Taranaki
Regional Council

AGENDA
Ordinary Meeting

Tuesday 23 February 2021, 1pm

Ordinary Meeting

Venue: Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford

23 February 2021 01:00 PM

Purpose of Local Government
The reports contained in this agenda address the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to decision making. Unless otherwise stated, the recommended option outlined in each report meets the purpose of local government and:

- Promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.
- Would not alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council, or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

Membership of the Ordinary Committee

Councillor D N MacLeod *(Chairperson)*	Councillor M P Joyce *(Deputy Chairperson)*
Councillor M J Cloke	Councillor M G Davey
Councillor D L Lean	Councillor C L Littlewood
Councillor M J McDonald	Councillor D N McIntyre
Councillor E D Van Der Leden	Councillor N W Walker
Councillor C S Williamson	

Health and Safety
Emergency Procedure
In the event of an emergency, please exit through the emergency door in the committee room by the kitchen.

If you require assistance to exit please see a staff member.

Once you reach the bottom of the stairs make your way to the assembly point at the birdcage.

Staff will guide you to an alternative route if necessary.

Earthquake
If there is an earthquake - drop, cover and hold where possible.

Please remain where you are until further instruction is given.

MY CONVINCING CASE FOR THE
FORGOTTEN WORLD RAIL CYCLE TRAIL
An opportunity for the Taranaki regional economy

By Richard Woodd
The idea of a rail logging hub at Te Wera has been abandoned and the line owner Kiwirail instead wants to build one at Waverley.
It's asking for $8.2 million capital funding from the Government's Provincial Growth Fund to help develop the Waverley facility.
This is from a comprehensive feasibility study commissioned by Government-owned Kiwirail, completed in June last year.
The report says logging by rail is only profitable against road trucking if the hub is more than 75 km from an export port. Although Te Wera is 88km by rail to the port, the peak volumes of logs coming out of the area will only last for seven years which is too short, plus 37km of line would need to be upgraded at a cost estimate of $5m. Therefore investing in wagons, locomotives and yarding was not justified.
A Waverley hub would draw logs from a much wider area, still be closer to Port Taranaki than Wellington and have an acceptable capital payback period.
It would remove as much as 50% percent of logging trucks from the roads and allow truckers to haul from forest to hub, thus achieving faster turnarounds.
How do I know all of this? I put an Official Information Act request to Kiwirail and the report was sent to me.
Why am I so interested? Because taking Te Wera rail logging off the radar removes a potential obstacle to converting the "mothballed" Stratford-Okahukura line (SOL) into a major tourist cycling route.
I'm a keen cyclist and I am campaigning to encourage Taranaki's political leaders to present a united front to have the rails removed and create the Forgotten World Cycle Trail.
This 144 km long railway ceased carrying trains in 2009 after a derailment severely damaged 9.5 km of track. With very little rail traffic usage (less than one train per day), it wasn't worth repairing the damage or catching up with considerable deferred maintenance, particularly on bridges and tunnels..

NEVER CONSULTED
So Kiwirail then decided to lease the line for 30 years to Forgotten World Adventures entrepreneur Ian Balme and since 2012 he has been operating motorised golf buggies as a very successful tourism business, based in Taumarunui and operating between Stratford and Okahukura. It has also extended to jet boat and helicopter scenic trips.
Kiwirail never considered the regional economic potential for this route as a cycle trail. This is a public asset and in my view there should have been public consultation about other uses. Our four councils and other key people/organisations could demand this now.
Taranaki has an opportunity to create one of the world's most spectacular cycling adventures. And Ruapehu District could also participate from the other end.
This is a railway route, therefore it has no hills. It has 24 tunnels and 75 bridges. It would be open year-round to anyone who can ride an ordinary bicycle and pitch a tent.
The only direct beneficiaries of the line are Kiwirail and Forgotten World Adventures, through the operation of customer shuttle services at either end, and accommodation at

Taumarunui and Whangamomona. FWA is now run totally from Taumarunui, the Stratford shuttle contractors having pulled out last year.
If the line was to become a pure cycle route, Mr Balme's lease would be an obstacle. He would have to be compensated. He could not operate it profitably as a cycle route because there is currently no way to put a gate at each end and charge users.
Kiwirail says it "has no position" on whatever FWA is doing or planning operationally.
Mr Balme (referring last year to Kiwirail's Te Wera log hub hopes) said: "Kiwirail still very focused on starting up a loss making rail operation as they believe it is their right.
"What we have tried to point out to them is that this is a national asset and that it is ripe for repurposing. We know we would be able to co-exist but this is a big step for KiwiRail.
Ideally we would like this to be a collaboration between KiwiRail, Iwi,local communities and Forgotten World Adventures."
As is well known from the Otago Central Rail Trail model, the profits come from small businesses that spring up along the route to service the users.

COST OF CONVERSION FROM RAIL TO CYCLEWAY
This is a difficult one. The report estimated hypothetical upgrading of the 37km Stratford-Te Wera section for log trains at $5m, or around $140,000 per km. Extrapolate that over the whole 144km and it totals around $20m.
But the Stratford-Te Wera section, with one tunnel and few bridges, is in comparatively good condition against the rest of the line between Te Wera and Ohura, which is ravined, bush-clad, subject to heavy rainfall and otherwise mostly accessible.
As far as I know nobody has done any cost estimates but my view is it could cost up to $10m to convert to a cycle trail, the main work being removal of rails, creation of a contained gravel path, bridges decked, tunnels made safer – in other words nothing very complicated. But it would not need to carry train weights.
However, it might cost millions to buy out FWA's lease, which has 21 years to run. If Mr Balme is generating $2 million annually from the business and spinoffs, compensation might be $40 million.
The Kiwirail CEO Greg Miller has a personal mission to fully reinstate the line for freight trains, mainly as a backup route for the North Island Main Trunk. The lease contract allows them to break the lease on 12 months notice if the line is required for railway purposes,
In 2018 Miller estimated reinstatement would cost $40m; last December he had upped that to $200m and was asking the Government to cough up because the line was a priority for "national resilience of the network."
My view: it doesn't make sense because the SOL would be far more vulnerable to unexpected closure than the NIMT.

TARANAKI HAS A LOT TO LOSE
With an upgraded line Kiwirail would be wanting to attract business from Fonterra and logging to offset the huge capital cost.
What would the Taranaki economy get from that? I suggest very little. Fonterra has since the closure switched to rail freighting product from Hawera to Tauranga via the main trunk line junction at Marton, and Taranaki is no longer a container port for Fonterra. It would be unlikely to go back to the SOL unless Kiwirail dropped its charges to below-cost.
More importantly perhaps, Port Taranaki would lose its valuable log export trade, which would then presumably be diverted direct to Tauranga by rail.

So Taranaki has a lot to lose if Kiwirail gets what it wants.

SH43 IS ALL HILLS

There have been efforts made to promote the Forgotten World Highway 43 as an amazing cycle adventure. But it's all hills, unsuitable for family groups, and probably anyone but the very fit would need an e-bike. Between Douglas and Tahora alone (61 km) there are five saddles (i.e. mountain passes), some of them gigantic. Plus riders have to carry camping and cooking gear weighing around 20 kg.

We can only gain from a cycle trail on this rail route. Mr Balme last year pre-Covid said he was planning to add a cycle track to the rail route, but gave no details of how this would be done. Presumably he could have bikes travelling between the rails on a suitable gravel surface; that is not only a fairly narrow path, but how do you manage conflict between rail carts and cycles, especially in unlit tunnels?

I want to see this line repurposed as a cycle trail, operating year-round between Stratford and Okahukura. I want to see the tracks removed and replaced with contained cycle-friendly gravel, the bridges decked and sided, the tunnel drainage upgraded.

I want to see 10,000 plus cyclists using the trail per year. I want to see those small dying communities providing services such as campsites, b&bs, electric charging points, food supplies, shuttle vehicles, tour guides, lodges and so on.

Is this fanciful, wishful thinking? Absolutely not. The incredibly successful Otago Central Rail Trail is the benchmark. It is used by some 14,000 (based on electronic counters at four locations). The most popular section (Poolburn Gorge) has around 24,000 users.

About 9% of users are on guided tours; 50% are independent customers on rented bicycles, and 41% are NZers with their own bikes.

Users on average spend 4-5 days on the trail.

A business evaluation says the trail supports 1000 full and part-time jobs and is credited with having directly created 200 additional jobs.

The annual maintenance and development costs are estimated at $316,000.

FWA's operation depends somewhat on overseas visitors, but they are now an uncertain commodity with our international borders closed. Moreover, I understand that the rail carts appeal particularly to older people who enjoy being trundled along at 25 kmh and spend a significant period dozing.

That wouldn't happen with fit and active Kiwi bicycle tourists.

Rail cart customers spend very little en route. Cycle tourists are the opposite.

The rail carts close down for winter between May and October (as does the Otago Central operation, incidentally). Our Forgotten World Cycle Trail could operate year-round and not be dependent on customers from overseas; it gets cold out in the hills but it doesn't snow.

The Otago Central Rail Trail Trust was established in 1994 by the Department of Conservation to help it raise funds to convert a disused railway into a walking and cycling trail between Clyde and Middlemarch. The trust derives revenue from grant funds, donations, bequests, sale of advertising and merchandise (including its own passport).

Date 23 February 2021

Subject: **Confirmation of Minutes - 15 December 2020**

Approved by: M J Nield, Director - Corporate Services

S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 2674783

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) takes as read and confirms the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Pukeiti Lodge, 2290 Carrington Road, New Plymouth on Tuesday 15 December 2020 at 9.30am.

Matters arising

Appendices/Attachments

Document 2664042: Minutes Ordinary - 15 December 2021

Date	15 December 2020, 9.30am
Venue:	Pukeiti Lodge, 2290 Carrington Road, New Plymouth
Document:	2664042

Present	Councillors	D N MacLeod	Chairperson
		M P Joyce	Deputy Chairperson
		M J Cloke	
		M G Davey	
		D L Lean	
		C L Littlewood	
		M J McDonald	*arrived at 9.39am*
		D H McIntyre	
		E D Van Der Leden	
		N W Walker	
		C S Williamson	
Attending	Messrs	S J Ruru	Chief Executive
		M J Nield	Director – Corporate Services
		G K Bedford	Director – Environment Quality
		A D McLay	Director – Resource Management
	Ms	J Reader	Communications Manager
	Mr	P Ledingham	Communications Adviser
	Miss	L Davidson	Committee Administrator

One member of the media, Mr M Watson, Taranaki Daily News.

Apologies There were no apologies received.

Notification of Late Items There were no late items.

1. Confirmation of Minutes – 3 November 2020

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) takes as read and confirms the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council Boardroom, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Tuesday 3 November 2020 at 10.30am.

Williamson/Van Der Leden

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

2. Consents and Regulatory Committee Minutes – 24 November 2020

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives the minutes of the Consents and Regulatory Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Tuesday 24 November 2020 at 9.30am

b) adopts the recommendations therein.

Lean/Cloke

Matters arising

The presentation and work being undertaken with Ngāti Mutunga is excellent. Mr G K Bedford is following up this work to explore using the concept further.

3. Policy and Planning Committee Minutes – 24 November 2020

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Tuesday 24 November 2020 at 10.30am.

b) adopts the recommendations therein.

Littlewood/Walker

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Executive, Audit and Risk Committee Minutes – 7 December 2020

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives the minutes of the Executive, Audit and Risk Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Monday 7 December 2020 at 10am

b) adopts the recommendations therein.

Walker/Cloke

Matters arising

Acknowledgement was given to Mr C Clarke for his service over the past 13 years.

5. Joint Committee Minutes

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee meeting held on Thursday 19 November 2020

b) receives the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Regional Transport Committee meeting held on Wednesday 2 December 2020

c) receives the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee meeting held on Thursday 3 December 2020.

Cloke/Williamson

Matters arising

5.1 Taranaki Solid Waste Joint Committee

Ag-recovery – silage wrap is being looked in to.

5.2 Taranaki Regional Transport Committee

It was noted that there is a lot of frustration around the state of Taranaki Highways.

Councillor M McDonald arrived 9.39am

Speed limits on rural roads – Concern was raised about lowering speed limits as it would lead to lowering standards of the roads. This is yet to be addressed formally.

5.3 Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee

Mr Craig Campbell-Smart has tendered resignation. Mr Todd Velvin will step in to this role temporarily while a new manager is appointed.

Having Māori representatives on the CEG is a positive move forward.

6. February and March 2021 Meeting Dates

6.1 The February and March 2021 meeting dates were included for members.

It was noted that the Ordinary meeting on 23 February 2021 will be held at 1pm.

7. 2021/2031 Long-Term Plan and Consultation Document Audit: Audit Engagement Letter

7.1 Mr M J Nield, Director – Corporate Services, spoke to the memorandum to receive and consider the audit engagement letter for the audit of *the 2021/2031 Long-Term Plan* and the associated Consultation Document.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives, considers and approves the completion of the audit engagement letter for the audit of the *2021/2031 Long-Term Plan* and the associated Consultation Document.

Davey/Williamson

8. Public Excluded

In accordance with section 48(1) of the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*, resolves that the public is excluded from the following part of the proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 15 December 2020 for the following reason/s:

Item 9 - Public Excluded Ordinary Minutes – 3 November 2020

THAT the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Item 10 - Public Excluded Executive, Audit and Risk Committee Minutes – 7 December 2020

THAT the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Cloke/Littlewood

There being no further business, Chairman D N MacLeod, declared the Public Ordinary Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council closed at 10am.

Confirmed

Chairperson: _____

D N MacLeod

23 February 2021

Date 23 February 2021

Subject: **Consents and Regulatory Minutes - 2 February 2021**

Approved by: M J Nield, Director - Corporate Services

S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 2707831

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives the minutes of the Consents and Regulatory Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Tuesday 2 February 2021 at 9.30am

b) adopts the recommendations therein.

Matters Arising

Appendices/Attachments

Document 2695505: Minutes Consents and Regulatory Committee 2 February 2021

Date 2 February 2020, 9.30am

Venue: Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford

Document: 2695505

Members	Councillors	D L Lean	Committee Chairperson
		C S Williamson	Committee Deputy Chairperson
		M J Cloke	
		M Davey	
		C L Littlewood	
		D H McIntyre	
		D N MacLeod	ex officio
		M P Joyce	ex officio
Representative Members	Mr	M Ritai	Iwi Representative
	Mr	K Holswich	Iwi Representative
	Ms	E Bailey	Iwi Representative
Attending	Messrs	S J Ruru	Chief Executive
		M J Nield	Director – Corporate Services
		G K Bedford	Director - Environment Quality
		A D McLay	Director – Resource Management
		C McLellan	Consents Manager
		B Pope	Compliance Manager
		R Phipps	Science Manager - Hydrology
		S Tamarapa	Iwi Communications Officer
	Ms	J Reader	Communications Adviser
	Miss	L Davidson	Committee Administrator
	One member of the media and four members of the public.		

Opening Karakia The meeting opened with a group karakia.

Apologies An apology was received from Councillor E D Van Der Leden.

Lean/Cloke

Notification of Late Items There were no late items.

1. Confirmation of Minutes – 24 November 2020

Resolves

That the Consents and Regulatory Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) takes as read and confirms the minutes and resolutions of the Consents and Regulatory Committee Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Tuesday 24 November 2020 at 9.30am

b) notes the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on Tuesday 15 December 2020.

Lean/Williamson

Matters arising

- It was noted that the requested report *Te Mana o te Wai and Resource Management Processes* has been prepared, however, officers felt that before it is presented to the Committee it should go back to the Wai Māori group for comment and discussion.

2. Resource Consents Issued Under Delegated Authority and Applications in Progress

2.1 Mr C McLellan, Consents Manager, spoke to the memorandum advising of consents granted, consents under application and consent processing actions since the last meeting.

2.2 It was requested by Members that a glossary be included in the report for ease of understanding terminology, particularly iwi responses on consent applications.

2.3 It was noted that some Members were not happy with existing opportunities for iwi engagement in the current consenting process and felt that there were certain areas of improvement to be made in the consenting process and to work towards this. Staff noted this is a work in progress with some individual iwi contact and the development of a Mana Whakahono a Rohe agreement with most iwi in the region. A draft agreement is scheduled for April in a process lead by T Porou.

2.9 Councillors C L Littlewood and D N McLeod declared a conflict of interest in relation to Port Taranaki Ltd.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives the schedule of resource consents granted and other consent processing actions, made under delegated authority.

Cloke/Davey

3. Consent Monitoring Annual Reports

3.1 Mr R Phipps, Science Manager – Hydrology, spoke to the memorandum advising of the 11 tailored compliance monitoring reports that have been prepared since the last meeting.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives the 20-25 STDC Opunake WWTP Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2019-2020 and adopts the specific recommendations therein

b) receives the 20-39 Lower Waiwakaiho Air Discharges Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2019-2020 and adopts the specific recommendations therein

c) receives the 20-52 South Taranaki District Council HWWTP Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2019-2020 and adopts the specific recommendations therein

d) receives the 20-61 SDC Stratford WWTP Monitoring Programme Annual Report 201-2020 and adopts the specific recommendations therein

e) receives the Stratford District Council Landfills Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2019-2020 and adopts the specific recommendations therein

f) receives the 20-78 Todd Energy McKee Mangahewa Production Station Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2019-2020 and adopts the specific recommendations therein

g) receives the 20-85 Taranaki Thoroughbred Racing Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2019-2020 and adopts the specific recommendations therein

h) receives the 20-88 Waste Remediation Services Ltd Symes Manawapou Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2019-2020 and adopts the specific recommendations therein

i) receives the 20-90 South Taranaki District Council Closed Landfills Monitoring Annual Report 2019-2020 and adopts the specific recommendations therein

j) receives the 20-91 Waste Remediation Services Ltd Waikaikai Landfarm Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2019-2020 and adopts the specific recommendations therein

k) receives the 20-94 Irrigation Water Compliance Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2019-2020 and adopts the specific recommendations therein.

Davey/Holswich

4. Incident, Compliance Monitoring Non-compliances and Enforcement Summary – 5 November 2020 to 10 January 2021

4.1 Mr B Pope, Compliance Manager, spoke to the memorandum allowing the Committee to consider and receive the summary of incidents, compliance monitoring non-compliances and enforcement for the period 5 November 2020 to 10 January 2021.

4.2 Councillor D N McIntyre declared an interest in items relating to Fonterra.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives this memorandum *Incident, Compliance Monitoring Non-Compliances and Enforcement Summary – 5 November 2020 to 10 January 2021*

b) receives the summary of incidents, compliance monitoring non-compliances and enforcement for the period 5 November 2020 to 10 January 2021, notes the action

taken by staff acting under delegated authority and adopts the recommendations therein.

MacLeod/Joyce

5. Public Excluded

In accordance with section 48(1) of the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*, resolves that the public is excluded from the following part of the proceedings of the Consents and Regulatory Committee meeting on Tuesday 2 February 2021 for the following reasons:

Item 6 – Schedule of Taranaki Regional Council Prosecutions

THAT the public conduct of whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be like to result in the disclosure of information where such disclosure would likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences and the right to a fair trial.

Item 7 – Prosecution

THAT the public conduct of whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be like to result in the disclosure of information where such disclosure would likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences and the right to a fair trial.

McIntyre/Cloke

There being no further business the Committee Chairman, Councillor D L Lean, declared the public meeting of the Consents and Regulatory Committee closed at 10.23am.

Confirmed

Consents and Regulatory

Committee Chairperson:_____

D L Lean

16 March 2021

Date 23 February 2021

Subject: **Policy and Planning Minutes - 2 February 2021**

Approved by: M J Nield, Director - Corporate Services

S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 2707834

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Tuesday 2 February 2021 at 10.30am

b) adopts the recommendations therein.

Matters Arising

Appendices/Attachments

Document 2696913: Minutes Policy and Planning Committee - 2 February 2021

Date 2 February 2021, 10.30am

Venue: Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford

Document: 2696913

Members	Councillors	C L Littlewood	Committee Chairperson
		N W Walker	Committee Deputy Chairperson
		D M Davey	
		M J McDonald	
		D H McIntyre	
		C S Williamson	
		D N MacLeod	ex officio
		M P Joyce	ex officio
Representative Members	Councillors	C Young	South Taranaki District Council
		S Hitchcock	New Plymouth District Council
		G Boyde	Stratford District Council
	Mr	P Moeahu	Iwi Representative
	Ms	L Tester	Iwi Representative
	Ms	B Bigham	Iwi Representative
Attending	Councillors	D L Lean	
	Messrs	S J Ruru	Chief Executive
		M J Nield	Director – Corporate Services
		A D McLay	Director - Resource Management
		G K Bedford	Director - Environment Quality
		D Harrison	Director - Operations
		C Spurdle	Planning Manager
		S Tamarapa	Iwi Communications Officer
		C Wadsworth	Strategy Lead
	Miss	A Campbell	Planning Officer
	Ms	J Reader	Communications Manager
	Miss	L Davidson	Committee Administrator

One member of the media and three members of the public.

Apologies Apologies were received from Councillor E D Van Der Leden and Federated Farmers Representative Mr P Muir.

Littlewood/McDonald

Notification of - Māori constituencies.
Late items - Climate Change Commissioners Report.

1. Confirmation of Minutes – 24 November 2020

Resolved

That the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) takes as read and confirms the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Tuesday 24 November 2020

b) notes the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on Tuesday 15 December 2020.

MacLeod/Williamson

Matters arising
It was noted that Councillor M G Davey had attended the previous meeting.

2. Section 32 Position Paper – Sites of Significance to Māori

2.1 Mr A D McLay, Director – Resource Management, introduced Miss A Campbell, Planning Officer, who gave an excellent presentation, to introduce for Members information, the report on the sites of significance to Māori and answered questions arising.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives this memorandum entitled *Section 32 Position Paper – Sites of Significance to Māori*

b) notes that the findings of this report are contributing to the development of Plan provisions and spatial information seeking to project sites of significance to Māori

c) notes that as part of the sites of significance project approximately 800 sites have so far been identified

d) notes the policy recommendations presented in section 6.2 of the report

e) notes that the sites of significance identification process is ongoing and that Council will be further collaborating with tangata whenua to verify sites with the aim of completing the identification of all sites of significance to Māori across Taranaki.

Davey/Williamson

3. Analysis of Air Quality-related Incidents

3.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director – Environment Quality, spoke to the memorandum presenting the results of an analysis of complaints and incidents related to air quality in the Taranaki region, since the Regional Air Quality Plan for Taranaki (RAQP) came in to effect (July 2011), together with a more detailed analysis of incidents in 2020. It is intended that the findings of the assessment can be used by Council, community and iwi representatives on its committees, and the community at large, to inform the development of the *Natural Resources Plan* (NRP).

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives the memorandum *Analysis of Air-Quality-related Incidents*

b) notes its findings, that Council's current regulatory regime appears robust for upholding and enhancing regional local air quality

c) references the agenda memorandum and accompanying internal memorandum at the time of its consideration of the sections of the *Natural Resources Plan* relating to air quality.

Boyde/Young

4. Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment – Result of Pilot Study and Initiation of Second Stage Programme

4.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director – Environmental Quality, spoke to the memorandum informing the Committee of completion and publication of Stage One of a study into pathogenic and indicator micro-organisms in rivers in New Zealand, and the initiation of the study's Stage Two, with the ultimate intention to bring about an improvement in the monitoring and interpretation of results for public health protection.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives the memorandum *Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment – Results of Pilot Study and Initiation of Second Stage Programme*

b) notes the inclusion of the Waitara River in the study

c) notes the objective of the national study is to improve interpretation of microbial water quality data in respect of public health significance.

Walker/McIntyre

5. Submission on NZ Standard for Management of Agrichemicals

5.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director – Environment Quality, spoke to the memorandum informing the Committee of the submission on the draft Standard NZS 8409:2021 Management of Agrichemicals, which was submitted to Standards New Zealand by 1 February 2021 and asking the Committee to retroactively approve that submission.

5.2 Councillor N W Walker moved a motion to add supplementary commentary to the submission regarding reducing agrichemical Residues in foodstuffs.

5.3 Some Members felt that the issue would be better raised directly with MPI around food health and general health.

Recommended

Councillor N W Walker moved a motion that the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) Include supplementary commentary around reducing agrichemical residues as part of the submission.

Walker/Tester

For – 4 (N W Walker, L Tester, C Littlewood, S Hitchcock)

Against – 10

Motion Lost

Recommended
That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives the memorandum, submission on NZ Standard for Management of Agrichemicals

b) adopts the submission on the draft NZS 8409:2021 Management of Agrichemicals.

McDonald/Williamson

6. 2021 State of the Environment Report for Taranaki

6.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director - Environment Quality, spoke to the memorandum presenting for Members' information, a project update for the preparation of the Council's next State of the environment Report (SOER). The SOER is an omnibus collation of appropriate and up to date data and primarily about the physical environment of Taranaki and the effects of human activities and interventions.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives the memorandum 2021 State of the Environment report for Taranaki

b) approves the revised approach to the delivery of the SOER with the schedule for delivery of all online modules to be completed by December 2021.

Joyce/Williamson

7. Submissions on the Proposal to Amend the Regional Pest Management Plan

7.1 Mr C Spurdle, Planning Manager, spoke to the memorandum updating members on the public consultation process on the proposal to amend the *Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* (the Proposal) to declare mustelids as pests, including recommended changes to the Proposal as a result of submissions and to set out the process from here for adopting the Proposal.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives this memorandum *Submissions on the Proposal to amend the Regional Pest Management Plan*

b) adopts the draft recommendations contained within the attached *Officers Report*, subject to any amendments agreed by Council

c) agrees to hear submissions at the Ordinary meeting of 23 February 2021.

MacLeod/Walker

8. General Business/late items

Māori Constituencies

An announcement has been made by the Minister regarding Māori Constituencies in local body elections. Councillor D N MacLeod has requested a report to the Ordinary meeting of Council on Tuesday 23 February to address Māori constituencies for members consideration.

Climate Change Commission

Officers will produce a submission on the Climate Change Commission and send out electronically to Members for feedback prior to it being lodged, as the next Policy and Planning meeting is scheduled for after submission period closed.

There being no further business the Committee Chairman, Councillor C L Littlewood, declared the meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee closed at 12.20pm. The meeting closed with a karakia.

Confirmed

Policy and Planning

Chairperson:_____

C L Littlewood

16 March 2020

Date 23 February 2021

Subject: **Executive, Audit and Risk Minutes - 15 February 2021**

Approved by: M J Nield, Director - Corporate Services

S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 2707836

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives the minutes of the Executive, Audit and Risk Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Monday 15 February 2021 at 10am

b) adopts the recommendations therein.

Matters Arising

Appendices/Attachments

Document 2707984: Minutes Executive, Audit and Risk Committee - 15 February 2021

Date	15 February 2021, 10am
Venue:	Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford
Document:	2707984

Members	Councillors	N W Walker	Committee Chairperson
		M J Cloke	*zoom*
		D L Lean	*arrived 10.20am*
		C L Littlewood	*zoom*
		M J McDonald	
		D N MacLeod	*ex officio*
		M P Joyce	*ex officio*
Attending	Messrs	M J Nield	Director – Corporate Services
	Ms	J Reader	Communications Manager
	Miss	L Davidson	Committee Administrator

Apologies An apology for lateness from Councillor D L Lean was received.

Notification of Late Items There were no late items.

Covid-19 update

Mr M J Nield, Director – Corporate Services, gave an update on the covid-19 protocols for the Taranaki Regional Council.

1. Confirmation of Minutes – 7 December 2021

Resolves

That the Executive, Audit and Risk Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) takes as read and confirms the minutes of the Executive, Audit and Risk Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Monday 7 December 2020 at 10am

b) notes the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on Tuesday 15 December 2020.

Cloke/Littlewood

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2. Financial and Operational Report

2.1 Mr M J Nield, Director – Corporate Services, spoke to the memorandum informing members of the operational and financial performance of the Council.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives the memorandum *Financial and Operational Report* and the November and December Financial Reports

b) notes the digital media update

c) notes the health and safety reports for November and December 2020.

MacLeod/Joyce

3. Quarterly Operational Report – December 2020

3.1 Mr M J Nield, Director – Corporate Services, spoke to the memorandum to receive and consider the Council's Quarterly Operational Report (QOR) for the quarter ended 31 December 2020.

Council D L Lean arrived 10.20am

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives and adopts the Quarterly Operational Report for the quarter ended 31 December 2021.

Walker/MacLeod

4. Public Transport Operational Update for the Quarter Ending 31 December 2020

4.1 Mr M J Nield, Director – Corporate Services, spoke to the memorandum providing members with an update on public transport services for the quarter ending 31 December 2020.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives the report *Public Transport Operational Report for the Quarter Ending 31 December 2020*

b) notes the operational report of the public transport services for the quarter ending 31 December 2020.

Cloke/MacLeod

5. Riskpool Annual Report 2020

5.1 Mr M J Nield, Director - Corporate Services, spoke to the memorandum considering and receiving Riskpool's 2020 Annual Report.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives Riskpool's 2020 Annual Report and notes the Scheme's performance to date

b) notes that Riskpool is continuing its wind down process, which is expected to take a further 3 to 10 years

c) notes that Riskpool does not expect to make further calls before 30 June 2022, but a final call on wind up is likely

d) notes that a watching brief on the financial performance of the scheme will be maintained.

Lean/Cloke

6. Accommodation Review

6.1 Mr M J Nield, Director – Corporate Services, spoke to the memorandum receiving and considering options for the accommodation review for subsequent inclusion in the *2021/2031 Long-Term Plan Consultation Document*.

6.3 Mr M J Nield will provide the total asset value of the whole Council site to the Committee.

6.4 Mr M J Nield will provide the depreciation profile of Council offices to the Committee.

6.5 Councillor M J Cloke felt that the Council should still be looking at options for a site in New Plymouth.

6.6 The LTP consultation documents will include all options and identify the preferred option.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives the *Office Accommodation Review – Update Memorandum*

b) notes the options for the accommodation review for inclusion in the *Consultation Document* for the *2021/2031 Long-Term Plan*

c) adopts the preferred option for the accommodation review for inclusion in the *Consultation Document* for the *2021/2031 Long-Term Plan* being developing the remainder of the Inspectorate Building and addressing earthquake-prone building issues with existing approved budgets and undertake the redevelopment of the remainder of the site over the next two financial years

d) notes the accommodation review will be included as a consultation issue on the *Consultation Document* for the *2021/2031 Long-Term Plan* and that further detailed work, beyond upgrading of the Inspectorate Building and addressing earthquake-

prone building issues in the current financial year, and analysis will be dependent upon adoption of the *2021/2031 Long Term Plan*

e) determines that this decision be recognised as significant in terms of section 76 of the *Local Government Act 2020*

f) determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the *Local Government Act 2002* to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of the Act, determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.

MacLeod/McDonald

7. Public Excluded

8. In accordance with section 48(1) of the *Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987,* resolves that the public is excluded from the following part of the proceedings of the Executive, Audit and Risk Committee Meeting on Monday 15 February 2021 for the following reasons:

Item 8 - Confidential Minutes - 7 December 2020

That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Item 9 - Technix Bitumen Technologies Limited - Rent Holiday Request

That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Item 10 - Yarrow Stadium Update

That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Lean/MacLeod

There being no further business, the Committee Chairperson, Councillor N W Walker, declared the open meeting of the Executive, Audit and Risk Committee closed at 10.46am.

Confirmed

Executive, Audit &
Risk Chairperson: _____

N W Walker

29 March 2021

Date 23 February 2021

Subject: **Meeting Dates for February, March and April 2021**

Approved by: M J Nield, Director - Corporate Services

S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 2707842

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide notification to Members of the meeting dates for the next round of meetings for February, March and April 2021.

Meeting Dates

Solid Waste Management Joint Committee	Thursday 25 February 2021	10.30am
Regional Transport Joint Committee	Wednesday 3 March 2021	10.30am
Civil Defence Emergency Management Committee	Thursday 10 March 2021	10.30am
Consents and Regulatory Committee	Tuesday 16 March 2021	9.30am
Policy and Planning Committee	Tuesday 16 March 2021	10.30am
Executive, Audit and Risk Committee	Monday 29 March 2021	10am
Ordinary	Tuesday 6 April 2021	10.30am

Date 23 February 2021

Subject: **Hearing on the proposal to amend the Regional Pest Management Plan**

Approved by: D Harrison, Director - Operations

S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 2709542

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce submissions on the *Proposal for inclusion of mustelids in the Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* (the Proposal) and to seek Members' consideration of those submissions, including recommended changes, and the adoption of the Proposal.

Executive summary

2. On 7 November 2020, the Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) publicly notified the proposal to amend the *Pest Management Plan for Taranaki*. The *Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* sets out the regulatory framework for the management of pest animals and pest plants in the Taranaki region.
3. The Proposal is part of a partial review of the Pest Plan. The Proposal seeks to declare mustelids (ferrets, stoats and weasels) as 'pests' in the Taranaki region and for rules to apply. The Proposal does not otherwise amend the RPMP, except for minor consequential changes necessary to update the Plan to recognise the outcomes of this review.
4. Pursuant to section 73 of the *Biosecurity Act 1993* (the BSA), the Council publicly notified the proposal and invited feedback and submissions on the partial review.
5. The Council received eight submissions on the proposal. The eight submissions received were from:
    - South Taranaki District Council
    - Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust
    - Neil and Lloma Hibell
    - Forest and Bird
    - Anne Collins
    - Federated Farmers

- Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa
- New Plymouth District Council.

6. At the time of writing this item, two submitters have indicated they wish to speak at a hearing.
7. Council officers have completed an *Officers Report* for each of the eight submissions, which is attached for your information.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

a) receives this memorandum titled *Hearing on the proposal to amend the Regional Pest Management Plan*

b) notes that eight submissions have been received on the proposal

c) receives the officers report entitled *Officers report: Proposal to amend the Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* and the revised track-changed version of the *Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* showing recommended changes

d) hears Federated Farmers and Forest and Bird speak in support of their submissions

e) considers, amends and adopts the recommendations contained within the attached officers' report and as a result of submissions, amends the *Pest Management Plan for Taranaki*

f) adopts the *Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* as amended by submissions

g) determines that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the *Local Government Act 2002*

h) determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the *Local Government Act 2002* to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of the Act, determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.

Background

8. Biosecurity is the prevention or management of risks from the thousands of pests and other harmful organisms that affect our economy, environment and wellbeing. Biosecurity and pest management is vital to New Zealand's environmental and economic well-being.
9. The *Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* was adopted by Council and became operative on 20 February 2018 following a comprehensive public process under the BSA. The Plan sets out management programmes to ensure the sustained control of 17 'pest' animal and plant species and empowers the Council to exercise the relevant enforcement and funding provisions available under the BSA.
10. Members may recall that at the time of the 2018 review Council considered declaring mustelids to be a pest but the decision was deferred to 'trial' the *Towards Predator-free Taranaki* programme, first as part of a voluntary approach to ensure its effectiveness. Since 2018, Council has been successfully implementing the *Towards Predator-free Taranaki* programme. Rurally, there is 42,000 hectares covered by predator control with a

90% reduction in mustelid populations following the predator control and is successfully kept at very low levels.

11. Two years on, the Council was determined to undertake a partial review of the *Regional Pest Management Plan*. Council believes amendment is required to the operative Plan to protect the sustainability of and public investment in *Towards Predator-free Taranaki*. Proposed amendments will introduce predator control rules to support maintenance of the *Towards Predator-free Taranaki* programme.
12. The proposal to amend the *Regional Pest Management Plan* seeks to declare mustelids (weasels, stoats and ferrets) to be 'pests' and to include a new programme for their sustained control. The new programme will empower the Council to exercise the relevant advisory, service delivery, regulatory and funding powers available under the BSA to deliver mustelid control in defined parts of Taranaki. A copy of the Proposal for inclusion of mustelids Regional Pest Management Plan is appended to this item.
13. The Council would identify 'Predator Control Areas' where land occupiers in a locality agree to participate in the programme. This is similar to its approach under the long-running and successful Self-Help Possum Control Programme. In each of the Predator Control Areas, the Council would undertake initial predator control targeting mustelids. After initial predator control work has been undertaken, occupiers within the area will be required to control and maintain mustelid numbers at the reduced levels.
14. On 7 November 2020, the Council invited submissions on the proposal to amend the *Pest Management Plan*.
15. Notification of the release of the proposal and invitation to make submissions was placed in the Taranaki Daily Newspaper and the Council website was updated to include a section on the proposed changes and submission process. Key interested parties were also individually notified, including New Plymouth District Council, South Taranaki District Council, Stratford District Council, Federated Farmers, the Taranaki Mounga project, the Department of Conservation, Ministry for Primary Industries, and all iwi authorities.
16. Submissions could be made through the completion of an online submission form on the Council website, via email, or by posting a hard copy to the Council. Council officers were also available over the submission period to answer questions or to provide clarification on matters of concern.
17. The submission period concluded at 4pm on Friday 4 December 2020. Technical difficulties resulted in some of the notification emails not getting through to intended recipients. These parties were individually contacted and received an extension of time (until 24 December) to make a submission.
18. Council officers have prepared the *Officers report - Proposal to amend the Regional Pest Management Plan*, which summarises the submission points and provides recommendations to the Council on those submissions. The full submissions are appended to that report.

Issues

19. There is a need for the Hearing Committee to consider all submissions and decide what reliefs are to be accepted or declined by Council following the hearing.

Submissions

20. Eight submissions were received on the proposal to amend the *Pest Management Plan*, these were from:
    - South Taranaki District Council
    - Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust
    - Neil and Lloma Hibell
    - Forest and Bird
    - Anne Collins
    - Federated Farmers
    - Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa
    - New Plymouth District Council.
21. In brief, the submissions were generally supportive in identifying mustelids as pests in the *Pest Management Plan* and for the application of rules to control mustelids in Taranaki.
22. Key issues or themes raised in submissions are as follows:
    - general support for declaring mustelids to be a pest in the Taranaki region
    - seek further information or minor additional amendments to the Plan in relation to monitoring
    - recognition of the role of iwi as kaitiaki
    - seek feral cats also to be declared as pests
    - amendment to the mustelid control rule to make it less onerous to land occupiers.
23. Recommended changes to the Proposal to be duly incorporated into the Pest Management Plan are relatively minor and are identified in the officers response to submission points (where relevant) identified in the *Officers Report*. It is recommended that mustelids be declared a pest in the Taranaki region and to include a new programme in the current Pest Plan for their sustained control.
24. In relation to the reliefs sought by submitters a number of minor and inconsequential changes are recommended by officers. The most significant change recommended by officers is to amend the proposed rule to control mustelids to make costs and obligations imposed on participating land occupiers less onerous.
25. Officers have reviewed the rule and believe Council can reduce the proposed trapping requirements from **ten times** per calendar year to **eight times** in accordance with a submitter's request to be less onerous on the land occupier and still achieve the biodiversity outcomes sought. Accordingly, officers recommend amending the proposed rule to read:

    "…A land occupier within a Predator Control Area must maintain ferrets, stoats, and weasels numbers present on their land by:

    (a) servicing permanent mustelid traps a minimum of eight *times per calendar year and record trap catch information in the TrapNZ database; and*

    (b) servicing any activated 'remote sensor mustelid trap' within 30 days of activation.

Note: 'Servicing' means the removal of dead animals, inspection of trap to make sure it is functioning properly, grass/obstacles removed from around the trap entrance and trap rebaited with fresh bait."

Submitters speaking at the Hearing

26. Two submitters have indicated they wish to speak at a hearing. The submitters wishing to be heard are Forest and Bird, and Federated Farmers.

27. In brief, Federated Farmers submission points are generally supportive and were accepted or no change was required. However, they are seeking further consideration towards implementing the Good Neighbour Rule as part of the proposal as they believe it will be a key step to addressing the ongoing issue of Crown land being non-rateable and not required to directly contribute to regional pest management. Officers noted the submitters concerns but states that the costs imposed would be disproportionate to the benefits anticipated. Officers are satisfied that given the ongoing commitment by Taranaki Mounga Project and the Department of Conservation to managing mustelids on Crown land.

28. In brief, Forest and Bird are seeking amendment to the proposal to include provisions that will control feral cats and stray cat populations. The submitter would like to see that cats be declared as pests, include a new sustained control programme for cats, identification of high risk catchments and the incorporation of cat monitoring programmes in the Pest Management Plan. Forest and Bird support the identification of mustelids as a pest and the application of rules to control mustelids.

29. Following the hearing, Council will make its decisions on the reliefs sought in the submissions, including any changes to the current Pest Management Plan. The Council will then prepare a written report on its decisions, publicly notify the report, and send a copy to every submitter.

30. Speaking times have been allocated and arranged (as far as is practicable) with 10/15 minutes for presenting additional evidence. The hearing will be audio recorded.

Options

31. The Council's preferred option was for the imposition of general rules in the Pest Plan that focus on intensively farmed areas on the ring plain and coastal terraces where private land occupier in declared Predator Control Areas will be required to keep mustelids at very low levels (following Council-funded initial control). In the absence of regulatory intervention, it is suggested that mustelid numbers will remain at present levels with continued high impacts on indigenous biodiversity values across Taranaki. The proposal to include a sustained control programme for mustelids has no ramifications for Council's overall anticipated biosecurity costs.

32. The principal options available to Council in relations to proposals to manage and control mustelids can be summarised as

    - **Good neighbour rule:** As part of this review, consideration was given to the development of a good neighbour rule requiring control of mustelids on properties adjacent to Predator Control Areas The intent of any good neighbour rule is to minimise externality impacts on properties in Predator Control Areas. However, given the dispersal range of mustelids is up to 200 hectares the 'buffer' distance required to address externality impacts was considered disproportionate to the added costs to be imposed, i.e. compliance costs would be imposed on all

neighbouring properties in a two kilometre radius of Predator Control Areas). Further, a good neighbour rule is arguably unnecessary given programme's intent to incrementally include new (neighbouring) areas in the programme over time.

- **Non regulatory regional intervention:** Another option would be to rely on land occupiers voluntarily coordinated and undertaking mustelid control as part of a non-regulatory Towards Predator Free Taranaki programme. However, without regulation, there is considerable risk of hot spots of mustelid infestations occurring over time as a result of irregular/ineffective control. In short, mustelids will continue to have high impacts on biodiversity values in this region.
- **No regional intervention:** Another option is no regional intervention and instead rely on ad hoc voluntary control. However, to date such control has not been sufficient to reduce mustelid numbers and their effects (noting that their large home range means that populations can quickly replenish following any localised control).

33. For further information on the consideration please refer to the Proposal for inclusion of mustelids - Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki.

Significance

34. A decision in accordance with the recommendations is considered not significant.
35. The decision that Council is being asked to make, is whether to adopt recommended changes to the existing plan as in the Officers report, make alternative recommend changes and to hear submitters speak in support of their submission.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

36. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

37. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents in that the existing plan will be updated to reflect the decisions that Council makes through these hearings.

Iwi considerations

38. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.
39. Iwi authorities were consulted prior to public notification of the proposal and subsequently as part of the public process. No feedback prior to public notification was made.
40. Through the public process, Ngāruahine and Te Atiawa made submissions on the proposal. However, it is noted that the aims and intent of the proposal are consistent

and give effect to many of the aspirations set out in iwi management plans relating to biodiversity.

Community considerations

41. This memorandum and the associated recommendations have considered the views of the community, interested and affected parties and those views have been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Legal considerations

42. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments

Document 2640115: Officers report on the proposal to amend the Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki

Document 2705705: Regional Pest Management Plan (adopted March 2021)

Document 2437760: Proposal for inclusion of Mustelids

Officers report

Proposal to amend the Regional Pest Management Plan

Publication date: February 2021

Document: #2640115

Taranaki Regional Council

Table of contents

Officers summary

This report summarised points made in submissions to the proposal to amend the *Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* (2018) to include a mustelid pest programme, including officers' recommendations and responses to the points made.

Requests to amend the proposal are either accepted or declined by Taranaki Regional Council (Council) officers with an explanation on the reasons for the response. Changes to the proposal are tracked in red with additions being underlined and deletions showing ~~strikethrough~~.

Submissions were being received by the Taranaki Regional Council between the 7th of November 2020 until the 4th of December 2020 (and 24 December for some given technical issues).

Please refer to Appendix 1 of this report for a full copy of the submissions.

Submission 1: South Taranaki District Council

Submitters requests		**Officers' recommendations and response**
General comments		
1.	**Support**	**Accept**
	The submitter supports the Council's focus on bringing mustelids into the Pest Management Plan noting the benefits of the proposed programme on improving indigenous biodiversity outcomes across Taranaki.	Officers note the submitter's support for the proposed amendments.
2.	**Support**	**Accept**
	The submitter supports the approach to identify 'Predator Control Areas' where land occupiers in a locality agree to participate in the programme. The submitter suggests this is a sensible approach and has been shown to be successful with the Possum Self-Help Programme.	Officers note the submitter's support for the proposed amendments.

Submission 2: Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust

Submitters requests		Officers' recommendations and response
Section 4 Organisms declared as pests		
3.	**Support**	**Accept**
	The submitter supports the Council's decision to include mustelids as a target pest species in the Pest Management Plan. The submitter states that this is a sensible approach, building upon the outstanding work in possum control and the protection of indigenous biodiversity.	Officers note the submitter's support for the proposed amendments.
Toxins		
4.	**Amend**	**No change required**
	The submitter is concerned that there will be an increased use of toxic and ecotoxic substances into the environment to control mustelids, particularly in proximity to statutory acknowledgement areas. The submitter seeks that: - there is no increase in the current amount of toxic and ecotoxic substances used to control animal and plant pest species; and - where toxic and ecotoxic substances must be used, that there are buffer zones of 200 metres for any waterways or Ngāruahine statutory areas.	Officers note the submitter's concerns regarding increased use of toxins but notes that both initial and ongoing mustelid control are based upon a (non-toxic trap) network.
Iwi participation		
5.	**Amend**	**No change required**
	The submitter seeks that Ngāruahine iwi and hapū members participating in current and future pest control and management to support their role as kaitiaki. In particular, the submitter seeks that: - pest control favour manual, non-chemical methods - pest control involve collaboration with mana whenua and a genuine expression of kaitiakitanga; and - any monitoring or management of aquatic or terrestrial indigenous biodiversity involves collaboration with mana whenua in recognition of the partnership principle of the Treaty of Waitangi.	Officers note that the Council welcome iwi involvement in mustelid control and can advise members on the appropriate training and qualifications required to undertake this work. As noted above, officers further note that the mustelid programme utilises traps for both initial and ongoing control. Also, as part of any operation, Council will endeavour to involve and collaborate with mana whenua in accordance with the Council's statutory responsibilities and in recognition of their kaitiaki role and the partnership principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Submission 3: Neil and Lloma Hibell

Submitters requests		Officers' recommendations and response
General comments		
6.	**Oppose**	**Decline**
	The submitter is opposed to regulatory requirements for mustelid control. The submitter considers that the Council is expecting too much from landowners. The submitter notes that they agreed to join the mustelid scheme on a (voluntary) basis with the expectation that they would not need to manage traps on their farm. The submitter is concerned that in addition to proposed requirements to undertake additional predator control work on their farms, farmers are already doing extra work in fencing, planting waterways and possum control.	Officers recommend declining the relief sought. Officers note the submitter's opposition to regulatory requirements for mustelid control. Council acknowledges the additional compliance costs (in time and in money) imposed on farmers and other land occupiers. Hence, the partnership approach whereby the Council funds the initial control and provides consider support for the land occupier's efforts. Of note, officers and contractors work individually with land occupiers to ensure they are fully aware of the regulatory requirements and that traps are positioned with ease of ongoing control front of mind. Council notes that so far over 90% of farmers approached have agreed to be part of this programme. For the reasons outlined in the proposal, officers do not believe a non-regulatory approach will achieve effective sustainable mustelid control and recommend declining the relief.

Submission 4: Forest and Bird

Submitters requests		Officers' recommendations and response
Section 4 and Rule 3		
7.	**Support**	**Accept**
	The submitter supports the identification of mustelids as a pest and the application of rules to control mustelids on Taranaki. The submitter considers the proposal to be in line with the Council's vision of being predator free.	Officers note the submitter's support for declaring mustelids to be pests.

8.	**Amend**	**Decline**
	The submitter seeks amendment to the proposal to include provisions to control feral and stray cat populations. In particular, the submitter seeks that cats be declared as pests and that the Council amend the Proposed Plan by: - amending Section 4 to declare and identify **unowned cats** as pests in Table 1 of the Pest Management Plan; - including a new section setting out a sustained control programme for cats which includes rules for land occupiers within a Predator Control Area to control cats; - including a new section identifying high risk catchments for Māui dolphin as a priority for site led cat control; and - amend section 9.1 to incorporate a cat monitoring programmes in the Pest Management Plan. The submitter suggested that cats need to be controlled in order to prevent the spread of toxoplasmosis a disease which poses a serious threat to the Hectors and Māui dolphins. The submitter also noted that Taranaki has an extremely high number of unowned cats across the region especially in the Mangamingi area where cats are often dumped. Cats are responsible for 33% of bird, mammal and reptile extinctions recorded on islands by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and feral cats are also implicated in the spread of bovine tuberculosis, with the potential to infect cattle.	Officers recommend declining the relief. Officers note that the Government funding that enabled the Taranaki Predator-free programme to commence is for mustelids only. The current trapping infrastructure targets mustelids and is not suitable for the trapping of feral and stray cats Council fully understand the impacts that feral cats have within Taranaki. Hence the preparation and implementation of the *Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy* (2018) whereby the Council, amongst other things, targets feral and stray cats as part of a site-led approach, e.g. Key Native Ecosystems. Officers further note that the Council also assist land occupiers and others to undertake feral cat control through the provision of traps.

Submission 5: Anne Collins

Submitters requests		**Officers' recommendations and response**
General comments		
9.	**Support**	**Accept**
	The submitter supports the Council's proposal to include mustelids into the Pest Management Plan.	Officers note the submitter's support for declaring mustelids to be pests.

Section 4 and Rule 3		
10.	**Amend**	**Decline**
	The submitter is seeking amendment to include the control of feral cats in the Pest Management Plan. The submitter is concerned about the negative impact feral cats are having on native fauna and considers the inclusion of cats as apex predators is necessary if the Council is to be serious about this problem. The submitter notes that: - feral cats have a major impact on native birds, bats, lizards and insects such as weta. Cats are also capable of travelling long distances including one tracked to cover almost 6 km; - cats are known carriers and transmitters of infectious diseases including Bovine TB, and *Toxoplasmosis gondii* (*T. gondii*). Kittens and unwell cats are the worst spreaders of these diseases. *T. gondii* can enter the waterways and eventually reach the sea where they can infect our marine mammals such as Māui and Hectors dolphins; and The submitter notes that responsible cat ownership is the aim of every conservation organisation. The submitter further notes that New Plymouth District Council has a limit of five cats per household, Whanganui has three. South Taranaki District Council and Stratford District Council have no limits on the number of cats that may be kept. This encourages careless breeding, no micro chipping and the subsequent dumping of unwanted cats and kittens. Those that survive further contribute to the feral cat population.	Officers recommend declining the relief. Officers note the submitter's concern. However, it is noted that the Government funding that enabled the Taranaki Predator-free programme to commence is for mustelids only. The current trapping infrastructure targets mustelids and is not suitable for the trapping of feral and stray cats Council fully understand the impacts that feral cats have within Taranaki. Hence the preparation and implementation of the *Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy* (2018) whereby the Council, amongst other things, targets feral and stray cats as part of a site-led approach, e.g. Key Native Ecosystems. Officers further note that the Council also assist land occupiers and others to undertake feral cat control through the provision of traps and would support any district council bylaw that sought to reduce or limit the number of domestic cats allowed per household.

Submission 6: Federated Farmers

Submitters requests		Officers' recommendations and response
General comments		
11.	**Support**	**No change required**
	The submitter noted that it was good to see a detailed cost benefit analysis in the proposal.	Officers note the submitter's comments. No further action required.
12.	**Other**	**Accept**
	The submitter has asked for formal guidance regarding who is responsible for maintaining and servicing the traps. Due to farms being subject to lease or contract milking or share-milking arrangements, certainty and clarity is required on who has responsibilities. The submitter would also like to see ongoing emphasis on catchment level programmes and encourage Council to continue supporting various funding mechanisms of pest control at either a catchment level and/or individual farm level, such as the Key Native Ecosystems programme. In addition, the submitter would encourage Council to support on-going discussion with community groups e.g. Wild for Taranaki, regarding the use of community volunteers to check trap lines in catchments or on individual properties.	The submitter raises a number of technical and operational queries relating to the implementation of the mustelid programme. Officers note that the term occupier comes from the Biosecurity Act 1993, it refers to the owner, occupier or person in charge of the property. Officers will work with the submitter to produce appropriate guidance. Officers further note that the requested emphasis on catchment level programmes and supporting individuals and community groups to undertake pest control, including the checking of traps, is consistent with the Council's approach set out in the proposal plus the *Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy*.
Section 4 [Organisms declared as pests]		
13.	**Support**	**Accept**
	The submitter supports the inclusion of mustelids in section 4 as organisms declared as pests and the identification of ferrets, stoats, and weasels as pests in Table 1. The submitter notes that mustelids can have a negative impact on primary production due to their ability to carry parasites and toxoplasmosis.	Officers note the submitter's support.

Section 6.6A [Predators (ferret, stoat and weasel)]		
14.	**Support**	**Accept**
	The submitter broadly agrees with the proposed objective set out in 6.6A of sustainably controlling mustelid numbers within a specified Predator Control Area, and elsewhere to avoid or minimise adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values in the Taranaki region. The submitter offers on-going support to Council's extension programme as the principal method by which Council will achieve this objective. The submitter acknowledges the success of the Self-help Possum Control Programme and expects it will be as effective in controlling mustelids. Given predator control areas are only established when most of the community agree to work with Council in order to control mustelids, the submitter agrees there must be a legal 'failsafe' to ensure these efforts are not in vain.	Officers note and appreciate the submitter's offer of ongoing support.
Section 6.6A [Measuring what the objectives are achieving]		
15.	**Support**	**Accept**
	The submitter supports the establishment and mapping of Predator Control Areas (clause (ba)) and robust modelling of mustelid population densities and trends over time (clause (bb)) to determine the effectiveness of the programme.	The submitters support for proposed clauses (ba) and (bb) are noted.
Rule 3 [General Rule for Predator Control Areas]		
16.	**Amend**	**Accept**
	The submitter seeks amendment to Rule 3 of the Pest Management Plan to read: *"…A land occupier within a Predator Control Area must maintain ferrets, stoats, and weasels numbers present on their land by:* *(a) servicing permanent mustelid traps a minimum of ~~ten~~ eight times per calendar year and record trap catch information in the TrapNZ database; and* *(b) servicing any activated 'remote sensor mustelid trap' within 30 days of activation.*	Council acknowledges the additional work for farmers that the new rules will require. Accordingly, Council officers and contractors will work individually with land occupiers to ensure that traps are positioned to ensure ongoing control is as easy and practicable as possible for the farmers. Officers note that Council has investigated, as part of the development of the proposal, rules and associated compliance monitoring techniques, including the technical feasibility of adopting a rule similar to the possum trap-catch system. Unfortunately, there is no equivalent robust compliance monitoring technique for mustelids (similar in kind to the trap-catch) at a farm scale. Council will continue to

	Note: 'Servicing' means the removal of dead animals, inspection of trap to make sure it is functioning properly, grass/obstacles removed from around the trap entrance and trap rebaited with fresh bait. OR Delete proposed rule 3 and with new rule as below: "*….A land occupier within a Predator Control Area must control mustelids present on their land by regularly servicing permanent mustelid traps and recording trap catch information as practicable in accordance with Council advice*." The submitter is supportive of the logic behind the inclusion of the proposed Plan rule 3, but caution that its effectiveness will depend on its enforceability and on-going monitoring. The submitter notes that the general rule in support of the self-help possum control programme (6.6.3.1) requires landowners to maintain possum numbers present on their land to below a 10% residual trap catch. This allows the landowner to focus on the objective without enforcing a potentially onerous servicing requirement. As mustelid population densities and trends become clearer over time, the submitter would like to see the inclusion of a residual trap catch requirement (or similar) in the mustelid rule so the focus shifts from how often farmers service their traps to an agreed outcome. In the absence of such a measure, the submitter is concerned that the proposed requirement for land occupiers to service traps 10 times per calendar year is unnecessarily onerous and places an additional burden on farmers that are already putting in good work through the possum control program. The submitter states that the requirement to service traps a minimum of 10 times per calendar year would be impractical due to busy periods like calving and mating. For these reasons the submitter asks that the proposed rule is amended to reduce or omit the prescriptive trap servicing requirement	reassess new monitoring systems and will revisit the rule should alternative robust farm-scale monitoring be developed. Mustelid control is most successful when traps are permanently set due to mustelids large home ranges, however increased captures often occur from November to March, officers determined that a minimum of ten checks should not be too onerous and will achieve the best level of control. Notwithstanding the above, officers have reviewed the rule's trapping requirement and believe Council can reduce the requirement in accordance with the submitter's request to be less onerous on the land occupier and still achieve the biodiversity outcomes sought. Accordingly, officers recommend amending Rule 3 of the Pest Management Plan to read: *"…A land occupier within a Predator Control Area must maintain ferrets, stoats, and weasels numbers present on their land by:* *(a) servicing permanent mustelid traps a minimum of ~~ten~~ eight times per calendar year and record trap catch information in the TrapNZ database; and* *(b) servicing any activated 'remote sensor mustelid trap' within 30 days of activation.* *Note: 'Servicing' means the removal of dead animals, inspection of trap to make sure it is functioning properly, grass/obstacles removed from around the trap entrance and trap rebaited with fresh bait.*

Good Neighbour Rule		
17.	**Amend**	**Decline**
	The submitter understands the reasoning in Council's cost benefit analysis and their obligations for considering a good neighbour rule under the Biosecurity Act 1993 and the *National Policy Direction on Pest Management 2015*. However, the submitter would like further information on its viability. The submitter appreciate Council's view that the 200ha dispersal range of mustelids would necessitate a 2km buffer and have the potential to impose significant costs on landowners that are not within a predator control area. Notwithstanding this the submitter views the good neighbour rule as a key step to addressing the ongoing issue of Crown land being non-rateable and not required to directly contribute to regional pest management. The submitter acknowledges that the Department of Conservation undertakes significant pest management in the region, e.g. the Mounga project. However, consideration to the good neighbour rule is often necessary as it is accepted that pest management generally is not effective unless all landowners (including Crown) consistently manage the spread of pests. Council's own analysis of "who should pay?" in section 3.5 of the partial review document lists the Department of Conservation as a "major" beneficiary of the proposed predator control while private landowners, including dairy, sheep and beef farmers are listed only as "minor" beneficiaries.	Officers note the submitter's concerns regarding potential externality impacts arising from Crown land. Officers note that as part of the development of the proposal, Council considered the development and inclusion of a Good Neighbour rule. However, the dispersal range of mustelids meant that a 2 kilometre buffer would have been required and it was believed the compliance costs imposed would have been disproportionate to the benefits anticipated. Officers are satisfied that given the ongoing commitment by Taranaki Mounga Project and the Department of Conservation to managing mustelids on Crown land a Good Neighbour rule is not necessary at this time. However, these assumptions will be tested in the future (see comments below) as part of any Plan review.
18.	**Amend**	**Accept**
	As Predator Free Taranaki is rolled out and its uptake grows throughout the region, the submitter seeks that the Council re-consider the imposition of a good neighbour rule to ensure Crown agencies participant in the programme to the same extent as land owners. The submitter considers the rationale behind inclusion of a rule to ensure land occupiers play their part to be reasonable. Likewise, they expect such a rule should apply to Crown and conservation land. The submitter notes that the negotiated understanding around potential boundary pests between the Council and Crown agencies are of little comfort to our members as they have no means to enforce it and requires the Regional Council to be pro-active, incur costs and navigate a political minefield with the Crown.	Officers note that, in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act*, the Council is required to review efficiency and effectiveness of the Pest Management Plan after five years (i.e. 2023) and undertake a full statutory review after 10 years (i.e. 2028). At that time there will be an opportunity to review the merits of the Good Neighbour rule.

Submission 7: Te Atiawa

Submitters requests		Officers' recommendations and response
Rule 3 [General Rule for Predator Control Areas]		
19.	**Support**	**Accept**
	The submitter states that trapping mustelids can minimise the number of pests having a positive impact on the overall number of taonga species. The submitter states that this would return mauri to the whenua, wai and tangata. The submitter notes that the trapping of mustelids relates to the Te Atiawa Iwi Management Plan which states that weeds and pests generate adverse effects on the survival of native biodiversity.	Officers note the submitter's comments and support for the protection of taonga species and native biodiversity.
Section 4 [Organisms declared as pests]		
20.	**Support**	**Accept**
	The submitter supports the addition of mustelids in the proposed Plan as it aligns with the provisions of the Te Atiawa Iwi Management Plan, specifically the Te Tai Tāne Tokorangi chapter of the Plan which outlines the protection and restoration of native biodiversity encouraging weed and pest management.	Officers note the submitter's support for the proposed amendments to include mustelids in the Pest Management Plan and the programme's alignment with the Te Atiawa Iwi Management Plan.
General comments		
21.	**Clarification**	**No change required**

	Notwithstanding the submitter's general support for the proposed amendments to the Pest Management Plan, the submitter is seeking clarification with regard to the Council's consideration of the consequential effects mustelid management and control will have on rabbit populations given rabbits are the main diets of ferrets. Clarification is further sought by the submitter as to why the partial review is limited to mustelids only as the *Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy* in addition to possums and mustelids, identifies rabbits, goats, feral cats and rats as pest animals which are threatening Taranaki biodiversity as well.	Officers note that mustelid control will not consequentially increase rabbit populations. Research conducted by Manaaki Whenua has confirmed that the biggest driver of rabbit populations is climatic, i.e. warm dry winters often see a rise in rabbit populations. Further information on this research can be found here. However, of note Council, as part of the *Towards Predator Free Taranak*i research programme, has been analysing mustelid stomach content (to confirm assumptions) which has found bird and rodents present with no samples so far identifying rabbits. Officers are confident that the programme will not increase rabbit numbers. Officers also note that proposals to include other pest animal species and impose rules and obligations on people were considered as part of the full review of the Pest Management Plan completed in 2018. This review is deliberately confined to mustelids in response to changing policy circumstances. Government funding that enabled the Taranaki Predator-free programme to commence is limited to mustelids only. The current trapping infrastructure targets mustelids and is not suitable for the trapping of other pests such as rabbits, goats and cats. Officers note that the Council does however target other harmful species. Through the preparation and implementation of the *Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy* (2018) the Council has a range of non-regulatory programmes targeting other harmful species such as feral cats, deer, goats, pigs, rats, rabbits and hares. This Strategy and the Council's non regulatory programmes continue to be considered the most effective and appropriate form of intervention for the aforementioned harmful animals. Although rats are not targeted in the Proposal they are controlled as a 'by-kill' during the initial predator control work for mustelids. Officers further note that the Council also provides assistance to land occupiers and others to undertake feral cat control through the provision of traps.

1.4 [Consultation overview]		
22.	**General comments**	**No change required**
	The submitter notes that Section 2.4 of the Pest Management Plan states: "*…the Taranaki Regional Council, seek to provide for the protection of the relationship between Māori as tangata whenua and their ancestral lands, their waters, sites, wāhi tapu, and taonga and for the protection of those aspects from the adverse effects of pests, through the Plan. Māori involvement in biosecurity is an important part of exercising kaitiakitanga over their mana whenua. The Local Government Act (LGA) requires the Taranaki Regional Council to recognise and respect the Crown's responsibilities under the Tiriti o Waitangi – Treaty of Waitangi. It also requires councils to maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes. This includes considering ways to help Māori to contribute. These responsibilities and requirements were met while preparing this Plan and will continue after it takes effect*".	The submitter's comments are noted and is in the context of questioning the Council's consultation and engagement processes with tangata whenua as part of this review. The Council's response to this matter is addressed in submission point 23 below [Consultation overview].
1.4 [Consultation overview]		
23.	**Other**	**No relief necessary**
	The submitter notes that section 72(1)(c) of the *Biosecurity Act* requires consultation with tangata whenua. The submitter therefore notes their concern that tangata whenua have been restricted in the participation of submitting on the partial review and this does not constitute kaitiakitanga. The submitter suggests that sending one email <u>is not</u> sufficient, effective and meaningful consultation as one email does not maintain and improve opportunities for ngā hapū o Te Atiawa and Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa to contribute to this decision-making process.	The submitter contends that pre-notification consultation with iwi authorities is confined to one email and does not constitute recognition of [sic] kaitiakitanga. Officers do not agree with the contention that pre-notification consultation with iwi authorities is confined to one email to iwi authorities and notes that no feedback was received. Officers note that key elements of this proposal were first discussed and confined during the development of Council's *Biosecurity Strategy* and during the initial application for Government funding for which all eight iwi (including Te Atiawa) provided letters of support for. Officers have subsequently regularly met with key Te Atiawa staff, including the previous Chief Executive, informally over the past 2- 3 years to update the Iwi and the Predator-free programme's implementation within their Rohe. During these meetings, the need to incorporate a rule within the Pest Management Plan was

		discussed (and supported) to ensure the community's investment in controlling mustelids could be protected. Prior and in addition to public notification of the Proposal, Council directly contacted iwi authorities (through email) with an outline of the key components of the proposal and invited comment or an opportunity for further discussion if there was interest. The email sent to iwi included a detailed PDF discussion document which invited iwi to work together with the council and for the council to hear the views of tangata whenua. At that time, no feedback was received from the submitter or indication that further discussion was sought. Of note the aforementioned engagement, was in addition to consultation requirements set out in the *Biosecurity Act* and the formal public consultation and submission process on the Proposal. It is also in addition to update information and decision making considerations forwarded to the Council's Policy and Planning Committee, which includes iwi representatives tasked as a conduit for the exchange of information and the sharing of tangata whenua views at the Council's decision making committees. Notwithstanding the above, the Council is committed and investigating a range of measures to better recognise kaitiakitanga across its functions. This remains a work in progress but one that the Council is committed to.
24.	**Other**	**No relief necessary**
	The submitter further states that only tangata whenua have the expertise to advise on the acceptability of effects on themselves and their cultural, natural and physical resources and it is important to Te Atiawa iwi that taonga species are protected through pest management and control.	The submitter's comments are noted. The proposal should contribute to the better protection of taonga species. No action required.

General comments (how impacts on Māori are monitored)		
25.	**Other**	**No change required**
	The submitter seeks clarification as to how the results of pest management and control and the impacts on Māori culture and traditions are to be monitored, in addition to the effectiveness of the Pest Management Plan in this regard. The submitter notes that Section 9.4 of the Pest Management Plan states "…*The provisions of this Plan do not replace other legislation or regulations relating to the use of toxins, impacts on Māori culture and traditions, and public health and safety*". However, only tangata whenua have the expertise to advice on impacts on Māori culture and traditions.	Officers note that, in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act*, the Council is required to review efficiency and effectiveness of the Pest Management Plan after five years (i.e. 2023) and undertake a full statutory review after 10 years (i.e. 2028). At that time there will be an opportunity to review the effectiveness of pest management and control with the presumption that the protection of biodiversity will contribute to the protection of tangata whenua values, including taonga species. This will also include consideration of the results of baseline and trend biodiversity monitoring over the life of the Pest Management Plan, including bird counts. Officers agree with the submitter that only tangata whenua have the expertise to advise on the impacts of the Plan on Māori culture and traditions. Officers note that the proposed changes to the Plan do not represent a change in the Council's pest management *modus operandi*. The Council only expects positive impacts arising from the implementation of the Plan. However, the Council would expect it to be advised by tangata whenua if unforeseen or unintended adverse impacts were to occur from the implementation of the Plan on Māori culture and traditions.

Submission 8: New Plymouth District Council

Submitters requests		**Officers' recommendations and response**
Section 6.6A [Proposed programme]		
26.	**Support**	**Accept**
	The submitter supports the proposal to incorporate a sustained control management programme for ferrets, stoats, and weasels into the proposed Plan. The submitter states that New Plymouth District Council have been trapping mustelids in their reserves through the 'restore New Plymouth Reserves' programme, which involves several volunteers.	Officers note the submitter's support for the proposed amendments to include a sustained control management programme for ferrets, stoats and weasels.

Section 3.2 [Impact evaluation]		
27.	**Support**	**Accept**
	The submitter supports the Council's review of the iwi environmental management plans prepared by the Taranaki iwi and the recognition of the impact that introduced predators, such as mustelids, have on indigenous biodiversity values and taonga species.	Officers note the submitter's support.
Section 6.6A [Proposed programme]		
28.	**Amend**	**Accept in kind**
	The submitter suggests that the 'Predator Control Areas' be mapped and included in the Pest Management Plan by way of an appendix or appendices.	Officers recommend an alternative relief. This would involve mapping and appending indicative Predator Control Areas over the life of the Plan. More detailed GIS property maps identifying individual and aggregated properties where the mustelid rules apply will reside outside the Plan on the GIS and document management systems. Indicative maps are considered appropriate given that the over the life of the Plan new areas will be incrementally included into the programme subject to (yet to occur) consultation with land occupiers as part of the long term planning processes and in terms of their collective acceptance of rules in their locality to control mustelids.
Section 6.6A [Towards Predator Free Taranaki]		
29.	**Amend**	**Accept in kind**
	The submitter notes that the fourth paragraph of Section 6.6A refers to "*targeting mustelids and rats*." The submitter questions whether the wording should include reference to rats as the remainder of the proposal does not refer to rats.	Officers note that rats are an important by-kill of mustelid control. However, for the purposes of certainty and clarity recommend amending paragraph 4 of Towards Predator Free Taranaki (Section 6.6A) to read: "*… the Council will undergo initial predator control work within the Predator Control Area targeting mustelids (and rats as a by-kill)*. "
Section 6.6A [Explanation of rule]		
30.	**Amend**	**Accept**
	The submitter identifies a typographical error whereby the 'Explanation of the rule' refers to rules 3 and 4 (when it should only refer to Rule 3). The submitter recommends amendment to the actual rules and rule references so that they align.	Officers agree (reference to Rule 4 will be deleted).

Section 9.1 [Measuring what the objectives are achieving]		
31.	**Amend**	**Accept**
	The submitter notes that item (c) in Section 9.1 of the Pest Management Plan refers to possum control in Egmont National Park and seeks that mustelids also be monitored.	Officers agree and recommend amending 9.1(c) of the Pest Management Plan to read: *"(c) developing agreed collaborative monitoring, reporting and management programmes addressing possum and mustelid control within and ~~around Egmont National Park~~ Te Papakura o Taranaki."*
Section 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4		
32.	**Amend**	**No change required**
	The submitter has recognised minor typos in sections 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 of the proposal and has asked that these be amended as appropriate.	The submitter's comments are noted. No details are provided of the minor typos for which correction is sought. However, officers note that sections 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 of the Proposal relate to the cost benefit analysis (and not amendments to be incorporated into the operative Plan) and have served their purpose in terms of informing this Plan review.
Section 3.5 [Who should pay?]		
33.	**Amend**	**No change required**
	The submitter notes that the "*Land occupiers with infestations are the principal exacerbators of the problem*", the submitter suggests that this working could be amended to read: "*Land occupiers who are not managing infestations on their property are the principal exacerbators of the problem*."	The submitter's comments are noted. Officers note that section 3.5 of the Proposal relates to the cost benefit analysis (and not amendments to be incorporated into the operative Plan) and have served their purpose in terms of informing this Plan review. However, officers agree with the views expressed and will be incorporating similar statements into future cost benefit analyses.

Set of submissions

Submissions on the proposal to amend the Regional Pest Management Plan

Submission 1 South Taranaki District Council

Submissions and the identity of submitters are public information and will be published on the Council's website and made available for others to publish.
I understand

Name
Rebecca Martin

Company or organization (if applicable)
South Taranaki District Council

Email
Rebecca.martin@stdc.govt.nz

Phone
0800 111 323

Address
105-111 Albion St Hawera, 4640

Do you wish to speak to your submission at a hearing?
No

Enter your feedback in the textbox below or upload a file at the bottom of the page.
The South Taranaki District Council (STDC) thanks the TRC for the opportunity to comment on the partial review of the Pest Management Plan for Taranaki.

We support TRC's focus on bringing mustelids into the Pest Management Plan, as this will have direct impacts on improving indigenous biodiversity outcomes across Taranaki. The approach to identify 'Predator Control Areas' where land occupiers in a locality agree to participate in the programme is a sensible one, and this approach has been shown to be successful with the Possum Self-Help programme.

There is already a large ground-swell of conservation and biodiversity protection work being undertaken by our communities in Taranaki, and this change to the Pest Management Plan will help to augment and support the implementation of that work.

However, it is essential that TRC continue to support and enable landowners to carry out this work, so that best-practice pest-control techniques are carried out as standard across the region

Submission 2 Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust

TE KOROWAI O
NGĀRUAHINE
TRUST

Dion Luke
Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust
147 Hight Street, Te Hāwera

27th November 2020

Chief Executive
Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
Stratford 4352

Tēnā koutou e te kaunihera. This submission is made on behalf of Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust and supports the proposed amendment to the Pest Management Plan for Taranaki with some additional inclusions.

Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust is the post treaty settlement governance entity for the Iwi Ngāruahine. It is the role of the Trust to represent the interests and concerns of Iwi members on social, cultural and environmental issues. On behalf of Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust, we would like to support the inclusion of mustelids as a target pest species in the Pest Management Plan for Taranaki. We believe this is a sensible approach which builds upon the regional councils outstanding work on possum control throughout the region and protection of indigenous biodiversity. However, we believe the following issues should be addressed by the proposed amendment.

1. We are concerned that there will be an increased introduction of toxic and ecotoxic substances into the environment particularly in proximity to the statutory areas identified in Schedule 1 of the Ngāruahine Claims Settlement Act 2016 (http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2016/0093/latest/whole.html).

2. We would like to see Ngāruahine Iwi and hapū members participating in current and future pest control and management to supports their role as kaitiaki within the rohe of Ngāruahine.

147 High Street, Te Hāwera, 4610
PO Box 474, Te Hāwera, Taranaki 4640
06 278 7411
www.ngaruahine.iwi.nz

To this end we suggest that the Council accept the proposed amendment with further provisions that:

- there is no increase in the current amount of toxic and ecotoxic substances used to control animal and plant pest species;
- where toxic and ecotoxic substances must be used, there are buffer zones of 200 metres for any waterways or Ngāruahine statutory areas;
- animal and plant pest species controls favour manual, non-chemical methods which involve collaboration with mana whenua and a genuine expression of kaitiakitanga;
- any monitoring or management of aquatic or terrestrial indigenous biodiversity involves collaboration with mana whenua in recognition of the partnership principle of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Thank you for considering our submission, and I look forward to the opportunity to speak to it.

Ngā manaakitanga o te wā

TE KOROWAI O NGĀRUAHINE TRUST

Dion Luke (MPlan, B Env & Soc, UGDipNat Res)
Kaiahurea - Advisor Iwi Development
PO Box 474, Te Hāwera, 4640
147 High Street, Te Hāwera, 4610
06 278 7411 027 279 1359
www.ngaruahine.iwi.nz

Submission 3 Neil and Lloma Hibell

Submissions and the identity of submitters are public information and will be published on the Council's website and made available for others to publish.
I understand

Name
Neil and Lloma Hibell

Company or organization (if applicable)

Email
hibbz@xtra.co.nz

Phone
027 657 0257

Address
47 Airport Drive RD3 New Plymouth 4373

Do you wish to speak to your submission at a hearing?
No

Enter your feedback in the textbox below or upload a file at the bottom of the page.
When we joined the scheme we said we would not be prepared to look after the traps as we do not live on the farm and we do not expect our sharemilker to have an extra job added to his contract, We agreed to the scheme because we were told that the Council was employing contractors to monitor the traps. The farmers have had so much extra work ie fencing waterways and planting them and possum control we think the Council is expecting too much of landowners to add more work to their already busy schedule.

Submission 4 Forest and Bird

Forest & Bird
TE REO O TE TAIAO | Giving Nature a Voice

4 December 2020

Submission on partial review of the Pest Management Plan for Taranaki

To: Chief Executive
Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
Stratford 4352

Submitted online.

From: North & South Taranaki Branch
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society (Forest & Bird)
P.O. Box 631
Wellington 6011

Attn: Amelia Geary – Regional Conservation Manager
a.geary@forestandbird.org.nz or 022 039 9363

Introduction

1. Forest & Bird is New Zealand's largest independent conservation organisation. Our mission is to protect New Zealand's unique flora and fauna and its habitat.
2. We congratulate Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) on this partial review of the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) and attempts to bring TRC in line with its vision for predator-free Taranaki. Forest & Bird supports the identification of mustelids as a pest and the application of rules to control mustelids in Taranaki. We, however, suggest this plan review is too narrow in scope and, in accordance with 100D(2)(b) of the Biosecurity Act, cats have been overlooked. Our submission relates to the proposed inclusion of mustelids and our requested inclusion of cats in Taranaki's RPMP.
3. We would like to speak in support of our submission.

SUBMISSION

Forest & Bird supports inclusion of a sustained control programme for mustelids.

4. Although habitat loss and modification remains a threat to native biodiversity, a more equally serious threat is from invasive introduced species. Mustelids pose a significant threat to our remaining natural ecosystems, habitats and threatened native species. They can also have considerable negative impact on primary production. Mustelids are implicated in the extinction of some indigenous bird species and as the major cause of decline of many others[1]. Ferrets are also a threat to agriculture, particularly through their role as a vector of bovine tuberculosis[2].

5. Forest & Bird supports TRC's proposal that mustelids be added to the RPMP in order to:

    - minimise the actual or potential adverse or unintended effects associated with mustelids; and
    - maximise the effectiveness of individual pest management actions for mustelids by way of a regionally coordinated approach.

    It is appropriate that the RPMP be amended to declare mustelids to be 'pests' and empower TRC to exercise the relevant advisory, service delivery, regulatory and funding powers available under the Act to deliver mustelid control in defined parts of Taranaki.

6. **Relief sought:** Allow changes to the RPMP to enable a sustained control programme for mustelids. Specifically, the amendment to Section 4 that declares and identifies ferrets, stoats, and weasels as a pest in Table 1 of the RPMP; the new section 6.6A setting out a sustained control programme for mustelids which includes rules for land occupiers within a Predator Control Area to control mustelids; the amended section 9.1 to incorporate mustelid monitoring programmes in the RPMP; and an amended glossary to introduce a definition for a new term in the RPMP – 'Predator Control Area'.

Forest & Bird seeks the inclusion of a sustained control programme for unowned cats.

7. In light of the Biosecurity Act's direction in s100D regarding reasons for reviews, Forest & Bird suggests the scope of this partial review is too narrow. Section 100D(2) states:

    The Minister or council may review the whole or part of a plan if the Minister or council has reason to believe—

    (a) that the plan or part is failing to achieve its objectives; or

    (b) that relevant circumstances have changed since the plan or part commenced.

8. Inclusion of mustelids pertains to the recent adoption of the Towards Predator-Free Taranaki programme, a commendable operation which Forest & Bird endorses wholeheartedly. However, as per s100D(2)(b) of the Act, relevant circumstances have changed since the plan commenced regarding the need to control cats in an effort to prevent the spread of toxoplasmosis. The recent review of the Hector's and Māui Dolphin Threat Management Plan identified toxoplasmosis as a serious threat to the dolphins and that there is a need to address this threat.

[1] King, CM (Ed) 2005. The Handbook of New Zealand Mammals. Oxford University Press.
[2] Byrom, AE, Caley, P, Paterson, BM & Nugent, G, 2015. Feral ferrets (*Mustela furo*) as hosts and sentinels of tuberculosis in New Zealand, New Zealand Veterinary Journal, 63: https://doi.org/10.1080/00480169.2014.98131

9. Cats are the only known definitive host for *Toxoplasma gondii*, the parasite that causes toxoplasmosis.[3] Toxoplasmosis is spread through cat faeces. A recent review of toxoplasmosis and its implications for wildlife, published this week in the journal Pacific Conservation Biology, surmised that the large population of owned and unowned cats, coupled with high rates of *T. gondii* seroprevalence, indicates that there is likely to be substantial loading of *T. gondii* oocysts in the New Zealand environment.[4] Oocysts can remain infective in soil and fresh water for at least one year, and in seawater for up to two years. Contamination of fresh water by cat faeces is the source of entry for *T. gondii* oocysts into the marine environment as rain water and runoff transport the oocysts to the sea through streams, rivers and stormwater drains.[5]

10. Hector's and Māui dolphins' range includes Taranaki coastal waters, which are entirely within the West Coast North Island Marine Mammal Sanctuary.[6] The sanctuary's offshore boundary extends from mean high water springs to the 12 nm territorial sea limit. Recent research has shown that New Zealand river currents, even from small catchments, run up to 100 kilometres out to sea.[7] *Every single catchment in Taranaki drains into the West Coast North Island Marine Mammal Sanctuary.* Toxoplasmosis has been recorded as the primary cause of death in Hector's and Māui dolphins.[8] Taranaki Regional Council has direct responsibility for preventing the spread of toxoplasmosis from the land to the sea, to help prevent the extirpation of these species within its rohe.

11. Domestic cats in New Zealand fall into three categories: 'owned' (pet) and 'unowned' (feral and stray). Forest & Bird considers unowned cats to be any cat which is not microchipped and registered on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register https://www.animalregister.co.nz/ and is free-living, unsocialised and has limited or no relationship with or dependence on humans. Taranaki has extremely high numbers of unowned cats across the region. They have been described as reaching 'plague proportions' by locals in East Taranaki.[9]

12. Forest & Bird South Taranaki traps cats at Mangamingi as part of its conservation programme to protect kiwi. Our job is to keep the kiwi safe. Cats are by far the biggest threat, far greater than ferrets and stoats. Without the support of surrounding farmers trapping, we would be in a hopeless situation and unable to protect our kiwi population. A local farmer trapped a feral cat recently that weighed 10 kilos. Last year we caught a feral female with 6 kittens. A local lady started intensive cat trapping in 2003 – in that year she caught 170 cats. This year she has caught

---

[3] Roberts, JO, Jones, HFE, Roe, WD (2020) The effects of *Toxoplasma gondii* on New Zealand wildlife: implications for conservation and management. *Pacific Conservation Biology*. Published online 1 December 2020. https://doi.org/10.1071/PC20051

[4] Roberts, JO, Jones, HFE, Roe, WD (2020) The effects of *Toxoplasma gondii* on New Zealand wildlife: implications for conservation and management. *Pacific Conservation Biology*. Published online 1 December 2020. https://doi.org/10.1071/PC20051

[5] Roberts, JO, Jones, HFE, Roe, WD (2020) The effects of *Toxoplasma gondii* on New Zealand wildlife: implications for conservation and management. *Pacific Conservation Biology*. Published online 1 December 2020. https://doi.org/10.1071/PC20051

[6] https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-protected-areas/mms-westcoast-northisland-map.pdf

[7] Jhugroo K, O'Callaghan J, Stevens CL, Macdonald HS, Elliott F and Hadfield MG (2020) Spatial structure of low salinity submesoscale features and their interactions with a coastal current. *Front. Mar. Sci.* 7:557360. https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2020.557360/full

[8] Roberts, JO, Webber, DN, Roe, WD, Edwards, CTT, Doonan, IJ (2019). Spatial risk assessment of threats to Hector's and Māui dolphins (*Cephalorhynchus hectori*). New Zealand Aquatic Environment and Biodiversity Report No. 214. https://www.fisheries.govt.nz/dmsdocument/35007/direct

[9] https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/311897/feral-cats-reaching-%27plague-proportions%27

66, and has consistently been between these numbers every year. Rotokare and Forest & Bird have caught 112 so far this year. In past years, we have seldom caught fewer than 50 in a year. Cats are a huge problem in the Mangamingi area. The Mangamingi Saddle, Oru Road, Lake Rotorangi boat ramp and Wingrove Road are popular dump sites for unwanted cats. They just keep coming.

13. The impact of cats on biodiversity is well documented and is greatest on endemic fauna that have evolved in regions free of mammals, such as islands, and in Australia and New Zealand.[10][11] Cats are responsible for 33% of bird, mammal, and reptile extinctions recorded on islands by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.[12] One feral cat killed 102 endangered native short tail bats in a week on the southern slopes of Mt Ruapehu.[13] One domestic cat in Wellington has decimated a breeding colony of banded dotterels for two seasons in a row.[14] It doesn't take much to extrapolate the damage being wrought across Taranaki in the absence of systematic cat control.

14. In addition to effects on threatened species and biodiversity, cats have serious impacts on the agricultural sector. Feral cats are implicated in the spread of bovine tuberculosis, with the potential to infect cattle.[15] The parasites and toxoplasmosis that cats carry cause abortions in sheep and illness in humans. Recent research in Australia demonstrated that diseases transmitted by cats cost the Australian economy more than A$6 billion annually through their impact on human health and livestock production.[16] While such research is yet to be conducted here, the farming community in New Zealand already incurs significant cost vaccinating ewes against toxoplasmosis in order to prevent lamb loss.[17] With a total New Zealand cat population estimated at between 1.3 and 1.9 million individuals[18] it is clear that if left uncontrolled, cats will be having a similar impact on New Zealand's economy.

---

[10] Medina FM, Bonnaud E, Vidal E, Tershy BR, Zavaleta ES, Donlan CJ, Keitt BS, Le Corre M, Horwath SV, Nogales M, 2011. A global review of the impacts of invasive cats on island endangered vertebrates. *Global Change Biology* 17: 3503–3510, https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2486.2011.02464.x

[11] Doherty TS, Dickman CR, Johnson CN, Legge SM, Richie EG, Woinarski JCZ, 2017. Impacts and management of feral cats *Felis catus* in Australia. *Mammal Review* 47: 83–97, https://doi.org/10.1111/mam.12080

[12] Pyšek P, Blackburn TM, García-Berthou E, Perglová I, Rabitsch W, 2017. Displacement and local extinction of native and endemic species, Pages 157–175 in Vilá M, Hulme PE eds. Impacts of Biological Invasions on Ecosystem Services. Springer.

[13] https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2010/cat-nabbed-raiding-the-mothership/

[14] https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/118927562/prowling-cat-decimates-banded-dotterel-colony-for-second-breeding-season

[15] Coleman JD, Cooke MM, 2001. *Mycobacterium bovis* infection in wildlife in New Zealand. *Tuberculosis*. 81: 3, pp 191-202. https://doi.org/10.1054/tube.2001.0291

[16] Legge S, Taggart PL, Dickman CR, Read JL, Woinarski JCZ. (2020). Cat-dependent diseases cost Australia AU$6 billion per year through impacts on human health and livestock production. *Wildlife Research* **47**, 731-746. https://doi.org/10.1071/WR20089

[17] Tompkins, D.M. 2014. Potential of Feral Cat Control to Reduce the Incidence of Toxoplasmosis on Sheep Farms. Report Addendum. Landcare Research. Report prepared for Hawkes Bay Regional Council.

[18] Roberts, JO, Jones, HFE, Roe, WD (2020) The effects of *Toxoplasma gondii* on New Zealand wildlife: implications for conservation and management. *Pacific Conservation Biology*. Published online 1 December 2020. https://doi.org/10.1071/PC20051

15. **Relief sought:** further amend the RPMP to include a sustained control programme for unowned cats *across the entire Taranaki region*, with site-led control focussing on catchments that present particular risk to Māui dolphin. Specifically:

    - amend Section 4 to declares and identify unowned cats as a pest in Table 1 of the RPMP;
    - include a new section setting out a sustained control programme for cats which includes rules for land occupiers within a Predator Control Area to control cats;
    - include a new section identifying high risk catchments for Māui dolphin as a priority for site-led cat control; and
    - amend section 9.1 to incorporate a cat monitoring programmes in the RPMP;

Submission ends.

Submission 5 Anne Collins

Submissions and the identity of submitters are public information and will be published on the Council's website and made available for others to publish.
I understand

Name
Anne Collins

Email
anne.dkc@gmail.com

Phone
06-751 1927

Address
20 Heaphy Street
Westown
New Plymouth, 4310

Do you wish to speak to your submission at a hearing?
No

Enter your feedback in the textbox below or upload a file at the bottom of the page.

Submission on partial review of the Pest Management Plan for Taranaki Anne Collins

1. I support the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC), in it's proposal to include mustelids into its pest management rule book, the Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki.
   I urge the Council to include the control of feral cats in this plan. This makes sense because if we are to be serious about protecting our native fauna by removing predators, then the inclusion of cats as apex predators is required.

2. All cats are natural hunters including domestic cats. Domestic cats are important as much loved companion animals, and are hugely popular. My submission does not seek to remove these. Feral cats have a major impact on native birds, insects, bats, lizards and insects such as weta. Cats are capable of travelling long distances including one tracked to cover almost 6 Km, as has been documented.
   https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/animal-pests/feral-cats/

   https://www.nzherald.co.nz/lifestyle/cat-tracking-study-an-eye-opener-for-owners/2Y53ECMIPCUQMPNU5V2ZZ4XEAM/

3. Cats are known carriers and transmitters of infectious diseases. These include Bovine TB, and importantly for our native animals, Toxoplasmosis gondii (T. gondii). Kittens and unwell cats are the worst spreaders of this disease by T. gondii oocysts (eggs) in their faeces. Other animals become infected by ingesting these. The eggs enter the waterways and eventually reach the sea where they can infect our marine mammals. In particular, Maui and Hectors dolphins are at risk.
4. Responsible cat ownership is the aim of every conservation organisation, but this is definitely a wish list. Currently, New Plymouth District Council has a limit of five cats per household, Whanganui has three. South Taranaki District Council and Stratford District Council have no

limits on the number of cats that may be kept. This encourages careless breeding, no micro chipping and the subsequent dumping of unwanted cats and kittens. Those that survive further contribute to the feral cat population.

"While possums are the priority for Predator Free Hawke's Bay's efforts on the Mahia Peninsula, feral cats will also be in their sights along with stoats and rats."

"Really it's about responsible cat ownership - making sure they are de-sexed if they are not going to be bred from, and micro-chipping.

In February this year a new bylaw was introduced in Wellington requiring all domestic cats over the age of 12 weeks to be microchipped and registered with the NZ Companion Animal Register."

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/hawkes-bay-today/news/feral-and-stray-cat-control-a-complex-issue/IF2FKFJZZGHWA5OAUXCXRGPBIE/

Submission 6 Federated farmers

To:	**Taranaki Regional Council**
Submission on:	**Partial Review of the Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki**
Date:	4 December 2020
Submission by:	Federated Farmers Taranaki

MARK HOOPER
PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT
Federated Farmers Taranaki
T: 06 752 0132
M: 021 430 558
E: mch@maxnet.co.nz

Address for service: **JESSE GOODING**
REGIONAL POLICY ADVISOR
Federated Farmers of New Zealand
444 Anglesea Street,
PO Box 447
M: 027 803 0853
E: jgooding@fedfarm.org.nz

1. General comments

We appreciate the opportunity to submit on Taranaki Regional Council's Partial Review of the Pest Management Plan. This submission is representative of member views and their first-hand experience with pest management. The publication of the proposed changes recognises that much of the good work done around pest management happens outside of a regulatory environment and that this is often the most appropriate form of management. Federated Farmers ('FFNZ') has long been an advocate for robust cost benefit analysis as the foundation for good decision making, both at local and central government levels. It is therefore good to see a detailed cost benefit analysis of the proposed changes.

As the proposed control of mustelids will largely happen on farming properties, we encourage Council to consider some of the practical issues for farmers.

Farms are often subject to lease or contract milking or share-milking arrangements that complicate the question of who is responsible or available for maintaining and servicing traps. We would like Council to provide formal guidance on this to ensure there is no 'grey area' for farmers who may wish to control predators but are unsure of their responsibilities.

Dairy farming is a seasonally intensive activity requiring a heavy workload in the calving and mating periods (usually June through to the end of November). During this period trap servicing is unlikely to be carried out on many properties and the servicing requirements of any proposed rule should reflect this.

While acknowledging the need for a rule to formalise predator control efforts on a landholder basis, FFNZ would like to see an on-going emphasis on catchment level programs. We encourage Council to continue supporting various funding mechanisms of pest control at either a catchment level and/or individual farm level, such as the KNE programme. In addition, we

would encourage Council to support on-going discussion with community groups e.g. Wild for Taranaki, regarding the use of community volunteers to check trap lines in catchments or on individual properties. We envisage that some large farming properties will have significant numbers of traps and owner or farm staff capacity to keep these regularly checked will be challenging.

FFNZ would like to engage further with Council on this as part of this review.

2. Summary

- FFNZ encourages Council to be mindful of practical farming issues
- FFNZ supports the inclusion of mustelids in section 4 as organisms declared as pests
- FFNZ agrees with the objective set out in section 6A
- Retain the proposed performance measures for pest management in the Taranaki Region
- Amend or delete and replace proposed rule 3
- FFNZ supports Council's approach to the good neighbour rule in the initiation phase of towards Predator Free Taranaki ('the program') but would like to see the good neighbour rule implemented as the programme becomes more popular

3. Specific Comments

3.1 Inclusion of Mustelids as Pests

We support the inclusion of mustelids in section 4 as organisms declared as pests and the identification of ferrets, stoats, and weasels as pests in Table 1. Mustelids can have a negative impact on primary production as they carry parasites and toxoplasmosis, which can cause illness in humans and livestock. Ferrets are also a vector (carrier) of bovine tuberculosis.

3.2 Objective

Federated Farmers agrees broadly with the objective set out in 6A. That is - we agree with the objective of sustainably controlling mustelid numbers within a specified Predator Control Area, and elsewhere to avoid or minimise adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values in the Taranaki region. FFNZ also offer our on-going support to Council's extension program as the principle method by which Council will achieve this objective. Council's self-help Possum control program was established in 1992 and was extended to include mustelids in 2018. The programme requires Council take a lead on predator control where 75% of land occupiers, covering at least 75% of the land area targeted indicate or have indicated, that they wish to be included in the program. FFNZ acknowledge the success of this program in controlling possums and expect it will be as effective in controlling mustelids. The inclusion of a rule in the RPMP to deal with mustelids is intended to encourage the participation of the few landowners that refuse to undertake predator control ('exacerbators' as defined by Council). Given predator control areas are only established when most of the community agree to work with Council in order to control mustelids, we agree there must be a legal failsafe to ensure these efforts are not in vain. FFNZ are supportive of the logic behind the inclusion of the proposed Plan rule 3, but caution that its effectiveness will depend on its enforceability and on-going monitoring.

3.3 Measuring what the Objective is Achieving

Proposed measures:

(ba) annually mapping the implementation of the Towards Predator Free Taranaki programme, including establishment of Predator Control Areas;

(bb) monitoring mustelid population densities and trends, over time, in areas included in the Predator Control Areas;

FFNZ support the establishment and mapping of Predator Control Areas and robust modelling of mustelid population densities and trends over time to determine the effectiveness of the program.

3.4 Proposed Plan Rule 3: General Rule for Predator Control Areas

A land occupier within a Predator Control Area must maintain ferrets, stoats, and weasels numbers present on their land by:
(a) servicing permanent mustelid traps a minimum of ten times per calendar year and record trap catch information in the TrapNZ database; and
(b) servicing any activated 'remote sensor mustelid trap' within 30 days of activation.

Note:
'Servicing' means the removal of dead animals, inspection of trap to make sure it is functioning properly, grass/obstacles removed from around the trap entrance and trap rebaited with fresh bait.
'Remote sensor mustelid traps' refers to kill traps fitted with remote sensor technology capable of sending trap catch information to the user wirelessly.

3.5 Reason for submission on Proposed Rule 3

The effectiveness of the rule will be based on Council's ability a) to enforce it, and b) to monitor its impact. In the view of FFNZ an effective predator control rule will focus on outcomes rather than process. We note that the general rule in support of the self-help possum control program (6.6.3.1) requires landowners to maintain possum numbers present on their land to below a 10% residual trap catch. This allows the landowner to focus on the objective without enforcing a potentially onerous servicing requirement. We also understand that mustelid populations are difficult to track and establishing a residual catch number may be impractical in the short term. As mustelid population densities and trends become clearer over time, we would like to see the inclusion of a residual trap catch requirement (or similar) in the mustelid rule so the focus shifts from how often farmers service their traps to an agreed outcome. From a practical standpoint landowner are more likely to integrate mustelid trap servicing with routine possum trap/bait station servicing, with this in mind FFNZ would (in time) like the mustelid control rule more closely aligned to the possum control rule.

Our concern with the rule as drafted is that the requirement to service traps 10 times per calendar year may needlessly place an additional burden on farmers that are already putting in good work through the possum control program and thus create some pushback from farmers. Additionally, the seasonal intensity of dairy farming is likely to make the requirement to service traps a minimum of 10 times per calendar year impractical due to busy periods like calving and mating. FFNZ asks that the proposed rule is amended to reduce or omit the prescriptive trap servicing requirement. Farmers will be more likely to embrace and sustain their participation in the program if they have ownership over servicing requirements and can make the logistics of pest control work for their own property and their farming business. For ease of reading our suggested amendments are shown with strikeout for deletions and underlining for additional wording.

3.6 Relief Sought

Amend Rule 3 as below:

A land occupier within a Predator Control Area must maintain ferrets, stoats, and weasels numbers present on their land by:

(a) servicing permanent mustelid traps a minimum of ~~ten~~ eight times per calendar year and record trap catch information in the TrapNZ database; and

(b) servicing any activated 'remote sensor mustelid trap' within 30 days of activation.

Note:

'Servicing' means the removal of dead animals, inspection of trap to make sure it is functioning properly, grass/obstacles removed from around the trap entrance and trap rebaited with fresh bait.

Or

Delete proposed rule 3 and with new rule as below:

A land occupier within a Predator Control Area must control mustelids present on their land by regularly servicing permanent mustelid traps and recording trap catch information as practicable in accordance with Council advice."

3.7 Good Neighbour Rule

Federated Farmers understands the reasoning in council's cost benefit analysis and their obligations for considering a good neighbour rule under the Biosecurity Act 1993 and the National Policy Direction on Pest Management 2015. That is not to say we favour exclusion of the good neighbour rule from Mustelid control but would like further information on its viability. We appreciate Council's view that the 200ha dispersal range of Mustelids would necessitate a 2km buffer and have the potential to impose significant costs on landowners that are not within a predator control area.

Notwithstanding this FFNZ views the good neighbour rule as a key step to addressing the ongoing issue of Crown land being non-rateable and not required to directly contribute to regional pest management. While we acknowledge that DoC does undertake significant pest management in the region, e.g. the Mounga project, we consider the good neighbour rule is often necessary as it is accepted that pest management generally is not effective unless all landowners (including Crown) consistently manage the spread of pests. Council's own analysis of "who should pay?" in section 3.5 of the partial review document lists the Department of Conservation as a "major" beneficiary of the proposed predator control while private landowners, including dairy, sheep and beef farmers are listed only as "minor" beneficiaries. FFNZ considers the rationale behind inclusion of a rule to ensure landowners play their part to be reasonable Likewise, we expect such a rule should apply to Crown and Conservation land. The negotiated understanding around potential boundary pests between the Regional Council and Crown agencies are of little comfort to our members as they have no means to enforce it and requires the Regional Council to be pro-active, incur costs and navigate a political minefield with the crown agencies it needs to co-operate with.

Given the general predator control rule is only applied to Predator Control Areas and as Predator Free Taranaki is still being initiated Federated Farmers understands why Council is not seeking to impose a good neighbour rule at present. As Predator Free Taranaki is rolled out and it's uptake grows throughout the region Federated Farmers would like Council to re-consider the imposition of a good neighbour rule to ensure Crown agencies participant in the programme to the same extent as land owners.

4. Federated Farmers thanks the Taranaki Regional Council for considering our feedback.

About Federated Farmers

Federated Farmers is a not-for-profit primary sector policy and advocacy organisation that represents the majority of farming businesses in New Zealand. Federated Farmers has a long and proud history of representing the interests of New Zealand's farmers.

The Federation aims to add value to its members' farming businesses. Our key strategic outcomes include the need for New Zealand to provide an economic and social environment within which:

- Our members may operate their business in a fair and flexible commercial environment;
- Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of the rural community; and
- Our members adopt responsible management and environmental practices.

-end-

Submission 7 Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa

TE KOTAHITANGA O TE ATIAWA TARANAKI

23 December 2020

Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
Stratford 4352

By email: chris.spurdle@trc.govt.nz
info@trc.govt.nz

Attention: Steve Ruru

Tēnā koe Steve

SUBMISSION BY NGĀ HAPŪ O TE ATIAWA AND TE KOTAHITANGA O TE ATIAWA TRUST TO THE REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR TARANAKI PARTIAL REVIEW

1. On behalf of ngā hapū o Te Atiawa and Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa Trust (Te Kotahitanga), we appreciate the opportunity to provide a submission to the Taranaki Regional Council's partial review of the Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki (RPMP).

2. Te Atiawa Iwi are tangata whenua over the lands, waters, sites, taonga species, wāhi tapu/wāhi taonga, urupā, sites and areas of significance to Māori and other taonga within our Te Atiawa rohe. The Te Atiawa rohe extends from Te Rau o Te Huia along the coast to the Herekawe Stream, inland to Tahuna-a-Tūtawa, east to Whakangerengere, northeast to Taramoukou, north back to Te Rau o Te Huia and offshore out to 200 nautical miles. The Te Atiawa Iwi rohe falls wholly within the jurisdiction of the Taranaki Regional Council.

3. Te Atiawa has strong historical, cultural, traditional and spiritual connections within this rohe, our environment is a part of who we are. In return, we as kaitiaki, have the inherent responsibility of ensuring the mauri of these environmental and cultural resources is protected and enhanced for future generations.

4. Today our Te Atiawa hapū from north to south of the rohe are:
   - Ngāti Rahiri
   - Otaraua
   - Manukorihi
   - Pukerangiora
   - Puketapu
   - Ngāti Tawhirikura
   - Ngāti Tuparikino

- Ngāti Te Whiti.

5. Te Kotahitanga is the mandated voice and representative entity for the collective interests of Te Atiawa Iwi. Te Kotahitanga was established on 31 March 2014 as the post-settlement governance entity by a Deed of Trust. Following this the Te Atiawa Deed of Settlement was signed on 9 August 2014 and the Te Atiawa Claims Settlement Act (2016) enacted on 5 December 2016. Te Kotahitanga has a responsibility to ensure that the interests of Te Atiawa are safe-guarded. This includes considering the extent to which proposed policy may impact on the historical, traditional, cultural and spiritual interests of Te Atiawa within its rohe and under the Te Atiawa Claims Settlement Act 2016.

6. Te Atiawa has rights and interests including, but not limited to:
   - Rights and interests arising under the Te Atiawa Claims Settlement Act (2016);
   - Rights and interests arising under the Te Atiawa Iwi Environmental Management Plan – *Tai Whenua, Tai Tangata, Tai Ao*; *and*
   - Rights and interests
     - according to tikanga and customary law;
     - arising from the common law (including the common law relating to aboriginal title and customary law); and
     - under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its principles.

7. Te Atiawa seek to ensure that these rights and interests are recognised in proposed policy and there is alignment with the outcomes of Te Atiawa's key iwi documents:
   a. Te Atiawa Iwi Claims Settlement Act 2016;
   b. Te Atiawa Deed of Settlement; and
   c. *Tai Whenua, Tai Tangata, Tai Ao*.

8. *Tai Whenua, Tai Tangata, Tai Ao* sets the position of Te Atiawa Iwi on resource management matters. It is an expression of rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga from ngā uri o Te Atiawa over the environmental and cultural resources within our Te Atiawa rohe.

9. The Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) has undertaken a partial review of the Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki (RPMP) by way of amending it to identify and declare mustelids as a pest species and incorporate an additional programme relating to the sustained control of mustelids. The proposed amendments to the RPMP include the introduction of a sustained control programme for mustelids and the introduction of a definition for a new term, 'Predator Control Area'.

10. Mustelids and other pests predate on native biodiversity, especially taonga species. The loss of native biodiversity and taonga species is identified under Issue TTTT2 of the Te Atiawa iwi environmental management plan *Tai Whenua, Tai Tangata, Tai Ao* because of the effects these introduced species can have on Te Atiawa values and the health of our whenua, wai and tangata.

11. Trapping mustelids as mentioned in the Proposal[1] can minimise the number of pests, having a positive effect on the overall numbers of taonga species ultimately returning mauri to the whenua, wai and tangata. Issue TTTT4 of *Tai Whenua, Tai Tangtata, Tai Ao* states '*The introduction of weeds and pests can generate adverse effects on the survival of our native biodiversity*'.

12. As previously mentioned, the addition of mustelids as a pest to the RPMP aligns with the provisions of *Tai Whenua, Tai Tangata, Tai Ao*, specifically in the Te Tai Tāne Tokorangi (TTTT) chapter of the Plan (Attachment 1). This section outlines the protection and restoration of native biodiversity encouraging weed and pest management.

13. Notwithstanding our general support for the proposed amendments to the RPMP, we trust the Taranaki Regional Council have considered the consequential effects mustelid management and control will have on rabbit populations given rabbits are the main diets of ferrets[2]. Clarification is sought in this regard.

14. Further to the above, clarification is sought as to why the partial review is limited to mustelids only. The Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy 2018-2038 in addition to possums and mustelids, identifies rabbits, goats, feral cats and rats as pest animals threatening Taranaki biodiversity as well.

15. Section 2.4 of the RPMP for Taranaki states '*..the Taranaki Regional Council, seek to provide for the protection of the relationship between Māori as tangata whenua and their ancestral lands, their waters, sites, wāhi tapu, and taonga and for the protection of those aspects from the adverse effects of pests, through the Plan*'. It is noted that section 72 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 requires consultation with tangata whenua (section 72(1)(c)). Pre-notification consultation with iwi authorities involved one email being sent from the Taranaki Regional Council to those iwi authorities[3], noting no feedback was received (page 2 of the Proposal[4]).

16. Further to the above section 2.4 of the RPMP for Taranaki goes on to state '*Māori involvement in biosecurity is an important part of exercising kaitiakitanga over their mana whenua.. The Local Government Act (LGA) requires the Taranaki Regional Council to recognise and respect the Crown's responsibilities under the Tiriti o Waitangi – Treaty of Waitangi. It also requires councils to maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes. This includes considering ways to help Māori to contribute. These*

[1] Taranaki Regional Council (2020). *Proposal for inclusion of Mustelids, Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki.*
[2] Department of Conservation (2020). *Ferrets,* accessed 10 December 2020, <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/animal-pests/ferrets/>
[3] See Attachment 2
[4] Taranaki Regional Council (2020). *Proposal for inclusion of Mustelids, Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki.*

responsibilities and requirements were met while preparing this Plan and will continue after it takes effect'.

17. Only tangata whenua have the expertise to advise on the acceptability of effects on themselves and their cultural, natural and physical resources. Pest management and control is important to protecting our taonga species; however, restricting the participation of tangata whenua to submitting on the partial review of the RPMP for Taranaki does not constitute kaitiakitanga. It is concerning that the Taranaki Regional Council continue to maintain that sending one email is sufficient, effective and meaningful consultation. One email does not maintain and improve opportunities for ngā hapū o Te Atiawa and Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa to contribute to this decision-making process.

18. Section 9.4 of the RPMP for Taranaki states '*The provisions of this Plan do not replace other legislation or regulations relating to the use of toxins, impacts on Māori culture and traditions, and public health and safety*'. Clarification is sought as to how the results of pest management and control and the impacts on Māori culture and traditions are monitored, in addition to the effectiveness of the RPMP in this regard; noting only tangata whenua have the expertise to advise on these impacts.

19. Though ngā hapū o Te Atiawa and Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa are generally supportive of the proposed amendments, we seek clarification to the points above.

20. Ngā hapū o Te Atiawa and Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa wish to be heard in support of this submission.

21. If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at the following:
Postal address: PO Box 1097, Taranaki Mail Centre, New Plymouth 4340
Email address: sarah@teatiawa.iwi.nz
Phone number: (06) 758 4685

Nāku me ngā mihi
Ngā hapū o Te Atiawa and Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa Trust

Liana Poutu
Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa Pouwhakarae/ Chairperson

Attachment 1: 6.6 Te Tai Tāne Tokorangi chapter, *Tai Whenua, Tai Tangata, Tai Ao*

6.6 TE TAI O TĀNE TOKORANGI - FLORA AND FAUNA

Tokorangi is the act of propping up the sky. Tāne Mahuta, the son of Ranginui and Papatūānuku, broke the embrace of his parents by lifting the sky and giving rise to many children each becoming the ātua of respective domains of the environment. Tāne became the ātua of the forests and birds.

Prior to European settlement, Taranaki was covered in dense native forest, shrubland and small wetland areas which held an abundance of native fauna. However, due to Taranaki's low-lying terrain much of the land was cleared for settlement. Today, remnants of native forest remain scattered around the region, with the largest concentration confined to Taranaki Maunga. The protection and enhancement of native biodiversity and mahinga kai underpins many matters which we as kaitiaki seek to address.

This section addresses matters in our Te Atiawa rohe relating to Tokorangi and covers issues such mahinga kai, native biodiversity, restoration of native species, and weed and pest management. This section should be read in conjunction with Section 6.1.

WHAKARĀPOTO NGĀ TAKE - SUMMARY OF ISSUES

The Te Tai o Tāne Tokorangi issues within the rohe of Te Atiawa are summarised below:

TE TAI O TĀNE TOKORANGI	
Ngā Take - Issues	
Issue Te Tai o Tāne Tokorangi (TTTT)1: Mahinga kai	The loss of mahinga kai areas and species as a result of habitat loss, discharges, abstractions, diversion of waterways, barriers to fish passage and introduction of exotic species is impacting on Te Atiawa values, and our health and wellbeing.
Issue TTTT2: Native biodiversity	The loss of native biodiversity and taonga species is affecting Te Atiawa values and the health of our land, water and people.
Issue TTTT3: Restoration of native biodiversity	Due to the loss of native biodiversity there is a need for species restoration initiatives.
Issue TTTT4: Weed and pest management	The introduction of weeds and pest can generate adverse effects on the survival of our native biodiversity.
Issue TTTT5: Pest management with toxins	There are concerns about the use of toxins as a method of pest control, and the impacts it can generate on our ancestral lands, waters and species.

NGĀ PAETAE - GENERAL OBJECTIVES

Gen. Ob. Te Tai o Tāne Tokorangi (TTTT)1.1
Protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity and taonga species within our Te Atiawa rohe.

Gen. Ob. TTTT1.2
Acknowledge and provide opportunities for practical exercise of kaitiakitanga by Te Atiawa.

NGĀ KAUPAPA - GENERAL POLICIES

Gen. Pol. Tāne Mahuta (TTTT)1.1
Require that central government agencies and regional and district councils recognise and provide for the relationship of Te Atiawa with indigenous biodiversity and taonga species with particular regard to customary use in management and decision making.

Gen. Pol. TTTT1.2
Require that central government agencies and regional and district councils recognise that only Te Atiawa can identify the impact of activities on our relationship with indigenous biodiversity and taonga species within our Te Atiawa rohe.

Gen. Pol. TTTT1.3
Require that central government agencies and regional and district councils engage with Te Kotahitanga and Ngā Hapū o Te Atiawa as affected

parties on any application made under the Resource Management Act 1991 and Conservation Act 1987 which affect indigenous biodiversity and taonga species.

Gen. Pol. TTTT1.4
Require that central government agencies and regional and district councils take into consideration the incremental and cumulative effects of activities such as discharges, abstractions, diversion of waterways, barriers to fish passage and introducing exotic species on mahinga kai when developing planning documents , and assessing resource consents.

Gen. Pol. TTTT1.5
Support Te Atiawa in the development and use of mātauranga Māori monitoring techniques of indigenous biodiversity and taonga species within our Te Atiawa rohe.

MAHINGA KAI

Te Take - Issue

Issue TTTT1: The loss of mahinga kai areas and species as a result of habitat loss, discharges, abstractions, diversion of waterways, barriers to fish passage and introduction of exotic species is impacting on Te Atiawa values, and our health and wellbeing.

The objectives and policies to address this issue within the rohe of Te Atiawa are:

Ngā Paetae - Objectives

Ob. TTTT1.1
Improving the health of our waters, freshwater, coastal and marine, will support mahinga kai, and the health and wellbeing of our people.

Ngā Kaupapa - Policies

Pol. TTTT1.1
Require restoration of mahinga kai areas and species, and preserve the tikanga associated with these resources, by:

a) integrating mahinga kai objectives into planning documents ;

b) developing and implementing restoration projects;

c) conducting wānanga to teach our future kaitiaki about our mahinga kai traditions; and

d) identify and support options for restoring populations of mahinga kai species.

Pol. TTTT1.2
Require that central government agencies and regional and district councils plans include provisions to protect, enhance and extend existing mahinga kai habitats such as reef structures, estuaries, remnant wetlands, waipuna, riparian margins and native forest.

Pol. TTTT1.3
Encourage that landowners protect remnant areas of indigenous biodiversity to connect species and habitats.

NATIVE BIODIVERSITY

Te Take - Issue

Issue TTTT2: The loss of native biodiversity and taonga species is affecting Te Atiawa values and the health of our land, water and people.

The objectives and policies to address this issue within the rohe of Te Atiawa are:

Ngā Paetae - Objectives

Ob. TTTT2.1
Support General Objectives which provide for Te Tai o Tāne Tokorangi, Te Tai Awhi-Nuku, Te Tai o Maru and Te Tai o Tangaroa.

Ngā Kaupapa - Policies

Pol. TTTT2.1
Require acknowledgement of Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the basis for the relationship between the regional and district councils all other relevant authorities and Te Atiawa with regard to managing native biodiversity.

Pol. TTTT2.2
Require the Department of Conservation, regional and district councils and all other relevant authorities, work with Te Atiawa to protect, enhance and restore native biodiversity.

Pol. TTTT2.3
Require that the intellectual property rights of indigenous biodiversity remains in the possession of Te Atiawa.

Pol. TTTT2.4
Require the Department of Conservation, regional and district councils and other relevant authorities recognise and provide for Te Atiawa cultural values when identifying areas with significant indigenous biodiversity value.

Pol. TTTT2.5
Promote the principle of Ki Uta Ki Tai (from mountain to sea) as a culturally appropriate approach to establishing corridors of native biodiversity in the region.

RESTORATION OF NATIVE BIODIVERSITY

Te Take - Issue

Issue TTTT3: Due to the loss of native biodiversity there is a need for species restoration initiatives.

The objectives and policies to address this issue within the rohe of Te Atiawa are:

Ngā Paetae - Objectives

Ob. TTTT3.1
Protect and enhance natural landscapes and native species and therefore enhance the mauri of the land and these species.

Ngā Kaupapa - Policies

Pol. TTTT3.1
Require the Department of Conservation and the regional council to take into account Te Atiawa mahinga kai objectives when planning restoration projects.

Pol. TTTT3.2
Require that when planning restoration projects the flora and fauna is appropriate to that area.

Practise note: It is anticipated that the implementation of this policy will require techniques such as ecosourcing.

Pol. TTTT3.3
Require recognition of Te Atiawa's cultural, spiritual and traditional association with native species when planning restoration projects.

Pol. TTTT3.4
Require engagement with Te Atiawa when planning native bird restorations projects to translocate and release species in our Te Atiawa rohe or transfer species from our Te Atiawa rohe to other rohe.

WEED AND PEST MANAGEMENT

Te Take - Issue

Issue TTTT4: The introduction of weeds and pest can generate adverse effects on the survival of our native biodiversity.

The objectives and policies to address this issue within the rohe of Te Atiawa are:

Ngā Paetae - Objectives

Ob. TTTT4.1
Eradicate introduced weeds and pests that are causing adverse effects to protect and enhance our native biodiversity whilst avoiding adverse effects on the environment and species.

Ngā Kaupapa - Policies

Pol. TTTT4.1
Require the protection, maintenance and restoration of indigenous species as a key focus of weed and pest management.

Pol. TTTT4.2
Require the use of natural solutions including trapping possums; establishment of riparian margins for shading aquatic weed) over the use of hazardous substances, where feasible.

Pol. TTTT4.3
Require timing and techniques that avoid or reduce the impact of pest control operations on indigenous biodiversity and other cultural values.

Pol. TTTT4.4
Require that central government agencies and regional and district councils weed management programmes avoid effects on indigenous biodiversity, and wāhi tapu/wāhi taonga, urupā and sites of significance to Māori. This may include but is not limited to:

a) avoiding areas identified by Te Atiawa and utilising alternative methods in these areas; and

b) timing operations in accordance with Te Atiawa

advice.

PEST CONTROL WITH TOXINS

Te Take - Issue

Issue TTTT5: There are concerns about the use of toxins as a method of pest control, and the impacts it can generate on our ancestral lands, waters and species.

The objectives and policies to address this issue within the rohe of Te Atiawa are:

Ngā Paetae - Objectives

Ob. TTTT5.1
Support General Objectives which provide for Te Tai o Tāne Tokorangi, Te Tai Awhi-Nuku, Te Tai o Maru and Te Tai o Tangaroa.

Ngā Kaupapa - Policies

Pol. TTTT5.1
Te Atiawa may support the use of toxins if the following can be determined:

a) the timing and design of operations reflect local conditions;

b) toxins will be used in conjunction with other methods such as shooting or trapping, to maximise success;

c) non target impacts are identified, including those identified by Te Atiawa;

d) Te Atiawa are engaged early and are involved in setting priorities and designing operations, including monitoring; and

e) there is an actual environmental or cultural benefit for the use of toxins.

Pol. TTTT5.2
Support an investigation into the effects of and alternatives to using toxins.

Pol. TTTT5.3
Avoid the use of toxins in areas which could be managed by shooting or trapping pests.

Pol. TTTT5.4
Encourage the use of incentives for people to trap or shoot pests in accessible areas.

Attachment 2: Email from Taranaki Regional Council to iwi authorities

From: Joe Mack
Sent: Tuesday, 8 September 2020 4:40 PM
To:'paulsilich2@gmail.com' <paulsilich2@gmail.com>; 'office@ngatimutunga.iwi.nz' <office@ngatimutunga.iwi.nz>; 'tari@teatiawa.iwi.nz' <tari@teatiawa.iwi.nz>; 'holden.hohaia@xtra.co.nz' <holden.hohaia@xtra.co.nz>; 'whare@taranaki.iwi.nz' <whare@taranaki.iwi.nz>; 'info@ngaruahine.iwi.nz' <info@ngaruahine.iwi.nz>; Haimona Maruera (haimona.maruera@ruanui.co.nz) <haimona.maruera@ruanui.co.nz>; 'tumu.whakarae@rauru.iwi.nz' <tumu.whakarae@rauru.iwi.nz>; 'bella@maniapoto.co.nz' <bella@maniapoto.co.nz>
Cc: Steve Ellis <Steve.Ellis@trc.govt.nz>; Chris Spurdle <chris.spurdle@trc.govt.nz>; Sam Tamarapa <Sam.Tamarapa@trc.govt.nz>
Subject: To the Chief Executive: Mustelid rule discussion - Pest Management Plan for Taranaki

Tēnā kouto

Following approval by Taranaki Regional Council to commence a partial review of the Pest Management Plan for Taranaki, officers are seeking your views on the merits or otherwise of including mustelids (stoats, ferrets, weasels) in the Plan and having a rule requiring land occupiers to control them. This feedback will inform the preparation of a proposal prior to public notification and a formal submission process.

We have drafted the attached document for your information and to aid early discussion, Please feel free to contact our Policy Manager Chris Spurdle chris.spurdle@trc.govt.nzwith any questions or comments at your convenience.

Nāku noa nā

Steve Ellis
Environment Services Manager

Taranaki Regional Council
47 Cloten Road | Private Bag 713 | Stratford 4352, New Zealand
M 027 471 3741 | P 06 765 7127 | F 06 765 5097 | www.trc.govt.nz
Working with people | caring for Taranaki

Taranaki Regional Council

Taking Taranaki forward

If you are not the intended recipient, any use, distribution or copying of this message is prohibited. Please notify us immediately and erase all copies of this message and attachments. Thank you.

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Submission 8 New Plymouth District Council

When replying please quote: 8437756

Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu
New Plymouth District Council

10 December 2020

The Chief Executive
Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
STRATFORD

Dear Sir

PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION OF MUSTELIDS IN THE REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR TARANAKI

New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) thanks the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) for the opportunity to submit on the proposal to declare mustelids to be pests in the Taranaki region and to amend the Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki (RPMP) accordingly.

NPDC supports the proposal to incorporate a sustained control management programme for ferrets, stoats, and weasels into the RPMP. NPDC has been trapping mustelids in our reserves through our 'Restore New Plymouth Reserves' programme, which involves several volunteers. A total of 37 mustelids have been trapped since October 2019.

We make the following general comments on the proposed amended sections of the Plan:

General Comments

We support your review of the iwi environmental management plans prepared by Te Atiawa, Taranaki Tuturu, Ngā Ruanui and Ngaa Rauru and your recognition of the impact that introduced predators, such as mustelids, have on indigenous biodiversity values and taonga species. We agree that these issues are a concern for tangata whenua and that trapping methods are preferred over the use of hazardous substances where feasible.

We note that the mustelid control programme will take place in certain 'Predator Control Areas'. If these areas have already been identified, we suggest that they be mapped and included in the RPMP by way of an appendix or appendices.

Liardet Street, Private Bag 2025, New Plymouth 4340, New Zealand
P 06-759 6060 | F 06-759 6072 | E enquiries@npdc.govt.nz

Specific Comments

Section	Subsection	Issue	Comments
2.3: The new proposed programme to be inserted into section 6 of the RPMP, page 5	6.6A, 'Towards Predator Free Taranaki'	Fourth paragraph refers to "targeting mustelids and rats."	Question whether the wording should include reference to rats, as they are not part of the proposal.
2.3: The new proposed programme to be inserted into section 6 of the RPMP, page 7	6.6A, 'Explanation of rule'	Last line: "Contravention of rules 3 and 4 ..." yet only rule 3 is included on the facing page.	Amend actual rules and rule reference so that they align.
2.4: An amended section 9.1 [Measuring what the objectives are achieving], page 8	6.6A, 'Measuring what the objectives are achieving] (c)	Item (c) refers to possum control in Egmont National Park.	Should mustelids also be included?
3: 'Cost benefit analysis for sustained control programme for mustelids', page 11	3.2, 3.3 and 3.4	There are minor typos in this sub-section.	Amend as appropriate if not already corrected.
3.5 'Who should pay?', page 14		Second paragraph: "Land occupiers with infestations are the principal exacerbators of the problem."	Suggest this wording could be amended as follows: "Land occupiers who are not managing infestations on their property are the principal exacerbators of the problem."

Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to make comments on your proposal to include a sustained control programme for mustelids in the RPMP, and we wish you well in your endeavours.

Yours faithfully

Nāku noa, nā

Juliet Johnson
DISTRICT PLANNING LEAD

Liardet Street, Private Bag 2025, New Plymouth 4340, New Zealand
P 06-759 6060 | F 06-759 6072 | E enquiries@npdc.govt.nz

Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki

(as amended by Plan change, February 2021)

Taranaki Regional Council

Private Bag 713

Stratford 4352

Document: 2705705

Version

Version	Date	Description
1.0	February 2018	As adopted by Taranaki Regional Council at the Ordinary Meeting on 20 February 2018
1.1	March 2021	Plan change for Inclusion of mustelids
1.2		

Taranaki Regional Council

REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR TARANAKI

The Taranaki Regional Council under Part V of the Biosecurity Act 1993 approved this document entitled *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* at its Ordinary Meeting on 20 February 2018 and it became operative on 20 February 2018.

DATED at Stratford this 20 February 2018

SIGNED by the TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL

by affixing its Common Seal

in the presence of

Taranaki Regional Council
THE COMMON SEAL OF
2018/03

D N MacLeod (Chairman)

M J Nield (Director – Corporate Services)

Foreword

This document is the *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* (the Plan). Its purpose is to set out the statutory framework by which the Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) will undertake the management of pest animals and pest plants in the Taranaki region for the next 10 years.

The Plan is the fourth plan prepared by the Council for its pest management functions. This Plan identifies and sets out management programmes in relation to ~~17~~ 20 'pest' animal and plant species that the Council believes warrant regional intervention.

We want to ensure that we are making the best use of resources to effectively manage the pests that are of most concern to the environment and economy of our region.

In brief, the following highlights and significant changes are noted:

- Rules relating to the control of animal and plant pests are combined within a single document;
- Good Neighbour rules are included for Possums; Giant buttercup; Giant gunnera; Gorse; Nodding, Plumeless and Variegated thistles; Old man's beard; Wild broom; Wild ginger; (Yellow and Kahili) and Yellow ragwort. These rules are binding on both private and Crown land occupiers;
- General rules also apply for mustelids, possums, Giant gunnera; Old man's beard; Wild ginger (Yellow and Kahili); and Yellow ragwort;
- Application of rules to control Old man's beard in the Kaupokonui and Waingongoro catchments; and
- The Plan focuses on eradication or sustained control programmes (for which rules apply). Non-regulatory programmes and activities for other harmful organisms are addressed in the *Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy 2018–2038*, which is a companion document to this Plan.

Some prioritising has necessarily been required to identify those pests that are of most concern, and which meet the 'tests' required under section 71 of the Act. The results of those tests are set out in the cost benefit analysis document entitled *Impact Assessments and Cost-Benefit Analyses*.

On behalf of the Council I would like to thank all those who participated in the preparation of the *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki*. I look forward to working with you to achieve effective pest management in the Taranaki region.

David MacLeod
Chair, Taranaki Regional Council

Table of contents

List of tables

List of figures

PART ONE: PLAN ESTABLISHMENT

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* (the Plan) is to outline the framework for efficient and effective management, or eradication, of specified animal and plant organisms in the Taranaki region so as to–

- minimise the actual or potential adverse or unintended effects associated with those organisms; and
- maximise the effectiveness of individual pest management actions by way of a regionally coordinated approach.

Many organisms in the Taranaki region, or which could infest the Taranaki region, are considered undesirable or a nuisance. For some of those organisms it is considered that a pest management plan will add significant value to the region by providing for their eradication or effective management, and that value will exceed the value derived from uncoordinated individual actions (or inaction). This Plan identifies which organisms should be classified as pests and managed on a regional basis.

The Plan will empower the Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) to exercise the relevant advisory, service delivery, regulatory and funding provisions available under the Act to deliver the specific objectives identified in Part Two: Pest Management.

1.2 Scope and Coverage

The Plan will operate within the administrative boundaries of the Taranaki region (Figure 1) as defined by the Local Government (Taranaki Region) Reorganisation Order 1989. It covers a total land area of 723,610 hectares on the North Island's west coast. The boundaries of the Council conform to those of water catchments and extend from the Mohakatino catchment in the north to the Waitotara catchment in the south and inland to, but not including, the Whanganui catchment (see map below).

The framework set out in the Plan, which focuses on eradication programmes and sustained control programmes (for which rules apply), is supported by the *Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy 2018–2038*, which also addresses other harmful organisms and non-regulatory pest management programmes undertaken by the Council.

1.3 Duration

The Plan will take effect on the date it becomes operative under section 77(5) of the Act. It will remain in force for 10 years from that date. The Plan may cease at an earlier date if the Council declares by public notice that it has achieved its purpose. It may also cease at an earlier date if, following a review, it is revoked.

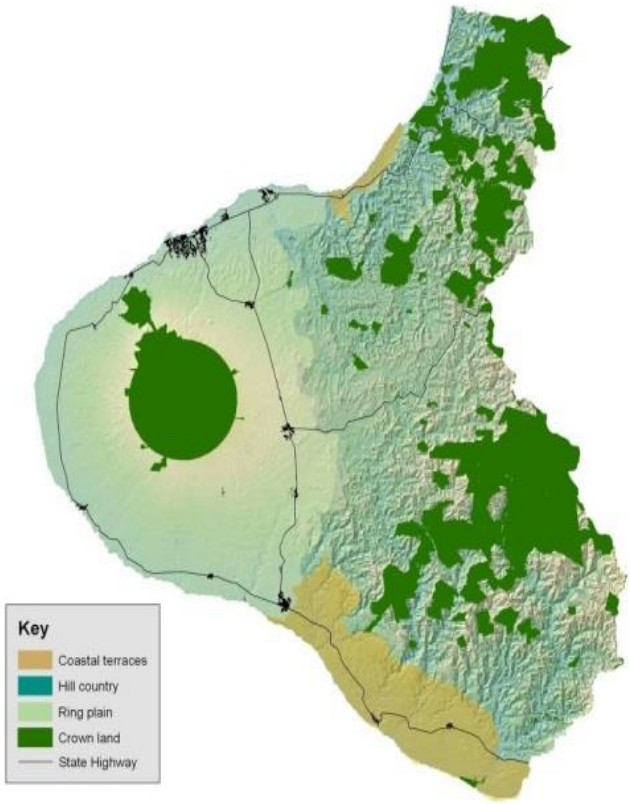


Figure 1: The Taranaki Region

2

2. Planning and statutory background

2.1 Strategic background

Regional pest management in the Taranaki region sits within a biosecurity framework, which includes this Plan, and a biosecurity strategy entitled *Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy 2018–2038*. The framework is underpinned by a number of supporting actions, which either provide inputs into regional pest management, or result from their activity. Land occupiers and the wider community, either as beneficiaries or exacerbators or both, complete the partnership.

An effective biosecurity framework works both within a region and at a national level. Neighbouring regional pest plans and pathway management plans and national legislation, policy and initiatives influence the Plan, and the plans and strategies of territorial authorities may have complementary influence. As a result, a plan is an integral cog in a secure biosecurity system to protect New Zealand's environmental, economic, social, and cultural values from pest threats.

2.2 Legislative background

Regional councils undertake local government activities and actions under several legislative mandates. While managing pests is not dependent on one particular statute, its effectiveness is connected to the purpose of a particular statute. All regional councils in New Zealand prepare and operate regional pest management plans under the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act).

2.2.1 Biosecurity Act 1993

A regional council can use the Act to exclude, eradicate or effectively manage pests in its region, including unwanted organisms. A regional council is not legally obliged to manage a pest or other organism to be controlled, unless it chooses to do so[1]. As such, the Act's approach is enabling rather than prescriptive. It provides a framework to gather intervention methods into a coherent system of efficient and effective actions. Indeed, section 71 of the Act sets out prerequisite criteria that must be met to justify such intervention. These criteria include that each subject–

- is capable of causing at some time an adverse effect on certain values;[2] and

For each subject–

- the benefits of the Plan must outweigh the costs, or the consequences of inaction, or other courses of action;
- persons who are required to pay some or all of the costs of implementation must either be beneficiaries of the Plan or exacerbators of the problems proposed to be resolved by the Plan;
- there is likely to be adequate funding for the Plan's implementation; and
- that each rule helps to achieve the Plan's objectives and does not trespass unduly on individual rights; and
- that the Plan is not frivolous or vexatious, is clear enough to be easily understood, and
- that if the council has rejected a similar proposal within the last 3 years, new material information answers the previous objections.

Part 5: Managing pests and harmful organisms

Part 5 of the Act specifically covers pest management. Its primary purpose is to provide for harmful organisms to be managed effectively or eradicated. A harmful organism is assigned pest status if included in a pest management plan (also see the prerequisites in sections 69–78 of the Act). Part 5 includes a requirement for ongoing monitoring, to determine whether pests and unwanted organisms are present, and keeping them under surveillance. Part of this process is to develop effective and efficient measures (such as policies and plans) that prevent, reduce, or eliminate the adverse effects of pests and unwanted organisms on land and people (including Māori, their kaitiakitanga and taonga). Part 5 also addresses the issue of who should pay for pest management.

[1] *Council officers may also enforce sections 52 and 53 of the BSA, which relate to the sale, propagation or spread of "unwanted organisms".*

[2] *That is, on one or more of the following: economic wellbeing; the viability of threatened species; the survival and distribution of indigenous plants and animals; the sustainability of natural and developed ecological systems and processes and biological diversity; soil resources; water quality; human health; social and cultural wellbeing; recreational enjoyment of the natural environment; the relationship between Māori, their culture and traditions and their ancestral lands, waters and other taonga; and animal welfare.*

Part 2: Functions, powers and duties in a leadership role

Regional councils are mandated under Part 2 (functions, powers and duties) of the Act to provide regional leadership for biosecurity activities, primarily within their immediate jurisdictional areas.

Section 12B(1) sets out how regional councils provide leadership. It includes ways that leadership in pest management issues can help to prevent, reduce or eliminate adverse effects from harmful organisms. Some of these activities include helping to develop and align plans and regional pathway management plans in the region, promoting public support for managing pests, and helping those involved in managing pests to communicate and cooperate so as to make programmes more effective, efficient and equitable.

Section 13(1) sets out the powers that support regional councils in this leadership role. These are powers to –

- establish (eg, appoint a management agency for a plan; implement a small-scale management programme);
- research and prepare (eg, gather information; keep records; prepare a proposal to activate a plan);
- enable (eg, giving councils the power to monitor pests to be assessed, managed or eradicated); and
- review (eg, not allow an operational plan; review, amend, revoke or replace a plan).

Part 6: Administering a Plan

Once operative, a plan is supported by parts of Part 6 (as nominated in the plan) that focus on the voluntary and mandatory actions of a regional council. For example, a regional council must assess any other proposal for a plan, must prepare an operational plan for any plan (if they are the management agency for it), and must prepare an annual report on the Operational Plan.

2.2.2 Resource Management Act

Regional councils also have responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) to sustainably manage the natural and physical resources of the region, including the coastal marine area. These responsibilities include sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources, safeguarding the life-supporting capacity, and protecting environmentally significant areas and habitats (s5(2) and s6(c)).

The RMA sets out the functions of regional councils in relation to the maintenance and enhancement of ecosystems in the coastal marine area of the region (s30(1)(c)(iii)(a)), the control of actual or potential effects of use, development or protection of land (s30(1)(d)(v)), and the establishment, implementation and review of objectives, policies and methods for maintaining indigenous biological diversity (s30(1)(ga)).

The focus of the RMA is on managing adverse effects on the environment through regional policy statements, regional and district plans, and resource consents. The RMA, along with regional policies and plans, can be used to manage activities so that they do not create a biosecurity risk or those risks are minimised. While the Biosecurity Act is the main regulatory tool for managing pests, there are complementary powers within the RMA that can be used to ensure the problem is not exacerbated by activities regulated under the RMA.

The Biosecurity Act cannot over-ride any controls imposed under the RMA, for example, bypassing resource consent requirements.

2.2.3 Local Government Act

The purpose of the Local Government Act 2002 (the LGA) is to provide "*… a framework and powers for local authorities to decide which activities they undertake and the manner in which they will undertake them*". The LGA currently underpins biosecurity activities through the collection of both general and targeted rates. While planning and delivering pest management objectives could fall under the powers and duties of the LGA, accessing legislation focused on managing pests at the regional level is the most transparent and efficient approach. The Council is mandated under s11(b) of the LGA to perform the funding function, and s11(b) provides for Council to perform duties under Acts other than the LGA.

2.2.4 Wild Animal Control Act and the Wildlife Act

Activities undertaken in implementing this Plan must comply with the provisions of other legislation. Two such Acts are the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 (and Wild Animal Control Amendment Act 1997) and the Wildlife Act 1953. Particular relevant requirements are noted below.

(a) The Wild Animal Control Act controls the hunting and release of wild animals such as deer, goats and pigs as well as regulates deer farming and the operation of safari parks. It also gives local authorities the power to destroy wild animals under operational plans that have the consent of the Minister of Conservation.

(b) The Wildlife Act controls and protects wildlife not subject to the Wild Animal Control Act. It defines wildlife which are not protected (eg, cattle, cats,

dogs), are to be game (eg, mallard ducks, black swan), partially protected or are injurious. It authorises that certain unprotected wildlife may be kept and bred in captivity even if they are declared pests under a pest management plan (eg, stoat and weasel).

2.2.5 Other legislation

Other legislation (such as the Reserves Act 1977 and the Conservation Act 1987) contains provisions that support pest management within a specific context. The role of regional councils under such legislation is limited to advocacy. As regional councils have a specific role under the Biosecurity Act, only taking on an advocacy role would be of little use.

2.3 Relationship with other pest management plans

A regional pest management plan must not be inconsistent with–

(a) any national pest management plan or Plan that is focused on the same organism; or

(b) any regulation or regulations.

Coordination with other pest management plans, and pest control operations undertaken by the Department of Conservation, OSPRI, Waikato Regional Council and Horizons, will be achieved through a process based on consultation, collaboration, and communication between the Council and the relevant agency. Alternative pest management arrangements or memoranda of understanding will be developed as required. Liaison on national pest control matters will take place with the Ministry of Primary Industries.

2.4 Relationship with Māori

The Act, and the Council, seek to provide for the protection of the relationship between Māori as tangata whenua and their ancestral lands, their waters, sites, wāhi tapu, and taonga, and for the protection of those aspects from the adverse effects of pests, through the Plan. Māori involvement in biosecurity is an important part of exercising kaitiakitanga over their mana whenua. Māori also carry out significant pest management through their primary sector economic interests and as land owners and/or occupiers.

The LGA requires the Council to recognise and respect the Crown's responsibilities under the Tiriti o Waitangi – Treaty of Waitangi. It also requires councils to maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes. This includes considering ways to help Māori to contribute. These responsibilities and requirements were met while preparing this Plan and will continue after it takes effect.

3. Responsibilities and obligations

3.1 The management agency

The Council is the management agency responsible for implementing this Plan. The Council is satisfied that it meets the requirements of s100 of the Act in that it–

(a) is accountable to the Plan funders, including Crown agencies, through the requirements of the LGA;

(b) is acceptable to the funders and those persons subject to the Plan's management provisions because it implemented previous regional pest management strategies; and

(c) has the capacity, competency and expertise to implement the Plan.

How the Council will undertake its management responsibilities is set out in Section 5 (Pest Management framework) and in Part Three Section 8 (Procedures) of the Plan, and in the Council's Operational Plan.

3.2 Responsibilities of owners and/or occupiers

Pest management is an individual's responsibility in the first instance because generally occupiers contribute to the pest problem and in turn benefit from the control of pests. The term 'occupier' has a wide definition under the Act and includes–

- the person who physically occupies the place; and
- the owner of the place; and
- any agent, employee, or other person acting or apparently acting in the general management or control of the place.

Under the Act, place includes: any building, conveyance, craft, land or structure and the bed and waters of the sea and any canal, lake, pond, river or stream.

Owners and/or occupiers must manage pest populations at or below levels specified in the rules. If they fail to meet the rules' requirements, they may face legal action. In some instances, owners and/or occupiers must report pests to the Council. It is illegal to sell, propagate, distribute or keep pests.

An owner and/or occupier is not able to stop an authorised person from entering a place, at any reasonable time, to–

- find out whether pests are on the property;
- manage pests; or
- ensure the owner and/or occupier is complying with biosecurity law.

While the owner and/or occupier may choose the methods they will use to control any pests, they must also comply with the requirements under other legislation (e.g. the RMA and/or the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996.)

3.3 Crown agencies

Under section 69(5) of the Act, all land occupiers, including the Crown, must meet 'good neighbour rules' within regional pest management plans, as well as general rules. A good neighbour rule responds to the issues caused when a land occupier imposes unreasonable costs on an adjacent land occupier who is actively managing a certain pest, by not undertaking management, or sufficient management, of that pest.

This is an opportunity for the Council to promote more integrated and effective pest management, regardless of land tenure, and develop equity across occupiers. In common with other land occupiers, however, the Council may exempt the Crown from any requirement in a plan rule upon written request (refer section 8.3 of this Plan).

3.3.1 Department of Conservation

The Department of Conservation manages 146,973 hectares of Crown land in the Taranaki region (21% of the total land area) under the Reserves Act, the National Parks Act, and the Conservation Act.

The Department also has particular responsibilities and expertise in the management and prevention of spread of pest plants and pest animals that pose a threat to indigenous biodiversity, including pest fish such as Brown bull-headed catfish, under the Wild Animal Control Act, the Wildlife Act (see section 2.2.4), and the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations1983.[3]

3.3.2 Land Information New Zealand

Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) administers vacant and non-rateable land, as well as 4412 hectares of Crown Forestry Land in Taranaki[4]. LINZ also has responsibility for un-alienated Crown land and surplus railway land in the region.

3.3.3 KiwiRail

KiwiRail is, on behalf of the Crown, the owner and manager of New Zealand's railway infrastructure. There are approximately 215 kilometres of railway line in the Taranaki region accounting for 763 hectares of railway land.

Kiwirail is required to control pests on land that it administers, as set out in plan rules prescribed in Part Two of this Plan. In individual circumstances, the Council may, in accordance with section 8.3 of the Plan, exempt any person from any requirement included in a Plan rule.

3.3.4 New Zealand Transport Authority

The New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA) is the road controlling authority for 391 kilometres of state highways[5] in the Taranaki region. The land on which state highways lie, including those parts of road, roadway or road margin extending to adjacent property boundaries, accounts for approximately 1,278 hectares in the Taranaki region.

NZTA is required to control pests on land that it occupies, including all formed roads, roadways or road margins for which it is responsible, in accordance with the plan rules prescribed in Part Two of this Plan. In individual circumstances, the Council may, in accordance with section 8.3 of the Plan, exempt any person from any requirement included in a plan rule.

3.4 Territorial authorities

Three territorial authorities are wholly or partly contained within the Taranaki region. They are the South Taranaki District Council, Stratford District Council (excluding parts of the district that lie in the Whanganui catchment), and the New Plymouth District Council.

Each territorial authority will be bound by the rules in this Plan (with the exception of situations where adjoining land occupiers of road reserves are deemed responsible in accordance with section 3.5 below) Each territorial authority will be responsible for meeting its own costs of complying with this Plan.

Territorial authorities are occupiers of land (such as parks and reserves) and are road controlling authorities in their districts. Territorial authorities are jointly responsible for 3,504 kilometres of local roads in the Taranaki region.[6]

3.5 Road reserves

Road reserves include the land on which the formed road lies and the verge area that extends to adjacent property boundaries. The Act allows the option of making either roading authorities (NZ Transport Agency and district councils) or adjoining land occupiers responsible for pest management in road reserves (see s6(1) of the Act).

As such, the Council has decided that, for the purposes of this Plan, roadside responsibilities for pest animal and pest plant management lie with the roading

---

[3] *Particular pest fish are classified as "unwanted organisms" under the Act or as "noxious fish" under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983. The regulations make it an offence to obtain or keep in captivity any mosquito fish (Gambusia affinis), or to control or spread certain pest fish as specified in Schedule 3 including European carp, Japanese koi and Rudd. Part 8A also contains additional provisions for European carp and Japanese koi. Under sections 52 and 53 of the Act it is an offence to sell, distribute, or release "unwanted organisms" such as Brown bull-headed catfish, European carp, Gambusia, Japanese koi, and Rudd.*

[4] *Comprising the Te Wera block (TNPR23/51).*

5 Taranaki Regional Council 2015, Regional Land Transport Plan for Taranaki 2015/16-2020/21, p 10.

[6] *Taranaki Regional Council 2015, Regional Land Transport Plan for Taranaki 2015/16-2020/21, p 10.*

authorities where they apply to ‘formed’ roads. Pest animal and pest plant control on unformed (paper) roads occupied by other persons are the responsibility of the person physically occupying that land.

PART TWO: PEST MANAGEMENT

4. Organisms declared as pests

The organisms listed in Tables 1 and 2 below are classified as pests. The tables also indicate what management programme or programmes will apply to the pest and if a rule, including a Good Neighbour Rule (GNR), applies.

Attention is also drawn to:

- The general administrative **powers** of inspection and entry, contained in **Part 6 of the Act**, would be made available to the Council;
- The **statutory obligations** of any person under **sections 52 and 53 of the Act**. These sections ban anyone from selling, propagating or distributing any pest, or part of a pest, should they be specified as such in a Plan. Not complying with sections 52 and 53 is an **offence** under the Act and may result in the penalties noted in section 157(1); and
- **Exemptions** to any plan rule may apply under Section 78 of the Act.

Table 1: Animal organisms classified as pests

Common name	Scientific name	Programme	GNR	Page
Mustelids – ferret, stoat, weasel	*Mustela furo, Mustela ermine, Mustela nivalis*	Sustained Control		28~~XX~~
Possum	*Trichosurus vulpecula*	Sustained control	√	26~~25~~

Table 2: Plant organisms classified as pests

Common name	Scientific name	Programme	GNR	Page
Climbing spindleberry	*Celastrus orbiculatus*	Eradication		19
Giant reed	*Arundo donax*	Eradication		20
Madeira (Mignonette) vine	*Anredera cordifolia*	Eradication		21
Moth plant	*Araujia hortorum / A. sericifera*	Eradication		22
Senegal tea	*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*	Eradication		23
Giant buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*	Sustained Control	√	31~~27~~
Giant gunnera	*Gunnera manicata & G. tinctoria*	Sustained Control	√	32~~28~~
Gorse	*Ulex europeaus*	Sustained Control	√	34~~303~~
Nodding, Plumeless and Variegated thistles	*Carduus nutans, C. acanthoides, Silybum marianum*	Sustained Control	√	36~~32~~
Old man's beard	*Clematis vitalba*	Sustained Control	√	38~~34~~
Wild broom	*Cytisus scoparius*	Sustained Control	√	40~~36~~
Wild ginger (Kahili and Yellow)	*Hedychium gardnerianum* *Hedychium flavescens*	Sustained Control	√	42~~38~~
Yellow ragwort	*Jacobaea vulgaris*	Sustained Control	√	44~~40~~

5. Pest management framework

5.1 Pest management programmes

One or more pest management programmes will be used to control pests covered by this Plan. The types of programme are defined by the NPD and reflect outcomes in keeping with–

- the extent of the invasion; and
- whether it is possible to achieve the desired control levels for the pests.

The intermediate outcomes for the programme types relevant to this Plan are described below.

1. **Eradication Programme**: to reduce the infestation level of the subject, or an organism being spread by the subject, to zero levels in an area in the short to medium term.
2. **Sustained Control Programme**: to provide for ongoing control of the subject, or an organism being spread by the subject, to reduce its impacts on values and spread to other properties.

5.2 Objectives

Objectives have been set for each pest or class of pests. As required by the *National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015* (NPD), the objectives include-

- the particular adverse effect/s (s54(a) of the Act) to be addressed;
- the immediate outcomes of managing the pest;
- the geographic area to which the objective applies;
- the level of outcome, if applicable;
- the period for achieving the outcome; and
- the intended outcome in the first 10 years of the Plan (if the period is greater than 10 years).

5.3 Principal measures to manage pests

The principal measures used in the Plan to achieve the objectives are in four main categories. Each category contains a suite of tools to be applied in appropriate circumstances.

5.4 Requirement to act

Land occupiers or other persons may be required to act–

(a) Where plan rules dictate pests are to be controlled; and

(b) pursuant to restrictions under sections 52 and 53 of the Act, requiring persons not to release, spread, propagate, sell or distribute a pest.

The Council's powers to act through service delivery are set out in section 5.6 of this Plan.

5.5 Council inspection

Inspection by Council may include staff–

(a) visiting properties, undertaking monitoring, or doing surveys to determine whether pests are present, or rules and management programmes are complied with, or to identify areas that control programmes will apply to (places of value, exclusion zones, movement control areas);

(b) managing compliance to regulations (rule enforcement, action on default, prosecution, exemptions);

(c) taking limited control actions, where doing so is effective and cost efficient; or

(d) monitoring effectiveness of control.

5.6 Service delivery

Council may deliver the service–

(a) by undertaking direct control to facilitate the eradication of Climbing spindleberry, Giant reed, Madeira (Mignonette) vine, and Senegal tea

(b) in relation to the Self-Help Possum Control Programme;

(c) in relation to Key Native Ecosystems where the presence of the subject threatens regionally significant biodiversity values;

(d) by undertaking the direct control of any other pest or harmful organism as time and circumstances permit;

(e) by providing control tools (e.g. traps, chemicals), including sourcing and distributing biological agents, or provisions; and

(f) on a user pays basis.

For further information on surveillance, monitoring, and direct control actions to be taken and eradication targets, refer to sections 4 and 5 of the *Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy 2018–2038*.

5.7 Advocacy and education

Council may–

(a) provide general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to land owners and/or occupiers and the public about pests and pathways (and control of them);

(a) encourage land owners and/or occupiers to control pests;

(b) facilitate or fund community and land owners and/or occupier self-help groups and committees;

(c) help other agencies with control, advocacy, and the sharing or sourcing of funding;

(d) promote industry requirements and best practice to contractors and land owners and/or occupiers;

(e) encourage land owners and/or occupiers and other persons to report any pests they find or to control them; or

(f) facilitate or commission research.

5.8 Alternative pest management arrangements

Council may develop alternative management arrangements (i.e. management plans or memoranda of understanding (MOUs)) with agencies to establish agreed levels of service with those agencies, to act to control pests on their land, or to defer enforcement actions on rules in this Plan, in preference for pragmatic levels of service that achieve the objectives of the Plan.

5.9 Rules

Rules play an integral role in securing many of the pest management outcomes sought by the objectives of the Plan. They create a safety net to protect land owners and/or occupiers from the effects of the actions or inactions of others where non-regulatory means are inappropriate or do not succeed. Importantly, amendments to the Act arising from the *Biosecurity Law Reform Act 2012* now make the Crown bound by those rules identified as **Good Neighbour Rules** in plans.

Section 73(5) of the Act prescribes the matters that may be addressed by rules, and the need to–

(a) specify if the rule is to be designated as a 'Good Neighbour Rule';

(b) specify if breaching the rule is an offence under the Act;

(c) specify if an exemption to the rule, or any part of it, is allowable or not; and

(d) explain the purpose of the rule.

Rules can apply to owners and/or occupiers or to a person's actions in general.

The NPD and accompanying guidance notes include extra requirements for a new Good Neighbour Rule. Of particular note, the Good Neighbour Rule will–

(a) identify who the Good Neighbour Rule applies to– either all owners and/or occupiers, or a specified class of owner and/or occupier;

(b) identify the pest to be managed;

(c) state that the pest must already be present on the owner's and/or occupier's land;

(d) state that the owner and/or occupier of the adjacent or nearby land must, in the view of the management agency, be taking reasonable measures to manage the pest on their land; and

(e) (if relevant) state the particular values or uses of the neighbouring land that the pest's spread affects, and that the Good Neighbour Rule is intended to address.

6. Pest descriptions and programmes

The following section describes the pests, or groups of pests, to be managed under the Plan's management programmes, and their adverse effects. This section also describes any rules that will be used to achieve the management objectives.

For each pest listed the Act requires the Plan to describe the objective of pest management (see Section 5.2 above), and the principal measures used to achieve the objectives (see section 5.3 above).

The Plan also proposes various general and Good Neighbour Rules (see section 5.9 above), whose contravention will be an offence under the Act.

Eradication

The eradication programme covers organisms which are present in the region but infestations are limited in size or density, or eradication is a feasible and cost-effective solution to prevent a species becoming entrenched, and to protect future production or environmental values. The programme involves regular ongoing control to reduce infestations levels of the pests, in the short to medium term, to zero density levels across the region and across all habitats and properties. The Council has decided it is appropriate to be the lead agency or partner for eradicating these pests from the region.

6.1 Climbing spindleberry (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

6.1.1 Adverse effects

Climbing spindleberry (also known as Oriental bittersweet) is a deciduous, perennial, twining climber. It can spread vegetatively and by birds eating the fruit and depositing the seeds.

The plant seeds prolifically and is shade tolerant, allowing it to establish and spread quickly, forming dense colonies that compete with other plant species for soil moisture, nutrients and light. Once established, Climbing spindleberry is difficult to control and becomes very invasive.

Climbing spindleberry represents a particular threat to indigenous biodiversity and, to a lesser extent, plantation forests and farm shelterbelts. It can compete with and replace indigenous plants in disturbed or low forest, and on forest and riparian margins. Its density can affect the regeneration of indigenous flora, topple and kill small trees, and suppress desirable groundcovers. Preventing Climbing spindleberry from becoming established will reduce the possibility of more significant costs in the future.

Climbing spindleberry

6.1.2 Objective

Over the duration of the Plan eradicate Climbing spindleberry, by destroying all infestations known at the date the Plan becomes operative and, where practicable, destroy any new infestations that are identified, to prevent adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity and production forestry values in the Taranaki region.

6.1.3 Principal measures to achieve objective

To achieve the objective for Climbing spindleberry, the following principal measures will be applied:

Inspection and monitoring

The Council will inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of Climbing spindleberry to establish the extent of any infestations and to identify any remedial action that needs to be undertaken.

Advocacy and education

The Council will–

1. Provide advice and information to land occupiers and the general public to promote awareness and encourage the public reporting of any infestations;
2. Provide a broad suite of general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to other interested parties to prevent the introduction or spread of Climbing spindleberry; and
3. Undertake liaison and advocacy to promote effective integrated pest management

Service delivery

The Council will undertake direct control of Climbing spindleberry.

6.2 Giant reed (*Arundo donax*)

6.2.1 Adverse effects

Originally introduced into New Zealand as an ornamental garden plant, Giant reed is a tall, perennial, clump-forming bamboo-like grass with a dense root mass and short rhizomes.

Giant reed can grow up to eight metres tall. Usually grey-green in colour, it also has a variegated form, with white stripes. A plume-like flower-head is produced at the top of the stem in late summer. It is primarily spread by vegetative reproduction, either from underground rhizome extensions or from plant fragments transported by water, and both stems and rhizomes have the ability to propagate.

The plant can inhabit riparian and forest margins, scrub-land, production and regenerating indigenous forests and degraded pasture.

Once established it forms dense clumps, which exclude and/or compete with other plant species for soil moisture, nutrients and light. Giant reed represents a particular threat to indigenous biodiversity values along riparian, wetland and forest margins and can also cause problems in recreational areas and by obstructing drainage channels.

6.2.2 Objective

Over the duration of the Plan eradicate Giant reed (including the variegated form), by destroying all infestations known at the date the Plan becomes operative and, where practicable, destroy any new infestations that are identified, to prevent adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values in the Taranaki region.

6.2.3 Principal measures to achieve objective

To achieve the objective for Giant reed, the following principal measures will be applied:

Inspection and monitoring

The Council will inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of Giant reed (including the variegated form) to establish the extent of any infestations and to identify any remedial action that needs to be undertaken.

Advocacy and education

The Council will–

1. Provide advice and information to land occupiers and the general public to promote awareness and encourage the public reporting of any infestations;
2. Provide a broad suite of general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to other interested parties to prevent the introduction or spread of Giant reed; and
3. Undertake liaison and advocacy to promote effective integrated pest management.

Service delivery

The Council will undertake direct control of Giant reed (including the variegated form).

6.3 Madeira (Mignonette) vine *(Anredera cordifolia)*

6.3.1 Adverse effects

Madeira vine (also known as Mignonette vine) is a perennial climber arising from a fleshy rhizome. The plant has bright green fleshy leaves, long racemes of cream flowers from January to April, and warty stem tubers. It can grow up to seven metres high.

Originally widely distributed as an ornamental plant, Madeira vine has become a significant potential threat to indigenous biodiversity values. It reproduces through the shedding and spread of stem tubers and each tuber is capable of generating a new plant. Dumping garden waste or moving topsoil containing tubers have been the main cause of the plant's spread.

The preferred habitat of Madeira vine includes gardens, forest and riparian margins, disturbed and low indigenous forests, particularly in coastal areas. The plant is very invasive and can form dense colonies, which exclude and/or compete with other plant species for soil moisture, nutrients and light. Once established, it is very difficult to control.

6.3.2 Objective

Over the duration of the Plan eradicate Madeira (Mignonette) vine, by destroying all infestations known at the date the Plan becomes operative and, where practicable, destroy any new infestations that are identified, to prevent adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity and production forestry values in the Taranaki region.

6.3.3 Principal measures to achieve objective

To achieve the objective for Madeira (Mignonette) vine, the following principal measures will be applied:

Inspection and monitoring

The Council will inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of Madeira vine to establish the extent of any infestations and to identify any remedial action that needs to be undertaken.

Advocacy and education

The Council will–

1. Provide advice and information to land occupiers and the general public to promote awareness and encourage the public reporting of any infestations;
2. Provide a broad suite of general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to other interested parties to prevent the introduction or spread of Madeira vine; and
3. Undertake liaison and advocacy to promote effective integrated pest management.

Service delivery

The Council will undertake direct control of Madeira vine.

6.4 Moth plant (*Araujia hortorum / A. sericifer*

6.4.1 Adverse effects

Moth plant is a rampant, evergreen vine with sticky, white sap and twining flexible stems. It can grow up to 10 metres tall. The leaves are thick, somewhat wavy, triangular, smooth on the upper surface and downy underneath.

Clusters of pink-white flowers appear from December to May, followed by distinctive thick, leathery, pear-shaped, choko-like pods up to 10cm long and 7 cm through. The pods contain pulp, & the pods dry & split open to disperse numerous black, seeds with downy parachutes that drift long distances on air currents, establishing new infestations.

Moth plant grows rapidly and forms large, heavy, long-lived masses. It is tolerant of shade, very tolerant of drought or damp, wind, salt, many soil types, and damage, but is frost tender. The seeds are poisonous and irritant-inducing to some humans, and are not grazed by animals.

Moth plant invades almost any frost-free habitat, including intact and disturbed forest and margins, tracks, coastline, cliffs, shrub lands, mangroves, and inshore and offshore islands. It can germinate in light wells or semi-shade inside established forest, often long distances from seed sources, and smothers and kills plants up into the canopy, preventing the establishment of native plant species.

6.4.2 Objective

Over the duration of the Plan eradicate Moth plant, by destroying all infestations known at the date the Plan becomes operative and, where practicable, destroy any new infestations that are identified, to prevent adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values in the Taranaki region.

6.4.3 Principal measures to achieve objective

To achieve the objective for Moth plant, the following principal measures will be applied:

Inspection and monitoring

The Council will inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of Moth plant to establish the extent of any infestations and to identify any remedial action that needs to be undertaken.

Advocacy and education

The Council will–

1. Provide advice and information to land occupiers and the general public to promote awareness and encourage the public reporting of any infestations;
2. Provide a broad suite of general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to other interested parties to prevent the introduction or spread of Moth plant; and
3. Undertake liaison and advocacy to promote effective integrated pest management.

Service delivery

The Council will undertake direct control of Moth plant.

6.5 Senegal tea (*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*)

6.5.1 Adverse effects

Senegal tea is a perennial, semi-aquatic herb with dark green leaves and white flowers. The plant flowers in summer and autumn and may grow up to 1.5 metres in height. The plant has been widely distributed as an ornamental pond plant through the aquarium trade and has become an extremely aggressive freshwater weed.

It inhabits wetlands and still or flowing water and is spread both by vegetative fragmentation and seed dispersal. Stem fragments may be spread by water movement, deliberate plantings or by drainage machinery. Dispersal of seed is by water movement, or mud sticking to animals or machinery.

Senegal tea forms dense floating mats, which can quickly cover waterways or wetland areas causing a number of serious and unintended adverse effects. These include the displacement of traditional food sources of value to Maori, particularly watercress, and the smothering of submerged native flora species, which affects the habitat and food source of some fish species. Heavy infestations and the rotting of dead plants can diminish oxygen available to fish by reducing water circulation. They can also impede the flow of water, causing flooding (problems with flooding attributable to this plant have occurred elsewhere in New Zealand), and interfering with navigation and recreational activities.

6.5.2 Objective

Over the duration of the Plan eradicate Senegal tea by destroying all infestations known at the date the Plan becomes operative and, where practicable, destroy any new infestations that are identified, to prevent adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values in the Taranaki region.

6.5.3 Principal measures to achieve objective

To achieve the objective for Senegal tea, the following principal measures will be applied:

Inspection and monitoring

The Council will inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of Senegal tea to establish the extent of any infestations and to identify any remedial action that needs to be undertaken.

Advocacy and education

The Council will–

1. Provide advice and information to land occupiers and the general public to promote awareness and encourage the public reporting of any infestations;
2. Provide a broad suite of general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to other interested parties to prevent the introduction or spread of Senegal tea; and
3. Undertake liaison and advocacy to promote effective integrated pest management.

Service delivery

The Council will undertake direct control of Senegal tea.

Sustained Control

The sustained control programme covers pests that, because of their biological and pest characteristics, need to be controlled to levels where their impacts on the economic, environmental or social values are reduced cost-effectively and on an ongoing basis. The programme involves the imposition of rules and associated costs on organisations and individuals to maintain pest numbers below, or at, a level that addresses the negative impacts of the species on their neighbours. The effect of the rules may apply to the whole property, parts of the property (i.e. on its boundaries), the whole region, or parts of the region. Exemptions to any plan rule may apply under Section 78 of the Biosecurity Act. Public costs are incurred through the implementation of an inspectorial, monitoring and enforcement regime to ensure compliance.

6.6 Brushtail possums (Trichosurus vulpecula)

6.6.1 Adverse effects

The brushtail possum is an introduced marsupial animal widespread throughout New Zealand. A small to medium sized omnivore, the animal is nocturnal, with large ears, pointed face, close woolly fur, and bushy tail. Possums represent a major threat to the Taranaki region in terms of their actual or potential harmful effects on economic production and on indigenous biodiversity values.

Their main economic impact is reduced economic returns associated with agricultural production. Possums compete directly with livestock for pasture, reducing the carrying capacity of farmland and reducing farm income. Additionally, they can be a vector for Bovine tuberculosis, however a concerted and considerable investment into regional control has been successful in preventing the disease becoming endemic in the region (one of only three regions where this has been the case). Possums also cause substantial damage to plantation forests, indigenous vegetation and birds. The net overall result of possum infestations is a reduction in the vigour, density and diversity of native flora and fauna species.

Possum population densities within the region vary according to the topography, vegetation and history of control in any specific area. The highest possum population densities lie between forest and pasture where there is a plentiful supply of food and suitable habitat. In those areas where the Council has implemented the 'Self-help Possum Control Programme' (SHP) (refer below and in the *Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy 2018–2038*), possum numbers are very low and have been maintained at these low levels for a number of years. Possum numbers outside the Programme are significantly higher.

The Self-help Possum Control Programme has been running successfully since the early 1990s through the Council working with land owners to facilitate possum control.

As at 30 June 2016, effective and sustained control of possums has been achieved over approximately 241,344 hectares of farmland on the ring plain and coastal terraces. The level of control achieved is an average 6.13% residual trap catch - a figure well below the 10% target considered necessary to protect pastoral production and the vegetative canopy of remnant forests and wetlands. It has also contributed to increased bird life. More recently, the Council has extended its possum control activities into urban areas, in collaboration with New Plymouth District Council.

The Council will continue to support the Self-help programme and look at opportunities to expand the programme (where appropriate) working in collaboration with Predator Free 2050 Limited, as outlined in Section 7 of the *Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy 2018–2038*.

An indicative map of the Self-Help Possum Control Programme as at May 2017 can be located in Appendix B of this plan.

6.6.2 Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, sustainably control possum numbers on land within the Self-help Possum Control Programme, and elsewhere as appropriate, to avoid or minimise adverse effects on pastoral production, animal health, and indigenous biodiversity values in the Taranaki region.

6.6.3 Principal measures to achieve objective

To achieve the objective for possums, the following principal measures will be applied:

Requirement to act
Land occupiers will comply with the rules specified in this section of the Plan.
Extension programme
The Council will continue to implement the Self-help Possum Control Programme (SHP) and provide sustained possum control on the ring plain and coastal terraces by: 1. Undertaking initial possum control on rateable properties that lie in an area where at least 75% of land occupiers, covering at least 75% of the land area targeted, indicate, or have indicated,

that they wish to be included in the SHP and will accept land occupier obligations; and

2. Providing ongoing technical advice, information, and support to land occupiers in the SHP, including monitoring and enforcement of rules.

Inspection and monitoring

The Council will inspect and monitor properties in the SHP with suspected or confirmed infestations of possums to establish the extent of any infestations and to identify any remedial action that needs to be undertaken.

Advocacy and education

The Council will–

1. Provide advice and information to land occupiers in the SHP to coordinate possum control;
2. Provide a broad suite of general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to other interested parties to promote effective possum management; and
3. Undertake liaison and advocacy to promote effective integrated possum management.

Service delivery

The Council will –

1. Undertake additional initial direct control, as necessary, of possums on properties in the SHP;
2. Undertake additional initial direct control, as necessary, on properties in urban pest control programmes;
3. Undertake control operations of possums in areas surrounding Egmont National Park in conjunction with the Department of Conservation; and
4. Undertake site-led possum control on Key Native Ecosystems as part of an agreed site-led response.

Plan rules requiring land occupier and other persons to act

General Rule for the Self-Help Possum Control Programme

6.6.3.1 A land occupier in the Self-Help Possum Control Programme must maintain possum numbers present on their land to below a 10% residual trap catch.

Good Neighbour Rule

6.6.3.2 A land occupier must maintain possum numbers present on their land to below a 10% residual trap catch within 500 metres of their boundary:-

- to protect adjacent production and indigenous biodiversity values; **AND**
- where an adjacent land occupier is in the Self-Help Possum Control Programme and is maintaining possums present on their land to below a 10% residual trap catch, **AND**
- excepting any property or part of a property east of the Self-Help Possum Control Programme boundary or in an urban area.

Contravention of these rules creates an offence under section 154(N)(19) of the Act.

6.6A Mustelids (ferret, stoat and weasel)

Ferret (*Mustela furo*)

Stoat (*Mustela ermine*)

Weasel (*Mustela nivalis*)

Towards Predator Free Taranaki

As discussed in the possum programme (section 6.5), since the 1990s, the Council has been achieving effective sustained possum control over large parts of the Taranaki region through the Self-help Possum Control Programme.

With the implementation of the Towards Predator Free Taranaki programme (TPFT) across Taranaki, the Council aims to achieve the same for mustelid control.

The Council will identify Predator Control Areas where land occupiers in a locality agree to participate in the programme and undertake long term predator control maintenance.

Subject to 75% or more of land occupiers, covering at least 75% of the land area targeted, agreeing to be part of the programme, the Council will undergo initial predator control work within the Predator Control Area targeting mustelids (and rats.as a by kill)

After initial predator control work has been undertaken, occupiers within the area will be required (through the rule in this section) to ensure they undertake regular ongoing control to maintain mustelid populations at very low levels.

A Predator Control Area refers to areas identified as such once the 75% land area threshold has been reached and initial control work has been undertaken within the area.

Thereafter occupiers within that mapped area will be required to comply with the rule in this section of the Plan.

6.6.1A. Adverse effects

Ferrets, stoats, weasels are part of the mustelid family, which is a group of small to medium sized carnivores. Mustelids have large home ranges and are active day and night. They are opportunistic predators and have a strong musk odour.

Ferrets are the largest mustelid in New Zealand. Male ferrets grow up to 44cm and females up to 37cm in length. The undercoat is creamy yellow with long black guard hairs that give the ferret a dark appearance. A characteristic black face mask occurs across the eyes and above the nose.

Stoats have long, thin bodies with smooth pointed heads. Ears are short and rounded. They are smaller than ferrets. Males grow up to 30cm and females up to 25cm in length. Their fur is reddish- brown above with a white to yellowish underbelly. Stoats have relatively long tails with a distinctive bushy black tip.

Weasels are the smallest and least common mustelid in New Zealand. Males grow to about 20cm. Their fur is

brown with white undercoat, often broken by brown spots. Their tails are short, brown and tapering.

Mustelids were introduced in New Zealand in the 1880's in an attempt to manage growing rabbit populations. This introduction had minimal impact on rabbit densities.

Mustelids now pose a significant threat to our indigenous biodiversity, particularly indigenous fauna species. Skinks, flightless birds (such as kiwi) and birds that nest in holes (e.g. penguins and parakeet) are particularly vulnerable. Mustelids have been implicated in the extinction of some indigenous bird species and as the major cause of decline of many others.

Mustelids can also have considerable negative impact on primary production. Mustelids are a threat to poultry farms and carry parasites and toxoplasmosis, which can cause illness in humans and livestock. Ferrets are also a vector (carrier) of bovine tuberculosis.

Mustelids are distributed throughout the Taranaki region.

6.6.2A Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, sustainably control mustelids numbers on land within a Predator Control Area, and elsewhere as appropriate, to avoid or minimise adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values in the Taranaki region.

An indicative map of the Mustelid Predator Control Areas as at March 2021 can be located in Appendix B(a) of this plan.

6.6~~A~~.3A Principal measures

To achieve the objective for mustelids, the following principal measures will be applied:

Requirement to act

Land occupiers will comply with the rules specified in this section of the Plan.

Extension programme

Council will implement the *Towards Predator Free Taranaki* programme and provide sustained predator control on the ring plain and coastal terraces by

1. undertaking initial direct control on rateable properties that lie in an area where at least 75% of land occupiers, covering at least 75% of the land area targeted, indicate, or have indicated, that they wish to be included in a Predator Control Area and will accept land occupier obligations; installation and contribution to the cost of traps for land occupiers in the programme; and
2. providing ongoing technical advice, information, and support to land occupiers in the programme Predator Control Area.

Inspection and monitoring

Council will inspect and monitor properties in Predator Control Areas for land occupier compliance with the Plan rule and to identify any remedial action that needs to be undertaken

Advocacy and education

Council will:

1. provide advice and information to land occupiers in Predator Control Areas to coordinate and promote effective mustelid control;
2. provide a broad suite of general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to other interested parties to promote effective predator control; and
3. undertake liaison and advocacy to promote effective integrated predator control.

Service delivery

Council will:

1. undertake additional initial direct control, as necessary, of mustelids on properties in Predator Control Areas;
2. undertake additional initial direct control, as necessary, on properties in urban predator control programmes; and
3. undertake site-led predator control on Key Native Ecosystems as part of an agreed site-led response.

~~; AND~~

Plan rules

Plan rule 3: General Rule for Predator Control Areas

A land occupier within a Predator Control Area must maintain ferrets, stoats, and weasels numbers present on their land by:

(a) servicing permanent mustelid traps a minimum of eight times per calendar year and record trap catch information in the TrapNZ database;; AND

(b) servicing any activated 'remote sensor mustelid trap' within 30 days of activation.

Note:

'Servicing' means the removal of dead animals, inspection of trap to make sure it is functioning properly, grass/obstacles removed from around the trap entrance and trap rebaited with fresh bait.

'Remote sensor mustelid traps' refers to kill traps fitted with remote sensor technology capable of sending trap catch information to the user wirelessly.

6.7 Giant buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*)

6.7.1 Adverse effects

Giant buttercup is a rhizomatous perennial plant with deeply segmented leaves. From early summer the plant has yellow flowers on branched stems up to a metre tall.

Giant buttercup is very free seeding, with the hooked seeds being spread by water, animals and in silage and hay. The plant's preferred habitat is in pasture and along roadsides, particularly in areas with high rainfall.

Sheep will eat giant buttercup, however the plant is seasonably unpalatable to cattle so infestations of giant buttercup can quickly overwhelm other pasture species in dairying areas thereby reducing pasture and dairy production. Once established in pasture, the plant can be costly and difficult to control.

6.7.2 Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, sustainably control Giant buttercup to avoid or minimise adverse effects on dairy and beef pastoral production in the Taranaki region.

6.7.3 Principal measures to achieve objective

To achieve the objective for Giant buttercup, the following principal measures will be applied:

Requirement to act

Land occupiers will comply with the rules specified in this section of the Plan.

Inspection and monitoring

The Council will inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of Giant buttercup to establish the extent of any boundary infestations and to identify any remedial action that needs to be undertaken.

Advocacy and education

The Council will–

1. Provide advice and information to land occupiers to promote effective control;
2. Provide a broad suite of general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to other interested parties to prevent spread of Giant buttercup; and
3. Undertake liaison and advocacy to promote effective integrated pest management

Plan rules requiring land occupiers and other persons to act

Good Neighbour Rule

6.7.3.1 A land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all Giant buttercup present on their land within five (5) metres of their property boundary

- to protect adjacent dairy and beef production values; **AND**
- where an adjacent land occupier is managing Giant buttercup within five (5) metres of their property boundary.

Contravention of this rule creates an offence under section 154(N)(19) of the Act.

6.8 Giant gunnera (*Gunnera tinctoria*; *G. manicata*)

6.8.1 Adverse effects

All giant gunnera species and hybrids, including *Gunnera manicata* and *Gunnera tinctoria,*[7] are covered by this Plan. Giant gunnera species share many of the same features and are commonly mistaken for one another.

Giant gunnera is a giant, clump-forming, herbaceous perennial with massive umbrella-sized leaves and stems up to two metres tall. It was a popular ornamental garden plant used extensively in bog gardens, however it has become invasive in several areas of New Zealand, including Taranaki.

Giant gunnera is a very free-seeding plant with the seeds being spread by water and birds. It represents a particular threat to indigenous biodiversity values, particularly in coastal, wetland and riparian areas. Once established the plants form dense colonies that can suppress the regeneration of indigenous flora. The presence of Giant gunnera in Key Native Ecosystems and other areas of high conservation value, could have a disproportionately high impact on such areas, possibly impacting upon rare and endangered indigenous flora and fauna species.

Occasionally Giant gunnera causes the obstruction or infestation of production forestry and recreational areas.

6.8.2 Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, sustainably control Giant gunnera to avoid or minimise adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values in the Taranaki region.

6.8.3 Principal measures to achieve objective

To achieve the objective for Giant gunnera, the following principal measures will be applied:

Requirement to act

Land occupiers will comply with the rules specified in this section of the Plan.

Inspection and monitoring

The Council will inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of Giant gunnera to establish the extent of any infestations and to identify any remedial action that needs to be undertaken.

Advocacy and education

The Council will–

1. Provide advice and information to land occupiers to promote effective control;
2. Provide a broad suite of general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to other interested parties to prevent the spread of Giant gunnera and encourage its control; and
3. Undertake liaison and advocacy to promote effective integrated pest management.

Service delivery

The Council will undertake direct control of Giant gunnera in Key Native Ecosystems as part of an agreed site-led response.

[7] *Giant gunnera is also known as Chilean Rhubarb.*

Plan rules requiring land occupier and other persons to act
General rule
6.8.3.1 A private land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all Giant gunnera present on their land to protect indigenous biodiversity values.
Good Neighbour Rule
6.8.3.2 A Crown land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all Giant gunnera present on their land within 500 metres of their property boundary- - to protect adjacent indigenous biodiversity values; **AND** - where the adjacent land occupier is managing Giant gunnera within 500 metres of their property boundary.
Contravention of these rules create an offence under section 154(N)(19) of the Act.

6.9 Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)

6.9.1 Adverse effects

Gorse is a deep-rooted, woody perennial shrub with sharp spikes.

The plant may grow up to four metres in height and has yellow flowers, which may appear all year, followed by black seed pods. Gorse seeds are primarily ballistic and can be ejected up to five metres from their pods. However, the seeds can also be spread by water or animals, or via human activities such as road works and gravel extraction and distribution.

Gorse seeds can remain viable in the soil for many decades. The plant's biological characteristics and its ability to grow almost anywhere mean that the plant can be a serious problem over large areas, including pasture, riparian zones, roadside margins, scrub-land, forest margins and coastal habitats.

The impact of Gorse is principally on agricultural production. Gorse forms dense spiny thickets, capable of totally suppressing pasture or restricting stock grazing in affected areas. Although Gorse does have benefits as a nursery plant for native species, the impacts on farm productivity, and the cost to land occupiers to control gorse may be significant. This is particularly the case on properties that are only marginally financially sustainable.

6.9.2 Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, sustainably control Gorse to avoid or minimise adverse effects on pastoral or forestry production values in the Taranaki region.

6.9.3 Principal measures to achieve objective

To achieve the objective for Gorse, the following principal measures will be applied:

Requirement to act

Land occupiers will comply with the rules specified in this section of the Plan.

Inspection and monitoring

The Council will inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of Gorse to establish the extent of any infestations and to identify any remedial action that needs to be undertaken.

Advocacy and education

The Council will–

1. Provide advice and information to land occupiers and the general public to promote awareness and encourage the public reporting of any infestations;
2. Provide a broad suite of general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to other interested parties to prevent the spread of Gorse; and
3. Undertake liaison and advocacy to promote effective integrated pest management.

Service delivery

The Council will-

1. Undertake biological control; and
2. Undertake direct control of Gorse in Key Native Ecosystems as part of an agreed site-led response.

Plan rules requiring land occupier and other persons to act

Good Neighbour Rule

6.9.3.1 A land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all Gorse present on their land within 10 metres of their property boundary-

- to protect adjacent pastoral or forestry production values; **AND**
- where the adjacent land occupier is managing Gorse within 10 metres of their property boundary **AND**
- excepting any property or part of a property in an urban area.

Contravention of this rule creates an offence under section 154(N)(19) of the Act.

6.10 Nodding, Plumeless and Variegated thistles (*Carduus nutans*, *C. acanthoides*, *Silybum marianum*)

6.10.1 Adverse effects

Nodding, Plumeless and Variegated thistles are largely biennial plants.

Nodding thistle forms a large flat rosette then has flowering stems up to 1.5 metres tall with a long fleshy taproot. The large purple flower heads droop or 'nod' when mature.

Plumeless thistle is similar to Nodding thistle but grows taller (up to two metres tall) and has smaller flower heads that stay erect. The plants require the same control measures. Variegated thistle is spiny and easily recognised by cream marks on its leaves, which give it a variegated appearance.

All three thistles are extremely invasive pasture plants and are avoided by cattle and sheep. They will grow in most soil types and, owing to the mixed age and size of the plants, are difficult and costly to control. If not controlled, the thistles form dense stands that suppress pasture and obstruct livestock movement. Thistle fragments and spines may also injure livestock, damage the fleeces or hides of livestock, and may cause 'scabby mouth' in lambs.

Variegated thistle matures very rapidly, seeds prolifically, and is spread by wind and animals. It grows best on high fertility soils in pasture, along roadside margins, and in other unused areas. The broad leaves smother pasture and create bare ground for its seeds to germinate.

Variegated thistle

Nodding & Plumeless thistles

6.10.2 Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, sustainably control Nodding, Plumeless and Variegated thistles to avoid or minimise adverse effects on dairying and sheep and beef production in the Taranaki region.

6.10.3 Principal measures to achieve objective

To achieve the objective for Nodding, Plumeless and Variegated thistles, the following principal measures will be applied:

Requirement to act

Land occupiers will comply with the rules specified in this section of the Plan.

Inspection and monitoring

The Council will inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of Nodding, Plumeless or Variegated thistles to establish the extent of any infestations and to identify any remedial action that needs to be undertaken.

Advocacy and education

The Council will–

1. Provide advice and information to land occupiers to promote effective control;
2. Provide a broad suite of general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to other interested parties to prevent the spread of Nodding, Plumeless and Variegated thistles; and
3. Undertake liaison and advocacy to promote effective integrated pest management.

Service delivery

The Council will-

1. Undertake biological control; and
2. Undertake direct control of thistles in Key Native Ecosystems as part of an agreed site-led response.

Plan rules requiring land occupier and other persons to act

Good Neighbour Rules

6.10.3.1 A land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all Nodding and Plumeless thistles present on their land within 100 metres of their property boundary-

- to protect adjacent dairying and sheep and beef production values; **AND**

- where the adjacent land occupier is managing Nodding and Plumeless thistles within 100 metres of their property boundary.

6.10.3.2 A land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all Variegated thistles present on their land within five (5) metres of their property boundary-

- to protect adjacent dairying and sheep and beef production values; **AND**

- where the adjacent land occupier is managing Variegated thistles within five (5) metres of their property boundary.

Contravention of these rules creates an offence under section 154(N)(19) of the Act.

6.11 Old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*)

6.11.1 Adverse effects

Old man's beard is a deciduous, woody, perennial climber that may reach 25 metres in height. In summer it has creamy white flowers followed by 'fluffy' seed heads in autumn and winter. The plant grows in well-drained alluvial soils and can occupy a wide range of habitats including riparian margins, forest remnants, gardens, and hedgerows. Wind, water and birds disperse the seeds.

Old man's beard is recognised as the most damaging pest climber in New Zealand and it is a significant threat to indigenous biodiversity values in the region. It has the potential to infest most lowland forested areas (750 metres or less above sea level) of Taranaki and is particularly troublesome in second growth or damaged indigenous forests (typical of many of the small but important remnant areas on the ring plain).

One plant is capable of blanketing an area up to 180 square metres. The plant climbs high into the canopy, forming a thick blanket of growth, which prevents light reaching the support trees, eventually smothering and killing them. Old man's beard also prevents the establishment of native seedlings.

6.11.2 Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, sustainably control Old man's beard to avoid or minimise adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity and production forestry values in the Taranaki region.

6.11.3 Principal measures to achieve objective

To achieve the objective for Old man's beard, the following principal measures will be applied:

Requirement to act

Land occupiers will comply with the rules specified in this section of the Plan.

Extension programme (Waingongoro Old man's beard programme)

The Council will incrementally implement the Waingongoro Old man's beard Programme to:

1. Undertake initial Old man's beard control along the mid and lower reaches; and
2. Provide ongoing technical advice, information, and support to land occupiers in the programmes, including monitoring and enforcement of rules.

Inspection and monitoring

TheCouncil will inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of Old man's beard to establish the extent of any infestations and to identify any remedial action that needs to be undertaken.

Advocacy and education

The Council will–

1. Provide advice and information to land occupiers and the general public to promote effective control;
2. Provide a broad suite of general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to other interested parties to prevent the spread of Old man's beard and encourage its control; and
3. Undertake liaison and advocacy to promote effective integrated pest management

Service delivery

The Council will -

1. Undertake biological control;
2. Incrementally undertake initial direct control of Old man's beard along the Waingongoro River south of Opunake Road;
3. Undertake direct control of Old man's beard in Key Native Ecosystems as part of an agreed site-led response;
4. Investigate the undertaking of direct control along the mid to lower parts of the Patea River.

Plan rules requiring land occupier and other persons to act

General Rule

6.11.3.1 A private land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all Old man's beard on their property, **EXCEPT**:

- any parts of a property that lie within 50 metres from the middle of the Waingongoro River south of Opunake Road and for which the Council has not completed its initial control programme; **AND**

- any parts of a property that lie within 50 metres from the middle of the Patea River east of State Highway 3.

Good Neighbour Rule

6.11.3.2 A Crown land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all Old man's beard present on their land within 10 metres of their property boundary-

- to protect adjacent indigenous biodiversity values; **AND**

- where the adjacent land occupier is managing Old man's beard within 10 metres of their property boundary.

Contravention of these rules creates an offence under section 154(N)(19) of the Biosecurity Act.

6.12 Wild broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

6.12.1 Adverse effects

Wild broom is a multi-branched shrub that grows up to 2.5 metres tall. The plant has bright yellow flowers throughout October and November and these are followed by flat, dark seed pods. The seeds are ballistic and animals and flowing water also have a role in their dispersal.

Wild broom seeds prolifically and can grow under a wide variety of soil and climatic conditions. The plant is principally a problem in pastoral situations where it forms thickets and shades out pasture grasses, affecting agricultural production and imposing costs of control on the occupier.

Wild broom can also invade and modify semi-open indigenous ecosystems such as riparian areas. In some areas, Wild broom may affect aesthetic or recreational values, by inhibiting access to riparian margins or reducing indigenous biodiversity values generally.

6.12.2 Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, sustainably control Wild broom to avoid or minimise adverse effects on dairying, sheep and beef, and forestry production in the Taranaki region.

6.12.3 Principal measures to achieve objective

To achieve the objective for Wild broom, the following principal measures will be applied:

Requirement to act

Land occupiers will comply with the rules specified in this section of the Plan.

Inspection and monitoring

The Council will inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of Wild broom to establish the extent of any infestations and to identify any remedial action that needs to be undertaken.

Advocacy and education

The Council will–

1. Provide advice and information to land occupiers and the general public to promote effective control of Wild broom;
2. Provide a broad suite of general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to other interested parties to prevent the spread of Wild broom; and
3. Undertake liaison and advocacy to promote effective integrated pest management.

Service delivery

The Council will

1. Undertake biological control; and
2. Undertake direct control of Wild broom in Key Native Ecosystems as part of an agreed site-led response.

Plan rules requiring land occupier and other persons to act

Good Neighbour Rule

6.12.3.1 A land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all Wild broom present on their land within 10 metres of their property boundary-

- to protect adjacent dairying, sheep and beef or forestry production values; **AND**

- where the adjacent land occupier is managing Wild broom within 10 metres of their property boundary.

Contravention of this rule creates an offence under section 154(N)(19) of the Biosecurity Act.

6.13 Wild ginger (Yellow and Kahili) (Hedychium gardnerianum; H. flavescens)

6.13.1 Adverse effects

Kahili ginger and Yellow ginger share many of the same features and, when not in flower, are often mistaken for one another. Yellow ginger flowers are cream coloured and are seen late autumn and early winter. Kahili ginger flowers are lemon yellow with red centre stamens and are seen during the late summer and early autumn followed by red seeds. The leaves are wider than that of Yellow ginger.

Both varieties can grow up to two metres or more and produce many branching rhizomes, which spread outwards and over themselves to create a rhizome bed a metre or more deep. In addition to branching rhizomes, Kahili ginger also produces up to 100 seeds per flower head, making it a more prolific spreader than Yellow ginger.

Kahili and yellow ginger are ecologically versatile plants that are extremely difficult to control or eradicate once established. Once popular garden plants, both gingers are now generally considered to be insidious, and have a significant impact on indigenous biodiversity values. Once established in indigenous forested areas and other habitats, the tough rhizomes form a solid web over large areas smothering and replacing under-storey species and seedlings. Kahili ginger and Yellow ginger can suppress indigenous regeneration by up to 90%, however, Kahili ginger is the more invasive plant given its seeding ability.

Kahili ginger and yellow ginger can also block streams and drains and obstruct walking tracks, reducing access to some recreational and conservation areas and the aesthetic appeal of such areas.

6.13.2 Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, sustainably control Wild ginger (Yellow and Kahili) to avoid or minimise adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity in the Taranaki region.

6.13.3 Principal measures to achieve objective

To achieve the objective for Wild ginger, the following principal measures will be applied:

Requirement to act

Land occupiers will comply with the rules specified in this section of the Plan.

Inspection and monitoring

The Council will inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of Wild ginger (Yellow and Kahili) to establish the extent of any infestations and to identify any remedial action that needs to be undertaken.

Advocacy and education

The Council will–

1. Provide advice and information to land occupiers and the general public to promote effective control;
2. Provide a broad suite of general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to other interested parties to prevent the spread of Wild ginger (Yellow and Kahili) and encourage its control; and
3. Undertake liaison and advocacy to promote effective integrated pest management.

Service delivery

The Council will undertake direct control of Wild ginger (Yellow and Kahili) on Key Native Ecosystems as part of an agreed site-led response.

Plan rules requiring land occupier and other persons to act

General Rule

6.13.3.1 A private land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all Yellow

ginger and Kahili ginger present on their land.

Good Neighbour Rule for Yellow Ginger

6.13.3.2 A Crown land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all Wild ginger (Yellow) present on their land within five (5) metres of their property boundary-

- to protect indigenous biodiversity values; **AND**
- where the adjacent land occupier is managing Wild ginger (Yellow) within five (5) metres of their property boundary.

Good Neighbour Rule for Kahili Ginger

6.13.3.3 A Crown land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all Wild ginger (Kahili) present on their land within 1,000 metres of their property boundary-

- to protect indigenous biodiversity values **AND**
- where the adjacent land occupier is managing Wild ginger (Kahili) within 1,000 metres of their property boundary.

Contravention of these rules creates an offence under section 154(N)(19) of the Biosecurity Act.

6.14 Yellow ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*)

6.14.1 Adverse effects

Yellow ragwort is a herbaceous biennial or perennial with conspicuous yellow flowers during summer.

The majority of plants flower in their second season, from December to March, followed by mature seeds a few weeks after the first appearance of flowers. A large plant can produce 150,000 seeds in one season. It commonly grows 45 to 60 centimetres high.

Yellow ragwort can be a serious pasture weed, found in pasture, riparian margins, open forests, swamps and other habitats. Once established, the plant has the ability to spread rapidly and invade 'clean' pasture areas. It seeds freely and is dispersed principally by wind and, to a lesser extent, by water and animals, and in hay.

Yellow ragwort is a particular problem in dairying and beef parts of Taranaki. Heavy infestations will reduce pasture production, thereby reducing the carrying capacity of dairy land, and imposing added farm production costs on the occupier. Ragwort is readily eaten by sheep.

Ragwort is toxic to cattle, horses and deer so they avoid the plant and pasture nearby. This enhances the smothering effects of the plant and further reduces pasture utilisation.

6.14.2 Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, sustainably control Yellow ragwort to avoid or minimise adverse effects on dairy or beef production values in the region.

6.14.3 Principal measures to achieve objective

To achieve the objective for Yellow ragwort, the following principal measures will be applied:

Requirement to act

Land occupiers will comply with the rules specified in this section of the Plan.

Inspection and monitoring

The Council will inspect and monitor properties with suspected or confirmed infestations of Yellow ragwort to establish the extent of any infestations and to identify any remedial action that needs to be undertaken.

Advocacy and education

The Council will–

1. Provide advice and information to land occupiers and the general public to promote effective control of Yellow ragwort;
2. Provide a broad suite of general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to other interested parties to prevent the spread of Yellow ragwort; and
3. Undertake liaison and advocacy to promote effective integrated pest management

Service delivery

The Council will undertake biological control of Yellow ragwort.

Plan rules requiring land occupier and other persons to act

General Rule

6.14.3.1 A private land occupier west of the Pest Management Line as identified in Appendix A of the Plan must destroy all Yellow ragwort on their land, **EXCEPT**:

- Any Crown land in which case 6.14.3.2 applies.

Good Neighbour Rule

6.14.3.2 A Crown land occupier within the Taranaki region, or land occupier east of the Pest Management Line as identified in Appendix A of the Plan, must destroy all Yellow ragwort present on their land within 20 metres of their property boundary-

- to protect adjacent dairying or beef production values; **AND**

- where the adjacent land occupier is managing Yellow ragwort within 20 metres of their property boundary.

Contravention of these rules creates an offence under section 154(N)(19) of the Biosecurity Act.

7. Actual or potential effects of implementation

Given its longstanding experience in pest management, the Council is satisfied that the overall effects of the Plan will be beneficial to the regional community. While the Council is confident that a Plan is an effective way of managing pests, there are some aspects of the implementation of the Plan that may have real or perceived adverse effects.

7.1 Effects on Māori

It is hoped that pest animal and plant management under the Plan will have a positive effect on the relationship of Māori with their culture and traditions, and their ancestral lands, waters, sites, wāhi tapu, and taonga, by contributing to the protection of taonga and mauri associated with indigenous biodiversity, landscapes, and waterways.

Positive results stemming from the Plan can include improved quality of traditional food gathering sites (eg wetlands and estuaries), and improved availability of native plant resources for food, fibre, and the purposes of rongoā.

It is acknowledged that wild animals such as deer, pigs, and goats are valued as replacements for traditional hunting resources. However, none of these species are priorities for pest control under the Plan, and therefore the effect of the Plan on the regional availability of these hunting resources will be minimal.

7.2 Effects on the environment

This Plan will enhance and protect the ecological environment including natural ecosystems and processes, soil health and water quality, by removing, reducing, or managing the pest species that threaten it. The use of control tools such as toxins or traps can negatively affect indigenous wildlife. The Council actively participates in current research and training that aims to minimise the non-target effects of pest control, and readily adopts best practice methods for poisoning and trapping operations.

Enjoyment of the cultural environment will also be enhanced where pest management overlaps with amenity and recreational values. The economic environment will experience some benefit as a result of suppressing or eradicating pests that impact on primary productivity. In addition, the tourism industry (domestic and international) is expected to gain from this Plan through enhancement of the natural areas utilised by visitors.

7.3 Effects on overseas marketing of New Zealand products

The control of pests in areas of high natural value (including Key Native Ecosystems), in conjunction with the *Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy 2018–2038,* should increase the recreational and aesthetic values associated with these areas, which may have a positive impact on international tourism.

The provisions of this Plan do not replace other legislation or regulations relating to the use of toxins and impacts on Māori culture and traditions, and public health and safety. The Council shall monitor and report on any impacts arising through the use of toxins through systems and processes established under the relevant legislation. The Council will also routinely record and report any adverse effects arising from its direct control operations, including non-target kills.

The use of best practice methods when applying toxins and employment of the mixed method of control should mitigate any threat to the marketing of New Zealand products. Moreover the volume of exports may be improved through increased productivity by managing pests that affect agriculture, horticulture, and forestry.

PART THREE: PROCEDURES

8. Powers conferred

8.1 Powers of authorised persons under Part 6 of the Act

The Principal Officer (Chief Executive) of the Council may appoint authorised persons to exercise the functions, powers, and duties under the Act in relation to a Plan.

The Council will use those statutory powers of Part 6 of the Act as shown in Table 3~~Table 3~~ below, where necessary, to help implement this Plan.

Table 3**:** Powers from Part 6 to be used

Administrative provisions	Biosecurity Act Reference
The appointment of authorised and accredited persons	Sections 103(3) and (7)
Delegation to authorised persons	Section 105
Power to require assistance	Section 106
Power of inspections and duties	Sections 109, 110 & 112
Power to record information	Section 113
General powers	Sections 114 & 114A
Use of dogs and devices	Section 115
Power to seize abandoned goods	Section 119
Power to intercept risk goods	Section 120
Power to examine organisms	Section 121
Power to give directions	Section 122
Power to act on default	Section 128
Liens	Section 129
Declaration of restricted areas	Section 130
Declaration of controlled areas	Section 131
Options for cost recovery	Section 135
Failure to pay	Section 136

Note: The Council's standard operating procedures document sets out the procedures the Council will follow when land owners and/or occupiers or other persons do not comply with the rules or other general duties.

8.2 Powers under other sections of the Act

A land occupier or any person in breach of a plan rule creates an offence under section 154N(19) of the Act, where the rule provides for this. The Council can seek prosecution under section 157(5) of the Act for those offences.

A Chief Technical Officer (employed under the State Sector Act 1988) may appoint authorised people to implement other biosecurity law considered necessary. One example is where restrictions on selling, propagating and distributing pests (under sections 52 and 53 of the Act) must be enforced. Another example is where owners and/or occupiers of land are asked for information (under section 43 of the Act).

8.3 Power to issue exemptions to plan rules

Any land occupier or other person may write to the Council to seek an exemption from any provision of a plan rule set out in Part Two of the Plan. However, a rule may state that no exemptions will be considered, or it may limit the circumstances to which exemptions apply (eg, scientific purposes).

The requirements in section 78 of the Act must be met for a person to be granted an exemption. Council's operating procedures must also note those requirements in full. The requirements are:

(a) The council is satisfied that granting the exemption will not significantly prejudice the attainment of the plan's objectives; and

(b) The council is satisfied that 1 or more of the following applies:

(c) The requirement has been substantially complied with and further compliance is unnecessary;

(d) The action taken on, or provision made for, the matter to which the requirement relates is as effective as, or more effective than, compliance with the requirement:

(e) The requirement is clearly unreasonable or inappropriate in the particular case:

(f) Events have occurred that make the requirement unnecessary or inappropriate in the particular case.

The Council will keep and maintain a register that records the number and nature of exemptions granted (including any agreed Management Plans or alternative pest management arrangements). The public will be able to inspect this register during business hours.

9. Monitoring

9.1 Measuring what the objectives are achieving

The Council shall monitor the extent to which the objectives set out in Part Two of this Plan are being achieved by:

(a) annually mapping the implementation of the Self-help Possum Control Programme;

(b) monitoring possum population densities and trends, over time, in areas included in the Self-help Possum Control Programme;

(ba) annually mapping the implementation of the Towards Predator Free Taranaki programme, including establishment of Predator Control Areas;

(bb) monitoring mustelid population densities and trends, over time, in areas included in the Predator Control Areas;

(c) developing agreed collaborative monitoring, reporting and management programmes addressing possum and mustelid control within Te Papakura o Taranaki;

(d) monitor, for each pest, the effectiveness of direct control undertaken by the Council;

(e) recording the number of public complaints pertaining to individual pests and instances of non-compliance with the plan rules; and

(f) recording the number of public enquiries in relation to individual pests, including requests for information.

(g) annually surveying at release sites and mapping the distribution of biological control agents.

9.2 Monitoring the management agency's performance

The Council is the management agency. As the management agency responsible for implementing the Plan, the Council will–

(a) prepare an operational plan within three months of the Plan being approved;

(b) review the operational plan, and amend it if needed;

(c) report on the operational plan each year, within five months after the end of each financial year; and

(d) maintain up-to-date databases of complaints, pest levels and densities, and correspondence from Regional Council and land owners and/or occupiers.

9.3 Monitoring plan effectiveness

Monitoring the effects of the Plan will ensure that it continues to achieve its purpose. It will also check that relevant circumstances have not changed to such an extent that the Plan requires review. A review may be needed if:

(a) the Act is changed, and a review is needed to ensure that the Plan is not inconsistent with the Act;

(b) other harmful organisms create, or have the potential to create, problems that can be resolved by including those organisms in the Plan;

(c) monitoring shows the problems from pests or other organisms to be controlled (as covered by the Plan) have changed significantly; or

(d) circumstances change so significantly that the Council believes a review is appropriate.

If the Plan does not need to be reviewed under such circumstances, it will be reviewed in line with s100D of the Act. Such a review may extend, amend, or revoke the Plan, or leave it unchanged.

The procedures to review the Plan will include officers of the Council–

(e) assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the principal measures specified for each pest and other organism (or pest group or organisms) to be controlled to achieve the objectives of the Plan;

(f) assessing the impact the pest or organism (covered by the Plan) has on the region, and any other harmful organisms that should be considered for inclusion in the Plan; and

(g) liaising with Crown agencies, territorial authorities, iwi authorities and key interest groups, on the effectiveness of the Plan.

9.4 Monitoring other effects of this Plan

The provisions of this Plan do not replace other legislation or regulations relating to the use of toxins, impacts on Maori culture and traditions, and public health and safety. Where appropriate, the Council shall monitor and report on any impacts arising through the use of toxins through systems and processes established under the Resource Management Act[8]. The Council will also routinely record and report any adverse effects arising from its direct control operations, including non-target kills.

Agencies other than the Council are more likely to undertake monitoring and respond to any problems under the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act, and the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997.

9.5 Plan Review

The Council may review the Plan or any part of it, if it believes circumstances or management objectives have changed sufficiently. However, where the Plan has been in force for ten years or more and the Plan has not been reviewed within the last ten years, then the Council must review the Plan. A review may also become necessary if the Council or the Environment Court considers the Plan is inconsistent with any requirements of an operative NPD.

A Council can make minor amendments to the Plan without needing a review. Any minor amendment:

(i) Must not significantly affect any person's rights and obligations; and

(ii) Must not be inconsistent with the NPD.

A review may result in no change to the Plan, or may extend its duration.

[8] *Including the Resource Management (Exemption) Regulations 2017.*

10. Funding

10.1 Introduction

The Act requires that funding is thoroughly examined. This includes the reason for, and source of, all funding.

10.2 Funding sources and reasons for funding

The Biosecurity Act 1993 and the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 require that funding is sought from–

- people who have an interest in the Plan;
- those who benefit from the Plan; and
- those who contribute to the pest problem.

Funding must be sought in a way that reflects economic efficiency and equity. Those seeking funds should also target those funding the Plan and the costs of collecting funding.

10.3 Anticipated costs to the Council of implementing the Plan

The anticipated costs to the Council of implementing the Plan reflect a similar level of pest management funding to previous years. The Council expects that the relative cost of pest management will be similar for the duration of the Plan.

The funding of the implementation of the Plan is from a region-wide general rate set and assessed under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, and in determining this, the Council has had regard to those matters outlined in Section 100T of the Biosecurity Act.

10.3.1 General rate and investment revenue

Private land occupiers will contribute to the programmes identified in this Plan through a proportion of the general rate that is levied on every separately rateable property in the region under Section 33 of the Rating Powers Act 1988, and a proportion of the Council's investment revenue.

10.3.2 Recovery of direct costs

The Council will recover costs for a particular function or service under section 135 of the Act. In the event that the Council incurs costs arising from a land occupier's failure to comply with a notice of direction, the Council may:

- recover actual and reasonable costs associated with additional inspections for pest infestations; and
- recover actual and reasonable costs associated with undertaking the control of pest infestations.

The amount of money recovered from direct charges will vary from year-to-year depending on the number of cost recovery pest plant control operations undertaken, if any. Table 4~~Table 4~~ below sets out the indicative income and costs for the Plan, up until 2020/2021. The figures include the effect of inflation. Funding sources include direct charges (usually arising from enforcement action), and a proportion of the general rate.

The New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki district councils collect general rates on behalf of the Council. The policies adopted by the Council in relation to rate remissions, postponements, and additional charges are those adopted by the respective district councils.

10.3.3 Funding limitations

No unusual administrative problems or costs are expected in recovering the costs from any of the persons who are required to pay.

Table 4: Indicative costs and sources of funds (exclusive of GST)

Expenditure	2016/17 $	2017/18 $	2018/19 $	2019/20 $	2020/21 $
Biosecurity pest animal and plant management planning, plans and strategy initiatives, and actions	2,049,707	1,806,794	1,829,842	2,050,486	1,922,269
Total expenditure	**2,049,707**	**1,806,794**	**1,829,842**	**2,050,486**	**1,922,269**
Income:					
Direct charges	108,250	110,116	112,104	114,297	116,631
Total income	**108,250**	**110,116**	**112,104**	**114,297**	**116,631**
Net cost of service	1,941,457	1,696,678	1,717,738	1,936,189	1,805,638
Funded by:					
General rates and investment revenue	1,941,457	1,696,678	1,717,738	1,936,189	1,805,638
Total Funding	**1,941,457**	**1,696,678**	**1,717,738**	**1,936,189**	**1,805,638**

Glossary

This section provides the meaning of words used in this Plan and in the amended Biosecurity Act 1993. When a word is followed by an asterisk (*), the meaning which follows is the meaning provided in section 4 [interpretation section] of the Act.

Users of this Plan are advised that they should refer to the Act (or other relevant legislation) to ensure that the definition included in this Plan is the current statutory definition. In the case of any inconsistency or amendment of the definition, the statutory definition prevails.

Act* means the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Adjacent means, for the purpose of this Plan, a property that is next to, or adjoining, another property.

Animal means any mammal, insect, bird or fish, including invertebrates, and any other living organism except a plant or a human.

Appropriate means as determined to be appropriate by the Council or its officers acting under delegated authority.

Authorised person* means a person for the time being appointed an authorised person under section 103 (Inspectors, authorised persons, and accredited persons) of the Act.

Beneficiary means the receiver of benefits accruing from the implementation of a pest management measure or this Plan.

Biological control means the introduction and establishment of living organisms, which will prey on, or adversely affect a pest.

Biological diversity (or biodiversity) means the variability among living organisms, and the ecological complexes of which they are a part, including diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

Bovine tuberculosis means the state of being infected with Mycobacterium bovis. Mycobacterium bovis is an infectious, zoonotic, bacterial disease, characterised by the formation of tubercle lesions on affected animals.

Crown[9]

(a) means her Majesty the Queen in right of New Zealand; and

(b) includes all Ministers of the Crown and all departments; but

does not include:

(c) an Office of Parliament;

(d) a Crown entity; or

(e) a State enterprise named in the First Schedule to the State-Owned Enterprises Act 1986.

Crown land means any land occupied or owned by the Crown, a Crown entity under the Crown Entities Act 2004, and a crown-owned enterprise under the State-Owned Enterprises Act 1986.

Destroy, in relation to rules that apply to sustained control pests, means an annual minimum 99% level of control on land requiring treatment.

Direct control means pest animal or plant control undertaken by or funded by the Council.

Distribute, in relation to pest animals or plants, means to transport, or in any way spread a pest animal or plant.

District council means a district council as defined in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002.

Effect[10] includes:

(a) any positive or adverse effect; and

(b) any temporary or permanent effect; and

(c) any past; present or future effect; and

(d) any cumulative effect which arises over time or in combination with other effects–regardless of the scale, intensity, duration or frequency of the effect-and also includes:

(e) any potential effect of high probability; and

(f) any potential effect of low probability which has a high potential impact.

Endemic means a plant or animal native or restricted to a certain place, or, in the case of wild animal populations, means the presence of Bovine tuberculosis.

Environment includes:

(a) ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and their communities; and

(b) all natural and physical resources; and

(c) amenity values; and

[9] *Public Finances Act 1989*

[10] *Resource Management Act 1991*

(d) the social, economic, aesthetic and cultural conditions which affect the matters stated in paragraphs (a) to (c) of this definition or which are affected by those matters.

Eradicate, in relation to an organism, means to totally clear the organism from New Zealand, or a region or part of a region.

Eradication means to reduce the infestation level of the subject that is present in New Zealand to zero levels in an area in the short to medium term.

Exacerbator means a person who contributes to the creation, continuance, or exacerbation of the problems proposed to be resolved by a pest or pathway management plan.

Exclusion means to prevent the establishment of the subject that is present in New Zealand but not yet established in an area.

Externality Impacts, in relation to pest management, are adverse and unintended effects imposed on others.

Good Neighbour Rule means a rule that seeks to manage the externality impacts arising from pests spilling over from one property to a neighbouring property that is free of, or being cleared, of that pest.

Habitat means the place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs.

Harmful organism means organisms that have not been declared 'pests' for the purposes of this Plan because, although they may have significant adverse effects, regulatory responses are not considered appropriate or necessary.

Indigenous means native to New Zealand.

Key Native Ecosystems refers to terrestrial sites (sites on land) identified by the Council to have regionally significant indigenous biodiversity values.

Management agency* means a management agency responsible for implementing a regional pest management plan.

Mana whenua means customary authority and title exercised by Iwi or hapu over the general environment within their tribal rohe.

Means of achievement means the general management options, tactics, or technical methods by which the Council or land occupiers will achieve an objective or objectives.

Mitigate means to reduce or moderate the severity of something.

Monitor, in respect of this Plan, means to measure and record parameters that indicate the levels of effectiveness of a certain pest management programme.

National Policy Direction (NPD), in respect of this Plan, means the currently operative National Policy Direction for Pest Management.

Notice of direction refers to a notice served by officers of the Council to note non-compliance with a plan rule and to identify and direct remedial action.

Objective means a statement of a desired, specific environmental outcome.

Occupier*–

(a) in relation to any place physically occupied by any person, means that person; and

(b) in relation to any other place, means the owner of the place; and

(c) in relation to any place, includes any agent, employee, or other person acting or apparently acting in the general management or control of the place.

Occupied has a corresponding meaning.

Operational plan means a plan prepared by the management agency under section 100B of the Act.

Organism –

(a) does not include a human being or a genetic structure derived from a human being:

(b) includes a micro-organism:

(c) subject to paragraph (a), includes a genetic structure that is capable of replicating itself (whether that structure comprises all or only part of an entity, and whether it comprises all or only part of the total genetic structure of an entity):

(d) includes an entity (other than a human being) declared by the Governor-General by Order in Council to be an organism for the purposes of the Act:

(e) includes a reproductive cell or developmental stage of an organism:

(f) includes any particle that is a prion.

Person* includes the Crown, a corporation sole, and a body of persons (whether corporate or unincorporated).

Pest* means an organism specified as a pest in a pest management plan.

Pesticide means a substance for destroying harmful pests.

Pest management plan and Plan* means a Plan made under Part V of the Act, for the exclusion, eradication or management of a particular pest or pests.

Plant means any plant, tree, shrub, herb, flower, nursery stock, culture, vegetable, or other vegetation; and also includes fruit, seed, spore and portion or product of any plant; and also includes all aquatic plants.

Predator Control Area means an area identified as a Predator Control Area in accordance with section 6.6A of this Plan.

Principal officer* means -

(a) in relation to a regional council, its chief executive; and

(b) in relation to a region, the chief executive of the region's regional council;

and includes an acting chief executive.

Private land means any land which is for the time being held in fee simple by any person other than Her Majesty; and includes any Maori land.

Region[11], in relation to a regional council, means the region of the regional council as determined in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002.

Regional council means a regional council within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2002.

Road includes all bridges, culverts, and fords forming part of any road.

Rohe means the territory or boundary that defines the area within which a tangata whenua group claims traditional association and mana whenua.

Rongoā means traditional Māori medicine. Rongoā is a system of healing that was passed on orally. It comprised diverse practices and an emphasis on the spiritual dimension of health. Rongoā includes herbal remedies, physical therapies such as massage and manipulation, and spiritual healing.

Rule* means a rule in a regional pest management plan under Part 5 of the Act.

Sale includes bartering, offering for sale, exposing, or attempting to sell, or having in possession for sale, or sending or delivering for sale, causing or allowing to be sold, offered or displayed for sale, and includes any disposal whether for valuable consideration or not and '**Sell**' has a corresponding meaning.

"**Site-led**" pest programme means a management programme for which the intermediate outcome for the programme is that the subject, or an organism being spread by the subject that is capable of causing damage to a place, is excluded or eradicated from that place; or is contained, reduced, or controlled within the place to an extent that protects the values of that place.

Subject means-

(a) in relation to a proposal for a pest management plan, means the organism or organisms proposed to be specified as a pest or pests under the plan; and

(b) in relation to a pest management plan, means the pest to which the plan applies; and

(c) in relation to a proposal for a pathway management plan, or to a pathway management plan, means the pathway or pathways to which the proposal for a plan, or to which the plan, applies; and

(d) in relation to a small-scale management programme, means the unwanted organism specified in the programme.

Sustained control pest programme means a management programme for which the intermediate outcome for the programme is to provide for ongoing control of the subject, or an organism being spread by the subject, to reduce its impacts on values and spread to other properties.

Tangata whenua[12], in relation to a particular area, means the Iwi or hapu that holds mana whenua over that area.

Taonga means treasure, property: taonga are prized and protected as sacred posessions of the tribe. The term carries a deep spiritual meaning and taonga may be things that cannot be seen or touched. Included for example are te reo Māori (the Māori language), wāhi tapu, the air, waterways, fishing grounds and mountains.

Tapu means under spiritual protection or restriction.

Unwanted organism* means any organism that a chief technical officer believes is capable or potentially capable of causing unwanted harm to any natural and physical resources or human health, and

Includes—

(a) Any new organism, if the Authority [Environmental Risk Management Authority] has declined approval to import that organism; and

(b) Any organism specified in the Second Schedule of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996; but

[11] *Resource Management Act 1991.*

[12] *Resource Management Act 1991.*

(c) Does not include any organism approved for importation under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, unless—

(d) The organism is an organism that has escaped from a containment facility; or

(e) A chief technical officer, after consulting the Authority [Environmental Risk Management Authority] and taking into account any comments made by the Authority concerning the organism, believes that the organism is capable or potentially capable of causing unwanted harm to any natural and physical resources or human health.

Urban area means a city, town or urban settlement that comprises a built-up area of commercial, industrial, or residential buildings, including associated infrastructure and amenities. An urban area also includes low density 'lifestyle' residential areas, urban parkland and open spaces, usually within or associated with, built-up areas.

Wāhi tapu means places or things which are sacred or spiritually endowed. These are defined locally by tangata whenua of the Taranaki region.

Wild, in respect of deer, pigs and goats, means free-ranging, living in a wild state.

Working day* means any day except:

(a) a Saturday, a Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Anzac Day, Labour Day, the Sovereign's birthday and Waitangi Day; and

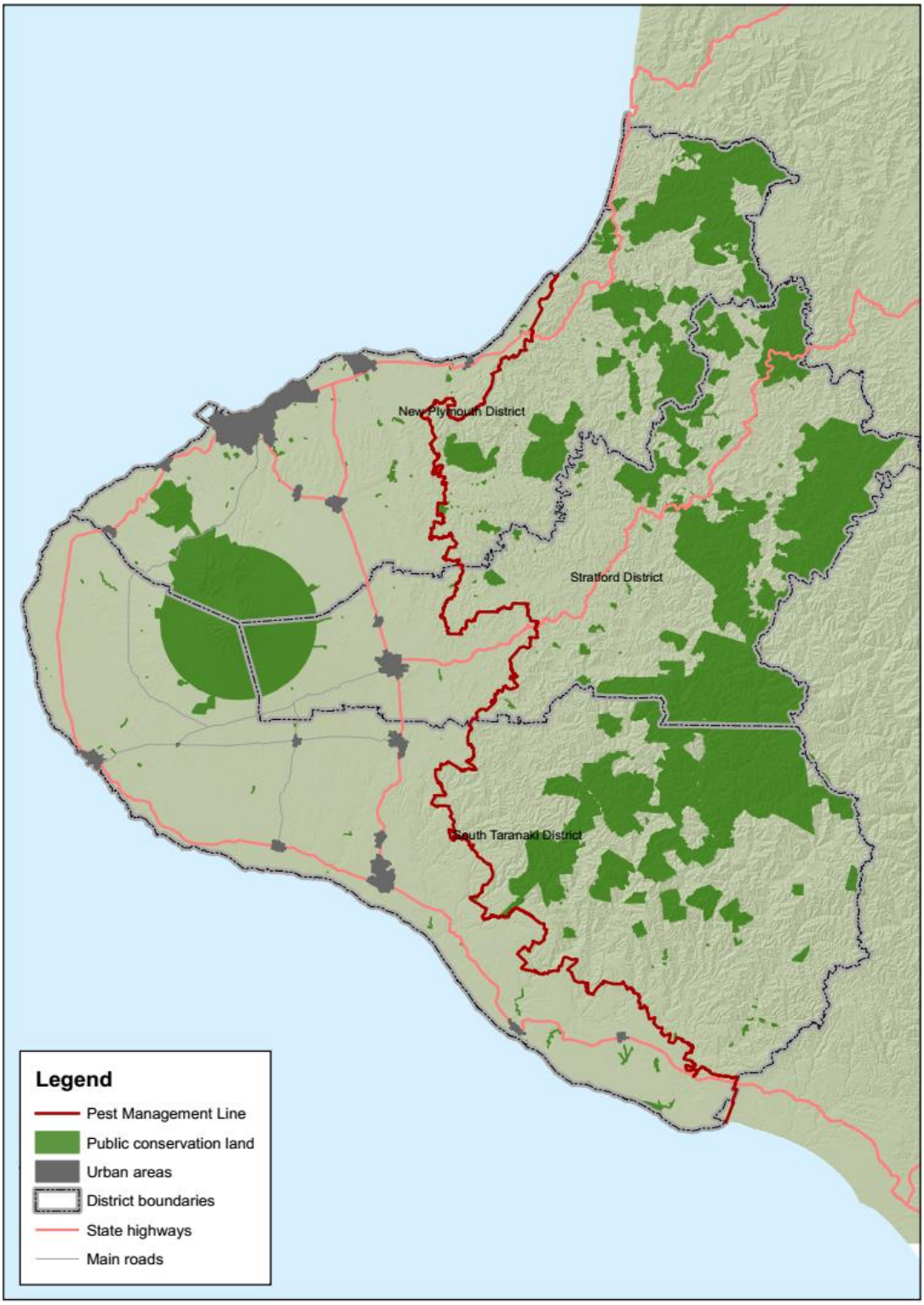
(b) the day observed in the region of a regional council as the anniversary day of the province of which the region forms part; and

(c) a day in the period commencing on the 20th day of December in any year and ending with the 15th day of January in the following year.

Appendices

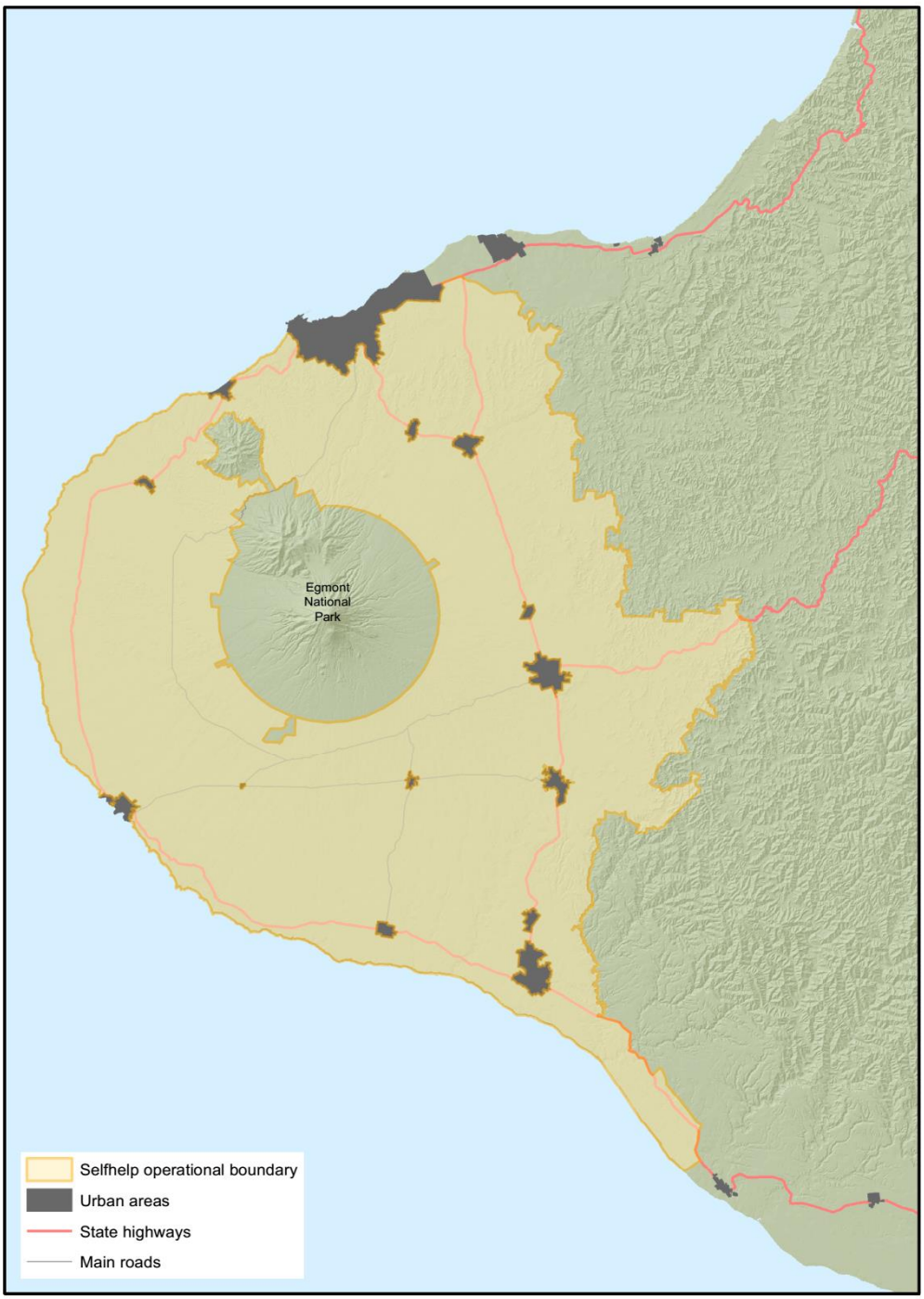
Appendix A: Pest Management Line

The Pest Management Line is used to demarcate that part of Taranaki that is predominantly intensive dairy farming land from that part of the region where other land uses predominate. It is based on the Land Use Capability database, which provides detail of land types across the whole country. The Pest Management Line is referred to in rules relating to Yellow ragwort.


New Plymouth District
Stratford District
South Taranaki District
Legend
Pest Management Line
Public conservation land
Urban areas
District boundaries
State highways
Main roads

64

Appendix B: Self-Help Possum Control Programme (as at May 2017)



NB: this map is indicative only. More properties may be added during the lifetime of this Plan with the agreement of land owners who join the Programme.

Appendix B(a): Mustelids Predator Control Areas (as at March 2021)

[Placeholder]

NB: this map is indicative only. More properties may be added during the lifetime of this Plan with the agreement of land owners who join the Programme.

Appendix C: Plants listed in the National Pest Plant Accord List

The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is designed to prevent the sale, distribution and propagation of a set list of pest plants (the Accord list) within New Zealand. If allowed to spread further, these pest plants could seriously damage the New Zealand economy and environment. The NPPA is a cooperative agreement between:

- MPI
- New Zealand Plant Producers Incorporated (NZPPI)
- unitary and regional councils
- Department of Conservation.

All plants on the Accord list are among the plants on the list of 'unwanted organisms' specified under the Biosecurity Act 1993. This means they cannot be distributed or sold in New Zealand. The NPPA is used alongside other pest management plans and strategies.

MPI consults with a group of key stakeholders and parties interested in the NPPA or the Accord list and the group is updated when the Accord list changes. Anyone interested in the NPPA and the Accord list can sign up.

It should be noted that the Accord List is current at the time of printing this Plan and will be altered in the future.

The full list, further information, and updates on the list can be obtained directly from Ministry of Primary Industries or by visiting their website on:

http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/long-term-pest-management/national-pest-plant-accord

Proposal for inclusion of Mustelids

Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki

Working with people | caring for Taranaki

Taranaki Regional Council

Proposal for inclusion of mustelids

Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki

Taranaki Regional Council

Private Bag 713

Stratford 4352

November 2020

Document number: 2437760

Foreword

This is a proposal to amend the *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki*. The intent of the proposal is to declare mustelids to be pests in the Taranaki region and to incorporate a new chapter (Section 6.6A) and programme that includes rules for land occupiers to control ferrets, stoats, and weasels.

The proposal does not otherwise amend the *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki*, except for minor consequential changes necessary to update the Plan and reflect the inclusion of the new chapter.

Where applicable, content that may result in an addition or change to the current RPMP will be highlighted in underlined text. How the proposed programme would look inserted into Part 2 of the operative RPMP can also be seen in Appendix 2.

In brief, the following highlights and significant changes are noted:

- The identification of mustelids as a pest
- Application of rules to control mustelids.

On behalf of the Taranaki Regional Council, I am pleased to present this proposal to the people of Taranaki, and now call for your submissions. The Council will consider all submissions received, in detail, before making amendments to the Plan.

This is your opportunity to influence pest management in the Taranaki region. I look forward to receiving your submission on the proposal. Please send any submissions to:

The Chief Executive

Taranaki Regional Council

Private Bag 713

STRATFORD

By **5pm, 4 December 2020**.

David MacLeod

Chair, Taranaki Regional Council

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

This document is a proposal to amend part of the Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki. Other than the amendments identified in full in sections 2.2 to 2.5 of this Proposal, changes, the Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki remains unchanged and is not part of this proposal.

1.1 Proposer

The Taranaki Regional Council (Council) has a regional leadership role under the *Biosecurity Act 1993* (the Act). As such, in accordance with section 100D(2)(b) of the Act, Council proposes to undertake a **partial** review of the *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki*[1] (RPMP) by way of amending it to incorporate an additional programme. The additional programme relates to the sustained control of mustelids.

1.2 Reasons for the Proposal

The purpose of the document is to present, for the public's consideration, a proposal that mustelids be added to the RPMP in order to:

- minimise the actual or potential adverse or unintended effects associated with mustelids; and
- maximise the effectiveness of individual pest management actions for mustelids by way of a regionally coordinated approach.

The notification of this Proposal is the first formal step in seeking amendment to the current operative RPMP. If the Proposal is adopted, the RPMP will be amended to declare mustelids to be 'pests' and empower the Council to exercise the relevant advisory, service delivery, regulatory and funding powers available under the Act to deliver mustelid control in defined parts of Taranaki.

1.3 Scope and structure of the proposal

The Act contains prerequisite criteria that must be met to justify regional intervention in the form of rules. Accordingly, this document sets out proposed amendments to the RPMP and supporting information pertaining to adding a sustained control programme for mustelids to the RPMP.

Section 1 introduces the Proposal and background information.

Section 2 sets out a reader's guide and the proposed amendments, in full, to the RPMP to include a new sustained control programme for mustelids.

Section 3 presents the cost benefit analysis to support the adoption of the proposed sustained control programme for mustelids.

A glossary of key terms used in this proposal and references used in its preparation are presented at the back.

In accordance with section 100D(5)(d) of the Act, the scope of this review is confined to proposed amendments set out in section 2 of this Proposal. **No other part of the current RPMP is subject to this review.**

1.4 Consultation overview

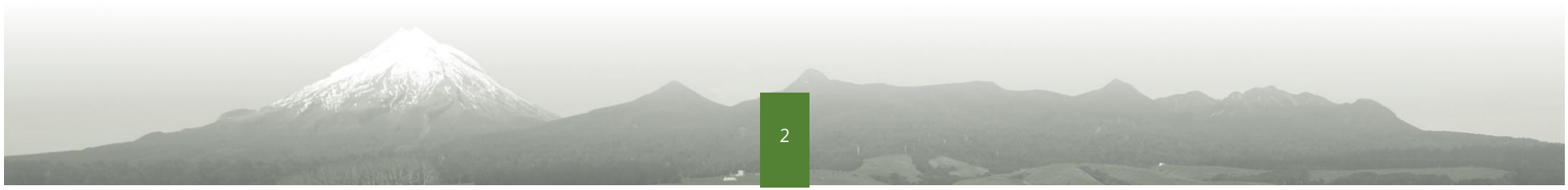
In the development of this Proposal, early engagement has been undertaken with iwi authorities and key stakeholders (refer Table overleaf). Further consultation on this Proposal will now occur in accordance with the consultation requirements set out in the BSA.

[1] *The Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki became operative on 20 February 2018.*

Pre-notification consultation

Party	Type	Date	Feedback received
Federated Farmers	Summary, including proposed rule provided, meeting with Executive and subsequent email/verbal correspondence	29 July 2020	Verbal feedback, expect written feedback during submission process
Department of Conservation	Summary, including proposed rule provided	22 September 2020	Written feedback
Project Mounga	Summary, including proposed rule provided, meeting with board and subsequent email/verbal correspondence.	27 August 2020	Verbal feedback
Iwi authorities	Summary, including proposed rule provided	8 September 2020	Nil

This Proposal has been publicly notified for public submissions to confirm community expectations and policy directions to be incorporated into the final plan.



2. Proposed amendments to the RPMP

2.1 Reader's guide to amendments to the RPMP

This section sets out proposed amendments to the current operative RPMP to include a sustained control programme for mustelids.

In brief, the following significant changes to the RPMP are highlighted:

- an amended section 4 [Organisms declared as pests] that declares and identifies mustelids control ferrets, stoats, and weasels as a pest in Table 1 of the RPMP[2]
- a new section 6.6A setting out a mustelid sustained control programme and which includes rules for land occupiers within a Predator Control Area to control mustelids
- an amended section 9.1[Measuring what the objectives are achieving] to incorporate mustelid monitoring programmes in the RPMP
- an amended glossary to introduce a definition for a new term in the RPMP – 'Predator Control Area'.

The proposal does not otherwise amend the RPMP, except for minor consequential changes necessary.

How amended or new provisions inserted into the operative RPMP would look, once adopted, and are shown in grey. Specific wording amendments to the current RPMP are identified by underlined text in blue.

2.2 An amended section 4 [Organisms declared as pests]

Amend Table 1 of section 4 [Organisms declared as pests] of the RPMP to read as follows:

[2] *Other inconsequential changes include updating the RPMP recognising the inclusion of mustelids as a pest are also noted in the Plan's foreword.*

4. Organisms declared as pests

The organisms listed in Tables 1 and 2 below are classified as pests. The tables also indicate what management programme or programmes will apply to the pest and if a rule, including a Good Neighbour Rule (GNR), applies. **Attention is also drawn to:**

- The general administrative powers of inspection and entry, contained in Part 6 of the Act, which would be made available to the Council;
- The statutory obligations of any person under sections 52 and 53 of the Act. These sections ban anyone from selling, propagating or distributing any pest, or part of a pest, should they be specified as such in a Plan. Not complying with sections 52 and 53 is an offence under the Act and may result in the penalties noted in section 157(1) of the Act; and
- Exemptions to any Plan rule may apply under Section 78 of the Act.

Table 1: Animal organisms classified as pests

Common name	Scientific name	Programme	GNR	Page
Mustelids – ferret, stoat, weasel	*Mustela furo, Mustela ermine, Mustela nivalis*	Sustained Control		XYZ
Possum	*Trichosurus vulpecula*	Sustained control	√	XYZ

Table 2: Plant organisms classified as pests

Common name	Scientific name	Programme	GNR	Page
Climbing spindleberry	*Celastrus orbiculatus*	Eradication		XYZ
Giant reed	*Arundo donax*	Eradication		XYZ
Madeira (Mignonette) vine	*Anredera cordifolia*	Eradication		XYZ
Senegal tea	*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*	Eradication		XYZ
Giant buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*	Sustained control	√	XYZ
Giant gunnera	*Gunnera manicata, Gunnera tinctoria*	Sustained control	√	XYZ
Gorse	*Ulex europeaus*	Sustained control	√	XYZ
Nodding, Plumeless and Variegated thistles	*Carduus nutans, C. acanthoides, Silybum marianum*	Sustained control	√	XYZ
Old man's beard	*Clematis vitalba*	Sustained control	√	XYZ
Wild broom	*Cytisus scoparius*	Sustained control	√	XYZ
Wild ginger (Kahili and Yellow)	*Hedychium gardnerianum, Hedychium flavescens*	Sustained control	√	XYZ
Yellow ragwort	*Jacobaea vulgaris*	Sustained control	√	XYZ

2.3 The new proposed programme to be inserted into section 6 of the RPMP

Amend section 6 of the RPMP to include a new section 6.6A that sets out a sustained control programme for mustelids. Section 6A reads as follows:

6.6A Predators (ferret, stoat and weasel)

Ferret (*Mustela furo*)

Stoat (*Mustela ermine*)

Weasel (*Mustela nivalis*)

Towards Predator Free Taranaki

As discussed in the possum programme (section 6.5), since the 1990s, the Council has been achieving effective sustained possum control over large parts of the Taranaki region through the Self-help Possum Control Programme.

With the implementation of the *Towards Predator Free Taranaki programme* (TPFT) across Taranaki, the Council aims to achieve the same for mustelid control.

The Council will identify Predator Control Areas where land occupiers in a locality agree to participate in the programme and undertake long term predator control maintenance.

Subject to 75% or more of land occupiers, covering at least 75% of the land area targeted, agreeing to be part of the programme, the Council will undertake initial predator control work within the Predator Control Area targeting mustelids and rats.

After initial predator control work has been undertaken, occupiers within the area will be required (through the rule in this section) to ensure they undertake regular ongoing control to maintain mustelid populations at very low levels.

A Predator Control Area refers to areas identified as such once the 75% land area threshold has been reached and initial control work has been undertaken within the area.

Thereafter occupiers within that mapped area will be required to comply with the rule in this section of the Plan.

Adverse effects

Ferrets, stoats, weasels are part of the mustelid family, which is a group of small to medium sized carnivores. Mustelids have large home ranges and are active day and night. They are opportunistic predators and have a strong musk odour.

Ferrets are the largest mustelid in New Zealand. Male ferrets grow up to 44cm and females up to 37cm in length. The undercoat is creamy yellow with long black guard hairs that give the ferret a dark appearance. A characteristic black face mask occurs across the eyes and above the nose.

Stoats have long, thin bodies with smooth pointed heads. Ears are short and rounded. They are smaller than ferrets. Males grow up to 30cm and females up to 25cm in length. Their fur is reddish- brown above with a white to yellowish underbelly. Stoats have relatively long tails with a distinctive bushy black tip.

Weasels are the smallest and least common mustelid in New Zealand. Males grow to about 20cm. Their fur is brown with white undercoat, often broken by brown spots. Their tails are short, brown and tapering.

Mustelids were introduced in New Zealand in the 1880's in an attempt to manage growing rabbit populations. This introduction had minimal impact on rabbit densities.

Mustelids now pose a significant threat to our indigenous biodiversity, particularly indigenous fauna species. Skinks, flightless birds (such as kiwi) and birds that nest in holes (e.g. penguins and parakeet) are particularly vulnerable. Mustelids have been implicated in the extinction of some indigenous bird species and as the major cause of decline of many others.

Mustelids can also have considerable negative impact on primary production. Mustelids are a threat to poultry farms and carry parasites and toxoplasmosis, which can cause illness in humans and livestock. Ferrets are also a vector (carrier) of bovine tuberculosis.

Mustelids are distributed throughout the Taranaki region.

Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, sustainably control mustelids numbers on land within a Predator Control Area, and elsewhere as appropriate, to avoid or minimise adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values in the Taranaki region.

Principal measures

To achieve the objective for mustelids, the following principal measures will be applied:

- **Requirement to Act:** Land occupiers will comply with the rules specified in this section of the Plan.
- **Extension programme:** Council will implement the *Towards Predator Free Taranaki* programme and provide sustained predator control on the ring plain and coastal terraces by:
  - undertaking initial direct control on rateable properties that lie in an area where at least 75% of land occupiers, covering at least 75% of the land area targeted, indicate, or have indicated, that they wish to be included in a Predator Control Area and will accept land occupier obligations; installation and contribution to the cost of traps for land occupiers in the programme; and
  - providing ongoing technical advice, information, and support to land occupiers in the programme Predator Control Area.
- **Inspections and enforcement:** Council will inspect and monitor properties in Predator Control Areas for land occupier compliance with the Plan rule and to identify any remedial action that needs to be undertaken.
- **Advocacy and education:** Council will:
  - provide advice and information to land occupiers in Predator Control Areas to coordinate and promote effective mustelid control;
  - provide a broad suite of general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to other interested parties to promote effective predator control; and

  - undertake liaison and advocacy to promote effective integrated predator control.

- **Service delivery:** Council will:
  - undertake additional initial direct control, as necessary, of mustelids on properties in Predator Control Areas;
  - undertake additional initial direct control, as necessary, on properties in urban predator control programmes; and
  - undertake site-led predator control on Key Native Ecosystems as part of an agreed site-led response.

Plan Rules

Plan rule 3: General Rule for Predator Control Areas

A land occupier within a Predator Control Area must maintain ferrets, stoats, and weasels numbers present on their land by:

(a) servicing permanent mustelid traps a minimum of ten times per calendar year and record trap catch information in the TrapNZ database; and

(b) servicing any activated 'remote sensor mustelid trap' within 30 days of activation.

Note:

'Servicing' means the removal of dead animals, inspection of trap to make sure it is functioning properly, grass/obstacles removed from around the trap entrance and trap rebaited with fresh bait.

'Remote sensor mustelid traps' refers to kill traps fitted with remote sensor technology capable of sending trap catch information to the user wirelessly.

Explanation of rule

The establishment of Predator Control Areas, underpinned by the above rules enables areas and communities seeking to achieve enhanced biodiversity outcomes through sustained predator control, to do so.

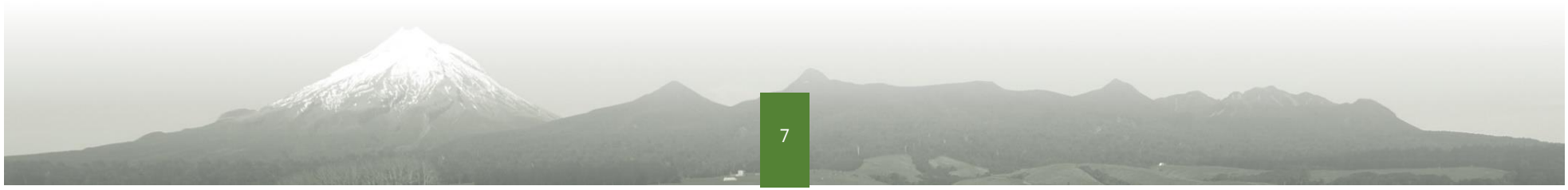
Where a community decides to form a Predator Control Area (as demonstrated by 75% of land occupiers covering 75% of the land area), it is critical that there is a rule to sustain the benefits of initial control. Such a rule is only triggered after considerable public investment and targets the exacerbators of the problem (i.e. land occupiers not undertaking regular and effective control needed to maintain low mustelid numbers.

All land occupiers within a proposed Predator Control Area will be consulted with to discuss the programme and to ascertain their willingness (or otherwise) to sign up to a management agreement.

Initial predator control work will not commence until the 75% land occupier and area threshold has been met. The initial control involves the Council establishing the predator trap network and infrastructure, including wireless traps where possible, followed up by at least four rounds of control and checking of traps that, over time, contributes to achieving a 95% reduction in mustelid numbers.

Upon completion of initial predator control, land occupiers within a Predator Control Area become responsible for maintaining stoats, ferrets, and weasels in accordance with Plan Rule 3.

Contravention of rules 3 and 4 create an offence under section 154N (19) of the Act.



2.4 An amended section 9.1 [Measuring what the objectives are achieving]

Amend section 9.1 of the RPMP to include new provisions addressing the monitoring of the sustained control programme for mustelids. The amended section 9.1 reads as follows:

6.6A Measuring what the objectives are achieving

The Taranaki Regional Council shall monitor the extent to which the objectives set out in Part Two of this Plan are being achieved by:

(a) annually mapping the implementation of the Self-help Possum Control Programme;

(b) monitoring possum population densities and trends, over time, in areas included in the Self-help Possum Control Programme;

(ba) annually mapping the implementation of the Towards Predator Free Taranaki programme, including establishment of Predator Control Areas;

(bb) monitoring mustelid population densities and trends, over time, in areas included in the Predator Control Areas;

(c) developing agreed collaborative monitoring, reporting and management programmes addressing possum control within and around Egmont National Park;

(d) monitor, for each pest, the effectiveness of direct control undertaken by the Taranaki Regional Council;

(e) recording the number of public complaints pertaining to individual pests and instances of non-compliance with the plan rules;

(f) recording the number of public enquiries in relation to individual pests, including requests for information; and

(g) annually surveying at release sites and mapping the distribution of biological control agents.

2.5 An amended glossary

Amend the glossary of the RPMP to include a new definition for a key term introduced in the mustelid sustained control programme for mustelids. The new definition reads as follows:

Predator Control Area means an area identified as a Predator Control Area in accordance with section 6.6A of this Plan.

3. Cost benefit analysis for sustained control programme for mustelids

The proposal to include a sustained control programme for mustelids has no ramifications for the overall anticipated cost of implementing the RPMP. Current costs associated with the implementation of the *Towards Predator Free Taranaki programme* have already been budgeted for through long term planning processes as part of the Council's biosecurity funding.

This section sets out, information in relation to mustelids (ferret, stoat and weasel) for which a Sustained Control Programme - involving the imposition of land occupier rules - is proposed.

Ferret (*Mustela furo*)

Stoat (*Mustela ermine*)

Weasel (*Mustela nivalis*)

3.1 Mustelid attributes and distribution

Relevant biology

Attribute	Description
Form	Ferrets are the largest mustelid in New Zealand. Male ferrets grow up to 44cm and females up to 37cm in length. The undercoat is creamy yellow with long black guard hairs that give the ferret a dark appearance. A characteristic black face mask occurs across the eyes and above the nose. Stoats have long, thin bodies with smooth pointed heads. Ears are short and rounded. They are smaller than ferrets. Males grow up to 30cm and females up to 25cm in length. Their fur is reddish- brown above with a white to yellowish underbelly. Stoats have relatively long tails with a distinctive bushy black tip. Weasels are the smallest and least common mustelid in New Zealand. Males grow to about 20cm. Their fur is brown with white undercoat, often broken by brown spots. Their tails are short, brown and tapering. Mustelids have a strong musk odour.
Habitat	Mustelids have large home ranges and are active day and night. Ferrets are uncommon in forest but frequently found in association with rabbits on farmland habitats, where they are more abundant than stoats. Ferrets rarely occur in areas with more than 1500 mm annual rainfall. Stoats are the more common forest species and are distributed across most habitats. Weasels prefer disturbed habitats and thick ground cover. They will favour overgrown patches of any habitat from suburban gardens to agricultural land, in scrub and cutover native or exotic forest, or at the margins between these and open country.
Regional distribution	Established and widespread throughout the region. Weasels are the least common mustelid in New Zealand. They are rarely seen and are very 'patchy' in their distribution. Male mustelids generally have a larger home range than females. The average home ranges for male ferrets is 200ha, for stoats it is 147 ha and for weasels it can be up to 192 ha.

Attribute	Description
Competitive ability	Ferrets, stoats, weasels are small to medium sized carnivores. Mustelids pose a significant threat to indigenous fauna species. They are aggressive opportunistic predators and have been implicated in the extinction of some indigenous bird species and as the major cause of decline of many others. Flightless birds (such as kiwi) and birds that nest in holes (such as penguins) are particularly vulnerable.
Reproductive ability	Females breed from age one. Usual litter size for ferrets is 4-8, for stoats it is 8-10, and for weasels it is 3-6.
Resistance to control	Controlled by poisoning (including secondary poisoning), trapping, shooting, fumigation, dogging, control of predator species, and exclusion fences. Control needs to be continuous and cover large spatial areas to be effective. Of these options, shooting is considered the least efficient.
Benefits	Mustelids were introduced in New Zealand in the 1880's in an attempt to manage growing rabbit populations. Ferrets were also once farmed for their fur.

Where are mustelids a problem?

Mustelids are established throughout Taranaki.

In Taranaki, ferrets and stoats are more common than weasels (which are quite scarce). They are present in small densities across most land use types (see table below). They are found in a diverse range of habitats, including fertile pasture, rough grassland, tussock, scrubland and the fringes of nearby forest (forest fragments) and on any land where there are high numbers of rabbits. However, even in low numbers, mustelids can have a major impact.

Land use type	Current land use infested*	Potential land use infested*	Pest significant problem on this land type**
Dairy	High	High	True
Sheep and beef (intensive)	High	High	True
Hill country (sheep)	High	High	True
Forestry	High	High	True
Horticulture	Low	Low	False
Native / conservation	High	High	True
Urban / Non productive	Low	Low	False

* High = Most infested/preferred land use(s), Low = Less infested/preferred land use(s), - = Unsuitable land use. Source: Wildlands 2017

** True = Most 'at risk' or impacted land use(s), False = Less 'at risk' or impacted land use(s) based upon impact assessment overleaf.

3.2 Impact evaluation

How are mustelids a problem?

	Category	Current impact	Potential impact	Comment	Source
Production	Dairy	L	M	Threat to animal health. Mustelids potential vector for bovine tuberculosis (Tb)	1
	Sheep and beef	L	M	May carry bovine Tb, and parasites and toxoplasmosis	1
	Forestry	-	-		
	Horticulture	-	-		
	Other	-	-	Major threat to chickens on lifestyle blocks and in urban backyards. Mustelids will also target pets such as guinea pigs or rabbits	1
	International trade	L	M	Presence of Tb in cattle herds is a risk to dairy and meat exports	2, 3
Environment	Soil resources	-	-		
	Water quality	-	-		
	Species diversity	H	H	Major threat to the health of indigenous fauna populations. Skinks, flightless birds (such as kiwi) and birds that nest in holes (e.g. penguins and parakeet) are particularly vulnerable	1, 2
	Threatened species	H	H	Major predator of nationally threatened species in Taranaki, including kiwi, penguin, pied oystercatcher and dotterel species. Mustelids have been implicated in the extinction of up to 30 bird species across New Zealand	2
Social	Human health	L	L	Could transmit Tb to humans	2
	Recreation	-	-		2
	Māori culture	M	H	May predate on taonga fauna species	2

L – 'low' impact; **M** – 'moderate' impact; **H** – 'high' impact.

Source: 1: National Pest Control Agencies (2018), 2: King (2005), 3: TBfree New Zealand (2013),

What is the regional cost of mustelids?

As noted from the preceding table, the regional impact of mustelids are principally environmental, particularly in relation to predation effects on the abundance and distribution of native fauna species. This in turn may impact on Māori culture whereby mustelids can predate on species considered by Māori to be a taonga species. A review of iwi management plans highlights iwi concerns at the impact of introduced predators, including mustelids, on biodiversity values and taonga species. [3]

For the purposes of this proposal, the cost of mustelids on the region are not monetarised. While Council could potentially monetarised the cost of mustelid impacts on production values – should they become a vector of Tb in the region (noting dairying represents the largest portion of land area in the programme) – the 'real' cost of mustelids is their impact on species diversity and threatened species (and these cannot be monetarised).

The regional cost of mustelids in terms of their impacts on species diversity and threatened species impacts can be best surmised by the biodiversity outcomes that can be realised when they are absent or present only in low numbers. Mustelids predate on fledglings. Research confirms that, in mustelid trapping control areas, the survival rate of native bird fledglings increases by up to 10 times. In the case of the bellbirds, the survival rate of fledglings increased from 8% (without trapping) to 80% (with trapping). Mustelids are also likely to have a similar impact on the survival rates of other native species of interest to this region, including blue duck (whio), tui, North Island robin (toutouwai), bellbird, goldstripe gecko, and New Zealand pigeon (kereru).[4]

Mustelids, in particular stoats, are the major cause of kiwi chick death accounting for approximately 65 percent of wild born kiwi chicks within the first weeks of life. [5]

Through their predation impacts, the survival rate of indigenous fauna significantly drops. This, in turn, impacts on the viability (resilience) and distribution of remnant fauna populations noting that they might already be under stress from other influences in Taranaki such as fragmented habitats and the impacts of other invasive weeds and animals.

[3] *Refer to iwi management plans prepared by Te Atiawa, Taranaki, Ngati Ruanui and Ngaa Rauru.*
[4] *Refer https://www.bionet.nz/assets/Uploads/A8-Pest-Mustelids-2018-04-LR.pdf.*
[5] *Refer https://cdn.boprc.govt.nz/media/417991/pa11-mustelid-control-web.pdf.*

3.3 Cost-benefit analysis

CBA assessment of the preferred approach

Mustelids have reached their maximum potential extent in the region. Regional intervention is not about preventing the spread of the species but is about managing mustelid population densities.

General rule

The general rules focus on intensively farmed areas on the ring plain and coastal terraces where private land occupier in declared Predator Control Areas will be required to keep mustelids at very low levels (following Council-funded initial control).

The CBA assessment confirms that, in the absence of regional intervention, mustelid numbers will remain at present levels with continued high impacts on indigenous biodiversity values across the ring plain and coastal terraces and have the potential to be a vector for Tb (addressing these impacts represents the benefits of this intervention).

The Council has calculated a cost-benefit scenario over 10 years and 50 years for mustelid control, within Predator Control Areas. These calculations have been annualized and are based upon a general (whole of property) rule to control mustelids.

The cost of the proposal has two component parts (and assumes a 4% discount rate):

- **Council costs:** This covers the costs incurred by the Council for its initial mustelid control, extension, advisory, monitoring, and enforcement and compliance activities. For years 1 to 10 (the years that cover new areas being included in the programme and initial mustelid control), Council costs are estimated to be an average of $2,314,754 per annum. For years 10 to 50 (the years where the focus is on the ongoing maintenance of the programme), Council costs will reduce to approximately $510,000 per annum (based upon estimated staff time and costed at $6 per ha year).
- **Land occupier compliance cost:** This covers the combine costs incurred by all private land occupiers in the programme resulting from requirements to trap and control mustelids. For years 1 to 10, total land occupier compliance costs across the programme are estimated to be in the order of $2,077,920 per annum.[6] In year 1, the combined compliance costs will be $360,000 but will progressively increase over time (an average of 10% as new properties join the programme). From year 10, the ongoing annual cost is estimated to be $3,600,000 noting the programme has reached its full spatial extent.

Summary of CBA assumptions

Pest assumptions	Values	Programme assumptions	Values
Current area infested:º	240,000 ha	Proposed Programme:	**Sustained Control**
Maximum potential area infested:	240,000 ha	Proposed rule application:	Whole property (private land only)
Council costs: Annual expenditure in first 10-yrs	$2,314,754	**Compliance costs:** Annual land occupier costs in first 10 yrs	$2,077,920
Ongoing annual expenditure by Council (after 10-yr rollout)	$510,000	Ongoing annual costs by land occupiers (after 10-yr rollout)	$3,600,00
Current impacts ($):*	Reduced distribution and abundance of native fauna species	Current benefits ($):	$0 / ha
Discount rate:	4%		

º Refers to that part of the region projected to be covered by the Predator Control Areas over the life of the Plan.

Consideration of alternatives

- **Good neighbour rule:** As part of this review, consideration was given to the development of a good neighbour rule requiring control of mustelids on properties adjacent to Predator Control Areas The intent of any good neighbour rule is to minimise externality impacts on properties in Predator Control Areas. However, given the dispersal range of mustelids is up to 200 hectares the 'buffer' distance required to address externality impacts was considered disproportionate to the added costs to be imposed, i.e. compliance costs would be imposed on all

[6] *This is based on the following assumptions – average 1 trap per 10 ha, programme operational area is 240,000ha. Approx. 15min per trap check (4 trap checks per hour) Land occupier time calculated at $60/hour, 4 trap checks per hour checked 10 time per year as per rule equals to $3.6 million per annum (when programme at full capacity). This is an over-estimate, as landowners become familiar with their traps, time spent trap checking would be greatly reduced.*

neighbouring properties in a two kilometre radius of Predator Control Areas). Further, a good neighbour rule is arguably unnecessary given programme's intent to incrementally include new (neighbouring) areas in the programme over time.

- **Non regulatory regional intervention:** Another option would be to rely on land occupiers voluntarily coordinated and undertaking mustelid control as part of a non-regulatory *Towards Predator Free Taranaki* programme. However, without regulation, there is considerable risk of hot spots of mustelid infestations occurring over time as a result of irregular/ineffective control. In short, mustelids will continue to have high impacts on biodiversity values in this region.
- **No regional intervention:** Another option is no regional intervention and instead rely on ad hoc voluntary control. However, to date such control has not been sufficient to reduce mustelid numbers and their effects (noting that their large home range means that populations can quickly replenish following any localised control).

3.4 CBA statement and risks to success

Mustelids have a continuing and significant impact on environmental and social/cultural values, and, to a lesser extent, production (dairy and intensive sheep and beef). They are widespread across all habitat types in Taranaki.

Sustained mustelid control through the imposition of land occupier obligations in Predator Control Areas is technically achievable in urban areas and on those parts of the region that are intensively farmed. Rules requiring land occupiers to reduce and then maintain mustelid numbers at low levels in Predator Control Areas are necessary to support the programme.

Sustained mustelid control through the imposition of land occupier obligations in Predator Control Areas is also cost beneficial through the avoidance of mustelid impacts and the protection of remnant biodiversity values on the ring plain and coastal terraces plus the 'halo' benefits that accrue to the Egmont National Park. The benefits include the protection (and recovery) in the distribution and abundance of some nationally threatened or regionally distinctive native species in Taranaki that would otherwise be impacted upon by mustelids.[7]

The net monetarised cost of regional intervention (over the first 10 years is estimated to be in the order of $4,380,000 per annum. Council costs are estimated to be an average of $2,314,754 per annum while land occupier compliance cost are estimated to be in the order of $2,077,920 per annum.

Pursuant to section 70(2)(c)(v) and (vi) of the Act, there are no alternative means of achieving the proposed objective (refer section 2.3 above)which reads as follows:

"*…Over the duration of the Plan, sustainably control mustelids numbers on land within a Predator Control Area, and elsewhere as appropriate, to avoid or minimise adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values in the Taranaki region.*"

Risks of the proposed programme being unsuccessful in achieving objectives

Risk	Level of risk	Explanation
Technical risk	Low to Medium	New technologies are constantly being worked on in an effort to develop cost effective tools for controlling mustelids at a landscape-scale.
Operational risk	Low	Programme is modelled on the Self-help Possum Control Programme, which has been demonstrated to be sustainable and cost-effective in addressing the externality impacts of possums on intensively-farmed land. However, effective sustained mustelid control will be dependent upon co-ordinated land occupier action.
Legal risk	Low to medium	Success of mustelid control will rely on regular boundary control measures in the Egmont National Park (as part of the Project Mounga project) to reduce risks of re-infestation.
Socio-political risk	Low	The proposed programme will be tested through the Plan review process but it is based on a similar approach adopted to manage another predator (possums) and for which there has been significant public support to date.
Other risks	Low	Programme is dependent upon funding support from central government and/or philanthropic providers.

[7] *Council and Landcare Research studies have identified a 90% reduction in the level of mustelids in Taranaki under sustained control.*

3.5 Who should pay?

Mustelids are a major threat to indigenous biodiversity values in the Taranaki region and, to a lesser extent, production values.

Land occupiers with infestations are the principal exacerbators of the problem. All land occupiers with infestations will be 'exacerbating' the problem and are therefore best placed to undertake and pay for the costs of any control and ensure that infestations are not impacting on biodiversity and production values and/or spreading to their neighbours. This includes the Crown and in particular, the Department of Conservation, which manages the public conservation estate (which represents 20% of the region), including the *Taranaki Mounga* project.

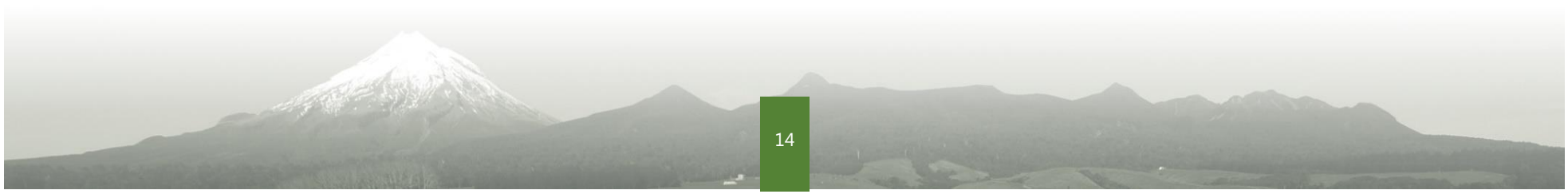
The regional community is the principal beneficiary given that managing mustelids for the protection of biodiversity values is a 'public good'. The Department of Conservation, given their statutory responsibilities for indigenous biodiversity and managing the public conservation estate is also a major beneficiary of any mustelid control.

Rural land occupiers may also be a beneficiary where production values are affected (e.g. through avoiding animal health impacts and risks). Urban land occupiers will not generally be a major beneficiary of any control (other than where it is a public good).

In terms of managing mustelids on private land for the public good, there is general acceptance that the wider regional community is a beneficiary and that Council support is appropriate to maximise the effectiveness of individual control across the region. The regional community is able to assess the cost and benefits and effectiveness of the programme through the annual planning and reporting processes under the *Local Government Act 2002* and through the review of future pest management plans

Beneficiaries and Exacerbators

Group	Beneficiary	Exacerbator	Change behaviour	Assess costs & benefits	Control cost effectively
Private land occupiers		Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Crown land occupiers	Major	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dairy / sheep and beef	Minor	Minor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Regional community	Major		No	Yes	Yes



Glossary

Various technical and planning terms used in this proposal are defined in this Glossary. Unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply.

Act means the *Biosecurity Act 1993*.

Adjacent means, for the purpose of the Plan, a property that is next to, or adjoining, another property.

Beneficiary means the receiver of benefits accruing from the implementation of a pest management measure or the Plan.

Biological diversity (or **biodiversity**) means the variability among living organisms, and the ecological complexes of which they are a part, including diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

Bovine tuberculosis means the state of being infected with *Mycobacterium bovis*. *Mycobacterium bovis* is an infectious, zoonotic, bacterial disease, characterised by the formation of tubercle lesions on affected animals.

Council means Taranaki Regional Council.

Costs and benefits includes costs and benefits of any kind, whether monetary or non-monetary.

Crown

(a) means her Majesty the Queen in right of New Zealand; and

(b) includes all Ministers of the Crown and all departments; but

does not include:

(c) an Office of Parliament;

(d) a Crown entity; or

(e) a State enterprise named in the First Schedule to the *State-Owned Enterprises Act 1986*.

Exacerbator means a person who, by their activities or inaction, contributes to the creation, continuance or makes worse a particular pest management problem.

Externality Impacts, in relation to pest management, are adverse and unintended effects imposed on others.

Fauna refers to all the animals of a particular region or period.

Good neighbour rule means a rule that seeks to manage the externality impacts arising from pests spilling over from one property to a neighbouring property that is free of, or being cleared, of that pest.

Indigenous means native to New Zealand.

Key Native Ecosystems refers to terrestrial sites (sites on land) identified by the Taranaki Regional Council to have regionally significant indigenous biodiversity values.

Means of achievement means the general management options, tactics, or technical methods by which the Taranaki Regional Council or land occupiers will achieve an objective or objectives.

Occupier means

(a) in relation to any place physically occupied by any person, means that person; and

(b) in relation to any other place, means the owner of the place; and

(c) in relation to any place, includes any agent, employee, or other person, acting or apparently acting in the general management or control of the place.

Pest means an organism specified as a pest in a pest management plan.

Pest management plan and **Plan** means a Plan made under Part V of the Act, for the exclusion, eradication or management of a particular pest or pests.

Predator Control Area means an area identified as a Predator Control Area in accordance with section 6.6A of this Plan.

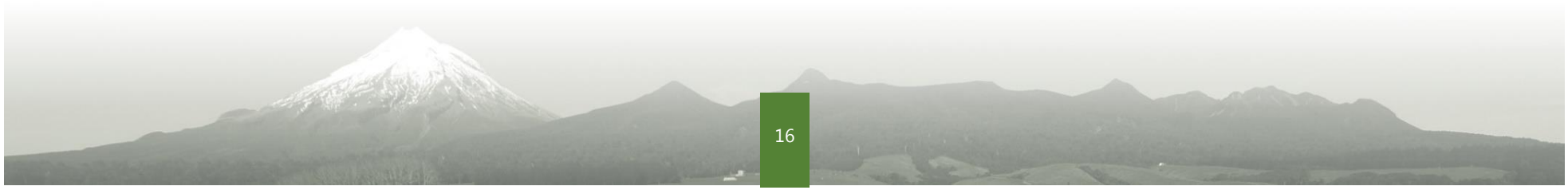
Private land means any land which is for the time being held in fee simple by any person other than Her Majesty; and includes any Māori land.

Region, in relation to a regional council, means the region of the regional council as determined in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2002*.

Rule means a rule included in a pest management plan or a pathway management plan.

Sustained control pest programme means a management programme for which the intermediate outcome for the programme is to provide for ongoing control of the subject, or an organism being spread by the subject, to reduce its impacts on values and spread to other properties.

Taonga means treasure, property: taonga are prized and protected as sacred possessions of the tribe. The term carries a deep spiritual meaning and taonga may be things that cannot be seen or touched. Included for example are te reo Māori (the Māori language), wāhi tapu, the air, waterways, fishing grounds and mountains.



References

Biosecurity Act 1993.

Byrom, AE, Caley P, Paterson BM and Nugent G, 2015: *Feral ferrets (Mustela furo) as hosts and sentinels of tuberculosis in New Zealand*. New Zealand Veterinary Journal, published online 2015.

Hawkes Bay Regional Council, 2019: *Hawke's Bay Regional Pest Management Plan 2018 – 2038*.

King (2005) Wildlife Animals of New Zealand.

Landcare Research, 2015: Widespread predator control for biodiversity in Hawkes Bay. Article in Kararehe Kino Vertebrate Pest Research, Issue 25, March 2015.

Marlborough District Council, 2019: *Regional Pest Management Plan 2018 Review Proposal*.

National Pest Control Agencies, 2018. *Pest Mustelids Monitoring and Control A8*.

National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015.

Ngati Ruanui Environmental Management Plan.

Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi Puutaiao Management Plan.

Taranaki iwi environmental management plan: Taiao, Taiora.

Taranaki Regional Council, 2018: *Biosecurity Strategy for the Taranaki Regional Council*.

Taranaki Regional Council, 2018: *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki*.

Te Atiawa iwi environmental management plan: Tai Whenua, Tai Tangata, Tai Ao.

Wildlands and Lincoln University, 2018: *Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan 2018-2038 – Cost Benefit Analysis and Cost Allocation Report*. Prepared on behalf of Hawkes Bay Regional Council.