

# Biosecurity Operational Plan

## 2022-2023



*Implementing the Otago Regional Pest Management Plan  
2019-2029*

## Executive Summary

Under the Biosecurity Act (1993), the Otago Regional Council (ORC) is the regional management agency responsible for biosecurity and pest control. To achieve this regulatory function, the ORC has developed the *Otago Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029* (RPMP) which sets rules for land occupiers to control pests to set levels. This Biosecurity Operational Plan annualises the objectives of the RPMP for the 2022-2023 financial year.

The ORC engages with occupiers and landowners who are ultimately responsible for pest management. To achieve practicable biosecurity outcomes, the ORC undertakes inspections (to ensure compliance with rules), monitoring (to determine the effectiveness of control) and surveillance (identifying new issues and trends). Furthermore, the ORC takes a lead role in advocacy and education around pest threats, pathways of pest spread and the provision of advice.

This work is supported by close engagement with allied organisations involved in implementing and funding biosecurity across the region, including the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), the Department of Conservation (DoC), Kāi Tahu, other councils and community groups.

Under the RPMP, pest management is classified into five programmes.

- 1. Exclusion pest programme:** the intermediate outcome is to prevent the establishment of six high threat pest plants in the region.
- 2. Eradication pest programme:** the intermediate outcome is to proactively eradicate spiny broom, Bennett's wallaby and rooks from the region.
- 3. Progressive containment pest programme:** the intermediate outcome is to contain or reduce the geographic distribution of 11 pest plants (or groups of plants) across the region.
- 4. Sustained control pest programme:** the intermediate outcome is to enforce ongoing control of rabbits and five widespread pest plants to reduce their impact.
- 5. Site-led pest programmes:** the intermediate outcome is that the listed pests are managed as deemed appropriate for the values of the stated location.

### Priority Pests

The 2022-2023 Biosecurity Operational Plan retains the priority pests from the previous Operational Plan, covering one programme and four pests:

- Exclusion pest programme
- Feral rabbits
- Bennett's wallaby
- Wilding conifers
- Lagarosiphon

The exclusion programme and four pests are of concern to local communities and have heightened adverse effects (current or future) on environmental, economic and social grounds. Consequently, they require a significant investment in resources to either control or prevent their spread.

# Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	ii
Table of Contents.....	iii
<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background.....	1
1.2 Operational plan purpose, duration and linkages.....	1
<b>2. Summary of Regional Pest Management Plan.....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Pest management programmes .....	2
2.2 Methods of Action – how pest management will be carried out .....	2
2.3 Progress of the RPMP .....	4
2.4 Regional Prioritisation of Pest Control .....	4
2.5 Operational Plan Reporting.....	5
<b>3. Pest Management Activities to Enact the RPMP .....</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1 Exclusion pest programme .....	6
3.2 Eradication pest programmes .....	6
3.2.1 <i>Bennett’s wallaby</i> .....	6
3.2.2 <i>Rooks</i> .....	7
3.2.3 <i>Spiny broom</i> .....	7
3.3 Progressive containment pest programmes .....	8
3.3.1 <i>Wilding conifers</i> .....	8
3.3.2 <i>African love grass</i> .....	8
3.3.3 <i>Nassella tussock</i> .....	9
3.3.4 <i>Old Man’s Beard</i> .....	9
3.3.5 <i>Spartina and six containment pest plants</i> .....	9
3.4 Sustained control pest programmes .....	10
3.4.1 <i>Feral rabbits</i> .....	10
3.4.2 <i>Gorse and broom</i> .....	11
3.4.3 <i>Russell Lupin</i> .....	11
3.5 Site-led pest programmes .....	11
3.5.1 <i>Otago Peninsula, West Harbour – Mount Cargill and Quarantine and Goat Islands</i> ....	12
3.5.2 <i>Lagarosiphon</i> .....	12
3.6 Integrated programmes .....	13
3.6.1 <i>Biodiversity Integration</i> .....	13
3.6.2 <i>Shared Pest Programmes</i> .....	14

3.6.3	<i>Pest Programme Engagement</i> .....	14
<b>4.</b>	<b>RPMP Administration</b> .....	<b>16</b>
4.1	Compliance and Enforcement Actions .....	16
4.2	Biosecurity Operational Plan Administration .....	16
<b>5.</b>	<b>Glossary</b> .....	<b>18</b>

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**Version Control**

Version #	Date	Event/Changes made
1	29 June 2022	Council submission and Approval

**Cover Photo**

View from Maungatua (*Photo Credit: G. Golling*)

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Under the Biosecurity Act 1993, the Otago Regional Council (ORC) developed the *Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029* ('the RPMP'). The RPMP is a statutory document that lists specific pests which have the greatest adverse effect on the environment and economy within Otago. In order to control, or eliminate, such adverse effects, the RPMP establishes rules that are legally enforceable. This provides a framework for the effective management of declared pests in the Otago region over the next decade. The RPMP sits alongside the non-statutory ORC Biosecurity Strategy which focuses on the wider biosecurity issues including the collaboration with stakeholders to manage pests.

The key purpose of the RPMP is to outline how the identified pests will be managed to reduce or remove their threat 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 relevant advice, service delivery, regulatory enforcement and funding provisions as provided by the Biosecurity Act.

The RPMP identifies 30 plants (or groups of plants) and 11 animals (or groups of animals) as pests. Except for designated pests, where the ORC may coordinate and undertake direct control, the responsibility for pest control rests with occupiers and landowners.

The responsibility of the ORC focuses on advocacy and education, supported by inspections, monitoring and surveillance. As the designated Management Agency under the Biosecurity Act, the ORC enforces the RPMP rules to ensure occupiers and landowners are aware of and meet their obligations for pest management on their properties by adhering to RPMP rules.

## 1.2 Operational plan purpose, duration and linkages

Under the Biosecurity Act, the ORC is required to prepare an annual Operational Plan that implements the RPMP. The Operational Plan is a publicly available document and is reported on each year to Council.

This document (*the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2022-2023*) outlines the nature, scope and priority activities that ORC intends to undertake for pest management across the Otago region for the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 through to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The key purpose of this Operational Plan is to identify what will be delivered during the 2022-2023 financial year in terms of prioritisation and the associated actions to implement the RPMP. For context, it is essential that this Operational Plan is read in conjunction with the RPMP, as well as the supporting context of the Biosecurity Strategy.

An important linkage with this Operational Plan is the increasing integration with biodiversity outcomes and wider catchment management planning.

## 2. Summary of Regional Pest Management Plan

### 2.1 Pest management programmes

The RPMP is implemented through five pest management programmes<sup>1</sup>, as summarised below. The pests listed under each programme are given in Table 1.

1. **Exclusion:** The objective is to ensure specific pests that are present in New Zealand do not become established in Otago. Under Section 100V of the Biosecurity Act, there is provision to implement emergency controls for any incursion of a new pest that are not listed in the RPMP.
2. **Eradication:** The objective is to eradicate identified pests from the areas where they occur in the region. Eradication involves reducing the infestation of the pest to zero density.
3. **Progressive Containment:** The objective is to contain and reduce the geographic spread of the listed pests to specific areas. Containment arises where the pest is at high densities in specific parts of the Otago region, but in low densities or limited range in other parts. While eradication is not feasible, it is realistic to contain the pest from spreading to other 'clear' parts of the region.
4. **Sustained Control:** The objective is for ongoing control of the listed pests to reduce their impacts and spread to other properties. The focus is to manage the densities of the pests to ensure they do not reach a level where they cause significant environmental impact. Sustained control is a strategy for pests with a wide geographical spread that they cannot feasibly be eradicated.
5. **Site-led:** The objective is to exclude, or eradicate, from identified locations or to contain, reduce or control within those places.

### 2.2 Methods of Action – how pest management will be carried out

The ORC achieves practicable pest management outcomes through the following methods and provision of resources. Table 1 outlines which pest and programmes are related to each method.

1. **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 ensure land occupiers are informed of their responsibilities under the RPMP. 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.
2. **Inspection, monitoring and surveillance:** Regular property inspections ensure that RPMP rules are being adhered to. The focus is to achieve voluntary compliance first before enforcement action is initiated. Monitoring is carried out to determine effectiveness of control and to understand trends of infestations. Surveillance activities focus on protecting the region from the incursion of new pests.

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<sup>1</sup> As prescribed by the National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015.

3. **Collaboration with others:** ORC works with landowner/occupier groups and central and local government agencies to develop consistent approaches for the effective management of pests.
4. **Requirement to Act (regulation):** RPMP rules are the ‘backbone’ of the pest management. These rules require identified pests to be controlled to specified standards or levels. Failure to comply with RPMP rules can lead to enforcement action by ORC.
5. **Service delivery:** In some cases, where special expertise is required, or coordinated control gives benefits to a specific area, direct control (service delivery) may be undertaken by the ORC. Service delivery includes providing appropriate control tools (e.g. traps, chemicals) and the approved release of biological control agents.

**Table 1: Pests listed in RPMP and associated Methods of Action**

Pest	Advocacy and education	Inspections, monitoring & surveillance	Collaboration with others	Requirement to Act	Service delivery
<b>Exclusion</b>					
African feather grass	✓	✓	✓		
Chilean needle grass	✓	✓	✓		
Egeria	✓	✓	✓		
False tamarisk	✓	✓	✓		
Hornwort	✓	✓	✓		
Moth plant	✓	✓	✓		
<b>Eradication</b>					
Bennett’s wallaby	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>1</sup>
Rooks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>1</sup>
Spiny broom	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>1</sup>
<b>Progressive containment</b>					
African love grass	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>1</sup>
Nassella tussock	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Old man’s beard	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Spartina	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>2</sup>
Six containment plants <sup>4</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>2</sup>
Wilding conifers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>3</sup>
<b>Sustained control</b>					
Gorse and broom	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Nodding thistle & ragwort	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Russell lupin	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Feral rabbits	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Site-Led</b>					
<b>Pests contextual to Identified Locations</b>	For site-led programmes, pests are contextual to the geographical areas. Pests of concern are identified in the RPMP and listed in the site-led annual project plans. Site-led project plans are formally part of this Operational Plan.				
[1] ORC will facilitate direct control where agreed with occupiers.					
[2] ORC will facilitate direct control, only where access, spraying or safety issues require expert involvement.					
[3] ORC will facilitate or undertake direct control as required, and alongside established groups.					
[4] The six containment plants are: Bomarea, Boneseed, Bur daisy, Cape Ivy, Perennial nettle, White-edged nightshade					

## 2.3 Progress of the RPMP

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The RPMP is a 10-year plan. The biosecurity space is dynamic, with changes occurring within the 10 years due to environmental and ecological conditions and as a result of the actions undertaken to implement the RPMP and Biosecurity Strategy. In addition, significant increase in funding has been afforded to biosecurity activities under the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. This has reshaped the capacity to deliver programmes.

This Operational Plan builds on the lessons from the previous year, with the following emphasis:

- Stronger integration with catchment management and biodiversity outcomes to guide biosecurity programmes more strategically.
- A greater emphasis on the analysis and assessment to evaluate the progress and effectiveness of biosecurity programmes.
- Continuation of engagement and co-ordination with occupiers and landowners around feral rabbits, especially in peri-urban areas and lifestyle blocks.
- Exploring other potential pests (e.g. marine)
- Implementing updated operating procedures to ensure compliance as provided through the Biosecurity Act.
- Strengthening compliance administration for all pests, especially rabbits.
- Increase wilding conifer engagement, inspections, compliance, and monitoring.
- Increase wallaby surveillance and liaison with neighbouring councils.
- Continue the adoption of new technology and approaches to improve data collection and analysis of activities in real time.

## 2.4 Regional Prioritisation of Pest Control

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The continuing lessons of pest management across the region have identified one programme and four pests that will be prioritised in the 2022-2023 delivery period. These priority pests are the same as the previous year to enable a greater embedding of outcomes. These pests, and the reasons for prioritisation, are identified in Table 2. Prioritisation of these pests provides a heightened focus, which is supported through greater resourcing and management oversight.

**Table 2: List of priority pests for 2022-2023**

Pest	Programme	Reason to Prioritise
Exclusion Pests	Exclusion	Exclusion of pests not established in Otago is a critical responsibility of the RPMP. To ensure new pests are excluded there is a need to develop and implement a proactive surveillance approach. This will identify pathways of potential spread (e.g. product movement).
Feral rabbits	Sustained Control	Feral rabbits, arguably, generate the most significant ecosystem damage to the environment and production systems within Otago. Feral rabbits terraform a landscape. The Ministry of Primary Industries estimate production-related losses exceed \$50 million per year, on top of control expenses of \$25 million. Other losses include



		destruction of habitat for indigenous flora and fauna, changes to landscape value and impacts on social activities.
<b>Bennett's wallaby</b>	Eradication	Wallabies are an ever-present threat due to their high numbers in neighbouring South Canterbury. As wallabies present a significant environmental to the ecosystem and a production risk to the economy, it is imperative that they are prevented from establishing a foothold in Otago.
<b>Wilding conifers</b>	Progressive containment	Wilding conifers interfere with ecosystems where they can shade out native species. This has consequential effects on the wider environment, especially water availability. From a social perspective, they interrupt Otago's iconic landscape and present a fire risk to farmlands and communities. If not controlled, they will significantly change the landscape, hydrological cycle and conservation values, especially high country and tussock grasslands.
<b>Lagarosiphon</b>	Site-led programme	Lagarosiphon is an aquatic plant pest that threatens the aquatic environment. It is fast growing, displacing and shading out aquatic native plants. Thick areas of lagarosiphon disturb water flows and cause localised deoxygenation of water changing the aquatic ecosystem for animals. Lagarosiphon blocks water bodies, resulting in negative visual effects, reduces recreational activities and chokes water supply intakes. If lagarosiphon is left uncontrolled, large beds can form and wash ashore, leaving an unpleasant heap to decay.

## 2.5 Operational Plan Reporting

Pest management activities are undertaken through a mix of council staff, other agencies, contractors and volunteers. As the lead management agency, 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. ORC also reports to Council implementation performance, including the instances staff have used the powers in the RPMP to enforce rules or act on default.

For some pests within the RPMP, management is led by an external another agency. For example, LINZ is the lead agency for lagarosiphon management and national pest programmes cover wilding conifer and wallabies. In these instances, reporting to funders on progress is a joint responsibility.

The implementation and monitoring of this Operational Plan will be collated each month with targets tracked cumulatively (year-to-date). Reporting will be aggregated quarterly and annually for Council reports, which may include recommendation of changes for future management of identified, and/or potential, pests.

## 3. Pest Management Activities to Enact the RPMP

### 3.1 Exclusion pest programme

#### Regional Priority

The exclusion pest programme is to prevent the establishment of a specified pest that is present in New Zealand but not yet in the Otago region which could have prevent adverse effects on economic well-being and environmental values. While the RPMP lists six exclusion pests, under Section 100V of the Biosecurity Act, there is provision to implement emergency controls for any incursion of a new pest that are not listed in the RPMP.

#### Objective

To prevent the establishment of non-established pests in the Otago region, with a specific focus on six pests (all plants): African feather grass, Chilean needle grass, Egeria, False tamarisk, Hornwort and Moth plant.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Engage with neighbouring regional councils on pest threats	# of meetings with neighbouring regional councils on pest threats	6
Develop and implement exclusion pest response plan	Exclusion pest response plan approved by Council by 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	1

### 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 is described separately in the following subsections due to the different approaches taken.

#### 3.2.1 Bennett's wallaby

#### Regional Priority

#### Objective

Reduce all infestations of Bennett's wallaby to zero density, and prevent further spread, within the Otago region to prevent adverse effects on economic well-being and the environment.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Prompt response to all reported sightings of wallabies	% of sightings inspected within 3 working days of receiving the sighting report	90%
	% of sightings inspected within 10 working days of receiving the sighting report	100%
Surveillance plan for wallabies implemented	Quarterly reporting to relevant Council committee showing progress against the surveillance plan	4
Collaborate with and participate in the national wallaby programme	% of Operational Advisory Group meetings attended	100%
	Fulfil requirements of MPI funding agreement	100%
Analyse wallaby surveillance data and make recommendations for future management	Report to Council by 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	1

### 3.2.2 Rooks

#### *Objective*

Reduce all infestations of rooks to zero density within the Otago region to prevent adverse effects on economic well-being and the environment.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Inspect known rookery locations, including the immediate surrounding areas	# of known rookery locations inspected	50
	If rooks are sighted, control action completed within 3 working days of the inspection.	100%

### 3.2.3 Spiny broom

#### *Objective*

Reduce all infestations of spiny broom to zero density within the Otago region to prevent adverse effects on the environment and economy, focusing on the Waihola, Chain Hills and Brighton areas.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Undertake inspections for spiny broom at known locations and surveillance at potential locations.	# of known and potential locations inspected/surveyed for spiny broom	20
	If spiny broom is sighted, control action is completed within 10 working days of the inspection	100%

### 3.3 Progressive containment pest programmes

The 11 pest plants (or groupings of plants) in this programme are reasonably well established in the region. While eradication is unlikely, it is an aim of the RPMP that pest densities can be progressively reduced.

#### 3.3.1 Wilding conifers

##### Regional Priority

##### Objective

Progressively contain and reduce the geographic extent of wilding conifers within the Otago Region to minimise adverse effects on the environment and economy.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Support landowners to identify wilding conifers	# of landowners provided with wilding conifer identification guides	100
Develop a regional strategy on wilding conifers including communications plan	Strategy adopted by Council by 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	1
Collaborate with and participate in the national wilding conifer programme	% of Operational Advisory Group meetings attended	100%
	Fulfil requirements of MPI funding agreement	100%
Support regional partnerships through funding Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group and Central Otago Wilding Conifer Control Group	Funding disbursed as per agreement	100%

*Note: Any compliance actions are covered under 3.6 Integrated Programmes and 4.1 Compliance and Enforcement Actions.*

#### 3.3.2 African love grass

##### Objective

Progressively contain and reduce the geographic distribution of African love grass at known sites (around Earnscliffe, Clyde, Omakau, Queensbury and Pisa Moorings) within the Otago region to minimise or prevent adverse effects on the environment and economy.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Undertake inspections for African love grass at known infestation locations and surveillance at potential locations	# of known and potential locations inspected/surveyed for African love grass	20
	If African love grass is sighted, control action is commenced within 10 working days of the inspection	100%

### 3.3.3 Nassella tussock

#### Objective

Progressively contain nassella tussock at known locations<sup>2</sup> within the Otago region and reduce the geographic distribution to minimise or prevent adverse effects on the environment and economy.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Inspect known locations for nassella tussock, including the use of remote sensing where applicable	# of known locations inspected for nassella tussock	38
	% of locations re-inspected for nassella tussock that are free of the pest	50%

Note: Further compliance actions are covered under 3.6 Integrated Programmes and 4.1 Compliance and Enforcement Actions.

### 3.3.4 Old Man's Beard

#### Objective

Progressively contain and reduce the geographic distribution of old man's beard within the Otago region to minimise or prevent adverse effects on the environment and economy.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Undertake re-inspections for Old Man's Beard to ascertain compliance	% of properties re-inspected for Old Man's Beard that are free of the pest	50%

Note: Further compliance actions are covered under 3.6 Integrated Programmes and 4.1 Compliance and Enforcement Actions.

### 3.3.5 Spartina and six containment pest plants

#### Objective

Progressively contain and reduce the geographic distribution of bomarea, boneseed, bur daisy, cape ivy, perennial nettle, spartina<sup>3</sup> and white-edged nightshade within the Otago region to minimise or prevent adverse effects on the environment and economy.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Undertake re-inspections for spartina and the six containment plants to ascertain compliance	% of properties re-inspected for spartina or anyone of the six containment plants that are free of the pest(s)	50%

Note: Further compliance actions are covered under 3.6 Integrated Programmes and 4.1 Compliance and Enforcement Actions.

<sup>2</sup> Roxburgh/Alexandra (Galloway and Knobby Range areas – approx. 32,000 ha); lower Cardrona Valley (Deep Creek to Riverbank Road – approx. 4,500 ha); Lower Waitaki Valley (Georgetown and Tussocky/Ridge Roads – approx. 4,100 ha)

<sup>3</sup> Spartina containment focuses on Waikouaiti, Karitane and Te Hākāpupu/Pleasant River Estuaries.

## 3.4 Sustained control pest programmes

This programme covers well-established legacy pests that are present across Otago and many regions of New Zealand. 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 where those adjoining occupiers are motivated to undertake control.

Non-compliance for nodding thistle, ragwort and Russell Lupin will be analyzed and managed under the 3.6.2 Shared Pest Programme and 4.1 Compliance and Enforcement Actions.

### 3.4.1 Feral rabbits

#### Regional Priority

##### Objective

Implement sustained control of feral rabbits to ensure population levels do not exceed Level 3 on the Modified McLean Scale in order to minimise adverse effects on production and environmental values within the Otago region.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Prioritise properties for rabbit inspections	List of properties to be prioritised for rabbit inspections	1
Undertake rabbit inspections <sup>4</sup> to determine and expect compliance	# of rural rabbit inspections	>250
	% of non-compliant properties that are re-inspected within set timeframes <sup>5</sup>	100%
Monitor trends in rabbit densities	# of rabbit night counts completed	16
Revisit community rabbit programme areas <sup>6</sup> to assess continued compliance	# of community rabbit programme properties re-inspected	>250
Maintain engagement with community-led rabbit programmes	# of community-led rabbit programmes where feedback has been provided	8
Support community initiatives through Sustainable Rabbit Management Funding	Funding round is oversubscribed with eligible applications	Yes/No
Analyse rabbit inspection and monitoring data <sup>7</sup> and make recommendations for future management	Report to Council by 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	1

Note: Any compliance actions are covered under 4.1 Compliance and Enforcement Actions.

<sup>4</sup> These inspections relate to inspections that are undertaken outside a defined community rabbit programme area.

<sup>5</sup> Timeframes for occupier/owners to achieve compliance from an inspection is six months between May-Dec and three months between Jan-Apr. The re-inspection is to be undertaken within three weeks of this timeframe being expired.

<sup>6</sup> Hidden Hills, Albert Town, Lake Hayes, Gibbston, Queensberry, Moeraki, Otago Peninsula and Clyde.

<sup>7</sup> Dependent on the outcome of a current review, this analysis may also include trends in rabbit virology resistance.

### 3.4.2 Gorse and broom

#### Objective

Implement sustained control of broom and gorse to ensure land that is free of, or being cleared of, broom and gorse does not become infested (primarily in Central Otago and Queenstown Lakes districts) in order to prevent adverse effects on production values and economic well-being.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Inspect gorse and broom free areas for gorse and broom infestation, including the use of remote sensing.	% of properties re-inspected for gorse and/or broom are free of the pest(s)	75%
Advocate with occupiers and landowners on new gorse and broom free areas that come into effect in 2024	# of community meetings delivered on new gorse and broom free areas	4

*Note: Any compliance actions are covered under 3.6 Integrated Programmes and 4.1 Compliance and Enforcement Actions.*

### 3.4.3 Russell Lupin

#### Objective

Implement sustained control of Russell lupin within specified distances from waterways and property boundaries to preclude further establishment and to prevent adverse effects on environmental values.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Develop a regional strategy on Russell lupin including communications plan	Russell lupin strategy finalised by 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	1

*Note: Any compliance actions are covered under 3.6 Integrated Programmes and 4.1 Compliance and Enforcement Actions.*

## 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 Operational Plan three of them, Otago Peninsula, West Harbour-Mount Cargill and Quarantine and Goat islands (all within Dunedin City) are grouped, 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

Support community groups and other agencies to protect the ecological integrity of the Otago Peninsula (9,000 ha), West Harbour-Mt Cargill (12,500 ha) and Quarantine and Goat islands as defined in the project plan.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Confirm site-led programmes around Otago Harbour surrounds	ORC Action Plan for each site-led programme, including timeframes, confirmed by 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	3
ORC Action Plans for site-led programmes implemented	% of actions implemented within defined timeframes	90%
Support provided (financial and/or non-financial) to site led programmes to protect indigenous biodiversity	# of success stories highlighting improvement of indigenous biodiversity at site-led programmes	6

Note: Any compliance actions are covered under 3.6 Integrated Programmes and 4.1 Compliance and Enforcement Actions.

### 3.5.2 Lagarosiphon

#### Regional Priority

#### Objective

To support LINZ in controlling lagarosiphon in the region's rivers and lakes by:

- Preventing its establishment in Lake Wakatipu and other regional water bodies
- Progressively reducing its spread in Lake Wanaka and the Kawarau River
- Undertaking sustained control in Lake Dunstan

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Joint planning with LINZ and other stakeholders	# of meetings attended with LINZ and other stakeholders	4
Support LINZ in the management and control of lagarosiphon	Funding disbursed as per agreement	100%
Undertake summer monitoring of water users at designated sites <sup>8</sup> (subject to continued funding from MPI)	# of interactions in the 'Check, clean, dry' programme	650

<sup>8</sup> Lakes Dunstan, Wanaka or Roxburgh, and the Clutha/Mata-Au and Kawarau Rivers.



Undertake bi-annual monitoring of lagarosiphon at designated water bodies <sup>9</sup> that are not the responsibility of LINZ	# of lagarosiphon monitoring visits at designated water bodies	18
Analyse lagarosiphon monitoring data and make recommendations for future management	Report to Council by 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	1

Note: Any compliance actions are covered under 3.6 Integrated Programmes and 4.1 Compliance and Enforcement Actions.

## 3.6 Integrated programmes

While the RPMP has five defined programmes, aspects of these programmes are interconnected especially through linkages to biodiversity outcomes and associated common analysis. For this Operational Plan, the integration between programmes is an important consideration.

### 3.6.1 Biodiversity Integration

A principal outcome of pest management is to enhance indigenous biodiversity, which informs the prioritisation of biosecurity activities. This is achieved by focusing on highly representative biodiversity areas, and their surrounds, that should be safeguarded.<sup>10</sup> (Note: The deliverables in this sub-section cover non-rabbit pests. For rabbit management, refer to Section 3.4.1).

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Identify highly representative biodiversity areas on which to prioritise pest inspections.	A set of biodiversity layers for GIS analysis	1 set of GIS layers
Undertake pest inspections to progress biodiversity outcomes	# of pest inspections undertaken <sup>11</sup>	1,500
Pest inspections focus on highly representative biodiversity areas and their surrounds	% of pest inspections undertaken in highly representative biodiversity areas and their surrounds	60%

<sup>9</sup> Moke Lake; Manorburn, Poolburn, Butchers, Conroys, Falls, Fraser Dams, Albert Town stormwater detention ponds and Bullock Creek sites.

<sup>10</sup> As informed by Leathwick J.R. (2020). Indigenous biodiversity rankings for the Otago region. Report prepared for the ORC.

<sup>11</sup> This excludes rabbit inspections which are listed under Section 3.4.1.

### 3.6.2 Shared Pest Programmes

Aspects of biosecurity have common approaches that apply across the five RPMP programmes. These deliverables focus on the monitoring and analysis of pests. (Note: The deliverables in this sub-section cover non-rabbit pests. For rabbit management, refer to Section 3.4.1).

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Re-inspect all non-compliant properties within set timeframes	% of non-compliant inspections re-inspected within set timeframes <sup>12</sup>	100%
Undertake density monitoring of specific plant species <sup>13</sup>	# of density monitoring visits undertaken	20
Undertake monitoring of bio-control vectors <sup>14</sup>	# of monitoring visits to bio-control sites	20
Integrate historic plant inspection data in current pest maps of spiny broom, nassella tussock, gorse and broom and spartina	Current pest map includes historic data (as layers) for spiny broom, nassella tussock, gorse and broom and spartina.	1
Analyse and assess trends from pest inspections, density monitoring and bio-control data and make recommendations for future management	Report to Council by 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	1

### 3.6.3 Pest Programme Engagement

The management of pests is wider than the ORC. Due to this, it is essential to engage with partners and stakeholders to promote and action biosecurity outcomes.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Engage with interagency organisations <sup>15</sup>	# of communication engagements with listed agencies at least once annually	10
Support and educate occupiers, landowners and community groups to undertake best practice pest control	# of events attended to support best practice pest control	12
Collaborate with neighbouring regional councils	# of collaborations with neighbouring regional councils	4

<sup>12</sup> Timeframes for occupier/owner to achieve compliance for plant pests is three months from inspection with the exception of Old Man's Beard which is six weeks between Oct-Feb. The re-inspection is to be undertaken within three weeks of this timeframe being expired.

<sup>13</sup> Namely, African Love Grass, Old Man's Beard, Nassella Tussock, Spartina, Russell Lupin

<sup>14</sup> Namely for various bio-controls for Ragwort, Gorse, Broom, Old Man's Beard, Nodding thistle

<sup>15</sup> Namely MPI, DoC, LINZ, KiwiRail, Waka Kotahi, Territorial Authorities [WDC, DCC, CDC, CODC, QLDC]

Engage with Kāi Tahu on biosecurity issues and support them to be involved in biosecurity initiatives	# of meetings with Kāi Tahu on biosecurity issues	2
Support enviro schools programme with key messages, information and tools relating to biosecurity	# of enviro-school programmes attended	16



**Upper Manuherikia East Branch** (*Photo credit: Richard Ewans*)

## 4. RPMP Administration

### 4.1 Compliance and Enforcement Actions

As the RPMP is a rules-based approach to pest management, there is need to ensure actions are taken to ensure compliance. The specific approach to compliance and enforcement is covered in the ORC Biosecurity Compliance and Enforcement Policy. To achieve this, the following actions will be delivered.

Deliverables	KPI	Target
<b>Effective administration of compliance and enforcement</b>		
Provide occupiers and landowners with the declared pest status following an inspection	% of occupier/landowner advised of inspection status within three weeks of the inspection	75%
	% of occupier/landowner advised of inspection status within six weeks of the inspection	100%
Continued non-compliance, as confirmed by enforcement criteria, is addressed through issuing a Notice of Direction	% of eligible non-compliant properties issued with a Notice of Direction within 20 working days after re-inspection	100%
Analyse the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement actions and make recommendations for continual improvement	Report to Council by 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	1

### 4.2 Biosecurity Operational Plan Administration

For the administration of this operational plan, two key deliverables are listed.

Deliverables	KPI	Target
<b>Revise the Biosecurity Operational Plan</b>		
Review and, if needed, revise the Biosecurity Operational Plan annually as required by the BSA	Biosecurity Operational Plan for 2023-24 approved by Council by June 2023.	1 approved plan
<b>Responsiveness to Pest Enquires<sup>16</sup></b>		

<sup>16</sup> Enquiries are defined as either 'reports, sightings, notifications and complaints'

Pest enquires are responded to in a timely manner as appropriate to the risk of the pest	% of exclusion and eradication pest enquiries responded to within 24 hours and three working days, respectively	100%
	% of all pest enquiries responded to within 10 working days	100%



**Glendu, Lake Wanaka** (Photo Credit: Libby Caldwell)

## 5. Glossary

For this operational plan the following definitions are provided. A fuller glossary is given in the RPMP.

**Compliant:** refers to when a rule in the RPMP is adhered to.

**Default Action:** means work undertaken by the management agency to carry out pest control when a 'Notice of Direction' or 'Compliance Order' has not been complied with by an occupier, under section 128 of the BSA. The management agency can then recover costs and expenses reasonably incurred under section 129 of the BSA.

**Inspection:** means work undertaken to determine compliance to RPM rules.

**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 for pests to be controlled in the Otago region.

**Modified McLean Scale:** this scale assesses rabbit population levels (see RPMP, Appendix 2)

**Monitoring:** means work undertaken to determine the trend in the prevalence of a pest.

**Notice of Direction (NOD):** means the actions required and notice issued pursuant to section 122 of the Biosecurity Act 1993. A NOD can require a person to take action to address pest plant or animal problems or to comply with a rule in an RPMP.

**Occupier:** see landowner.

**Non-compliance<sup>17</sup>:** refers to any breach in a RPMP rule. Non-compliance is liable for enforceable under the provisions of the BSA. For clarification, a breach of a RPMP rule does not have to be widespread across a property and may relate to a single location (or a defined area) within a property. Due to the potential of spread, the whole property is deemed non-compliant even if the infestation is localised.

**Operational plan:** means a plan prepared by the Management Agency 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."

**Surveillance:** means survey work undertaken to determine the status (presence) of pest species.

**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.

**Zero level/zero density:** where the pest is not detectable in an area, however the pest may continue to appear afterwards due to plant seed sources or animal migration from an unmanaged area.

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<sup>17</sup> Note: this definition is not listed in the RPMP rather it is defined in the ORC Biosecurity Compliance and Enforcement Policy.