

16 February 2022

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**Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) – reference: OIR 2122-186**

I refer to your information request we received on 30 January 2022.

In that context, I respond to your questions as follows:

**1. *A full update on plan/s to manage these geese.***

The management of Canada Geese on Council land is now considered a part of ongoing operational work. There is no single solution, but rather an adaptive management approach outlined in the DRAFT Kāpiti Coast Canada Goose Control Annual Operational Plan (Appendix 1 attached).

In addition to the of options in the plan, we have investigated the use of bunting at the suggestion of a member of the public.

**2. *In addition to 1. above a full schedule of work and meetings held and outcomes resolved (in all detail) since the date of the cull last year on all matters relating to this issue from both councils.***

There were several phone conversations held between the key parties after the August cull as a general wrap up, but no minutes or notes were made. Due to staff turnover no further actions had been taken until the Biodiversity Program Manager started in November 2021. After this, multiple informal conversations around the Canada geese issue took place as part of the general on-boarding process for that role. Council briefly looked at culling before the Christmas holiday period, but the decision was made that no shooting was to take place over the school holidays. The control plan resumed from the second half of January 2022.

A copy of the letter addressed to respective Ministers is attached, along with the response.

**3. *A full schedule including full details of future actions meetings consultations etc set down including any subject to change courtesy of covid et al.***

There is no schedule of future meetings and consultations as this is now considered standard operational work. Please refer back to the Draft Operational Plan.

For your information we had planned a cull last week, but this has been delayed due to the recent run of bad weather.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

**Mike Mendonca**

Group Manager Place and Space  
Te Kaihautū Takiwā, Waahi hoki

# Kāpiti Coast Canada Goose Control Annual Operational Plan

## Problem Definition

Canada goose populations are growing in number around the Kāpiti Coast. Canada geese eat large amounts of grass, trample vegetation, defecate on open grass areas and paths and can be aggressive towards children and adults.

Council has an obligation to manage Canada goose populations on Council managed parks and reserves.

## Ongoing Management

Council has committed to ongoing management of the Canada goose population on Council managed parks and reserves. There are a range of management options available that can be used concurrently at various times of the year. None of these management options is a solution in itself.

Eradication is not possible but efforts will be made to keep numbers at a low level.

Appendix 1 lays out the annual timeline.

Ongoing management will be administered by the Programme Manager Biodiversity and Landscapes.

## Management Options

Planting

Harassment

Coyote Cut Outs

Coyote cut outs have been used with limited success overseas and at two known sites in New Zealand.

Cut outs need to be moved weekly to continue to have an effect.

Egg Manipulation

Shooting

Moult Culls

Appendix 1: Kāpiti Coast Canada Goose Control Annual Operational Plan

Lifecycle	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Laying (incubation 27-36 Days)												
Second nestings (occasional)												
Moult <sup>1</sup>												
<b>Control Options</b>												
Planting shorelines <sup>2</sup>												
Harassment												
Coyote cut outs (move weekly)												
Egg manipulation (oiling, pricking, addling)												
Shooting												
Moult culls												

1. Can't fly one month after moulting

2. Planting reduces sightlines, creates barriers to water access and makes areas feel less "safe"