

Report 07.767
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Committee Council
Author Wayne O'Donnell, Manager, Biosecurity

Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy - Approval for Notification and Hearings Committee

1. Purpose

To seek the Council's approval to publicly notify the Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy (2007 Review) 2002-2022.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

The current Regional Pest Management Strategy (RPMS) was approved by Greater Wellington in September 2002. A twenty year term was selected to realistically reflect the expected time it would take to manage many of our regionally significant pests.

The aim of the RPMS is to:

- Minimise the actual and potential adverse and unintended effects of pests on the environment, economy, biodiversity and the community; and to
- Maximise the effectiveness of individual pest management through a regionally co-ordinated response.

The Biosecurity Act 1993 (BSA) requires the RPMS to be reviewed every five years. The Council may, following the review, decide to amend or revoke the Strategy or leave it unchanged. The five year review provides an opportunity to consider the relevance of new information gained in the preceding years. This information may indicate that some objectives and rules may no longer be appropriate or needed. Conversely, there may be a need to include new pests whose impacts have only recently become known.

The review is formally commenced when Greater Wellington publicly notifies the Proposed Strategy. This process then provides an opportunity for the community to have input into the pest management objectives for the region.

Following consideration of public submissions on the Proposed Strategy, the Council may decide to amend the Strategy or leave unchanged. The Council is required to give a written response to each submitter outlining the reasons for its decision. Any submitter can appeal the Council's decision to the Environment Court. The Court can direct the Council to make amendments to the Proposed Strategy. The Strategy is 'made' once the Council seal has been affixed.

The approval process can be delayed for some months if appeals are received. The Act provides for the existing Strategy to remain operable until the new Strategy has been made.

4. **Strategy Format and Content**

The Proposed Strategy (refer **Attachment 2**) is formatted into three sections;

- Part one: **introduction and background**
- Part two: **pest management programmes** and
- Part three: **administrative provisions**. All three sections have been updated with a number of amendments made.

Pest management programmes provide information on each individual pest; the proposed management procedures and objectives; and the rules necessary to ensure the objectives will be achieved. Proposed changes to this section will be of most interest to the public.

A cost-benefit analysis has been undertaken for all new species that are proposed for the strategy and for those existing pests where amendments are proposed. This decides what control, if any, is to be undertaken and what level of management is needed for the species. The CBA works in conjunction with the infestation curve which designates the different management policies. The infestation curve has been updated in the Proposed Strategy.

Attachment 1 provides a summary of the key changes in the Proposed Strategy. Most of these changes were identified in the Consultation document that was released for public comment in August 2006. The number of submissions received was surprisingly low, considering the extensive advertising and direct correspondence with affected and interested organisations that had occurred.

5. **Finalising the Proposed Strategy Document**

A draft copy of the Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy is attached to this report. Please note that the proposed strategy is still subject to minor editing and final layout design. A foreword (letter from the Chair) and a submission form are still to be added.

There will be no change to any policy or strategy rules in finalising the proposed document.

6. Sub-Committee Appointment

The Catchment Management Committee is responsible for overseeing the review of the Strategy. During the 2001/02 review, a Sub-Committee was appointed to hear, consider and decide on submissions. This was considered a very useful process as it provided an opportunity for Sub-Committee members to fully understand the issues before decisions were made on submissions and amendments to the proposed Strategy and allowed for a more flexible meeting schedule.

It is proposed that the Catchment Management Committee set up the Sub-Committee at its meeting in February 2008.

7. Communication

Public notices will be placed in all major newspapers in the region. Reference to the Proposed Strategy will be placed on the GW website.

A copy of the Proposed Strategy will be distributed to all libraries in the region. Copies will also be forwarded to all interested and affected individuals and organisations that responded to the Consultation document in 2006.

8. Recommendations

That the Council:

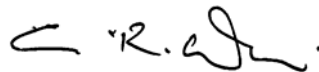
1. **Approves** the Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy for public notification.
2. **Delegates** to the Divisional Manager, Catchment Management the authority to make minor editorial amendments to the Proposed Strategy document prior to it being published.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:



Wayne O'Donnell
Manager, Biosecurity



Geoff Dick
Divisional Manager, Catchment Management

Attachment 1: Key Changes to Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy

Attachment 2: Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy