

Meeting of the Environment and Integrated Catchments Committee

LATE ITEM

Date: Wednesday 21 September 2022
Time: 9.00am
Venue: Central Hawke's Bay District Council
28/32 Ruataniwha Street
Waipawa

Agenda

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| 14. | Biosecurity Operational Plan and Annual Report | 3 |

HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT AND INTEGRATED CATCHMENTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 21 September 2022

Item 14

Subject: BIOSECURITY OPERATIONAL PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORT

Reason for Report

1. This item presents the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Biosecurity Annual Report for the 2021-2022 year and Operational Plan for the 2022-2023 year.

Officers' Recommendation(s)

2. That the Environment and Integrated Catchments Committee receives and notes the 'Biosecurity 2021-22 Annual Report and 2022-23 Operational Plan' staff report.
3. That the Environment and Integrated Catchments Committee recommends that Hawke's Bay Regional Council:
 - 3.1. Agrees that the decisions to be made are not significant under the criteria contained in Council's adopted Significance and Engagement Policy, and that Council can exercise its discretion and make decisions on this issue without conferring directly with the community or persons likely to have an interest in the decision.
4. Adopts the Biosecurity Operational Plan for 2022-2023.

Executive Summary

5. Pest management is an important part of the sustainable management of natural resources in Hawke's Bay. The Hawke's Bay Regional Council (Council) manages risks posed by pests and other organisms through its Biosecurity programme. The Hawke's Bay Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) 2018-2038 is the core document behind this and establishes the regulatory basis for pest management in Hawke's Bay. The RPMP was made operative in February 2019.
6. As the management agency, Council is directed by the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) to prepare an Annual Operational Plan (AOP) that sets out how the RPMP is to be implemented. Following the end of each financial year, Council is required to produce an Annual Report (AR), recording progress in implementation of the RPMP via the Operational Plan.

Background

7. Regional councils have a mandate under Part 2 of the Act to provide regional leadership in activities that prevent, reduce, or eliminate adverse effects from harmful organisms that are present in their region. Therefore, HBRC has this leadership role in the Hawke's Bay region.
8. The purpose of the RPMP is to provide for the efficient and effective management or eradication of specified harmful organisms in the Hawke's Bay region. It builds on the 2013 Strategy and previous pest management programmes. The purpose of the plan is to:
 - 8.1. minimise the actual or potential adverse or unintended effects associated with those organisms, and
 - 8.2. maximise the effectiveness of individual actions in managing pests through a regionally coordinated approach.
9. Many organisms in the Hawke's Bay region are considered undesirable or a nuisance. The RPMP only addresses pests where voluntary action is insufficient, due to the nature of the pest or the related costs and benefits of individual action or inaction. The Act specifies criteria that must be met to justify such intervention.

10. The RPMP empowers Council to exercise the relevant advisory, service delivery, regulatory and funding provisions available under the Act to deliver the specific objectives identified within the Plan.

Discussion

11. The RPMP contains 63 pests, comprising of 33 pest plants, 23 pest animals, two marine pests and five horticultural pests.
12. Some of the key outputs during the 2021-2022 financial year were:
 - 12.1. The Pest Plant team visited 1,845 properties undertaking weed control or auditing
 - 12.2. Staff undertook six biocontrol releases (Californian green thistle beetle)
 - 12.3. No exclusion pest plants were confirmed present in the Hawke's Bay region
 - 12.4. The marine biosecurity surveillance programme detected three marine pest incursions
 - 12.5. Three Notices of Direction were issued
 - 12.6. A total of 190 active rook nests were treated
 - 12.7. A total of 688 feral goats were controlled within the Mahia and Maungaharuru feral goat coordinated management areas (CMA)
 - 12.8. 30 rabbit enquiries were responded to
 - 12.9. Staff worked with 39 land occupier/community groups in managing site specific pests, primarily predators
 - 12.10. Possum monitoring was undertaken across 14,534 ha (approximately 15% of the PCA area) with the overall trap catch across this area being 1.1%
 - 12.11. Predators were controlled over 54,000 ha, removing 10 feral cats, 31 ferrets, 29 stoats, 460 hedgehogs and 178 rats
 - 12.12. Outcome monitoring showed increases in native bird abundance within the predator control areas.
13. Although almost all programme objectives were achieved, the following areas of concern were identified:
 - 13.1. 142 possum monitoring lines were above a 4% RTC, resulting in 40 properties failing their monitor (6.6% of properties monitored). Staff followed up with these properties requiring possum control to be undertaken
 - 13.2. Rabbit enquiries continue to increase, particularly in urban areas. Rabbits are a difficult pest to control, requiring expensive ongoing management. Regional night-count lines indicate an increase from 5.8 to 13.7 rabbits per spotlight kilometre. National conversations regarding rabbit management continue across the biosecurity sectors due to their impact and difficulty in managing long-term.
14. The number of properties with pest plants (primarily Chilean needle grass) continues to grow, resulting in increased pressure on Pest Plant budgets and staff.

Strategic Fit

15. Regional pest management sits within a biosecurity framework for the Hawke's Bay region, which includes the RPMP, the Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Strategy and the HBRC Strategic Plan. Neighbouring Regional Pest Management Plans and national legislation, policy and initiatives have also influenced Hawke's Bay's RPMP.
16. The activity that is reported in the Operational Report and Annual Plan support Council's healthy functioning biodiversity in its Strategic Plan and the strategic outcome that agricultural

and environmental pests are managed and eradicated through the Regional Pest Management Plan.

Financial and Resource Implications

17. Council's Long Term Plan 2018 – 2028 provides the necessary funding, via rates and user charges, for the operational and planning activities associated with pest management. The 2022-2023 expenditure budgets are summarised within the 2022-23 Operational Plan.

Decision Making Process

18. Council and its committees are required to make every decision in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002. Staff have assessed the requirements in relation to this item and have concluded:
 - 18.1. The decision does not significantly alter the service provision or affect a strategic asset, nor is it inconsistent with an existing policy or plan
 - 18.2. The use of the special consultative procedure is not prescribed by legislation
 - 18.3. The decision is not significant under the criteria contained in Council's adopted Significance and Engagement Policy
 - 18.4. The persons affected by this decision are all persons in the region with an interest in the region's biosecurity activities and biodiversity outcomes
 - 18.5. Given the nature and significance of the issue to be considered and decided, and also the persons likely to be affected by or have an interest in the decisions made, Council can exercise its discretion and make a decision without consulting directly with the community or others having an interest in the decision.

Recommendations

1. That Environment and Integrated Catchments Committee receives and considers the *Biosecurity 2021-2022 Annual Report and 2022-2023 Operational Plan* staff report.
2. The Environment and Integrated Catchments Committee recommends that Hawke's Bay Regional Council:
 - 2.1. Agrees that the decisions to be made are not significant under the criteria contained in Council's adopted Significance and Engagement Policy, and that Council can exercise its discretion and make decisions on this issue without conferring directly with the community or persons likely to have an interest in the decision.
 - 2.2. Adopts the Biosecurity Operational Plan for 2022-2023.

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MANAGEMENT

Attachment/s

- 1 [↓](#) 2022-2023 Combined Pest Plant and Pest Animal Operational Plan
- 2 [↓](#) HBRC Biosecurity Annual Report 2021-2022

2022-2023 Operational Plan Regional Pest Management Plan 2018-38

August 2022
Hawkes Bay Regional Council Publication No.



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2022-2023 Operational Plan Regional Pest Management Plan 2018-38

August 2022
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Version

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2020-2021 Operational Plan
16 September 2022 1.43 pm

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Introduction

Regional councils have a mandate under Part 2 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) to provide regional leadership in activities that prevent, reduce, or eliminate adverse effects from harmful organisms that are present in their region.

This operational plan sets out how Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) will implement the objectives set out in the Hawke's Bay Regional Pest Management Plan 2018-38 (the RPMP). This operational plan is effective from July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Background

Hawke's Bay Regional Council is the management agency responsible for developing and implementing the Hawke's Bay Regional Pest Management Plan 2018-2028 in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993.

The RPMP sets out policies and rules that in combination seek to achieve the eradication or effective management of specified pests or groups of pests. It describes the biosecurity activities that will be undertaken throughout Hawke's Bay and outlines the management or eradication of specific organisms. Doing so will:

- minimise the actual or potential adverse or unintended effects associated with these organisms, and,
- maximise the effectiveness of individual actions in managing pests through a regionally coordinated approach.

As the management agency, Council is required to prepare an annual operational plan that sets out how the plan is to be implemented. Following the end of each financial year, staff will report to Council on the implementation of the operational plan.

This plan is the operational (management) response to supporting or directly achieving the objectives contained within the RPMP and is delivered by the Biosecurity team of the Catchment Services section within the Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) group.

Integration with Annual Plan

As far as practicable, the Operational Plan has been integrated with council's Annual Plan. The Annual Plan sets the overall priorities and work programmes for the organisation and provides an overview of related pest management activities for the 2022/2023 year. Implementation costs are included in the Annual Plan.

Integration with Biodiversity Activities

HBRC has responsibilities to manage biodiversity under the Resource Management Act 1991. The management of high value biodiversity areas across the region is coordinated by the Biodiversity team of the Catchment Services team within the ICM group. Pest plant and pest animal control is a key method for managing native biodiversity, requiring ongoing investment of council resources, with resources allocated to the Ecosystem Prioritisation programme. This programme focuses on managing the areas of highest biodiversity value in Hawke's Bay, which includes ongoing coordinated pest control. Implementation of this programme requires close coordination with the Pest Plant, Pest Animal and Predator Free Hawke's Bay teams. This work is complemented by other efforts such as deer fencing to exclude feral deer and advocating for legal protection under QEII and other covenanting agencies.

Pest Categories

Exclusion Pests

The purpose of this category is to prevent the establishment of a pest which is present in New Zealand but not yet established in the region. Eradication of an incursion exclusion pest will be attempted by the Council in conjunction with other agencies such as MPI, DOC and neighbouring Regional Councils.

Eradication Pests

The purpose of this category is to reduce the incidence or density of a pest to zero levels in an area in the short to medium term. For pests such as rooks, this could take over 30 years to achieve.

Progressive Containment Pests

The intermediate outcome for this category is to contain and reduce the geographic distribution of the pest to an area over time. Progressive containment pests are those where a pest is at high densities in parts of Hawke's Bay, but of low extent or limited range. Eradication is not feasible region-wide, but it is feasible to prevent the pest from spreading to other parts of Hawke's Bay or to eradicate the pest from parts of Hawke's Bay.

- Existing populations will be monitored and, where appropriate, systems set in place to prevent further spread.
- New technologies and methods will be investigated and introduced where possible.

Sustained Control Pests

The purpose of this category is to ensure pests are being controlled, to reduce its impacts on values and spread to other properties. This may include boundary control of pest plants or suppression of a pest animal over a large geographic area where eradication is not possible.

Pests contained within the RPMP

Table 0-1: Number of Pest Species in the Plan.

| Number of species (or groups of species) in the Regional Pest Management Plan | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Type of pest | Exclusion | Eradication | Progressive containment | Site led | Sustained control |
| Plants | 5 | 8 | 11 | | 9 |
| Animals | 1 | 2 | | 8 | 5 |
| Phytosanitary | | | | | 5 |
| Marine | 2 | | | | |

**Note some species have more than one programme.*

Table 0-2: Pest Plant species included in RPMP

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Programme |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| African feather grass* | <i>Cenchrus macrourus</i> | Eradication |
| Alligator weed* | <i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> | Exclusion |
| Apple of Sodom | <i>Solanum linnaeanum</i> | Progressive Containment |
| Australian sedge | <i>Carex longibrachiata</i> | Progressive Containment |
| Bathurst bur | <i>Xanthium spinosum</i> | Sustained Control |
| Blackberry | <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. | Sustained Control |
| Cathedral bells* | <i>Cobaea scandens</i> | Eradication |
| Chilean needle grass* | <i>Nassella neesiana</i> | Sustained Control |
| Cotton thistle | <i>Onopordum acanthium</i> | Progressive Containment |
| Darwin's barberry* | <i>Berberis darwinii</i> | Progressive Containment |
| Goats rue | <i>Galega officinalis</i> | Eradication |
| Gorse | <i>Ulex europaeus</i> | Sustained Control |
| Japanese honeysuckle | <i>Lonicera japonica</i> | Progressive Containment |
| Marshwort* | <i>Nymphoides geminata</i> | Exclusion |
| Noogoora bur | <i>Xanthium strumarium</i> | Exclusion |
| Nassella tussock* | <i>Nassella trichotoma</i> | Progressive Containment |
| Nodding thistle | <i>Cardus nutans</i> | Sustained Control |
| Old man's beard* | <i>Clematis vitalba</i> | Progressive Containment |
| Phragmites* | <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Eradication |
| Purple loosestrife* | <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> | Eradication |
| Privet (Chinese and tree) | <i>Ligustrum sinense</i> , <i>L. lucidum</i> | Sustained Control |
| Ragwort | <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i> | Sustained Control |
| Saffron thistle | <i>Carthamus lanatus</i> | Progressive Containment |
| Senegal tea* | <i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i> | Exclusion |
| Spartina | <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> , <i>S. anglica</i> , <i>S. gracilis</i> , <i>S. maritime</i> , <i>S. x townsendii</i> | Exclusion |
| Spiny emex | <i>Emex australis</i> | Eradication |
| Variegated thistle | <i>Silybum marianum</i> | Sustained Control |
| Velvetleaf* | <i>Abutilon theophrasti</i> | Progressive Containment |
| White-edged nightshade* | <i>Solanum marginatum</i> | Eradication |
| Wilding Conifers | Ref glossary pg 102 | Progressive Containment |
| Woolly nightshade* | <i>Solanum mauritianum</i> | Progressive Containment |

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Programme |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Yellow bristle grass | <i>Setaria pumila</i> | Sustained Control |
| Yellow water lily* | <i>Nuphar lutea</i> | Eradication |

* Unwanted organisms (as declared by a Chief Technical Officer)

Table 0-3: Pest Animal species included in RPMP

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Programme |
|--|---|--|
| Feral cat | <i>Felis catus</i> | Sustained Control, Site-led |
| Feral deer (incl. hybrids) | <i>Cervus elaphus</i> , <i>C. nippon</i> , <i>C. dama</i> | Site-led |
| Feral goat | <i>Capra hircus</i> | Sustained Control, Site-led |
| Feral pig | <i>Sus scrofa</i> | Site-led |
| Hedgehog | <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i> | Site-led |
| Mustelids (ferret, stoat, weasel) | <i>Mustela furo</i> , <i>M. ermine</i> , <i>M. nivalis</i> | Sustained Control, Site-led |
| Possum | <i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i> | Eradication, Sustained Control, Site-led |
| Rabbit | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> | Sustained Control |
| Rat (Norway and ship) | <i>Rattus norvegicus</i> , <i>R. rattus</i> | Site-led |
| Rook* | <i>Corvus frugilegus</i> | Eradication |
| Wallaby (Bennett's, dama, parma, brush-tailed rock and swamp)* | <i>Macropus rufogriseus rufogriseus</i> , <i>M. eugenii</i> , <i>M. parma</i> , <i>Petrogale pencillata</i> , <i>Wallabia bicolor</i> | Exclusion |

* Unwanted organisms (as declared by a Chief Technical Officer)

Table 0-4: Marine Pests species included in RPMP

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Programme |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Mediterranean fanworm** | <i>Sabella spallanzanii</i> | Exclusion |
| Clubbed tunicate | <i>Styela clava</i> | Exclusion |

** Notifiable organism (s45 Biosecurity Act)

Table 0-5: Phytosanitary Pests species included in RPMP

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Programme |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Apple black spot | <i>Venturia inaequalis</i> | Sustained Control |
| Codling moth | <i>Cydia pomonella</i> | Sustained Control |
| European canker | <i>Neonectria ditissima</i> | Sustained Control |
| Fireblight | <i>Erwinia amylovora</i> | Sustained Control |
| Lightbrown apple moth (Leafroller) | <i>Epiphyas postvittana</i> | Sustained Control |

This operational plan details the Plan objective for the control of the pests defined within the RPMP and provides a brief description of what activities HBRC will undertake to achieve the stated objective.

Principle Measures

This plan and the RPMP are based on the following core areas of HBRC's responsibility:

Regulation (standards and enforcement)

Standards, rules and restrictions are set, and compliance enforced with penalties, when and where necessary.

Inspection

Regular property inspections ensure that rules and regulations are being met and changes in pest densities are determined over time.

Monitoring

Undertaking monitoring for pests in the region to determine their presence, distribution and effects, and to measure the extent to which the objectives of the RPMP are being achieved.

Direct control

Funding and undertaking pest control in some circumstances as a service for regional benefit.

Advice and education

Free advice is given to raise awareness of pest problems and to provide land occupiers with the information to control their own pests.

Community initiatives

Guidance and support are provided for community driven initiatives to control pests.

Cost recovery

A full cost recovery operational service is available for pest control.

Biological control

As approved biological control agents become available, HBRC may elect to utilise them. Biocontrol is currently a key tool in the management of rabbits and various pest plant and other harmful species.

Pest Plants

1.1. Exclusion Pest Plants

Objective

Prevent the establishment of exclusion pest plants in the Hawke's Bay region.

Targets

Conduct searches in areas vulnerable to infestation, follow up on reported sightings and raise public awareness of exclusion pests. Develop partnerships with other organisations and community groups that have expertise or an interest in protecting the environment.

Eradication of exclusion species will be attempted by HBRC in conjunction with relevant Crown agencies and stakeholders where practicable.

Council will provide training to relevant council staff and stakeholders about the identification of the exclusion pests to assist in early detection. Council will provide advice, attend events, and undertake publicity campaigns to increase public awareness of exclusion pests.

| Exclusion | Management Regime |
|----------------|---|
| Alligator weed | Develop partnerships and distribute information to interested and relevant parties to extend the area monitored for the presence of these pest plants. Investigate possible pathways for these pest plants to move into Hawke's Bay. Respond to reports of this pest, using powers under the Biosecurity Act if required. |
| Marshwort | |
| Noogoora bur | |
| Senegal tea | |
| Spartina | |

1.2. Eradication Pest Plants

Objective

Destroy all known infestations of these species within the Hawke's Bay region, prior to seed set.

Targets

Undertake direct control through service delivery at all known sites. Assessment of existing infestation points to decide whether any surveys are required. Inspection and delimit regime to be carried out at all known sites.

Control work will be undertaken annually by council staff, contractors, partners and/or stakeholders and data will be recorded in Clover.

| Eradication | Management Regime |
|------------------------|--|
| African feather grass | HBRC will destroy all infestations prior to seed set. |
| Cathedral bells | |
| Goats rue | |
| Purple loosestrife | |
| Spiny emex | |
| White edged nightshade | |
| Yellow water lily | |
| Phragmites | In accordance with the contract between HBRC and Ministry of Primary Industries, HBRC will destroy all infestations prior to seed set. |

1.3. Progressive Containment Pest Plants

Objective

Progressively contain and reduce the geographic distribution of the pest plant either across the region or specified areas within the region.

Targets

Through a combination of direct control (service delivery) and occupier responsibility (monitoring and compliance) all known infestations will be controlled prior to seed set where practical.

Council staff will control populations within the containment area through a variety of control methods, including but not limited to spraying. The long-term goal for many of these pests is eradication but is not feasible within the short to medium term.

Council staff will also support communities to reduce the impact of progressive containment pests through regulatory and non-regulatory biosecurity programmes.

| Progressive containment | Management Regime |
|-------------------------|--|
| Apple of Sodom | Occupiers are responsible for the control of Apple of Sodom, Australian sedge, Cotton thistle, Darwin's barberry, Japanese honeysuckle, Saffron thistle, Velvetleaf and Woolly nightshade on their land and may qualify for a subsidy under the incentive scheme. HBRC will at its discretion control some known infestations prior to seed set where it is practical to do so. |
| Australian sedge | |
| Cotton thistle | |
| Darwin's barberry | |
| Japanese honeysuckle | |
| Saffron thistle | |
| Velvetleaf | |
| Woolly nightshade | |
| Nassella tussock | Occupiers are responsible for the control of Nassella tussock on their land and may qualify for a subsidy under the incentive scheme. HBRC will at its discretion control known infestations prior to seed set. |
| Old man's beard | As stated in the RPMP, Old Man's Beard (OMB) is not as widespread North of SH5 as it is South of this area, therefore it is beneficial to require occupiers to continue to control old man's beard north of SH5. Occupiers North of SH5 are responsible for the control of Old man's beard on their land and may qualify for a subsidy under the incentive scheme. HBRC will at its discretion control some known infestations prior to seed set where it is practical to do so. There is also a progressive containment programme along the Ruahine and Kaweka ranges, to prevent the establishment of Old man's beard in the ranges. HBRC, upon forming an agreed work programme with the Department of Conservation, will control all Old man's beard within a 500-metre buffer zone along the edge of the Ruahine and Kaweka ranges (as per map in RPMP 2018-38). |

| Progressive containment | Management Regime |
|-------------------------|---|
| | South of SH5 and outside of the 500-metre buffer zone along the edge of the Ruahine and Kaweka ranges, Council will still encourage the control of OMB but will not enforce compliance. Land users below SH5 will still be eligible for the incentive scheme for the control of OMB. HBRC will at its discretion control some known infestations before seeds reach maturity where it is practical to do so. |
| Wilding Conifers | <p>Occupiers are responsible for the control of Pinus contorta on their land and may qualify for a subsidy under the incentive scheme. HBRC will at its discretion control some known infestations where it is practical to do so.</p> <p>Occupiers are responsible for the control of Scots pine, mountain pine and dwarf mountain pine on their land in the designated containment area and may qualify for a subsidy under the incentive scheme. HBRC will at its discretion control some known infestations where it is practical to do so.</p> <p>HBRC will collaborate with other stakeholders to ensure the milestones it is responsible for within the Kaimanawa and Rangitaiki Management Units are completed, and MPI are supplied with all the necessary data required</p> |

1.4. Sustained Control Pest Plants

Objective

To provide for ongoing control of the subject, or an organism being spread by the subject, to reduce its impacts on values and spread to other properties.

Targets

A number of pests are well established in Hawke's Bay, many of which have been subject to various control aspirations over time. Preventing or minimising the spread of these pests between neighbouring properties is the primary objective.

| Sustained Control | Management Regime |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Bathurst bur | HBRC, upon receiving a written complaint, will ensure the occupier destroys all Bathurst bur within 5 metres of the property boundary that is adjacent to the adjoining occupier complainant's boundary where the adjoining occupier is also destroying, or the land is clear of, all Bathurst bur. |
| Blackberry | HBRC, upon receiving a written complaint, will ensure the occupier destroys all Blackberry within 10 metres of the property boundary that is adjacent to the adjoining occupier complainant's boundary where the adjoining occupier is also destroying, or the land is clear of, all Blackberry. |
| Chilean needle grass | Occupiers are responsible for the control of Chilean Needle grass on their land and may qualify for a subsidy under the incentive scheme. Chilean needle grass was identified in dry summer areas of Hawke's Bay - west of Napier, and at Bay View, Puketapu, Havelock North, Maraekakaho, Poukawa, Tukituki flood plain, Otane, Patangata, Waipawa, Waipukurau, Wakarara, Omakere, Onga Onga and Porangahau (approx. 665ha in total). There are infestations on river berm land and roadsides. Biosecurity staff will arrange for the control of Chilean needle grass on public land. On private land, occupiers are required to meet the rules outlined in the RPMP and control Chilean needle grass in accordance with their agreed |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| | <p>management programmes. HBRC will at its discretion control some known infestations prior to seed set where it is practical to do so.</p> <p>HBRC will work with Marlborough District Council and Environment Canterbury in raising awareness of CNG within New Zealand.</p> |
| Gorse | HBRC, upon receiving a written complaint, will ensure the occupier destroys all Gorse within 10 metres of the property boundary that is adjacent to the adjoining occupier complainant's boundary where the adjoining occupier is also destroying, or the land is clear of, all Gorse |
| Nodding thistle | HBRC, upon receiving a written complaint, will ensure the occupier destroys all Nodding thistle within 20 metres of the property boundary that is adjacent to the adjoining occupier complainant's boundary where the adjoining occupier is also destroying, or the land is clear of, all Nodding thistle |
| Privet (Chinese and Tree) | Upon receipt by Council of a doctor's certificate/positive blood test clearly showing a person to be suffering a Privet allergy, Council will, within the urban area (50km speed zone or less), destroy any isolated Chinese and Tree privet plants within 50m of the residence or place of work of that person. If, upon inspection by Council, large numbers of plants exist, including as hedges, a direction will be served on the occupier to thoroughly prune to prevent flowering or destroy the plants. |
| Ragwort | <p>HBRC, upon receiving a written complaint, will ensure the occupier destroys all Ragwort within 20 metres of the property boundary that is adjacent to the adjoining occupier complainant's boundary where the adjoining occupier is also destroying, or the land is clear of, all Ragwort.</p> <p>The presence of biological controls will be taken into consideration when a complaint is made.</p> |
| Variegated thistle | HBRC, upon receiving a written complaint, will ensure the occupier destroys all Variegated thistle within 5 metres of the property boundary that is adjacent to the adjoining occupier complainant's boundary where the adjoining occupier is also destroying, or the land is clear of, all Variegated thistle |
| Yellow bristle grass | HBRC will collaborate with roading authorities to manage likely vector pathways of Yellow bristle grass. |

1.5. Biodiversity Pest Plants

These are plants that have a negative ecological effect which are managed outside of the RPMP. Plants that presently fall into this category are African love grass, Boneseed, Climbing spindleberry, Blue passion flower, Asiatic knotweed, Giant knotweed, Banana passionfruit, Cotoneaster, Moth plant, Feathertop grass, Pampas, Purple ragwort and Chilean rhubarb.

1.6. Biological Control of Pest Plants

HBRC continues to support research into biological control of pest plants. HBRC's priorities for further research into bio-control agents during the life of the RPMP are Calamint, Mothplant, Nassella tussock, Old man's beard and Japanese honeysuckle. Biological control agents for Ragwort, Nodding thistle, and Gorse are widespread and active in the region.

Over the duration of this operational plan staff will continue to work effectively to engage Maori land owners and hapu at a local and regional level in the consultation around new biocontrol releases.

1.7. National Pest Plant Accord

The Ministry of Primary Industries manages the National Pest Plant Accord, which has declared 135 plants as unwanted organisms under the Biosecurity Act. HBRC has agreed to be responsible for ensuring that people selling plants are conforming to the requirements of the Act, and not selling or propagating these plants. All pest plants and unwanted organisms are banned from sale and propagation under the Biosecurity Act. All retail outlets that are known to sell plants will be visited at least once every three years, to ensure that they are not selling any pest plant listed in the RPMP or the Pest Plant Accord.

1.8. General Advice and Information

Biosecurity staff will provide advice, attend events and undertake publicity campaigns to increase public awareness of pests. The information is intended to assist occupiers meet their obligations under the RPMP. Biosecurity staff will also assist with the general identification of plants and provide information and education material about poisonous plants.

Staff will inspect plant outlets and markets within the Hawke's Bay region for the sale and/or propagation of RPMP species. Training will be provided to relevant staff and stakeholders in the identification of pests to assist in early detection.

HBRC implemented a new website called Pest Hub. It lists a large range of pests, including those listed within the RPMP. It contains information on their impact, best practice control techniques and has the ability to report a pest to HBRC staff. It can be found here: <https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/environment/pest-control/pest-hub/>

Pest Animals

1.9. Exclusion Pest Animals

Objective

Prevent the establishment of exclusion pest animals in the Hawke's Bay region.

Targets

Undertake surveillance of high-risk areas/pathways. Follow up on reported sightings or reports of illegal releases and raise public awareness of exclusion pests. Develop partnerships with other organisations and community groups that have expertise or an interest in protecting the environment.

Eradication of exclusion species will be attempted by HBRC in conjunction with relevant Crown agencies and stakeholders where practicable.

Council will provide training to relevant council staff and stakeholders about the identification of the exclusion pests to assist in early detection. Council will provide advice, attend events and undertake publicity campaigns to increase public awareness of exclusion pests.

| Exclusion | Management Regime |
|-----------------------|---|
| Wallaby | Undertake active surveillance of high-risk areas/pathways for these pests. Develop partnerships with interested and relevant parties to extend the area monitored for the presence of these pests. Investigate possible pathways for these pests to move into Hawke's Bay. Respond to reports of this pest, using powers under the Biosecurity Act if required. |
| Mediterranean fanworm | |
| Clubbed tunicate | |

1.10. Eradication Pest Animals

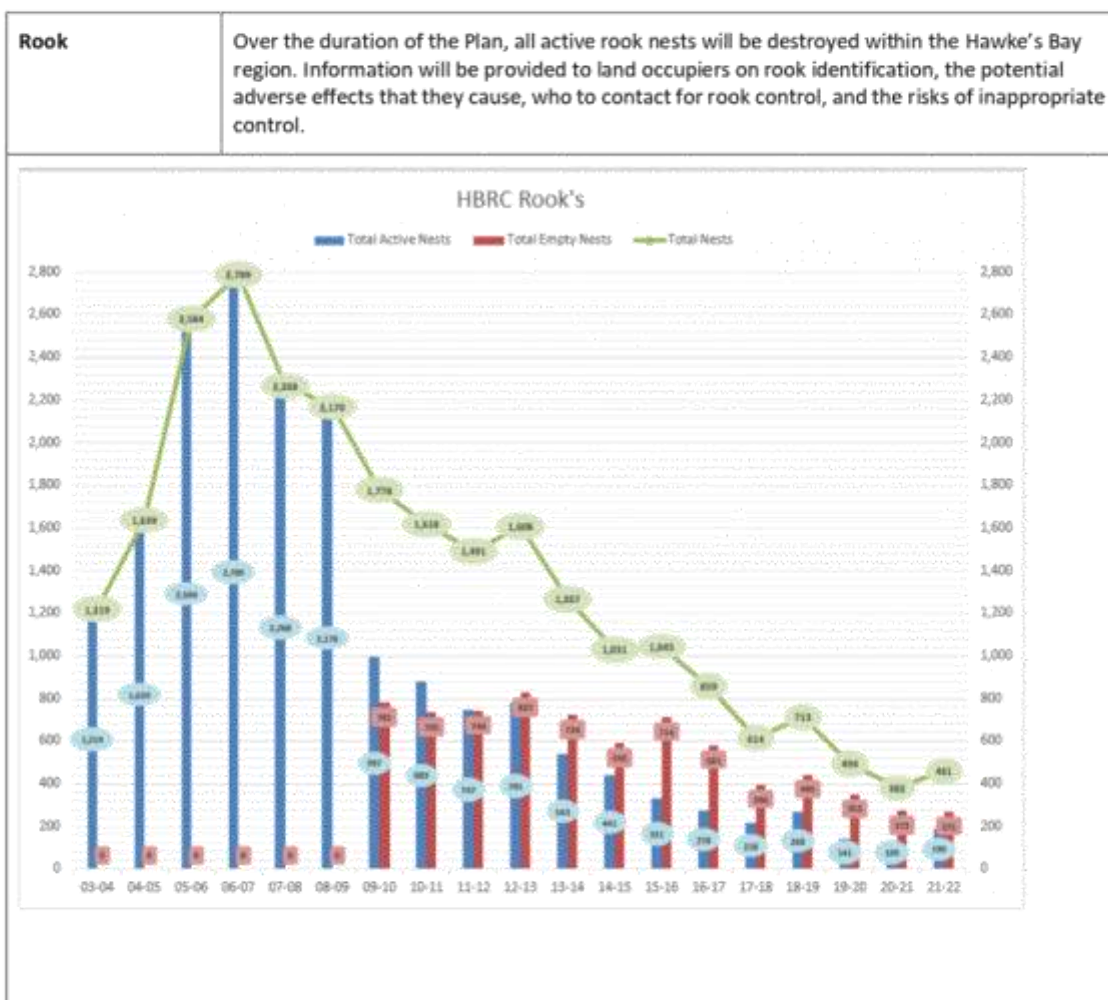
Objective

Eradicate rooks from the region. Have no active rookeries within 20 years of the commencement of the RPMP. Eradicate all possums contained within Possum Eradication Areas.

Targets

Destroy all active rook nests within the Hawke's Bay region and eradicate possums within those areas identified as Possum Eradication Areas. Inspect pet shops, online sales and wildlife shelters if reports are received of the sale and/or breeding of possums and rooks. Support appropriate research initiatives, including biological control should it become available. Undertake direct control through service delivery.

| Eradication | Management Regime |
|-------------|---|
| Possum | A Possum Eradication Area is created once written agreements have been entered into with 75% or more of the total proposed land area. The Council will undertake possum eradication work within the entire Possum Eradication Area. Once possum eradication commences, land occupiers within the area shall maintain possum eradication status in accordance with the Hawke's Bay Regional Possum Control Technical Protocol (PN 4969). |

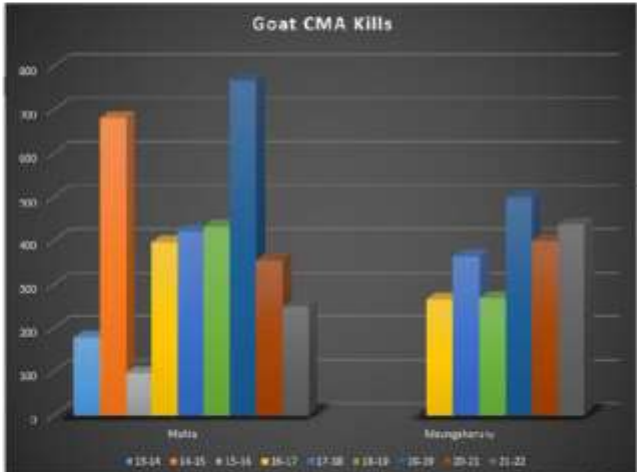


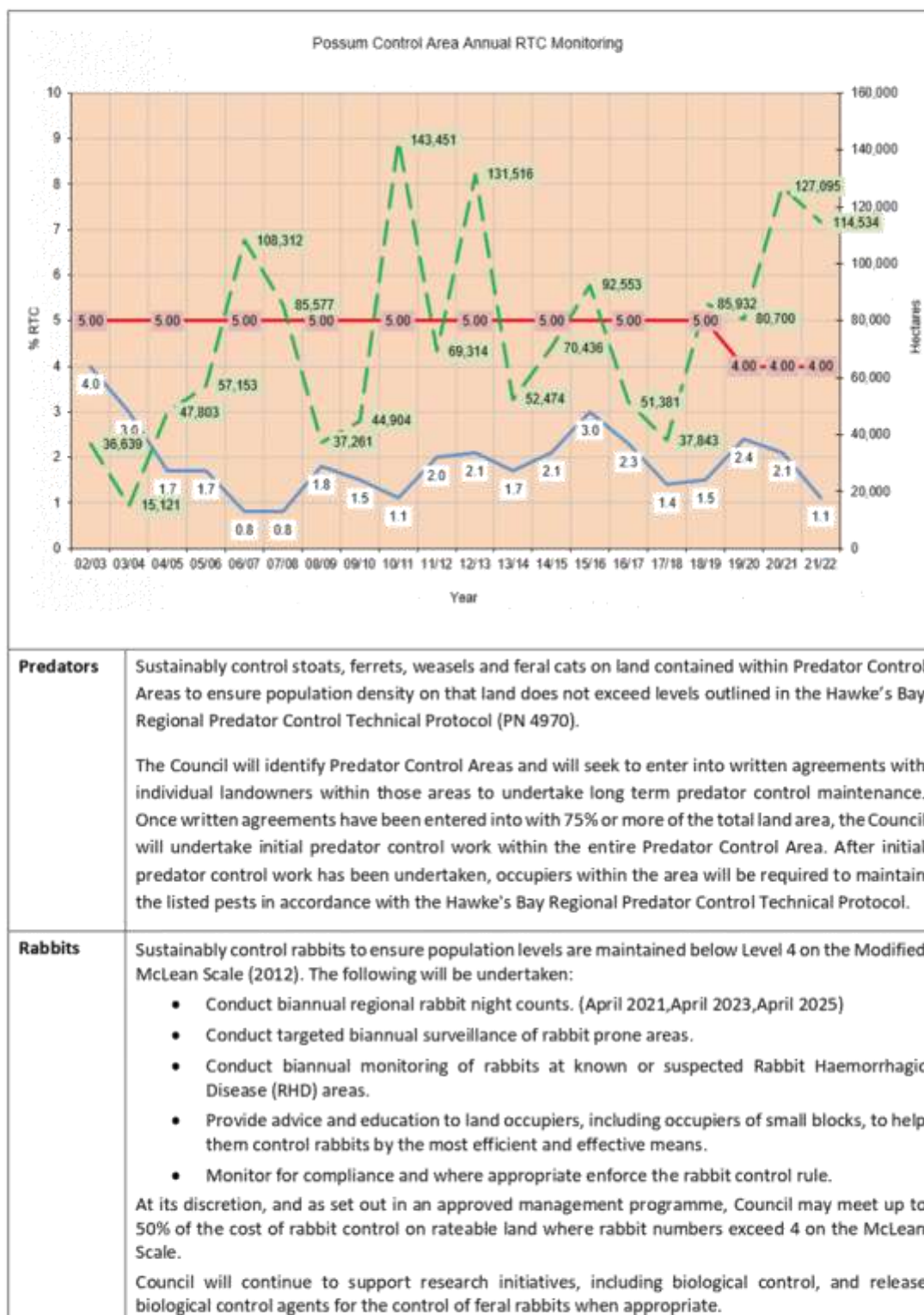
1.11. Sustained Control Pest Animals

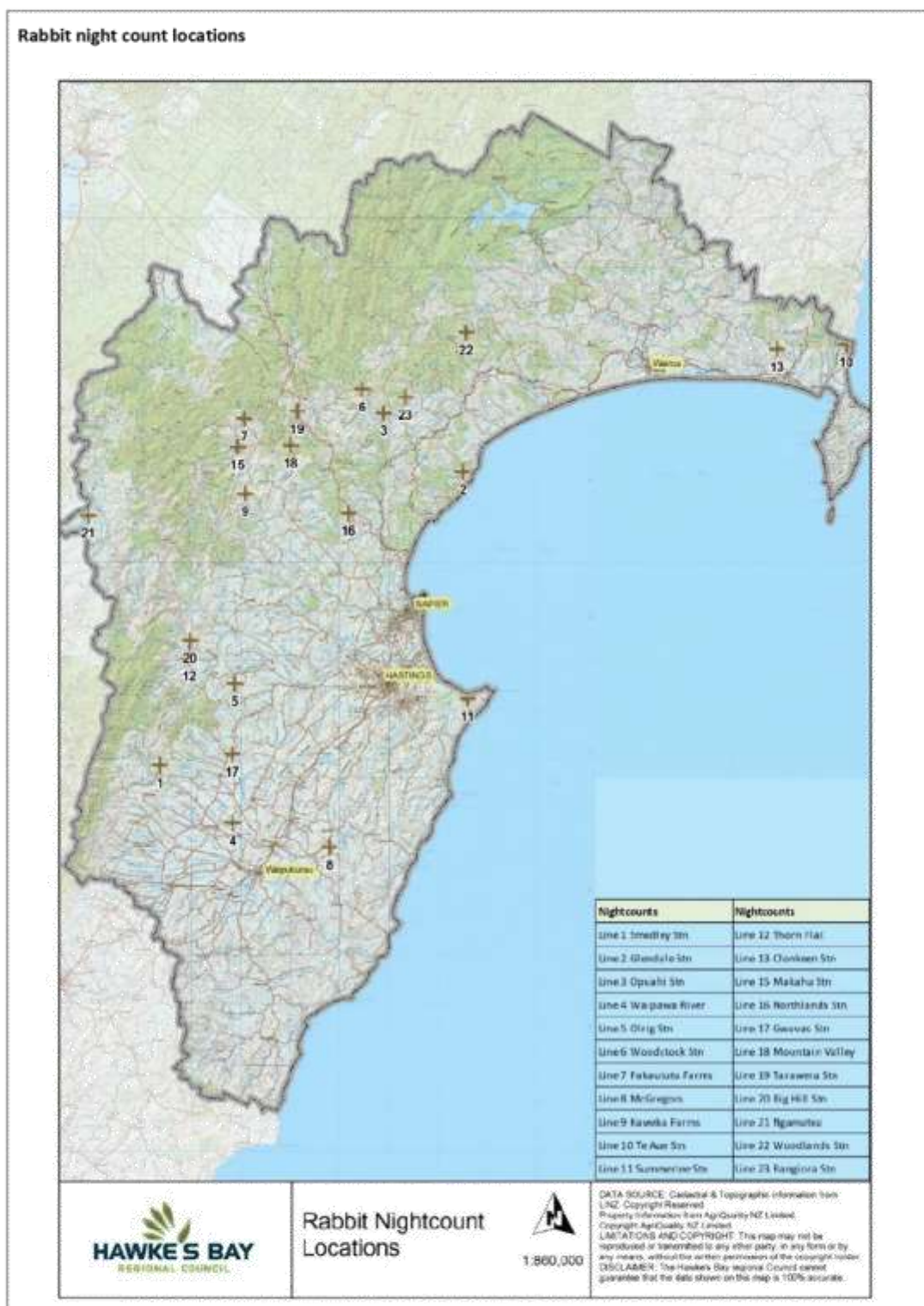
Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, sustainably control sustained control pest animals in order to minimise adverse effects on environmental values and economic well-being within the Hawke's Bay region.

| Sustained Control | Management Regime |
|-------------------|---|
| Feral Goat | <p>Sustainably control feral goats on land contained within Feral Goat Coordinated Management Areas to zero density or to levels specified within a Written Management Agreement approved by Hawke's Bay Regional Council.</p> <p>A Feral Goat Coordinated Management Area is created once written agreements have been entered into with 75% or more of the total land area. The Council will coordinate initial feral goat control work within the entire Feral Goat Coordinated Management Area. Once feral goats have</p> |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| | <p>been reduced to low levels, occupiers within the area are required to maintain feral goats in accordance with this Protocol.</p>  |
| Possum | <p>Sustainably control possums contained within Possum Control Areas to ensure population density on that land is at or below 4% residual trap catch.</p> <p>An occupier within a Possum Control Area shall maintain possum densities on their land at or below 4% residual trap catch, in accordance with the Hawke's Bay Regional Possum Control Technical Protocol (PN 4969).</p> <p>Possum monitoring will be undertaken by council on a sample of properties within the PCA area to assess if properties are meeting the plan rule. Compliance action will be undertaken for properties that fail to meet the plan rule. This includes land where the Good Neighbour Rule applies.</p> <p>HBRC will support land occupiers in managing possum densities through providing best practice advice, a subsidy will be provided on a range of possum control products and financial assistance for managing possums in difficult terrain.</p> <p>Landowners who have a QEII block less than 20 hectares on their property are eligible to receive free possum bait sufficient to control possums within the QEII area. For landowners with QEIs greater than 20 hectares, or where several small QEIs are collectively greater than 20 hectares, HBRC arranges and pays for possum control.</p> |





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1.12. Site-Led Pest Animals

Objective

Support sustainable control of site-led pests at sites of ecological importance to levels appropriate for the protection of ecological values, recreational values and economic well-being within the Hawke's Bay region.

Targets

Coordinated and integrated control of pests in defined areas that protect and restore specific ecological or biodiversity values which are threatened or compromised by pests. Sites include:

- Ecosystem Prioritisation (Hawke's Bay Regional Council)
- Recommended Areas for Protection (Department of Conservation)
- Sites of Special Wildlife Interest (Department of Conservation)

| Site-led | Management Regime |
|--|--|
| Feral cats Feral deer Feral goats Feral pigs Hedgehogs Mustelids Possums Rats | <p>Support land occupiers and community groups in managing site-led pests at areas of high biodiversity value through technical information, best practice control techniques and provision of traps or ungulate control.</p> <p>An agreement will be signed with the land occupier agreeing to utilise the traps and undertake best practice.</p> <p>HBRC staff will work with other groups to maximise outcomes of council programmes e.g. Erosion Control Scheme, Predator Free Hawke's Bay, Environmental Enhancement projects, Ecological Management and Enhancement Plans.</p> |

Phytosanitary Pests

Objective

Sustainably control apple black spot, codling moth, European canker, fireblight and lightbrown apple moth on unmanaged pipfruit production sites to protect economic well-being of the pipfruit industry within the Hawke's Bay region.

Targets

Occupiers of unmanaged pipfruit production sites shall, on receipt of a written direction from an Authorised Person, control:

- Apple black spot (*Venturia inaequalis*) on their land from the presence of green tips until fruit maturity/harvest; and
- Codling moth (*Cydia pomonella*) on their land if five (5) or more codling moths are caught in any one codling moth pheromone trap during any calendar week on their land;

- European canker (*Neonectria ditissima*) by inspecting all pipfruit trees on their land at least four times during the year, applying post-harvest sprays if canker is found and removing and burning all infected pipfruit tree parts showing any presence of European canker; and
- Fireblight (*Erwinia amylovora*) on their land during the pipfruit bloom period (from pink to petal fall); and
- Lightbrown apple moth (Leafroller) (*Epiphyas postvittana*) on their land once thirty (30) lightbrown apple moths are caught in any one lightbrown apple moth pheromone trap on their land from the 15th December until fruit harvest.

| Sustained Control | Management Regime |
|---------------------|--|
| Phytosanitary pests | <p>Resolving apple black spot, codling moth, European canker, fireblight or lightbrown apple moth control disputes between neighbouring parties will be undertaken by HBFGA in the first instance.</p> <p>If pest monitoring on the affected managed pipfruit production site over a reasonable time period confirms that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is a clear difference in the management inputs required to control phytosanitary pests compared to the previous three years; and • monitoring results indicated that the phytosanitary pest outbreak is more severe along the boundary with the adjacent unmanaged pipfruit production site; <p>Then HBFGA will advise the occupier of the unmanaged pipfruit production site(s), that they are deemed to be an exacerbator of phytosanitary pests. HBFGA will be entitled to give the occupier of the unmanaged pipfruit production site(s) 14 days to reach an agreement. If agreement cannot be reached and/or control is not undertaken within that time, HBFGA will advise Hawke's Bay Regional Council of the situation and seek a direction to control phytosanitary pests on the unmanaged pipfruit production site.</p> <p>On receiving advice regarding the situation, Hawke's Bay Regional Council will initiate appropriate enforcement procedures under the Biosecurity Act for the control of the phytosanitary pests.</p> |

Financial Summary

Council's Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031 sets out the planned expenditure and required funding, via rates and user charges, for the operational and planning activities associated with pest management.

The expenditure budgets as per the 2022-2023 Annual Plan are summarised in the table below:

| Biosecurity 22-23 Annual Expenditure | Grand total |
|--|-------------|
| Pest Management Strategies | \$ 118,067 |
| Pest Plant Incentive Scheme | \$ 127,499 |
| Primary production Pest Plants | \$ 443,399 |
| Environmental/human health pest plants | \$ 627,121 |
| Biological Control | \$ 56,316 |

| Biosecurity 22-23 Annual Expenditure | Grand total |
|--|--------------|
| Rabbit control | \$ 87,375 |
| Possum control | \$ 1,498,503 |
| Site specific pest animal control | \$ 188,908 |
| Rook control | \$ 175,436 |
| Possum Bait and Rabbit Subsidy | \$ 128,446 |
| Pest Annual General Advice | \$ 78,170 |
| Pest Animal Research | \$ 71,072 |
| Marine Pests/Horticulture & Pip fruit | \$ 86,555 |
| Predator Free Hawkes Bay | \$ 512,575 |
| Total including organisational overheads | \$ 4,199,442 |

Measuring Performance

The following criteria will be used to measure the success or otherwise in implementing the Operational Plan:

- Completion rate of programmes contained within this Operational Plan;
- Results from trend monitoring undertaken, and an assessment of these results;
- The number of enquires received, and a summary of those enquires;
- The education initiatives undertaken during the year;
- The number of Notice of Directions issued, the level of compliance with those notices, and any follow-up activity undertaken;
- The outcomes of all service delivery operations undertaken;
- The results of biological control research and monitoring, and the number of bio-control releases undertaken;
- All research initiatives to which contributions have been made during the year; and
- Any cross-boundary issues that arose and how they were resolved.

Implementation Report

A report on the Operational Plan and the success or otherwise of its implementation will be prepared no later than five months after conclusion of the financial year. A copy of this report will be provided to council.

Biosecurity Annual Report July 2021 - 30 June 2022

Report on the 2021-22 Operational Plan

August 2022

Hawkes Bay Regional Council Publication No.



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Catchment Services

Biosecurity Annual Report 2

August 2020

Hawkes Bay Regional Council Publication No.

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Executive Summary

Hawke's Bay Regional Council is the management agency responsible for developing and implementing the Hawke's Bay Regional Pest Management Plan 2018-2028 in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993.

The RPMP is a combination of the eradication or effective management of specified pests or groups of pests. It describes the biosecurity activities that will be undertaken throughout Hawke's Bay and outlines the management or eradication of specific organisms. Doing so will:

- minimise the actual or potential adverse or unintended effects associated with these organisms, and,
- maximise the effectiveness of individual actions in managing pests through a regionally coordinated approach.

As the management agency, Council is required to prepare an annual operational plan that sets out how the plan is to be implemented. Following the end of each financial year, staff will report to Council on the implementation of the operational plan.

This is the Annual Report for the 2021/2022 year relating to the Operational Plan for the Hawke's Bay Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP).

1 Introduction

Regional councils have a mandate under Part 2 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) to provide regional leadership in activities that prevent, reduce, or eliminate adverse effects from harmful organisms that are present in their region.

The purpose of the Hawke's Bay Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) is to provide for the efficient and effective management or eradication of specified harmful organisms in the Hawke's Bay Region. It builds on the 2013 Strategy and previous pest management programmes. The purpose of the Plan is to:

- Minimise the actual or potential adverse or unintended effects associated with those organisms; and
- Maximise the effectiveness of individual actions in managing pests through a regionally coordinated approach.

This Annual Report records progress in implementing the Regional Pest Management Plan via the Operational Plan 2021-2022, covering council's biosecurity activities for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. The Annual Report of regulatory activities is a statutory requirement under section 100B(2) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act).

2 Pest Plants

The RPMP lists a total of 33 plant species as pests, which have been divided into five management categories.

For each of these pest plant categories, the Annual Report provides a brief description of what activities Council undertook in the 2021/2022 year.

2.1 Exclusion Pest Plants

These are pest plants that are not known to be present in the Hawke's Bay region and would likely have significant negative environmental and/or economic impacts if they were to establish. The objective of this programme is to prevent their establishment.

| Exclusion | Management Regime |
|----------------|---|
| Alligator weed | Staff followed up any suspected sightings of Exclusion pest plants. No exclusion species were confirmed in the Hawke's Bay region during the 2021-22 financial year. |
| Marshwort | |
| Noogoora bur | Staff have been working on a poster detailing the aquatic Exclusion Pests. This will be distributed to key stakeholders in the 2022/23 season. |
| Senegal tea | |
| Spartina | We received notification that Alligator weed may be present in the Mangatarata Stream through eDNA testing done by the Water Quality Team. This area will be surveyed over the next 2-3 months. |

2.2 Eradication Pest Plants

These are pest plants in the Hawke's Bay region where eradication is possible. The objective is to destroy all known infestations of these species within the Hawke's Bay region, prior to seed set. HBRC undertakes direct control through service delivery at all known sites.

| Eradication | Staff days | Management Regime |
|-------------------------------|------------|--|
| African feather grass | 6 | Control work focussed around the Ngaruroro River. Two surveys were undertaken. Very few plants were found. |
| Cathedral bells | 1 | All known rural sites are being controlled by contractors or staff. A few sites are now clear. |
| Goats rue | 1 | Staff monitored all high risk roadside areas and known infestation sites in Eskdale. Plants were only found at one roadside area in Central Hawke's Bay and in the Eskdale area over the 2021-22 financial year. |
| Purple loosestrife | 1 | There are now two sites in Hawke's Bay. All plants were destroyed. |
| Spiny emex | 2 | Numbers remain static on the two infested properties. Spiny emex has a very long seed life. |
| White edged nightshade | 6 | Six plants were found and destroyed |
| Yellow water lily | 1 | One existing site of Yellow water lily was monitored, on a dam near Horseshoe Lake during the 2021-22 financial year. These plants were controlled. |
| Phragmites | 23 | In accordance with the contract between HBRC and Ministry of Primary Industries, HBRC will destroy all infestations prior to seed set. A large amount of this time was spent at one site digging out roots in the Havelock North area. |

2.3 Progressive Containment Pest Plants

These are pest plants in the Hawke's Bay region where they are too widespread to eradicate but there is an opportunity to progressively contain and reduce their geographic distribution either across the region or specified areas within the region. This programme is achieved through a combination of occupier responsibility and direct control by HBRC through service delivery at all known sites.

| Progressive containment | Staff days | Management Regime |
|-------------------------|------------|---|
| Apple of Sodom | 14 | Main problem areas are several farms in the Seaford Road area. Improvements continue to be made each year. Time spent undertaking surveillance and control has reduced to approximately three weeks per year. Isolated plants are removed and destroyed by staff. |
| Australian sedge | 7 | Only found in the Wairoa district. Majority of work subsidised through the incentive scheme and undertaken by contractors. Less work undertaken overall owing to a shortage of contractors. |

| Progressive containment | Staff days | Management Regime |
|-----------------------------|------------|--|
| Cotton thistle | 2 | Numbers were normal. Staff assisted private landowners in controlling cotton thistle to make sure control was undertaken adequately. |
| Darwin's barberry | 21 | There are two infestations, one at Gwavas and one at Puketitiri. Both were surveyed with control work being ongoing. An extensive surveillance and control programme continued at Puketitiri using contractors and a helicopter. This was the second year landowners had to pay for the contractors, which was met with continued resistance. |
| Japanese honeysuckle | 1 | This programme applies to the Tutira area, as outlined in the RPMP. Key areas were controlled by contractors and land occupiers. |
| Nassella tussock | 1 | Although plant numbers are reducing there is a large seed bank. A site detected eleven years ago in the Tukituki area continues to be of concern due to the high numbers of plants being found each year. |
| Old man's beard | 73 | Main control areas at present are north of the Napier-Taupo Highway and in areas of high biodiversity value. Areas found adjacent to the Ruahine Ranges were surveyed again and controlled. |
| Saffron thistle | 86 | Numbers were lower this year. All known sites were controlled, and a handful of new sites discovered. |
| Velvetleaf | 1 | Known sites were assessed. One plant was found. Machinery hygiene was enforced. |
| Wilding Conifers | 24 | Pinus contorta is mainly a problem in areas that are close to conservation land. Over 13,000 hectares was surveyed in the Napier/Taihapa Rd area, including Kaimanawa 1F, Owhaoko D1, D7B and B East blocks, and the Gold Creek catchment inside Panpacs Kaweka Forest. In the Rangitaiki area over 17000 hectares were surveyed and controlled which included various Runanga blocks, Tarawera C9 and Pohokura 3B. Any Pinus contorta/Douglas fir detected were controlled with exception of Pohokura 3B. MPI have continued to help finance control programmes in the Napier/Taihapa Rd area and have now started helping finance control programmes in the Rangitaiki area. |
| Woolly nightshade | 166 | New urban sites were found this season, far more than previous years solely owing to having extra resource to allocate monitoring. Known infestations on logged properties (forestry) continue to have high numbers of plants due to soil disturbance and high light environment. |

2.4 Sustained Control Pest Plants

These are pest plants that are well established in Hawke's Bay where preventing or minimising the spread of these pests between neighbouring properties is the primary objective. This includes boundary control pest plants, where a neighbouring occupier may be required to control these pests on their boundary to prevent the spread onto adjacent properties.

Chilean Needle Grass

Chilean needle grass is a very difficult weed to control. With the current control tools available, HBRC are only able to contain it within known areas. However, over the last seven years, an average of 12 new properties per year have been found, due to a robust advocacy programme and an increased surveillance programme. This increase in properties has created extra pressure (in Spring/Summer) on staff resources and budgets, at what is already an extremely busy time for the Pest Plant team.

HBRC continue to run a joint advocacy programme with Environment Canterbury and the Marlborough District Council with Chilean needle grass. Subdivision of properties that have Chilean needle grass on is increasing which increases the number of landowners to contact each year.

Privet

The new rule within the RPMP (the requirement of a doctor's certificate by the complainant) continues to reduce the number of properties requiring privet removal. A total of 35 privet removed. Management programmes for hedges are ongoing.

Yellow bristle grass

Staff worked with NZTA and Wairoa District Council to manage the risk posed by mowing regimes during seeding and the requirement for mower washdowns. High risk landowners were also contacted.

2.5 Sustained Control Pest Plants – Boundary Control

These are pest plants that may require neighbouring occupiers to control these pest plants on their boundary. They are Bathurst bur, Blackberry, Gorse, Nodding thistle, Ragwort and Variegated thistle.

The amount of time spent in this area this season was minimal, with only 1.5 hours recorded to this. Complaints were predominantly regarding Blackberry or Variegated thistle.

Enforcement is the key management tool for Boundary Control plants. Controls are only enforced if their location contravenes RPMP rules (e.g. gorse within 10 metres of a neighbour's boundary providing that boundary is clear), and only if there is a complaint.

2.6 Biodiversity Pest Plants

These are plants that have a negative ecological effect which are managed outside of the RPMP.

Climbing Spindleberry



This plant is found in the Central Hawke's Bay area along the banks of the Waipawa and Tukituki Rivers. This season all known sites were sprayed by contractors although some areas are very difficult to get through due to Blackberry, Gorse, and Broom. Biosecurity staff are working with the Operations Group to clear tracks through these areas to allow easier access for the contractors.

An extensive surveillance programme was undertaken with several new sites discovered in the Onga Onga vicinity.

Giant/Asiatic Knotweed

This was reported to HBRC in the Tuai area and is present in the Waipukurau Transfer Station. The Tuai infestation was sprayed by a contractor while no plants were found at the Waipukurau Transfer Station. It is a very invasive plant that will smother native plants, especially lower growing species and samplings.

DIDYMO/Aquatic Pest Plants

No student was employed over the summer season due to a lack of resources around staff time. Samples were taken from strategic sites on the main Hawke's Bay Rivers by HBRC, Fish and Game and DOC and sent away for DNA analysis to ascertain whether Didymo is present. All samples this year were negative for the presence of Didymo.

2.7 Surveillance Programme

More focus has been put into certain pest plants such as Woolly nightshade and Chilean needle grass.

During each property inspection, staff record relevant pest plants found on individual farm maps. During monitoring staff use previously gathered information to assess whether or not infestations have spread or contracted. During visits staff take the opportunity to discuss any relevant concerns with the occupier.

| Biosecurity officer visits | Properties |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Rural visits | 1,048 |
| Urban visits | 791 |
| Nurseries and pet shop visits | 6 |

2.8 Surveillance of Railway Land

Staff have a good working relationship with Treescape, the contractors who have responsibility for vegetation control along the rail corridor in Hawke's Bay. Staff communicate with the Area Supervisor annually, identifying areas that need control. Treescape then does the work when required. This procedure enables staff to control pest plants along the railway tracks throughout the region in a timely manner.

2.9 State Highway and District Road Monitoring

A good working relationship has been developed between staff and Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Agency) as well as the Central Hawke's Bay, Wairoa and the Hastings District Councils, for the clearance of roadside weeds. When weeds are cleared from roadsides, staff ensure that the adjacent property owner also clears their side. Both District Councils and NZTA have been very cooperative in setting up no-mow zones when Chilean needle grass is seeding in November/ December.

The NZTA provides an additional budget to control pest plants, on their roadsides, such as Old man's beard, Japanese honeysuckle, Chilean needle grass and Pampas. This budget is managed by HBRC staff which ensures that these pest plants are controlled at the optimum time.

2.10 Nurseries and Pet Shops

MPI has indicated that nurseries in the Hawke's Bay area only have to be visited at least once every three years to ensure that no plants banned for sale under the National Plant Pest Accord are being stocked. Six nurseries were visited this year.

2.11 Regulatory

No Notices of Direction were issued this year. Subdivision activities are monitored by staff to ensure compliance, which has been good this year. Over 100 diggers/mowers were inspected this year.

2.12 Education and Publicity

The objective of these activities is to reach a wider community than can be achieved through farm visits. In this plant pest staff work with the Environment Education section of the Council. Due to Covid-19 there were a reduced number of displays done this financial year, they were done at:

- Wairoa A + P Show
- East Coast Farmers Expo

The following topics have been printed in the media: newspaper local newspapers:

- Chilean needle grass
- Woolly nightshade

Pamphlets on Woolly nightshade were distributed in selected urban areas throughout Hastings, Napier and Wairoa. A talk on pest plants was given at the EIT.

2.13 Biological Control

HBRC contracted Landcare Research to:

- Develop new Biological Control Projects.
- Provide a plant identification service.

Landcare Research is continuing to evaluate/import possible biological controls for Aquatic weeds, Japanese honeysuckle, Woolly nightshade, Chinese privet, Field horsetail, Mothplant, Nassella tussock, Tradescantia, Pampas, Darwin's barberry, Wild ginger, Old man's beard, and Banana passionfruit.

Landcare Research (with the support of the Biocontrol Collective) has secured funding through the SFF programme to start biocontrol work on six new weeds including Sydney golden wattle and Yellow flag iris.

Staff undertook six releases of green thistle beetle (Californian thistle) in the Hawke's Bay area this season, collecting beetles from local established populations. This beetle has dispersed throughout over 50% of Hawke's Bay which is pleasing.

2.14 Plant Pest Subsidy Scheme

The scheme was set up to provide assistance to landowners in undertaking control programmes.

| Type | Number | Amount |
|-------|--------|-------------|
| Rural | 90 | \$80,000.00 |
| Urban | 0 | |

Chilean needle grass, Saffron thistle, Australian sedge, Pinus contorta, Darwin's barberry and Old man's beard were the main pests subsidised. Please note this subsidy only applies to small number of land occupier responsibility pest plants within the RPMP.

2.15 Conclusion

Most pest plant programme objectives have been achieved. Generally, a downward trend in numbers of plants is continuing except for Chilean needle grass where new properties/sites are continually being found.

The surveillance monitoring plan carried out this year has continued to target certain pest plants (particularly Chilean needle grass, Saffron thistle and Woolly nightshade) and some of the areas surrounding them, areas of high risk, QEII covenanted sites, dump sites, creeks-drains and rivers and areas that are presently being controlled for low incidence plants.

3 Animal Pests

The RPMP lists a total of 25 animal species as pests, which have been divided into five management categories. For each of these pest categories, the Annual Report provides a brief description of what activities Council undertook in the 2020/2021 year.

3.1 Exclusion Pest Animals

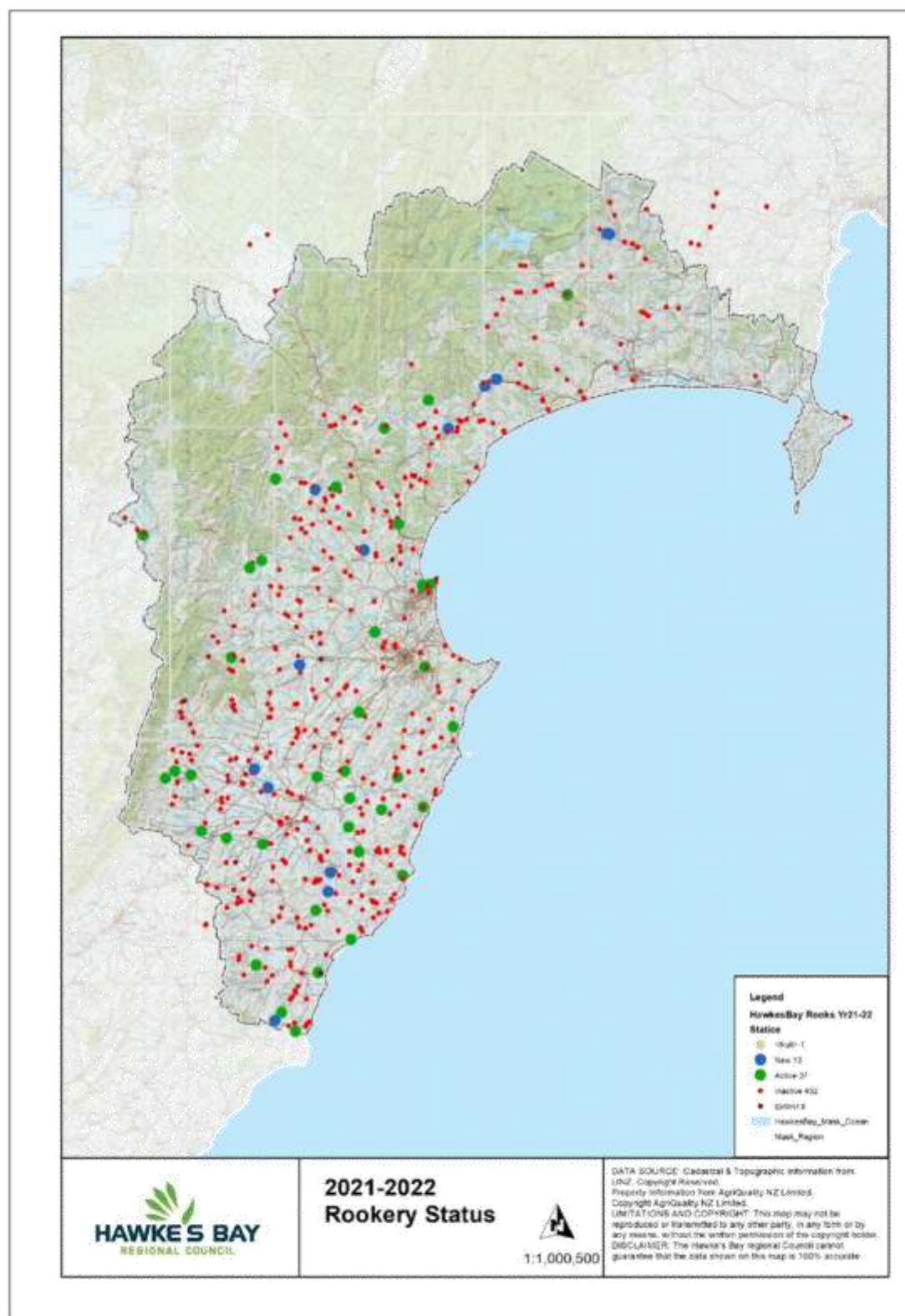
These are pest animals that are not known to be present in the Hawke's Bay region and would likely have significant negative environmental and/or economic impacts if they were to establish. The objective of this programme is to prevent their establishment.

| Exclusion | Management Regime | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|-------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|--|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Wallaby | One possible wallaby sighting was reported by a member of the public on the walking track between Aniwanuiwa and Lake Waikareiti at Waikaremoana in June 2022. Bay of Plenty Regional council took the lead in the investigation. When the person who had reported the possible sighting was further questioned it was clear from her description on what she saw, was more in line with a possum sighting than a wallaby. Partnerships have been formed with MPI, Waikato Regional Council and Bay of Plenty Regional council who are currently managing wallaby populations. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mediterranean fanworm & Clubbed tunicate | <p>When a vessel berths in the Inner Harbour an Incoming Vessel Form is completed and submitted to HBRC. A risk analysis is undertaken and if the vessel is deemed high risk divers will inspect the vessel.</p> <p>Through the HBRC marine biosecurity surveillance program, 3 separate pest incursions were found. The table below has more information on these incursions:</p> <table><tr><th>Vessel/Structure</th><th>Marine pest</th><th>Method of control</th></tr><tr><td>Pleasure craft</td><td><i>Sabella spallanzanii</i></td><td>Diver removal followed by vessel encapsulation and chemical treatment.</td></tr><tr><td>Commercial fishing vessel</td><td><i>Styela clava</i> and <i>Clavelina lepadiformis</i></td><td>Diver removal followed by vessel encapsulation and chemical treatment.</td></tr><tr><td>Catwalk/pontoon</td><td><i>Clavelina lepadiformis</i></td><td>Encapsulation and chemical treatment of the catwalk/pontoon.</td></tr></table> <p><u>Stakeholder and Partnerships</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Relationships have been formed with key stakeholders including Napier City Council, Napier Sailing Club, Port of Napier, Legasea HB, Top of the North Marine Biosecurity Partnership, Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership, NIWA and Biosecurity New Zealand. | Vessel/Structure | Marine pest | Method of control | Pleasure craft | <i>Sabella spallanzanii</i> | Diver removal followed by vessel encapsulation and chemical treatment. | Commercial fishing vessel | <i>Styela clava</i> and <i>Clavelina lepadiformis</i> | Diver removal followed by vessel encapsulation and chemical treatment. | Catwalk/pontoon | <i>Clavelina lepadiformis</i> | Encapsulation and chemical treatment of the catwalk/pontoon. |
| Vessel/Structure | Marine pest | Method of control | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pleasure craft | <i>Sabella spallanzanii</i> | Diver removal followed by vessel encapsulation and chemical treatment. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Commercial fishing vessel | <i>Styela clava</i> and <i>Clavelina lepadiformis</i> | Diver removal followed by vessel encapsulation and chemical treatment. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Catwalk/pontoon | <i>Clavelina lepadiformis</i> | Encapsulation and chemical treatment of the catwalk/pontoon. | | | | | | | | | | | |

3.2 Eradication Pest Animals

These are pest animals in the Hawke's Bay region where eradication is possible. The objective is to eradicate rooks from the region and all possums contained within Possum Eradication Areas.

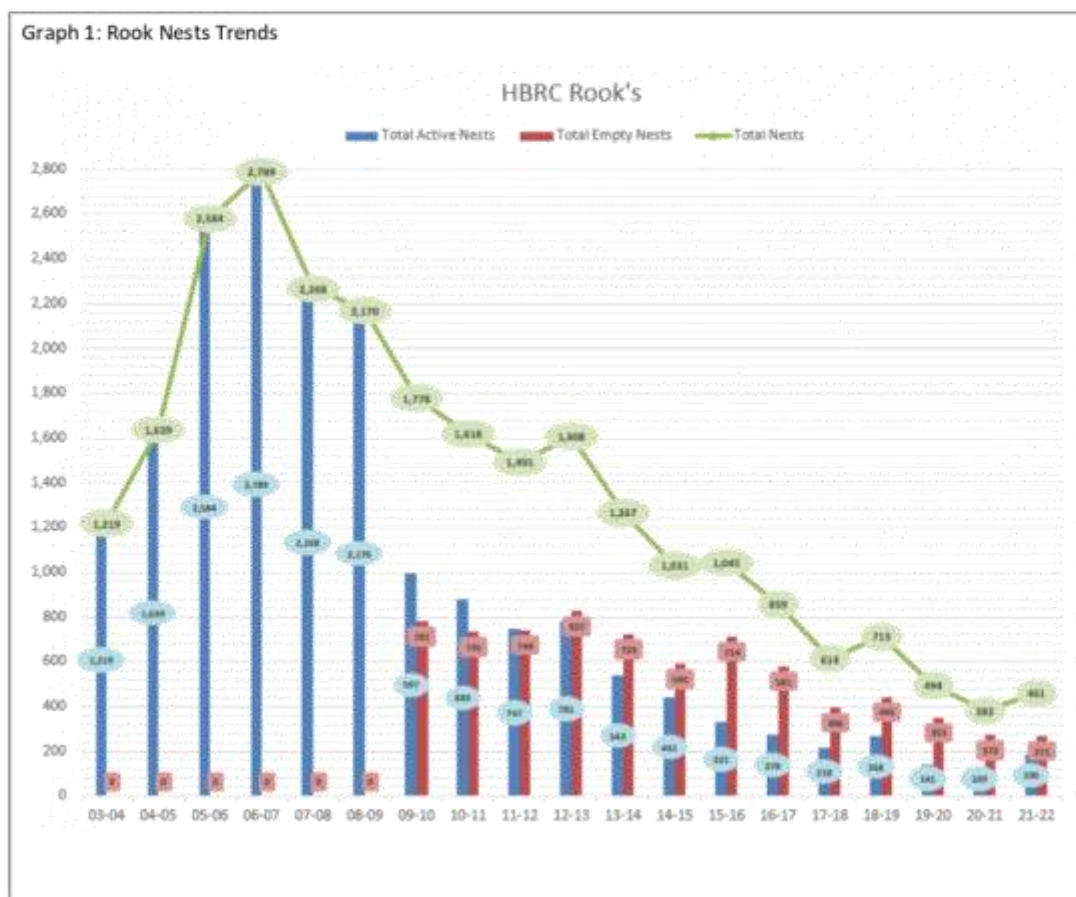
| Eradication | Management Regime |
|---|--|
| Possum (within the Whakatipu Mahia area) | <p>HBRC is in the final stages of removing possums from the 14,600ha Māhia Peninsula as part of the Whakatipu Māhia project. Land occupiers within this area have been signed up to the Possum Eradication Area programme contained within the RPMP and will be responsible for maintaining possum eradication status in accordance with the Hawke's Bay Regional Possum Control Technical Protocol (PN 4969). The Peninsula has been split into two areas – Phase 1, the southern 5500ha – and Phase 2, the northern 9000ha.</p> <p>The "knockdown" using bait stations has been undertaken across the entire peninsula, and the remaining hotspots are being mopped up using targeted trapping in Phase 2. The proof of absence network is currently being installed which will give confidence that no possums remain on the Peninsula, supported by possum dog detector surveys. Due to using toxin as the primary control tool of possums, the total number of possums controlled is unknown. Up to date numbers caught in mop-up traps totals 1,810 (known) possums, 57 cats, 247 rats, 169 hedgehogs and 2 stoats have been removed from the peninsular.</p> <p>Despite significant challenges the project is on track to deliver its possum eradication commitments to PF2050 by 30 November 2022.</p> |
| Rook | <p>All known rookeries within the Hawke's Bay Region were aerially treated utilizing a under slung strop man applying DRC 1339 gel bait directly into nests. A total of 190 active nests were treated this season which is a marked increase from 109 active nests treated the previous season, this was primary brought about from locating a large and well-established rookery in the Tutira area. Post control inspections on some of these rookeries indicate that previous control has been successful with greatly reduced activity. Five rook ground control enquires were responded to during the year with no birds poisoned as a result of these enquiries. Ground control was unsuccessful this season due to climatical conditions and farming practices.</p> |
| Map: Aerial Rook Control 2021-2022 | |



14

Hawke's Bay Regional Council Plant and Animal Pest Annual Report

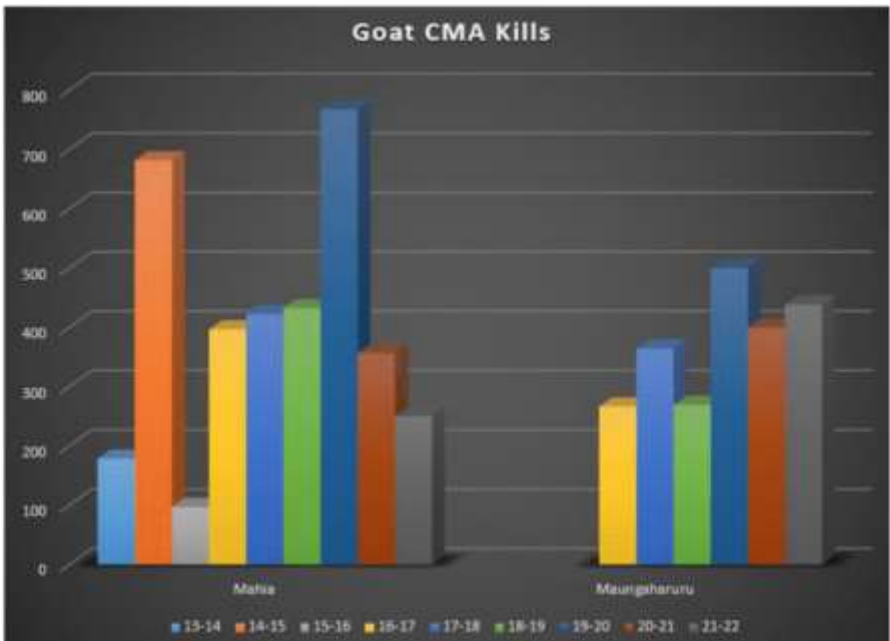
16 September 2022 1.44 pm



3.3 Sustained Control Pest Animals

These are pest animals that are widespread across the Hawke's Bay region. The objective is to sustainably control these pests in order to minimise adverse effects on environmental values and economic well-being within the Hawke's Bay region.

| Sustained Control | Management Regime |
|-------------------|--|
| Feral Goat | <p>Feral goat control was undertaken across two feral goat coordinated management areas (CMA), being Mahia (7,672 ha) and Maungaharuru (28,000 ha). A total of 688 feral goats were controlled.</p> <p>The Mahia goat CMA is jointly managed by HBRC, Department of Conservation and supported by Grandy Lake Forests. It is now in a maintenance phase and the project objective is to maintain and enhance the results accomplished to date on the internal areas and continue to maintain low populations within the boundary properties. Reinvansion continues to be an ongoing risk with high populations still current on most boundaries.</p> |

| | <p>The Maungaharuru goat CMA is jointly funded by HBRC, Department of Conservation and Pan Pac. This CMA is also in a maintenance phase. Like Mahia, reinvasion continues to be an ongoing risk.</p> <p>Graph 2 Goat CMA Kills</p>  <table border="1"><caption>Goat CMA Kills Data</caption><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Mahia</th><th>Maungaharuru</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2013-14</td><td>200</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2014-15</td><td>700</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2015-16</td><td>100</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2016-17</td><td>420</td><td>280</td></tr><tr><td>2017-18</td><td>450</td><td>380</td></tr><tr><td>2018-19</td><td>450</td><td>280</td></tr><tr><td>2019-20</td><td>780</td><td>520</td></tr><tr><td>2020-21</td><td>380</td><td>420</td></tr><tr><td>2021-22</td><td>280</td><td>450</td></tr></tbody></table> | Year | Mahia | Maungaharuru | 2013-14 | 200 | | 2014-15 | 700 | | 2015-16 | 100 | | 2016-17 | 420 | 280 | 2017-18 | 450 | 380 | 2018-19 | 450 | 280 | 2019-20 | 780 | 520 | 2020-21 | 380 | 420 | 2021-22 | 280 | 450 |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|---------|-------|------|---------|-----|--|---------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| Year | Mahia | Maungaharuru | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2013-14 | 200 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2014-15 | 700 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2015-16 | 100 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2016-17 | 420 | 280 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2017-18 | 450 | 380 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2018-19 | 450 | 280 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2019-20 | 780 | 520 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2020-21 | 380 | 420 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021-22 | 280 | 450 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phytosanitary pests | <p>Occupiers are responsible for managing production pests at pipfruit production sites. Resolving apple black spot, codling moth, European canker, fireblight or lightbrown apple moth control disputes between neighbouring parties is undertaken by the HBFGA in the first instance. If an agreement cannot be reached, the HBFGA will advise Hawke’s Bay Regional Council of the situation and seek appropriate enforcement action to be undertaken under the Biosecurity Act. HBRC did not receive any requests to undertake enforcement action for phytosanitary pests.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Possum (rest of region) | <p>Occupiers within a Possum Control Area (PCA) programme are required to maintain possum densities on their land at or below 4% residual trap catch (RTC). The PCA programme currently covers 774,450ha.</p> <p>Due to the TB outbreak in Hawke’s Bay, approximately 94,823ha contained within the PCA programme is now under OSPRI management. Biosecurity staff are working closely with OSPRI who have moved to a new geographically based operating model, with staff based in the region.</p> <p>Possum monitoring was undertaken across 114,534ha (approximately 15% of the PCA area) of the PCA programme to monitor compliance with the RPMP rule.</p> <table border="1"><caption>PCA possum monitoring programme 2021-22</caption><thead><tr><th>Occupiers</th><th>Area monitored (Ha)</th><th>Number of monitoring lines</th><th>Average Residual Trap Catch (RTC %)</th><th>Number of monitoring Lines > 4% RTC</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>477</td><td>114,534</td><td>1,487</td><td>1.1%</td><td>142</td></tr></tbody></table> | Occupiers | Area monitored (Ha) | Number of monitoring lines | Average Residual Trap Catch (RTC %) | Number of monitoring Lines > 4% RTC | 477 | 114,534 | 1,487 | 1.1% | 142 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Occupiers | Area monitored (Ha) | Number of monitoring lines | Average Residual Trap Catch (RTC %) | Number of monitoring Lines > 4% RTC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 477 | 114,534 | 1,487 | 1.1% | 142 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Although the overall trap catch rate across the area monitored was 1.1%, 142 lines were above 4% with 6.6% or 40 of properties monitored failing (477 properties in total monitored). Biosecurity staff worked with failed properties to ensure they are compliant with the RPMP rule. All properties engaged an HBRC approved contractor to undertake possum control resulting in no requirement for enforcement action.

HBRC supported land occupiers in managing possum densities through providing best practice advice, a 40% subsidy on a range of possum control products at Farmlands and PGG Wrightsons and financial assistance for managing possums in difficult terrain. Furthermore, 37 QEII covenants received either free possum control (covenants >20ha) or free bait sufficient to control possums within the QEII area (covenants <20ha).

HBRC ensured possum control on all HBRC managed river berm land using a contractor. This has been done as a good neighbour, to meet HBRC's obligations under the RPMP, and to complement the control being carried out by adjacent land users in the PCA programme.

Possum Control Area Annual RTC Monitoring



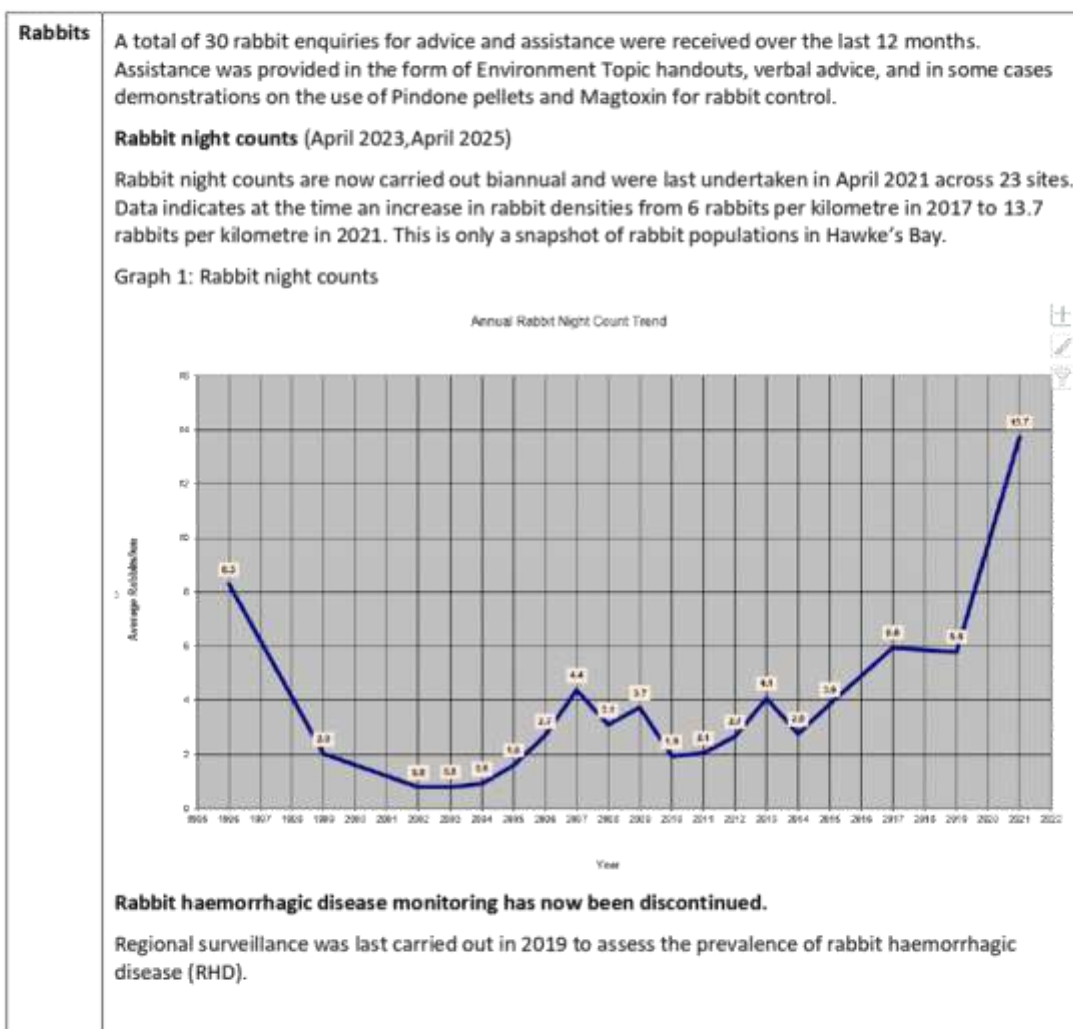
Predators

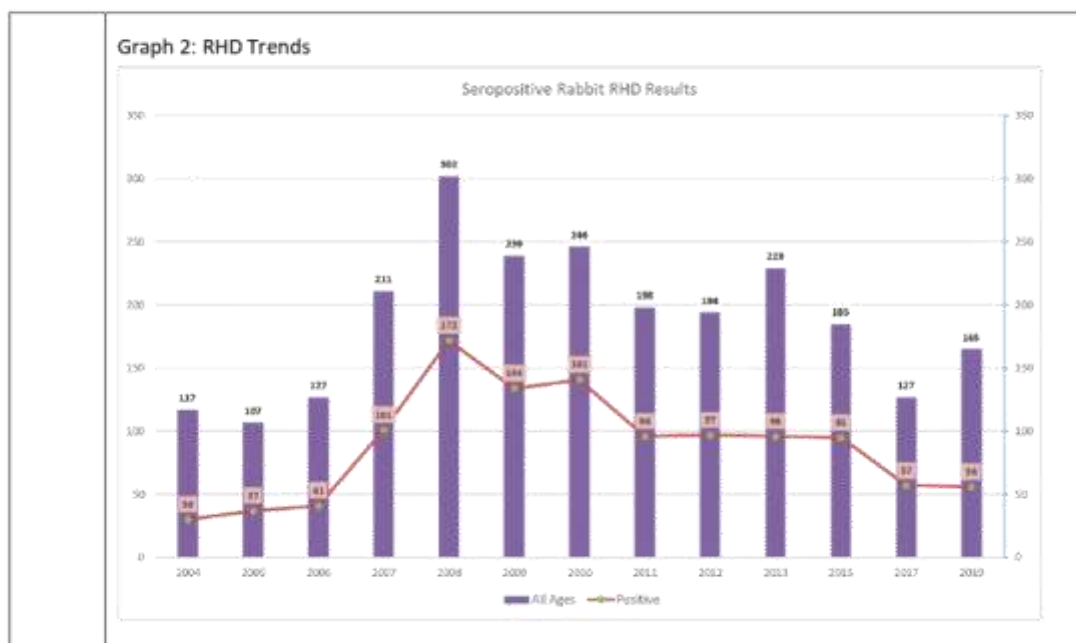
The Poutiri Ao ō Tāne and Cape to City trapping networks have been maintained over this year.

The 'Poutiri Ao o Tane' project achieved an internationally significant conservation milestone this year with the successful breeding of titi from returning parents, translocated as chicks to the Maungahaururu range. This internationally significant conservation success is the most inland site globally that seabirds have been successfully reintroduced.

This financial year Poutiri Ao ō Tāne had three maintenance checks across 13 500ha project area, servicing 703 podiTRAP and DOC250 traps. These traps have caught 5 cats, 61 ferrets, 17 stoats,

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>122 hedgehogs, 66 rats, 4 mice and 63 rabbits across 19 properties. This is the largest number of ferrets caught in the project during a single year since the network was installed in 2012.</p> <p>This financial year Cape to City has had three maintenance checks across the 26 000ha project area, servicing 1038 podiTRAPs. These traps have caught 2 cats, 3 ferrets, 4 stoats, 2 weasels, 193 hedgehogs, 31 rats, 5 mice and 8 rabbits across 57 properties. Biodiversity monitoring with tracking tunnels suggests that skinks, geckos and wētā are more abundant within the Cape to City footprint than in the adjacent non treatment area. Although there are preexisting differences, trends suggest increasing abundance of species within the project area.</p> <p>Bird counts conducted over 2017/18 have shown that within Cape to City, toutouwai (robin), tūi, korimako (bellbird), piwakawaka (fantail), riroriro (grey warbler) and titipounamu (rifleman) increased. The growth and expansion of the toutouwai population was particularly spectacular, thanks to the combination of predator control, natural dispersal out of Cape Sanctuary, and a successful translocation programme.</p> |
|--|--|





3.4 Site-Led Pest Animals

The objective is to support coordinated and integrated control of pests in defined areas that protect and restore specific ecological or biodiversity values which are threatened or compromised by pests.

| Site-led | Management Regime | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---------|----------|----------------------------------|---------|-------|----------|------------------|--------|------------|------------|---------------|--------|---------------------|--------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|---------------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| Feral cats Feral deer Feral goats Feral pigs Hedgehogs Mustelids Possums Rats | <p>The following table outlines the projects that received assistance through the site-specific programme. These projects form a wide range of initiatives from working with individual land users through to projects with significant local community involvement. Most projects have a strong focus on predator control to restore native birdlife.</p> <table> <tr> <th>Project</th><th>Location</th></tr> <tr> <td>Ahuriri Bittern Protection group</td><td>Ahuriri</td></tr> <tr> <td>Arlie</td><td>Wanstead</td></tr> <tr> <td>Big Hill Station</td><td>Keraru</td></tr> <tr> <td>Birch Hill</td><td>Porangahau</td></tr> <tr> <td>Blowhard Bush</td><td>Kaweka</td></tr> <tr> <td>Campbell / Snelling</td><td>Wairoa</td></tr> <tr> <td>Esk Catchment Group</td><td>Esk River</td></tr> <tr> <td>Glenorchy Station</td><td>Fernhill</td></tr> <tr> <td>Haumoana Community Care</td><td>Haumoana</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hutchinsons Reserve</td><td>Pukatitri</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ian Campbell</td><td>Mangapoike Rd</td></tr> </table> | Project | Location | Ahuriri Bittern Protection group | Ahuriri | Arlie | Wanstead | Big Hill Station | Keraru | Birch Hill | Porangahau | Blowhard Bush | Kaweka | Campbell / Snelling | Wairoa | Esk Catchment Group | Esk River | Glenorchy Station | Fernhill | Haumoana Community Care | Haumoana | Hutchinsons Reserve | Pukatitri | Ian Campbell | Mangapoike Rd |
| Project | Location | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ahuriri Bittern Protection group | Ahuriri | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Arlie | Wanstead | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Big Hill Station | Keraru | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Birch Hill | Porangahau | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blowhard Bush | Kaweka | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Campbell / Snelling | Wairoa | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Esk Catchment Group | Esk River | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Glenorchy Station | Fernhill | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Haumoana Community Care | Haumoana | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hutchinsons Reserve | Pukatitri | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ian Campbell | Mangapoike Rd | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Karamu Station | 73 Brownlie rd Frasertown |
| Katrin Wunderlich | Haumoana |
| Lake Hatuma Shooters Society | Waipukurau |
| Lake Oingo | Napier |
| Little bush Reserve | Puketitiri |
| Maungataniwha Forest Trust | Willowflat |
| Medway Trust | Waipawa & Omakere |
| Mike Walker | Bayview |
| Moo Scooting | Te Awunga |
| Ngatapa | Waipunga |
| Ohurakura wetland | Te Pohue |
| Opoutama wetland | Mahia |
| Papakihau Station | Porangahau |
| Pekapeka | SH2 |
| Poraiti Community Group | Poraiti |
| Pringa Bush | Kereru |
| Puahanui Bush | Gwavas |
| Tauroa reserve | Tauroa Rd Havelock nth |
| Te Mata Park | Havelock North |
| Te Umuopua Station | Takapau |
| Trelinnoe Station | Te Pohue |
| Tuki Tuki River | Below Red Bridge |
| Tutaekuri River | Dartmoor |
| Waipatiki Valley | Waipatiki |
| Wetewhakaawi / McGregors | Pakaututu |
| Whakaki wetland Trust | Wairoa |
| Whakamahi Lagoon | Mouth of Wairoa River |
| Whangahou Beach | Whangahou |

3.5 Education and Advice

The Biosecurity team continue to post regular articles in "Our Place", concentrating on rabbits, RHD, rooks, PCA updates and the use of maintenance contractors. Alongside pest plants, Pest Animal staff have worked closely with the HBRC Communications Team to implement a new HBRC Pest Hub website, including incorporating 21 factsheets covering all aspects of pest animal control.

3.6 Research Initiatives

A range of research initiatives have been completed as part of the stage two due diligence for wide scale predator control (WSPC). Almost all of the research undertaken in the project is available to be viewed at <http://capetocity.co.nz/resources/reports/>.

These initiatives include research in three main areas:

Optimising operational delivery

These projects include Wireless trap monitoring optimisation, landowner participation modelling, trap network optimisation, motion sensitive camera monitoring,

Outcome monitoring

There is a wide range of outcome monitoring taking place in the Cape to City project. This includes bird count monitoring, skinks and geckos, invertebrates, and toxoplasmosis monitoring. Several baseline surveys have been completed on landowner participation to be re-run in two to three years' time. Environmental DNA monitoring has also been completed and compared to traditional invertebrate monitoring scenarios.

Habitat restoration

Biodiversity recovery is heavily reliant on native species having the habitat to live in, thrive and spread out from. Restoring habitat is therefore a key aspect of ecological restoration. Research has been conducted into habitat needs for different native species and spatial connectivity across the farmland landscape.

4 Communications

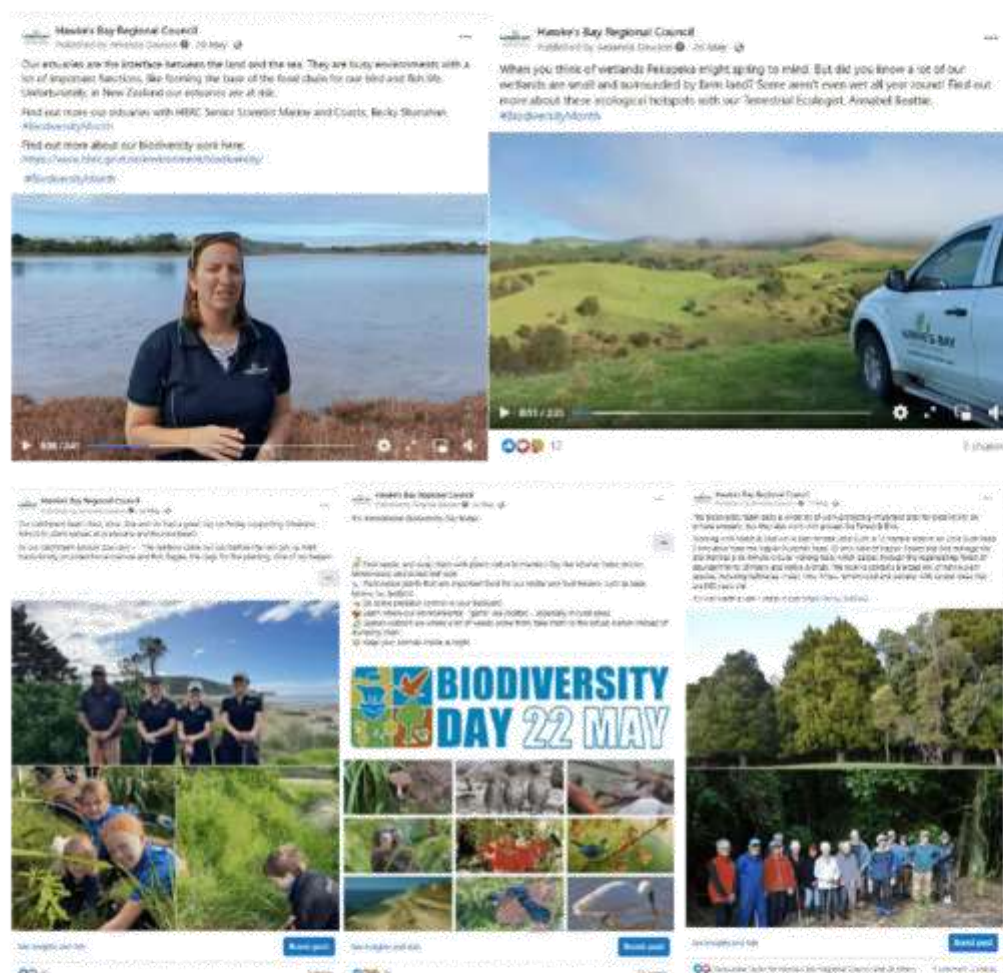
The biodiversity and biosecurity communications and engagement plan 2021 was designed to raise awareness about the Regional Council's biodiversity work in Hawke's Bay. This included seasonal activities for public awareness and information.

The March edition of Our Environment had a particular focus on biodiversity, which was promoted through CHB Mail, Hawke's Bay Today Wairoa Star, community papers, e-newsletter, the HBRC website and social media.

There were a range of other activities promoted, including but not limited to:

- Biosecurity week
- Biodiversity month
- PCA consultation
- Winter planting

Comms were delivered through media releases, social media, web content, and internal comms. Biodiversity month in May was particularly active with 17 social media posts with good levels of engagement. Below are a few examples of social media posts that were delivered:



Website and pest control hub

The pest hub provides a very user-friendly web hub of all the pest plants and animals, including marine pests, and diseases, that fall under the Regional Pest Management Plan. It also includes many other pests in New Zealand, including those not currently known to be found in Hawke's Bay. There is the opportunity to report pests, including a geo location, provides detailed information about pests including descriptions of the pest, photos, what harm or damage they may cause, and how they can be controlled. Management programmes and rules relating to each pest are included which lets people know if they need to take any steps if found on their property - <https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/environment/pest-control/pest-hub/>



| Web stats: | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Web page | Visits: July 2021 to June 2022 |
| Pest hub | 4,190 |
| Plant pests | 1,290 |
| Biosecurity | 726 |
| Chilean needle grass | 20 |
| Animal pests | 525 |
| Marine pests | 227 |