

**Attachment C: Upper Harbour Local Board feedback on the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan – August 2017 (UH/2017/119)**

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 Kokako/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>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.</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>
Possums	<p>Landscape scale progressive containment programme to manage possums. Rural management would be integrated with management in high value biodiversity areas.</p> <p>This could be achieved using a</p>	Y	<p>The board is supportive of a landscape scale approach being taken to possums.</p>

	targeted rate across rural Auckland.		
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	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 our 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 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.
New ban of sale	Phasing out the sale of approximately 50 new plant pests and 13 new animal pests	Y	The board supports this.

	in addition to those currently identified.		
Pest birds (pigeons)	Education and advice.	Y	The board supports this.
Wallabies (Kawau Island)	Region-wide eradication programme, comprised of two components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. multi-species eradication of wallabies, rats and possums on Kawau.</li> <li>ii. incursion response programme for the remainder of the region to protect current wallaby-free status.</li> </ul>	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	In order to achieve a landscape approach to rodent pest work 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.
Kauri dieback	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.	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 Kaipatiki.

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.	Y	The board would support the continued controlled release of biological control agents.
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.	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.
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	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. The board expects continued regional support for this initiative.
Rabbits		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 Onekiritia by advancing urbanisation. This is having a significant impact on understory of existing

			forests and efforts to reforest.
Myna		Y	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.