

8. EFFECTS OF THE STRATEGIES IMPLEMENTATION

The Biosecurity Act requires Pest Management Strategies to specify the actual or potential effects that the implementation of a Strategy may have on:

- a) The relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and toanga.
- b) The environment; and
- c) The marketing overseas of New Zealand products.

8.1. COST AND BENEFITS - EFFECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Northland Regional Council, given its experiences under the previous Strategies, is satisfied that the overall effects of these Strategies will be beneficial. The Northland Regional Council is further satisfied that the benefits will outweigh the costs associated with the administration and implementation of the Strategies and that it is more appropriate than relying solely on the voluntary action of land occupiers.

Effects arising from the Strategies implementation on Maori, the environment and markets overseas are outlined below, as required under section 76 (j) and (k) of the Biosecurity Act. These effects include not just the beneficial effects that arise from managing pest infestations, but also any detrimental 'side-effects' arising from any aspect of the management.

8.2. EFFECTS ON MAORI AND THEIR CULTURAL AND TRADITIONS WITH THEIR ANCESTRAL LANDS, WATERS, WAAHI TAPU AND TAONGA

The Strategies implementation is anticipated overall to have positive effects on Maori culture and traditions. The Strategies should avoid or reduce pest plants and pest animals invading and possibly degrading waahi tapu and taonga raranga sites. The implementation of the Strategies will, therefore, contribute to the protection of indigenous fauna, vegetative and soil cover.

The risk of adverse effects on tikanga (e.g safety for people who may breach tapu associated with an area), kaitiakitanga (e.g. effects of manipulating habitats), toanga (e.g. effects of chemicals on water, fish shellfish and indigenous birds) and waahi tapu (e.g effects of chemicals) is considered small in comparison to the benefits of pest control. For example, many of the pesticides and herbicides currently in use in the Region are biodegradable and, if used in the prescribed manner, will not have any significant environmental effects. Further, by using a variety of control methods the potential effects on ancestral taonga can be avoided or mitigated.

Concerns regarding toxins are addressed through:

- Registration process for all toxins;
- Procedures, manuals and guidelines and Northland Regional Council policies that insist on the use of toxins in an environmentally sensitive manner as far as practical;
- Compliance with the requirements of the Resource Management Act.

8.3. EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The implementation of the Strategies will enhance ecological, production, recreation and aesthetic values of the Region by avoiding and minimising the adverse impacts of pest plants and animals on the environment. In turn soil resources and water quality may also be maintained and enhanced.

The Northland Regional Council believes that any detrimental impacts arising from control operations will be low and would be less significant than the benefit to the environment from controlling the species listed in the Strategies. In regard to the use of toxins and chemicals in the control of unwanted organisms concerns will be addressed through the implementation of the provisions of the following statutes:

- Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997
- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996
- Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992
- Pesticides Regulations 1983
- Resource Management Act 1991

The Northland Regional Council is actively involved in a nation-wide biological control programme for pest plant management that involves using host specific insect and fungal organisms to help control pest plant problems. The successful employment of biological agents to reduce the density of pest plants negates the need to use chemical control methods.

8.4. EFFECTS ON MARKETING OF NEW ZEALAND PRODUCTS OVERSEAS, AND ON NEW ZEALAND'S INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS, ASSURANCES AND REPUTATION

The implementation of these Strategies will generally not affect the marketing overseas of New Zealand products, New Zealand's international obligations, assurances and reputation. Improvements in land productivity due to pest plant and animal control may strengthen the marketing overseas for products from the Northland Region, thereby enhancing the Region's economy. Similarly, the control of pests in areas of significant ecological importance should enhance the recreational and aesthetic values important to tourism.

Consequently, the Strategies are expected to have a positive effect on New Zealand's marketing overseas in general, and its export products.