



Report 10.186  
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Committee Catchment Management Committee  
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## **Wairarapa Key Native Ecosystem Management - Operational Reports for 2008/09**

### **1. Purpose**

To provide the Committee with predator control update reports for the Wairarapa.

### **2. Significance of the decision**

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### **3. Background**

Since 2000, Key Native Ecosystems (KNE) have been defined as areas of prime native habitat of regional significance situated on private land. They are primarily forest remnants but also include wetlands, dune-lands and coastal escarpments with significant native flora and fauna values.

The first branded KNE programmes commenced in 1996 and were almost solely focused on possum control in territorial authority reserves. The programme was developed to include more and more sites, including areas of private land and became more diverse in an attempt to include other pest species in a larger range of natural habitats and ecosystems.

The Wairarapa KNE predator report (Attachment 1) provides detail of the objectives, history, procedures and results for the 15 individual sites totalling 10,383ha located in the Wairarapa.

### **4. Comment**

The Biosecurity Department will be providing a comprehensive report to the Catchment Management Committee at its June 2010 meeting following re-evaluation of the KNE management programme. This review has considered all components of the programme, including goals, priorities, resource allocation, partnership opportunities and funding.

The review will focus primarily on the KNE sites and opportunities in the Western Zone (Wellington, Hutt Valley and Kapiti) and provide ideas for a pathway forward.

All of the Wairarapa is currently still programmed for long-term large scale possum and ferret control for bovine Tb management. However, the AHB programme will have highly variable inputs over the Wairarapa.

The Council's proposed regional possum and predator control programme to follow on from the Animal Health Board (AHB) funded programme, commences during the 2010/11 financial year. It is, therefore, considered that the Wairarapa will have sufficient opportunities for enhancing biodiversity values from these two programmes for the next 10 years. The regional possum and predator programme will have a significant emphasis on optimising ecological health, more so than the current AHB funded programme provides.

Three operational sites (Mt Bruce – Pukaha, Rewanui and Waihora) are presented as special status reports as printed copies are made available to participating landowners and stakeholders.

## **5. Communication**

All of the Wairarapa KNE site reports will be available on the Greater Wellington website. A communication strategy will be considered once the forthcoming KNE re-evaluation review report has been reviewed by Council.

## **6. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

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