

Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan

Mahere ā-Rohe Whakahaere Kaupapa
Koiora Orotā mō Tāmaki Makaurau

2020 - 2030



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EXTRACTS – FERAL GOATS SECTION

Cover photo

Ship rat eating a blackbird's egg.

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7.7.2 Aukati haere noa i te kararehe / Progressive Containment animals

7.7.2.2 Feral goat (*Capra hircus*)

Feral goats are even-toed hoofed, monochromatic or mixture of black, white and brown ungulates. Males weigh c.45-55kg, females c.25-35kg. Browsing causes reductions in vegetation cover and density, loss of plant species richness, prevents regeneration and alters plant community composition in favour of unpalatable species. Feral populations can act as disease reservoirs for farmed goats and cause damage to farm fences resulting in livestock escapes.



Objective: over the duration of the plan Auckland Council will progressively contain feral goats¹ (*Capra hircus*) to prevent adverse effects on economic well-being, the environment, human health, enjoyment of the natural environment and the relationship between Māori, their culture, their traditions and their ancestral lands, waters, sites, wāhi tapu, and taonga.

Intermediate outcome: “progressive containment” which means to contain or reduce the geographic distribution of feral goats in the Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland region, over time.

Rules:

- 7.7.2.2.1 No person shall release from containment any goat in any part of the Auckland region.
- 7.7.2.2.2 No person shall move or distribute any goat into the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area or the Hunua and Waitākere Ranges (as defined in Map 9), or onto or between any of the areas, unless the goat is a British alpine, toggenburg, nubian, saanen, or sable dairy goat.
- 7.7.2.2.3 No person shall farm or keep any goat on any island within the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area or in the Hunua and Waitākere Ranges (as defined in Map 9), except in relation to the British alpine, toggenburg, nubian, saanen, or sable dairy goat.

¹ A feral goat includes any goat that is not:

- a) held behind effective fences or otherwise constrained; and
- b) identified in accordance with an animal identification device approved under the National Animal Identification and Tracing Act 2012.

7.7.2.2.4 Any person farming or keeping a goat in accordance with rule 7.7.2.2.3 must:

- a) meet the minimum goat fencing requirement; or
- b) tether any goat not contained within fencing that meets the minimum fencing requirement.

A breach of these rules is an offence under s154N(19) of the Biosecurity Act.

The purpose of rules 7.7.2.2.1 and 7.7.2.2.2 is to specify the circumstances in which the pest may be communicated, released, or otherwise spread.

The purpose of rules 7.7.2.2.3 and 7.7.2.2.4 is to regulate activities that may affect measures taken to implement the plan.

Minimum goat fencing requirement means:

1. In relation to an existing fence with conventional post, wire and batten, a fence that is:
 - a. a minimum overall fence height of 1175 mm; and
 - b. a maximum of 5 m spacing between posts; and
 - c. a minimum of 7 wires with maximum spacing of 200 mm between top wires; and
 - d. spaces between wires gradually decreasing to 100 mm between bottom two wires; and,
 - e. the bottom wire is a maximum of 100 mm above the ground; and
 - f. a minimum of 1m spacing between battens; and
 - g. all wires must be strained to a minimum 150 kgs of tension; and
 - h. all materials are structurally sound; and
 - i. swing or driven footing in all dips or hollows; and
 - j. which has been topped up with a top up netting fence that is:
 - i. minimum overall fence height 1550 mm; and
 - ii. any new wires are minimum gauge of 2.5 mm high tensile galvanised; and
 - iii. any existing, end and angle strainers must have at minimum a 2.1 m long round with minimum diameter 150 mm dug in and wired on to attach netting to; and
 - iv. a batten of dimensions 1500 x 50 x 50 mm must be installed beside any existing posts to attach netting to; and
 - v. minimum top up netting specifications of height 600 mm, stay wire width 300 mm and 5 line wires; and
 - vi. an overlap may be created onto existing fence if required.
2. In relation to a new conventional post wire and batten fence, a fence that has:
 - a. minimum overall fence height 1550 mm; and

- b. any wires are minimum gauge of 2.5 mm high tensile galvanised; and
 - c. the bottom wire is a maximum of 70 mm above the ground along a bulldozed line or equivalent²; and
 - d. any end strainers are 3 m long rounds with minimum 200 mm diameter; and
 - e. any angle strainers are 2.7 m long rounds with minimum 200 mm diameter; and
 - f. no internal stays; and
 - g. any posts are 2.4 m long rounds with minimum diameter 120 mm; and
 - h. a maximum spacing between posts of
 - i. 5 metres on land with less than 30 degree ground slope; or
 - ii. 4 metres on land with ground slope between 30 degrees to less than 45 degrees; or
 - iii. 3 metres on land with ground slope of 45 degrees or more; and
 - i. swing or driven footing in all dips or hollows; and
 - j. is constructed alongside any water body with an appropriate setback sufficient to avoid any slumping which may cause a breach of the fencing standard; and
 - k. two electrified outriggers at 300mm and 1200mm spacing; and
 - l. a minimum of 1m spacing between battens; and
 - m. minimum batten dimensions are 1500 x 50 x 40 mm; and
 - n. 11 wires with a maximum spacing from bottom to top of 114mm, 114mm, 127mm, 139mm, 165mm, 178mm, 178mm, 178mm, 178mm, 178mm; and
 - o. all wires must be strained to a minimum 150 kilograms of tension.
3. In relation to a new netting fence, a fence that has:
- a. minimum overall fence height 1550 mm; and
 - b. been constructed of tight lock deer netting; and
 - c. no internal stays; and
 - d. any stay wires are 300mm wide; and
 - e. a minimum of 11 line wires; and
 - f. the bottom of the netting is a maximum of 70 mm above the ground; and
 - g. any end strainers are 3 m long rounds with minimum 200 mm diameter; and
 - h. any angle strainers are 2.7 m long rounds with minimum 200 mm diameter; and

² Note that bulldozing may carry additional risk of spreading kauri dieback disease. Equipment should be clean and environmental disturbance in fence construction should be minimized.

- i. swing or driven footing in all dips or hollows; and
 - j. any posts are 2.4 m long rounds with minimum diameter 120 mm; and
 - k. a maximum spacing between posts of
 - i. 5 metres on land with less than 30 degree ground slope; or
 - ii. 4 metres on land with ground slope between 30 degrees to less than 45 degrees; or
 - iii. 3 metres on land with ground slope of 45 degrees or more.
4. In relation to any gate, whether new or top-up, a gate that is:
- a. the same height as the adjoining fence; and
 - b. the bottom of the gate is a maximum of 100 mm above the ground at all points including over any ditches or hollows; and
 - c. all components are structurally sound.
5. In relation to any fence across any water body, that fence must have a flood gate that:
- a. is constructed of H3 treated 100mm x 50mm timber; and
 - b. is suspended from an overhead wire or rail in such a way that the spacings will allow the passage of water but will not allow stock including goats to pass through; and
 - c. swings freely; and
 - d. is panelled in partitions; and
 - e. has a cross-bar positioned in the top third of the floodgate; and
 - f. is on the downstream side of any culvert.

Wire netting may not be used in floodgate construction. Flood gates may not be a single solid panel.

Electric type fences do not comply, as shortages and vegetation growth may lead to non-compliance.

Principal measures of achievement:

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| Service delivery (control) | <p>Enter any property within the specified geographic area of the programme and carry out control work on this species. Over the lifetime of the plan, progressively contain feral goat populations across the entire region, prioritising control operations by their relative contribution to excluding feral goats from Kohukohunui / Hunua and Te Wao Nui a Tiriwa / Waitākere, and secondarily by protecting other biodiversity focus areas.</p> |
| Education and advice | <p>Provide information and advice on pest animal identification, impacts and control.</p> <p>Provide information and advice on conditions relating to keeping of goats.</p> <p>Provide advice and support to community groups undertaking pest animal control, with priority given to activity in or around biodiversity focus areas, or in defendable or strategic geographic locations such as peninsulas, islands and corridors.</p> |
| Enforcement | <p>Enforce conditions on goat farms within the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area and the Hunua or Waitākere Ranges buffer zones.</p> <p>Enforce conditions on movement of goats to or within the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area.</p> <p>Enforce Sections 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act, preventing the breeding, exhibition, sale and distribution of the pest.</p> |