environment SOUTHLAND
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Taiao Tonga

Notice is hereby given of the

Integrated Catchment Management Committee | Te Komiti whaitua whakakotahi ā rohe

Wednesday 11 November 2026 at 9:00 am

Environment Southland Council Chamber, 220 North Road, Invercargill
26/ICM/92

Committee Members

Cr Jon Pemberton (Chair)
Cr Roger Hodson (Deputy)
Cr Alastair Gibson
Cr David Rose
Cr Eric Roy
Cr Paul Evans
Cr Ewen Mathieson
Cr Geoffrey Young
Cr Lyndal Ludlow
Cr Maurice Rodway
Cr Phil Morrison
Chair Jeremy McPhail *(Ex-officio)*
Rev Evelyn Cook *(Mana Whenua)*

Agenda

This meeting will be livestreamed through YouTube and will be available to view on our website. https://www.es.govt.nz/about-us/live-stream

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Lucy Hicks
General Manager Integrated Catchment Management

RECOMMENDATIONS IN COUNCIL REPORTS ARE NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS COUNCIL POLICY UNTIL ADOPTED BY COUNCIL

Terms of Reference

Integrated Catchment Management Committee | Te Komiti whaitua whakakotahi ā rohe

Council assigns to the committee responsibilities from time to time, and the committee provides advice and reports back to Council on:

1. Provide governance oversight and recommending programmes to advance the Council's Integrated Catchment Management approach including (but not limited to)
   a. Catchment and floodplain management plans
   b. The management of Council's lease land.
   c. the Waituna catchment projects and programmes.
   d. Delivery of flood protection and drainage maintenance works, including government- funded projects[1].

2. Provide governance oversight of the operationalisation and non-regulatory implementation of regional and organisational Strategies, Policies, Plans, and By-laws[2] including (but not limited to):
   - pollution prevention, environmental education and land sustainability.
   - promotion of sustainable resource management practices.
   - the delivery of Climate Change and Hazards programmes of work[3]
   - non-regulatory elements of the Regional Forum's recommendations.

3. Managing relationship of Council with the Catchment Liaison Committees and Catchment Groups.

4. Provide governance oversight of and recommending programmes of work related to the Biosecurity and Biodiversity activities including (but not limited to):
   a. The Regional Pest Management Plan and Fiordland Pathways Management Plan.
   b. Possum Control Areas and Wildings; and
   c. Predator Free Rakiura.

5. Provide feedback reporting to the Strategy & Policy Committee and Regulatory Committee on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council's Strategies, Policies, Plans and By-laws.

Chair: Cr Jon Pemberton

Deputy Chair: Cr Roger Hodson

Members: Cr Lyndal Ludlow, Cr Paul Evans, Cr Alastair Gibson, Cr Ewan Mathieson, Cr Phil Morrison, Cr David Rose, Cr Eric Roy, Cr Geoffrey Young, Cr Maurice Rodway, Chair Jeremy McPhail (ex officio), Mana Whenua Representation

Quorum: Seven

1 Welcome I Haere mai

2 Apologies I Ngā pa pouri

At the time of the agenda closing, no apologies had been received for this meeting.

3 Declarations of interest

At the time of the agenda closing no declarations of interest had been received for this meeting.

4 Public forum, petitions and deputations I He huinga tuku korero

At the time of the agenda closing, no public forum, petitions or deputations were received for the meeting.

5 Confirmation of minutes I Whakau korero

Attached are the minutes from the Integrated Catchment Management meeting held 16 September 2026.

Minutes of the Integrated Catchment Management Committee

Held at Environment Southland, 220 North Road, Invercargill
Wednesday 16 September 2026 at 10:00 am

Present:

Cr Jon Pemberton (Chair)
Cr Paul Evans
Cr Alastair Gibson
Cr Roger Hodson – part meeting only
Cr Lyndal Ludlow
Cr Ewen Mathieson
Cr Phil Morrison
Cr Maurice Rodway
Cr Eric Roy
Cr Geoffrey Young
Chair Jeremy McPhail *(ex officio)* – part meeting only

In Attendance:

Mr Stephen Hall (Chief Executive)
Ms Lucy Hicks (General Manager Integrated Catchment Management)
Mr Cain Duncan (Whakamana Te Waituna Representative)
Ms Sarah Yarrow (Whakamana Te Waituna Representative)
Ms Michelle Powell (Operations Delivery Manager)
Ms Karen Botting (RIF Programme Manager)
Dr Ella Lawton (Regional Strategic Programmes Manager)
Mrs Mikayla Wass (Executive Assistant) - *Minutes*

1 Welcome I Haere mai

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Integrated Catchment Management Committee meeting for Wednesday, 16 September 2026.

2 Apologies I Ngā pa pouri

Resolved:

Moved Cr Roy, seconded Cr Young, that apologies for absence be accepted on behalf of Cr David Rose, Rev Evelyn Cook.

Carried

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made by councillors.

4 Public forum, petitions and deputations I He huinga tuku korero

Mrs Tanea Hawkins was in attendance and addressed the Committee on her ongoing concerns about the Ōreti Winton section of the Kānoa project and the treatment of affected landowners.

The following was highlighted:

- Mrs Hawkins acknowledged the appointment of an independent reviewer to assess infrastructure delivery and level of service at Winton.
- concern was expressed that limited progress had been made on landowner issues since they were first raised in May.
- it was noted that landowners considered the council's communications and engagement approach to be inconsistent with their experiences and expectations.
- concerns were raised regarding the absence of options analysis, impacts assessments, mitigation measures and formal feedback processes.
- it was noted that requested impacts assessments had not yet been completed and that options for level of service changes had not been adequately considered.
- concerns were raised regarding the proposed removal of gravel from private property and whether funding could instead be directed towards floodbank improvements.
- Mrs Hawkins advised that affected landowners were willing to work with Council on gravel extraction under appropriate consenting and best-practice arrangements.
- staff clarified that under the Mataura Resilient Infrastructure Fund programme, extracted gravel may be sold by contractors, with royalties returned to Council following quality inspection. This provision currently applied to one contract only.
- Mrs Hawkins reiterated concerns that project delivery timeframes were driving decisions and suggested alternative projects be prioritised while options for Winton and affected landowners were further considered.
- it was noted that a community meeting for affected landowners was scheduled for later that evening.

5 Confirmation of minutes I Whakau korero

Resolved:

Moved Cr Hodson, seconded Cr Mathieson that the minutes of the Integrated Catchment Management Committee meeting held on 9 July 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried

6 Notification of extraordinary items/urgent business I He panui autaia hei totoia pakihi

There was no extraordinary items or urgent business tabled for inclusion in the agenda.

7 Questions I Patai

Question from Cr Gibson:

" Is geo-fencing (Halter) considered to be a legal fence? Example around a water way or boundary fence, as people expect the system to operate as if it is."

Ms Hicks confirmed that geofencing (Halter) was recognised as a legal method of stock exclusion under the Southland Water and Land Plan rules, as the rules required stock exclusion rather than a physical fence.

It was clarified that this applied only to waterway exclusion and not to boundary or roadside fencing requirements, which were governed under separate legislation.

8 Chairman and councillors reports I Ngā purongo-a-tumuaki me ngā kaunihera

Neither the Chair nor any Councillors provided written or verbal reports for the meeting.

9 Reports

9.1 Whakamana te Waituna Charitable Trust Annual Report FY25/26

The purpose of this item was provide an overview of the Whakamana te Waituna Charitable Trust's performance and activities during FY25/26, highlighting progress against its charitable objectives of improving freshwater quality, supporting land-use transition, restoring waterways and biodiversity, strengthening the connection between Awarua Rūnanga and Waituna, and outlining key priorities for FY26/27. Mr Cain Duncan and Ms Sarah Yarrow spoke to their presentation.

To questions asked, the following was clarified:

- the Credits for Nature initiative could become the first project of its type in Southland, with credits anticipated to be issued early in the new year if successful.
- carbon credit opportunities had been investigated, however returns from native planting were relatively low. The project remained eligible to participate in both carbon and nature credit schemes.

Resolved:

Moved Chair McPhail, seconded Cr Gibson that Council receive the report - Whakamana te Waituna Charitable Trust Annual Report FY25/26.

Carried

9.2 Floodplain Management Annual Report 2025-2026

The purpose of this item was to report on progress in 2025–2026 developing Murihiku Southland's floodplain management approach, and to outline the work programme planned for 2026–2027, including the Mataura 'Blueprint' Project. To questions asked the following was clarified:

- community engagement on the floodplain management approach was planned for summer 2026/27 and would be linked to catchment planning discussions.
- the Reimagining Mataura group operated independently from this project.
- the Mataura Blueprint Project was focused on identifying medium and long-term flood risk management options through an agreed process.
- progress was also being reported to the Regional Climate Change Governance Group.
- it was noted that improving community understanding of flood risk management remained a priority.
- opportunities were being explored to work with catchment groups to support landowner education and engagement at both farm and catchment scales.

Cr Gibson requested that consideration be given to establishing a defined timeframe for the project.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr Young that Council receive the report *Floodplain Management Annual Report 2025-2026*

Carried

9.3 Snowpack Monitoring and Snowmelt Forecasting

The purpose of this item was to inform the Integrated Catchment Management Committee of improvements to Environment Southland's flood forecasting capability through the introduction of snowpack monitoring and snowmelt forecasting, and the wider benefits of this work for understanding future water availability.

The report was taken as read and the following was noted:

- Southland's first snowmelt monitoring site had been established at Hyde Rock on Glenaray Station in the Waikaia catchment. The site provided hourly reporting of snow depth and snow water equivalent to support predictive flood forecasting.
- additional monitoring sites were being considered within the Aparima and Ōreti catchments.
- winter 2026 had been the wettest since 1988 and the second wettest on record, with rainfall significantly above average.
- forecasts indicated an increased likelihood of a wetter than normal spring accompanied by strong winds and storm events.
- the monitoring methodology had been developed by Rainfall NZ and was also being applied in Canterbury.
- staff from the Water Resources and Monitoring and Evaluation teams were acknowledged for establishing the site in challenging alpine conditions.

Councillors discussed the potential implications of rising snowlines and noted the value of understanding future impacts on flood capacity and water management.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Roy, seconded Cr Rodway that Council receive the report – *Snowpack monitoring and snowmelt forecasting*.

Carried

9.4 Biosecurity Update and Annual Report 2025-26

The purpose of this item was to update the Committee on the Biosecurity Annual Report and Operational Plan, and to provide an update on current biosecurity work programmes.

To questions asked the following was clarified:

- opportunities to promote community reporting tools, including iNaturalist, were discussed, noting that DOC was also developing complementary systems.
- achievement of future programme milestones could require additional funding.
- electronic wallaby monitoring indicated continued movement across the Waitaki River, however, Otago Regional Council reported reduced wallaby numbers south of the Waitaki through ongoing control activities.
- avian influenza remained under active monitoring, with MPI providing further guidance on disposal methods. Environment Southland was aligning communications with territorial authorities and considering operational responses for council assets and land.

Staff advised that a future report would be provided on options for a sustainable Possum Control Area (PCA) programme.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Evans, seconded Cr Young, that Council:

1 **receive the report – Biosecurity Annual Report, Annual Plan and work programme update.**
2 **receive the Biosecurity Annual Report 2025–26.**
3 **receive the Biosecurity Operational Plan 2026–27 and update on current biosecurity work programmes.**

Carried

9.5 River Operations Team Update

The purpose of this item was to update the Committee on river management and land drainage work completed or underway since the previous meeting. Due to time constraints, the presentation accompanying this item could not be shared. This would be provided to Councillors with the minutes.

To questions asked the following was clarified:

- Bathymetric LiDAR work in the Waiau catchment near Tuatapere was planned in conjunction with NZTA, subject to suitable river conditions.
- some drainage works continued to be supported through special rating contributions from benefiting landowners.
- opportunities to improve understanding of bridge related responsibilities and develop Southland wide mapping information were discussed.
- councillors were advised that correspondence had been sent to territorial authorities regarding responsibilities associated with public asset flood risk management and the importance of maintaining strong working relationships.
- staff advised that dashboard style reporting was being developed and was expected to be introduced within the next 6 to 9 months.

Greater clarity around mechanical channel cleaning outcomes and species composition reporting was requested.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Evans, seconded Cr Young that Council:

1 **receive the report – Operations Delivery Group, River operations update.**
2 **note the river management and land drainage work completed or underway during the reporting period.**

Carried

9.6 Resilience Infrastructure Fund Update

The purpose of this item was to update the committee on the Resilient Infrastructure Fund (RIF) Programme. This included progress on both Tranche 1 and 2 and an overall financial summary and a summary of the Council Risk workshop on the RIF Programme.

To questions asked the following was clarified:

- a landowner engagement session was scheduled for Ōreti later that evening.
- further clarification was requested regarding the use and definition of "shovel-ready" project terminology.
- as part of the national telemetry project, staff advised that while cost savings were being explored within the bounds of different councils requiring different telemetry equipment.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Rodway, seconded Cr Ludlow that Council receive the report – Resilient Infrastructure Fund - Update.

Carried

Chair McPhail left the meeting at 12:45 pm

9.7 2025-26 Operational Update from Land Sustainability, Biodiversity and Freshwater Farm Plan Programmes

The purpose of this item was to update Council of the Land Sustainability, Biodiversity and Freshwater Farm Plan programmes operational results for 2025-2026. Mr Stokes spoke to his presentation, a copy of which would be retained on file.

To questions asked the following was clarified:

- opportunities to collect and report information on additional pest species through programme delivery were discussed.
- staff advised that engagement with Alliance was ongoing.

Cr Hodson left the meeting at 1:02 pm.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Rodway, seconded Cr Roy that Council receive the report - 2025-2026 Operational Update from Land Sustainability, Biodiversity and Freshwater farm plan programmes.

Carried

10 Extraordinary/urgent business I Panui autia hei totoia pakihi

There were no extraordinary items or urgent business considered by the meeting.

11 Public excluded business I He hui pakihi e hara mo te iwi

Resolved:

Moved Cr Morrison, seconded Cr Young, that in accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest/s protected by section 7 of that act, it is proposed that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

11.1 Confirmation of public excluded minutes – Integrated Catchment Committee – 9 July 2026
11.2 Wilding Conifer Programme Update
11.3 Fiordland Pathways Plan Review
11.4 Bluff Haul Out
11.5 Stead Street Update

The general subject matters to be considered while the public is being excluded, the reason for this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds for excluding the public, as specified by Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 are set out below:

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER	REASON FOR PASSING THE RESOLUTION	GROUNDS UNDER S.48(1)
Confirmation of public excluded minutes – Integrated Catchment Committee – 9 July 2026	To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	S.7(2)(h)
Wilding Conifer Programme Update	To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	S.7(2)(h)
Fiordland Pathways Plan Review	To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	S.7(2)(h)
Bluff Haul Out	To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	S.7(2)(h)
Stead Street Update	To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	S.7(2)(h)

Carried

12 Termination

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 2:20 pm.

6 Notification of extraordinary items/urgent business I He panui autaia hei totoia pakihi

At the time of the agenda closing, no notifications of extraordinary or urgent business had been received for this meeting.

7 Questions I Patai

8 Chairman and councillors reports I Ngā purongo-a-tumuaki me ngā kaunihera

At the time of the agenda closing, no Councillor Reports were received for the meeting.

9 Reports

9.1 Whakamana te Waituna Trust Partner Update

Report by: Ella Lawton, Regional Strategic Programmes Manager
Approved by: Lucy Hicks, General Manager Integrated Catchment Management
Report Date: 28 October 2026

Purpose

To update the Committee on the work of Whakamana te Waituna Charitable Trust, of which the organisation is a founding partner. The Trust's activities have direct relevance to the Committee's strategic interests in integrated work programmes and outcomes, and emerging nature-based financing opportunities. Members are encouraged to engage with the update and raise questions.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Integrated Catchment Management Committee **resolve to:**

1. Receive the report - Whakamana te Waituna Quarterly Update.

Summary

Whakamana te Waituna Trust's October 2026 Q1 (July–September) update reports the completion and approval of the Trust's FY25/26 Annual Report, which was presented to Environment Southland and Southland District Council. Management of the Mahinga Kai Pā predator control programme has transitioned to Te Wai Parera Trust, and the Pikiraurahi cultural and education centre is nearing completion, with an official opening planned later in 2026. Monitoring of the Jordan Creek sediment trap in August confirmed it continues to perform as designed. No viable sites have yet been identified for catchment-scale wetlands. The Nature Conservancy's peat carbon feasibility report is expected in Q2.

Webster Block

The 48-hectare Webster Block transferred from Environment Southland to the Trust in January 2026. As land that was purchased through the Freshwater Improvement Fund project (2018), it is held subject to a registered freshwater covenant requiring its transition from agricultural use and active management to protect freshwater and indigenous ecological values.

Since transfer, the Trust has completed fencing and gorse and weed control, established pest control and baseline monitoring, and in May planted 8,635 eco-sourced native plants across approximately 6.5 hectares using the low-cost Tīmata method, with Mānuka as a nurse crop. Winter monitoring shows establishment meeting expectations. Early hare and possum browse was managed through targeted pest control, and overall losses are expected to be around 10%. Plants protected by Garto guards, trialled on 2,000 plants, are performing well. Planning is underway for a 2027 planting of 12,500 natives on the eastern side of Carran Creek.

This work demonstrates the Trust delivering the active management the covenant requires. The Webster Block provides the legal and operational precedent for the proposed transfer of the Cracks Block, which is subject to the same covenant, considered separately by Council.

Waituna Nature Credits Pilot

The pilot reached a key milestone this quarter with approval of the Project Idea Note, which sets out the proposed project area, restoration activities, environmental outcomes and key participants. The Trust has begun developing the Project Description and is engaging stakeholders to confirm the project boundary, governance arrangements, benefit-sharing approach and monitoring framework needed for future

validation. This builds on the Trust's participation in the Ministry for the Environment Nature Credits Pilot and the Ekos Accelerator Programme, and on the biodiversity baseline assessments completed earlier in the year. The Webster Block has been incorporated into the programme. Nature-credit revenue is not yet secured. During pilot and establishment phases it is expected to complement, not replace, partner funding.

Risks/Opportunities

Environment Southland continues to be a foundation member of Whakamana te Waituna Trust and the opportunities that collaborative efforts provide.

Fit with strategic framework

OUTCOME	CONTRIBUTES	DETRACTS	NOT APPLICABLE
Managed access to quality natural resources	x		
Diverse opportunities to make a living	x		
Communities empowered and resilient	x		
Communities expressing their diversity	x		

Attachments

Whakamana te Waituna Partner Update October 2026

Whakamana te Waituna

Charitable Trust

Partner Update

October 2026

Welcome to the quarterly update of the Whakamana te Waituna Charitable Trust, keeping partners informed about the mahi of the Trust.

The Trust has a long-term vision and intergenerational aspirations. The vision for Waituna is:

Mana oranga: Mana Tangata: Mana ki uta: Mana ki tai: Mana Waituna

Ensuring the wellbeing of the people, the land, the waters, the ecosystems and the life-force of the Waituna catchment and lagoon, now and for future generations through a partnership approach.

Progress Summary

CHARITY OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY AREA	DESCRIPTION	PROGRESS Q1 (JUL-SEPT)
Rūnanga Reconnection	2.1 Mahinga Kai Pā Predator Control	Ensuring restoration success through effective predator management	Management of the predator control programme transitioned to Te Wai Parera Trust, with trapping and monitoring continuing across the Mahinga Kai Pā See TrapNZ for latest results
	2.2 Mahinga Kai Pā cultural centre	Establishing a cultural and education centre to support cultural reconnection and restoration activities at Pikiraurahi Pā Mahinga Kai	Construction nearing completion, with final finishing works underway and planning continuing for future use of the facility
Land Transition	3.1 Nature Based Financing Pilot	Investigating options for financing restoration through carbon and nature credits	Project Idea Note approved, with work progressing on the Project Description, stakeholder engagement and project governance arrangements
	3.2 Webster Block Restoration Programme	Restoring lowland and wetland habitat on purchased land blocks	Plant survival monitoring showed establishment meeting expectations, with planning underway for a larger 2027 planting programme
	3.3 Land Acquisition Programme	Long-term programme to secure land that meets Trust objectives	Restoration planning and financial modelling progressed to support future land acquisition opportunities
	3.4 Baseline Assessments and Monitoring	Monitoring restoration success and biodiversity uplift	Environmental monitoring and biodiversity assessment data continued to support restoration planning and the Nature Credits Pilot
	3.5 Maintenance Contract	Ensuring restoration success through effective plant pest management	Weed control, pest management and plant maintenance programmes continued across Trust restoration sites

CHARITY OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY AREA	DESCRIPTION	PROGRESS Q1 (JUL-SEPT)
	3.6 Peat Carbon Restoration Trial	Supporting an early feasibility study being led by The Nature Conservancy, looking at the opportunity that voluntary carbon markets might have to support and finance peatland restoration	Final report due to be published in Q2
Waterway Re-Design	4.1 Waituna Creek Long Term Restoration Plan	Establishing a longer-term vision and projects for Waituna Creek	Long-term restoration opportunities for Lower Waituna Creek continued to be assessed with project partners
	4.2 Lower Waituna Creek Restoring	Native planting in riparian areas to improve native habitats	Planning progressed for ongoing riparian restoration in 2027
Improving Freshwater	5.1 Maintenance and Monitoring of Jordan Creek Sediment Trap	Trial of a large-scale off-line sediment trap on farm for sediment reduction	Monitoring completed during August, confirming the sediment trap continues to perform as designed
	5.2 On Farm / Catchment Group Projects for Freshwater	On-farm freshwater funding support programme where the Trust will contribute 50% of the costs for projects that improve freshwater and biodiversity on-farm	Opportunities for creek enhancement and freshwater improvement projects continued to be explored with landowners
	5.3 Catchment Scale Wetland Design - Waituna Creek	Establish large scale nutrient reduction wetlands in the catchment	No viable sites are available to progress at the present time
Local Community	7.2 Community Engagement & Communication	Establish regular and relevant communication with the community and partners about the work of the Trust.	FY25/26 Annual Report completed with presentations to both Environment Southland and Southland District Council on progress Waituna Lagoon health scorecards available here

Highlights

Annual Report FY25/26

A major milestone this quarter was the completion and approval of the Trust's FY25/26 Annual Report, which captures progress across the Trust's charitable objectives and provides a record of the outcomes achieved over the last financial year.

Some of the key achievements highlighted in the report included:

- Transfer of the Webster Block into Trust ownership and completion of the first large-scale restoration planting programme, establishing more than 8,500 native plants across approximately 6.5 hectares.
- Advancement of the Waituna Nature Credits Pilot through participation in the Ministry for the Environment Nature Credits Pilot, the Ekos Accelerator Programme, biodiversity baseline assessments and project registration planning.
- Substantial completion of the Cultural and Education Centre at Pikiraurahi Mahinga Kai Pā.
- Establishment of a long-term maintenance programme across restoration sites and strong results from audits of historic planting projects.

The report demonstrates the continued progress being made towards the Trust's vision of restoring the environmental, cultural and community values of Waituna.

Read the report at https://www.waituna.org.nz/about-us/annual-reports

Cultural and Education Centre Nearing Completion

Significant progress has continued on the Cultural and Education Centre at Pikiraurahi Mahinga Kai Pā, with building works now nearing completion.

The facility will provide an important base for cultural reconnection, education, environmental restoration and community engagement activities. Plans for an official opening will occur later in 2026 when access conditions improve.

The Centre represents a significant partnership investment by Te Wai Parera Trust, Whakamana te Waituna Trust and project partners, and will play a key role in supporting future restoration and cultural initiatives within the catchment.









Cultural and Education Centre at Pikiraurahi

Webster Block Restoration

Winter monitoring of the Webster Block restoration programme has delivered encouraging results, with plant establishment meeting expectations. Early losses from hare and possum browse were identified and managed through targeted pest control, with overall plant losses currently expected to be around 10%.

The Trust has also observed strong performance from plants protected by Garto guards, which are providing effective shelter from wind and pests. Planning is now underway for the 2027 planting season, which will to include 12,500 native plants to continue planting of areas on the Eastern side of Carran Creek.



Planting at the Webster Block with the Garto Guards in the top area of the paddock

Waituna Nature Credits Pilot

Nature credits are an emerging environmental finance mechanism that seeks to fund measurable improvements in biodiversity, ecosystem health and environmental outcomes. Unlike traditional grants, nature credits can create an ongoing source of investment for restoration activities by recognising and verifying positive outcomes achieved on the ground.

The Trust has been investigating whether a nature credits project could help accelerate restoration across the Waituna catchment while providing a sustainable funding source to support long-term stewardship. This work has included participation in the Ministry for the Environment Nature Credits Pilot, completing biodiversity baseline assessments, feasibility assessments, participation in the Ekos Accelerator Programme, and engagement with project partners and landowners.

During Q1, the project reached an important milestone with completion and approval of the Project Idea Note (PIN), which sets out the proposed project area, restoration activities, environmental outcomes and key project participants. Building on this work, the Trust has commenced development of the Project Description and

stakeholder engagement to confirm the project boundary, governance arrangements, benefit-sharing approach and monitoring framework needed to support future project validation.

Together, these activities are helping establish the foundations for a potential nature credits project that could attract long-term investment into native planting, wetland restoration, biodiversity enhancement and cultural outcomes across the Waituna catchment.





For further information contact:

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9.2 Thriving Southland Grant Variation

Report by: Rachael Millar, Chief Advisor
Approved by: Stephen Hall, Chief Executive
Report Date: 15 October 2026

Purpose

To seek approval to vary the current Thriving Southland grant agreement so that the confirmed unspent balance can be applied to eligible wetland and associated riparian projects.

Summary

Council approved a $215,000 contribution to Thriving Southland through the 2025/26 Annual Plan. The related grant agreement directs the funding to stream walks, biodiversity corridors, the Whitebait Connection programme, farm systems with landscape work, and associated programme support.

Thriving Southland has asked to redirect the remaining balance, around $115,000, into its wetland fund. Wet weather has contributed to the previous uses of the funding coming to a halt, while there is stronger interest in support for wetland projects. The proposed reallocation aligns with Council's strategic priorities and the Regional Forum recommendations. As it would change the agreed activities and budget, a written variation to the grant agreement is required.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council resolve to:

1 receive the report - Thriving Southland Grant Variation.
2 approve the reallocation of the unspent balance of the $215,000 Thriving Southland grant to eligible wetland and associated riparian projects.
3 direct staff to finalise and execute the necessary variation to the grant agreement.

Background

The grant agreement has an end date of 31 December 2026. It requires the grant to be used for the agreed purpose and activities, and provides that any amendment must be in writing and signed by authorised representatives of both parties.

The proposed variation would:

- confirm the amount being reallocated and reduce the affected existing programme budgets;
- allow that amount to be used for eligible wetland restoration or creation, riparian planting, sediment traps and related work;
- apply appropriate project assessment, health and safety, consenting, expenditure verification and reporting requirements;
- ensure the funding does not duplicate other Council or public funding; and
- extend the end date and reporting date if required to allow the approved projects to be completed.

Risks/Opportunities

The proposal provides an opportunity to redirect funding from activities that have been halted, in part because of wet weather, to wetland projects for which there is strong interest. This remains aligned with Council's strategic priorities and the Regional Forum recommendations, and supports practical, catchment-led environmental action. The principal risks are unclear accountability, duplication with other grants, or funding activities outside the approved scope. These risks can be managed through the written variation, project eligibility criteria, confirmation of co-funding, and separate reporting on the reallocated amount.

Views of affected parties

Thriving Southland has requested the change. No wider engagement is proposed because the decision concerns the use of an existing grant and does not increase Council funding. The variation should require Thriving Southland to work with relevant landowners, catchment groups and mana whenua where individual projects may affect their interests.

Fit with strategic framework

OUTCOME	CONTRIBUTES	DETRACTS	NOT APPLICABLE
Managed access to quality natural resources	X		
Diverse opportunities to make a living	X		
Communities empowered and resilient	X		
Communities expressing their diversity	X		

Compliance with Significance and Engagement Policy

The proposal reallocates an existing grant and does not alter the total funding already approved by Council. It is therefore not considered significant under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Considerations

Financial implications

There is no increase to the approved $215,000 grant. The amount available for reallocation will be limited to the unspent balance of $115,000.

Legal implications

The existing agreement requires amendments to be in writing and signed by authorised representatives. A formal variation will be prepared to change the grant purpose, activities, budget and reporting requirements.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi implications

Wetland projects may affect matters of interest to mana whenua, including freshwater, biodiversity and sites of cultural significance. The variation should require appropriate engagement with mana whenua where relevant to an individual project. No direct change to existing Māori rights or interests is proposed through the funding decision itself.

Attachments

Nil

9.3 Healthy Catchments programme – Wetland Project Update

Report by: Simon Stokes, Land Sustainability Manager
Approved by: Lucy Hicks, General Manager Integrated Catchment Management
Report Date: 11 November 2026

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on progress with the Wetland Project and seek approval to establish a regional wetlands partnership group. The project is one of Council's Delivering Well strategic priorities.

Summary

This report seeks approval to establish a regional wetlands partnership group as part of the Wetland Project.

The proposed group would bring together mana whenua, agencies, community groups, landowners and others involved in protecting, restoring and constructing wetlands across Murihiku Southland. It would provide a forum to:

- share information and expertise
- better coordinate regional effort and investment
- support the protection and restoration of natural wetlands
- enable the construction of new wetlands to help reduce contaminant losses to waterways
- provide a coordinated regional voice on wetland matters.

Establishing the group would give effect to recommendation 6.2 of the Regional Forum's 2022 recommendations.

A range of community groups, agencies and individuals are already working to construct, restore and protect wetlands across the region. Bringing these parties together would help reduce duplication, identify opportunities for collaboration and make better use of available resources. With changes to the resource management system and associated legislation under way, it is also timely to establish a coordinated regional forum that can share information and respond to emerging opportunities and requirements.

The cost of establishing and supporting the group is expected to be minimal, while the potential benefits from improved coordination, effectiveness and efficiency are significant. The greater risk is inaction, which could contribute to continued wetland degradation and decline and create reputational risk for Council in its relationships with Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku, partner organisations and communities.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Integrated Catchment Management Committee **resolve to:**

1. **Receives the report Delivering Well - Wetlands Project update;**
2. **Approves the establishment of a Regional Wetlands Taskforce; and,**
3. **Appoints *x* councillors to the Wetland Taskforce.**

Background

Wetlands were once a significant feature of Murihiku Southland's landscape, but their extent has declined substantially over time.

In 2020, Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku expressed an aspiration to restore the extent of wetlands lost since 1995 by 2035. This aspiration was reflected and expanded on by the Regional Forum in 2022. The Forum identified the protection, restoration and construction of wetlands at scale as a strategic investment in the region's freshwater resources. Its recommendations included establishing a multi-agency approach to planning and managing wetlands across the region.

In 2024, Environment Southland released a report confirming that the loss of natural wetlands was continuing. The report also identified challenges in mapping wetland extent and applying the relevant national legislative requirements.

A range of landowners, community groups, agencies and other organisations are already working to protect, restore and construct wetlands across the region. However, there is currently no regional mechanism to bring these parties together, coordinate activity and support shared outcomes.

Environment Southland has three strategic priority areas which reflect Council's direction to sharpen organisational focus, actively shape the reform environment and accelerate progress in areas including flood resilience, integrated catchment management, spatial planning and regulatory reform. The Delivering Well strategic priority area is focused on achieving practical outcomes in areas where coordinated effort can accelerate progress. The Wetlands Project is a current area of focus within Delivering Well.

Wetland Project

The Wetland Project is focused on enabling action and improving our ability to work effectively with landowners, mana whenua, agencies, industry and communities to support practical wetland outcomes on the ground. This includes building clearer pathways, reducing barriers, improving coordination and strengthening the system capability needed to support wetland restoration, expansion and construction at scale over time.

This approach complements broader community and catchment engagement already under way and supports Environment Southland's role as an integrator, enabler and partner in delivering long-term environmental improvement.

Wetland protection, large-scale restoration and constructed wetlands were identified by the Regional Forum as important nature-based solutions to improve water quality, enhance biodiversity, strengthen climate resilience and reduce flood impacts across Southland. The protection of existing wetlands is also included in the provisions of the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan.

Environment Southland has an important role in supporting actions that build momentum, strengthen partnerships and enable more wetland restoration and construction activity over time.

Protection of existing wetlands and the prevention of further wetland loss will continue principally through the Biodiversity Programme, along with Environment Southland's statutory functions and compliance activity. Consistent messaging about the importance of protecting remaining wetlands and constructing new wetlands will be embedded throughout Healthy Catchments and Flood Resilience engagement and delivery.

The Wetland Project plan is based on the following workstreams:

1. Wetland Taskforce: a partnership for Murihiku Southland

This workstream will establish a coordinated forum that brings together key agencies, delivery partners, mana whenua, landowners, industry groups and community representatives involved in natural and constructed wetland work across the region.

The Wetland Taskforce is intended to support the long-term protection and enhancement of natural wetlands and increase the use of constructed wetlands to reduce the effects of contaminants on waterways and improve biodiversity outcomes.

Success will be measured through an increase in the area and ecological condition of natural wetlands through their enhancement and management, as well as an increase in the number of constructed wetlands. The Wetland Taskforce will help define the appropriate measures and level of success.

The Wetland Taskforce will aim to:

- improve coordination and alignment across Murihiku Southland;
- identify barriers and opportunities; clarify roles and responsibilities;
- support shared prioritisation and investment decisions;
- strengthen relationships and collective capability; and
- clarify the requirements for a wetland toolkit.

It could also consider establishing flagship demonstration sites for the long-term management of natural and constructed wetlands.

These collective purposes will help ensure Environment Southland provides leadership and plays an effective system-level role in achieving the region's long-term ambitions for natural wetlands and the use of constructed wetlands.

The initial estimated cost of establishing the Wetland Taskforce by the end of 2026 is $15,000 of reallocated internal staff time and $2,000 from the Biodiversity Programme budget.

Activity by staff and the Wetland Taskforce would then begin in earnest during the remainder of 2026/27. The estimated cost for this period is $60,000 of reallocated internal staff time and $5,500 from the Biodiversity Programme budget.

Taskforce members would generally be expected to meet the cost of their own time. However, it is recommended that Council consider setting an attendance stipend that eligible members may choose to accept or decline.

2. Funding and investment alignment

This workstream will clarify the funding available through Environment Southland and partner organisations, improve transparency around prioritisation decisions and align investment with agreed regional priorities, including the wetland prioritisation framework.

It will include improving visibility of where funding is directed, identifying gaps or duplication and assessing whether investment is achieving the intended environmental and community outcomes.

The scope, timing and cost of this work will depend on advice from the Wetland Taskforce. For 2026/27, the initial estimated cost is $7,000 of reallocated internal staff time and $10,000 from the Biodiversity Programme budget for specialist investment advice.

3. Develop a wetland toolkit providing practical guidance and enabling tools

This workstream will publish accessible guidance, templates, forms and supporting material to make wetland projects easier to initiate and deliver. It will include education resources, consenting guidance and technical information tailored to landowners, catchment groups, contractors and community organisations.

The scope, timing and cost of this work will also depend on advice from the Wetland Taskforce. For 2026/27, the initial estimated cost is $87,000 of reallocated internal staff time, $10,000 from the Biodiversity Programme budget for specialist contractor guidance and $1,500 to support the Wetland Taskforce's involvement.

4. Protection and compliance activity

In parallel with the enabling workstreams above, Environment Southland will continue to advance a proactive wetland compliance programme. This will focus on identifying areas at risk of wetland loss and taking timely compliance action, where required, to prevent further degradation. Engagement with landowners and land managers will be supported by staff from the Biodiversity, Land Sustainability and Science teams.

Staff have developed a list of significant natural wetlands based on the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan, previous science work and wetlands surveyed by Wildlands Consultants.

The Biodiversity team will contact landowners with identified sites to ask whether they are interested in participating in the Key Native Ecosystem Programme. Through the programme, Environment Southland can work with landowners to develop biodiversity management plans and consider potential grant funding. Landowners will also be reminded of their obligations under the current rules protecting wetlands from drainage and loss of area.

The Biodiversity team will continue to have a central role in improving the protection and management of natural wetlands, supported by Environment Southland's statutory and compliance functions.

Appendix 1 provides a further breakdown of the Wetland Project plan for the next 12 months.

Recommendation

There is a clear purpose for establishing a Wetland Taskforce to support the long-term protection and enhancement of natural wetlands and increase the use of constructed wetlands to reduce the effects of contaminants on waterways and improve biodiversity outcomes. The Taskforce would also provide a Murihiku Southland-wide perspective on the content of the proposed wetland toolkit and whether demonstration sites should be established.

The established a multi-agency approach to wetland management in the region aligns with the Regional Forum's recommendations along with Council and Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku planning documents.

It is proposed that the Committee appoints [x] councillors to support the establishment of the Wetland Taskforce. It will also be important to kōrero with Te Ao Mārama Incorporated about the potential appointment of a representative during the establishment phase.

The councillors, and a Te Ao Mārama Incorporated representative should one be appointed, would assist with establishing the Taskforce, including the appointment process and communicating its purpose to key partners and communities.

It is proposed that the Wetland Taskforce have non-statutory status and that its continuation and membership be reconsidered as required. It is also proposed that Council approve the payment of an attendance stipend to eligible appointed members, which members may choose to accept or decline.

The estimated budget to support the Wetland Taskforce in 2026/27 is $7,500 from the Biodiversity Programme.

It is recommended that the Committee:

- approves the establishment of a non-statutory Wetland Taskforce to support the protection and enhancement of natural wetlands and the use of constructed wetlands across Murihiku Southland
- appoints [x] councillors to support the establishment of the Wetland Taskforce
- notes that staff will kōrero with Te Ao Mārama Incorporated about the potential appointment of a representative to support the establishment of the Wetland Taskforce
- agrees that the continuation and membership of the Wetland Taskforce will be reconsidered following each local government election
- approves the payment of an attendance stipend, set by Council, to eligible appointed members who choose to accept it
- notes that $7,500 is available from the Biodiversity Programme budget to support the Wetland Taskforce in 2026/27.

Risks/Opportunities

The main risk to Council from not progressing the Wetland Taskforce is the loss of an opportunity to take a more focused and effective approach to preventing further degradation of wetlands across Murihiku Southland.

The opportunity is for Council to provide leadership and direction in a partnership setting, supporting the protection and restoration of natural wetlands and the use of constructed wetlands to reduce the effects of contaminants on waterways.

A summary of the potential project risks and proposed mitigations is provided below.

Risk category	Risk area	Scale of risk	Risk Mitigation
Strategic	Governance Council Reputation Financial capacity Community/landowner relations Impact on the organisation Regional benefit unclear	Low High Low High-Medium Low Medium - Low	Clarity of purpose and reporting Successful delivery and outputs Effective/efficient use of budget Inclusive engagement/communication ICM programming, wetland type clarity Reporting results on outputs/outcomes
Operational	Implementation Staff capacity Staff capability Financial capability Communication	Medium-Low Low Low Low Medium - Low	Effective operational programmes Sustained resources Increased/improved knowledge/skills Organised project management Communications plan implementation

Views of affected parties

As noted previously, the Regional Forum's June 2022 report placed a strong emphasis on the protection, restoration and construction of wetlands across Murihiku Southland. The report was accepted and approved by the Te Ao Mārama Incorporated Board as the representative body of the Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku rūnaka.

Since 2022, Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku has sought a more proactive approach from Council to progressing the Regional Forum's recommendations. Te Ao Mārama Incorporated is aware of Council's current approach through its strategic priorities, including the Wetland Project.

The report author has discussed the project with Te Ao Mārama Incorporated staff. They are aware of the project plan and are supportive of work that will improve wetland outcomes.

Fit with strategic framework

OUTCOME	CONTRIBUTES	DETRACTS	NOT APPLICABLE
Managed access to quality natural resources	√		
Diverse opportunities to make a living	√		
Communities empowered and resilient	√		
Communities expressing their diversity	√		

Compliance with Significance and Engagement Policy

This report is consistent with the Significance and Engagement Policy (Kaupapa Here Whai Putake me te Tūhonohono), as the proposal has been shared and discussed with Te Ao Mārama Incorporated. Further engagement in accordance with the policy will occur if the Wetland Taskforce is approved to proceed.

Considerations

Financial implications

The financial implications are stated in the report text and are accommodated within existing budgets.

Legal implications

None.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi implications

The Wetlands Taskforce provides an opportunity to give practical effect to the aspirations and recommendations relating to wetlands contained in the Regional Forum's June 2022 report, He Huarahi mō Ngā Uri Whakatapu – Charter of Understanding, Te Tangi a Tauira – The Cry of the People, and the 2024–2034 Long-term Plan – Investing in Southland Whakangao ki Murihiku.

The project will enable Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku to participate in and partner with Council in implementing these commitments. This includes protecting and restoring natural wetlands and supporting the wider environmental and cultural outcomes associated with wetlands, including the protection of taonga and kaimoana.

Attachments

Appendix 1 – Wetland Project Plan

Appendix 1: Wetland Project Plan

The following detail is an in-depth look at the Wetland Project Workstreams.

Project 1 – Establish a Southland Wetland Taskforce

Objective 1 **-** Deliver the aims of the Wetland Taskforce

Sub-objective

- Improve coordination, alignment and partnership approach across organisations.
- Taskforce associated project is to coordinate investment into natural habitat sites and wetlands constructed for mitigations use.

Deliverables

- Establish wetland taskforce with operational focus
- Investigate and develop investment options and framework

Tasks

Tasks are based on the Taskforce focusing on natural habitat sites and wetlands constructed for mitigation use:

1. Establishment phase for the taskforce (clear purpose, stakeholder socialising/process for appointment)
2. Identify membership and seek acceptance of role
3. Complete inaugural hui - establish type of governance required (with members?)
4. Develop Terms of Reference (with members)
5. Support the development of an action plan
6. Ensure focus on known significant sites and locations (as per Southland Land and Water plan and other surveyed high value sites)
7. Identify barriers and recommend improvements to protecting and constructing wetlands
8. Develop investment framework and source funding options aligning partner funding
9. Deliver quarterly or 6 monthly) hui with reporting to Taskforce and

Project 2 – Develop a wetland toolkit which provides practical guidance and enabling tools

Objective 2 **-** Develop a wetland toolkit for Murihiku Southland for natural habitat sites and wetlands constructed for mitigation use.

Sub-objective 1

Develop a suite of standard wetland designs suitable for Southland conditions to reduce barriers for landowners and project partners based on natural habitat sites and wetlands constructed for mitigations use.

Deliverable

Develop and complete a wetland Toolkit

Task

Tasks are the same for natural habitat site and wetland constructed for mitigation use:

1. Review existing Council information including Council plans and rules
2. Develop standard design templates to provide guidance
3. Technical review of No2
4. Wetland taskforce and Internal approval
5. Publish design library and online resources (e.g. podcasts/videos and factsheets)
6. Application form to construct wetlands
7. Prepare contractor guidance
8. Approval by Taskforce and or Sponsor/Exec/Council

Sub-objective 2

Create flagship wetland projects that demonstrate best practice.

Deliverables

- Establish demonstration wetlands – natural habitat and wetland constructed for mitigation use
- Establish a monitoring programme

Tasks

1. Select suitable Murihiku Southland sites (by consensus for Wetland Taskforce to discuss)
   Natural habitat site(s)
2. Finalise location(s) based on wetland type
3. Build working partnership with landowners
4. Develop plan for site as demonstration use – additional work required e.g. planting, signage
   Wetland constructed for mitigation use
5. Finalise location (s) based on design
6. Obtain approvals
7. Complete concept designs
8. Construct wetland for mitigation use as demonstration
9. Install monitoring equipment
10. Develop interpretation and education material and hold field days

9.4 RIF programme report

Report by: Karen Botting, Programme Manager Resilient Infrastructure Fund
Approved by: Lucy Hicks, General Manager Integrated Catchment Management
Report Date: 19 October 2026

Purpose

To update the committee on the Resilient Infrastructure Fund (RIF) Programme delivery. This includes progress of both Tranche 1 and 2 projects with an overall financial summary of expenditure and revenue.

Summary

Tranche 1 works to be restarted soon are the Te Anau Basin flood bank and hydraulic capacity works, and the Oreti Dipton West works. Both projects have been paused due to winter weather. Te Anau has 3-4 weeks' worth of work so will meet the agreement completion date of 31 December 2026.

The Tranche 2 funding agreement conditions precedent has been submitted to Kanoa for approval. Once operational, the agreement entitles council to draw down on the suspensory loan post the end of any financial quarter for the agreed milestones.

Tranche 2 enabling work on the Mataura River at Gore creating channel capacity, is organised to restart the final minor works of regrassing the berm and stabilising around the partially uncovered Gore District Council (GDC) stormwater outlet pipes.

Tranche 2 Oreti floodplain stage 2 works combined for prioritisation with the remaining tranche 1 works, has progressed to landowner engagement, final design and where necessary consent planning. A basis of design memo has been recommended for review by the Southland Technical Advisory Group (STAG). The affected landowner meeting held in September was well received.

Our share of the national telemetry project is on track, with the first water level site installed.

All projects are on track, with expenditure in line with budget expectations and grant revenue claimed to 30 September 2026.

A review of programme risks has been undertaken with 24 risks being managed through mitigations to support a clear pathway to delivery.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Integrated Catchment Management Committee **resolve to:**

1 Receive the report - {Resilient Infrastructure Fund Programme Update – October 2026}

Background

Environment Southland has two signed funding agreements with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) for a total project cost of $31.35M, with a funding share of 60% ($18.81M) via the Governments Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF). Environment Southland’s share if 40% being $12.54M.

Tranche 1 signed in 2024, is a grant agreement for three flood resilience projects - the Aparima is complete, the Te Anau Basin is nearing completion, and the Oreti floodplain stage 1 has a completion date of March 2028.

Tranche 2 signed in April 2026 for two flood resilience projects. This funding was confirmed via a signed suspensory loan agreement. The Oreti scheme receives further funding for flood bank remediation, along with works within the Invercargill city for flood resilience on the Otepuni Creek. The final project is, Mataura River flood protection improvements, where channel capacity, rock walls and flood bank works are the main physical works activities, alongside the development of a catchment blueprint.

Important to note, all the tranche 2 projects include technical validation stages throughout the 2026/27 year, meaning that work for the 2026/27 construction season is likely to be smaller less complex work.

Tranche 1

Ōreti Floodplain Project

An information session was held at the Salvation Army Hall in Winton on the 16th of September 2026 for the Ōreti Floodplain Project. It was an invite only for landowners affected by either physical work, access requirements or possible impact of floodbank realignments.

After a welcome and arrival from 6.00 pm, the team gave an overview of what is happening now and why, how priorities are decided, where flood modelling fits, and what happens next.

The evening then moved into informal discussion at three stations, covering flood bank (inspection, planning and maintenance), modelling and flood behaviour, and the project pathway and next steps.

This gave landowners the chance to look at maps, share their local knowledge and speak directly with the team. The session closed after 8pm.

Landowners raised a wide range of questions, from delivery timeframes and flexibility within the project, to long term maintenance, gravel build up around the Winton Bridge, levels of service and future development in Winton. Property specific conversations will continue separately with individual landowners.

Following the meeting all invitees have been provided with a summary of the evening.

The physical works being undertaken at Dipton West for Flood bank remediation have restarted post a winter pause. In preparation for the restart, a cross-section survey and site walk over to ground truth the survey results, related to the remaining works, have been undertaken. This combined with a review of the cost of works to date has identified that contract variations will be required due to this information not being available to the contractor during the tender process. The key changes are based on 3 key principles.

1. The actual material required for the floodbank works completed to date (1.3km) is higher than estimated.
2. The ground truthing of the remaining works (4.3km) has confirmed that the average amount of material required is likely to be higher than the original estimate, similar to the quantities used to date.
3. Fencing design has required review since the original scope, due to deer damage resulting in additional temporary electric fencing.

Variations are a standard contract mechanism used to accommodate change to the priced schedule. The current variations are being worked through by the project team.

There is risk that the outcome of the variations means that some lower priority works may not be achieved under this programme and would be transferred to core operational work.

Priority areas at Centre Bush and Winton are being progressed along with the Tranche 2 locations. More detail within the Tranche 2 summary.

Willow clearance activity has a final area (~1.2ha) to be completed. This is expected to start in November and take 2-3 weeks to complete.

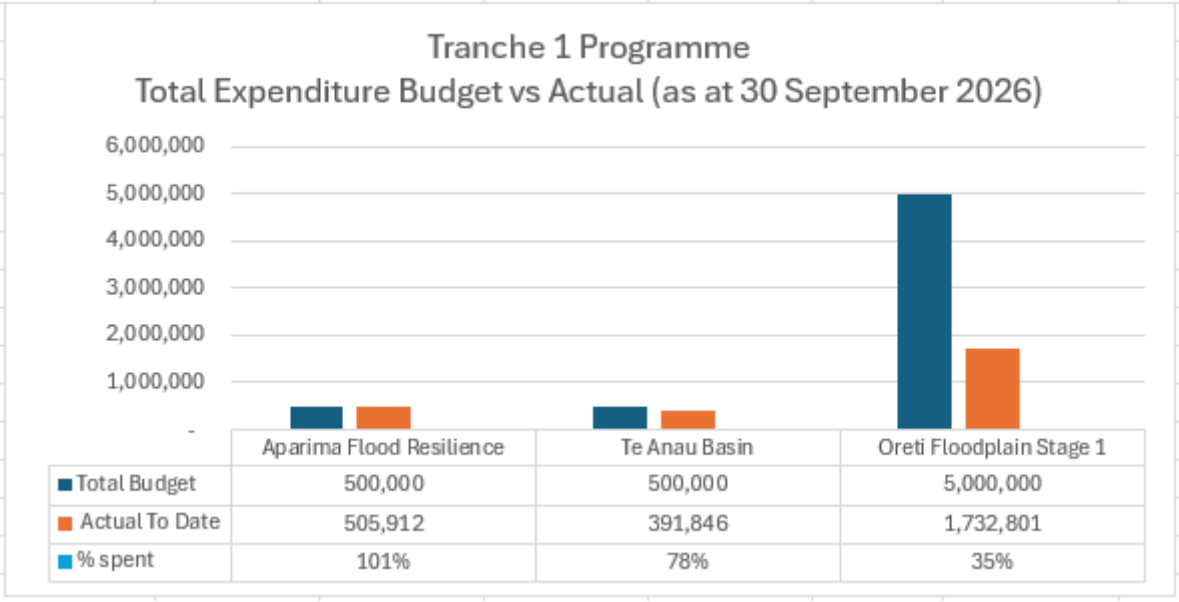
Te Anau Basin flood resilience

The project has restarted since the wet winter pause, with 3-4 weeks of work remaining. This will meet the funding agreement requirement for completion by 31 December 2026.

Tranche 1 Programme Expenditure

Table & Graph 1: Tranche 1 Financial summary to 30 September 2026

Tranche 1	Total Budget	MBIE Share	Actual To Date	Variance	% spent	Status	Expected Completion	Months Remaining
Aparima Flood Resilience	500,000	300,000	505,912	- 5,912	101%	Complete	Mar-26	0
Te Anau Basin	500,000	300,000	391,846	108,154	78%	Pause	Dec-26	3
Oreti Floodplain Stage 1	5,000,000	3,000,000	1,732,801	3,267,199	35%	Pause	Mar-28	18
Total	6,000,000	3,600,000	2,630,559	3,369,441	44%	On Track		



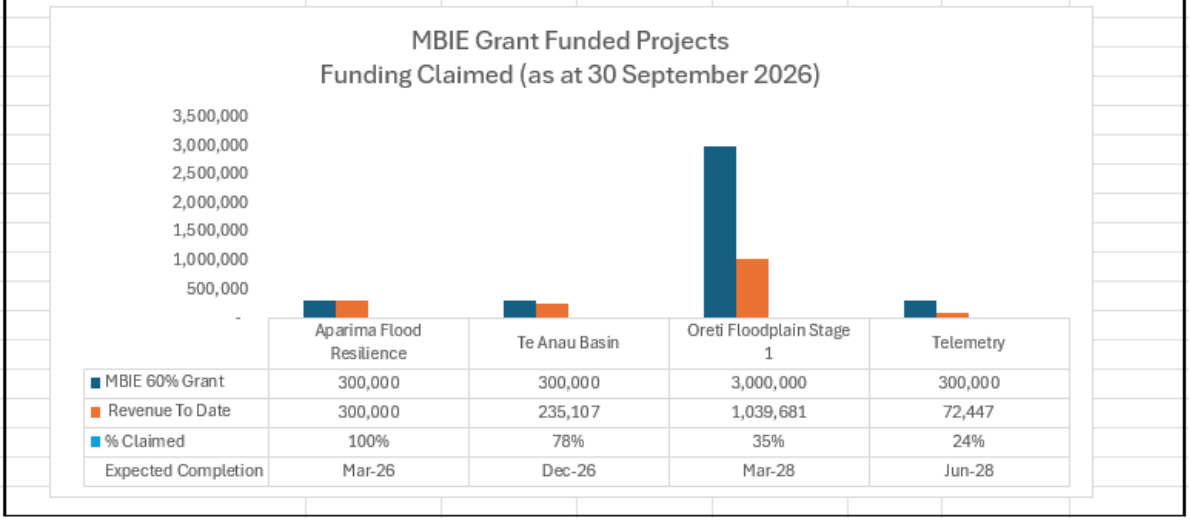
The overall tranche 1 programme is on track, with an agreement expiry date of 31 March 2028, meaning 18 months to complete all works.

Grant Funding

Tranche 1 projects along with the national telemetry project are grant funding agreements, enabling ES to claim the ministries 60% share of actual costs quarterly. To date we have claimed $1.647m of a possible $3.9m.

Table & Graph 2: Grant Revenue to 30 September 2026

Grant Funded Projects	Total Budget	MBIE 60% Grant	Revenue To Date	Remaining Claim	% Claimed	Expected Completion	Months Remaining
Aparima Flood Resilience	500,000	300,000	300,000	-	100%	Mar-26	0
Te Anau Basin	500,000	300,000	235,107	64,893	78%	Dec-26	3
Oreti Floodplain Stage 1	5,000,000	3,000,000	1,039,681	1,960,319	35%	Mar-28	18
Telemetry	500,000	300,000	72,447	227,554	24%	Jun-28	21
Total	6,000,000	3,900,000	1,647,235	2,252,766	42%		



Tranche 2

The final requirement to confirm the suspensory loan funding agreements execution was the provision of satisfied condition precedents. These were provided to Kanoa in mid-October and are currently being assessed by their investment team.

Ōreti Floodplain Project

A key principle for the business cases approved by MBIE for RIF projects was agreement that funding was for reinstatement of the current level of flood resilience. This fact is reflected in the prioritisation of the remaining Oreti works. A control document confirming the planned basis of design has been prepared and is being reviewed by the Southland Flood Resilience Technical Advisory Group. The approved document will become best practice for the Oreti catchment.

The preferred design is a continuation of the current material design, being the use of river edge sediment laden material to build the core.

Engagement

The next package of work being designed is focused on the Winton area floodbanks, where individual landowner meetings are continuing with our river engineer and designers. Further engagement will be undertaken once this is ready for the procurement phase.

Otepuni Flood Infrastructure Project

The Otepuni Creek project phase for design review options has been awarded and the kick-off meeting held. The work is expected to be completed by March when the next phase is expected to be a full design of the confirmed option.

Mataura River Flood Resilience Improvement Project

This project has a 1-year technical investigation timeframe, to be completed by June 2027. The total budget based on the current milestones for the technical validation period is a total cost of $3.91M.
During this period, the project will have 2 major workstreams, the 'Blueprint', which is nearing the scope completion phase; and the investigation into all technical information needs and the procurement of these.

The technical validation includes 2 work streams; the confirmation of a literature review outcome and the outcome of the annual floodbank condition inspections. Data is being checked for consistency and preliminary reports due soon. Along with this information, a memo is being prepared on the models and scenarios run to date; survey and geotechnical information gathered on the Mataura, to enable a technical assessment of the next steps.

The first item of work was the channel capacity contract south of the Mataura bridges. Post completion of the physical works, the regrassing stage was paused awaiting spring to facilitate a more successful grass strike on the worked areas. The works will include a small semi-permanent installation of rock around the GDC stormwater outlet pipes which the works uncovered. The restart and completion are expected in early November.

Photo 1: Location of stormwater pipe



Engagement
The Mataura Blueprint phase of the project has developed a community research brief to support knowledge-sharing and engaging with and listening to our community.

The community engagement process has started with the recruitment of summer students. They will be gathering data and information from the community to inform the development and analysis of options.

The main points to date have covered:
- A brief literature review of past Southland surveys and similar surveys to draft survey questions.
- Conversations within ES to gain feedback on draft questions, identify target audiences.

- Conversation with Te Ao Mārama and Gore District Council to confirm their level of collaboration.

The next steps are:

- 9-23 November: #5 Student set-up initiation
- 13 November: Complete #5 research method design finalised (survey and focus group)
- 20 November: Complete #6 development of schedule of events across ES, partner organisations and key stakeholders' groups
- 5 December: Attend first public event

Table 3: Blueprint research

		2026										2027											
		August		September		October		November		December		January		February		March		April		May		June	
1	Student recruitment																						
2	Research gathering to inform research tool design and identify complimentary qualitative research initiatives																						
3	Linking with communications and engagement team re: tool design and engagement schedule																						
4	Connection to broader organisation for data collection contribution																						
5	Research method design (survey and focus group)																						
6	Identification and organisation of data gathering locations																						
7	Student set-up and initiation																						
8	Survey test																						
9	Online survey development and testing																						
10	Focus group design test																						
11	Data collection																						
12	Data input into systems																						
13	Data analysis																						
14	Socio-economic data gathering (e.g. Stats NZ)																						

National Telemetry Project

The national project is administered by Environment Canterbury, totals $7.7M. Environment Southland has a budget of $0.5M to upgrade the Mataura River telemetry system. The project timeline expects completion by June 2029. The project has installed its first water level site at Waikaia river (Block Road).

Photo 2 & 3: New water level site - Waikaia River (Block Road)

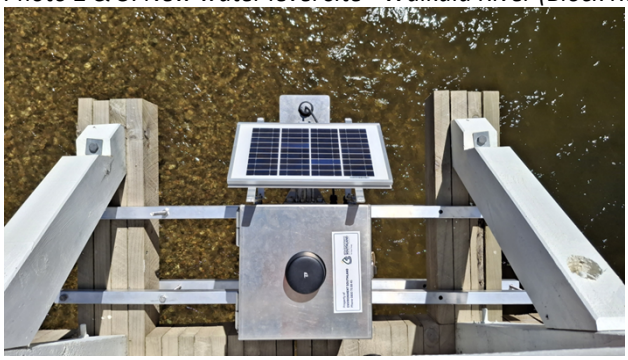
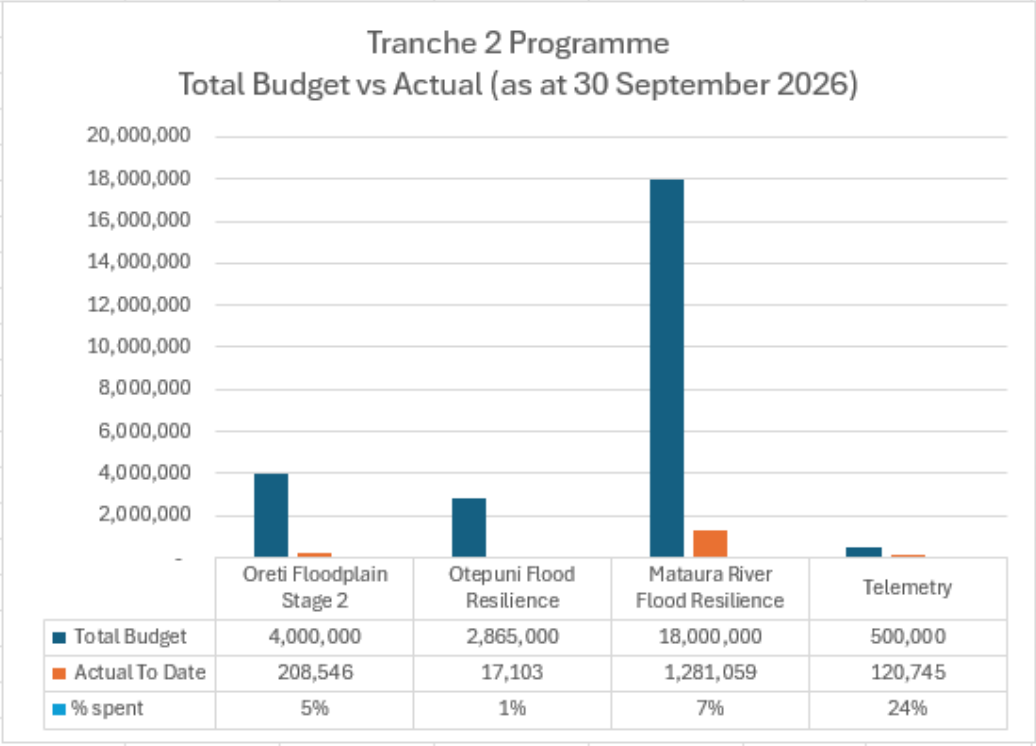




Table & Graph 4: Tranche 2 Financial summary to 30 September 2026

Tranche 2	Total Budget	MBIE Share	Actual To Date	Variance	% spent	Status	Expected Completion	Months Remaining
Oreti Floodplain Stage 2	4,000,000	2,400,000	208,546	3,791,454	5%	Design	Dec-30	52
Otepuni Flood Resilience	2,865,000	1,719,000	17,103	2,847,897	1%	Investigation	Jun-29	33
Mataura River Flood Resili	18,000,000	10,800,000	1,281,059	16,718,941	7%	Investigation	Dec-31	64
Telemetry	500,000	300,000	120,745	379,255	24%	Procurement	Jun-28	21
Total	25,365,000	15,219,000	1,627,453	23,737,547	6%	On Track		



The tranche 2 programme is underway with progress made on all projects.

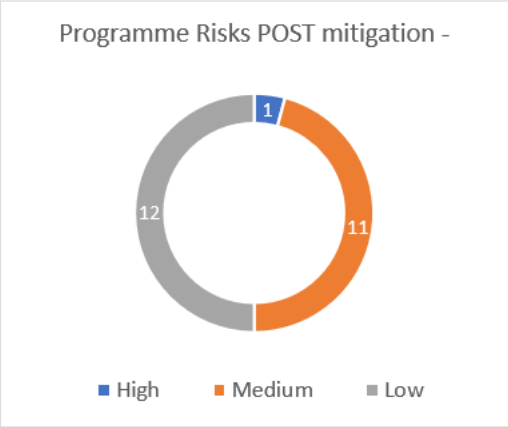
Programme Risks

The programme risk register is reviewed monthly and has been updated to include the risks identified at the council workshop in July. There are now 24 risks being managed. Of these delivery risks, 1 is identified as High post mitigation. This is Local Government Reform and the mitigations are; to maintain current focus, and to be clear about escalation pathways and raise concerns early.

The medium rated programme risks are primarily externally influenced on time and cost, (ie design, cost estimates, contractor availability, inflation) the mitigations include project and programme management controls; along with good communication and engagement.

The low rated programme risks are those predominately related to undervalued time. Mitigations require time to be valued and therefore measured by adhering to schedules and good project management disciplines.

Table 5: Summary of Programme risks



1 High Programme Risks POST Mitigation:

- Local Government Reform
  Mitigated by – Maintain current focus, be clear about pathways and raise concerns early

11 Medium Programme Risks POST Mitigation:

- Based on External items which influence Time and Cost
  Mitigated by – Project and Programme management controls, engagement and communication.

10 Low Programme Risks POST Mitigation:

- Majority reflect risks which influence all projects, like bad time management, communication and alignment.
  Mitigated by – Realising strong Project and Programme management controls, and clear expectations.

Monthly MBIE reporting includes project risks, and those reports are included on our RIF Programme Control Group agenda. Future reports will only include High or new programme risks.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi Implications

There is currently an invitation via letter with Te Ao Mārama to indicate how we work together on all projects under the RIF programme. More recently we engaged with Te Ao Mārama on the Mataura blueprint project to seek advice on where in the governance structure they would like to sit.

The advice we received was their support for work to embed ki uta ki tai into strategy, planning and operations. The Mataura Blueprint should provide an opportunity to further embed this work in floodplain management, which they are keen to support. There are ongoing discussions about how Te Ao Mārama Inc can build on the cultural assessment work started during Murihiku Slow the Flow.

Some of the projects within the RIF Programme are excavating material alongside rivers to upgrade the flood banks to support flood resilience across Murihiku Southland. Mana whenua may be impacted should any Iwi artefacts or significant sites be discovered during this process.

Fit with strategic framework

OUTCOME	CONTRIBUTES	DETRACTS	NOT APPLICABLE
Managed access to quality natural resources			x
Diverse opportunities to make a living	x		
Communities empowered and resilient	x		
Communities expressing their diversity			x

Attachments

Nil

9.5 Asset Management Update

Report by: Stephanie Gray, Team Leader Operational Planning
Approved by: Lucy Hicks, General Manager Integrated Catchment Management
Report Date: 3 November 2026

Purpose

Following the verbal update to the 9 July Integrated Catchment Management Committee, on our Asset Management work programme, this paper provides information on the progress made on key aspects of the flood resilience asset management work including the asset performance tool, forward works planning and continual improvement.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Integrated Catchment Management Committee **resolve to:**

1. Receive the report, Asset Management Update.

Summary

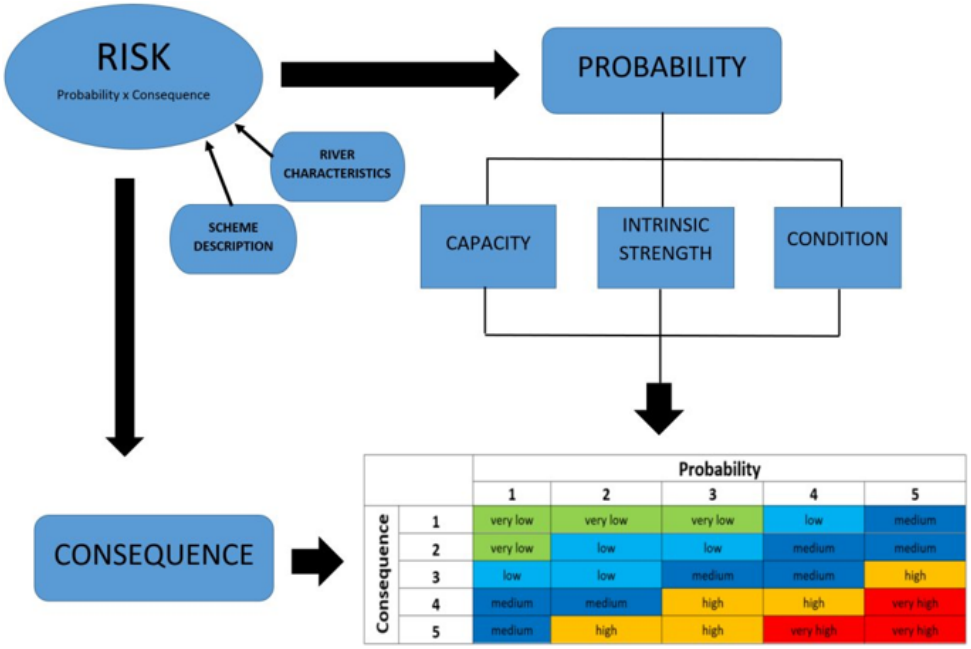
The Asset Management work programme has been previously demonstrated by the below diagram:



Asset Inspection and Asset Performance Tool

The visual inspections have now been completed across the flood bank, culvert and flap gate asset classes. The reports from this inspections are being fed into our forward work programmes. The next focus is on the technical work programmes that feed into the capacity and intrinsic strength portions of the tool. Implementation of this tool will focus on the Mataura catchment initially and then be rolled out across the Oreti and remaining catchments.

The figure below illustrates the asset performance tool framework. The risk (criticality) scores from this will feed into further refinement of the prioritisation framework that informs development of forward works programmes.



Forward Works Planning

Forward works planning is underway across the flood resilience infrastructure work streams. Formalisation of a prioritisation framework to underpin this, is being drafted and will be finalised through the renewed asset management plan for the Long-Term Plan 2027-37. This will ensure a consistent and transparent approach to prioritisation of works through both an affordability and risk-based lens.

Work programmes are being developed for the primary flood resilience asset classes and are categorised into the following four intervention levels; maintenance, remediation, renewal and upgrade based on the condition of the asset and the potential consequence of failure. As mentioned above, further performance related data will be included as it becomes available.

Continual Improvement

The existing flood risk asset management improvement action plan was developed in late 2024. Significant progress has been made over these two years towards the core maturity level and important learnings gained, particularly through the process of developing the new Infrastructure Strategy and Regional Flood Resilience Asset Management Plan for the 2027-30 LTP cycle. As a result of this, an asset management maturity self-assessment will be undertaken as per the treasury framework, and a revised improvement plan will be produced in the coming quarter. This will ensure that asset management activities align closely with the 2027-30 LTP and enable further progression towards a core level of maturity.

Fit with strategic framework

OUTCOME	CONTRIBUTES	DETRACTS	NOT APPLICABLE
Managed access to quality natural resources	X		
Diverse opportunities to make a living	X		
Communities empowered and resilient	X		
Communities expressing their diversity			X

Attachments

Nil

9.6 Wilding Update

Report by: Jolie Hazley, Team Leader Biosecurity Plants
Michelle Powell, Manager Operations Delivery
Approved by: Lucy Hicks, General Manager Integrated Catchment Management
Report Date: 11 November 2026

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to update Council on progress with the regional Wilding Conifer Programme, with a particular focus on the outcome of the 23 September 2026 workshop with Southland District Council, our progress towards a more coordinated regional approach, and the current programme and funding matters.

Summary

Since the previous update to Council, staff have continued operational, technical and relationship focused work across the regional wilding conifer programme. A significant recent development was the workshop with Southland District Council on 23 September 2026, which considered the scale and nature of the wilding conifer issue, current activity and opportunities for a more coordinated response.

The workshop reinforced that wilding conifers are a Southland-wide issue and that the challenge is changing. Legacy species such as contorta and mugo remain important, while Douglas fir, radiata and larch present an emerging issue associated with ongoing forestry and shelterbelt seed sources.

The workshop was very successful and Southland District Council agreed to the establishment of a regional working group to address the wilding conifer programme. This provides an important opportunity to move from individual agency activity towards a more coordinated regional approach.

The proposed working group would provide a mechanism to bring relevant parties together to improve coordination, develop shared priorities and consider longer-term programme, funding and delivery requirements.

This paper remains an update rather than a decision paper. It does not seek approval for a new funding model, regulatory position or additional Council investment at this stage.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Integrated Catchment Management Committee **resolve to:**

1. Receive the report, Wilding Conifer Programme Update.
2. Note the positive outcome of the 23 September 2026 workshop with Southland District Council and the agreement to establish a regional working group to support a coordinated regional response to wilding conifers.
3. Note, subject to staff capacity and resources, progress the establishment of the regional working group in principle by the end of 2026 and seek Councillor representatives early in 2027.
4. Note, further work is required before staff can provide recommendations on any future regional funding, regulatory or co-investment options.

Background

At its May 2026 meeting, Council requested further reporting on the regional response to wilding conifers, including partnership arrangements, Douglas fir seed-source risks, inter-regional data requirements, regulatory opportunities, funding implications and potential options for Council investment.

Since then, work has progressed across these areas, alongside ongoing delivery of the existing programme. Engagement has also continued with national and regional partners to improve coordination and build a stronger platform for the future programme. A key step was the workshop with Southland District Council on 23 September 2026.

Southland District Council workshop

The workshop provided an opportunity to discuss the scale of the issue, work already underway, and the range of interventions that may be required to support a more effective Southland-wide response.

The presentation highlighted the broad impacts of wilding conifers, including landscape change, loss of productive farmland, loss of biodiversity, ecosystems and water yield, increased wildfire risk, and creation of habitat for pest animals. It highlighted an important change in the nature of the issue.

Legacy species such as mugo and contorta are no longer planted and are an established issue for which programmes and control tools exist. In comparison, Douglas fir, radiata and larch continue to be used in forestry and shelterbelts and were identified as an emerging issue requiring a fit-for-purpose response.

The presentation identified a wider coordination challenge, with no single entity responsible, no combined regional plan, and disjointed funding. For that reason, the workshop emphasised that no single intervention will address the issue. A layered response may include:

- regulatory tools;
- education and awareness;
- incentives;
- partnerships and collaboration;
- science and monitoring;
- operational control; and
- strategic planning.

The presentation also identified partnerships and collaboration as a means of coordinating effort across agencies and landowners, while strategic planning could help align longer-term direction, funding and priorities across the region. The workshop was successful and Southland District Council subsequently agreed to the establishment of a regional working group to help progress a coordinated approach to the Wilding Conifer Programme.

Regional working group

The agreement to establish a regional working group represents an important development from the position previously reported to Council, when a regional or inter-regional coordination group was still being considered and its purpose, membership, mandate and resourcing had yet to be developed.

The working group provides a practical opportunity to bring together relevant parties and build on existing relationships. At a high level, the group could initially focus on:

- developing a shared understanding of regional priorities;
- improving coordination between existing programmes and organisations;
- considering information, mapping and monitoring requirements;

- identifying opportunities for coordinated operational activity; and
- considering longer-term programme, funding and strategic requirements.

The detailed purpose, membership and operating arrangements for the group need to be drafted with prospective participants rather than predetermined by Environment Southland.

Progress has been constrained by staff capacity and competing work programme priorities. However, it is anticipated that further progress will be made during Q3 2026/27 as resources become available and current work programme commitments are progressed.

National programme and funding

National programme and MPI funding settings remain important to the scale of the regional response. Environment Southland currently receives annual MPI funding to plan and deliver wilding conifer control through the Services Agreement. Funding is linked to approved operational planning, delivery and reporting requirements.

Since commencement of the current funding agreement, Environment Southland has secured a total of $4.29 million in MPI Wilding Conifer Control Programme funding across the Mid Dome, Flagstaff and Takitimu Management Units. This comprises the original funding agreement of $1.01 million and three subsequent funding variations, including the recently confirmed $2.49 million additional allocation for FY2026/27. The funding provides for ongoing wilding conifer control operations and programme delivery across the three management units and does not require a corresponding Council funding contribution.

At this stage, staff cannot provide firm advice on the level of any future Environment Southland investment or co-investment. This will depend on factors including national programme settings, MPI funding, partner contributions, priority areas and the level of regional ambition for preventing further spread.

Development of the regional working group should assist future discussions by improving the regional understanding of priorities, responsibilities and potential funding requirements.

Risks/Opportunities

The establishment of the regional working group is a positive step towards improved regional coordination. However, the detailed purpose, membership, mandate and resourcing arrangements have yet to be developed. There is a risk that expectations for the regional group and wider programme could move ahead of available staff capacity, programme funding or the commitments of partner organisations. The proposed staged approach, beginning with establishing the group in principle, allows these matters to be progressively worked through. Uncertainty around national funding also remains a programme risk and could affect the ability to maintain momentum across priority areas.

Views of affected parties

Environment Southland has been engaging with MPI, DOC, LINZ, Te Uru Rākau, Otago Regional Council, landowners, the Mid Dome Wilding Trees Charitable Trust and other parties involved in wilding conifer management. The 23 September workshop provides a stronger basis for progressing regional collaboration with Southland District Council. Further engagement will be required with prospective working group participants as its scope and membership are developed.

Fit with strategic framework

OUTCOME	CONTRIBUTES	DETRACTS	NOT APPLICABLE
Managed access to quality natural resources	X		
Diverse opportunities to make a living	X		
Communities empowered and resilient	X		
Communities expressing their diversity			X

Compliance with Significance and Engagement Policy

This update paper does not seek a decision on a specific funding model, regulatory change or new level of service.

A significance and engagement assessment may be required if subsequent recommendations involve material changes to Council investment, rating, policy settings or partnership commitments.

Considerations

Financial implications

There are no immediate financial implications arising from this update. Future financial implications may arise from national programme funding decisions, identified programme gaps or future decisions by Council regarding regional investment or co-investment.

The establishment of the regional working group does not, through this paper, commit Council to additional programme funding or a particular future funding model.

Resourcing considerations

Progressing the regional working group will require staff time alongside delivery of the existing programme. Any increase in programme ambition, coordination requirements or funding complexity will need to be considered against the capacity required to maintain core programme activities, including operational planning, contract management, landowner engagement, mapping and reporting.

Accordingly, progress towards establishing the regional working group in principle by the end of 2026 will be subject to sufficient staff capacity and resources being available.

Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this update. Any future regulatory or advocacy work relating to matters such as NES-CF processes, RPMP settings or national strategy development would require appropriate policy, planning and legal input.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi implications

The recommendations in this report do not directly affect Māori rights or interests under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Relevant Te Tiriti principles include partnership and participation, and opportunities for engagement with mana whenua will be considered as the proposed regional working group is developed. The recommendations do not trigger any specific Te Tiriti decision-making requirements and do not directly affect the Charter of Understanding or Te Tangi a Tauira.

Attachments

1. SDC Wildings Council Briefing_ September 2026 [**9.6.1** - 21 pages]
2. Presentation from MDT to SDC workshop 26 Oct 2026 [**9.6.2** - 18 pages]

Wilding conifers

Southland District Council Workshop – 23 September 2026

What we will work through today

- What wilding conifers are and their impacts
- Current state
- Operational update
- Is control worth it?
- Levers and summary

What is a wilding conifer?

- Are self seeded trees from various species of exotic conifers growing where they are not wanted.



Why are they a problem?

- Landscape change
- Loss of productive farmland
- Loss of biodiversity, ecosystems and water yield
- Increased wildfire risk
- Habitat for pests (possum, deer)
- Monoculture — nothing grows underneath

Species – quick overview

Legacy wilding conifers – mugo, contorta.

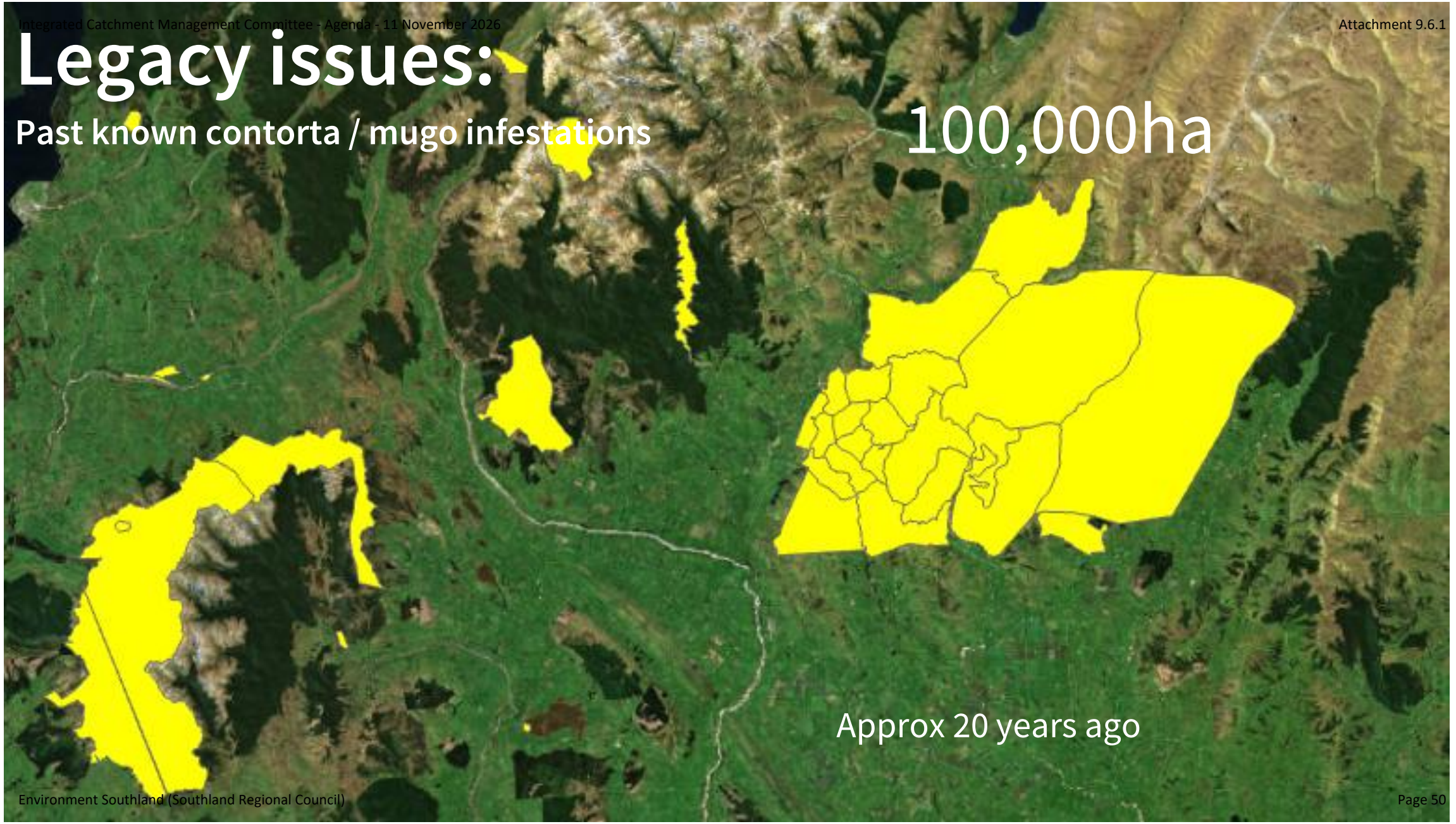
- No longer planted (historic erosion-control legacy)
- Fast establishment, high long-distance spread
- Low commercial value
- Overall: known, widespread issue with established tools and programmes responding

Douglas fir, Radiata & larch – emerging issue

- Actively planted for forestry and shelterbelts — high value
- Slower to establish (cones ~11 years), then extreme spread (20km+)
- Can invade forest canopy — unlike other species
- Overall: an escalating problem outside current systems, needing a fit-for-purpose response

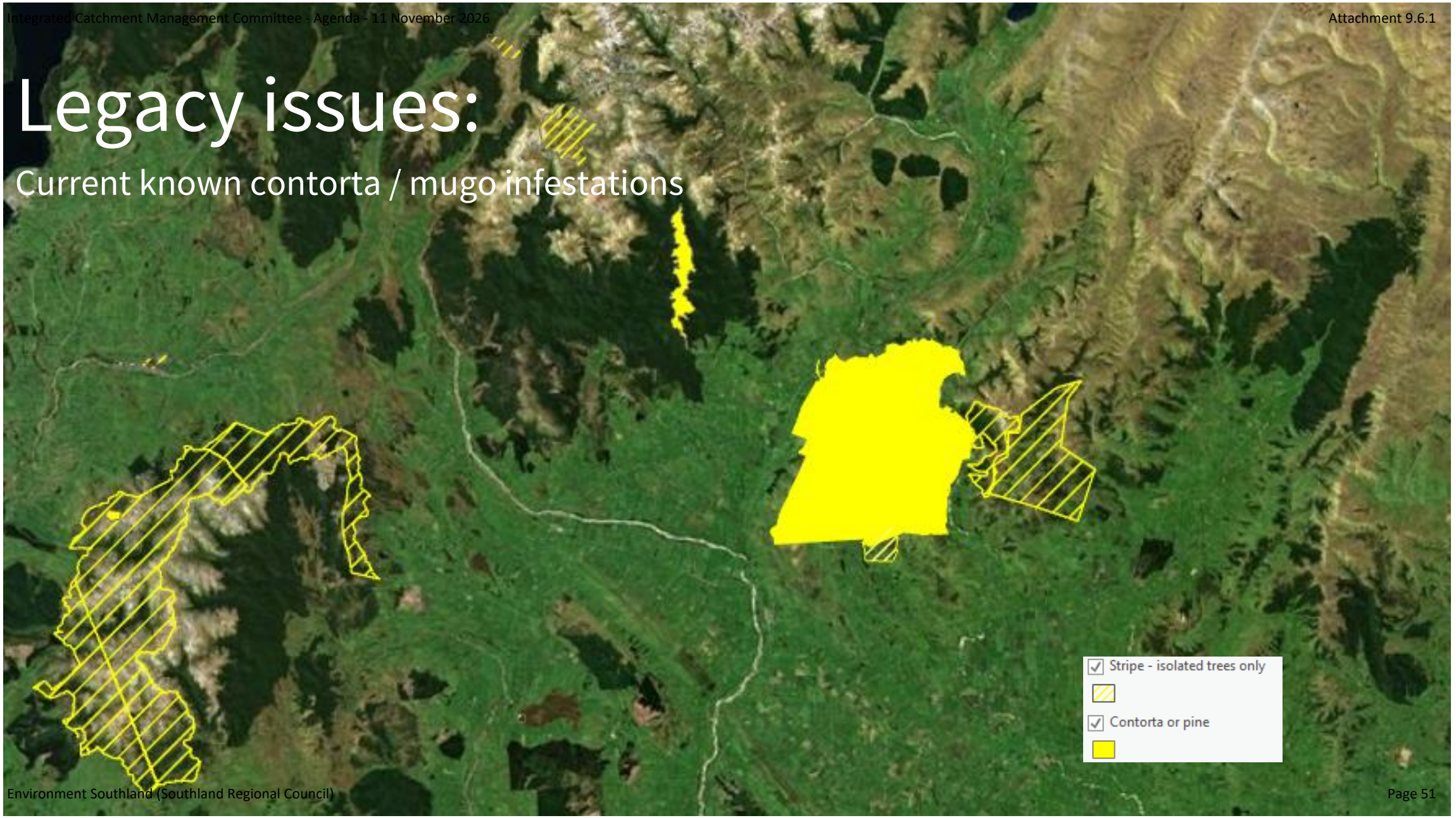
Legacy issues:

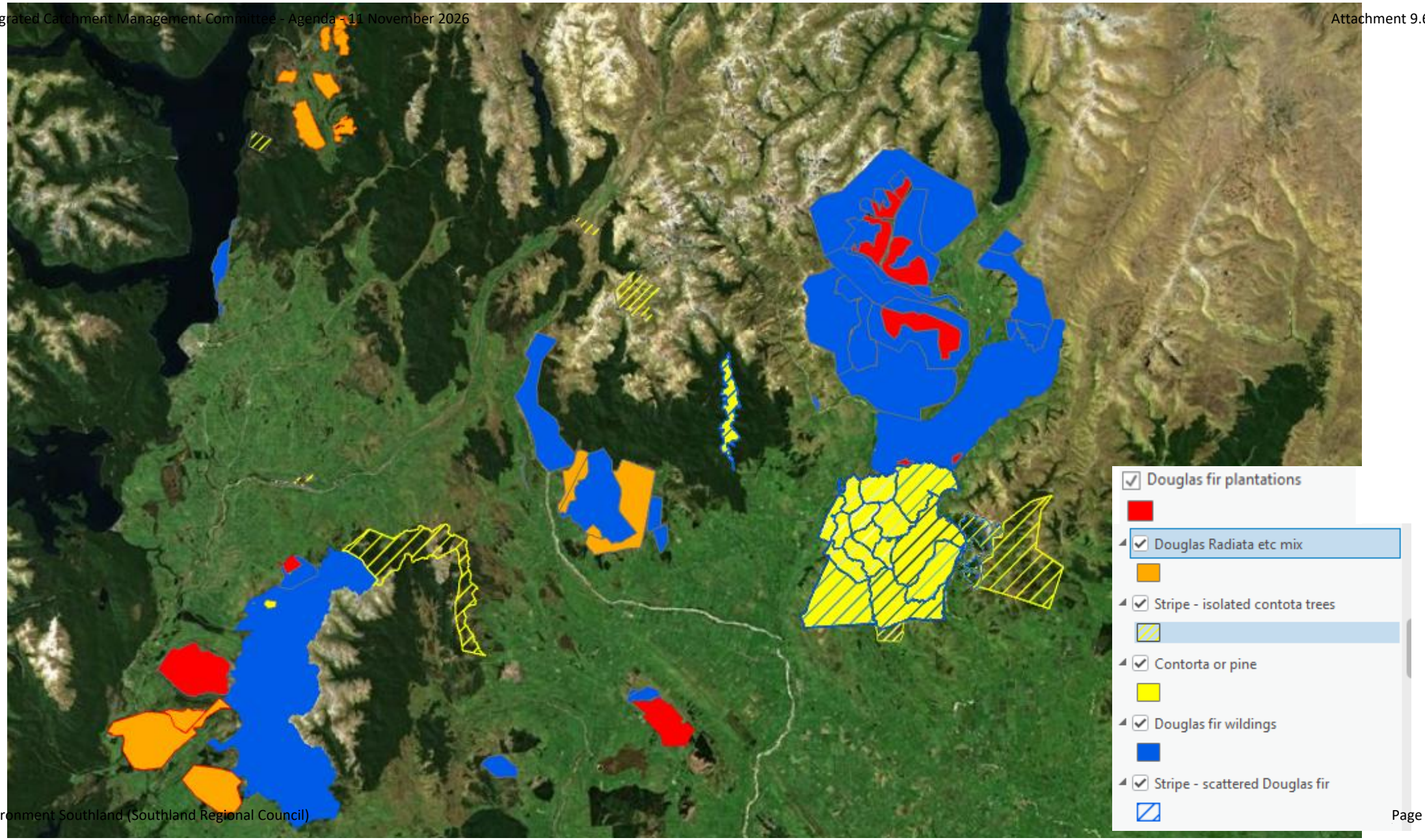
Past known contorta / mugo infestations



Legacy issues:

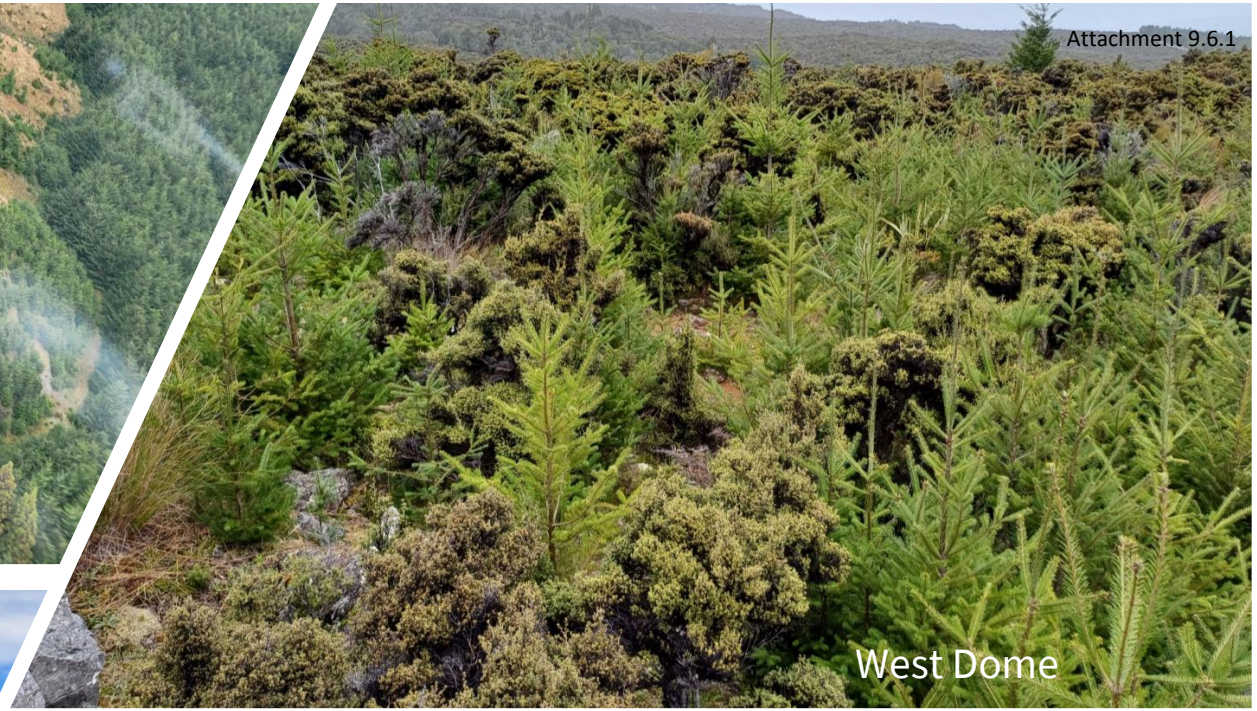
Current known contorta / mugo infestations




Douglas fir plantations
Douglas Radiata etc mix
Stripe - isolated contota trees
Contorta or pine
Douglas fir wildings
Stripe - scattered Douglas fir



Above forestry, Takitimu mountains



West Dome



Regenerating land, Takitimu area



Nevis road above Garston

As the receiving landowner - what am I meant to do?

- Seed source owners — no legal liability
- Limited to no government support
- RPMP rules only apply if previously publicly funded
- Good Neighbour rule covers only 200m
- Control myself — thousands to tens of thousands, and who pays?
- Leave them — what happens to my land?



Every dollar invested in control is worth it

sapere

All options beyond the status quo represent strong value for money, with the maximum option delivering a Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) of 20.2:1 and a net present value of $2.45 billion over 50 years. Early intervention is critical to avoid escalating costs and irreversible losses.

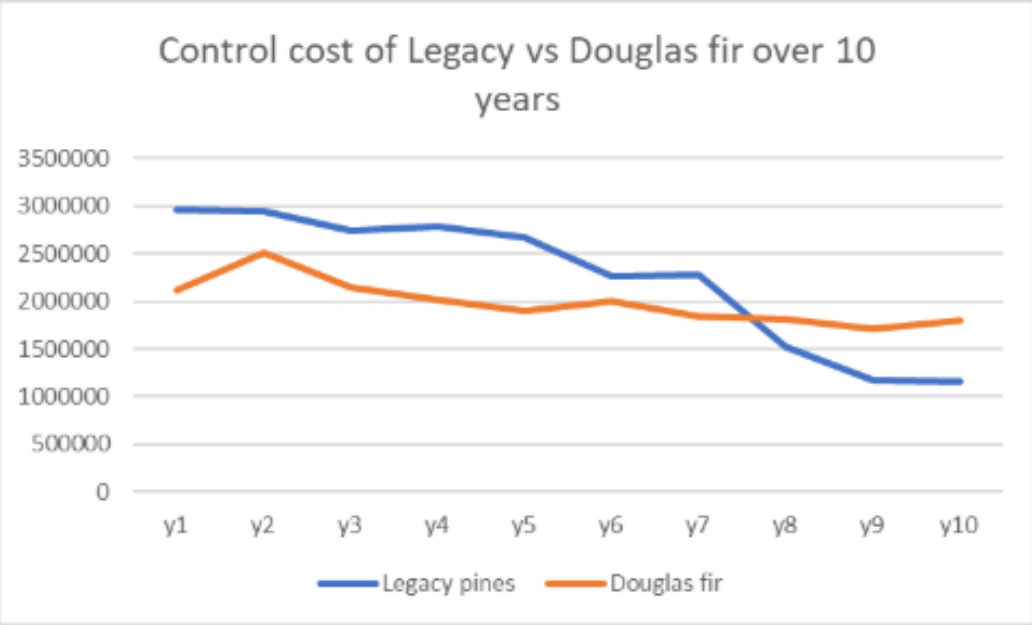
Table 1: NPV and BCRs for each option.

Present value ($ million)	Status Quo	Minimum	Intermediate	Maximum
Net present value	-$55.3	$1,353.5	$1,800.8	$2,452.1
Benefits : Cost Ratio (BCR)	-7.3	14.4	15.3	20.2

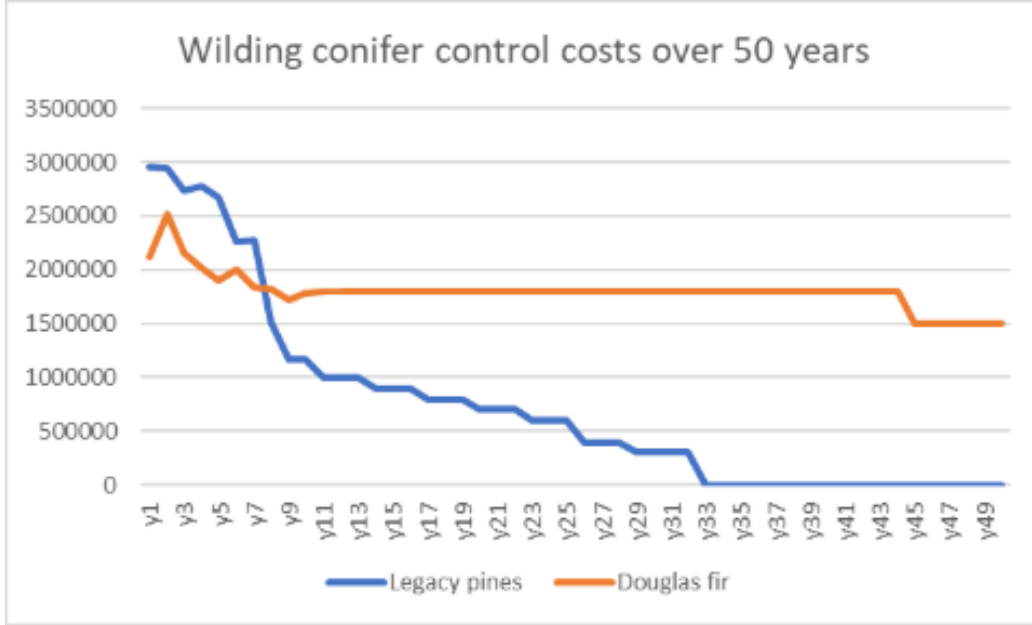
Legacy contorta vs Douglas fir seed sources: a very different cost curve

Legacy pines can be eradicated with the right funding — they are no longer planted.

Douglas fir costs continue until forests are harvested — some not for 100 years. (Assumes full funding from now; currently unfunded.)



Year 1 Legacy $2,959,000. Douglas fir $2,120,000



Year 33 Legacy $0. Dougals fir $1,800,000

What is ES doing?

- Mid Dome and Takitimu control via the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme
- Removed contorta, Douglas fir and larch shelterbelts at Jollies Hill
- Working with landowners on contorta removal
- Updated infestation mapping
- Working with community groups, LINZ, SDC, ICC, DOC, landowners and foresters



Summary of issues & priorities

- Douglas fir plantations (1990s–2016) now seeding wildings
- Consented forests spreading beyond their control buffer
- No single entity responsible — no combined plan, disjointed funding
- NES-CF forests — has the new calculator worked?
- Ensure today's afforestation doesn't create the next wilding issue

What levers can we pull?

A layered response is required. No single lever will address the issue.

- Regulatory tools.
- Education and awareness.
- Incentives.
- Partnerships & collaboration.
- Science & monitoring.
- Operations
- Strategic planning

Regulation

We need a clear set of rules to prevent spread.

Option	What this means	Example
Use the existing system	Respond using current tools and programmes *Limited impact – slows spread only*	Use plan rules, compliance, and existing funding to manage spread **SDC support welcomed and encouraged**
Strengthen the existing system	Improve coordination and resourcing within current settings *Improves effectiveness but still has constraints*	Increase funding and coordination; extend existing programmes to include more Douglas fir work **SDC support welcomed and encouraged**
Build a fit-for-purpose response	Develop new tools, funding, and delivery models tailored to Douglas fir *Matches the scale of the problem but requires investment*	New rules, targeted incentives, dedicated control programmes, improved mapping • Bylaw • RPMP • Bespoke legislation (via SDC plan change but we are currently under a plan stop) **SDC support welcomed and encouraged**
Influence system change	Advocate for national policy and legislative changes *Enables long-term solution (but not immediately effective)*	Push for national controls on high-risk species and alignment with RMA reform **SDC support welcomed and encouraged**

Other levers

Increasing the current use of these levers.

Education and awareness	Help landowners, industry and communities act early	Guidance on removing seedlings early and preventing new seed sources
Financial incentives	Reduce the cost barrier to acting	Co-fund early removal for landowners
Partnerships & collaboration	Coordinate effort across agencies and landowners	Partner with DOC, LINZ, MPI, Iwi, forestry and landowners on a coordinated Douglas fir response where current programmes don't apply Work with forestry to reduce seed sources and spread
Science and monitoring	Build evidence to target effort and track spread	Map spread and prioritise areas for intervention New tools and technologies for surveillance
Operations (on-the-ground delivery)	Control and remove wilding conifers	Spraying, felling and coordinated control across all wilding species
Strategic planning	Align long-term direction, funding and priorities region-wide	Embed the wilding response in regional strategy, LTP and catchment planning

Conclusion

- A Southland-wide issue at a tipping point — Douglas fir and other species spreading fast.
- No single solution is enough: more targeted tools and coordinated action are needed.
- Collaboration has delivered results before.
- ES asks SDC to continue and increase its support and partnership.
- All partners working together — SDC, ES, MPI, landowners and community — for stronger prevention, coordination and long-term regional solutions.

Thanks and Qs

ADDITIONAL SLIDES

More than the eye can see





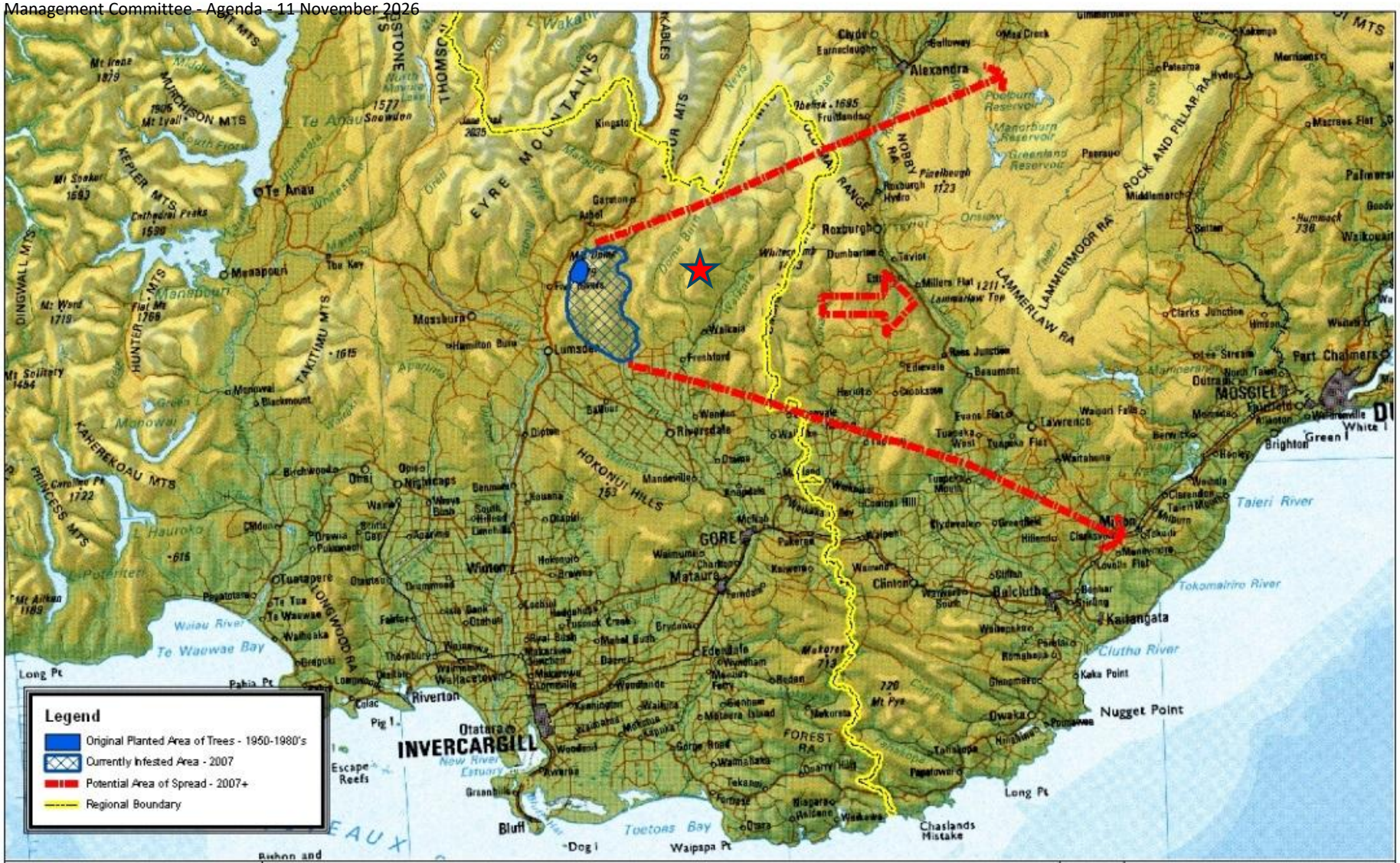

Tipping point
Note these roadside trees have been sprayed by neighbouring forestry

Presentation from Mid Dome Wilding Trees Charitable Trust to Southland District Council – Workshop 23 September 2026



Trusts aims for the SDC Workshop

- To make SDC aware of the threat that uncontrolled wilding conifer spread of Douglas fir poses to the economy and environment of Southland if it is not dealt with effectively now. (CBA report.)
- Present the Mid Dome Programme as an example of large scale/long term management of wilding conifers and the new Douglas fir threat.
- Seek regulatory support to manage Dfir risk from SDC in relation to existing forestry consents and future applications.
- Encourage SDC to endorse and support development of a Southern South Island Wilding Conifer Partnership as proposed by ES at the ICM meeting on 27 May 2026


Legend
Original Planted Area of Trees - 1950-1980's
Currently Infested Area - 2007
Potential Area of Spread - 2007+
Regional Boundary
environment SOUTHLAND
Wilding Tree - Potential Spread From Mid Dome
Date: 26 April 2007
N
1:984,942
DATA CO ORDS: NZTM GRID 2007
Topographical & Cadastral information sourced from LINZ.
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Alexandra
Roxburgh
Lumsden
Mossburn
Te Anau
Manapouri
Riverdale
GORE
Mataura
Edendale
Riverton
INVERCARGILL
Bluff
Balclutha
Milton
Dunedin
Mosgiel
Part Chalmers
Brighton
Kaitangata
Nugget Point
Clutha River
Taieri River
Tokomairiro River
Te Waewae Bay
Toetoes Bay
Waipapa Pt
Long Pt
Escape Reefs
Chaslands Mistake
EYRE MOUNTAINS
HOKONUI HILLS
LONGWOOD RA
FOREST RA
LAMMERMOOR RA
ROCK AND PILLAR RA
TAKITIMU MTS
KAHEREKOAU MTS
HUNTER MTS
KEPLER MTS
MURCHISON MTS
DINGWALL MTS
THOMSON MTS
LIDDER MTS
HOBBY RA
Manuherikia Reservoir
Greenland Reservoir
Poolburn Reservoir







1963



Southland Catchment Board Plantings

Mid Dome Wilding Trees Charitable Trust

Wilding Tree Spread From 1998- 2015 Downwind of Mid Dome into the Upper Tomogalak Catchment



Nov
1998



Dec
2004



May 2015

The Trust is formed – August 2006

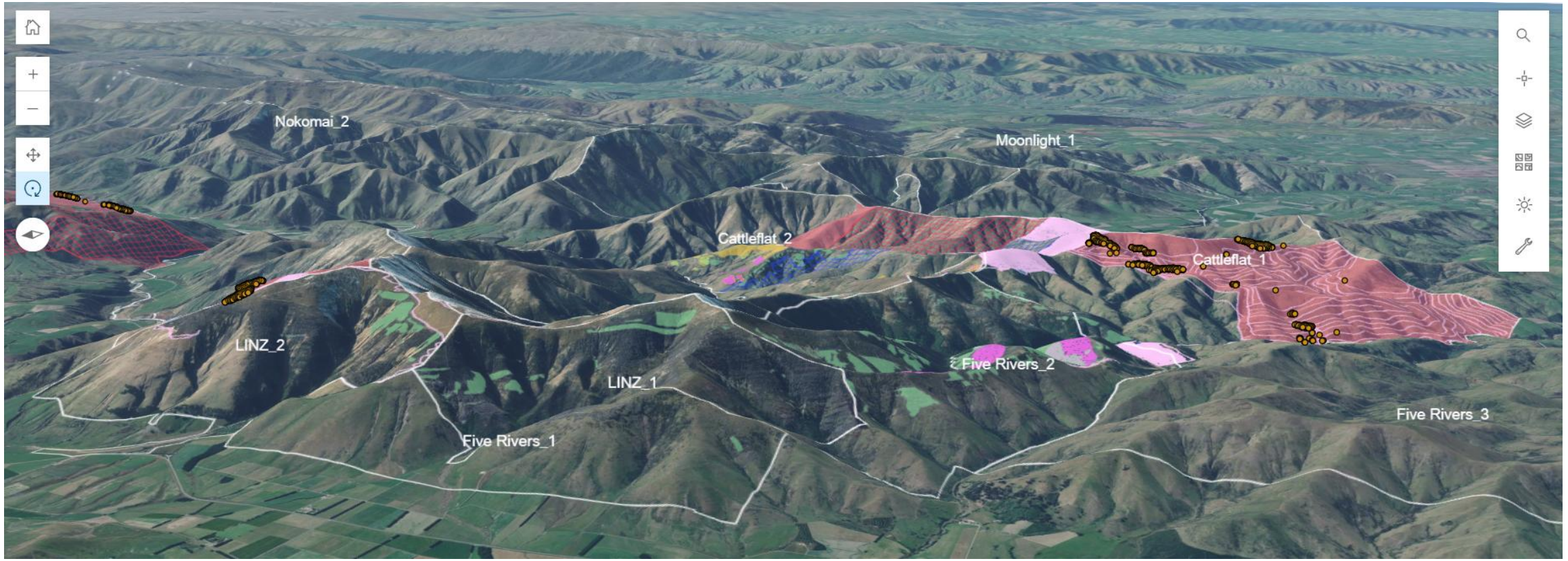












Nokomai_2
Moonlight_1
Cattleflat_2
Cattleflat_1
LINZ_2
LINZ_1
Five Rivers_2
Five Rivers_1
Five Rivers_3





Mid Dome Control History

- **Wilding control has been undertaken at Mid Dome since the mid 90s >30 years**
- **Early control work - all underfunded**



- **2006 Mid Dome Trust formed**
- **2010 Aerial spraying became a viable tool**
- **2017 NWCCP funding starts**
- **Expenditure to 2023 = $20M**



Volunteer Work Days







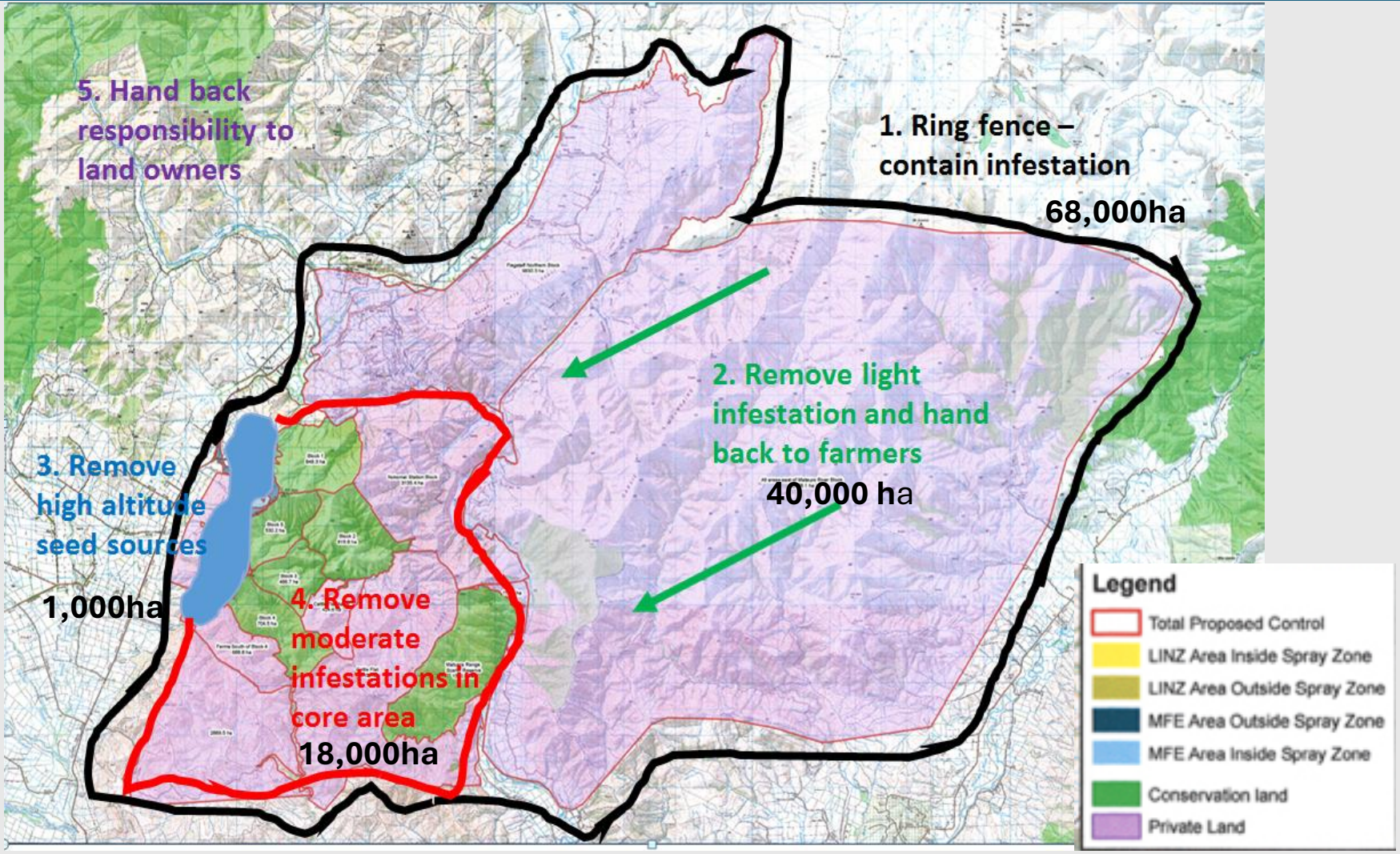


Spreading the Message



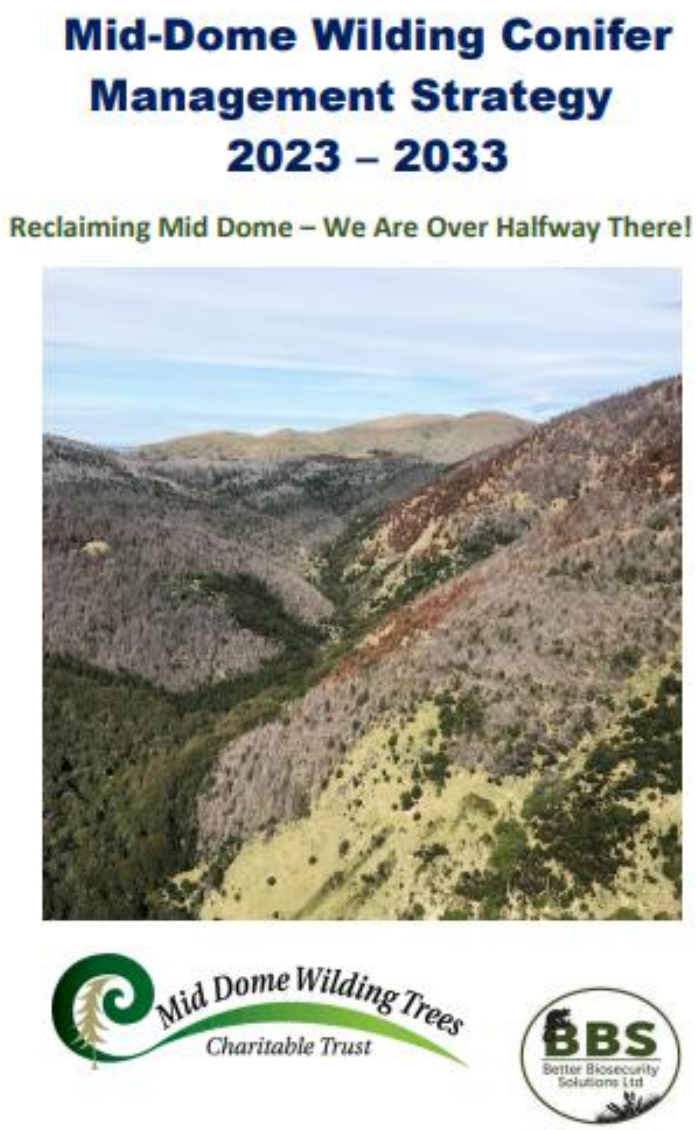






What has been achieved at Mid Dome

Mid Dome Wilding Trees Charitable Trust

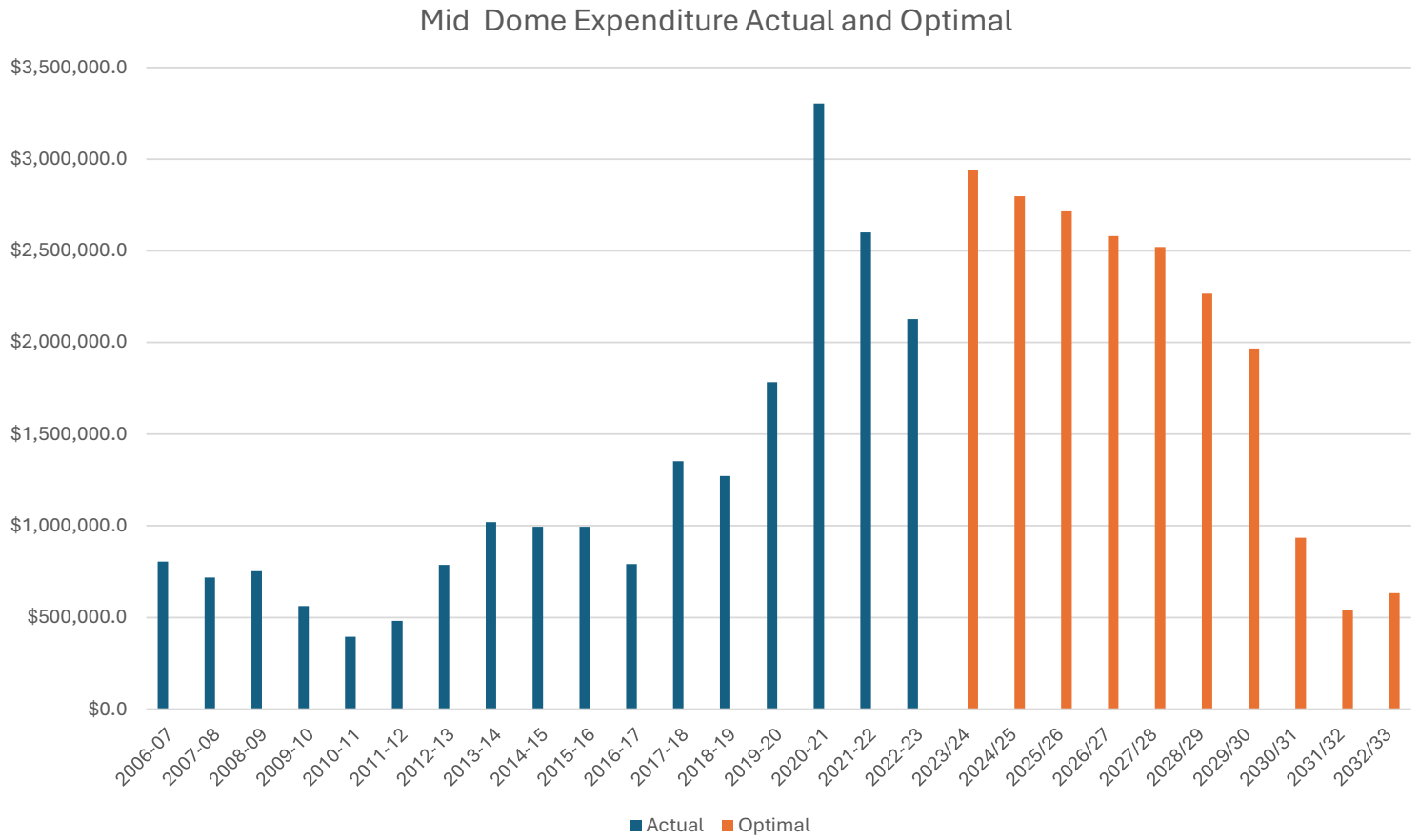


We are over halfway there!

What is needed to complete wilding control at Mid Dome ?

- **Aerially spray the last of closed canopy infestations.**
  - **Almost complete.**
  - **Target missed trees.**
- **Undertake the second and third 3-5 year maintenance control cycles to prevent trees from coning.**
  - **In progress**
- **Prepare the respective land owners/managers to take back responsibility for future management of any residual wilding risk under the RPMP supervised by ES.**
  - **Improve regulatory provisions.**

What will it cost to complete the Mid Dome Programme?



This could done by 2033 and could cost up to $20M

Quote from Maurice King – Farmer at Parawa

"As a new generation affected land holder I appreciate the hard work of all that have contributed over the years because Mid Dome would be a different landscape if left untouched. So thank you to you all"



Douglas fir – a new threat at Mid Dome

Originally 250ha of *Pinus contorta* and *Pinus mugo* were planted at Mid Dome

Have affected up to 70.000ha of land since 1960s

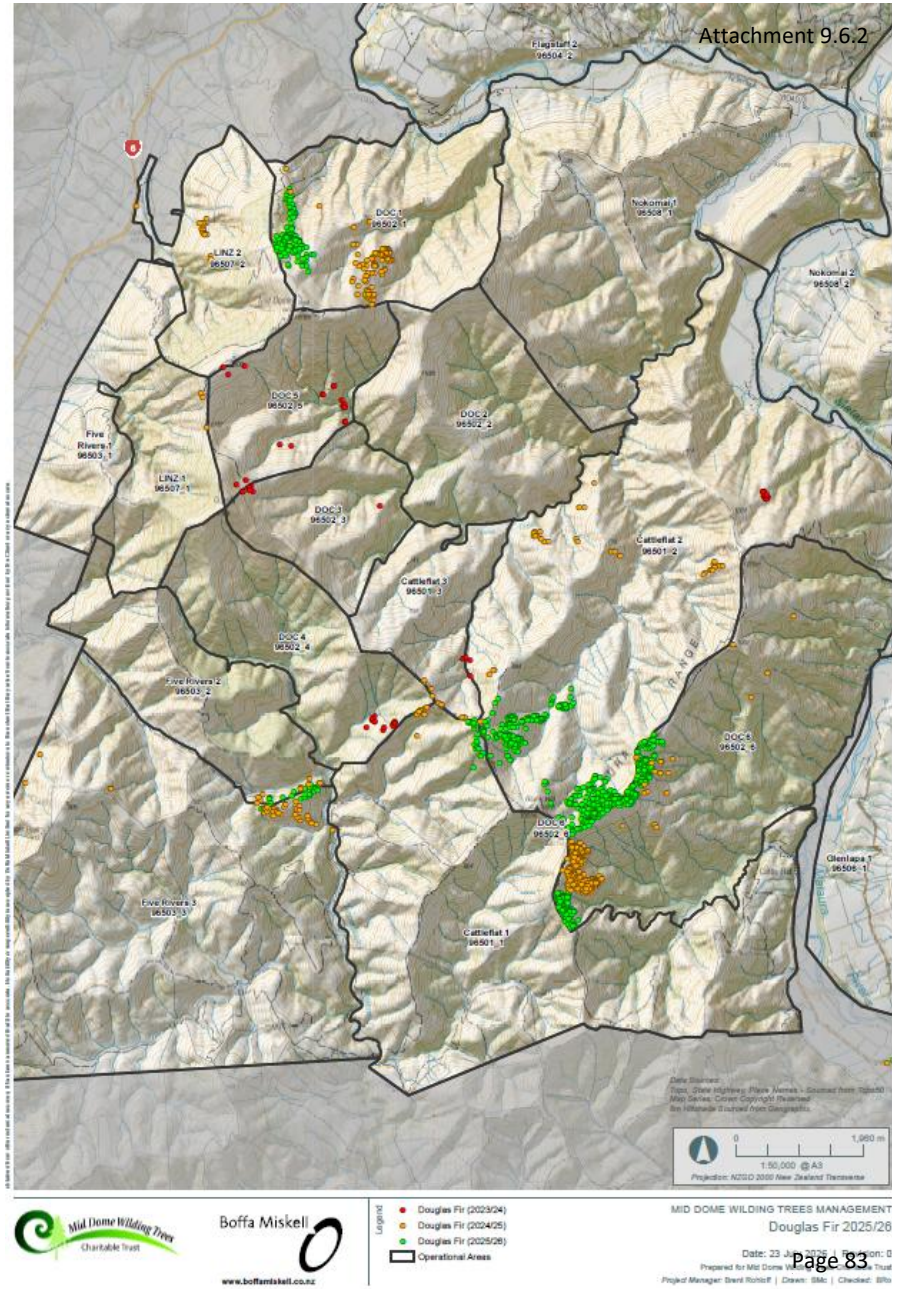
After 20 years of control this is reduced to a core area of 20,000ha – halfway to completion.

Since 2023 there has been dramatic increase in Dfir seedlings across the whole programme area.

Dfir is an aggressive spreader – as bad as contorta

Possibly sourced from 20+year old, high altitude Dfir plantations 15-20km to the west and north. West Dome and Upper Mataura

Similar problems at Fairlight, Lorne Peak Station – Matthew Tayler and elsewhere



Parting thoughts

- ***Wilding Conifers are a Wicked Problem!***
- ***We know it's hard but our work on P contorta at Mid Dome shows if we work together we can win***
- ***We're at a new tipping point with new spread and new species – Douglas fir has the potential to be a very widespread problem in Southland and could cost up to $1.4 billion over the next 50years***
- ***Collaboration and a regional approach is needed. (A Southern South Island Wilding Conifer Partnership has been proposed.)***
- ***We need SDCs help and support to protect Murihiku Southland's economy and environment***

10 Extraordinary/urgent business I Panui autia hei totoia pakihi

No notifications of extraordinary or urgent business were received for this meeting.

11 Public excluded business I He hui pakihi e hara mo te iwi

In accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest/s protected by section 7 of that act, it is proposed that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

11.1 Confirmation of public excluded minutes – Integrated Catchment Committee – 16 September 2026
11.2 Stead Street Pump Station Update

The general subject matters to be considered while the public is being excluded, the reason for this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds for excluding the public, as specified by Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 are set out below:

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER	REASON FOR PASSING THE RESOLUTION	GROUNDS UNDER S.48(1)
Confirmation of public excluded minutes – Integrated Catchment Committee – 16 September 2026	To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	S.7(2)(h)
Stead Street Update	To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	S.7(2)(h)