



Regional Pest Management Plan Review 2026

Online session, 30 June 2026



Agenda

- What is a Regional Pest Management Plan?
- Review process and timeline
- Things to consider
- Next steps
- Any questions?

What is a Regional Pest Management Plan?



What is a RPMP

A regional pest management plan identifies the pests in Otago that ORC will regulate for the life of the plan.

It sets an objective for each pest species that is designed to eliminate or minimise impacts on the things we value.

Production (Economic)

Environment

Social / Cultural

Human Health

Management Programmes

Exclusion

The exclusion programme aims to prevent certain pests, that are currently not found in Otago, from establishing here. **Applies to pest plants not yet established in Otago.**

▶ EXAMPLE PESTS
African feather grass and Chilean needle grass



Eradication

The eradication programme aims to get rid of these pests from Otago. **Pest plants in this category must still be at a manageable level.**

▶ EXAMPLE PEST
Bennett's wallaby



Progressive containment

The progressive containment programme aims to stop a pest from spreading and/or contain it to a certain area. **Applies to pest plants that have built up numbers but haven't spread to most of Otago yet.**

▶ EXAMPLE PESTS
Old man's beard and Bomarea



Sustained control

The sustained control programme aims to provide for ongoing control of the pest to reduce its impacts on environmental, economic and cultural values and spread to other properties. **These pests are already widespread, so we need to slowly reduce their numbers to achieve the best cost-benefit outcomes.**

▶ EXAMPLE PESTS
Gorse and broom



Site-led

Site-led programmes have rules for specific pests that only apply in that area. **Site-led areas have special biodiversity and other values to protect.**

▶ EXAMPLE PESTS
Banana passionfruit and Darwin's barberry in parts of Dunedin



Pathway management

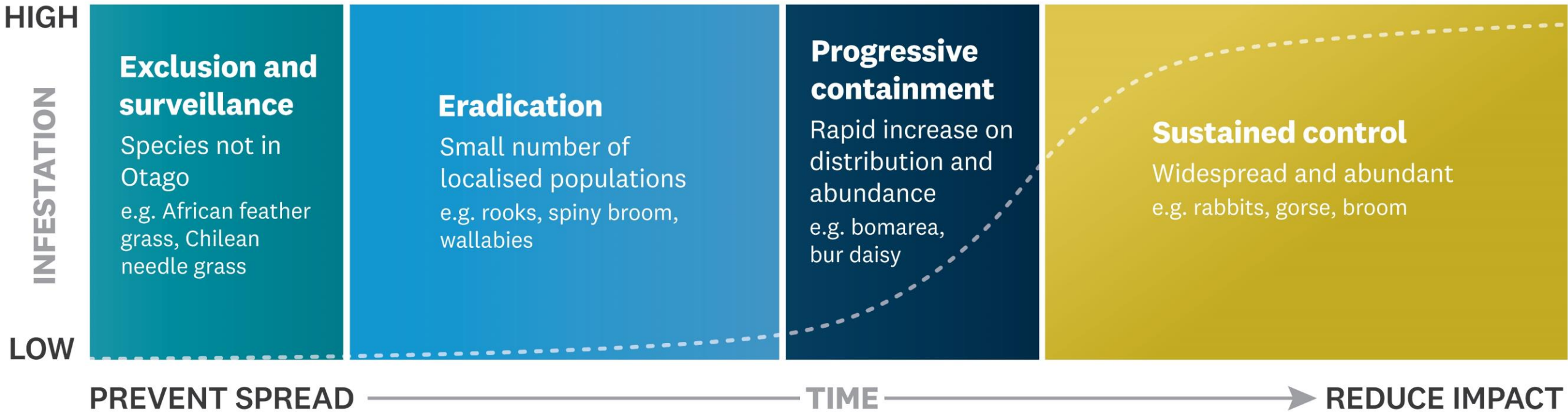
A pathway management plan aims to reduce the way pests are spread — **preventing multiple species from establishing rather than managing pests individually.**

▶ EXAMPLE PEST
Freshwater gold clam



Photo: Tracey Burton, Toitū Te Whenua LINZ

Invasion Curve



Management Actions

- 1. Land occupier rules and compliance inspections.**
- 2. Council-led surveillance, monitoring and control.**
- 3. Education and advocacy.**
- 4. Collaboration.**

Rules for land occupiers


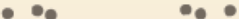





Example rule:

Plan Rule 6.4.6.1

An occupier within the Otago region shall control feral rabbit densities on the land they occupy to at or below **Level 3** on the Modified McLean Scale.

A breach of this rule creates an offence under section 154N(19) of the Biosecurity Act.

Modified McLean Scale

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

Good neighbour rules

Property B
Must control gorse on their property that is within 50m of Property A.

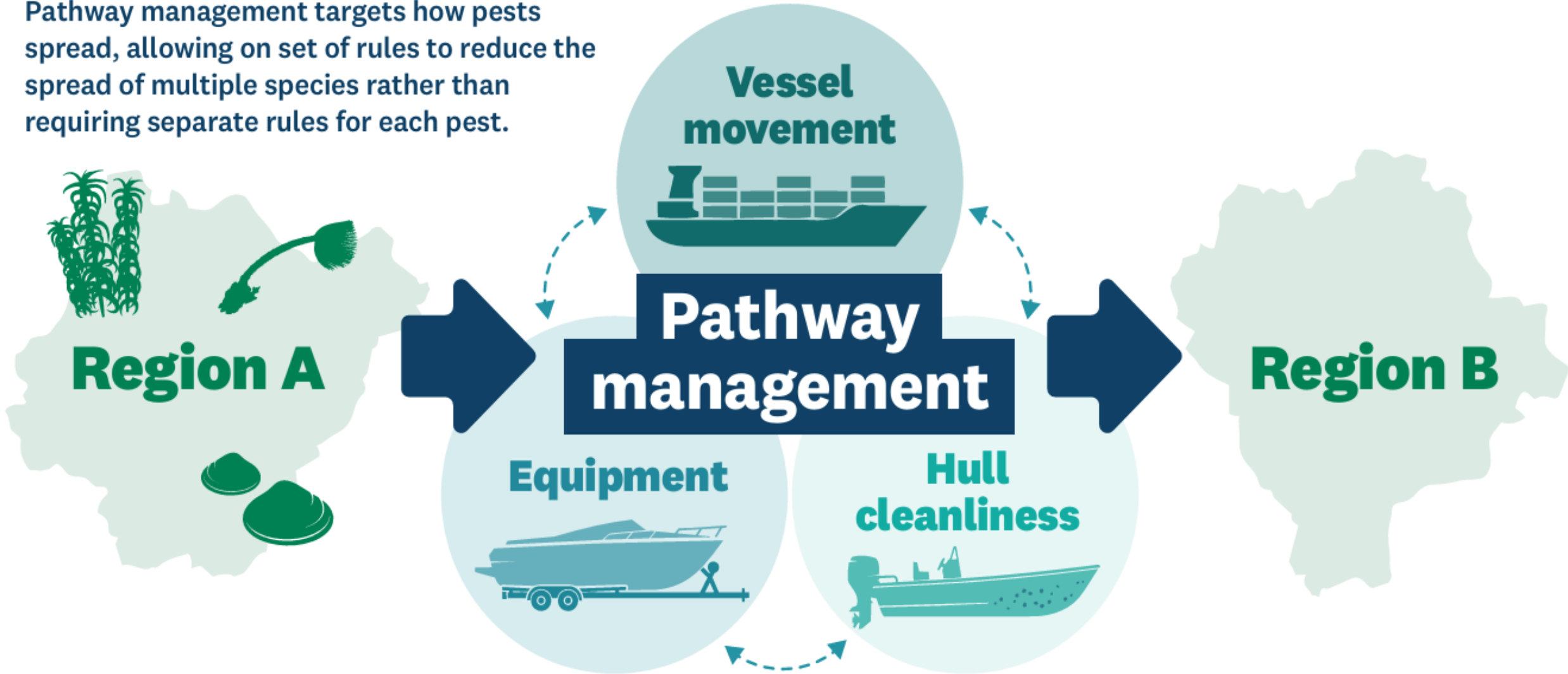
Property A
Has had Gorse controlled on their property.

50m



How pathway management plans work

Pathway management targets how pests spread, allowing on set of rules to reduce the spread of multiple species rather than requiring separate rules for each pest.



Review process and timeline



Timeline

- Our current RPMP needs review by 2029 and we have started the process early due to known issues with the current plan.

Key dates for the RPMP



Review process

- Engagement with the public, iwi partners and stakeholders
- Biosecurity impact assessments
- Analysis of costs and benefits of managing the pest in the plan and Council must be satisfied that the benefits of managing the pest through the RPMP outweigh the costs.
- Consideration of whether the pest would be better managed through voluntary actions (i.e., Catchment Action Plan).

Feedback received so far

- Survey asked - Which pests worry you the most?
- Over 900 responses received.
- Top responses highlighted in Discussion Document as “Spotlight species”.
- Seeking further feedback on how to manage these species.



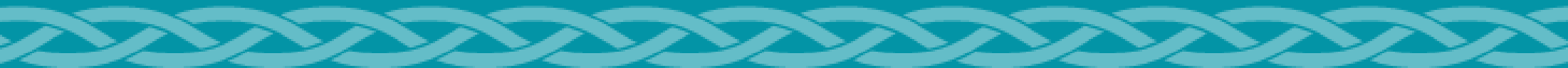
Further engagement

- Discussion Document and online feedback form open until 8 July
- Community meetings 15 June - 6 July



Location	Date	Time
Dunedin	Monday, 15 June	3–6pm
Catlins	Wednesday, 17 June	10am–1pm
Balclutha	Wednesday, 17 June	3–6pm
Wānaka	Monday, 22 June	3–6pm
Ōamaru	Tuesday, 23 June	3–6pm
Alexandra	Wednesday, 1 July	3–6pm
Queenstown	Thursday, 2 July	1–4pm
Ranfurly	Monday, 6 July	3–6pm

Things to consider



Effectiveness of the Current Plan

An external effectiveness review was completed in 2025.

It identified progress and challenges in achieving RPMP objectives.

Pest programme	Pest type or site-led area	How are we doing
Exclusion	African feather grass, Chilean needle grass, egeria, false tamarisk, hornwort, moth plant	On track
Eradication	Rooks, spiny broom	On track
	Wallaby	On track in raising awareness. Off track in reducing populations and preventing spread.
Progressive containment	Spartina	On track
	Pest conifers (includes 10 species), African love grass, nassella tussock	More work to do
	Bomarea, old man's beard	Off track
	Boneseed, bur daisy, cape ivy, perennial nettle, white-edged nightshade	More work to do
Sustained control	Feral rabbits	More work to do
	Gorse and broom, Russell lupin	Off track
	Nodding thistle, ragwort	More work to do
Site-led	Lagarosiphon	More work to do
	Otago Peninsula	More work to do
	West Harbour — Mt Cargill	More work to do
	Quarantine and Goat islands	More work to do

Things we are considering

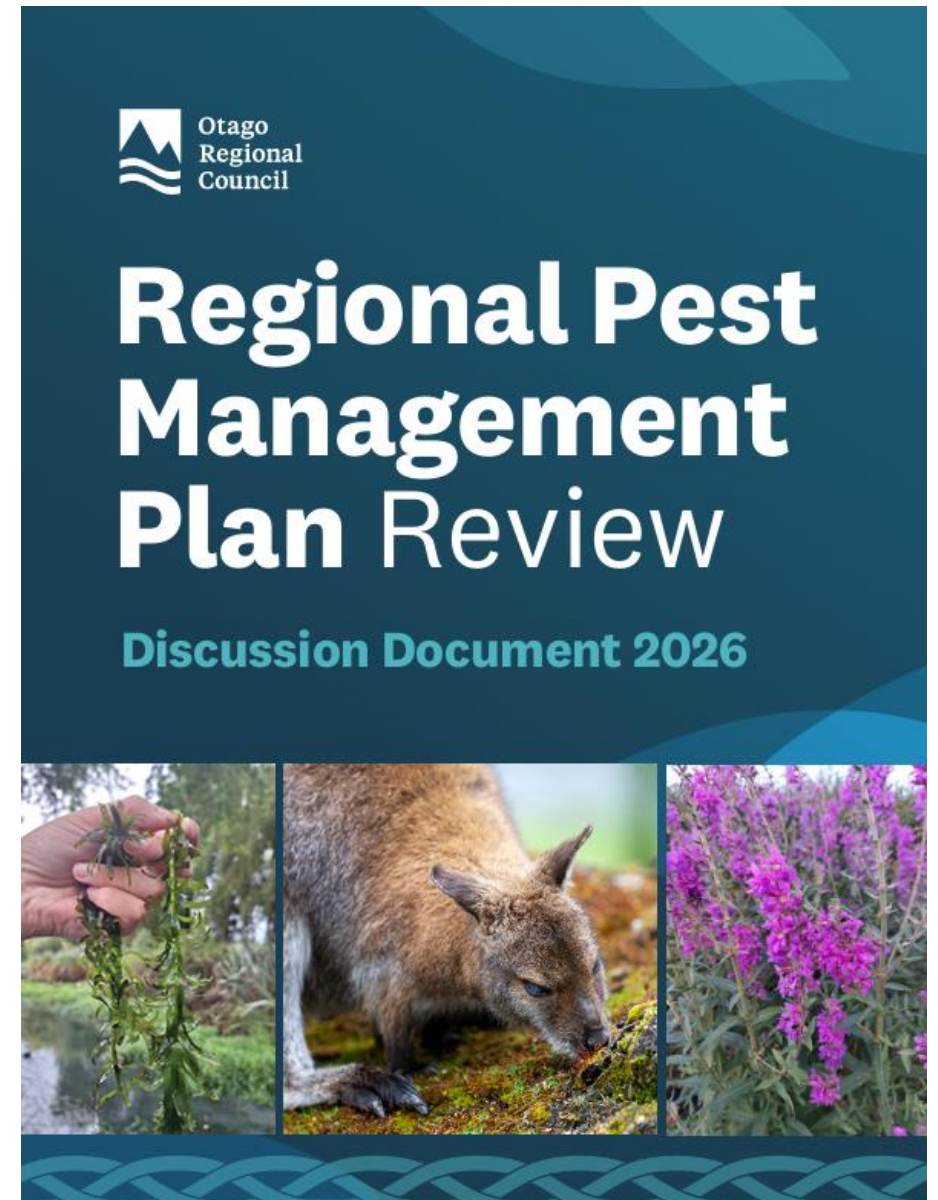
- Which species to include as pests in the plan
- Best way to manage species
- Pathway management of freshwater and marine pests
- Role of site-led programmes
- Best way to protect biodiversity and cultural values, e.g. RPMP rules or voluntary actions.

Next Steps



Next Steps

- Fill out the online feedback form
- Attend a community session
- Get involved in the formal submission process in 2027



Thank you, any questions?

