

The future of regional pest management

Environment Canterbury's Regional Pest Management Strategy 1998 (RPMS) addresses a number of specific pest problems in Canterbury. If you own or occupy land within the Canterbury region, the information and policies in the strategy may affect you.

The strategy's five-year term was specified to run until 30 June 2003. In order to provide continuous pest management services, a review of the strategy has been undertaken and a replacement strategy notified. Doing this enables the requirements of RPMS (1998) to remain in place after 30 June 2003 and until the notified Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy (2003) completes its public process and is made operative. Here is a summary of the steps taken to develop our new Regional Pest Management Strategy and an estimated timeframe for what is still required.

- April 2002: A discussion document was published to seek community views and feedback on the RPMS 1998. Public meetings were held throughout the region to provide an opportunity to discuss questions raised in the document. Environment Canterbury considered submissions and views.
- 28 June 2003: A Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy (2003) was notified.
- July-August 2003: Public meetings were held to explain the proposed strategy and to encourage submissions.
- 1 September 2003: Final date for submissions to Environment Canterbury.
- September 2003: Submissions will be summarised and made available to the public and submitters.
- March 2004: A Board of Inquiry will consider all submissions.
- June 2004: Environment Canterbury will adopt the recommendations of the Board of Inquiry. Decisions will be conveyed to submitters. Submitters then have the right to appeal the decisions to the Environment Court.
- July 2004: Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy 2003 is made operative and its implementation begins.

The operative date will be delayed if there are matters to be resolved in the Environment Court.

For more information contact senior resource management planner Ray Maw on 365 3828 extn 7187.

Boneseed

The attractive bush with the bright yellow flowers, seen in some Canterbury gardens and on the Port Hills at the moment, is really a menace in disguise.

Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) is spreading rapidly throughout coastal areas of New Zealand. It is so aggressive it will even displace gorse and broom. Boneseed is being eradicated in all areas of Canterbury apart from the Port Hills, where it is considered too widespread, but an area of the Port Hills is targeted for boneseed removal each year.

The targeted area for August and September in North Canterbury is the Kaikoura peninsula where boneseed occurs at South Bay and in Kaikoura township. Biosecurity officers searched gardens and removed boneseed plants in this area at the end of August.

Work aimed at eradicating boneseed in Amberley township, Amberley Beach, Leithfield Beach, Gore Bay and Motunau Beach township was finished in the 2002/2003 year.

Another pest which the Department of Conservation and Environment Canterbury are working together on controlling with district councils, is purpleloosestrife which flowers in January.

For more information contact central biosecurity team leader Rob McCaw on 365 3828 extn 7262 or northern biosecurity team leader Laurence Smith on 365 3828 extn 9581 or Amberly 314 8014.

Ashburton and Ashley Riverbirds

Environment Canterbury is working to make nesting time safer for birds in some of the region's riverbeds. Environment Canterbury staff are

carrying-out a scoping predator control operation in the south branch of the Ashburton River and in the lower Ashburton River below the State Highway One bridge. This trapping programme for wild cats, possums and ferrets aims to protect valuable nesting areas for birds like wrybills, black-fronted terns and dotterels and in so doing, to arrest the decline of these populations.

The other major partners in this work are the Department of Conservation and local landowners. Environment Canterbury is also helping the Ashley Landcare Group with predator control in the Ashley River, to protect birds that nest there.

For more information contact southern biosecurity team leader Graham Sullivan in the Timaru office 03 688 9069 extn 8835.

Port Hill pests

Environment Canterbury has been working in association with the Christchurch City Council to help protect and enhance the native flora and fauna of the Port Hills by developing predator-free bush corridors from the Port Hills into the city. Environment Canterbury carries-out pest control work on private land to complement the control work of City Council staff on reserve

land. Phase one of the predator control programme on the Port Hills (area bordered by Gebbies and Dyers Pass roads including both sides of the hill but avoiding urban areas such as Tai Tapu) was carried out between early May and the end of June 2003. The operation targeted possums, feral cats, mustelids, and rodents (rodents were

controlled as a precautionary measure to ensure that the removal of feral cats and mustelids - major predators of rats and mice - did not upset the natural balance between them, and result in a plague of rodents). Fifty properties were involved in the operation

that covered 6000 ha. The score was 3,135 possums, 1 stoat, 1 weasel and an undetermined number of rodents.

Volunteers from the Summit Road Society and Living Springs helped with the work. Phase two, from Dyers Pass to Godley Heads (about 3000 ha) will occur this financial year.

For more information contact southern biosecurity team Leader Graham Sullivan in the Timaru office 03 688 9069 extn 8835.



South Canterbury bats

Two operations in South Canterbury are aiming to make life a little safer for native bats. Environment Canterbury is trapping possums and other predators in the Hanging Rock area in South Canterbury to help arrest the decline in the long-tailed bat population. Environment Canterbury is also working in nearby Kakahu Forest, with the Department of Conservation, local landholders and the South Canterbury Conservation Trust. This is work aims to protect and enhance native flora and fauna and rid the area of exotic

plants. The two operations complement each another because long-tailed-bats live in both areas.

For more information contact southern biosecurity team leader Graham Sullivan in the Timaru office 03 688 9069 extn 8835.

Waimate Bell heather

Environment Canterbury is continuing its attack on bell heather in the Hunter Hills near Waimate. Bell heather was first identified in the Hunter Hills in 1943 where there had been an attempt to establish it. It is classed as a pest because it threatens the biodiversity of undeveloped tall tussock grasslands. In the past financial year Environment Canterbury attacked the remaining 14 ha core of this infestation by air. The entire 350 ha infestation has now been covered. This financial year Environment Canterbury will continue maintenance control.

For more information contact Biosecurity Team Leader Graham Sullivan in the Timaru office 03 688 9069 extn 8835.

Feral goats

The days of wild goats on Banks Peninsula may be getting less. Environment Canterbury is working with the Department of Conservation, the Christchurch City Council and the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust to rid the peninsula entirely of wild goats. Feral goats on the southern bays of Banks Peninsula were targeted for control in the past financial year and control is continuing this year. Two hundred-and-twenty three goats were eradicated by aerial shooting and at present Department of Conservation hunters are cleaning up any remaining animals from the ground. So far they have shot a further 92 goats. Control work in Autumn 2004 will focus on Pices and Kaituna Valleys.

For more information contact southern biosecurity team Leader Graham Sullivan in the Timaru office 03 688 9069 extn 8835.

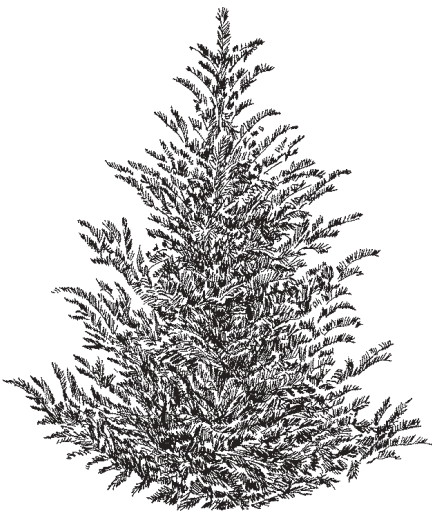
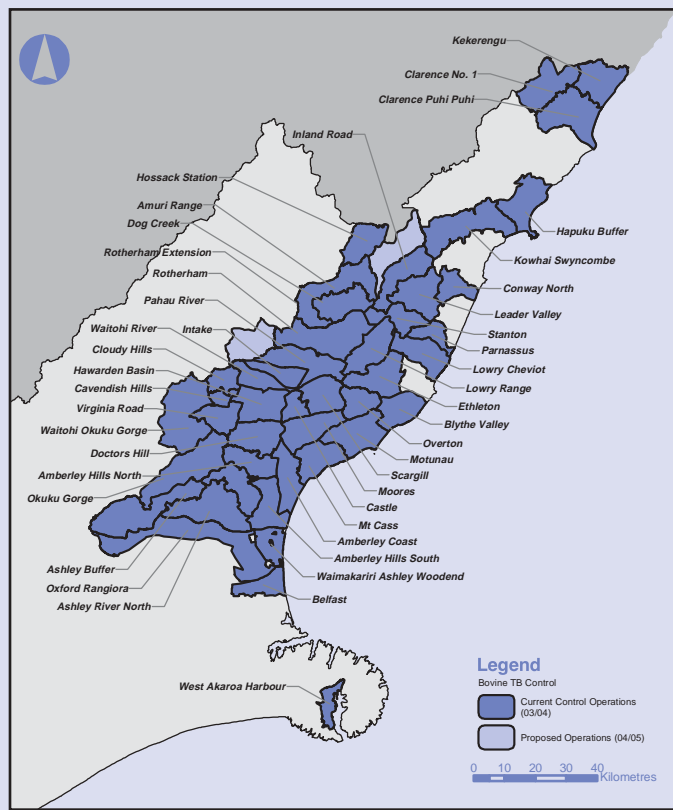
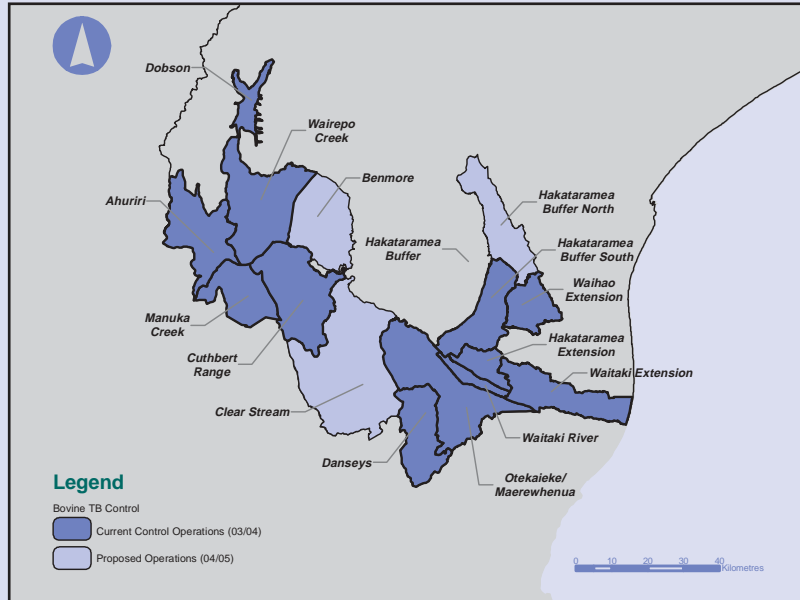


Bovine Tb update

Environment Canterbury has contracted most of the vector control programme for the 2003-04 year under the Animal Health Board's national pest management strategy for Bovine Tb. The 2003-04 programme covers almost 1 million hectares of control and survey operations. This is divided up into 56 control operations involving both possum and ferret work. There will also be at least six surveys carried out in the fringe areas beside known areas of Tb infected vectors. A notable new survey will be the area along the Hunter Hills, in response to a herd breakdown near Waimate last year. There will also be surveys carried out in the Lake Sumner area. Contractors have already completed 12 operations which are now being monitored or are waiting to be monitored.

The 2003-04 work is being carried out by pest contractors Target Pest Enterprises Ltd, Tb Vector Control Ltd, and Dean Shute Contracting.

For more information contact bovine Tb and contracts manager, Kevin Gallagher 03 353 9009 extn 7320.



Wilding pines

The battle to prevent the advance of wilding pines in the Waimakariri basin continues and is likely to start in the Rakaia basin this year.

Approximately \$30 000 was spent by Environment Canterbury in the Waimakariri basin last financial year to eradicate the pines. Two smaller areas in the Rakaia catchment as well as further work in the Waimakariri will be targeted for this financial year. Environment Canterbury is trying to align its wilding tree control programmes with those of the Department of Conservation.

For more information contact central biosecurity team leader Rob McCaw on 365 3828 extn 7262.

Wild thyme

Plant pest staff from Environment Canterbury are attempting to reduce the foothold the plant pest wild thyme has in some patches of Canterbury.

Scattered plants covering around 19 hectares in the Upper Rangitata River have been grubbed or sprayed. In 2003/2004 Environment Canterbury hopes to continue pushing back and reducing the main infestation. Staff are also targeting another patch of around 35 hectares in the Karatu River to the West of Rangiora.

For more information contact southern biosecurity team leader Graham Sullivan in the Timaru office 03 688 9069 extn 8835 or northern biosecurity team leader Laurence Smith on 365 3828 extn 9581 or Amberly 314 8014.

Argentine ants

This summer scientists will again be watching-out for unwanted immigrants from South America - Argentine ants. Two Canterbury sites in Sockburn and Riccarton, where the Ants are known to have taken up residence, were poisoned in late February 2003, in a joint Department of Conservation, Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury programme. Indications are that the programme was very successful but maintenance control work and monitoring of sites will continue over the summer.

For more information contact southern biosecurity team Leader Graham Sullivan in the Timaru office 03 688 9069 extn 8835.

Pest management liaison committee representatives

Pest management liaison committees in the region advise and work with Environment Canterbury's pest management staff on local pest issues. Here is a list of the chairpersons of pest management liaison committees in the region.

Ashley	Ian Ford	03 312 9700
Waikari	Graeme Gibb	03 314 3872
Amuri (acting)	Hamish Roxburgh	03 315 6049
Hurunui Nassella	Errol Monk	03 314 4087
Kaikoura	Bob Todhunter	03 575 8681
Ashburton	Robin Bruce	03 307 0008
Selwyn	Roger Gilbert	03 324 3648
Banks Peninsula	Paul de Latour	03 304 8518
Kurow	Peter Reid	03 436 0216
South Canterbury	Ian Jefferis	03 689 5565

For more information on the functions of pest management liaison committees please contact biosecurity manager Ron Paulin in Christchurch 03 365 3828 or in Timaru 03 688 9069 extn 8839, or Cr Robert Johnston, pests and biosecurity portfolio chairman 03 312 4166 fax 03 312 3085.

Pay us an e-visit

Copies of this and past issues of this newsletter are available on Environment Canterbury's website at www.ecan.govt.nz. If you would like to see more information on this site about animal and plant pest management, please phone pest portfolio manager, Rob Phillips on 365 3828 ext 7069.

Visit us online at <http://www.ecan.govt.nz>

Pest management people at Environment Canterbury

Pest Portfolio Chairman:

Cr Robert Johnston, phone (03) 312-4166, fax (03) 312 3085. Robert is also a member of the Regional Animal Health Advisory Committee and a director of Target Pest Enterprises.

Portfolio Manager, Biosecurity / Pest Management:

Rob Phillips is responsible for co-ordinating overall portfolio activities including advising council and ensuring the achievements of outputs and outcomes.

Planning and policy formulation:

Christchurch-based Senior Resource Management Planner Ray Maw is responsible for the biosecurity area.

Bovine Tb:

Kevin Gallagher is the Bovine Tb and Contracts Manager. He is responsible for managing the Tb vector control programme as part of the national pest management strategy within Canterbury. He is based at the Christchurch office, (03) 353 9009 extn 7320.

Biosecurity Manager:

Ron Paulin is responsible for how the policies in the regional pest management strategy are implemented. He works from Timaru but has responsibility for the whole region. Phone (03) 688 9069 or (03) 353 9009 extn 8839.

The biosecurity section is organised into three teams:

The Northern Team Leader is Laurence Smith in **Amberley**. Amberley Biosecurity Officers are Terry Charles, Lance Smith, Peter Morgan and Jan Crooks, (03) 314 8014.

Cheviot Biosecurity Officers are Noel Crump and Tom Kirkwood, (03) 319 8614.

The **Kaikoura** Biosecurity Officer is Peter Adams (duties combined with river engineering), (03) 319 5781.

The Central Team Leader is Rob McCaw in **Christchurch**. Christchurch Biosecurity Officers are Jenny Williams, Stephen Brown and John Thacker, (03) 365 3828.

The **Darfield** Biosecurity Officer is Errol Barnes, (03) 318 8155.

The **Little River** Biosecurity Officer is Jock Bulman, (03) 325 1103. The Southern Team Leader is:

Graham Sullivan in **Timaru**. Timaru Biosecurity Officers are Terry Broughton, Phil Crotty and Brent Glentworth, (03) 688 9069.

Target Pest Enterprises is an Environment Canterbury owned company contracted to control pests throughout the Canterbury region. Paul Ash is its General Manager, 353 9001 (Christchurch).