

Attachment C: Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan feedback summary – Devonport - Takapuna Local board

Previous local board feedback

1. During early engagement in 2014 and 2015, key issues were raised by the public in relation to cats, possums, widespread pest plants, and the ban of sale of some pest species. In addition to these regional issues, the Devonport - Takapuna Local Board provided feedback on locally specific issues of importance to the area, including wallabies, pest birds, rats, kauri dieback disease, priority sites, education around pests and the importance of community pest control.
2. Proposed approaches to be taken in relation to these issues were workshopped with the board in June 2017. At its August 2017 business meeting the Devonport - Takapuna Local board provided formal feedback regarding these proposed management approaches. A copy of this feedback is attached.

Proposed Plan Consultation Feedback

3. Consultation on the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan took place in February to March 2018 alongside consultation on the Long-term Plan and other statutory planning documents. 1,261 submissions were received, a large increase on the approximately 400 submissions that were received on the 2015 discussion document. The breakdown by submission type is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Regional breakdown by submission type

Submission type	Number of submissions	Percentage of submissions
Online form	1035	82%
Hardcopy form	183	15%
Non form	43	3%

4. Of the 1,261 submissions, 23 were pro forma submissions from Forest and Bird. The number of submissions received by local board area is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Breakdown by Local Board area

	Number of submitters	Percentage of submitters
Albert-Eden Local Board	116	9%
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board	53	4%
Franklin Local Board	50	4%
Great Barrier Local Board	24	2%
Henderson-Massey Local Board	46	4%
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board	85	7%
Howick Local Board	52	4%
Kaipātiki Local Board	98	8%
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board	17	1%
Manurewa Local Board	18	1%

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board	51	4%
Ōrākei Local Board	64	5%
Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board	7	1%
Papakura Local Board	21	2%
Puketāpapa Local Board	12	1%
Rodney Local Board	162	13%
Upper Harbour Local Board	41	3%
Waiheke Local Board	37	3%
Waitākere Ranges Local Board	87	7%
Waitematā Local Board	51	4%
Whau Local Board	41	3%
Regional	5	0%
Not Supplied	69	5%
Outside Auckland	55	4%
Total	1262	

5. The consultation feedback form asked respondents to answer eight questions relating to key programmes in the proposed plan that were described in a summary document. Responses to each from residents of the Devonport - Takapuna Local Board area, and region-wide

responses, are summarized below in Table 3. Where possible, responses were categorised by their level of support for that part of the plan, ranging from fully support to fully do not support. Responses that were a comment or suggestion without specifically indicating support or otherwise were coded as 'neutral comments'.

Table 3: Proposed RPMP feedback

Question	Response	% submissions local board	% submissions regional
1. What is your view on the proposed approach to pest plant management in parks?	Full support	12%	26%
	Partial support	17%	17%
	Partial do not support	4%	3%
	Full do not support	4%	2%
	Neutral comments	63%	53%
2. What is your view on the proposed approach to managing kauri dieback?	Full support	23%	27%
	Partial support	21%	29%
	Partial do not support	8%	5%
	Full do not support	0%	2%
	Neutral comments	49%	37%
3. What is your view on the proposed approach to prevent the spread of pests to the Hauraki Gulf Islands?	Full support	49%	46%
	Partial support	17%	19%
	Partial do not support	22%	12%
	Full do not support	2%	2%
	Neutral comments	10%	21%

4. What is your view on the proposed approach to managing pests on Aotea/Great Barrier?	Full support	29%	44%
	Partial support	23%	20%
	Partial do not support	3%	4%
	Full do not support	3%	2%
	Neutral comments	42%	30%
5. What is your view on the proposed approach to managing pests on Kawau Island?	Full support	42%	43%
	Partial support	16%	23%
	Partial do not support	9%	7%
	Full do not support	2%	4%
	Neutral comments	30%	23%
6. What is your view on the proposed approach to managing pests on Waiheke Island?	Full support	35%	44%
	Partial support	21%	21%
	Partial do not support	9%	5%
	Full do not support	0%	3%
	Neutral comments	35%	28%
7. What is your view on the proposed approach to the management of rural possums?	Full support	41%	38%
	Partial support	32%	28%
	Partial do not support	5%	7%
	Full do not support	8%	4%
	Neutral comments	14%	23%
8. What is your view on the proposed approach to the management of freshwater pests?	Full support	56%	46%
	Partial support	13%	23%
	Partial do not support	3%	4%

	Full do not support	3%	3%
	Neutral comments	25%	25%

6. Staff are working through detailed submissions to determine changes that are required to be made in the final RPMP. Table 4 below shows the three most common themes of suggested changes to the proposed plan. For each suggestion a proposed 'staff response' is also shown. Note that for some of these themes there may have been equal or more responses with the opposite view point. Because these did not request a change to the proposed plan they have not been shown here. Prior to adoption of the operative plan a complete submissions analysis document will be prepared, which will show all themes in support as well as opposition. This will be circulated to local boards along with the copy of the final plan.

Table 4: Key feedback and proposed staff responses

Key Programmes	Submitter suggestions	Proposed Staff response	Staff recommendation	Recommended amendments to the proposed plan
Pests on parks	Suggest working with communities/community groups	Operational implementation of buffer rules around parks will involve a substantial comms 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
	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 highest ecological value sites retained. Enforcement is less cost-effective than on-park control. Therefore the recommended approach is to	Reject	Reduce spatial extent of site-led programme to fit within the budget provided through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate

		<p>prioritise on-park control, and extend enforcement only to highest priority sites.</p> <p>However, the RPMP site-led parks programme is not the only avenue by which council funds pest plant management on and around parkland. Many additional local parks will continue to receive on-park pest control through existing mechanisms (primarily the Ecological Restoration Contract), even though no statutory buffer programme is in place.</p> <p>The Natural Environment Targeted Rate also provides for Council to increase support to community conservation activity in and around other high value parkland through Pest Free Auckland.</p>		
	Suggest public comms and engagement	Operational implementation of buffer rules around parks will involve a substantial comms 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
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 council support of the rāhui and park closures.
	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. Council may choose to close or re-open tracks over the next 10 years outside of the Regional Pest Management Plan framework. As noted above the plan will be updated to address park closures.	Accept in part	Update operative plan to reflect council support of the rāhui and park closures.

	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. Council contributes to research alongside other partner agencies.	Accept	Retain approach from proposed plan
Pest spread to Hauraki Gulf Islands	Disagree with inclusion of cats as a pest (variety of reasons including animal welfare, concern over implications for companion animals).	<p>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 reintroductions and conservation. Cats are one of several pressures that require management on Hauraki Gulf islands to safeguard threatened species and prevent species extinctions.</p> <p>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, council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and are as humane as possible.</p> <p>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.</p>	Accept in part	Staff are exploring options to mitigate submitter concerns in wording of final plan.
	Suggest public comms and engagement	Operational implementation of the plan will involve a substantial comms and engagement component to seek increases in voluntary behaviour change to reduce pest spread to islands. Rule enforcement would be used as a last resort.	Accept	Retain approach from proposed plan
	Do not support use of toxins	The Regional Pest Management Plan sets outcomes for pest management in the region but does not	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan

		specify methods. Council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and minimise the use of toxins where possible.		
Aotea/Great Barrier	Suggest working with Aotea/Great Barrier community	Staff acknowledge that working with the Aotea/Great Barrier 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
	Do not support use of toxins	The Regional Pest Management Plan sets outcomes for pest management in the region but does not specify methods. Council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and minimise the use of toxins where possible.	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan.
	Suggest council collaboration with the Department of Conservation	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.
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.
	Do not support inclusion of wallabies (variety of reasons such as animal welfare, heritage value on Kawau)	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. Council always seeks to use	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan.

	Note that more than twice the number of submitters supported wallaby control.	best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and are as humane as possible.		
	Do not support use of toxins	The Regional Pest Management Plan sets outcomes for pest management in the region but does not specify methods. Council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and minimise the use of toxins where possible.	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan.
Waiheke	Suggest working with Waiheke community	Staff acknowledge that working with the Waiheke community will be pivotal to this programmes success. The proposed plan seeks to support the community-led initiative Pest-free Waiheke.	Accept	Retain approach from proposed plan.
	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. Council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and minimise the use of toxins where possible.	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan.
	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-Motutapu which receive over 100,000 visitors per year yet remain mammal free.	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan.
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. Council always seeks to use best	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan

		practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and minimise the use of toxins where possible.		
	Suggest working with landowners and community groups	Operational planning will consider where outcomes might be achieved through resourcing of community possum control activity, although 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
	Suggest urban management	Although the proposed landscape-scale possum control applies only to rural areas, council may also undertake possum control in high ecological value parks or strategic peninsulas within urban areas. 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.
Freshwater pests	Suggest freshwater management should focus on management of sediment and other pollutants	Management of freshwater pollutants falls outside the scope of the RPMP.	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan
	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	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan

		selection was based on a combination of ecological priority, existing community activity and ability to also manage other pressures at the site (e.g. nutrient enrichment).		
	Suggest new species	For species that were not included in the proposed plan at all, it is not open to the Council to insert a new pest in the final plan now (see below in 'other' section'). 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. Staff acknowledge 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.
Other	Disagree with inclusion of cats as a pest (variety of reasons including animal welfare, concern over implications for companion animals).	<p>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, council always seeks to use best practice methods which comply with all relevant legislation and are as humane as possible.</p> <p>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.</p>	Accept in part	Staff are exploring options to mitigate submitter concerns in wording of final plan.
	Suggest add new pest (included myrtle rust, marine pests, additional	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	Reject	Retain approach from proposed plan

	pest plants and animals)	it is open to council to add new species during the lifetime of the plan through a partial plan review under s100D of the Biosecurity Act.		
--	--------------------------	--	--	--

Table 5 highlights other substantive changes that may be required to the proposed plan in response to submissions (these points are not covered in table 4 as they did not receive a large amount of public feedback). Further changes may also be required as staff work through submissions, but are less significant.

Table 5: Additional substantive changes to plan

Key Programmes	Submitter suggestions	Proposed Staff response	Staff recommendation	Recommended amendments to the proposed plan
Pests on parks	Suggest additional species for parks programme	Staff thank submitters for their suggestions and consider some of these may have merit for inclusion to ensure parks are comprehensively protected from pest plant impacts. Further work is required to review suggestions and recommend possible additions. It is not open to council to add new species which were not included at all in the proposed plan, but it may be possible to add species to the site-led programme in some instances.	Accept in part	New species may be added to parks site-led programme subject to further consideration.
	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 it would be preferable to avoid situations where small areas of land are excluded from encircling buffers e.g. Huia and Piha.	Accept	Consider smoothing mapped areas of buffers to remove these situations. May require re-wording of rule construction.

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 for the high cost to serve 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 retention of eradication programme on Aotea and sites which fall within buffer areas around priority parkland.	Reject	Remove Hauraki Gulf landowner rule for moth plant. Retain moth plant eradication programme for Aotea.
	Suggest stricter rules to prevent pest spread to islands	Staff are currently exploring in more detail the issues raised and 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
Other	Query whether the proposed Good Neighbour Rule for rabbits is fair	Staff consider practical implementation of the proposed Good Neighbour Rule may be challenging due to issues of fairness and subjectivity.	Accept	Remove proposed rabbit Good Neighbour Rule from final plan.

Previous feedback from the Devonport - Takapuna local board

Resolution number DT/2017/192

MOVED by Chairperson G Gillon, seconded by Member J McKenzie: _

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

- a) **supports the purpose, scope and intent draft Regional Pest Management Plan as a statutory document prepared under the Biosecurity Act 1993 for controlling pest plants, animals and pathogens in the region;**
- b) **provides the following feedback on the key regional issues:**
 - i) **supports the management or controlling of cats in areas of public land where threatened species are being protected or areas of high biodiversity noting the public sensitivity, and need for a considerate management programme;**
 - ii) **supports the proposed shift from possum control focused on areas of high biodiversity to a region-wide programme;**
 - iii) **supports a site-focused approach to managing widespread pest plants and weeds, and recommends local boards and their communities have a lead role in identifying these sites;**
 - iv) **notes that widespread pest plants such as moth plant and agapanthus are an issue in the local board area, and would support measures for the eradication;**
 - v) **supports the phasing out the sale of approximately 50 new plant pests and 13 new animal pests in addition to those currently identified, and supports a campaign to education and raise awareness that these plants and animals have a detrimental impact on the natural environment;**
- c) **adopts the list outlined in Attachment B as their feedback of local specific issues.**
- d) **notes advice from officers that this does not adversely affect existing palms (eg; in Devonport) and other notable (if no actually notified) exotic trees in the local board area.**

CARRIED