



Scope workshop

# ORC Biodiversity Strategy

ESP Committee | 25th September 2024

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## Workshop agenda:

- 9:00am Biodiversity in Otago
- 9:10am Why do we need a biodiversity strategy?
- 9:30am Workshop – what does thriving biodiversity mean to you?
- 9:45am Why now?
- 10:05am Scope for the strategy
- 10:40am Workshop
- 11:00am Close

# Biodiversity in Otago

## Biodiversity in Otago

# What do we know about Biodiversity in Otago

- Otago is one of the most biodiverse regions in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Many of Otago's species and ecosystems are rare

38



OF THE 72 NATURALLY UNCOMMON  
ECOSYSTEMS

34



REPTILE SPECIES

33



FRESHWATER FISHES

1242



VASCULAR PLANT SPECIES

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FOUND IN OTAGO

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## FOUND IN OTAGO

1



NATURALLY UNCOMMON ECOSYSTEM

7



REPTILE SPECIES

8



FRESHWATER FISHES

37



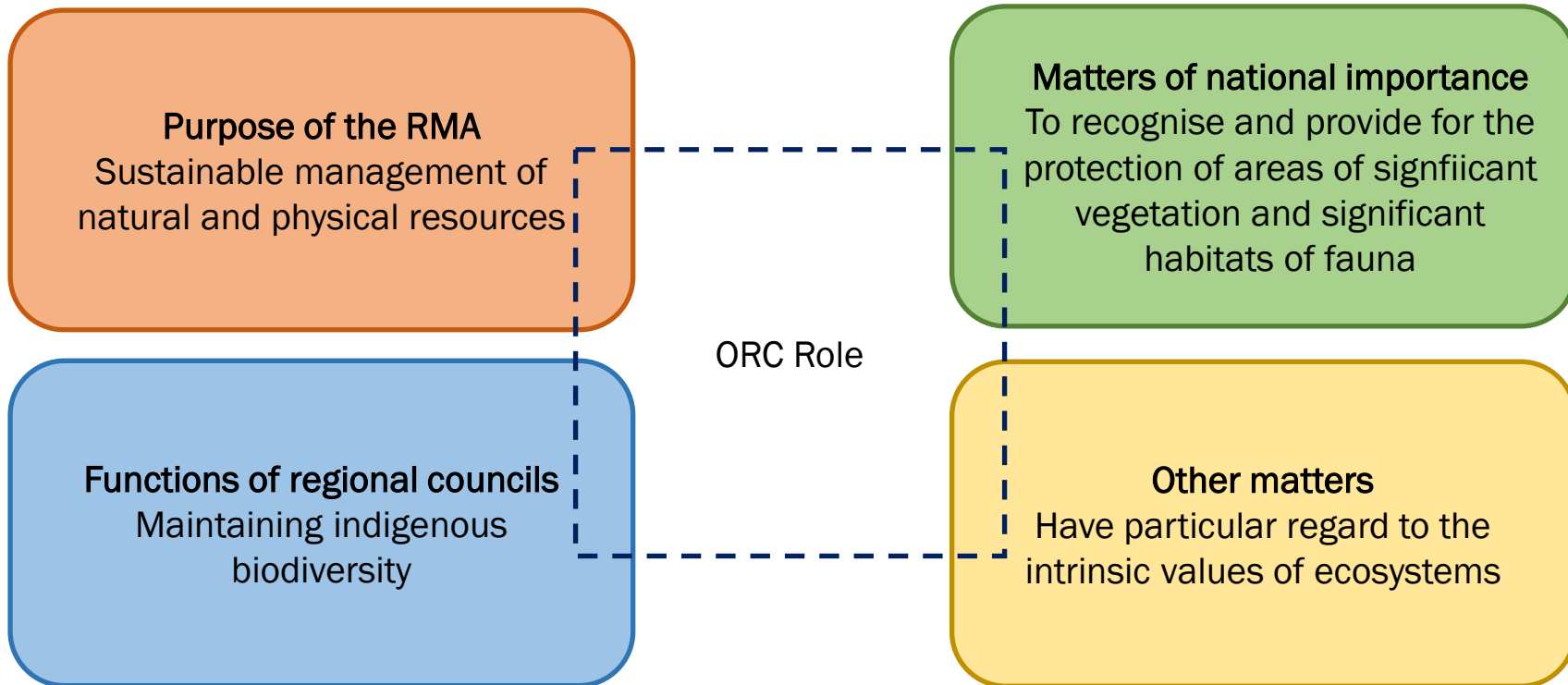
VASCULAR PLANT SPECIES

## FOUND NOWHERE ELSE

**Why do we need a biodiversity strategy?**

Why do we need a biodiversity strategy?

# Our role – Biodiversity in the Resource Management Act



Why do we need a biodiversity strategy?

## The role of other agencies

### Department of Conservation

- National focus
- Legal protection of land and species.
- Limited resources
- Focus on national priorities.
- Conservation on conservation land

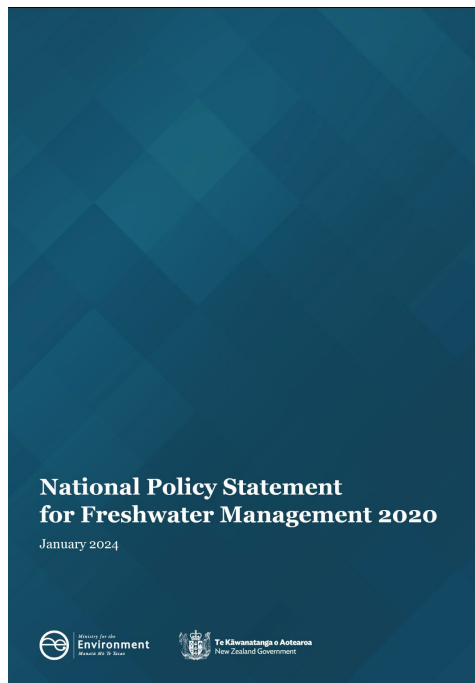
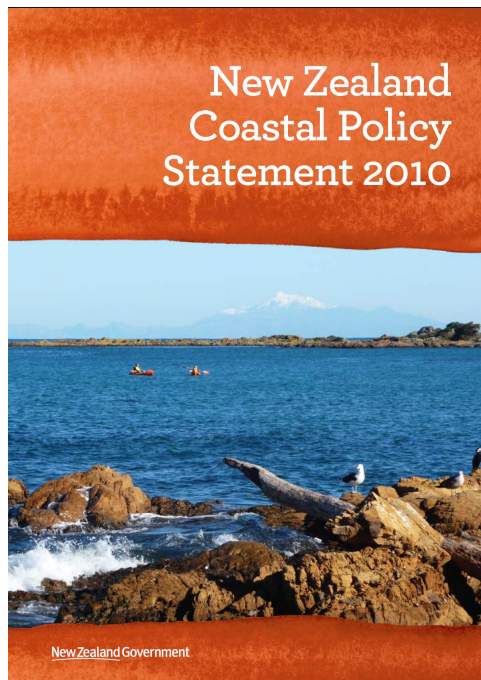
### City and District Councils

- Control land use for the purpose of maintaining indigenous biodiversity



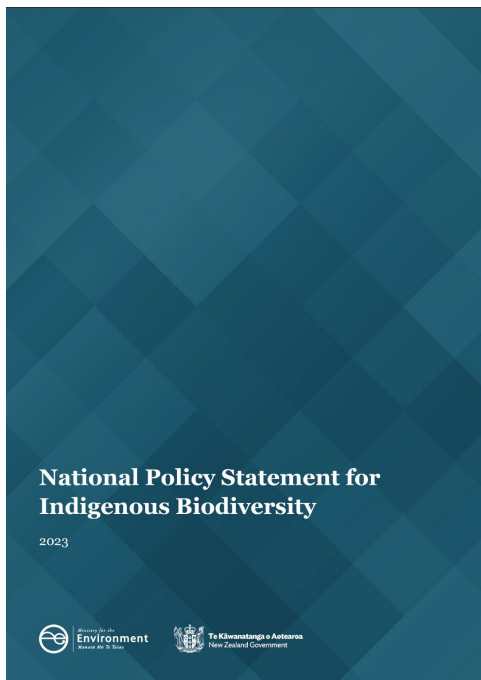
Why do we need a biodiversity strategy?

# Guidance for our role



Why do we need a biodiversity strategy?

# Guidance for our role



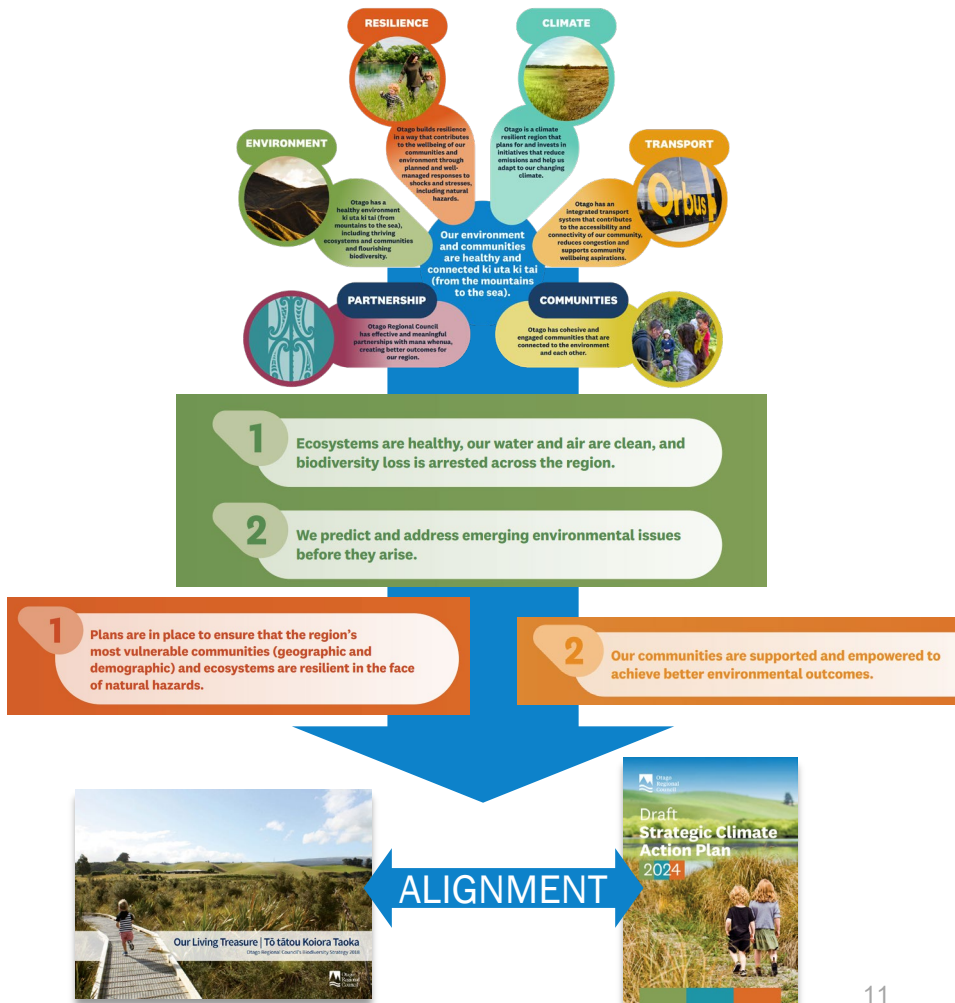
## 1.7 Maintaining indigenous biodiversity

- (1) Maintaining indigenous biodiversity requires:
  - (a) the maintenance and at least no overall reduction of all the following:
    - (i) the size of populations of indigenous species:
    - (ii) indigenous species occupancy across their natural range:
    - (iii) the properties and function of ecosystems and habitats used or occupied by indigenous biodiversity:
    - (iv) the full range and extent of ecosystems and habitats used or occupied by indigenous biodiversity:
    - (v) connectivity between, and buffering around, ecosystems used or occupied by indigenous biodiversity:
    - (vi) the resilience and adaptability of ecosystems; and
  - (b) where necessary, the restoration and enhancement of ecosystems and habitats.

## Why do we need a biodiversity strategy?

# Delivering on the goals you set

- Strategic Directions set the goals
- Subject specific strategies are how we achieve these goals
- These strategies need to be in alignment



Why do we need a biodiversity strategy?

# Biodiversity is important to our communities

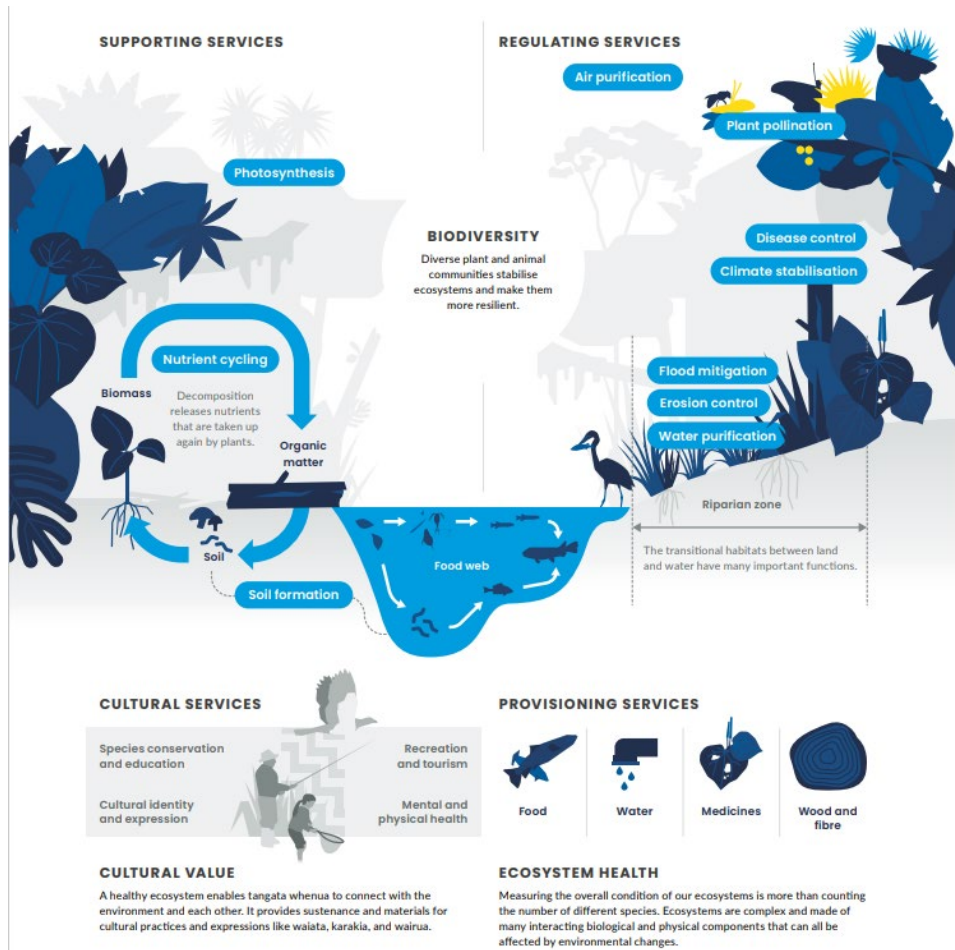
- Strong support for increased funding and ambition even during a “cost of living crisis”
- Communities want us to lead, collaborate and bring in additional funders



Why do we need a biodiversity strategy?

# Otago communities benefit from biodiversity

- Social, cultural, human health
- Food, air, water and climate
- Primary industries and tourism



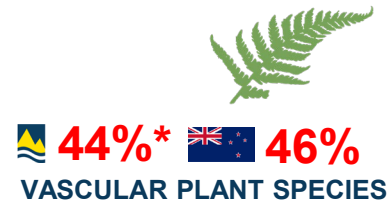
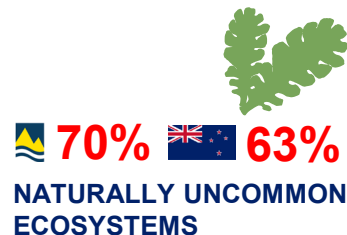
**What does flourishing  
biodiversity mean to you?**

**Why now?**

Why now?

# Indigenous biodiversity is not being maintained

- Aotearoa New Zealand is in a biodiversity crisis; Otago is no better



Threatened or at risk of extinction

\*  **10%**  **4% data deficient**

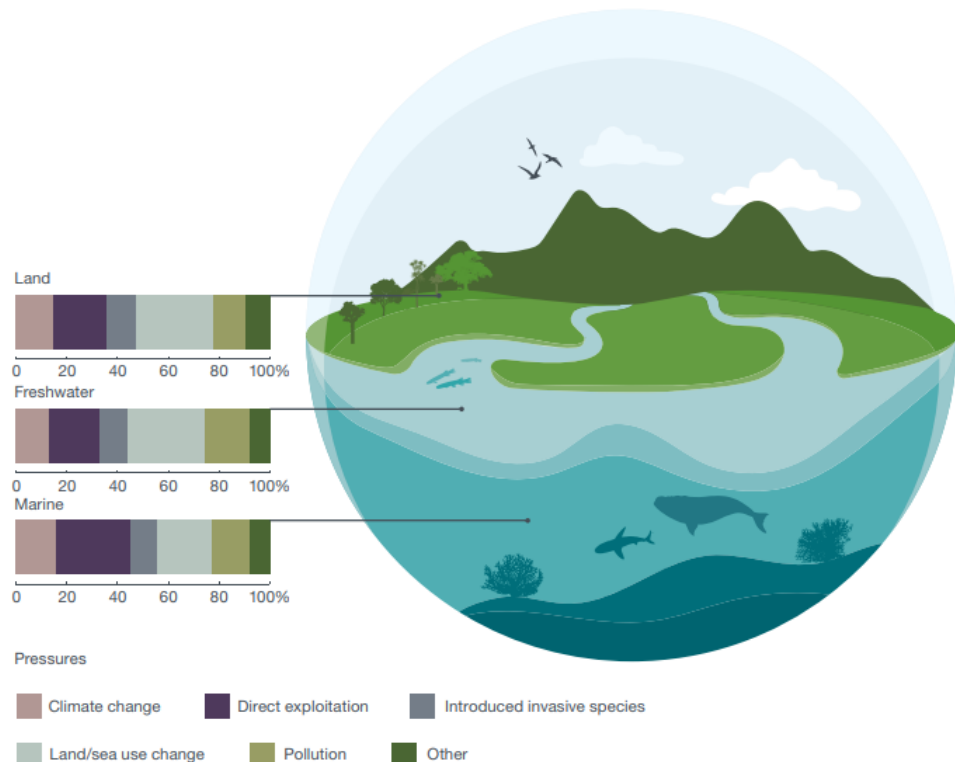


Why now?

## Drivers of biodiversity loss

In Otago, the main reasons that indigenous biodiversity is not being maintained include:

- land use change
- introduced invasive species



Drivers of biodiversity loss globally

Why now?

# Otago Biodiversity Strategy 2018

- Action plan 2018–2024 expiring and largely achieved
- Better aligned internally, and with DOC and territorial authorities
- Getting better at enabling our communities
- Not on track to halt biodiversity loss



**VISION** Otago is the proud home of thriving ecosystems and rich biodiversity



#### Collaborate

- Hold a biennial regional biodiversity forum
- Participate in national level initiatives and collaboration to improve biodiversity outcomes
- Partner with city and district councils, Kāi Tahu, DOC, and other organisations
- Administer the ECO Fund



#### Educate and share information

- Provide information on biodiversity
- Support education programmes
- Develop an online portal for sharing information



#### Monitor and research

- Undertake research on biodiversity
- Map biodiversity values, protected areas, and planned initiatives
- Undertake surveys on biodiversity outcomes, perceptions and practices
- Identify and report on biodiversity indicators for Otago



#### Regulate

- Administer the Regional Pest Management Plan
- Ensure regional and district plans provide for good biodiversity outcomes
- Assess and report on the effectiveness of ORC's actions

Why now?

## Restoration economy

\$61.6 million Jobs for Nature job stimulus in Otago is coming to an end but established:

- 910 jobs
- Mana whenua led projects
- Communities that are taking action
- A trained workforce
- Businesses, organisations and entrepreneurs
- Crowding in of private and philanthropic funds

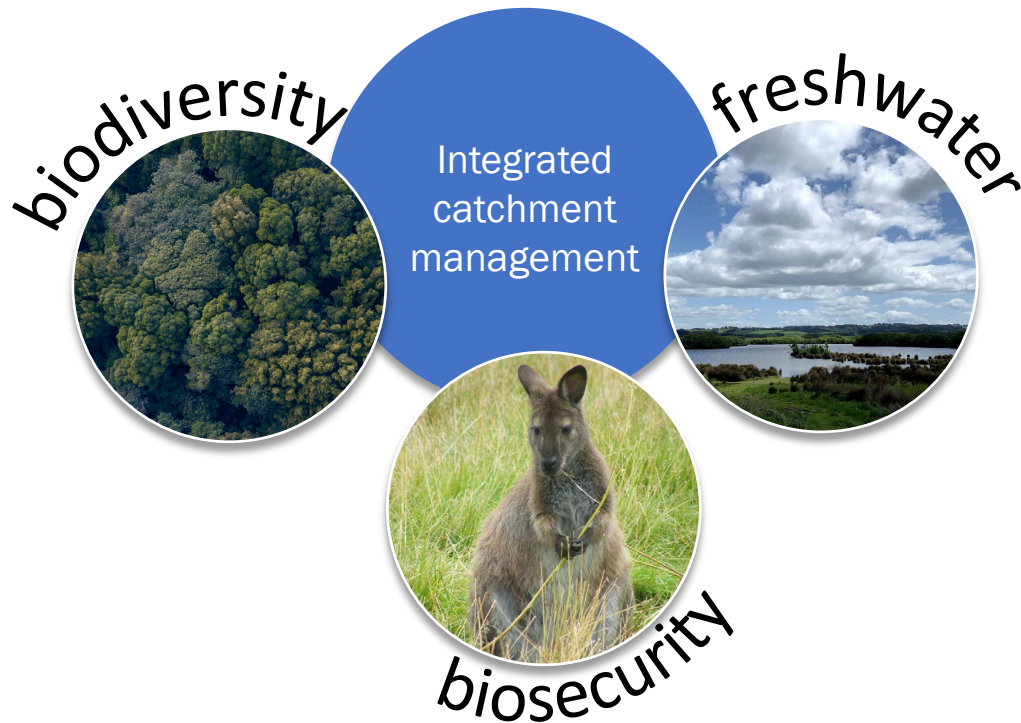
Example image

Why now?

# Environmental Implementation

Current work programs

- Partnering
- Empowering communities
- Regulating
- Priority Projects



**Strategy scope**

## Strategy scope

# 1. Bring biosecurity into the biodiversity strategy

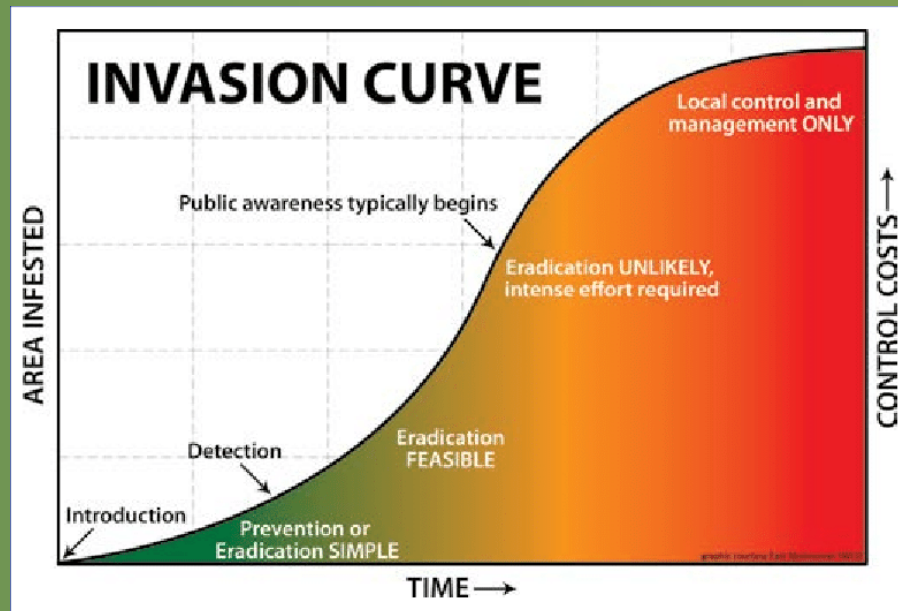
- Align our work to achieve outcomes
- Pest species are a significant driver of the decline of indigenous biodiversity
- To achieve biodiversity outcomes. It is important to address issues as early as possible to support biosecurity - the invasion curve.

1

Ecosystems are healthy, our water and air are clean, and biodiversity loss is arrested across the region.

2

We predict and address emerging environmental issues before they arise.



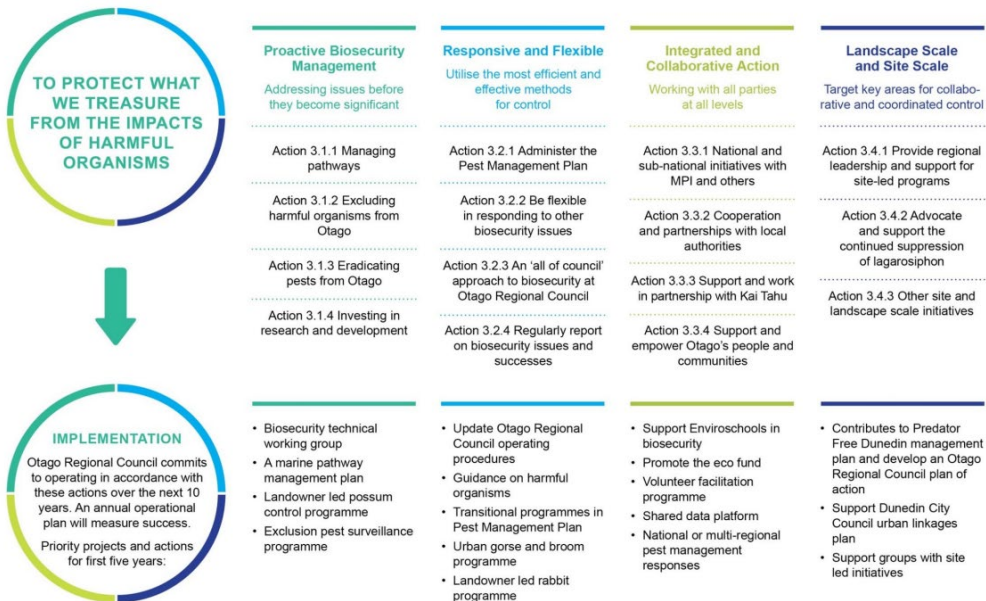
## Strategy scope

# 1. Bring biosecurity into the biodiversity strategy

## Biosecurity Strategy 2019

- Lists all of the approaches we could take
- Selecting an approach would allow us to prioritise, and achieve more

### Otago Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy



## 2. Ki Uta Ki Tai

- Include biodiversity from the mountains to the sea in the scope of the strategy; terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine

### RESILIENCE



Otago builds resilience in a way that contributes to the wellbeing of our communities and environment through planned and well-managed responses to shocks and stresses, including natural hazards.

Otago is a climate resilient region that plans for and invests in initiatives that reduce emissions and help adapt to our changing climate.

### ENVIRONMENT



Otago has a healthy environment ki uta ki tai (from mountains to the sea), including thriving ecosystems and communities and flourishing biodiversity.

**Our environment and communities are healthy and connected ki uta ki tai (from the mountains to the sea).** 24

### PARTNERSHIP



## 3. Reference Group

- Delivers on the goals you have set
- Opportunity for an effective and meaningful partnership
- Better outcomes for Otago's biodiversity

### PARTNERSHIP



Otago Regional Council has effective and meaningful partnerships with mana whenua, creating better outcomes for our region.

#### Goals

1

Te Ao Māori concepts of intergenerationally and deeply connected systems are incorporated throughout Council's work programmes.

2

Mātauraka Māori and the principle of te mana o te wai are incorporated into our environmental planning, management, and decision making.

3

We always go above and beyond our statutory responsibilities (as prescribed in local government and treaty settlement legislation) to support the intention of the Crown to uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi.

## 3. Reference Group

- Councillor and Mana Whenua members
- Role: guidance and direction for ORC staff, Aukaha and Te Ao Marama, who would do the work
- Terms of reference
- We recommend that the Environment Science and Policy committee recommend the draft and final strategy to council

### PARTNERSHIP

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#### Goals

- 1 Te Ao Māori concepts of intergenerationally and deeply connected systems are incorporated throughout Council's work programmes.
- 2 Mātauraka Māori and the principle of te mana o te wai are incorporated into our environmental planning, management, and decision making.
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## 4. Collaboration





# Alignment with the national strategy



# Workshop

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Otago  
Regional  
Council