

Getting the best from PEST MANAGEMENT

DEVELOPING A NEW REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Regional Pest Management Strategy is up for review and we want to hear your views on how pests in Southland could be managed.

Which pests should be included, how do we prevent new pests from coming in, and when is pest management a community or landowner responsibility?



Why do we need a NEW PEST PLAN?

Environment Southland needs a new pest plan to comply with the Government's National Policy Direction for Pest Management and ensure we are making the best use of available resources. This means we need to review the costs and benefits of managing those pests that are already well established, against those of preventing new pests from coming in.

We also need to ensure money is spent in the right places and the responsibility for managing pests lies with the right people. Focusing pest management where it will have the most benefit to biodiversity in Southland will also be one of the main objectives for the plan.

The plan will set the scene for pest management in Southland for the next 10 years, so it is important that we get it right. We can only do that if you give us your feedback.

BACKGROUND

The Regional Pest Management Plan will address pests on land, in freshwater and in the marine environment within Southland. If left unchecked, pest populations can increase to the point where they cause major damage to our special environment. Pests can impact severely on biodiversity and be a factor in the decline of native species. Some pests can trigger soil degradation or reduce water quality. Pest infestations can also cause economic damage to the agricultural, recreational and tourism industries.

COMMON PESTS THROUGHOUT NEW ZEALAND

Regional councils throughout New Zealand have joined together and developed a list of 11 pests that are common in many regions. They are rabbits, possums, rooks, wallabies, gorse, broom, ragwort, nodding thistle, African feather grass, nassella tussock and wilding conifers. The intention is to develop common rules for these pests throughout New Zealand. These rules could also form the basis for rules for other pests.

LOCAL PESTS

We also have some pests which are relevant for Southland and we need to decide how best to manage these. Your feedback is essential to help us determine which ones are most important to Southlanders.



Good neighbour rules are intended to manage pests like gorse, broom, rabbits and possums in areas where they are widespread and abundant. Landowners will be bound by good neighbour rules to ensure pests on their land don't impact on their neighbours' properties. The good neighbour rules will apply to the Crown agencies (like the Department of Conservation), as well as private landowners.



Some things to think about...

We want to hear your views about any pests that you consider to be a concern in Southland. Here are a few areas where changes may be made.



POSSUM CONTROL

Our successful Possum Control Areas Programme coordinates possum control over large areas by individual landowners.

Could this programme be extended to help manage other pests as well?



PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY

Communities and landowners are keen to target pests and weeds to protect native wildlife and habitats on private land.

How should we support these individuals and groups in the future?



CATS

Some communities have expressed an interest in developing Wildlife Protection Zones. This could mean rules are developed which put obligations on cat owners in these zones. These rules could require cats to be de-sexed, microchipped and to be kept inside during the night.

What are your views on this?



CHINCHILLAS

These rodents can only be kept in Southland if a permit is granted. Chinchillas were included in the current Pest Management Strategy as it was thought they could have a significant impact on the environment if a wild population did establish. However, due to Southland's climate, the risk of chinchillas establishing in the wild is considered to be relatively low. Some people have suggested they should not be classed as a pest.

What are your views on this?



GORSE & BROOM

Our Urban Gorse and Broom Programme targets unkempt sections where gorse and broom have been allowed to grow excessively. Some local authorities have bylaws that require people to keep their properties tidy, including controlling these pest plants.

Should Environment Southland continue the Urban Gorse and Broom Programme, or could the issue of gorse and broom on urban sections be managed by local authority bylaws?



CHILEAN NEEDLE GRASS

This pest plant is currently found in Hawkes Bay, Marlborough and North Canterbury. It could arrive in Southland by stock or feed from infested properties and cause significant damage to agricultural land in the region.

What do you think about including Chilean needle grass in the plan as a pest we focus on keeping out of the region?

We need to know what you think about PEST MANAGEMENT

This is your opportunity to have your say about pest management for the region. Regular surveys suggest the current approach to pest management is well supported in the community. However, we need to know what your views are for pest management so we can develop a draft plan for the future. You can view the current Regional Pest Management Strategy at www.es.govt.nz.

You can share your views with us by filling in the form included with this brochure, or go online at www.es.govt.nz. You can also email your ideas to us at service@es.govt.nz or give us a call on 0800 76 88 45.

FEEDBACK
NEEDS TO
BE RECEIVED
BY 31 MARCH
2016.

YOUR DETAILS

Name

Address

Town/City

Phone

Email (if applicable)

Tick the box if you would like to be considered for inclusion in a focus group to help the development of the Regional Pest Management Plan.

TELL US YOUR VIEWS

Which pests do you think should be included in the pest plan for Southland?

Are there any current pests you think shouldn't be included in the pest plan?

Are there any aspects of pest management that you would like to see changed in Southland?

Any other thoughts or suggestions for managing pests?

Telephone: 0800 76 88 45 | **Post:** Private Bag 90116, Invercargill 9840

Deliver: Cnr North Road and Price Street, Invercargill

Email: service@es.govt.nz | **Online:** www.es.govt.nz