

## Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party Record of Actions

Meeting held in the Council Chamber  
36 Water Street, Whangārei  
on Wednesday 14 August 2024, commencing at 1pm

### Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Councillor Jack Craw  
Councillor John Blackwell  
Councillor Marty Robinson (online)  
TTMAC Representative, Mira Norris  
TTMAC Representative, Niki Conrad (online)

### I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Geoff Crawford NRC Chair  
Joe Carr Councillor  
Tui Shortland Councillor  
Ruben Wylie Pou Tiaki Taiao | GM Environmental Services  
Kaeden Leonard Deputy Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao Biosecurity Marine Manager  
Jacki Byrd Biodiversity Specialist - Freshwater  
Nicky Fitzgibbon Biosecurity Manager - Incursions and Response  
Harley Iraia Kaiāwhina Kaupapa Māori  
Dai Morgan Biosecurity Partnerships Manager (online)  
Joanna Barr Biosecurity Weeds and Freshwater Manager  
Dannie Samuels Kaiāwhina Kaupapa Māori (online)  
Nicola Harwell Kaiwhatahaere Moana Ora  
Leon Keefer Policy Specialist – Freshwater  
April Nordstrom Kaitātari Kaupapa Wai Māori  
Sam Johnson Biosecurity Predator Free Manager  
Sandra Harris Personal Assistant Pou Tiaki Taiao  
Janice Kirk Personal Assistant – Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao

The meeting commenced at 1.01pm.

Mihi and karakia by Harley Iraia.

### Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

### Ngā Whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Don McKenzie Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao, Lisa Forester, Steven Harwood. TTMAC member Nyze Manuel, Michelle Elboz.

### Record of Actions – 20 March 2024 (Item 4.1)

Presented by: Cr Craw

**Agreed action points:**

- Record of Actions taken as read

**Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 4.2)**

**Presented by:** Cr Craw

**Matters raised:**

- Noted Deer update. Completed second round of activity via helicopter. Ground hunting with dogs to target specific locations of deer. Really good support from community. Next project area Kai Iwi lakes and yet to progress planning stage. Deer jaw bone samples and scat surveys are mapping movement of deer. The final round of helicopter surveillance spotted six deer, four of which were captured.
- Noted Ngāti Pāoa lead by John Hutton engaged for business case for research, control and elimination of Caulerpa. Letter sent to Minister Hoggard for support of business case. Staff supportive to engage with Martin Jenkins.

**Agreed action points:**

- Keep members updated on progress with Ngāti Pāoa

**RPMS review (Item 4.3)**

**Presented by:** Leon Keefer, Policy Specialist - Freshwater and April Nordstrom, Kaitātari Kaupapa Wai Māori

**Matters raised:**

- Noted RPMS is RPMP.
- Noted to consider new approaches.
- Noted grateful for the in-house work that is being undertaken.
- Noted what is tika and pono, and what are the prescribed methods
- Noted work is being undertaken in-house with managers for completion by end of August.
- Noted viewing the change to consultation process - outreach with tangata whenua to be engaged/consulted prior to writing a paper in March for July.
- Discussion on strategy has to be in RPMP to have the room to cover out-of-box changes to strategy.

Direction: to continue as recommended in the report.

1. That the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Working Party (BABWP) support the review methodology, consultation plan, and proposed timeline (as presented by the Plan Review Team).

2. BABWP endorses the Plan Review Team commencing targeted consultation and engagement with Treaty Partners, industry representatives, and community pest control groups where appropriate.
3. That the BABWP support the Plan Review Team testing a draft and any emerging issues with working party members over the coming months and before November.
4. That the BABWP support the development of a first draft RPMP for consideration by council at its November (next?) meeting with the purpose of commencing wider stakeholder consultation.

## **Update on Dune Lakes (Item 4.4)**

**Presented by:** Jacki Byrd, Biodiversity Specialist - Freshwater

### **Matters raised:**

- Discussion on control of Egeria and environment conditions required to eradicate.
- Discussion on trialling new methods and minimising the use of herbicides.

Direction: continue as recommended in the report

1. Biodiversity staff to bring a progress report on dune lakes to the first working party meeting in 2025.

## **Marine Protected Areas (Item 4.5)**

**Presented by:** Nicola Hartwell, Kaiwhatahaere Moana Ora

### **Matters raised:**

- Noted council support for RMA/Fisheries Act reform of maintaining status quo.
- Noted ecological monitoring being undertaken. Surveying being undertaken inside and outside of Rāhui Tapu area.
- Noted the need to continue with surveying of areas.

Direction: continue as recommended in the report

1. That the report on Marine Protected Areas by Nicola Hartwell, Kaiwhakahaere Moana Ora, and Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao be received.
2. That the Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party endorse staff to proceed with developing the project plan in partnership with mana moana hapū.

## **Taharoa Domain (Item 4.6)**

**Presented by:** Nicky Fitzgibbon, Biosecurity Manager - Incursions and Response

### **Matters raised:**

- Discussed plan available from Taharoa working group in collaboration with local hapū, KDC and DOC actions to date able to be shared with members.

- Discussion on water quality is primarily within band A-B range – water quality is good. There is a loss of vegetation.
- Noted NRC letter in response to KDC advert. KDC replied and will maintain responsibility. NRC to continue monitoring.
- Discussed risk management perspective banning of boats, power boats on tohunga of lake, and sensitive nature of the lake.
- Discussed challenge of maintaining risk management on biosecurity through current position of responsibility.
- Discussed the three parties involved with gold clam and the financial costs are supported by NRC. KDC have ability to reduce further risk to limit access and activities on lake.
- Discussion on spread of Waikato gold clam is not yet in the lake. Council has the responsibility for monitoring and reporting to MPI should there be any identification.

Direction: continue as recommended in the report

1. That the working party note the item on Taharoa domain
2. That a further update on Taharoa domain and gold clam be provided at a future working party meeting.

## **Kauri Protection (Item 4.7)**

**Presented by:** Kaeden Leonard Deputy Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao Biosecurity Marine Manager

### **Matters raised:**

- Noted contractors are still being used for phosphite treatment.

Direction: continue as recommended in the report

1. That the working party note the information contained in the item and attached report on kauri protection activities.
2. That staff provide a further update to the Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party at a future meeting.

### *Secretarial Note:*

Sea spurge update: MPI is taking lead on sea spurge. Lots of conversations and how to support from the council perspective. A funding request has been submitted by NRC. Currently no funding secured for the Far North. Need to use window of opportunity to act early. Discussed risk assessment as long-term threat of further invasion. Discussed DNA samples being sent to MPI to source where the sea spurge is coming from.

## **Whakamutunga (Conclusion)**

Karakia by Harley Iraia

**The meeting concluded at 2.35pm.**