

Southland Regional Council
Proposal for a Southland Regional Pest Management Plan

pursuant to the Biosecurity Act 1993

MINUTE AND DIRECTIONS OF HEARING PANEL
on key matters arising from submissions and hearings

[Minute 2]

INTRODUCTION

1. This is the second Minute of the Hearing Panel.
2. The Panel would like to thank staff report on the Regional Pest Management Plan proposal (the proposal) and acknowledge the work that has been put into its preparation. This minute sets out some key questions and requests for information that have arisen from the review of the officer's report and particularly through the hearing of submissions, which will assist us with our consideration of the proposal.
3. We also issue a reminder as to the scheduling of a hearing session for the Council's response to submissions and evidence.

KEY MATTERS ARISING

4. We set out below our key questions and requests for information arising from the hearing process. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list and we may have further questions or requests that may be addressed in the course of deliberations. However the following questions will assist the panel in preparation for the deliberations process.
 - a. Why did the proposal not include a good neighbour rule for possums and rabbits?
 - b. Why is there no reference to Predator Free New Zealand in the proposal?
 - c. Having a microchip does not mean that the cat is registered - please provide comment on the gap between microchipping and registration of cats.
 - d. Has the Code of Welfare for Companion Cats 2018 been taken into account in preparation of the Plan?
 - e. Have the National Policy Direction for Pest Management requirements been met in Section 6 of the proposal? Please review compliance.
 - f. How is road verge and rail corridor policy enforced with the New Zealand Transport Agency and the territorial authorities?
 - g. The panel notes the lack of instant fines and enforcement notices in the Fiordland Marine Regional Pathways Management Plan. What prevents Council from including instant enforcement measures in the proposal?
 - h. Has Council made budgetary provision for purchase of microchip readers, e.g. for Stewart Island/Rakiura?
 - i. Please provide comment on the status of the proposed Stewart Island/Rakiura Pathways Plan.

- j. Please provide comment on the enforcement of cat microchipping rules on Stewart Island/Rakiura contained in the current Regional Pest Management Strategy.
- k. Please provide a copy of Department of Conservation maps showing the distribution of feral cats on the Stewart Island/Rakiura conservation estate.
- l. Please provide the required assessments for including sycamore, rowan, grey willow, silver birch, and Russell lupin into the proposal.
- m. Please comment on the appropriateness of a pest agent rule for wilding conifers – in this comment please address any externality impacts.
- n. Please provide comment on the high-risk wilding conifer area assessment criteria.
- o. Please review the proposed policies relating to cats contained within Auckland Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council Regional Pest Management Plans/proposals, and investigate the need to include a definition of ‘feral cat’ in the proposal.
- p. Please provide a summary of Australian cat control policies.
- q. Please provide an option analysis of a cat ban versus other forms of control.
- r. Please provide research data as to whether rat populations increase as a result of the removal of cats from an area; if possible, include a break down of bush vs. urban areas.
- s. Please source a copy of Hawke’s Bay Regional Council’s feral cat study on toxoplasmosis.
- t. Please provide information from the District Health Board regarding incidences of toxoplasmosis and the likely vector for it within Southland.
- u. Please seek comment on mallard duck contributions to *E. coli* in waterways from Environment Southland water quality scientists and published data.
- v. Who carries out *Spartina* control in Southland?
- w. In their submission the Department of Conservation noted that a 200 metre setback good neighbour rule was a national requirement. If so, in which national regulation instrument does it sit, and who is responsible for its creation and promulgation?
- x. Please provide a map of the entire wilding conifer high-risk area.
- y. Is it feasible to include African club moss, Spanish heath, and *Buddleia* as exclusion pests in the Te Anau Basin?
- z. Is scentless chamomile a candidate for inclusion in the proposal? If not, why not?
- aa. A submitter observed that pest control of plants on Stewart Island/Rakiura was usually dealt with one species at a time. Can multiple pest plant species be dealt with simultaneously in control programmes on Stewart Island/Rakiura?
- bb. Is it feasible to fit counters on A24 traps in community pest control projects?
- cc. Please provide a chronological summary of consultation with occupiers/landowners at Omaui.
- dd. Please provide a validation of the dataset of addresses to which consultation letters were sent to the Omaui residents.

- ee. Please outline what course of action is proposed to seek agreement with Omaui occupiers/landowners regarding the site-led programme at Omaui (including the wider community).
- ff. What are the implications of withdrawing the site-led programme at Omaui from the Plan?
- gg. Please confirm that Maori owned land is subject to both Biosecurity Act and regional pest management plans.

5. We direct the Council respond to the questions in writing and to make this available by 5pm Friday 8 March 2019. A copy of the response will be placed on the website for submitters on the following link <https://www.haveyoursay.es.govt.nz/pest-plan>.

COUNCIL REPLY HEARING DAY

6. We note that the following additional hearing has been scheduled to hear the Council's reply:

Time:	9:00am
Date:	20 March 2019
Location:	Invercargill
Venue:	TBC

7. This will be held in public and submitters are welcome to attend and hear the presentation from Council officers.

ISSUED by John Simmons on behalf of the Hearing Panel

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Simmons', with a stylized flourish at the end. Below the signature is a small, simple arrow pointing to the right.

DATE 25 February 2019