

MINUTES OF THE GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL MEETING 19 FEBRUARY 2018

Held at Novotel Auckland Airport

Present: Don Hammond (Chair), Geoff Kerr, Garry Ottmann, Carol Watson, Roger Duxfield, Richard Burdon, Rachael Dean, Stephen Hall, Jenny Wotten (Executive Officer). Apologies: Alec McIver

Also in attendance: Ben Reddix (DOC), Rod Treder (DOC), Alastair Bramley (Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP))

1. **Welcome, Agenda, Health & Safety:** Don Hammond welcomed Councillors and visitors. Ben Reddix introduced Rod Treder, Business Improvement Manager, Strategy and People, Department of Conservation who will become our new relationship advisor. Don Hammond recorded a vote of thanks to Ben Reddix for the exceptional service he has provided to Council since its inception and said he was looking forward to working with Rod Treder who already has some knowledge of the Council through his work on the levy implementation.
2. Garry Ottmann added a discussion about OSPRI to the Agenda.

Motion 18/1: Moved Don Hammond/:Garry Ottmann that the agenda be confirmed.	CARRIED
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3. Activities since last meeting:

- a. **Shot Show** - Don Hammond thanked Garry Ottmann and Roger Duxfield for their work on behalf of the GAC, manning a GAC booth at the Shot Show in Auckland on 17 & 18 March 2018. A key message that was heard was that the Council needs to raise its profile, communicate more and get recognition for its achievements. GAC presence at the Shot Show was considered worthwhile, reaching a different demographic to the Sika Show. Don asked Roger Duxfield, Garry Ottmann & Carol Watson to make some notes for next year so we are better prepared **Action item 18/1.** Don Hammond to write to the organisers of the Shot Show thanking them for the booth and providing some feedback. The Shot Show will be held next year on 23 & 24 Feb 2019. Don Hammond to write Strawbridge 100% also for lending us their big tv for the show. Both letters; **Action item 18/2.**
 - b. **Guides booth in Las Vegas** - Garry Ottmann & Roger Duxfield also helped man the Guide's booth in Las Vegas last weekend (Richard Burdon was also at the show). NZ guides are now leading the guiding world in education, health and safety and are being head hunted to develop similar systems in other countries where the NZPHGA connect their guide training curriculum to their health and safety manual. The Guides Academy is getting continued support from SCI.
4. **Minutes of previous meeting 11 September 2017:** were taken as read. Changes as advised prior to the meeting: C2C changed name and other minor changes.

Motion 18/2: Moved Stephen Hall/Roger Duxfield: that the Minutes of the 11 September 2017 Meeting be accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.	CARRIED
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5. Matters arising not on agenda:

- a. **ICC** - Roger Duxfield had a meeting with ICC (ex C2C) in Las Vegas, Roger to report on this meeting and provide the latest update at the next GAC Meeting.
- b. **Tahr project** – Garry Ottmann advised that a combination of too much rain and the fence inspection & repair process had delayed the start of this project but everything is falling into place now and the collars are deactivated but ready to go.
- c. **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)** – Roger Duxfield provided an overview of the latest information about CWD and there was a discussion about related biosecurity issues, risks for the deer

industry (farming as well as wild animals), responsibilities of hunters and the continuing need for good educational material about checking gear prior to arrival. Roger Duxfield has attended further meetings about CWD and is continuing his communications with SCI to ensure we are kept in the loop with updates. Geoff Kerr advised there is nothing on the GAC website about CWD at the moment but he will create a page about CWD **Action item 18/3**.

- **Use of Lures** – There was a discussion about the new trend of using synthetic lures. Lures that are animal based cannot be brought into NZ, however synthetic lures are acceptable. Ben Reddiex advised there was a notice about the use of lures on the DOC website. Carol Watson advised that the Archery Trade Association website has a CWD Deer Protection Programme in place and ATA member scent manufacturers who participate have agreed to take measures to ensure their products come from healthy herds, see <https://archerytrade.org/manufacturers/deer-protection/>. Carol Watson advised it may be useful for guides to have this list of manufacturers whose products carry the ATA Seal of Participation.

- d. **OSPRI 2018 TBfree pest control operations** – Garry Ottmann provided an update on his recent interactions with OSPRI. The OSPRI consultation period finished on 29 September 2017. There were submissions from landowners, farmers, tourism companies, hunters and recreational land users. OSPRI acknowledged GAC's suggestions about alternative timing of certain operations, but responded "...the timing of national level consultation has to fit with OSPRI's own annual planning cycle, and timing around a number of other operational areas as well." And, despite GAC's constant insistence that OSPRI produce scientific justification for 1080 operations, they advised the GAC "...despite no or few specific findings of TB in wildlife in some areas, there is still a reasonable probability of disease being present." In concluding their response to the GAC submission, OSPRI stated:

"OSPRI appreciates the level of support shown from GAC's submission on 2018 TBfree pest control operations. The alternative operational suggestions for the CNI have been noted, but following operational and economic consideration it has been decided to continue with the existing plan of aerial control divided over two years as previously agreed."

People in Taupo are not satisfied that their suggestions have been seriously considered. The GAC feels it opened the door for OSPRI for meaningful consultation but OSPRI have not engaged. Garry Ottmann is going to raise outstanding issues with Kevin Crews, National Disease Control Manager, including the likely success of operations where neighbouring large tracts of land are left untreated. Garry Ottmann reported that meeting attendees asked the GAC to continue the conversations with OSPRI and work through possible solutions.

Council discussed ideas about how to improve consultation between OSPRI and hunting groups. Garry Ottmann will be attending a meeting with OSPRI in March in Napier where he will raise outstanding concerns.

- **Sika Deer Repellent Trial** – OSPRI advised that results from their research into deer repellent efficacy for Sika Deer have been placed on their website. OSPRI appreciated the support of the GAC, the Sika Deer Foundation and associated hunting groups in providing and promoting this information during the Sika Show. Don Hammond asked Rod Treder to follow up on other deer repellent trials being conducted by DOC. It is thought that in the near future, deer repellent may be included in bait during manufacture rather than being added as a coating.

- e. **Molesworth OSPRI 1080 deer by-kill** – Geoff Kerr reported on a stakeholder’s meeting called by Landcorp’s Molesworth Manager in January 2018 to discuss by-kill of deer in the OSPRI 1080 operation in late 2017, see Geoff Kerr’s Statutory Processes paper attached. Also discussed was DOC’s consultation on potential changes to the management of Molesworth Station after the current lease expires in 2020. The GAC is hoping to see the Marlborough NZDA’s assessment of deer mortality from this operation. OSPRI have agreed to reassess options for the next operation in May 2018. The GAC is waiting on further feedback from NZDA and OSPRI.

6. Action items from Previous Meetings

- a. 2/13 Illegal Hunting Review: The new Minister will decide if the GAC is to be provided with resources to undertake this task. The GAC is keen for it to be completed.
- b. Promotion & Sponsorship Policy – 3/12: In abeyance until we know funding source.
- c. 8/9 the conversation with NZCA will be ongoing.
- d. 10/7 HOSI – Contractor is working on HOSI strategy.
- e. 13/10 DOC Easement Provisions: See Geoff Kerr’s Statutory Processes report attached. Rod Treder also agreed to chase up a response from Jeremy Severinson.
 - Some hunters believe that if a firearm is not assembled then it isn’t considered to be a firearm for the purposes of carrying it over an easement. Council will follow this up **Action item 18/4**. Interpretations from the past say that you are carrying a firearm even if it is not assembled.
- f. 14/1 NZAGE Standards: Geoff Kerr reported that there has been no advancement on this issue.
- g. 16/4 GAC Annual Report: Rachael Dean reported on progress of both the 2015/16 Annual Report which is to be sent to the new Minister any day now and the 2016-17 Annual Report which has been finalised and is waiting for the audit of the financial statements to be completed.
- h. 17/6 HOSI on agenda – Geoff Kerr says the consultant has produced a full draft of approval procedure and management plan structure, which is now with the Department of Conservation. We are awaiting feedback.
- i. 17/8 Ben Reddiex advised that the letter to levy submitters was sent out in September 2017. The same wording was posted onto the GAC website at the same time.
- j. 17/10 not done
- k. 17/11 NZPHA COP - Garry Ottmann advised that the NZPHA has published their COP but will include any changes the GAC suggests. Geoff Kerr congratulated the NZPHA on an excellent document and suggested a small amendment.
- l. NZPHGA concession document - Roger Duxfield reported that the reworded NZPHGA concession document might still need some tweaking on its wording around HOSI.
- m. Change wording 17/12 to read DOC easement and the Walking Access Commission. No advancement since the last meeting.

- 7. **Al Bramley – Zero Invasive Predators Research in the Perth River South Westland:** Don Hammond welcomed Al Bramley from ZIP. Al Bramley said ZIP is seeking the views of the GAC and hoping for support for their agency and their programme of work currently underway in a 12,000 hectare block in the Perth Valley, to completely remove possums and rats from large areas & prevent them from re-establishing.

If successful, the approach will have significant beneficial outcomes for native plants and animals in the Perth Valley. It could also help pave the way for a predator-free New Zealand.

While the GAC supports the removal of predators, it raised with ZIP the likely disruption for hunters, and potential impact on the tahr population and the ongoing effect from future programmes. As hunters plan their hunting trips a long way in advance, the GAC raised concerns about relatively short notice about closure periods and buffer zones.

There has been no research on the effect of 1080 operations using cereal baits on tahr. A proposed joint ZIP/GAC project offers the opportunity to investigate that matter, especially considering the higher than 'normal' sowing rates involved.

The GAC agreed to work with ZIP, NZDA, DOC, Landcare Research, a local helicopter company and the hunting guides association to implement a monitoring program to assess the effects of the operation on tahr.

GAC are supportive of development of alternative repellent options to make the option both cheaper and more effective.

ZIP wants guidance from the GAC as to how to reach out to hunters.

Don Hammond summarised that it's an exciting project that can possibly lead to an end to the use of 1080, and better outcomes for hunters & indigenous flora and fauna.

- 8. Correspondence and Feedback:** The BFOB 2018 list of operations will be circulated by Geoff Kerr - he advised there is no mast event anticipated in 2018. Geoff Kerr has been most appreciative of the open and constructive engagement between NZDA, GAC & DOC around BFOBs.

An invitation from Roy Sloan to attend the unveiling of the Wapiti Foundation's Wapiti Bull Statue has been received.

Don Hammond noted he is continuing to try and meet with Minister Sage. Rod Treder advised the GAC to be patient for now.

Motion 18/3: Moved Richard Burdon/Rachael Dean: That inward correspondence be accepted and outward correspondence be approved.	CARRIED
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9. Financial Report – Feb 2018

Balance of Accounts at 7 February 2018	\$	
Online Call Account	10,859.81	
Business Edge Account	5,557.39	
Credit Card Account	-927.14	
Cash on hand		15,490.06

Motion 18/4: Moved Rachael Dean/Stephen Hall: That the financial report be accepted and that payments made be approved.	CARRIED
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- a. Rachael Dean has taken over preparation of the financial statement and she spoke to her report. Rachael Dean has some electronic solutions for more efficient processes, using drop boxes and Xero instead of MYOB Banklink. Rachael Dean requested view only access to Kiwibank account and to set up a GAC drop box. Rachael Dean will put together a proposal for new financial arrangements from the beginning of the new financial year. Rachael Dean will prepare the financial policies the auditors have suggested.
- b. Don Hammond anticipates a budget shortfall by 2019 if there is no levy or alternative funding source.

Motion 18/5: Moved Rachael Dean/Stephen Hall: that the Chair of the Financial & Administration committee have read only access to Kiwibank (the position rather than the person).	CARRIED
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Motion 18/6: Moved Rachael Dean/Roger Duxfield: that the GST report for June be a one off report to align to end of financial year. CARRIED

10. DOC Update: Ben Reddiex provided a DOC update which is attached to these Minutes, covering the following issues:

- Update on Battle for our Birds including use of deer repellent in past & future operations.
- DOC's commitment to consult with the GAC & NZDA to understand and mitigate hunter's concerns related to DOC's annual predator control programme. Cooperation between GAC, NZDA and DOC has significantly reduced conflict over aerial 1080 applications. Brent Beaven of DOC to be invited to attend GAC's next meeting **Action item 18/5**.
- Proposal to incorporate GAC's Code of Practice into the new round of AATH permits.
- Update on DOC's decision not to proceed with a full WARO Review.
- AATH – apologies for time taken, Minister believed there was no need for regulation and could be implemented.
- Update on Chronic Wasting Disease and DOC information on their website.
- Discussion about DOC's expanded budget for vote conservation HOSI draft advice guide, draft template documents & draft process documents will soon be finalized.

11. Where to from here – Don Hammond provided an update to Council on the establishment of an income stream for the GAC through an export trophy levy system for the export of trophies by visiting hunters followed by a discussion about:

- the GAC's Operational Plan & Budget
- current status of previous and current Annual Reports
- the audit of financial statements
- funds allocated in previous years for levy implementation
- discussion about levy \$ amount & costs associated with collection system
- IT development costs associated with the levy
- other revenue sources to support the Council.

A discussion followed about what can reasonably be achieved based on current funding levels and whether to progress the levy with the new Minister. General comments were as follows:

- Council supported upholding the provisions of the Act.
- Discussion was supportive of pursuing the levy but being more pragmatic about the \$ amount.
- There was discussion about the impact of the revised TPPA (Rod Treder has asked MFAT for advice about the implications of the current and future agreements).
- The Council considered options for getting the Act changed to allow for alternative funding. There could be hidden risks with alternative funding which might hinder the GAC from achieving its core objectives and delivering on key functions.
- The Council discussed implications for work schedule, staffing and administration with a reduced level of funding.
- We need to ascertain what the collections costs will be – the initial set up costs are estimated to be at least \$40,000 plus \$60,000 annually not including software, facility for payment and the provision of export certificates. There is a risk that a levy at a reduced level would not collect sufficient income to justify collection costs. If the levy proceeds the Council would need to pursue its IRD instruction regarding whether the levy was subject to GST (estimated cost of \$10,000 for IRD advice).

There was a good level of support to resubmit the levy proposal, but no decision was reached about whether it should be changed. It was decided that, subject to advice from MFAT (through our Minister), we would restart the levy process. MFAT advice would probably be around the long term likelihood of risk with the US potentially coming back into the revised TPPA. It is reasonable that the

government jointly fund the activities of the GAC because of its statutory responsibilities including education, training and research and the 'public good' component of the Council's work.

There was discussion about GAC membership, a GAC supporters club, sponsorship, a GAC newsletter, GAC staffing, the role of a CEO (what would be the expected skill set of this person, how would they engage with hunters etc). There was consensus not to limit our scope to the levy but to look at other, complementary funding streams. It was generally agreed that the GAC would revisit the levy implementation document itself, without engaging contractors, write up any necessary changes and send the document to the Minister for consideration. For the remainder of the year, the GAC will focus on education, safety & training.

12. Working Group reports: all reports were taken as read

- a. **Statutory Processes** – See attached report from Geoff Kerr providing an update on:
 - Conservation Management Strategies and National Park Management Plans
 - Regional Pest Management Plans
 - DOC easements - successful meeting last year during which DOC agreed to a trial in the South Island with details to be placed on Walking Access Commission website
 - GAC attendance at National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee/National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee/Ministry for Primary Industry Meeting in Wellington on 15 November 2017
 - Conservation (Infringement System) Bill
 - GAC attendance at Landcorp's Molesworth Manager's Meeting in January 2018
 - DOC consultation on potential changes to Molesworth Station management on lease expiry in 2020
 - Himalayan Tahr Control Plan – there is no current plan and the latest plans are for 2015. The next plan will be a single plan covering all tahr range.

- b. **Stephen Hall's Statutory Processes report** – See Stephen Hall's report attached, which covers Regional Council's Pest Management Plans, Ministry for the Environment policy statement and recommendations, Ministry for Primary Industry (MPI) split into Fisheries, Forestry, Biosecurity and Food Safety; and Predator Free update. The National Park Strategy is under review - what is the public submission process and what are the implications for hunters? Don Hammond will liaise with NZCA, **Action item 18/6** – Don Hammond will follow up the National Parks General Policy Review with NZCA (and potentially future of Molesworth). NZDA Marlborough are representing hunter's interests, working with Landcorp and DOC offices etc with regard to Molesworth. There is a real divergence of views as to what the land would/could be used for going forward, all farming or all hunting and we could drive some of this process by encouraging submissions to process. The GAC will keep an eye on it and the New National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.

- c. **WARO** - For the benefit of Rod Treder, Don recapped the background of the WARO Review, going back to the NZDA AGM in 2015 and Mike Slater's undertaking to complete a review before expiry of the current permits. That review has not occurred.

Because the GAC expected DOC to conduct a collaborative, effective and comprehensive Review, the GAC hasn't engaged with the WARO operators directly. Councillors agreed that the GAC should engage with the WARO industry. The GAC will initiate its own analysis of the issue including a full consultation process. The GAC will also work with DOC on improving WARO stakeholder engagement.

There are ongoing concerns about ensuring compliance with permit conditions, including minimum harvest and clashes with the tahr ballot.

It was agreed that the GAC would stop seeking a Review led by DOC and would write to DOC stating its dissatisfaction with the outcome.

Don Hammond undertook to raise these matters in his discussion with the new Minister.

- d. **HOSI update** - Garry Ottmann and Geoff Kerr have been working closely with contractor Kerri-Ann Edge. The process is a small way behind scheduled timing and needs a strong push from DOC to get back on track as there is some frustration in the hunting world about the delays with the process. The project was due for completion by the end of February 2018. Once we have the final paperwork from the contractor, it will be circulated within the Council, followed by consultation outside of Council with core people who have been involved in the process thus far.
- e. **NZ Mountain Safety Council and NZ Police** – Richard Burdon reported on his liaison with the MSC and the NZ Police, working with Roger Duxfield.
- f. **DOC hunting liaison person** – Carol Watson advised she has established contact with Fiona Hall at DOC who is our new hunting liaison person. Discussion included the inconsistencies and confusion that exists around the exact conditions of a hunting permit as it applies to bowhunters. A report on the current hunting permit system has been completed and sent to managers for approval. This would be an opportunity to engage with DOC on the issue of permit conditions in relation to FAL/hunter education requirements. Carol will follow up on the progress of the report with Fiona **Action item 18/7**.
- g. **Website, Communications & Annual Reporting:** There was discussion about a website and email system upgrade but it is a low priority given the current funding situation. Rachael Dean, Carol Watson and Jenny Wotten were tasked with investigating options.

13. General Business:

- a. **Hunting NGO memo** - Richard Burdon discussed his memo outlining various funding options. Garry Ottmann, Roger Duxfield, Richard Burdon & Rachael Dean were tasked with progressing this. Stephen Hall will be the Coordinator and will produce a Scoping document with timelines once Rod Treder provides the information about the revised TPPT **Action item 18/8**.
- b. **Parliamentary hunts** – Garry Ottmann will send out a ‘save a date’ near to the Sika Show. The 2018 Annual Parliamentary Hunt is set to take place this year from 8 to 13 October 2018, during Parliament recess and the school holidays. MPs can look forward to a unique hunting and outdoors experience at one of New Zealand’s foremost hunting destinations, over 2 days. The venue will be confirmed once we have an indication of the number of MPs interested in attending. Jenny Wotten to get the invitations out through Parliament.

- 14. Next Meeting planning: Thursday 17 May 2018 in Christchurch. Jenny Wotten to investigate dates for the following meeting in August.

The meeting closed at 4.15pm

NZ Game Animal Council

COUNCIL PAPER



DATE:	10 February 2018	FROM:	Geoff Kerr
TOPIC	Statutory Processes		
PURPOSE	Information & Discussion		
RECOMMENDATION	Accept		

Conservation Management Strategies.

- Wellington. Revised CMS due at NZCA February 2018.
 - GAC submissions have been addressed.
- East Coast/Hawkes Bay: Expected notification June 2018.
- Bay of Plenty: Review commenced.
- Nelson Marlborough: Planning underway.

National Park management plans.

- Aoraki/Mt Cook & Westland/Tai Poutini. Draft plans expected in early 2018.
 - GAC has met with DoC planners and will be involved once the draft plan is released.
- Fiordland & Mt Aspiring: Due to commence. Fiordland is of particular interest because of the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation agreement and the possibility of a wapiti herd of special interest.
- The NZ Conservation Authority is reviewing the General Policy National Parks.

Regional council pest management plans.

- Refer Stephen Hall's paper to Council.

Department of Conservation easements:

- I have been unable to get a response from DoC on progress on the cases study of incorporating Central South Island easements in the Walking Access Commission mapping system.

Battle for our Birds 2017/2018

- The three way consultation with DoC, GAC and NZDA is working very well and has established a high level of trust.
- DoC are now liaising on all 1080 operations, not just Battle for our Birds.
- One operation remains from the 2016/2017 programme, the Mathias/Wilberforce. This is a potential HOSI. Deer repellent will be used, but the operational area is undefined as yet.
- There will not be a beech mast in 2018.

National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee/National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee/Ministry for Primary Industry

- Geoff Kerr represented the GAC at an animal sentience workshop hosted by NAWAC/NAEAC/MPI in Wellington 15th November 2017.
- There were about 150 attendees representing a very wide range of interests.
- Other attendees with strong hunting interests were the NZ Pig Hunting Association (Steve McFall), Fish & Game NZ (Bryce Johnson) and Federated Farmers (Katie Milne).
- The 2015 animal welfare Amendment Act added sentience to the long title of the Act. Sentience remains undefined.
- The purpose of the workshop was to make progress on the definition and identify its implications.
- The Five Domains Model (nutrition, environment, behaviour, health, affective state) was a cornerstone, but sentience was focussed mainly on affective state and ensuring animals have positive mental experiences.
- The central focus was on ensuring captive animals (farms, zoos, pets, racing, research institutes, etc.) have a good life. There was considerable discussion on what that might entail and how good it had to be.
- The role of hunters in ensuring wild animals have a good death was acknowledged.
- There was a break out group on hunting, which was very supportive and saw a core role for the GAC in upholding animal welfare standards.
- We await a report on the proceedings of the workshop.

Conservation (Infringement System) Bill

- First reading 1st February 2018 (Proposed by the Minister of Conservation, supported by National).
- Now goes back to the Environment Select Committee.
- Implements an infringement process that avoids unproductive prosecutions.
- Amends several acts to implement the strategy for those acts.
- Does not amend the GAC Act.
- Sections 29-33 of the GAC are relevant.
- The GAC should consider making a submission on this bill.

Molesworth OSPRI 1080 deer by-kill

- Garry Ottmann and Geoff Kerr attended a stakeholder meeting in Blenheim to address mitigation of by-kill.
- The meeting was called by Landcorp's Molesworth manager.
- Attendees were Marlborough NZDA, National NZDA, OSPRI, DoC, Landcorp, and GAC.
- The meeting was very constructive. All parties agreed too many deer were killed in the 2017 operation and a variety of mitigation actions were proposed and are being actively considered by OSPRI.
- The next operation is likely to be in May 2018.
- The group is awaiting the scientific report assessing deer mortality from the 2017 operation.

Molesworth lease expiry

- The Molesworth Station (180,000 ha) farming lease expires in 2020.
- DoC is seeking expressions of interest for how Molesworth should be managed in future.
- DoC is open to suggestions of radical change.
- There is very good trophy red stag potential.
- Currently, there is limited balloted game animal hunting and no WARO.
- Marlborough NZDA have established good relationships with DoC and Landcorp and see some advantages in continuation of the present system.
- The opportunity to make submissions has been widely publicised and is being discussed by the game hunting community.
- GAC might wish to consider wider implications.

Himalayan Tahr Control Plan

- There is no current operational tahr plan (the latest plans are for 2015/16). The next plan will be a single plan covering all tahr range. DoC has agreed to forward the new plan to GAC.
- DoC is currently seeking to appoint someone to oversee tahr-related matters.

WARO

- Reports from the six meetings (3 x WARO and DOC, 3 x NZDA, WARO & DOC) in November/December 2017 have been distributed to councillors.
- These reports signal an important communication issue between the WARO sector and the GAC. The GAC should take action to remedy this.
- DoC DDG Operations (Mike Slater) has confirmed there will not be follow-n meetings. Don Hammond has been in communication with DG Lou Sanson to state the GAC's view that this is inappropriate.

Ruahine Deer Management Working Group

- No progress since the last GAC meeting.

NZ Game Animal Council



COUNCIL PAPER

DATE:	19 Feb	FROM:	Stephen Hall
TOPIC	Updates		
PURPOSE	Information		
RECOMMENDATION	Receive		

Regional Councils Regional Pest Management Plans

- Over the next couple of years RCs will be reviewing their RPMPs
- The following councils have their proposals or plans out for consultation: Auckland, BOP, Hawkes Bay, Tasman/Nelson, most others will follow over the next year

Ministry for the Environment

- National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity currently progressing via Biodiversity Collaborative Group process
- Recommendations on NPS and supporting package to be delivered to Minister for the Environment September 2018

Ministry for Primary Industries (biosecurity)

- MPI will be split into four portfolio-based entities, Fisheries, Forestry, Biosecurity and Food Safety – to occur early 2018
- Biosecurity 2025 is still trucking along towards completion of the implementation plans by April/May for the 5 strategic directions: 1. Biosecurity team of 4.7million, 2. A toolbox for tomorrow, 3. Smart free-flowing information, 4. Effective leadership & governance, 5. Tomorrows skills & assets – see link if interested in direction statement:
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/biosecurity/biosecurity-2025/biosecurity-2025/>

Predator Free 2050

- PF2050Ltd received 40 expressions of interest covering 1.7m hectares, they have asked 7 of these projects to submit a request for proposal – successful projects will be determined by mid Feb

NZ Game Animal Council

COUNCIL PAPER



DATE:	3/2/18	FROM:	Don Hammond
TOPIC	ZIP (Zero Invasive Predators)		
PURPOSE	Background for discussion		
RECOMMENDATION	Discuss & develop position		

I recently had a call from Devon McLean and Al Bramley from ZIP. This organisation is funded by Next Foundation & DOC with, as the name suggests a target of removing predators from NZ mainland. ZIP have already carried out a number of trials with considerable success and as the attached fact sheet outlines, they are now planning to ramp this up to a 12,000 ha operation in the Perth this year. It will cover part of the tahr ballot area and this alone will be a cause for concern among hunters. ZIP are seeking the views of the GAC and to ensure a useful discussion I have invited them to our meeting in Auckland this month.

Clearly there is the issue of 1080 and their plan is to effectively double dose the area to ensure a high kill rate on all target species. While game animals are not the target, the issue of by-kill is important, as is loss of hunting opportunities for a period of time.

I have raised several issues with them summarised below:

- GAC supports the removal of predators
- We understand the need for 1080 and if there are ways of reducing the use of it in the long term, we are willing to consider short term issues.
- Given the invasiveness of rats, it is difficult to understand how in the long term, there will be no use for toxins, the toxins will simply be re-targeted from possums to rats.
- There is little or no information on the impact of 1080 on tahr and chamois and given they are planning their operation to go to the vegetation line, this is a real concern.
- I suggest there may be an urgent need to do some work in this space.
- ZIP also noted there was not a lot of information on tahr etc so I advised we were doing some work with collared animals and perhaps it could be extended to include their issues.
- We need to determine the potential impact on game animals and the case for repellent. I have raised this and as always, the cost is an issue. However, they also have a large budget for this operation, so it is potentially something to work through.
- GAC are supportive of development of alternative repellent options to make the option both cheaper and more effective, especially considering what happened on Molesworth this year.
- As part of the area is Wilderness and tahr ballot they are writing to ballot winners offering options. They have also worked closely with DOC on issues associated with this.
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ZIP have made some very good progress and it is vital that we have good communication with them. This is, from my recent experience, especially important on the Coast as there is a rising level of 'anger' among hunters about the apparent never ending aerial operations there.

It is clear they are well advanced with their planning so we are coming in late and need to work closely with them if there are issues we believe need to be addressed. Please consider what the issues are you can see and be prepared to raise them with Al when he meets with us.

Don Hammond

DOC Report – Game Animal Council Meeting (19 February 2018)

Herds of Special Interest

- Template documents for the creation of herd of special interest management plans are being developed with incorporation of feedback from the GAC, DOC and Ngai Tahu;
- A final check of these documents is currently being undertaken;
- The final drafting of the advice guide is being undertaken;
- Once completed, the GAC will receive:
 - Draft advice guide (not in a published format);
 - Draft template documents;
 - Draft process documents;
 - And a list of next steps required by both DOC and GAC before the process becomes operational.

AATH Code of Practice (COP)

- A variation to the original AATH 2014 permit has been developed to include the revised COP, an acknowledgement that Herds of Special Interest may be proposed/designated over certain areas, and rewording around the concession activity fee (removing the word ‘trophy’). The project is currently waiting on final legal advice.
- The next step would be to issue a variation to the original permit, requiring concessionaires to sign and return the contract. However, given the late stage, the expiry of all current AATH permits in Feb 2019 (with the actual AATH operating season finishing in August 2018), and that the revised COP does not include any major changes to the old COP, it may be more practical to instead incorporate the revised COP and changes into any new round of AATH permits, if granted.

Chronic Wasting Disease

- The DOC website’s hunting section now includes an item on chronic wasting disease:
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/chronic-wasting-disease>

Predator Free 2050 (PF2050) Update

- Brent Beaven has been employed within DOC to co-ordinate DOC’s PF2050 activity and develop a strategy. Brent will be initiating focus group discussions in the next few months to progress the overarching strategy for how we will get to PF2050.
- The following sections highlight a small snippet of the activity underway in New Zealand relating to PF2050.

DOC Predator Free Community Ranger Update

- Predator Free (PF) Rangers have provided support to a newly established community group on Great Barrier Island whose traplines extend onto the Okiwi Kakariki trap network.
- The North West Wildlink trap caravan is under way, advocating and educating communities across the region.
- PF Rangers have been working on a management and activity plan with the Forest Bridge Trust, which was awarded funding through the DOC Community Fund programme. The Trust aims to

deliver predator control at a number of high value biodiversity sites north of Auckland, including three Public Conservation Land sites.

- Meetings are progressing with Pest Free Omaha and the local council to discuss their new plans for predator control.
- Auckland Council has issued its new pest animal control community guidelines.
- PF Rangers are making good progress with the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) to develop the DOC/WRC PF Strategy.
- The pilot for developing a nation-wide animal pest control course for communities will take place in March 18 attended by PF Rangers. Enrolments for the course will commence on 18 May.
- The Routeburn Dart Wildlife Trust has completed the first phase of its Braided River Project, installing 601 DOC200 traps on the Upper and Lower Rees and Dart rivers. This project was funded by the Central Lakes Trust, the DOC Community Fund, and other funding sources.
- Auckland Council has committed to a goal of Pest Free by 2050. As part of this, they run an annual Pestival. The PF Ranger in Auckland is working closely with Auckland Council in their planning of the next Pestival, scheduled to run from the 19-27 May 2018.
- Planning is continuing toward the PF2050 themed DOC stand at the NZ Agriculture Field days at Mystery Creek, Hamilton.
- The Lake Hayes A+P Show on 13th January was well attended with approximately 9000 visitors. DOC invited Wakatipu Wildlife Trust (WWT) to share the stand and PF2050 was the theme. There was lots of interest from locals and WWT had many new people sign up to receive more information.

Long life rat lure

- The Tools to Market programme is funding Victoria University (VUW) scientists to develop their long-life rat lure for public use.
- This artificial lure is as attractive to rats as fresh food lures and initial lab work has enabled this lure to last at least 4 months.
- The advantage for trapping programmes is large as this lure does not go mouldy, maintains its “freshness” for the duration of deployment and can extend the duration between trap checking with subsequent reduction in cost.
- This will be particularly useful on offshore islands where checking costs are high and a continually “fresh” lure will ensure traps are always at peak attractiveness for invading rats.
- Laboratory trials have successfully encapsulated the lures to last longer and recommended devices for presenting lures in the field. The next stage of development is field trials.

PF2050 LTD Landscape Projects

- The company has now received the 7 Request For Proposals for large Landscape projects that were selected from the Expression of Interest process: PF Waiheke, Towards PF Pureora, PF Hawkes Bay, Tō Tātou Taranaki Towards PF Taranaki, PF Capital Kiwi-PF Wellington, D’Urville Island Stoat Eradication and PF Dunedin.
- The evaluation panel met on the 12th February and funding negotiations with successful parties will be initiated late February 2018.

PF2050 Ltd Operations

- The company is now fully staffed, having five full time employees within PF2050 Limited. Positions are CEO - Ed Chignell, Communications & Business Support - Tim Higham, Finance and Business Analyst - Loui Nell, Executive Assistant - Kath Mead, Project Leader Science strategy - Prof Dan Tompkins (under secondment from Manaaki Whenua).

- They have finalised their logo and branding and it is currently being implemented into the business.

PF2050 Ltd Science

- Detailed Project Plans for three sizeable start-up Projects (comprising a total of \$2m funding) have been constructed:
 - Zero Invasive Predators Ltd – Landscape scale possum eradication;
 - Genomics Aotearoa – Rat genome sequencing (in collaboration with the Biological Heritage Challenge and CSIRO);
 - Manaaki Whenua – OSPRI possum eradication.
- PF2050 Ltd Research Funding Agreement documents have now been finalised, and will be put in place for these projects in February 2018.
- Discussions with providers are nearing completion for smaller supporting projects on social research, cultural perspectives, mathematical modelling of genetic approaches, and identifying target genes for breeding suppression, and are underway for projects on the behaviour of possum ‘survivors’ and possums in urban and rural environments, the development of a ‘Data Commons’, and spatial strategy modelling (initially for possum eradication).

Battle for our Birds Update

DOC 1080 operations to resume after the roar

DOC has been able to pause aerial 1080 operations throughout summer and autumn, as fine weather allowed all programmed work to be completed prior to Christmas. We will need to resume work after the roar though. At this point there are 6 aerial 1080 operations scheduled to run in the coming winter; Eyre Mountains, Hope Cascade, ZIP research in South Westland, Wilberforce, Moki Makino and Russell Forest. GAC and NZDA are already aware of these operations through our ongoing liaison. This has also confirmed that Wilberforce is a very significant site for hunters. DOC acknowledges this and is in dialogue about mitigating the effects of the operation by using deer repellent.

Early planning for future predator control programme

New Zealand has just experienced its warmest January on record. This increases the possibility of another mast event occurring in 2019, given that the summer of 2016 was cooler than average. We will have more certainty about any mast event occurring by December 2018, when beech trees begin to flower. We will be able to confirm if a mast is occurring by March 2019, when beech trees begin to set seed. If a mast occurs, it would trigger predator control operations in response during Spring 2019. We will keep GAC informed of this, along with early planning for our future predator control programme.

Ben Reddiex, Director Community Engagement