

A regional perspective on NZ's National Collective funding model for Biocontrol of weeds research

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Summary The National Biocontrol collective (NBC) is a collaborative partnership that has been funding biocontrol of weeds research in New Zealand since 2002. It is comprised of Regional Councils, unitary authorities and the Department of Conservation, and funds a national biocontrol programme. Funding is pooled and collaborative decision making is undertaken annually to determine where best to focus these resources. Since its inception, 25 biocontrol agents have been released, targeting 14 different weed species. Bay of

Plenty Regional Council has been a member of this collective since its establishment, and this presentation provides a regional perspective on the history, track record, achievements and challenges of the NBC. In addition, future challenges and opportunities are discussed, focusing on how can the delivery of biocontrol agents be improved, and potential options to increase funding for the research and delivery of biocontrol tools.

Keywords Biocontrol of weeds, collective funding model