

STATEMENT OF INTENT



USE OF VERTEBRATE TOXIC AGENTS (VTAS) FOR GROUND BASED PEST MANAGEMENT IN THE WAIKATO REGION

PURPOSE

To recognise the values of the important indigenous habitats of the Waikato region, and to protect, enhance and restore these through alignment of our pest control activities when working with communities, landowners, tangata whenua and interested stakeholders.

To ensure that all ground control operations meet national best practice standards and that all risk are appropriately managed.

PRINCIPLES

In meeting the above purpose the Waikato Regional Council will adhere to following principles when undertaking ground pest control operations.

PROMOTION OF BEST PRACTICE: Promotion of and adherence to national best practice standards, controls and guidelines when undertaking ground control operations, especially related to the potential impacts on non-target species.

EXEMPLARY COMPLIANCE STANDARDS: Ensuring all operations are fully compliant with national and regional regulatory requirements, conditions, controls and established risk management practices. All contractors will need to provide evidence of adherence to best practice standards during operations.

ACTIVE COLLABORATION: Working together with mana whenua to achieve common pest management goals and ensuring that engagement expectations set out in relevant Joint Management Agreements (JMA) are met. Working together with Department of Conservation and other key partners to evidentially demonstrate the benefits of pest control.

SUPPORTING PEST CONTROL TOOLBOX EXPANSION: Assisting and supporting national research and trials into the expansion of the pest control toolbox, including the exploration of viable alternatives to current ground control tools.

RAISING AWARENESS: Communicating and engaging with our community about the threats, issues, challenges and opportunities in managing the forests of the region.

EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY: Ensuring that all pest control operations undertaken in the most effective and efficient way to achieve conservation and enhanced biodiversity and economic outcomes.

COMMITMENT

We agree to promote and implement the above principles to the best of our abilities to address the issues facing our region's important forest habitats.

Handwritten signature of Vaughan Payne in black ink.

Vaughan Payne
Chief Executive Officer
Waikato Regional Council
25 February 2016

Handwritten signature of Paula Southgate in black ink.

Paula Southgate
Chairman
Waikato Regional Council
25 February 2016

