

Formal feedback on Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan Review

From: The Waitematā Local Board

Date: 16 August 2017

The Waitematā Local Board provides the following formal feedback (as per resolution WTM/2017/156) on the proposed direction being developed as part of the Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan review:

1. The board supports a change in the legal definition of what constitutes a “pest” cat to enable better management
2. The board supports microchipping and/or registration and/or ownership identification of cats as part of a wider management approach. A more responsible approach to cat ownership would enable council to better identify cats as pests
3. The board supports policies and/or a bylaw to enable better management of pest species
4. Local biosecurity/pest management plans should be targeted to locations identified as being detrimentally impacted by pest species, such as the St Mary’s Bay cliffs, Grafton Gully, Rose Road Gully, Newmarket Stream. Public feedback should be sought to identify particularly problematic areas
5. A local pest management plan should encourage volunteerism and long-term contracts to reduce flora and fauna pests
6. Widespread pest plants such as moth plant, privet, ginger, gorse and Chinese and Asiatic knotweeds are an issue in the Waitematā Local Board area. Rats are also a specific pest management issue particularly in parks and town centres
7. The board supports community empowerment and education initiatives around pest control including advice to neighbours, equipment and structured help. The board is already supporting a community-led initiative to support community weed management in St Mary’s Bay, in collaboration with the Community Empowerment Unit, Community Facilities and Biosecurity staff
8. Cats are known to be a big issue, particularly at the Fred Ambler Reserve in Parnell. When in the future the land is returned to iwi, the cats will need to be removed. Fred Ambler Reserve needs a specific biosecurity plan as the cat removal may see a rodent explosion
9. The board is supportive of the strategy being directed to highly valued environmental sites and would like to know whether there are such sites in the local board area. Meola Reef and Western Springs could be examples of significant ecological areas
10. Our Draft Local Board Plan 2017 currently includes the following direction on pest management:

“Our valued natural ecosystems and biodiversity are under threat from pest plants and animals. To address this challenge we will maintain our ecological restoration programmes and grow community capacity around managing weeds and getting rid of pests. We want the council to embrace its commitment to minimise agrichemical use, as set out in the Weed Management Policy, and to support alternative maintenance techniques, such as mechanical edging in parks. As a local board we support the target to make New Zealand predator free by 2050.”

One of our key initiatives under Outcome 3 (“The natural environment is valued,

protected and enhanced”) is to grow community capacity around weed management and pest eradication.

Contact Details

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