

Regional Pest Management Plan review  
Horizons Regional Council  
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## **Kāpiti Coast District Council Submission to the Regional Pest Management Plan Review**

1. Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on Horizons Regional Council's review of the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP).
2. Kāpiti Coast District neighbours the Horizons Region. It shares a northern boundary with Horizons and is affected by many of the same invasive species. Our district is also exposed to similar risks from future pest incursions. Council therefore believes it is imperative that regional pest management plans take an ecological catchment approach, irrespective of administrative boundaries, with neighbouring regional and territorial authorities working together to respond effectively to current and future pest threats.
3. We appreciate the need for Horizons to determine clear priorities as you review the RPMP. This submission does not directly address all the survey questions posed in the discussion document, however we wish to highlight several priority groups/species for your consideration in determining these priorities, and note that how you will work to develop and deliver the RPMP will be an important consideration as well.

### **Priorities for including in the RPMP**

#### *Marine and Coastal threats*

4. Prevailing winds and currents mean that threats and incursions along the marine and coastal areas of the west coast of central North Island are likely to also impact the Kāpiti Coast.
5. Historically there has been no marine plan for the Greater Wellington Region. This is now being developed, reflecting increasing awareness of invasive species arriving from the marine environment. Council would welcome the development of a RPMP which includes awareness of invasive marine species, as well as terrestrial species which are capable of

transferring in from elsewhere, such as Sea Spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*), or by dispersal along the coastline on ocean currents, such as *Phragmites karka*.

#### *Freshwater threats*

6. Invasive freshwater fish species are becoming more recognised as a threat throughout New Zealand. Species such as (Mosquito fish) *Gambusia affinus* and Brown Bullhead Catfish (*Ameiurus nebulosus*) are found in surrounding regions and are a significant threat to native species in our waterways.

#### *Freshwater plant and algae species*

7. Council supports the management and control of *Phragmites karka* along waterways and coastal systems by Horizons, while acknowledging the cost and environmental challenges of the work. Live *Phragmites* material is regularly found on Kāpiti beaches after floods and is a significant threat to the region and our district.

In summary, we **recommend** that you consider the following for inclusion as priorities in the RPMP:

- invasive marine species and species capable of transferring such as Sea Spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*) and *Phragmites karka*.
- freshwater threats such as (Mosquito fish) *Gambusia affinus* and Brown Bullhead Catfish (*Ameiurus nebulosus*).

#### **Collaboration and coordination**

8. Council supports increased alignment and collaboration between regional councils and neighbouring authorities to develop response plans capturing not just political regions, but ecological regions. Multi-Authority projects to control the management of species such as *Phragmites* from sites should be made as administratively and practically streamlined as possible, through shared and supportive processes.
9. Council supports a consenting framework that enables staff across neighbouring authorities to carry out their core functions effectively. While appropriate regulatory processes are important, they should not delay or prevent timely action to control invasive species. Early detection and rapid response to new incursions should be simple, flexible, and readily accessible, comparable to “bottom of the cliff” emergency responses.

Overall, we **recommend** considering how to make multi-authority projects easier to initiate to enable early detection and rapid response.

Nāku, nā



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**Kāpiti Coast District Council**