plan to operate an exacerbator pays model. Mr Sheldon said that the landowner is usually held responsible and asked to cover the cost of necessary work.

Councillors asked that the funding sources, reasons for funding and anticipated costs of implementing the Plan reflect the partnerships with other community groups and agencies. They also said that where a local group is actively engaging in management of a pest, this should be acknowledged in the Plan.

Councillors agreed that the existing voluntary approach of supporting landowners to undertake control of widespread pests within significant natural areas would be more effective and acceptable to landowners than to include sites which meet significance criteria as an individual site lead programme.

Councillors agreed that a supporting document be prepared and circulated along with the Plan Proposal notification which details how the council's currently manage pest species which fall outside the Plan Proposal and engage with community and national initiatives.

Cr Fulton left the meeting at 12.46pm and did not return.

Councillors noted that the draft Plan would be circulated to the Ministry for Primary Industries and to neighbouring Councils. They agreed that a meeting of the Joint Committee be convened on 29 August, 2017 so that the Draft Plan could be agreed and recommended by the Committee to both Councils.

**Moved Cr McNamara/Cr Lawrey
RPMC17-08-15**

That the Regional Pest Management Joint Committee receives the draft Regional Pest Management Strategy Proposal Report RPM17-08-01.

CARRIED

8 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Nil.

The meeting concluded at 12.52pm.

Date Confirmed:

Chair: