

Environment & Planning Committee Meeting

20 August 2026

This Report relates to Item 4.1 in the Agenda

“Biosecurity Operational Plan Report”

Biosecurity Operational Plan Report





**MARLBOROUGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Biosecurity Operational Plan Report 2025/2026

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Cover image, Molesworth Station.

Photo Credit Liam Falconer.

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1. 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 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 35 programmes within the RPMP, of which 31 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 2025/2026 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

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 2024/2025 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.

3. Part One - Regional Pest Management Plan Programmes

3.1 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.			
2025/2026		All eight (100%) active and monitoring sites were visited. In total 49 plants were found and destroyed across five sites, including the discovery of a new site at Cloudy Bay Drive. This is above the RPMP objective measure of 18 plants.		
Target 1.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have historical status are visited for surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		Of the eight historical sites, four sites (50%) were visited for surveillance activities during the 2025/2026 season. African feather grass was found to be re-occurring at one of those sites which has had its status changed to active.		

Programme trend  Not meeting objective

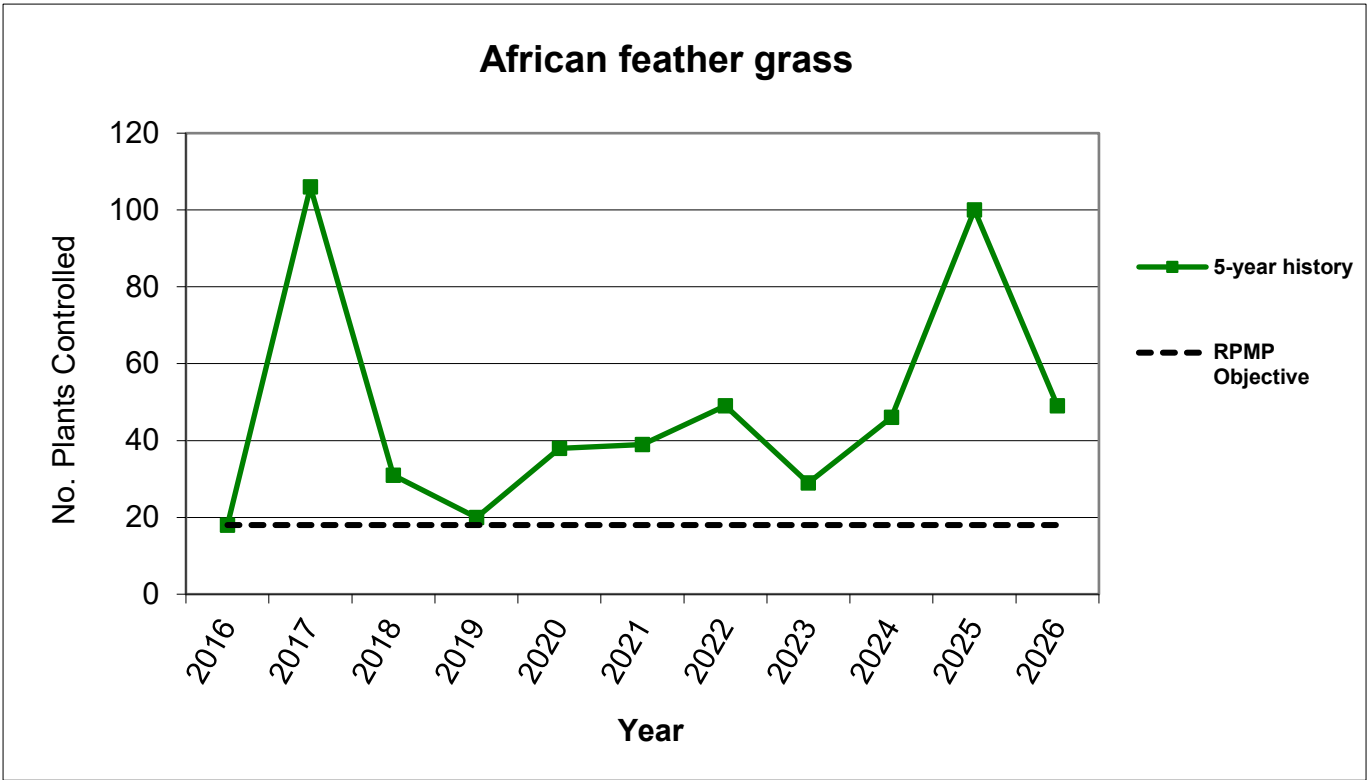
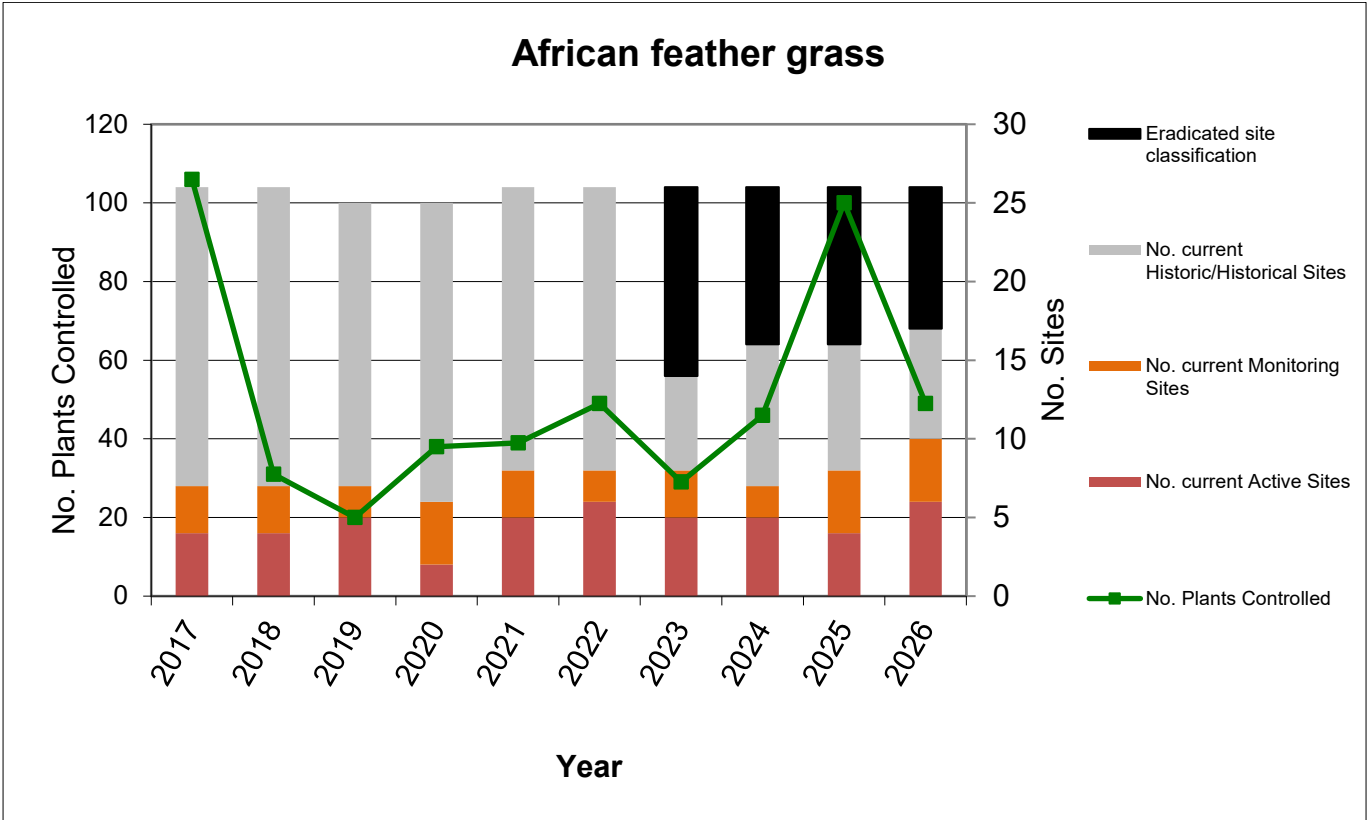


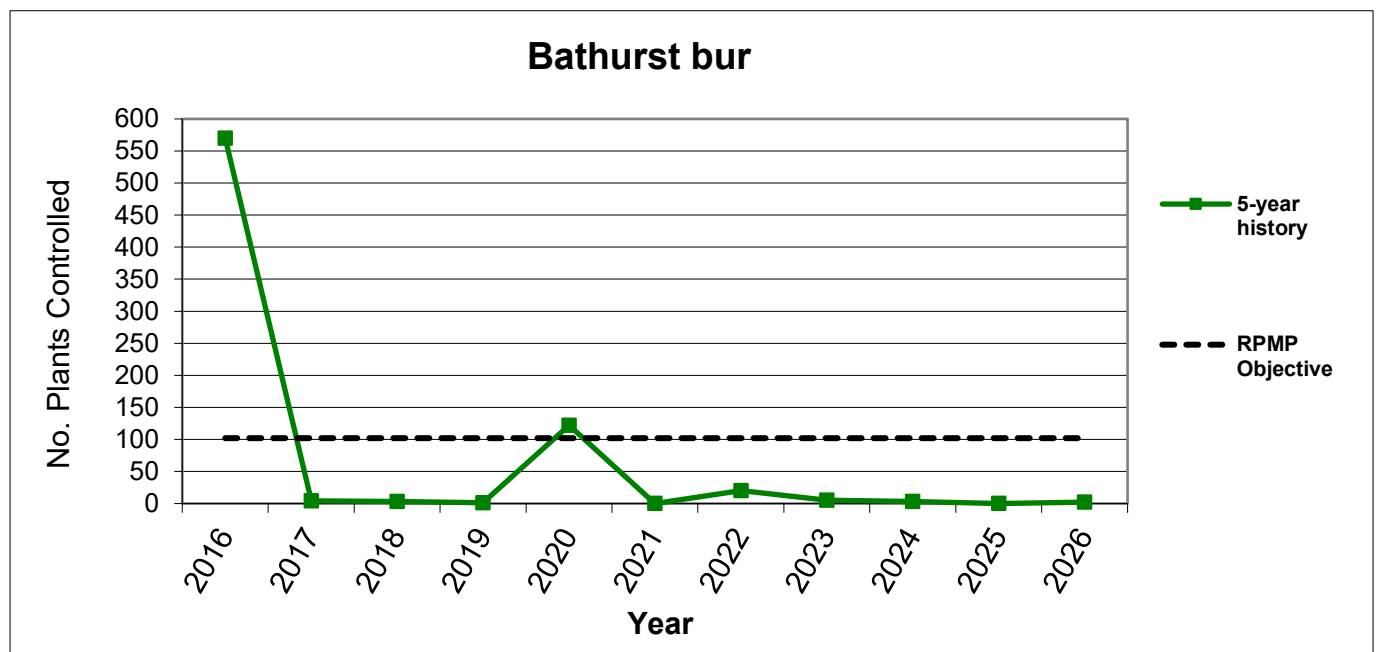
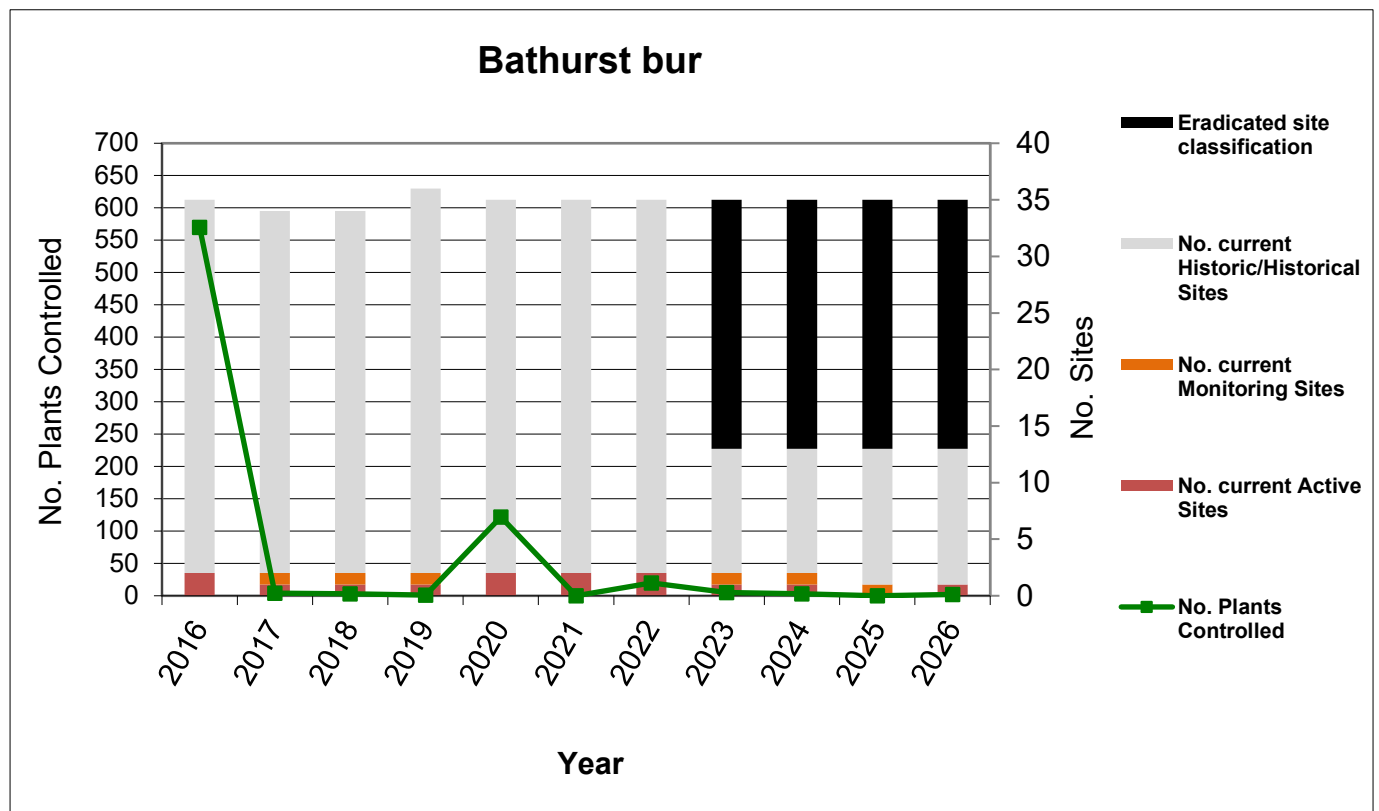


Figure 1: A patch of African feather grass discovered this season on Cloudy Bay Drive.

3.2 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.			
2025/2026		The one active Bathurst bur site was visited for control activities for 2025/2026. Two plants were found, compared to no plants in 2024/2025. Plant numbers found over the last several years have continued to be below the RPMP objective, to keep plant numbers at or below 2014 levels.		
Target 2.2	Each year, 10% of sites that have a historical status are visited for surveillance, plus any site known to have had soil disturbance within the last 12-month period.			
2025/2026		11 out of 12 sites (92%) with a historical status were visited for surveillance activities during 2025/2026. 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.		

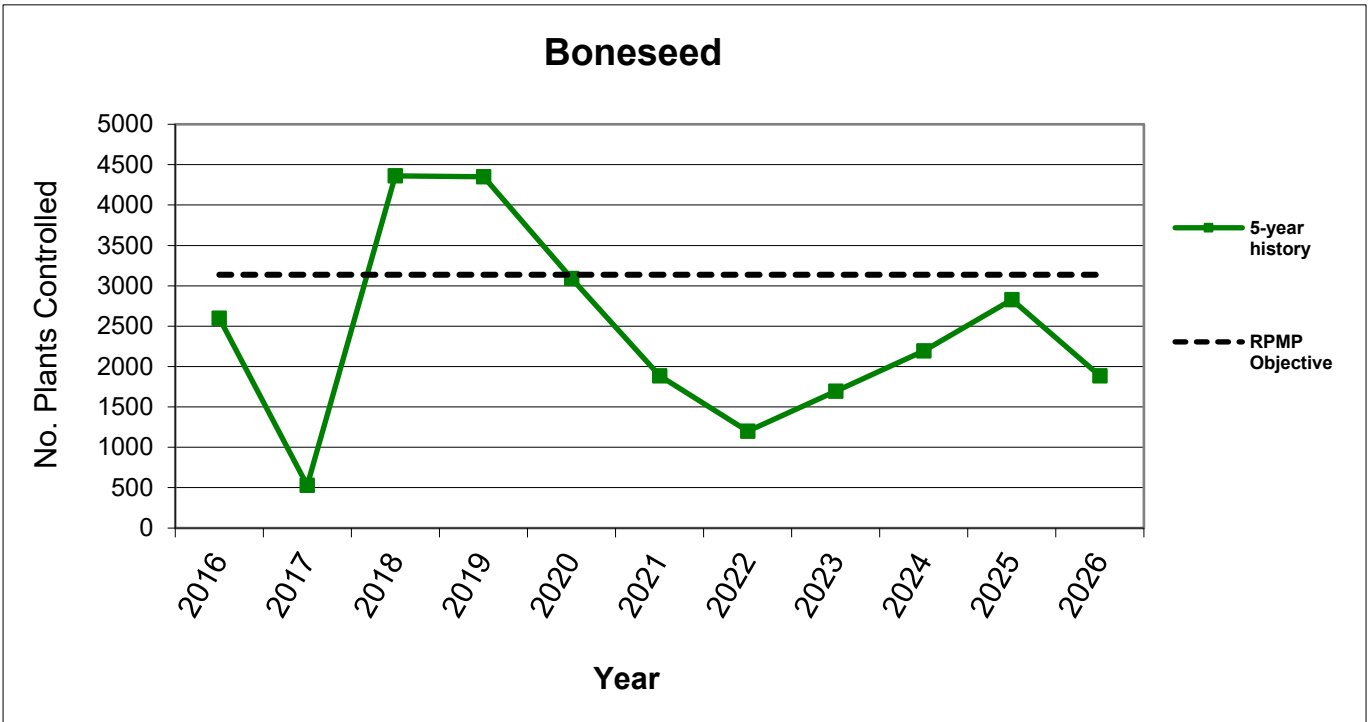
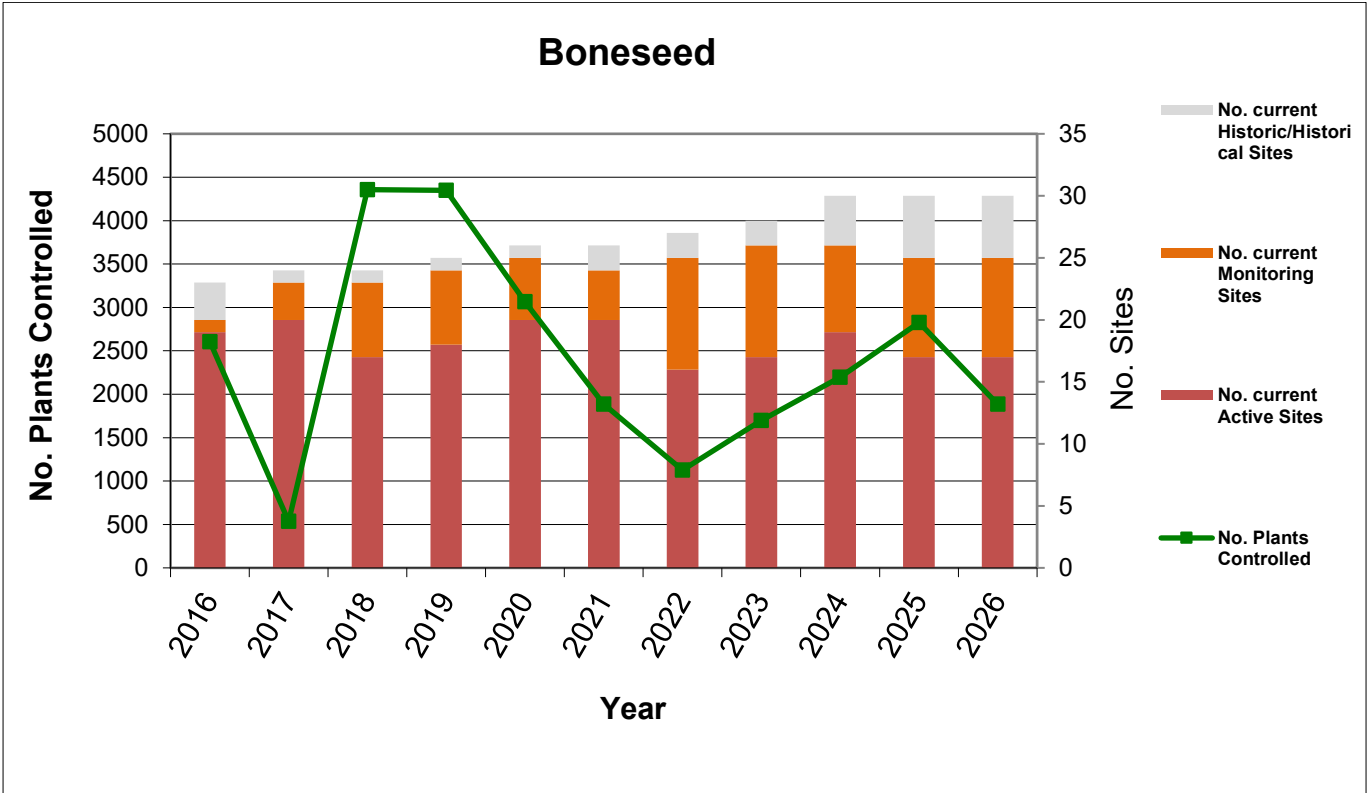
Programme trend → On track



3.3 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	A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Council that includes the management of boneseed. Operational activities are pre-planned each year and are delivered by either: 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.			
2025/2026		23 out of 25 sites (92%) with a status of 'active' or 'monitoring' were visited during 2025/2026 with a total of 1885 plants destroyed. The two sites that were missed are only accessible by boat during favorable conditions. Unfortunately, the biosecurity team was unable to secure a vessel to visit the sites during the plant's seeding period. Overall, 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.		
Target 3.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a historical status are visited for surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		Three of the five historical sites (60%) were visited in 2025/2026. One plant was found growing at one of these sites which has had its status changed to active.		

Programme trend  On track



3.4 Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective 1	Over the duration of the Plan, control broom (Cytisus scoparius) 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.			
Objective 2	Over the duration of the Plan, control broom (Cytisus scoparius) 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.			
Operations overview	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.			
Target 4.1	No more than one instance of non-compliance needing enforcement action is identified within the three Control Zones.			
2025/2026		No situations were identified requiring enforcement action.		
Target 4.2	Each year, undertake inspection and/or surveillance activities in all three zones.			
2025/2026		<u>Waima/Ure</u> Surveillance was undertaken in the Ure area. Low numbers of plants were present. <u>Upper Wairau</u> Inspections were carried out within the containment zone. Ongoing control work is underway to remove Broom plants and restore these areas back into useable pasture. <u>Upper Awatere</u> Compliance inspections were carried out and integrated with the rabbit management programme. No issues were identified.		
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 five working days.			

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
2025/2026		No boundary complaints were received this year.		

Programme trend  On track



Figure 2: Upper Wairau Broom and Gorse Control Zone.

3.5 Brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*)

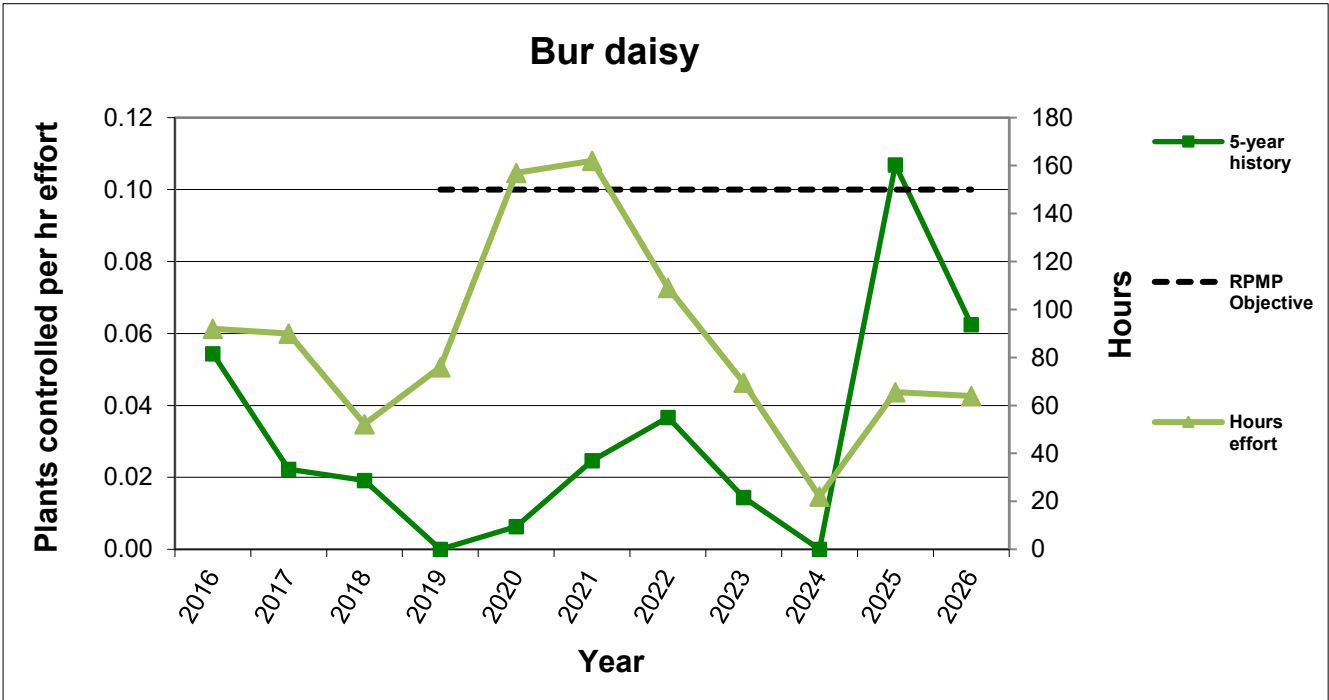
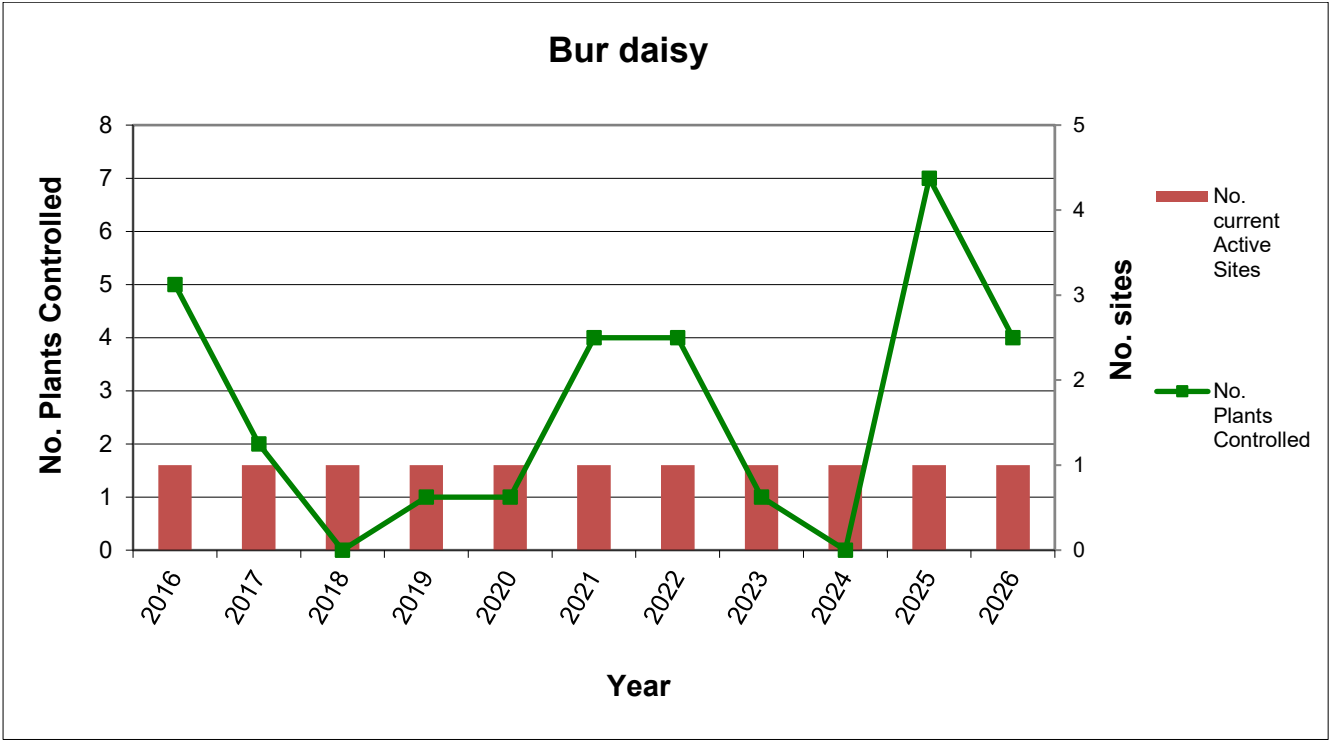
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective Operations overview	Over the duration of the Plan, prevent the establishment of brushtail possums (<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>) on islands currently known to be possum-free in the Marlborough Sounds (see Appendix 4 and Map 4 of the RPMP) to prevent future impacts on the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment. 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. In all instances, joint decision-making is to occur. 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. 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.			
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.			
2025/2026		There were no reports of possums on any of the off-shore Islands listed in the RPMP this year.		
Status of brushtail possums on designated islands: Not established.				
				

Programme trend  On track

3.6 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 five years, in the Marlborough district to prevent adverse effects on the economy. 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. Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.			
Objective 2				
Operations overview				
Target 6.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
2025/2026			64 hours of surveillance/control activities were undertaken at the only known Bur daisy site known to exist in Marlborough in 2025/2026. Four plants were found.	

Programme trend  On track



3.7 Cathedral bells (*Cobaea scandens*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control cathedral bells (<i>Cobea 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	A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by DOC and Council that includes the management of cathedral bells. 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.			
Target 7.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		All sites with the status of ‘active’ or ‘monitoring’ were visited in 2025/2026. Additionally, one new site was discovered at Moetapu Bay. 184 plants were found and destroyed across four sites.		
Target 7.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have historical status are visited for surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		Four out of six sites (67%) with a historical status were visited for surveillance activities during 2025/2026. No plants were found.		

Programme trend  On track

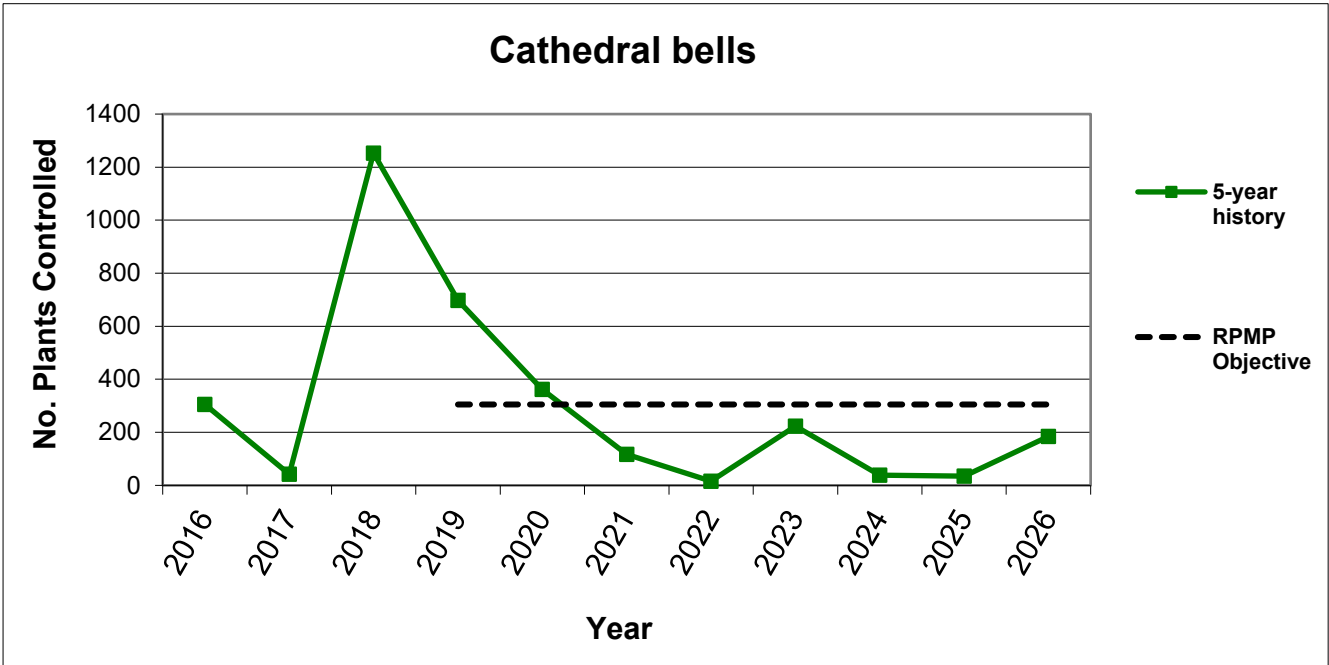
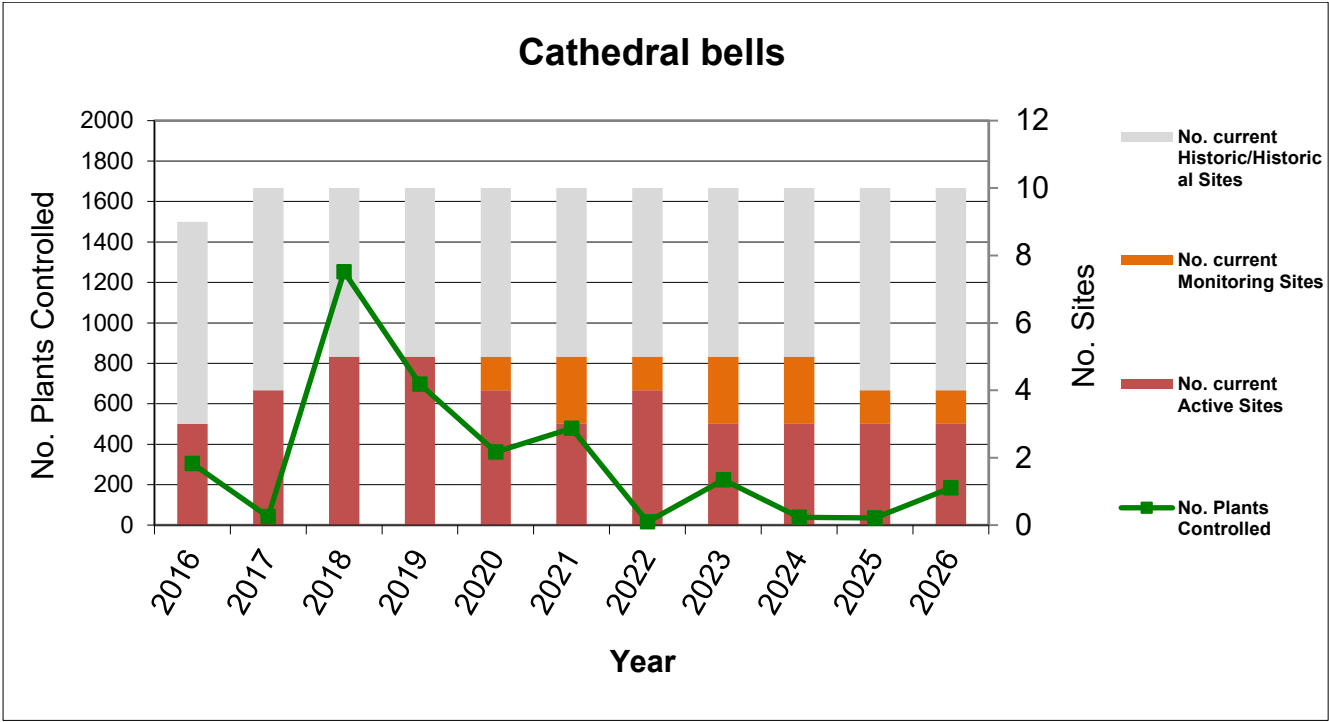




Figure 3: A recently discovered infestation of cathedral bells at Moetapu Bay.

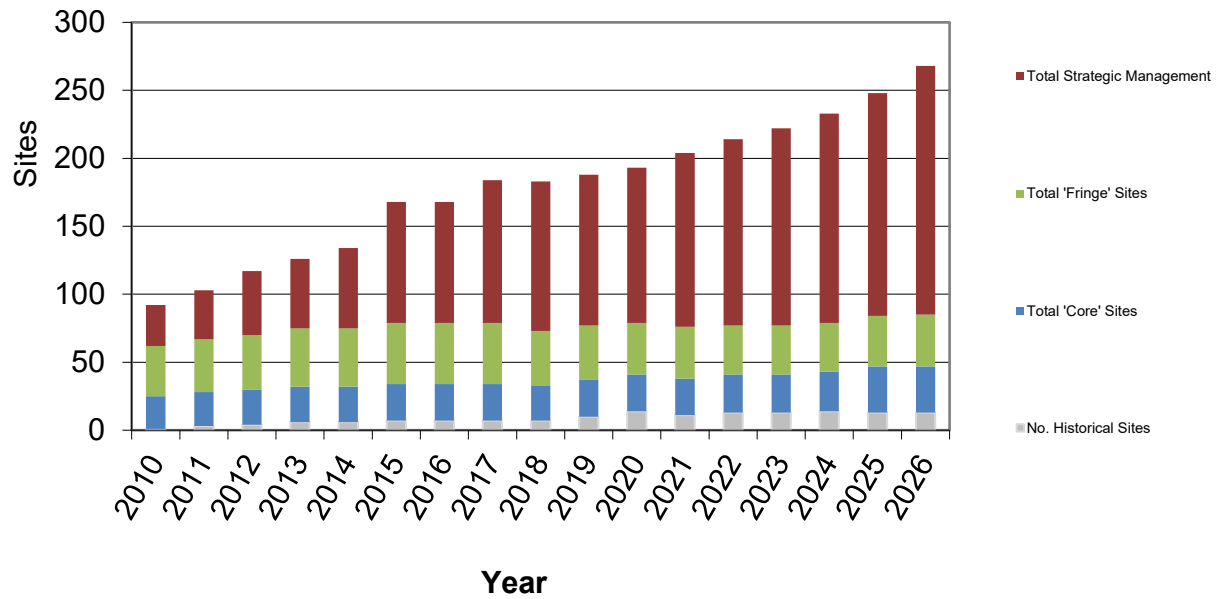
3.8 Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	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.			
	*A baseline assessment will be made either prior to or immediately after the Plan commences.			
Operations overview	There are multiple facets to the Chilean needle grass programme delivered by Council. These are:			
	• 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. • Active facilitation to develop management plans, and undertake compliance function where necessary, on the heavier 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.			
	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.			
Target 8.1	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.			
2025/2026		Active facilitation and/or inspection occurred for 100% of sites.		
Target 8.2	Each year, carry out required management work, on 100% of sites that have an infestation of Chilean needle grass where Council undertakes strategic management.			
2025/2026		Control work visits by staff and/or contractors occurred on 100% of these sites.		
Target 8.3	Each year, any report of potential Chilean needle grass received by Council is investigated within two working days.			
2025/2026		Council received a number of reports for suspected Chilean Needle Grass. All reports were investigated within two working days		
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.			

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
2025/2026		A calculated total of 2367 hours of staff and contractor time was spent on surveillance activities outside of previously known infested areas.		
Target 8.5 Each year, a minimum of six sites without any infestations of Chilean needle grass – but are identified as being at risk - are visited for active surveillance.				
2025/2026		A total of 81 properties were surveyed for the presence of Chilean Needle Grass through the peak flowering period.		

Programme trend  Not meeting objective

Chilean needle grass - Overall Site Trend



CNG Affected Area Trend

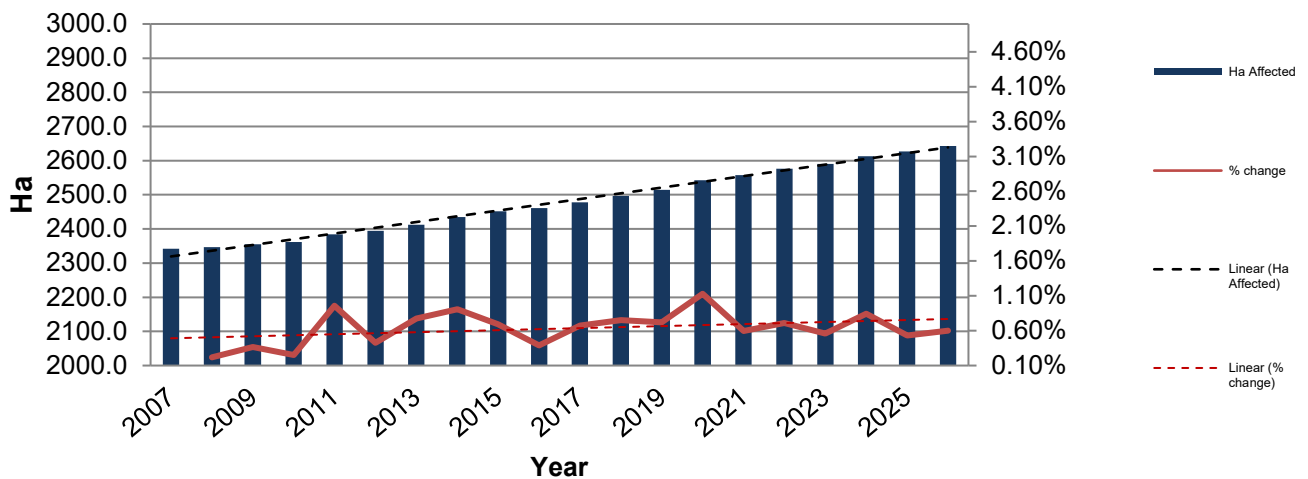


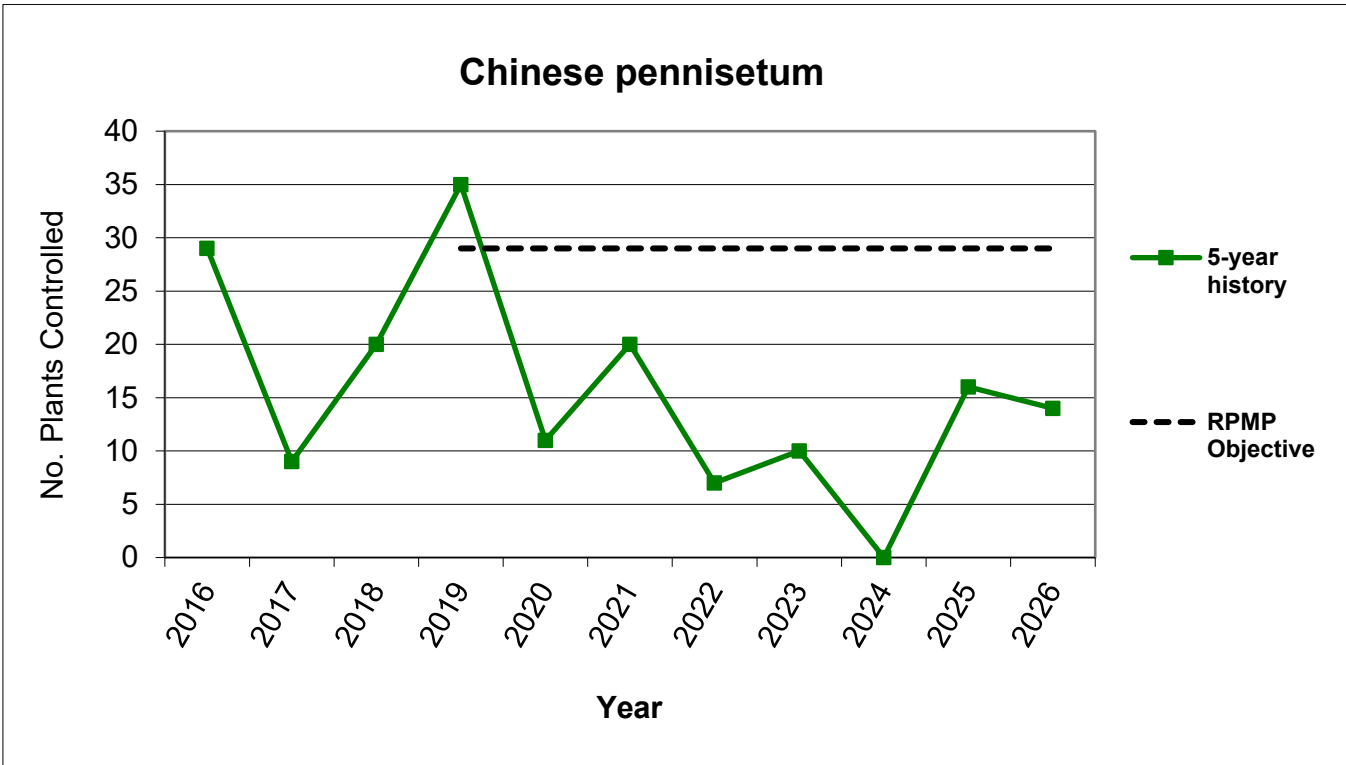
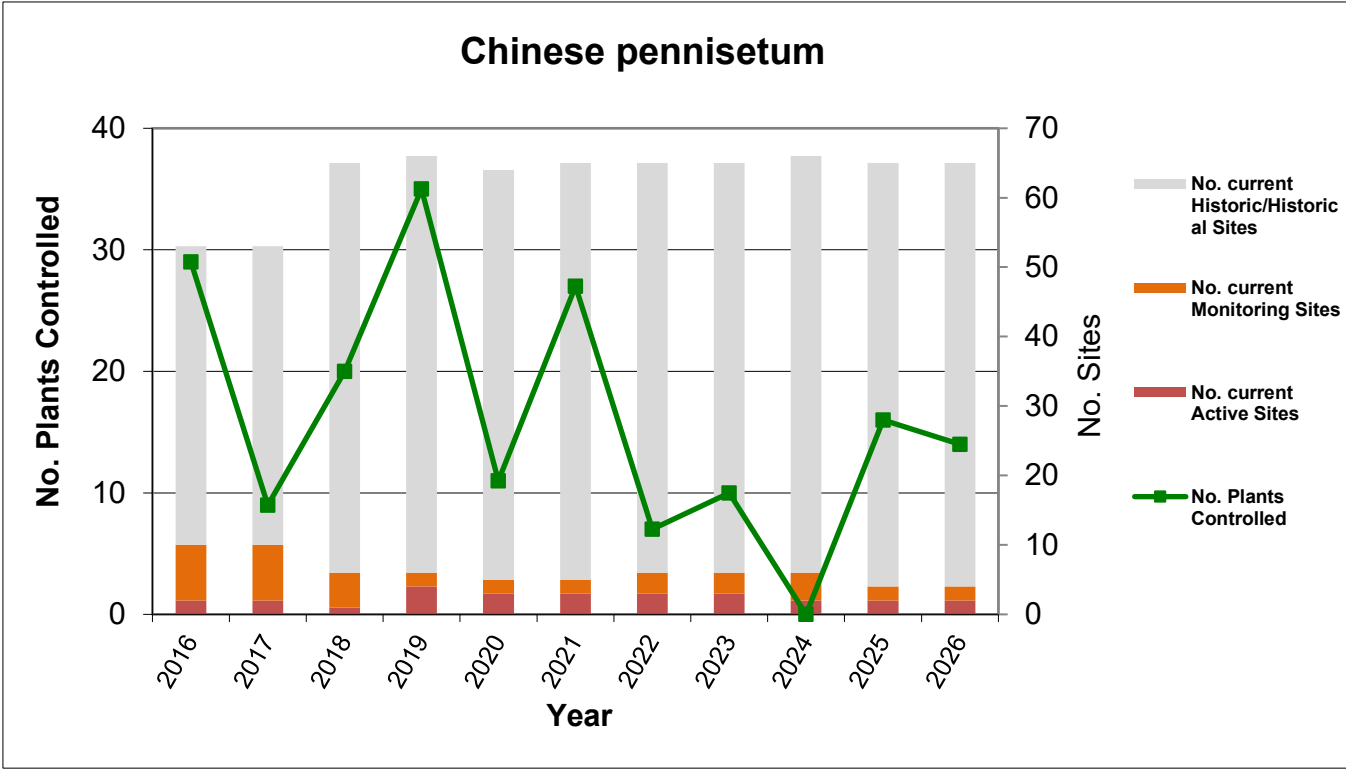


Figure 4: Recent Chilean needle grass find in a vineyard in Hawkesbury.

3.9 Chinese pennisetum (*Pennisetum 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 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.			
2025/2026		All ‘active’ and ‘monitoring’ sites were visited for 2025/2026. 14 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 of 29.		
Target 9.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a historical status are visited for surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		Twenty one out of 61 historical sites (34%) were visited, no plants were found.		

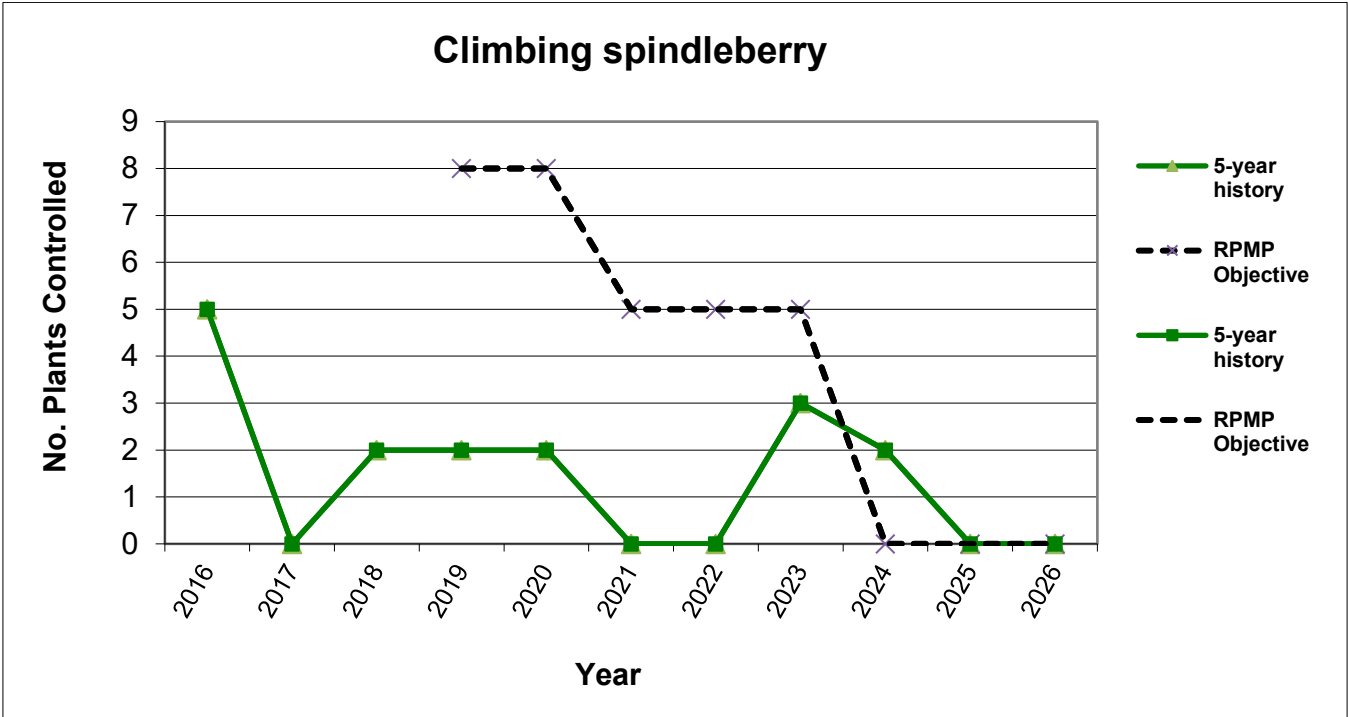
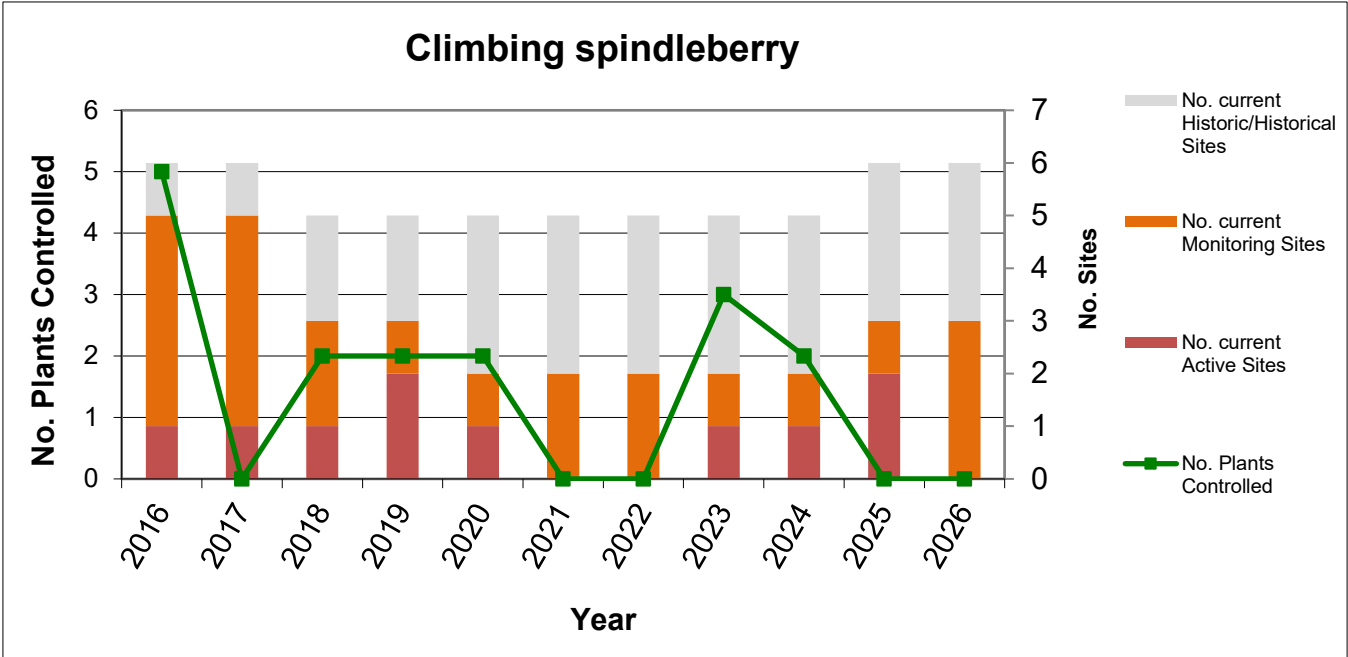
Programme trend  On track



3.10 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	A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by DOC and Council that includes the management of climbing spindleberry. 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.			
Target 10.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		All 'active' and 'monitoring' sites were visited for 2025/2026. As with last year, no plants were found.		
Target 10.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have historical status are visited for surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		All three historical sites (100%) were visited, with no plants found.		

Programme trend  On target

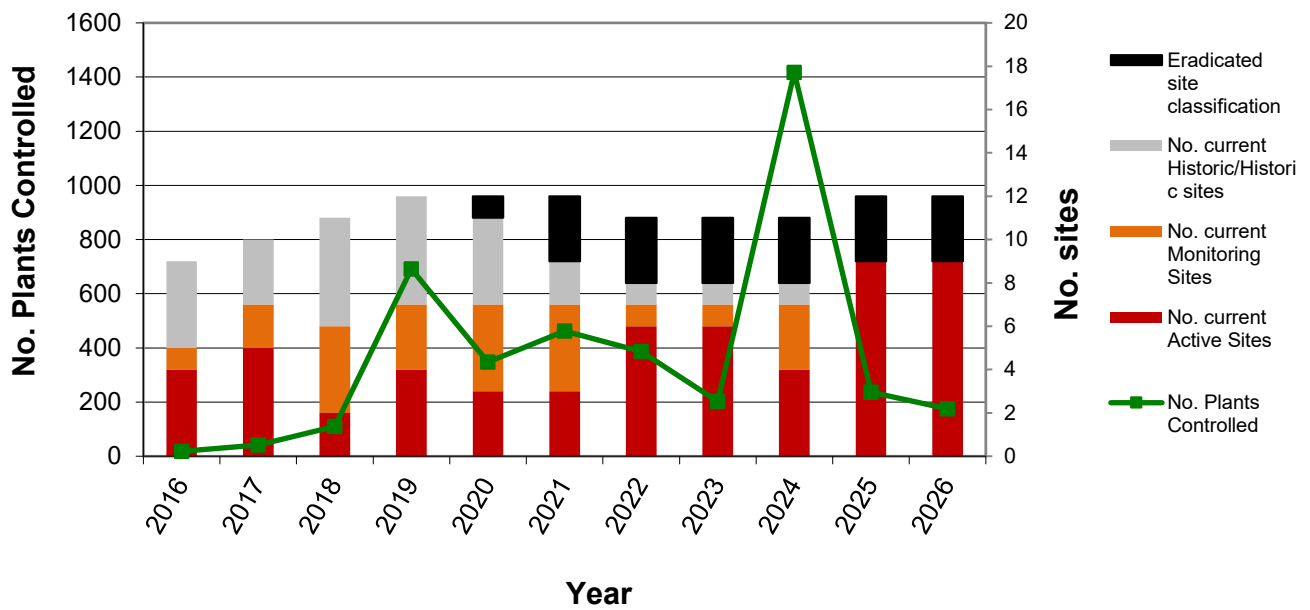


3.11 Cotton thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*)

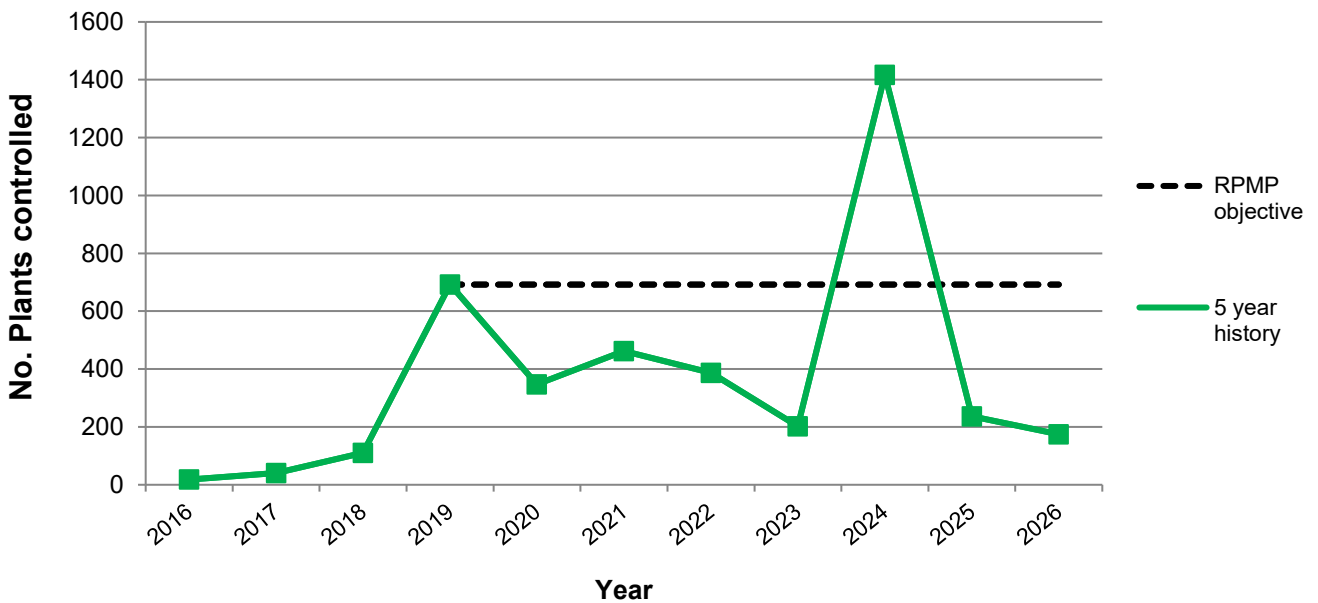
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, control cotton thistle (<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to baseline levels* to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.			
Operations overview	*A baseline level assessment will be made either prior to or immediately after the Plan commences.			
Target 11.1	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.			
2025/2026		Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.		
2025/2026		All sites with a status of 'active' or 'monitoring' were visited in 2025/2026. A total of 174 plants were destroyed this season which is below the RPMP threshold of 692.		
Target 11.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a historical status are visited for surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		There are currently no sites classified as 'historical'.		

Programme trend  On target

Cotton thistle



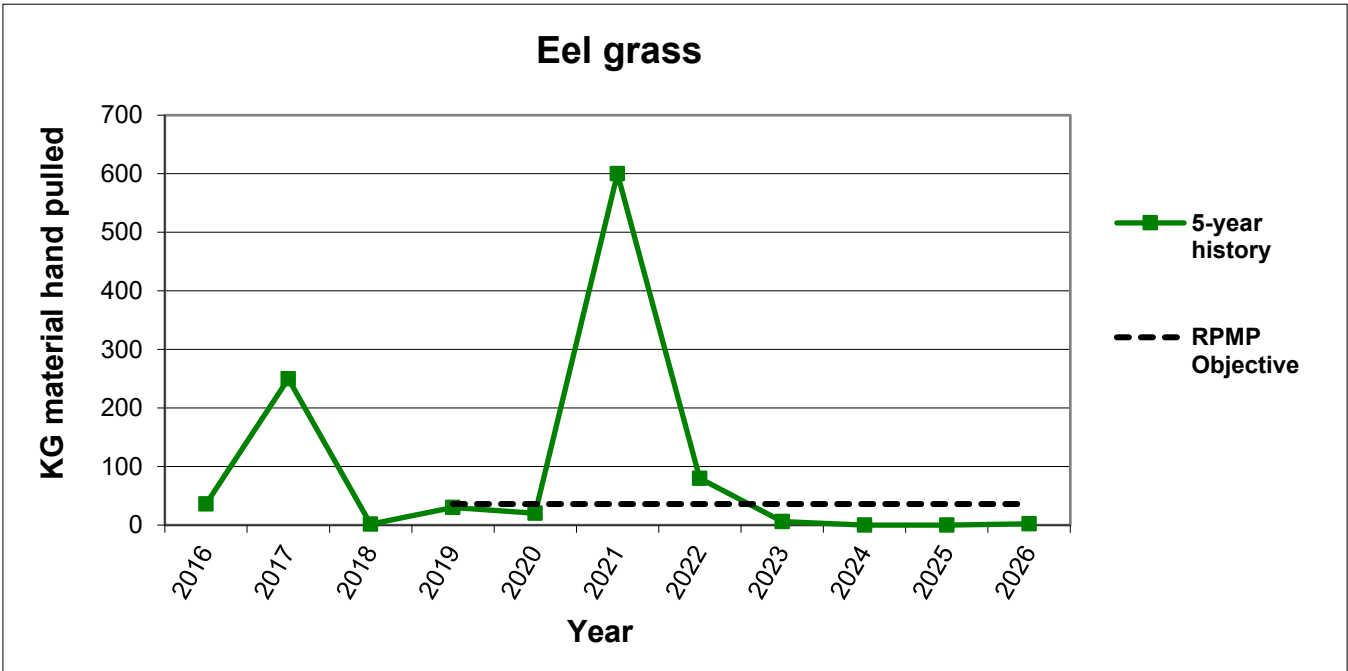
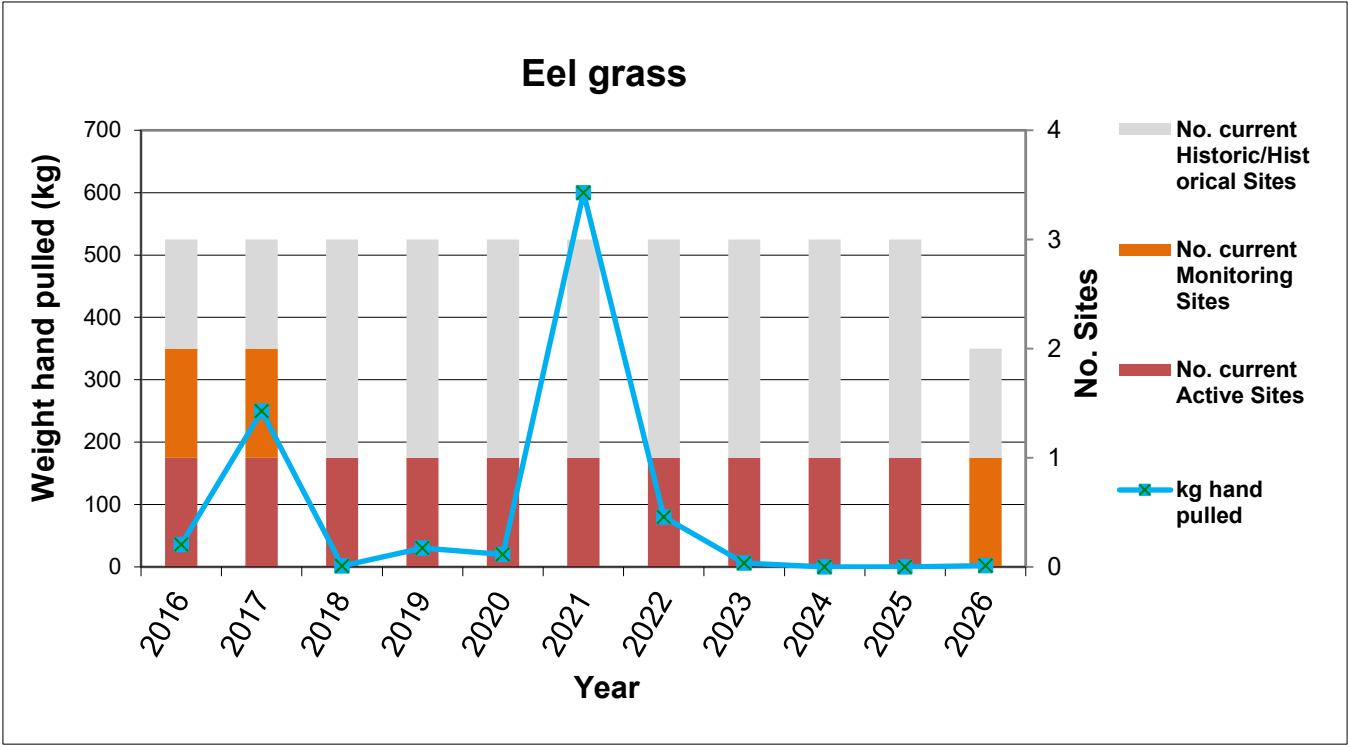
Cotton thistle



3.12 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 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.			
2025/2026		The one active site was visited with three times with a total of 2 kg of eel grass was hand pulled from the site. The Opaoa Loop, which is a historical site, was also searched with no eel grass being found.		

Programme trend  On track



3.13 Evergreen buckthorn (*Rhamnus alaternus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
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.			
Operations overview	A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to by DOC and Council that includes the management of evergreen buckthorn. Operational activities are pre-planned each year and are delivered by either: a) DOC staff, or; b) A joint operation between DOC and Council staff and/or contractors.			
Target 13.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		All active and monitoring evergreen buckthorn sites were visited in 2025/2026. A total of 423 plants were destroyed which is above the RPMP objective of keeping numbers to 2019 levels of 223.		
Target 13.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have historical status are visited for surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		There are currently no historical evergreen buckthorn sites.		

Programme trend  Not meeting objective

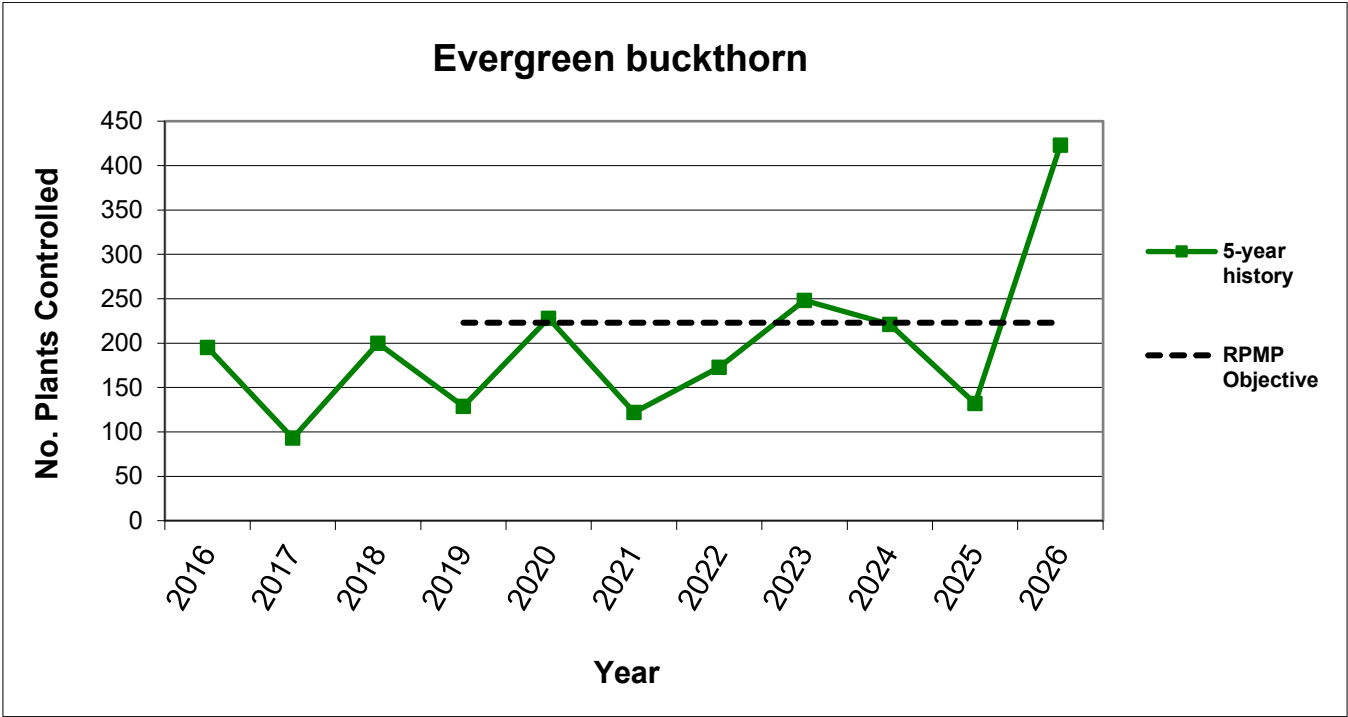
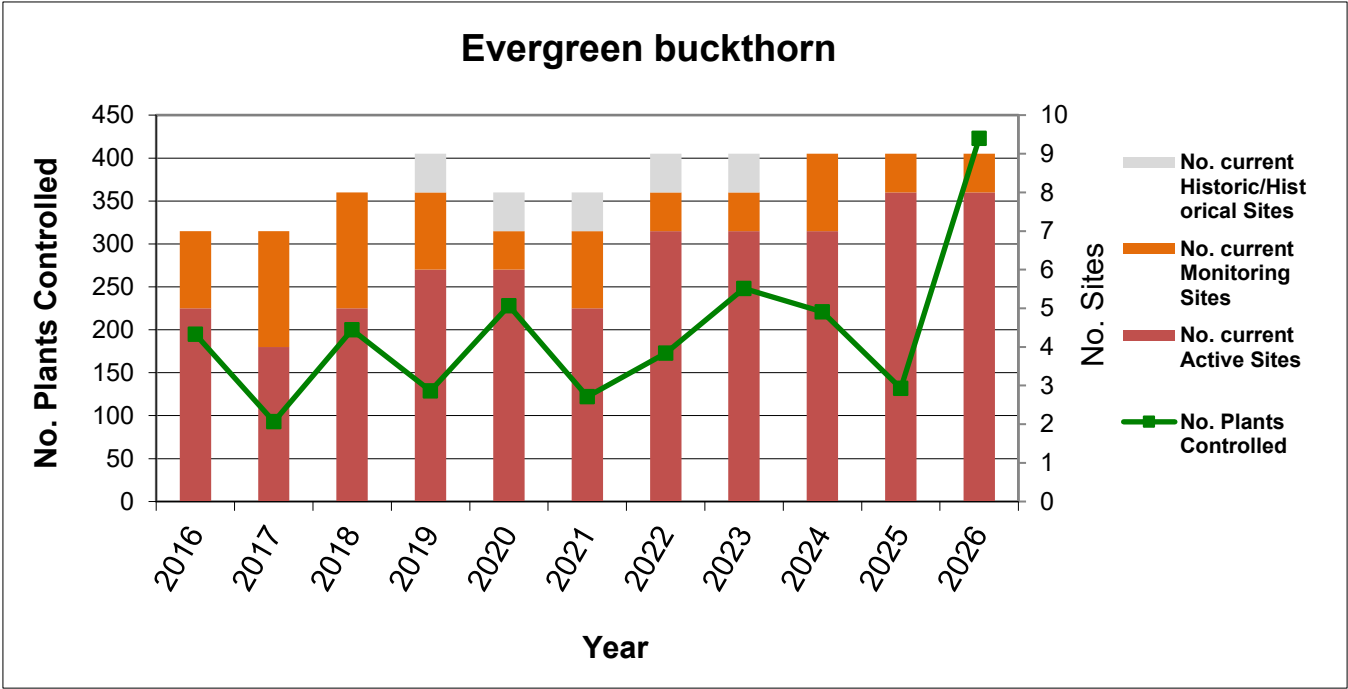


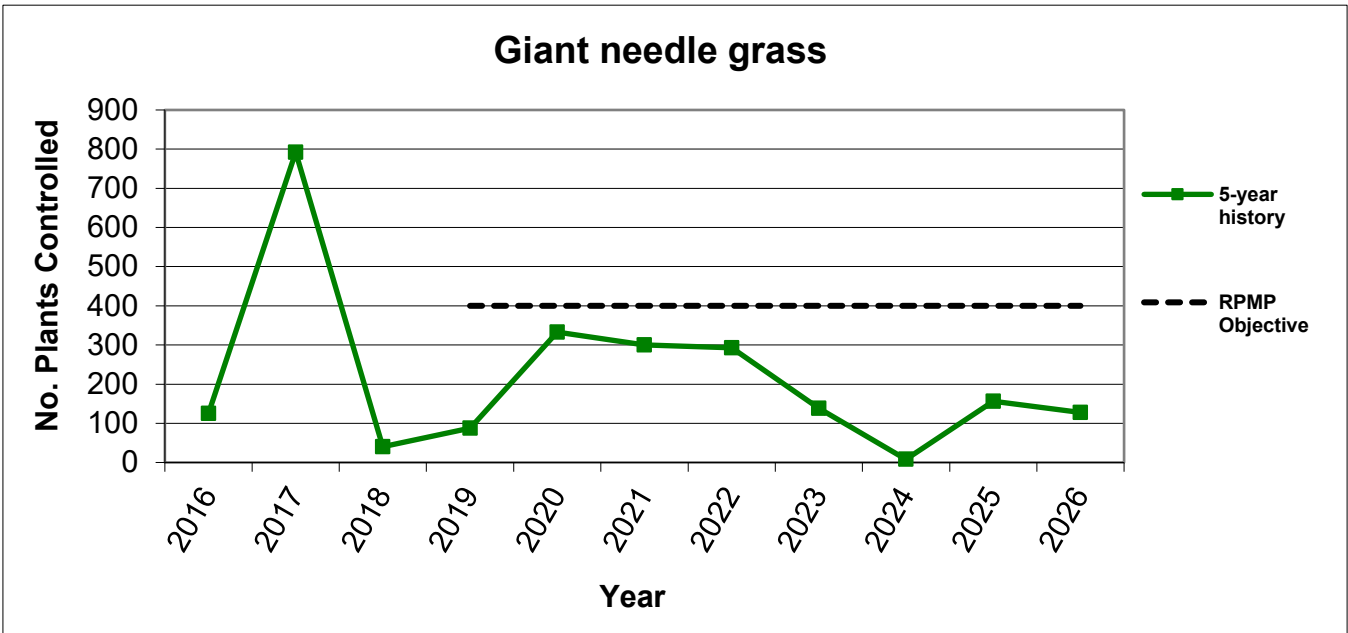
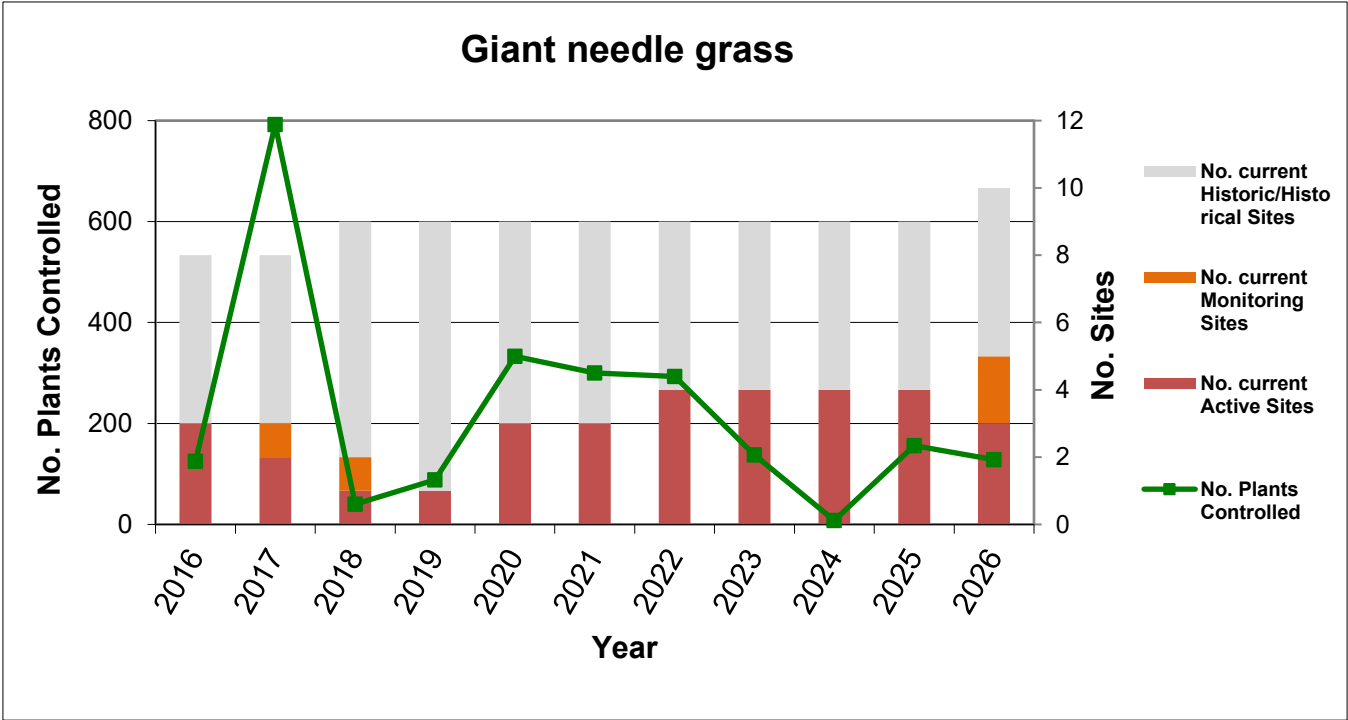


Figure 5: Council and DOC staff searching for evergreen buckthorn at Clova Bay in the Marlborough Sounds.

3.14 Giant needle grass (*Austrostipa rudis*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
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.			
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.			
Target 14.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		100% of all high priority sites were visited for control work. This includes a new active site that was discovered this season. A total of 128 plants were destroyed which is below the RPMP objective to keep numbers less or equal to 2014 levels.		
Target 14.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a historical status are visited for surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		Two out of five (40%) historical sites were visited for surveillance activities. No plants were found.		

Programme trend  On track



3.15 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				
Operations overview				
		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.		
		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.		
		Council also follows up and investigates situations that come to their attention where gorse is against a boundary and potentially threatening adjoining land.		
Target 15.1		No more than one instance of non-compliance needing enforcement action is identified within the three Control Zones.		
2025/2026		No instances requiring enforcement action were identified this season.		
Target 15.2		Each year, undertake inspection and/or surveillance activities in all three zones.		
2025/2026		<u>Waima/Ure</u> Surveillance was undertaken in the Ure area, with a focus on areas disturbed by logging. Some compliance inspections were undertaken in the Ure Catchment with good control work observed. <u>Upper Wairau</u> Inspections were undertaken within the containment zone, with overall control work observed to be of a high standard. However, a containment boundary adjustment is recommended for inclusion in the 2028 Regional Pest Management Plan, due to an increasing number of plants within the containment zone extending into adjacent control areas. <u>Upper Awatere</u> Excellent control observed in the Awatere control areas. Land Information New Zealand have extended control into the containment zone (Awatere River Gorge) with support from Marlborough District Council and adjacent landowners.		
Target 15.3		Each year, any situation that comes to Council's attention regarding gorse on a boundary potentially threatening adjoining land is investigated, and compliance with the Rule determined, within five working days.		

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
2025/2026		No boundary complaints were received this year.		

Programme trend  On track

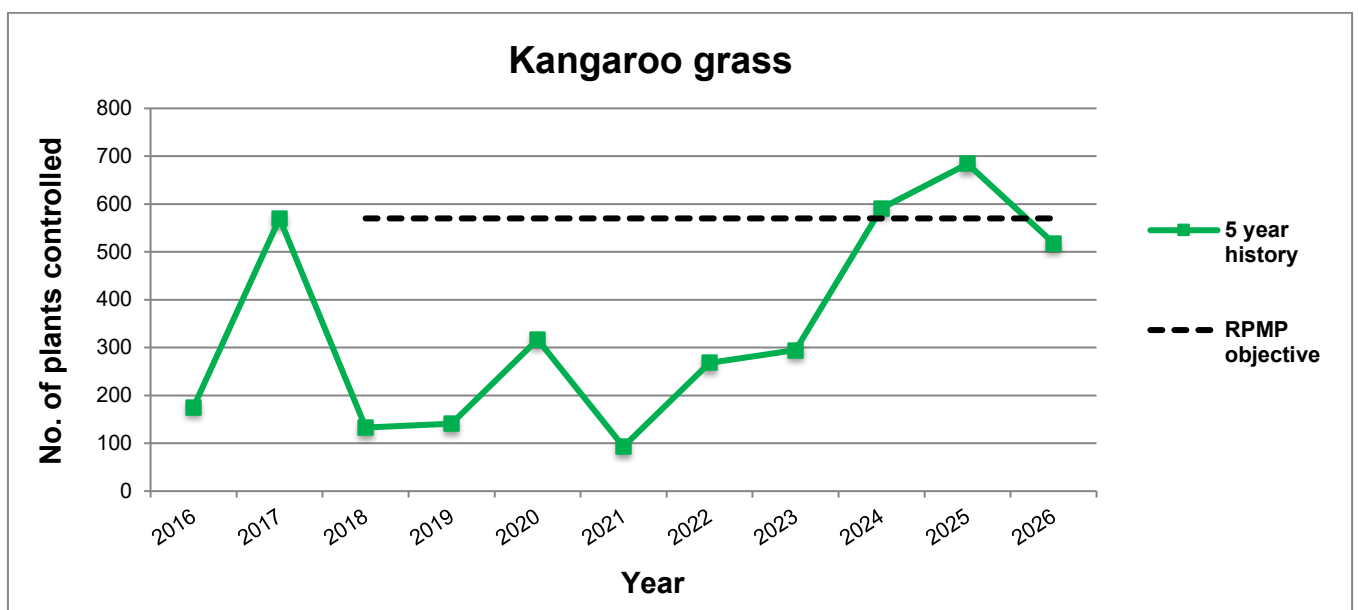
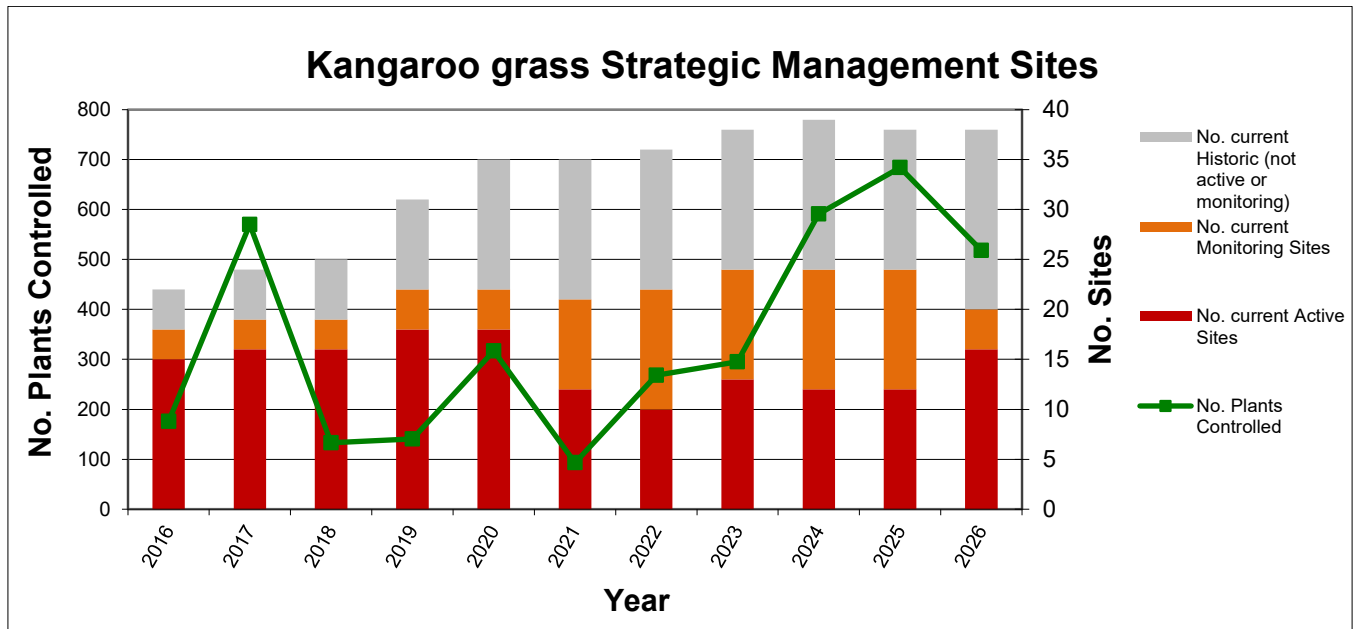


Figure 6: Wairau Gorse containment zone.

3.16 Kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	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.			
Operations overview	*A baseline assessment will be made either prior to or immediately after the Plan commences. There are multiple facets to the kangaroo grass programme delivered by Council. These are: • Staff and/or contractors 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. 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.			
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.			
2025/2026		11 of the 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.			
2025/2026		100% percent of sites subject to a programme where Council undertakes strategic management were visited and control undertaken if required. A total of 518 plants were destroyed which is less than the RPMP objective to keep numbers less or equal to 2017 levels.		
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.			
2025/2026		A calculated total of 50 hours of staff and contractor time was spent on surveillance activities outside of previously known infested areas.		

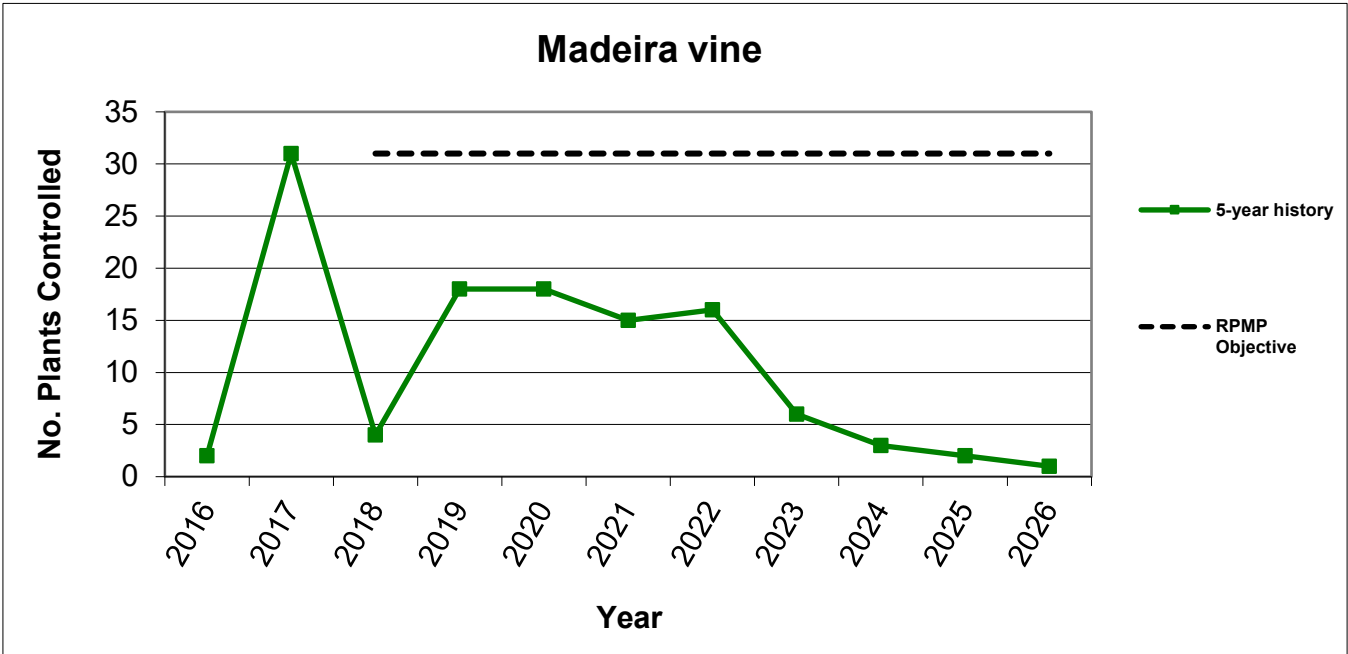
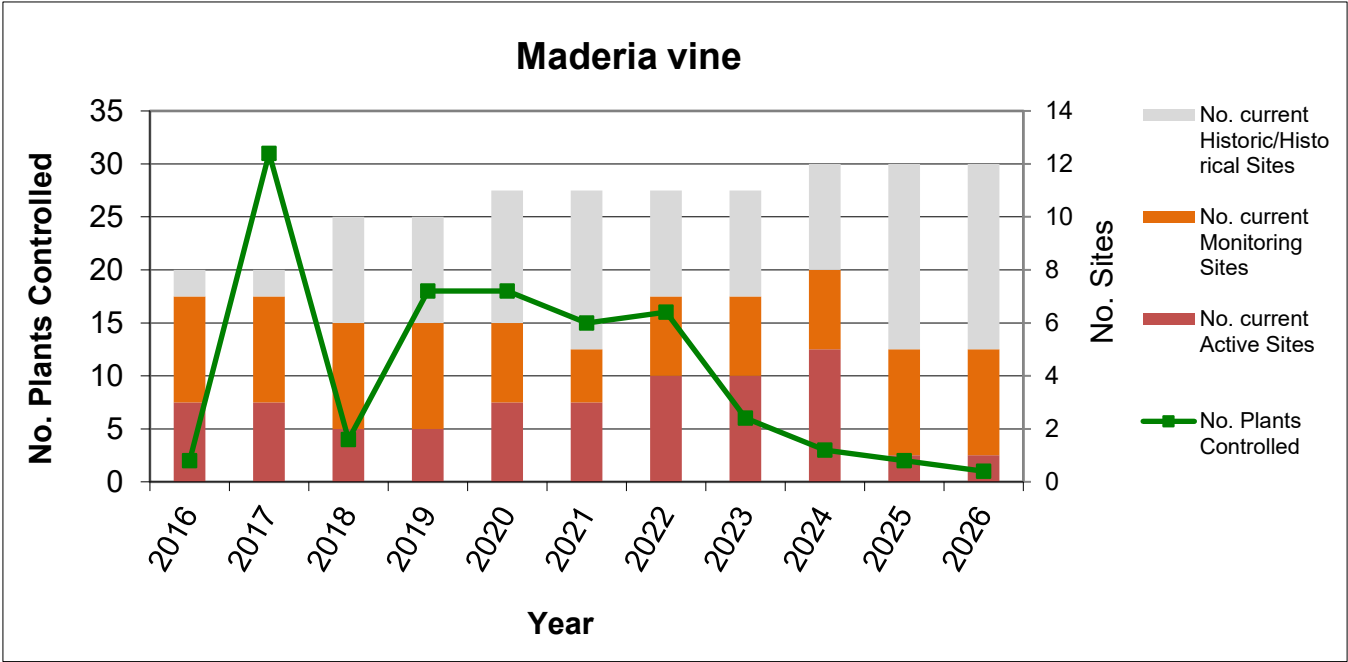
Programme trend ➔ On track



3.17 Madeira vine (*Andredera cordifolia*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	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.			
Operations overview	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:			
	1. Council staff and/or contractors (Blenheim, Seddon, Ward sites), or;			
	2. DOC staff (Marlborough Sounds sites).			
	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.			
Target 17.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		Council and DOC staff visited all 'active' and 'monitoring' sites for control in 2025/2026. This resulted in the destruction of one plant, which is below the RPMP objective to keep numbers less or equal to 2017 levels.		
Target 17.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a historical status are visited for surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		Four out of seven historical sites (57%) were visited, with no plants being found.		

Programme trend  On track



3.18 Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective Operations overview	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. There are multiple facets to the Mediterranean fanworm programme delivered by Council. These are: • Specialist dive contractors undertake surveillance and removal of Mediterranean fanworm within areas where it has been detected previously. Currently that is only Picton Marina. • 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). • Responding to reports of suspected Mediterranean fanworm and/or fouled vessels that have recently arrived and undertaking compliance action if necessary. • Delivering ongoing communication, education and awareness initiatives as is appropriate in conjunction with the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership. 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).			
Target 18.1		Each year, a minimum of two dive surveillance and removal operations are undertaken in Picton Marina, Waikawa Marina.		
2025/2026		Between July 2025 and May 2026, contracted divers undertook surveillance across both Waikawa and Picton Marinas surveying vessel hulls, rock walls, pontoons, piles and marine structures. Only one fanworm was found in the Waikawa Marina incursion zone.		
Target 18.2		Each year, one dive surveillance operation is undertaken in Waikawa Bay, Picton Port, Shakespeare Bay, Grove arm, Port Underwood and Havelock Marina.		
2025/2026		A single dive surveillance check was conducted across the following locations: Shakespeare Bay, Grove Arm, Port Underwood, and Havelock Marina. No Mediterranean fanworm was discovered during these inspections. Additionally, surveillance checks were carried out on moored vessels in Waikawa Bay, Picton Port and Tennyson Inlet. One vessel was identified in Waikawa Bay having upwards of 200 fanworm on its keel. The vessel was wrapped and treated to remove the fanworm and was subsequently hauled out to apply new antifoul.		

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Target 18.3 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.				
2025/2026		In addition to the fanworm vessel found in Waikawa Bay, another vessel carrying fanworm was identified during the summer surveillance programme in Pelorus Sound. The vessel owners were directed to have the vessel hauled out in Waikawa so the fanworm could be removed and the vessel cleaned.		
Status of Mediterranean fanworm in Marlborough: 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. Surveillance over 25/26 has indicated that there are no known established populations of mediterranean fanworm in Marlborough. The single fanworm discovered in Waikawa Marina is likely connected to the 2024 incursion and does not indicate recent recruitment. A total of 2671 vessel inspections were undertaken through out the year.				

Programme trend  On target

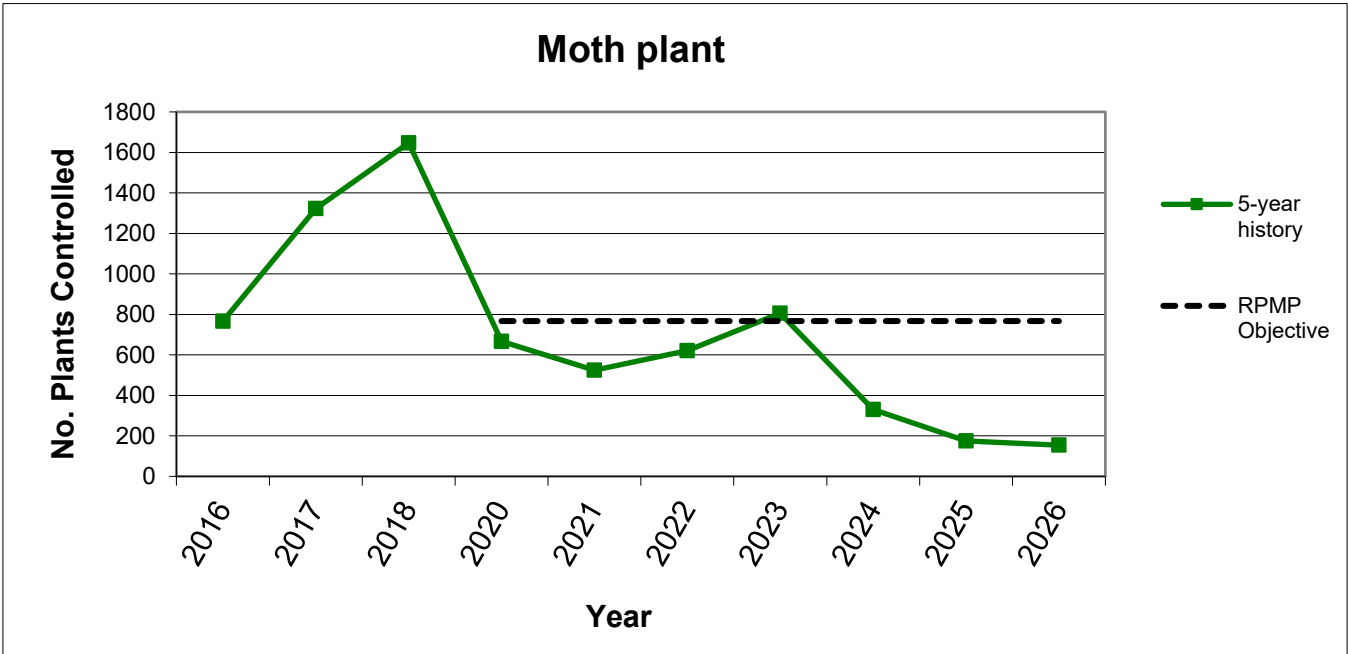
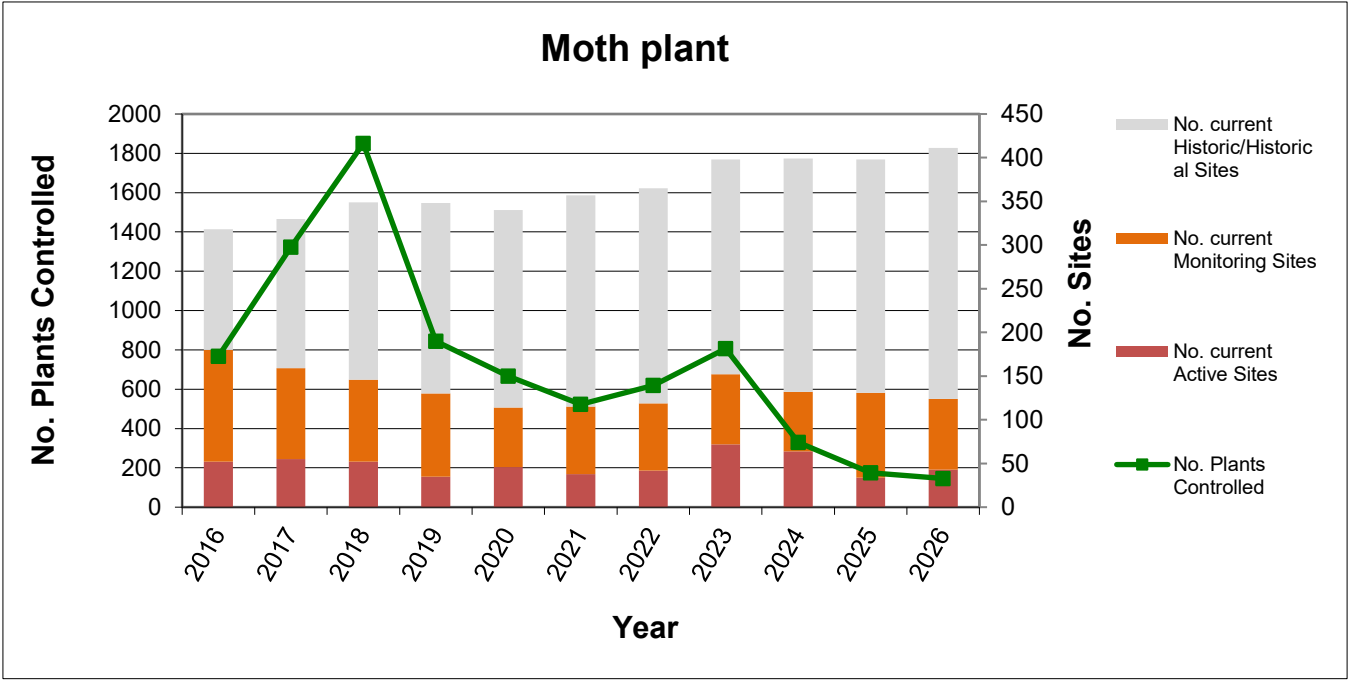


Figure 7: A Mediterranean fanworm vessel after being wrapped in Waikawa Bay.

3.19 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.			
2025/2026		100% of ‘active’ and ‘monitoring’ sites (131 in total) were visited in 2025/2026. Overall, 154 plants were destroyed, which is well below the RPMP objective to keep plant numbers at or below 2016 levels.		
Target 19.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a historical status are visited for surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		91 of the 273 historical sites (33%) were inspected in 2025/2026.		

Programme trend  On target

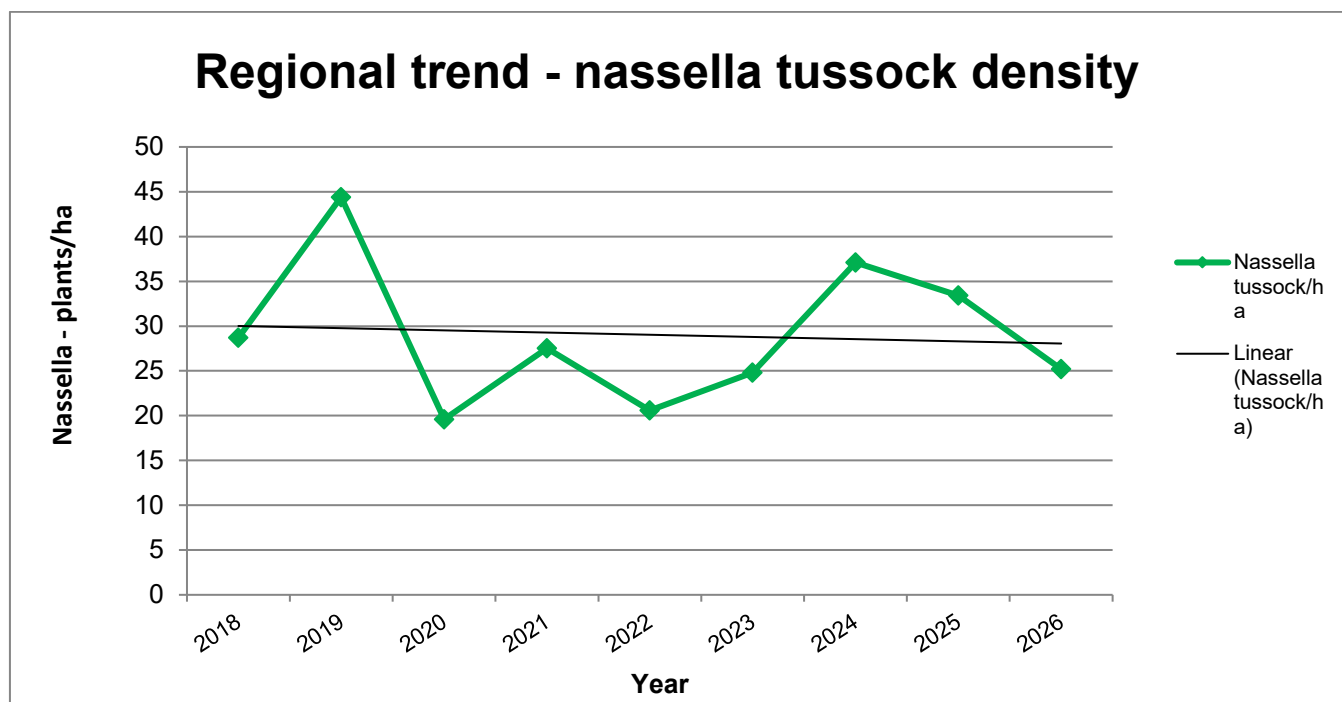


3.20 Nassella tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*)

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	There are multiple facets to the nassella programme delivered by Council. These are: • 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. • 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. 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.			
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.			
2025/2026		For the 2025 active compliance programme 405 land occupiers were sent control programmes reminding them of their obligation to destroy Nassella tussock on their property.		
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.			
2025/2026		342 sites (84% 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.			
2025/2026		Surveillance activities were carried out at 69 out of 197 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.			

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
2025/2026		A total of 517 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. Where new infestations were found the spatial distribution data was updated in the Council's geographical information system to map the distribution of nassella tussock in the Marlborough region.		

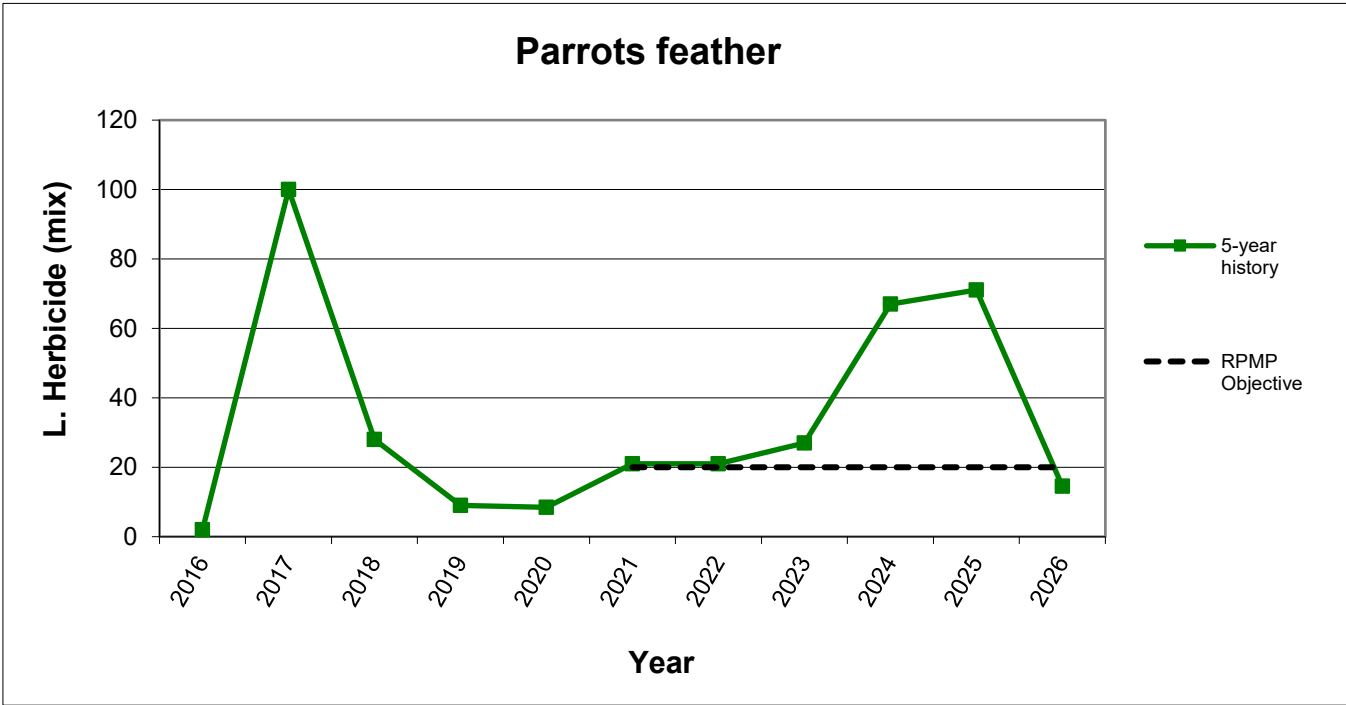
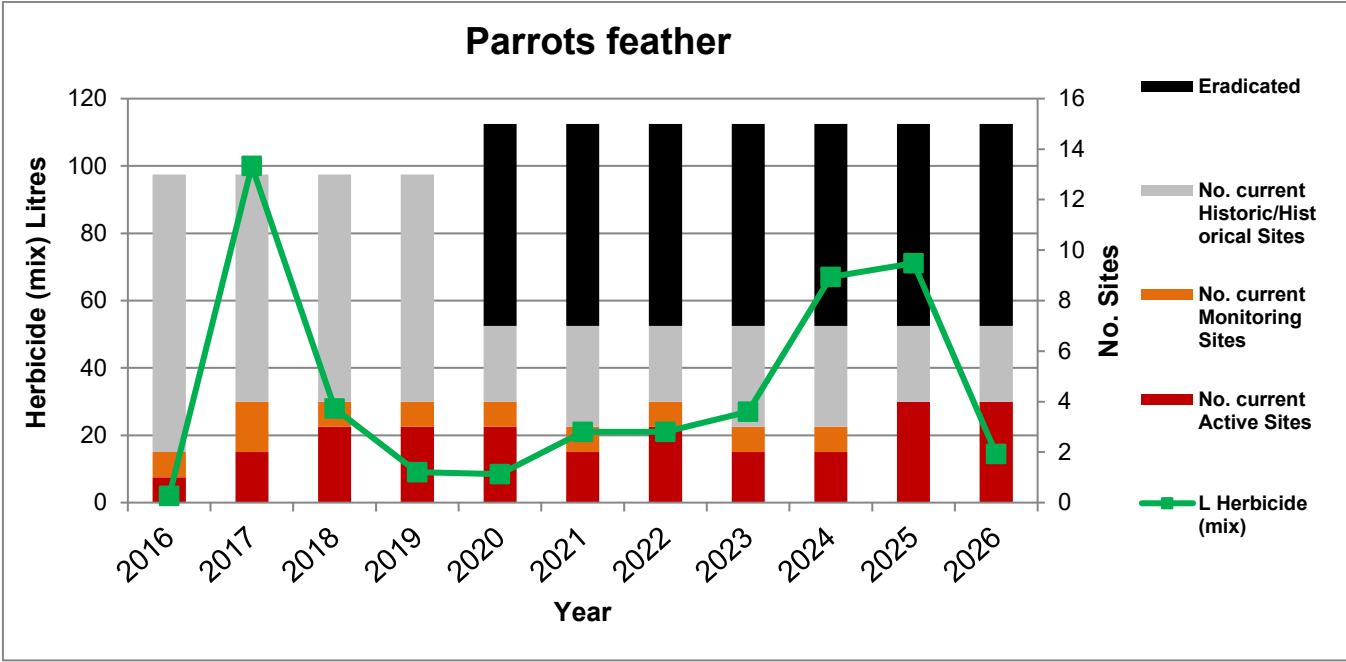
Programme trend → On target



3.21 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 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.			
2025/2026		100% of all ‘active’ and ‘monitoring’ sites were visited by biosecurity staff. The equivalent of 14.5 litres of spray strength herbicide was used to control these plants which is below the RPMP objective to use less than or equal amounts to 2013 levels.		
Target 21.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a historical status are visited for surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		One of the three historical sites (33%) were visited for surveillance activities.		

Programme trend  On target



3.22 Pest conifers

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective 1	Over the duration of this Plan, progressively contain pest conifers through containing and reducing, where feasible, the geographic distribution of pest conifers within the Marlborough region to reduce adverse effects on the environment, enjoyment of the natural environment and economic wellbeing.			
Objective 2				
Operations overview				
Target 22.1	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).			
2025/2026		On the 1 July 2025, the Marlborough District Council signed a services agreement with the Ministry for Primary Industries for services to the delivery of the National Wilding Conifer Programme in Marlborough. Throughout the course of the year, Biosecurity has facilitated the activities of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme in the region.		
Target 22.2	Facilitate the Marlborough Wilding Conifer Steering Group meetings to the satisfaction of all stakeholders involved.			
2025/2026		A steering group meeting for 2025/2026 occurred in July 2026. The steering group was informed to ensure integration between all the agencies and stakeholders that manage the delivery of the National Wilding Conifer Programme over the next three years.		
Target 22.3	Each year contact the owner of the Stronvar retirement area to discuss any future management considerations in the area if it is deemed feasible to undertake control.			
2025/2026		In 2024/2025, a proposed Operational Management Plan for the Stronvar Retirement Area was drafted in consultation with the occupier of Stronvar Station. The plan records activities agreed between Council and the owner of Stronvar Station to support RPMP objective two, as outlined above. No work is proposed for the Stronvar Retirement Area in 2026/2027. However, an outline of the proposed 2026/2027 work plan was submitted to the owner for feedback.		

Programme trend  Not meeting objective



Figure 8: Aerial operator spot spraying wilding conifers at Molesworth Station.

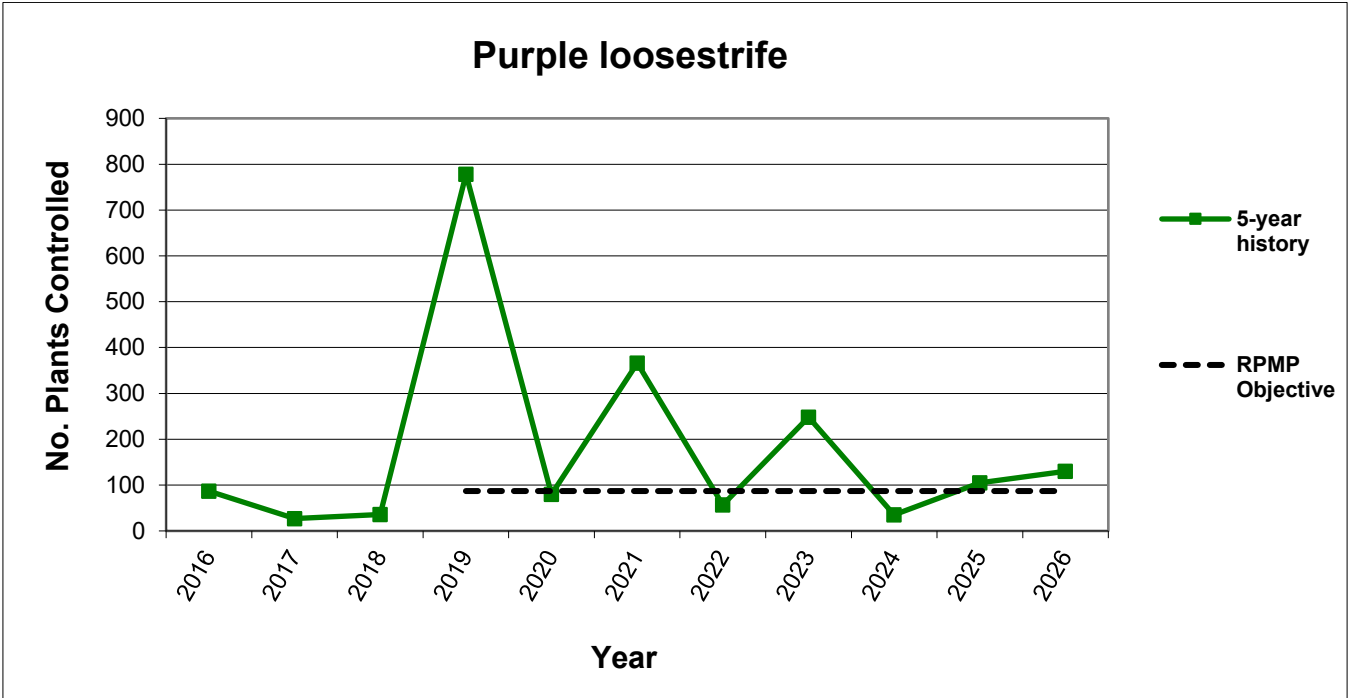
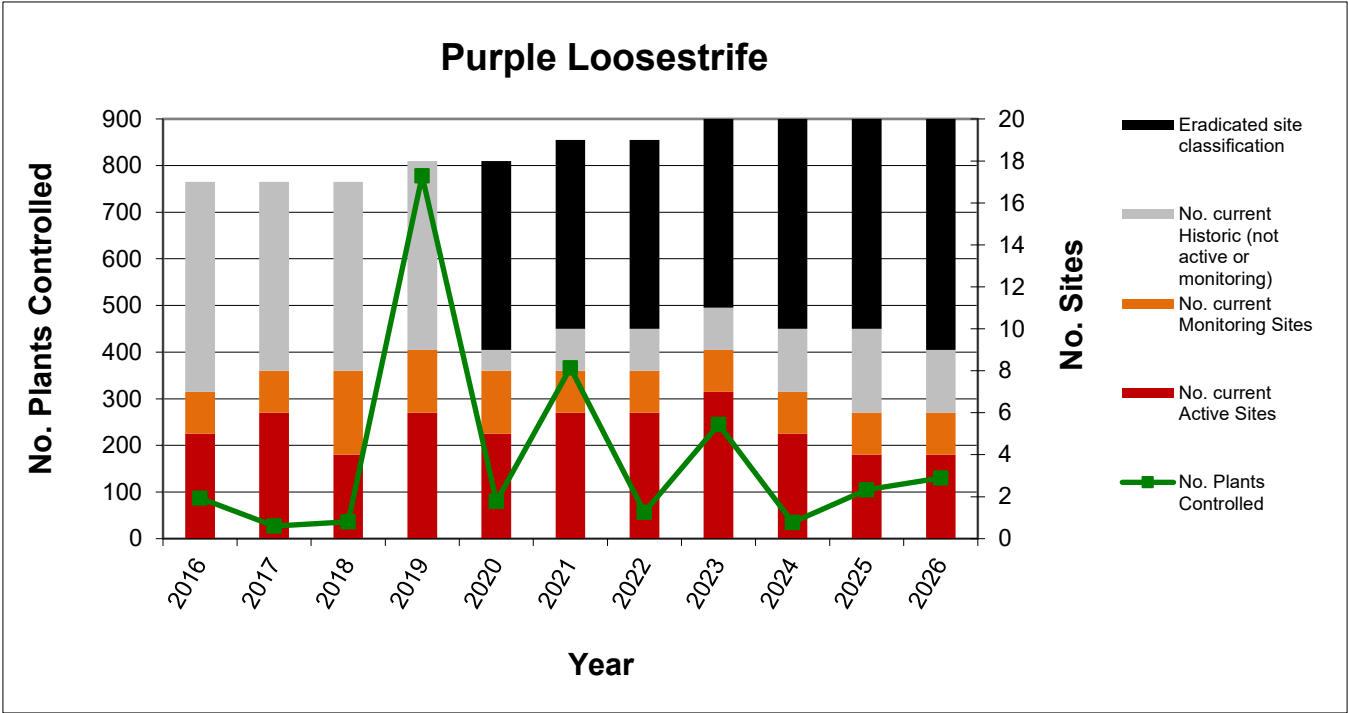


Figure 9: The Minister of Conservation visited Molesworth Station to discuss Wilding conifers with key program partners.

3.23 Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
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.			
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.			
Target 23.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		100% of 'active' and 'monitoring' sites were inspected and control undertaken. 130 plants were destroyed in 2025/2026 which is above the RPMP objective of keeping numbers to 2016 levels.		
Target 23.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have historical status are visited for surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		One of the three historical sites (33%) was visited in 2025/2026, with no plants being found.		

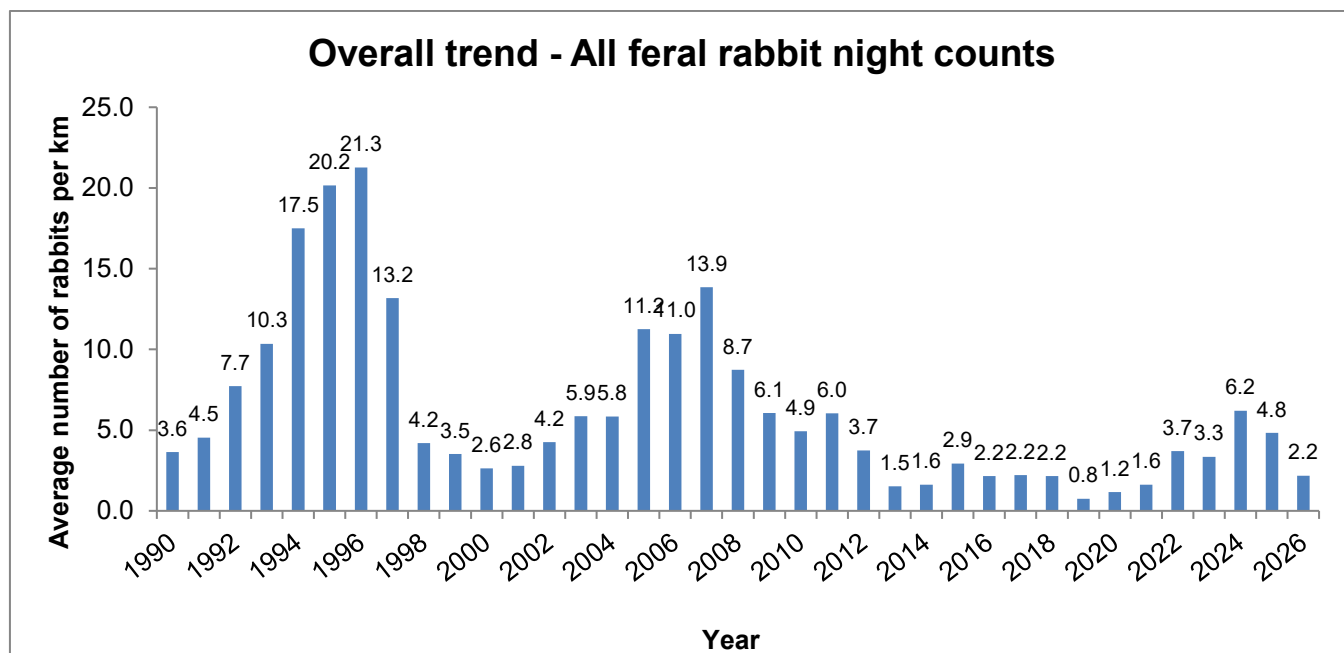
Programme trend  Not meeting objective



3.24 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	There are multiple facets to the rabbit programme delivered by Council. These are: • 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 24.1	Each year, a schedule of sites is generated by 31 January outlining the coming season’s inspections.			
2025/2026		An inspection schedule was developed by 31 January 2025 targeting properties in rabbit prone areas.		
Target 24.2	Each year, 100% of sites identified on the inspection schedule are inspected to assess rabbit population levels.			
2025/2026		All sites targeted for inspection were visited during Autumn 2026.		

Programme trend  On track



Rabbit numbers continue to remain low overall.

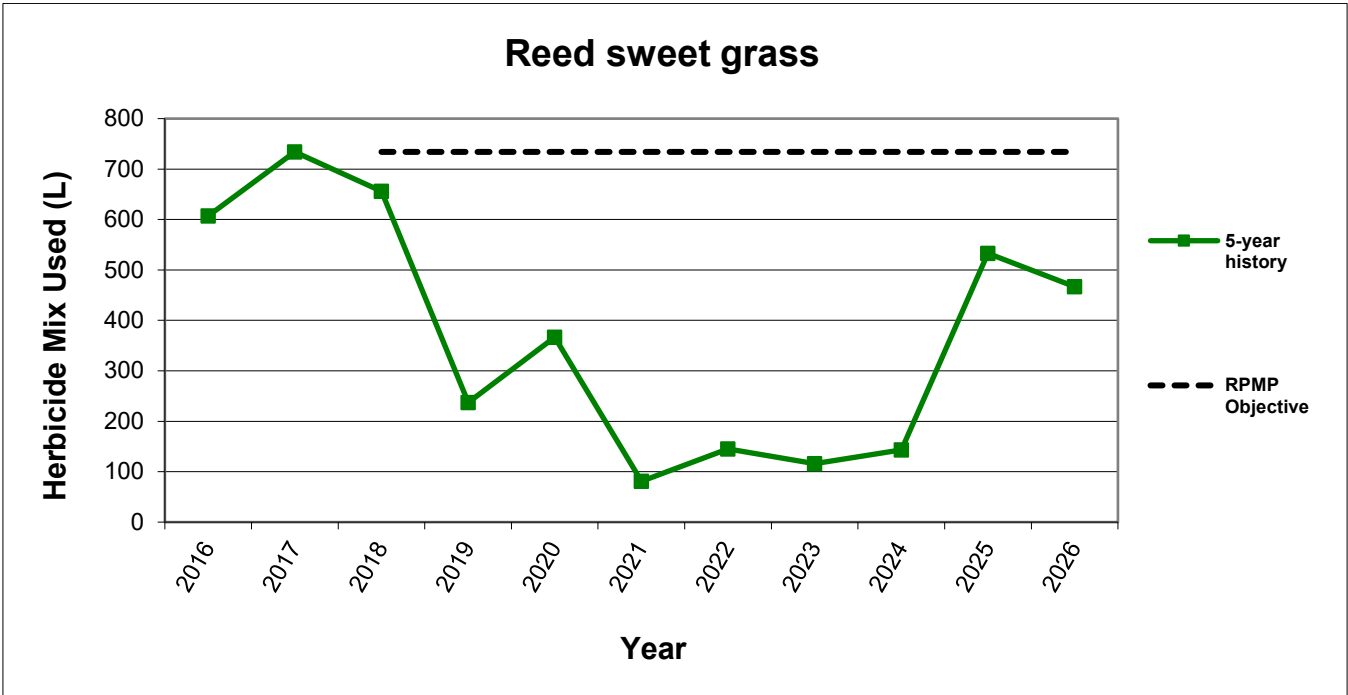
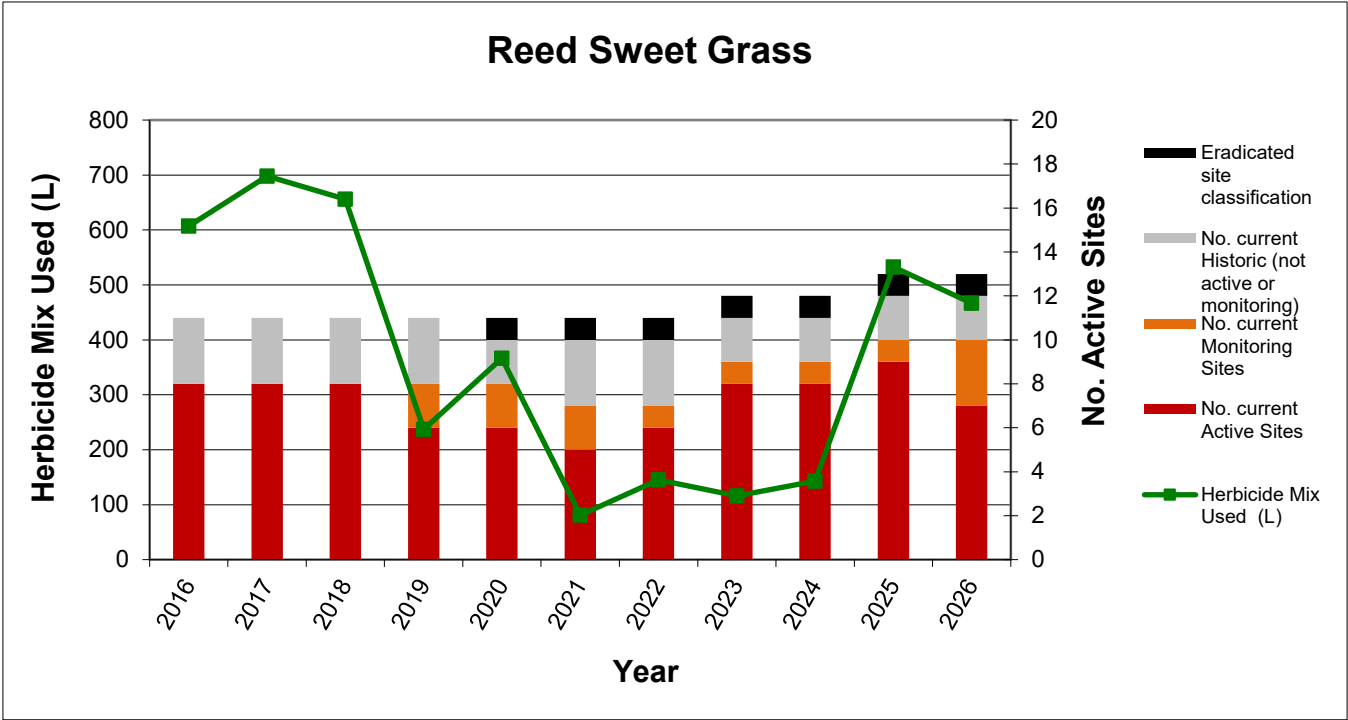


Figure 10: Biosecurity officer about to start the Kerrytown rabbit night count.

3.25 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 carry out all operational activities.			
Target 25.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		All 'active and 'monitoring' sites were visited during the 2025/2026 season. 466.6 litres of herbicide was used to control infestations this season which is below the below the threshold of the RPMP objective of 734 litres of spray strength herbicide.		
Target 25.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a historical status are visited for surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		Both historical sites were visited with no reed sweet grass being found.		

Programme trend  On track



3.26 Rooks (*Corvus frugilegus*)

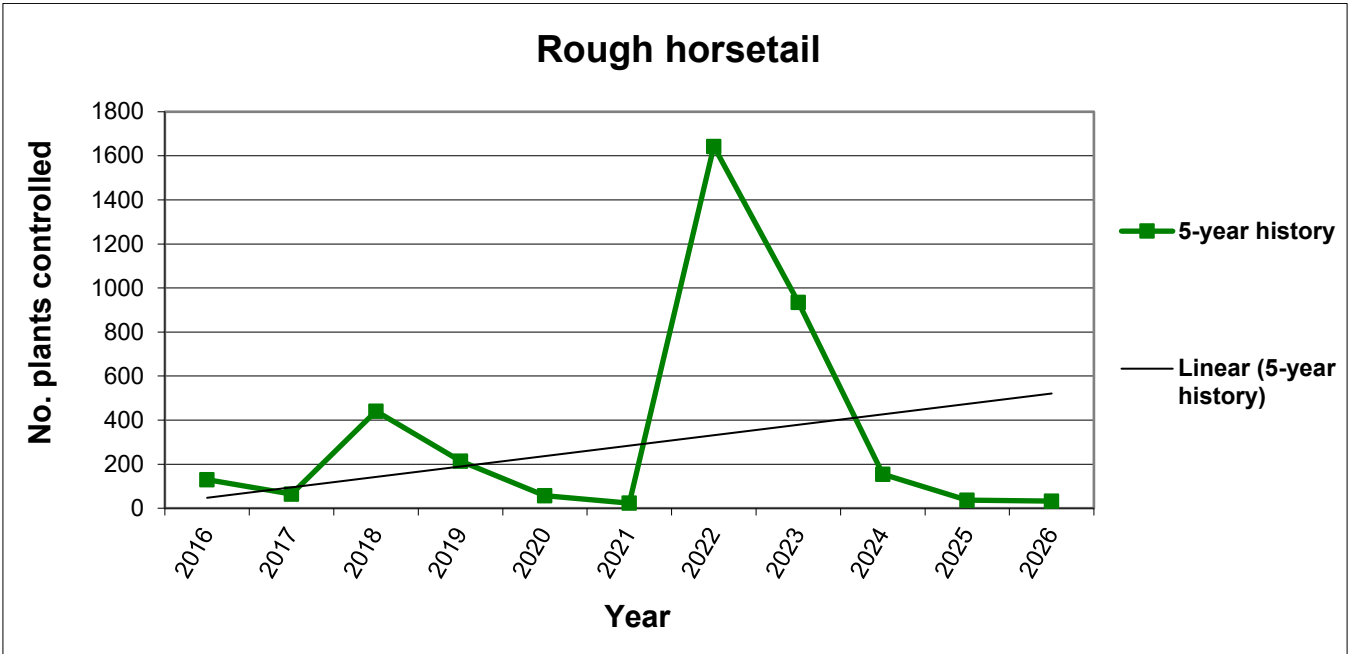
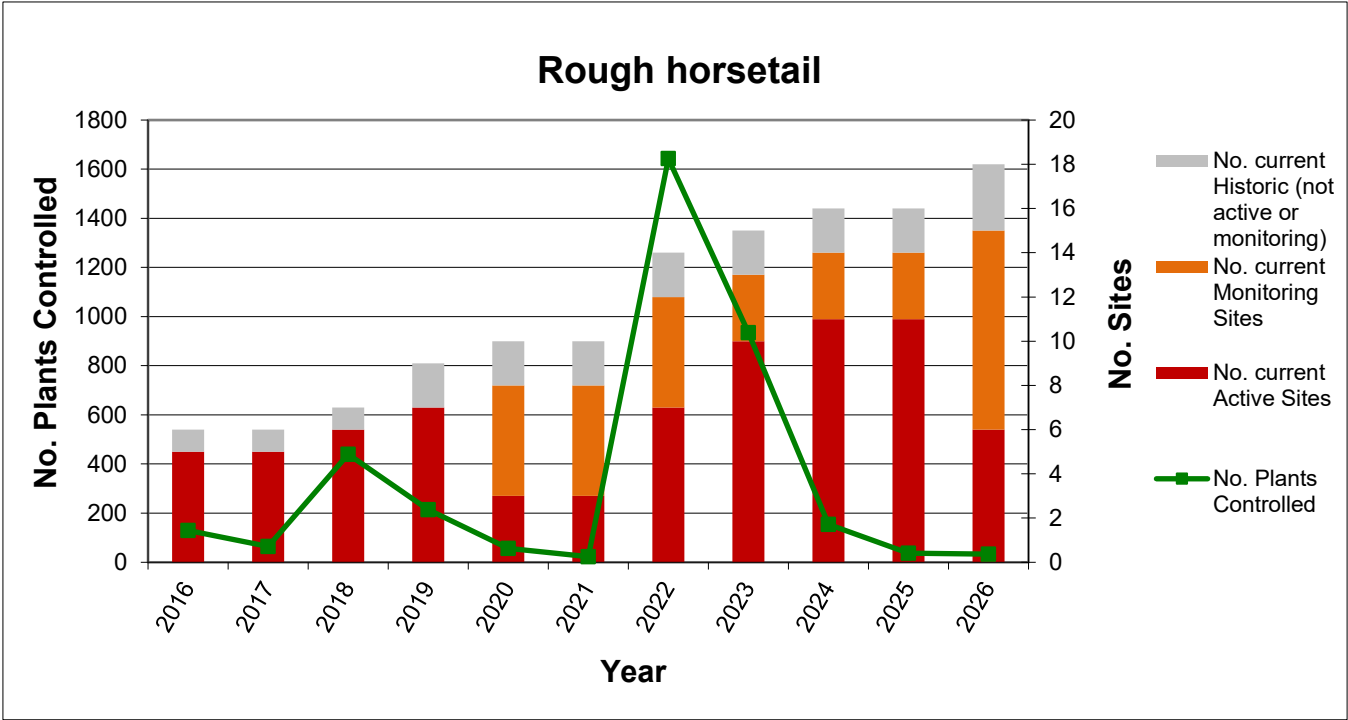
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	Over the duration of the Plan, prevent the establishment of rooks (<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>) in the Marlborough district to prevent future impacts on economic wellbeing.			
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities should rooks be detected in Marlborough.			
Target 26.1	Each year, undertake an appropriate awareness activity within the community to facilitate reporting of rooks if they are seen.			
2025/2026		Advertising was undertaken via the MDC media channels		
Target 26.2	Each year, respond to any report of rooks in Marlborough within two working days.			
2025/2026		Multiple reports of Rooks were received through 2025/2026 from Grovetown, Renwick and Fairhall. Biosecurity officers carried out surveillance across all areas, but no birds were found. On-going awareness and surveillance in these areas will continue into 2026/2027		
Status of rooks in Marlborough: Not established				
Last detection of a rook was in August 2024.				

Programme trend  On target

3.27 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 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.			
2025/2026		100% of active or monitoring sites were visited with a total of 33 plants destroyed. This falls well below the threshold of the RPMP objective of 250 plants.		
Target 27.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have historical status are visited for surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		All historical sites were visited with no rough horsetail being detected.		

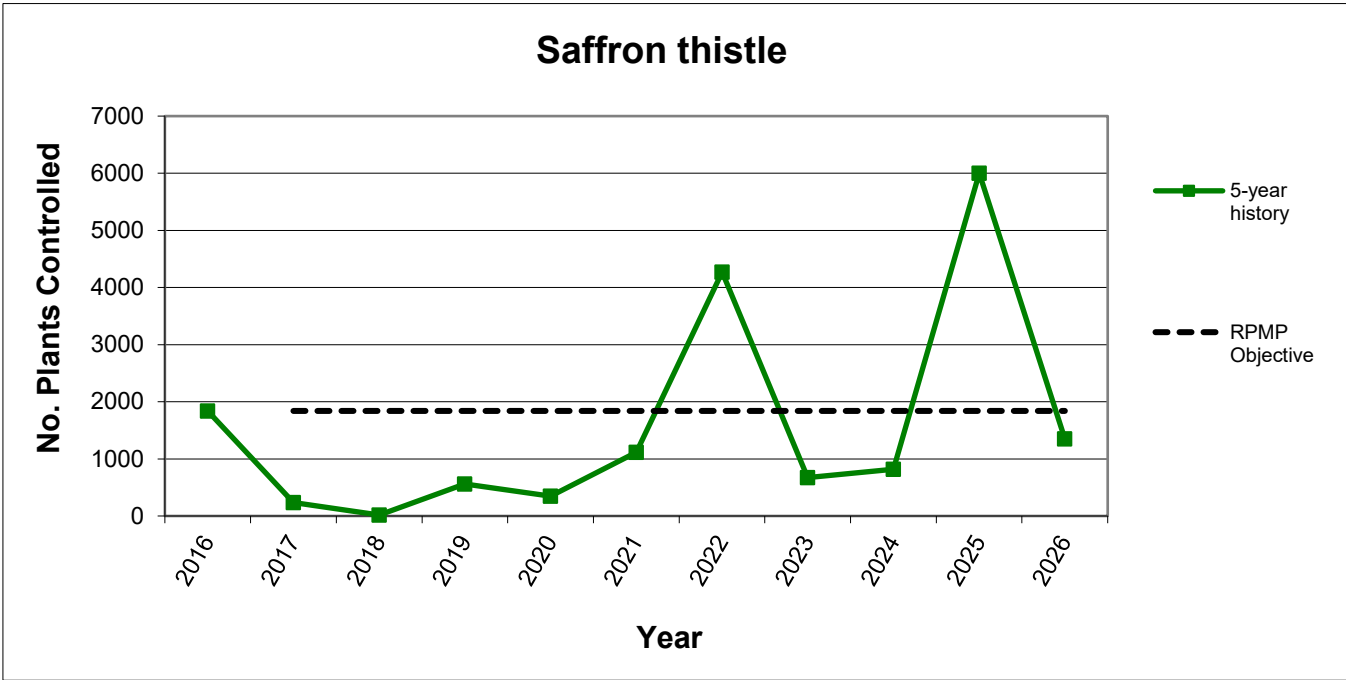
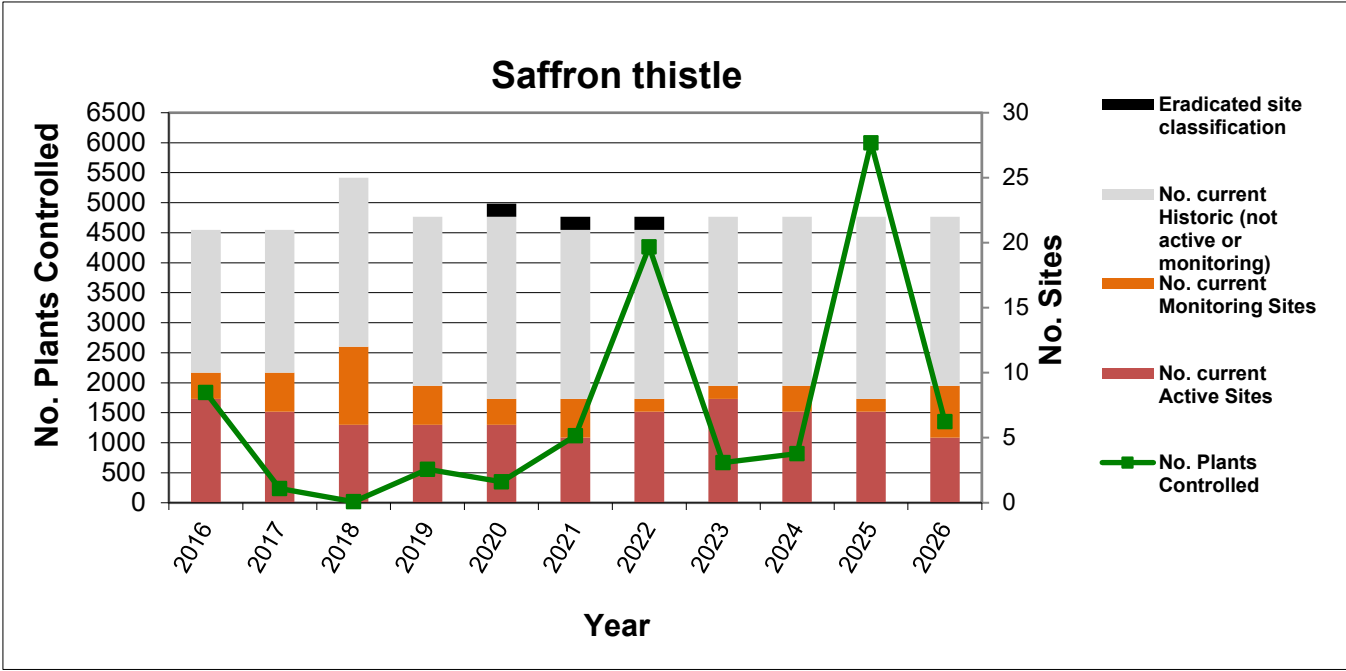
Programme trend  On target



3.28 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 carry out all operational activities.			
Target 28.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		All sites with a status of ‘active’ or ‘monitoring’ were visited in 2025/2026. 1350 plants were destroyed this season which is below the RPMP threshold of 1839.		
Target 28.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		Five out of 13 historical sites (38%) were visited in 2025/2026 and no plants were found.		

Programme trend  On target



3.29 Senegal tea (*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*)

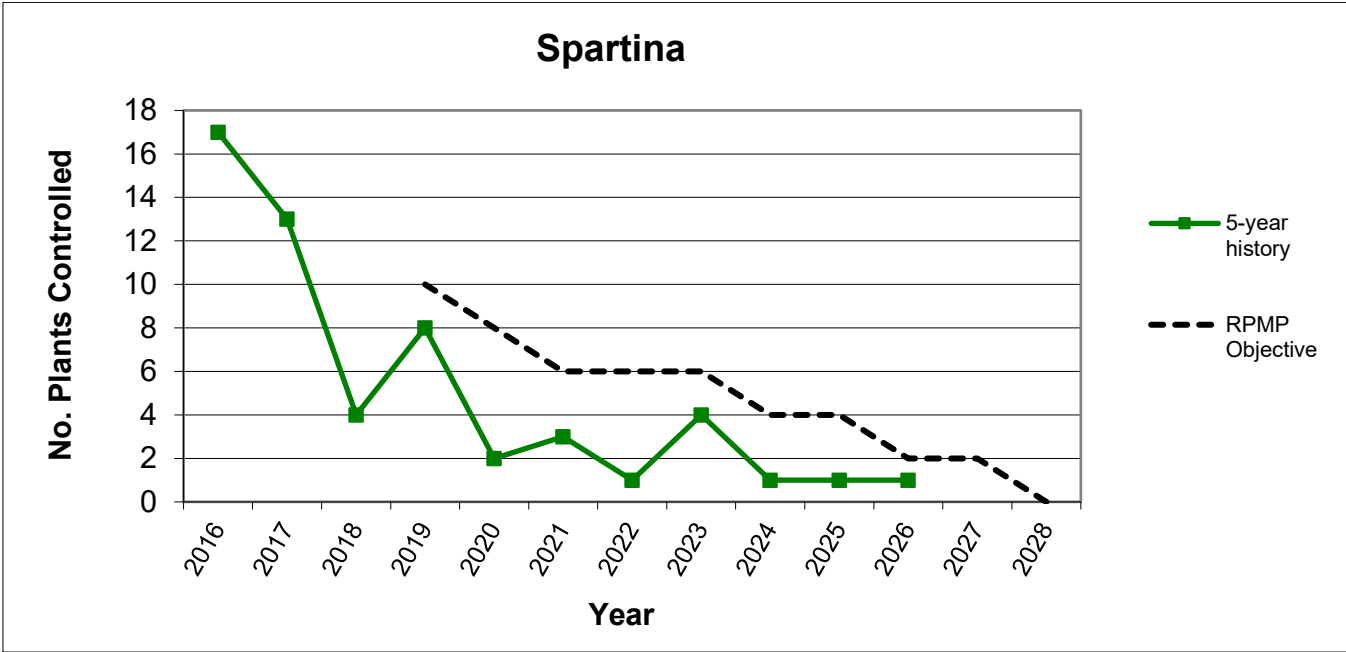
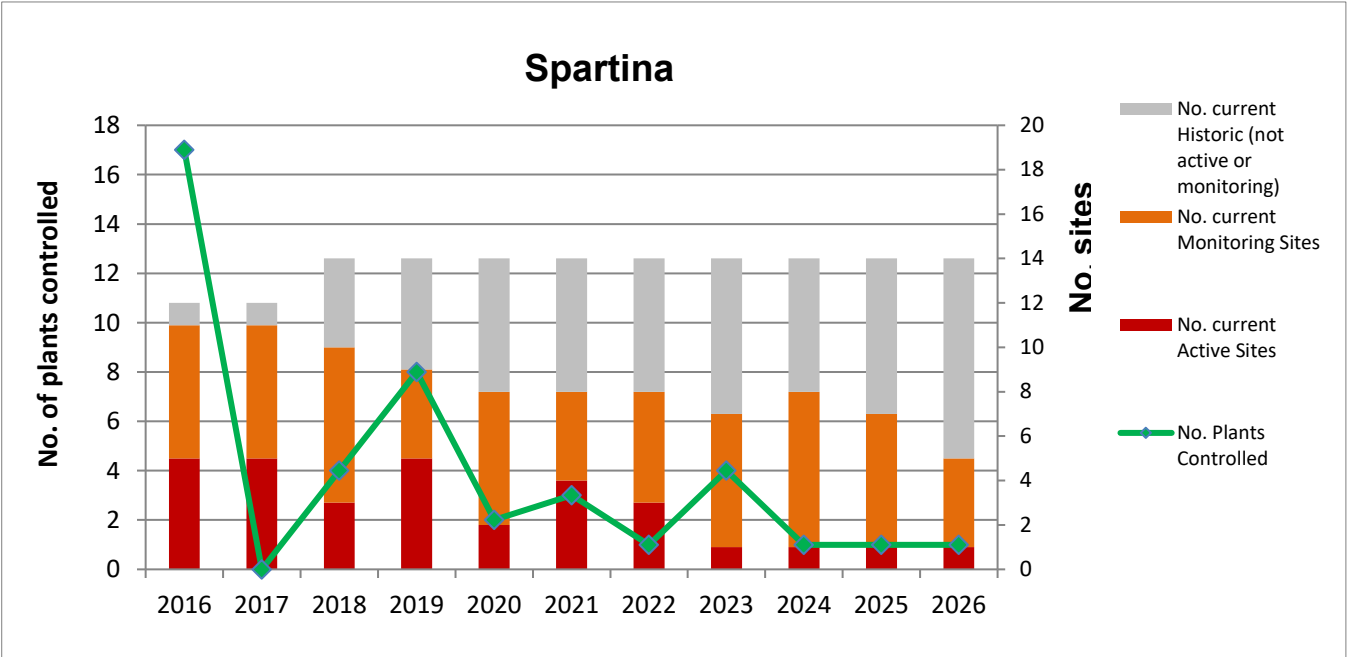
Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective	Over the term of the Plan, prevent the establishment of Senegal tea (<i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i>) in the Marlborough district to prevent future impacts on environmental values and the enjoyment of the natural environment.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

Programme trend  On track

3.30 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 30.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		All five 'active' and 'monitoring' sites were visited for control or surveillance activities for 2025/2026. One plant was found during 1180 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 30.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a historical status are visited for surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		Five out of nine (56%) historical sites were visited for spartina surveillance activities. No plants were found.		

Programme trend  On track

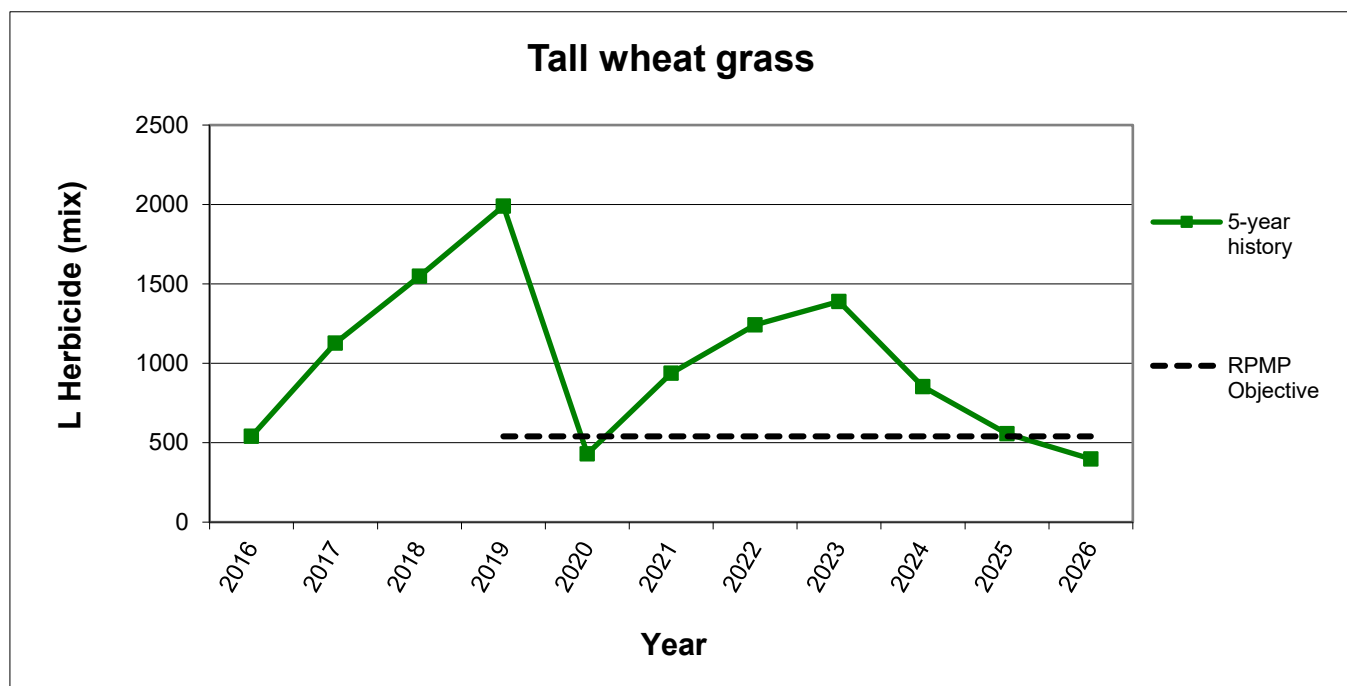
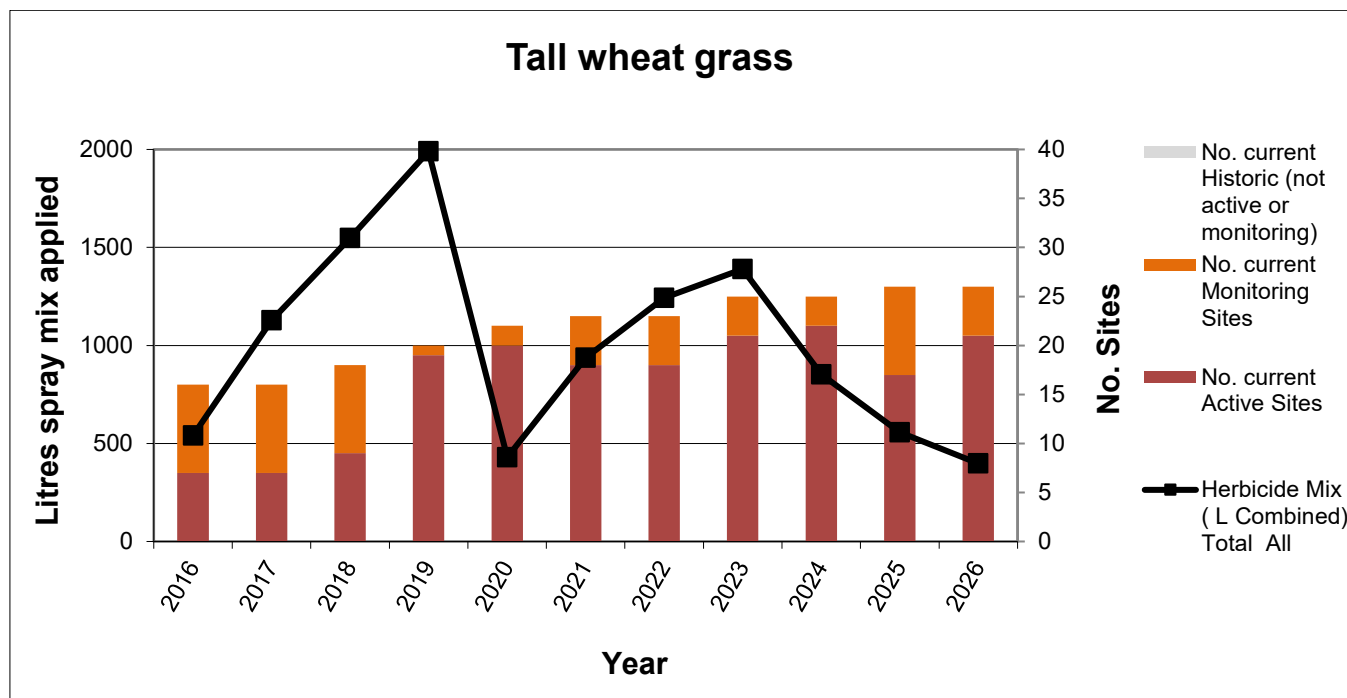


3.31 Tall wheat grass (*Thinopyrum ponticum*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
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.			
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.			
Target 31.1	Each year, 100% of sites that have a status of active or monitoring are visited for control and/or surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		100% of all known sites were visited for surveillance or control activities. 398 litres of herbicide were used in 2025/2026 which is below the threshold of the RPMP objective to maintain herbicide use at, or below, 540 litres of spray strength herbicide.		
Target 31.2	Each year, 33% of sites that have a status of historical are visited for surveillance activities.			
2025/2026		To date there are no sites with a historical status.		

Programme trend  On track

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



3.32 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 carry out all operational activities should wallabies be detected in Marlborough. Further support could also be provided by DOC.			
Target 32.1	Each year, respond to any report of wallabies in Marlborough within two working days.			
2025/2026		No reports of Wallabies received during 2025/2026		
Status of wallabies in Marlborough: Not established There continues to be periodic reports and sightings, but no sign of a live wallaby has been found after thorough investigations.				

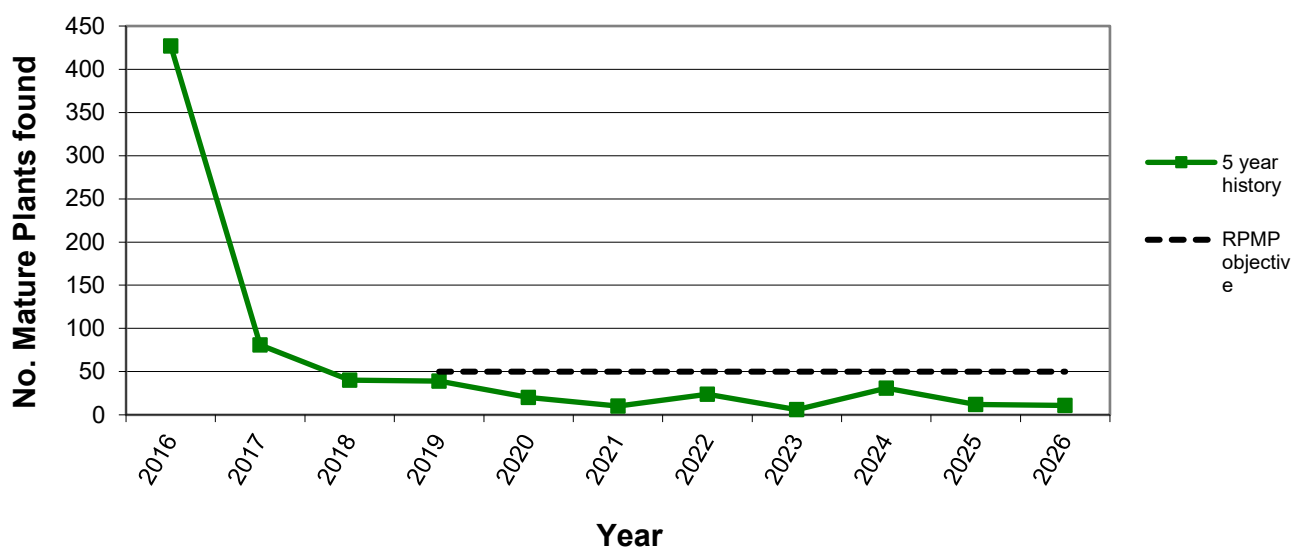
Programme trend  On track

3.33 White-edged nightshade (*Solanum marginatum*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
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.			
Operations overview	There are multiple facets to the white-edged nightshade programme delivered by Council. These are: • 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.			
Target 33.1	Each year by 15 February, provide to all affected occupiers, communication reminding them of their obligation and include and a voluntary completion date.			
2025/2026		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.		
Target 33.2	Each year, an inspection is undertaken on the two sites adjacent to the Containment Area where White-edged nightshade is threatening susceptible land.			
2025/2026		Inspections were undertaken at all sites where land occupiers have an obligation to annually destroy all plants. All properties were deemed compliant and a total of 11 mature plants were found during the inspections.		

Programme trend  On track

White Edged Nightshade mature plants found during compliance inspections



3.34 Willow-leaved hakea (*Hakea salicifolia*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective 1	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 mature plants are found over the preceding five years, to prevent adverse effects on the environment, and enjoyment of the natural environment.			
Objective 2	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.			
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors will carry out all operational activities.			
Target 34.1	Each year, a control operation is undertaken on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville in accordance with the project plan.			
2025/2026		A total of 1072 hours of control work covering 60 hectares was undertaken this season, with steady progress the number of plants found continues to reduce.		

Programme trend

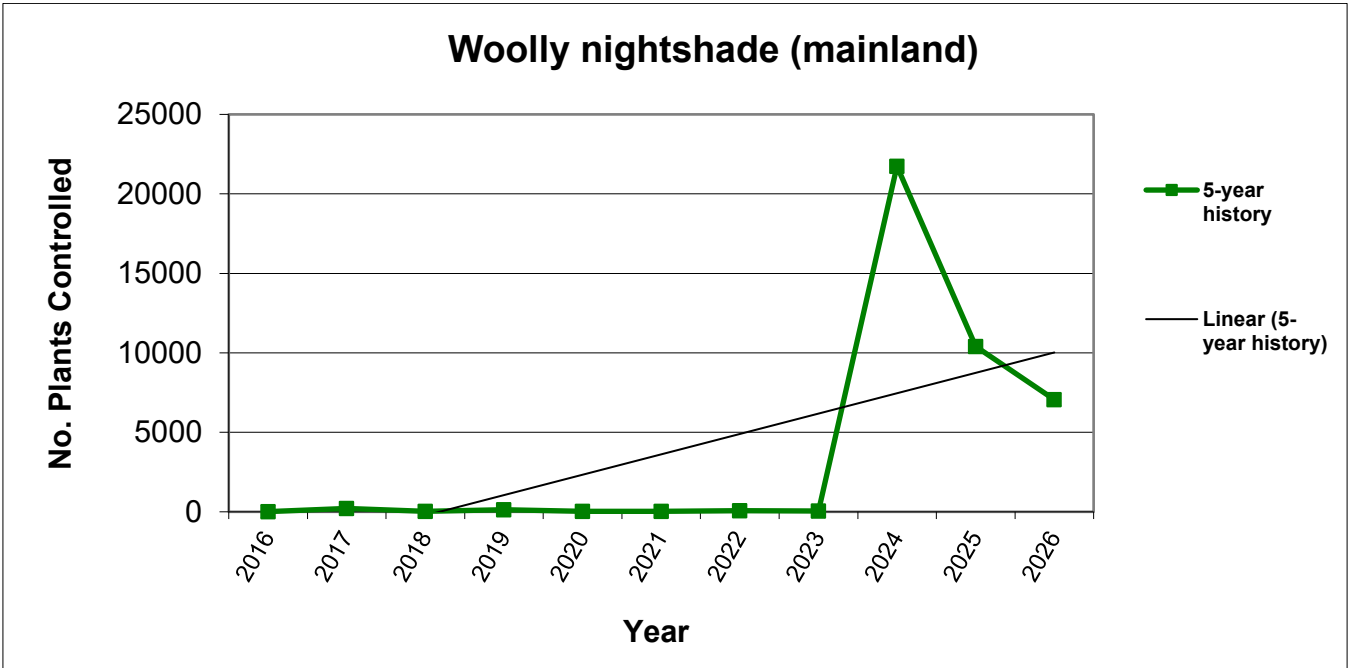
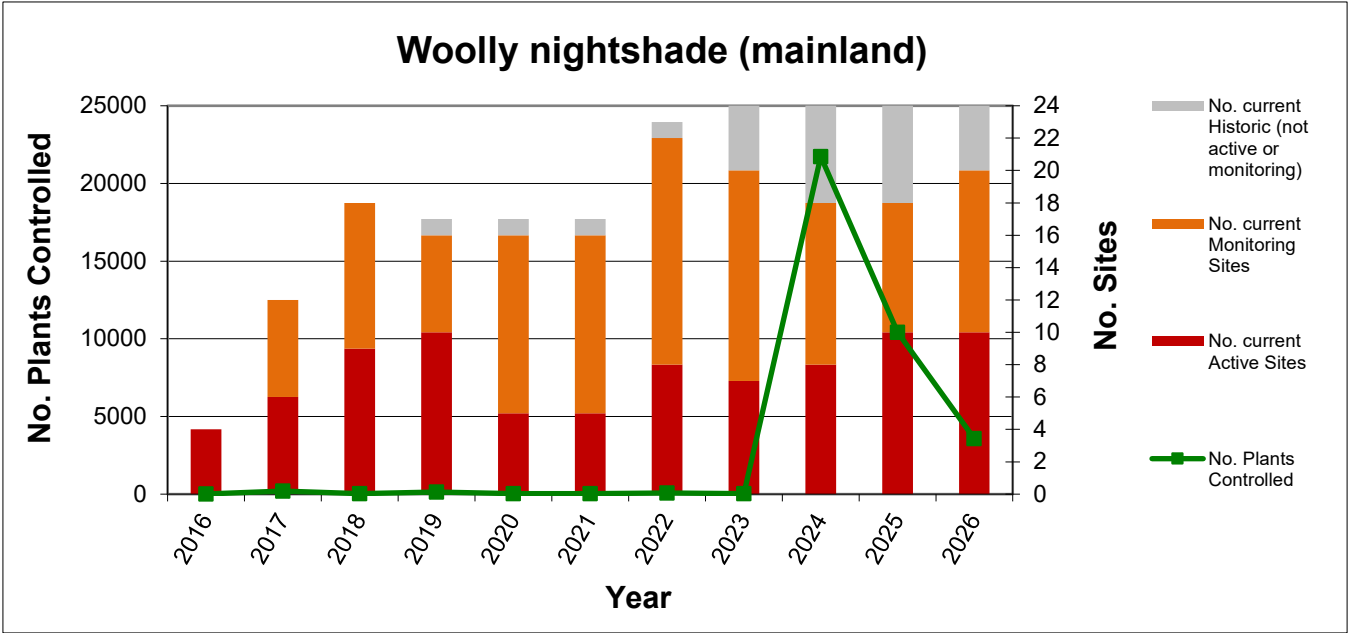


Not meeting objective

3.35 Woolly nightshade (*Solanum mauritanium*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
Objective 1	Over the duration of the Plan, control woolly nightshade (<i>Solanum mauritianum</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.			
Operations overview	Council staff and/or contractors carry out all operational activities.			
Target 35.1	Each year, a control operation is undertaken on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville to work towards the programme objectives.			
2025/2026		334 Hours of control work was undertaken to manage infestations on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville.		
Target 35.2	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.			
2025/2026		100% of 'active' and 'monitoring' sites were visited for control and surveillance in 2025/2026. 7053 plants were controlled this year. The high numbers are due to the recent discovery of a large infestation at Squally Cove. Control work began in September 2023 and will continue into the foreseeable future.		
Target 35.3	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.			
2025/2026		Three of the eight (38%) historical sites were visited with no plants being found.		

Programme trend  On track



4. Part Two - Other Biosecurity Services or Initiatives

4.1 Education, Awareness, Engagement and Partnerships

Overview	Work collaboratively with programme partners to work raise the profile of invasive species is a critical part of Biosecurity work. This can be providing general information and advice to the community or engaging with local, national groups and other organisations to strengthen Biosecurity programs and profile.
Operational Summary 2025/2026	In conjunction with the Communications team, there has been ongoing work to ensure Biosecurity-related messaging continues to be present on all of Councils media channels to create awareness around the Biosecurity programme. Engagement with the following groups and organisations has been undertaken this financial year. Marine programmes • Biosecurity New Zealand • Nelson City Council • Department of Conservation • Chaffers Marina • Marlborough marinas • Port Marlborough • Environment Canterbury • Aquaculture NZ • Taranaki Regional Council • Earth Sciences New Zealand • TOS Customary Fisheries Forum • Clean Below Good To Go programme • Aquaculture NZ • Marine Farming Association • Mana Marina • Greater Wellington Regional Council • Tasman District Council • Nelson marina • Clyde Quay Marina Wellington • Seaview Marina • Cawthron Institute • Evans Bay Marina • Chaffers Marina • Te Ana Marina • Effective eradication Marine Toolbox programme • Top of the North Marine Biosecurity partnership • Protect our Paradise programme Terrestrial programmes • Rural Advisory Group • Federated Farmers • Department of Conservation • Biosecurity New Zealand (MPI) • Sounds Advisory Group • Sustainable Wine Growers NZ • Waima Valley Ecological Restoration Society • Marlborough Sounds restoration Trust

	• South Marlborough Landscape Restoration Trust • Pelorus Sounds branch of Rural Women NZ • OSPRI • Southern Biosecurity Alliance • South Island, Biosecurity Reference Group • Avon Valley Catchment Group • Kiwifruit Vine Health (KVH) • National Biosecurity working group • National Biocontrol collective • National Biocontrol collective Governance group • National Wilding Conifer programme Operational Advisory Group • National Wilding Conifer programme Governance group • National Wilding Conifer programme Strategy working group • Region Wilding conifer steering group • Molesworth technical advisory group (Wilding Conifers) • Regional Ungulate Coordination group • Marlborough Sounds restoration trust Ungulate control governance group • National Avian influenza working group • Avian influenza regional coordination group • Marlborough roads • NZTA • Trans-Tasman Deer forum • Farmer of the year • Speed share – Marlborough's farming future Freshwater biosecurity programme • Fish and Game • Biosecurity NZ Freshwater Biosecurity Partnership Forum • Check clean dry programme • Department of Conservation
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4.2 Investigation and Analysis

Overview	This service ensures both new threats are investigated, and those that are present are analysed as information comes to hand. The outcomes of investigations and analyses are continually shaping Council decisions and/or direction. The process used is outlined in further detail within the Marlborough District Council Biosecurity Strategy.	
Target 36.1	Each year, undertake active surveillance activities for aquatic pest species at a minimum of two sites identified as being at risk from such threats.	
2025/2026		Biosecurity staff conducted of surveillance for aquatic pest species on the Ruakanakana/Gibsons Creek, the Ōpaoa River and the Pelorus River using kayaks. A total of 24 hours of surveillance work was carried out.
Operational Summary 2025/2026	Biosecurity staff were recently alerted to a small infestation of African Love Grass in the Ure Valley area. In response, staff have undertaken control operations to remove the plants and have carried out targeted surveillance around the identified site. To date, approximately 45 plants have been destroyed. Ongoing, wider surveillance of the Ure Valley, and along State Highway 1 will continue through the 2026/27 season.	
Target 36.2	Each year, conduct a minimum of two inspections of parties selling or trading plants to determine adherence to the National Pest Plant Accord.	

2025/2026		Council biosecurity staff undertook three inspections of nurseries selling plants in 2025/2026. It was determined all three parties were adhering to the National Pest Plant Accord with no issues being identified.
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4.3 Biocontrol

Overview	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. These biological control agents can also assist in the management of species managed under RPMP programmes.	
Target 37.1	Each year, provide an annual contribution into the National Biological Control Initiative.	
2025/2026		A contribution of \$15,000 was made by Council towards the National Biocontrol Collective research programme.
Target 37.2	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).	
2025/2026		Last October two Chilean needle grass rust releases were carried at a vineyard in Blind River. Additionally, in December and March there were five releases of old man's beard sawflies at 3 separate locations.
Target 37.3	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.	
2025/2026		Biosecurity staff carried out monitoring at all four sites where the old man's beard sawfly has been released. Unfortunately, no sign of the sawfly was detected at any life cycle stage. Monitoring was also carried out at the Chilean needle grass rust release sites in May. Leaf samples were collected and sent to MWLR for analysis. Rust spores were found on three of the five samples.
Operational Summary 2025/2026	Under MWLR advisement it has been decided to focus future old man's beard sawfly releases on a single location rather than multiple. It is hoped this change in strategy will enable a faster, successful population establishment. MWLR also advised that although the CNG rust establishment is going forward quite slowly, they would recommend more releases in the coming financial year.	

4.4 Partnering with community organisations

Overview	On occasions, a community can come together to address concerns relating to harmful organisms within an area of interest. 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. 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.
Target 38	Each year, provide an annual contribution into the following community organisations: • Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust (MSRT). • South Marlborough Landscape Restoration Trust (SMLRT).
2025/2026	Financial contributions by way of grants were made to the Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust (\$30,000), South Marlborough Landscape Restoration Trust (\$30,000).
Operational Summary 2025/2026	As outlined against Target 37, annual financial contributions were made to the two community Trusts – MSRT and SMLRT. MDC have continued to provide in-kind support through fulfilling the ex-officio role on both Trust boards. Additionally other in kind work was undertaken with the Department of Conservation, Marlborough Marinas, Fish and Game, Marlborough Roads, Linz, Waima Valley Ecological Restoration Society and Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership.

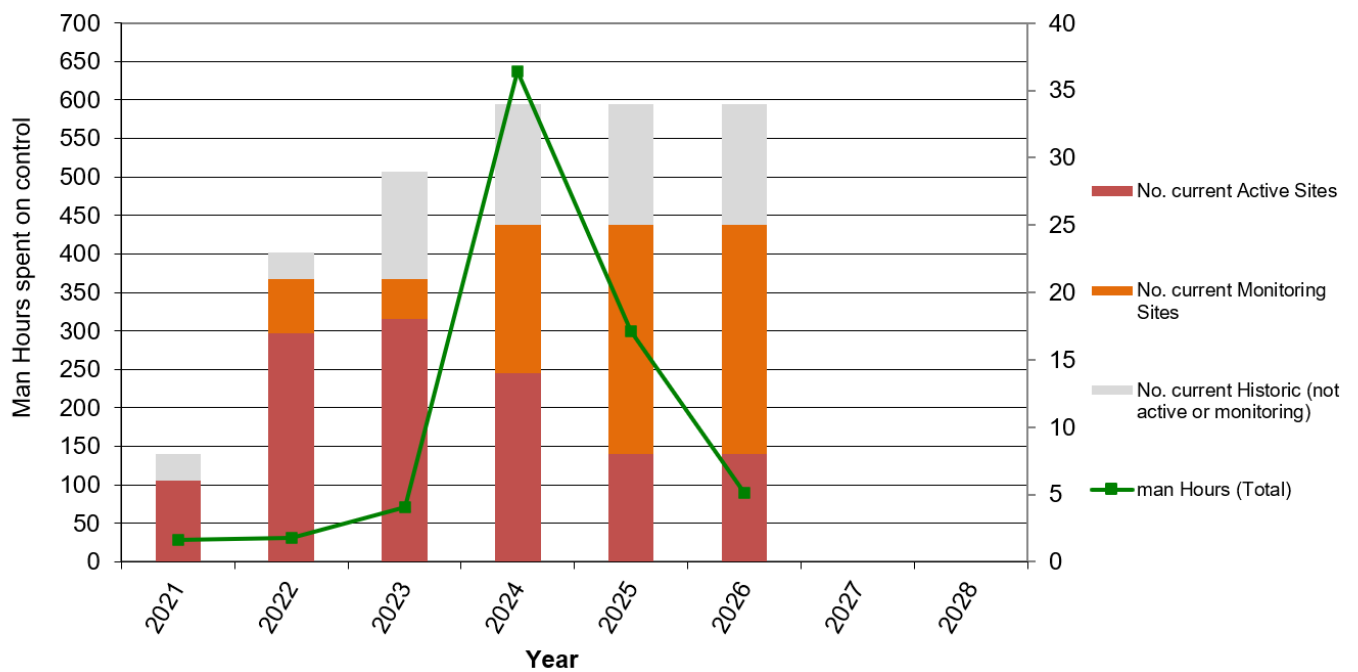
4.5 Research

Overview	With all biosecurity programmes, a continual improvement in understanding relating to both the organisms of interest and techniques to manage them is required. Some applied research is often carried out as part of operational programmes (eg, farming system shifts to improve Chilean needle grass management) with other research being more direct.
Operational Summary 2025/2026	During 2025/2026, the Biosecurity team was involved in or supported the following areas of research: • Collaborator for the 'Effective eradication' MBIE funded Marine programme led by the Cawthron Institute. • Effectiveness review and study of the 6 or 1 Marina rule through Biosecurity New Zealand. • Collaborator for a trial removing invasive weed seeds during the gravel extraction process, project led by Hawkes Bay Regional Council with Envirolink along with four other Council partners. • Biocontrol Collective research. • Collaborator, Weed assessment tool.

4.6 Specific Projects

Operational Summary 2025/2026	In 2025/2026, Biosecurity staff were involved in the following projects that align to the goals of Council's Biosecurity Strategy:
	Avian Influenza Regional preparedness Marlborough District Council has been tasked with region preparedness as part of the national preparedness planning for the arrival of Avian influenza. Ministry of Primary Industries oversee and coordinate response activities; information sharing and public communication; strategic planning and reporting, MPI support the commercial poultry industry response. Regional and Unitary Councils are responsible for; Regional Leadership role under the Biosecurity Act. Manning Council owned land. Environmental regulator for associated activities such as disposal of contaminated birds and other animals. Regional communications relating to management actions. Key Council roles are to; Develop regional response coordination groups , plans and communication plans to support nationwide effort and apply local context. Amplify, repurpose and supplement MPI, DOC and NZ Health messaging during a response. Liaise with MPI, DOC and Health NZ communication teams response progresses. Engage, Coordinate and communicate with mana whenua iwi to raise awareness.
	Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership This initiative sees the three Top of the South (TOS) Councils and Greater Wellington Council come together with the Ministry for Primary Industries . Supported by industry and wider council lwi 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. Marlborough District Council has now assumed chair role for the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2029 Wild Kiwi fruit Surveillance The Marlborough District Council has continued to collaborate with Kiwi Fruit Vine Health (KVH). Pursuant to an agreement signed in 2024/2025. KVH have indicated that it will continue to fund surveillance operations in Marlborough in 2026/2027. In 2025/2026 KVH funded Council contractors to undertake 72 hours of control work to manage wild infestations in the Pelorus Sound. Biosecurity staff undertook an additional 18 hours of work at specific sites. This work supports developing a greater understanding of wild kiwifruit distribution in the Marlborough region and future consideration to the level of risk that it poses for the region.

Wild Kiwifruit

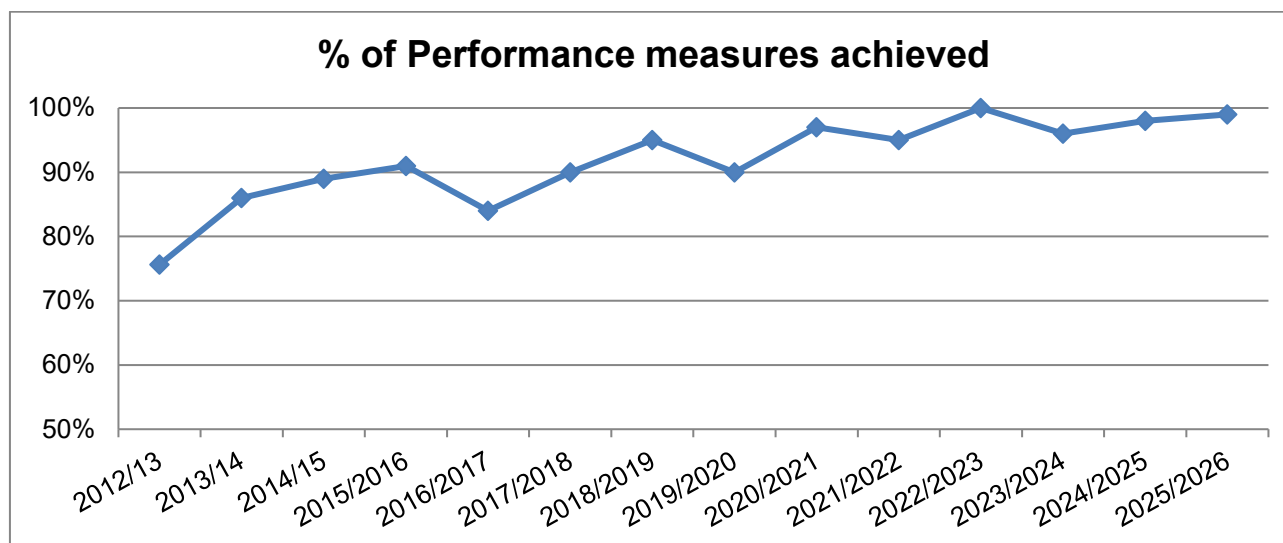


5. Part Three – Performance Summary

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

Measure	2025/2026 Score
 Achieved	78 (99%)
 Almost Achieved	1 (1%)
 Not Achieved	(0%)
	79 (100%)

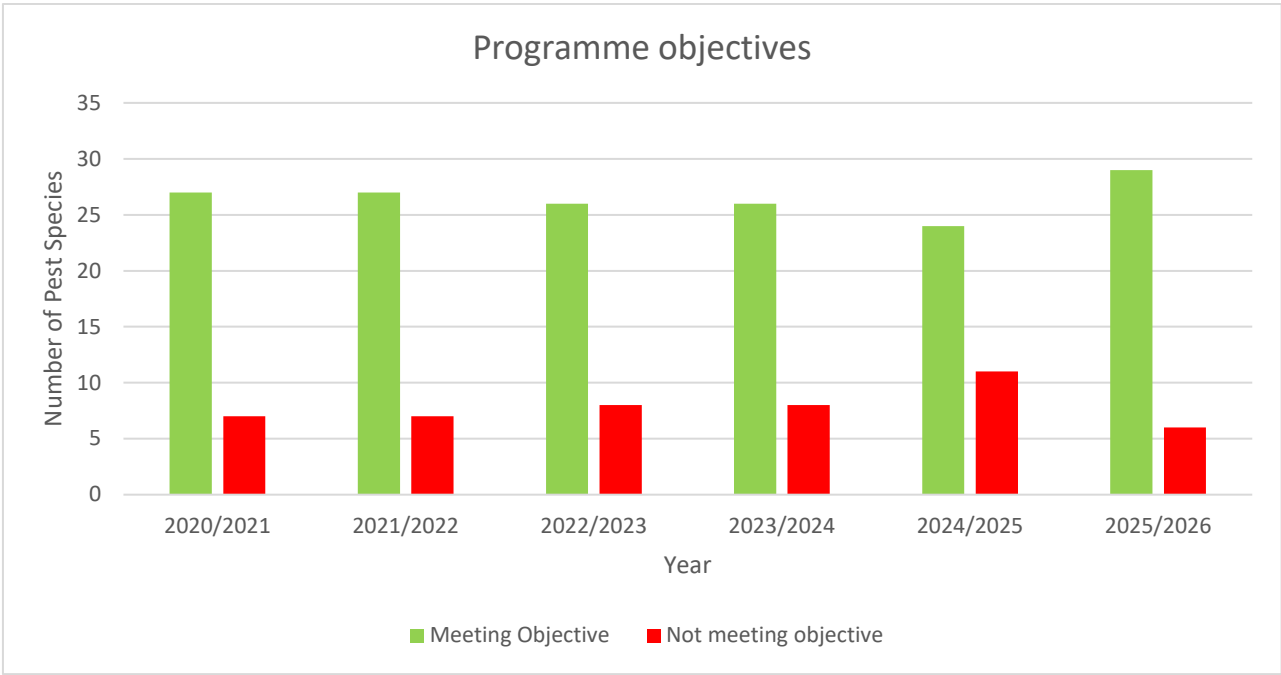
6. Performance Trend



6.1 Regional Pest Management Plan Objectives

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

Measure	2025/2026 Score
Meeting objectives	29 (83%)
Not meeting objectives	6(17%)
Total programs	35(100%)



7. 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 review on 01 July 2026.

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 2026/2027 Biosecurity Operational Plan Report.

Section	Current content	Proposed change	Reason
Part 1 – Chilean needle grass	Nil	Target 8.6 Each year, a minimum of 30 awareness and engagement actions are undertaken relating to Chilean needle grass.	Additional target, to reflect focus on awareness and education.