

## 2. WIDER FRAMEWORK

The city is part of a greater whole and needs to be seen in the context of the agencies that have responsibilities for the Wellington region and the country as a whole.

The Greater Wellington Regional Council is legally required to manage pests throughout the Wellington Region including Wellington City. The Wellington City Council is responsible as a landowner for pests on Council-owned land, and works very closely with Greater Wellington Regional Council to achieve complementary programmes and create synergies by working together.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) also has responsibilities which cover the Wellington City area, particularly in relation to the protection of indigenous plants and animals. DOC faces similar issues in managing the conservation estate and has experience and resources that can assist the Council in managing its open spaces.

Border control is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry who are resourced for such duties.

### 2.1 THE NEW ZEALAND BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

In February 2000, DOC and the Ministry for the Environment published the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy in response to the state of decline of New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity. This decline was described in **The state of New Zealand's environment** report as the "most pervasive environmental issue".

The strategy takes up the challenge to reverse the decline of New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity and identifies a number of issues relating to biodiversity on land. These are:

- protecting ecosystems and habitats
- habitat fragmentation
- weeds and pest animals
- threatened species
- information, awareness and priority setting.

The New Zealand biodiversity strategy identifies a strategy for New Zealand's biodiversity, a vision, goals and principles for managing New Zealand's biodiversity, action plans and strategic priorities, and implementation.

The four goals are:

- enhance and enable community and individual action, responsibility and benefits
- uphold Treaty of Waitangi principles of partnership
- halt the decline in New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity

- conserve genetic resources of introduced species.

The strategy identifies invasive weeds and pest animals as posing the single greatest threat to biodiversity on land, surpassing even habitat loss.

The New Zealand biodiversity strategy has as a key action to, “Develop and implement strategies and plans, including national and regional pest management strategies, to manage those plant and pest animals posing significant threats to indigenous biodiversity.”

Pests are just one aspect in the development of the Council’s response to the New Zealand biodiversity strategy. However, given the key role pests have in degrading the environment, and the significant impact control programmes have in halting decline and allowing recovery of indigenous species, pests are the subject of their own detailed policy.

Reflecting the Council’s commitment to implementing the New Zealand biodiversity strategy through its own policies and plans, the Pest management plan focuses on the wider biodiversity implications of pest control. This approach results in plants and animals being dealt with within the same policy, as a reflection of the complex inter-relationships that exist within the environment as a whole.