

15. PROPOSED REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2003

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The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for submissions to be made on the Environment Canterbury's Proposed Pest Management Strategy 2003 the closing date for which is the 1 September 2003.

This report is also being submitted to the August meeting of the Regulatory and Consents Committee.

INTRODUCTION

The Proposed Pest Management Strategy 2003 was adopted at a meeting of the Canterbury Regional Council on the 17 June 2003 under the provisions of the Biosecurity Act 1993. It followed on from consultation undertaken in 2002 on the discussion document *Review of Regional Pest Management Strategy (1998)* and in the development of this strategy comments received were evaluated and have aided the development of objectives and preferred measures contained in this proposal. This Strategy will operate alongside the Regional Pest Management Strategy – Biodiversity Pest (2002) that will continue in force until 2012.

THE PROPOSED REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The pests which will be covered by this strategy are largely those covered by the 1998 strategy, that is having significant effects on economic wellbeing, spill-over effects on neighbouring properties or are capable of having adverse effects on conservation values that are not necessarily shared by land occupiers.

Some additions have been made to the lists to bring these up-to-date with information that has become available since the preparation of the 1998 Strategy. Species not previously covered by the 1998 strategy, and not included in the 2002 Biodiversity Pest Strategy, are rooks, Darwin's barberry, bell heather, sycamore and red flowering currant.

Some of the species evaluated were excluded because it is considered that individual action is sufficient to prevent serious adverse effects, eg rats, mice and hares. The Fish and Game Council presently manage Canada geese. Magpies were considered to be too numerous for control to be effective.

A new initiative is the provision under the Containment Control Programme for *Community Initiative Programmes* where controls could be stricter than under the containment specifications. Community groups will fund these latter if they desire to undertake such controls and ECan will facilitate such groups.

After the process 67 plants and four animals are finally proposed to be declared pests under this Strategy. All but 13 plants are known to be present in Canterbury as at the 1 June 2003.

Total Control Pest Programmes, which are aimed at eradication, will apply to eight plants and one animal (Rooks).

A *Progressive Control Pest Programme*, treatment at regular intervals with the aim of systematic progress towards eradication, applies only to Nassella tussock at this time.

Containment Control Pest Programmes will apply to five plants and three animals. In these programmes the idea is to reduce the spread of infestation or the containment of populations within a specified threshold. There is also the provision for *Community Initiative Programmes* for these species.

The *Biodiversity Pest Programme*, covering five plants, complements the *Regional Pest Management Strategy – Biodiversity Pests 2002* and makes provision for the incorporation of the two Strategy's if that was required. It deals with managing such pests in targeted areas with high environmental values. The factors that may define such areas include ecological factors, partnership opportunities and utility factors.

The *Restricted Pest Programme* replaces the previous category of 'surveillance plant pest' in the 1998 strategy. The list of plants covers the same species, *except that* it now excludes species that are listed nationally under the Biosecurity Act as 'unwanted organisms'. Both restricted pests and unwanted organisms are banned from sale, propagation and distribution.

SUBMISSIONS

It is considered that the submissions the Council should make on this Strategy will cover some technical corrections, changes to the status of some of the pests, and questions as to how some of the proposed objectives will be achieved on the ground.

It is considered that a submission should be made to ensure these matters are considered in this formal process.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee recommend to the Regulatory and Consents Committee that the Council make a submission to Environment Canterbury on the Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy (2003).

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.