

Report No.	20-153
Information Only - No Decision Required	

## NATURAL RESOURCES & PARTNERSHIPS PROGRESS REPORT

### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this item is update members of Council's Environment Committee on the progress made in the Natural Resources & Partnership Group's activity over the period 1 July to 30 September 2020. The item provides updates on progress against the annual plan targets and aspects of the Natural Resources & Partnerships Group Operational Plan 2019-20.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 20-153 and Annexes.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. There is no financial impact associated with recommendations in this paper.

### 4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. This is a public item and therefore Council may deem this sufficient to inform the public.

### 5. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT

- 5.1. It is considered that there is no significant risk impact of this item

### 6. CLIMATE IMPACT STATEMENT

- 6.1. This item reports on Horizons' activity in relation to Horizons' Annual Plan targets and is not considered to have a climate change impact.

### 7. SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

- 7.1. The Natural Resources & Partnerships Group activity includes the non-regulatory and science programmes across the land and water management, biosecurity, biodiversity and environmental reporting activities of the Long-term Plan. The group also delivers regulatory functions for biosecurity and supports Horizons' regulatory programmes.
- 7.2. Over the reporting period the Natural Resources and Partnerships group prepared and presented a range of Council Papers including:
- Jobs for Nature Funding;
  - Tōtara Reserve Poplars;
  - Tōtara Reserve Poplar Removal Procurement;
  - National Wilding Conifer Programme;
  - Wilding Conifer Procurement;
  - Lake Rākau Hamama;
  - Implementation of Government's Freshwater Reform Package.

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- 7.3. Progress on the Land Management Activity within the Group was reported to the Catchment Operations in September.
- 7.4. Progress on the Water Quantity and Quality activity is updated on in Annex A. the progress report overviews the status of the water resources for rainfall and groundwater levels. Further it updates on the readiness of the regional water metering programme for the upcoming summer and the new water metering regulations. The annex also overviews the review of the lakes monitoring programme in relation to new freshwater regulation requirements and updates on the activity of the Freshwater and Partnerships Team across the range of non-regulatory implementation work that is underway.
- 7.5. The Biosecurity Animals programme (Annex B) made good progress over the reporting period with external contractors starting earlier than usual. Twelve of the planned 38 monitors were completed with an average result of 3.1 Residual Trap Catch (RTC) well below the Annual Plan target of 10%. There was one monitoring result that was above the 10% target and staff have followed up on this. Overall the programme is on track to deliver for the year with 13,820 ha of new land added to the programme this year already compared to a target 6,217 ha. Overall 21,125 (19% of the annual target) bait stations have been filled in the first three months of the year. Staff have completed preparation for the rook control season which will get underway in in the next reporting period.
- 7.6. The Biosecurity Plants programme (Annex C) presented an item to Council on progress against the pest plan goals in October. Further the team have been following up on the alligator weed incursion and other pest plan related activity. This includes work with territorial authorities and crown agencies around their pest management plan obligations and this is reported on further in the progress report.
- 7.7. The Biodiversity Programme (Annex D) overviews progress for the priority habitats programme which has recently been reviewed and will be reported on to Council at the Strategy and Policy Committee in November. The annex also updates on the biodiversity partnerships programme that was reviewed by Council during the reporting period. Further it updates on activity at Tōtara Reserve including the removal of poplars which Council resolved to do in July.
- 7.8. The Environmental Reporting programme (Annex E) provides updated reporting on water quality results for the region over the last 10 years based on the recent updates to the LAWA website ([www.lawa.org.nz](http://www.lawa.org.nz)). Further the annex updates on the recent activity around climate change including the recent social media campaign called #ClimateChangeinOurRegion.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

- 8.1. This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

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Rod Smillie

**BIODIVERSITY, BIOSECURITY & PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER**

Abby Matthews

**SCIENCE & INNOVATION MANAGER**

Jon Roygard

**GROUP MANAGER NATURAL RESOURCES & PARTNERSHIPS**

**ANNEXES**

- A Water Quality and Quantity Progress Report
- B Biosecurity Animals Progress Report
- C Biosecurity Plants Progress Report
- D Biodiversity Progress Report
- E Environmental Reporting and Air Quality Monitoring Progress Report