
MINUTES
of the
REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
SUBMISSIONS HEARING MEETING ON THE PROPOSED
TASMAN-NELSON REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN
2017-2027
held
9.30am, Monday, 16 April 2018
at
Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

Present: Councillors S Bryant (Chair), D McNamara, S Brown, M Lawrey, K Fulton and B McGurk

In Attendance: Team Leader – Biosecurity and Biodiversity, Tasman District Council (P Sheldon); Environmental Programmes Advisor, Nelson City Council (R Frizzell); Biosecurity Officers – Tasman District Council: (R van Zoelen, K Wright, L Barber); and Executive Assistant Environment and Planning, Tasman District Council (G Crichton).

1 OPENING, WELCOME

The Chair introduced the panel and welcomed the submitters.

2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

2.1 Late Submissions

Team Leader – Biosecurity and Biodiversity Paul Sheldon, advised Councillors of the three submissions received after the closing date, these being 18665 NLR Nelson Ltd; 18667 Fairlight Ltd; and 18668 Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust. Councillors noted that the submissions had been received some considerable time after the closing date and taking advice from staff and in fairness to all submitters, voted against receiving the late submissions by a show of hands.

Moved Cr Bryant/Cr Brown

That submissions 18665, 18667 and 18668 not be accepted as late submissions.

CARRIED

3 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS

17583 & 18113: Chris Rowse and Neil Clifton – Project De-Vine Trust

Neil Clifton gave a brief background to Councillors on the Project De-Vine Trust. He explained how the Project's goal was to help control pests and weeds, specifically in the Golden Bay area adjoining the Kahurangi National Park. He advised that the Project operates on a shoestring receiving some funding from various backers, including the Lotteries Commission and Tasman Environment Trust. All project managers were volunteers and he added the Trust's appreciation for Council's support.

Chris Rowse spoke to the two Project De-Vine Trust submissions and gave a presentation to Councillors which included showing a live root system of a climbing asparagus plant and a yellow jasmine plant. Mr Rowse spoke mainly of six pests which covered 24 of the submission parts.

Councillors questioned Mr Rowse on the growing habits of the asparagus fern, woolly nightshade and other pests. Mr Rowse advised that Project De-Vine was supportive of asparagus fern being included as a whole of the region pest; that old man's beard be controlled in the Motueka Valley with the support of community groups; was concerned that purple pampas grass had been taken out of the proposed Plan; and supported yellow jasmine being included in the whole region.

Mr Rowse suggested Councillors consider creating a list of weed species that fall outside of the Plan, together with a list of plants they are prepared to support, but do not have the resources to control. If these species are recognised in the Plan then that enables Project De-Vine Trust and other groups to seek funding from various agencies.

17580: Andrew Macalister – Project Janszoon

Andrew Macalister provided Councillors with a brief background of Project Janszoon's various projects and achievements. He proposed that the plan would benefit from much clearer strategic intent and should include large scale conservation projects, recommending generic objectives with measurable outputs; it should be time-bound; and that monitoring should be described to meet this outcome, giving reference to Landcare Research guidelines. He believed the Plan should include all of Nelson Tasman landowners being required to destroy yellow jasmine annually

Mr Macalister in response to questions, believed that Nelson Tasman could benefit from viewing other councils plans such as Hawkes Bay and Marlborough. He asked that Council take more time now to get the plan right and raised concern around site-led projects being hampered by lack of authority where unsupportive landowners could restrict an entire project. Project Janszoon would like to see more of a partnership between Council, large projects and the land owners.

16796: Lionel Solly & Chris Golding – Department of Conservation

Lionel Solly introduced Chris Golding and spoke to the submission, also providing a handout to Councillors.

DOC supported the inclusion of pest fish and spartina in the Plan but wanted clarification of the relationship between the 'Management Agency' and 'Responsible Party' and what powers and

functions that party could exercise. They would prefer that any reference to 'responsible party' be changed to 'an authorised person'. DOC was supportive of the Wilding conifers approach in the Plan, but wanted the relevant sites to be defined in collaboration with DOC and other affected parties. As in site-led programmes, they would like a commitment to a process with a timetable and have rules put in place for those landowners who will not support the programme. They encouraged dialogue with Marlborough District Council to heighten commonality in writing the Plan.

14859 & 18119 - Gillian Pollock – Forest and Bird

Gillian Pollock spoke to the Forest and Bird submission advising that it was supportive of the projects in the Plan, however would like a stronger focus on urban areas where native species plantings are encouraged and a policy be developed where, through legislation or a bylaw, landowners are obliged to remove nuisance weeds which threaten the environment. Forest and Bird suggested pest education be provided to all people arriving in New Zealand and that Council should produce a leaflet showing comparisons between native and exotic plants.

Ms Pollock spoke of the habits of cats as top predators and in response to questions from Councillors advised that cats should be licenced and owners only be granted licences when they have adequate controls in place that keep the cats constrained to their own property.

The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 11.03am and returned at 11.15am.

16770: Dai Mitchell

Dai Mitchell in speaking to his submission, raised his concerns on the rights of the individual citizen in regards to the Councils' control of pests. He questioned how far Councils should go in trying to stop what he described as a 'tidal wave' of these introduced pest species. He also raised the question of what happens to the sheep and cows which were also introduced species.

Mr Mitchell in response to Councillors questions was seeking Councils to take legal advice before going onto landowners properties and before using toxins and poisons.

16798: Angela Johnston – Federated Farmers

Gavin O'Donnell spoke on behalf of the Federated Farmers submission which was taken as read.

He added that Federated Farmers also sought that good neighbour rules be included in the Plan, giving such examples as the West Coast Regional Council and Marlborough District Council. He questioned why gorse and broom was included in only some councils good neighbour rules and believed that it should fit with the national policy.

16768: Lawson Davey – Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game

Lawson Davey spoke to his submission and responded to Councillors questions about Asiatic Knotweed. He was supportive of eradication of Knotweed rather than progressive containment across the joint regions and supported the inclusion of black swans to the list of pests in the Plan.

16771 & 18124 – Pamela Pope

Pamela Pope spoke to her submission and expressed her concern at how Nelson City Council worked with its contractors. She was referring to planting natives instead of exotic plants and eradicating pest species from the Port and Tahunanui hillsides, specifically fan palm, privet, cotoneasters, ivy, ginger plants and creeping fig. She believed domestic cats should be restricted to the landowner's property and that hedgehogs, stoats and Argentine ants be included in the Plan.

In response to questions from Councillors Ms Pope supported more promotion from councils on how people could take better responsibility, suggesting a letter box drop showing banned and pest plants as well as free dumping days twice a year for those plants.

16772 & 18124: Neil Page – Native Bird Recovery Richmond

Neil Page spoke to his submission and discussed the killing of birds and lizards by domestic, stray, half wild and dumped cats.

In response to Councillors questions Mr Page supported having a whole package solution, eg a system where a pet cat could be identified; having licenced breeders only to prevent unwanted kittens being bred; the desexing and microchipping of cats; and a limitation on the number of cats per household.

16906: Gavin O'Donnell

Gavin O'Donnell spoke of the 36 submissions supporting the inclusion of old man's beard in the Plan within the Motueka Valley area and that in the Motueka Valley corridor there was a growing community interest of people prepared to assist in helping eradicate this pest weed.

In response to a question about the Federated Farmers submission not including old man's beard, Mr O'Donnell was confident that pastoral farmers in the Valley would be supportive of any responsive action. He believed there should be links to good neighbour rules and that in tackling old man's beard, other invasive weeds could be tackled at the same time.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.00 noon and reconvened at 1.00pm.

16787: Greg Mason – Motueka Valley Association

Greg Mason spoke to his submission and explained to Councillors about the Motueka Valley Association. He acknowledged the cleanup work carried out by Project De- Vine and Tasman District Council in the Motueka Valley river areas, but stressed that this will not stop the further spread of oman's beard. The Association was supporting the inclusion of the Motueka Valley as a progressive containment area for old man's beard.

In response to Councillors questions Mr Mason supported having fixed boundaries for old man's beard containment. He encouraged Council to exercise its discretion in educating and encouraging landowners to be responsible and working collaboratively with them. He did not believe in a regulatory approach as the Association only worked with landowners who wanted to work with them. When questioned about other species of weeds that the Association might tackle, Mr Mason advised that its focus was on Oldman's beard, but often in gaining access to the vines, other species were destroyed at the same time.

17586 & 18126: Ministry for Primary Industries – Wayne Murphy and Mike Harre

Wayne Murphy introduced Sherman Smith, the Programme Manager for the joint agency National Wilding Conifer Control Programme who then talked about the Programme, its achievements so far and plans for the future. He acknowledged the good work Tasman District Council had carried out and supported the proposed Plan, but advised that MPI were seeking a more robust framework. It was seeking to put in place rules for areas at risk of being infested by Wilding Conifers which would be triggered by a collaborative programme and would include good neighbour rules. MPI were keen for national consistency and suggested using Environment Canterbury's template.

Discussions followed on confusion about the example of a specific rule and around what was trying to be achieved with the organisms of interest. Staff advised the panel that this section of the Plan was put in to raise awareness and provide an opportunity to speak about it. It was acknowledged that there is still a process for this to go through and needed further development

Councillors questioned Mr Smith on Wilding Conifer control on farmland and in forestry. He advised that MPI was working with Federated Farmers and the forestry industry in a positive and collaborative way.

16797: Heather Arnold – Nelson Forests Ltd

Heather Arnold introduced Mark Bryant and spoke to her submission. She discussed the exacerbators for forestry in general, giving examples such as: legacy forests which were established by the Crown and not knowing whose responsibility it was to fund pest eradication in the old plantings; and land owners on adjoining lands who were unsupportive of pest control. She noted that since the Pest Management Plan was proposed there had been no engagement with the plantation forestry industry to try and progress this.

Nelson Forests Ltd did not want *Pinus radiata* and Douglas fir listed as pest plants in the Plan; that good neighbour rules be added; and that purple pampus be included as a pest species.

17584: Debs Martin – Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand

Debs Martin spoke about the key points of the Society's submission. It advocated for both Councils to invest in biodiversity and to include involvement from people and organisations that have the knowledge and expertise in these areas, giving the Nelson Biodiversity Forum as an example.

The Society sought Councils to include species that would benefit from specific funding for ongoing monitoring, such as Argentine and Darwin ants, magpies, old man's beard, purple pampas, wasps, mustelids and marram and raised concern that the Plan may have missed out Marsden Valley and Paramata Flats where community groups were actively controlling pests.

16888 & 18124: Gillian Bishop – Tasman Environmental Trust

Gillian Bishop spoke of the work the Tasman Environmental Trust had been carrying out in its predator eradication programme throughout the region. The Trust supported the proposed Plan but wanted more control areas to be added, with site lead programmes for stoats, weasels, ferrets, feral cats and the addition of old man's beard in the Motueka Valley.

Ms Bishop went on to discuss the impact of feral cats and the importance of having domestic cats microchipped. The Trust was working on developing a predator free peninsula and was seeking funding for education to help enhance people's understanding of the protection of wildlife and birds.

16793: Phillip Borlase – Not Present

16903: Trevor Knowles – Not Present

17579: Rebecca Sharp – Tasman Pine Forests Ltd – Not Present

16993: Leigh Marshall – Nelson City Council

Leigh Marshall introduced herself as Nelson City Council's Technical Advisor and discussed the decision to submit to the RPMP and a desire to keep it in line with the National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015. Other areas for consideration were the extension of the Plan to 2038; including intermediate outcomes; a regional approach to the eradication of Taiwan cherry; adding the Nelson Nature Wilding Conifer Control Operational Area to the site led programme for wilding conifers; and sabella being moved to eradication category.

4 CONCLUSION OF SPEAKERS

At the conclusion of the speakers, Councillors summarised the points raised and briefly discussed options for including some of the further pests raised at this hearing. The Deliberations are scheduled to begin on 25 June 2018.

5 REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN DECISION PROCESS

The Team Leader – Biosecurity and Biodiversity addressed the panel, briefing them on the process to date. The analysis documents that would be available for 25 June as a report and will be grouped together by a topic and theme area, with analysis in terms of actual pest species or programmes.

Nelson City Council had commissioned a Maori biosecurity consultant to provide a Maori perspective to the Plan submissions. Their report will have options but not recommendations as this would be the Councillors role. Further, staff sought feedback from Councillors from today's hearings enabling better recommendations to the Proposed Plan.

The meeting concluded at 2.57pm on Monday 16 April.

Date Confirmed:

Chair: