

Environmental Implementation Committee 8 August 2024



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

Senior Officer: Richard Saunders, Chief Executive

Meeting Support: Kylie Darragh, Governance Support Officer

08 August 2024 10:00 AM

Agenda Topic

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1. WELCOME

2. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received prior to publication of the agenda.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No requests to speak were received prior to the publication of this agenda.

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.

6. PRESENTATIONS

7. [CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES](#) 3

Confirming the minutes of the Environmental Implementation Committee of 8 May 2024 and 23 May 2024

8. OPEN ACTIONS FROM RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

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9.1 [Biodiversity Partnerships and Initiatives Update](#) 11

To provide a report on the environmental initiatives supported, biodiversity partnerships and projects as per the Annual Plan 2023-2024 level of service performance measures.

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9.1.2 [Attachment 2 ECO Fund Approval Map](#) 22

9.1.3 [Attachment 3 Biodiversity Partnerships Reporting](#) 23

9.2 [Biosecurity Operational Plan Annual Report 2023-2024](#) 26

To report on the implementation of the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2023-24 for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, as required under Section 100C(2) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

9.2.1 [Appendix 1 Biosecurity Operational Plan 2023-24 Assessment](#) 33

10. CLOSURE



**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
Wednesday 8 May 2024, commencing at 9:00 a.m.**

[YouTube Link Here](#)

PRESENT

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

1. WELCOME

Chair Bryan Scott welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 9:00 am with a karakia. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services) online, Anita Dawe (GM Policy and Science), Gavin Palmer (GM Operations), Joanna Gilroy (Acting GM Regulatory), Amanda Vercoe (GM Governance, Culture and Customer), Kylie Darragh (Governance Support), Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation).

2. APOLOGIES

Resolution: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Weir Seconded:

That the apologies for Cr Noone for lateness be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No requests to Public Forum were received.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as published.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Chairperson Scott noted that he would stand aside for the Eco Fund matter.

Cr Mephram indicated he was a trustee of an unsuccessful applicant and was asked to manage his conflict appropriately by the Chair.

6. PRESENTATIONS

No presentations were held.

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: Cr Scott Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the minutes of the Environmental Implementation Committee meeting held on 8 February 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MOTION CARRIED

8. OPEN ACTIONS FROM RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

The open actions from the Resolutions of the Committee were reviewed.

9. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

*Cr Scott left the meeting at 9:10 am due to declaring a potential conflict, Cr Wilson chaired 9.1 Eco Fund Application Recommendations.
Cr Noone joined the meeting at 9:14am*

9.1. Eco Fund Application Recommendations (YouTube 12:00:00)

This paper sought endorsement of the recommended applications for ECO Fund and Incentives Funding for the March 2024 round, as well as the recommended funding to targeted groups under the Terrestrial Site-Led programme fund. Elodie Letendre (Environmental Initiatives Funding Co-Ordinator) Anna Molloy (Principal Advisor Environmental Implementation), Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation), and Gavin Palmer (General Manager Operations) were available to respond to questions.

Resolution EIC24-105: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

That the Environmental Implementation Committee recommends that Council:

1. **Approves** the funding recommendations of the ECO Fund Assessment Panel for the March 2024 round to a total value of \$854,733.92, as outlined in tables 2 to 7.
2. **Approves** the funding recommendation of the direct funding to support community groups undertaking pest management work within the Terrestrial Site-Led Programme areas as outlined in Table 8.
3. **Notes** that a review of ECO Fund and associated incentives will be completed by October 2024 in time for the next funding round and to reflect priorities in the Long-Term Plan 2024-34.
4. **Thanks**, and acknowledges the community groups for their applications and time involved.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Scott returned to the meeting at 9:31 am.

9.2. Integrated Catchment Management (YouTube 35:08:00)

This report provided an update on the Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) Programme. Anna Molloy (Principal Advisor Environmental Implementation), Libby Caldwell (Manager, Environmental Implementation), and Gavin Palmer (General Manager Operations) were available to respond to questions. Ms Molloy noted to the Committee that since this paper was written the Catlins Integrated Catchment Group has held its third workshop looking at goals around values and enhancement strategies, drafting the Catchment Action Plan (CAP) and working on an online hub so that the wider community can contribute, a media release will be out on this in 2-3 weeks. There will be a community drop in session for the wider community as the CAP moves towards being final. The meeting last week, addressed the creation of an Upper Lakes ICG, they are waiting for a rūnaka representative to be nominated, there is a hui planned for this process in the next few weeks. There was an opportunity for questions from Councillors. There was amendment to the recommendation.

Resolution EIC24-106: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Laws Seconded

That the Environmental Implementation Committee:

1. **Notes** this report.
2. **Recommends to Council to endorse** the boundary for the Upper Lakes Catchment Action Plan (CAP) being adjusted to best reflect the community of interest and to better enable integrated management. Any adjustment shall be reported to and approved by Council.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Forbes voted against this item.

Cr Kelliher left the meeting at 10:32 am.

Cr Kelliher returned to the meeting at 10:34 am.

9.3. Marine Biosecurity (YouTube 1:05:40)

Sarah Irvine (Team Leader – Environmental Implementation Project Delivery), Duncan Campbell (Biosecurity Specialist – Marine and Freshwater), Libby Caldwell (Manager – Environmental Implementation) and Gavin Palmer (General Manager, Operations), were available to respond to questions. Mr Campbell showed the Committee a slideshow update on Otago's marine biosecurity programmes including the spread of invasive species and ORC responsibilities under the Biosecurity Act (1993). Alongside Kai Tahu and key marine stakeholders such as other regional councils and NIWA, collaboration is planned on a proposed marine biosecurity programme pathway.

Resolution EIC24-107: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Weir Seconded

That the Environmental Implementation Committee:

1. **Notes** this report

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned for a ten minute break at 10:45 am.

Meeting resumed 10:55am.

Cr Forbes left the meeting at 10:56 am.

Cr Noone left the meeting at 10:57 am.

Cr Forbes returned to the meeting at 10:57 am.

Cr Noone returned to the meeting at 10:58 am.

Cr Laws returned to the meeting at 11:26 am.

9.4. Freshwater Improvement Projects Update (YouTube 2:00:45)

Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation), Melanie White (Project Delivery Specialist – Jobs for Nature), Sarah Irvine (Team Leader Projects), Jennifer Lawn (Project Delivery Specialist Regional Programme), and Gavin Palmer (General Manger Operations) were available to respond to questions on the report. This large report was reviewed in sections, for the Waiwhakaata, Lake Hayes Strategy Group, Chair Jana Davis spoke to the Committee on the benefits between the community and stakeholder partnerships and nature. Ministry for the Environment funding and Lagarosiphon management were also discussed.

Resolution EIC24-108: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Forbes Seconded

That the Environmental Implementation Committee:

1. **Notes** this report.
2. **Notes** the progress of implementation activities that are occurring on the water quality projects delivered by ORC, partners and the community as detailed in this report.
3. **Recommends to Council to endorse** the implementation plans for Tomahawk Lagoon and Lake Tuakitoto (Appendix 1 and Appendix 3).
4. **Notes** the Cultural Values Statement Waiwhakaata (Appendix 6) and the Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku Environmental Statement of Expectation Waiwhakaata/Lake Hayes (Appendix 7)
5. **Notes** that the Toitū Te Hākapupu project is in its last year of delivery to successfully deliver on all the objectives of the MfE funding deed.
6. **Notes** the progress made on the site led programme for Lagarosiphon.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Cr Malcolm, seconded Cr Kelliher:

That the last two papers of the agenda lay on the table, 9.6 Regional Pest Management Plan, 9.7 Biosecurity Compliance and Enforcement Policy.

MOTION CARRIED

9.5. Wallaby Programme Update and Recommendations (YouTube 3:01:32)

The Committee was shown a video on the extent of boundary growth for the Wallaby population since 1874 in southern Canterbury and Otago. Gavin Udy (Project Delivery Specialist - National Programmes) was online, and Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) and Gavin Palmer (General Manager, Operations) were present to respond to questions. Cr Malcolm gave an update as Chair of the Otago Region Wallaby Eradication Group regarding the logistical challenges and costs of removing this pest. Cr Kelliher also added that pet wallabies being released are also an ongoing cost issue.

Resolution EIC24-109: Cr Weir Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

That the Environmental Implementation Committee:

1. **Notes this report**

MOTION CARRIED

12. CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 11:57am.



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 23 May 2024, commencing at 11:30AM.

PRESENT

Cr Bryan Scott (Chairperson)
Cr Kate Wilson
Cr Alexa Forbes online
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Kevin Malcolm
Cr Lloyd McCall online
Cr Tim Mepham
Cr Andrew Noone
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Alan Somerville

1. WELCOME

Chair Bryan Scott welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 11:32AM. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Anita Dawe (GM Policy and Science), Joanna Gilroy (Acting GM Regulatory), Amanda Vercoe (GM Governance, Culture and Customer), Kylie Darragh (Governance Support), Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation), Murray Boardman (Performance and Delivery Specialist), KC Worden (Project Manager – Business Improvement).

2. APOLOGIES

Resolution: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded:

That the apologies for Cr Weir, Cr Laws, and Cr Wilson (for early departure) be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

3. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no requests to speak.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as published.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No changes to Councillor Declarations of Interests were noted.

11:38AM Cr McCall joined the meeting online.

11:39AM Cr Forbes joined the meeting online.

12:02PM Cr Laws joined the meeting online.

12:07PM Cr Laws left the meeting.

12:10PM Cr Wilson left the meeting.

6. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1. RPMP Operational Plan 2024/25

(YouTube 00:07:24) This paper sought approval of the 2024-2025 Biosecurity Operational Plan. Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation) and Murray Boardman (Performance and Delivery Specialist) were available to respond to questions.

Resolution EIC24-110: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

That the Environmental Implementation Committee:

- 1) Notes this report.**
- 2) Recommends to Council to approve the Otago Regional Council's 2024-2025 Biosecurity Operational Plan to enact the Otago Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029 and authorises the Chief Executive to correct minor errors to the 2024-2025 Biosecurity Operational Plan in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Environmental Implementation Committee.**
- 3) Notes that a copy of the Otago Regional Council's Regional Pest Management Plan 2024-2025 Biosecurity Operational Plan will be provided to the Minister for Biosecurity.**
- 4) Notes that staff will report back to Council any response from the Minister for Biosecurity.**

MOTION CARRIED

6.2. Biosecurity Compliance and Enforcement Policy

(YouTube 00:47:50) Libby Caldwell (Manager Environmental Implementation), Murray Boardman (Performance and Delivery Specialist), KC Worden (Project Manager – Business Improvement) were available to respond to questions on the report.

Resolution EIC24-111: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

That the Environmental Implementation Committee:

- 1) ***Recommends that the Council approves and adopts the revised Biosecurity Compliance and Enforcement Policy.***
- 2) ***Notes that the policy will be reviewed in March 2027.***

MOTION CARRIED

7. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Chair Scott declared the meeting closed at 12:26 pm with a karakia.

Chairperson

Date

9.1. Biodiversity partnerships and initiatives update

Prepared for: Environmental Implementation Committee
Report No. OPS2427
Activity: Governance Report
Author: Anna Molloy (Principal Advisor - Environment Implementation), Libby Caldwell (Team Leader Environmental Implementation), Elodie Letendre (Environmental Initiatives Funding Coordinator), Alex Foulkes (Biodiversity Partnership Lead)
Endorsed by: Joanna Gilroy, General Manager Environmental Delivery
Date: 8 August 2024

PURPOSE

[1] To provide a report on the environmental initiatives supported, biodiversity partnerships and projects as per the Annual Plan 2023-2024 level of service performance measures.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [2] The Annual Plan 2023-2024 requires a report to Council on targets related to environmental initiatives including organisations supported and the key deliverables achieved, and biodiversity partnerships established, and joint projects developed and progressed.
- [3] Reports have been compiled for these levels of service and are attached to this paper. The target date set in the Annual Plan 2023-2024 for the environmental initiatives reporting (30 June 2024) has not been met. There is no target date for the biodiversity partnership reporting.
- [4] The reports show that a wide range of environmental initiatives have been supported and the key deliverables are achieving on-ground environmental improvements. Biodiversity partnerships continue to increase from the baseline of six in 2022/23.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environmental Implementation Committee recommends that Council:

- 1) **Notes this report.**

BACKGROUND

- [5] The Annual Plan 2023-2024 includes levels of service commitments related to environmental initiatives including organisations supported and the key deliverables achieved, and biodiversity partnerships, and joint projects. Reporting on these is also a requirement of the Annual Plan.
- [6] The levels of service in the Annual Plan 2023-2024 are provided below:

Area	Level of service	Performance	Target
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		measure	
Environmental initiatives	Provide support and funding to selected initiatives and organisations across the region which deliver biosecurity, biodiversity and environmental outcomes that align with our strategic objectives.	Complete a report on the initiatives and organisations supported and the key deliverables achieved.	Report to Council by 30 June 2024
Biodiversity	Collaborate with iwi, DOC, and other key organisations to develop, co-ordinate and deliver a programme of actions to enhance indigenous biodiversity.	Biodiversity partnerships established, and joint projects developed and progressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain or increase number of partnership engagement activities and events and report to Council • Projects and progress against milestones reported to Council

- [7] The performance measure relating to environmental initiatives relates primarily to the ECO Fund and associated incentives programmes. As part of funding being provided, applicants need to submit to Council the outputs for their projects. A report with the listed projects is included as Attachment 1.
- [8] Partnership engagement activities and projects include partnerships where the goal is to enhance indigenous biodiversity (Attachment 2). The report in 2022 on this performance measure created the baseline which was 6 engagement activities. Last year’s report 2023, included 9 engagement activities.

DISCUSSION

Environmental Initiatives

- [9] A map and a list of approved 2023 and 2024 ECO Fund and associated incentive programme projects is included in the report provided as Attachment 1. A wide range of projects have been funded or supported.
- [10] ECO Fund and associated incentive applicants need to submit their planned outputs for their project by choosing from a list of consistent metrics provided by Council as part of the application process. The projects do not necessarily deliver on all outputs. Table 1 below summarises the outputs for all projects in 2023 and 2024.
- [11] Not all reports have been received to date, because most projects are due to report in August 2024. Where report data has been provided that has been used in the summary of outputs.
- [12] Environmental Implementation staff have been in contact with all ECO Fund and incentive recipients and visited projects on site where appropriate. There are no major issues with any projects underway. Where projects have requested variations of

deliverables or timeframes these have been negotiated and documented in a project tracking system.

Table 1: Summary of key deliverables and outputs for 2023 and 2024.

Deliverable		2023				2024	
Activity	Measure	Total output (actual and planned)	% of total output reported	No. projects	No. reports not submitted	Total output (planned)	No. projects
Planting	Plants (no.)	54,506	48%	10	5	n/a	
	Area (ha)	14.4	36%	8	3	42.4	14
	Length of fencing (m)	4,927	72%	7	3	n/a	
	Length for riparian projects (m)	3,000	0%	1	1	2,470	7
Natural regeneration	Area (ha)	19.8	87%	3	0	363.1	6
	Length of fencing (m)	3,777	100%	2	0	4,637	4
	Length for riparian projects (m)	n/a				800	2
Pest plant management	Area (Ha)	71	108%	9	3	230.1	9
	Pest plants removed (estimated)	12,010	91%	6	2	n/a	
Pest animal management	Area (Ha)	27,284	65%	14	3	16,909	11
	Devices	6178	120%	8	3	1,435	10
	Pest animals removed (estimated)	61,545 ¹	73%	8	2	3,000	2
	Length of fencing (m)	7472	71%	7	2	12,078	4
Support threatened species work	Area (ha)	532.5	100%	4	2	n/a	
Translocation	No. animals	100	0%	1	1	12	1
Terrestrial habitat provision	No. devices	2,505	0%	2	1	4	2
Wetland hydrology reinstatement	Area (ha)	n/a				5	1
Erosion control	Area (ha)	27	21%	4	3	104.6	4
Improve instream habitat	Area (ha)	53.6	0%	4	4	n/a	

¹ This number includes an estimate by OPBG of 50,000 which may require further investigation as to accuracy

Deliverable		2023				2024	
Activity	Measure	Total output (actual and planned)	% of total output reported	No. projects	No. reports not submitted	Total output (planned)	No. projects
Improved fish passage	Barriers (no.)	n/a				1	1
Training	Events (no.)	1	0%	1	1	18	4
	Participants	n/a				150	4
Education and Awareness	Events (no.)	n/a				30	5
	Participants	n/a				770	5
Participation and access to nature	Events (no.)	5	60%	5	2	18	4
	Participants	n/a				175	4
Community involvement	Community members involved	5,792	22%	27	9	2,583	33
	Volunteer (hrs)	30,619 ²	51%	28	10	16,222	33
Financial	Amount granted	\$ 517,777	39%	32	12	\$ 854,734	33

* greyed out cells indicates this output was not used in that funding year

Biodiversity Partnerships

- [13] There has been an increase in biodiversity partnership activities and projects. Last year’s report on this performance measure was 9 engagement activities, which included a range of events and engagement activities with various partners, many of which are continuing into 2023-24. This year activities have increased to 12 engagement activities, with several of those including more than one event.
- [14] New activities include exploring threatened species work, Blue Green networks in QLDC, being part of the new Upper Lakes Conservation Sector Group, the WAO led biodiversity collaborative funding roundtable and Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge – using the research.
- [15] Biodiversity partnership projects are on track (or ongoing) with a new project being developed for a Biodiversity Management Tool – which can help inform decision making for how to best manage land for biodiversity outcomes (where appropriate). Several other new projects were explored including a threatened plant ex-situ propagation partnership with Dunedin Botanic Gardens and Dunedin City Council. This project has potential to get underway in 2024/25 depending on the feasibility of the project which is being explored further.
- [16] Updates on the Biodiversity Partnership Projects can be found in **Attachment 2**.

² This number is likely to be at least half this, as the way volunteer hours were entered in 2023 application form can lead to duplication. This is being fixed in the new outputs reporting.

- [17] Further opportunities for biodiversity partnerships will likely arise from the review of the Biodiversity Strategy. ORC are progressing with a Strategic Biodiversity Action Plan which will help guide biodiversity projects in a more strategic approach into the future.

OPTIONS

- [18] This report is for noting only, as such no options are provided.

CONSIDERATIONS

Strategic Framework and Policy Considerations

- [19] There are no strategic framework or policy considerations relevant to this report.

Financial Considerations

- [20] There are no financial implications associated with this report. The work programmes that support these levels of service are funded through existing budgets.

Significance and Engagement

- [21] Not applicable.

Legislative and Risk Considerations

- [22] Not applicable.

Climate Change Considerations

- [23] Not applicable.

Communications Considerations

- [24] Communications regarding ECO Fund and associated incentive programmes have been undertaken at the time the grants were announced.
- [25] Good news stories will be provided to the communications team as these arise with the applicant completing their projects.

NEXT STEPS

- [26] The ECO Fund and associated incentives will be reviewed and the 2025 round rolled out based on any changes from that review. Reporting to Council will continue next year.
- [27] Biodiversity projects will continue, and new partnership opportunities will be explored for 2024/25.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 - ECO Fund Projects 2023 and 2024 [9.1.1 - 6 pages]
2. Attachment 1 - ECO Fund Approvals Map [9.1.2 - 1 page]
3. Attachment 2 - Biodiversity partnerships reporting [9.1.3 - 3 pages]

Attachment 1 – ECO Fund and Incentives Projects 2023 and 2024

Applicant	Project summary	Location / Site address	Main Activity	Funding approved
2023				
39-43 Lake Hayes Rabbit Project"	Contractor costs to rabbit fence 5 adjoining properties and fix access gates	Lake Hayes	Pest animal control	\$ 8,000.00
Arrowtown Choppers	Building materials costs for native plant nursery to grow plants to replant after wilding conifer control	Arrowtown	Plant nursery	\$ 34,131.98
Auldamor Ltd	Broom control in QEII covenant	Clarks Junction	Pest plant control	\$ 5,000.00
Black Peak Road Rabbit Control Group	Rabbit proof fence costs	Wanaka	Pest animal control	\$ 5,000.00
Catlins Coasts Inc.	Possum control strategy for northern Catlins landowners	Northen Catlins	Pest animal control	\$ 13,068.00
East Otago Catchment Group	Contractor costs for electric fishing for freshwater predator removal to enhance native fish populations, monitor effectiveness of fish barriers	Upper Shag River Catchment	Pest animal control	\$ 21,000.00
Fish and Game - Otago	Native planting after crack willow removal	Bendigo	Revegetation	\$ 5,000.00
Five Forks School	Purchase of native plants and planting consumables	Five Forks	Revegetation	\$ 10,000.00
Forest & Bird - Central Otago Lakes	Purchase of new traps to increase efficacy of trapping network for mohua	Makarora	Pest animal control	\$ 3,000.00
Herbert Heritage Group	Purchase of plants for riparian planting project	Waianakarua River Mouth	Revegetation	\$ 847.50
Hikaroroa / Mt. Watkin Conservation Group	Contractor costs for post-OSPRI retreat deployment of self-resetting possum trap network, initial feratox knockdown, and volunteer training for landowner group	Hikaroroa / Mt. Watkin area	Pest animal control	\$ 48,900.00

Applicant	Project summary	Location / Site address	Main Activity	Funding approved
John and Moira Parker	Additional rabbit fencing to reduce reinvasion of rabbit exclusion area around QEII covenant	Otago Peninsula	Pest animal control	\$ 2,962.48
Kirimoko Catchment Group	Rabbit proof fence completion	Wanaka	Pest animal control	\$ 16,652.00
Lake Hayes Estate & Shotover Country Community Association	Materials to construct small native plant nursery, native plants to start project	Lake Hayes	Revegetation	\$ 15,000.00
Lindis Pass Conservation Group Inc.	Weed control contractor costs for removal of lupin	Lindis Pass area	Pest plant control	\$ 9,300.00
Mana Tāhuna Charitable Trust	Planting costs and fencing materials for riparian restoration project	Lake Hayes	Revegetation	\$ 15,000.00
Moeraki MR BLKXVI Ahu Whenua Trust incorporating 16 sections and land owners	Rabbit proof fence costs	Moeraki	Pest animal control	\$ 50,000.00
Mt Rosa Property Owners Association	Project will rabbit net existing stock fencing for 20 of the Mount Rosa Property Owners Association on the property boundary with Mt Rosa Station	Gibbston	Pest animal control	\$ 25,000.00
NZ Landcare Trust	Contribution to water quality monitoring and cultural values assessment for local stream	Owhiro catchment	Water quality	\$ 21,336.49
Orokonui Ecosanctuary Ltd	Wages for environmental education programme associated with tieke (saddleback) translocation	Orokonui	Education	\$ 24,720.00
Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group	Wages, admin costs, rabbit fencing and pindone licences for community rabbit project	Otago Peninsula	Pest animal control	\$ 44,381.14
Otago South River Care Inc	Plant purchase for riparian planting project	Lovells Flat area	Revegetation	\$ 15,000.00
Ōtokia Creek and Marsh Habitat Trust	Purchase of tree guards for 3000 native species for wetland restoration project	Brighton, Dunedin	Revegetation	\$ 8,589.00

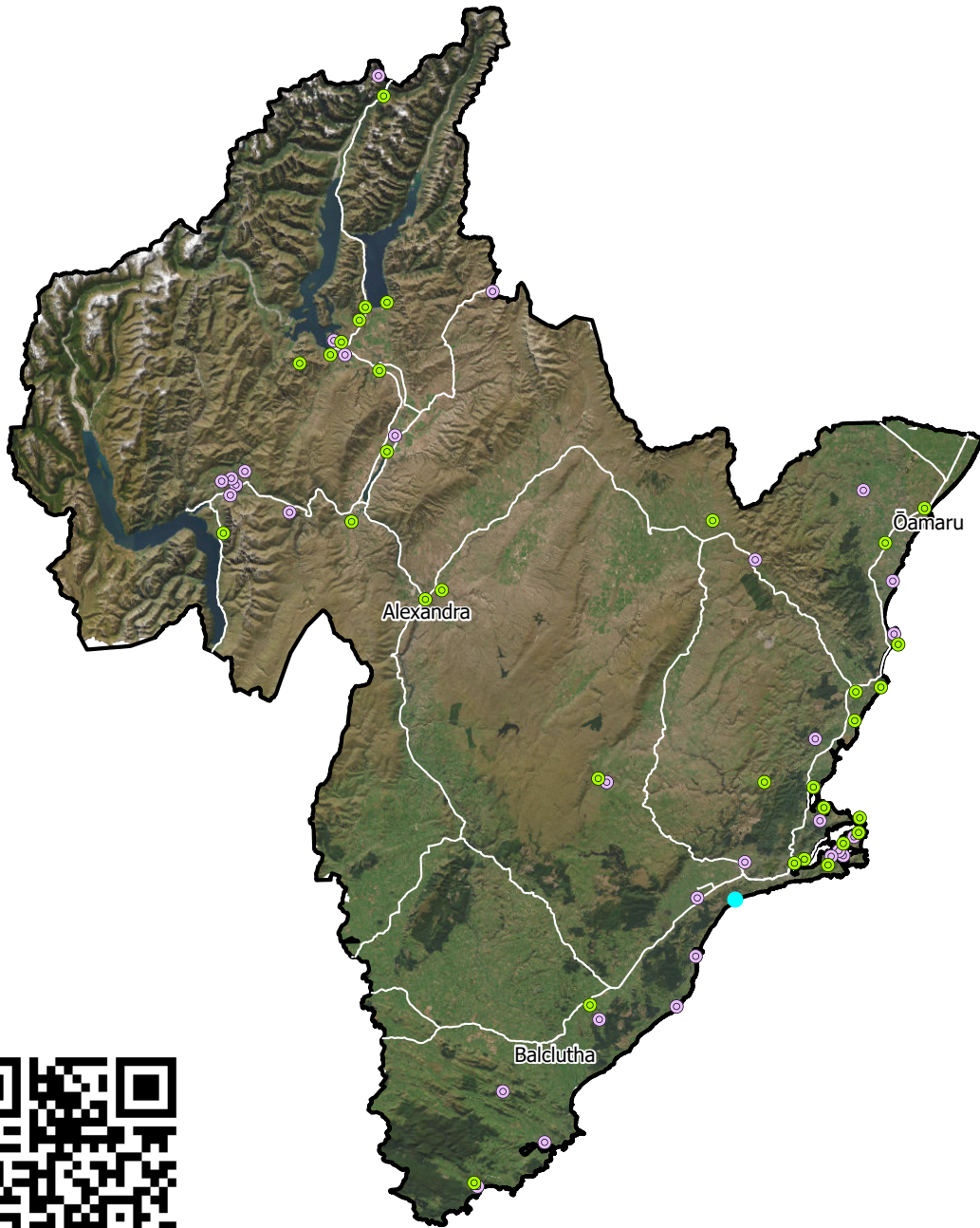
Applicant	Project summary	Location / Site address	Main Activity	Funding approved
Papatowai Forest Heritage Trust	Trap purchase	Papatowai	Pest animal control	\$ 3,250.00
Roselle Farm	Contractor to remove weeds (mostly hawthorn) from QEII covenant	Otago Peninsula	Pest plant control	\$ 2,191.50
Rotary Club - Mosgiel	Plants and planting consumables for riparian planting project	Mosgiel	Revegetation	\$ 15,500.00
Save The Otago Peninsula (STOP) Inc Soc	Wages for coordinator for native revegetation project	Otago Peninsula	Revegetation	\$ 40,000.00
Taieri Mouth Amenities Society	Purchase of 600 traps and tracking tunnels for trap library for residents to establish new trapping project	Taieri Mouth	Pest animal control	\$ 37,050.00
Te Pukenui Trust	Contribution to fixing fencing for long-established QEII covenants to remain stock proof	Catlins	Biodiversity protection	\$ 14,846.02
The Matai Hill Trust	Planting consumables for large revegetation project to enhance QEII covenant	Warrington	Revegetation	\$ 5,000.00
The Moanariri Crib Owners Association Incorporated	Traps and trapping consumables	Bull Creek	Pest animal control	\$ 4,359.15
Whakatipu Wildlife Trust	Wages/salary for Executive Officer role to facilitate expansion of trap network	Whakatipu Basin	Pest animal control	\$ 18,692.19
2024				
Alexandra Primary School	Develop a moth and butterfly friendly habitat	Alexandra	Native revegetation	\$ 2,000.00
Aspiring Biodiversity Trust	Develop and implement a Whio Recovery Plan translocation proposal and associated education material	Makarora and Wilkin catchment (including Siberia Valley), above Lake Wānaka	Pest animal control	\$ 50,000.00
Makarara Station Ltd	Plant native species to enhance the biodiversity of a covenanted area	Outram	Native planting	\$ 15,000.00

Applicant	Project summary	Location / Site address	Main Activity	Funding approved
David Malloch	Control woody weed and spray fence line of a covenanted area	Waikouaiti	Pest plant control	\$ 14,400.00
Friends of Bullock Creek Inc	Remove pest plants and plant natives with contractor managing volunteers to restore urban wetland	Wanaka	Native planting	\$ 6,675.00
Friends of Burns Reserve Trust	Identify and map sycamore location, manage sycamores and communicate with stakeholders	Burns Park Scenic Reserve, Dunedin	Pest plant control	\$ 24,874.50
Hampden School	Build and operate a plant nursery to support local restoration projects, alongside a dedicated education programme	Hampden	Plant nursery	\$ 15,000.00
Hāwea Charitable Trust	Remove pest plants and plant natives to enhance indigenous biodiversity	Hāwea	Native planting	\$ 5,678.17
Hidden Hills Residents Association	Provide pindone training and certifications to two local residents	Hidden Hills, Wanaka	Pest animal control	\$ 860.44
Kyeburn catchment Ltd	Undertake salmonid removal and improve the effectiveness of a fish passage barrier enhancement for Centraol Otago roundhead galaxia protection	Kye Burn	Pest animal control	\$ 48,540.00
Lovells Flat Rabbit Control Group	Install rabbit fencing to assist with rabbit population control	Lovells Flat area	Pest animal control	\$ 34,863.30
Lower Manorburn Reserve working group/committee	Plant natives to restore native vegetation in reserve, following pest plant removal	Lower Manorburn Dam Road, Alexandra	Native planting	\$ 11,414.30
Luggate Heights Residents Group	Install rabbit fencing to assist with rabbit population control	Luggate	Pest animal control	\$ 12,500.00
Maheno School	Plant gully area of school to minimise erosion, and build and operate a school plant nursery	Maheno	Native planting	\$ 5,000.00
Maungawera Biodiversity Group Inc	Install rabbit fencing to assist with rabbit population control	Wanaka, Maungawera Valley	Pest animal control	\$ 14,464.31

Applicant	Project summary	Location / Site address	Main Activity	Funding approved
Mokihi Reforestation Trust	Prepare sites, plant natives and maintain sites to restore vegetation to pre-human condition	Cromwell area	Native revegetation	\$ 29,520.22
Otago Fish & Game	Plant natives to increase biodiversity in a reserve	Bendigo Wildlife Management Reserve	Native planting	\$ 5,000.00
Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group	Support landowners with local rabbit control project by providing advice, facilitating the procurement of Pindone licences, and organising the installation of some rabbit fencing	Otago Peninsula	Pest animal control	\$ 25,833.95
Penguin Rescue	Purchase a microscope to screen the blood of Hoiho	Palmerston	Threatened species	\$ 11,500.00
Pukehau Ahu Whenua Trust	Implement a rabbit control plan by installing rabbit fencing in prioritised areas, formalising neighbour cooperation and providing support	Otago Peninsula	Pest animal control	\$ 11,478.00
Puketapu Community Trust	Control pest plant and pest animal, prepare site and plant natives to restore open areas in a reserve	Palmerston	Pest animal control and native revegetation	\$ 49,780.00
Pūrākaunui Block Incorporated	Engage a contractor to support volunteers with pest plant removal and native planting to restore habitat	Pūrākaunui	Pest plant control and native planting	\$ 15,000.00
Rachel Gibb	Control woody weed and plant natives to enhance the biodiversity of a covenanted area	Ravensbourne, Dunedin	Pest plant control and native planting	\$ 8,084.50
Remarkables Station National Trust Limited	Control a portion of sycamores to facilitate native forest regeneration	Remarkables Station, Kingston Road, Kawarau Falls, Queenstown	Pest plant control	\$ 15,000.00
Roselle Farm	Continue pest plant control to enhance the biodiversity of a covenanted area	Otago Peninsula	Pest plant control	\$ 2,449.00
Royal Forest And Bird Protection Society Of New Zealand Inc	Control pest animals and carry out surveys and monitoring to protect threatened species and their habitats	Various, Otago Peninsula, Coastal Dunedin, Catlins	Pest animal control	\$ 137,779.82
Seek Weeds and Terminate (SWAT) under the umbrella of	Monitor and control Darwin's Barberry to prevent its spread into adjacent areas of high biodiversity value	Otago Peninsula	Pest plant control	\$ 35,836.30

Applicant	Project summary	Location / Site address	Main Activity	Funding approved
Save the Otago Peninsula Inc				
Soho Property Limited	Increase control of possum and rat populations to allow the recovery of natural habitat and native bird populations	Mahu Whenua Covenants over most of Motatapu, Mount Soho, Glencoe, and Coronet Peak stations	Pest animal control	\$ 8,500.00
Southern Lakes Sanctuary Trust	Control pest animals to enhance the protection of threatened species	The Young Valley, confluence of the Blue and Makarora Rivers and Davis Flat	Pest animal control	\$ 111,608.00
The Matai Hill Trust/Neo Leaders Ltd	Control pest plants to continue native forest restoration in a covenanted area	Warrington	Pest plant control	\$ 15,000.00
The Rotary Club of Oamaru	Plant and maintain natives in a reserve after gorse removal	Oamaru	Native planting	\$ 13,078.95
The Wildlife Hospital Trust	Provide veterinary care for hoiho eggs and chicks to increase their survival	Dunedin	Threatened species	\$ 50,612.18
Tūmai Beach Restoration Trust	Plant and maintain native trees, and build and operate a plant nursery to support native forest restoration	Tūmai Beach Farm Park, Waikouaiti, North Otago	Native revegetation	\$ 47,402.99

ECO Fund Project Approvals 2023 & 2024



Earthstar Geographics

Interactive Map: <https://orcnz.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/basic/index.html?appid=663e0b78b0b44058b61faa29e3193962>

- ⊙ ECO Fund Projects Approved 2023
- ECO Fund Projects Approved 2024



Information on this map may not be used for the purposes of any legal disputes. The user should independently verify the accuracy of any information before taking any action in reliance upon it. This map was generated for A4 printing on 22/07/2024 at the scale of 1:1,400,000.

Attachment 2 - Biodiversity partnerships

Table 1 – Engagement and events with partners

Engagement and events	Date(s)	Partners	Topic / outcomes
Otago Biodiversity Forum	26 July 2023 21 Nov 2023 28 Feb 2024 29 May 2024	District Councils (DCC, WDC, CODC, QLDC, CDC) DOC MfE LINZ Aukaha	Key topics of discussion and presentation included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Biodiversity Strategy and NPS-IB - SNA mapping for NPS-IB work - Remote sensing tools to detect vegetation change - Cultural and archaeological considerations in planting projects - Tautuku Restoration Project Forest and Bird - Implications of RPS and LWRP on biodiversity - Threatened Plants - Wildlife permits and regulatory approaches. - Incentives for biodiversity management
Territorial Authority connections	2023 - 24	QLDC CODC WDC CDC DCC	Second round of individual meetings held with TA partners regarding biodiversity activities and policies with a view to working more closely and better aligned.
DOC Liaison and networking	19 March 2024	DOC operations managers	Regular online meetings. Discussed involvement with Strategy review and operational roles of DOC in Upper Lakes in terms of pest control.
Regional Council partners	28 March 2024	Environment Southland	Meeting to discuss how each RC aims to strategically manage Biodiversity and the implications of the NPS-IB, and cross boundary issues.
Threatened Species partnerships	20 Nov 2023 30 Jan 2024 15 Feb 2024 13 March 2024	Orokonui Eco Sanctuary, YEPT Penguin Rescue DOC / Botanic Gardens	General discussion about priorities and science work. Explored avenues for ORC supporting this work. A proposal for supporting threatened plant propagation ex-situ has been drafted.
Site-Led Funding Projects Community Hui	Sept 2023	Community Groups Te Rūnanga o Ōtakōu Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki	A working group to oversee the development and implementation of the terrestrial site-led programme from the RPMP. Funding was allocated directly to groups following a hui of community groups who undertake pest management in the site-led area
Future Development Strategy – DCC Blue Green Network	Ongoing	DCC	Technical advice to Blue Green Network component of FDS and review of submissions.
Future Development Strategy – QLDC Blue Green Network hui	14 August 2023	QLDC Upper Lakes conservation groups	A stakeholder meeting to workshop maps for blue green networks as part of the FDS.
Upper Lakes Conservation Sector	Started in late 2023 – ongoing	QLDC SLS, WAI Wanaka, Te Tapu o Tane, Whakatipu Conservation Alliance, DOC, ORC	A new group forming from initial SLS key stakeholder discussions. The terms of reference are still be worked out but there is a general agreement that working together in partnership will be beneficial to all.

NZ Sea Lion Threat Management Plan Review	8 Aug 2023 19 June 2024		Involved in hui to review the threat management plan.
Impact Funding for Climate & Biodiversity - Roundtable discussion	25 Oct 2023	WAO Summit stakeholders	The discussion will focus on collective action towards impact funding for climate and biodiversity, bringing together for-purpose organisations, local government, funding bodies and business to re+think solutions to amplify impact and “disrupt” the current model.
Sustainable Seas	29 Nov 2023 7 March 2024 22 May 204	Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge partnership	Working with the SS Team to develop ways to utilise 10 years’ worth of science in ecosystem based management in the marine and estuarine environment in regional council planning and processes.

Table 2: Project Partnerships

Projects	Started	Partners	Milestones achieved / underway
J4N – Maintaining the Gain - Project working with supporting private landholder to maintain areas of biodiversity on their land	Dec 2021	QEII Aukaha	Signed funding agreement with DOC. Contracts established between ORC and QEII Trust and Aukaha to deliver the work July 2022. Covenants selected, assessed and prioritised for pest plant work, August 2022. Landowner agreements signed September 2022. Aukaha recruit field team, 1 Kaiarahi (supervisor) and 2 Kaiaka Taiao (field staff) Dec 2022. Field team establish a base, procure tools and equipment, undergo training/mentoring and begin carrying out pest plant control in covenants as per the work programme – two covenants complete March 2022. Field team was increased to 1 supervisor and 3.5 kaiarahi in 2023. Total of 21 covenants now treated for pest plants across coastal Otago and into central Otago. Underspend has meant 2 new kaiarahi have been employed taking the team to 6.5 FTE. Project over delivering on numbers of covenants treated, but under delivering on FTE and area of land treated. This is due to small covenant sizes and efficiency of the team in delivering the pest plant work. Proposed use of underspend is to extend the project to March 31 2025 (from 1 Dec 2024) and carry 6.5 FTE through this period.
QEII Partnership	April 2023	QEII	ORC supports the establishment of new QEII covenants through contributing to fencing costs. QEII have been reporting on 7 covenants signed up and supported in 2022/23 and have recently signed up another 4 covenants using funding

			from ORC to support their establishment. A progress report was received in October 2023.
Nga Whenua Rahui Kawenata Support	April 2024	Nga Whenua Rahui	This pilot partnership did not proceed in 2022/23 due to the kawanata not being ready to complete the agreement. However this year we have contributed \$50,000 to the kawanata for Taiari Block B māori trust land which has very high biodiversity value.
Taiari Nga Awa	2020	DOC Mana whenua	<p>ORC are members of the Governance Group for this project (being led by DOC). The group has to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undertaken a stocktake of restoration initiatives underway in the catchment - Started biodiversity monitoring programme in stream (April 2023) - Undertaking bathymetric LiDAR to support climate change risk assessment and wetlands management (April 2023) - Planned to host an all of catchment stakeholder’s hui (May 2023) <p>This year ORC have continued the partnership and agreed to part fund the new Project Coordinator role with DOC. This role will lead the development of a CAP for the Taiari Catchment building on the work by the Ngā Awa project and other catchment wide project underway.</p>
OSPRI transition research and recommendations	April 2023	Predator Free Dunedin	<p>Project to provide recommendations for transitioning from OSPRI possum control to a community-led programme. This project continued into 2023/24. July 2024 A preliminary pilot project has been completed and an initial report received. The report and recommendations will be reviewed to inform potential next steps including if continuation of the pilot project is required to provide information to feed into a suitable OSPRI transition model.</p>
Biodiversity Management Tool	April 2024	Wildland Consultants	<p>This project is being undertaken by a consultant to develop a tool for helping inform management planning for biodiversity. The project started late due to administrative delays but should be delivered by end of August 2024. The mapping of biodiversity focus areas to date will be very useful for ORC and partners to help inform biodiversity decisions. A stakeholder workshop was held in July 2024 to discuss spatial data and criteria for management decisions.</p>

9.2. Biosecurity Operational Plan Annual Report 2023-2024

Prepared for:	Environmental Implementation Committee
Report No.	EVN2403
Activity:	Environmental: Land
Authors:	Murray Boardman, Performance and Delivery Specialist Libby Caldwell, Manager Environmental Implementation
Endorsed by:	Jo Gilroy, General Manager Environmental Delivery
Date:	8 August 2024

PURPOSE

- [1] To report on the implementation of the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2023-24 for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, 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 2023-24 Biosecurity Operational Plan are being applied to the delivery of the 2024-25 Biosecurity Operational Plan.
- 3) Notes** that this report and the attached Biosecurity Operational Plan 2023-24 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 2023-24 BOP contained 63 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Overall, 47 KPIs were fully achieved or exceeded (achievement rate of 74.6%). A further 10 KPIs were assessed as being partially achieved (15.9%). Two KPIs were not achieved, while four KPIs were not measurable as the required event did not occur.
- [4] While the KPIs across the past four reporting periods are not identical, there has been a progressive improvement in achievement from 29.9% in 2020-21 to 74.6% in 2023-24.

BACKGROUND

- [5] In accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993, 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. The RPMP is a Council plan that is operationalised by the Biosecurity Team.

- [6] An annual operational plan is required by the Act to detail the nature and scope of activities the Council intends to deliver as it implements the RPMP. The Biosecurity Operational Plan (BOP) details the range of activities that will be undertaken by Council to manage pests in Otago for the year.
- [7] The BOP enacts the RPMP and details how the RPMP objectives will be met through specific deliverables (actions), performance measures and targets.

DISCUSSION

[8] A summary of achievement towards the delivery of the BOP 2023-24 is presented in the attached document (Appendix 1: Biosecurity Operational Plan 2023-24 Assessment of Performance), detailing the achievement of each Key Performance Indicator (KPI).

[9] The 2023-24 BOP contained 63 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Overall, 47 KPIs were fully achieved or exceeded (achievement rate of 74.6%). A further 11 KPIs were assessed as being partially achieved (17.5%). Two KPIs were not achieved while four KPIs were not measurable as the required event did not occur. An assessment of each KPI is provided in Appendix 1.

[10] Although the KPIs across the past four reporting periods are not identical, there has been a progressive improvement in achievement from 29.9% in 2020-21 to 74.6% in 2023-24 (Figure 1).

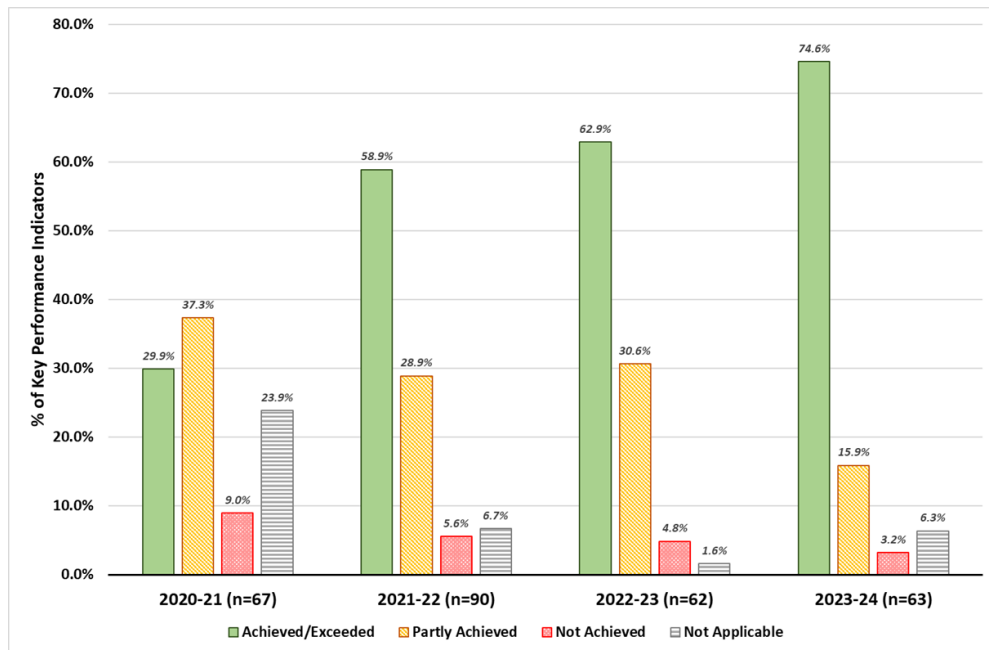


Figure 1: Change in achieving Key Performance Indicators over past four Biosecurity Operational Plans.

Pest Inspections

[11] Figure 2 shows the geographical spread of biosecurity inspections and monitoring activities during the year.

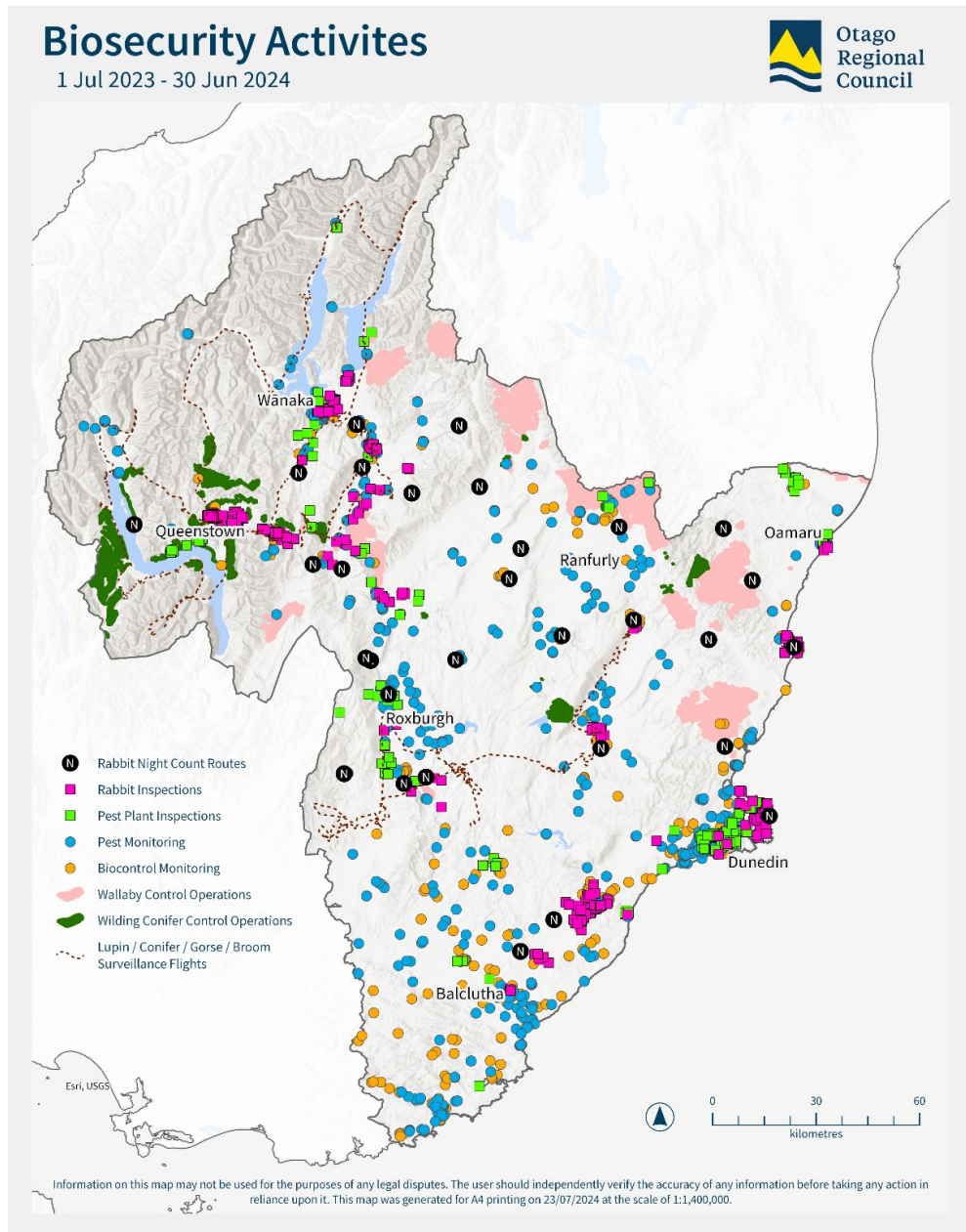


Figure 2: Geographical distribution of Biosecurity Pest Inspections and Monitoring Activities

Rabbit Inspections

[12] Over the 2023-24 year, 467 rabbit inspections were completed in non-community programme areas against a target of at least 250 rabbit inspections. In addition, a further 192 inspections were completed in community rabbit programme areas.

[13] Overall, 52.2% of inspections were compliant with 47.8% being non-compliant (Table 1). In comparison, 57.6% were compliant and 42.4% non-compliant in the previous year (Table 2).

Table 1: Rabbit inspection compliance and non-compliance 2023-24

Compliance Status	Compliant	Non-compliant	Total
New Inspection	108 (42.0%)	149 (58.0%)	257
Re-Inspection	109 (27.1%)	293 (72.9%)	402
Total	217 (32.9%)	442 (67.1%)	659

Table 2: 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

- [14] Care is needed when comparing against previous year results due to the different factors involved in the inspections. Properties inspected cover a range of areas with each having an underlying proneness to rabbit infestation. In turn, the actual prevalence of rabbits in any specific area will vary based on control, virus activity and ecological factors. Consequently, the baseline prevalence for areas inspected this year is likely to vary from areas inspected in the previous year. The level of rabbit prevalence will influence how quickly compliance can be achieved. For example, rabbit inspections that are marginally non-compliant (i.e. MMS 4) are likely to be controlled faster and become compliant quicker. In comparison, when infestations are higher (i.e. MMS ≥ 5) then achieving compliance is likely to take longer as it may take a few seasons of control before the property is able to become compliant (e.g. two, or more, re-inspections).
- [15] Provisional analysis of paired data¹ from 131 non-compliant properties shows that, based on the median, there is a decrease of one level in the Modified McLean Scale (MMS) between first and re-inspections. Given the MMS is an 8-point scale, the change of one level is statistically significant and suggests inspections, overall, have a positive effect. Further analysis is being undertaken to confirm this outcome.

Non-rabbit Pest Inspections

- [16] 2,129 non-rabbit pest inspections and monitoring visits were completed against a target of 1,500. The total was made up of 285 formal inspections and 1,844 monitoring visits.
- [17] During the year, a secondary data collection tool was developed to monitor pests in non-property locations (e.g. road verges, river margins) and selected pests (e.g. rooks). This has provided better flexibility to assessing the prevalence of pests and is complementary to formal inspections.
- [18] Table 5 shows the compliance rate for the formal inspections. Due to the change in data collection, the comparison between the previous year is impractical. Absence and presence data² for the monitoring visits are shown in Table 6.

¹ Paired analysis compares properties that were non-compliant at first inspection which then had a follow-up re-inspection.

² Presence does not automatically mean non-compliant as some pests can be present yet be compliant (e.g. ragwort).

Table 5: Pest inspection (non-rabbits) compliance and non-compliance 2023-24

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: Pest monitoring visits (non-rabbits) absence and presence 2023-24

Compliance Status	Absent	Present	Total
Monitoring Visit	734 (39.0%)	1,150 (61.0%)	1,844

- [19] Pest specific analysis will be presented in the 'State of Pest Management Report', scheduled for the November Environmental Implementation committee meeting.

Pest Management Engagement

- [20] A highlight of the year has been the engagement with landowners, the community, Crown agencies and territorial authorities.
- [21] A total of 53 engagements were had with key Crown agencies and territorial authorities in regard to various aspects of pest management. These agencies include MPI, DoC, LINZ, KiwiRail, Waka Kotahi, WDC, DCC, CDC, CODC and QLDC.
- [22] 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. There was a resounding positive feedback to the engagements.
- [23] Twenty-seven collaborations were held with neighbouring Regional Councils on pest management, including meetings, information sharing, site visits and staff exchanges. In addition, 32 meetings/visits were held with ECan on wallabies. Fourteen collaborations were held with Kāi Tahu on biosecurity issues.
- [24] Fourteen community events attended to support best practice pest control. Some 61 advocacy and education engagements (including online) were disseminated to the public.

Compliance and Enforcement

- [25] At least 595 letters (excluding Notices of Direction (NOD)), were sent to occupiers or landowners to advise them of the outcome of the inspection.
- [26] Occupiers and/or Owners of non-compliant properties are engaged using one of five methods listed in the RPMP. The principal approach following an inspection is through advocacy and education/collaboration (e.g. non-regulatory Request for Work letters) which are followed by re-inspections and, where appropriate, the issuing the requirement to act through a NOD. The approaches used to progress compliance differ depending on circumstances, such as the pest species, location, infestation level, and the relevant RPMP rule. In some situations, contractors may be tasked to undertake pest control (e.g. boneseed and spartina).

- [27] 24 Notices of Direction were issued during the year to eligible non-compliant properties, that meet the required NOD criteria. These properties will be re-inspected during the 2024-25 year to determine progress towards compliance.
- [28] Under the Compliance and Enforcement Policy, a property could receive a NOD if it remains non-compliant after the first re-inspection. However, due to variety of factors including the pest species, initial infestation level, change in infestation level and the suitability of season for control methods progressing directly to NOD may not be the most effective method to achieve compliance. This is in line with Council's education first approach to compliance activities. Properties that were liable for, but not issued a NOD will be scheduled for further re-inspection to monitor progress towards compliance.
- [29] The compliance and enforcement outcomes are progressing with the new system operating for a full year. However, some issues remain in optimising the system, in particular tracking non-compliance progress in real time. Modifications of the current system are continuing to enable better efficiency before the move to IRIS NextGen.

2023-2024 Lessons learned and Improvements³

- [30] Most of the improvements in this year's performance can be traced back to adopting better strategic planning (e.g. scheduling of inspections). This has enabled better tracking of deliverables and activities. This highlights the importance of strategic planning and its relationship to improved performance.
- [31] Operating in targeted management areas and working with land occupiers in these areas through to compliance is more effective than a scattered approach. Strategic planning allows for the team to work together in dedicated management areas.
- [32] An improved approach to monitoring and surveillance, including remote sensing, that informs planning to undertake formal inspections has been an improvement. The role of spatial analysis is seen as being a progressively important tool in pest management, including the role of artificial intelligence.
- [33] Working with land occupiers to support them to achieve compliance can take multiple seasons/years, particularly regarding rabbits. This is in part due to the seasonal unpredictability of control methods and the time it takes to work with the land occupier to understand the most effective form of control for the infestation level and their property (it is not a one-size-fits all system). However, there is clear value in this approach. Management plans are a beneficial way of working with land occupiers over the longer term to manage species that will persist even after control has taken place, i.e. due to the seed source or life history of the species.
- [34] Obtaining details of land occupiers (as opposed to owners), as required by the Biosecurity Act, adds considerable complexity to the administration of pest compliance. This is something that will continue to be looked at as it relates to our systems and processes.

³ The following list is not ordered in terms of importance.

[35] A move towards outcome driven pest management is increasingly needed to ensure the deliverables of the BOP align with the objectives of the RPMP. To this end, a review is to be conducted on the effectiveness of the RPMP in 2024/25 to assess the achievement of the RPMP objectives and recommend, where necessary, any changes.

CONSIDERATIONS

Strategic Framework and Policy Considerations

[36] None.

Financial Considerations

[37] None.

Significance and Engagement Considerations

[38] None.

Legislative and Risk Considerations

[39] In line with the Biosecurity Act (1993), it is desirable that the attached report is proactively submitted to the Minister of Biosecurity prior to the 30 November 2024.

Climate Change Considerations

[40] None.

Communications Considerations

[41] None.

NEXT STEPS

[42] Lessons learned and required improvements identified through preparing this report are being implemented.

[43] The attached report will be provided to the Minister for Biosecurity.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Appendix 1 Biosecurity Operational Plan 2023 24 Assessment [9.2.1 - 12 pages]

Appendix 1: Biosecurity Operational Plan 2023-24 Assessment of Performance *Implementing the Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-29*

This report presents an assessment of the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2023-24 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.

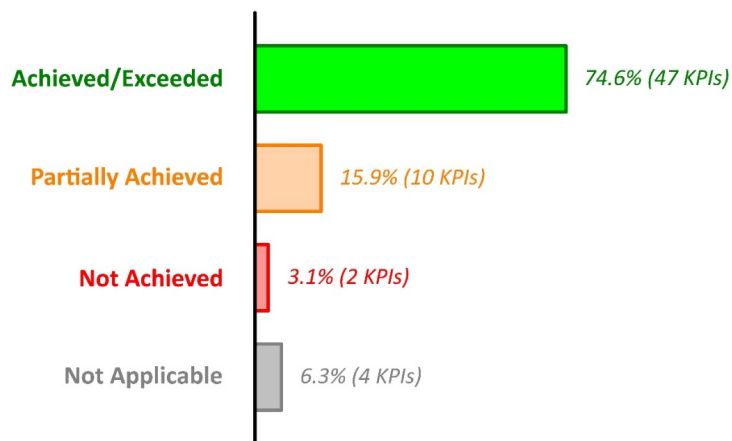







Figure 1: Snapshot of Biosecurity Performance in 2023-24

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 exclusion pest threats	6	8	
KPI 2	Exclusion pest management and surveillance plans covering the six identified exclusion pests finalised by 31 May 2024	6	6	
KPI 3	% of actions completed within the required timeframes as set out in the incursion pest response plan for each confirmed sighting (as assessed by checklist)	100%	See comment	---
Comments	KPI 3: As there were no reported or confirmed sightings of exclusion pests, the KPI is not able to be measured (not applicable).			
Lessons Learnt	Given incursion of pests is a continual risk, the exclusion plans play a key means to proactively 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%	93%	
KPI 2	% of sightings inspected within 10 working days of receiving the sighting report	100%	100%	
KPI 3	% of Operational Advisory Group meetings attended	100%	100%	

KPI 4	Fulfil requirements of MPI funding agreement	100%	100%	
KPI 5	# of wallaby R+D trials supported	2	4	
KPI 6	# of meetings or visits with Environment Canterbury on wallaby control	6	31	
Comments	KPI 5: R+D trials were supported were: [1] Bennett’s wallaby site fidelity study, [2] ORC Judas Wallaby trial, [3] MPI eDNA research and [4] MPI wallaby detection probability trials			
Lessons Learnt	Strengthening the strong relationship with Environment Canterbury is an important aspect to eradicating wallabies from the Otago Region.			



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	100%	100%	
KPI 2	If rooks are sighted, control action completed within 3 working days of the inspection.	100%	See comments	---
Comments	KPI 1: In additional to the 50 known rookeries, a further six sites checked. KPI 2: As there were no confirmed sightings of rooks, the KPI is not able to be measured (not applicable).			
Lessons Learnt	No specific lessons identified. However, as rooks were observed in the previous year it is important to actively inspect known rook sites.			





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 locations (13) inspected and surrounding areas surveyed for spiny broom	100%	100%	
KPI 2	Control action is commenced within 5 working days of confirmed sighting of spiny broom	100%	100%	
Comments	KPI 1: A total of 13 locations were inspected/surveyed. KPI 2: One small plant was found at one location, and immediately controlled.			
Lessons Learnt	The programme will be strengthened with a monitoring plan being developed in the 2024-25 Operational Plan.			


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 properties inspected for wilding conifer compliance	100	103 
KPI 2	% of Operational Advisory Group meetings attended	100%	100% 
KPI 3	Fulfil requirements of MPI funding agreement	100%	100% 
KPI 4	Funding disbursed as per agreement*	100%	100% 
Comments	KPI 1: Focus for this year was on engagement with landowners to encourage compliance rather than formal inspections.		
Lessons Learnt	The complexity of rules meant determining compliance was a challenge. The main lessons learnt were [1] to be more strategic in identifying which properties should be prioritised for inspection/engagement and [2] investing in the quality of engagement with landowners over focusing on the number of inspections done.		

* 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 locations (20) inspected and surrounding areas surveyed for African love grass	100%	100% 
KPI 2	If African love grass is sighted, control action is commenced within 10 working days of the inspection.	100%	100% 
Comments	KPI 1: In additional to the 20 known locations, a further seven sites checked. KPI 2: Plants were found at three locations, and immediately controlled.		
Lessons Learnt	The programme will be strengthened with a monitoring plan being developed in the 2024-25 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 (38) inspected and surrounding locations surveyed for Nassella tussock	100%	100% 
Comments	KPI 1: In additional to the 38 known locations, a further 17 locations were checked.		
Lessons Learnt	The programme will be strengthened with a monitoring plan being developed in the 2024-25 Operational Plan.		











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 non-compliant properties re-inspected for Old Man’s Beard	100%	83% 
Comments	KPI 1: A total of 103 properties were re-inspected out of a possible 124 non-compliant properties. ¹ The difference relates to rescheduling re-inspections to an appropriate time of year when the pest is visible.		
Lessons Learnt	The KPI has been revised for 2024-25 year to focus properties inspections on, or surrounding high biodiversity, areas. This will help achieve the spread to new locations.		

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 non-compliant properties re-inspected for spartina or any one of the six containment plants	100%	67% 
Comments	KPI 1: A total of 22 properties were re-inspected out of a possible 33 non-compliant properties. ¹ The difference relates to rescheduling re-inspections to an appropriate time.		
Lessons Learnt	The programme will be strengthened with a monitoring plan being developed in the 2024-25 Operational Plan.		

¹ Assessed at a population level rather than as a paired new/re-inspection.

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		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of rabbit inspections outside a community programme	250	467	
KPI 2	% of non-compliant properties re-inspected for rabbit compliance	100%	96%	
KPI 3	# of engagements with community rabbit programme either through re-inspections or continued support	12	32	
KPI 4	# of rabbit night count routes completed and analysed	30	30	
KPI 5	# of fly traps locations monitored and analysed	10	59	
KPI 6	Report on analysis of historical serological data completed by 30 June 2024	1	See comment	
KPI 7	Update rabbit proneness map completed by 31 March 2024	1	See comment	
KPI 8	# of R+D trials to enhance rabbit monitoring instigated	2	2	
KPI 9	Funding round (<i>Sustainable Rabbit Management</i>) is oversubscribed with eligible applications	Yes	Yes	
KPI 10	# of territorial authorities and Crown agencies+ engaged on rabbit management.	8	10	
Comments	<p>KPI 1: An additional 193 properties were inspected through the community rabbit programme.</p> <p>KPI 2: A total of 402 properties were re-inspected out of a possible 418 non-compliant properties² (community and non-community programmes). The difference relates to rescheduling re-inspections to an appropriate time.</p> <p>KPI 4: Analysis was presented at Environmental Implementation Committee meeting, 8 November 2023.</p> <p>KPI 5: Analysis will be presented at Environmental Implementation Committee meeting, 7 November 2024.</p> <p>KPI 6: This KPI has been transferred to the 2024-25 Operational Plan due to the availability of the consultant. The analysis will be completed by October 2024.</p>			

² Assessed at a population level rather than as a paired new/re-inspection.

	<p>KPI 7: The report has just been completed (the work was extended by two months). The report will be presented at Environmental Implementation Committee meeting, 7 November 2024.</p> <p>KPI 8: R+D trials were supported were: [1] Moeraki Bait Pen and [2] Fly traps.</p> <p>KPI 9: \$249,740.78 requested out of \$100,000 available. 10 proposals received with 5 fully funded and one partly funded.</p> <p>KPI 10: A total of 28 meetings/engagements were held across the ten listed agencies on rabbit management.</p>
Lessons Learnt	The rabbit programme is progressing well and strengthened, in particular rabbit monitoring has increased following Council resolutions. This includes additional night count routes, fly trap analysis (rabbit virus), serology analysis (rabbit virus) and updating rabbit proneness modelling.

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

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 non-compliant properties re-inspected in gorse and broom free areas	100%	56%	
KPI 2	# of community meetings delivered on new gorse and broom free areas	4	5	
Comments	<p>KPI 1: A total of 9 properties were re-inspected out of a possible 16 non-compliant properties. The difference relates to rescheduling re-inspections to an appropriate time (e.g. when flowers are blooming).</p> <p>KPI 2: Community meetings also included engagement with selected stakeholders (LINZ and DoC) and landowners.</p>			
Lessons Learnt	The programme will be strengthened with a monitoring plan being developed in the 2024-25 Operational Plan. The monitoring of gorse and broom via remote sensing is also being investigated.			

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	% of actions completed by due date as described in the Russell lupin strategy	100%	100%	
KPI 2	# of high-risk areas inspected for Russell lupin	6	6	
Comments	KPI 1: All four actions set down for 2023-24 were completed as required. Some actions may extend into the following year.			

	KPI 2: The six areas inspected were the following catchments: Dart, Rees, Matukituki, Makarora, Hunter and Shotover (downstream of Arthurs Point)
Lessons Learnt	Having a strategy provides a proactive means to plan through to June 2028.

Ragwort and Nodding thistle

Objective: Over the duration of the Plan, implement sustained control of nodding thistle and ragwort on rural zoned land within specified distances of property boundaries throughout the Otago region to prevent their spread in order to minimise adverse effects on production values and economic well-being.

		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	% of non-compliant properties re-inspected for nodding thistle and ragwort	100%	See comment	---
Comments	KPI 1: No nodding thistle and ragwort complaints were received hence under RPMP rules no inspections were needed. Consequently, the KPI was not able to be measured.			
Lessons Learnt	No lessons learnt.			



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	Site-led programme plan (including each site-led location) reconfirmed by 31 July 2023	3	3	
KPI 2	% of actions implemented within defined timeframes for 2023-2024	100%	100%	
Comments	None to note			
Lessons Learnt	No specific lessons learnt. Continue programmes as planned.			






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	13	
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	767	
KPI 4	# of lagarosiphon monitoring visits at priority water bodies	18	33	
KPI 5	# of lagarosiphon inspections at secondary water bodies	40	50	
Comments	KPI 4: Of the priority water bodies, lagarosiphon was present in Bullock Creek (Wanaka) and Albert Town retention ponds. KPI 5: Of the secondary water bodies, lagarosiphon was present in the Purerua River, Inch Clutha.			
Lessons Learnt	Visits to priority and secondary water bodies also includes monitoring other aquatic pests.			






6. Integrated Programmes

Biodiversity Integration				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of pest inspections undertaken	1,500	2,129	
KPI 2	% of pest inspections undertaken in high biodiversity focus areas and their surrounds	40%	72%	
Comments	KPI 1: The total was made up of 285 formal inspections and 1,844 monitoring visits. KPI 2: 780 out of 1087 inspections/monitoring visits (new visits only) were undertaken in high biodiversity focus areas and their surrounds. ³			
Lessons Learnt	During the year, a secondary data collection tool was developed to monitor pests in non-property locations (e.g. road verges, river margins) and selected pests. This has provided better flexibility to assessing the prevalence of pests and is complementary to formal inspections.			

Shared Pest Programmes				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	% of non-compliant inspections re-inspected within set timeframes	100%	84%	
KPI 2	# of density monitoring visits undertaken	20	0	
KPI 3	# of monitoring visits to bio-control sites	20	354	
KPI 4	# of nurseries and pet shops visited	10	10	
KPI 5	% of deliverables enacted from the advocacy and education programme.	100%	100%	
Comments	KPI 1: A total of 142 properties were re-inspected out of a possible 170 non-compliant properties (formal inspections). The difference relates to rescheduling re-inspections to an appropriate time in the season. (This KPI excludes rabbit inspections which is detailed separately). KPI 2: Density monitoring of selected pest plants has been retired and will be replaced by monitoring plans for 2024-25 for specific pests. This is seen as being a more effective way to assess pest infestations.			






³ A high biodiversity focus area consists of properties with [1] a Significant Natural Area (SNA), a QEII covenant or land demarcated as 30% high biodiversity area (Leathwick, 2020) and [2] and buffer of 1 km around said properties.

Lessons Learnt	The density monitoring of selected pest plants was challenging to implement over a series of years. In its place, a series of monitoring plans will be developed for key pest plant species. This is expected to be completed by December 2024.
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Pest Programme Engagement				
		Target	Actual	
KPI 1	# of communication engagements with listed agencies† at least once annually	10	10	
KPI 2	# of community events attended to support best practice pest control	12	14	
KPI 3	# of collaborations with neighbouring regional councils	4	27	
KPI 4	# of meetings with Kāi Tahu on biosecurity issues	2	14	
KPI 5	# of school programmes attended to provide awareness on biosecurity	10	5	
Comments	KPI 1: All ten agencies had at least one engagement during the year. Overall, there was 25 meetings/engagements with the listed agencies. (This is in addition to engagements with agencies related to rabbits, as reported above.) KPI 5: Requests for attending school programmes was lower than expected.			
Lessons Learnt	Engagements with key agencies and stakeholders have been a strength of the Operational Plan with most engagement KPIs being exceeded.			

† Listed agencies are: MPI, DoC, LINZ, KiwiRail, Waka Kotahi, WDC, DCC, CDC, CODC and 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%	66%	
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%	100%	
KPI 4	% of exclusion pest enquiries responded to within 24 hours	100%	See comment	---
KPI 5	% of eradication pest enquiries responded to within three working days	100%	100%	
KPI 6	% of all pest enquiries responded to within 10 working days	100%	88%	
Comments	<p>KPI 1 & 2: This was partially achieved due to adjusting to the new administration system. Letters were prioritised for non-compliant properties. Some letters were not processed as the re-inspection was placed on hold, re-scheduled or suspended for operational reasons.</p> <p>KPI 3: 24 Notices of Direction (NoD) were issued. Once a non-compliant property was deemed eligible (i.e. meeting the NoD criteria), they issued a NoD within 20 working days.</p> <p>KPI 4: No exclusion pests were reported during the year (excludes wallabies which are reported separately).</p> <p>KPI 5: Six enquires were received on eradication pets and all were actioned within three working days.</p> <p>KPI 6: There were 159 pest enquiries with 142 responded to within 10 working days. The difference is essentially due to enquiries during the December/January period and close closure/staff leave.</p>			
Lessons Learnt	<p>The partial achievement of RPMP administration continues to be related to the operationalising of the revised administration systems during the year. For technical reasons, the solution has taken longer than expected. While this is improving, a complete solution is unlikely until IRIS NextGen is fully rolled out.</p>			