



Report 07.131
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Committee Rural Services and Wairarapa
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Regional Pest Management Strategy: Review Update

1. Purpose

To provide the Committee with an update on the Strategy review process, including proposed new timeframes to complete the review.

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 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.

4. Review Update

Report 06.269 to the June 2006 Rural Services Committee meeting outlined a timetable to complete the review process. The key review milestones included preparation of a Consultation Document in late July / August 2006, notification of a Proposed Strategy in February / March 2007 and approval of the revised Strategy by the Council in September 2007.

The Consultations Document was completed and notified in August 2006. The number of submissions received was surprisingly low, despite extensive advertising and direct correspondence with a number of affected and interested organisations.

Submissions from the initial consultation process were analysed in August / September and a start made on the cost benefit analysis (CBA) required for each proposed species under section 72 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act). The CBA process has taken considerably longer than initially anticipated. This was mainly due to -

- Gaining an understanding of the new CBA models (production and environmental models), and
- Applying the models to a large number of species where, in many cases, information from a range of sources needed to be collated.

The models need to be applied to all pests where an amendment is being recommended. However, to ensure consistency the models are being applied to all existing pest species. This process is nearly complete. A document collating all the CBA material will be produced and made available for public review when the Proposed Strategy is notified.

Good progress has been made completing the rewrite of Part Two of the strategy. This Part contains all the proposed pest management programmes for each pest. A review of Part One (introduction, effects of implementation, responsibilities and obligations) and Part Three (administrative provisions – powers, regulatory management, funding) is currently underway.

Further delays have occurred because the Division's Senior Communications Advisor has been very busy on other Council matters. Most recently Catriona Robertson has become involved in communications associated with proposed aerial 1080 operations in Upper Hutt and Otaki.

5. Proposed New Timeline

Set out below are the proposed new timelines for completion of the review.

An important point to note is that the Act provides for the existing RPMS to remain operable until such time as the reviewed Strategy is approved, including the completion of any rights of appeal (s.88(4)).

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| - Preparation of proposed strategy to print | May 2007 |
| - Notify Proposed Strategy | early June 2007 |
| - Closing date for submissions | Friday 13 July 2007 |
| - Summary of submissions prepared/notice given of availability for public viewing | Friday 10 August 2007 |
| - Hearings | late August to September end |

- Update report to Council (last meeting of the triennium)
27 September 2007
- Proposed Strategy approved at Council meeting (first of the new triennium)
18 December 2007
- Revised Strategy published
early 2008

Any appeals to the Environment Court will delay this timeline. However, the existing Strategy will continue to be implemented if this occurs.

6. Recommendation

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

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