

Regional Pest Management Plan Review 2026

Council Workshop, 12 November 2026

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Agenda

- **Introduction**
- **Background**
- **Workshop exercise to cover:**
  - Site-led programmes
  - Complex species
  - Proposed options for other species
- **Next steps**

Purpose of workshop

Staff are seeking initial thoughts on:

1) Potential management approach for some “complex” proposed species and programmes:

- Site-Led programmes
- Feral rabbits
- Feral deer
- Possums
- Wilding (pest) conifers
- Lagarosiphon
- Feral goats and pigs

3) Level of comfort with proposed options for moderate and low complexity species.

Background

What is a RPMP?

A regional pest management plan (RPMP) is the primary regulatory instrument available to a regional council *"to prevent, reduce, or eliminate adverse effects from harmful species that are present in the Region".*

- Biosecurity Act 1993 and National Policy Direction 2015.
- The plan identifies the species and site-led areas in Otago that Council will regulate for the life of the plan.
- The plan includes an objective for each pest species that is designed to eliminate or minimise impacts on the things we value.
- For a species/site-led area to be included in the RPMP, Council must undertake an analysis of the impacts, benefits and costs. This includes:
  - Whether the objective can be achieved using voluntary methods.
  - If voluntary methods alone will not be successful and a rule is needed, the analysis will then consider.
    - Who will bear the cost to comply with the rule (e.g., land occupier, neighbour, the Crown, Council).
    - Who will benefit from the rule being enforced (e.g., individuals, communities, Otago region).

A key consideration: 'is a rule needed or can the outcome be achieved in a different way?'

Production (Economic)	Environment	Social / Cultural	Human Health

Regulatory Approach

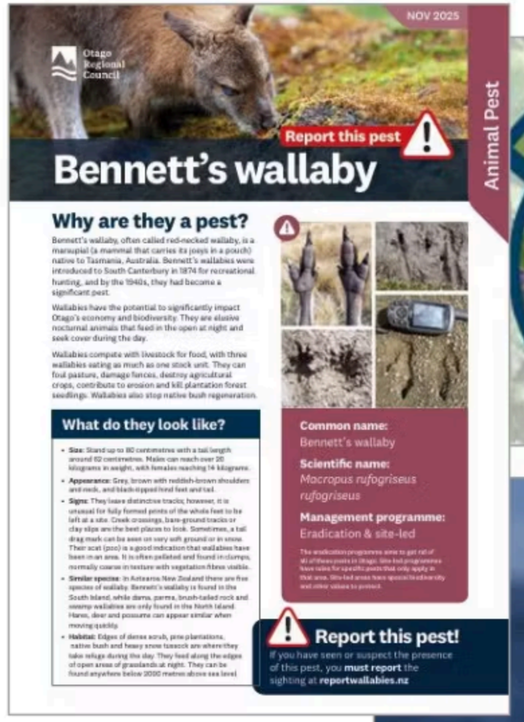
- Biosecurity Act 1993
- National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015
- Otago Regional Pest Management Plan
- Annual Biosecurity Operational Plan
- Responding to neighbour enquiries
- Surveillance and monitoring
- Limited control works
- Incursion response
- Inspections
- Enforcement
- Default works



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Non-Regulatory Approach

- Otago Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy
- Iwi and Industry Partnerships
- Strategic Events (Wānaka A & P Show, Wild Dunedin etc.)
- Support to deliver Catchment Action Plans (once developed)
- Community Programmes (rabbits, gorse and broom, Nasella tussock)
- Facilitating Community Workshops (Allanton Rabbits, Cardrona gorse and broom, Herbert African feather grass)
- Biosecurity webpages (pest of the month, pest pages, fact sheets, technical / best practice advice, biosecurity stories)
- Science and innovation (e.g. use of drones for rabbit night counts)
- Online Report Pests form
- Biocontrol
- Site-led Direct Funding & ECO Funding

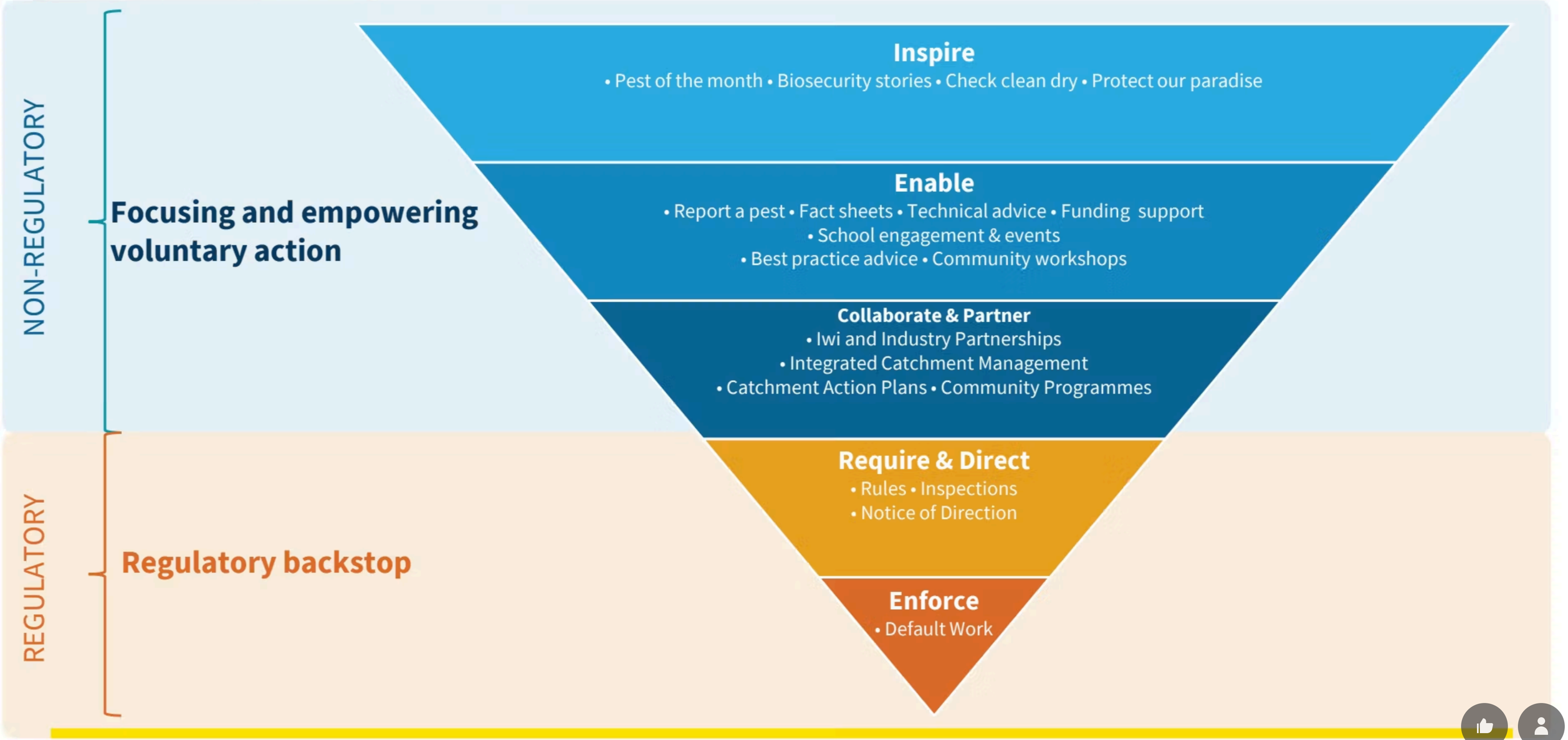






Biosecurity Management Approach

Supporting action first, escalating when needed



Why we are reviewing the plan

- Every RPMP needs to be reviewed at least once every 10 years. However, a review can be brought forward. Reasons to bring forward a review include if the plan, or part of it, is failing to achieve its objectives or that relevant circumstances have changed since the plan commenced.

- In December 2024, Council decided to undertake an early review of the current RPMP.

- The early review was designed to address some inconsistencies and correct some implementation challenges within the current RPMP.

- It was also recognised that a review of an RPMP can take time. An early review would ensure that Council has a new plan in place on, or before, the expiry date of the current plan.

Why we are reviewing the plan

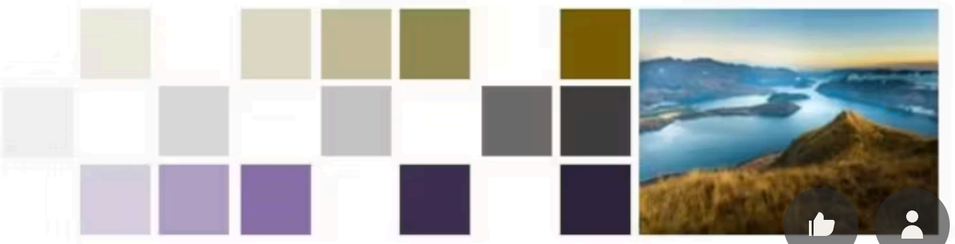
- An external effectiveness review was completed by Sapere in 2025.
- It identified progress and challenges in achieving RPMP objectives.
- It provides information that will help us improve our biosecurity programmes into the future.

Review into the effectiveness of the Otago Regional Pest Management Plan

Evaluation Report

Dr Julius Ohrnberger, Lockie Woon, Dr Jamie O'Hare, Leané de Beer, Sally Wyatt

April 2025



Management Programmes

Pests must be managed under the programmes as defined by the National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015.

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.**

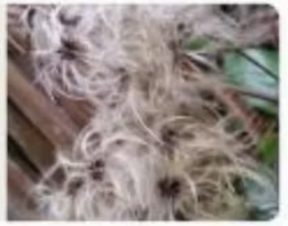
EXAMPLE PEST
Bennett's wallaby



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.**

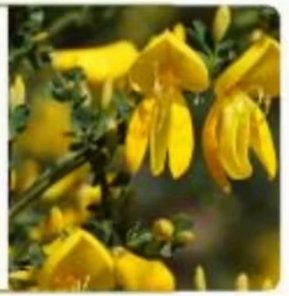
EXAMPLE PESTS
Old man's beard and Bomarea



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

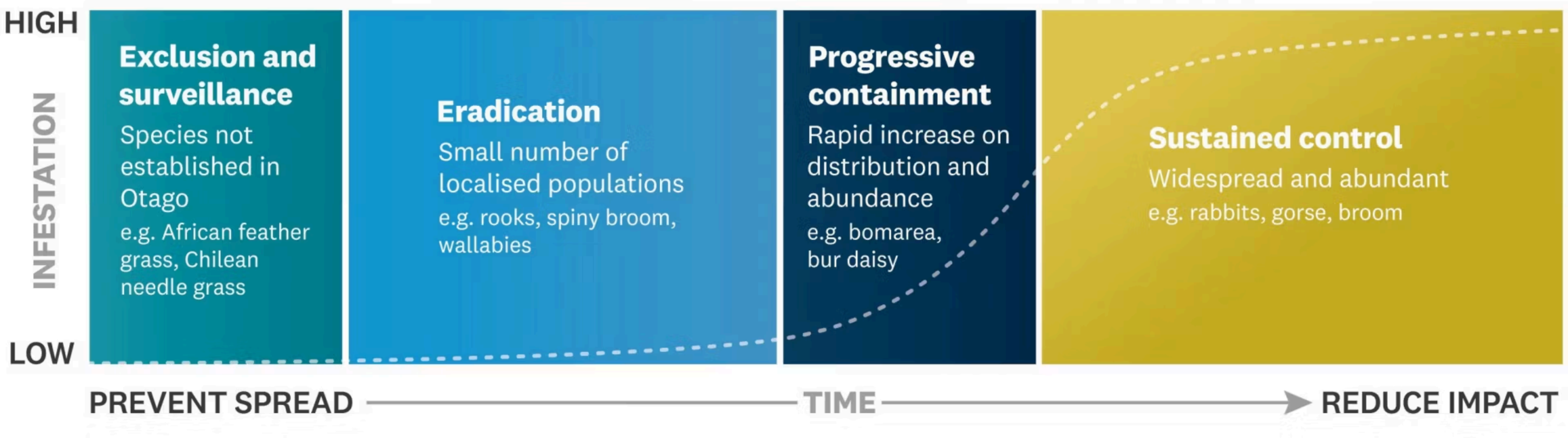
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Responsibilities and obligations

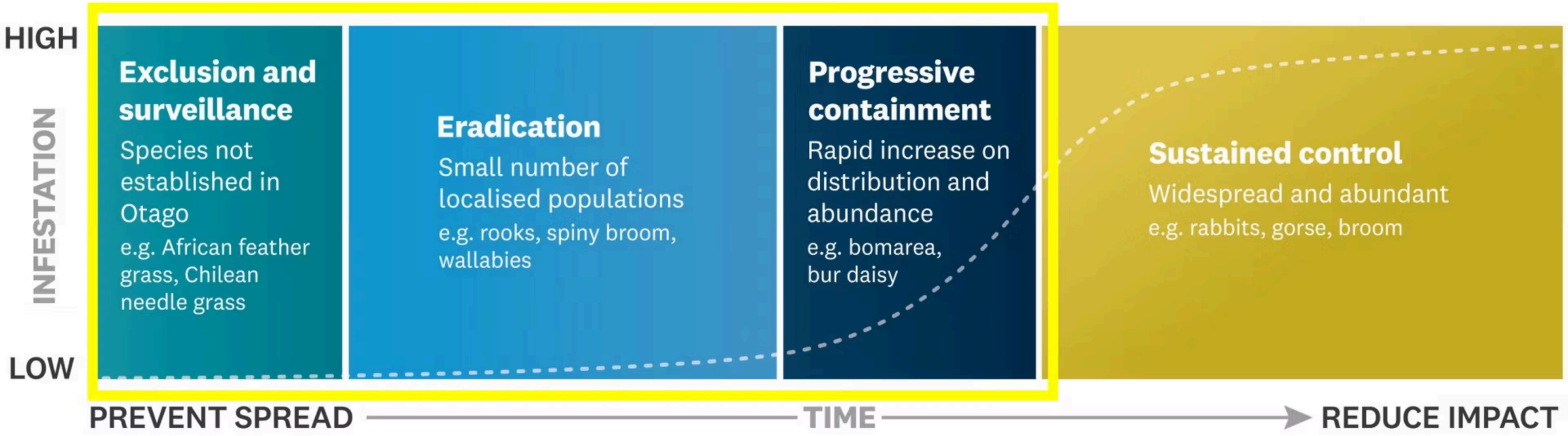
- Council is the management agency responsible for implementing the Plan.
- Pest management in Otago is a shared responsibility, undertaken by a range of agencies, stakeholders, community groups and individuals.
- Rules in the pest plan typically apply to land occupiers, requiring them to control specific pests on their property.
- Council is responsible for surveillance, monitoring, eradication, pest sighting response, or exclusion pest incursion response.
- Naming a species in the plan does not mean Council will lead service delivery; however, Council will need to show how it will fund pest management i.e., through compliance and inspection.

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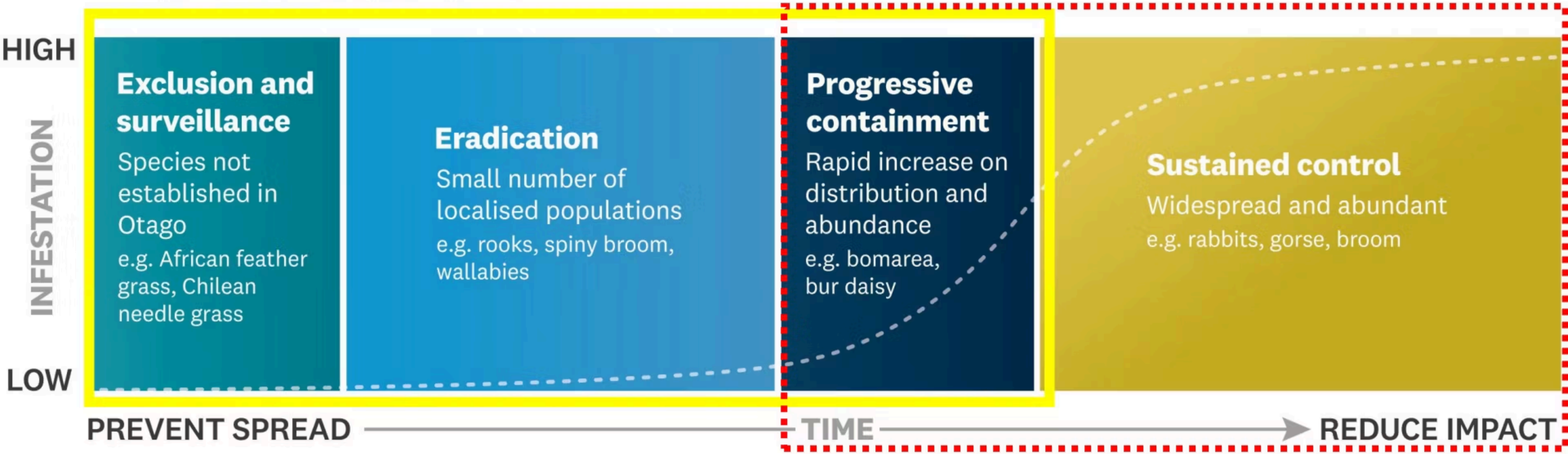
Invasion Curve: Determining cost effective intervention?



Invasion Curve: Determining cost effective intervention?



Invasion Curve: Determining cost effective intervention?



- Biosecurity is more efficient and cost effective at the lower part of the curve (regulating low infestation species) as this delivers the greatest gains in terms of benefits and avoiding or reducing the impacts of species.

Progressive Containment and Sustained Control are the most expensive and resource heavy programmes.

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Phase One: Early Engagement

- **Dedicated web page and media releases (ongoing)**

- **An initial online survey (938 responses)**
  - *Rabbits, feral cats, pest conifers , possums, mustelids, deer, pigs, rats, sycamore and willows featured as major concerns.*
  - *Informed the selection of "Spotlight Species".*

- **Discussion document (136 responses)**
  - *Retaining and strengthening current approaches for Bennett's wallaby, wilding conifers, rats, mustelids and lagarosiphon.*
  - *Modifying existing approaches for rabbits, gorse and broom, feral ungulates and sycamore.*
  - *Stronger regulatory management for willows, yellow-flag iris, and emerging freshwater and marine pests.*
  - *Retaining site-led programmes to protect sites with high biodiversity and economic values.*
  - *Continued, strengthened non-regulatory approaches to pest management.*

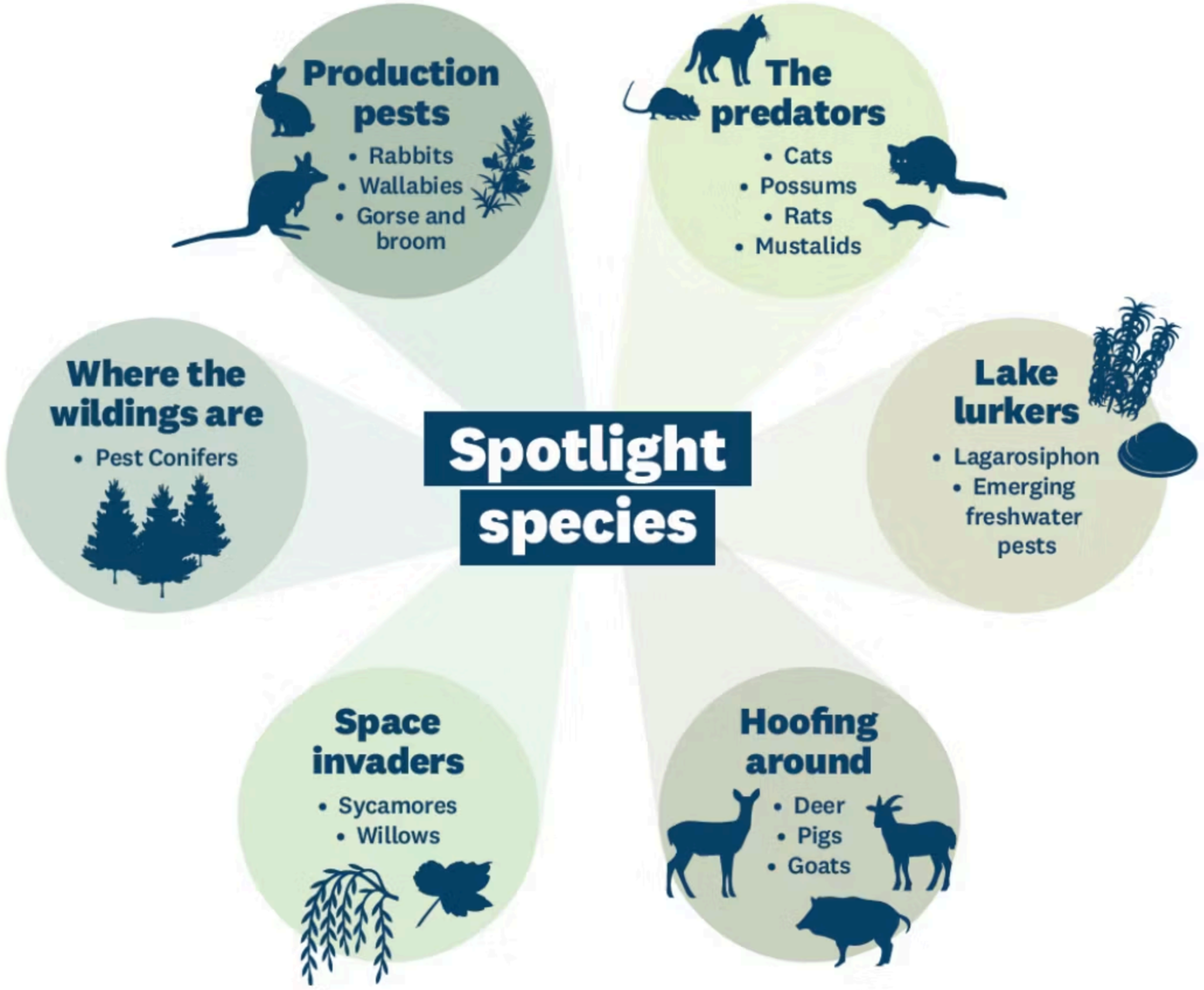
- **Eight Community drop-in sessions (113 attendees)**
  - *Feral deer, pigs and goats, site-led programmes, rabbits, feral cats and pest conifers featured as major concerns.*

- **Online webinar and presentation on web page**

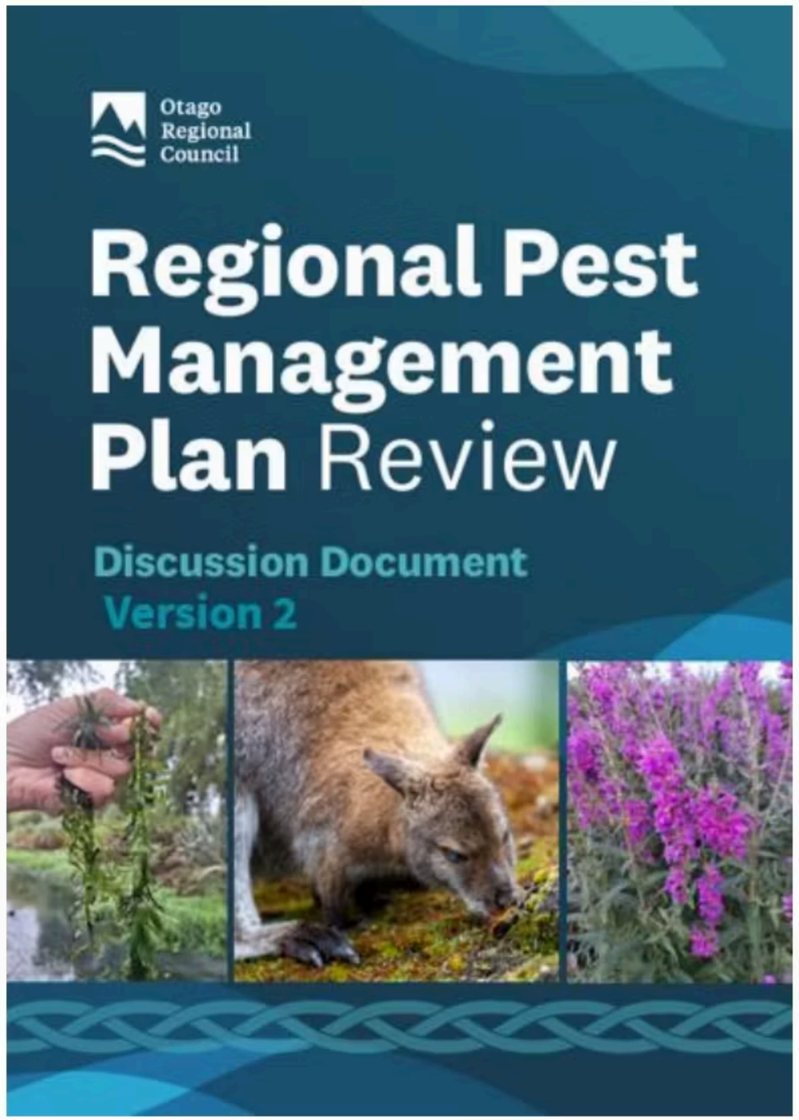
- **Seven stakeholder workshops (86 stakeholders from 46 organisations)**
  - *Feral deer, pigs and goats, wilding conifers, rabbits, possums, and site-led programmes featured as major concerns.*
  - *Clearer objectives, stronger Good Neighbour Rules, greater protection of high-value biodiversity areas, and improved coordination across land occupiers and agencies required.*

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Spotlight Species



Phase Two: Focused Engagement



- **Updated web page and media releases (ongoing)**
- **Focused Stakeholder Discussion Document – Version 2**
  - Featuring spotlight/priority species and species where programme change is proposed
  - Early engagement summary – 'This is what we have heard'
  - Visual representation of net outcome from ABC
  - Proposed management approach option
  - Link to online survey
- **Online Survey**
  - Open December 2026 – January 2027
  - Proposed option - Do you agree? Yes/No
  - If no, how can we improve this?
- **One-to-one engagement with key stakeholders**
  - DOC, Forestry, Primary production etc.

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Workshop exercises

What the workshop will cover…

Today's workshop will cover:

- An overview of seven high complexity / high interest species of concern
  Species that are of high public interest and/or have been assessed as requiring a high level of analysis for benefits and costs

- An overview of six proposed site-led programmes
  Three current and three proposed

- A species prioritisation exercise

- An overview of proposed management options for all other species

What the workshop will cover…

- The seven high complexity / high interest species of concern and six site-led programmes we will discuss in today's workshop have been chosen as they are the most complex, challenging (and potentially the most expensive to manage) of all the species and sites proposed.

- **Attachment 2** in the workshop documentation pack includes more detail on each proposed species or site-led programme. In today's workshop we will provide a summary of:
  - ✓ The background context
  - ✓ The early engagement feedback

- We will then ask you about your preferred options to address each issue.

Pest management options

There are a range of potential management options to manage pest species and high value sites. These include:

- **No action =** The National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015 requires a 'no action' approach be one of the options considered, alongside one or more other management options for each species or site.
- **Non regulatory approach =** No rules in the RPMP, but options for community support and funding.
- **Regulatory approach =** A variety of regulatory approaches which include parallel non-regulatory support.
- **Council service delivery =** Council funds control or other management activities (this option is described in each relevant Biosecurity Impact Assessment)

Attachment 2 in the workshop documentation pack includes an 'Options for a Proposal for an Updated Plan' section towards the rear, this details the measures that would be used to deliver each management option.

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What is a ‘complex’ species?

Clause 6(1) of the National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015 outlines the factors that must be assessed when determining how much effort should be put into analysing the benefits and costs for a species.

These considerations are a pre-screening process for subsequent, more detailed analysis.

Complexity comes in when there are a number of different options available for management and the analysis does not provide a single obvious or straightforward answer. This could be due to:

- The likely significance of the pest or the proposed measures
- The likely costs relative to likely benefits
- Certainty of the impacts of the pest and/or the effectiveness of measures
- Level and quality of data available
- Varying views within the community

Workshop Document Overview [1]

Biosecurity Impact Assessments: Complex Species

- Provides a description of the species of concern
- Describes the impact that this species may have on the region's values
- Describes current management and proposed future management needs
- Provides a recommendation based on technical review and engagement outcomes



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Candidate Pest Species Management Audit	
Pest Species	Feral Deer (Red, Whitetail, Fallow)
Species Names	*Cervus elaphus / Odocoileus virginianus borealis / Dama dama*
Author Name & Role	James Bradley; Community Coordinator Biosecurity
Audit Date	24 March 2026
Independent Technical Review	
Consultant / Company Name	Ali Meade Consulting
Reviewer Name	Ali Meade
Review Date	18 June 2026

DRAFT

Introduction

This audit provides an assessment of the pest management activities of Otago Regional Council in relation to Feral Deer within the Otago Region.

The assessment covers:

- The values that are at threat from the pest,
- Effectiveness and efficiency of the rules in the current Pest Management Plan and other activities in managing the pest,
- Options for management under a new Pest Management Plan.
- Opportunities for regional alignment with neighbouring council
- Level of analysis required to undertake a cost benefit analysis

This information in this audit will be used to inform the development of a Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) for Otago to replace the current Plan.

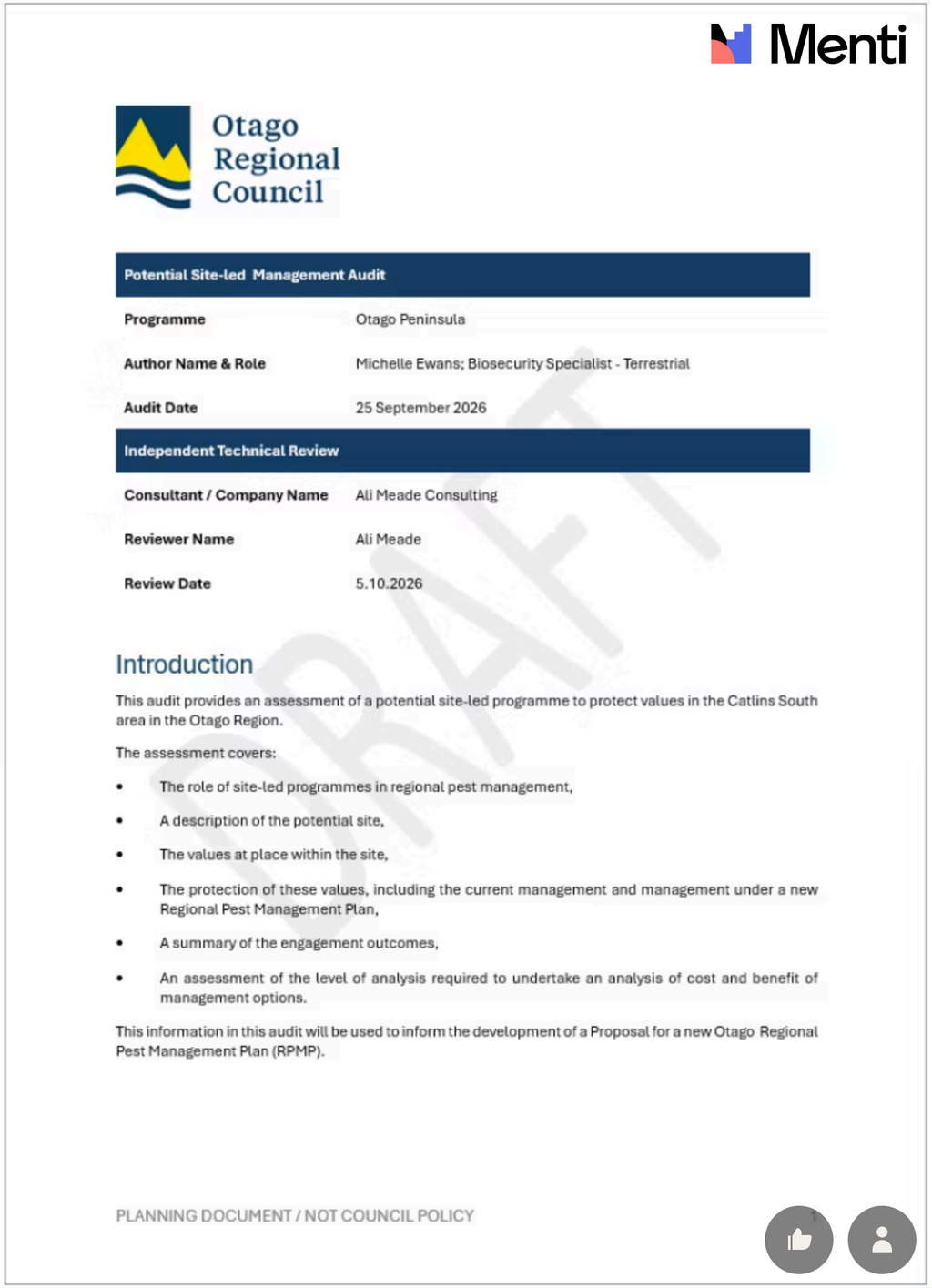
PLANNING DOCUMENT / NOT COUNCIL POLICY

1

Workshop Document Overview [2]

Biosecurity Impact Assessments: Sites of High Value

- Provides a description of the site
- Describes the site's values
- Describes the impact that species of concern have on those values
- Describes current management and proposed future management needs
- Provides a management recommendation based on engagement outcomes



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Potential Site-led Management Audit	
Programme	Otago Peninsula
Author Name & Role	Michelle Ewans; Biosecurity Specialist - Terrestrial
Audit Date	25 September 2026
Independent Technical Review	
Consultant / Company Name	Ali Meade Consulting
Reviewer Name	Ali Meade
Review Date	5.10.2026

Introduction

This audit provides an assessment of a potential site-led programme to protect values in the Catlins South area in the Otago Region.

The assessment covers:

- The role of site-led programmes in regional pest management,
- A description of the potential site,
- The values at place within the site,
- The protection of these values, including the current management and management under a new Regional Pest Management Plan,
- A summary of the engagement outcomes,
- An assessment of the level of analysis required to undertake an analysis of cost and benefit of management options.

This information in this audit will be used to inform the development of a Proposal for a new Otago Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP).

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PLANNING DOCUMENT / NOT COUNCIL POLICY

Workshop Document Overview [3]

Table A: Low & Moderate Complexity Species

- Identifies each species of concern
- Identifies the staff recommended future management programme for each of those species

Attachment [3] Potential Management Options for Moderate & Low Complexity Species

Note [1]: Clause 6 (1) of the National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015 outlines the factors that must be assessed when determining how much effort should be put into analysing the benefits and costs for a species. These considerations are a pre-screening process for subsequent, more detailed analysis. Complexity is derived from the following considerations: the likely significance of the pest or the proposed measures, the likely costs relative to likely benefits, certainty of the impacts of the pest and/or the effectiveness of measures and the level and quality of data available.

Note [2]: This list has been generated from the Biosecurity Impact Assessment drafting process. This is the first step in a multi-step process. This list is subject to change, as the prioritisation process is progressed.

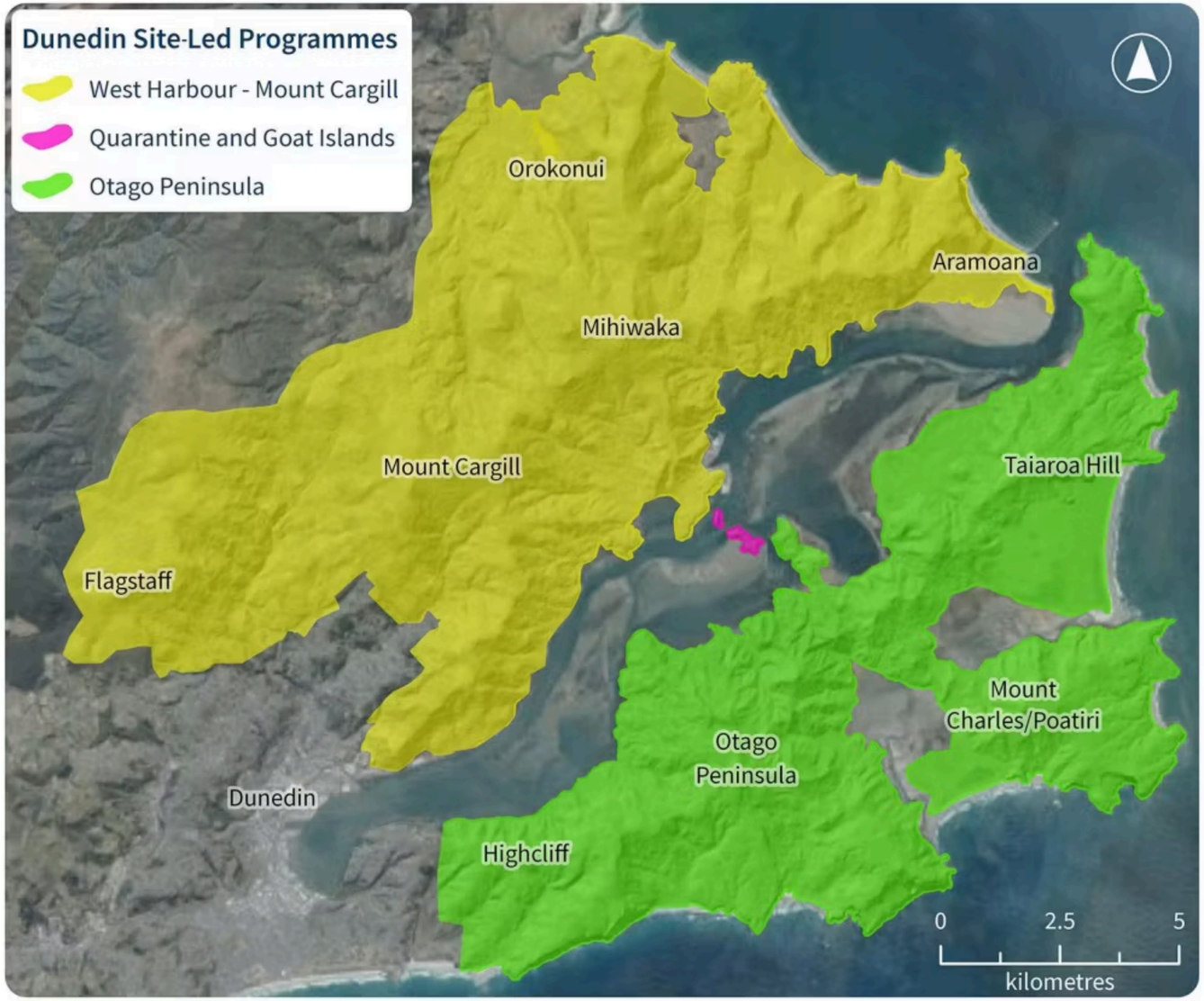
RPMP Review 25-28 | Options Assessment for Moderate & Low Complexity Species: Animals									
CURRENT STATE			OPTIONS FOR MANAGEMENT						
Programme	Species	Current Programme	No Change	Site Led	Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Advisory Species (Organism of Interest)
Terrestrial Plant	Chilean needle grass	Exclusion	Recommendation						
Terrestrial Plant	False tamarisk	Exclusion	Recommendation						
Terrestrial Plant	Moth plant	Exclusion	Recommendation						
Freshwater Plant	Egeria	Exclusion	Recommendation						
Freshwater Plant	Hornwort	Exclusion	Recommendation						
Terrestrial Animal	Bennett's wallabies	Eradication	Recommendation						
Terrestrial Animal	Rooks	Eradication	Recommendation						
Terrestrial Plant	Spiny broom	Eradication	Recommendation						
Terrestrial Plant	Conifers (pest)	Progressive containment	Recommendation						
Terrestrial Animal	Rabbits (feral)	Sustained control	Recommendation						
Terrestrial Animal	Possums	Site-led		Recommendation					
Terrestrial Animal	Cats (feral)	Site-led		Recommendation					
Terrestrial Animal	Mustelids (stoats, ferrets, weasels)	Site-led		Recommendation	To support community action by allowing access				
Terrestrial Animal	Hedgehog	Site-led		Recommendation					
Terrestrial Animal	Rats	Site-led with no rules		Recommendation					
Terrestrial Animal	Deer (feral)	Site-led		Recommendation					
Terrestrial Animal	Goats (feral)	Site-led		Recommendation	Otago Peninsula / Harbour Island sites only, exclusion species.				
Terrestrial Animal	Pigs (feral)	Site-led		Recommendation					
Terrestrial Plant	Willow	Organism of interest		Recommendation					
Terrestrial Plant	Sycamore	Site-led		Recommendation					

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Workshop exercise



Site-led Programmes



Site-Led: Programmes Defined

- A site-led programme defines an area of high value within a region (a ‘site’).
- The RPMP will define an objective, or set of objectives, designed to protect the values identified within that site.
- Rules will be applied within the site, requiring land occupiers to manage pest species that are impacting on the values within the site (the pressures).
- Site-led rules are used when a regionwide rule is not appropriate.
  e.g. a region-wide feral cat management rule may be deemed inappropriate, but a site-led feral cat rule for a specific area could help protect populations of regionally declining gecko populations.
- The site must be clearly defined within the RPMP, and a map of the site attached.
- Council can also support community control work via non-regulatory programmes
  e.g., ‘is a rule needed or can the outcome be achieved in a different way?’

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Site-Led: Criteria to Include

1. **The plan addresses a specific site, rather than the pest or pests themselves. The focus is protecting the values in that site.**
   - *Biodiversity, environmental, aesthetic, economic or cultural.*
   - *The programme meets the requirements of the Biosecurity Act 1993 and the National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015.*

2. **There must be strong community support for the programme, including from land occupiers who are willing to provide access to private property.**

4. **There is a community agreement with Council about:**
   - *How the site will be managed.*
   - *How the programme will be delivered.*
   - *The nature and level of support needed from Council.*

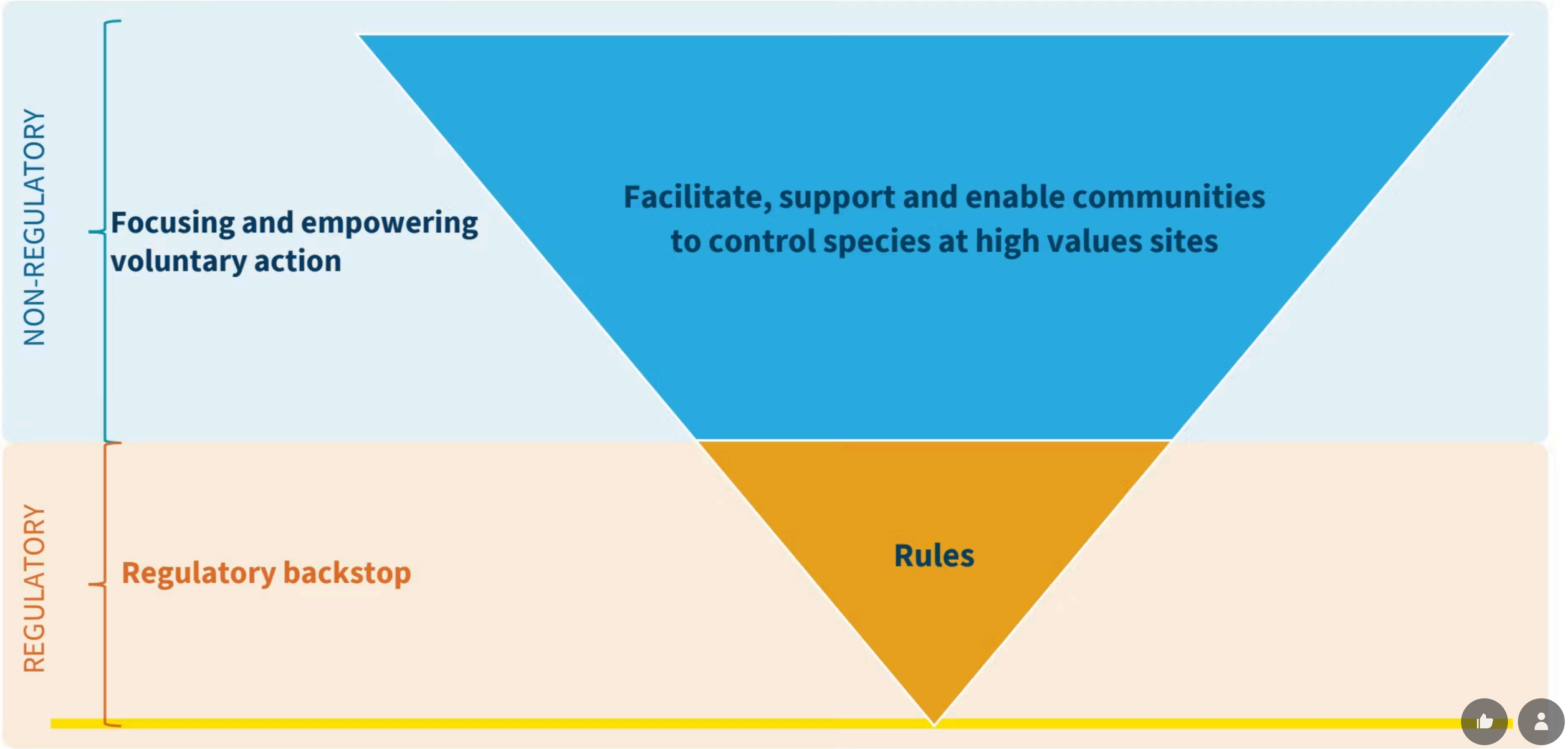
5. **The programme must be resourced for its duration.**
   - *This could include Council and/or community funding.*

Note: This criteria was created and approved by Council under the old Biosecurity Strategy. It is not defined by the Biosecurity Act. The criteria can be updated and changed as required by Council.

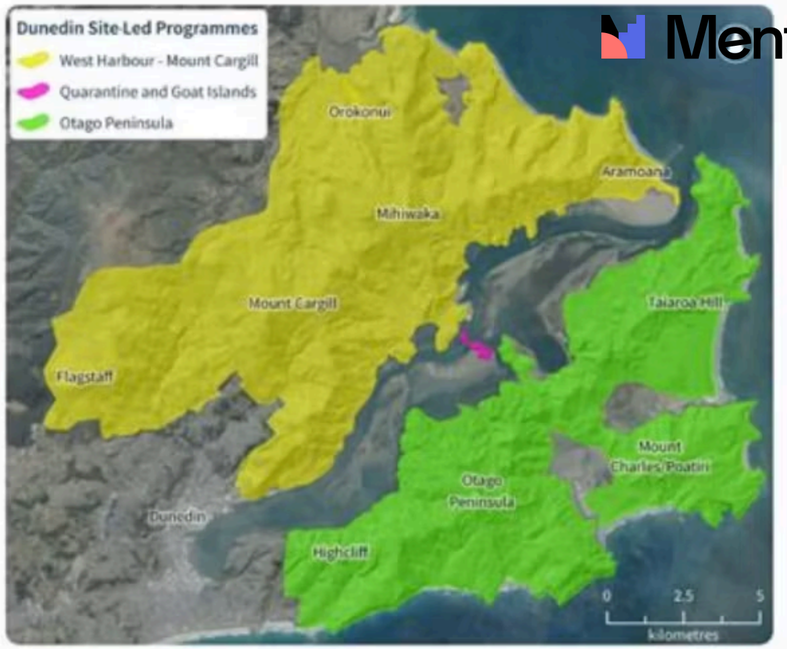
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Biosecurity Management Approach for High Values Sites

Supporting action first, escalating when needed



Site-Led: Current Situation



Existing

- Otago Peninsula
- Mt Cargill West Harbour
- Harbour Islands (Quarantine Goat)
- *Lagarosiphon (see separate slides below)*

Objectives, Rules & Pest Species to be Managed

- Vary at each site based on the values and community aspirations

Successes

- Over three funding rounds, a total of $550,000 has been allocated to site-led programmes at two West Harbour - Mt Cargill (Aramoana & Leith Saddle - Mihiwaka) and two Otago Peninsula (Sandymount - Sandfly Bay & Okia - Papanui - Taiaroa Hill) sites.
- Outputs include:
  - ✓ >57,000 pest plants controlled,
  - ✓ ≤400 additional pest animal traps installed,
  - ✓ ≤2,000 pest animals controlled

Current issues

- There are no rules requiring land occupier pest management, within the current Site-led Programmes, which limits their effectiveness.
- Current funding is only adequate to carry out management in parts of the site, not the entire site.

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Site-Led: Engagement Themes

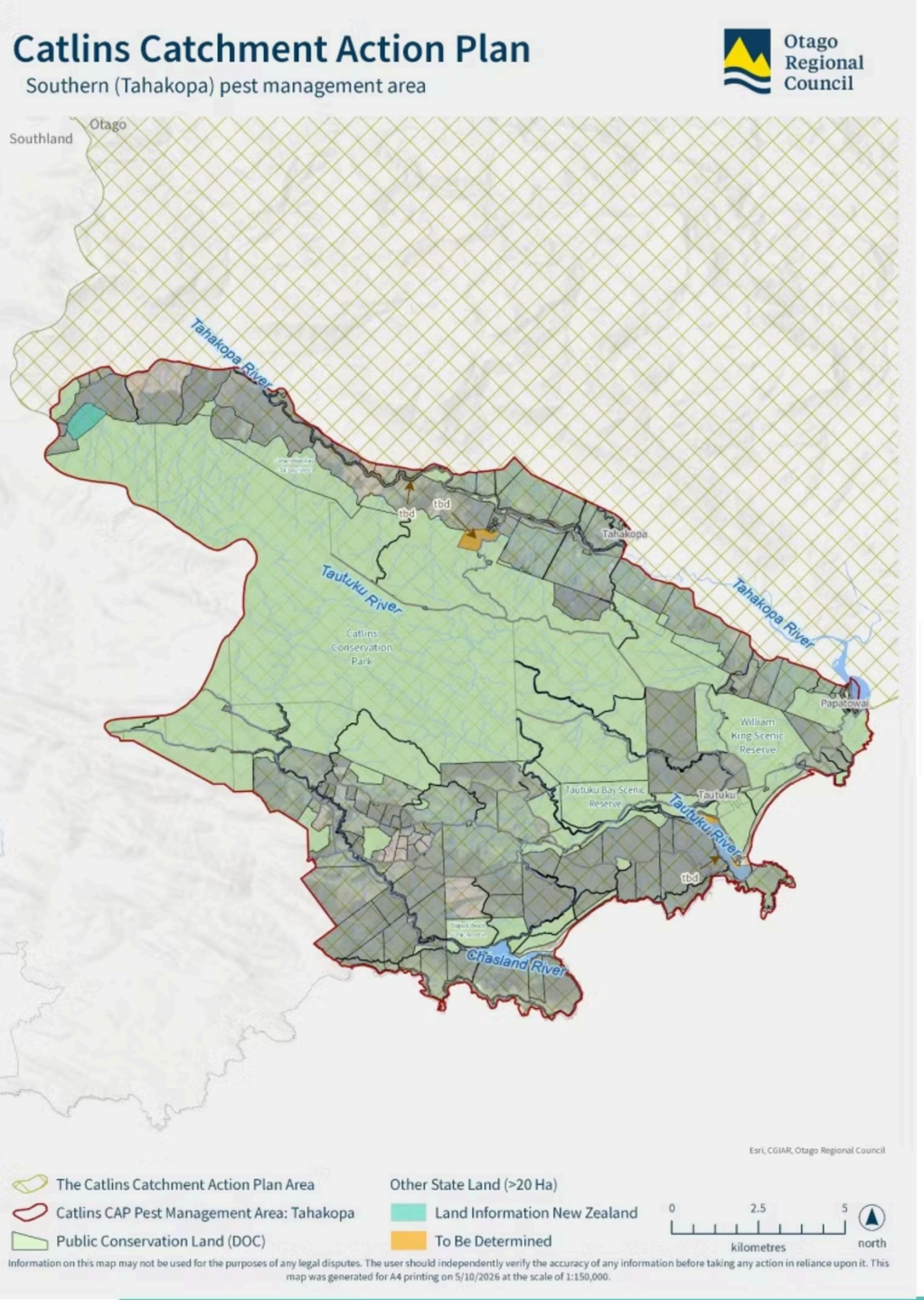
- Site-led Programmes were **consistently supported** by land occupiers and stakeholders throughout engagement, as they thought this was likely to be an effective tool for protecting biodiversity, cultural, and economic values through targeted, site-specific pest management.

- Engagement with the community groups involved in managing these areas have suggested sustained funding is more important than land occupier rules.

- Site-led Programmes were discussed at the **Dunedin, Catlins, Balclutha, Wānaka, Oamaru, and Alexandra** community drop-in sessions.

- **There was support for:**
  - Retaining the current site-led programmes
  - Prioritising areas based on high levels of biodiversity and clear management objectives
  - Adding additional land occupier rules to the existing programmes
  - Greater responsibility for land occupiers to manage pest plants (land occupier rules)
  - Improving the definitions and terminology
  - Flexible programme boundaries and measurable outcomes

    Note 1: Programme boundaries cannot be flexible under the RPMP as changes would require a partial Plan review
    Note 2: Non-regulatory actions can be flexible, as they are not directed by the Biosecurity Act.



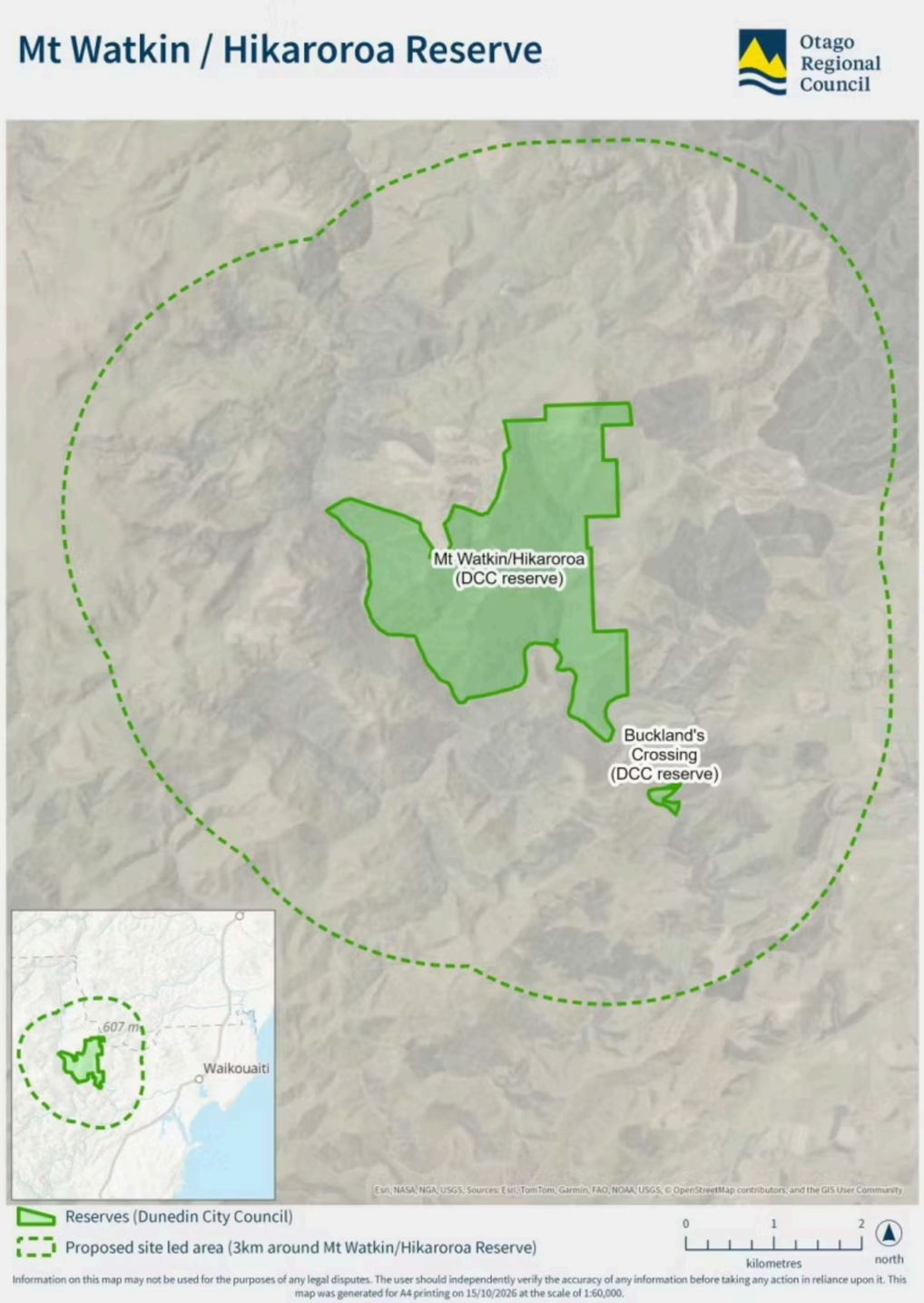
Proposed Site-led Programme: Catlins South

- The Catlins is dominated by indigenous native forest. Biodiversity values include coastal temperate forests, dune systems, coastal turfs, shrublands, beech forests, estuarine systems, river flats and swampland. Catlins South, the southern-most part of this area is contiguous to the wider Catlins, and so contains similar habitats.

- The Catlins is home to several significant native fauna species such as the nationally critical long-tailed bat/pekapeka, nationally important numbers of the endemic mohua/yellowhead, New Zealand falcon/kārearea, yellow-crowned kākāriki and kererū and a rare mainland South Island population of red-crowned kākāriki. Pest management in Catlins South will provide a haven for these species until work can begin in the wider CAP.

- Threats to site values include: feral red deer, goats and pigs, possums and feral cats, mustelids and rats, and hedgehogs. Weed species of concern include gunnera, Chilean flame creeper, banana passionfruit and Spanish heath.

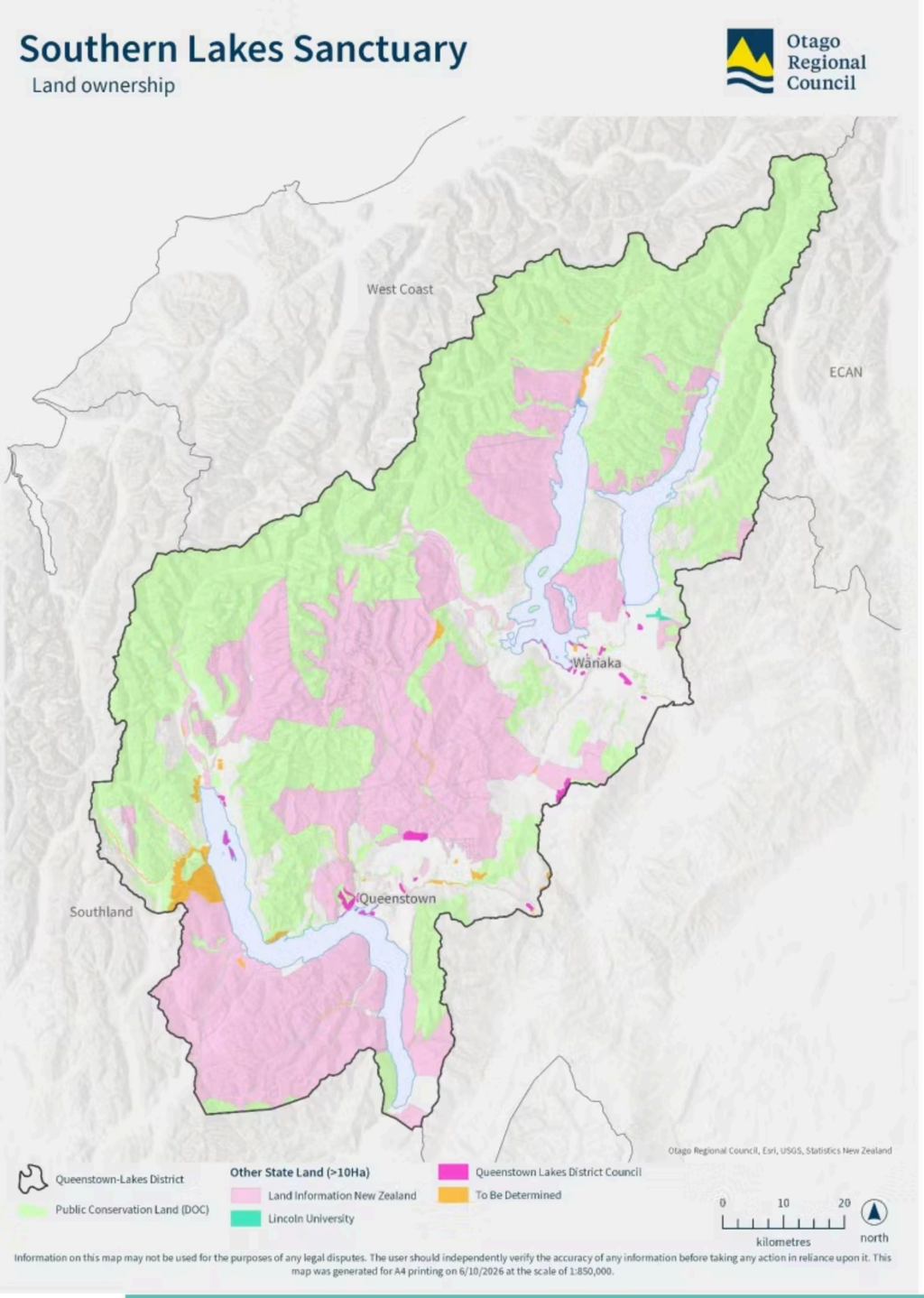
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Proposed Site-led Programme: Hikaroroa Mt Watkins

- Hikaroroa Mt Watkin represents one of the most ecologically important forest remnants in North Otago.
- Twenty-eight vegetation types have been recognised and mapped within the Reserve, and 180 native plant species are present including six that are at risk nationally.
- The site provides habitat for a numbers of native forest birds, skinks, invertebrates and freshwater fish.
- The site is important to local mana whenua. Their vision is to reintroduce those native species that have been lost to the area.
- Terrestrial animal threats to the biodiversity values include: Feral red and fallow deer, feral pigs and goats; possums, feral cats, mustelids, hedgehogs, rats, mice and rabbits. Terrestrial plant threats include gorse and broom, Chilean flame creeper, elder, Himalayan honeysuckle, tree lupin and blackberry.

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Proposed Site-led Programme: Southern Lakes

- Southern Lakes Sanctuary is a large, landscape-scale biodiversity partnership working across a project area of approximately 850,000 hectares in the Southern Lakes. Of this, more than three quarters is Crown owned and managed, and this is where the majority of the pest management activities are occurring.

- The Sanctuary protects a globally significant sweep of biodiversity, including at least 33 threatened or at-risk native species. Of note include the nationally critical black stilt, bittern, black billed gull, and pekapeka (long-tailed bat), nationally vulnerable takahē, unique reptiles like the grand and Otago skinks, and nationally endangered kākā, kea and black fronted tern.

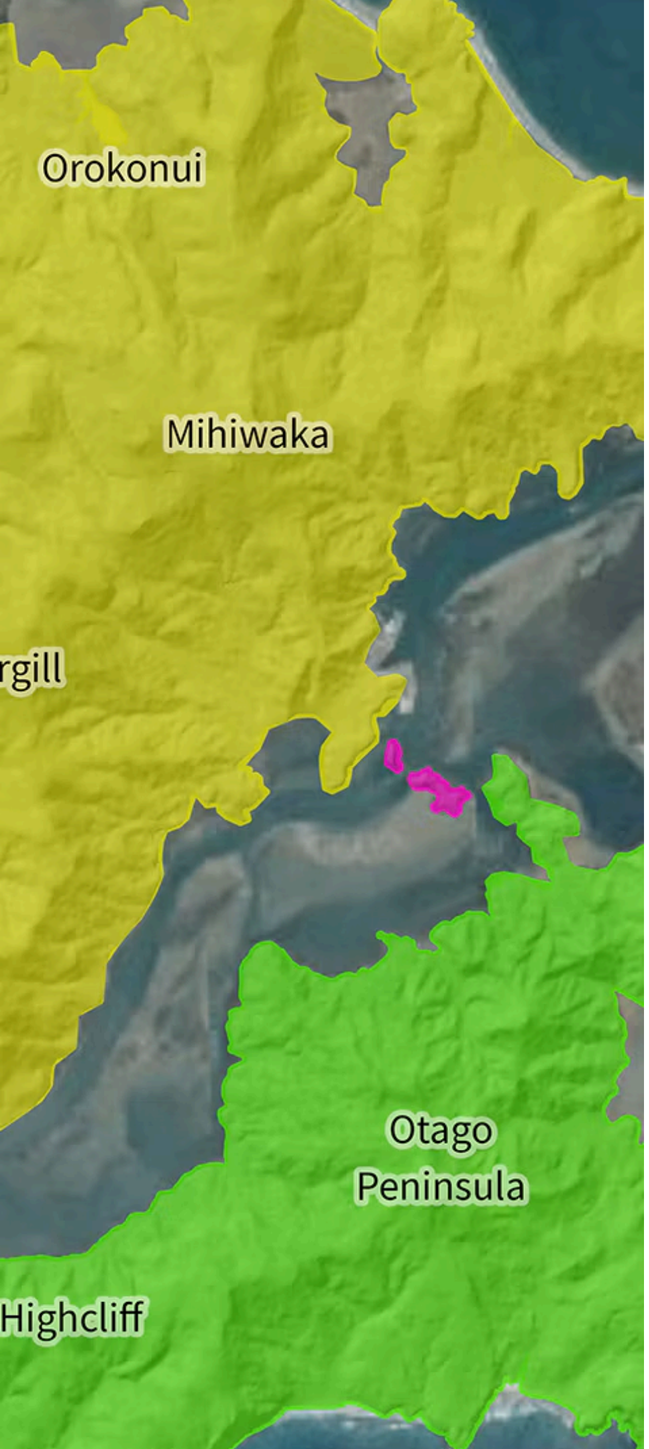
- Terrestrial animal threats to the biodiversity values are the predators: possums, feral cats, stoats, hedgehogs, rats, and mice.

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Site-Led Programme: Management Options Explained

Option		Management Approach		Explanation
		Non Regulatory	*Regulatory*	
1	**No site-led programme: Support and enable communities to voluntarily control pest species at high values sites (no rules).**	✓	X	*The existing areas are removed from the plan – there are no rules and no compliance activities. Council could provide technical advice, funding support, support delivery of Catchment Action Plans once developed. Allows for a flexible approach based on community need and available budgets*
2	**Retain current site-led programmes: Continue to support and enable communities to control species at Otago Peninsula, Mt Cargill West Harbour and Harbour Islands (Quarantine Goat) AND include rules in these areas to support the work of the community.**	✓	✓	*Land occupiers within the site-led areas must control pests to specified levels. This option fixes known issues with the current RPMP. Rules will vary depending on the species and the site (see detailed options in the BIAs).*
3	**Add the Catlins as a site-led programme which will support and enable the community to control species AND include rules in this area to reduce the impacts on the place.**	✓	✓	*Land occupiers within the site-led area must a) eradicate sycamore from the site-led area and b) control boxthorn, holly, Darwin's barberry, feral deer, feral goats, feral pigs, feral cats, possums and hedgehogs to specified levels*
4	**Add the Southern Lakes as a site-led programme which will support and enable community to control species AND include rules in this areas to reduce the impacts on the place.**	✓	✓	*The majority of pest management for this project is occurring on Crown estate, therefore a 'good neighbour rule' to bind the Crown is unnecessary.*
5	**Add Hikaroroa Reserve Mt Watkins as a site-led programme which will support and enable community to control species AND include rules in this in these areas to support the work of the community.**	✓	✓	*land occupiers within the site-led area must a) eradicate Chilean flame creeper, elder, Himalayan honeysuckle b) control wild Russell lupin, gorse, broom and blackberry, feral goats, feral pigs, feral cats, possums, hedgehogs and rats and c) prevent the spread of Darwin's barberry, banana passionfruit and tradescantia to neighbouring properties.*

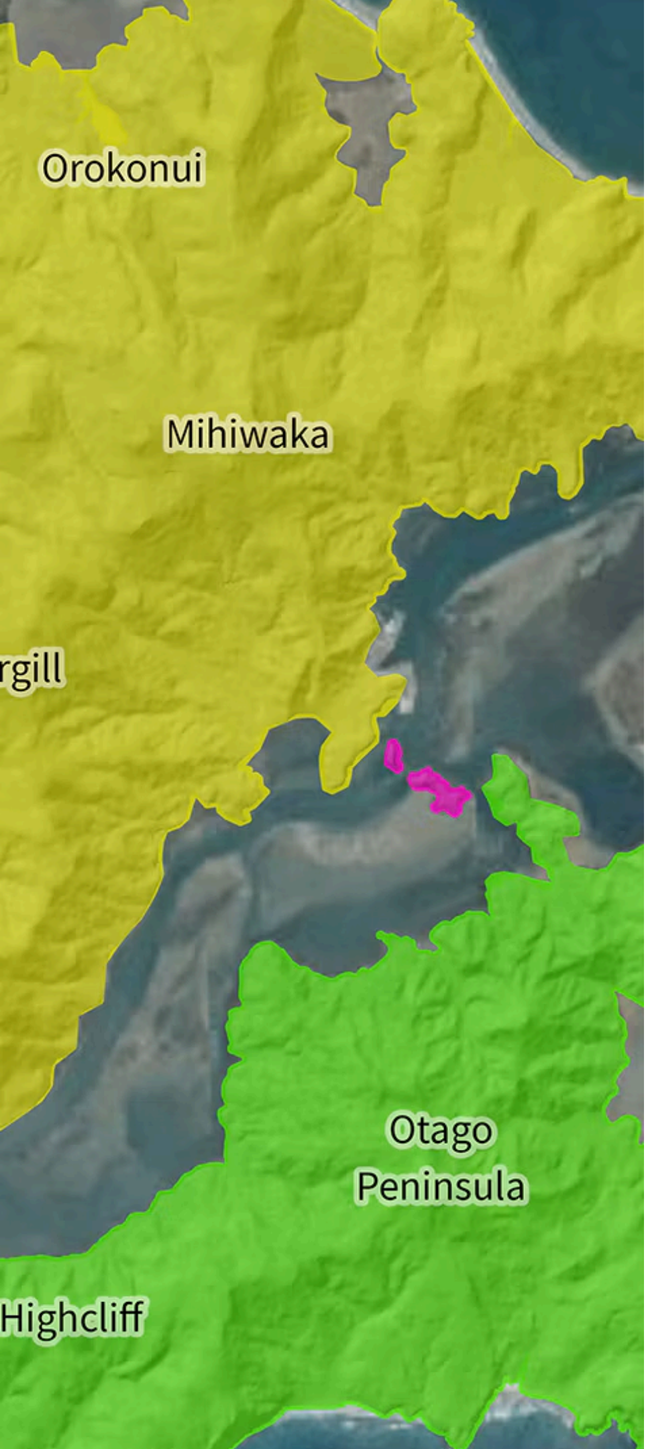


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Should the RPMP contain Site-led Programmes?

Select one

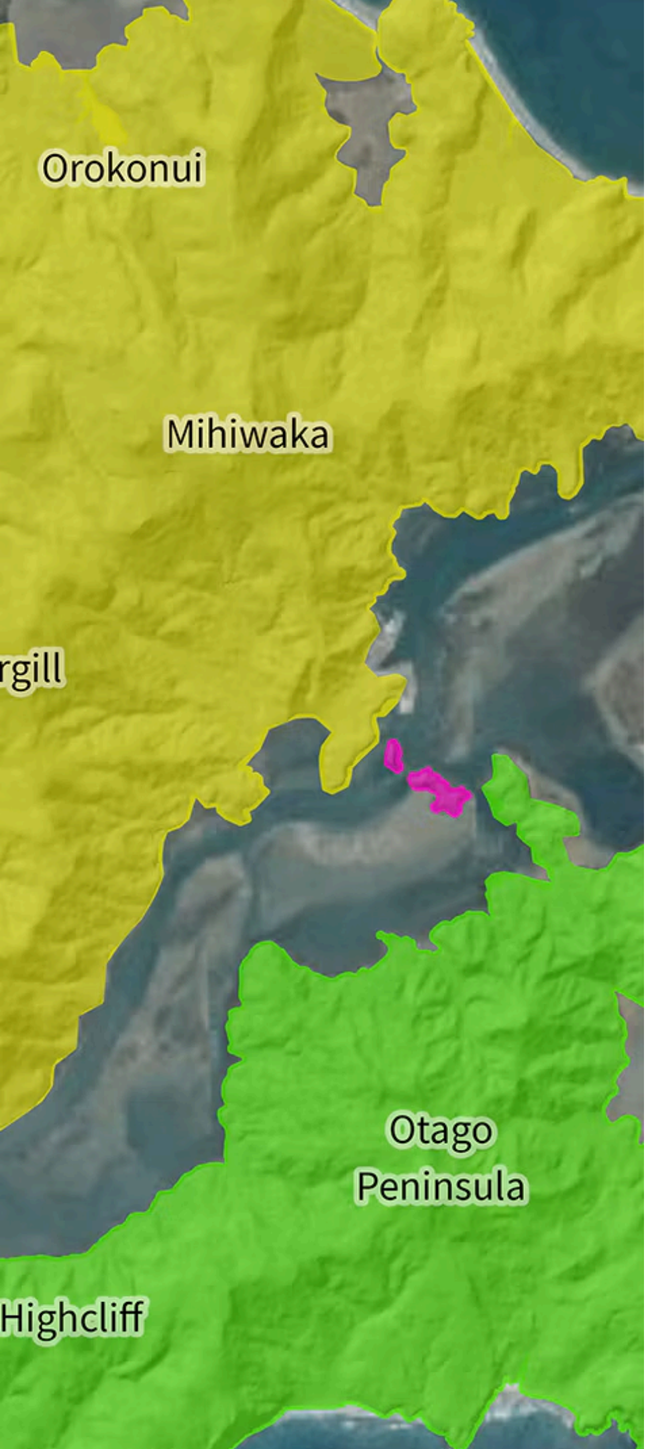
0	0
Yes	No



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Should the CURRENT Site-led Programmes be retained in the RPMP? *Select all that apply*

0	0	0
Otago Peninsula	West Harbour Mt Cargill	Harbour Islands (Quarantine and Goat)



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Should NEW Site-led Programmes be added to the RPMP? *Select all that apply*

0	0	0
Catlins South	Southern Lakes	Hikaroroa Reserve Mt Watkins

Feral Rabbits



Otago Regional Council

Feral Rabbits: Current Situation

- Feral rabbits are widespread in Otago. Night counts since 2024 have shown a decrease in rabbit density in central Otago, but an increase in densities in Coastal Otago
- They impact on both the economy and the environment.
- Some control options (toxins, firearms) can be challenging to apply, particularly in urban and peri-urban areas.
- The current approach was considered partially effective by SAPERE.
- To meet the current RPMP Objective 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…* ' Council needs to undertake more proactive compliance and adequately monitor rabbit populations at scale and utilise full enforcement measures. Challenges remain with urban, peri-urban and lifestyle properties.
- Council have identified feral rabbits in their priority actions: to strengthen pest management outcomes for control of rabbits with the establishment of a working group and a focus on practical delivery, partnerships, and community and land occupier collaboration.

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 m or more apart** on average. Odd rabbits seen; signs and some pellet heaps showing up.
4	Pellet heaps spaced **between 5 m and 10 m apart** on average. Pockets of rabbits; signs and fresh burrows very noticeable.
5	Pellet heaps spaced **5 m or less apart** on average. Infestation spreading out from heavy pockets.
6	Signs very frequent with pellet heaps often **less than 5 m 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 m apart** over the whole area. Rabbits may be seen in large numbers over the whole area.
8	Signs very frequent with **3 or more pellet heaps often less than 5 m apart** over the whole area. Rabbits likely to be seen in large numbers over the whole area.

Source: National Pest Control Agencies

Feral Rabbits:

Modified McLean Scale Explained

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Feral Rabbits: Engagement Themes

- Feral rabbits were ranked as the **number one priority pest in the initial survey**. Respondents highlighted impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem regeneration and agricultural productivity.
- Feral rabbits featured as a dominant theme at the **Catlins, Oamaru, Alexandra, Queenstown and Ranfurly** community drop-in sessions.
- Central Otago and urban / peri-urban areas were identified as key areas of concern due to high rabbit populations and challenges to facilitating coordinated rabbit management.

There was support for:

- More coordinated and proactive management
- More education
- Stronger compliance and enforcement
- Increased surveillance and monitoring
- Increased investment in new technology and control methods
- Retention of a sustained control programme
- Maintaining the existing Modified Mclean Scale compliance threshold (level 3)
- Inclusion of Good Neighbour Rules
- Most respondents supported applying rules across all of Otago

Feral Rabbit: Management Options Explained

Option		Management Approach		Explanation
		Non Regulatory	*Regulatory*	
1	**Support and enable communities to participate in voluntary rabbit management (no rules).**	✓	*x*	*Council could provide technical advice, funding support, support delivery of Catchment Action Plans (which may include actions around Feral rabbits). If only this option is chosen rabbits would not be a pest and would not be in the RPMP – there would monitoring, but no compliance activity. Note: This option does not meet Council's priority action to strengthening management, but would be undertaken in conjunction with Options 2, 3, 4, or 5.*
2	**Support and enable the community AND include region wide rabbit management rules but at a higher level than now (Level 4) – it is acceptable to have more rabbits.**	✓	✓	*All land occupiers required to control rabbits to MMS Level 4. Note: This option would require low additional investment from Council for education, surveillance, research and compliance activities; however, this option may be unpalatable to communities that are experiencing the biggest impacts.*
3	**Support and enable the community AND include region wide rabbit management rules as per the current RPMP (Level 3).**	✓	✓	*Status quo: All land occupiers required to manage rabbits to MMS Level 3. Note: To achieve the objective, this option will require additional investment from Council for education, research, more proactive compliance, utilise full enforcement measures and adequately monitor rabbit populations at scale.*
4	**Support and enable the community AND include region wide rabbit management rules at higher levels than the current RPMP (Level 2) – you must have less rabbits than now.**	✓	✓	*All land occupiers required to control rabbits to MMS Level 2. Note: This option will require significantly more investment from Council for education, surveillance, research and compliance activities.*
5	**Carry out rabbit control on behalf of the community (Level 3).**	✓	✓	*Council manages external contractors or subsidises land occupiers to deliver control to required levels and rules require access to properties for management activities. Note: This option will require significant investment from Council for control activities*



Rank the options in order of preference

Support and enable communities to participate in voluntary rabbit management (no rules).

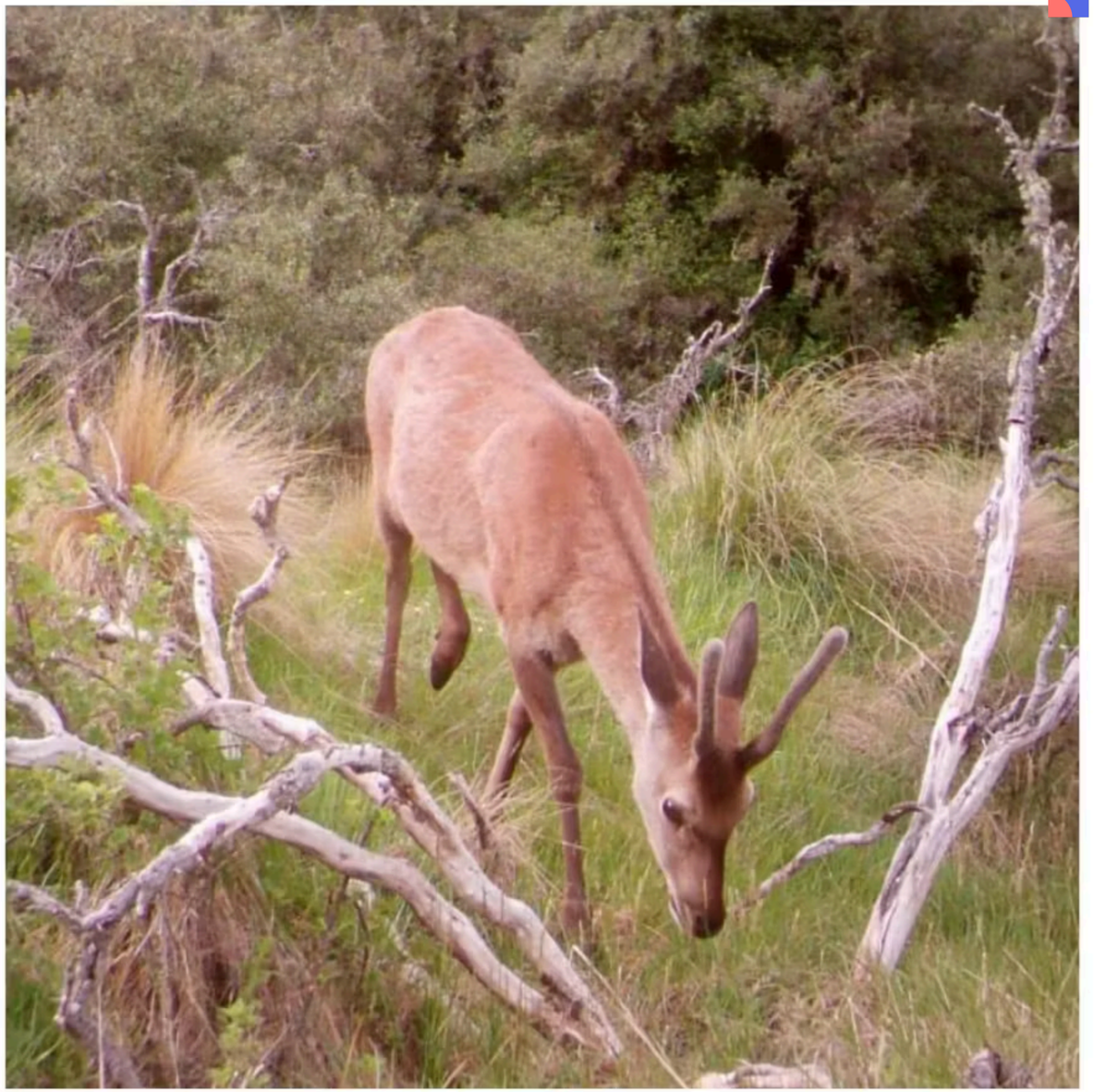
Support and enable the community AND include region wide rabbit management rules but at a higher level than now (Level...

Support and enable the community AND include region wide rabbit management rules as per the current RPMP (Level 3).

Support and enable the community AND include region wide rabbit management rules at higher levels than the current ...

Service Delivery: Carry out rabbit control on behalf of the community (Level 3).

Feral Deer



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Feral Deer: Current Situation

- Widespread across Otago, with significant biodiversity and agricultural impacts being reported by land occupiers, primary industry and conservation group. This is a national trend and MPI have recently started a working group to investigate options.

- Feral deer are currently included in the RPMP as a Site-Led Pest with objectives to prevent their establishment in Otago Peninsula, West Harbour – Mt Cargill and Quarantine and Goat Islands. There is no rule to require land occupier control of feral deer in any Site-led programme.

- Named a wild animal under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 which provides DOC with the statutory powers and responsibilities for their control *s16(2): entry is authorised for both public and private land, under specific conditions.*

- There are currently no national standards that exist to monitor impacts, or define control thresholds, on production land. This makes clear, certain and enforceable regulation a challenge under a RPMP.

- It is challenging to identify who is responsible for roaming animals, making enforcement and compliance difficult and potentially costly.

- Effective control can be costly, requiring specialist equipment. It is beyond the means of some land occupiers.

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Feral Deer: Engagement Themes

Feral deer were ranked as the **sixth most significant** issue by respondents. Feedback indicated that deer populations across Otago are increasing and creating substantial environmental, agricultural, and public safety impacts.

Key areas of concern included the **Catlins, Balclutha, and Queenstown** districts, where deer were identified as a particularly high-priority issue.

Respondents also highlighted concerns about inadequate deer management on forestry land and Crown-owned land, with unmanaged populations affecting neighbouring land occupiers and farming operations.

There was support for stronger control measures, including:

- Introducing a Good Neighbour Rule to improve land occupier accountability.
- Adding control rules into the current site-led approach.
- Adding additional areas to the site-led approach.
- Increasing occupier responsibilities for deer management.

There was also support for non-regulatory measures, including:

- Greater coordination between land occupiers, agencies, and stakeholders.
- Clearer roles, responsibilities, and accountability for pest management.

Key concerns raised included:

- The practicality of enforcing feral deer rules across a large regional area.
- The challenges of monitoring and surveillance to ensure any rules are effective, equitable, and evidence-based.

National Management

Many respondents supported stronger national direction, rather than relying solely on regional approaches.

Feral Deer: Management Options Explained

Option		Management Approach		Explanation
		Non-Regulatory	*Regulatory*	
1	**No action.**	✓	*x*	*Rely on the Wild Animal Control Act and DOC to manage feral deer in priority areas.*
2	**Status Quo: Support and enable communities to participate in voluntary feral deer management (no rules).**	✓	*x*	*Council could provide technical advice, funding support, support delivery of Catchment Action Plans once developed (which may include actions around feral deer).*
3	**Support and enable the community AND include region wide feral deer management rules (this includes a Good Neighbour Rule).**	✓	✓	*All land occupiers must control deer to a prescribed level (the RPMP would prescribe these levels and include a map of where they would apply). Note: The Crown (DOC) would only have to control deer along boundaries (threshold yet to be determined) if there is a service request (enquiry from a neighbour). Neighbours must also be compliant.*
4	**Support and enable the community AND include Site-led rules (this include a Good Neighbour Rule).**	✓	✓	*Land occupiers in Site-Led areas must control deer to a prescribed level (the RPMP would prescribe these levels and include a map of where they would apply). Note: The Crown (e.g., DOC) would only have to control deer along boundaries (threshold yet to be determined) if there is a service request (enquiry from a neighbour). Neighbours must also be compliant.*
5	**Support and enable the community AND include a Good Neighbour Rule ONLY.**	✓	✓	*Land occupiers including the Crown would have to control deer along boundaries (threshold yet to be determined) if there is a service request (enquiry from a neighbour). Neighbours must also be complaint.*
6	**Service Delivery: Carry out feral deer control on behalf of the community.**	✓	✓	*Council pays for the work to be completed by contractors.*



Rank the options in order of preference

No action.

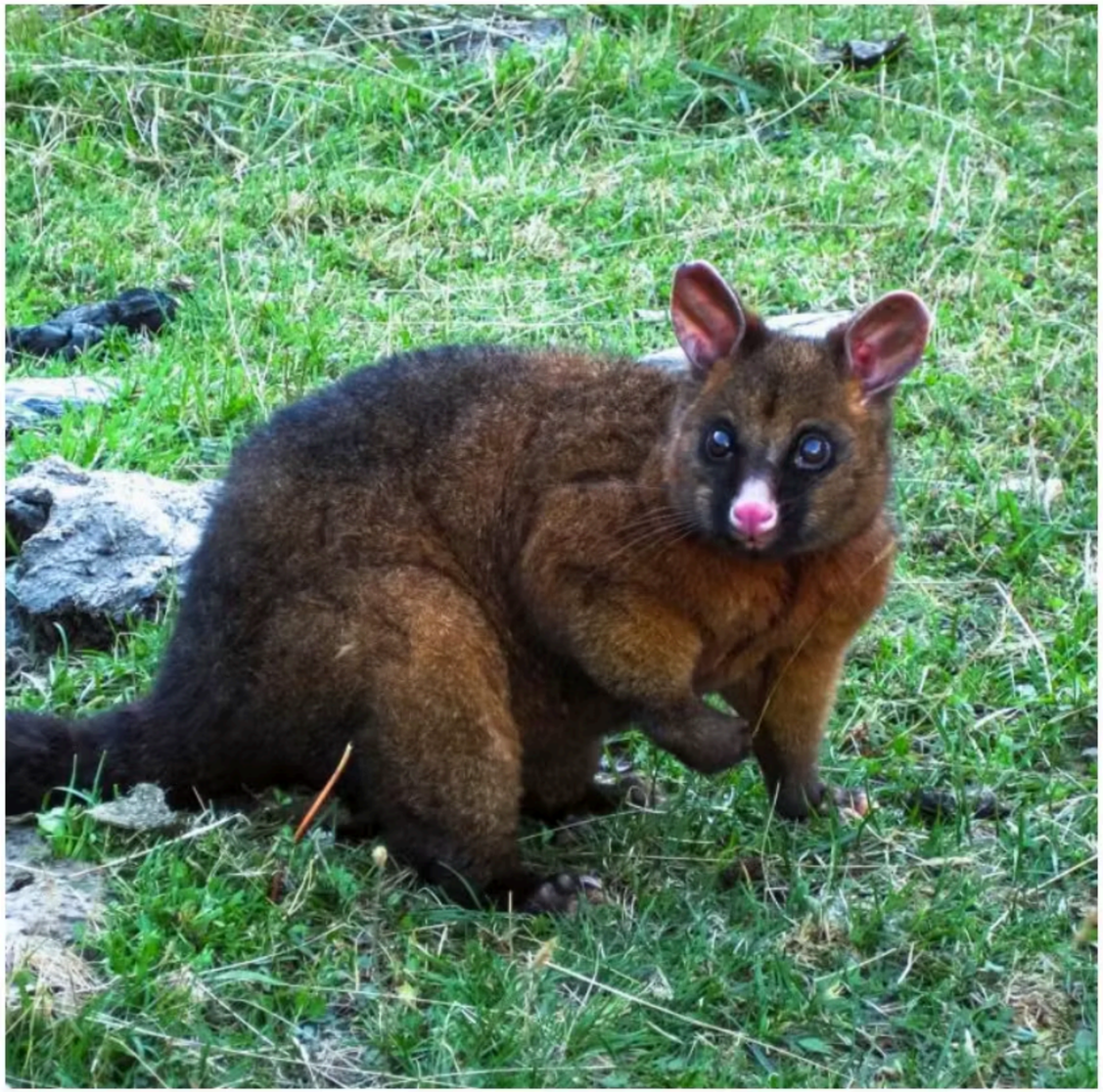
Status Quo: Support and enable communities to participate in voluntary feral deer management (no rules).

Support and enable the community AND include region wide feral deer management rules (this includes a Good Neighbour Rule).

Support and enable the community AND include Site-led rules (this include a Good Neighbour Rule).

Support and enable the community AND include a Good Neighbour Rule ONLY.

Service Delivery: Carry out feral deer control on behalf of the community.



Possums

Possums: Current Situation

- Possums are widespread in Otago. They impact on both the economy and the environment.

- OSPRI have historically controlled possums to low levels, across large areas of Otago, through the TBfree programme. As the prevalence of TB has reduced, OSPRI have discontinued possum control in many areas and the number of hectares controlled has significantly reduced. Without regular control to prevent TB, possum numbers are likely to be increasing to pre-control levels across much of the region. However, to determine the scale of this issue, a formal monitoring programme would be required.

- DOC and the community carry out possum control in some areas of the region, for biodiversity purposes.

- Possums are currently included in the RPMP as a Site-Led pest. There is no land occupier control rule in any Site-led programme, however the plan contains the following objectives:
  - Eradicate them from Otago Peninsula,
  - Reduce them to 2% RTC in West Harbour – Mt Cargill
  - Prevent them establishing on Quarantine and Goat Islands.

- A 2026 independent PlaceGroup report on potential possum management options in Otago concluded that '*a centrally coordinated, contractor-based, possum control programme provides the strongest alignment with Council's objectives and offers the highest likelihood of achieving enduring biodiversity outcomes.*'

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Possums: Engagement Feedback

Possums were ranked the **fourth highest pest** as they are widespread and increasing pest, posing significant risks to agriculture through the spread of bovine tuberculosis and to biodiversity through browsing of native vegetation and predation of native wildlife. They were a **high priority** for catchment and environmental groups at the stakeholder workshops.

There was support for

- Coordinated, long-term regional management.
- Landscape-scale control to align with Predator Free 2050 objectives.
- A combination of regulation and community collaboration.

Key concerns raised included:

- Rapid population growth and reinvasion from unmanaged areas.

Options for Regional Possum Management

- A report commissioned by Council provides a range of options for regionwide possum management.
- It reviewed a range of management programmes currently being undertaken by other Councils across New Zealand.

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Future of Possum Management in Otago

An Assessment of Delivery Approaches and Programme Options for the Otago Region



Image: Possum in a tree. Credit: Nga Manu Ngā Manu Nature Reserve.
Source: https://www.tuiatetaiao.nz/resources-library/photos/introduced-predators

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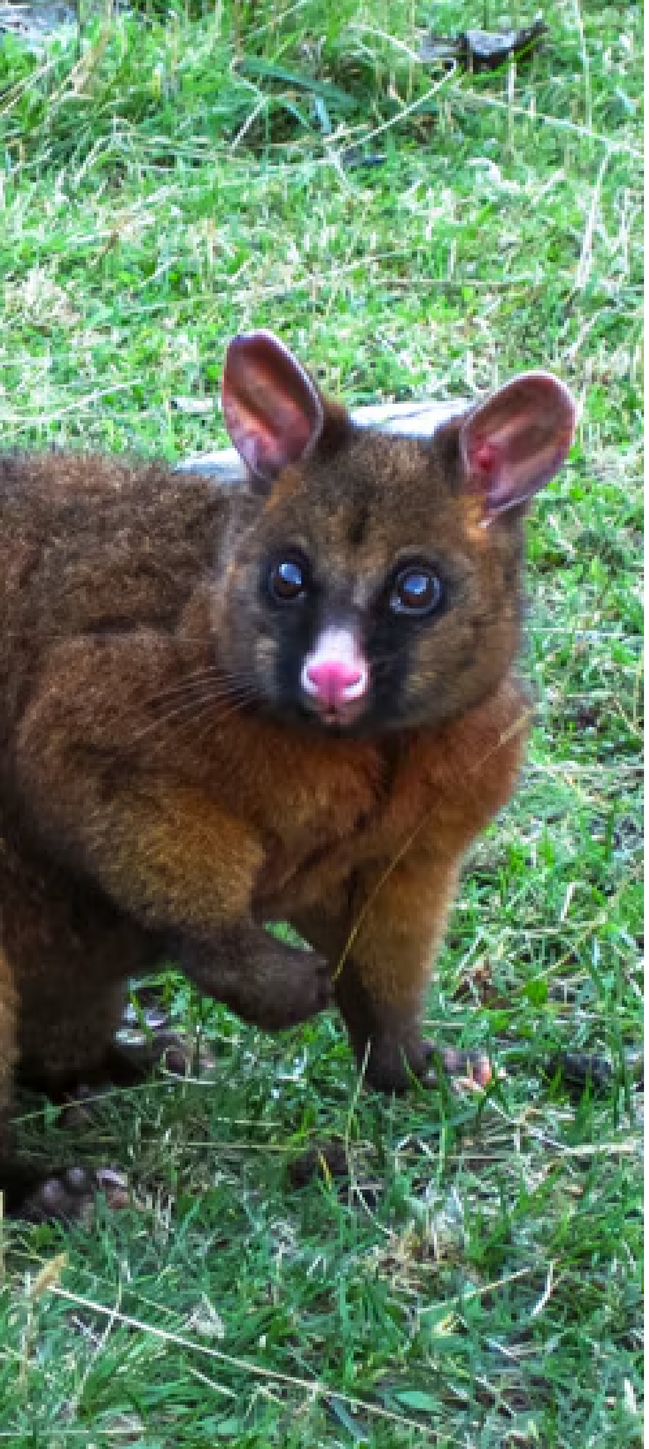
Prepared by:	Place Group Limited
Prepared for:	Otago Regional Council
Date:	3 July 2026
Version:	v1
Status:	FINAL

Status: FINAL
File reference: ORC_25_818
Contact: [redacted]

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Possum: Management Options Explained

Option		Management Approach		Explanation
		Non Regulatory	*Regulatory*	
1	**No action.**	✓	*x*	*Rely on the Predator Free 2050 initiatives, DOC and OSPRI to manage possums in priority areas.*
2	**Support and enable communities to participate in voluntary possum management (no rules).**	✓	✓	*Council could provide technical advice, funding support, support delivery of Catchment Action Plans once developed (which may include actions around possums).*
3	**Support and enable the community AND include region wide possum rules.**	✓	✓	*All land occupiers would have to control possums to a prescribed level (the RPMP would prescribe these levels and include a map of where they would apply). Note: The Crown (DOC) would only have to control possums along their boundaries (threshold yet to be determined) if there is a service request (enquiry from a neighbour). Neighbours must also be compliant.*
4	**Support and enable the community AND include Site-led rules.**	✓	✓	*Land occupiers in Site-Led areas must control possums to a prescribed level (the RPMP would prescribe these levels and include a map of where they would apply). Note: The Crown (DOC) would only have to control possums along their boundaries (threshold yet to be determined) if there is a service request (enquiry from a neighbour). Neighbours must also be compliant.*
5	**Carry out possum control on behalf of the community.**	✓	✓	*Council pays for the work to be completed by contractors. Rules require access to properties for management activities.*



Rank the options in order of preference

No action.

Support and enable communities to participate in voluntary possum management (no rules).

Support and enable the community AND include region wide possum rules.

Support and enable the community AND include Site-led rules.

Service Delivery: Carry out possum control on behalf of the community.

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Wilding conifers



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Wilding conifers: Current Situation

- Wilding (pest) conifers are a significant issue for biosecurity, agriculture, landscapes, water yield and fire risk, and are widespread in Otago and expensive to manage. The RPMP objective is to contain and reduce their geographical impact.

- **There are 11 wilding conifer species in the current RPMP** and the rules for wilding conifers and non-forestry planted conifers addresses two key areas: a) protecting gains made through publicly funded operations by requiring occupiers to keep cleared areas clear and b) managing the impacts of cross-boundary spread of wilding conifers.

- Regulation is complicated by the commercial value of some species, interactions with the RMA and their ability to spread in the wind over large areas and **several issues that make the RPMP hard to enforce.**

- The Sapere Effectiveness Report deemed the current approach to wilding conifers to be partially effective.

- The National Wilding Conifer Control Programme manages, funds and supports wilding conifer control within Otago including by several community groups.

- MPI is working on a National Pest Management Plan to provide nationally consistent regulation and direction to support consistent delivery of the national programme. The timeline for this is unknown.

- Council Priority Action EDA3: Support community and voluntary efforts to control wilding pines. Advocate for fair contributions from government and those responsible for the source of the wildings.

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RPMP Objective - to reduce the impacts of these trees

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Wilding Conifer

- Legally declared a pest
- Naturally established (it was not planted)
- Not associated with a plantation

  e.g self seeded trees within a plantation are excluded
- Not part of a pre March 2019 planting that is not a plantation

  e.g. a shelterbelt
- Occupiers must control - if publicly funded work has occured since 2016
- Occupiers must control within 200M boundary - if work next door has occurred since 2016

Pest Agent Conifer

- Not legally declared a pest
- Planted Trees
- They produce wilding conifers when they seed
- They interfere with the management of wilding conifers
- They are not in a plantation forest
- Occupiers must control within 200M boundary - if work next door has occured since 2016

Plantation Conifer

- Not legally declared a pest
- >1ha of planted trees
- Planted deliberately for commercial purposes
- Intended to be harvested and replanted
- Managed through the RMA/Natural Environment Act 2026

RPMP Rules

No Rules

Wilding conifers: Engagement Themes

Wilding conifers were ranked as the **third-highest priority** in the initial survey and were consistently identified as one of Otago's most significant environmental threats. With impacts on indigenous ecosystems, landscape values, water yield, fire risk, tourism, agriculture, and hydroelectric generation.

There were strong opposing views from commercial growers and those impacted by commercial forests.

They were a dominant theme in **Dunedin, Balclutha, Alexandra, Queenstown** and **Ranfurly** community sessions.

There was support for

- Sustained investment and continued control
- Protection of previous investment
- Strong regional coordination
- Extension of control from the current programme to other areas
- Stronger controls on planting and spread
- Clearer land occupier accountability
- Effective and enforceable rules
- Increased Good Neighbour Rule distances
- Inclusion of forestry, carbon forests, DOC and shelter belts should fit within the rules
- Stronger control for *Pinus mugo*, *Pinus contorta* and *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas fir).

National Management

Many respondents supported stronger national direction, rather than relying solely on regional approaches.

Wilding (Pest) Conifer: Management Options Explained

Option		Management Approach		Explanation
		Non Regulatory	*Regulatory*	
1	**Take a non-regulatory approach**	✓	*x*	*Support and enable national programme and community work with no rules within the RPMP.*
2	**Status quo: Improve clarity and enforceability of current rules**	✓	✓	*Retain the intent of the rules but improve by updating the language and definitions so they are clearer and easier to follow.*
3	**Introduce new rules**	✓	✓	*a) Prevent the planting of pest conifer species outside of commercial plantations (e.g., shelterbelts).* *b) Require control of wilding pest conifers on previously clear land or where no public funded operations have occurred.* *c) Require removal of the worst of the pest conifer species including contorta pine, Mountain pine and Dwarf Mountain pine.*

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Should the RPMP contain land occupier rules for wilding (pest) conifers? *Select one*

Yes	No
0	0



If land occupier rules for wilding conifers are included in the plan, should those rules be regionwide or site-based? *Select one*

0	0
Regionwide	Site-based



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Do you support a rule that requires control of wilding conifers on previously clear land or where no public funded operations have occured? *Select one*

Yes	No
0	0



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Do you support a rule that prevents NEW plantings of pest conifer species outside of commercial plantations (e.g., shelterbelts)? *Select one*

Yes	No
0	0



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Do you support a rule that requires the total removal of EXISTING pest conifer species including contorta pine, Mountain pine and Dwarf Mountain pine?

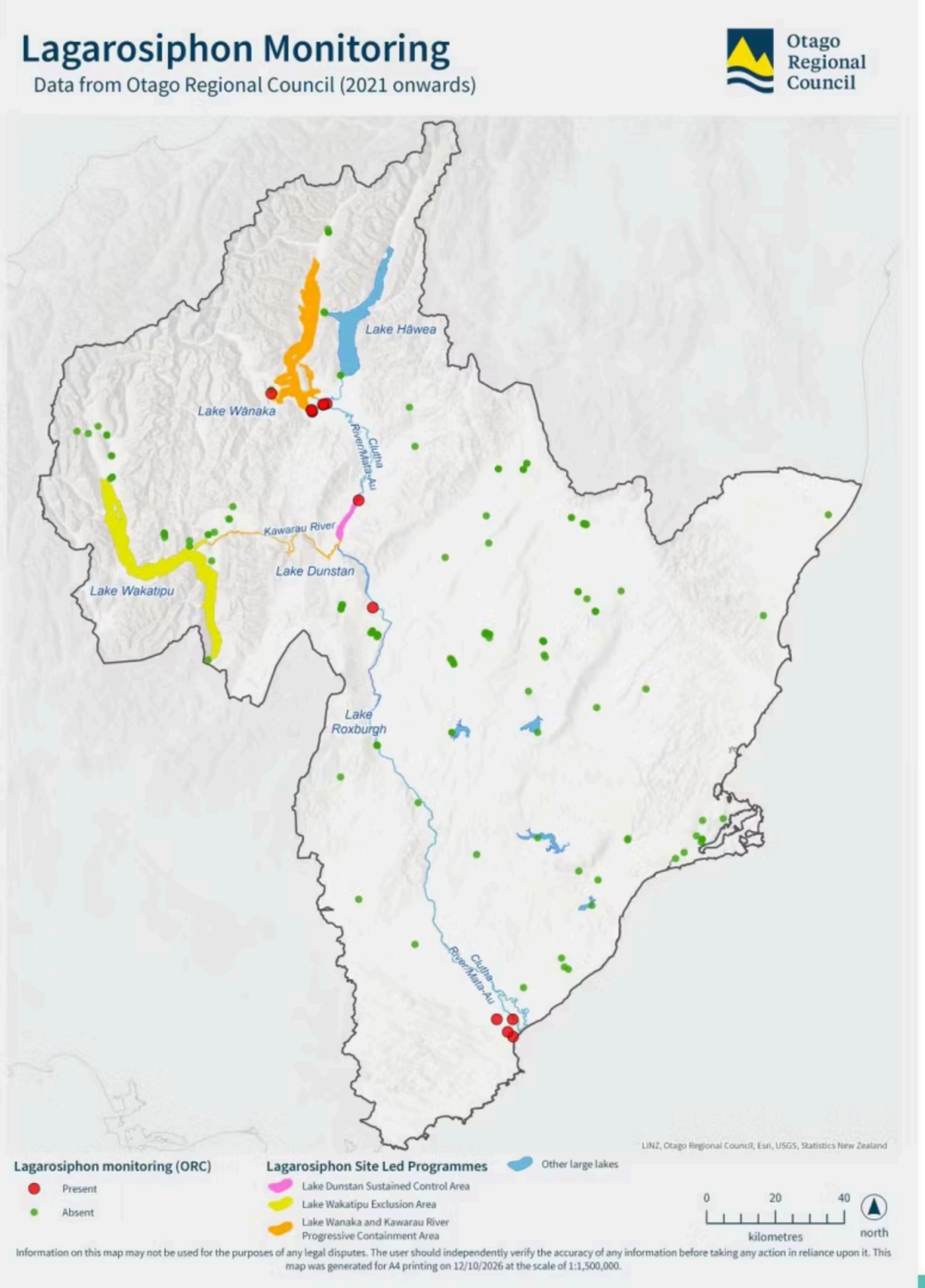
Yes	No
0	0



Lagarosiphon

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Lagarosiphon: Current Situation

- Lagarosiphon is a highly invasive freshwater weed.
- Annual surveillance data is building a picture of lagarosiphon presence across Otago. While it is established in some large water bodies, there are areas that remain lagarosiphon free.

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Lagarosiphon: Current Situation

- Lagarosiphon is currently a Site-led programme within the RPMP.
- Since 2006 LINZ has managed lagarosiphon with intensive work through dedicated 10-year plans.
- Since 2024 Council has directly contributed an annual financial contribution to the LINZ managed lagarosiphon control programme (< 5 %of the total spend by LINZ).

  $60k total: $25k to Lake Whakatipu, $25k to Lake Wanaka, $10k to Lake Dunstan.
- The Sapere Effectiveness Report found the current approach was only partially effective in meeting the RPMP objective.
- The numbers of new sites monitored regularly is limited, and they recommended increased surveillance to ensure early detection and timely action on further spread.
- Council Priority EDA2: Assess opportunities for eradication or a step-change intervention for lagarosiphon, including appropriate funding options and delivery models.

Lagarosiphon: Engagement Themes

- Lagarosiphon was ranked **fourteenth** in the initial survey, where they are increasingly impacting Otago's lakes and waterways, particularly **Lake Dunstan**. Many highlighted that the issue is worsening and call for more consistent control efforts maintain ecological and recreational values.

- Featured at the **Alexandra** community drop-in session, calls for stronger education and advocacy for lagarosiphon.

- **There was support for:**
  - retaining the current site-led approach or strengthening it with modified rules.
  - stronger pathway rules.
  - Council-led programmes with ongoing funding, surveillance and control efforts.
  - continued emphasis on containment.
  - flexible management approaches.
  - stronger enforcement powers where voluntary compliance is insufficient.

Lagarosiphon: Management Options Explained

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Option		Management Approach		Explanation
		Non Regulatory	*Regulatory*	
1	**Support and enable community (no rules).**	✓	*x*	*Note: LINZ have indicated they do not support this approach*
2	**Support and enable the community AND include Site-led rules which only apply to Lake Whakatipu, Lake Wanaka and Lake Dunstan (progressive containment).**	✓	✓	*With support from LINZ, Council applies rules within the RPMP to a) ensure vessels are clean before entering/leaving priority lakes and rivers and b) prevent the sale and distribution.* *Note: Site-led programmes normally include more than one species and only cover small areas because they focus on the values at the place rather than the level of pest control. This approach is inconsistent with other Council site-led programmes*
3	**Support and enable the community AND include region wide containment rules (progressive containment).**	✓	✓	*With support from LINZ, Council applies rules withing within the RPMP to a) ensure vessels are clean before entering/leaving ALL lakes and waterways in Otago, b) allow for control on private land and c) prevent the sale and distribution*
4	**Eradicate lagarosiphon from Otago.**	✓	✓	*With support from LINZ, Council pays for the work to be completed by contractors to eradicate lagarosiphon from Otago within the next 10 years: a) vessels are clean before entering/leaving ALL lakes and waterways in Otago, b) allow for control on private land and c) prevent the sale and distribution.*



Rank the options in order of preference

Support and enable community (no rules).

Support and enable the community AND include Site-led rules which only apply to Lake Whakatipu, Lake Wanaka and Lake ...

Support and enable the community AND include region wide containment rules (progressive containment).

Eradicate lagarosiphon from Otago.



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Do you support including a plan rule that requires vessels to be clean before entering AND leaving ALL lakes and waterways in Otago? *Select one*

0	0
Yes	No



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Do you support including a plan rule that requires lagarosiphon to be controlled on private land? *Select one*

Yes	No
0	0



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Do you support including a plan rule that prevents the sale and distribution of lagarosiphon? *Select one*

Yes	No
0	0

Feral Goats & Feral Pigs





Feral Goats & Feral Pigs: Current Situation

- Feral goats and feral pigs are found throughout Otago. There is no formal monitoring of these species so density and distribution data is ad hoc.
- They impact on both the economy and the environment and there is a concern they are becoming a health and safety risk on high-use public roads.
- Feral goats and pigs are currently included in the RPMP as a Site-Led Pest with objectives to prevent their establishment in Otago Peninsula, and Quarantine and Goat Islands and to control their levels in the West Harbour – Mt Cargill area. There is no land occupier control rule in any Site-led programme for feral goats and pigs.
- Both species are considered a wild animal under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 which provides DOC with the statutory powers and responsibilities for their control *s16(2): entry is authorised for both public and private land, under specific conditions.*
- There is currently no national standard that exists to monitor impacts, or define control thresholds, on production land.
- It is challenging to identify who is responsible for roaming animals, making enforcement and compliance difficult and potentially costly.
- Effective control can be costly, requiring specialist equipment. It is beyond the means of some land occupiers.

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Feral Goats & Feral Pigs: Engagement Themes

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Feral goats were ranked **thirteenth,** and Feral Pigs were **seventh,** with the public reported that they are an increasing and resilient problem causing agricultural, environmental damage and safety concerns.

Feral goats featured as an issue in the **Catlins, Ranfurly, Wānaka and Queenstown**. Feral pigs were a common theme in **Catlins, Balclutha,** and **Alexandra.**

There was support for

- Rules to promote control in forestry and crown land.
- Good Neighbour Rule.
- Site-based rules for Nugget point.
- The current site-led approach and a different programme with modified rules.
- Stronger control measures.
- Land occupier responsibilities.
- Greater coordination between land occupiers and stakeholders.
- Clearer accountability for pest control.

Key concerns raised included:

- The challenges with enforcing a rule on feral goats and feral pigs at a regional scale.
- The role of feral pigs in TB outbreaks.

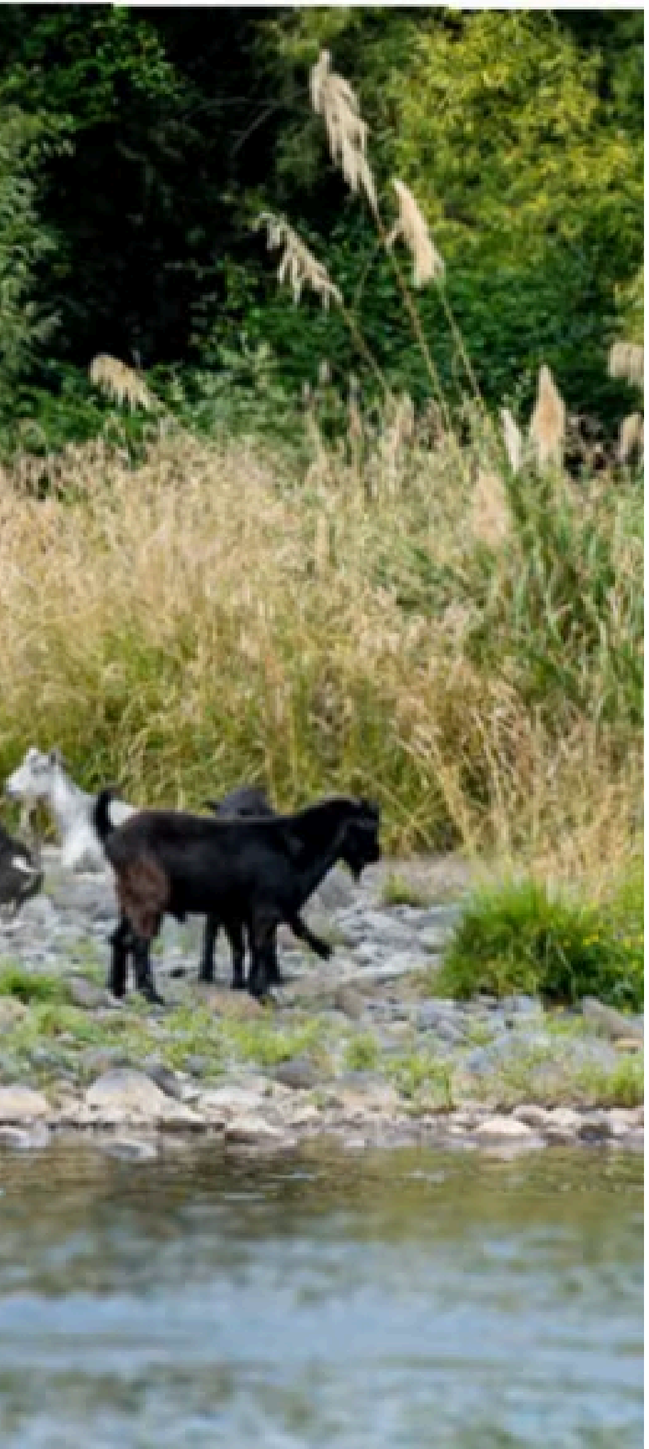
National Management

- Many respondents supported stronger national direction, rather than relying solely on regional approaches.

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Feral Goat & Pig: Management Options Explained

Option		Management Approach		Explanation
		Non Regulatory	*Regulatory*	
1	**No action.**	✓	*x*	*Rely on the Wild Animal Control Act and DOC to manage feral feral goats and feral pigs in priority areas.*
2	**Support and enable communities to participate in voluntary feral goat and feral pig management (no rules).**	✓	*x*	*Council could provide technical advice, funding support, support delivery of Catchment Action Plans once developed (which may include actions around feral goats and feral pigs).*
3	**Support and enable the community AND include region wide feral goat and feral pig management rules.**	✓	✓	*All land occupiers have to control feral goats and feral pigs to a prescribed level (the RPMP would prescribe these levels and include a map of where they would apply). Note: The Crown (DOC) would only have to control feral goats and feral pigs along boundaries (threshold yet to be determined) if there is a service request (enquiry from a neighbour). Neighbours must also be compliant.*
4	**Support and enable the community AND include Site-led rules.**	✓	✓	*Land occupiers in Site-led areas have to control feral goats and feral pigs to a prescribed level (the RPMP would prescribe these levels and include a map of where they would apply). Note: The Crown (e.g. DOC) would only have to control feral goats and feral pigs along boundaries (threshold yet to be determined) if there is an service request (enquiry from a neighbour). Neighbours must also be compliant.*
5	**Support and enable the community AND include Good Neighbour Rules.**	✓	✓	*Land occupiers including the Crown would have to control feral goats and feral pigs along boundaries (threshold yet to be determined) if there is an service request (enquiry from a neighbour). Neighbours must also be complaint.*
6	**Carry out feral goats and feral pigs control on behalf of the community.**	✓	✓	*Council pays for the work to be completed by contractors.*



Rank the options in order of preference

No action.

Support and enable communities to participate in voluntary feral goat and feral pig management (no rules).

Support and enable the community AND include region wide feral goat and feral pig management rules.

Support and enable the community AND include Site-led rules.

Support and enable the community AND include Good Neighbour Rules.

Service Delivery: Carry out feral goats and feral pigs control on behalf of the community.

Proposed Options for Other Species

Exclusion			
Programme	**Species**	**Current Programme**	**Proposed Programme**
Freshwater Animal	Freshwater gold clam	Not in plan	Exclusion
Freshwater Animal	Gambusia	Not in plan	Exclusion
Freshwater Animal	Koi carp	Not in plan	Exclusion
Freshwater Animal	Invasive turtles	Not in plan	Exclusion
Freshwater Animal	Rudd	Not in plan	Exclusion
Freshwater Plant	Alligator weed	Organism of interest	Exclusion
Freshwater Plant	Egeria	Exclusion	Exclusion
Freshwater Plant	Hornwort	Exclusion	Exclusion
Freshwater Plant	Marshwort	Not in plan	Exclusion
Freshwater Plant	Parrot's feather	Not in plan	Exclusion
Freshwater Plant	Yellow water lily	Not in plan	Exclusion
Marine Animal	Asian paddle crab	Organism of interest	Exclusion
Marine Animal	Droplet tunicate	Organism of interest	Exclusion
Marine Plant	Exotic Caulerpa	Not in plan	Exclusion
Terrestrial Plant	Chilean needle grass	Exclusion	Exclusion
Terrestrial Plant	False tamarisk	Exclusion	Exclusion
Terrestrial Plant	Moth plant	Exclusion	Exclusion

Exclusion Species

- Exclusion species are species that are not yet established in Otago.
- They will have pest status and be included in the pest plan.
- Information and education material will be available on the Council website for these species.
- The public will be asked to report sightings of these pest species, as a priority.

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Eradication			
Type	**Species**	**Current Programme**	**Proposed Programme**
Marine Animal	Mediterranean fanworm	Organism of interest	Eradication
Terrestrial Animal	Bennett's wallabies	Eradication	Eradication
Terrestrial Animal	Rooks	Eradication	Eradication
Terrestrial Plant	African feather grass	Exclusion	Eradication
Terrestrial Plant	Giant hogweed	Not in plan	Eradication
Terrestrial Plant	Perennial nettle	Progressive containment	Eradication
Terrestrial Plant	Spartina	Progressive containment	Eradication
Terrestrial Plant	Spiny broom	Eradication	Eradication
Terrestrial Plant	White-edged nightshade	Progressive containment	Eradication
Terrestrial Plant	Prickly Pear	Not in plan	Eradication

Eradication Species

- Eradication species are species that exist at very low levels in Otago.
- They will have pest status and be included in the pest plan.
- Information and education material will be available on the Council website for these species.
- The public will be asked to report sightings of these pest species, as a priority.

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Progressive Containment			
Type	**Species**	**Current Programme**	**Proposed Programme**
Terrestrial Plant	African love grass	Progressive containment	Progressive containment
Freshwater Plant	Rough Horse tail	Not in plan	Progressive containment
Freshwater Plant	Lagarosiphon	Site-led	Progressive containment
Terrestrial Plant	Bomarea	Progressive containment	Progressive containment
Terrestrial Plant	Boneseed	Progressive containment	Progressive containment
Terrestrial Plant	Broom (common)	Sustained control	Progressive containment
Terrestrial Plant	Bur daisy	Progressive containment	Progressive containment
Terrestrial Plant	Cape ivy	Progressive containment	Progressive containment
Terrestrial Plant	Chilean mayten	Not in plan	Progressive containment
Terrestrial Plant	Gorse	Sustained control	Progressive containment
Terrestrial Plant	Gunnera	Site-led	Progressive containment
Terrestrial Plant	Knotweed (All)	Not in plan	Progressive containment
Terrestrial Plant	Nassella tussock	Progressive containment	Progressive containment
Terrestrial Plant	Purple loosestrife	Organism of interest	Progressive containment

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Progressive Containment Species

- Progressive containment species are species that are established in Otago, but are range restricted (not wide spread) and we aim to reduce that spread over time.
- They will have pest status, and be included in the pest plan.
- These species will be subject to compliance inspections.
- Information and education material will be available on the Council website for these species.

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Sustained Control			
Programme	**Species**	**Current Programme**	**Proposed Programme**
Marine Animal	Clubbed Tunicate	Not in plan	Sustained control
Marine Animal	Didemnum vexillum	Not in plan	Sustained control
Marine Plant	Undaria	Organism of interest	Sustained control
Terrestrial Plant	Broom (Montpellier)	Sustained control	Sustained control
Terrestrial Plant	Nodding thistle	Sustained control	Sustained control
Terrestrial Plant	Old man's beard	Progressive containment	Sustained control
Terrestrial Plant	Pampas	Not in plan	Sustained control
Terrestrial Plant	Ragwort	Sustained control	Sustained control
Terrestrial Plant	Yellow flag iris	Organism of interest	Sustained control

Sustained Control Species

- Sustained control species are species that are established in Otago, and are generally wide spread.
- They will have pest status, and be included in the pest plan.
- These species will be subject to compliance inspections.
- Information and education material will be available on the Council website for these species.

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Advisory Species		
Exotic Pet Species	**Terrestrial Plant**	**Terrestrial Plant**
Alexandrine parakeet	Golden clematis	Water poppy
Blue-tongued skinks	Greater periwinkle	Wild ginger
Chinese fire bellied newt	Hawthorn	Yellow bristle grass
Cunningham's skink	Hemlock	**Freshwater Plant**
Eastern bearded dragon	Reed sweet grass	Cabomba
Box turtles	Vipers bugloss	Californian bulrush
Eastern water dragon	Balloon vine	Clasped pondweed
European alpine newt	Blackberry	Common reed
Indian ringneck parakeet	Burdock	Floating primrose-willow
Japanese fire bellied newt	Chocolate vine	Fringed water lily
Long-billed corella	Coltsfoot Check BIA	Humped bladderwort
Lorikeet	Cotoneaster	Hydrilla
Monk parakeet	Cotton thistle	Lake snow
Murray River turtle	Great reedmace	Lizards tail
Quaker parrot	Hawthorne	Manchurian wild rice
Snake-necked turtle	Heath rush	Monkey musk
Terrestrial Animal	Hieracium (hawkweed)	Senegal tea
Argentine ants	Horehound	Vietnamese parsley
Black Swan	Horse nettle	**Freshwater Animal**
Cats (feral)	Japanese honeysuckle	Caudo
Eastern rosella	Kudzu	Goldfish
Geese (Canada)	Rowan	Gudgeon / Gobio gobio
Magpie	Russell lupin	Orfe
Mouse	Saltmarsh rush	Silver carp
Mustelids	Spanish heath	Swordtail
Rats	Sweet briar	**Marine Animal**
Wasp	Thyme	Sea squirts
Terrestrial Plant	Tree Lupin	
Convolvulus	Veldt grass	

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Advisory Species

- Advisory species are species that do not have pest status, and that will not be included in the pest plan.
- Information and education material will be available on the Council website for these species.

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Proposed Options for Other Species

Of the wider species listed in the tables shown in Slides 83 – 87 (also listed in the Workshop Documents: Attachment 3)

- Are you comfortable with the initial thoughts and options presented or should this be different?
- Is there anything you are worried about, or is anything missing?

Next Steps

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Next Steps

- Complete analysis of benefits and costs
- Council paper to confirm direction and potential management options for pests (December 2026)
- Second phase of stakeholder engagement to seek feedback on the potential options (Dec – Jan TBC)
- Develop proposal for council decision and formal notification (March 2027 TBC)

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Thank you!

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Glossary of Terms

Advisory species	A species of concern that is not included in the plan, but for which Council will provide educational material online.
Complex species	Clause 6 (1) of the National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015 outlines the factors that must be assessed when determining how much effort should be put into analysing the benefits and costs for a species. These considerations are a pre-screening process for subsequent, more detailed analysis. Complexity is derived from the following considerations: a) the likely significance of the pest or the proposed measures b) the likely costs relative to likely benefits c) certainty of the impacts of the pest and/or the effectiveness of measures and d) level and quality of data available.
Compliant	When a rule in the RPMP is adhered to.
Eradication	Eradication species are species that exist at very low levels in Otago. They will have pest status and be included in the pest plan. Information and education material will be available on the Council website for these species. The public will be asked to report sightings of these pest species, as a priority.
Exclusion	Exclusion species are species that are not yet established in Otago. They will have pest status and be included in the pest plan. Information and education material will be available on the Council website for these species. The public will be asked to report sightings of these pest species, as a priority.
Good neighbour rule (GNR)	A Good Neighbour Rule (GNR) is a biosecurity regulation used in regional pest management plan to prevent a land occupier's inaction on pest control from negatively impacting adjacent properties.
Inspection	A site visit (normally defined by a property) to determine compliance to RPMP rules undertaken by an authorised person as defined under the Biosecurity Act 1993.
Land occupier	The same meaning as occupier in the Biosecurity Act 1993.
Management approach	Which principal measure to act (rules, inspection, education, advocacy, collaboration) is chosen to manage a pest species.
Management programme	Refers to one of the six available programmes to manage pest species (exclusion, eradication, progressive containment, sustained control, site-led, pathways management) as directed by the National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015.

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Glossary of Terms

Modified McLean Scale	A scale that assesses rabbit population levels.
Monitoring	Work undertaken to determine the results of control efforts.
Non-compliant	Any breach in a RPMP rule, upon a formal inspection.
Non regulatory approach	A management approach that utilises all available options with the exception of rules, to manage a pest species or a species of concern.
Pest (pest species)	The same meaning as in the Biosecurity Act 1993: "an organism specified as a pest in a pest management plan."
Principal Measures to Act	Measures used to achieve the plan objectives: rules, inspection, service delivery, advocacy and education, collaboration.
Progressive containment	Progressive containment is the management programme for species are species that are established in Otago, but are range restricted (not wide-spread) and we aim to reduce that spread over time. These species will be subject to compliance inspections. Land occupiers will be required to control these pest species to a predetermined level, under a plan rule.
Regulatory approach (regulation)	A management approach that utilises all available non regulatory options AND enforces compliance with plan rules, to manage a pest species.
Service delivery	Surveillance, monitoring or control work that is fully funded by Otago Regional Council.
Species of concern	A species not named as a pest in the plan, but for which Council will provide education and advice.
Surveillance	Work undertaken to determine the status (presence and extent) of pest species. This can be in-person or, increasingly, use remote sensing tools.
Sustained control	Sustained control is the management programme most practical for species are species that are established in Otago, and are generally wide spread. These species will be subject to compliance inspections. Land occupiers will be required to control these pest species to a predetermined level, under a plan rule.

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