

5 November 2021

File Ref: EXTR-9-1246

Hon Kiritapu Allan  
Minister of Conservation  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Hon Damien O'Connor  
Minister for Biosecurity  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Tēna korua Ministers

## **Pest management – Canada geese**

The Wellington Mayoral Forum requests Government leadership to address the significant pest challenge now posed by Canada geese nationwide. Here in the Wellington region, populations are now creating a public health risk and economic burden that is unsustainable for our communities.

Canada geese were introduced to New Zealand by the Acclimatisation Society, and until 2011 they were controlled by Fish & Game under the Wildlife Act. At that point, their status changed to “unprotected” and no single organisation was responsible for managing populations to sustainable levels. At the time [DOC committed](#) to monitoring the “arrangements developed by the farming community”, and the need or otherwise for regulations. To our knowledge, no such monitoring has occurred.

Since then, anyone has been able to control Canada geese, as long as they do it humanely. With no single point of leadership, no-one has done it effectively. These highly mobile and intelligent birds now consume large quantities of grass and foul wetlands, paddocks, sports fields, parks and amenity areas. Despite public concern at these obvious impacts, control measures often generate public backlash.

As a result we are now faced with very significant technical and social challenges in the control of Canada geese, and it is unviable at regional level. It is our view that control should be nationally led, to address

these challenges in a coordinated manner, likely together with effective regulation. We ask that Government live up to its 2011 commitment and lead resolution of this problem on behalf of us all.

Ngā mihi



**Daran Ponter**  
Chair  
Wellington Regional Council  
DD: 027 454 0689



**Wayne Guppy**  
Mayor  
Upper Hutt City Council  
DD 027 277 1550



**K Gurunathan**  
Mayor  
Kāpiti Coast District Council  
DD 027 205 3600



**Greg Lang**  
Mayor  
Carterton District Council  
DD 027 898 1618



**Campbell Barry**  
Mayor  
Hutt City Council  
DD 027 2160 364



**Lyn Patterson**  
Mayor  
Masterton District Council  
DD 021 172 6002



**Andy Foster**  
Mayor  
Wellington City Council  
DD 021 227 8537



**Anita Baker**  
Mayor  
Porirua City Council  
021 285 2958



**Alex Beijen**  
Mayor  
South Wairarapa District Council  
DD 027 488 8266

CC

Penny Nelson, Director General, Department of Conservation  
Ray Smith, Director General, Ministry for Primary Industries