



# Are we there yet? Determining the evidence required to demonstrate *Mycoplasma bovis* eradication from Aotearoa

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**Biosecurity New Zealand**  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua

**DairyNZ**

**beef+lamb**  
new zealand

# Agenda

- Background
- Overview of Programme
- Surveillance
- Progress
- Phases to eradication
- Tools
- Summary



# *Mycoplasma bovis*

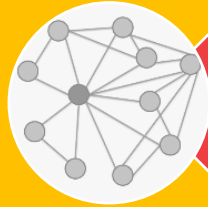
- Bacterial disease of cattle
- Widespread internationally
- Mastitis, arthritis, respiratory disease, abortion, otitis media
- Often refractory to antibiotic treatment
- No effective vaccine
- Spreads directly from animal contact via bodily fluids e.g. nasal secretions, infected milk
- Not zoonotic - meat and milk can safely enter the human food chain



# *Mycoplasma bovis* in New Zealand

- First detected South Canterbury July 2017
- Estimated \$1.2 billion cost to industry over first 10 years if no action taken
- Joint decision with industry to attempt phased eradication in May 2018
- 3 goals for the *M. bovis* Eradication Programme:
  - eradicate
  - reduce the impact of the Programme on farmers, families and communities
  - apply the lessons learnt to further strengthen the biosecurity system.

# *Mycoplasma bovis* surveillance



Network Surveillance



Background Surveillance -  
bulk tank milk screening



Background Surveillance -  
beef and drystock screening

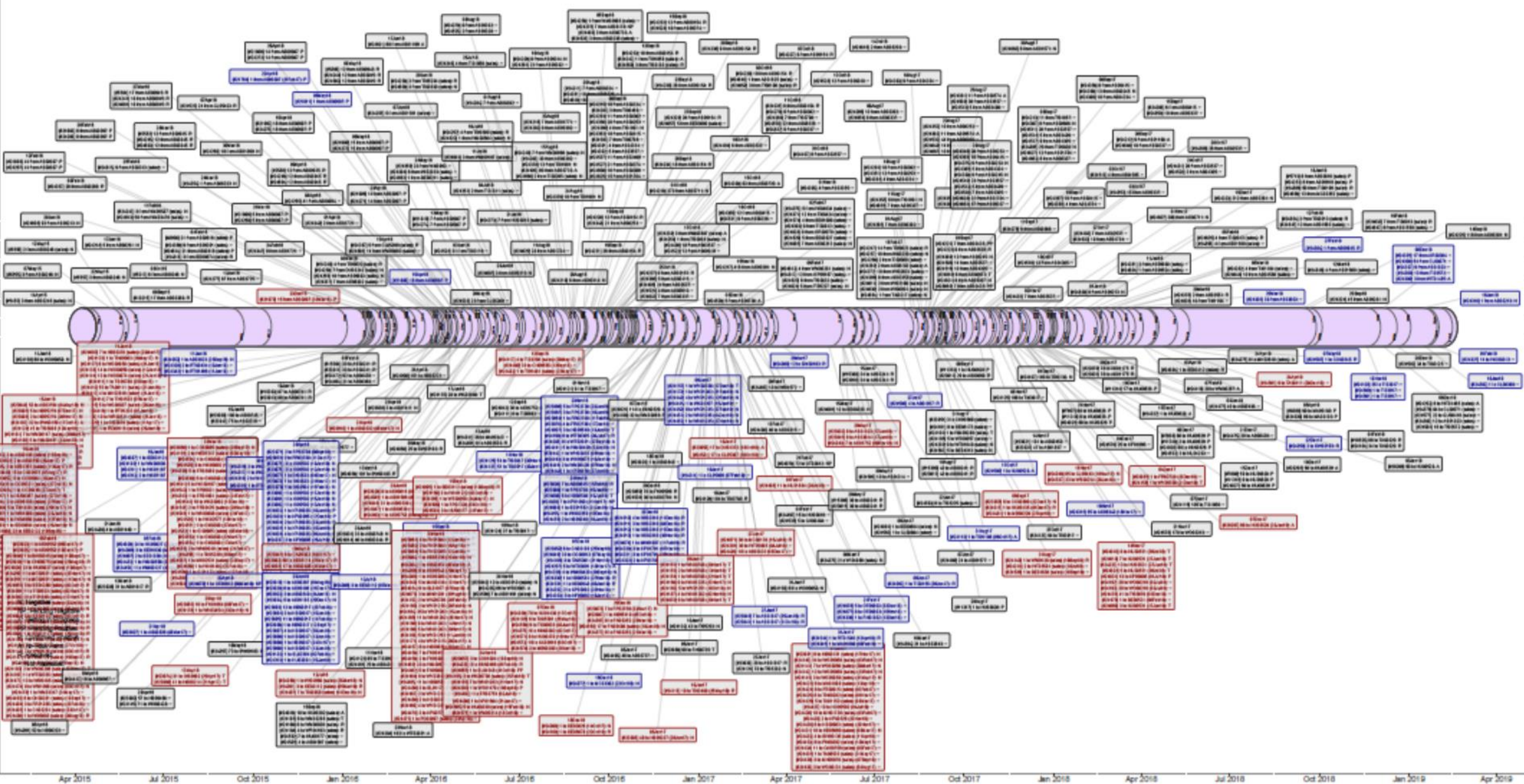


Background passive  
surveillance – report cases

# *Surveillance challenges*

1. Clinical disease rarely observed
2. Diagnostic test performance
3. Tracing cattle and milk movements
4. Cannot achieve a census





Movement type  
 Primary  
 Secondary  
 Unknown  
 Broken chain

Risk period  
 Not assessed

Apr 2015 Jul 2015 Oct 2015 Jan 2016 Apr 2016 Jul 2016 Oct 2016 Jan 2017 Apr 2017 Jul 2017 Oct 2017 Jan 2018 Apr 2018 Jul 2018 Oct 2018 Jan 2019 Apr 2019

Delimiting surveillance looks at the places disease is likely to be

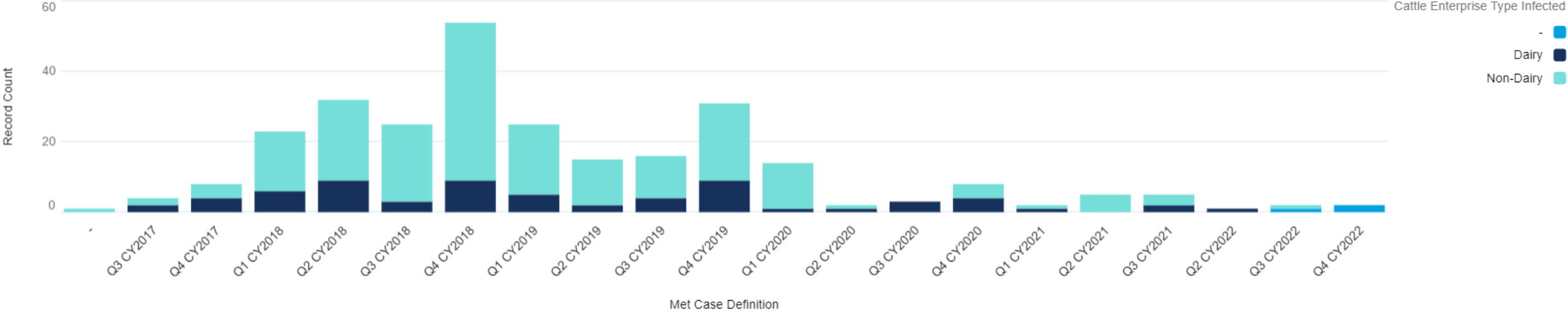


Background surveillance looks at places where disease isn't likely to be present

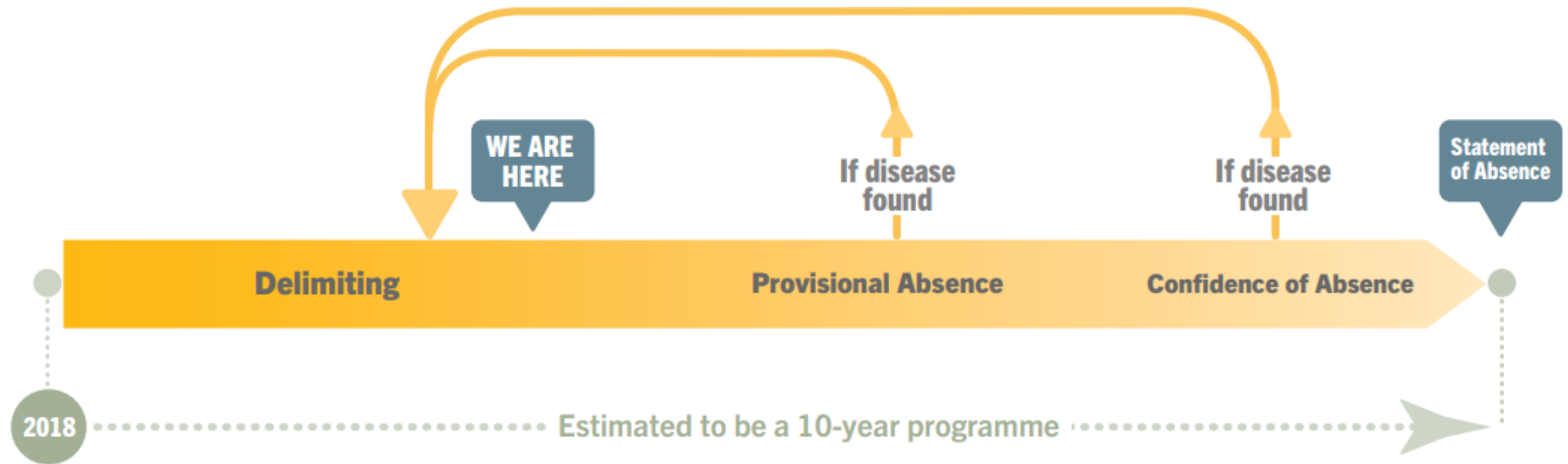




# Progress: Epidemic curve



# Three phases to eradicate *Mycoplasma bovis*

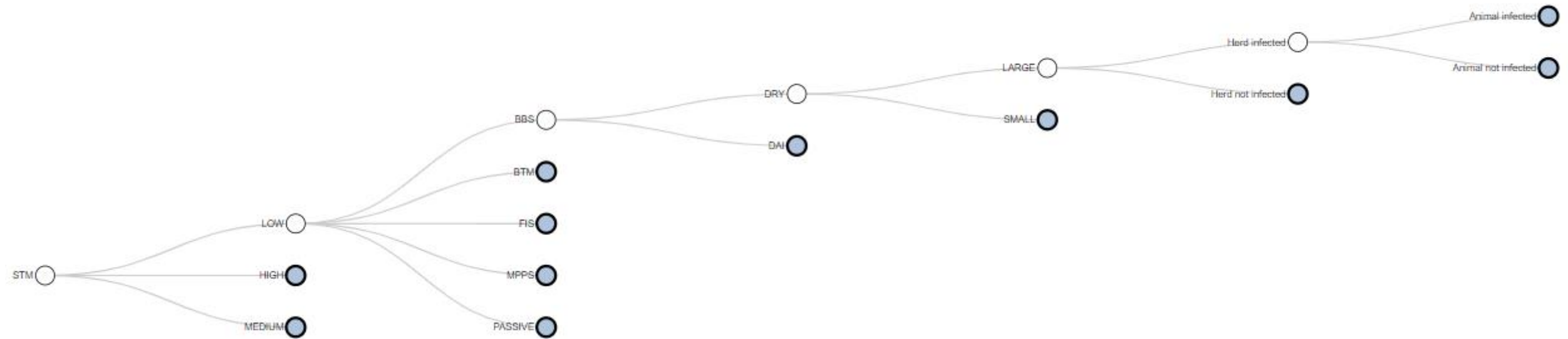




# **Eradication: How much and for how long?**

- **No guidelines or standards**
- **Passive surveillance lacks sensitivity**
- **Background surveillance is key**

# Scenario Tree Model



92.35% (91.91% to 92.81%)

Current confidence of freedom

88% (87.18% to 88.22%)

Prior probability of freedom

SSC	SSC Se Est. (% YTD)	SSC Se 95% CI (lower)	SSC Se 95% CI (upper)
BBS	3.32	3.3	3.34
BTM	35.03	31.84	35.34
FIS	1.9	1.89	1.92
MPPS	18.94	18.77	19.12
PASSIVE	0	0	0

Surveillance Region	Se Est. (% YTD)	Se 95% CI (lower)	Se 95% CI (upper)
LOW	9.68	8.73	9.79
MEDIUM	7.26	6.72	7.35
HIGH	40.39	38.17	40.68

Summary

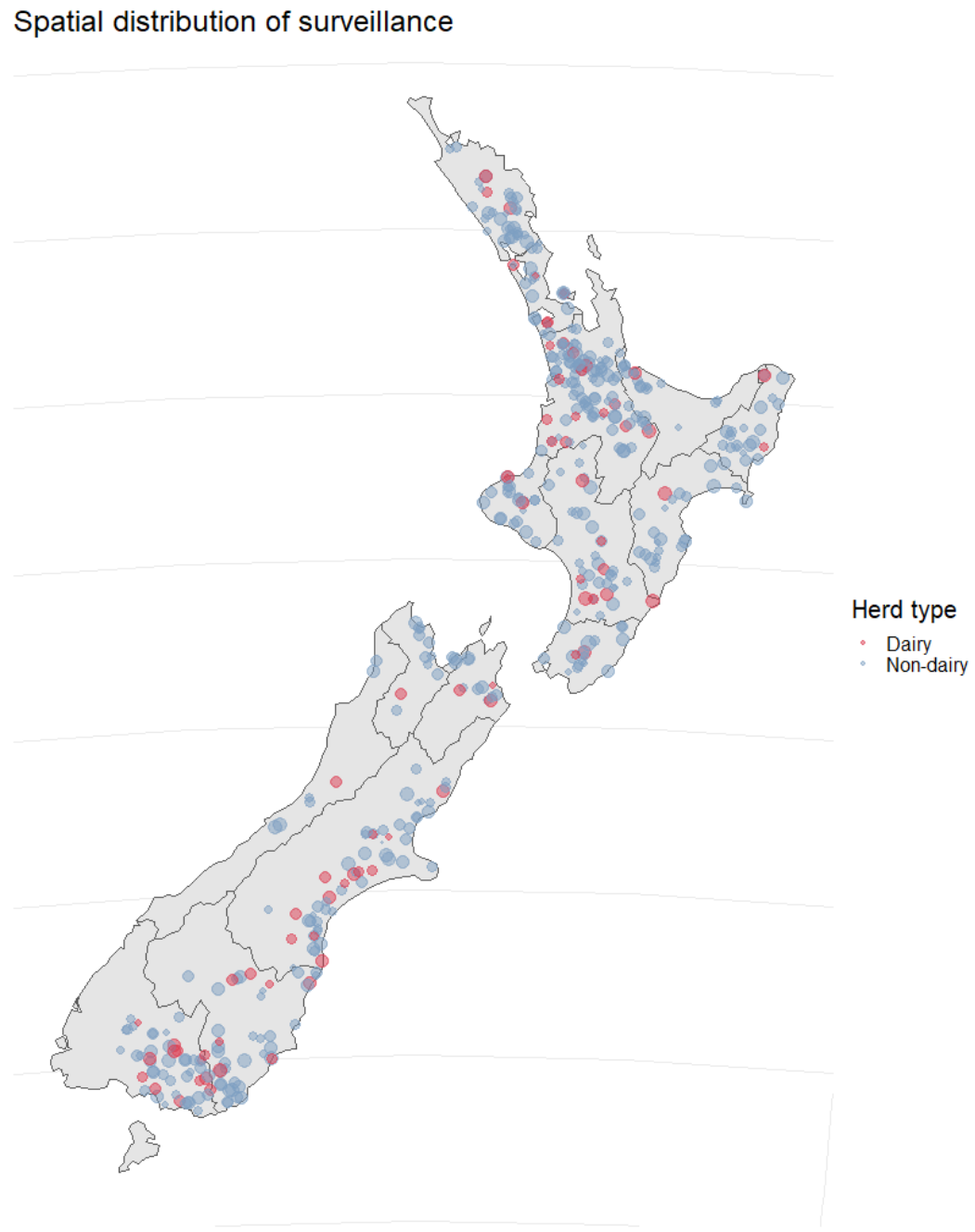
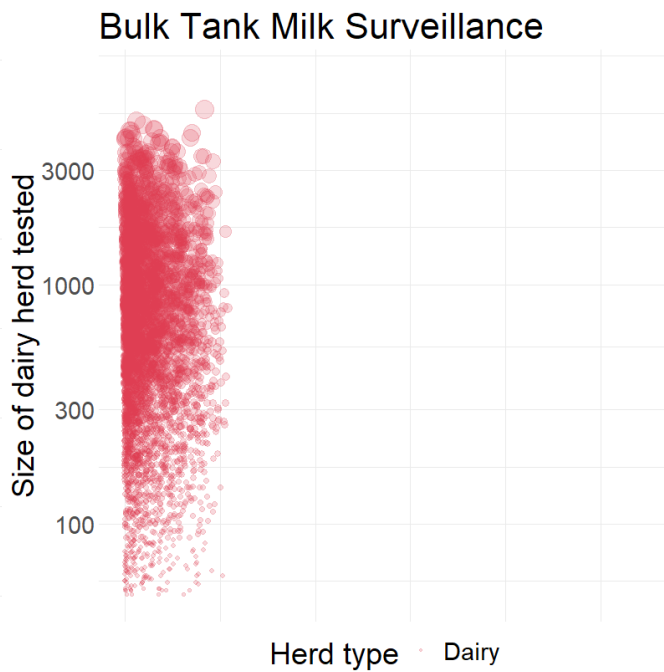
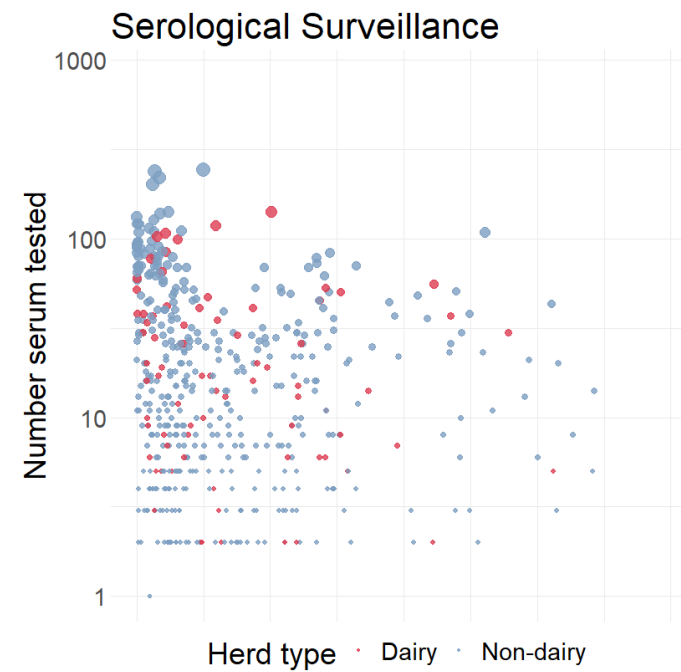
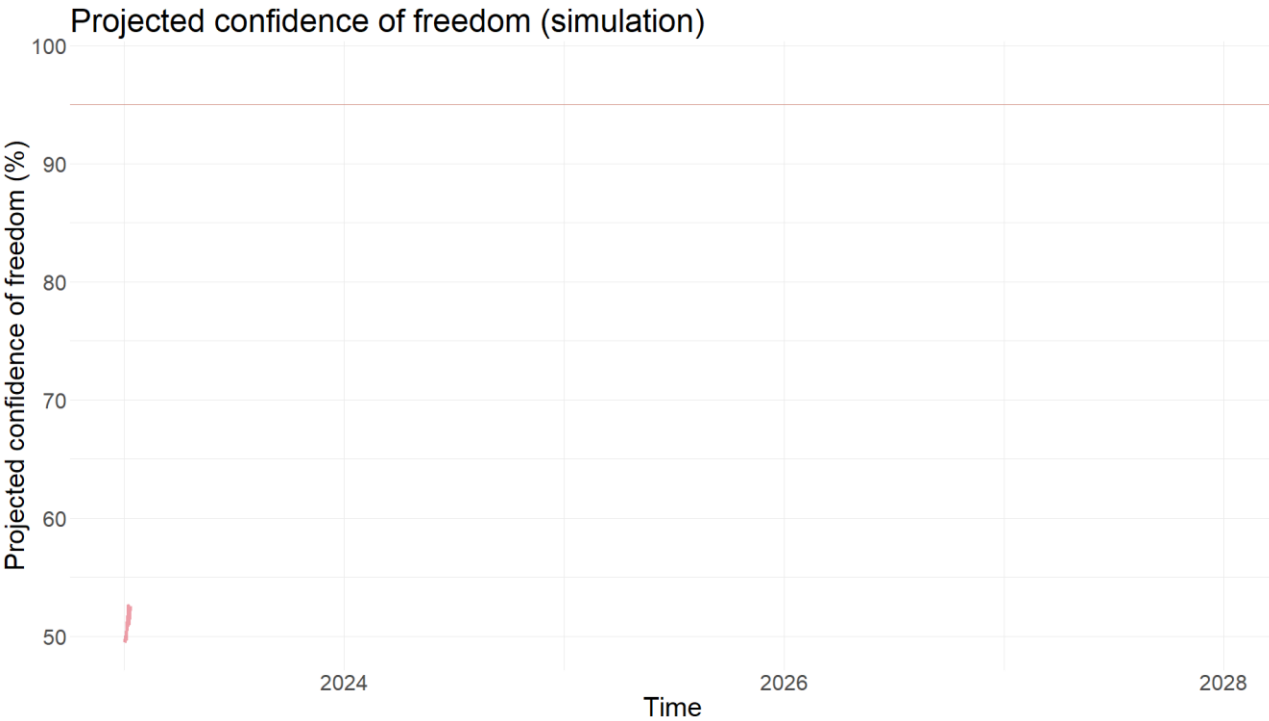


Surveillance Region SSC Surveillance category

Surveillance region	Surveillance year	Herds tested	Surveillance proportion
HIGH	1	1934	0.19
LOW	1	7342	0.73
MEDIUM	1	765	0.08
HIGH	2	5281	0.27
LOW	2	12516	0.63
MEDIUM	2	1946	0.1

1-6 of 12 rows

Previous 1 2 Next



# AADIS-Mbovis-NZ

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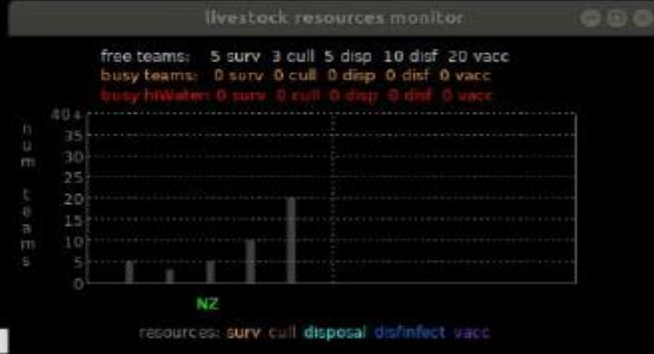
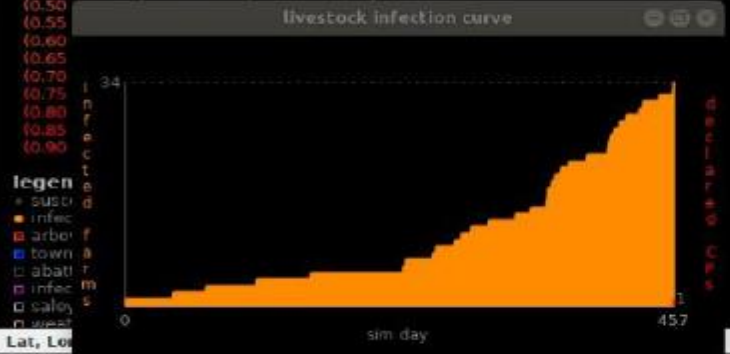
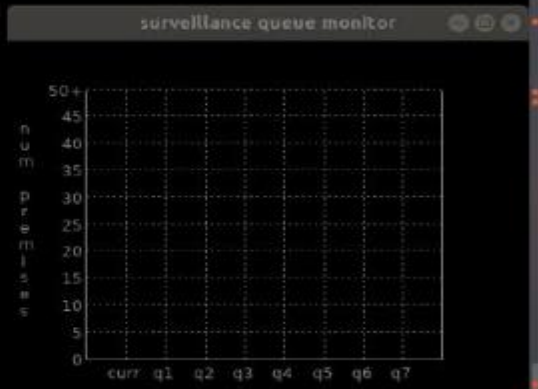
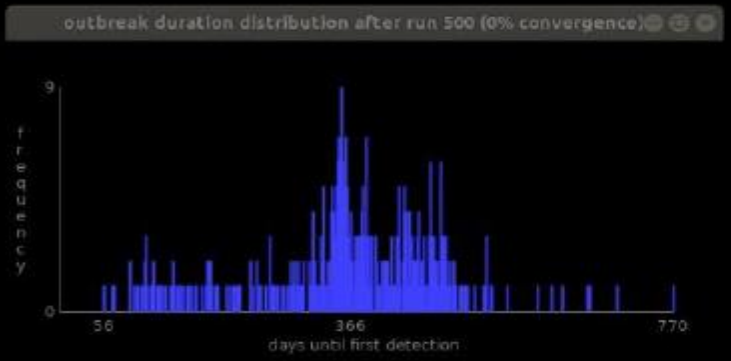
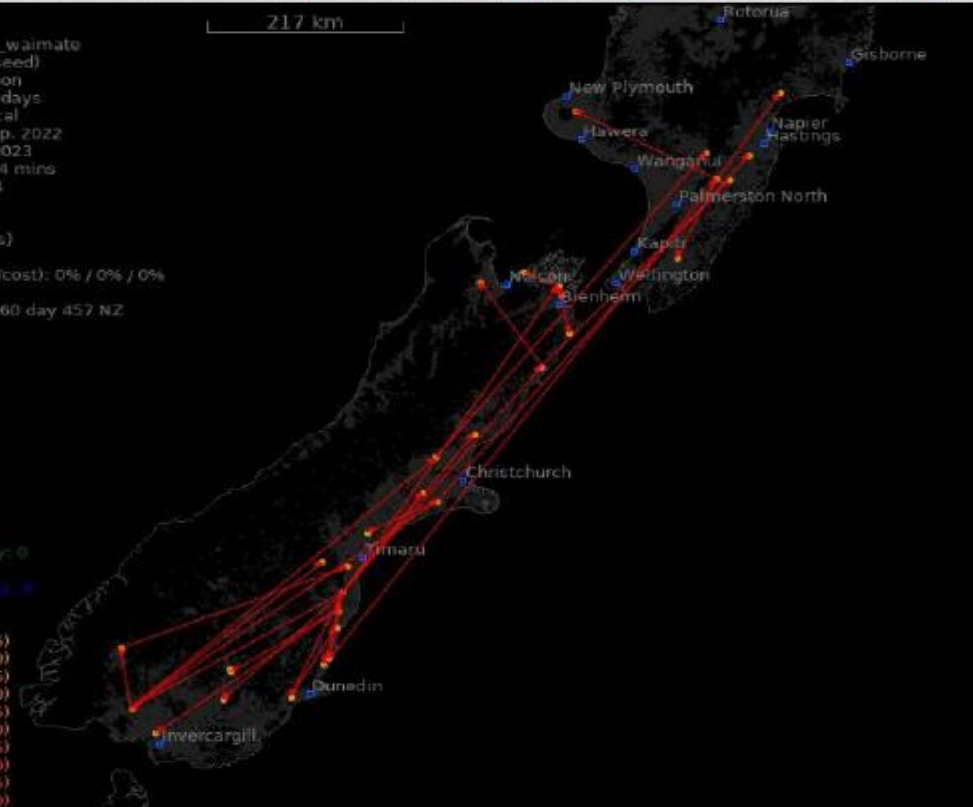
File Control Navigate Layers Config Database Reports



**model status**  
 scenario name: mbovis\_nz\_waimate  
 seeding mode: random (1 seed)  
 scenario end mode: detection  
 scenario max length: 1460 days  
 spread pathways: direct local  
 fixed start date: Thu, 01 Sep, 2022  
 current date: Sat, 02 Dec, 2023  
 elapsed real time: 1 hour 44 mins  
 currently infected herds: 34  
 hiwater herd infections: 34  
 scenario status: completed  
 sim day: 457 (1.3 sim years)  
 run number: 500 of 500  
 convergence (CPs/duration/cost): 0% / 0% / 0%  
 detection mode: fixed  
 index case: large dairy 35160 day 457 NZ  
 infected: NZ  
 controlled: NZ  
 standstill:  
 impacted: NZ  
 cost of control: \$0  
 post outbreak: \$0  
 loss of trade: \$0  
 TOTAL COST: \$0

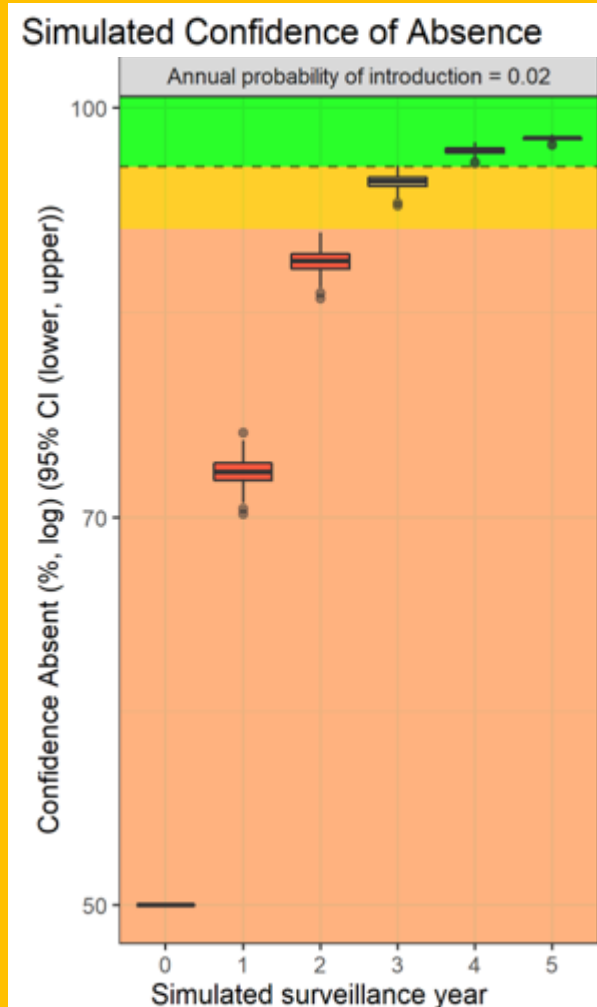
**herd prevalence**  
 seed herds: 1  
 susceptible herds: 56873  
 naturally immune herds: 0  
 herds lost natural immunity: 0  
 vaccine immune herds: 0  
 herds lost vaccine immunity: 0  
 culled herds: 0  
 infected herds: 34  
 (0.00 < prevalence ≤ 0.05)  
 (0.05 < prevalence ≤ 0.10)  
 (0.10 < prevalence ≤ 0.15)  
 (0.15 < prevalence ≤ 0.20)  
 (0.20 < prevalence ≤ 0.25)  
 (0.25 < prevalence ≤ 0.30)  
 (0.30 < prevalence ≤ 0.35)  
 (0.35 < prevalence ≤ 0.40)  
 (0.40 < prevalence ≤ 0.45)  
 (0.45 < prevalence ≤ 0.50)  
 (0.50  
 (0.55  
 (0.60  
 (0.65  
 (0.70  
 (0.75  
 (0.80  
 (0.85  
 (0.90

**legend**  
 + suburb  
 ● infect  
 ■ arbor  
 ■ town  
 ■ abattoir  
 ■ infect  
 ■ sale  
 ■ west

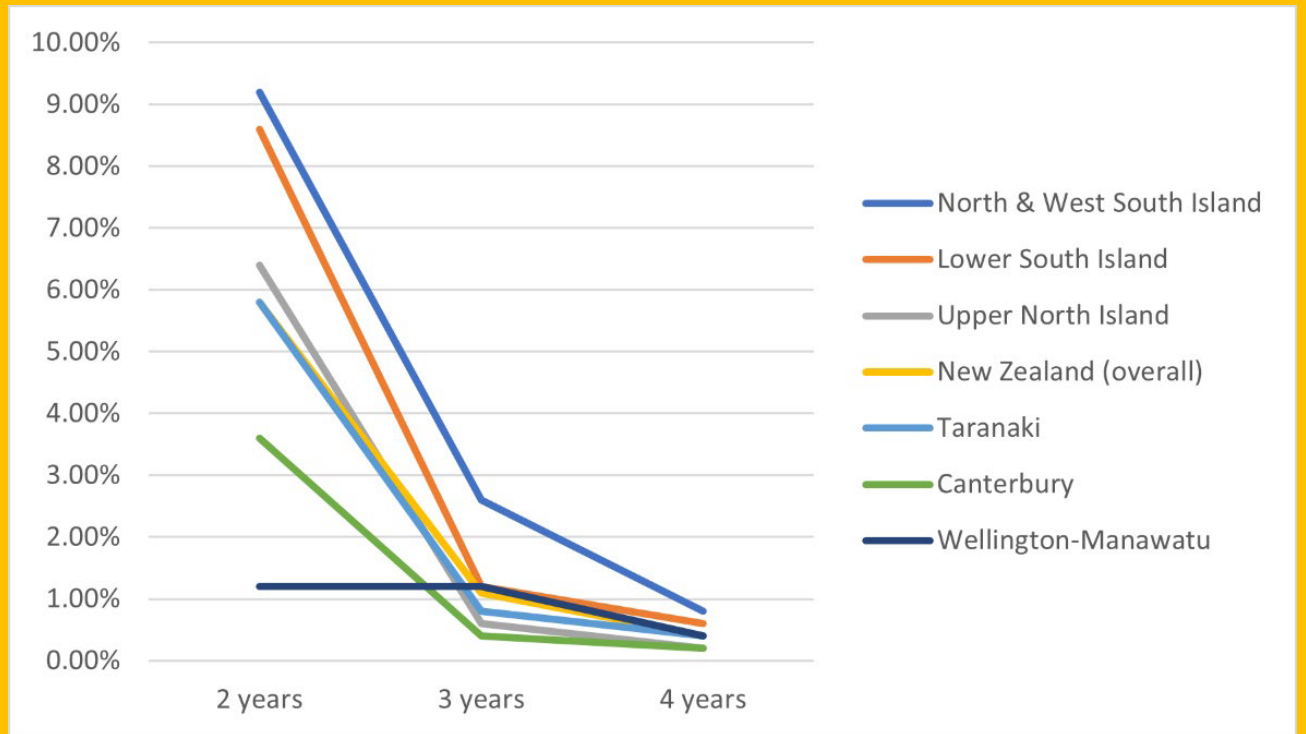


# Model comparison

## Scenario Tree Model



## AADIS-Mbovis-NZ



Proportion of outbreaks that remained undetected after 2, 3 and 4 years of background surveillance, by seed surveillance region



# Summary

- Working in an environment without guidelines
- Existing surveillance
- Eradication target
- Used two distinct models to inform surveillance plan for eradication
- Model agreement
- Provides confidence



# Acknowledgements

- *Mycoplasma bovis* Eradication Programme (MPI, DairyNZ and Beef + LambNZ)
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- AsureQuality and Veritag/SVS
- MilkTestNZ
- New Zealand cattle farmers, veterinarians and the wider industry



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# Questions?



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