

## STATEMENT OF COST OF ACTIVITIES

## biosecurity

For the year ended 30 June 2011

Actual 30-Jun-10 Cost of Services \$		Note	Actual 30-Jun-11 Cost of Services \$	Annual Plan 30-Jun-11 Cost of Services \$	Variance \$
<b>REVENUE</b>					
407,294	User Charges	1	388,050	295,000	93,050
–	Other Revenue		–	2,000	(2,000)
<u>407,294</u>	<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>		<u>388,050</u>	<u>297,000</u>	<u>91,050</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
564,619	Personnel Costs		580,930	627,412	46,482
36,089	Depreciation		21,961	29,770	7,809
1,354,268	Other Operating Expenses	1	1,195,259	1,164,750	(30,509)
419,779	Support Costs internally allocated to Activity		462,253	427,619	(34,634)
<u>2,374,755</u>	<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>		<u>2,260,404</u>	<u>2,249,551</u>	<u>(10,853)</u>
36,089	Less Non-Cash Items		21,961	29,770	7,809
<u>2,003,550</u>	<b>NET CASH COST/(SURPLUS) OF ACTIVITY</b>		<u>1,850,393</u>	<u>1,922,781</u>	<u>72,388</u>
Funded by:					
1,364,357	Land Management Rate		1,523,742	1,520,905	(2,837)
100,606	Investment Income		210,350	229,283	18,933
466,409	Transfer from/(to) Cash Reserves		116,301	172,593	56,292
<u>1,931,372</u>	<b>TOTAL OPERATING FUNDING</b>		<u>1,850,393</u>	<u>1,922,781</u>	<u>72,388</u>
17,972	<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>		1,484	8,263	6,779
Funded by:					
17,972	Land Management Rate.		1,484	8,263	6,779
–	Transfer from Cash Reserves		–	–	–
<u>17,972</u>	<b>TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDING</b>		<u>1,484</u>	<u>8,263</u>	<u>6,779</u>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITY</b>					
2,374,755	Biosecurity		2,260,404	2,249,551	(10,853)
<u>2,374,755</u>	<b>TOTAL BIOSECURITY</b>		<u>2,260,404</u>	<u>2,249,551</u>	<u>(10,853)</u>

Variance compared to 2010-2011 Annual Plan:

## Revenue/Expenditure

1. User charges revenue is over budget due to higher than budgeted funding received from Ministry Agricultural Fisheries Biosecurity New Zealand for the Manchurian Wild Rice National Programme. This additional revenue is offset by higher than budgeted field works operating expenditure associated with this programme.

## LEVELS OF SERVICE

## biosecurity

The Biosecurity Group of Activities includes:

- Biosecurity

### Why we do this activity

Biosecurity is more than just managing the harmful impact that pests can have on our economy, environment and wellbeing. This activity also ensures Northlanders are active, informed and support pest management. The regional council prepares pest management strategies to determine what pests are managed and where this work will occur. A number of national agencies also have pest management roles and include the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Ministry of Health, Animal Health Board, Land Information NZ and the Department of Conservation (DOC).

### Contribution to community outcomes:

**Northland's natural environment is sustainably managed by:**

- Reducing the impact of established pests on natural values.
- Reducing the opportunity for new pests which may enter the region to establish, persist and spread.
- Contributing to making our harbours, foreshore and waterways clean and healthy through pest plant management programmes and the provision of information.

**Northland is prosperous by:**

- Reducing populations of animal, plant and insect pests which may adversely impact on the economy.
- Putting in place measures which restrict the entry of new pests to the region.

**Northland retains and enhances its regional identity by:**

- Contributing to the recognition and protection of areas of important natural beauty by implementing pest control programmes.

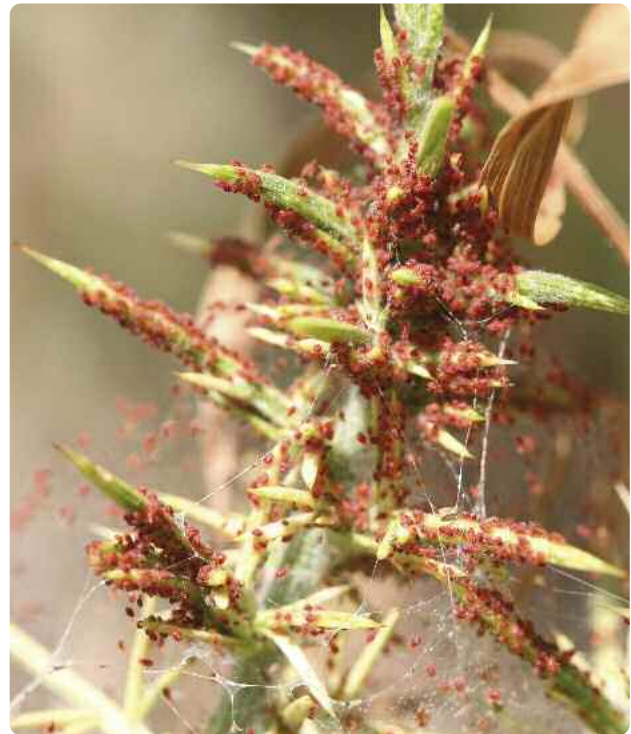
**Northland residents have access to recreational and leisure opportunities by:**

- Ensuring that Northland is a place where people can experience, enjoy and appreciate the natural environment by controlling or eradicating pests through implementation of the Regional Pest Management Strategies.

### What we did

#### Biological control agents

In 2010-2011, further progress was made in establishing nursery sites for biological control agents, releasing and identifying new agents and nurturing existing agents in Northland. Biological control is the use of naturally-occurring enemies and diseases to control pests and weeds. It is not designed to eradicate a species; instead it aims to keep populations at low levels. Using a biological control agent in New Zealand is strictly controlled by ERMA acting



under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). They assess the risk of all introductions to NZ including new biological control agents. The application to introduce a new agent must pass rigorous testing of host specificity and assessment of risk. If the application passes all these, including public scrutiny, the EPA judges that the risk of introduction outweighs any possible detrimental effects.

New releases of weed biological control agents included three releases of the tobacco weed lacebug, two releases of the *Tradescantia* leaf beetle, and the release of the broom gall mite and the nodding thistle crown root weevil.

*Tradescantia* (also known as wandering Jew or wandering willie) is a hardy, shade-tolerant pest plant that forms thick blankets that can rapidly smother and exclude virtually all other species, especially in Northland's relatively mild, semi-tropical climate. However, biosecurity experts are hoping a tiny Brazilian import – the *tradescantia* leaf beetle (*Neolema ogloblini*) – may yet prove an effective weapon against the plant, courtesy of the insect's healthy appetite for *tradescantia* leaves.

The beetle is native to south eastern Brazil and north eastern Argentina and although it was imported several years ago by Landcare Research, it is only now being released as a biocontrol agent in this country – reportedly the first time it has filled that role anywhere in the world.

Several hundred adult beetles were released in the Pataua area near Whāngārei at the end of March and in the Kerikeri Basin in late April. The releases have involved local landowners, conservationists and weed control groups, the Department of Conservation and the Northland Regional Council. The regional council's funding contribution in 2010-2011 for external contractors was approximately \$1,500 (30 hours).

LEVELS OF SERVICE

# biosecurity

## Guava moth – pip fruit project

Researchers are about to embark on a \$26,000-plus trans-Tasman search for natural enemies of the guava moth, whose larvae currently infest and ruin a range of soft fruit and nuts from Northland to Waikato. The regional council and the New Zealand Feijoa Association have secured \$16,450 funding from the Ministry of Agriculture’s Sustainable Farming Fund to help meet some of the initial costs of a project expected to take at least another 12 to 18 months. The pip fruit, summer fruit and macadamia industries are also contributing funding, as are the Waikato regional and Auckland councils.

## Manchurian Wild Rice

Almost three years into a major \$1 million-plus campaign to tackle one of Northland’s worst pest plants, organisers believe they are beginning to turn the tide in a lengthy war on Manchurian wild rice. The campaign, designed to halt the plant’s spread then steadily reduce its impact in Northland, is being carried out by the Northland Regional Council in a partnership funded by MAF.

A further \$90,000 was provided to the project during the year to accelerate the programme and target additional sites of infestation. The regional council’s budget share was \$246,002 for the year with \$270,763 spent.

MAF has declared the waterway-choking plant a ‘National Interest Pest’. Manchurian wild rice forms dense, long-lived stands on land and water margins, blocking out other riparian species. It also blocks drains and destabilises stopbanks, causing flooding and invades flood-prone pastures and wetlands.

There are now more than 300 individual sites covering approximately 90 hectares included in the programme. The campaign currently has an annual budget of \$300,000 and targets all sites of Manchurian wild rice throughout Northland. However, most work is carried out in the Kaipara district, where the heaviest infestations occur.

The battle against Manchurian wild rice is expected to be a long one – with MAF indicating it is likely to continue until at least 2020. The early years of the programme targeted outlying sites first, to prevent further spread, before pushing into more heavily infested areas alongside the main rivers, streams and drainage canals. The work involves spraying with herbicide in spring and autumn, mostly by ground-based contractors, with helicopters used where access is difficult.

## Webworm caterpillars

In February 2011 farmers on the Aupōuri Peninsula in the Far North were warned of very favourable conditions for webworm caterpillars, a pasture-devouring caterpillar which feeds on kikuyu and can cause widespread damage. Evidence of webworm feeding can be seen when kikuyu is parted at the base; caterpillars and/or bright green excreta will be present. Farmers in the area were advised that they could help to break the cycle by harrowing pasture.

## Marine pest surveillance plan

A \$20,000 Envirolink grant was awarded to the council to fund a Northland marine pest surveillance plan which was completed in May 2011. This plan will guide where and when marine surveys for biosecurity pests should take place.

## Community pest control areas

There are now 36 community pest control area plans underway which target pest ants, animals and weeds. These represent more than 800 owners and cover 32,675 hectares of private land involving individuals, community trusts and Māori shareholder land. The scheme requires a signed management agreement between the council and landowners in which the council agrees to the initial knockdown of pests and subsidises a share of the maintenance costs over five years. After the first year the landowner accepts an increasing share of the control costs so that by year six the community is maintaining the project using its own resources.



## Activity 9.1 Biosecurity

**Objective:** To reduce the adverse impacts of pest organisms, pest plants and animal pests on the environment, the economy and human health.

### 2010-2012 Performance Measures and Targets

9.1.1 Reduce the adverse impacts of pests on the environment, economy and human health.	
Performance Measures and Targets	Actual Service Performance to 30 June 2011
<p>a. Review all pest management strategies in accordance with the provisions of the Biosecurity Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out a five year formal review of all pest management strategies by 1 July 2010.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Not applicable to this reporting period</b> (2010: Achieved). During the 2008-2009 financial year the council began the process of reviewing the Regional Pest Management Strategies and decided to merge the existing 25 documents into three – marine pests, animal pests and plant pests. This process was completed during 2009-2010 and the new Regional Pest Management Strategies were ratified by the council in July 2010. The review was completed in 2009-2010 and occurs every five years.</p>
<p>b. Prepare new Pest Management Strategies as required and in accordance with the provisions of the Biosecurity Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All new strategies considered by the Environmental Management Committee.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Not applicable to this reporting period</b> (2010: Achieved). Strategies for plant pests, animal pests and marine pests were approved in May 2010 by the Environmental Management Committee. The strategies have a five year outlook unless significant new pests are identified in the interim; no new pests requiring a strategy were identified during 2010-2011. The strategies help to reduce adverse effects in an effective and efficient way by prioritising where pest resources should be spent.</p>
<p>c. Prepare annual operational plans for each regional pest and report on outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans prepared by August each year and reported to the Environmental Management Committee.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Not achieved</b> (2010: Not applicable). At year end the format of the operational reports was still under review and outcome-based performance measures, to align with the Pest Management National Plan of Action, were being developed. The operational plans were finalised in 30 August 2011. Annual reviews in the future will meet the August timeframe.</p>

LEVELS OF SERVICE

# biosecurity

## Activity 9.1 Biosecurity continued

9.1.1 Reduce the adverse impacts of pests on the environment, economy and human health.	
Performance Measures and Targets	Actual Service Performance to 30 June 2011
<p><b>d. Develop, implement and enforce animal, plant and insect pest management strategies for land, freshwater and marine pests.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop one marine management strategy to enhance the region's marine capability and response to marine pest invasions by 2010. Implement by 30 June 2012.</li> <li>• 100% of all African feather grass sites under management by 31 December 2010 and 90% eradicated by 31 December 2012.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Not applicable to this reporting period</b> (2010: Achieved). A marine pest strategy was adopted by council in May 2010 and a marine pest surveillance plan has been completed. This plan will guide future survey activities and monitoring of selected sites.</p> <p><b>Achieved</b> (2010: Not applicable). All African feather grass sites are under management and the annual spraying was completed. We do not predict to see any completely eradicated sites until 2012 but expect the 90% target will be met.</p>
<p><b>e. Conduct annual monitoring on tropical grass webworm and report webworm larval presence to property owners as appropriate.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor at least seven sites per annum.</li> <li>• Notify property owner if webworm larvae is present in more than 50 square metres of pasture monitored.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Achieved</b> (2010: Achieved). Monitoring of seven sites was completed and results showed a very high number of webworm present this year. Advanced warning of this pest can help farmers prepare for its impact. A dozen farmers were contacted in person to advise of the risk and methods for managing the problem.</p> <p><b>Achieved.</b> (2010: Not applicable). Owners within the affected areas were contacted directly and council's website was updated with information as it became available.</p>
<p><b>f. Actively pursue opportunities for partnerships with the community, crown and other pest agencies via community pest plans (CPCA) and other agreements.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish at least one new partnership with a pest agency and five new community pest plans (CPCA) annually and reported to the Environmental Management Committee.</li> <li>• Achieve at least 15% maintenance level on residual possum densities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Achieved</b> (2010: Achieved). Eight new CPCA plans have been approved during 2010-2011, three more than anticipated, and there is further demand for community plans for the coming year. A report to the Environmental Management Committee was completed for August 2011.</p> <p>A new partnership with a forestry company, Landcare Trust, DOC and local community was established in 2010-2011 to target wild goats near Whāngārei.</p> <p><b>Achieved</b> (2010: Achieved). The average maintenance level is below 10% in accordance with independent monitoring conducted during October 2010. Densities of 15% and higher represent high possum densities which can damage the natural habitat.</p>

## Activity 9.1 Biosecurity continued

9.1.1 Reduce the adverse impacts of pests on the environment, economy and human health.	
Performance Measures and Targets	Actual Service Performance to 30 June 2011
<p><b>g. Achieve low to moderate density of possums in specified areas.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No more than 15% possum density overall.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Achieved</b> (2010: Achieved; less than 10%). Average residual density is 9%.</p>
<p><b>h. Provide a pest identification service.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a response to all enquiries within five working days and report annually to the Environmental Management Committee.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Not achieved</b> (2010: Achieved, 959 enquiries). Pests delivered to front reception were responded to at the time and all enquiries were recorded (887). There is no formal recording system for the time taken to respond to people who leave the item at the counter and are contacted later so the five working days response time cannot be verified.</p>

### Significant positive and negative effects on wellbeing

The Biosecurity activity may have the following impacts on wellbeing:

Wellbeing	Positive effects	Negative effects
<b>Social</b>	<p>Limit ill health in communities by the early detection and control of pests which may spread or cause diseases, or degrade social wellbeing.</p> <p>Ensure public access and enjoyment of natural areas, including marine environments, are not negatively impacted upon by non-native species.</p>	<p>The use of pest control tools such as pesticides, traps etc could be perceived negatively by some individuals.</p>
<b>Economic</b>	<p>Limit negative economic impact on forestry, animals, pasture or crops caused by economic pests.</p>	
<b>Environmental</b>	<p>Reduce the impact of pests on natural values freshwater and marine habitats.</p>	
<b>Cultural</b>	<p>Maintain the cultural heritage values of our forests and other natural areas, including the traditional uses of natural resources, taonga and wāhi tapu.</p>	<p>The control of some species or use of pest control tools such as pesticides, traps etc may not match the cultural expectations of some communities.</p>