

Myrtle Rust Governance Meeting Minutes

Date	28/06/2019	Time	1.30pm – 3.00pm
Venue	Charles Fergusson Tower (38 Bowen Street) - Meeting room 1.03 Skype link: +6448194675 , Conference ID: 893150		
Chair	John Walsh (MPI)		
Members in attendance	Phil Brown (Regional Council Bio Managers), Joris De Bres (Project Crimson Trust), Matt Dolan (NZPPI), Melanie Mark-Shadbolt (TTW), John Sanson (BNZ), Mike Slater (DOC).		
Apologies	Haami Piripi (Iwi Chairs)		
Observers	Ezra Jennings Pedro (BNZ), Paula Loader (BNZ), Fleur Matthews (BNZ), Kim Morgan (DOC), Naomi Parker (MPI), Ben Reddiex (DOC), Jessica Roche (BNZ), Rose Northcott (BNZ) Suliana Teasdale (DOC).		
Minute taker	Kate Brown (BNZ)		
Next meeting	September 2019		

Summary of actions

Action	Section	Responsible	Date of action	Status
1. Subcommittee to develop options for future oversight of myrtle rust activity and to keep organisations and individuals working on myrtle rust connected.	6	BNZ to organise meeting.	28/06/19	To be actioned.

Items under discussion

1 Welcome, introductions & apologies

Apologies accepted.

Phil Brown (Regional Council Bio Managers) dialled in.

2 Previous minutes, matters arising and actions

Considered read and accepted. Outstanding actions from the previous meeting:

- Chair to finalise the letter providing formal thanks to the working group.
- Preparedness for more virulent strains of myrtle rust – Discussions with the BNZ Readiness group confirmed more virulent strains are not present in Australia and therefore it is unlikely that strains could arrive in New Zealand on the wind. This coupled with our border security means that BNZ is confident that New Zealand is protected from more virulent strains. There are no formal readiness plans in place currently.

3 Decision Paper | Myrtle Rust Science Plan Strategic Science Advisory Group (SSAG)

Naomi presented a decision paper for Governance Group's endorsement of the Myrtle Rust Science Plan.

It was noted that feedback received has been incorporated into the plan.

The content of the Science Plan will be published on the website and its contents will be presented at the myrtle rust symposium. Rose Northcott (Science Communication - BNZ) was introduced to the group and will ensure the plan is well-publicised.

Decision: Governance endorsed the Myrtle Rust Science Plan.

4 Conclusion of the research programme and next steps

Paula provided an overview of the findings from the BNZ-led short term myrtle rust science and research programme. See presentation linked below.



The findings will be published on the Myrtle Rust website and presented at the Symposium in September. The researchers also intend to publish results in journal articles.

5 Myrtle Rust planned activities 2019/20 and critical gaps

Fleur and Kim presented a paper for governance noting. It provided an overview of the myrtle rust activities planned for 2019/20 and how they relate to the Myrtle Rust Strategy and Action Plan. The Biosecurity New Zealand and Department of Conservation activities proposed in this paper have been identified in light of these agencies' funding constraints. Gaps in future activities and risks have also been identified.

Concern was expressed at the lack of funding and therefore lack of nationally coordinated myrtle rust activities, and ability to implement the strategy.

The Chair noted that while some elements cannot go ahead due to gaps in funding, there are still activities taking place such as the ongoing science programme, the myrtle rust symposium, and limited communications and public information activities, including maintaining the website. A light touch and low cost model of coordination would be appropriate and supported.

Governance noted that kauri dieback is in a similar situation where there is not currently funding for implementing a National Pest Management Plan, but there is ongoing funding for science and research. There are other examples of pests that are managed outside of central government, by communities and agencies, such as rabbits and possums.

Melanie provided an overview of the draft investment plan for the surge funding provided to the Biological Heritage National Science Challenge. The \$13.75 million investment will be used for research into myrtle rust and kauri dieback in the following areas:

- Tools for detection and management (primarily for kauri dieback)
- Surveillance frameworks and mapping
- Social and mautauranga research
- Risk assessment – host range testing and prioritisation for germplasm collection
- Long term impact monitoring (10 – 15 years)
- Rapid response to emerging and innovative research
- Germplasm preservation

6 Governance Group future structure and terms of reference

The Group noted that it had completed the key task in its terms of reference: providing strategic oversight and direction to support the development and delivery of a Long-Term Management Framework and Plan for living with myrtle rust across New Zealand.

The Group discussed whether it should now be disbanded, and whether another group with a different focus should be established. It was agreed that the Governance Group in its current form had reached the end of its useful life, but that, before it ended, the Group needed to provide recommendations for how ongoing cooperation between parties would be achieved and an appropriate structure for this. It was noted that other funding and delivery models could be considered in the future, but these are not currently in place.

The Group agreed that a sub-committee be established to develop options and recommendations for future coordination and structure, to report back to Governance at the Symposium in September. It was agreed that the sub-committee consist of Matt Dolan, John Walsh, Phil Brown, Melanie Mark-Shadbolt and Mike Slater/Kim Morgan.

Decision: The Governance Group will not disband until it has developed recommendations for future coordination and structure.

Action: Subcommittee to develop options for future oversight of myrtle rust activity and to keep organisations and individuals working on myrtle rust connected.

7 Other business

BNZ is seeking sponsorship of the myrtle rust symposium taking place 9 and 10 September in Auckland.

Next meeting

It is proposed the next meeting will be held in association with the myrtle rust symposium, on 9 September 2019. The sub-committee will meet as soon as practicable.

Meeting closed at 3:15pm.