

Council Meeting 22 April 2020

Meeting will be held electronically via Zoom and live streamed to the web.



Members:

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

Senior Officer: Sarah Gardner, Chief Executive

Meeting Support: Liz Spector, Committee Secretary

22 April 2020 01:00 PM

Agenda Topic	Page
1. APOLOGIES No apologies were received prior to publication of the agenda.	
2. ATTENDANCE Staff present will be identified.	
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. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The Council will consider minutes of the 9 April 2020 Council Meeting as a true and accurate record, with or without changes.	3
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Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Council
held via teleconference
Thursday, 9 April 2020 at 1:00 pm

Membership

Hon Marian Hobbs

(Chairperson)

Cr Michael Laws

(Deputy Chairperson)

Cr Hilary Calvert

Cr Alexa Forbes

Cr Michael Deaker

Cr Carmen Hope

Cr Gary Kelliher

Cr Kevin Malcolm

Cr Andrew Noone

Cr Gretchen Robertson

Cr Bryan Scott

Cr Kate Wilson

Welcome

Hon Marian Hobbs welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

For our future

70 Stafford St, Private Bag 1954, Dunedin 9054 | ph (03) 474 0827 or 0800 474 082 | www.orc.govt.nz

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies. All Councillors were present via teleconference.

2. ATTENDANCE

Sarah Gardner	<i>(Chief Executive)</i>
Nick Donnelly	<i>(General Manager Corporate Services and CFO)</i>
Gavin Palmer	<i>(General Manager Operations)</i>
Sally Giddens	<i>(General Manager People, Culture and Communications)</i>
Richard Saunders	<i>(General Manager Regulatory)</i>
Gwyneth Elsum	<i>(General Manager Policy, Strategy and Science)</i>
Amanda Vercoe	<i>(Executive Advisor)</i>
Liz Spector	<i>(Committee Secretary)</i>

Also present in the teleconference were Anita Dawe (Acting Manager Policy), Tom De Pelsemaeker (Team Leader Freshwater and Land), Peter Constantine (Contractor Planner), Garry Maloney (Manager Transport), Blaise Cahill-Lane (Digital Communications Lead), Ryan Tippet (Media Communications Lead), Rebecca Sidaway (Service Desk Analyst).

3. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as circulated.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were advised.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution

That the minutes of the (public portion of the) Council meeting held on 11 March 2020 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Cr Forbes
Seconded: Cr Hope
CARRIED

6. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS)

The outstanding actions of Council were noted.

7. CHAIRPERSON'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS

Resolution

That the Chairperson's and Chief Executive's reports be received.

Moved: Cr Hobbs
Seconded: Cr Forbes
CARRIED

8. MATTERS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

8.1. Consider Establishment of Port Otago Liaison Group and Appoint Members

Cr Hobbs introduced the report which was provided to establish and appoint a Port Otago Liaison Group. Mr Nick Donnelly, General Manager Corporate Services, was present to answer questions about the report. A general discussion was held about the composition of the Group. Cr Calvert suggested to give a better urban/rural balance to the membership, Cr Malcolm should be appointed Chair of the group.

There were no further comments and Cr Calvert moved:

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Approves** the establishment of a Port Otago Liaison Group and the proposed membership of Cr Hobbs, Cr Calvert, Cr Noone, Cr Malcolm and Chief Executive Sarah Gardner.
- 3) **Appoints** Cr Malcolm Chair of the Port Otago Liaison Group.

Moved: Cr Calvert

Seconded: Cr Hope

CARRIED

8.2. Lake Wakatipu Public Water Ferry Service Consultation

Dr Gavin Palmer (General Manager Operations) and Mr Garry Maloney (Manager Transport) were present to answer questions about the report. Cr Wilson noted given the change in the economic environment restrictions since the ferry trial was first considered due to COVID-19, along with her concern that either QLDC, NZTA or the community might oppose their funding or the trial this year, she was foreshadowing her intent to add a fifth item to the staff recommendation. She proposed the ORC should seek submissions during consultation as to whether the trial takes place in January 2021 as per the report's recommendations or be included in proposals for the Long Term Plan for 2022 or January 2023. She suggested it would give residents who are concerned about rates and increasing costs a reason to be positive about the ferry trial, but not necessarily require funding in the current budget. Mr Maloney said as the consultation was being conducted online, this addition should be easily accomplished. The Councillors agreed to include the foreshadowed recommendation in the staff recommendation. Cr Hobbs asked for a motion.

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Approves** for consultation, Option S1 as outlined in this paper for the Lake Wakatipu public water ferry service.
- 2) **Approves** for consultation, Option F1 as outlined in this paper to fund the Lake Wakatipu public water ferry service.
- 3) **Agrees** that the proposed introduction of a trial ferry service and the funding required to enable that to take place, is not material or significant.

- 4) **Approves** the consultation approach and next steps, as outlined in this paper.
- 5) **Seeks** submissions on whether the trial should take place in January 2021 as indicated in the report or should be included in the Long Tern Plan for 2022 or 2023.

Moved: Cr Wilson
Seconded: Cr Calvert

A Division was called:

For: Cr Calvert, Cr Deaker, Cr Forbes, Cr Hobbs, Cr Hope, Cr Kelliher, Cr Noone, Cr Robertson, Cr Scott, Cr Wilson

Against: nil

Abstained: Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm

CARRIED 10 - 0

8.3. Notification Plan Change 8 to the Water Plan and Plan Change 1 to the Waste Plan

Gwyneth Elsum (General Manager Strategy, Policy and Science), Anita Dawe (Acting Manager Policy), Peter Constantine (Contract Planner), Tom De Pelsemaeker (Team Leader Freshwater and Land) and Felicity Boyd (Contract Planner) were available to speak to the report. Chairperson Hobbs spoke to a letter received the evening prior from the Minister for the Environment David Parker in which he informed the Council he had called in the plans for Plan Change 8 and Plan Change 1. Mr Constantine then discussed what the call-in meant for the Plan Changes.

Cr Noone said staff and contractors were working to tight timeframes to update several plan changes prior to the 2025/26 due date for the Land and Water Plan. He stated that throughout the extensive consultation it became clear that the community wants to engage on these processes. Cr Noone then made a motion that he circulated to the Councillors and staff. The Councillors debated the contents of Cr Noone's motion which included asking the EPA to conduct a facilitated and mediated consultation with a facilitator to be recommended by Council. After the discussion, Cr Hobbs put the motion submitted by Cr Noone.

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Asks** the EPA, to send the proposed Plan Change 8 Water and Plan Change 1 Waste for further consultation with Mandatory Parties and Sector Group representatives, to help resolve or narrow down issues of contention prior to any notification process.
- 2) **Requests** the EPA engage a facilitator on behalf of the Council to facilitate and mediate the consultation, subject to an agreed term of reference and provide a written report back to the EPA and Council by the 20th May 2020.
- 3) **Recommends** to the EPA a facilitator in the non-public section of the meeting.
- 4) **Request** staff to provide administrative support and planning advice as required, to the facilitator.

Moved: Cr Noone
Seconded: Cr Wilson

A Division was called:

For: Cr Calvert, Cr Hope, Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws, Cr Malcolm, Cr Noone, Cr Wilson

Against: Cr Deaker, Cr Forbes, Cr Hobbs, Cr Robertson, Cr Scott

CARRIED 7 - 5

9. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Chair Hobbs noted that the Council would move into public-excluded and the meeting's live stream would be ended. She also noted that the meeting would not resume in public and would close when moving into public-excluded.

Resolution

On the grounds that matters will be prejudiced by the presence of members of the public during discussions on the following items, it is **resolved**:

That the following item(s) are considered with the public excluded:

Consider Appointment of Audit & Risk Subcommittee Independent Member

Consider Recommendation of Facilitator to the EPA for plan change consultations

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
1.1 <i>Consider Appointment of Audit & Risk Subcommittee Independent Member</i>	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: (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,	Section 7(2)(a): To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons – Section 7(2)(a)
<i>Consider recommendation to the EPA for a facilitator/mediator for consultations on PI Change 8 and PI Change 1</i>	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: (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,	Section 7(2)(a): To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons – Section 7(2)(a)

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.

Moved: Cr Hope
Seconded: Cr Calvert
CARRIED

10. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Cr Hobbs closed the meeting.

Chairperson

Date

Outstanding Actions from Resolutions of the Council Meeting

2019-2022 triennium

2016-2019 triennium

REPORT TITLE	MEETING DATE	RESOLUTION	STATUS	UPDATE
11.3 Delegations	3 April 2019	Direct CE to bring a review of delegations for Council decision.	IN PROGRESS – Regulatory/Governance	Underway for reporting in early 2020.
11.3 Disposal of Poison Services Assets	15 May 2019	ORC to consult with community on proposed sale of poison services assets and include the Galloway land as part of a proposed sale	IN PROGRESS - Operations	14/04/2020 Gavin Palmer - Consultation material being prepared.
11.3 Finalise Biodiversity Action Plan	26 June 2019	Develop business case options for resourcing biodiversity and biosecurity activities to inform the next LTP (2021 - 2031) and enable implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan.	IN PROGRESS – Operations	Underway for reporting in May 2020.
10.5 Lake Hayes Culvert	25 Sept 2019	Invite QLDC, DoC and NZTA to co-fund with ORC scoping investigation and establishment of a target water level range for Lake Hayes and scoping the investigation, consenting, design, construction, maintenance and funding of infrastructure to manage the lake level to that range. This will require incorporation of activity and funding of ORC's share of the costs into draft Annual Plans.	COMPLETED	14/04/2020 Gavin Palmer - Cost estimate for scoping exercise provided to QLDC, DoC and NZTA in December 2019. QLDC and NZTA have advised they will contribute toward funding the scoping. Activity and funding incorporated into Draft ORC 2020/21 Annual Plan.
9.1 Decision Making Structure	13 Nov 2019	That a review of the committee structure including membership be reviewed at 6-months.	ASSIGNED - Governance	Report will be brought to Council in May 2020.

REPORT TITLE	MEETING DATE	RESOLUTION	STATUS	UPDATE
10.3 Ratifying Otago Local Authorities Triennial Agmt	29 January 2020	That issues for potential consideration by the Mayoral Forum be considered at the next Strategy and Planning meeting.	IN PROGRESS – Governance	Report will be included in the next Strategy and Planning Committee Agenda.
9.1 Port Otago Strategic Asset Review	11 March 2020	That staff conduct a workshop for Council to work through consideration of dividend changes and other issues for Port Otago Ltd	IN PROGRESS – Corporate Services	15/04/2020 Nick Donnelly - Workshop planned for 27 May, prior to the 3 June Finance Committee meeting.
9.1 Port Otago Strategic Asset Review	11 March 2020	Refer the PwC strategic asset review to the Finance Committee to consider next steps.	IN PROGRESS – Corporate Services	15/04/2020 Nick Donnelly - Will be referred to the next Finance Committee meeting, scheduled for 3 June 2020.
8.2 Lake Wakatipu Public Ferry Trial Consultation	9 April 2020	Update online submission form to include a question about timing for the ferry trial, i.e. should the trial be in 2021, 2022 or 2023.	COMPLETE	14/04/2020 Garry Maloney - Online submission form has been updated to give effect to decision 5.
8.3 Notification Plan to PI Ch 8 and PI Ch 1	9 April 2020	Send a request to the EPA from the Council requesting further consultation be done, facilitated/mediated by John Mills.	COMPLETE	15/04/2020 Gwyneth Elsum - Letter sent 15/04/2020.

7.1. Chairperson's Report

Prepared for: Council
Activity: Governance Report
Author: Cr Marian Hobbs, Chairperson
Endorsed by: Cr Marian Hobbs, Chairperson
Date: 15 April 2020

18 MARCH TO 15 APRIL

- [1] What a strange time.
- [2] 18 March – A visit to Roxburgh farmers. Dinner and speech and answering questions.
- [3] 19 March – This turned out to be our last consultation on the RPS at the Balclutha meeting.
- [4] 25 March – At midnight we went into Alert Level 4. Our meeting scheduled for earlier in the day was cancelled. We had been going to meet in Queenstown and then a part Zoom, part actual meeting in Dunedin was also cancelled.
- [5] 26 March – I received the letter signed by seven Councillors (a majority), requesting a halt to water reform plans, Regional Policy Statement and the Annual Plan. There were countless phone calls received and made on this issue.
- [6] 31 March – A casual meeting of the Council to ensure that we were all able to use Zoom and to respond to the letter.
- [7] 8 April – Letter received from the Minister for the Environment call in Plans, 1, 7 and 8.
- [8] 9 April – Council meeting held, the first on Zoom, and livestreamed on YouTube.
- [9] Since then there was a blessed Easter break which I hope you all enjoyed.
- [10] Meetings that occur regularly on Zoom include: Executive Leadership Team, Southern DHB and Mayors of Otago and Southland, and an informal meeting with Otago Mayors at the end of each week.
- [11] We have had a Biosecurity meeting, and I have also met with Fonterra and been interviewed on OARS about our Annual Plan.
- [12] Sarah and I “met” with the Chief Executive of the Otago Chamber of Commerce.
- [13] It is a strange way to “govern”, but I have been very impressed with the way the ORC staff have responded to the situation and worked on so many issues. Great leadership from our Chief Executive, Sarah. Hats off to the CDEM team, and to those of our staff who are out on the ground.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

- 1) ***Receives this report.***

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

7.2. Chief Executive's Report

Prepared for: Council
Activity: Governance
Author: Sarah Gardner, Chief Executive
Date: 14 April 2020

KEY MEETINGS ATTENDED

- [1] 12 March – Otago CDEM Joint Committee.
 - [2] 13 March – Otago Mayoral Forum
 - [3] 13 March – Post strategy day way forward discussion with Otago CEO's.
 - [4] 17 March – Phone meeting with Ian Hadland, CEO of Fish & Game Otago.
 - [5] 17 March – Manager update on COVID-19 by Zoom.
 - [6] 19 March – Good Water Programme Steering Committee.
 - [7] 20 March – Managers' meeting.
 - [8] 20 March – Briefing on Good Water Programme activity report for Council.
 - [9] 22 March – First of daily ELT Skype meetings, this one prior to lockdown.
 - [10] 23 March – Daily ELT Skype meeting.
 - [11] 24 March – Daily ELT Skype meeting (lockdown day).
 - [12] 24 March – EDG meeting re COC.
 - [13] 24 March – Checking in with the Regional CEO's – COVID-19 and Regional Councils.
 - [14] 25 March – Daily ELT Skype meeting.
 - [15] 25 March – Zoom meeting with MfE CEO.
 - [16] 26 March – Zoom meeting re COVID-19 Community Response.
 - [17] 26 March – Daily ELT Skype meeting.
 - [18] 26 March – Teleconference catch-up meeting with Regional CEO's.
 - [19] 27 March – Daily ELT Skype meeting.
 - [20] 30 March – Daily ELT Skype meeting.
 - [21] 30 March – Zoom catch-up meeting with Regional CEO's.
 - [22] 31 March – Daily ELT Skype meeting.
 - [23] 31 March – Councillor catch-up Zoom meeting.
 - [24] 1 April – Biosecurity portfolio meeting.
 - [25] 1 April – Daily ELT Skype meeting.
 - [26] 1 April – Catch-up Skype meeting with Cr Hobbs and Governance staff.
 - [27] 2 April – Daily ELT Skype meeting.
 - [28] 2 April – Zoom catch-up meeting with Regional CEO's.
 - [29] 3 April – Manuherehia next steps Zoom meeting.
 - [30] 3 April – MfE/Council CE weekly meeting.
 - [31] 3 April – Daily ELT Skype meeting.
 - [32] 6 April – COVID-19 weekly briefing for Otago Joint Committee, CEG and Iwi.
 - [33] 6 April – Zoom catch-up meeting with Regional CEO's.
 - [34] 6 April – Update to Local Government/CDEM's re COVID-19.
 - [35] 7 April – ELT Skype meeting.
 - [36] 8 April – ELT Zoom meeting on Recovery.
 - [37] 8 April – Omnibus paper at Thursday's Council meeting.
 - [38] 8 April – Pre-Council meeting catch-up.
 - [39] 8 April – Plan Change 8.
-

- [40] 9 April – Omnibus Plan Change.
- [41] 9 April – ELT Skype meeting.
- [42] 9 April – Council meeting.
- [43] 10-13 April – Easter break.
- [44] 13 April – COVID-19 weekly briefing for Otago Joint Committee, CEG and Iwi.
- [45] 14 April – Otago Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive.
- [46] 14 April – ELT Zoom meeting.
- [47] 14 April – Zoom catch-up meeting with Regional CEO's.
- [48] 16 April – ELT Zoom meeting.
- [49] 16 April – Zoom catch-up meeting with Regional CEO's.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.

DISCUSSION

- [50] Council has four key roles at present:
- Civil Defence and Emergency Management (CDEM) for COVID-19 response.
 - Essential services.
 - All other business as usual (to the degree it is possible under Alert Level 4).
 - CDEM for COVID-19 recovery.

CDEM COVID-19 Response

- [51] Otago Regional Council is operating the Group Emergency Coordination Centre on a seven day per week roster and expects to continue this for at least a further two months. Our Group Controller for this event is Richard Saunders, ably assisted by alternate Group Controller Lawrence Voight of Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ). Thank you to both Lawrence and FENZ for this kind help.
- [52] The ECC runs primarily virtually with approximately 20 staff. The role of the Group is to support the District Health Board's health response to COVID-19, to lead the response in Otago for all non-health related matters, including the Caring for Communities service that assists those who need access to food or accommodation, and the restocking of local foodbanks. Thanks also to Dunedin City Council who have provided access to their call centre for the Caring for Communities service.
- [53] As time progresses, we will continue to refine our response and are likely to put most of our efforts into Intelligence and Caring for Communities.

Essential Services

[54] Otago Regional Council is operating under Government guidance in regard to essential services. These services are a narrow interpretation of parts of our business as usual role and include the following, primarily for the purpose of preserving human health:

[55] *Regional councils*

- Natural hazard event monitoring, response and recovery (including 24/7 flood monitoring programme).
- Flood and drought management, flood protection and land drainage.
- Incident/pollution response including related enforcement.
- Compliance monitoring programmes for high risk activities as they relate to human health.
- Sampling and analysing water quality for safe human activities including drinking water.
- Ensuring maritime navigational safety.
- Public transport (for essential travel only).
- Biosecurity incursion response and eradication.

[56] We have approximately 30 staff involved in essential services work that may require them to operate in the field during Alert level 4. Key work undertaken during this time includes:

- Emergency flood response to Coastal flooding on Tuesday 14 April 2020.
- Flood infrastructure works necessary to protect communities at risk – ongoing.
- Incident response and pollution hotline – most have been able to be managed without field work and are triaged accordingly. Overall these incidents have been very low.
- Compliance monitoring and state of the environment monitoring – only in relation to drinking water at source and air quality particularly.
- Harbourmaster response – the Harbourmaster has responded to vessel related issues and to damage to ORC harbour infrastructure during the storm conditions on 15 April 2020.
- Public transport – delivery of ongoing services in Queenstown and Dunedin on a Saturday timetable.

Business as Usual in Alert level 4

[57] We have achieved a high level of ongoing business as usual in these unusual circumstances. The work we have not been able to continue is largely field work, but even then those roles have elements of desk work and therefore those staff have been working.

[58] We have used the opportunity to revise processes, undertake desk-based work to support field-based activity, e.g. the significant wetland inspection work has been progressed, and progressed special projects like online development of forms for compliance monitoring.

[59] All of our financial work can be undertaken from home, and our planners and policy staff have maintained their focused work programmes. We have had less consents lodged than usual, but consents have continued to be processed, including consents relating to essential services.

[60] I am confident that under ongoing Alert level 4, or a reduction to Alert level 3, we can continue in the majority to deliver our work programme.

CDEM Recovery

- [61] CDEM has a statutory role for recovery following an emergency response. However, the circumstances in which recovery usually occurs are quite different from the type of recovery interventions that will be required for COVID-19. Usually recovery relates to quick rather than prolonged re-establishment of normal life following a short-lived event such as a flood or fire. This is not the case for COVID-19.
- [62] The statute requires the appointment of a Regional Group Recovery Manager who is effectively the Controller for the recovery effort. The Joint Committee will determine the regional structure for the recovery, through the Coordinated Executive Committee. Local CDEM operations are likely to also appoint recovery managers and staff.
- [63] In Otago we have resources between Councils that are equipped to assist recovery. These are our economic development staff, ORC's own economist and others. The role of the Group Recovery Manager is one of coordination, bringing parties and communities together, responding to the National CDEM recovery structure, and applying a regional context in response to recovery opportunities.
- [64] The Joint Committee will be asked to appoint a Recovery Manager for COVID-19 in the next fortnight.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

8.1. ECO Fund Applications - March 2020 Funding Round

Prepared for: Council
Report No. GOV1916
Activity: Governance Report
Author: Lisa Gloag, Manager Communications and Engagement
Endorsed by: Sally Giddens, General Manager People, Culture and Communications
Date: 16 April 2020

PURPOSE

- [1] A report to Council to approve recommendations for ECO Fund applications for the March 2020 funding round. <https://www.orc.govt.nz/our-council-our-region/eco-fund>

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Approves** the funding recommendations of the ECO Fund decision panel for the following applications, to a value of \$132,573.78 as per the summary sheet of projects:

Applications under \$5,000

- Beehive Biodiversity
- Hoiho Trapping Intensification & Upgrade Project
- Makarora Catchment Threatened Species Project - From Ridge to River
- Morningstar Reserve Regeneration Project
- Soil Your Undies Otago: Biological indicators of soil biological health and the role of earthworms and dung beetles for soil functioning
- Waieraka Pod Group Biodiversity Enhancement Projects - Craigmore Sustainables

Applications over \$5,000

- Bannockburn Project
- Clifton Falls Walkway Community Project - Stage 2
- Halo Forest Reforestation
- Helping the Tomahawk Lagoon Community to look after its own backyard
- Island Biodiversity
- Protecting, Enhancing and Promoting Wetlands in Otago (Sinclair Wetlands)
- Te Kākano Aotearoa Trust
- Waste Free Wanda Tour

- 3) **Approves** for staff to seek an alternative funding option for ORC to support the work of the Southern Great Lakes Programme, as per the request of the Councillor Decision Panel (see point [8] below).

BACKGROUND

- [2] The ECO Fund vision, purpose and objectives are:
-

Vision:

The ECO Fund will support work that protects, enhances and promotes Otago’s environment.

Purpose:

To support community-driven environmental activities.

Objectives:

To support administration costs, align with ORC environmental strategies, support both small and large projects, encourage community collaborations/partnerships, and promote ORC’s profile within the community.

- [3] There are two funding rounds per year (March and October), with \$250,000 to split across both rounds.
- [4] An additional \$7,573.78 was available in the March 2020 funding round, bringing the total funding available to \$132,573.78. (Note: although the October 2019 funding round was over-subscribed, not all applications met the ECO Fund criteria or provided sufficient information. Due to this, the Decision Panel chose not to allocate all funds available, with the balance to be carried over to the March 2020 round).
- [5] Applications for the March 2020 ECO Fund funding round were open from 1 - 20 March 2020. Twenty-four applications were received:

Category	Applications	Total requested
Under \$5,000	10	\$30,855.70
Over \$5,000	14	\$292,456.93
Total Funds Requested:		\$323,312.63
Total Funds Available:		\$132,573.78

- [6] All applications have been made available for all Councillors to view prior to the Council meeting, so those not on the decision panel can review them.
- [7] The ECO Fund Decision Panel met on 16 April 2020 to review and decide which applications are recommended to the full Council to receive funding. That meeting followed a staff meeting on 9 April 2020, to do an initial assessment of the ECO Fund applications.

Applications under \$5,000

Project Name	Decision	Amount
Beehive Biodiversity	Yes	\$1,045.50
Hoiho Trapping Intensification & Upgrade Project	Yes	\$4,980.00
Makarora Catchment Threatened Species Project - From Ridge to River	Yes	\$3,000.00
Morningstar Reserve Regeneration Project	Yes	\$1,917.20
Soil Your Undies Otago: Biological indicators of soil biological health and the role of earthworms and dung beetles for soil functioning	Yes	\$5,000.00
Waiereka Pod Group Biodiversity Enhancement Projects - Craigmore Sustainables	Yes	\$4,428.00
Bullock Creek Information Boards	No	
Clyde-Bannockburn Restoration Planting	No	
School Creek Restoration Group	No	
Wanaka Tiny House Working Group	No	
Total:		\$20,370.70

Applications over \$5,000

Project Name	Decision	Amount
Bannockburn Project	Yes	\$8,663.39
Clifton Falls Walkway Community Project - Stage 2	Yes	\$12,000.00
Halo Forest Reforestation	Yes	\$15,000.00
Helping the Tomahawk Lagoon Community to look after its own backyard	Yes	\$16,839.84
Island Biodiversity (<i>\$31,500 over 3 years / \$10,500 per year</i>)	Yes	\$10,500.00
Protecting, Enhancing and Promoting Wetlands in Otago (Sinclair Wetlands)	Yes	\$27,360.00
Te Kākano Aotearoa Trust	Yes	\$10,000.00
Waste Free Wanda Tour	Yes	\$11,839.85
Southern Great Lakes Research Programme (<i>see additional recommendation under point [8] below</i>)	No	
Milton Glass Crusher	No	
Orokonui's 'Neighbours'	No	
Sir Truby King Railway Bridge Track	No	
Wakatipu Transport Management Association	No	
Wanaka Tiny House Working Group	No	
Total:		\$112,203.08

- [8] The work outlined in the application for the Southern Great Lakes Research Programme was viewed by the Decision Panel to provide significant benefit to ORC's work programmes and the environmental outcomes for this area. However, the project did not meet the ECO Fund's most important criteria, which is community involvement and engagement. Therefore, the Decision Panel recommends that ORC explores alternative means of funding to support this work due to the great benefit this work would provide to ORC's work programmes (*refer to Recommendation 3) at the start of this report*).

- [9] Communications and Engagement staff will continue to look at ways to encourage people to contact us prior to putting in an application, to check that their project meets the criteria. We have seen an increase in queries during the March round and want to see this continue. Similar to past ECO Fund rounds, all unsuccessful applicants will be written to with feedback on their application and our decision to decline it.
- [10] Communications and Engagement staff will continue to work with the Rural Liaison team to promote the ECO Fund across Otago and will also review how the fund is promoted, to ensure we are targeting the correct audiences and continue to be over-subscribed.

NEXT STEPS

- [11] When advising applicants of their project's funding success, we will ask applicants to advise staff of any implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the deliverables of their project and timeframes.
- [12] In light of the current COVID-19 situation, any planning towards Councillor and staff visits to ECO Fund projects, and an ORC-hosted function for successful applicants, has been put on hold until gatherings are considered safe again.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Over \$5 K - Southern Great Lakes Research Programme Proposal - Marc Schallenberg (March 2020) [8.1.1 - 11 pages]



ecofund

*Environment. Community. Otago.
Te Ao Turoa. Hapori. Ōtākou.*

Application for funding over \$5,000.00

Please supply any supporting documents as part of your application, e.g. quotes, letters of support, project detail.

Once you have completed this application please email it to ecofund@orc.govt.nz or post to:

ECO Fund
Otago Regional Council
Private Bag 1954
Dunedin 9054

CONTACT DETAILS OF PERSON/ORGANISATION

First name:	Marc
Last name:	Schallenberg
Organisation:	University of Otago, Department of Zoology
Postal Address	
Number/Street name/PO Box:	PO Box 56
Suburb:	
City:	Dunedin
Region:	Otago
Postcode:	9054
Phone number:	027 712 4400
Email address:	marc.schallenberg@otago.ac.nz

PROJECT DETAILS

Please provide a brief 1-2 sentence description of what your project is hoping to achieve and what funds requested are for. This will be used to promote your project on the ORC website and other communications.

Financial assistance for the development of a proposal to apply to MBIE for funding for a large, collaborative, multi-year research programme to inform management and monitoring or the Southern Great Lakes, including Lakes Wakatipu, Wanaka and Hawea.

PROJECT DETAILS CONTINUED

Project name: Southern Great Lakes Research Programme Proposal

Location of project: Dunedin, Wanaka, Queenstown

Project start date: June 1, 2020

Project finish* date: March 15, 2021

Who is involved in the project? E.g. other community groups

Key partners: Upper Clutha Lakes Trust Board, Guardians of Lakes Wanaka and Hawea, Catchments Otago (University of Otago), Otago Regional Council and the Queenstown Lakes District Council.

Interested parties: DoC, Otago Fish & Game, Ngai Tahu, Federated Farmers, Beef&Lamb, Lake Wanaka Tourism, Destination Queenstown, Shaping Our Future and the Touchstone Project.

How many volunteers are involved in the project?

Community groups and unsalaried specialists that will be consulted in the development of the proposal will volunteer their time.

How many volunteer hours are you expecting for this project?

±60

How will you acknowledge the funding you receive from ORC?

If the proposal is successful in gaining funding from MBIE, the ORC will be a key research partner and co-funder of the research programme. This will be acknowledged in the proposal and in the research partnership and in all outputs from the research.

Is your organisation an unincorporated membership group, an incorporated society, a trust, a charitable trust, or none of these?

None of these

Are you GST registered?

Yes

Please use the space below to describe your project, including:

1. How does the project involve or engage with the community?
2. Does the project protect the environment and what impact will this have?
3. Does the project enhance the environment and what impact will this have?
4. Does the project promote or educate others about the environment and what impact will this have?
5. Does the project align with ORC work programmes and what impact will it have on that work programme? E.g. water, climate change, urban development, biodiversity

Project description:

Protection of the Southern Great Lakes:

While it might appear that our large, iconic South Island lakes are not under threat and would be resilient to future climate change, pollution and invasive species, studies from similar lakes overseas (as well as work on Lake Taupō) shows that such lakes are actually quite sensitive to these threats.

- NEW ZEALAND'S GREAT LAKES ARE OUR MOST ICONIC AND VALUED LAKES
- THEY ARE POORLY STUDIED AND UNDERSTOOD
- THEY FUNCTION DIFFERENTLY TO SMALLER LAKES
- OVERSEAS EXPERIENCES DEMONSTRATE THAT LARGE LAKES ARE SENSITIVE TO MANY STRESSORS INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE, EUTROPHICATION AND INVASIVE SPECIES
- SOME OF OUR GREAT LAKES ARE ALREADY AFFECTED BY EUTROPHICATION AND INVASIVE SPECIES STRESSORS, AND MAY BE AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE
- WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO MONITOR OR MANAGE THESE LAKES EFFECTIVELY
- RESTORATION OF A SINGLE DEGRADED LARGE LAKE CAN COST IN THE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS

In 2017, Professor Gerry Closs (Zoology Dept.) and I developed a large research proposal which was submitted to the MBIE Endeavour Research Programme funding round. The proposal focused on sustainable development of the Southern Great Lakes and their catchments, which are at the heart of the most rapidly developing region in New Zealand. Our proposal was unsuccessful, however feedback from MBIE was positive and we were encouraged to try again.

Our 2017 proposal asked for \$8.5M over 5 years, which would have provided huge scope for improving our understanding of how to develop sustainably in the Queenstown Lakes Region, particularly with regard to protecting our world-class freshwater resources. The proposal also involved around 20 other researchers from around New Zealand and researchers from 5 other countries. It included 10 named end-user organisations that agreed to be research partners, contributing an additional \$2.5M to the research programme. Undertaking the writing of such a proposal is a mammoth task including developing collaborations, partnerships and ideas with other researchers, the community, end-users and other interested parties.

ECO Fund Request:

In 2020, I would like to complete a revised MBIE Endeavour Fund proposal and am requesting support from the ECO Fund to allow this detailed work to occur. The proposal would be started in June 2020 and submitted in March 2021, through the University of Otago. As a starting point, I've created a proposal outline called "Safeguarding our Great Lakes". The proposal outline I developed is ambitious, but it is a concrete starting point for discussion and refinement into a winning bid (Fig. 1). It has been reviewed by a number of my science colleagues, who have already provided valuable feedback to guide revision and further development of the proposal.

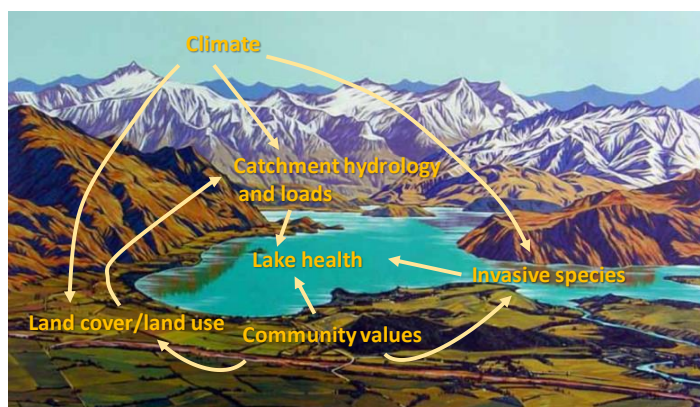


Figure 1. Overview of the "Safeguarding our Great Lakes" research proposal outline, showing the core components of the proposed research programme.

The proposed research programme will address three major challenges related to the health of our Great Lakes: (1) How to effectively monitor the health of these large and unusual lakes, (2) How to prevent the degradation of lake health, and (3) How to restore lake health when degradation has occurred (e.g., due to invasive species or to pollution diffuse - and point-sources).

Values driving the proposed research:

The Safeguarding our Great Lakes proposal will focus on safeguarding a number of important lake values including:

- CLEAN, CLEAR WATER
- GOOD FISHERIES
- RESERVOIRS OF NATIVE BIODIVERSITY
- SCENIC BEAUTY
- PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES PROVIDING JOBS, WITHOUT SPOILING THE ENVIRONMENT

Both the new Upper Clutha Community Catchment Plan developed by the Upper Clutha Lakes Trust Board as part of the Freshwater Improvement Fund programme and the suite of Essential Freshwater policies to be gazetted by Central Government later this year provide clear expressions of additional values that are relevant to the protection of our Great Lakes. These will also inform the research developed as part of the revised proposal.

Alignment with other research programmes:

The research proposal will be aligned with relevant research programmes already funded such as “The Lake Snow Toolbox” (Landcare Research), “Lakes380” (Cawthron/GNS), “Bad nature: The social dimensions of invasive alien species and their management in New Zealand” (University of Otago), “Ngā Kete o te Wānanga: Mātauranga, Science & Freshwater Management” (NIWA), and “Land Use Suitability” (Our Land and Water National Science Challenge).

In addition, I have developed some collaborations with Swiss lake scientists who have been studying the threats, the degradation and the restoration from eutrophication of large pre-alpine lakes in the European Alps for decades (Figs 2 and 3). These scientists will participate in the MBIE programme, providing valuable insights from their lakes.

- A NUMBER OF SWISS PRE-ALPINE LAKES HAVE A SIMILAR SIZE, SHAPE, HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE TO NEW ZEALAND'S GREAT LAKES
- THEY SPAN A SIGNIFICANT NORTH-SOUTH CLIMATE GRADIENT
- SWITZERLAND IS BEING AFFECTED BY GLOBAL WARMING AT TWICE THE GLOBAL AVERAGE RATE OF WARMING
- THE SWISS GREAT LAKES HAVE UNDERGONE EUTROPHICATION AND RE-OLIGOTROPHICATION, WITH RESTORATION ACTIONS COSTING IN THE BILLIONS OF EUROS
- SWISS SCIENTISTS ARE ACTIVELY RESEARCHING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS EFFECTS ON CATCHMENT HYDROLOGY AND LAKE FUNCTIONING



Figure 2. The 7 Swiss “Great Lakes” (surface area > 50 km², maximum depth > 100 m).

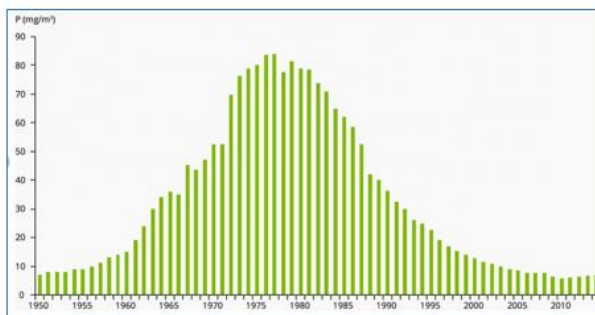


Figure 3. Annual mean of the total phosphorus concentration in Lake Constance (Bodensee; A₀ = 536 km²; Z_{max} = 251 m). From Völker et al (2016).

Community involvement in the research:

Safeguarding our Great Lakes will develop useful tools for community engagement in aquatic monitoring and in collaborative planning processes. Ways this could be achieved include:

- THE DEVELOPMENT OF CITIZEN SCIENCE INITIATIVES TO ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTIONS TO THE LAKES
- PROVIDING PLANNING DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS TO COUNCILS AND COMMUNITIES TO HELP WITH EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY DEVELOPMENT
- DEVELOPING DATA ANALYSIS TOOLS TO HELP INTERPRET SATELLITE IMAGERY AND HIGH FREQUENCY DATA FROM SENSORS
- SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WORLD CLASS LAKES RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTRE IN THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES REGION

Such projects could help ensure the community values of the lakes are preserved for future generations, while allowing for appropriate development.

Iwi engagement:

Even though the various runaka of Ngāi Tahu are coastally based, many have a strong interest in the inland Southern Great Lakes. The proposed research programme aims to work with runaka and TRoNT to help strengthen iwi connections to the lakes and their catchments. An aim of the research programme is to enhance mātauranga Māori regarding the lakes and to integrating it with western science, where appropriate.

Outcomes:

The Safeguarding our Great Lakes programme would enable better, more confident management of the lakes into the future – management that realistically accounts for climate change and prevents the degradation that has occurred in similar lakes elsewhere. The programme could also facilitate the stronger engagement of Territorial Authorities, stakeholders, the community, and iwi in monitoring and planning the future of the lakes. I would like to aim the research programme at delivering the following outcomes:

- SAFEGUARD THE LAKES AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE, EUTROPHICATION AND INVASIVE SPECIES
- FACILITATE STRONGER CONNECTION OF IWI WITH THE LAKES
- FACILITATE ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS, THE COMMUNITY AND IWI IN MONITORING AND PLANNING THE FUTURE OF THE LAKES IN A CHANGING WORLD

My background:

I am a Research Fellow in the Zoology Department and have been doing research on New Zealand lakes for over 25 years. As opposed to a Lectureship or Professorship, the salary of a Research Fellow is dependent on external research grant income. Essentially, I do not receive any income for substantial tasks such as the writing of MBIE Endeavour Fund research proposals. For this reason, I am seeking support from external sources to be able to undertake the development of this important proposal. By providing some seed funding to enable the writing of this MBIE proposal, the ORC could leverage a large amount of Central Government funding to help it understand, monitor and manage its most important freshwater assets - the Southern Great Lakes.

**We fund both one-off projects and those running over multiple years. See terms and conditions for more detail.*



PROJECT DETAILS CONTINUED

Funding amount

Funds requested from ECO Fund *(Please note: all funds are GST exclusive):*

\$18,880

Total project costs:

\$49,380

Funding allocation (breakdown of costs):

Cash contributions:

1. Time: 160 hours at \$118/h (includes overheads): \$18,880

2. Expenses: Airfares, mileage and other expenses: \$6,000 (Catchments Otago)

(see cost breakdown template)

In-kind contributions:

1. Administrative support: \$5,000 (UCLTB)

2. Expert/science collaborators: \$12,000

3. Research partners (i.e., Regional councils, other stakeholders and iwi): \$4,500

4. Volunteer contributions: \$3,000

(please see Cost Breakdown Template for details)

Have you applied for or received other funding for this project and what is the outcome of this?

I have received preliminary approval for \$6,000 towards expenses from Catchments Otago. I have also received an offer of \$5,000 for administrative support (in-kind) from the Upper Clutha Lakes Trust Board.

How did you hear about the ECO Fund?

Marian Hobbs

Declaration

I have read and agree to the terms and conditions and confirm that all information on this form is true and correct.

Signature:

Date:

20/03/2020

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Cost breakdown template

Expand tables as needed

ECO Fund contribution	Applicant in-kind contribution	Applicant cash contribution	Other funding	Total project cost
\$18,880	\$18,500	\$6,000		\$49,380

Expense	Purpose	Cost \$ (GST exclusive)
Time: 160 hours at \$118/h (includes overheads):	Co-development of MBIE research proposal with science collaborators, key partners and interested parties	\$18,880 (contribution sought from ORC)
Airfares, mileage and other expenses:	Travel (e.g., Ministry for the Environment, Regional Councils, DoC, key partners and interested parties)	\$6,000 (cash, Catchments Otago)
Administrative assistance:	Assistance with proposal budgeting formatting, costings, letters of support, collection of CVs, uploading all information onto MBIE portal	\$5,000 (in-kind, Upper Clutha Lakes Trust Board)
Expert/science collaborator input: 20 scientists@4 hours@\$150/h	Science team intellectual contributions	\$12,000 (est. in-kind)
Research partner input: 60 hours@\$75/h	Regional Councils, iwi, community and other stakeholder intellectual contributions	\$4,500 (est. in-kind)
Volunteer input: 60 hours@\$50/h	Community groups and unsalaried (volunteer) contributions	\$3,000 (est. in-kind)
	Total:	\$49,380

Guardians of Lake Wanaka

Serviced by
Department of Conservation,
Wanaka Office

The Secretary
PO Box 93
Wanaka
Ph 03 443 9462
wanakaguardians@gmail.com

20 March 2020

ECO Fund
Otago Regional Council
Private Bag 1954
Dunedin 9054

To the ECO Fund Decision Panel

The Guardians of Lake Wanaka and Guardians of Lake Hawea fully support Dr Marc Schallenberg's funding proposal to the ORC ECO Fund. The requested funds would enable Marc to prepare a comprehensive, multi-researcher collaborative MBIE Endeavour Fund bid designed to carry out a long overdue large scale research programme into understanding Otago's deepwater lakes.

We have ongoing concerns that the Otago deepwater lakes are poorly understood, facing considerable environmental risks and changing. The water quality and ecosystem functions of none of these lakes are served by evidence based management. This is a serious situation given that the economic and social wellbeing of the Queenstown Lakes District is dependent on these lakes being in excellent condition into the future.

The Guardians of Lake Wanaka and Guardians of Lake Hawea are actively involved with the community initiatives around the Upper Clutha Lakes Trust (also known as WAI Wanaka). We see Marc's initiative as essential to progress the science needed to support informed management of Otago's deepwater lakes.



Don Robertson PhD
Chair, Guardians of Lake Wanaka

027 444 6640



19 March 2020

ECO Fund
Otago Regional Council
Private Bag 1954
Dunedin 9054

Dear ECO Fund Decision Panel

Many individuals, community groups, landowners and businesses in the Upper Clutha are actively involved in initiatives related to freshwater. A recent example is WAI Wānaka's Community Catchment Plan (CCP) which addresses current and future risks to freshwater resources to prevent any decline in water quality and ecosystem function across the Upper Clutha catchment.

The CCP identified two key reasons to protect our catchment. The first is to ensure we have Healthy Ecosystems, which includes improving water quality in our lakes, rivers and wetlands, maintaining an abundance and diversity of aquatic life and protecting natural waterway habitats. The second is to support Community Wellbeing, which includes safe recreation, maintaining economic wellbeing through sustainable tourism, agriculture and urbanisation and respecting the cultural values of water.

WAI Wānaka is also actively engaged in connecting science to the community. With the support of ORC, WAI Wānaka is establishing the Alpine Lakes Research and Education Centre (ALREC) in Wānaka, a field station for researchers, students, citizen scientists and the community. ALREC will also facilitate crossovers and connections between freshwater and other fields, such as carbon, soil, climate change, biodiversity and sustainability.

WAI Wānaka fully supports Marc Schallenberg's application to the ECO Fund, which will allow Marc to set aside sufficient time to prepare a comprehensive MBIE Endeavour Fund bid. The bid is based on a collaborative multi-agency approach and already has significant in-kind support from NZ and overseas researchers, district and regional councils, iwi, community organisations and universities.

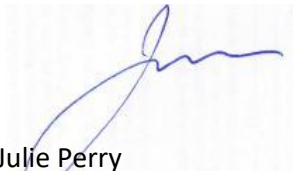
Phone +64 274 98 96 98
email julie@waiwanaka.nz

Charities Services Registration CC53728
www.waiwanaka.nz

The conditions influencing Otago's alpine lakes are currently not adequately measured, monitored, understood or actively managed. We know very little about how our large lakes function and even less about how to manage them in relation to their main threats, which include climate change, land use change and invasive species. A significant research programme is needed to inform the future management and monitoring of these lakes and their catchment areas. Providing the requested financial support to Marc's bid via the ECO Fund has the potential to generate enormous benefits for Otago's alpine lakes and catchments.

WAI Wānaka believes that this proposal meets the objectives of the ECO Fund and hopes the application will be considered favourably by the Decision Panel.

Yours sincerely



Julie Perry
Manager - WAI Wānaka

WAI Wānaka: WAI stands for Water Action Initiative. We're an organisation where people who want to safeguard the health of our alpine waterways build communities that do.



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

23 March 2020

RE: Catchments Otago Support for Ecofund Application from Dr. Marc Schallenberg

I write to confirm Catchments Otago full and enthusiastic support for Dr Marc Schallenberg's application to the ORC Ecofund. The application submitted by Marc outlines a proposal to develop an Endeavour Fund grant application to support a Southern Great Lakes research programme. The Southern Great Lakes (including Wanaka, Wakatipu and Hawea) represent some of the most significant landscape features in Otago. The ecological health of these stunning lakes underpins our recreation, tourism and agricultural industries, and is central to our sense of self, well-being and pride in our Otago environment and landscapes.

The ecological integrity of these large glacial lakes is fragile, but our knowledge of crucial tipping points towards hard-to-reverse processes of degradation is limited. A well-funded research programme, that draws on international experience in managing comparable large lakes, is essential for effective management of these systems.

The Endeavour Fund is highly competitive and the grant applications are complex, requiring the development of collaborations between multiple researchers and organisations. To be successful, a significant commitment of resources is required. Dr Schallenberg is mostly supported by external fixed-term research funding, and is currently not in a position to devote the time required to develop a competitive application without some financial support. Catchments Otago is strongly supportive of Dr Schallenberg's application, and will look to provide some support with our limited resources. However, without some additional external support, it is likely that the opportunity apply for this crucial funding will slip by again. We strongly endorse this application.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Gerry Closs

Co-Director, Catchments Otago

Professor Gerry Closs, Head of Department
Department of Zoology, University of Otago
340 Great King St., P O Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand
Tel + 64 – 3 479 7972; Email: gerry.closs@otago.ac.nz

8.2. Transfer of Building Functions

Prepared for: Council
Report No. EMO1874
Activity: Regulatory: Consents and Compliance
Author: Joanna Gilroy, Manager Consents
Endorsed by: Richard Saunders, General Manager Regulatory
Date: 17 March 2020

PURPOSE

- [1] The purpose of this report is to seek approval to commence the process of transferring Council's functions, powers and duties under the Building Act 2004 for the processing of building consents for large dams, to Environment Canterbury.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [2] Council is an accredited Building Consent Authority (BCA) for 'Large Dams' under the Building Act 2004 and undertakes this role on behalf of Environment Southland and West Coast Regional Council. In 2019 following some uncertainty about ORC's intention to retain BCA accreditation, both Councils sought to transfer their functions to Environment Canterbury.
- [3] Due to very low workloads which do not justify the significant costs to retain accreditation, this report recommends that Otago Regional Council also commences a process to transfer these functions to Environment Canterbury. The transfer would also result in a South Island centre of excellence for these Building Act functions, like the model existing in the North Island.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

- 1) **Approves** the commencement of the process to transfer Council's functions, powers and duties as an accredited Building Consent Authority to Environment Canterbury.
- 2) **Approves** Councillors Wilson and Noone to hear from submitters, consider all submissions received, deliberate and make recommendations to Council in relation to the transfer of Building Act functions.
- 3) **Notes** that staff will report back to Council following public consultation on the proposal to transfer the function.

BACKGROUND

- [4] Otago Regional Council (ORC) is one of the three Regional Councils in New Zealand who are an accredited Building Consent Authority (BCA) for 'Large Dams' under the Building Act 2004. The other two are Waikato Regional Council and Environment Canterbury. This means ORC processes a range of consents and certificates required under the Building Act 2004.

- [5] ORC has carried out Building Act functions for Environment Southland and the West Coast Regional Council since 2008. There are transfer agreements in place that support this until 30 June 2020. Both organisations pay ORC an annual fee as part of this transfer agreement.
- [6] Under Section 244 of the Building Act, a regional authority can transfer functions to other regional authorities. Discussions have been held with Environment Southland, West Coast Regional Council and Environment Canterbury about all regional authorities transferring most functions to Environment Canterbury.
- [7] The transfer of functions would involve signing an agreement that Environment Canterbury is to undertake ORC's functions under the Building Act. We would agree to pay them an annual fee of approximately \$32,000¹ (subject to a three-yearly review) to undertake this function.
- [8] As part of transferring this function, ORC would need to undertake a special consultative procedure under the Local Government Act 2002 and serve notice on the Minister for Building and Construction of the proposal to transfer. The aim is to have this process completed by 1 August 2020.
- [9] With the transfer of functions, ORC would still be responsible for a number of Building Act requirements such as processing Project Information Memorandums, receiving building consents (for lodging with ECAN), investigating complaints/reports of unlawful building work, issuing Notices to Fix, issuing building warrants, maintaining a dam register, and having an up-to-date policy for dangerous dams. However, the work and cost to maintain these functions and undertake this work would be significantly less than the current workload requirements as ORC would not need to retain BCA accreditation.

DISCUSSION

- [10] Environment Southland and West Coast Regional Council are preparing to transfer their functions to Environment Canterbury. It is recommended that ORC does the same due to consistently low workloads, high costs and to develop a South Island centre of excellence for the processing of building consents for large dams under the Building Act.

Workload

- [11] ORC receives three types of Building Act applications: Building Consent, Code Compliance Certificate and Certificate of Acceptance. In the last 3 years over the three regions, Council has processed 11 applications, a summary of which is shown in Table 1. The number of applications received has been trending downwards over the last three years and it is noted that in the last 12 months there has been only one building consent processed.

Table 1: Building Act applications processed over the last 5 years

¹ subject to negotiation and agreement as part of the transfer process

Application type	Number processed				Total
	2019	2018	2017	2016/15	
Building Consent	1	1	0	9	11
Code Compliance Certificate	0	0	1	8	9
Certificate of Acceptance	0	0	4	7	11
Certificate of public use	1	1	0	0	2
Total	2	2	5	24	33

Financial Cost

- [12] In total, since 1 July 2016 the financial cost to ORC of being a BCA has been \$380,000. This excludes costs recovered from West Coast Regional Council and Environment Southland ². Taking the recovered costs into consideration the cost to ORC has been \$241,000. Transferring Council's functions to Environment Canterbury for an annual fee of \$32,000 per year would represent a significant reduction in costs.
- [13] The main cost associated with being the BCA is maintaining the IANZ (International Accreditation New Zealand) accreditation. This requires several internal and accreditation audits as well as a significant amount of staff time. Even though there are very few applications, ORC must be prepared to process an application which means maintaining the systems and procedures.
- [14] ORC had its full IANZ audit of the Building Act function in the first week of April. The audit is mandatory and the initial indication from IANZ is that this audit will cost ORC \$24,000. This figure does not include any staff time preparing for or participating in the audit which took three days to complete and any time correcting issues identified in the audit. The annual internal audits typically cost in the order of \$7,000 excluding staff time.
- [15] There are additional costs in training staff, as all staff who are part of the BCA must be trained and assessed every year on their BCA competency. This is a requirement of being a BCA and must happen in order to retain accreditation. There are five Consent Team members in the BCA and two General Managers who need to be trained and assessed annually.

Time

- [16] In order to be an accredited BCA, ORC must maintain a quality management system and be part of an annual IANZ audit programme. The quality management system includes over 30 process documents; 60 templates and the need to meet regularly to ensure the functioning of the BCA.
- [17] To ensure ORC will pass an IANZ audit, the system is audited annually by an internal audit provider. If an IANZ audit is not passed, then there is a risk that the organisation will lose its accreditation. ORC has no internal technical specialists in the Building Act, with this function carried out by external contractors. To ensure this happens three contracts are maintained.

² Provided by Finance by extracting the costs that have been raised against the BCA job code

- [18] From July 2016 to March 2020 there have been 1,800 staff hours committed to maintaining the accreditation, which does not include time spent processing applications. Delegating this function and removing the need to maintain BCA accreditation will enable staff to focus on their core business of resource consent processing.

Centre of excellence

- [19] Further, rationale for the transfer is that Environment Canterbury is regularly processing Building Act consents and certificates. They also have a fit for purpose BCA system. Having one regional authority as a centre of excellence for the delivery of BCA functions in the South Island would mirror the North Island where Waikato Regional Council carries out the function for other Regional Councils.

OPTIONS

- [20] There are two options for Council:

Option A: Approve the commencement of the process to transfer the relevant Building Act functions to Environment Canterbury; or

Option B: Do not commence the process to transfer functions.

- [21] Option A is recommended by staff as it results in a significant monetary and staff time savings for ORC while still delivering the required level of service for customers.

CONSIDERATIONS

Policy Considerations

- [22] There are no policy considerations.

Financial Considerations

- [23] Transfer of the Building Act functions to Environment Canterbury will result in less expenditure for the maintenance of accreditation and a savings in staff time which can be reallocated to other core business.
- [24] If the functions are not transferred and Council loses the financial support from Environment Southland and the West Coast Regional Council, the overall costs for maintaining accreditation will increase.

Significance and Engagement

- [25] The Significance and Engagement Policy is relevant as Council will need to undertake a special consultative process under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. This is a prescribed form of consultation that must be used. This includes:
- a) preparation of a statement of proposal, which provides information on the matter to be consulted on, and making this publicly available;
 - b) providing a period of not less than one month for people to provide their views on the proposal; and

- c) providing an opportunity for people to present their views to council in person or by way of audio link or audio-visual link.

Legislative Considerations

- [26] The Building Act 2004 establishes the procedure for the transfer of functions under Sections 244-247. These sections must be complied with.
- [27] The special consultative process that needs to be followed as part of the transfer is required under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 and must be complied with.
- [28] Until such time as the BCA functions are transferred, ORC will ensure accreditation is retained so the function can be delivered.

Risk Considerations

- [29] There is a low level of risk associated with this decision.

NEXT STEPS

- [30] Subject to Council supporting the recommendations contained in this report, staff will commence the special consultative procedure and report back to Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

8.3. Making Plan Change 6AA Operative

Prepared for:	Council
Report No.	P&S1841
Activity:	Governance Report
Author:	Dolina Lee, Policy Analyst, and Tom de Pelsemaeker, Team Leader Freshwater and Land
Endorsed by:	Gwyneth Elsum, General Manager Strategy, Policy and Science
Date:	9 April 2020

PURPOSE

- [1] To approve Plan Change 6AA to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago (Water Plan), and to set a date for making the plan change operative and incorporate the amended provisions into the operative Water Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [2] The appeal period for Proposed Plan Change 6AA to the Water Plan has closed and no appeals have been received.
- [3] The Council can now approve the plan change in accordance with clause 17 of Schedule 1 to the Resource Management Act 1991 by affixing Council's seal to the plan and incorporating the provisions into the Operative Water Plan.
- [4] It is proposed to make the plan change operative from Saturday 16 May 2020, and to publicly notify this date on Saturday 9 May 2020, in accordance with clause 20(2) to Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
 - 2) **Approves** minor changes made to Proposed Plan Change 6AA in accordance with clause 16(2) of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.
 - 3) **Approves** Plan Change 6AA, and incorporates these provisions into the Operative Regional Plan: Water for Otago in accordance with clause 17(2) of Schedule 1 to the Resource Management Act 1991; and
 - 4) **Affix** Council's seal to Plan Change 6AA to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago in accordance with clause 17(3) of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991; and
 - 5) **Resolves** to make Plan Change 6AA operative from Saturday 16 May 2020, and publicly notify this date on Saturday 9 May 2020, in accordance with clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.
-

BACKGROUND

- [5] In August 2019, ORC resolved to initiate a plan change to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago (Water Plan).
- [6] Plan Change 6AA proposed to postpone the date at which certain Water Plan rules controlling discharge contaminant concentrations and rules on nitrogen leaching came into force from 1 April 2020, to 1 April 2026. The Water Plan provisions affected by the plan change proposal are:
- Policy 7.D.2;
 - Rule 12.C.1.1;
 - Rule 12.C.1.1A;
 - Rule 12.C.1.3; and
 - Schedule 16A
- [7] Feedback received from internal and external stakeholders indicated that these provisions, which were to come into force on 1 April 2020, were uncertain, unenforceable and ambiguous.
- [8] Plan Change 6AA is part of a package of three plan changes aimed at addressing known deficiencies within the current planning framework for managing water quality in Otago. The other plan changes within this package are proposed Plan Change 8 (Discharge management) to the Water Plan and Proposed Plan Change 1 (Dust suppressants and landfills) to the Waste Plan. Plan Change 8 and Plan Change 1 both seek to introduce a range of amendments targeting activities and land management practices known to be contributing to the degradation of water quality, while also addressing some of the management gaps in the policy and rule framework for managing contaminant discharges created by Plan Change 6AA.
- [9] Proposed Plan Change 6AA was publicly notified on Saturday 5 October 2019 and the period for making submissions closed on Monday 4 November 2019. Twenty submissions were received, 10 in support, nine in opposition and one neutral. Three further submissions were received that all supported submissions opposing the plan change.
- [10] A hearing was held, chaired by an Independent Commissioner, Rob Van Voorthuysen, in Dunedin on Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 December 2019. Eight submitters spoke and/or tabled evidence at the hearing.
- [11] Mr Van Voorthuysens' decision report went to Council on 29 January 2020. The recommendation to approve and adopt Plan Change 6AA to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago was adopted at that meeting.
- [12] ORC publicly notified its decisions on Plan Change 6AA on Saturday 8 February 2020. The appeal period of 30 working days closed on Tuesday 24 March 2020. No appeals were lodged.

DISCUSSION

Approval of Plan Change 6AA

- [13] ORC can now approve Plan Change 6AA, in accordance with clause 17 of Schedule 1 to the Resource Management Act 1991. This is given effect by affixing the Council's seal to the Plan.
- [14] A full copy of Plan Change 6AA is included as Attachment 1.

Public notification of the date on which Plan Change 6AA becomes operative

- [15] Clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 requires the Council to set a date from which the plan change becomes operative and publicly notify the operative plan at least five working days before this date.
- [16] It is proposed to make the Plan operative from Saturday 16 May 2020 and to publicly notify this date on Saturday 9 May 2020. The long timeframe between Council approving Plan Change 6AA and the proposed date for making it operative is to provide for any potential delays to this process caused by the COVID-19. In addition to placing a public notice, a copy of the plan change is required to be provided, free of charge, to the Minister for the Environment, all territorial authorities, and the tangata whenua for the area, through iwi authorities.

Minor and consequential changes

- [17] Clause 16(2) of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 provides for the amendment of a proposed plan, without formality, where such an alteration is of minor effect. The table of minor and consequential changes is attached as a table in Attachment 2. These changes are:
- Amending the *Chronicle of key events* on page iii of the Water Plan;
 - Amending section 1.4 on page 1-7 of the Water Plan to include a paragraph on Plan Change 6AA;
 - Inserting a new ISBN number for Water Plan;
 - Changing the date on the title page of the Water Plan; and
 - Amending the footer on pages of the Water Plan that have changed.

CONSIDERATIONS

Policy Considerations

- [18] Plan Change 6AA is the first of two plan changes which will address significant issues with the operative Water Plan's existing policy and rule framework for managing water quality in the Otago region and strengthen this framework, in advance of the comprehensive plan review. The second plan change is the Omnibus Plan Change, which has recently been called in by the Minister for the Environment. The Omnibus Plan Change will address policy gaps created by the changes to the discharge and nutrient management rules.

Financial Considerations

- [19] The development of Plan Change 6AA has come at a short-term financial cost for ORC. These costs have been managed within existing budgets.

- [20] Plan Change 6AA is expected to reduce costs for ORC associated with the processing of resource consent applications; the provision of advice around the implementation of the relevant discharge contaminant concentration and nitrogen leaching rules; and the monitoring of compliance with relevant discharge standards. However, it is acknowledged that the controls introduced through Proposed Plan Change 8 to the Water Plan and Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Waste Plan are likely to offset this reduction in costs somewhat due implementation costs associated with consent processing, information provision and compliance monitoring for a range of other activities that are likely to have an impact on water quality.
- [21] Plan Change 6AA is also likely to generate a financial benefit for many land users who, under the current rule framework in the operative Water Plan would have needed to seek resource consents to ensure they can continue their activities, even when their discharges have minor environmental effects. By delaying the commencement date of relevant contaminant discharge and nitrogen leaching provisions, the plan change will remove the need for these land users to apply for short term consents.

Significance and Engagement

- [22] Council's approval of Plan Change 6AA will trigger ORC's Significance and Engagement Policy (SEP).
- [23] Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 requires that ORC upon approving the plan change:
- Publicly notifies the date on which Plan Change 6AA becomes operative;
 - Provides a copy of the operative Plan Change 6AA to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago to the Minister for the Environment, constituent territorial authorities and adjacent regional councils, and the tangata whenua of the area, through iwi authorities, pursuant to clause 20(4) of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991; and
 - Provides a copy of the operative Plan Change 6AA to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago to all public libraries in the region, pursuant to clause 20(5) of Schedule 1 to the Resource Management Act 1991.
- [24] In addition to this, key messaging around the implications of Plan Change 6AA becoming operative will be released via our website, social media and as a press-release.
- [25] In all circumstances, public notification of the Plan Change 6AA in accordance with Clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 will satisfy the consultative requirements of the SEP.

Legislative Considerations

- [26] The legal requirements relating to the approval of Plan Change 6AA and public notification of the date on which the plan change is to become operative, are set out in clauses 17 and 20 of Schedule 1 to the Resource Management Act 1991.
- [27] Key legal requirements include:
- affixing the seal of the local authority to the proposed plan change.

- publicly notifying the date on which the policy statement or plan becomes operative at least 5 working days before the date on which it becomes operative.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Plan Change 6 AA - operative [**8.3.1** - 13 pages]
2. Table of minor and consequential changes [**8.3.2** - 1 page]

Attachment 1

Plan Change 6AA

Regional Plan: Water for Otago *Operative version*

ISBN: 978-0-908324-62-0



16 May 2020

Proposed Plan Change 6AA to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago
5 October 2019
Page 2

This is a true and correct copy of Plan Change 6AA to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago which was approved by the resolution of the Otago Regional Council on Wednesday, 22 April 2020.

Plan Change 6AA to the Regional Plan: Water is deemed to be operative on Saturday, 16 May 2020.

The Common Seal of the Otago Regional Council was hereto affixed pursuant to the resolution of the Council passed on Wednesday, 22 April 2020 in the presence of:

Marian Hobbs
Chairperson

Sarah Gardner
Chief Executive

Proposed Plan Change 6AA to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago
5 October 2019
Page 4

7

Water Quality



W A T E R Q U A L I T Y

7.1 - 7.5 *[Unchanged]*

7.A - 7.C *[Unchanged]*

7.D Policies for discharges of water and contaminants, excluding those discharges provided for in 7.C

7.D.1 *[Unchanged]*

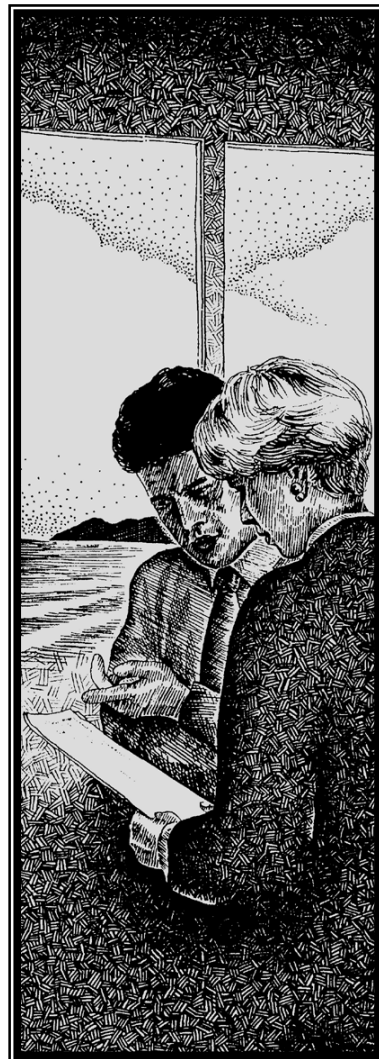
7.D.2 **Schedule 16 discharge thresholds apply to permitted activities, from 1 April 2026, at or below the reference flows set in Schedule 16B based on median flows.**

7.D.3 - 7.D.5 *[Unchanged]*

RULES: WATER TAKE, USE AND MANAGEMENT

12

Rules: Water Take, Use and Management



Plan Change 6AA to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago
16 May 2020
Page 2

RULES: WATER TAKE, USE AND MANAGEMENT

12.0 - 12.3 *[Unchanged]*

12.A - 12.B *[Unchanged]*

12.C Other discharges

12.C.A General Rules for section 12.C *[Unchanged]*

12.C.0 Prohibited activities: No resource consent will be granted *[Unchanged]*

12.C.1 Permitted activities: No resource consent required

12.C.1.1 The discharge of water or any contaminant to water, or onto or into land in circumstances which may result in a contaminant entering water, is a *permitted* activity, providing:

(a) - (f) *[Unchanged]*

(g) From 1 April 2026, the discharge also complies with 12.C.1.1A.

Figures 5 - 7: *[Unchanged]*

12.C.1.1A From 1 April 2026, in addition to Rule 12.C.1.1, when the water flow at the relevant representative flow monitoring site is at or below the reference flow in Schedule 16B, the following conditions apply:

(a) - (c) *[Unchanged]*

Figures 8 - 13: *[Unchanged]*

12.C.1.2 *[Unchanged]*

12.C.1.3 The discharge of nitrogen¹ onto or into land in circumstances which may result in nitrogen entering groundwater, is a *permitted* activity, providing:

(a) From 1 April 2026, the nitrogen leaching rate does not exceed:

(i) - (iii) *[Unchanged]*

(b) (i) From 1 May 2014 to 31 March 2026, the landholder for outdoor pork, fruit (excluding grapes), berry and rotational vegetable production will keep a record of all inputs into the farm system and evidence that practices complied with the relevant industry good management practices and provide Council upon request with that information. From 1 April 2026, 12.C.1.3(b)(ii) will apply; and

(ii) *[Unchanged]*

¹ For the purpose of Rule 12.C.1.3, nitrogen comprises of organic nitrogen, ammoniacal nitrogen, nitrite nitrogen and nitrate nitrogen forms.

R U L E S : W A T E R T A K E , U S E A N D M A N A G E M E N T

12.C.2 Restricted discretionary activities: Resource consent required *[Unchanged]*

12.C.3 Discretionary activities: Resource consent required *[Unchanged]*

R U L E S : W A T E R T A K E , U S E A N D M A N A G E M E N T

Plan Change 6AA to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago
16 May 2020
Page 2

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Schedules



SCHEDULE 16: DISCHARGE THRESHOLDS

16 Schedule of permitted activity discharge thresholds for water quality

Schedule 16 describes the thresholds that apply to discharges permitted under Rule 12.C.1.1A in the catchments of each discharge threshold area. Discharge Threshold Areas 1 and 2 catchments are shown on the J-series Maps.

16A Permitted activity discharge thresholds for water quality by discharge threshold area

Discharge Threshold Area 1 Catchments	Nitrate-nitrite nitrogen	Dissolved reactive phosphorus	Ammoniacal nitrogen	<i>Escherichia coli</i>
Timeframe	1 April 2026			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Catlins ▪ Careys Creek ▪ Kaikorai ▪ Leith ▪ Mokoreta (within Otago) ▪ Owaka ▪ Pomahaka, downstream of Glenken ▪ Tahakopa ▪ Tokomairiro ▪ Tuapeka ▪ Waitahuna ▪ Waitati ▪ Waiwera ▪ Any unlisted tributary on the true right bank of the Clutha/Mata-Au, south of Judge Creek ▪ Any unlisted tributary on the true left bank of the Clutha/Mata-Au, south of the Tuapeka ▪ Any unlisted catchment that discharges to the coast, south of Taieri Mouth 	3.6 mg/l	0.045 mg/l	0.2 mg/l	550 cfu/100 ml

SCHEDULE 16: DISCHARGE THRESHOLDS

Discharge Threshold Area 2 Catchments	Nitrate-nitrite nitrogen	Dissolved reactive phosphorus	Ammoniacal nitrogen	<i>Escherichia coli</i>
Timeframe	1 April 2026			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cardrona ▪ Clutha/Mata-Au (above Luggate) ▪ Clutha/Mata-Au and any unlisted tributary (Luggate to mouth, including Lake Roxburgh, and excluding tributaries described in Discharge Threshold Catchment Area 1) ▪ Fraser ▪ Kakanui ▪ Kawarau ▪ Lake Dunstan ▪ Lake Hayes ▪ Lake Hawea and any tributary ▪ Lake Johnson ▪ Lake Onslow ▪ Lake Tuakitoto ▪ Lake Waipori & Waihola ▪ Lake Wakatipu and any tributary ▪ Lake Wanaka and any tributary ▪ Lindis ▪ Luggate ▪ Manuherikia ▪ Mill Creek (tributary to Lake Hayes) ▪ Pomahaka, upstream of Glenken ▪ Shag ▪ Shotover ▪ Taieri ▪ Trotters ▪ Waianakarua ▪ Waikouaiti ▪ Waipori ▪ Waitaki tributaries within Otago ▪ Any unlisted catchment that discharges to the coast, north of Taieri Mouth 	1.0 mg/l	0.035 mg/l	0.2 mg/l	550 cfu/100 ml

mg/l = milligrams per litre

cfu/100 ml = colony-forming units per 100 millilitres

Attachment 2

Table of minor and consequential changes

Plan Provision	Detail of proposed change								
Footers	Change footer to read “Regional Plan: Water for Otago (Updated to 16 May 2020)”, on pages that have changed.								
Title page	Change the date to read “Updated to 16 May 2020”.								
ISBN number	Insert new ISBN number for Regional Plan: Water for Otago.								
Chronicle of key events	<p>Add the following to the end of the table:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Key event</th> <th>Date notified</th> <th>Date decisions released</th> <th>Date operative</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Plan Change 6AA to the Regional Plan: Water</td> <td>5 October 2019</td> <td>8 February 2020</td> <td>16 May 2020</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Key event	Date notified	Date decisions released	Date operative	Plan Change 6AA to the Regional Plan: Water	5 October 2019	8 February 2020	16 May 2020
Key event	Date notified	Date decisions released	Date operative						
Plan Change 6AA to the Regional Plan: Water	5 October 2019	8 February 2020	16 May 2020						
section 1.4	<p>...</p> <p>Amendment 2...</p> <p>Proposed Plan Change 6AA was notified on 5 October 2019 to amend the date by which conditions controlling discharge contaminant concentration thresholds (Schedule 16) and nitrogen leaching (Overseer) for permitted discharges are to be met. A total of twenty submissions and three further submissions were received. Following the hearing, decisions on submissions received were released on 8 February 2020. Plan Change 6AA was made operative on 16 May 2020.</p>								

8.4. 2020/2021 Biosecurity Operational Plan

Prepared for: Council

Report No. OPS1007

Activity: Environmental: Land

Author: Andrea Howard, Manager Biosecurity and Rural Liaison
Richard Lord, Team Leader Biosecurity/Biodiversity

Endorsed by: Gavin Palmer, General Manager Operations

Date: 22 April 2020

PURPOSE

- [1] To seek Council's approval to adopt the Otago Regional Council's Regional Pest Management Plan - 2020/2021 Operational Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [2] In accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993, the Council's Otago 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.
- [3] A RPMP Operational Plan is also required by law 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.
- [4] New areas of work for the 2020/2021 year include the development of a meaningful partnership with Kāi Tahu in order to connect regularly on biosecurity issues, the establishment of a new surveillance programme for exclusion pests, increased wilding conifer inspections and monitoring and stepped up engagement with occupiers over rabbit issues on lifestyle blocks.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Approves** the Otago Regional Council's Regional Pest Management Plan - 2020-2021 Operational Plan.
- 3) **Agrees** to provide a copy of the Otago Regional Council's Regional Pest Management Plan - 2020-2021 Operational Plan to the Minister for Biosecurity as required under Section 100B of the Biosecurity Act 1993.
- 4) **Notes** that staff will report back to Council any response from the Minister for Biosecurity.

DISCUSSION

- [5] Biosecurity is important for the sustainable wellbeing of the Otago region and its communities and is one of the Council's top four strategic priority areas.
- [6] Under the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act), regional councils are mandated to provide:
“...leadership in activities that prevent, reduce, or eliminate adverse effects from harmful organisms that are present in New Zealand (pest management) in their region”.
- [7] The Act provides a framework to allow activities such as:
- a. promoting the alignment of pest management;
 - b. facilitating the development and alignment of regional pest management plans;
 - c. promoting public support for pest management; and
 - d. facilitating communication and co-operation among those involved in pest management to enhance effectiveness, efficiency, and equity of programmes (section 12B(2) of the Act).

Regional Pest Management Plan

- [8] Between 2017 and 2019, the Otago Regional Council developed, consulted on and ultimately adopted the Otago Pest Management Plan 2019-2029 (RPMP)¹.
- [9] The RPMP involved consultation with Kāi Tahu (via Aukaha²) and the wider community to determine pest management priorities, with 344 individuals and groups providing feedback during the submission process in late 2018. Submissions were heard by a panel comprising Crs Robertson (Chair), Noone and Lawton and Mr John Simmons, a biosecurity consultant. There were no appeals.
- [10] The RPMP details the range of regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms the Council will utilise for effective biosecurity leadership in Otago over the next 10 years. It contains pest control programmes, objectives and rules to manage pests that cause harm to the wellbeing of Otago's people, economy and environment.

Regional Pest Management Plan – Operational Plan

- [11] In order to deliver on the objectives of the RPMP, the Act (Section 100B), requires that an Operational Plan is prepared. The Plan outlines the nature and scope of activities the Council intends to undertake in the implementation of the RPMP for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. Figure 1 outlines the statutory framework surrounding the Operational Plan.
- [12] The Operational Plan must be entirely consistent with the Council's RPMP in that it cannot introduce any new objectives, rules or regulatory tools. Given this, there is no statutory requirement to consult with the community on the details of the Operational Plan. Other regional councils with Operational Plans did not publicly consult on their plans.

¹ [Otago's Regional Pest Management Plan](#)

² Consultancy service mandated by Kā Rūnaka to work on behalf of Manawhenua ki Otago.

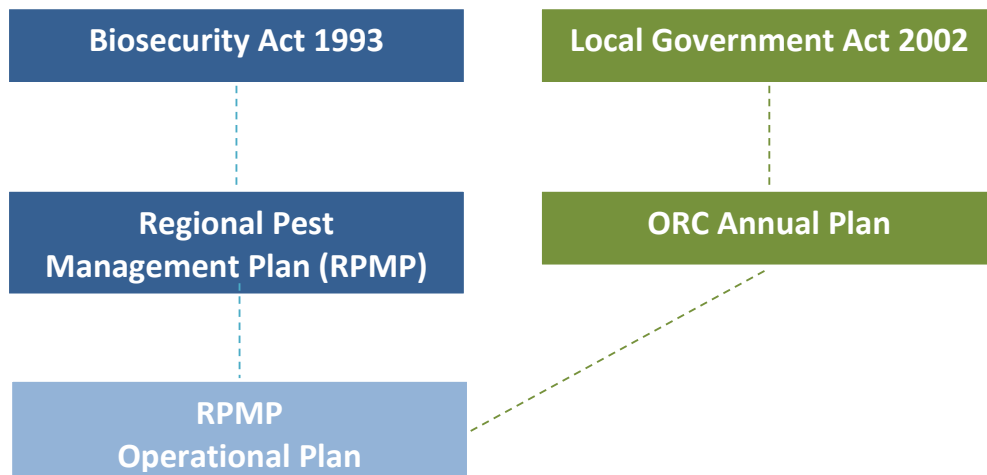


Figure 1: Regional Pest Management Plan Statutory Framework

- [13] The Plan needs to be available to the public, reviewed annually and be submitted to the Minister for Biosecurity. At the conclusion of each year, the Council is required to evaluate progress against the deliverables and key indicators outlined in the Plan. The results of the review will be reported to Council and used to prepare or update the Operational Plan for the following year. Implementation will also be reported through Council's quarterly activity reporting.
- [14] For reasons of operational simplicity and efficiency, the Plan has been developed to align with Council's financial year (July 2020 to June 2021). The first review process will be undertaken in conjunction with preparation of the next Long Term Plan. This will ensure that the Council's priorities are clearly articulated and the funding to deliver biosecurity outcomes is robust and sustainable.
- [15] The Plan is the first such Plan prepared by this Council. It is consistent with those of other regional councils, many of which are already operative, and the precedent set by those Plans.

Operational Focus Areas

- [16] The Plan focuses on pest control implementation in two categories – pest plants and pest animals and the five management programmes³ used to manage pests in Otago:
1. Exclusion;
 2. Eradication;
 3. Progressive Containment;
 4. Sustained Control; and.
 5. Site-led.
- [17] The outcomes sought will be achieved by a range of methods including advocacy and education, inspections, monitoring and surveillance, collaboration with others, regulation and, in some specific instances, direct service delivery.

³ As prescribed by the National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015.

- [18] The Operational Plan 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.
- [19] In accordance with the RPMP adopted by Council, responsibility for much of the pest control work lies with landowners and occupiers. The Council has responsibilities to ensure land occupiers are aware of and meet their obligations for pest management on their properties.
- [20] New areas of work for the 2020/2021 year include:
- a. Development of a meaningful partnership with Kāi Tahu in order to connect regularly on biosecurity issues, to identify areas of importance to Kāi Tahu and actively promote collaborative action.
 - b. Establishment of a new surveillance programme for exclusion pests.
 - c. Increased wilding conifer inspections and monitoring.
 - d. Initiating a site led programme in support of Predator Free Dunedin aspirations.
 - e. Stepped up engagement with occupiers over rabbit issues on lifestyle blocks.
 - f. Increased wallaby surveillance and compliance, and liaison with neighbouring councils.
 - g. Collaboration with other agencies on marine pest pathway planning; and
 - h. Streamlining operating procedures that allow for better use of Biosecurity Act powers.

CONSIDERATIONS

Policy Considerations

- [21] The Plan does not set policies or objectives as those have already been set in the RPMP that has been adopted by Council. The Plan must be entirely consistent with the RPMP in that it cannot introduce any new objectives, rules or regulatory tools. The Minister is not required to approve the Plan but may disallow all or part of it if they believe that it is inconsistent with the RPMP.

Financial Considerations

- [22] The 2020/2021 Operational Plan has been prepared based on the Draft 2020/21 Annual Plan budget. Therefore, any changes to the draft budget would necessitate a review of the proposed work programme and associated deliverables.

Significance and Engagement

- [23] There is no statutory requirement to consult with the community on the details of the Operational Plan.

Legislative Considerations

- [24] The Otago Regional Council's Regional Pest Management Plan - 2020/2021 Operational Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993. The 2020/2021 Operational Plan is a legislative requirement of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Risk Considerations

- [25] The world has altered significantly since the RPMP was approved and the Operational Plan drafted. It is impossible to predict how the changing social and economic landscape will impact on the Council and community's ability to deliver the Plan. However, the current environment presents both challenges and opportunities for the management of biosecurity in Otago.
- [26] Council will need to be mindful of the immense pressure both our rural and urban communities are under as a result of the global pandemic and associated economic, health and social consequences. As outlined in the Operational Plan, Council has a range of regulatory and non-regulatory tools available to support its biosecurity outcomes. The vast majority of which are achieved through education, advocacy, collaboration and engagement.

NEXT STEPS

- [27] The next step is to provide a copy of the Plan to the Minister for Biosecurity. As noted above, the Minister is not required to approve the Plan but may disallow all or part of the operational plan if they believe that it is inconsistent with the RPMP.
- [28] Once approved by Council, the full Plan and details of key actions for the forthcoming financial year will be disseminated to the public and other key stakeholders.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Otago RPMP Operational Plan Version 15 April 2020 [8.4.1 - 62 pages]



Cover photo: A lone gorse bush stands out amongst alpine tussock and spaniard vegetation in the Central Otago gorse and broom free area near Duffers Saddle, looking west into the Nevis Valley. Keeping these areas free of exotic weeds is a key part of our pest plant management approach. Photo source: P Russell, November 2019.

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL
Private Bag 1954, Dunedin 9054
70 Stafford St, Dunedin 9016
Phone 03 474 0827
Freephone 0800 474 082
www.orc.govt.nz

ISBN 978-0-908324-63-7
Published April 2020

Executive Summary

This document is the Otago Biosecurity Operational Plan for the 2020 - 2021 financial year. It sets out the biosecurity/pest management activities that Otago Regional Council (ORC) coordinates in the region as the Management Agency responsible for the *Otago Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029* (the Plan, or RPMP). This is the first Biosecurity Operational Plan prepared under the 'new look' RPMP and accordingly contains several new pest species, and pest control initiatives which will be carried out across the region.

ORC achieves practicable biosecurity outcomes through setting rules that require land occupiers to control pests to established standards; undertaking inspections (to ensure compliance with rules), monitoring (to determine effectiveness of control) and surveillance (identifying new issues). The ORC will take a lead role in advocacy and education around pest threats, pathways of pest spread and the provision of advice.

ORC will work closely with many other organisations involved in undertaking and funding pest management in the region, such as Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), the Department of Conservation (DOC), Kāi Tahu ki Otago, neighbouring councils and community groups.

While the Operational Plan focuses mainly on council's statutory functions through the RPMP, ORC is actively involved in several regional and national biosecurity and biodiversity related leadership roles (as described in the non-regulatory, supporting Biosecurity Strategy). This Operational Plan integrates council's legal biosecurity functions with other priority pest management collaborations and partnerships for the stated year.

There are five pest management programmes carried out under the RPMP, as summarised below. Four significant projects are noted under each programme to highlight the range of activities contained in the council's overall biosecurity work programme.

Exclusion pest programme – ORC will prevent six high threat pest plants from establishing in the region through:

- Regular liaison and working closely with neighbouring councils that have these pests.
- Targeted surveillance of the plants' likely habitats to identify new sites, and rapid response / control if any infestations are identified.
- Specifically, working with farmers and the agricultural sector to keep African feather grass and Chilean needle grass out of the region; and
- Increasing lake/river users awareness of the effects of hornwort and egeria if they established, and working with government agencies on any incursion responses.

Eradication pest programme – ORC will eliminate spiny broom, and eradicate Bennett's wallaby and rooks from the region by:

- Coordinating and taking direct action for all rook and spiny broom control.
- Developing a shared approach to wallaby control – if control can be done quickly/effectively then occupiers are obligated to control them. Otherwise mandatory reporting to ORC is required and a specific control plan is then developed.

- Collaboration with Environment Canterbury (ECan) through joint Memorandum of Understanding guiding cooperation on wallaby management and control.
- Enforcing rules to ensure that ORC rook control is not interfered with and that wallabies are not being held as pets; and
- Stepping up surveillance for wallaby incursions from Canterbury especially through the Lindis Pass, Hawkdun Range and Kakanui Mountains areas.

Progressive containment pest programme – ORC aims to contain and reduce the extent of 11 pest plants (or groups of plants) across the region by:

- Ensuring occupiers eliminate pest plants that impact on regional production values (e.g. bur daisy, nassella tussock, perennial nettle and white-edged nightshade).
- Making sure occupiers eliminate pest plants that modify natural ecosystems (e.g. bomarea, boneseed, Cape ivy, old man's beard and spartina).
- Coordinating all African love grass control (mostly around Clyde and Alexandra); and
- Managing six wilding conifer species through three different land occupier rules (depending on location and timings). A pest agent rule also applies to up to 11 conifer species (where they are not in a plantation forest).

Sustained control pest programme – ORC will enforce rules to ensure control of rabbits and five widespread pest plants (or groups of plants) to reduce their impacts and spread by:

- Ensuring occupiers control rabbit densities to no more than level 3 (ideally below) on the designated Modified McLean Scale.
- Ensuring occupiers eliminate all gorse and broom from their properties within designated gorse and broom free areas (GBFAs). In all other parts of the region 10m boundary clearance is required. New GBFA new areas will be further investigated.
- Making sure that all rural zoned occupiers eliminate nodding thistle (within 100m of their boundaries) and ragwort (within 50m) depending on neighbour control regimes.
- Elimination (and no planting of) wild Russell lupin within specified areas (e.g. braided river channels, other watercourses and within 10m of an adjoining property).

Site-led pest programmes – ORC will take a lead role in supporting community and agency control of six pest plants and a nine pest animals to support Predator Free Dunedin and wider biodiversity enhancement initiatives. One freshwater pest plant is also targeted. The programmes include:

- Otago Peninsula (9,000 ha) – to protect rare species and forest remnants.
- West Harbour-Mt Cargill (12,500 ha) – to protect 11 different ecosystems; and
- Quarantine and Goat Islands – important 'stepping stones' between the above areas.
- Three different LINZ led lagarosiphon programmes are in place - to keep the weed out of Lake Wakatipu (and other places where it is not present); reduce its extent in Lake Wanaka and the Kawarau River and negate its impacts on Lake Dunstan.

Non-regulatory pest management activities include undertaking general surveillance for and research into the management of potential future pests, the research and release of biocontrol agents, participation in national biosecurity management groups, progressing standard operating procedures for staff guidance, and assisting community groups with the

management of at least 37 other organisms of interest (e.g. blackberry, buddleia, wild geese wasps, goldfish, lake snow and five marine organisms).

Funding for pest management implementation work for 2020/21 has been estimated at \$1.857m.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Under the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) the Otago Regional Council (ORC) prepared the *Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029* ('the RPMP'), following a public consultation process. The RPMP provides a framework for the efficient and effective management or eradication of specified organisms (declared 'pests') in the Otago region for the next decade.

Several new pest species have been included in a revamped RPMP, including Chilean needle grass, egeria, hornwort, moth plant, false tamarisk, Russell lupin and five wilding conifers (Corsican, Scots, mountain and dwarf mountain pines and larch). Also, a suite of new pest plants (e.g. gunnera, Darwin's barberry) and pest animals (e.g. goats, mustelids, rats and possums) are also listed for control where they impact on biodiversity values at four key sites – Otago Peninsula, West Harbour/Mt Cargill and Quarantine and Goat Islands.

Overall, the RPMP names 30 plants (or groups of plants) and 11 animals (or groups of animals) as 'pests'. Responsibility for most of the pest control work lies with land owners (referred to as occupiers). ORC has an obligation to ensure occupiers meet RPMP requirements around each pest but also coordinates and undertakes surveillance and control of some pests where there is clear justification and regional benefit (e.g. rook and African love grass control).

The RPMP's key purpose is to outline how each pest or pest grouping will be managed to reduce or negate their threats to the environmental (e.g. ecosystem or species), economic (e.g. farming/forestry) and cultural/social (e.g. Māori and human health) values of the region. The RPMP allows the council to use the relevant advisory, service delivery, regulatory and funding provisions available under the Act to deliver the specific objectives identified in Part Two of the RPMP. In short, the Act allows the council to develop pest management approaches specific to the region's needs and expectations. The 'new look' RPMP became operative on October 25th, 2019.

ORC is the Management Agency under the Act responsible for implementing the RPMP, including monitoring and reporting annually on progress. Under section 100B of the Biosecurity Act, ORC must prepare an **Operational Plan** once the RPMP becomes operative, and review performance against it annually¹. The Operational Plan is made publicly available (via the council website), provided to the Minister for Primary Industries (via MPI) and is available to any other interested parties on request.

1.2 Operational plan purpose, duration and linkages

This document (*Biosecurity Operational Plan 2020-2021- Implementing the Otago Regional Pest Management Plan 2019 - 2029*) is the first Operational Plan to be prepared under the revamped RPMP. It outlines the nature, scope and priority activities that ORC intends to

¹ The Biosecurity Operational Plan will be reviewed annually because of the different programmes covered, some of which may vary year to year. Other programmes may appear to be similar and ongoing each year.

undertake for pest management across the Otago region for the financial year commencing July 1st, 2020 through to June 30th 2021². Key performance indicators (KPI's) are included along with other means of achievement which together, will determine to what extent RPMP objectives are being met.

This Operational Plan not only sets out the key priorities for pest management established through the RPMP, it also includes many non-regulatory pest-related projects that ORC undertakes as set out in the *Otago Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy*.

While an indicative annual pest management budget is included in the 10-year RPMP, it will be subject to change. More accurate funding of RPMP activities is achieved through council's Annual Plan and Long Term Plan (LTP) processes. The current LTP is due for renewal in 2021, which provides an opportunity to align budgets and targets in future Operational Plans along with the council's three yearly LTP review.

1.3 Operational plan format

This Operational Plan should be read in conjunction with the RPMP and the *Otago Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy*. This section has introduced the requirements for an Operational Plan following adoption of the RPMP. Section 2 summarises the five pest management programmes being implemented and the range of methods used to achieve good pest management outcomes. It also outlines management and reporting requirements and provides a financial summary. The core part of the Operational Plan, the pests (or groups of pests) are described in section 3 as follows:

- Exclusion pests
- Eradication pests
- Progressive containment pests
- Sustained control pests
- Site led pests

Other biosecurity leadership and pest management responses (and related KPIs) are also described (section 4). They are mostly extracted from the Biosecurity Strategy and include the biological control release programme, Check Clean Dry advocacy and national response activities like *M. bovis*, velvetleaf and biosecurity project collaboration. A glossary of terms used³, along with appropriate appendices, concludes the document.

² Implementation of biosecurity activities in the eight month period between RPMP approval and the commencement of this Operational Plan was addressed through the ORC Annual Plan for 2019-2020 and preparation of an internal *Biosecurity Work Programme 2019-2020*, based on the prior operative RPMP.

³ Contains a mix of operational related terms from the RPMP and terms found in this document.

1.4 Biosecurity is everyone's business

Under the RPMP, much of the responsibility for pest control lies with occupiers (primarily land owners and land managers). As the designated Management Agency, ORC enforces the RPMP to ensure that occupiers are aware of and meet their obligations for pest management on their properties and places (by adhering to RPMP rules).

At the regional level, priority setting gives emphasis to exclusion and eradication goals and accordingly the council is responsible for these programmes. ORC will also undertake public education and advocacy, and facilitate the release of biocontrol agents in appropriate areas.

ORC benefits from strong working relationships and collaborations with neighbouring regional councils, Environment Canterbury (Ecan) and Environment Southland (ES) – refer to map at Figure 1. Where appropriate work is aligned with other agencies involved in pest management responses, particularly Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), the Department of Conservation (DOC), and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).

The ORC will work proactively to develop a solid partnership with Kāi Tahu. Coordination of pest management efforts will also be more actively encouraged between the many community groups and trusts in the region and individual occupiers. Simply put, biosecurity is everyone's business, we cannot do it alone.



Figure 1: The Otago region is the second largest in New Zealand, covering 32,000 square kilometres. Image source: ORC.

2. Implementation of Programmes

2.1 Pest management programmes

ORC implements five pest management programmes⁴, which help describe the pest outcomes sought through the RPMP (as noted below). The pests (plants and animals) and pest agents listed under each programme are summarised in Table 1.

➤ Exclusion

The intermediate outcome is to search for subject pests (such as Chilean needle grass and moth plant) and prevent their establishment, where they are present in New Zealand but not yet established in the region, and which has the potential to become a serious pest in the future. Section 100V of the Act may also be used⁵ to instigate emergency control of new pest incursions that are not listed in the RPMP.

➤ Eradication

The intermediate outcome is to eradicate subject pests (e.g. rooks, Bennett's wallaby and spiny broom) from the areas where they occur in the region. In the short to medium term, eradication involves reducing the infestation density of the pest to zero level (or zero density). This programme includes invasive pests which are a high threat to regional values, but where their rate of increase or geographic extent is not well known but is assumed to be at low density or low geographic spread.

➤ Progressive Containment

The intermediate outcome is to contain and reduce the geographic distribution of named pests (such as old man's beard and wilding conifers) to specific areas over time. Containment usually arises where the subject is at high densities in part(s) of the Otago region, but of low extent or limited range in other parts. Eradication is not feasible, but it is realistic to prevent the pest from spreading to other 'clear' parts of the regions or to attempt eradication of the pest from other parts of these areas.

➤ Sustained Control

The intermediate outcome is to provide for the ongoing control of named pests (like rabbits, gorse and broom and Russell lupin) to reduce their impacts and spread to other properties. The focus is on the densities of the pests and ensuring they do not reach a level where they are causing significant externality impacts, that affect neighbours of the occupiers with pests, where those neighbours are undertaking control work. Sustained control is a strategy for pests of low to moderate densities but of such wide geographical spread that they cannot feasibly be eradicated.

➤ Site-led

The intermediate outcome is to exclude, or eradicate, from places (or sites); or to contain, reduce or control within that place or site; the named pests that are capable of causing damage to a place or site and its values.

⁴ As prescribed by the National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015.

⁵ Provided that stated criteria around timing and control measures can be met.

Otago Regional Council Regional Pest Management Plan

There are five programmes that are used to manage pests in Otago

Exclusion Programmes: to prevent the establishment of the subject, or an organism being spread by the subject, that is present in New Zealand but not yet in an area.			
Plants	African feather grass	Chilean needle grass	Egeria
	False tamarisk	Hornwort	Moth plant
Eradication Programmes: to reduce the infestation of the subject, or an organism being spread by the subject, to zero levels in an area in the short to medium term.			
Plants	Spiny Broom		
Animals	Bennett's wallaby	Rook	
Progressive Containment Programmes: to contain or reduce the geographic distribution of the subject, or an organism being spread by the subject, to an area over time.			
Plants	African love grass	Bomarea	Boneseed
	Bur daisy	Cape ivy	Nassella tussock
	Old man's beard	Perennial nettle	Spartina
	White-edged nightshade	Wilding conifers	
Sustained Control Programmes: to provide ongoing control of the subject, or an organism being spread by the subject, to reduce its impacts on values and spread to other properties.			
Plants	Broom	Gorse	Nodding thistle
	Ragwort	Wild Russell lupin	
Animals	Feral rabbits		
Site-led Programmes: that the subject, or an organism being spread by the subject, that is capable of causing damage to a place is excluded or eradicated from that place, or is contained, reduced, or controlled within the place to an extent that protects the values of that place.			
Plants	Banana passionfruit	Chilean flame creeper	Darwin's barberry
	Gunnera	Lagarosiphon	Sycamore
	Tradescantia (wandering willie)		
Animals	Bennett's wallaby	Feral cat	Feral deer (incl. hybrids)
	Feral goat	Feral pig	Hedgehog
	Mustelids (ferret, stoat, weasel)	Possum	Rat (Norway, ship and Kiore)
The maps illustrating the site-led areas are provided in Appendix 3 to the Plan.			

Table 1: Summary table of RPMP declared pests listed in their appropriate management programmes. Source: ORC RPMP.

Note: The RPMP (Appendix 1) lists 37 organisms of interest (that are not legally declared pests under Biosecurity Act criteria) but which may be otherwise controlled or managed through ORC Biosecurity Strategy actions.

2.2 Methods and resources – how pest control will be carried out

The council achieves practicable pest management outcomes through the following methods and provision of resources. All programmes require reporting on actions taken and outcomes achieved:

- Advocacy and education – ORC will provide education, advice and information to landowners and/or occupiers and the public about the impacts of pests and pathways (vectors) of pest spread and appropriate methods of control. The ORC will also ensure that land occupiers are informed of their responsibilities under the RPMP. Added to this is the supporting the role of community volunteer groups who are motivated to undertake pest plant and animal control work at a site or in a locality. This activity also includes contributing to research and cost sharing with other agencies and developing / promoting 'good practice' around control methods aimed at pest management contractors and occupiers who are required to act.
- Inspections, monitoring and surveillance – regular property inspections ensure that RPMP rules (e.g. bomarea control) are being adhered with (refer to Figure 2). Enforcement action is initiated where rules are breached, however every effort is made to achieve voluntary compliance first. Monitoring is also carried out to determine effectiveness of control. Surveillance activities identify new pest issues and ensure that current problem pests and sites are not getting worse.
- Collaboration with others – ORC collaborates with numerous central and local government agencies and entities and land occupier groups, which may include the development of agreements for the effective management of pests to protect the values of specific sites, corridors and areas. Good examples include working agreements with the NZ Transport Agency, five district/city councils and KiwiRail to manage pest spread along the region's unique transport corridors.
- Requirement to Act (regulation) – RPMP rules are the 'backbone' of the RPMP, requiring many pests to be controlled to specified standards or levels. In other situations, some pests must be reported to ORC and be controlled by occupiers. Rules also make it an offence for people to interfere with legitimate pest control (rook and rabbit) operations. Other pests (such as wallaby and possums) cannot be kept. Failing to comply with RPMP rules can lead to enforcement action by ORC.
- Service delivery – In some specific cases, where special expertise is required, or coordinated control gives benefits to a specific area or the region as a whole, direct control (service delivery) will also be undertaken. Service delivery includes providing control tools where appropriate (e.g. traps, chemicals) and releasing biological control agents (e.g. broom gall mite).

Table 2: Summary - Programmes, Pests and Principle Measures

Programme and pests	Advocacy and education	Inspections, monitoring and surveillance	Collaboration with others	Requirement to Act	Service delivery
Exclusion					
African feather grass	✓	✓	✓		
Chilean needle grass	✓	✓	✓		
Egeria	✓	✓	✓		
False tamarisk	✓	✓	✓		
Hornwort	✓	✓	✓		
Moth plant	✓	✓	✓		
Eradication					
Bennett's wallaby	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ¹
Rooks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spiny broom	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Progressive containment					
African love grass	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nassella tussock	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Old man's beard	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Spartina	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ²
Six grouped plants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ²
Wilding conifers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ³
Sustained control					
Gorse and broom	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Nodding thistle & ragwort	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Russell lupin	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Feral rabbits	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ⁴
Site-Led					
Animals					
Bennett's wallaby	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Feral deer	✓	✓	✓		
Feral pig	✓	✓	✓		
Mustelids	✓	✓	✓		
Rats	✓	✓	✓		
Feral cat	✓	✓	✓		
Feral goat	✓	✓	✓		
Hedgehog	✓	✓	✓		
Possum	✓	✓	✓		
Plants					
Banana passionfruit	✓	✓	✓		
Darwin's barberry	✓	✓	✓		
Gunnera	✓	✓	✓		
Chilean flame creeper	✓	✓	✓		
Sycamore	✓	✓	✓		
Tradescantia	✓	✓	✓		

1 ORC will undertake direct control where agreed with occupiers.

2 ORC will undertake direct control, only where access, spraying or safety issues require expert involvement.

3 ORC will undertake direct control as required, and alongside established groups.

4 ORC will undertake direct control only where specialist expertise is required e.g. for biological control methods.



Figure 2: Bomarea may look pretty but it is a pest and control is a land occupier's responsibility wherever it occurs in the region. Photo source: Weedbusters.

2.3 Management and reporting

Pest management activities are undertaken through a mix of council staff, other agencies, contractors and volunteers. As the management agency lead, ORC is responsible for reporting on activities and progress during the year. ORC audits information received from various sources and reports that information and progress against the targets set out in this Operational Plan through an RPMP Annual Report, as required by Section 100B of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

As the lead agency for most pests, ORC will also report to Council on the number of instances staff have intervened and used the powers in the RPMP to enforce rules or act on default. There are exceptions in this Operational Plan where another agency is the lead agency (such as LINZ for lagarosiphon management). Also, ORC acts as a significant wilding conifer funding manager on behalf of MPI in the region. In these instances, reporting to funders on enforcement and progress against targets is a joint responsibility.

Receiving and responding to complaints is a key role for all staff involved in implementing RPMP rules and other activities. Complaints are responded to between 24 hours and 10 working days depending on the nature of the issue. All biosecurity complaints are logged into an ORC database. A rules exemptions register will also be maintained.

2.4 Financial overview

The financial expenditure required for implementing the pest programmes (to achieve RPMP objectives) and other biosecurity work is summarised in Table 3 below. Funding (revenue) is received through general and targeted rates as described in the annual plan. This is based on capital value, region-wide, as the whole of the regional community benefits from the majority of biosecurity work carried out (e.g. advocacy / education and inspections, monitoring and surveillance work).

The biosecurity budget for 2020/21 is \$1.857m, which is an increase of approximately \$500,000 on the previous year. The increased expenditure reflects additional species and initiatives brought about as a result of the RPMP review. External funding of approximately \$177,000 to support the management of wilding conifers and lagarosiphon and the Check, Clean and Dry programme.

Table 3: RPMP expenditure budget for 2020-2021.

	Budget 2020-2021 Draft Annual Plan (to the nearest \$1,000)
Pest Management Programmes	
Exclusion programme	\$4,000
Eradication programme	\$316,000
Progressive containment programme	\$400,000
Sustained control programme	\$810,000
Site-led pest Programmes	\$107,000
Other Biosecurity Activities	\$220,000
TOTAL	\$1,857,000

The following points highlight areas of new work that are anticipated this year:

- Development of a meaningful partnership with Kāi Tahu in order to connect regularly on biosecurity issues, to identify areas of importance to Kāi Tahu and actively promote collaborative action.
- Establishment of a new surveillance programme for exclusion pests.
- Increased wilding conifer inspections and monitoring.
- Initiating a site led programme in support of Predator Free Dunedin aspirations.
- Stepped up engagement with occupiers over rabbit issues on lifestyle blocks.
- Increasing wallaby surveillance and compliance, and liaison with neighbouring councils.
- Collaboration with other agencies on marine pest pathway planning; and
- Streamlining operating procedures that allow for better use of Biosecurity Act powers.

Note that actual expenditure for the 2020/21 year will be determined through the Annual Plan process. Funding levels are further examined and set during subsequent Long Term Plan (LTP) processes⁶.

⁶ While the LTP sets funding levels for a 10-year period, the Plan is reviewed and updated as appropriate every three years to reflect any changes during that time.

3. Pests / Pest Programmes

3.1 Exclusion pest programme

Exclusion pests include six pest plants which are not known to be present in Otago. Continued vigilance is required from all people in the region to maintain their exclusion status. They are a mix of exotic plant species: grasses (2), aquatic plants (2) one shrub and a climbing vine.

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
<p>Preclude the establishment of the pests (listed below) in the Otago region for the duration of the RPMP. The pests and values that are being protected through their exclusion are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African feather grass - economic (agriculture) • Chilean needle grass - economic (agriculture) • <i>Egeria</i> - environmental (freshwater) • False tamarisk – environmental (riverbeds) • Hornwort (<i>Ceratophyllum</i>) - environmental (freshwater) • Moth plant – environmental (native trees/shrubs) and human health.
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveillance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ active surveillance (by specialists) of the plants likely habitats (high risk sites) at least annually. ○ encourage passive surveillance (and notification to ORC) by members of the public. • Response – prompt incursion/response planning of all reports and confirmed sightings and service delivery if required. • Collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ regular liaison and working closely with neighbouring regional councils. ○ provide training to key stakeholders⁷ (who are working in the pests' high risk habitats). • Advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ farmers and farming leaders are made more aware of African feather grass and Chilean needle grass (Figure 3) and their pathways of spread. ○ lake and river users in the region are targeted to increase their knowledge and understanding of the threats (along with other freshwater pests). • Regulation – there are no specific rules, because under sections 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act it is illegal to knowingly communicate, release, spread or offer for sale these pests. • Reporting - ORC will audit all reports received, ensure consistency in reporting style and report against KPIs listed below via the RPMP Annual Report.

⁷ Key stakeholders include farmers, contractors and other government agencies (LINZ, MPI, DoC etc).

Expenditure: <i>How much will it cost?</i>
The exclusion programme is allocated \$4,000.
Key Performance Indicators for 2020/21: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Absence in the region - no exclusion pests established in Otago during 2020/21. ✓ Reported sightings investigated within 24 hours of ORC becoming aware of a report. ✓ 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 ✓ At least annual operation level liaison focused on exclusion strategies with biosecurity counterparts in Canterbury and Southland (along with discussions on other matters).



Figure 3: Chilean needle grass is difficult to manage in Canterbury and Marlborough and it can be transported long distances to new sites. We don't want it establishing in Otago. Photo source: Environment Canterbury.

3.2 Eradication pest programmes

The eradication programme is restricted to three contrasting pest species in the region. They belong in this programme as their infestation levels are considered low enough for eradication to be feasible in the long-term. The pests include one marsupial (Bennett's wallaby), a bird (rook) and a plant (spiny broom). Implementation of management programmes for each pest are described separately in the following subsections due to the different approaches taken.

3.2.1 Bennett's wallaby

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
<p>The Bennett's wallaby project was initiated in response to an increase in wallaby sightings in and around Otago. While the scope of the project is evolving, it has already established key facts around the wallaby threat to Otago, is beginning to increase public awareness and provides for important wallaby control when found in the region. There are three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce known wallaby populations to zero density, in an attempt to eradicate them, 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. <p>Eradication is required to protect economic (plantation forestry and agriculture, including grass production and green crops) and environmental (tussock grasslands and vegetation understorey/regeneration) values.</p>
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection - in relation to rules and via reports/complaints, undertake timely property inspections and issue control notices (as appropriate). • Surveillance - inspection and assessment of known hotspots where previous control work has been undertaken (Figures 4 and 4b) using trained indicator dogs, Judas wallabies, and thermal imagery and artificial intelligence cameras. • Service delivery – undertake direct control where agreed with occupiers (control becomes a shared responsibility e.g. DoC estate). • Advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ increase awareness among North Otago rural land occupiers on wallaby threats and the need to be vigilant. ○ continue the stepped up region-wide awareness programmes (e.g. signage, posters, one-to-one farmer liaison and field guides) and utilise media opportunities where they arise. • Collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ collaboration and coordination with ECan as described in joint MOU.

- partnerships maintained with the interregional team (comprising ORC, ECan, MPI and Landcare Research through the Sustainable Farming Fund).
- attend and advocate for increased support and recognition at the national wallaby steering group meetings led by MPI.
- Regulation – specific rules:
 - require occupier control of wallaby, unless a shared responsibility agreement is in place (as per 'service delivery' above),
 - make it an offence to keep/harbour any Bennett's wallaby, and
 - require mandatory reporting to ORC of any dead/alive wallaby sightings from any person.
- Enforcement - above rules enforced as necessary and issuing of formal notices following Biosecurity Act and ORC procedures.
- Reporting - ORC will audit all reports received, document control and enforcement interventions made, and report against KPIs via the RPMP Annual Report.

Expenditure: *How much will it cost?*

The wallaby eradication programme is allocated \$340,000.

Key Performance Indicators for 2020/21: *What are the targets to meet?*

- ✓ Reports, notifications and complaints⁸ responded to within 5 working days.
- ✓ Any legal notices issued assessed for compliance at expiry period and appropriate enforcement action initiated under the Biosecurity Act.
- ✓ Audit Contractors who are contracted to undertake wallaby control to ensure all legislative, contractual and health and safety requirements are being met.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ At least biannual liaison with the interregional partnership group.
- ✓ Programme of surveillance developed and implemented.
- ✓ Support for a National Wallaby Management Business Case (for funding) actively promoted to MPI at every opportunity (refer also section 4.4).
- ✓ Wallaby reporting App upgraded to be consistent with Ecan and Waikato/BOPRC councils systems by June 30th, 2021.

⁸ All complaints received are recorded in a database from which reports can be extracted to measure performance.

- ✓ Assess potential for using hunting permit system as a way to raise wallaby awareness in public hunting areas by June 30th, 2021.



Figure 4a: Wallabies are nocturnal and can travel great distances at night, hence their ability to spread rapidly. They need to be halted from spreading into Central Otago from North Otago. Photo source: N. Manning, ORC.



Figure 4b: Wallaby detection using dogs like 'Jed' is crucial in the effort against wallaby spread into previously clear areas. Photo source: S. Stevenson, ORC.

3.2.2 Rooks

<p>Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i></p> <p>Reduce rook populations to zero density, within the RPMP period and maintain this status until eradication is attained.</p> <p>Eradication is required to protect economic values in the region (e.g. cereal fields and other newly planted crops, walnut trees). Minimal time is expended due to low numbers and natural attrition of rook numbers. It is believed there are no female birds in Otago (therefore no viable breeding population)⁹.</p>
<p>Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection - continuation of the monitoring programme with a focus on the Clydevale/ Clinton and Strath Taieri/Maniototo areas. • Surveillance - inspection and assessment of known hotspots where previous control work has been undertaken. • Service delivery – undertake direct control operations. • Advocacy – continuation of education among landowners in the areas above. • Collaboration - regular liaison and working closely with neighbouring regional councils on population trends/movements. • Regulation – a specific rule makes it an offence to interfere or disrupt any rook control programme. • Reporting - ORC will audit all reports received, document monitoring and control outputs and report against KPIs via the RPMP Annual Report.
<p>Expenditure: <i>How much will it cost?</i></p> <p>The rook eradication programme is allocated approximately \$7,000.</p>
<p>Key Performance Indicators for 2020/21: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Reports, notifications and complaints responded to no later than 3 working days. ✓ Known rookeries inspected annually. ✓ Service delivery carried out to 'best practice' and always in accordance with animal welfare legislation.

⁹ Although, in July 2019, 18 rooks were sighted near Kyeburn – their fate remains unknown.

3.2.3 Spiny broom

<p>Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i></p>
<p>Reduce spiny broom populations to zero density (focusing on the Waihola, Chain Hills and Brighton areas) within the RPMP period and maintain this status until eradication is attained.</p> <p>Eradication is required to protect economic (pastoral farming) and environmental (indigenous ecosystem) values.</p>
<p>Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection – twice yearly inspection programme. • Surveillance - active surveillance (by specialists) of the plant's likely habitats (high risk sites). • Service delivery – ORC will undertake direct control operations as required. • Advocacy – continuation of education among landowners in the areas above. • Collaboration - regular liaison and working closely with neighbouring regional councils on population trends/movements. • Regulation – there are no specific rules, because under sections 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act it is illegal to knowingly communicate, release, spread or offer for sale this pest. • Reporting - ORC will audit all reports received, document monitoring and control outputs and report against KPIs via the RPMP Annual Report.
<p>Expenditure: <i>How much will it cost?</i></p>
<p>The spiny broom eradication programme is allocated approximately \$2,000.</p>
<p>Key Performance Indicators for 2020/21: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No spiny broom established in new localities within Otago during 2020/21. ✓ Reports, notifications and complaints responded to within 5 working days. ✓ Known infestations inspected biannually. ✓ Service delivery carried out to 'best practice' standards.

3.3 Progressive containment pest programmes

The 11 pest plants, or groupings of plants, in this category are all reasonably well established in the region. Although eradication is unlikely, densities can readily be reduced over the duration of the RPMP. The diverse range of species in the containment category include: three grasses and three shrubs, two herbs and two climbing vines, and wilding conifers (trees).

Operational programmes for these plant groupings are divided into and described in six sub-sections below, mostly due to their unique management regimes and/or funding streams:

- African love grass - managed by ORC due to identification difficulty;
- Nassella tussock - occupier control, distinct inspection regimes;
- Old man's beard - occupier control, large budget and several distinctive KPIs;
- Spartina – occupier control, an aquatic/estuarine species;
- Six grouped plants – all managed by occupiers to the same requirements; and
- Wilding conifers – occupier control, with several conifer specific rules.

3.3.1 African love grass

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
<p>Contain African love grass to its 20 known sites (around Earnsclough, Clyde, Omakau, Queensbury and Pisa Moorings) within the region, reduce its densities at these sites and prevent spread to new sites.</p> <p>Containment is required, over time, to protect economic (pastoral farming) and environmental (indigenous ecosystem and habitat) values.</p>
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection – continuation of annual inspections at known sites, increasing to bi-annual investigations where applicable. • Monitoring – establish appropriate monitoring sites where an uncomplicated monitoring system (e.g. photopoints) can compare densities over RPMP period. • Surveillance - active surveillance of the plant's likely habitats in high risk sites. • Service delivery – undertake direct control operations as required. • Advocacy – continuation of education among landowners. • Regulation – there are no specific rules, because under sections 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act it is illegal to knowingly communicate, release, spread or offer for sale this pest. • Reporting - ORC will audit all reports received, document monitoring and control outputs and report against KPIs via the RPMP Annual Report.

Expenditure: <i>How much will it cost?</i>
The African love grass programme is allocated approximately \$7,500.
Key Performance Indicators for 2020/21: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Known sites inspected at least annually, with pre-determined highest risk sites visited biannually. ✓ Density measurement / recording method established at 2-3 key sites by June 2021 (which can demonstrate in subsequent years that at least 10 per cent of sites treated show reduced density compared with the previous year). ✓ Reports, notifications and complaints responded to within 5 working days. ✓ Passive public surveillance process developed and implemented. ✓ 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).

3.3.2 Nassella tussock

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
<p>Contain nassella tussock to known areas within the region - around Roxburgh/Alexandra (Galloway and Knobby Range areas – approx. 32,000 ha.), lower Cardrona Valley (Deep Creek to Riverbank Road – approx. 4,500 ha.) and the lower Waitaki Valley (Georgetown and Tussocky/Ridge Roads – approx. 4,100 ha.), reduce its densities at these sites and prevent spread to new sites.</p> <p>Containment is required, over time, to protect economic (pastoral farming) and environmental (indigenous ecosystem and habitat) values, such as displacement of native tussocklands.</p>
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation / enforcement – occupier control of all nassella tussock is required and issuing of formal notices is undertaken as required by ORC. • Inspection – continuation of at least twice yearly inspections at known sites during autumn and winter (Waitaki and Cardrona Valley areas = 40 person days in each area and Roxburgh/Alexandra areas = 46 days). • Surveillance - 'tussock ranging' undertaken outside of traditional and known areas, focusing on likely high risk habitats currently free of nassella (Figure 5).

- Monitoring – establish appropriate monitoring sites where nassella densities can be practicably measured to determine programme/occupier control success over the RPMP period.
- Service delivery – undertake direct control of individual/isolated plants as found through opportunistic discovery.
- Advocacy – stepped up education and awareness of Cardrona and Waitaki Valley landowners and ongoing support provided for the Roxburgh Nassella Community Group (RNCG).
- Reporting - ORC will audit all reports received, document monitoring and control outputs and report against KPIs via the RPMP Annual Report.

Expenditure: *How much will it cost?*

The nassella tussock programme is allocated approximately \$70,000.

Key Performance Indicators for 2020/21: *What are the targets to meet?*

- ✓ At least 40,000 hectares of nassella infested land is inspected biannually, between March and October (prior to seeding).
- ✓ All Biosecurity Act Notices of Direction (NOD) issued are assessed for compliance at expiry of the relevant NOD period.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Service delivery carried out to 'best practice' standards.
- ✓ At least one 'new approach' nassella field day held in each of the Cardrona and Waitaki communities by June 2021.



Figure 5: Nassella ranging in North Otago. Photo source: R. Lord, ORC.

3.3.3 Old man's beard

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
<p>Contain old man's beard (refer to Figure 6a) to known areas within the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dunedin City and surrounds; • Waitaki District - Oamaru, Waianakarua, Kakanui/Kauru Rivers, Hampden and Palmerston; • Clutha District – Beaumont to Balclutha (along the Clutha Mata-Au riverbanks); • Central Otago District – Cromwell, Alexandra, Roxburgh/Teviot/Ettrick; • Queenstown Lakes District - urban Queenstown, Closeburn, Rees Valley, Kawarau Gorge and Wanaka; to <p>reduce its densities at the above sites and prevent spread to new locations.</p> <p>Containment is required, over time, to protect environmental (ecosystem and habitat) values where old man's beard smothers and pulls down trees and prevents seedling regrowth.</p>
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation – occupier control of old man's beard (refer to Figure 6b). Two rules require: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ general clearance on any land where it occurs (to reduce infestation levels) ○ manage spread (20m along shared boundaries) to prevent effects on neighbours undertaking control work. • Inspection – annual summer inspections at known sites, where two thirds of time/effort is dedicated to coastal Otago city/district sites. QLDC is a large area to cover and requires support. • Enforcement action where/when required – following Biosecurity Act and ORC procedures. • Advocacy – continuation of education among landowners in the areas above, encouraging the majority of occupier control to occur between November and April. https://www.orc.govt.nz/news-and-events/news-and-media-releases/2020/january/old-man-s-beard-must-go • Monitoring and research – undertake herbicide trials as technology and products develop, including new biological control release possibilities. • Collaboration - regular liaison and working closely with ORC river engineers (joint programmes/cost sharing), LINZ and DOC on priority control areas. • Reporting - ORC will audit all reports received, document monitoring and control outputs and report against KPIs via the RPMP Annual Report.

Expenditure: <i>How much will it cost?</i>
The old man's beard programme is allocated approximately \$140,000.
Key Performance Indicators for 2020/21: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ At least 2,500 properties inspected annually and within budget:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dunedin City – 1,800○ Waitaki – 100○ Central Otago – 300○ Queenstown Lakes – 250○ South Otago – 50 ✓ All Biosecurity Act Notices of Direction (NOD) issued are assessed for compliance at expiry of the relevant NOD period.



Figure 6a (left): Old man's beard in full flower. It is most prevalent in Dunedin, but is a problem in many parts of the region, particularly around Teviot Valley, the Clutha River and along North Otago river banks. Stems can be destroyed using the cut and paste technique (Figure 6b, right) but requires vigilance to ensure all vines are severed. Both photos sourced from ORC.

3.3.4 Spartina

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
<p>Contain spartina to known areas within the region, such as in and around Waikouaiti Estuary, Karitane Estuary and in Pleasant Estuary, reduce its densities at the above sites and prevent spread to new locations.</p> <p>Containment is required, over time, to protect environmental (natural habitats of estuarine flora and fauna) values.</p>
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection – regular (at least annual) inspections at known sites - over 33 days. • Service delivery – undertake direct control using contractors, only where access, spraying or safety issues require expert involvement (Figure 7). • Surveillance/monitoring at historic sites: Harwood (Otago Peninsula), Blueskin Bay, Taieri Mouth and Catlins Lake. • Regulation – occupiers must eliminate spartina infestations on land, upon receiving a written NOD from ORC. • Enforcement – above rule enforced as necessary, and issuing of formal notices following Biosecurity Act and ORC procedures. • Advocacy – undertake education initiatives with occupiers in and around the areas above, including at current and historic sites. • Monitoring and research – undertake trials as technology and products develop, including drone trials such as at Pleasant Estuary to better detect new sites/regrowth. • Collaboration - regular liaison and working closely with DOC on priority control areas involving public conservation land (PCL) and LINZ managed land and the rail corridor at Karitane and Pleasant River sites. • Reporting - ORC will audit all reports received, document monitoring and control outputs and report against KPIs via the RPMP Annual Report.
Expenditure: <i>How much will it cost?</i>
<p>The spartina control programme is allocated \$30,000.</p>
Key Performance Indicators for 2020/21: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No new infestations found at historic sites (Harwood - Otago Peninsula, Blueskin Bay, Taieri Mouth and Catlins Lake).

- ✓ Service delivery carried out to 'best practice' standards, especially following Environmental Protection Authority permissions for spraying agrichemicals over water.
- ✓ Annual monitoring completed at all current and historic sites.
- ✓ Partnerships further enhanced with DOC and LINZ managers.



Figure 7: Spraying spartina in the Pleasant River estuary. Photo source: K. Robertson, ORC.

3.3.5 Six containment pest plants

Six pest plants have been grouped together for ease of reporting, although they all occur in different parts of the region they are all required to be managed by occupiers to the same RPMP requirements, being elimination wherever they occur on properties.

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>		
Contain the six pest plants listed below within the region for the duration of the RPMP, reduce their densities at known sites and prevent spread to new sites. The pests, known sites and the values that are being protected through their containment are:		
• Bomarea	Dunedin City, Otago Peninsula, Waldronville and West harbour – 650 active sites / properties	Environmental (vines smother and prevent seedling growth)
• Boneseed	Dunedin (Portsmouth Drive, Forbury, Port Chalmers and Aramoana); Taieri Mouth and Moeraki	Environmental (outcompetes natives and prevents access)
• Bur daisy	Georgetown, Waitaki Valley (a 10 hectare block)	Economic (pastoral farming – wool contamination)
• Cape Ivy	Dunedin City and Otago Peninsula – 65 sites / properties	Environmental (smothers ground plants and prevents seedling growth)
• Perennial nettle	South Otago (Balclutha, Lawrence, Clydevale – along the Clutha / Mata Au River)	Economic (pastoral farming – pasture growth and animal health)
• White-edged nightshade	One site at Hampden – historical sites on Otago Peninsula islands	Environmental (prevents understorey growth) and economic (agriculture – impenetrable to stock)
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation – occupier control rule for all six plants (total control of these pests is required on all land occupied). • Inspection – at least annual inspections of the six plants at all known sites. Bomarea is the biggest programme, allocated 450 hours. • Enforcement - above rules for the six plants is enforced as necessary, and issuing of formal notices following Biosecurity Act and ORC procedures. • Collaboration – with Ecan over bur daisy control either side of the regional boundary. • Service delivery – when required, e.g. using abseiling contractors for boneseed control on cliffs (Andersons Bay) due to H&S requirements (refer to Figure 8). 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy – education and awareness programmes implemented, including encouragement of passive surveillance and reporting of isolated plants, e.g. bur daisy, boneseed and white-edged nightshade. • Reporting - ORC will audit all reports received, document monitoring and control outputs and report against KPIs via the RPMP Annual Report.
<p>Expenditure: <i>How much will it cost?</i></p>
<p>The low incidence pest plant programme is allocated approximately \$75,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • including bomarea inspection programme - \$50,000 (based on 450 hours). • \$15,500 spread equally among other 5 pest plants • Cape ivy inspections done in conjunction with bomarea and old man's beard in Dunedin.
<p>Key Performance Indicators for 2020/21: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Annual monitoring completed and reported on at all current and historic sites. ✓ All Biosecurity Act Notices of Direction (NOD) issued are assessed for compliance at expiry of the relevant NOD period. ✓ Annual inspections of the six plants at all known sites completed. ✓ Passive surveillance and reporting of isolated plants mechanism developed and released for public use.

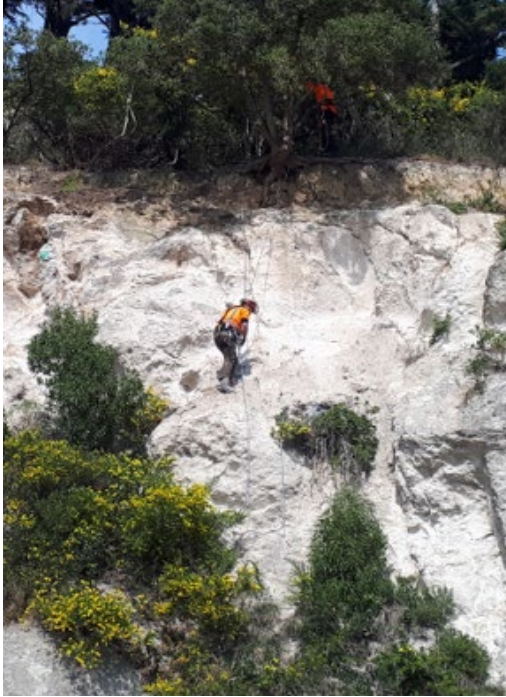


Figure 8: ORC contractor abseils to control cliffside flowering boneseed at Andersons Bay. Photo source: K. Robertson, ORC.

3.3.6 Wilding conifers (particularly contorta, Corsican, Scots, mountain and dwarf pine and European larch)

Wilding conifers are any introduced conifer tree, including the species listed below:

- Contorta (lodgepole) pine
(*Pinus contorta*)
- Corsican pine
- Scots pine
- Mountain pine and dwarf mountain pine
- European larch
- Bishops pine
- Douglas fir
- Maritime pine
- Radiata pine
- Ponderosa pine

Wildings are established through natural means (unless located within a forest plantation, and they do not create any greater risk of spread to adjacent or nearby land than the forest plantation that they are part of). For RPMP purposes, a forest plantation is deemed to be an area of 1 hectare or more of predominantly planted trees. The definition also excludes planted conifers under 1 hectare, such as windbreaks and shelterbelts that existed before March 2019.

While the above species are 'named pests' in the RPMP, those in the left hand column are the main subjects of RPMP rules. This is because they have little commercial value while all are highly invasive (contorta being the worst – refer Figure 9a).

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
<p>Contain wilding conifers within the region (in accordance with national strategy and programme aims), reduce infestation densities where practicable and prevent their spread to new locations (for example refer to Figure 9b).</p> <p>Containment is required, over time, to protect economic values (pastoral farming and production forestry), landscape and recreational values (vistas, tourism, amenities) and environmental values (native ecosystems, especially high country tussock grasslands).</p>
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation – specific rules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ occupier control is required in areas previously controlled/funded under national or regional programmes (since January 2016); ○ occupier control is required within 200m of an adjoining property where (since January 2016) the adjoining occupier has carried out control work; ○ a Good Neighbour Rule variation on the above – where an adjoining occupier is taking reasonable steps to manage wilding conifers; and a ○ pest agent rule – occupier control is required where directed by ORC in relation to any wilding conifer capable of spreading (and is not in a plantation forest).

- Inspection – proactive monitoring (aerial inspections) undertaken in conjunction with the 'gorse and broom free' aerial inspection programme (see section 3.4.1), with follow up ground inspections/compliance as appropriate. Up to 300 hours allocated for inspections in Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago districts.
- Enforcement - above rules enforced as necessary, and issuing of formal notices following Biosecurity Act and ORC procedures.
- Collaboration:
 - regional partnerships - attend and contribute to Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group (WWCCG) and Central Otago Wilding Conifer Control Group (COWCCG); and
 - national partnerships – implement the MPI national programme in the region (contract management, auditing, reporting) and attend and contribute to the national focused Operations Advisory Group (OAG).
- Service delivery – undertake direct control operations as required through working alongside established groups. A regional site inventory / assessment is required.
- Advocacy – continued education among landowners, including identification guides for species contained in shelterbelts and increased liaison with forestry companies.
- Reporting - ORC will audit all reports received, document monitoring and control outputs and report against KPIs via the RPMP Annual Report and through the national programme as required.

Expenditure: *How much will it cost?*

The wilding conifer programme is allocated approximately \$120,000, split as follows:

- Towards inspections / compliance with rules in the RPMP (some shared costs with gorse and broom surveys); and
- Implementing the MPI led New Zealand Wilding Conifer Management Strategy 2015-2030 (contract management and advisory groups management).

Key Performance Indicators for 2020/21: *What are the targets to meet?*

- ✓ No new plantings of contorta, Corsican, Scots, mountain and dwarf pine and European larch occur.
- ✓ Aerial inspections carried out in Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago districts and compliance actions followed up on the ground with occupiers.
- ✓ Any legal notices issued are assessed for compliance at expiry period and appropriate enforcement action initiated under the Biosecurity Act.
- ✓ National control programme completed to contract standards and within budget allocations and reporting timelines.



Figure 9a: Wilding *Pinus contorta* spread well evident in the Nevis Valley.
Photo source: N. Manning, ORC.

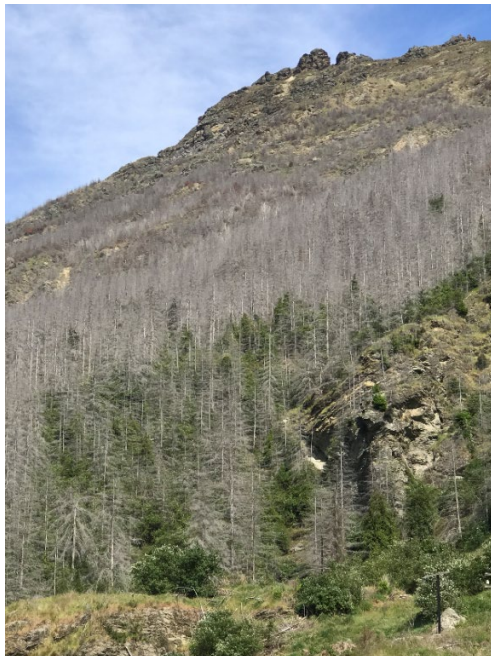


Figure 9b: Aftermath of wilding conifer control on slopes of Mt Colin, near Roaring Meg power station, November 2019. Photo source: P. Russell.

3.4 Sustained control pest programmes

The six pests in this category are well established legacy pests in most regions of New Zealand. In Otago, five of the six pests have been managed for many years under legislation prior to the Biosecurity Act and RPMPs. Although eradication isn't viable, opportunities exist to prevent spread from infested areas to clear areas and to reduce 'externality impacts' on adjoining occupiers' values (e.g. reducing impacts on farming and recreational/environmental values) where those adjoining occupiers are motivated to undertake control.

The species named for ongoing control include five pest plants (two shrubs, two herbs, and a thistle) and one pest animal (feral rabbits). Operational programmes are divided into and described in the four sub-sections below, grouped or listed in relation to their occupier control management regimes across (predominantly) rural zoned land in the region:

- Gorse and broom – same method of seed dispersal, same rules apply;
- Nodding thistle and ragwort - rules requiring property boundary clearance (although the clearance distances differ other requirements are identical);
- Russell lupin – new rules, mostly relating to prevention of further lupin spread via water courses and through new plantings; and
- Feral rabbits – rules to maintain rabbit densities below a common regional level.

3.4.1 Gorse and broom

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
<p>Ensure continuing control of gorse and broom, that prevents land free of these pests from becoming infested (primarily in Central Otago and Queenstown Lakes districts) and reduces adverse effects on the economic (and environmental) wellbeing of occupiers regionwide.</p> <p>Ongoing control is required to maintain the gains and investment of prior control by occupiers to protect production (pastoral farming) and environmental (native ecosystem) values.</p>
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ occupier control rules require clearance of all plants on properties in mapped gorse and broom free areas (Central Otago, Queenstown Lakes). ○ occupiers outside of gorse and broom free areas (Dunedin City, coastal districts and in 3-4 broad central Otago areas) are required to clear infestations within 10 m of their boundaries (on valid complaint from adjoining occupiers). • Inspection – the region is divided into four management blocks (Central Otago, Earnsclough, Queenstown Lakes and Lindis blocks). Proactive monitoring (aerial inspections) is carried out in a different block each year (November/December), in conjunction with the wilding conifer aerial inspection programme. In the

designated aerial block for the year follow up ground inspections are made along with pre-programmed ground inspections in the other three blocks. Up to 50 staff days are allocated.

- Enforcement - above rules enforced as necessary, and issuing of formal notices following Biosecurity Act and ORC procedures.
- Advocacy – continuation of education among landowners. New occupier control rules come into effect in 2024 with regard to extensions to the current gorse and broom free areas¹⁰.
- Reporting - ORC will audit all reports received, document monitoring and control outputs and report against KPIs via the RPMP Annual Report as required.

Expenditure: How much will it cost?

The combined gorse and broom programme is allocated approximately \$72,000, which includes 390 staff hours. There are some shared costs with wilding conifer surveys.

Key Performance Indicators for 2020/21: What are the targets to meet?

- ✓ At least 100 properties inspected and assessed for compliance:
 - Earnsclough – aerial inspection (of at least 25 properties) and follow up enforcement with occupiers who are required to comply with rules.
 - Central Otago – 50 properties, as above (this block was aerially inspected the previous year).
 - Queenstown lakes area – 15 properties, as above, (aerial for 2021/22).
 - Lindis – 15 properties, as above, (aerial for 2022/23).
- ✓ All Biosecurity Act Notices of Direction (NOD) issued are assessed for compliance at expiry of the relevant NOD period.
- ✓ Occupier complaints received outside of gorse and broom free areas responded to within 10 working days.
- ✓ Advocacy material to engage occupiers in designated gorse and broom free extension areas drafted by June 2021 (with the intention of rolling out during 2021/2022).

¹⁰ For example, the gorse and broom free extension in the Cardrona Valley covers approx. 500 ha of land, where currently the 10m boundary clearance rule (on complaint) applies, until October 2024.

3.4.2 Nodding thistle and ragwort

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
<p>Ensure continuing boundary control of nodding thistle and ragwort to reduce adverse effects on the economic wellbeing of rural land occupiers regionwide.</p> <p>Ongoing control is required to maintain the gains and investment of prior control by occupiers to protect production (pastoral farming) values.</p>
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ rural land occupiers are required to clear nodding thistles within 100m of their boundaries. ○ rural land occupiers are required to clear ragwort within 50m of their boundaries. • Inspection – initiated by ORC receiving a valid complaint from adjoining occupiers who are undertaking effective control work. • Enforcement - above rules enforced as necessary, and issuing of formal notices following Biosecurity Act and ORC procedures. • Advocacy – continuation of education among landowners. • Reporting - ORC will audit all reports received, document monitoring and control outputs and report against KPIs via the RPMP Annual Report as required.
Expenditure: <i>How much will it cost?</i>
<p>The combined nodding thistle and ragwort inspection programme is allocated approximately \$11,000¹¹.</p>
Key Performance Indicators for 2020/21: <i>What are the targets to meet?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Occupier boundary related complaints responded to within 10 working days. ✓ All Biosecurity Act Notices of Direction (NOD) issued are assessed for compliance at expiry of the relevant NOD period.

¹¹ Difficult to quantify the direct cost as it is contingent on the number of complaints received that need actioning.

3.4.3 Russell lupin

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
<p>Instigate boundary controls of Russell lupin (clearance distances differ depending on the infestation situations) to prevent spread (e.g. the planting and subsequent seeding) of wild lupin plants, and to reduce adverse effects in rural zoned land.</p> <p>Proactive management is required to protect regional environmental values (natural ecosystems, and especially braided rivers and 'at risk' catchments such as the Dart, Rees, Matukituki, Makarora, Hunter and Shotover, downstream of Arthurs Point, river catchments).</p>
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a pest agent rule makes it an offence to plant this pest within 200m of a braided river edge, 50m of a non-braided river¹², and within 10m of an artificial water course or adjoining property boundary. ○ rural land occupiers are required to clear wild Russell lupin on their properties within the parameters outlined in the rule above. ○ rural land occupiers (including Crown managed public conservation land) are required to clear wild Russell lupin on their properties within 10m of their boundaries, as directed by ORC and where adjoining occupiers are undertaking effective control. • Inspection – initiated by ORC based on risk and available resources. Establishment of a baseline of highest risk sites in the region commenced in 2019/2020 as there were no prior records. Continuation of this work will occur during 2020/21, focusing on tussock country and braided riverbeds. • Enforcement - above rules enforced as necessary, and issuing of formal notices following Biosecurity Act and ORC procedures. • Advocacy/collaboration – targeted education among landowners in high risk areas and liaison further established with owners who grow Russell lupin on a commercial scale – so they fully understand the rule implications and their obligations (Figure 10). • Reporting - ORC will audit all reports received, document monitoring and control outputs and report against KPIs via the RPMP Annual Report as required.
Expenditure: <i>How much will it cost?</i>
The Russell lupin inspection programme will cost \$10,000.

¹² This requirement can be reduced to 10m provided the river is not within the six at risk catchments named (refer to the heading 'objective' above) and planting is in accordance with a Russell lupin management plan – see Appendix 1.

Key Performance Indicators for 2020/21: *What are the targets to meet?*

- ✓ Baseline of highest risk sites documented and operational in time for the 2020/21 year inspections to commence, by 30 June 2020.
- ✓ All Biosecurity Act Notices of Direction (NOD) issued are assessed for compliance at expiry of the relevant NOD period.
- ✓ Establish relationships with commercial suppliers and advise them about the rules and obligations.
- ✓ 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).
- ✓ Approval of lupin management plans within 25 working days of being received from occupiers.



Figure 10: Wild Russell lupin looks colourful but is out of place in Central Otago's iconic tussock landscape. Photo source: ORC.

3.4.4 Feral rabbits

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
<p>Ensure continuing control of feral rabbits to manage their spread and to reduce adverse effects and externality impacts on the economic wellbeing of land occupiers regionwide (refer to Figure 11a). By keeping rabbit densities below a set threshold, adverse effects on the regional environment will also decrease.</p> <p>Ongoing control is required to maintain the gains and investment of prior control by many occupiers, to protect production (pastoral farming) and environmental (soil stability and native vegetation) values.</p>
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ all occupiers are required to control rabbit densities to at or below level 3 on the Modified McLean Scale (refer to Appendix 2). ○ a Good Neighbour Rule (GNR) requires occupiers to control rabbits to the same density above (on written direction from ORC) within 500m of their boundaries. ○ no one can use firearms where they will interfere with ORC-led control baiting operations. • Monitoring – night counts (along preset transects/routes) are carried out across 14 locations (Cromwell, Roxburgh, Roxburgh North, Roxburgh south, Etrick, Lindis, Cromwell, Luggate, Manorburn, Fruitlands, Bannockburn, Oturehua, Poolburn, Tarras – refer Appendix 3) to assess trends in rabbit densities. These data will help inform where inspections are carried out (along with RHD K5 virus sampling). • Inspections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No less than 130 rural property (over 10 ha in size) inspections carried out, provisionally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upper Clutha/Queenstown/Wakatipu = 35 - Alexandra/St Bathans/Ida/Manuherikia = 25 - Roxburgh = 35 - Cromwell/Bannockburn = 20 - Hyde/Middlemarch/Strath Taieri/Sutton/Macrae's/Waiholo = 25 - Otago Peninsula/Moeraki = 10 ○ No dedicated inspection work is carried out on properties under 10 ha unless they border a larger property which is being impacted. ○ The GNR is initiated by ORC on receiving a valid complaint from adjoining occupiers who are undertaking effective control work. • Enforcement - above rules enforced as necessary, and issuing of formal notices following Biosecurity Act and ORC procedures. Exemptions may apply under s.78 of the Act (rules 1 and 2 only).

- **Advocacy:**
 - continuation of education of regional landowners via the web-based ORC Pest Hub, to meet increased expectations of control.
 - Develop awareness programmes targeting owners of rural residential (lifestyle blocks) and other peri-urban properties (under 10 ha in size).
 - stepped up farmer and community engagement through rural liaison groups/committees.
- **Service delivery** – if appropriate, including biocontrol. Biological control of rabbits (RHD) management/research (refer to Figure 11b) is covered under section 4.2.
- **Collaboration** – ORC will facilitate the establishment of landowner-led rabbit control groups in the region, as appropriate and including DOC, LINZ, landowners and contractors, modelled on best practice examples within Otago (such as Maniototo Pest Management Incorporated - MPM) other regions and an Australian model based on landcare groups leading management efforts¹³.
- **Reporting** - ORC will audit all reports received, document monitoring and control outputs and report against KPIs via the RPMP Annual Report as required.

Expenditure: *How much will it cost?*

The rabbit inspection programme will cost \$ 800,000. The bulk staff time is on region-wide inspections.

Key Performance Indicators for 2020/21: *What are the targets to meet?*

- ✓ All rabbit complaints responded to within 10 working days.
- ✓ At least 130 rural property inspections carried out annually, within budget and follow up enforcement measures implemented as appropriate.
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Exemptions processed in accordance with Biosecurity Act criteria and ORC procedures, with records maintained annually for public inspection.
- ✓ Night count monitoring programme completed and outcomes reviewed in a timely manner for the season.
- ✓ Council to consider preferred operating model for landowner-led rabbit control groups, and its role in such groups.

¹³ An example is the 2014 Victorian Rabbit Management Collaboration Initiative – An Invasive Animals CRC Project https://www.pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/VICRabbitInitiative_LAdams_Oct2014_FINAL.pdf

- ✓ Establish at least one central and one coastal Otago new landowner-led rabbit control group by December 2021.



Figure 11a: Vegetation loss and soil damage and erosion from high rabbit numbers, near Arrowtown. Photo source: N. Manning, ORC.



Figure 11b: Equipment used for release of rabbit haemorrhagic disease - RHD (K5 strain). Photo source: N. Manning, ORC.

3.5 Site-led pest programmes

The RPMP site-led programme is about protecting the environmental values at several named sites from the ravages of multiple pests. As a result the management programme focuses on specific threats to each site, and provides for the control of many pests, often those that are not managed elsewhere in the region (e.g. possums, rats).

The RPMP Includes four site-led programmes. For the purposes of the Operational Plan three of them, Otago Peninsula, West Harbour-Mt Cargill and Quarantine and Goat islands (all within Dunedin City) are grouped together, as the same six pest plant species and 15 pest animal species are managed generically across all three places. The fourth site-led programme concerns the LINZ-led management of lagarosiphon (oxygen weed), where different controls are implemented in different lakes. New site-led programmes will be considered via the RPMP in the future.

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

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
<p>Support community groups and other agencies to protect the ecological integrity of Otago Peninsula (9,000 ha), West Harbour-Mt Cargill (12,500 ha) and Quarantine and Goat islands. The intention is to exclude, eradicate, or implement progressive/sustained control of the 15 named pest animals (although objectives/targets differ slightly at each site):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bennett's wallaby • feral deer – 3 species • feral pig • mustelids – 3 species • rats – 3 species (eradication from Quarantine Island). • feral cat • feral goat • hedgehog • possum (eradication from the Peninsula) <p>In relation to six named pest plants, there is a common objective to progressively contain them at all three sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • banana passionfruit • Darwin's barberry • gunnera • Chilean flame creeper • sycamore • tradescantia. <p>The above measures protect many different indigenous ecosystems, and the interrelated programmes will enhance regional biodiversity values (where many Dunedin residents live, work and play).</p>
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration ('whole of site' management planning is required):

- ORC supports existing community and landowner efforts on the Peninsula (through the Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group).
- the Landscape Connections Trust, Otago Natural History Trust, Orokonui Ecosanctuary (and Halo Project), OSPRI (bovine TB eradication) and volunteers are all partners with ORC in the growing momentum of work occurring at West Harbour-Mt Cargill.
- there are joint efforts to rid the two islands of rats and exclude other pests.
- Advocacy – continuation of education among landowners and volunteer groups on the benefits of partnering and importantly, ‘telling the success’ stories.
- Service delivery – Implement enforcement action where there are barriers to occupier participation.
- Regulation:
 - generic rules make it an offence to hold or harbour the pest animals listed (except rats) on Otago Peninsula and West Harbour-Mount Cargill.
 - for Quarantine and Goat islands only the above rule also applies but extends to include rats.
 - there are no occupier rules for the pest plants listed but they may be considered in the future.
- Enforcement – above rules enforced as necessary and issuing of formal notices following Biosecurity Act and ORC procedures.
- Monitoring and reporting - ORC will audit all reports received, document monitoring and control outputs and report against KPIs via the RPMP Annual Report.

Expenditure: *How much will it cost?*

The site-led programme has been earmarked \$95,000.

Key Performance Indicators for 2020/21: *What are the targets to meet?*

- ✓ Adopt Predator Free Dunedin 2050 ‘whole of site’ management plan/s by December 2020.ric

3.5.2 Lagarosiphon (in conjunction with Land Information New Zealand)

Objective: <i>What we are doing and why?</i>
<p>Support LINZ in controlling and eradicating lagarosiphon in the region's rivers and lakes. ORC works collaboratively with LINZ (and others) on ten-year lagarosiphon management plans (which are aimed to align with the 2019 to 2029 RPMP) at the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent lagarosiphon establishment specifically in Lake Wakatipu (and other regional water bodies where it isn't present). • Progressively contain lagarosiphon in Lake Wanaka and the Kawarau River, to reduce its extent. • Undertake sustained control of lagarosiphon in Lake Dunstan to reduce its impacts on water users. <p>The above measures protect significant freshwater values in the region as well as enhancing recreational pursuits, tourism/aesthetic enjoyment of and access to these iconic places.</p>
Deliverables: <i>How the programme will be implemented</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ joint planning and meetings with LINZ and other stakeholders. ○ meetings attended annually with three groups - Wakatipu/Kawarau River Group, and Lake Dunstan and Wanaka community groups. • Surveillance – ORC will survey other waterbodies that are not a LINZ responsibility - Moke Lake, Manorburn and Poolburn dams, Butchers and Conroys Dams, Falls Dam, Fraser Dam and monitor Albert Town stormwater detention ponds and Bullock Creek sites. • Monitoring – liaise with Boffa Miskell to ensure monitoring is carried out at Wakatipu / Kawarau, Wanaka and Dunstan sites in accordance with management plans (refer to Figure 12). • Advocacy – continuation of education among water users and landowners with ponds on the threats posed by having 'dirty boats/equipment' (advocacy extends into the <i>Check Clean Dry</i> programme - covered under section 4.5). • Regulation (with appropriate enforcement action if required): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ water users, before leaving lakes Dunstan, Wanaka or Roxburgh, and the Clutha/Mata-Au and Kawarau rivers, must remove all lagarosiphon fragments from boats and equipment and safely dispose of them. ○ occupiers must destroy all lagarosiphon in ponds and aquariums on their properties and dispose of material safely. • Service delivery – when required on a case by case basis (e.g. Bullock Creek control programme).

- Monitoring and reporting - ORC will work closely with LINZ, audit all reports received, document monitoring and control outputs and report against KPIs via the RPMP Annual Report.

Expenditure: *How much will it cost?*

The ORC funded lagarosiphon programme is allocated \$27,000.

Key Performance Indicators for 2020/21: *What are the targets to meet?*

- ✓ No lagarosiphon found in Lake Wakatipu or at Moke Lake, Manorburn and Poolburn dams, Butchers and Conroys Dams, Falls Dam, or Fraser Dam during 2020/21.
- ✓ At least annual surveys of the nine priority 'non-LINZ' managed sites identified.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Service delivery carried out to 'best practice' standards, especially following Environmental Protection Authority permissions for spraying agrichemicals over water.



Figure 12: Lagarosiphon control in a Central Otago lake. Photo source: Boffa Miskell/LINZ.

4. Other Biosecurity Activities

4.1 Overview

The regional council undertakes many other biosecurity leadership and coordination activities that are not directly related to the management of individual pest species or provisions set out in the RPMP (or the Biosecurity Act). These activities are discussed more fully in the Biosecurity Strategy (the Strategy¹⁴) under four key headings:

- Proactive biosecurity management – showing leadership and addressing issues before they become significant (refer to Figure 13);
- Responsive and flexible - utilising the most efficient and effective methods to control harmful organisms;
- Integrated and collaborative action - working with all parties at all levels; and
- Landscape scale and site scale - targeting key areas for collaborative and coordinated control.



Strategy actions have many overlaps with individual pest species management, such as landowner-led rabbit programmes and lagarosiphon control which are outlined in their respective categories in section 3.

The following sub-sections summarise priority projects from the Strategy and other internal work programmes, which target issues and opportunities that are current and were identified in the development of the RPMP and Strategy. Projects are presented in a generic format to assist readers, with KPIs noted where relevant.

Figure 13: Ubiquitous spring scene near Bannockburn, with hillsides covered with wild thyme and wild briar. One of ORC’s biosecurity leadership roles is to prevent further exotic invaders establishing in the region. Photo source: P Russell

¹⁴ While the Strategy is a non-statutory document, ORC is committed to working collaboratively with stakeholders, groups, communities and individuals to implement the Strategy to achieve good biosecurity outcomes.

4.2 Proactive biosecurity management

Actions / activities	KPIs / comments
<p>Leadership and liaison: Establish and facilitate a biosecurity technical working group (TWG) to meet twice a year to share ideas and innovations, identify synergies and collaborate on biosecurity projects.</p> <p>Parties to include: DOC, LINZ, MPI, farming, industry, tourism and environmental organisations, and Kāi Tahu.</p> <p>Recent project development has included liaison on marine pest organisms with Environment Southland and NIWA, exploring options for an inter-regional pest pathway plan similar to the successful plan implemented for Fiordland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TWG set up by October 2020 with first meeting held before December 2020 and second meeting (if appropriate) before 30 June 2021. • Develop a meaningful partnership with Kāi Tahu in order to connect regularly on biosecurity issues, to identify areas of importance to Kāi Tahu and actively promote collaborative action. • Partner with Kāi Tahu on biosecurity initiatives to address issues that impact on cultural values. • Biannual liaison with parties interested in keeping marine pest organisms out of the region.
<p>Biocontrol: For many organisms that are well-established biocontrol can be a cost-effective option. A good biocontrol will weaken a pest sufficiently and can greatly reduce impacts that the pest causes, however eradication is not a likely outcome.</p> <p>ORC provides funding to the National Biocontrol Collective which operates a pooled resource from the councils around the country to fund research to seek out and test biological agents for invasive weeds. Other research is carried out for pest animals (e.g. RHD research around rabbit management).</p> <p>ORC also funds the strategic release of biocontrol agents as part of the service delivery for certain RPMP pests (e.g. broom – refer to Figures 14a and 14b).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the national biocontrol collective for research and introduction of biocontrol agents into New Zealand - \$18,000 pa. • Undertake rabbit RHD sampling as required and K5 research work, within a budget of \$24,000. • Broom Gall Mite and other agents – harvest and release these agents at 25 new sites Otago wide, along with other biocontrol initiatives, within a budget of \$12,000.



Figure 14a: The broom gall mite is having a devastating impact on broom in parts of the region, seen here dying off, pictured near Quartzville, November 2019. Photo source: P Russell.



Figure 14b: Biosecurity Team Leader Richard Lord inspects galls on dead broom near Quartzville which has succumbed to the mite's deadly effects. Photo source: P Russell.

Actions / activities	KPIs / comments
<p>Landowner-led possum control programme: Develop a possum control programme focusing on OSPRI completed areas for long-term bovine tuberculosis eradication and biodiversity gains.</p> <p>A volunteer landowner programme is anticipated, starting with the RPMP site-led areas, and informed by successful models in other regions.</p> <p>Parties to include: OSPRI, landowners, other regional councils.</p>	<p>It will never be cheaper to 'maintain the gains' of prior possum control (where low densities have been achieved over large areas) than possum control ceasing and restarting some years later:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a terms of reference and background scoping of the project by April 30th, 2021 (with a view to inclusion in a five year RPMP review). • Liaison with Horizons, Hawkes Bay and Waikato regions where landscape-scale (non-OSPRI managed) possum control programmes have operated for many years.

Actions / activities	KPIs / comments
<p>Excluding harmful organisms from the region: Establish a surveillance programme for exclusion pests in partnership with neighbouring regional councils where this is efficient and effective. The key is for the parties to work collaboratively on research and surveillance where it is efficient and effective to do so (e.g. Chilean needle grass is managed in Canterbury through sustained control programmes, however like Otago it is not found in Southland). Likewise with nassella it is present in Otago but not recorded in Southland.</p> <p>The surveillance programme could also include organisms of interest (OOI) where these require ORC surveillance. There are 37 OOIs listed in Appendix 1 of the RPMP, including 27 plants, 3 animals, 1 algae, 1 freshwater fish and 5 marine organisms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake research and surveillance, with others, for exclusion pests in Otago, where neighbouring councils manage or exclude the same species. • Undertake risk assessments of other harmful organisms that are not yet present in Otago but may have the potential to cause significant harm if they were established: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collaborate with neighbouring councils where they are also investigating the same species (e.g. marine organisms). - implement a trial to record OOI information through 'Survey123' – for plants by July 2020 and animals by June 2021.

4.3 Responsive and flexible approaches (effectiveness and efficiency)

Actions / activities	KPIs / comments
<p>Adopt Standard Operating Procedures: Prepare updated operating procedures for administering the RPMP for enforcing plan rules, working proactively with land occupiers, and wisely utilising powers available under the Biosecurity Act.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A standalone SOP document prepared by October 2020. • Utilise Exemption Powers under the Act, where a flexible approach is required, and where occupiers meet criteria set out in section 78 of the Act.
<p>Maintain and expand pest management information on the 'Pest Hub': The website details identification, effects and control methods for pests. Priority species include named RPMP pests, aquatic and marine weeds, and hieracium (in conjunction with DOC and neighbouring councils).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare new guidance material for the Pest Hub which is both practicable and easily followed.

4.4 Integrated and collaborative actions

Actions / activities	KPIs / comments
<p>National biosecurity leadership, coordination and strategy: ORC participates in a variety of national biosecurity management groups, including the BioManagers Group (BM - a collective of regional council biosecurity managers), the Biosecurity Working Group (BSWG- regional council biosecurity technical managers and policy developers).</p> <p>Other national meetings are also be attended such as the National Pest Plant Accord https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/long-term-pest-management/national-pest-plant-accord/ and National Pest Pet Biosecurity Accord https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/finding-and-reporting-pests-and-diseases/keeping-watch/stopping-pets-becoming-pests/.</p> <p>Meetings allow ORC to remain up-to-date with national trends and developments in pest management and policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated senior managers regularly attend and contribute to at least quarterly national meetings of the BM and BSWG. Above attendees continue to advocate for a business case through MPI for national funding of wallaby management (see also section 3.2.1) NPPA meetings attended as required (generally when the NPPA list is reviewed or changes mooted). All plants on the Accord list are unwanted organisms under the Biosecurity Act 1993. This means they cannot be distributed or sold in New Zealand. Note: the NPPA is used as an enforcement tool alongside other RPMPs. ORC inspects 20 nurseries in the region annually to ensure compliance with the NPPA (approx. 40 hours and \$5,000 per annum). Staff also respond to any MPI requests to investigate issues.
<p>Biosecurity response training under the National Biosecurity Capability Network (NBCN): All regional councils are part of the NBCN which responds to national biosecurity emergencies such as recent <i>M. bovis</i> and velvetleaf incursions, and possible threats such as the brown marmorated stinkbug (BMSB). Councils have a separate agreement with MPI on how the collective councils will respond, including being adequately trained and prepared.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biosecurity staff attend MPI / regional council training on implementation of National Biosecurity Capability Network (every 2-3 years). Staff maintain liaison with MPI regarding national issues affecting Otago, e.g. <i>Mycoplasma bovis</i> and Velvet leaf, and coordination of any responses and monitoring requirements.
<p>Empower Otago's people and communities to control harmful organisms: A key role for ORC is to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the enviro schools programme with key messages, information and tools relating to biosecurity issues in Otago.

showcase and celebrate significant case studies and achievements where communities and groups have provided improved biodiversity, amenity, cultural and social outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the newly developed ECO Fund to individuals, groups and non-governmental organisations involved in voluntary initiatives.
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4.5 Landscape scale and site scale initiatives

Actions / activities	KPIs / comments
<p>Predator Free 2050: ORC wants to make a meaningful contribution to the national Predator Free 2050 vision to reduce the effects of introduced predators of native fauna. Meaningful contribution requires projects of significant scale in areas of very high biodiversity importance. Our approach is demonstrated by providing leadership of the site-led programmes outlined in section 3.5.</p> <p>Other parties include: Predator Free Dunedin 2050, Landscape Connections Trust, Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Trust.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the development of the Predator Free Dunedin 2050 'whole of site' management plan/s by December 2020. Within 6 months of establishing the above plans, develop a plan of action for ORC's role in the delivery of the plan outcomes (e.g. service delivery, monitoring, research). Develop guidance on how ORC can support groups with smaller site-led initiatives to manage harmful organisms by June 2021.
<p>Participate in Check, Clean and Dry (CCD) campaigns: CCD is a joint ORC / MPI National Aquatic Pests Programme. Advocates provide education to boat owners and other recreational users of the lakes and rivers around good aquatic biosecurity hygiene practice and preventing the unknowing transfer of aquatic pest species from waterbody to waterbody.</p> <p>MPI has developed a new structure made up of many government agencies and representatives from West Coast, Ecan, ORC and ES. The new structure refreshes the program, determining how it will be implemented over the next 10 years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the South Island Co-ordinator and the formation of a new group in the lower South Island. Report annually as appropriate to MPI. Achieve 650 interactions during 2020/21. Programme targets lagarosiphon, didymo and lake snow in the main water bodies upstream of Roxburgh. Attend major aquatic events, such as Wanaka and Motatapu challenges. ORC's annual contribution of \$30,000 combines with MPI funding of \$20,000 pa. allowing for 500 hours (67 days) staff time.

5. Glossary

Adjacent: means a property that is next to, or adjoining, another property.

Artificial watercourse: means a watercourse that is created by human action. It includes an irrigation canal, water supply race, canal for the supply of water for electricity power generation, and farm drainage canal channel. It does not include artificial swales, kerb and channelling or other watercourses designed to convey stormwater.

Authorised person: has the same meaning as in the Biosecurity Act 1993: “a person for the time being appointed an authorised person under section 103 of this Act.”

Bed: means:

- a. in relation to any river, the space of land which the waters of the river cover at its fullest flow without overtopping its banks;
- b. in relation to any lake, except a lake controlled by artificial means, the space of land which the waters of the lake cover at its highest level without exceeding its margin;
- c. in relation to any lake controlled by artificial means, the space of land which the waters of the lake cover at its maximum permitted operating level; and
- d. in relation to the sea, the submarine areas covered by the internal waters and the territorial sea.

Biological control: means the introduction and establishment of natural enemies that will prey on or adversely affect a pest or other organisms to be controlled.

Braided river: means any river with multiple, successively divergent and rejoining channels separated by gravel islands.

Destroy: means pull, breakdown, demolish, make useless, kill, cause to cease to exist.

Direction: in relation to Part 6 powers under the Act means a notice issued in accordance with section 122 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 requesting a person or land occupier to carry out certain work or measures.

Eliminate: means the permanent preclusion of the pest plant’s ability to set viable seed.

Forest plantation or plantation forest: means a forest deliberately established for commercial purposes, being at least 1ha of continuous forest cover of forest species that has been planted and has or will be harvested or replanted.

Kāi Tahu: descendants of Tahu, the tribe, who maintain manawhenua within Otago and much of Te Waipounamu, the South Island.

Kāi Tahu ki Otago: the collective term Kāi Tahu ki Otago is used to describe the four Papatipu Rūnaka and associated whānau and rūpū of the Otago region, The four Rūnaka are Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki, Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou, and Hokonui Rūnanga.

Landowner: has the same meaning as occupier in the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Management agency: has the same meaning as in the Biosecurity Act 1993: “means the body specified as the management agency in a pest management plan or a pathway management plan”. For the purposes of the RPMP and Operational Plan, Otago Regional Council is the management agency (MA) for pests to be controlled in the Otago region.

Modified McLean Scale: this scale assesses rabbit population levels – refer to Appendix 2.

Monitoring: in relation to a pest or other organisms to be controlled means to observe and measure the occurrence or non-occurrence of a pest or other organisms to be controlled.

Notice of direction: means the same as actions required and notice issued pursuant to section 122 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Non-braided river: means a continually or intermittently flowing body of fresh water that is not a braided river; and includes a stream and modified watercourse; but does not include any artificial watercourse (e.g. irrigation canal, water supply race, canal for the supply of water for electricity generation, and farm drainage canal). Occupier: (see landowner).

Operational plan: means a plan prepared by the MA under Section 100B of the Act.

Pest: has the same meaning as in the Biosecurity Act 1993: “an organism specified as a pest in a pest management plan.”

Pest agent: has the same meaning as in the Biosecurity Act 1993: “in relation to any pest, means any organism capable of: a. helping the pest replicate, spread, or survive; or b. interfering with the management of the pest”

Public conservation land: means any Crown managed land primarily managed by the Department of Conservation for conservation and biodiversity purposes.

River: means a continually or intermittently flowing body of fresh water; and includes a stream and modified watercourse; but does not include any artificial watercourse (including an irrigation canal, water supply race, canal for the supply of water for electricity generation, and farm drainage canal).

Rural zoned land: means land zoned for rural use under any territorial district plan applicable within the Otago Region. This includes rural residential and lifestyle zones but excludes large lot residential.

Surveillance: means survey work undertaken to determine the status of pest species. Can be either ‘active’ (or targeted) surveillance (by specialists) and pre-determined visits looking for a particular pest issue, or ‘passive’ surveillance, which are opportunistic observations made by interested members of the public – noting “*I haven’t seen this plant here before*”.

Water body: means fresh water in a river, lake, stream, pond, wetland, or aquifer, or any part thereof, that is not located within the coastal marine area.

Wilding conifer: wilding conifers are any introduced conifer tree, including (but not limited to) any of the species listed in Table 3 of the RPMP, established by natural means, unless it is located within a forest plantation, and does not create any greater risk of wilding conifer spread to adjacent or nearby land than the forest plantation that it is a part of. For the purposes of this definition, a forest plantation is an area of 1 hectare or more of predominantly planted trees. This also excludes existing planted conifers of less than 1ha, such as windbreaks and shelterbelts at March 2019.

Zero level/zero density: where the pest is destroyed from an area and is not detectable, but biosecurity managers accept that the pest may continue to appear in the area afterwards due to plant seed sources or animal migration from an unmanaged area.

Appendix 1: Russell Lupin Management Plan Requirements

A **Russell Lupin Management Plan** is a management plan prepared by an occupier, and certified by ORC, which:

- Identifies all rivers on a property, including all intermittent rivers of a property where the property occupier may plant Russell lupin up to 10m from the river; and
- Identifies where Russell lupin may be planted on a property; and
- Provides information on how the sowing of Russell lupins on the property will avoid encroaching within the identified 10m setback areas; and
- Provides information on the ongoing farm management practices that will be applied to avoid Russell lupin spreading into the identified 10m setback areas.

The Russell Lupin Management Plan must be submitted to ORC at least 90 working days prior to planting for certification that it contains the matters listed above and does not compromise the achievement of RPMP Objective 6.4.5. When certifying the Russell Lupin Management Plan ORC shall consider:

The extent to which the sowing and farm management practices proposed will avoid the spread of Russell lupins in and along rivers;

- The intermittence of the river (how frequently the river flows);
- The aquatic species that may be present in the river or downstream of the river;
- The bird habitat provided by the river or downstream of the river; and
- Any other environmental values associated with the river or downstream of the river.

The maximum duration of a Russell Lupin Management Plan is 10 years.

A Russell Lupin Management Plan may be reviewed by the ORC at any time for the purposes of ensuring that the achievement of RPMP Objective 6.4.5 is not compromised.

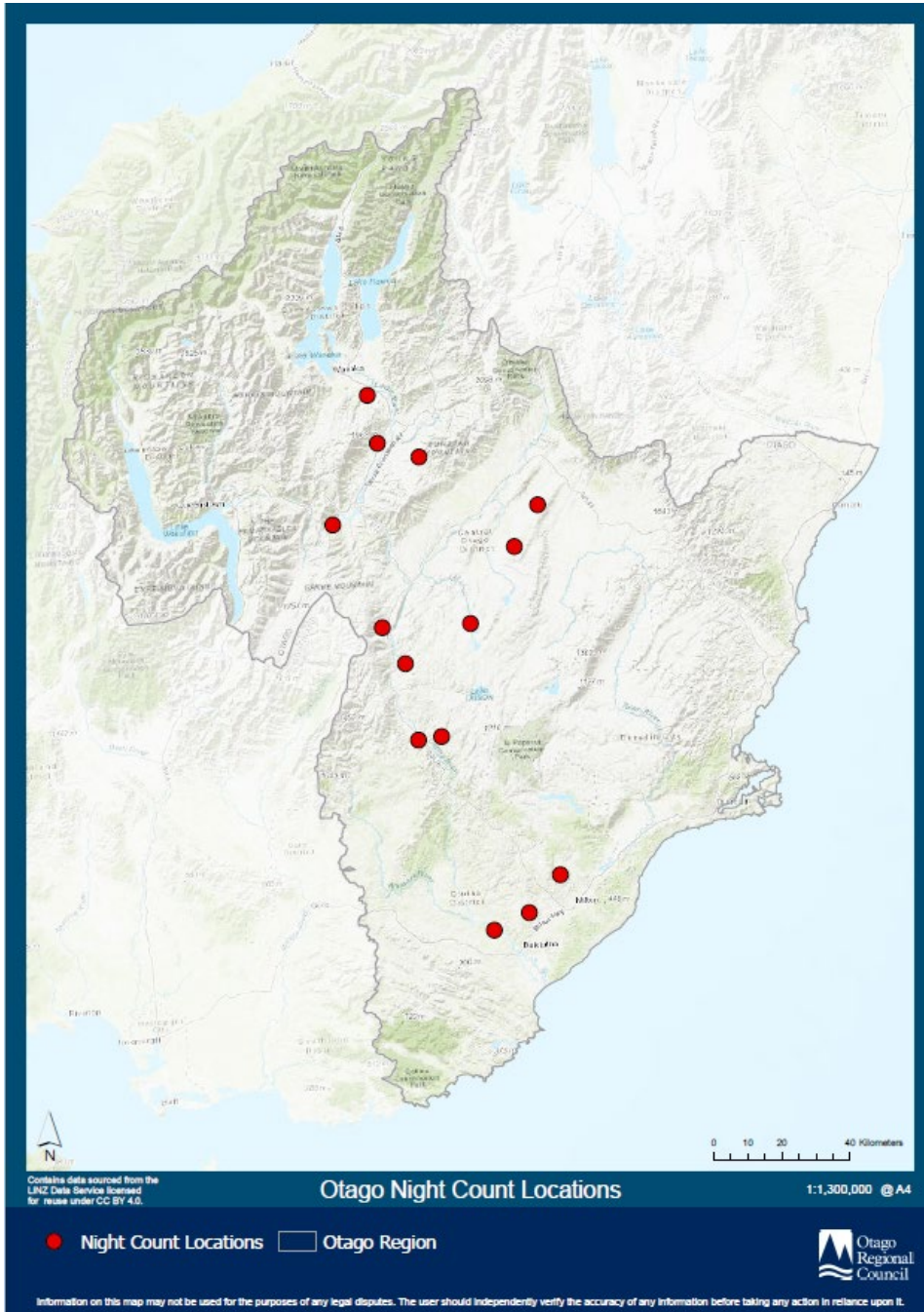
A Russell Lupin Management Plan may also be reviewed by the occupier at any time. Any amendments resulting from the review that are more than minor must be certified by the Council prior to implementation.

Appendix 2: Modified McLean Scale for Rabbits

Rabbit control is required to at or below level 3 on the scale below. This scale assesses rabbit population levels.

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

Appendix 3: Otago Rabbit Night Count Locations



Prepared for: Council
Report No. P&S1842
Activity: Regulatory: Policy Development
Author: Lisa Hawkins, Team Leader, RPS, Air & Coast
Endorsed by: Gwyneth Elsum, General Manager Strategy, Policy and Science
Date: 14 April 2020

PURPOSE

- [1] To set out options for a revised RPS Review 2020 Programme, and to approve a new programme.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [2] The work programme for the RPS review was noted by Council at its Strategy and Policy Committee meeting on 22 January 2020. The work programme included community consultation through Roadshow Discussions which commenced in early March. As a result of COVID-19 and feedback at Roadshow Discussions staff have further considered options for non-statutory pre-notification consultation with the community.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Notes** the risks of each option in the report, particularly to notification timeframes and the Ministers Recommendation;
- 3) **Approves** one of the programme options (A, B or C) set out in the report.
- 4) **Notes and Approves**, if Option B or C is approved, additional funding and resources unbudgeted in the draft Annual Plan 2020/2021, approximately \$180K.
- 5) **Notes** that the approved programme will be included in the update to be provided to the Minister at the end of April.

BACKGROUND

- [3] The Minister for the Environment's recommendation and subsequent Council resolution in January 2020 committed to reviewing the current RPS by November 2020, and notifying a revised RPS, to be operative prior to the notification of the LWRP. As such, staff prepared a programme to meet the above, with notification programmed for November this year. Key deliverables of this programme included:

- *Feb / March* - Scheduled consultation with community and stakeholders.
- *April to July* – Drafting of the revised RPS. A small number of external conversations with key stakeholders was anticipated in this stage on key issues on

a case by case basis, however further engagement with the community or larger groups was not.

- *End July* – draft RPS workshop with Council.
- *End July* – August – Consultation with Clause 3 and Clause 4A parties (as per the First Schedule of the RMA).
- *September* – Finalise the revised RPS.
- *End October* – Council meeting on 28th October seeking approval to notify a revised RPS.
- *November* – revised RPS notified.

- [4] The programme originally developed is time critical, and any change to this affects the ability to notify the revised RPS in November.

ISSUE

- [5] The February/March community and stakeholder face to face consultation detailed in the work programme above was interrupted by COVID-19 Alert level restrictions.

- [6] Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions will likely prevent further face to face consultation within a timeframe that fits with the RPS work programme.

- [7] Critical feedback at the Roadshow sessions on the limited consultation in the RPS programme was received. This was identified as a risk in the report presented for noting at the Strategy and Planning Committee on 29th January:

“Given the compressed timeframes, a more typical consultation programme, offering multiple opportunities for input prior to notification is not available. The consultation approach may be a challenge for the community for reasons relating to consultation fatigue, fast turn around and low-level awareness of the process.”

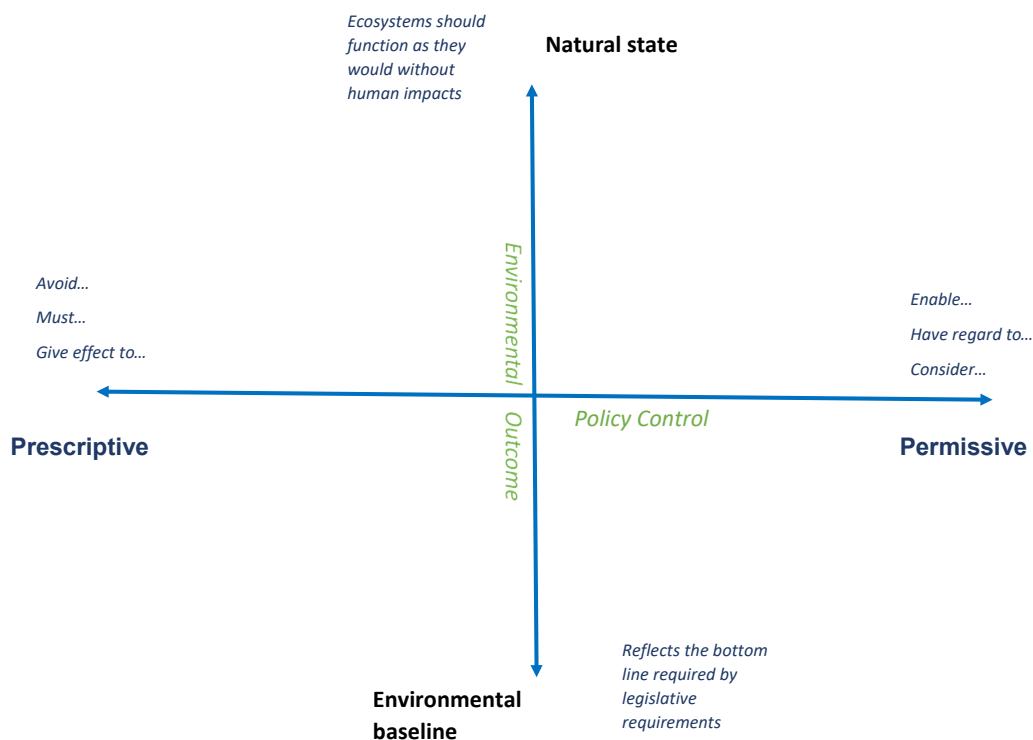
DISCUSSION

- [8] The existing consultation for the RPS was designed to be upfront in the programme to help set the policy direction at a high level, and to enable a broad range of community and stakeholders to engage. This approach would inform staff during the drafting of the revised RPS. The approach had two specific components as set out below.

- *Phase one* was online feedback, seeking input on the natural and physical resources which people valued or were concerned about. It also sought feedback on a set of nine issues which had been drafted following a Council workshop in January 2020, and the level of significance of these issues for Otago.
- *Phase two* was planned to be a series of facilitated roadshow discussions with the community and stakeholders. Six community sessions across the region were planned, and two stakeholder sessions. These discussions were designed to be interactive and were facilitated by an external facilitator, with staff support.

[9] The facilitated discussions involved two tasks following a short overview presentation from staff on the role of the RPS and a summary of feedback from Phase 1. The two tasks of the sessions were:

- *Identification of outcomes.* Using Post-it notes, participants identified the outcomes they wish to see achieved across Otago in relation to the issues identified in the phase 1 consultation. The post-it notes were placed on a map of Otago, where they were location specific.
- *Plot the policy direction.* Using the outcomes identified, or scenarios prepared by staff, participants were then asked to consider the type of policy approach that could achieve the outcome identified in task 1. This policy approach was plotted on an axis to indicate the desired policy direction and level of environmental outcome sought. The axis being 'Permissive to Prescriptive' (policy direction) and 'Natural State to Environmental baseline' (environmental outcome)(see Figure 1 below):



[10] The consultation programme was affected by Covid-19, with two of the community meetings and one stakeholder meeting cancelled. Anecdotally, staff were also aware that some participants did not attend sessions due to the growing concern around the pandemic. The consultation that was undertaken is still useful and provides a critical insight to guide the policy drafting of the RPS.

[11] Subject to the statutory requirements for consultation with statutory parties, there is no impediment to notifying the RPS without any further consultation with the community at large.

Completing the current consultation programme

- [12] As face to face meetings are no longer possible and may not be appropriate for some time due to Covid-19 restrictions, consideration was given to completing the phase 2 consultation online. However, because of the nature of the task, being interactive, rather than a more traditional Q & A format, it was not considered suitable to transfer across to a 'live' event.
- [13] Other options to get additional, similar feedback to that already received were considered, including an online questionnaire that could be designed to enable people to undertake the following tasks:
- *Task 1* - Drop pins on a map with a comment box to define the outcome they wish to see.
 - *Task 2* – using a comment box to define the policy approach they wish to be addressed and using two sliders to define the approach for policy direction and environmental outcome (as described in the Figure 1 above).
- [14] However, this was not considered to be easily adaptable, would require significant resourcing, would limit uptake for those not able to partake due to a number of factors, and may not provide information compatible with that already collected from the community.
- [15] Further considerations in terms of a way forward by staff include:
- Criticism from the community and stakeholders at the sessions specifically focussed on the lack of opportunity to participate in the process at the drafting stage, rather than upfront policy direction setting.
 - Current pressures on the community dealing with Covid-19 restrictions and long-term impacts on businesses and family suggest now is not the time to continue this form of consultation.
 - The uncertainty as to when face-to-face consultation will be allowed to recommence means we cannot postpone face to face meetings to an unknown point in the future. In addition, a lack of clarity around when future sessions might be undertaken would not be considered appropriate and might frustrate the community further.
 - The timely way we need to progress the preparation of the RPS means we must be mindful of the overall impact on the programme continuing with phase two would result in; and
 - The relatively low levels of attendance (approximately 50-60 participants) at the 5 meetings that did occur.
- [16] Based on the above, continuing with the remainder of phase 2 consultation is not recommended.

Alternatives for community and stakeholder participation

- [17] A review of the work programme and team resources has been undertaken, with the mindset of incorporating additional input into the process whilst ensuring any engagement or consultation is valuable, and the impact on programme delivery is

minimised. Staff also needed to consider how engagement could be undertaken in the context of Covid-19 restrictions continuing, in some form, into the future.

- [18] Two options for increasing community and stakeholder participation, whilst minimising the impact on the programme include the following:
- Set up reference groups to seek feedback and input on each topic / domain of the new RPS structure. This is an approach which provides more targeted input to the drafting of the RPS.
 - Prepare an RPS summary document during drafting and seek online feedback. This is an approach which will provide the opportunity for a wide range of interested parties to provide input.
- [19] Both approaches are detailed below. The input received from stakeholders and community members through either of these options is likely to contain diverse views. Staff are cognisant that these diverse views will need to be considered within the context of statutory requirements in preparing the final drafting of the RPS for notification.

RPS Reference Group

- [20] Reference groups can be set up to provide input on Policy Direction Papers. A Policy Direction Paper will be prepared for each topic / domain of the new RPS structure format, as outlined in the Planning Standards. This approach will facilitate input from interested and/or experienced persons during the drafting stage of the RPS. The reference group members would be obtained by an Expression of Interest Process that seeks suitably interested, qualified and/or experienced members. Each reference group is intended to be no more than 10 people.
- [21] The purpose of the Policy Direction Papers would be to:
- Provide a summary of the issue on the topic – informed by consultation to date, a review of the partially operative RPS, existing and proposed national guidance and background information on the topic.
 - Identify the areas the RPS will cover in relation to the topic and set out the desired outcome and the policy direction set to achieve it.
 - Incorporate draft policies and methods where available.
- [22] The RPS Reference Groups would:
- Following receipt of the Policy Direction Paper, Reference Group Members would be required to participate in a facilitated online group discussion on the relevant topic /chapter. Following the online discussion, participants of the reference group will also have the opportunity provide written feedback to ORC.
 - Provide input into policy direction, based on the knowledge and experience of the reference group participants. The reference groups aim would not be to reach consensus but rather provide ORC with input, and staff are very mindful that there will likely be disparate views to consider.
 - Consider the policy implications of the policy directions paper on the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources.

- Critically review policy direction papers relevant to the topic / chapter of the new RPS.

[23] It is proposed the Reference Groups would be facilitated by an external facilitator specialised in online platforms. Further information on the Reference Group and the EOI process is included with this report, as Attachment 1.

RPS Summary Report

[24] During the drafting of the RPS, a summary report could be prepared and provided to the community and stakeholders for feedback. The purpose of the summary report would be to:

- Provide an overview of the content and key directions for each topic/ domain chapter of the RPS;
- Identify the key differences from the existing ORC Partially Operative RPS and Planning Framework and potential implications of these differences.

[25] A two-week consultation period would seek feedback on the contents of the summary report. This will provide staff with input to finesse the final stages of drafting the RPS, prior to notification.

[26] Three options for the RPS programme have been prepared and none anticipate completing the phase 2 consultation online, or in any other way. All three options work to achieve notification in November 2020 but two risk achieving that deadline. All options provide a lawful process to notification of the RPS.

[27] In summary the three options are:

- A. A status quo approach which would see staff work internally to develop the draft RPS with little to no external input through drafting (with the exception being targeted one on one discussions where needed for example with TA's and Iwi, and Port Otago in relation to management of the coastal environment). This approach maintains notification of the RPS in November 2020.
- B. Incorporating reference groups but still minimising the impact on the programme as much as possible. This option may result in notification in November 2020 but there is a risk it would delay notification and it will require additional resources.
- C. Incorporates a consultation process on the RPS Summary Document during the drafting stage of the programme. This option may result in notification in November 2020 but there is a risk it would delay notification 2020 and it will required additional resources.

[28] Each of the programmes are included in this report as Attachment 2. Set out below are the key features, benefits and risks of each option.

Option A

[29] Key features:

- Programme noted by the Strategy and Policy Committee in January 2020 is largely delivered.

- No policy direction papers prepared, rather staff move straight to preparing draft RPS and documentation.
- The compact work programme is delivered within existing budget.
- Achieves all statutory obligations for consultation.

[30] Benefits:

- Meets the Ministers recommendation of notifying a new RPS by November 2020.
- Leaves substantial arguments between parties to the submission and hearing process

[31] Risks:

- Little to no involvement or testing of the draft RPS with external parties.
- Council fails to adopt the draft RPS or delays notification substantially in favour of late pre-notification consultation.
- Limited opportunity for resolution of complex issues in the programme.

Option B

[32] Key features:

- Two tranches of Policy Direction Papers released in two blocks to the RPS Reference Groups.
- Two weeks programmed for the Reference Group processes for each block.
- Compact work programme will require additional resources - approximately 40% more than currently forecast.
- Reliant on specialist input from a facilitator to run the reference groups.
- Meets statutory obligations for consultation but possibly not notification.

[33] Benefits:

- Reference groups provide the opportunity for input during drafting stages.
- Minimal change to original work programme timelines.
- Possible enhancement of the draft RPS prior to notification.

[34] Risks:

- An opportunity for wider community consultation is not provided prior to notification because the consultation is targeted.
- Council later decides insufficient pre-notification consultation has occurred and/or fails to adopt the RPS for notification on time.
- Ministers expectations may not be met.
- A number of reference groups happening at once, across two tranches, may place pressure on any members who may be in more than one reference group.

Option C

[35] Key features:

- RPS Summary Report prepared prior to notification to seek feedback on key directions.
- Two weeks programmed for the RPS Summary Report consultation.

- Compact work programme will require additional resources - approximately 40% more than currently forecast.
- Statutory obligations for consultation are met but notification is possibly delayed

[36] Benefits:

- Opportunity for wider community input through the consultation on the RPS Summary Document.
- Minimal delay to original work programme timelines.

[37] Risks:

- Community and stakeholder input will be on key direction and content of the RPS, rather than input into drafting detail and may not meet expectations of some community members.
- Notification may be delayed and the Ministers expectations not met.
- Extra costs and resources may outweigh the benefit of the process depending on response from community to the consultation.

CONSIDERATIONS

Policy Considerations

- [38] The RPS sets the framework for the review of the ORC Regional Plans, including the Regional Plan Water, Regional Plan Coast and Regional Plan Air, as well as territorial authority plans.
- [39] All options will result in the RPS being notified in sufficient time as to allow for the LWRP Review to be notified by the end of 2023. This will avoid the risk that limited time between an operative RPS and a notified LWRP may lead to more rework before it can be notified. However, with all options it is anticipated that at least 12 months will be available for the an operative RPS to inform the programme for the LWRP.
- [40] It should be noted that the assumptions applying to all the programmes post notification applies the current RMA process and any impact of a potential Environment Court proceeding is difficult to estimate. However, should the current RMA Amendments be approved to include a new pathway for the RPS to the newly created Freshwater Hearings Panel, then the timing post notification is likely to be more streamlined. The use of the new Panel increases the likelihood of an operative RPS prior to 2023.

Financial Considerations

- [41] The RPS Review is unbudgeted for the 2019/20 financial year, and forecasts have been prepared for the 20/21 year.
- [42] The RPS Review is unbudgeted for the 2019/20 financial year, and forecasts have been prepared for the 20/21 year. All options except Option A will require additional budget beyond that which is currently anticipated and included in the Annual Plan. We did anticipate some level of consultant support for the first quarter of the 20/21 year. This will need to be increased to support Options B and C, and to cover existing position vacancies within the team. It is anticipated this will be approximately \$180,000.

- [43] Given the implications of Covid-19, any additional resources will have an impact on budgets and Council will need to be mindful when considering the Annual Plan. Also additional resources may not be readily available in the marketplace given COVID-19 restrictions and changes in circumstances for individuals.

Significance and Engagement

- [44] All options contain engagement process which are consistent with the Significance and Engagement Policy and will incorporate input from a range of stakeholders and community. Options B and C incorporate additional consultation in the form of either Reference Groups or the RPS Summary Document.
- [45] Further, the formal notification of the RPS will also ensure consistency with the Significance and Engagement Policy. The work plan is considered significant and the communications and engagement plan covers a range of stakeholders to ensure a wide range of perspectives is obtained. If necessary, the communications and engagement plan will be updated following to reflect Councils decision. The formal Schedule 1 notification process also addresses the requirements in the Significance and Engagement Policy.

Legislative Considerations

- [46] The Act requires that, at all times, regional councils must have an RPS in place; Sections 59-62 of the Act set out the requirements for and process by which Regional Councils must prepare an RPS, and the First Schedule of the Act sets out the process for the preparation, change and review of policy statements and plans. All options for programme review are consistent with all legislative requirements under the First Schedule of the Act.

Risk Considerations

- [47] The Minister's expectations, informed by the Skelton Review and Report, direct that before a new Water Plan can be developed, Council must have an updated operative RPS in place. This properly reflects the hierarchy in the RMA. Therefore, the programme of the RPS potentially has an impact on the programme for the Water Plan Review.
- [48] All options minimise the risk to the Water Plan review. In splitting up the work programme of the RPS by chapter / topic, the Water and Land chapter can be one of the first prepared. This will enable input to assist the Freshwater and Land team early in the planning of the Water Plan review programme. However, it is important to note that, until the RPS is operative, the final policy direction for Water and Land, as with all other domains, will not be fully settled. This risk diminishes the further through the process the revised RPS is but remains until it is operative.
- [49] Budget and resources constraints, including having to divert resources, remains a risk for the RPS. To date we have been unsuccessful in recruiting for an existing vacancy within the team. We have also appointed a consultant to support the team. In delivering any of the options additional support will be required from the consultant.

NEXT STEPS

- [50] Pending the decision by Council, the team will implement the preferred option. Staff are also finalising a summary report of the information gathered during phase one and

two of the consultation already undertaken. This report will be provided to the Strategy & Planning Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

1. RPS Draft Reference Group EOI and Methodology [8.5.1 - 4 pages]
2. Updated RPS Programme Options [8.5.2 - 3 pages]

RPS Reference Group – Call for Expressions of Interest

Purpose

ORC is preparing a new RPS, and as part of the process they are interested in seeking feedback during the drafting stage to inform and fine tune the policy direction of the RPS. We are seeking suitably interested, qualified and/or experienced persons to participate in a series of reference group meetings, each reflecting the topic / chapter of the new RPS.

Objectives

The objectives for the RPS Reference Groups will be to:

- Provide input into policy direction, based on the knowledge and experience they bring to each particular topic. The reference groups will not aim to reach consensus but rather provide ORC with input, sometimes disparate views to consider. However, with this being said where there is the opportunity for consensus on an approach this will be explored during the online facilitated discussion.
- Consider the policy implications of the policy directions paper on the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources.
- Critically review policy direction papers relevant to the topic / chapter of the new RPS.

It is intended that each group will be governed by the following principles:

- Agree to meet the timeframes set for reference groups in the RPS programme.
- Work together in small groups (approximately 10 people), with participants covering the key knowledge and expertise required for each topic.
- Participate in a facilitated online group discussion to discuss the relevant topic / chapter; and.
- Provide individual written feedback to ORC.

Participation Ground Rules and process for engagement

The reference groups, on each topic will be scheduled to run as per the timetable below.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Key skills / expertise</i>
Land and Freshwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use / farm systems (note we will be looking for representation across each of Councils five Freshwater Management Units and a variety of different land use types) • Urban infrastructure • Water quantity • Water quality • Ecology • Hydrology • Rural catchment groups • Three waters
Ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecologist • Rural land use

Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discharging industries • Public health • Home heating / combustion • Building consenting
Energy, infrastructure and transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry representative – oil, port, transport, energy, mining
Historical and cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage experts • Cultural heritage • Iwi • Land use / farming / historic industry
Urban form and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architect • Urban designer • Planner
Natural character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape architect • Hydrologist
Natural features and landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape architect
Hazards and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change • Hazards scientist • Engineering expert • Urban development • Infrastructure provision
Integrated management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning
Coastal Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal scientist • Fisheries • Tourism operator • Ecologist

Commitment from participants will involve:

- Critically review the policy direction paper and provide written comments within the 2 week timeframe. A feedback form will be available for comments, or participants can prepare their own written response.
- Participation in an online facilitate discussion of up to a half a day in duration. Participation will be conducted in a respectful manner, providing other participants with the opportunity fully express their views. An inability to conduct oneself in this manner will not be tolerated by the facilitator.

Participant Requirements – time and resource commitment

We are seeking expressions of interest from persons with the following skills:

- The ability to digest information and policy direction and advise on how best to address their issues of concern.
- An understanding or experience in the topic of relevance to the reference group. See the attached table with key skills and expertise listed for each the of the reference groups.
- The ability to provide advice which is future focussed to meet the needs of resource management now and in the future.
- A positive approach to being involved in the management of natural resources in Otago.

- Familiarity in working in a collaborative and respectful for environment.

What we don't want:

- We do not want partial availability, or those with restrictions that would result in the timeframes of the reference group not being met. Representatives will need to participate fully in the online facilitated discussion and follow up written comments. We are also seeking people with particular expertise rather than professional affiliation.

How will we select participants?

Applicants will be selected against the following criteria:

- Have an intimate understanding or expertise in the topic area.
- Have community and/or stakeholder connections across a number of associated networks.
- Have the ability and supporting tools to participate in the online facilitated discussion.
- Have demonstrated they have the required skills to fulfil the role.

The process of selection will be undertaken by a selected panel, featuring 2 Elected Members and two ORC staff members (one Executive member). All applications will be reviewed by the panel, with individual short lists of up to 10 participants prepared by each member. A meeting to discuss the shared shortlisted participants will be undertaken with the aim to finalise a list of participants for each reference group. If necessary, further information may be sought by the governing body from interested individuals.

The panel will be looking to ensure the reference groups have a good representation from across the relevant section, rural / urban locations and a wide range of experience and expertise. Iwi representatives and that of the Territorial Authorities will be in addition to those selected through the EOI process.

All applicants will be advised within two weeks of the close of EOI whether they are successful or not.

It should be noted that if you are not successful, this is not the only opportunity to provide input into the process. Following notification the formal consultation process under the RMA will begin and further opportunity to submit on the RPS is provided then.

If you are successful in your Expression of Interest this doesn't not prejudice or preclude you from making further submissions on the RPS in the process set out above.

How to express an interest in participating in the Reference Group?

To express an interest in participating in this opportunity, please fill out EOI form, and provide the following written response:

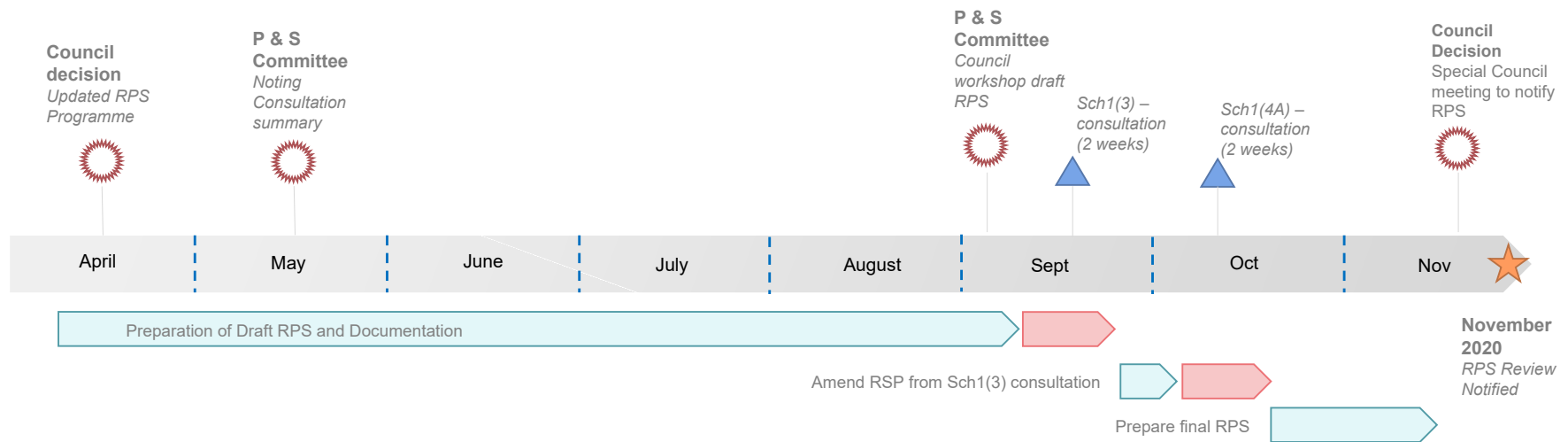
- Your full name, postal address, email address, phone number
- Identification of the reference group you are expressing your interest to be part of
- Information about who you are, your background and experience in the relevant topic of the reference group.
- Confirmation that you are able to commit to the timeframes and have access to the necessarily technology to participate in the online facilitated discussion
- What personal qualities you think you would bring to the reference group

- What communities, stakeholders, networks that you have linkages with

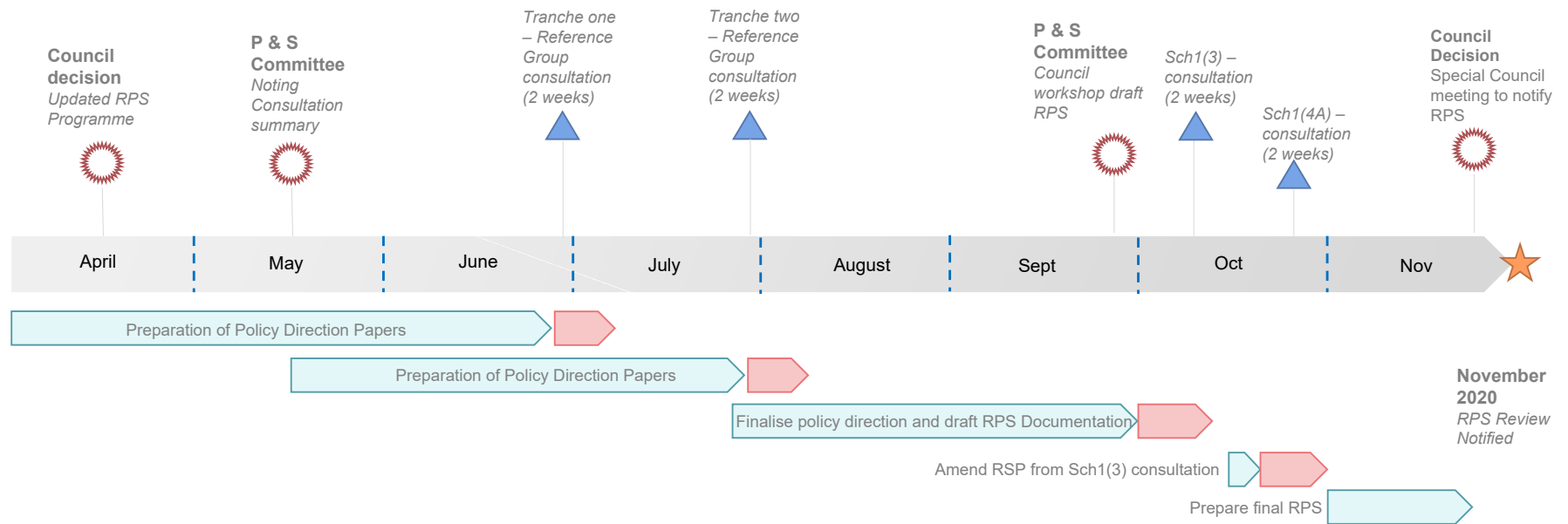
We ask that responses are no longer than 2 pages. If we need to clarify anything we will call you. Responses longer than 2 pages will not be considered.

DRAFT

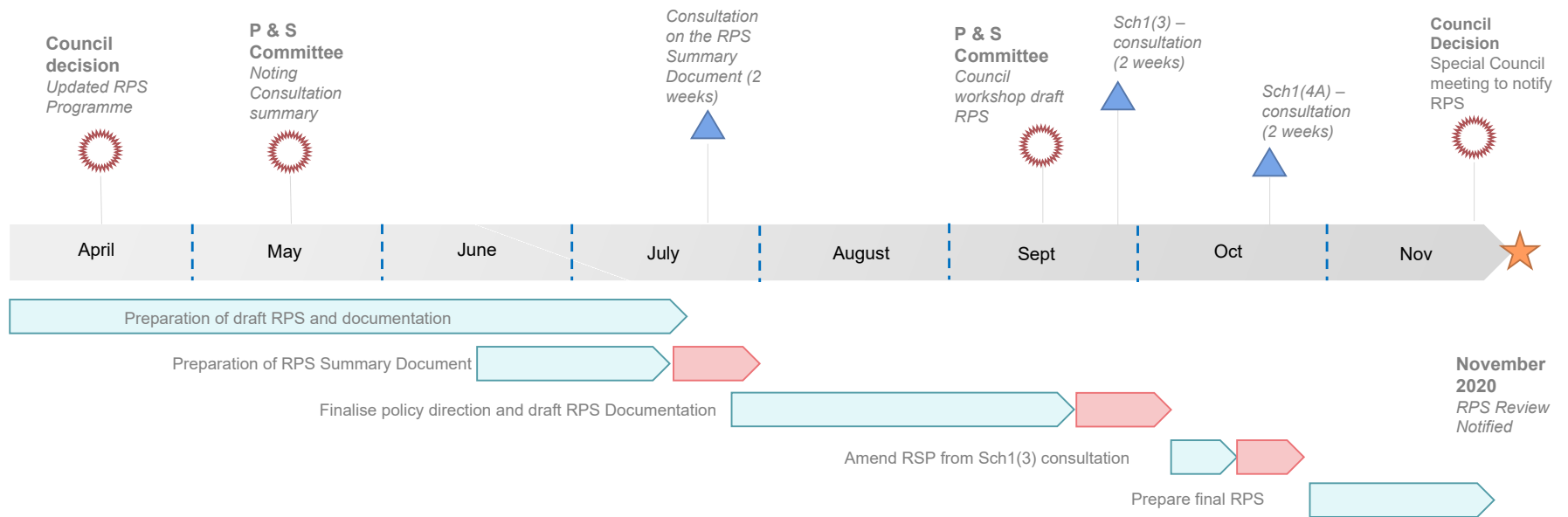
RPS Programme Milestones – Option A



RPS Programme Milestones – Option B



RPS Programme Milestones – Option C



9.1. Progress report to Minister Parker

Prepared for:	Council
Report No.	P&S1843
Activity:	Governance Report
Author:	Anita Dawe, Acting Planning Manager
Endorsed by:	Gwyneth Elsum, General Manager Strategy, Policy and Science
Date:	14 April 2020

PURPOSE

- [1] To present, for adoption by Council, the first progress report to the Minister for the Environment, Hon David Parker, in accordance with section 27 of the Resource Management Act 1991, in relation to the recommendations made under section 24A of the Resource Management Act 1991.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [2] The Minister for the Environment wrote to the Otago Regional Council on 18 November 2019, setting out several recommendations regarding the development of a fit for purpose planning framework for Otago. Part of that letter requires a formal report, every six months, on progress against three measures. The first report is due with the Minister by 30 April 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Approves** the report to the Minister for the Environment (included as Appendix 1) reporting on progress against the recommendations contained in his letter of 18 November 2019; and
- 3) **Notes** that the next report will be required to be provided by 31 October 2020.

BACKGROUND

- [3] By letter dated 16 May 2019, the Minister for the Environment appointed Professor Peter Skelton to review the planning and consenting functions at the Otago Regional Council. The culmination of that review was a series of three recommendations, which were contained in a letter from the Minister, and received by the Council on 18 November 2019.
- [4] Those recommendations were to:
1. *Take all necessary steps to develop a fit for purpose freshwater management planning regime that gives effect to the relevant national instruments and sets a*

coherent framework for assessing all water consent applications, including those that are to replace any deemed permits;

2. *Develop and adopt a programme of work to achieve the following*
 - i. *By November 2020, a complete review of the current RPS that is publicly notified, with the intention that it is made operative before the review of its LWRP is notified;*
 - ii. *By 31 December 2023, a new LWRP for Otago that includes region wide objectives, strategic policies, region-wide activity policies, and provisions for each of the Freshwater Management Units, covering all catchments within the region.*
3. *Prepare a Plan Change by 31 March 2020 that will provide an adequate interim planning and consenting framework to manage freshwater up until the time that new discharge and allocation limits are set, in line with the requirements in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.*

- [5] The Minister also formally requested, under section 27, that the ORC provides him with six-monthly update reports in relation to the following matters:
- *Progress made in developing science, planning, consenting, monitoring and enforcement, and land management organisational capability and capacity;*
 - *Progress in achieving the [above] recommendations 1, 2 and 3; and*
 - *A summary of freshwater resource consenting activity for the reporting period.*

- [6] The first report is due by 30 April 2020 and is the basis for this paper.

ISSUE and DISCUSSION

- [7] Since receiving the Ministers' report in November, and formally accepting the recommendations at the December Council meeting, staff have been working to implement the recommendations.
- [8] A full report is appended but in summary, against the formal request above, the following has been undertaken:
- Significant progress has been made in developing organisational capacity and capability across planning, science, environmental monitoring, consents and compliance monitoring. A new manager is in place in land management area (Rural Liaison and Biosecurity).
 - Considerable progress has been made against recommendations 1,2 and 3 in relation to the planning framework. In particular, plan change 6AA is ready to be made operative, Plan Change 7 to manage water permits, including deemed permits, was adopted by Council and publicly notified in March this year. The Omnibus Plan Change, which is intended to address policy gaps in the Regional Plan: Water in light of Plan Change 6AA, has been developed to the point of notification. Both Plan Change 7 and the Omnibus Plan Change are now subject to call-in Directions by the Minister.
 - In addition, a comprehensive work programme to review the current Regional Policy Statement has commenced. The review of the current RPS has been completed, and staff are now working on developing policy papers to address all domain areas as outlined in the National Planning Standards.

- Work has continued in the Manuherehia Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) with governance, process and approaches for the delivery of the development of the full review of the Water Plan also underway. This includes the development of a co-governance structure with Ngāi Tahu for delivery of the full review of the Land and Water Plan for notification in 2023.
- A summary of freshwater consenting has been prepared and is included in the attached report.

CONSIDERATIONS

Policy Considerations

- [9] There are no particular policy considerations as a result of this paper. The policy considerations relate to the planning work programme and will be considered on a case by case basis, as the work programme is implemented.

Financial Considerations

- [10] There are no particular financial considerations in relation to this paper. The report to the Minister can be accommodated within existing budgets.

Significance and Engagement

- [11] This paper does not trigger the Significance and Engagement Threshold.

Legislative Considerations

- [12] The Minister has requested a formal response under section 27 of the Resource Management Act 1991. Section 27 *Minister May Require Local Authorities to Provide Certain Information* outlines the circumstances under which he may request information and the criteria for local authorities to provide it. There are no particular additional legislative requirements to consider in relation to this reporting.

Risk Considerations

- [13] There are no particular risks associated with the report.

NEXT STEPS

- [14] The next steps are to continue to implement the work programme and prepare for the report due 31 October 2020.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Report to Minister 30 April 2020 - Final [9.1.1 - 5 pages]

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment
Private Bag 18041
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

22 April 2020

BY EMAIL

Dear Minister Parker

Report under Section 27 of the Resource Management Act 1991

In accordance with your letter of 18 November 2019, the following comprises the Otago Regional Councils' first report back to you, in accordance with Section 27 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act) and your recommendations pursuant to Section 24 of the Act as contained in the above-mentioned letter.

This report will address the following:

- *Progress made in developing science, planning, consenting, monitoring and enforcement, and land management organisational capability and capacity; and*
- *Progress in achieving the [above] recommendations 1, 2 and 3 (copied below for ease of reference):*
 1. *Take all necessary steps to develop a fit for purpose freshwater management planning regime that gives effect to the relevant national instruments and sets a coherent framework for assessing all water consent applications, including those that are to replace any deemed permits;*
 2. *Develop and adopt a programme of work to achieve the following*
 - i. *By November 2020, a complete review of the current RPS that is publicly notified, with the intention that it is made operative before the review of its LWRP is notified;*
 - ii. *By 31 December 2023, a new LWRP for Otago that includes region wide objectives, strategic policies, region-wide activity policies, and provisions for each of the Freshwater Management Units, covering all catchments within the region.*
 3. *Prepare a Plan Change by 31 March 2020 that will provide an adequate interim planning and consenting framework to manage freshwater up until the time that new discharge and allocation limits are set, in line with the requirements in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management; and;*
- *A summary of freshwater resource consenting activity for the reporting period.*

Progress Made in Developing Science, Planning, Consenting, Monitoring and Enforcement, and Land Management Organisational Capability and Capacity

The following table outlines the particular improvements in each of the areas specifically identified in your report.

Area	Capacity	Capability	Other
Science	<p>Completed consultation on proposed restructures in both Science and Environmental Monitoring teams to reflect contemporary requirements and enable improvements in cross team collaboration and resource allocation.</p> <p>Temporary utilisation of consultants for consent work to enable existing staff to respond to planning work.</p>	<p>Additional Coastal Scientist on staff.</p> <p>Additional Freshwater Ecologist on staff.</p> <p>Created and recruiting new position for land management/agricultural scientist.</p> <p>Created new positions in science and monitoring teams for biodiversity (terrestrial ecology, ecosystems & wetlands).</p>	<p>Implementation underway on a new environmental data management system at a commitment of over \$1 million (including staff time).</p> <p>Created new position for air monitoring in Environmental Monitoring team.</p>
Planning	<p>Specialist freshwater and policy planning consultants engaged to assist with the Omnibus Plan Change and RPS Review.</p> <p>Added positions to the planning team.</p>	<p>Oversight role of planning work by experienced consultant engaged in Principal Planner role to upskill & mentor.</p> <p>Specialised legal support is being provided through leading resource management law firms.</p>	<p>Two current offers of employment active to fill vacancies in the Freshwater & Land, and RPS, Air & Coast teams respectively.</p> <p>An economist has been employed by the ORC to support, among other things, the planning development work being undertaken.</p>
Consenting	<p>Since November 2019 6 extra consents staff employed (one Senior Consents Officer; 4 Consents Officers and one Consent Support Officer).</p> <p>A Team Leader (Coastal) has been employed on a short-term contract basis.</p> <p>Two additional consultants engaged to</p>	<p>Internal staff training programmes in place, utilising a range of sources.</p> <p>Training provided on operating under notified and operative plans; Plan Change 7 to the Water Plan and general case law updates that affect practice.</p>	<p>All resource consent forms and application information have been reviewed and updated as necessary. This includes the development of a help sheet for water permit applicants (in development).</p>

	assist with capacity and to ensure statutory timeframes are met.		
Monitoring & Enforcement	<p>Since November 2019 4 extra staff employed in the System and Administration team to undertake water use reviews and data analysis for water take consents.</p> <p>An additional 4 staff appointed to compliance to assist with on the ground inspections of consents and permits.</p>	<p>Compliance staff have been recruited based on their specialist knowledge dealing with wastewater treatment plants.</p> <p>Compliance will develop functional leads for activities such as water permits and water consents to help develop improved capability.</p>	<p>New processes are being developed for water data reviews alongside the implementation of the new data management system.</p> <p>Development of process documents for compliance work associated with water consents and permits</p>
Land Management		<p>Focus of rural liaison team moving toward providing on farm advice.</p> <p>Dedicated \$200k (2020/21) in funding for catchment group work, to assist with on farm improvements and increased understanding.</p> <p>Created, recruited and filled position to work in contract management and assist ORC to work with catchment groups.</p>	<p>New manager position created, recruited and filled for Rural Liaison and Biosecurity teams.</p>

Progress in Achieving the specified recommendations

The particular recommendations as outlined in the original letter, and ORC's response, to date, is detailed below:

Action	Response
Take all necessary steps to develop a fit for purpose freshwater management planning regime that gives effect to the relevant national instruments and sets a coherent framework for assessing all water consent applications,	<p>This action is ORC's medium-term work programme, to implement the NPSFM.</p> <p>The development of Plan Change 6AA and the Omnibus Plan Change were the first steps in this programme. Both recognise existing gaps in the policy framework for managing water quality and provide short term solutions to better manage</p>

<p>including those that are to replace any deemed permits.</p>	<p>water quality until a full review of the Regional Plan: Water for Otago (RPW) has been undertaken.</p> <p>Plan Change 6AA will be made operative on 16 May 2020. The Omnibus Plan Change has been developed to the point of notification by staff and has now officially been called-in by the Minister.</p>
<p>Develop & adopt a programme of work to achieve the following:</p>	
<p><i>By November 2020, a complete review of the current RPS that is publicly notified, with the intention that it be made operative before the review of the LWRP is notified</i></p>	<p>The review of the current RPS has been completed, and staff are now working on developing policy papers to address all domain areas as outlined in the National Planning Standards. The review of the RPS has highlighted policy gaps and weaknesses with the current RPS which provides a useful starting point for the review.</p> <p>Consultants with policy development experience, and experience working on developing the National Planning Standards, have been engaged to assist staff. These consultants have also been assisting ORC through managing appeals to the Queenstown Lakes District Plan and so have particular experience with implementing ORC's current RPS.</p> <p>A work programme to enable notification of the RPS by November 2020 was agreed by Council in January 2020. Since that time, the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that the work programme is being revised for approval by Council at its meeting of 22 April 2020.</p> <p><i>This action point is partially completed and will be reported on in the next six monthly update.</i></p>
<p><i>By 31 December 2023, a new LWRP for Otago that includes objectives, strategic policies, region-wide activity policies, & provisions for each of the FMU's, covering all catchments within the region</i></p>	<p>Staff are currently are developing an approach to manage the region-wide activity direction which will build on the existing Regional Plan Water, incorporate relevant outstanding provisions from the Regional Plan: Waste, and be drafted to comply with the National Planning Standards.</p> <p>Staff are also working with iwi to develop appropriate governance structures to ensure region wide activities and provisions for each FMUs are managed effectively throughout the development of the LWRP.</p> <p>Five FMU's were approved by Council in April 2019, as outlined in the Progressive Implementation Programme adopted in October 2018. Work on the Manuherekia, Arrow and Cardrona FMUs continues.</p> <p><i>This action point is partially completed and will be reported on in the next six monthly update.</i></p>
<p>Prepare a Plan Change by 31 March 2020 that will provide an adequate interim planning &</p>	<p>Plan Change 7 (Water Permits) was adopted by Council on 11 March 2020 and publicly notified on 18 March. Due to the impact of Covid19, the period for receiving submissions has</p>

<p>consenting framework to manage freshwater up until the time that new discharge and allocation limits are set, in line with requirements in the NPSFM.</p>	<p>been extended until 4 May 2020, and Plan Change 7 has now officially been called-in by the Minister.</p> <p>The Water Permits Plan Change has been designed to provide a short-term planning framework for all surface water and hydraulically connected groundwater consents that were coming up for renewal between the date of notification and 31 December 2025.</p> <p><i>While this action point is now considered fully satisfied, ORC will continue to report on the progress of the plan change until it is made operative.</i></p>
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Summary of Freshwater Resource Consenting Activity – for the period 1 November 2019 – 9 April 2020

The following is a summary of the freshwater resource consenting activity for the reporting period:

- Between 1 November 2019 and 9 April 2020 the Otago Regional Council received 51 applications for water take consents. These applications are being processed as 70 separate resource consents, with 18 for taking groundwater and 52 for taking surface water. Of the 51 applications, 15 relate to the replacement of Deemed Permits.
- From the 51 applications lodged between 1 November 2019 and 9 April 2020 the Council issued 16 resource consents, 11 for taking groundwater and 5 for taking surface water. The remaining 54 resource consents are currently being processed. The Council also issued a further 8 resource consents relating to applications lodged before 1 November 2019. These include 1 resource consent for taking groundwater and 7 for taking surface water. Of the 24 resource consents issued, 3 related to the replacement of Deemed Permits.
- In total, the Council is currently processing 80 applications for water take consents. These applications are being processed as 113 Resource Consents, with 8 for taking groundwater and 105 for taking surface water. Of the 80 Applications, 29 relate to the replacement of Deemed Permits.
- Between 1 November 2019 and 9 April 2020 no applications relating to taking water were publicly notified, and 7 applications were limited notified.
- There are currently 340 active Deemed Permits in the Otago Region.

Next Steps

ORC will continue to progress its RPS review and the development of the LWRP and will next report progress back to you by 31 October 2020.

In the interim, if you have any questions or need further clarification, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Anita Dawe (anita.dawe@orc.govt.nz; or 021 445 993).

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Gardner