

## Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party Record of Actions

Meeting held in the Council Chamber  
36 Water Street, Whangārei  
on Wednesday 25 February 2026, commencing at 1:00 pm

### Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Councillor Jack Crow  
Councillor Geoff Crawford  
Councillor, John Hunt  
Councillor, Amy Macdonald  
NRC Chair, Pita Tipene (Ex-Officio)  
Ngāti Hine, Jaycee Tipene-Thomas  
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia, Kipa Munro  
Te Parawhau Hapū Authority Charitable Trust, Mira Norris

### I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao – GM Biosecurity, Don McKenzie  
Pou Tiaki Taiao | GM Environmental Services, Ruben Wylie  
Biosecurity Manager Marine, Kaeden Leonard  
Biosecurity Manager Pest Plants, Joanna Barr  
Policy Specialist – Freshwater Planning and Policy, Leon Keefer  
Coastal Biodiversity Manager, Laura Shaft  
Biosecurity Officer Incursions and Response, Alicia King  
Biosecurity Project Lead – Feral Deer, Grant MacPherson  
Biosecurity Communications and Engagement Advisor – Wild Deer  
Eradication, Murray Soljak  
Principal Scientist, Plant and Food Research, Dr Beccy Ganley  
Kaiāwhina Tari, Te Tiriti Partnerships and Engagement, Meloney Tupou  
Kaiāwhina Matawhaiaro Biosecurity, Janice Kirk  
TTMAC Representative, Nyze Manuel  
Councillor John Blackwell  
Te Raki Māori, Arama Morunga

The meeting commenced at 1:00 pm, karakia by Cr Macdonald.

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

### Ngā Whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

There were no apologies. Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri, Niki Conrad was not present.

## Record of Actions – 6 August 2025 (Item 4.1)

**Presented by:** Chairperson, Councillor Jack Crow

### Agreed action points:

- Amend the minutes of 6 August 2025 to correct the spelling of the member's name Nyze Manuel
- Amend the minutes of 6 August to include the correct date for the report '2025 -2026 Biosecurity Operational Plan (Item 4.6).' the resolution under "Direction to continue as per report" should read:
  - That the report '2025-2026 Biosecurity Operational Plan' by Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao – GM Biosecurity and dated 18 August 2025, be received."

## Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 4.2)

**Presented by:** Chairperson, Councillor Jack Crow

### Agreed action points:

- Kauri protection:
  - Staff to report back on Kauri Protection at the next meeting that covered what the current programme has achieved to date, and for the report to contain information on disease spread. In addition to the report, what has been achieved in the Waikato region.
  - Biosecurity staff to work with Jaycee Tipene-Thomas and Nyze Manuel to organise a hui on developing a collective approach to Kauri Protection in Te Taitokerau and the predicted (financial) needs of the collective – date to be confirmed but as soon as possible.
- Spartina:
  - As part of the Action table (further) discussion, the Chair requested that staff prepare a report on Spartina for the next Working Party Meeting.

## Myrtle Rust (Item 4.3)

**Presented by:** Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao – GM Biosecurity

### Discussion and agreed action points:

- Dr Beccy Ganley attended the meeting in person and delivered a presentation on Myrtle Rust.
- The Biodiversity and Biosecurity Working Party noted the information provided.
- Report was taken as read.
- Action: Myrtle Rust presentation to be made available to Working Party members. Staff to report back to the next Working Party meeting on a plan to engage summer students and undertake survey for the disease and raise awareness.

*Direction to continue as per report and agreed actions:*

- Working Party to note the contents of this briefing.

*Secretarial note: request for item order change 4.6 Wild Deer to precede 4.4 Regional Pest Management Strategy. Working Party in favour.*

### **Wild Deer (Item 4.6)**

**Presented by:** Murray Soljak, Communications and Engagement Advisor – Wild Deer Eradication; Grant MacPherson, Biosecurity Project Lead – Feral Deer

**Discussion and agreed action points:**

- Report taken as read.
- Action: Staff to bring a further update on the wild deer eradication programme to a future working party meeting.

*Direction to continue as per report and agreed actions:*

1. Note the contents of this briefing.
2. Staff to bring a further update on the wild deer eradication programme to a future working party meeting.

*Secretarial note: request for item change 4.8 Caulerpa to precede 4.4 Regional Pest Management Strategy. Working Party in favour.*

### **Caulerpa (Item 4.8)**

**Presented by:** Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao – GM Biosecurity and Kaeden Leonard, Biosecurity Manager – Marine

**Discussion and agreed action points:**

- Report taken as read.

*Direction to continue as per report and agreed actions:*

1. That the Working Party note the information contained in this report on the exotic *Caulerpa* response – in particular, the progress and upcoming field testing of the Phase III Submersible Dredge Planer (SDP).
2. That staff bring back a further update to the Working Party at a future date.

*Secretarial note: request for item change 4.5 Biodiversity Update to precede 4.4 Regional Pest Management Strategy. Working Party in favour.*

### **Biodiversity Update (Item 4.5)**

**Presented by:** Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao, Jacki Byrd, Biodiversity Specialist – Freshwater, and Laura Shaft, Coastal Biodiversity Manager

**Discussion and agreed action points:**

- Report taken as read.

- Ruben provided an overview.

*Direction to continue as per report and agreed actions:*

1. That Biodiversity staff present the final report on the project “Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Te Taitokerau / Northland” to the Working Party meeting on 27 May 2026.

*Secretarial note: It was observed that Item 4.4 did not utilise the correct legal definition of Regional Pest Management Plan. The correct legal definition is to be applied in all references from this point forward.*

## **Regional Pest Management Strategy (Item 4.4)**

**Presented by:** Leon Keefer, Policy Specialist – Freshwater

### **Discussion and agreed action points:**

- Received the report on the development of the RPMP and Marine Pathways Management Plan.
- Noted the progress made on drafting rules, pest programme classifications, cost-benefit analysis and pre-consultation.
- Note that staff will bring back a further update to the Working Party at a future date.
- Action: staff to present a draft RPMP to a future Working Party and before it goes to Council meeting at the end of June 2026.

*Direction to continue as per report and agreed actions:*

1. Receive the report on the development of the Regional Pest Management Plan and Marine Pathways Management Plan.
2. Note the progress made on drafting rules, pest programme classifications, cost-benefit analysis and pre-consultation.
3. That staff bring back a further update to the Working Party at a future date.

## **Gold Clam (Item 4.7)**

**Presented by:** Alicia King, Biosecurity Officer – Incursions and Response

### **Discussion and agreed action points:**

- Report taken as read.
- The Working Party supported the Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) proposal to prohibit ballasted watercraft from Taharoa unless they have a specific permit and require all other craft to be treated at an approved wash-down facility.
- The Working Party indicated their support for the BNZ rule that all other equipment used in the water at Lake Taharoa meeting Check, Clean, Dry protocols.
- The Working Party indicated their support for multiple wash stations to be progressed as part of a CAN rule.
- The Working Party agreed to option 2 as the preferred option – Designated Wash-Down Stations.

*Direction to continue as per report and agreed actions:*

1. That the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Working Party note the information provided.
2. That the Working Party indicate support or otherwise for the BNZ proposal to prohibit ballasted watercraft from Taharoa unless they have a specific permit and require all other craft to be treated at an approved wash-down facility.
3. The Working Party indicate their support or otherwise for the BNZ rule that all other equipment used in the water at lake Taharoa meet Check, Clean, Dry protocols.
4. That the Working Party indicate their support or otherwise for multiple wash stations to be progressed as part of a CAN rule.

### **Whakamutunga (Conclusion)**

**The meeting concluded at 4.05pm.**

DRAFT