



Report 09.732
Date 13 November 2009
File WS/08/12/01

Committee Catchment Management
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Greater Wellington Submission - Proposed Amended National Bovine Tb Strategy

1. Purpose

To present to the Committee the draft GW submission to the proposed amended National Bovine Tb Strategy for consideration and approval.

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

On 30 September 2009 the Minister of Agriculture David Carter announced that a review of the National Pest Management Strategy for Bovine Tb would commence. The formal review notice was published in the Gazette on 1st October. Newspaper notifications followed. Closing date for submissions to the Minister is 30 November 2009.

Report 09.627 presented to the October Catchment Management Committee meeting provided an overview of the proposed amended strategy and outlined the implications for Greater Wellington (GW), should it wish to continue having some form of involvement in the future strategy.

The October report noted that GW only has funding for the current Tb strategy to 2010/11. A decision to continue funding the proposed new strategy will have to be discussed with the community through the Annual Plan development process.

At the October meeting the Committee resolved to request that Council give serious consideration to the continuation of the regional share for the Animal Health Board (AHB) Bovine Tb programme.

The Committee also requested staff to prepare a submission on the proposed amended Tb strategy for consideration at the November meeting. A copy of the draft submission is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

4. Comment

The draft submission focuses on a number of principles that should underpin any future funding arrangement between GW and the AHB. These principles include:

- That annual vector control programmes for the region should be jointly developed and approved. Regular review meetings should occur each year to consider progress and amendments required. The AHB should present a formal year end report to the Council;
- Funds appropriated in the region from ratepayers should be spent solely in the region. This presumes that the other funding agencies (Crown and industries) also contribute, and the total is spent in the region;
- That the AHB provides a three year regional share funding estimate that aligns with the Council LTCCP review;
- That trend or pre monitoring of possum densities is mandatory in the Wellington region to prove the need for control operations. Any funding savings arising from this monitoring are to be considered for reinvestment in the regional programme, as first priority;
- That agreement is reached with the AHB concerning funding of possum control programmes in areas transitioning from vector risk to Tb free; and
- That during the process of developing the regional Tb vector control programme, all agencies involved in regional pest management (e.g. DoC, GW, NGOs') meet to consider opportunities to align and, where possible integrate, their respective programmes to maximise the benefits of proposed expenditure.

A key cornerstone to any future funding agreement with the AHB will be the establishment of a strong partnership built on trust, understanding, and open communication.

5. Communication

The approved GW submission will be forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture prior to the 30 November closing date. Copies will also be forwarded to the Animal Health Board, MAF Biosecurity and key industry representatives.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Approves** the submission (as amended) for release to the Minister of Agriculture.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:



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David Benham
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Attachment 1: GW draft submission