

4.6. PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR SURVEILLANCE ANIMALS



Description of the Pest

The animals and birds in this Strategy are:

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*)

The rook is a large bird approximately the same size as a magpie. It is totally black except for a greyish naked face, has a short neck and a large strong bill. It flies with slow wing beats and displays ragged wing tips.



Wallaby (*Macropus eugenii*)

The wallaby is a small marsupial animal which looks like a small kangaroo. Its colour is from a silver/grey to dark brown.

Distribution of the Pest

Rooks are serious pest in the Hawke's Bay Region and are becoming a problem on the Wairarapa and Manawatu Regions. Only a small number of rooks, between four and six are known to exist in Northland.

There are large numbers of wallabies in the Rotorua Lakes area and in North Otago. There are no known wallabies in Northland, although they are found on Kawau Island, just south the boundary with the Auckland Region.

Problems Caused

Rooks feed on most types of crops, either the seed heads or by pulling out young plants. They occasionally pierce fruit such as apples and pears.

Wallabies cause damage to new crops and trees by nipping out the tops of seedlings. They also browse indigenous forest undergrowth, preventing regeneration and eventually destroying the forest.

Parties Affected

Farmers growing maize for grain or silage, or growing sorghum-type crops for stock fodder would be the main parties affected if rook numbers increased in Northland. Their presence may also limit the range of vegetable crops that could be grown within the Region.

The community at large would lose significant indigenous forest resources as a result of wallaby browse, including some threatened species. Protection forests on steep erodible land would be weakened and the incidence of slipping would increase.

Effects of the Strategy

Beneficial Protection of indigenous ecosystems and associated cultural values
 Protection of the Region's primary industry

Cost of Strategy

The Strategy is expected to cost around \$1,500 a year. Any control work for these pests will be undertaken under section 100 of the Biosecurity Act, by resolution of the Council, and would be separately funded.

Funding

The Surveillance Strategy is to be funded from the Biosecurity Works Rate, with any substantial pest eradication programme being funded separately by the Council.

Management Agency

The Northland Regional Council will be responsible for implementing the Strategy.

Relationship of Strategy to Other Pest Management Strategies

Unknown.

Monitoring and Reporting

Progress against objectives set in the Strategy will be reported in the Regional Council's Annual Plan or LTCCP as appropriate. Surveys will be carried out to check the effectiveness of publicity and other education initiatives. Any significant control programme will be proposed to the Council and will be subject to resolution of the Council.

Term of Strategy

5 years

Rules

6.4.1.11 Control of Pest Animal Populations by Land Occupiers in Community Pest Control Areas

Where a management agency has undertaken initial control work on a property and/or supplied resources to reduce pest animal population densities to a level agreed to in a management plan for the area, the occupier of the property shall maintain the pest animals population densities to those agreed to in the management plan.

6.4.1.17 Prohibition on Distribution and Sale of Pest Animals

No person shall distribute to other persons or offer for sale or hold in a premises where animals are offered for sale any live pest animal, which is subject of a Northland Regional Council Pest Management Strategy, except to slaughter.