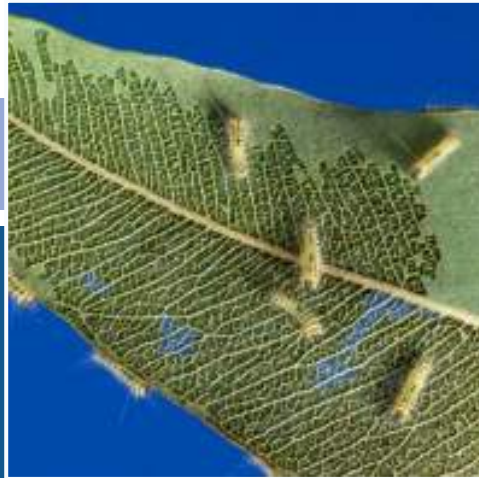


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## Forest Biosecurity and Protection

Integrating community perspectives  
in incursion response biosecurity

Lisa Langer, Joanna Goven



CSIRO

SCION



# Community dialogue and incursion response

- FRST funded research in Better Border Biosecurity OBI.

## Aim:

- To develop effective public consultation to integrate science with community perspectives, which will enable sustainable management of incursion responses in the future.

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# White spotted tussock moth



## 1996-98

- Aerial spraying of about 80,000 residents.
- Science and Community Advisory Groups.

## 1999-2004

- Initially ground spraying and trapping, slow response.
- Aerial spraying of about 160,000 residents.
- Adversely affected people relocated.
- Initially Technical and Community Advisory Groups - replaced by Community liaison group.



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**Aerial  
spraying  
60m  
above  
roof tops,  
Auckland**



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# Hamilton: Asian gypsy moth, 2003-04



- Aerial spraying of about 12.5km<sup>2</sup>.
- Adversely affected people relocated.
- Health Advisory Group.
- No Community Advisory Group.

# Hamilton: Btk spraying, Air tractor AT602



# Small community minority



- Experienced harmful effects e.g. skin rashes, breathing difficulties.
- Developed strong antipathy to aerial spray strategy and agencies involved.

# Sustainable biosecurity

Sustainability can only be achieved by balancing:

- environmental risk
  - economic costs
  - social values
  - cultural values of indigenous people (Māori).
- Social acceptance is increasingly important for successful eradication campaigns.
  - Essential for long-term sustainability.

⇒ ***Essential to understand and embrace community perspectives to minimise social risks.***

# Study of forest pest incursions and the public

Study pest incursions in the past...  
as inevitably incursions will be part of the future:

- written sources
- interviews of people from different sectors
  - Auckland
  - Hamilton
  - Victoria, BC.



# People's Inquiry

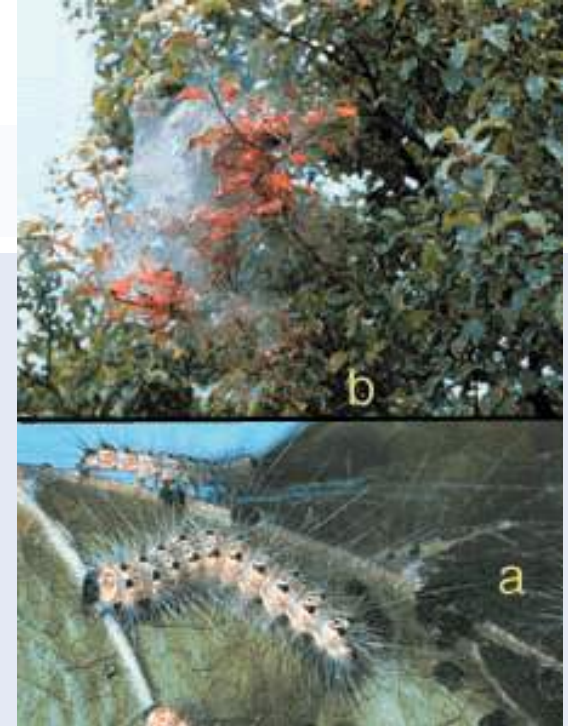
Organised by affected community to allow their perspectives to be heard.

- 5 day hearing, March 2006
- City Council support
- 4 commissioners
- 70 submissions
- report and recommendations awaited.



# People's Inquiry

- Many reports of physical effects from spraying – skin rashes, blistered skin, nose ulcers, respiratory difficulties.
- Struggle to access services.
- Concerned by manner in which they were treated when sought assistance – told they were psychosomatic.
- Concerned about screening process.
- Concerned about care and support provided.



# Public Inquiry

- Considerable disruption, including business collapse.
- Repeated spraying.
- Health effects from repeated spraying unknown.
- Difficulties in obtaining promised services or payment.
- Inadequate information about spray days.
- Why were cities sprayed rather than plantations?

# Salt Spring Island, BC

- Interviewed staff government officials and community members, June 2006.
- Responded to community concern to aerial spraying – 2 seasons of ground spraying of Dipel 2XDF (organic farming acceptance).
- Community assisted monitoring.
- 35 gypsy moths found 2006, high density mass trapping grids.
- Community driven initiatives.



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# Science and public concerns

- Many recognised that science should provide basis for incursion response.
- **But** some feared future possibilities might be limited by mounting public opposition.
- Some stated public involvement fundamental part of democracy, and believe science is important but not encompassing.

⇒ ***Where possible public concerns should be taken into account to reduce inconvenience and wider community impact.***

# Public involvement in decision-making?

- Majority believed that interactive decision-making is opportune in biosecurity operations.

## Drawbacks:

- regulators not convinced of need to involve wider spectrum of perspectives.

# Community Advisory Group

Regulatory Authority

↑↑ ? ↓↓ ?

Community Advisory Group

↑↑ ? ↓↓ ?

Community concerns and perspectives

# Community Advisory Group

## Community Advisory Group:

- involved from the start
- direct access to data
- clear Terms of Reference
- intermediary between regulatory authority and community.

**How** established: appointed or self-selected?

⇒ ***Clear expectancies about level of involvement: what is actually done with their input.***

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***but: need a fast response***



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# Anticipatory dialogue

## Without the urgency of actual incursion

### Sufficient time for:

- detailed identification of community knowledge, concerns and networks.
- exploration and evaluation of response options, **before** tensions arise
- involvement and discussion of different community perspectives
- anticipation of expected impacts.

⇒ ***Enable future incursion responses to correlate more closely with social needs and priorities.***



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# ‘The Way forward’



**Forest pest incursions ⇔ public  
to achieve long-term sustainability**

# ‘The Way forward’

- Discussion about appropriate ways of integrating different perspectives, including social impacts.
- Clear need for **openness** and **willingness**:
  - ▶ discuss recommendations
  - ▶ learn from lessons in past.
- Increased overall **readiness** to respond fast and adequately.
- Shared responsibility: feeling of **ownership**.



***Achieve sustainable approach.***