MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Biosecurity Operational Plan 2018-2028

Biosecurity

Operational Plan

2018-2028

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Contents

Amendments

Amendments have been made to this Operational Plan as a result of annual reviews undertaken in accordance with section 100B(1)(b) of the Biosecurity Act 1993. The amendments (if any) are documented within the report prepared each year on the Operational Plan and its implementation.

Review	**Amendments documented within**	**Date ratified by Council**
22 July 2019	Biosecurity Operational Plan Report 2018/2019	19 September 2019
4 August 2020	Biosecurity Operational Plan Report 2019/2020	29 October 2020

Introduction

This Biosecurity Operational Plan 2018-2028 (the Plan) has been developed to serve dual purposes. That is, to meet the requirements of an Operational Plan in accordance with section 100B of the Biosecurity Act 1993 and also outline and detail all other work functions of the Biosecurity Section at Council. These other work functions all relate back to the principles and goals within the overarching Biosecurity Strategy, adopted by Marlborough District Council (Council) on 14 December 2017, and also align with Council's Long Term Plan under the Local Government Act 2002.

The Biosecurity Operational Plan 2018-2028 was first prepared and ratified by Council as the management agency on 13 December 2018 after the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) was made operative on 1 October 2018.

Part One will outline plans to implement each programme within the RPMP. There are 34 programmes within the RPMP, of which 30 are for invasive plant species, two for invasive animals, one for an invasive bird and one for a marine pest.

Each programme within the RPMP contains a specific objective. This Plan goes further and provides detail over how the programme is to be delivered operationally and also outlines some programme specific targets. Each year, it will be these targets that will be reported upon along with an update to any programme trend information.

Part Two will outline plans for various other biosecurity services and/or initiatives that Council has decided to implement or support.

Part Three details the annual review and reporting process.

Part One - Regional Pest Management Plan Programmes

1. African feather grass *(Pennisetum macrourus)*

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control African feather grass (*Cenchrus macrourus*) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2016 levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.
Target 1.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.
Target 1.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

2. Bathurst bur (*Xanthium spinosum*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control bathurst bur (*Xanthium spinosum*) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2014 levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.
Target 2.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.
Target 2.2	Each year, 10% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance, plus any site known to have had soil disturbance within the last 12 month period.

3. Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	**Sustained Control**	Site-led

Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, control boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2015 levels to minimise adverse effects on the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Operations overview

A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Council that includes the management of boneseed.

Operational activities are pre-planned each year and are delivered by either:

a) Council staff and/or contractors, or;
b) Joint operations between DOC and Council staff and/or contractors (predominantly Queen Charlotte Sound/Tory Channel sites), or;
c) DOC staff (Keneperu Sound, Ocean Bay sites).

Target 3.1

Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.

Target 3.2

Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

4. Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	**Sustained Control**	Site-led

Objective 1

Over the duration of the Plan, control broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) in the Upper Awatere Broom Control Zone (excluding the Middlehurst Gorge Containment Area), Upper Wairau and Waima/Ure Broom and Gorse Control Zones to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Objective 2	Over the duration of the Plan, control broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) across the remainder of the district, in situations where the presence of broom on boundaries threatens adjoining land clear of or being managed for broom, to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.
Operations overview	Council staff will actively deliver communication, compliance and surveillance activities within the respective RPMP programme Zones. This will be to ensure occupiers are aware of the RPMP obligations and follow through with an adequate level of control to meet RPMP programme objectives. Surveillance will also assist to form accurate datasets of infestations that can also assist occupiers target control efforts. Council staff will also follow-up and investigate situations that come to their attention where broom is against a boundary and potentially threatening adjoining land.
Target 4.1	No more than 1 instance of non-compliance needing enforcement action is identified within the three Control Zones.
Target 4.2	Each year, undertake inspection and/or surveillance activities in all three zones.
Target 4.3	Each year, any situation that comes to Council's attention with regard to broom is against a boundary and potentially threatening adjoining land is investigated, and compliance with the Rule determined, within 5 working days.

5. Brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, prevent the establishment of brushtail possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula)* on islands currently known to be possum-free in the Marlborough Sounds (see Appendix 4 and Map 4 of the RPMP) to prevent future impacts on the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment. 
Operations overview	A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by DOC and Council that covers the process for investigation/response regarding a detection of a brushtail possum on a 'free' island. In all instances, joint decision-making is to occur. Surveillance activities on the islands include both active activities (on predominantly 'pest-free' islands wholly occupied by DOC), and passive where there is a reliance of reports. Education activities will occur within the community ensure the brushtail-possum free status of the islands, especially the large islands of Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville and Arapaoa where there is a mix of public and private land, is well understood and to report suspected sightings.
Target 5.1	Each year, any situation that comes to the DOC and/or Council's attention with regard to a report of a brushtail possum on any of the islands listed in the RPMP Programme, has an investigation started within 24 hours.

6. Bur daisy (*Calotis lappulacea*)

Exclusion	**Eradication**	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective 1	By 2035, bur daisy (*Calotis lappulacea*) will be controlled to zero density, where no plants are found in the preceding 5 years, in the Marlborough district to prevent adverse effects on the economy.
Objective 2	By the end of the term of this Plan, bur daisy (*Calotis lappulacea*) will only be found at densities less than or equal to 0.1 plants per man hour effort in the Marlborough district to prevent adverse effects on the economy.
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.
Target 6.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.

7. Cathedral bells (*Cobaea scandens*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	**Sustained Control**	Site-led

Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control cathedral bells (*Cobea scandens*) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2016 levels to minimise adverse effects on the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.
Operations overview	A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by the DOC and Council that includes the management of cathedral bells. DOC staff will undertake all operational activities. This is due to the current sites being aligned geographically with existing DOC operations and an acknowledgement by DOC as being a key beneficiary of intervening at these small numbers of sites.
Target 7.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.
Target 7.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

8. Chilean needle grass *(Nassella neesiana)*

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	**Sustained Control**	Site-led

Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, control Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to baseline levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Operations overview

There are multiple facets to the Chilean needle grass programme delivered by Council. These are:

- Staff and/or contractors will undertake strategic management of Chilean needle grass on the majority of sites. These are commonly the newer or smaller, scattered infestations.
- Active facilitation to develop management plans, and undertake compliance function where necessary, on the more heavy infested sites.
- Agree upon, and then where identified, provide cost sharing on the implementation of management plans.
- Work alongside the Chilean Needle Grass Action Group and any other related projects to ensure work programmes are aligned and work in together as far as practicable.
- Continue to deliver ongoing communication, education and awareness initiatives.

Note – there are other work programmes Council delivers outside of the RPMP that can have an influence on the Chilean needle grass programme. See Part Two.

Target 8.1 Each year, an inspection is undertaken, or contact is made with the occupier, on 100% of sites that have an infestation of Chilean needle grass, where the occupier has a control obligation.

Target 8.2 Each year, carry out required management work, on 100% of sites that have an infestation of Chilean needle grass where Council undertakes strategic management.

Target 8.3 Each year, any report of potential Chilean needle grass received by Council is investigated within 2 working days.

Target 8.4 Each year, a minimum of 200hrs of surveillance is carried out on land not previously known to have an infestation of Chilean needle grass.

Target 8.5 Provide support to the Chilean Needle Grass Action Group or any other related project where there are shared outcomes.

Target 8.6 Each year, a minimum of 6 sites without any infestations of Chilean needle grass – but are identified as being at risk - are visited for active surveillance.

9. Chinese pennisetum (*Pennisteum alpecuroides*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	**Sustained Control**	Site-led

Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control Chinese pennisetum (*Pennisetum alpecuroides*) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2016 levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.
Target 9.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.
Target 9.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

10. Climbing spindleberry (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

Exclusion	**Eradication**	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective	By the end of the term of this Plan, climbing spindleberry (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) on all known sites in the Marlborough district will have been controlled to zero density to prevent adverse effects on the environment, and enjoyment of the natural environment.
Operations overview	A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by the DOC and Council that includes the management of climbing spindleberry. DOC staff will undertake all operational activities. This is due to the current sites being aligned geographically with existing DOC operations and an acknowledgement by DOC as being a key beneficiary of intervening at these small numbers of sites.
Target 10.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.
Target 10.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

11. Cotton thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control cotton thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to baseline levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.
Target 11.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.
Target 11.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

12. Eel grass (*Vallisneria australis*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control eel grass (*Vallisneria australis*) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2016 levels to minimise adverse effects on the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.
Target 12.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.

13. Evergreen buckthorn *(Rhamnus alaternus)*

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, control of evergreen buckthorn (*Rhamnus alaternus*) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2015 levels to minimise adverse effects on the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Operations overview

A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by DOC and Council that includes the management of evergreen buckthorn.

Operational activities are pre-planned each year and are delivered by either:

a) DOC staff, or;
b) A joint operation between the DOC and Council staff and/or contractors.

Target 13.1

Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.

Target 13.2

Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

14. Giant needle grass *(Austrostipa rudis)*

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, control giant needle grass *(Austrostipa rudis)* in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2014 levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing.

Operations overview

Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.

Target 14.1

Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.

Target 14.2

Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

15. Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective 1

Over the duration of the Plan, control gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) in the Upper Awatere Gorse Control Zone and the Upper Wairau and Waima/Ure Broom and Gorse Control Zones to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Objective 2

Over the duration of the Plan, control gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) across the remainder of the district, in situations where the presence of gorse on boundaries threatens adjoining land clear of or being managed for gorse, to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing.

Operations overview

Council staff will actively deliver communication, compliance and surveillance activities within the respective RPMP programme zones. This will be to ensure occupiers are aware of the RPMP obligations and follow through with an adequate level of control to meet RPMP programme objectives. Surveillance will also assist form accurate datasets of infestations that can also assist occupiers target control efforts.

Council staff will also follow-up and investigate situations that come to their attention where gorse is against a boundary and potentially threatening adjoining land.

Target 15.1

No more than 1 instance of non-compliance needing enforcement action is identified within the three Control Zones.

Target 15.2

Each year, undertake inspection and/or surveillance activities in all three zones.

Target 15.3

Each year, any situation that comes to Council's attention with regard to gorse on a boundary potentially threatening adjoining land is investigated, and compliance with the Rule determined, within 5 working days.

16. Kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, control kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to baseline levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Operations overview

There are multiple facets to the kangaroo grass programme delivered by Council. These are:

- Staff and/or contractors will undertake strategic management of kangaroo grass on the majority of sites. These are commonly the newer or smaller, scattered infestations.
- Active facilitation to develop management plans, and undertake compliance function where necessary, on the more heavy infested sites.
- Continue to deliver ongoing communication, education and awareness initiatives.

Note – there are other work programmes Council delivers outside of the RPMP that can have an influence on the kangaroo grass programme. See Part Two.

Target 16.1

Each year, an inspection is undertaken, or contact is made with the occupier, on 100% of sites that have an infestation of kangaroo grass, where the occupier has a control obligation.

Target 16.2

Each year, undertake surveillance, and carry out required management work, on 100% of sites that have an infestation of kangaroo grass where Council undertakes strategic management.

Target 16.3

Each year, a minimum of 20hrs of surveillance is carried out on land not previously known to have an infestation of kangaroo grass.

17. Madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, control madeira vine (*Andredera cordifolia*) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2017 levels to minimise adverse effects on the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Operations overview

A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by DOC and Council that includes the management of madeira vine.

Operational activities are pre-planned each year and are delivered by either:

a) Council staff and/or contractors (Blenheim, Seddon, Ward sites), or;
b) DOC staff (Marlborough Sounds sites).

DOC staff will undertake all operational activities for the sites within the Marlborough Sounds. This is due to the current sites being aligned geographically with existing DOC operations and an acknowledgement by DOC as being a key beneficiary of intervening at these small numbers of sites.

Target 17.1

Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.

Target 17.2

Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

18. Mediterranean fanworm *(Sabella spallanzanii)*

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, prevent the establishment of Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) in Marlborough to eliminate adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Operations overview	There are multiple facets to the Mediterranean fanworm programme delivered by Council. These are: • Specialist dive contractors will undertake surveillance and removal of Mediterranean fanworm within areas where it has been detected previously. Currently that is only Picton Marina. • Specialist dive contractors will undertake targeted surveillance in areas of high risk of ingress into Marlborough. There are currently Waikawa Marina, Waikawa Bay, Picton Port, Shakespeare Bay, Okiwi Bay, Elaine Bay, Duncan Bay, Endeavour Inlet, Ship Cove and Oyster Bay (Port Underwood). • Responding to reports of suspected Mediterranean fanworm and/or fouled vessels that have recently arrived and undertaking compliance action if necessary. • Deliver ongoing communication, education and awareness initiatives as is appropriate in conjunction with the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership Note – there are other work programmes Council delivers outside of the RPMP that can have an influence on the Mediterranean fanworm programme (see Part Two – Specific Projects).
Target 18.1	Each year, a minimum of two dive surveillance and removal operations are undertaken in Picton Marina, Waikawa Marina, Grove Arm and Port Underwood (East Arm).
Target 18.2	Each year, a minimum of two targeted dive surveillance operations are undertaken in Waikawa Bay, Picton Port, and Shakespeare Bay.
Target 18.3	Each year, a minimum of one targeted dive surveillance operation is undertaken in Okiwi Bay, Elaine Bay, Duncan Bay, Endeavour Inlet, Ship Cove, Oyster Bay (Port Underwood) and Havelock Marina.
Target 18.4	Each year, any situation that comes to Council's attention with regard to suspected Mediterranean fanworm or a fouled vessel recently arrived into Marlborough, has an investigation started within 24 hours.

19. Moth plant (*Araujia hortorum*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	**Sustained Control**	Site-led

Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control moth plant (*Araujia hortorum*) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2016 levels to minimise adverse effects on the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.
Target 19.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.
Target 19.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

20. Nassella tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	**Sustained Control**	Site-led

Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, control nassella tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) in the Marlborough district to a population trend that is level or reducing to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment, and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Operations overview

There are multiple facets to the nassella tussock programme delivered by Council. These are:

- Staff and/or contractors will undertake periodic surveillance for nassella tussock on a number of sites. These are commonly the historical, smaller, or scattered infestations to check they are not becoming established or re-established.
- Undertake an active compliance function on the majority of sites. This involves communication with occupiers and the use of Management Plans that help schedule control work that the occupier must complete and compliance inspections that Council may undertake.
- For more heavily infested sites, facilitation of the development of Management Plans may be more comprehensive and involve the use of mapping and data management to assist the occupier.
- Continue to deliver ongoing communication, education and awareness initiatives.

Note – there are other work programmes Council delivers outside of the RPMP that can have an influence on the nassella tussock programme. See Part Two.

Target 20.1 Each year by 30 April, provide to occupiers that are subject to obligations and subsequent inspection, communication detailing their obligation for the coming season.

Target 20.2 Each year, an inspection is undertaken, on 70% of sites that have an infestation of nassella tussock, and the site is part of the active compliance programme.

Target 20.3 Each year, undertake surveillance, and carry out required management work, on 33% of sites that are not part of the active compliance programme.

Target 20.4 Each year, a minimum of 200hrs of surveillance is carried out on land not previously known to have an infestation of nassella tussock.

21. Parrots feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control parrots feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2013 levels to minimise adverse effects on the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.
Target 21.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.
Target 21.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

22. Purple loosestrife *(Lythrum salicaria)*

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control purple Loosestrife *(Lythrum salicaria)* in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2016 levels to minimise adverse effects on the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.
Target 22.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.
Target 22.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

23. Rabbits - feral (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, control feral rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) in the Marlborough district to a population trend that is level or reducing to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing and the environment.

Operations overview

There are multiple facets to the rabbit programme delivered by Council. These are:

- Staff undertaking targeted inspections of properties located in either high rabbit –prone parts of the district or those that have a recent history of sustaining high rabbit population levels.
- Supporting research initiatives that seek to continue to maintain the efficacy of biological control agents such as the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV).
- Continue to deliver ongoing communication, education and awareness initiatives.

Target 23.1

Each year, a schedule of sites is generated by 31 January outlining the coming season's inspections.

Target 23.2

Each year, 100% of sites identified on the inspection schedule are inspected to assess rabbit population levels.

24. Reed sweet grass *(Glyceria maxima)*

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, control reed sweet grass (*Glyceria maxima*) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2017 levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Operations overview

Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.

Target 24.1

Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.

Target 24.2

Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

25. Rooks (*Corvus frugilegus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, prevent the establishment of rooks (*Corvus frugilegus*) in the Marlborough district to prevent future impacts on economic wellbeing.
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities should rooks be detected in Marlborough.
Target 25.1	Each year, undertake an appropriate awareness activity within the community to facilitate reporting of rooks if they are seen.
Target 25.2	Each year, respond to any report of rooks in Marlborough within 2 working days.

26. Rough horsetail (*Equisetum hyemale*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control rough horsetail (*Equisetum hymale*) in the Marlborough district to a population trend that is level or reducing, to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment, and enjoyment of the natural environment.
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.
Target 26.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.
Target 26.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

27. Saffron thistle (*Carthamus lanatus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control saffron thistle (*Carthamus lanatus*) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2016 levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.
Target 27.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.
Target 27.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

28. Senegal tea (*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective	Over the term of the Plan, prevent the establishment of Senegal tea (*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*) in the Marlborough district to prevent future impacts on environmental values and the enjoyment of the natural environment.
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities should Senegal tea be reported or detected in Marlborough.

29. Spartina (*Spartina anglica*)

Exclusion	**Eradication**	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective

By the end of the term of this Plan, spartina *(Spartina anglica)* on all known sites in the Marlborough district will have been controlled to zero density to prevent adverse effects on the environment, and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Operations overview

Operations for this programme are led and delivered by DOC.

Each summer season, a team is assembled that conducts thorough searching all previously infested sites that are predominantly in the Pelorus Sound.

Target 29.1

Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.

Target 29.2

Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

30. Tall wheat grass (*Thinopyrum ponticum*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	**Sustained Control**	Site-led

Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, control tall wheat grass (*Thinopyrum ponticum*) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2016 levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment, and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Operations overview

Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.

Target 30.1

Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.

Target 30.2

Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

31. Wallabies (Family *Macropodidae*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, prevent the establishment of wallabies (*Family: Macropodidae)* in the Marlborough district to prevent future impacts on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Operations overview

Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities should wallabies be detected in Marlborough.

Further support could also be provided by DOC.

Target 31.1

Each year, respond to any report of wallabies in Marlborough within 2 working days.

32. White-edged nightshade (*Solanum marginatum*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective

Over the duration of the Plan, control white-edged nightshade (*Solanum marginatum*) in the Marlborough district (excluding the White-edged Nightshade Containment Area) to less than or equal to 2016 levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Operations overview

There are multiple facets to the white-edged nightshade programme delivered by Council. These are:

- Undertake an active compliance and surveillance function on all sites. This involves communication with occupiers and the use of voluntary completion dates to help focus annual control operations.
- Continue to deliver ongoing communication, education and awareness initiatives.

Target 32.1

Each year by 15 February, provide to all affected occupiers, communication reminding them of their obligation and include and a voluntary completion date.

Target 32.2

Each year, an inspection is undertaken on the two sites adjacent to the Containment Area where White-edged nightshade is threatening susceptible land.

33. Willow-leaved hakea *(Hakea salicifolia)*

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objective 1	By 2035, willow-leaved hakea (*Hakea salicifolia*) on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville Island (see Map 12 RPMP) will have been controlled to zero levels, where no plants are found over the preceding 5 years, to prevent adverse effects on the environment, and enjoyment of the natural environment.
Objective 2	By the end of the term of this Plan, willow-leaved hakea (*Hakea salicifolia*) on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville Island will have been controlled to less than 10% of the original infestation size at the commencement of management based on plant numbers, to prevent adverse effects on the environment, and enjoyment of the natural environment.
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.
Target 33.1	Each year, a control operation is undertaken on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville in accordance with the project plan.

34. Woolly nightshade (*Solanum mauritanium*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led

Objectives	Over the duration of the Plan, control woolly nightshade (*Solanum mauritianum*) in the Marlborough district by maintaining or reducing the number of plants found in known areas to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.
Target 34.1	Each year, a control operation is undertaken on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville in accordance with the project plan
Target 34.2	Each year, 100% of sites (excluding those on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville) that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.
Target 34.3	Each year, 33% of sites (excluding those on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville) that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.

Part Two - Other biosecurity services or initiatives

1. Education and awareness

Overview	Continuing to raise the profile of invasive species is a critical part of the Biosecurity Team's work. This can be providing general information and advice to the community, profiling RPMP pest species or putting out calls for sightings of RPMP species in the landscape.

2. Investigation & analysis

Overview	This service ensures both new threats are investigated, and those that are present are analysed as information comes to hand. The outcome of both investigations and analyse continually shape Council decisions and/or direction. The process used is outlined in further detail within the Marlborough District Council Biosecurity Strategy.
Target 35	Each year, undertake active surveillance activities for aquatic pest species at a minimum of 2 sites identified as being at risk from such threats.

3. Biocontrol

Overview	For many invasive organisms that are well established in Marlborough (particularly invasive weed species), the only remaining intervention is control on an as needed basis by occupiers. What can assist that control is the introduction and movement where necessary of biological control agents. These biological control agents can also assist in the management of species managed under RPMP programmes.
Operational Summary for the coming year	Council will continue to invest a core financial contribution into the National Biocontrol Collective. Councils around the country pool resources to fund a research programme to seek out and test biological control agents for invasive weed species. This contribution is currently $15,000 excl GST. In addition to the core research programme, Council will budget for and request 'releases' of agents that could become available through the approval and mass-rearing side on the National Biocontrol Collective. These are typically new agents or agents where further releases ex mass reared stock are required.
Target 36.1	Each year, provide an annual contribution into the National Biological Control Initiative.
Target 36.2	Each year, undertake a minimum of two new releases of biological control agents comprising of new agents (subject to availability) or existing agents available (subject to establishment status in Marlborough).
Target 36.3	Each year, undertake monitoring of all sites where agents were released ex-mass rearing stock within the previous 3 year period, to assess establishment status.

4. Supporting Community Organisations

Overview	On occasions, a community can come together to address concerns relating to harmful organisms within an area of interest. The organisms of concern are often those that are well established and the community is seeking a reduction in impact from those organisms. Outcomes can be related to improvement in biodiversity, aesthetics/landscapes, or even water yield and production values. While implementation of RPMP programmes is a priority, supporting these community organisations is a key goal within the Marlborough District Council Biosecurity Strategy. It is recognised that by supporting these organisations, the resulting work delivered and resources harnessed often well exceeds any single agency operating in isolation. In addition, the very nature of the organisations is community-driven, which make buy-in from the wider community an easier task.
Operational Summary for the coming year	Support is provided through the Biosecurity Section of Council to: • Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust - $30,000 excl GST • South Marlborough Landscape Restoration Trust - $30,000 excl GST • Chilean Needle Grass Action Group - $15,000 excl GST
Target 37	Each year, provide an annual financial contribution into the following community organisations: • Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust • South Marlborough Landscape Restoration Trust • Chilean Needle Grass Action Group (by way of a dedicated budget).

5. Wilding Conifer Management

Overview	The management of wilding conifers is a large, complex, landscape scale issue. What has been recognised is the need to approach the issue will all interested parties working in collaboration. Council sees its role as a lead facilitator in accordance with both the Marlborough District Council Biosecurity Strategy and statutory requirements relating to leadership under section 12B of the Biosecurity Act 1993. As part of this role in Marlborough, helping establish and maintain collaborative wilding conifer management programmes is integral to achieve positive outcomes.

Operational Summary for the coming year	In relation to collaborative wilding conifer programmes, Council will: • Maintain active involvement with the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme (NWCCP) to ensure regional initiatives are aligned and well positioned. • As part of the NWCCP, fulfil the obligations of Regional Fundholder to ensure funded management works are delivered efficiently and effectively with open reporting lines. • Facilitate a Wilding Conifer Steering Group in Marlborough to ensure the key regional parties are well informed, foster collaboration and provide for transparent decision making. • Support and assist community organisations that have wilding conifers as an organism of interest (see Part Two, Section 4). The majority of resource allocated to this service is through the provision of staff time and related costs.
Target 38.1	While it is agreed, fulfil the role of Regional Fundholder as part of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme to the satisfaction of Biosecurity New Zealand (MPI).
Target 38.2	While in place, facilitate Marlborough Wilding Conifer Steering Group meetings to the satisfaction of all stakeholders involved.

6. Research

Overview	With all biosecurity programmes, a continual improvement in understanding relating both the organisms of interest and techniques to manage them is required. Some applied research is often carried out as part of operational programmes (e.g. farming system shifts to improve Chilean needle grass management) with other research more direct.
Operational Summary for the coming year	Council has a current research focus comprising of: • Improved understanding of the risks related to the residual nature of flupropanate herbicide (as part of Council's role in supporting the product registration of Taskforce™ herbicide in NZ). • Ongoing support toward national research projects looking into the biological control of Vespula sp. wasps. The research budget for 2020/21 is $10,000.

7. Specific Projects

Overview	On occasions, specific projects require the support and/or investment by Council. Each project is assessed on its merit and alignment with the Vision and Goals of the Marlborough District Council Biosecurity Strategy.
Operational Summary for the coming year	Council has a current commitment to the following specific projects: • Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership This initiative sees the three Top of the South (TOS) Councils come together with the Ministry for Primary Industries financially, and with many other parties in committee, to minimise the risk and impact of marine pests. It strongly supports the work delivered operationally by Council in the Mediterranean fanworm programme. A contractor delivers an agreed work programme across the TOS region which is focussed strongly on awareness, engagement, risk reduction and more recently surveillance/intelligence. <u>Resource inputs:</u> 1. Financial contribution $36,250, 2. Staff time and associated costs. • Response to plague skinks in Marlborough As a result of the detection of a breeding population of plague skinks in Marlborough (a first for the South Island), a response led by Biosecurity NZ and DOC commenced in June 2018. Council is a signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding in relation to this response and is fulfilling both a governance role and providing in-kind support to operations. <u>Resource inputs</u>: Staff time and associated costs

Part Three - Operational Plan Review and Reporting

In accordance with section 100B of the Biosecurity Act 1993, this Plan will be reviewed and reported upon annually. The Council can decide on appropriate amendments on each occasion if necessary.

Details of the review will form part of Annual Report on the Plan and be tabled via Council's Environment Committee at maximum 5 months after the end of each financial year.