

Key Changes to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy (2007 Review)

1. Part 2

A number of amendments and additions have been made in Part 2 of the Proposed Strategy. These changes aim to either address new problem species or change the management requirements for current pest to further address their impacts.

All pest species are categorised into one of the following headings:

Regional Surveillance

Total Control

Containment

Suppression

Site-led – Boundary Control/Human Health/Biodiversity

The Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) programme now sits in the Site-led Biodiversity category. The biodiversity KNE category lists large numbers of species for management only in specific sites of high biological diversity.

2. Changes to the pest animal species include:

Regional Surveillance – New additions include Argentine ant, Australian subterranean termites, Darwin's ant, and red-eared slider turtle.

Total Control – rooks have been elevated from boundary control.

Site-led Biodiversity – feral deer, unwanted cats, and gambusia are new species to be added to the site led biodiversity category. A number of existing KNE species are proposed to be included in the wider site-led biodiversity category.

Site-led Human Health – wasps are a new addition, and magpies have been expanded into the human health category.

2.1 Points to note regarding pest animals:

Of these changes, feral deer and feral pigs, feral cats and possums are likely to attract the most submissions. The recreational hunting lobby may have concerns regarding the inclusion of deer and pigs. However, biodiversity enhancement will only be progressed if these pests are managed in high value sites. Feral and unwanted cats may raise concerns with domestic cat protection groups. The inclusion of possums is signalling the need for an expanded control programme following the roll-back of the Animal Health Board's Bovine Tb Strategy in the near future.

Further detail on proposed pest animal species can be found in Part two of the Strategy

3. Changes to the pest plant species include:

Regional Surveillance – Proposed new additions are

African fountain grass	Hornwort
Alligator weed	Houttuynia
Apple of Sodom	Hydrilla
Asiatic knotweed	Johnson grass
Australian sedge	Manchurian wild rice
Bomarea	Nasella tussock
Cape tulip	Noogoora bur
Californian arrowhead	Phragmites
Californian bulrush	Polypodium
Chilean flame creeper	Purple loosestrife
Chilean needle grass	Pyp grass
Chinese pennisetum	Salvinia
Chocolate vine	Senegal tea
Delta arrowhead	Spartina
Giant knotweed	Water Hyacinth
Hawaiian arrowhead	White edge nightshade

Containment Species – The containment zones for boneseed, evergreen buckthorn, hornwort and sweet pea are proposed to change.

Site-led Boundary Control – Banana passionfruit, cathedral bells, nodding thistle, old man’s beard and wild ginger have all been moved from the suppression category. The original intention of this category was suppress pest densities to minimise adverse impacts. However, data gained over the past 5 years has indicated that the pest plants listed above are widespread throughout the region and suppression is not an appropriate objective. Moving these pests to boundary control will allow GW to manage property boundary impacts. Changes have been proposed to the clearance distances for gorse.

Site-led Human Health - Blackberry and hemlock are new additions to the strategy.

3.1 Points to note regarding pest plants:

The increased regional surveillance pest list enables GW to manage species that may be either new to the region or a causing problems in our neighbouring regions. Inclusion will enable GW to undertake survey work and control trials.

There may be some public concerns regarding the movement of some existing suppression pests into site-led boundary control, especially plants like old man’s beard where intensive control regimes were attempted in the past. Old man’s beard is already a boundary control pest within the confines of Wellington City.

Including blackberry and hemlock in the human health category may result in additional public complaints, resulting in more staff inputs.

Further details on proposed pest plant species can be found in Part two of the Strategy.