

Date: Thursday 11 July 2024
Time: 9:30am - RPMP Deliberations
Meeting Room: Tasman Council Chamber
Venue: 189 Queen Street, Richmond

Regional Pest Management Joint Committee

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENTS UNDER SEPARATE COVER

These are the tracked changes versions of Attachments 1 and 2 to the agenda report, unfortunately the tracked changes did not come through in those versions in the agenda

| ITEM | PAGE |
|--|------|
| 7.1 Deliberations report on the partial review of the Tasman Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029 | |
| 4. Feral and Stray Cat Provisions tracked changes version | 3 |
| 5. Wilding Pest Conifer Provisions tracked changes version | 17 |

**Feral and stray cat provisions for Tasman-Nelson Partial
RPMP Review**

**Revision in response to submissions and hearings (marked
up version)**

July 2024

Several edits are identified for the feral/stray cat policy provisions for the RPMP partial review. The starting point was the policy contained in the public Proposal notified in February 2024. Following submissions, and subsequent internal discussions on these submissions, staff have made suggested changes for consideration during deliberations. For clarity to the Regional Pest Management Joint Committee and submitters, staff's suggested edits are presented below in a marked up version of the feral and stray cat section of the original Proposal.



4.4 Pest animals

4.4.1 Feral and stray cats (*Felis catus*)

Current status: Feral cats, only, are included in the Waimea Estuary site-led programme.

Deleted: are

Proposed management category:

| Exclusion | Eradication | Progressive Containment | Sustained Control | Site-Led |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| | | | | |

Further site-led programmes are proposed for both feral and stray cat management in Tasman and Nelson.

Deleted: targeting

Deleted: s

Rationale for inclusion: Both Councils wish to step up feral and stray cat management at sites with important biodiversity values and further promote responsible companion cat ownership overall. Cats in general contribute to negative impacts on indigenous biodiversity (e.g. direct predation on native birds, reptiles and insects, freshwater fish and invertebrates across the region, or indirectly through nest or colony desertions). This proposal concerns management of feral and stray cats at several named high-value sites:

Deleted: (refer to Map 3 in this Proposal)

- Nelson City – inclusion of general management rules and a pest agent cat rule at numerous named publicly owned/managed sites.
- Abel Tasman National Park (ATNP) private enclaves – by adding a general reporting rule to the existing site-led programme and including a new pest agent cat rule.
- St Arnaud site-led programme – inclusion of a general reporting rule and a pest agent cat rule.
- Waimea site-led programme – addition of Bell Island.

Deleted: feral/stray cats

Deleted:

Deleted: new

Deleted: limiting the presence of companion cats in t village area...

Deleted: <#>¶

The ability to distinguish companion cats from feral and stray cats may rely over time on bylaws or national cat regulations (around compulsory microchipping) being implemented to support RPMP provisions (and vice versa). Desexing of cats also assists with long term management.

Description and adverse effects:



Feral and stray cats originate from reproduction of feral or stray cats or illegally released/dumped companion cats. They are usually short-haired and slightly built, with large heads and 'sharp' features. Coat colours revert to black, tabby or tortoiseshell, with varying extents of white. Adult male cats are generally larger than females and can weigh up to 5kg. They can produce two or three litters per year with an average of four young in each.

Deleted: and

New Zealand's unique native wildlife is particularly vulnerable to predation by all cats. Feral and stray cats in particular kill young

and adult birds and occasionally take eggs and prey on native lizards, fish, frogs and large invertebrates. Cats in general are highly efficient predators, and have been known to cause local extinctions of seabird species on islands around the world. Birds that nest or feed on or near to the ground are particularly at risk. Feral and stray cats are aggressive towards companion (owned) cats and also carry parasites and toxoplasmosis, which can cause serious illness in people, abortions in sheep, and may adversely affect native birds in the region.

Deleted: §
Deleted: and can cause serious illness in humans
Deleted: .

*The following cat definitions apply when reading this Plan.

| Type | Relationships with humans | Considerations |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Companion cat | Directly dependent | Has owner/guardian |
| Stray cat | Directly or indirectly dependent | Community cat(s), semi-owned, unowned, managed or unmanaged as a single cat or colony |
| Feral cat | Independent and unsocial | Wild animal, considered a pest in many regions in NZ |

Source: SPCA/NZ Cat Management Strategy

Any cat can also be deemed a 'pest agent cat' under the RPMP, with rules. Pest agent cat definition under this Plan is: any cat that in any way leads to the replication or survival of feral or stray cat populations.

Deleted: stray or

Plan rules and explanations of rules:

New approaches for (i) Nelson City – specific high value sites, (ii) current ATNP site-led programme and (iii) new St Arnaud environs site-led programme. Rules are noted as follows:

Deleted: (refer to Map 3 of the Proposal)

Specific rule for feral and stray cats in the Nelson City site led programmes
Over the duration of this Plan, and with regard to high value sites within Nelson City (as shown on Map 3.1 in this Proposal):

- a) Any person who suspects the presence of any feral or stray cat in any named high value site shall report its presence and location to Nelson City Council within 48 hours of their sighting.
- b) No person shall feed or shelter any feral or stray cat in any named high value site.

Deleted: must

Explanation of the rules

Rule a. is in accordance with section 73(5)(a) of the Act to assist NCC in detecting the presence of feral or stray cats for the purposes of biodiversity protection and wildlife management. Reporting of feral and stray cats in these areas by the public is encouraged. Reports will be

recorded in an appropriate council database and the information considered when assessing the need for any management at the site(s).

Deleted: control

Rule b. is in accordance with section 73(5)(d) of the Act to discourage people supporting cat colonies on public land with recognised high biodiversity values.

Specific pest agent cat rule for the Nelson City site-led programme

No person shall deliberately release into the wild (in any named high value site in Nelson as shown on Map 3.1 in this Proposal) any cat, including a companion cat.

Deleted: i.e.,

Deleted: or stray

Explanation of the rule

This pest agent rule is in accordance with sections 73(5)(e), (j) and (l) of the Act and aims to support council and community efforts in Nelson to protect wildlife and biodiversity values, by restricting the ability for companion cats potentially breeding with feral or stray cats. It also assists with reducing the likelihood of companion cats being released into the wild, at named sites, and causing long term effects.

Deleted: and stray

Deleted: and stray

Specific rule for feral and stray cats in the St Arnaud environs site led programme

Over the duration of this Plan, and with regard to the St Arnaud site-led programme (as shown on Map 3.2 of this Proposal):

Any person who suspects the presence of any feral or stray cat observed within the mapped area shall report its presence and location to Tasman District Council within 48 hours of their sighting.

Deleted: must

Explanation of the rule

This rule is in accordance with section 73(5)(a) of the Act to assist TDC and DOC in detecting the presence of feral or stray cats for the purposes of biodiversity protection and wildlife management. Reporting of feral and stray cats in this area by the public is encouraged. Reports will be recorded in an appropriate council database and the information considered when assessing the need for any management at the site.

Deleted: control

Specific pest agent cat rules for the St Arnaud environs site-led programme

Over the duration of this Plan, and with regard to the St Arnaud site-led programme (as shown on Map 3.2 of this Proposal):

- a. No person shall keep, hold or harbour any companion cat within the mapped area unless it is desexed and its identity is microchipped and the chip is registered on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register.
- b. No person shall deliberately release into the wild (into the Nelson Lakes National Park and environs) any cat, including a companion cat.

Deleted: e.g.,

Deleted: from or living within the mapped area

Explanation of the rule

Pest agent rules a. and b. are in accordance with sections 73(5)(a), (d) and (h) of the Act and aim to support existing St Arnaud community work to protect wildlife and biodiversity values, by restricting the presence of companion cats living in the St Arnaud area and potentially

breeding with feral or stray cats. It also assists with reducing the likelihood of companion cats being purposely released into the wild around St Arnaud and causing long term impacts.

Additional rules for Abel Tasman National Park private enclaves

Following existing rules a. and b. and in relation to the ATNP site-led programme areas – Awaroa, Torrent Bay and Marahau North, as shown in three maps (Map 3.31, 3.32 and 3.33, respectively, of this proposal):

- c. Any person who suspects the presence of any feral or stray cat within the ATNPSLP shall report its presence and location to Tasman District Council within 48 hours of their sighting.
- d. No person shall deliberately release into the wild (into the Abel Tasman National Park and private enclaves) any cat, including a companion cat. This is a specific pest agent cat rule for the Abel Tasman National Park and enclaves site-led programme.

Deleted: must

Explanation of the rule

Note: the current rule explanation is generic to cover the intent of the inclusion of feral/stray cats but needs to be edited to read 'named pest plants and pest animals' in two places.

A breach of any of the above rules is an offence under Section 154N(19) of the Act.

Plan change to include Bell Island in the Waimea Estuary Site-led Programme

Note: This change is an extension to the existing Waimea Estuary Site-led Programme and covers all of the pests listed in that programme. The change requires minor editing of the RPMP. It does not introduce any new rules or obligations on occupiers except for the occupier of Bell Island (Tasman District and Nelson City Councils) who must report the presence of the named pests to Tasman District Council and allow access to an authorised person to control the pest. This is not a material change to that occupier's current obligations under the RPMP and does not affect adjacent occupiers.

Proposed changes are as follows (underlined):

- Site Description (Table 10, page 58, paragraph 5). "...areas along the southern side of Waimea Estuary and Bell Island to protect..."
- The map of the Waimea Inlet Side-led Programme (RPMP Map 19, page 107) to be updated to include Bell Island (as per Map 3.34 in this Proposal).

