

Submission on Regional Council Pest Management Plan 2019-2039

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The **Trelissick Park Group** has been actively supporting pest management in the Wellington City Trelissick Park (and some adjacent areas) for more than 25 years. This group of volunteers has provided countless hours during that period to help control pest plants - by their removal and replacement with native plants. And in the recent ten or more years much volunteer effort has gone into the control of pest animals.

We strongly support the Regional Council in their planning for the next twenty years of pest management – and hope that volunteer groups like the Trelissick Park Group can be kept involved with collaborative efforts – with the Wellington Regional Council and the Wellington City Council.

Some comments on the Plan are below:

- Trelissick Park should again become a Key Native Ecosystem because it contains one of the few original forest remnants within Wellington City.
- There has been an increase in rabbits in Trelissick Park – we need some practical approaches to rabbit control.
- We have perceived an increase in the rat population in the past year, even with increased residential efforts to control rats in the surrounding areas. This is possibly a result of making the Park more dog friendly without dogs being kept under the required control off-track. To avoid dogs eating bait pellets we switched to block bait in bait stations. However, this has adversely affected rat control because rats can no longer remove pellets to horde in nests and access for Norway rats is more difficult.
- We need more clarity for City (WCC) roles within GWRC in pest animal control and management.
- Information is sparse on how we should monitor pest animals. We would like to make it more available to all who are involved in pest management.
- The prevalence of Old Man's Beard is on the increase in Wellington City. We are disappointed that GWRC are no longer controlling this.
- We are surprised that control of climbing asparagus is not included - e.g. there are bad infestations in the forest of the lower eastern Hutt hills. (WCC is tackling it in Trelissick Park on the slopes below Oban Street).

Some of these comments were amplified in our 2017 submission - see <http://www.trelissickpark.org.nz/Newsletters/Submission%2014Jun2017.pdf>.

We do not wish to speak to this submission.

Regards,

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