

5.16 Kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*)

Why is it a threat?

Kangaroo grass is a large perennial grass that originates from Africa. It is an invasive species, which will form dense patches and can exclude preferred pasture species. It is considered to be a valuable grass in the dry areas of Australia, where it is grazed following burning. Once it produces a seed head again, it becomes unpalatable to stock and must be re-burned. In Marlborough, a burn and graze regime is not appropriate due to the proximity of forestry to the sites and the possible fire risk. The result has been the establishment of three large infestations of mature kangaroo grass that has little or no feed value. In New Zealand, Marlborough has the only substantial infestation of this pest plant with other records of smaller isolated infestations in Christchurch, Nelson and Browns Island in the Hauraki Gulf.



The infestations in Marlborough are located in the mid-Wairau Valley and the lower Welds Pass area. An isolated infestation is also located near Ward.

5.16.1 Objective

Over the duration of the RPMP, 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.

*A baseline assessment will be made either prior to or immediately after the RPMP commences.

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:

- a) Carrying out inspections to ensure occupiers are meeting obligations.
- b) Delivering a service to manage kangaroo grass in liaison with the occupier.
- c) Visiting properties or doing surveys to determine whether pests are present.
- d) Monitoring effectiveness of control.
- e) 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:

- a) Pests are to be destroyed.
- b) The presence of pests is to be reported.
- c) Pests are not to be spread (high risk activities, propagated, sold or distributed).
- d) Carry out control using administrative powers of the Biosecurity Act 1993, if necessary.

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.

5.16.2 Rules

Rule 5.16.2.1

Occupiers shall destroy all kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*) plants, on land that they occupy before the plants produce seed, unless:

- a) The land they occupy falls within a Kangaroo Grass Containment Area (see Maps 7, 8 and 9, pages 49-51), which is subject to Rule 5.16.2.2, or;
- b) A management plan approved by Council is in place.

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

Rule 5.16.2.2

Occupiers of land within a Kangaroo Grass Containment Area (see Maps 7 – 9, pages 49-51) shall destroy all kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*) on land they occupy before they produce seed within 5 metres of the Containment Area boundary.

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

Note: The Kangaroo Grass Containment Areas able to be viewed online via Council's Smart Maps service.

Rule 5.16.2.3

Occupiers are required to notify Council of any new infestation of kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*) 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 Biosecurity Act.

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

Explanation of the rule:

The purpose of Rule 5.16.2.1 is in accordance with section 73(5)(h) in that all occupiers without a heavy infestation are being required to take specified actions to prevent the pest establishing on that land.

The purpose of Rule 5.16.2.2 is in accordance with section 73(5)(h) in that the occupiers of land where heavy infestation occur are required to take specified actions to prevent spread pressure on the edges of the Containment Area.

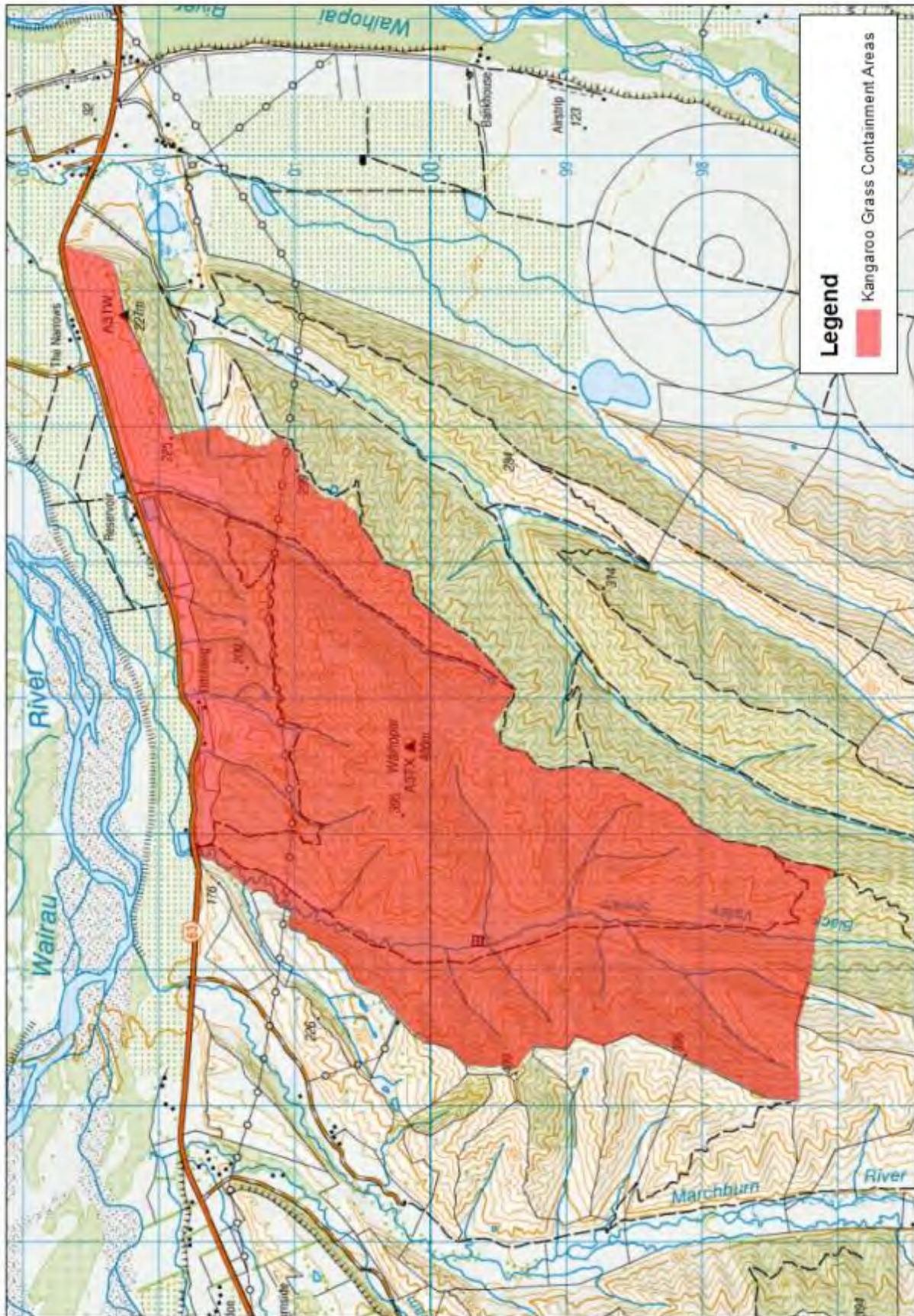
The purpose of Rule 5.16.2.3 is in accordance with section 73(5)(a) to assist Council with surveillance. Requiring occupiers to notify Council of new sites and plants on their properties, in addition to Council's own surveillance, will assist Council in achieving the objective of the programme. New infestations 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:

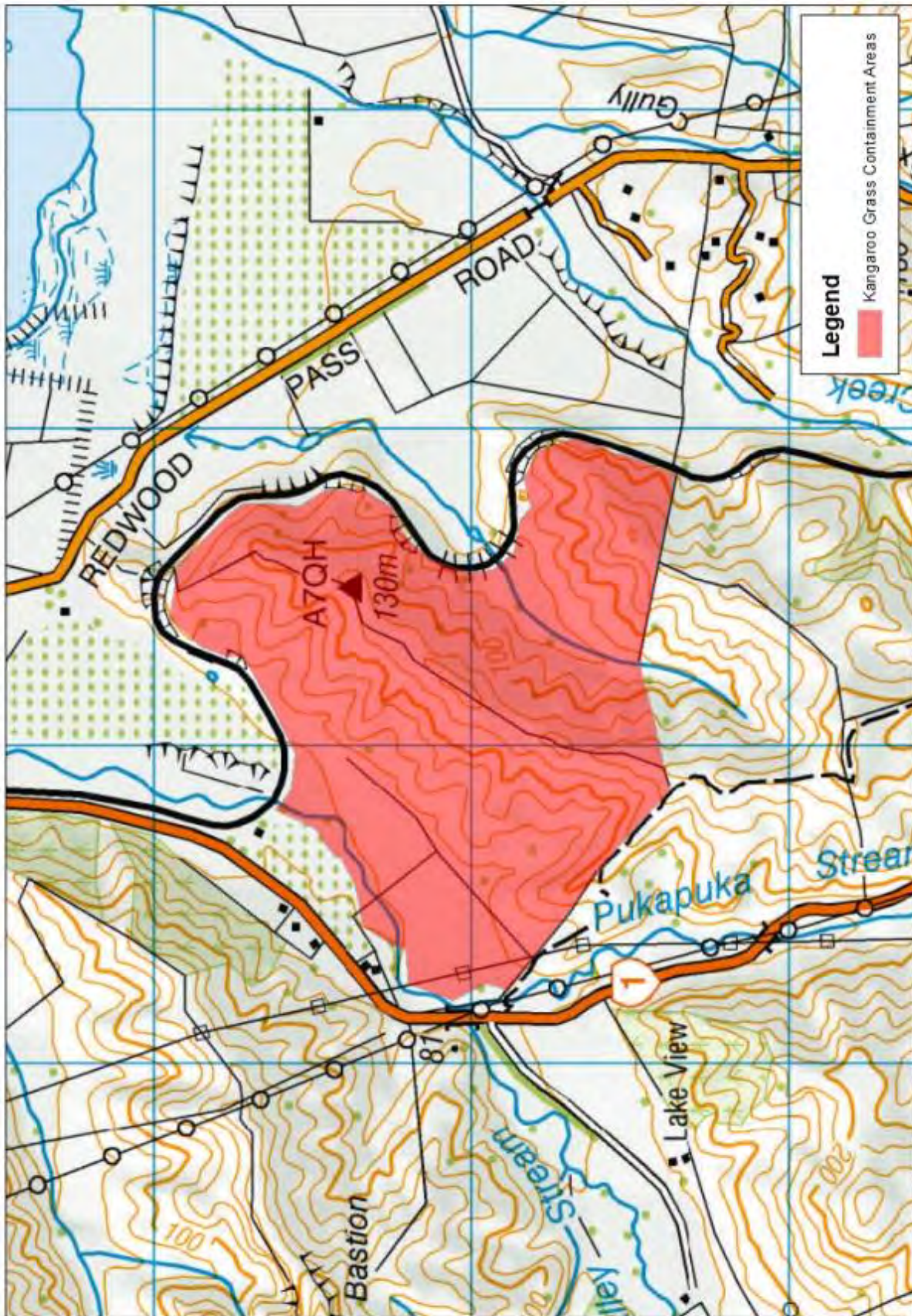
- Update its records.

- 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 these rules.



Map 7: Kangaroo grass programme - The Narrows Containment Area



Map 8: Kangaroo Grass Programme - Vernon Containment Area



Map 9: Kangaroo Grass Programme - Kaka Road Containment Area