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Committee Environmental Wellbeing Committee
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Wairarapa Key Native Ecosystem Management - Operational Reports for 2009/10

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on predator control achievements for the Wairarapa Key Native Ecosystem management areas for the 2010/11 financial year.

2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

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 expanded to include more sites, including areas of private land, and became more diverse in an attempt to include a larger range of natural habitats and ecosystems.

The Wairarapa KNE predator programme covers 15 individual sites totalling 10,383ha. A brief overview of each site is provided in Attachment 1. The attachment also includes Table 1 summarising predators controlled over the past year.

4. Comment

The Biosecurity Department is working with the Biodiversity Department to help decide the future direction and content of the KNE management programme. The review will consider all components of the programme, including goals, priorities, resource allocation, funding and partnership opportunities. It is anticipated that the current programme will be retained for the next 12 months and be complemented by the Regional Possum Predator Control Programme that commenced this year. The combined programmes will significantly improve the ecological health, biodiversity and environmental wellbeing of the region.

5. Communication

Operational reports for the KNE sites will be available on the Greater Wellington website.

A communication plan will be developed following the review of all current biodiversity enhancement programmes in 2011/12. Any changes to programmes will be communicated to affected landowners.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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Attachment 1: Wairarapa KNE – 2010/11 Overview