

Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party Record of Actions

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Wednesday 20 March 2024, commencing at 1pm

Tuhinga/Present:

Chair Geoff Crawford (Working Party Chair and NRC Chair)
Councillor John Blackwell
TTMAC Representative, Nyze Manuel (online)
Councillor, Geoff Crawford
Councillor Joe Carr
Councillor Marty Robinson

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Don McKenzie (Group Manager, Biosecurity)
Kaeden Leonard (Biosecurity Manager – Marine)
Nicky Fitzgibbon (Biosecurity Manager)
Lisa Forester (Biodiversity Manager)
Gavin Dawson (Governance Specialist)
Janice Kirk (Personal Assistant – Biosecurity)

(Secretarial note: please note that agenda item 4.6 was added post agenda release with the permission of the Chair)

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā Whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

TTMAC Representatives, Michelle Elboz, Mira Norris, and Niki Conrad.

Ngā Whakapuakanga/Declarations of Interest (Item 3.0)

Nil.

Reports (Item 4.0)

Record of Actions – 1 December 2023 (Item 4.1)

Staff spoke to the relevant matters raised.

Moved: Blackwell/Seconded: Robinson – Carried.

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 4.2)

Staff spoke to the relevant matters raised.

Moved: Blackwell/Seconded: Robinson – Carried.

Biosecurity Operational Plan 2024-2025 (Item 4.3)

Presented by: Don McKenzie (Group Manager, Biosecurity)

Matters raised:

- Noted that matters are progressing well and to plan
- Noted that wilding pines continues to be on the radar of NRC as a sustained control pest plant.
- Noted that there is an opportunity for a review of what species comprise wilding pines as part of the pest management plan
- Noted that the focus is sustained control, not eradication
- Discussed the model of looking at cost benefit analysis of every pest in the regional pest management plan and the approach for inclusion or exclusion of pests on that plan

Direction: working party members supported the recommendations in the agenda item as below:

1. That the report 'Biosecurity Operational Plan 2024-2025 by Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity and dated 8 March 2024, be received.
2. That the working party support the Operational Plan being presented to council for approval in accordance with the Biosecurity Act section 100B.
3. That the working party authorises the GM Biosecurity to make any necessary minor drafting, typographical, rounding, or presentation corrections to the Operational Plan

Dune Lakes Protection - Update (Item 4.4)

Presented by: Lisa Forester (Biodiversity Manager)

Matters raised:

- Noted that the use of drones does carry a high compliance and accreditation cost which NRC can't afford and those services are better outsourced
- Discussed the uniqueness of the western coast dune lakes. Noted that communications and engagement is ongoing in this area
- Noted that the eel fishers and duck hunters are being requested to clean and check through a communications plan
- Discussed the movement of weeds around the lakes by wildlife and the perceived and actual impacts of that movement.

Direction: continue as recommended in the report.

1. That the Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party note the information in this report
2. That a further update be provided at a future Working Party meeting

Gold Clam (Item 4.5)

Presented by: Nicky Fitzgibbon (Biosecurity Manager)

Matters raised:

- Noted that there is a regional approach to education on clam management, with Lake Taharoa specified and targeted
- Noted the Taharoa campaign was successful with combination of checks and education. Work is ongoing with the Taharoa Domain Committee in developing a sustainable plan
- Noted that work with Kaipara District Council is ongoing and emphasised that they have an important role in managing the situation in their jurisdiction and it needs political will to take full preventative actions
- Noted the importance of having discussions at all levels of government to prevent a regional incursion.
- Emphasised the importance of working with communities and frontline staff to learn more about the challenges faced by the region
- Discussed the vectors that increase risk of biosecurity issues/incursions at Taharoa Domain. Noted that a plan is being developed to deal with periods outside of summer period
- Emphasised the need to look at the role of Taharoa Domain board in the broader environment and ecosystem
- Noted the Biosecurity NZ is looking to invest in infrastructure to prevent incursions

Working party members supported the recommendations:

1. That the report 'Gold Clam' by Nicky Fitzgibbon, Biosecurity Manager and Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity and dated 8 March 2024, be received.
2. That the working party support the collaborative stakeholder approach to future planning and implementing practical tools to prevent the spread of Freshwater Gold Clam.

and supported additional 2 directions

- *Direction: 1. Elected Members to attend a KDC briefing to express concern about possible incursions at Taharoa Domain*
- *Direction: 2. Staff to investigate how the Taitokerau Resilience Plan can be used to achieve better environmental outcomes.*

Marine biosecurity update (Item 4.6)

Presented by: Kaeden Leonard (Biosecurity Manager – Marine)

Matters raised:

Staff in attendance at the meeting were requested to verbally update the committee.

- Noted that fan worm has become a wider issue around the region and staff are being employed to deal the increase in the incidence of the worm. Work is ongoing.
- Noted the difficulty of locating populations of fan worm in low viability and they attach to anything. Work ongoing to deal with this around the region
- Caulerpa – the barge is operating and phase one is nearly complete. Work is ongoing to improve the machinery and the effectiveness.

- Noted that programme is being fast tracked with central government funding and continue to work towards positive outcomes to capture Caulerpa in one tonne bags
- Noted the existing funding runs through to end of financial year
- Noted that work is ongoing

The working party supported the verbal update

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 2.15 with karakia.

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