

Attachment D

Previous engagement

- During 2014 and 2015, extensive consultation was undertaken in the preparation of a non-statutory discussion document. The engagement began with elected members and internal council and staff from Auckland Transport and Watercare Services Limited.
- For the initial engagement, an issues and options paper was presented to elected members, covering key topics including kauri dieback disease, widespread weeds such as moth plant, biological control, control of pest plants in regional park water supply catchments, cats, feral pigs, invertebrates, Hauraki Gulf, marine, inter-regional collaboration, and community pest control.
- Mana whenua were involved in early consultation, with several workshops, individual meetings, and a large regional hui. The most recent hui was held on 12 May 2017, and was attended by representatives of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua, Ngāti Tamaoho, Ngāti Te Āta Waiohua, Te Uri o Hau, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Manuhiri, Te Ahiwaru Waiohua, Te Ākitai, and Ngāi Tai Ki Tāmaki.
- The initial engagement also included external interest groups such as the Nursery Garden Industry Association (now known as the New Zealand Plant Producers Incorporation), Fish and Game, Wagglers Coarse Fishing Club, Federated Farmers, New Zealand Veterinary Association, Companion Animal Council, the Pet Industry Association, retailers such as Animates and PetStock, the University of Auckland, Unitec, Auckland Botanic Society, Auckland, Ardmore and Whenuapai airports, the Morgan Foundation, SPCA, and the Lonely Miaow. There was also discussion with the Department of Conservation, Waikato Regional Council and Northland Regional Council.
- Feedback from the above early engagement was used to develop the discussion document, which was adopted by the Regional Strategy and Policy Committee in October 2015 (resolution REG/2015/78). This discussion document was then open for public comment for six weeks, from mid-October 2015, until the end of November 2015, and 413 individuals and organisations provided feedback.
- The discussion document was sent to council's stakeholder database, and there was a media release to support it. It was also placed on Auckland Council's consultation webpage, Shape Auckland. Events to promote the discussion document comment period included several public talks, presentations to community groups (including Forest and Bird), presence at events (such as Conservation Week at the Auckland Zoo, stands at night markets), and posters and documents available at libraries, service centres and council-owned places like Auckland Botanic Gardens.
- Following the public comment period, staff have commenced the development of the new plan, including comprehensive cost-benefit analysis for each proposed management programme.
- A range of responses have been received in relation to each issue. For example, despite the fact that cats were not mentioned in the discussion document, they were the most submitted on animal, with the full spectrum of responses being received from requests for full cat control to no cat control at all. A similar breadth of responses has been received for most programmes. This feedback is being considered alongside technical feasibility and cost benefit analysis described earlier in this report, the details of which will be available when the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan is presented to the Environment and Community Committee in November 2017.