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| **Otago Regional Pest Management Plan (2019-2029) (RPMP)** |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Objective 6.4.6** | **Rule 6.4.6.1** | | Over the duration of the Plan, implement sustained control of feral rabbits to ensure population levels do not exceed Level 3 on the Modified McLean Scale[[1]](#footnote-2) in order to minimize adverse effects on production and environmental values within the Otago region. | An occupier within the Otago region shall control feral rabbit densities on the land they occupy to at or below Level 3 on the Modified McLean Scale.  A breach of this rule creates an offence under section 154N (19) of the Act. | |
| **Property and Landowner/ Occupier Details** |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Property Address** | **Map** | |  | * *Insert map of property* * *Indicate any existing and planned rabbit netted fencing* | | **Landowner / Occupier**  <*Please highlight one>* | | **Name** | |  | | **Phone** | |  | | **Email** | |  | |
| **Control History** |
| *Please outline rabbit control measures previously/ currently undertaken on the property* |
| **Proposed Control** |
| *Describe the rabbit control measures that will be undertaken during the year to comply with the Otago Regional Pest Management Plan (2019-2029) Rule 6.4.6* |
| **Areas of property to be treated** |
| *Insert/attach a map/diagram showing where on the property these control measures will be carried out* |
| **Timing of Control Measures** |
| *Please**specify when the control measures will be undertaken* |
| **Contractor’s Details** |
| *If using a contractor, who will be carrying out the control measures* |
| **Signed by Landowner/Occupier: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: / /** |

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| **Useful Information** |
| For more information on rabbit management visit the Pest Hub: orc.govt.nz/rabbits |
| **The Modified McLean Scale (MMS)** |
| The Modified McLean Scale (MMS) is a scale used by councils to determine rabbit population levels through examining rabbit sign. It helps with regulation to make sure landowners are managing rabbit numbers to a level set in the Regional Pest Management Plan. Otago’s Regional Pest Management Plan has set the scale for Otago at a maximum of level 3. As a rule of thumb, if you see groups of rabbit droppings less than 10 metres apart, there’s a problem and you need to take action.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Scale** | **Rabbit infestation** | | **1** | No sign found. No rabbits seen. | | **2** | Very infrequent sign present. Unlikely to see rabbits. | | **3** | Pellet heaps spaced 10m or more apart on average. Odd rabbits seen; sign and some pellet heaps showing up. | | **4** | Pellet heaps spaced between 5m and 10m apart on average. Pockets of rabbits; sign and fresh burrows very noticeable. | | **5** | Pellet heaps spaced 5m or less apart on average. Infestation spreading out from heavy pockets. | | **6** | Sign very frequent with pellet heaps often less than 5m apart over the whole area. Rabbits may be seen over the whole area. | | **7** | Sign very frequent with 2-3 pellet heaps often less than 5m apart over the whole area. Rabbits may be seen in large numbers over the whole area. | | **8** | Sign very frequent with 3 or more pellet heaps often less than 5m apart over the whole area. Rabbits likely to be seen in large numbers over the whole area. |   Table: Modified McLean Scale (Credit: National Pest Control Agencies).  For advice, please contact our biosecurity staff at [biosecurity@orc.govt.nz](mailto:biosecurity@orc.govt.nz). |

1. Refer p. 4 for Modified McLean Scale [↑](#footnote-ref-2)