

# Environmental Implementation Committee

## 11 May 2023



Meeting will be held in the Council Chamber at Level 2, Philip Laing House  
144 Rattray Street, Dunedin  
[ORC Official YouTube Livestream](#)

### Members:

Cr Bryan Scott (Co-Chair)	Cr Lloyd McCall
Cr Kate Wilson (Co-Chair)	Cr Tim Mephram
Cr Alexa Forbes	Cr Andrew Noone
Cr Gary Kelliher	Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Michael Laws	Cr Alan Somerville
Cr Kevin Malcolm	Cr Elliot Weir

Senior Officer: Pim Borren, Interim Chief Executive

Meeting Support: Liz Spector, Governance Support Officer

11 May 2023 09:00 AM

## Agenda Topic

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### 1. WELCOME

### 2. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received prior to publication of the agenda.

### 3. PUBLIC FORUM

Requests to speak should be made to the Governance Support team on 0800 474 082 or to [governance@orc.govt.nz](mailto:governance@orc.govt.nz) at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, however, this requirement may be waived by the Chairperson at the time of the meeting.

- Chris Ford speaking on behalf of the Disabled Persons' Assembly Annual Plan submission
- Andrew Simms speaking on behalf of the Mosgiel-Taieri Community Board Annual Plan submission
- Paul Weir speaking on behalf of the Saddle Hill Community Board Annual Plan submission
- Paul Kavanagh speaking on behalf of the Southern Lakes Sanctuary Trust Annual Plan submission
- Representative of the West Harbour Community Board speaking on behalf of the Annual Plan submission

### 4. 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.

## 5. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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. [Councillor Declarations of Interests are published to the ORC website.](#)

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## Environmental Implementation Committee MINUTES

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**Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Environmental Implementation Committee held in the Council Chamber, Level 2 Philip Laing House, 144 Rattray Street, Dunedin on Thursday 2 February 2023, commencing at 9:20 AM.**

### **PRESENT**

Cr Bryan Scott *(Co-Chairperson)*  
Cr Kate Wilson *(Co-Chairperson)*  
Cr Alexa Forbes  
Cr Gary Kelliher  
Cr Michael Laws (electronically)  
Cr Kevin Malcolm  
Cr Lloyd McCall  
Cr Tim Mephram  
Cr Andrew Noone  
Cr Gretchen Robertson  
Cr Alan Somerville  
Cr Elliot Weir

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Co-Chairperson Kate Wilson welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 9:20 am. Staff present included Anita Dawe (GM Policy and Science), Gavin Palmer (GM Operations), Richard Saunders (GM Regulatory and Communications), Amanda Vercoe (GM Governance, Culture and Customer), Liz Spector (Governance Support), Andrea Howard, Libby Caldwell, Gavin Udy, Murray Boardman, and Sarah Irvine.

## 1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies. Co-Chair Wilson noted Cr Elliot Weir would join the meeting shortly. She also noted Cr Laws had joined the meeting electronically.

## 2. PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum was held.

## 3. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as published.

## 4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were advised.

## 5. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

### 5.1. Rabbit Monitoring

The report was provided to detail findings of two external reviews of current ORC rabbit monitoring methodologies and tools, and progress with actions arising from those reviews. Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation), Sarah Irvine (Biosecurity Specialist) and Gavin Palmer (GM Operations) were present to respond to questions about the report. Gavin Udy (Project Delivery Specialist), Murray Boardman (Performance and Delivery Specialist), John Parkes (Kurahaupo Consulting), Hannah Palmer (Place Group Environmental Planning), and Janine Duckworth (Landcare Research) were present electronically.

*Cr Elliot Weir joined the meeting at 9:25 a.m.*

Following Councillor questions and a discussion of the findings, Cr Wilson moved the recommendations:

### **Resolution EIC23-101: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded**

*That the Environmental Implementation Committee:*

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Endorses** the approach being taken to measure the effectiveness of the ORC sustained control programme for feral rabbits.

### **MOTION CARRIED**

### 5.2. National Wilding Conifer Control Programme

The report was provided to update the Committee on central government's scheduled reduction of funding for the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme and to obtain an endorsement to support Te Uru Kahika in advocacy for continued central government funding of the programme. Gavin Palmer (GM Operations), Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) and Gavin Udy (Project Delivery Specialist, National Programmes) were available to respond to questions about the report.

Councillors expressed concerns over the withdrawal of funding which could negatively impact the gains made in the reduction of wilding conifers. Richard Saunders (GM Regulatory and Comms) noted challenges were presented by the proximity of the funding reductions to LTP

processes which could cause problems for regional councils across the country. He said it was important to work with those groups to lobby MPI to request reconsideration of the timing of this planned funding reduction.

Following further discussion of the report, Cr Malcolm moved:

**Resolution EIC23-102: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Weir Seconded**

*That the Environmental Implementation Committee:*

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Notes** the significant reduction in National Wilding Conifer Control Programme funding from 2023-24 onwards.
- 3) **Endorses** ORC's support of Te Uru Kahika in advocacy for continued central government funding of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5.3. Biosecurity Operational Plan 23/24**

An Operational Plan is required under Section 100B of the Biosecurity Act 1993 to detail the nature and scope of activities the Council intends to undertake in the annual implementation of the Regional Pest Management Plan. For reasons of efficiency, the Operational Plan aligns with Council's financial year (1 July to 30 June). The Operational Plan details the range of activities undertaken by Council on the implementation of pest control across the five management programmes. The proposed Operational Plan continues the commitment of the biosecurity work as approved in the ORC 2021-31 Long Term Plan. This report presented the draft Plan for Committee recommendation to Council.

Gavin Palmer (GM Operations), Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation), Gavin Udy (Project Delivery Specialist - National Programmes) and Murray Boardman (Performance and Delivery Specialist) were available to respond to questions about the report.

Following questions and debate, it was moved:

**Resolution EIC23-103: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded**

*That the Environmental Implementation Committee:*

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Recommends Council approval of the Otago Regional Council's Regional Pest Management Plan 2023-2024 Biosecurity Operational Plan and authorises the Chief Executive to make minor subsequent changes and error corrections to the 2023-2024 Biosecurity Operational Plan in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Environmental Implementation Committee.**
- 3) **Notes that a copy of the Otago Regional Council's Regional Pest Management Plan 2023-2024 Biosecurity Operational Plan will be provided to the Minister for Biosecurity.**
- 4) **Notes that staff will report back to Council any response from the Minister for Biosecurity.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Following from a discussion conducted during the Rabbit Monitoring report, Cr Kelliher further moved:

**Resolution EIC23-104: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded**

*That the Environmental Implementation Committee recommends Council:*

- 1) **Consider** the advice of Janine Duckworth (Landcare Research) that ORC staff investigate the process required to have RHDV removed from the National Unwanted Organism list.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

#### **5.4. ECO Fund - Funding available, criteria and assessment panel for March 2023 round**

This report was provided to obtain a recommendation for approval for funding available for Incentives Funding and minor changes to ECO Fund processes and administration (including revised Terms and Conditions) for the March 2023 round; and request a new ECO Fund Councillor assessment panel be convened for the new Council triennium. Gavin Palmer (GM Operations) and Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) were available to respond to questions.

Cr Alan Somerville said he was pleased to be appointed chair of the panel and said a rotation of different Councillors appointed to the panel was a positive idea. He suggested Crs Forbes and Wilson be appointed for the first round. Following a discussion, it was moved:

#### **Resolution EIC23-105: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded**

*That the Environmental Implementation Committee:*

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Recommends Council approval of** the funding available including changes to Incentives Funding allocations outlined in Table 1 for the March 2023 round (Option 2).
- 3) **Recommends Council approval of** revised assessment criteria and Terms and Conditions outlined in Table 3 and Attachments 1, 3 and 4 for the March 2023 round (Option 2).
- 4) **Appoints** Cr Wilson and Cr Forbes to join Cr Somerville (Chair) to form the ECO Fund assessment panel for the first year of the 2022-2025 triennium.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

#### **6. CLOSURE**

There was no further business and Co-Chair Wilson declared the meeting closed at 10:50 a.m.

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Chairperson

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Date

### 7.1. Biosecurity/biodiversity initiatives and partnerships

<b>Prepared for:</b>	Environmental Implementation Committee
<b>Report No.</b>	OPS2303
<b>Activity:</b>	Governance Report
<b>Author:</b>	Anna Molloy, Principal Advisor and Libby Caldwell, Manager Environmental Implementation
<b>Endorsed by:</b>	Gavin Palmer, General Manager Operations
<b>Date:</b>	11 May 2023

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#### PURPOSE

- [1] To provide a report on the biodiversity and biosecurity initiatives, partnerships and projects as per the 2022/23 Annual Plan level of service performance measures.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [2] The 2022/23 Annual Plan requires a report to Council by 30 June 2023 for the following performance measures and targets:
- Biosecurity / biodiversity initiatives and organisations supported (with funding) and the key deliverables achieved.
    - i. Target: report to Council
  - Biodiversity and biosecurity partnerships established, and joint projects developed and progressed
    - i. Target: Maintain or increase number of partnership engagement activities and events and report to Council.
    - ii. Target: projects and progress against milestones reported to Council.
- [3] Reports have been compiled for these two measures (three targets) and are attached to this paper.

#### RECOMMENDATION

*That the Environmental Implementation Committee:*

- 1) **Notes** this report.

#### BACKGROUND

- [4] The levels of service in the 2022/23 Annual Plan to which this reporting pertain are provided below in paragraphs [5] and [6].

##### Level of Service Commitments

- [5] *Provide support and funding to selected initiatives and organisations across the region which deliver biosecurity, biodiversity and environmental outcomes that align with our strategic objectives.*
- *Biosecurity / biodiversity initiatives and organisations supported (with funding) and the key deliverables achieved.*
    - i. *Target: report to Council*
- [6] *Collaborate with iwi, DOC and other key organisations to develop, coordinate and deliver a programme of actions to enhance indigenous biodiversity.*
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- *Biodiversity and biosecurity partnerships established, and joint projects developed and progressed*
    - i. *Target: Maintain or increase number of partnership engagement activities and events and report to Council.*
    - ii. *Target: projects and progress against milestones reported to Council.*
- [7] The former of these performance measures (a) has been reported on primarily based on the ECO Fund and associated incentives programmes (**Attachments 1 and 2**).
- [8] Partnership engagement activities and projects (b) includes partnerships where the goal is to enhance indigenous biodiversity (**Attachment 3**). Last year's report on this performance measure created the baseline which was 6 engagement activities.

## DISCUSSION

- [9] A map showing the location of approved ECO Fund and associated incentive programme projects is at **Attachment 2**.
- [10] ECO Fund and associated incentive programme projects were asked to indicate outputs they intend to deliver in their application. This means the key deliverables for ORC grants can be better quantified than in previous reporting. In summary the key deliverables across approved projects for 2022 are:
- Area of native forest fenced – 5 ha
  - Area of plant pest species removal – 3 ha
  - Number of native plants grown for projects - 30,000
  - Number of native plants planted – 43,545
  - Number of predator traps deployed – 1,069
  - Area of soil enhancement – 1.7 ha
  - Number of rabbit management plans – 1
  - Length of rabbit exclusion fencing – 3.7 km
  - Length of rabbit fencing upgrade – 1 km
- [11] Note that the deliverables above are outputs as intended in the Project applications. We are unable to report to deliverables achieved until reporting for these is received which is not until August 2023.
- [12] Environmental Implementation staff have been in contact with all ECO Fund and incentive recipients and visited projects on site where appropriate. There are no major issues with any projects underway. Where projects have involved minor revision of deliverables or timeframes these have been negotiated and documented in the project tracking system. One project advised they were unable to take up the grant and this amount has been added to the 2023 ECO Fund grants.
- [13] There has been an increase in biodiversity partnership activities and projects. Last year's baseline report on this performance measure was 6 engagement activities, including the Biodiversity Forum, helping one Nga Whenua Rahui application, working with MfE on biodiversity pilot projects, participating in National Biodiversity Working Group, and beginning site-led preparatory work with community. The report this year covers 9 engagement activities, with several of those including more than one event.



- [14] This is primarily due to the Environmental Implementation Team becoming more established in its purpose and the roles within it, as well as having a near full complement of staff, including Partnership Lead – Biodiversity, Community Coordinators – Biosecurity and Project Delivery Specialists.
- [15] Two new partnership projects have been developed in 2022/23 – QEII (a charitable trust that partners with private landowners to protect sites of ecological significance) and Nga Whenua Rahui (a programme established under DOC to protect the natural integrity of Māori land). These pilots have just been developed recently, so implementation will start in May / June 2023. These partnerships involve working with QEII and Nga Whenua Rahui to identify and support new covenants protecting high value biodiversity through cost sharing of fencing costs.
- [16] Site-Led and OSPRI Transition partnerships are newly developed but have been identified in the RPMP and Biosecurity Strategy since 2019. The progression of these has been delayed due to the Environmental Implementation Team only being established in 2020 and taking time to get roles filled.
- [17] Progress for the Site-Led Programme includes establishing a working group with Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou and Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki for the site-led areas of West Harbour / Mt Cargill, Quarantine Island, Goat Island and Otago Peninsula. This working group will oversee the more specific site-led actions for the area.
- [18] The OSPRI Transition project is building on the partnership with Predator Free Dunedin and developing more targeted monitoring of possum control to inform recommendations for developing ongoing OSPRI transition approaches for other sites in Otago. An agreement for this has been drafted, and we are waiting for review by Predator Free Dunedin. The project should be completed by June 2024.
- [19] Further opportunities for biodiversity partnerships will likely arise from the review of the Biodiversity Strategy (through the Otago Biodiversity Forum). This revised Strategy will guide strategic activities with key partners for the coming years. In addition, there may be an opportunity for funding large scale biodiversity projects (along the lines of the Predator Free Dunedin partnership) through a contestable process.

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Strategic Framework and Policy Considerations**

- [20] There are no strategic framework or policy considerations relevant to this report.

### **Financial Considerations**

- [21] There are no financial implications associated with this report.

### **Significance and Engagement Considerations**

- [22] Not applicable.

### **Legislative and Risk Considerations**

- [23] Not applicable.

### **Climate Change Considerations**

- [24] Not applicable.

**Communications Considerations**

[25] Communications regarding ECO Fund and associated incentive programmes have been undertaken at the time the grants were announced.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. ECO Fund and Incentives Key Deliverables [7.1.1 - 2 pages]
2. 2022 Approved Projects ID Map [7.1.2 - 1 page]
3. Biodiversity and biosecurity partnerships - events and projects [7.1.3 - 3 pages]

**Attachment 1** – Biosecurity / biodiversity initiatives and organisations supported (with funding) and the key deliverables planned to be achieved for 2022/23.

ID	Applicant	Project type	Location	ECO Fund priority	Amount	Key deliverable name	Key deliverable metric
ECO Fund - General							
1	Southern Lakes Sanctuary	Mohua/yellowhead translocation - helicopters and bait stations	Queenstown Lakes area	Biodiversity	\$26,125.00	Number of predator devices deployed	300
2	Wakatipu Reforestation Trust	Education on native plantings through workshops and planting days	Queenstown Lakes area	Environmental education	\$45,733.00	Number of native plants planted	11000
3	Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust	Native revegetation of yellow-eyed penguin habitat	Long Point, The Catlins	Biodiversity	\$17,091.00	Number of native plants planted	15000
4	Save The Otago Peninsula Inc. (STOP)	Fencing significant native forest remnant	Harbour Cone, Otago Peninsula	Biodiversity	\$17,926.00	Area of fenced native forest	5
5	Haehaeata Natural Heritage Charitable Trust	Community native plant nursery - wages	Clyde	Biodiversity	\$38,124.00	Number of native plants planted	5367
6	Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society - Dunedin Branch	Predator control to protect long-tailed bat roost sites	Tahakopa Valley, The Catlins	Biodiversity	\$16,261.00	Number of predator devices deployed	194
7	Quarantine Island Kamau Taurua Community (Inc)	Native revegetation, weed control, predator control - volunteer expenses and coordinator	Quarantine Island, Otago Harbour	Biodiversity	\$18,002.00	Volunteer hours participating in native revegetation, plant and animal pest control	1000
8	Aroha Kaikorai Valley Trust	Predator trap network - operations plan and traps	Kaikorai Valley, Dunedin	Biodiversity	\$19,226.00	Number of predator devices deployed	380
10	Friends of Bullock Creek Incorporated	Weed control	Wanaka	Water quality	\$12,000.00	Area subject to removal of multiple plant pest species	3
11	Waitaki Branch of Forest and Bird	Community native plant nursery - plant sourcing	Oamaru	Biodiversity	\$3,000.00	Number of native plants available to planting projects	3000
12	Mana Tāhuna	Predator trap line	Lake Hayes	Biodiversity	\$15,000.00	Number of predator devices deployed	230
13	Te Kākano Aotearoa Trust	Native revegetation	Upper Clutha	Biodiversity	\$4,000.00	Number of native plants planted	512
14	Hokonui Runanga (operating as Hokonui Runanga Floriculture Ltd)	Possum control in native forest	Tautuku	Biodiversity	\$38,413.78	n/a - grant was not taken up by group	n/a

19	Aspiring Biodiversity Trust	Predator trap network	Mt Aspiring National Park	Biodiversity	\$19,098.22	Number of predator devices deployed	265
Incentives Funding - native planting after wilding pine removal							
41	Arrowtown Choppers	Native revegetation planting consumables	Arrowtown	Biosecurity	\$11,706.00	Number of native plants planted	7000
42	Quail Rise Residents Group	Site preparation for native revegetation	Queenstown	Biosecurity	\$1,000.00	Number of native plants planted	200
43	Cape Wanbrow	Native revegetation of titi/muttonbird habitat	Oamaru	Biosecurity	\$2,500.00	Number of native plants planted	350
44	Mokihi Reforestation Trust	Soil preparation materials for native revegetation	Bannockburn	Biosecurity	\$7,919.00	Hectares of soil enhancement	1.7
Incentives Funding - native planting for water quality							
45	Ōtokia Creek and Marsh Habitat Trust	Native revegetation - admin, materials, labour	Brighton, Dunedin	Water quality	\$23,700.00	Number of native plants planted	2000
46	Dunedin Environment Centre Trust	Native revegetation - plants and consumables	Kaikorai Estuary, Dunedin	Water quality	\$5,000.00	Number of native plants planted	600
47	East Otago Catchment Group	Native revegetation - plants	Dunback, Shag Valley	Water quality	\$1,300.00	Number of native plants planted	1425
Incentives Funding - sustained rabbit management							
50	Hidden Hills Residents Association	Rabbit fencing	Wanaka	Biosecurity	\$48,883.00	Length (m) of rabbit exclusion fencing	2200
51	Friends of Tucker Beach Wildlife Management Reserve	Rabbit management plan	Queenstown	Biosecurity	\$33,000.00	Length (m) of rabbit exclusion fencing	1500
52	Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group (OPBG)	Community consultation for rabbit management plan	Otago Peninsula	Biosecurity	\$14,067.00	Rabbit management plans completed	1
53	Wentworth Estate Residents Group	Rabbit fencing	Gibbston	Biosecurity	\$4,050.00	Upgrade of rabbit fencing (m)	1000



**Attachment 2 - Biodiversity and biosecurity partnerships****Table 1 – Engagement and events with partners**

<b>Engagement and events</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Topic / outcomes</b>
Otago Biodiversity Forum	29/7/22, 17/11/22, 22/2/23	District Councils (DCC, WDC, CODC, QLDC, CDC) DOC MfE LINZ Aukaha (Rūnaka)	Discussion about regional biodiversity goals and activities and how we can work together. Talks from key stakeholders such as for the ANZ Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan Compiling a list of community activities for biodiversity by all members. Will be canvassing a regional strategy approach
Hokonui vegetation outcome monitoring training	3/3/23	Hokonui Rūnanga	Several Hokonui staff trained and calibrated in Foliar Browse Index (FGI) & Seedling Ratio Index (SRI) methods to assist in monitoring outcomes of pest control in large Jobs for Nature project.
Catlins DOC activities	14/9/22	DOC Catlins officers	Meeting between DOC and ORC staff about work underway in the Catlins
Halo Project Field Trip	27/3/23	Halo Landscape Connections Trust	Update and familiarity with large projects part funded by ORC, Source to Sea, and Predator Free Dunedin
Site-Led Working Group	23/2/23 29/3/23	Te Rūnanga o Ōtakōu Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki	Establishing a working group to oversee the development and implementation of the terrestrial site-led programme from the RPMP
QEII Field Day	12/3/23	QEII	Covenantors field day, introduced new pilot project and ECO Fund category from ORC to support QEII
Future Development Strategy - Blue Green Network	Weekly/ fortnightly, March to May 2023	DCC	Technical advice to Blue Green Network component of FDS.
Territorial Authority connections	November 2022	QLDC CODC WDC CDC DCC	Meetings held with TA partners regarding biodiversity activities and policies with a view to working more closing and better aligned.
Tomahaka/Tomohawk Lagoon Activities	Ongoing	DOC DCC Aukaha	Ongoing hui to improve public information on stormwater, biodiversity and environment at Tomahaka/Tomohawk Lagoon. Aukaha and key stakeholders (e.g., Fish and Game) will be included in the design phase of the signage.

**Table 2: Project Partnerships**

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Started</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Milestones achieved / underway</b>
J4N – Maintaining the Gain - Project working with supporting private landholder to maintain areas of biodiversity on their land	Dec 2021	QEII Aukaha	Signed funding agreement with DOC. Contracts established between ORC and QEII Trust and Aukaha to deliver the work July 2022. Covenants selected, assessed and prioritised for pest plant work, August 2022. Landowner agreements signed September 2022. Aukaha recruit field team, 1 Kaiarahi (supervisor) and 2 Kaiaka Taiao (field staff) Dec 2022. Field team establish a base, procure tools and equipment, undergo training/mentoring and begin carrying out pest plant control in covenants as per the work programme – two covenants complete March 2022. DOC delivery manager site visit March 2022.
QEII and Nga Whenua Rahui Partnership Pilot –	April 2023 (TBC)	QEII Nga Whenua Rahui	Identifying and supporting new covenants protecting high value biodiversity through cost sharing of fencing costs. Covenants for support identified and verified
Taiari Nga Awa	2020	DOC Mana whenua	ORC are members of the Governance Group for this project (being led by DOC). The group has to date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Undertaken a stocktake of restoration initiatives underway in the catchment</li> <li>- Started biodiversity monitoring programme in stream (April 2023)</li> <li>- Undertaking bathymetric LiDAR to support climate change risk assessment and wetlands management (April 2023)</li> <li>- Planned to host an all of catchment stakeholder’s hui (May 2023)</li> </ul>
OSPRI transition research and recommendations	April 2023	Predator Free Dunedin	Agreement to undertake monitoring, results and recommendations for transitioning from OSPRI possum control to a community-led programme underway.
Site-Led Working Group - Terrestrial	February 2023	Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki	Proposal for values, threat and impact assessment for detailed site-led projects scoped and EoI requested.  Stocktake of biosecurity activities proposal for work scoped. Underway internally.
Site-Led – Lagarosiphon	March 2023	LINZ DOC TAs	Working with DOC, LINZ and TAs regarding locations for installing educational signs about lagarosiphon. Partnered with LINZ to support additional control works for lagarosiphon in Kawarau River through placing hessian mats and hand pulling plants.

<b>Other partnership projects with water quality focus and some biodiversity outcomes</b>			
Tomahaka/Tomohawk Lagoon Catchment Management Project	June 2021	DOC DCC Fish and Game Aukaha	-Permanent Water Quality Monitoring site installed at Upper Lagoon -ORC supporting establishment of Community Catchment Group -Ecological Assessment underway by Cawthron Institute – this will inform management actions for the catchment.
Lake Tuakitoto Catchment Management Project	June 2021	DOC CDC Fish and Game Aukaha	-Water testing programme for the catchment being investigated internally at ORC. -Ecological Assessment underway by Cawthron Institute – this will inform management actions for the catchment.
J4N – Toitū Te Hākapupu (Pleasant River)	Dec 2021	MfE Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki (Kati Huirapa) East Otago Catchment Group (EOCG)	Funding agreement with MfE for \$5 million to improve water quality in the catchment. Partnership Group co-chaired with Kati Huirapa with representation from EOCG meets at least quarterly. Project has progressed through procurement phase and now engaging with landowners to plan fencing and planting of streams, wetland and estuarine areas through Expression of Interest process. Sediment hotspots and prioritisation criteria will guide works going forward. Work is underway to engage with forestry for Forestry Action Plans. Rūnaka have started Cultural Health Monitoring. Plants are ordered, fencing materials in storage and a fencing panel is in place. Discussions have begun to engage with community and Rūnaka about the Catchment Management Plan goals and visions.



## 7.2. Wilding Conifer Strategy and Implementation

**Prepared for:** Environmental Implementation Committee  
**Report No.** OPS2306  
**Activity:** Governance Report  
**Author:** Libby Caldwell, Manager Environmental Implementation  
Anna Molloy, Principal Advisor  
**Endorsed by:** Gavin Palmer, General Manager Operations  
**Date:** 11 May 2023

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### PURPOSE

- [1] To seek Council endorsement of the Regional Wilding Conifer Strategy and associated implementation plan.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [2] A Regional Wilding Conifer Strategy (RWCS) (**Attachment 1**) addressing the Objective in the Regional Pest Management Plan has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders.
- [3] The Strategy is a commitment under the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2022/23 and the Annual Plan 2022/23 requires actions within the Biosecurity Operational Plan to be progressed.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That the Environmental Implementation Committee:*

- 1) **Endorses** the Regional Wilding Conifer Strategy and associated implementation plan for approval by Council.

### BACKGROUND

- [4] Otago's iconic landscapes are vulnerable to the invasion of wilding conifers. In 2016, a Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)-funded report estimated that 8.4% - or 295,830 ha – of Otago was affected by wilding conifer infestation. In 2016, around 70% of Otago was mapped as being 'very highly vulnerable' to wilding conifer infestation. Particularly at risk are Otago's high country and tussock grasslands.
- [5] Wilding conifers are a priority pest in the Biosecurity Operational Plans for 2022/23 and 2023/24. This means they are of concern to the community and have heightened adverse effects on environmental, economic and/or social grounds. To this end, the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2022/23 requires a Wilding Conifer Strategy to be developed.
- [6] While there is a National scale Wilding Conifer Management Strategy and several of the local area control groups have their own operational strategies, there is no regional scale strategy for wilding conifers.

- [7] To address this gap a strategy has been designed to occupy the space between the New Zealand Wilding Conifer Management Strategy 2015-2030 and those of the operating groups. It identifies issues and gaps related to wilding conifer control, how these can be addressed and what the intended outcomes are for each activity.
- [8] The attached Regional Wilding Conifer Strategy (RWCS) was developed to contribute to achieving Objective 6.3.4 of the Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-29 – *“Over the duration of the Plan, progressively contain and reduce the geographic extent of wilding conifers within the Otago Region to minimise adverse effects on economic well-being and the environment. This may involve the destruction of contorta, Corsican, Scots, mountain and dwarf mountain pines and larch.”*
- [9] The RWCS was developed following engagement and consultation with Aukaha Ltd, MPI, DOC, Whakatipu Wilding Control Group, Central Otago Wilding Control Group, QLDC and CODC staff, Wilding Pine Network, forestry companies, Farm Forestry New Zealand, and Federated Farmers. The Regional Wilding Conifer Coordination Group, whose members include the above, was also consulted and regular updates have been provided to them.
- [10] The development of the RWCS, involved an analysis of the current situation, an understanding of the history, and the likely near-future situation. A series of issues and gaps were identified, and recommendations made for how ORC could respond, whether that be directly or through leading a programme of work in collaboration with others.
- [11] A draft RWCS was developed following a stakeholder hui and distributed for comment. A revised draft was distributed again for final comments. These comments have been incorporated where possible in the RWCS.

## DISCUSSION

- [12] The structure of the RWCS reflects a programme logic model. A series of issues and gaps were identified through the analysis, and most of these features in the model as ‘situation’ statements (these are not listed in order of priority). Recommendations for addressing the situations includes listing the inputs, activities and participants required. The resulting outputs and outcomes are shown, with these outcomes collectively ensuring that RPMP Objective 6.3.4 is realised.
- [13] There are several issues and gaps identified in the process of developing the RWCS that have not been included. The reasons for this are outlined in the introduction section.
- [14] An implementation plan (**Attachment 2**) has been drafted with an estimate of timing for delivery and cost to ORC. The implementation plan has been grouped into “immediate” (2023/24) “short term” (2024 – 2027) and “medium term” (2027 – 2029). This is because the RPMP, from which the objective for this strategy has come, will be reviewed in 2029.
- [15] The programme logic structure of the Strategy means that there are assumptions that the activities will achieve the intended outcomes, which in turn will contribute to the overall objective. These assumptions will be tested through monitoring progress of activities (which are outlined in the implementation plan) and evaluating outcomes.
- [16] The implementation of the activities will be incorporated into the Environmental Implementation Team’s core business and reported as part of that Teams’ normal reporting.

- [17] An evaluation of the intended outcomes will need to be informed by various levels of monitoring (e.g., extent of wilding conifers, informed public, less resistance to control, etc). An evaluation plan for the outcomes and the higher-level objective in the RPMP will need to be developed as part of evaluating the effectiveness of the RPMP as it comes up for review in 2029. The strategy outcomes will provide useful measures for this evaluation.

### **OPTIONS**

- [18] The Committee can endorse the RWCS as is for approval by Council or may choose to make changes prior to it being presented to Council.

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **Strategic Framework and Policy Considerations**

- [19] This Strategy is fulfilling a key performance indicator from the 2022/23 Biosecurity Operational Plan. It is a high-level strategy designed to guide ORC in Wilding Conifer actions over the next 6 years.

#### **Financial Considerations**

- [20] The associated implementation plan outlines an estimate of costs where these are additional to existing or planned resources of the ORC. The costs for implementation from 2023/24 to 2028/29 (the end date for the Strategy) is estimated to be \$260,000. This does not include costs for initiating and supporting conifer control groups.
- [21] The costs for 2023/24 are estimated to be \$60,000 and can be covered within the budget proposed for the Draft 2023/24 Annual Plan.
- [22] The costs from 2024/25 are not included in the LTP 2021-31 and will need to be incorporated into the next LTP (2024-34). These are estimated to be \$200,000. In addition, depending on the cost-benefit analysis and business case to be developed from that, there may be a need to request ongoing funding through the LTP 2024-34 process.

#### **Significance and Engagement Considerations**

- [23] The development of the Strategy involved consultation and engagement with key stakeholders, industry, and mana whenua partners.

#### **Legislative and Risk Considerations**

- [24] The Strategy is not a statutory or regulatory document.

#### **Climate Change Considerations**

- [25] Not applicable

#### **Communications Considerations**

- [26] A communications plan will be developed as a part of implementing the Strategy.

### **NEXT STEPS**

- [27] If endorsed the RWCS will go to Council for formal approval and then be implemented starting in 2023/24.

[28] Following years implementation may be dependent on the resourcing estimated being available through the Long-Term Plan 2024 – 2034.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. 230301 Draft Otago Wilding Conifer Strategy v 0.6 [7.2.1 - 7 pages]
2. Implementation Plan for RWCS [7.2.2 - 1 page]



## Otago Regional Wilding Conifer Strategy 2023 - 2029

### Background

Otago's iconic landscapes are vulnerable to the invasion of wilding conifers. In 2016, a Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)-funded report estimated that 8.4% - or 295,830 ha – of Otago was affected by wilding conifer infestation. In 2016, around 70% of Otago was mapped<sup>1</sup> as being 'very highly vulnerable' to wilding conifer infestation. Particularly at risk are Otago's high country and tussock grasslands.

Adverse effects resulting from wilding conifer infestation include:

- Reducing water yield, particularly in low rainfall catchments.
- Out-competing and subsequently replacing native vegetation.
- Increasing the risk of wildfire.
- Reducing the economic productivity of land; and
- Impacting on social and cultural values, e.g., landscape, recreational.

A cost benefit analysis commissioned by MPI in 2018<sup>2</sup> quantified the economic impacts of wilding infestation on productive land, water for irrigation and energy, biodiversity, fire safety and household income as being \$6.3 billion in New Zealand over a 50-year period. Consequently, it will never be cheaper to address the problem than it is now.

The growing problem has been recognised for some years, and as a result, the Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group, Central Otago Wilding Control Group, and the Upper Clutha Wilding Conifer Control Group established themselves to control wilding conifers. A National Wilding Conifer Control Programme has also been developed and funded by government agencies, landowners, and local communities to address infestations.

Control efforts to date have been very successful but will require an ongoing effort for many years to come in follow-up work, and in areas where control is yet to be undertaken.

### Objective of the Strategy

The Otago Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029 (RPMP) contains an objective and rules relating to the management of wilding conifers and stipulates that measures drawn from the suite of activities listed under requirement to act, collaboration, council inspection, service delivery, advocacy and education may be used by ORC to achieve plan's objective.

In 2022 the ORC began to develop a Regional Wilding Conifer Strategy to work towards achieving the objective in the RPMP (see below).

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<sup>1</sup> Wildlands Contract Report No. 3754a prepared for MPI. Methods for the Prioritisation of Wilding Conifer sites across New Zealand. February 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Wyatt, S., 2018, Benefits and Costs of the Wilding Pine Management Programme Phase 2, Sapere.

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*Objective 6.3.4 Over the duration of the Plan (2019-2029), progressively contain and reduce the geographic extent of wilding conifers within the Otago Region to minimise adverse effects on economic well-being and the environment.*

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This strategy has been designed to occupy the space between the New Zealand Wilding Conifer Management Strategy 2015-2030 and those of the operating groups. It identifies issues and gaps related to wilding conifer control, how these can be addressed and what the intended outcomes are for each activity.

The logic underpinning the Strategy is that if all the outcomes in the regional strategy were achieved within the timeframe (i.e., by 2029) then this would be notable progress in the effective management of wilding conifers and would help with ensuring that the vision and objectives of the New Zealand Wilding Conifer Management Strategy 2015-2030 and those of the operating groups are also realised.

### Matters not included in the Regional Strategy

This is a wilding conifer strategy, not a planted conifer strategy. It is not intended to address the deliberate afforestation of land with permanent or production conifer forests, rather is it intended to address wilding conifers that may result from these forests or other seed sources.

There are also several other matters that have not been included in the regional strategy:

- **National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry 2017 (NES-PF):** The NES provides controls to manage the spread of wilding conifers from plantation forests that were established since the NES-PF was introduced (regulation 11) and provides controls for when harvested forest land is replanted with a different species (regulation 79). There are no controls, however, on wilding conifers emanating from plantation forests that were established before 2017, and there is no requirement to assess the wilding risk when replanting with the same species. Furthermore, the controls in the NES-PF can only require the forest owner to manage wildings on their own land (as it cannot confer a right to access another's property) and focusses this control work on wetlands and significant natural areas (SNAs).

In short, the wilding risk controls in the NES-PF do not apply to forests established pre-2017 unless they are harvested and replanted with a different species; do not require the forest owner to address wilding conifers on their land if it is not in a wetland or SNA; and do not require the forest owner to address wilding conifers that establish on someone else's land.

The NES-PF is currently under review by MPI. The regional strategy does not, therefore, recommend that ORC seeks to fill these gaps at this stage. Instead, it recommends that an assessment is undertaken to determine whether, if these controls (along with RPMP rules, Territorial Authority rules and resource conditions) were implemented effectively, there would still be a need for any further controls.

- **Permanent carbon forests:** The NES-PF does not currently apply to permanent carbon forests, but this is being addressed by MPI. The RPMP rules do, however, currently apply to permanent carbon forests as they do not meet the definition of 'plantation forests' (which are excluded from the definition of 'wilding conifers' in the

RPMP). Other than recommending better alignment between the RPMP and NES-PF rules for ease of implementation, the regional strategy does not address this matter any further.

- **How control work is undertaken:** Given that this is a high-level strategy, there is little detail about how the actual control work is undertaken or how the canopy cover is transitioned. These matters are inherent within the regional strategy and this level of detail is not required at this stage. The regional strategy is instead focussed on the necessary foundations to ensure that effective control work can continue and expand, such as ensuring there is adequate resourcing, greater participation, greater urgency, and less resistance.
- **Auditing NES-PF consent applications and wilding risk calculations:** Operational matters have not been included as these are inherent within the effective operation of ORC and/or contractors. These include:
  - Suitably qualified and experienced staff and contractors to assess wilding risk calculations and consent applications.
  - Consistent compliance auditing and monitoring; and
  - Ongoing professional learning and development for relevant staff.

Situation	Inputs	Activities & Participants	Outputs	Outcomes / Impacts
<p><b>1. Monitoring of wilding spread is inconsistent and incomplete.</b></p> <p>Current monitoring/ surveillance is ad hoc. Inconsistent data collection makes it difficult to compare data sets over time.</p> <p>MPI’s proposed remote surveillance programme may still be several years away.</p>	<p>ORC time and resources. Input is required from Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), Department of Conservation (DOC), Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group (WCG), Central Otago Wilding Conifer Control Group (CWG), Upper Clutha Wilding Control Group (UCWCG), Territorial Authorities (TA) and private landowners regarding monitoring currently undertaken and in development.</p>	<p>ORC leads a body of work alongside others to review monitoring currently undertaken and in development, and identify opportunities to consolidate, improve, and add value to this.</p> <p>The focus of this work will be how to complement and/or add value to Wilding Conifers Information System and monitoring currently undertaken by others rather than creating duplication. This will include investigating how to incorporate records of control work and field data for future planning purposes.</p>	<p>Informed by the review, ORC works with others to ensure that a robust and detailed regional surveillance programme is developed and implemented that is accurate, repeatable, and comparable. This must add value to, or at least be, compatible with, WCIS and monitoring undertaken by others.</p>	<p>Reliable monitoring data is used to prioritise control work, report on the impact of control work undertaken, and provide a better understanding of subregional nuances.</p>
<p><b>2. The location of seed sources and the spread of wilding conifers across Otago is not fully understood</b></p> <p>Whilst there is data regarding the location of seed sources and the spread of wilding conifers across Wakatipu and Central Otago, the problem isn’t yet fully understood in other parts of the region. This includes the location of shelter belts that may pose a wilding spread risk.</p> <p>If the problem is underestimated and risks are not fully understood, opportunities to make early gains are lost.</p>	<p>ORC staff time and resources. Data from the various existing monitoring programmes is required.</p>	<p>ORC works with others to create and/or update spatial records for wilding conifer spread across Otago.</p> <p>ORC undertakes mapping to fill in spatial knowledge gaps identified across the region to augment/update WCIS.</p> <p>ORC works with others to ensure information about seed sources (including shelterbelts) and their relative risk is available in a centralised database (e.g., WCIS).</p>	<p>Spatial datasets of wilding conifer infestation areas and seed sources are produced. These include an indication of relative current and future risk based on the 4S’s as well as environmental, social, cultural, and economic factors.</p>	<p>Control work across the region is prioritised based on the 4 S’s (species, status of control, spread factor, seed sources) as well as environmental, social, cultural, and economic factors for longer-term gains.</p> <p>There is an increase in the amount of work being undertaken to control the spread of conifers at an early stage (pre-coning).</p> <p>Current and future risks are better understood and recorded in WCIS or another central database (this outcome also links to that in SS4).</p>

Improving Understanding and Prioritising Work



Awareness and Education	Situation	Inputs	Activities & Participants	Outputs	Outcomes / Impacts
	<p><b>3. Public awareness and acceptance could be better</b></p> <p>The level of understanding regarding the urgency of the problem and social license for subsequent control work is greater in Wakatipu and Central Otago than other parts of Otago.</p> <p>A lack of understanding of the issue and the urgency can lead to resistance, delays, and a reluctance to undertake control work.</p> <p>Seed sources are often located in populated urban areas, and/or as shelter belts, amenity plantings, etc. Addressing these seed sources will require social, cultural, and political matters to be addressed and worked through.</p> <p>There is a tension between controlling wilding conifers and saving/planting trees for carbon sequestration.</p>	<p>ORC staff time and resources.</p> <p>Collaboration with MPI, LINZ, DOC, WCG, CWG, UCWCG, FENZ, TAs, Catchment Groups, and other key stakeholders such as the Wilding Pine Network is required.</p>	<p>ORC works with WCG, CWG, UCWCG, MPI and the Wilding Pine Network (WPN) to co-design and implement a communication and engagement plan for targeted education across the region to inform communities of the risks posed by wilding spread (e.g., fire risk, biodiversity loss, water yield, soil composition, wildfire risk, loss of productive land, changing landscapes, loss of historic and recreational areas etc).</p> <p>ORC receives advice from MPI and others regarding the narrative for why it's necessary to control wildings when others are planting trees for carbon sequestration.</p> <p>ORC includes information about rules, roles and responsibilities in its communications packages.</p>	<p>A communication and engagement plan for targeted education across the region.</p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- key message 'right tree, right place, right reason' rather than 'all conifers are a problem' (which they are not).</li> <li>- tailored for different communities, industry sector groups and specific corporate entities to ensure they are pertinent e.g., 'how does it affect me?' etc.</li> <li>- promotion of success stories</li> <li>- visual tools to show likely/actual changes over time where appropriate (bearing in mind that landscapes forested with conifers are attractive to some people).</li> </ul> <p>This incorporates and complements – rather than replaces – existing communications and engagement work undertaken by WCG, CWG, UCWCG, MPI and WPN.</p>	<p>Communities across Otago are well informed and aware about the risk of wilding conifer spread, the urgency of the issue in their area, and the benefits of early intervention.</p> <p>Landowners are aware of their responsibilities regarding wilding conifer control, the need to keep areas clear and manage their land accordingly.</p> <p>Individuals and communities are undertaking a greater amount of wilding control, motivated in part by successes reported elsewhere.</p> <p>New non-production plantings (e.g., plantings in subdivisions, shelterbelts, amenity trees etc.) are non-spreading species.</p> <p>Communities across Otago have a better understanding of the difference between problematic pest trees and trees that are providing commercial benefits, carbon sequestration, biodiversity benefits, and other environmental benefits.</p> <p>Control work on public land continues at a higher rate due to less community resistance.</p>

Situation	Inputs	Activities & Participants	Outputs	Outcomes / Impacts
<p><b>4. There is no regional cost benefit analysis</b></p> <p>The very high benefit to cost ratio of early control is often not taken advantage of.</p> <p>A better understanding of the priorities and risk (refer to SS1 and 2) can help secure and target funding.</p>	<p>ORC staff time and resources.</p> <p>Release of the recently updated cost benefit analysis report from MPI.</p> <p>Input from stakeholders may also be necessary.</p>	<p>ORC draws upon the recently updated cost benefit analysis report from MPI and other sources to undertake a regional cost benefit analysis.</p>	<p>A regional cost benefit analysis to support applications to MPI (and others) for funding.</p>	<p>More funding is secured to undertake early intervention control work.</p> <p>An increase in the amount of work to control the spread of conifers at an early stage.</p> <p>Decisions about wilding conifer control are informed by regional cost benefit analysis.</p> <p>(These outcomes link to SS2 prioritising locations based on better knowledge).</p>
<p><b>5. Funding levels are insufficient to address the problem.</b></p> <p>NWCCP funding is insufficient to maintain the current control programme and achieve the outcomes of the NZWCMS. Strong advocacy will be required to secure national funding beyond 2024.</p>	<p>ORC staff time and resources.</p> <p>Collaboration with LINZ, DOC, WCG, CWG, UCWCG, TAs and other key stakeholders such as the Wilding Pine Network is critical.</p>	<p>ORC collaborates with regional stakeholders and other regional councils to lobby central government to continue funding work through the NWCCP beyond 2024.</p> <p>ORC prepares a business case to inform preparation of the next LTP.</p>	<p>Meetings and/or communications held with central government to discuss future funding.</p> <p>A business case to support ORC LTP decisions on funding of wilding conifer control in Otago.</p>	<p>There is a continuation of, and increase in, the amount of NWCCP-funded wilding control work undertaken in Otago.</p> <p>There is longer-term certainty that there is a programme and continuity of delivery structures.</p> <p>An appropriate level of funding from ORC, supported by a business case.</p>
<p><b>6. There has been little publicly funded control work outside of Wakatipu/Central Otago</b></p> <p>There is a need to undertake control in other management units where NWCCP-funded control work has not yet occurred.</p>	<p>ORC staff time and resources.</p> <p>Uptake by a community group, and support from ORC, TAs, LINZ and DOC is required. Guidance from WCG, UCWCG and CWG will be beneficial.</p>	<p>ORC undertakes a body of work to determine how to best support the establishment of community-led wilding conifer control groups outside of Wakatipu/Central Otago, and how to ensure that these are funded in a way that doesn't divert committed funds from existing programme areas.</p>	<p>Mechanisms to facilitate the establishment of community-led wilding conifer control groups outside of Wakatipu/Central Otago.</p>	<p>Community-led wilding conifer control groups are operating across the region, particularly in Wanaka.</p>

Funding

Situation	Inputs	Activities & Participants	Outputs	Outcomes / Impacts
<p><b>7. It's not known whether the existing regulatory controls are adequate.</b></p> <p>There has been no assessment of whether the current regulatory controls (Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP), Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP), NES for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF), district plans) are fit for purpose.</p> <p>There has been little testing of these rules in the context of wilding conifers.</p>	<p>ORC staff time and resources.</p> <p>Funding for external contactors (e.g., legal advice).</p> <p>TAs help ORC staff to understand what rules/policies they have, how they apply and where (links to SS9).</p>	<p>ORC review of RPMP and LWRP rules to ensure they are fit for purpose and align with the NES-PF and MPI Wilding Conifer RPMP Guidance.</p> <p>Using monitoring information (see SS1) and following further stakeholder consultation, ORC assesses the effectiveness of the current regulatory regime to identify any required changes or additional controls at a regional level, and/or any requirement to advocate for further controls at a central government level and/or TA level.</p>	<p>An assessment of the effectiveness of RPMP and LWRP rules relating to wilding conifers and the alignment of these rules with national and district level regulations, including recommendations for improvement if necessary.</p>	<p>ORC's regulation is clear, enforceable, and fit for purpose to achieve the RPMP objectives.</p> <p>There is better alignment between district, regional and national-level regulation, where needed, making compliance and enforcement clearer and more streamlined.</p>
<p><b>8. Compliance with the RPMP rules is ad hoc.</b></p> <p>Compliance issues are reported or noted opportunistically (not targeted or coordinated as such).</p> <p>Therefore, potential breaches may be going undetected.</p> <p>This links with SS7 – a better understanding of the rules is needed.</p>	<p>ORC staff time and resources.</p> <p>Input from WCG, UCWCG and CWG (and others) regarding where publicly funded work has occurred and where known non-compliances are occurring is required.</p>	<p>ORC design and implement a formal compliance monitoring programme focusing on areas where publicly funded control operations have been undertaken.</p>	<p>Effective mechanisms for reporting non-compliance are developed and non-compliances are followed up with in a timely manner.</p> <p>Monitoring for compliance is also included as a component of the monitoring programme in SS1.</p>	<p>Cleared areas are kept clear.</p>
<p><b>9. Each of the region's TAs have different rules, policies and consent conditions relating to conifer control. In addition, compliance with these rules, policies and consent conditions is inconsistent.</b></p>	<p>ORC staff time and resources.</p> <p>Input is required from TAs regarding what rules/policies/consent conditions are in place and where they apply.</p>	<p>TAs provide a clearer picture of what relevant consent conditions apply and where.</p>	<p>Overview of TA rules and conditions relating to conifer control (spreadsheet or table) which outline opportunities for improvement.</p>	<p>ORC and TAs have a better understanding of controls provided at a district level and can work together for greater controls/better monitoring of existing controls at the TA level, where beneficial.</p>

Regulation

## Attachment 2

## Implementation plan for wilding conifer strategy for Otago Regional Council - May 2023

Situation	Action	Timeframe for delivery <i>Immediate – Annual Plan 2023/24</i> <i>Short – LTP 2024-27</i> <i>Medium – 2027 – 2029</i>	Additional direct cost (approx. only)
1	Regional surveillance programme is developed and implemented to support information on Wilding Conifers Information System (WCIS)	Short – to be completed by 30 June 2026 (National surveillance programme being developed)	\$75,000
2	Creation of spatial records (maps) for wilding conifer infestation areas and seed sources for Otago	Short – mapping to be completed by 30 June 2026	\$50,000
3	Communication and engagement plan developed and implemented for targeted education across the region	Short – developed by 30 June 2027	\$25,000
4	Regional cost benefit analysis undertaken to support applications for funding	Immediate – by January 2024	\$35,000
5	Communications held with central government to discuss future funding	Immediate and ongoing (as part of sector)	
5	Business case developed to inform ORC Long Term Plan decisions on funding	Immediate – to be developed by 1 March 2024	\$15,000 (will utilise CBA from 4)
6	Mechanisms developed to facilitate the establishment of community-led wilding conifer control outside of Wakatipu and Central Otago	Short - Medium – aim to start in July 2024 subject to Council LTP and Annual Plan decisions.	Cost will be dependent on the CBA and business case and further decisions of Council.
7	Assessment of the effectiveness of the Regional Pest Management Plan and Land and Water Regional Plan rules relating to wilding conifers and alignment with other rules and legislation – recommendations to be made if necessary	Short – to be undertaken by 30 June 2025	\$30,000
8	Mechanism for reporting non-compliance developed.	Immediate – by 30 June 2024	\$10,000
8	Non-compliances are followed up in a timely manner	Immediate – by 30 June 2024	BAU
9	Lead an overview of territorial authorities' rules and conditions relating to conifer control and recommendations for improvement provided if required.	Short – to be undertaken by 30 June 2025 in conjunction with the assessment of the RPMP above.	\$20,000
		<b>Immediate costs (2023/24)</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>
		<b>Short (2024/25 – 2026/27)</b>	<b>\$200,000</b> (plus group support costs, subject to LTP decisions of Council)
		<b>Medium (2027/28 – 2028/29)</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>\$260,000</b>