WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Biosecurity Operating plan

2026/2027

1. Document management and review

Reason for Submission	Revision Number	Approval Date	Approval	Next plan due
New annual operating plan	1	1st August 2026	Shanti Morgan	1st July 2027

2. Purpose of document

Under the Biosecurity Act 1993, Council is the regional management agency responsible for biosecurity and pest management functions. To give effect to this statutory role, the West Coast Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) sets out the objectives, rules, and requirements for land occupiers to manage specified pests to defined levels.

Where a regional pest management plan is in place, Council is required to prepare an annual Operational Plan that details how the RPMP will be implemented.

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

- Provide a description of the scope and stage objectives for annual implementation of the RPMP
- Outline the programme of activities required to achieve RPMP objectives and compliance outcomes
- Detail resourcing requirements, dependencies, stakeholders, and key delivery 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. Scope

This Operational Plan must be read in conjunction with the West Coast Regional Pest Management Plan 2018–2028 (RPMP). The RPMP provides detailed information on each pest species, while this Operational Plan outlines annual priorities and implementation activities, including associated targets and budgets.

3.1 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.

3.1.1 Freshwater Pest Surveillance Program

Overview: Despite the presence of aquatic invasive species in the region, many West Coast lakes continue to hold high natural value. To support the management of new incursions, the West Coast Regional Council (WCRC), in partnership with the Department of Conservation (DOC), delivers an annual aquatic surveillance programme. This programme engages scientific divers to survey priority lakes for introduced aquatic weeds, with an emphasis on early-stage detection while management options remain viable.

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

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Annual lake surveillance.	Number of lakes surveyed.	8

3.1.2 Marine Surveillance Program

Overview: The West Coast region's marine environment remains relatively understudied. However, a 2021 report by the Cawthron Institute identified specific areas where regular pest surveillance is recommended, based on ecological values and the likelihood of invasive species establishment. These areas have been prioritised for surveillance to improve understanding of marine pest presence and distribution in key locations. Scientific divers will be engaged to carry out marine biosecurity surveillance, including seabed transects, inspections of permanent structures such as wharves and moorings, and spot checks across the wider area. Where occupier consent is obtained, hull inspections of any vessels present will also be undertaken.

Objective: To detect incursions of introduced marine species within identified priority areas on the West Coast.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Annual marine surveillance.	Number of locations surveyed for marine pests.	1

3.1.3 Terrestrial Surveillance Program

Overview: Surveillance of terrestrial pest plants on the West Coast is essential for protecting both high-value ecosystems and productive land. Early detection, management, and prevention of invasive species spread are critical to minimising long-term impacts. Biosecurity staff conduct regular field surveys in high-risk areas and along key pathways, using GIS technology to accurately record pest plant occurrences. Proactive surveillance supports effective pest management by enabling early intervention, improving the feasibility of eradication, supporting containment efforts, and maintaining a clear understanding of pest distributions across the region.

Objective: To carry out regular surveillance of terrestrial pest plants in high-risk areas and along key pathways

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Pest plant surveillance at identified risk areas.	Number of surveillance visits conducted in residential parts of Pest Plant Management Areas (Figure 1).	30
	Number of surveillance visits conducted within industry land parcels in Pest Plant Management Areas.	10
	Number of surveillance visits conducted in wetlands.	6
	Percentage of known* (as of June 2026) illegal green waste dumpsites visited.	100%
Pest plant surveillance along risk pathways	Number of surveillance inspections along the complete West Coast rail corridor.	1
	Number of surveillance inspections along the highway system.	2
	Number of surveillance inspections along priority waterways.	6

3.2 Education, Advocacy and Engagement

Overview: The RPMP education and advocacy programme focuses on raising awareness of the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) and aquatic biosecurity through targeted outreach, stakeholder engagement, and community education. It delivers information, advice, and awareness to landowners, occupiers, and the public on pests, pathways, and control methods, promotes best practice pest management and proactive control across all stakeholders, supports community-led initiatives and collaboration with agencies on control and funding opportunities, and encourages the reporting of pest sightings and appropriate control actions.

Objective: To promote best practice pest management and increase awareness, engagement, and proactive control among landowners, occupiers, and the public through education and advocacy.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Provide biosecurity advice and education at key regional events.	Number of events attended. Number of community meetings attended and presentations delivered.	2 3
Deliver biosecurity media releases.	Number of *Weed of the Month* articles published to the newspaper or online. Number of *Pest Animal the Month* articles published to the newspaper or online.	10 5
Respond to community pest management enquiries.	Percentage of information requests received by phone and email documented	80%
Increase public awareness and build community capability in effective pest plant management via the Weedbusters initiative.	Number of residential suburbs visited. Percentage of progressive containment pests management advice or guidance is provided.	4 100%
Increase aquatic biosecurity awareness and promote Check, Clean, Dry compliance to prevent the spread of freshwater pests in West Coast waterways.	Number of face-to-face engagements with water users at events and popular waterbodies. Percentage of key CCD signage maintained or installed at priority access points.	150 25%

Engagement with external staff, contractors, and agencies undertaking pest plant control within the West Coast Region.	Number of meetings held.	6

3.3 Regional Pest Management Programs

The pest management programs outlined in this section relate directly to those established in the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) and describe the proposed activities required to achieve RPMP objectives over the year. Each programme translates strategic pest management outcomes into operational deliverables and performance measures.

WCRC applies a balanced approach, combining landowner support, education, and service delivery, with compliance enforcement where necessary to meet RPMP objectives.

The biosecurity team has divided the region into 30 management areas to better understand infestation boundaries and potential dispersal pathways (see Figure 1). This spatial framework supports prioritisation of operational activity and improves the effectiveness of pest management responses across the region.

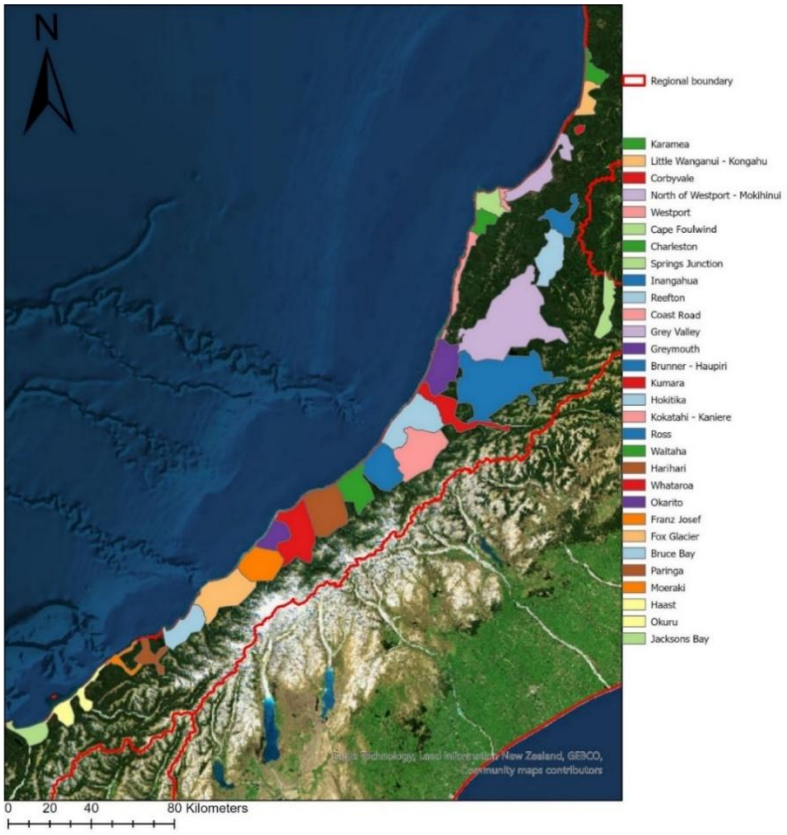

Figure 1: Pest Plant Management areas on the West Coast

3.3.1 Whole region – RPMP Exclusion & Eradication pest programs

Overview: Exclusion and eradication pests are species that pose a significant threat to productive land, conservation areas, human health, and recreational values within the West Coast. Exclusion pests are not currently present in the region, while eradication pests occur only in limited distribution. Management focuses on surveillance, education, and service delivery, supported by compliance action where service delivery has not been successful, to prevent the establishment of exclusion pests and to detect, contain, and remove eradication pests where they occur.

Objective: To prevent the establishment of listed exclusion pests and to eradicate listed eradication pests from the West Coast over the duration of the Plan, thereby avoiding or eliminating adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment, human health, and recreational values.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Respond to exclusion & eradication pest reports.	Percentage of exclusion & eradication pest reports received investigated*.	100%
Management of exclusion & eradication pest plant sites.	Percentage of identified RPMP exclusion and eradication species mapped in the Biosecurity GIS system. Percentage of sites managed.	100% 100%
Exclusion & eradication pest plant compliance action.	Percentage of identified pest plant sites where RPMP rules are enforced when service delivery is not feasible.	100%

3.3.2 Whole region – RPMP Progressive containment pest program

Overview:

Progressive containment pests are invasive species already established in parts of the West Coast. If unmanaged, these pests can further spread and negatively impact conservation, production, and recreational values. The Progressive Containment Programme aims to limit their spread and progressively reduce pest populations in identified areas over time. The plan recognises the variation in pest distribution across the region and identifies specific areas for operational focus each season.

Although Crown agencies are not subject to RPMP rules for progressive containment, WCRC maintains a strong working relationship with DOC. Newly identified sites on Public Conservation Land will be referred to DOC for action as appropriate.

Objective:

To contain listed pest species within their current known distributions and reduce their extent through surveillance, targeted control, and compliance where necessary.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Respond to Progressive containment pest plant reports.	Percentage of progressive containment pest plant reported in 2026/2027 mapped.	100%
Inform DOC of progressive containment spread on PCL.	Percentage of new sites (2026/2027) on PCL flagged to DOC.	100%
Undertake surveillance in the Karamea and Coast Road progressive containment areas (Figures 3 and 4) targeting specified progressive containment pests.	Number of surveillance visits conducted in each area.	2
Survey and control Yellow Bristle Grass sites outside of the Buller Gorge.	Percentage of known* (as of June 2026) Yellow Bristle Grass sites monitored and controlled.	100%
Progressively contain Blue Morning glory across the West Coast.	Percentage of known* (as of June 2026) sites on private land controlled.	75%
Progressively contain chocolate vine across the West Coast.	Percentage of known* (as of June 2026) sites on private land controlled.	75%

Progressively contain Parrots Feather across the West Coast.	Number of control operations in Kongahu. Percentage of known* (as of June 2026) sites where control is undertaken at least once on private land.	3 100%
Undertake surveillance and control of yellow flag iris in priority areas.	Number of Management Units containing wetland, estuarine, or shallow freshwater habitats susceptible to yellow flag iris invasion where surveillance and control is undertaken.	10
Progressively contain white pampas across the West Coast.	Percentage of known* (as of June 2026) sites on private land where control or compliance action is undertaken.	50%
Progressively contain Darwin's Barberry across the West Coast.	Percentage of known* (as of June 2026) sites where monitoring is complete and control initiated.	75%

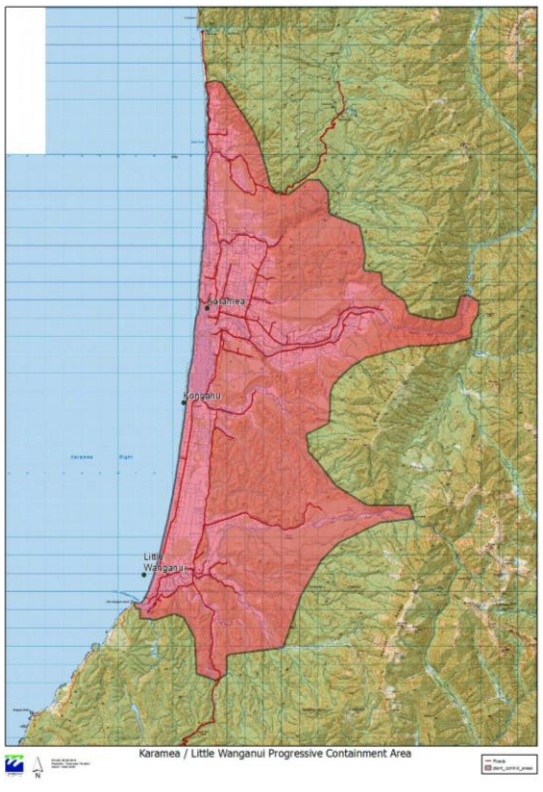

Figure 3: Karamea Progressive Containment Area.

Figure 4: Coast Road Progressive Containment Area.

3.3.3 Whole region – RPMP Sustained Control pest program

Overview: Sustained control pests are pests which are widely established within the region, but if left uncontrolled have the capacity to cause undue costs on neighboring properties which are uninfested or under active management. Enforcement of these rules will only be undertaken upon receiving a complaint from an adjacent occupier.

Objective: To sustainably manage the spread of sustained control pests, minimise impacts on economic, environmental, and recreational values, and reduce unreasonable costs to neighboring landowners undertaking pest control.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Respond to Sustained control pest complaints received	Percentage of sustained control pest complaints investigated* for action.	100%

3.4 Regional Biocontrol

Overview: The regional biocontrol program supports the long-term, sustainable management of widespread pest plants through the use of approved biological control agents. These agents are typically introduced insects or pathogens that specifically target and suppress pest plant populations, reducing their impact on the environment, primary production, and recreational values. Biocontrol is a cost-effective tool that complements other control methods, particularly in areas where conventional control is impractical or uneconomical. WCRC works in partnership with national agencies and research providers to monitor existing biocontrol agents, introduce new agents where appropriate, and support public awareness and reporting of biocontrol activity.

Objective: To reduce the impact of widespread pest plants on the West Coast through the establishment, monitoring, and promotion of effective biological control agents.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Release and transfer biocontrol agents.	Number of new biocontrol agents released and/or transferred within the region.	1
Monitor the establishment of agents.	Number of biocontrol release sites monitored.	3

3.5 Pest Plant Control – Service Delivery

Overview: Service delivery 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.

Objective: To support landowners and the wider community through direct pest control services that address priority species and high-risk areas.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Undertake control of RPMP species at identified sites where control has been offered, and landowner permission is granted.	Percentage of eligible* identified sites controlled.	100%
Progressively contain knotweed across the West Coast.	Number of Management Units surveillance control is undertaken	12
Eradicate climbing spindleberry from the West Coast.	Percentage of control undertaken at all known* (as of June 2026) sites.	100%
Contain wild cherry (*Prunus serrulata*) to its current extent	Number of Management Units where surveillance and control is undertaken.	12
Eradicate Egeria from the West Coast.	Number of sites surveyed and controlled.	2
Eradicate yellow loosestrife from the West Coast.	Number of control operations at the single known* (as of June 2026) site.	3
Control crack willow at high-value freshwater and estuarine habitat.	Number of catchments where control is undertaken.	7
Contain and prevent the spread of climbing asparagus on the West Coast.	Percentage of control undertaken at all known* (as of June 2026) sites.	100%
Reduce the impact of exotic Iceplant *(Carpobrotus spp.)* at known risk sites on the West Coast.	Percentage of control undertaken at all known* (as of June 2026) wilding sites.	100%

3.6 Emerging pests and Incursion Response

Overview: The Emerging Pests and Incursion Response programme provides regional leadership in the early detection, assessment, and coordinated response to new or emerging pest threats not currently addressed within the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP). The programme ensures timely investigation of potential incursions, supports evidence-based decision-making, and informs future pest management priorities, rules, and objectives through the RPMP review process.

Objective: To identify, assess, and respond to new and emerging pest threats to the region.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Identify and map emerging pest* species of concern, new to region or otherwise.	Percentage of identified new to region pest plants mapped in iNaturalist or the Biosecurity GIS system.	100%
Investigate reports of priority species as requested by MPI or DOC	Percentage of reports investigated*	100%
Review the West Coast Regional Pest Management Plan 2018-2028.	Ensure technical input and advisory support is provided in accordance with the Regional Pest Management plan review process and timeframes.	June 2027
Provide regional representation in national biosecurity coordination, policy development, and strategic forums to ensure alignment with national best practice and emerging biosecurity priorities and direction.	Number of national biosecurity forums and working groups participated in	4

3.7 Support the Predator Free Initiative

Overview: Across the West Coast, pest animal management is being undertaken by range of community groups, landowners, agencies, and volunteers. These locally driven initiatives represent a significant investment of time, effort, knowledge, and resources by communities committed to protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity. Supporting these initiatives can help build capability, improve coordination, and increase collective impact, supporting predator suppression goals and biodiversity outcomes across the region, while also contributing to the resilience and sustainability of productive landscapes and wider environmental values.

Objective: To support community-led predator control across the West Coast by strengthening regional coordination, supporting outreach and education on the Predator Free movement.

Deliverable	KPI	Target
Support the Tai Poutini Predator Free Collective.	Percentage of Tai Poutini Predator Free Collective meetings with WCRC representation.	90%
Provide support to the Predator Free Te Kinga Project	Review of quarterly progress reports and grant administration	complete

WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

4. Assumptions & Constraints

4.1 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
Suitable vehicles will be available.

4.2 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
Legislation	*Biosecurity Act 1993*	• 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 prevent the introduction and spread of pests. • 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.

Legislation	*Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO)*	• 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. • 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.
Legislation	*Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSW)*	• 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 protocols to handle

		hazardous substances or dangerous situations that might arise during biosecurity activities. • 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.
Legislation	*National Policy Direction for Pest Management*	• 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.

Health and safety (H&S)	*H&S is a priority in council. Provide the relevant information to support your project*	• Helicopter requirements will not include the use Robinsons Helicopters • Staff will abide by and follow WCRCs HSMP • All contractors used for the purpose of this plan must be pre-qualified

5. Operational planning

5.1 Sources of experience

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

- WCRC Biosecurity Team
- Group Manager Environmental Science
- DOC staff (Westport, Greymouth, Hokitika, Fox)
- West Coast Weeds Working Group

5.2 Resources

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
Biosecurity Officers	*2 FTE*	*N/A internal*	*GM Environmental Science*	*Program coordination and delivery includes:* • *Procurement of services* • *Contract Management* • *Delivery of field-based activities* • *Audit and quality control* • *Reporting*

Manager Biosecurity	*1 FTE*	*N/A internal*	*GM Environmental Science*	• *Management oversite of the annual biosecurity program* • *Operational planning and prioritization* • *Liaison with stakeholders* • *Risk management and health & safety oversight* • *Compliance action*
Group Manager Environmental Science	*0.2 FTE*	*N/A internal*	*WCRC CEO*	*Program Sponsor* • *Budget management* • *Approvals* • *Technical advice and support* • *Long term strategy* • *RPMP review*
GIS analyst	*0.05 FTE*	*N/A internal*	*GM Information Services*	• *GIS management & support*
Health, Safety & Wellbeing coordinator	*0.05 FTE*	*N/A internal*	*GM Office of the chief executive*	• *H&S project support and advice*
Out-sourced physical works/services	*Contracts from 6 suppliers*	*$165,000*	*GM Environmental Science*	• *Delivery of physical works for pest plant service delivery programme's* • *Check, Clean, Dry Advocacy program (includes $20,000 co-funding)* • *Weed buster Programme*

Outsourced specialist services	*1 Service Agreement*	$40,000	*GM Environmental Science*	• *Lake surveillance (includes $20,000 co-funding)*
Funding Agreements	*2 Funding agreement*	$155,000	*GM Environmental Science*	• *Predator Free Te Kinga Project* • *Enviroschools*
Communication advisor	*0.05FTE*	*N/A Internal*	*GM Office of the Chief Executive*	*Program support*
Vehicle (with canopy)	*2*	*N/A Internal*	*GM Environmental Science*	*Enable operational field delivery*
Total	*3.35 FTE*	*$360,000*		

5.5 Risks and issues

It is essential to identify risks 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.

5.5.1 Delivery risks

Risk	Control adaptation/mitigation	Owner	Review
Species detection Failure	- Staff training - Quality audits of contracted work - Annual surveillance program review	Manager Biosecurity	Quarterly
Data Inaccuracy	- Data entry protocols & audits - Standardized data collection methods	Biosecurity Officer	Quarterly

Technology failures	- Maintain the biosecurity GIS tool	Senior GIS Analyst	Quarterly
Low public engagement	- Review communication methods - Review engagement of social media - Establish and maintain a comms log	Communications Advisor & Biosecurity Officer	Quarterly
Misinformation	- Provide clear, accurate, and consistent information. - Train staff and volunteers to ensure they convey correct messages.	Manager Biosecurity	Quarterly
Resistance to behaviour change	- Highlight the benefits of biosecurity measures and success stories. - Work with local influencers and community leaders to advocate for best practices.	Biosecurity Officer	Quarterly
Stakeholder disengagement	- Foster inclusive decision-making processes. - Regularly update stakeholders on progress and solicit their feedback.	Group Manager Environmental Science	Quarterly
Non- Compliance by Landowners	- Provide support and education to landowners. - Use a graduated enforcement approach to encourage compliance.	Biosecurity Officer	Quarterly

Inadequate inspections	- Ensure sufficient staffing and training for inspection teams. - Implement a systematic inspection schedule.	Manager Biosecurity	Quarterly
Enforcement challenges	- Establish clear enforcement protocols. - Use legal and administrative measures as necessary to ensure compliance.	Manager Biosecurity	Quarterly
Community resistance	- Engage with local communities to explain the importance of pest control. Involve them in the planning and implementation process.	Biosecurity Officer	Quarterly
Environmental impact	- Use environmentally friendly control methods where possible. - Monitor and mitigate any negative impacts on non-target species and habitats as legislated	Biosecurity Officer	Quarterly

5.5.2 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.

5.5.3 Climate risk

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

5.6 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 contractor's attributes.

5.7 Stakeholder communication and engagement

Stakeholder	Engagement strategy	Timing	Current level of knowledge	Expected level of engagement
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

New Zealand Institute for Bioeconomy Science	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

West Coast Regional Council remains committed to the proactive, risk-based management of biosecurity across the region. This Biosecurity Operational Plan sets out a targeted and practical approach to managing pest plants and animals, focusing on surveillance, education, compliance, service delivery, and regional coordination.

The plan prioritizes the following areas:

- Delivering focused surveillance in high-risk environments, including freshwater lakes, estuaries, marine sites, and known pest pathways.
- Enforcing Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) rules through proportionate compliance action, particularly for exclusion and eradication pests.
- Promoting community awareness and behaviour change through education campaigns, outreach events, and stakeholder engagement.
- Supporting biological control of widespread pests in partnership with research agencies and councils.
- Enabling efficient service delivery at sites where landowner cooperation has been granted.
- Enhancing the capability of the council's biosecurity team through structured programmes and improved spatial data systems.

By advancing these workstreams, WCRC seeks to reduce the spread and impact of pest species, protect high-value ecosystems and productive land, and build regional resilience to biosecurity risks, especially in the face of increasing pressure from land use change, tourism, and climate change.

Expected outcomes include:

- Improved containment, control, or eradication of key pest species.
- Increased public understanding and reporting of biosecurity issues.
- Timely and strategic responses to new incursions.
- Strengthened regional coordination and monitoring capability.

Ongoing success will depend on strong partnerships with iwi, landowners, community groups, central government agencies, and industry stakeholders. WCRC is committed to regular evaluation and adaptation of this plan, ensuring it remains fit for purpose and responsive to emerging threats. Together, we can protect the West Coast's natural heritage, economic wellbeing, and community values for future generations.

Glossary:

Term	Definition
Infestation	Established presence and reproduction of a pest species in a particular area.
Investigate	To assess the validity and significance of a reported biosecurity incident by reviewing available information, determining whether the report warrants further action, and, if justified, conducting an on-site inspection to confirm the presence and extent of the issue.
Known	Sites or infestations identified and recorded at the start of each operational season, serving as the baseline for monitoring and management activities.
Pest	A pest is any plant, animal, or other organism that causes harm or undesirable effects on environmental, production, recreational, cultural, or economic values.
Service Delivery	Direct operational activities such as surveillance, control, and eradication carried out by staff or contractors, with costs borne by WCRC.
Site	A defined geographic area where a pest plant is detected or suspected to occur, delineated based on practical containment, surveillance, and management considerations.
Eligible site	A defined geographic area (site) where a pest plant listed in the RPMP has been identified and where control is required to meet one or more deliverables specified in this Operational Plan. A site is eligible only where sufficient resources, including officer time and/or contractor budget, are available to undertake the required control activities necessary to achieve the relevant deliverable(s).
Wilding	A pest plant growing and spreading outside cultivation without management.