

Biosecurity ADVISORY GROUP – Southern

Monday 31st March, 1:30pm – 4:30pm

Aorangi Pavilion, Timaru

Group Chair: Councillor Elizabeth McKenzie

Meeting Facilitator: Rich Langley (Environment Canterbury)

AGENDA

Item	Time	Subject	Speaker	Page
1	5 min	Welcome, introductions, apologies & housekeeping	Cllr McKenzie / Rich	
2	10 min	Notes/Actions		
2.1		Group Admin <i>Payments, Group Advertising & Photos</i>	Rich	
2.2		Actions from last meeting <i>Touch on any actions from the last meeting that required follow up for this meeting.</i>	Rich & Laurence	
3	Up to 35 min	Public Forum		
3.1		<u>Opportunity for public engagement with the BAG</u> <i>Floor is open for any members of the public to ask questions or raise concerns. Time may be restricted.</i>	Cllr McKenzie	
4	120 min	Main Discussion Items		
4.1	10 min	<u>Long Term Plan</u> <i>Update provided on the consultation process for the proposed LTP and queries directed to Biosecurity.</i>	Carl	
4.2	10 min	<u>Programme Delivery Challenges</u> <i>Update and discussion on challenges with accessing properties for pest management purposes.</i>	Carl	
4.3	10 min	<u>Biosecurity Technical Advisory Group (TAG)</u> <i>Information about the proposed Biosecurity TAG and invitation to express interest.</i>	Laurence	
4.4	10 min	<u>Nassella Tussock: Co-design Project</u> <i>An update of the project underway to refresh the Nassella Tussock programme in collaboration with the community.</i>	Carl	

4.5	10 min	<u>Regional and local programmes update</u> <i>Programme updates shared with group members. This is an opportunity to ask questions or comment on the update.</i>	Gina Slee & Laurence	
4.4	45 mins	<u>Pathway Management Workshop</u> <i>Brief presentation followed by discussion and idea generation about how to engage the community with pest pathway management activities.</i>	Rich	
4.5		<u>General Business</u>		
5	5 min	Next Meeting		
5.1		Aug/Sep - Meeting location tbc	Rich	
6		Meeting Close		

Notes:

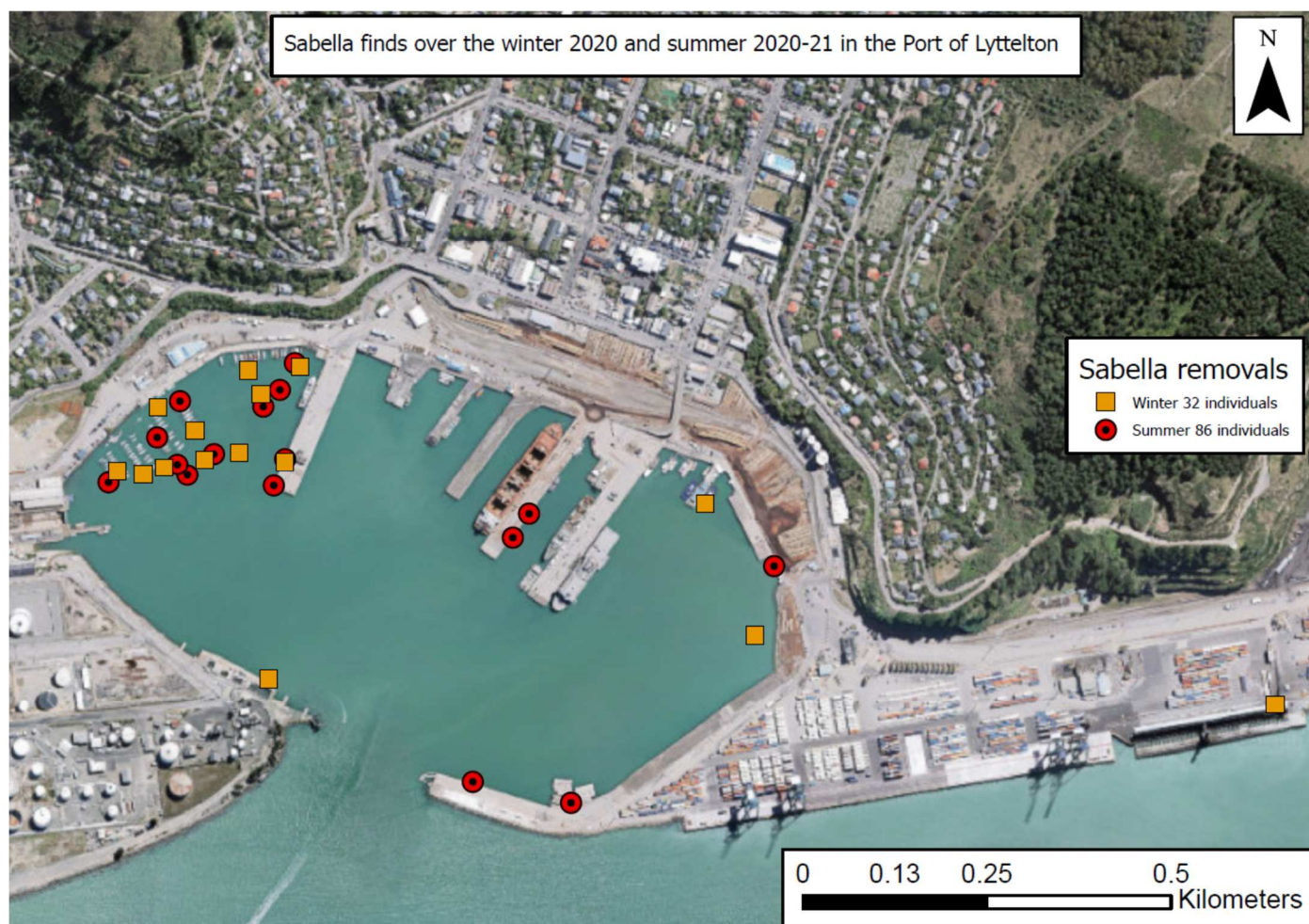
REGIONAL BIOSECURITY UPDATE – MAY 2021

MEDITERRANEAN FAN WORM

Biosecurity New Zealand (Ministry for Primary Industries) lead the Marine High-Risk Site Surveillance (MHRSS) program at key ports around the country. The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) undertakes the MHRSS under contract to Biosecurity NZ to detect new to New Zealand species, as well as Mediterranean fanworm (Sabella) which is an Unwanted Organism (and a Notifiable Organism). The MHRSS is undertaken twice a year, during winter and summer months.

Sabella was first detected in NZ at Lyttelton in 2008. In early December 2020, the MHRSS survey of Lyttelton found an increasing number of Sabella there (note they were all collected and disposed to landfill). However, the NIWA divers are not contracted to carry out an elimination program for Sabella and the current suppression approach is unlikely to be effective anymore, given the increasing numbers they are finding. This is what the MHRSS program lead told us about their findings in December:

Sabella was detected at 16 of 30 diver search locations within the Port of Lyttelton. All specimens detected on wharf piles and marina pontoons were removed and disposed of to landfill, totalling 86 worms.



Environment Canterbury are currently working with Biosecurity New Zealand, Lyttelton Port Company and Ngāi Tahu on the delivery of a program of work associated with obtaining a better understanding of the distribution of Mediterranean Fanworm within Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour.

This joint organisation project is being led by ECan under a Charter (in process of completion) with the above partners. Funding for the project is split 50/50 with Biosecurity New Zealand. The project will undertake a delimiting survey to understand the extent of its spread. On completion of the delimiting survey a stage gate will occur to discuss what action will be taken next if any dependant on the information obtained through the survey.

ECan will also be undertaking surveys in Timaru and Akaroa harbours.

VELVETLEAF

When the eradication objective for Velvetleaf was determined as not feasible (at least within the medium term), workshops were held to determine a way forward with MPI and relevant Industry Partners, forming a Steering Group for a velvetleaf management plan.

The initial workshop, in March 2016, looked at some of the options for long term management, followed by subsequent workshops in 2017. An agreed approach to long term management was delivered through a Long Term Management Strategy (2017-2021).

Work has since been focused on 4 contracted Outreach positions who have been working with affected land occupiers on containment, land management, farm biosecurity and hygiene and reacting to new finds of velvetleaf.

A review of the Strategy and further agreement to determine the future direction of the Programme is taking place at present. Considerations for long term management are in relation to the future management programme, delivery activities, delivery responsibility, regulatory considerations, and research requirements.



A velvetleaf patch left to seed for 3 years. Photo credit: Trevor James, AgResearch

CHILEAN NEEDLE GRASS SURVEY

Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research is conducting research for MPI and Council's into farmers' opinions about Chilean needle grass.

The results of the survey will be used by MPI, Regional and District Councils to work with farmers on plans to manage Chilean needle grass in the future. Information from the survey will be used by Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research as a basis for preparing a report for MPI and Councils

The research team involves Dr Geoff Kaine and Dr Norm Mason from Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research.

GORSE AND BROOM DETECTION – PROOF OF CONCEPT

Purpose: To investigate new and innovative ways of using GeoAI to provide added value to ECan.

Gorse & Broom - Identify Gorse and Broom for risk and prioritisation. Can we predict where gorse and broom are growing to gain better information for decision makers, including:

- Q: Complying with CRPMP rules?
- Q: Can we ID scattered plants?
- Q: Can we ID boundary issues?
- Q: Can we enhance inspection process?



The project proved it is possible to detect gorse and broom and determine CRPMP requirements on individual properties over large areas of Canterbury. Next steps – compare the costs of implementation to the current costs, assess productivity gains, re-assess business processes and procedures. Concerns over privacy issues raised are being investigated.

WEED RISK IN CANTERBURY – an assessment of 30 terrestrial species

AgResearch have completed preliminary research on 30 plant species that are of concern to Environment Canterbury. This included.

(1) a weed risk ranking of species for Canterbury. Proposal to use a novel approach to rank the 30 species according to the risk they pose to Canterbury based on: weed science literature occurrences; invaded range occurrences; climate matching; Global Compendium of Weeds weed status classification

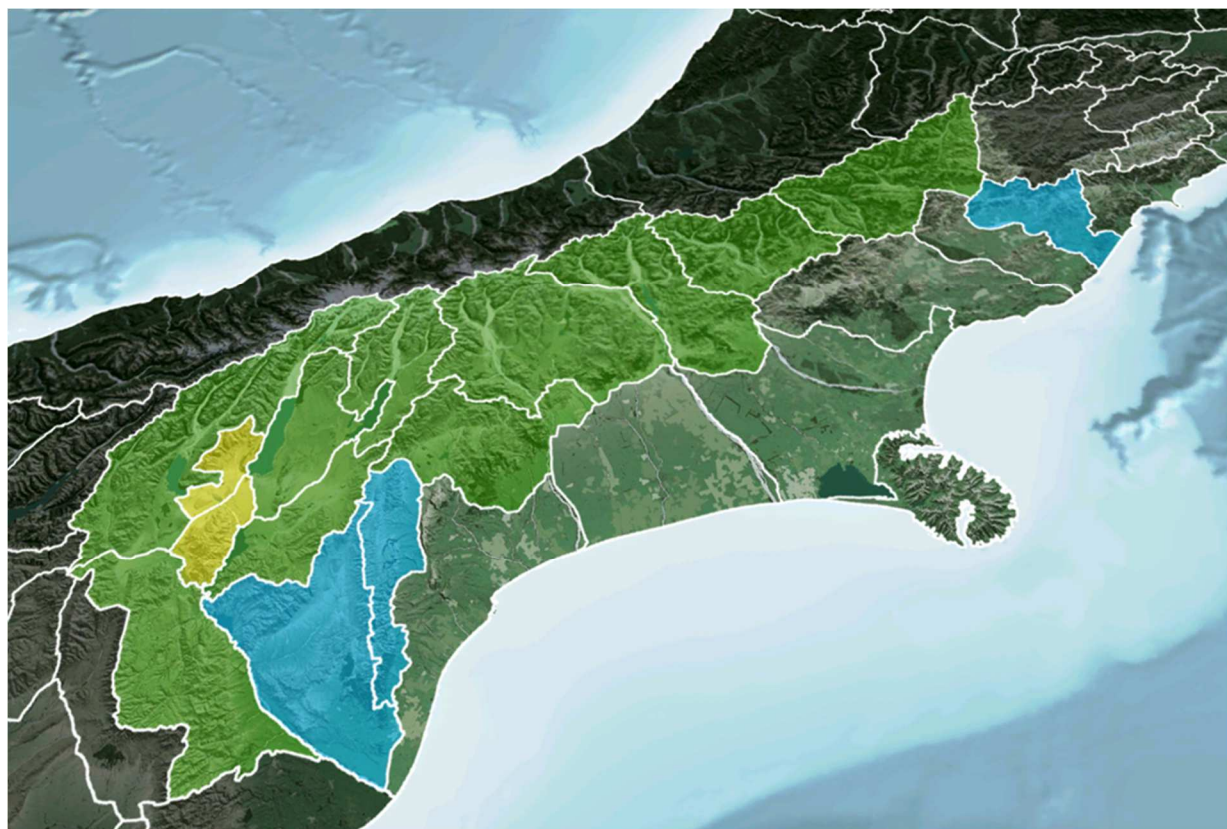
(2) an indication of the additional steps beyond the ranking to complete a comprehensive weed risk analysis for the 3 to 4 highest ranking species.

Of existing declared pests, African Love Grass has the highest weed risk ranking.

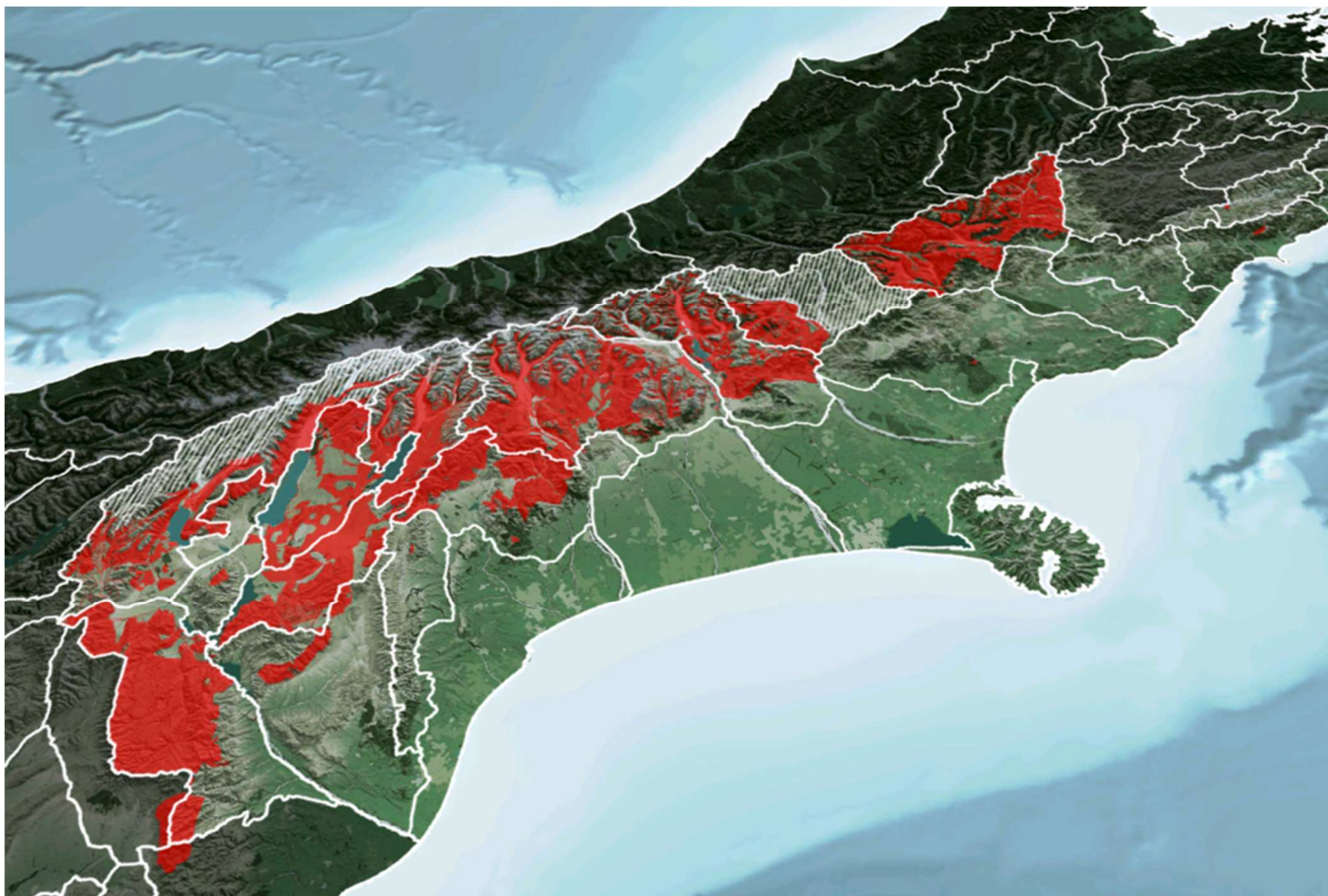
The next step is to inform an analysis of the risk each species posed to the Canterbury region, including:

1. the current distribution of each of the species in New Zealand.
2. an account for each of the species regarding their habitats, impacts and dispersal mechanisms and pathways.
3. a climate niche model for African lovegrass *Eragrostis curvula*, identifying the species' potential distribution in Canterbury.

WILDING CONIFERS



Map of the wilding conifer management units. Green and yellow represent where control is taking place. Yellow denotes management units that became operational this financial year. Blue denotes mgt. units that become operative from 1 July 2021.



The actual areas worked are visible in this map showing where wilding pines have been removed (in red). Over \$15m has been spent to date in Canterbury through the National Wilding Conifer Programme. Volunteer control days have taken place at Twizel, Tekapo and Craigieburn

WALLABY

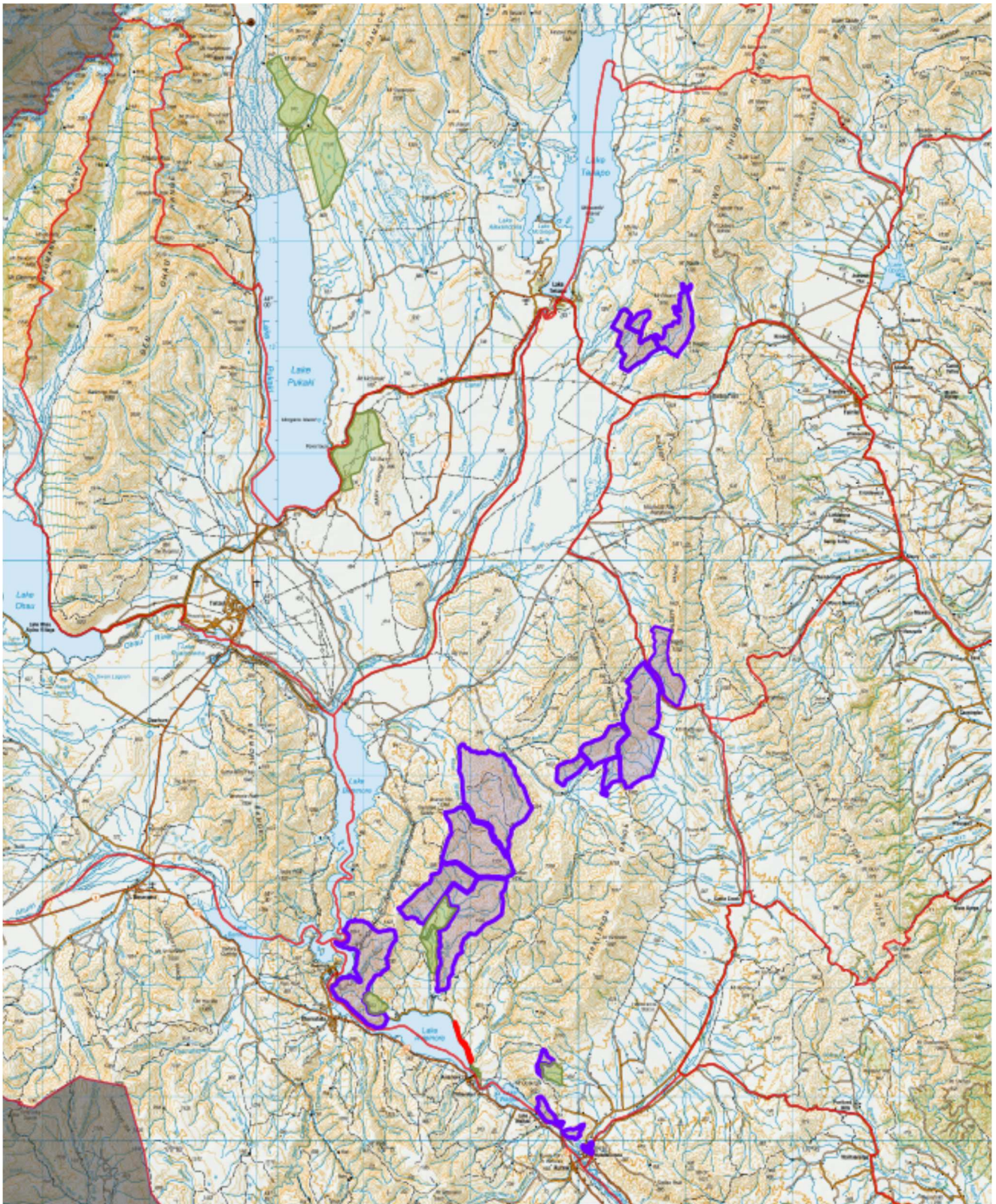
The application of aerial 1080 impregnated cereal baits commenced in late April and will be completed in late July. This involves 10 properties covering over 23,000 hectares and costing \$0.75m. Other ground control methods are being undertaken all year round.

Monitoring:

Pre and post operation- faecal pellets transects, 2 transects established per wider grouped operation. To gauge difference in pellet positive plots before and after baiting.

Intensive helicopter shoot to occur within 3 months of the baiting operation, this to gauge effectiveness and destroy any survivors found.

Also using repeatable fixed point thermal binocular scanning before and after operation on suitable areas to provide further information on operational effectiveness.



Map attached of specific areas, note two feratox (green polygons) outside the wallaby containment area, all others inside containment on buffer management units.

Compiled by **Laurence Smith**

Principal Advisor - Biosecurity

AREA BIOSECURITY UPDATE – MAY 2021

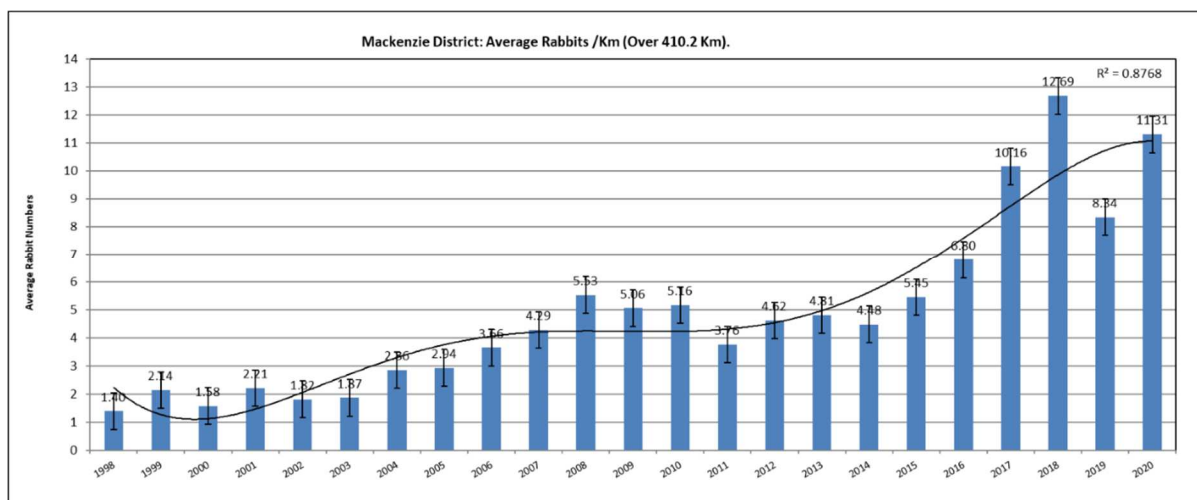
GORSE AND BROOM (Sustained Control Programme) > Focus on the hill and high country as described in the CRPMP.

Emphasis on boundary rules and keeping clear productive land clear of Gorse and Broom. Biosecurity officers' complete inspections of properties to educate and follow up with enforcement of rules when required. Respond to complaints from neighbours. Educate land occupiers of best practise.

A number of Notice of Directions and two Action on Default notices have been issued in the southern end.

RABBITS (Sustained Control Programme)

There are several properties under Notice of Direction in the Mackenzie basin. Programmes have been received from the majority for winter baiting. Reinspection's will take place post winter. As per the graph below, rabbit issues are the second highest they have been in the last two decades. As we are currently in a drought, this suits rabbit survivability.



Compiled by **Gina Slee**
Biosecurity Team Leader - Southern