

APPENDIX 2: METHODS FOR ANIMAL AND PLANT PEST CONTROL

The following notes provide a brief summary of some of the approaches available for animal and plant pest control. Final details will be determined in consultation with the pest control operator and taking into account current regulatory and legislative requirements and will be included either within the contracts for the work and/or the annual restoration plans.

Brush-tail possums: Control may involve the use of elevated leg-hold traps or cyanide paste/pellets either in bags or bait stations on a three-month cycle through the area.

Stoats, ferrets and weasels (mustelids): Control may involve using traps which are arranged in pairs in trapping tunnels, with an appropriate bait as a lure (e.g., eggs or rabbit meat). Traps should be located along ridge-lines with no more than 500 m between trap lines and 100 m between traps along lines. The traps should be run continuously and checked monthly.

Rats: Snap traps (e.g., Victor professional double spring) in tunnels should be spaced at 50 m intervals along the mustelid lines and checked monthly.

Hares and rabbits: Hares and rabbits can be controlled using spot-light shooting along vehicle tracks within the Kate Valley CMA at three-monthly intervals or as impacts dictate. Impacts on restoration plantings can be minimised through the use of appropriate retardant pastes on restoration plantings. Poisoning may also be undertaken (e.g., Pindone) where it is felt that this might be an effective control method.

Feral deer and goats: Control will be opportunistic in nature, and will involve hunting when animals are known or thought to be present.

Vespulid wasps: Control will involve the active seeking out and locating nests and treatment with carbol (or similar approved pesticide) each summer.

Priority weeds: Control will most likely involve cutting of plants and the painting of their stumps using an appropriate approved herbicide, or spraying using an approved herbicide such as Tordon, Escort or similar.

Pasture grasses and herbs: Control will preferably involve killing these species using herbicide (e.g., Gallant, Glyphosate or similar approved herbicide) in late summer-autumn (March – May) prior to planting, although mowing may be initially required at some sites. Mulch can be used to provide some control of regeneration if required, or, alternatively, further applications of grass- and herb-specific herbicides can be used if regeneration starts to smother plantings. For long-term control of grasses and other herbaceous problem plants, the restoration plantings should suppress and eventually eliminate the herbs on the planting areas.

Gorse: As it is proposed to use gorse as a nurse plant for native forest regeneration, control will be limited. However, where control is required (e.g., adjacent to boundaries or tracks) this will involve regular spraying using Tordon, Escort or similar approved herbicide.