



# Operational Plan

For Implementation of the  
Regional Pest Management Strategy

2011/2012



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## Introduction

As a requirement of the Biosecurity Act 1993 the Gisborne District Council has prepared and approved a Regional Pest Management Strategy for animal and plant pests.

The Gisborne District Council as management agency is required under Section 85 (1) (a) of the Biosecurity Act to prepare an Operational Plan. This Operational Plan identifies and outlines the nature and scope of projects Council intends to undertake in the implementation of the Regional Pest Management Strategy for the year 2011/2012. Performance objectives and measures by which performance may be judged are identified. Statements of indicative budgets are provided for each group of animal and plant pests.

The Regional Pest Management Strategy 2010/2015 incorporates 26 animal and 45 plant pests (excluding others within the National Pest Plant Accord) which cause or are capable of causing significant adverse effects to the district's people, environment and primary industries. The Strategy contains objectives specific to individual pests and outlines the means by which the Gisborne District Council (as management agency) will achieve those objectives.

Under the Regional Pest Management Strategy the responsibility for control work lies with the land occupier. Council's service delivery does not over-ride the responsibilities of land occupiers, but rather provides control where it is clearly of regional benefit, the control requires specialist training certification or methods, or for some other reason it is otherwise more cost effective for the Council to undertake. The Council has responsibilities to ensure land occupiers are aware of and meet their obligations for pest management on their properties.

The 1997 Amendment Act removed the provision which allowed the Minister to disallow an Operational Plan, hence approval by Council as management agency is all that is required. There is no public consultation requirement, but on completion it is to be made available to the public.

Further to the preparation of an Operational Plan, Council is also required to:

- (a) Prepare an annual report on the Operational Plan and its implementation.
- (b) Annually review the Operational Plan and, if appropriate, amend it.

This is a reviewed and second Operational Plan prepared under the new revised 2010/2015 strategy.

## Plant pest management

The Regional Pest Management Strategy for the Gisborne District classifies a number of plant pests that can cause, or are capable of causing a significant negative impact on Gisborne's people, economy or environment. The strategy separates individual plant pests into groups which require various levels of intervention.

Some plants may be more easily controlled than others. Some may have a limited geographical spread and may be controlled by containment, and others by surveillance.

## Plant Pest Status

The table below summarises the region's plant pests (other than those listed in the National Pest Plant Accord) and their designated status as classified in the Regional Pest Management Strategy for the Gisborne District. Some plants are in both total control and containment groups, depending on location.

Plant Pests	Group
African feather grass	Total control
Australian sedge	Total control – containment
Banana passion fruit	Total control
Boneseed	Total control
Boxthorn	Total control – containment
Burdock	Total control
Californian stinkweed	Total control
Climbing spindle-berry	Total control
Gorse	Total control – containment
Monkey Comb Vine	Total control
Nodding thistle	Total control
Red cestrum spp	Total control
Spiny emex	Total control
Variegated thistle	Total control – containment
White-edged nightshade	Total control
Woolly nightshade	Total control
Barberry	Containment
Bathurst bur	Containment
Blackberry	Containment
Buddleia	Containment
Common pampas	Containment
Hawthorn	Containment
Holly-leaved senecio	Containment
Montpellier broom	Containment
Old man's beard	Containment
Purple pampas	Containment
Ragwort	Containment
Spartina	Containment
Star thistle	Containment
Sweet briar	Containment
Thorn apple	Containment
Undaria	Containment
Wild broom	Containment
Wild ginger	Containment
Blue morning glory	Limited Control

Plant Pests	Group
Common ivy	Limited Control
Japanese honeysuckle	Limited Control
Mexican daisy	Limited Control
Mignonette/Madeira vine	Limited Control
Moth plant	Limited Control
Periwinkle	Limited Control
Smilax	Limited Control
Tree and Chinese privet	Limited Control
Chinese Mugwort	Regional Surveillance
Horse nettle	Regional Surveillance

## Plant pest groupings

### Total control

Plant pests which will be controlled with a long term view towards eradication although this may not be feasible in all cases or in all areas. Plant management will focus on plant removal prior to seeding.

### Containment

Plant pests which may be scattered throughout the district or concentrated in particular wards or even groups of properties but for which eradication is not currently considered feasible (*although this could change in the future*). The focus will be on containing their spread by boundary clearances or control to prevent excessive seeding. Boundary clearance widths have been established taking into account plant propagation methods and consultation with landholders. A majority of landholders expressed a preference for standard widths as far as possible.

### Limited Control

These plant pests are well established in the district and really only cause problems in specific areas; notably where people are concentrated. Control will be directed at lowering pest populations in such areas only.

### Regional Surveillance

These are plant pests currently not known to be in the district but with the potential to cause severe adverse effects if introduced.

Management will be focused on:

- (a) Preventing the introduction of these species to the District; and
- (b) Surveillance with, if possible, control aimed at eradication via section 100 of the Biosecurity Act.

### National Pest Plant Accord

These plant pests are of national significance with a nationally agreed ban on sale, propagation or distribution under Sections 52 and 53 of the Act. Some are already present in the district.

## Total Control Plant Pests

AFRICAN FEATHERGRASS	BOXTHORN	GORSE	SPINY EMEX
AUSTRALIAN SEDGE	BURDOCK	MONKEY COMB VINE	VARIEGATED THISTLE
BANANA PASSIONFRUIT	CALIFORNIAN STINKWEED	NODDING THISTLE	WOOLLY NIGHTSHADE
BONESEED	CLIMBING SPINDLE BERRY	RED CESTRUM	WHITE EDGED NIGHTSHADE
(Note: Some apply only to specific wards)			
<b>OBJECTIVES:</b> Long term: Eradication. Short term: No increase in distribution, reduction in density. Estimated percentage of available budget :59% (\$221,698)			
<b>Performance Measures</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Respond to all reports of new plant pests within five working days of being received and initiate appropriate action within twenty working days.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Monitor recorded plant pest sites on a regular basis to ensure compliance with strategy rules; achieve 95% compliance.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ One annual inspection of all known nursery and retail plant outlets to ensure no "Total Control" plant pests are being held for sale, propagation or distribution</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Provide property programmes to assist land occupiers undertaking control work of "Total Control" plant pests on their land.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Provide information fact sheets on "Total Control" plant pests to land occupiers where requested.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 100% of known Nodding Thistle, Spiny Emex, Burdock, Climbing Spindleberry and African Feathergrass sites visited and all plants controlled.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Initiate enforcement action against land occupiers or persons who do not comply with rules or statutes as outlined in the Regional Pest Management Strategy.</li> </ul>			

## Containment Plant Pests

AUSTRALIAN SEDGE	COMMON PAMPAS	PURPLE PAMPAS	UNDARIA
BARBERRY	GORSE	RAGWORT	VARIEGATED THISTLE
BATHURST BUR	HAWTHORN	SPARTINA	WILD BROOM
BLACKBERRY	HOLLY LEAVED SENECIO	STAR THISTLE	WILD GINGER
BOXTHORN	MONTPELLIER BROOM	SWEET BRIAR	
BUDDLEIA	OLD MAN'S BEARD	THORN APPLE	
(Note: Some apply only to specific wards)			
<b>OBJECTIVES:</b> Prevent spread of infestations onto neighbouring uninfested properties. Reduction in density and/or distribution in the long term. Estimated percentage of available budget : 30% (\$112,728)			
<b>Performance Measures</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Respond to all reports of new plant pests within five working days of being received and initiate appropriate action within twenty working days.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Carry out property surveillance to ensure compliance with strategy rules; achieve 95% compliance.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ One annual inspection of all known nursery and retail plant outlets to ensure no "Containment" plant pests are being held for sale, propagation or distribution</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Provide property programmes to assist land occupiers undertaking control work of "Containment" plant pests on their land.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Provide information fact sheets to land occupiers on "Containment" plant pests where requested.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Initiate enforcement action against land occupiers or persons who do not comply with rules or statutes as outlined in the Regional Pest Management Strategy.</li> </ul>			

## Limited Control Plant Pests

BLUE MORNING GLORY	COMMON IVY	PERIWINKLE
MEXICAN DAISY	MIGNONETTE VINE/MADEIRA VINE	SMILAX
JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE	MOTH PLANT	TREE and CHINESE PRIVET
<b>OBJECTIVES:</b> Reduction in adverse effects through improved awareness and management. Estimated percentage of available budget : 4% (\$15,030)		
<b>Performance Measures</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Respond to all enquiries within five working days of being received and initiate appropriate action within twenty working days.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ One annual inspection of all known nursery and retail plant outlets to ensure no "Limited Control" plant pests are being held for sale, propagation or distribution.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Provide information fact sheets to land occupiers on "Limited" control plant pests on their land.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Initiate enforcement action against land occupiers or persons who do not comply with rules or statutes as outlined in the Regional Pest Management Strategy.</li> </ul>		

## Regional Surveillance Plant Pests

CHINESE MUGWORT	HORSE NETTLE
<b>OBJECTIVES:</b> Prevent establishment in the Gisborne Region. Estimated percentage of available budget : 2.7% (\$10,145)	
<b>Performance Measures</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Respond to all enquiries within five working days of being received and initiate appropriate action within twenty working days.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ One annual inspection of all known nursery and retail plant outlets to ensure no "Regional Surveillance" plant pests are being held for sale, propagation or distribution.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Initiate enforcement action against land occupiers or persons who do not comply with rules or statutes as outlined in the Regional Pest Management Strategy.</li> </ul>	

## National Pest Plant Accord

<b>OBJECTIVES:</b> To restrict the sale and distribution by people of pest plants listed in the National Pest Plant Accord. Estimated percentage of available budget : 4.3% (\$16,158)
<b>Performance Measures</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Respond to all enquiries within five working days of being received and initiate appropriate action within twenty working days.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ One annual inspection of all known nursery and retail plant outlets to ensure no "National Pest Plant Accord" plant pests are being held for sale, propagation or distribution.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Initiate enforcement action against land occupiers, nursery and retail plant shop owners who do not comply with rules or statutes as outlined in the Regional Pest Management Strategy.</li> </ul>

### Indicative Costs and Source of Funds

Plant Pests	2011/2012
Costs	375,760
Funded by:	
Differential Rate	361,760
* Department of Conservation	14,000
*Others - User Charges	0.0

\*Crown exacerbator contributions Old Mans Beard at Otoko and Hangaroa.

Note: No contributions sought from Transit NZ or Kiwi Rail as both these agencies are deemed to be land occupiers rather than Crown agencies and therefore have the same obligations as any other land occupier. Both have been very responsive to requests to control plant pests on their lands.

## Animal pest management

The Regional Pest Management Strategy for the Gisborne District classifies a number of animal pests that can cause or are capable of causing significant impacts on Gisborne's people, economy or environment. The strategy separates individual animal pests into groups, which require various levels of intervention. The management regime for each pest applies to all land within the Gisborne District.

### Animal Pest Status

The table below summarises the district's animal pests and their designated status as classified in the Regional Pest Management Strategy for the Gisborne District.

Animal Pests	Group
Rook	Eradication
Feral Goat	Total Control
Feral pig	Total Control
Mosquito Fish	Total Control
Possum	Total Control
Rabbit	Total Control
Argentine ant	Limited Control
Darwin's ant	Limited Control
Feral cat	Limited Control
Feral cattle	Limited Control
Feral deer	Limited Control
Feral geese	Limited Control
Feral pigeon	Limited Control
Ferret	Limited Control
Hare	Limited Control
Magpie	Limited Control
Stoat	Limited Control
Wasp	Limited Control
Weasel	Limited Control
Willow sawfly	Limited Control
Catfish	Regional Surveillance
Chinchilla	Regional Surveillance
Koi Carp	Regional Surveillance
Perch	Regional Surveillance
Rudd	Regional Surveillance
Wallaby spp.	Regional Surveillance

## Animal pest groupings

### Eradication

Animal pests of restricted abundance and range but with a high risk of spread and seriousness of effects. Control will aim at removing each population.

### Total Control

Animal pests which are well established (although sometimes scattered) throughout the district and not considered possible to eradicate but which are capable of causing severe adverse effects. Population levels will be kept suppressed to the point where their effects are manageable. These population levels will vary from location to location, depending on the sensitivity of the surrounding environment.

### Limited Control

These animal pests are well established in the district and really only cause problems in specific areas or are low density populations which are costly to control. Control will be directed at lowering pest populations in specific areas.

### Regional Surveillance

Animal pests currently not known to be in the district but with the potential to cause severe adverse effects if introduced.

Management will be focused on preventing the introduction of these species to the district by:

- (a) Surveillance;
- (b) Community education;
- (c) And, if necessary, control aimed at eradication via S100 of the Biosecurity Act.

### Eradication Animal Pest

<b>ROOK</b>
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Eradication. Estimated percentage of available budget : 3.3% (\$19,982)
<b>Performance Measures</b>
▶ All reports of new sightings investigated within five working days.
▶ Complete annual survey of active rookeries by 29 September 2011.
▶ * 100% of known active rookeries controlled.
▶ Initiate enforcement action against land occupiers who do not comply with rules or statutes as outlined in the Regional Pest Management Strategy.
* <b>Comment:</b> Rook poisoning operations will be carried out to eradicate any birds residing in the Gisborne District if conditions for this very specific poisoning activity are suitable.

## Total Control Animal Pests

<b>OBJECTIVE:</b>	Reduction in density and range on a targeted, planned basis. Estimated percentage of available budget : 9% (\$54,496)
<b>FERAL GOAT</b>	
<b>Performance Measures</b>	
▶	Prioritise goat control to target Protection Management Areas and Soil Conservation plantings.
▶	Respond to enquiries and complaints within five working days and appropriate action initiated within twenty working days.
▶	Where shooting operations are being carried out on a planned basis not less than a 75% kill rate to be achieved.
▶	Initiate enforcement action against land occupiers or persons who do not comply with rules or statutes as outlined in the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

<b>FERAL PIG</b>	
Estimated percentage of available budget : 1% (\$6,055)	
<b>Performance Measures</b>	
▶	Respond to enquiries and complaints within five working days of being received.
▶	Provide advice or information when requested.
▶	Initiate enforcement action against land occupiers or persons who do not comply with rules or statutes as outlined in the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

<b>MOSQUITO FISH</b>	
Estimated percentage of available budget : 0.3% (\$1,816)	
<b>Performance Measures</b>	
▶	Respond to enquiries and complaints within five working days of being received.
▶	Provide assistance in the form of advice, information to encourage self help.
▶	One annual inspection of pet shops to ensure no mosquito fish are being sold or distributed.
▶	Initiate enforcement action against land occupiers or persons who do not comply with rules or statutes as outlined in the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

<b>POSSUM</b>	
Estimated percentage of available budget : 76.3% (\$462,008)	
<b>Performance Measures</b>	
▶	Respond to all reports and enquiries within five working days and action initiated within twenty working days.
▶	Where night shooting of possums is undertaken, not less than 85% kill rate obtained.
▶	All five random sample lines assessed post possum poisoning, trapping or night shooting achieve 5% residual trap catch or less.
▶	No confirmed incidences of Bovine Tb in possum populations.
▶	Develop possum management plans for those land owners who wish to carry out voluntary possum control on their properties.
▶	Initiate enforcement action against land occupiers or persons who do not comply with rules or statutes as outlined in the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

<b>RABBIT</b>
Estimated percentage of available budget : 4.5% (\$27,248)
<b>Performance Measures</b>
▶ Respond to all reports and enquiries within five working days and action initiated within twenty working days.
▶ Where night shooting of rabbits is undertaken, not less than 75% kill rate obtained.
▶ Carry out one annual night count for rabbits along established count routes.
▶ Where rabbit populations exceed "Level 3" on the Gibb/McLean scale, control measures to be implemented within one month of identification.
▶ Provide information and advice to assist urban residents to control rabbits.
▶ Initiate enforcement action against land occupiers or persons who do not comply with rules or statutes as outlined in the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

### Limited Control Animal Pests

<b>Argentine ant, Darwin's ant, Feral cat, Feral cattle, Feral deer, Feral geese, Feral pigeon, Ferret, Hare, Magpie, Stoat, Wasp, Weasel, Willow sawfly</b>
Estimated percentage of available budget: 5.2% (\$31,487)
<b>Performance Measures</b>
▶ Respond to all reports and enquiries within five working days of being received
▶ All requests for co-ordination of Argentine/Darwin's ant control satisfied.
▶ Provide information by way of fact sheets where requested.
▶ Initiate enforcement action against land occupiers or persons who do not comply with rules or statutes as outlined in the Regional Pest Management Strategy.
▶ Latest ant baits and control techniques available locally.

### Regional Surveillance Animal Pests

<b>CATFISH, KOI CARP, PERCH, CHINCHILLA, RUDD, WALLABY SPP</b>
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Prevent establishment in the Gisborne Region Estimated percentage of available budget : 0.4% (\$2,422)
<b>Performance Measures</b>
▶ Respond to all reports and enquiries within five working days and action initiated within twenty working days.
▶ One annual inspection of pet shops to ensure no Regional Surveillance Animal Pests are being sold.
▶ Provide information to the public when requested to promote awareness of these animals as unwanted pests in the Gisborne region.
▶ Initiate enforcement action against land occupiers or persons who do not comply with rules or statutes as outlined in the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

## Indicative Costs and Source of Funds

Animal Pests	2011/2012
Costs	605,516
Funded by:	
Differential Rate	599,516
* Department of Conservation	6,000
* Others - User Charges	0

\* Crown exacerbator contribution – goats at Motu and Te Wera.

Crown exacerbator contributions are now negotiated on an annual basis. There are no Crown exacerbator funded projects proposed for this year.

\* **Others : User Charges**

Not included as this source of revenue is expected to be gathered only occasionally.