

Pest management review FOR Taranaki



Factsheet: 2

The draft 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 has prepared a draft Biosecurity Strategy that covers all of the Council's activities and programmes relating to pests and other harmful organisms, and sets out its proposed 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 proposes to help achieve the following vision for biosecurity in Taranaki through its pest programmes and activities:

- 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.

What do you think?

1. Do you agree or disagree with the vision for biosecurity in Taranaki? Why?



Old man's beard is an invasive weed

Principles of the Council's biosecurity activities

The Council believes the following four principles are necessary to achieve the proposed vision:

- 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 proposes 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 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 to New Zealand.



Taranaki Regional Council
Email: info@trc.govt.nz
Phone: 06 765 7127
www.trc.govt.nz

The Strategy proposes greater focus on surveillance and 'pathways' to avoid establishment of new pests in Taranaki. This will involve additional resourcing.

2. Do you agree or disagree with that focus? Why?
3. Do you agree or disagree that these actions and measures are consistent with the Council's mandate and capacity?
4. What other actions could be taken to prevent new pests from entering Taranaki?

Eradication activities

The Strategy proposes that the *Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* (see *Factsheet 3*) 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.
- Senegal tea.

In recognition of the wider public benefits, the Strategy proposes 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.

Climbing spindleberry, giant reed, madeira vine and Senegal tea are in Taranaki, but not yet established.

5. Do you agree or disagree with increased focus on their eradication? Why?
6. Do you agree or disagree that these actions and measures are consistent with the Council's mandate and capacity?
7. What other actions could be taken to eradicate pests or weeds in the region?

Sustained control activities

The Strategy proposes that the Plan lists 14 'sustained control' pest species to be managed by land occupiers, and subject to rules, compliance monitoring and enforcement.

Site-led activities

The Strategy proposes that the Council focuses on the environmental attributes of particular sites, where appropriate, and targets harmful species accordingly.

The Council would build on its efforts to protect those attributes 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, 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*.

- New programmes targeting pest control in urban areas to promote biodiversity outcomes.
- New programmes to decrease old man's beard infestations along the Kaupokonui Stream and Waingongoro River.
- Continuing to support community and site-led activities such as the Council's *Key Native Ecosystems* programme.

The Strategy proposes to expand the Council's *Self-Help Possum Control Programme* on the ring plain to include rats and mustelids, subject to external support.

8. Would you support or oppose expansion of the programme? Why?
9. Would you support or oppose rules that require land occupiers to maintain low predator numbers following the Council undertaking initial control?

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.



Taranaki Regional Council
Email: info@trc.govt.nz
Phone: 06 765 7127
www.trc.govt.nz