

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

Regional Pest Management Strategies: Operational Plans 1999/2000

1. Purpose

To seek Committee approval to adopt the 1999/2000 Operational Plans for the Regional Pest Plant and Pest Animal Management Strategies.

2. Background

On 2 July 1996 the Council adopted the Regional Pest Management Strategies for implementation during the period 1996-2001.

The Strategies contain management objectives specific to individual pests. An outline of the means by which Council will achieve these objectives during the five year term are described.

There is no specific statutory requirement for an Operational Plan to be formally approved by the Council. However, it is considered appropriate to do so, as it recognises Council's ongoing support for the Plans and reinforces the desire to be transparent regarding expenditure and the means of achievement.

The Biosecurity Act 1993 specifies a number of requirements for Operational Plans.

The Committee, as the formally approved Management Agency, must:-

- review the Plans annually and, if deemed appropriate, amend them;
- provide a copy of each Plan to the responsible Minister;
- prepare an annual report on the Plans, including the effectiveness of their implementation, not later than five months after the end of each financial year; and
- make copies of each Plan and annual report available to the public.

The power to disallow a Plan if it is deemed inconsistent with the Strategy lies solely with the Council that approved the original Regional Strategy.

A report on the effectiveness of the 1998/99 Operational Plans will be presented to the November meeting of the Committee.

3. **The Operational Plans**

The proposed Operational Plans are enclosed separately as Attachment 1.

Whilst the Act requires Plans to be developed, there is no advice on their purpose, form or content. It is presumed that their purpose is to assist the Management Agency to implement the Regional Strategies. Through the process of annual review and reporting, the Management Agency details how the Strategies are to be implemented and the achievement, or otherwise, of stated performance targets. Secondly, the process enables stakeholders the opportunity to annually examine a Strategy's cost effectiveness for its duration.

4. **Recommendation**

That the Committee:

- (1) *Approve the proposed Operational Plan 1999/2000 (Attachment 1) for the Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy.*
- (2) *Approve the proposed Operational Plan 1999/2000 (Attachment 1) for the Regional Pest Animal Management Strategy.*

Report prepared by:

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