

Pest management in Taranaki



Factsheet: 1

The Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy and Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki

Protecting Taranaki's land and water from pests and other harmful plants and animals is vital for our environment, taonga (treasures), and economic growth.

Under the *Biosecurity Act 1993*, the Taranaki Regional Council plays a key part in that protection, and it has prepared a Biosecurity Strategy to work alongside the statutory Regional pest Management Plan, which combines the former *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals* and *Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Plants*.

The Biosecurity Strategy outlines the Council's broader biosecurity goals and actions over the next 20 years.

The Biosecurity Strategy

The Strategy (see *Factsheet 2*) covers all of the Council's biosecurity activities and programmes relating to pests and other harmful organisms, regardless of status.

It acknowledges that biosecurity regulation is but a small part of the Council's work.

The biosecurity activities and programmes have been grouped into five priority areas that identify what the Council wants to achieve over the lifetime of the Strategy:

- *Pathway and exclusion programmes* to prevent the introduction of harmful plants and animals to the region, and reduce the effects of existing pests.
- *Eradication programmes* to target five harmful species not yet established or widespread in Taranaki.

- *Sustained control programmes* to target 12 pests that are having a regional effect on the environment and agriculture, with rules (in the *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki*) that require land occupiers to undertake control.
- *Community and site-led programmes* where the Council works with others to protect environmental and agricultural values at particular sites.



Setting a predator trap

- *Other leadership activities* include biosecurity planning, biological control and research, advice, education, advocacy and liaison.

Key parts of the Strategy

- Increased focus and resourcing to prevent 'new' pests from entering the region.
- Increased focus and resourcing to eradicate five weeds present but not yet established in Taranaki.
- Options to expand the *Self-Help Possum Control Programme* to control possums, feral cats and mustelids across 235,000 hectares on the ring plain, subject to collaborative funding from external programmes including the government's *Predator Free 2050* goal and Wild for Taranaki's *Restoring Taranaki Initiative*.
- New programmes to decrease heavy infestations of old man's beard along the Waingongoro and Patea Rivers.
- New programmes targeting pest control in urban areas to promote biodiversity outcomes.



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- Continuing to support community and site-led programmes.

The Regional Pest Management Plan

The Plan (see *Factsheet 3*) is the Council's 'rule book' that targets the following 17 plant or animal pests for eradication or sustained control in Taranaki. Once approved, the Plan will be in place for 10 years.

Pests	Programme
Climbing spindleberry	Eradication
Giant reed	Eradication
Madeira (mignonette) vine	Eradication
Moth plant	Eradication
Senegal tea	Eradication
Brush-tail possums	Sustained control
Giant buttercup	Sustained control
Giant gunnera	Sustained control
Gorse	Sustained control
Nodding, plumeless and variegated thistles	Sustained control
Old man's beard	Sustained control
Wild broom	Sustained control
Wild ginger (yellow and kahili)	Sustained control
Yellow ragwort	Sustained control

Eradication is funded and undertaken by the Council. The aim is ambitious, but could prevent significant costs later should the targeted species become established.

The 'sustained control' programme applies to 12 species that are relatively widespread in Taranaki.

It contains new Good Neighbour Rules that require land occupiers, including the Crown, to protect adjacent properties from the environmental or agricultural impacts of those pests.

Key parts of the Plan

The Plan contains important changes:

- The Plan combines plant and animal pest management.
- New 'Good Neighbour Rules' will require all land occupiers, including the Crown, to manage pests in the 'sustained control' programme.
- Requirements to control old man's beard infestations on previously exempt properties along the Kaupokonui Stream and Waingongoro River, providing the Council has successfully undertaken initial control.

Differences between the Strategy and the Plan

- The Strategy covers all of the Council's biosecurity activities and programmes, whether statutory or non-statutory. Most activities undertaken by the Council are discretionary.
- The Plan imposes requirements on people in regards to 17 targeted species that fit the legal definition of 'pests'. It is an offence under the Biosecurity Act not to comply with the requirements