

BIOSECURITY



BIOSECURITY ACTIVITIES

Biosecurity comprises the following activities:

Biosecurity planning — preparing, adopting and maintaining comprehensive and publicly considered policies, plans and strategies that will deliver to the Taranaki community, efficient and effective management of the Council's biosecurity functions.

Pest animal management — controlling pest animals to minimise their adverse effects on biodiversity, primary production and the regional economy and environment.

Pest plant management — controlling or eradicating pest plants to minimise their adverse effects on biodiversity, primary production and the regional economy and environment.

BIOSECURITY AND COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

The Biosecurity group of activities contributes to community outcomes by minimising the actual or potential impact of pest plants and animals on the environment and on the Taranaki economy and community.

Specifically this group of activities contributes to the following community outcomes:

- Secure and Healthy Taranaki
- Prosperous Taranaki
- Sustainable Taranaki.

RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND

Biosecurity planning is a core activity for the Council. A range of statutes require or enable the Council to engage in policy and planning activities. Public consultation and information are fundamental elements of this activity. Policies, plans and strategies that have statutory force must be developed in accordance with procedures provided in parent statutes. In general these procedures require the detailed analysis of options and provide extensive opportunities for formal and informal public input.

Pest management strategies are prepared pursuant to the Act. The Council has adopted two five-year term strategies for pest plants and pest animals, respectively.

Pest management is a core function of the Council as provided by the Biosecurity Act 1993. The Biosecurity Act 1993 contains powers that enable, but do not require, the Council to carry out pest management.

With the exception of monitoring and surveillance activities, and non-regulatory pest control activities, the Council may only become involved in pest management activities in accordance with pest management

strategies, which have been adopted in compliance with the procedures of the Act.

The Council may adopt pest management strategies that identify pests, set out obligations in relation to managing or controlling those pests and identify funding sources and levels.

The Council has adopted a third *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals 2007*. The *Strategy* has a five-year term and binds the Council to provide funding and to act as the management agency for the *Strategy* over that term. Declared pests under the *Strategy* include rooks, hares, certain mustelids, deer, feral goats, feral cats, magpies and feral pigs. For these pests no obligations have been imposed requiring land occupiers to undertake control measures. Release or liberation of these animals is, however, prohibited and the Council will monitor and, where necessary, engage control measures.

Rabbits are also a declared pest in Taranaki and the *Strategy* imposes landowner obligations to control rabbits to below defined infestation levels. The Council is required to monitor and enforce that regime, supplemented by the provision of advice and user-pays control services.

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Possums are the most significant declared pest and the substantial focus of the *Pest Animal Management Strategy*. Under the provisions of the *Strategy*, the Council is required to provide a range of direct control, advisory and regulatory services. Facilitating the incremental establishment and maintenance of a *self-help possum control scheme* around the Taranaki ring plain is the major component. In brief, the self-help programme involves the Council largely funding and implementing initial control operations to reduce possum numbers, with land occupiers being supported to then continue with on-going maintenance work. Maintenance must be undertaken. The Council monitors and facilitates maintenance, and where necessary, enforces the requirement.

By 30 June 2008 approximately 227,300 ha was covered by the programme. With rare exception, there has been very strong land occupier support from the 3,200 properties involved in the scheme. During the term of this *Plan* most of the ring plain will be included within the programme and ongoing occupier maintenance of low possum populations will become the primary focus of the programme. Further expansion will become constrained by a number of factors such as land use changes, terrain and issues associated with control on adjacent Crown land.

The Council will extend its pest management work into assisting landowners to protect and enhance our valued key native ecosystems as part of the Council's *Biodiversity Strategy* under its Resource Management group of activities. The role of the Crown as a landowner will be important in realising biodiversity objectives. The Council will only commit funds to protect biodiversity if nearby Crown land is bound to be managed in a similar way.

Pest plant management is also a core function of the Council. In 2007, the Council adopted a third *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants*. The *Strategy* also has a five-year term and binds the Council to provide funding and act as the management agency for the *Strategy* over that term.

Under the *Strategy*, a number of plants are declared as pest plants but there are essentially two types of management regime applied, dependent on the risks posed by the plant species.

Surveillance pest plants are banned from sale, propagation or distribution. However, the *Strategy* does not impose land occupier obligations to destroy or control these plants where they are found on properties. The Council provides promotional and advisory services for these surveillance pest plants. It also inspects nurseries and retail outlets to enforce the ban on sale, propagation and distribution.

More significant pest plants have been declared as either eradication or containment control pest plants. In addition to a ban on the sale, propagation and distribution of plants, the *Strategy* places obligations on land occupiers to destroy or control these pests. For eradication pest plants, such as Darwin's Barberry, the Council's goal is the eradication of the plant. For containment pest plants, the Council's goal is to prevent the spread of the plant to new areas or to neighbouring properties and, if practicable, reduce the area affected. Control regimes vary amongst different parts of the region, with generally tighter control being applied on the ring plain and coastal terraces as opposed to the hill country.

LEVELS OF SERVICE

1. Maintaining publicly considered pest management strategies that deliver efficient and effective management of the Council's biosecurity functions.

- **Measure:** Presence of appropriate pest management strategies.

Target: Pest management strategies are in place in accordance with statutory requirements.

Two adopted pest management strategies are in place, both most recently reviewed in 2007.

2. Controlling pest animals to minimize their adverse effects on biodiversity, primary production and the regional economy and environment.

- **Measure:** Area of the ring plain maintained under the *self-help possum control programme* at levels to reduce risks to the environment and primary production.

Target: Residual trap catch (RTC) of less than 10% across the rural area covered by the self-help possum control programme.

In 2008 the RTC was 7.5% across the 227,300 ha of the rural area covered by the self help programme.

3. Controlling or eradicating pest plants to minimize their adverse effects on biodiversity, primary production and the regional economy and environment.

- **Measure:** Control or eradication of "eradication" pest plants.

Target: Control of 100% of known infestations of Senegal Tea, Climbing Spindleberry, Mignonette Vine, Giant Reed and Darwin's Barberry in the region.

In 2007 the number of properties where these plants were identified and controlled was 79.

- **Measure:** The extent of "containment" pest plants.

Target: Reduce the aerial extent of containment pest plants and the number of Category C properties requiring three or more inspections (because of significant pest plant compliance problems).

In 2007 the number of Category C properties was 121 and the total area was 15,470 ha.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Further detailed information on the specific strategies, policies and plans relating to this group of activities can be found from the following sources:

- Biosecurity Act 1993
- Local Government Act 2002
- Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals 2007
- Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants 2007.

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ACTIVITIES – WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

Years 2009/2010 to 2018/2019 unless otherwise noted

1. BIOSECURITY PLANNING

- Complete five-yearly reviews of the *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals*. Completion of the reviews in 2012 and 2017.
- Complete five-yearly reviews of the *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants*. Completion of the reviews in 2012 and 2017.

2. PEST ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

- Extend the *self-help possum control programme* on the Taranaki ring plain by undertaking initial control operations where there is strong community support for a viable extension. Note there will be no major expansions during 2009/2010.
- Undertake control of approximately 25,500 ha within the programme adjacent to Egmont National Park in conjunction with the Department of Conservation's retreatment of Egmont National Park in 2008-2010 with further treatment scheduled for 2015-2017.
- Support the *self-help possum control programme* by ensuring that landholders maintain possum populations within acceptable limits (10% residual trap catch) on land already included (228,000 hectares by 2007).
- Pest control undertaken in selected key native ecosystems subject to biodiversity plans consistent with the Council's *Biodiversity Strategy* (see Biodiversity activity).
- Undertake surveillance and, where necessary, control of other pest animals, including feral goats, deer, cats, hares, mustelids, pest fish and magpies.
- Advise, monitor and where necessary enforce or undertake control of rabbits and ants.
- Undertake direct control and eradication of rooks.
- Monitor, provide advice on, and, if necessary, implement small-scale control of unwanted animal organisms.

3. PEST PLANT MANAGEMENT

- Undertake direct control and eradicate 100% of known infestations of Senegal Tea, Climbing Spindleberry, Mignonette Vine, Giant Reed and Darwin's Barberry in the region.
- Confine the spread of and, where appropriate, reduce the extent of "eradication" and "containment" pest plants through a programme of inspections and, where necessary, enforcement on all Category C properties at least three times per year, on all Category B properties at least once every two years, and on Category A properties as time permits.
- Develop and implement biological control programmes for Old Man's Beard, Giant Buttercup, Ragwort, Gorse, Nodding and Plumeless Thistles. Make releases of control agents (approximately 2 per annum).
- Respond to and take necessary actions on all pest plants complaints within five days of receipt.
- Undertake a publicity and education programme in relation to the control of Mignonette Vine, Darwin's Barberry and Chilean Rhubarb.
- Monitor, provide advice on and, if necessary, implement small-scale control of unwanted plant organisms. Respond to all requests (approximately 250 per annum).
- Implement the National Pest Plant Accord, inspecting all plant nurseries and retail outlets annually to promote and, where necessary, enforcing the prohibition from propagation, sale or distribution of specified unwanted plant organisms.



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INDICATIVE COSTS AND SOURCES OF FUNDS

2008/2009		2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Estimate \$		Estimate \$	Indicative \$	Indicative \$	Forecast \$	Forecast \$	Forecast \$	Forecast \$	Forecast \$	Forecast \$	Forecast \$
Expenditure											
57,131	Biosecurity planning	47,743	50,042	56,992	62,800	53,389	61,104	55,677	57,146	65,830	71,717
1,671,473	Pest animal management	1,637,651	1,657,510	1,583,635	1,612,315	1,637,993	1,675,280	1,700,013	1,739,257	1,790,048	1,824,164
403,604	Pest plant management	391,665	400,408	410,089	417,770	425,315	435,896	443,199	454,624	469,024	478,946
2,132,208	Total expenditure	2,077,059	2,107,960	2,050,715	2,092,886	2,116,697	2,172,280	2,198,888	2,251,027	2,324,902	2,374,827
Income											
1,180,500	General rates	1,088,192	1,120,059	1,117,171	1,145,661	1,176,963	1,215,175	1,256,734	1,286,736	1,329,840	1,358,338
83,800	Direct charges	115,500	118,900	121,382	123,923	126,416	129,078	131,804	134,596	137,573	140,625
867,908	Investment funds	873,367	869,002	812,162	823,302	813,318	828,027	810,350	829,695	857,489	875,865
2,132,208	Total income	2,077,059	2,107,960	2,050,715	2,092,886	2,116,697	2,172,280	2,198,888	2,251,027	2,324,902	2,374,827
0	Operating surplus/(deficit)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital expenditure											
0	Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52,000	Motor vehicles	90,000	128,000	132,000	73,000	90,000	126,000	132,000	73,000	90,000	126,000
8,000	Plant and equipment	8,150	6,000	7,500	6,000	4,500	6,000	4,500	3,000	4,500	3,000
0	Office furniture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	Computer equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	Flood and river control assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	Computer software	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
60,000	Total capital expenditure	98,150	134,000	139,500	79,000	94,500	132,000	136,500	76,000	94,500	129,000
Funded by:											
60,000	Transfer from retained earnings	98,150	134,000	139,500	79,000	94,500	132,000	136,500	76,000	94,500	129,000
60,000	Total funding	98,150	134,000	139,500	79,000	94,500	132,000	136,500	76,000	94,500	129,000