



STAFF REPORT

TO: Environment & Planning Committee

FROM: Lindsay Vaughan, Biosecurity Coordinator/Policy Planner

REFERENCE: B104

SUBJECT: **TASMAN-NELSON REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2007 / 2012 - REPORT EP07/02/15** - Report prepared for 28 February 2007 Meeting

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to summarise the changes that have been incorporated in Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy ("the Strategy") after completing the submissions phase of the Review and to seek approval from the two councils for its adoption.

2. INTRODUCTION

Statutory Requirements

The Biosecurity Act 1993 (section 88(6)) requires the Strategy to be reviewed within five years of its notification; the previous Strategy became operative on July 2001 and the Proposed Strategy was publicly notified in August 2006. The timeline for the review process is summarised in Appendix 1.

3. SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

In June 2005, the Council agreed to proceed with the option of rolling over most of the Strategy with detailed consultation on new issues. It also agreed to reconsider the policies for individual pests, to examine the effect of the Strategy over the last five years, and to examine changes to funding.

4. REVIEW PROCESS

The Review Team comprised the TDC Biosecurity team (Lindsay Vaughan, Robin van Zoelen, Graham Strickett, Lindsay Grueber) and Paul Sheldon (NCC). They consulted widely with key stakeholders including: Biosecurity NZ, Department of Conservation, Federated Farmers, Marlborough District Council, NZ Forest Owners Association, Pipfruit NZ, the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, and iwi. Public meetings were held in Takaka, Richmond and Nelson.

The Strategy Review Committee comprised Councillors Jan Fryer (Chair), Mark Holmes and Eric Davy (NCC) and Richard Kempthorne, Noel Riley, and Stuart Borlase/Stuart Bryant (TDC). Three workshops were held with the Councillors on the Review Committee in the first part of 2006.

- The first workshop heard presentations from the Review team and from a number of key stakeholders. They developed a set of priorities to be applied in the development of the Proposed Strategy.
- The second workshop heard a presentation on priorities prepared by Dr Peter Williams (LCR). It considered a series of Strategy challenges and discussed solutions for the new Strategy.
- The third workshop considered the changes to be incorporated in the Proposed Strategy with its focus on the high risk pests of limited distribution.

The Proposed Strategy was publicly notified in August 2006 and was open for submissions until October. Thirty-seven submissions were received from a wide range of stakeholders, raising 229 issues. The Review team prepared staff recommendations for the Review Committee and hearings were held in December 2006. As a result of the submissions and presentations, the following changes were made to the Strategy.

The joint Tasman-Nelson Councillors Review Committee was impressed with the quality of the submissions and presentations on the Proposed Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy that were received late last year from ratepayers and organisations. After carefully considering the submissions and presentations, they have recommended the following changes to the Proposed Strategy.

Progressive Control Pests

- Adding Banana Passion Vine in Golden Bay.
- Adding Sweet Canary Grass and Sweet Reed Grass, two aggressive aquatic weeds.
- Adding Perch and Tench, two coarse fish, subject to the agreement of the Nelson-Marlborough Fish and Game Council.

Containment Pests

- Moving Broom (Howard-St Arnaud) and Gorse (Howard-St Arnaud) from Progressive Control.

Boundary Control Pests

- Re-instating Australian Sedge and Giant Buttercup.

Regional Surveillance Pests

- Adding Yellow Flag, another aggressive aquatic pest.

The changes from the previous Strategy are listed in Appendix 2. Most of the changes involve high-risk pests with a limited distribution and will affect only a small number of land occupiers.

The two changes that could most affect land occupiers are:

- Those in ant-infested areas will need to bait to control Argentine and Darwin's ants.

- Those in Golden Bay will need to control Banana Passion Vine if it is present.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council adopt the following recommendation of the Strategy Review Committee.

THAT the Council approve the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy for public notification.

Lindsay Vaughan
Policy Planner/Biosecurity Coordinator

APPENDIX 1: REVIEW PROCESS AND TIMELINE

1. Initial review by the Biosecurity team (May - June 2005)
2. Review draft scoping paper with Nelson City Council staff (June 2005)
3. Gather information and analyse data on pest distribution and pest characteristics (May 2005 – June 2006)
4. Consult with key stakeholders: (July 2005 – June 2006)
5. Obtain formal agreement from both councils on Strategy Review process (August 2005)
6. Undertake preparation of the Proposed Strategy (August 2005 – July 2006)
7. Publicly notify the Proposed Strategy (August 2006)
8. Receive and assess submissions (October – November 2006)
9. Summarise submissions and distribute the summary to submitters (November 2006)
10. Prepare a report for the Board of Inquiry (November 2006)
11. Hearing of submissions by the Board of Inquiry (December 2006)
12. Notify decisions to submitters (January 2007)
13. Appeals to be referred to the Environment Court (none received)
14. Environment Court Hearing and Recommendations (not required)
15. Preparation of an Amended Strategy (January - February 2007)
16. Formal adoption of the Strategy by both councils (February – March 2007)
17. Public notification of the Strategy (March 2007)

APPENDIX 2:
SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM THE 2001-2006 STRATEGY

1. Existing pests that have changed categories

Sixteen changes have been made to existing pests.

Total Control – Boxthorn, Madeira vine and Spartina have been moved from Progressive Control.

Progressive Control - Rooks have been moved from Total Control, Banana Passion Vine from Regional Surveillance.

Containment – Broom (Howard-St Arnaud), Gorse (Howard-St Arnaud), Purple pampas and Lagarosiphon have been moved from Progressive Control. Magpies, mustelids, feral cats, feral rabbits, hares and possums have been moved from Regional Surveillance.

Boundary - Australian Sedge has been moved from Progressive Control.

2. Existing pests that have been removed

Six existing pests have been removed. Biosecurity officers will still provide information (publications) and advice and assistance to land occupiers on request.

Regional surveillance: Giant reed, Japanese honeysuckle, Purple and yellow nutsedge, Wandering Jew, and Woolly nightshade.

3. New pests that have been added

Fourteen new pests have been added.

Total Control: Hornwort, an aquatic weed has been added.

Progressive Control: Banana Passion Vine, five species of fish (Gambusia, koi carp, rudd, perch and tench), and three semi-aquatic pests (purple loosestrife, Reed Canary Grass, and Reed Sweet Grass) have been added.

Containment: Argentine and Darwin's ants have been added.

Regional surveillance: *Pinus contorta* (Lodgepole pine) and Yellow Flag, another aquatic weed, has been added.

4. New pests that were considered but rejected

A large number of new pests were considered but rejected as being a lower priority than the pests in the Strategy. These included catfish, chinchilla, chocolate vine, climbing asparagus, climbing dock, common pampas (*C. selloana*), pigs, deer, goats, Himalayan balsam, holly, strawberry tree, and wasps.