

Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan

Consultation Summary

Auckland Council

Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau



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1 Introduction

The Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) sets out the pest management priorities for Auckland Council for the next 10 years and describes the pest plants, animals and pathogens that will be controlled in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland. It is a statutory document prepared under the Biosecurity Act 1993. It aims to control and minimise the impact of those pests and manage them through a regionally coordinated and prioritised approach.

Once operative, the plan will empower Auckland Council to exercise the relevant advisory, service delivery, regulatory and funding provisions available under the Biosecurity Act to deliver the specified objectives to be identified in the plan.

The RPMP will replace the current Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007-2012 (RPMS), which was prepared and adopted by the former Auckland Regional Council in 2007. The expiry date of 2012 has been extended to 2017 due to the development of a new national policy direction and changes to the Biosecurity Act.

This report describes the consultation that was undertaken, provides a summary of responses received and the council's response.

2 Consultation undertaken

2.1 Issues and options paper

During 2014 and 2015, consultation was undertaken with a variety of stakeholders in the lead up to the preparation of a non-statutory discussion document.

The engagement began internally including elected members and internal council and council-controlled organisation staff, (biosecurity, biodiversity, local parks, regional parks, Auckland Botanic Gardens, Harbourmaster, Auckland Transport, and Watercare). For the initial internal engagement, an issues and options paper was presented covering key topics including kauri dieback disease, widespread weeds, moth plant (as an example species), biological control, control of pest plants in regional park water supply catchments, cats, feral pigs, invertebrates, Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / Hauraki Gulf, marine, inter-regional collaboration, and community pest control.

Mana whenua were also an important part of early engagement. During 2014 and 2015 mana whenua engagement included several sub-regional workshops, one regional hui, two presentations to the kaitiaki information hui and several individual meetings when requested.

Council-run panels and forums were also included, such as the Rural Advisory Panel and Manukau Harbour Forum.

Key stakeholders external to the council were involved in this initial engagement. These included the then-Nursery Garden Industry Association, (now New Zealand Plant Producers Inc. - NZPPI), Fish and Game, Wagglers Coarse Fishing Club, Federated Farmers, New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA), Companion Animal Council, the Pet Industry Association, retailers like Animates and PetStock, the University of Auckland, Unitec, Auckland University of Technology, Auckland Botanical Society, airports (Auckland, Ardmore and Whenuapai), The Morgan Foundation, SPCA, The Lonely Miaow, the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), KiwiRail and the Auckland Motorway Alliance.

There was also discussion with the Department of Conservation (DOC), Waikato Regional Council (WRC) and Northland Regional Council (NRC).

2.2 Discussion document

Feedback from the above early engagement was used to develop the discussion document, which was adopted by the council resolution in October 2015.

This discussion document was then open for public comment, from mid-October 2015, until the end of November 2015, seeking feedback on the council's roles and responsibilities, the future of community pest control, pest plants, pest animals, pest management in Tikapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf and marine pests.

The discussion document was sent to a stakeholder database, and there was a media release to support it. It was also placed on Auckland Council's consultation webpage, Shape Auckland. People could submit their comments online, via Shape Auckland, or in written form.

Events to promote the discussion document comment period included several public talks, presentations to community groups (including Forest and Bird), presence at events (e.g. Conservation Week at the Auckland Zoo, stands at night markets), and posters and documents available at libraries, service centres and council-owned places like Auckland Botanic Gardens. In total, 413 submissions were received.

2.3 Plan development

Following the discussion document release and comment period, there has been a long period of plan development, including cost-benefit analysis of a range of pest management approaches, and collaboration with other regional councils nationally undertaking the same process.

In May 2017, another period of engagement began with elected members and mana whenua, on the proposed direction of the RPMP, which was informed by responses to the issues and options paper and discussion document, and the outcome of technical assessments.

In April and May 2017 two workshops were held with the Environment and Community Committee. The first provided information to the Committee on the purpose of the regional pest management plan, and relevant background information such as the pest infestation curve. The second sought political direction on key issues, including possum control, marine biosecurity, widespread pest plants, the management of cats, the banning of species from sale and potential site-led approaches for Aotea / Great Barrier Island.

Officers presented at Local Board cluster meetings, providing information on the plan review process, the programme through to public notification and an offer of one on one workshops with local boards was made. Twenty of the 21 local boards accepted this offer and workshops were held during June and July 2017. The workshops addressed the key regional issues that were discussed with the Environment and Community Committee, as well as other pest issues relevant to local boards. Papers were presented to local board meetings in July and August 2017 requesting formal feedback.

Hui for mana whenua were held, in May 2017 and July 2017 to inform mana whenua of the political direction on key issues, including possum control, marine biosecurity, widespread pest plants, the management of cats, the banning of species from sale, and to seek their input on this proposed direction.

An information sheet regarding the review of the RPMP was circulated to the demographic advisory panels in August 2017 (Pacific People, Seniors and Youth) along with a survey regarding level of support for the proposed approaches set out in the RPMP.

This report summarises responses received through the discussion document and the recent 'plan development' phase of engagement. A detailed list of all consultation activity to date that is associated with the review of the Regional Pest Management Plan is provided in Appendix A.

3 Overview of responses

Of the 413 submissions on the discussion document, the majority came from individuals, but there was also input from community groups, special interest groups, business and the public sector. Approximately 160 submitters provided demographic data and of those who did, 92% were European, with a small percentage of Māori (1%) and Asian (2%) and seven submitters (4%) self-selecting as 'New Zealanders/Kiwis'. The highest number of submissions came from the 55-64 age bracket. The Waitākere Ranges Local Board area had the most submissions with 60 submissions, with the next largest group from Rodney, with 32.

The discussion document asked for feedback on the following main topics; the council's roles and responsibilities and future of community pest control, pest plants (with bangalow palm and widespread pest plants as example species), pest animals (with feral goats and red-eared slider turtles as example species), pest management in the Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / Hauraki Gulf and marine pests.

The following sections of this report outline the feedback that was received through the various forms of consultation described above and sets out the council's response and rationale. Feedback mentioned under the heading 'discussion document feedback' relates to submissions received on the discussion document. Local board feedback refers to formal feedback received from local boards in response to papers presented at local board meetings in mid to late 2017. Other categories of feedback listed below are from various engagement channels throughout the review period from 2014-2017.

4 Pest plants

4.1 List as pest

Discussion document feedback

Many pest plants were suggested for inclusion as pests. Some of these species were already declared pests under the previous Regional Pest Management Strategy, while others are new species.

These include African clubmoss (2 submissions), agapanthus (16), alder (1), asparagus species (27), bamboo (2), banana passionfruit (2), bangalow palm (52), bartlettina (4), bear's breeches (10), blackberry (2), black-eyed susan (1), blue morning glory (7), blue passion flower (1), boneseed (4), cathedral bells (1), century plant (3), climbing dock (1), cotoneaster (2), creeping fig (1), Cretan brake (1), dragon tree (1), eleagnus (4), evening primrose (2), exotic fungi (1), feral palms (31), furcraea species (2), giant reed (4), gorse (8), guava (1), hakea (1), hedge woundwort (1), hydrangea (1), ice plant (2), iris (1), ivy (1), Japanese honeysuckle (3), Japanese spindle tree (1), Japanese walnut (2), jasmine (3), lilies (2), loquat (6), lupin (2), mangroves (4), marram grass (2), melia tree (1), Mexican daisy (10), mile-a-minute (1), milkweed (1), mistflower (1), monkey apple (10), montbretia (1), nasturtium (1), nutgrass (1), Onehunga weed (2), onion flower (1), pampas (9), periwinkle (1), pig's ear (1), pine tree species (13), plectranthus (2), pohutukawa (non-native) (1), Portugal laurel (1), privet (32), Queen of the Night (14), ragwort (1), rhamnus (4), roving sailor (1), saltbush (1), sweet pea shrub (2), Taiwan cherry (15), tradescantia (3), tuber ladder fern (2), tutsan (1), watsonia (1), wattle species (6), wild broom (1), wild ginger, wild kiwifruit (3), willows (1), wood sorrel (1), wonga wonga vine (1), woolly nightshade (6), veldt grass (9), yellow bristle grass (1), yucca (2).

Forty-two submissions also suggested adding 'widespread weeds' in general as pest,

including moth plant, woolly nightshade, wild ginger, due to their impact.

Submissions requesting specific species listings for the **Tikapa Moana o Hauraki** / Hauraki Gulf include: acacia species (1), aloe species (1) banksia (1), blue morning glory (1), century plant (2), Chilean rhubarb (1), feral palms (1), **Furcraea** species (1), gorse (1), lantana (1), mangroves (1), monkey apple (1), **Opuntia** species (1), passionfruit (1), pine trees (2), privet (1), redroot (1), rhamnus (1), sweet pea shrub (1). One submitter suggested adding **Acacia** species, **Casuarina cunninghamiana** and pine trees from Aotea / Great Barrier Island.

Mana whenua feedback

A representative from Ngāti Tamaoho noted gorse is not as invasive/problematic as other weeds, and noted it does not need to be prioritised as a pest. Noted need to concentrate on weeds like woolly nightshade instead, especially as it is spread by birds. Also noted boneseed, asparagus fern, wilding pines, and wild ginger are problems (2014 hui, 2015 hui, and 2017 hui).

A representative from Te Runanga o Ngāti Whātua also noted wilding pine as a big issue, would like to phase out planting of pines to reduce risk. (2017 hui)

A representative from Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara noted aquatic weeds are an issue in some of their waterways and query status of tradescantia (2014 and 2015 hui).

A representative from Ngāti Maru suggested adding London plane tree as a pest (2017 hui).

Pest plant species mentioned at 2015 information hui include gorse and yellow flag iris.

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

Rural Advisory Panel noted yellow bristle grass of concern and noted alder is becoming an issue (2017 meeting).

Council's response

Proposed for inclusion as pest: African club moss, African feather grass, African pig's ear, agapanthus (large and short forms), **Akebia trifoliata**, alder, alligator weed, aristeia / African violet, artillery plant, arum lily, Asiatic knotweed. asparagus species, Australian sedge, baccharis, balloon vine and small balloon vine, bamboo species, banana passionfruit, bangalow palm, barberry, bartlettina, bathurst bur, berry heath, black wattle, blackberry (wild aggregates), bladderwort species, blue morning glory, blue passion flower, blue spur flower, Bolivian fuchsia, bomarea, boneseed, boxthorn, Brazilian pepper tree, Brazilian rattlebox, broomsedge, brush wattle, buddleia, bur daisy, burdock, bushy asparagus, buttercup bush, Californian bulrush, Californian thistle, Canary Island ivy, cape honey flower, cape ivy, cape pond weed, cape sundew, carex, **Carex scoparia**, castor oil plant, cat's claw creeper, cathedral bells, **Cenchrus** species (except kikuyu grass and pearl millet), century plant, Chilean flame creeper, Chilean glory creeper, Chilean needle grass, Chilean rhubarb, Chinese fan palm, Chinese hollygrape, chocolate vine, **Clematis flammula**, climbing asparagus, climbing dock, climbing gloxinia, climbing spindle berry, coast banksia, coltsfoot, cotoneaster, crack willow, creeping fig, dally pine, Darwin's barberry, devil's fig, devil's tail, divided sedge, dragon tree, drooping prickly pear, dusky coral pea, eel grass, egeria, elaeagnus,

elephant's ear, elodea, English ivy, false tamarisk, fatsia, ferny asparagus, firethorn, formosa lily, fucraea, German ivy, giant hogweed, giant reed, giant rhubarb, goat's rue, gorse, great reedmace, green cestrum, grey willow, guava, Guinea grass, gypsywort, hakea, hawkweed, hawthorn, heather, hemlock, Himalayan honeysuckle, holly-leaved senecio, hornwort, horsetail, houttuynia, **Hydrocotyle umbellatum**, iceplant, Italian arum, Italian jasmine, Japanese cherry, Japanese honeysuckle, Japanese spindle tree, Japanese walnut, jasmine, kangaroo acacia, khasia berry, kudzu vine, lagarosiphon, lantana, lizard's tail, lodgepole pine, loquat, madeira vine, male fern, marram grass, marshwort, Mexican daisy, Mexican devil, Mexican feather grass, Mexican water lily, Mickey Mouse plant, mile-a-minute, mist flower, monkey apple, montbretia, montpellier broom, Morton Bay fig, moth plant, nardoo, nassella tussock, needle grass, nodding thistle, noogoora bur, Norfolk Island hibiscus, nutgrass, old man's beard, oxylobium, palm grass, pampas grass, paperbark poplar, parrot's feather, perennial nettle, Phoenix palm, **Phragmites karka**, pitted crassula, plectranthus, plumeless thistle, Port Jackson fig, prickly-leaved wattle, privet (Chinese), privet (tree), purple groundsel, Queen of the night, Queensland poplar, Queensland umbrella tree, ragwort, red dragon, red valerian, reed sweet grass, rhamnus, raphiolepis / sexton's bride, rhus tree, rough tree fern, royal fern, rum cherry, saffron thistle, **Sagittaria** species, salt water paspalum, scrambling lily, **Selaginella** spp, senegal tea, sharp rush, sheep's bur, skeleton weed, smilax, snow poppy, soap aloe, Spanish broom, Spanish heath, spartina, spiny broom, strangling fig, sweet briar, sweet pea shrub, sweet pittosporum, Sydney golden wattle, Taiwan cherry, Tasmanian ngaio, tradescantia, tree lupin, tree of heaven, tuber ladder fern, tutsan, variegated thistle, velvet groundsel, water plantain, water poppy, water primrose, white-edged nightshade, wild broom, wild ginger, wild kiwifruit, woolly nightshade, yellow bristle grass, yellow flag iris, yellow guava, yellow passionfruit, yellow water lily.

Rationale

All species suggested through consultation have been evaluated, resulting in the proposed species list. Details of ecological and economic impacts of individual plant species and other costs and benefits associated with proposed programmes can be found in the accompanying cost-benefit analyses.

4.2 Remove as pest

Discussion document feedback

Some species were opposed as pests by submitters, for various reasons.

These include alder (1), bangalow palm (6), buddleia (1), carex (1), coast banksia (1), feral palms (2), gorse (1), lantana (1), marram grass (1), Moreton Bay fig (1), nettle (3), Norfolk Island Hibiscus (1), Taiwan cherry (1), Queen of the night (1), Queensland umbrella tree (1), wild broom (1).

Mana whenua feedback

Gorse (a representative from Ngāti Tamaoho, 2017 hui).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

New Zealand Plant Producers Incorporated note approximately 44 species as likely to be controversial, or very controversial, if they were to be banned: bear's breeches, maiden hair fern, agapanthus (short forms), silky acacia, alder, soap aloe, Japanese anemone, strawberry tree, bangalow palm, Indian shot, camphor laurel, dietes, dragon tree, loquat, fatsia, Moreton Bay fig, creeping fig, gazania, Canary Island ivy, hydrangea, Indian meila tree, Tahitian pohutukawa, fruit salad plant, evening primrose, feral olive, dimorphotheca/trailing African daisy, wonga wonga vine, passionfruit, yellow passionfruit, Taiwan cherry, Portugese laurel, Japanese cherry, guava, yellow guava, Cretan brake, robinia, Queensland umbrella tree, cape honeysuckle, black-eyed Susan, Chinese fan palm, nasturtium, Chilean guava, Dutch elm, yucca.

Council's response

All species listed in Section 4.1 above recommended for inclusion in the plan.

Rationale

All species suggested for removal from the plan through consultation have been evaluated, resulting in the proposed species list. Details of ecological and economic impacts of individual plant species and other costs and benefits associated with proposed programmes can be found in the accompanying cost-benefit analyses.

4.3 Pest plant management

4.3.1 General management and suggested programmes

Discussion document feedback

General management programmes suggested include: actively **controlling or removing weeds in general** (suggested for African clubmoss, agapanthus, alligator weed, banana passionfruit, bangalow palm, bear's breeches, blue morning glory, boneseed, climbing asparagus, climbing dock, cordgrass, creeping fig, eleagnus, feral palms, flame tree, giant reed, gorse, iris, ivy, Japanese anemone, Japanese honeysuckle, jasmine, lilies, mangroves, Mexican daisy, Mexican devil, mistflower, monkey apple, montbretia, moth plant, nasturtium, Onehunga weed, onion flower, pampas, pine trees, plectranthus, privet, Queen of the night, rhamnus, **Salvinia molesta**, Taiwan cherry, tradescantia, tuber ladder fern, tutsan, widespread weeds, wild broom, woolly nightshade, yellow flag), with particular emphasis on early intervention and controlling pest plants that are less established (mentioned specifically were asparagus species, banana passionfruit, bangalow palm, giant reed, pampas, Taiwan cherry, widespread weeds, wild kiwifruit).

Several submitters also recommended extending the Hunua and Waitākere Ranges Weed Control Zones, and coastal containment zones to protect the islands.

Submitters also suggested programme categories for various pest plant, including:

Eradication: (agapanthus, black-eyed Susan, blue morning glory, feral palms, moth plant, willows), **Exclusion:** (agapanthus, black-eyed Susan, blue morning glory);

Progressive Containment (asparagus species, bangalow palm, pines, (for region), moth plant, nutgrass, woolly nightshade (in Hunua, Waitākere, other suitable areas), widespread weeds (either regionally or in specific areas); **Sustained Control** (agapanthus, bangalow palm, blue morning glory, boneseed, climbing asparagus, climbing dock, eleagnus, feral palms, Japanese honeysuckle, loquat, madeira vine, nutgrass, pines, privet, Taiwan cherry, veldt grass, wattle species, widespread weeds in general, wild kiwifruit); **Site-led (general)**: (bangalow palm, madeira vine, pampas, privet, rhamnus, Taiwan cherry, tradescantia, widespread weeds in general). Some submitters also recommended **Site-specific rules or programmes for some species**, including: African clubmoss in Waitākere Ranges; agapanthus in Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area; climbing asparagus at Awhitu, and in the Waitākere Ranges, feral palms in Unsworth Reserve; flame trees in Waitākere Ranges; hydrangea in Waitākere Ranges; lantana on Kawau Island; Mexican devil on Aotea / Great Barrier Island; moth plant and woolly nightshade in the Hunua Ranges, Waitākere Ranges, coastal areas and urban areas; pampas at Awhitu (to protect the Waitākere Ranges from pampas); rhamnus in Puketāpapa; pine trees in Cornwallis and Awhitu; Queen of the night in Unsworth Reserve; rhamnus on Motutapu Island; roving sailor on Motutapu, Rangitoto, Blockhouse Bay; sweet pea shrub in Awhitu; tradescantia in the Waitākere Ranges; woolly nightshade at Awhitu.

Current RPMS categories were also mentioned, including **Containment** (agapanthus, bangalow palm, gorse, Japanese honeysuckle, Mexican daisy, moth plant, Phoenix palm, **Salvinia molesta**, widespread weeds in general, wild ginger, woolly nightshade; **Surveillance** (iris, Mexican devil, sweet pea shrub); **Total Control** (banana passionfruit, bangalow palm, blue morning glory, cape sundew, cat's claw creeper, dusky coral pea, eleagnus, giant reed, horsetail, Japanese honeysuckle, Mickey Mouse plant, privet, tradescantia, widespread weeds in general, woolly nightshade). Several species were also suggested as **research species** including alder (1), guava (1), Japanese walnut (1), veldt grass (1).

Please note some species were suggested in multiple categories.

Mana whenua feedback

A representative of Ngāti Tamaoho suggested woolly nightshade should be under an Eradication Pest Programme (2014 hui).

Ngāti Maru noted 50m a more appropriate boundary for gorse rules (2015 hui).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

Rural advisory panel noted support for working with neighbouring councils, and support for multi-species eradications. Noted need to work with smaller communities. (2017 meeting).

Watercare noted their operations are dictated by their weed management plan 2011, a 10 year plan. Noted methodology available is limited in water catchments, noted interest in biocontrol for areas close to catchments. (2017 meeting).

Waikato Regional Council noted they have landowner rules for velvetleaf, also noted they do spartina control around the Firth of Thames, but it is becoming issue. (2017

meeting).

Auckland Motorway Alliance note importance of being strategic with control of weeds, particularly those spread by wind/birds, and support working with neighbours to particular sites (through engagement, or rules where necessary) (2014 meeting).

Council's response

The majority of the species suggested above are already well established in the region, and are therefore covered by site-led programmes or site-specific exclusion/eradication/progressive containment programmes in combination with sustained control programmes as the most common approach for region-wide management.

Rationale

When assigning species to management programmes, the council has had regard to the technical feasibility of the outcomes sought. Therefore widespread pest plants such as agapanthus are typically assigned to Site-led and/or Sustained Control programmes, to manage impacts at sites and limit further spread respectively, rather than attempting eradication from the region where the latter is known to be technically infeasible and attempting to do so would be very costly and ineffective.

The key site-led approach proposed for terrestrial pest plants protects Significant Ecological Areas on council parkland from a suite of 30 pest plants. This programme encompasses the Waitākere and Hunua ranges, which were highlighted repeatedly through the consultation process, as well as ecologically significant parkland elsewhere in the region.

Several pest plant species are also prioritised for sub-regional exclusion, eradication or progressive containment programmes, predominantly on Aotea / Great Barrier Island, in recognition that eradication may be feasible at this ecologically important and geographically defensible site even for species that are well established elsewhere in the region.

4.3.2 Enforced removal

Discussion document feedback

Enforced removal for private landowners, with several submitters suggested this in general and others for specific weeds (including agapanthus, asparagus species, bangalow palm, feral palms, gorse, ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, moth plant, pampas, privet, ragwort, tradescantia, widespread weeds in general, woolly nightshade).

Local board feedback

Franklin local board consider the cost-benefit analysis of compliance officers needs to factor in the community good of the compliance role in relation to the enforcement of good pest management practices.

Mana whenua feedback

A representative from Ngāti Rehua note need to consider multiple landowners with

enforcement, e.g. with some Maori land (2014 hui).

Council's response

Ecological pest plant enforcement targeted to buffer areas around parkland and on off-shore islands. Some primary production pest plants proposed for landowner removal rules throughout region.

Rationale

Targeting enforcement to site-led programmes ensures coordination of effort among the council, transport corridor operators and general landowners, thereby maximising ecological outcomes achieved, and avoiding costly but ineffective programmes of enforcement spread across the entire region.

4.3.3 Widespread pest plants

Discussion document feedback

Forty-two submissions also suggested adding 'widespread weeds' in general as pest, including moth plant, woolly nightshade, wild ginger, due to their impact.

Local board feedback

Twenty local boards were supportive of the proposal for a site-led programme for parks with significant ecological areas. Note that while supportive, some of the comments provided by these boards suggest that the council should also be going further than the proposed approach.

Waitākere Ranges Local Board are not supportive of the proposal, considering that the proposed approach does not go far enough.

Devonport-Takapuna, Māngere-Ōtahuhu and Puketepāpa local boards were supportive of a site-led approach in relation to priority sites identified in their respective board areas.

Refer to Appendix B for detailed comments.

Council's response

All of the widespread pest plants commonly raised as a concern (e.g. moth plant, woolly nightshade, privet, ginger, climbing asparagus) are included in the plan as pests. Site-led programme for parks with significant ecological areas to manage a suite of 30 pest plants per site to an extent that protects the values of the parkland. Includes use of rules in buffer areas around parkland. Sustained control programmes region-wide will support an education and advocacy approach to reducing the risk of further pest plant spread and encouraging the public to undertake management of these species on their own land.

Rationale

Site-led approach enables more intensive management of a suite of pest plant species in areas of high value rather than region-wide enforcement of a few species.

4.3.4 Pest plants on council land

Discussion document feedback

Species suggested for control on council land (including Japanese honeysuckle, jasmine, monkey apple, moth plant, privet, woolly nightshade).

Local board feedback

Ten local boards expressed an interest in the management of weeds on council land. Nine of those were supportive of the proposed approach, while Waitākere Ranges were unsupportive of the proposal, considering that it did not go far enough. Refer Appendix B for details.

Mana whenua feedback

A representative from Ngāti Paoa and Ngāti Tamaoho noted weeds are a problem on local parks, e.g. woolly nightshade and that the council need to control weeds on own land (2014 hui, 2017 hui).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

One Youth panel member agreed with the proposed approach for site-led parks programme and one Youth panel member strongly agreed stating that having specific focuses will enable more effective management of weeds in those areas, rather than spreading resources too thin.

A Senior's panel member strongly agreed with the proposed site-led parks programme, and one Pacific People's panel members strongly agreed but notes that it is important to use non-toxic methods of controlling weeds, so as not to cause damage to soil and other flora and fauna.

Council's response

Site-led programme for parks with significant ecological areas to manage a suite of 30 pest plants to an extent that protects the values of the parkland, including all of the plant species listed above as being of concern on council land.

Rationale

The council to lead by example on its own land. Site-focused approach will enable more intensive management of pest plants to better protect priority ecosystems and threatened species.

4.3.5 Pest plants in the road corridor

Discussion document feedback

Species suggested for control in the road corridor (climbing asparagus, cotoneaster, gorse, Mexican devil (on Aotea / Great Barrier Island), moth plant, privet, wattle species, woolly nightshade)

Local board feedback

Nine local boards expressed an interest in weeds in transport corridors. Eight of those boards are supportive of the proposal, while Waitākere Ranges local board are unsupportive of the proposal. Refer Appendix B for detailed comments.

Mana whenua feedback

A representative from Te Akitai Waiohau noted rail and road corridor as issues (2017 hui).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

Kiwirail notes in their feedback to the discussion document that the rail network should be recognised by the council as a linear network that passes through much of the region, which can be an anomaly to successfully achieving the traditional pest management outcomes sought.

They also note that being a long linear network raises operational constraints in managing pest species that KiwiRail would support the council in recognising. These constraints include: the focus on safety, that the rail network operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, restricting the time that pest management can occur on the network; resourcing can be stretched; the corridor is electrified in the metro area, which places additional constraints on access for machinery as a result of clearance requirements. The constraints above mean response timeframes can often be longer than ideal if action is required.

Kiwirail also note that the rail corridor is operated and managed at a national level, including in relation to pest management, and therefore sometimes competing demands throughout the country need to be balanced.

KiwiRail would like to see a requirement in the RPMP that sees organisations like KiwiRail adopt a 'Management Plan' approach to pest species management. KiwiRail wish to work with the council in the preparation of that in relation to the rail network. Further, KiwiRail would like to see this approach involve the following: a prioritisation approach being adopted for sites with greater benefit from treatment – e.g. adjacent to public spaces, where third parties such as NZTA are doing works, in relation to being a 'good neighbour' etc.; that the Management Plan be developed looking forward (e.g. for two to five years) with an annual review; that a pragmatic approach is adopted as to how much can be reasonably achieved within a year and what the expectation is around that, including recognising constraining factors; that flexibility is available as to the level of treatment undertaken and the outcomes expected. KiwiRail often undertake a variety of pest management actions, including working with other parties to undertake control trials. These may work, and they may not, however scope to continue that practice would be sought.

KiwiRail also note they would support the council in developing a hierarchy of the list of species that are the focus of pest management, and also a hierarchy to the type of treatment required. This would support KiwiRail in highlighting through the Management Plan approach what areas to focus on and what is expected to be achieved. (2015 feedback).

Council's response

Transport corridor enforcement targeted to buffers around site-led programmes to maximise coordination of effort and prioritisation of environmental outcomes.

Rationale

Targeting enforcement to site-led programmes ensures coordination of effort among the council, transport corridor operators and general landowners, and provides a prioritisation framework for transport corridor operators to ensure pest plant management on their network is outcome-focussed.

4.3.6 Banning plants from sale

Discussion document feedback

Banning plants from sale (suggested for agapanthus, bangalow palm, bear's breeches, century plant, furcraea species, loquat, Phoenix palm, privet, Taiwan cherry, Queen of the night, **Salvinia molesta**).

Local board feedback

Seventeen local boards support the proposal to phase out the sale of approximately 50 new plant pests and 13 new animal pests in addition to those currently identified. Three local boards provided no comment, and one local board noted that while they support the approach, they would like to see the species list before providing a definitive response.

See Appendix B for detailed comments.

Mana whenua feedback

General mana whenua support for ban of sale of potential pest species, such as bangalow palm (2017 hui).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

All responses from demographic panel members (4) strongly agreed with the proposal regarding new ban of sale.

Rural Advisory Panel generally supportive of ban of sale for potential pests. They note interest in modelling and cost-benefit analyses. Note many older farmers enjoy personal visit from biosecurity advisor, face to face.

Council's response

Phasing out the sale of approximately 50 new plant pests and 13 new animal pests in addition to those already banned under RPMS 2007-2012.

Some of the species suggested in response to the discussion document are already banned from sale under the existing RPMS (e.g. Phoenix palm). All currently banned species are retained as pests in the proposed RPMP.

Rationale

Propagule pressure from human trade (nurseries and pet industry) is known to be associated with increased invasion risk. Preventing the sale of species that have been identified as potentially invasive is prioritised to reduce the risk of invasion and associated costly future management requirements.

4.3.7 Biocontrol

Discussion document feedback

Species suggested for biocontrol if available (or advocating for biocontrol research, (suggested for African clubmoss, agapanthus, bangalow palm, boneseed, brush wattle, climbing asparagus, Japanese honeysuckle, Mexican daisy, moth plant, pampas, tradescantia, widespread weeds).

Local board feedback

Kaipātiki and Upper Harbour Local Boards expressed a particular interest in biocontrol methods, and both local boards were supportive of the proposed approach.

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

Rural Advisory Panel note support for biocontrol options being available, e.g. woolly nightshade (2017 meeting).

Council's response

Enhanced biological control programme focused on identifying and releasing in greater numbers pre-existing and new biological control agents for an increased number of priority pest plants. Target list includes all those species submitted on above, with the exception of agapanthus, bangalow palm and brush wattle.

Rationale

Biocontrol, with strict safety assessment, is a valuable tool for the management of widespread pest plants.

4.3.8 Pest plant management in Tikapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf¹

Discussion document feedback

Submissions on widespread pest plant management in **Tikapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf** include re-categorising of pest plants that are under Surveillance to Site-led or Sustained Control i.e. moth plant, woolly nightshade, climbing dock, education and support for community groups and control of widespread weeds.

One submitter recommended that species that are invasive to coastal/island habitats be prevented from establishing on Gulf islands and the pest plants that are currently established should be eradicated and banned from sale. They mention **Acacia** species, redroot, **Furcraea** species, **Opuntia** species, passionfruit, aloe species, pine trees, century plant and Chilean rhubarb.

Other submissions regarding pest plants in Tikapa Moana o Hauraki / **the Hauraki Gulf** included pre-emptive measures for eleagnus (1), and eradication of rhamnus (1).

Submissions into pest plant management in Tikapa Moana o Hauraki / **the Hauraki Gulf** included the use of best practice methods to effectively manage the spread of weeds to the wider region and encouraging community initiative (5), recommending that the council encourage the removal of weeds from private properties or charge a fee to the property owner for the weed management done by the council (1), acting pre-emptively in the management of weeds on Aotea / Great Barrier Island (1), support for the council

¹ Also refer to Seciton 8 – Marine pests and pest management in Tikapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf.

continuing to fund biocontrol (2).

Council's response

Aotea / Great Barrier Island prioritised for exclusion, eradication and progressive containment programmes for pest plants, to be delivered by the council.

Small number of pest plants prioritised for control throughout the Gulf, including moth plant (landowner removal) and rhamnus (council delivery).

Site-led programme for 30 widespread weeds will also apply for local and regional parkland on islands.

Rationale

Aotea / Great Barrier Island prioritised due to a combination of defensible geography and high biodiversity values.

Control of moth plant and rhamnus elsewhere in the Gulf will reduce risk of invasion on Aotea / Great Barrier Island, as well as reducing impact on other islands.

4.3.9 Education/incentives/assistance

Discussion document feedback

Education/incentives/assistance programmes suggested for alligator weed, asparagus species, bangalow palm, gorse, Japanese honeysuckle, Mexican daisy, moth plant, privet, widespread weeds in general, wild ginger, willows, woolly nightshade, yellow flag.

Local board feedback

Seventeen local boards expressed an interest in education and advice around pest management, all of which were supportive of the proposed approach.

Council's response

All proposed pest plant programmes to include education and advice components.

Effort, particularly with respect to active resourcing of community activity, prioritised to areas surrounding site-led programmes or other areas of high ecological value (Biodiversity Focus Areas, off-shore islands).

Rationale

To encourage community, landowner and householder action and behaviour change to control pests and reduce human-mediated spread of pests to new sites. Limited council resources prioritised to sites of highest ecological importance to maximise impact.

5 Pest animals

5.1 Birds

Discussion document feedback

Pest birds mentioned include: Canada goose, (2) doves (2), feral peafowl (3), eastern

rosella (5) exotic parrots (e.g. Indian ring-necked parakeet and monk parrot (8), kookaburra, (1) magpies (4) mynas, (4) pigeons (4), pūkeko (3), red-vented bulbul (3) spur-winged plover (1) sulphur-crested cockatoo (3).

Submissions on pest birds management include working with DOC on kookaburra (1), adding kookaburra as research species (1), Exclusion Pest Programme for red-vented bulbul (1), ban on sale of parakeet/lorikeet and prosecution of those who illegally introduce them (3), education around feral peafowl (1), monitoring and control of pūkeko in regional parks and rural zones (1), Sustained Control Pest Programme for eastern rosella (1), eastern rosella added as research species (1), ban on sale of eastern rosella, parakeet/lorikeet and sulphur-crested cockatoo, and prosecution of those who illegally introduce them (3), assistance for residents to eradicate magpies such as loan of traps (1), control of mynas and spur-winged plover (1), Canada goose as Eradication Pest Programme or Progressive Containment Pest Programme (1), a plan in the RPMP for assessment of species in the pet trade (1).

Local board feedback

All local boards that expressed an interest in pest birds are supportive of the proposed approaches. Refer to Appendix B for detailed comments.

Mana whenua feedback

Representatives from Ngāti Rehua and Ngāti Manuhiri mentioned pest birds in general as pests (hui November 2014 and July 2017).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

Auckland regional airport representatives (Whenupai, Ardmore, Auckland) mentioned black-backed gulls, black swan, Canada goose, feral pigeon, paradise shelduck, pūkeko, spur-winged plover. They acknowledged some are native species, with limits on control (2014 stakeholder meetings).

A Fish and Game representative who was part of early engagement notes issues with magpies, and pūkeko, (they receive queries on pūkeko, requests for traps for magpies) and expressed opposition to Canada goose being included as a pest (2015 meeting).

The SPCA expressed no opposition to the ban of sale of ring-necked and monk parakeets (2015 meeting).

Animates retailers noted they do not sell sulphur-crested cockatoos, and noted that as galahs are expensive, they are less likely to be abandoned. Animates (and other retailers) are happy to provide education at point of sale, and noted they work with NPPBA. Animates noted that lorikeets, ring-necked parakeets, Alexandrine parakeets are growing components of their trade. (2015 meeting).

Council's response

Proposed for inclusion as pest banned from sale: Canada goose, eastern rosella, galah, Indian ring-necked parakeet, magpie, monk parrot, myna, rainbow lorikeet, rook, sulphur-crested cockatoo.

Pest bird proposed approach includes: Canada goose, eastern rosella, galah, Indian ring-necked parakeet, monk parrot, rainbow lorikeet under Exclusion Pest Programme for Aotea / Great Barrier Island and Sustained Control Pest Programme for the

remainder of the region.

Magpies and mynas under Sustained Control Pest Programme for the region.

Rooks under Exclusion Pest Programme for the whole region.

Sulphur-crested cockatoos under Exclusion Pest Programme for Aotea / Great Barrier Island and Progressive Containment Pest Programme for the remainder of the region.

Rationale

Native species such as pūkeko are not proposed for inclusion as native species cannot classify as pest species under the RPMP.

Propagule pressure from trade (i.e. pet industry) is known to be associated with increased invasion risk. Pest birds are a growing biosecurity problem, and once established in the wild can be difficult to control effectively. The proposed RPMP seeks to pre-emptively manage this risk by regulating the sale of a number of species.

Sustained control programmes prioritised to reduce risk from trade, and raise awareness of responsible pet ownership behaviours.

Control prioritised for exclusion on Aotea / Great Barrier Island due to the combination of defensible geography and high biodiversity values.

5.2 Insects

Discussion document feedback

Suggested insect pests are Argentine ant (2), Darwin's ant (1) wasp (26), South African praying mantis (1), black field cricket (1) hadda beetle (7).

Submissions on insect management include, for Argentine ants: education and awareness on Argentine ants (1), and more control/eradication (1), and inclusion as a Site-led Pest Programme on Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / Hauraki Gulf islands (1) for black field cricket: includes control (1), for hadda beetle: an Eradication Pest Programme (1) and for on wasp management: an active programme to reduce and manage the impacts of exotic wasps in the Waitākere Ranges, including locating and eliminating ground nesting species (3), common, paper wasps and German wasps should be totally controlled in all regional parks and their environs including all Watercare controlled areas and all islands (1), more control of social wasps (3), education to raise awareness of wasp nests and to encourage their removal (1), aim to eradicate (1), investigate and trial control methods (2).

Submissions on ant management in Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf include an Eradication Pest Programme for Argentine ants on Kawau Island (2) and site-led programmes for Darwin's ant (with an eradication goal when effective techniques available).

Submissions on wasp management in Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf included listing them as Total Control in all regional parks and all islands and controlling them (1).

Local board feedback

Rodney local board are supportive of the proposed continuation of the Kawau Argentine

Ant eradication programme and enhance pathway management.

Manurewa local board support the proposed sustained control programme for wasps throughout the region.

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

Ports of Auckland note presence of Argentine ants at port (2015 meeting).

Council's response

Proposed for inclusion as pest: Argentine ant, Darwin's ant, **Vespula** and paper wasps. Front section of proposed RPMP highlights insect pests as a priority for further research. Insect proposed approach includes: Argentine ants under a Site-led programme for the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area, to the extent that it protects the value of this place, including eradication on Kawau Island. Sustained Control Pest Programme for the remainder of region.

Darwin's ant under a Site-led programme for the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area, to the extent that it protects the value of this place. Sustained Control Pest Programme for the remainder of region.

Wasps under Sustained Control Pest Programme for the region, comprised of education, advice and facilitation of research/control methods.

Rationale

Insect pests are acknowledged as a serious and growing biosecurity problem. Where regionally coordinated intervention has the potential to be effective, either by reducing risk of human-mediated spread, undertaking site-led control (ants) or facilitating research and control efforts (wasps), these species have been included in the proposed plan. For other species the council has prioritised facilitation of research as the most effective contribution to regional management.

5.3 Reptile/amphibian

Discussion document feedback

Suggested reptile/amphibian additions include red-eared slider turtles (37), snake-necked turtle (1), painted turtle (1), Reeve's turtle (1) box turtles (1), plague skinks (7). Submissions on red-eared slider turtle management include banning from sale, distribution and propagation (26), education (4) microchipping of pet turtles (2), wide-scale control of wild turtles (2), be under an Eradication Pest Programme (3), be under an Eradication Pest Programme, including current pet turtles (1), control in Waitākere Ranges (1), monitoring of breeding and response plan to eradicate if needed (1), add to Progressive Containment Pest Programme (1), add to Site-led Pest Programme (1), offering a pet relocation service for unwanted turtles to prevent people releasing them into the wild (3).

Submissions on plague skink management include pathway management and preventing entry into skink-free areas (1), inclusion as Site-led Pest Programme for islands (1) site-led programmes (with an eradication goal when effective techniques available) (1).

Mana whenua feedback

Exotic reptiles were noted as an issue by a representative from Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara (2014 hui).

General mana whenua support for ban of sale of potential pest species, such as red-eared slider turtles (2017 hui).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

No opposition to the ban of sale of red-eared sliders from Animates retailers (not a large part of their sales). They noted they would like early indication of species potentially to be banned, so they can plan to invest in other species. Animates noted other reptiles more of an issue if banned, e.g. bearded dragons are a substantial component of their reptile trade.

Animates also noted support for responsible pet ownership and their role in education and reducing pest risk (2015 meeting).

The SPCA also expressed no opposition to the ban of sale of red-eared slider turtle (2015 meeting).

The Wildlife Society of the New Zealand Veterinary Association supported ban on sale and breeding of red-eared slider turtle (2015 meeting).

Council's response

Proposed for inclusion as pest: bearded dragon, blue-tongued skink, eastern water dragon, plague skink, red-eared slider turtle, shingleback lizard (outside containment), snake-neck turtle.

Reptile/amphibian proposed approach includes: bearded dragon, blue-tongued skink, eastern water dragon, shingleback lizard, red-eared slider turtles and snake-neck turtles all under Sustained Control Pest Programme for region and Exclusion Pest Programme for Aotea / Great Barrier Island. Note shingleback lizard only managed outside containment.

Plague skink under Sustained Control Pest Programme for the region, and site-led programme for the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area, to manage plague skinks to reduce risk of spread to new islands and respond to incursions.

Rationale

Propagule pressure from trade (i.e. pet industry) is known to be associated with increased invasion risk. Exotic reptiles are a growing biosecurity problem, and once established in the wild can be difficult to control effectively. The proposed RPMP seeks to pre-emptively manage this risk by regulating the sale of a number of species. Sustained control programmes prioritised to reduce risk from trade, and raise awareness of responsible pet ownership behaviours.

Control prioritised for exclusion on Aotea / Great Barrier Island due to combination of defendable geography and high biodiversity values.

5.4 Fish**Discussion document feedback**

Koi carp (1) and pest fish in general (4) suggested for addition.

One submitter suggested including goldfish under a no-release rule.

Submissions on pest fish management include listing pest fish (specifically mentioned koi carp, perch, rudd and tench) as Total Control in all regional parks, buffer zones, and islands and control of incursions (2), include pest fish under Sustained Control Pest Programme (1), manage perch/rudd/tench in collaboration with Fish and Game (1), education around koi carp and more control of koi carp (1).

Submissions on pest fish management in Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf included listing them as Total Control in all regional parks and all islands and controlling them (1).

Local board feedback

Franklin local board expressed an interest in freshwater pest fish, and support the proposed approach.

Mana whenua feedback

Freshwater pests were mentioned by several mana whenua, who also highlighted the prominence of wai māori in many iwi management plans. Species raised include gambusia and koi carp (Te Runanga o Ngāti Whātua and Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara, (2014 hui, 2015 hui, 2017 hui).

A representative of Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara also noted Lake Rototoa as a site for freshwater pest control.

A representative of Ngāti Manuhiri noted freshwater environment and pest fish impact is an area of interest/concern (2014 hui).

A representative of Ngāti Manuhiri queried whether coarse fishing could be catered for in a safe way, e.g. manmade lake. (2014 hui).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

Fish and Game flagged catfish, gambusia and koi carp as pest fish issues. (2014 meeting), Wagglers Coarse Fishing Club note koi carp and catfish as an issue. They have no interest in spreading goldfish however enjoy fishing for them. (2015 meeting). NRC noted an increasing issue with pest fish releases, coarse fishing (2014 meeting). Watercare note presence of koi, perch, rudd in lakes but note they do not seem to impact water quality. (2014 meeting).

WRC note they may do more Check Clean Dry messaging for fish (2017 meeting).

Wagglers Coarse Fishing Club note support for licences to fish for the coarse/sports fish species (perch, rudd, tench) and rules around rod and hook number. Note the need for education, and particularly seek sanctioned sites for coarse fishing e.g. storm-water or other artificial waterbodies (2015 meeting).

SPCA noted no opposition to the ban of sale for goldfish (2015 meeting).

Council's response

Proposed for inclusion as pest: brown bullhead catfish, gambusia, koi carp, perch, rudd, tench, goldfish (outside of containment only, and this is the only new pest fish species not already in RPMS).

Pest fish proposed approach includes: region-wide sustained control programmes for all

pest fish, with delivery focussed on awareness and behaviour change to reduce further spread. Note goldfish are only a pest outside containment.

Exclusion Pest Programme for Aotea / Great Barrier Island for all pest fish
Brown bullhead catfish, perch, rudd, tench also under Site-led Pest Programme in priority lakes (Rototoa and Tomorata), to manage these species, in conjunction with submergent pest plants, to an extent that protects the values of these lakes.

Rationale

Sustained control programmes prioritised to reduce risk from trade and coarse fishing, and encourage responsible behaviours among recreational freshwater users and pet/aquarium owners.

Exclusion from Aotea / Great Barrier Island prioritised due to combination of defensible geography, high biodiversity values and absence of all pest fish. Site-led management prioritised to Tomorata and Rototoa as these two lakes retain the highest ecological values of mainland waterbodies, but are at imminent risk of ecosystem collapse if not protected. Furthermore, opportunities exist at these sites for multi-party collaboration, and adaptive integrated catchment management.

5.5 Mammals

Requests to include pest mammals in the RPMP through the discussion document are listed below:

Cats (200), dogs (17), feral deer (9), feral goats (43), feral pigs (24), hedgehogs (4), mustelids (ferret, stoat, weasel) (29), possums (34), rabbits/hares (7), rodents (mice, rats) (38), wallabies (10).

Note 140 cat submissions were Morgan Foundation pro forma submission.

All species suggested for inclusion have been included as pests in the RPMP aside from dogs, which are covered by other legislation and are outside the scope of the RPMP.

Suggestions on management approaches are below.

Requests to exclude some mammals as pests in the RPMP are listed below:

Domestic cats (1), feral cats (1), feral goats (1), feral pigs (1), magpies (1), mynas (1), rooks (1), tree frogs (1), rabbits/hares (1), wallabies, (1).

Tree frogs were not a pest in the RPMS and are not proposed for inclusion as a pest in the RPMP. All other species previously included as pests are proposed for continued inclusion as pests. Domestic cats are not pests under the RPMP except that no person shall allow their cat to enter sites being managed as threatened species refuges.

5.5.1 Cats

Discussion document feedback

Submissions on cat management include adding domestic cats as pests in the RPMP (49), managing them under animal management (like dogs) (1), require domestic cats to be micro-chipped or otherwise identifiable (16), cats to be controlled in conservation areas/parks and reserves (10), education/awareness campaigns (5), national collaboration to improve cat control (3), a tax on pet food to fund control programmes (1), containment of domestic cats on owner's property either at night or at all times (11), Site-led Pest Programme in Waitākere Ranges (5), cat-free subdivisions next to regional parks (1), cat curfew in buffer zones (1), Site-led Pest Programme in Omaha Shorebird Sanctuary (3), increased control in Hunua Ranges (2), Shakespear and Tawharanui Open Sanctuaries (2).

Submissions on cat management in Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf include an Eradication Pest Programme on Gulf islands where practical (2), cats treated with 'grandfather clauses' and a prohibition on non-residents bringing them to Aotea / Great Barrier Island (1), introduce compulsory microchipping and de-sexing of cats in the Gulf (3) have certain high ecologically valuable areas declared domestic cat free (1) and ban non-residents from travelling to Aotea / Great Barrier Island with cats unless registered as a special purpose animal (1) and an education campaign to inform Aotea / Great Barrier Island residents about the risk posed by mammals, and the severe damage already being done by those present (1), eradicate feral cats from Aotea / Great Barrier Island (1).

Local board feedback

All 21 local boards support the approach proposed in the Proposed RPMP. See Appendix B for specific comments provided by local boards.

Mana whenua feedback

A representative of Ngāti Manuhiri noted cats an issue, and increasing issue with property development. (2014 hui).

A representative of Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara noted cats an issue, especially at Woodhill, and are a threat to species reintroduction (2014 hui).

A representative of Ngāti Rehua noted cats as key pest for Aotea / Great Barrier Island (2015 hui).

General strong recognition that cats have impacts which are not acceptable. (2017 hui).

A representative of Ngāti Manuhiri supported cat-free subdivisions (2014 hui).

A representative of Ngāti Tamaoho noted problem with the SPCA being unable to take all cats in. Supported having subsidies for people to de-sex, microchip (2017 hui).

A representative of Te Ahiwaru Waiohua noted issue of people feeding cat colonies and a need for education (2017 hui).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

For cats the SPCA, Lonely Miaow and The Morgan Foundation noted support for clearer definition of ownership (for owned/unowned), as it gives certainty to, and assists land

managers, cat owners, and is better for the welfare of the animals themselves. Support for microchipping to define ownership status. The Morgan Foundation would also support registration (2014 and 2015 meetings).

The NZ Vet Association recommended a bylaw for cats including limiting the number of cats per household, de-sexing unless owned by a responsible breeder, identification by microchip and registration, management in significant ecological areas, and impounding facilities able to care for cats, as well as other animals (2015 meeting).

Rural Advisory Panel note a need for education and communication on cats and their impact (2017 meeting).

One Youth panel member strongly agreed with the proposed approach.

One Youth panel member disagreed with the proposed management approach. Felt that it does not consider the issues with cats taking collars off, or the fact that many owners do not microchip cats and that this may cause problems between the council and civilians.

Pacific People's panel member strongly agreed with the proposed approach.

Senior's panel member strongly agreed with the proposed approach, but noted that not all cats are currently microchipped so that detail needs to be addressed.

Council's response

The RPMP proposes to continue management of cats in areas of high biodiversity value as part of integrated multi-species pest control but for an increased number of sites, aligned to Biodiversity Focus Areas where cats have been identified as a key threat. Cats will be defined as pests if they are not able to be identified as being owned by microchip and accompanying registration on the NZ Companion Animal register. Feeding of cats is prohibited on parkland containing Significant Ecological Areas. Cat owners to prevent cats from entering sites managed as threatened species refuges, indicatively including open sanctuaries (Tawharanui, Shakespear), kōkako/kiwi management area in the Hunua Ranges, and Ark in the Park. Cats being moved to or among islands must be micro-chipped and registered on the NZ Companion Animal register, and no cats to be brought within 200m of cat-free islands.

Rationale

Control prioritised to sites of high biodiversity value, including on council parkland and off-shore islands, and always in conjunction with management of other pests such as rats to avoid unintended outcomes of managing single species in isolation. Clarifying what constitutes a pest cat will provide greater clarity for council staff and cat owners alike, in regards to management, in contrast to more ambiguous definitions based on cat behaviour which can be subjective. Use of standardised identification (i.e. micro-chip) brings pest cat definition in line with definitions for other species that can be either pest or valued resource depending on the context (e.g. pigs, deer, goats).

A detailed communication plan would be put in place for any new sites of high biodiversity value where cats are intended to be managed as part of an integrated predator control programme. The focus will be on ensuring owners are aware of the risks of having unidentifiable cats in these areas, as well as education and behaviour

change to promote responsible pet ownership behaviours for cats (and pets in general). Rules regarding movement to or near islands are designed to reduce the risk of cat incursions on pest free islands, and assist in locating owners if required.

5.5.2 Dogs

Discussion document feedback

Submissions on dog management include nuisance rules put in place for dogs (1), unidentifiable/abandoned dogs controlled (2), dogs excluded from vulnerable areas (e.g. where birds are breeding), (9), exclusion from Whatipu Scientific Reserve (2), dog control in vulnerable areas (1), curfew for domestic animals (1), dogs on leash in all kiwi and ground-nesting bird areas (1), national collaboration to improve dog control (3), buffer zones for dog control around Significant Ecological Areas, exclusion from Significant Ecological Areas and on-leash/under control as the default rule across the region (1), a tax on pet food to fund control programmes (1), Site-led Pest Programme in Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (1).

Submissions on dog management in Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf include banning non-residents from travelling to Aotea / Great Barrier Island with dogs unless registered as a special purpose animal (1), all dogs to have certified bird aversion training before entry to Aotea / Great Barrier Island (1), keeping dogs on leash on Gulf islands especially when birds are nesting (1).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

The Companion Animal Society of the NZ Vet Associate noted the need to avoid non-target poisoning of companion animals, particularly dogs during pest control operations, including use of qualified contractors, and adequate notification (2015 meeting).

Council's response

Dogs are not included as a pest to manage.

All management programmes for other pest species utilise best-practice methods, including warning signs, to minimise the risk of accidental poisoning of dogs.

Rationale

Dogs are regulated elsewhere and therefore are outside the scope of the Regional Pest Management Plan.

5.5.3 Feral deer

Discussion document feedback

Submissions on feral deer management include listing feral deer as Total Control in all regional parks, buffer zones, and islands and control (2), Exclusion Pest Programme in Waitākere Ranges (3), utilising recreational hunting clubs (e.g. Deerstalkers Association members) in region for control (1), Eradication Pest Programme for region (3), Eradication Pest Programme in Waitākere Ranges (2), add as Site-led Pest Programme

(1), add as Sustained Control Pest Programme for region (1), permit and encourage hunting to control deer in the Hunua Ranges (1).

Submissions on feral deer management in Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf included listing them as Total Control in all regional parks and all islands and controlling them (1).

Local board feedback

Franklin local board expressed a particular interest in feral deer management and support the proposed approach.

Mana whenua feedback

Mana whenua noted feral deer as an issue for the forest, but noted deer are also a resource.

A representative of Ngāti Tamaoho noted the fallow deer population at Awhitu Peninsula as part of a valued local heritage and suggested exempting fallow deer on Awhitu/other areas. (2017 hui). A representative of Te Ahiwaru Waiohua noted challenge to weigh 'kai vs kaitiaki' responsibilities (2017 hui).

A representative of Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara also noted deer's status as a resource, and noted that the iwi have their own shooting blocks within the ballot for Woodhill Forest, administered by the Fallow Management Committee (2014 hui).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

Waikato Regional Council noted that sika and fallow deer are increasing issues south of Bombay (2017 meetings).

Council's response

Exclusion Pest Programme for the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area, to prevent establishment of feral deer on islands.

Progressive Containment Pest Programme for the remainder of the region, prioritising maintaining the deer-free status of Waitākere and Hunua.

Rationale

Proposed programmes prioritise keeping feral deer out of currently deer-free areas.

Proposed programmes also seek to reduce deer impacts on biodiversity elsewhere in the region while balancing cultural values placed on deer.

5.5.4 Feral goats

Discussion document feedback

Submissions on feral goat management include Exclusion Pest Programme in Waitākere Ranges (2), Eradication Pest Programme in the Waitākere Ranges and forest areas north of the Waitākere River (1), an Eradication Pest Programme in Hunua Ranges (2) add as Site-led Pest Programme (1), Sustained Control Pest Programme for region (1) protection of Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf (1), control in Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / Hauraki Gulf, Hunua Ranges, Waitākere Ranges, (3), make total control in all regional parks, buffer zones and islands (1), buffer zones around sensitive areas (3), farming prohibited in sensitive coastal areas and SEAs (3), compliance

enforced on goat owners/farmers (1), establishment of goat permit zones, with enforcement (1) education (1), permit and encourage hunting to control goats in Hunua Ranges (1).

Submissions on feral goat management in Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf included listing them as Total Control in all regional parks and all islands and controlling them (1), eradicating goats from islands (2), banning goats as domestic animals on Aotea / Great Barrier Island (3), having goat permit zones for domestic goats in Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / Hauraki Gulf islands (as well as in buffers around regional parks) (1), ban the keeping of goats on Gulf islands, with exemption given for existing pets provided that all males be neutered and all goats constrained (1).

Local board feedback

Franklin local board expressed an interest in feral goat management and supports the proposed approach.

Mana whenua feedback

A representative of Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara noted problem with feral goats being introduced on their land and causing damage. Note Atuanui as site suffering from goats (2014 hui).

A representative of Ngāti Tamaoho noted goat farming is increasing, and is good for health and diversifying, noted need to work with farmers to give clarity on regulations to ensure they can continue farming safely (2014 hui).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

Waikato Regional Council noted goat problem in WRC area (2017 hui).

SPCA noted no opposition to idea of fencing/permit requirements for goats (2015 meeting).

Council's response

Site-led programme for the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area, to manage feral goats to an extent that protects the values of these places.

Progressive Containment Pest Programme for the remainder of the region, prioritising protection of Waitākere and Hunua. Rules specify acceptable breeds and fencing standards for goat farming in these areas.

Rationale

Programme prioritised towards protecting areas of highest ecological value and to prevent reinvasion following pest goat management. Specifications relating to breeds and fencing standards seek to minimise risk of feral goat populations establishing from farmed goat escapes, while still providing for responsible goat farming to be allowed in these areas.

5.5.5 Feral pigs

Discussion document feedback

Submissions on feral pig management include an Eradication Pest Programme in the Waitākere Ranges (2) and forest areas north of the Waitākere River (1); add as

Sustained Control Pest Programme for region (1), control in the Hunua Ranges, Waitākere Ranges, Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / Hauraki Gulf and Watercare-controlled areas (2), permit and encourage hunting to control pigs in Hunua Ranges (1). Submissions on feral pig management in Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf included listing them as Total Control in all regional parks and all islands and controlling them (1), eradicating pigs from islands (3), eradicating from Waiheke (1), banning pigs as domestic animals on Aotea / Great Barrier Island (2), under site-led control on Aotea / Great Barrier Island (1) and Waiheke (1).

Local board feedback

The three local boards that expressed an interest in feral pig management are supportive of the proposed approach.

Mana whenua feedback

A representative of Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara note issue of feral pigs onto their land, however noted they are also a resource. (2014 and 2015 hui).

A representative of Ngāti Tamaoho also noted pigs as a resource and there should not be a blanket approach to them. This view supported by other mana whenua present (2017 hui).

A representative of Ngāti Manuhiri queried whether legal hunting areas should be set aside for pigs to reduce releases in other areas (2014 hui).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

Council's response

Site-led programmes for priority parks with significant ecological areas, and the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area, to manage feral pigs to an extent that protects the values of these places.

Sustained Control Pest Programme for the remainder of the region.

Eradication programme for Waiheke Island.

Rationale

Similar management approach to current with enhanced control in significant ecological areas. Seeks to balance pest impacts against value as a cultural resource.

5.5.6 Hedgehogs

Discussion document feedback

Submissions on hedgehog management include: more education on their impact.

Submissions on hedgehog management in Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf include an Eradication Pest Programme on Gulf islands where practical (3), to have vigilant biosecurity checks to keep Aotea / Great Barrier Island hedgehog-free (1).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

Fish and Game noted they organise competitions to cull hedgehogs to manage the pests and educate. (2015 meeting).

Council's response

Site-led programme for the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area, focusing on managing pathways to prevent spread to pest-free islands.

Sustained Control Pest Programme for the remainder of the region.

Rationale

Managed through a combination of education, advice and pathway management.

5.5.7 Mustelids

Discussion document feedback

Submissions on mustelid (ferret, stoat, weasel) management suggesting mustelids be totally controlled in all regional parks and their surroundings and all islands (1), continuation of management region-wide, particularly in regional parks and conservation areas and the council to lead with a coordinated plan for volunteers (1) a sustained integrated site-led pest animal management plan with a particular focus on known damaging pests such as mustelids (2), eradicate stoats in Auckland (4), eradicate from Waitākere Ranges (1), education and training in control (2).

Submissions on mustelid management in Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf include listing them as Total Control in all regional parks and all islands and controlling them (1), eradication from islands (1) to have vigilant biosecurity checks to keep Aotea / Great Barrier Island mustelid-free (1), eradication from Kawau Island (along with wallabies, possums and rats) (1).

Local board feedback

The eight local boards that expressed an interest in mustelids are supportive of the proposed approach. Refer Appendix B for details.

Mana whenua feedback

A representative from Ngāti Manuhiri noted ferrets as an issue, especially if kept as pets. Also noted they do stoat control at Mt Tamahunga, and Omaha Forest (2014 hui).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

Fish and Game noted they organise competitions to cull mustelids to manage the pests and educate. (2015 meeting).

Council's response

Stoat under Eradication Pest Programmes for Waiheke and Kawau Island.

Site-led programmes for priority parks with significant ecological areas, and the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area, to manage mustelids to an extent that protects the values of these places. With respect to Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / Hauraki Gulf islands, this approach is predominantly based on pathway management to prevent mustelids reinvading mustelid-free islands.

Sustained Control Pest Programme for the remainder of the region focusing on support for community pest control initiatives.

Rationale

Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / Hauraki Gulf programmes prioritise preventing spread to pest-free islands, as well as new island eradications.

Elsewhere in the region addressed through site-led management and facilitation of community action to reduce impacts on biodiversity.

5.5.8 Possums

Discussion document feedback

Submissions on possum management include being totally controlled in all regional parks and their surroundings, and all islands (1), and commitment to reducing possum densities throughout the entire region to less than 5% RTC, and 2% RTC in all SEAs (1), repeat of Operation Forest Save in Waitākere Ranges (3), continuation of management **Tāmaki Makaurau** / Auckland-wide, particularly in regional parks and conservation areas and the council to lead with a coordinated plan for volunteers (1), Eradication Pest Programme in Auckland region (3), Eradication Pest Programme in the Waitākere Ranges (1), pay a bounty for captures (1), a sustained integrated site-led pest animal management plan with a particular focus on known damaging pests such as possums (2), education and training on control (2), better control and monitoring techniques (1), possum removal from within a mammal-proof fence across Auckland Council's northern boundary to the north bank of the Waikato River and across to the southern boundary of the Hunua and Whakatiwai Regional Parks (Operation Forest Save for the whole region (1).

Submissions on possum management in Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf include listing them as Total Control in all regional parks and all islands and controlling them (1), eradication from islands (1), eradication from Kawau Island (along with wallabies, rats and mustelids (1), to have vigilant biosecurity checks to keep Aotea / Great Barrier Island possum-free (1).

Local board feedback

Twelve local boards were supportive of a proposal for landscape scale progressive containment to manage possums in rural Auckland.

Four local boards provided no comment in relation to the proposal.

Three local boards provided neutral or partially supportive comments.

Rodney and Waitākere Ranges local boards opposed the use of a targeted rate to fund the proposed approach.

See Appendix B for detailed comments.

Mana whenua feedback

Representatives of Ngāti Tamaoho, Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara and Te Uri O Hau noted that possums have potential as a resource, for pelt. (2014 hui, 2015 hui, 2017 hui) and noted desire to take on possum control contracts, where possible.

Support at hui for landscape scale possum proposal to be consulted on with public. (2017 hui). A representative of Ngāti Tamaoho noted their support for ground-based control, and for local contractors, and mana whenua to be considered for contract work, which had the support of others (2017 hui). Representatives of Ngāti Tamaoho and Ngāti Manuhiri noted their support for the work already going on, e.g. on Awhitu

Peninsula. (2017 hui).

A representative of Te Uri o Hau noted the need to work with community groups over programmes like landscape possum control and employ local contractors and mana whenua where possible (2017 hui).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

The Rural Advisory Panel noted the need for clarity over a targeted possum rate for rural landowners, particularly as many are doing their own possum control and it could be seen as 'double dipping'. They also noted the need for coordination of management, particularly over large areas and buy-in from lobby groups and volunteer groups. (2017 meeting).

Two Youth panel members strongly agreed with proposed management approach. One noted that possums have large, negative impacts on native fauna and bird populations and that targeting rural areas will target the area where the problem is most amplified. A Senior panel member strongly agreed with the proposed approach but noted that if 1080 is the proposed method for controlling possums careful justification will be needed for those concerned about the impact on our environment.

Pacific People's panel member strongly agreed with the proposed approach.

Watercare noted that toxin-based deploying the main issue for possums. Work closely with AC biosecurity (2017 meeting).

Council's response

Landscape scale progressive containment programme to manage possums across all of rural mainland. This could be achieved using a targeted rate across rural **Tāmaki Makaurau** / Auckland, or alternatively funded out of general rates.

Site-led programmes for the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area, to manage possums to an extent that protects islands.

Eradication Pest Programme for Kawau Island.

Rationale

Despite a higher absolute level of investment, a coordinated landscape scale approach will be more cost-effective on a per hectare basis due to reduced reinvasion and economies of scale. This approach has the potential to reduce possums to very low levels across the region and be hugely beneficial to biodiversity and primary production.

Tikapa Moana o Hauraki / Hauraki Gulf programme seeks to reduce the risk of human-mediated spread to pest-free islands. Eradication on Kawau Island integrated with eradication of other mammals including wallabies to reduce perverse outcomes from eradicating single species.

5.5.9 Rabbits/hares

Discussion document feedback

Submissions on rabbit/hare management include control (regional and local) (1),

incentives to control (1), and for licenced firearm holders to be permitted to control rabbits/hares at certain times of the year, in controlled circumstances (1).

Submissions on rabbit management in Tikapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf include eradication from islands where practical (3), eradicate rabbits from Aotea / Great Barrier Island (1).

Local board feedback

The four local boards that expressed an interest in rabbit management are supportive of the proposed approach. Refer to Appendix B for details.

Mana whenua feedback

A representative of Ngāti Rehua noted rabbits as a key pest for Aotea / Great Barrier Island (2015 hui). A representative of Ngāti Manuhiri noted rabbits as an issue for Omaha (2014 hui).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

Airport stakeholders noted rabbits as an issue and they need to undertake control around airports (including Ardmore, Whenuapai, Auckland) (2015 meeting).

Watercare note rabbits as an issue and they do a lot of control as rabbits create weak points through tunnelling by dams. (2017 meeting).

Council's response

Site-led programmes for the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area, to manage rabbits/hares to an extent that protects the values of this place, including the addition of the 'good neighbour rule' requiring landowner control on complaints basis to reduce impacts on neighbouring properties.

Sustained Control Pest Programme for the remainder of the region

Rationale

Tikapa Moana o Hauraki / Hauraki Gulf programme prioritised to reduce the risk of spread to pest-free islands, and implement rabbit control in high biodiversity value sites on islands, supported by a 'good neighbour rule' to prevent unreasonable impacts on neighbouring properties.

5.5.10 Rodents (mice/rats)

Discussion document feedback

Submissions on rodent (rats, mice) management include continuation of management **Tāmaki Makaurau** / Auckland-wide, particularly in regional parks and conservation areas (2), the council to lead with a coordinated plan for volunteers (1), being totally controlled in all regional parks and their surroundings, and all islands (1), and education and advice for landowners (3), raise pest status of mice (1), eradicate from Waitākere Ranges (1), eradicate from Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland (4), a sustained integrated site-led pest animal management plan with a particular focus on known damaging pests such as rats (2)

Submissions on rodent (rats, mice) management in **Tikapa Moana o Hauraki** / the Hauraki Gulf include listing them as Total Control in all regional parks and all islands and

controlling them (1), eradication from islands where practical (4), eradication from Kawau Island (along with possums, mustelids and wallabies) (1), eradicate rats from Aotea / Great Barrier Island (1), to have vigilant biosecurity checks to keep Aotea / Great Barrier Island Norway rat free (1), an education campaign on Aotea / Great Barrier Island on the damage rats cause (1), an annual subsidised/free rat bait programme on Waiheke (1).

Local board feedback

The eight local boards that expressed an interest in rodents are supportive of the proposed approach. Refer Appendix B.

Mana whenua feedback

A representative of Ngāti Manuhiri noted they undertake rat control at Omaha, and wonder whether the idea of cat-free subdivision could be extended to being rat-free too. (2014 hui).

A representative of Ngāti Rehua noted rats as a key pest for Aotea / Great Barrier Island (2015 hui).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

Ardmore Airport noted they do rat control around airport (2015 meeting).

Council's response

Site-led programmes for parks with significant ecological areas and the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area, to manage rodents to an extent that protects the values of these places. Encompasses enhanced pathway management to protect rodent-free islands, and control in Biodiversity Focus Areas within Aotea / Great Barrier Island.

Complemented by eradication Pest Programmes for rodents on Kawau and Waiheke islands, in conjunction with eradication of other pest mammals from these islands.

Site-led programme to manage only ecologically significant parkland.

Sustained Control Pest Programme for the remainder of the region focusing on support for community pest control initiatives, particularly prioritising support for activity in and around Biodiversity Focus Areas and defendable geography (e.g. peninsulas).

Rationale

Similar to current management approach but with enhanced investment in pathway management to protect existing island eradications and control in significant ecological areas on islands and parkland to minimise ongoing impacts in priority areas.

Eradication proposed on Kawau Island in conjunction with other mammals including wallabies aims to reduce the risk of perverse outcomes arising from eradicating single species in isolation.

Support for community-led action elsewhere in the region is a cost effective approach for extending rodent control beyond highest priority sites.

5.5.11 Wallabies

Discussion document feedback

Submissions on wallaby management include Eradication Pest Programme for region

(2), Eradication Pest Programme for Kawau Island (3) **eradication as part of** integrated programme on Kawau Island (along with possums, mustelids and rats) (1), a site-led programme for Kawau Island.

Local board feedback

The four local boards that expressed an interest in wallaby management on Kawau Island are supportive of the proposed approach. Refer Appendix B for details.

Mana whenua feedback

A representative of Ngāti Manuhiri noted Kawau Island as a key site, and wallabies as a pest for integrated control/eradication (2014 hui).

Council's response

Multi-species eradication of wallabies, in conjunction with eradication of rats, stoats and possums on Kawau Island.

Exclusion programme for the remainder of the region, implementing surveillance and incursion response to protect current wallaby-free status.

Rationale

Wallabies prioritised for eradication on Kawau Island both to protect values of the island and reduce risk of incursions elsewhere in the region.

Kawau Island eradication proposed to be delivered as a multi-species package to reduce risk of perverse outcomes arising from eradicating single species in isolation.

Exclusion programme implemented across remainder of region in recognition of cost effectiveness of preventing the establishment of this high impact pest.

6 Pathogens

6.1 Kauri dieback

Discussion document

Twenty-nine submitters supported inclusion of kauri dieback and related pathogens (**Phytophthora agathidicida** and **P.multivora**) as pests, with 20 of these mentioning kauri dieback as a pest of concern in the Waitākere Ranges in particular, and three submitters also mentioning the need to protect Hunua.

One submitter supported the closure of areas of Titirangi Beach and surrounding kauri forests to protect those areas.

Eleven of the above submitters noted the need for raising awareness and for more education, and seven submitters mentioned the need for better cleaning stations, tools, etc.

Seven submitters wished to list **Phytophthora multivora** as a pest.

Ten submitters supported feral pigs as a pest due to being a vector for kauri dieback disease.

Local Board

Ten local boards expressed an interest in kauri dieback. Nine of those local boards were

supportive of the proposed approach, with Waitākere Ranges not supporting the proposal, considering it did not go far enough to address the extent of the problem in Waitākere. (Refer Appendix B for details).

Mana whenua

A representative from Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara supported inclusion of kauri dieback as a pest and supported protection of healthy areas. They noted that micro-organisms are a major pest issue (2014 and 2015 hui).

A representative from Ngāti Paoa supported inclusion of kauri dieback as a pest (2014 hui).

A representative from Te Ahiwaru noted the need to protect areas and also to fight the disease in other areas (defence and attack) (2014 hui).

Considerable interest in kauri dieback was expressed at 2015 information hui, including balancing cultural use against movement control.

A representative from Ngāti Manuhiri noted the need to consider kauri dieback in other programmes, due to the risk of spread during operational work (2017 hui).

No opposition to inclusion as a pest.

Other (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

A Seniors panel member and Pacific People's panel member strongly supported the proposed approach to management of Kauri dieback disease, with the Pacific People's panel member noting that it is extremely important to protect native species (especially such an iconic tree). One Youth Panel member agreed with the proposed approach, noting it is very important for preservation of Kauri trees, and further investment into research of the pathogen might also be needed for better support. One Youth panel member strongly disagreed with the proposed approach, stating that most environmentalists consider Kauri dieback is nothing to worry about and will disappear on its own like cabbage tree disease.

Council's proposed approach

Exclusion programme with pathway management rules to prevent the establishment of kauri dieback in high priority kauri dieback-free zones, specifically the Hunua Ranges and Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area, supported by a Sustained Control programme to reduce the risk of spread throughout the remainder of the region.

Rationale

Inclusion in the proposed plan will provide better statutory backing to manage kauri dieback disease and enable implementation of regionally specific pathway management rules. Because kauri dieback is currently incurable and difficult to contain once within a catchment, top priority is given to protecting areas currently thought to be disease free, while also recognising the importance of reducing spread elsewhere in the region and continuing to work with other parties on research and development to improve control tools.

6.2 Kiwifruit disease

Discussion document

One submitter encouraged the council to continue to assist the kiwifruit industry to prevent the further spread of kiwi fruit disease (***Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *Actinidiae***) (Psa-V) by “undertaking proactive awareness initiatives of pest species and management in the Auckland region.”

Three submitters also supported the inclusion of wilding kiwifruit in a Sustained Control Programme, in part to help stop the spread of Psa-V.

Other (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

Industry body Kiwifruit Vine Health submitted that wild varieties of kiwifruit should be a Sustained Control Programme pest in all habitats (i.e. native and exotic) throughout the region. They suggested council should continue to undertake pro-active awareness initiatives (including relating to hygiene practices) and assist by removing abandoned orchards and recording data on wilding kiwifruit and disease incidence in the region.

Council’s proposed approach

Wild kiwifruit under a Sustained Control Pest Programme including rules to prevent dumping of unwanted fruit, and require landowners to control wilding kiwifruit in abandoned orchards. Council service delivery may include control of wilding kiwifruit at other sites, priorities to Biodiversity Focus Areas.

Rationale

Continuing current successful approach of removal of wild kiwifruit to reduce risk of Psa-V spill-over from wild to farmed kiwifruit, and prevent impacts of wilding kiwifruit in high biodiversity value areas.

6.3 Myrtle rust

Discussion document

Nine submitters suggested listing as a pest.

Council’s proposed approach

Not proposed as a pest in RPMP.

Rationale

Myrtle rust is still classified as a new-to-New Zealand pest, being managed by the Ministry for Primary Industries. If containment is unsuccessful nationally, options can be explored over the lifetime of the RPMP for transitioning to management by regional councils.

6.4 Dutch elm disease

Discussion document

Seven submitters suggested listing as a pest.

Council's proposed approach

Inclusion in Sustained Control programme.

Rationale

Continuation of management approach currently being delivered outside of the RPMP, but inclusion in the RPMP will provide more direct regulatory basis for council implementation, rather than relying on Unwanted Organism status.

7 Marine pests and pest management in Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf

Discussion document

Marine biosecurity was a key topic raised in the discussion document, with the specific question, 'Should the issue of marine pests be addressed, and if so, how'?

Five submitters supported the inclusion of pest species and regulations on ballast water management and five submitters felt that the council should survey for and remove established pests, particularly from Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf that are also a hazard to humans and native species.

Many submitters felt that extensive research is required into this area and that marine biosecurity management (either control or pathway management) would need to be adequately funded to be effective.

Two species were suggested by public submission: Pacific oysters and Asian date mussels (one submission each).

Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / The Hauraki Gulf as a site was mentioned during stakeholder engagement with representatives from Ngāti Manuhiri and Ngāti Rehua supporting strong rules to protect Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf (2015 hui), and many public submissions suggested specific rules for pest plants and animals in the Gulf (detailed below). More than 100 submitters (118) supported special consideration for Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf as a site.

Local Board

Franklin, Rodney, Great Barrier and Waiheke Local Boards supported the development of an inter-regional pathway management plan to manage spread of marine pests.

Rodney local board supported the inclusion of aquatic pest species in the plan. Great Barrier local board noted that pathway management is a serious concern for Aotea / Great Barrier Island, especially with more tourists visiting due to the new Dark Sky Sanctuary. The Waiheke local board supported the timely implementation of a Marine Pathway Management Plan for Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf to control marine pests such as fan worm and sea squirt. The board also wanted to ensure

preventative cleaning of boats occurs in contained hardstand areas which have been supported by the board's hardstand initiative at Ostend Causeway.

The Waiheke local board felt that the island of Waiheke should be recognised and valued in its entirety and that its geographic isolation and location adjacent to many pest-free islands make it an important contributor to the biological diversity of the entire Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / Hauraki Gulf archipelago which is distinctive to Aotearoa / New Zealand (refer to Appendix B for further detail).

Mana whenua

Representatives of Ngāti Paoa, Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara, Ngāti Rehua, Te Runanga o Ngāti Whātua expressed a desire to include marine biosecurity in a plan (either pathway, or pest) and for the RPMP to align with the Marine Spatial Plan. There was general support expressed at 2017 hui for a marine pathway management plan.

Other (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

A desire to include marine biosecurity in a plan (either pathway, or pest) was expressed in stakeholder consultation, including by the Manukau Harbour Forum and Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group.

Council's proposed approach

Strategic front section of RPMP contains a commitment to development of an inter-regional Marine Pathway Management Plan to manage the spread of marine pests. Marine biosecurity is also identified as a key research priority. No marine pests included in the proposed RPMP.

Rationale

An inter-regional pathway management plan is suggested as a more appropriate mechanism for management of marine pests because 1) marine pests are difficult to control once in-situ and therefore priority is placed on preventative measures, 2) collaboration among regions will be essential for successful management of this issue (in contrast to the solely Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland-focused mandate of the RPMP), and 3) a pathway management plan responds to shared pathways of spread among many marine invasive species and is more resilient to emerging threats than a species-by-species listing in the RPMP.

8 Sites for targeted management

Throughout consultation, specific sites for protection have been suggested. Some were mentioned as sites to protect in general, while other submissions noted particular site-led programmes they would like to see included.

Discussion document feedback

Public submitters mentioned the following sites for special consideration: Albany (1), Awhitu Peninsula (1), Hunua Ranges (3), Kaipara (1), Kaipātiki (4), Kawau Island (2),

Okura / Long Bay (3), Mahurangi (1), Muriwai (1), Omaha Shore Bird Sanctuary (2), Stillwater (1), regional parks (6) Shakespear Open Sanctuary (2), Takatu Peninsula (1), Tawharanui Open Sanctuary (2), Te Arai (1), Te Atatu Peninsula (2), Waitākere Ranges (15).

One submitter suggested a site-led programme for Kawau Island to include: rats, stoats, cats, plague skinks, Argentine ants, boneseed, pampas, wild ginger, wilding pines, woolly nightshade, gorse.

One submitter suggested a site-led programme for Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area for: rodents, mustelids, possums, gorse, pigs, wasps.

One submitter recommended a site-led pest plant programme for the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area to include: African pig's ear, agapanthus, alligator weed, Bolivian fuchsia, Chilean rhubarb, Cretan brake, gazania, strawberry tree, Tasmanian ngaio, wild kiwifruit. Many public submissions suggested specific rules for pest plants and animals in Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf (detailed in table below). More than 100 submitters (118) supported special consideration for Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf as a site.

Local Board feedback

Great Barrier local board supported the proposal to include text in the strategic front end of the RPMP document to signal the intent of working closely alongside the Aotea / Great Barrier community, mana whenua and Department of Conservation to explore long-term options for island-wide multi-species pest animal management to protect the special values of the island. The board also supported elevated pest status for a wide range of pest plants and animals on the island, recognising the island's special values, defendability, and the need for integrated management.

Other sites noted as priority sites by local boards include:

- Devonport Takapuna – Lake Pupuke, coastal beaches and coastal shellbanks.
- Māngere-Ōtāhuhu – Otuataua Stonefields, Māngere Mountain and Portage Esplanade reserve.
- Puketepāpa – Site-led programme for Waikowhai coast.
- Waitemāta – St Mary's Bay cliffs, Grafton Gully, Rose Road Gully, Newmarket Stream

Mana whenua feedback

Sites suggested for specific protection include Hunua Ranges (Ngāti Paoa, Ngāti Tamaoho, Ngai Tai Ki Tāmaki, 2014 and 2015 hui), Wairoa River (Ngāi Tai Ki Tāmaki, 2015 hui), Aotea / Great Barrier Island (Ngāti Rehua, 2014 and 2015 hui), Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island, Kawau Island, Motu Hāwere/Goat Island, Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / Hauraki Gulf in totality (Ngāti Manuhiri and Ngāti Rehua, 2015 hui), Mt Tamahunga, Omaha, Tiritiri Matangi, (Ngāti Manuhiri, 2014 hui), Atuanui, Dome Valley, Goldies Bush, Hoteo River, Kaipara Harbour, Kaipara lakes (including Lake Rototoa), Mataia, Moirs Hill, South Head, Woodhill, (Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara, 2014 hui, 2015 hui), Waitākere Ranges (Te Kawerau a Maki 2014 hui), maunga across **Tāmaki Makaurau** /

Auckland (Tamaki Collective/Maunga Authority, 2014 hui).

Council's proposed approach

Site-led programme for parks with significant ecological areas to manage a suite of up to 30 pest plants per site to an extent that protects the values of the parkland. Includes use of rules in buffer areas around parkland.

Site-led programmes for Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area, and specific islands (Aotea / Great Barrier Island, Kawau Island, Waiheke).

Site-led programmes for priority lakes.

Rationale

A range of site-led programmes are proposed for the RPMP, taking into account submissions and also aligned to the regional-level biodiversity prioritisation process undertaken by the council, as well as factors affecting delivery, including defensible geography and land tenure.

9 The council's roles and responsibilities and community pest control

9.1 Regional leadership role

Discussion document feedback

The council's role in pest management was raised in the discussion document, with specific questions around how the council could best carry out its regional leadership functions, the pests and control methods the council should be investigating and how the council could support the pest management activities of others (e.g. private landowners, community groups, iwi, industry).

Public feedback to the discussion document on how the council should fulfil its role as a regional leader included providing education and undertaking research. Other functions raised in relation to the regional leadership question but which are addressed elsewhere in this consultation summary include:

- assisting individual residents
- assisting community organisations
- leading by example and controlling pests on council land
- working with others
- enforcing rules (particularly for pest plants)
- adding to the species that are banned from sale.

Local board feedback

Eight local boards expressed an interest in education around pests, and all eight local

boards were supportive of the proposed approach discussed during engagement, which is discussed below.

Mana whenua feedback

Mana whenua also highlighted the need for education, particularly on pest plants, and cats (representatives of Ngāti Manuhiri, Ngāti Tamaoho, Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara, Te Runanga o Ngāti Whātua (2014 hui, 2017 hui)).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

All of the responses from demographic panels (4) were supportive of the proposals to provide education around pests, and support community pest control.

Council's response and rationale

Advocacy and education will be among the principal measures used in the RPMP to achieve the objectives. This includes education, awareness and behaviour change programmes which aim to reduce the spread and impact of pests associated with human activities such as gardening, movement of goods to offshore islands, recreational use of walking tracks and other natural areas, and pet ownership. Education and community empowerment are also among the key elements of the Pest Free Auckland programme which sits alongside the RPMP.

Facilitation of research is also a component of delivering on the RPMP. The strategic front section of the RPMP outlines some high level research priorities identified by the council, and others are identified alongside specific pest programmes in the statutory section of the RPMP.

9.2 Assisting individual residents

Discussion document feedback

A large amount of pest control is undertaken by individual residents on their own land. This is vital for the success of pest control and biodiversity in the region, as it assists in reducing reinvasion into places like regional parks, and helps create corridors and safe havens for native species.

The need for the council to assist, or work with, individual residents was raised by many submitters to the public discussion document. Suggestions included setting up a 'help action team' to assist with pest control for the elderly or people with disabilities (at the landowner's cost), resourcing of community groups to carry out pest control on some properties, ensuring education and engagement of landowners and individual participation (approximately 15 submitters), including material for those with English as a second language, and creating a 'letterbox plaque' or similar for properties that are pest-free on inspection.

Additionally, six submitters mentioned the need to ensure landowners are adhering to rules, e.g. removal of pest plants with a removal rule, including those who own vacant land.

There were also suggestions for more tangible assistance; including provision of traps, herbicide and baits, and free native plants to plant once weeds are removed (five

submitters).

Suggestions included education through local media and council channels (e.g. Our Auckland), advice, enforcement of rules (including for vacant landowners), and provision of material for those with English as a second language.

Council's response and rationale

The council will continue to provide both proactive and reactive education and advice to individual landowners and occupiers on issues such as best practice pest management methodologies, how to comply with statutory requirements under the RPMP, and avenues for seeking funding support for pest management activities. Education and community empowerment are also among the key elements of the Pest Free Auckland programme which sits alongside the RPMP.

9.3 Assisting Māori

Discussion document feedback

Many submitters to the discussion document felt that Auckland Council should recognise the unique role of mana whenua groups and also continue to provide technical support and educate mana whenua in integrated pest management strategies that support achievement of mana whenua aspirations for their rohe. One submitter suggested that there will be improved outcomes if the 'Mauri Model' was applied when assessing pest management projects e.g. kauri dieback disease.

Mana whenua feedback

A desire to build capacity within mana whenua to undertake pest management, and a wish for education, resourcing and training of mana whenua to enable them to carry out pest control, put in tenders for work, and give effect to the RPMP was a common topic during engagement. It was mentioned specifically by representatives of Ngāti Manuhiri, Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara and Ngāti Rehua (2014 and 2015 hui), however also had the support of many mana whenua at hui held during engagement, including the July 2017 hui. A representative of Ngāti Rehua also expressed a desire to see kaitiakitanga embedded throughout the document (2014 hui).

Council's response and rationale

The RPMP does not specify the operational delivery models to be employed to deliver on the plan's outcomes. However the strategic front section of the RPMP acknowledges the importance of kaitiakitanga and the council's obligation to support this, including by exploring options for capacity building in operational delivery as well as entering into decision-making partnerships.

The strategic section of the RPMP specifically recognises mātauranga Māori (the body of knowledge originating from Māori ancestors, including Māori world views and perspective) and tikanga whakahaere (management approaches) as important sources of knowledge which inform biosecurity priorities and contribute to the management of pests within the region. This section also recognises the need for more rangahau / research in this area, and provides for a partnership approach to

research.

9.4 Assisting community organisations

Discussion document feedback

The importance of community pest control was acknowledged throughout engagement, and in a lot of public feedback to the discussion document. It was noted that much of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland’s pest management is in fact undertaken by individual landowners, or community groups, and that it is vital the council works with these individuals and groups.

Nearly 40 submitters to the discussion document felt that the council should be more proactive by supporting community initiatives and supporting the community with advice, funding, equipment and materials to undertake pest management.

One submitter commented that young volunteers ought to be encouraged to aid with pest management and the council should advocate projects for youth, and work with schools, clubs and businesses to inspire an interest in biosecurity and biodiversity.

Three submitters commented that the ‘empowered community approach’ be resourced to undertake pest management methods with the support of the council via public education and participation.

One submitter noted the requirement of volunteer groups to form ‘Incorporated Societies’ adds to the financial and administrative pressure, which significantly reduces their effectiveness.

Suggestions for assistance and engagement included education through local media and council channels (e.g. Our Auckland) advice, enforcement of rules (including for vacant landowners), provision of material for those with English as a second language and provision of resources, funding and training (e.g. in a Grow-safe qualification).

Local board feedback

Thirteen local boards expressed an interest in the importance of working with community groups, and were all supportive of the proposed approach discussed during engagement, which is outlined below. Refer to Appendix B for detailed comments.

Mana whenua feedback

Community pest control and the work of volunteer groups were also noted in engagement with mana whenua with representatives of Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei noting the importance of this area to link this work as they are scattered. They also noted a need for a comprehensive plan over the region and a link between this document and what community are doing (2015 hui). A representative of Te Uri o Hau noted the need to work with community groups over programmes like landscape possum control (2017 hui).

Council’s response and rationale

Support to community action is one of the mechanisms for delivering on many of the

programmes in the proposed RPMP, particularly site-led and sustained control programmes. In most cases, support will be prioritised towards community activity in Biodiversity Focus Areas and defensible geographic locations such as islands and peninsulas. Support may take a range of forms such as provision of technical advice, materials, and facilitating access to networks and funding sources.

Community empowerment is also among the key elements of the Pest Free Auckland programme which sits alongside the RPMP.

9.5 Assisting and working with industry

Discussion document feedback

Collaboration with industry was noted by several submitters to the public discussion document.

One submitter advised that the council should continue to assist the kiwifruit industry to prevent the further spread of Psa-V by undertaking proactive awareness initiatives of pest species and management in the Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland region.

Two submitters proposed that a partnership with the garden industry be introduced and 'pest-free' certifications issued to suppliers, which would require the supplier to include information on reusing topsoil that may contain pest propagules. One submitter also suggested that commercial properties should be made aware of their responsibility in controlling weeds and advises real estate companies to advertise a 'weed free' section to property owners.

Mana whenua feedback

Representatives of Te Kawerau a Maki and Te Runanga o Ngāti Whātua mentioned the need to engage with developers and the need to enforce consent rules (2014 hui, 2017 hui).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

Through other engagement, the importance of working with industry was also noted by the Rural Advisory Panel (e.g. fruit and vegetable growers) (2015 meeting) and the Harbourmaster/Auckland Transport (marine industry, ferry/freight operators), (2015 meeting).

Council's response and rationale

The proposed RPMP includes several programmes which will contribute to reducing impacts of pests on industries such as the kiwifruit industry (inclusion of wild kiwifruit as a pest) and pastoral farming (e.g. possum control across rural Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, and eradication of pest plants such as Chilean needle grass).

The proposed RPMP identifies that for some pests (e.g. invertebrates such as guava moth, or for development of low-fertility alternatives to popular garden plants) the council may best contribute through a research facilitation role.

The proposed RPMP includes an expansion of the current Pest Free Warrant programme. Currently the programme assists commercial transport operators in reducing their risk of moving pests to Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / Hauraki Gulf islands.

Under the proposed expanded Pest Free Warrant programme, this service will be extended to other high risk industries such as nurseries and building supplies.

9.6 Working with central government and other local government agencies

Discussion document feedback

Eight submitters to the discussion document supported cooperation between organisations, to share knowledge and potentially be more cost effective. One submitter mentioned particularly the collaboration of the council with central government agencies in responding to new-to-New Zealand pest incursions e.g. Queensland fruit fly.

One submitter also mentioned the need for the council to work with central government and other councils towards inter-regional rules (e.g. for bio-fouling).

Local board feedback

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki local board support increased collaboration between local and central government to ensure protection for industries i.e. bee hives which risk significant ecological damage from biological pests including wasps. Support increased liaison between local government and scientific institutions to ensure evidence based response.

Mana whenua feedback

Liaison with central government (e.g. DOC, MPI), was mentioned through mana whenua engagement from representatives of Ngāti Manuhiri, Ngāti Maru, Te Runanga o Ngāti Whātua, Te Uri o Hau (2014 hui, 2015 hui, 2017 hui). A representative of Ngāti Maru also raised the importance of working with neighbouring regional councils, including Northland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty (2015 hui).

There was also feedback that the RPMP should align with other relevant plans or acts e.g. Marine Spatial Plan, Local Area Plans, Iwi Management Plans, Unitary Plan, National Policy Statement on Freshwater, Regional Parks Management Plan etc. (Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara, and Te Runanga o Ngāti Whātua, 2014 hui, 2015 hui, 2017 hui). Ngāti Rehua also noted the need for a line of sight between Regional Pest Management Plan and Wildlife Act (2014 hui).

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

In their submission, NZTA proposed that an 'Auckland Pest Plant Group' is formed consisting of representatives from Auckland Council, Auckland Transport, KiwiRail, Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), DOC and the NZTA. This would allow the group to share the latest updates on pest control management and assess progress against the RPMP, and align its implementation to achieve more co-ordinated and mutual outcomes.

Stakeholders in the pet trade emphasised the need to collaborate with MPI (on the National Pest Pet Biosecurity Accord), as did the nursery industry (on the National Pest Plant Accord).

Council's response and rationale

The RPMP acknowledges in several places the role that the council has in collaborating with central government, including:

- Participation in the National Biosecurity Capability Network (e.g. to assist MPI in incursion responses in the region, such as the Queensland fruit fly incursion).
- Delivery of MPI pest response programmes on a cost-recovery basis (e.g. pest plant eradications).
- Alignment with the National Pest Plant Accord and National Pest Pet Biosecurity Accord.
- Collaboration with central government and other local government authorities to develop an inter-regional marine pathway management plan.

There are also ongoing partnerships with central government which align with RPMP programmes, including the kauri dieback multi-agency management programme, and Treasure Islands, the pest-free islands awareness programme in Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / the Hauraki Gulf, run jointly with DOC.

Outside the RPMP, the Pest Free Auckland programme will align with central government conservation priorities, such as the War on Weeds, kiwi recovery, and Predator Free New Zealand 2050.

In the process of developing this RPMP, Auckland Council has participated in collaboration among regional councils at a national collective level, and most intensively with neighbouring councils Northland and Waikato.

The strategic front section of the RPMP details the relationship of the RPMP with other plans and legislation.

9.7 A bicultural document

Discussion document feedback

One public submitter supported the use of te reo Māori in the discussion document, noting that “engaging with and enabling mana whenua in this discussion process is essential in continued Aotearoa / New Zealand biosecurity management and success. It shows respect and signals an ongoing, positive partnership between the council and mana whenua.”

Mana whenua feedback

Mana whenua (representatives of Ngāti Paoa, Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara, Ngāti Rehua, 2014 hui) expressed the desire for the RPMP to be bicultural and bilingual where possible, with a statement around mana whenua and Māori values in the strategic section of the document, and concepts from te ao Māori woven through the document, as much as possible.

Council's response and rationale

Wherever possible, te reo Māori and te ao Māori have been incorporated into the RPMP, including through use of bilingual headings, and translation of sections of text. A holistic, integrated view, informed by te ao Māori has informed the creation of the suite of programmes in the proposed RPMP. Although the Biosecurity Act mandates a 'pest-led' structure for the RPMP (i.e. programmes are listed on a species by species basis), the suite of programmes has been designed to deliver on integrated site-led outcomes, and then fitted into the mandated structure.

9.8 Pest management methods and tools

Discussion document feedback

Although the RPMP does not specify which tools or methods should be used to achieve the plan's outcomes, it is acknowledged that this is of high interest to many, and it was a question raised in the discussion document to gather feedback on this issue.

Several submitters on the discussion document registered their concern about the use of agrichemicals, including 1080, pindone and glyphosate, suggesting a more sustainable approach in accordance with the council's Weed Management Policy. Several submitters also acknowledged that although the council has effective pest management in place, there should be provisions for non-toxic alternatives for pest management (including eradication aims), and funding for research and development on sustainable pest controls.

Conversely, another submitter responded that a more aggressive approach to pest management should be taken, for instance expanding the 1080 programme more widely, and three submitters noted their desire for a 1080 drop in the Waitākere Ranges. Seven submitters also noted support for using sprays (with two noting the length of time it takes for biological control to work).

Biological control (biocontrol) was also favoured as a tool for widespread weeds by approximately 10 submitters. No public submissions opposed biocontrol as a tool across the board, though several noted the time it can take to research, release and establish a population, where other control methods can be more immediate. One submitter noted that releasing an agent for privet to greatly reduce it can have affects that are "uncontrolled and random" and remove a food source for kererū.

One submitter flagged the aquatic weed eel grass as an issue, particularly in Lake Pupuke, however urged caution towards the biocontrol of grass carp as the solution and urged engagement with Fish and Game.

Other tools mentioned in feedback to the discussion document were pest-proof fencing and microchipping (for cats and red-eared slider turtles). Three submitters to the public discussion document noted the need for the council to invest in new technologies to manage pests.

Local board feedback

Two local boards expressed an interest in Biocontrol (Kaipātiki and Upper Harbour),

and support an enhanced biological control programme focused on identifying and releasing in greater numbers pre-existing and new biological control agents for an increased number of priority pest plants.

Waitematā local board 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. The board supports the target to make New Zealand predator free by 2050.

Mana whenua feedback

The use of toxins and herbicides was also raised by mana whenua with concern at their use, including representatives of the following iwi; Ngāti Tamaoho (2014 hui, 2015 hui, 2017 hui), Te Kawerau a Maki (2014 hui), Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara (2015 hui), The Maunga Authority (then the Tamaki Collective) noted their wish for low or nil herbicide and toxin use on the maunga (2014 hui). Representatives of Ngāti Tamaoho and Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei both expressed a desire that best practice advice be provided, as well as guiding principles and Ngāti Tamaoho expressed desire that landowners be able to influence control methods of their neighbours (e.g. organic farmer) (2015 hui).

Representatives of Akitai, Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara and Ngāti Manuhiri noted concern with biocontrol (2014 hui).

Mana whenua supported the council consulting the public on cat management, however noted in the 2017 hui that microchipping alone was not the answer.

In a 2017 hui, Te Runanga o Ngāti Whātua also suggested pest-proof fencing as an effective tool where possible.

Other feedback (industry, interest groups, CCOs, etc.)

The Rural Advisory Panel expressed support for biocontrol (2017 meeting).

Microchipping was mentioned and supported by SPCA, Lonely Miaow, New Zealand Veterinary Association, and The Morgan Foundation.

Council's response and rationale

While the plan does not dictate which methodology must be used, cost-benefit analyses for the RPMP assume the use of best practice methodology. This does involve the use of a range of agrichemicals, but at all times seeking to minimise the adverse environmental impacts that might be associated with these. If alternative options are used, in some instances costs to achieve the outcomes of the plan may be higher than those assessed in the cost-benefit analyses.

The RPMP also assumes investment in biocontrol for a suite of approximately 25 pest plants in order to achieve proposed outcomes for these species. Auckland Council acknowledges the concerns of some, including some mana whenua, about the use of biocontrol agents, and is committed to using these only when rigorous safety testing has been undertaken and there is a high degree of confidence that they will not threaten indigenous or other valued organisms.

The strategic section of the RPMP notes that a lack of effective control tools hampers effective management of some species, including freshwater pests, marine pests and

terrestrial invertebrate pests. Accordingly the RPMP prioritises facilitation of research into tools to address these groups of pests.

The RPMP also acknowledges that although control tools for small mammals are more advanced than those for groups of pests listed above, ongoing development of control tools and techniques for small mammals is still key for the success of Pest Free Auckland, and the wider Predator Free New Zealand 2050.

Micro-chipping for cats is utilised in the proposed RPMP as a tool to improve clarity in distinguishing between owned and unowned cats. A similar approach is taken for other species that can be both a pest and a valued resource, such as deer, for which the pest definition is aligned with the National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT) system.

9.9 Future-proofing the RPMP

Discussion document feedback

Several public submissions mentioned a desire to 'future-proof' the plan, including considering climate change, population growth, and development when proposing pests and rules.

Some public submissions also noted the need for biosecurity funding to be sufficient. Several public submitters expressed a desire for flexibility and review (with two to three year timeframes mentioned).

One public submission also wanted the plan to be more resilient than the current RPMS, as there are more pest species and pathogens now present in the region. The same submitter believes the plan needs to be permissive without any barriers, for example making it easy for community groups to remove plants during volunteer work in parks, even if only research species.

Local board feedback

Kaipātiki local board note that the Regional Pest Management Plan should allow for innovation, so that new and differing approaches can be trialled. Alongside this all actions of the Regional Pest Management Plan should be regularly monitored and evaluated. This will allow for the available resources to be targeted over time and increase the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of the regional pest control actions. Any new innovative approaches also need to be evaluated for replicability and scalability. This will allow successful approaches to be rolled out in other areas.

Feedback from the Waitākere Ranges local board regarding funding the RPMP is set out below:

Controlling pest animals, plants and organisms in and around the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA) is of the highest priority for the Waitākere Ranges Local Board (the Board). Concern that we are going backwards with weed and pest management has been a key message from our communities since early on in the formation of

Auckland Council, and we need to do better.

The local board gave feedback setting out a desired approach in November 2015. Many of the questions asked this time around appear to be similar, if not the same question.

We are concerned that the amount of budget available for pest control is setting the agenda for the review of Auckland Council's RPMP, rather than the more fundamental question of what, as a council and a community, we want our priorities for Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland to be.

The council's lack of investment in pest control, both as an owner of public land, especially road corridors, and as the key agency in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland responsible for enforcement, education and support for community efforts, are key issues to address in the review. The council needs to show leadership and hold itself and its agencies to account through the RPMP.

Auckland Transport (AT) spends \$120,000 in our area and targets four weeds which is a fraction of what is needed to fulfil its obligations under the existing RPMP.

The council needs to establish an ongoing mechanism for monitoring the performance of AT with regard to its obligations for pest control.

The position in our previous feedback (from November 2015) has not changed.

“Council funding needs to be made relevant to the scale of the problem a local board is facing. At present there is nothing in the funding mechanism to address the enhanced needs faced by local boards with significant ecological areas. The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area requires better funding in recognition of the scale of the problems in the area, and the obligations and responsibilities imposed on it by Act of Parliament, for example, where dealing with public and private properties and in parks and reserves requiring maintenance.”

The site-led management approach as set out to us in this review appears to be a band aid. The council cannot walk away from its overall responsibility as the lead agency responsible for pest control. In some instances site-led will be appropriate but this cannot be at the expense of its overall duties.

With the isthmus being so narrow, something more comprehensive than site-led is needed, as many of the worst weeds e.g. moth plant and climbing asparagus can easily be taken from one site to another by wind or birds.

There is also a point to be made about how responsibility for weed management sits across the wider council family and council controlled organisations. Road corridors in particular are significant weed vectors, and Auckland Transport, and in our area, Watercare, must be committed to the wider approach. Referring to previous feedback we reiterate that, “Auckland Transport should itself be more active in relation to addressing weed management in the road corridor of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area. There still appears to be no compulsion via an appropriate service level agreement for Auckland Transport to manage pest animals within those road corridors, and that should be changed.”

Mana whenua feedback

Development and population growth were also mentioned as issues by mana whenua, including representatives of Te Runanga o Ngāti Whātua and Te Kawerau a Maki (2014 and 2017 hui).

Ngāti Maru and Ngāti Manuhiri wanted to see an opportunity for the plan to be reviewed during its 10 year lifespan, and pests added or programmes changed, when necessary (2014 hui, 2017 hui).

Representatives of Ngāti Rehua expressed desire for the plan to be visionary (to look beyond 10 years), and be outcome-focussed, e.g. taonga species returning to Aotea / Great Barrier Island (2014 hui). Ngāti Rehua and Te Runanga o Ngāti Whātua also expressed a desire that RPMP include monitoring (2014 hui).

Council's response and rationale

Council acknowledges that the emergence of new pest threats over the life-time of an RPMP is a problematic issue.

Under the revised Biosecurity Act, it is now easier to undertake a partial plan review. If substantial changes occur, a partial plan review could be considered during the 10 year lifetime of the plan.

Where possible, council has endeavoured to formulate the RPMP in a manner that will make it visionary, aspirational and robust to changing pest issues over the next 10 years and beyond. As part of this, climate change has been considered in the development of the RPMP.

Council notes that the RPMP does not prevent the management of species that are not included in the plan, although other legislation may do some in some cases.

The Waitākere ranges are included as a high priority component of the site-led approach proposed for widespread pest plants on the mainland. As with the rest of the proposed RPMP, the proposed programme has been fully costed is not proposed to be delivered within the current budget envelop. If funding for this increased level of service delivery is not agreed through the long-term plan process, then some changes to the proposed programme may be required. The proposed parks site-led programme represents an increase in focussed enforcement of landowner responsibility around Waitākere and other ecologically significant parkland. Specifically, the programme will require all landowners (including Auckland Transport) within 500m of a park boundary to control the following species on their land when these species are being controlled on park: bushy asparagus, climbing asparagus, moth plant, rhamnus, ginger, woolly nightshade. Auckland Council may undertake control on the following species on land within 500m of a park boundary: coast banksia, jasmine, Madeira vine. Additionally, transport corridor operators are required to control agapanthus and Formosa lily prior to seed set within 500m of park boundaries to prevent further spread along roading networks. While it is true that a small proportion of wind- and bird-dispersed seeds do spread over much larger distances than 500m, the vast majority of seed will fall within 500m. Effective enforcement of multiple pest plant species over the entire region would be prohibitively expensive, and is unlikely to be effective. Therefore a site-led

approach is proposed as a more technically effective and cost effective approach to achieving improved ecological outcomes for important sites such as Waitākere.

The costs of implementing the RPMP over its 10 year lifespan are being consulted on alongside the Long Term Plan. The Biosecurity Act requires council to be satisfied that adequate funding is available for implementation of at least the first five years of the plan; further consultation may be required if substantial changes are required to proposed programmes to align with the quantum of funding allocated through the Long-term Plan process. The costs being consulted on include costs of monitoring to assess effectiveness of implementation.

Appendix A - CONSULTATION TIMETABLE 2014-2017**ISSUES and OPTIONS PAPER 2014**

Group/organisation	Audience	Consultation stage	Format	Date	Location
Council					
Environment, Climate Change and Natural Heritage Committee	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	7-May-14	Reception Lounge, Level 2, Town Hall
Environment, Climate Change and Natural Heritage Committee	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	9-Jul-14	Reception Lounge, Level 2, Town Hall
Local boards					
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	12-May-14	Level 3, The Strand, Takapuna
Franklin Local Board	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	20 May 2014 and 8 July 2014	82 Manukau Rd, Pukekohe
Great Barrier Local Board	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	23-Jul-14	Claris Sports Centre, GBI
Howick Local Board	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	10-Jun-14	Pakuranga Library, 7 Aylesbury St, Pakuranga
Kaipātiki Local Board	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	21-May-14	90 Bentley Ave, Glenfield
Manurewa Local Board	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	19-Jun-14	Shop 3-5, 7 Hill Rd, Manurewa
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	9-May-14	7-13 Pilkington Road, Panmure
Ōrākei Local Board	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	14-May-14	Meadowbank Shopping Centre, St Johns Rd, Meadowbank
Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	4-Jul-14	Level 1, Manukau Civic Building, Manukau Station Rd
Papakura Local Board	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	13-Aug-14	35 Coles Crescent, Papakura
Puketāpapa Local Board	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	23-May-14	Fickling Centre, Three Kings
Rodney Local Board	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	13-May-14	Council Chamber, Centreway Rd, Orewa

Upper Harbour Local Board	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	23-May-14	Albany Library Complex, Kell Drive, Albany
Waiheke Local Board	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	27-Jun-14	Waiheke Local Board Room, 10 Belgium St, Ostend
Waitākere Ranges Local Board	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	1-May-14	Glenmall Pl, Glen Eden
Waitematā Local Board	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	27-May-14	Graham St, Auckland CBD
Local Board Chairs forum	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	20-Apr-14	Auckland Council, 135 Albert St. CBD
Manukau Harbour Forum	Political	Issues and options paper	Workshop	8-Sep-14	Shop 17, 93 Bader Drive, Mangere
Rural Advisory Panel	Advisory	Issues and options paper	Presentation	16-Oct-15	Auckland Council, 135 Albert St. CBD
Discussion document					
Regional Strategy and Policy Committee	Political	Discussion doc	Business agenda	8-Oct-15	Reception Lounge, Level 2, Town Hall
Albert-Eden Local Board	Political	Discussion doc	Business agenda	9-Dec-15	135 Dominion Rd, Mt Eden
Franklin Local Board	Political	Discussion doc	Business agenda	15-Dec-15	82 Manukau Rd, Pukekohe
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board	Political	Discussion doc	Business agenda	16-Dec-15	50 Centreway Rd, Orewa/2 Glen Rd, Browns Bay
Howick Local Board	Political	Discussion doc	Business agenda	14-Dec-15	Pakuranga Library, 7 Aylesbury St, Pakuranga
Kaipātiki Local Board	Political	Discussion doc	Business agenda	9-Dec-15	90 Bentley Ave, Glenfield
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board	Political	Discussion doc	Business agenda	9-Dec-15	Shop 17, 93 Bader Drive, Mangere Town Centre
Manurewa Local Board	Political	Discussion doc	Business agenda	10-Dec-15	Shop 3-5, 7 Hill Rd, Manurewa
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board	Political	Discussion doc	Business agenda	10-Dec-15	7-13 Pilkington Road, Panmure
Ōrākei Local Board	Political	Discussion doc	Business agenda	3-Dec-15	Meadowbank Shopping Centre, St Johns Rd, Meadowbank
Papakura Local Board	Political	Discussion doc	Business agenda	9-Dec-15	35 Coles Crescent, Papakura

Upper Harbour Local Board	Political	Discussion doc	Business agenda	15-Dec-15	Albany Library Complex, Kell Drive, Albany
Waiheke Local Board	Political	Discussion doc	Business agenda	10-Dec-15	10 Belgium St, Ostend
Waitākere Ranges Local Board	Political	Discussion doc	Business agenda	10-Dec-15	Glenmall Pl, Glen Eden
Waitematā Local Board	Political	Discussion doc	Business agenda	8-Dec-15	Graham St, Auckland CBD
Whau Local Board	Political	Discussion doc	Business agenda	9-Dec-15	31 Totara Ave, New Lynn
General public	General public	Discussion doc	Public consultation	16 Oct - 27 Nov 2015	Regionwide

Plan development

Political stage 1

Environment and Community Committee	Political	Plan development	Workshop	3-May-17	Auckland Council, 135 Albert St, CBD
Council RPMP Working Group	Political	Plan development	Workshop	2-Aug-17	Auckland Council, 135 Albert St, CBD
Albert-Eden Local Board	Political	Plan development	Workshop	14-Jun-17	135 Dominion Rd, Mt Eden
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board	Political	Plan development	Workshop	25-Jul-17	Level 3, The Strand, Takapuna
Franklin Local Board	Political	Plan development	Workshop	13-May-17	82 Manukau Rd, Pukekohe
Great Barrier Local Board	Political	Plan development	Workshop	6-Jun-17	Claris Sports Centre, GBI
Henderson-Massey Local Board	Political	Plan development	Workshop	27-Jun-17	6 Henderson Valley Rd, Henderson
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board	Political	Plan development	Workshop	29-Jun-17	2 Glen Rd, Browns Bay Pakuranga Library, 7 Aylesbury St, Pakuranga
Howick Local Board	Political	Plan development	Workshop	6-Jul-17	
Kaipātiki Local Board	Political	Plan development	Workshop	26-Jul-17	90 Bentley Ave, Glenfield
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board	Political	Plan development	Workshop	28-Jun-17	Shop 17, 93 Bader Drive, Mangere Town Centre
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local	Political	Plan development	Workshop	4-Jul-17	7-13 Pilkington Road, Panmure

Board		development Plan				
Ōrākei Local Board	Political	development Plan	Workshop	13-Jul-17		Meadowbank Shopping Centre, St Johns Rd
Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board	Political	development Plan	Workshop	11-Jul-17		Manukau Civic Building, Manukau Station Rd
Papakura Local Board	Political	development Plan	Workshop	7-Jun-17		35 Coles Crescent, Papakura
Puketāpapa Local Board	Political	development Plan	Workshop	6-Jul-17		Fickling Centre, Three Kings
Rodney Local Board	Political	development Plan	Workshop	6-Jul-17		50 Centreway Rd, Orewa
Waiheke Local Board	Political	development Plan	Workshop	1-Jun-17		10 Belgium St, Ostend
Waitākere Ranges Local Board	Political	development Plan	Workshop	22 Jun and 20 Jul 2017		Glenmall Pl, Glen Eden
Waitematā Local Board	Political	development Plan	Workshop	4-Jul-17		52 Swanson St, Auckland CBD
Whau Local Board	Political	development Plan	Workshop	5-Jul-17		31 Totara Ave, New Lynn
Sub-regional workshop Central	Political	development Plan	Presentation	15-May-17		Council Chambers, Town Hall, Auckland CBD
Sub-regional workshop North	Political	development Plan	Presentation	22-May-17		Level 3, The Strand, Takapuna
Sub-regional workshop South	Political	development Plan	Presentation	15-May-17		Puhinui Room, Manukau Civic Annex
Political stage 2						
Albert-Eden Local Board	Political	development Plan	Business agenda	23-Aug-17		135 Dominion Rd, Mt Eden
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board	Political	development Plan	Business agenda	15-Aug-17		Level 3, The Strand, Takapuna
Franklin Local Board	Political	development Plan	Business agenda	18-Jul-17		82 Manukau Rd, Pukekohe
Great Barrier Local Board	Political	development Plan	Business agenda	15-Aug-17		Claris Sports Centre, GBI
Henderson-Massey Local Board	Political	development Plan	Business agenda	18-Jul-17		6 Henderson Valley Rd, Henderson
Hibiscus and Bays Local	Political	Plan	Business	16-Aug-17		2 Glen Rd, Browns Bay

Board		development Plan	agenda Business		Pakuranga Library, 7 Aylesbury St, Pakuranga
Howick Local Board	Political	development Plan	agenda Business	21-Aug-17	
Kaipātiki Local Board	Political	development Plan	agenda Business	16-Aug-17	90 Bentley Ave, Glenfield
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board	Political	development Plan	agenda Business	16-Aug-17	Shop 17, 93 Bader Drive, Mangere Town Centre
Manurewa Local Board	Political	development Plan	agenda Business	17-Aug-17	Shop 3-5, 7 Hill Rd, Manurewa
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board	Political	development Plan	agenda Business	22-Aug-17	7-13 Pilkington Road, Panmure
Ōrākei Local Board	Political	development Plan	agenda Business	17-Aug-17	Meadowbank Shopping Centre, St Johns Rd
Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board	Political	development Plan	agenda Business	15-Aug-17	Manukau Civic Building, Manukau Station Rd
Papakura Local Board	Political	development Plan	agenda Business	26-Jul-17	35 Coles Crescent, Papakura
Puketāpapa Local Board	Political	development Plan	agenda Business	17-Aug-17	Fickling Centre, Three Kings
Rodney Local Board	Political	development Plan	agenda Business	17-Aug-17	50 Centreway Rd, Orewa
Upper Harbour Local Board	Political	development Plan	agenda Business	17-Aug-17	Albany Library Complex, Kell Drive, Albany
Waiheke Local Board	Political	development Plan	agenda Business	27-Jul-17	10 Belgium St, Ostend
Waitākere Ranges Local Board	Political	development Plan	agenda Business	24-Aug-14	Glenmall Pl, Glen Eden
Waitematā Local Board	Political	development Plan	agenda Business	15-Aug-17	52 Swanson St, Auckland CBD
Whau Local Board	Political	development Plan	agenda Business	23-Aug-17	31 Totara Ave, New Lynn
Rural Advisory Panel	Advisory Panel	development Plan	Presentation	26 May 2016 and 7 July 2017	Auckland Council, 135 Albert St, CBD
Internal					
Auckland Harbourmaster	Internal staff	Plan development	Presentation	30-Sep-15	Mechanics Bay office
Biodiversity staff	Internal staff	Plan	Workshop	28-Jul-14	Auckland Council office, Hereford St,

Biosecurity Hauraki Gulf	Internal staff	development Plan	Workshop	4-Jun-14	CBD Auckland Council office, Hereford St, CBD
Biosecurity managers	Internal staff	development Plan	Workshop	12-Dec-14	Auckland Council office, Bledisloe House, CBD
Biosecurity staff	Internal staff	development Plan	Workshop	10-Apr-14	Auckland Council office, Hereford St, CBD
Biosecurity staff	Internal staff	development Plan	Workshop	15-Apr-14	Auckland Council office, Henderson Valley Rd
Biosecurity staff	Internal staff	development Plan	Workshop	20-Nov-14	Auckland Council office, Ardmore Friends Building, Auckland Botanic Gardens
Auckland Botanic Gardens staff	Internal staff	development Plan	Workshop	3-Jun-14	Auckland Council office, Bledisloe House, CBD
Local and Sports Parks managers	Internal staff	development Plan	Workshop	8-Oct-14	Auckland Council office, Hereford St, CBD
Local and Sports Parks staff	Internal staff	development Plan	Workshop	12-May-14	Auckland Council office, Hereford St, CBD
Regional park rangers	Internal staff	development Plan	Workshop	20-Mar-15	Auckland Council office, Hereford St, CBD
Regional Parks North	Internal staff	development Plan	Presentation	2-Nov-15	Wenderholm Regional Park
Regional Parks South	Internal staff	development Plan	Presentation	6-Aug-15	Auckland Council office, Ardmore
Regional Parks West	Internal staff	development Plan	Presentation	5-Oct-15	Arataki Visitor Centre, Scenic Drive
RIMU	Internal staff	development Plan	Workshop	28-Jun-16	Auckland Council, 135 Albert St, CBD
CCO					
Ports of Auckland	Internal staff	development Plan	Presentation	1-Oct-15	Mechanics Bay office Auckland Council office, Bledisloe House, CBD
Watercare	CCO	development Plan	Workshop	4-Sep-14	Watercare, Remuera Rd, Newmarket
Watercare	CCO	development Plan	Workshop	3-Aug-17	Watercare, Remuera Rd, Newmarket
Central gov't/regional councils/collaborations					
Hauraki Gulf Forum	Govt stakeholder	development Plan	Presentation	16-Mar-15	Auckland Town Hall

Ministry for Primary Industries	Govt stakeholder	Plan development	Workshop	7-Jul-17	Auckland Council, 135 Albert St, CBD
Northland Regional Council	Govt stakeholder	Plan development	Workshop	30-Jun-14	Orewa Service Centre, Centreway Road, Orewa
Waikato Regional Council	Govt stakeholder	Plan development	Workshop	27-Jan-17	Civic Building, Manukau
Waikato Regional Council	Govt stakeholder	Plan development	Workshop	15-Feb-17	Civic Building, Manukau
Mana whenua					
Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara	Mana whenua	Plan development	Hui	5-Jun-14	Restall Rd, Woodhill Forest
Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara	Mana whenua	Plan development	Hui	11-Nov-15	Auckland Council office, Bledisloe House, CBD
Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara and Ngāti Manuhiri	Mana whenua	Plan development	Hui	7-Aug-14	Orewa Service Centre, Centreway Road, Orewa
Ngāi Tai Ki Tāmaki	Mana whenua	Plan development	Hui	9-Nov-15	Highbrook
Tamāki Collective/Maunga Authority	Mana whenua	Plan development	Hui	12-Aug-14	Gallery, Level 1, Civic Building, Manukau
Ngāti te Ata	Mana whenua	Plan development	Hui	30-May-17	Queen St, Waiuku
Kaitiaki information hui	Mana whenua	Plan development	Hui	24-Sep-14	Gallery, Level 1, Civic Building, Manukau
Kaitiaki information hui	Mana whenua	Plan development	Hui	29-Apr-15	Gallery, Level 1, Civic Building, Manukau
Regional Pest Management Plan hui	Mana whenua	Plan development	Hui	7-Nov-14	Civic Building, Manukau
Regional Pest Management Plan hui	Mana whenua	Plan development	Hui	14-Nov-14	Orewa Service Centre, Centreway Road, Orewa
Regional Pest Management Plan hui	Mana whenua	Plan development	Hui	15-Oct-15	Fickling Centre, Three Kings
I&ES Kaitiaki hui	Mana whenua	Plan development	Hui	12-May-17	Auckland Council, 135 Albert St, CBD
RPMP Free Auckland hui	Mana whenua	Plan development	Hui	18-Jul-17	Auckland Council, 135 Albert St, CBD
Industry stakeholders					
Nursery Industry Growers	Industry	Plan	Workshop	13-Apr-15	Fickling Centre, Three Kings

Association		development Plan			
Pet Industry Association	Industry	development Plan	Workshop	15-Apr-15	Karangahape Rd, CBD
Pet Industry Association	Industry	development Plan	Workshop	8-Sep-16	Leonard Isitt Drive, Mangere Auckland Council office, Bledisloe House, CBD
Companion Animal Council	Industry	development Plan	Workshop	21-Apr-15	Karangahape Rd, CBD
Animates retail rep	Industry	development Plan	Workshop	20-May-15	Karangahape Rd, CBD
NZ Veterinary Association	Industry	development Plan	Workshop	3-Jun-15	Leonard Isitt Drive, Mangere Auckland Council office, Hereford St, CBD
Morgan Foundation	Industry	development Plan	Workshop	23-Jul-14	50 Westney Road, Mangere
SPCA	Industry	development Plan	Workshop	29-Jul-15	St Heliers
Lonely Miaow	Industry	development Plan	Workshop	28-Sep-15	
Transport agencies					
Kiwirail	Transport	Plan development	Workshop	2-Jul-15	Kiwirail Office, Stanley St
NZTA	Transport	Plan development	Workshop	2-Jul-15	Kiwirail Office, Stanley St
Auckland Motorway Alliance Auckland, Whenuapai, Ardmore airports	Transport	Plan development	Workshop	1-Oct-14	Ascot Office Park, Ellerslie Auckland Council office, Bledisloe House, CBD
Academic					
CBB - University of Auckland	Academic	Plan development	Presentation	10-Sep-15	University of Auckland, Tamaki Campus
Unitec	Academic	Plan development	Presentation	29-Oct-15	Unitec, Carrington Rd, Mt Albert
Hunting / fishing / rural					
Fish and Game	Hunting/ fishing/rural	Plan development	Meeting	28-Apr-15	Auckland Council office, Bledisloe House, CBD
Wagglers Coarse Fishing Club	Hunting/ fishing/rural	Plan development	Meeting	25-May-15	Auckland Council office, Bledisloe House, CBD
Federated Farmers	Hunting/	Plan development	Presentation	20-Aug-15	Khyber Pass Rd, Newmarket

	fishing/rural	development			
Community groups/other					
Forest and Bird West	Community group	Plan development	Presentation	20-Nov-15	Kelston Community Centre
Awhitu Peninsula Landcare	Community group	Plan development	Presentation	12-Oct-15	Awhitu Rd, Awhitu
Takatu Landcare	Community group	Plan development	Presentation	18-Oct-15	Tawharanui Lodge
Pest Liaison Group	Community group	Plan development	Presentation	9-Sep-15	Fickling Centre, Three Kings
Auckland Botanical Society	Community group	Plan development	Presentation	7-Oct-15	Unitec, Carrington Rd, Mt Albert
Titirangi Residents and Ratepayers	Community group	Plan development	Presentation	16-Nov-15	Titirangi Presbyterian Hall, Atkinson Rd
General public					
General public	General public	Plan development	Evening talk	4-Nov-15	Kelston Community Centre
General public	General public	Plan development	Evening talk	10-Nov-15	Takapuna War Memorial Hall
General public	General public	Plan development	Evening talk	18-Nov-15	Warkworth Masonic Hall
General public	General public	Plan development	Evening talk	24-Nov-15	Oneroa Bowling Club, Waiheke
General public	General public	Plan development	Manned display	24-Oct-15	Ostend Market, Belgium St, Waiheke
General public	General public	Plan development	Manned display	27-Oct-15	Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Seminar, Auckland Museum
General public	General public	Plan development	Manned display	31-Oct-15	Auckland Zoo event, Auckland Zoo
General public	General public	Plan development	Manned display	1-Nov-15	Auckland Zoo event, Auckland Zoo
General public	General public	Plan development	Manned display	7-Nov-15	Auckland Botanic Gardens, Hill Rd, Manurewa
General public	General public	Plan development	Manned display	7-Nov-15	Clevedon A & P Show, Clevedon Showgrounds
General public	General public	Plan development	Manned display	8-Nov-15	Clevedon A & P Show, Clevedon Showgrounds

General public	General public	Plan development	Manned display	14-Nov-15	Titirangi Library, South Titirangi Rd
General public	General public	Plan development	Manned display	14-Nov-15	Wellsford Library, Port Albert Rd
General public	General public	Plan development	Manned display	16-Nov-15	Onehunga Night Market, Arthur St
General public	General public	Plan development	Manned display	17-Nov-15	Mt Wellington Night Market, Sylvia Park
General public	General public	Plan development	Manned display	19-Nov-15	Henderson Night Market, Westfield Henderson
General public	General public	Plan development	Manned display	22-Nov-15	Glenfield Night Market, Glenfield Mall
General public	General public	Plan development	Static display	26 Oct 2015 - 6 Nov 2015	Waiheke Library, Oceanview Rd, Waiheke
General public	General public	Plan development	Static display	28 Oct 2015 - 6 Nov 2015	Otahuhu Library, Mason Ave, Otahuhu
General public	General public	Plan development	Static display	8- 19 Nov 2015	Auckland Botanic Gardens, Hill Rd, Manurewa

Appendix 2 – Summary of local board feedback

Regional Issues

Cats

All 21 local boards support the proposed approach to cat management, with the following additional comments provided by some local boards:

- Albert-Eden – support better definition and management of cats. Abandoned cats are a pest management and animal welfare issue. There needs to be a large amount of supporting communication and education on any new rules, as cats are people’s pets. Options for financial support to assist the transition into any management requirements should also be investigated.
- Devonport-Takapuna – supports the management or controlling of cats in areas of public land where threatened species are being protected or areas of high biodiversity noting the public sensitivity, and need for a considerate management programme.
- Franklin – there is a need to manage unowned cats and encourage responsible cat ownership, alongside better public awareness raising about the impacts of cats on indigenous species.
- Great Barrier – feral cats are a problem for the island and cat trapping has been funded by the board in past work programmes.
- Hibiscus and Bays – supports cats being microchipped to identify the difference between pet, stray or feral animals.
- Howick – the Howick Local Board agree that feral cats are an issue in Howick particularly in Half Moon Bay and also in and around shopping centres at night. The board is aware of the issue with cat lovers and the role of cats as a pet; however the board recognises the difference between owned and unowned cats. The board supports that all bird predators must be managed at the same time.
- Kaipātiki – the board accepts that cats (feral, unowned and domestic cats allowed to wander overnight) are predators and cause harm to native wildlife. There are also a large number of SEAs of high ecological value scattered across the board area. While the board is supportive of controlling feral and unowned cats, there are potential issues with respect to domestic cats, their owners and any harm caused to such animals. The board suggests that a gradualist approach be taken so that controls are brought in over time and are gradually extended to all areas as community understanding of the ‘cat’ issue grows.
- Māngere-Ōtāhuhu – population of cats has grown in Favona.
- Manurewa – the negative impacts have been well documented on offshore islands, where there are records of native species disappearing from the island since the arrival of cats, and marked native species recovery after cats

have been eradicated. Cats that are not given regular preventative treatments can pose a public health risk through the spread of zoonotic disease (e.g. toxocariasis or toxoplasmosis). Feral cats may also carry and suffer from feline enteritis or conjunctivitis.

- Maungakiekie-Tāmaki – supports working with cat owners to support better understanding around the impact of cats on the natural environment.
- Ōrakei – the board supports the proposed approach as a minimum. The board supports defined areas (such as areas of high biodiversity) being identified where cats are treated as pests and are controlled and other more urban areas where rules are not as strict.
- Ōtara-Papatoetoe – the board agrees with micro chipping and suggests requiring owned cats to be taken in at night as in Australia.
- Papakura – the Papakura local board supports all cats being microchipped to protect native fauna and cats that mark their territory. The board raised a concern that a cat is often the only companion an elderly person has and was concerned about the potential financial burden on those on limited incomes. The board felt there was a need to differentiate between the feral and domestic cat. Felines in a domestic environment should not be the focus of compliance and enforcement. The board does not support increased compliance and enforcement measures of domestic cats.
- Rodney – supports additional controls for the management of cats beyond those that are proposed, including mandatory microchipping, licencing and de-sexing as it considers this is the best way to ensure a change in owner behaviour and the management of cats as a pest.
- Upper Harbour – the board accepts that cats (feral, unowned and domestic cats allowed to wander overnight) are predators and cause harm to native wildlife. There are also a large number of SEAs of high ecological value scattered across the board area. The board is supportive of controlling feral and unowned cats in areas where threatened species are being actively protected. The board is unaware of any areas which would qualify as needing this level of protection in Upper Harbour. If this situation was to change the board would seek to engage with the community before any lethal cat control was employed. The board suggests that a gradualist approach be taken so that controls are brought in over time and gradually extended to all areas as community understanding of the ‘cat’ issue grows.
- Waiheke – the board supports the humane control of cats whether owned or unowned in areas of high biodiversity value. On Waiheke cats are controlled at Whakanewha Regional Park and other selected locations by council staff and community organisations. Support an increased number of controlled areas on Waiheke in our top ecological sites (Rangihoua, Te Matuku and Whakanewha). Some control is also in place on private land. Forest and Bird run an awareness campaign and together with the SPCA and Hauraki Gulf Conservation Trust have produced a pamphlet on responsible pet ownership which advocates measures such as keeping cats indoors at night,

microchipping and collar-belts. Included in the Waiheke New Residents' Pack, as an innovative local initiative. Caught caged cats are taken to the SPCA. Sites in the east end of the island are monitored for dumped animals. Recommend continuous improvement of trapping procedures as it is noted that cats will tend to not allow themselves to be caught in a cat trap more than once.

- Waitematā – the board supports a change in the legal definition of what constitutes a 'pest' cat to enable better management. 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 the council to better identify cats as pests. 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 biodiversity plan as the cat removal may see a rodent explosion.
- Waitākere Ranges – we support cat-free areas, integrated predator control, and micro-chipping, and would like to see a push for residents to 'make this cat your last one'. This is particularly important in the Waitākere Ranges in that a number of coastal villages are surrounded by parkland and residential properties around the perimeter of the parkland. There are a number of intensive pest-control programmes in the Ranges, most notably Ark in the Park, which involves the release of rare species. There are ambitions to release further species, including kiwi. Communities in the Waitakere Ranges need to begin to take steps to minimise the impact of domestic cats on fauna.
- Whau – the board supports the proposed approach and would like to support the Waitākere Ranges Local Board's comments relating to the control of cats within the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

Possoms

Twelve local boards were supportive of a proposal for landscape scale progressive containment to manage possums in rural Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, with additional supporting comments provided by the following local boards as outlined below:

- Albert Eden – strongly support the council to lead by example and manage pests in parks.
- Devonport-Takapuna – supports the proposed shift from possum control focused on areas of high biodiversity to a region-wide programme.
- Howick – community based back yard possum control should be supported by local boards, particularly where private residents' properties border rural catchments or public parks and reserves.
- Kaipātiki – the board is supportive of a landscape scale approach being taken to possums.

- Manurewa – not only do possums affect indigenous fauna by competing for limited food resources, they also directly prey on native birds and invertebrates, including kererū, north island kakapo and kākā. Possums are also the main vector for bovine tuberculosis. Possums are therefore one of the most damaging pests in Aotearoa / New Zealand.
- Papakura – would like to see more possum management in local bush areas. There is an opportunity for the community to get involved in possum management e.g. Kirst Bush and the potential for a pelting industry to be developed.
- Upper Harbour – the board is supportive of a landscape scale approach being taken to possums.
- Waiheke – critical that the containment programme maintained for Waiheke and other possum-free islands in the Waiheke Local Board area but that the methodology is adapted to prioritise high value areas. Incursion investigation scheme needs to be maintained. Checking system for house relocations and other large structures being moved to the island to be maintained. Review of current processes recommended.

Franklin, Henderson-Massey, Ōtara-Papatoetoe and Puketepāpa were also supportive of the proposal, but did not provide any specific comments.

Objections to the proposed approach were received from Rodney and Waitākere Ranges Local Boards:

- Rodney - does not support the proposal of a targeted rate in rural areas to manage possums and considers that if possums are deemed to be a regional pest then the funding of eradication programmes should be met by region-wide funding. Supports staff carrying out additional community education programmes to publicise and encourage community-led possum eradication in a more effective and widespread manner.
- Waitākere Ranges – the WRLB would not support a targeted rate across rural Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland. Control of possums is a region-wide responsibility of the Auckland Council under the Biosecurity Act. Control of possums is important for a number of reasons not just the specific issue that they carry bovine TB. In Waitākere, control of possums is important for ecological reasons, and control crosses across rural and urban and public and private parts of the area. They support restoring the possum control budget to realistic levels, and eradication rather than reduction as a fundamental principle. The board would also like to make a strong plea for possum indices in natural areas of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area to be maintained at two per cent Residual Trap Catch or below in perpetuity. A research programme needs to be developed to assess the scale of this problem regionally.

Four local boards provided no response in relation to the proposal (Hibiscus and Bays, Māngere Ōtāhuhu, Maungakiekie Tāmaki, Waitematā).

A neutral response was received from Great Barrier Local Board, who noted that as Aotea / Great Barrier Island does not have possums, they would like to be excluded from any local targeted rate for rural areas. Ōrakei Local Board noted support for the progressive containment programme to manage possums but does not support a targeted rate as this should be funded by central government as part of its pest free by 2050 strategy. Whau Local Board does support the proposed management of possums, but notes that it would hesitate at recommending the use of targeted rates across rural areas as the Whau does not itself have any rural areas within its borders.

Widespread pest plants

Twenty local boards were supportive of the proposal for a site-led programme for parks with significant ecological areas, with additional supporting comments provided by the following boards. Note that while supportive, some of the comments below also suggest that the council should be going further than the proposed approach.

- Albert Eden – strongly support the council to lead by example and manage pests in parks. The council should work towards all parks being pest free. Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland is Australasia’s weediest city. The approach should be amended to be an approach that covers weed control for all areas identified as Significant Ecological Areas (whether privately owned or publicly owned) given their importance to Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland’s environment. Proposed local board’s develop a Weed Control Strategy for their area.
- Devonport Takapuna – supports a site-focused approach to managing widespread pest plants and weeds, and recommends local boards and their communities have a lead role in identifying these sites. Notes that widespread pest plants such as moth plant and agapanthus are an issue in the local board area, and would support measures for the eradication.
- Franklin – the council should lead by example and prioritise pest management on publicly owned reserves and parks.
- Great Barrier - this programme should include low-incidence pest plants for Aotea / Great Barrier Island.
- Howick – Howick Local Board supports this approach and endorses the need for more education on pest plants.
- Kaitātiki – any site-led programme also needs to cover SEAs partially or fully on private land if it is to be effective. Further detail is needed around what the approach would be in ‘buffer areas’. The board expects that our community volunteers will be part of any action to address pest plants on council land. The contribution of volunteers (both directly on parks and reserves, and indirectly through their ability to motivate and inspire others in the community) will help the council maximise the rate of return on its pest management

investments. The issue of widespread pest plants on private land also needs attention. While individual private gardens are small, collectively they form the majority of the board area.

- Māngere Ōtāhuhu – the weeds noted in the Māngere Ōtāhuhu brochure are the works and must be included in the management plan.
- Maungakiekie-Tāmaki – support addressing privet as a priority.
- Ōrākei - the board supports site-led but doesn't support the up to 30 pest plants per site as there may be more species to control in some parks.
- Ōtara-Papatoeote – the board particularly would like to see control of moth plant in the local board area.
- Papakura – Papakura Local Board supports this approach.
- Puketāpapa – suggests a collaboration strategy for stakeholders (including local boards, AC biodiversity and biosecurity teams, DOC, the Maunga Authority, interested individuals and organisations such as Friends of Oakley Creek and similar) in order to target specific weeds in a concerted way at local levels.
- Rodney – supports the ongoing enforcement of plant pest management on private rural properties in addition to parkland, noting that without ongoing enforcement there is little incentive to undertake plant pest management if a neighbouring property will re-infect a pest-free property.
- Upper Harbour – any site-led programme also needs to cover surrounding area partially or fully on private land if it is to be effective. Further detail is needed around what the approach would be in 'buffer areas'. The board expects that its community volunteers will be included in any planned action to address pest plants on council land. The contribution of volunteers (both directly on parks and reserves, and indirectly through their ability to motivate and inspire others in the community) will help the council maximise the rate of return on its pest management investments. The issue of widespread pest plants on private land also needs attention. Pest plants on nearby private land increase the risk of pests spreading to park land. This can be by creeping growth through boundaries, the production of seed in mature plants, or the unlawful dumping of garden waste on council property. While individual private gardens are small, collectively they form the majority of the board area.
- Waiheke – strategic weed initiative at Whakanewha, fully support expansion around high value sites, wish to expand zones to protect the park including invasive plants such as Japanese honey-suckle, climbing asparagus, tradescantia, rhamnus, moth-plant etc.
- Waitematā – widespread pest plants such as moth plant, privet, ginger, gorse and Chinese and Asiatic knotweeds are an issue in the Waitematā Local Board area. 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.

- Whau – the board strongly recommends that the two species of privet *Ligustrum lucidum* (tree privet) and *Ligustrum sinense* (Chinese privet) prevalent in not only the Whau but all the Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland region’s suburban areas, should be promoted from the current Surveillance Species list onto the Containment Pest Plants list. Landowners and occupiers should be supported to remove privet from their property by council facilitated free collection or free drop off points. Priority should be given to removal and containment of both species from Auckland Council owned land, including the Auckland Transport corridors. Containment in the Whau would not only lessen the opportunity of infestation in the neighbouring Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (thereby lessening the threat of displacement of native species), but would also remove a toxic antagonist for many who suffer with respiratory health problems.

Waitākere Ranges Local Board do not support the proposal, and provide the following comments:

We do not support the philosophy of the ‘site-led approach’ where it simply means cutting resources and/or doing nothing, and advocate that the council should be aiming for elimination even where the action falls short. The new RPMP should also provide for site-led programmes for community groups, but not as an excuse for the council to do nothing.

As set out in our 2015 feedback on the RPMP discussion documents, the Regional Pest Management Plan review should continue to be cognisant of the 2008 Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA) Act, which gives the area national priority and confers particular governance responsibilities and obligations on both governing body and the local board. The WRHA requires better funding in recognition of the scale of the pest-management problems in the area, and the obligations and responsibilities imposed on it by Act of Parliament. In that sense, a site-led approach is appropriate.

However, we expressed reservations in our previous feedback and those continue to be valid. In general terms, and where pests and pest plants are quite widespread, a smaller-scale site-led approach is not the right solution for such a complex and wide-ranging problem. The site-led approach as presented fails to deal with the differences between Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland’s rural, ecological, and urban areas, and in concentrating only on particular designated areas simply ensures that others will rise to become the problem.

This approach also gives the wrong message to private citizens about the council’s role and ambitions in managing the weed threat, and we are concerned that the huge efforts to control ecological weeds in regional parkland and private property are likely to be undermined. The best way for us as a council to eliminate weed pests across the region is to take a ‘whole of community’ approach, as evidenced in our

own climbing asparagus community weed removal programme in Piha, Huia and Karekare.

As we have previously stated, “the policies of the council need to take a long-term view in relation to how best to support pest-management by community groups. The council itself needs to put more emphasis on the education and providing resources at low-levels, such as bait, equipment and bins. Auckland Transport also needs community focused resource in this area in order to support communities that want to do work in the road corridor.” In practice this requires making more staff available to support community programmes. Staff are at present simply spread too thinly, and the Review proffers no positive solution to that. A 500 meter buffer zone is not sufficient for a site of significance such as the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area. A more appropriate buffer is 1-2 kilometres.

New ban of sale

Seventeen local boards support the proposal to phase out the sale of approximately 50 new plant pests and 13 new animal pests in addition to those currently identified.

- Devonport Takapuna – supports the phasing out of sale of approximately 50 new plant pests and 13 new animal pests in addition to those currently identified, and supports a campaign to educate and raise awareness that these plants and animals have a detrimental impact on the natural environment. Notes advice from officers that this does not adversely affect existing palms (e.g. in Devonport) and other notable (if not actually notified) exotic trees in the local board area).
- Hibiscus and Bays – request a copy of the proposed plants that are soon to be considered for exclusion from nurseries.
- Howick – Howick Local Board supports this approach.
- Kaipātiki – any control on sale also needs to consider the issue of pest plant transport. While Kaipātiki is in the heart of the Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland region, it would be very easy to transport prohibited plants into the area from outside the region.
- Papakura – Papakura Local Board supports this approach.
- Rodney – supports regional efforts to ban the sale of any animal or plant species that have the potential to become invasive.
- Upper Harbour – the board supports this.
- Waiheke – supports the programme by ensuring there is no local sale of plant/animal pests including bangalow palm, Phoenix palm, pest succulents.
- Whau – the board is fully supportive of this approach and has nothing further to add.

Albert-Eden, Franklin, Great Barrier, Henderson-Massey, Manurewa, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, Otara-Papatoetoe and Puketāpapa Local Boards were also supportive, but did not provide specific comments.

Ōrakei Local Board noted that they support new pest plants and animals being added to the banned list but would like to know what the proposed additions are prior to providing a definitive response.

No comments were received from Māngere-Ōtahuhu, Waitākere Ranges or Waitemātā Local Boards.

Local Board specific issues

General feedback

- Franklin – the cost-benefit analysis of compliance officers needs to factor in the community good of the compliance role in relation to the enforcement of good pest management practices.
- Kaipātiki – one size doesn't fit all. The Regional Pest Management Plan should allow for innovation, so that new and differing approaches can be trialled. Alongside this all actions of the Regional Pest Management Plan should be regularly monitored and evaluated. This will allow for the available resources to be targeted over time and increase the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of the regional pest control actions. Any new innovative approaches also need to be evaluated for replicability and scalability. This will allow successful approaches to be rolled out in other areas.
- Maungakiekie-Tāmaki – support increased collaboration between local and central government to ensure protection for industries i.e. bee hives which risk significant ecological damage from biological pests list wasps. Support increased liaison between local government and scientific institutions to ensure evidence-based response
- Waiheke - the local board feels that the islands of the Waiheke Local Board Area should be recognised as a valued site in its entirety. Its geographical isolation and location adjacent to many pest-free islands make it an important contributor to the biological diversity of the entire Tikapa Moana o Hauraki / Hauraki Gulf archipelago which is distinctive in Aotearoa / New Zealand.

Waiheke currently sits within the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area which should give it elevated status in terms of pest management to ensure it serves as an ecological corridor rather than being a vector for pests. Waiheke, Rakino and Ponui should be considered as site-led programmes.

The exclusion, eradication and progressive containment of all ecologically transforming species should be a priority for these Tikapa Moana o Hauraki / Hauraki Gulf islands.

Whilst Waiheke has significant pest issues compared to neighbouring islands there is good progressive containment being made for some species and this should be elevated.

The community is highly engaged, the demand and the opportunity for successful eradication of many species is much higher given the islands' isolation. Being the third most populated island in Aotearoa / New Zealand and receiving one third of all tourism to Aotearoa / New Zealand, Waiheke has high potential to serve as a test case for a Predator Free NZ and Pest Free Auckland and this should be considered and recognised within the plan. The high value sites of Rangihoua, Te Matuku and Whakanewha should be prioritised for greater cat control, and pest management.

- Waitematā - 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.

A local pest management plan should encourage volunteerism and long-term contracts to reduce flora and fauna pests. 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. 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 Aotearoa / 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.

- Waitākere Ranges - controlling pest animals, plants and organisms in and around the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA) is of the highest priority for the Waitākere Ranges Local Board (the Board). Concern that we are going backwards with weed and pest management has been a key message from our communities since early on in the formation of Auckland Council, and we need to do better.

The local board gave feedback setting out a desired approach in November 2015. Many of the questions asked this time around appear to be similar, if not the same question.

General comments and context

We are concerned that the amount of budget available for pest control is setting the agenda for the review of Auckland Council's RPMP, rather than the more fundamental question of what, as a council and a community, we want our priorities for Auckland to be.

The Council's lack of investment in pest control, both as an owner of public land especially road corridors, and as the key agency in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland responsible for enforcement, education and support for community efforts, are key issues to address in the review. The council needs to show leadership and hold itself and its agencies to account through the RPMP.

Auckland Transport (AT) spends \$120,000 in our area and targets four weeds which is a fraction of what is needed to fulfil its obligations under the existing RPMP.

The council needs to establish an ongoing mechanism for monitoring the performance of AT with regard to its obligations for pest control.

The position in our previous feedback (from November 2015) has not changed. “Council funding needs to be made relevant to the scale of the problem a local board is facing. At present there is nothing in the funding mechanism to address the enhanced needs faced by local boards with significant ecological areas. The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area requires better funding in recognition of the scale of the problems in the area, and the obligations and responsibilities imposed on it by Act of Parliament, for example, where dealing with public and private properties and in parks reserves requiring maintenance.”

The site-led management approach as set out to us in this review appears to be a band aid. The council cannot walk away from its overall responsibility as the lead agency responsible for pest control. In some instances site-led will be appropriate but this cannot be at the expense of its overall duties.

With the isthmus being so narrow, something more comprehensive than site-led is needed, as many of the worst weeds e.g. moth plant and climbing asparagus can easily be taken from one site to another by wind or birds.

There is also a point to be made about how responsibility for weed management sits across the wider council family and that council controlled organisations. Road corridors in particular are significant weed vectors, and Auckland Transport, and in our area, Watercare, must be committed to the wider approach. Referring to previous feedback we reiterate that “Auckland Transport should itself be more active in relation to addressing weed management in the road corridor of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area. There still appears to be no compulsion via an appropriate service level agreement for Auckland Transport to manage pest animals within those road corridors, and that should be changed.”

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
Pest Plants				
Weeds on council land	Site-led programme for parks with significant ecological areas to manage a suite of up to 30 pest plants to an	Albert Eden	Y	Strongly support the council to lead by example and manage pests in all parkland and this approach should not be limited to areas identified as Significant Ecological Areas. The council should give priority to working with adjacent landowners and the community to understand the types of weeds including surveillance, control and

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
	extent that protects the values of the parkland.			containment species.
		Franklin	Y	
		Great Barrier	Y	This programme should include low-incidence pest plants on Aotea / Great Barrier Island. Plus in the strategic introductory section to note the objective in the Weed Management Plan to 'minimise the use of agrichemicals', especially in areas of high biodiversity values and where communities demand this.
		Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	Y	Board supports a weed management policy that includes minimising use and off-target use of herbicides. More mechanical edging is supported. The board favours a single approach to weed control across Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland. The board considers that if a hot water method is effective on the North Shore, then it should also be available in the South. Community action could include volunteers, people on probation and unemployed clearing weeds on public land and rail corridors.
		Ōrākei	Y	Supports site-led programme for Ōrākei basin. The Board supports site-led but doesn't support the up to 30 pest plants per site as there may be more species to control in some parks.
		Ōtara-Papatoetoe	Y	Board supports a weed management policy that includes minimising use and off-target use of herbicides. More mechanical edging is supported. The board favours a single approach to weed control across Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland. The board considers that if a hot water method is effective on the North Shore, then it should also be available in the South. Community action could include volunteers, people on probation and unemployed clearing

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
				weeds on public land and rail corridors.
		Papakura	Y	Papakura Local Board supports this approach.
		Rodney	Y	
		Waiheke	Y	Board considers all the islands in the Waiheke Local Board area as high value ecological sites given their location in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. Support site-led weed management programme in collaboration with community organisations over high value ecological areas, local parks, council tracks, coastal esplanades, etc. Essential that council contractors include climbing asparagus and other invasive species in scope and work in a complementary manner with community schemes. Respect community demand for limiting the use of glyphosate and other herbicides where evidence exists of long-term negative human and environmental impacts.
		Waitākere Ranges		Control should not be confined to SEAs but should cover all council parkland. The council should set an example for control of weeds. In addition, road corridors and other council vacant land where weeds are not controlled or insufficiently controlled, create a threat to private land and council land on which weeds are controlled.
Road corridor weeds	Road corridor enforcement targeted to buffers around site-led programmes to maximise effectiveness.	Franklin	Y	
		Great Barrier	Y	In the strategic introductory section to note the objective in the Weed Management Plan to 'minimise agricultural use' especially in areas of high biodiversity values and where communities demand this.
		Manurewa	Y	

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
		Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	Y	Support building on collaboration with Transpower and KiwiRail who own transport corridors to better manage pests.
		Ōtara-Papatoetoe	Y	Board supports including rules in the policy about spraying around sensitive areas, such as schools, especially at times of the day when children are likely to be around. This is especially important if glyphosate spray continues to be used on the road corridor.
		Papakura	Y	Papakura Local Board supports this approach.
		Rodney	Y	Supports greater coordination between Auckland Council and Auckland Transport with respect to the management of plant pests in the road corridor noting that the eradication of pests in parkland cannot be achieved if they are left to thrive in the road corridor, and vice versa.
		Whau	Y	The board is fully supportive of this approach and would reiterate the need to urgently address privet control in its road corridors.
		Waitākere Ranges	N	This approach is highly unacceptable. Road corridors act as vectors for pest plants and highly visible examples of the council's attitudes to weeds.
Priority sites – Lake Pupuke, coastal beaches and coastal shellbanks.	Site-led programmes for priority parks with significant ecological areas, including coastal areas, to manage pest species to an extent that protects the values of these places. Pathway	Devonport Takapuna	Y	

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
	management for freshwater pest species to protect freshwater ecosystems. Support for community pest control initiatives.			
Important sites for widespread pest plant management Otuataua Stonefields, Māngere Mountain and Portage Esplanade reserve	Site-led programme for parks with significant ecological areas including Otuatua Stonefields to manage a suite of up to 30 pest plants to an extent that protects the values of the parkland. Support for community pest plant control initiatives for the remaining sites. Māngere Mountain governed by Maunga Authority.	Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	Y	The sites that are particularly important are those that are of significance to Māori, local natural heritage and culture.
Site-led programme for Waikowhai coast	Site-led programme for priority parks with Significant Ecological Areas, including Waikowhai Coast, to manage a suite of pest plants to an extent that	Puketepāpa	Y	The Waikowhai Coast and neighbouring bush reserves should be recognised as a priority for regional pest management. Community (volunteer) pest control should be utilised in this area to aid the protection of the mana of the harbour and to improve the health and amenity of it. This includes the reduction of the number of animal pests, predominantly possums and rats – coast/Manukau

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
	protects the values of the parkland.			coastal reserves.
Pest Animals				
Multi-species pest animal eradication (Aotea / Great Barrier)	The strategic front section of the proposed plan to be used to signal the intent of working closely alongside the Aotea / Great Barrier Island community, mana whenua and Department of Conservation to explore long-term options for island-wide multi-species pest animal management to protect the special values of the island. In the interim, proposed statutory programmes in the plan will represent a continuation of current management approach (see also other sections of this report	Great Barrier	Y	

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
	for specifics).			
Integrated management of pests (Aotea / Great Barrier Island)	Elevated pest status for a wide range of pest plants and animals on the island, recognising the island's special values, defendability, and the need for integrated management.	Great Barrier	Y	
Argentine Ants (Kawau Island)	Continuation of Kawau eradication programme. Enhanced pathway management programme to further reduce movement of Argentine ants within the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area.	Rodney	Y	
Pest birds	Education and advice. Staff can provide education and advice on managing nuisance impacts	Albert Eden	Y	Strongly support the council to lead by example and manage pests in parks. Supports cross-department work on this including pest management, control, bylaws, public education and enforcement.
		Devonport Takapuna	Y	
		Kaipātiki	Y	The board supports this. The Pest Free Kaipātiki together with the Kaipātiki Project initiatives provides two models for how education

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
				and advice can be provided.
		Manurewa	Y	<p>Mynas are territorial birds that show aggression only to other birds within their territory. They are also known to evict other birds from their nests and eat eggs, chicks, invertebrates and lizards.</p> <p>Magpies are territorial birds that show aggression only to other birds within their territory or that may pose a threat to their territory. They can be a nuisance during the breeding season, swooping on and occasionally attacking humans, especially children. There is anecdotal evidence that magpies affect native birds by excluding them from breeding territories and by preying on native bird chicks and eggs to feed to their own young.</p>
		Upper Harbour	Y	<p>Myna are a significant concern within suburbs where native birds may forage. They are not as much of a concern within forests. High Value public reserves are declared pest-free, communities should be encouraged to engage in Myna control to support migration of wildlife between reserves.</p>
Ducks		Manurewa	Y	<p>To be included in a control programme – culling of ducks in coastal areas affected by avian faecal pollution. Control of avian faecal levels at Weymouth beach – these have created high pollution at the beach. This has required the beach to be closed to the public for the past six years.</p>
Red-vented bulbul	Auckland Council to provide support to the Ministry for Primary Industries as the lead agency in the event of an incursion in the	Henderson-Massey	Y	

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
	region.			
Ring-necked parakeet	Sustained control programme preventing the sale and distribution of the pest animal.	Henderson-Massey	Y	
Feral deer	Progressive containment across region, prioritising exclusion programme for the Hunua Ranges.	Franklin	Y	
Freshwater pest fish	Continued inclusion of pest status in proposed Regional Pest Management Plan. Increased public awareness around pathway management for freshwater pest fish across the region. Provision of information and advice on pest identification, impacts and control.	Franklin	Y	
Feral goats	Site-led programme for Hunua Ranges. Tighten controls on	Franklin	Y	

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
	owned goats by specifying acceptable breeds, fencing and identification requirements.			
Feral pigs	Site-led programmes for priority parks with significant ecological areas, to manage feral pigs to an extent that protects the values of these places.	Franklin	Y	
		Waiheke	Y	Under current RPMS working towards eradication. The island is divided into management units, with community organisations and landowners involved. Eradication on Waiheke of rats/pigs/mustelids is considered feasible with sufficient resources. Support continuation of regional funding for Mustelid Control Programme.
	Eradication programme for feral pigs on Waiheke Island.	Waitākere Ranges		The goal in the Waitākeres should be elimination because of the damage pigs do, and their role in spreading kauri dieback.
Rabbits	Current approach (providing information, advice and referral services to landowners who wish to control rabbits on their land and support for community pest control initiatives), plus addition of good neighbour rule requiring landowner control on complaints	Albert Eden	Y	Strongly support the council to lead by example and manage pests in parks.
		Manurewa	Y	Propose sustained control programme for the whole region. To control damage and spread of disease that can cause considerable physical and economic damage. Commercial gardens are particularly vulnerable to rabbit attack – nibbled or chewed crops are unsaleable. On farms, rabbits compete with stock for pasture, ten rabbits can eat as much pasture as one sheep.
		Upper Harbour	N	The RPMP should consider the impact of urbanisation on rabbit populations. This has been seen at Hobsonville Point where large numbers of rabbits have been pushed onto Te Onekiritea by

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
	basis to reduce impacts on neighbouring properties.			advancing urbanisation. This is having a significant impact on understorey of existing forests and efforts to reforest.
	As above, but also, in strategic introductory section of plan, signal aspiration to work with community over the long-term to move towards a rabbit-free Aotea / Great Barrier Island.	Great Barrier	Y	Aotea / Great Barrier Island has one of the highest rabbit control problems in the country. The only way to succeed is for DOC, iwi, community and the council to collaborate on a unified approach.
Rodents and mustelids	Site-led programmes for parks with significant ecological areas and the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area, to manage rodents and mustelids to an extent that protects the values of these places. Enhanced pathway management to protect islands. Sustained control programme for the remainder of the region focusing on	Devonport-Takapuna	Y	
		Henderson-Massey	Y	
		Howick	Y	Howick local board supports this approach and continues to actively support the community in combating rats. The board would like to see a 'rat-free Howick' and more funding for rat traps and other methods coordinated across the Howick ward.
		Kaipātiki	Y	Any site-led programme also needs to cover SEAs partially or fully on private land if it is to be effective. Further detail is needed around what the approach would be in 'buffer areas'. This issue of rodents on private land also needs attention. While individual private gardens are small, collectively they form the majority of the board area and rodents are relatively mobile. The boards expects

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
	support for community pest control initiatives.			that our community volunteers (both directly on parks and reserves, and indirectly through their ability to motivate and inspire others in the community) will help the council maximise the rate of return on its pest management investments.
		Manurewa	Y	Rats/mice – sustained control programme in areas of High Conservation value, as a component of integrated site-led pest management programmes. To control the loss of inanga eggs (whitebait). Mice compete with native species for food sources. Also prey on native insects (such as weta), lizards, eggs, bird chicks and coastal areas of Weymouth, Totara Park. Mustelid – sustained control programme in areas of High Conservation value i.e. Totara Park – ferrets, stoat and weasel. To control loss of inanga eggs (whitebait) in areas of restoration i.e. Puhinui Stream. Mustelids are known to attack native birds, lizards, frogs, weta and a range of other fauna.
		Ōrākei	Y	The board supports the proposal on the basis that community groups are still encouraged to be involved.
		Upper Harbour	Y	In order to achieve a landscape approach to rodent pest control should be coordinated with pest control on private land. As such the identification of high value sites should consider proximity to volunteer projects on private land.
	Eradication programme for stoats on Waiheke Island. Costing of eradication programme for rats on Waiheke Island. Provision of	Waiheke	Y	Under current RPMS working towards eradication. The island is divided into management units, with community organisations and landowners involved. Eradication on Waiheke of rats/pigs/mustelids is considered feasible with sufficient resource. Support continuation of regional funding for Mustelid Control

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
	advice and support to community groups undertaking pest control. Enhanced investment in pathway management to prevent reinvasions within the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area.			Programme.
Wallabies (Kawau Island)	Region-wide eradication programme, comprised of two components: 1) multi-species eradication of wallabies, rats and possums on Kawau Island. 2) incursion response programme for the remainder of the region to protect current wallaby-free status.	Devonport-Takapuna	Y	
		Kaipātiki	Y	
		Rodney	Y	Generally supports the proposed approach for the management of wallabies (Kawau Island) and the multi species eradication of wallabies, rats and possums on the island, however, it requests that staff consult and work with the Kawau Island community to understand their views and the potential to protect a small population of Wallabies in recognition of their historic importance and the wallabies role in the island's identity.
		Upper Harbour	Y	
Wasps	Sustained control programme for whole	Manurewa	Y	Wasps compete for sugar resources with nectar-feeding birds and insects. Wasps are major predators of invertebrates and they may

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
	region. Provision of information and advice on pest animal identification, impacts, control and prevention of spread. Continue facilitating the development of improved wasp control methods that can be used by the public.			compete for the invertebrate prey with insectivorous birds and other predacious invertebrates.
Pathogens				
Kauri dieback disease	Exclusion programme with pathway management rules to prevent the establishment of kauri dieback in high priority kauri dieback-free zones, including the Hunua Ranges and Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area.	Devonport Takapuna	Y	
		Franklin	Y	
		Kaipātiki	Y	The board supports further measures to prevent kauri dieback. There are substantial pockets of kauri in the board area (which are currently thought to be uninfected). It would be disappointing if the regional programme ignored the protection of 'urban kauri'.
		Ōtara-Papatoetoe	Not discussed	
		Papakura	Y	Papakura Local Board supports this approach.
		Puketepāpa	Y	
		Rodney	Y	

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
		Upper Harbour	Y	The board supports further measures to prevent kauri dieback. Albany is considered a kauri dieback red zone due to significant infection in Albany Scenic Reserve. However, there are stands of kauri where it is not known if the infection has reached. Attention should be given to contain kauri dieback where it is present in Albany to prevent it spreading to neighbouring forests in Okura and Kaipātiki.
		Waiheke	Y	Supports the implementation of the Waiheke KDD Protection Plan and expects the commensurate resourcing, prioritisation of track network management and public education (given that some kauri are unprotected on tourist route) to ensure there is no incursion of KDD in the inner gulf.
		Whau	Y	The board understands that kauri dieback will not be included within the Regional Pest Management Plan Review, and point to the 'Kauri Dieback Report 2017: an investigation into the distribution of kauri dieback, and implications for its future management, within the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park', noting that there are implications and risks here for the Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland region as a whole, and the need for council policies and actions to point to a coordinated and coherent response to the kauri dieback threat.
		Waitākere Ranges		There needs to be a specified approach for the Waitākere Ranges. Not just throwing in the towel but a serious attempt to halt spread by more investment on the ground, e.g. investing in board-walks, enforcing track closure, keeping hygiene stations functional and installing the best quality stations for ease of use. We understand that kauri dieback will now be included within the

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
				Regional Pest Management Plan Review, and point to the “Kauri Dieback Report 2017: an investigation into the distribution of kauri dieback, and implications for its future management, within the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park”, noting that there are implications and risks here for the Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland region as a whole, and the need for council policies and actions to point to a coordinated and coherent response to the kauri dieback threat. There needs to be a mechanism that requires the council to act promptly where necessary.
Other				
Education around pests	Provision of information and advice on pest identification, impacts and control, and increased communications around pathway management for a suite of species.	Albert Eden	Y	Currently local boards are funding education projects through locally driven initiatives funding. Additional resources on these topics are vital for the successful management of pest species. Council to work collaboratively with assisting large landowners (e.g. MOE, HNZA) on a programme to control and contain pests on their land and therefore minimise the impact of pest species across the region.
		Devonport Takapuna	Y	
		Franklin	Y	
		Great Barrier	Y	The board fully supports this and has done so by recently funding a ‘Pests of Aotea’ booklet, plus the new biodiversity/biosecurity officer works within the community, schools and contractors to educate them on biosecurity issues. We believe education is the best method to maintain any control methods and garner community buy-in.

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
		Henderson Massey	Y	
		Hibiscus and Bays	Y	Supports the education of the public on identifying new weeds, such as Chinese knotweed and Asiatic knotweed, within the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area and the provision of information of the reasons why they should not remove these weeds themselves and the effects on the natural environment if they continue to grow. Supports the process whereby the public are encouraged to contact Auckland Council to seek the removal of weeds like Chinese knotweed and Asiatic knotweed.
		Howick	Y	Howick local board supports this approach. Various communication channels need to be used to maximise this message.
		Kaipātiki	Y	The board supports this. Pest Free Kaipātiki and the Kaipātiki Project provide two models of differing approaches to deliver information, advice and education on pest management.
		Manurewa	Y	
		Maungakiekie-Tamaki	Y	Support community empowerment and education initiatives around pest control.
		Ōrākei	Y	
		Ōtara-Papatoetoe	Y	
		Papakura	Y	Papakura Local Board supports this approach.
		Puketepāpa	Y	Recommends the issue of multicultural awareness with regard to pest species needs to be addressed as some listed pests may be

Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
				regarded as valuable food or medicinal plants for a range of cultures (e.g. knot weed) requiring targeted educational and awareness approaches.
		Rodney	Y	
		Upper Harbour	Y	The board supports this. In developing strategies to undertake this work the council should consider the work being undertaken by volunteer groups in the Upper Harbour Ecology Network, and support it where appropriate. Specific note should be taken of the work of the Chinese Conservation Trust who is providing education to their ethnic community.
		Waiheke	Y	Supports the suggested programme and requests sufficient staff resource to enable effective implementation on Waiheke and WLB islands.
The importance of community pest control	Provision of advice and support to community groups undertaking pest control, with priority given to activity in or around biodiversity focus areas and taking advantage of defendable landscape features such as islands and peninsulas.	Devonport Takapuna	Y	
		Franklin	Y	

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
		Great Barrier	Y	In the 2018 Local Board Plan we have an initiative to lead our island on the Predator Free 2050. We will need to support our community groups and do so currently through our grant funding rounds.
		Henderson-Massey	Y	
		Hibiscus and Bays	Y	Supports working with the northern local boards in the Tahī Cluster to provide economic and efficient ways of dealing with pests including working with all the community volunteer groups across the wider local board areas. Supports the use of community volunteer groups to assist with weed eradication and the need for volunteer groups to receive training and the provision of the right equipment for weed eradication.
		Howick	Y	Howick local board supports this approach.
		Kaipātiki	Y	The board would not wish to see a priority being given to biodiversity focus areas and defendable landscape features to the exclusion of the wider urban area. The board expects continued regional support for this initiative. The Pest Free Kaipātiki initiative also provides a potential model for the next phase of regional pest management, i.e. addressing the urban areas and as such should be both nurtured and evaluated.
		Ōrākei	Y	The board supports the community empowerment approach as our community are great supporters of our local environment.
		Papakura	Y	Papakura Local Board supports this approach.

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
		Puketepāpa	Y	Community initiative pest management programmes should be include and supported wherever possible.
		Rodney	Y	
		Upper Harbour	Y	The board would not wish to see a priority being given to biodiversity focus areas and defendable landscape features to the exclusion of the wider urban area. The board expects continued regional support for this initiative.
		Waiheke	Y	Board strongly supports a council-enabled approach to working collaboratively with village groups and environmental organisations to effectively manage pests on Waiheke. This developed through mutual understanding of priorities, effective methodologies, areas of responsibility and areas under effective control.
Biocontrol	Enhanced biological control programme focused on identifying and releasing in greater numbers pre-existing and new biological control agents for an increased number of priority pest plants.	Kaipātiki	Y	The board has supported past releases. Better information around successes of such releases is desirable to help inform the development of an enhanced biological control programme.
		Upper Harbour	Y	The board would support the continued controlled release of biological control agents.
Protection of the Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki / Hauraki Gulf/pathway management/marine	Enhancement of pathway management for kauri dieback and a selection of pest plants, pathogens and	Franklin	Y	
		Rodney		Supports the inclusion of aquatic pest species in the plan.
		Great Barrier	Y	Pathway management is a serious concern for Aotea / Great Barrier Island, especially with potentially more tourists visiting due

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
pests	animals within the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area.			to the new Dark Sky Sanctuary. We need better support and systems at our airfields and wharves, plus education for boaties and residents. The board put funding towards Treasure Islands Ambassadors last financial year and ambassadors were not employed.
		Waiheke	Y	Support development and timely implementation of Marine Pathway Management Plan for the Tikapa Moana o Hauraki / Hauraki Gulf to control marine pests such as fan worm and sea squirt. Ensure preventative cleaning of boats occurs in contained hardstand areas which has been supported by the board's hardstand initiative at Ostend Causeway.
Decline in birdsong (Aotea / Great Barrier Island)	Current approach with some enhanced investment (cats and rats managed through some site-led management and support for community pest control and pathway management to prevent incursions of new predators such as stoats). In strategic introductory section of plan, signal aspiration to work with community over the long-term to move towards a predator-free Aotea /	Great Barrier	Y	In the 2018 Local Board Plan we have an initiative to lead our island on the Predator Free 2050. The community Ecology Vision was completed last year and this will be our starting point for discussions. We will need to work with our community groups and move at their pace.

Topic	Proposal	Local Board	Support	Comment
	Great Barrier Island.			
North-west wild link.		Waitākere Ranges		Funds need to follow this idea. Local boards need to be leaders of this project.



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