

# Biosecurity

## Operational Plan Report 2023/2024

July 2024





# Biosecurity Operational Plan Report 2023/2024

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July 2024

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## 1. Introduction

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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 Biosecurity 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 2023/2024 year and over time.

**Part Four** details the annual review of the Operational Plan 2018-2028 in accordance with section 100B(1)(b), including any proposed changes to the operational plan because of the review.

## 2. Performance Scoring System



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The Operational Plan outlines several 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 2023/2024 performance against the respective target.

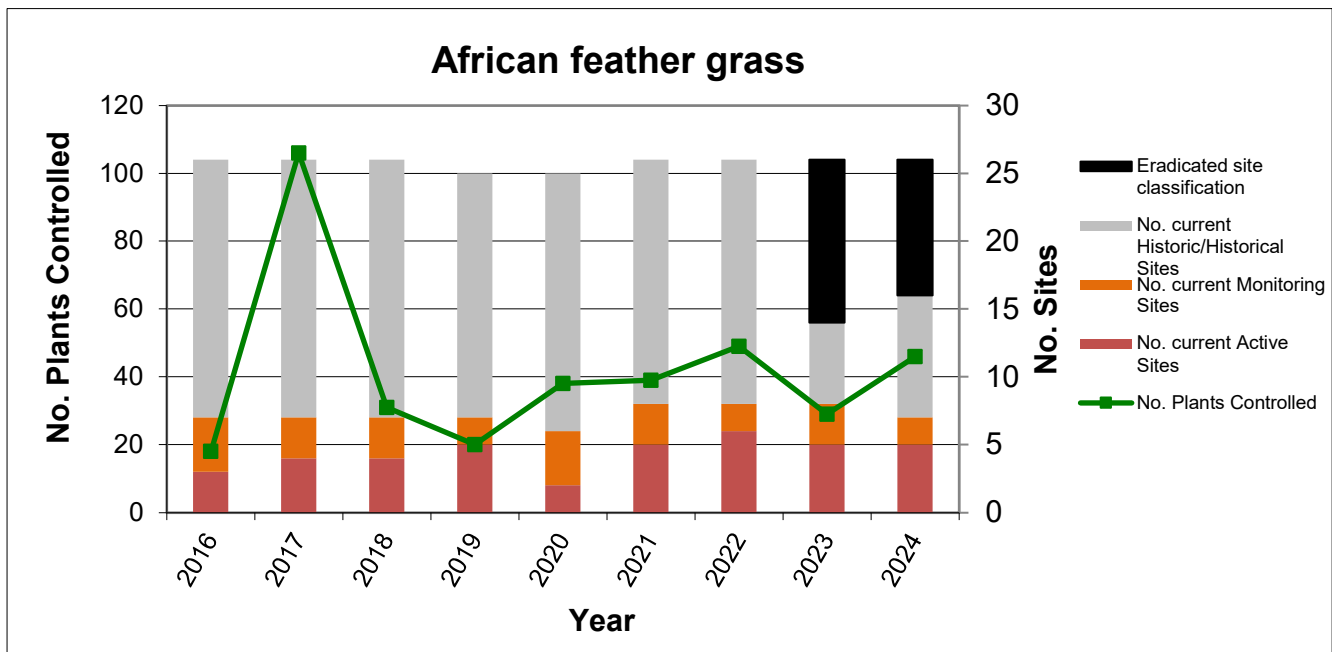
Symbol	Definition
	Achieved. All actions have been taken with the measure achieved.
	Almost Achieved. Actions have been undertaken but the measure has not been fully achieved for reported reasons.
	Not Achieved. Actions have not been undertaken to the level required or not been undertaken at all and 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
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.			
<b>Target 1.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		All 8 (100%) high priority sites were visited. 46 plants were found and destroyed from 6 of those sites, compared to 29 plants found over 3 sites in 2022/2023. This is above the RPMP threshold of 18 plants.		
<b>Target 1.2</b>	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		Of the 8 historical sites, all 8 sites were visited for surveillance activities during the 2023/2024 season. No re-occurrence of African feather grass was found at those sites.  Overall, the extent and density of Marlborough’s African feather grass infestations remain small. However, the plant numbers found over the last several years have exceeded the threshold of the RPMP objective, to keep plant numbers at or below 2016 levels.		

Programme trend:  Not meeting objective



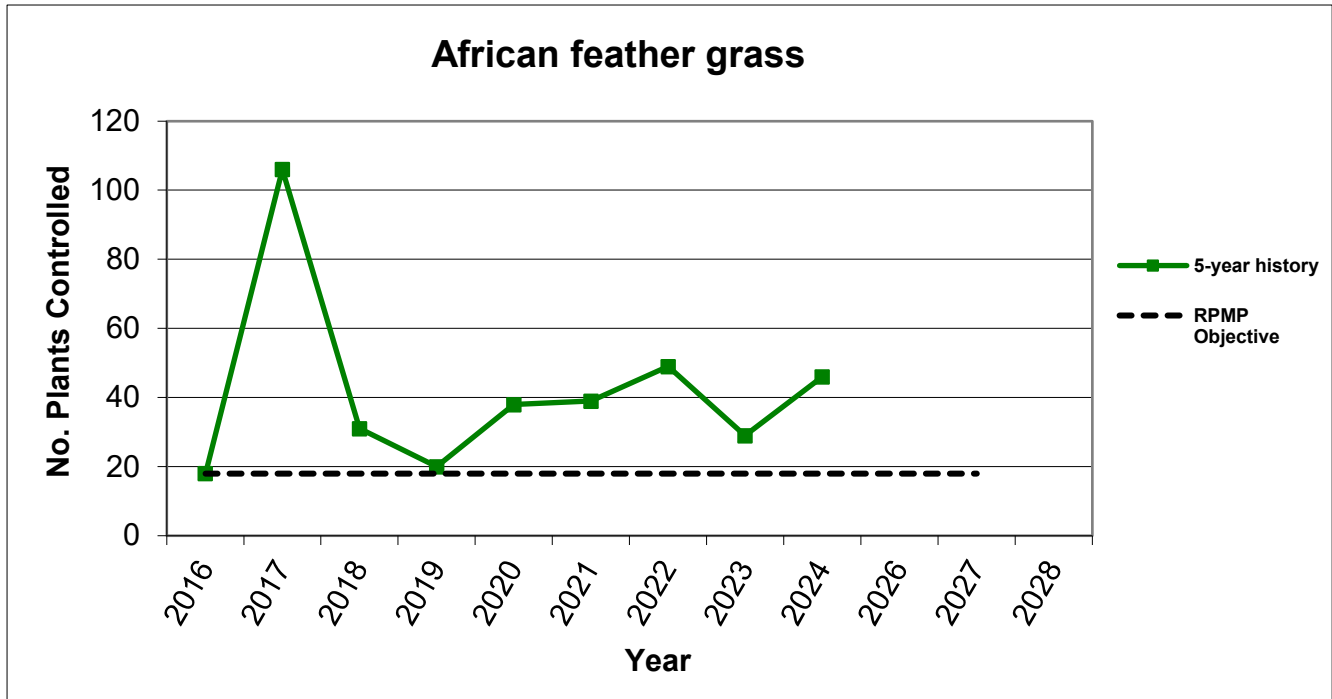




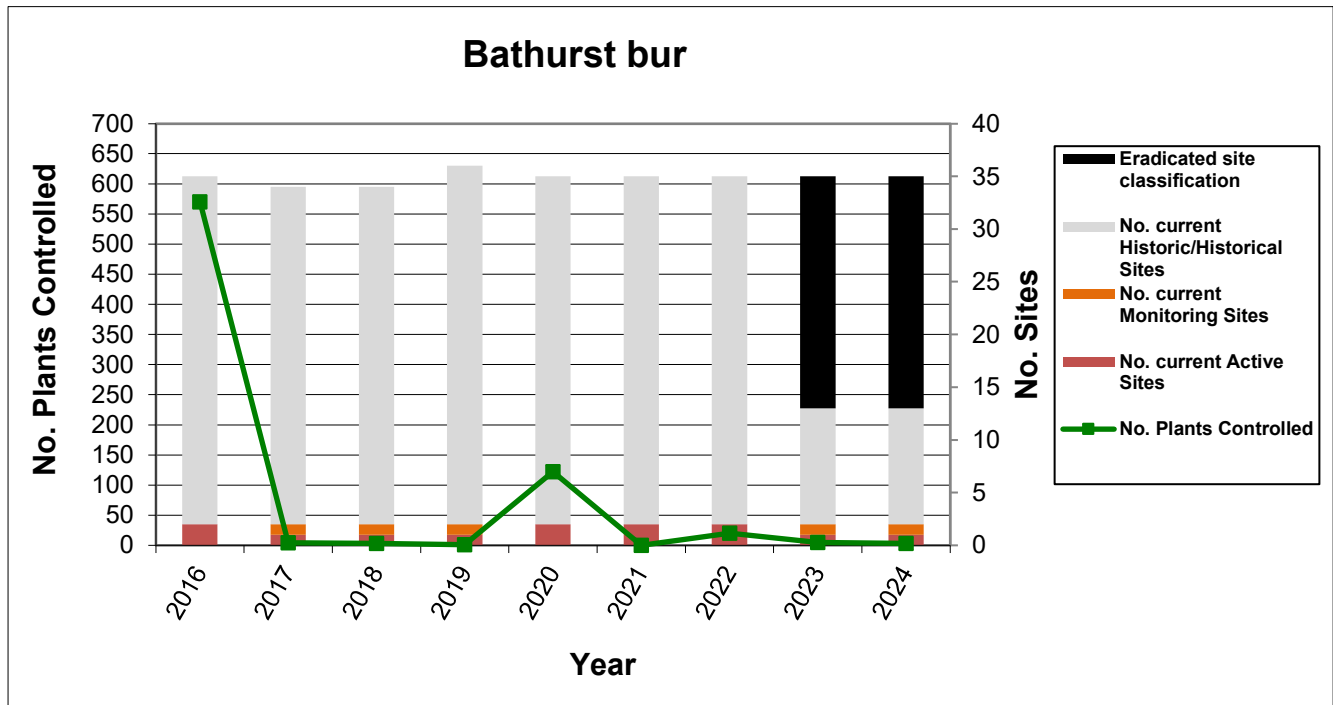
Figure 1: African feather grass in the Redwood Pass area

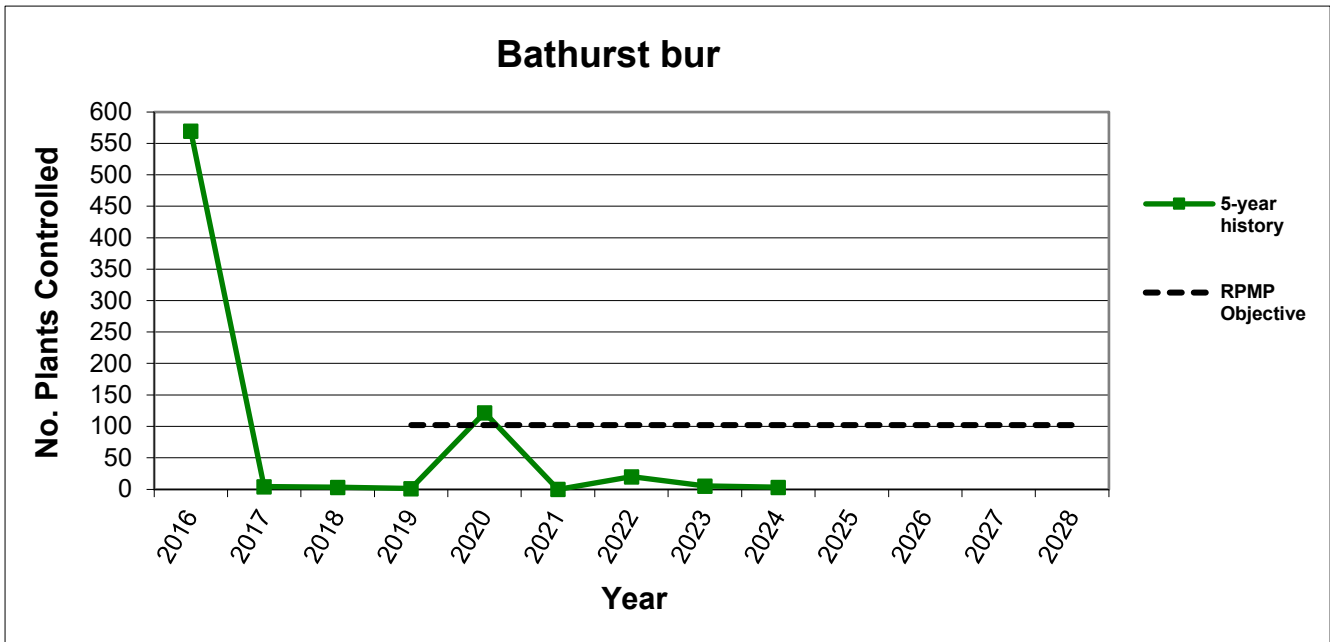


## 2). Bathurst bur (*Xanthium spinosum*)



Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.			
<b>Target 2.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		All 'active' and 'monitoring' Bathurst bur sites were visited for control activities for 2023/2024. Only 3 plants were found and destroyed, compared to 5 plants in 2022/2023.		
<b>Target 2.2</b>	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.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		11 out of 11 sites (100%) with a historical status were visited for surveillance activities during 2023/2024. No plants were found at any historical site, and no historical sites were known to be subject to any soil disturbance, which increases the risk of plant germination.		

Programme trend:  On Track

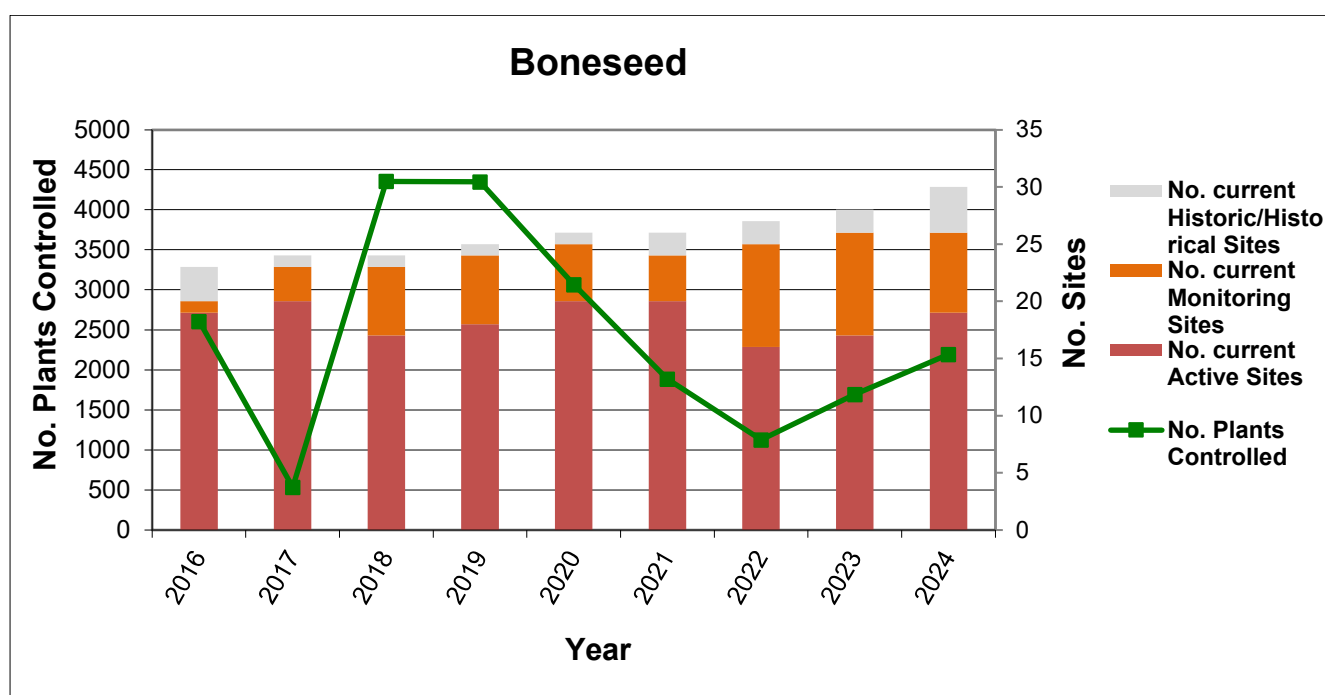


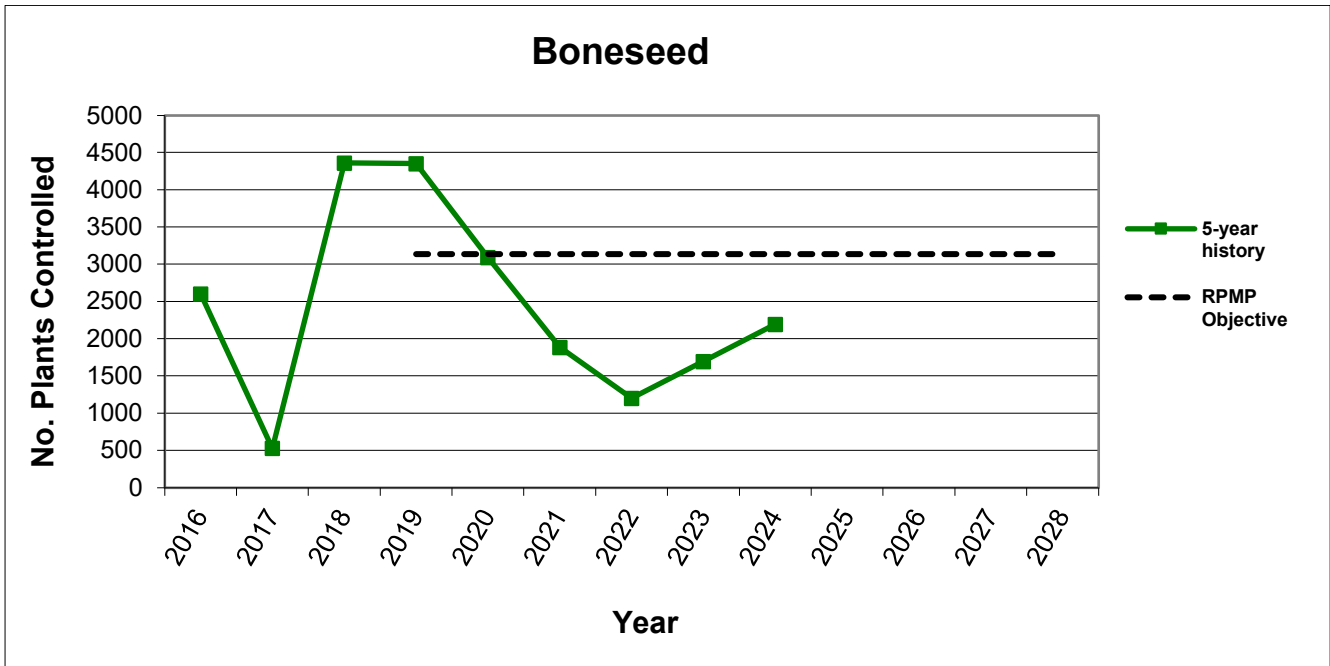


### 3). Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*)




Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	<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"> <li>a) Council staff and/or contractors, or;</li> <li>b) Joint operations between DOC and Council staff and/or contractors (predominantly Queen Charlotte Sound/Tory Channel sites), or;</li> <li>c) DOC staff (Kenepuru Sound, Ocean Bay sites).</li> </ul>			
<b>Target 3.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		100% of sites with a status of 'active' or 'monitoring' were visited during 2023/2024 with a total of 2194 plants destroyed. Plant numbers found over the last several years have continued to be below the threshold of the RPMP objective, to keep plant numbers at or below 2015 levels.		
<b>Target 3.2</b>	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		One of the two historical sites was visited in 2023/2024.		

Programme trend:  On track








#### 4). Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective 1</b>	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. *A baseline assessment will be made either prior to or immediately after the Plan commences.			
<b>Objective 2</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff actively deliver communication, compliance and surveillance activities within the respective RPMP programme Zones. This ensures occupiers are aware of the RPMP obligations and follow through with an adequate level of control to meet RPMP programme objectives. Surveillance also assists to form accurate datasets of infestations that can also assist occupiers target control efforts.  Council will also follow-up and investigate situations that come to their attention where broom is against a boundary and potentially threatening adjoining land.			
<b>Target 4.1</b>	No more than 1 instance of non-compliance needing enforcement action is identified within the three Control Zones			
<b>2023/2024</b>		No situations were identified requiring enforcement action.		
<b>Target 4.2</b>	Each year, undertake inspection and/or surveillance activities in all three zones.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		<p><u>Waima/Ure</u> Surveillance was undertaken in the Ure area. Very few plants were found.</p> <p><u>Upper Wairau</u> Inspections of land within this zone were carried out. There are two areas that have been identified as requiring follow up. Council is working with these land occupiers to put a plan in place for the 2024/2025 year.</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 is done in conjunction with property inspections assessing rabbit population abundance.</p>		
<b>Target 4.3</b>	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.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		No public complaints of Broom were received on property boundaries this year.		

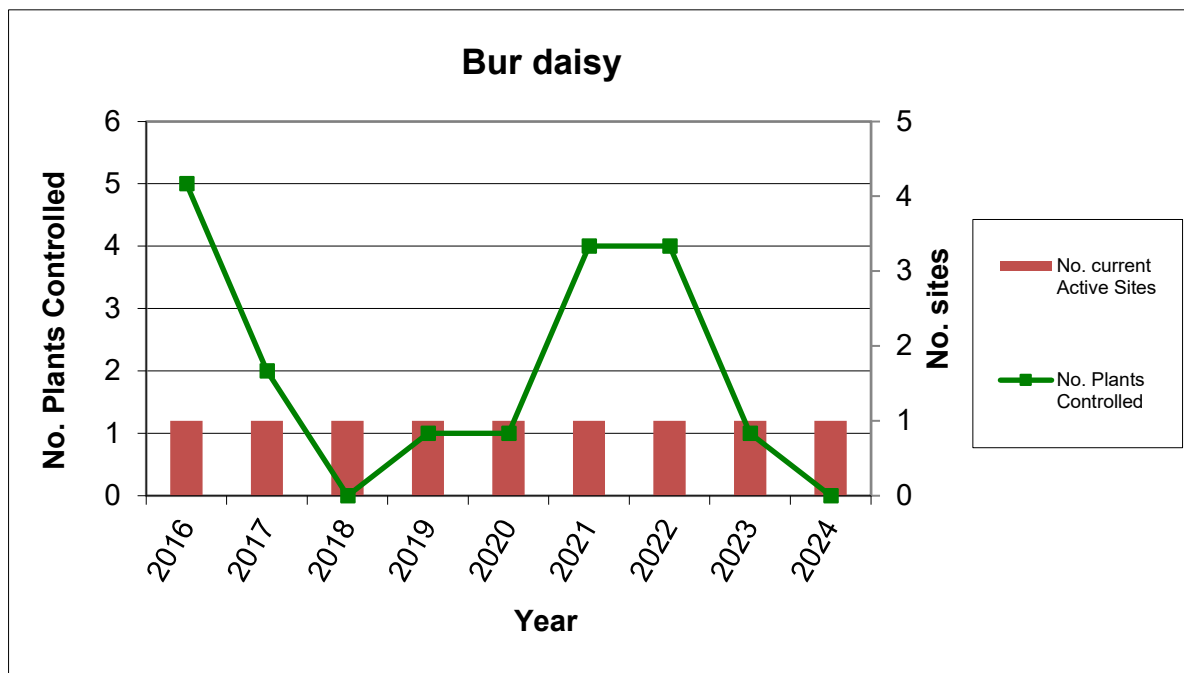
5). Brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*)

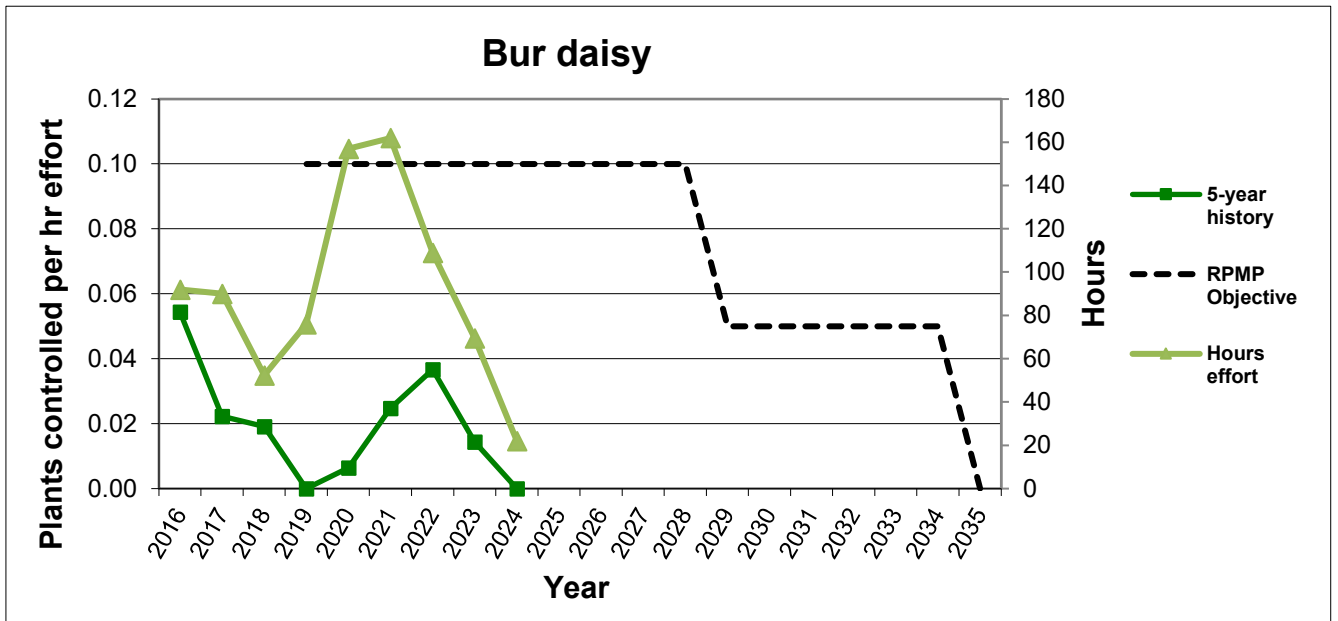
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<p><b>Objective</b></p> <p><b>Operations overview</b></p>	<p>Over the duration of the Plan, prevent the establishment of brushtail possums (<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>) on islands currently known to be possum-free in the Marlborough Sounds (see Appendix 4 and Map 4 of the RPMP) to prevent future impacts on the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.</p> <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 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>			
<p><b>Target 5.1</b></p>	<p>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.</p>			
<p><b>2023/2024</b></p>		<p>There were no reports of possums on any of the off-shore Islands listed in the RPMP this year.</p>		
<p><b>Status of brushtail possums on designated islands:</b></p> <p>Not established</p> 				

### 6). Bur daisy (*Calotis lappulacea*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective 1</b>	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.			
<b>Objective 2</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.			
<b>Target 6.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		22 hours of surveillance/control activities were undertaken at the only known Bur daisy site known to exist in Marlborough. No plants were found.		



Programme trend:  On track







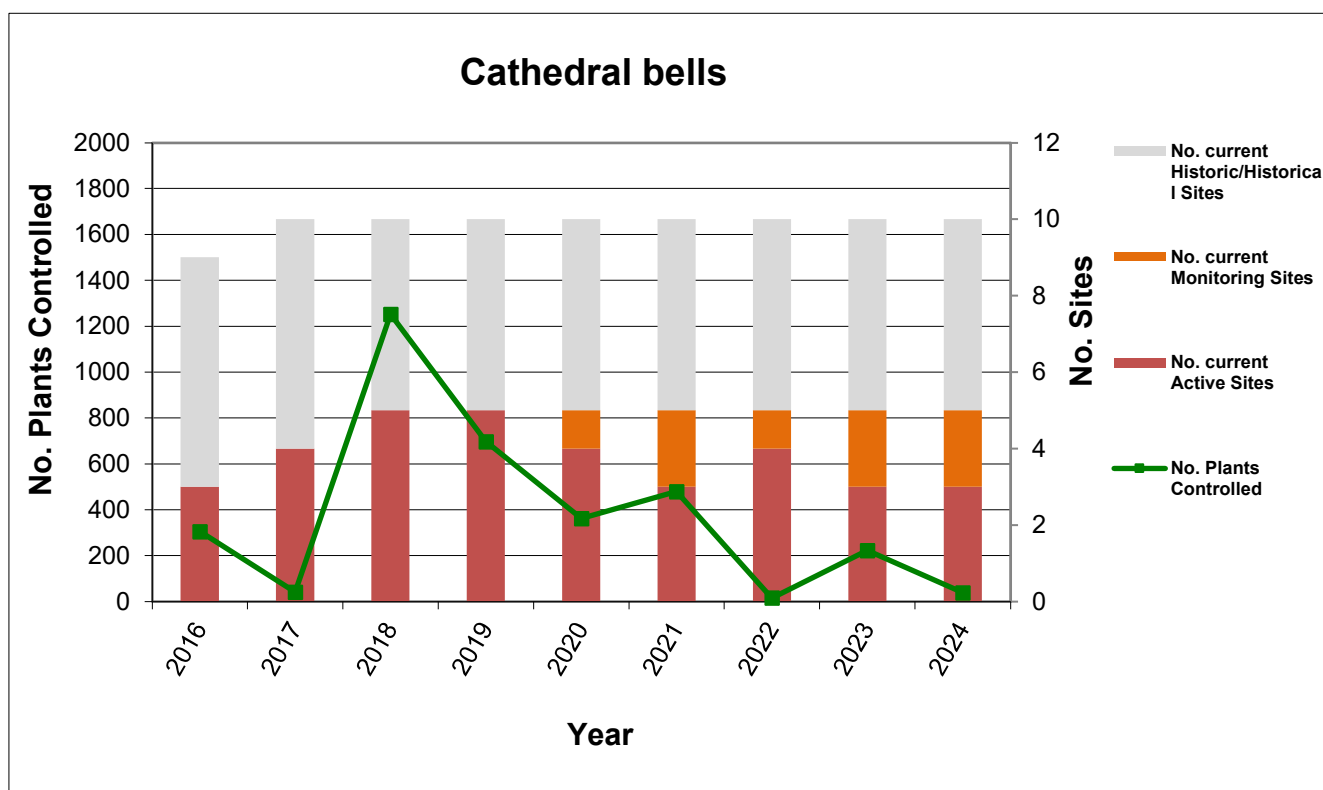
7). Cathedral bells (*Cobaea scandens*)

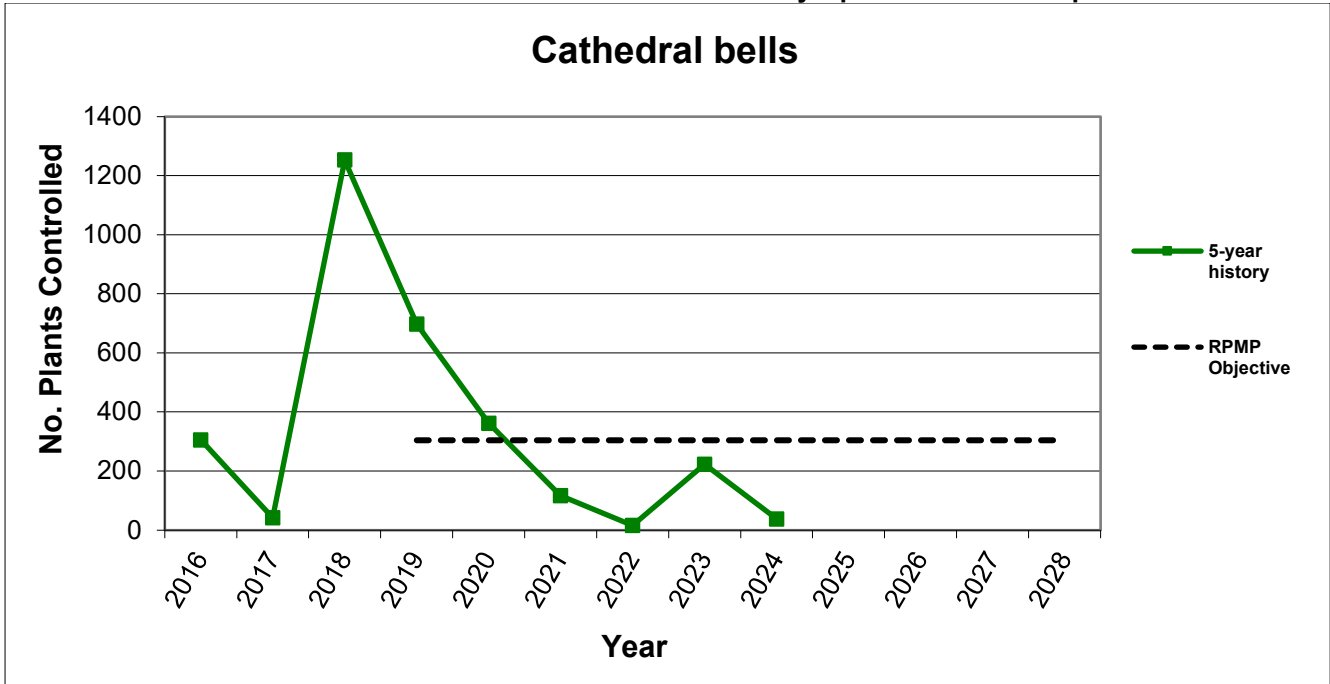
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Over the duration of the Plan, control cathedral bells ( <i>Cobaea scandens</i> ) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2016 levels to minimise adverse effects on the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	<p>A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by DOC and Council that includes the management of cathedral bells.</p> <p>DOC staff 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>			
<b>Target 7.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		Four of the five sites with the status of 'active or 'monitoring' were visited in 2023/2024. 38 plants were found and destroyed – well below the threshold of the RPMP objective of 305.		
<b>Target 7.2</b>	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		4 sites out of 5 sites (80%) with a historical status were visited for surveillance activities during 2023/2024. No plants were found.		

Programme trend:








On track




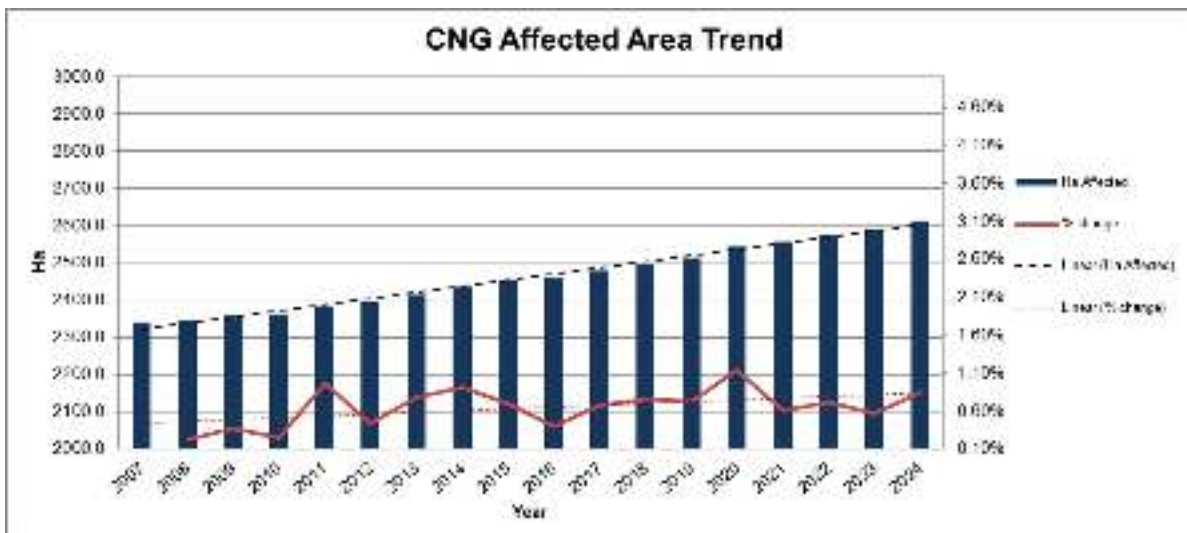
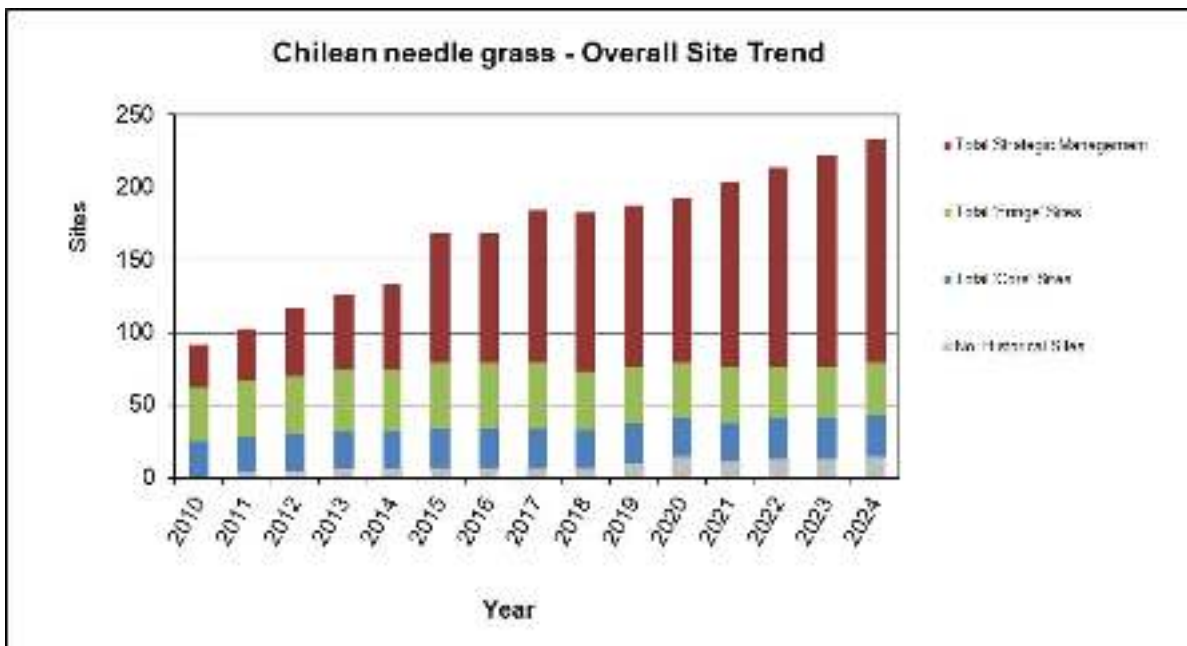


8). Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*)

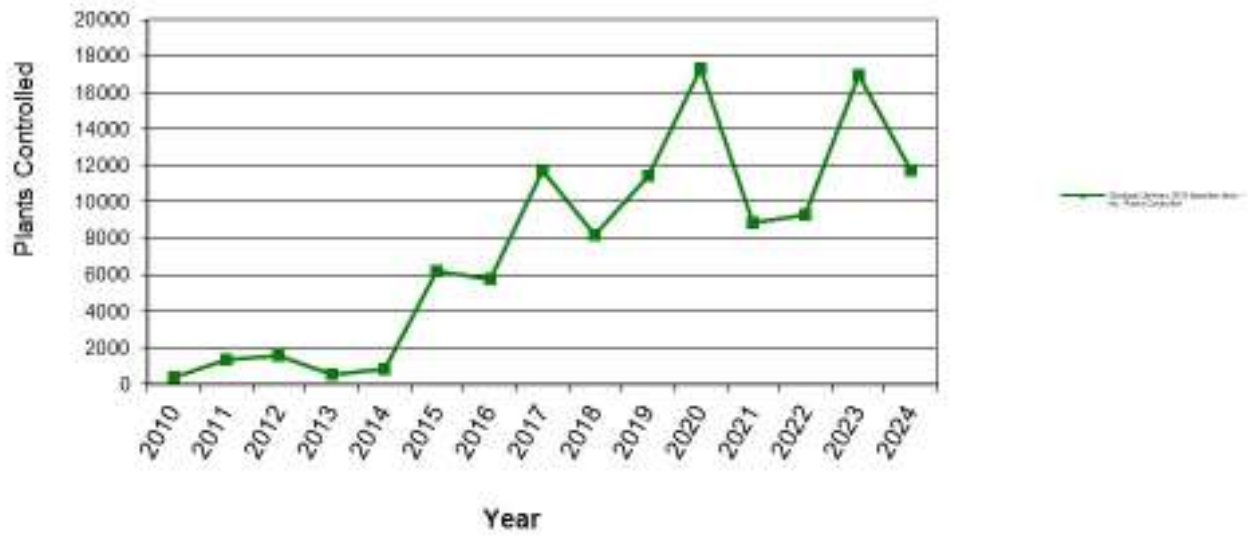
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<p><b>Objective</b></p> <p><b>Operations overview</b></p>	<p>Over the duration of the Plan, control Chilean needle grass (<i>Nassella neesiana</i>) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to baseline levels* to minimise 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> <p>There are multiple facets to the Chilean needle grass programme delivered by Council. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff and/or contractors will undertake strategic management of Chilean needle grass on the majority of high-risk sites. These are commonly the newer or smaller, scattered infestations.</li> <li>• Active facilitation to develop management plans, and undertake compliance function where necessary, on the heavier infested sites.</li> <li>• Agree upon, and then where identified, provide cost sharing on the implementation of management plans.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Continue to deliver ongoing communication, education and awareness initiatives.</li> </ul> <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>			
<p><b>Target 8.1</b></p>	<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>			
<p><b>2023/2024</b></p>		<p>Active facilitation and/or inspection occurred for 100% of sites.</p>		
<p><b>Target 8.2</b></p>	<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>			
<p><b>2023/2024</b></p>		<p>Control work visits by staff and/or contractors occurred on 100% of these sites.</p>		
<p><b>Target 8.3</b></p>	<p>Each year, any report of potential Chilean needle grass received by Council is investigated within 2 working days.</p>			
<p><b>2023/2024</b></p>		<p>Council received several reports of suspected Chilean needle grass in 2023/2024. All reports had an investigation started within two working days of receiving the report.</p>		
<p><b>Target 8.4</b></p>	<p>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.</p>			

<b>2023/2024</b>		A calculated total of 2422 hours of staff and contractor time was spent on surveillance activities outside of previously known infested areas.
<b>Target 8.5</b> 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.		
<b>2023/2024</b>		A total of 57 sites without known populations of CNG were and checked throughout the flowering season.

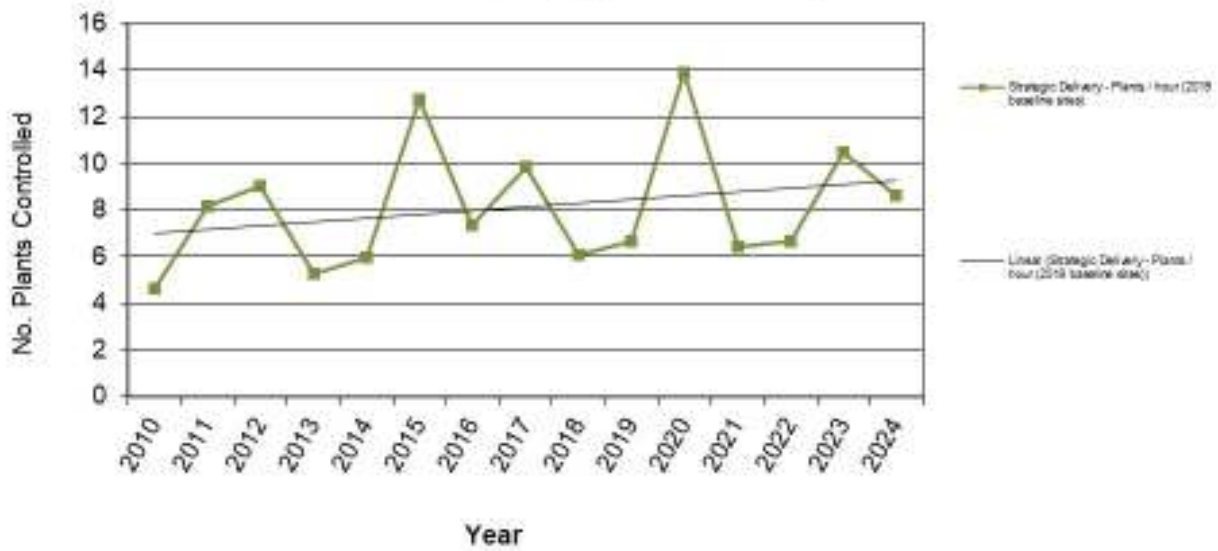
Programme trend:  On track



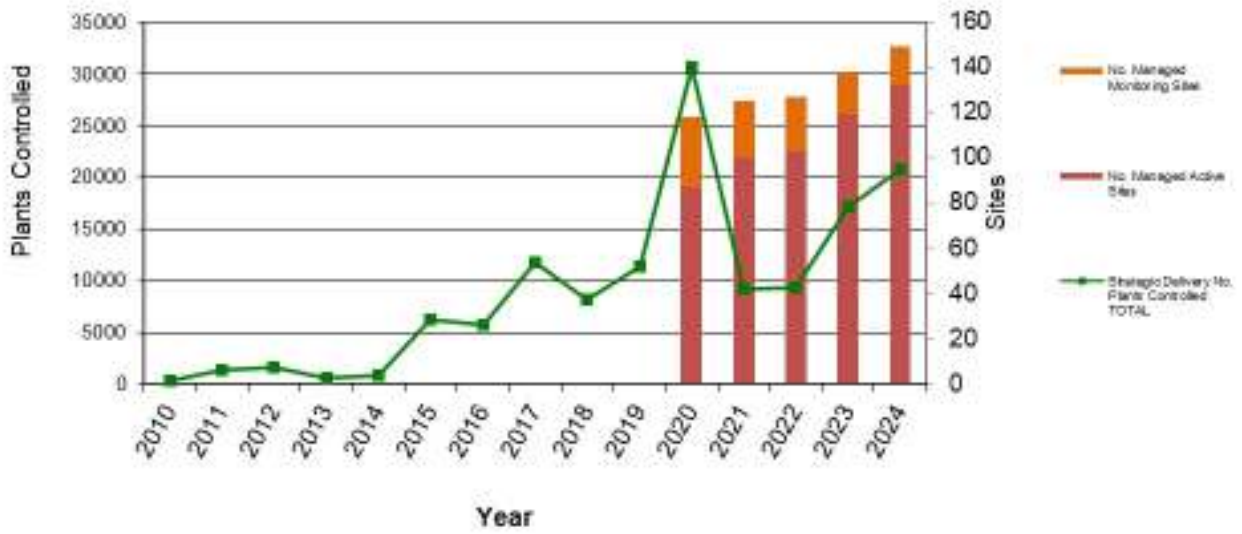
**CNG Baseline Sites (2019) - plants controlled**



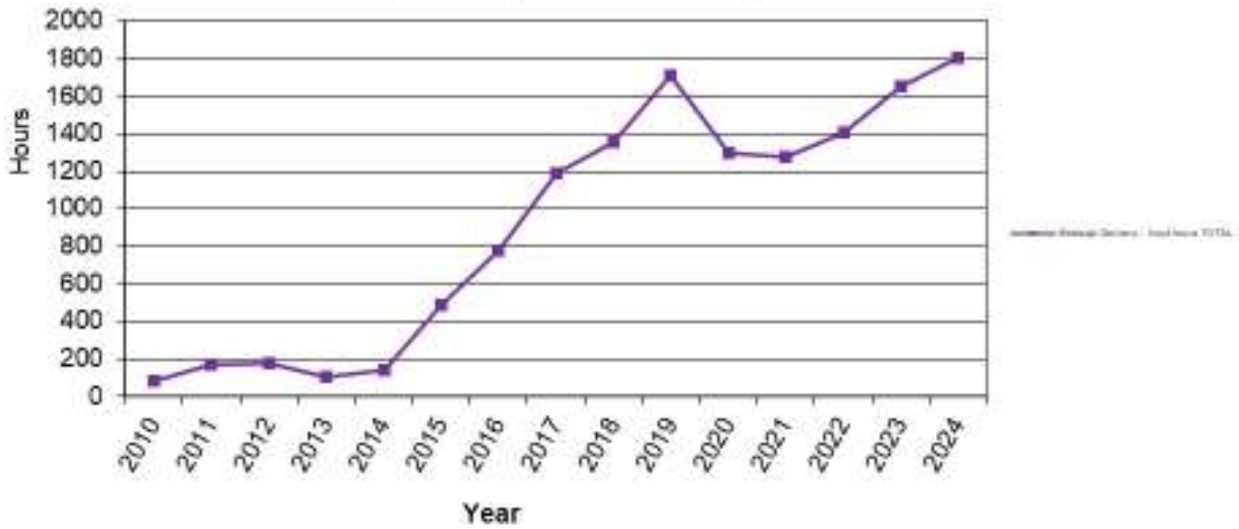
**CNG Baseline Sites (2019) - plants/hour input**



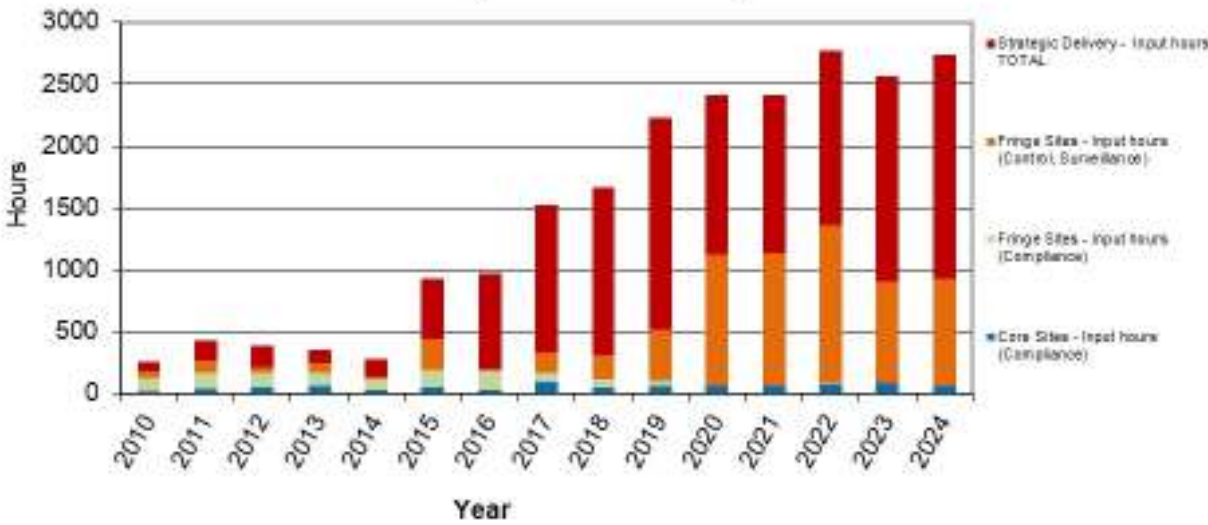
**CNG All Strategic Management Sites - plants controlled**





**CNG Strategic Management Sites - input hours**



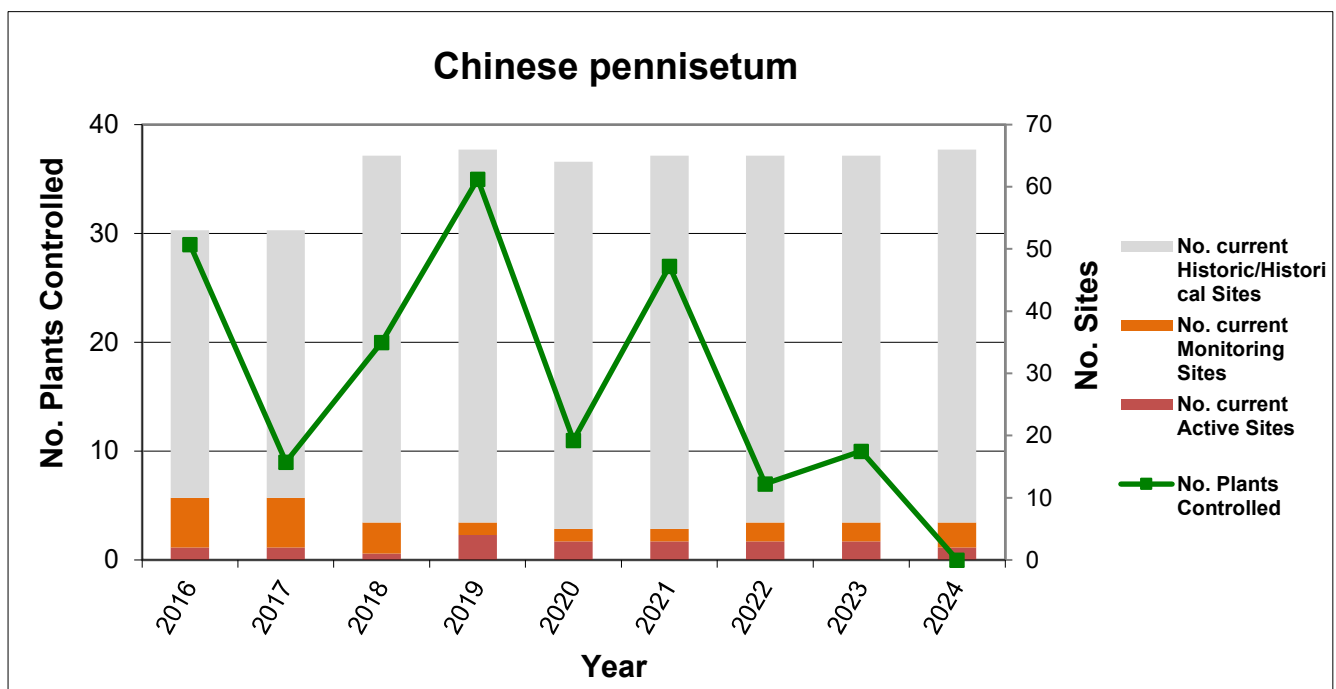
**CNG Programme - Total input hours**



## 9). Chinese pennisetum (*Pennistum alpecuroides*)

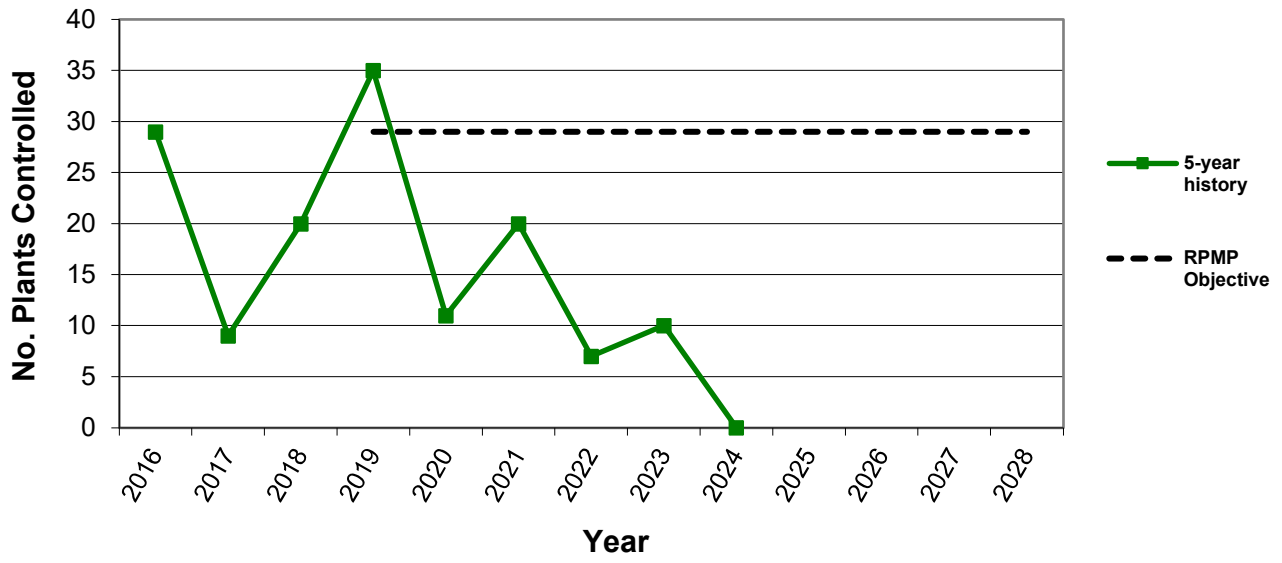
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Over the duration of the Plan, control Chinese pennisetum ( <i>Pennisetum alpecuroides</i> ) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2016 levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.			
<b>Target 9.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		All 'active' and 'monitoring' sites were visited for 2023/2024. No plants were found this season. Overall, the annual plant numbers are trending to the RPMP objective, to keep plant numbers at or below 2016 levels.		
<b>Target 9.2</b>	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		20 out of 60 historical sites were visited and no plants were found.		

Programme trend:  On track







### Chinese pennisetum



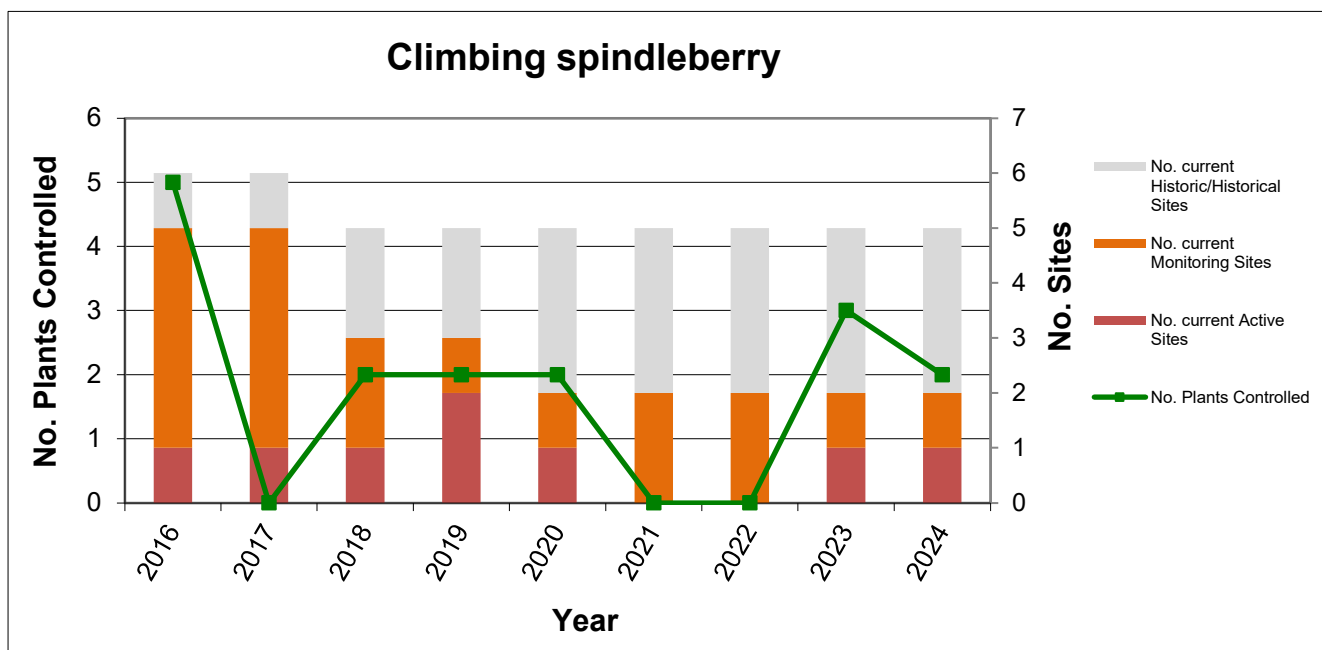
## 10). Climbing spindleberry (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	<p>A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by DOC and Council that includes the management of climbing spindleberry.</p> <p>DOC staff 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>			
<b>Target 10.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		All 'active' and 'monitoring' sites were visited for 2023/2024. A total of 2 plants were found at 2 sites, down from 3 plants found last year. This is above the RPMP objective to keep the number of plants being found each year at zero.		
<b>Target 10.2</b>	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		2 of the 3 historical sites were visited, with no plants found.		

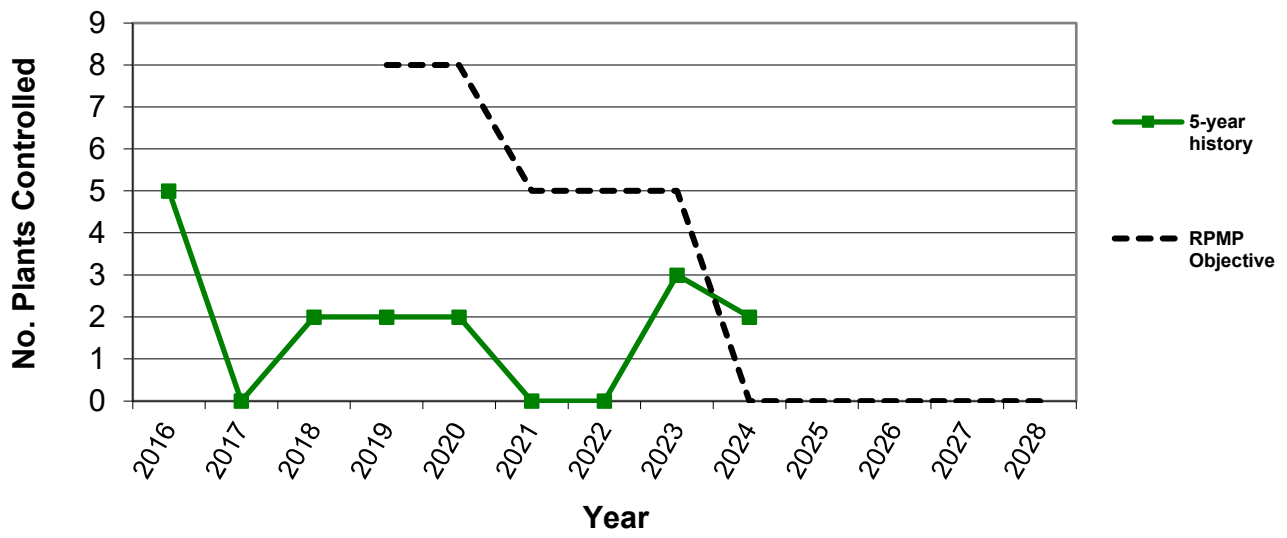
Programme trend:





Not meeting objective



### Climbing spindleberry



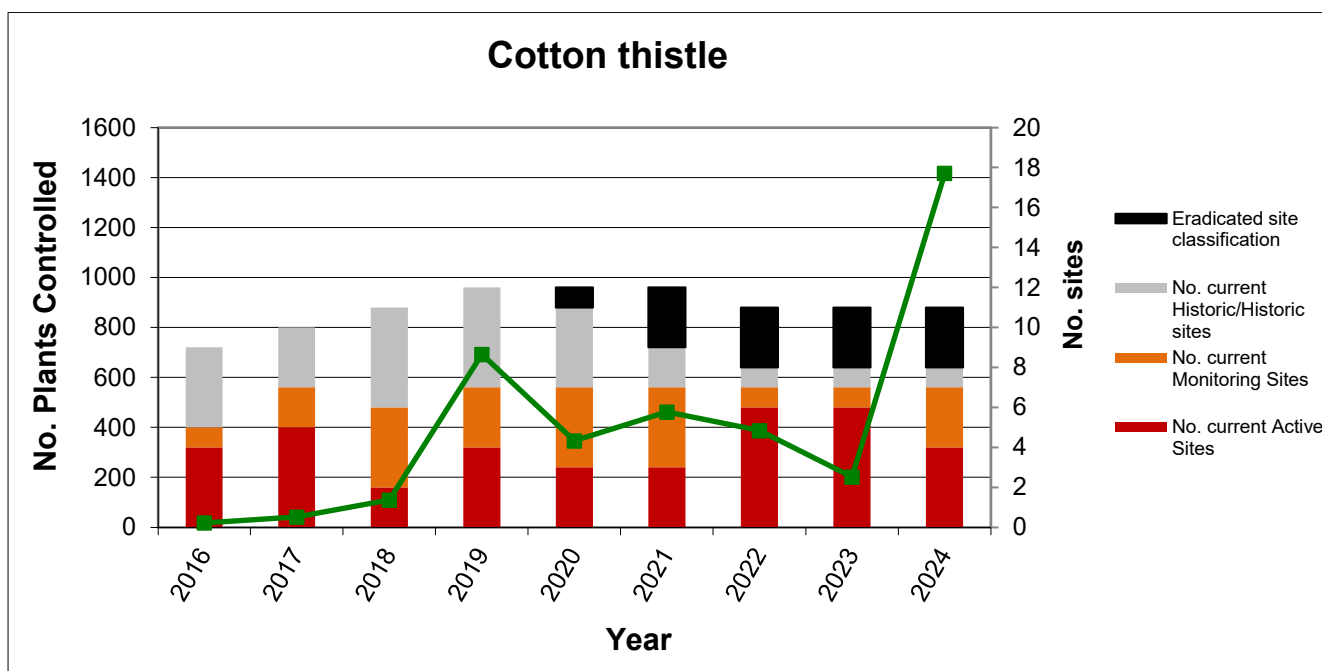
## 11). Cotton thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.			
<b>Target 11.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		All sites with a status of 'active' or 'monitoring' were visited in 2023/2024. A total of 1417 plants were destroyed this season which is above the RPMP threshold of 692.		
<b>Target 11.2</b>	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		The one historical site was visited for a surveillance inspection.		

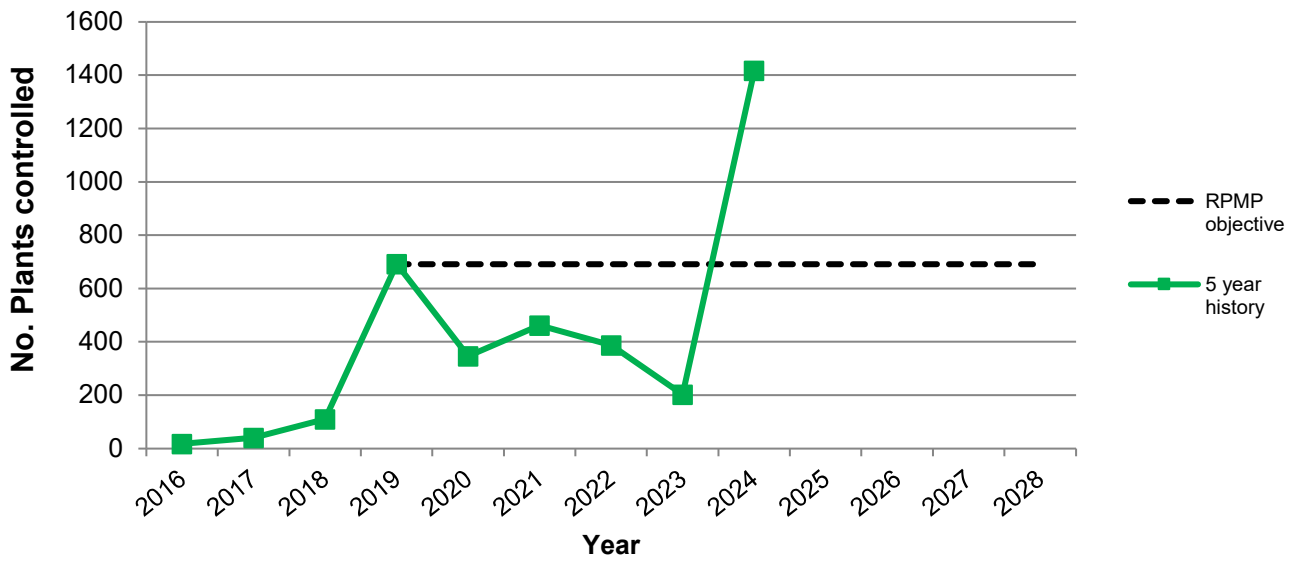
Programme trend:




Not meeting objective




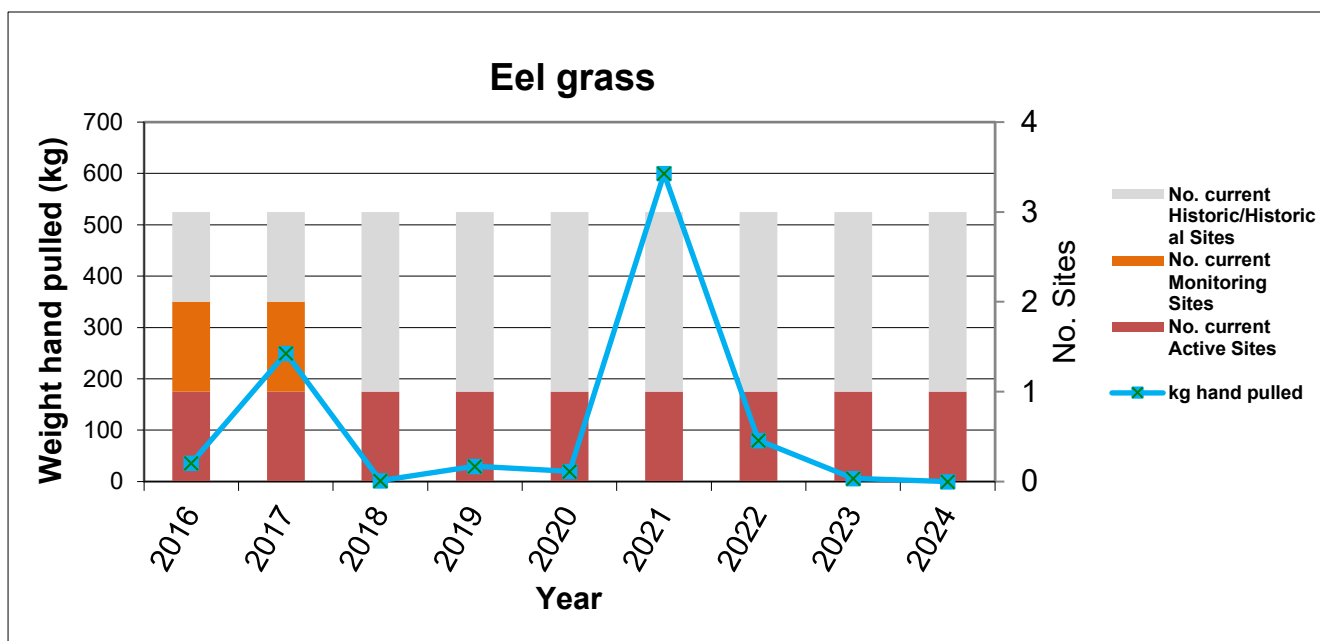
# Cotton thistle

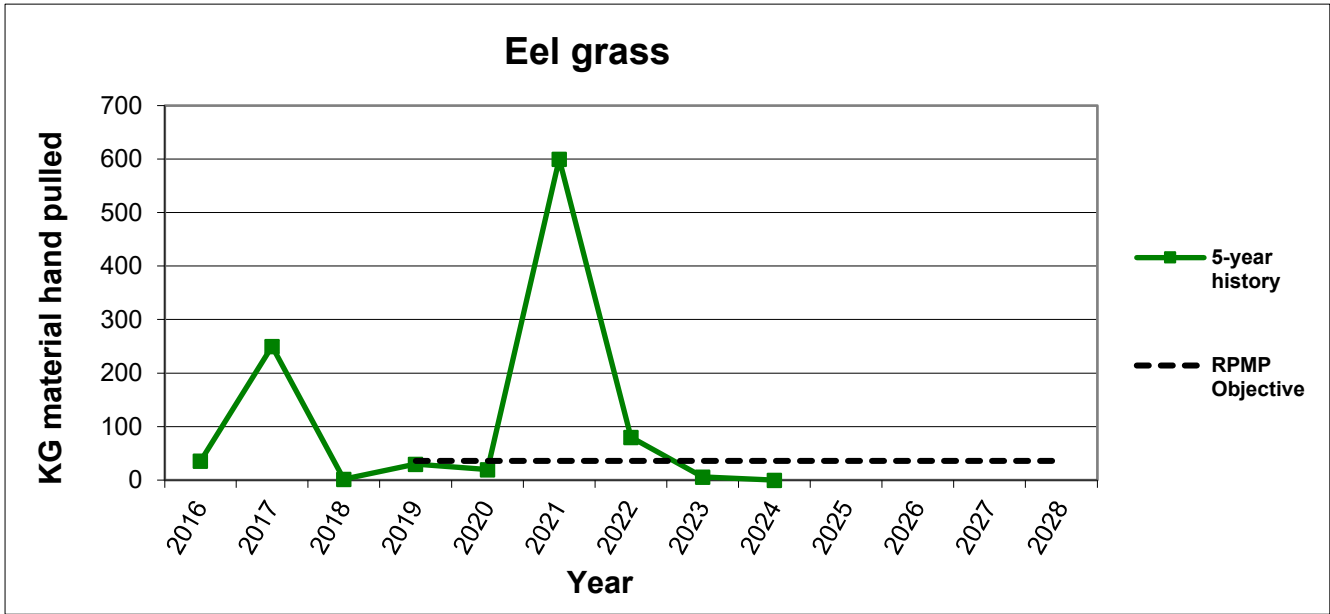


## 12). Eel grass (*Vallisneria australis*)



Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.			
<b>Target 12.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		<p>The one active site was visited in 2023/2024. No eel grass was found.</p> <p>The Opaoa Loop, which is a historical site, was also searched with no eel grass being found.</p>		


Programme trend:  On track

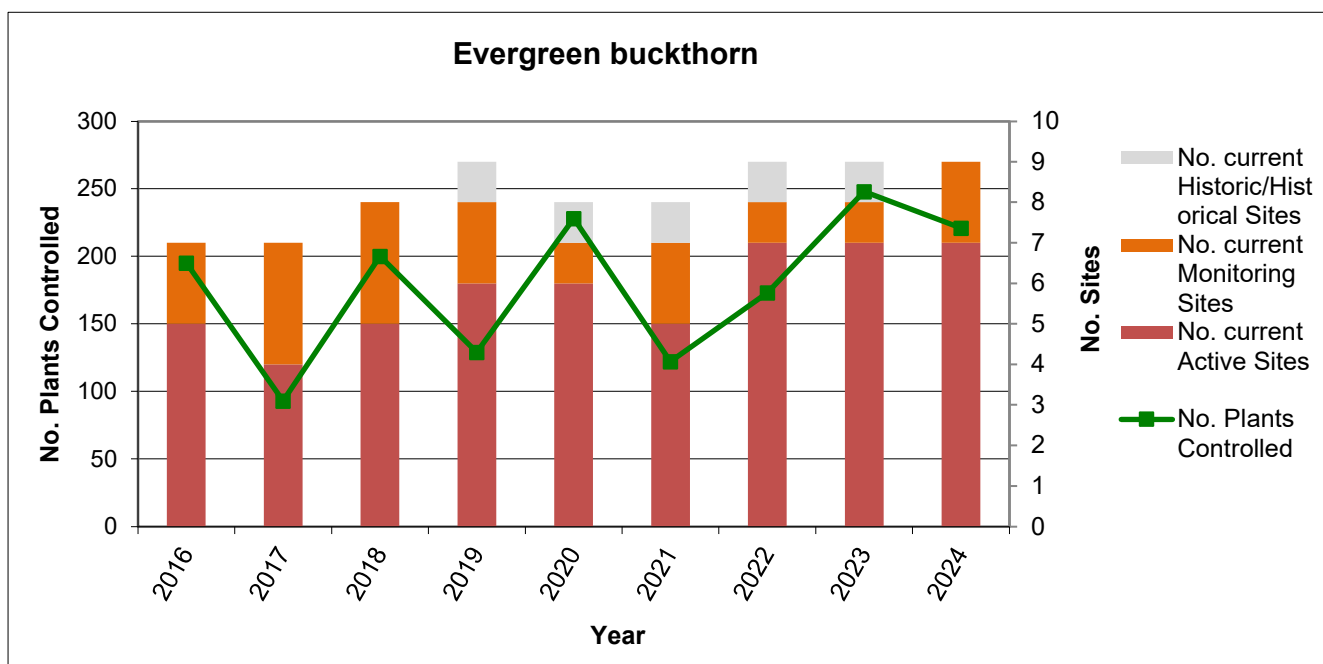




### 13). Evergreen buckthorn (*Rhamnus alaternus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	<p>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>			
<b>Target 13.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		All active and monitoring evergreen buckthorn sites were visited in 2023/2024. A total of 221 plants were destroyed which is slightly below the RPMP objective of keeping numbers to 2019 levels of 223.		
<b>Target 13.2</b>	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		There are currently no historical evergreen buckthorn sites.		

Programme trend:  On track





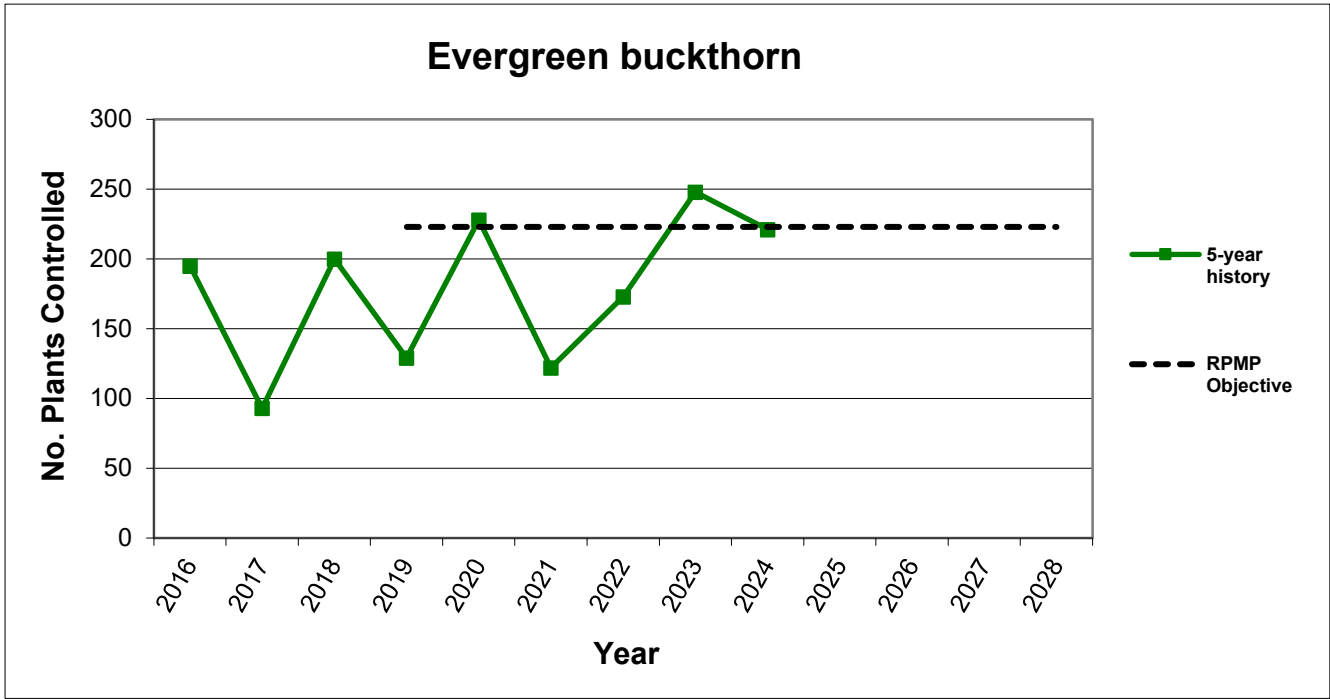




Figure 2: Evergreen buckthorn found at Manaroa Forest

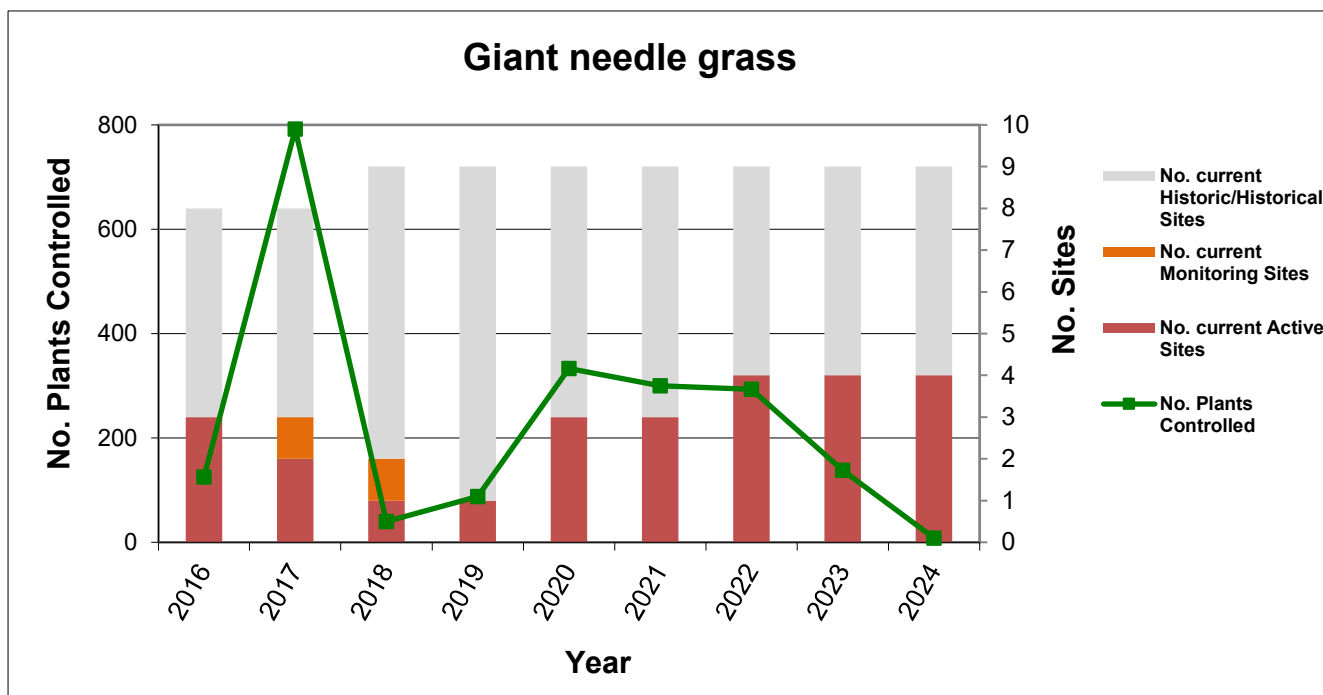
## 14). Giant needle grass (*Austrostipa rudis*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.			
<b>Target 14.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		100% of all high priority sites were visited for control work. The number of plants found remained below the RPMP objective.		
<b>Target 14.2</b>	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		2 out of 5 (40%) historical sites were visited for surveillance activities. No plants were found.		

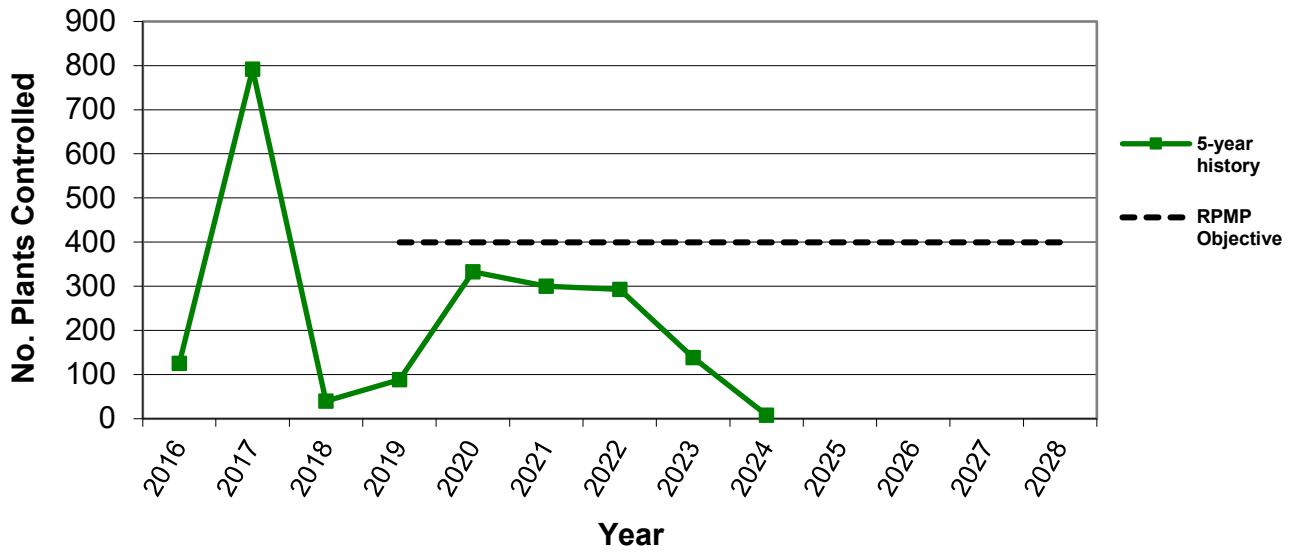
Programme trend:






On track






### Giant needle grass



## 15). Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective 1</b>	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.			
<b>Objective 2</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	<p>Council staff 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 also assists to form accurate datasets of infestations that can provide occupiers target control efforts.</p> <p>Council also follows-up and investigate situations that come to their attention where gorse is against a boundary and potentially threatening adjoining land.</p>			
<b>Target 15.1</b>	No more than 1 instance of non-compliance needing enforcement action is identified within the three Control Zones.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		No instances requiring enforcement action were identified this season.		
<b>Target 15.2</b>	Each year, undertake inspection and/or surveillance activities in all three zones.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		<p><u>Waima/Ure</u> Surveillance was undertaken in the Ure area, with a focus on areas disturbed by logging. Very few plants were found.</p> <p><u>Upper Wairau</u> Inspections of land within this zone were carried out. There are two areas that have been identified as requiring follow up. Council is working with these land occupiers to put a plan in place for the 2023/2024 year.</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 is done in conjunction with property inspections assessing rabbit population abundance.</p>		
<b>Target 15.3</b>	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.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		Multiple reports were received from the Kaiuma Bay subdivision area, follow up with adjoining owners has been challenging with absentee owners often being uncontactable.		

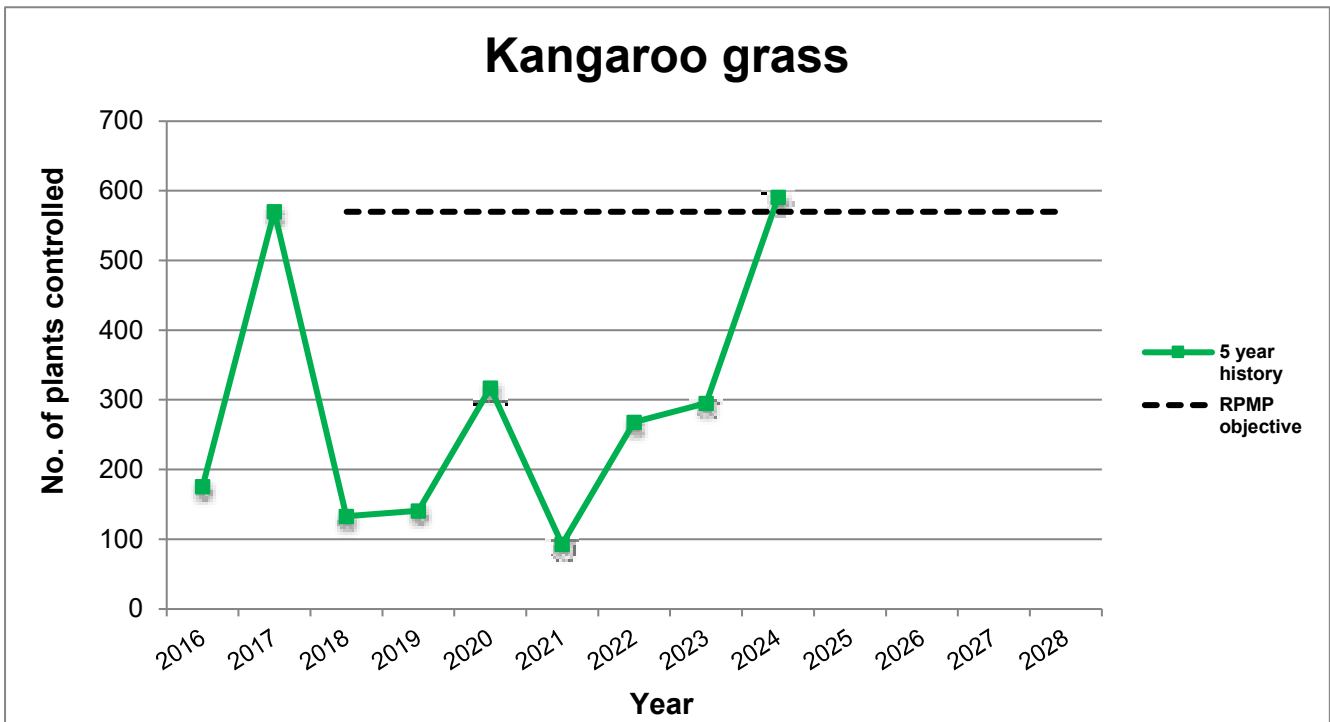
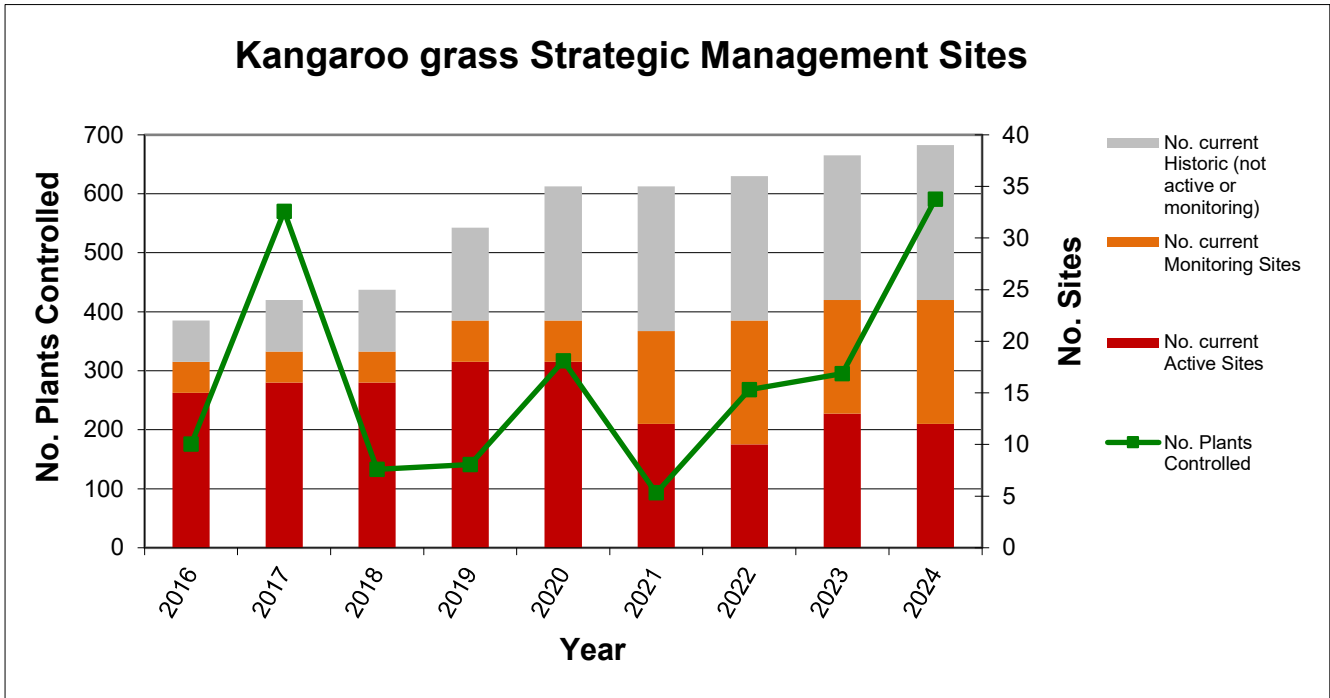
## 16). Kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	<p>*A baseline assessment will be made either prior to or immediately after the Plan commences.</p> <p>There are multiple facets to the kangaroo grass programme delivered by Council. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff and/or contractors undertake strategic management of kangaroo grass on the majority of sites. These are commonly the newer or smaller, scattered infestations.</li> <li>• Active facilitation to develop management plans, and undertake compliance function where necessary, on the more heavy infested sites.</li> <li>• Continue to deliver ongoing communication, education and awareness initiatives.</li> </ul> <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>			
<b>Target 16.1</b>	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.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		10 of the 11 properties subject to an active compliance programme were inspected. One property was reprioritised due to fire risk.		
<b>Target 16.2</b>	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.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		100% percent of sites subject to a programme where Council undertakes strategic management were visited and control undertaken if required.		
<b>Target 16.3</b>	Each year, a minimum of 20 hours of surveillance is carried out on land not previously known to have an infestation of kangaroo grass.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		A calculated total of 56 hours of staff and contractor time was spent on surveillance activities outside of previously known infested areas.		



Programme trend:



Not meeting objective



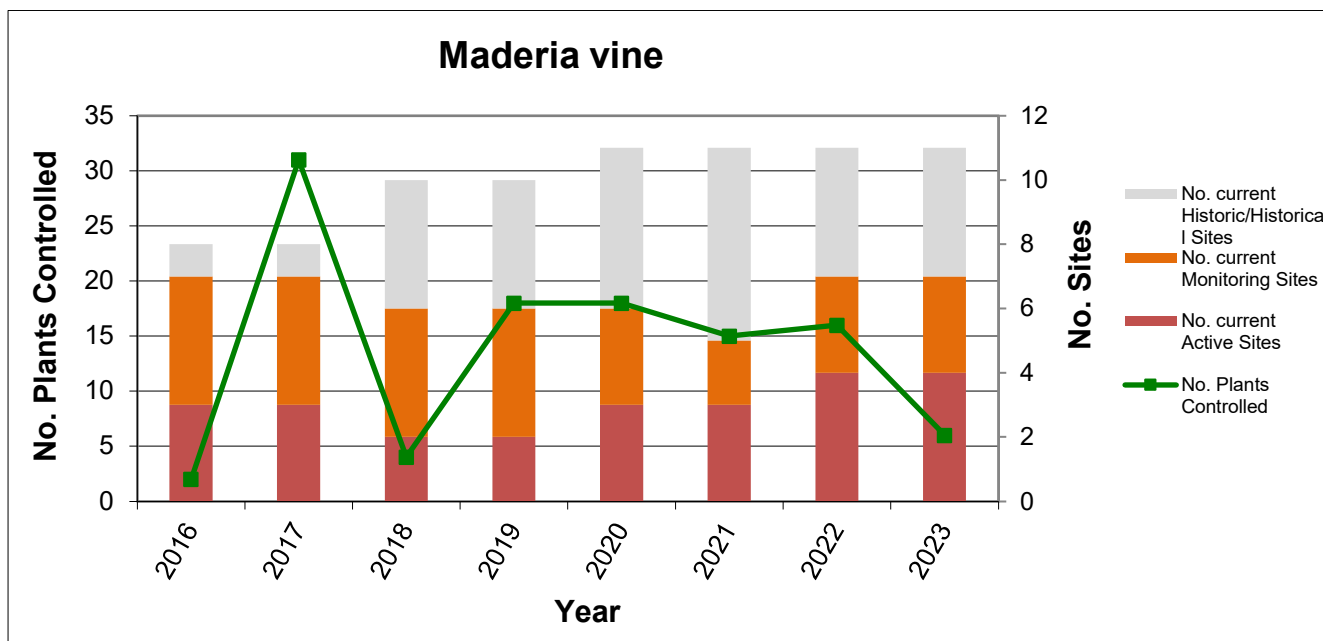
## 17). Madeira vine (*Andredera cordifolia*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<p><b>Objective</b> Over the duration of the Plan, control madeira vine (<i>Andredera 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><b>Operations overview</b> A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by DOC and Council that includes the management of madeira vine. Operational activities are pre-planned each year and are delivered by either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council staff and/or contractors (Blenheim, Seddon, Ward sites), or;</li> <li>DOC staff (Marlborough Sounds sites).</li> </ol> <p>DOC staff 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><b>Target 17.1</b> Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.</p>				
<p><b>2023/2024</b></p>		 Council and DOC staff visited all 'active' and 'monitoring' sites for control in 2023/2024. This resulted in the destruction of 3 plants.		
<p><b>Target 17.2</b> Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.</p>				
<p><b>2023/2024</b></p>		 All historical sites were visited, with no plants being found.		

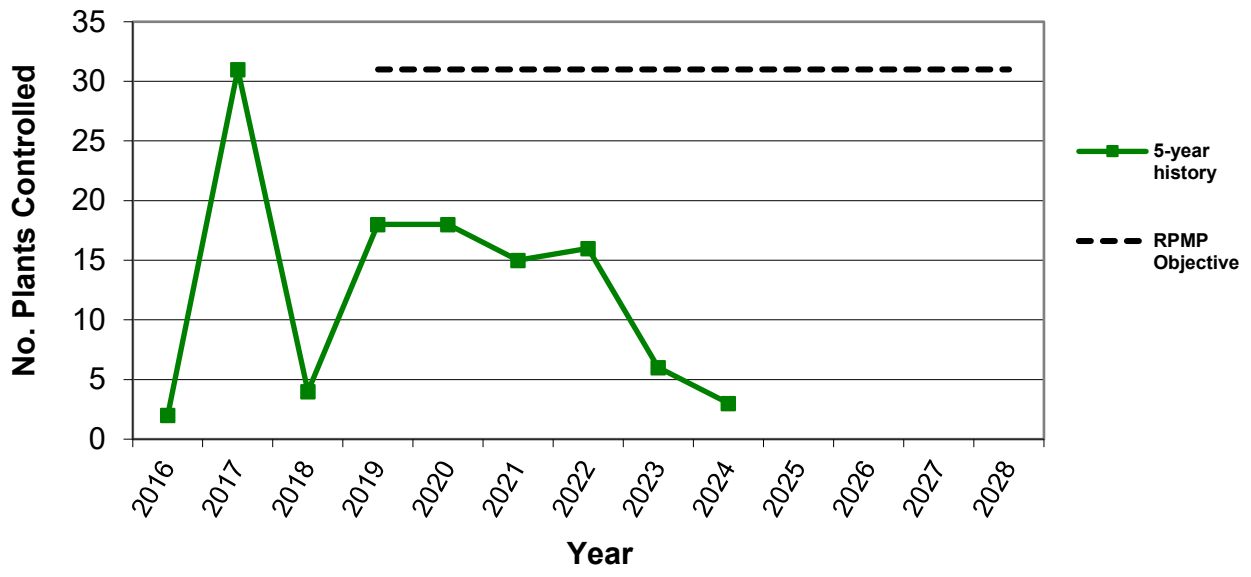
Programme trend:



On track







### Madeira vine







## 18). Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*)

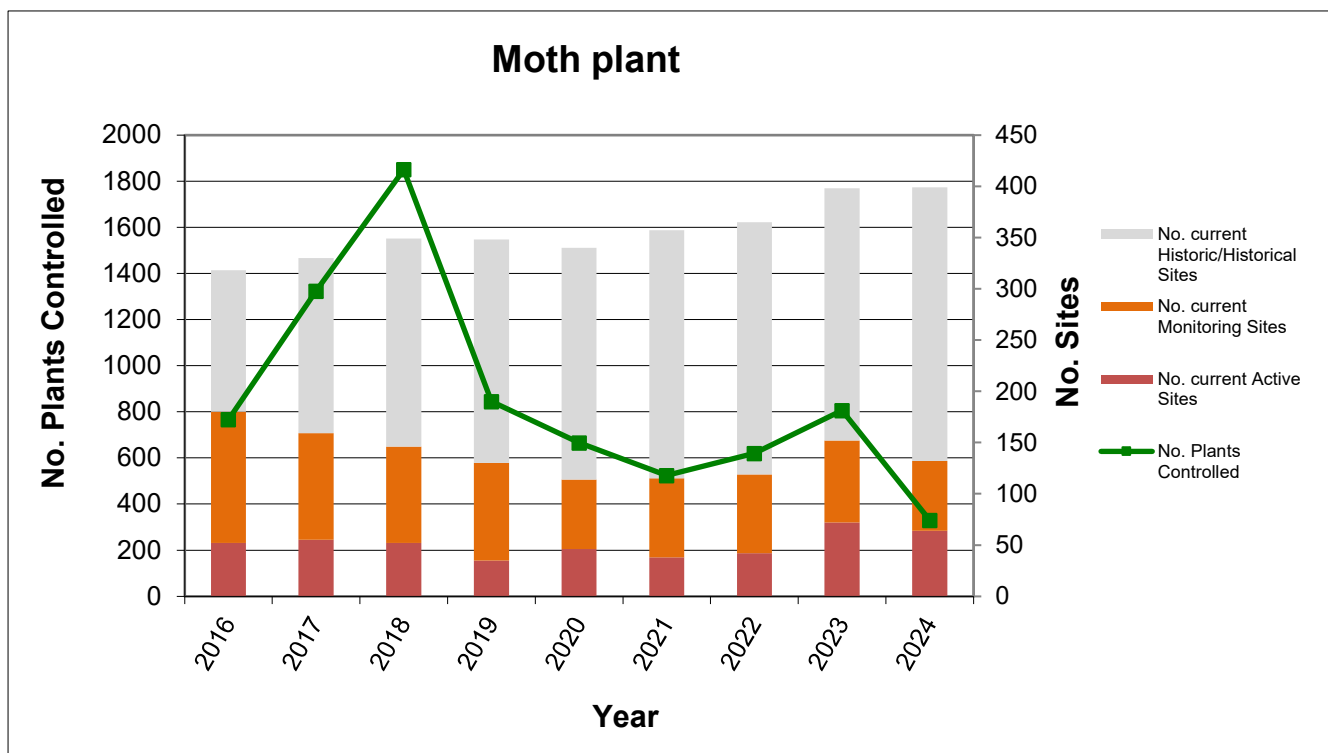
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Over the duration of the Plan, prevent the establishment of Mediterranean fanworm ( <i>Sabella spallanzanii</i> ) in Marlborough to eliminate adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	<p>There are multiple facets to the Mediterranean fanworm programme delivered by Council. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialist dive contractors undertake surveillance and removal of Mediterranean fanworm within areas where it has been detected previously. Currently that is only Picton Marina.</li> <li>Specialist dive contractors 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).</li> <li>Responding to reports of suspected Mediterranean fanworm and/or fouled vessels that have recently arrived and undertaking compliance action if necessary.</li> <li>Deliver ongoing communication, education and awareness initiatives as is appropriate in conjunction with the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership</li> </ul> <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>			
<b>Target 18.1</b>	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).			
<b>2023/2024</b>		Contracted divers undertook surveillance and removal operations in Picton and Waikawa Marina over Dec 2023 and in March/April/May 2024. A total of 6 fanworm were found during surveillance in Waikawa marina.  Two surveillance checks were undertaken in Port Underwood and Grove arm with no fanworm found.		
<b>Target 18.2</b>	Each year, a minimum of two dive surveillance operations are undertaken in Waikawa Bay and Shakespeare Bay.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		Only one dive surveillance operation was undertaken in Waikawa bay due to contractor availability. Two dive surveillance operations were undertaken in Shakespeare Bay with no fanworm found during these operations.		
<b>Target 18.3</b>	Each year, a minimum of one dive surveillance operation is undertaken in Picton Port, Okiwi Bay, Elaine Bay, Duncan Bay, Endeavour Inlet, Ship Cove, Oyster Bay (Port Underwood) and Havelock Marina.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		Dive surveillance was undertaken across all sites with no fanworm discovered.		

<b>Target 18.4</b>	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.	
<b>2023/2024</b>		One vessel was notified to Council via Marlborough Sounds Marinas that may have been a risk to the programme. The vessel was able to be assessed and snorkelled by the Biosecurity team with no fanworm found. All reports of fanworm had an investigation started within 24hrs.
<p><b>Status of Mediterranean fanworm in Marlborough:</b> Not established  Detected in Picton Marina, Waikawa Marina, Grove Arm and Port Underwood (East Arm) – there is no evidence of establishment in areas where responses have been closed.  One response in Waikawa marina is currently underway with further work planned for the 24/25 season.</p>		

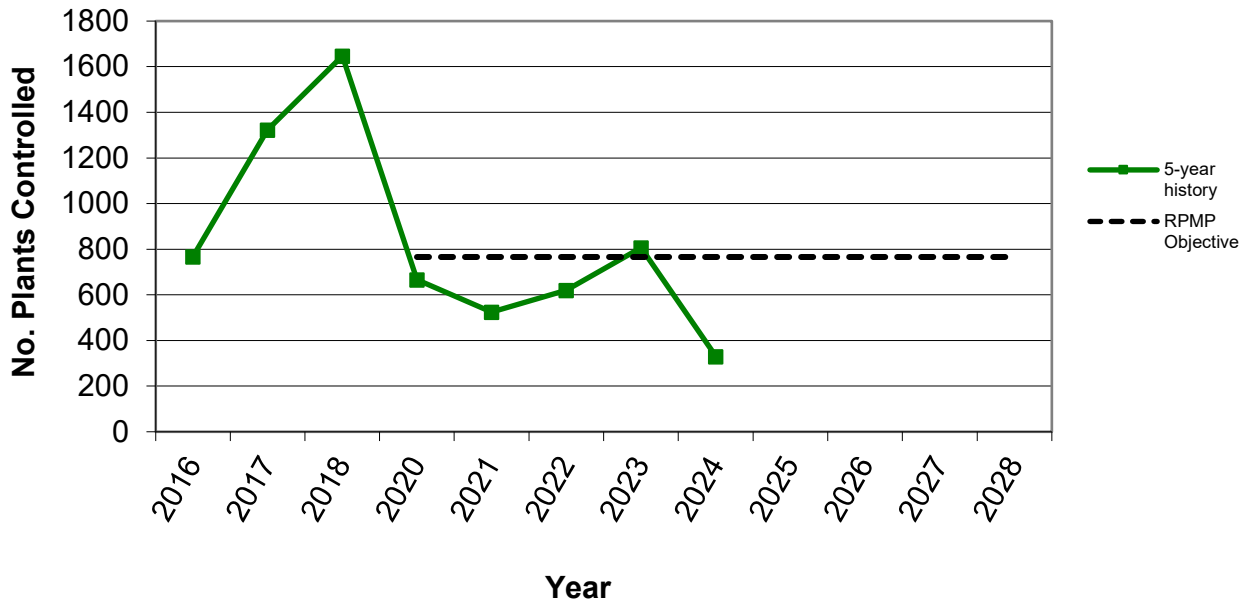
## 19). Moth plant (*Araujia hortorum*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.			
<b>Target 19.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		All 'active' and 'monitoring' sites (131 in total) were visited in 2023/2024. Overall, the annual plant numbers destroyed was well below the RPMP objective, to keep plant numbers at or below 2016 levels.		
<b>Target 19.2</b>	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		91 of the 268 historical sites (34%) were inspected in 2023/2024.		




Programme trend:  On target





### Moth plant

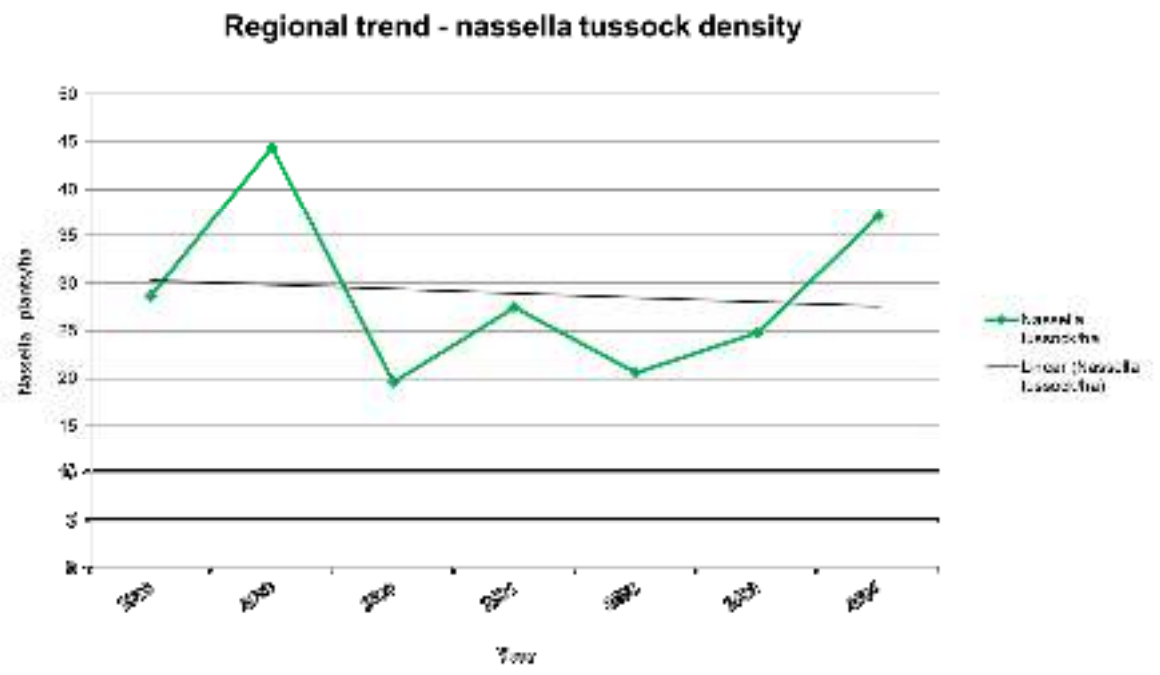


## 20). Nassella tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*)



Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	<p>There are multiple facets to the nassella tussock programme delivered by Council. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff and/or contractors 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Continue to deliver ongoing communication, education and awareness initiatives.</li> </ul> <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>			
<b>Target 20.1</b>	Each year by 30 April, provide to occupiers that are subject to obligations and subsequent inspection, communication detailing their obligation for the coming season.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		For the 2023 active compliance programme 381 land occupiers were sent letters reminding them of their obligation to destroy nassella tussock.		
<b>Target 20.2</b>	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.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		335 sites (88% 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.		
<b>Target 20.3</b>	Each year, undertake surveillance, and carry out required management work, on 33% of sites that are not part of the active compliance programme.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		Surveillance activities were carried out at 78 out of 209 sites (38%) not subject to the active compliance programme.		
<b>Target 20.4</b>	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><b>2023/2024</b></p>		<p>A total of 677 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 spatial 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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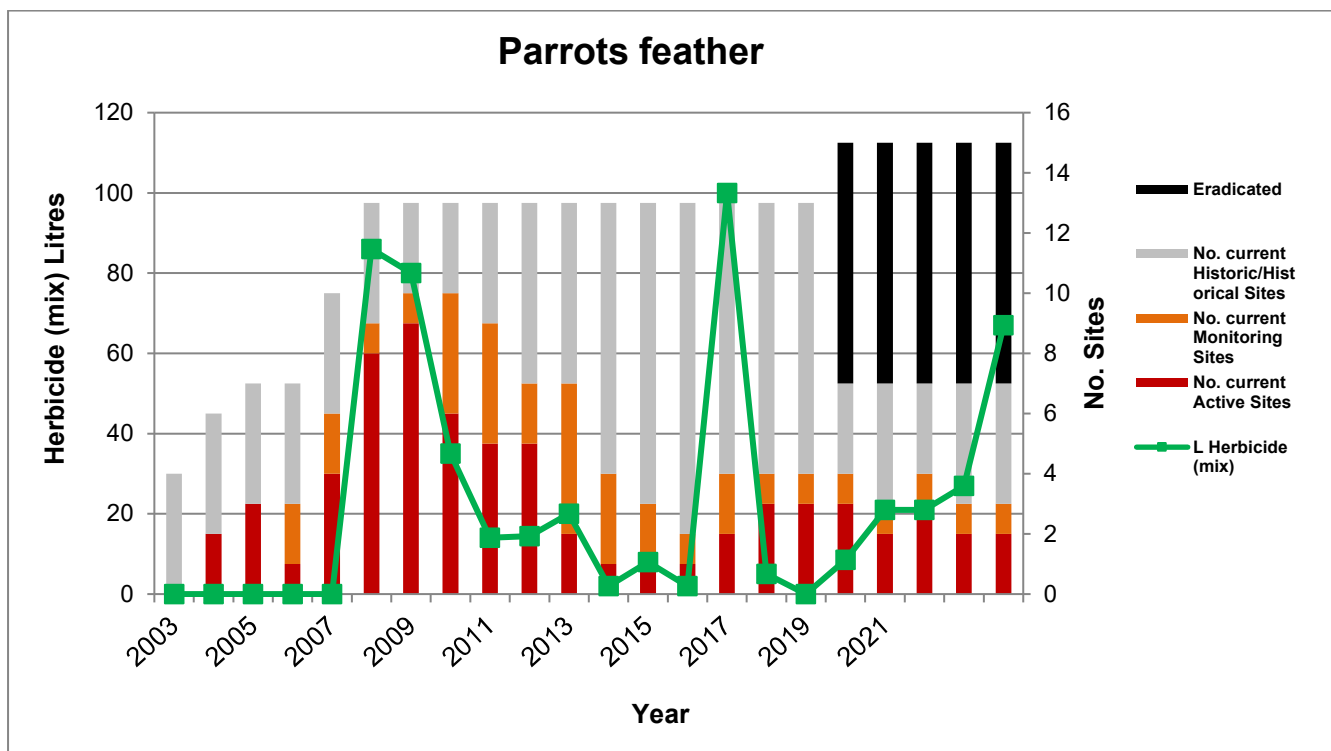
Programme trend:  On track



## 21). Parrots feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.			
<b>Target 21.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		100% of all 'active' and 'monitoring' sites were visited by biosecurity staff. Patches of parrots feather were found in Ruakankana Creek and the Ōpaoa Loop, and 67 litres of herbicide was used to control these plants.		
<b>Target 21.2</b>	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		Three of the four historical sites were visited for surveillance activities. Parrots feather was found at one of the sites on the Ōpaoa River which has been changed to 'active'.		

Programme trend:  Not meeting objective



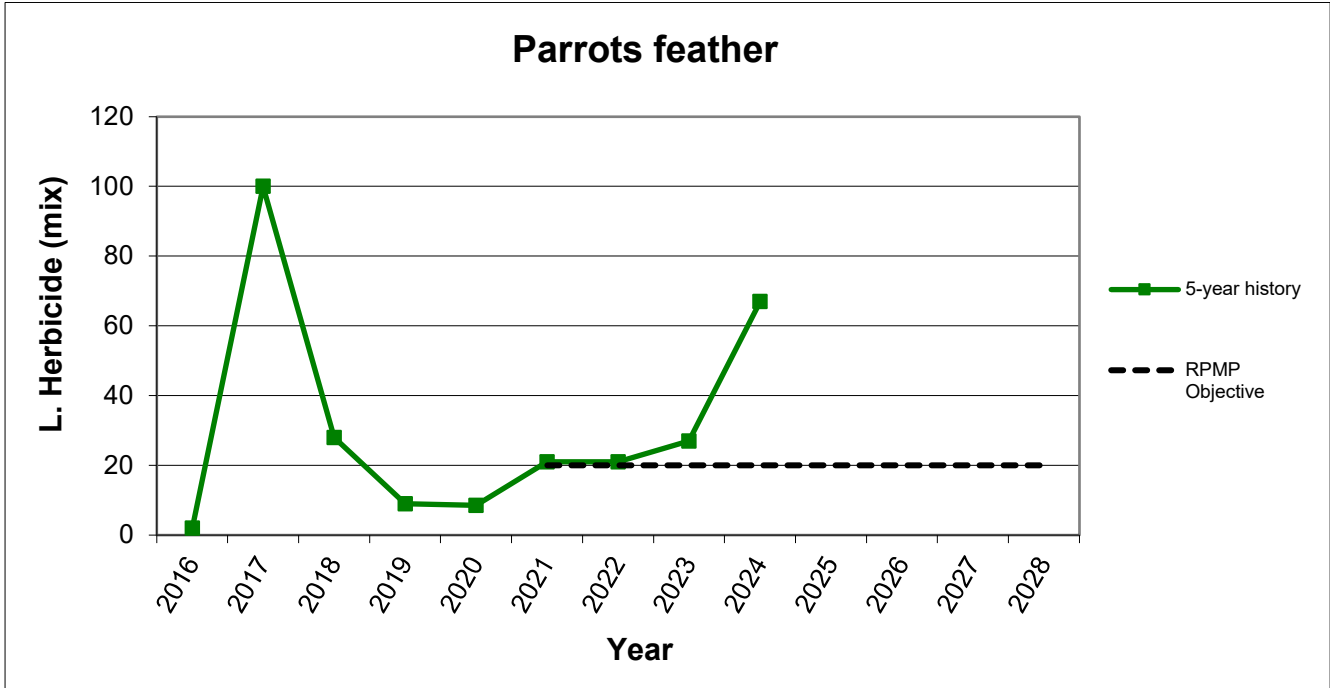





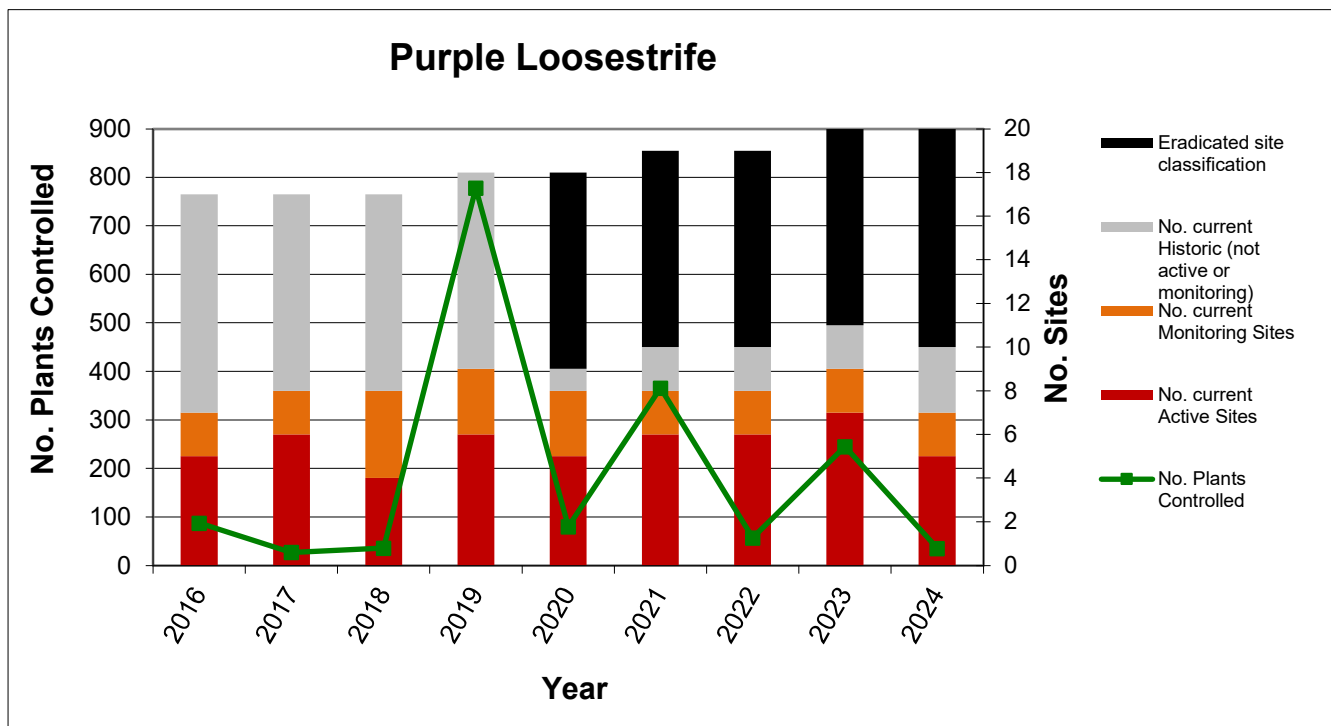
Figure 3: New patch of parrots feather found on the Ōpaoa River



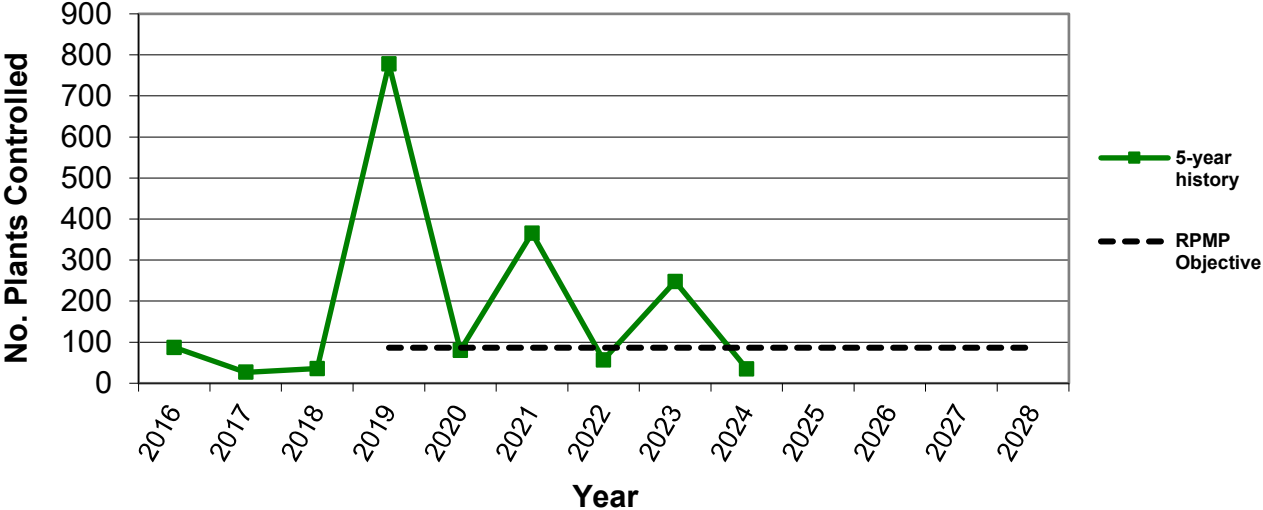
## 22). Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.			
<b>Target 22.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		100% of 'active' and 'monitoring' sites were inspected and control undertaken. 35 plants were destroyed in 2023/2024 which is below the RPMP objective of keeping numbers to 2016 levels.		
<b>Target 22.2</b>	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		Two of the three historical sites were visited in 2022/2023, with no plants being found.		



Programme trend:  On target



### Purple loosestrife



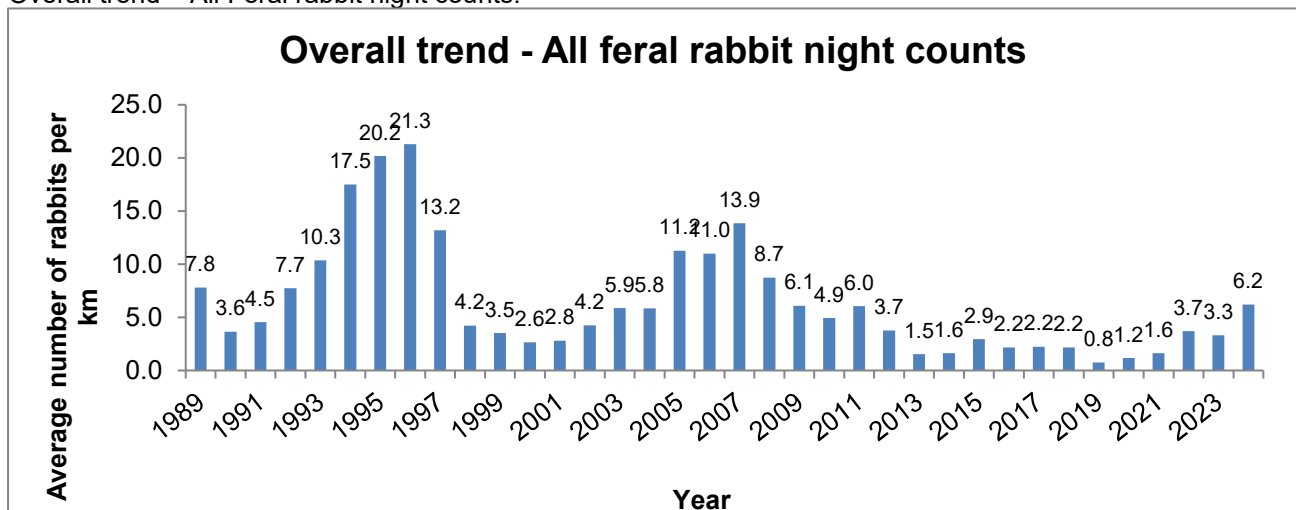
## 23). Rabbits - feral (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	<p>There are multiple facets to the rabbit programme delivered by Council. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Supporting research initiatives that seek to continue to maintain the efficacy of biological control agents such as the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV).</li> <li>• Continue to deliver ongoing communication, education and awareness initiatives.</li> </ul>			
<b>Target 23.1</b>	Each year, a schedule of sites is generated by 31 January outlining the coming season's inspections.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		An inspection schedule was developed by 31 January 2024 targeting properties in rabbit prone areas.		
<b>Target 23.2</b>	Each year, 100% of sites identified on the inspection schedule are inspected to assess rabbit population levels.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		All sites targeted for inspection were visited during Autumn 2024.		



Programme trend:  On track

Rabbit numbers across the region remain relatively low overall. There has, however, been one area in the Upper Awatere that continues to increase over time.

Overall trend – All Feral rabbit night counts.



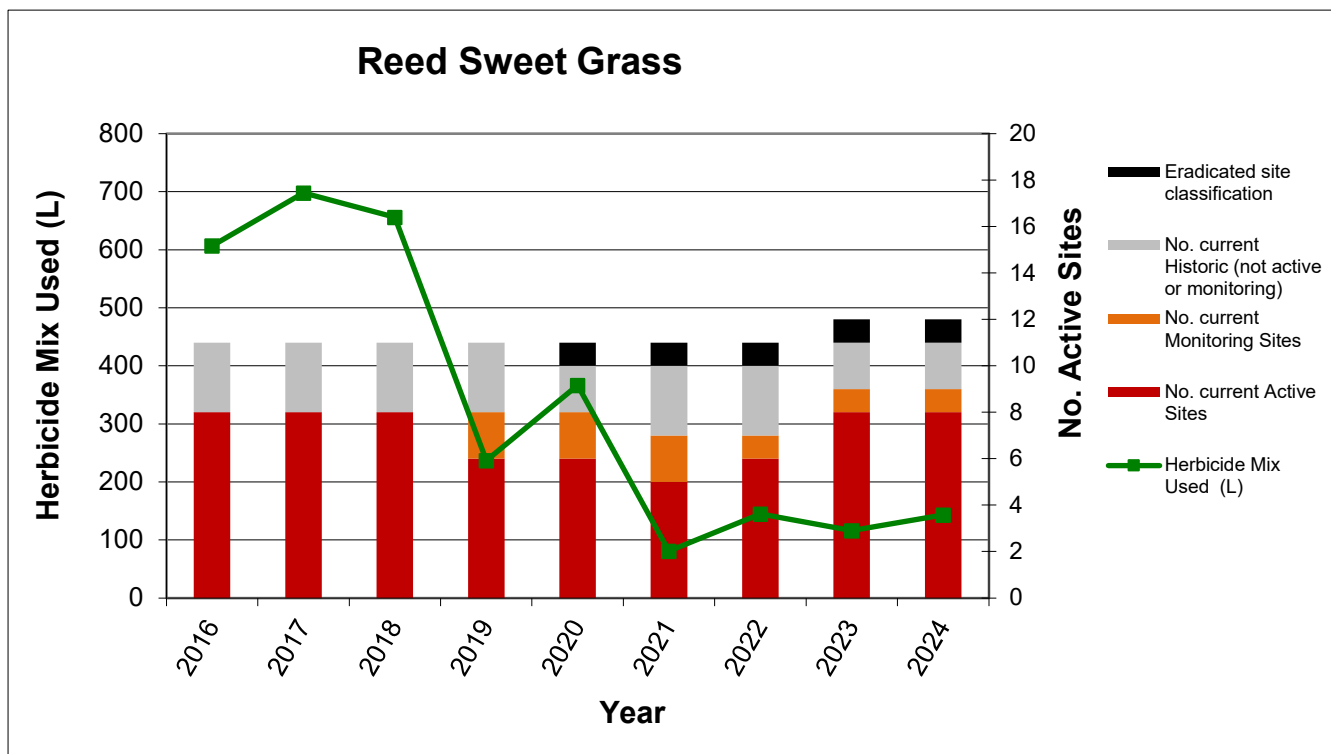
## 25). Reed sweet grass (*Glyceria maxima*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.			
<b>Target 24.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		All 'active and 'monitoring' sites were visited during the 2023/2024 season.  The amount of herbicide used to control infestations this season was slightly higher than last season but still well below the below the threshold of the RPMP objective of 734 litres.		
<b>Target 24.2</b>	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		One of the two historical sites was visited, with no reed sweet grass being found.		

Programme trend:



On track



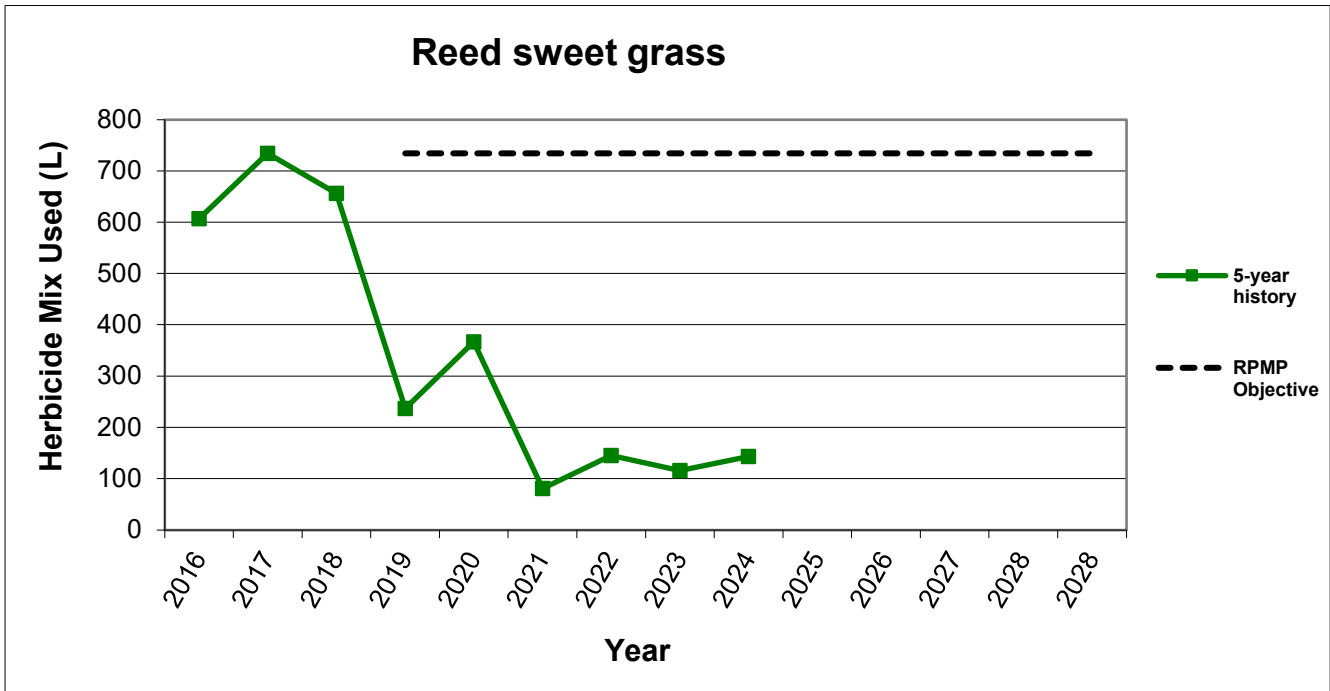






Figure 4: Patch of reed sweet grass found on Ruakanakana Creek

## 26). Rooks (*Corvus frugilegus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities should rooks be detected in Marlborough.			
<b>Target 25.1</b>	Each year, undertake an appropriate awareness activity within the community to facilitate reporting of rooks if they are seen.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		Advertising was undertaken via the MDC media channels		
<b>Target 25.2</b>	Each year, respond to any report of rooks in Marlborough within 2 working days.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		One report was received near the Ōpaoa river, no sign of a Rook could be found.		
<b>Status of rooks in Marlborough:</b> Not established Last detection was in March 2020 (Tetley Brook Road). One bird was destroyed.				

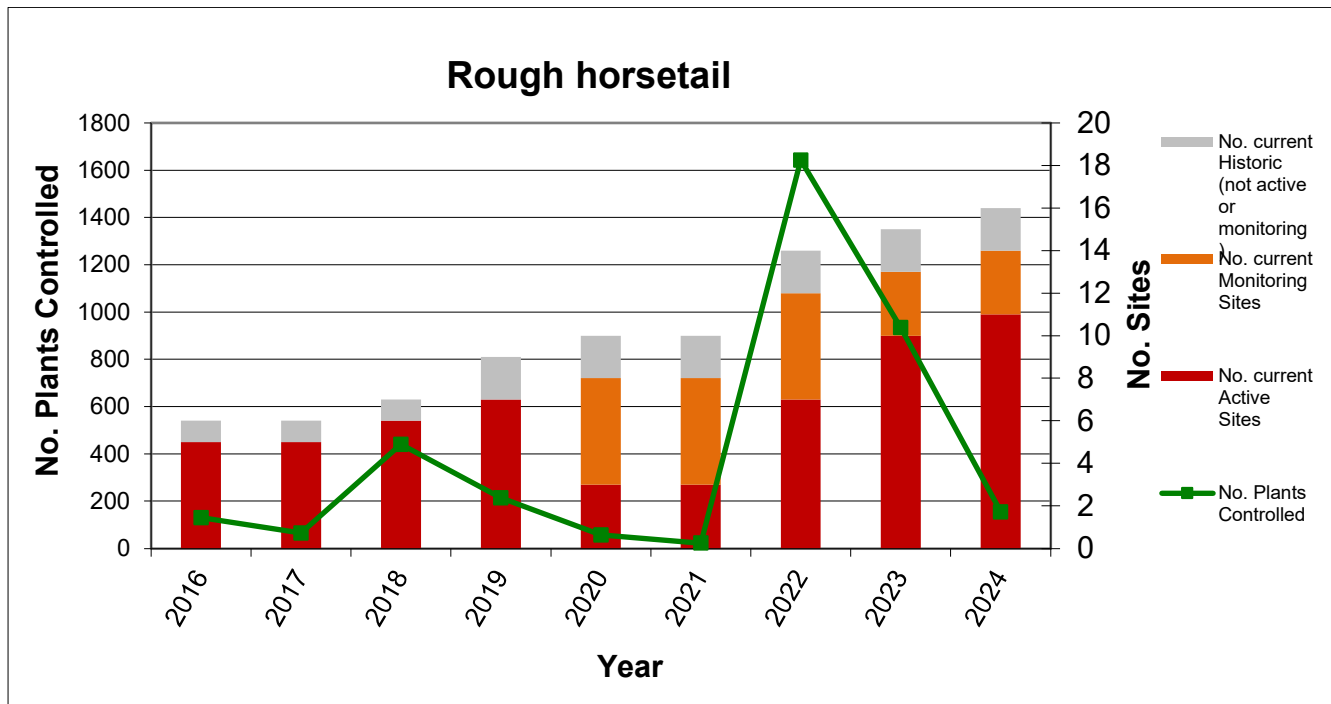
## 27). Rough horsetail (*Equisetum hyemale*)

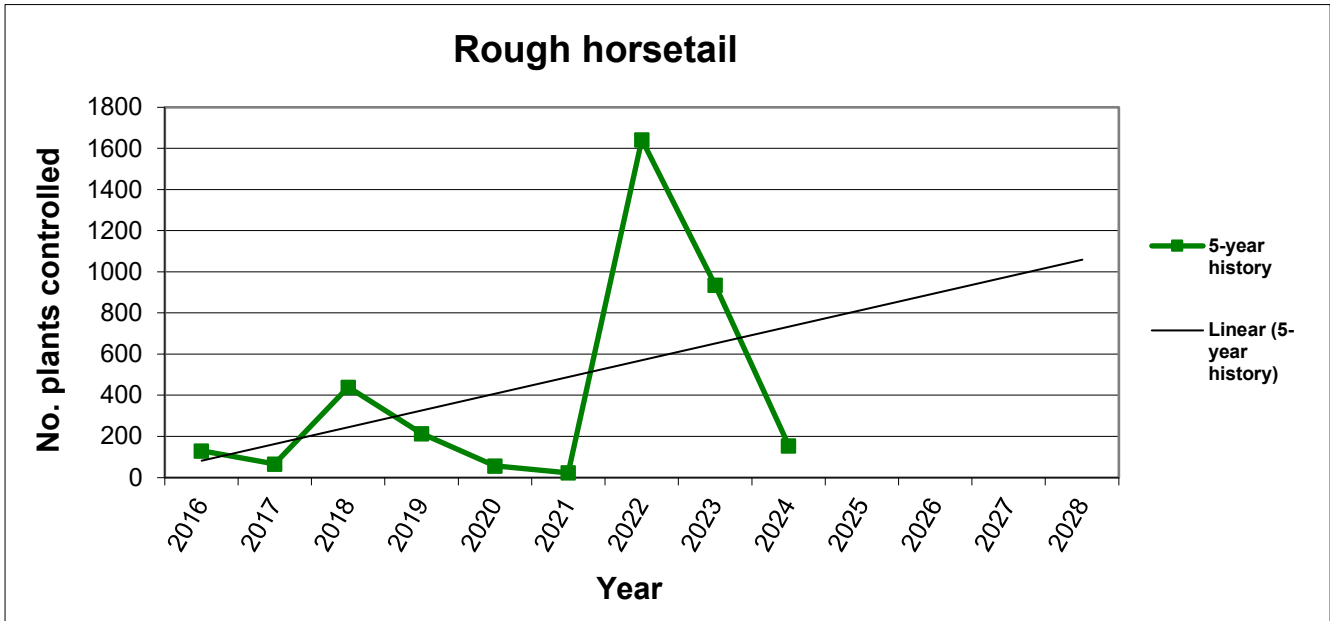
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Over the duration of the Plan, control rough horsetail ( <i>Equisetum hyemale</i> ) in the Marlborough district to a population trend that is level or reducing, to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment, and enjoyment of the natural environment.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.			
<b>Target 26.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		100% of active or monitoring sites were visited with a total of 154 plants destroyed. This falls below the below the threshold of the RPMP objective of 250 plants.		
<b>Target 26.2</b>	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		All historical sites were visited, no rough horsetail was detected.		

Programme trend:





On target




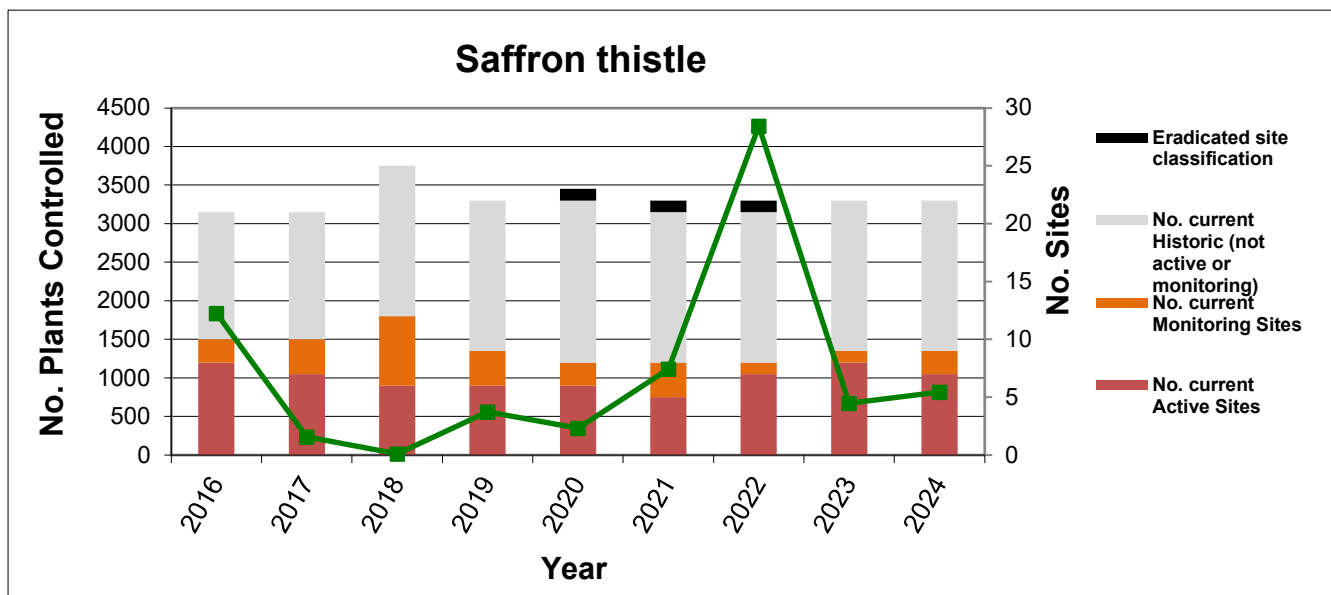




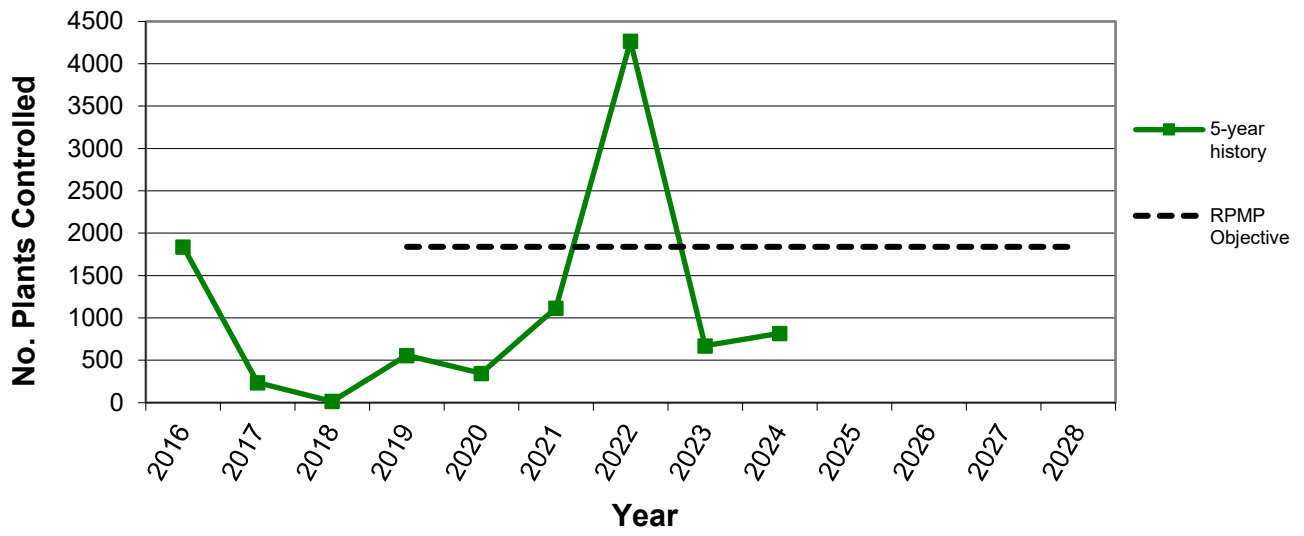
## 29). Saffron thistle (*Carthamus lanatus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.			
<b>Target 27.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		All sites with a status of 'active' or 'monitoring' were visited in 2023/2024. A total of 818 plants were destroyed this season which is below the RPMP threshold of 1839.		
<b>Target 27.2</b>	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		5 out of 13 historical sites (38%) were visited in 2023/2024 and no plants were found.		

Programme trend:  On track





### Saffron thistle




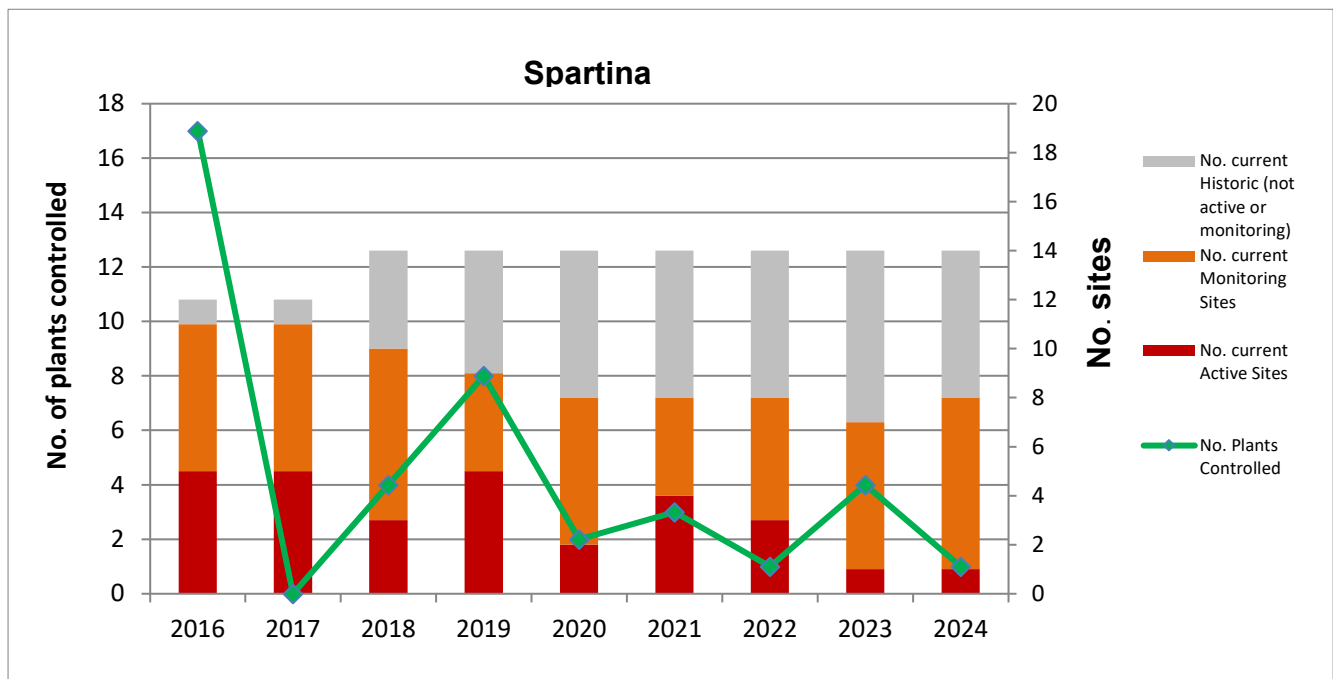
## 29). Senegal tea (*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*)

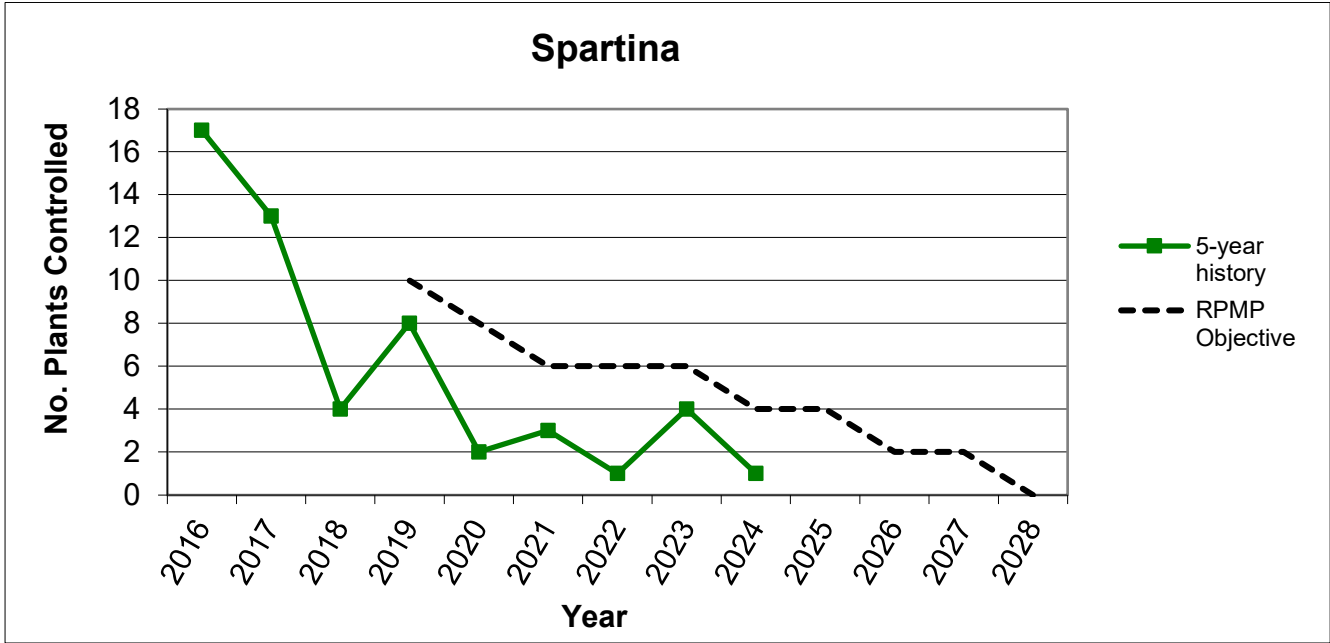
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	Over the term of the Plan, prevent the establishment of Senegal tea ( <i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i> ) in the Marlborough district to prevent future impacts on environmental values and the enjoyment of the natural environment.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities should Senegal tea be detected in Marlborough.			
<p><b>Status of Senegal tea in Marlborough:</b> Not established</p> <p>Historically eradicated</p>				

### 30). Spartina (*Spartina anglica*)



Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	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.			
<b>Target 29.1</b>	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		Five of the seven (71%) 'active' and 'monitoring' sites were visited for control or surveillance activities for 2023/2024. 1 plant was found during 1184 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.		
<b>Target 29.2</b>	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		Two out of six historical sites were visited for spartina surveillance activities. This included Tennyson Inlet and Okiwi Bay. No plants were found.		

Programme trend:  On track



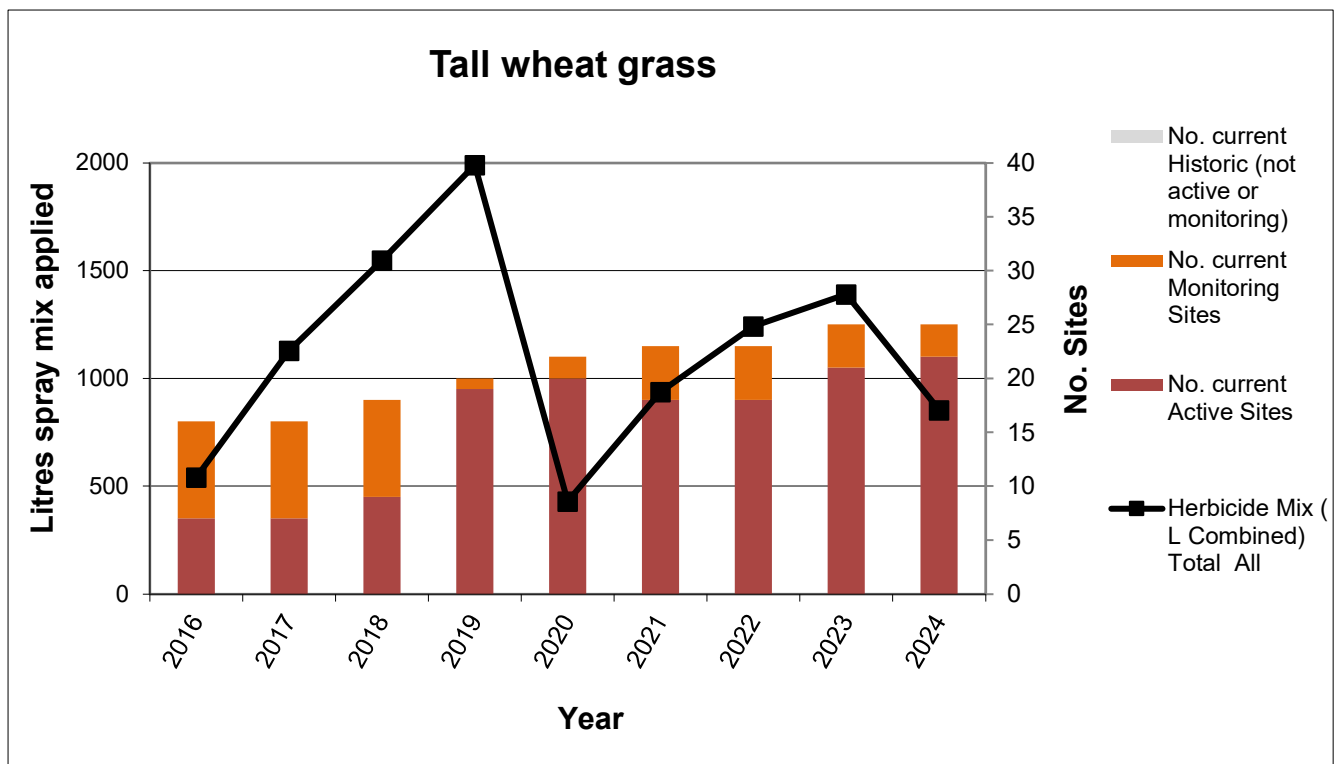


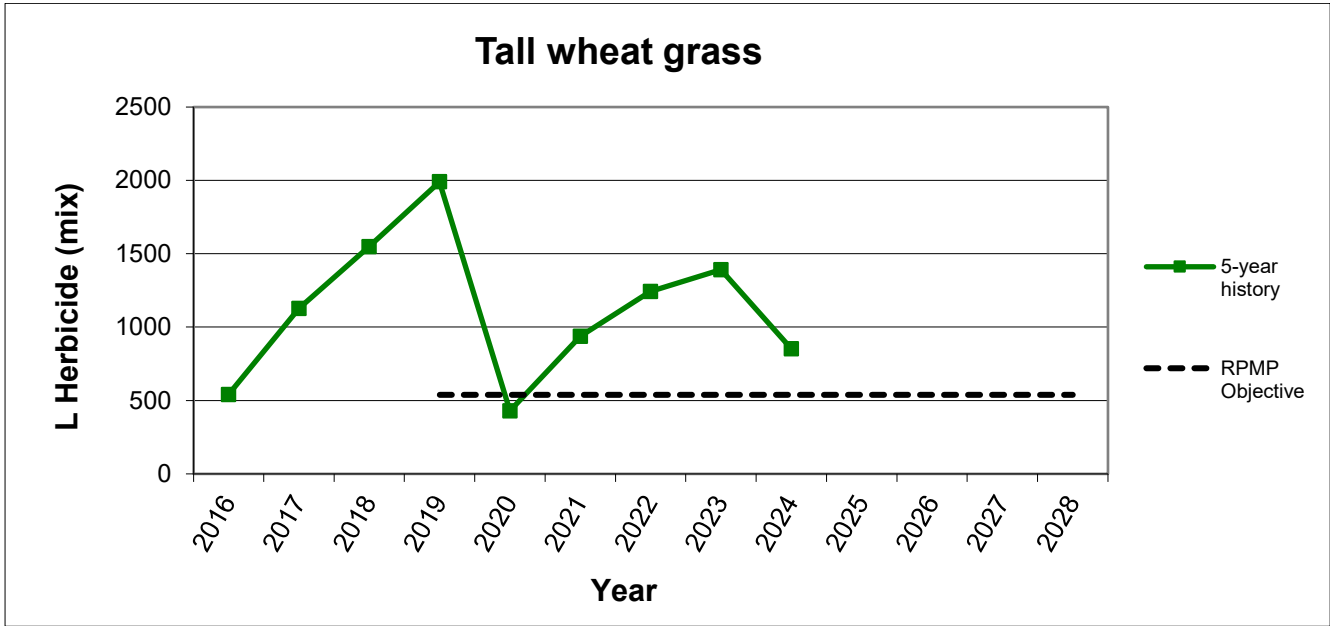
### 31). Tall wheat grass (*Thinopyrum ponticum*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective</b> 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.				
<b>Operations overview</b> Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.				
<b>Target 30.1</b> Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.				
<b>2023/2024</b>		100% of all known sites were visited for surveillance or control activities. The amount of herbicide used in 2023/2024 exceeded the threshold of the RPMP objective to maintain herbicide use at, or below, 540 litres of spray mix.		
<b>Target 30.2</b> Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.				
<b>2023/2024</b>		To date there are no sites with a historical status.		


**Programme trend:**  Not meeting objective

This is a newer programme with baseline infestations still being progressively managed, including some new sites also being discovered.








### 32). Wallabies (Family *Macropodidae*)

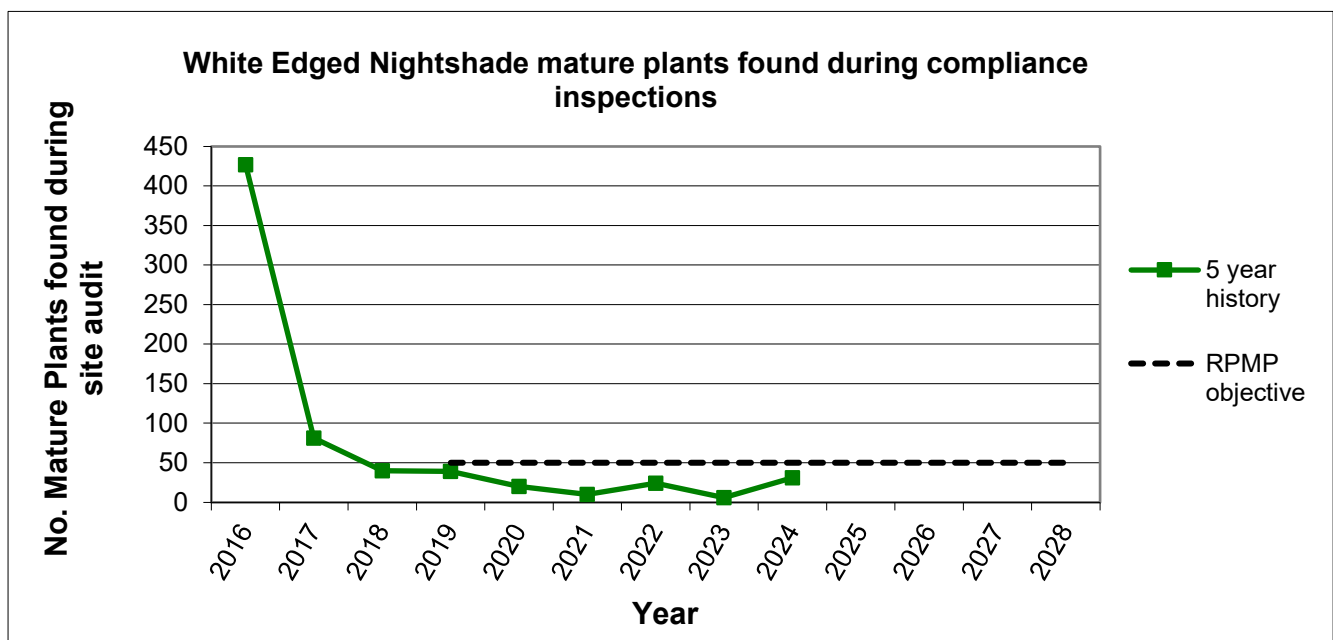
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<p><b>Objective</b></p> <p><b>Operations overview</b></p>	<p>Over the duration of the Plan, prevent the establishment of wallabies (<i>Family: Macropodidae</i>) in the Marlborough district to prevent future impacts on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.</p> <p>Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities should wallabies be detected in Marlborough.</p> <p>Further support could also be provided by DOC.</p>			
<p><b>Target 31.1</b></p>	<p>Each year, respond to any report of wallabies in Marlborough within 2 working days.</p>			
<p><b>2023/2024</b></p>		<p>Two reports of wallaby sightings were received this year. Thorough investigations were undertaken, all commencing within 24hrs, with no evidence of wallabies found.</p>		
<p><b>Status of wallabies in Marlborough:</b> Not established</p> <p>There continues to be periodic reports and sightings, but no sign of a live wallaby has been found after thorough investigations.</p>				




### 33). White-edged nightshade (*Solanum marginatum*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<p><b>Objective</b></p> <p>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><b>Operations overview</b></p> <p>There are multiple facets to the white-edged nightshade programme delivered by Council. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Continue to deliver ongoing communication, education and awareness initiatives.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Target 32.1</b></p> <p>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><b>2023/2024</b></p>		 <p>All affected land occupiers were sent letters in January 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><b>Target 32.2</b></p> <p>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><b>2023/2024</b></p>		 <p>Inspections were undertaken at all sites where land occupiers have an obligation to annually destroy all plants. A total of 31 mature plants were found during the inspections.</p>		




Programme trend:  On track



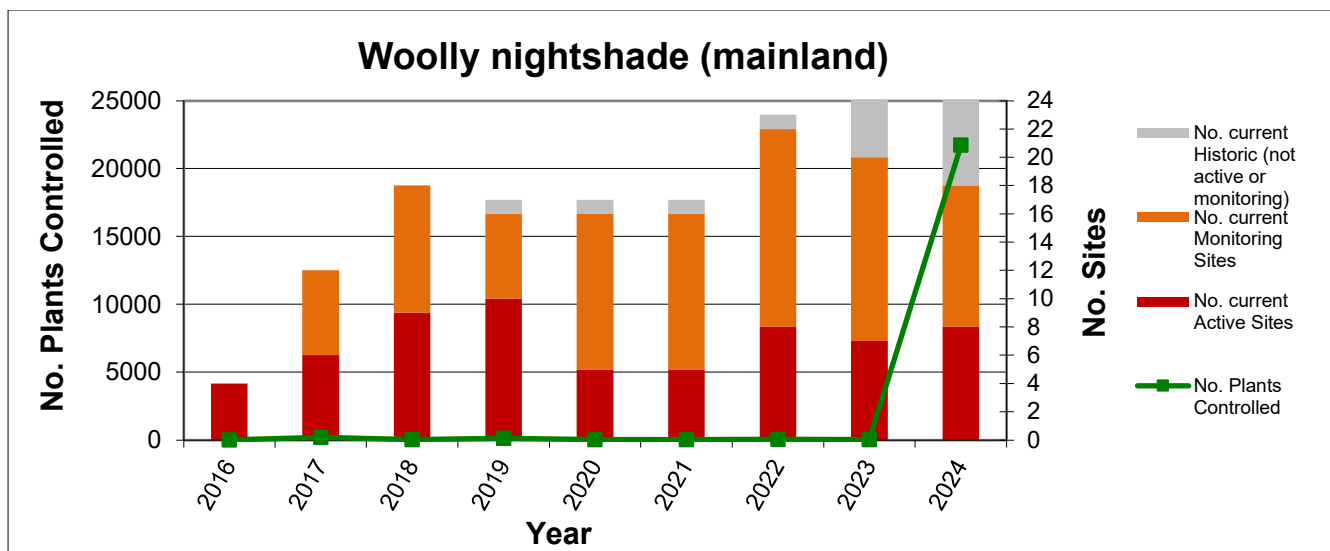
### 35). Willow-leaved hakea (*Hakea salicifolia*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objective 1</b>	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.			
<b>Objective 2</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.			
<b>Target 33.1</b>	Each year, a control operation is undertaken on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville in accordance with the project plan.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		A total of 1325 hours of control work was undertaken this season, with steady progress continuing to be made.		
<p>Programme trend:</p> <p>The programme has completed the initial control phase where the entire original mature infestation has been destroyed. It is now moving into the long mop-up phase to exhaust the seed bank.</p> <p>In partnership with the contractor, some seedling establishment plots have been established to assess what degree of germination is occurring and what % of those seedlings survive.</p> <p>A suitable metric for programme trend monitoring has not yet been developed.</p>				

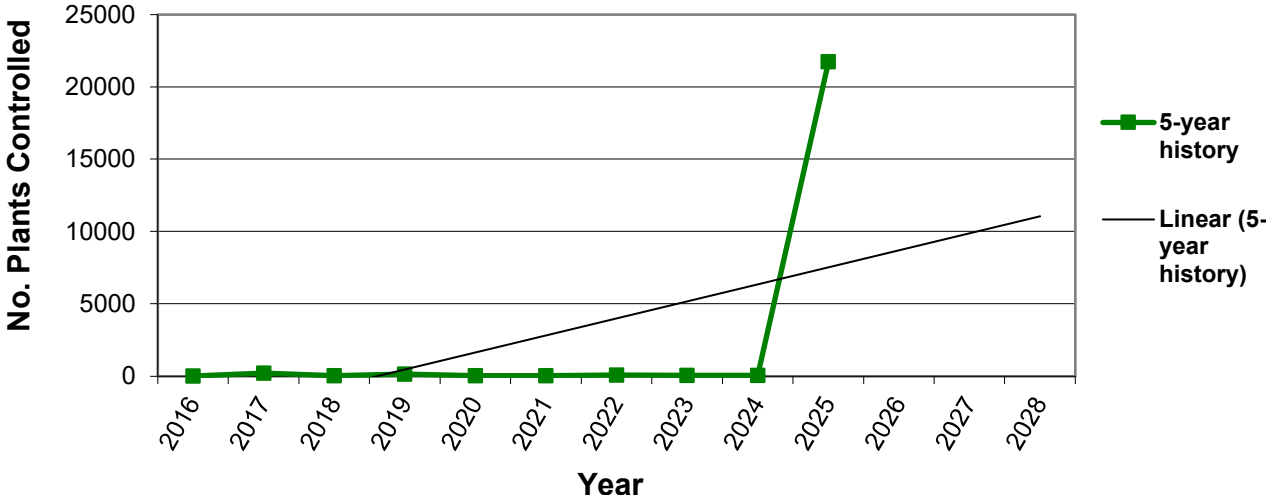
### 36). Woolly nightshade (*Solanum mauritanium*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
<b>Objectives</b>	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.			
<b>Operations overview</b>	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.			
<b>Target 34.1</b>	Each year, a control operation is undertaken on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville in accordance with the project plan			
<b>2023/2024</b>		474 Hours of control work was undertaken to control plants as per the 5-year project plan.		
<b>Target 34.2</b>	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.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		100% of 'active' and 'monitoring' sites were visited for control and surveillance in 2023/2024. 21732 plants were controlled this year. The huge spike in numbers is due to the discovery of a large infestation at Squally Cove. Control work began in September last year and will continue into the foreseeable future.		
<b>Target 34.3</b>	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.			
<b>2023/2024</b>		Five of the ten (50%) historical sites were visited with no plants being found.		

Programme trend:  **Not meeting objective**



### Woolly nightshade (mainland)





## Part Two - Other Biosecurity Services or Initiatives

### 1. Education and Awareness

<b>Overview</b>	Continuing to raise the profile of invasive species is a critical part of the Biosecurity 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.
<b>Operational Summary</b> <i>2023/2024</i>	In conjunction with the Communications Team, there has been ongoing work to ensure Biosecurity-related messaging is continued to be put out through Council channels.  Biosecurity was present at the Blenheim A and P show, engaging with the public and creating awareness of pest issues.

### 2. Investigation and Analysis

<b>Overview</b>	This service ensures both new threats are investigated, and those that are present are analysed as information comes to hand. The outcome of both investigations and analyse continually shape Council decisions and/or direction.  The process used is outlined in further detail within the Marlborough District Council Biosecurity Strategy.	
<b>Target 35.1</b>	Each year, undertake active surveillance activities for aquatic pest species at a minimum of 2 sites identified as being at risk from such threats.	
<b>2023/2024</b>		During 2023/2024, 57.5 hours were attributed to reed sweet grass operations across ten 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.  Biosecurity conducted surveillance for aquatic plants on the Ōpaoa River using kayaks. Seven new patches of parrot's feather were discovered.
<b>Operational Summary</b> <i>2023/2024</i>	In addition to Target 35.1, the Biosecurity team visited the Bomarea infestation at Waitaria Bay that was identified in early 2022. A total of two hours of control work was undertaken with 30 plants destroyed.  A planted area of Mexican feather grass was discovered in the Omaka area in December last year. This plant is very similar to nassella tussock and could potentially affect agriculture. Approximately 100 plants were destroyed.	
<b>Target 35.2</b>	Each year, conduct a minimum of two inspections of parties selling or trading plants to determine adherence to the National Pest Plant Accord.	
<b>2023/2024</b>		Council biosecurity staff undertook nine inspections of parties selling plants in 2023/2024. It was determined all six parties were adhering to the National Pest Plant Accord with no issues being identified.

### 3. Biocontrol





<p><b>Overview</b></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><b>Target 36.1</b></p>	<p>Each year, provide an annual contribution into the National Biological Control Initiative.</p>	
<p><b>2023/2024</b></p>		<p>A contribution of \$15,000 was made by Council towards the National Biocontrol Collective research programme.</p>
<p><b>Target 36.2</b></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><b>2023/2024</b></p>		<p>In February the old man’s beard saw fly was released in a single location in the Awatere Valley. The location was selected following advice provided by Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research.</p> <p>The Vespula Biocontrol Action Group with support from Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, the Tasman District Council and KMTT released the European hoverfly at a site in the Rai Valley in April in an effort to reduce the wasp population.</p>
<p><b>Target 36.3</b></p>	<p>Each year, undertake monitoring of all sites where agents were released ex-mass rearing stock within the previous three-year period, to assess establishment status.</p>	
<p><b>2023/2024</b></p>		<p>Biosecurity carried out monitoring for five sites where the old man’s beard mite was released in 2021 &amp; 2022. Attempts were made to identify the mites from the samples with inconclusive results. This was due to the mites being microscopic and difficult to identify. Additional samples will be sent to Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research for dissection in the coming weeks for more detailed analysis.</p>
<p><b>Operational Summary</b> <b>2023/2024</b></p>	<p>Council is working with Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research to receive an additional release of old man’s beard sawfly (<i>Monophadnus spinolae</i>) this summer. Monitoring will also be carried out at the original release sites.</p>	





Figure 5: Old man’s beard saw flies being released in the Awatere Valley

## 4. Partnering Organisations

<p><b>Overview</b></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><b>Target 37</b></p>	<p>Each year, provide an annual contribution into the following community organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust (MSRT)</li> <li>• South Marlborough Landscape Restoration Trust (SMLRT)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2023/2024</b></p>		<p>Financial contributions by way of grants were made to the Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust (\$30,000), South Marlborough Landscape Restoration Trust (\$30,000).</p>
<p><b>Operational Summary 2023/2024</b></p>	<p>As outlined against Target 37, annual financial contributions were made to the two community Trusts – MSRT and SMLRT. MDC have also provided a large amount of in-kind support through fulfilling the ex-officio role on both Trust boards.</p>	

## 5. Wilding Conifer Management

<p><b>Overview</b></p>	<p>The management of wilding conifers is a large, complex, landscape scale biosecurity threat. What has been recognised is the need to approach the issue will all interested parties working in collaboration.</p> <p>Council role is 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 to establish and maintain collaborative wilding conifer management programmes is integral to achieve positive outcomes.</p>	
<p><b>Target 38.1</b></p>	<p>Fulfil the role of Regional Fundholder and delivery of services as part of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme to the satisfaction of Biosecurity New Zealand (MPI).</p>	
<p><b>2023/2024</b></p>		<p>Throughout the course of the year, Biosecurity facilitate the activities of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme in the district.</p> <p>There continues to put a significant resource requirement on Council as the Regional Fundholder.</p>
<p><b>Target 38.2</b></p>	<p>Facilitate The Marlborough Wilding Conifer Steering Group meetings to the satisfaction of all stakeholders involved.</p>	
<p><b>2023/2024</b></p>		<p>A steering group meeting for 2023/2034 occurred in August 2024. The steering group was informed to ensure integration between all the agencies and stakeholders that manage the delivery of the programme.</p>
<p><b>Operational Summary</b> <b>2023/2024</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$1,052,722.00 NWCCP of core funding was allocated to the 3 management units (Molesworth, Waihopai, and Sounds) a small proportion of which was allocated to the smaller management areas in the Awatere and Lower Wairau.</li> <li>- The Molesworth and Waihopai MUs also received additional funding provided by DOC and the International Visitors Levy (IVL), each receiving \$1.117M and \$159K respectively.</li> <li>- Overall, \$2.54M (including contributions by MDC) was allocated to manage wilding conifers in Marlborough.</li> <li>- Good achievements were made by the South Marlborough Landscape Restoration Trust (SMLRT) by completing the initial control work started in 2022 in the operational areas of 'Spray Buffer' and 'Ferny Gair'. A real strategic milestone in terms of managing the spread of wilding conifers in the Awatere.</li> <li>- The Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust continued to proactively invest in managing wilding spread in the Sounds MU.</li> <li>- Much of the work in the Molesworth was carried out by contract suppliers using the aerial Basal Bark technique (ABBA); a significant portion was carried out in the upper Acheron and Saxton catchments to manage wildings spill over from the upper Waihopai and Branch/Leatham.</li> <li>- Approximately 30k was spent on the mechanical removal of legacy shelterbelts at Tarndale and Redgate.</li> </ul>	



## Biosecurity Operational Plan Report 2023-24

- Approximately \$100K was spent drilling the large shelterbelts at Tarndale removing a large seed source from within Molesworth.
- The national wilding funding portion for 2023/24 had been reduced by \$2.4M compared to the expenditure in 2022/2023.
- The reduction of crown funding is a significant risk and is now impacting on maintaining the gains achieved since the programme commenced in 2016. The loss of funding is now risking the achievement of regional objectives and creating 'spread risk' into vulnerable habitats of the high country.



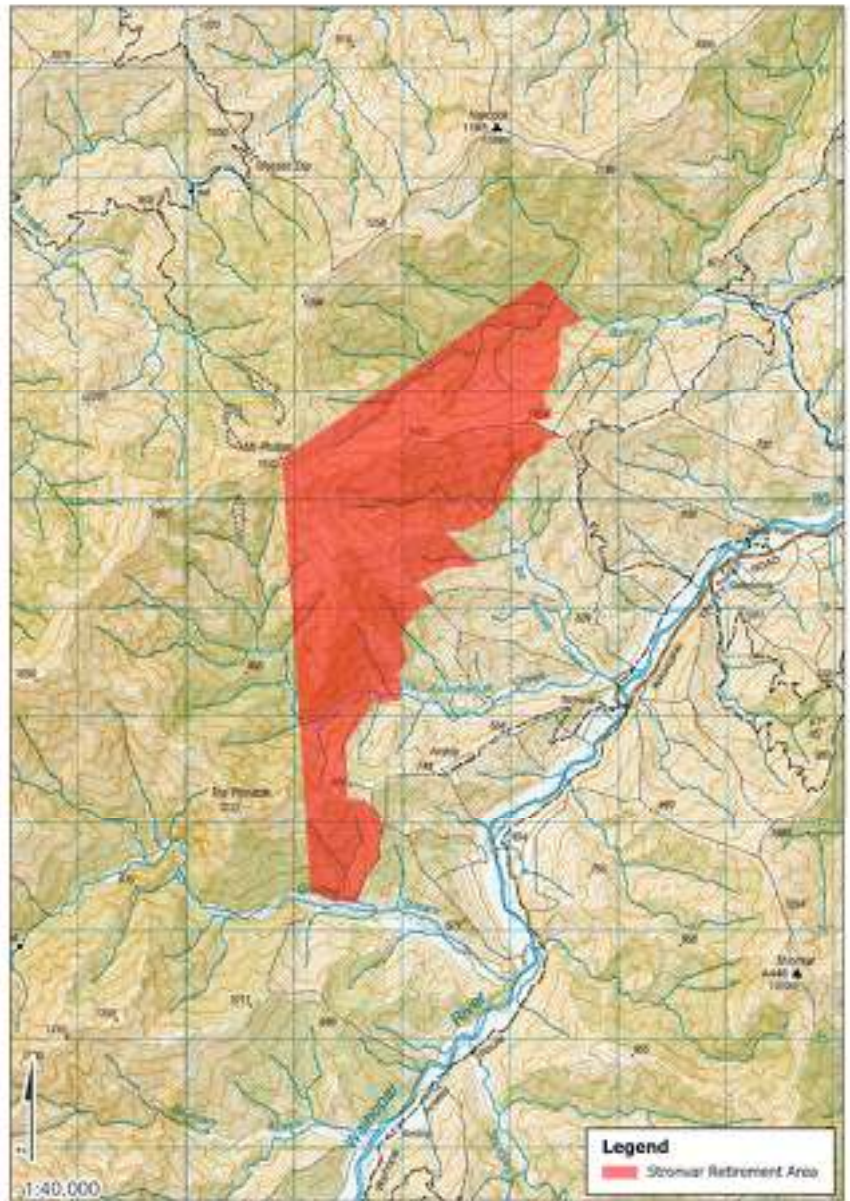
**Figure 6: An overview of all the operative management units in Marlborough and control efforts from the 2023/2024**

**Aerial control techniques – 69560 Hectares**

**Ground control techniques – 2346 Hectares.**

**Regional Pest Management Plan Amendment**

- The 2020 policy review process to amend the RPMP to incorporate a site-specific programme for pest conifers has been finalised through the Environment Court process.
- The Environment Court provided direction to include a bespoke site-led programme in the RPMP that will apply to a specific area of Stronvar Station known as the Stronvar Retirement Area (Figure 7).
- Council is undertaking a plan variation to include the amended provisions in the RPMP.



**Figure 7: The Stronvar Retirement Area**

## 6. Research

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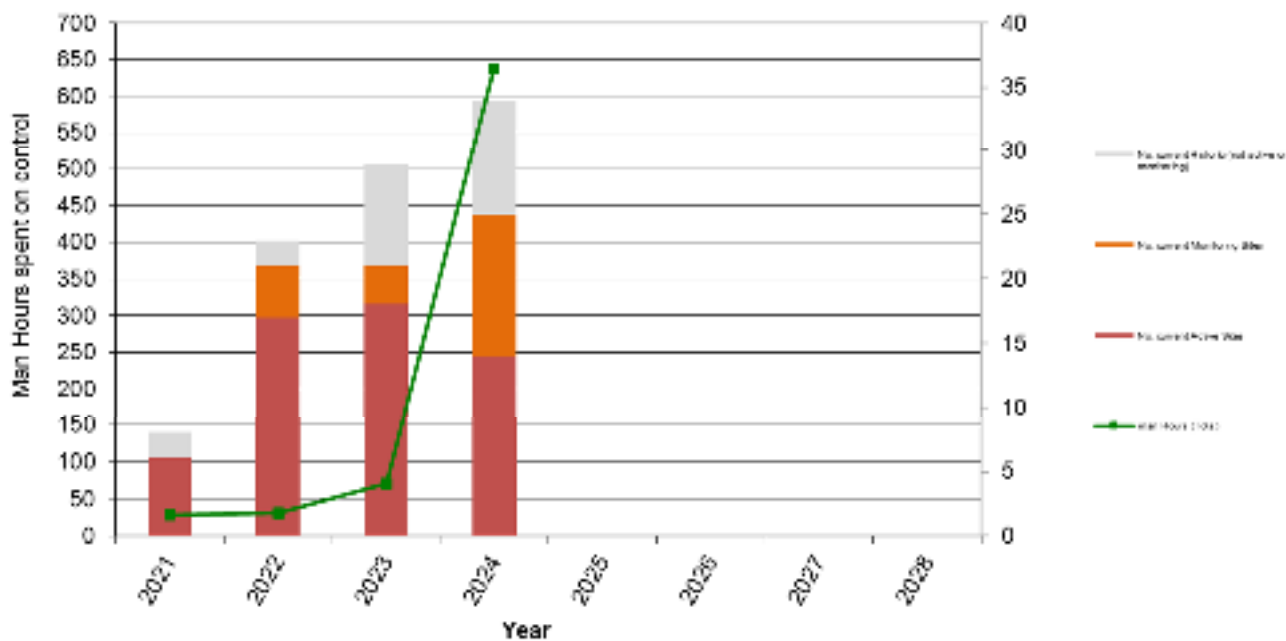
<b>Overview</b>	<p>With all biosecurity programmes, a continual improvement in understanding relating to both the organisms of interest and techniques to manage them is required.</p> <p>Some applied research is often carried out as part of operational programmes (e.g. farming system shifts to improve Chilean needle grass management) with other research being more direct.</p>
<b>Operational Summary 2023/2024</b>	<p>In 2023/2024, The Biosecurity team was involved or supported the follow areas of research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaborator for the 'Tomorrow's Marine Biosecurity Toolbox' MBIE funded programme led by the Cawthron Institute.</li></ul> <p>Council's involvement in research projects over the last year has been primarily through staff time providing input and advice – not direct financial contributions.</p>

## 7. Specific Projects

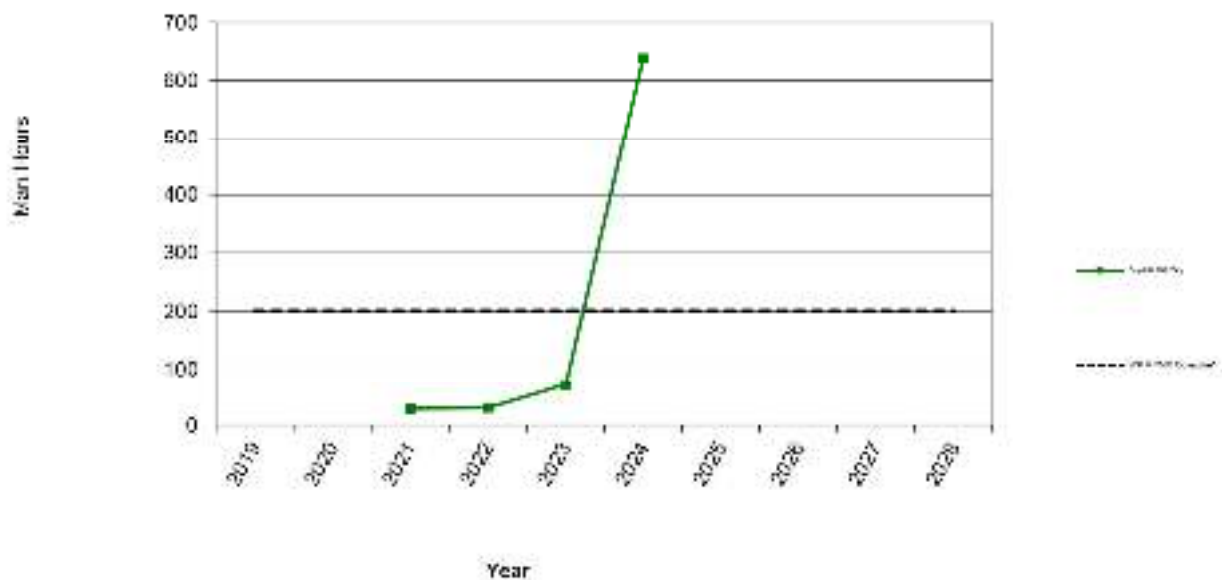
<p><b>Operational Summary</b> <b>2023/2024</b></p>	<p>In 2023/2024, Biosecurity staff were involved in the following projects that align to the goals of Council's Biosecurity Strategy:</p>
	<p><b>Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership</b></p> <p>This initiative sees the three Top of the South (TOS) Councils and Greater Wellington Council come together with the Ministry for Primary Industries financially. Supported by industry and Iwi partners 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 Nelson City Council from 2022/23.</p> <p><u>Budget:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Financial contribution \$42,624.</li> <li>2. Staff time and associated costs.</li> </ol> <p><b><u>2023/2024 Actual:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. \$42,624.00 – shared funding for the coordination/projects contract.</li> <li>2. Staff time attending Committee meetings and providing input into any TOS Partnership initiatives.</li> </ol>

	<p><b>Restoring and Protecting Flora Project (Jobs for Nature)</b></p> <p><b>Background</b></p> <p>In August 2021 the Marlborough District Council signed a contract for service with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to provide operational support to the Jobs for Nature funded ‘Restoring and Protecting Flora Project’ (the project) in Marlborough. The initial purpose of the project was to roll out short term high impact weed control programmes at ecologically significant sites of various tenures. The Operational Liaison Support role (OPLS) was appointed out of Council’s Biosecurity section and commenced on 4 October 2021.</p> <p>Since the appointment of the OPLS role on 4 October 2021, approximately 4100 total OPLS hours have been committed to the Project up to 1 July 2024. All funding and Project operations concluded in May 2024.</p>
	<p><b>Project outcomes</b></p> <p><b>Conservation</b></p> <p>During its three-year life the project has delivered weed control programmes at eleven ecological sites in Marlborough (collectively approximately 900 hectares) and destroyed over 12000 pest plants including willows, wilding pines, and wild kiwifruit vines.</p> <p><b>Community engagement</b></p> <p>Project Engagement with community groups enabled the project to boost the conservation work already being undertaken by community groups like the Hinepango Wetland Restoration Group and Grovetown Lagoon Society The work delivered by the project will be maintained by those community groups and Landowners who are committed to caring for our region’s biodiversity.</p> <p><b>Regional Pest Management</b></p> <p>The project has contributed over 600 hours to MDC’s pest surveillance work on wild kiwifruit in the Marlborough Sounds. This work was also significantly assisted by financial contributions from Kiwifruit Vinehealth NZ (KVH). The project’s contribution aligned with the long-term direction for MDC Biosecurity section to consider developing a longer-term programme for the management of wild kiwifruit. Graphs show the pest surveillance data as of 30 June 2024.</p>

### Wild Kiwifruit






### Wild Kiwifruit

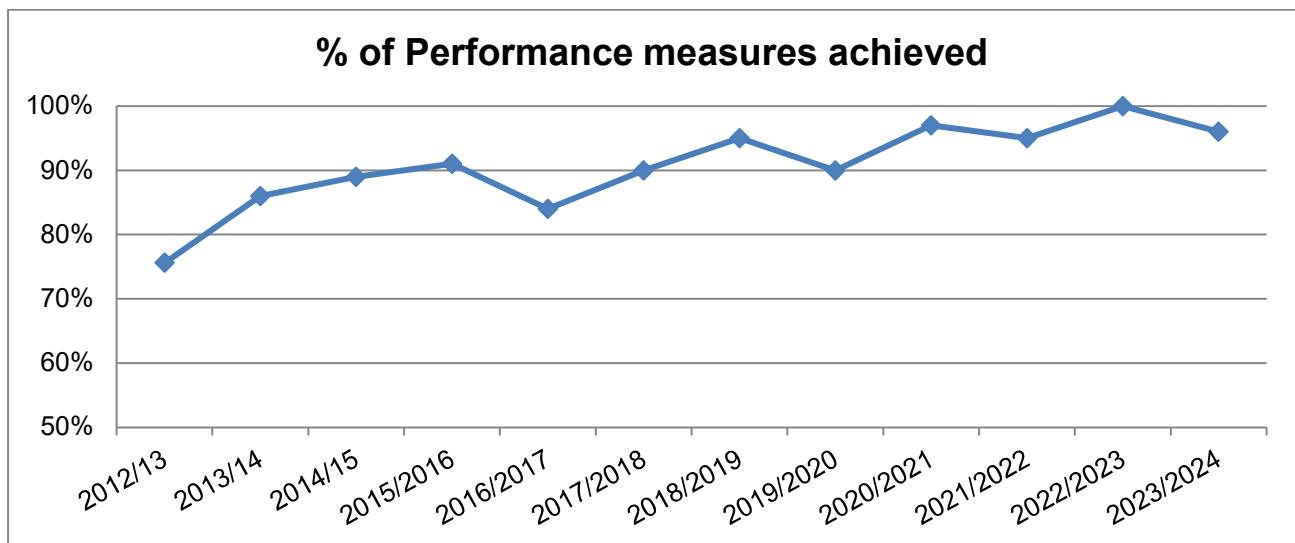


## Part Three – Performance Summary

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

Measure		2023/2024 Score
	Achieved	75 (96%)
	Almost Achieved	3 (4%)
	Not Achieved	(0%)
		79 (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 24 August 2023.

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 2023/2024 Biosecurity Operational Plan Report.

Section	Current content	Proposed change	Reason
Part 1 – Section 18 Mediterranean fanworm	Target 18.1 Each year, a minimum of two dive surveillance and removal operations are undertaken in Picton Marina, Waikawa Marina Grove Arm and Port Underwood (East Arm).	Target 18.1 Each year, a minimum of two dive surveillance and removal operations are undertaken in Picton Marina, Waikawa Marina.	External funding has not yet been secured for this years' work, therefore we have prioritised resources to target the highest risk areas
	Target 18.3 Each year, a minimum of one dive surveillance operation is undertaken in Picton Port, Okiwi Bay, Elaine Bay, Duncan Bay, Endeavour Inlet, Ship Cove, Oyster Bay (Port Underwood) and Havelock Marina.	Target 18.3 Each year, one dive surveillance operation is undertaken in Waikawa Bay, Picton Port, Shakespeare Bay, Grove arm, Port Underwood and Havelock Marina	External funding has not yet been secured for this years' work; therefore we have prioritised resources to target the highest risk areas.
Part 2 – Section 5. Wilding Conifer Management	Pest conifers will be included in the Regional Pest Management Plan 2024.	When the RPMP has been made the programme is to be merged from Other Biosecurity Services and initiatives to, Regional Pest Management Plan Section of the Operational report.	To reflect the change to the Regional Pest Management Plan as directed.
Part 2 – Section 5. Wilding Conifer Management	Regional Pest Management Plan 2024 will be made and includes a site led programme for the Stronvar retirement area.	Adding the target, Contact the owner of the Stronvar retirement area to discuss any future considerations to management in the area if it is deemed feasible.	The plan will be made to include a site-led programme for Stronvar retirement area.