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Committee Environmental Wellbeing Committee  
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## **General Managers' Report to the Environmental Wellbeing Committee on 6 August 2013**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee of Greater Wellington Regional Council's activities relating to the Committee's areas of responsibility.

### **2. The decision-making process and significance**

No decision is being sought in this report.

### **3. Public Participation**

Bruce Slater (Chair of the Waiohine River Advisory Committee) and Viv Napier (Deputy Mayor, South Wairarapa District Council), spoke to item 5 on the agenda - Waiohine River Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) - Recommendation from Advisory Committee.

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) is progressing with the development of Waiohine River FMP Option Combination 7 to make sure it is workable, sustainable and acceptable to the community. We will undertake further technical investigations in geomorphology (river behaviour), river channel management and stopbank design, as well as continuing consultation with affected landowners, stakeholders, iwi and the wider community. We will also develop planning measures and emergency management measures for managing residual risk and will canvass environmental enhancement options that may be suitable for inclusion in an Environmental Strategy. Provided that we can ensure a workable, sustainable option that gains community acceptance, our aim is to be in a position to present a preferred option combination to Council in May 2014, as requested by the Environmental Wellbeing Committee at its previous meeting.

## 4. Catchment Management

### 4.1 Flood Protection

#### 4.1.1 Operations and Delivery

##### a) River and Drainage Maintenance

2013/14 programme implementation is currently being finalised. The initial focus will be on developing and implementing willow and native planting programmes.

Significant damage occurred during the storm on 20-21 June. Many trees blew over, blocking watercourses and creating hazards. Damage also occurred in the vicinity of coastal areas, particularly the Hutt River mouth. Repair works are underway, but will take a number of weeks to complete. The Lake Onoke opening to the sea was able to remain open in the face of the severe southerly storm by keeping the barrage gates closed to maintain higher river flows, even though this resulted in high levels in Lake Onoke.

Mouth cuts have been carried out on both the Waitohu and Otaki Rivers, and drain clearing has been undertaken in local drains. An observer was engaged to return fish to the watercourse.

The annual Wairarapa River Scheme meetings were held in May. The meetings went well with the committees adopting the 2013/14 work programmes and confirming a 3% increase in their local river scheme rates to ensure work quanta are maintained. Flood damage reserves continue to increase to offset future costs.

A legal opinion and draft contract have been obtained for the proposed management transfer of the Papatahi Pump Drainage (South Wairarapa) to the scheme landowners. Staff are proposing an option for Council to retain ownership of the assets, with the scheme members undertaking the on-going management and operation by contract. A meeting to discuss the options with the landowners has been arranged for mid-August.

##### b) Recreation Activities

The department said farewell to Thane Walls who has been the Hutt River Ranger for the past ten years. During that time he made contact with a wide range of people and made an invaluable contribution to the on-going development of the river trails and corridors. Thane has transferred to the Parks Department.

The wet weather has not stopped people using the river trail, and there have been numerous community native planting days carried out in both Kapiti and the Hutt Valley, with the support of staff.

##### c) Gravel Extraction

Details of gravel extraction volumes are provided in the following table:

River	Extraction Volumes (m <sup>3</sup> )	
	FY 11/12	FY 12/13
Hutt Mouth	29,057	29,743
Hutt	49,873	55,437
Otaki	50,265	50,970

Wairarapa	209,359	100,021 <sup>1</sup>
Totals	338,554	236,171

Gravel extraction from Wairarapa rivers is significantly down on previous years due to reduced demand.

#### d) River Management Resource Consent Project

Good progress has been made on the River Management Resource Consent Project. Resource consent applications have been lodged for the Hutt and Waikanae Rivers. The focus is now on progressing the final application for the Wainuiomata River, and completing a draft application for the Otaki River. Discussions have continued with Environmental Regulation staff about the applications, and a peer review of the ecological components of the Hutt application has been undertaken by external consultants. Staff are working through an information request for the Hutt River application.

Engagement has focused on meetings with the Science Group. The next phase of engagement will be focused on Iwi engagement. The draft monitoring strategy has been submitted and will continue to evolve as more information becomes available. Work on the Code of Practice is progressing.

#### e) Asset Management and Planning

The Asset Management Improvement Plan has been drafted by AECOM Consultants, and generally aligns with work previously completed by the department. The plan will be approved during July.

#### f) Earthquake Incident

Following the 6.5 magnitude earthquake on 21 July, all major assets in the Western Region were inspected and no perceptible damage to any stop banks or outlet structures was found. There was a small slip adjacent to Pomare Rock on the right bank of the Hutt River, which has now been fenced off for public safety purposes.

There has been no reported damage to the river or drainage schemes in the Wairarapa. The Lake Wairarapa barrage gates and pump drainage sites were inspected on 22 July, and no perceptible damage was observed. Staff are carrying out further visual inspections of key assets to confirm that no damage has occurred.

### 4.1.2 Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) Implementation

#### a) Boulcott/Hutt Project

The Boulcott/Hutt stopbank is now completed, one year ahead of schedule. The contractor's defects liability period will end in March 2014. The works remaining for 2013/14 include land transfers, the release of the contractor's retentions, the erection of a security fence at Safeway, minor earthworks on the golf course and handing over the completed works for maintenance. The Golf Club has also made good progress with the reinstatement works along the

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<sup>1</sup> Interim, final figures still to be received

stopbank and the disturbed areas of the former Boulcott course. These works will continue into 2013/14.

#### b) Hutt River - City Centre Upgrade Project

Project scoping for the City Centre Upgrade Project is completed. Outcomes from the scoping report were presented to the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee (HVFMS) and Hutt City Council City Development Committee on 19 June 2013 and 17 July 2013 respectively. The scoping study has identified that significant opportunities can be realised by combining components of other public projects in the river corridor with the flood protection works. These other projects include Hutt City Council's Making Places Project and NZTA's Melling Intersection Project. The Scoping Study recommends:

- Preparing an Integrated Project Plan that will combine feasible components of other projects with the flood protection project including funding requirements and time lines for consideration by the stake holders.
- Establishing a Project Steering Group (or similar) to guide technical inputs.
- Existing HVFMS to continue to govern the project.

These recommendations were endorsed by the HVFMS on 19 June 2013. Staff will now proceed with the preparation of the Integrated Project Plan. The Terms of Reference for the Project Steering Group and an update on the project will be reported to the September meetings of the HVFMS and the Environmental Wellbeing Committee.

#### c) Lower Waitohu Stream

Land entry negotiations with the landowners along the lower Waitohu Stream from Convent Road Bridge are progressing. Out of eight landowners along the access road, six agreements have been completed. Staff are currently negotiating a land entry agreement with the agents for owners of 74 Convent Road. The purpose of this agreement is to gain an easement to build the proposed five year stopbank. A draft resource consent application, including an ecological assessment, is being prepared for the 2013/14 works programme.

#### d) Otaki River

The draft channel management strategy for the Otaki River from mouth to gorge has been completed. The recommended option will form the basis for future capital works and associated environmental enhancement works. Staff will now commence the detailed design for the 2013/14 works programme.

#### e) Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Work Programme

The main development work programme for 2012/13 was completed. The core work was the boulder protection work at Paul's bank and at the Macland farm bank adjacent to Lake Onoke. A section of the Lake Onoke stopbank has been upgraded in terms of level consistency. There were some savings in the year's programme, which are now being utilised to progress a new stopbank at the

Tauanui delta. This stopbank, when completed, will provide a gravel trap for the Tauanui River to prevent gravel spilling into the Ruamahanga River diversion channel which reduces its capacity. Work on upgrading the Turanganui stopbank has commenced with vegetation clearing of the existing old stopbanks.

The house on the Tobin property stopbank upgrade site has been repaired, prior to the sale of the balance of the property which is not required for river protection purposes.

#### **4.1.3 Investigations, Strategy and Planning**

##### **a) Whakawhiriwhiri Stream Project**

The resource consent application to approve the diversion of the Tawaha Catchment into the Whakawhiriwhiri Stream is progressing. Staff have responded to the Environmental Regulation Department on points raised following a peer review of the hydraulic modelling, but a few further technical points have been raised. Our modelling consultant is working to address these with the peer reviewer. Once these matters have been resolved a hearing date will be confirmed. We anticipate this will take place in October.

##### **b) Waiwhetu Stream**

Two floodplain management option combinations were presented to the HVFMS on 11 June 2013. The HVFMS has asked us to do further work to develop these two options, including removing elements that contribute to the cost but don't make a large difference to flood risk. The HVFMS also asked us to re-investigate house raising as a flood risk management option.

Further work is being done to develop these two options and refine cost estimates with the aim of having a preferred option to present to the HVFMS towards the end of the financial year.

##### **c) Pinehaven Stream**

Community consultation on the preferred option is complete. Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM) has developed a draft FMP and this is now being reviewed by GWRC and Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC). The HVFMS requested that the draft FMP be presented to the subcommittee for endorsement at a meeting after the elections.

##### **d) Waikanae River**

Discussions are ongoing with Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) and Te Ati Awa Whakarongotai to seek their feedback on the Waikanae River Environmental Strategy, so that we can finalise our review of this document.

Flood Protection officers attended the Friends of the Waikanae River (FWR) Annual General Meeting. We gave a presentation with an overview of the year's work on the Waikanae River including: routine maintenance, Waikanae FMP review, Sediment Transport Study, Resource Consent applications and Civil Defence Emergency Management flood mapping. KCDC also presented their new flood hazard maps which are in the proposed District Plan.

There is tension in the FWR group which is partly due to concerns about the group being required to comply with GWRC's policy on eco-sourcing of plants for restoration projects. FWR resolved to arrange a meeting with GWRC and KCDC to see what can be done to ease these tensions.

#### e) Upper Wairarapa Valley FMPs Development

The project is running approximately six weeks behind schedule. Hydrology and geomorphology elements are largely complete. Hydraulic modelling is behind schedule but progressing, with preliminary model results becoming available. Flood damage assessment and erosion hazard assessment work is proceeding and work has commenced this month on the ecological values assessment, cultural values assessment, recreation/landscape heritage values assessment, and planning and land-use assessment. Community engagement is on-going, with meetings being held with groups such as local Rotary and Lions Clubs in the past few weeks.

A proposed governance structure for the development of the FMP is being reviewed internally before being discussed with Democratic Services. This governance structure is unlikely to be in place before March 2014; therefore the project team will continue to report to the Environment Wellbeing Committee in the interim.

#### f) Flood Hazard Advisory Services

Staff have provided input and a submission on the Peka Peka to Otaki expressway consent application (being coordinated via the Environmental Regulation Department). We will continue to provide input to the GWRC submission, and will provide evidence to the hearing.

We have also supported UHCC for its District Plan Change 15, which includes flood hazards for the Mangaroa River and Hutt Rivers. Working with UHCC officers and our consultants SKM, we have provided additional information requested by the hearing commissioners.

#### g) Floodplain Management Guidelines

Work on the FMP guidelines is complete. We are now in the process of publishing the guidelines.

## **4.2 Land Management**

### **4.2.1 Akura Conservation Centre**

The Centre has been very busy since it opened for business in the first week of June. Much of the trading has been associated with internal programmes, such as the Land Management hill country erosion and lowland nutrient management programmes, and Biodiversity's work associated with Wairarapa Moana. It is anticipated that this work will continue through to the end of September. Sales to the public were relatively slow through June, but have picked up in the last few weeks.

Work is currently underway to prepare five hectares of land in the new PK Trust nursery for planting in September. This builds on the six hectares successfully established last year. 25,000 new poplar and willow wands will be

planted along with 2,000 rooted cuttings that will replace failures in last year's block. This will leave 2 hectares to be planted in 2014, which will complete the extension to the Akura nursery.



*Blanking using rooted stock*



*Wands being prepared for planting*

#### **4.2.2 Forestry update**

##### **a) Metro Forests**

Harvesting continues in one block at Valley View and two in Puketiro. A fourth crew has been engaged for two months to ensure that contracted areas are completed prior to 30 June 2014. Some blocks within the Metro forest suffered minor wind damage on 20 June. Damage has been limited to small areas in Puketiro and Whakatikei forests. Trees will be salvaged from Puketiro, but access issues at Whakatikei and the small scale of the wind-throw will mean these trees will be left where they lie. Some alteration, possibly up to three hectares, will need to be made to the cutting rights sale and purchase agreement.



## b) Reserve Forests

Harvest at Tauanui has been completed, except for three small areas totalling six hectares. These stands are somewhat inaccessible and will be removed from the pending forestry rights sale and managed through to reversion of native forest. The first month of harvesting at Hiwinui was completed in June and very good yields and prices have been obtained. Comparative figures are contained in Table 1. It is anticipated that all of the 1984 crop at Hiwinui will be harvested in this financial year, resulting in budgeted net stumpage revenue of \$880,000. The remaining forests in Hiwinui, planted from 1985 to 1989, will be subject to the cutting rights sale process.

**Table 1 - Forest Harvest Summary – 2012/13**

<b>Forest</b>	<b>Metro</b>	<b>Tauanui</b>	<b>Hiwinui</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of Gross Revenue</b>
<b>Tonnes</b>	83,161	7,798	2,347	<b>93,306</b>	
<b>Gross Revenue</b>	\$7,140,385	\$624,110	\$232,784	<b>\$7,997,279</b>	
<b>Harvest Cost</b>	\$2,609,239	\$254,620	\$76,432	<b>\$2,940,291</b>	36.8%
<b>Cartage Cost</b>	\$1,145,262	\$167,607	\$43,530	<b>\$1,356,399</b>	17.0%
<b>Procurement Cost</b>	\$320,658	\$30,396	\$11,639	<b>\$362,693</b>	4.5%
<b>Net Return – (% of Gross revenue)</b>	\$3,065,225 (42.9%)	\$167,883 (26.9%)	\$97,757 (42.0%)	<b>\$3,337,896</b>	41.7%
<b>Net Stumpage</b>	\$36.85	\$21.53	\$41.65	<b>\$35.70</b>	

## c) Forestry Cutting Rights Sale

The cutting rights sale process is approaching the closing date for Stage I tenders. Tenders for this stage close on 22 August, with a paper to be presented to a Council workshop on 10 September. Interest has been high, with 44 interested parties having accessed the data room and five companies taking tours of both forests.

### 4.2.3 Winter works programme

A total of 10,000 poles have been airlifted onto hill country properties as part of the poplar and willow planting programme. Contractors have been engaged to plant these poles, along with those that do not require the helicopter. In total, 20,000 poles will be planted this winter. In addition, some 164,000 pine trees are to be planted on 150 hectares of erosion prone land. Concurrent to this work is the first year of riparian planting in the Mangatarere and Mangaone catchments, where there is considerable interest in a range of



techniques targeting nutrient loss from dairy farms. This work is being carried out with co-operation from DairyNZ and fertiliser companies.

#### **4.2.4 Highlights from 2012/13**

- Completion of 10 Farm Environment Plans, with a focus on managing nutrients in the Mangatarere and Mangaone catchments, and 15 Wairarapa Regional Erosion Control Initiative (WRECI) Plans, targeting erosion prone land in the Wairarapa hill country;
- Continuing to provide operational support to the Wairarapa Moana Clean-up Fund programme, especially in the area of nutrient management through farm planning and works implementation;
- Completing Stage I of the Akura Yard development plan and planting 6 hectares of new nursery;
- Finalising the international marketing of the Forestry Cutting Rights sale and achieving the forecast tonnage of 80,000 tonnes from Metro and Reserve forests;
- Completing the fourth year of the hill country Wellington Regional Erosion Control Implementation (WRECI) programme and ensuring ongoing funding from the Ministry for Primary Industries for a further two years.

### **4.3 Biodiversity**

#### **4.3.1 Biodiversity Management Areas Programme**

- A project at Mataikona Coast was financed by Masterton District Council and organised by Biodiversity Department staff. This involved fencing and planting an area of pingao.
- Arbor Day planting at Parangarahu Lake with Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust was well attended. Members of Mainland Island Restoration Operation (MIRO) and GWRC staff were also present.
- A planting day at the Northern Wetland in Queen Elizabeth Park was organised with Parks Department staff.
- Bait stations and traps at Wainuiomata Mainland Island were fully serviced and re-filled. Pig cullers shot 8 boars, 4 sows, 2 juvenile pigs and 1 deer.

#### **4.3.2 Porirua Harbour Project**

- A public planting day at the Pauatahanui Wildlife Refuge was carried out in partnership with Forest and Bird.
- A planting day was carried out with Titahi Bay Intermediate School at the Pauatahanui Wildlife Refuge.
- The Porirua Harbour Estuary Restoration Options document, identifying potential estuarine restoration projects, was finalised

- A project proposal was put forward by Ground Truth for the Porirua Harbour whole of catchment plan, discussed in a staff workshop and approved.
- A review of the Pauatahanui Vegetation Framework was completed by Ground Truth and presented to staff.
- Two articles about what locals can do to improve the health of Porirua Harbour have now been printed in a regular column series in the Kapi-Mana News.

#### 4.4.3 Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project

- Staff have worked with the Land Management department and DOC to facilitate community and school planting days at Onoke Spit, Onoke/Okorewa Lagoon, Wairio Wetland, Ruamahanga Banks and Lake Domain (including Barton’s Lagoon). Staff have also provided support in the wider Wairarapa with plantings at Riversdale Dunes, Makoura Stream and Papawai.
- Biodiversity staff continue to administer the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project Coordinating Committee.
- Collation of content for the Wairarapa Moana website is on-going.
- A baseline native plant survey was carried out by Biodiversity and DOC staff at Onoke/Okorewa Lagoon.
- The work of the volunteer South Wairarapa Biodiversity Group has been strongly supported by the department, enabling the group to carry out a range of activities including planting and native plant and bird monitoring.
- The department has initiated a collaborative project with DOC, looking at the biodiversity values in the Lake Pounui and Pounui Lagoon area (south west of Wairarapa Moana) and identifying opportunities to further enhance this high value biodiversity area.
- Wetland bird surveys were completed in June. Following this, trapping equipment has been purchased to protect the habitat for bittern and marsh crake.

#### 4.4.4 Biodiversity advice

- Staff provided advice on five resource consent applications. Advice was given to the Flood Protection Department on the effects of proposed capital works in the Waitohu Stream catchment.

**Table 1: Breakdown of advice provided on policy and planning documents**

Policy Document	Advice Provided
<b>District Plan</b>	<b>1</b>
UHCC_Proposed changes to district plan 2004 (Subdivision)	
<b>GW Management Plans</b>	<b>1</b>
Pinehaven Floodplain Management Plan	
<b>Other statutory</b>	<b>2</b>
PCC_Draft Reserves Management Plan	
KCDC_Proposed Amendment Pharayzan Reserve Management	

Plan	
<b>Other non-statutory</b>	<b>1</b>
WCC_Draft Open Spaces and Recreation Framework 2013-23	
<b>Regional Plan</b>	<b>3</b>
Beds of Lakes and Rivers – draft provisions	
Coastal – draft provisions	
Wetlands – identifying significance tables	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8</b>

Technical biodiversity advice on a range of ecosystem types was provided to 5 external and 2 internal clients in this period (Table 2).

**Table 2**

Client	Habitat Type						Totals
	Coastal	Dunes	Non-specific	Riparian	Rivers & streams	Wetlands & lakes	
Community group	1	1					2
Individual Landowner					1	1	2
Biosecurity			1				1
Parks	1			1			2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>

- A project addressing cumulative impacts on biodiversity from consented activities has been undertaken. Early in 2013/14 this work will be shared with other relevant GWRC departments and discussions initiated on this issue.

#### 4.4.5 Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project

The boardwalk and section of walkway funded by the Enhanced Accessway Commission has been completed. The South Wairarapa District Council has constructed a car park within the Boggy Pond/Matthews Lagoon complex, which will service both of these wetlands and the walkway. This walkway is the first public accessway to the eastern lakeshore of Lake Wairarapa. Further work to complete the project includes appropriate signage and formation of a track from the boardwalk to the lakeshore.

A number of public planting days have been held. The changeable weather and high water levels have hindered planting and attendance at the planting days.

Progress in the Clean Up Fund Project has been slower than anticipated due to the requirement to build relationships with landowners. Areas under budget included on-farm works, technology transfer and restoration works.

Achievements over the 2012/13 year included:

- Farm assessment on over 20 farms which have generated 92 on-farm projects;
- 10 hectares of aerial spraying, plus ground control and planting within the edge wetland complexes;

- Preparation of an aquatic weeds booklet for the landowners;
- Involvement of wetland specialists in determining the possible works within the edge wetlands;
- Four water sampling runs to determine background nutrient level concentrations within the waterways;
- Bird and fish surveys to gain knowledge of the distribution of native species. Results from this work have refined our restoration works programme;
- Good attendance by farmers at a field day on effluent management practises;
- Agreement in principle from Fish and Game for a trial to remove exotic fish from within Barton's Lagoon.

The focus for this upcoming year is to develop and implement work programmes to spend the budgeted funds.

## **4.5 Biosecurity**

### **4.5.1 Key Results for 2012/13**

- Rook nest numbers have dropped significantly with sustained control. Progress to achieve eradication of this pest is on track;
- The Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Catchment aerial 1080 project was completed. This has contributed to the successful breeding of North Island robin in the Mainland Island, following their release in July 2012;
- The Otaki Buffer aerial 1080 project was completed to strict Animal Health Board (AHB) standards;
- The BioWorks team completed all of the 2012/13 contracted AHB work (32,000 ha carried over from 2011/12 and 52,600 ha of 2012/13 programme);
- The Regional Possum and Predator Control Programme commenced in Kapiti and Porirua (covering 12,300 ha) and continued in North Wairarapa (15,000 ha).

### **4.5.2 Pest Animals**

#### **a) Akatarawa Forest aerial 1080 possum control 2013**

The prefeed part of this operation was completed on 25 June. A weather window to progress this operation is likely for the 29 July. We require a fine calm day followed by, ideally, three dry nights. The forest will need to be closed for three days so tracks can be cleared of baits and carcasses.

#### **b) Boggy Pond/Matthews Lagoon/Wairio Wetland**

A predator control programme is about to commence at these three adjoining wetlands on the eastern side of Lake Wairarapa under the Freshstart for Freshwater Clean up Fund. The mustelid and cat traps will be installed in July, to protect Australasian Bittern during the breeding season.

### c) Rabbits

Annual rabbit spotlight counts and property inspections were completed in May and June. The rabbit population throughout the region remains stable, with no properties above the enforcement level of 5 on the Modified McLean Scale. There are small pockets of rabbits in the Kapiti coast which go up and down with the seasonal conditions. These populations usually occur around lifestyle blocks and amenity areas. Rabbit populations remained low in most parts of the Wairarapa.

The annual blood serum sampling to assess regional immunity levels for rabbit calicivirus disease was not undertaken in 2012/13. The blood sampling will take priority next year.

### d) Moa Point Rabbit Control

Rabbits appear to have been successfully controlled on the island at Moa Point in south Wellington. A poison operation was undertaken in conjunction with Wellington City Council (WCC), in preparation for restoration plantings and to protect the existing vegetation. Moa Point is an important coastal biodiversity site in the heart of Wellington city, with rare coastal plants and sea birds nesting on the island.

### e) Wellington City Night Shooting

Rabbit nightshooting was successfully implemented across WCC parks, reserves and cemeteries. The operation was funded by WCC. Rabbit calicivirus appears to have hit the rabbit population at Fort Dorset, giving valuable natural control in a place where rabbits are difficult to manage. There continues to be resident pockets of rabbits around central Wellington.

### f) Enhancing the Halo

The Morgan Foundation has commenced a Halo project to encourage private landowners to undertake pest control in their own back-yard. The project aims to make Wellington New Zealand's natural capital, by making all back-yards safe havens for native wildlife. Biosecurity staff have given advice to get the correct messages and methods portrayed, and purchased traps and bait stations on their behalf so they can be sold to the public through a discounted voucher system. DOC is assisting with training sessions for landowners, which GWRC will also be involved in. More information can be found at <http://halo.org.nz/>.



*Installing aerial prefeed signage on Waiotauru Road in the Akatarawa's*

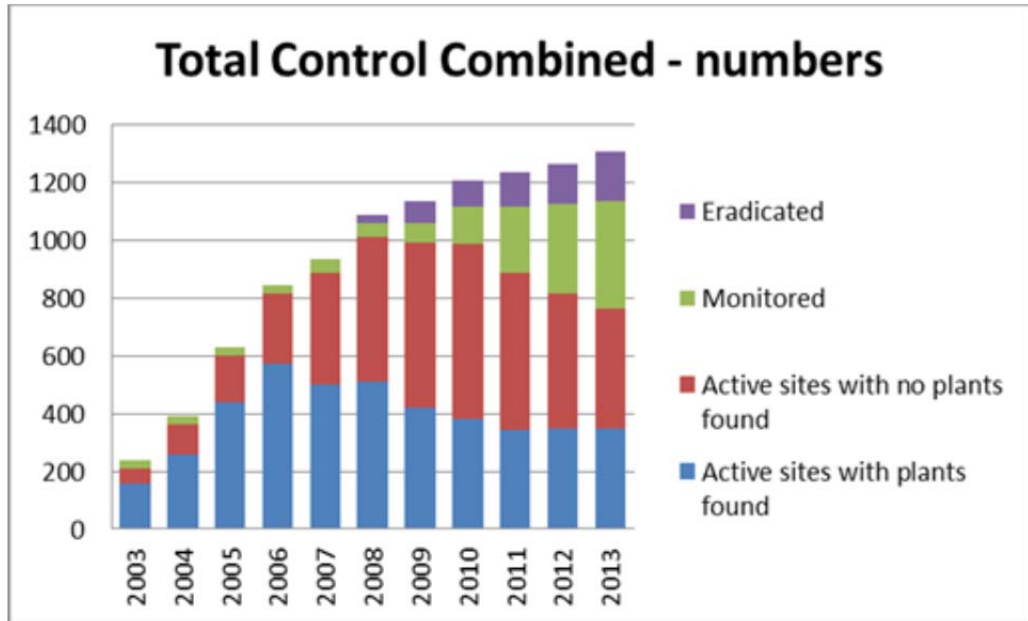


*Nesting penguins interrupted at night in a nesting box at Moa Point, benefiting from mustelid control in place in the area.*

### 4.5.3 Pest Plants

#### a) Snapshot of Total Control Species results

At year end the Regional Pest Management Strategy species results trends show significant gains are being made across the region. The most pleasing trend (outlined in the graph below) is the increasing number of sites with no plants found.



#### b) Key Native Ecosystems

The annual review of Memorandum of Understanding plans have been completed with Territorial Authority staff in preparation for annual meetings.

#### c) Monitoring

Staff are preparing for the monitoring of recent and planned releases of biocontrol agents after further discussions with Landcare Research regarding best practice techniques. We are also proposing to construct simple insect netting enclosures at some sites to ensure releases remain confined for a couple of seasons to enhance breeding before we begin distributing them to other sites.

### 4.5.4 BioWorks

#### a) 2013/14 Tbfree NZ Programme

BioWorks have secured 20,850 ha of vector control contracts to date for the 2013/14 year. We have commenced control in the Mt Bruce - Waipoua project area. Approvals from affected landowner and from the Medical Officer of Health to apply cyanide are being sought.

#### b) Regional Possum Predator Control Programme (RPPCP)

Staff are servicing bait stations within the North Wairarapa and Kapiti RPPCP areas with brodifacoum. Bait stations are continuing to be installed in the Porirua area.

c) **Western Tararua Aerial 1080 Control**

Planning for the aerial control project in Western Tararua is almost complete. This project is due to be undertaken in late August to September.

**5. Recommendations**

*That the Committee*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:



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Management