

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

Amendments to the 1998/99 Bovine Tb Vector Control Programme

1. Purpose

To advise the Committee of recent changes to the 1998/99 Bovine Tb vector control programme.

2. Background

Report 98.229 to the June 1998 Committee meeting outlined options for approving changes to the vector control programme. The Council agreed that changes, which required no additional financial commitment, could be approved by management provided a report on the changes was to be submitted to the next available Committee meeting for information.

3. Technical Review

In September 1998, staff from the Animal Health Board (AHB), MAFQual (now AgriQuality) and the Council met to consider the proposed 1998/99 vector control programme. Monitoring reports were presented on Tb infection and residual possum densities for each operational area reviewed.

This review identified possible operational savings of \$195K. Discussions focused on options to either increase expenditure in specific areas or retain the savings. An operational 'options schedule' was drafted for further discussion between Council and MAFQual staff.

A report was subsequently forwarded to the AHB in October recommending the savings be allocated to undertaking work in a number of operations previously excluded from the 1998/99 programme. Unfortunately, AHB approval was not received until early February 1999. The delay has negated any opportunities to contract the new works.

To date, only oral approval has been received to action the Council's initiative for programmes in non-operational areas. Staff are currently identifying and

costing operations in conjunction with AgriQuality staff. A schedule will be submitted to the AHB in the near future.

4. Revised Programme

As indicated above, savings totalling \$195K were identified in the original programme. Areas with reduced expenditure included East Alfredton, Martinborough, Pakowai, Ponatahi – Longbush and Stronvar.

New areas to be worked include –

<i>Area</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
Bideford	3976
Castlehill	2016
Homewood – Riversdale	2710
Kahutara	3073
Lake Wairarapa Crown	700
Featherston	1008
Holdsworth	577
Mt Bruce – Waipoua	808

The increased area amounts to 14,868 hectares within a budget of \$192K.

5. Recommendation

That the report be received.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

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Colin Wright
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