

Biosecurity Operating plan

2024/2025



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1. Document management and review

Reason for Submission	Revision Number	Revision Date	Approval	Next revision due
New Document	1	June 2024	Darryl Lew CEO	June 2025

2. Purpose of document

This plan outlines the biosecurity annual work program. It aims to:

- Provide a description of the scope and stage objectives to complete the annual program
- Outline the schedule of the activities, dependencies, resources, stake holders and risks
- Establish the project team, control and governance required to complete the work program
- List the assumptions and constraints identified during the planning process.

3. Operating Plan Overview

3.1 Background

The West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) has a commitment to maintain and enhance the environmental values of the region. In alignment with national policies and regional priorities for pest management, the Council has established an Annual Biosecurity operating plan dedicated to addressing the challenges posed by invasive pest plants. This program is a crucial component of the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP), which is designed to protect the unique ecological, agricultural, cultural and economic values of the West Coast Region from the adverse impacts of specified invasive species. The biosecurity team focus on five key priorities as part of delivering the objectives of the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP), these are Pest plant surveillance, Education and advocacy, regional leadership, Pest Plant compliance and regional biocontrol.



3.2 Pest Surveillance

Surveillance is a critical component of the WCRC's long term biosecurity strategy to manage invasive pest plants effectively in the region. Regular pest plant surveillance helps in detecting new infestations early, thus allowing for timely and more cost-effective interventions. This proactive surveillance system leverages both traditional field surveys and innovative technologies such as GIS mapping. Data collected through these efforts feed into a regional database that supports dynamic decision-making and strategy adjustment in response to emerging challenges.

3.3 Education and Advocacy

Education and advocacy form the backbone of the Council's efforts to engage and empower local communities to meet RMPM objectives. By providing educational resources, organizing workshops, and leading public awareness campaigns, the WCRC enhances public understanding of the issues and promotes community-led initiatives. These activities are designed to foster a sense of stewardship and encourage the adoption of best practices in land management among residents, landowners, and other stakeholders.

3.4 Regional Leadership

As a leader in regional biosecurity, the WCRC collaborates with neighboring councils, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and iwi to enhance the effectiveness of pest plant management strategies. The Council not only advocates for stronger biosecurity measures at regional forums but also spearheads initiatives that contribute to a more coordinated approach across administrative boundaries. Leadership in this context involves sharing best practices and leveraging collective resources for greater impact.

3.5 Pest Plant Compliance

Ensuring compliance with the RPMP standards is vital for its success. The WCRC implements a robust compliance framework that includes regular inspections, reporting systems, and support mechanisms for landowners who require assistance in meeting regulatory requirements. Non-compliance is addressed through a graduated response, ensuring that enforcement actions are fair but firm, encouraging adherence to management practices that prevent the spread of invasive species in the plan.



3.6 Regional Biocontrol

Biocontrol is an integral part of the WCRC's strategy to managing pest plants in the region, utilizing predators or diseases to manage pest plant populations. This environmentally friendly approach aims to establish long-term, sustainable control methods that reduce reliance on chemical treatments. The Council collaborates with research institutions and other regional councils as part of the Biocontrol collective which helps to identify and deploy effective biocontrol agents for the region.

3.7 Pest Plant Control—Service Delivery in Priority Areas

In line with the Regional Pest Management Plan, the West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) places a strong emphasis on targeted service delivery in priority areas identified as high-risk zones for invasive pest plants. These areas are selected based on their ecological value, the potential economic impact of pest plant infestations and historical or current pest control programs. Effective service delivery in these zones is critical to the overall success of the Council's biosecurity efforts.

4. Scope

4.1 Regional Pest Surveillance

The regional pest surveillance program will focus on freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems. The West Coast Region has comparatively few invasive species established when compared with other regions across the country. Surveillance has been prioritized to ensure pests are identified when they are in low numbers and easy and cost effective to control. The recently developed biosecurity GIS portal will be utilized to record and manage data for reporting and trend analysis over time.

4.1.1 Freshwater Pest Surveillance Program

Overview: Despite the presence of aquatic invasive species in the region, numerous West Coast lakes have outstanding natural value and early detection is vital in managing new incursions. WCRC and the Department of Conservation (DOC) operate an annual aquatic surveillance program contracting scientific divers to detect incursions of introduced aquatic weeds within priority West Coast Lakes to meet objectives outlined in the West Coast Freshwater Pest Plant Strategy 2021-2031.

Objective: To detect incursions of introduced aquatic weeds within the West Coast Lakes.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Annual lake surveillance	Number of lakes surveyed	Eight

4.1.2 Marine Surveillance Program

Overview: The West Coast Regional Council's Marine environment is not well understood or studied. However, a report by Cawthorn institute in 2021 identified areas where regular pest surveillance should be undertaken due to the ecosystem values and invasion likelihood. These areas have been prioritized for surveillance activities to better understand pest populations in key locations. Scientific divers will be contracted to complete marine biosecurity surveillance including a series of seabed transects, a scan of any permanent structures present (wharfs and moorings) and spot checks within the general area. Boat hull surveillance should be done on any vessels present with occupier permission.

Objective: To operate an annual surveillance program to detect incursions of introduced marine species in priority areas.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Annual Marine surveillance	Number of locations surveyed for marine pests	One

4.1.3 Terrestrial Surveillance Program

Overview: The West Coast Regional Council's Terrestrial Pest Surveillance Program is crucial for protecting the region's high value ecosystems and productive land by detecting, managing, and preventing the spread of invasive terrestrial pests. The Biosecurity team will undertake regular field surveys utilizing GIS mapping for the 2024/2025 FY. Proactive pest surveillance is a key part of the management of invasive species, allowing for control of incursions early before they become too expensive to control.

Objective: To identify new or upcoming threats to the region.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Identify and map pest species of interest, new to region or otherwise.	Percentage of identified new to region pest plants mapped in the Biosecurity GIS system	100%

	Percentage of identified RPMP exclusion and eradication species mapped in the Biosecurity GIS system	100%
Identify and map sites where green waste is illegally dumped	Percentage of identified green waste sites mapped	100%
Wilding kiwifruit locations – record locations of wilding kiwifruit and provide to Kiwifruit Vine Health	Percentage of known wilding kiwifruit sites provided to Kiwifruit Vine health with landowner permission	100%
Pest plant surveillance at key risk areas	Number of surveillance visits at key risk areas in each management unit to determine the presence of new pest plant infestations.	2
Establish containment areas for Knotweed species across the West Coast	Percentage of Management units where containment areas are mapped	50%
Identify priority sites for exclusion of Yellow Flag Iris	Number of At-risk ecosystems for Yellow Flag Iris identified	Five
Identify containment boundaries for wild cherry (<i>Prunus serrulata</i>)	Percentage of Management units where containment areas are mapped	50%
Willow surveillance upstream of Okarito	Willow distribution in the Okarito catchment is mapped	Complete

4.2 Education and Advocacy

The Education and advocacy work program for the 2024/2025 financial year will focus on Regional Pest Management Plan education & aquatic Biosecurity. The education and advocacy program will facilitate the

4.2.1 RPMP education & advocacy

Overview: RPMP education and advocacy intends to provide general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to landowners, occupiers, and the public about pests and pathways (and control of them). The work is set to encourage landowners and/or occupiers to control pests, facilitate or fund community, landowners and/or occupier self-help groups and committees, help other agencies with control, advocacy, and the sharing or sourcing of funding, promote industry requirements and best practice to contractors and landowners and/or occupiers and encourage landowners and/or occupiers and other persons to report any pests they find or to control them.

Objective: Provide general information, advice, and awareness on identification, impacts and control of biosecurity threats to the West Coast Region.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Provide Biosecurity advice and education at key regional events	The number of events attended	Two
Deliver Biosecurity media releases	Number 'Weed of the Month' articles published to the Newspaper and WCRC social media channels by June 2025 Number of biosecurity articles in rates newsletters	Ten Two
Deliver educational workshops with rangitahi "Youth"	Number of schools engaged through initiatives such as Enviro-schools and Papa Taio – Earth Care	Two
Biosecurity awareness roadshow	Number community meetings by June 2025 to communicate the RPMP program and establish community priorities through a targeted survey.	Four

4.2.2 Aquatic biosecurity Education & advocacy

Overview: The focus of the aquatic biosecurity education program is on safeguarding important lakes and waterways, especially those in the Brunner/Moana area and across South Westland through delivery of the Clean Check, Dry program.

Objective: To prevent the spread of freshwater weeds and pests by influencing the behavior of high-risk users.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Raise awareness of freshwater pests threatening our water bodies amongst landowners and visitors in our region.	Maintain and Place CCD signage at angler access points and boat ramps across the region.	75%
	Number of Biosecurity NZ advocacy materials distributed to tourist operators	10
	Number of face-to-face interactions with local water users at freshwater-related events and popular waterbodies.	100
Understand recreational usage and compliance to CCD behavior amongst people using watercraft in West Coast waterbodies.	Number of boat ramp observations during long weekends and public holidays.	5
	Number of face-to-face interactions with local water users.	100

4.3 Regional Leadership

Overview: Under the Biosecurity Act, “A regional council provides leadership in activities that prevent, reduce, or eliminate adverse effects from harmful organisms that are present in New Zealand (pest management) in its region”. Within the West Coast, Council provides leadership by promoting alignment of pest control operations, promoting public support for pest management, administering an RPMP, and facilitating communication and cooperation between all parties involved in pest management both within the region and externally.

4.3.1 Regional Sector Special Interest Groups

Overview: New Zealand has 16 regional and unitary councils. As a collective, Te Uru Kahika – Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa works together to apply its expertise and local knowledge for the wellbeing of our environments and communities. Regarding biosecurity, Te Uru Kahika facilitates both the Bio Managers and Biosecurity working Group to facilitate knowledge sharing between councils.

Objective: To exchange information with other Regional Councils on all aspects of biosecurity, including policy, management, funding and research opportunities.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Ensure attendance at all scheduled Biosecurity Working Group (BSWG) meetings.	Percentage of scheduled BSWG meetings attended	75%
Ensure attendance at all scheduled Bio Managers Working Group meetings.	Percentage of scheduled Bio managers meetings attended.	75%

4.3.2 Regional working Groups

Overview: Regional working groups are essential to facilitate information sharing between groups undertaking pest management activities within territorial boundaries. The WCRC facilitates these through its regional leadership role.

Objective: Facilitate collaboration and knowledge exchange among entities managing landscape-level weed control on the West Coast, including DOC and WCRC, to develop best practices and align biosecurity efforts.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Ensure Weeds Working Group meetings are held regularly though the year.	The number of Weed working group meetings held per year.	Four
	Percentage of Biosecurity reports provided to weed working group	100%

4.4 Pest plant Compliance

Overview: Pest plant compliance is a critical component of the RPMP and the biosecurity operating plan. The Regional Council balances the approach to pest management plan with landowner support, education and continuous information gathering. However, where needed compliance is undertaken to achieve the overarching goals of the RPMP. The biosecurity team have mapped out pest plant compliance areas based on catchments which help define infestation boundaries and likely plant dispersal pathways (Figure 1). The WCRC have set out compliance targets based on risk information associated with species. Exclusion and eradication species have been allocated higher enforcement targets due to the importance of managing these species and the achievability of targets is better understood than for progressive containment species. The WCRC will consider service delivery on behalf of landowners in all circumstances. However, due to budgetary or other constraints enforcement may be the best and only option to achieve RPMP objectives.

Objective: To ensure adherence to the standards and regulations set forth in the Regional Pest Management Plan.

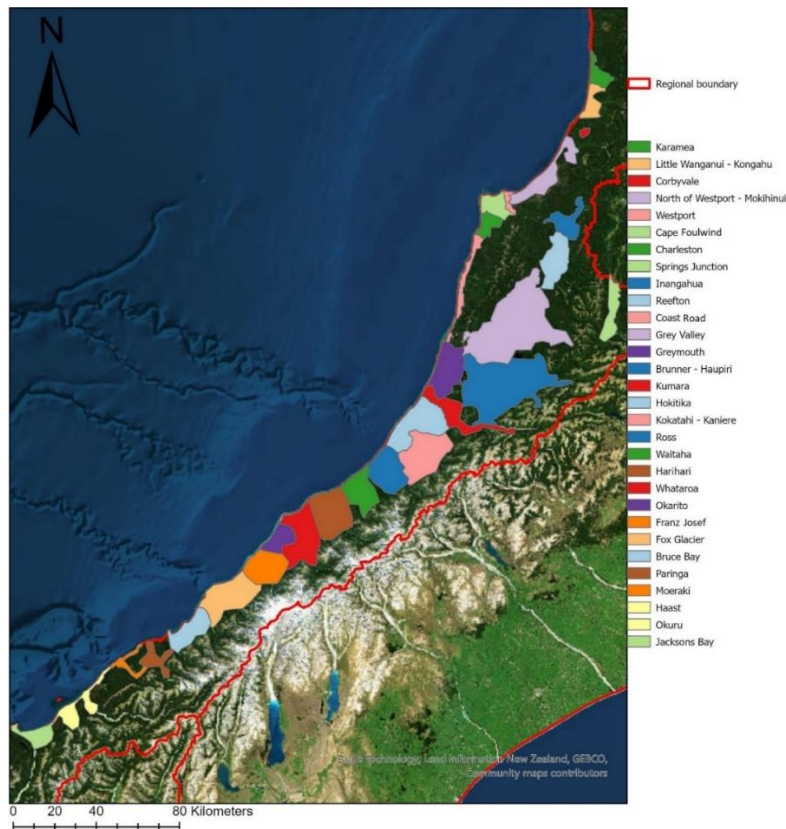


Figure 1: Pest Plant Management areas on the West Coast

4.4.1 Whole region – RPMP Exclusion pest program

Overview: Exclusion pests are pests not thought to be present within the West Coast, which are believed to be capable of causing negative impacts on production, conservation or recreational values if allowed to be established. Most work to manage exclusion pest plants will be undertaken through surveillance and education activities. However, compliance action and service delivery will be undertaken when any infestations are located.

Objective: Over the duration of the plan, prevent the establishment of any of the listed pests within the West Coast, to prevent any adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment, human health, or recreational values.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Record all exclusion pest plant sightings	Percentage of exclusion pest plant reports recorded	100%
	Percentage of reports followed up on	100%
Exclusion pest plant control	Percentage of identified exclusion pest plant infestations controlled	100%
Exclusion pest plant compliance action	Percentage of identified pest plant incursions where RPMP rules are enforced when service delivery is not feasible.	100%

4.4.2 Whole region – RPMP eradication pest program

Overview: Eradication pests are pests of limited distribution within the West Coast, and which pose a significant threat to production, conservation or recreational values if left uncontrolled.

Objective: Over the duration of the Plan eradicate all listed pests from the West Coast to eliminate adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment, human health and recreational values.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Record all Eradication pest plant sightings	Percentage of Eradication pest plant reports recorded	100%
	Percentage of reports followed up on	100%
Eradication pest plant control	Percentage of identified eradication pest plant infestations controlled	100%
Eradication pest plant compliance action	Percentage of identified pest plant incursions where RPMP rules are enforced when service delivery is not feasible.	100%

4.4.3 Whole region – RPMP Progressive containment pest program

Overview: Progressive containment pests are pests which are established within the region but capable of negatively effecting conservation, production or recreational values if allowed to spread.

Objective: Contain the listed pests in to land already infested by these pests and reduce the population in these areas over time. The progressive containment program acknowledges that some areas of pest species are more widespread than others.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Record Progressive containment pest plant reports	Percentage of progressive containment pest plant reports recorded	100%
Monitor historic Yellow Bristle Grass sites	Percentage of historic Yellow Bristle Grass sites monitored	100%

4.4.4 Progressive Containment Priority Management Areas

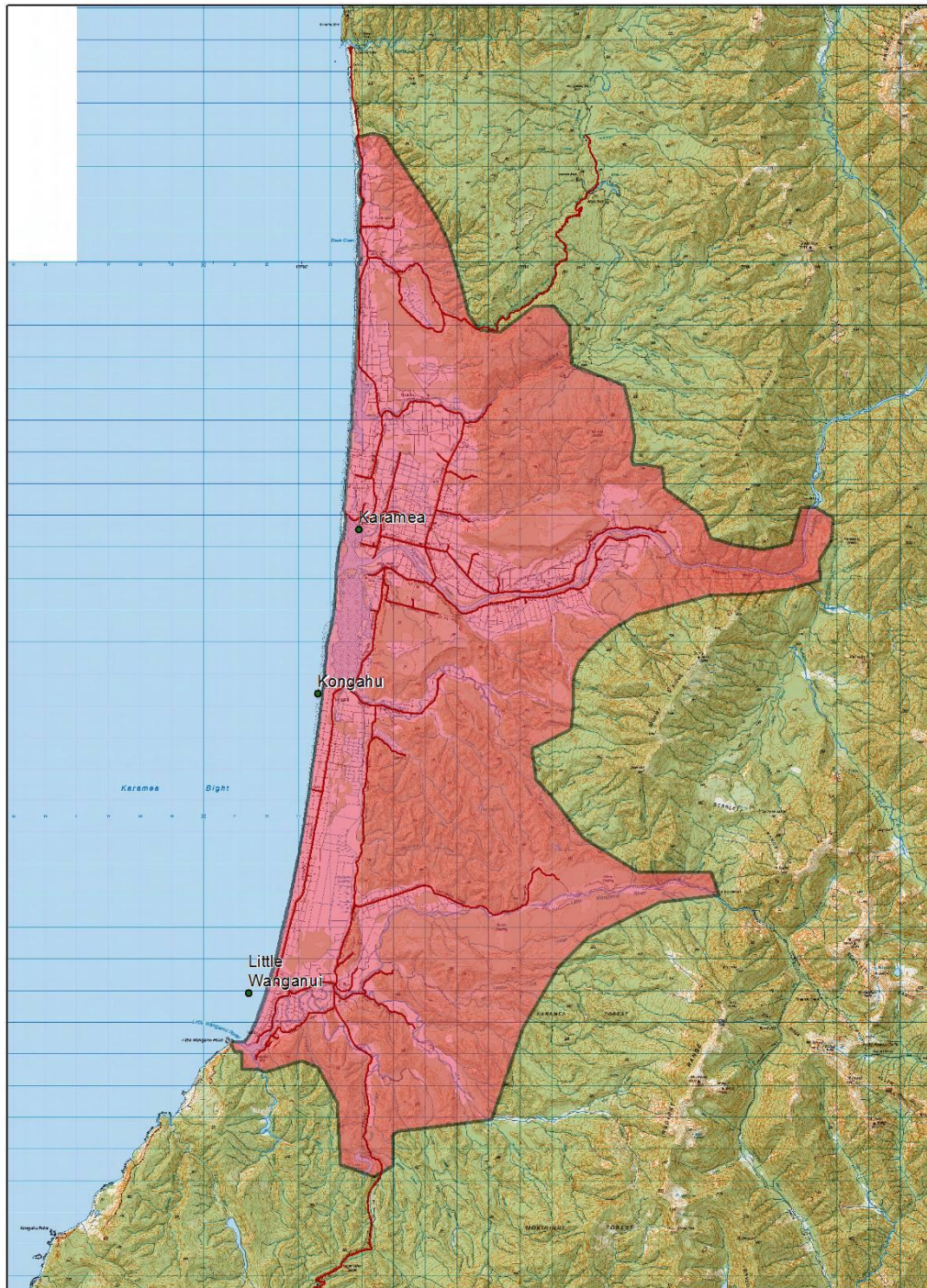
Overview: The progressive containment Priority Management Area (PMA) program involves specific progressive containment pests which are all present within the West Coast to differing levels. In some places these pests are widely established beyond a level where eradication is possible. However, some areas have very limited, or no infestations and these areas are worth protecting. Two such areas have been identified on the West Coast, the Coast Road Progressive Containment Area (Figure 3), and the Karamea Progressive Containment Area (Figure 4)

Objective: Contain the progressive containment species (Figure 2) within the PMAs and reduce the population in these areas over time.

Progressive Containment Priority Management Areas (PMA)	
Purple Pampas	Maruia, Coast Road, Brunner-Haupiri, Grey Valley, Reefton, Inangahua
Wild Ginger	Karamea, Little Wanganui, Inangahua, Ross
Yellow Flag Iris	At risk catchments, to be identified this season

Figure 2: progressive containment species PMA species

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Record Progressive containment (PMA) pest plant sightings	Percentage of reported progressive containment (PMA) pest plant reports recorded	100%
PMA pest plant control	Percentage of identified PMA pest plant infestations controlled	50%
PMA pest plant compliance action	Percentage of identified pest plant incursions where RPMP rules are enforced when service delivery is not feasible.	50%



Karamea / Little Wanganui Progressive Containment Area

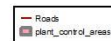


Figure 3 Karamea Progressive containment Area

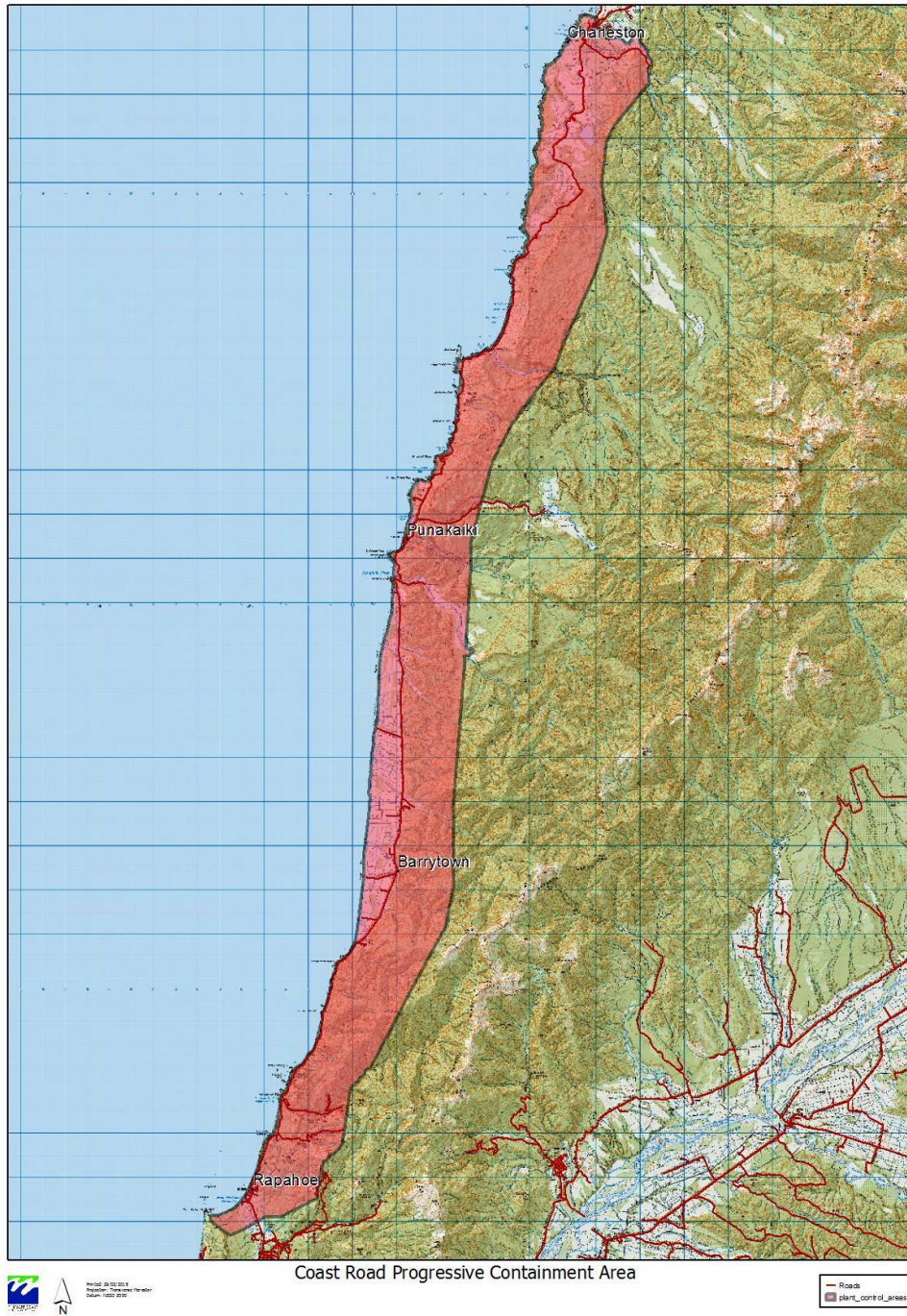


Figure 4 Coast Road Progressive containment Area

4.5 Regional Biocontrol

Overview: In New Zealand the number of native plant species (2,414) is outnumbered by the 2,430 naturalized, exotic plant species. Given such a high number of exotic plant species, the limited resources for tackling weed invasions must be prioritised effectively. The National Biocontrol Collective (NBC) is a consortium of regional councils, unitary authorities, and the Department of Conservation that funds applied weed biocontrol research in New Zealand. In 2022 it trialed a new framework for prioritising weed biocontrol targets.

Objective: Utilize Biocontrol to manage pest plants in the region beyond standard management practices (manual and chemical control).

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Release and transfer biocontrol agents.	Number of new biocontrol agents released and/or transferred within the region	One
Monitor establishment of agents.	Number of biocontrol sites monitored	Three
National Biocontrol Collective (NBC) and provide input for the NBC prioritisation tool which ranks pest plants of importance to members and guides research and development of new agents.	Attend annual NBC meetings to discuss national biocontrol efforts with other members regional councils.	100%

4.6 Pest Plant Control—Service Delivery in Priority Areas

Overview: Service delivery under the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) refers to the practical implementation and execution of pest management strategies and activities designed to control, mitigate, or eradicate pests within a specific region. This involves providing direct services and support to landowners, stakeholders, and the community to achieve the plan's objectives effectively.

Objectives: The Council will undertake control work on these pests as they are identified within the region.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Progressively contain purple pampas across the West Coast	Percentage of identified sites controlled at least once north of Hector	100%
	Percentage of identified sites controlled at least once south of the Wanganui River on private land	100%
	Percentage of identified sites controlled at least once on private land in the Brunner-Haupiri, Grey Valley, Reefton, Inangahua, Maruia, and Coast Road Management Units controlled	75%
Progressively contain Parrots Feather across the West Coast	Number of control operations in Kongahu	Three
	Percentage of known sites where control is undertaken at least once	100%
Progressively contain white pampas across the West Coast	Percentage of known wilding Pampas sites where control is undertaken at least once across the West Coast	100%
	Percentage of sites where service delivery is offered for ornamental or hedgerow plants	100%
Progressively contain knotweed across the West Coast	Percentage of known sites controlled outside of containment areas	25%

Eradicate climbing spindleberry from the West Coast	Number of monitoring visits achieved Percentage of control undertaken at all known sites	Two 100%
Progressively contain chocolate vine across the West Coast	Number of monitoring visits achieved per wilding site Percentage of control undertaken at all wilding sites Control offered at all sites with ornamental hedgerow plants	Two 100% 100%
Eradicate Cathedral bells from the West Coast	Number of monitoring visits achieved per site Percentage of control undertaken at all known sites	Two 100%
Progressively contain Yellow Flag Iris on the West Coast	Number of identified priority sites where monitoring and control is undertaken	One
Progressively contain banana passionfruit on the West Coast	Percentage of properties surveyed for Banana passionfruit within the Karamea and Coast Road Progressive Containment Zones, and the Ross Management Unit	10%
Contain wild cherry (<i>Prunus serrulata</i>) to its current extent	Number of Management Units where control is initiated	One
Progressively contain Darwin's Barberry across the West Coast	Number of sites where control is initiated	Three
Maintain whitebait habitat sites free of crack willow	Number of catchments where control is undertaken	Four Four

	Number of site-based control areas completed	Three
	Number of priority catchments maintained free of crack willow	
	Willow control is undertaken upstream of Okarito	Complete

5. Assumptions & Constraints

5.1 Assumptions

The tasks, objectives and deliverables provided in this annual operating plan were made under the following assumptions:

Description
There will be no legislative, business strategy or policy changes during this financial year that impact program delivery e.g. National Policy Statements or Regional plans
Prices of materials and contractors will not increase by more than 3% during the procurement process for the financial year
The current staff FTE resource will be available for the financial year from the business to support this plan
There will be no significant pest incursions during the financial year that will divert resources for a response.
There will be no significant new sites of known pest species where service delivery is concerned

5.2 Constraints

The tasks, objectives and deliverables provided in this annual operating plan were made with the following constraints considered.

Type of constraint	Description	Impact on the plan
<i>Legislation</i>	<i>Biosecurity Act 1993</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Biosecurity Act 1993 provides a framework for preventing, managing, and eradicating pests and unwanted organisms. The council's biosecurity operating plan must align with the national biosecurity strategy and adhere to the provisions of the Act. • The Act grants regional councils powers to inspect properties, enforce biosecurity measures, and manage pests. The council must use these powers responsibly to control the spread of harmful organisms and protect local biodiversity. • The Act provides mechanisms for funding biosecurity activities, including cost recovery from beneficiaries and polluters. The council must establish transparent funding mechanisms to support its biosecurity initiatives. • The council is required to conduct regular surveillance and monitoring of pests and diseases within its region. This involves gathering data, assessing risks, and responding promptly to new biosecurity threats. • The Act emphasizes the importance of public awareness and education in biosecurity. The council must engage with the community, providing information and resources to help

		<p>prevent the introduction and spread of pests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Biosecurity Act 1993 encourages collaboration between central government, regional councils, industry, and the community. The council must work with various stakeholders to develop and implement effective biosecurity measures. • The council must ensure compliance with the Biosecurity Act and any associated regulations. This includes adhering to national standards, following legal procedures, and maintaining accurate records of biosecurity activities. • The Act outlines procedures for responding to biosecurity emergencies. The council's operating plan must include emergency response strategies to quickly address outbreaks of pests or diseases. • The council must regularly review and adapt its biosecurity operating plan to address emerging threats and incorporate new scientific knowledge and best practices.
<p><i>Legislation</i></p>	<p><i>Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSNO Act sets out requirements for the safe handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous substances used in biosecurity operations. The council must ensure that all hazardous substances are managed in accordance with these regulations to prevent harm to people and the environment.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council must conduct thorough risk assessments for any activities involving hazardous substances. This includes evaluating potential risks to human health, the environment, and existing ecosystems, and implementing measures to mitigate these risks. • Workers involved in biosecurity operations must be trained in the safe handling and use of hazardous substances. The council must provide comprehensive information about the risks and safety procedures associated with these substances and organisms. • The council is required to monitor the use and impact of hazardous substances and new organisms. This involves regular reporting to regulatory authorities, maintaining accurate records, and conducting audits to ensure compliance with the HSNO Act. • The council must take all necessary steps to protect the environment from the adverse effects of hazardous substances. This includes implementing controls to prevent contamination, monitoring environmental impacts, and taking corrective actions if necessary.
<p><i>Legislation</i></p>	<p><i>Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSW)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HSW Act mandates that all workers, including those involved in biosecurity operations, must be provided with a safe working environment. This includes providing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), training, and

		<p>protocols to handle hazardous substances or dangerous situations that might arise during biosecurity activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council must identify and manage risks associated with biosecurity operations. This involves conducting regular risk assessments, implementing control measures to mitigate identified risks, and ensuring that these measures are effectively communicated to all workers. • Training and Competence: Under the HSW Act, the council must ensure that all workers involved in biosecurity operations are adequately trained and competent to perform their duties safely. This includes training in the safe use of chemicals, handling of equipment, and emergency response procedures. • The HSW Act requires the council to maintain accurate records of any incidents, near misses, and health and safety training. This documentation is crucial for continuous improvement and compliance with legal requirements. • The council must engage with workers and their representatives in the development and implementation of health and safety policies and procedures. This includes involving them in decision-making processes related to biosecurity operations and ensuring their feedback is considered.
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<i>Legislation</i>	<i>National Policy Direction for Pest Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular monitoring and reporting are required to assess the effectiveness of pest management activities and ensure compliance with the NPD • Councils must collect data on pest populations, the impact of management actions, and progress towards achieving objectives.
<i>Health and safety (H&S)</i>	<i>H&S is a priority in council. Provide the relevant information to support your project</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helicopter requirements will not include the use Robinsons Helicopters • Staff will abide by and follow the WCRCs HSMP • All contractors used for the purpose of this plan must be pre-qualified

6. Operational planning

6.1 Sources of experience

The following were consulted in the development of this project plan:

- WCRC Biosecurity coordinators
- Group Manager Environmental Science
- DOC staff (Grey, South Westland & Westport)
- West Coast weeds working group
- West Coast Jobs for Nature (J4N) project leads

6.2 Resources

The WCRC has acceptable capacity to deliver this operating plan and this has been fully accounted for in the WCRC LTP. The resources required to deliver the annual plan are outlined in the table below

Resource Type	Total # of resources/effort	Total cost	Business Approval	Responsibilities
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<i>Biosecurity Coordinator</i>	<i>2 FTE</i>	<i>N/A internal</i>	<i>GM Environmental Science</i>	<i>Program coordination and delivery includes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Procurement of services</i> • <i>Delivery of field-based activities</i> • <i>Audit and quality control</i> • <i>Reporting</i>
<i>Group Manager Environmental Science</i>	<i>0.25 FTE</i>	<i>N/A internal</i>	<i>WCRC CEO</i>	<i>Program Sponsor</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Budget management</i> • <i>Approvals</i> • <i>Technical advice and support</i> • <i>Compliance action</i>
<i>GIS analyst</i>	<i>0.05 FTE</i>	<i>N/A internal</i>	<i>GM Information Services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>GIS management & support</i>
<i>Health, Safety & Wellbeing coordinator</i>	<i>0.05 FTE</i>	<i>N/A internal</i>	<i>GM Office of the chief executive</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>H&S project support and advice</i>
<i>Out-sourced physical works/services</i>	<i>Contracts from three suppliers</i>	<i>\$130,000</i>	<i>GM Environmental Science</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Delivery of physical works for pest plant service delivery program</i>
<i>Outsourced specialist services</i>	<i>2 Service Agreement</i>	<i>\$66,000</i>	<i>GM Environmental Science</i>	<i>Delivery of specialist services for aquatic Aerial pest plant control</i>
<i>Communication advisor</i>	<i>0.05FTE</i>	<i>N/A Internal</i>	<i>GM Office of the Chief Executive</i>	<i>Program support</i>
Total	<i>2.25 FTE</i>	<i>\$196,000</i>		

6.5 Risks and issues

It is essential to identify risk and issues associated with this operating plan to ensure mitigation strategies are developed, they are reviewed regularly and understood throughout the delivery of the plan.

6.5.1 Delivery risks

Risk	Control adaptation/mitigation	Owner	Review
Species detection Failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff training - Quality audits of contracted work - Annual surveillance program review 	Group Manager Environmental Science	Quarterly
Data Inaccuracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data entry protocols & audits - Standardized data collection methods 	Biosecurity Coordinator	Quarterly
Technology failures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain the biosecurity GIS tool 	Senior GIS Analyst	Quarterly
Low public engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review communication methods - Review engagement of social media - Establish and maintain a comms log 	Communications Advisor & Biosecurity Coordinator	Quarterly
Misinformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide clear, accurate, and consistent information. - Train staff and volunteers to ensure they convey correct messages. 	Group Manager Environmental Science	Quarterly
Resistance to behaviour change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highlight the benefits of biosecurity measures and success stories. 	Biosecurity Coordinator	Quarterly

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with local influencers and community leaders to advocate for best practices. 		
Stakeholder disengagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foster inclusive decision-making processes. - Regularly update stakeholders on progress and solicit their feedback. 	Group Manager Environmental Science	Quarterly
Non- Compliance by Landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide support and education to landowners. - Use a graduated enforcement approach to encourage compliance. 	Biosecurity Coordinator	Quarterly
Inadequate inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure sufficient staffing and training for inspection teams. - Implement a systematic inspection schedule. 	Group Manager Environmental Science	Quarterly
Enforcement challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish clear enforcement protocols. - Use legal and administrative measures as necessary to ensure compliance. 	Group Manager Environmental Science	Quarterly
Community resistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage with local communities to explain the importance of pest control. Involve them in the planning and implementation process. 	Biosecurity Coordinator	Quarterly

Environmental impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use environmentally friendly control methods where possible. - Monitor and mitigate any negative impacts on non-target species and habitats as legislated 	Biosecurity Coordinator	Quarterly
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6.5.1 Health and Safety risks

The Biosecurity team have aligned their health, safety, and wellbeing goals with West Coast Regional Council's HSMP. This plan achieves a critical balance between the procedural and behavioral aspects of management, ensuring the biosecurity team takes ownership and achieves effective H&S outcomes.

6.5.2 Climate risk

Climate risk	Control adaptation/mitigation	Owner	Review
Helicopter use	Assess the use of drones to replace helicopters where possible	Biosecurity Coordinator	Quarterly
Deisel vehicles	Use Hybrid pool vehicles where feasible	GM Environmental science	Annually

5.7 Procurement

The biosecurity team will procure contracts to fulfil this plan. Specialist service will be direct sourced to known providers and service agreements will be procured through obtaining quotes and assessing contractors attributes.

5.8 Stakeholder communication and engagement

Stakeholder	Engagement strategy	Timing	Current level of knowledge	Expected level of engagement
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WCRC councilors	Quarterly updates/reports	Quarterly ongoing	Moderate	High
Resident and rate payers	Notification letters, biannual newsletter, media releases, scheduled events	Monthly	Low	High
Mana whenua	Quarterly updates/reports	Quarterly ongoing	Moderate	High
Department of Conservation	Quarterly updates/reports	Quarterly ongoing	High	Moderate
West Coast Fish and Game	Quarterly updates/reports	Quarterly ongoing	Moderate	Low
Maanaki Whenua - Landcare Research	Meeting attendance	Biannually	Moderate	Low
Biosecurity NZ (MPI)	Check, Clean, Dry Program. Wallaby Response	Annually	Moderate	Moderate
NZ Biosecurity Institute	Conference attendance	Annually	High	Moderate
Biosecurity working group (Te Uru Kahika)	Meeting attendance	Quarterly	High	Moderate
Federated Farmers	Annual report	Annually	Moderate	Moderate
Minerals West Coast	Annual report	Annually	Moderate	Moderate

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) is dedicated to the proactive management and enhancement of the region's biosecurity. This Biosecurity Operating



Annual Plan outlines a comprehensive approach to address and mitigate risks associated with invasive species and potential biosecurity threats to the region.

The plan aligns with the following strategic goals for biosecurity:

- Implementing a robust surveillance program to prevent the establishment and spread of high-risk invasive species.
- Strengthening the council approach to compliance with RPMP rules to achieve outcomes within the plan.
- Enhancing public awareness and engagement in biosecurity practices to increase community participation in pest management efforts.
- Strengthening partnerships with stakeholders to integrate a broad range of knowledge and values in biosecurity planning and execution.
- Increasing the capability and capacity within the council's biosecurity team through ongoing training and resource allocation.

By focusing on these key areas, the WCRC aims to protect the region's biodiversity, agricultural productivity, and public health. The success of this plan will rely heavily on collaboration with local communities, stakeholders, and other governmental agencies.

Anticipated outcomes include:

- Effective containment and eradication of target species.
- Improved community awareness and involvement in biosecurity initiatives.
- Enhanced readiness and responsiveness to biosecurity threats.
- Strengthened regional biosecurity infrastructure and resources.

As the WCRC prepares to implement this plan, it recognizes the importance of continuous evaluation and adaptation of strategies to address emerging biosecurity challenges. Leveraging technology and scientific research will be crucial in staying ahead of potential risks.

The council acknowledges the need for ongoing support and cooperation from all sectors of the community to achieve long-term biosecurity goals. By working together, we can ensure the West Coast region remains resilient and protected against the adverse impacts of biological threats, preserving our natural heritage and sustaining our economy for future generations.