

Biosecurity Operational Plan 2024-25 Annual Report

Assessment of Key Performance Indicators

Implementing the Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-29

This report presents an assessment of the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2024-25 and reviews the achievement of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as listed in the plan. This report is divided into the five pest control programmes as outlined in the Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-29, along with the administration programme.

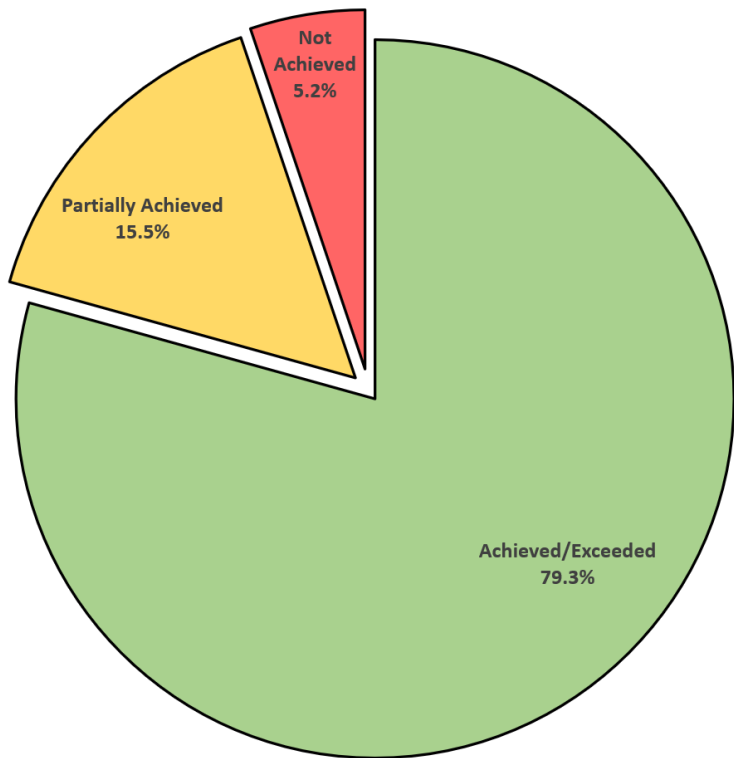


Figure 1: Snapshot of Biosecurity Performance in 2024-25


Key Legend		
	Achieved/Exceeded	100% or more achieved
	Partly Achieved	Between 1-99% achieved
	Not Achieved	0% achieved
---	Not Measurable	Not able to be measured

Summary

The 2024-25 BOP had 62 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Four KPIs were not measurable as the required events did not occur, which leaves 58 KPIs that were measured. Overall, 46 KPIs were fully achieved or exceeded (achievement rate of 79.3%). Nine KPIs were partially achieved (15.5%) with three KPIs not achieved (5.2%). For priority pests, 24 out of 25 KPIs were completed (96.2%). One was partially achieved, and one was not able to be measured.

1. Exclusion Pest Programme






ORC will prevent six high threat pest plants from establishing in the region.

Exclusion Pest Programme				
Objective: Preclude the establishment of the following plant pests (listed below) in the Otago region for the duration of the RPMP: African feather grass, Chilean needle grass, Egeria, False tamarisk, Hornwort, and Moth plant.				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of meetings with neighbouring regional councils on exclusion pest threats.	6	8	
KPI 2	% of response actions completed within the required timeframes as set out in the incursion pest response plan for each confirmed sighting (assessed by checklist).	100%	See comment	---
Comments	KPI 2: As there were no confirmed sightings of any exclusion pests, the KPI is not able to be measured (not applicable).			
Lessons Learnt	To ensure the Otago region is free of exclusion pest species targeted surveillance and inspection's will be included in the 2025-2026 annual work plan for high risk locations for exclusion pest species.			

2. Eradication Pest Programmes


ORC will eliminate spiny broom, and eradicate Bennett's wallaby and rooks from the region.

Bennett's Wallaby	
Objective: There are three key objectives in the eradication of Bennett's Wallaby.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce known wallaby populations to zero density 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.	

		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	All sightings are classified to determine credibility within three working days of receiving a report.	100%	100%	
KPI 2	If presence is confirmed, a decision on appropriate control action is decided within a further two working days.	100%	100%	
KPI 3	% of Operational Advisory Group meetings attended	100%	100%	
KPI 4	Fulfil requirements of MPI funding agreement	100%	100%	
KPI 5	# of meetings or visits with Environment Canterbury on wallaby control	4	31	
Comments	KPI 1: 71 reports on wallabies received. Most of these were deemed unreliable upon further investigation. KPI 2: Five sightings were credible and control actions undertaken.			
Lessons Learnt	Programme is meeting the required targets. No lessons learnt.			



Rooks

Objective: Reduce rook populations to zero density, within the RPMP period and maintain this status until eradication is attained.

		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of known rookery locations inspected	50	59	
KPI 2	All sightings are classified to determine credibility within three working days of receiving a report.	100%	See comments	---
KPI 3	If presence is confirmed, a decision on appropriate control action is decided within a further two working days.	100%	See comments	---
Comments	KPI 1: In addition to the 50 known rookeries, a further nine sites were checked (two of these were due to possible rook sightings but no rooks found). KPI 2 & 3: As there were no confirmed sightings of rooks, these two KPIs were not able to be measured (not applicable).			
Lessons Learnt	To ensure that when a rook sighting is reported that it is followed up in a systematic way, a formal response procedure will be actioned that will document actions taken to determine credibility of report and control actions where appropriate.			

Spiny broom

Objective: Reduce spiny broom populations to zero density within the RPMP period and maintain this status until eradication is attained.






		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of monitoring and surveillance visits undertaken for spiny broom.	13	46	
KPI 2	If presence is confirmed, a decision on appropriate control action is decided within five working days.	100%	100%	
Comments	KPI 2: Nine plants were found in one Waiholā street. All were immediately controlled.			
Lessons Learnt	There is a need to actively involve the local community to identify and be aware of possible outbreaks of spiny broom and report when sighted. Communication plan being developed.			

3. Progressive Containment Pest Programmes

ORC aims to contain and reduce the extent of 11 pest plants (or groups of plants) across the region.

Wilding conifers



Objective: Contain wilding conifers within the region (in accordance with national strategy), reduce infestation densities where practicable and prevent their spread to new locations

		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of properties inspected for wilding conifer compliance	50	50	
KPI 2	% of Operational Advisory Group meetings attended	100%	100%	
KPI 3	Fulfil requirements of MPI funding agreement	100%	100%	
KPI 4	% of actions from the regional strategy commenced within specified due timeframes	100%	100%	
KPI 5	Funding disbursed as per agreement*	100%	100%	
Comments	No comments on KPIs			
Lessons Learnt	Programme is meeting the required targets. No lessons learnt.			

* To "Support regional partnerships through funding Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group and Central Otago Wilding Conifer Control Group"


African love grass

Objective: Contain African love grass to its 20 known sites within the region, reduce its densities at these sites and prevent spread to new sites.

		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of monitoring and surveillance visits undertaken for African Love Grass.	20	See comment	
KPI 2	If African love grass is sighted, control action is commenced within 10 working days of the inspection.	100%	100%	
Comments	KPI 1: 20 known locations were checked (167 site visits and follow-up), with presence observed at 73% of visits. One new active site was found outside the known locations. KPI 2: All presence was controlled by grubbing.			
Lessons Learnt	African love grass is a persistent plant with a hardly seed. There is some evidence that seeds are being transported on transport and recreation corridors. Community education will be developed to assist.			


Nassella tussock

Objective: Contain Nassella tussock to known areas within the region, reduce its densities at these sites and prevent spread to new sites.

		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of inspections, monitoring and surveillance visits undertaken for Nassella tussock.	38	96	
Comments	KPI 1: In additional to the 38 known locations, a further 58 visits have been conducted to control and contain Nassella tussock.			
Lessons Learnt	Nassella tussock is a persistent plant with a hardly seed. This requires a long-term management approach to control and contain.			

Old Man's Beard




Objective: Contain old man's beard to known areas within the region, reduce its densities at the above sites and prevent spread to new locations.

		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	% of Old Man's Beard inspections undertaken on properties with high biodiversity values.	50%	89%	
Comments	KPI 1: A total of 204 inspections were undertaken for Old Man's Beard with 89% occurring on properties (or adjoining properties) that had high biodiversity values.			

Lessons Learnt	Continuation to focus on properties that have, or are near to, sites of high biodiversity for Old Man's Beard. This is seen as an effective strategy and allocation of resources.
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Spartina and Six Containment Plants

Objective: Contain [1] spartina to known areas within the region, reduce its densities at the known sites and prevent spread to new sites and [2] the six pest plants (Bomarea, Boneseed, Bur daisy, Cape Ivy, Perennial nettle, White-edged nightshade) within the region, reduce their densities at known sites and prevent spread to new sites




		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of inspections, monitoring and surveillance visits undertaken for spartina.	12	122	
KPI 2	If presence is confirmed, a decision to initiate appropriate control action occurs within five working days.	100%	100%	
KPI 3	% of non-compliant properties re-inspected within set timeframes for bomarea, boneseed, bur daisy, cape ivy, perennial nettle, and white-edged nightshade.	100%	69%	
Comments	KPI 3: 45 re-inspections were completed following up on 65 non-compliant inspections. Difference due to rescheduling re-inspections, primarily for seasonality and flowering of pest plants.			
Lessons Learnt	The importance of inspections and re-inspections was highlighted in the RPMP Effectiveness Review. A greater focus on this will be rolled out in the 25/26 Operational Plan.			







4. Sustained Control Pest Programmes

ORC will enforce rules to ensure control of rabbits and five widespread pest plants (or groups of plants) to reduce their impacts and spread.

Feral rabbits

Objective: Ensure continuing control of feral rabbits to manage their spread and to reduce adverse effects and impacts on economic wellbeing and the environment.


		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of rabbit inspections undertaken in non-community programme areas.	250	345	
KPI 2	# of rabbit inspections undertaken in community programme areas.	80	115	
KPI 3	% of non-compliant rabbit inspections re-inspected within set timeframes for compliance.	100%	83%	

KPI 4	# of rabbit night count routes completed.	30	31	
KPI 5	# of fly traps routes monitored	10	12	
KPI 6	Report on analysis of historical serological data completed by 30 November 2024	1	1	
KPI 7	# of peri-urban areas with fixed photo counts undertaken	2	2	
KPI 8	# of community rabbit programmes where landowner engagement is undertaken.	5	5	
KPI 9	Funding round is oversubscribed with eligible applications.	Yes	Yes	
Comments	<p>KPI 3: 83.3% of non-compliant rabbit inspections re-inspected within set timeframes (paired properties). Difference due to rescheduling re-inspections, primarily to ensure at least one winter season for poisoning operations or to continue existing active rabbit control (formal extension). Overall, 328 re-inspections were completed.</p> <p>KPI 9: \$265,071 requested out of \$100,000 available. 10 proposals received with 3 fully funded.</p>			
Lessons Learnt	The importance of inspections and re-inspections was highlighted in the RPMP Effectiveness Review. A greater focus on this will be rolled out in the 25/26 Operational Plan.			

† Listed agencies are: MPI, DoC, LINZ, KiwiRail, Waka Kotahi, WDC, DCC, CDC, CODC and QLDC.



Gorse and broom

Objective: Ensure continuing control of gorse and broom, that prevents land free of these pests from becoming infested and reduces adverse effects on the economic (and environmental) wellbeing of occupiers regionwide.

		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	% of non-compliant properties re-inspected within set timeframes in gorse and broom free areas.	100%	See comment	
Comments	KPI 1: A total of 10 properties were re-inspected over the year against 10 non-compliant properties – however no inspections (or re-inspections) were done in gorse and broom free areas. Focus on complaints due resource constraints and prioritising other pests.			
Lessons Learnt	To help inform priority areas within the gorse and broom free areas we will be undertaken an investigation into the use of remote sensing for gorse and broom.			

Russell lupin

Objective: Instigate boundary controls of Russell lupin to prevent spread (e.g. the planting and subsequent seeding) of wild lupin plants, and to reduce adverse effects in rural zoned land.

		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	% of actions completed by due date as described in the Russell lupin strategy.	100%	100%	
KPI 2	Action plan developed and presented to stakeholders.	1	See comment	
Comments	KPI 1: All four actions set down for 2024-25 were completed as required. Some actions may extend into the following year. KPI 2: Action plan is being progressed but has not been finalised yet primarily due to revising the strategy			
Lessons Learnt	It has become clear that there is a need for greater focus on this species within the upcoming RPMP review for effective long-term management of Russell lupin in Otago.			

Ragwort and Nodding thistle

Objective: Over the duration of the Plan, 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.

		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	% of GNR complaints responded to within one month.	100%	See comment	---
Comments	KPI 1: No nodding thistle and ragwort complaints were received hence under RPMP rules no inspections were needed. Consequently, the KPI was not able to be measured.			
Lessons Learnt	No lessons learnt. Inspections only possible through complaints as set out by the RPMP.			



5. Site-led Pest Programmes

ORC has two site led pest programmes.

1. ORC will take a lead role in supporting community and agency control of six pest plants and nine pest animals to support Predator Free Dunedin and wider biodiversity enhancement initiatives.
2. ORC will target one freshwater pest plant.






Otago Peninsula, West Harbour – Mount Cargill and Quarantine & Goat Islands

Objective: Support community groups and other agencies to protect the ecological integrity of the Otago Peninsula, West Harbour-Mt Cargill, and Quarantine & Goat Islands.







		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	Site-led plan reconfirmed by 30 September 2024.	1	1	
KPI 2	% of actions implemented by 30 June 2025.	100%	100%	
Comments	None to note			
Lessons Learnt	No specific lessons learnt. Continue programmes as planned.			




Lagarosiphon




Objective: Support LINZ in controlling and eradicating lagarosiphon in the region's rivers and lakes

		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of meetings attended with LINZ and other stakeholders	4	9	
KPI 2	Funding disbursed as per agreement	100%	100%	
KPI 3	# of interactions in the 'Check, clean, dry' programme	650	830	
KPI 4	# of bi-annual monitoring visits to priority water bodies to determine the presence of lagarosiphon.	22	22	
KPI 5	# of sites monitored or inspected for freshwater pests.	40	42	
Comments	<p>KPI 4: Of the eleven priority water bodies, lagarosiphon was present at two sites (Bullock Creek, Wanaka and Albert Town retention ponds).</p> <p>KPI 5: Lagarosiphon was present in three further sites (Inch Clutha; unnamed waterway leading to Paddock Bay, Lake Wanaka; roadside drain at Earnscleugh)</p>			
Lessons Learnt	<p>For next year, working with LINZ, ORC will incorporate several changes to the programme, for example, moving the Whakatipu switch-off zone further down the Kawerau river; incorporating locally sourced wool matting into LINZ control programme; integration of new AI driven underwater lagarosiphon detection tools; a greater focus for surveillance and inspection on tributaries as well as boat ramp compliance inspections at Whakatipu.</p>			

6. Integrated Programmes







Shared Pest Programmes				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of pest inspections/monitoring visits undertaken (excludes rabbits)	1,500	3,136	
KPI 2	% of non-compliant properties (or sites) re-inspected.	100%	71%	
KPI 3	# of monitoring visits to sites where biocontrol agents are present	25	793	
KPI 4	A set of monitoring plans completed by 31 October 2024.	1	1	
KPI 5	Report on 'State of Pest Management in Otago' submitted to Council before 31 March 2025.	1	See comment	
KPI 6	Control actions for the selected pests are completed by 30 June 2025.	100%	100%	
Comments	<p>KPI 1: The total was made up of 295 formal inspections and 2,841 monitoring visits.</p> <p>KPI 2: Overall, 181 properties re-inspected (excludes rabbits) since 1 July 2024. In terms of paired re-inspections for the 24/25 FY, there 36 re-inspections that can be paired with 51 non-compliant new inspections (71%).</p> <p>KPI 5: The Report on 'State of Pest Management in Otago' was replaced by the RPMP Effectiveness Review that was presented to Council on 5 June 2025.</p>			
Lessons Learnt	A leading recommendation from the RPMP Effectiveness Review is the need to undertake more inspections and follow up with re-inspections for non-compliant properties. This is being actively rolled out in 25/26.			

Pest Programme Engagement				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of communication engagements with listed agencies† at least once annually.	10	10	
KPI 2	# of community events attended to support best practice pest control.	8	19	
KPI 3	Otago Marine Biosecurity Programme presented to Council by 30 June 2025	1	See comment	

KPI 4	# of collaborations with other regional councils (Marine/Freshwater).	4	10	
KPI 5	# of collaborations with Kāi Tahu on biosecurity issues.	4	8	
KPI 6	# of nurseries and pet shops visited	10	10	
Comments	KPI 3: Otago Marine Biosecurity Programme to be replaced with more flexible Marine Surveillance and Monitoring Plan to be started in Dec 2025 (and aligned to the new Regional Pest Management Plan due in 2027).			
Lessons Learnt	Engagements with partners and stakeholders going well. Important to ensure programmes/plans are aligned for consistency, efficiency and effectiveness.			

† Listed agencies are: MPI, DoC, LINZ, KiwiRail, Waka Kotahi, WDC, DCC, CDC, CODC and QLDC.

7. RPMP Administration

Compliance and Enforcement Actions				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	% of occupier/landowner advised of inspection status within three weeks of the inspection	75%	78%	
KPI 2	% of occupier/landowner advised of inspection status within six weeks of the inspection	100%	90%	
KPI 3	Any Notices of Direction are issued within 20 working days after re-inspection.	100%	50%	
KPI 4	% of exclusion pest enquiries responded to within 24 hours	100%	100%	
KPI 5	% of eradication pest enquiries responded to within three working days	100%	86%	
KPI 6	% of all pest enquiries responded to within 10 working days	100%	83%	
Comments	<p>KPI 1 & 2: Letters were prioritised for non-compliant properties. Some letters were placed on hold, re-scheduled or suspended for operational reasons.</p> <p>KPI 3: 12 Notices of Direction (NoD) were issued with six served within 20 working days.</p> <p>KPI 4: Five potential exclusion pests were reported during the year (excludes wallabies which are reported separately). All were responded to with 24 hours of receiving the report.</p> <p>KPI 5: Seven enquires were received on eradication pests and six were actioned within three working days. One was actioned within five working days.</p>			

	KPI 6: There were 325 related pest enquiries with 271 responded to within 10 working days. (Longest response 13 working days).
Lessons Learnt	A leading recommendation from the RPMP Effectiveness Review is the need to ensure the compliance sequence for new inspections and re-inspections for non-compliant properties is improved. This focus is being implemented, especially to ensure data systems are accurate.