

Waikato Biosecurity Operational Plan 2022-2032

Implementing the Waikato Regional Pest Management
Plan 2022-2032

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Under the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) the Waikato Regional Council prepared the *Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2022-2032* ('the RPMP'), following a public consultation process. The RPMP provides a framework for the efficient and effective management or eradication of specified organisms (declared 'pests') in the Waikato region for the next decade.

The RPMP 2022-2032 became operative on 4 July 2022 and remains in force until 5 July 2032. Under section 100B of the Biosecurity Act, the management agency responsible for the RPMP must prepare an operational plan within three months from the date the RPMP becomes operational. This operational plan must be reviewed annually and amended if deemed necessary. Additionally, the operational plan must be reported on annually, no later than five months after the end of each financial year.

This Operational Plan is made publicly available (via the council's website), provided to the Minister for Primary Industries (via MPI) and is available to any other interested parties on request.

1.2 Management Agency

Under section 100 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, the Waikato Regional Council is the management agency responsible for implementing the RPMP, with the exception of the Hūnua Ranges Pest Management Area. To provide for the pest management carried out by Auckland Council in the Hūnua Ranges Pest Management Area, Auckland Council has been designated the pest management agency for this area.

1.3 Operational plan purpose, duration and linkages

The purpose of this Operational Plan is to implement the RPMP for the Waikato region (refer to Figure 1 in the RPMP), except for within the Hūnua Ranges Pest Management Area. This document outlines the nature and scope of activities the council intends to undertake in the implementation of the RPMP for the period 4 July 2022 to 5 July 2032. Key performance indicators (KPIs) are included along with other means of achievement which together, will determine the extent to which the RPMP objectives are being met.

This Operational Plan not only sets out the key priorities for pest management established through the RPMP, but also includes many biosecurity-related non-regulatory projects and work functions that Waikato Regional Council undertakes as set out in the *Waikato Biosecurity Strategy 2022-2032*.

A report on the Operational Plan will be prepared annually (Annual Report), no later than five months after the end of each financial year. This annual reporting will provide a more detailed analysis of the nature and scale of biosecurity operational activities undertaken by the council over the previous year, including in relation to the key performance indicators outlined in this Operational Plan.

Funding of RPMP activities is through the Council's Annual Plan and Long Term Plan (LTP) processes. The Annual Plan, a companion document to and largely determined by our LTP, allows strategic adjustments to be made that better align with budgets and targets in the Operational Plan.

1.4 Operational plan format

This Operational Plan should be read in conjunction with the RPMP and the *Waikato Biosecurity Strategy 2022-2032*. This section (Section 1) introduces the requirements for an Operational Plan following adoption of the RPMP. Section 2 summarises the five pest management programmes being implemented, and the range of methods used to achieve good pest management outcomes. It also outlines management and reporting requirements and provides a financial summary. The core part of the Operational Plan, the pests (or groups of pests) are described in Section 3 as follows:

- **Exclusion pests**
- **Eradication pests**
- **Progressive containment pests**
- **Sustained control pests**
- **Site-led pests**

Other biosecurity leadership activities and pest management responses (under Focus Areas, with their respective Actions) are described in Section 4. These are taken from the Biosecurity Strategy and sit under Regional Priority headings.

2 Implementation of Programmes

2.1 Pest management programmes

The Waikato RPMP contains five pest management programmes, as defined by the National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015. The objectives of these pest programmes are summarised below, and pests (plants and animals) and pest agents listed under each programme are presented in Table 1.

Exclusion

The objective of this programme is to undertake surveillance for the subject pests (such as Chilean needle grass and Bennett's wallabies) that are present in New Zealand but not known to be present in the Waikato region and prevent their establishment here. 100V of the Act may also be used to instigate emergency control of new pest incursions that are not listed in the RPMP.

Eradication

The objective for the eradication programme is to eradicate the subject pests (e.g. rooks, knotweed, and water poppy) from areas where they occur in the region. In the short- to medium-term, eradication involves reducing the infestation density of the pest to zero level (or zero density).

Progressive Containment

The objective is primarily to contain or reduce the geographic distribution of the subject pests (such as old man's beard and wilding conifers) over a 10-year period, in all or parts of the region. Containment pests are generally those present in certain part(s) of the Waikato region, but of low extent in or absent from other areas. It is currently not feasible to eradicate them from the whole region, but it is realistic to prevent them spreading to areas clear or being cleared of them.

Sustained Control

Sustained control is a strategy for pests that are widely spread across the region. The objective is to provide for the ongoing control of these widespread pests (like feral rabbits, gorse and broom) to reduce their impacts, and their spread to other properties.

Site-led (Protecting values in places)

The objective of site-led programmes is to manage pests at specific places (e.g. Wetlands, Project Yellow) to prevent them causing damage to the values of the place.

Table 1: Pest species included in the RPMP 2022-2032 listed in their appropriate management programmes

EXCLUSION PROGRAMME	
Plants	<p>Broom corn millet Chilean needle grass Freshwater eel grass Fringed water lily</p> <p>Horsetail (field/common) Kudzu vine Marshwort</p>
Animals	<p>Wallaby: Bennett's wallaby Brush-tailed rock wallaby Parma wallaby Swamp wallaby</p>
ERADICATION PROGRAMME	
Plants	<p>African feather grass Cathedral bells Chilean flame creeper Evergreen buckthorn Horse nettle Horsetail (rough horsetail) Knotweed: Giant knotweed Japanese Asiatic knotweed Mile-a-minute Nassella/fine stemmed grass/Mexican feather grass</p> <p>Nassella tussock Noogoora bur Purple loosestrife <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> Sagittaria/arrowhead Senegal tea Spartina: Common cordgrass Smooth cordgrass Thistle (variegated thistle) Water poppy</p>
Animal	Rook
PROGRESSIVE CONTAINMENT PROGRAMME	
Plants	<p>Alligator weed Banana passionfruit (Taupō and Rotorua districts) Boneseed Chocolate vine Climbing spindleberry Darwin's barberry Giant gunnera Golden dodder Lantana Mexican water lily Moth plant (Taupō and Rotorua districts) Old man's beard Velvetleaf</p> <p>Wilding conifers: Bishop pine Contorta pine Corsican pine Douglas fir Dwarf mountain pine European larch Maritime pine Mountain pine Ponderosa pine Radiata pine Scots pine Wild kiwifruit Woolly nightshade (Taupō and Rotorua district) Yellow flag iris</p>
Animal	Dama wallaby

SUSTAINED CONTROL PROGRAMME	
Plants	<p>Banana passionfruit (excluding Taupō and Rotorua districts)</p> <p>Broom</p> <p>Gorse</p> <p>Moth plant (excluding Taupō and Rotorua districts)</p> <p>Pampas</p> <p>Ragwort</p> <p>Thistle: Nodding thistle Plumeless thistle</p> <p>Tutsan</p> <p>Wild ginger</p> <p>Woolly nightshade (excluding Taupō and Rotorua districts)</p>
Animals	<p>Common brushtail possum (excluding in Hūnua Ranges Pest Management Area)</p> <p>Feral rabbit</p> <p>Magpie</p> <p>Wasps: Common wasp German wasp</p>
SITE-LED PROGRAMME	
Wetland pests	
Plants	<p>Alder</p> <p>Arum lily</p> <p>Blackberry</p> <p>Broom sedge</p> <p>Bulbous rush</p> <p>Californian club rush</p> <p>Chinese privet</p> <p>Crack willow</p> <p>Giant gunnera</p> <p>Gorse</p> <p>Grey willow</p> <p>Heath rush</p> <p>Japanese honeysuckle</p> <p>Japanese walnut</p> <p>Manchurian wild rice</p> <p>Old man's beard</p> <p>Oval sedge</p> <p>Pampas</p> <p>Purple loosestrife</p> <p>Reed canary grass</p> <p>Reed sweet grass</p> <p>Royal fern</p> <p>Sharp rush</p> <p>Yellow flag iris</p>
Animals	<p>Box turtle</p> <p>Murray River turtle</p> <p>Red-eared slider turtle (and related sub-species)</p> <p>Snake-necked turtle</p>
Project Yellow pests	
Plants	<p>Broom</p> <p>Gorse</p> <p>Tree lupin</p>

2.2 Principal measures of achievement

The council achieves practicable pest management outcomes through the following methods and provision of resources. All programmes require reporting on actions taken and outcomes achieved.

Requirement to Act (regulation)

RPMP rules are the 'backbone' of the RPMP. These rules require many pests to be controlled to specified standards or levels. In other situations, the rules require that the presence of named pests be reported to the council. Rules also make it an offence for people to interfere with legitimate pest control operations (such as for feral rabbits, possums, and rook), or to keep named pests (such as wallaby and possums). Failure to comply with RPMP rules can lead to enforcement action by the council.

Inspections, monitoring and surveillance

Regular property inspections (proactive or those in response to a report or complaint) ensure that RPMP rules are being adhered to. Every effort is made to achieve voluntary compliance first, however, enforcement action is initiated where rules are breached. Monitoring is also carried out to determine effectiveness of control. Surveillance activities identify new pest issues and ensure that current problem pests and sites are not getting worse.

Service delivery

In some specific cases, where special expertise is required or coordinated control gives benefits to a specific area or the whole region, direct control (service delivery) will be undertaken by Waikato Regional Council or its contractors. Service delivery includes utilising best practice methods and appropriate control tools (e.g. traps, chemicals, biological control agents).

Advocacy and education

The council will provide education, advice and information to occupiers and the public on the identification and impacts of pests, the pathways (vectors) of pest spread and appropriate methods of control. We will also ensure that land occupiers are informed of their responsibilities under the RPMP. Waikato Regional Council will contribute to research and cost-sharing with other agencies in developing/promoting 'good practice' around control methods aimed at pest management contractors and occupiers who are required to act.

Collaboration with others

The council collaborates with numerous central and local government agencies and entities, community and stakeholder groups, and iwi. These collaborations may include the development of agreements for the effective management of pests to protect the values of specific sites, corridors and areas. Examples include working agreements with the NZ Transport Agency, LINZ, eleven district/city councils and KiwiRail to manage pest spread along the region's transport corridors.

2.3 Financial overview

Funding of the Operational Plan is set for each financial year in the Waikato Regional Council's Annual Plan¹. This funding comes from a region-wide targeted biosecurity rate that is based on capital value, as the whole of the regional community benefits from the majority of biosecurity work carried out (e.g. advocacy/education and inspections, monitoring and surveillance work). The programme also receives external funding from central government to help implement management of pests such as wilding conifers and dama wallabies.

¹ See www.waikatoregion.govt.nz to view the Annual Plan.

3 Pest Programmes

3.1 Exclusion pest programme

The exclusion pest programme includes seven pest plants and four species of wallabies, none of which are known to be present in the Waikato region.

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
Preventing the establishment of exclusion programme pests in the Waikato region over the duration of the RPMP. Avoiding adverse effects to production, environmental, social/amenity values.
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented?</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Requirement to act</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• All persons will comply with all statutory obligations and the rules relating to exclusion pests that are specified in the RPMP 2022-2032.2. <i>Inspection and monitoring</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake active (e.g. in response to notifications and nursery inspections) and passive surveillance to determine the presence of new infestations and status of any historical sites.• Encourage passive surveillance and reporting to council by the public.3. <i>Service delivery</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake control/response planning, and control work as required.4. <i>Advocacy and education</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide advice and information on the identification, potential impacts and pathways of spread of exclusion pests to occupiers and other interested parties.• Targeted messaging to the public and stakeholders to increase their knowledge and understanding of the threats the exclusion pests pose to the region.5. <i>Collaboration</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake regular liaison and work closely with neighbouring regional councils.6. <i>Reporting</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waikato Regional Council to report against KPIs listed below in the RPMP Annual Report.
Key Performance Indicators: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Reported sightings investigated within 2 working days of Waikato Regional Council becoming aware of a report.✓ In the event of a confirmed new infestation/pest animal presence, a control/response plan is formulated within 5 working days and implemented as soon as practical.✓ Provided general and targeted advice and information on the identification of and threats posed by Exclusion pests.✓ At least annual operation level liaison focused on exclusion strategies with biosecurity counterparts in Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Hawke’s Bay, Horizons and Taranaki (along with discussions on other matters).✓ Service delivery carried out to best practice standards and in accordance with relevant legislation.✓ Where enforcement is required, the Council’s biosecurity enforcement policy will be followed.

3.2 Eradication pest programme

The eradication programme includes eighteen pest plants and rooks. These pests are in this programme as their infestation levels are considered low enough for eradication from the region to be feasible in the long-term.

3.2.1 Eradication pest plants

<p>Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i></p>
<p>Controlling to zero density by 2032 all known sites and any new sites of eradication pests in the Waikato region. Eliminating adverse effects to production, environmental, social/amenity values.</p>
<p>Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented?</i></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Requirement to act</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All persons will comply with all statutory obligations and the rules relating to eradication pests that are specified in the RPMP 2022-2032. 2. <i>Inspection and monitoring</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake active (e.g. in response to notifications and nursery inspections) and passive surveillance to determine the presence of new infestations and status of any historical sites. • Encourage passive surveillance and reporting to council by the public. 3. <i>Service delivery</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake control/response planning, and control work as required. 4. <i>Advocacy and education</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice and information on the identification, impacts and control of eradication pest plants to affected occupiers and other interested parties. • Targeted messaging to the public and stakeholders to increase their knowledge and understanding of the threats eradication pest plants pose to the region. 5. <i>Collaboration</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake regular liaison and work closely with neighbouring regional councils. 6. <i>Reporting</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waikato Regional Council to report against KPIs listed below in the RPMP Annual Report.
<p>Key Performance Indicators: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Zero density of eradication pest plants is achieved in the Waikato region by 2032. ✓ All enquiries, reports and notifications responded to in no longer than 2 working days. ✓ In the event of a confirmed new infestation, a control/response plan is formulated within 5 working days and implemented as soon as practical. ✓ For each species, all known infestations are inspected as appropriate.² ✓ Service delivery carried out to best practice standards and in accordance with relevant legislation. ✓ For each species, historic sites are inspected, as appropriate, to ensure they remain at 'zero density'. ✓ At least annual operation level liaison with biosecurity counterparts in Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, Horizons and Taranaki (along with discussions on other matters). ✓ Provided general and targeted advice and information on the identification of and threats posed by eradication plant pests.

² Inspection frequency will differ between species, depending on their reproductive and growth form characteristics, the extent of the infestation, and efficacy of control methods.

✓ Where enforcement is required, the Council's biosecurity enforcement policy will be followed.

3.2.2 Rooks

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
Reducing rook populations to zero density by 2032. Eradication is required to protect economic values in the Waikato region.
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented?</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Requirement to act</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• All persons will comply with all statutory obligations and the rules (ROOK-1, ROOK-2 and ROOK-3) specified in the RPMP 2022-2032.2. <i>Inspection and monitoring</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inspect and assess known hotspots where previous control work has been undertaken.• Encourage passive surveillance and reporting to the council, by the public.3. <i>Service delivery</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake direct control of rooks, as appropriate.4. <i>Advocacy and education</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide advice and information on the identification and impacts of rooks to affected occupiers and other interested parties.• Targeted messaging to the public and stakeholders to increase their knowledge and understanding of the threat rooks pose to the region.5. <i>Collaboration</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake regular liaison and work closely with neighbouring regional councils on population trends and monitoring.6. <i>Reporting</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waikato Regional Council to report against KPIs listed below in the RPMP Annual Report.
Key Performance Indicators: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Zero density of rooks is achieved in the Waikato region by 2032.✓ All enquiries, reports and notifications responded to no later than 2 working days.✓ All known rookeries inspected annually.✓ In the event of a confirmed new rookery, control/response actions are included in the annual rook control programme.✓ Service delivery carried out to best practice standards and in accordance with relevant legislation.✓ At least annual operation level liaison with biosecurity counterparts in Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, Horizons and Taranaki (along with discussions on other matters).✓ Where enforcement is required, the Council's biosecurity enforcement policy will be followed.

3.3 Progressive containment pest programme

The progressive containment programme includes 17 pest plants or groups of pest plants and dama wallabies. Most of these pest plant species are reasonably well established in all or parts of the Waikato region. While eradication is unlikely, their distribution can be progressively reduced over the duration of the RPMP. For dama wallabies, which are only present in the south-eastern part of the region, progressive containment is the objective over the duration of the RPMP 2022-2032, with the long-term goal eradication from the region.

3.3.1 Progressive containment pest plants

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
Containing to known areas or reducing the geographical distribution of these pests, over the duration of the RPMP. Containment is required to reduce adverse effects on production, environmental, social/amenity values.
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented?</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Requirement to act</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• All persons will comply with all statutory obligations and the rules relating to progressive containment pests that are specified in the RPMP 2022-2032.2. <i>Inspection and monitoring</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake active (e.g. in response to notifications and nursery inspections) and passive surveillance to determine the presence of new infestations and status of any historical sites, as appropriate.• Encourage passive surveillance and reporting to council, by the public.3. <i>Service delivery</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake control of progressive containment pest plants, as appropriate and depending on fiscal and other constraints.• Develop biosecurity management plans in conjunction with affected occupiers/developers where appropriate.4. <i>Advocacy and education</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide advice and information on the identification, impacts, and control of progressive containment pest plants to affected occupiers and other interested parties.5. <i>Collaboration</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake regular liaison and work closely with neighbouring regional councils on population trends and monitoring.6. <i>Reporting</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waikato Regional Council to report against KPIs listed below in the RPMP Annual Report.
Key Performance Indicators: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ No range expansion of progressive containment pest plants occurs in the Waikato region.✓ All enquiries, reports and notifications responded to no later than 2 working days.✓ In the event of a confirmed infestation outside the containment area, a control/response plan is formulated within 5 working days and implemented as soon as practical.✓ For each species, all known infestations outside the containment area are inspected as appropriate.³✓ Service delivery carried out to best practice standards and in accordance with relevant legislation.

³ Inspection frequency will differ between species, depending on their reproductive and growth form characteristics, the extent of the infestation, and efficacy of control methods.

- ✓ Historic sites are inspected, as appropriate, to ensure they remain at 'zero density'.
- ✓ At least annual operation level liaison with biosecurity counterparts in Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, Horizons and Taranaki (along with discussions on other matters).
- ✓ Where enforcement is required, the Council's biosecurity enforcement policy will be followed.

3.3.2 Wilding conifers

<p>Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i></p> <p>Containing or reducing the geographical distribution of wilding conifers, in particular on land free of or being cleared of wilding conifers, over the duration of the RPMP. Containment is required to reduce adverse effects of wilding conifers on production, environmental, social/amenity values.</p>
<p>Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Requirement to act</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All persons will comply with all statutory obligations and the rules (WCON-1, WCON-2, WCON-3 and WCON-4) that are specified in the RPMP 2022-2032. 2. <i>Inspection and monitoring</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of wilding conifers to establish the extent of any infestations and to identify any remedial action required. 3. <i>Service delivery</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake control of wilding conifers, as appropriate. 4. <i>Advocacy and education</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice and information on the identification, impacts, and control of wilding conifers to affected occupiers and other interested parties. 5. <i>Collaboration</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake regular liaison and work closely with neighbouring regional councils, MPI and stakeholder groups. 6. <i>Reporting</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waikato Regional Council to report against KPIs listed below in the RPMP Annual Report and through the national programme as required.
<p>Key Performance Indicators: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All enquiries, reports and notifications responded to no later than 2 working days. ✓ Service delivery carried out to best practice standards and in accordance with relevant legislation. ✓ Collaborate and coordinate with MPI, other regional councils and stakeholders as per the national wilding conifer programme. ✓ Ensure MPI management unit outcomes are met. ✓ Where enforcement is required, the Council's biosecurity enforcement policy will be followed.

3.3.4 Dama wallabies

<p>Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i></p>
<p>Containing or reducing the geographical distribution of dama wallabies in the region and ensure they do not establish in new areas in the region over the duration of the RPMP. Containment is required to reduce adverse effects on production, environmental, social/amenity values.</p>
<p>Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented?</i></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Requirement to act</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All persons will comply with all statutory obligations and the rules (DWAL-1 and DWAL-2) that are specified in the RPMP 2022-2032. 2. <i>Inspection and monitoring</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of dama wallabies to establish the extent of any infestations and the remedial action required. • Encourage passive surveillance and notification to council by the public. • Undertake results monitoring following control operations to determine efficacy and the need for any follow up work. 3. <i>Service delivery</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake direct control of dama wallabies, as appropriate. 4. <i>Advocacy and education</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice and information on the identification, impacts, and control of dama wallabies to affected occupiers and other interested parties. 5. <i>Collaboration</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake regular liaison and work closely with MPI and neighbouring regional councils. 6. <i>Reporting</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waikato Regional Council to report against KPIs listed below in the RPMP Annual Report and through the national programme as required.
<p>Key Performance Indicators: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No range expansion of dama wallabies occurs in the Waikato region. ✓ All enquiries, reports and notifications responded to no later than 2 working days. ✓ In the event of a confirmed discovery of dama wallabies outside the dama wallaby containment area, assessment of the risks/issues made within 5 working days and a control/response strategy implemented as soon as practical. ✓ Service delivery carried out to best practice standards and in accordance with relevant legislation. ✓ Collaborate and coordinate with MPI and other regional councils as per the national wallaby eradication programme. ✓ Ensure MPI contract outcomes are met. ✓ Where enforcement is required, the Council's biosecurity enforcement policy will be followed.

3.4 Sustained control pest programme

The 11 pest plants, three animal pests, and insects (common and German wasps) included in the sustained control category are well-established pests across most of New Zealand. Therefore, management activities are designed to reduce the pests' impacts and/or their spread to other properties.

3.4.1 Sustained control pest plants

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
Prevent the spread of sustained control pest plants to neighbouring properties where the pest plants are being actively managed. Ensure transport corridors and quarries reduce the risk of sustained control pest plants being spread around the region.
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented?</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Requirement to act</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• All persons will comply with all statutory obligations and the rules for sustained control pest plants as specified in the RPMP 2022-2032.2. <i>Inspection and monitoring</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upon a valid complaint, inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of sustained control pest plants to establish the extent of any infestations and to identify any remedial action required.3. <i>Service delivery</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• May undertake direct control including the release of biological control agents, as appropriate.4. <i>Advocacy and education</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide advice and information on the identification, impacts, and control of sustained control pest plants to affected occupiers and other interested parties.5. <i>Reporting</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waikato Regional Council to report against KPIs listed below in the RPMP Annual Report.
Key Performance Indicators: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ All enquiries/complaints are responded to within two working days.✓ Service delivery (including the release of biological control agents) carried out to best practice standards and in accordance with relevant legislation.✓ Where enforcement is required, the Council's biosecurity enforcement policy will be followed.

3.4.2 Common brushtail possum

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
Minimising the adverse effects and impacts caused by possums on economic and environmental values within Priority Possum Control Areas (PPCA) and prevent their spread to and impacts on neighbouring properties where they are being actively managed.
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented?</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Requirement to act</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• All persons will comply with all statutory obligations and the rules (POSS-1, POSS-2, and POSS-3) specified in the RPMP 2022-2032.2. <i>Inspection and monitoring</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of common brushtail possums to establish the extent of any infestations and to identify any remedial action required.• Undertake trend monitoring to determine when control work is required within PPCAs and results monitoring following control operations to determine efficacy and the need for any follow up work.3. <i>Service delivery</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake direct control of possums within PCCAs as appropriate.4. <i>Advocacy and education</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide advice and information on the identification, impacts, and control of common brushtail possums to affected occupiers and other interested parties.5. <i>Reporting</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waikato Regional Council to report against KPIs listed below in the RPMP Annual Report.
Key Performance Indicators: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ All PPCA ground control operations achieve a mean 5% Residual Trap Catch (RTC) within the contract timeframes.✓ Any PPCA aerial control operations achieve a mean 3% RTC within the contract timeframes.✓ All enquiries/complaints are responded to within two working days.✓ Service delivery carried out to best practice standards and in accordance with relevant legislation.✓ Where enforcement is required, the Council's biosecurity enforcement policy will be followed.

3.4.3 Feral rabbits

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
Sustainably controlling feral rabbits to level 4 or below on the Modified McLean Rabbit Infestation Scale (2012) where they are having adverse effects on production, environmental, social/cultural and amenity values, and reduce their impacts on neighbouring properties.
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented?</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Requirement to act</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• All persons will comply with all statutory obligations and the rule (RAB-1) specified in the RPMP 2022-2032.2. <i>Inspection and monitoring</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upon a valid complaint, inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of feral rabbits to establish the extent of any infestations and identify any remedial action required.3. <i>Service delivery</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• May undertake direct control of feral rabbits (including the release of biological control agents), as appropriate.4. <i>Advocacy and education</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide advice and information on the identification, impacts, and control of feral rabbits to affected occupiers and other interested parties.5. <i>Reporting</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waikato Regional Council to report against KPIs listed below in the RPMP Annual Report.
Key Performance Indicators: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ All enquiries/complaints are responded to within two working days.✓ Service delivery carried out to best practice standards and in accordance with relevant legislation.✓ Where enforcement is required, the Council's biosecurity enforcement policy will be followed.

3.4.4 Magpies

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
Avoiding or mitigating the adverse effects caused by magpies on social/cultural values to minimise their risks to public health.
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented?</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Requirement to act</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• All persons will comply with all statutory obligations and the rule (MAG-1) specified in the RPMP 2022-2032.2. <i>Inspection and monitoring</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upon receipt of a valid complaint, inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of magpies to establish the extent of any infestation and any remedial action required.3. <i>Service delivery</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• May undertake direct control of magpies, where control by occupiers would be difficult and where there is a known risk to public health (e.g. near bus stops, entries to public walking tracks) as appropriate.4. <i>Advocacy and education</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide advice and information on the identification, impacts, and control of magpies to affected occupiers and other interested parties.5. <i>Reporting</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waikato Regional Council to report against KPIs listed below in the RPMP Annual Report.
Key Performance Indicators: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ All enquiries/complaints are responded to within two working days.✓ Service delivery carried out to best practice standards and in accordance with relevant legislation.✓ Where enforcement is required, the Council's biosecurity enforcement policy will be followed.

3.4.5 Wasps (common or German wasps)

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
Avoiding or mitigating the adverse effects caused by common or German wasps on social/cultural values to minimise their risks to public health.
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented?</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Requirement to act</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• All persons will comply with all statutory obligations and the rule (WASP-1) specified in the RPMP 2022-2032.2. <i>Inspection and monitoring</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upon receipt of a valid complaint, inspect and monitor properties with confirmed or suspected infestations of common or German wasps to establish the extent of any infestations and identify any remedial action required.3. <i>Service delivery</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Release biological control agents for wasps, as appropriate.• May undertake control of common or German wasps where control by occupiers is difficult and there is a known risk to public health, as appropriate.4. <i>Advocacy and education</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide advice and information on the identification, impacts, and control of common or German wasps to affected occupiers and other interested parties.5. <i>Reporting</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waikato Regional Council to report against KPIs listed below in the RPMP Annual Report.
Key Performance Indicators: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ All enquiries/complaints are responded to within two working days.✓ Service delivery carried out to best practice standards and in accordance with relevant legislation.✓ Where enforcement is required, the Council's biosecurity enforcement policy will be followed.

3.5 Site-led pest programmes (Wetlands and Project Yellow)

There are currently two site-led programmes within the RPMP 2022-2032 that the council is the management agency for:

1. Wetlands
2. Project Yellow

As the site-led programme is about protecting the values of a place, the pests targeted will vary from site to site depending on which pests are present and the values at each site. The pests within each of the current site-led programmes are included in Table 1.

<p>Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i></p>
<p>Supporting community and stakeholders in minimising the adverse effects of specified pests on the values of identified sites.</p>
<p>Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented?</i></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Requirement to act</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All persons will comply with all statutory obligations and the rules specified for site-led pest programmes in the RPMP 2022-2032. 2. <i>Inspection and monitoring</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon a valid complaint, inspect and monitor properties to establish the extent of infestations of site-led pests and identify any remedial action required. 3. <i>Service delivery</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake control of pests listed under site-led programmes in Table 1 of the Operational Plan (and table 14, 15 and 16 in the RPMP 2022-2032) within wetland site-led areas or the boundary of the Project Yellow Site-led area, as appropriate. 4. <i>Advocacy and education</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice and information on the identification, impacts, and control of site-led pests to affected occupiers and other interested parties. 5. <i>Collaboration</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake regular liaison and work closely with neighbouring regional councils (e.g. Project Yellow), and occupiers. 6. <i>Reporting</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waikato Regional Council to report against KPIs listed below in the RPMP Annual Report.
<p>Key Performance Indicators: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All enquiries/complaints are responded to within two working days. ✓ Service delivery carried out to best practice standards and in accordance with relevant legislation. ✓ Where enforcement is required, the Council’s biosecurity enforcement policy will be followed.

4 Other Biosecurity Activities

4.1 Overview

The regional council undertakes many other biosecurity leadership and coordination activities that are not directly related to the management of individual pest species or provisions set out in the *RPMP 2022-2032* (or the Biosecurity Act). These activities are discussed more fully in the *Waikato Biosecurity Strategy 2022-2032* (the Strategy⁴) under five regional priority headings:

3. Effective leadership and governance
4. Working together
5. Valuing and building on our investments
6. Better surveillance and intelligence systems
7. Bright ideas and better ways

The following sub-sections summarise the key work areas the council will focus on and the actions that will be undertaken to achieve them for each regional priority.

4.2 Effective leadership and governance

Focus areas	Actions
1. Supporting mana whenua	✓ Act as an advocate for biosecurity issues that are important for the region.
2. National/multi-regional approaches	✓ Develop and maintain effective working relationships with mana whenua, central government, Te Uru Kahika, management agencies and the community.
3. Education and empowerment	
4. Integrated management	

4.3 Working together

Focus areas	Actions
1. Supporting mana whenua	✓ Engage with mana whenua on biosecurity issues.
2. National/multi-regional approaches	✓ Support national incursion responses as required.
3. Within region partnerships	✓ Work in partnership with management agencies on biosecurity programmes.
	✓ Support community-led action on weeds and pests of concern to them.

⁴ While the Strategy is a non-statutory document, Waikato Regional Council is committed to working collaboratively with stakeholders, groups, communities, and individuals to implement the Strategy to achieve good biosecurity outcomes.

4.4 Valuing and building on our investments

Focus areas	Actions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National/multi-regional approaches 2. RPMP programmes 3. Supporting communities 4. Maximise investments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Work with central government, Te Uru Kahika and management agencies on national and inter-regional biosecurity issues. ✓ Support community-led action on weeds and pests of concern to them, including the addition of sites that meet the <i>RPMP 2022-2032</i> criteria in the site-led programme. ✓ The council's biosecurity programme is regularly reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose.

4.5 Better surveillance and intelligence systems

Focus areas	Actions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk assessments 2. Data management systems 3. Monitoring and surveillance 4. Empowering communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure the risks pests and harmful organisms pose to the region are identified and addressed. ✓ Effectively utilise biosecurity data management systems to inform council's biosecurity programme. ✓ Surveillance programmes are implemented and reviewed, as appropriate. ✓ Landowners and community have access to online information and tools and utilise them.

4.6 Bright ideas and better ways

Focus areas	Actions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Best practice and technologies 2. Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Best practice standards and tools are utilised for all pest management activities. ✓ Contribute to and facilitate regional, national and international research on improved tools for controlling and monitoring harmful organisms. ✓ Support the development of new tools for biosecurity management.

Appendix 1: Summary of programmes, pests and principle measures

Programmes and pests	Requirement to act	Inspection and monitoring	Service delivery	Advocacy and education	Collaboration
EXCLUSION					
Broom corn millet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chilean needle grass	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Freshwater eel grass	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fringed water lily	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Horsetail (field/common)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kudzu vine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marshwort	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wallaby: Bennett's wallaby Brush-tailed rock wallaby Parma wallaby Swamp wallaby	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ERADICATION					
African feather grass	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cathedral bells	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chilean flame creeper	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Evergreen buckthorn	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Horse nettle	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Horsetail (rough horsetail)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Knotweed (giant/Japanese)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Asiatic knotweed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mile-a-minute	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nassella/fine stemmed needle grass/Mexican feather grass	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nassella tussock	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Noogoora bur	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Purple loosestrife	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sagittaria/arrowhead	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Senegal tea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spartina	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common cordgrass	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Smooth cordgrass	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thistle (variegated thistle)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Programmes and pests	Requirement to act	Inspection and monitoring	Service delivery	Advocacy and education	Collaboration
Water poppy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PROGRESSIVE CONTAINMENT					
Alligator weed	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Banana passionfruit (Taupō and Rotorua districts)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Boneseed	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Chocolate vine	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Climbing spindleberry	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Darwin's barberry	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Giant gunnera	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Golden dodder	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lantana	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mexican water lily	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Moth plant (Taupō and Rotorua districts)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Old man's beard	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Velvetleaf	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wilding conifers: Bishop pine Contorta pine Corsican pine Douglas fir Dwarf mountain pine European larch Maritime pine Mountain pine Ponderosa pine Radiata pine Scots pine	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wild kiwifruit	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Woolly nightshade (Taupō and Rotorua districts)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Yellow flag iris	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dama wallaby	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SUSTAINED CONTROL					
Banana passionfruit (excluding Taupō and Rotorua districts)	✓ (GNR)	✓		✓	
Broom	✓ (GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Gorse	✓ (GNR)	✓		✓	

Programmes and pests	Requirement to act	Inspection and monitoring	Service delivery	Advocacy and education	Collaboration
Moth plant (excluding Taupō and Rotorua districts)	✓ (GNR)	✓		✓	
Pampas	✓	✓		✓	
Ragwort	✓ (GNR)	✓		✓	
Thistle: Nodding thistle Plumeless thistle	✓ (GNR)	✓	✓ (Biocontrol)	✓	
Tutsan	✓ (GNR)	✓	✓ (Biocontrol)	✓	
Wild ginger	✓ (GNR)	✓		✓	
Woolly nightshade (excluding Taupō and Rotorua districts)	✓ (GNR)	✓		✓	
Common brushtail possum (excluding in Hūnua Ranges Pest Management Area)	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Feral rabbit	✓	✓	✓ (including biocontrol)	✓	
Magpie	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wasps: Common wasp German wasp	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
SITE-LED (WETLANDS)					
Alder	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Arum lily	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Blackberry	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Broom sedge	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Bulbous rush	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Californian club rush	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Chinese privet	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Crack willow	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Giant gunnera	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Gorse	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Grey willow	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	

Programmes and pests	Requirement to act	Inspection and monitoring	Service delivery	Advocacy and education	Collaboration
Heath rush	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Japanese honeysuckle	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Japanese walnut	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Manchurian wild rice	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Old man's beard	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Oval sedge	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Pampas	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Purple loosestrife	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Reed canary grass	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Reed sweet grass	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Royal fern	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Sharp rush	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Yellow flag iris	✓ (including a GNR)	✓	✓	✓	
Box turtle	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Murray River turtle	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-eared slider turtle (and related sub-species)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Snake-necked turtle	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Site-led (Project yellow)					
Broom	✓ (GNR)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gorse	✓ (GNR)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tree lupin	✓ (GNR)	✓	✓	✓	✓