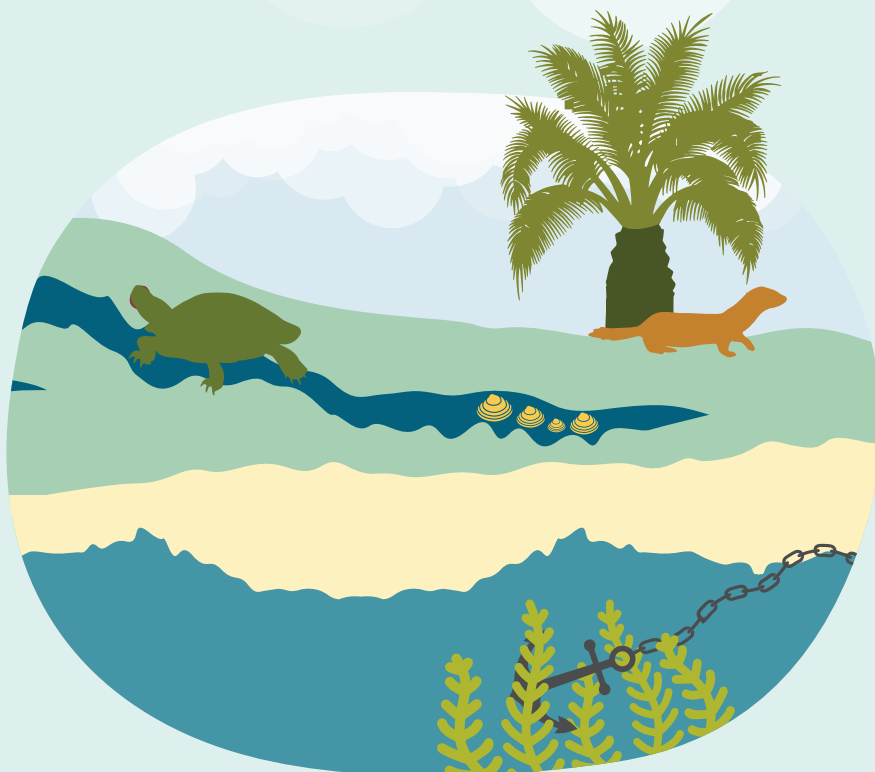


Te arotake i Te Mahere Whakahaere Kirearea ā-Rohe

Reviewing and discussing our regional pest management plan



Share your whakaaro/thoughts on how invasive plants
and animals are managed in Te Taitokerau.

It's time to review the Northland Regional Pest and Marine Pathway Management Plan (Pest Plan).

Before drafting a new Pest Plan, we want to share our thoughts on some potential changes – and hear what's important to you.

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He aha te kaupapa o Te Mahere?

What is the Pest Plan?

The Northland Regional Pest and Marine Pathway Management Plan (Pest Plan) is all about how pests can be best managed in Te Taitokerau, to protect te ao tūroa (our natural world), the wellbeing of whānau and communities, and our economy.

The Pest Plan aims to get the right management approaches in place for the many species classed as pests in Te Taitokerau, and direct the right balance of resourcing and funding to the right places and people to tackle them.

Our council leads the development and review of Northland's Pest Plan because the Biosecurity Act 1993 requires regional councils to 'provide regional leadership in pest management'.

Read the current (2017) Pest Plan and cost-benefit analysis www.nrc.govt.nz/pestandpathwayplan

Types of pests that are included in the Pest Plan

There are a huge number of pests threatening our region. The current Pest Plan covers 143 pest species, but there are many more that could be included. It spans animal pests, plant pests, freshwater pests, marine pests, and the microorganism which causes kauri dieback disease.

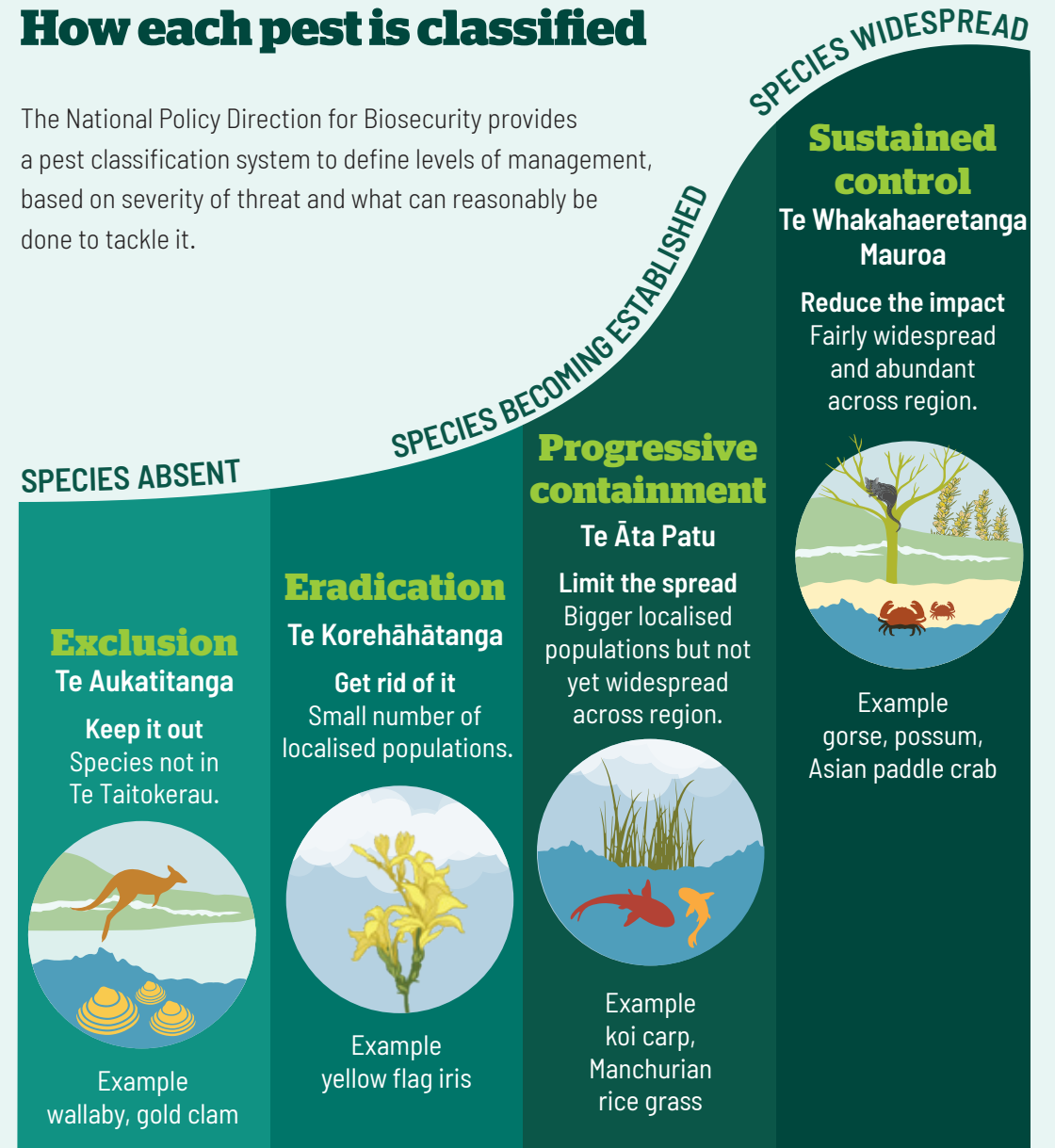
Some pests pose a bigger threat than others, some pests are easier to manage than others, many pests are long-established here and a few have arrived only recently.

Not every pest or weed is included in the Pest Plan, and doing a Cost-Benefit Analysis helps us weigh up the pros and cons. Reasons not to include a species in the Pest Plan could be that creating rules wouldn't be practical or effectively reduce their population (e.g. for mice); or better controls are already available (e.g. for ragwort there's a good biocontrol agent, the ragwort flea beetle); or the impact they have on the environment does not warrant their inclusion (e.g. magpies).



How each pest is classified

The National Policy Direction for Biosecurity provides a pest classification system to define levels of management, based on severity of threat and what can reasonably be done to tackle it.



Other management approaches

Pathway management is about managing the way that pests are spread from one place to another. Our Pest Plan uses this for managing some marine pests, with rules about the need for boat hulls to be clean before moving to a different place.

Site-led programmes have specific pest rules that only apply in that particular area, to protect the values of that place.

He aha te take e arotakengia ana Te Mahere ināianei?

Why review the Pest Plan now?

The Pest Plan should be regularly reviewed to ensure it includes the most suitable pest species with the best management programmes.

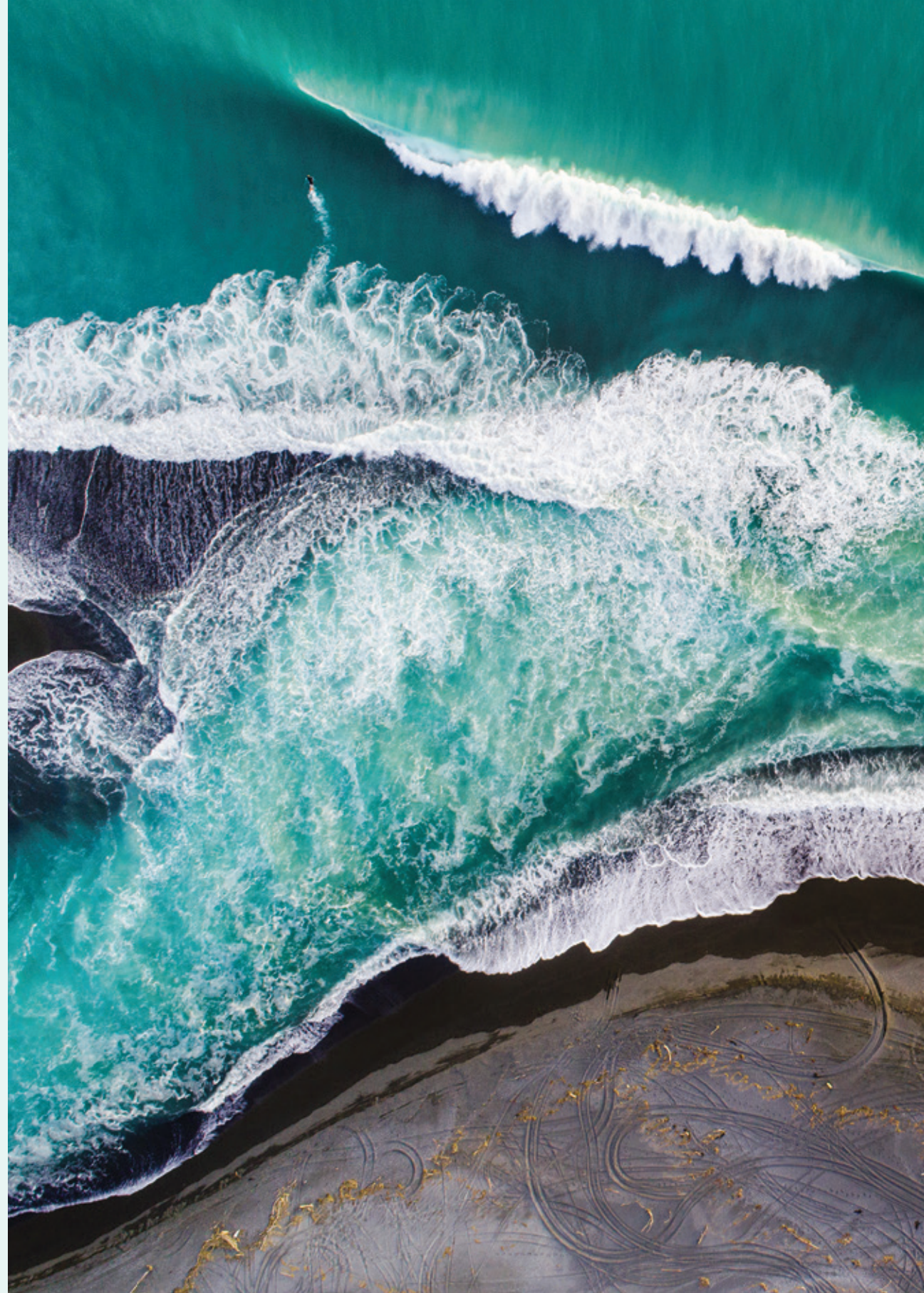
While the current Pest Plan still has effect until 2027, the pest management landscape is ever changing. We need to make sure there is enough time to consider all the information for each pest species, and to genuinely consult on any potential changes with Te Taitokerau communities.

The review of the Pest Plan will also help align Te Taitokerau with our neighbouring councils, in particular Tamaki Makaurau Auckland. Strengthening this alignment and creating more consistent rules will allow us to stop the spread of pest species between our regions.



Stay up to date as the review progresses

There'll be more information made available on our website as the review of our Pest Plan progresses – this will eventually include a full list of the pest species and management approaches we're considering for the new Pest Plan.
www.nrc.govt.nz/pestplan





He aha ngā panonitanga e hiahiatia ana?

What changes might be needed?

There are a few things we already know need to be updated, like adding new species which have arrived since the current Pest Plan came into effect in 2017.

We also know there's room to improve how tangata whenua and communities are involved in pest management. We're keen to hear from you about the types of pests and weeds that have been affecting you and your way of life, and your thoughts on some of the changes we're considering.

Tangata whenua aspirations and cultural impacts

We understand the term 'pest' may be interpreted in different ways and represent different impacts on tangata whenua values. We want to better reflect tangata whenua aspirations and cultural impacts in the new Pest Plan, and we are keen to hear your whakaaro on what that might look like.

Exotic palms

Bangalow palm and Chinese fan palm have been banned from sale in our neighbouring region, Tamaki Makaurau Auckland. We're considering doing the same here, as they outcompete nikau palms and other native species when invading forest areas.

Pest pet species

We're investigating changes to the rules for turtles (red-eared slider turtle and the snake-neck turtle), lizards (bearded dragon and Eastern water dragon) and parrots (galah, Indian ring-necked parakeet, rainbow lorikeet, and sulphur-crested cockatoo).

These species are generally not established in the wild in Te Taitokerau but if they were to escape or be released, the impact they would have in the environment could be huge. We are considering whether banning these species from sale or breeding would help reduce that risk.

Pest game species

We're investigating options for better management of tench (a freshwater fish) and the Canada goose - species originally introduced for hunting and fishing but have outgrown their original spaces and will potentially impact on our environment and ecosystems.

New arrivals

We're assessing the effects of the following species, and looking at whether they should be included in the new Pest Plan.



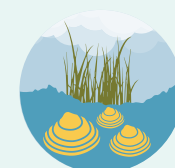
Fall armyworm

The larvae of an invasive moth, which first arrived in Aotearoa in 2022, have been found in Te Taitokerau and are known to feed on plant species from 76 different families.



Exotic caulerpa

This highly invasive seaweed was first discovered in Te Taitokerau in 2023 (in Te Rāwhiti inlet) and poses a significant ecological threat.



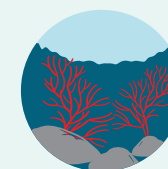
Freshwater gold clam

This highly invasive pest was discovered in the Waikato River in 2023, and could devastate our lakes and rivers if it were spread to Te Taitokerau. Using a pathway management approach could help prevent new threats entering our freshwater lakes.



Australian winged weta aka king cricket

This species was found in Te Taitokerau in 2021. Its environmental impacts in Aotearoa are not yet fully understood.



Red sea plume

This seaweed is relatively new to our mainland so impacts aren't yet clear, but it is known to be invasive in warmer waters.



Myrtle rust

A serious fungal disease that affects trees and shrubs in the myrtle family. Since its initial discovery in 2017, the fungus has spread throughout Aotearoa.

These are just some of the changes we are looking at - there are many more pest species being considered as we review the Pest Plan.



He aha tōna hononga ki ērā atu kaupapa whakamaru koiora?

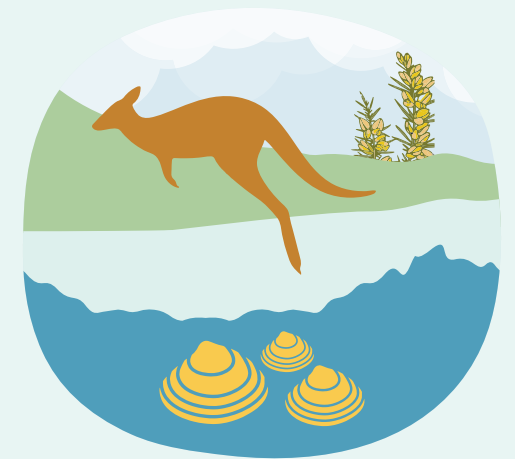
How does this fit with other biosecurity activity?

The Pest Plan is just one part of the picture when it comes to tackling pests in Te Taitokerau.

There's a huge amount of broader mahi happening across the wider biosecurity landscape which is being done by government and non-government agencies, iwi/hapū, community groups and individuals – tackling pests is a real team effort.

The new Pest Plan will help to support this existing work by ensuring that the right strategies and management programmes are in place. This will enable our council to effectively use the advisory, service delivery, regulatory, and funding provisions available under the Biosecurity Act to deliver the specific objectives for each pest.

To align our statutory obligations in the Pest Plan with the broader biosecurity actions being delivered in Te Taitokerau, we're also considering developing a biosecurity strategy. This would be a non-statutory document that would complement the Pest Plan.





He aha ōu whakaaro?

What do you think?

What's worrying you the most about the impacts of pests on our region?

What types of pests are affecting you and your way of life?

When it comes to pest management in Te Taitokerau, what's working well, and what needs to change?

What do you think about the potential changes being considered?

You can share your whakaaro (thoughts) in whatever way works best for you.

online

nrc.govt.nz/pestplan

email

pestplan@nrc.govt.nz

phone

0800 002 004

If you'd prefer to share your whakaaro in person, contact us by phone or email and we'll try to make it happen.





Te Rārangi Wā Indicative timeline



**November 2024
to February 2025**

Early engagement on the Pest Plan



**March to
April 2025**

Call for submissions on Proposed
Northland Regional Pest and Marine
Pathway Management Plan



June 2025

Council decisions



July 2025

New Pest Plan notified

Check out the Pest Control Hub

Keen to find out what the current rules are that apply to a particular pest species? Want information on how best to tackle them in your backyard? Head to our Pest Control Hub.

www.nrc.govt.nz/pestcontrolhub

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Northland
REGIONAL COUNCIL 
Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Te Taitokerau