

**Operational Plan for
Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals**

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Table of contents

Table of contents	i
At a glance	3
1. Introduction	4
1. Introduction	5
1.1 Purpose	5
1.2 Background	5
1.3 Assumptions	5
1.4 Structure	6
2. Eradication pests	7
2.1 Rooks (<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>)	7
3. Containment pest animals	8
3.1 Argentine ants (<i>Linepithema humile</i>)	8
3.2 Brushtail possum (<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>)	9
3.3 European rabbits (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>)	12
4. Surveillance pest animals	13
4.1 Brown bull-headed catfish (<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>), Koi carp (<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>), Gambusia (<i>Gambusia affinis</i>) and Rudd (<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>)	13
4.2 Other surveillance pest animals	14
5. Site-led pest control programmes in Key Native Ecosystems	15
6. Other Strategy related programmes	17
6.1 Provision of advice and education	17
6.2 Monitoring and inspections	18
6.3 Indicative costs and sources of funding	19

At a glance

This Operational Plan sets out the management programmes and performance measures for implementing the *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals*. The key operational proposals for pest animal management over the next five years are¹:

In 2007/08:

- Undertake a **publicity and education programme** to increase public awareness and ability to identify Argentine Ants and to encourage the public to report any sightings.
- Work with the Department of Conservation and New Plymouth District Council to **develop a joint approach** to Argentine ants.
- Investigate the feasibility of **eradicating** Argentine ants from Patea.
- Undertake **initial possum control** on up to 4 000 hectares in the Kaimata area.
- Develop a **memorandum of understanding** with the Department of Conservation (DOC) on possum management on the boundary of Egmont National Park (ENP).
- Undertake a **joint boundary possum operation** with DOC along a portion of ENP boundary.
- Establish a **joint approach to pest fish** management with DOC to address such issues as data management for recording sightings, public awareness etc.
- Develop the following **information and advice** material: mustelid and cat control in Key Native Ecosystems and control of hares and rabbits in riparian plantings.
- Gather **information for publicity purposes**, in conjunction with DOC, on the pest status of feral goats.
- Prioritise **Key Native Ecosystems** and contribute to development of integrated Biodiversity Plans for 10 Key Native Ecosystems. Commence working with landowners on pest control issues.

In 2008/09:

- Undertake a joint **publicity and education programme** to increase public awareness of the pest fish and to promote the reporting of any sightings of pest fish.
- Undertake a **publicity and education programme** to increase public awareness and ability to identify rooks and to encourage the public to report any sightings of rooks.
- Develop **information and advice** material about pest nature of feral goats with DOC.
- **Investigate and advocate** for opportunities for integrated catchment pest control management to address the issue of animal pests, particularly goats, in catchments vulnerable to hill erosion and or flooding.
- Undertake **direct possum control** around the boundary of ENP in conjunction with DOC Egmont operation (12 500ha).
- Depending on resources, develop Biodiversity Plans for the next 5 prioritised **Key Native Ecosystems**. Commence working with those landowners, and continue with ones already in the programme on pest control issues.

¹ The programme and performance measures for the 07/08 year are firm, but for out years are subject to confirmation through annual reviews of this operational plan and through the annual planning process.

In 2009/10:

- Undertake a **publicity and education programme** to increase public awareness and ability to identify Argentine Ants and to encourage the public to report any sightings.
- Undertake **direct possum control** around the boundary of ENP in conjunction with the DOC Egmont operation (12 500ha).
- Depending on resources, develop Biodiversity Plans for the next 5 prioritised **Key Native Ecosystems**. Commence working with those landowners, and continue with ones already in the programme on pest control issues.

In 2010/11:

- Undertake **initial possum control** on up to 4000 hectares in the Waitara area.
- Undertake a **publicity and education programme** to increase public awareness of the 'pest' status of feral cats and to promote the voluntary control of these animals.
- Undertake a **publicity and education programme** to increase public awareness and ability to identify rooks and to encourage the public to report any sightings of rooks.
- Undertake a joint **publicity and education programme** to increase public awareness of the pest fish and to promote the reporting of any sightings of pest fish.
- Depending on resources, develop Biodiversity Plans for the next 5 prioritised **Key Native Ecosystems**. Commence working with those landowners, and continue with ones already in the programme on pest control issues.

In 2011/12:

- Undertake **initial possum control** on a further 4000 hectares in the Waitara area.
- Undertake a **joint boundary monitoring** programme around Egmont National Park with DOC.
- Depending on resources, develop Biodiversity Plans for the next 5 prioritised **Key Native Ecosystems**. Commence working with those landowners, and continue with ones already in the programme on pest control issues.

In addition to the above, the Council will, for the duration of the Strategy:

- Undertake the direct control and eradicate, as practicable, all confirmed populations of rooks.
- Undertake targeted publicity campaigns that inform occupiers of the proposal to include new areas in the Self-help Possum Control Programme.
- Continue to inspect, provide advice and enforce land occupier obligations to destroy possums (for those properties in the Self-help Possum Control Programme) and rabbits.
- Undertake additional direct control on properties in the Self-help Possum Control Programme and for which Council is satisfied that land occupiers have made a reasonable effort to achieve possum control but have failed despite that effort.
- Provide advice and information and promote the voluntary control of magpies, pest fish, feral cats, feral deer, mustelids, feral goats, feral pigs and hares.
- Respond to and take action on all pest animal complaints within 5 working days.
- Continue projects on **Key Native Ecosystems** and threatened species led projects.

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This Operational Plan sets out the objectives, management programmes and performance measures adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council in relation to the implementation of the *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals*.

The Operational Plan has effect for the first five-years of the Strategy – 2007/2008 to 2011/2012. The Operational Plan programme and performance measures will be reviewed each year as part of the annual planning process.

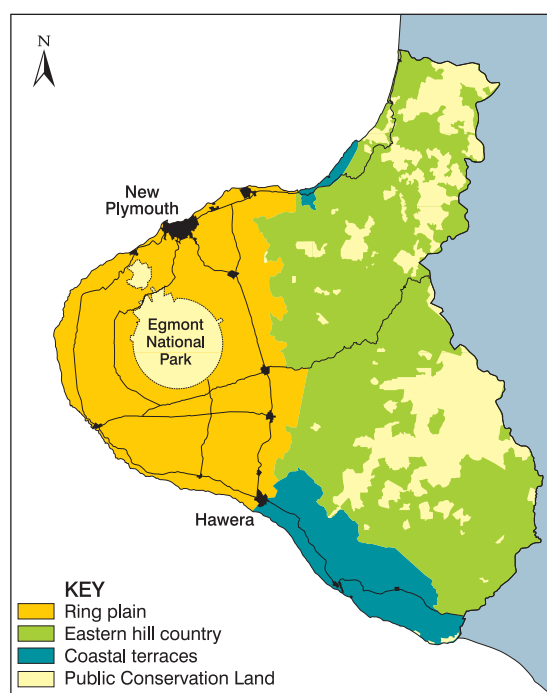
1.2 Background

Under the Biosecurity Act 1993, the Taranaki Regional Council has prepared the *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals* ('the Strategy'). The Strategy became operative on 1 May 2007 and has effect over the whole region, **excluding** public conservation land (refer to the map).

The Strategy involves the application of a range of methods for the effective management of 23 pest animal species in the Taranaki region.

The focus of the Strategy is on possum control. The principal means of achieving possum control is through the continued implementation of the 'Self-help Possum Control Programme' on the ring plain.

Under section 85 of the Biosecurity Act the Taranaki Regional Council, as management agency for the Strategy, must now prepare this Operational Plan for the implementation of the Strategy. The implementation of programmes identified in the Operational Plan and the achievement (or otherwise) will be reviewed annually and reported on (no later than five months after the end of each financial year) in significant activity reports for pest animal management.



1.3 Assumptions

The preparation of this Operational Plan, by necessity, requires the adoption of a number of assumptions about events and activities that the Council believes will reasonably occur over the duration of the *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals*.

- Additional areas to be included in the Self-help Possum Control Programme will continue to have the support of local land occupiers.
- The Department of Conservation will:
 - undertake possum control in the Egmont National Park on a 7 year cycle.

- implement a programme of containment or eradication with respect to feral deer in Taranaki that targets the eastern hill country.
- Taranaki remains endemic Bovine Tuberculosis-free.
- No significant changes to control methodologies and technologies available for pest control during the course of the Strategy.
- There will be no significant changes to the existing statutory functions and duties of the Council, which will significantly impact on expenditure requirements.
- There will be no new pest animals, or incursions of unwanted organisms, which result in significant additional expenditure requests.

The assumptions outlined would have differing effects on the Council if they do not hold over the five-year duration of the Strategy. Any significance variances between the adopted assumptions and reality will be explained in each year's significant activity report for pest animals.

1.4 Structure

The following pages summarise the pest animal programmes and performance measures. The Operational Plan has three sections.

Section 1 introduces the Operational Plan setting out the purpose, scope and structure of the Plan.

Section 2 sets out the objectives, management programmes and performance measures specific to rook control, an animal targeted for **eradication**.

Section 3 sets out the objectives, management programmes and performance measures specific to Argentine ants, possums, and rabbits, animals targeted for **containment and reduction** over the duration of the Strategy.

Section 4 sets out management programmes and performance measures for '**surveillance pest animals**' and for which voluntary control is encouraged. These animals are pest fish – brown bull-headed catfish, koi carp, Gambusia and rudd; brown hares, feral cats, feral deer, feral goats, feral pigs, magpies and mustelids.

Section 5 sets out the management programmes and performance measures for site-led pest control programmes in Key Native Ecosystems.

Section 6 contains the policy, programme and performance measures for the provision of advice and education, undertaking monitoring and inspections and indicative costs and funding.

Note that sections 2, 3, and 4 include tables that indicates the main tactics and time line specific to the implementation of a management programme.

In relation to that table, primary tactics are shaded in **dark grey**, while secondary or auxiliary tactics are shaded in **light grey**.

2. Eradication pests

2.1 Rooks (*Corvus frugilegus*)

Objective

To prevent the establishment of rooks in the Taranaki region by eradicating all known (as at 1 May 2007) populations of rooks in the Taranaki region by 2017 and, as practicable, destroying any new populations of rooks that are identified over the duration of the Strategy.

Programme and performance measures

Rooks have been targeted for eradication. Rooks are not currently established in the region. As at 1 July 2007, there are no confirmed rook populations in Taranaki. However, ongoing surveillance and monitoring is going to be required to maintain a rook-free Taranaki.

To achieve the objective of eradication, the Council will:

- Provide general **information** through fact-sheets and on the Council's web site.
- Undertake a targeted **publicity campaign** in 2008/09 and 10/11 immediately after during duck shooting season and during rook nesting to increase public awareness and ability to identify rooks and encourage the public to report any sightings of rooks.
- **Inspect** properties with suspected or confirmed rooks or rookeries to ascertain direct control options.
- Undertake, as practicable, **direct control** to eradicate any confirmed new rook populations discovered over the duration of the Strategy (depends upon Council successfully being able to identify where the rooks nest).
- **Respond** to all public sightings of rooks within five days of receipt.
- **Enforce** the Strategy rules.

Time line for implementation

Programmes	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Publicity programme - targeted					
Direct control					
Monitoring & surveillance					

3. Containment pest animals

3.1 Argentine ants (*Linepithema humile*)

Objective

To protect amenity, horticultural production, and biodiversity values by preventing the spread of Argentine ants from affected properties to neighbouring properties for the duration of this Strategy.

Programme and performance measures

Argentine ants have been targeted for containment. Obtaining a better understanding on the extent of the invasion in Taranaki is high priority, as is ensuring that they do not spread to high value sites.

To achieve the objective of containment, the Council will:

- Provide general **information** through fact-sheets and on the Council's web site.
- Undertake a targeted **publicity campaign** in 2007/08 and 9/10 to increase public awareness and ability to identify Argentine ants and encourage the public to report any sightings. This will be across the region, but specifically targeted to the Patea and New Plymouth areas, and landowners of Key Native Ecosystems. The goal will be to determine the extent of invasion through mapping public responses.
- Following delimitating survey, **determine approach** to be taken in terms of ring fencing areas to contain spread of ants to.
- **Investigate** the feasibility of eradicating Argentine ants from Patea.
- **Develop joint programme** with Department of Conservation regarding measures to keep Argentine Ants from invading Egmont National Park, and the district councils to ensure integrated management.
- **Respond** to all public sightings of Argentine ants within five days of receipt.
- Provide **advice and information** on the control of Argentine ants to land occupiers (including the provision of specialised advice, equipment and pesticides² at costs).
- **Enforce** the Strategy rules.

Time line for implementation

Programmes	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Publicity programme - targeted					
Provide assistance for control					
Monitoring & surveillance					

² To date only two pesticides are available in New Zealand which are proven to be effective against Argentine ants - Xstinguish[®] Argentine ant bait and Ant Stop Granuals. The Taranaki Regional Council has determined to obtain and make these products available to the public at cost.

3.2 Brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*)

Objective

To protect agricultural production values and indigenous biodiversity values, for the duration of this Strategy, by:

- (a) reducing infestations of brushtail possums to below a 10% residual trap catch³ on the ring plain through the implementation of the Self-help Possum Control Programme; and
- (b) promoting the voluntary control of possums throughout the region.

Programme and performance measures

1. Self-help Possum Control Programme

To reduce possum numbers in the ring plain, the Council will implement the 'Self-help Possum Control Programme'. The Self-help Possum Control Programme has been systematically expanded through large parts of Taranaki, targeting intensively-farmed pasture land and the mountain transition zone on the ring plain. The Programme involves the Council reducing possum populations with land occupiers, thereafter, being responsible for controlling and maintaining possum numbers at those low level.

To achieve the objective of the Self-help Possum Control Programme, Council will:

1.1 Initial possum control

When adding new areas to the Self-help Possum Control Programme, Council will:

- Undertake a **targeted publicity campaign** that informs land occupiers of the new areas to be added to the Self-Help programme. Land owners to be advised of the Programme, how it works and its implications.
- **Establish** that there is at least 75% local land occupier support (covering at least 75% of the targeted land) to be included in the Programme and that the occupiers will accept obligations for controlling and maintaining possum numbers at reduced levels.
- Subject to obtaining the necessary local land occupier support, the Council will **undertake initial possum control** on up to a total of 12 000ha of privately owned land in the Kaimata and Waitara areas.
- **Reduce possum numbers** in that area to at least 5% on the residual trap catch index.
- **Monitor** effectiveness of the initial possum control to ensure target of 5% is met.
- **Select** additional areas for inclusion in the programme on the basis of being either contiguous with the programme or geographically distinct, sustainable in the long term and that will safeguard the integrity of the programme.

1.2 Possum control maintenance

Across all the properties in the Self-help Possum Control programme, the Council will, each year:

- Provide a comprehensive **advisory and educational service** for all properties in the Self-help Possum Control Programme. This will involve:

³ A description of the Residual Trap Catch monitoring technique is provided in Appendix IIA of the Strategy.

- providing advice on management techniques and timeframes for facilitating the land occupiers' control of possums; and
- providing training to land occupiers to obtain a Controlled Substance Licence.
- Provide, on a cost recovery basis, **possum control products, material and equipment**.
- **Inspect** properties in the Self-help Possum Control Programme after having assessed the likelihood of the proposed control techniques meeting Council's 10% Residual Trap Catch target and so achieving compliance with the Strategy. Inspect other properties as resources permit.
- **Enforce** land occupiers' obligation to destroy possums on their land through the serving of Notices of Directions and undertaking prosecution action and/or default work, as appropriate.
- Undertake additional **direct control** on properties in the Self-help Possum Control Programme for which Council is satisfied that land occupiers have made a reasonable effort to achieve possum control but have failed despite that effort (this is referred to as 'maintenance assistance'). This will particularly apply to some properties adjacent to Egmont National Park, or the eastern hill country boundary.
- **Respond** to all public complaints on possums within five days of receipt.
- **Monitor** overall effectiveness of the programme by selecting sufficient properties randomly to get statistically valid results and monitoring half before control is undertaken and half after.

1.3 Possum control programme adjacent to Egmont National Park

- Undertake **joint monitoring** of possum numbers on and around the boundary of Egmont National Park in conjunction with Department of Conservation, as required, but particularly in the 2011/2012 financial year.
- Undertake **direct control** of properties adjacent to Egmont National Park, particularly bush habitat on private land that is contiguous with the park, in conjunction with Department of Conservation's Egmont National Park operation (08/09 and 09/10)
- Undertake **direct control** of boundary properties in partnership with Department of Conservation, covering the entire boundary over a 4 year cycle.
- **Work collaboratively** with the Department of Conservation on possum control on the Taranaki ring plain.
- Develop with the Department of Conservation a **Memorandum of Understanding** that sets out agreed collaborative monitoring, reporting and management programmes addressing possum control around the buffer of the Egmont National Park in the 07/08 financial year.

2. Other possum control programmes and performance measures

In parts of the region that, for technical and fiscal reasons, must lie outside the Self-help Possum Control Programme, the Council's focus must necessarily be on promoting the voluntary control of these animals.

To promote voluntary control, the Council will:

- Provide **information** to individuals or the community to encourage and assist them to control possums.

- Provide **training** to land occupiers to obtain a Controlled Substance Licence (where resources allow after prioritising land occupiers in the Self-help Possum Programme).
- Provide, on a cost recovery basis, **possum control products, material and equipment**.
- Provide **possum control assistance in the eastern hill country**. This will generally involve the provision of technical and planning assistance to land occupiers undertaking possum control in the eastern hill country.

Time line for implementation

Programmes	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Initial possum control for new areas to the self Help programme	4000ha			4000ha	4000ha
New initial control areas	Kaimata			Waitara	Waitara
Control around ENP in conjunction with Operation Egmont		12 500ha	12 500ha		
Monitor direct control					
Advisory and education programme for new and existing land occupiers in the self-help programme.					
Maintenance assistance					
Enforcement of land occupier obligations					
Monitor effectiveness of Self-Help Programme					
Joint monitoring with DOC of boundary					
Joint operation with Department of Conservation around ENP boundary					
Provision of general information					

3.3 European rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

Objective

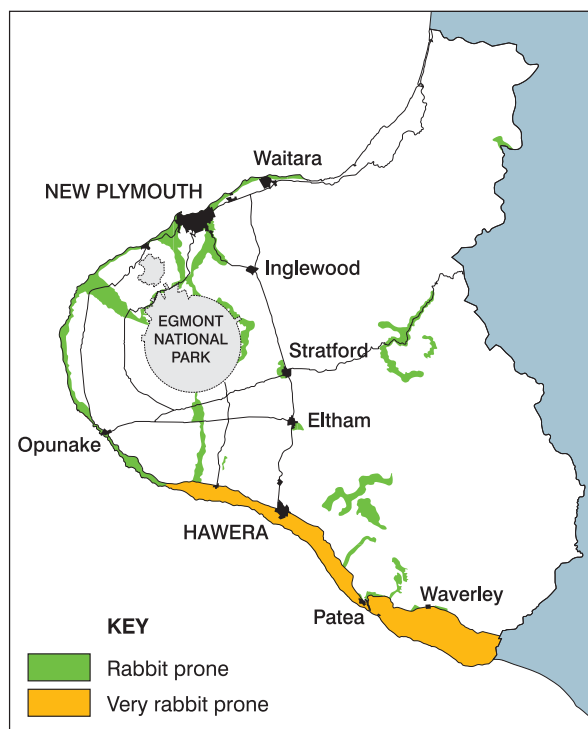
To protect agricultural production values by preventing the spread of European rabbits from affected properties to neighbouring properties for the duration of this Strategy.

Programme and performance measures

European rabbits are a 'containment pest animal' and the objective is to prevent rabbit numbers on a property being so high that they impact upon neighbouring properties. Rabbits are present throughout Taranaki but are only likely only to be a serious problem on very rabbit prone land (this is land characterised by low rainfall, soils which are suitable for burrowing, and topography which allows good drainage and protection from weather, see map).

To achieve the goal of containment, the Council will:

- Provide **information** to individuals or the community identifying appropriate management techniques and timeframes for achieving effective rabbit control.
- **Inspect** properties to establish the extent of rabbit infestations and to identify any remedial action that needs to be taken.
- **Enforce** land occupier obligations to destroy rabbits on their land, through the serving of Notices of Directions and undertaking prosecution action and/or default work as appropriate.
- Provide **training** to land occupiers to obtain Controlled Substance Licences.
- Provide, on a cost recovery basis, **rabbit control products, material and equipment**.
- **Respond** to all public complaints on rabbits within five days of receipt.
- Undertake strategic **direct control**, as time and circumstances permit, to support and assist with significant riparian planting programmes.
- Provide **advice and information** on controlling rabbits to holders of riparian plans.



Time line for implementation

Programmes	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Advice and information					
Enforcement of land occupier obligations					
Inspections, surveillance and strategic direct control.					

4. Surveillance pest animals

4.1 Brown bull-headed catfish (*Ameiurus nebulosus*), Koi carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), Gambusia (*Gambusia affinis*) and Rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*)

Objective

To promote public understanding of the 'pest' characteristic of brown bull-headed catfish, koi carp, Gambusia and rudd and to facilitate the control of brown bull-headed catfish by the Department of Conservation and others, for the duration of this Strategy.

Programme and performance measures

- Develop a **joint approach** to integrated management of pest fish with the Department of Conservation. This could include shared database, shared public awareness material, joint publicity programmes etc.
- Subject to the development of an integrated approach, undertake a joint targeted **publicity campaign** in 2008/09 and in 2010/2011 to increase public awareness of the 'pest' status of these fish and promote the voluntary control of them.
- Provide **information** to individuals or the community to assist them to identify and control infestations of pest fish on their properties.
- **Respond** to public complaints about new infestations of pest fish within 5 days of receipt.
- Provide **advice and information** for other Council staff on pest fish so that they can undertake informal surveillance whilst carrying out their usual duties - i.e. Land Management Staff during visits to Regionally Significant Wetlands, Inspectorate staff during their compliance work, Technical Services through their monitoring work.

Time line for implementation

Programmes	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Develop and implement a joint approach with Department of Conservation.					
Publicity programme – targeted blitz					
General information – fact sheets, web site, advice through Land Management Officers/Inspectorate/Pest Team					
Monitoring & surveillance					

4.2 Other surveillance pest animals

Objective

To promote public understanding of the 'pest' characteristic of surveillance pests, and to facilitate the voluntary control of brown hares, feral cats, feral deer, feral goats, feral pigs, magpies and, mustelids for the duration of this Strategy.

Programme and performance measures

Brown hares, feral cats, feral deer, feral goats, feral pigs, magpies and, mustelids are 'surveillance pest animals'. With the exception of feral deer surveillance pest animals are widespread through all suitable habitats in the Taranaki region.

There is only slight variation in the Council's management programmes to address 'surveillance pest animals'. Collectively, the Council's objective is to promote the voluntary control of these animals, impose a ban on their sale, release and distribution and set up monitoring and surveillance systems to assess change over time.

To promote the voluntary control of 'surveillance pest animals', in each year of the Strategy, the Council will:

- Provide **information** to individuals or the community to assist them to identify and control infestations of 'surveillance pest animals' on their land.
- **Inspect** public reports of the sale, release or distribution of 'surveillance pest animals'.
- **Respond** to all public reports of 'surveillance pest animals' within five days of receipt.
- **Enforce** the provisions of the Strategy in relation to surveillance pests.
- As appropriate, undertake **direct control** of surveillance pests in accordance with section 9.4 of the Strategy

Programme and performance measures for specific surveillance pests

- **Hares:** Provide specific **advice and information** on controlling hares to holders of riparian plans.
- Undertake strategic **direct control**, as time and circumstances permit, to support and assist with significant riparian planting programmes.
- **Magpies:** Undertake **direct control** of magpies where there is a significant potential risk to children's health and safety.
- **Goats:** Collate information on the pest nature of feral goats and develop this into public awareness material.
- **Investigate** and **advocate** for opportunities for integrated catchment pest control management to address the issue of goats in catchments vulnerable to hill erosion.

Time line for implementation

There will be ongoing implementation of these control programmes and performance measures for the duration of the Strategy.

5. Site-led pest control programmes in Key Native Ecosystems⁴

Policy

The Taranaki Regional Council shall consider undertaking and funding the direct control of any pest animal (and other harmful animals) having significant and adverse impacts on indigenous biodiversity values associated with privately owned Key Native Ecosystems.

Programme and performance measures – Key Native Ecosystems generally

Council's objectives and actions for achieving integrated management of Key Native Ecosystems are set out in the draft Biodiversity Strategy.

In relation to animal pest management on Key Native Ecosystems, Council will:

- **Prepare a package of information** for land owners of private Key Native Ecosystem sites on techniques to control pest animals on their site, particularly on mustelid, cat and goat control.
- **Prioritise** Key Native Ecosystems on the basis of ecological values, threats and landowner willingness through the preparation of a Biodiversity Strategy.
- **Prioritise** Key Native Ecosystems for pest control by selecting those that are:
 - a) Privately owned
 - b) On the ring plain (i.e. where possums are already under control through the Self-help possum programme);
 - c) Where animal pests are threatening the values of the KNE;
 - d) Where the site is already legally protected (i.e. ensuring Council resources are spent on legally secure sites, and on sites already adequately fenced and managed).
 - e) Where landowners are willing to take their management of their Key Native Ecosystem to the next level (i.e. they have already demonstrated willingness through legal protection, fencing etc, and now keen to address animal pest threats).
- **Prepare Biodiversity Plans** that include:
 - a) the regionally significant biodiversity values
 - b) actions to tackle pest control to address those threats (long term)
 - c) opportunities to integrate with other agencies
 - d) a monitoring programme to monitor effects of the pest control programme.
- **Work with landowners** to facilitate their control of animal pests in the top 10 KNE sites requiring pest control. Provide equipment (such as traps, bait etc), encouragement, training and advice. Undertake direct control of both Strategy and non-Strategy pests if this is the most cost effective means of achieving the pest control.

⁴ More detail on the site led Key Native Ecosystem Programme will be provided in the Council's Biodiversity Strategy

Performance measures and programme - specific Key Native Ecosystems:

- **Rotokare** – Partnership programme with Rotokare Scenic Trust. Provide support through the Technical Advisory Group. Subject to agreement on technical standards, provide funding for initial in the 07/08 and 08/09 year.
- **Whitecliffs** – Partnership programme with Ngati Tama. Provide resources for project including project management of initial control programme. Summarise work into Biodiversity Plan and more detailed operational plan specifying pest control targets, monitoring etc.
- **Rapanui** – Partnership programme with Rapanui Grey Faced Petrel Trust. Summarise work into Biodiversity Plan.
- **Sandy Bay** – Partnership programme with Ngati Tara Oaonui Sandy Bay Society. Summarise work into Biodiversity Plan. Re-evaluate current level of support.
- **Toko** – Partnership programme with landowner. Summarise work into Biodiversity Plan. Continue to provide support for land owner pest control through provision of equipment, support, encouragement, and monitoring of results of programme.

Performance measures and programme – pest control for threatened species

- **Blue duck** – Partnership programme with East Taranaki Environment Trust and Department of Conservation. Provide support and equipment to support blue duck restoration project. Prepare Biodiversity Plan in conjunction with DOC (using existing information).
- **Kiwi at Matau/Pouiatoa** – Partnership programme with East Taranaki Environment Trust. Part of project includes Key Native Ecosystem. Summarise work into Biodiversity Plan and more detailed operational plan. Provide support to put together plan as basis for protecting kiwi and for seeking funding for an integrated management package.

6. Other Strategy related programmes

6.1 Provision of advice and education

Policy

The Taranaki Regional Council shall, in relation to each pest animal, provide technical advice and information to land occupiers and the wider community for the purposes of:

- *promoting greater public awareness of the potential or actual adverse effects associated with pest animals;*
- *promoting greater public awareness of an individual's responsibilities under this Strategy; and*
- *promoting effective pest animal control or the adoption of management techniques that will avoid, minimise or remedy the adverse impacts associated with pest animals.*

Programme and performance measures

The Taranaki Regional Council shall implement advisory and educational pest management programmes, which includes the following components:

- (a) an annual programme of information transfer for all properties in the **Self-help Possum Control Programme** including property specific advice on possum control techniques and recommended timeframes for undertaking control;
- (b) maintain the Council's website www.trc.govt.nz and respond to **public requests** for information or enquiries relating to the identification of pest animals, and information on their impacts, and appropriate control options;
- (c) the provision of advice and information to land occupiers when undertaking **property inspections** and other pest animal management activities;
- (d) the preparation and distribution of **pamphlets and other educational material** to schools and other interest groups and individuals in relation to pest animal management;
- (e) as appropriate, organise timely and relevant **media and publicity programmes** to highlight particular pest animal management issues;
- (f) undertake, on request, **presentations** to interested groups and, as appropriate, organise and attend **field days, meetings and discussion groups**, and
- (g) **training** for land occupiers for controlled substance licences and firearm licences and examinations.

6.2 Monitoring and inspections

Policy

The Taranaki Regional Council shall monitor the location, nature and extent of pest animal infestations in order to:

- (a) establish whether, and to what degree, land occupiers are complying with the strategy rules prescribed in Part Two of the Strategy; and*
- (b) establish the extent to which the objectives set out in Part Two of the Strategy are being achieved.*

Programme and performance measures

The Taranaki Regional Council shall monitor land occupier compliance with the Strategy rules by:

- (a) inspecting properties in the **Self-help Possum Control Programme** to ensure land occupiers are undertaking effective possum control;
- (b) inspecting **other properties** following the identification of a problem either by the public or by an Authorised Person of the Council;
- (c) inspecting **retail outlets** known to be selling animals to ensure no pest animals are being sold or offered for sale; and
- (d) recording the number of **public complaints** pertaining to individual pest animals, **instances of non-compliance** with the strategy rules, and the **Council's response**.

The Taranaki Regional Council shall monitor the extent to which the objectives set out in Part Two of this Strategy are being achieved by:

- (a) annually mapping the **implementation** of the **Self-help Possum Control Programme**;
- (b) monitoring **possum population densities** in new areas included in the **Self-help Possum Control Programme**, immediately prior to and following initial possum control;
- (c) monitoring **possum population densities and trends**, over time, in areas included in the **Self-help Possum Control Programme**;
- (d) annually surveying and mapping the **presence and distribution of rooks and heavy infestations of Argentine ants**;
- (e) monitor, for each pest animal, the effectiveness of **direct control** undertaken by the Taranaki Regional Council;
- (f) recording the number of **public complaints** pertaining to individual pest animals and **instances of non-compliance** with the strategy rules; and
- (g) recording the number of **public enquiries** in relation to individual pest animals, including requests for information.

6.3 Indicative costs and sources of funding

This Operational Plan has been prepared having regard to the *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals* and is not inconsistent with that Strategy. For the first year of this Operational Plan the total cost of pest animal management will be **\$1 583 745**.

Table 1: Indicative costs and sources of funds (exclusive of GST) ⁵

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Expenditure				
Pest management	1,583,745	1,602,136	1,630,835	1,646,312
Total expenditure	1,583,745	1,602,136	1,630,835	1,646,312
Revenue				
Direct charges	77,200	77,200	77,200	77,200
Government Grants	-	-	-	-
Total revenue	77,200	77,200	77,200	77,200
Net cost of service	1,506,545	1,524,936	1,553,635	1,569,112
Funded by:				
General rates and investment revenue	1,506,545	1,524,936	1,553,635	1,569,112
Total Funding	1,506,545	1,524,936	1,553,635	1,569,112

⁵ Taranaki Regional Council (2006) 'Long-Term Council Community Plan 2006/2016'.