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**TE MAHERE Ā-ROHE KAUPARE RIHA**  
MAHERE MAHI 2025/26

**REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025/26

## **1. Kupu Arataki/Introduction**

### **1.1 Regional Pest Management Plan**

The Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2039 (RPMP) was prepared in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993 and became operative on the 2nd of July 2019.

This Operational Plan has been prepared in accordance with section 100B of the Biosecurity Act 1993. This plan identifies and outlines the nature and scope of activities that the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GW) intends to undertake in the implementation of its RPMP for the financial year 2025/26.

The RPMP contains objectives specific to individual pests and outlines how we, as the Management Agency, will achieve those objectives. The RPMP has clearly defined rules to be met by all land occupiers. It is our responsibility to ensure land occupiers are aware of, and meet, their obligations for pest management on their properties. We can also undertake pest control operations where there is recognised regional benefit.

### **1.2 Implementation**

The purpose of this plan is to implement the RPMP region-wide by:

**Monitoring** for the presence of declared pests in the Wellington Region.

**Minimising** the actual and potential adverse or unintended effects associated with the specified organisms.

**Eradicating** certain organisms, reducing the extent of others, and containing those species that are already well established.

### **1.3 Areas of responsibility**

This plan and the RPMP are based on the following core areas of our responsibilities:

#### **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.

#### **Surveillance**

Undertaking surveillance (also referred to as 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, we may utilise them. Biocontrol is currently a key tool in the management of rabbits, various pest plants and other harmful species.

### **1.4 Integration with Annual Plan and Environment Business Plan**

The Operational Plan is integrated with the GW Annual Plan and the Environment Group Business 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 2025/26 year. The Environment Group Business Plan is a more detailed plan for the year and includes implementation costs.

### **1.5 Implementation report**

A report on the RPMP Operational Plan and the summary of its implementation will be prepared no later than five months after conclusion of the financial year. Copies of the report will be made available to the public.

### **1.6 Review**

This plan will be reviewed and reported on annually. The plan may be amended to ensure that the objectives of the RPMP will be achieved within its terms. Section 100G of the Biosecurity Act allows us to make minor changes to the RPMP, provided we are satisfied that the changes will not have any significant effects on the rights and obligations of any persons.

## **2. Kaupapa - tirohanga whānui/Programme overview**

### **2.1 Species led programmes**

There are four species led programmes that are outlined in the RPMP:

**Exclusion programme:** To prevent the establishment of a species that is present in New Zealand but not yet established in an area.

**Eradication programme:** To reduce the infestation level of a species to zero levels in an area in the short to medium term.

**Progressive Containment programme:** To contain or reduce the geographic distribution of a species.

**Sustained Control programme:** To provide ongoing control of a species to reduce its impacts on values and spread to other properties.

Additionally, we are involved in four programmes that are part of national agreements and/or are funded nationally:

**National Pest Plant Accord:** To prevent the sale, distribution and propagation of a set list of pest plants (approximately 135 named species) within New Zealand.

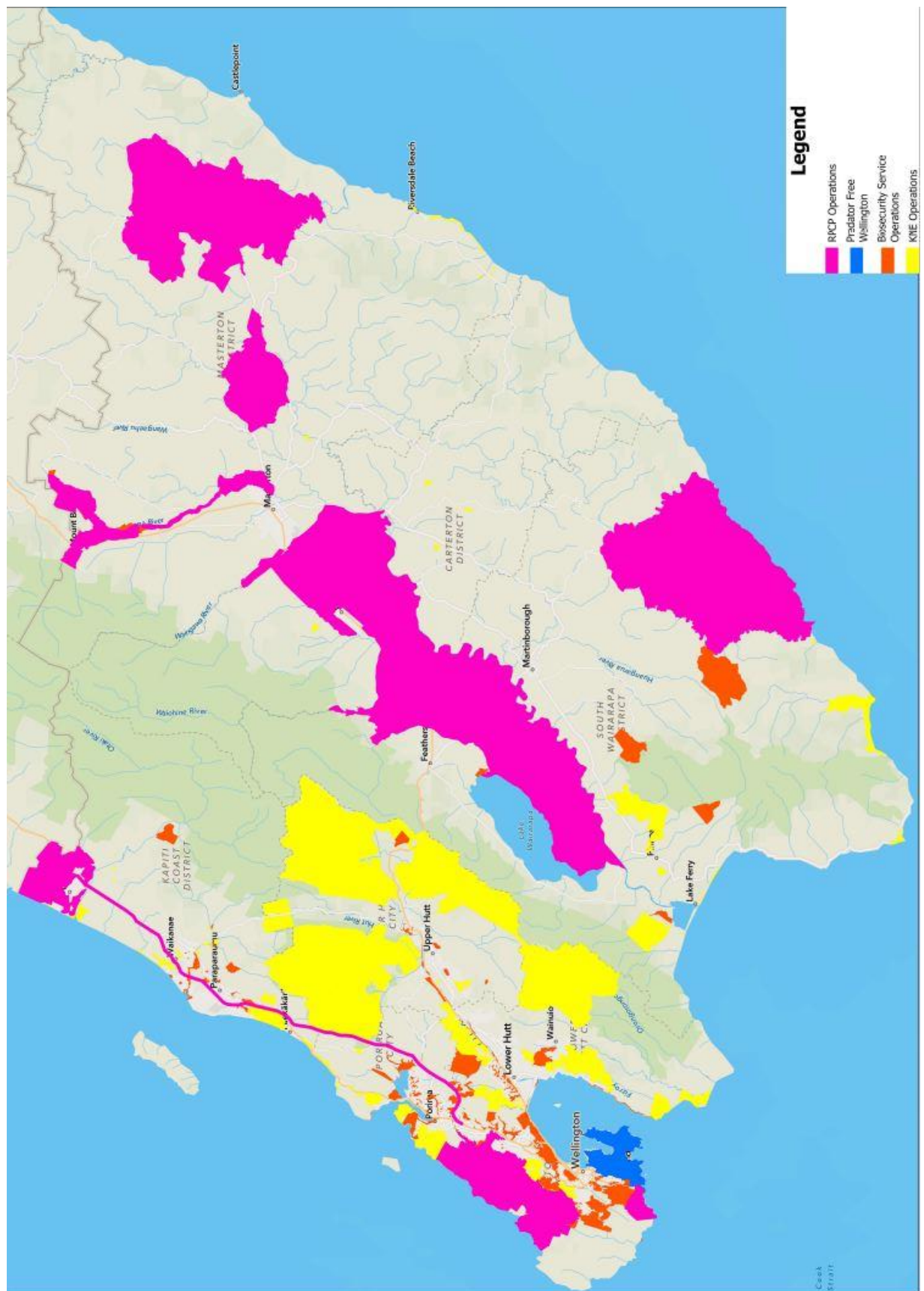
**National Interest Pest Response programme:** To eradicate certain species (currently just Manchurian wild rice) from the Wellington Region.

**Check, Clean, Dry:** To keep our waterways clean and free of invasive freshwater pests.

**Biocontrol programme:** To fund biocontrol programmes for prioritised pest species.

### **2.2 Site led programmes**

There are four site led programmes that are delivered through the RPMP (see Map 1, next page).



**Predator Free Wellington Project (PFW):** Aims to eliminate mustelids, possums and rats from Wellington City, focussing on the area designated Phase two in the CBD and maintain the areas already cleared of predators in this Phase two area and the Miramar Peninsula. Predator Free Wellington is a project funded by the Wellington City Council, GW, Predator Free 2050 and the NEXT Foundation and other smaller funders/sponsors. Once the rate of progress is known, Predator Free Wellington will gather permission to operate on private land in the subsequent Phased areas.

**Regional Predator Control Programme (RPCP):** To maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity through control of possums and other predators that are a serious threat to our native biodiversity and economy. The areas we work in are chosen based on protecting the best biodiversity ecosystems outside of the Key Native Ecosystem programme. Formerly this programme was driven largely by declarations of bovine Tb freedom.

**Biosecurity Services programme:** This activity aims to provide biosecurity delivery services across the region. This includes maintaining a buffer for predators around Pūkaha/Mt Bruce, providing cost recovery services to Territorial Authorities and landowners. Activities such as these lead to biodiversity gains for the region by reducing the impact of pest and invasive species.

**Key Native Ecosystem programme (KNE):** To protect and restore representative examples of original indigenous ecosystem types of high value in the Wellington Region through effective biodiversity management. This involves the development of strategic operational plans, planning operational activities, working with management partners and delivery of management activities including pest control.

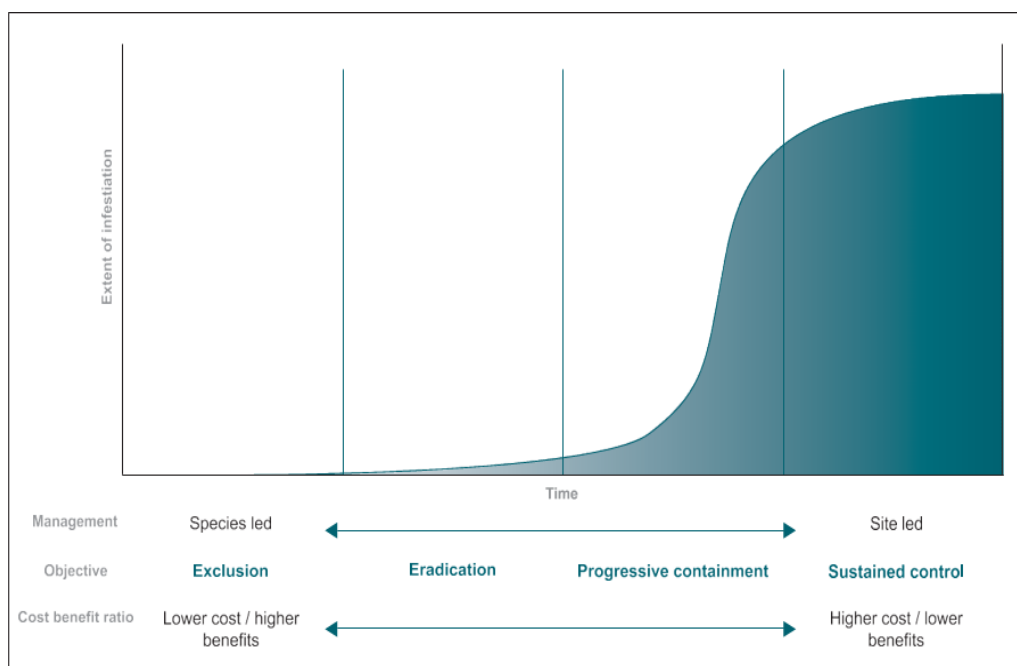
## **2.3 Pest control methods**

We use a range of methods and tools to control pest plants and pest animals within the region. All control operations are undertaken by trained staff, contractors or volunteers using industry accepted best practice techniques. Our methodology considers innovation, environmental and humane factors alongside cost-effectiveness and practicality. Where chemical-based pest control methods are utilised, the most effective and least harmful option is always preferred, with all chemical application following best practice and manufacturer instructions, as endorsed by the New Zealand Environmental Protection Authority.

## 2.4 How were the pest species decided?

A cost-benefit analysis (CBA) was undertaken for all species proposed for the RPMP. This process decided what control, if any, was to be undertaken and what level of management was needed for the species. The CBA works in conjunction with the invasion curve, which designates the different management programmes.

**Table 1: The Invasion Curve**



**Figure 1: Pest infestation phases through time in relation to its appropriate management. Adapted from our Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-39**



### 3. Tipu Riha/Pest Plants

#### 3.1 Exclusion programme

Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*), Nassella tussock (*N. trichotoma*).

**Aim:** Prevent the establishment of exclusion plant species in the Wellington Region.

##### Performance Measures

###### Identify new sites

Identify new incursion sites of exclusion plant species.

###### Incident investigation and response

Undertake initial investigations for all reports within five working days.

Develop and implement response plans within 20 working days.

#### 3.2 Eradication programme

Moth plant (*Araujia hortorum*), Senegal tea (*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*), Spartina (*Sporobolus anglicus*, *S. alterniflorus*), Velvetleaf (*Abutilon theophrasti*), Woolly nightshade (*Solanum mauritianum*).

**Aim:** Destroy all known infestations of eradication plant species in the Wellington Region.

##### Performance Measures

###### Identify new sites

Identify new sites of eradication plant species.

###### Incident investigation and response

Respond to reports from the public on eradication plant species within five working days and complete actions within 20 working days.

###### Best practice management

Conduct routine control visits to all management sites in accordance with scheduled best practices.



### 3.3 Progressive Containment programme

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Wilding conifers: European larch (*Larix decidua*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and pine species (*Pinus spp.*).

**Aim:** Progressively contain and reduce the geographic distribution of progressive containment plant species in the Wellington Region.

#### Performance Measure

##### Incident investigation and response

Undertake initial investigations for all reported sightings or discoveries of

- Purple loosestrife (in wetlands or waterbodies identified as natural and/or outstanding waterbodies and wetlands in the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region), and
- Wilding conifers (in Pakuratahi Forest KNE where the alpine and sub-alpine ecosystems are at risk)

within five working days and document decisions within 20 working days.

##### Best practice management

Conduct routine control visits to all management sites in accordance with scheduled best practices.

### 3.4 Sustained Control programme

Blue passionflower (*Passiflora caerulea*), Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*), Climbing spindleberry (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Eelgrass (*Vallisneria spiralis*, *V. gigantea*).

**Aim:** Control sustained control plant species to reduce their spread and minimise adverse effects.

#### Performance Measures

##### Incident investigation and response

Undertake initial investigations for all reported sightings or discoveries of sustained control plant species within 10 working days and document decisions within 20 working days.

##### Best practice management

Conduct routine control visits to all management sites in accordance with scheduled best practices.

### 3.5 Site led programme

Banana passionfruit (*Passiflora mixta*, *P. mollissima*, *P. tripartita*), Cathedral bells (*Cobaea scandens*), Old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*)

**Aim:** Control and reduce the geographic distribution and/or extent of these species within the Hutt City Council Territorial Authority boundary (programme delivered by the Hutt City Council).

#### Performance Measure

##### Incident investigation and response

Provide compliance enforcement assistance to the Hutt City Council within 10 working days of receiving a request from Hutt City Council.

### 3.6 National Pest Plant Accord

**Aim:** Prevent the sale, distribution and propagation of a set list of plants within the Wellington Region.

#### Performance Measures

##### Incident investigation and response

Undertake initial investigations for all reports of pest plants on the National Pest Plant Accord list within five working days.

##### Events

Monitor platforms and events that sell plants and visit retail outlets.

### 3.7 National Interest Pest Response programme

**Aim:** Eradicate National Interest Pest Response (NIPR) plants from the Wellington Region, as directed by the Ministry of Primary Industries.

#### Performance Measure

##### Identify new sites

Identify new incursion sites of National Interest Pest Response plants.

##### Incident investigation and response

Respond to reports from the public on National Interest Pest Response plants within five working days and complete actions within 20 working days.

##### Best practice management

Visit all Manchurian wild rice management sites and undertake control on scheduled best practise rotation.

Attend nation-wide Manchurian wild rice Best Practice workshop for stakeholders.

### 3.8 Biocontrol programme

**Aim:** Undertake Biocontrol for prioritised target weeds in the Wellington Region.

#### Performance Measures

##### Release and transfers of biocontrol agents

Release biocontrol agents (directly from Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research) or transfer from other translocation sites.

##### Progress towards establishment

Monitor agents until it is determined that a given agent has successfully established and is self-spreading or has failed to establish.



Image 1. Successful establishment of Tradescantia yellow leaf spot fungus

### 3.9 Check, Clean, Dry programme

**Aim:** Keep waterways in the Wellington Region free of invasive freshwater pests.

#### Performance Measures

##### Promote CCD message

Attend outdoor/freshwater events.

Regularly produce social media posts during summer.

Distribute CCD resources to relevant retailers and event organisers in the region.

##### Waterside CCD signs maintained

Review and maintain 76 waterside signs at least once over the season.

## 4. Kīrearea/Pest Animals

### 4.1 Exclusion programme

Wallaby (*Macropus rufogriseus*, *Macropus eugenii*).

**Aim:** Prevent the establishment of wallabies in the Wellington Region.

#### Performance Measures

##### Identify new sites

Identify new wallaby incursion sites.

##### Incident investigation and response

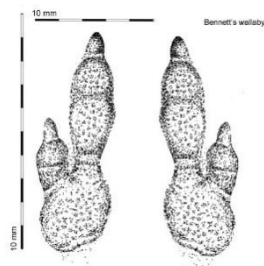
Undertake initial investigations for all reports within five working days.

Develop and implement response plans within 20 working days.

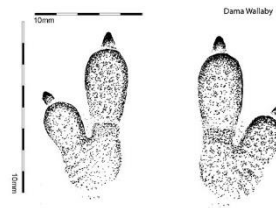
Continue to work with the Ministry for Primary Industries and provide surveillance activities for any new sightings in the region.

##### Wallaby surveillance sites

Report on sites of interest/recent investigations.



Bennett's Wallaby footprints (credit: S. Frimmel, Pest Detective)



Dama Wallaby footprints (credit: S. Frimmel, Pest Detective)

### 4.2 Eradication programme

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*)

**Aim:** Eradicate all rooks from the Wellington Region.

#### Performance Measures

##### Identify new sites

Survey historic rookeries and any new reported rookeries.

##### Best practice management

Undertake control (by aerial nest treatment or ground control) of rooks at all known sites.

#### 4.3 Sustained Control programme

Feral rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), Wasps (common wasp – *Vespula vulgaris*, German wasp – *V. germanica*, Australian paper wasp – *Polistes humilis*, Asian paper wasp – *P. chinensis*).

**Aim:** Sustained control of feral rabbits to minimise adverse effects to the environment and maintain populations below Level 5 McLeans Scale (See Appendix 1).

##### Performance Measure

###### Public enquiries

Respond to public enquiries about feral rabbits within 10 working days.

###### Cost-recovery management

Undertake appropriate control at sites, as resources allow.

###### Monitoring

Carry out regional trend monitoring using Modified McLean Scale, Kilometre night counts and fly testing for Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease presence.

**Aim:** Sustained control of wasps to minimise adverse effects to the environment and protect human health.

##### Performance Measures

###### Public enquiries

Respond to public enquiries about wasps within 10 working days.

###### Management

Ensure appropriate wasp control is undertaken at sites to protect human health.

## 5. Kaupapa - whakahaere ā-pae/Site led programmes

### 5.1 Predator Free Wellington

Mustelids (ferrets – *Mustela furo*, stoats – *M. erminea*, weasels – *M. nivalis*), Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), Rats (*Rattus norvegicus*, *R. rattus*).

**Aim:** Eliminate and maintain elimination of mustelids, possums and rats from land contained within the boundaries of the Predator Free Wellington initiative (Phase one - Miramar Peninsula, Phase two – Island Bay to CBD).

#### Performance Measures

##### Community engagement

Gain permission from landowners/occupiers to work on private land.  
Enable and train community to continue predator control work in Phase two and maintain the successes in Phase one – Miramar Peninsula.  
Maintain and advocate for community support for the project.

##### Progress towards eradication

Maintaining a biosecurity status by eliminating all incursions of target species (rats, mustelids and possums) on land within the boundaries of Phase one (Miramar Peninsula).  
Ongoing elimination of target species in Phase two (Island Bay to CBD).

### 5.2 Regional Predator Control Programme

Mustelids (ferrets – *Mustela furo*, stoats – *M. erminea*, weasels – *M. nivalis*), Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), Pest cat (*Felis catus*).

**Aim:** Control possums and other predators that are a serious threat to our native biodiversity and economy.

#### Performance Measure

##### Possum Control

Complete planned control at all management sites.

##### Predator Control

Complete planned control at all management sites.

##### Possum Monitoring

Monitor possum populations at selected sites.

### 5.3 Biosecurity Services programme

European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus occidentalis*), Feral deer – fallow, red and sika (*Dama*, *Cervus elaphus*, *C. nippon*), Feral rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), Mustelids (ferrets – *Mustela furo*, stoats – *M. erminea*, weasels – *M. nivalis*), Pest cat (*Felis catus*), Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), Rats (*Rattus norvegicus*, *R. rattus*).

**Aim:** Provide biosecurity delivery services across the Wellington Region.

#### Performance Measures

##### Small mammal management

Complete cost recovery bait station and trapping operations at agreed Territorial Authority and other sites.

##### Small mammal management

Complete predator trapping operations in the Pūkaha/Mount Bruce buffer and Wairarapa Moana area.

##### Feral rabbit management

Complete cost recovery feral rabbit control baiting and night shooting control at all agreed Territorial Authority sites, Pūkaha /Mt Bruce and Recloaking Papatūānuku sites.

##### Ungulate management

Complete planned cost recovery control at all deer, goat and pig management sites as agreed with relevant Territorial Authorities and other sites.

Implementation of the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo zero ungulate project operational plan.

##### Magpie enquiries

Respond to owners/occupiers wanting to undertake magpie control with 15 days of receiving a request for information and/or assistance.

##### Magpie control

Undertake control of magpies within 10 working days where there is a threat of injury to people.



## 5.4 Key Native Ecosystem programme

European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus occidentalis*), Feral deer – fallow, red and sika (*Dama*, *Cervus elaphus*, *C. nippon*), Mustelids (ferrets – *Mustela furo*, stoats – *M. erminea*, weasels – *M. nivalis*), Pest cat (*Felis catus*), Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), Rats (*Rattus norvegicus*, *R. rattus*).

**Aim:** Protect and restore representative examples of original indigenous ecosystem types of high value in the Wellington Region as per KNE plans. Pest control component as follows.

### Performance Measures: Pest Animals

#### Small mammal management

Complete bait station and trapping operations at KNE sites and other special KNE projects.

#### Small mammal monitoring

Undertake small mammal monitoring at selected sites.

#### Possum management (aerial)

Complete the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo aerial 1080 operation.

Undertake possum population monitoring as required for aerial operational areas.

Plan for a winter 2026 Akatarawa Forest aerial 1080 operation.

#### Ungulate management

Complete planned control at all deer, goat and pig KNE management sites.

### Performance Measures: Pest Plants

#### Ground based weed control

Complete ground-based weed control at 55 KNE sites.

#### Aerial based weed control

Complete aerial-based weed control at up to four KNE sites.

## 6. He Tohutohu, He Mātauranga, He Whakaanga/Advice, Education and Engagement

**Aim:** Provide advice, attend events and undertake publicity campaigns to increase public awareness of pests and harmful organisms

### Performance Measure

#### Response to public enquiries

Provide information to landowners about their responsibilities for pest control.

Provide information and advice to the public regarding pest identification, impacts and control, through website information, social media, events and site inspections.

Provide advice and support to community groups undertaking pest control.

Provide up to date information on all RPMP pest species on our website.

## 7. Tahua/Budget for 2025/26

**Table 2: 2025/26 budget for implementing this Plan.**

Species or Site led	Programme	Pest Animals or Pest Plants	Budget
Species led	RPMP	Pest Animals	\$3,278,858
		Pest Plants	\$2,340,066
	National	Pest Plants	\$38,000*
Site led	PFW	Pest Animals	\$3,489,465*
	RPCP	Pest Animals	\$2,004,914
	Biosecurity services	Pest Animals	\$280,634
	KNE	Combined	\$1,813,789

\*external revenue for this work included in budget

## Ngā Āpitihanga/Appendices

### Appendix 1: Modified McLean Scale

Scale	Rabbit Infestation
1	No sign found. No rabbits seen.
2	Very infrequent sign present. Unlikely to see rabbits.
3	Pellet heaps spaced 10m or more apart on average. Odd rabbits seen; sign and some pellet heaps showing up.
4	Pellet heaps spaced 5-10m apart on average. Pockets of rabbits; sign and fresh burrows very noticeable.
5	Pellet heaps spaced 5m or less apart on average. Infestation spreading out from heavy pockets.
6	Sign very frequent, with pellet heaps often less than 5m apart over the whole area. Rabbits may be seen over the whole area.
7	Sign very frequent, with two or three pellet heaps often less than 5m apart over the whole area. Rabbits may be seen in large numbers over the whole area.
8	Sign very frequent, with three or more pellet heaps less than 5 metres apart over the whole area. Rabbits likely to be seen in large numbers over the whole area.

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