

Environmental Implementation Committee 9 August 2023



Meeting will be held in the Council Chamber at Level 2, Philip Laing House
144 Rattray Street, Dunedin
[ORC Official YouTube Livestream](#)

Members:

Cr Bryan Scott (Co-Chair)	Cr Lloyd McCall
Cr Kate Wilson (Co-Chair)	Cr Tim Mepham
Cr Alexa Forbes	Cr Andrew Noone
Cr Gary Kelliher	Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Michael Laws	Cr Alan Somerville
Cr Kevin Malcolm	Cr Elliot Weir

Senior Officer: Richard Saunders Chief Executive

Meeting Support: Kylie Darragh, Governance Support Officer

09 August 2023 09:00 AM

Agenda Topic	Page
1. WELCOME	
2. APOLOGIES No apologies were received prior to publication of the agenda.	
3. PUBLIC FORUM Requests to speak should be made to the Governance Support team	
4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA Note: Any additions must be approved by resolution with an explanation	
5. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS Members are reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have. Councillor Declarations of Interests are published to the ORC website.	
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Environmental Implementation Committee MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Environmental Implementation Committee held in the Council Chamber, Level 2 Philip Laing House, 144 Rattray Street, Dunedin on Thursday 11 May 2023, commencing at 9:02 AM.

PRESENT

Cr Bryan Scott *(Co-Chairperson)*
Cr Kate Wilson *(Co-Chairperson)*
Cr Alexa Forbes
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Michael Laws (online)
Cr Kevin Malcolm
Cr Lloyd McCall
Cr Andrew Noone
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Alan Somerville

1. WELCOME

Co-Chairperson Bryan Scott welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 9:02 am and gave a karakia. Staff present included Pim Borren, (interim Chief Executive), Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services), Anita Dawe (GM Policy and Science), Gavin Palmer (GM Operations), Richard Saunders (GM Regulatory and Communications), Amanda Vercoe (GM Governance, Culture and Customer), Liz Spector (Governance Support), and Kylie Darragh (Governance Support).

2. APOLOGIES

Resolution: Cr Scott Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded:

That the apologies for Cr Mephram, Cr Weir be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Malcom noted an early departure at 10am.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Andrew Simms Chair of the Mosgiel-Taieri Community Board spoke about degradation of the Silver Stream in Taieri.

Chris Ford representing the Disabled Persons' Assembly, made an Annual Plan Submission and spoke support of the upgrade of headquarters the new Otago Regional Council and encouraged interaction with disabled people on building design.

Paul Weir, Leanne Stenhouse and Tracey of the Saddle Hill Community Board made an Annual Plan submission regarding the buses that run during school hours, frustrations over timetabling, overcrowding and concerns for safety of children using the city bus hub.

Paul Kavanagh Director at Southern Lakes Sanctuary Trust speaking on conservation standards for endangered native wildlife.

Barbara Anderson West Harbour Community Board – spoke on improving public transport, especially around Cruise Ship season, protection of wildlife near Ravensdown and Aramoana and asked for better community engagement around the Port of Otago redevelopment and transport infrastructure.

Matt Hollyer from GSD Queenstown discussed a new modelling proposal for environmental protection through collective consultation.

Co-Chair Scott adjourned the meeting for a short break at 10:10 a.m.

Co-Chair Scott reopened the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as presented.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No changes to the Councillor Declarations of Interests were noted.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: Cr Scott Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the minutes of the Environmental Implementation Committee meeting held on 2 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MOTION CARRIED

7. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

7.1. Biosecurity/biodiversity initiatives and partnerships

This report was provided to report on biodiversity and biosecurity initiatives, partnerships, and projects as per the 2022/23 Annual Plan level of service performance measures. Anna Molloy (Principal Advisor - Environmental Implementation), Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation), and Gavin Palmer (GM Operations) were present to respond to questions about the report. The paper was taken as read and staff responded to Councillor questions.

Resolution EIC23-106: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

That the Environmental Implementation Committee:

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Recommends** Council to ask the ORC Chair to write to the Minister of Finance (copy to relevant Ministries) highlighting the issue of transition of Jobs for Nature projects and inability to address transitional funding due to timing of the Long-Term Plan.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Laws left the meeting at 10:41 am.

7.2. Wilding Conifer Strategy and Implementation

This report was provided to seek the Committee's endorsement of the Regional Wilding Conifer Strategy and associated implementation plan. Anna Molloy (Principal Advisor - Environmental Implementation), Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) and Gavin Palmer (GM Operations) were available to respond to questions about the report.

Resolution EIC23-107: Cr Forbes Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Environmental Implementation Committee:

- 1) **Endorses** the Regional Wilding Conifer Strategy and associated implementation plan for approval by Council.

MOTION CARRIED

8. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Co-Chair Bryan Scott declared the meeting closed at 10:50 a.m.

Chairperson

Date

Action Register

Search Criteria

Showing Completed Items: Yes

Include Items Completed From: 25/06/2023

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Environmental Implementation Committee 9 August 2023 - OPEN ACTIONS FROM RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Document	Item No.	Item	Status	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Due Date	Completed (Overdue)
24/05/2023	Council Meeting 2023.05.24	9.1	Recommendations of Environmental Implementation Committee	Completed	The Chairperson to write to the Minister of Finance (copy to relevant Ministries) highlighting the issue of transition of Jobs for Nature projects and inability to address transitional funding due to timing of the LTP. (EIC23-106) Res CM23-169	Chairperson	Letter sent by Chairperson, Cr Gretchen Robertson on 12 May 2023	28/06/2023	13/07/2023

8.1. Prioritisation of Projects

Prepared for:	Environmental Implementation Committee
Report No.	OPS2253
Activity:	Governance Report
Author:	Anna Molloy, Principal Advisor Environmental Implementation; Libby Caldwell, Manager Environmental Implementation
Endorsed by:	Gavin Palmer, General Manager Operations
Date:	9 August 2023

PURPOSE

- [1] The purpose of this paper is to seek approval in principle for a process for prioritising waterbodies for water quality and biodiversity improvement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [2] Addressing water quality and biodiversity in selected waterbodies across Otago requires a prioritisation of where effort should be targeted.
- [3] Decisions around this prioritisation can be supported by using agreed criteria that enable a ranking or scoring of waterbodies.
- [4] Agreed criteria need to be relevant to the objective and able to be applied consistently using robust datasets.
- [5] The criteria suggested in the paper, when applied, aims to produce a ranked list of selected degraded waterbodies that can be used to collaborate with iwi, community, and landholders to develop a programme of actions to improve water quality and indigenous biodiversity. This is a performance measure from the Long-Term Plan 2021 – 31.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environmental Implementation Committee:

- 1) **Adopts** the suggested prioritisation criteria in principle.
- 2) **Notes that** the suggested criteria, if adopted, will be discussed with mana whenua (via Aukaha and Te Ao Marama) and applied to produce a draft list of ranked waterbodies for further development of actions.

BACKGROUND

- [6] ORC works with community groups and other organisations on a range of environmental improvement projects. Many of these are developed due to demand or an opportunity arising. There is an increasing demand from community (and other sectors) for support in environmental projects, and not all projects or proposals can be supported with the current resources available.
- [7] Therefore, it is important to have a clear, consistent and transparent process for how ORC prioritises its planning and development of improvement actions and projects.

What are we prioritising?

- [8] The driver for this prioritisation work comes from the Long-Term Plan 2021-31:
- a. Performance measure - Collaborate with iwi, communities, and landowners to develop and deliver a programme of actions to improve water quality and indigenous biodiversity in selected degraded waterbodies.
- [9] This process aims to provide a method for selecting degraded waterbodies that can be improved in terms of water quality and indigenous biodiversity through a collaborative programme of actions.
- [10] The intention is that a programme of actions be developed for these priority waterbodies in collaboration with iwi, communities and landowners. This is part of a three-stage process as follows:
- Stage 1 – Prioritise water bodies based on level of water quality and biodiversity degradation (the focus of this paper).
 - Stage 2 – Develop programmes of action and projects for the priority waterbodies, aligned with or as part of the CAP development process where possible.
 - Stage 3 – Prioritise the actions and projects from Stage 2 across all water bodies as part of wider activity prioritisation and business planning across ORC and to inform Annual Plan preparation.
- [11] This process is designed to support the LTP Performance measure (see [8] above). The outcomes from the prioritisation can be included in the development of Catchment Action Plans where timing aligns. That is, waterbodies ‘selected’ for the purposes of the LTP performance measure can form the basis of developing action plans required for degraded waterbodies (as per the NPSFM) and incorporated into CAPs. However, this will need to be discussed further when the CAPs are being developed in collaboration with iwi and community. It should also be noted that the waterbodies selected through this process may precede CAP development in many FMU / rohe, and as such a works programme could be underway prior to CAP development. In turn, the CAPs once developed will inform prioritisation of projects and this process can be merged into the implementation of CAPs.
- [12] This paper outlines the prioritisation process only. It focusses on the process for ranking water bodies and the prioritisation of planning and development of improvement actions and projects for those water bodies. That planning and development requires resourcing, and prioritisation assists with ensuring this stage is resourced appropriately. The prioritisation of the delivery of actions and projects arising from this process is outside the scope of this paper. Such prioritisation is part of wider business planning and prioritisation across all activities of ORC.

DISCUSSION

How do we propose to prioritise?

- [13] There are many degraded waterbodies in Otago so a method for prioritising them will ensure the “selected” ones are chosen based on clear criteria that justifies the reasoning why they have been selected.
- [14] It is proposed that a multi-criteria analysis be used to prioritise the waterbodies. Multi-criteria analysis is a means of simplifying complex decision-making for investment which

may involve many stakeholders / decision-makers, a range of possible outcomes and many (and sometimes) intangible criteria by which to assess the outcomes.¹

- [15] Defining the criteria is a key step in the analysis. The criteria are aspects about the decision to be made (in this case which waterbodies are a priority for ORC investment in planning and development of actions and projects) which may be weighted by level of importance (e.g., waterbodies with threatened species or active community groups may rank higher than others). The proposed method for this is outlined below:
- a. Determine the scope of waterbodies to be assessed – i.e., degraded as determined by what measure?
 - b. Determine criteria that might further refine the scope of waterbodies.
 - c. Determine criteria that can be applied to ‘score’ the remaining waterbodies.
 - d. Apply criteria to produce a high, medium, and low ranked list of waterbodies.
- [16] These steps have been described further below.

Step 1: Degraded waterbodies scope

- [17] For the purposes of this process a degraded water body, is one that is below the national bottom line for specified attributes.²
- [18] The specified attributes are taken to be those attributes (or indicators) of water quality and indigenous biodiversity that can be improved or impacted by community and iwi through non-regulatory interventions.
- [19] Water quality is represented by many different attributes (e.g. nutrient level, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, e. coli, etc.) and a water body could be considered to be degraded for any one or multiple of these attributes. It is recommended that two or three attributes be used to determine ‘degraded’ to remove complexity from the process.
- [20] This process is prioritising water bodies for the design of a programme of actions that can be developed and implemented in collaboration with community and iwi.
- [21] It is recommended that phosphorus, turbidity and nitrogen are the key attributes for water quality degradation.
- [22] As key indicators, it does not mean other attributes of water quality will not also be improved through any potential actions developed. It is only that these attributes will be used as indicators of degradation and resulting change / improvement. In addition, phosphorus (dissolved reactive phosphorus) is an attribute in the NPSFM that requires an action plan be developed for achieving the target state.
- [23] Indicators of indigenous biodiversity as per the NPSFM are submerged plants, fish, and macroinvertebrates. These are monitored for only some rivers and lakes, that is submerged plants is monitored in six lakes, fish are monitored at 28 riverine sites and macroinvertebrates at 80 sites. It is recommended macroinvertebrates be used as an indication of biodiversity as it is monitored in most sites.

¹ Proctor, W., A Practical Application of Multi Criteria Analysis to Forest Planning in Australia, 1999

² Adapted from the definition in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020.

[24] Therefore, the initial scope of waterbodies to be included for prioritising are recommended to be those that have phosphorus and/or turbidity levels and/or macroinvertebrates and or nitrogen below the national bottom line as per the NPSFM rating.

Step 2: Criteria to score waterbodies

[25] Criteria that can be used to score the remaining waterbodies in terms of their priority for a programme of actions to improve water quality and indigenous biodiversity are suggested in Tables 1 and 2 below, along with a possible scoring system.

[26] These have been categorised into science / environmental criteria and socio-economic criteria. It is recommended that the environmental criteria be applied first. That is the environmental criteria should be applied and a ‘short list’ generated. The socio-economic criteria can then be applied to this short list.

Table 1: Environmental criteria for scoring waterbodies

Criteria	Details of Criterion	Data to use	Recommendation
Ki uta Ki tai / Scale of influence	Starting in the headwaters where possible, will mean that any works will not be undone by upstream impacts. Or alternatively looking upstream to ensure there are no or minimal impacts	Geographic sub-catchment layer	Headwaters or entire sub-catchment scale – 1 Mid or end of system - 0
High ranked riparian ecosystems	Projects addressing water quality in highly ranked riparian ecosystems will also contribute to aquatic life outcomes.	Zonation mapping for riparian ecosystems (top 30%)	>75% of catchment is highly ranked – 4 50-75% – 3 25 – 50% – 2 <25% – 1 None - 0
Presence of threatened species	The presence of threatened aquatic or terrestrial species that could be protected or improved through the project should increase its priority.	Wildland ecosystem mapping includes threatened species	Threatened species – 1 None - 0
Outstanding water bodies (OWB)	If the waterbody is listed as an outstanding waterbody (as per the work undertaken for NPSFM). Or proximity of the degraded waterbody to an OWB is a possible threat to that OWB – so addressing the threat should increase its score.	Work to identify OWBs for wetlands, lakes, estuaries, and rivers is underway. Inclusion of this criteria assumes the results are available.	OWB overlap or direct connection with waterbodies with poor phosphorus / turbidity score – 2 Indirect connection (by distance) – 1 No connection - 0

Table 2: Cultural / Socio-economic criteria for scoring waterbodies

Criteria	Details of Criterion	Data to use	Recommendation
Mana whenua significance	This could include sites of mahika kai, wāhi tūpuna or other significance	Identifying these sites will require mana whenua input.	Significant site – 2 Linked to significant site – 1 No significance - 0
Community	If the site is of interest to the	Use OCC and catchment	Interested and

interest	community, it will be easier to get the community involved. The community will be required to take on 'ownership' of the long-term outcomes.	advisors' knowledge and presence of existing catchment groups. Initial score is a judgement call as to community interest and ability	engaged community ready to be involved – 2 Interested community but not ready for involvement – 1 No community interest - 0
Leveraging / cost sharing	Are there other opportunities to share the cost of the action, or leverage from community or agency support? This could involve building on existing projects or supporting projects being developed now. Note: This criterion is a possible conflict with 'regional equity'.	Use ORC teams' knowledge about other projects – Science, EI Team, Engineering and Natural Hazards	Leveraging probable – 2 Some other possible inputs or collaboration - 1 No other inputs - 0
Scale / Severity of the degradation	The overall investment (time and resources) in addressing degraded waterbodies can be affected by the scale and severity of the issue being addressed. For example, a large scale severely degraded waterbody with complex or unknown sources of degradation overall could require significant resources to even slow or halt the declining trend.	Use sub-catchment GIS data and SoE data	Scale of catchment <10,000 ha – 4 10,000 – 50,000 – 3 50,000 ha – 100,000 ha – 2 >100,000ha – 1 Severity of degradation Degradation recent and initial downward trend – 4 Degradation recent with obvious declining trend – 3 Degradation medium term and trend neutral or upward - 2 Degradation long-term and declining - 1

OPTIONS

- [27] The Environmental Implementation Committee adopts the above criteria in principle and later review a draft prioritised list of waterbodies resulting from use of the criteria.
- [28] The Environmental Implementation Committee does not adopt the criteria and/or requests amendment.

CONSIDERATIONS

Strategic Framework and Policy Considerations

- [29] This process will help deliver on Long-Term Plan performance measures.

Financial Considerations

- [30] Future financial considerations will arise if the criteria is applied and the highest ranked projects are to be endorsed. Detail on this will be provided in future papers once criteria has been applied.

Significance and Engagement Considerations

- [31] Building in mana whenua criteria is essential for this process. Discussion will be initiated with Aukaha about how this may be best achieved if this process is adopted.

Legislative and Risk Considerations

- [32] To achieve target attribute states and environmental outcomes for the NPS-FM 2020 compulsory attributes, and any other target attribute states the regional council sets with its community to meet environmental outcomes, regional councils must prepare an action plan for achieving the target attribute state within a specified timeframe (appendix 2B attributes).

Climate Change Considerations

- [33] There are no specific climate change considerations for this process as the focus for the prioritisation is water quality and biodiversity. However, actions undertaken to improve these outcomes will generally build resilience to climate change impacts.
- [34] Any programme of action that results from this process will incorporate climate change considerations in the planning.

Communications Considerations

- [35] Collaboration with community for the top listed waterbodies will be required and if there is interest, then a programme of actions will then be developed in collaboration with iwi and community.

NEXT STEPS

- [36] If the above criteria are adopted, it will be shared with mana whenua (via Aukaha and TAMU) for review.
- [37] Once criteria are finalised it will be applied using spatial data and staff / mana whenua input.
- [38] The ranked list will be presented through the Long Term Plan discussions, noting potential funding and financial opportunities/implications.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

8.2. Integrated Catchment Management Programme

Prepared for: Environmental Implementation Committee
Report No. OPS2323
Activity: Governance Report
Author: Sophie Fern, Catchment Action Planner
Endorsed by: Gavin Palmer, General Manager Operations
Date: 9 August 2023

PURPOSE

- [1] To approve the programme for rollout of Integrated Catchment Management across Otago, through the development of catchment action plans (CAPs).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [2] The Catlins was chosen as the first area for a Catchment Action Plan (CAP) to be developed. This CAP process has been initiated through a community meeting on 18 July to explain Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) and the CAP approach and request expressions of interest from the community to join an Integrated Catchment Group (ICG) who will develop the Catlins CAP. The community meeting was attended by approximately 45 people, and an online meeting presenting the same information was attended by another six. There was high interest amongst attendees in participating in the Catlins ICG.
- [3] With the Catlins soon to be in development, it is important that ORC established the forward programme for the sequence of CAP development so that community, iwi and ORC work programmes can align, plan for and support the process wherever possible.
- [4] A proposal for the rollout of future CAPs has been drafted and attached (see Attachment 1) for endorsement or amendment by the Environmental Implementation Committee.
- [5] Principles (such as ki uta ki tai) and factors (such as community readiness) considered in developing the CAP rollout are outlined below.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environmental Implementation Committee:

- 1) **Approves** the proposed Catchment Action Plan rollout.

BACKGROUND

- [6] The pathway for the ICM Programme was set at the 8 August 2022 Council meeting in which establishment of the ICM Working Group (ICMWG) was endorsed, the Working Group's key tasks were identified, and the Catlins Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) was selected as the pilot CAP. An update on the progress on these tasks was presented to Council on 28 June 2023.

- [7] One of the tasks of the ICM Working Group was to clarify the CAP development framework. The ICM Working Group has confirmed that a CAP will:
- a. Be developed in partnership with mana whenua and community who are “local and connected” to place. The ICM programme provides a mechanism for putting into practice the partnership between mana whenua and ORC.
 - b. Collate and build on the community’s existing work and identify gaps and opportunities.
 - c. Incorporate science and mātauraka Māori.
 - d. Serve to focus and target effective environmental management actions.
- [8] The ICMWG recommended to Council the formation of the Catlins Integrated Catchment Group (ICG) to collaborate on the development of the Catlins CAP. This was approved by Council on 28 June 2023 through the Catlins ICG Terms of Reference. Expressions of Interest for membership of the Catlins ICG are currently being sought and will be brought to Council in September for approval. The ICG is scheduled to begin meeting in October/November 2023. For planning purposes, the Catlins CAP is assumed to be completed in a year.
- [9] With the Catlins CAP now under development, the ICMWG has begun discussing the ICM programme’s next work areas and has, in-principle, endorsed the rollout sequence presented here.

DISCUSSION

- [10] The ICM programme is premised on CAPs being needed and developed for all of Otago therefore the way in which this occurs comes down to sequence and pace. The sequence can be informed by the environmental issues to be managed and readiness of the community, iwi and ORC to commence work in that area. The pace is primarily determined by ORC resourcing.
- [11] A clear rollout sequence provides clarity to the partners in the ICM programme and allows iwi, community and ORC certainty in their future-planning.
- [12] A proposed rollout sequence is provided in Table 1 and Figure 1 in Attachment 1.
- [13] The key principles that underpin the proposed sequence are:
- a. Ki uta ki tai – From the mountains to the sea. This principle prioritises beginning work in a catchment’s headwaters before moving down a catchment towards the sea, as environmental gains in the upper reaches of a catchment benefits the lower reaches. This is particularly relevant for the rohe of the Clutha / Mata-au.
 - b. Ability to resource the process by Kāi Tahu – Mana whenua have indicated that the existing FMU / rohe boundaries are the appropriate scale at which to do this work as this scale allows for full participation from interested runaka – Any smaller would impact their ability to resource representation.
 - c. Ability to resource the process by ORC is based on a team of two ICM staff per CAP, with each CAP taking 12 months, and starting 6 months apart (approximately). This assumption may change once the Catlins CAP development is better known or some of the more complex larger scale areas begin.
 - d. The ICM programme focuses on holistic environmental management encompassing the broad domains of marine, estuaries, wetlands, biodiversity, and soil as well as freshwater. While some scientific reports (such as State of the

Environment) indicate state and trends in some of these broad domains, the state and trends are different between these domains and between each FMU / rohe. Hence there is no clear priority for an FMU or rohe based on environmental data.

- [14] In addition to underpinning principles several factors to inform the sequence for CAP rollout have been outlined in more detail for each FMU or rohe. The factors considered include:
- a. General FMU / rohe information – population, size, land use, district councils etc.
 - b. An estimate of general 'readiness' to be involved in the CAP development process. This includes community and other projects currently underway as well as ORCs rollout of regulatory plans and processes (such as Freshwater Farm Plans and freshwater vision timeframes) that may prove barriers or opportunities for collaboration. An indication of existing mana whenua involvement has also been provided by Ka Runaka via Aukaha.
 - c. Environmental values and/or known pressures within that FMU or rohe that could be managed or mitigated by a CAP.
- [15] Factors that have been considered in determining the recommended rollout sequence are provided in Attachment 2. However, it should be noted that these are not clear-cut factors as in many cases the issues or complexity of an area can equally be a reason to start a CAP sooner as much as a reason to start later.
- [16] It should be noted that the ORC has received fixed-term resourcing from MfE targeted towards supporting catchment group initiatives. This enables the ORC to facilitate the development of CAPs at a sub FMU / rohe scale where there is an interest from an engaged community group. That is, ORC will run two parallel processes – one that rolls out CAPs at FMU / rohe scale as per the order in Attachment 1 and another that develops CAPs for sub-areas in any FMU where it is desirable to do so, and resources allow. Both will use the same approach to maximise consistency and provide a clear line of sight between CAPs at different scales.
- [17] Recent discussions with approximately 20 groups in the Upper Lakes FMU around how ICM might work highlighted that there are a lot of groups and significant amount of planning already underway in this FMU. However, the opportunity to use the CAP approach in some form to integrate these plans and the general "readiness" was clear.

OPTIONS

- [18] Option 1 - The Environmental Implementation Committee approves the proposed rollout sequence. This is the option that staff recommend as it provides clarity for community, mana whenua and the ORC and allows for future planning across the region.
- [19] Option 2 - The Environmental Implementation Committee approves the next three FMU or rohe in the proposed rollout sequence and approves the remaining sequence in-principle with the option of re-evaluating the rollout sequence once the Catlins pilot CAP is developed. This option provides some clarity for communities.
- [20] Option 3 - The Environmental Implementation Committee suggests or approves a different rollout sequence with a particular focus on setting the first three areas so that we can align our work programmes and provide certainty for the community and mana whenua.

CONSIDERATIONS

Strategic Framework and Policy Considerations

[21] None applicable for this paper.

Financial Considerations

[22] Resourcing of Options 1 and 2 can be met through the existing 2023/24 Annual Plan budget. If a faster rollout than is prescribed in this paper is put forward, there will be financial implications that will need to be considered. If there is a change of sequence for delivery part way through then this may also cause financial implications. If a slower rollout than is prescribed in this paper is put forward, there will not be any financial implications.

Significance and Engagement Considerations

[23] The co-design process used by the ICM programme fosters collaboration between mana whenua, community, ORC and other stakeholders. Mana whenua are represented on the ICMWG.

Legislative and Risk Considerations

[24] There are no legislative requirements that need to be considered at this stage.

Climate Change Considerations

[25] There are no immediate climate change considerations for this work.

Communications Considerations

[26] The ICMWG has agreed to a communications plan for the ICM programme, and it is currently being implemented for the Catlins CAP and Integrated Catchment Group. The communication plan seeks to clearly distinguish the ICM programme from the LWRP and FWFP process.

NEXT STEPS

[27] Once a CAP rollout sequence is approved, the ICM programme will begin collating the current environmental work in the next FMU or rohe with the intention of beginning the CAP development process in that FMU or rohe in April 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1: Proposed CAP rollout [8.2.1 - 2 pages]
2. Attachment 2: Factors considered for CAP rollout [8.2.2 - 6 pages]

Attachment 1: Proposed Catchment Action Plan (CAP) rollout sequence – August 2023

Order	FMU / Rohe	CAP Development	FWFP Rollout (proposed) ¹	FW Vision timeframe	Comment
1	Catlins	Oct 2023 – Oct 2024	December 2025		Pilot
2	Upper Lakes (Clutha Mata-Au 1)	April 2024 – April 2025	February 2025	2030	If later, misses opportunity for alignment with FWFP
3	Taiari	Oct 2024 – Oct 2025	August 2025	2050	If later, misses opportunity for alignment with FWFP
4	Dunstan (Clutha Mata-Au 2)	April 2025 – April 2026	February 2025	2045	Could go later, but need to maintain Clutha Mata-Au order
5	North Otago	Oct 2025 – Oct 2026	February 2024	2050	Could go earlier or later, but this timing aligns with finishing of Te Hikapupu project
6	Manuherekia (Clutha Mata-Au 3)	April 2026 – April 2027	February 2025	2050	Could go later, but maintain Clutha Mata-Au order
7	Dunedin and Coast	Oct 2026 – Oct 2027	December 2025	2040	Could go later / last
8	Roxburgh (Clutha Mata-Au 4)	April 2027 – April 2028	February 2025	2045	Could go earlier, but maintain Clutha Mata-Au order
9	Lower Clutha (Clutha Mata-Au 5)	Oct 2028 – Oct 2029	August 2024	2045	Could go earlier, but maintain Clutha Mata-Au order

*Blue shading indicates Clutha / Mata-au catchments

¹ Council approved this rollout in June

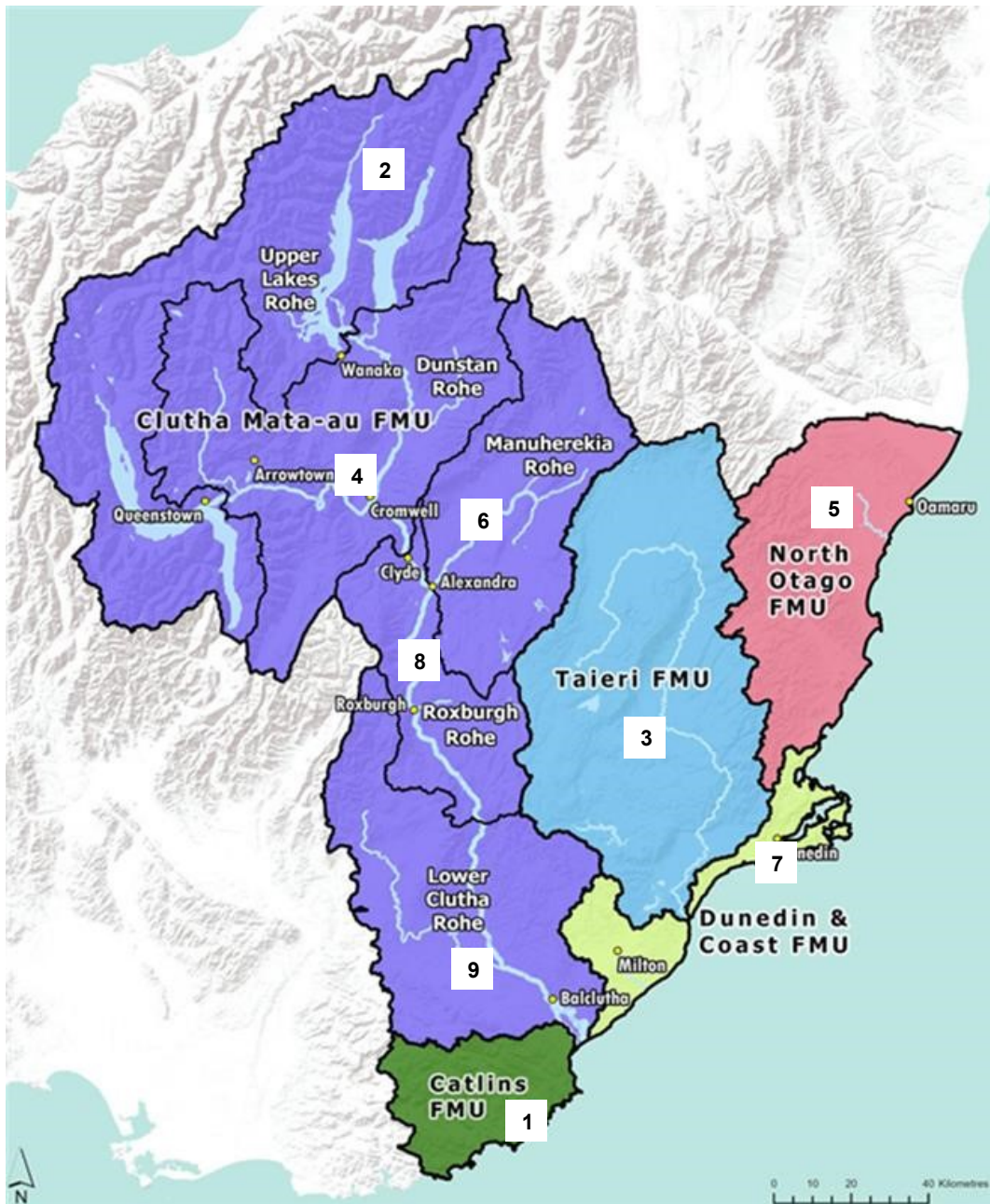


Figure 1: A map showing the FMU/rohe with the suggested rollout order

Attachment 2: Factors considered in determining the Catchment Action Plan (CAP) rollout sequence – August 2023

FMU / Rohe	Facts and Figures	Readiness	Environmental values and pressures	Recommendation
Dunedin & Coast	<p>Population – 113,000 Area – 1,115km² District Councils – DCC, CDC Rūnaka – 2 Agriculture - 44% Plantation Forestry – 28% Urban – 7% Biodiversity – high proportion of rare or threatened species Tourism high</p>	<p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very active community of environmental groups, some with plans underway – 40+ groups – including Tokomariro Catchment Group, Halo, PFD, OPBG. <p>Current Significant Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Dunedin Future (Climate Change adaptation planning) PFD / Halo Possum Control Site-Led Programme <p>ORC / Regulatory Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FWFP rollout – Dec 2025 (8th) RPS Vision – 2040 <p>Geographic- catchment order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many short rivers and streams some with estuaries & wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant area for coastal landscape, ecological values, estuaries and wetlands, notable wildlife, marine habitats and threatened species. Pollution of coastal and estuarine waters, lakes and wetlands. Increasing dairy farming and plantation forestry can pressure local biodiversity and social values. 	<p>Later</p> <p>Readiness is there but possibly a bit complex with the number of interested groups and somewhat disconnected geography.</p> <p>No real urgency of issues to be addressed that would benefit greatly from a CAP.</p> <p>Could benefit from experience of a few CAPs ‘under our belts’.</p>
Dunstan	<p>Population – 29,000 Area – 5,100km² District Councils – QLDC, CODC Agriculture / Horticulture – 66% Conservation – 23% Biodiversity – large proportion of NUE and</p>	<p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasonably active community including Friends of Lake Hayes, Lake Dunstan Charitable Trust, Lindis Catchment Group <p>Current Significant Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Hayes catchment work / planning Lagarosiphon control work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant area for biodiversity and naturally uncommon ecosystems. Local economy highly dependent on a healthy environment. Increasing urban development. Internationally recognized viticulture Tourism and agriculture significant 	<p>Mid</p> <p>Mid catchment area so would benefit from Clutha Mata-au being done in sequence from mountains to sea.</p> <p>Readiness is moderate – potentially separate focused groups.</p>

FMU / Rohe	Facts and Figures	Readiness	Environmental values and pressures	Recommendation
	BFAs Exotic grasslands, large river valleys, lakes, high tussock grassland Tourism high	ORC/Regulatory Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FWFP rollout – Feb 2025 (3rd) RPS Vision – 2045 Arrow and Cardrona water rules already noted Geographic- catchment order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not top of catchment – impacted by rohe upstream. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural residential increasing Bannockburn sedimentation Clutha Hydro Scheme and dams. Rabbits 	Urgency is moderate – some issues (e.g. dams) will require consent or regulatory change regardless of CAP.
Lower Clutha	Population - 12,000 Area – 3,800km ² District Councils – CDC Rūnaka – 2 Agriculture – 73% Plantation forestry – 9% Conservation – 7% Small stands of indigenous vegetation at altitude	Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium size population. Catchment groups include Pomahaka Water Care, Otago South River Care Current Significant Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Tuakitoto project ORC/Regulatory Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FWFP rollout – Aug 2024 (2nd) RPS Vision – 2045 Geographic- catchment order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottom of catchment – impacted by rohe upstream. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local economy is highly dependent on a healthy environment. Increasing dairy farming and plantation forestry Pollution of coastal and terrestrial waters. High producing grassland Flood mitigation and land drainage scheme Shoreline retreat and sea level rise impacts. 	Later End of catchment area so would benefit from Clutha Mata-au being done in sequence from mountains to sea. Large part of the rohe ‘ready’ (Pomahaka and Otago South Rivercare).
Manuherekia	Population - 6,000 Area – 3,000km ² District Councils – CODC Rūnaka – 4 Agriculture – 82% Conservation & Nature -	Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active water user group(s) – Ida Valley Catchment group, Manuherekia Catchment Group. Small population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large proportion of naturally uncommon ecosystems. Balance between river flows for ecology and water take for agriculture. Falls Dam at top of catchment. 	Mid Mid catchment area, so would benefit from Clutha Mata-au being done in sequence from mountains to sea.

FMU / Rohe	Facts and Figures	Readiness	Environmental values and pressures	Recommendation
	13% Large proportion of NUE Pasture grasslands Tussock grasslands in the high country Little urban development outside of Alexandra	<p>Current Significant Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exemplar project – catchment management plan not yet started, stock take and community aspirations work underway Thompsons Creek Wetland project <p>ORC /Regulatory Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FWFP rollout – Feb 2025 (3rd) RPS Vision – 2050 <p>Geographic- catchment order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-catchment impacted by rohe upstream and impacts rohe downstream 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TAG outcomes regarding water allocation is not known at this stage and has potential to be contentious. 	<p>Community readiness is possibly high but tensions regarding water regulations would be better resolved first</p> <p>Urgency of issues will primarily be addressed through LWRP rules, but CAP could help provide whole of catchment focus.</p>
North Otago	Population - 23,000 Area – 3,000km ² District Councils – WDC, DCC (also boards with ECAN at Waitaki River) Rūnaka – 4 Agriculture -70% Conservation – 7% Plantation Forestry – 6% Biodiversity – Large proportion of rare or threatened species High and low producing exotic grasslands Tall tussock grassland Large coastal area	<p>Mana whenua</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant work programme on Waikouaiti River and East Otago Taiāpure (which are likely to be shifted into Dunedin & Coast FMU) and with Te Hākapupu Significant work on riparian wetlands in Waitaki tributaries <p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged community and catchment groups – NOSLaM and East Otago Catchment Group. <p>Current Significant Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toitu Te Hākapupu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large and diverse area, primarily agricultural land use Large proportion of rare or threatened species. Increasing plantation forestry Significant mana whenua historic sites – rock art, mahika kai 	<p>Mid</p> <p>FWFP rollout too soon to take advantage of for ‘next’ CAP.</p> <p>Engaged community with a focus on Toitu Te Hākapupu so ICM could benefit from that finishing first.</p>

FMU / Rohe	Facts and Figures	Readiness	Environmental values and pressures	Recommendation
		ORC / Regulatory Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FWFP rollout – Feb 2024 (1st) RPS Vision – 2050 Geographic- catchment order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several large coastal catchments, diverse range, border with ECan for Waitaki catchment. 		
Roxburgh	Population - 6,500 Area – 1,800km ² District Councils – CODC, CDC Rūnaka – 4 Agriculture / Horticulture – 79% Conservation – 10% Grassland dominates Low producing in steep hills and high country High producing in river valleys Significant reliance on food and crop production	Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small but engaged farming community. Catchment groups include Teviot Water Care Group, Coal Creek Catchment group Current Significant Projects ORC/Regulatory Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FWFP rollout – Feb 2025 (3rd) RPS Vision – 2045 Geographic- catchment order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-catchment impacted by rohe upstream and impacts rohe downstream 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local economy highly dependent on a healthy environment. Large increase in plantation forestry can pressure local biodiversity and social values. Clutha Mata-Au important for mana whenua traditions and history. Current mahika kai values. Roxburgh Dam 	Later Mid catchment rohe which would benefit from upstream CAPs being done prior. Small area with water focused groups, possibly ready to engage. Not a significant urgency of issues.
Taiari	Population - 22,000 Area – 5,700km ² District Councils – DCC, CODC, WDC, CDC	Mana whenua <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant work in Te Nohoaka o Tukiauau/ Sinclair Wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large proportion of Naturally Uncommon Ecosystems – Scroll Plains Significant mana whenua history – 	Early A complex catchment that could benefit from a ‘collated’ CAP – i.e. not start from scratch but build on

FMU / Rohe	Facts and Figures	Readiness	Environmental values and pressures	Recommendation
	Rūnaka – 2 Agriculture – 75% Conservation – 10% Plantation Forestry – 5% All or parts of several mountain ranges Taiari river is 4 th largest in NZ	<p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very active community of conservation and environmental groups with plans underway <p>Current Significant Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ngā Awa project – Te Mana o Taiari (co-led by mana whenua) Upper Taiari Wai “Farm planning to catchment planning” project. Tiaki Maniototo Project Te Nohoaka o Tukiauu/Sinclair Wetlands <p>ORC/Regulatory Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FWFP rollout – Aug 2025 (7th) RPS Vision – 2050 Wetland delineation underway <p>Geographic- catchment order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant considerations 	<p>mahika kai sites and settlements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large and complex catchment Potential to support water management issues Many ‘primary’ actors in the system, many plans underway. Unresolved regulatory concerns – wetland grazing. Flood mitigation and land drainage schemes. 	<p>and work with planning and groups underway already. Another ‘pilot type’ option.</p> <p>Could take advantage of FWFP rollout if started by mid 2024.</p> <p>Some urgency noted by the issues especially in upper catchment.</p>
Upper Lakes	Population – 22,000 Area – 7,000km ² District Councils – QLDC Rūnaka – 7 Conservation and nature – 66% Agriculture - 32% Urban – 2% Deep water lakes Alpine landscapes	<p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very active community of conservation and environmental groups with plans underway – WAI Wānaka, Southern Lakes Sanctuary, Mana Tāhuna Lakes Wānaka and Hāwea have Guardians, and catchment groups include Friends of Bullock creek, Wānaka catchment group, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An unique natural environment in Otago. Highest proportion of biodiversity focus areas and large proportion of Naturally Uncommon Ecosystems Significant area for many Te Waipounamu mana whenua Tourism impacts on environment Housing development is a growing pressure 	<p>Early Opportunity to build on the community work already underway and bring it together in a landscape scale CAP.</p> <p>Aligns with well FWFP rollout. RPS timeline is relatively short– by 2030. Some possible urgency to reverse</p>

FMU / Rohe	Facts and Figures	Readiness	Environmental values and pressures	Recommendation
	<p>Tourism high</p>	<p>Glenorchy Landcare Group</p> <p>Current Significant Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern lake Sanctuary trapping • WAI Wanaka catchment health monitoring, biodiversity strategy and more • Tourism community to be Carbon Zero by 2030. • Lake Hāwea Stakeholder Group – mini CAP <p>ORC /Regulatory Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FWFP rollout – Feb 2025 (3rd) • RPS Vision – 2030 • ORC’s Lake Strategy (regional but big focus on deep water lakes) <p>Geographic- catchment order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top of Clutha Mata-Au catchment • Possible alignment with FWFP rollout. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep water lakes show a possibly increasing trend in nutrients – will be difficult to reverse if ‘tips’ into a different state 	<p>apparent decline in lakes.</p>

8.3. Biosecurity Operational Plan Annual Report 2022-23

Prepared for:	Environmental Implementation Committee
Report No.	BIO2202
Activity:	Environmental: Land
Author:	Murray Boardman, Performance and Delivery Specialist Libby Caldwell, Manager Environmental Implementation
Endorsed by:	Gavin Palmer, General Manager Operations
Date:	9 August 2023

PURPOSE

- [1] To report on the implementation of the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2022-23 for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, as required under Section 100C(2) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

- 1) Notes** this report and the range of work undertaken to give effect to Otago's Regional Pest Management Plan and the Biosecurity Act (1993).
- 2) Notes** the lessons learnt from the 2022-23 Biosecurity Operational Plan (BOP) are being applied to the delivery of the 2023-24 BOP.
- 3) Notes** that this report and the attached Biosecurity Operational Plan 2022-23 Report will be provided to the Minister for Biosecurity as required under Section 100C(2) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [2] A Biosecurity Operational Plan (BOP) is required by the Biosecurity Act 1993 to detail the nature and scope of activities the Council intends to undertake in the annual implementation of the Regional Pest Management Plan. Under Section 100C(2) of the Act, ORC as the respective management agency "*must prepare a report on the operational plan and its implementation not later than 5 months after the end of each financial year*" and "*provide a copy of the report to the Minister or council.*" This paper, including the attachments, fulfils that requirement.
- [3] The 2022-23 BOP contained 62 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Overall, 39 KPIs were fully achieved or exceeded (achievement rate of 62.9%). A further 19 KPIs were assessed as being partially achieved (30.6%). Three KPIs were not achieved while one KPI was not measurable as the required event did not occur. Although the KPIs across the past two reporting periods are not identical, this is an improvement on the previous year's achievement where the achievement rate was 58.9% with 28.9% being partially achieved.

BACKGROUND

- [4] In accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993, the Council's Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) 2019-2029 was adopted in November 2019. The RPMP details the plants and animals that are declared pests in the Otago region, explains why they are declared as pests, and outlines how each pest will be managed over a ten-year period.
-

- [5] A Biosecurity Operational Plan (BOP) is required by the Act to detail the nature and scope of activities the Council intends to undertake in the annual implementation of the RPMP. The BOP details the range of activities that will be undertaken by Council across five programmes used to manage pests in Otago for the year.
- [6] The BOP enacts the RPMP and provides additional detail explaining how the objectives in the RPMP will be met through specific deliverables (actions), performance measures and targets.

DISCUSSION

- [7] A summary of achievement towards the delivery of the BOP 2022-23 is presented in the attached document (Appendix 1: Biosecurity Operational Plan 2022-23 Assessment of Performance), detailing the achievement of each Key Performance Indicator (KPI).
- [8] The 2022-23 BOP contained 62 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Overall, 39 KPIs were fully achieved or exceeded (achievement rate of 62.9%). A further 19 KPIs were assessed as being partially achieved (30.6%). Three KPIs were not achieved while one KPI was not measurable as the required event did not occur. An assessment of each KPI is provided in Appendix 1. Although the KPIs across the past two reporting periods are not identical, this is an improvement on the previous year's achievement where the achievement rate was 58.9% with 28.9% being partially achieved, respectively.

Rabbit Inspections

- [9] Over the 2022-23 year, 544 rabbit inspections were completed with 255 and 289 rabbit inspections undertaken in community rabbit programme areas and rural¹ areas respectively. The BOP 2022-23 had a target of at least 500 rabbit inspections, split equally between community rabbit programme areas and rural areas.
- [10] Overall, 52.2% of inspections were compliant with 47.8% being non-complaint (Table 1). In comparison, 57.6% were compliant and 42.4% non-compliant in the previous year (Table 2). On average², there is a decrease of two MMS levels between non-compliance at new inspection and compliance at re-inspection. This would suggest that when control is undertaken it is very effective in reducing rabbit densities.

Table 1: Rabbit inspection compliance and non-compliance 2022-23

Compliance Status	Compliant	Non-compliant	Total
New Inspection	190 (73.6%)	68 (26.4%)	258
Re-Inspection	94 (32.9%)	192 (67.1%)	286
Total	284 (52.2%)	260 (47.8%)	544

Table 2: Rabbit inspection compliance and non-compliance 2021-22

Compliance Status	Compliant	Non-compliant	Total
New Inspection	393 (60.3%)	259 (39.7%)	652
Re-Inspection	58 (39.2%)	90 (60.8%)	148
Total	461 (57.6%)	339 (42.4%)	800

¹ Rural, in this context, relates to any area that is not part of a community rabbit programme area.

² This is a population level analysis between a new and re-inspection rather than a paired analysis. Paired analysis is expected to be available next year now the improved inspection system is fully functional.

- [11] When comparing against last year's results, there is no significant difference considering the context of rabbit management. Some care is needed when comparing between annual compliance rates due to the variable factors involved. Importantly, annual inspections will cover different areas with different infestation levels. This will influence how quickly compliance can be achieved. For example, rabbit inspections undertaken in areas with relatively low rabbit populations (i.e. MMS four or less) will have high initial compliance and any non-compliance is likely to be remedied quicker. In comparison, in areas with higher rabbit populations (i.e. MMS five or more) then compliance rates are lower and it may take a few seasons of control (two, or more, re-inspections) to achieve a comparable compliance at re-inspection rate. For further discussion on compliance activities, refer to the '*Compliance and Enforcement*' section [24 – 31].
- [12] Environmental Implementation staff have worked to develop relationships with Territorial Authorities and Crown Agency representatives throughout this last year around rabbit management. Proactive discussions and supply of information to public land managers is generally enough to action work outside of the formal compliance process. For example, proactive education and advocacy and collaboration are commonly used principal methods for these land managers. Given the context of rabbit inspections there not a substantive difference in the compliance rates between public (Table 3) and private land (Table 4).

Table 3: Rabbit inspection compliance and non-compliance 2022-23 for land owned by or under the control of Territory Authorities and Crown Agencies

Compliance Status	Compliant	Non-compliant	Total
New Inspection	22 (55.0%)	18 (45.0%)	40
Re-Inspection	9 (34.6%)	17 (65.4%)	26
Total	31 (47.0%)	35 (53.0%)	66

Table 4: Rabbit inspection compliance and non-compliance 2022-23 for Private Land

Compliance Status	Compliant	Non-compliant	Total
New Inspection	168 (77.1%)	50 (22.9%)	218
Re-Inspection	85 (32.7%)	175 (67.3%)	260
Total	253 (52.9%)	225 (47.1%)	478

- [13] The geographical distribution of rabbit inspections is shown in Appendix 2 (Figure 1 and 2). Inspections focused on areas of high/extreme rabbit proneness, to support the community rabbit programmes and lifestyle blocks in rural areas.

Plant Inspections

- [14] 1,678 pest plant inspections were completed in 2022-23 (Table 5), against a target of 1,500. 1,256 inspections were for declared plant pests and 422 inspections for 'Organisms of Interest' as listed in the RPMP.
- [15] Taking the 1,256 inspections for declared plant pests, the overall compliance rate from inspections was 39.5% (Table 5) which is broadly similar to the previous year (43.7%). In comparison to the previous year (Table 6), there was a slight improvement in compliance rate for new inspections (37.2% compared to 30.4%) however the rate of non-compliance after re-inspections increased (55.6% compared to 26.3%).

Table 5: Plant Pest inspection compliance and non-compliance 2022-23

Compliance Status	Compliant	Non-compliant	Total
New Inspection	319 (37.2%)	538 (62.8%)	857
Re-Inspection	177 (44.4%)	222 (55.6%)	399
Total	496 (39.5%)	760 (60.5%)	1,256

Table 6: Plant Pest inspection compliance and non-compliance 2021-22

Compliance Status	Compliant	Non-compliant	Total
New Inspection	454 (30.4%)	1,037 (69.6%)	1,491
Re-Inspection	483 (73.7%)	172 (26.3%)	655
Total	937 (43.7%)	1,209 (56.3%)	2,146

- [16] As discussed above [11], the direct comparison between annual compliance rates can be challenging dependent on a range of factors such as the initial infestation level and, for plant pests, the species involved. The most notable difference between the years relates to non-compliance rates at re-inspection with an increase from 26.3% to 55.6%. However, this is likely to be influenced by a change in inspection practice with the move from individual infestation sites to property level inspections. As this change shaped last year's data (Table 6), it would have a residual impact on comparing between the years. For further discussion on compliance activities, refer to the 'Compliance and Enforcement' section [24 – 31].
- [17] The geographical distribution of pest plant inspections is shown in Appendix 2 (Figures 3 and 4).

Exclusion and Eradication Pests³

- [18] The possible siting of Chilean Needle Grass (an exclusion pest) was reported twice by the public, but on inspection it was deemed not to be present. One juvenile Spiny Broom plant (an eradication pest) was observed and destroyed at the time of inspection.
- [19] Three rooks (an eradication pest) were also reported by the public however these could not be confirmed. In late June, an ORC biosecurity officer observed two rooks in the Strath Taiari area. Control actions have been enacted.
- [20] 63 inspections of known and potential rookeries were completed over the spring of 2022. No rooks were observed during these inspections.

Lagarosiphon/Aquatic Pests

- [21] 25 inspections were completed on lagarosiphon at nine water bodies not under oversight by LINZ. Inspections at Moke Lake; Manorburn, Poolburn, Butchers, Conroys, Falls, Fraser Dams all showed no presence of lagarosiphon in both visits. However, lagarosiphon was observed in small infestations at the Albert Town stormwater detention ponds (once in four visits) and Bullock Creek (once in three visits). Removal of the plants is currently being investigated.

³ Note: Wallabies will be reported separately at the November meeting

- [22] As part of the future management of lagarosiphon, a programme has been developed to extend the surveillance across the Otago region rather than being limited to the current nine sites listed above. This programme will also monitor the presence of other aquatic pests.
- [23] 743 engagements were made over summer through the “Check, Clean, Dry” campaign to advocate and educate the public on preventing the transmission of aquatic weeds, focusing on lagarosiphon.

Compliance and Enforcement

- [24] A large investment for Biosecurity over the past 18 months has centred on improving the administration of compliance and enforcement. The focus has been on building a system to enable effective, consistent and defensible enforcement. This investment will improve the:
- quality of data collection at source,
 - use, storage and management of data,
 - information for customers (e.g. letters with maps),
 - follow up on non-compliance,
 - reporting and performance,
 - coordination and strategic planning across region, and
 - support environmental and biodiversity outcomes for Otago
- [25] The system was fully rolled out in April 2023 and all inspections are now undertaken using the improved system. Initially roll out was planned for August 2022 but was delayed until November 2022 where a transitional rollout commenced.
- [26] The compliance and enforcement outcomes during this development period does not reflect the amount of work invested or improvement achieved. The first priority was to ensure the improved system was fit for purpose and then re-engage enforcement once there was a high confidence in the quality of information being generated. The benefits to compliance and enforcement outcomes are expected to be revealed once the new system has been operating for a full operational year (e.g. 2023/24).
- [27] A minimum of 921 letters, excluding Notices of Direction (NOD), were sent to occupiers or landowners to advise them of the outcome of the inspection.
- [28] Non-compliant properties are engaged using one of five methods listed in the RPMP. The primary method is advocacy and education/collaboration such as non-regulatory Request for Work letters, followed by council (re)inspections and, where appropriate, the issuing the requirement to act through a NOD. In some situations, contractors are engaged to undertake service delivery (e.g. boneseed, spartina). The methods used to progress compliance will vary depending on a range of considerations, such as the species, location, infestation level, and the applicable RPMP rule.
- [29] Due to the development of the improved administration system, NOD were only issued for rabbit inspections due to the higher quality data. From 2023/24, NODs will be able to be issued for any pest where appropriate.
- [30] Over the year, 147 properties were assessed as having the potential to be issued with a NOD for rabbits. Based on a set of criteria, 21 properties were formally served with a

NOD. These were issued to properties in the following geographical areas: Kawarau River 7, Moeraki 3, Waihola/Milton 4, Tarras 3, Otago Peninsula 3, Taieri Plains 1. One property has subsequently become compliant. The remaining properties will be re-inspected during the next year to determine progress towards compliance.

- [31] Under the Compliance and Enforcement Policy, a property is liable for a NOD if it remains non-compliant after the first re-inspection. However, due to variety of factors, (such as, but not limited to the pest species, initial infestation level, change in infestation level and the suitability of season for control methods), the progression to NOD may not be the most effective method to achieve a compliant outcome. Properties that were liable for but not issued a NOD, will be scheduled for further re-inspection to ensure there is progress towards compliance.

CONSIDERATIONS

Strategic Framework and Policy Considerations

- [32] None.

Financial Considerations

- [33] None.

Significance and Engagement Considerations

- [34] None.

Legislative and Risk Considerations

- [35] In line with the Biosecurity Act (1993), it is desirable that this report is submitted proactively to the Minister of Biosecurity prior to the 30 November 2023.

Climate Change Considerations

- [36] None.

Communications Considerations

- [37] None.

NEXT STEPS

- [38] Lessons learned and required improvements identified through this review process are being implemented.

- [39] The reports will be provided to the Minister for Biosecurity.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Appendix 1 Biosecurity Operational Plan 2022 23 Assessment o [8.3.1 - 11 pages]
2. Appendix 2 Geographical Spread of Inspections [8.3.2 - 4 pages]

Appendix 1: Biosecurity Operational Plan 2022-23

Assessment of Performance

Implementing the Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-29

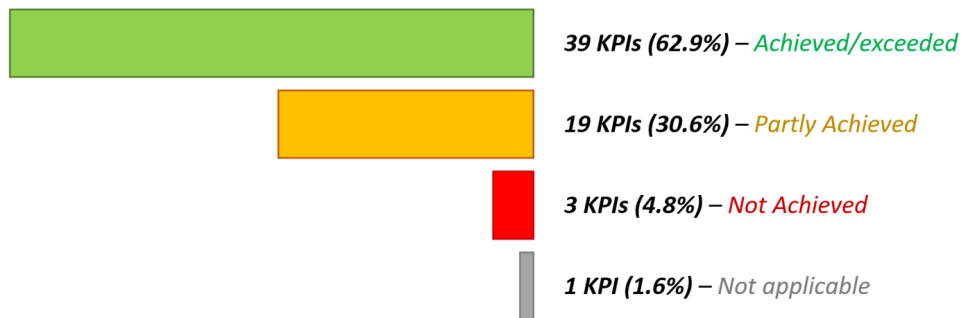





Figure 1: Snapshot of Biosecurity Performance in 2022-23



This report presents an assessment of the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2022-23 and reviews the achievement of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as listed in the plan. This report is divided into the five pest control programmes as outlined in the Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-29, along with the administration programme.

Key Legend

	Achieved/Exceeded	100% or more achieved
	Partly Achieved	Between 1-99% achieved
	Not Achieved	0% achieved
---	Not Applicable	Not able to be measured





1. Exclusion Pest Programme



ORC will prevent six high threat pest plants from establishing in the region.



Exclusion Pest Programme				
Objective: Preclude the establishment of the following plant pests (listed below) in the Otago region for the duration of the RPMP: African feather grass, Chilean needle grass, Egeria, False tamarisk, Hornwort, and Moth plant.				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of meetings with neighbouring regional councils on pest threats	6	7	
KPI 2	Exclusion pest response plan approved by Council by 30th March 2023	1	See comments	
Comments	KPI 2: Exclusion pest response plan was developed during the year and is being presented to the Environmental Implementation Committee in November 2023 after peer review.			
Lessons Learnt	Given incursion of pests is a continual risk, the exclusion plan is a key means to prevent spread of listed exclusion pests and other unlisted pests.			



2. Eradication Pest Programmes

ORC will eliminate spiny broom, and eradicate Bennett's wallaby and rooks from the region

Bennett's Wallaby				
Objective: There are three key objectives in the eradication of Bennett's Wallaby.				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce known wallaby populations to zero density and prevent their further expansion in the region, Prevent further spread of wallaby into North Otago from Canterbury, and Inform the Otago community on the wallaby threat and encourage vigilance and reporting to council. 			
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	% of sightings inspected within 3 working days of receiving the sighting report	90%	98%	
KPI 2	% of sightings inspected within 10 working days of receiving the sighting report	100%	100%	
KPI 3	Quarterly reporting to relevant Council committee showing progress against the surveillance plan	4	1	
KPI 4	% of Operational Advisory Group meetings attended	100%	100%	








KPI 5	Fulfil requirements of MPI funding agreement	100%	100%	
KPI 6	Report to Council by 31st December 2022: <i>“Analyse wallaby surveillance data and make recommendations for future management”</i>	1	See comment	
Comments	<p>KPI 1 & 2: 41 of 42 credible sightings were responded to within three days. The remaining sighting was responded to within ten days (report occurred over Christmas/New Year break).</p> <p>KPI 3: Reporting is being rationalised so that reports are more comprehensive and provide better information on trends.</p> <p>KPI 6: The report has been rescheduled and will now be presented in November 2023 so it can cover the full 2022-23 Operational Year.</p>			
Lessons Learnt	Overall, the wallaby programme is progressing satisfactorily. Reporting should be rationalised so that reports are more comprehensive and provide better information on trends, and produced less frequently to enable this.			



Rooks				
Objective: Reduce rook populations to zero density, within the RPMP period and maintain this status until eradication is attained.				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of known rookery locations inspected	50	63	
KPI 2	If rooks are sighted, control action completed within 3 working days of the inspection.	100%	100%	
Comments	KPI 2: One confirmed sighting of rooks in late June. Decisions related to control action commenced immediately.			
Lessons Learnt	The programme is progressing as planned. No specific lessons identified.			


Spiny broom				
Objective: Reduce spiny broom populations to zero density within the RPMP period and maintain this status until eradication is attained.				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of known and potential locations inspected/surveyed for spiny broom	20	32	
KPI 2	If spiny broom is sighted, control action is completed within 10 working days of the inspection	100%	100%	
Comments	KPI 2: One small plant was sighted, and this was immediately removed.			
Lessons Learnt	The programme is progressing as planned. No specific lessons identified.			


3. Progressive Containment Pest Programmes

ORC aims to contain and reduce the extent of 11 pest plants (or groups of plants) across the region

Wilding conifers				
Objective: Contain wilding conifers within the region (in accordance with national strategy), reduce infestation densities where practicable and prevent their spread to new locations				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of landowners provided with wilding conifer identification guides	100	105	
KPI 2	Strategy adopted by Council by 1st March 2023	1	1	
KPI 3	% of Operational Advisory Group meetings attended	100%	100%	
KPI 4	Fulfil requirements of MPI funding agreement	100%	100%	
KPI 5	Funding disbursed as per agreement*	100%	100%	
Comments	None to note			
Lessons Learnt	The programme is progressing as planned. The delivery model is complicated.			
* To "Support regional partnerships through funding Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group and Central Otago Wilding Conifer Control Group"				
African love grass				
Objective: Contain African love grass to its 20 known sites within the region, reduce its densities at these sites and prevent spread to new sites.				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of known and potential locations inspected/surveyed for African love grass	20	21	
KPI 2	If African love grass is sighted, control action is commenced within 10 working days of the inspection	100%	100%	
Comments	KPI 2: African love grass was sighted twice and were immediately removed.			
Lessons Learnt	The programme is progressing as planned. No specific lessons identified although extending the surveillance areas to surrounding properties has been incorporated in the 2023/24 Operational Plan.			









Nassella tussock				
Objective: Contain Nassella tussock to known areas within the region, reduce its densities at these sites and prevent spread to new sites.				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of known locations inspected for Nassella tussock	38	62	
KPI 2	% of locations re-inspected for Nassella tussock that are free of the pest	50%	22%	
Comments	KPI 2: This was a challenging KPI to meet given the biological nature of Nassella tussock.			
Lessons Learnt	Ensure KPIs so they are appropriate to the biology of the pest. The KPI for tracking the presence of Nassella tussock has been revised for future Operational Plans.			



Old Man's Beard				
Objective: Contain old man's beard to known areas within the region, reduce its densities at the above sites and prevent spread to new locations.				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	% of properties re-inspected for Old Man's Beard that are free of the pest	50%	33%	
Comments	KPI 1: This is an outcome measure dependant on the occupier/landowner rather than the attributable work by staff.			
Lessons Learnt	The KPI has been revised for 2023/24 to focus on ensuring that all non-compliant properties are re-inspected within the required timeframe.			


Spartina and Six Containment Plants				
Objective: Contain [1] spartina to known areas within the region, reduce its densities at the known sites and prevent spread to new sites and [2] the six pest plants (Bomarea, Boneseed, Bur daisy, Cape Ivy, Perennial nettle, White-edged nightshade) within the region, reduce their densities at known sites and prevent spread to new sites				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	% of properties re-inspected for spartina or anyone of the six containment plants that are free of the pest(s)	50%	31%	
Comments	KPI 1: This is an outcome measure dependant on the occupier/landowner rather than the attributable work by staff.			
Lessons Learnt	The KPI has been revised for 2023/24 to focus on ensuring that all non-compliant properties are re-inspected within the required timeframe.			

4. Sustained Control Pest Programmes

ORC will enforce rules to ensure control of rabbits and five widespread pest plants (or groups of plants) to reduce their impacts and spread.

Feral rabbits				
Objective: Ensure continuing control of feral rabbits to manage their spread and to reduce adverse effects and impacts on economic wellbeing and the environment.				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	List of properties to be prioritised for rabbit inspections	1	1	
KPI 2	# of rural (non-community programme) rabbit inspections	>250	289	
KPI 3	% of non-compliant properties that are re-inspected within set timeframes	100%	88%	
KPI 4	# of rabbit night counts completed	16	14	
KPI 5	# of community rabbit programme properties re-inspected	>250	255	
KPI 6	# of community-led rabbit programmes where feedback has been provided	8	8	
KPI 7	Funding round (<i>Sustainable Rabbit Management</i>) is oversubscribed with eligible applications	Yes	Yes	
KPI 8	Report to Council by 30th June 2023 (<i>Analyse rabbit inspection and monitoring data and make recommendations for future management</i>)	1	1	
Comments	KPI 3: This was partially achieved due to the move between the old and new administration system and associated delays. Achievement is taken from new administration system only. KPI 4: Two night count routes were not measured due to weather delays then restricted access due to lambing. As these were low prevalent areas in South Otago, it is unlikely this will influence regional trends.			
Lessons Learnt	The rabbit programme, in general, is progressing well. Some aspects have already been strengthened for the coming year, such as rabbit monitoring (e.g. additional night count routes).			

Gorse and broom				
Objective: Ensure continuing control of gorse and broom, that prevents land free of these pests from becoming infested and reduces adverse effects on the economic (and environmental) wellbeing of occupiers regionwide.				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	% of properties re-inspected for gorse and/or broom are free of the pest(s) [G&B Free area only]	75%	67%	
KPI 2	# of community meetings delivered on new gorse and broom free areas	4	1	
Comments	<p>KPI 1: Six re-inspections were undertaken in gorse and broom free areas, with four compliant. This is an outcome measure dependant on the occupier/landowner rather than the attributable work by staff.</p> <p>KPI 2: The engagement approach was changed to account for the relatively large size of most properties within the new gorse and broom free extension areas which are well spread throughout Otago. Staff will implement a more targeted approach and engage with individual landowners and crown agencies.</p>			
Lessons Learnt	Greater emphasis on surveillance and inspections of gorse and broom free areas is planned for 2023/24. KPI 1 has been revised for 2023/24 to focus on ensuring that all non-compliant properties are re-inspected within the required timeframe.			

Russell lupin				
Objective: Instigate boundary controls of Russell lupin to prevent spread (e.g. the planting and subsequent seeding) of wild lupin plants, and to reduce adverse effects in rural zoned land.				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	Russell lupin strategy finalised by 1st March 2023	1	<i>See comment</i>	
Comments	KPI 1: Russell lupin strategy was developed during the year and is being presented at the Environmental Implementation Committee in November 2023.			
Lessons Learnt	Roll out strategy once approved			




5. Site-led Pest Programmes

ORC has two site led pest programmes.

1. ORC will take a lead role in supporting community and agency control of six pest plants and nine pest animals to support Predator Free Dunedin and wider biodiversity enhancement initiatives.
2. ORC will target one freshwater pest plant.






Otago Peninsula, West Harbour – Mount Cargill and Quarantine & Goat Islands

Objective: Support community groups and other agencies to protect the ecological integrity of the Otago Peninsula, West Harbour-Mt Cargill, and Quarantine & Goat Islands.




		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	ORC Action Plan for each site-led programme, including timeframes, confirmed by 30th September 2022	3	3	
KPI 2	% of actions implemented within defined timeframes	100%	100%	
KPI 3	# of success stories highlighting improvement of indigenous biodiversity at site-led programmes	6	6	
Comments	None to note			
Lessons Learnt	No specific lessons learnt			






Lagarosiphon

Objective: Support LINZ in controlling and eradicating lagarosiphon in the region's rivers and lakes





		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of meetings attended with LINZ and other stakeholders	4	11	
KPI 2	Funding disbursed as per agreement [<i>Support LINZ in the management and control of lagarosiphon</i>]	100%	100%	
KPI 3	# of interactions in the 'Check, clean, dry' programme	650	743	
KPI 4	# of lagarosiphon monitoring visits at designated water bodies	18	25	
KPI 5	Report to Council by 30th June 2023 (<i>Analyse lagarosiphon monitoring data and make recommendations for future management</i>)	1	See comment	
Comments	KPI 5: The report was compiled prior to 30 th June 2023 and is included in the covering paper to this Appendix.			
Lessons Learnt	Extend surveillance to include other potential sites and aquatic pests. An aquatic monitoring plan has been developed which will be rolled out during 2023/24.			

6. Integrated Programmes

Biodiversity Integration				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	A set of biodiversity layers for GIS analysis	1	1	
KPI 2	# of pest inspections undertaken	1,500	1,678	
KPI 3	% of pest inspections undertaken in highly representative biodiversity areas and their surrounds	60%	27.6%	
Comments	KPI 3: Target was too optimistic – which will be revised in future.			
Lessons Learnt	Ensuring biodiversity outcomes as part of the biosecurity strategy is a task of the Inspection Planning Group when they schedule inspections.			





Shared Pest Programmes				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	% of non-compliant inspections re-inspected within set timeframes	100%	88%	
KPI 2	# of density monitoring visits undertaken	20	0	
KPI 3	# of monitoring visits to bio-control sites	20	41	
KPI 4	Current pest map includes historic data (as layers) for spiny broom, nassella tussock, gorse and broom and spartina.	1	See comment	
KPI 5	Report to Council by 30th June 2023 [Analyse and assess trends from pest inspections, density monitoring and bio-control data and make recommendations for future management]	1	See comment	
Comments	<p>KPI 1: This was partially achieved due to the move between the old and new administration system and associated delays. Achievement is taken from new administration system only.</p> <p>KPI 2: Density monitoring of pest plants was re-prioritised due to availability of resources. This will be advanced in 2023/24.</p> <p>KPI 4: Historic data collation was only partially achieved due to staff changes. This will be advanced in 2023/24.</p> <p>KPI 5: The report has been rescheduled and will now be presented in November 2023 so it can cover the full 2022-23 Operational Year.</p>			
Lessons Learnt	Lessons learnt depend on the KPI in question. KPI 1 will largely be addressed now we have moved to the new administration. The under-achievement of the other KPIs was largely a result of resourcing and re-prioritising work flows. Reporting			




should be rationalised so that reports are more comprehensive and provide better information on trends, and produced less frequently to enable this.

Pest Programme Engagement				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of communication engagements with listed agencies† at least once annually	10	10	
KPI 2	# of events attended to support best practice pest control	12	18	
KPI 3	# of collaborations with neighbouring regional councils	4	20	
KPI 4	# of meetings with Kāi Tahu on biosecurity issues	2	2	
KPI 5	# of enviro-school programmes attended	16	<i>See comment</i>	---
Comments	KPI 5: Staff have ensured regular connection with the Enviro Schools Programme to identify opportunities for biosecurity team support. One opportunity was identified during the last financial year. Therefore, the target of 16 was not applicable as the Enviro Schools programme did not require biosecurity support.			
Lessons Learnt	Continue with engagements as planned.			

† Listed agencies are: MPI, DoC, LINZ, KiwiRail, Waka Kotahi, WDC, DCC, CDC, CODC, QLDC

7. RPMP Administration

Compliance and Enforcement Actions				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	% of occupier/landowner advised of inspection status within three weeks of the inspection	75%	76%	
KPI 2	% of occupier/landowner advised of inspection status within six weeks of the inspection	100%	84%	
KPI 3	% of eligible non-compliant properties issued with a Notice of Direction within 20 working days after re-inspection	100%	60%	
KPI 4	Report to Council by 30th June 2023 [<i>Analyse the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement actions and make recommendations for continual improvement</i>]	1	See comment	
Comments	<p>KPI 2: This was partially achieved due to moving to the new administration system. Letters that exceeded six weeks were most often letters advising occupiers/landowners that they were compliant.</p> <p>KPI 3: Notices of Direction were delayed given the new administration system.</p> <p>KPI 4: Report was compiled during the year and is included in the covering paper.</p>			
Lessons Learnt	The partial achievement can be attributed to operating two different administration systems during the year. Now we have fully rolled out one system, the administration of compliance and enforcement should be easier in the future.			

Biosecurity Operational Plan Administration				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	Biosecurity Operational Plan for 2023-24 approved by Council by June 2023.	Approved	Approved	
KPI 2	% of exclusion and eradication pest enquiries responded to within 24 hours and three working days, respectively	100%	60%	
KPI 3	% of all pest enquiries responded to within 10 working days	100%	74%	
Comments	<p>KPI 2: Five enquires were received from the public related to exclusion and eradication pests, with three responded to within given timeframes. The remaining two were responded to within four weeks.</p> <p>KPI 3: 230 pest enquiries were received during the year. All but one enquiry was responded to within 14 days. (One enquiry to a non-RPMP organism took 48 days).</p>			
Lessons Learnt	Continue to revise administrative and field operational processes to ensure more timely responses. All potential exclusion and eradication will now be formally scheduled.			

Appendix 2: Geographical Spread of Inspections 2022-23

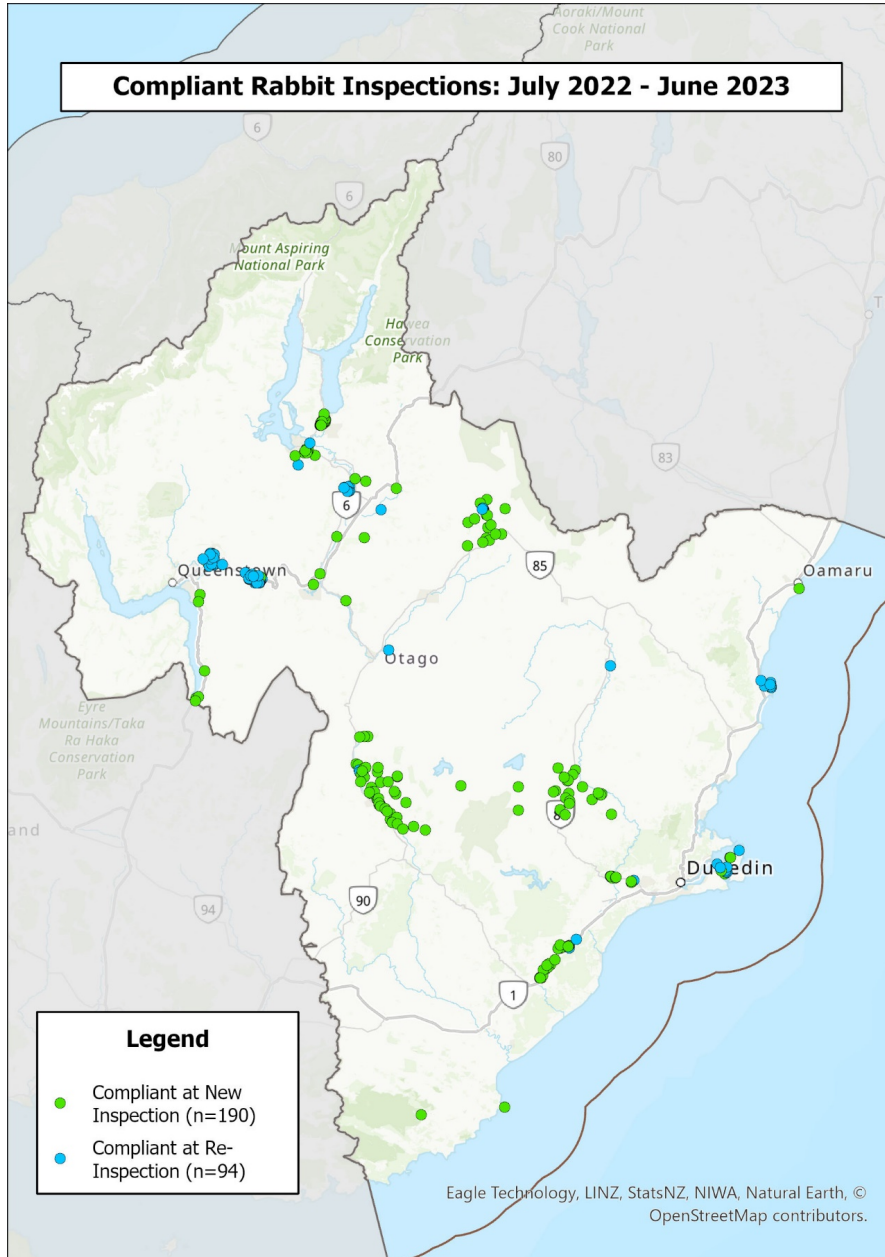


Figure 1: Rabbit Inspections – Compliance (July 2022 – June 2023)

Note: due to scale of map to ensure privacy, some points overlap especially in urban, peri-urban and semi-rural areas.

Geographical Spread of Inspections 2022-23

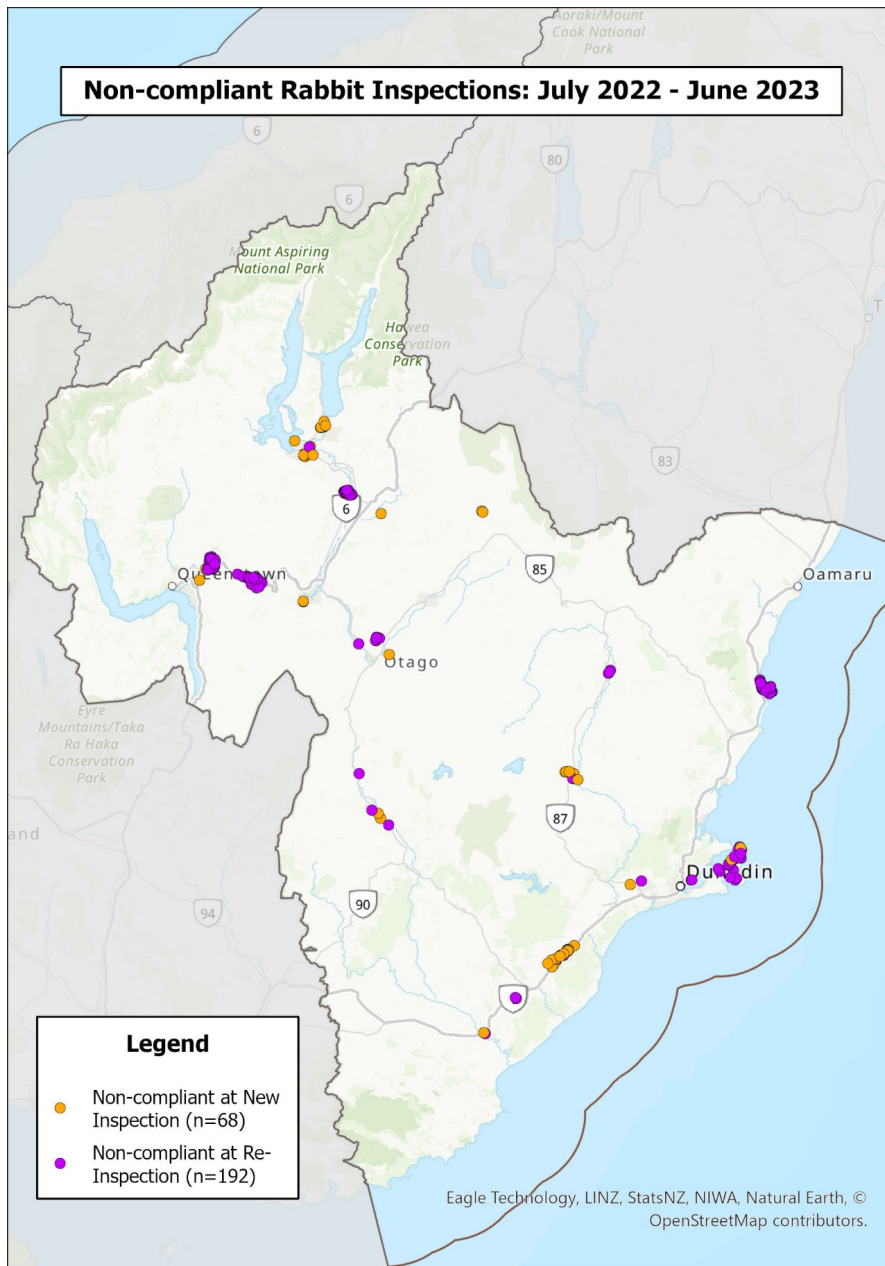


Figure 2: Rabbit Inspections – Non-compliance (July 2022 – June 2023)

Note: due to scale of map to ensure privacy, some points overlap especially in urban, peri-urban and semi-rural areas.

Geographical Spread of Inspections 2022-23

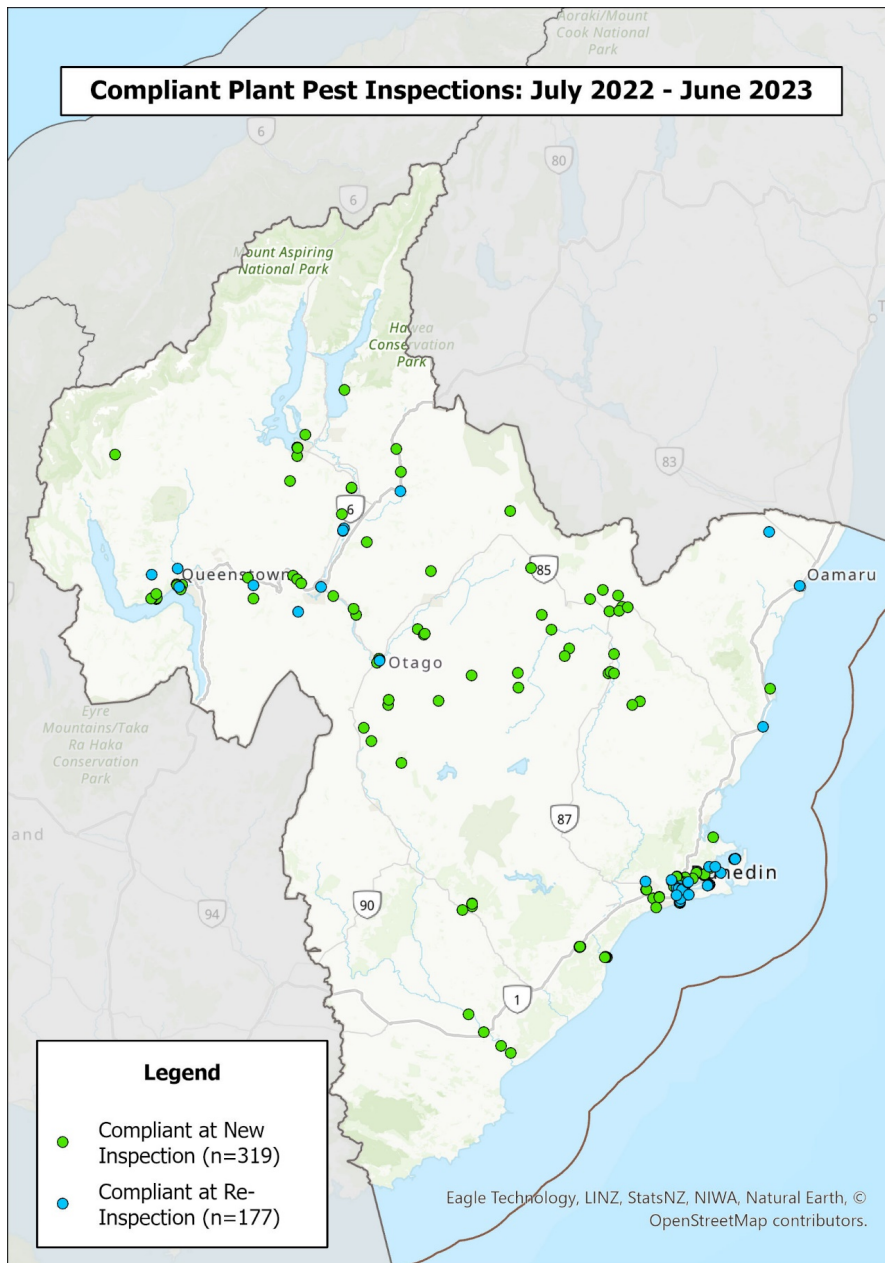


Figure 3: Pest Plant Inspections – Compliance (July 2022 – June 2023)

Note: due to scale of map to ensure privacy, some points overlap especially in urban, peri-urban and semi-rural areas.

Geographical Spread of Inspections 2022-23

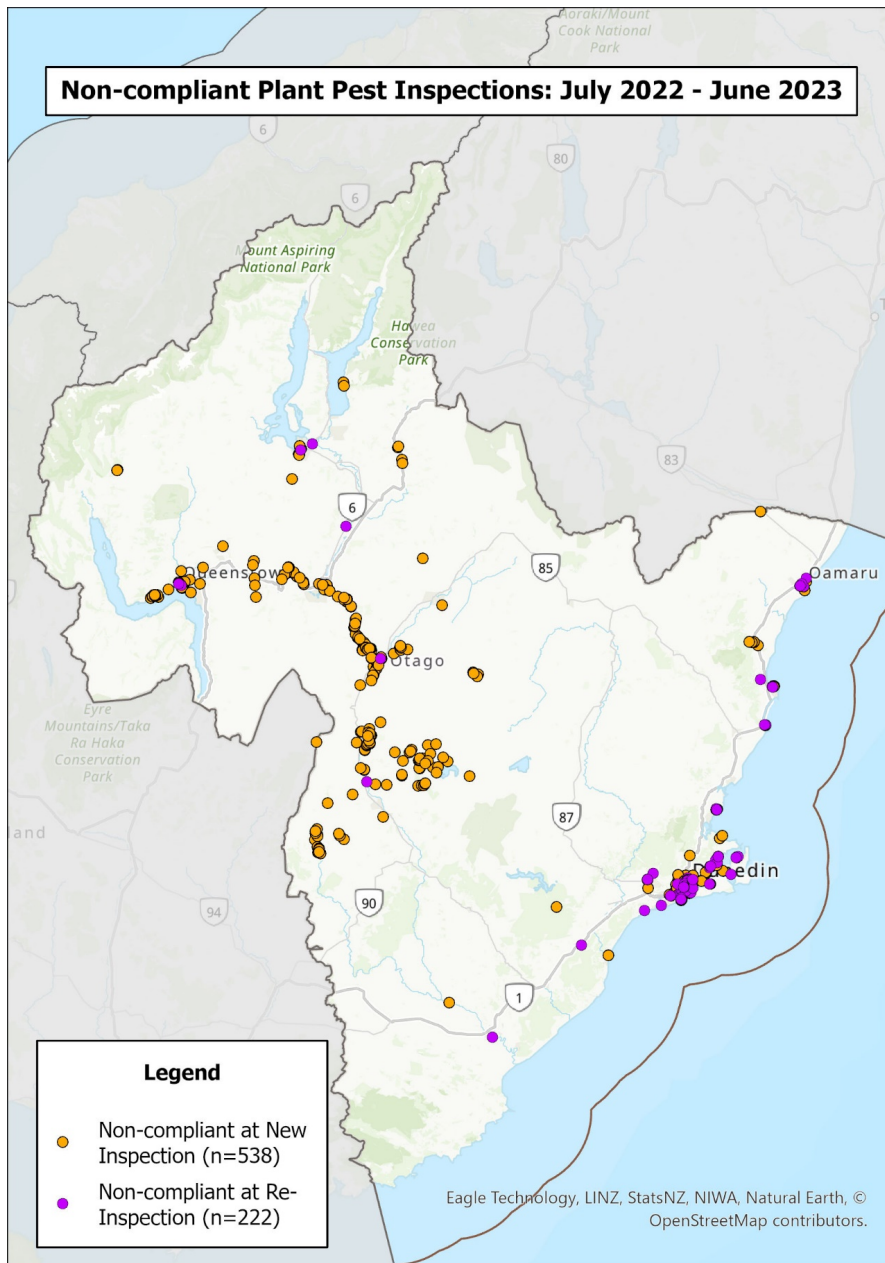


Figure 4: Pest Plant Inspections – Non-compliance (July 2022 – June 2023)

Note: due to scale of map to ensure privacy, some points overlap especially in urban, peri-urban and semi-rural areas.

Geographical Spread of Inspections 2022-23