

Memorandum

13 December 2018

To: Penny Hulse, Chair, Environment and Community Committee
Alf Filipaina, Deputy Chair, Environment and Community Committee

Cc: Sonja Tomovska, Governance Advisor
All Waitematā Local Board members

Subject: Formal feedback on the recommended changes to the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan

From: Waitematā Local Board

Purpose

1. To provide Waitematā Local Board's feedback on the recommended changes to the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan

Summary

- note that the residents in Waitematā Local Board area submitted the highest positive response to Auckland Council's Long-term Plan introducing a targeted rate for managing pests
- support the key focus areas across the region to improve environmental outcomes to protect and enhance New Zealand's unique native environment
- support the proposed regional focus and funding to improvements to Western Springs Lakeside Park & Auckland Domain in alignment with each Park Management Plan
- generally support the implementation and content of the proposed amended Plan
- support proceeding with the proposed controls on unowned cats provided more clarification and information is incorporated in the policy on the spatial extent of the approach
- support the possum containment policy applying across the region, including urban areas
- support greater enabling of community activities with the aim of reducing freshwater pests

Context/Background

2. The Waitematā Local Board Plan 2017 includes the following statement on protecting our natural heritage:

Our valued natural ecosystems and biodiversity are under threat from pest plants and animals. To address this challenge we will maintain our ecological restoration programmes and grow community capacity around managing weeds and getting rid of pests. We want the council to eliminate agrichemical spraying and embrace its commitment to minimise agrichemical use. You have told us to support alternative weed management techniques, such as the use of hot water and mechanical edging in parks. As a local board we support the target to make New Zealand predator free by 2050.

3. The Waitematā Local Board has committed funding towards delivering agrichemical free parks at Western Park, Albert Park, Myers Park and the non-sport field sections of Victoria Park.

Key Focus Areas for Waitematā

Pest Management (mammal/ vegetation)

- The Waitematā Local Board supports a plan that encourages volunteerism and long-term contracts to reduce flora and fauna pests
- The local board supports community empowerment and education initiatives around pest control including advice to neighbours, equipment and structured help.
- The local board recommends that a community lead “Pest Free Waitemata” programme is developed with a target of having 1 in 5 Waitematā houses & businesses participating in rodent trapping and regular seasonal surging.
- We recommend that a region wide educational programme is introduced to reduce pest plants on private land and that schools involvement is actively sought
- Currently Arch Hill, St Mary’s Bay and Newmarket Park contain significant invasive pest plants. It is requested that these three additional areas are included for funding through the natural environment targeted rate
- We support putting in place the necessary regional “carrots & sticks” to encourage and enforce pest management on public & private land

Freshwater pests

- The Waitematā Local Board area contains two major freshwater bodies of water; Auckland Domain and Western Springs Lakeside Park
- We support the natural environment targeted rate being directed to improve the water quality at both the Auckland Domain and Western Springs Lakeside Park.
- Waitematā Local Board would also welcome partnering with Watercare and Stormwater Regional projects to maximise available funds that can be directed towards our current water restoration programme at Waipapa Stream in Parnell, Newmarket Stream, Meola Creek (Waititiko) & Waiparuru (Symonds Street) to improve stream water quality and bio diversity.

Marine Biosecurity

- The Waitematā Local Board supports the Northern Region Integrated Marine Pest Pathogen Management Plan ahead of changes to MPI to tackle marine biosecurity.
- It is noted that our local board area has the region’s largest bio-security risk at Westhaven Marina, Viaduct Harbour, Cruise Ship Terminals, Ferry Terminals and Port operations. These operations along with large events such as the Auckland Boat Show, Volvo Around the World and America’s Cup events increases the introduction of further bio-security risks to marine life and transportation of marine pests to other parts of New Zealand.
- The Waitemata Local Board requests that regional funding is allocated to the Auckland’s City Centre waterfront to mitigate, reduce and remove existing and future bio security hazards through active management, active monitoring, strict enforcement of rules and education.
- The Waitematā Local Board has large scale pathogen waste water discharge issues from Meola Reef through to Hobson Bay. It is noted that Auckland Council is now supporting significant projects such as St Mary’s Bay Pump Station and the Central Interceptor to significantly reduce waste water.

- Waitematā Local Board are already jointly funding projects with other local boards to support initiatives such as the Meola Restoration project. We request that the council direct regional funding to support marine ecological restoration in parallel to these projects.
- The Waitematā Local Board encourages funding to be set aside over the next five years to assess the current state of the Niagara WWII wreckage and recommendations relating to mitigating crude oil leaks and/or removal of the oil of the ship to prevent the risk of a major oil spill.

Sanctuaries

- It is recommended that potential areas in the Waitematā Marine Area are identified to introduce a marine sanctuary eg. Meola Reef.
- It is recommended that potential areas in the Waitematā Urban Forrest are identified to introduce a wildlife sanctuary for the city centre eg. Western Springs and/or Auckland Domain.

Research & Development

- It is recommended that funding is set aside in partnership with MPI to prioritise university/private research into finding biosecurity solutions eg. Kauri Dieback and Styela Sea Squirt.

Measures

- It is recommended that KPIs and targets are developed for each of the environmental outcomes and that the “current state of play” is measured for each environmental outcome.
- It is requested that the Governing Body and local boards receive an annual report that allows progress to be monitored eg. Westhaven has % contamination of Styela Sea Squirt.