

# Rabbit Management Plan

Otago Regional Pest Management Plan (2019-2029) (RPMP)	
<p><b>Objective 6.4.6</b></p> <p>Over the duration of the Plan, implement sustained control of feral rabbits to ensure population levels do not exceed Level 3 on the Modified McLean Scale<sup>1</sup> in order to minimize adverse effects on production and environmental values within the Otago region.</p>	<p><b>Rule 6.4.6.1</b></p> <p>An occupier within the Otago region shall control feral rabbit densities on the land they occupy to at or below Level 3 on the Modified McLean Scale. A breach of this rule creates an offence under section 154N (19) of the Act.</p>
Property and Landowner/ Occupier Details	
<b>Property Address</b>	<p><b>Map</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insert map of property</li> <li>- Indicate any existing and planned rabbit netted fencing</li> </ul>
<b>Landowner / Occupier</b> <Please highlight one>	
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
Control History	
<p>Please outline rabbit control measures previously/ currently undertaken on the property</p>	

<sup>1</sup> Refer p. 4 for Modified McLean Scale

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## Proposed Control

*Describe the rabbit control measures that will be undertaken during the year to comply with the Otago Regional Pest Management Plan (2019-2029) Rule 6.4.6*

## Areas of property to be treated

*Insert/attach a map/diagram showing where on the property these control measures will be carried out*

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## Timing of Control Measures

*Please specify when the control measures will be undertaken*

## Contractor's Details

*If using a contractor, who will be carrying out the control measures*

**Signed by Landowner/Occupier:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** / /

## Useful Information

For more information on rabbit management visit the Pest Hub: [orc.govt.nz/rabbits](http://orc.govt.nz/rabbits)

## The Modified McLean Scale (MMS)

The Modified McLean Scale (MMS) is a scale used by councils to determine rabbit population levels through examining rabbit sign. It helps with regulation to make sure landowners are managing rabbit numbers to a level set in the Regional Pest Management Plan. Otago's Regional Pest Management Plan has set the scale for Otago at a maximum of level 3.

As a rule of thumb, if you see groups of rabbit droppings less than 10 metres apart, there's a problem and you need to take action.

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

Table: Modified McLean Scale (Credit: National Pest Control Agencies).

For advice, please contact our biosecurity staff at [biosecurity@orc.govt.nz](mailto:biosecurity@orc.govt.nz).