

Implementation Committee Agenda - 8 Sept 2021



Meeting will be conducted electronically and livestreamed
[Link to Otago Regional Council YouTube Channel](#)

Members:

Cr Bryan Scott, Co-Chair	Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Carmen Hope, Co-Chair	Cr Michael Laws
Cr Hilary Calvert	Cr Kevin Malcolm
Cr Michael Deaker	Cr Andrew Noone
Cr Alexa Forbes	Cr Gretchen Robertson
Hon Cr Marian Hobbs	Cr Kate Wilson

Senior Officer: Sarah Gardner, Chief Executive

Meeting Support: Liz Spector, Governance Support Officer

08 September 2021 10:00 AM

Agenda Topic	Page
1. APOLOGIES No apologies were received prior to publication of the agenda.	
2. PUBLIC FORUM No requests to address the Committee under Public Forum were received prior to publication of the agenda.	
3. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA Note: Any additions must be approved by resolution with an explanation as to why they cannot be delayed until a future meeting.	
4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST Members are reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.	
5. PRESENTATIONS 5.1 OTAGO CATCHMENT COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORT Sam Dixon, Regional Coordinator for Otago Catchment Community Inc will present the group's Annual Report to the Committee.	
6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES Minutes of previous meetings of the Implementation Committee will be adopted as true and accurate record(s), with or without changes.	3
6.1 Minutes of the 9 June 2021 Implementation Committee meeting	3
6.2 Minutes of the 7 July 2021 Implementation Committee meeting	7

7.	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE	10
	Outstanding actions from resolutions of previous Implementation Committee meetings will be reviewed with staff.	
8.	MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION	11
8.1	BIOSECURITY OPERATIONAL PLAN 2020/21 SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE	11
	This report outlines progress towards achieving implementation of the Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029 (RPMP) as operationalised by the Biosecurity Operational Plan for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.	
8.1.1	Appendix 1: Assessment of Biosecurity Operational Plan KPIs 2020/21	17
8.1.2	Appendix 2: Plant Inspections listed by type 2020/21	26
8.2	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE	27
	This report provides a quarterly summary of operational implementation activities being undertaken in the areas of freshwater, biosecurity, and biodiversity and complements the Annual Plan quarterly reporting. It includes details of projects underway, and improvements being made to processes and systems that support delivery of these activities.	
9.	NOTICES OF MOTION	51
9.1	Notice of Motion - Request for reports on gravel consents, river management work programmes, and asset management of riverbank plantings	51
	In accordance with Standing Order 27.1, a Notice of Motion has been received from Cr Kate Wilson for inclusion on the agenda for the Implementation Committee meeting being held on Wednesday, 8 September 2021. See NoM attached.	
9.1.1	Notice of Motion - Cr Wilson	51
10.	RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC	52
	That the Committee excludes the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting (pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987) namely:	
	• Minutes of the public-excluded 7 July 2021 Implementation Committee meeting	
10.1	LGOIMA Exclusion Table	52
11.	CLOSURE	



Minutes of a meeting of the
Implementation Committee held in the
Council Chamber on 9 June 2021, commencing at 9:00 AM

Membership

Cr Carmen Hope (Co-Chair)
Cr Bryan Scott (Co-Chair)
Cr Hilary Calvert
Cr Michael Deaker
Cr Alexa Forbes
Hon Cr Marian Hobbs
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Michael Laws
Cr Kevin Malcolm
Cr Andrew Noone
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Kate Wilson

Welcome

Implementation Committee Co-Chair Carmen Hope welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 09:01 am. Staff present included Sarah Gardner (Chief Executive), Gwyneth Elsum (GM Strategy, Policy and Science), Gavin Palmer (GM Operations), Richard Saunders (GM Regulatory), Amanda Vercoe (GM Governance, Culture and Customer), Liz Spector (Governance Support), Ryan Tippet, Libby Caldwell, Eleanor Ross, and Andrea Howard.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no requests to address the Committee under Public Forum.

3. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as circulated.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Scott advised a conflict of interest and indicated he would sit back from discussions and voting on the Draft Lake Tuakitoto Management Plan report.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2021 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Cr Calvert

Seconded: Cr Wilson

CARRIED

6. ACTIONS

There are no outstanding actions of Implementation Committee resolutions.

7. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Cr Scott left the meeting at 09:03 am.

7.1. Draft Lake Tuakitoto Management Plan

This report provided an update on proposed activities for the Lake Tuakitoto catchment planned in the upcoming years. Libby Caldwell (Project Delivery Specialist) and Gavin Palmer (General Manager Operations) were present to respond to questions. Cr Calvert enquired whether any of the proposed programmes of work for the catchment would be brought back to Councillors for approval. Ms Caldwell said that after the community consultation was completed and compiled, a report would be brought back to the Committee for further consideration. She said the consultations would start after 1 July 2021, post finalisation of the 2021-31 LTP budgets.

After further discussions and questions about the paper, Cr Hope asked for a motion.

Resolution

That the Committee:

- 1) *Receives this report.*

- 2) **Approves** the draft outline management plan for further community engagement to prioritise projects and finalise an implementation plan, in 2021/22, subject to Long Term Plan decisions.
- 3) **Notes** that the Implementation of projects would proceed in 2021/22, subject to Long Term Plan decisions.

Moved: Cr Calvert
Seconded: Cr Kelliher
CARRIED

Cr Scott returned to the meeting at 09:24 am and took over Chairing responsibilities.

7.2. Biosecurity Compliance Policy

This report was provided to seek adoption of the draft Biosecurity Compliance and Enforcement Policy that covers the requirements of both the Biosecurity Act 1993 and the Regional Pest Management Plan. Andrea Howard (Manager Biosecurity and Rural Liaison) and Gavin Palmer (General Manager Operations) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions.

Ms Howard noted the draft Policy underpins the principles of the ORC's direction in biosecurity work and would give public assurance that the Council's work is backed by its policies. She also noted that she is unaware of any other regional council that has a biosecurity policy separate from the RMA. After a general discussion of the report and draft Policy, Cr Laws noted mention of non-favouritism was lacking in the Policy. He said every entity should be equally held to account for biosecurity whether they are Crown entities, private enterprises, or individual landowners. Chief Executive Sarah Gardner noted under the Biosecurity Act, Crown entities have different rules related to pest management. She said these entities are required to manage pests on their property borders, rather than the whole of the property. Dr Palmer said the Policy was intended to be neutral and be applicable regardless of property ownership.

Cr Laws then asked whether recovery of legal costs should be added to the Policy. Ms Howard said staff felt it was critical to get the Policy adopted before addressing cost recovery requirements in Annual Plan documents. Mrs Gardner noted that in a court process there are particular costs that can be recovered, but these are never full costs. Cr Calvert then suggested the Policy be amended to change wording making it clear that ORC will use all available opportunities to follow through with maximum recovery of costs.

After further questions, Cr Forbes moved the staff recommendation which was seconded by Cr Robertson. During deliberation of the motion, Cr Laws moved an amendment to add a third point to the recommendation:

That the draft biosecurity compliance and enforcement policy include an explanation that the Crown, under existing legislation, is exempt from the same compliance rules enforced upon individuals and/or other agencies.

Cr Calvert seconded the amendment. After discussion of the proposed amendment, Co-Chair Forbes put it to the vote and the amendment was carried. The substantive motion was then put to a vote.

Resolution

That the Committee:

- 1) **Receives** *this report.*
- 2) **Approves and adopts** *the Otago Regional Council Biosecurity Compliance and Enforcement Policy.*
- 3) **Requests** *staff to include in the draft biosecurity compliance and enforcement policy an explanation that the Crown, under existing legislation, is exempt from the same compliance rules enforced upon individuals and/or other agencies.*

Moved: Cr Forbes
Seconded: Cr Robertson
CARRIED

8. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Co-Chair Scott declared the meeting closed at 10:21 am.

Chairperson

Date



Minutes of a meeting of the
Implementation Committee held in the
Council Chamber on Wednesday 7 July 2021
commencing at 1:04 PM

Membership

Cr Carmen Hope (Co-Chair)
Cr Bryan Scott (Co-Chair)
Cr Hilary Calvert
Cr Michael Deaker
Cr Alexa Forbes
Hon Cr Marian Hobbs
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Michael Laws
Cr Kevin Malcolm
Cr Andrew Noone
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Kate Wilson

Welcome

Chairperson Scott welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 01:04 pm. Staff present included Sarah Gardner (Chief Executive), Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services), Gwyneth Elsum (GM Strategy, Policy and Science), Gavin Palmer (GM Operations), Richard Saunders (GM Regulatory and Communications), Amanda Vercoe (GM Governance, Culture and Customer), Liz Spector (Governance Support), Garry Maloney (Manager Transport) and Julian Phillips (Implementation Lead - Transport).

1. APOLOGIES**Resolution**

That the apologies for Cr Deaker be accepted.

Moved: Cr Scott
 Seconded: Cr Hope
 CARRIED

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as published.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were advised.

4. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**Resolution**

That the Committee excludes the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting (pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987) namely:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
4.1 Dunedin Public Transport Unit 3 Procurement	<p>To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities – Section 7(2)(h)</p> <p>To enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) – Section 7(2)(i)</p>	<p>Section 48(1)(a) - Subject to subsection (3), a local authority may by resolution exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on 1 or more of the following grounds:</p> <p>(a) that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.</p>

This resolution was made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by [section 6](#) or [section 7](#) of that Act or [section 6](#) or [section 7](#) or [section 9](#) of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as shown above after each item.

Moved: Cr Scott
 Seconded: Cr Hope
 CARRIED

5. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chairperson Scott declared the public meeting closed at 01:06 pm.

Chairperson

Date

DRAFT MINUTES

Action Register – Implementation Committee 9 Sept 2021

Meeting Date	Item	Status	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Due Date	Completed (Overdue)
09/06/2021	BIO2110 Biosecurity Compliance Policy	Completed	Include an explanation in the draft Biosecurity Compliance and Enforcement Policy that the Crown, under existing legislation, is exempt from the same compliance rules enforced upon individuals and/or other agencies. Res IMP21-102	General Manager Operations, Manager Biosecurity and Rural Liaison	1/09/2021 Governance Support Officer Explanation added to the Biosecurity Compliance and Enforcement Policy as resolved.	23/06/2021	01/09/2021
14/10/2020	OPS1014 Biosecurity Implementation Improvement Update - Pest Management	In Progress	Bring a paper to the Implementation Committee detailing pros and cons of Options 2 and 3 to determine future use of rabbit control assets.	General Manager Operations, Manager Biosecurity and Rural Liaison	19/10/2020 Committee Secretary Work on this report to start. 1/09/2021 Dr Palmer: The condition and safety of existing assets has been assessed by an external expert and their findings are being reviewed by staff. This will inform further work on Options 2 and 3.	10/02/2021	Overdue by: 202 days

8.1. Biosecurity Operational Plan 2020/2021 Summary of Performance

Prepared for: Implementation Committee
Report No. BIO2115
Activity: Environmental: Land
Author: Murray Boardman, Performance and Delivery Specialist
Andrea Howard, Manager Environmental Implementation
Endorsed by: Gavin Palmer, General Manager Operations
Date: 8 September 2021

PURPOSE

- [1] To outline the progress towards achieving the implementation of the Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029 (RPMP) as operationalised by the Biosecurity Operational Plan for the period July 2020 to June 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report and the range of work undertaken to give effect to Otago's Regional Pest Management Plan and the Biosecurity Act (1993).
- 2) **Notes** the full achievement and/or exceedance of 20 key performance indicators (KPIs), the partial achievement of 25 KPIs with 6 KPIs not achieved.
- 3) **Notes** that learnings from the operationalisation of Council's first BOP 2020-21 are being applied to the delivery of the BOP 2021-22.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [2] An RPMP Biosecurity Operational Plan (BOP) is required by the Biosecurity Act 1993 to detail the nature and scope of activities the Council intends to undertake in the annual implementation of the RPMP. Under Section 100C(2) of the Act, ORC as the respective management agency, "must prepare a report on the operational plan and its implementation not later than 5 months after the end of each financial year" and "provide a copy of the report to the Minister or council." This report fulfils that requirement.
- [3] The BOP contained 67 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Overall, 20 KPIs fully achieved or exceeded (achievement rate of 29.9%). A further 25 KPIs were assessed as being partially achieved (37.3%) with six KPIs being not achieved (9.0%). A further 16 KPIs (23.9%) were assessed as being not relevant as the required event did not occur to permit measurement.
- [4] Rabbit Inspections exceeded the target of at least 130 property inspections. Over the year, a total of 331 inspections were carried out. 53% of inspections (174) were compliant with 47% being non-complaint (157). The non-compliant properties will be

prioritised in the 2021-22 operational year for follow up engagement and, where appropriate, enacting the next stages of the compliance process.

- [5] No exclusion pests were reported during 2020-21. The surveillance of the exclusion pests will be strengthened through a dedicated work programme and through the establishment of a proposed Southern Biosecurity Alliance with Environment Southland and Environment Canterbury.
- [6] A total of 4,265 pest plant compliance inspections were completed in 2020-2021. Appendix 2 provides a breakdown by plant pest. This included 2,933 first inspections for Old Man's Beard against the target of 2,500. Overall, 52.3% of inspections were compliant with the remainder of 48.6% being non-compliant.
- [7] COVID-19 in 2020 restricted some fieldwork activities, contributing to some measures being partially achieved. Resourcing challenges, an overly ambitious set of actions and weakly worded KPIs in the first Biosecurity Operational Plan also contributed to overall performance. These matters have been addressed for the 2021/22 year.

BACKGROUND

- [8] In accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993, the Council's Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029 (RPMP) was adopted in November 2019. The RPMP details the plants and animals that are declared pests in the Otago region, explains why they are pests, and outlines how each pest will be managed over a ten-year period.
- [9] A RPMP Biosecurity Operational Plan (BOP) is also required by the Act to detail the nature and scope of activities the Council intends to undertake in the annual implementation of the RPMP. The Plan details the range of activities that will be undertaken by Council on pest control implementation in two categories – pest plants and pest animals, and the five management programmes used to manage pests in Otago.
- [10] The BOP complements the RPMP and provides an additional layer of detail explaining how the objectives in the RPMP will be met through specific deliverables (actions), performance measures and targets.
- [11] The BOP 2020-21 incorporates the implementation of the non-regulatory ORC Biosecurity Strategy as well as the operationalised RPMP. For this report, and to meet statutory obligations, the focus is on the RPMP aspects of the BOP 2020-21.

DISCUSSION

- [12] A summary of achievement towards the delivery of the BOP 2020-21 is presented in the attached document, detailing the achievement of each Key Performance indicator (KPI). There were 67 KPIs under the RPMP.
- [13] The BOP contained 67 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Overall, 20 KPIs fully achieved or exceeded¹ (achievement rate of 29.9%). A further 25 KPIs were assessed as

¹ For the purposes of this report, achieved/exceeded refers to full completion (or exceedance) of the key performance indicator. Key performance indicators often contain multiple sub-tasks, if one or more of those sub-

being partially achieved (37.3%) with six KPIs being not achieved (9.0%). A further 16 KPIs (23.9%) were assessed as being not relevant as the required event did not occur to permit measurement.²

- [14] Explanations for the partial and under delivery of 10 KPIs are primarily related to resourcing and/or capabilities. For the most part, these constraints have been addressed as part of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan that provides for increased resourcing and greater diversity of role types, and as part of the ongoing business transformation process that is well underway.
- [15] Rabbit Inspections: The BOP 2020-21 had a target of at least 130 property inspections to assess the prevalence of feral rabbits. Over the year, a total of 331 inspections were carried out. 53% of inspections (174) were compliant with 47% being non-complaint (157).
- [16] The non-compliant properties will be prioritised in the 2021-22 operational year for follow up engagement and, where appropriate, enacting the next stages of the compliance process (notice of direction and default work). The regional spread of inspections is shown in Figure 1. Inspections were undertaken in accordance with an internal rabbit compliance plan and focused primarily on areas of high/extreme rabbit proneness and to support the targeted community projects.
- [17] In areas where community responses are being facilitated Council will progress voluntary compliance as much as possible and then turn to alternative options. This approach is covered further in a separate Environmental Implementation Update report.

tasks has not been completed the KPI will not be achieved (e.g., there is no tolerance level built into this assessment).

² For example, there is a KPI that measures the responsiveness to investigating the sighting of an exclusion pest. However, in order to calculate the response rate, there firstly needs to be the presence of an exclusion pest. If none are present, then the KPI is unable to be measured.

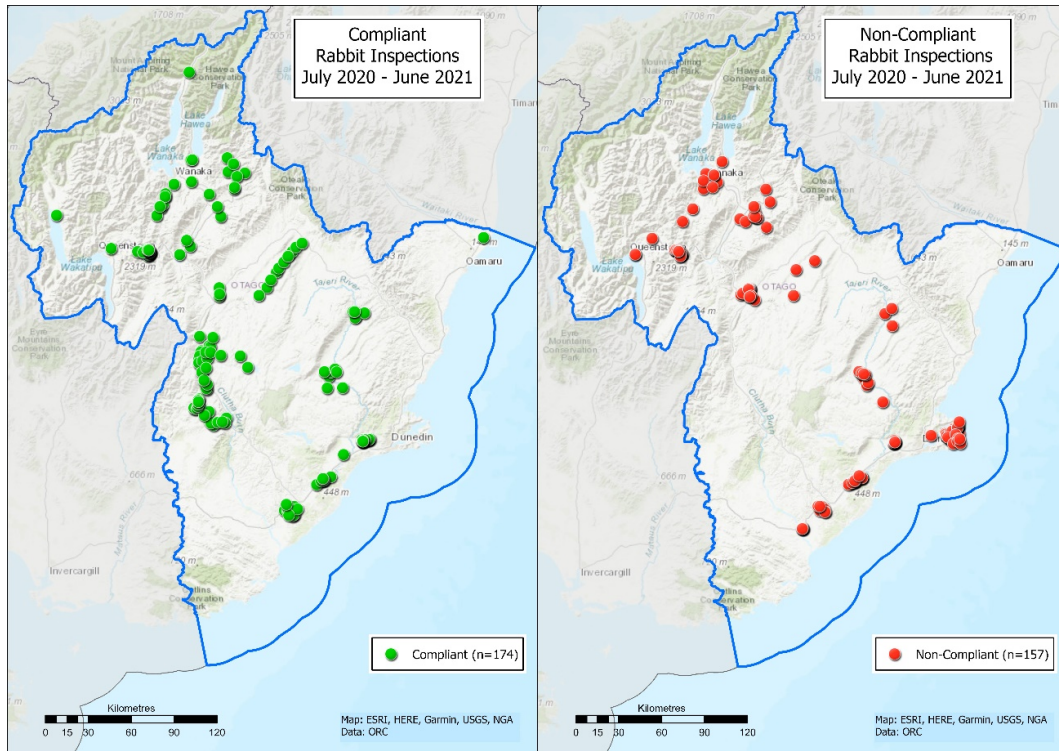


Figure 1: Compliant and Non-Compliant Rabbit Inspections (July 2020 – June 2021)

- [18] Exclusion Pests: No exclusion pests were reported during 2020-21. The surveillance of the exclusion pests will be strengthened through a dedicated work programme and through the establishment of a proposed Southern Biosecurity collaboration with Environment Southland and Environment Canterbury. This will allow the three Councils to work proactively to understand pest pathways and to reduce the likelihood of pest plant spread between regions.
- [19] Plant Inspections: A total of 4,265 pest plant compliance inspections were completed in 2020-2021 (Table 1). Overall, 52.3% of inspections were compliant with the remainder of 48.6% being non-compliant. The regional spread of compliant and non-compliant inspections is shown in Figure 2. Appendix 2 provides a breakdown by plant pest. This included 2,933 first inspections for Old Man’s Beard against target of 2,500.

Table 1: Plant Pest Inspection Status

Compliance Status	First Inspection	Re-Inspection	Total
Compliant	1,821	370	2,191 (52.3%)
Non-compliant	1,811	263	2,074 (48.6%)
Total	3,632	633	4,265

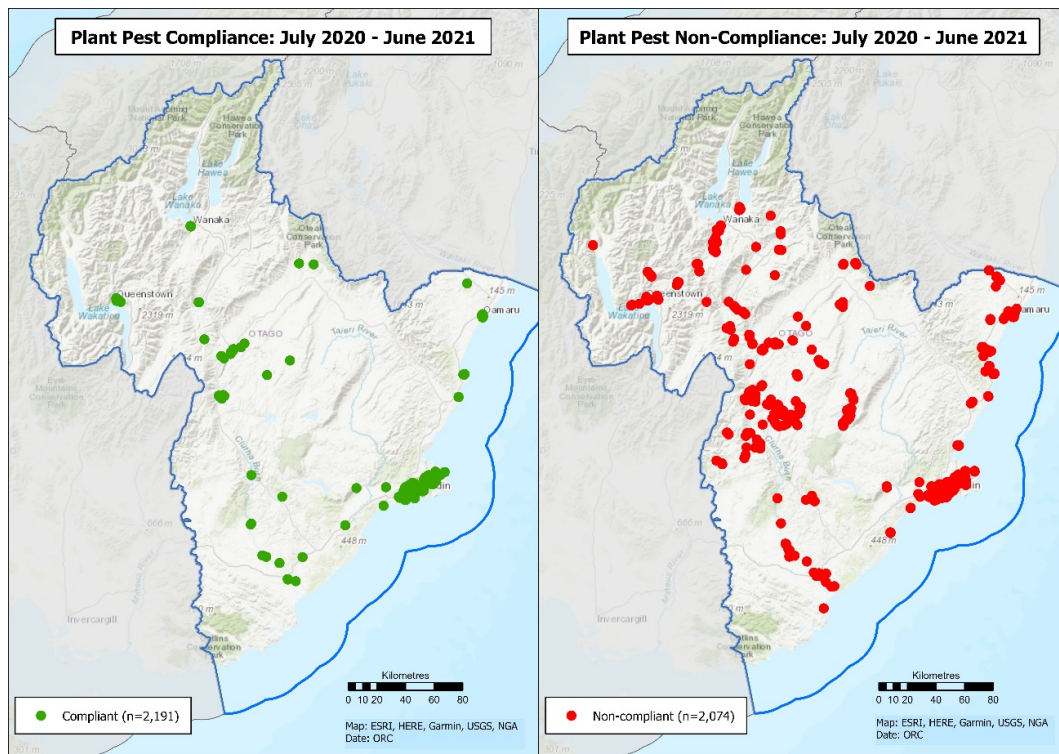


Figure 2: Pest Plant Compliance (July 2020 – June 2021)

CONSIDERATIONS

Strategic Framework and Policy Considerations

[20] None

Financial Considerations

[21] None

Significance and Engagement Considerations

[22] None

Legislative and Risk Considerations

[23] This report will be submitted to the Minister of Biosecurity as a statutory requirement of the Biosecurity Act (1993) prior to the 30 November 2021.

Climate Change Considerations

[24] None

Communications Considerations

[25] None

NEXT STEPS

[26] Required improvements identified through this review process will be implemented in within the current financial year.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Appendix 1 Assessment of Biosecurity Operational Plan KPIs 2020 21 [8.1.1 - 9 pages]
2. Appendix 2 Plant Inspections listed by Type 2020 21 [8.1.2 - 1 page]

Assessment of Biosecurity Operational Plan 2020-21 Key Performance Indicators enacting the Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-29

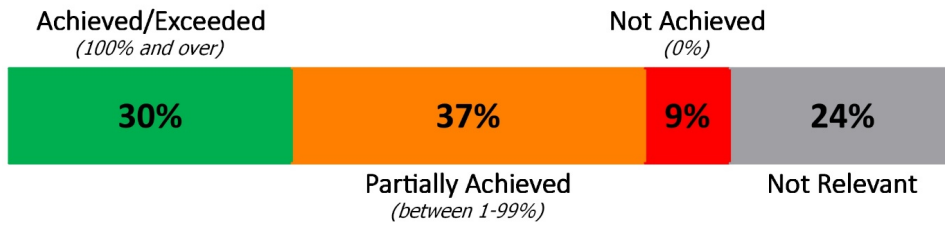





Figure 1: Summary of Performance

Figure 1 is calculated from 67 KPIs related to the Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-29 as presented in the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2020-21. 16 KPIs are listed as 'not relevant' as the required event did not occur, hence these were not able to be measured.¹

The following assessment is divided into the five pest control programmes as outlined in the Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-29.

Key Legend

	Achieved/Exceeded	100% or more achieved
	Partially Achieved	Between 1-99% achieved
	Not Achieved	0% achieved
---	Not Relevant	Not able to be measured

¹ For example, there is a KPI that measures the responsiveness to investigating the sighting of an exclusion pest. However, in order to calculate the response rate, there firstly needs to be the presence of an exclusion pest. If none are present, then the KPI is unable to be measured.

Exclusion Pest Programme



ORC will prevent six high threat pest plants from establishing in the region.

Exclusion pest programme		
Objective: Preclude the establishment of the following plant pests (listed below) in the Otago region for the duration of the RPMP: African feather grass, Chilean needle grass, Egeria, False tamarisk, Hornwort, and Moth plant.		
KPI 1	Absence in the region – no exclusion pests established in Otago during 2020/21.	
KPI 2	Reported sightings investigated within 24 hours of ORC becoming aware of a report.	---
KPI 3	In the event of a confirmed discovery, assessment of the risks/issues made within 48 hours and a control/response strategy defined within 5 working days and implemented as soon as practical.	---
KPI 4	At least annual operation level liaison focused on exclusion strategies with biosecurity counterparts in Canterbury and Southland (along with discussions on other matters).	

Eradication Pest Programmes

ORC will eliminate spiny broom, and eradicate Bennett's wallaby and rooks from the region











Bennett's wallaby		
Objective: There are three key objectives in the eradication of Bennett's Wallaby.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce known wallaby populations to zero density and prevent their further expansion in the region, Prevent further spread of wallaby into North Otago from Canterbury, and Inform the Otago community on the wallaby threat and encourage vigilance and reporting to council. 	
KPI 1	Reports, notifications and complaints responded to within 5 working days.	~
KPI 2	Any legal notices issued assessed for compliance at expiry period and appropriate enforcement action initiated under the Biosecurity Act.	R
KPI 3	Audit Contractors who are contracted to undertake wallaby control to ensure all legislative, contractual and health and safety requirements are being met.	R
KPI 4	Ensure all property owners where wallabies have been located are spoken to at least twice a year and provide an update on the current status.	~
KPI 5	At least biannual liaison with the interregional partnership group.	R
KPI 6	Programme of surveillance developed and implemented.	R
KPI 7	Support for a National Wallaby Management Business Case (for funding) actively promoted to MPI at every opportunity (refer also section 4.4).	R
KPI 8	Wallaby reporting App upgraded to be consistent with ECan and Waikato/BOPRC councils systems by June 30th 2021.	R
KPI 9	Assess the potential for using hunting permit system as a way to raise wallaby awareness in public hunting areas by June 30th 2021.	~
Rooks		
Objective: Reduce rook populations to zero density, within the RPMP period and maintain this status until eradication is attained		
KPI 1	Reports, notifications and complaints responded to no later than 3 working days.	R
KPI 2	Known rookeries inspected annually.	~
KPI 3	Service delivery carried out to 'best practice' and always in accordance with animal welfare legislation.	---

Spiny broom		
Objective: Reduce spiny broom populations to zero density within the RPMP period and maintain this status until eradication is attained		
KPI 1	No spiny broom established in new localities within Otago during 2020/21.	
KPI 2	Reports, notifications and complaints responded to within 5 working days.	---
KPI 3	Known infestations inspected biannually.	
KPI 4	Service delivery carried out to 'best practice' standards.	---

Progressive Containment Pest Programmes

ORC aims to contain and reduce the extent of 11 pest plants (or groups of plants) across the region

African love grass		
Objective: Contain African love grass to its 20 known sites within the region, reduce its densities at these sites and prevent spread to new sites.		
KPI 1	Known sites inspected at least annually, with pre-determined highest risk sites visited biannually.	~
KPI 2	Density measurement/recording method established at 2-3 key sites by June 2021 (which can demonstrate in subsequent years that at least 10 percent of sites treated show reduced density compared with the previous year).	⌘
KPI 3	Reports, notifications and complaints responded to within 5 working days.	---
KPI 4	Passive public surveillance process developed and implemented.	~
KPI 5	Service delivery carried out to 'best practice' standards for using agrichemicals (e.g. spraying prior to flowering, repeat treatment possible 3 months following, exclude stock from treatment area).	~
Nassella tussock		
Objective: Contain nassella tussock to known areas within the region, reduce its densities at these sites and prevent spread to new sites.		
KPI 1	At least 40,000 hectares of nassella infested land is inspected biannually, between March and October (prior to seeding).	~
KPI 2	All Biosecurity Act Notices of Direction (NOD) issued are assessed for compliance at expiry of the relevant NOD period.	---
KPI 3	Density measurement/recording method established at chosen sites (appropriate for an occupier control programme) which can demonstrate in subsequent years that nassella densities are reducing.	⌘
KPI 4	Service delivery carried out to 'best practice' standards.	~
KPI 5	At least one 'new approach' nassella field day held in each of the Cardrona and Waitaki communities by June 2021.	⌘
Old Man's Beard		
Objective: Contain old man's beard to known areas within the region, reduce its densities at the above sites and prevent spread to new locations.		
KPI 1	At least 2,500 properties inspected annually and within budget (Dunedin City – 1,800; Waitaki – 100; Central Otago – 300; Queenstown Lakes – 250; South Otago – 50).	~
KPI 2	All Biosecurity Act Notices of Direction (NOD) issued are assessed for compliance at expiry of the relevant NOD period.	---

Spartina		
Objective: Contain spartina to known areas within the region, reduce its densities at the above sites and prevent spread to new locations.		
KPI 1	No new infestations found at historic sites (Harwood – Otago Peninsula, Blueskin Bay, Taieri Mouth and Catlins Lake).	
KPI 2	Service delivery carried out to ‘best practice’ standards, especially following Environmental Protection Authority permissions for spraying agrichemicals over water.	
KPI 3	Annual monitoring completed at all current and historic sites.	
KPI 4	Partnerships further enhanced with DOC and LINZ managers.	
Six [low incidence] containment pest plants		
Objective: Contain the six pest plants (Bomarea, Boneseed, Bur daisy, Cape Ivy, Perennial nettle, White-edged nightshade) within the region for the duration of the RPMP, reduce their densities at known sites and prevent spread to new sites.		
KPI 1	Annual monitoring completed and reported on at all current and historic sites.	
KPI 2	All Biosecurity Act Notices of Direction (NOD) issued are assessed for compliance at expiry of the relevant NOD period.	---
KPI 3	Annual inspections of the six plants at all known sites completed.	
KPI 4	Passive surveillance and reporting of isolated plants mechanism developed and released for public use.	
Wilding conifers		
Objective: Contain wilding conifers within the region (in accordance with national strategy), reduce infestation densities where practicable and prevent their spread to new locations		
KPI 1	No new plantings of contorta, Corsican, Scots, mountain and dwarf pine and European larch occur.	
KPI 2	Aerial inspections carried out in Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago districts and compliance actions followed up on the ground with occupiers.	
KPI 3	Any legal notices issued are assessed for compliance at expiry period and appropriate enforcement action initiated under the Biosecurity Act.	---
KPI 4	National control programme completed to contract standards and within budget allocations and reporting timelines.	

Sustained Control Pest Programmes

ORC will enforce rules to ensure control of rabbits and five widespread pest plants (or groups of plants) to reduce their impacts and spread.

Gorse and broom		
Objective: Ensure continuing control of gorse and broom, that prevents land free of these pests from becoming infested and reduces adverse effects on the economic (and environmental) wellbeing of occupiers regionwide.		
KPI 1	At least 100 properties inspected and assessed for compliance (Earnsclough – at least 25 properties; Central Otago – 50 properties; Queenstown Lakes – 15 properties; Lindis – 15 properties)	~
KPI 2	All Biosecurity Act Notices of Direction (NOD) issued are assessed for compliance at expiry of the relevant NOD period.	---
KPI 3	Occupier complaints received outside of gorse and broom free areas responded to within 10 working days.	~
KPI 4	Advocacy material to engage occupiers in designated gorse and broom free extension areas drafted by June 2021 (to roll out during 2021/2022).	R
Nodding thistle and ragwort		
Objective: Ensure continuing boundary control of nodding thistle and ragwort to reduce adverse effects on the economic wellbeing of rural land occupiers regionwide.		
KPI 1	Occupier boundary related complaints responded to within 10 working days.	R
KPI 2	All Biosecurity Act Notices of Direction (NOD) issued are assessed for compliance at expiry of the relevant NOD period.	---
Russell lupin		
Objective: Instigate boundary controls of Russell lupin to prevent spread (e.g. the planting and subsequent seeding) of wild lupin plants, and to reduce adverse effects in rural zoned land.		
KPI 1	Baseline of highest risk sites documented and operational in time for the 2020-21 inspections to commence, by 30 June 2020.	R
KPI 2	All Biosecurity Act Notices of Direction (NOD) issued are assessed for compliance at expiry of the relevant NOD period.	---
KPI 3	Establish relationships with commercial suppliers and advise them about the rules and obligations.	R
KPI 4	Annual inspection of high-risk areas where Russell lupin is planted as production crop to ensure there is no spread (e.g. tussock country and braided riverbeds).	R
KPI 5	Approval of lupin management plans within 25 working days of being received from occupiers.	---

Feral rabbits		
Objective: Ensure continuing control of feral rabbits to manage their spread and to reduce adverse effects and impacts on economic wellbeing and the environment.		
KPI 1	All rabbit complaints responded to within 10 working days.	~
KPI 2	At least 130 rural property inspections carried out annually, within budget and follow up enforcement measures implemented as appropriate.	R
KPI 3	All Biosecurity Act Notices of Direction (NOD) issued are assessed for compliance at expiry of the relevant NOD period. Default action, where required, is carried out to 'best practice' and always in accordance with animal welfare legislation.	---
KPI 4	Exemptions processed in accordance with Biosecurity Act criteria and ORC procedures, with records maintained annually for public inspection.	---
KPI 5	Night count monitoring programme completed and outcomes reviewed in a timely manner for the season.	~
KPI 6	Council to consider preferred operating model for landowner-led rabbit control groups, and its role in such groups.	R
KPI 7	Establish at least one central and one coastal Otago new landowner-led rabbit control group by December 2021.	R

Site-led Pest Programmes

ORC has two site led pest programmes.

1. ORC will take a lead role in supporting community and agency control of six pest plants and nine pest animals to support Predator Free Dunedin and wider biodiversity enhancement initiatives.
2. ORC will target one freshwater pest plant.

Otago Peninsula, West Harbour - Mount Cargill and Quarantine and Goat Islands

Objective: Support community groups and other agencies to protect the ecological integrity of the Otago Peninsula, West Harbour-Mt Cargill, and Quarantine and Goat Islands.

- KPI 1** Adopt Predator Free Dunedin 2050 'whole of site' management plan/s by December 2020.
- Changed indicator: As part of the 2020/2021 ORC Annual Plan consultation, Predator Free Dunedin 2050 requested this KPI be reprioritised to an action from the Biosecurity Strategy as follows – *"Develop a possum control programme focusing on OSPRI completed areas for long-term bovine tuberculosis eradication and biodiversity gains"*. The assessment relates to the reprioritised indicator.

Lagarosiphon

Objective: Support LINZ in controlling and eradicating lagarosiphon in the region's rivers and lakes

- KPI 1** No lagarosiphon found in Lake Wakatipu, Moke Lake, Manorburn, Poolburn, Butchers, Conroys, Falls or Fraser Dams during 2020/21.
- KPI 2** At least annual surveys of the nine priority 'non-LINZ' managed sites identified.
- KPI 3** Attend and contribute to stakeholder meetings (as required) and up to two meetings per year with each of the three community/lake user groups identified.
- KPI 4** Service delivery carried out to 'best practice' standards, especially following Environmental Protection Authority permissions for spraying agrichemicals over water.

Plant Inspections Listed by Type: July 2020 – June 2021

First Inspections	Total	Compliant	Non-compliant
Old Man's Beard	2,933	1,678	1,255
Bomarea	200	96	104
Broom	129	2	127
Cape Ivy	78	17	61
Nassella Tussock	77	4	73
Wilding Pines	74	0	74
Gorse	50	1	49
Boneseed	30	3	27
African Love Grass	8	0	8
Lagarosiphon	8	8	0
Spiny Broom	5	3	2
Bur Daisy	4	0	4
Perennial Nettle	3	0	3
Japanese Honeysuckle	2	2	0
Ragwort	2	0	2
White-edged Nightshade	2	0	2
Buddleia	1	1	0
Chilean Flame Creeper	1	0	1
Chilean Glory Creeper	1	0	1
Convolvulus	1	1	0
Cotoneaster	1	1	0
Nodding Thistle	1	0	1
No Species Listed	21	4	17
	3,632	1,821	1,811

Re-Inspections	Total	Compliant	Non-compliant
Old Man's Beard	475	300	175
Bomarea	87	58	29
Perennial Nettle	21	3	18
Cape Ivy	13	3	10
Nassella Tussock	11	0	11
African Love Grass	5	0	5
Gorse	5	2	3
Broom	4	0	4
Wilding Pines	2	0	2
No Species Listed	10	4	6
	633	370	263

8.2. Environmental Implementation Update

Prepared for:	Implementation Committee
Report No.	BIO2103
Activity:	Environmental: Land Environmental: Water
Author:	Andrea Howard, Manager Environmental Implementation
Endorsed by:	Gavin Palmer, General Manager Operations
Date:	8 September 2021

PURPOSE

- [1] To provide a quarterly summary of operational implementation activities being undertaken in the areas of freshwater, biosecurity, and biodiversity. This report complements the Annual Plan quarterly reporting. It includes details of projects underway, and improvements being made to processes and systems that support delivery of these activities.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Notes** the establishment of a new Environmental Implementation Team in July 2021 to support increased 'on the ground' action towards achieving Otago Regional Council's environmental objectives.
- 3) **Notes** the range of standard business and transformational activities being undertaken to maintain and improve Otago Regional Council's delivery of environmental implementation activities.
- 4) **Notes** Otago Regional Council's role in managing Jobs for Nature funded initiatives, and the associated increase in 'on the ground' biosecurity and biodiversity work.
- 5) **Notes** progress made with seven communities to develop long-term, sustainable approaches to rabbit management.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [2] As of 9 July 2021, a new Environmental Implementation Team has been established. The new team progressively comprises of community facing roles, as well as specialist operational advisory and environmental project management delivery roles, spatial analysis capabilities and quality assurance functions. In addition to traditional core responsibilities (biosecurity compliance, land management advice and development of partnerships), the team will also facilitate the design and implement Council's preferred integrated catchment approach, deliver the non-regulatory Land and Water Regional
-

Plan actions and design and deliver, with others, locally specific targeted environmental action plans.

- [3] The team comprises a range of roles and specialist areas of focus aimed at better supporting delivery of Council's biosecurity, biodiversity, and freshwater operational work. Additional funding from the 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan, has enabled the revision and creation of new roles and supports an increase in staff numbers.
- [4] ORC is delivering Jobs for Nature projects:
 - a. The National Wilding Conifer Control Programme to Boost Regional Economies and Employment: Otago, and
 - b. Containing Wallabies to Protect Agriculture, Forestry and Native Plants, And Boost Regional Economies: Otago.
- [5] In addition, Council has just been awarded \$961,234 from the Jobs for Nature Private Land Biodiversity Fund to deliver a project titled "Maintaining the Gains - Protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity on private land". A further substantial funding announcement for an unrelated environmental improvement project is expected in mid-September 2021.
- [6] Work continues on several projects focused on achieving improved water quality outcomes. These include initiatives occurring in conjunction with the communities of Wai Whakaata/Lake Hayes, South Otago, Tomahawk and Owhiro catchment areas.
- [7] A Wai Whakaata/Lake Hayes Strategy Group has been established and will provide leadership to the organisations and community in relation to the implementation of the refreshed Wai Whakaata/Lake Hayes Management Strategy. The implementation of Council's Wai Whakaata/Lake Hayes augmentation and culvert projects are also progressing as planned.
- [8] Over the past six months, there has been a concentrated effort on supporting improved winter grazing practices of Otago landowners. Staff have developed, in partnership with industry, a winter grazing template and met with individuals and catchment groups across the region to provide advice on good management practices for grazing winter crops. These practices focused predominantly on Critical Source Area management, utilising grass or crop buffers and grazing crops strategically.
- [9] Council continues to benefit from central government funding for wilding conifer control and wallaby management. In the last financial year, just under \$6m was spent controlling wilding conifers across 89,000ha in the region. New investment for wallaby surveillance enabled 60,000 ha of land to be surveyed. Otago is set to receive significantly more funding to support wallaby control in the current financial year, resulting in the establishment of a large-scale surveillance programme.
- [10] Facilitation of community responses to rabbit management continues, with progress being made with seven communities across Otago. While the latest lockdown has constrained some actions at a critical control period, work to progress long-term, sustainable solutions has continued.

DISCUSSION

1. Business Transformation

- [11] As of 9 July 2021, a new Environmental Implementation Team has been established. The team comprises a range of roles and specialist areas of focus aimed at better supporting the delivery of Council’s biosecurity, biodiversity, and freshwater operational work. Additional funding from the 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan, has enabled the revision and creation of new roles and supports an increase in staff numbers.
- [12] Figure 1 provides a high-level overview of the focus of the new team, illustrating a mix of role types that will work collaboratively to facilitate, deliver, and demonstrate environmental implementation impact.
- [13] The new team comprises additional ‘on the ground’ community facing roles, as well as specialist operational advisory and environmental project management delivery roles, spatial analysis capabilities and quality assurance functions. In addition to its traditional core responsibilities (biosecurity compliance, land management and development of partnerships), the team will also facilitate the design and implement Council’s preferred integrated catchment approach, deliver the non-regulatory Land and Water Regional Plan actions and design and deliver, with others, locally specific targeted environmental action plans.
- [14] The 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan provides for 27 full time equivalents (FTEs) in Y1 (2021/22), 34 FTEs in Y2 and 37 FTEs in Y3. The team currently has a headcount of 19 staff.

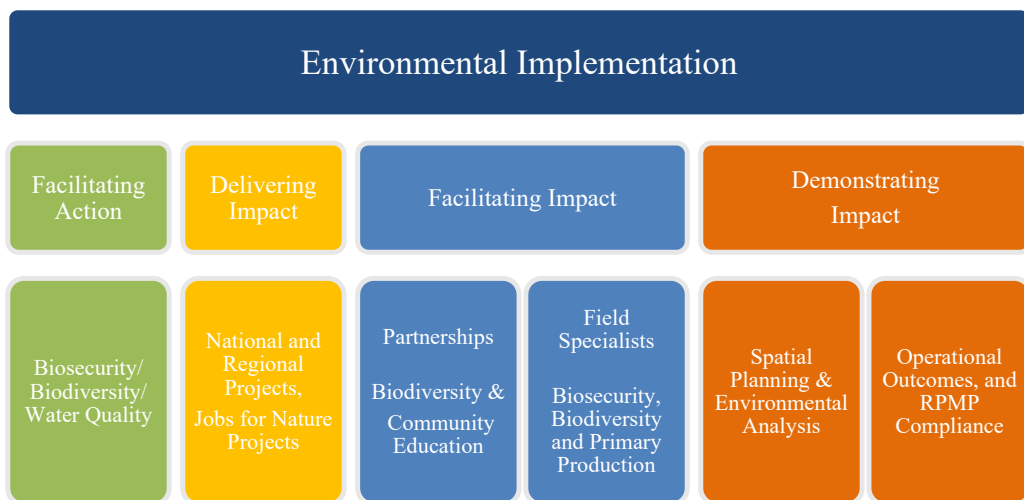


Figure 1: Environmental Implementation Team Delivery Framework (three-year staged growth)

- [15] Recruitment is currently underway for a range of roles, including:
 - a. Project Delivery Specialist – Regional Environmental Programmes
 - b. Project Delivery Specialist – Biosecurity Programmes
 - c. Project Delivery Specialist – Jobs for Nature Environmental Programmes

- d. Delivery Lead Catchments – (Coastal Otago) and (Central Otago)
- e. Catchment Advisors – (Coastal Otago) and (Central Otago) x3
- f. Partnership Lead – Biodiversity
- g. Partnership Lead – Community Education

[16] Internal appointments have been made for the Team Leader Environmental Implementation, Delivery Leads Biosecurity (Coastal Otago) and (Central Otago) roles, Environmental Impact Analyst and for a Principal Advisor.

2. Environmental Implementation Summary

[17] Figure 2 provides a snapshot of environmental focused initiatives underway across the region. Some are led by the ORC, while others are community driven, with extensive central government investment.

[18] These initiatives include at least 22 individual catchment groups in various stages of development. Many of these groups are now working under the umbrella of Otago Catchment Community.

[19] As of 30 June 2021, 19¹ projects in Otago have been funded by Jobs for Nature. These projects are worth \$35.1m to the region and will be delivered over several years. The projects are focused on ecosystem and freshwater restoration, pest control, recreational enhancement, regulatory implementation, and building capability. These are in addition to the four Climate Resilience (“shovel-ready”) flood protection projects being delivered by ORC’s Engineering team (\$5.4m of central government funding).

ORC Led:

1. National Wilding Conifer Control Programme to Boost Regional Economies and Employment: Otago
2. Containing Wallabies to Protect Agriculture, Forestry and Native Plants, And Boost Regional Economies: Otago
3. Maintaining the Gains - Protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity on private land.

Community Led:

4. Hukarere Station Indigenous Planting
5. Pomahaka Water Care Group I
6. Halo Project - Source to Sea I
7. Makarora Catchment Threatened Species Project - From Ridge to River
8. Tucker Beach Habitat Restoration
9. Lake Dunstan Restoration & Community Engagement
10. Maniototo Tiaki - Preservation Maniototo
11. Wanaka Catchment Group Wai Ora Initiative
12. In the Wild – Queenstown & Fiordland Workforce Hub
13. WAI Wanaka - Wanaka Future Reset
14. South Otago - Tokomairiro

¹ For further details visit: https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/key-initiatives/jobs-for-nature/projects-funded-by-jobs-for-nature/?region%5B%5D=31_184&limit_29385=20

15. Lindis Catchment Group
16. North Otago Sustainable Land Management
17. Pomahaka Water Care Group II
18. Pomahaka Corridor Planting Project
19. Halo Project - Source to Sea II

[20] The remaining areas of activity outlined on the map will be covered later in the report.

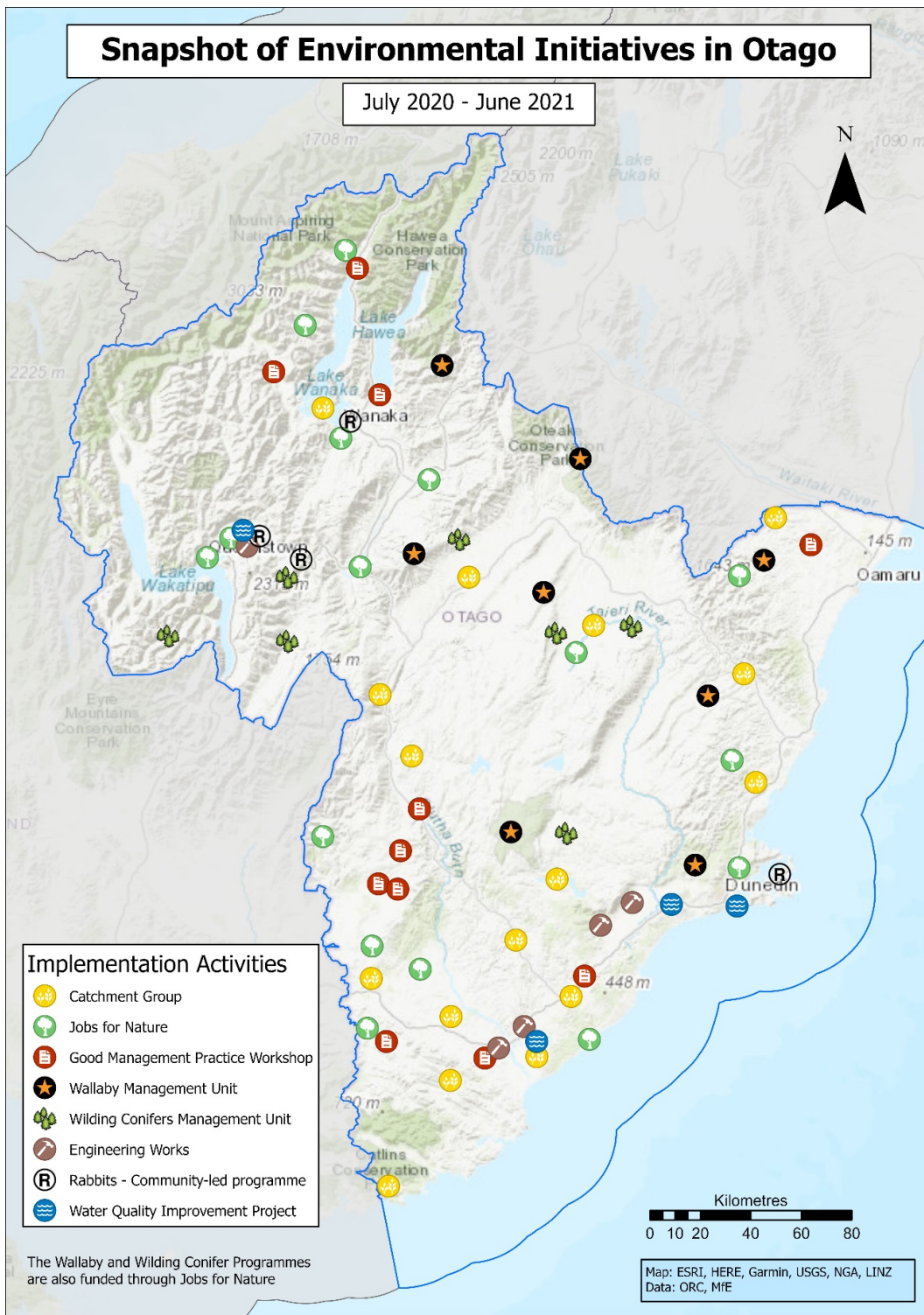


Figure 2: Environmental Implementation Regional Overview

3. Freshwater Implementation

Government Funding to Accelerate Action

- [21] Science and Environmental Implementation staff have been working with the Ministry for the Environment on a funding bid to implement a range of interventions to reduce sediment and nutrient inputs and better safeguard the water resources from ki uta ki tai in a local river and estuary. An announcement on the outcome of the application is expected around the second week of September.

Delivering Annual Plan Programmes

Support of Catchment Groups

- [22] The Council continues to work with, and support, the Otago Catchment Community (OCC). Connections have been facilitated between OCC and key ORC staff and a 2021/2022 funding agreement for \$225,000 has been signed to support OCC's vision of *"creating an Otago wide network of Catchment Groups supporting on farm change that builds environmental resilience and vibrant communities"*. Key objectives of OCC include:

- Providing organisational support for Catchment Groups and their volunteers in Otago,
- Assisting with the formation and direction of new and existing catchment groups,
- Assisting individual groups with identifying funding sources for enduring success,
- Facilitating access to experts, information and technology,
- Providing support with catchment group administration,
- Providing communication support for groups, and
- Working as a conduit between government, regional authorities and stakeholders to ensure great communication and accessing the right people and the right information.

- [23] Councillor Scott represents the ORC on OCC.

Lake Hayes Water Quality Project

Strategy Refresh and Governance

- [24] To support the development and ongoing implementation of a refreshed strategy, a Wai Whakaata /Lake Hayes Strategy Group has been established. The group will focus on:
- a. Coordinating actions across member organisations in order to improve water quality.
 - b. Identifying significant existing and emerging issues affecting Wai Whakaata /Lake Hayes and responding appropriately.
 - c. Considering agreements, policies and strategies and all other proposals to achieve integrated outcomes for Wai Whakaata /Lake Hayes.
 - d. Identifying necessary actions by the partner organisations and other relevant organisations.

- [25] The group comprises representatives of mana whenua, ORC, Friends of Lake Hayes, Department of Conservation and Queenstown Lakes District Council.
- [26] The group is in the process of commissioning a cultural values assessment for Lake Hayes, and working with mana whenua representatives, Aukaha and Te Ao Marama to ensure the refreshed strategy appropriately reflects and incorporates mana whenua values and environmental aspirations. The refreshed strategy will build on the direction and objectives of the 1995 strategy document and reflect on progress towards achieving these objectives. It will provide a mechanism to engage the community to better understand the issues facing the lake and identify actions to accelerate improvements to water quality in the lake and wider catchment.

Lake Hayes Restoration

- [27] This project aims to improve water quality within Lake Hayes and reduce the risk of flooding along the perimeter of the lake (Figure 3). Currently there are flooding impacts to the existing recreational trail which affects public access, negatively impacts on the Crested Grebe habitat, increases runoff of nutrients from flooded land and impacts adversely on native planting, which has been established for local biodiversity restoration along the shores of Lake Hayes.
- [28] Engagement has occurred with Aukaha and Te Ao Marama regarding the overall objectives of the restoration work and the preferred options for improving water quality in the lake.
- [29] Project management expertise has been secured to manage consenting requirements associated with the construction of a new culvert located under State Highway 6. This infrastructure is required to reduce the risk of flooding and to support improving water quality within Lake Hayes.
- [30] Specialist project management resources are in the process of being secured to design appropriate culvert infrastructure, supervise the construction of the culvert, and oversee the work within the main state highway road corridor, including traffic management logistics.
- [31] Staff are consulting in regard to the augmentation of water from the Arrow River into Mill Creek and an expert report from NIWA has been completed and reconfirms that the augmentation of water will be beneficial from the perspective of improving water quality within Lake Hayes. The report also confirms that the amount of water for flushing sought by Arrow Irrigation Company Ltd through their consent application would be beneficial for lake water quality, even though the amount sought differs from the preliminary advice received by ORC.



Figure 3: Lake Hayes Catchment

Tomahawk Lagoon Water Quality Project

- [32] Staff have developed a Tomahawk Lagoon Management Plan in consultation with the community.
- [33] A drop-in session was held to provide opportunity for the community to provide input and feedback in the Outline Management Plan on 29 April 2021. This was an opportunity for the community to provide feedback on which projects within the Plan should be prioritised.
- [34] Based on community input and feedback the three projects which were deemed to be the highest priority are: the support and formation of a catchment group, an ecological assessment of the catchment is to be undertaken and a permanent water quality monitoring site to be installed. This plan will come back to Council for final approval. Staff are currently scoping these projects and there is budget available for this in Year 2 (2022/23) of the 2021/31 Long-Term Plan. Regular communication is provided to key stakeholders within the Tomahawk Lagoon community.

Lake Tuakitoto Water Quality Project

- [35] Staff have developed a Draft Lake Tuakitoto Management Plan based on community consultation which was undertaken in 2018. Goals, values, and potential projects were identified through this consultation process and the next step is to re-engage with the community to obtain their input and feedback into which of the projects are to be prioritised. Re-engagement with the community will occur in November 2021 and a confirmed Management Plan (and associated implementation actions) will come back to Council for final approval.

Owhiro Small Block Owner Pilot Project

- [36] The Owhiro catchment has been identified as a pilot site for on the ground action due to evidence of degraded water quality in the catchment (Figure 4). The area faces further challenges through ongoing development pressures. The lower part of the catchment lies within the East Taieri Drainage Scheme and the Lower Taieri Flood Protection Scheme. State of Environment Monitoring for 2014-2019 identified that there are high levels of sediment, ammonia, E. coli, phosphorus and nitrogen found within Owhiro Stream.



Figure 4: Owhiro Catchment

- [37] The pilot project sought to engage landowners in the Owhiro catchment, with less than 20 hectares of land, to gain knowledge on environmental good management practice and develop an environmental plan for their property. The overall goal was to support improved water quality and biodiversity within the Owhiro catchment by connecting with small block landowners to develop understanding of good environmental management practices to support healthy people and ecosystems.
- [38] Working in partnership with NZ Landcare Trust, ORC ran two workshops for small block owners (2-20 hectares land parcels) in May 2021. Seven participants attended the workshops representing six small blocks and through attendance each small block owner developed an environmental plan for their property (Figure 5).
- [39] The first workshop focused on identifying features on the property (natural and infrastructural features), land management risks and biodiversity enhancement. The second workshop focused on biosecurity risks, land management mitigations and completing a planting and environmental plan for the property.



Figure 5: The small block landowners in a breakout session completing a section of their environmental plan

- [40] Feedback from participants consisted of the opportunities the workshops had created to network with other small block holders, to use the platform of the workshops for future events/educational topics, that participants gained clarity on the role of ORC (how it differs from the DCC), participants also felt that the workshops had provided the opportunity for a positive interaction with Council staff. Specific comments from the post workshop evaluation included:

“Small group made the workshop interactive and relaxed.”

“It is great to have a plan for the plants we want to do – both in area and purpose and having appropriate species. There won’t be so much making it up now!”

“The seminars were great – would you consider a seminar series? Topics like covenants; finding options – how to make it work for you; carbon credits/ETS – things to consider and how to go down this road. Well done, really worthwhile!”

“I found the workshop very helpful and it got me thinking about the risk areas on my property. Good to meet like minded people. In regard to pest control, e.g. rabbits, I’m not really interested in the regulations, I want practical help and ideas on how to get rid of them”.

“Could include a visit to an area where work is being done. Enjoyed and encouraged that we are on the right track and that others are also thinking and doing similar things”.

“Thanks! Really enjoyed the workshop, learnt some valuable stuff and met some great people!”

- [41] Each of the participants were provided 50 native plants as an incentive to commence implementing their environmental plan.
- [42] Staff will follow up periodically with landowners to identify the effectiveness of any mitigation measures and to support them with any future land management issues or opportunities.
- [43] There are opportunities to continue working with landowners in the Owhiro to enhance biodiversity and land management practices, and work towards achieving environmental benefits which are measurable. This includes future workshops on how to grow your

own native plants, and predator control workshops. Other partnerships for work within the Owhiro include the New Zealand Water Citizens project; working with school children to test water and make a catchment plan. The newly formed Catchment Advisor roles will support this work.

- [44] There are several locations where further the small block environmental planning workshops could be delivered e.g., Waitati, Tomahawk/Otago Peninsula, Lake Hayes. These opportunities will be considered as part of the development of a wider catchment support strategy for the newly formed Environmental Implementation Team.

Land Management

- [45] Over the past six months, there has been a concentrated effort on improving winter grazing practices of Otago landowners. This programme of work has encompassed:
- a. Development of a winter grazing template in partnership with Federated Farmers representatives. This template has provided an 'entry level' point for farmers who have not previously completed a written wintering plan. In addition to this template, the Ministry for Primary Industries wintering module has also been widely promoted by the team, setting the expectation for documenting a winter grazing plan for the immediate years ahead.
 - b. Communication via various channels regarding the central government wintering module and good management practices.
 - c. Supporting the Communications Team to develop an ORC winter grazing good management video, featuring a local farmer. <https://youtu.be/QZYQwcywu0w>
 - d. Provision of advice to Catchment Groups. The Team meet with numerous catchment groups to provide advice on good management practices for grazing winter crops. These practices focused predominantly on Critical Source Area management, utilising grass or crop buffers and grazing crops strategically. These sessions occurred in:
 - Hawea
 - Makarora
 - Matukituki
 - Glenorchy
 - Millers Flat
 - East Otago
 - South Otago
 - North Otago
 - Heriot Burn
 - Crookston Burn
 - Spylaw
 - Upper Waipahi

- e. Individual farm visits to discuss good winter grazing management and to provide guidance on developing a strategic grazing plan have been undertaken across Otago, including West Otago, East Otago and Balclutha areas.
- f. Industry events. Staff co-presented at a combined DairyNZ and Beef and Lamb field day at Telford Campus in South Otago. They provided technical advice on identifying and managing critical source areas in winter crop paddocks. Over 60 farmers and Rural Professionals were in attendance. Staff also provided information on identifying contaminant pathways and risks during intensive grazing at a combined DairyNZ and Beef and Lamb Winter Grazing Plan workshop. The aim of the workshop was to assist farmers with preparing a winter grazing plan for their property. 24 farmers attended.
- g. Assisting the Compliance Team with winter grazing flyovers.

4. Biodiversity Implementation

Government Funding to Accelerate Action

- [46] Council has been awarded \$961,234 from the Jobs for Nature Private Land Biodiversity Fund to deliver a project titled “Maintaining the Gains – Protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity on private land”.
- [47] The three-year project focuses on private land under legal protection (e.g., QEII covenants, protected Māori land, or land protected under private Trust). A partnership, between ORC, QEII and rūnaka, through Aukaha, will create jobs that protect covenanted sites across Otago within areas of high biodiversity value. It was a criterion of the Private Land Biodiversity Fund that only land that was under existing legal protection, or land that was committed to legal protection, was eligible for funded works.
- [48] Newly created jobs will support private landowners to manage pest plants at their covenanted sites. Biosecurity measures are increasingly recognised as crucial for New Zealand to stop the decline in its indigenous biodiversity.
- [49] The project will focus on enabling private land holders to meet the significant time and resourcing gap that is a barrier to successfully maintaining covenanted land. The work will be focused on those sites in Otago that lie within spatially prioritised sites of high indigenous biodiversity value, as outlined in ORC’s recent biodiversity mapping and ecological modelling work.
- [50] QEII will engage land holders with QEII covenants to identify volunteers that have pest plant issues at their sites and would like assistance with maintenance. ORC and Aukaha will lead engagement with land holders of private trusts and Māori land respectively where necessary.
- [51] It is proposed that Aukaha will deliver the funded on-the-ground management services. Aukaha see opportunities not only to redeploy those that have lost jobs, but also to

grow a Māori and Pasifika workforce that has a portfolio of skills, by ensuring a range of opportunities are available through this project, from planting and fencing to Information Technology, communication and engagement, site managers, and team leaders.

5. Biosecurity Implementation

National Programme – Wilding Conifer

- [52] The National Wilding Conifer Programme was established by the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) in 2016 and aims to prevent the spread of wilding conifers and progressively remove these pest species from vulnerable landscapes within New Zealand.
- [53] Council is the “Recipient” for the National Programme in the Otago region and works collectively with the Wakatipu Wilding Conifer group and the Central Otago Wilding Conifer Control Group on operational plans and management for the control of wilding conifers throughout Otago.
- [54] The region received \$5.9M for the 2020-2021 operational year, with most of the funding (\$5.2M) being distributed within the Wakatipu Management Unit. This accelerated investment was focused on the creation and support of post COVID-19 pandemic jobs in the Queenstown-Lakes District area.

2020/2021 Operations Overview

- [55] A total of 89,649 hectares of wilding conifers were controlled through aerial methods and 11,090 hectares through mechanised ground control in the Wakatipu and Central Otago areas. Control work was carried out within 11 Management Units including (Whakatipu Region) Whakatipu, Glenorchy, Shotover, Kawarau, Northern Eyre; (Central Otago Region); Dunstan, Alexandra, Rough Ridge, Naseby, Lammermoor and Dunedin (Figures 6 & 7).



Figure 6: Map of the Otago Region divided into Management Units, highlighting newly 'activated' areas for the 2020-2024 National Wilding Conifer Programme and infestation data of wilding spread.



Figure 7: Map of combined aerial and ground control operations completed in Otago 2020/2021

- [56] A total of \$6,039,810 was allocated to wilding conifer control operations throughout Otago for the 2020/2021 financial year. Despite substantial distribution to operational activity because of a reduced contract period and COVID-19, almost all funding was utilised.
- [57] To provide an example of some work undertaken, Figure 8 illustrates, graphically, one area of control last season, using an aerial basal bark application control method.



Figure 8: Map example of trees icon waypoints sprayed through ABBA control method on Waitiri Station in the Kowhiri Management Unit

2021/2022 Operations Overview

- [58] Otago will receive a total of \$3,943,455 for wilding conifer control in 2021/2022. With Whakatipu being the highest funded MU (\$1,006,383), followed by Kowhiri (\$600,000), Remarkables (\$550,655), Shotover (\$324,425) and Northern Eyre (\$330,337).
- [59] For the first time, the Luggate MU has received funding of \$232,655 for 2021/2022. This area will be managed by the ORC, representing a new area of activity for the Council. Staff are currently in the process of establishing systems and processes with the assistance of Boffa Miskell to ensure when operations commence, they are undertaken to the National Programmes Best Practise Charter.
- [60] A comprehensive 'post control' monitoring strategy will be established this year for quality assurance purposes and to assess delivery cost effectiveness to ensure value for money. As the locations are remote and require access via helicopter, a small number of sites are identified and are monitored via transect lines, this is to ensure there is a methodical monitoring system. This was trialled in 2020/2021 season and is ongoing by E3 Scientific based in Arrowtown.
- [61] The Central Wilding conifer group applied for funding through MPI's Community Partnership Project (CPP) and were successful. They have received a further \$140,000

for operations in 2021/2022 for two locations: Kakanui Ranges and Maungatua/ Mill Creek area.

- [62] The Kakanui Ranges is located within the Waitaki management unit. The Waitaki MU is currently not funded through the National Programme, however this is ongoing work as it was previously funding through a Community Partnership programme in 2012⁶ and requires follow up control. The total funding received is \$100,000 and the control method used in this location is a mix of Skidhopping² and aerial basal bark application³.
- [63] In 2019 the Dunedin Management Unit, received funding through the Community Partnership Fund to control an area surrounding the Maungatua Conservation area. The work has been completed to the value of \$60,000 however, it was identified that further control works need to be carried out. A further \$40,000 has been allocated through the CCP fund for 2021/2022 operations.

Regional Leadership

- [64] A Regional Co-ordination Group (RCG) for Wilding Conifer management has been established, chaired by Councillor Forbes (with Councillor Wilson as Deputy Chair). The RCG will focus on matters such as ensuring:
- a. That operational activities are planned in a cohesive and coordinated way.
 - b. That operational activities achieve national strategy objectives.
 - c. Risks are identified and managed appropriately.
 - d. Progress towards operational plans is reported and accountabilities are understood.
- [65] Further information gathering and analysis regarding the wilding conifer situation is being undertaken to support the development of a regional strategy in 2022/2023.

National Programme – Wallabies

2020/2021 Operations Overview

- [66] The National Wallaby Programme was established by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) in 2020 and aims to prevent the spread of wallabies and to progressively contain and eradicate these pest species from vulnerable landscapes within New Zealand.
- [67] Council approved ORC entering a funding agreement with MPI on 28 October 2020. For the 2020-2021 operational year, Otago has received \$312,000, with the majority of funding being allocated to surveillance and control activities within the Hawea, Hawkdun and North Otago Management Units (Figure 9). This was supported by an addition \$300,000 contribution from ORC.

² Skidhopping is where individual chainsaw operators exit and enter the aircraft while the pilot maintains the helicopter in a stabilised hover. This method is used to control trees in difficult locations where access is limited.

³ This method is where herbicide is directly applied to a tree via a lance or wand generally to the base of a tree. This is a targeted method and can be used on specific trees without harming surrounding vegetation and where trees are difficult to access for example cliff faces.

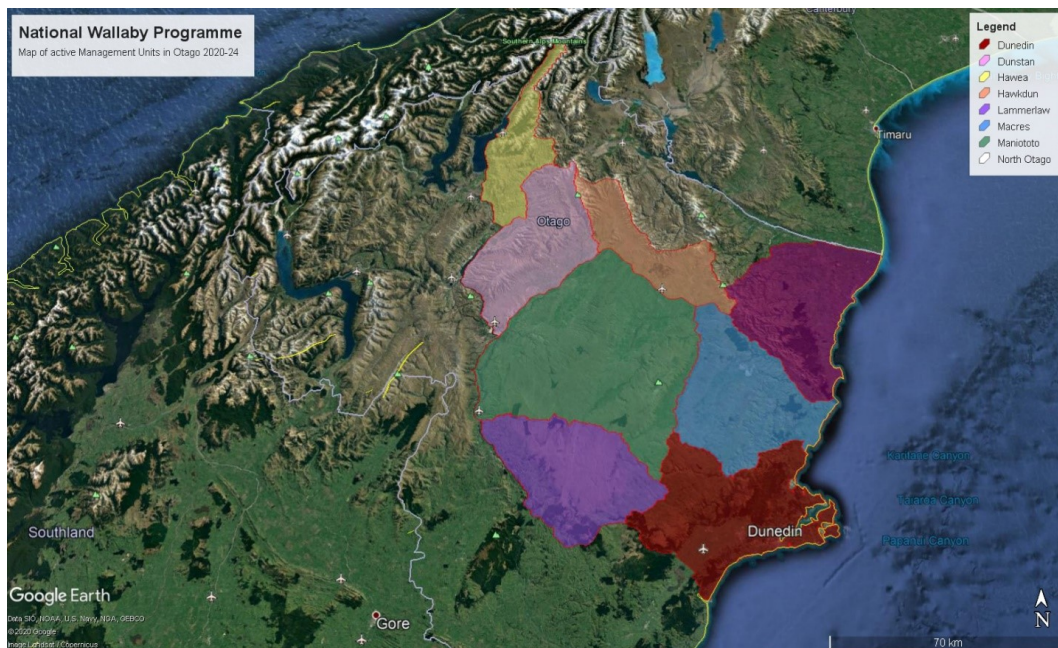


Figure 9: Wallaby Management Units

- [68] The surveillance and control programme saw over 60,000 ha of surveillance, strong land occupier engagement in the programme and five contractors secured to undertake surveillance and control work. Surveillance work was largely ground-based inspections and was undertaken with the assistance of dogs and thermal equipment with both wallaby and their scat/sign being searched for. This was supported by daytime thermal surveillance.
- [69] A total of five wallabies were destroyed during the year. Two feratox (cyanide) operations occurred in (Hawkdun and North Otago MUs), this resulted in four wallabies being killed, two in each MU. The remaining wallaby was shot from a helicopter, equipped with thermal camera technology, during a daytime flight (Figure 10).



Figure 10: Trap and Trigger thermal imagery operator (Heliventures Helicopter) with the wallaby killed in the Kakanui Mountains

2021/2022 Operations Overview

- [70] Indicative funding from central government for the 2021/2022 has been set at approximately \$1.8m. This represents a substantial increase in investment for Otago's wallaby programme. Figure 11 provides an overview of planned surveillance areas for the current financial year, classified by priority.
- [71] A Regional Co-ordination Group (RCG) for Wallaby management has been established, chaired by Councillor Malcolm (with Councillor Kelliher as Deputy Chair). The RCG will focus on ensuring that operational activities are co-ordinated and meet national strategy objectives and that the potential threat wallabies pose to the environment is understood and communicated and solutions are sought and implemented effectively.

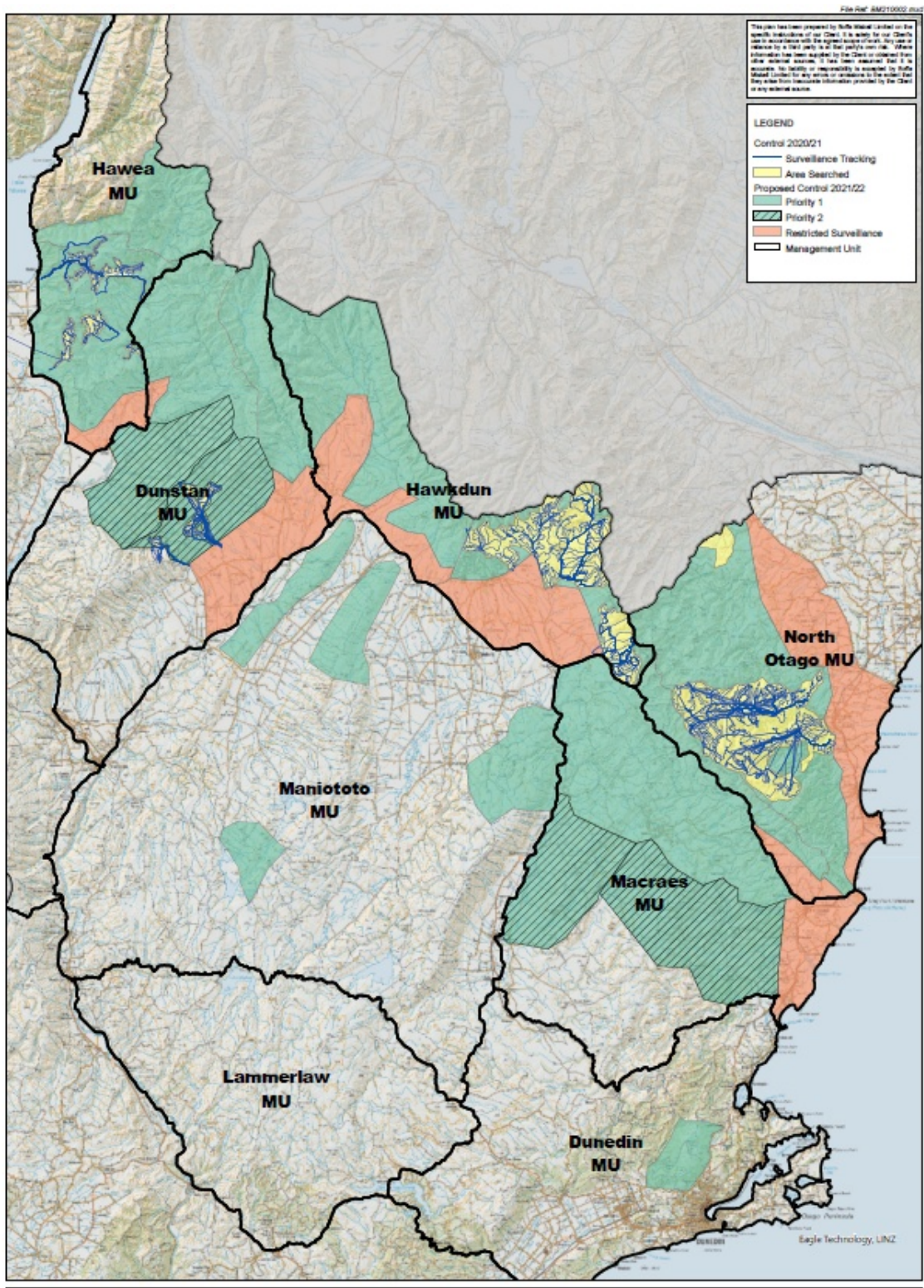


Figure 11: Control Work Undertaken in 2020/2021 and Proposed Work for 2021/2022

Community Responses to Rabbit Management

- [72] In addition to standard compliance work within our rabbit programme, which has increased significantly in the past year (see report on the Biosecurity Operational Plan performance), ORC is facilitating several community responses to better rabbit management in semi-rural and peri-urban environments. The ORC Biosecurity Operational Plan 2021-2022 has the target to facilitate and lead at least eight community responses to reduce rabbit populations in areas of high need across Otago.

- [73] Table 1 provides an overview of the seven communities that ORC is currently working with. Each approach is unique, based on the landscape, number of properties, land use activities and preferences of the community. There are no quick fixes to rabbit management, thus support provided to these communities will be ongoing. The projects have been run simultaneously where possible but have had to be prioritised due to resourcing.

- [74] Ahikā Consulting have been engaged to support the development and implementation of a community engagement approach, project management of the initiatives, and co-ordination of stakeholders, community, and contractors.

	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT						
	CONTINUOUS EFFORT						
	Initial Engagement	Initial Property Inspections	Situation Overview	Management Planning	Control Work	Formal Compliance Inspections	Default Work
Lake Hayes							
Albert Town							
Gibbston							
Otago Peninsula							
Queensbury							
Moeraki							
Hidden Hills							

Table 1: Summary of Actions Undertaken to Facilitate Community Responses to Rabbit Management

- [75] The areas are all different, and the approach has been adapted to the local context. The Lake Hayes project area comprises over 300 landowners, whereas the Albert Town control area comprises only five, and so a different approach has been required for each area.

- [76] Ahikā, along with ORC Biosecurity Staff, worked closely with Albert Town landowners (DoC, QLDC, LINZ and two private landowners) to organise a Pindone operation for winter 2021. Whilst Pindone used in isolation is not considered to be a suitable long-

term solution for rabbit control, extensive control work was also planned in the wider area, and this is expected to prolong the effect of the Albert Town operation.

- [77] Considerable effort over several months was put into organising the Albert Town operation, including property inspections, working directly with landowners to get them on board, creating and managing the implementation of a joint communications strategy, and providing additional onsite signage. Any operation involving the use of pesticide on DoC land requires a DoC permit, which took time to obtain.
- [78] The Albert Town operation was due to commence the week beginning 13 August, but wet weather and the Level 4 lockdown have prevented this from happening. While pest control is deemed an essential service, wider considerations about the appropriateness of using poison on high-use public areas during lockdown resulted in DoC and QLDC pausing the operation. This decision will be revisited under Level 3, but the optimal time for undertaking Pindone control is starting to pass.
- [79] The work in Lake Hayes to date has consisted of an initial area-wide survey, ongoing community engagement, two public meetings, an online survey and gathering of background information. A Pindone operation was undertaken in Lake Hayes in 2013 with limited effect due to lack of landowner agreement/buy-in, limited uptake of baits in areas where rabbits have an alternative food source, lack of follow-up secondary control, and rapid reinvasion from surrounding areas.
- [80] It was recognised early on, therefore, that a more sophisticated approach was required for Lake Hayes. A Steering Group comprising several local residents and Queenstown Lakes District Council has been established to provide guidance in the development of a Lake Hayes Rabbit Management Plan, with the inaugural meeting of this group due to be held on 13 September.
- [81] The work in Gibbston commenced with an initial public meeting and communications followed by inspections of every property in the area (160+) undertaken by four biosecurity staff, over a four-week period. The data collected has been used to create a heat map showing rabbit hotspots and high-risk properties in terms of rabbit control. This approach that seeks to tackle rabbit populations across an area rather than just on individual properties.
- [82] A process for engaging landowners to ensure widespread coordination of control efforts has been developed. This involves education, providing examples of successful (transferable) community-led initiatives nearby, encouraging landowner collaboration and localised control efforts using a variety of methods, requesting high-risk properties to submit management plans, and finally using compliance mechanisms to require action from certain landowners as required. This process has been presented to the local community association who were very enthusiastic and was due to be presented to the community on 23 August, but this meeting had to be postponed due to the Level 4 lockdown.
- [83] If readily adopted by most landowners in the area, the Gibbston process will see extensive rabbit control work (fencing, habitat modification, fumigation, shooting etc)

being undertaken over spring and summer 2021/22, a widespread Pindone operation in winter 2022, and ongoing secondary control work continuing beyond this.

- [84] A similar approach is being planned for Moeraki and Queensbury. Something similar is being planned for Otago Peninsula but this will need to be adapted slightly given that Biosecurity Staff have already been undertaking inspection work in the area.
- [85] The rabbit problem in Pisa Moorings is already being managed well by Pest Free Pisa Moorings. This group of ten volunteers meets twice per week to undertake habitat modification and fumigation, which has been very successful to date. Given the group's success, key landowners have been investing in fencing and other infrastructure to ensure the longevity of the group's efforts. A meeting has been organised between the group's chairperson and the chair of the Hidden Hills Residents Association to discuss the potential of establishing something similar to address the rabbit problem at Hidden Hills. This was scheduled for 24 August but has had to be postponed due to the Level 4 lockdown.

Facilitating Access to Rabbit Management Control Tools

- [86] Interested parties were invited to submit for the provision of making poisoned bait available in Central Otago, for the purposes of rabbit control for winter/spring 2021. COVID has diminished the usefulness of this trial for the 2021 winter season, but proposals received are being worked through and opportunities will be pursued to support the 2022 season. This could include ORC working with potential supplier/s to promote availability of bait and to seek solutions for any barriers to access and/or use.
- [87] A specialist mechanical engineering company was engaged to complete a comprehensive machinery safety assessment of ORC owned equipment colloquially referred to as "Carrot Cutters". These machines are used to chop vegetable matter and dose these with poison, for the purposes of pest control operations.
- [88] All the machines are of significant age (1960s – 1970s) and have various levels of guarding and machinery safety features (but are not considered adequate to current safety standards). The safety assessment carried out by the mechanical engineering will feed into the overall feasibility of bringing the machines back into service.
- [89] The consultant, Motovated Design & Analysis, conducted a physical inspection and hazard identification of each machine, in consultation with ORC staff. From the hazard identification a risk assessment has been compiled and safety improvements recommended. This information will be used to inform the final business case determining ORC's role with respect to "Carrot Cutters".
- [90] Council received ten inquiries from the public/contractors regarding purchasing of bait over the past twelve months. The requesters were referred to companies/contractors who could provide the bait. Two contractors approached Council to borrow ORC equipment as per previous informal arrangements. As noted above, the mechanical

engineering consultant has advised Council that in its current state, ORC equipment does not meet current safety standards.

CONSIDERATIONS

Policy Considerations

[91] No considerations arising from this paper.

Financial Considerations

[92] No considerations arising from this paper.

Significance and Engagement

[93] No considerations arising from this paper.

Legislative Considerations

[94] No considerations arising from this paper.

Risk Considerations

[95] The ongoing COVID-19 situation may impact on Council's ability to deliver national programmes and fully achieve Council's Biosecurity Operational Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

From: Cr Kate Wilson (ORC) <Kate.Wilson@orc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 26 August 2021 8:59 a.m.

Subject: Nom for implementation Committee

Morena all, please could the following be as a notice of motion to the 8 September 2021 Implementation Committee:

That the Committee:

- 1) **Requests** staff report in December and three monthly thereafter to Council on progress on gravel extraction consents.
- 2) **Requests** staff report three monthly on development of work programmes for the 2022/23 and subsequent annual plans for river management.
- 3) **Requests** staff provide Council with a report on timeframes and process to better develop asset management plans for plantings alongside river banks.



Kate Wilson
0274438134

That the Committee excludes the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting (pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987) namely:

- Minutes of the public-excluded 7 July 2021 Implementation Committee meeting

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
3.1 Minutes of the public-excluded 7 July 2021 Implementation Committee meeting.	<p>To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities – Section 7(2)(h)</p> <p>To enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) – Section 7(2)(i)</p>	

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by [section 6](#) or [section 7](#) of that Act or [section 6](#) or [section 7](#) or [section 9](#) of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as shown above after each item.