

Report 14.451  
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Committee Council  
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## Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022: Operational Plan 2014/15

### 1. Purpose

For Council to adopt the Operational Plan 2014/15 for implementation of the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022 (the Strategy).

### 2. Background

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) approved the Strategy on 17 September 2002. The current version of the Strategy underwent a statutory five year review and was approved by GWRC on 12 June 2009.

Operational Plans are prepared annually for GWRC's approval, followed by an annual report on performance against the stated objectives.

The Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) specifies a number of requirements for an Operational Plan. In accordance with the Act, GWRC must:

- review the Plan annually and, if deemed appropriate, amend it;
- provide a copy of the Plan to the responsible Minister;
- prepare an annual report on the Plan, including the effectiveness of implementation, not later than five months after the end of each financial year; and
- make copies of the Plan and annual report available to the public.

### 3. The Operational Plan

The proposed Operational Plan 2014/15 is attached as **Attachment 1**.

The Operational Plan 2014/15 seeks to implement the sixth year of the reviewed Strategy, and year thirteen of the overall Strategy document. An Operational Report on the success of the Strategy will be prepared for GWRC's consideration in November 2014.

During 2014/15, Biosecurity Department resources will continue to be focused on the key aspects of Strategy implementation. These include:

- Regional Surveillance and Total Control species, all of which are capable of becoming significant regional pests if establishment occurs;
- ensuring that Containment Pests are maintained within their current infestation zones;
- continuing the extensive Site-Led biodiversity programmes in Key Native Ecosystems across private land, local authority reserves and regional parks;
- implementing the fifth year of the Regional Possum and Predator Control Programme; and
- working with landowners, care groups, iwi, and local and national government on a range of regional and national projects.

The successful Key Native Ecosystems programme continues to protect and enhance the best sites of biodiversity in the Wellington region. The programme is equally important for building and maintaining relationships with private landowners and territorial authorities within the region.

Public awareness and education remains an important aspect of implementing the Strategy. A range of paper and electronic resources are available for the public, and staff continue to give presentations to schools, community and interest groups on Strategy related topics.

#### **4. Statutory Review**

A statutory review of the Strategy document will be undertaken in 2015, following the release of a National Policy Direction (NPD) to guide the process. It was originally intended that this review would take place in 2014, however this was not possible due to the delay in releasing the NPD by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). The delay was at the request of regional councils so we could collectively work with MPI on producing a set of guidelines on how to implement the NPD.

A review of the Strategy is required within 18 months of releasing the NPD. It is a statutory requirement that the reviewed Strategy meets the requirements of the NPD. The review will assess the progress of current management programmes and make any necessary amendments. Any proposed changes will be clearly signalled to the community through a consultation document.

#### **5. Communication**

The Act requires that copies of the Operational Plan 2014/15 be made available to the public at cost price. However, it is GWRC's policy that all publications should be provided free of charge. Public notices will be placed in the major

regional papers drawing the public's attention to the availability of the Operational Plan 2014/15.

## 6. The decision-making process and significance

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002. Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

### 6.1 Significance of the decision

Part 6 requires GWRC to consider the significance of the decision. The term 'significance' has a statutory definition set out in the Local Government Act 2002.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

GWRC is required to prepare an annual Regional Pest Management Strategy Operational Plan under Section 100B of the Biosecurity Act 1993. There is no formal requirement to have the Operational Plan approved by the Council, but it is considered appropriate to do so. This aligns with GWRC's support of biosecurity matters in the region and transparency of expenditure.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

## 7. Recommendations

*That the Council:*

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the contents of the report.***
3. ***Approves the proposed Operational Plan 2014/15 to implement the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022, as set out in Attachment 1.***

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**Attachment 1: Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022 Operational Plan 2014/15**