

Attachment C: Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan feedback summary - Kaipātiki Local board

Previous local board feedback

1. During early engagement in 2014 and 2015, key issues were raised by the public in relation to cats, possums, widespread pest plants, and the ban of sale of some pest species. In addition to these regional issues, the Kaipātiki Local Board provided feedback on locally specific issues of importance to the area, including pest birds, wallabies, rodents kauri dieback, biocontrol, education and community pest control.
2. Proposed approaches to be taken in relation to these issues were workshopped with the board in July 2017. At its August 2017 business meeting the Kaipātiki Local board provided formal feedback regarding these proposed management approaches. A copy of this feedback is attached. In summary, the board was supportive of all proposed approaches, whilst also providing comment about how the proposals could be enhanced.

Proposed Plan Consultation Feedback

3. Consultation on the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan took place in February to March 2018 alongside consultation on the Long-term Plan and other statutory planning documents. 1,261 submissions were received, a large increase on the approximately 400 submissions that were received on the 2015 discussion document. The breakdown by submission type is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Regional breakdown by submission type

Submission type	Number of submissions	Percentage of submissions
Online form	1035	82%
Hardcopy form	183	15%
Non form	43	3%

4. Of the 1,261 submissions, 23 were pro forma submissions from Forest and Bird. The number of submissions received by local board area is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Breakdown by Local Board area

	Number of submitters	Percentage of submitters
Albert-Eden Local Board	116	9%
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board	53	4%
Franklin Local Board	50	4%
Great Barrier Local Board	24	2%
Henderson-Massey Local Board	46	4%
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board	85	7%
Howick Local Board	52	4%
Kaipātiki Local Board	98	8%
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board	17	1%
Manurewa Local Board	18	1%
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board	51	4%
Ōrākei Local Board	64	5%

Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board	7	1%
Papakura Local Board	21	2%
Puketāpapa Local Board	12	1%
Rodney Local Board	162	13%
Upper Harbour Local Board	41	3%
Waiheke Local Board	37	3%
Waitākere Ranges Local Board	87	7%
Waitematā Local Board	51	4%
Whau Local Board	41	3%
Regional	5	0%
Not Supplied	69	5%
Outside Auckland	55	4%
Total	1262	

5. The consultation feedback form asked respondents to answer eight questions relating to key programmes in the proposed plan that were described in a summary document. Responses to each from residents of the Kaipātiki Local Board area, and region-wide responses, are summarized below in Table 3. Where possible, responses were categorised by their level of support for that part of the plan, ranging from fully support to fully do not support. Responses that were a comment or suggestion without specifically indicating support or otherwise were coded as 'neutral comments'.

Table 3: Proposed RPMP feedback

Question	Response	% submissions local board	% submissions regional
1. What is your view on the proposed approach to pest plant management in parks?	Full support	20%	26%
	Partial support	27%	17%
	Partial do not support	2%	3%
	Full do not support	0%	2%
	Neutral comments	51%	53%
2. What is your view on the proposed approach to managing kauri dieback?	Full support	31%	27%
	Partial support	24%	29%
	Partial do not support	6%	5%
	Full do not support	0%	2%
	Neutral comments	38%	37%
3. What is your view on the proposed approach to prevent the spread of pests to the Hauraki Gulf Islands?	Full support	51%	46%
	Partial support	17%	19%
	Partial do not support	13%	12%
	Full do not support	0%	2%
	Neutral comments	19%	21%
4. What is your view on the proposed approach to managing pests on Aotea/Great Barrier?	Full support	33%	44%
	Partial support	25%	20%
	Partial do not support	0%	4%
	Full do not support	0%	2%
	Neutral comments	42%	30%

5. What is your view on the proposed approach to managing pests on Kawau Island?	Full support	49%	43%
	Partial support	24%	23%
	Partial do not support	1%	7%
	Full do not support	0%	4%
	Neutral comments	26%	23%
6. What is your view on the proposed approach to managing pests on Waiheke Island?	Full support	52%	44%
	Partial support	22%	21%
	Partial do not support	2%	5%
	Full do not support	0%	3%
	Neutral comments	25%	28%
7. What is your view on the proposed approach to the management of rural possums?	Full support	43%	38%
	Partial support	31%	28%
	Partial do not support	1%	7%
	Full do not support	3%	4%
	Neutral comments	22%	23%
8. What is your view on the proposed approach to the management of freshwater pests?	Full support	53%	46%
	Partial support	25%	23%
	Partial do not support	0%	4%
	Full do not support	0%	3%
	Neutral comments	22%	25%

6. Staff are working through detailed submissions to determine changes that are required to be made in the final RPMP. Table 4 below shows the three most common themes of suggested changes to the proposed plan. For each suggestion a proposed 'staff response' is also shown. Note that for some of these themes there may have been equal or more responses with the opposite view point. Because

these did not request a change to the proposed plan they have not been shown here. Prior to adoption of the operative plan a complete submissions analysis document will be prepared, which will show all themes in support as well as opposition. This will be circulated to local boards along with the copy of the final plan.

Table 4: Key feedback and proposed staff responses

Key Programmes	Submitter suggestions	Proposed Staff response	Staff recommendation	Recommended amendments to the proposed plan
Pests on parks	Suggest working with communities/community groups	Operational implementation of buffer rules around parks will involve a substantial comms and engagement component to encourage landowners to recognise and voluntarily remove pest plants, supported by rule enforcement when required. The Natural Environment Targeted Rate will also provide for enhanced facilitation of community conservation groups through Pest Free Auckland.	Accept	Retain approach from proposed plan
	Suggest expansion of sites included in parks programme	<p>The budget determined through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate does not provide for control and enforcement at all sites identified in the proposed plan. The spatial extent of the parks programme has been reduced to fit the targeted rate budget, with highest ecological value sites retained.</p> <p>Enforcement is less cost-effective than on-park control. Therefore the recommended approach is to prioritise on-park control, and extend enforcement only to highest priority sites.</p> <p>However, the RPMP site-led parks programme is not the only avenue by which council funds pest plant management on and around parkland. Many additional local parks will continue to receive on-park pest control through existing mechanisms (primarily</p>	Reject	Reduce spatial extent of site-led programme to fit within the budget provided through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate

		<p>the Ecological Restoration Contract), even though no statutory buffer programme is in place.</p> <p>The Natural Environment Targeted Rate also provides for Council to increase support to community conservation activity in and around other high value parkland through Pest Free Auckland.</p>		
	Suggest public comms and engagement	Operational implementation of buffer rules around parks will involve a substantial comms and engagement component to encourage landowners to recognise and voluntarily remove pest plants, supported by rule enforcement when required.	Accept	Retain approach from proposed plan
Kauri dieback	Support the closure of Waitākere Ranges	The proposed plan was drafted prior to the announcement of the rāhui and subsequent closure of the ranges. The operative plan will be updated to reflect these events.	Accept	Update operative plan to reflect council support of the rāhui and park closures.
	Suggest additional park or track closures.	High risk tracks have been closed within the Hunua Ranges, to protect Hunua kauri. At time of writing a small number of further closures have been made on the North Shore. Council may choose to close or re-open tracks over the next 10 years outside of the Regional Pest Management Plan framework. As noted above the plan will be updated to address park closures.	Accept in part	Update operative plan to reflect council support of the rāhui and park closures.
	Suggest further research, sometimes in conjunction with concern over lack of scientific certainty	The proposed approach recognises that kauri dieback management is challenging due to knowledge gaps, and that further research is an important component of kauri dieback management. Council contributes to research alongside other partner agencies.	Accept	Retain approach from proposed plan
	Disagree with inclusion of cats as a pest	Hauraki Gulf Islands are a globally significant sea bird hotspot. Over half the islands in the gulf are free	Accept in part	Staff are exploring options to mitigate

Pest spread to Hauraki Gulf Islands	(variety of reasons including animal welfare, concern over implications for companion animals).	<p>of mammalian pests and are important sites for species reintroductions and conservation. Cats are one of several pressures that require management on Hauraki Gulf islands to safeguard threatened species and prevent species extinctions.</p> <p>Many submitters expressed concerns regarding risks to pet cats. In many instances these are perceived rather than actual risks, with submitters assuming much more extensive cat control than is likely in practice. In addition, council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and are as humane as possible.</p> <p>While staff consider the approach set out in the proposed plan remains sound, staff are exploring options for mitigating these concerns in the wording of the final plan.</p>		submitter concerns in wording of final plan.
	Suggest public comms and engagement	Operational implementation of the plan will involve a substantial comms and engagement component to seek increases in voluntary behaviour change to reduce pest spread to islands. Rule enforcement would be used as a last resort.	Accept	Retain approach from proposed plan
	Do not support use of toxins	The Regional Pest Management Plan sets outcomes for pest management in the region but does not specify methods. Council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and minimise the use of toxins where possible.	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan
Aotea/Great Barrier	Suggest working with Aotea/Great Barrier community	Staff acknowledge that working with the Aotea/Great Barrier community will be pivotal to this programmes success. Operational delivery of the programme will therefore include in-depth community engagement.	Accept	Retain approach from proposed plan

	Do not support use of toxins	The Regional Pest Management Plan sets outcomes for pest management in the region but does not specify methods. Council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and minimise the use of toxins where possible.	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan.
	Suggest council collaboration with the Department of Conservation	Council and the Department of Conservation have existing collaborative relationships at all levels from operational field staff to senior managers, and will look to strengthen and extend these relationships over the lifetime of the plan.	Accept	Retain approach from proposed plan.
Kawau Island	Suggest working with Kawau community	Staff acknowledge that working with the Kawau community will be pivotal to this programmes success. Operational delivery of the programme will therefore include in-depth community engagement.	Accept	Retain approach from proposed plan.
	Do not support inclusion of wallabies (variety of reasons such as animal welfare, heritage value on Kawau) Note that more than twice the number of submitters supported wallaby control.	Staff acknowledge that some people value wallabies on Kawau for their historic and cultural significance. The cost benefit analyses accompanying the proposed plan concluded that the benefits that can be expected from the proposed approach outweigh the loss of these values. Council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and are as humane as possible.	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan.
	Do not support use of toxins	The Regional Pest Management Plan sets outcomes for pest management in the region but does not specify methods. Council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan.

		legislation and minimise the use of toxins where possible.		
Waiheke	Suggest working with Waiheke community	Staff acknowledge that working with the Waiheke community will be pivotal to this programmes success. The proposed plan seeks to support the community-led initiative Pest-free Waiheke.	Accept	Retain approach from proposed plan.
	Do not support the use of toxins	The Regional Pest Management Plan sets outcomes for pest management in the region but does not specify methods. Council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and minimise the use of toxins where possible.	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan.
	Concerns that mammal eradication may not be feasible on this inhabited island Note that over four times as many submitters supported the multi-species eradication approach.	Staff acknowledge there will be substantial challenges associated with achieving rat and stoat eradications from Waiheke. However, Aotearoa / New Zealand is a world leader in eradications. Many of our past eradications were thought unachievable at the time. Reinvasion can also be successfully managed, as demonstrated by Rangitoto-Motutapu which receive over 100,000 visitors per year yet remain mammal free.	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan.
Rural possums	Do not support use of toxins	The Regional Pest Management Plan sets outcomes for pest management in the region but does not specify methods. Council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and minimise the use of toxins where possible.	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan
	Suggest working with landowners and community groups	Operational planning will consider where outcomes might be achieved through resourcing of community possum control activity, although contracted works may be more suitable for this programme in many instances due to contractors typically being able to	Accept in part	Retain approach from proposed plan

		suppress possums to lower levels, over larger areas than is usually practical for community activity. The Natural Environment Targeted Rate will also provide for enhanced facilitation of community conservation groups through Pest Free Auckland, which can complement contracted works.		
	Suggest urban management	Although the proposed landscape-scale possum control applies only to rural areas, council may also undertake possum control in high ecological value parks or strategic peninsulas within urban areas. Council also facilitates community-led possum control through Pest Free Auckland. Staff acknowledge this is not well reflected in the formatting of the proposed plan.	Accept in part	Amend progressive containment programme to entire mainland.
Freshwater pests	Suggest freshwater management should focus on management of sediment and other pollutants	Management of freshwater pollutants falls outside the scope of the RPMP.	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan
	Suggest additional sites for management	The budget determined through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate does not provide for an increase in control beyond that provided for in the proposed plan. Community activity at other freshwater sites will instead be supported primarily through the Pest Free Auckland initiative. Site selection was based on a combination of ecological priority, existing community activity and ability to also manage other pressures at the site (e.g. nutrient enrichment).	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan
	Suggest new species	For species that were not included in the proposed plan at all, it is not open to the Council to insert a new pest in the final plan now (see below in 'other' section'). Some species were included in the	Accept in part	Consider additional species for inclusion in site-led programme.

		proposed plan at a regional level but not in the site-led programme due to their current absence from those sites. Staff acknowledge in some cases it may be useful to add species to the site-led programme even if they are not currently at those sites, to support potential future management in case of incursions.		
Other	Disagree with inclusion of cats as a pest (variety of reasons including animal welfare, concern over implications for companion animals).	<p>Many submitters expressed concerns regarding risks to pet cats. In many instances these are perceived rather than actual risks, with submitters assuming much more extensive cat control than is likely in practice. In addition, council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and are as humane as possible.</p> <p>While staff consider the approach set out in the proposed plan remains sound, staff are exploring options for mitigating these concerns in the wording of the final plan.</p>	Accept in part	Staff are exploring options to mitigate submitter concerns in wording of final plan.
	Suggest add new pest (included myrtle rust, marine pests, additional pest plants and animals)	It is not open to the Council to insert a new pest in the final plan now. This is due to Biosecurity Act process requirements as well as general principles of consultation. Following adoption of the operative plan it is open to council to add new species during the lifetime of the plan through a partial plan review under s100D of the Biosecurity Act.	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan

Table 5 highlights other substantive changes that may be required to the proposed plan in response to submissions (these points are not covered in table 4 as they did not receive a large amount of public feedback). Further changes may also be required as staff work through submissions, but are less significant.

Table 5: Additional substantive changes to plan

Key Programmes	Submitter suggestions	Proposed Staff response	Staff recommendation	Recommended amendments to the proposed plan
Pests on parks	Suggest additional species for parks programme	Staff thank submitters for their suggestions and consider some of these may have merit for inclusion to ensure parks are comprehensively protected from pest plant impacts. Further work is required to review suggestions and recommend possible additions. It is not open to council to add new species which were not included at all in the proposed plan, but it may be possible to add species to the site-led programme in some instances.	Accept in part	New species may be added to parks site-led programme subject to further consideration.
	Amend buffer boundaries to incorporate small pockets of land that are encircled by buffer but do not fall within 500m of any surrounding park	Staff acknowledge for simplicity of understanding by affected communities as well as operational completeness it would be preferable to avoid situations where small areas of land are excluded from encircling buffers e.g. Huia and Piha.	Accept	Consider smoothing mapped areas of buffers to remove these situations. May require re-wording of rule construction.
Pest spread to Hauraki Gulf Islands	Suggest moth plant be eradicated from the Hauraki Gulf	The budget determined through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate does not provide for the high cost to serve for enforcement of the proposed Hauraki Gulf landowner rule for moth plant. This species will therefore be managed through a non-regulatory approach on islands. Exceptions to this are retention of eradication programme on Aotea and sites which fall within buffer areas around priority parkland.	Reject	Remove Hauraki Gulf landowner rule for moth plant. Retain moth plant eradication programme for Aotea.

	Suggest stricter rules to prevent pest spread to islands	Staff are currently exploring in more detail the issues raised and possible options for strengthening pathway management while also complying with relevant legislations and principles of consultation.	Accept in part	Staff are exploring options to mitigate submitter concerns
Other	Query whether the proposed Good Neighbour Rule for rabbits is fair	Staff consider practical implementation of the proposed Good Neighbour Rule may be challenging due to issues of fairness and subjectivity.	Accept	Remove proposed rabbit Good Neighbour Rule from final plan.

Previous feedback from the Kaipātiki local board

Kaipātiki Local Board feedback on pest management approaches proposed for the Regional Pest Management Plan provided at August 2017 business meeting (Resolution number KT/2017/109)

That the Kaipātiki Local Board: a) endorses the proposed local board feedback as tabled on the proposed direction of specific regional and local programmes under consideration as part of the Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan review, noting that the Environment and Community Committee will be considering the draft Regional Pest Management Plan for public notification at its November 2017 meeting.

Regional Pest Management Plan feedback:

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 15okako/kiwi management area in the Hunua Ranges.</p>	Y	<p>The board accepts that cats (feral, unowned and domestic cats allowed to wander overnight) are predators and cause harm to native wildlife.</p> <p>There are also a large number of SEAs of high ecological value scattered across the board area.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The board suggests that a gradualist approach be taken so that controls are brought in overtime and gradually extended to all areas as community understanding of the 'cat' issue grows.</p>

Issue	Proposed Approach	Supports Y/N	Comment
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.	Y	The board is supportive of a landscape scale approach being taken of possums.
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.	Y	<p>Any site led programme also needs to cover SEAs partially or fully on private land if it is to be effective.</p> <p>Further detail is needed around what the approach would be in 'buffer areas'.</p> <p>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 council maximise the rate of return on its pest management investments.</p> <p>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.</p>

Issue	Proposed Approach	Supports Y/N	Comment
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.	Y	Any control on sale also needs to consider the issue of pest plant transport. While Kaipātiki is in the heart of the Auckland region, it would be very easy to transport prohibited plants into the area from outside the region.
Pest birds (pigeons)	Education and advice.	Y	The board supports this. The Pest Free Kaipātiki together with the Kaipātiki Project initiatives provides two models for how education and advice can be provided.
Wallabies (Kawau Island)	Region-wide eradication programme, comprised of two components: 1) multi-species eradication of wallabies, rats and possums on Kawau. incursion response programme for the remainder of the region to protect current wallaby-free status.	Y	
Rodents	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. Enhanced pathway management to protect islands. Sustained control programme for the remainder of the region focusing on support for community pest control initiatives.	Y	<p>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'.</p> <p>The 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.</p> <p>The board expects that our community volunteers will be part of any action to address</p>

Issue	Proposed Approach	Supports Y/N	Comment
			<p>pest rodents 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 council maximise the rate of return on its pest management investments.</p>
Kauri dieback	<p>Exclusion programme with pathway management rules to prevent the establishment of kauri dieback in high priority kauri dieback-free zones, comprised of the Hunua Ranges and Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area. Sustained control programme for the remainder of the region with pathway management rules to prevent the spread of kauri dieback to healthy kauri throughout the region.</p>	Y	<p>The board supports further measures to prevent kauri dieback.</p> <p>There are substantial pockets of kauri in the board area (which are currently thought to be uninfected).</p> <p>It would be disappointing if the regional programme ignored the protection of 'urban kauri'.</p>
Biocontrol	<p>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.</p>	Y	<p>The board has supported past releases.</p> <p>Better information around the success or otherwise of such releases is desirable to help inform the development of an enhanced biological control programme.</p>
More education around pests	<p>Provision of information and advice on pest identification, impacts and control, and increased communications around pathway management for a suite of species.</p>	Y	<p>The board supports this.</p> <p>Pest Free Kaipātiki and the Kaipātiki Project provide two models of differing approaches to</p>

Issue	Proposed Approach	Supports Y/N	Comment
			deliver information, advice and education on pest management.
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 defensible landscape features such as islands and peninsulas. The plan will support the Pest Free Auckland initiative, which focuses on community empowerment.	Y	<p>The board would not wish to see a priority being given to biodiversity focus areas and defensible landscape features to the exclusion of the wider urban area.</p> <p>The board and community's Pest Free Kaipātiki initiative provides a model for increased community control.</p> <p>The board expects continued regional support for this initiative.</p> <p>The Pest Free Kaipātiki initiative also provides a potential model for the next phase of regional pest management, ie. Addressing the urban areas and as such should be both nurtured and evaluated.</p>
Additional Comment			One size doesn't fit all. The Regional Pest Management Plan should allow for innovation, so that new and differing approaches can be trialled.

Issue	Proposed Approach	Supports Y/N	Comment
			<p>Alongside this all actions of the Regional Pest Management Plan should regularly monitored and evaluated.</p> <p>This will allow for the available resource to be better targeted over time and increase the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of the regional pest control actions.</p> <p>Any new innovative approaches also need to be evaluated for replicability and scalability. This will allow successful approaches to be rolled out into other areas.</p>