



# What makes a pest a pest?

A summary of the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2022-2032

If you own or occupy land in the Waikato region, this information affects you

The Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) guides pest management in New Zealand. The main purposes of the Act is to prevent new pests from entering the country, by having import standards and border control surveillance, and to manage pests that are already established here. Regional councils are primarily responsible for the latter. The Act enables Waikato Regional Council to develop a regional pest management plan (RPMP) that is specific to the region's needs and communities' expectations.

The *Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2022-2032* details:

- which plants and animals are declared pests in the Waikato region
- why they are considered pests
- how each pest will be managed over the life of the RPMP
- explains your obligations as a land occupier to manage pests.

## What the RPMP aims to achieve

**Biodiversity protection** – the protection and enhancement of our region's natural areas and biodiversity, including through planned and professional pest control operations in priority high value natural areas.

**Enhancement of production and export opportunities for the region's production sector** – by reducing pests like alligator weed, velvetleaf, rough horsetail and nassella tussock, which can infest cropping areas and pastoral land.

**Protection of taonga and wāhi tapu sites** – by reducing pests that affect taonga species (such as alligator weed displacing flax) or wāhi tapu sites (for example, rabbit burrowing leading to damage of culturally important sites).

**Better access to recreational areas by removal of pest plants** – by reducing pests which can smother and cause the collapse of native forests (for example, cathedral bells and climbing spindleberry) or block access to waterways (for example, alligator weed, yellow flag iris and Mexican water lily).

**Maintaining and building on pest management gains** – for example, gains made by the council's Priority Possum Control Areas programme and OSPRI's TBfree programme, and those made by iwi and community groups.

**Contribution to the protection of communities** – through requiring control of pests that can cause adverse health effects, for example, magpies that may attack people during nesting time.

## Pest management principles

**Everyone has a role to play** – all land occupiers are responsible for managing pests on their land. The council has a wide range of advice and information available to support them to do so.

**Council control of high threat pests** – Waikato Regional Council aims to manage the highest threat pests that are uncommon in the region (such as African feathergrass, cathedral bells and rooks).

**Working together** – Waikato Regional Council encourages partnerships in biosecurity and works collaboratively with iwi, community and inter-agency partners to solve pest issues, for example, in wallaby containment, site-led wetland protection, and our Project Yellow programme in the tussocklands of the central North Island.

**Enforcement of RPMP rules** – rules are a tool to allow enforcement to occur when occupiers don't comply with the requirements of the strategy, or deliberately obstruct pest management operations.

**Regional benefit of pest management programmes** – pest management programmes undertaken benefit the whole region, so equitable funding is required from all regional land occupiers.

## Achieving practical pest management outcomes

Waikato Regional Council uses the following methods to ensure pest management is efficient and cost effective.

### Direct control

The council will fund and implement the direct control of all pests identified for exclusion and eradication, except in the case of pests where control work is funded and managed by another lead agency. It may also undertake direct control of other pests in the RPMP (for example, progressive containment pests like alligator weed and wallabies, and possums in Priority Possum Control Areas), sometimes in conjunction with other agencies. The council also releases appropriate biological control agents for pests, in collaboration with occupiers and interested groups. We also contribute funding to national research into new biological control agents for pests and other harmful organisms like tutsan, plumeless thistle, tradescantia and wasps.

### Information and advice

To help occupiers manage pests and other harmful organisms, the council will provide practical information and advice through our website [waikatoregion.govt.nz](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz), relevant publications, field and demonstration days, and our council biosecurity staff or an accredited pest contractor via our toll free number (0800 800 401).

### Surveillance and monitoring

The council undertakes surveillance to identify new pest problems and potential issues in neighbouring regions. It also monitors before and after pest control operations to ensure that operation targets or standards are achieved.

### RPMP rules and enforcement

Rules in the RPMP have requirements for occupiers to report and/or control pests. If an occupier doesn't comply with the rules, the council will enforce the rules.

## Pest management programmes

The RPMP identifies five management programmes. The management programmes for each pest are based on the threats the pest poses, its distribution and density, and the control measures available.

Four management programmes include 63 plant and 11 animal pests that warrant some level of regional intervention. The other management programme (site-led) protects particular values at particular sites and includes 28 plant and 12 animal pests, and one plant pathogen (*Phytophthora agathidicida* which causes kauri dieback disease).

All the pests in the RPMP threaten or have the potential to threaten production, environmental and/or social/amenity values in the region. All exclusion, eradication, progressive containment and sustained control pests are also banned from sale, display, distribution and propagation/being bred throughout the region.

Pest management programmes	More information
<b>Exclusion programme</b> – to prevent the establishment of a pest or group of pests.	Waikato Regional Council is the lead agency or partner in managing exclusion pests. This programme applies to pests that are a significant threat to the region. They may be present in other regions but are not yet known to be present in the Waikato region or have been eradicated from it. There is a requirement in the RPMP for occupiers to report these pests, so they can be detected early and controlled before they can establish.
<b>Eradication programme</b> – to reduce the infestation level of a pest to zero levels (density) in an area in the short to medium term.	Waikato Regional Council is the lead agency or partner in managing most eradication pests and will directly manage and undertake control of them on rateable land. It will also undertake surveillance for them, provide information about them, and report annually on control operations. There is a requirement in the RPMP for occupiers to report these pests, so they can be detected early and controlled before they spread.
<b>Progressive containment programme</b> – to contain or reduce the geographic distribution of a pest within a defined area over time.	The focus for these pests is to progressively contain and reduce their extent in all or in specific parts of the region. For some of these species (e.g. wallabies) the longer-term goal is to move to eradication. There is a requirement in the RPMP for occupiers to report these pests, so they can be managed appropriately. There are requirements for occupiers to work with the council to control many of these pests in all or part of the region.
<b>Sustained control programme</b> – to provide for the ongoing control of a pest to reduce its impacts on values in an area and its spread to other properties.	These widespread pests have been included in the RPMP as they have been identified as impacting on environmental, production and social/amenity values. The rules in the RPMP (including Good Neighbour Rules) for these pests ensure effective management. Responsibility for control of these pests primarily lies with occupiers, particularly where these pests are being managed on neighbouring properties.
<b>Site-led programmes</b> – focuses on containing, reducing or controlling specific pests within a place to an extent that the values of that place are protected.	Site-led programmes included in the RPMP focus on the Hūnua Ranges (Auckland Council is the lead agency for the Hūnua Ranges Pest Management Area), wetlands, and part of the Central North Island tussocklands (Project Yellow, a collaborative multi-agency programme) on the Desert Road. In all cases, the focus of the programmes is to protect the values of those places.  The RPMP also outlines a process for adding new sites to this programme.

## Pest plants

The following tables contain the pest plants included in the RPMP, by management category. Occupiers should make themselves familiar with the rules in the RPMP that relate to individual pest plants.

Exclusion programme		
Common name	Scientific name	GNR
Broom corn millet	<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>	
Chilean needle grass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	
Freshwater eel grass	<i>Vallisneria australis</i>	
Fringed water lily	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	
Horsetail (field/common)	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	
Kudzu vine	<i>Pueraria lobata</i>	
Marshwort	<i>Nymphoides geminata</i>	
<b>Subdivision and land development</b> When undertaking subdivision or land development, if any of the above pest plants are present on the land to be subdivided and/or developed, occupiers must also comply with rules relating to these activities. These rules can be found in section 6.6 of the RPMP.		
Eradication programme		
Common name	Scientific name	GNR
African feather grass	<i>Cenchrus macrourus</i> (also known as <i>Pennisetum macrourum</i> )	
Cathedral bells	<i>Cobaea scandens</i>	
Chilean flame creeper	<i>Tropaeolum speciosum</i>	
Evergreen buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	
Horse nettle	<i>Solanum carolinense</i>	
Horsetail (rough horsetail)	<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>	
Knotweed:		
Giant knotweed	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	
Japanese/Asiatic knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	
Mile-a-minute	<i>Dipogon lignosus</i>	
Nassella/fine stemmed needle grass/Mexican feather grass	<i>Nassella tenuissima</i>	
Nassella tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	
Noogoora bur	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> L. subsp. <i>ponticum</i>	
Sagittaria/arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria montevidensis</i>	
Senegal tea	<i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i>	
Spartina:		
Common cordgrass	<i>Spartina anglica</i>	
Smooth cordgrass	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	
Thistle (variegated thistle)	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	
Water poppy	<i>Hydrocleys nymphoides</i>	
<b>Subdivision and land development</b> When undertaking subdivision or land development, if any of the above pest plants are present on the land to be subdivided and/or developed, occupiers must also comply with rules relating to these activities. These rules can be found in section 6.6 of the RPMP.		
Progressive containment programme		
Common name	Scientific name	GNR
Alligator weed	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	
Banana passionfruit (Taupō and Rotorua districts)	<i>Passiflora tripartita</i>	
Boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	
Chocolate vine	<i>Akebia quinata</i>	

Climbing spindleberry	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	
Darwin's barberry	<i>Berberis darwinii</i>	
Giant gunnera	<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i> <i>Gunnera manicata</i>	
Golden dodder	<i>Cuscuta campestris</i>	
Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>	
Mexican water lily	<i>Nymphaea mexicana</i>	
Moth plant (Taupō and Rotorua districts)	<i>Araujia hortorum</i>	
Old man's beard	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	
Velvetleaf	<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>	
Wilding conifers:		✓
Bishop pine	<i>Pinus muricata</i>	
Contorta pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i>	
Corsican pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i>	
Douglas fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	
Dwarf mountain pine	<i>Pinus mugo</i>	
European larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>	
Maritime pine	<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	
Mountain pine	<i>Pinus uncinata</i>	
Ponderosa pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	
Radiata pine	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	
Wild kiwifruit	<i>Actinidia</i> spp.	
Woolly nightshade (Taupō and Rotorua districts)	<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	
Yellow flag iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	

### Subdivision and land development

When undertaking subdivision or land development, if any of the above pest plants are present on the land to be subdivided and/or developed, occupiers must also comply with rules relating to these activities. These rules can be found in section 6.6 of the RPMP.

### Sustained control programme

Common name	Scientific name	GNR
Banana passionfruit (excluding Taupō and Rotorua districts)	<i>Passiflora tripartita</i>	✓
Broom *	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	✓
Gorse *	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	✓
Moth plant (excluding Taupō and Rotorua districts)	<i>Araujia hortorum</i>	✓
Pampas *	<i>Cortaderia jubata</i> , <i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	
Ragwort *	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	✓
Thistle: *		✓
Nodding thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	
Plumeless thistle	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	
Tutsan	<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	✓
Wild ginger	<i>Hedychium gardnerianum</i> , <i>Hedychium flavescens</i>	✓
Woolly nightshade (excluding Taupō and Rotorua districts)	<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	✓

### \*Transport corridors and quarries

Additional rules apply to management of certain pest plants in the sustained control programme on transport corridors (including cycle paths) and in quarries. These pest plants are identified in the table above by \* and specific rules are listed in the management regime for each relevant pest plant.

For pest plants, a mix of contracted biosecurity officers and council biosecurity staff work in seven management areas in the region and are responsible for carrying out surveillance, monitoring, enforcement and direct control work. They also provide advice and information and organise larger scale control. Contract management, including prioritising, designing and promoting pest control programmes, is carried out by council staff.



Velvetleaf (Progressive containment)



Noogoora bur (Eradication)

## Pest animals

The following table contains the pest animals included in the RPMP, by management category. Occupiers should make themselves familiar with the rules in the RPMP that relate to individual animal pests.

Exclusion programme		
Common name	Scientific name	GNR
Wallaby:		
Bennett's wallaby	<i>Macropus rufogriseus</i>	
Brush-tailed rock wallaby	<i>Petrogale penicillate</i>	
Parma wallaby	<i>Macropus parma</i>	
Swamp wallaby	<i>Wallabia bicolor</i>	
Eradication programme		
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegis</i>	
Progressive containment programme		
Dama wallaby	<i>Macropus eugenii</i>	
Sustained control programme		
Common brushtail possum (excluding in Hūnua Ranges Pest Management Area)	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	✓
Feral rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	
Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	
Wasps:		
Common wasp	<i>Vespula vulgaris</i>	
German wasp	<i>Vespula germanica</i>	

The majority of animal control work is contracted out to preferred contractors. Contract management, including prioritising, designing, and promoting pest control programmes, is carried out by council staff.



Dama wallaby (Progressive containment)



Rook (Eradication)

## Site-led programmes

Site-led pest management differs from the species-led pest management in that its objective is to protect and preserve the values (for example, biodiversity-related, environmental, aesthetic, economic or cultural values) of a place, rather than targeting a specific pest species. This means that the pests targeted under a site-led programme will vary from site to site depending on what pests are affecting the values at each site. The size of sites managed through the site-led programme may range in extent from small areas within a property to larger areas covering multiple properties.

There are three site-led programmes included in the RPMP:

1. The Hūnua Ranges Pest Management Area (Auckland Council is the management agency for this site-led programme)
2. Wetlands
3. Project Yellow

Waikato Regional Council will consider adding sites to the site-led programme where those sites meet the requirements of the Biosecurity Act, and result in positive benefits to the environment and people (criteria for the inclusion of additional sites are included in section 6.5.4 of the RPMP).

The pests within each of the current site-led programmes are included in the following tables.

Site-led programme – Hūnua Ranges Pest Management Area		
Common name	Scientific name	GNR
Common brushtail possum	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	
Feral cat	<i>Felis catus</i>	
Feral deer	<i>Cervus, Axis, Dama, Odocoileus or Elaphurus</i> spp. (including any hybrids)	
Feral goat	<i>Capra hircus</i>	
Feral pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	
Mustelids:		
Ferret	<i>Mustela furo</i>	
Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	
Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis vulgaris</i>	
Kauri dieback	<i>Phytophthora agathidicida</i>	

Site-led programme – Wetland pests		
PLANT SPECIES		
Common name	Scientific name	GNR
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	✓
Arum lily	<i>Zantedescia aethiopica</i> <i>Zantedescia aethiopica</i> 'green goddess'	✓
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	✓
Broom sedge	<i>Carex scoparia</i>	✓
Bulbous rush	<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>	✓
Californian club rush	<i>Schoenoplectus californicus</i>	✓
Chinese privet	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	✓
Crack willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	✓
Giant gunnera	<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i> <i>Gunnera manicata</i>	✓
Gorse	<i>Ulex europeus</i>	✓
Grey willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	✓
Heath rush	<i>Juncus squarrosus</i>	✓
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	✓
Japanese walnut	<i>Juglans sieboldiana</i>	✓
Manchurian wild rice	<i>Zizania latifolia</i>	✓

Old man's beard	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	✓
Oval sedge	<i>Carex ovalis</i>	✓
Pampas	<i>Cortaderia jubata</i> , <i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	✓
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	✓
Reed canary grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	✓
Reed sweet grass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i> , <i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	✓
Royal fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	✓
Sharp rush	<i>Juncus acutus</i>	✓
Yellow flag iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	✓
<b>ANIMAL SPECIES</b>		
<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>GNR</b>
Box turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	
Murray River turtle	<i>Emydura macquarii macquarii</i>	
Red-eared slider turtle (and related sub-species)	<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i> , <i>T. s. scripta</i> , <i>T. s. troostii</i>	
Snake-necked turtle	<i>Chelodina longicollis</i>	

Site-led programme – Project Yellow pests		
Common name	Scientific name	GNR
Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	✓
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	✓
Tree lupin	<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>	✓



Gorse (Sustained control and Site-led Project Yellow)



Feral deer (Site-led Hūnua Ranges Pest Management Area)

## Pests managed by other agencies

Within the Waikato region, in addition to those included in the RPMP, there are unwanted organisms that have been declared pests under the Biosecurity Act by other agencies. Those agencies are most often the lead in any response, control, or management. For example, OSPRI leads the TBfree programme and MPI is responsible for *Micoplasma bovis*, plants in the National Interest Pest Response programme (such as Manchurian wild rice), European alpine newts, kauri disease (including the Kauri Protection Programme and the national pest management plan), myrtle rust and sea spurge. In addition, New Zealand periodically gets new incursions. Where requested by the lead agency, the council may assist with responses to them.

## Further information

Further information on the RPMP is available on our website [waikatoregion.govt.nz](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz), or by calling the Waikato Regional Council's freephone on 0800 800 401.

Help to protect the Waikato region from pests. Call 0800 800 401.

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