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Committee Environment  
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## **Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022: Operational Plan 2015/16**

### **1. Purpose**

To seek adoption of the 2015/16 Operational Plan for the implementation of the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022.

### **2. Background**

The Council approved the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002 – 2022 (RPMS) on 17 September 2002. The current version of the Strategy underwent a statutory five year review and was approved by Council on 12 June 2009. A formal review of the Strategy will commence in 2015/16.

Operational Plans are prepared annually for Committee approval, followed by an annual report on performance against the objectives. An Operational Report on the success of the Strategy for 2014/15 will be available in November 2015.

The Biosecurity Act 1993 specifies a number of requirements for an Operational Plan. The Council must:

- Review the Plan annually and, if deemed appropriate, amend it
- Provide a copy of the Plan to the responsible Minister or the Council
- Prepare an annual report on the Plan, including the effectiveness of implementation, not later than five months after the end of each financial year
- Make copies of the Plan and annual report available to the public.

### **3. The Operational Plan**

The proposed Operational Plan 2015/16 is attached as **Attachment 1**.

During 2015/16 Biosecurity 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;
- Enforcing rules for Boundary Control species upon complaint;
- Continuing the extensive Site-Led biodiversity programmes in Key Native Ecosystems across private land, local authority reserves and regional parks;
- Implementation of the sixth year of the expanding Regional Possum and Predator Control Programme;
- Working with landowners, care groups, iwi, local and national government on a range of regional and national pest management projects.

The successful Key Native Ecosystems (KNE) programme continues to protect and enhance the best sites of biodiversity in the Wellington region. It is equally important for building and maintaining relationships with private landowners and Territorial Local Authorities (TLA) within the region. Alongside the KNE programme there are formal agreements to deliver additional pest control for a number of TLA's.

Public awareness and education remains an important aspect of implementing the strategy. A range of paper and electronic resources are available to the public, with Biosecurity staff continuing to give presentations to schools, communities and interest groups on RPMS related topics.

#### **4. Review of the Strategy**

A statutory review of the Regional Pest Management Strategy will commence during 2015/16. The reviewed document will be known as the Regional Pest Management Plan.

The review will be guided by a National Policy Direction (NPD) from the Ministry for Primary Industries. The NPD has been approved by Cabinet and will come into effect on 24 September 2015. It is a statutory requirement that the reviewed Regional Pest Management Plan meets the requirements of the NPD within 18 months of the document coming into effect.

The review will assess the progress of the current management programmes, and make any amendments required. Any proposed changes will be clearly signalled to the community through a consultation document.

## 5. Communication

The Biosecurity Act requires that copies of the Operational Plan be made available to the public. An electronic version of the document is available on the GWRC website and a printed version is available upon request. Public notices are placed in the major regional papers drawing the public's attention to the availability of the Plan.

## 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.

### 6.1 Significance of the decision

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

Greater Wellington Regional Council is required to prepare an annual RPMS Operational Plan under Section 100B of the Biosecurity Act 1993. There is no formal requirement to have the Operational Plan approved by Council, but it is considered appropriate to do so. This aligns with the Council'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.

### 6.2 Engagement

In accordance with the significance and engagement policy, no engagement on these matters was considered necessary.

## 7. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report***
3. ***Approves the proposed Operational Plan 2015/16 (Attachment 1) for the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022.***

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**Attachment 1:** Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022