

Attachment A
Key regional issues

| Issue | Current approach | Proposed approach | Rationale |
|---------|---|---|---|
| Cats | <p>The existing Regional Pest Management Plan provides for management of feral cats in areas of high conservation value.</p> <p>The nationally accepted definition of feral cats are those that have none of their needs provided by humans, either actively or passively, and their population size fluctuates largely independently of humans.</p> <p>Cats are controlled in areas that are threatened species hotspots as part of an integrated programme of predator management (for example within the buffers and fenced areas of the open sanctuaries). In these sites cats may not always be feral.</p> | <p>To continue management of cats in areas of high biodiversity value as part of integrated pest control but potentially for an increased number of sites.</p> <p>To provide greater certainty cats will be defined as pests in these circumstances if they are not able to be identified by microchip or other means as being owned.</p> <p>Cats will continue to be controlled on areas of public land where threatened species are being protected (regardless of whether they are owned or unowned). Example sites: the open sanctuaries and kōkako/kiwi management area in the Hunua Ranges.</p> | <p>Most unowned cats in the Auckland region are classified as stray cats rather than feral due to passive interaction with humans.</p> <p>Redefining what constitutes a pest cat across the region for high biodiversity and threatened species areas will provide greater clarity for council staff and cat owners alike, in regards to management.</p> <p>A detailed communication plan would be put in place for any new sites of high biodiversity value where cats are intended to be managed as part of an integrated predator control programme. The focus will be on ensuring owners are aware of the risks of having unidentifiable cats in these areas.</p> |
| Possums | <p>Possum control undertaken in high value biodiversity areas (such as peninsulas and large tracts of native forest).</p> | <p>Landscape scale progressive containment programme to manage possums. Rural management would be integrated with management in high value biodiversity areas.</p> <p>This could be achieved using a targeted rate across rural Auckland.</p> | <p>Despite a higher level of investment, a coordinated landscape scale approach will be more cost-effective on a per hectare basis due to reduced reinvasion and economies of scale. This approach has the potential to reduce possums to very low levels across the region and be hugely beneficial to biodiversity and primary production.</p> |

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| Widespread pest plants | Enforcement of rural landowner or occupier responsibility to control selected pest plant infestations upon receipt of a complaint. | Site-led programme for parks with significant ecological areas to manage a suite of up to 30 pest plants per site to an extent that protects the values of the parkland. Includes use of rules in buffer areas around parkland. | <p>Site-focused approach enables more intensive management of a suite of pest plant species in areas of high value than region-wide enforcement of a few species.</p> <p>Due to the biological characteristics of widespread pest plants, including long lived seed banks and high reproductive rates, a continued focus on managing through an enforcement approach is unlikely to effectively reduce populations, despite a large monetary investment. The proposed approach also addresses public concerns about pest plants on council-managed parkland and supports council, council-controlled organisations, and landowners working in a more cohesive way to achieve site specific outcomes.</p> |
| New ban of sale | The current Regional Pest Management Plan classifies 207 pest plants and 46 pest animals in the region. | Phasing out the sale of approximately 50 new plant pests and 13 new animal pests in addition to those currently identified. | Preventing the sale of species identified as potentially invasive is more cost-effective than post-invasion management. |