

Memorandum

6 July 2018

To:	Environment and Community Committee, Local Boards and Independent Māori Statutory Board
Subject:	Process and timeline for adoption of Regional Pest Management Plan
From:	Dr Imogen Bassett, Principal Advisor Biosecurity

Purpose

1. To outline the forward process and indicative timeline for the adoption of the Regional Pest Management Plan.

Summary

- *The proposed Regional Pest Management Plan was approved for public consultation at the 14 November 2017 Environment and Community Committee.*
- *Public consultation on the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan was carried out in March 2018 in parallel with consultation on the Long-term Plan. Approximately 1,400 submissions were received and are now being analysed.*
- *This memo sets out the forward process and indicative timeframes up to adoption of the final Regional Pest Management Plan. Key milestones include:*
 - *workshops with local boards on public feedback – September - October 2018*
 - *engagement with mana whenua – September – October 2018*
 - *workshop with Environment and Community Committee – October – November 2018*
 - *formal feedback from local boards at business meetings – October – November 2018*
 - *approval of final plan by Environment and Community Committee – March 2019.*
- *The approach to stakeholder engagement on cat management is outlined in an accompanying memo from Councillor Hulse.*

Context/Background

2. Auckland Council is currently reviewing its 2007 Regional Pest Management Strategy. The new Regional Pest Management Plan will prescribe council's approach to pest management to reflect best practice and changes to various pest plants and animals in the Auckland region. The review is also in direct response to, and compliant with, the National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015.
3. An initial public discussion document on the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan was released in 2015, and used as a basis for engagement with mana whenua, stakeholders and elected members.
4. At its November 2017 meeting, the Environment and Community Committee approved the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan for public consultation alongside the Long-term Plan 2018-2028 (Resolution numbers ENV/2017/161 to ENV/2017/167).

Discussion

Submissions received

5. Consultation on the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan took place in February to March 2018. Approximately 1,400 submissions were received; a significant increase on the approximately 400 submissions that were received on the 2015 discussion document. The submissions are currently being analysed to identify key themes arising from feedback.

Next steps for finalising the plan

6. The proposed approach to finalising the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan is to:
 - meet with targeted interest groups (for example submitters commenting on proposed cat control, and those commenting on industry impacts) to discuss their feedback and, where possible, clarify points made in submissions and discuss potential solutions.
 - workshop options for addressing key topics raised through feedback with mana whenua, local boards and the Environment and Community Committee.
7. An indicative forward process and timeframe up to adoption of the Regional Pest Management plan is shown below in Table One.

Table One. Process for adoption of final Regional Pest Management Plan.

Action/Milestone	Indicative timeframe
1. Coding of submissions	March – June 2018
2. Analysis of submissions	July – August 2018
3. Workshops with local boards on local feedback received from the public on proposed plan	September – October 2018
4. Mana whenua sessions	September – October 2018
5. Local boards resolve formal feedback at business meetings	October – November 2018
6. Environment and Community Committee workshop	October – November 2018
7. Staff draft final plan	December 2018 – February 2019
8. Environment and Community Committee adopt plan	March 2019
9. Closing the loop with local boards and submitters	April – May 2019

8. Note that there will be no formal hearings. The general public has now had two formal opportunities (2015 and March 2018) to provide feedback on the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan.
9. The approach to finalising the plan is to therefore hold targeted discussions on key topics rather than provide for another round of broad general public input through a formal hearings process. This approach is consistent with the Biosecurity Act provisions.

Funding the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan

10. The proposed Regional Pest Management Plan presented a step change in pest management in Auckland, and therefore required a significant increase in investment.
11. As part of consultation on the Long-term Plan, the council sought the community's views on two options for increased investment in the natural environment funded by a targeted rate.
12. On 31 May 2018 the Governing Body approved the introduction of a natural environment targeted rate to raise \$311 million for environmental initiatives, including addressing kauri dieback and targeted ecological protection (Resolution number GB/2018/91).
13. This level of investment allows substantial (approximately 80 per cent), but not full implementation of the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan. Some changes to the proposed plan will be made to fit the funding envelope. These will be workshopped with elected members in late 2018 as set out above in Table One.

Next steps/implementation

14. The project team will progress development of the final Regional Pest Management Plan in line with the process and indicative timeframes outlined above.
15. If you have any questions about the information in this memo please contact Mara Bebich, Stakeholder Manager on 021 020 11736 or mara.bebich@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz