

Biosecurity Operational Plan

2023-2024



*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 2023-2024 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). The ORC undertakes advocacy and education around pest threats, pathways of pest spread and the provision of advice. Furthermore, the ORC delivers national programmes for the management of nationally significant pests (wallabies and wilding conifers).

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

This Operational Plan is the final iteration under the current Long-Term Plan and is a continuation of the same approaches. Where necessary, changes have been made from the previous 2022-23 Operational Plan based on lessons learnt to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

As part of the continuation, this Operational Plan retains the priority pests from the previous Operational Plans, 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.

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Version Control

Version #	Date	Event/Changes made
1	2 February 2023	Submitted to Environmental Implementation Committee for approval
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Cover Photo

Lake Wanaka, from Glen Dene Ridge Track (Photo Credit: Richard Lord)

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 specified pests, where the ORC may coordinate or 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. In addition, the ORC delivers national programmes for the management of nationally significant pests (wallabies and wilding conifers). This is further supported through various community groups that are actively involved in pest management (e.g. wilding conifer trusts, Predator Free Dunedin, community rabbit programmes).

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 2023-2024 Biosecurity Operational Plan*) outlines the nature, scope and priority activities that ORC intends to undertake for pest management across the Otago region for the financial year 1st July 2023 through to 30th June 2024.

The Operational Plan presents what will be delivered during the 2023-2024 financial year in terms of focus areas and the associated actions to implement the RPMP. For context, it is important the Operational Plan is read in conjunction with the RPMP. The ORC Biosecurity and Biodiversity Strategies and wider catchment management planning also provides additional context to the Operational Plan.

2. Summary of Regional Pest Management Plan

2.1 Pest management programmes

The RPMP is implemented through five pest management programmes¹, 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 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.

¹ As prescribed by the National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015.

3. **Collaboration:** ORC works with landowner/occupier groups and central and local government agencies to develop consistent approaches for the effective management of pests. This includes Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), Department of Conservation (DoC), Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), neighbouring regional councils and community groups like Predator Free Dunedin, and wilding conifer trusts.
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:** This is achieved through the delivery of national programmes (wildings and wallabies) and the provision of direct control where special expertise is required that is beyond the capability of the land occupier to arrange. Service delivery includes providing appropriate control tools (e.g. traps, spraying, shooting) and the approved release of biological control agents.

2.3 Regional Focus Programmes

Continuing from the previous Operational Plans, there is a focus on one pest programme and four pests. The focus on these pests is due to their high community interest, environmental impact, economic impact, supporting national programmes and the need to invest in long-term sustained action. Table 1 provides further details of the specific pests.

Table 1: Focus area pests

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 generate 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.
Bennett’s wallaby	Eradication	Wallabies are an ever-present threat due to their high numbers in neighbouring South Canterbury. As wallabies present a significant threat to the ecosystem and a production risk to the economy, it is imperative that they are prevented from establishing a foothold in Otago.
Wilding conifers	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, tussock grasslands and alpine catchments.
Lagarosiphon	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.

2.4 Operational Plan Reporting

As the lead management agency, ORC is responsible for reporting on activities and progress during the year. The ORC is required by Section 100B of the Biosecurity Act 1993 to “*prepare a report on the operational plan and its implementation not later than 5 months after the end of each financial year*”. This report is provided to the Minister of Biosecurity and is made available to the public through reporting to Council and on ORC’s website.



Hawkdun Range (Photo Credit: M. Boardman)

3. Pest Management Activities to Enact the RPMP

3.1 Exclusion pest programme

Regional Focus Programme

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 potential 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

Over the duration of the Plan, preclude establishment of African feather grass, Chilean needle grass, egeria, false tamarisk, hornwort and moth plant within the Otago region to prevent adverse effects on economic well-being and environmental values.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Engage with neighbouring regional councils on exclusion pest threats	# of meetings with neighbouring regional councils on exclusion pest threats	6
Develop surveillance plans for the six exclusion pest species as a component of the incursion pest response plan ²	Exclusion pest management and surveillance plans covering the six identified exclusion pests finalised by 31 May 2024	6
If the presence of an exclusion pest (or other unwanted pests) is confirmed, response actions completed as per the incursion response plan	% of actions completed within the required timeframes as set out in the incursion pest response plan for each confirmed sighting (as assessed by checklist)	100%

3.2 Eradication pest programmes

The eradication programme focuses on three 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.

² This was referred to as the "exclusion pest response plan" in the 2022-23 Biosecurity Operational Plan. The name change reflects the purpose of the response plan which is to cover any unwanted pests, not just the listed exclusion pests, if their presence has been confirmed.

3.2.1 Bennett's wallaby

Regional Focus Programme

Objective

Reduce all infestations of Bennett's wallaby to zero levels 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%
Collaborate with and participate in the national wallaby programme	% of Operational Advisory Group meetings attended	100%
	Fulfil requirements of MPI funding agreement	100%
	# of wallaby R+D trials supported	2
Engage with Environment Canterbury on Wallaby control	# of meetings or visits with Environment Canterbury on wallaby control	6

3.2.2 Rooks

Objective

Reduce all infestations of rooks to zero levels within the Otago region to prevent adverse effects on economic well-being and the environment.³

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Inspect all known rookery locations	% of known rookery locations inspected	100%
If there is a confirmed sighting of a rook, undertake necessary control action	Control action is commenced within 3 working days of confirmed rook sighting.	100%

3.2.3 Spiny broom

Objective

Reduce all infestations of spiny broom to zero levels within the Otago region to prevent adverse effects on economic well-being and the environment.⁴

³ Historically rookeries have been known to exist in South Otago, Strath Taiari and the Maniototo.

⁴ Previous Spiny Broom infestations have been identified in the Waihola, Chain Hills and Brighton areas.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Undertake inspections for spiny broom at known locations and surveillance at surrounding areas.	% of known locations (13) inspected and surrounding areas [†] surveyed for spiny broom	100%
If there is a confirmed sighting of spiny broom, undertake necessary control action	Control action is commenced within 5 working days of confirmed sighting of spiny broom	100%

[†] See glossary for definition of location, known location and surrounding areas.

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 Focus Programme

Objective

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

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Undertake inspections for wilding conifers at locations guided by the regional wilding conifer strategy	# of properties inspected for wilding conifer compliance	100
Collaborate with and participate in the national wilding conifer programme	% of Operational Advisory Group meetings attended	100%
	Fulfil requirements of MPI funding agreement	100%
Implement regional wilding conifer strategy	% of actions from the regional strategy commenced within specified due timeframes	100%
Support regional partnerships through funding community control groups. ⁵	Funding disbursed as per agreement	100%

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

⁵ Currently partnerships are with Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group and Central Otago Wilding Conifer Control Group.

3.3.2 African love grass

Objective

Progressively contain and reduce the geographic distribution or extent of African love grass at known locations⁶ within the Otago region to minimise or prevent adverse effects on economic well-being and the environment.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Undertake inspections for African love grass at known infestation locations and surveillance in surrounding areas	% of known locations (20) inspected and surrounding areas surveyed for African love grass	100%
If there is a confirmed sighting of African love grass, undertake necessary control action	Control action is commenced within 5 working days of confirmed sighting of African love grass	100%

3.3.3 Nassella tussock

Objective

Progressively contain and reduce the geographic distribution or extent of nassella tussock at known locations⁷ within the Otago region to minimise or prevent adverse effects on economic well-being and the environment.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Inspect known locations for nassella tussock and undertake surveillance in surrounding locations	% of known locations (38) inspected and surrounding locations surveyed for nassella tussock	100%

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 or extent of old man's beard within the Otago region to minimise or prevent adverse effects on economic well-being and the environment.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Undertake re-inspections for Old Man's Beard to ascertain compliance	% of non-compliant properties re-inspected for Old Man's Beard	100%

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

⁶ Previous and current African Love Grass infestations around Earnsclough, Clyde, Omakau, Queensbury and Pisa Moorings.

⁷ Current Nassella Tussock infestations are identified around 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).

3.3.5 Spartina and six containment pest plants

Objective

Progressively contain and reduce the geographic distribution or extent of bomarea, boneseed, bur daisy, cape ivy, perennial nettle, spartina⁸ and white-edged nightshade within the Otago region to minimise or prevent adverse effects on economic well-being and the environment.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Undertake re-inspections for spartina and the six containment plants to ascertain compliance	% of non-compliant properties re-inspected for spartina or any one of the six containment plants	100%

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

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.

3.4.1 Feral rabbits

Regional Focus Programme

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
Undertake rabbit inspections to determine compliance	# of rabbit inspections outside a community programme	>250
	% of non-compliant properties re-inspected for rabbit compliance	100%
Continue engagement with community rabbit programmes ⁹ to check progress in rabbit management	# of engagements with community rabbit programme either through re-inspections or continued support	12

⁸ Spartina containment focuses on Waikouaiti, Karitane and Te Hikapupu/Pleasant River Estuaries.

⁹ Hidden Hills, Albert Town, Lake Hayes, Gibbston, Queensberry, Moeraki, Otago Peninsula and Clyde.

Monitor trends in rabbit densities	# of rabbit night count routes completed and analysed ¹⁰	>30
	# of fly traps locations monitored and analysed	10
	Report on analysis of historical serological data completed by 30 June 2024	1
	Update rabbit proneness map completed by 31 March 2024	1
	# of R+D trials to enhance rabbit monitoring instigated	2
Support community initiatives through Sustainable Rabbit Management Funding	Funding round is oversubscribed with eligible applications	Yes/No
Advocate and engage with territorial authorities and Crown agencies on rabbit management ¹¹	# of territorial authorities and Crown agencies engaged on rabbit management	8

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

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 non-compliant properties re-inspected in gorse and broom free areas	100%
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.

¹⁰ Currently there are 17 night count routes. Under the Rabbit Monitoring Plan it is planned there will be 31 routes. The final number is yet to be confirmed until routes are formally surveyed and access agreements in place.

¹¹ Namely MPI, DoC, LINZ and Territorial Authorities [WDC, DCC, CDC, CODC, QLDC]

3.4.3 Russell Lupin

Objective

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

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Implement regional strategy on Russell lupin including communications plan	% of actions completed by due date as described in the Russell lupin strategy	100%
Undertake inspections in high-risk areas ¹²	# of high-risk areas inspected for Russell lupin	6

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

3.4.4 Nodding thistle and Ragwort

Objective

Implement sustained control of nodding thistle and ragwort on rural zoned land within specified distances of property boundaries throughout the Otago region to prevent their spread in order to minimise adverse effects on production values and economic well-being.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Undertake re-inspections for nodding thistle and ragwort to ascertain compliance	% of non-compliant properties re-inspected for nodding thistle and ragwort	100%

Note: Further 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 establishes 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

¹² As listed in the RPMP, at risk areas are: Dart, Rees, Matukituki, Makarora, Hunter and Shotover (downstream of Arthurs point) river catchments.

(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

Otago Regional Council will take a lead role in supporting community groups and agencies in bringing about the desired levels of environmental protection to these sites [Otago Peninsula (9,000 ha), West Harbour-Mt Cargill (12,500 ha) and Quarantine and Goat Islands].¹³

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Confirm site-led programmes around Otago Harbour	Site-led programme plan (including each site-led location) reconfirmed by 31 July 2023	3
Site-led programme plan implemented	% of actions implemented within defined timeframes for 2023-2024	100%

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

3.5.2 Lagarosiphon

Regional Focus Programme

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 ¹⁴	# of interactions in the ‘Check, clean, dry’ programme	650

¹³ Refer to RPMP Objectives 6.5.4, 6.5.5 & 6.5.6 respectively for Otago Peninsula, West Harbour-Mt Cargill and Quarantine and Goat Islands

¹⁴ Lakes Dunstan, Wanaka or Roxburgh, and the Clutha/Mata-Au and Kawarau Rivers.

Undertake monitoring and inspections of lagarosiphon at designated water bodies that are not the responsibility of LINZ	# of lagarosiphon monitoring visits at priority water bodies ¹⁵	18
	# of lagarosiphon inspections at secondary water bodies	>40

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 high biodiversity focus areas, and their surrounds, that should be safeguarded.¹⁶ (Note: The deliverables in this sub-section cover non-rabbit pests. For rabbit management, refer to Section 3.4.1).

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Undertake pest inspections to progress biodiversity outcomes	# of pest inspections undertaken ¹⁷	1,500
Pest inspections support high biodiversity focus areas and their surrounds	% of pest inspections undertaken in high biodiversity focus areas and their surrounds	40%

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.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Re-inspect all non-compliant properties within set timeframes	% of non-compliant inspections re-inspected within set timeframes ¹⁸	100%

¹⁵ Moke Lake; Manorburn, Poolburn, Butchers, Conroys, Falls, Fraser Dams, Albert Town stormwater detention ponds and Bullock Creek sites.

¹⁶ As informed by Leathwick J.R. (2020). Indigenous biodiversity rankings for the Otago region. Report prepared for the ORC.

¹⁷ This is in addition to any inspections listed elsewhere in this Operation plan for specific pests

¹⁸ Timeframes to achieve compliance for plant pests is three months from the inspection with the exception of Old Man's Beard which is six weeks between Oct-Feb. A re-inspection is undertaken within three weeks of this timeframe being expired.

Develop and implement a density monitoring plan of specific plant species ¹⁹	# of density monitoring visits undertaken	20
Undertake monitoring of pest plant bio-control release sites ²⁰	# of monitoring visits to pest plant bio-control release sites	20
Undertake visits to nurseries and pet shops to advocate and inspect for biosecurity compliance	# of nurseries and pet shops visited	10
Undertake an advocacy and education programme to encourage awareness as to public responsibilities to pest management	% of deliverables enacted from the advocacy and education programme.	100%

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. This engagement is to explain the rules as they pertain to these agencies, to advocate for their increased action and for the agencies to outline their work programmes

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Engage with crown agencies and territory authorities on pest management ²¹	# 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 community events attended to support best practice pest control	12
Collaborate with neighbouring regional councils	# of collaborations with neighbouring regional councils	4
Collaborate with Kāi Tahu on biosecurity issues and support them to be involved in biosecurity initiatives	# of collaborations with Kāi Tahu on biosecurity issues	2
Support schools with key messages, information and tools relating to biosecurity	# of school programmes attended to provide awareness on biosecurity	10

¹⁹ Namely, African Love Grass, Old Man's Beard, Nassella Tussock, Spartina, Russell Lupin

²⁰ Namely for various bio-controls for Ragwort, Gorse, Broom, Old Man's Beard, Nodding thistle

²¹ Namely MPI, DoC, LINZ, KiwiRail, Waka Kotahi, Territorial Authorities [WDC, DCC, CDC, CODC, QLDC]

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
Effective administration of compliance and enforcement		
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%
Pest enquiries ²² are responded to in a timely manner as appropriate to the risk of the pest	% of exclusion pest enquiries responded to within 24 hours	100%
	% of eradication pest enquiries responded to within three working days	100%
	% of all pest enquiries responded to within 10 working days	100%

²² Enquiries are defined as either 'reports, sightings, notifications and complaints'

5. Glossary

For the purposes of this operational plan, the following definitions are provided. Further definitions can be found in the RPMP and the ORC Biosecurity Compliance and Enforcement Policy.

Boundary: refers to a line or surface in a geographical space the delineates the horizontal or vertical extent of a land parcel.

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.

Known location: refers to a location that has a historical or current record of the pest being present. For ease of monitoring, a known location can include a buffer radius of up to 50 metres.

Inspection: means a site visit (normally defined by a property) to determine compliance to RPMP rules undertaken by a warranted officer as authorised under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

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

Land Parcel: is a unique area of land, identified by the cadastral survey plan showing the legal boundaries, location, dimensions and area, along with the unique legal description (appellation).

Location: refers to a geographical point on the surface of the earth. This will typically be identified by the GPS co-ordinates of northing and easting. For New Zealand, most common projections are the New Zealand Traverse Mercator or World Geodetic 1984).

Management agency: has the same meaning as in the Biosecurity Act 1993, specifically "*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 and prevalence of a pest. This will normally be in-person but can use remote sensing tools.

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: 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.*"

Property: For the purposes of this plan, a property is an extent of land that is either [1] under unique ownership (whether individual, joint, partnership or corporate) or [2] is managed as a single operational entity. A property can be made up of one or more adjoining land parcels (see land parcel).

Surveillance: means work undertaken to determine the status (presence) of pest species. This can be in-person or use remote sensing tools.

Surrounding area: means a wider area surrounding a pest infestation. This is variable depending on context of the pest but, at a minimum, includes all adjoining properties to the property with the pest infestation. A property is considered adjoining even if it is separated by a road, paper road, waterway or easement. A designated surrounding area does not prevent pest inspections from being carried out in non-surrounding areas.

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.