

Environment Canterbury Response to Minute 10

This is the Staff response to Panel Minute 10 (14 December 2017).

1. Matters 3(a) and 3(b) from Minute 10 are addressed together as there are pests in each of the three primary impact rows (biodiversity, production, and both biodiversity and production) that require action by a land occupier.
2. The funding formulae table sets out how the functions undertaken by Council will be funded. It is not the table's intention to specify how control required by land occupiers will be funded.
3. Staff recommend minor amendments to table 37 in the Draft Plan to explicitly show that the table relates to funding for Council delivered functions and not control required by and provided by land occupiers.
4. It is recommended that all pests that require control by land occupiers are identified and a statement is added specifying that the costs of this control will be met directly by land occupiers. The recommended amendments are provided as an attachment.
5. In some cases, control may also be undertaken by the Council (beyond the actions required of land owners by the rule) in order to meet the objective in the Plan. In this case, the service provided by the Council will be funded per the cost allocation specified in the table.
6. Bennett's wallaby is an example of a pest that will require control to be undertaken by both land occupiers (within the Containment Area) and the Council (this may be inside or outside the Containment Area). The placement of Bennett's wallaby in the 50:50 category applies to Council control activity. The note to the table highlights control (as required by a Rule 6.4.1 and 6.4.2) is a direct cost that will be met by land occupiers.
7. Staff recommend that wilding conifers are removed from the table and discussed in a separate paragraph. The funding for the maintenance of wilding conifer control (rule 6.3.1) is the only exception to the funding principle for how control required by occupiers may be funded. There is a rule that requires land occupiers to control wilding conifers after a publicly funding control operation has been undertaken. However, as part of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme, there may be a regional/national contribution to this maintenance control. These funding arrangements will be determined through discussions with land occupiers, Council Long Term and Annual Plan processes and Crown funding cycles.
8. Staff note that Russell lupin as a pest agent is not specified in the control section of the funding table. This is because the Plan does not require any control of this organism, although planting is prohibited under certain criteria.
9. Staff also recommend removal of the two right-hand columns as they are no longer required in the revised format.

Table 37: Funding formulae under the Plan

Funding formulae for Council functions
Control of production pests: <u>100% targeted rate or user charges</u>
<p>Australian sedge Broom* Chilean needle grass* Egeria Feral rabbit*¹ Gorse* Kangaroo grass Nassella tussock* Noogoora bur Rook Saffron thistle Yellow bristle grass Yellow water lily</p>
Control of biodiversity pests: <u>100% general rate</u>
<p>Banana passionfruit Boneseed Broom (site-led programme control) Cathedral bells Coltsfoot Darwin's barberry Entire marshwort Feral goats* Gorse (site-led programme control) Hornwort Knotweed Koi carp Lagarosiphon Moth plant Nut grass Old man's beard* Oxylobium Palm grass Phragmites Possum Spartina Spiny broom White-edged nightshade</p>

Wild Russell lupin*
Wild thyme
Woolly nightshade

Control of pests with both biodiversity and production benefits: 50% targeted rate, 50% general rate.

African feather grass
African love grass
Baccharis
Bell heather
Bennett's wallaby*
Broom sedge
Bur daisy
Puna grass
Purple loosestrife
~~Wilding conifers~~

All other Council operational activity: 50% targeted rate, 50% general rate.

Inspection
Monitoring
Advocacy
Investigation
(Applies to all pests)

* Where Plan Rules require action to be undertaken by land occupiers, the cost of this action will be met directly by those land occupiers. The Council may provide additional control beyond that required by the Plan Rules to ensure the Plan Objectives are met. Where this occurs, the control will be funded as specified for each pest in Table 37.

¹ Feral rabbit control is delivered by Council within the Banks Peninsula area based on 100% Targeted Rate for Banks Peninsula rateable rural land.

Wilding Conifers

Initial control of wilding conifers as part of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme is funded outside of the Plan. Any regional contribution to maintenance control (as required by Plan Rule 6.3.1) will be determined through Long Term and Annual Plan processes, in conjunction with contributions from the Crown and landowners. The remainder of the wilding conifer Plan Rules which require action from land occupiers will be funded directly by those land occupiers.