

DAMA WALLABY

Macropus eugenii

Management programme

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
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Impacts

Economic	Biodiversity	Soil resources	Water quantity/quality
Human health	Social and cultural wellbeing	Amenity/recreation	Animal welfare

Objectives

Reduce the geographic distribution of dama wallaby in the Waikato region.

Why are they a pest?

Dama wallabies were first liberated in the Rotorua area in 1912, with a further liberation in 1940. Since 1912, their range has steadily extended, mainly north and east, by an average rate of about 19km per year. By 2000 they occupied 1697km².

Dama wallabies are the only wallaby species present in the Waikato region. However, there are other wallaby species present in New Zealand, which could spread if deliberately released into the Waikato. The Waikato's dama wallaby populations occur south of the Paeroa Range to the Waikato River and throughout the Mamaku Plateau. The expansion of their range is probably occurring through both natural and human means.

Dama wallabies browse on native and exotic vegetation. When present in high densities, they can change the pattern of forest succession, or at least alter the local abundance of different species. In this regard, wallabies can have a similar effect to possums.

Dama wallabies prefer the margins of forest and scrub habitats where they can shelter during the day and feed on grasses and pasture species at night. They inhabit predominantly podocarp/broadleaved forest with adjoining areas of manuka scrub, bracken and pasture.

Responsibility for control

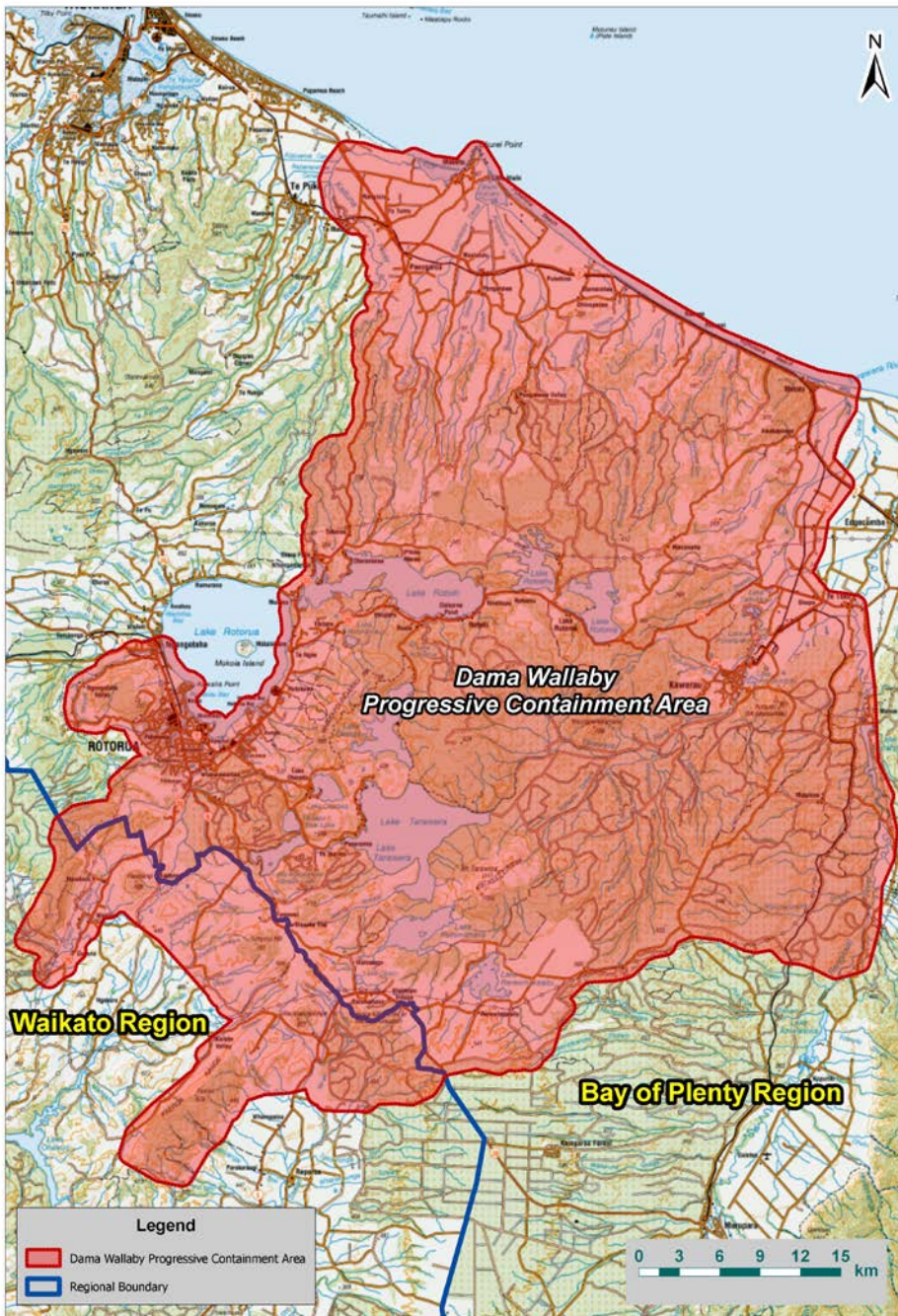
Waikato Regional Council undertakes wallaby control within the Waikato region. If you see wallabies on your property, please report them to Waikato Regional Council. Our council is working with the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Bay of Plenty Regional Council to progressively contain and reverse the spread of dama wallabies in the region.

- If you see a wallaby on your property **REPORT IT** using the Report Wallabies NZ form or call our pest animal staff on freephone 0800 800 401.
- Wallabies are classified as an unwanted organism and possession of any live wallaby is an offence under the Biosecurity Act 1993 unless the landowner is exempt. Wallabies may be hunted year-round.
- All persons shall inform Waikato Regional Council of the presence of Bennett's, brush-tailed rock, parma or swamp wallaby in the Waikato region, within five working days of the presence first being suspected (rule WAL-1 of the **Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2022-2032**)
- No person shall possess a live Bennett's, brush-tailed rock, parma or swamp wallaby in the Waikato region (WAL-2 of the RPMP 2022-2032).

What do they look like?

- The dama wallaby stands up to half a metre tall and weighs 5kg to 7kg.
- Its body colour is grey-brown with red shoulders that are more pronounced in males.
- The ears are long and pointed and the tail is long, tapering and uniformly grey.





Partnering to control wallabies

Waikato Regional Council is working in partnership with Bay of Plenty Regional Council to control wallabies as part of the Tipu Mātoro National Wallaby Eradication Programme.

The programme focuses on the surveillance and control of outlying populations of wallabies in the greater Rotorua area, which includes the Waikato region. The aim is to progressively contain and eventually eradicate wallabies found in the Bay of Plenty and Waikato.

Contractors with dogs and trail cameras work to establish the presence or absence of wallabies. Where wallabies are identified outside of the containment area or in the buffer, they are controlled by the wallaby programme.

Checking for signs of wallabies

Indications of wallaby grazing or browsing are similar to that of other pests such as rabbits and possums. The most obvious wallaby sign is their almost square and flattened faecal pellets. Their long, narrow hind feet and dragging tail can leave characteristic foot prints and tracks in areas of soft sand or soil.

Dama wallaby tend to frequent favourite feeding areas. By doing this they create pad runs that are easily identifiable as narrow, well-formed tracks leading to pastureland or clearings in the bush.

More information

- If you see a wallaby, report it using the Report Wallabies NZ form at www.reportwallabies.nz or call our pest animal staff on freephone 0800 800 401.
- For advice and additional information on wallabies, call our pest animal staff on freephone 0800 800 401.
- *Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2022-2032* – waikatoregion.govt.nz/RPMP
- *Waikato Biosecurity Strategy 2022-2032* – waikatoregion.govt.nz/biosecurity-strategy

