

Habitat Protection



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Author

Bill Martyn – Manager Biosecurity & Habitat Protection
Aaron Madden – Environmental Coordinator

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CONTACT 24 hr Freephone 0508 800 800

help@horizons.govt.nz

www.horizons.govt.nz

SERVICE CENTRES	Kairanga Cnr Rongotea and Kairanga-Bunnythorpe Roads Palmerston North	REGIONAL HOUSES	Palmerston North 11-15 Victoria Avenue	DEPOTS	Levin 11 Bruce Road
	Marton Hammond Street		Wanganui 181 Guyton Street		Taihape Torere Road Ohotu
	Taumarunui 34 Maata Street				Woodville 116 Vogel Street

POSTAL ADDRESS

Horizons Regional Council, Private Bag 11025, Manawatu Mail Centre, Palmerston North 4442

F 06 9522 929

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Changes to the Resource Management Act (RMA) in 2003 greatly increased the obligations upon, and range of powers available to, regional councils with respect to biodiversity management. Horizons' current obligations are set out in the following sections of the RMA:

- s6(c) - "the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna" is a matter of national importance which the Regional Council must recognise and provide for.
- s30(1)(ga) sets out one of the functions of the Regional Council as "the establishment, implementation and review of objectives, policies and methods for maintaining indigenous biological diversity".
- The maintenance of indigenous biological diversity is also a function of territorial authorities as set out in s30(1)(b)(iii).
- s62(1) sets out that the Regional Policy Statement must state how this shared function is to be apportioned between the Regional and Territorial Authority, that is which authority is to be responsible, in whole or in part, for maintaining indigenous biological diversity.

A National Policy Statement (NPS) is an instrument available under the RMA to outline how issues of national importance should be managed. All local authorities are obligated to implement an operative NPS.

In February 2011, the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) released a proposed NPS on Indigenous Biodiversity.

This proposed NPS applies to private and crown land with the exception of Public Conservation Land. The intention of the proposed NPS is to provide more clarity in regards to the role of local authorities in indigenous biodiversity management, provide guidance on what is to be considered significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitat of indigenous fauna, and provide a baseline which local authorities are required to reach. The proposed NPS does not intend to limit what local authorities can consider to be significant under s6(c) RMA, or to prevent local authorities from going further than the baselines provided in the proposed NPS.

The proposed NPS captures the National Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Biodiversity on Private Land¹ that were released in 2007. The National Priorities have been identified as being:

1. To protect indigenous vegetation associated with land environments² that have 20% or less remaining indigenous cover.
2. To protect indigenous vegetation associated with sand dunes and wetlands.
3. To protect indigenous vegetation associated with originally rare terrestrial ecosystem types.
4. To protect habitats of acutely and chronically threatened indigenous species.

¹ Ministry for the Environment. 2007. Protecting our Places. Information about the Statement of National Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Biodiversity on Private Land. Publication No. ME 805. Ministry for the Environment, Wellington, New Zealand.

Ministry for the Environment. 2007. Protecting Our Places. Introducing the National Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Biodiversity on Private Land. Pamphlet Publication No. ME 799. Ministry for the Environment, Wellington, New Zealand.

² Defined by Land Environments of New Zealand at Level IV. Leathwick, J.R., Wilson, G., Rutledge, D., Wardle, P., Morgan, F., Johnston, K., McLeod, M., & Kirkpatrick, R. 2003. Land Environments of New Zealand. David Bateman, Auckland.

The proposed NPS underwent a public consultation phase, receiving 426 submissions from a diverse range of individuals and organisations. This level of engagement in the proposed NPS reflects the high level of interest in how indigenous biodiversity on private land should be managed. No final decision has been made in response to these submissions as yet.

The One Plan was developed with careful consideration of these national priorities and therefore, the biodiversity provisions of the One Plan are closely aligned to that of the proposed NPS in regards overall intent if differing slightly in application.

In accordance with s62(1) RMA, the One Plan sets out the roles and responsibilities for the management of indigenous biodiversity. Where agreed with the territorial authorities within the Manawatu-Wanganui Region, Horizons has taken on the coordination role for the maintenance of indigenous biodiversity. Responsibilities have been apportioned as follows:

1. Horizons must be responsible for developing objectives, policies, methods for the purposes of establishing a region-wide approach for maintaining (and enhancing) indigenous biodiversity, and rules to protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitat of indigenous fauna and to maintain (and enhance) indigenous biodiversity.
2. Territorial authorities must be responsible for retaining schedules of notable and amenity trees in their district plans, and other measures to recognise the amenity, intrinsic and cultural values associated with indigenous biodiversity (but not for the purpose of protecting significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitat of indigenous fauna).
3. Both Horizons and the territorial authorities must, when making decisions on resource consent applications or outside the specific responsibilities of those allocated above, recognise for matters described in s6(c) RMA and have particular regard to matters identified in s7(d) RMA.

The objectives, policies and methods for managing indigenous biodiversity are set out in chapter 7 of the One Plan. There are two principal methods by which the policies are implemented. These are regulatory methods and non-regulatory methods. Regulatory methods are delivered via plan rules which control activities that have the potential to have an adverse effect on areas of indigenous biodiversity. These rules are described in chapter 12 of the One Plan. The non-regulatory approach includes all the voluntary methods by which Horizons assists landowners in the protection of indigenous biodiversity such as enhancement works (e.g. fencing and pest control). The two sets of methods are complementary, and work together to ensure both biodiversity pattern and process are maintained across the landscape. This operational plan details how the non-regulatory methods of the One Plan will be implemented.

1.2 Explanation of Management Programmes

This Operational Plan outlines the nature and scope of activities Horizons Regional Council intends to undertake in the implementation of the Biodiversity programmes for the 2014-15 financial year. Performance measures and other targets by which performance can be judged by Council are identified.

1.3 Purpose of the Operational Plan

The activities that make up the implementation component of the Biodiversity programmes are summarised as follows:

- Bush Remnants and Wetlands – seeks to have 200 high priority bush remnants and 100 high priority wetlands under active management by the end of 2028-29. Active management means that the site is fenced to exclude stock, has pest plant and animal control programmes in place, and any necessary replanting is being done. This

programme is in three parts, (1) the initial protection or active management investment (year 1) (2) the maintenance or following up programme of weed, pest or planting (year 2 onwards) and (3) a internal monitor and assessment programme.

- Environmental Initiatives – covers biodiversity-related projects that extend beyond the property boundary of a single landowner and/or involve community groups or external agencies. The current suite of projects targets sites with environmental, recreational, social and cultural values.
- Regional Parks – is the management of Totara Reserve Regional Park. It includes pest plant and animal control and maintenance and development of recreational assets such as the camping facilities and the walking tracks. The river engineering work undertaken on the boundary of the Regional Park and its associated budget is managed by Horizons' Operations Group.

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2 Biodiversity Programme Information

2.1 Introduction

In the One Plan, there are two principal methods by which the policies on Biodiversity are implemented – regulatory methods and non-regulatory methods. This operational plan is restricted to the implementation of the non-regulatory methods. The non-regulatory approach includes all the voluntary methods by which Horizons assists landowners in the protection of habitat such as enhancement works (eg. fencing, planting and pest control).

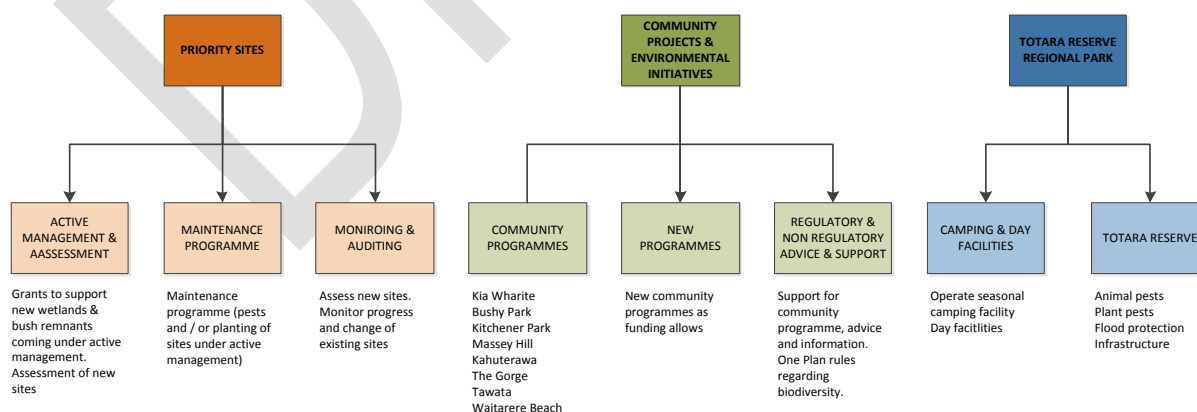
This Operational Plan reflects the key priorities for Biodiversity management established through the One Plan. The prioritised roles that Horizons Regional Council sees for itself include:

Priority Sites (Bush Remnant and wetland programme)

1. Site assessment and management., which may include the formalised rapid ecological assessment (REA) and site selection processes of any new 'sites' entering the programme from time to time; Site management (active management), including organisation of fencing, planting and pest control;
2. Maintenance of sites supported by Horizons that met qualification criteria established in step 1.
3. Site auditing and monitoring to gauge such things as effectiveness of pest control work, revegetation planting and the condition of fencing;

Community & Environmental initiatives programme

4. Support (funding and expertise) for a suite of established community biodiversity projects with an emphasis on community engagement projects and / or project that leverage additional financial support.
5. Public liaison, including awareness and education programmes, developing community group initiatives, and responding to complaints and enquiries from the public;
6. Support for Horizons regulatory queries for its One Plan rules relating to native biodiversity.



The first three points listed above come under the Priority Sites (Bush Remnants and Wetlands) programme and the remaining three are captured by the Community Projects & Environmental Initiatives programme.

Sites managed under the Bush Remnants and Wetlands programme are normally privately owned but the list of sites (see Annex A & B) does include DoC and TLA reserves from time

to time as well as “private” reserves owned by the likes of Forest and Bird. Maintenance programmes on sites accepted into the programme are assessed for their weed burden and complexity of the control programme. Pest plant control, typically undertaken in year two onwards, is not always undertaken solely within the site or even within the property boundary; sometimes it is best to take a buffer or landscape approach to particular weeds. An example is *Pinus contorta* where seeds can be blown from hundreds of metres away. Other weeds can easily be addressed by the landowner themselves and are confined to within the site or the land holding..

Projects in the Environmental Initiatives programme are more often than not partnerships between Horizons and external agencies or stakeholders and almost always leverage additional resources and funding from a number of agencies directly or indirectly involved with the project.. They range from single-agency partnerships such as the Kia Wharite project with the Department of Conservation (DoC) through to multi-agency partnerships of the Te Apiti / Manawatu Gorge project.

2.2 Labour Resource

The Biodiversity Activity is supported by funding for 3.5 full time equivalent staff.

The activity is directly managed on a day to day basis by one Environmental Coordinator – Biodiversity (Aaron Madden) and two full-time Environmental Management Officers – Biodiversity or EMOBs (Neil Mickleson and Ruth Fleeson).

In addition to the full-time EMOBs there is one other GEM staff member (Joe Martin) who spends part of his time implementing the Bush Remnants and Wetlands programme. Joe is from the Freshwater team and does 560 hours for the Biodiversity team. He also does Bush Remnants and Wetlands work involving Nga Whenua Rahui kawenata (covenants). All labour and vehicle running costs for that work is 100% recovered from Nga Whenua Rahui.

Other labour resources covered in the Biodiversity programme are 100 hours of support from the Science team (James Lambie and/or Manas Chakraborty), 120 hours from the Pest Plant team (Neil Gallagher) for managing the weed control work at Totara Reserve and 60 hours of administrative support for He Tini Awa Trust from the GEM Group Secretary (Maria Burgess).

3 Changes

3.1 Changes to 2014-15 Operational Plan

In 2013-14 Council resolved to pare back its support of the Priority Sites activity which resulted in the reduction of 1 F.T.E. and an extension to the time frames in which the wetland and bush remnant programme would be completed.

This year (2014-15) will be the first full year in which management have operated under this new regime or new modified targets.

3.2 Community support

The Community Project group within this activity has traditionally involved around 20 discrete projects and / or sites of which approximately 1 F.T.E can manage fully on annual basis. However, over the past few years this activity group has received an increasing number of 'calls' for advice, information and support in the wider biodiversity space. Typically these calls are for planting plans (where and what to plant), requests for purchases of materials, educational presentations and to organise community based planting days. Many of these community events (planting days in particular) occur outside normal business hours.

The increasing number of requests for services is seen as a positive outcome to Councils efforts to engage with community, but has resulted in a distinct and measurable increase in resources (labour) being used in this area. The management team in response have prioritised their efforts and to support this increased demand from the community have moved resources from maintenance and auditing functions (within the Priority Sites Project Group) in response.

As a consequence these projects are falling short of their annual goals. Management will continue to prioritise these requests for service in 2014-15 noting that Council recently supported this approach and resolved to discuss this burgeoning demand as part of its 2015-16 Long Term Plan deliberations.

4 Progress to Date

The biodiversity programme (specifically the bush remnant and wetland) component was started in earnest in 2007-08. The original intent of the programme, as signalled in the One Plan (method 5), was to get 100 of the top wetlands and 200 of the top bush remnants under active management (stock proof and controlled for pests) by 2017-18.

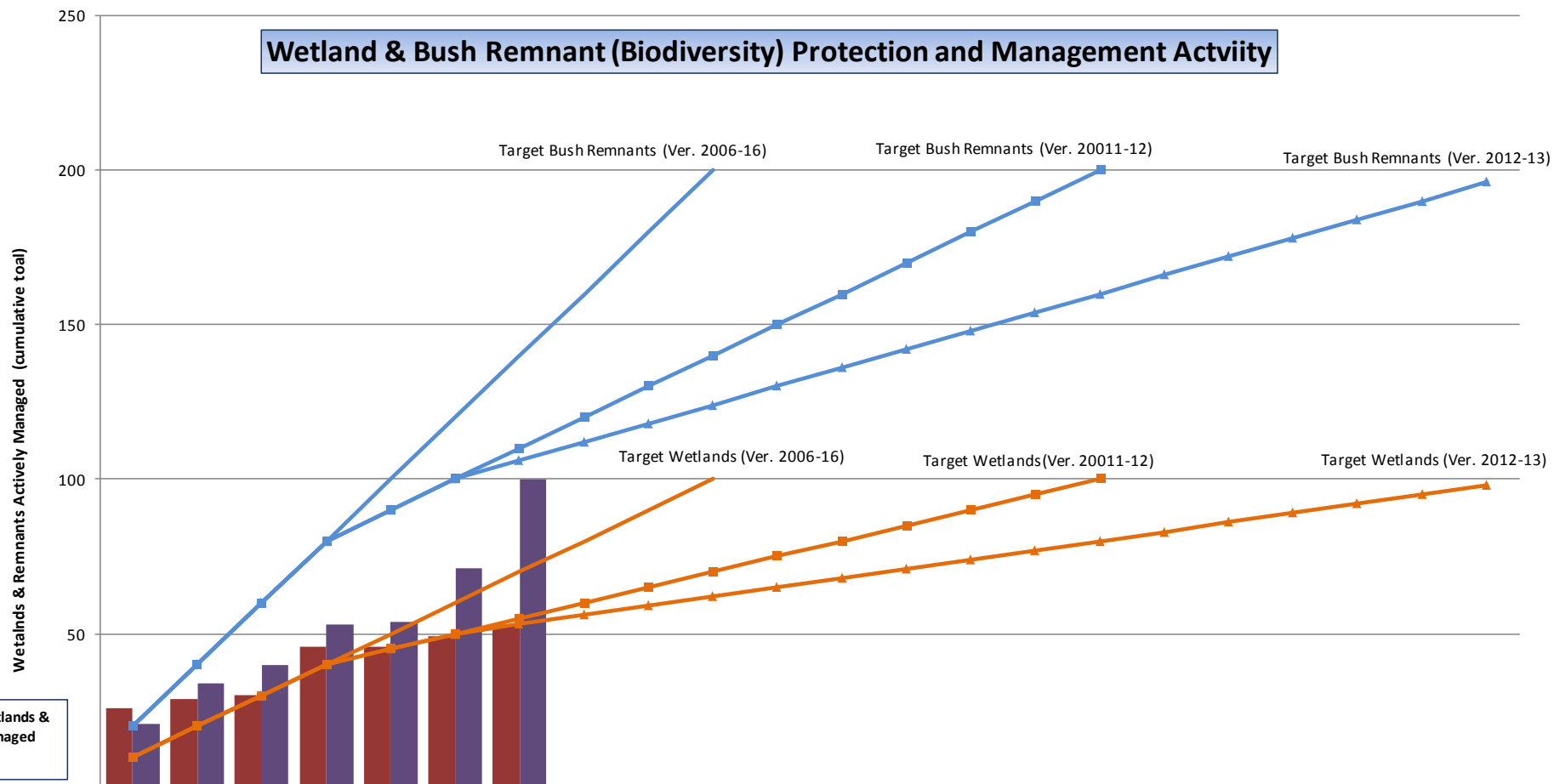
In the intervening period Council have reviewed the programme twice (in 2010-11 and 2012-13) and resolved to reduce funding and subsequently targets and the end date by which the 100 wetland and 200 bush remnant goal would be achieved. The modified targets subsequently differ from those in the One Plan and have a new target finish date of 2028-29 (see graph 1). The annual goal is now to bring on 3 new wetlands and 6 new bush remnants per year.

Last year (2013-14) good progress was made in bringing further wetlands and remnants into the priority programme. There were 4 new wetlands and 29 new remnants bought under active management.

Life to date there are now 53 wetlands and 100 bush remnants under active management. The compares favourably to the modified life to date target of 53 and 106 respectively.

Graph 1 illustrate progress over the 7 years in which the programme has been operating.

Wetland & Bush Remnant (Biodiversity) Protection and Management Activity



Cumulative totals of Wetlands & Remnants Actively Managed

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	
Actual Wetlands	26	29	30	46	46	49	53																
Actual Bush Remnants	21	34	40	53	54	71	100																
Target Wetlands (Ver. 2006-16)	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100													
Target Bush Remnants (Ver. 2006-16)	20	40	60	80	100	120	140	160	180	200													
Target Wetlands (Ver. 20011-12)	10	20	30	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100							
Target Bush Remnants (Ver. 20011-12)	20	40	60	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200							
Target Wetlands (Ver. 2012-13)	10	20	30	40	45	50	53	56	59	62	65	68	71	74	77	80	83	86	89	92	95	98	
Target Bush Remnants (Ver. 2012-13)	20	40	60	80	90	100	106	112	118	124	130	136	142	148	154	160	166	172	178	184	190	196	

Financial Year

5 Strategic Considerations

5.1 Labour Issues

The location of budgeted hours does not accurately reflect where those hours are actually spent. The labour budget for the Bush and Wetlands programme – called Biodiversity Management – amounts to just under 2.5 full-time equivalents (FTEs). Aaron, Ruth, Joe and the Science team hours are all included in this budget. The Environmental Initiatives labour budget – called Community Biodiversity Management – is 1 FTE and is dedicated to Neil Mickleson.

With the growth in community-based projects over the last few years, most of Aaron's time and some of Ruth's is now spent doing Environmental Initiatives work at the expense of the Bush Remnants and Wetlands programme. It is estimated that the actual division of labour is greater than 2 FTEs in Environmental Initiatives and less than 1.5 FTEs in Bush Remnants and Wetlands. At the very least, the labour budgets in these two programmes need to be aligned with the actual labour spend.

The loss of one FTE from the Biodiversity team at the beginning of the 2013-14 year resulted in many of the Rangitikei and Manawatu sites missing out on an audit inspection and any weed control work that may have been needed.

It would be wise to take into account continued growth in community-based projects and the necessity to undertake audits of managed sites when addressing future labour requirements. If the labour resource is to remain at current levels then changes to the scale of one, or both, of these programmes will be required.

6 Financial Overview

6.1 Financial (\$1,493,441)

Biodiversity is managed under three activity/project categories, those being Bush Remnants and Wetlands, Regional Parks and Environmental Initiatives.

From the total operational budget, Environmental Initiatives capture the biggest portion of funding with 47%, Bush Remnants and Wetlands have 38% and Regional Parks make up the remaining 15%.

Table 1: Financial overview of Biodiversity activity group – 2014-15

Programme	Rate Funding	Reserves & Other Income	Total Operational Budget	% Total Budget
Bush Remnants and Wetlands	\$507,723	\$23,000	\$530,723	38%
Regional Parks	\$204,825	\$25,000	\$229,825	15%
Environmental Initiatives	\$711,513		\$711,513	47%
Total	\$1,445,441	\$48,000	\$1,493,441	100%

These projects are funded mainly by a uniform annual charge (UAC) for Environmental Initiatives, sometimes a targeted UAC and General Rate. Two examples of a targeted UAC being the Rangitikei Environment Group (REG) that is funded 100% by a UAC on Rangitikei ratepayers and the 90% UAC funded by Manawatu and Palmerston North City ratepayers for Totara Reserve Regional Park.

6.2 Priority sites - Bush Remnants and Wetlands (\$530,723)

Work in this category is around protecting the high priority Bush Remnants and Wetlands. This includes pest control, both animals and plants. Some sites benefit from the work undertaken in the Possum Control Operations, Amenity Pest and Sites of Significance projects that are funded by Biosecurity budgets. This has been recognized in the construction of the operational budget with funding shifting out of those activities for Biodiversity. Biodiversity Environmental Grants and Biodiversity Support are also part of this project group as most of these initiatives are either Bush Remnants or Wetlands.

Table 2: Financial overview of priority sites activity funding – 2014-15

Programme	Rate Funding	Reserves & Other Income	Total Operational Budget	% Total Budget
Biodiversity Management				
Active management	\$130,000	\$9,200 * ¹	\$139,200	24%
Maintenance	\$66,723	\$4,600	\$71,323	12%
Monitor & audit	\$130,000	\$9,200	\$139,200	24%
Sub-total	\$326,723	\$23,000	\$349,723	61%
Support and Grants				
Pest plant control	\$46,000		\$46,000	7%
Biodiversity support	\$45,000		\$45,000	16%
Biodiversity EGrants	\$90,000		\$90,000	16%
Sub-total	\$181,000		\$181,000	39%
Total	\$507,723	\$23,000	\$530,723	100%

Note *1 approved use of general rates reserves

Table 3: Bush Remnants and Wetlands project rate funding – 2014-15

Project name	Budget amount	Funding type		Comment
		General Rate	UAC	
Biodiversity management				
Biodiversity Management	\$326,723	50% (\$163,336)	50% (\$163,336)	Mainly internal labour
Reserve funding	\$23,000	100% (\$23,000)* ¹		Council additions for Biodiversity management funded from general rates reserves
Sub-total	\$349,723	\$186,336	\$163,336	
Support & Grants				
Biodiversity Pest Plant Control	\$46,000	50% (\$23,000)	50% (\$23,000)	Pest control for existing sites (maintenance spend)
Biodiversity Support	\$45,000	50% (\$22,500)	50% (\$22,500)	Funding to establish new sites
Biodiversity EGrant	\$90,000	50% (\$45,000)	50% (\$45,000)	Funding to establish new sites
Sub Total	\$181,000	50% (\$90,500)	50% (\$90,500)	
Total	\$530,723	\$276,836	\$253,836	

Note *1 approved use of general rates reserves

6.3 Totara Reserve Regional Park (\$229,826)

Table 4: Totara Reserve regional Park – 2014-15

Programme	Rate Funding	Reserves & Other Income	Total Operational Budget	% Total Budget
Regional Reserve	\$169,826	*1	\$169,826	74%
Camping & day facilities	\$35,000	\$25,000 *2	\$60,000	36%
Total	\$204,826	\$25,000	\$229,826	100%

Note *1 Targeted rates reserves are available to be 'called up' from time to time. These reserves may be used to offset reduced funding in the Reserve. Reserve funding down by \$30k when compared to 2013-14.

Note *2 Income received from camp fees, rent from reserve caretakers house and lease from Camp Rangī Woods Trust..

Work in this category is all the activity undertaken in Totara Reserve Regional Park.

Remedial river works, managed by Horizons' Operations Group, will account for \$50,000 of the total budget this year. The remaining funds are allocated to the running of Totara Reserve Regional Park.

This is one of the projects that have a targeted UAC applied to it with 90% of the funding being generated by a UAC on Manawatu District and Palmerston North City ratepayers.

*Expected revenue from the camping ground of \$25,000 is not included in these figures.

Table 5: Totara Reserve Regional Park funding – 2014-15

Project name	Budget amount	Funding type		Comment
		Targeted (PNCC / MDC) rate	General rate	
Regional Reserve	\$169,826	90% (\$147,002)	10% (\$22,824)	
Camping & day facilities	\$35,000	90% (\$31,500)	10% (\$3,500)	
Sub Total	\$204,826	90% (177,502)	10% (\$35,824)	
Other income	\$25,000			Camp fees, rent & lease
Total	\$229,826			

6.4 Environmental Initiatives (\$711,513)

Table 4: Environmental initiatives activity funding – 2014-15

Programme	Rate Funding	% Total Budget
Biodiversity (environmental initiatives) management	\$124,143	17%
Sub-total	\$124,143	17%
Rangitikei Environment Group (REG)	\$95,000	13%
Kia Wharite	\$150,000	21%
Gorge Enhancement	\$42,760	6%
He Tini Awa	\$7,610	1%
Weedbusters Palmerston North	\$50,000	7%
Tawata Mainland Island	\$50,000	7%
Waitarere Community Project	\$7,000	1%
Mt Bruce/Pukaha	\$25,000	3%
Sub-total	\$427,370	60%
Massey Hill	~\$5,000	<1%
Te Potae o Awarua	~\$10,000	1%
Turitea Reserve	~\$23,000	3%
Kitchener Park	~\$5,000	<1%
Bushy Park	~\$5,000	<1%
Kahuterawa biodiversity Project	~\$20,000	3%
Moawhango Project	~\$10,000	1%
Foxton River Loop	~\$10,000	1%
Manawatu Estuary	~\$5,000	<1%
Sub-total	\$93,000	14%
New projects		
General support	~\$22,000	3%
Gate Pa Restoration	~\$2,500	<1%
Ohau Beach Walkway	~\$2,500	<1%
Sub total	\$27,000	4%
Other		
National initiatives	\$10,000	1%
Iwi grants & support	\$30,000	4%
Sub-total	\$40,000	5%
Total	\$711,513	100%

Table 3: Bush Remnants and Wetlands project funding – 2014-15

Project name	Budget amount	Funding type				
		General Rate	UAC	Diff UAC >4ha	Diff UAC <4ha	Waitarere UAC
Management						
Community Biodiversity Management	\$124,143	50% (\$62,071)	50% (\$62,071)			
Sub total	\$124,143	(\$62,071)	(\$62,071)			
Community Projects						
Rangitikei Environment Group (REG)	\$95,000			70% (\$71,250)	30% (\$23,750)	
Kia Wharite	\$150,000	50% (\$75,000)	50% (\$75,000)			
He Tini Awa	\$7,610	50% (\$3,805)	50% (\$3,805)			
Weedbusters Palmerston North	\$50,000	50% (\$25,000)	50% (\$25,000)			
Tawata Mainland Island	\$50,000	50% (\$25,000)	50% (\$25,000)			
Waitarere Community Project	\$7,000					100% (\$7,000)
Gorge Enhancement	\$42,760	50% (\$21,380)	50% (\$21,380)			
Mt Bruce/Pukaha	\$25,000	50% (\$12,500)	50% (\$12,500)			
Sub total	\$427,370	\$162,685	\$162,685	\$71,250	\$23,750	\$7,000
General grants and subsidies						
Biodiversity support	\$45,000	50% (\$22,500)	50% (\$22,500)			
Community Biodiversity Projects	\$75,000	50% (\$37,500)	50% (\$37,500)			
Sub-total	\$120,000	\$60,000	\$60,000			
General grants and subsidies						
Biodiversity Regional / National Initiatives	\$10,000	100% (\$10,000)				
Grants (Iwi)	\$30,000		100% (\$30,000)			
Sub total	\$40,000	\$10,000	\$30,000			
Total	\$711,513	41% (\$272,256)	44% (\$292,256)	11% (\$71,250)	3% (\$23,750)	1% (\$7,000)

Work in this category covers community and partnership initiatives. Some projects receive direct funding support from this budget e.g. the community initiatives like Tawata Mainland Island and Rangitikei Environment Group (REG). Other projects in this group involve partnerships such as Kia Wharite, Te Apiti Manawatu Gorge and Mt Bruce/Pukaha.

The funding types are a mix of targeted and general rating, mostly 50:50 splits. However, where the benefits are deemed to be enjoyed by smaller, well defined groups targeted UACs of a higher proportion have been applied. REG has a 100% targeted UAC contributed by Rangitikei ratepayers whilst the Waitarere Beach project also has a 100% UAC funded by the Waitarere Beach community.

Some community initiatives that do not have regular or agreed fixed on-going annual support are assisted under the Biodiversity Support budget.

Every effort is being made to deliver on the Biodiversity targets and outcomes whilst operating within this budget. Close monitoring of expenditure will ensure budgets are not

exceeded. If financial monitoring indicates over expenditure is likely late season forecast work would be deferred.

6.5 Targeted Rates Reserves

The expenditure on Biodiversity programmes can vary from budget on a year to year basis. These variations can be caused by such factors as unusually good growing seasons resulting in worse than usual weed problems. When these events occur the adverse budgetary impact can be funded using targeted rate reserves, if any exist.

Any call-up of any targeted rates reserves is subject to approval from Council and its Audit and Risk Committee. Formal approval for such a transaction (if required) will be sought from the Audit and Risk Committee as the works programme unfolds during the year.

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7 Implementation of Programmes

7.1 Priority Sites - Bush Remnants and Wetlands

7.1.1 Introduction

Due to region-wide habitat losses and changing land use, our indigenous species and habitats are further threatened by, and highly vulnerable to, pest plants, pest animals, livestock access and hydrological modifications.

The original aim of this programme was to have 200 high priority bush remnants and 100 high priority wetlands under active management within a 10-year timeframe. Active management in this context means the site is fenced to exclude stock, receives supplementary planting as required, and receives on-going pest plant and animal control as required.

Targets were subsequently revised to 150 bush remnants and 75 wetlands because the on-going cost of maintaining sites leaves less in the budget for protecting new sites. With the reduction of one full-time equivalent staff resource last year, the 10-year targets were again revised. The new targets are 130 bush remnants and 65 wetlands by the end of the 2017-18 financial year.

The total number of high priority bush remnants under active management at the beginning of the 2014-15 year is 100, and the number of sites under partial management is 32. Partial management means that not all of the steps towards active management have been completed. In most cases the missing step is pest plant and/or animal control. For high priority wetlands, the numbers are 53 sites under active management and 26 sites under partial management.

7.1.2 Performance Measures for Priority sites – Wetland & Bush Remnants programme

Table 7: Priority sites – Wetlands & Bush Remnants performance measures

Measuring achievement	Annual target	Actions required
Assess new sites	Assess all new sites introduced to the programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake rapid ecological assessments (REAs) on potential new sites • Enter REA assessment into site register
Activity manage qualifying sites	Annually add 3 new wetlands under active management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek qualifying sites • Negotiate management programme with landowner • Carryout EGrant assessment • Organise contractors necessary to protect site
	Annually add 6 new bush remnants under active management	
Monitor effectiveness	Complete annual sample monitor and audit programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual inspect agreed (sample) sites to evaluate effectiveness of programme. • Record results in corporate database
Maintain existing sites	Assess all managed sites and undertake necessary weed and pest control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise budget allocation for pest control. • Carry out weed and pest control as funding allocation allows
	Ensure stock exclusion is maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange for necessary R&M on all compromised fencing
Reporting	Report bi-monthly on which sites are added to the list of actively or partially managed sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report bi-monthly on which sites are added to the list of actively or partially managed sites • Update active sites register (see annex A & B)



Figure 1: Te Hakari Wetland, Horowhenua District. Photo by Aaron Madden, Horizons Regional Council

7.2 Regional Parks

7.2.1 Introduction

Totara Reserve Regional Park was vested in Horizons' management at the beginning of the 2011-12 financial year. For several years prior it was managed in partnership with Manawatu District Council.

An advisory group is now in place to handle the strategic management of the Regional Park. The advisory group consists of two Councillors, two staff representatives (Ex Officio), two iwi representatives and two representatives from the local community.

Some of the main issues to be addressed this year are the maintenance and upgrades of the walking tracks, improvements to signage, installation of two more electric barbecues, design and installation of new playground equipment and the finalisation of the lease with Camp Rangī Woods.

The pest plant and animal control programmes are producing good results. However, the monitoring for rat numbers needs to be reviewed as the current four monitoring lines are insufficient to support the improvements we have seen in the bird monitoring results.

7.2.2 Performance Measures

Table 9: Regional Park performance measures

Target	Actions required
Have a track upgrade and maintenance programme approved by Council.	Update the DoC report on required track upgrades with relevant costings and add new work as required.
Complete signage plan implementation.	Work with the Communications team and the Advisory Group on final design and locations.
Provide upgraded barbecue facilities in the Kahikatea campground.	Remove wood-burning barbecue and install two electric units along with shelters.

7.2.3 Planned Activity

Item	Objectives	Planned activity
Pest plant control	Manage pest plant levels for the protection of habitat values and the enjoyment of visitors.	Continue to implement the pest plant control programme.
Pest animal control	Manage pest animal levels for the protection of habitat values and the enjoyment of visitors.	Continue to implement the pest animal control programme. Review the monitoring work for rat numbers.
Walking tracks	Provide walking tracks of an appropriate standard.	Continue track maintenance programme and upgrade tracks/structures as necessary.
Playground	Provide a safe and enjoyable play experience for young visitors.	Install new play equipment at the [new] Kereru camping ground.
Camping ground	Provide suitable levels of camping facilities.	Install two more electric barbecues at the [old] Kahikatea camping ground to replace the wood-burning barbecue and install new signage at both camping grounds.
River engineering works	Reduce the impact of the Pohangina River on Totara Reserve Regional Park and its facilities.	This work is managed by the Operations Group.

7.3 Environmental Initiatives

7.3.1 Introduction

Environmental Initiatives covers biodiversity-related projects that extend beyond the property boundary of a single landowner and/or involve community groups or external agencies. The current suite of projects targets sites or areas with environmental, recreational, social and cultural values.

Generally these projects involve contributions from a variety of external agencies or third parties, with projects typically managed using a collaborative approach. As the projects develop and expand they commonly draw in additional funding from partnering agencies, and they become a focal point for economic development opportunities (eg. tourism and accommodation ventures).

The wide range of work undertaken in this programme has been under-reported in the past, possibly due to low funding input by Horizons into some projects. Those projects do require support in terms of staff time and this should be acknowledged. It includes the Honda Tree Fund work, technical or administrative support for He Tini Awa Trust and Horizons' Community Grant, work with PNCC on Edwards Pit Park and the Linklater Reserve, and school projects such as at Longburn School and Bainesse School.

This year we plan to add the Ohau Beach Coastal Walkway project that was widely supported by Council during submissions to the 2014-15 Annual Plan.

7.3.2 Performance Measures

Table 10: Environmental Initiatives performance measures

Projects	Measuring achievement	Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manawatu Gorge • Kia Wharite • Mt Bruce/Pukaha • Kitchener Park • Rangitikei Environment Group • Manawatu Estuary • Waitarere Community Project • Bushy Park • Tawata Mainland Island • Massey Hill • Oroua Blue Duck Project • Turitea Reserve • Weedbusters Palmerston North • Moawhango River Restoration • Te Potae o Awarua • Manawatu River Loop at Foxton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Kahuterawa Stream Biodiversity Restoration • Gate Pa Bush Restoration 	GEM to report bimonthly on the progress of each project.	Continue to support existing community-based biodiversity improvement projects.

7.3.3 Planned Activity

Project Name	Partners	Planned activity
Te Apiti Manawatu Gorge	Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) Department of Conservation (DOC) Tararua District Council (TDC) NZ Transport Agency KiwiRail Iwi Private landowners	Pest plant and animal control programmes. Revegetation programme. Development of other visitor assets eg. car park landscaping.
Kia Wharite	Department of Conservation (DOC)	Pest animal control programme to benefit whio (blue duck) and kiwi populations.
Tawata Mainland Island	Tawata Trust Te Amo Taiao	Funding contribution towards the pest animal control programme.
Waitare Beach Community Project	Horowhenua District Council (HDC) Department of Conservation (DOC)	Coastal wattle control on and behind the Waitare Beach foredune. Multiple species pest plant control along Wairarawa Stream.
Mt Bruce/Pukaha	Department of Conservation (DOC)	Pest plant and animal control programmes in the buffer zone around the reserve.
Rangitikei Environment Group (REG)	Rangitikei Environment Group (REG) Rangitikei District Council (RDC)	Fund pest plant control at various sites, including Spooner's Hill and Mt Stewart. Urban component to be restored via Weedbusters-style programmes in Marton and Taihape.
Weedbusters Palmerston North	Palmerston North City Council (PNCC)	Site-led pest plant control programme in urban and peri-urban areas of Palmerston North and Feilding.
Bushy Park	Bushy Park Trust	Funding contribution towards the pest animal control programme.
Kitchener Park	Manawatu District Council (MDC)	Funding contribution towards the pest plant and animal control programmes.
Turitea Reserve	Palmerston North City Council (PNCC)	Undertake pest plant control and make a funding contribution towards the pest animal control and monitoring programmes.
Manawatu Estuary	Manawatu Estuary Trust (MET) Department of Conservation (DOC) Horowhenua District Council (HDC) Save Our River Trust (SORT)	Pest animal control programme (focusing on mustelids) and management advice.
Massey Hill	Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) Massey University Presbyterian Education Purposes Trust Board	Weed control and planting programme.
Oroua Blue Duck Project	-	None planned – this project has been completed.
Moawhango River Restoration	Genesis Energy Ltd	None planned for this financial year.
Lower Kahuterawa Stream Biodiversity Restoration Project	NZ Defence Force Massey University	Provide advice and funding assistance for weed control and planting programme.
Te Potae o Awarua	Department of Conservation (DOC)	Funding contribution towards the predator control programme.
Gate Pa Bush Restoration Project	NZ Defence Force Massey University	Provide advice and funding assistance for weed control and planting programme.
Manawatu River Loop at Foxton	Save Our River Trust (SORT) Horowhenua District Council (HDC)	Provide advice and funding assistance for weed control, revegetation plantings and fencing.

8 Reporting

8.1 Introduction

The Biodiversity outputs will be reported on as described in the following table. Our aim is to highlight the important events that occur outside the planned operations as well as the outcomes being gained due to the intervention of Horizons' site management and also its community programmes.

Table 11: Reporting performance measures

Report	Comment
Annual Report	The Annual Report will report against Annual Plan commitments as they relate to Biodiversity.
Bi-monthly Environment Committee Report	Bi-monthly reports will be prepared to report progress towards meeting annual targets.
Biodiversity Monitoring Report Such reporting will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Assessing performance against budget;Targets that were met; andProblems that were encountered	The Biosecurity Manager and the Environmental Coordinator – Science are responsible for preparing the 'Biodiversity Monitoring Report' to assess progress made against targets in the Biodiversity Operational Plan.
Biodiversity Operational Plan	The Biosecurity Manager is responsible for initiating a review of the Operational Plan (Monitoring report) by February each year. The completed Operational Plan is due by 30 August.
Financial	Monthly performance against monthly phased budget will be reported to Council's Audit & Risk Committee, to corporate standard "Monthly Financial Report."

9 Annex A – Bush remnant inventory as at 30 June 2014

Site Name	Objective	Planned activity
BUSH REMNANTS UNDER ACTIVE MANAGEMENT		
Baddeley's Bush	Maintain sites as actively managed.	Continue pest plant and animal control and revegetation planting as necessary. Ensure fence is adequate to exclude stock.
Baines Bush		
Barrell's Road Bush QEII		
Barry Bush		
Bishop 5hr Bush		
Bishop Lake Bush		
Bishop Mill Bush		
Bishop River Queen Bush		
Bledisloe Park		
Bushy Park		
Cole's Orautoha [Cole's 1, Cole's 2 and Stream]		
Cook's Bush [Ohorea Cook's]		
Dobson Bush		
Durie's Bush		
Esplanade Bush		
Fahey Bush		
Field's Track Bush		
Fife Forest		
Fullerton-Smith's Back Bush		
Fullerton-Smith's Bush		
GH Dear Trust		
Graham's Bush		
Greystoke Scenic Reserve		
Heale Bush		
Henderson Bush		
Highden Bush		
Kakatahi Stream Bush		
Kavanagh Bush		
Keeble's Farm Bush		
Kelly's Bush		
Kingsdale Bush		
Laird's Reserve		
Lindeman Bush		
Malcolm Bush		
Manawakaikiekie Bush		
Manawatu Gorge		
Mangaone Stream		
Mangoihe Stream Catchment		
Matthews' No-One's Bush		
Matthews' Verity's Bush		
Matthews' Woolshed Bush		
McPherson's Reserve		
Midland Road Bush		
Morikau Bush		
Mt Bruce (Pukaha) and extension		
Nevill's Back Bush		

Site Name	Objective	Planned activity
Ngaparuru-Mangatoro Reserve [PED SITE 44]		
Ngapuke Bush		
Nga Wakahiamoe Bush		
Nitschke's Bush		
Norwood Bush		
Ohorea Bush		
Ohorea Homestead Bush		
Ohorea Max		
Ohorea Picnic Bush		
Ohorea Pukeho Bush		
Ohorea River Bush		
Ohutu Pylons [Ohutu Native]		
Oio No.1 Road Forest		
Oio No.1 Road Forest Extension		
Okahu Bush [Bristol's Road Bush]		
Okahu Stream Bush [Heinold's Bush]		
Omaha Stream [Monckton's Bush]		
Omerei Bush [Triangle]		
Otaranaho Bush		
Pah Hill Jungle		
Pakipaki Dune Forest		
Paoraameka Trig Bush [Matahiwi]		
Patterson Scenic Reserve & Perry's Bush		
Pope's Bush [Weber Bush]		
Poulton Bush QEII		
Pouwhakaura Bush		
Pryce's Rahui Bush [Rahui Bush Reserve]		
Rakauphipuhi Stream [Ti Tree Point]		
Raukawa [Raukawa Falls]		
Stinker's Bush		
Sutherland Mangahoe Reserve		
Sutherland's Bush		
Tawanui Bush		
Tawanui Cattleyards Bush		
Tawanui Cyril's Bush		
Tawanui Rough Bush		
Te Rimu Station Forest		
Te Uranga Bush 1		
Te Uranga Bush 2		
Te Uranga Bush 3		
The Falls QEII		
Tiriraukawa Bush B		
Tohunga Bush		
Tokomaru River Bush [McPhail's & Bill's]		
Totara Reserve		
Turitea Reserve		
Waipuna Jerusalem Bush		
Waipuna Journeaux		
Waipuna Mataurihi		

Site Name	Objective	Planned activity
WED SITE 16 [Mangahao Sth Rd Scout Camp]		
Whangaehu Fragments		
Wheeler's Bush		
Whitiki Bush		
Winstone's House Bush		
BUSH REMNANTS UNDER PARTIAL MANAGEMENT		
Aotea Bush [Te Paenga]	Upgrade these sites to actively managed.	Where physical, financial and landowner constraints allow, provide the missing management component. The missing component could be pest plant control, pest animal control or effective stock exclusion. In some cases, all of the management components are in place but the site status has been incorrectly reported. All sites under partial management will be checked for accuracy of reported information.
Avery Bush QEII [WED SITE 25]		
Bird Grove Bush		
Bristol's Bush [Karakia Stream Bush, Momo]		
Chan's 1		
Dress Circle Scenic Reserve		
Ederdale Bush		
Fields Track Roadside Bush		
Hautawa Stream Bush		
Heretaunga RAP 40 [Rolston QEII]		
Hokio Sands Road Remnants (QEII)		
Jean Bell Bush		
Joe's Bush		
Maewa Station Bush		
Mangawharariki River Bush		
Mangawhero Tributary Riparian Bush		
Manunui		
McLeay's Bush		
Pah Hill / Back Bush		
PED SITE 25		
PED SITE 63 [Rangedale Rimu QEII]		
Priest (Ngatawa)		
PED SITE 6 [Southern Star Abbey]		
PED SITE 7 [Southern Star Abbey]		
PED SITE 228 [Woodhouse QEII]		
Pukewhinau Trig Bush QEII		
Rangitane		
Ridge Road South Bush		
Te Namu Trig Bush		
Titirangi Scenic Reserve		
Vickers' Bush (3 blocks)		
Wright's Bush		

10 Annex B – Wetland inventory as at 30 June 2014

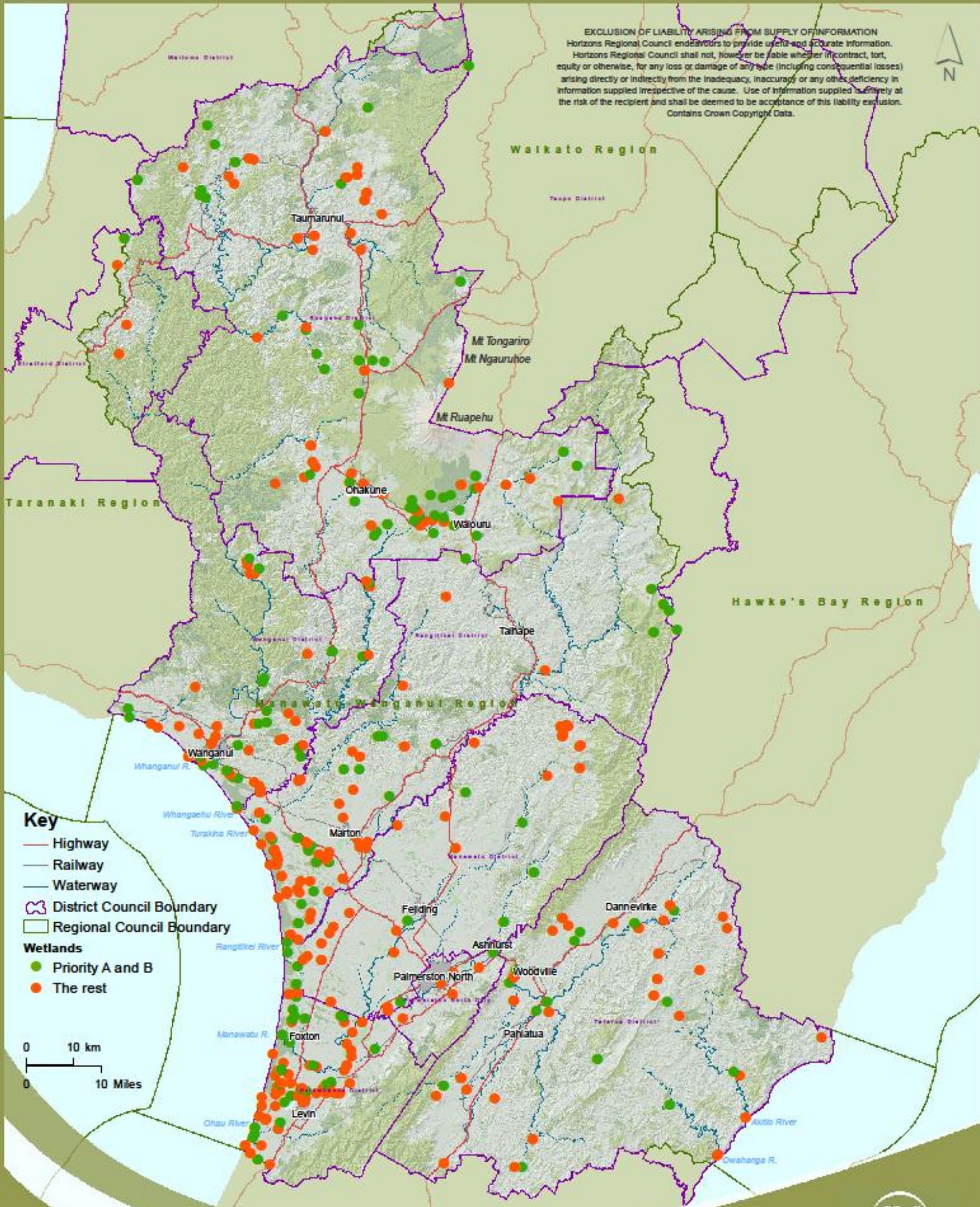
Site Name	Objective	Planned activity
WETLANDS UNDER ACTIVE MANAGEMENT		
Bailey's Wetland	Maintain sites as actively managed.	Continue pest plant and animal control and revegetation planting as necessary. Ensure fence is adequate to exclude stock.
Ballance Bridge wetland forest/Ferry Reserve		
Broadland's Wetland		
Christie's Lake [Rotokura Lake]		
Erua Bog		
Fault Fen		
Gordon Park Scenic Reserve		
Higgie's Wetland A (QEII)		
Himatangi Bush Scientific Reserve		
Hukanui Source Swamp		
Kai Kai Lagoon		
Koputara Lake 2		
Koputara Lake 3		
Koputaroa Scientific (Snail) Reserve		
Lake Alice		
Lake Horowhenua West Bush [Te Kupe Bush]		
Lake Huritini		
Lake Papaitonga/Waiwiri		
Lake Pauri		
Lake Vipan		
Lake Wiritoa		
Makerua Swamp Wildlife Management Reserve		
Makirikiri Tarns		
Nga Kawau Lagoon		
Ngapiri Swamp QEII		
Ngatukorua 1 [Te Paata Wetland 1]		
Ngatukorua 2 [Te Paata Wetland 2]		
Ngatukorua 4 [Te Paata Wetland 4]		
Ohau Estuary		
Oporae Wetland Complex QEII		
Oporau Lagoon		
Otamataraha Wetland		
Pah Hill 1		
Pah Hill 2		
Parikino Swamp Forest		
Parker Gully Wetland		
Pukepuke Lagoon		
QEII Seifert		
Raketapauma Swamp [Irirangi Swamp]		
Raurimu Station Wetlands		
Reporoa Bog		
Round Bush Scenic Reserve/Omarupapukau		
Simpson's Reserve		
Tarata Trust Wetland		

Taupunga (Bill's)/Okuku Road Bush		
Te Hakari Wetland		
Totara Reserve (wetland habitats)		
Tui Vale QEII		
Waayer Wetland QEII		
Waitewhena Scenic Reserve		
Waratah Wetland QEII		
WED SITE 50 [L Genet]		
Wickham Open Space Covenant		
WETLANDS UNDER PARTIAL MANAGEMENT		
Ashhurst Domain		
Doble's Wetland Forest		
Graham Road Swamp		
Haukopua Scenic Reserve		
Karioi Flaxland		
Kitchener Park		
Lake Horowhenua (incl. Kaihuka Swamp & Whitiki Bush)		
Lake Kaitoke		
Lake Koputara/QEII Willis		
Liley Wetland [Dempsey Wetland]		
Lund's Oxbow		
Manawatu Estuary		
Manawatu Estuary Saltmarsh		
Matatara Swamp - QEII (Aim)		
Mott's wetland - Murimotu		
Mott's wetland - Pederson Dairy		
Moutoa Flax Reserve		
Ngamatea Swamp (West)		
Ngatukorua 3 [Te Paata Wetland 3]		
Ohakune Lakes Scenic Reserve		
Perawiti's Wetland		
Rangitikei Estuary and Saltmarsh		
Tangimoana Fernbird Area		
Todd Wetland		
Tree Daisy Wetland		
Twin Lakes [Otoko]		

Upgrade these sites to actively managed.

Where physical, financial and landowner constraints allow, provide the missing management component. The missing component could be pest plant control, pest animal control or effective stock exclusion. In some cases, all of the management components are in place but the site status has been incorrectly reported. All sites under partial management will be checked for accuracy of reported information.

11 Map of Wetland location and Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA)



Top 100-200 Wetlands in the Region

Prepared by Manas Chakraborty, GEM Freshwater & Science Team, Horizons Regional Council; Drawn on 4/02/2014. Contains Crown Copyright Data.



Private Bag 11025
 Manawatu Mail Centre
 Palmerston North 4442

24hr Freephone
 0508 800 800
 Fax 06 952 2929
www.horizons.govt.nz

12 Map of bush remnant location and Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA)

