

# Local board resolutions in response to public feedback on the Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029

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## Albert-Eden Local Board

### Resolution number AE/2018/335

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

- a) receive a summary of consultation feedback from Albert-Eden residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.
- b) provide the following feedback on the recommended changes to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan:
  - i) request that Auckland Council should aim for Auckland to be a pest and weed-free city;
  - ii) support the approach that Auckland Council lead by example by managing plant and animal pests on council-owned land;
  - iii) support the identified priority parks and buffer zones mapped in the draft Regional Pest Management Plan;
  - iv) request the following additions to priority parks and buffer zones:

- A) Significant Ecological Areas on private land as well as public land;
  - B) extension of the currently mapped buffer zone of Te Auaunga/Oakley Creek to cover Eric Armishaw Reserve and Selwyn Retirement Village in Pt Chevalier;
  - C) Waititiko/Meola Creek as a mapped priority park;
  - D) Significant Ecological Area in Gribblehirst Park, Sandringham as a mapped priority park.
- v) request that Auckland Council work collaboratively with large landowners to control, contain and/or eradicate pests on their land, thereby minimising the impact of pest species across the region.
  - vi) support additional funding being used to work with community groups, and increase public communications and engagement;
  - vii) anticipate that Auckland Council will include community volunteer groups in decision-making about pest management in ecological areas within which the groups work;
  - viii) support, in principle, phasing out of sale of further plant and animal pests.

## **Devonport-Takapuna Local Board**

### **Resolution number DT/2018/199**

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

- a) receive a summary of consultation feedback from Devonport-Takapuna residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.
- b) provide feedback on the recommended changes to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan based on consultation feedback as follows:
  - i. request that carp and eel grass be considered fresh water pests in the Regional Pest Management Plan.
  - ii. does not support the proposed plan to eradicate wallabies from Kawau Island.

## **Franklin Local Board**

### **Resolution number FR/2018/175**

That the Franklin Local Board:

- a) receive a summary of consultation feedback from Franklin residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.
- b) supports the recommended changes to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan.
- c) recommends that the cost benefit of enforcing good pest management practices on private land should factor in the community good of the compliance role, not just the financial considerations, as there will be occasions where private landowners do not voluntarily control pest plants on their land.

## **Great Barrier Local Board**

### **Resolution number GBI/2018/67**

That the Great Barrier Local Board:

- a) receive the summary of consultation feedback from the residents of Aotea Great Barrier Island on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.
- b) delegate Member S Daly in discussion with other board members to provide its formal written feedback on the recommended changes to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan based on consultation feedback.

### **Great Barrier Regional Pest Management Plan feedback**

Aotea Great Barrier Local Board provides the following feedback to the Regional Pest Management Plan:

Thank you for the acknowledgement of Aotea Great Barrier Island and initiatives in the plan designed to protect and enhance our special ecology.

We note the recommended changes to the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan based on the consultation feedback and would like to highlight the following:

- Pest Management cannot be successful without collaboration with mana whenua, community members, Department of Conservation and Auckland Council as it requires a unified approach. We need quality engagement and buy in at all levels.
- Feral cats are a problem for our island and need to be managed by best practice. We suggest that all domestic cats on and visiting Aotea be desexed, have a reflective collar and be microchipped for clear identification.
- Protection of the Hauraki Gulf vector pathway management is vitally important to our island and we are supportive of any initiatives such as the Treasure Island Ambassador's education of visitors, and wharf and airport freight inspections. We request greater monitoring and enforcement options.
- We support community feedback that further research is an important component of kauri dieback management and are open to participating in any research programmes.
- We will support the inclusion of new pests such as myrtle rust, marine and freshwater pests through a partial plan review under section 100D of the Biosecurity Act.
- We support the retention of the Moth Plant eradication programme for Aotea Great Barrier Island.

### **Henderson-Massey**

#### **Resolution number HM/2018/181**

That the Henderson-Massey Local Board:

- a) receive a summary of consultation feedback from Henderson-Massey residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.
- b) support the recommended changes to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan based on consultation feedback.

### **Hibiscus and Bays Local Board**

#### **Resolution number HB/2018/202**

That the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board:

- a) receive a summary of consultation feedback from Hibiscus and Bays residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan
- b) provide the following feedback on the recommended changes to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan (the Plan) based on consultation feedback:
  - i) note that most respondents from Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area supported the Plan
  - ii) support the increased control of pest plants and animals in parks and the intention to provide community groups with funding and other assistance to implement the Plan in our parks
  - iii) support the community feedback suggesting the need for substantial public communications and engagement to encourage landowners to recognize and voluntarily remove pest plants, supported by enforcement when required
  - iv) agree with the Plan's focus on addressing Kauri Dieback, and further requests that more attention is given to Hibiscus and Bays Local Board areas that don't currently exhibit symptoms of this disease in order to avoid the disease spreading in the future
  - v) support urban management of possum control in high ecological value parks, and strategically important urban areas
  - iv) request that cats should only be live-trapped, in clearly defined areas that have been widely publicised, and that any cats caught are checked for microchips and returned to their owners
  - v) request council work on a communications plan to address the need for micro-chipping cats and controlling their access to predator free locations.

## **Howick Local Board**

### **Resolution number HW/2018/193**

That the Howick Local Board:

- a) receive a summary of consultation feedback from Howick residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.
- b) note the boards feedback on the regional pest management strategy in Attachment A.

*[Note – Attachment C has been included, as Attachment A to the report included the staff's proposed changes to the plan, rather than local board feedback].*

### **Attachment C: Howick Local Board feedback on the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan – August 2017**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Proposed Approach</b>	<b>Supports Y/N</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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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 kōkako/kiwi management area in the Hunua Ranges.</p>	YES	<p>The Howick Local Board agree that feral cats are an issue in Howick particularly in Half Moon Bay and also in and around shopping centers at night.</p> <p>The board is aware of the issue with cat lovers and the role of cats as a pet; however, the board recognizes the difference between owned cats and unowned cats.</p> <p>The board supports that all bird predators must be managed at the same time.</p>
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.	YES	Community based backyard possum control should be supported by local boards, particularly where private residents' properties border rural catchments or public parks and reserves.
Widespread pest plants	Site-led programme for parks with significant ecological areas (including coastal parks in the Howick local board area such as Mangemangeroa Reserve) 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	Howick Local Board supports this approach and endorses the need for more education on pest plants.
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	Howick Local Board supports this approach.

Rodents and Mustelids	Site-led programmes for parks with significant ecological areas (including coastal parks in the Howick local board area such as Mangemangeroa Reserve) and the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area, to manage rodents and mustelids 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.	YES	Howick Local Board supports this approach and continues to actively support the community in combating rats. The board would like to see a “rat free” Howick and more funding for rat traps and other control methods coordinated across the Howick ward.
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	Howick Local Board supports this approach.  Various communication channels need to be used to maximize this message.
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.	YES	Howick Local Board supports this approach.

## **Kaipātiki Local Board**

### **Resolution number KT/2018/233**

That the Kaipātiki Local Board:

- a) receive a summary of consultation feedback from Kaipātiki residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.
- b) provide feedback on the recommended changes to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan based on consultation feedback as tabled.

### **KAIPĀTIKI LOCAL BOARD FEEDBACK ON THE REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Pest management is an important issue for the Kaipātiki Local Board, with the community-led Pest Free Kaipātiki strategy being one of the key objectives its Local Board Plan 2017, specifically Outcome 2: Our natural environment is protected for future generations to enjoy.

The Kaipātiki Local Board:

- Supports the proposed approach in the Regional Pest Management Plan to pest plant management in parks (full support – 20%; partial support – 27%; partial non-support – 2%; neutral – 51%)
- Supports the proposed approach in the Regional Pest Management Plan to managing kauri dieback (full support – 31%; partial support – 24%; partial non-support – 6%; neutral – 38%), noting that kauri dieback has been confirmed in some local reserves in Kaipātiki, compounding the urgency for efforts to contain the disease and prevent its spread to unaffected parks and reserves in the rest of the local board area
- Supports the proposed approach in the Regional Pest Management Plan to prevent the spread of pests to the Hauraki Gulf Islands in line with the views expressed in submissions from the local board area (full support – 51%; partial support – 17%; partial non-support – 13%; neutral – 19%)
- Supports the proposed approach in the Regional Pest Management Plan to managing pests on Aotea/Great Barrier (full support – 33%; partial support – 25%; neutral – 42%)
- Supports the proposed approach in the Regional Pest Management Plan to managing pests on Kawau Island (full support – 49%; partial support – 24%; partial non-support – 1%; neutral – 26%)
- Supports the proposed approach in the Regional Pest Management Plan to managing pests on Waiheke Island (full support – 52%; partial support – 22%; partial non-support – 2%; neutral – 25%)
- Supports the proposed approach in the Regional Pest Management Plan to the management of rural possums (full support – 43%; partial support – 31%; partial non-support – 1%; full non-support – 3%; neutral – 22%)
- Supports the proposed approach in the Regional Pest Management Plan to the management of freshwater pests (full support – 53%; partial support – 25%; neutral – 22%)

Noting that local feedback has been largely supportive and in line with the regional response to the draft plan, categorised according to the following broad themes:

#### Pest plant management in parks

- The importance of working with communities/community groups. The Kaipātiki local board area contains one of the largest areas of continuous urban native vegetation remaining in Auckland and our community volunteers form a vital component of all environmental and conservation efforts through active and established volunteer groups such as Pest Free Kaipātiki and Kaipātiki Project. With 30% tree cover spread between public and private landowners in the Kaipātiki Local Board area, the importance of pest management to protect our green spaces is recognised by our community. During public consultation for the Long Term Plan 2018-2028, one of the local priorities we had suggested was greater investment into environmental projects such as the community-led Pest Free Kaipātiki initiative. This received the most support among our local priorities with 74% in favour, and just 9% against.
- The importance of protecting Significant Ecological Areas on private land – the Kaipātiki local board area enjoys approximately 540ha of local parks and reserves. Some of these are high in ecological value and have been diligently conserved and cared for by community volunteers. However, some areas of ecological significance fall on private land and require working with landowners to protect and prevent the loss of important species within them
- The need for the ability to enforce weed removal on Crown land and land controlled by council controlled organisations. Officers will need the right tools for effective enforcement, and best practice examples of behaviour change programmes will need to be researched.
- Request that Wilding Pines be added to the list of widespread pest plants, noting that as a large percentage of our forest coverage is wildling pine, a gradual and careful strategy is required in order to prevent "gaps" in our bush, mitigate ground damage, prevent weeds from taking the place of the pines, and ensure adequate replacement planting.
- The importance of public comms and engagement to support the effort around the removal of pest plants in parks, particularly in encouraging landowners to recognise and voluntarily remove identified infestations on their property.

#### Kauri dieback

- Note that substantial pockets of kauri exist in our local board area, and kauri dieback has been confirmed in some areas
- Priority is to mitigate and, if possible, prevent the further spread of kauri dieback in our local parks and reserves
- Support for the regional process to mitigate and prevent the spread of kauri dieback through track upgrades and public restrictions, as reported at the 17 Oct business meeting of the Kaipātiki Local Board.
- Recognise existing knowledge gaps about kauri dieback management, and support further research alongside partner agencies.

#### Rural possums

- Support working with landowners and community groups for possum-control activity where practicable, noting that the Natural Environment Targeted Rate can be used to provide enhanced facilitation of community conservation groups
- Support the urban management of possums, particularly in high ecological value parks such as Eskdale Reserve and Kauri Park

#### Other

- Acknowledge that cats, specifically strays or unowned, are an issue in the local board area, and request that the ownership and sale of the Bengal breed of cats be restricted and eventually phased out due to their particular predatory threat to native



wildlife. The board is therefore supportive of non-lethal measures to manage strays or unowned cats in important biodiversity areas in the proposed plan. However, education alongside such efforts is needed to ensure community support, along with collaboration with organisations such as the SPCA. A gradualist approach should be adopted here, allowing reasonable lead in time for the public to adjust to any new measures will also be needed.

- Support for a multi-species eradication programme of wallabies, rats and possums on Kawau Island, and a region-wide incursion response programme for the remainder of the region to protect the current wallaby-free status

### **Kaipātiki specific issues**

Additionally, as per its 21 May 2014 and 26 July 2017 workshops, the Kaipātiki Local Board reiterates:

- Support the urban management of mice, possums, rats and stoats
- The addition of pigeons as a pest bird
- The need for an enhanced biological control programme focused on controlling an increased number of priority pest plants through the release, in greater numbers, of identified pre-existing and new biological control agents
- The ban of sale of approximately 50 new plant pests and 13 new animal pests in addition to those identified in the plan, given the ease of transporting prohibited plants into the Kaipātiki local board area, being situated in the heart of the Auckland region
- The need for the inclusion of Significant Ecological Areas partially or fully on private land in any site-led programme to manage rats
- The importance of community pest control to maximise the return on investment of council's pest management efforts, given the established and well organised environmental groups present in the Kaipātiki local board area
- The importance of public education around pests to support pest management efforts
- As a general approach, the Regional Pest Management Plan should be flexible enough to allow for innovation informed by regular monitoring and evaluation. Evaluations should also assess the replicability and scalability of new innovative approaches, to allow the successful roll out of such measures in other areas. These will ensure available resources can be better targeted over time to maximise the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of regional pest control efforts.

### **Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board**

#### **Resolution number MO/2018/200**

That the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board:

- a) receive a summary of consultation feedback from Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.
- b) gives the following points as feedback on the recommended changes to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan based on consultation feedback:
  - i) the board supports the proposed changes.
  - ii) requests that use of the regional targeted rate for pest management in local areas is applied in consultation with local boards

- iii) the board asks that three locations – Ambury Regional Park, Pūkaki Crater and Ōtuataua Stonefields be given priority in the plan implementation. The areas are of importance to the wider Auckland community and of significance to mana whenua.
- iv) notes a further comment that only feral cats are to be considered as pests – those that have not interacted with human habitation. The general concern otherwise raised is to do with issue of stray cats.

## **Manurewa Local Board**

### **Resolution number MR/2018/206**

That the Manurewa Local Board:

- a) receive the summary of consultation feedback from Manurewa residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.
- b) note the recommended changes to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan based on consultation feedback with the following feedback:
  - i) recommend that the pest species suggested by the board to be added to the plan be looked at again for addition to the plan once it is operative either through a partial plan review under section 100D of the Biosecurity Act, or as additions to site-led programmes.
  - ii) endorse the concerns expressed by the community about the inclusion of cats as a pest under the plan and the need for changes to how cat controls are described in the plan to address those concerns.

## **Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board**

### **Resolution number MT/2018/188**

That the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board:

- a) receive a summary of consultation feedback from Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan;
- b) provide the following feedback on the recommended changes to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan based on consultation feedback:
  - i) endorse the approach that Auckland Council lead by example by managing plant and animal pests on council-owned land;
  - ii) endorse the identified priority parks and buffer zones mapped in the draft Regional Pest Management Plan;
  - iii) recommend that the Regional Pest Management Plan includes working collaboratively with or assisting large landowners such as the Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Education, Housing New Zealand, Housing Land Community and Tāmaki Regeneration Company to control and contain pests on their land, thereby minimising the impact of pest species across the region;
  - iv) recommend working with mana whenua, mataawaka and community groups, and increase public communications and engagement;
  - v) advocate for pest and weed control undertaken by Auckland Council in compliance with the RPMP use sustainable and eco-friendly methods, for example minimizing the use of agrichemicals;

- vi) recommend changing the term 'pest cat' to 'wild cat' and endorse the control of wild cats alongside community education and communication to ensure the protection of companion cats.

## **Ōrākei Local Board**

### **Resolution number OR/2018/234**

That the Ōrākei Local Board:

- a) support the approach that Auckland Council lead by example by managing plant and animal pests on all council-owned land.
- b) support the identified priority parks and buffer zones mapped in the draft Regional Pest Management Plan.
- c) request the following additions to priority parks and buffer zones in the draft Regional Pest Management Plan:
  - i) Te Tauoma/Purchas Hill and Taurere/Mt Taylor as mapped priority parks.
- d) request that Auckland Council work with large landowners such as the Ministry for the Environment, New Zealand Transport Agency, Kiwirail, Housing New Zealand and Ministry of Education to control and contain pests on their land, thereby minimising the impact of pest species across the region.
- e) support Auckland Council in taking a proactive approach to enforcing the Regional Pest Management Plan as part of the Council's statutory responsibility under the Biosecurity Act 1993.
- f) support additional regional funding being used to work with community groups, and increase public knowledge through engaging communications and education.
- g) support the addition of Myrtle Rust as a pest to the Regional Pest Management Plan.

## **Ōtara-Papatoetoe**

### **Resolution number OP/2018/220**

That the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board:

- a) receive a summary of consultation feedback from Ōtara-Papatoetoe residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.
- b) endorse the proposed amendments to the plan (outlined in Attachment B of the report) in response to public consultation feedback.
- c) request pest eradication along rail corridors to be prioritised in the implementation of this plan.
- d) request Council to look at the use of herbicides and in particular glyphosate and how we can minimise potential health risks for our community

*[Note – Attachment B has not been included in this summary because it consists of changes suggested by staff, rather than local board feedback]*

## **Papakura**

### **Resolution number PPK/2018/203**

That the Papakura Local Board:

- a) receive the summary of consultation feedback from Papakura residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.
- b) note the recommended changes to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan based on consultation feedback with the following feedback:
  - i) recommend that the pest species suggested by the board to be added to the plan be looked at again for addition to the plan once it is operative either through a partial plan review under section 100D of the Biosecurity Act, or as additions to site-led programmes.
  - ii) endorse the concerns expressed by the community about the inclusion of unchipped cats as a pest under the plan and the need for changes to how cat controls are described in the plan to address those concerns.
  - iii) recommend easy to access advice, and if necessary, equipment be made available to make it easy for people to eradicate pests whether plant or animal based.
  - iv) recommend Privet on berms and carriageways should be included in the plan.

## **Puketāpapa**

### **Resolution number PKTPP/2018/236**

That the Puketāpapa Local Board:

- a) note the deferral of the Puketāpapa Local Board feedback from the 15 November 2018 Puketāpapa Local Board Business meeting was to enable members to consider the detail of local submissions.
- b) provide the following feedback on the Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan to the Environment and Community Committee.
  - i.) support staff recommendations in response to some feedback from constituents disagreeing with the inclusion of cats as a pest.
  - ii) note the increased importance of the Waikowhai Coast as a recreational area due to the large reduction of access into the Waitakere Ranges.
  - iii) request that the Waikowhai Coast (and neighbouring bush reserves) be considered as a priority for regional pest management.
  - iv) support the closure of the Waitakere Ranges due to kauri dieback.
  - v) support retaining the proposed approach to the use of toxins in relation to rural possums and officer's acceptance in part of urban management in high ecological value urban areas - especially in relation to the Waikowhai Coast.
  - vi) support the management of rabbits through available bio control agents and advice provision.
  - vii) advocate for strong collaboration with community stakeholders to target weeds and pests along the coast, waterways and maunga.
  - viii) support community initiative pest management programmes to help eliminate pests.

## **Rodney**

### **Resolution number RD/2018/146**

That the Rodney Local Board:

- a) receive a summary of consultation feedback from Rodney residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.
- b) provide the following feedback on the recommended changes to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan (the Plan) based on consultation feedback:
  - i) note that most respondents in Rodney to the consultation supported the Plan
  - ii) support the increased control of pests in parks and the intention to provide community groups with funding and other assistance to implement the Plan in our parks
  - iii) support the community feedback and request that the number of parks' sites and community groups in Rodney receiving support be expanded to have the most impact on reducing pests
  - iv) request that the Plan retain the 20 metre buffer zone in rural areas on private land for the control of pest plants
  - v) agree with the Plan's focus on addressing Kauri Dieback, and further requests that more attention is given to Rodney areas that don't currently exhibit symptoms of this disease in order to avoid the disease spreading in the future.
  - vi) request that cats should only be live-trapped, in clearly defined areas that have been widely publicised, and that any cats caught are checked for microchips and returned to their owners
  - vii) request council work on a communications plan to address the need for micro-chipping cats and controlling their access to predator free locations.

## Upper Harbour

### Resolution number UH/2018/145

That the Upper Harbour Local Board:

- a) receive a summary of consultation feedback from Upper Harbour residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.
- b) provide feedback on the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan as outlined in Attachment C to the agenda report.

### 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	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.  To provide greater certainty cats will be	Y	The board accepts that cats (feral, unowned and domestic cats allowed to wander overnight) are predators and cause harm to native wildlife.  There are also a large number of SEAs of high ecological value scattered across the board area.

	<p>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>		<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. This could be achieved using a targeted rate across rural Auckland.</p>	Y	<p>The board is supportive of a landscape scale approach being taken to possums.</p>
Widespread pest plants	<p>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.</p>	Y	<p>Any site led programme also needs to cover surrounding area 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 included in any planned action to address pest plants on council land. The contribution of volunteers (both directly on parks and</p>

			<p>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. 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.</p>
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	The board supports this.
Pest birds (pigeons)	Education and advice.	Y	The board supports this.
Wallabies (Kawau Island)	<p>Region-wide eradication programme, comprised of two components:</p> <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	<p>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.</p> <p>Sustained control programme for the remainder of the region focusing on support for community pest control initiatives.</p>	Y	<p>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.</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.</p> <p>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>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.</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 would support the continued controlled release of biological control agents.</p>



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	<p>The board supports this.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Specific note should be taken of the work of the Chinese Conservation Trust who is providing education to their ethnic community.</p>
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.	Y	<p>The board would not wish to see a priority being given to biodiversity focus areas and defendable landscape features to the exclusion of the wider urban area.</p> <p>The board expects continued regional support for this initiative.</p>
Rabbits		N	<p>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 Onekiritea by advancing urbanisation. This is having a significant impact on understory of existing forests and efforts to reforest.</p>
Myna		Y	<p>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</p>

			in Myna control to support migration of wildlife between reserves.
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## Waiheke

### Resolution number WHK/2018/226

That the Waiheke Local Board:

- a) receive a summary of consultation feedback from Waiheke residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.
- b) provide feedback on the recommended changes to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan after further deliberation.

### Resolution number WHK/2019/12

That the Waiheke Local Board:

- a) approve the feedback on the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan.

Feedback on Staff Responses to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan

Key Programmes	Submitter Suggestion	Proposed staff response	Staff recommendation	Recommended amendments to proposed plan	Board feedback
Pests on parks	Suggest working with communities/community groups	The operational implementation of buffer rules around parks will involve a proactive communications 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	The board supports the staff recommendation
	Suggest expansion of sites included in parks programme	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 the highest ecological value sites retained.  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.	Reject	Reduce spatial extent of sited programme to fit within the budget provided through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate	The board supports the staff recommendation to target the sites of highest ecological value.

	Suggest public communications and engagement	The operational implementation of buffer rules around parks will involve a substantial communications 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	The board supports the staff recommendation
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 the council's support of the rāhui and park closures.	The board supports the staff recommendation
	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. The council may choose to close or re-open tracks over the next 10 years outside of the Regional Pest Management Plan framework. The operative plan will be updated to reflect park closures, but not all sites suggested by submitters may be included.	Accept in part	Update operative plan to reflect the council's support of the rāhui and park closures.	The board supports the staff recommendation and supports track closures to protect kauri subject to all relevant formal approvals
	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. The council contributes to research alongside other partner agencies including the Ministry for Primary Industries and the Department of Conservation.	Accept	Retain approach from proposed plan	The board encourages council to urge central government to lead on KDD research and divert council resources to managing KDD in the Auckland region and on preventing its further spread.
Pest spread to Hauraki Gulf Islands	Disagree with inclusion of cats as a pest (variety of reasons)	The Hauraki Gulf Islands are a globally significant sea bird hotspot. Over half the islands in the gulf are free of mammalian pests and are important sites for species	Accept	Accept in part	The board supports the best practice control of cats

	including animal welfare, concern over implications for companion animals).	reintroductions and conservation. Cats are one of several pressures that require management on Hauraki Gulf Islands to safeguard threatened species and prevent species extinctions. 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. The council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and are as humane as possible. 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.			whether owned or unowned, in areas of high biodiversity value. The board recommends continuous improvement of trapping procedures. The board will give final feedback when final wording is confirmed.
	Suggest public communications and engagement	The operational implementation of the plan will involve a substantial communications and engagement component to encourage voluntary behaviour change to reduce pest spread to islands. Rule enforcement would be used as a last resort.	Accept	Retain approach from proposed plan	The board supports the staff recommendation
	Do not support use of toxins	The Regional Pest Management Plan sets outcomes for pest management in the region but does not specify methods, therefore this submission theme is not applicable to the statutory plan. The council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and minimise the use of toxins where possible.	Accept	Reject (not applicable)	The board supports the staff recommendation but requests that staff ensure that the RPMP aligns with, and defers to, board policy on dispensation for the use of agriculturals and toxins on council land.
Aotea Great Barrier	Suggest working with Aotea	Staff acknowledge that working with the Aotea Great Barrier community will be	Accept	Retain approach from proposed plan	The board supports the staff

	Great Barrier community	pivotal to this programmes success. Operational delivery of the programme will therefore include in-depth community engagement.			recommendation
	Do not support use of toxins	The Regional Pest Management Plan sets outcomes for pest management in the region but does not specify methods, therefore this submission theme is not applicable to the statutory plan. The council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and minimise the use of toxins where possible.	Accept	Reject (not applicable)	n/a
	Suggest Auckland Council collaboration with the Department of Conservation	The 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.	The board supports the staff recommendation
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.	The board supports the staff recommendation
	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. The 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.	n/a
	Do not support use of toxins	The Regional Pest Management Plan sets outcomes for pest	Accept	Reject (not applicable)	n/a

		management in the region but does not specify methods, therefore this submission theme is not applicable to the statutory plan. The council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and minimise the use of toxins where possible.			
Waiheke Island	Suggest working with Waiheke community	Staff acknowledge that working with the Waiheke community will be pivotal to the success of this programme. The proposed plan seeks to support the community-led initiative Te Korowai o Waiheke.	Accept	Retain approach from proposed plan.	The board supports the staff recommendation
	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, therefore this submission theme is not applicable to the statutory plan. The council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and minimise the use of toxins where possible.	Accept	Reject (not applicable)	The board supports the staff recommendation but requests that staff ensure that the RPMP aligns with, and defers to, board policy on dispensation for the use of agrichemicals and toxins on council land.
	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 and Motutapu islands which receive over 100,000 visitors per year yet remain mammal free.	Reject	Reject (not applicable)	The board supports the staff recommendation. Note that the board strongly endorses the Waiheke 2025 Pest-free Plan and suggests this be reflected in the RPMP

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, therefore this submission theme is not applicable to the statutory plan. The council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and minimise the use of toxins where possible.	Reject (not applicable)	Retain approach from proposed plan	The board supports the staff recommendation. It is critical that the containment programme is maintained for Waiheke and other possum-free islands in the Hauraki Gulf but that the methodology is adapted to prioritise high value areas.
	Suggest working with landowners and community groups	Operational planning will consider where outcomes might be achieved through resourcing of community possum control activity. Contracted works may be more suitable for this programme in many instances due to contractors typically being able to 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.	Accept in part	Retain approach from proposed plan	The board supports the staff recommendation
	Suggest urban management	Although the proposed landscape-scale possum control applies only to rural areas, the council may also undertake possum control in high ecological value parks or strategic peninsulas within urban areas. The 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.	The board supports the staff recommendation. It is critical that the containment programme is maintained for Waiheke and other possum-free islands in the Hauraki



					Gulf but that the methodology is adapted to prioritise high value areas.
Freshwater pests	Suggest freshwater management should focus on management of sediment and other pollutants	Management of freshwater pollutants falls outside the scope of the Regional Pest Management Plan.	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan	The board supports the staff recommendation
	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 manage other pressures at the site, such as nutrient enrichment.	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan	The board supports the staff recommendation
	Suggest new species	For species that were not included in the proposed plan, it is not possible for the council to include new pests in the final plan at this stage (see below in 'other' section' for further explanation). Some species were included in the proposed plan at a regional level but not in the site-led programme due to their current absence from those sites. 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.	Accept in part	Consider additional species for inclusion in site-led programme.	The board supports the staff recommendation and wants expansion around high value sites to include invasive species such as moth-plant, rhamnus, climbing asparagus, tradescantia and Japanese honeysuckle . There must be recognition of prior

					major investments in plant pest control.
Other	Disagree with inclusion of cats as a pest (variety of reasons including animal welfare, concern over implications for companion animals).	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, the council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and guidance provided by the SPCA, Ministry of Primary Industries and the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. 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.	Accept in part	Staff are not recommending any changes to the current proposed methods. Staff are considering changes to how these controls are described, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the possibility to refer to unowned cats rather than pest cats;</li> <li>• ways in which the spatial extent of the proposed approach can be clarified.</li> </ul>	The board will give final feedback when final wording is confirmed. The board supports the best practice control of cats whether owned or unowned. In areas of high biodiversity value. The board recommends continuous improvement of trapping procedures
	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 the council to add new species during the lifetime of the plan through a partial plan review under section 100D of the Biosecurity Act.	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan	The board supports the staff recommendation and further recommends that council add new pest species as they arise.
		<b><u>Additional substantive changes to plan</u></b> Table 2 below highlights other substantive changes that may be required to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan to fit within the available budget provided by the Natural Environment Targeted Rate, or in response to submissions (these points are not covered above as they did not receive a large amount of public feedback). Less significant changes may be required as			

		staff work through submissions.			
	Pests on parks	Some of the suggested parks may have merit for inclusion in the plan to ensure parks are comprehensively protected from pest plant impacts. Further work is required to review suggestions and to recommend possible additions. It is not open to the council to add new species which were not included in the proposed plan, but in some instances it may be possible to add species to the site-led programme.	Accept in part	New species may be added to parks site-led programme, subject to further consideration.	The board supports the staff recommendation and wishes to see expansion around high value sites to include invasive species such as moth-plant, rhamnus, climbing asparagus, tradescantia and Japanese honeysuckle.
	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, that it is preferable to avoid situations where small areas of land are excluded from encircling buffers, such as Huia and Piha.	Accept	Consider amending mapped areas of buffers to remove these situations. May require re-wording of rule construction.	The board supports the staff recommendation
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 sufficient funding 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 the retention of eradication programme on Aotea Great Barrier, and sites which fall within buffer areas around priority parkland.	Reject	Remove Hauraki Gulf good neighbour rule for moth plant. Retain moth plant eradication programme for Aotea Great Barrier.	The board does not support this recommendation and believes that the Hauraki Gulf Islands good neighbour rule should be retained and that budget from the targeted rate should be allocated to the

					control of moth plant in high value sites.
	Suggest stricter rules to prevent pest spread to islands	Staff are currently exploring in more detail the issues raised and the 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	The board supports the staff recommendation and supports the implementation of stricter measures including the Waiheke KDD Protection Plan.
Other	Query whether the proposed Good Neighbour Rule for rabbits is fair	Staff consider practical implementation of the proposed rabbit good neighbour rule may be challenging due to issues of fairness and subjectivity.	Accept	Remove proposed rabbit good neighbour rule from final plan and manage rabbits through available biocontrol agents and advice provision	The board does not support the staff recommendations and requests retaining the rabbit good neighbour rule.

## Waitākere Ranges

### Resolution number WTK/2018/159

That the Waitākere Ranges Local Board:

- a) receive a summary of consultation feedback from Waitākere Ranges residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.
- b) delegate authority to provide feedback on the draft Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan to Deputy Chair S Toms and Member S Coney.

### Feedback on Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan from Waitākere Ranges Local Board

#### 1. Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008

The Waitakere Ranges Local Board area covers almost all of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area which was established by statute in 2008. The Act puts particular responsibility on to Auckland Council to implement the Act and make decisions consistently with it. Consequently the Board has a particular responsibility to ensure that the needs of the area are met in any Auckland Council plan or policy.

The Act recognises that the Waitakere Ranges are unique in New Zealand. The Local Board area is over 80% native vegetation cover, and contains 40% of the native vegetation in the region. It is close to a rapidly growing urban area, has a temperate climate and a rainfall that

is 40% higher than the rest of Auckland. The damage caused by kauri die-back should serve as an alert to the harm that can be caused by biosecurity risks, and the challenges of managing these in close proximity to a large centre of population.

The Local Board was expecting that the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan would recognise this context and provide a fit-for-purpose framework for managing biosecurity risks in the Ranges. This submission restates that we do not believe that the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan will “protect, restore and enhance” the eco-systems, landscapes and other heritage features of the Heritage Area as required by Section 8a of the Act. Neither do we think the site-led approach – with whole area considered when decisions are made...”

Section 22 of the Act states that “particular regard” needs to be given to the Act when making decisions under the Biosecurity Act, but we cannot see that this has been done.

***Waitakere Ranges Local Board is seeking that the Plan contains a special Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area “programme” or “zone” with stronger rules that recognise the national significance of the area and the biosecurity challenges it faces.***

The previous Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007-2012 contained a Waitakere Ranges Weed Control Zone with specific rules to strengthen pest plant control in the area. This was adopted prior to the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 which requires an even more stringent approach from Council.

The Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act is a stronger piece of legislation than the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act, yet the Hauraki Gulf is provided with greater protection in the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan than the Waitakere Ranges. While the Hauraki Gulf has particular programmes in the Plan, the only rule for the Waitakere Ranges is for feral goats. Feral pigs, mustelids and rats are to be eradicated by Auckland Council on Waiheke Island and Kawau Island – which is DOC estate – but only controlled in the Waitakere Ranges which are principally owned by Auckland Council.

We are disappointed that the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area is essentially treated the same as any other area of Auckland (see Table 2, 3 and 4)

In particular, the Board is concerned that the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan is softer than the existing Regional Pest Management Strategy as regards roading authorities and management of road corridors. The previous strategy had specific rules for roading authorities (and rail corridor manager and quarry operators) which recognised their roles as pest plant vectors (Section 18 Vector Control Programmes). This approach is absent from the proposed Plan. Control of pest plants in the road corridors is already a huge problem in our area where lack of pest plant control and over-use of the flail mower has resulted in weeds (in particular climbing asparagus, agapanthus and Japanese Honeysuckle) spreading along the road corridors.

***The Waitakere Ranges Local Board asks that the Regional Pest Management Plan recognises the roles of vectors of pest plants such as roading authorities and sets and enforces rules that prevent this.***

The Waitakere Ranges Local Board has a Waitakere Ranges Strategic Weed Management Plan but this is not mentioned. This Plan has been adopted by the Board and this Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan should have said how it would implement that plan.

Overall, the Board’s concerns would be met by the inclusion of a specific Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area programme or Zone with stronger rules for pest animals and plants as discussed below.

## 2. Site-led approach

3.1 This Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan has adopted a site led approach “aligned to the region’s areas of highest biodiversity and defendable geography”.

However, the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act gives value and status to the whole Heritage Area, not just parts of it. In this respect the site-led approach is at odds with the requirements of the Heritage Area Act. The Act requires Council to “restore and enhance” and to “provide opportunities for ecological restoration”, and to treat the Ranges as a “continuous area” so that selecting sites that are at present of the “highest biodiversity value” only, is not consistent with the Act.

The proposed plan does not contain any discussion of weaknesses of the site-led approach, experience with site-led approaches in other places, or the implications for the long term of abandoning pest control in areas not deemed of highest biodiversity. What do eco-systems look like in the future if this approach is adopted? The case for adopting this approach is not strongly put.

One obvious weakness is for pest animals and we note that in 3.2.9 it is decided to adopt a Landscape-wide approach for possums to reduce reinvasion from surrounding uncontrolled areas.

The same argument might be applied to other animals pests and plant pests that are spread through distribution of seed by birds or wind, or a disease such as kauri dieback.

The Board also contests the 500 metre rule applied through the Plan. There does not seem to be a strong evidence basis for this as it is well known many birds fly greater distances than 500 metres.

This Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan does not take into account that roads play important roles in taking people through scenic areas, thus providing tourism benefits. It is important that roading authorities control pest plants in road corridors to preserve these aspects as well as to prevent spread into adjoining parkland. As well, controlling pest plants aids stormwater management and helps prevent flooding.

The site-led approach of requiring pest control by only where pest control is occurring on adjacent parkland, consigns large amounts of roadway bordering parkland to future weed infestation. This would be a great backward step given the effort that has already gone in.

***If the Regional Pest Management Plan continues with a site-led approach, the Local Board requests that the whole of the Heritage Area is deemed to be a “site” with a strong set of rules attached to it. This would avoid the fragmentation inherent when a site is a small unit.***

## 3. Stronger rules in Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area

***The Waitākere Ranges Local Board believes that the following pest plants and animal pests should be given stronger rules within the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan to control and if possible eradicate them within the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area.***

The Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan should outline steps that need to be taken to prevent the spread of these particular weeds within the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area. We also believe that some pest animals need stronger rules – in part, because of their possible role as vectors for kauri die-back.

Please note that this list is not exclusive

- Agapanthus
  - Alligator weed
  - Arundo grass
  - Climbing asparagus
  - Bushy asparagus
  - Blue morning glory
  - Boneseed
  - Boxthorn
  - Brush wattle
  - Cathedral bells
  - Climbing dock
  - Japanese honeysuckle
  - Jasmine
  - Madeira vine
  - Mexican water lily
  - Moth plant
  - Tradescantia
  - Tree lupin
  - Woolly Nightshade
- 
- Possums
  - Feral Pigs

#### **7.5.2.1 – Agapanthus**

The Board dislikes the general approach of requiring owners of transport corridors (OTCs) to only manage ecological weeds near parks being managed for agapanthus. An owner of a transport corridor should control agapanthus everywhere. Otherwise this rule is very limited and OTCs do not have to control where a park is not currently being controlled for agapanthus or where control is taking place on adjoining private property.

Control by cutting off seed heads is also not satisfactory as agapanthus spreads by multiplication and spread, as well as seed, and flail mowing does not set a good community example. The same comment applies to Formosa lily.

The approach also allows agapanthus to remain in public parks when it should be controlled.

#### **7.5.2.3 Climbing asparagus**

The phrase “and where Auckland Council has undertaken initial control on that land” should be deleted. That is a disincentive to land owners agreeing to take part in the Waitakere Ranges Local Board climbing asparagus programme: the responsibility should be absolute.

#### **7.5.2.8 Moth Plant**

Local Board believes that owners should have a duty to remove anywhere in the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area.

#### **7.5.2.11 Wild Ginger**

Local Board does not believe this rule is sufficient within the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area.

#### **7.5.2.12 Woolly nightshade**

Local Board believes this should be anywhere in Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area.

#### **4. Site-led pest plants managed on park only 7.5.3**

The Waitakere Ranges Local Board believes this approach is insufficient for the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area and would lead to widespread spread of pest plants within private property and road corridors and consequently the potential to reinvade parks.

In the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area the privately owned land is contiguous with parks over many kilometres and in effect the forest is indistinguishable. It is not possible to protect parkland without setting rules for the buffering private property or roads.

Many of the weeds listed here are highly ecologically damaging and there should be every encouragement to control them on private property. As examples: alligator weed, boneseed, blue morning glory, boxthorn, Arundo grass, pampas, Japanese honeysuckle.

It is particularly foolhardy to include pampas in this category. Pampas seeds can fly many kilometres and the ARC put huge effort into a south-west to north-east sweep which was not completed at amalgamation. Pampas seed gets into rocky gullies and cliffs and is then very difficult to control without the expense of using helicopters. The Board believes pampas should be listed in 7.5.2.

#### **5. Gorse**

The rules for gorse have been substantially weakened from the Regional Pest Management Strategy. Gorse in roadsides in the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area has been well controlled for that last 15 years, and this was continued by Auckland Transport since amalgamation. It would be a tragedy for that good work to be abandoned when keeping it up at present is not a big job.

There also need to be rules for control of gorse in parks. There are large tracts of gorse in regional parkland sometimes near tracks, that pose a particular fire risk in our area, and there should be requirements for Council to remove these and revegetate, which would improve habitat for native fauna as well.

**A reinstatement of the “boundary control” rule for gorse in the Heritage Area (page 60 of the current Regional Pest Management Strategy) would meet this concern.**

7.7.9 We are mystified as to why there would be a rule that allows a person to transfer a Sustained Control Pest Plant within their property. This rule should be deleted.

The Plan is very hard to follow and would benefit from a fuller contents page and an index.

### **Waitematā Local Board**

#### **Resolution number WTM/2018/183**

That the Waitematā Local Board:

- a) receive a summary of consultation feedback from Waitematā Local Board residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.
- b) provide the following high-level feedback:
  - i) 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



- ii) support the key focus areas across the region to improve environmental outcomes to protect and enhance New Zealand's unique native environment
  - iii) support the proposed regional focus and funding to improvements to Western Springs & Auckland Domain in alignment with each Park Management Plan
  - iv) generally support the implementation and content of the proposed amended Plan
  - v) 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
  - vi) support the possum containment policy applying across the region, including urban areas
  - vii) support greater enabling of community activities with the aim of reducing freshwater pests
- c) delegate to the Environment and Infrastructure Portfolio lead and co-portfolio holder to prepare and submit further local board views on the recommended changes to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan

### **Further feedback on the recommended changes to the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan from Waitematā Local Board**

## **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.

## **Whau Local Board**

### **Resolution number WH/2018/133**

That the Whau Local Board:

- a) receive a summary of consultation feedback from Whau residents on the Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.
- b) note the recommended changes to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan based on consultation feedback.