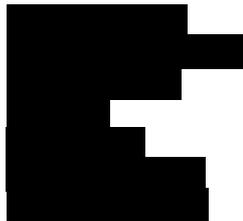


APP202879 - PredaStop for feral cats

Submission Reference no: 103

Don McKenzie, Northland Regional Council (Don McKenzie)



Submitter Type: Not specified

Source: Web Form

Overall Notes:

Clause

What is your position on the application

Position

I support the application

Notes

See attached document

Clause

All submissions are taken into account by the decision makers. In addition, please indicate whether or not you also wish to speak at a hearing if one is held.

Position

No I do not wish to speak about my submission at the hearing

Notes

The submitter have elected to withhold their personal details from publication.

Submission on Application Number: APP202879 - by Connovation Limited for PredaSTOP

Northland Regional Council
[REDACTED]
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The reasons for making my submission are:

Northland Regional Council (NRC) strongly supports the proposal to change the notification requirement from 3km to 500m for PredaSTOP (PAPP). The current notification requirement makes the use of PAPP impractical in most areas in the region due to large amount of notifications needed. NRC, its partners and over 100 community groups and organisations undertake landscape scale predator control programmes across Northland and feral cats are one of the animal pest species regularly targeted by these programmes. The use of PAPP with a reduced notification requirement of 500m would complement the ongoing trapping for feral cats and pose no more risk to domestic cats than the existing trapping regimes.

NRC supports responsible cat ownership which includes microchipping, de-sexing and keeping cats contained at night. These actions all have a positive impact on cat health, cats as a disease vector and biodiversity protection. NRC encourages the use of live capture traps in urban areas so microchipped domestic cats can be distinguished from feral cats by the SPCA or by veterinary clinics.

Feral cats are a major cause of decline of many of New Zealand's endemic and native species, ranging from birds to bats, reptiles and invertebrates. Feral cats are a known vector of *Toxoplasma gondii* in the region but the cost to the farming sector in Northland is unknown. Results from PAPP trials by Manaaki Whenua and Hawkes Bay Regional Council* has shown PAPP to be effective in reducing feral cat density by around 50% with a single pulse in bait stations. NRC sees PAPP as having the potential to be extensively used as a tool in dynamic integrated pest control programmes across Northland.

Although feral cats are not included as one of the "big three" in the Predator Free 2050 programme they are targeted in mammalian pest control programmes in the region. The impacts of feral cats make them a regionally important pest species in the context of a pest free Northland. The ability to pulse the use of PAPP at specific locations, as an example it could greatly increase the breeding success of endemic shorebirds such as NZ dotterels or fairy terns through a baiting programme.

NRC views PAPP as a potentially valuable tool to achieve the aspirational concept of a pest free Northland. It is also seen as a humane tool with minimal risk to non-target species that would be used as part of integrated pest control programmes supported by NRC in Northland. A reduction in cat density would also have economic benefits to the sheep industry from reducing the vector species for toxoplasmosis and the risk to stock. The current notification requirement has restricted PAPPs use, therefore NRC strongly supports the proposal to change the notification requirement from 3km to 500m for PAPP.

I wish for the EPA to make the following decision:

To accept the change of the notification requirement from 3km to 500m for PAPP

*Glen AS, Norbury D, Garvey P, Dickson R 2017. Effectiveness of feral cat control using paraaminopropiophenon(PAPP) on Toronui Station, Hawke's Bay