

# Pest management in Taranaki



Factsheet: 2

## The Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy

Biosecurity is the prevention or management of risks from the thousands of pests and other harmful organisms that affect our economy, environment and wellbeing.

The *Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy 2018–2038* covers all of the Council's activities and programmes relating to pests and other harmful organisms, and sets out its biosecurity goals for the next 20 years.

Through the Strategy, the Council aims to prevent the establishment of 'new' pests in Taranaki, and keep playing an important role in managing established 'legacy' pests.

### A vision for pest management in Taranaki

The Council's vision for biosecurity in Taranaki is:

- Taranaki has a high-performing, integrated system for managing the risks and impacts of pests and other organisms harmful to the economy, environment and human health.
- Agencies, community groups and individuals work co-operatively, taking an integrated, efficient and cost-effective approach that is based on sound science and a social mandate to undertake that work.
- Together we significantly contribute to protecting our region, people, economy and natural resources by preventing the introduction or establishment of new pests, and reducing the damage caused by pests and other harmful organisms introduced in the past.



*Old man's beard is an invasive weed*

### Principles of the Council's biosecurity activities

The four principles underpinning Council pest programmes and activities and the achievement of its vision are:

- Biosecurity/pest management is aligned to the Council's outcomes and statutory mandate.
- The Council must be adaptive and responsive to new or emerging risks.
- Its programmes and activities must be effective and efficient.
- They must be underpinned by strong relationships with all participating parties.

### Exclusion activities and dispersal pathways

The Strategy includes activities to prevent the introduction or establishment of new pests in Taranaki, and reduce the effects of existing pests. These include risk assessments, contingency planning, surveillance, infestation response, and supporting initiatives such as the *National Pest Plant Accord* and *National Pest Pet Biosecurity Accord*. It also aims, where possible, to avoid the further spread of invasive species along known dispersal pathways.

It is important to note that central government is the lead agency for management of new pests entering New Zealand.



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## Eradication activities

Through the *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* (see *Factsheet 3*), the Council aims to eradicate the following invasive species from Taranaki to prevent them from becoming established and having significant impacts:

- Climbing spindleberry.
- Giant reed.
- Madeira (mignonette) vine.
- Moth plant.
- Senegal tea.

In recognition of the wider public benefits, the Strategy notes that the Council assumes responsibility for their control and eradication. Eradication is only possible if infestations are found when populations are small, distribution is limited, and control is feasible.

## Sustained control activities

The Strategy aims to set up a regulatory framework through the Plan for land occupiers to control 12 'sustained control' pest species on their land. The control of the 12 sustained control pest species is subject to rules, compliance monitoring and enforcement.

## Site-led activities

The Strategy identifies programmes and activities where the Council will focus on the ecological values of particular sites and, where appropriate, target harmful species accordingly.

The Council will build on its efforts to protect our special sites and places by working with and supporting others to deliver biosecurity outcomes, including:

- Continued support of rural land occupiers through the *Self-Help Possum Control Programme*, which now covers 34% of the region.
- Investigating options to expand that programme to control possums, feral cats, rats and mustelids across 235,000 hectares on the ring plain.

This is subject to collaborative funding from external programmes, including the government's new *Predator Free 2050* objective and Wild for Taranaki's *Restoring Taranaki* initiative.

- New programmes targeting pest control in urban areas to promote biodiversity outcomes.

- New programmes to decrease old man's beard infestations along the Waingongoro and Patea rivers.
- Continuing to support community and site-led activities such as the Council's *Key Native Ecosystems* programme.

## Leadership activities

The Council has pest management leadership responsibilities under the Biosecurity Act.

It also undertakes additional activities on the region's behalf, including biosecurity planning, contributing to and facilitating biological control and research, empowering others to control pests and other harmful organisms, and supporting government or industry-led pest initiatives.