

Feral Dogs: Immediate and long-term solutions

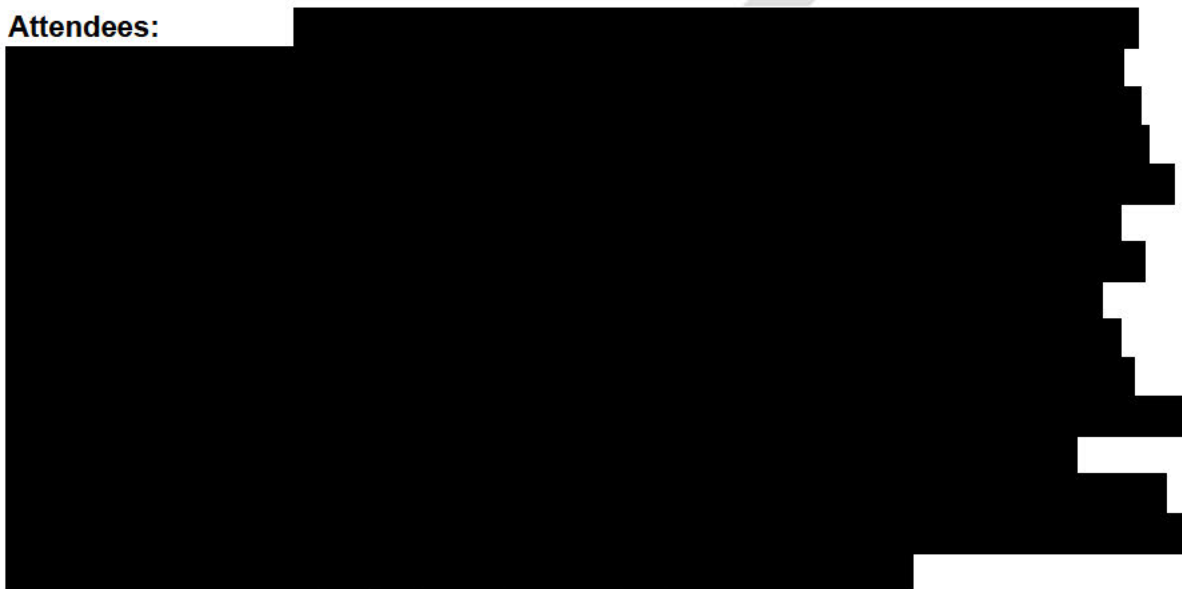
Meeting summary

Meeting date: 28 July 2021

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Houhora Big Game & Sports Fishing Club

Attendees:



ACTIONS

FNDC to:

1. Provide traps to affected landowners.
2. Go into relevant areas and identify dogs and offer education to owners.
3. Offer an amnesty for dangerous dogs.
4. Look into offering desexing vouchers.
5. Assist community groups to make traps.
6. Support any efforts by other agencies to have feral dogs declared a pest species.

MPI to:

7. Look at barriers and issues related to the use of potential tools for management of the dogs.
8. Identify areas where MPI could assist in supporting research related to developing and testing new management options.

DOC to:

9. Work with landowners to get solution.
10. Review hunting and permitting system.
11. Work alongside FNDC and NRC to find solutions.

NRC to:

12. Meet with [REDACTED] to discuss options for management of dogs.
13. Consider review of Regional Pest Management Plan to include feral dogs as a pest species.

Other:

14. Central logging of dog sightings - all dog sightings to be reported to [REDACTED]
15. Collaboration between farm managers and locals on actions to be taken.

MEETING NOTES

[REDACTED] - introduction

- Late 2019 - installed cameras. Saw feral dogs - specific looking, not in great numbers. Had pups
- 2020 - more dogs, more like a pack
- December 2020 - heelers arrived. Also breeding and got more aggressive.
- March 2021 - 90 Mile beach landowner, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] wrote to mayor asking for something to be done.
- April 2021 - Te Araroa trail was closed due to dogs. DOC reopened after a couple of weeks.
- Aware of separate packs in various areas - Scots Point, Butlers Creek, Shenstone, Waikanae Creek and Te Paki forest.
- Efforts were made to eradicate.
- 27 June - Dogs starting worrying goats at Shenstone, ewes and lambs.
- People adopted orphaned lambs, and vigils started to defend against dogs.
- Lack of assistance from local agencies, so arranged this meeting

[REDACTED] - Animal Management, FNDC

- Have been in role for 30 years and have been involved in stakeouts, shooting dogs many times
- Now we don't carry firearms - don't have that role any longer.
- Don't have poison licences. No territorial authority in NZ is licensed.
- Warranted under Dog Control Act 1996 - we can only do what is permitted by that Act
- Believe that "feral dogs" means dogs that have been owned and not been looked after correctly
- Dogs have either been dumped or they are not kept under control and allowed to wander
- We can go into these areas, ideally with community assistance, and identify dogs.
- Could maybe offer amnesty to dispose of unwanted dogs
- Neutering is possibility - depends on budget
- Might be able to offer allowances around registration
- "Education before enforcement". Want to help people become compliant
- People that own dogs need to take responsibility
- Providing photographs of dogs is useful in identifying dogs.

- Will get into communities more often identifying dogs & education
- Offer of amnesty
- Will look into desexing vouchers
- Can provide traps
- Can help groups able to make traps with funding
- Support idea of feral dogs being considered a pest and part of pest management strategy

█ - Solicitor FNDC

- Bylaws have to be within limits of Dog Control Act
- Don't have legal ability to shoot stray dogs
- Dog Control Act - around control of domestic animals
- This is more about pest management. We don't have legal powers for that
- If dogs are not domestic dogs, being born in wild etc, then this is pest management and comes under regional council
- If dog is worrying livestock, can take action including shooting them.

Abraham Witana - Department of Conservation

- We understand the issue - empathy to all the landowners / farmers. We are committed to addressing the problem.
- Conservation Act - we can only deal with dogs on public conservation land
- April - put measures in place (traps, monitoring cameras). To date haven't seen any footage but community has shared photos with us.
- Have secured some resource to develop a Dog Management Plan. Need to assess and define problem, investigate methods, implement and review.
- Also keen to work with FNDC, Regional Council
- If want to make changes to how we manage dogs it requires parliament and changes to legislation
- Section 57 of Dog Control Act allows people landowners to seize or destroy dogs that are threatening and worrying their domestic animals, stock or wildlife.
- AM - do you now accept that there could be feral dog issue on DOC land? ?? (other DOC person) - all agree there are stray and abandoned dogs. We're not seeing evidence of feral dogs.
- Happy to work with landowners to get solution
- Can review whole hunting and permitting system about people going in
- There is no registered toxin in NZ that can be used by any agency for dogs. Nothing has been put forward to EPA.

█ - NRC

- Wandering dogs has been an issue for a long time
- Dogs not in any regional pest management plan anywhere in NZ
- We're keen to work with agencies around long term solution
- All options are on table, e.g. changing plan to include feral dogs

█ - Summit Forests

- Have staff working in forests, recreational use, and people not authorised to be there. So recognise risks
- Walk this weekend - at southern end. Lots of marshalling stations

██████████ - Councillor, Far North District Council

- Council meeting week after next - will put forward motion about council using firearms

██████████ SPCA

- Let us know if dogs have collars and tags
- Scan microchips if you can. Can use cattle scanner

██████████ - NZ Police

- Stick to your firearms licence rules
- Will keep patrolling looking for people who might cause risk

██████████ - MPI

- The Pest Management Group sits within the Biosecurity Branch of MPI. Under the Biosecurity Act this group has a role in facilitating communication, co-operation, and co-ordination among those involved in pest management to improve effectiveness of collective/collaborative actions.
- The Pest Management Group collaborates with the other agencies and organisations at the workshop, such as DOC, Regional Councils, Federated Farmers etc. on nationally significant pest management issues.
- Related to this specific issue, MPI also has roles for the oversight and administration of the Animal Welfare Act and the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act which, amongst other things, controls how substances that are used to manage plants and animals can be used in New Zealand.
- MPI also has several other functions related to supporting and growing the primary sector.
- Our understanding is that one of the main issues with the management of wild dogs is related to the limited management tools (both regulation and physical control tools/methods) that are available.
- The assistance we can provide is likely to be providing support for the long-term issues and could include looking at barriers and potential options related to the use of potential tools and identifying areas where MPI might be able to assist in supporting research related to developing/testing new management options.

██████████ - Enviropest

- I run a pest control company <http://www.enviropest.co.nz>
- We are happy to talk to any land owners and offer our services to help control these dogs.
- We have successfully controlled feral dogs in the past and have several tools in our arsenal
- Feel free to give us a call anytime

██████████ - HuntingHQ

- We have been working with landowners throughout New Zealand and have a key focus on better hunter and pest management for the landowner. HuntingHQ is a tool for landowners that allows them to list their properties, set boundaries and pests to be hunted. Hunters are able to register with HuntingHQ, where they are required to

complete and pass our Health & Safety exam, and are then vetted before approval is given to book these properties.

- More information can be found via our website www.huntinghq.com
- We are happy to talk with any landowners who may have further questions around our services.

██████████ - MP, ACT

- Question , can programs be initiated to have locals invest in the eradication effort, in much the same way , poachers were paid to assist in the protection of large game in Southern Africa?
- Please let me know how I may help as a member of Parliament.
- Happy to have people send me emails.

DRAFT

Meeting Agenda

Date: 28 July 2021

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Houhora Big Game & Sports Fishing Club

Feral Dog Solutions

Agenda items

Item	Speaker/s	Time
Opening karakia		
Welcome and purpose of meeting (immediate and long-term responses to feral dog problem)	[REDACTED], Shenstone Farms	
The problem Asking for solutions	[REDACTED] Shenstone Farms [REDACTED] Te Paki Farms	
Agency roles and responsibilities	FNDC NRC MPI DOC	
Immediate solutions	[REDACTED]	
Long-term solutions	Ngāti Kuri Te Aupōuri Muriwhenua Members of the public Agencies	
Discussion	All attendees	
Agree a plan for the way forward	All attendees	
Closing remarks	[REDACTED]	
Closing karakia		
Tea/Coffee	All attendees	

From: [David John Noho](#)
To: [Annwyn Buchanan](#)
Subject: FW: RE: DRAFT feral dogs meeting summary for your review
Date: Thursday, 5 August 2021 3:38:56 am
Attachments: [Feral Dogs meeting summary DRAFT AW.docx](#)

OIA 1207 – Minutes of meeting held 28.7.21

From: David John Noho
Sent: Tuesday, 3 August 2021 3:46 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: RE: DRAFT feral dogs meeting summary for your review

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Here is the document I discussed with you about. Thanks for the korero earlier, keep in touch.
Nga mihi DJ

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Abraham Witana <awitana@doc.govt.nz>
Date: 2/08/2021 9:47 am
Subject: RE: DRAFT feral dogs meeting summary for your review
To: David John Noho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>, Meirene Hardy-Birch <mhardy-birch@doc.govt.nz>, Paul Mills <pmills@doc.govt.nz>
Cc:
Kia ora DJ,

Just a little amendment in track changes – but not a bad attempt at capturing the meeting.

Nga mihi
Abe

From: David John Noho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 2 August 2021 9:24 a.m.
To: Meirene Hardy-Birch <mhardy-birch@doc.govt.nz>; Abraham Witana <awitana@doc.govt.nz>; Paul Mills <pmills@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: DRAFT feral dogs meeting summary for your review

Kia ora koutou,

FYI and to review minutes/actions that were discussed on the day as per email from [REDACTED]
Can I have a quick catchup with you this morning please Abe, you can give me a bit of context etc of how the meeting went.
Nga mihi DJ

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 1 August 2021 7:57 pm
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] David John Noho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>;

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: DRAFT feral dogs meeting summary for your review

Tena koutou katoa

Please find attached a draft summary of the community meeting on feral dog control held last Wednesday.

The purpose of this meeting was to identify actions that could be taken to manage these dogs in the immediate and long term.

Could you please:

1. Review the notes and advise me of any corrections required
2. Advise how your agency intends to progress the actions you have committed to in the next ten days (FNDC, NRC, DOC, MPI).

Please get back to me by Wednesday 4th at the latest so that I can finalise the meeting summary and circulate it to all attendees.

Nga mihi

[REDACTED]

From: [David John Neho](#)
To: [Annwyn Buchanan](#)
Subject: FW: Feral Dogs Meeting
Date: Thursday, 5 August 2021 3:40:17 am
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[Agenda - Feral Dogs Meeting.docx](#)

OIA 1207 - Draft Agenda for meeting 28.7.21

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 9:34 am
To: David John Neho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Feral Dogs Meeting

Hi DJ,

Please see below email from the meeting organiser that provides the agenda.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Kia ora

Further to my previous email, inviting you to the community meeting to discuss management of feral dogs in Northland, please find attached a draft agenda for the meeting.

1. Please review the draft agenda and advise:

- If your agency has a speaking role on the agenda, who will be undertaking this
- If you do not have a speaking role and you expected or would like to have one.

I do apologise if there are any errors on the draft agenda; I am not local and am just trying to assist with coordination of the meeting.

2. Please confirm your attendance so that we can set up the meeting room appropriately.

Zoom link:

Topic: Feral Dogs Management
Time: Jul 28, 2021 10:00 AM Auckland, Wellington

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89731358794?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89731358794?pwd=NHNIVW9oVE5WYUQ4Y2RqSTg1eFYzdz09)

[pwd=NHNIVW9oVE5WYUQ4Y2RqSTg1eFYzdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89731358794?pwd=NHNIVW9oVE5WYUQ4Y2RqSTg1eFYzdz09)

Meeting ID: 897 3135 8794

Passcode: 048347

One tap mobile

+6498846780,,89731358794#,,,,*048347#New Zealand

+6436590603,,89731358794#,,,,*048347#New Zealand

A reminder of the meeting details:

Community Meeting - Northland Feral Dogs

Wednesday 28 July, 10:00am

Houhora Big Game & Sports Fishing Club, Northland

Nga mihi

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [David John Neho](#)
To: [Annwyn Buchanan](#)
Subject: FW: Regarding Dog Issue
Date: Thursday, 5 August 2021 3:41:17 am
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

OIA – Invite to meeting 28.7.21

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 3:58 pm
To: David John Neho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Regarding Dog Issue

Hi DJ,

NRC& now SPCA have also confirmed they are coming.

If you would like more information on the meeting or what the organisers which to discuss you can call Paul the meeting organiser on 0276646554

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: David John Neho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 4:56 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Regarding Dog Issue

[REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for letting me know. Can you please let the organiser know DOC will send a representative, most likely be myself.

Nga mihi DJ

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 21/07/2021 4:43 pm, [REDACTED] > wrote:
Hi DJ,

The meeting will be held next Wednesday 28th July at 10am at the Houhora Fishing Club. It would be great if a representative of DOC could attend this meeting which will hopefully also have

representation from MPI and NRC have confirmed they are coming as well as my team leader and myself from FNDC

Please advise who will be attending so I can let the organiser know numbers – coffee etc will be provided

Feel free to call me on [REDACTED]

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [David John Neho](mailto:David.John.Neho@doc.govt.nz)
To: [Annwyn Buchanan](mailto:Annwyn.Buchanan@doc.govt.nz)
Subject: FW: Progress on PAPP story
Date: Thursday, 5 August 2021 3:43:03 am

OIA 1207 – Toxin Q's and possible options

From: Elaine Murphy <EMURPHY@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 25 July 2021 4:34 pm
To: Meirene Hardy-Birch <mhardy-birch@doc.govt.nz>; David John Neho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>; Penny Wallace <pwallace@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Michelle Crowell <MCROWELL@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Progress on PAPP story

Kia ora Mei,

There is information on the EPA & ACVM sites for how to get vertebrate pest toxins registered but I would recommend someone talks to EPA & ACVM first. Field trials are normally required to show an at least 80% decrease in your target species. That would be difficult to do in this situation, as although wild dogs are a problem, there is probably not that many of them and they may be quite localised? There may be some sort of restricted registration DOC/RC could go for that relies heavily on information from the Australian registration but EPA/ACVM would need to be approached to discuss. We are using a consultant, [REDACTED] to help us with our PAPP registrations and it would probably be useful to get someone like him involved as a first step with the regulatory authorities, to find out what would be required,
Nga mihi
Elaine

From: Meirene Hardy-Birch <mhardy-birch@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 1:50 pm
To: David John Neho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>; Penny Wallace <pwallace@doc.govt.nz>; Elaine Murphy <EMURPHY@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Michelle Crowell <MCROWELL@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Progress on PAPP story

Thanks Elaine for this context, what is the process for getting toxins registered for use, do we have a flow chart somewhere that outlines what that incurs?

Cheers Mei

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 22/07/2021 18:44, Elaine Murphy <EMURPHY@doc.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Maeirene,

Fifteen years ago, we did some trials with PAPP on dogs, because of the problems with kiwi – however it was a one-off project. I worked 0.5FTE for 7 years with the IA CRC in Australia around then, when they were developing PAPP for foxes & dogs. Because DOC was a member of the IA CRC, we are allowed access to the data used to register it in Australia, so that would help but it would still be a big project that would have to be mapped out and resourced. I would think going

for the canid pest ejectors would be the best option, as that minimises non-targets. Connovation (Auckland) were involved with the CRC & canid pest ejectors as well.

I'm happy to help where I can but our PAPP team doesn't have the capacity to take on running any more trials,

Nga mihi

Elaine

From: Meirene Hardy-Birch <mhardy-birch@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 5:06 pm

To: Penny Wallace <pwallace@doc.govt.nz>; Elaine Murphy <EMURPHY@doc.govt.nz>; David John Neho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Progress on PAPP story

Kia ora ladies - <http://intranet/news-summary/frontpage-story-summary/2021/july/progress-on-papp/>

Penny thanks for sharing on the intranet about the work that has been progressed regarding Papp and has got me thinking and I am reaching out for help.

One of my current management challenges are dogs. Dogs are a big problem in the Far North, Kaitiaki District. Dogs have been attacking stock on farmers properties adjacent to the Te Pahi Recreation Reserve (15,000ha). Anecdotal evidence states that the problem is distributed throughout the Far North peninsula and we also have evidence of dogs in our large forests in the District. There are strong mental models in the community that the dogs live on PCL as they believe they are dogs who have been lost by recreational hunters and left to go wild. Recent media attention has drawn a lot of attention to this matter. <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/7s-78e/rural/2021/07/far-north-farmer-patrolling-land-with-rifle-after-feral-dogs-maul-dozens-of-her-livestock.html> Since April this year we have evidence that up to 20 dogs have been destroyed due to these attacks and that they are roaming in large packs. Apparently this is the norm up here and during this time as it is lambing and calving season during this time and a primary source of food.

We have very limited tools to manage the dog situation up here. I requested advice via assyst [DOC-6718573](#), tools recommended are very traditional – advocacy, fencing, trapping and shooting. One of the tools they put me onto was the gloverbox guide for managing wild dogs(Australia). The methods of control there includes pesticides (due to their legislation) such as 1080 baiting, PAPP baiting and canid pest ejectors.

I see in your story that you are developing new tools for a landscape environment for cats/stoats. Can I request that you consider working with us to design and trial these tools for dogs in Te Pahi, Far North. I know this will be considered controversial NZ wide, but the appetite in the Far North (especially all the adjoining landowners/farmers and Iwi) is right as they are demanding for new tools due to the economic, environmental and social impacts the dog attacks cause. It has got one farmer directly affected sending letters to our Minister requesting an aerial 1080 operation and in the local newspapers everyone coming up with their toxin solutions. I am aware that there are no pesticides registered in NZ to use for dog management so this will be the main hurdle. If you can help me great, if not can you put me on to someone who can.

Thanking you

Meirene Hardy-Birch
Operations Manager – Kaitaia District

From: [David John Neho](#)
To: [Annwyn Buchanan](#)
Subject: FW: wild dog mgmt
Date: Thursday, 5 August 2021 3:44:47 am

OIA 1207 – Agency correspondence

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 11:38 am
To: David John Neho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: wild dog mgmt

Fyi chur

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 9:56 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: wild dog mgmt

Thanks [REDACTED]...As you will be aware we don't have any legislation, nor trained staff for this kind of issue but like the horse situation happy to provide advice and want to work with the stakeholders. Let us know if a cash contribution to a joint plan is also something that may be needed and we can forewarn our councillors

Nga mihi

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 9:30 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: wild dog mgmt

Hi [REDACTED]
I am going with [REDACTED] and other stakeholders tomorrow to look at the wild horse

damage and also to discuss the wild dog situation.
Will keep you up to date with developments.
Regards

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:12:55 PM

To: [Redacted]
[Redacted]; Meirene Hardy-Birch <mhardy-birch@doc.govt.nz>;
[Redacted]

Subject: RE: wild dog mgmt

Kia ora [Redacted] Our elected members are aware of the concerns and although we don't have any specific legislation that can address roaming wild dogs we are open to working with stakeholders to understand what needs to be done to resolve the issue. I recommend you contact [Redacted] our far north officer who is closest to the relationships we have with stakeholders and also maintain communication with FNDC and DOC – I have cc'd in the relevant contacts for you above. Good that you are able to catch up with [Redacted] tomorrow and you are welcome to contact myself should you require further information.

Nga mihi

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 5:25 PM

To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: wild dog mgmt

Kia ora [Redacted]

let's catch up tomorrow, I'll be in the office

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:38:05 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: wild dog mgmt

Hi [REDACTED]

Just trying to get in quickly before you leave NRC .

Is there anyone in your team that we'd be able to talk to about wild dog control. We've had a request from someone in Northland who is asking the Minister to assign responsibility for an issue (eg Section 55 of the BSA) they are having up in the Far North with dogs they believe are coming off DOC land and attacking farm animals. The applicant said that they have approached DOC, NRC and FNDC for assistance.

We just need to have a better understanding of the situation from your councils perspective, and maybe any other local contacts.

If we don't talk before you leave, all the best and hope the new role goes well. Take care.

Nga mihi

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [David John Noho](#)
To: [Annwyn Buchanan](#)
Subject: FW: wild dog mgmt
Date: Thursday, 5 August 2021 3:46:56 am

OIA 1207 – Agency correspondence

From: Meirene Hardy-Birch <mhardy-birch@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 8:56 am
To: David John Noho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: wild dog mgmt

FYI – Cheers Mei

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 9:13 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Meirene Hardy-Birch <mhardy-birch@doc.govt.nz>;
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: wild dog mgmt

Kia ora [REDACTED] Our elected members are aware of the concerns and although we don't have any specific legislation that can address roaming wild dogs we are open to working with stakeholders to understand what needs to be done to resolve the issue. I recommend you contact [REDACTED] our far north officer who is closest to the relationships we have with stakeholders and also maintain communication with FNDC and DOC – I have cc'd in the relevant contacts for you above. Good that you are able to catch up with [REDACTED] tomorrow and you are welcome to contact myself should you require further information.

Nga mihi

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 5:25 PM
To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: wild dog mgmt

Kia ora [REDACTED]

let's catch up tomorrow, I'll be in the office

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:38:05 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: wild dog mgmt

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We just need to have a better understanding of the situation from your councils perspective, and maybe any other local contacts.

If we don't talk before you leave, all the best and hope the new role goes well. Take care.

Nga mihi

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [David John Neho](#)
To: [Annwyn Buchanan](#)
Subject: FW: wild dog mgmt
Date: Thursday, 5 August 2021 3:46:03 am

OIA 1207 – Agency correspondence

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 10:51 am
To: David John Neho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: wild dog mgmt

Hey DJ contact [REDACTED] for any NRC assistance with the feral dog issue, nga mihi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 9:56 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: wild dog mgmt

Thanks [REDACTED]...As you will be aware we don't have any legislation, nor trained staff for this kind of issue but like the horse situation happy to provide advice and want to work with the stakeholders. Let us know if a cash contribution to a joint plan is also something that may be needed and we can forewarn our councillors

Nga mihi

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 9:30 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: wild dog mgmt

Hi [REDACTED]

I am going with [REDACTED] other stakeholders tomorrow to look at the wild horse damage and also to discuss the wild dog situation.
Will keep you up to date with developments.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:12:55 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Meirene Hardy-Birch <mhardy-birch@doc.govt.nz>;

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: wild dog mgmt

Kia ora [REDACTED] Our elected members are aware of the concerns and although we don't have any specific legislation that can address roaming wild dogs we are open to working with stakeholders to understand what needs to be done to resolve the issue. I recommend you contact [REDACTED] our far north officer who is closest to the relationships we have with stakeholders and also maintain communication with FNDC and DOC – I have cc'd in the relevant contacts for you above. Good that you are able to catch up with [REDACTED] tomorrow and you are welcome to contact myself should you require further information.

Nga mihi

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 5:25 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: wild dog mgmt

Kia ora [REDACTED]

let's catch up tomorrow, I'll be in the office

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:38:05 AM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: wild dog mgmt

Hi [REDACTED]

Just trying to getting in quickly before you leave NRC .

Is there anyone in your team that we'd be able to talk to about wild dog control. We've had a request from someone in Northland who is asking the Minister to assign responsibility for an issue (eg Section 55 of the BSA) they are having up in the Far North with dogs they believe are coming off DOC land and attacking farm animals. The applicant said that they have approached DOC, NRC and FNDC for assistance.

We just need to have a better understanding of the situation from your councils perspective, and maybe any other local contacts.

If we don't talk before you leave, all the best and hope the new role goes well. Take care.

Nga mihi

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [David John Neho](#)
To: [Annwyn Buchanan](#)
Subject: FW: Feral dog report
Date: Thursday, 5 August 2021 3:48:42 am

OIA 1207 – Partners reporting/sightings

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 9:58 am
To: David John Neho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Feral dog report

Just sent photo and description. Also seen single Mongrel, single dog, malnourished other side of te arai

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: David John Neho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:51:47 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Feral dog report

Kia ora Chris,
I'm try to build a picture regarding the dog situation up North. Are you able to send me the photos of the dogs please,
Nga mihi DJ

From: Doug Te Wake <dtewake@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 7 July 2021 6:40 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: David John Neho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Feral dog report

Morena Boss

Chris has some photos of a pack of dogs 6 in total taken up around Te Arai last week out on the beach.....they where "Red Heelers cross" nice looking dogs

Add to your intel

Doug Te Wake

Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai
Senior Ranger, Community
Kaitiaki Matua, Ao Hapori

DDI: +64 9 408 6194

Takina te hi, Tiakina, te ha o te Ao Turoa

Conservation leadership for our nature

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Follow your Kaitiaki DOC team on [Facebook.com/DOCFarNorth](https://www.facebook.com/DOCFarNorth)

From: Meirene Hardy-Birch <mhardy-birch@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 6 July 2021 6:24 pm
To: David John Neho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>; Phillip Brown <pcbrown@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Doug Te Wake <dtewake@doc.govt.nz>; Abraham Witana <awitana@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Feral dog report

Thanks Brownie, kia ora DJ as discussed this morning keen to help these guys might require getting a local hunter that [REDACTED] trusts to bait and shoot. Key here is that NRC, FNDC and ourselves working collaboratively instead of playing ping-pong.

Cheers Mei

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 6/07/2021 14:52, Phillip Brown <pcbrown@doc.govt.nz> wrote:
Kia ora DJ,

[REDACTED] has come into the office this afternoon to report a large pack of feral dogs (up to twelve) causing havoc in the far north (hukatere – Te Paki).

He said they have been aggressive towards him and he is having to protect his farm animals 24/7.

[REDACTED] also mentioned that the dogs have been killing lambs on Shenstone farms and they are having to do the same thing.

■■■■ also visited the FNDC today but found them unhelpful.

I have given ■■■■ your mobile number, could you please give him a call for a chat if you haven't heard from him.

Thanks DJ
Brownie

Phil Brown

Ranger—*Kaitiaki*

Department of Conservation—*Te Papa Atawhai*

MOBILE: 0275406411

Kaitaia Office

25 Matthews Ave | PO Box 569, Kaitaia 0441

T: +64 9 408 6014

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From: [David John Neho](#)
To: [Annwyn Buchanan](#)
Subject: FW: RE Assyst Request R217510 - Dog attacks on lands adjacent to Te Paki Recreation Res, Kaitaia District
Date: Thursday, 5 August 2021 3:52:04 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

OIA 1207 – ASSYST request

From: Mike Bodie <mbodie@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 2:12 pm
To: Meirene Hardy-Birch <mhardy-birch@doc.govt.nz>; David John Neho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>; Abigail Monteith <amonteith@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: RE Assyst Request R217510 - Dog attacks on lands adjacent to Te Paki Recreation Res, Kaitaia District

Kia ora Mei,

No problem this issue has certainly raised a lot of media attention lately. I suggest we wait and see what kind of briefing the MOC needs, and at that point I can flesh out any of the points below. But basically the legal position is pretty clear that responsibility for out of control dogs is with FNDC.

Regards,

Mike Bodie

Solicitor (Compliance and Law Enforcement) | Pou Whakahaere a Ture
Rotorua Office

Phone: +64 27 569 6313

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From: Meirene Hardy-Birch <mhardy-birch@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 2:07 pm
To: Mike Bodie <mbodie@doc.govt.nz>; David John Neho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>; Abigail Monteith <amonteith@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: RE Assyst Request R217510 - Dog attacks on lands adjacent to Te Paki Recreation Res, Kaitaia District

Kia ora Mike – Thanks for the quick response, I have included DJ (Team lead for working with landowners) and Abi (support to be me for media enquiries) so we have the same information so it can guide us in our further engagements with people. Can you please provide me the long version at some point as I am going to have to draft a ministerial and most likely a briefing to the

MOC on this matter.

Thanks for the help Mike, hope you are well and well rugged up in Rotorua.

Cheers Mei

From: Mike Bodie <mbodie@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 1:49 pm

To: Meirene Hardy-Birch <mhardy-birch@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: RE Assyst Request R217510 - Dog attacks on lands adjacent to Te Paki Recreation Res, Kaitaia District

Tena koe Mei, I see this request is urgent, and has been assigned to me this morning.

Because of the urgency, I have provided the "short version" below:

Purpose - To seek legal advise:

PART 1, Please clarify

1. Land titles DOC administers relevant to this matter are Recreation and Scenic reserves what section of the act authorises DOC staff to manage/dispose of dogs on the reserve.

There is no legislation that specifically authorises disposal of dogs, or any other pests for that reason, on PCL. Pest control is a lawful activity, subject to any resource/MOH consents needed for toxin use. There is no law that prohibits DOC or any other landowner from controlling pests, including dogs. Pest control must be done humanely under the Animal Welfare Act. Note that if dogs have an owner, then it is an offence under the Reserves Act for the owner/person in charge to allow a dog to enter a reserve (s 94(1)(b))

2. Off DOC administered lands does DOC have a legal obligation to manage/dispose of dogs?

DOC does not have any legal obligation to control pests, including dogs, off PCL. But DOC may choose to prioritise investment in this kind of control, to help achieve wildlife outcomes for example, off PCL.

3. Whose legal obligation is it to assist farmers/landowners when faced with dogs challenges of this nature?

Primarily the FNDC Animal Control has responsibility and powers to seize, impound, or destroy dogs causing damage, unregistered dogs, attacking dogs etc under the Dog Control Act 1996. Unless dogs are listed in an RPMS regional councils have no legal responsibility, and DOC's position is at 2 above. Note DOC rangers have similar powers to FNDC animal control officers in relation to dog attacks on protected wildlife.

4. What legislation is available to enable farmers to dispose of dogs on their land.

The Dog Control Act authorises anyone to seize or destroy any dog that attacks domestic animals, stock or wildlife under s 57 Dog Control Act:

57 Dogs attacking persons or animals

(1) A person may, for the purpose of stopping an attack, seize or destroy a dog if—

(a) the person is attacked by the dog; or

(b) the person witnesses the dog attacking any other person, or any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife.

FNDC animal control officers have additional powers to seize/destroy roaming dogs that is not reliant on witnessing an attack.

PART 2

Regarding the request to open a conversation with the stock owners at Shenstone Farm regarding compensation for their lost stock clarify if DOC has an legal obligation in this matter. Please inform if the answer is no or if yes why and what is your advise when this conversation occurs in the future.

As per above, DOC has no legal obligation to contribute to compensate when DOC has not caused or contributed to this issue. More likely contributing factors may be hunting dogs being lost, and dog owners not desexing their animals resulting in proliferation of puppies that are not fed, cared for etc, and of necessity become feral for survival etc. It would be hoped that stock owners have insurance to cover some of these unfortunate losses.

Mike Bodie

Solicitor (Compliance and Law Enforcement) | Pou Whakahaere a Ture

Rotorua Office

Phone: +64 27 569 6313

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Assyst Request R217510

[https://assyst/assystweb/application.do#event/DisplayEvent.do?](https://assyst/assystweb/application.do#event/DisplayEvent.do?dispatch=getEvent&checkJukeBoxSettings=true&eventId=5217510&resultSet=)

[dispatch=getEvent&checkJukeBoxSettings=true&eventId=5217510&resultSet=](https://assyst/assystweb/application.do#event/DisplayEvent.do?dispatch=getEvent&checkJukeBoxSettings=true&eventId=5217510&resultSet=)

Logged by assystNet User, System Accounts on 09/07/2021 16:08

Details

Affecting: Meirene Hardy-Birch, Tel: +64 27 839 1078, Email: mhardy-birch@doc.govt.nz
Reported By: Meirene Hardy-Birch, Tel: +64 27 839 1078, Email: mhardy-birch@doc.govt.nz
Location: Kaitaia
Team: Northern North Island LT
Item: Legal Confidential, Planning, permissions, land and legal
Item B:
SLA: SLM 2-20, Response Due: 13/07/2021 16:08, Resolution Due: 06/08/2021 16:08
Category: Request, Seriousness: Normal, Priority: Normal
Assigned: Legal Support
Callback Remark:
Required by: 13/07/2021 00:00

Summary

Dog attacks on lands adjacent to Te Paki Recreation Res, Kaitaia District

Description

Context

PART 1 - Dogs are a problem in the Far North and have been attacking stock on farmers properties adjacent to the Te Paki Recreation Reserve. In April 2021 the manager of the Te Paki Farm station alerted DOC Kaitaia to dogs attacking stock and being a problem to visitors due to the close proximity of the public track network. DOC stayed abreast and supported the management actions chosen by the manager to reduce the threat of the dogs on the farm. Whilst DOC closed walking tracks at that time to reduce the risk of people being exposed to the hazard. As of 5 July media were contacting DOC regarding dogs, 6 July we were visited by local member of the public to inform of sightings of dogs at Hukatere and Te Paki. 7th July I tasked one of my staff to connect with regional and district council and make contact with the owners of Shenstone Farms (Nilsson family) to understand what was occurring. 8th July my staff member went to Shenstone Farms (Nilsson family) to attend a capture/understand then planning meeting of actions that could be done. We have been invited to attend a public meeting on 14/07/21 date yet to be confirmed. We have committed to attend next meeting to be apart of a collaborative conversation to come up with a plan, we are continuing to provide support and advise on control methods, and we are investigating to supply resource to contribute towards a professional hunter. This area is in the rohe of Ngati Kuri and other Iwi of Te Hiku are watching closely on what the outcome of this will be.

PART 2 - This morning 9th July I received correspondence from Far North District Council to keep me abreast of their engagement on this matter. Attached to that correspondence is an email on written on behalf of

[REDACTED] addressed to Minister of Conservation alongside many others requesting urgent action required on feral dogs in Northland. Of particular note they seek urgent action from DOC on the following:

1. Immediately work to reduce dog numbers through culling or poisoning.
2. Work alongside farmers to get the immediate situation under control.
3. Facilitate a planning process across all relevant parties (DoC, farmers, landowners, Iwi, Northland Regional Council, Far North District Council, MPI, SPCA, etc) for long-term management of the dogs (likely dog-proof fencing). We consider that feral dogs should be included as an eradication animal in the regional pest management plan as part of this process.
4. Open a conversation with the stock owners at Shenstone Farm regarding compensation for their lost stock.

PART 3 - Government Services have received a parliamentary question : 21-J-28391 - 21-J-28508 - 8 WPQs - Request - Grigg and Reti in relation to this matter as follows - [28508 \(2021\). Dr Shane Reti to the Minister of Conservation](#). Is the Far North Department of Conservation, working/collaborating with both the Far North District Council and land owners in trying to eradicate escalating numbers of feral dogs in Cape Reinga?

Purpose - To seek legal advise:

PART 1, Please clarify

5. Land titles DOC administers relevant to this matter are Recreation and Scenic reserves what section of the act authorises DOC staff to manage/dispose of dogs on the reserve.
6. Off DOC administered lands does DOC have a legal obligation to manage/dispose of dogs?
7. Whose legal obligation is it to assist farmers/landowners when faced with dogs challenges of this nature?
8. What legislation is available to enable farmers to dispose of dogs on their land.

PART 2

1. Regarding the request to open a conversation with the stock owners at Shenstone Farm regarding compensation for their lost stock clarify if DOC has an legal obligation in this matter. Please inform if the answer is no or if yes why and what is your advise when this conversation occurs in the future.

Additional Information

Reason for deadline (if the request is more urgent than 20 working days) Will be attending a public forum and need to have clarity about our legal obligations in this matter so I am clear about the approach and key messages that will be used. Also will most likely have to draft a Ministerial response regarding email/letter sent to MOC via email on the 8/07 and response re parliamentary question 21-J-28391 - 21-J-28508 - 8 WPQs - Request - Grigg and Reti

Customer Priority - Specify whether this is: To support DOC's capability

Please specify which stretch goal(s) 50% of New Zealand's natural ecosystems are benefiting from pest management, 90% of New Zealanders think the impacts of visitors on public conservation lands and waters are very well managed, 90% of our threatened species across New Zealand's ecosystems are managed to enhance their populations, 90% of visitors rate their experiences on public conservation lands and waters as exceptional, Whanau, hapu and iwi are able to practise their responsibilities as kaitiaki of natural and cultural resources on public conservation lands and waters

Resources (e.g. primary contacts, and Staff applicable Meirene Hardy-Birch and David John Neho PART 2 info - DOC-6716832 - docCM and internet email from FNDC that contains email to MOC links)

Have you previously sought advice about this from the Legal team, Statutory Land Management (SLM), or the Permissions

(PP&L) team?

Nga mihi

Ash McCrone

Legal Administrator | Tautoko Kairuruku, Ture Ritenga
Conservation House Wellington | Whare Kaupapa Atawhai

-
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Sequence of events "Roaming Dogs" - 08.07.2021

0836 DJ had called [REDACTED] as he was told she was the contact for the [REDACTED] Whanau. [REDACTED] answered the call as his sister was on another call. During the conversations of sharing context etc [REDACTED] mentioned he was trying to organize a meeting to be held at the Shenstone Farm Quarters around lunch time and would really appreciate DOC being involved.

The invitation [REDACTED] as accepted as this was an opportunity to sit and share information with other agencies and neighboring Farms.

The meeting started with not all invitees at the table however [REDACTED] was grateful to those who showed up and attended the discussions – DJ Noho (DOC), [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Context - A large pack of dogs (20) were seen at Matapia last night 7/7/21. Two were destroyed. While monitoring sheep last night 7/7/21 on the Nilsson's farm four dogs were seen and destroyed, while howls and barking from multiple individuals were heard coming from the boundary of the Forestry Block and the Nilsson's farm. Observations from the [REDACTED] have established that the dogs are now coming closer to their dwelling (100m) and don't seem to be afraid. It is a serious concern because the dogs don't seem to be scared at all as one dog was seen stalking one of the shooters during the night. The [REDACTED] want to work collaboratively with everyone and they understand the politics and the challenges the Department and other agencies face when supporting this issue. Health & Safety of people is paramount and a response needs to happen in a timely manner before anyone gets hurt. Meeting was to capture and understand the situation.

- Next meeting will be planned better to involve all agencies and landowners. This will be held at the Houhora and Game Fishing Club.
- [REDACTED] wants to explore options for a possum operation (1080 or strickening), to be conducted on his farm and asked if DOC would be able to support with the paperwork and process.
- DJ mentioned his focus is on PCL however, DOC will contribute honestly, be a good neighbor, provide support and advice while staying in their lane. A collaborative approach is going to add more value for the long-term plan.
- Discussions of where the dogs are living and coming from (PCL/Forestry/Farm) were debated as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] believe the dogs are living on PCL.
- This weekend – [REDACTED] is organising a cull of dogs on his farm (need DOC support and also local community support). Develop a safety plan to undertake the task. Risk assessments will be discussed, assessed and implemented. Only fit for purpose members will participate. Safety will be paramount. Communication plan will be applied.
- Contracting hunters – A discussion occurred between DJ, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to define an opportunity for [REDACTED] to be contracted to hunt these dogs. [REDACTED] mentioned he trusted [REDACTED] and would have to reconsider using other contactors. [REDACTED] was happy and agreed to participate in that request however and hourly rate not discussed, purchasing of ammunition will also need to be considered.
- DJ committed to attend the next meeting, support with options and explore the use of a contractor/professional hunter ([REDACTED])

From: [David John Neho](#)
To: [Annwyn Buchanan](#)
Subject: FW: FNDC Dog Management Bylaw
Date: Thursday, 5 August 2021 3:59:43 am

OIA 1207 – Social Media

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 6 July 2021 2:05 pm
To: David John Neho <dneho@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: FNDC Dog Management Bylaw

Hey DJ this was on Face book with photos from the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] nga mihi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 6 July 2021 10:59 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FNDC Dog Management Bylaw

Heartbreak, horror as feral dogs slaughter stock in Far North
5 Jul, 2021 03:26 PM

By: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is a reporter for the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Packs of feral dogs are sowing horror and heartbreak on a Far North farm where a killing spree is entering its seventh day.

Distraught workers at the farm, just south of Cape Reinga, are almost powerless to stop the attacks despite being on guard day and night since last Wednesday.

As of Monday the toll stood at more than 120 stock.

That includes about 25 ewes, more than 60 lambs, and 36 goats from a teenage girl's Angora herd. Another 30 sheep have been mauled but are still alive.

Many lambs have been orphaned and are now being hand-reared by local volunteers.

The dogs may be from the same feral packs that forced the closure of a campground and several tracks in Te Pahi Recreation Reserve earlier this year.

The attacks are occurring on Shenstone Farm, on either side of State Highway 1 just south of the Department of Conservation-administered reserve, about 90km north of Kaitaia.

[REDACTED] who runs the farm with husband John, said stock worrying was nothing new but it stepped up a gear last Wednesday, most likely due to the arrival of lambs.

As well as the 60-plus lambs killed another 25 had been orphaned.

[REDACTED] said she was too busy protecting stock to hand-rear them so she had farmed them out around the community.

She had to put some down because their injuries, such as broken backs, were too severe.

Very few had been eaten so it appeared they were being killed "for fun".

It was difficult for their daughter [REDACTED] 15, who had so far lost 36 of the 150-strong herd of Angora goats she was raising for fibre.

"It breaks my heart. It's harrowing, you get nightmares. [REDACTED] having to deal with something she's never had to deal with before, and it's brutal because it's ongoing."

The farm's mainstay was cattle and [REDACTED] worried what would happen when calving started in about three weeks' time.

By Saturday night everyone else was so exhausted she stayed up all night on vigil with her daughter, going about 40 hours without sleep.

"We're all strung out and tired. We keep bringing stock closer in but that means they're running out of grass. It's a horrible balancing act."

On Sunday night dogs came right up to the sheepyards but a worker on guard all night didn't see them through the rain.

Her husband had bought a second rifle with a thermal scope for night shooting.

The dogs stalking Shenstone Farm appeared to be in two packs of five and six.

██████████ said 30 feral dogs had been shot in the area since Christmas and was at a loss why there were suddenly so many.

They were not just wandering neighbourhood pets or escaped pig dogs but "proper feral dogs".

"They're vicious, they've packed up, they're people-savvy, wily and gun-shy."

She wanted DOC and the Far North District Council to lay poison, something the farm was not licensed to do.

The council's district services general manager, ██████████, said the animal management team responded as soon as possible to reports of roaming dogs or attacks on stock.

However, the council did not have any reports recorded of recent attacks in the Te Pahi area.

"Where reports are made, animal management officers will investigate and prosecute dog owners and destroy dogs involved. Unfortunately, attacks on stock often occur at night or in remote areas, making the identification of dogs very difficult," he said.

"While we share the anger and distress stock owners feel when attacks like these occur, the council must follow the law. Our staff cannot destroy dogs without proof they have been directly involved in attacks, even where it appears that the dogs are stray."

██████████ said farmers had the legal right to shoot dogs on their land and the council supported them doing so to protect stock.

██████████ told the Advocate she had tried to report the attacks by calling the council's 0800 number but was told to drive to Kaitiaki and fill in a form.

The situation on the farm meant she was unable to drive almost 200km to file a report.

DOC closed a campground and several tracks in Te Pahi Reserve on April 1 after receiving reports of a hunter being encircled and threatened by dogs, a horse rider chased through Aupouri Forest, and dogs rifling through a campsite at night.

Staff put up trailcams, set traps and carried out patrols but found no trace of the dogs. The tracks reopened in early May.

Kaitiaki operations manager Meirene Hardy-Birch said DOC was not aware of the recent stock deaths until contacted by the Advocate.

Under the Dog Control Act the district council had responsibility for dog control. She urged the farmer to report the attacks to the council by calling 0800 920 029.

Hardy-Birch said any information that could be provided, such as GPS coordinates and photos of the dogs, would be helpful.

She said DOC had been monitoring conservation land with track inspections and trail cameras but had not seen any dogs.

"It's important to note that DOC is just one of many land owners in the Far North and we can only monitor and be responsible for our tracks, which we do by trail cameras and monitoring, and we have no evidence of feral dogs."

From: ██████████

Sent: Tuesday, 6 July 2021 10:47 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FNDC Dog Management Bylaw

<https://www.fndc.govt.nz/Your-Council/Plans-Policies-Bylaws-Projects/Bylaws/Dog-Management-Bylaw>

Nga mihi

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

General Information

[Edit](#)

IRIS ID: REQ.608612

Request Date/Time: 05/07/2021 10:50

Priority: Medium

Request Type: Request For Service

Contact Method: Email

Notify Requestor of action/outcome?: Yes

Subject Type: Biosecurity

Logged By User: [REDACTED]

Subject: Animal

Logged Date/Time: 05/07/2021 10:51

Brief Description: Wild dogs

Request Details: I was camping at rarawa bay on saturday when I encountered a pack of wild dogs to the left of the carpark. There were around 8, and they didnt go with noise from my truck, or yelling and screaming at them while yielding a big stick that was on fire. They were very serious about approaching me (this was at night time) so i left. Reporting this because the threat was very real, and other families had been there with kids, who i warned away too. Found nearby were also dead dogs, one which was just killed and a wild dog was running away from it. -- [REDACTED]

Requestor Confidentiality Reason:

Request Warning:

Menacing Feral Dogs in Te Paki – 31st March 2021

PURPOSE:

To capture and share context for management of menacing feral dogs in Te Paki Recreation Reserve

CONTEXT:

- A local hunter reported coming across at least 15 dogs on the weekend of 27/28 March 2021, he shot 4, and was concerned if he had not had a gun with him, they would have attacked him.
- Further discussions with members of the public and nearby landowners have brought to light reports of at least four different packs of wild dogs in the area between Hukatere (90 Mile Beach) and Te Werahi Beach (Te Paki Reserve). Other sightings and evidence have varied from dead/injured farm stock, people getting barked at on walking tracks, wild horses found dead and eaten in the forestry, to a near miss of an attack on a local hunter.
- There is a visitor safety risk to our visitors that walk Te Paki Coastal Track which includes the northern most section of Te Araroa Trail, recreational hunters, riders, and anyone who may be working in the proximity including DOC staff.
- Farm staff from Te Paki, Te Rangi and Paua Stations are shooting dogs on sight.
- Dog traps have been set around Te Paki Farm boundary.
- DJ has discussed the matter to FNDC dog control [REDACTED] – he is checking applicable legislation and will get back to him.
- NRC and FNDC have indicated although they have limited resources, they want to be part of the korero/solution etc. Contact names have been given ([REDACTED] [REDACTED]) to assist in the management of the wild dogs. [REDACTED]
- Note Easter weekend is this weekend and School holidays are next month.
- Considering the number of incidents of the dogs being seen or interacted with by people captured here (which is likely to not be exhaustive) it is determined that the likelihood for further interactions to occur in the future with members of the public walking or hunting in the Te Paki Recreation Reserve is **possible**. The consequence of an interaction could be **catastrophic** due to the potential for multiple fatalities or significant irreversible effects to 5 or more people. **DOC Risk Matrix - Possible + Catastrophic = Extreme Risk** see Appendix 1 for risk tolerability table or Critical Risk Standard DOC-2999362.
- A team process was undertaken (Paul, Doug, Haina, Laree, DJ) on Monday 29th March where three main critical issues were identified;
 1. How to ensure visitor safety?
 2. How to ensure staff safety?
 3. How to work with others?

ACTIONS:

1. How to ensure Visitor Safety?

- a. Discuss issue with the Visitor Safety Team and gain advise – Laree (completed 29.3.21)
- b. Add notice to DOC website – Laree (completed 29.3.21)
- c. Inform TAT – Laree (completed 29.3.21)
- d. Confirm if the tracks should be closed.

- e. On outcome of closure decision update notice on DOC website, inform TAT, I-sites, put signs in place on all effected tracks and associated facilities ASAP.
- f. Confirm if a media release should be issued.
- g. Liaise with hunting community via local hunting club – DJ (complete by 1.4.21)

2. How to ensure Staff safety?

- a. Ensure all staff are aware of issue.
- b. Any work to be undertaken in the area is discussed with Supervisors to assess if work should go ahead and what actions are put in place to keep staff safe. Include in JSA's
- c. Discuss with team at next Operations Meeting – DJ (1.4.21)
- d. Add incidents to Risk Manager – DJ (completed 30.3.21)

3. How to work with others?

- a. DJ will lead this piece of work and co-ordinate.
- b. Discuss with Summit Forestry – DJ (completed 30.3.21) [REDACTED] was supportive of a collaborative approach. He had heard about the feral dogs but had not really thought they would become a risk/threat.
- c. Inform relevant Iwi contacts ([REDACTED]) – DJ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] completed 29.3.21) Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are keen to support and be part of a management plan. They had both heard of at least three separate packs.
- d. Talk to [REDACTED] (a former FNDC Dog Control Officer) about options – DJ (completed 30.3.21) [REDACTED] shared his reflection as an ex FNDC staff member. He mentioned that the Dog Control Act is still the same however rules and standards had changed over the past few years e.g., no firearms are held or used by FNDC. He is keen to support due to his experience as a dog trapper.
- e. Talk to local Police – DJ (completed 30.3.21) Leon said he had seen two separate packs of dogs at Te Arai and Trig Rd. He will inform me of any further reports.
- f. Talk to BOI and KC District Offices to understand how they addressed their dog issue [REDACTED] [REDACTED] – DJ
- g. Discuss with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - DJ (completed 30.3.21) [REDACTED] who has had experience in the legalities and politics around the "Dog Control Act" mentioned that even though FNDC have the legal mandate, there are many loopholes around feral dogs that would make this situation complex and not very straight forward. Setting traps, baiting and using remote field cameras would be a good starting point. Getting our legal team to provide legal advice could also be of value as doing a quick Google search does not turn up anything, so in this situation there may not be any specific piece of legislation that covers who is responsible for controlling feral dogs in NZ.
- h. Understand our role and where we have jurisdiction, discuss with Legal?

RECOMMENDATIONS:

As we are still collecting information and advise at this point in time, but visitor safety is paramount, it is therefore recommended that in the next 1-7 days;

1. The tracks and campsite associated with the western side of the Te Paki Coastal Track be closed until the threat is eliminated or actions put in place to manage the risk to an acceptable level are achieved. This includes the following tracks and campsite which are part of the Te Paki Coastal Track (see Appendix 2 for map);

- [Cape Reinga - Te Werahi Beach](#),
- [Te Werahi Beach - Twilight Beach](#),
- [Twilight Beach - Te Paki Stream](#)
- [Twilight Campsite](#)
- [Twilight-Te-Werahi-loop-track/](#) - already closed as requested by Iwi
- Note: Te Paki Stream Amenity Area will remain open

Approved: Yes / No

Signed:  Date: 31/3/2021

2. A media release is issued prior to Easter advising the public of the closure and next actions.

Approved: Yes / No

Signed:  Date: 31/3/2021

3. DOC facilitates discussion with stakeholders/affected parties.

Approved: Yes

Signed:  Date: 31/1/2021

These actions will be reviewed in 7 days from signed date.

Appendix 1

DOC Risk Matrix

		CONSEQUENCE					LIKELIHOOD
Almost Certain. Expected to occur in most circumstances.	Almost Certain	Medium	High	High	Extreme	Extreme	
Likely Would probably occur reasonably frequently	Likely	Medium	Medium	High	High	Extreme	
Possible Will probably occur.	Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme	
Unlikely Could occur at some time.	Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High	
Rare May occur only in exceptional circumstances.	Rare	Negligible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	
Safety of staff or third parties Risk of human lives and wellbeing (employees, volunteers, contractors, general public).		Insignificant Minor first aid or no medical treatment required.	Minor Reversible / temporary disability requiring medical attention	Moderate Moderate or potentially irreversible disability requiring medical or hospital attention	Major Single fatality or irreversible disability to one or more people	Catastrophic Multiple fatalities, or significant irreversible effects to 5 or more people	

Risk Tolerability – Residual Risk

		CONSEQUENCE				
		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Almost Certain	Medium	High	High	Unacceptable	Unacceptable	
Likely	Medium	Medium	High			
Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme	
Unlikely	Acceptable	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
Rare		Negligible	Low	Medium	Medium	High

Appendix 2 – Map of Te Paki Recreation Reserve

Tacks and campsites highlighted in yellow to be closed as per recommendation.



Sequence of Events

Organisation	Key Contact	Email	Phone	Comments
Te Paki Farm Station	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<p>30.6.21 DJ spoke to [REDACTED] who bought in support from a local hunter [REDACTED]. Although the issue is still ongoing, he will keep DJ in the loop and update when necessary.</p> <p>14.7.21 DJ had a talk to [REDACTED] to see if there were any updates etc. He mentioned that dogs are still on the farm but have not been able to get any as the dogs are very weary of humans and vehicles.</p> <p>20.7.21 Had a meeting at Te Manawa to see if [REDACTED] could map out where dogs have been seen and destroyed on Te Paki Farm, any updates (17 killed Jan – May 21, 3 still roaming). No dogs have been shot since May, but there still seems to be dog sign and evidence around the paddocks (mauled sheep).</p> <p>30.7.21 DJ discussed with [REDACTED] about the meeting held on 28.7.21 and whether dogs have been back on “Te Paki Station”. No dogs have been seen recently but signs and evidence of them there is still noticeable.</p>
Ngati Kuri	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<p>6.7.21 DJ spoke to [REDACTED] who is keen to support the dog issue, however in Te Paki it has become quiet over the past weeks but he has been hearing Shenstone Farms has been hit. I asked if he had heard of any dogs at Rarawa Camp and informed him of the incident reported by [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. This was new to him.</p> <p>8.7.21 DJ called [REDACTED] and asked if he had any new context regarding [REDACTED] report or the [REDACTED] situation. He had nothing but is wanting to be part of the meetings and korero.</p> <p>16.7.21 DJ spoke to [REDACTED] to see what Ngati Kuri were doing to support the kaupapa. [REDACTED] mentioned the issue at Te Paki has quietened down however some advocacy needs to happen.</p> <p>20.7.21 Meeting at Te Manawa to share context and discuss future advancements relating to the dog issue.</p>
FNDC	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<p>6.7.21 [REDACTED] called DJ and discussed the recent events. He had spoken to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (mother of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who was speaking on behalf</p>

				<p>of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] believed that DOC, FNDC and NRC needed to work together however the dogs are coming from PCL and DOC should be responsible.</p> <p>21.7.21 I received an email from [REDACTED] inviting DOC to a meeting that will be held 28.7.21 at the Houhora Fishing club.</p>
NRC	[REDACTED]			<p>6.7.21 [REDACTED] called DJ to inform of the [REDACTED] situation and to also report an incident that came through their channels relating to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] a woman staying at Rarawa Campground, approached by 8 wild dogs, during the night, making her feel afraid for her safety. The dogs would not leave even from her screaming, yelling and yielding a stick-on fire. After unsuccessful attempts she decided to leave. I said to [REDACTED] I would follow it up and would keep in touch with him.</p> <p>13.7.21 [REDACTED] gave me contact details for who will be supporting me from NRC ([REDACTED])</p>
Muriwhenua Inc	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED] 0	<p>6.7.21 DJ called [REDACTED] to share information and ask if she had received or heard of anything. She was not aware and was appreciative of the heads-up.</p>
Te Aupouri	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	<p>6.7.21 DJ tried to call [REDACTED] to update but had no response.</p> <p>13.7.21 DJ called [REDACTED] and asked what he had heard about the dog situation. He mentioned about a rumour he had heard regarding a pack of dogs that maybe on the East Coast/Great Exhibition Beach. He'll keep DJ in the loop, also keen to be part of meetings and discussions that address the situation collectively.</p>
NgaiTokoto	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<p><i>Still to discuss – DJ left a message 6.7.21</i></p>
Shenstone Farm	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	<p>7.7.21 DJ called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to make contact and find out what had happened and to get a better understanding of the situation. [REDACTED] was happy with the call and said he would like to get support from DOC and other local agencies. He would organise a meeting.</p> <p>8.7.21 DJ attended a Meeting upon the request from [REDACTED] This was to share information and context with local farmers and agencies on how a collective approach might look like. Refer to meeting minutes attached.</p>
Federated Farmers of NZ	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<p>7.7.21 DJ received an email from [REDACTED] wanting to be contacted.</p>

				<p>9.7.21 DJ called [REDACTED] and informed him what had occurred over the past few days regarding meeting with [REDACTED] calls with other agencies etc. [REDACTED] was pleased and said he was waiting on legal advice of the powers of different agencies. Will update DJ accordingly.</p> <p>14.7.21 DJ received a call from [REDACTED] to get an update on any progress relating to finding any registered dog poison and the attempt to flush out the dogs.</p>
<i>Member of the Public</i>	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	<p>7.7.21 [REDACTED] (friend of the [REDACTED]) sent DJ a Txt wanting DJ to contact her.</p> <p>8.7.21 [REDACTED] called DJ and discussed her intentions as she was drafting a letter to the MOC outlining support required for the [REDACTED]</p> <p>3.8.21 DJ called [REDACTED] to acknowledge receiving her email and to reply on meeting minutes. Talked about the meeting and how things can progress for the long-term benefits if this dog issue could be resolved and supported.</p>
<i>Hunting Club</i>	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	<p>7.7.21 DJ spoke to [REDACTED] brown who had not heard of any new incidents relating to Te Paki, Te Hapua, Kapowairua.</p>
<i>Shenstone Farm</i>	[REDACTED]			<p>8.7.21 DJ rang to speak with [REDACTED] and talk about the situation, conversations held with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and ask what plan they have in place. She said DOC attending the meetings would be great and also working in with the other local agencies. She mentioned she had calmed down as earlier during the week she was feeling angry and unsupported. She gave me an update on shooting 4 dogs that morning and she needed to get rest.</p> <p>10.7.21 DJ attended a meeting and supported an operation event with the [REDACTED] and others to try and flush the dogs out of farm. Had no success but the safety factors, logistics and building of relationships were things that were positively raised during feedback and debrief. A meeting to include other farmers, landowners, agencies is planned for late July and the [REDACTED] whanau would appreciate a DOC representative being part of the sharing and contribution.</p> <p>3.8.21 DJ called to firstly apologise for being unable to attend the meeting 28.7.21 and to also ask how things are going with the issue. [REDACTED] said the meeting went ok however there is room for improvements (purpose and outcome). She</p>

				<p>was pleased with the attendance from agencies and took away better understanding of legislations. She would like to meet with DOC, NRC and FNDC alone to discuss things further. Right now the dogs seemed to have moved to the neighbouring farm "Paua Station" as they are reporting attacks on their stock.</p>
<i>Local Hunter</i>				<p>8.7.21 DJ spoke with [REDACTED] during the meeting held at Shenstone regarding options and a possible contract to hunt and destroy the dogs. He was willing and had no issues.</p> <p>20.7.21 DJ had a meeting with [REDACTED] to map out where he has been seeing and shooting dogs on Te Paki and Shenstone Farms, and ask what his take on the situation is. [REDACTED] mentioned some of the dogs are becoming weary and elusive going into hiding, some can be heard barking and howling from a far but not seen, and others have been seen very briefly at night (thermal imaging) but remain elusive and at bay. He still continues to assist the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at night but has not managed any recent success.</p> <p>3.8.21 DJ spoke to [REDACTED] to ask his thoughts of the meeting 28.7.21. He mentioned there was a lot of talk that went around in circles however, there was a good turn out and some good korero happened. There have been no dog issues on the [REDACTED] farm for almost 2 weeks which could be a result from the sheep been moved from the back paddocks to the front and watched frequently.</p>
<i>FNDC</i>				<p>9.7.21 DJ rang [REDACTED] to see what thoughts [REDACTED] had to address the issue. [REDACTED] had a wealth of knowledge and believes that even with a collaborated approach, getting rid of the dog problem would be a challenge. [REDACTED] will be DJ's contact for FNDC.</p>
<i>Te Rangī Farm Station</i>				<p>12.7.21 DJ called [REDACTED] to capture what management plan he is implementing on his farms and ask how bad the dogs attacks have been. He has been using hunters to manage the farms, dog attacks have reduced over the past month. He would be keen to meet others to hear what others have experienced and address the overall situation together if possible.</p>
<i>Paua Farm Station</i>				<p>As above</p>

<i>NRC</i>	██████	████████████████████	████████████████████	<p>3.8.21 DJ called ██████ to ask how the meeting went on the 28.7.21. ██████ said the legislation from agencies was shared and a better understanding was acknowledged. The minutes sent from ██████ ██████ was quite accurate and DOC, NRC and FNDC will plan to meet and discuss the matter further.</p>
<i>Summit Forestry</i>	████████		████████	<p>13.7.21 DJ rang ██████ to discuss the matter, ██████ said they are not working up North and have seen no dogs in the forestry however, has heard the dogs are around Matapia Is – Butlers Creek. He mentioned inviting the army maybe an option to assist in managing the issue.</p>
<i>Police</i>	██████		████████	<p>13.7.21 DJ called to ask if ██████ had any updates on the situation. He mentioned about hunters managing farm stations and a sighting of three dogs just South of Matapia Is. He has had no reports of any dogs relating to walkers etc and will keep DJ posted.</p>
<i>Te Araroa Trail</i>	██████	████████████████████	████████	<p>13.7.21 DJ rang and left a message.</p>
<i>DOC Support</i>	██████		████████	<p>14.7.21 DJ spoke to ██████ and shared the context of the dog issue. ██████ mentioned his experiences overseas where options to control dogs were a lot more flexible.</p>
<i>DOC Support</i>	██████		████████	<p>14.7.21 DJ tried calling 3 times, just left a message. 28.7.21 ██████ tried to get hold of DJ who was on SL. 30.7.21 ██████ sent DJ his document around wild and uncontrolled dogs. 3.8.21 DJ spoke to ██████ discussing the issue and his document. ██████ will be available for any support matters.</p>
<i>K4N Project Manager</i>	██████	████████████████████	████████	<p>15.7.21 DJ received an email (pic) that had a dog seen at Te Arai. ██████ has only seen a few individual dogs roaming in the Te Arai area, looking skinny and malnourished.</p>
<i>Concessionaires</i>				No recent contact
<i>I-Sites</i>		████████████████████		No recent contact

**Real Far North
Tours**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

No recent contact

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6.7.21 – Email was sent to NRC, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] forwarded it to me. I followed up on this with a site visit to Rarawa on the 8.7.21, no evidence what so ever regarding the report call in.

General Information Edit

IRIS ID: REQ.68812	Request Date/Time: 05/07/2021 10:50	Priority: Medium
Request Type: Request For Service	Contact Method: Email	Notify Requestor of action/outcome?: Yes
Subject Type: Biosecurity	Logged By User: [REDACTED]	
Subject: Animal	Logged Date/Time: 05/07/2021 10:51	

Brief Description: Wild dogs
Request Details: I was camping at rarawa bay on saturday when i encountered a pack of wild dogs to the left of the carpark. There were around 8, and they didnt go with noise from my truck, or yelling and screaming at them while yielding a big stick that was on fire. They were very serious about approaching me (this was at night time) so i left. Reporting this because the threat was very real, and other families had been there with kids, who i warned away too. Found nearby were also dead dogs, one which was just killed and a wild dog was running away from it - [REDACTED]

Requestor Confidentiality Reason:
Request Warning:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

29.7.21 [REDACTED] contacted DJ and talked about the incident (Rarawa) reported from his sister [REDACTED]. The info she gave was incorrect. She was not there when it happened. He was fishing overnight at the Northern end of Rarawa Beach, had a fire going, and saw the reflection of animal eyes in the darkness of what he believed to have been 5-6 dogs. Hearing about the feral/aggressive dogs stories he told his mate they better pack up and leave. [REDACTED] believes they were dogs but they were not aggressive or showed signs of being a threat as they stayed in the shadows.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [David John Neho](#)
To: [Annwyn Buchanan](#)
Subject: OIA 1207 - Txt from [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, 5 August 2021 11:31:22 am

[REDACTED]. My responses are captured in the sequence of events. Nga mihi DJ

7.7.21

Hey DJ, my name is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I'm a friend of the [REDACTED] We're hoping DoC can start poisoning. Can you let me know if there's anything we can do to support that happening? For example, would a record of sightings of the dogs on DoC land help?

8.7.21

Thank you for your time this morning. I've sent the email and I really hope it gets you resourced to do what you need to do.

28.7.21

Hey DJ, sorry to hear you're sick. Just to let you know we have councilors and MPs and media among others attending the meeting so be good if there was DOC representation.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer



Far North Feral Dog Action Plan 2021

Version 3.1

Version control

Version	Date	Change
1.0	21 October 2021	First draft for review
2.0	26 October 2021	Incorporation of agency and Ngāti Kuri feedback
2.1	27 October 2021	Amendment to task
2.2	28 October 2021	Addition of Tools section with indicative costs and Wildlife Act 1953 content
3.0	29 October 2021	Feedback incorporated from Steering Group – tools elaborated
3.1	01 November 2021	Confirmation of task roles and responsibilities post Action Group Meeting

1. Background

In late 2019, owners of the Far North Shenstone Farms installed cameras on their properties. These cameras recorded the presence of a few feral dogs, at least one of which had pups. Recordings from mid-year 2020 showed more dogs in larger numbers and moving more like a pack. By December 2020, the presence of heelers was reported and the packs started to behave aggressively towards stock and stalking people. In April 2021, the Te Araroa walking trails were closed by the Department of Conservation due to the risk of potential dog attacks, and in July 2021 the dogs had killed an estimated 120 stock animals on Shenstone Farms over a ten day period.

A community meeting was held in Houhora on 28 July 2021 with members of a variety of concerned local interest groups, regional and district council representatives and central government agencies. Some initial actions were agreed between the parties, including to provide traps to local land owners, assessing potential tools, educating known dog owners and investigate declaring feral dogs as a pest species in the longer term.

As a result of the meeting, agencies continued to discuss the right approach to this issue with representatives from the local iwi, district, regional and national agencies:

- Far North District Council (FNDC)
- Northland Regional Council (NRC)
- Ngāti Kuri
- Department of Conservation (DOC)
- Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)

These representatives have jointly developed the Far North Feral Dog Collaborative Action Plan to support the Far North District.

2. Intent and Objectives

The overall intent of the Feral Dog Action Plan is to **mitigate the impact and prevalence of feral dogs in the Far North in the short term while investigating available tools for long term prevention**

In order to achieve this intent, the objectives of the Feral Dog Action Plan are:

1. Determine current numbers and spread of feral dogs in the Far North
2. Prevent further distribution of feral dogs, particularly into Kahokawa (Scott's Point) Whangakea (Pandora), Kapowairua (Spirits Bay) and Takapaukura (North Cape)
3. Reduce the number of feral dogs in the Far North through appropriate control measures
4. Prevent growth of feral dog populations in the Far North through long term animal control initiatives

Structure of the Feral Dogs Response

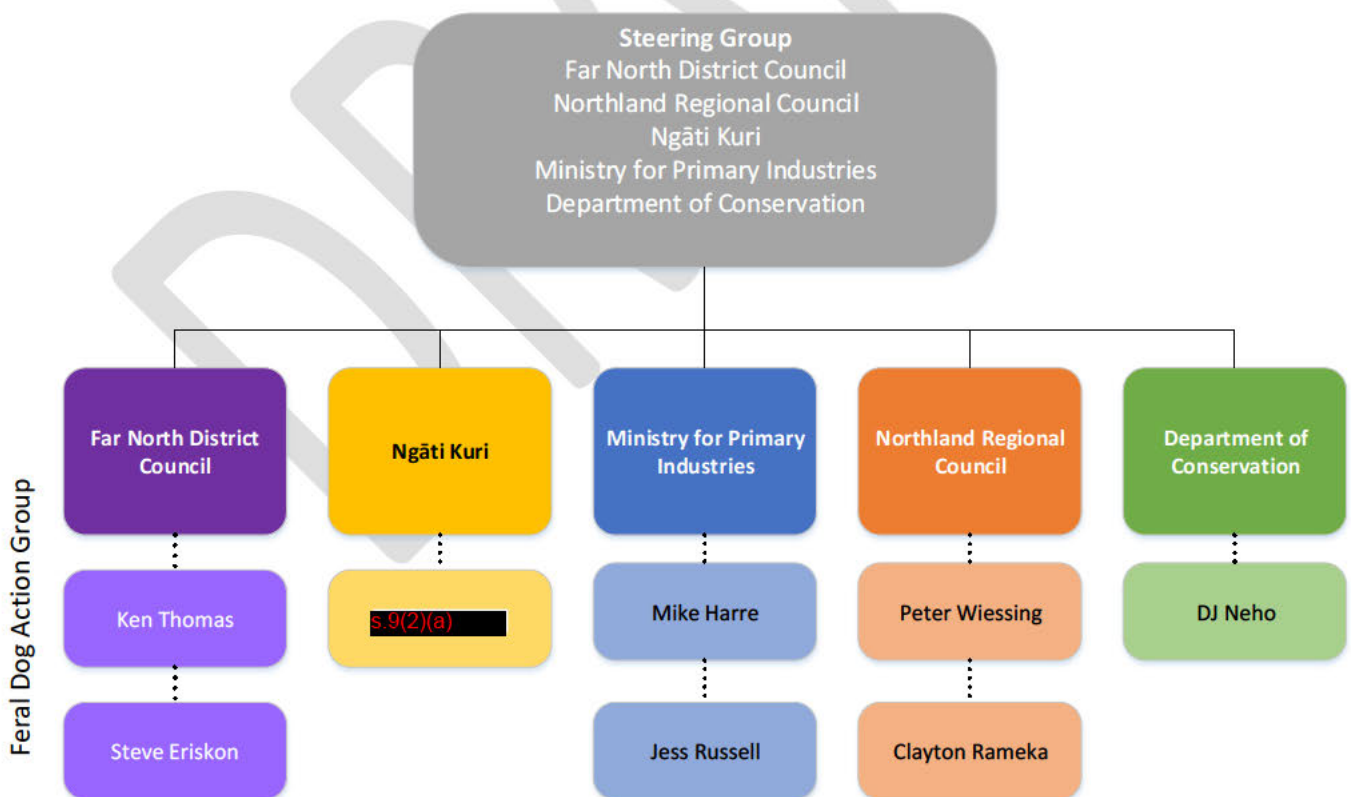


Figure 1 Structure of the Feral Dog programme, noting all agencies involved and the Feral Dog Steering Group



3. Current Situation

Numbers and geography

- Estimated to be three discrete mobs of dogs identified, approximately 30-40km apart
- Sporadic stock losses since noted varying from large groups of animals to single sheep
- Approximately ten dogs shot since July. Two of which were stalking stock prior to being killed.
- One trapped dog was collared with GPS and tracking collars and released. Local landowners have been taught how to track the dog.
- Dogs have been sighted around Hukatere and Waipapakauri (Figure 2)
- Concerns about dogs living on DOC-administered land at the back of Te Pahi and surrounding areas
- No reports of feral dogs in North Cape to date.

Identification and source

- Dogs of a variety of breeds, including corgies and heelers and pittbull crosses. Many dogs sighted have been of brown/golden or white/golden colouring and reddish.
- The Far North District Council have updated all dog pound policies to ensure adopters meet criteria for dog ownerships and mandatory microchipping.

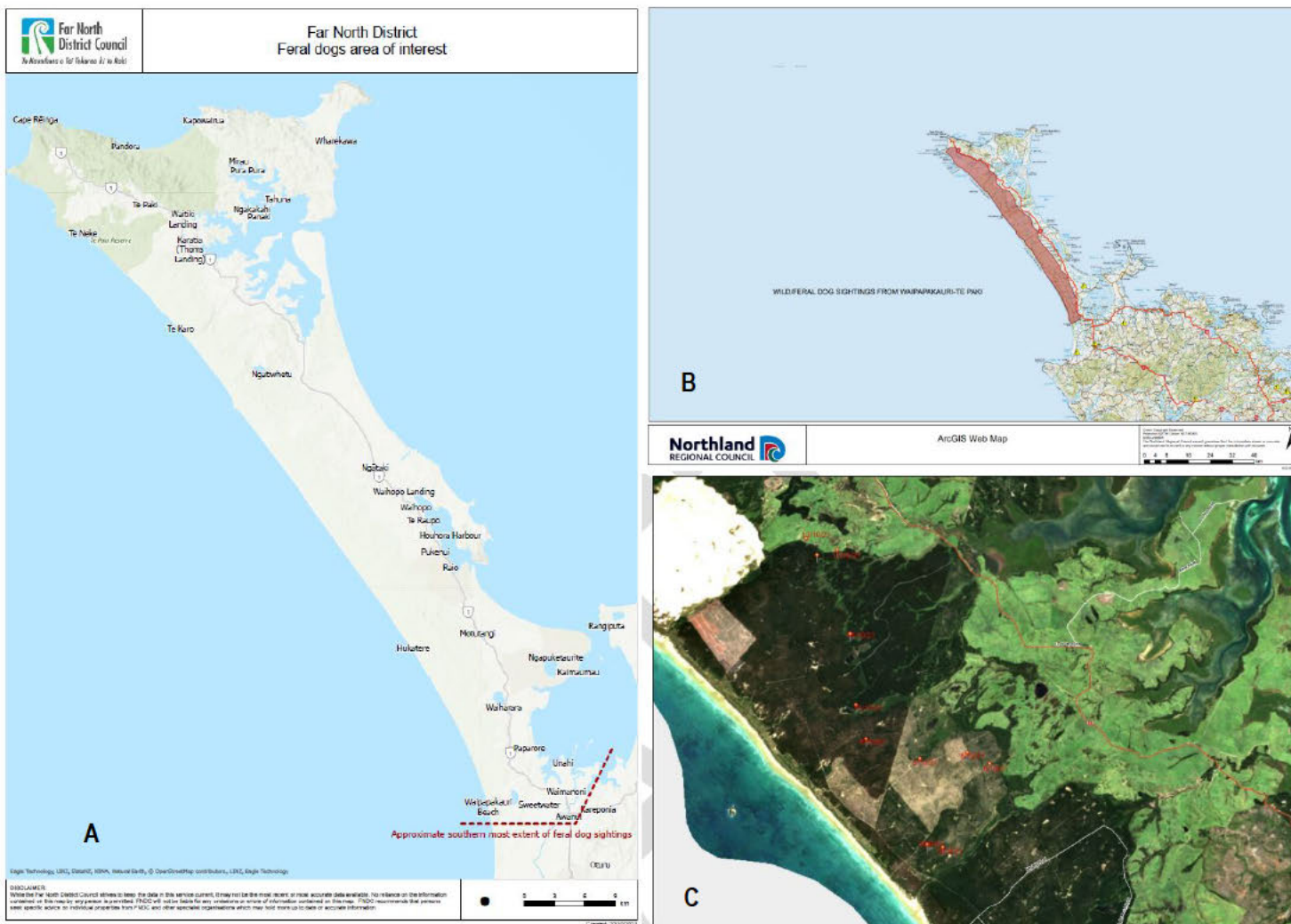


Figure 2 A: Map of the Far North, noting the southern-most reports of feral dog sightings near Awanui. Courtesy of FNDC.
B: Feral dog sightings in the Far North (in red). Courtesy of NRC.
C: Locations of dog trapped and collared and released at Te Pahi. Red dots indicate the dog's location on the given date.

4. Phases of this plan

Actions to date and currently underway

- DOC and the regional councils have supplied landowners with ammunition
- Both FDNC and RNC have supplied dog traps at Shenstone farms near Te Pahi Station
- Landowners currently shooting dogs and scanning them for microchips
- Shenstone Farms have placed at least two cameras on their property and are gathering info
- Hunting permitting process being amended - hunting restricted by DOC in hotspots
- Resourcing of equipment (collars and traps) underway

This plan covers three phases, each with key outcomes relating to the objectives:



Short term: November 2021 until Jan 2022

Key outcomes:

- Mobilize Action Group and set up infrastructure
- Determine roles and responsibilities
- Determine available tools
- Procurement of equipment
- Gain initial understanding of distribution and number of dogs
- Potential searching of dogs (legality issues around shooting on-sight)

Medium term: January 2022 – July 2022

Key outcomes:

- Further develop understanding of distribution and number of dogs via trapped and tracked animals
- Develop an operational management plan (with relevant contractor) that will prevent dogs going into North Cape
- Undergo animal control to reduce animal numbers

The majority of these outcomes will be dependent on the procurement and information gathered in the short term.

Long term: July 2022 and beyond

Key outcomes:

- Ensure long-term initiatives are in place to prevent feral dog populations growing in the future across all agencies. Many of these initiatives will already be in place or will be set up prior to July 2022 but will last beyond this time.

5. Tools available

Purpose	Tool	Pro	Cons	Potential costs
Determining numbers and spread	Tracking collars	- Determine locations of interest	- Have to trap dog first - Battery pack life may limit effectiveness	- \$500/each
	Remote cameras	- Gauge presence at a set location - Locations may capture activity	- Limited to set locations	- \$200/each?
	Passive surveillance (local reporting)	- Local reporting of numbers, particularly in tourist locations	- Inconsistent information, patchy coverage	- Free
	Luring (eg bitches in heat, or food)	- Attract dogs to a particular area to gauge numbers	- May not attract all in a pack. - Need to catch a dog to use as a lure first	- \$500-800 for the trap
Organism control and population reduction	Trapping (Dog Control Act 1996)	- Lower health and safety risk - Options to euthanize - Lower effort	- Slow population control - Procurement of traps - Trap shyness	- \$500-800 - \$900 costs per dog (staff time, consumables, impoundment)



		- Lower animal welfare concerns	- Staff hours and pound costs	
	Hunting (Wildlife Act 1953)	- Faster population control - Can undergo sweeps	- Contractor health and safety - Dogs fleeing after first shot - High effort - Animal welfare concerns	- Professional pest control costs
	Poisons	- Widescale, lower effort	- No vertebrate toxin approved in NZ for dogs - Animal welfare	- N/A

6. Resources

Please see the following Australian plans for their recommended control activities

- [Australian Wild Dog Action Plan](#)
- [Australian Centre for Invasive Species Solutions Ground Shooting SOP](#)
 - Noting the recommended firearms:
"small bore, high velocity, centre fire rifles fitted with a telescopic sight are preferred eg. .22-250, .22 Hornet, .222 Remington, .223 or .243 Winchester"
- [Full PestSmart Wild Dog code of practice](#)
- [WildDog Scan](#) for Australian local reporting

7. Feral Dog Action Group Tasks

Note that these tasks have been assigned in DRAFT and need to be reviewed and agreed by all parties.

Objective Number	Objective Description	Task #	Tasks	Task lead	Task support	Task Comments
Objective 1	Determine current numbers and spread of feral dogs in the Far North	1.1	Track current collared dog and record locations travelled	DOC	NRC	Confirm and support- this may also be shared shared with DOC staff
		1.2	Procurement of two tracking collars previously ordered	FNDC	DOC	One from s.9(2)(a) from Canada (700 day life, death alert), one from DOC
		1.3	Procurement of 5 (?) dog traps (pending financial approval)	FNDC	DOC	Quotes still to come – s.9(2)(a) and Ken working on r



		1.4	Identify landowners who are comfortable to have traps on their properties and can collar two (2) trapped dogs	FNDC and Ngāti Kuri	NRC	s.9(2)(a) [redacted] happy to have traps on properties. Will need to be chained. Note dead chicken as bait
		1.5	Distribute and monitor traps	FNDC	DOC	Landowners happy to monitor and report caught dogs to DOC and FNDC
		1.6	Establishment of GIS resource to collate and present collar tracking movements and dog numbers	DOC	NRC	Handover from NRC to DOC (if there is capacity) DJ to talk to GIS staff
		1.7	Establish reporting mechanism and database	DOC	FNDC	
		1.8	Education for or staff that may be in relevant areas to keep vigilant for dogs and where to report	DOC	FNDC and NRC	Support – could be combined with permit information
Objective 2	Prevent further distribution of feral dogs, particularly into Kahokawa (Scott's Point) Whangakea (Pandora), Kapowairua (Spirits Bay) and Takapaukura (North Cape)	2.1	Ground sweeps informed by tracking data, starting at Te Werahi going south down to the headquarters at kauri flats Waipapakauri	DOC	FNDC and NRC	Ensuring dogs are not pushed East towards the DOC land on North Cape
		2.2	Scan all dead dogs for microchips to determine potential sources	FNDC and NRC	Ngāti Kuri and DOC	All agencies and Ngāti Kuri NAIT scanners
		2.3	Ensure that contractor population reduction plan will prevent spread	DOC	FNDC and NRC	To be worked through with contractor and on ground
Objective 3	Reduce the number of feral dogs in the Far North through	3.1	Identify potential contractors for organism management	FNDC	DOC	May be either professional pest control contractors or local landowners - risks need to be evaluated FNDC, DoC Ngāti Kuri Trust



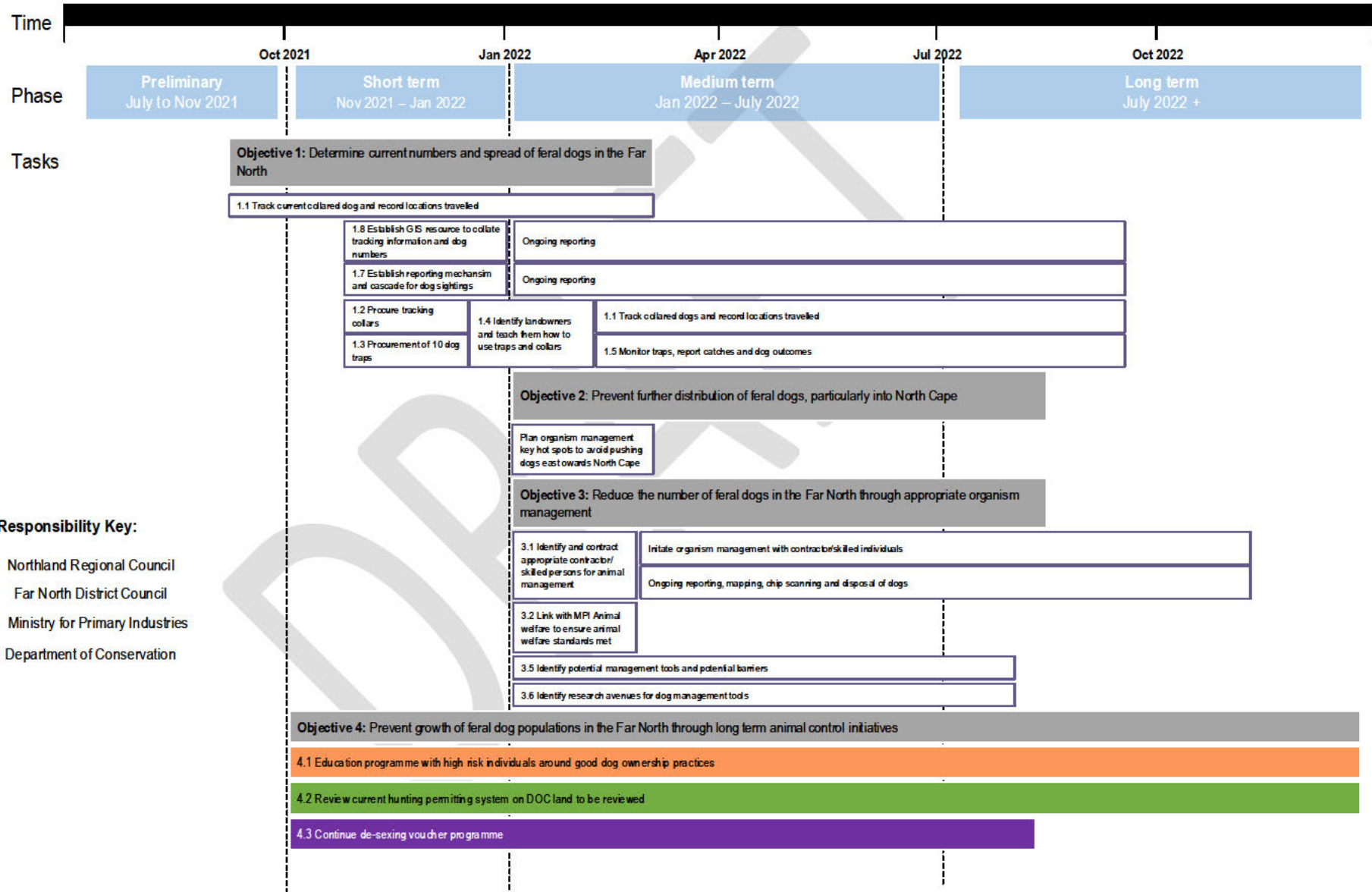
	appropriate organism management	3.2	Link with MPI Animal Welfare to ensure welfare standards are met	MPI	FNDC	
		3.3	Determine reporting cascade for shot dogs to link in with GIS database	DOC	FNDC	Eg how will we communicate and share data around dog population numbers? Including from contractors
		3.4	Identify potential tools for management and identify any barriers or issues	MPI	NRC	Eg poisons registration under ACVM; equipment and firearm details; legal tools eg Wildlife Act provisions
		3.5	Identify potential research avenues for future tools	MPI	DOC and NRC	Eg thermal camera imaging
Objective 4	Prevent growth of feral dog populations in the Far North through long term animal control initiatives	4.1	Continue with education programme with high risk individuals around good dog ownership practices	FNDC		Regular commitment every month for presence in Far North Amnesty euthanising
		4.2	Review current hunting and permitting system on DOC land to reduce the likelihood of dogs being left in the bush in future	DOC		In progress
		4.3	Continue with de-sexing voucher programme in shorter term	FNDC		Case-by-case
		4.4	Continue with ongoing dog microchipping programme across the region	FNDC		Free microchipping for dog owners



8. Feral Dog Approximate timeline

1 July 2021

31 December 2022



Responsibility Key:

- Northland Regional Council
- Far North District Council
- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Department of Conservation

From: s.9(2)(a)
To: [David John Noho](#)
Subject: FW: Feral Dogs in Far North
Date: Tuesday, 26 October 2021 10:10:02 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi DJ

As discussed this morning. Copy below of email sent to Kelvin Davis and Willow Jean Prime and copied to John Carter.

Regards Barry

s.9(2)(a)

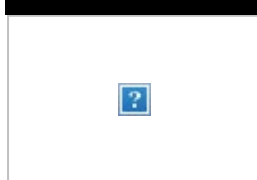
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From: s.9(2)(a)

Sent: Sunday, 26 September 2021 2:40 PM

To: office.davis@parliament.govt.nz; office.willow-jean.prime@parliament.govt.nz

Cc: Hon John Carter QSO <John.Carter@fn dc.govt.nz>

Subject: Feral Dogs in Far North

Dear Kelvin Davis and Willow Jean Prime

I am writing to you about the very serious feral dog problem in the Far North.

No doubt you will be well aware from the news media where it has been well documented in print and on the television. There was also a public meeting held at the Houhora Fishing Club, front page of Northland Age 29 July 2021, and attended by FNDC, DOC, MPI, and NRC. The outcome as I understand being that the 1996 Dog Control Act restricts what these agencies are legally allowed to do. There is a call for change of this legislation to allow the various agencies to shoot and/or poison feral dogs. Just like 1080 for possums and shooting of deer, tar, rabbits, rats and the like.

These feral dogs are smart! They won't go into cage traps!

DOC has closed walking tracks for a time. Tourists, fisherman, hunters and landowners have been confronted by these dogs and stock have been slaughtered in large numbers. There have been dog attacks on seals on the 90 Mile Beach in the vicinity of Motupia Island and bird colonies raided. These dogs are hungry and will pursue anything they can find to eat in the bush, the forest, the dunes and beach as well as private properties and DOC land.

I am asking you as our local MP representatives to take action to address this serious problem. To either actively put in place measures to eliminate these dogs or to change the

legislation to allow the relevant agencies to tackle this issue.

This problem needs to be addressed under urgency before someone is seriously injured or even killed by these packs of dogs.

A young child would have no chance!!

An unsuspecting tourist could be maimed or killed.

I urge you to be proactive NOT reactive.

s.9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: s.9(2)(a)
To: [David John Neho](#)
Subject: Letter to Minister
Date: Thursday, 8 July 2021 9:08:08 am

Hey, as discussed here is the current draft of the letter to the Minister. The purpose of the letter is to try and get this issue prioritised and properly resourced, first to deal with the immediate problem and secondly to have a long-term plan so it doesn't happen like this again.

I will give it a bit more thought based on what you said, because the Biosecurity Act includes the requirements for Regional Councils to create pest management plans, and that might be important at this point.

s.9(2)(a) and s.9(2)(a) are the mussel guys who had a run-in with the dogs on 90 mile yesterday.

Cheers

"I am writing on behalf of the s.9(2)(a) to seek your immediate action on the feral dog situation in Northland.

You have no doubt seen media coverage of the packs of feral dogs entering s.9(2)(a) in the Far North from Department of Conservation land. These dogs have been laying siege to the farm for nine days so far and are responsible for the death of 120 stock, including 35 Angora goats owned by s.9(2)(a), who has just turned 15.

We have received a preliminary legal opinion that liability for stock losses sits with the Department of Conservation as owners/administrators of land where the dogs live. Responsibility can be established via nuisance, where a party does not take steps to mitigate a dangerous risk on that party's land.

We are collating information on dog sightings and can advise that in the past week four Te Araroa trail walkers have sighted either feral dogs, or fresh dog prints and/or scat in areas without human footprints or other indications that these were domestic dogs. Feral dogs menaced mussel spat collectors on ninety mile beach yesterday, and local land-owners have recorded numerous sightings of packs of feral dogs coming from the Department of Conservation Scientific Reserve.

While the immediate issue is the ongoing stock losses from s.9(2)(a), it is only a matter of time before a person is injured or worse, and it seems almost certain that these violent and aggressive dogs are preying on kiwi.

We are seeking urgent action from the Department of Conservation to:

1. Immediately work to reduce dog numbers through culling or poisoning.
2. Work alongside farmers to get the immediate situation under control.
3. Facilitate a planning process across all relevant parties (DoC, landowners, Iwi, Far North District Council) for long-term management of the dogs (likely dog-proof fencing).
4. Open a conversation with the stock owners at s.9(2)(a) regarding compensation for their lost stock.

We note that while the Far North District Council have provided traps, they are constrained by the Dog Control Act.

We would be happy to discuss this matter and provide any further information required. Please contact us at ...

Feral Dog Action Planning Meeting

Friday 15th October 21

3pm – 4pm

Attendees:

DJ Neho (DOC) dneho@doc.govt.nz; **s.9(2)(a)** (Ngati Kuri) **s.9(2)(a)**; Mike Haare (MPI) Mike.Harre@mpi.govt.nz; Peter Wiessing (NRC) peterw@nrc.govt.nz; Clayton Rameka (NRC) claytonr@nrc.govt.nz; Jessica Russell (MPI) Jessica.Russell@mpi.govt.nz; Steve Ericksen (FNDC) steve.ericksen@fndc.govt.nz; Ken Thomas (FNDC) ken.thomas@fndc.govt.nz

Introduction:

Ken Thomas of Far North District Council (FNDC) convened this meeting

All guests were welcomed into the meeting with a brief introduction into why the meeting was convened. A Feral Dog Steering Group made up of various senior managers from DOC, MPI, NRC and FNDC meeting following Ministerial requests to do so in relation to the Feral Dog matters reportedly causing serious concern in the upper regions of the Far North district.

One outcome of Steering Group meetings was that an Action Group would be formed made up from nominated persons of each organisation that would in turn develop an Action Plan.

It was noted that although there had been a raft of communication around the legalities of “ownership” to this problem, that in itself was outside the scope of this meeting.

Round the table introductions followed which was in turn followed with the convenor introducing into the Action Plan scope.

Action Plan Scope:

- To discuss a strategy for an Action Plan scope in relation to the Feral Dog matters in the Far North
- To outline a short-term plan – what can we do now potentially within the next 6 months?
- To outline a proposed longer-term plan – what can we do over a 12 month period and longer?
- Identify resources
- Identify individual Organisation contributions

Meeting Discussion:

DJ: Noted it was important that we share information, so we all know what has been done since the Pukenui community meeting in July 2021.

Peter: Summarised that the following actions had been done since July:

- A tracking collar has been put on a trapped dog and released

- Regular attendance by NRC into the area
- About 6 dogs have been shot since that meeting
- The situation is not drastic at the moment with no more stock losses reported
- There are about 3 identified 'mobs' of dogs
- High tech tracking collars have been ordered providing for 2 collars on two separate dogs
- Land owners are shooting and trapping dogs where opportunities present themselves

s.9(2)(a) Gave some background on potential sources of the feral dogs and recent sightings

- Pig hunters are leaving dogs in the bush when they don't catch a pig and the dogs haven't returned back
- Pound dogs are often adopted and used for pig hunting
- Concerns about dogs living on DOC-administered land at the back of Te Pahi and surrounding areas
- Dogs have been sighted around Hukatere and Waipapakauri
- Dogs are of a general type – brown/goldie colour
- Last week 2 dogs were shot that were seen lining up stock to attack
- Dogs coming out of the pound need to be microchipped to avoid this happening

Ken: Provided information on the new FNDC pound dog protocols.

- Pound dogs are not necessarily an issue nowadays as strict processes apply for re-homing now
- All dogs leaving the pound are microchipped

Ken: Noted the following actions:

- FNDC will investigate supply of 10 dog traps that if sourced could be possibly monitored by DOC
- FNDC will investigate a tracking collar purchase however, highlighted that this meeting is about how all of the organisations at this meeting can identify shared areas of responsibility, not only FNDC.

It was noted and agreed by all parties that any dog shooting/killing must be done by trained and qualified individuals.

DJ: Noted that DOC agreed, and the following points:

- Farmers can also monitor traps once procured, however they would need to be secure to avoid theft
- Agreed that hunters leaving their dogs behind that are a contributing factor are a contributor to the feral dog problem
- The current DOC hunting permit system is in need of improving to provide for stricter application process. This is not something that will provide a quick fix.

Ken: Highlighted geographic focus areas were important to determine.

s.9(2)(a)

- Best to start at the top and work down. But it's important to avoid dogs getting into Spirits Bay and North Cape.
- Presently occurring at Te Pahi area is a policy that any dog seen at large that is not identified as a working dog gets shot.
- Note that the locals are very against 1080, but that it may get to a level where poison is required.

Steve: Explained the benefits of relationship development old his story of the dog owner FNDC are working with up North.

- In summary, a dog owner in Te Kao who previously had 20 dogs, none microchipped, was approached by FNDC as part of a behaviour change programme. Twelve dogs removed, down to 8 and will be rehoming puppies. Has developed a positive relationship with the council

Ken: Looked at potential short and long term approaches that may exist

- Re-focusing on a possible short term plan from an FNDC perspective – de-sexing vouchers; regular Far North community visits; dog traps; microchipping; ensuring we follow-up with the dog owner from Steve’s story to ensure compliance
- Longer term focus on behavioral changes to dog ownership

Peter/Clayton: Inputted into potential actions

- Two dog tracking collars will be received to NRC within the next 6-8 weeks – one purchased privately and one from DOC
- Currently there is a chiller with dead dogs within so could FNDC organize a microchip scan.
- Total numbers of feral dogs are unknown at this stage.

Closing:

- Meeting minutes will be sent out for the group to review
- Jess will formulate a draft Action Plan based on the meeting discussions and send around for review.
- Follow-up meeting in two weeks time to discuss Action Plan concepts and any other progress/ updates. Note that due to time pressures this may be brought forward.
- All parties thanked for their time and contributions

Meeting closed at approx. 4pm