

## 5 Programmes

### 5.1 African feather grass (*Cenchrus macrourus*)

#### Why is it a threat?

African feather grass is a robust, perennial grass with spreading rhizomes that originates from tropical and southern Africa. It forms dense tussocks and produces long, narrow flower heads. It is a garden plant that has escaped into surrounding habitat. It spreads utilising seeds and rhizomes. African feather grass is unpalatable to stock and is a threat to pastoral production if left uncontrolled. This plant is very adaptable and will also displace native species in wetlands. It will colonise pastoral land, wetlands, roadsides, urban areas and forest margins throughout Marlborough if left uncontrolled.

After years of intensive management, infestations are now few and manageable located near Riverlands, Wharanui and Ngakuta Bay.

#### Objective

Over the duration of the RPMP, control of 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.



#### Intermediate Outcome:

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
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#### Principle measures to achieve the objective

##### 1) Council Inspection and Service Delivery

- Inspection by Council may include staff or contractors.
- Delivering a service to manage African feather grass in liaison with the occupier.
- Visiting properties or doing surveys to determine whether pests are present.
- Monitoring effectiveness of control.
- Carry out control using administrative powers of the Biosecurity Act 1993, if necessary.

##### 2) Requirement to Act

- Land owners and/or occupiers or other persons may be required to act where rules or statutory obligations dictate.
- The presence of pests is to be reported.
- Pests are not to be spread (propagated, sold or distributed).

### 3) **Advocacy and Education**

Council may:

- a) Provide general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to land owners and/or occupiers and the public about pests and pathways (and control of them).
- b) Encourage land owners and/or occupiers to control pests.
- c) Promote industry requirements and best practice to contractors and land owners and/or occupiers.
- d) Encourage land owners and/or occupiers and other persons to report any pests they find.
- e) Facilitate or commission research.

## **Rules**

### **Rule 5.1.2.1**

Occupiers are required to notify Council of any new infestation of African feather grass (*Cenchrus macrourus*) on land that they occupy within 5 working days of the initial observation.

A breach of this rule will create an offence under section 154N(19) of the Act.

**Note:** Current distribution data is able to be viewed online via Council's Smart Maps service.

#### ***Explanation of the rule:***

The purpose of this rule is in accordance with section 73(5)(a) to assist Council with surveillance. Requiring occupiers to notify Council of new sites and plants on their properties, in addition to Council's own surveillance, will assist Council in achieving the objective of the programme. New infestations will be able to be controlled and incorporated into the programme.

Notifying the Council of the presence of the specified pest will enable the Council to:

- Update its records.
- Map new sites of this pest.
- Carry out control work before they spread.
- Determine whether new control regimes should be considered.
- Provide advice and information to occupiers where appropriate.

Council as the management agency will administer the rule.