

# **Maintain the Gains Programme**

## **Summary Proposal**

### **1. What is the proposal?**

To initiate a new possum / predator control in the region so as to –

- Maintain the biodiversity (and other) benefits that have occurred in northern parts of the region following intensive regular possum / predator control under the National Bovine Tb Pest Management Strategy;
- Expand control into parts of the Western areas of the region that have never received work under a GW led programme;
- Slowly expand the current KNE programme to include sites within the Tb free area and Western areas.

### **2. What is the purpose of the programme?**

- To maintain the various biodiversity, economic and environmental benefits that have arisen from the Bovine Tb vector control programme;
- To create opportunities for biodiversity, economic and environmental gains in the western parts of the region;
- To maximise biological diversity in selected ecosystems of regional and national significance.

### **3. Where will the work occur?**

- On private land only. Some KNE Reserves work may occur on TA land but costs will be shared if the site meets ecosystem qualification criteria;
- GW will work closely with the AHB and DoC to ensure their pest control programmes align and are mutually beneficial.

### **4. Who pays?**

- The regional and national communities should pay for work leading to improved biological diversity, particularly for sites that contain rare or threatened ecosystems;

- All landowners with rateable properties exceeding 4ha should contribute to account for direct production benefits and opportunities, and as an insurance against the reintroduction of Bovine Tb into farmed cattle and deer.

## **5. Policy Link?**

- This programme will sit under the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022. The RPMS is currently under review. Council approval of the revised strategy is scheduled in late 2008;
- The new RPMS may require a new rule to ensure landowners comply with the programme objectives. It is envisaged that it will be mandatory for landowners to be part of the programme.

## **6. Programme Review?**

- The annual works programme will be reviewed and reported on annually via the RPMS Operational Plan and Operational Report.