

Proposal for inclusion of new pests and policies

Partial Review of Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan 2019 – 2029



Proposal prepared by:



and



Address for service:

Tasman District Council
Management Agency for the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan
189 Queen Street
Private Bag 4
Richmond 7050
Phone: 03 543 8400
Website: www.tasman.govt.nz

Foreword

This is a Proposal to amend the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029 (RPMP). The intent of the Proposal is to declare **blue passion flower, moth plant, common and purple pampas, water celery, Vietnamese parsley** and several **pest and wilding conifer trees** as new pests in the whole, or parts of, Tasman-Nelson. It also serves to amend existing pest policies and rules around **boneseed, Mediterranean fanworm (Sabella)** and **feral/stray cats**, the details of which place new obligations on occupiers of land and marine craft/structures accordingly.

The Proposal does not otherwise affect the operative Tasman-Nelson RPMP, except for minor consequential changes necessary to update the Plan and reflect the inclusion of the new sections and policies and rules. The current RPMP will remain operative until such time it is amended.

The Proposal is a collaborative effort between Tasman District and Nelson City Councils, as was the development of the current RPMP in 2018/2019. On behalf of both Councils, we are pleased to present this Proposal to the people of Tasman-Nelson, and now call for your submissions. The Councils will consider all submissions received before making amendments to the Plan.

This is your opportunity to influence pest management activities and policies in Tasman-Nelson. We look forward to receiving submissions on the Proposal. Please send yours to:

The Chief Executive
Tasman District Council
189 Queen Street
Private Bag 4
Richmond 7050

or enter it online at <https://www.shape.tasman.govt.nz/pest-plan>

By 5pm, Thursday 28 March 2024.

Tim King
Mayor, Tasman District Council

Nick Smith
Mayor, Nelson City Council

Table of Contents

Foreword	3
1. Introduction	7
1.1 Proposer.....	7
1.2 Purpose and reasons for the Proposal	7
1.3 Duration	9
1.4 Proposal structure.....	9
2. Relationship with Māori and other strategies and plans	11
2.1 Relationship with Māori.....	11
2.2 Relationship with the National Policy Direction for Pest Management	11
2.3 Relationship to other pest plans	12
2.4 Relationship to Tasman District and Nelson City strategies, plans, policies and regulations	12
3. Consultation on proposal.....	13
3.1 Summary of the process and timeline.....	13
3.2 Prior consultation – leading to this proposal	13
3.3 Further consultation requirements.....	14
4. Proposed amendments to the RPMP.....	15
4.1 Reader’s guide to suggested changes	15
4.2 Organisms declared pests – current and proposed.....	15
4.3 Pest plants.....	21
4.3.1 Blue passion flower (<i>Passiflora caerulea</i>).....	21
4.3.2 Boneseed (<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>) - Nelson Port Hills only.....	23
4.3.3 Moth plant (<i>Araujia hortorum</i>). Also known as <i>Araujia sericifera</i>	24
4.3.4 Pampas grass – common pampas (<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>) and purple pampas (<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>) - Golden Bay sites only.....	26
4.3.5 Water celery (<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>) and Vietnamese parsley (<i>Oenanthe javanica</i>).....	28
4.4 Pest animals	31
4.4.1 Feral and stray cats (<i>Felis catus</i>).....	31
4.4.2 Sabella, or Mediterranean fan worm (<i>Sabella spallanzanii</i>)	35
4.5 Pest conifers and wilding conifers.....	39
5. Management considerations	47
5.1 Responsibilities and obligations	47
5.2 Monitoring	47
5.3 Powers and duties under the Biosecurity Act 1993.....	47
5.4 Funding analysis.....	47

5.5	Minor amendments to RPMP.....	49
6.	Glossary	51
7.	References	54
	Maps	55
	Appendix 1: Summary of analysis of options against National Policy Direction for Pest Management (NPD)	69
	Appendix 2: Level of fouling for proposed sabella rule	73

1. Introduction

1.1 Proposer

This document is a Proposal to amend parts of the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029. Other than the amendments identified in full in sections 4.3 to 4.5 of this Proposal, the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan remains unchanged and is not part of the review process or this Proposal.

Tasman District Council (TDC) and Nelson City Council (NCC) - the Councils - have regional leadership roles under section 12B of the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act). As such, and in accordance with section 100D(2)(b) of the Act, the Councils propose to undertake a partial review of the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP, or the Plan)¹ by way of amending it to incorporate changes relating to several existing and new pest control obligations and requirements.

There are no other proposed changes to the RPMP, other than some minor inconsequential changes set out in section 5.5 of the Proposal. All other pest management programmes in the Plan are unaffected. The operative RPMP, including sections relating to existing pests affected by this Proposal, remains in effect while the Proposal is being considered².

Due to the limited scope of the review, in accordance with section 100D(5)(d) of the Act, the Councils will apply section 70 of the Act in this Proposal only in so far as it relates to the specific proposed programme changes.

This Proposal contains all the information necessary for the public, iwi and stakeholders to evaluate it. Although both Councils are collaborating on the review, TDC is the named Management Agency for the RPMP's implementation and is the lead agency for the review. However, both Councils are represented through a Regional Pest Management Joint Committee convened for the review. The Committee has prepared the Proposal, will receive and hear submissions, deliberate on these matters and make recommendations to both Councils. Decisions on the Proposal are anticipated to be made separately but at similar times by both Councils.

1.2 Purpose and reasons for the Proposal

The purpose of the document is to present, for the public's consideration, a Proposal that sees eight pests or pest groupings added to the RPMP and some existing policies and rules amended, to:

- Minimise the actual or potential adverse or unintended effects associated with these pests; and

¹ The current RPMP became operative on 1 July 2019. Page 68 of the RPMP outlines review considerations.

² Note: Should science solutions identify any breakthrough technologies or approaches which impact on the management of any pest in the RPMP (e.g. an organism is made sterile through genetic modification) then any new developments will be considered by way of full or partial review, on a case by case basis.

- Maximise the effectiveness of individual pest management actions for these pests by way of regionally coordinated approaches.

The notification of this Proposal is the first formal step in seeking amendment to the operative RPMP. If the Proposal is adopted the RPMP will be amended to declare several new organisms to be ‘pests’ and changes or additions will be made to three existing policies and rules. Any amendments adopted will also empower the Councils to exercise the relevant advisory, service delivery, regulatory and funding powers available under the Act (and as outlined in the operative RPMP) to deliver appropriate pest control in defined parts of Tasman-Nelson or across the whole area.

Table 1 summarises the proposed pests or pest groupings and the main reasons for their inclusion in the Proposal. Section 4 provides more detailed information on each organism listed.

Table 1: Alphabetical listing of proposed pest additions to RPMP

Proposed pest	Key reasons for proposed change
Blue passion flower	Emerging pest in the region. Eradication is the proposed outcome while infestations are relatively small.
Boneseed (Nelson Port Hills only)	Refinement to the programme, requiring occupiers in a defined area on Nelson’s Port Hills to undertake control on their properties. This will help maintain the integrity of the existing eradication programme in the rest of Tasman-Nelson.
Conifers - pest conifers and wilding conifers	Maintaining the gains of prior investment in control work in current (named) operational areas and introducing two new rules: to keep vulnerable land that is clear of wildings clear and for exacerbators of wilding spread from planted forests to undertake control where seed spread is clearly occurring onto neighbouring land.
Feral and stray cats	Increasing threats to indigenous wildlife (birds, fish and invertebrates) at sites of high ecological value - in Tasman (Abel Tasman National Park enclaves and St Arnaud township area) and in Nelson city (named publicly owned parks/reserves).
Moth plant	Emerging pest in the region. Eradication is the proposed outcome while infestations are small. Aligns with Marlborough District Council (MDC) rules.
Pampas (purple and common)	Opportunity to target pampas at two Golden Bay sites only, where controlling pampas is realistic due to its low density and distribution compared with most other places.
Sabella (Mediterranean fan worm)	Consistent with the MDC policy around fouling levels on craft in an aligned Top of the South approach. Includes new occupier / owner control and management obligations.
Vietnamese parsley and water celery	Two emerging pests in the region where sustained control is proposed. The rules are considered together as the proposed management programme is the same.

1.3 Duration

If the Proposal is adopted, the term of the amended RPMP will be unchanged. The current plan came into force on July 1, 2019. Under the Biosecurity Act, the full plan must be reviewed no later than 10 years after enactment.

If adopted, the intent is to transition the implementation of new pests and rules, with factors such as seasonal control requirements, occupier awareness programmes and staff resources to consider. The annual RPMP Operational Plan for the given year will identify the programmes to be implemented.

1.4 Proposal structure

The Act contains prerequisite criteria that must be met to justify regional intervention in the form of rules. Accordingly, this document sets out proposed amendments to the RPMP and supporting information pertaining to adding new or adjusted programmes to the RPMP, in that:

- Section 1 has introduced the Proposal and provides background information.
- Section 2 identifies the relationships between the Proposal and Māori, cost benefit analyses to support the adoption of the proposed programmes and connections with other relevant pest plans and strategies.
- Section 3 provides an overview on consultation carried out, including the overall process and timeline.
- Section 4 presents the proposed amendment details. Pest plants precede pest animals. Pest and wilding conifers are considered in a separate section due to the more complex management propositions.
- Section 5 notes several management considerations around monitoring, funding, administrative powers and raises minor amendments which are needed to the current RPMP.
- A glossary of key terms used in this Proposal and references used in its preparation conclude the document, followed by various maps.

In accordance with section 100D(5)(d) of the Act, the scope of this review is confined to proposed amendments set out in section 4 of this Proposal.

2. Relationship with Māori and other strategies and plans

2.1 Relationship with Māori

As far as can be determined, as noted in pre-consultation on this document, the Proposal does not involve change to the relationship between the current Regional Pest Management Plan and the iwi of Te Tau Ihu³. The Councils believe that the amended RPMP will continue to provide for the protection of the relationship between Māori and their ancestral lands, waters, sites, wāhi tapu, and taonga, from the adverse effects of pests. The Councils remain committed to meeting Treaty of Waitangi obligations in implementing the RPMP.

2.2 Relationship with the National Policy Direction for Pest Management

The National Policy Direction (NPD) for Pest Management (2015) sets out requirements for developing pest management plans and programmes under the Biosecurity Act 1993. Its purpose is to ensure that the making of pest management plans provides for the wisest use of available resources, which are in New Zealand's best interests, and that approaches align with each other to achieve good pest management outcomes.

The key NPD requirements are that: objectives are set; programmes are described; costs and benefits are analysed (CBA); the funding rationale is noted and Good Neighbour Rules are adequately described. The Councils have followed the guidance included in the NPD to assess the level of analysis of costs and benefits needed for this Proposal. That assessment, which can be found in Appendix 1, concludes that low to medium levels of analysis are appropriate depending on the species and the certainty of management. Table 2 below summarises the steps the Councils have taken to comply with the NPD.

Table 2: Steps taken to comply with the National Policy Direction for Pest Management

NPD requirements	Steps taken to comply
Programme is described	Checked that the types of programmes comply with clause 4 of the NPD.
Objectives are set	Checked that the contents of section 4 comply with clause 5 of the NPD. These have been set prior through the operative RPMP.
Benefits and costs are analysed	Analysed the costs and benefits (clause 6 of the NPD). This analysis is contained in Appendix 1.
Funding rationale is noted	Checked the funding rationale described has been developed in line with clause 7 of the NPD.
Good neighbour rules (GNRs) are described	GNRs have been developed in line with clause 8 of the NPD.

³ This statement refers to Tangata Whenua and Māori generally, and not occupiers of Māori land, who are bound by rules and obligations of all occupiers, as set out in the RPMP and this Proposal.

2.3 Relationship to other pest plans

The Tasman-Nelson combined region shares a boundary with MDC, West Coast Regional Council and Environment Canterbury. The Proposal does not involve any change to the relationship between the RPMP and any other neighbouring pest management plan, other than one of enhancement and alignment of policies. One of the key drivers of the partial review is better alignment with MDC, with regard to:

- Moth plant – inclusion for the first time, along with MDC.
- Mediterranean fan worm (Sabella) - alignment with MDC providing a consistent approach to Sabella management across the ‘Top of the South’.
- Pest conifers and wilding conifers – inclusion for the first time, and adoption of similar definitions from MDC, with shared interests in the Mt Richmond Management Unit wilding conifer control programme.

Pest conifer and wilding conifer rule provisions proposed are also aligned with the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan 2018-2038, managed by Environment Canterbury (ECan), along with boneseed and moth plant rules contained in the Canterbury RPMP. The West Coast Regional Pest Management Plan presently does not have policies for the pests under review except *Pinus contorta*. Half of the species (e.g. blue passionflower, moth plant, Vietnamese parsley, and water celery) appear to be absent from the West Coast, and the Kahurangi National Park, and isolation of the northern west coast and prevailing northwest wind present significant barriers to the natural invasion of conifers, boneseed and pampas.

2.4 Relationship to Tasman District and Nelson City strategies, plans, policies and regulations

The programmes that are the subject of this Proposal sit within a policy framework for Tasman-Nelson which includes the current RPMP, the Nelson Biodiversity Strategy, the Tasman Biodiversity Strategy and the two Councils various other strategic plans and policies.

The two regional biodiversity strategies, in particular, emphasise the threat to indigenous biodiversity values from the effects of introduced pest plants (such as moth plant and wilding conifers) and pest animals (such as feral cats and marine invaders).

It is anticipated that the changes proposed to the RPMP will achieve better biodiversity outcomes by creating greater certainty that target pest numbers and infestations will be kept lower for longer through their inclusion in the RPMP.

The Councils are satisfied that the Proposal is not inconsistent with any regulations.

3. Consultation on proposal

3.1 Summary of the process and timeline

The Joint Committee agreed on a process and timeline, as summarised in Table 3 below.

Table 3: RPMP partial review timeline

Actions	Timeline
1. RPM Joint Committee formed (with Terms of Reference) including list of organisms to be covered by review	24 th March 2023
2. Both Councils agree to include additional site-led control for feral/stray cats in review	June - August 2023
3. RPMP Joint Committee receives an internal discussion document	22 nd August 2023
4. Pre-consultation with iwi and other stakeholders, leading to development / refinement of Proposal	August – October 2023
5. Joint Committee recommends Proposal then both Councils sign off Proposal document	December 2023 and February 2024, respectively
6. Public notification of Proposal for submissions	23 rd February (to 22 nd March) 2024
7. Further consultation with stakeholders (where appropriate)	As required
8. Hearing held on public submissions	27 th May
9. Deliberations on submissions and staff recommendations	18 th June
10. Amend RPMP and prepare reports for Councils	TBD
11. Councils make decisions and notify outcomes (includes appeal provisions)	TBD

3.2 Prior consultation – leading to this proposal

In the development of this Proposal, preliminary discussions were held with several interested parties across Tasman-Nelson. A draft version of the Proposal was used to engage and consult with the iwi of Te Tau Ihu and key stakeholders, such as Crown departments and agencies, neighbouring regions, industry groups (e.g. farming, forestry, boating) and community based organisations (e.g. environmental trusts and societies, predator free groups and weed buster groups, where appropriate and practicable. These conversations are in addition to the formal consultation required by the Act.

All feedback was considered to develop and finalise the Proposal. Groups/individuals already consulted during this early engagement are welcome to formally submit again to the updated proposal if they choose to do so.

3.3 Further consultation requirements

Formal consultation on this Proposal will now occur in accordance with the consultation requirements set out in the Biosecurity Act, as summarised in Table 3.

This Proposal has been publicly notified for public submissions, to confirm community expectations and policy directions to be incorporated into the amended RPMP.

4. Proposed amendments to the RPMP

4.1 Reader's guide to suggested changes

This section sets out proposed amendments to the current operative RPMP to include new pests or amended policies and rules for eight pests or pest groupings (as noted in Table 1). Following an overview of where the new pests/policies would be inserted within the current list of organisms covered by the RPMP, details of the proposed programmes are outlined using a generic format:

- Species common and scientific names
- Current status
- Proposed management category (one of the NPD programme types below)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-Led
-----------	-------------	-------------------------	-------------------	----------

Note: the objective and intermediate outcome and principal measures for each of the above categories have already been stated in the current RPMP as part of each programme's descriptions. These descriptions are not repeated unless there are new matters to include.

- Rationale for inclusion
- Description and adverse effects
- Plan rules and explanations of rules
- Alternate options
- RPMP inclusions/edits required.

Where possible this information will show where and how amended or new provisions inserted into the operative RPMP would look, once adopted. Specific wording amendments to the current RPMP are identified by underlined text in blue.

4.2 Organisms declared pests – current and proposed

This Proposal should be considered in light of the existing pests and policies and rules contained in the current RPMP. Table 5 shows all the currently named pests in the RPMP. Proposed pests and amended policies are also included and are highlighted to show where they 'fit in' under an amended RPMP.

Table 5: Alphabetical listing of existing and proposed pests in the Tasman-Nelson RPMP

Common Name	Scientific Name	Unwanted organism (Yes/no)	Programme	GNR (Yes/ No)	Lead responsibility for control*
African feather grass	<i>Pennisetum macrourum</i>	Yes	Eradication		TDC
Banana passion vine	<i>Passiflora tripartita</i> var. <i>mollissima</i> , <i>P. tarminiana</i>	Yes	Sustained control - Golden Bay and Upper Riwaka (different rules apply between areas)		Occupier
Bathurst bur	<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	No	Eradication		TDC
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	No	Sustained control		Occupier
Black spot	<i>Venturia inaequalis</i>	No	Sustained control		Occupier
Blue passion flower	<i>Passiflora caerulea</i>	Yes	Eradication		Occupier & MPI/NCC
Bomarea	<i>Bomarea multiflora</i>	Yes	Progressive containment		Occupier
Boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Yes	Eradication - outside Nelson's Port Hills		TDC
Boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Yes	Sustained control - Nelson Port Hills only		NCC
Boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	No	Eradication		TDC
Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	No	Sustained control - Howard – St Arnaud		Occupier
Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	No	Sustained control - outside Howard - St Arnaud	Yes	Crown and private occupiers
Brush-tail possum	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	No	Site-led - Waimea Estuary		TDC/groups Occupier
Cape tulip	<i>Moraea flaccida</i>	Yes	Exclusion		MPI
Cathedral bells	<i>Cobaea scandens</i>	Yes	Eradication		TDC
Chilean needle grass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	Yes	Exclusion		TDC
Chinese pennisetum	<i>Cenchrus purpurascens</i> (was <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>)	Yes	Progressive containment		Occupier
Chocolate vine	<i>Akebia quinata</i>	Yes	Sustained control		Occupier
Climbing asparagus	<i>Asparagus scandens</i>	Yes	Sustained control - Eastern Golden Bay		Occupier
Climbing spindleberry	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Yes	Eradication		TDC
Codling moth	<i>Cydia pomonella</i>	No	Sustained control		Occupier
Cotoneaster spp.	<i>Cotoneaster glaucophyllus</i> and others	No	Site-led - Abel Tasman NP		Occupier
Darwin's barberry	<i>Berberis darwinii</i>	Yes	Site-led - St Arnaud Village		Occupier
Douglas fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	No	Site-led - wildings only, in Abel Tasman NP. (Refer also to 'Wilding Conifers' below)		Occupier
Egeria	<i>Egeria densa</i>	Yes	Eradication		TDC
Entire marshwort	<i>Nymphoides geminata</i>	Yes	Eradication		TDC
European canker	<i>Neonectria ditissima</i>	No	Sustained control		Occupier

Common Name	Scientific Name	Unwanted organism (Yes/no)	Programme	GNR (Yes/ No)	Lead responsibility for control*
European holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	No	Site-led - Abel Tasman NP and St Arnaud Village		Occupier
Feral / stray cats	<i>Felis catus</i>	No	Site-led - Waimea Estuary, Abel Tasman NP, St Arnaud & various mapped places in Nelson City		TDC in Tasman and NCC in Nelson; and community groups
Feral rabbits	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	No	Eradication - Golden Bay		Occupier
Ferrets	<i>Mustela putorius furo</i>	Yes	Site-led - Waimea Estuary		TDC/groups
Fireblight	<i>Erwinia amylovora</i>	No	Sustained control		Occupier
Gambusia	<i>Gambusia affinis</i>	Yes	Eradication		DOC
Giant buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	No	Sustained control		Occupier
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	No	Sustained control - Howard – St Arnaud		Occupier
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	No	Sustained control - outside Howard - St Arnaud	Yes	Crown and private occupiers
Greater bindweed	<i>Calystetia sylvatica</i>	No	Site-led - St Arnaud Village		Occupier
Gunnera	<i>Gunnera tinctoria, G manicata</i>	Yes	Sustained control		Occupier
Himalayan balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	No	Eradication		TDC
Hornwort	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Yes	Exclusion		TDC
Indian myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	No	Exclusion		TDC
Indian ring-necked parakeet (wild/feral)	<i>Psittacula krameri manillensis</i>	Yes	Eradication		TDC
Johnson grass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Yes	Exclusion		MPI
Knotweeds (Asiatic, giant and hybrids)	<i>Fallopia japonica, F. sachalinensis</i>	Yes	Eradication		Occupiers (TDC assist)
Koi carp *	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	Yes	Exclusion		DOC
Kūmarahou (gumdigger's soap)	<i>Pomaderris kumeraho</i>	No	Site-led - Abel Tasman NP		Occupier
Lagarosiphon	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	Yes	Sustained control		Occupier
Madeira vine	<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>	Yes	Eradication		TDC
Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina species</i>	No	Eradication - Golden Bay		TDC
Moth plant	<i>Araujia hortorum</i>	No	Eradication		TDC/NCC
Nassella tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Yes	Progressive containment		Occupier
Nodding thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	No	Sustained control		Occupier
Old man's beard	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Yes	Sustained control - Golden Bay-Riwaka, Upper Buller		Occupier

Common Name	Scientific Name	Unwanted organism (Yes/no)	Programme	GNR (Yes/ No)	Lead responsibility for control*
Pampas	Common pampas (<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>) and purple pampas (<i>C. jubata</i>)	No	Sustained control – two Golden Bay sites		Occupier
Perch	<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>	No	Eradication		DOC
Pest conifers - individual species			Progressive Containment (Refer also to 'wilding conifers')	Yes	Occupier
• Contorta pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i>	Yes			
• Scotts pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	No			
• Mountain pine	<i>Pinus mugo</i> (& <i>P. uncinata</i>)	No			
• Bishops pine	<i>Pinus muricata</i>	No			
• Maritime pine	<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	No			
• Mexican weeping pine	<i>Pinus patula</i>	No			
• Ponderosa pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	No			
• Corsican pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i>	No			
• European larch	<i>Larix decidua</i> and cultivars	No			
• Western white pine	<i>Pinus monticola</i>	No			
Phragmites	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Yes	Exclusion		MPI
Powdery mildew	<i>Podosphaera leucotricha</i>	No	Sustained control		Occupier
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Yes	Progressive containment		Occupier
Queensland poplar	<i>Homalanthus populifolius</i>	Yes	Sustained control		Occupier
Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i> (previously <i>Senecio jacobaea</i>)	No	Sustained control		Occupier
Rat species	<i>Rattus rattus</i> ; <i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	No	Site-led - Waimea Estuary		TDC/groups
Red-eared slider turtles (wild/feral)	<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>	No	Eradication		TDC
Reed sweet grass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	No	Progressive containment		Occupier
Rooks	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Yes	Exclusion		TDC
Rosemary grevillea	<i>Grevillea rosmarinifolia</i>	No	Site-led - Abel Tasman NP		Occupier
Rowan	<i>Sorbus acuparia</i>	No	Site-led - St Arnaud Village		Occupier
Rudd	<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>	No	Eradication		DOC
Russell lupin	<i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i>	No	Site-led - St Arnaud Village		Occupier
Sabella	<i>Sabella spallanzanii</i>	Yes	Eradication**		TDC
Saffron thistle	<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	No	Eradication		TDC
Senegal tea	<i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i>	Yes	Exclusion		TDC
Spartina	<i>Spartina spp.</i>	No	Eradication		DOC
Stoats	<i>Mustela ermine</i>	Yes	Site-led - Waimea Estuary		TDC/groups
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	No	Site-led - St Arnaud Village and Abel Tasman		Occupier

Common Name	Scientific Name	Unwanted organism (Yes/no)	Programme	GNR (Yes/ No)	Lead responsibility for control*
Taiwan cherry and cultivars	<i>Prunus campanulata</i>	No	Eradication		TDC/NCC
Tench	<i>Tinca tinca</i>	No	Eradication		DOC
Variiegated thistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	No	Progressive containment		Occupier
Velvet leaf	<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>	Yes	Exclusion		TDC
Vietnamese parsley	<i>Oenanthe javanica</i>	No	Sustained control		Occupier
Wallabies (dama and Bennett's)	<i>Macropus eugenii</i> , <i>M. rufogriseus</i>	Yes	Exclusion		TDC
Water celery	<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	No	Sustained control		Occupier
Water hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Yes	Exclusion		MPI
Weasels	<i>Mustela nivalis vulgaris</i>	Yes	Site-led - Waimea Estuary		TDC/groups
White-edged nightshade	<i>Solanum marginatum</i>	Yes	Progressive containment		Occupier
Wild ginger	<i>Hedychium gardnerianum</i> , <i>H. flavescens</i>	Yes	Sustained control - Golden Bay-Kaiteriteri		Occupier
Wild kiwifruit (including unmanaged or abandoned)	<i>Actinidia spp.</i>	No	Eradication		Occupier
Wilding conifers (naturally occurring, not planted, wildings of the species): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Douglas fir Radiata pine (Refer also to 'pest conifers')	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> <i>Pinus radiata</i>	No	Progressive Containment – various locations (Douglas fir is also the subject of a site led programme within the existing Abel Tasman National Park site-led programme)***	Yes	Occupier, or occupier of the land where seed spread is originating from
Woolly nightshade	<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	Yes	Sustained control – Golden Bay		Occupier
Yellow bristle grass	<i>Setaria pumila</i>	No	Sustained control - Golden Bay and Upper Buller		Occupier
Yellow flag	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yes	Sustained control		Occupier
Yellow jasmine	<i>Jasminum humile</i>	Yes	Sustained control		Occupier

Notes:

1. This table is further amended by transferring rule location information to the programme column, for greater clarity. This amendment will be applied to the reviewed RPMP document.
2. For each listed species, the programme type and rules apply across both the Tasman and Nelson regions, unless stated otherwise.

* Subject of a proposed minor name change amendment – refer to section 5.5.

** Change is in relation to additional rules for Sabella management.

*** Douglas fir inclusion in the ATNP site-led programme was confirmed in 2018/19 in the original RPMP. Pests and wilding conifers are added through the partial review carried out during 2023/24.

4.3 Pest plants

4.3.1 Blue passion flower (*Passiflora caerulea*)

Current status: Not a named pest in current RPMP.

Proposed management category:

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-Led
-----------	--------------------	-------------------------	-------------------	----------

Eradication programme proposed for whole region.

Rationale for inclusion: There is a need to act promptly while there is still a chance to eradicate this plant. It already occurs in the Grampians (refer Figure 1) where mature vines were found during 2023 and a very active seedbank in the infested areas. Nelson City sites will require reasonably significant funding and staff resources set aside to support occupiers.



Figure 1: Most dense blue passion flower (BPF) infestations located within urban properties (red circled area), north of Nelson Hospital (centre/right). BPF is already escaping into the Grampians Reserve and the hills behind (arrowed). Photo P. Russell, May 2023.

Blue passion flower has been in the region 20-25 years prior, in a lag phase, from which it now seems to be expanding its range. Estimated current extent is mainly in Nelson urban areas, originating as garden escapees. There are also current sites in Tasman (on individual properties and a larger infestation in Hope).

Description and adverse effects:



A vigorous evergreen climbing vine with hanging white-purple flowers. It can be distinguished from all other passionfruit by at least some of the leaves having five lobes. This species inhabits light gaps and forest edges, scrub, roadside margins, wastelands, hedges, and domestic gardens. It will readily spread into natural areas, smothering native plants and preventing establishment of native plant seedlings. Its seeds are spread by birds and small mammals (e.g. rats/possums).

Plan rules and explanations of rules:

Specific Rule for Blue Passion Flower in the Tasman-Nelson region⁴

Over the duration of this Plan, occupiers within the Tasman-Nelson region must:

- a. Report sightings of blue passion flower on their land to Tasman District Council within five working days of their sighting.
- b. Destroy any blue passion flower on their property, on an annual basis, on the direction of an authorised person.

A breach of this rule is an offence under Section 154N(19) of the Act.

Explanation of the Rule

The purpose of this rule is in accordance with section 73(5)(a) and (h), to facilitate the eradication of blue passion flower from the region. Blue passion flower has a limited distribution in the Tasman-Nelson region and this rule is intended to ensure prompt removal of plants when discovered, leading to its eradication. While primarily an occupier responsibility to control small infestations, TDC/NCC may assist occupiers with large infestations, as determined on a case by case basis.

Alternate options:

1. Do nothing – would exacerbate further natural and human assisted spread. There is still a chance to eradicate this pest. Small-scale control has been underway since 2021 through public goodwill, but relying on this approach is unsustainable.
2. Progressive containment or sustained control – are not appropriate strategies, as neither approach will stop blue passion flower from spreading further. The councils should not rely on occupier control alone to control this plant.

RPMP edits required:

- Blue passion flower to be added to Table 1, Needs to be listed as an Unwanted Organism (UO) and occupier control responsibility but with assistance from TDC/NCC.
- Species, description and status to be added to Table 3 – *Eradication pests in the whole Tasman-Nelson region.*
- No location specific map required.

⁴ Similar to current RPMP eradication rule for knotweed.

4.3.2 Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) - Nelson Port Hills only

Current status: Eradication in the whole region - except the current Port Hills exclusion area.

Proposed management category:

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-Led
-----------	-------------	-------------------------	-------------------	----------

Sustained Control programme proposed for Port Hills area only, and maintain current Eradication rule over the rest of the region.

Rationale for inclusion: Extensive surveys of the Port Hills indicates the need for active control within the area. Includes suburbs of: Beachville, Stepneyville, Washington Valley, Toi Toi, Moana, Britannia Heights, Bishopdale and Nelson South. Eradication is not achievable in these areas but stepped up control here will help maintain the integrity of eradication programmes outside the Port Hills (e.g. Rabbit Island area where boneseed seems likely to be 'washed' off the hills into the sea which then float across to infest neighbouring coastal areas). The Port Hills remains a source of reinvasion into land that is clear of or being cleared of boneseed.

Landowners are to be responsible for control, with contractors potentially involved if funding is available. Some steep and difficult areas to reach on private land could be subject to exemption provisions. Other very difficult to access, publicly owned sites (e.g. Rocks Road cliffs) will need a targeted control programme to be undertaken (e.g. NZTA / Waka Kotahi to consider). With a 20-year seed life this will require a long-term extensive programme to be developed. The benefits of control in the Port Hills to the eradication areas outside the Port Hills has been factored into the CBA for this programme. On its own, the original CBA indicates that control is not favourable but in considering wider environmental benefits then the CBA tests are satisfied.

Description and adverse effects:



[A multi-branched bushy shrub, up to 3m high. It is an aggressive coloniser in coastal sites \(dunes, cliffs, salt marshes\) and can displace desirable native species. Its seed can remain dormant when deeply buried for more than 10 years.](#)

Plan rules and explanations of rules:

[Specific Rule for Boneseed in the Port Hills area](#)

[Over the duration of this Plan, occupiers in the Port Hills area of Nelson, as shown on Map 1 \(in this Proposal\), must destroy any boneseed on their land, on an annual basis, prior to the completion of flowering, unless there is a negotiated agreement in place between the Management Agency and occupier as an alternative way to achieve this rule.](#)

A breach of this rule is an offence under Section 154N(19) of the Act.

Explanation of the Rule

The purpose of this rule is in accordance with section 73(5)(h) of the Act and requires occupiers to undertake boneseed control on their property, to reduce its impacts on biodiversity and social/amenity values and limit opportunity for spread to other properties in the Nelson City area.

Alternate options:

1. Do nothing – would result in increasing concern from agencies / occupiers and create further impacts on biodiversity / social values in neighbouring areas where eradication is the goal.
2. Eradication – not feasible in this area as infestation extent is beyond this outcome. Also, additional NCC staff / contractor resources would be required to undertake direct control work (unlikely to be funded/supported).

RPMP edits required:

- Boneseed (within Port Hills) added to Table 1 (yes to UO, occupier control).
- Species, description and status to be added to Table 7 – Sustained Control pests in part Tasman-Nelson region.
- Add specific rule for boneseed in the Port Hills.
- Remove boneseed from Organisms of Interest (OOI) list in Appendix 2.
- Map 1 (original) remains correct but title needs editing.
- Edit map 1.1 title to reflect a new boneseed Sustained Control area and add a new map legend to distinguish between Eradication and Sustained Control areas.

4.3.3 Moth plant (*Araujia hortorum*). Also known as *Araujia sericifera*.

Current status: Not a named pest in current RPMP.

Proposed management category:

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-Led
-----------	--------------------	-------------------------	-------------------	----------

Eradication pest proposed for the whole region.

Rationale for inclusion: Staff currently respond to a small number of urban sites based mostly on information supplied. Limited numbers of seedlings have appeared so far. However, at some point TDC/NCC will need Biosecurity Act powers to access properties for inspection and issuing directions. Not being listed as a pest will not allow for these powers if occupiers refuse access. Moth plant is highly invasive and many other councils list it in their RPMPs, including MDC. Addition to the Tasman-Nelson RPMP provides cross-boundary consistency. The sizes of known infestations are still small and contained which makes eradication highly feasible. There is a chance to ‘nip this pest plant in the bud’ before it gets established and prevent ‘another old man’s beard’ scenario.

Description and adverse effects:



A vigorous evergreen climbing vine with clusters of bell-shaped white flowers followed by a leathery pear-shaped pod that is readily mistaken for choko. Has a toxic smelly milky sap that can cause skin irritation and dermatitis. This species inhabits light gaps and forest edges, scrub, roadside margins, wastelands, hedges, and domestic gardens. It will readily spread into natural areas, smothering native plants and preventing establishment of native plant seedlings.

Plan rules and explanations of rules:

The rule for reporting moth plant sightings is covered by the existing blanket rule (following), which would include moth plant along with 13 other species, (*but excludes the five pests/pest groupings noted below*).

Specific Rule for 14 Eradication Pests in the Tasman-Nelson Region (excluding wild kiwifruit, knotweed, spartina, sabella, and pest fish)

Over the duration of this Plan, occupiers within the Tasman-Nelson region must report sightings of the named Eradication Pests on their land to Tasman District Council within five working days of their sighting.

A breach of this rule is an offence under Section 154N(19) of the Act.

Explanation of the Rule

The purpose of this rule is in accordance with section 73(5)(a) of the Act and is to assist in the eradication of these 14 pests from the region. Tasman District Council, as the Management Agency, will take responsibility for controlling these Eradication Pests.

Alternate options:

1. Do nothing – would result in increasing infestations and impacts on urban and wider biodiversity values. Over time, infestations would ‘escape’ into rural environs.
2. Sustained Control or Progressive Containment – would require occupier rules to manage this pest. As infestations are very few it is more important and more cost effective to undertake council control now rather than leave control to occupiers.

RPMP edits required:

- Moth plant added to Table 1. Not listed as a UO and TDC/NCC would have control responsibility.
- Species, description and status to be added to Table 3 – *Eradication pests in the whole Tasman-Nelson region*.
- No need to include new specific rule as it would be covered by default rule that exists (as per above). No specific location map needed.

4.3.4 Pampas grass – common pampas (*Cortaderia selloana*) and purple pampas (*Cortaderia jubata*) - Golden Bay sites only

Current status: Not named pests in the RPMP. Both species listed as ‘organisms of interest’ in Appendix 2.

Proposed management category:

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-Led
-----------	-------------	-------------------------	-------------------	----------

Sustained Control programme proposed in two areas in Golden Bay – the Aorere Valley (lower area) and Whanganui Inlet to Puponga (upper area) – refer to Map 2 in this Proposal.

Rationale for inclusion: Both species are well established and widely spread through much of the lowlands of Tasman District and Nelson City areas. Since 2019, when pampas was removed from the previous RPMP, TDC biosecurity officers have noted a marked increase in the incidence of the pest. However, parts of the Aorere Valley and the western coast of Golden Bay around Westhaven remain relatively free of pampas⁵. Pampas is likely to continue to spread into these areas if unmanaged, affecting the indigenous biodiversity values of bush margins, indigenous grasslands, escarpments and wetlands in these areas.

It is proposed to include both species of pampas, otherwise staff would be left ‘splitting hairs’ on which species is which. Also, visually, the public see pampas as pampas, not as *C. jubata* or *C. selloana*. Both species have a negative impact on environmental and production values.

Description and adverse effects:



Common pampas



Purple pampas

Pampas are large-clump forming grasses that can grow up to 3m-4m tall. Pampas can be distinguished from the native toetoe (*Austroderia* species) by its more erect and fuller flower head that is white to pinkish (*C. selloana*) or has a purple tinge (*C. jubata*) rather than cream coloured.

Pampas species are hardy and tolerant plants making them highly adaptable to a range of habitats including forest light gaps, slips and other disturbed sites (including sprayed or burned sites), river and forest margins, cliffs, shrublands, tussockland, fernland, herbfields, salt marshes, and wetlands. They colonise quickly and can become very dense, effectively out-competing indigenous species to replace ground cover species and shrubs. Pampas tends not to invade grazed pastures, but can quickly invade retired pasture and over-run restoration planting sites. Seeds are spread very long distances by wind (up to 25km) and occasionally by water, soil movement, contaminated machinery, clothing and on animal pelts.

⁵ A July 2023 survey of the Aorere Valley found that the area is largely clear of pampas with the exception of a few fence lines. None was found along the ‘tight’ bush pasture margins with public conservation land (PCL).

Plan rules and explanations of rules:

Specific Rule For Common and Purple Pampas In The Tasman-Nelson Region

Over the duration of this Plan:

- a. Occupiers in Golden Bay (within the Sustained Control areas - Aorere Valley and Whanganui Inlet to Puponga) as shown on Map 2 (in this Proposal) must destroy any common and purple pampas on their land, on an annual basis, prior to the completion of flowering.
- b. Occupiers in Golden Bay (adjoining the Sustained Control areas - Aorere Valley and Whanganui Inlet to Puponga) as shown on Map 2 (in this Proposal) must destroy any pampas within 200m of their property boundary (before completion of flowering) where the adjoining occupier (within the Sustained Control area) is taking reasonable steps to destroy pampas on the adjoining land. This is a Good Neighbour Rule.

A breach of this rule is an offence under Section 154N(19) of the Act.

Explanation of the Rule

The purpose of the rule is in accordance with section 73(5)(h) of the Act and aims to control impacts on production and environmental values in these areas by reducing pampas infestations in the two mapped Sustained Control areas in Golden Bay and to prevent inaction by occupiers adjoining the Sustained Control areas impacting on the outcomes and values within the Sustained Control areas.

Alternate options:

1. Do nothing – however staff believe pampas could be positively managed in some areas of north-west Nelson which are still substantially clear of this pest.
2. Eradication - within the two areas of Golden Bay is unlikely, because of firstly the cost of initial knockdown is likely to exceed TDCs resources and would be unfairly loaded to the ratepayer, but more importantly the chance of success with constant reinvasion is unlikely within the timeframe of the Plan.

RPMP edits required:

- Pampas (within 2 sites Golden Bay) added to Table 1 (yes to occupier control).
- Species, description and status to be added to Table 7 – *Sustained Control pests in part Tasman-Nelson region*.
- Add *Specific Rules for pampas in Golden Bay*.
- Amend pampas in OOI list (Appendix 2 of the RPMP) to note 'excluding Golden Bay sites'.
- Map needed to reflect new pampas Sustained Control areas.

4.3.5 Water celery (*Apium nodiflorum*) and Vietnamese parsley (*Oenanthe javanica*)

Current status: Neither species are in the current RPMP.

Proposed management category:

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-Led
-----------	-------------	-------------------------	-------------------	----------

Sustained Control programmes are proposed for the whole region for both species. They are listed together for management purposes as the approach taken is the same for both plants.

Rationale for inclusion: Water celery is in the early stages of naturalisation in Nelson City and Tasman District (e.g. isolated infestations in Brook Stream and Saxton Creek). Likewise, Vietnamese parsley is in a very early establishment stage, near Washbourn Gardens and Poorman Valley Stream. Both plants were the subject of a NIWA commissioned report by NCC (Champion, 2018).

While the abundance of both plants is relatively low, the current infestations are beyond the eradication stage and ability. There is a large invasion potential in regional waterways that are still free of the pest. Trials to control incursions have been successful at reducing the size of infestations, but have not yet proven to be able to eliminate them completely. The most effective herbicides are also ones that require resource consent for use over water.

Both plants are best managed to reduce impacts on the biodiversity values of regional waterways, with obligations on occupiers to undertake control (and assistance from TDC/NCC). A 'check, clean, dry' type rule, with awareness, will also help to reduce spread impacts beyond current areas. The extent of infestation is reasonably well known to the councils but further survey work is required to improve knowledge. Vietnamese parsley in particular is valued as a key ingredient in Asian cuisine, so targeted campaigns would be needed around its harvesting, use and spread risks.

Description and adverse effects:



Water celery smothering stream margins

Water celery is an aquatic herb that appears to be reliant on human activity to disperse fragments. While not cultivated as a culinary herb it can be mistaken for watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*). It is widespread in the North Island, though rare in the South Island. It can have negative impacts on river recreational (fishing and swimming), infrastructural (drainage), and environmental (aquatic biodiversity) values by clogging small streams and waterways.



Vietnamese parsley in Poorman Valley Stream

Vietnamese parsley is an aquatic herb cultivated as an ornamental and culinary herb species. It was first recorded as successfully establishing in the wild in 2014. It impacts on river recreational (fishing and swimming), infrastructural (drainage), and environmental (aquatic biodiversity) values by clogging small streams and waterways.

Plan rules and explanations of rules:

Specific Rule for water celery and Vietnamese parsley in the Tasman-Nelson Region.

Over the duration of this Plan occupiers within the Tasman-Nelson region must:

- a. Destroy any water celery and Vietnamese parsley on their land, on the written direction of an authorised person, on an annual basis, prior to the onset of flowering.
- b. Remove all fragments of water celery and Vietnamese parsley from their places (i.e. machinery, equipment and craft that have been in contact with waterway vegetation) when leaving infested waterways, and dispose of all fragments to landfill.

A breach of this rule is an offence under Section 154N(19) of the Act.

Explanation of the Rule

The purpose of this rule is in accordance with section 73(5)(h) and aims to reduce the impacts of water celery and Vietnamese parsley on regional values and slow their spread to other waterways in the region. TDC/NCC may assist occupiers depending on locations and densities of infestations, as determined through the RPMP Operational Plan. (e.g. these plants may require herbicide being applied into or over water for their control which requires resource consent and Environmental Protection Authority approval).

In many situations, the land where the infestations occur is occupied by TDC or NCC. Disposal to landfill is the best method for dealing with fragments and isolated plants of both species, as composting works for one but not the other.

Alternate options:

1. Do nothing – would see these pest plants spread through drains and streams and into other water bodies, creating numerous impacts (refer to Figure 2). Spread risk potential through water users and their pathways of spread would steadily increase.
2. Eradication - not feasible, as infestation extents are beyond this point and there is no known herbicide to achieve this. Also, additional contractor resources would be required to undertake substantial direct control work (not cost effective).
3. Under a Sustained Control scenario (e.g. reducing opportunities for spread), Progressive Containment may also be a viable future option, in that some infestations in some locations may be able to be contained and reduced.

RPMP edits required:

- Vietnamese parsley and water celery to be added to Table 1, Neither listed as UOs and occupiers would have control responsibility.
- Species, description and status to be added to Table 6 – *Sustained Control pests in the whole Tasman-Nelson region.*
- Add specific rule for Vietnamese parsley and water celery.
- No location specific map required.



Figure 2: Water celery in a typical drain situation, Richmond. Photo: BBSL, May 2023.

4.4 Pest animals

4.4.1 Feral and stray cats (*Felis catus*)

Current status: Feral cats are only included in the Waimea Estuary site-led programme.

Proposed management category:

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-Led
-----------	-------------	-------------------------	-------------------	----------

Further site-led programmes are proposed targeting both feral and stray cats in Tasman and Nelson.

Rationale for inclusion: Both Councils wish to step up feral and stray cat management at sites with important biodiversity values and further promote responsible companion cat ownership overall. Cats in general contribute to negative impacts on indigenous biodiversity (e.g. direct predation on native birds, reptiles and insects, freshwater fish and invertebrates across the region, or indirectly through nest or colony desertions). This proposal concerns management of feral and stray cats at several named high-value sites (refer to Map 3 in this Proposal):

- Nelson City – numerous named publicly owned/managed sites.
- Abel Tasman National Park (ATNP) private enclaves – by adding feral/stray cats to the existing site-led programme.
- St Arnaud site-led programme – include new pest agent rule limiting the presence of companion cats in the village area.

The ability to distinguish companion cats from feral and stray cats may rely over time on bylaws or national cat regulations (around compulsory microchipping) being implemented to support RPMP provisions (and vice versa). Desexing of cats also assists with long term management.

Description and adverse effects:



Feral and stray cats originate from companion cats and are usually short-haired and slightly built, with large heads and 'sharp' features. Coat colours revert to black, tabby or tortoiseshell, with varying extents of white. Adult male cats are generally larger than females and can weigh up to 5kg. They can produce two or three litters per year with an average of four young in each.

New Zealand's unique native wildlife is particularly vulnerable to predation by all cats. Feral and stray cats kill young and adult birds and occasionally take eggs and prey on native lizards, fish, frogs and large invertebrates. Cats are highly efficient predators, and have been known to cause local extinctions of seabird species on islands around the world. Birds that nest or feed on or near to the

ground are particularly at risk. Feral and stray cats are aggressive towards companion (owned) cats and also carry parasites and toxoplasmosis, which causes abortions in sheep and illness in humans.

*The following cat definitions apply when reading this Plan.

Type	Relationships with humans	Considerations
Companion cat	Directly dependent	Has owner/guardian
Stray cat	Directly or indirectly dependent	Community cat(s), semi-owned, unowned, managed or unmanaged as a single cat or colony
Feral cat	Independent and unsocial	Wild animal, considered a pest in many regions in NZ

Source: SPCA/NZ Cat Management Strategy

A cat can also be deemed a ‘pest agent cat’ under the RPMP, with rules. Pest agent cat definition under this Plan is: any cat that in any way leads to the replication or survival of stray or feral cat populations.

Plan rules and explanations of rules:

New approaches for (i) Nelson City – specific high value sites, (ii) current ATNP site-led programme and (iii) new St Arnaud environs site-led programme (refer to Map 3 of the Proposal). Rules are noted as follows:

Specific rule for feral and stray cats in the Nelson City site led programmes

Over the duration of this Plan, and with regard to high value sites within Nelson City (as shown on Map 3.1 in this Proposal):

- a) Any person who suspects the presence of any feral or stray cat in any named high value site must report its presence and location to Nelson City Council within 48 hours of their sighting.
- b) No person shall feed or shelter any feral or stray cat in any named high value site.

Explanation of the rules

Rule a. is in accordance with section 73(5)(a) of the Act to assist NCC in detecting the presence of feral or stray cats for the purposes of biodiversity protection and wildlife management.

Rule b. is in accordance with section 73(5)(d) of the Act to discourage people supporting cat colonies on public land with recognised high biodiversity values.

Specific pest agent cat rule for the Nelson City site-led programme

No person shall deliberately release into the wild (i.e., in any named high value site in Nelson as shown on Map 3.1 in this Proposal) any companion or stray cat.

Explanation of the rule

This pest agent rule is in accordance with sections 73(5)(e), (j) and (l) of the Act and aims to support council and community efforts in Nelson to protect wildlife and biodiversity values, by restricting the ability for companion and stray cats potentially breeding with feral cats. It also assists with reducing the likelihood of companion and stray cats being released into the wild, at named sites, and causing long term effects.

Specific rule for feral and stray cats in the St Arnaud environs site led programme

Over the duration of this Plan, and with regard to the St Arnaud site-led programme (as shown on Map 3.2 of this Proposal):

Any person who suspects the presence of any feral or stray cat observed within the mapped area must report its presence and location to Tasman District Council within 48 hours of their sighting.

Explanation of the rule

This rule is in accordance with section 73(5)(a) of the Act to assist TDC and DOC in detecting the presence of feral or stray cats for the purposes of biodiversity protection and wildlife management.

Specific pest agent cat rule for the St Arnaud environs site-led programme

Over the duration of this Plan, and with regard to the St Arnaud site-led programme (as shown on Map 3.2 of this Proposal):

- a. No person shall keep, hold or harbour any companion cat within the mapped area unless it is desexed and its identity is microchipped and the chip is registered on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register.
- b. No person shall deliberately release into the wild (e.g. Nelson Lakes National Park and environs) any companion cat from or living within the mapped area.

Explanation of the rule

Pest agent rules a. and b. are in accordance with sections 73(5)(a), (d) and (h) of the Act and aim to support existing St Arnaud community work to protect wildlife and biodiversity values, by restricting the presence of companion cats living in the St Arnaud area and potentially breeding with feral cats. It also assists with reducing the likelihood of companion cats being purposely released into the wild around St Arnaud and causing long term impacts.

Additional rule for Abel Tasman National Park private enclaves

Following existing rules a. and b. and in relation to the ATNP site-led programme areas – Awaroa, Torrent Bay and Marahau North, as shown in three maps (Map 3.31, 3.32 and 3.33, respectively, of this proposal):

- a. Any person who suspects the presence of any feral or stray cat within the ATNPSLP must report its presence and location to Tasman District Council within 48 hours of their sighting.

Explanation of the rule

Note: the current rule explanation is generic to cover the intent of the inclusion of feral/stray cats but needs to be edited to read '[named pest plants and pest animals](#)' in two places.

A breach of any of the above rules is an offence under Section 154N(19) of the Act.

Alternate options:

1. Do nothing additional to what's already included in RPMP – this won't address the growing call from environmental groups and the community for both Councils to step up their leadership to address declining biodiversity values.
2. Rely on bylaw development by both councils to better manage all cats - however bylaws should not be used to manage pest situations and the RPMP deals with pests only and should not entertain companion animal management (other than via pest agent rules).
3. Rely solely on national cat legislation developed. However, any national cat legislation would likely be years away.

Further assumptions explain the rationale for inclusion of feral / stray cats in the Proposal:

- The RPMP is the most suitable legal tool to consider feral / stray cat management regimes, but realistically only through site-led programmes.
- Local bylaws are best suited for the widespread management of companion cats through bylaws around compulsory microchipping and desexing, in the absence of national cat management legislation.
- It is difficult to impose rules in the RPMP requiring occupiers to control / destroy cats as they are highly mobile (i.e., it would be difficult to use land tenure as the identifier for non-compliance) and may be owned (i.e., a cat may also be property) but not identified as such.
- Any cat could be deemed a 'pest agent cat' in certain circumstances, such as a companion cat which, in any way leads to the replication or survival of stray or feral cat populations.

RPMP edits required:

- Add principal measure 'd.' to Site Led Pests Programme (pg. 57): [Service delivery: the Councils, their agents, or other parties authorised by the Councils may undertake direct control of named pests in the site-led category at their discretion \(e.g. as part of an integrated predator animal control at named high value sites\), as outlined in the RPMP Operational Plan.](#)
- Add new site led programmes and maps as outlined above⁶.

⁶ Note: A revised site-led programme has been drafted but is not included in this Proposal due to its length.

4.4.2 Sabella, or Mediterranean fan worm (*Sabella spallanzanii*)

Current status: Eradication over whole region with rules requiring occupiers to report Sabella presence and to allow access to places they occupy for control.

Proposed management category:

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-Led
-----------	--------------------	-------------------------	-------------------	----------

Rationale for inclusion: The proposed amendments align with the Marlborough RPMP and therefore provide consistency across the Top of the South's coastal marine areas. There are three additional Sabella control rules included which provide a backstop ability for the Councils to undertake enforcement action if and when compliance situations arise. The current 'reporting of Sabella' rule would be retained (and edited) as Sabella is a notifiable organism.

The eradication goal is retained with rules added requiring owners of vessels and marine equipment (craft) entering the region to not exceed a standardised fouling level, (as developed by the Cawthron Institute), and for owners/occupiers of places to destroy Sabella when directed to by an Authorised Person, and stating how this is to be done.

Description and adverse effects:



Sabella (also known as Mediterranean fanworm) are marine worms in harbours and estuaries that live inside tough flexible tubes up to 40cm long. The tubes are attached to hard surfaces on vessels and structures and have a single spiral fan extending out the top. They can form dense colonies and compete for nutrients with commercial crops (e.g. mussels) and native marine organisms.

Plan rules and explanations of rules:

Specific Rules For Sabella In The Tasman-Nelson Region

Over the duration of this Plan:

- a. The owner or person in charge of any marine craft entering the Tasman-Nelson region must ensure that the fouling on the hull and niche areas of the craft does not exceed level 2 on the Cawthron level of fouling (LoF) scale, unless:
 - i) The craft is entering Tasman-Nelson for the purpose of hauling out. The haul out must be undertaken within 24 hours of arriving. Proof via receipt from a haul out facility must be provided to an Authorised Person if requested, or

- ii) The craft is entering Tasman-Nelson for emergency purposes and the craft leaves the region within 24 hours of arrival (or otherwise the occupier needs to comply with the rule), or
 - iii) The craft is required to enter Tasman-Nelson in response to a declaration of a state of emergency, as determined by the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management.
- Rule a. does not apply to marine craft that have entered New Zealand waters in compliance with the Craft Risk Management Standard (CRMS) for Biofouling in the period two months prior to either directly or subsequently entering Tasman-Nelson waters.
 - Rule a. is also not intended to apply to those craft that are usually moored in the Tasman-Nelson region and leave the region for no more than 24 hours before returning.
 - Level 2 macrofouling (e.g. having goose barnacles) is defined by the Cawthron Institute as: macrofouling is present in small patches, or a few isolated individuals or small colonies, and covers between 1 - 5% of the visible surface (refer to Appendix 2).
 - In relation to receipt verification from haul out facilities, this will need to be from a recognised haul out facility (i.e. the Top of the South has a list of recognised facilities) or proof that the facility complies with the respective council's consent rules.
- b. The occupier or person in charge of any place (e.g. marine craft or structure) shall destroy Sabella that has been found on that place, on written direction from an Authorised Person, unless there is an approved agreement in place between the Management Agency and occupier as an alternative way to achieve this requirement.
- c. In undertaking steps to destroy Sabella (under rule b.), the place shall first be slipped or contained within an encapsulation system and treated with biocode. If that is not practicable, Sabella may be removed in water by divers who are appropriately trained and all Sabella must be contained and returned to the surface for disposal to a suitably authorised facility.
- Marine craft that have been hand cleared of sabella by divers under rule c. (i.e. where treated in-situ within TDC's jurisdiction) are permitted to stay at the site of treatment for a maximum of one month following treatment. After this period craft are required to be slipped and fully cleaned, to the satisfaction of an authorised person. There is a boat haul out facility with Port Nelson.
- d. Any person who suspects they have observed Sabella in Tasman-Nelson shall notify the Management Agency within 24 hours of making the observation, detailing the location and situation of the suspected pest.
- Rule d. applies as Sabella is also a notifiable organism through the Biosecurity (Notifiable Organisms) Order 2016. The suspected presence of Sabella must also be reported to the Ministry for Primary Industries in accordance with section 46 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

A breach of any part of the rule(s) is an offence under Section 154N(19) of the Act.

Explanation of the Rules

The purpose of these rules is in accordance with sections 73(5)(h) and (m) of the Act and aims to facilitate the eradication of Sabella from the region. Sabella has a limited distribution in the Tasman-Nelson region and these rules are intended to ensure prompt removal of infestations when discovered (through either council or occupier control), leading to its eradication.

TDC, NCC and MDC will work collaboratively on Sabella management in the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership, in conjunction with the owners of vessels and marine structures (places) who may also have control obligations placed upon them. A key consideration on what action is required will be the extent of biofouling on the place in question – hence the application of rule a.

The extent of TDC/NCC’s service delivery funding obligations will be detailed in annual RPMP Operational Plans.

Alternate options:

1. Drop Sabella from the RPMP as it is too difficult and costly to manage – this would impact heavily on the multi-million dollar mussel industry and would directly impact the values and messages portrayed in Figure 3.
2. Do nothing, keep the current RPMP provisions – but this isn’t consistent with MDC and doesn’t legally provide powers that oblige occupiers to control Sabella on their property/place.



Figure 3: Marine pest signage at Port Tarakohe – June 2023. Photo: BBSL.

RPMP edits required:

- Add new or revised rules as outlined above.
- Add ‘level of fouling’ diagram or explanation.

4.5 Pest conifers and wilding conifers

Current status: No species of conifers are currently named as pests except for Douglas fir, and only within the Abel Tasman National Park enclaves and subsequent ATNP site-led programme.

Proposed management category:

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-Led
-----------	-------------	-------------------------	-------------------	----------

Species covered and definitions

There are ten conifer species proposed to be declared ‘pest conifers’ in the RPMP as listed in Table 6.

Table 6: Conifer species in the pest conifer control programme

• <u>Bishops pine (<i>Pinus muricata</i>)</u>	• <u>Maritime pine (<i>Pinus pinaster</i>)</u>
• <u>Contorta pine (<i>Pinus contorta</i>)</u>	• <u>Mexican weeping pine (<i>Pinus patula</i>)</u>
• <u>Corsican pine (<i>Pinus nigra</i>)</u>	• <u>Ponderosa pine (<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>)</u>
• <u>Mountain pine (<i>Pinus mugo</i>) including sub-species and botanical variants</u>	• <u>Scots pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>)</u>
• <u>European larch (<i>Larix decidua</i>) and botanical variants</u>	• <u>Western white pine (<i>Pinus monticola</i>)</u>

The species above occur in planted (historical) or wilding states and all can cause adverse impacts on regional values. Contorta pine is the most invasive of this group and is deemed an unwanted organism nationally. Some pest conifers have commercial worth where they have been planted prior and progressively harvested. However, most of these species have little or no economic worth, in contrast to the significant environmental cost of their spread. Generally, pest conifers need to be controlled / harvested wherever they occur in the region (including where they occur in plantations) as soon as it is practicable.

A further group of conifers comprises two species grown as commercial crops, but which can also naturally spread and contribute to wilding conifer adverse effects. Two species of conifer are proposed to be declared ‘wilding conifers’ in the RPMP as listed in Table 7.

Table 7: Conifer species in the wilding conifer control programme

• <u>Douglas fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>)</u>	• <u>Radiata pine (<i>Pinus radiata</i>)</u>
---	--

The RPMP is not concerned with preventing production or permanent forestry operating within a landowner’s private property. However, plantations of Douglas fir and Radiata pine can result in self-seeded and unintentional spread, hence self-seeded trees of these two species, outside the area of an existing planted forest, are deemed to be ‘wilding conifers’. It is widely acknowledged that Douglas fir seed spreads long distances and creates a greater seed spread risk than *P. radiata* (Figure 5).

This Plan also refers to ‘pest agent conifer’, which means any introduced conifer species that is capable of helping the spread of wilding conifers and is not located within a plantation forest. An example is a shelter belt of Douglas fir under 1 ha. in area that is clearly exacerbating seed spread issues for a neighbouring property.

Readers should note that in this section, in general terms, ‘wilding conifer’ or ‘pest agent conifer’ may also refer to any of the 12 named conifer species, in certain situations, to reflect the intent of the National Wilding Conifer Management Strategy, except where ‘pest conifers’ or ‘pest agent conifers’ are specifically referenced (e.g. in relation to rules).

Rationale for inclusion:

The inclusion for the first time of pest conifers and wilding conifers into the Tasman-Nelson RPMP is an important interim step in their region-wide management⁷. The main reasoning is to maintain the gains of prior and current control efforts. The region needs to protect the investments made to date in four wilding conifer operational areas under current management (refer to Map 4 in this Proposal):

- Mt Richmond Wilding Conifer Management Unit⁸ (refer to Figure 4 below);
- Takaka Hill – Takaka Hill Biodiversity Group Trust;
- Abel Tasman National Park (ATNP) - Project Janszoon; and
- Golden Bay (including the ATNP Halo) - Project De-Vine Environmental Trust.

Criteria for having the intervening ‘maintain the gains’ policies and rules included alignment with Marlborough District Council policy where possible, and being practical and realistic while containing a degree of flexibility (e.g. promoting negotiated agreements between parties as an alternate option to enforcing rules, where the result may achieve the same or similar outcomes as rules). In relation to including radiata pine and Douglas fir, increasingly, the forestry sector’s social license to operate requires external impacts (from seed spread) onto neighbouring occupiers to be better managed. Neighbouring land occupiers should not be required to pay for or undertake pest control on their land through the actions or inactions of other parties.

The final reason for including wilding conifers, and arguably the most important strategically, is to protect land in Tasman-Nelson that has not been impacted by wilding conifers to date, or to control infestations that are only just becoming noticeable. History has shown that an important contributor to wilding conifer problems is a lack of early action, and that the cost of wilding conifer control increases significantly the longer any spread is left uncontrolled. Therefore, the development of rules is an important mechanism to help prevent new areas of wilding conifers becoming established due to a lack of early action. This issue is particularly important given recent policies and economic drivers incentivising afforestation.

Description and adverse effects:

⁷ Their inclusion now provides a lead in for a full review in 2028/29 when the whole operative RPMP requires reviewing.

⁸ The Mt Richmond MU (through prior administrations) has a long history of locally funded wilding conifer control operations occurring. Operations in the MU now involve a consortium of national, regional and local stakeholders (including MDC) and are funded locally/regionally as well as through the National Programme. At least \$5M has been spent on control to date.



Contorta pine cone

Pest and wilding conifers cause significant impacts on native ecosystems in the region, such as iconic tussock grasslands, alpine herblands and ultramafic areas. In regenerating scrub and forest areas they will outcompete native species. They also adversely affect recreational and visual/landscape values, alter soil and soil fauna, reduce pastoral farming availability, impact water availability and quality and create or contribute to wildfire risks. All these impacts also adversely affect tangata whenua values across Te Tau Ihu.

Plan rules and explanations of rules:

Two types of management programme are proposed - a region-wide approach and targeted programmes in operational areas under current management.

i. Region-wide programmes

Three rules are proposed, outside of current operational areas under management:

- A clear land rule;
- A planted conifer forest (wilding spread) rule; and
- A pest agent conifer rule.

Specific rules for pest/wilding conifers applicable across the whole region

Over the duration of this Plan, within the Tasman-Nelson region and prior to cone bearing:

1. Outside of named wilding conifer operational areas, after 1 July 2025, occupiers of land that is clear or relatively clear of **pest or wilding conifer** must destroy any pest or wilding conifer on their land, to ensure that land that is clear or relatively clear of pest or wilding conifers remains clear, on the written direction of an authorised person, unless there is a negotiated agreement in place between the Management Agency and occupier as an alternative way to achieve this requirement.
- 'Clear land' is defined as parts of the region that are currently clear, (or infestations are at a low or very low density), but highly susceptible to wilding conifer spread if a seed source becomes established. Although the majority of wilding conifer spread is predictable, a characteristic of spread (particularly in highly susceptible areas⁹) is also the occurrence of random, irregular, long distance spread into areas previously unaffected. This rule provides an early intervention trigger for these vulnerable or susceptible areas. Further, protected 'specimen' conifer trees named in District Plans (made under the Resource Management Act) may be exempt from this requirement, on a case by case basis.
- b. From 1 July 2024, occupiers of planted conifer forests (greater than 1 hectare), outside of named wilding conifer operational areas, are liable for the costs for the

⁹ Currently undetermined and unmapped. The intention is to map these areas within a year of RPMP amendments being adopted. Example 'susceptible areas would include: coastal headlands and ecosystems, areas of cultural importance and numerous other sites of ecological or production related importance. This work would also assess the threshold that determines 'low' or 'very low' density.

removal of any **wilding conifers** present on adjoining land, within 200m of the planted forest property's boundary. This requirement will be on written direction from an authorised person, following a valid complaint from an adjoining affected neighbour, and where there is evidence (in the opinion of an authorised person) that wilding spread has occurred from the planted forest to an adjoining property.

- c. Occupiers must destroy any pest agent conifer on their land, on direction of an authorised person, where an adjoining occupier is undertaking active pest conifer or wilding conifer control on their land and the wilding spread is clearly attributable to the pest agent conifer(s).

(ii) Current operational areas under management

It is assumed that current priority control areas and programmes will continue to be funded until the 'back of each problem' is broken (i.e. no coning trees remain) and responsibility for ongoing control can be transferred back to individual land occupiers to manage. 'Transitional' criteria have yet to be determined nationally, however the following rules would generally not be implemented until an operational area has received:

- Initial control; and
- 2-3 rounds of maintenance control (with varying years, i.e. typically 3-5 years, between control cycles, dependant on the species)¹⁰.

There are four wilding conifer control operational areas in the Tasman-Nelson region which are the key subject of the RPMP pest conifers proposal.

Specific rules for pest/wilding conifers in parts of the region (as listed below):

- Mt Richmond Wilding Conifer Management Unit;
- Takaka Hill community project;
- Abel Tasman National Park (ATNP) - Project Janszoon; and
- Golden Bay (including ATNP Halo) - Project De-vine.

Over the duration of this Plan, within the above operational areas under current management, in the Tasman-Nelson region (as shown in Maps 4.1, 4.2 and 4.31 and 4.32 in this Proposal) and prior to cone bearing:

- d. Occupiers must destroy any pest/wilding conifers on their land where they are located within a defined operational area that has received prior control, or there is a negotiated agreement in place between the Management Agency and occupier as an alternative way to achieve this requirement.
- e. Occupiers within a defined operational area must destroy any pest/wilding conifers on their land within 200m of an adjoining property boundary, where the adjoining property has previously been cleared of pest/wilding conifers through prior control and the adjoining occupier is also undertaking active control work within 200m of their property boundary. This is a Good Neighbour Rule and will apply unless there is

¹⁰ The level of control received will be proportionate to the infestation size and density and other factors such as seed banks.

a negotiated agreement in place between the Management Agency and occupier as an alternative way to achieve this requirement..

A breach of any of the above rules is an offence under Section 154(N)19 of the Act.

Explanation of the Rules

The purpose of these rules is in accordance with sections 73(5)(h) and (m), as outlined below:

- Rule (a) is a 'clear land rule' and requires occupiers to take specific actions to control pest or wilding conifers when instructed to by appropriate council officers in writing. The intent of the rule is to primarily protect high value biodiversity areas which are deemed vulnerable to any wilding conifer spread where infestations are small (and densities low to very low) and control now is feasible and cost effective, as determined by council officers. The rule could also be used to protect production land or for cultural/aesthetic reasons where wilding or pest conifers are impacting on these values. A negotiated agreement between the Council and occupier is a valid alternative way to meet this rule requirement.
- Rule (b) is a 'planted forestry seed spread rule' and aims to ensure that forest occupiers (plantation and permanent forests) are responsible for any wilding spread of conifer seedlings from their forests onto immediately neighbouring land, from 1 July 2024 onwards. It is unreasonable for affected occupiers adjoining planted forests to have to clear wildings and/or pay for this control work (i.e. the 'exacerbator pays' principle). Implementation of this rule is based on the opinion of an appropriate council officer and must be backed with proof of spread occurring. The rule only applies where the adjoining occupier (making the complaint) is making reasonable attempts to keep their land clear of wildings and their land use remains otherwise unchanged.

A four-step process is followed:

Step 1: Complaint received by council.

Step 2: Complaint investigated by an appropriate Authorised Person (with powers of entry) to validate complaint.

Step 3: Meeting held between the parties to engage them on the most appropriate way to deal with the problem.

Step 4: If no agreement can be reached, RPMP enforcement provisions may be enacted.

A negotiated agreement between the forest occupier and adjoining occupier (and validated by the Management Agency) will be a binding way to meet this rule requirement, e.g. that the agreement documents which party will undertake and/or fund the required control, over what time period and what the access agreements are to carry out control work.

- Rule (c) is a 'pest agent conifer rule' which aims to prevent pest/wilding conifer establishment across property boundaries through the control of conifer woodlots and shelterbelts (under 1 hectare in size) or individual trees that are determined, in the opinion of an authorised person, to be genuine sources of seed spread. This rule would be triggered primarily through a valid complaint made by a neighbour to the Management Agency, and that person must be making a genuine attempt to control pest/wilding conifers on their property.

- Rule (d) is about ‘maintaining the gains’ of any control work undertaken to ensure that the benefits of control are not lost through inaction (or for any other reason) by any occupier. ‘Prior’ means any work underway from 1 January 2016 (when the national programme commenced) to the present day. ‘Control’ means any work funded all or in part through formalised or planned programmes (e.g. national, regional or local operations including environmental trust led initiatives, as deemed valid by the Management Agency). This definition extends to include individual private property control programmes, on a case by case basis.
- Rule (e) is a ‘good neighbour rule’ designed to protect an occupier who has been taking reasonable steps (e.g. active/ongoing control work) on their property and is being impacted by wilding conifer infestations on neighbouring property (e.g. through inaction or unsatisfactory/incomplete control). The 200m distance is based on science that notes the majority of conifer seeds fall within this space from source trees. In practicable terms this is the only suitable way to bind the Crown to meet its RPMP obligations.
- Rules d-e above relate to operational areas that have received the agreed level of work, or agreed control targets have been met, and where the Management Agency determines that ongoing control will transition back to individual land occupiers.

Alternate options:

1. Do nothing – however, in every other region where work is undertaken under the National Programme, wilding conifers are included in the relevant RPMP. This is because without their inclusion, and without rules, there is no compulsion on occupiers to maintain any of the gains made to date.
2. Eradication is not feasible. A Sustained Control Programme, while containing the same rules as Progressive Containment, does not address the overall goal sought of wildings management, being the control of spread then progressively pushing back infestations to source areas then controlling those source areas (in the long-term).



Figure 4: Current operational area in the Mt Richmond Wilding Conifer MU. Legacy plantings of contorta and mountain pine on Beebys Ridge (right) are to blame. Control was commenced by DOC in 2018. Further control is scheduled for 2023/24. Photo source: BBSL, November 2023.

RPMP edits required:

Add principal measure 'd.' to Progressive Containment Pest Programme (pg 40):

d. Tasman-Nelson pest and wilding conifer management programme: Both councils will play a leadership role in facilitating collaborative on-the-ground management of pest and wilding conifers. Major components of this approach will include providing support as a partner and actively supporting community led initiatives. The outcomes of the programme will be heavily reliant on the sustained implementation of current and future operations through equitable regional and national funding. While some local/regional funding for control operations is likely to continue, the programme will become increasingly dependent on the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme (NWCCP). This is a collaborative nation-wide control approach and funding model for wilding conifer management. Significant joint Crown funding for control work, from the Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Conservation and Land Information New Zealand, came into effect in 2016 but the programme requires ongoing Crown funding and occupier support to continue (including on Crown occupied land). Work to control pest and wilding conifers may also occur outside current operational areas should it be prioritised and resourced through agreements between the various parties involved.

- Add new progressive containment programmes / rules as outlined above.



Figure 5: Wilding Douglas fir along the Beebys Track / Te Araroa Trail close to the regional boundary with Marlborough District. A Douglas fir plantation is just out of photo to the right with the Raglan Range in the background – November 2023. Photo: BBSL.

5. Management considerations

5.1 Responsibilities and obligations

Tasman District Council remains the Management Agency responsible for implementing the RPMP, which was established in 2019 and is in effect until 2029. The proposed amendments make some changes to the responsibilities of other agencies (e.g. DOC or NZTA, as outlined in this Proposal), including, for example, that Nelson City Council may choose to undertake service delivery for Sabella, feral/stray cats and assist with blue passion flower control.

5.2 Monitoring

The current RPMP contains a detailed approach to RPMP monitoring:

- Measuring RPMP objectives;
- Monitoring the performance of the Management Agency;
- Monitoring how effective the RPMP is; and
- Determining if there are other impacts of the RPMP's implementation.

The monitoring provisions and activities noted above are not affected by the proposed amendments, other than to the extent an increased number of pests will require additional or redirection of existing resources.

5.3 Powers and duties under the Biosecurity Act 1993

The powers and duties noted in Table 13 of the current RPMP, such as duty to provide information (Part 4 of the Act); ability to undertake inspections; giving directions and appointing Authorised Persons (under Part 6 of the Act) are not affected by the Proposed amendments.

5.4 Funding analysis

Who should pay?

The Biosecurity Act 1993 and the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 require that funding is sought from:

- People who have an interest in the RPMP.
- Those who benefit from the Plan's implementation (beneficiaries).
- Those who contribute to the pest problems (exacerbators).

The pests listed in this Proposal are all major threats to indigenous biodiversity values in the Tasman-Nelson region and, to a lesser extent, regional production values (e.g. feral cats, Sabella and wilding conifers).

Occupiers of places¹¹ with pest infestations, including the Crown and the Councils, are generally the principal exacerbators of most pest problems. They are 'exacerbating' the problems by virtue of owning/managing land, craft, or structures and are therefore best placed to undertake and pay for the costs of any control, and ensure that infestations are not impacting on biodiversity and production values and/or spreading to their neighbours.

The Tasman-Nelson regional community is the principal beneficiary given that managing these pests for the protection of biodiversity values is deemed a 'public good'. Rural land occupiers may also be beneficiaries where production values are affected (e.g. through wilding conifer control and avoiding animal health impacts of diseases carried by feral/stray cats). Urban land occupiers will also be beneficiaries of control (e.g. moth plant and boneseed in urban areas) and in some cases they will be exacerbators of pest spread. With regard to pampas, the protection of biodiversity values on the conservation estate is a national public good with the nation being a principal beneficiary. Marine occupiers are both exacerbators and beneficiaries of Sabella control by contributing to or avoiding impacts on marine structures, craft and mussel lines (in the case of the region's valuable mussel industry).

In terms of managing these pests on private land for the public good, there is general acceptance that the wider regional community is a beneficiary and that the Councils support is appropriate to maximise the effectiveness of individual control across the region. The regional community is able to assess the costs and benefits and effectiveness of the various control programmes through the annual planning and reporting processes under the Local Government Act 2002 and through the review of future pest management plans.

Table 14 in the current RPMP (page 73) summarises the beneficiaries and exacerbators of the pests listed. The additional eight pests, or groups of pests, contained in this Proposal is not inconsistent with the 2018/19 assessment carried out.

Proposed allocation of costs

The specific costs of implementing this Proposal will depend on a number of factors that are yet to be fully determined (e.g. wilding conifer control costs are dependent on the national programme). No decisions on new budgets or any revised allocation of costs have been made. These issues will be considered and discussed with the community as part of the 2024 Long-Term Plan (LTP), a process undertaken separately by both Councils and occurring concurrently with this review process.

The changes envisioned in this Proposal will not be enacted until the LTP and appropriate revenue and financing policies have been reviewed. Until any changes to the proposed pest programmes are implemented, revenue sources and the allocation of costs will remain unchanged from the current RPMP, which states:

As occupiers are both exacerbators and beneficiaries to varying degrees, implementation of this Plan will be funded principally from the general rate levied on individual rateable properties in the Tasman-Nelson region by the two Councils. It is considered that this is the most appropriate method of charging ratepayers for the services provided by the Regional Pest Management Plan.

¹¹ Refer to the glossary for a definition of 'place'.

5.5 Minor amendments to RPMP

Section 100G(4) of the Act allows the Management Agency to make minor changes to plans, by council resolution, without undertaking a review (under section 100D of the Act). The following minor changes are included in this Proposal in the interests of grouping all amendments together for consideration. The minor changes do not carry any new rights or impose obligations on any person and are without significant effect.

Species: Koi carp (*Cyprinus rubrofuscus*) or European koi carp

Koi are a named Exclusion pest with DOC having a lead responsibility for their management. They are also listed nationally as an Unwanted Organism. No change to their status or management regime is proposed. Koi were formerly designated as *Cyprinus carpio*. Koi carp are now referred to as *Cyprinus rubrofuscus* and also as European koi carp.

A recent international taxonomic name change of *C. carpio* to *C. rubrofuscus* reflects a recent review of the taxonomic classification of the majority of koi found in New Zealand. Tables 1 and 2 in the RPMP will be amended by changing the scientific name and adding the new common name.

Species: Kahili ginger (*Hedychium gardnerianum*)

Both ginger species are named Sustained Control pests in the Golden Bay area. Table 1 and Appendix 2 contain an incorrect spelling of the scientific name for kahili ginger. They will be amended to read *Hedychium gardnerianum*.

Table 1: Organisms classified as pests

Table 1 lists all the organisms named as pests in the RPMP, in alphabetical order. As part of this partial review any new organisms or other changes will be added or made as per hearing outcomes. However, further clarity has been provided to this table (as noted in Table 4 of this Proposal which is the revised version) by moving area or site location from the 'species' column to the 'programme' column. This makes reading the Table more logical.

6. Glossary

Various technical and planning terms used in this proposal are defined in this Glossary. Unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply.

Act means the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Adjacent means, for the purpose of the Plan, a property that is next to, or adjoining, another property.

Appropriate means as determined to be appropriate by the Tasman District Council or Nelson City Council or its officers acting under delegated authority.

Authorised person is a person who is appointed an authorised person under Section 103 of the Biosecurity Act, for the purposes of exercising powers and functions of the Act in relation to implementation of an RPMP.

Beneficiary means the receiver of benefits accruing from the implementation of a pest management measure or the Plan.

Biological diversity (or biodiversity) means the variability among living organisms, and the ecological complexes of which they are a part, including diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

Council means either Tasman District Council, or Nelson City Council (as appropriate)¹².

Costs and benefits includes costs and benefits of any kind, whether monetary or non-monetary.

Crown means his Majesty the King in right of New Zealand, Ministers of the Crown and all departments; but does not include an Office of Parliament, a Crown entity or a State-owned enterprise named in the First Schedule to the State-Owned Enterprises Act 1986.

Destroy means to immediately kill an animal or extinguish all growth of a plant.

Eradication pest programme means a programme intended to eradicate specified pests from part or all of the region.

Exacerbator means a person who, by their activities or inaction, contributes to the creation, continuance or makes worse a particular pest management problem.

Externality impacts, in relation to pest management, are adverse and unintended effects imposed on others.

Good neighbour rule means a rule that seeks to manage the externality impacts arising from pests spilling over from one property to a neighbouring property that is free of, or being cleared, of that pest.

¹² In places 'the Councils' is used, which refers to Tasman District and Nelson City councils together.

Iwi is defined for this Plan as a recognised iwi authority with interests in Te Tau Ihu (Nelson-Marlborough).

Management agency means the agency responsible for implementing a regional pest management plan. In terms of this Plan, Tasman District Council is the overall Management Agency, while other agencies have responsibilities for managing specific named pests.

Means of achievement means the general management options, tactics, or technical methods by which the Councils or land occupiers will achieve an objective or objectives.

Occupier means

- (a) in relation to any place physically occupied by any person, means that person; and
- (b) in relation to any other place, means the owner of the place; and
- (c) in relation to any place, includes any agent, employee, or other person, acting or apparently acting in the general management or control of the place.

Operational Plan means a plan prepared by the management agency under section 100B of the Act. Sets out how objectives in the RPMP will be achieved in any given financial year.

Pest means an organism specified as a pest in a pest management plan.

Pest agent has the same meaning as in the Biosecurity Act 1993:

“in relation to any pest, means any organism capable of:

- a) Helping the pest replicate, spread, or survive; or
- b) Interfering with the management of the pest.

Pest management plan means a Plan made under Part V of the Act, for the exclusion, eradication or management of a particular pest or pests.

Place includes any building, conveyance, craft, land or structure, and the bed and waters of the sea and any canal, lake, pond, river or stream.

Private land means any land which is for the time being held in fee simple by any person other than His Majesty; and includes any Māori land.

Progressive containment programme is the pest management programme intended to contain and reduce the geographic distribution of the specified pests to an area over time.

Region, in relation to a regional council, means the region of the regional council¹³ as determined in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).

Rule means a rule included in a pest management plan in accordance with Section 73(5) of the Act.

Site-led programme is a programme that focuses on protecting certain values at certain sites by controlling specified pests.

¹³ Tasman District and Nelson City Councils are deemed unitary authorities under the LGA.

Sustained control pest programme means a management programme for which the intermediate outcome for the programme is to provide for ongoing control of the subject, or an organism being spread by the subject, to reduce its impacts on values and spread to other properties.

Wilding conifers are any introduced conifer tree, including (but not limited to) any of the species listed in Table 5 and Table 6, established by natural means, unless it is located within a forest plantation, and does not create any greater risk of wilding conifer spread to adjacent or nearby land than the forest plantation that it is a part of. For the purposes of this definition, a forest plantation is an area of 1 hectare or more of predominantly planted conifer trees.

Note: Two separate but linked definitions apply for 'wilding conifers':

- *Pest conifers – 10 named species which generally are not marketable and their existence in plantations is being phased out.*
- *Wilding conifers only – two named species which have important commercial value in the region but are also prone to spreading.*

Pest agent conifer means any introduced conifer species that is capable of helping the spread of wilding conifers and is not located within a plantation forest.

7. References

Biosecurity Act 1993. NZ Government.

Champion, P. 2018. Two new emergent aquatic weeds in Nelson City - Vietnamese parsley (*Oenanthe javanica*) and water celery (*Apium nodiflorum*) - Prepared for Nelson City Council, by National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research Ltd (NIWA), May 2018.

Ministry for Primary Industries. (2014). The right tree in the right place: New Zealand Wilding Conifer Management Strategy 2015- 2030.

Mount Richmond stakeholders (various). 2022. Mt Richmond Management Unit Wilding Conifer Strategy 2022-2032.

National Policy Direction for Pest Management. (2015). NZ Government.

Nelson City Council. 2007. Nelson Biodiversity Strategy.

Tasman District Council. 2022. Te Mana o te Taiao ki te Tai o Aorere. Tasman Biodiversity Strategy.

Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy 2019-2029. (2019) Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council.

Maps

Map 1: **Boneseed** (Port Hills only)

Map 2: **Pampas** (Golden bay sites)

Map 3: **Feral and stray cats site led programmes** (all sites):

3.1 Nelson City high value sites

3.2 St Arnaud environs

3.3 Abel Tasman National Park enclaves (3.31 Awaroa; 3.32 Torrent Bay; 3.33 Marahau North)

Map 4: **Pest and wilding conifer containment areas** (all sites):

4.1 Project DeVine Environmental Trust

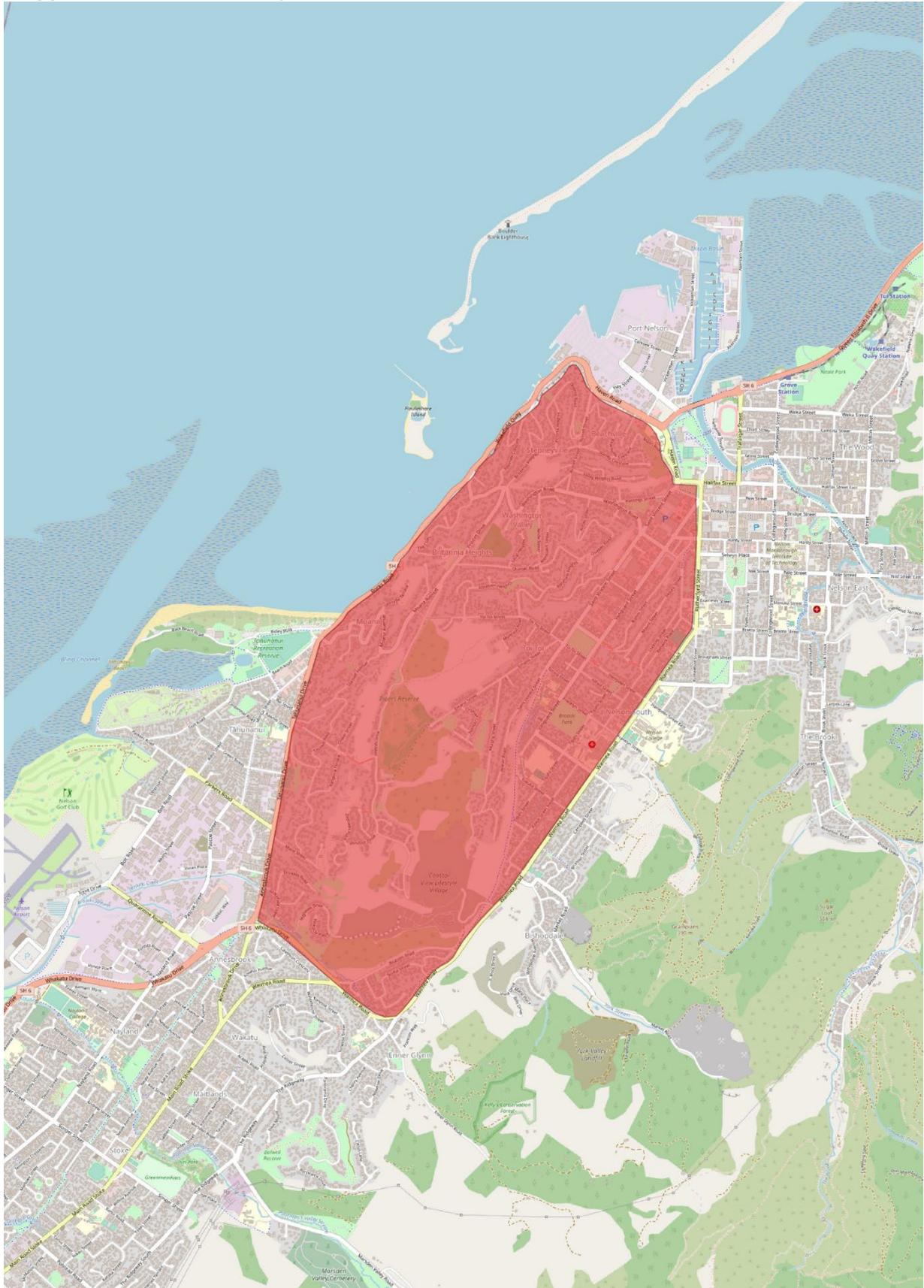
4.2 Takaka Hill

4.3 Mt Richmond MU (4.31 Roding and Nelson; 4.32 Redhills)

Regional Pest Management Plan
Boneseed Sustained Control Area

Map 1

Mapped Area: Port Hills only



Map background courtesy of OpenStreetMap and its contributors

Regional Pest Management Plan

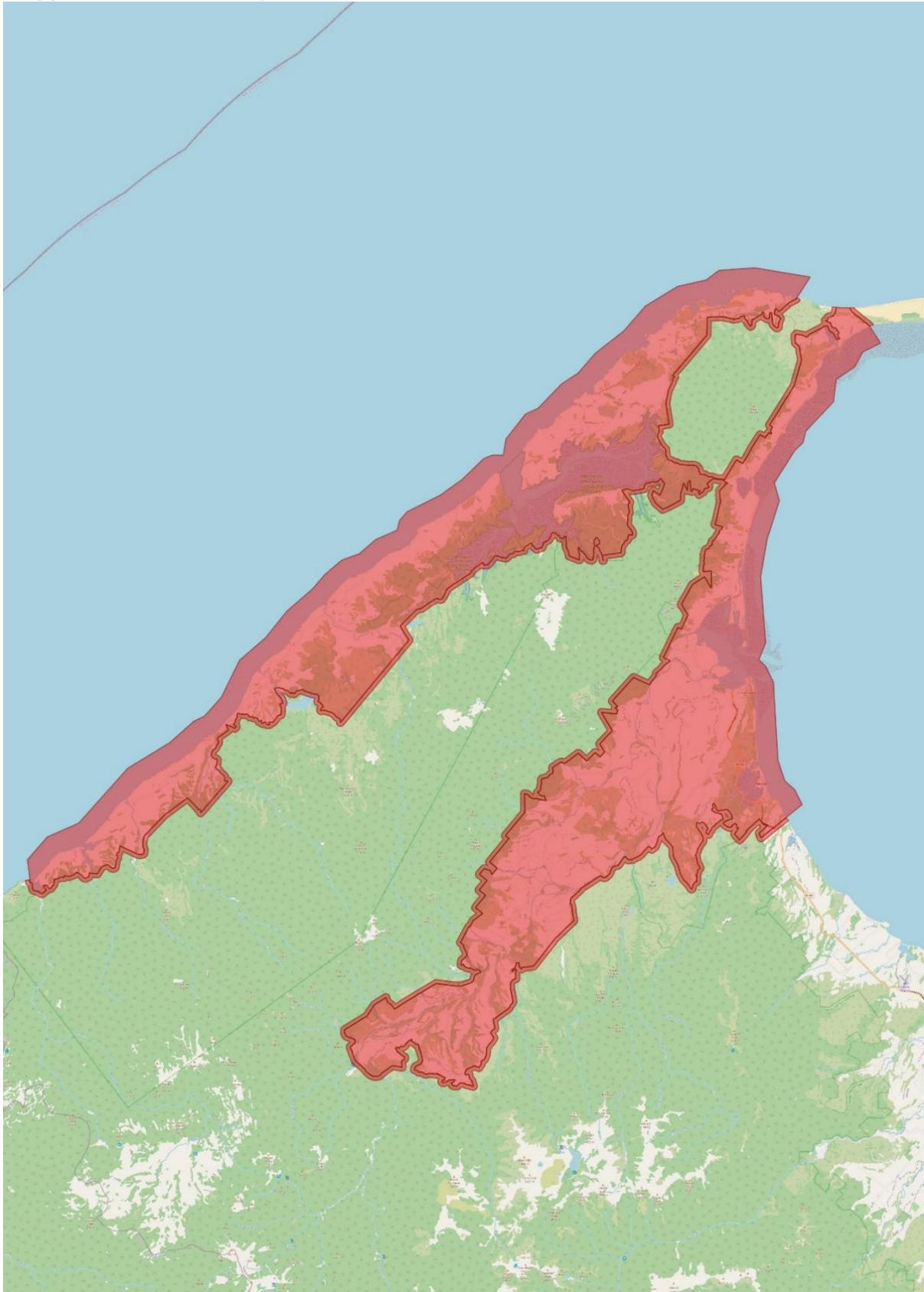
 Pampas Sustained Control Area

2

Mapped Area: Golden Bay Sites



Map

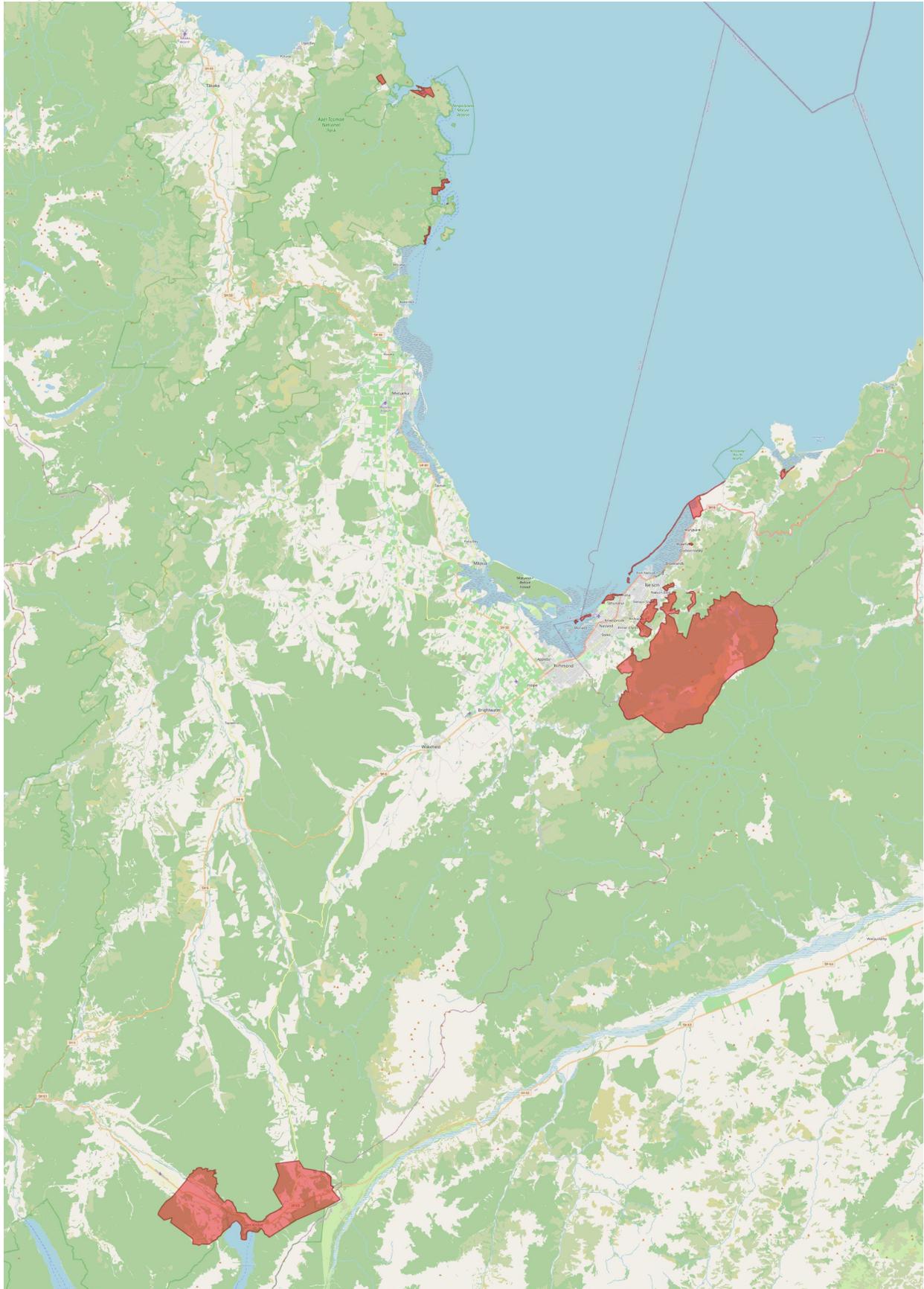


Map background courtesy of OpenStreetMap and its contributors



3

Mapped Area: Nelson and Tasman – all sites



Map background courtesy of OpenStreetMap and its contributors

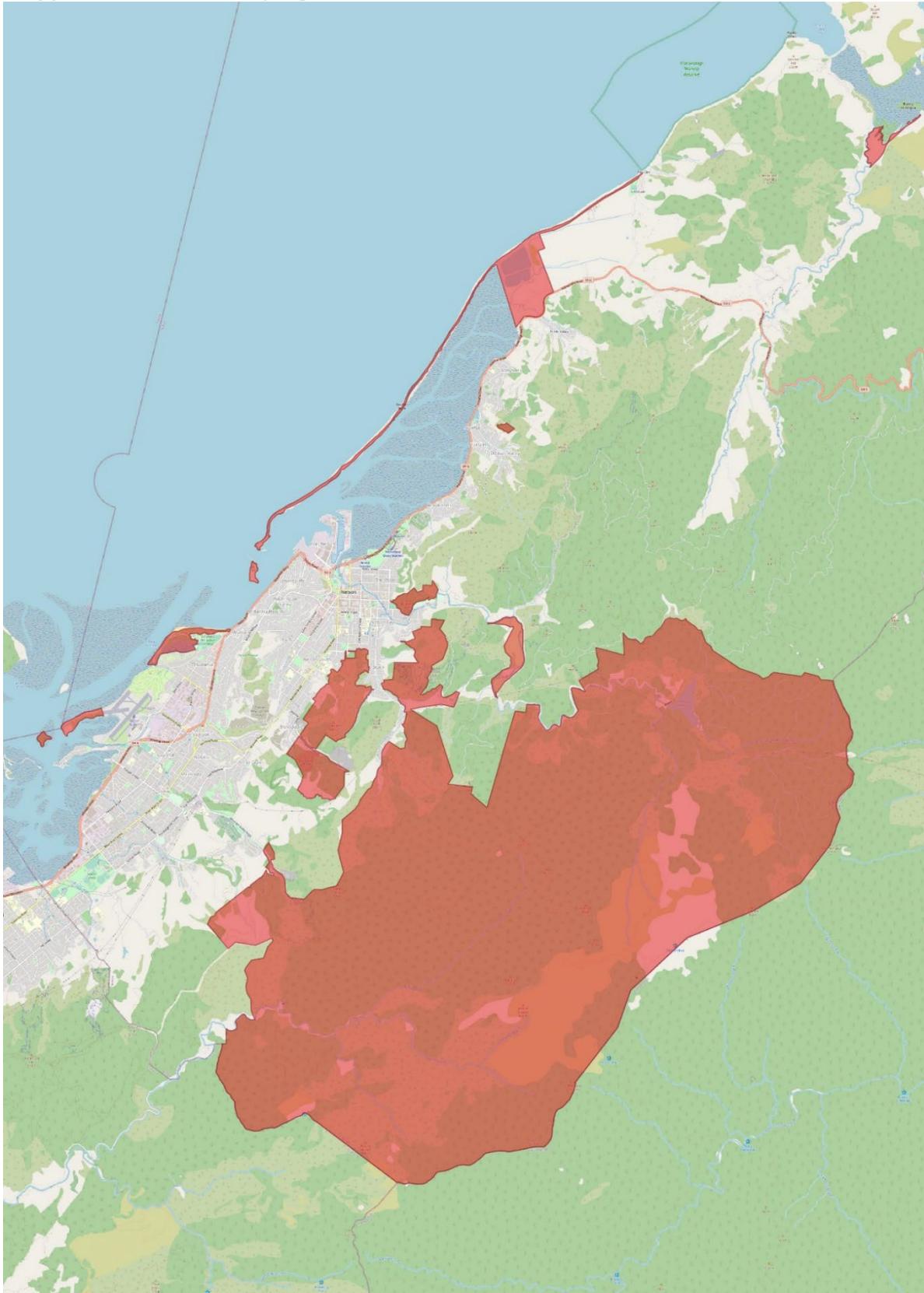
Regional Pest Management Plan

 Feral and Stray Cats in Site-led Programmes

Map

3.1

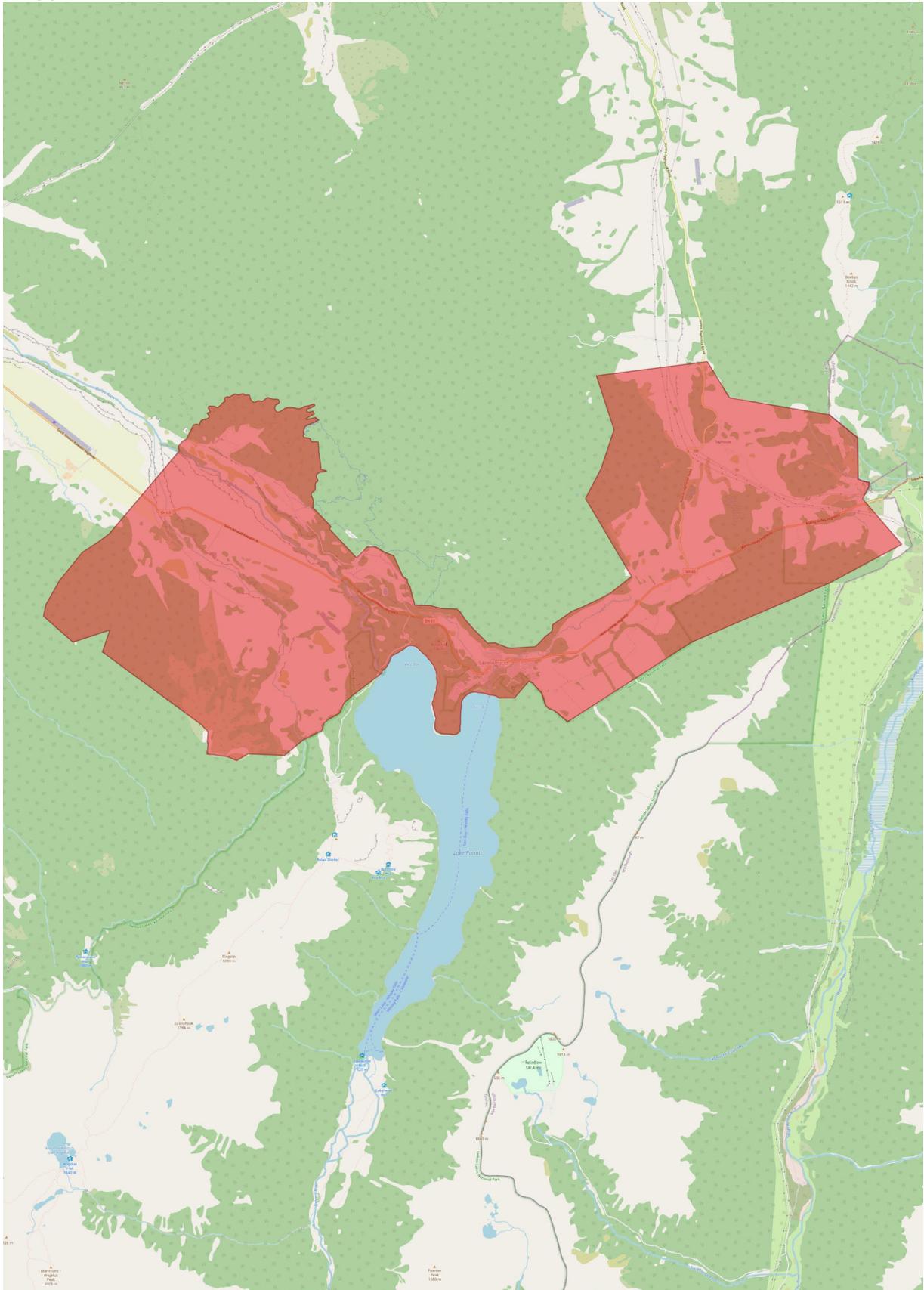
Mapped Area: Nelson City high value sites



Map background courtesy of OpenStreetMap and its contributors

3.2

Mapped Area: St Arnaud environs



Map background courtesy of OpenStreetMap and its contributors

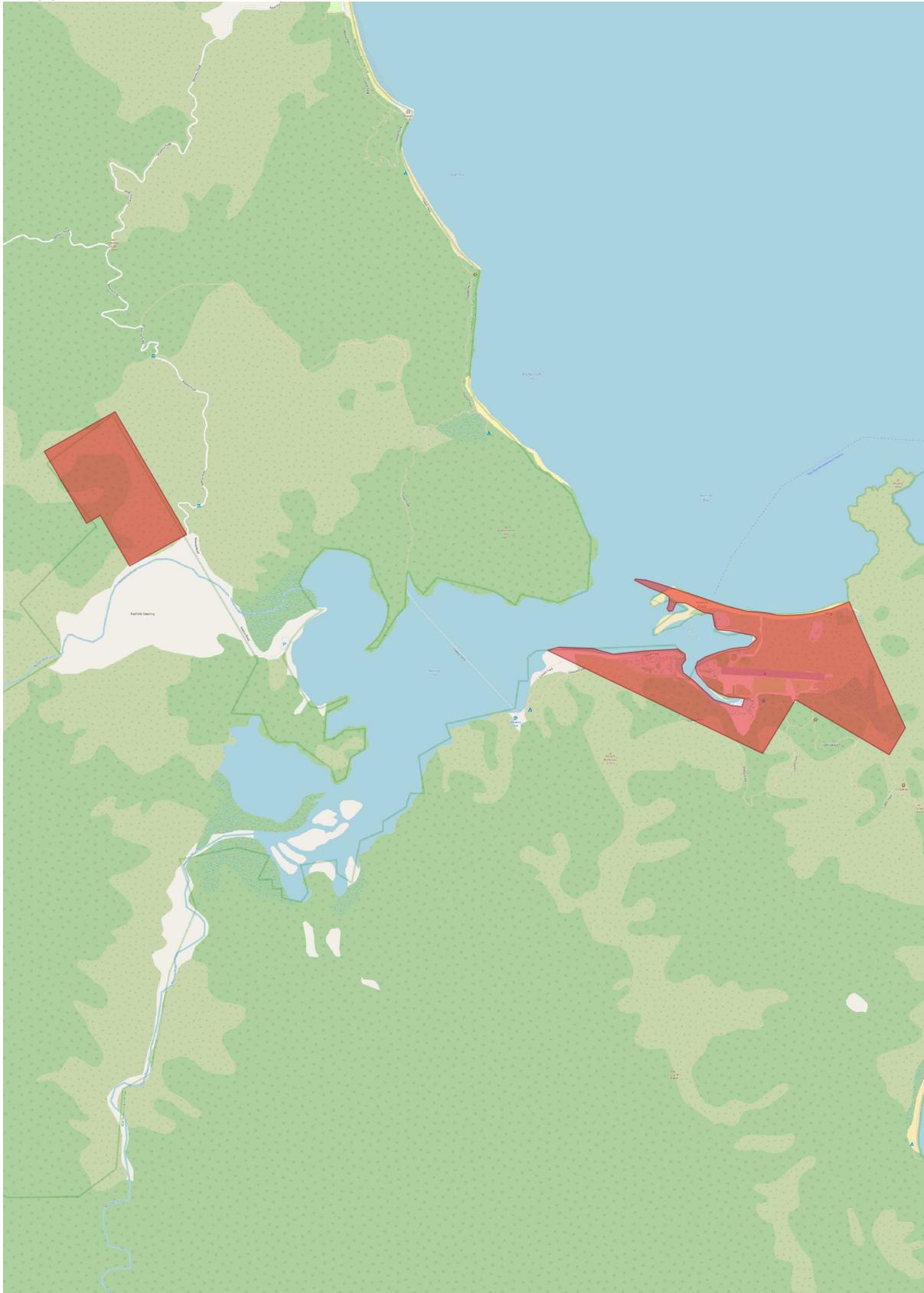
Regional Pest Management Plan

 Feral and Stray Cats in Site-led Programmes



Map 3.31

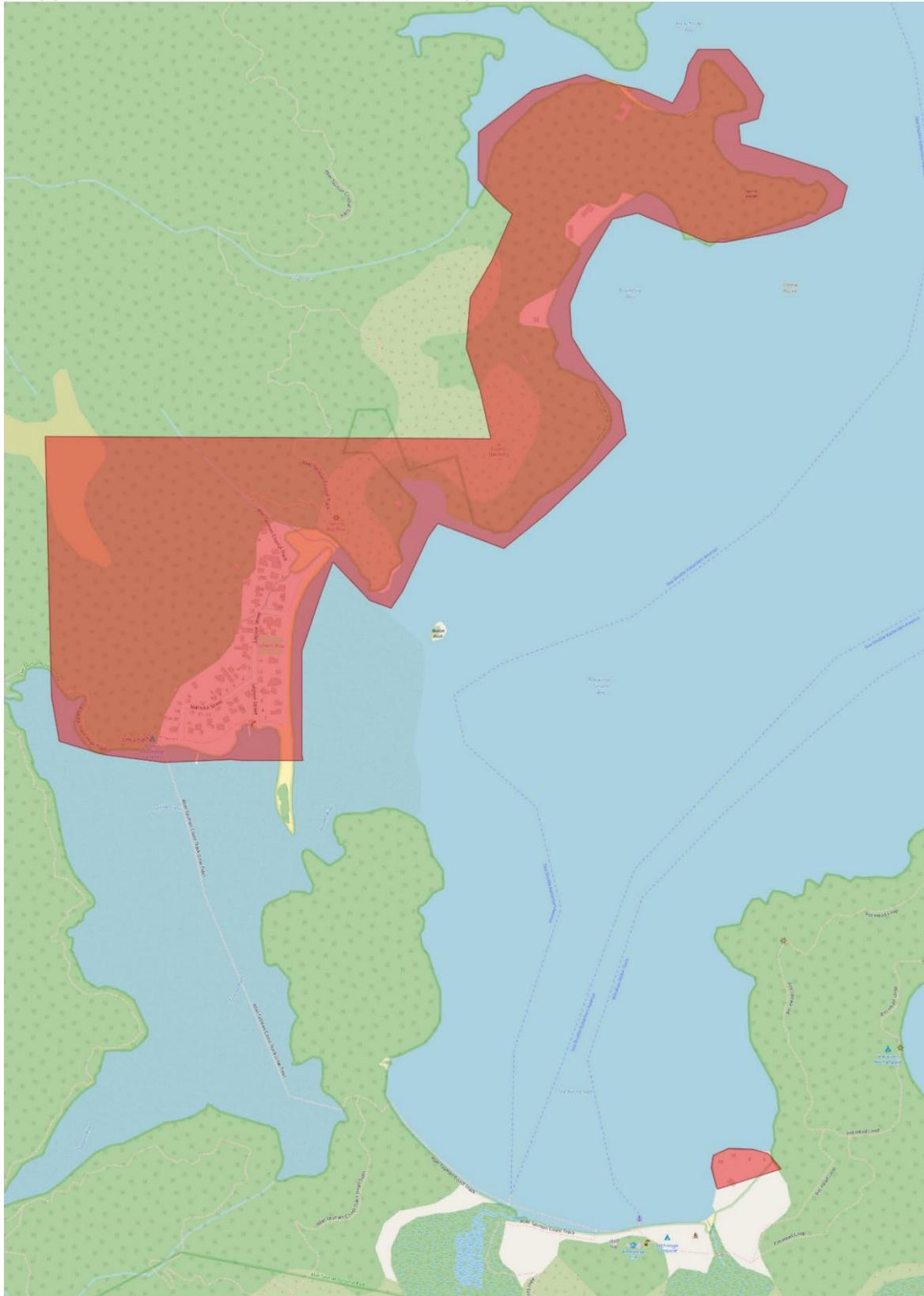
Mapped Area: Abel Tasman NP – Awaroa



Map background courtesy of OpenStreetMap and its contributors

3.32

Mapped Area: Abel Tasman NP – Torrent Bay



Map background courtesy of OpenStreetMap and its contributors

 Feral and Stray Cats in Site-led Programmes

Map 3.33

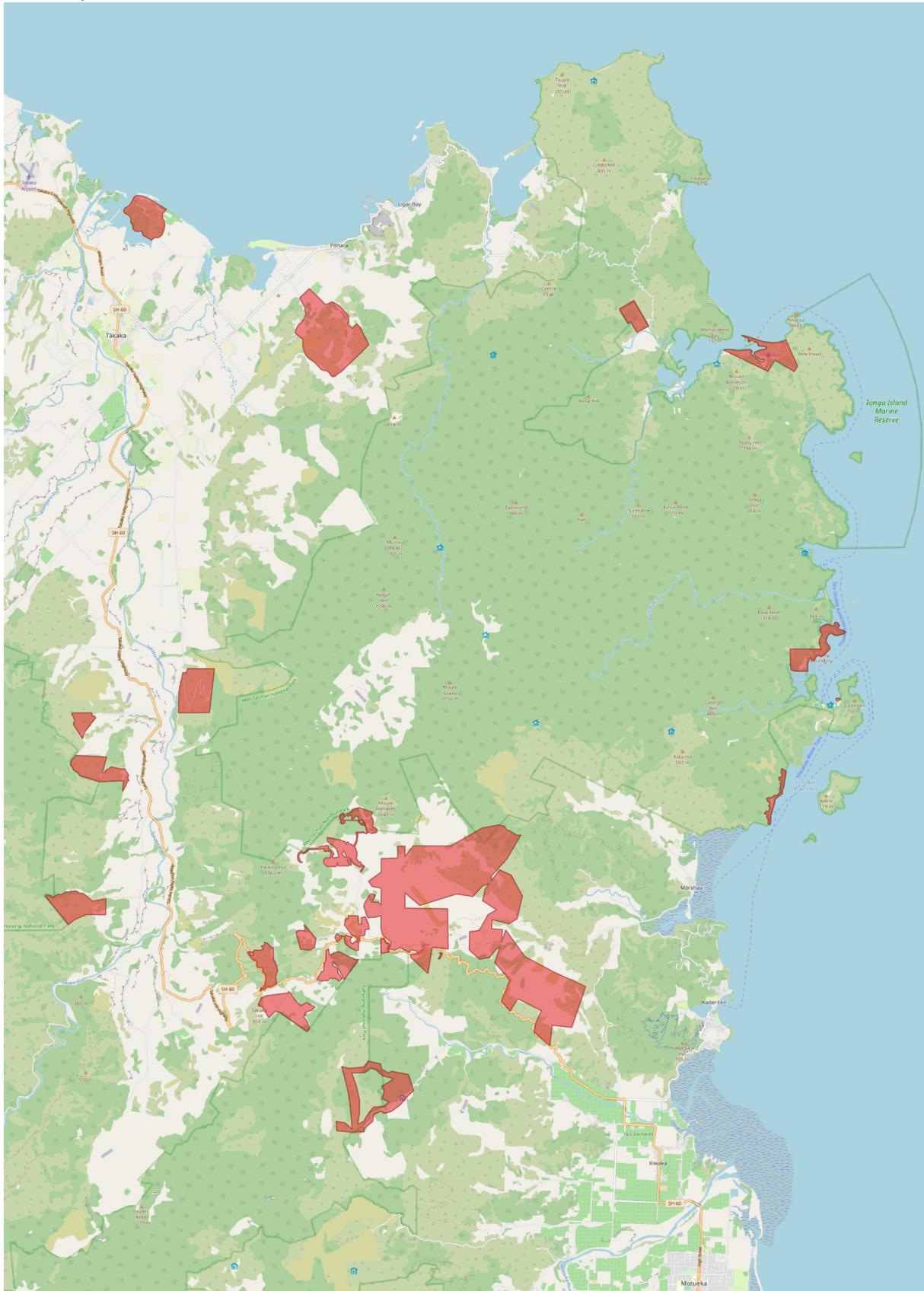
Mapped Area: Abel Tasman NP – Marahau North



Map background courtesy of OpenStreetMap and its contributors

Map 4

Mapped Area: Takaka Hill Community Project, ATNP (Site-led area), and ATNP Halo (Project De-vine)

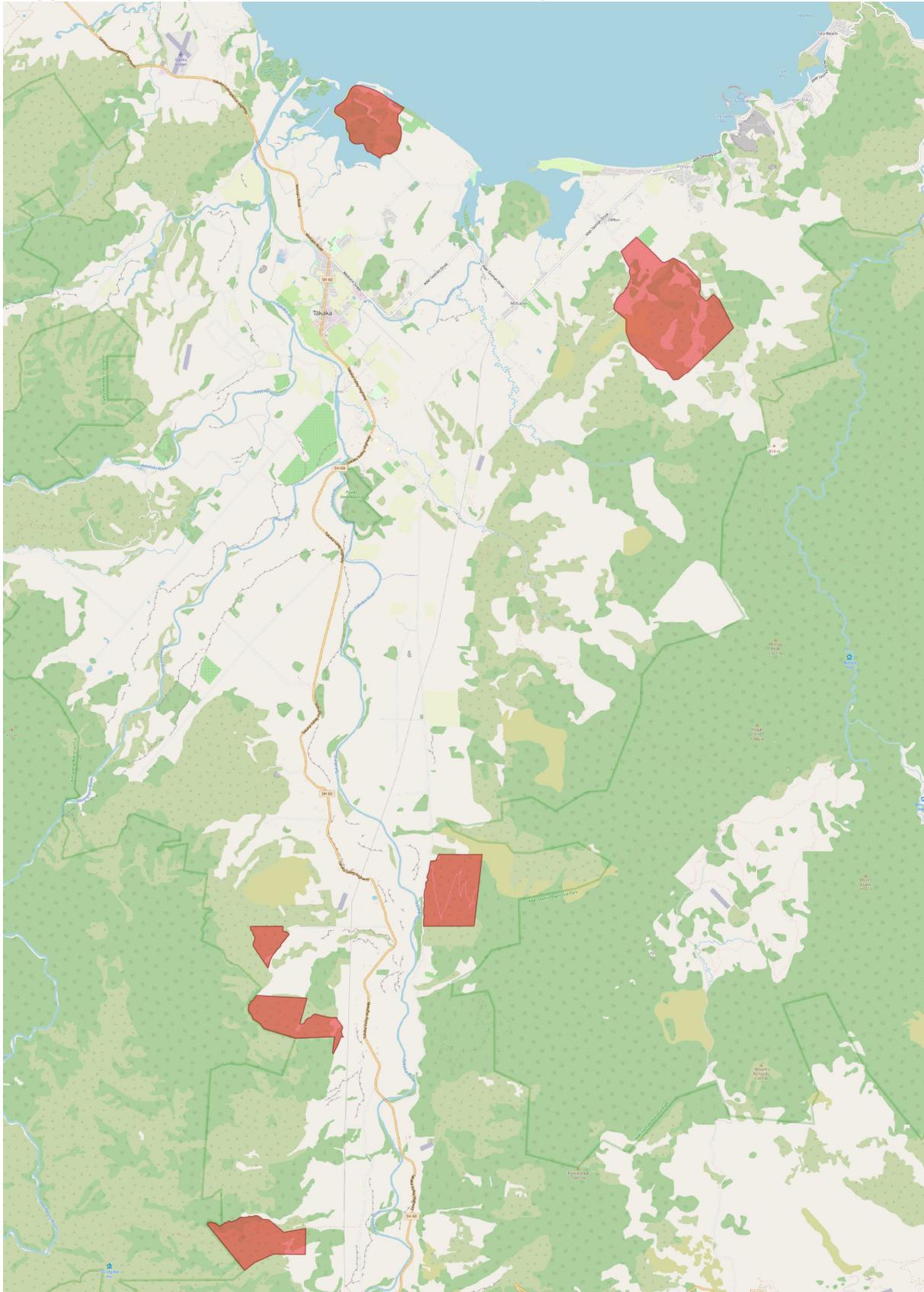


Map background courtesy of OpenStreetMap and its contributors

 Pest and Wilding Conifer Progressive Containment Area

Map 4.1

Mapped Area: Project De-Vine Environmental Trust Operational Area

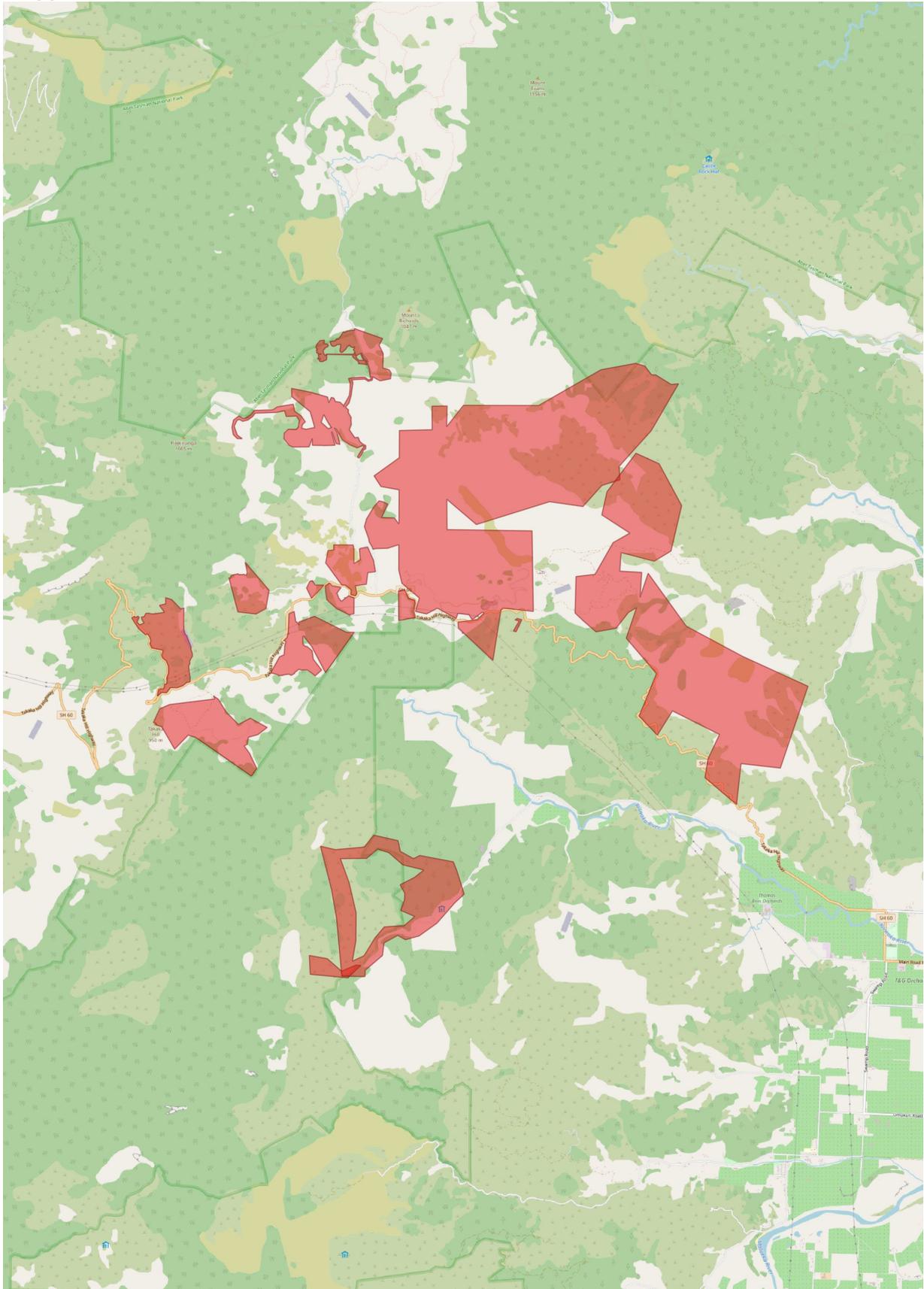


Map background courtesy of OpenStreetMap and its contributors

 Pest and Wilding Conifer Progressive Containment Areas

Map 4.2

Mapped Area: Takaka Hill

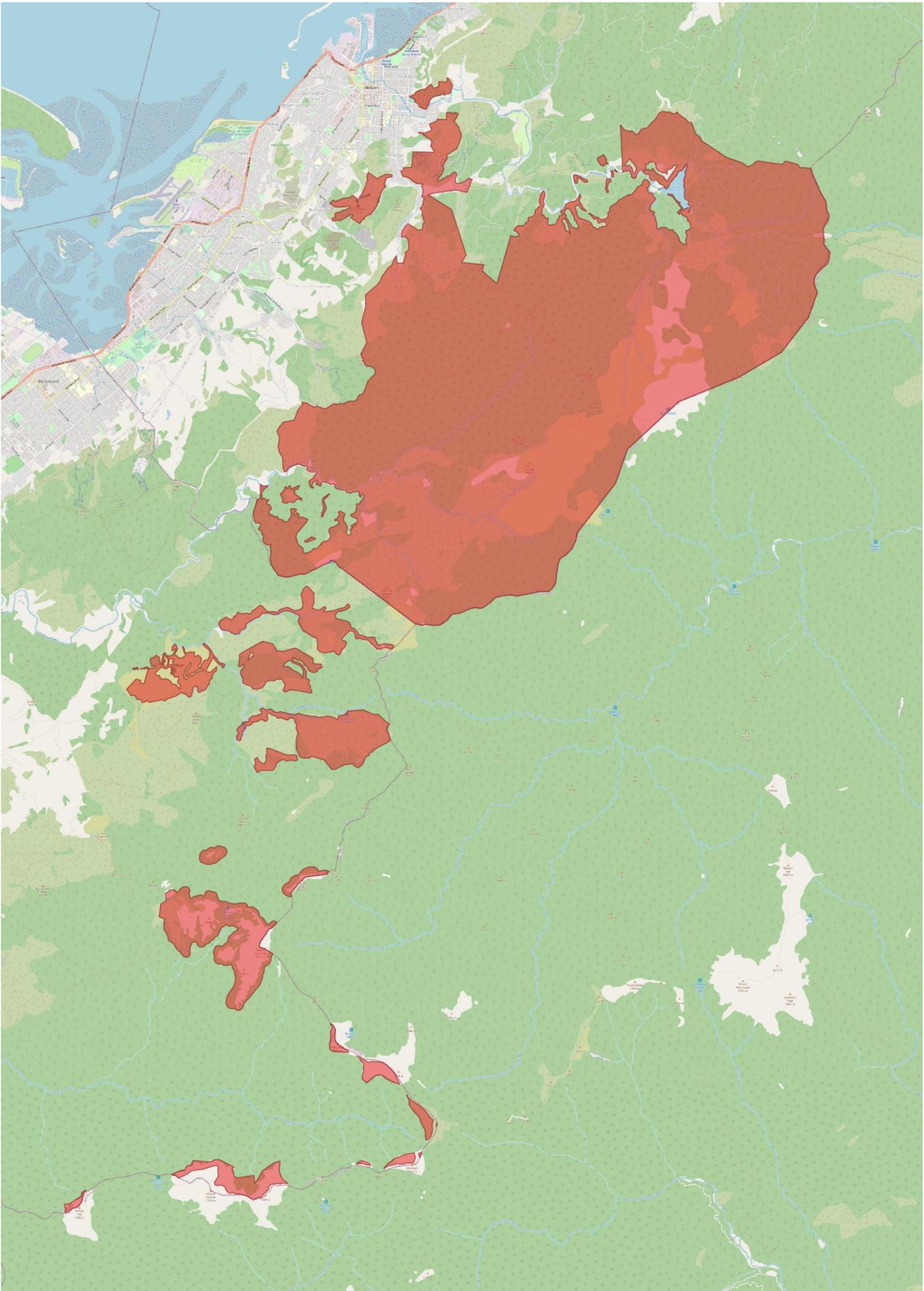


Map background courtesy of OpenStreetMap and its contributors

 Pest and Wilding Conifer Progressive Containment Areas

 **Map 4.31**

Mapped Area: Mt Richmond MU – Roding and Nelson

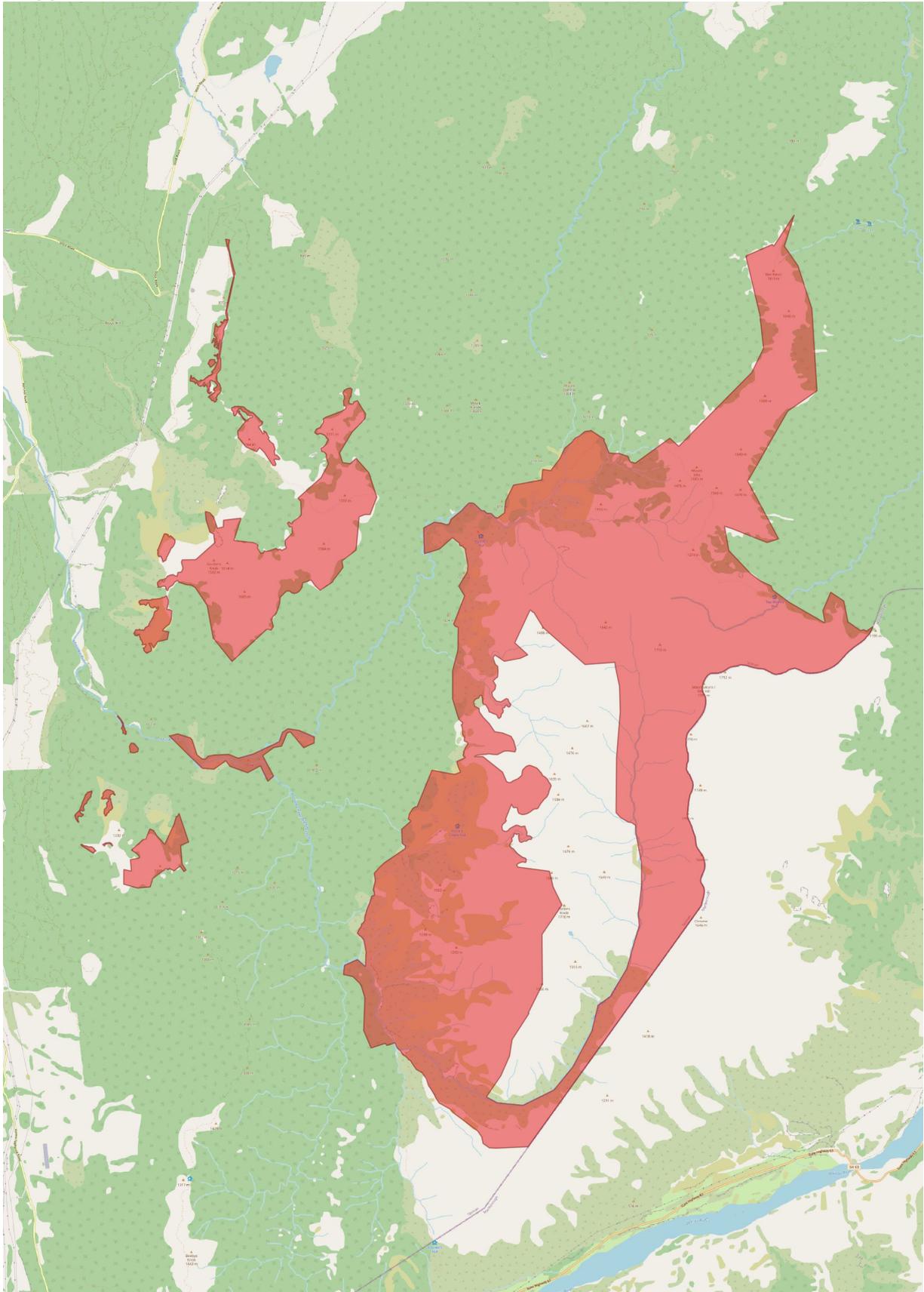


Map background courtesy of OpenStreetMap and its contributors

 Pest and Wilding Conifer Progressive Containment Areas

Map 4.32

Mapped Area: Mt Richmond MU – Redhills



Map background courtesy of OpenStreetMap and its contributors

Appendix 1: Summary of analysis of options against National Policy Direction for Pest Management (NPD)

Section 6(1) of the NPD specifies four criteria to consider when determining the level of cost and benefits analysis to undertake. Assessment criteria to consider for each pest included:

- 1 Uncertainty of the impact of the pest and the effectiveness of the methods of control:
 - **High uncertainty** – Little known about its impacts and the effectiveness of control measures.
 - **Medium uncertainty** – Some information available on its impacts and on the effectiveness of control measures.
 - **Low uncertainty** – Plenty of information exists on its impacts and effectiveness of control measures.

- 2 Significance of the pest or the proposed measures
 - **High** – High total costs **or** strongly opposed community views **or** significant community interest.
 - **Medium** – Moderate total costs **or** some opposed community views **or** moderate community interest.
 - **Low** – Low total costs **or** limited community interest.

- 3 Relationship between costs and benefits
 - **High** – costs are likely to be similar to the benefits.
 - **Medium** – costs are likely to be less than the benefits.
 - **Low** – costs are likely to be much lower than the benefits.

- 4 Level and quality of available data
 - **High** – High quality data on distribution and well-established costs and impacts.
 - **Medium** – Limited information on distribution and on costs and impacts.
 - **Low** – Little information available on distribution and costs and impacts.

The level of Cost Benefit Analysis that is required to be undertaken is determined by the combination of ratings for these different categories where:

- A **High** level of CBA is needed when three of the four criteria listed above (Criteria 1-4) are assessed as high.
- A **Low** level of CBA can be undertaken when none of the first three criteria (Criteria 1-3) are ranked high and no more than two are ranked as medium.
- A **Medium** level of CBA is required for all other combinations.

The conclusion of the “level of CBA” assessment for the preferred option follows, along with assessments of alternatives against the NPD requirements. A full copy of this report is available on request.

Species	Level of CBA analysis needed	CBA comments / recommendations	Preferred option: Level of risk	(Alternatives). Pass NPD requirements? What are the risks?
<i>Blue passion flower</i>	Low	Narrative cost and benefit analysis only. Environmental benefits highly likely outweigh cost of control. Preferred option passes all NPD requirements.	Eradication: Low risk that this option will not achieve intended outcome (zero density).	(Do nothing). Yes. Modest risk that infestations will damage biodiversity value of (e.g.) The Grampians. (Progressive containment). Yes. Low but carries a risk that relying on occupier control will not stop spread.
<i>Boneseed (Nelson Port Hills only)</i>	Low	Environmental benefits probably outweigh cost of control but advised to undertake a quantitative analysis to test revised assumptions. Preferred option passes other NPD requirements.	Sustained Control in Port Hills: Low risk that this option will not achieve intended outcome (reduce spread). There is a high risk that specialist control of the coastal cliffs would push costs beyond benefits and a moderate risk that closure of the road causes inconvenience.	(Do nothing – status quo in Port Hills). Yes. Modest risk that infestations will damage the biodiversity values of the Port Hills. Also put the boneseed (rest of Nelson and Tasman) eradication objective at risk, with high likelihood of perpetual invasion of high value coastal habitat. (Eradication in Port Hills). No. High likelihood that costs outweigh benefits.
<i>Moth plant</i>	Low	Narrative cost and benefit analysis only. Narrative cost and benefit analysis only. Environmental benefits highly likely outweigh cost of control. Preferred option passes all NPD requirements.	Eradication: Low risk that this option will not achieve intended outcome (zero density)	(Do nothing). Yes. Modest risk that infestations will damage biodiversity value of (e.g.) The Grampians. (Progressive containment). Yes. Low but carries a risk that relying on occupier control will not stop spread.
<i>Pampas</i>	Medium	Benefits probably outweigh cost of control. A medium level of analysis can be a quantified analysis using the cost of control borne by occupiers (to be determined) balanced with assumed \$\$ environmental benefit (to be determined). AgPest calculator to be used to derive net present value as a measure of cost effectiveness. Preferred option passes other NPD requirements.	Sustained Control in specified areas: Low risk that this option will not achieve intended outcome (reduce spread). There are modest risks of non-compliance through benign neglect, difficulty undertaking regular inspections, and/or adversity to the proposed rules.	(Do nothing). Yes. Modest risk that increasing infestations will damage the biodiversity values of specified areas. Moderate concern of invasion in areas clear of the pest. (Eradication). No. High likelihood of reinvasion means this species is not suited to an eradication programme.
	Medium	Benefits highly likely to outweigh cost of control. A medium level analysis would ideally identify costs and benefits in monetary terms along with an estimate of net present value. It may prove difficult to estimate the dollar	Eradication - new rule: Lower risk that this option will not achieve intended outcome in contrast to status quo.	(Eradication - status quo). Yes. Modest risk that this option will not achieve intended outcome (sustained level of zero density)

Species	Level of CBA analysis needed	CBA comments / recommendations	Preferred option: Level of risk	(Alternatives). Pass NPD requirements? What are the risks?
		benefits to the marine farming industry without being overly presumptive. Assumptions of costs may require extrapolation from incomplete data. Preferred option passes other NPD requirements.		
<i>Vietnamese parsley</i>	Low	Narrative cost and benefit analysis only. Environmental benefits highly likely to outweigh cost of control. Preferred option passes all NPD requirements.	Sustained Control: Low risk that this option will not achieve intended outcome (reduce spread). There is a moderate risk of non-compliance until the community become aware that this is a pest. The efficacy of herbicidal control to reduce extent is still being tested. While the need for resource consent for herbicidal control adds a layer of complexity, it is not envisaged that it increases the risk to reducing spread.	(Do nothing). Yes. Modest risk that infestations will damage biodiversity and infrastructural value of affected streams. (Eradication). No. The intermediate outcome (to control to zero density) is not considered feasible due to the extent of the infestation. There is a high risk that this objective would not be met. (Progressive containment). Possibly not. The intermediate outcome (reduce the size of infestation) is only feasible if herbicides are effective. There is a moderate risk that this objective could not be met.
<i>ery</i>	Low	Narrative cost and benefit analysis only. Environmental benefits highly likely to outweigh cost of control. Preferred option passes all NPD requirements.	Sustained Control: Low risk that this option will not achieve intended outcome (reduce spread). There is a moderate risk of non-compliance until the community become aware that this is a pest. The efficacy of herbicidal control to reduce extent is still being tested. While the need for resource consent for herbicidal control adds a layer of complexity, it is not envisaged that it increases the risk to reducing spread.	(Do nothing). Yes. Modest risk that infestations will damage biodiversity and infrastructural value of affected streams. (Eradication). No. The intermediate outcome (to control to zero density) is not considered feasible due to the extent of the infestation. There is a high risk that this objective would not be met. (Progressive containment). Possibly not. The intermediate outcome (reduce the size of infestation) is only feasible if herbicides are effective. There is a moderate risk that this objective could not be met.
<i>Pest/wilding conifers</i>	Medium	Environmental benefits probably outweigh cost of control. A medium level analysis would ideally identify costs and benefits in monetary terms along with an estimate of net present value. The cost of control borne by occupiers (to be determined) balanced with assumed \$\$ environmental benefit (to be determined). Cost estimates may be highly	Progressive Containment (pest pines): Low risk that this option will not achieve intended outcome (contain and reduce infestations). Site-led: Low risk that this option will not achieve intended outcome (reduction of the incidence of wildings of these species in specific places).	(Do nothing): High risk that wildings of these species will re-occur in the places where they have been removed, resulting in a loss in the investment and reduction in environmental values. (Do nothing): High risk that wildings of these species will spread at specific sites impacting on environmental values.

Species	Level of CBA analysis needed	CBA comments / recommendations	Preferred option: Level of risk	(Alternatives). Pass NPD requirements? What are the risks?
		presumptive. Environmental benefit based on well-recognised forest and scrub valuation data. AgPest calculator to be used to derive net present value as a measure of cost effectiveness. Preferred options pass other NPD requirements.		
<i>Feral/stray cats</i>	Medium	Environmental benefits probably outweigh cost of having rules but advised to undertake a quantified analysis. A medium level analysis would ideally identify costs and benefits in monetary terms along with an estimate of net present value. However, the calculation of value proposition is highly presumptive / lacks empirical data. The preferred options pass other NPD requirements.	Site-led with pest-agent rule: Low risk that the approach will not achieve intended outcome (reduction of the effects of a pest in specific places), but moderate to high risk of public adversity to rules.	(Do nothing): High risk that feral and stray cat numbers will increase, causing incalculable losses of indigenous fauna and other costs associated with spread of disease (toxoplasmosis) and social nuisance.

Appendix 2: Level of fouling for proposed sabella rule



LoF 2

- Macrofouling present
- Macrofouling up to 5% cover

These barnacles occupy 1% cover

Usually not many species in fouling

Amount of slime doesn't matter

Patchy cover of biofouling, often on niche areas and the waterline

