

Attachment C: Great Barrier Local Board feedback on the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan – August 2017

Issue	Proposed Approach	Supports Y/N	Comment
Cats	<p>To continue management of cats in areas of high biodiversity value as part of integrated pest control but potentially for an increased number of sites.</p> <p>To provide greater certainty cats will be defined as pests in these circumstances if they are not able to be identified by microchip or other means as being owned.</p> <p>Cats will continue to be controlled on areas of public land where threatened species are being protected (regardless of whether they are owned or unowned). Example sites: the open sanctuaries and 1okako/kiwi management area in the Hunua Ranges.</p>	Yes	Feral cats are a problem for the island and cat trapping has been funded by the board in past work programmes.
Possums	Landscape scale progressive containment programme to manage possums. Rural management would be integrated with management in high value biodiversity areas. This could be achieved using a targeted rate across rural Auckland.		Aotea Great Barrier Island does not have possums. Therefore, we would ask to be excluded from any local targeted rate for rural areas.
Widespread pest plants	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.	Yes	This programme should include low-incidence pest plants for GBI.

New ban of sale	Phasing out the sale of approximately 50 new plant pests and 13 new animal pests in addition to those currently identified.	Yes	
Road corridor weeds	Road corridor enforcement targeted to buffers around site-led programmes to maximise effectiveness.	Yes	In the strategic introductory section to note the objective in the Weed Management Plan to “minimize agrichemical use” especially in areas of high biodiversity values and where communities demand this.
Rabbits	Current approach, plus addition of good neighbour rule requiring landowner control on complaints basis to reduce impacts on neighbouring properties. Would apply to crown land as well as other land tenure classes. In strategic introductory section of pest management plan, signal aspiration to work with community over the long-term to move towards a rabbit-free Aotea.	Yes	Aotea has one of the highest rabbit control problems in the country. The only way to succeed is for DoC, iwi, community and council to collaborate on a unified approach.
Decline in birdsong	Current approach with some enhanced investment. In strategic introductory section of pest management plan, signal aspiration to work with community over the long-term to move towards a predator-free Aotea.	Yes	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.
Protection of the Hauraki Gulf/pathway management	Enhancement of pathway management for kauri dieback and a selection of pest plants, pathogens and animals within the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area.	Yes	Pathway management is a serious concern for Aotea, especially with potentially more tourists visiting due to the new Dark Sky Sanctuary. We need better support & systems at our airfields and wharves, plus education for boaties & residents. The board put funding towards Treasure Islands Ambassadors last financial year and ambassadors were not employed.

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 extent that protects the values of the parkland.	Yes	This programme should include low-incidence pest plants on Aotea. Plus in the strategic introductory section to note the objective in the Weed Management Plan to “minimize the use of agrichemicals” , especially in areas of high biodiversity values and where communities demand this.
Integrated management of pests	Elevated pest status for a wide range of pest plants and animals on the island, recognizing the island’s special values, defendability, and the need for integrated management.	Yes	
More 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.	Yes	The board fully supports this and has done so by recently funded a ‘Pests of Aotea’ booklet, plus the new biodiversity/biosecurity’ officer works with the community, schools and contractors to educate them on biosecurity issues. We believe education is the best method to maintain any control methods & garner community buy in.
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. The plan will support the Pest Free Auckland initiative, which focuses on community empowerment.	Yes	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 currently through our grant funding rounds.
Multi-species pest animal eradication	The strategic front section of the proposed plan to be used to signal the intent of working closely alongside the Great Barrier community, mana whenua and Department of	Yes	

	<p>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 for specifics).</p>		
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