



Biosecurity

Operational Plan Report 2020/2021

August 2021

**Biosecurity
Operational Plan Report
2020/2021**

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August 2021

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Introduction

This Operational Plan Report (the Report) has been developed to serve dual purposes. That is, to meet the requirements of an annual report on the Operational Plan in accordance with section 100B of the Biosecurity Act 1993 and also report on various other work functions of the Biosecurity Section at Council, as detailed in Part Two of the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2018-2028.

Part One will report on each programme within the Regional Pest Management Plan 2018 (RPMP) that became operative on 1 October 2018. 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.



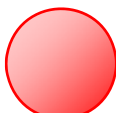

Part Two will report on various other biosecurity services and/or initiatives that Council has decided to implement or support.

Part Three details a summary of performance against targets for the 2020/2021 year and also over time.

Part Four details the annual review of the Operational Plan 2018-2028 in accordance with section 100B(1)(b), including any changes to the operational plans as a result of the review.



Performance Scoring System

The Operational Plan outlined a number of targets for both RPMP programmes and other initiatives. Measures against these targets will be used to assess performance of implementation. A coloured 'traffic-light' system – outlined below – will be used to indicate the 2020/2021 performance against the respective target.

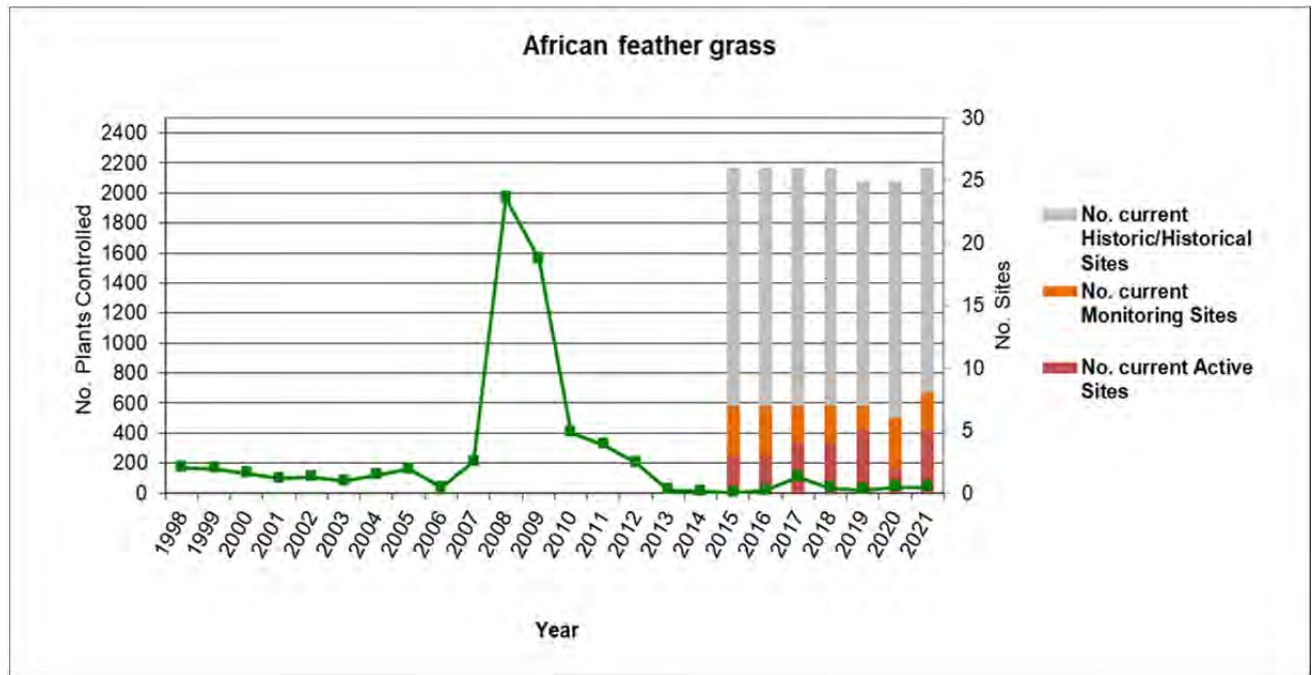
Symbol	Definition
	Achieved. All actions have been taken with the measure achieved.
	Almost Achieved. Actions have been undertaken but the measure has not been fully achieved for reported reasons.
	Not Achieved. Actions have not been undertaken to the level required or not been undertaken at all and the measure has not been achieved.
	Not applicable. No actions were required to measure against the target.

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 (<i>Cenchrus macrourus</i>) 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.			
2020/2021		All 6 (100%) high priority sites were visited. 8 plants were destroyed from 3 of those sites, compared to 20 plants found over 2 sites in 2019/2020.		
Target 1.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
2020/2021		<p>Of the 19 historical sites, 9 sites were visited for surveillance activities during the 2020/2021 season. No re-occurrence of African feather grass was found at those sites. One plant was discovered by a contractor, and the plant destroyed.</p> <p>A new site of African feather grass was discovered in an area known for the plant. The discovery of this infestation resulted in the destruction of 35 plants.</p> <p>Due to the outcome of the surveillance work carried out in 2020/2021 The total number of 'active' and 'monitoring' sites in 2021/2022 will increase from 6 to 8. Overall, the extent and density of Marlborough's African feather grass infestations remain small. However, the plant numbers found in the last two years have exceeded the threshold of the RPMP objective, to keep plant numbers at or below 2016 levels.</p>		

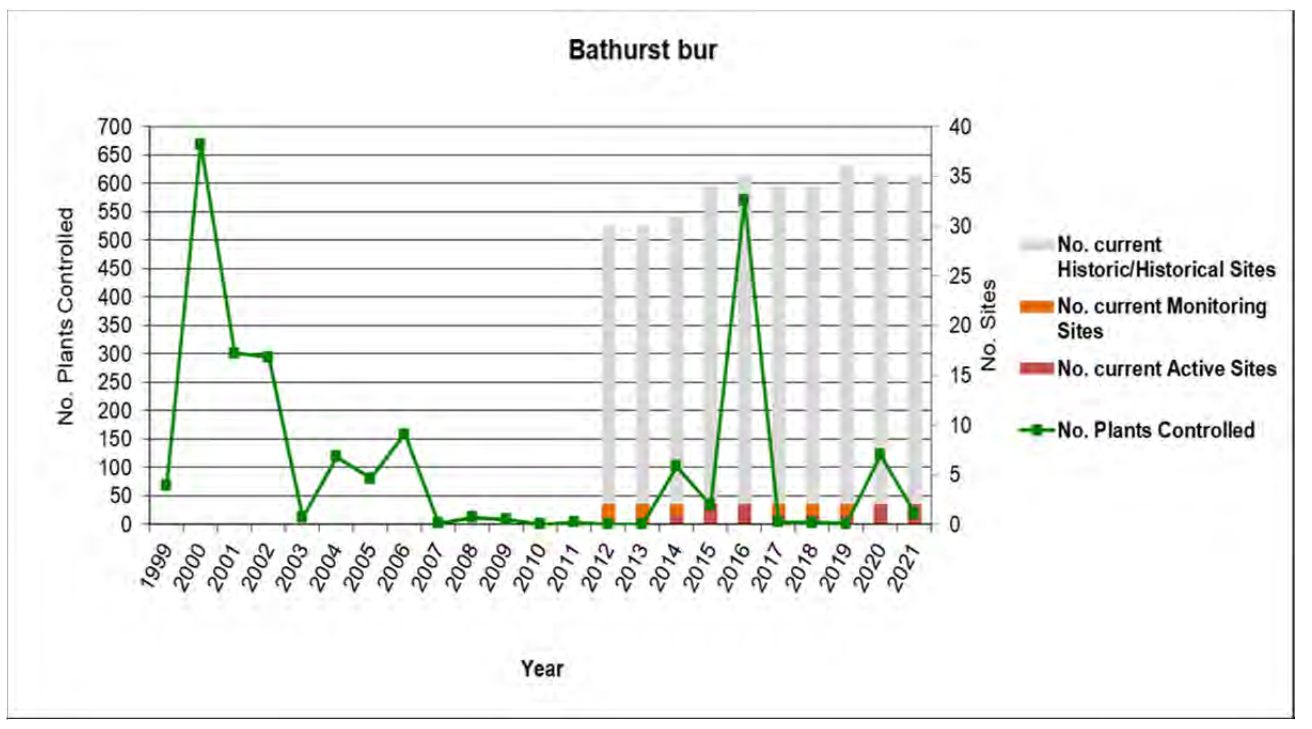
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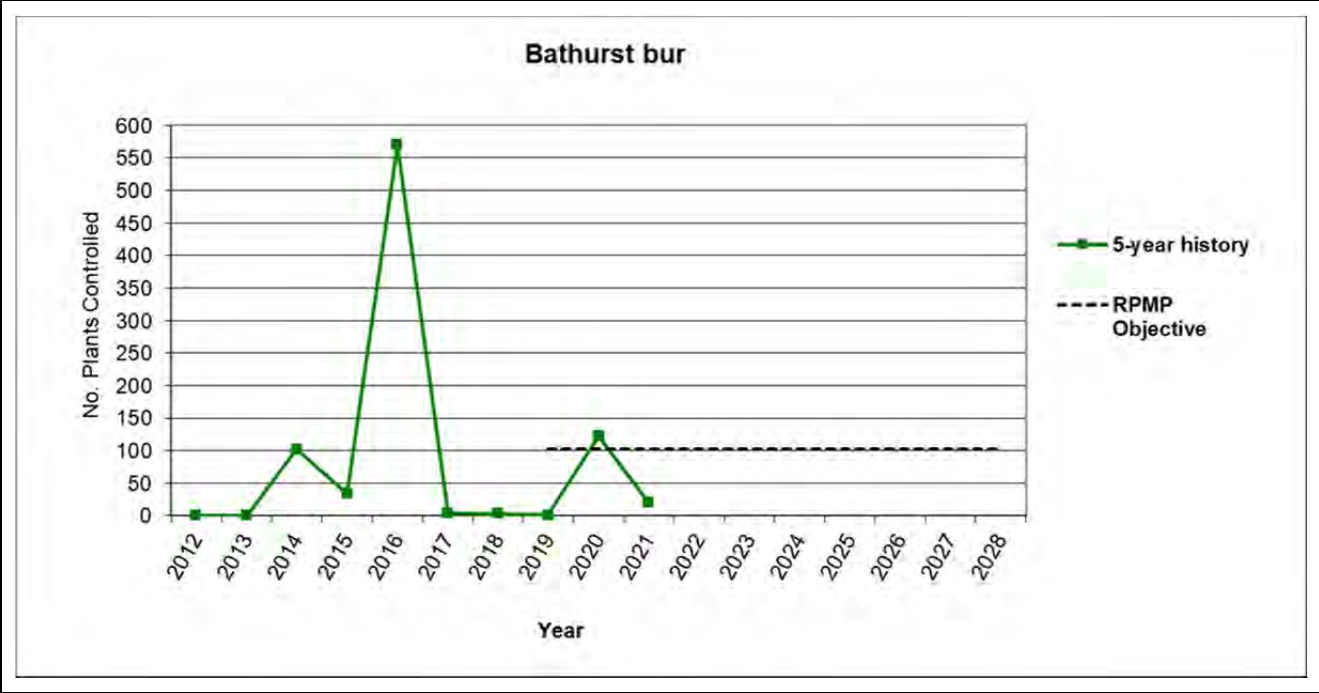


2. Bathurst bur (*Xanthium spinosum*)



Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control bathurst bur (<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>) 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.			
2020/2021		All 'active' and 'monitoring Bathurst bur sites were visited for control activities for 2020/2021. Only 20 plants were found and destroyed, compared to 122 plants in 2019/2020		
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.			
2020/2021		11 sites out of 33 sites with a historical status were visited for surveillance activities during 2020/2021. No plants were found at any historical site, and no historical sites were known to be subject to any soil disturbance.		

Programme trend:

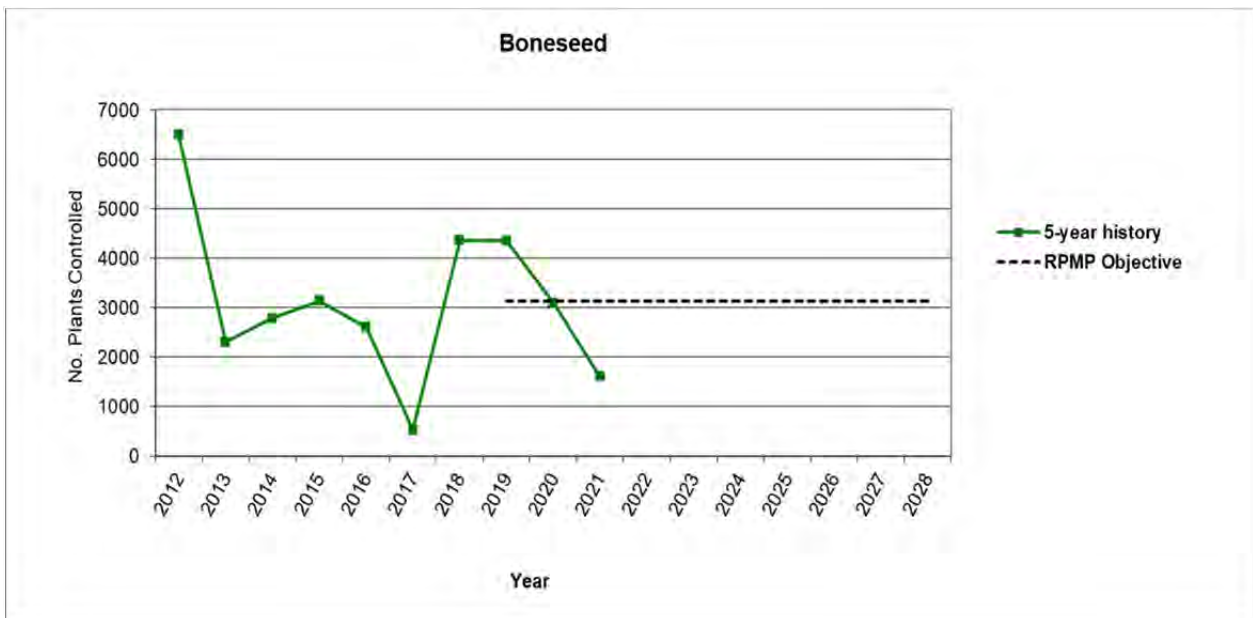
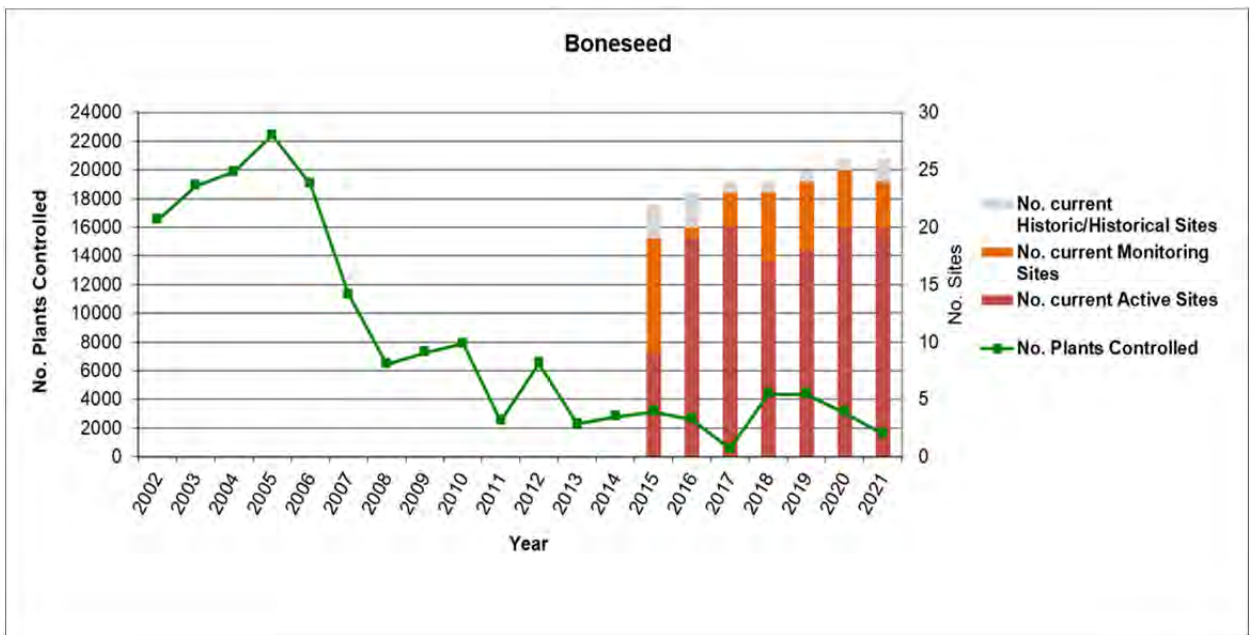






3. Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control boneseed (<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>) 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	<p>A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Council that includes the management of boneseed.</p> <p>Operational activities are pre-planned each year and are delivered by either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (Kenepuru 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.			
2020/2021		100% of sites with a status of active or monitoring were visited during 2020/2021. This resulted in the removal of 1606 plants compared to nearly twice that in 2019/2020.		
Target 3.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
2020/2021		All historical boneseed sites were visited in spring 2020, and no plants were found. The pest-status of one other boneseed site was changed to 'historical' in 2020, bringing the total number of historical sites to 2.		


Programme trend:




4. Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<p>Objective 1</p> <p>Objective 2</p> <p>Operations overview</p>	<p>Over the duration of the Plan, control broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>) 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.</p> <p>*A baseline assessment will be made either prior to or immediately after the Plan commences.</p> <p>Over the duration of the Plan, control broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>) 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>			
<p>Target 4.1</p>	<p>No more than 1 instance of non-compliance needing enforcement action is identified within the three Control Zones</p>			
<p>2020/2021</p>		<p>No situations were identified requiring enforcement action. Only one area, in the Wairau Valley required a send back.</p>		
<p>Target 4.2</p>	<p>Each year, undertake inspection and/or surveillance activities in all three zones.</p>			
<p>2020/2021</p>		<p><u>Waima/Ure</u></p> <p>Surveillance was undertaken from the Ure Road, A number of landowners were spoken to on the road side, landowners indicated that there were very few broom plants being found.</p> <p><u>Upper Wairau</u></p> <p>Inspections of land within this Zone were carried out. One area required an occupier to be sent back to tidy up an area.</p> <p><u>Upper Awatere</u></p> <p>Given all occupiers within the Zone have very active management programmes, the nature of Councils operations are more surveillance and information gathering. This of often done in conjunction with property inspections assessing rabbit population abundance. There are a few instances of where follow-up maybe needed in 2021/2022.</p>		


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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.	
2020/2021		During the 2020/2021 year, Council receive two complaints regarding broom on a property boundary. These were both responded to within 24hrs of receipt.

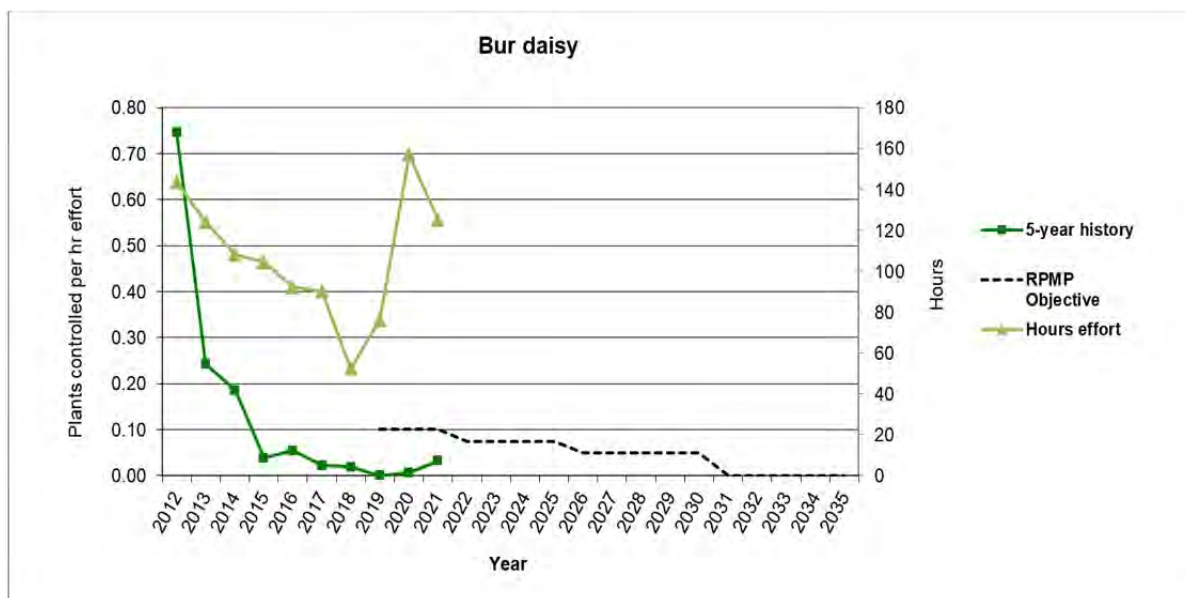
5. Brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, prevent the establishment of brushtail possums (<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>) 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	<p>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.</p> <p>In all instances, joint decision-making is to occur.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>			
Target 5.1	Each year, any situation that comes to 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.			
2020/2021		A report of a dead possum on Arapaoa Island was received in 2020/2021. This was investigated by the Department of Conservation within 24 hours. It is believed to have been a carcass that washed up.		
Status of brushtail possums on designated islands:				
Report of shoreline carcass in 2020/2021 on Arapaoa Island.				
Not established				

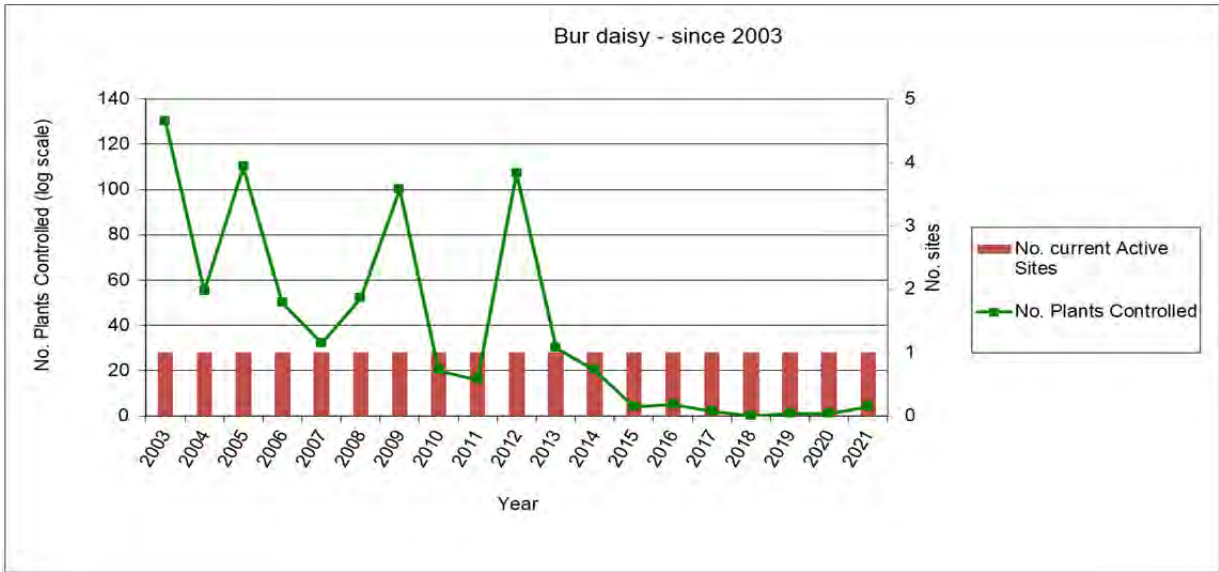
6. Bur daisy (*Calotis lappulacea*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective 1	By 2035, bur daisy (<i>Calotis lappulacea</i>) 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 (<i>Calotis lappulacea</i>) 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.			
2020/2021		<p>162 hours of surveillance/control activities were undertaken at the only known Bur daisy site known to exist in Marlborough. Four plants were found compared to only one plant in 2019/2020 when 157 hours of surveillance/control work were undertaken.</p> <p>If a future trend determines that increased surveillance activities does not correlate to an increase in plants found, then future management plans to scale back those activities can be considered.</p>		



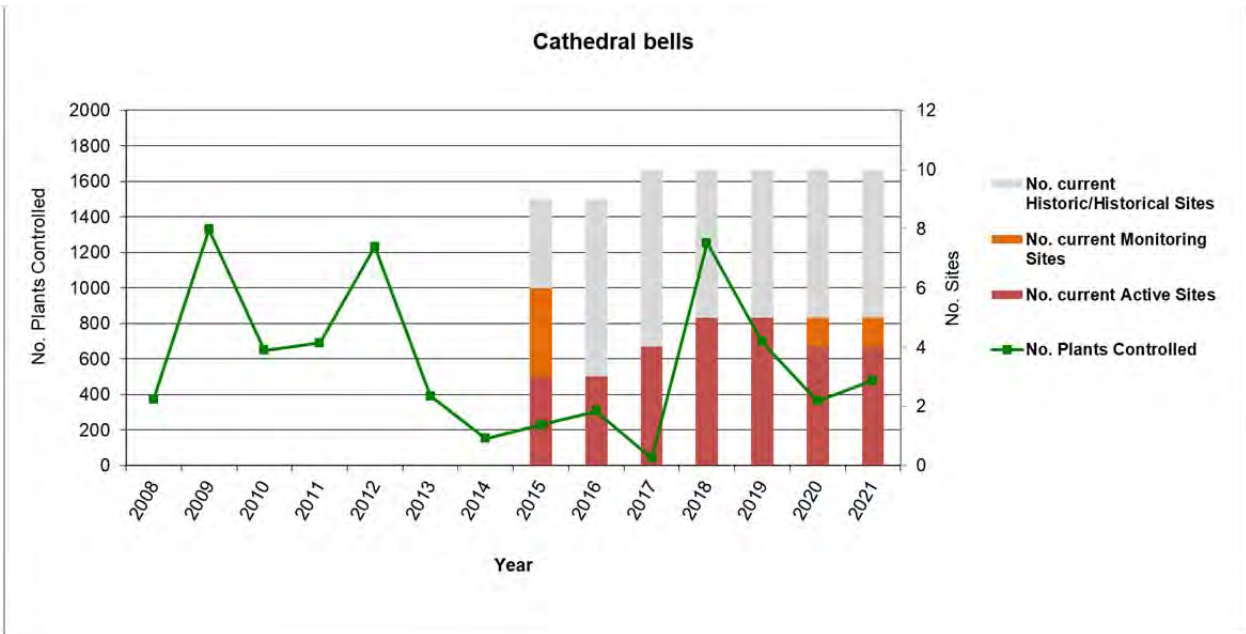
Programme trend:

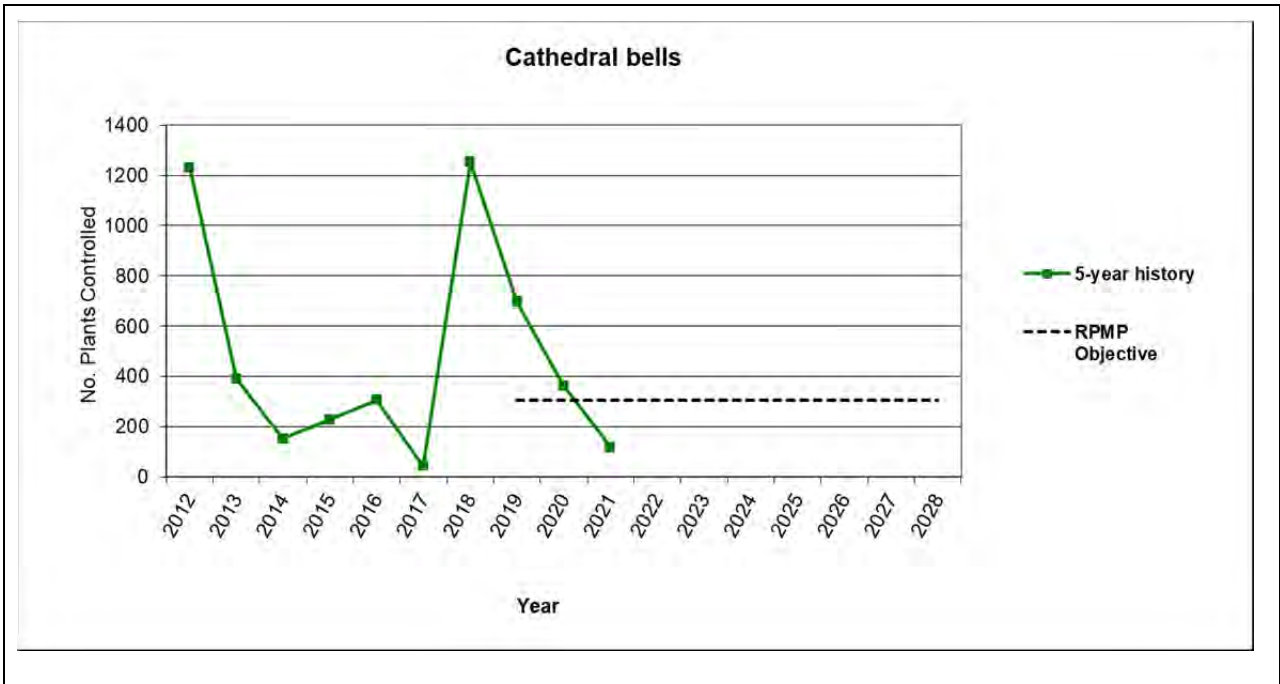


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7. Cathedral bells (*Cobaea scandens*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led																																																																											
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control cathedral bells (<i>Cobaea scandens</i>) 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	<p>A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by DOC and Council that includes the management of cathedral bells.</p> <p>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.</p>																																																																														
Target 7.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.																																																																														
2020/2021		<p>All five sites with the status of 'active or 'monitoring' were visited in 2020/2021.</p> <p>One 'active' site was reclassified to 'monitoring', bringing the total number of 'monitoring' sites to two.</p>																																																																													
Target 7.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.																																																																														
2020/2021		<p>Four out of five historical sites were visited for surveillance activities to determine any re-occurrence of cathedral bells. No plants were found.</p>																																																																													
Programme trend:																																																																															
 <p style="text-align: center;">Cathedral bells</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Estimated data from Cathedral bells programme trend chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>No. current Active Sites</th> <th>No. current Monitoring Sites</th> <th>No. current Historic/Historical Sites</th> <th>No. Plants Controlled</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2008</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>380</td></tr> <tr><td>2009</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1350</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>650</td></tr> <tr><td>2011</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>700</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1250</td></tr> <tr><td>2013</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>400</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>150</td></tr> <tr><td>2015</td><td>500</td><td>500</td><td>500</td><td>250</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>500</td><td>500</td><td>500</td><td>300</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>650</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>800</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1250</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>800</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>700</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>650</td><td>150</td><td>0</td><td>380</td></tr> <tr><td>2021</td><td>650</td><td>150</td><td>0</td><td>480</td></tr> </tbody> </table>					Year	No. current Active Sites	No. current Monitoring Sites	No. current Historic/Historical Sites	No. Plants Controlled	2008	0	0	0	380	2009	0	0	0	1350	2010	0	0	0	650	2011	0	0	0	700	2012	0	0	0	1250	2013	0	0	0	400	2014	0	0	0	150	2015	500	500	500	250	2016	500	500	500	300	2017	650	0	0	50	2018	800	0	0	1250	2019	800	0	0	700	2020	650	150	0	380	2021	650	150	0	480
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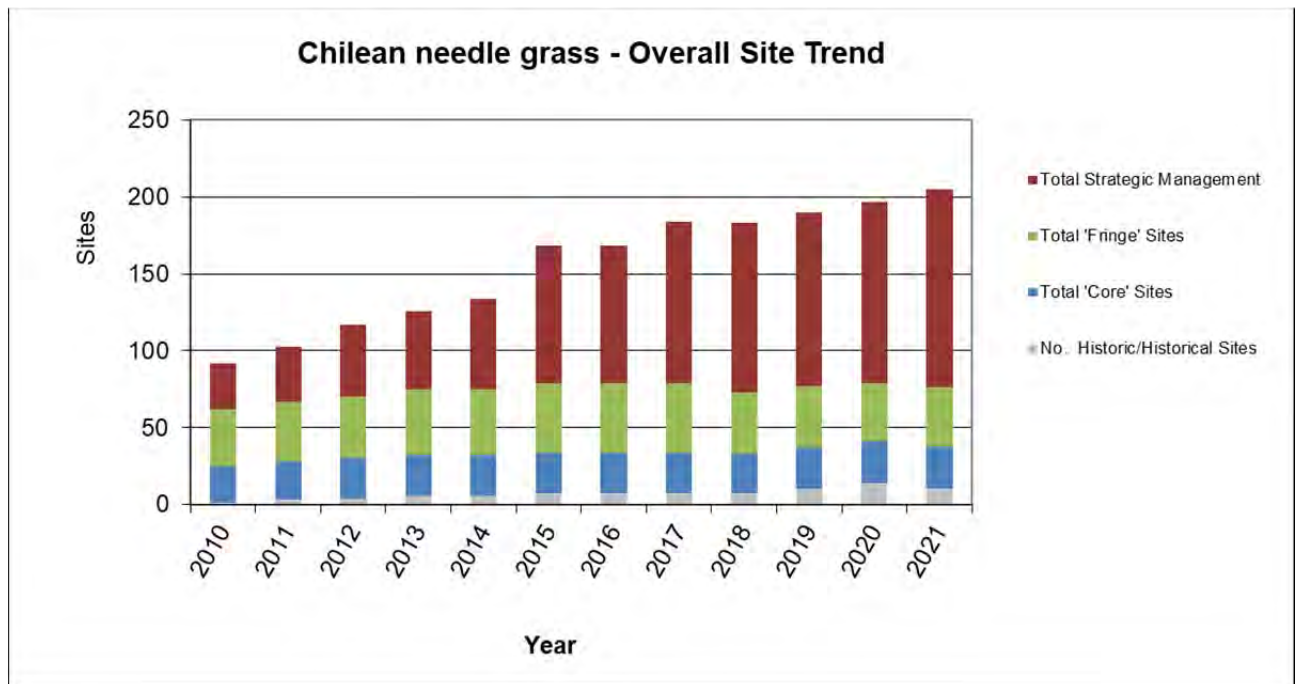
8. Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*)

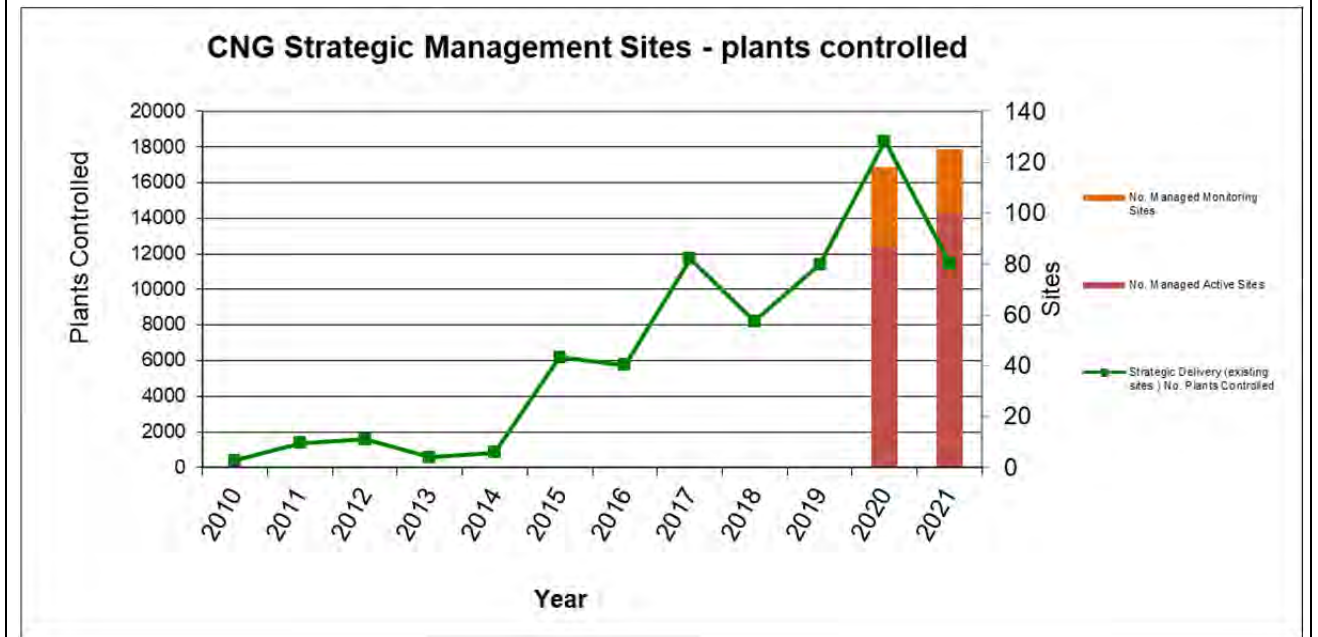
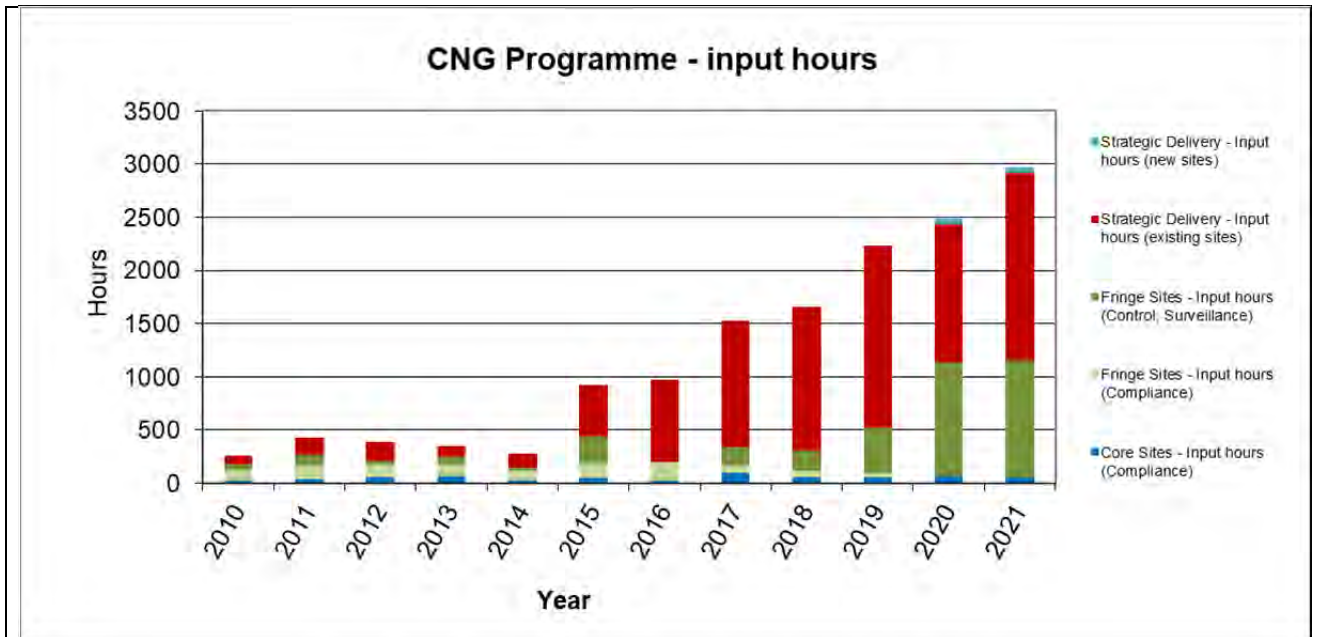
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	<p>Over the duration of the Plan, control Chilean needle grass (<i>Nassella neesiana</i>) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to baseline levels* to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.</p> <p>*A baseline assessment will be made either prior to or immediately after the Plan commences</p>			
Operations overview	<p>There are multiple facets to the Chilean needle grass programme delivered by Council. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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.</p>			
Target 8.1	<p>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.</p>			
2020/2021		Active facilitation and/or inspection occurred for 100% of sites.		
Target 8.2	<p>Each year, carry out required management work, on 100% of sites that have an infestation of Chilean needle grass where Council undertakes strategic management.</p>			
2020/2021		Control work visits by staff and/or contractors occurred on 100% of these sites.		
Target 8.3	<p>Each year, any report of potential Chilean needle grass received by Council is investigated within 2 working days.</p>			
2020/2021		Council received 5 reports of suspected Chilean needle grass in 2020/2021. All reports had an investigation started within 24 hours of receiving the report.		

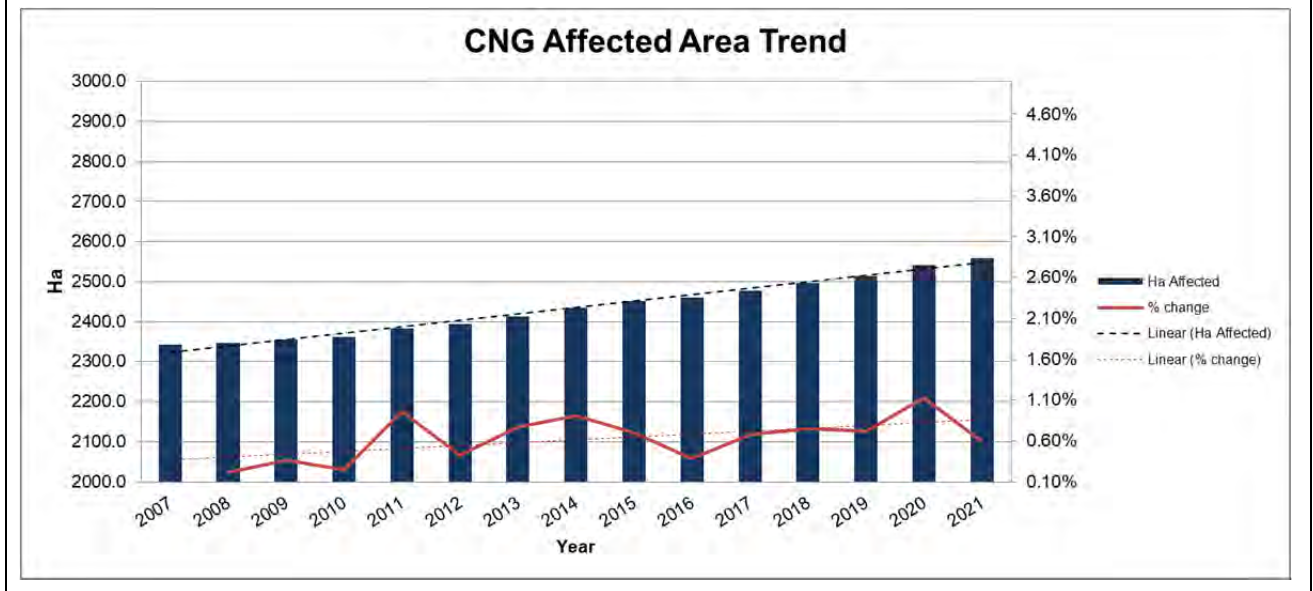
Target 8.4	Each year, a minimum of 200 hours of surveillance is carried out on land not previously known to have an infestation of Chilean needle grass.	
2020/2021		A calculated total of 2569 hours of staff and contractor time was spent on surveillance activities outside of previously known infested areas.
Target 8.5	Provide support to the Chilean Needle Grass Action Group or any other related project where there are shared outcomes.	
2020/2021		Council managed a specific budget on behalf of the Chilean Needle Grass Action Group in 2020/21. This was used to contract NZ Landcare Trust to deliver facilitation services for the group and fund other group-initiated expenses.
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.	
2020/2021		A total of 12 sites without known populations of CNG were and checked throughout the flowering season.

Programme trend:

The following trend datasets are being used by Council to monitoring the progress of the Chilean needle grass programme.





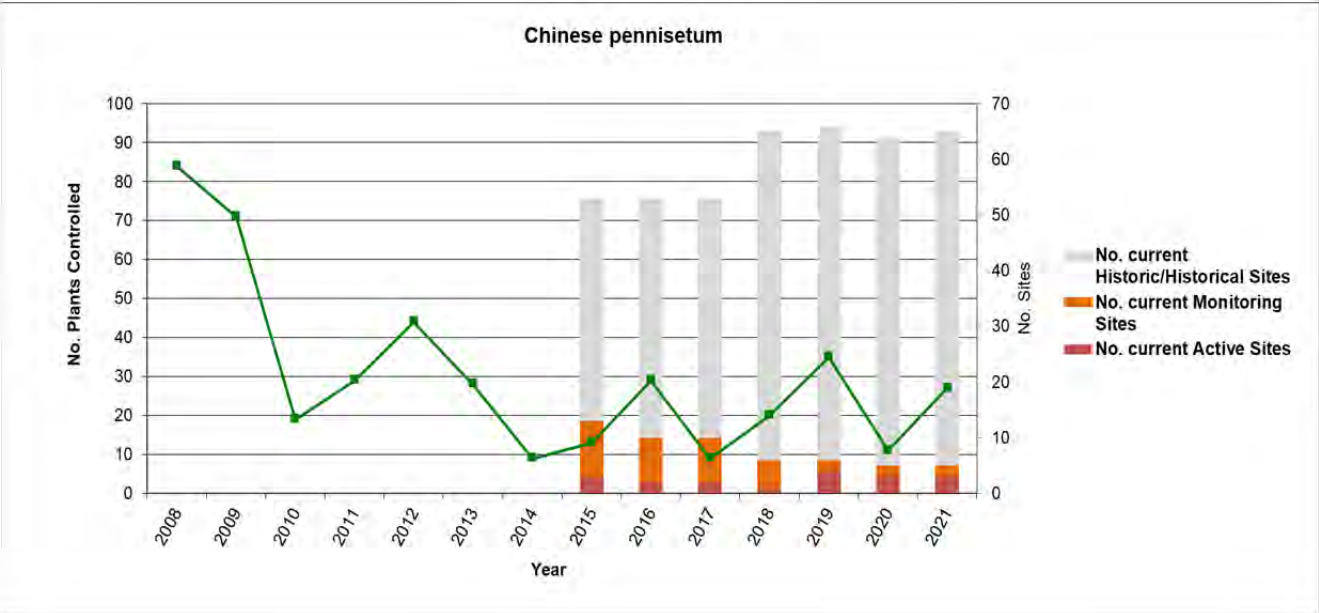


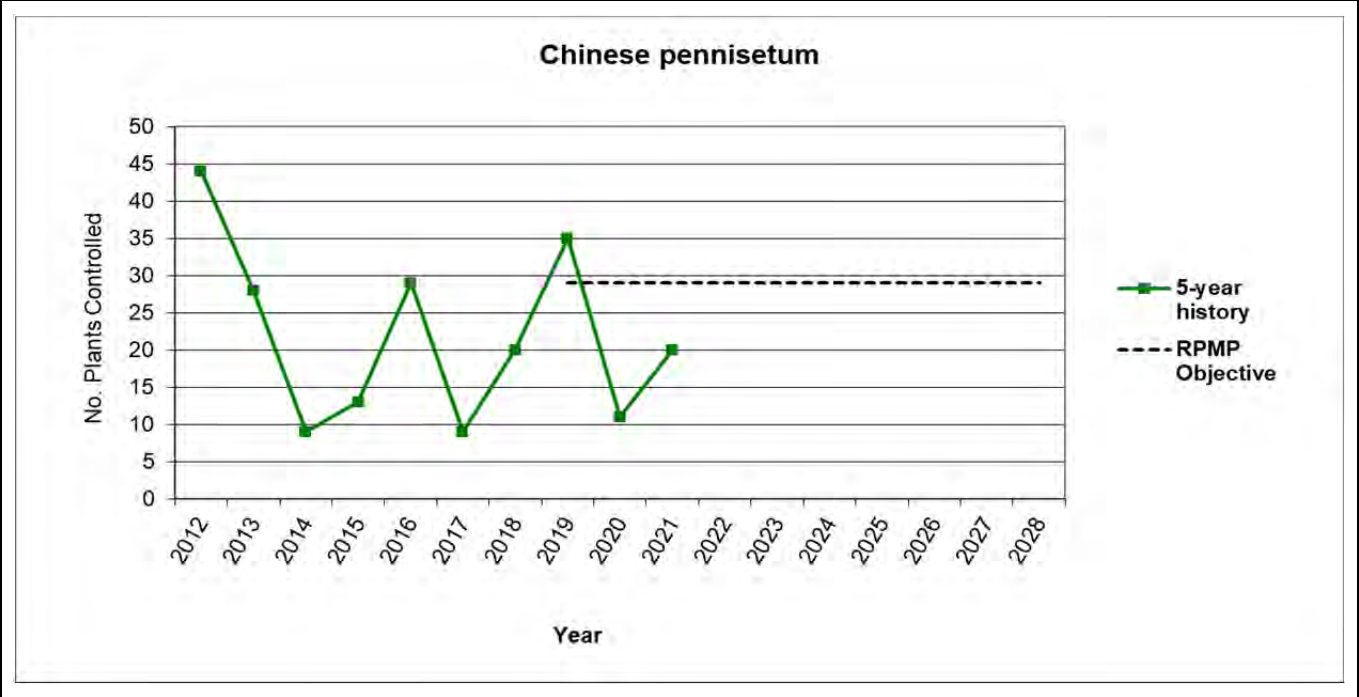






Controlling Chilean needle grass, with mist blower applied agrichemical on a new property.

9. Chinese pennisetum (*Pennistenum alpecuroides*)

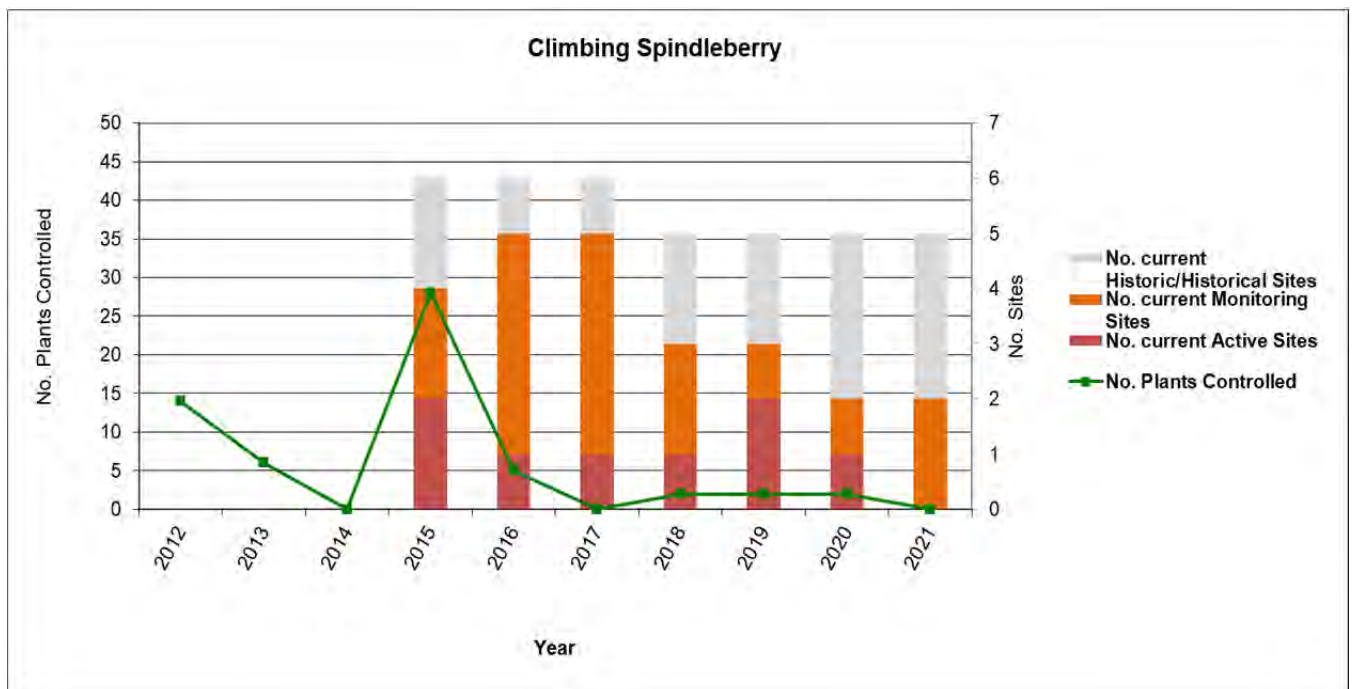
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control Chinese pennisetum (<i>Pennisetum alpecuroides</i>) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2016 levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment 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.			
2020/2021		All 'active' and 'monitoring' sites were visited for 2020/2021. Overall the annual plant numbers are trending to the RPMP objective, to keep plant numbers at or below 2016 levels. However, there is a short-term trend showing a spike in plant numbers every 2-3 years followed by a decrease in plant numbers in the following year. The reason for this pattern of events in not known.		
Target 9.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
2020/2021		24 out of 60 historical sites were visited and no plants were found.		
Programme trend:				
 <p style="text-align: center;">Chinese pennisetum</p> <p>The chart displays two metrics over time from 2008 to 2021. The left Y-axis represents the 'No. Plants Controlled' (0 to 100), and the right Y-axis represents the 'No. Sites' (0 to 70). The X-axis represents the 'Year'. A green line with square markers tracks the number of plants controlled, starting at approximately 85 in 2008 and ending at approximately 28 in 2021. A stacked bar chart shows the number of sites, categorized into three types: No. current Active Sites (red), No. current Monitoring Sites (orange), and No. current Historic/Historical Sites (grey). The total number of sites starts at approximately 60 in 2008 and ends at approximately 24 in 2021.</p>				

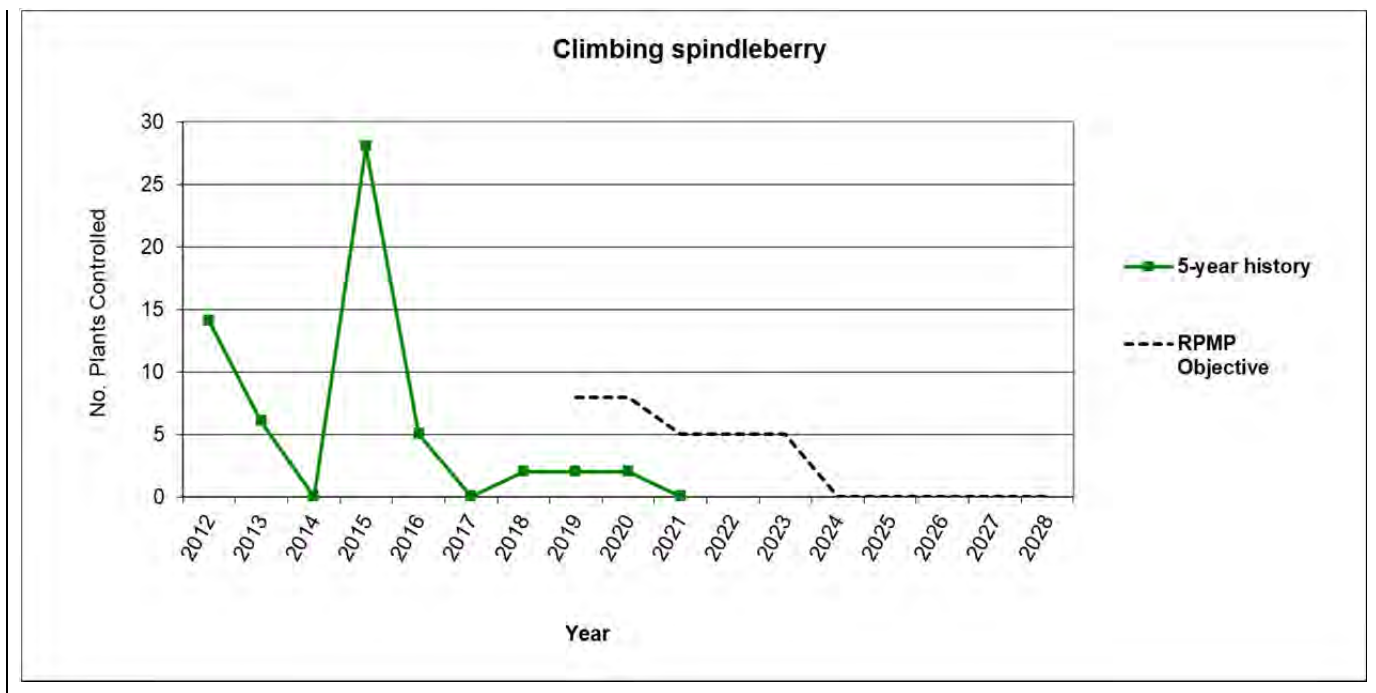


10. Climbing spindleberry (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)



Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	By the end of the term of this Plan, climbing spindleberry (<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>) 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	<p>A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by DOC and Council that includes the management of climbing spindleberry.</p> <p>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.</p>			
Target 10.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
2020/2021		All 'active' and 'monitoring' sites were visited for 2020/2021. No plants were found at any of the sites, which resulted in the classification of one site change from 'active' to 'monitoring'. There are currently no active spindle berry sites in Marlborough.		
Target 10.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
2020/2021		All historical infestations were investigated, and no plants were found.		

Programme trend:

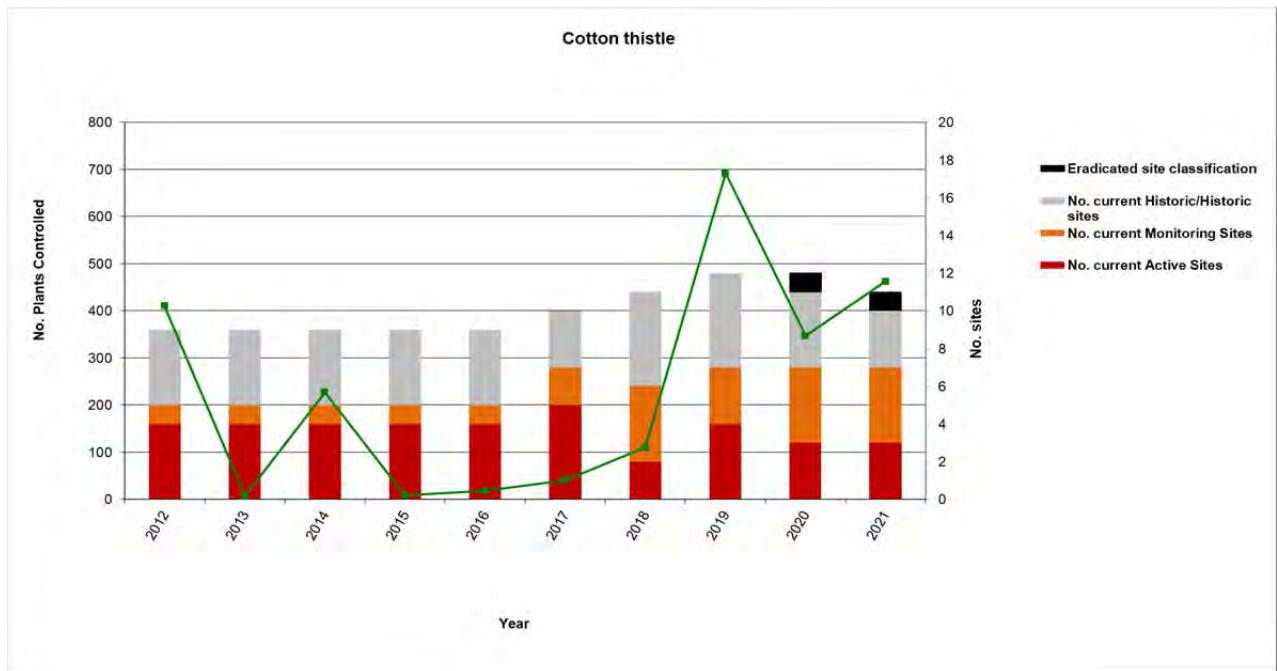




11. Cotton thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control cotton thistle (<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>) 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 level assessment will be made either prior to or immediately after the Plan commences.			
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.			
2020/2021		All sites with a status of active or monitoring were visited in 2020/2021. Thistle numbers were up slightly compared to 2019/2020, but significantly lower than 2018/2019 when a new infestation was discovered at the time.		
Target 11.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
2020/2021		Three out of four historical sites were visited for surveillance inspections. No plants were found.		


Programme trend:



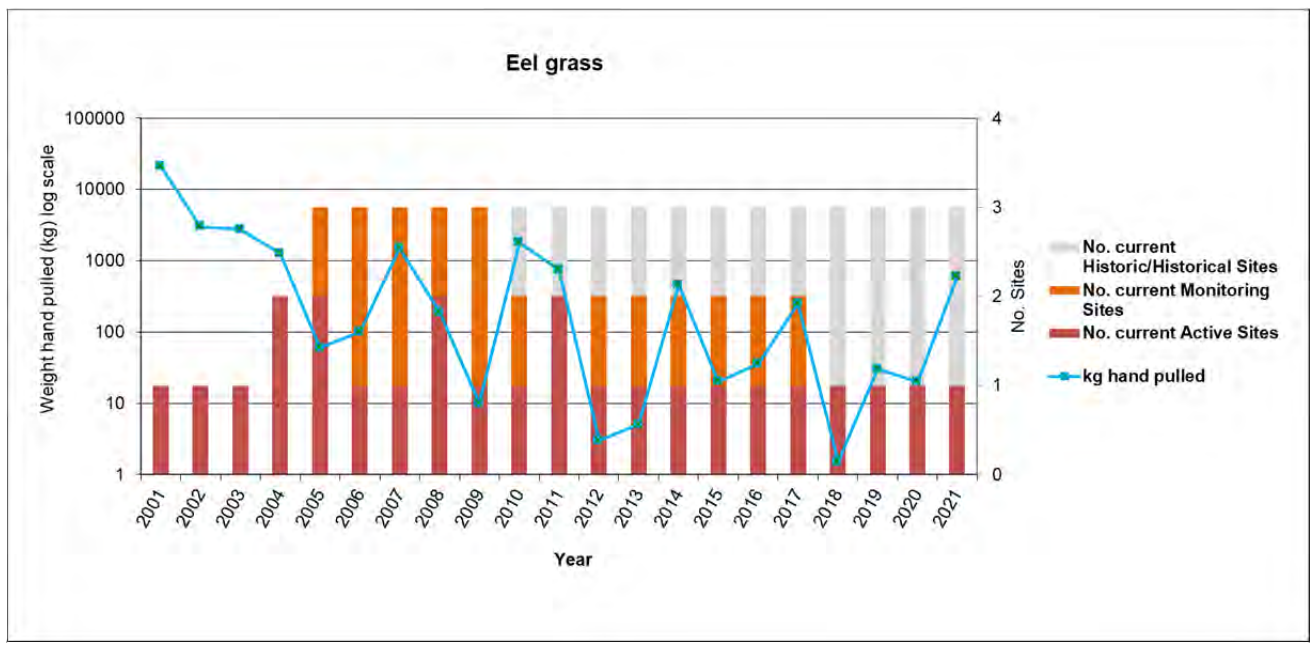


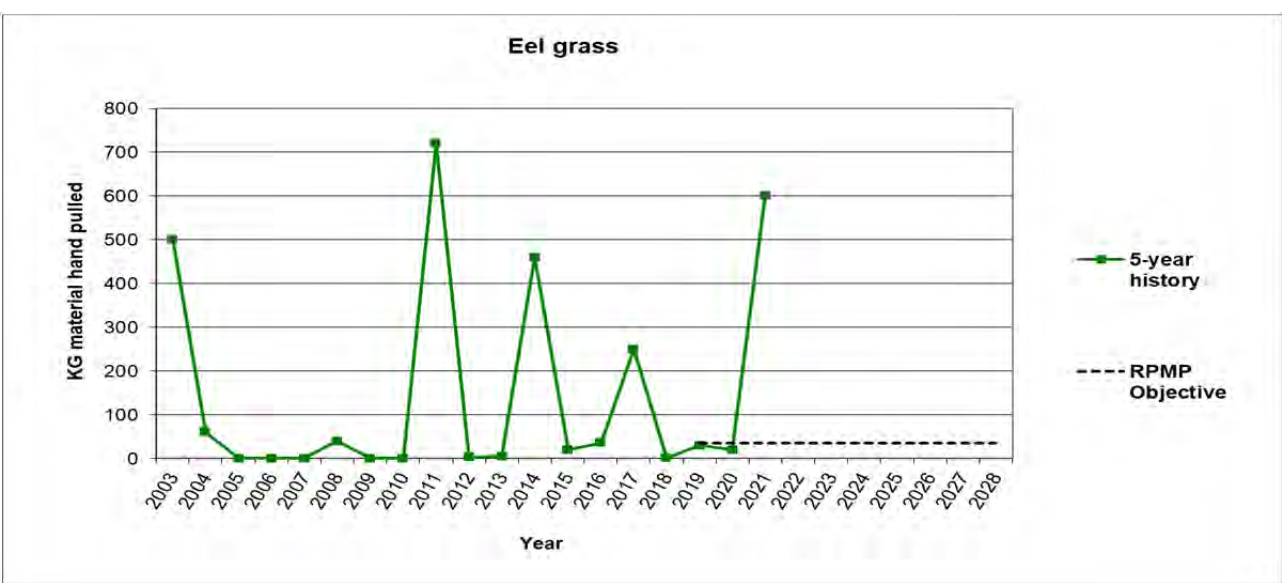
A cotton thistle infestation on a new site identified in 2020.

12. Eel grass (*Vallisneria australis*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control eel grass (<i>Vallisneria australis</i>) 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.			
2020/2021		<p>All active/monitoring eel grass sites were visited in 2020/2021. 600 kilos of silt contaminated with eel grass rhizomes was removed from Waterlea Creek compared to 20 kg in 2019/2020.</p> <p>The current data trend shows that the Eel grass density at Waterlea Creek spikes every second or third year, despite the removal of all visible plants each year. A change in operational practice is recommended to ensure closer monitoring of the infestation site throughout the year.</p>		



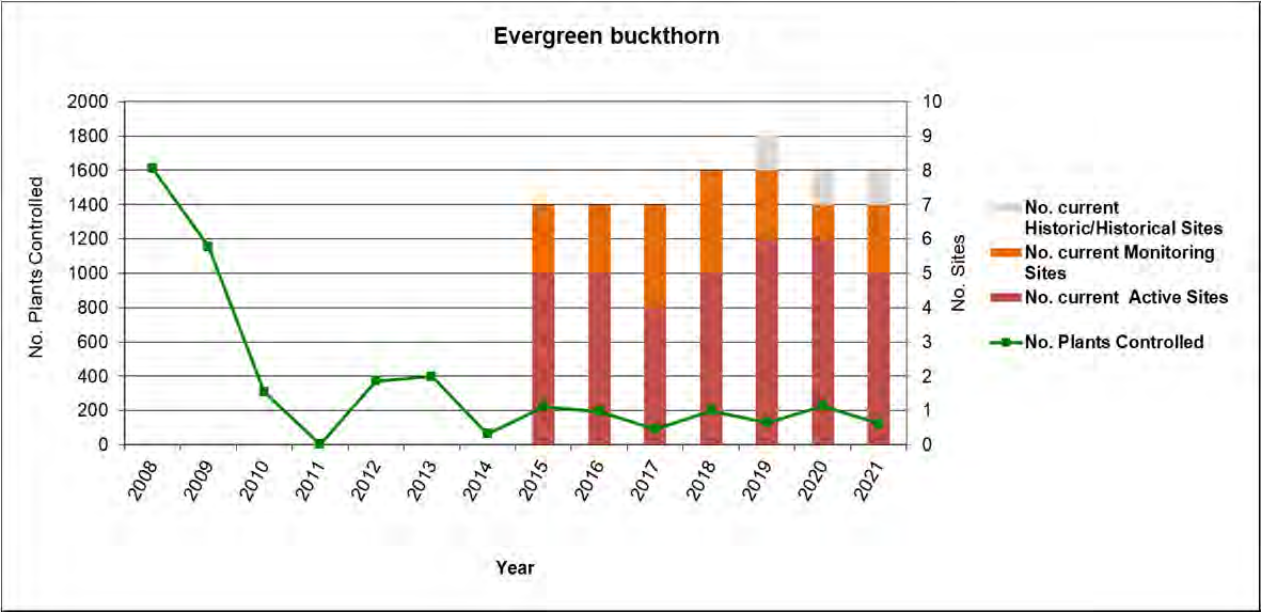
Programme trend:

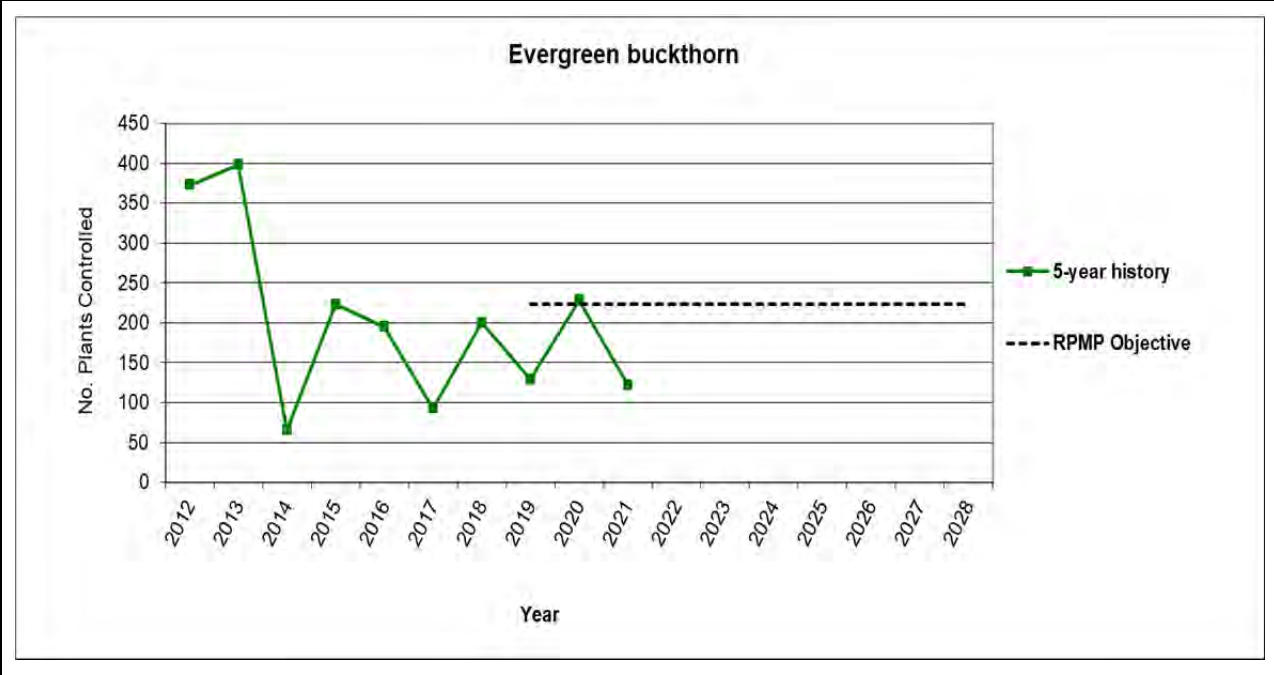






Eel grass removal from Waterlea Creek.

13. Evergreen buckthorn (*Rhamnus alaternus*)

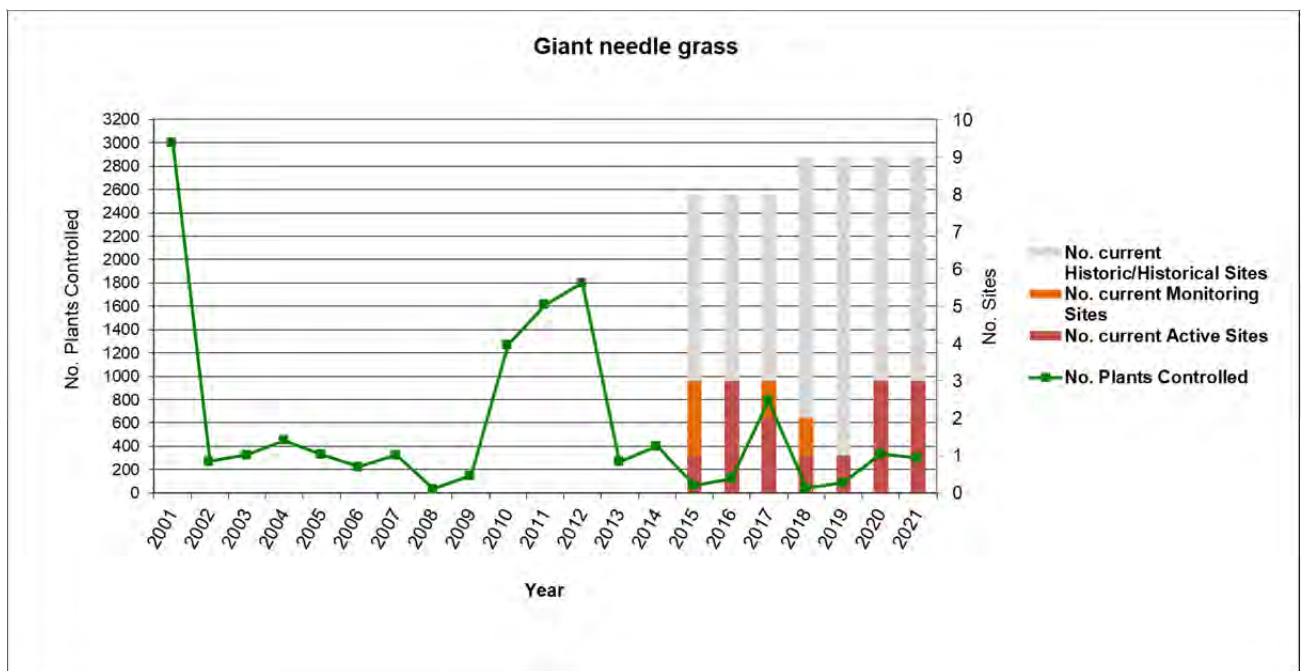
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led																																																																											
<p>Objective Over the duration of the Plan, control of evergreen buckthorn (<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2015 levels to minimise adverse effects on the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.</p> <p>Operations overview A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by DOC and Council that includes the management of evergreen buckthorn.</p> <p>Operational activities are pre-planned each year and are delivered by either:</p> <p>a) DOC staff, or;</p> <p>b) A joint operation between DOC and Council staff and/or contractors.</p>																																																																															
<p>Target 13.1 Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.</p>																																																																															
2020/2021		All active and monitoring evergreen buckthorn sites were visited in 2020/2021.																																																																													
<p>Target 13.2 Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.</p>																																																																															
2020/2021		The only historical Evergreen buckthorn site was visited during 2020/2021, and no plants were found.																																																																													
<p>Programme trend:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Evergreen buckthorn</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Approximate data from Evergreen buckthorn trend chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>No. current Active Sites</th> <th>No. current Monitoring Sites</th> <th>No. current Historic/Historical Sites</th> <th>No. Plants Controlled</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2008</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>8</td><td>1600</td></tr> <tr><td>2009</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>7</td><td>1150</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>300</td></tr> <tr><td>2011</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>6</td><td>380</td></tr> <tr><td>2013</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>6</td><td>400</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>7</td><td>100</td></tr> <tr><td>2015</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>200</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>200</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>100</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>200</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>100</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>200</td></tr> <tr><td>2021</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>100</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div>					Year	No. current Active Sites	No. current Monitoring Sites	No. current Historic/Historical Sites	No. Plants Controlled	2008	0	0	8	1600	2009	0	0	7	1150	2010	0	0	2	300	2011	0	0	1	50	2012	1	0	6	380	2013	1	0	6	400	2014	0	0	7	100	2015	7	0	0	200	2016	7	0	0	200	2017	7	0	0	100	2018	7	0	0	200	2019	7	0	0	100	2020	7	0	0	200	2021	7	0	0	100
Year	No. current Active Sites	No. current Monitoring Sites	No. current Historic/Historical Sites	No. Plants Controlled																																																																											
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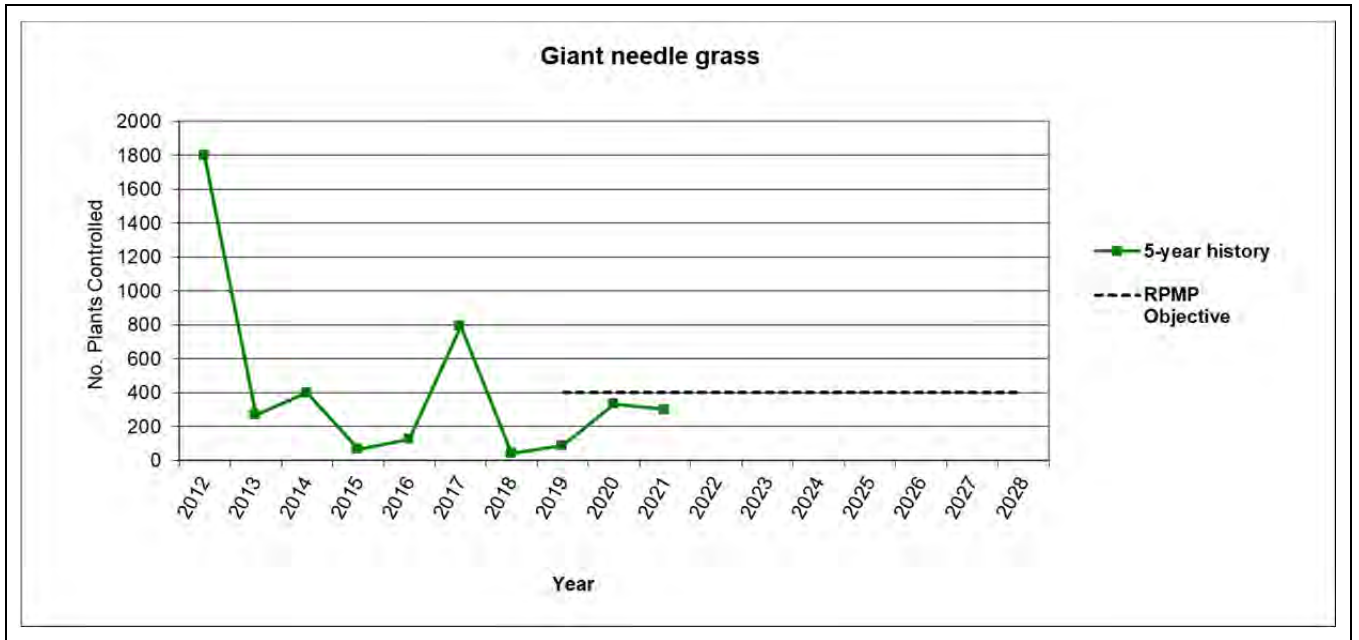


14. Giant needle grass (*Austrostipa rudis*)

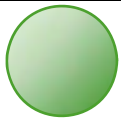

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<p>Objective Over the duration of the Plan, control giant needle grass (<i>Austrostipa rudis</i>) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2014 levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing.</p> <p>Operations overview Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.</p>				
<p>Target 14.1 Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.</p>				
<p>2020/2021</p>		<p>100% of all high priority (3) sites were visited for control work. The number of plants found remained below the RPMP objective.</p>		
<p>Target 14.2 Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.</p>				
<p>2020/2021</p>		<p>5 out of 6 historical sites were visited for surveillance activities. Plants were found at one site and the status of the site updated to 'Active'.</p>		

Programme trend:









15. Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective 1	Over the duration of the Plan, control gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>) 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 (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>) 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>			
Target 15.1	No more than 1 instance of non-compliance needing enforcement action is identified within the three Control Zones.			
2020/2021		No instances requiring enforcement action were identified this season.		
Target 15.2	Each year, undertake inspection and/or surveillance activities in all three zones.			
2020/2021		<p><u>Waima/Ure</u> Surveillance was undertaken from the Ure Road. A number of landowners were spoken to on the road side, landowners indicated that there were no know gorse plants being found.</p> <p><u>Upper Wairau</u> Inspections of land within this Zone were carried out. No gorse issues were found.</p> <p><u>Upper Awatere</u> Given all occupiers within the Zone have very active management programmes, the nature of Councils operations are more surveillance and information gathering. This of often done in conjunction with property inspections assessing rabbit population abundance. There are a few instances of where follow-up maybe needed in 2021/2022.</p>		

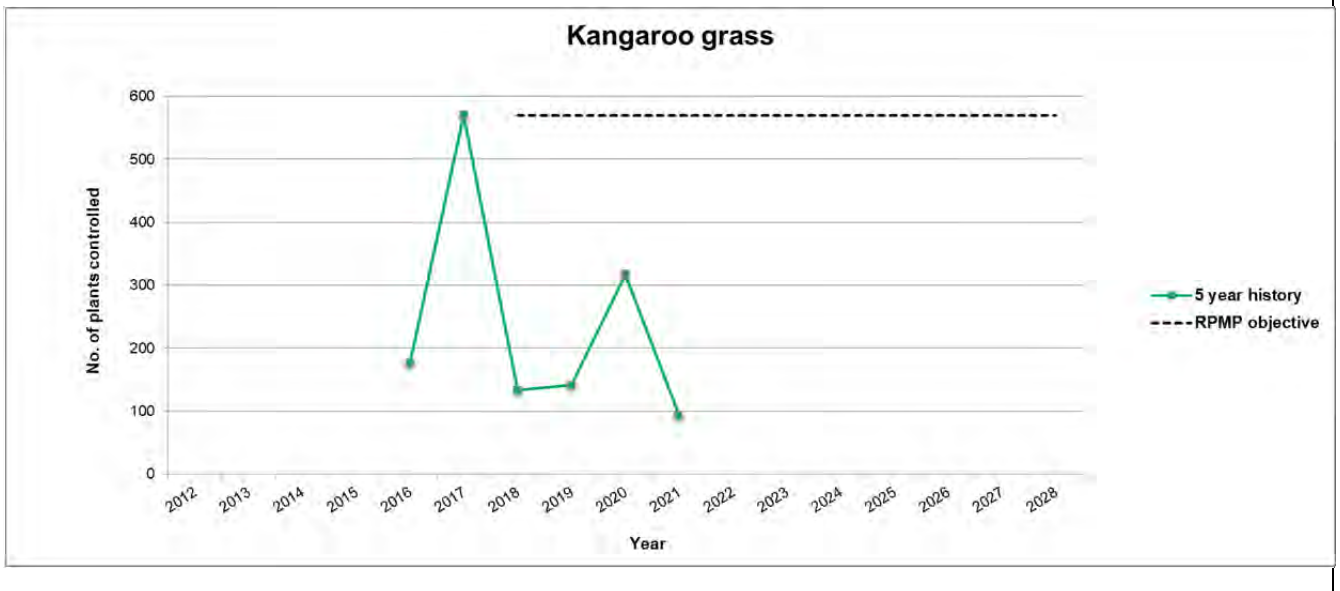
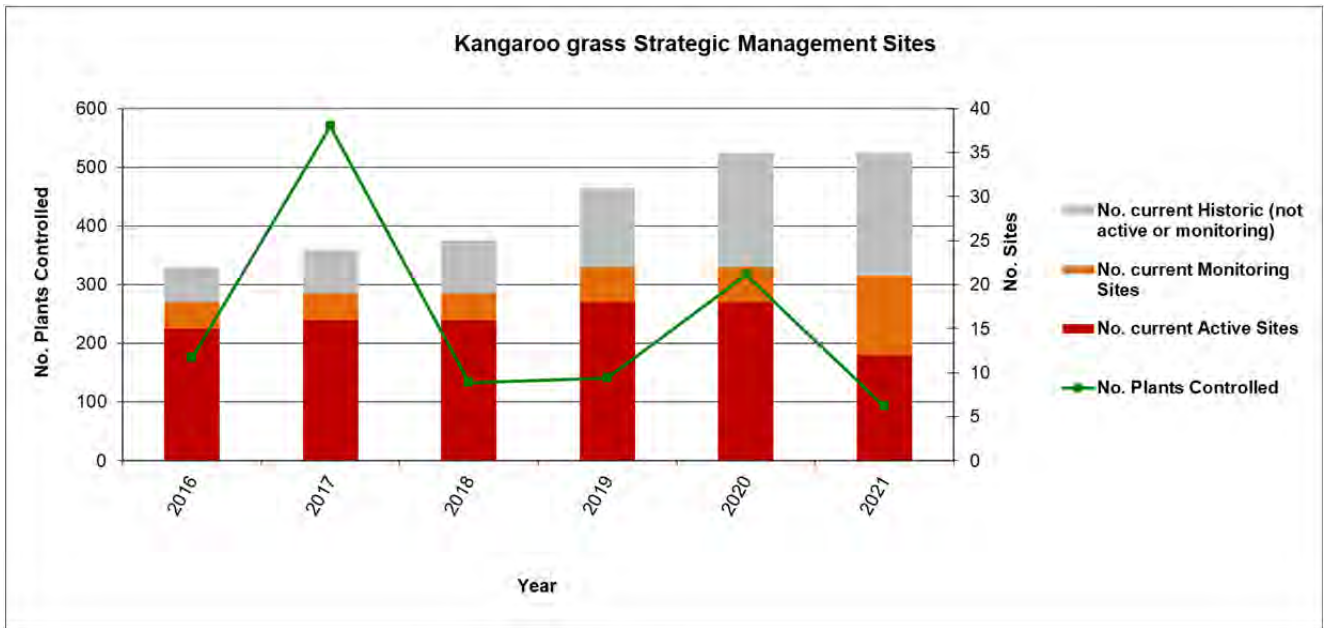
Biosecurity Operational Plan Report 2020-2021

<p>Target 15.3</p>	<p>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.</p>	
<p>2020/2021</p>		<p>One complaint was received, investigated and compliance determined within 5 working days.</p>



16. Kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	<p>Over the duration of the Plan, control kangaroo grass (<i>Themeda triandra</i>) 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.</p> <p>*A baseline assessment will be made either prior to or immediately after the Plan commences.</p>			
Operations overview	<p>There are multiple facets to the kangaroo grass programme delivered by Council. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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.</p>			
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.			
2020/2021		100% percent of sites (11 properties) subject to an active compliance programme were inspected.		
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.			
2020/2021		100% percent of sites subject to a programme where Council undertakes strategic management were visited and control undertaken if required.		
Target 16.3	Each year, a minimum of 20 hours of surveillance is carried out on land not previously known to have an infestation of kangaroo grass.			
2020/2021		A calculated total of 70 hours of staff and contractor time was spent on surveillance activities outside of previously known infested areas. No new kangaroo grass infestations were found in 2020/2021.		

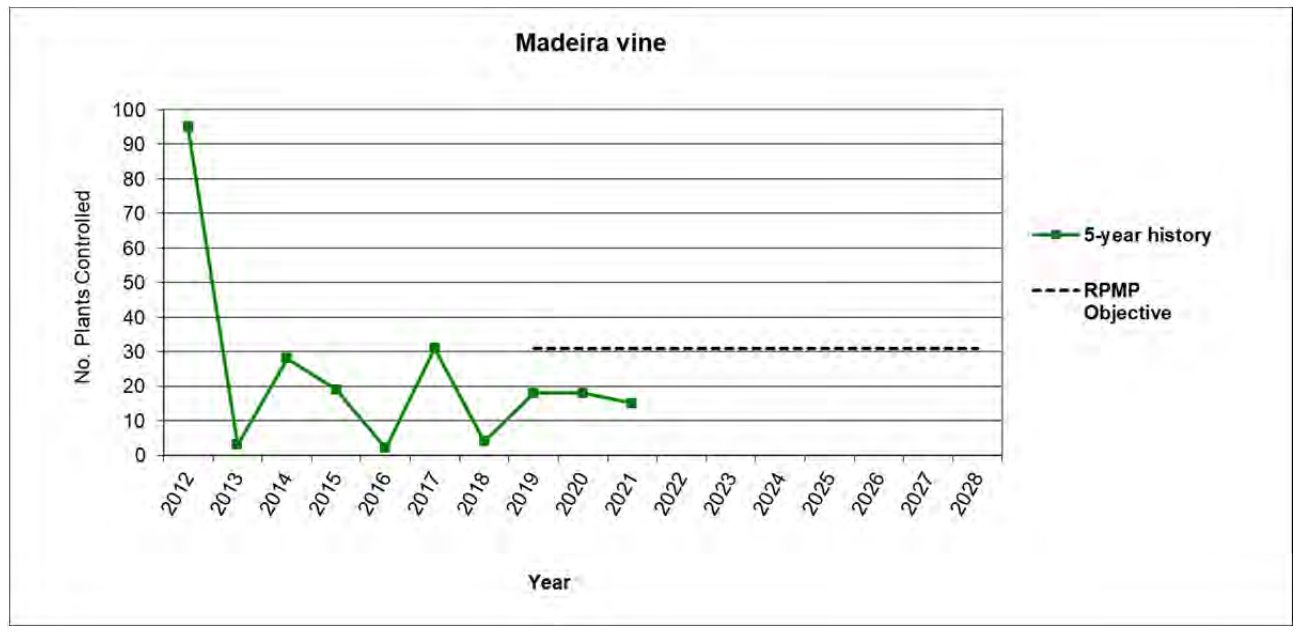
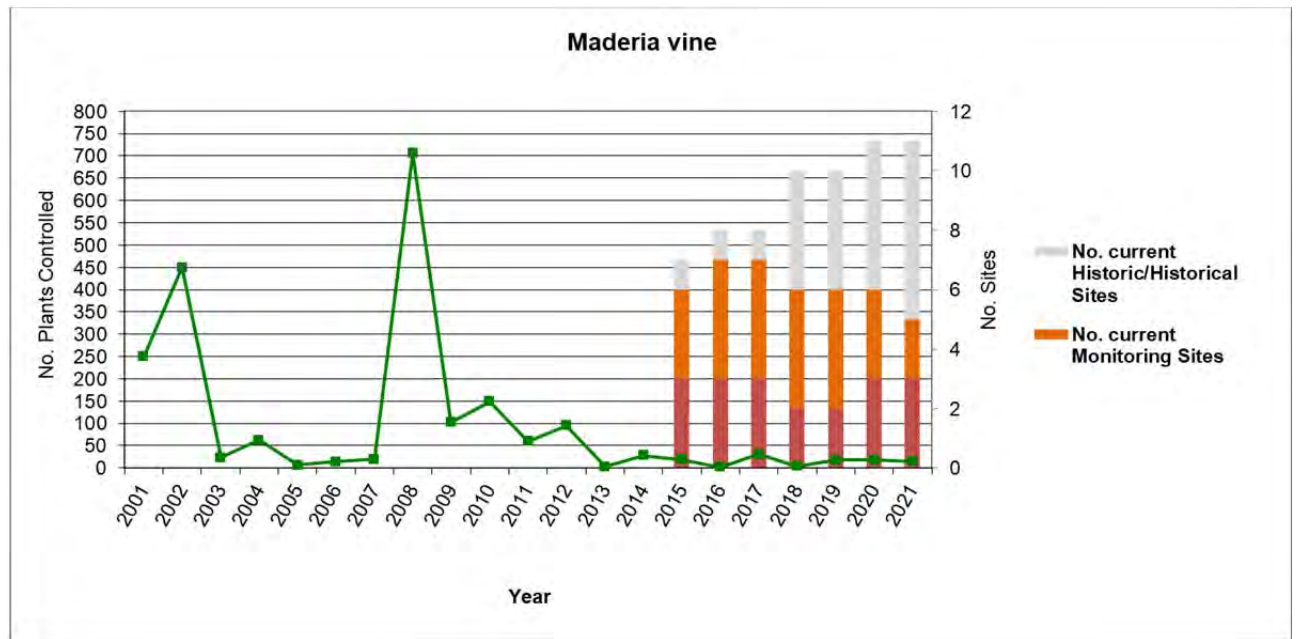
Programme trend:






17. Madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*)


Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<p>Objective Over the duration of the Plan, control madeira vine (<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>) 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.</p> <p>Operations overview A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by DOC and Council that includes the management of madeira vine.</p> <p>Operational activities are pre-planned each year and are delivered by either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Council staff and/or contractors (Blenheim, Seddon, Ward sites), or; b) DOC staff (Marlborough Sounds sites). <p>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.</p>				
<p>Target 17.1 Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.</p>				
<p>2020/2021</p>		<p>All 'active' and 'monitoring' sites were visited for control in 2020/2021. 4.5 hours resulted in the destruction of 15 plants (or propagules). These plants were found across 3 active sites. No plants have been found at one of the monitoring sites for the last 5 years, and status of the site has been changed to 'historical'.</p>		
<p>Target 17.2 Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.</p>				
<p>2020/2021</p>		<p>All historical sites were visited and no plants were found.</p>		

Programme trend:



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 (<i>Sabella spallanzanii</i>) in Marlborough to eliminate adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.			
Operations overview	<p>There are multiple facets to the Mediterranean fanworm programme delivered by Council. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>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).</p>			
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).			
2020/2021		Contracted divers undertook surveillance and removal operations in Picton and Waikawa Marina over Nov/Dec/Jan 2020/21 and in May/June 2021. No Fanworm was found during this surveillance. Port Underwood was only undertaken once this season due to the contractors other priority work.		
Target 18.2	Each year, a minimum of two dive surveillance operations are undertaken in Waikawa Bay, Picton Port, and Shakespeare Bay.			
2020/2021		Only one dive surveillance operation was undertaken in Shakespeare Bay and Picton Port. The delays in delivering this programme were due to issues with contractor capacity to deliver within the required timeframe. No fanworm were found during these operations.		
Target 18.3	Each year, a minimum of one dive surveillance operation is undertaken in Okiwi Bay, Elaine Bay, Duncan Bay, Endeavour Inlet, Ship Cove, Oyster Bay (Port Underwood) and Havelock Marina.			
2020/2021		Dive surveillance was undertaken at most sites excluding Endeavour Inlet and Ship cove, due to issues with contractor capacity to deliver within the required timeframe.		

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.	
2020/2021		<p>A number of vessels were notified to Council via Marlborough Sounds Marinas that may be a risk to the programme. A number of these vessels were able to be assessed and snorkelled by the Biosecurity team.</p> <p>One report was received by a diver operating in a marina who suspected fanworm being found on a pontoon jetty in Picton. This did return a positive ID and led to a response by Council, nothing further was found.</p> <p>All reports of fanworm had an investigation started within 24hrs.</p>

Status of Mediterranean fanworm in Marlborough:

Detected in Picton Marina, Waikawa Marina, Grove Arm and Port Underwood (East Arm) – no evidence of establishment after response actions.

Detected on vessels arrived from out of region – no evidence of establishment after response actions.



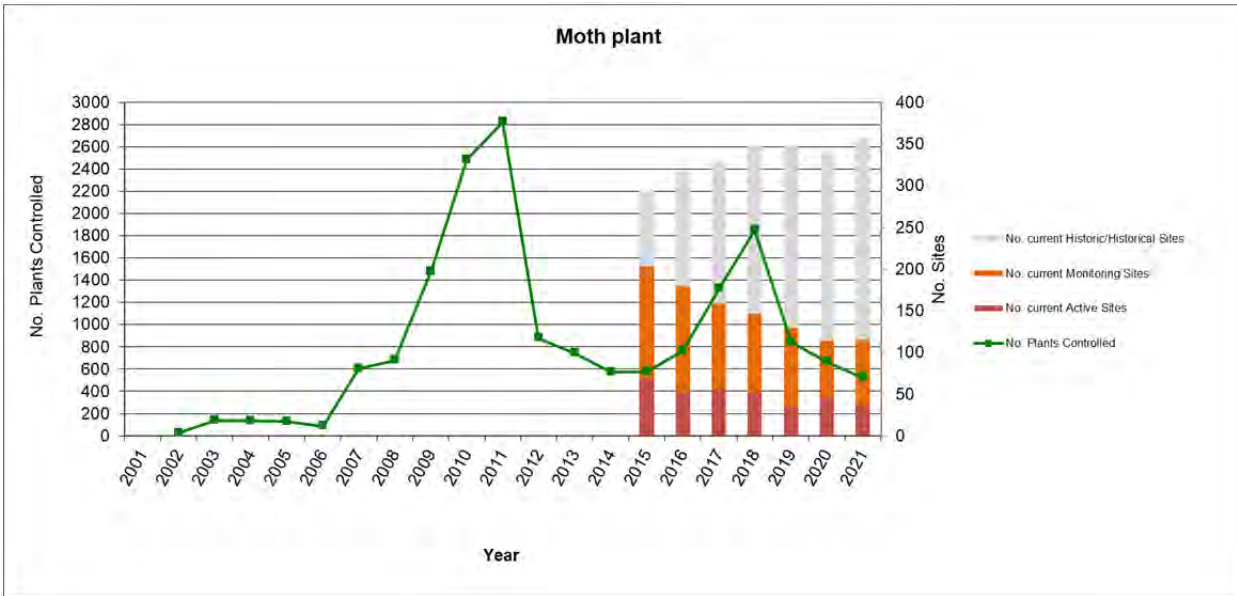


Inspecting the Bow thruster on a Super Yacht

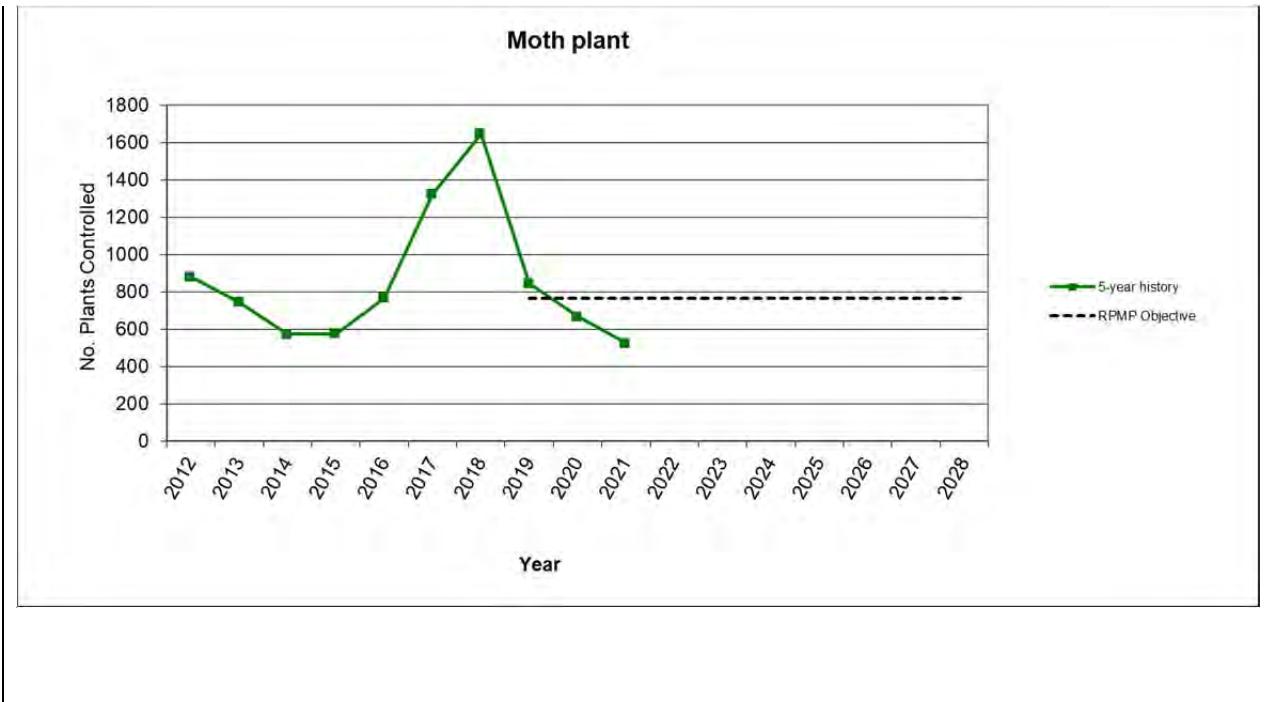


Biosecurity team on completion of inspecting a Super yacht that had been in Auckland for the America's Cup.




19. Moth plant (*Araujia hortorum*)


Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control moth plant (<i>Araujia hortorum</i>) 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.			
2020/2021		A site inspection priority was determined before the commencement of Moth plant control in 2020/2021; the inspection priority included 47 'monitoring' sites and 70 'active' sites, all sites were inspected resulting in the destruction of 524 plants (including seedlings).		
Target 19.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
2020/2021		A third of all historical sites were inspected in 2020/2021. Only one plant was found, and the pest site re-classified as an 'active site'. The site will be re-inspected in 2021/2022.		
Programme trend:				
 <p style="text-align: center;">Moth plant</p> <p>The chart displays two metrics over time: the number of plants controlled (left Y-axis, 0-3000) and the number of sites (right Y-axis, 0-400). The number of plants controlled peaks at approximately 2800 in 2011. From 2015, the number of sites is broken down into three categories: No. current Active Sites (red), No. current Monitoring Sites (orange), and No. current Historic/Historical Sites (grey). The total number of sites increases significantly from 2015, reaching over 350 by 2021.</p>				

Biosecurity Operational Plan Report 2020-2021

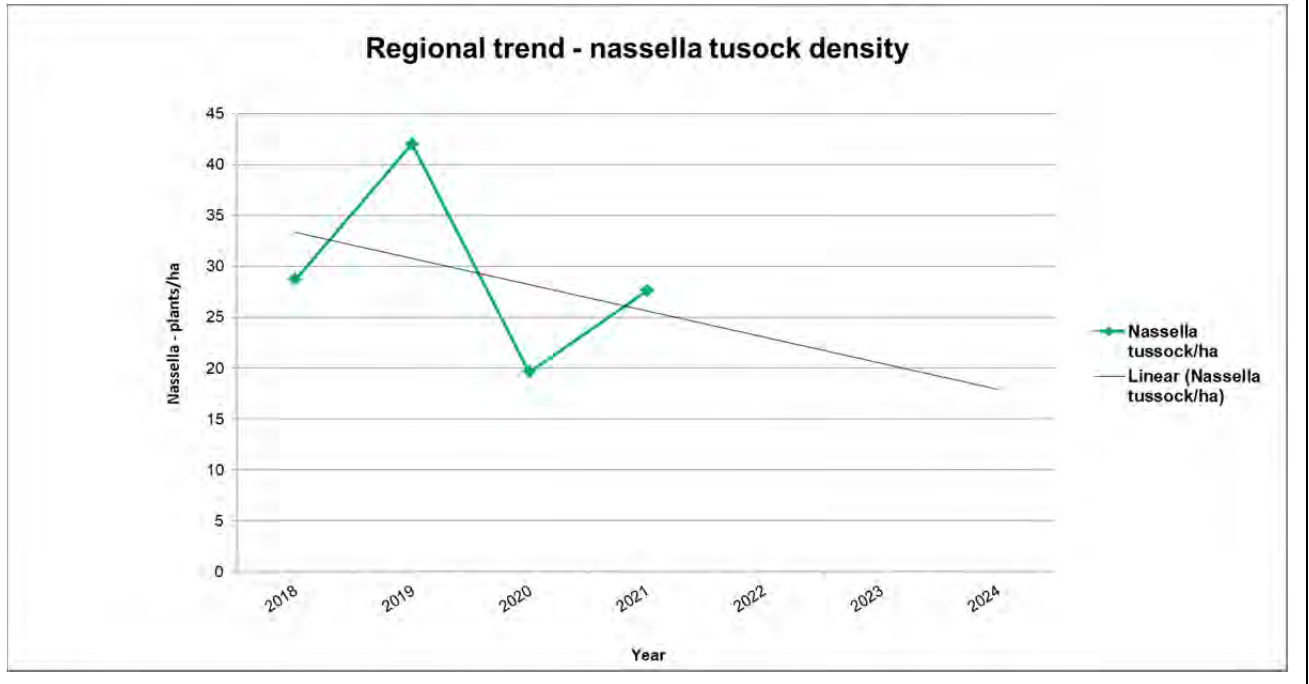


20. Nassella tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*)



Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control nassella tussock (<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>) 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	<p>There are multiple facets to the nassella tussock programme delivered by Council. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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.</p>			
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.			
2020/2021		For the 2020 active compliance programme over 356 land occupiers were sent letters reminding them of their obligation to destroy nassella tussock.		
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.			
2020/2021		295 sites (83% of all sites subject to the active compliance programme) were inspected to ensure land occupiers were meeting their obligations to destroy nassella tussock on their property.		
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.			
2020/2021		Surveillance activities were carried out at 70 out of 200 sites (35%) not subject to the active compliance programme.		
Target 20.4	Each year, a minimum of 200 hours of surveillance is carried out on land not previously known to have an infestation of nassella tussock.			

<p>2020/2021</p>		<p>A total of 992 hours has been calculated to have been spent undertaking passive surveillance on affected properties but on land not previously known to have an infestation of Nassella tussock.</p> <p>Where new infestations were found the spacial distribution data was updated in Council's geographical information system to map the distribution of Nassella in the Marlborough region.</p>
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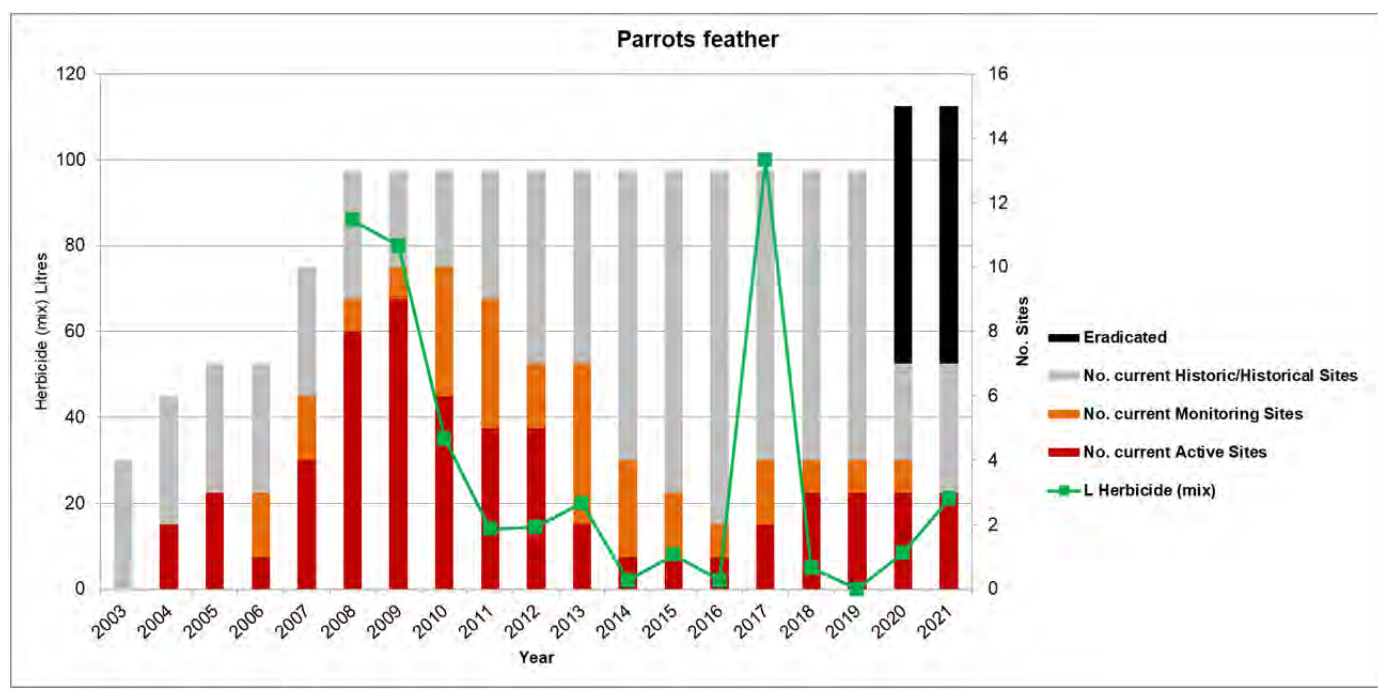
Programme trend:



21. Parrots feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

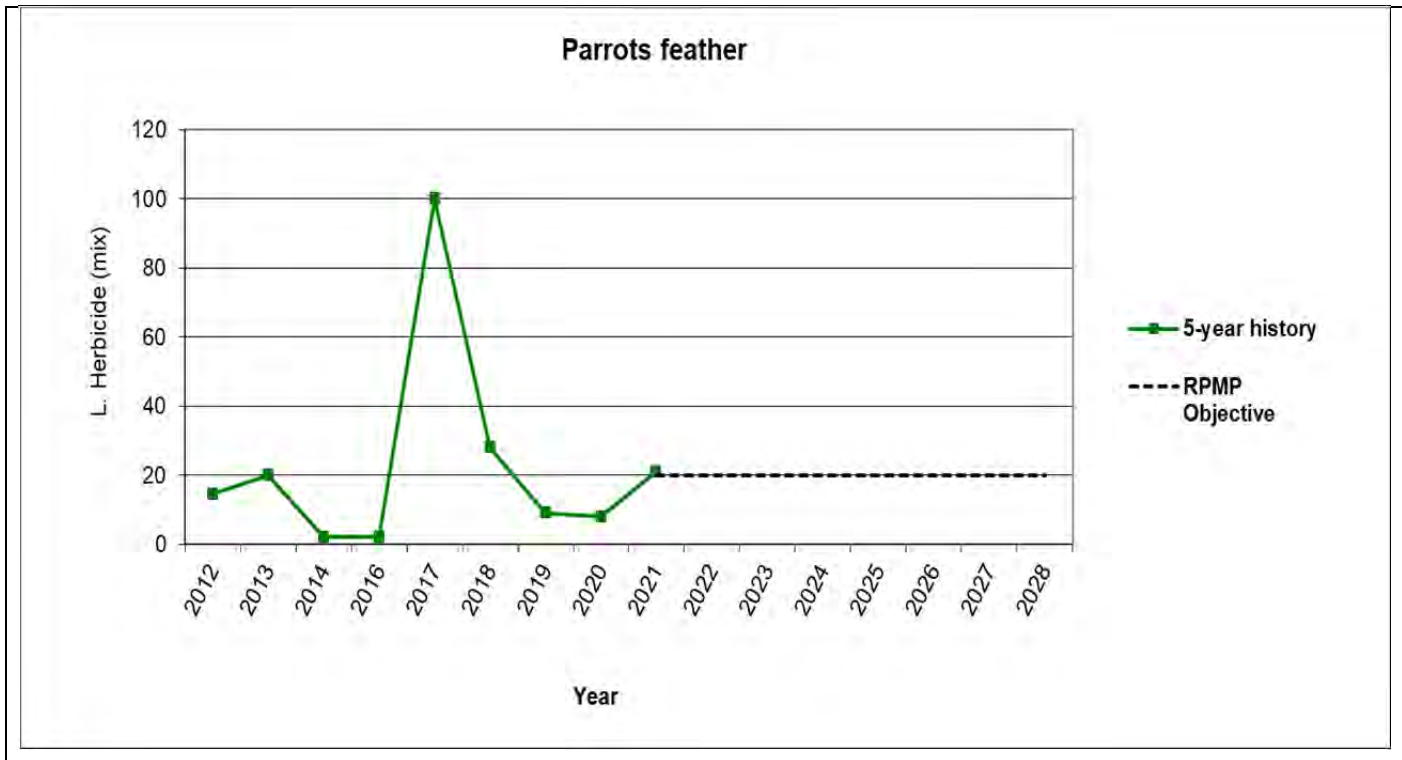
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control parrots feather (<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2013 levels to minimise adverse effects on the environment and enjoyment of the 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.			
2020/2021		100% of all active and monitoring sites were visited by biosecurity staff. Significant patches of parrots feather were found in Ruakankana Creek, and the plants removed by hand. One 'monitoring' site was reclassified to 'historical', as no rafts of parrots feather have been found for 5 years.		
Target 21.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
2020/2021		Three out of the three historical sites were visited for surveillance activities, and no parrots feather was found. The pest is now deemed absent at 8 sites, and the pest status of those sites re-classified as 'eradicated'.		

Programme trend:

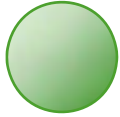





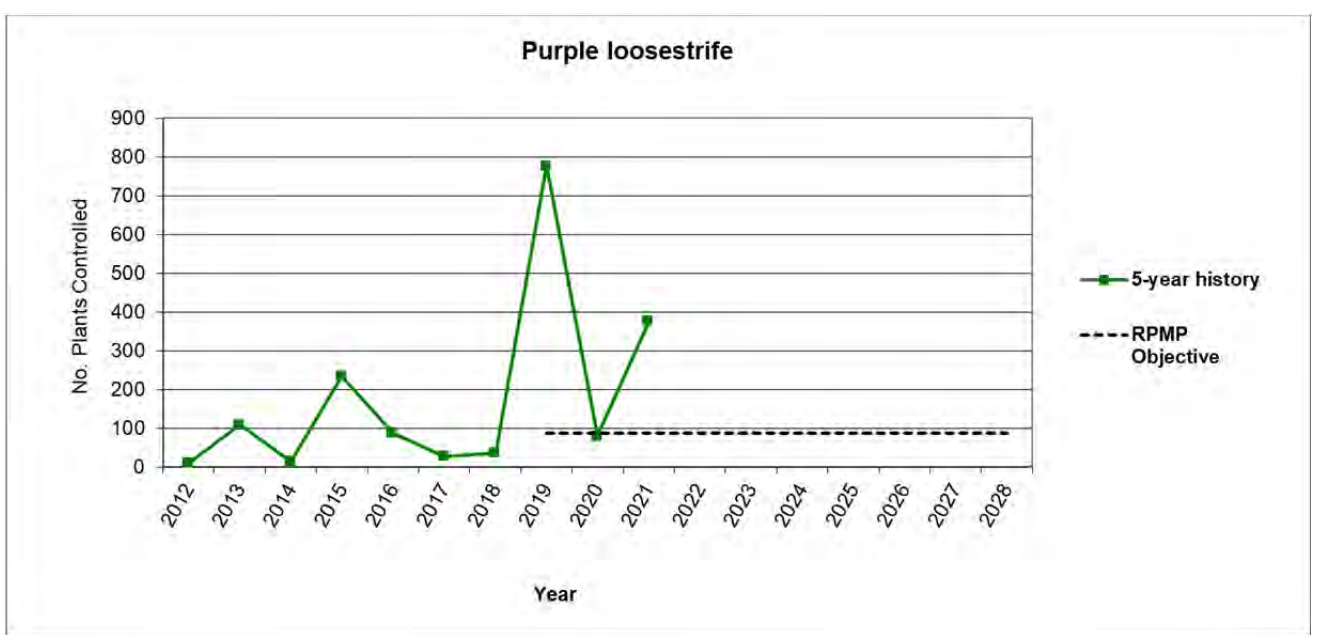
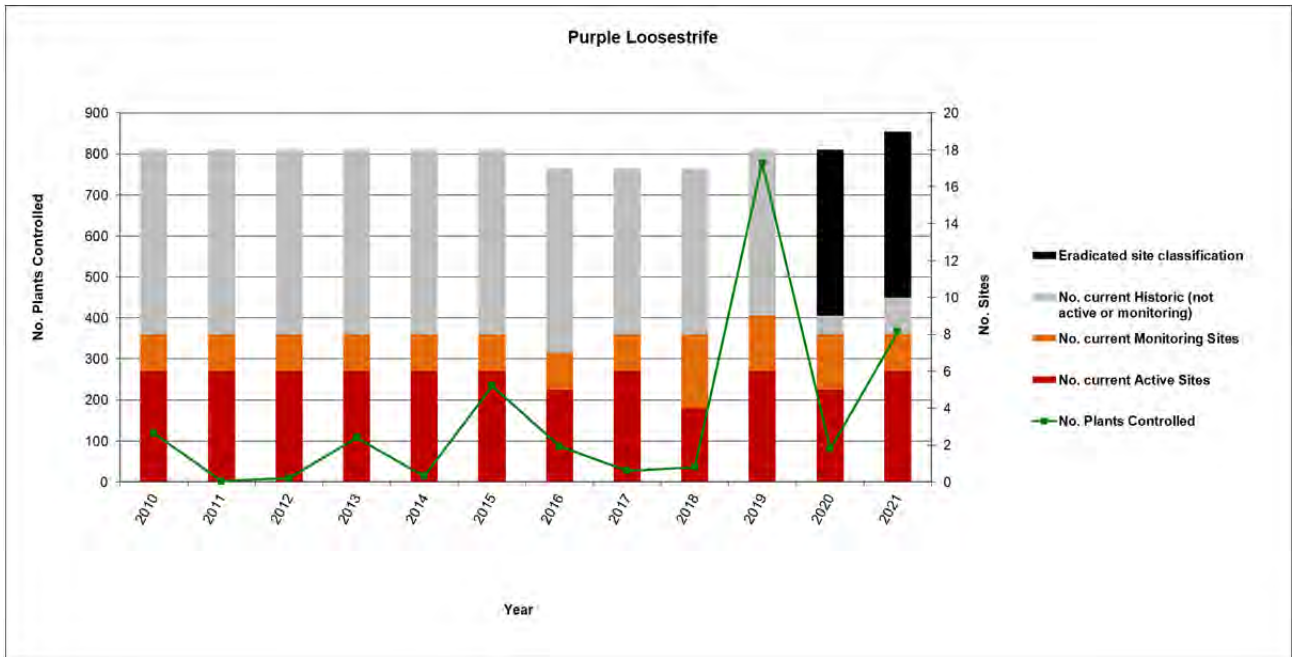
Parrots feather removal in a back water near Renwick





22. Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<p>Objective Over the duration of the Plan, control purple Loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>) 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.</p>				
<p>Operations overview Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.</p>				
<p>Target 22.1 Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.</p>				
<p>2020/2021</p>		<p>100% of 'active' and 'monitoring' sites were inspected and control undertaken.</p> <p>376 plants were destroyed in 2020/2021; most of these plants were seedlings and found at one site where the seed bank in the soil has remained very persistent since the discovery of the infestation in 2019.</p>		
<p>Target 22.2 Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.</p>				
<p>2020/2021</p>		<p>All historical sites were followed up on in 2020/2021, and no plants were found.</p> <p>There are currently 9 sites where purple loosestrife is deemed to have been eradicated. These (non-aquatic) sites were within urban gardens, and the loosestrife plants believed to be the sterile variety (<i>Lythrum virgatum</i>), which has helped to eradicate the plants, because there is no seed-bank for plants to regenerate from. These 'self-sterile' varieties are still deemed to be a biosecurity threat because the plants are cross-fertile with <i>L. salicaria</i>, which has proven very difficult to eradicate at various sites in Marlborough.</p> <p>A new infestation was found in 2021 in a dry urban garden; the plants believed to be <i>L. virgatum</i> were removed in cooperation with the land occupier. The site will be monitored to ensure that the plants have not produced seed.</p>		

Programme trend:

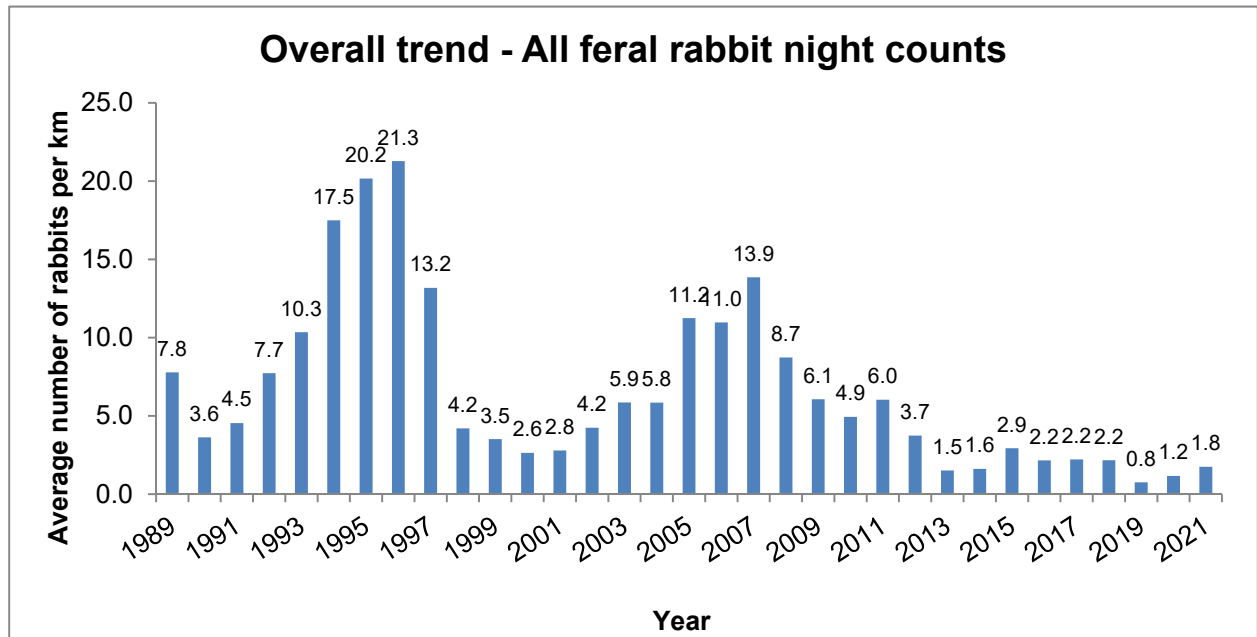


23. Rabbits - feral (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control feral rabbits (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>) 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	<p>There are multiple facets to the rabbit programme delivered by Council. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.			
2020/2021		An inspection schedule was developed by 31 January 2021 targeting properties in rabbit prone areas.		
Target 23.2	Each year, 100% of sites identified on the inspection schedule are inspected to assess rabbit population levels.			
2020/2021		All sites where visited during 2021		



Programme trend:

Rabbit numbers in the Upper Awatere and Waihopai appear to remain relatively low, however there has been a slight increase in rabbits numbers during the nightcounts this year.

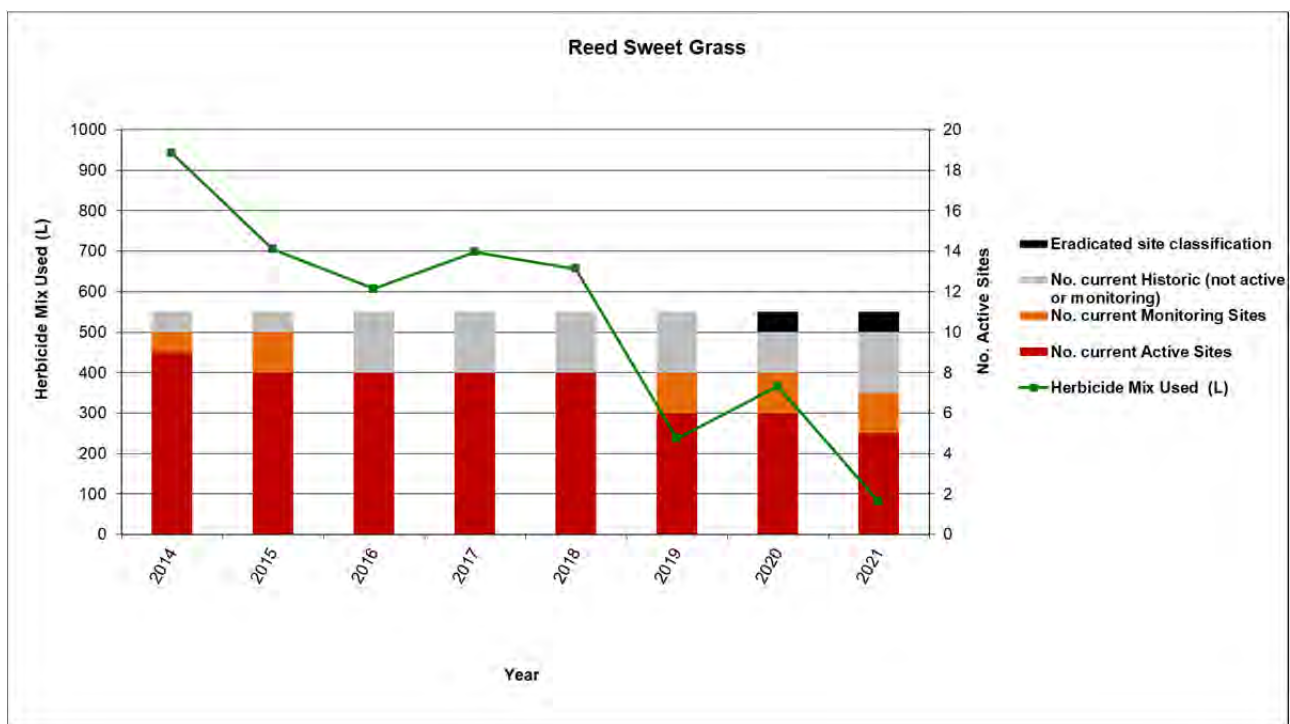


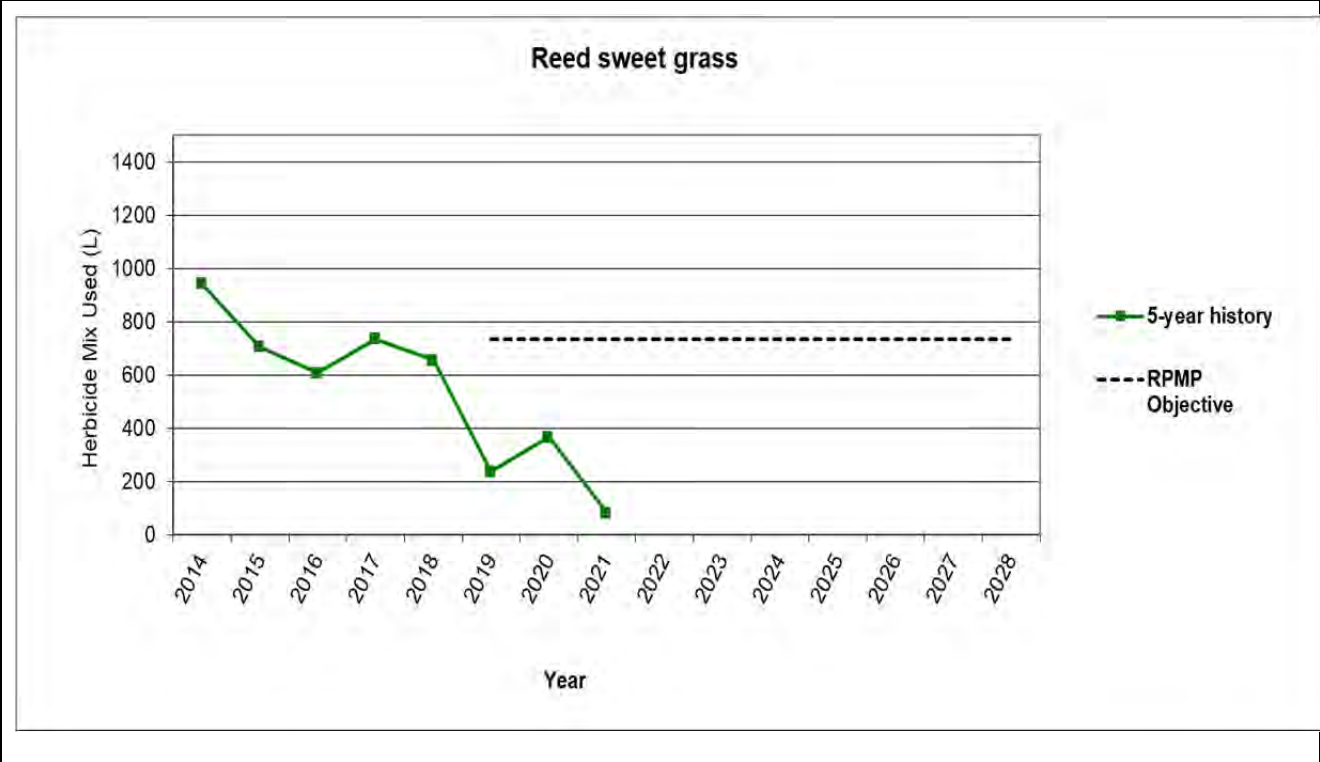
Inspecting rabbit ground sign , Awatere Valley

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 (<i>Glyceria maxima</i>) 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.			
2020/2021		<p>All 'active and 'monitoring' sites were visited during the 2020/2021 season.</p> <p>The amount of herbicide used to control infestations in 2021 was significantly less than in 2020.</p>		
Target 24.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
2020/2021		<p>Two out of 3 historical sites were visited and no reed sweet-grass was detected.</p> <p>Another site was re-classified to 'historical' after no plants were found after 5 years, bringing the total number of historical sites to 3 in 2020/2021. One of these sites may be re-classified as 'eradicated' in the near future because the initial infestation was contained within a private pond with no link to any other waterway.</p>		

Programme trend:



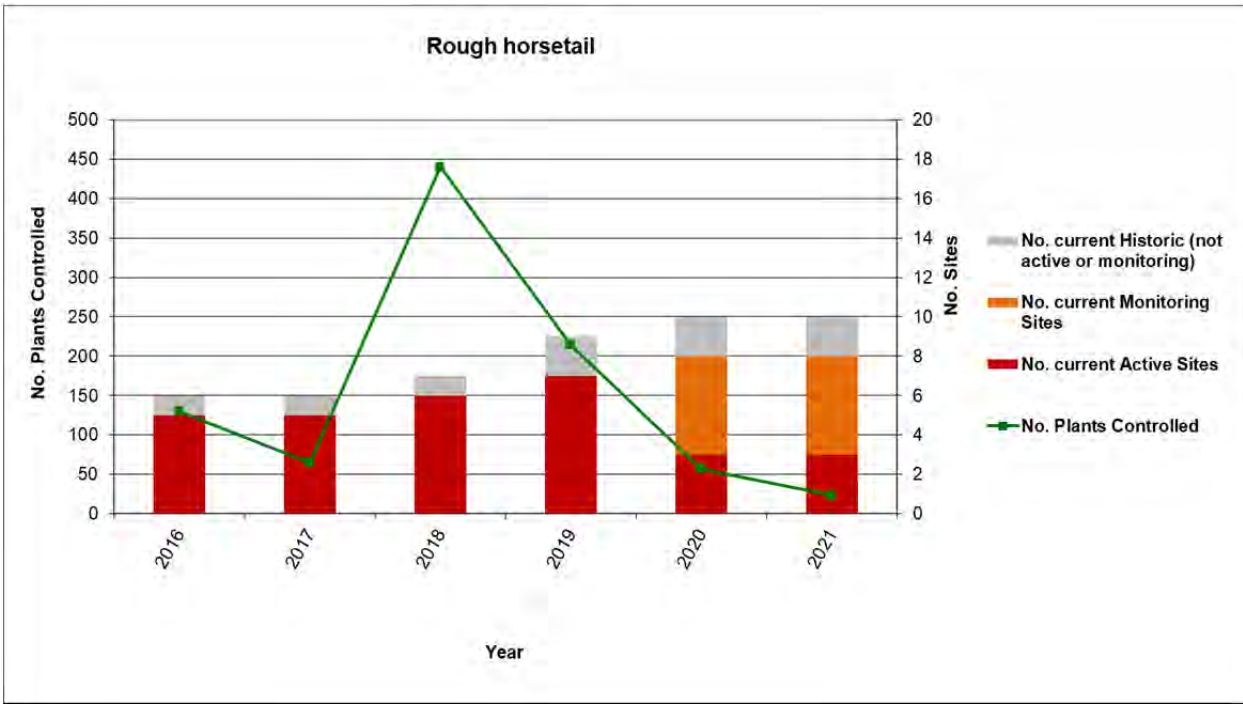


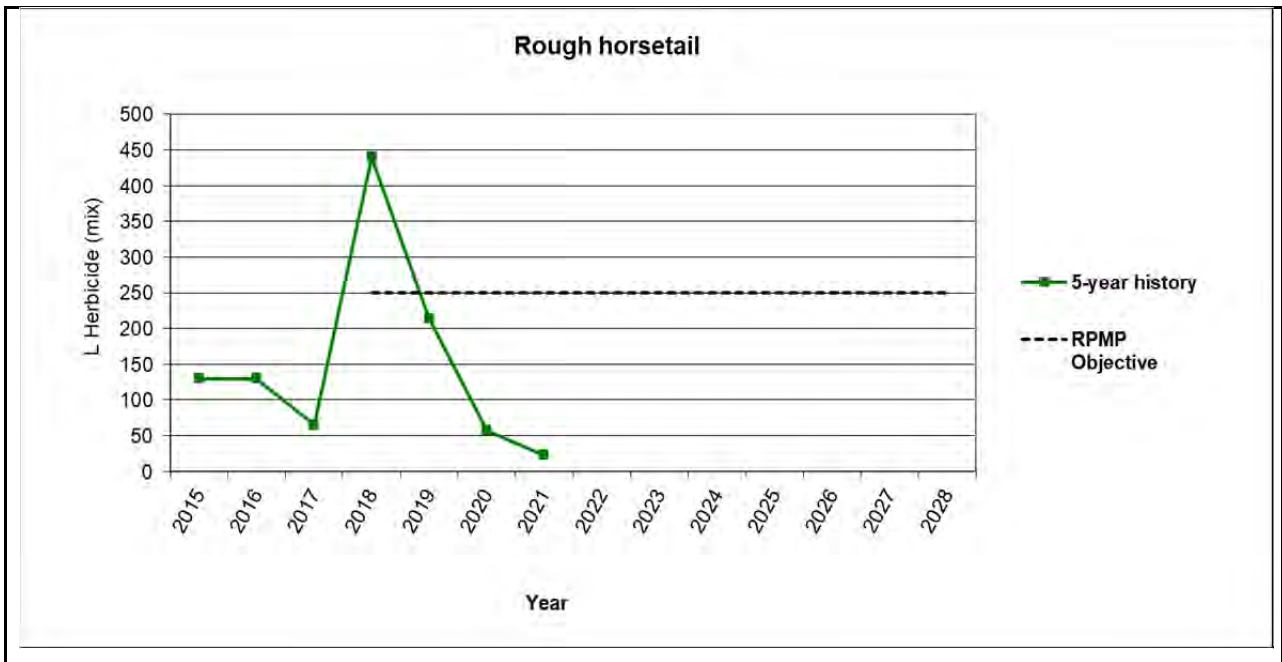


25. Rooks (*Corvus frugilegus*)



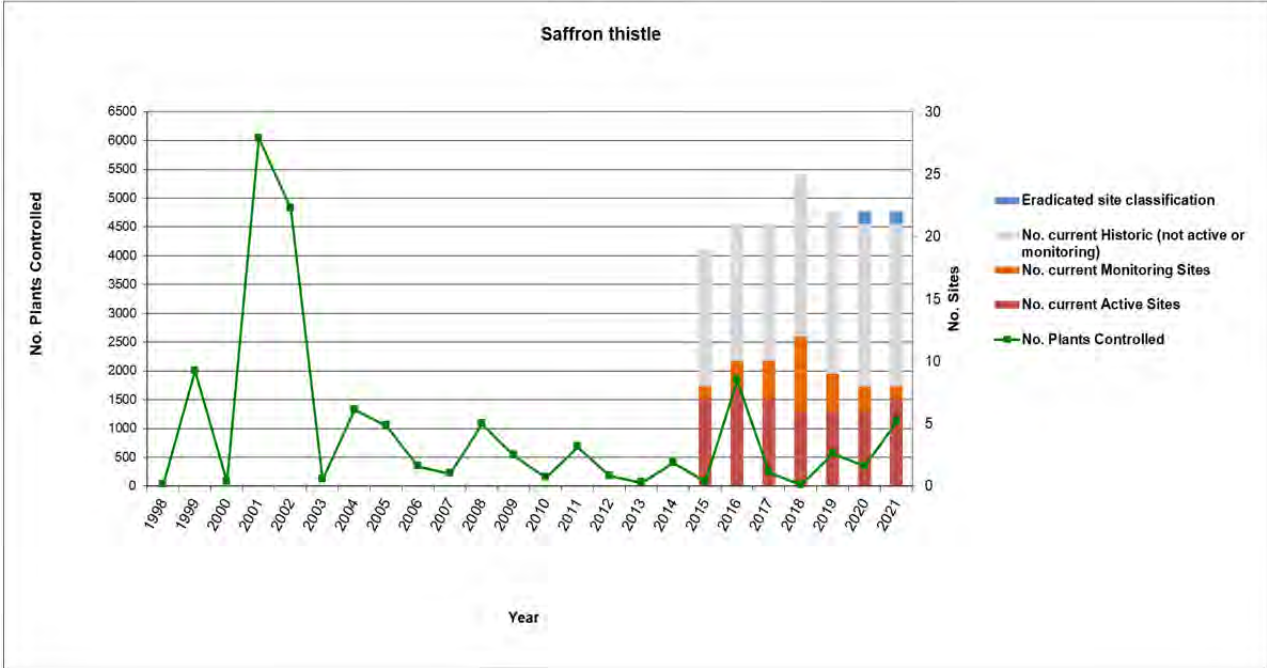
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, prevent the establishment of rooks (<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>) in the Marlborough district to prevent future impacts on economic wellbeing.			
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors 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.			
2020/2021		An article was put in the midweek papers to continue community awareness of this pest.		
Target 25.2	Each year, respond to any report of rooks in Marlborough within 2 working days.			
2020/2021		No reports of Rooks were received this year.		
<p>Status of rooks in Marlborough: Last detection in March 2020 (Tetley Brook Road). One bird destroyed. Not established</p>				

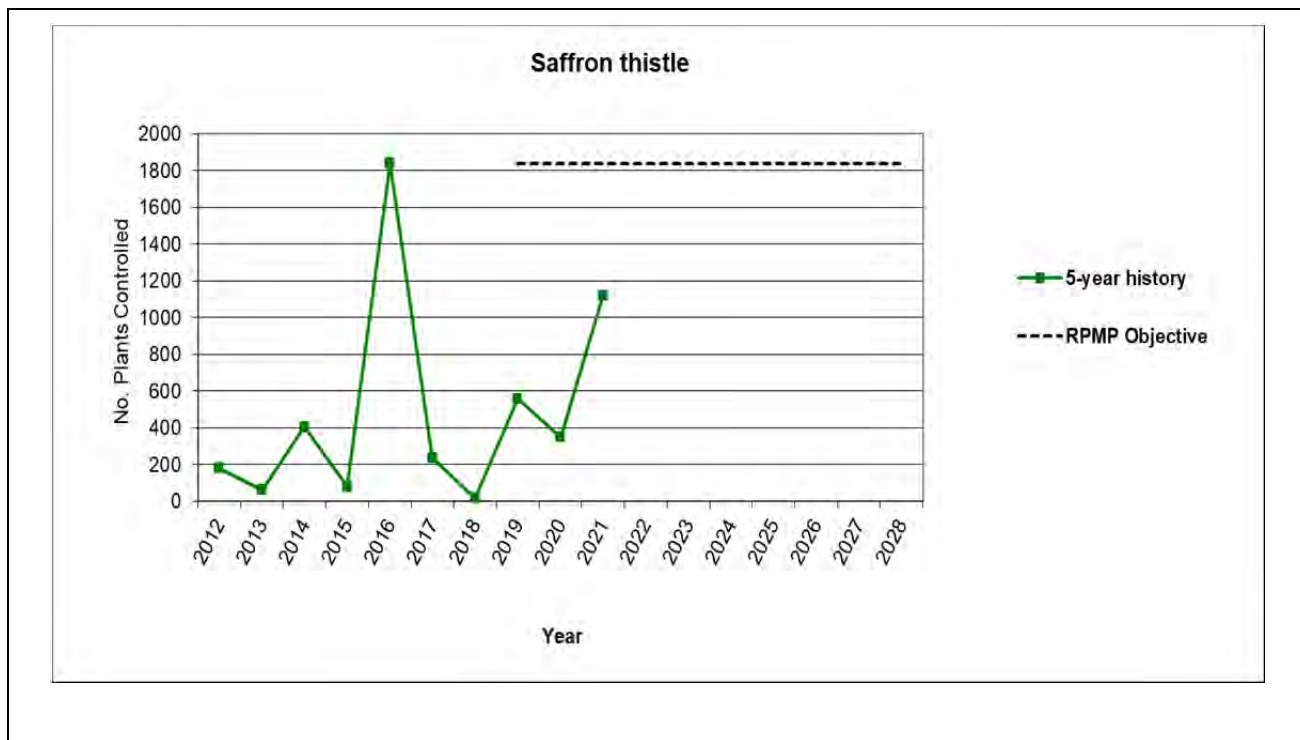
26. Rough horsetail (*Equisetum hyemale*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led																																			
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control rough horsetail (<i>Equisetum hymale</i>) 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.																																						
2020/2021		100% of active or monitoring sites were visited. All infestations are small and confined to specific areas. Plant numbers continue to decline across all sites; no plants have been found at some monitoring sites, and it is expected that these sites will be re-classified as 'historical' in future.																																					
Target 26.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.																																						
2020/2021		All historical sites were visited, no rough horsetail was detected.																																					
Programme trend:																																							
 <p style="text-align: center;">Rough horsetail</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Approximate data from the Rough horsetail programme trend chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>No. current Active Sites</th> <th>No. current Monitoring Sites</th> <th>No. current Historic (not active or monitoring)</th> <th>No. Plants Controlled</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>125</td> <td>0</td> <td>25</td> <td>130</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>125</td> <td>0</td> <td>25</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>150</td> <td>0</td> <td>25</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>175</td> <td>0</td> <td>50</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>75</td> <td>125</td> <td>50</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>75</td> <td>125</td> <td>50</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Year	No. current Active Sites	No. current Monitoring Sites	No. current Historic (not active or monitoring)	No. Plants Controlled	2016	125	0	25	130	2017	125	0	25	60	2018	150	0	25	18	2019	175	0	50	10	2020	75	125	50	5	2021	75	125	50	2
Year	No. current Active Sites	No. current Monitoring Sites	No. current Historic (not active or monitoring)	No. Plants Controlled																																			
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2018	150	0	25	18																																			
2019	175	0	50	10																																			
2020	75	125	50	5																																			
2021	75	125	50	2																																			



27. Saffron thistle (*Carthamus lanatus*)



Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led																																																																																																																																																						
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control saffron thistle (<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>) 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.																																																																																																																																																									
2020/2021		All sites with a status of 'active' or 'monitoring' were visited in 2020/2021. The number of plants found has been trending upwards since 2018, and is attributed to a new infestation site discovered in 2018.																																																																																																																																																								
Target 27.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.																																																																																																																																																									
2020/2021		4 out of 12 Historical sites were visited in 2020/2021 and no plants were found. The number of 'historical' sites has increased to 13 as a result of a property split on one of the sites.																																																																																																																																																								
Programme trend:																																																																																																																																																										
 <p style="text-align: center;">Saffron thistle</p> <p>The chart displays the number of plants controlled (line) and the number of sites (stacked bars) from 1998 to 2021. The left Y-axis represents the number of plants controlled (0 to 6500), and the right Y-axis represents the number of sites (0 to 30). The X-axis represents the year. The legend indicates: Eradicated site classification (blue), No. current Historic (not active or monitoring) (grey), No. current Monitoring Sites (orange), No. current Active Sites (red), and No. Plants Controlled (green line).</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Approximate data from the Saffron thistle programme trend chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>No. Plants Controlled</th> <th>No. current Active Sites</th> <th>No. current Monitoring Sites</th> <th>No. current Historic (not active or monitoring)</th> <th>Total No. Sites</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1998</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>1999</td><td>2000</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2000</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2001</td><td>6000</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2002</td><td>4800</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2003</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>1300</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2005</td><td>1000</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>300</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2007</td><td>200</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>1000</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2009</td><td>500</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>200</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2011</td><td>700</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>200</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2013</td><td>100</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>400</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2015</td><td>100</td><td>15</td><td>2</td><td>23</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>2000</td><td>10</td><td>10</td><td>20</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>200</td><td>10</td><td>10</td><td>20</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>200</td><td>10</td><td>15</td><td>25</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>500</td><td>10</td><td>10</td><td>20</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>300</td><td>10</td><td>10</td><td>20</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr><td>2021</td><td>1000</td><td>10</td><td>10</td><td>20</td><td>40</td></tr> </tbody> </table>					Year	No. Plants Controlled	No. current Active Sites	No. current Monitoring Sites	No. current Historic (not active or monitoring)	Total No. Sites	1998	0	0	0	0	0	1999	2000	0	0	0	0	2000	0	0	0	0	0	2001	6000	0	0	0	0	2002	4800	0	0	0	0	2003	0	0	0	0	0	2004	1300	0	0	0	0	2005	1000	0	0	0	0	2006	300	0	0	0	0	2007	200	0	0	0	0	2008	1000	0	0	0	0	2009	500	0	0	0	0	2010	200	0	0	0	0	2011	700	0	0	0	0	2012	200	0	0	0	0	2013	100	0	0	0	0	2014	400	0	0	0	0	2015	100	15	2	23	40	2016	2000	10	10	20	40	2017	200	10	10	20	40	2018	200	10	15	25	50	2019	500	10	10	20	40	2020	300	10	10	20	40	2021	1000	10	10	20	40
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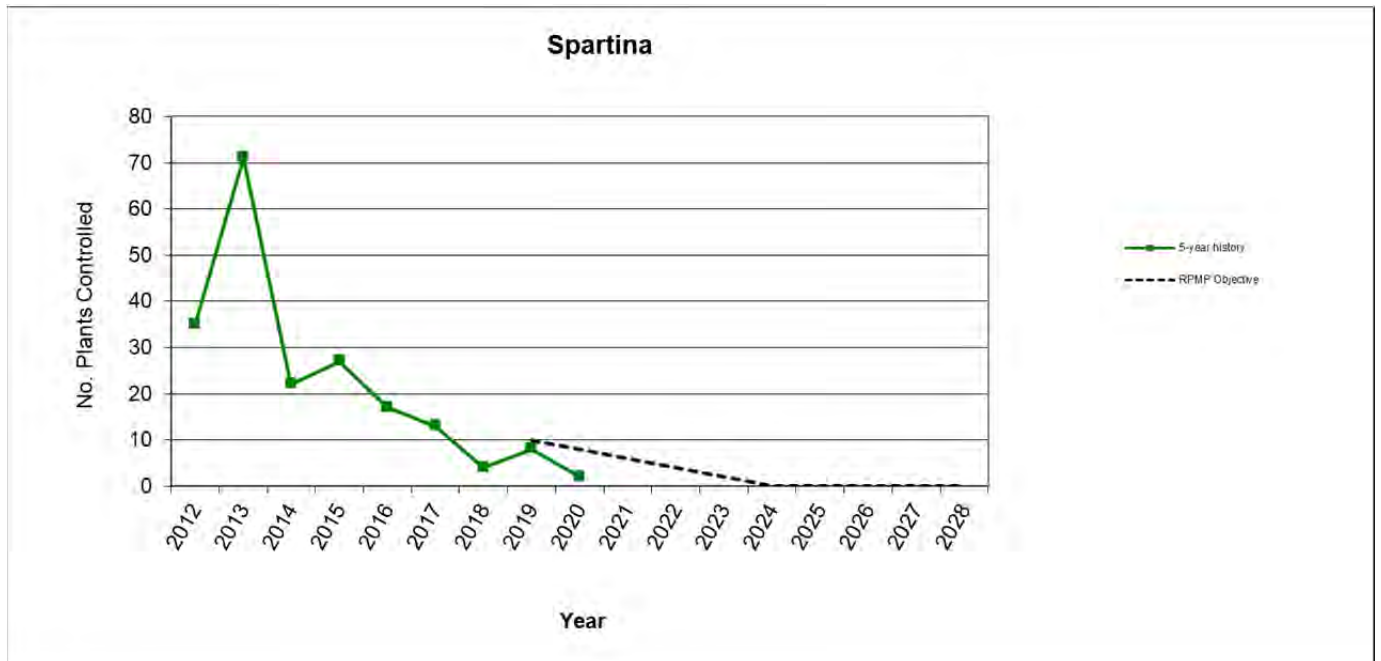
28. Senegal tea (*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	Over the term of the Plan, prevent the establishment of Senegal tea (<i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i>) 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 detected in Marlborough.			
<i>Status of Senegal tea in Marlborough:</i>				
Historically eradicated				
Not established				



29. Spartina (*Spartina anglica*)

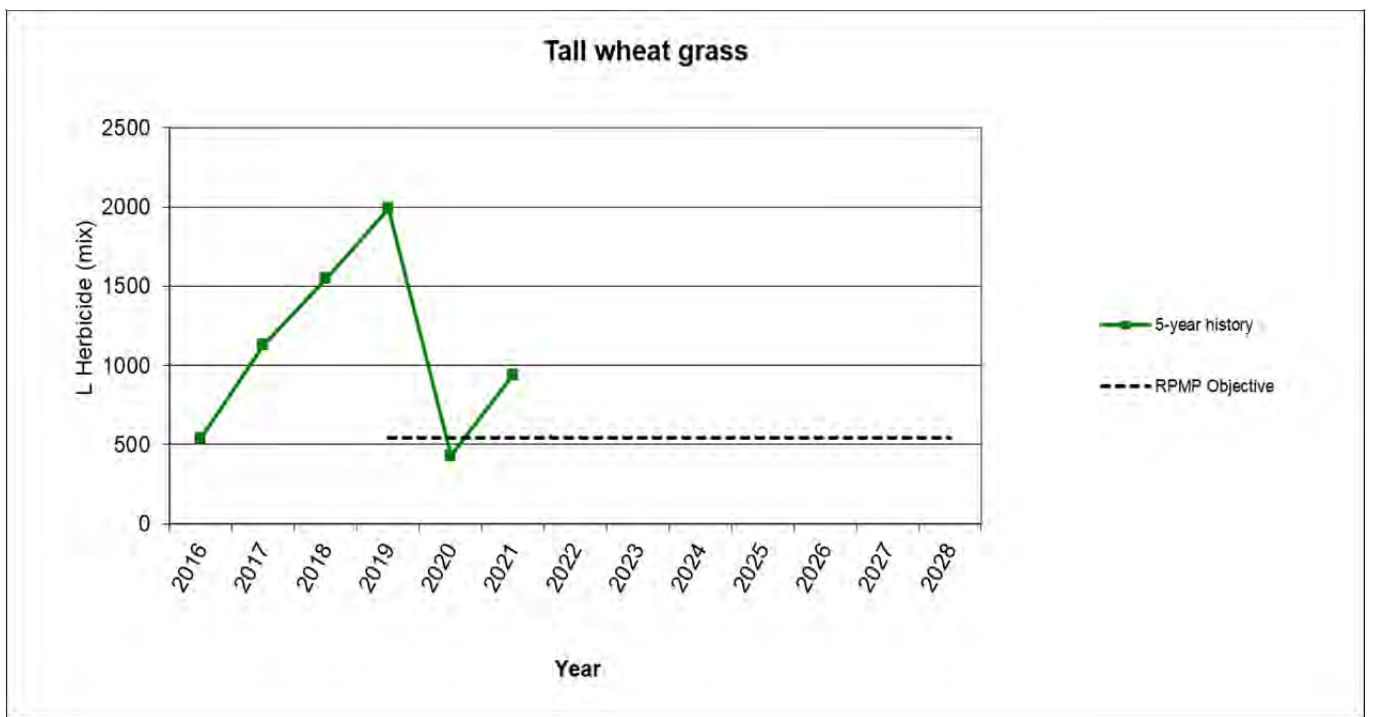
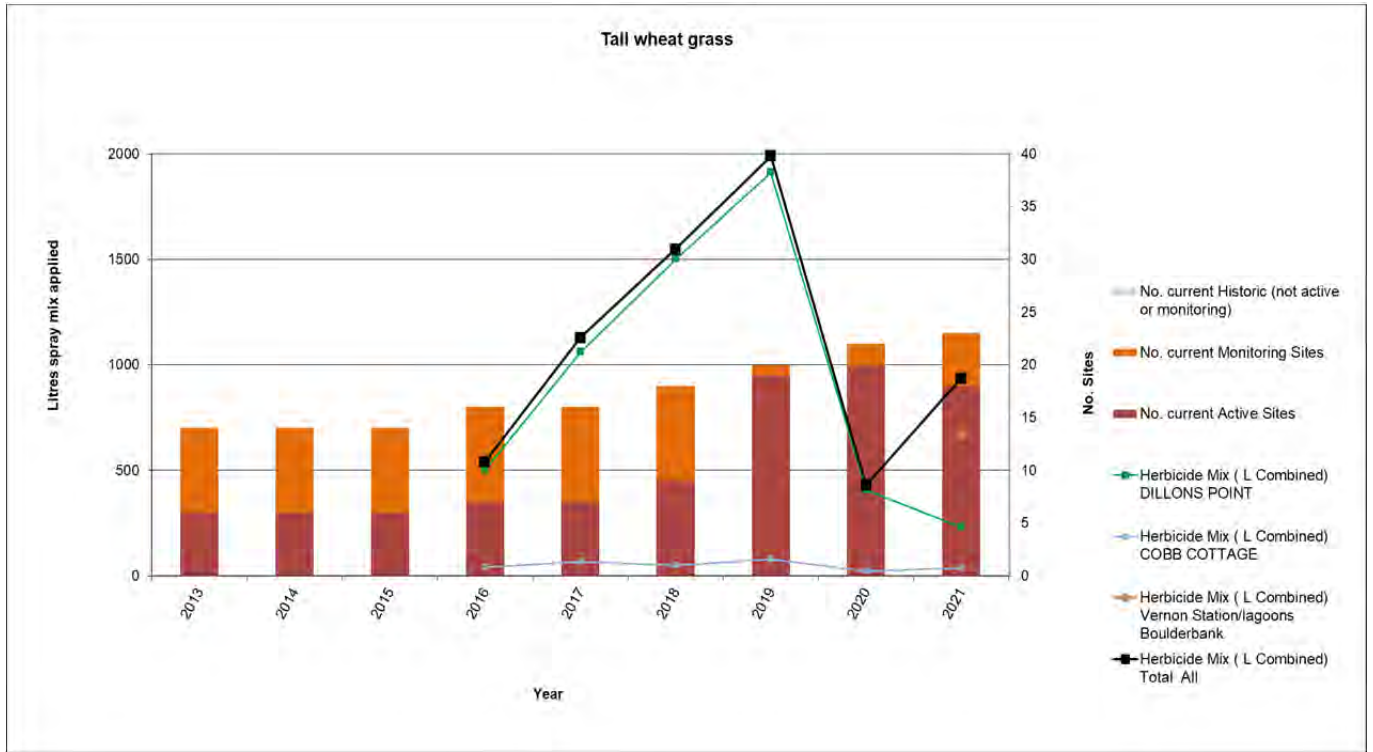
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	By the end of the term of this Plan, spartina (<i>Spartina anglica</i>) on all known sites in the Marlborough district will have been controlled to zero density to prevent adverse effects on the environment, and enjoyment 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.			
2020/2021		100% of all 'active' and 'monitoring' sites (8 in total) were visited for control or surveillance activities for 2020/2021. Only 3 plants were found during 1263 hours of searching. The number of plants found over the years has reduced, and this trend is following the RPMP objective for this pest programme.		
Target 29.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
2020/2021		Three out of 6 historical sites were visited for Spartina surveillance activities. This included Fairy Bay in the Pelorus, Grove Arm Picton, and Double Bay in the Kenepuru. No plants were found. Two new Spartina infestations were found at Putanui Point in the Pelorus Sound, and at Picnic Bay in the Kenepuru.		

Programme trend:




30. Tall wheat grass (*Thinopyrum ponticum*)



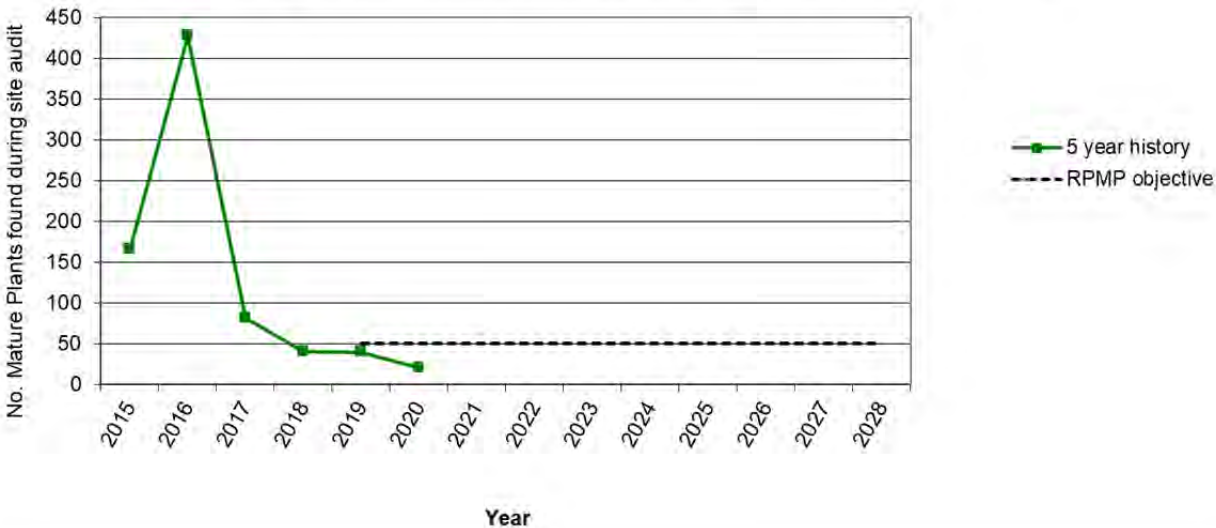
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<p>Objective Over the duration of the Plan, control tall wheat grass (<i>Thinopyrum ponticum</i>) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2016 levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment, and enjoyment of the natural environment.</p>				
<p>Operations overview Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.</p>				
<p>Target 30.1 Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.</p>				
<p>2020/2021</p>		<p>100% of all known sites were visited for surveillance or control activities. Extensive surveillance activities were undertaken after a report that plants were found within the Vernon lagoons area. As a result, a large core infestation was found, and a small aerial spray operation carried out to manage further spread risk.</p> <p>As a result, the amount of herbicide used in 2020/2021 exceeded the threshold of the RPMP objective, to maintain herbicide use at or below 540 litres of spray mix (The amount of herbicide used is a proxy indicator to determine the level of infestation).</p> <p>It is likely that TWG was deliberately sown in that area many years ago; it is well documented that the plant was trialled in different parts of the country during the sixties up until the late eighties, to determine its suitability as a species for soil stabilisation in high salinity soils.</p> <p>New search areas have been identified for 2021/2022 to delimitate the infestation.</p>		
<p>Target 30.2 Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.</p>				
<p>2020/2021</p>		<p>To-date there is no sites with a historical status.</p>		
<p>Programme trend:</p>				




31. Wallabies (Family *Macropodidae*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, prevent the establishment of wallabies (<i>Family: Macropodidae</i>) 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.			
2020/2021		No reports of wallaby sightings where received this year.		
Status of wallabies in Marlborough: Periodic and unverified reports of presence Not established				




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

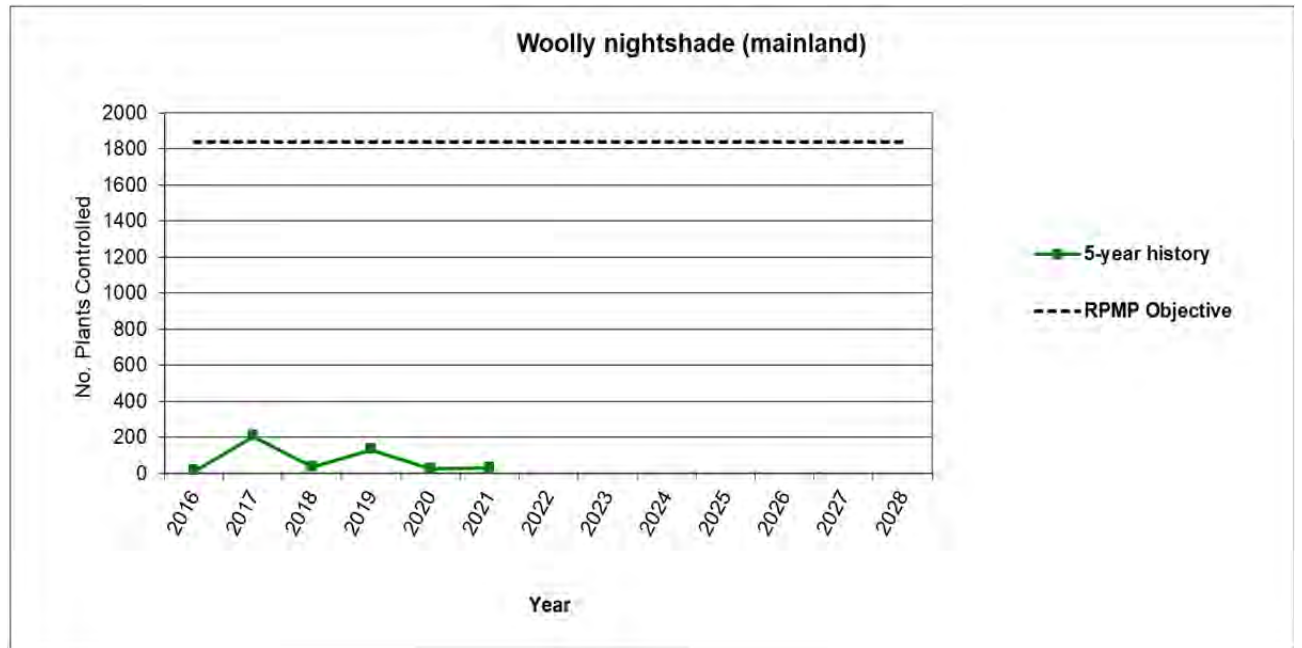
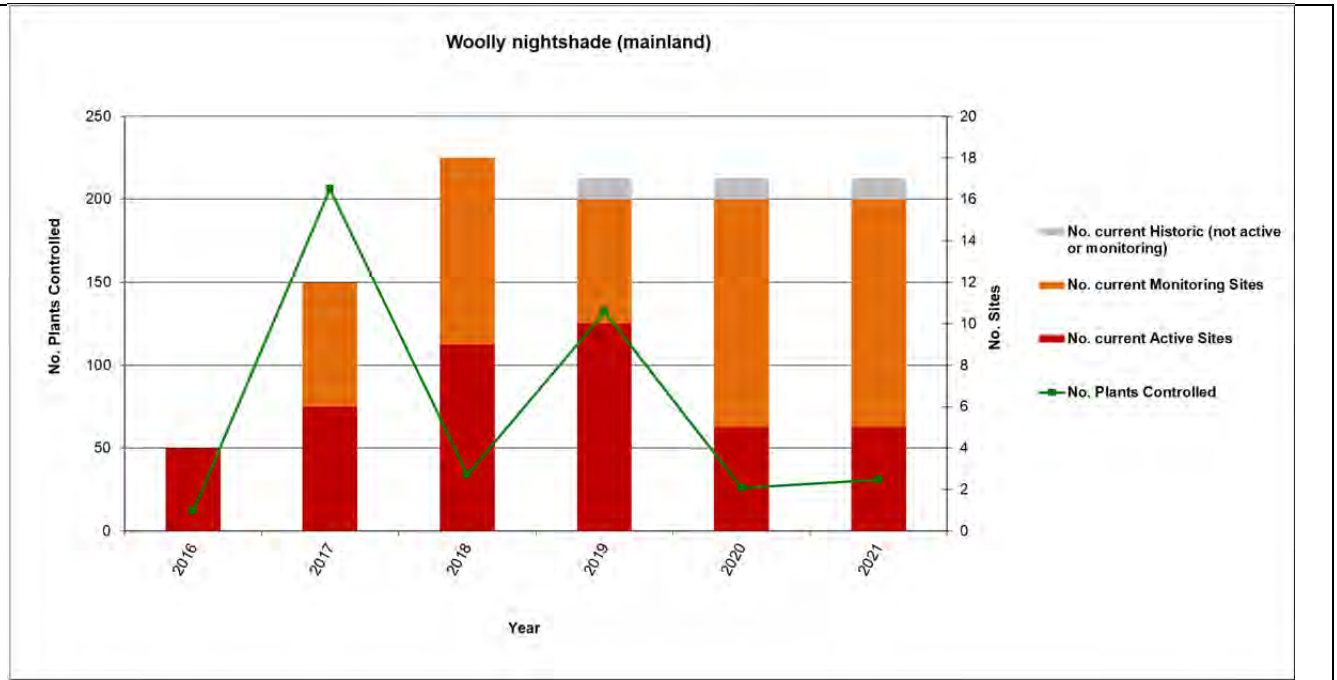
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led																																													
<p>Objective Over the duration of the Plan, control white-edged nightshade (<i>Solanum marginatum</i>) in the Marlborough district (excluding the White-edged Nightshade Containment Area) to less than or equal to 2016 levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.</p>																																																	
<p>Operations overview There are multiple facets to the white-edged nightshade programme delivered by Council. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 																																																	
<p>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.</p>																																																	
<p>2020/2021</p>		 <p>All affected land occupiers were sent letters in early 2021 to remind them of their obligation under the RPMP rule for white-edged nightshade. Land occupiers agreed to the advised Council inspection date.</p>																																															
<p>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.</p>																																																	
<p>2020/2021</p>		 <p>Inspections were undertaken at all sites where land occupiers have an obligation to annually destroy all plants. Council Biosecurity staff found no more than 10 mature plants at each site while undertaking compliance inspections. Most of the plants found were seedlings</p>																																															
<p>Programme trend:</p>																																																	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">White Edged Nightshade mature plants found during compliance inspections</p>  <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <caption>Data for White Edged Nightshade mature plants found during compliance inspections</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>No. Mature Plants found during site audit (5 year history)</th> <th>RPMP objective</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2015</td><td>170</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>430</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>80</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>40</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>40</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>20</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>2021</td><td>-</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>2022</td><td>-</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>2023</td><td>-</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>2024</td><td>-</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>2025</td><td>-</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>2026</td><td>-</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>2027</td><td>-</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>2028</td><td>-</td><td>50</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div>					Year	No. Mature Plants found during site audit (5 year history)	RPMP objective	2015	170	50	2016	430	50	2017	80	50	2018	40	50	2019	40	50	2020	20	50	2021	-	50	2022	-	50	2023	-	50	2024	-	50	2025	-	50	2026	-	50	2027	-	50	2028	-	50
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2028	-	50																																															

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

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<p>Objective 1</p> <p>Objective 2</p> <p>Operations overview</p>	<p>By 2035, willow-leaved hakea (<i>Hakea salicifolia</i>) 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.</p> <p>By the end of the term of this Plan, willow-leaved hakea (<i>Hakea salicifolia</i>) 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.</p> <p>Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.</p>			
<p>2020/2021</p>	<p>A total of 1076.5 hours of control work was undertaken this season. Majority of the mature plants have now been located and destroyed . Work has started on controlling seedlings.</p>			
<p>Programme trend:</p> <p><i>Once the programme has commenced, graph representing the programme objective and trend history (if available).</i></p>  <p>The single hakea infestation on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D’Urville Island at the start of the 2020/21 season. All mature plants have now been controlled.</p>				

34. Woolly nightshade (*Solanum mauritanium*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<p>Objectives Over the duration of the Plan, control woolly nightshade (<i>Solanum mauritanium</i>) 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.</p>				
<p>Operations overview Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.</p>				
<p>Target 34.1 Each year, a control operation is undertaken on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville in accordance with the project plan</p>				
2020/2021		<p>464 Hours of control work was undertaken to control plants as per the 5 year plan. During this year's work only one mature plant was found., however many seedling where controlled, especially in areas around felled pine trees.</p>		
<p>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.</p>				
2020/2021		<p>100% of 'active' and 'monitoring' sites were visited for control. The number of plants found in 2021 was similar to that in 2020, and most of these were younger plants. The total annual number of plants found across all mainland sites has continued decrease since 2017, well within the RPMP objective to keep plant numbers below 1800. This Objective can be reviewed and the threshold reduced to 800 plants or less.</p>		
<p>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.</p>				
2020/2021		<p>The only site with a historical site was searched and no plants were found</p>		
<p>Programme trend:</p>				






Woolley nightshade (centre of photo) Port Hardy D'Urville Island.

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.
Operational Summary 2020/2021	<p>In conjunction with the Council Communications Team, there has been ongoing work to ensure Biosecurity-related messaging is continued to be put out through Council channels.</p> <p>There has also been a physical presence by staff endorsing biosecurity programmes/initiatives at the Blenheim A&P Show in November 2019.</p> <p>Throughout the year, biosecurity staff provided support to the Marlborough Girls College Environmental Studies work stream .This included both sessions in the classroom and support to individual students remotely.</p>

2. Investigation & analysis

Overview	<p>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.</p> <p>The process used is outlined in further detail within the Marlborough District Council Biosecurity Strategy.</p>	
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.	
2020/2021		<p>During 2020/21, 128 hours (compared to 93 and 109 hours in 2019 and 2020, respectively) were attributed to reed sweet grass operations across 4 key sites. This extra time resulted in greater coverage within those aquatic sites. Despite the extra time spent within those areas no other potential biosecurity threats were identified.</p>

Operational
Summary
2020/2021




In addition to that outline against Target 35, the Biosecurity team discovered evidence of wilding kiwifruit vines in the Marlborough Sounds; the discovery of seedling plants on a hill face near a known seed source at Manaroa has resulted in on-going investigations to determine the presence and spread of this plant in the Marlborough Sounds. Wilding kiwi fruit poses a real threat to biodiversity values in the Marlborough Sounds.

Given that the wild plants are still in a 'lag-phase' in terms of plant density and the areas it occupies, a more structured programme into managing its potential negative impacts may be cost effective, vs the long-term cost of not intervening at this early stage of the invasion.




Wild kiwifruit invading native bush



3. Biocontrol

<p>Overview</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>These biological control agents can also assist in the management of species managed under RPMP programmes.</p>	
<p>Target 36.1</p>	<p>Each year, provide an annual contribution into the National Biological Control Initiative.</p>	
<p>2020/2021</p>		<p>A contribution of \$15,000 was made by Council towards the national collective research programme.</p> <p>Of note in 2020/21 was a new larger initiative was established with the support of Sustainable Food & Fibre Futures funding - leveraging the existing collective funding. This will kick off in 2021/22.</p>
<p>Target 36.2</p>	<p>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).</p>	
<p>2020/2021</p>		<p>Additional releases of the Honshu White Admiral Butterfly were released because they were available; these releases were made and strategically placed, (based on the advice from Manaaki Whenua Landcare research) to mitigate the potential effects of natural insect predators on the establishing biological agents.</p>
<p>Target 36.3</p>	<p>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.</p>	
<p>2020/2021</p>		<p>Monitoring was carried out at the site where the original releases of the Honshu White Admiral Butterfly were made, but no evidence of establishment was found.</p>
<p>Operational Summary 2020/2021</p>	<p>In addition to the core research programme, Council is working with Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research to receive new biological control agents for Oldmans beard. It is expected that these agent will be ready for release in spring 2021/2022.</p> <p>In terms of monitoring and releasing biological agents, biosecurity staff surveyed the site where the initial release of the Honshu White Admiral Butterfly was made in 2018. The establishment of this agent has been limited to isolated sites around the country; establishment of releases has been slow, and at some sites the agents have failed to establish at all.</p> <p>No evidence of the agent has been found in Marlborough since its release in 2018. The failure of this agent to establish has been attributed to predation. In response to this, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research has recommended to scatter new releases of this agent, to minimise the effect of predation and hopefully increase the chances of the agent establishing successfully.</p>	

4. Supporting Community Organisations

<p>Overview</p>	<p>On occasions, a community can come together to address concerns relating to harmful organisms within an area of interest.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>Target 37</p>	<p>Each year, provide an annual contribution into the following community organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust • South Marlborough Landscape Restoration Trust • Chilean Needle Grass Action Group (by way of a dedicated budget) 	
<p>2020/2021</p>		<p>Financial contributions by way of grants were made to the Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust, South Marlborough Landscape Restoration Trust and a specific budget managed on behalf of the Chilean Needle Grass Action Group.</p> <p>Note – Council's support for the Chilean Needle Grass Action Group has been confirmed as ongoing (previously only for 3 years) at \$15,000 per annum from 2020/21 onwards.</p>
<p>Operational Summary 2020/2021</p>	<p>As outlined against Target 37, annual financial contributions were made to assist these key community organisations.</p> <p>In addition to this, Biosecurity staff have also provided a large amount of in-kind advice and support to both these organisations and others where this has been possible.</p>	

5. Wilding Conifer Management

<p>Overview</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>As part of this role in Marlborough, helping establish and maintain collaborative wilding conifer management programmes is integral to achieve positive outcomes.</p>	
<p>Target 38.1</p>	<p>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).</p>	
<p>2020/2021</p>		<p>Throughout the course of the year, Biosecurity staff facilitated the activities of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme regionally in Marlborough.</p> <p>As a result of the 2020 'Jobs for Nature' funding impetus, the scale of investment in wilding conifer programmes increased significantly in 2020/21. This put a significantly higher level of load on Council as the Regional Fundholder, but the role continued to be fulfilled to the satisfaction on Biosecurity New Zealand.</p>
<p>Target 38.2</p>	<p>While it is in place, facilitate Marlborough Wilding Conifer Steering Group meetings to the satisfaction of all stakeholders involved.</p>	
<p>2020/2021</p>		<p>Biosecurity staff facilitated the meeting of the Marlborough Wilding Conifer Steering Group on two occasions in 2020/2021. Both were held via Zoom on 27 August 2020 and 23 April 2021 respectively.</p>
<p>Operational Summary 2020/2021</p>	<p>In 2020/2021, Biosecurity staff continued to play a prominent role in ensuring the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme (NWCCP) was implemented smoothly and safely in Marlborough.</p> <p>Some of the major milestones achieved this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of programmes receiving core NWCCP programmes grew from only Molesworth in 2019/2020 to the addition of a new Waihopai programme and investment into the Marlborough Sounds programme. - All the core programmes were successfully delivered safety, efficiently and on budget. - In addition, the South Marlborough Landscape Restoration Trust (SMLRT) was delivering a number of projects – including a new project in the area surrounding the Ned/Te Hau. This was made possible due to NWCCP Community Partnership funding (also through Council) and support from private landholders. - The SMLRT Community Partnership project for the Ned/Te Hau made an excellent start with further work likely continuing in the coming years. The NWCCP funding was expending efficiently 	

and on time.

- The Marlborough Wildings Steering Group has become functional as a key central platform for all stakeholders and collaborators in the game of wilding management.
- Working with both the South Marlborough Landscape Restoration Trust and Marlborough Sounds Restorations Trusts with Council in an ex officio role for both trusts.
- In total, Council staff oversaw and executed no less than 15 various contracts and/or funding agreements to facilitate the various programmes using NWCCP funding in 2020/21.

The 2020 policy review process to amend the RPMP to incorporate a programme for pest conifers has largely been in a holding pattern over 2020/2021. An Appeal was made on the Council decision in July 2020 and at the time of writing, remains within an Environment Court mediation process.



The result of a big season of wilding conifer control in 2020/21 for the Molesworth programme (image courtesy of Boffa Miskell Ltd).

6. Research




<p>Overview</p>	<p>With all biosecurity programmes, a continual improvement in understanding relating to both the organisms of interest and techniques to manage them is required.</p> <p>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 being more direct.</p>
<p>Operational Summary 2020/2021</p>	<p>In 2020/2021, The Biosecurity team was involved or supported the follow areas of research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor and collaborator for the ‘Tomorrow’s Marine Biosecurity Toolbox’ MBIE funded programme led by the Cawthron Institute; • Managing the product registration of Taskforce™ herbicide in NZ; • Ongoing support toward national research projects looking into the biological control of <i>Vespula</i> sp. wasps; • Pilot trials testing current technology to detect CNG via remote sensing; • Support the SFF project exploring pathogenic biological control agents for nassella tussock. • Commission an investigation into the successional trajectory for <i>Acacia dealbata</i> (wattle) stands in the the Picton/Waitohi area. <p>The research budget for 2020/2021 was \$22,000.</p> <p>Actual 2020/2021 spend = \$42,000.</p> <p>The \$20,000 overspend against initial budget was due to the additional investigation into wattles being commissioned in early 2021 after failing to secure external funding.</p>

7. Specific Projects

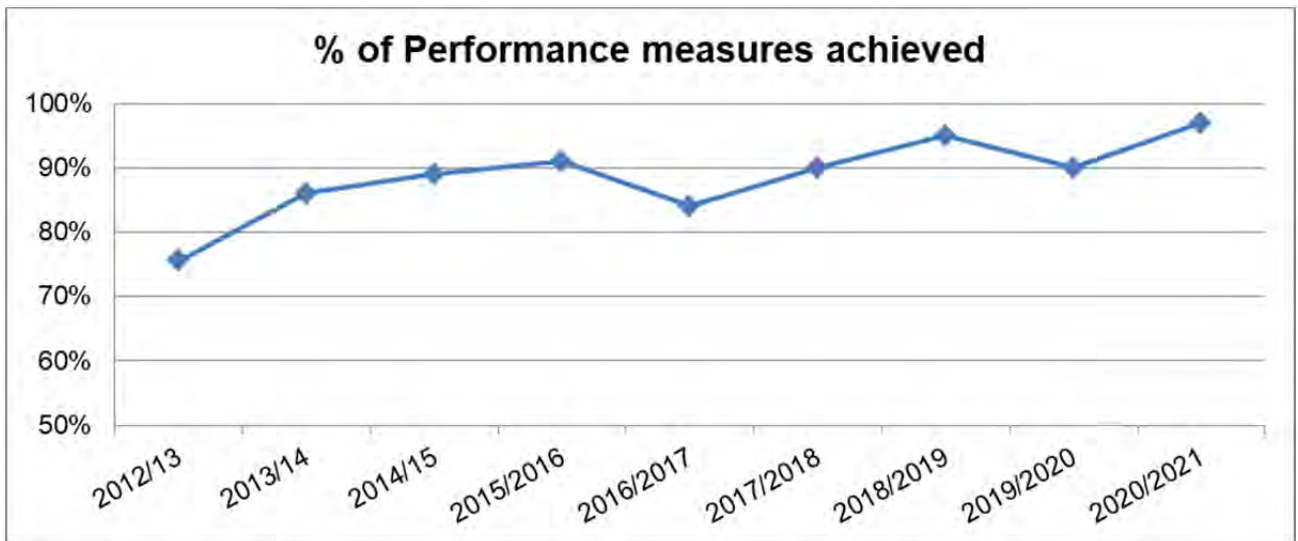
<p>Overview</p>	<p>On occasions, specific projects require the support and/or investment by Council. Each project is assessed on its merit and alignment with the Vision and Goals of the Marlborough District Council Biosecurity Strategy.</p>
<p>Operational Summary 2020/2021</p>	<p>In 2020/2021, Biosecurity staff were involved in the following projects that align to the goals of Council’s Biosecurity Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership <p>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.</p> <p>Contract management rotated to be undertaken by Tasman District Council from 2020/21.</p> <p><u>Budget:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial contribution \$36,380; 2. Staff time and associated costs. <p><u>2020/2021 Actual:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. \$36,380.00 – shared funding for the coordination contract; 2. Staff time attending Committee meetings and providing input into any TOS Partnership initiatives. • Response to plague skinks in Marlborough <p>The response to the Riverlands detection of plague skinks has been closed out given the large area they were found to be established across – linking up with the Cloudy Bay business park.</p> <p>However, the incursion at Havelock is still an active response led by Biosecurity New Zealand with specialist support from the Department of Conservation. Council is also involved at the governance group level.</p> <p>The Havelock response continues to have an elimination objective given the incursion point and timing is definitively known which is extremely rare.</p> <p><u>Budget:</u> Staff time and associated costs</p> <p><u>2020/2021 Actual:</u> Staff time involved in the response governance group.</p>

Part Three – Performance Summary

Overall scoring of performance objectives (excluding those that are not applicable):

Measure		2020/2021 Score
	Achieved	73 (97%)
	Almost Achieved	2 (3%)
	Not Achieved	0 (0%)
		75 (100%)

Performance Trend



Part Four – Operational Plan Review

In accordance with section 100B(1)(b) of the Biosecurity Act 1993, the Operational Plan 2018-2028 was subject to a review on 27 July 2021. The outcome of this review is summarised below.

Once ratified by Council, the proposed changes to the Operational Plan 2018-2028 will be carried out and be reported upon as part of the 2020/2021 Biosecurity Operational Plan Report.

33.1	<i>New target</i>	Each year, a control operation is undertaken on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville in accordance with the project plan	An omission during the 2020 operational plan review meant the programme was left without an enduring operational target. This new targets sets this.
38.3	<i>New target</i>	Each year, conduct a minimum of two inspections of parties selling or trading plants to determine adherence to the National Pest Plant Accord.	Council is a long standing signatory to the National Pest Plant Accord by way of conducting local inspections and compliance C/O the Ministry for Primary Industries. This new operational target formalises what staff regularly carry out.