

## Previous feedback from the Waiheke Local Board

### **Attachment C: Feedback form Regional Pest Management Plan**

Waiheke Local Board feedback on pest management approaches proposed for the Regional Pest Management Plan.

The Local Board feels that the islands of the Waiheke Local Board Area should be recognised as valued site in its entirety. It's geographical isolation and location adjacent to many pest free islands make it an important contributor to the biological diversity of the entire Hauraki Gulf archipelago which is distinctive in 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 Hauraki Gulf islands.

Whist 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 NZ and receiving one third of all tourism to NZ, 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.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Proposed Approach</b>	<b>Supports Y/N</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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>	Y	<p><i>The boards supports the humane control of cats whether owned or unowned in areas of high biodiversity value.</i></p> <p><i>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</i></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 kōkako/kiwi management area in the Hunua Ranges.		<i>and Whakanewha) Some control is also in place on private land. Forest and Bird run an awareness campaign and together with the SCPA 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-bells. Included in the Waiheke New Residents' Pack, as 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 not to allow themselves to be caught in a cat trap more than once.</i>
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	<i>Critical that 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 islands to be maintained. Review of current processes recommended.</i>
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	<i>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.</i>

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	<i>Support the programme by ensuring there is no local sale of plant/animal pests including bungalow palm, phoenix palm, pest succulents</i>
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.	Y	<i>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.</i>
Feral pigs, rodents, mustelids	Eradication programmes for feral pigs and stoats on Waiheke Island.  Costing of eradication programme for rats on Waiheke Island.  Provision of advice and support to community groups undertaking pest control.  Enhanced investment in pathway management to prevent reinvasions within the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area.	Y	<i>Under current RPMS working towards eradication. The island is divided into mgt 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 Programme.</i>
Marine pests and protection of the Hauraki Gulf	Development of an inter-regional marine pathway management plan to manage spread of marine pests.	Y	<i>Support development and timely implementation of Marine Pathway Management Plan for the Hauraki Gulf to control marine pests such as fan worm and sea</i>

			<i>squirt. Ensure preventative cleaning of boats occurs in contained hardstand areas which has been supported by the Board's hardstand initiative at Ostend Causeway.</i>
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.	Y	<i>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.</i>
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	<i>Supports the suggested programme and requests sufficient staff resource to enable effective implementation on Waiheke and WLB islands.</i>
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	<i>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.</i>