

Date: Thursday 28 September 2017
Time: 5.15pm
Meeting Room: Local Board Office
Venue: 10 Belgium Street
Ostend
Waiheke

Waiheke Local Board

OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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22 September 2017

Dear Waiheke Local Board,

On Saturday 16th September an informal gathering was held by representatives from Hauraki Gulf Forest and Bird, Hauraki Gulf Conservation Trust, Waiheke Resources Trust, Waiheke Rat Busters, and QEII covenant owners. These groups represent themselves and a number of smaller community groups and individuals who are stakeholders in the ecological protection and restoration on Waiheke. Council staff from Biosecurity and Biodiversity also attended the meeting. The purpose of this gathering was to discuss the outcomes from the June community workshop and initiate agreed action on these outcomes as well as being an opportunity to discuss the Predator Free 2050 funding and how Waiheke might be placed to submit an expression of interest to this fund.

We recognise our groups have had differences and that an opportunity was needed to raise these differences, air our concerns and hear each other, in order to move forward in a positive manner. We have agreed to focus on commonality and let our shared vision for Waiheke's environment be the connector between our groups. We will continue to recognise that our groups have different skills and strengths, and that together we are stronger and can achieve more. The attendees at Saturday's meeting have pledged their groups to work as a collective and progress the community's visions of predator free and ultimately pest free Waiheke. The attendees have agreed to progress the following items.

1. To form a community group collective (name still to be decided) that will represent the stakeholders in ecological restoration on Waiheke island.

This collective will be inclusive and open to other groups, community representatives, including the local board, and agency staff to join and participate in. While the initial focus of the collective will be on predator free goals, it is agreed that the drivers and vision for our work should be biodiversity outcomes focused. These shared outcomes and goals will be further developed but are likely to include increased population and breeding targets for little blue penguin, dotterel and northern kaka.

The collective will develop governance documentation to guide how member groups will work together and how the collective model will operate for Waiheke. As a first step to governance HGCT has offered to draft an MOU for the groups to agree to in relation to how HGCT can act as an umbrella organisation for the collective and provide the legal structure which enables the collective to apply to external funders.

2. The collective will develop a vision document and strategy in collaboration with key partners, including DOC and Auckland Council.

With the help of an independent facilitator, the collective wish to develop a strategic plan over a 3-4 months period, to guide their collective efforts and identify priorities and opportunities. A plan like this would make the most of existing information and be able to enhance the actions of the already very active voluntary community.

The facilitator's role would be to assist the collective with setting up their structure and governance and then to guide the collective through the process of identifying common objectives, priorities and actions. They would have the necessary skill set to do so, and also have the benefit of, and ability to, remain neutral throughout the process, as they would be independent of any existing group. An independent facilitator would free up Council staff to

participate in the group as stakeholders on equal footing as requested by the collective group, and ensure the healthy debate required of the process is done in a constructive and productive manner.

3. The collective will draft an “expression of interest” funding bid to submit to Predator Free 2050.

An opportunity to apply for funding from Predator Free 2050 has arisen. The attendees on Saturday agreed that this was an exciting opportunity to raise the profile of Waiheke pest free aspirations and showcase Waiheke as a case study for mainland New Zealand predator free ambitions. We wish to present this proposal to the wider Waiheke community, for their input and feedback, and would like to discuss with the local board the possibility of presenting the collective’s EOI at the upcoming community meeting on Waiheke ecological restoration.

We wish to support the momentum of the conservation community on Waiheke and agree it is important to position Waiheke, so that even if the EOI for 2018 isn’t successful, the community still has a plan and the ability to deliver and implement this plan, all be it at a slower pace. Therefore the collective’s members have agreed to submit a joint funding application to Council’s Regional Environmental and Natural Heritage Fund to support a review and continued coordination and implementation of the mustelid control project. This collaborative approach to the delivery of the mustelid control project is supported by Council’s Biosecurity and Biodiversity Teams.

We hope that the Waiheke Board will be encouraged by the community’s initiative to progress the outcomes from the June community meeting and the positive steps made in forming a collective. The signees of this letter ask for the Waiheke Local Board’s endorsement of the collective as the representative forum for Waiheke ecological restoration groups and ask that the Local Board show their support for the collective by agreeing to fund a short-term facilitator role from their Pest Management budget in 2017/18. Council staff have estimated costs for this role and delivery of the strategic action plan at approximately \$15,000. We propose that once funding is confirmed that members of the collective would work with Council Officers to select a suitable candidate for the role.

We look forward to working with the Waiheke Local Board and working on the upcoming community meeting agenda.

Yours sincerely,

Jonah Kitto Verhoef and Hue Ross, Hauraki Islands Forest and Bird

Sue Fitchett, representative for QEII covenant holders

Michael Maahs and Kym Rawson Waiheke Resources Trust

Sally Horwood, Waiheke Rat Busters

Mary Frankham and Ian Burrows, Hauraki Gulf Conservation Trust

NB: The collective has support from Council Officers Miranda Bennett,

Deryn Dromgoole and DoC Community Ranger Patrick Clarke.



Proposed new location for Matiatia tour shuttles pick up/drop off:

