

**Report 99.245**

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Report to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee  
from Wayne O'Donnell, Manager, Biosecurity

## **Bovine Tb Vector Control – Eradication Zone Proposal**

### **1. Purpose**

To update the Committee on recent developments regarding the possible formation of a Bovine Tb eradication zone within the region.

### **2. Background**

The National Pest Management Strategy for Bovine Tuberculosis supports the development of 'eradication zones' within vector risk areas. The purpose of the zone is to undertake a range of disease and vector control measures designed to eradicate tuberculosis from the cattle, deer and wild animal population within a defined area agreed to by the Animal Health Board.

Vector control is the first stage in the development of an eradication zone. The initial objective is to reduce the risk of exposure of cattle and farmed deer to tuberculosis vectors. Eradication requires an intensification of effort to remove infection from the vector population. It may also require the development of peripheral buffer zones to prevent immigration of Tb vectors back into the defined area.

Control of Tb in the vector population will have been achieved when the defined area has been free of vector associated Tb in all herds for a minimum period of two consecutive years. The area can then be reclassified as a Eradication Zone provided there is an established buffer or natural boundaries to prevent immigration of infected vectors.

Eradication of Tb from the vector population is achieved when the area has been free of vector associated Tb infections in all herds for a minimum of 5 consecutive years (i.e. two years as vector control and three years as an eradication zone). Maintenance control will be required for a further two years. The area is then reclassified as Tb Vector Free. If a vector related Tb breakdown occurs within the three year period, a further 5 year programme will need to be initiated.

### 3. Financial Implications

Funding of operations by Council and the Animal Health Board (representing industry and Crown) depends on location. The table below explains the current apportionment-

<i>Type</i>	<i>WRC / AHB (%)</i>	
<i>Crown</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Buffer</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>75</i>
<i>Regional</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>50</i>

The proposed Eradication Zone, situated in the north-west corner of Wairarapa, contains all or parts of seven current operational areas. Two of these are Crown operations, one a buffer operation, and the remaining four are regional. If the AHB approve the reclassification, then all regional operations in this zone will attract 75% AHB funding instead of the current 50%. The financial implications of this change are significant. The Council could be expected to save approximately \$176,000 over the three year period.

Annual maintenance control will be required in the 59,000ha zone to ensure the risks of Tb infection are minimised. It is proposed that a non-operational area to the north of the new Zone will need to be controlled as a buffer to prevent immigration of vectors. All other zone boundaries are already operational, either via Tb Vector control or KNE works.

Should the AHB agree to the proposal, then Council will need to consider how the surplus funds are to be used. Options include redistribution within the Bovine Tb vector control programme, either through enhancing the WRC Initiative programme, or adding a new operational area, or savings to the general rate and the Bovine Tb reserve fund.

Biosecurity staff have prepared a report which, along with a disease control report from AgriQuality, will be forwarded to the AHB for review. The Board will consider the proposal within their 1999/2000 national operational prioritisation modelling.

A further report to the Committee will be provided should AHB approval be given.

### 4. Recommendation

*That the report be received and the information noted.*

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

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