

PROTECT YOUR COUNTRY



Otago
Regional
Council

FROM WALLABY INVADERS

IDENTIFY, REPORT & DESTROY 0800 474 082



WE NEED YOUR HELP TO GET RID OF THIS PEST

Please tell us about any wallaby kills or sightings
on **0800 474 082.**



CONTENTS

The number of wallaby sightings around Otago has increased, and Otago Regional Council (ORC) plans to control wallaby numbers before they establish a feral population in our region.

This guide will help you identify signs of wallaby invasion and tell you what you need to do if you find any.

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HOW TO IDENTIFY A WALLABY

WALLABY FACTS

- **They spread fast and have high impact.** Bennetts wallaby were introduced to South Canterbury in 1874, and by the 1940s became a significant pest to both production and biodiversity values.
- **They are elusive.** Nocturnal, solitary animals that feed in the open at night and seek cover during the day.
- **They can breed early.** Sexually mature around 2 years.
- **They are formidable breeders.** Gestation around 26 days. One young at a time, but capable of embryonic diapause (the ability to delay development of the embryo if the environmental conditions aren't favourable).
- Young use pouch for around 270 days, before becoming fully weaned.
- Adult males are 10-15% bigger and 40% heavier than females.
- **They can swim.** On land, wallabies can only move their hind feet together but when swimming they can kick each leg independently. So much for rivers being barriers...



WALLABY SIGNS



It is usually only the main two toes of each foot that leave a print. Prints are always in parallel pairs, and can be two or more meters apart when wallaby are moving at speed. Sometimes you can see a tail drag mark in soft ground or snow.



The faecal sign comes in all shapes and sizes. It is often pelleted and found in clumps; usually coarse in texture with vegetation fibres visible, but during spring flush or when feeding on Lucerne the sign can be joined.

Check to see what's in it. Feral cat scat can be similar in shape to wallaby but can be ruled out by the strong smell being carnivorous, and often fur, scales or other animal fragments are visible.



A wallaby sign during the winter months is seeing discarded cotton daisy (*Celmisia spectabilis*). Wallaby are known to pull the whole blade but only eat one bite of the soft base and leave the rest.

WHY ARE WALLABIES PESTS?

- Ø Wallabies have the potential to cause significant adverse economic and environmental effects, and become a burden for future generations should feral populations establish in Otago.
- Ø They compete with livestock for pasture (sheep in particular).
- Ø Wallabies stop native bush regeneration and can harm young trees.
- Ø They can foul pasture, damage fences, destroy agricultural crops, contribute to erosion, and kill some plantation forest seedlings.
- Ø It's predicted that the economic benefit to the South Island by controlling the wallabies is over \$23.5 million every year. If we don't take action now, the cost to our economy will escalate to around \$67 million within ten years (*Review of current and future predicted distributions and impacts of Bennett's and dama wallabies in mainland New Zealand, MPI March 2016*).
- Ø Wallabies adapt to new habitats and can thrive in environments from forest through to open tussock country. The only places they won't go are towns, high production grasslands (e.g. dairy farms), and mountain tops.



3 Wallabies = 1 stock unit in terms of grazing pressure.

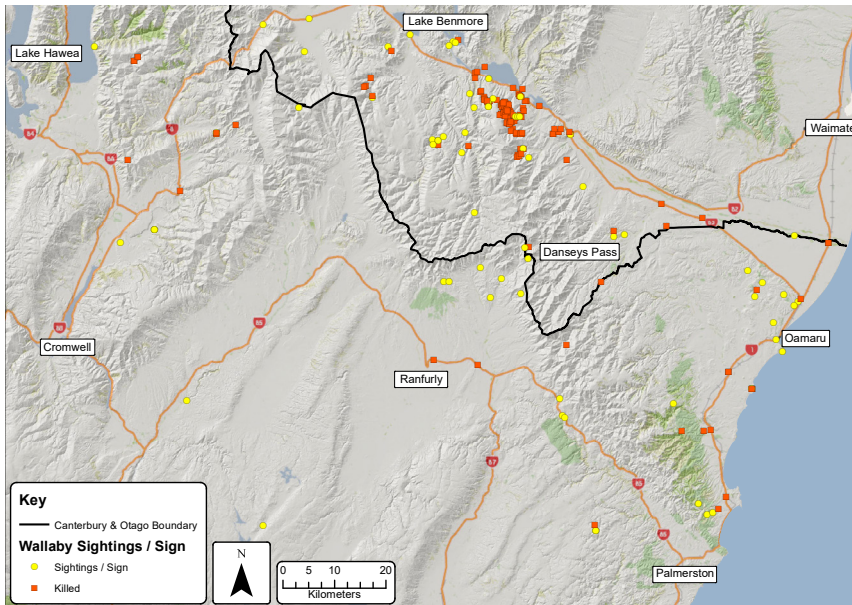


Wallabies = big financial impact!



Wallabies are a threat to Otago.

MAP OF WALLABY SIGHTINGS



The spread of wallaby sightings throughout Otago suggests a mix of natural migration and intentional release.

Reported wallaby sign, sightings and kills as at March 2017. Note that more than one wallaby was seen at some locations.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IF YOU SEE WALLABIES OR WALLABY SIGN



Land occupiers in Otago must destroy wallabies on their land, and report sightings or signs to ORC within two days on 0800 474 082. If you live in Canterbury and back onto the Otago border, please advise ORC as well as Environment Canterbury (0800 324 636).

Shooting is the most effective form of control. Poison (using striker bait) is the best option for large numbers.

Reporting signs and sightings to ORC means we can investigate the wider area for wallabies, and implement control measures if needed.

You can also contact ORC North Otago environmental officers with queries:

Kevin Allan - 027 322 0330

Simon Stevenson - 027 278 8538



IDENTIFY, REPORT & DESTROY

WHAT IS ORC DOING TO CONTROL THE WALLABIES?

We are working closely with Environment Canterbury and Maniototo Pest Management Ltd to monitor wallaby sightings and provide information and support to land occupiers.

We will record all information to get a clear picture of the extent of the wallaby invasion in Otago, and keep land occupiers up to date by sharing what we know and any further action we plan to take.

With our efforts and your help, we are determined to stop wallaby spreading in Otago.



0800 474 082

If you live in Canterbury and spot wallaby outside the containment area, please phone Brent Glentworth, Biosecurity Team Leader, Environment Canterbury, on 03 687 7800.

You can also report sightings and kills to Maniototo Pest Management: 022 1264407 or 027 2254511



HOW TO IDENTIFY THE SIGNS



THE UNDERSIDE
OF WALLABY FEET



LEFT: ADULT BUCK,
RIGHT: AVERAGE DOE OR
YOUNG BUCK