

Pests and biosecurity

Specific issues are:

- **Threat posed by bovine Tb:** Bovine Tb continues to be a threat to deer and cattle exports. Implementing the Animal Health Board's National Pest Management Strategy is funded jointly by the board and Environment Canterbury. Large-scale operations are carried out to control feral vectors of bovine Tb, including possums and ferrets. Programmes under the current strategy are scheduled to end in 2012/13.
- **Animal pest threats to production from land:** While rabbit haemorrhagic disease has greatly reduced rabbit levels, there are signs in some areas that its effectiveness is reducing and it is expected that conventional control methods will increasingly be required. Continued effort is required to control wallabies within the wallaby containment area. Ongoing effort is required to eradicate the small residual rook population.
- **Plant pest threats to production from land:** Containing the spread of plant pests such as gorse and broom, and reducing infestation of nassella tussock requires ongoing effort to ensure that land is not lost from production. Ongoing effort is required to eliminate plants identified as total control plant pests.
- **Animal and plant pest threats to biodiversity:** Protection of indigenous biodiversity requires ongoing management to limit the impact of animal pests and the spread of specific plant pests such as wilding trees, boneseed, old man's beard and wild thyme.

ECan plans to address the issues by:

- Eradicating total control plant pests to reduce their impact on production from land and on biodiversity
- Regulating the spread of gorse and broom to limit the impact on production from land
- Eradicating boneseed from outside the Port Hills zone to protect indigenous biodiversity
- Regulating the spread of nassella tussock to reduce the impact on production from land
- Eradicating rooks to reduce their impact on production from land
- Regulating the spread and density of wallabies to limit their impact on biodiversity and production from land
- Regulating the density of rabbits to limit their impact on production from land and on the environment
- Managing bovine Tb vector control to protect exports of beef and deer products.

A number of plant and animal pests, and the disease bovine Tb, pose serious economic and environmental threats affecting land production, increasing the risk of erosion, reducing the vigour and diversity of native vegetation, and killing native birds and bats.

STOP PRESS - Didymo

Didymo (*didymosphenia geminata*) is present in the lower Waitaki River and the lower Ahuriri River, and could spread to other Canterbury rivers. It has been declared an unwanted organism. Biosecurity New Zealand is responsible for responding nationally. Environment Canterbury will continue to assist Biosecurity New Zealand and work with other stakeholders where it can, within normal operating budgets for pest management and water quality monitoring work programmes. No additional budget provision is being made in relation to dealing with didymo.



Financial summary

