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**Report 02.690**

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Report to the Rural Services & Wairarapa Committee  
from Wayne O'Donnell, Manager, Biosecurity

**Regional Pest Management Strategy - Annual Report 2001/2002**

**1. Purpose**

To report on the performance of the 2001/2002 Operational Plan for implementation of the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

**2. Background**

The 2001/02 Operational Plan was drafted on the basis that the new Regional Pest Management Strategy (RPMS) would be approved during the 2001 calendar year. However, the single appeal to the Environment Court took over 10 months to be resolved. Despite this delay, this report is focused on the objectives for the first year of the original Proposed 2001 - 2021 RPMS. These objectives have now been incorporated into the approved 2002 - 2022 RPMS.

Section 85 of the Biosecurity Act requires a Management Agency to prepare an operational plan for each RPMS which it has approved. Furthermore, the Agency must prepare a report on the plan and its implementation no later than five months after the end of the each financial year. The report is to be made available to the public and a copy forwarded to the relevant Minister(s).

**3. Comment**

Attachment 1 contains the Annual Report for the 2001/2002 Operational Plan. The reports outline performance against targets outlined in the Plans. The Committee will note that the reporting requirements are significantly greater than that required for the Council's Annual Report. The Act does include an option to use the Annual Report as the reporting mechanism. However, it is considered more transparent to utilise a separate reporting process. Council may decide that a more condensed reporting method is appropriate in the future.

#### 4. Highlights for 2001/02

Highlights for 2001/2002 include:

- Boneseed control operations were organised by Council at the coastal Ngawi settlement and an area of Kapiti north of the Waikanae River;
- Initial clearance of Old Man's Beard has now been completed on both banks of the Ruamahanga River from Masterton to Tuhitarata;
- The first releases of the bio-control agent Old Man's Beard Sawfly were made in the Hutt Valley;
- Pest plant control programmes were completed in the following KNE's – Otari / Wiltons Reserve, Trelissick Park, East Harbour Reserve and Raroa Reserve;
- The regional rook population was further reduced by 31% using a mix of aerial nest baiting and ground baiting;
- Possum control occurred in 36 KNE's, including the large East Harbour area;
- Completed the rabbit proneness survey which confirmed very low densities overall;
- Continued the public education programme with attendance of Biosecurity staff at nine major public events.

Further details on the highlights are contained within the Report.

#### 5. Communications

Public notices will be utilised to inform the public that the Annual Report is available for inspection.

Copies will be forwarded to the appropriate Ministers for their review and comment.

Consideration will be given to using Elements to provide a summary of the key issues.

#### 6. Recommendation

- (1) *That the Committee, as the delegated Management Agency, approves the Annual Report on the implementation of the 2001/2002 Operational Plan for the Regional Pest Management Strategy.*
- (2) *That a copy of the Report be forwarded to the Minister of Biosecurity.*
- (3) *That the Report be made available for public inspection.*

Report prepared by:

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