



Report 13.797
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Committee Environmental Wellbeing
Author Davor Bejakovich, Manager, Biosecurity

Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022: Operational Plan 2013/14

1. Purpose

To seek approval of the Operational Plan 2013/14 which seeks to progress the aims and objectives of the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022.

2. The decision-making process and significance

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

2.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance policy and decision making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

The Council is required to prepare an annual Regional Pest Management Strategy (RPMS) Operational Plan under Section 100B of the Biosecurity Act 1993. There is no formal requirement to have the Operational Plan approved by the Council, but it is considered appropriate to do so. This aligns with the Council's support of biosecurity matters in the region and transparency of expenditure.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining considerations of the decision making process is required in this instance.

3. Background

The Council approved the RPMS 2002 – 2022 on 17 September 2002. The Strategy underwent a statutory five year review and was approved by Council on 12 June 2009.

The Operational Plan (the Plan) is prepared annually for Committee approval, followed by an annual report on performance against the objectives.

The Biosecurity Act 1993 specifies a number of requirements for an Operational Plan. The Council must:

- Review the Plan annually and, if deemed appropriate, amend it;
- Provide a copy of the Plan to the responsible Minister;
- Prepare an annual report on the Plan, including the effectiveness of implementation, not later than five months after the end of each financial year;
- Make copies of the Plan and annual report available to the public.

4. The Plan

The proposed Plan 2013/14 is attached as **Attachment 1**.

The Plan 2013/14 seeks to implement the fifth year of the reviewed Strategy, and year twelve of the overall Strategy document. An Operational Report on the success of Strategy implementation for the 2012/13 year will be presented in November 2013.

During 2013/14 Biosecurity resources will be focused on the key aspects of strategy implementation, including:

- Managing Regional Surveillance and Total Control species, all of which are capable of becoming significant regional pests if establishment occurs;
- Ensuring that Containment Pests are maintained within their current infestation zones;
- Continuing the extensive Site-Led pest management programmes in Key Native Ecosystems across private land, local authority reserves and regional parks;
- Implementation of the fourth year of the Regional Possum and Predator Control Programme;
- Working with landowners, care groups, iwi, local and national government on a range of regional and national pest management projects.

The successful Key Native Ecosystems programme continues to protect and enhance the best sites of biodiversity in the Wellington region. It is equally important for building and maintaining relationships with private landowners and Territorial Local Authorities within the region.

Public awareness and education remains an important aspect of implementing the Strategy. A range of paper and electronic resources are available to the public, and Biosecurity staff will continue to give presentations to schools, community and interest groups on RPMS related topics.

A statutory five year review of the overall Strategy document will be undertaken in 2014. This review will assess the progress of the current management programmes, and make any amendments required. The review is well timed to meet the new requirements of the recent Biosecurity Law Reform Bill and the proposed National Policy Direction. Any amendments will be clearly signalled to the community through a consultation document.

5. Communication

The Biosecurity Act requires that copies of the Plan be made available to the public at cost price. However, the GWRC policy is that all publications should be provided free of charge. Public notices will be placed in the major regional papers drawing the public's attention to the availability of the Plan.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report
3. **Approves** the proposed Operational Plan 2013/14 (Attachment 1) for the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022.

Report prepared by:

Report Approved by:



Davor Bejakovich
Manager,
Biosecurity



Wayne O'Donnell
General Manager, Catchment
Management Group