PEST WASPS: SURVEY
REPORT

August 2025

Moths and Butterflies of New Zealand Trust
Pūrerehua Aotearoa

Contents

Executive Summary

Mandate for action

Insufficient control: **~89%** agree current wasp control in NZ is insufficient; **66% strongly agree**. Among those who **monitor regularly**, **93%** agree (78% strongly), showing **a clear exposure–concern gradient.**

Funding & involvement: **94%+** support **more funding**, and **94%+** want **restoration groups actively involved**.

Governance: **~73%** favour a **multi-agency programme**, with **43%** preferring a **designated lead agency** rather than loose cooperation.

Identification & awareness

Self-rated knowledge (Total): Moderate 43%, Well-informed 24%, Basic 28%, Expert 1%.

By cohort: Restoration groups have far more **High knowledge** (Well-informed+Expert **48%**) vs Individuals **23%**; Individuals have more **Low knowledge** (No+Basic **33%**) vs Groups **13%**.

Species ID: 45% of group members can identify **4–5 species** vs **33%** of individuals; **0–1 species** is **~14%** among individuals vs **7%** in groups → a clear **right-shift** in group knowledge.

Observed & perceived impacts

What's most affected (multi-select): Insects 36.7% lead public perception, then **Honeydew ecosystems 23.8%, Birds 14.7%, Fauna (bats/geckos) 11.4%, Forest regeneration 9.9%, Not sure 3.5%.**

Knowledge gradient: Higher-knowledge respondents are more likely to cite **honeydew**, **forest regeneration**, and **vertebrates**, not just insects—indicating a communications gap for ecosystem-level effects.

Attitudes & priorities

Threat to invertebrates: ~96.5% agree (Individuals **96.4%**, Groups **98.0%**), with **~72% strongly agree** overall.

Priority for conservation: Very high agreement (Top-2-box >90%).

Responsible poisons: Strong acceptance (Top-2-box **90%**), with **higher intensity among groups** (67% strongly agree vs 54% individuals).

Executive Summary

Actions & methods

Participation (last 5 yrs): Individuals **69% Yes** / **29% No**; Groups **78% Yes** / **16% No**.

Methods used (Total): Nest destruction 43% (equal across cohorts); **Traps 23%** (more among individuals); **Vespex 13%** (Groups **27%** vs Individuals **11%**); **No control 14%** (Individuals **14%** vs Groups **6%**).

"Other" methods (Individuals): dominated by **household aerosols/powders** and **manual capture/kill**; a **small minority** report **risky DIY** (e.g., petrol/flame)—a clear H&S target.

Monitoring & engagement links

Monitoring frequency: 42% Regularly, **29% Occasionally**, **12% Rarely**, **17% Never**.

Link to attitudes: Agreement that control is insufficient **rises with monitoring** (Strongly agree: **78% Regular** → **52% Never**).

Link to participation: Those who **participated** are most likely to **strongly agree** that control is insufficient (**72%** vs **50%** among non-participants).

Introduction

Background and Intent

This survey was initiated by the **Moths and Butterflies of New Zealand Trust (MBNZT).** **While** monarchs often spark concern, Aotearoa has **2,000–3,000 native wasp species** that are part of our ecosystems; the key issue is a small set of **introduced pest wasps** (Vespula germanica, V. vulgaris; Polistes chinensis, P. humilis, P. dominula).

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Understand public knowledge, attitudes, sightings, and control practices relating to pest wasps—among both **individuals** and **restoration groups**.

Inform education resources and public guidance (accurate identification; safe, effective control).

Support policy advocacy, including consideration of pest wasps within **Predator Free 2050** settings, and practical enablers (e.g., manufacturer guidance, qualified applicator directories, potential ID app).

Survey Objectives

Identification & awareness – Are people aware and can they distinguish **pest vs native/harmless** wasps? How confident are they, and where are the gaps?

Observed and perceived impacts – Which species/ecosystems are being affected (invertebrates, honeydew systems, forest regeneration, birds/reptiles), and where are incidents occurring?

Attitudes and priorities – Do people see wasps as a **significant threat**? Should control be a **high priority**

Actions and methods – What control methods are people and groups using (e.g., **Vespex**, nest destruction, traps), how often are sites monitored, and what works where? ? Is poison use acceptable when managed responsibly?

Barriers & enablers – What stops action (knowledge, cost, safety, regulation, ethics), and what support would unlock it (training, micro-grants, access to applicators, resources for schools/communities)?

Governance preferences – Who should fund/support control (DOC, MPI, councils, **multi-agency models**), and what level of coordination/leadership is preferred?

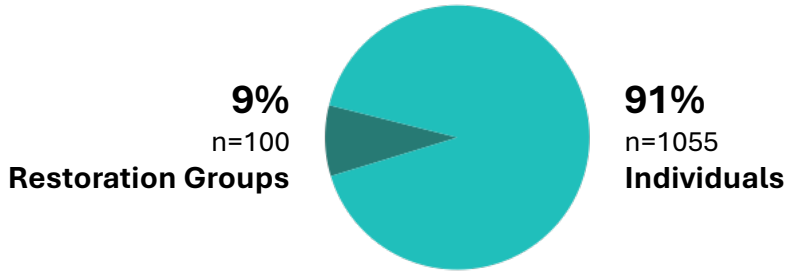
Survey Scope

Period of survey distribution: From 26 June to August 2025

Medium of survey distribution: Online via a survey link in *Jotform,* distributed through social, online media channels,

Intended audience: Open to restoration groups and individuals.

This was an opt-in national survey.



Results are presented unweighted and stratified by respondent type (Individuals vs Restoration groups).

Restoration groups: Includes restoration groups and schools — generally groups of around 20–30 people who come together in local communities to plant, beautify, or remove predators/pests. (copied from your comments in the previous mail).

Individuals: Includes respondents who have mentioned owning a home garden or property but have not answered for a restoration/volunteer group. This group may also include respondents from local government bodies, beekeepers, and other entities (e.g., R&T, professionals).

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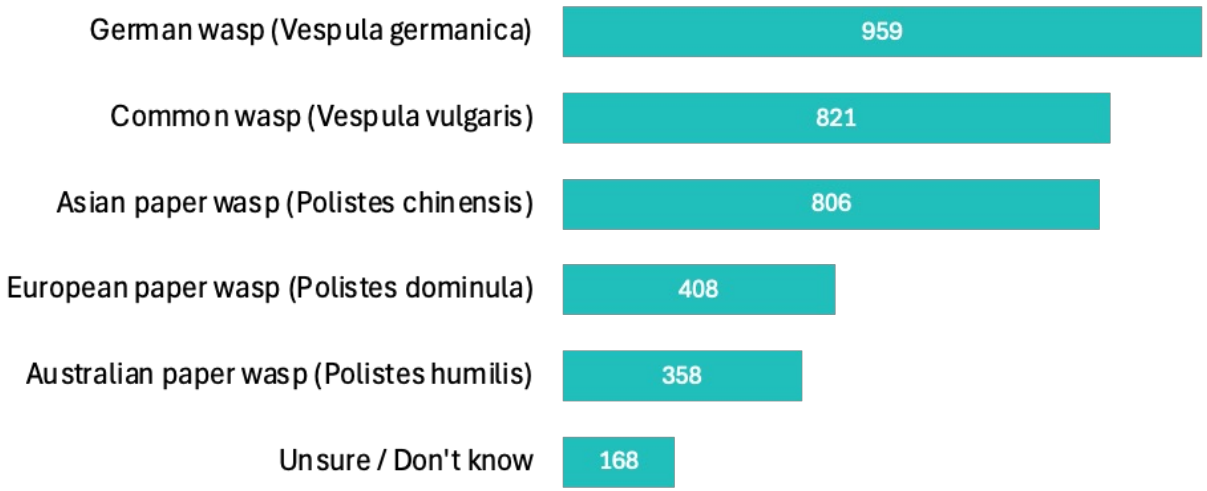
Awareness & Knowledge

Most frequently identified species

The most commonly aware of species of wasps are **German wasp (Vespula germanica), Common wasp (Vespula vulgaris)** and **Asian paper wasp (Polistes chinensis)**

Most frequently identified species (%)



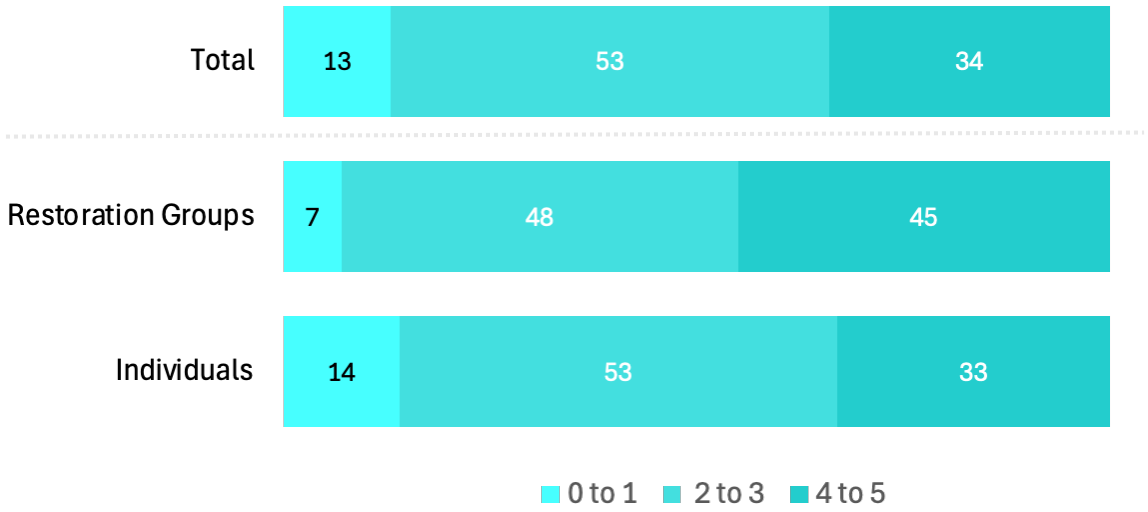
Base: All respondents
Source: Q1. Which of the following wasp species are you aware are present in New Zealand? (Select all that apply)

Most frequently identified species

Species identification is stronger among **restoration groups (45% know 4–5 species)** than individuals (33%), while low identification (0–1 species) is twice as common among individuals (~14% vs 7%).

Implications:
This right-shift for groups supports targeted education for individuals and leveraging groups as delivery partners.

Distribution in the number of species awareness (%)



Base: All respondents
Source: Q1. Which of the following wasp species are you aware are present in New Zealand? (Select all that apply)

Self – rated knowledge of ecological/ economic impact of wasps

Interpretation:

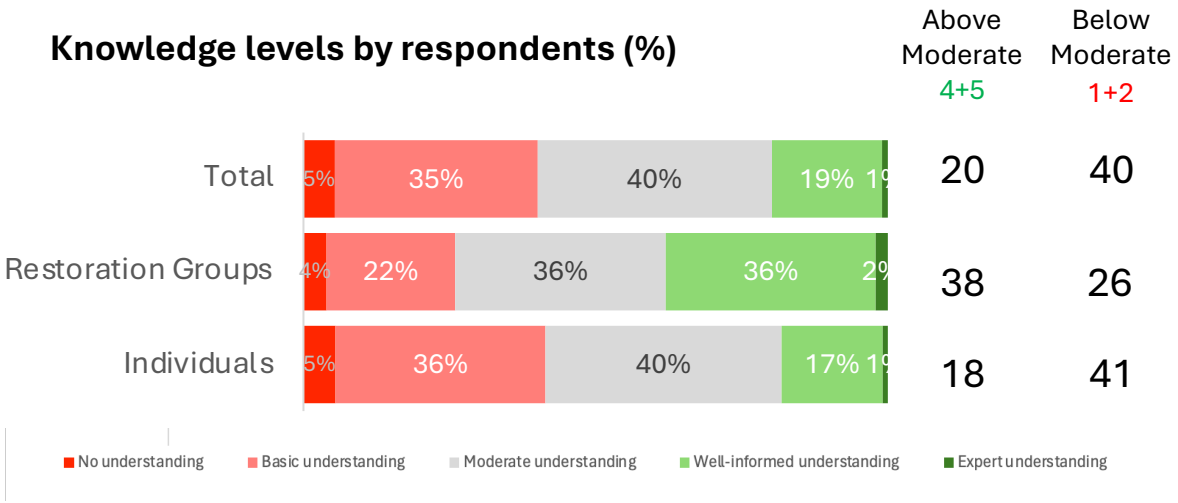
Expertise is concentrated in restoration groups; a sizeable share of individuals sits at **Basic/Moderate**, indicating room for education

Implications:

Targeted education for individuals: species ID (pest vs native), when/how to use approved controls, safety.

Leverage restoration groups as delivery partners/trainers (they hold the knowledge).

Knowledge levels by respondents (%)



Overall knowledge is centred on **Moderate and Below-moderate at 40%.**

Restoration groups are much more knowledgeable:

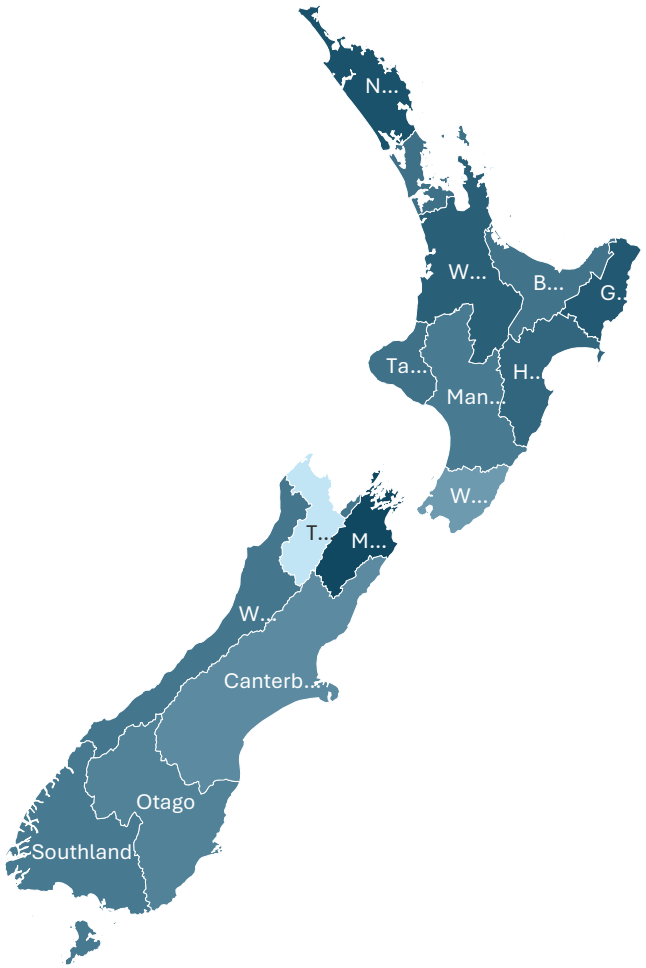
High knowledge (Well-informed + Expert): 38% vs **18%** for individuals (**+20 pp; ~2×**).

Low knowledge (No+Basic): 26% vs **41%** for individuals (**–15 pp**).

Base: All respondents
Source: Q.2 Please rate your knowledge of the ecological or economic impacts of wasps on NZ's flora and fauna.
(1 – No understanding, 2- Basic understanding, 3- Moderate understanding, 4 – Well-informed understanding, 5 – Expert Understanding)

Observed & Perceived Impacts

Observed nests/foraging frequency



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National picture
95% report wasps **at least occasionally** (67% *frequently*, 28% *occasionally*).

Regional pattern (ranked by Yes, frequently)

Very high frequency (≥80%)
Tasman 98%, Marlborough 92%, Northland 88%, Gisborne 83%.
→ Strong hotspot signal.

High–upper mid (70–79%)
Waikato 79%, Hawke's Bay 72%, Auckland 72%, Taranaki 71%, Bay of Plenty 70%.
→ Regular pressure; many also report *occasional*.

Mid (60–69%)
Southland 67% (but **8% Not sure**, highest), **Manawatū-Whanganui 62%, Nelson 69%, West Coast 69%.**
→ Frequent for a majority, with some uncertainty or lower intensity.

Lower frequency (≤56%)
Otago 56%, Canterbury 47%, Wellington 43%.
→ More respondents report *occasional* (Otago 38%, Canterbury 42%, Wellington 45%) and **higher "No"** rates (Canterbury/Wellington **10%**).

Base: All respondents
Source: Q 4. Have you observed wasp activity (nests or foraging) in your habitat in the past 12 months? Yes, frequently, Yes, occasionally, No, Not Sure)

Observed nests/foraging frequency by region

Regions	Yes, frequently	Yes, occasionally	Not sure	No
Tasman	98%	2%	0%	0%
Marlborough	92%	8%	0%	0%
Northland	88%	12%	0%	0%
Gisborne	83%	8%	0%	8%
Waikato	79%	21%	0%	0%
Hawke's Bay	72%	24%	0%	3%
Auckland	72%	24%	0%	4%
Taranaki	71%	29%	0%	0%
Bay of Plenty	70%	29%	0%	2%
Nelson	69%	31%	0%	0%
West Coast	69%	31%	0%	0%
Grand Total	67%	28%	1%	4%
Southland	67%	25%	8%	0%
Manawatu-Wanganui	62%	28%	2%	9%
Otago	56%	38%	3%	4%
Canterbury	47%	42%	1%	10%
Wellington	43%	45%	3%	10%

Base: All respondents
Source: Q 4. Have you observed wasp activity (nests or foraging) in your habitat in the past 12 months? Yes, frequently, Yes, occasionally, No, Not Sure)

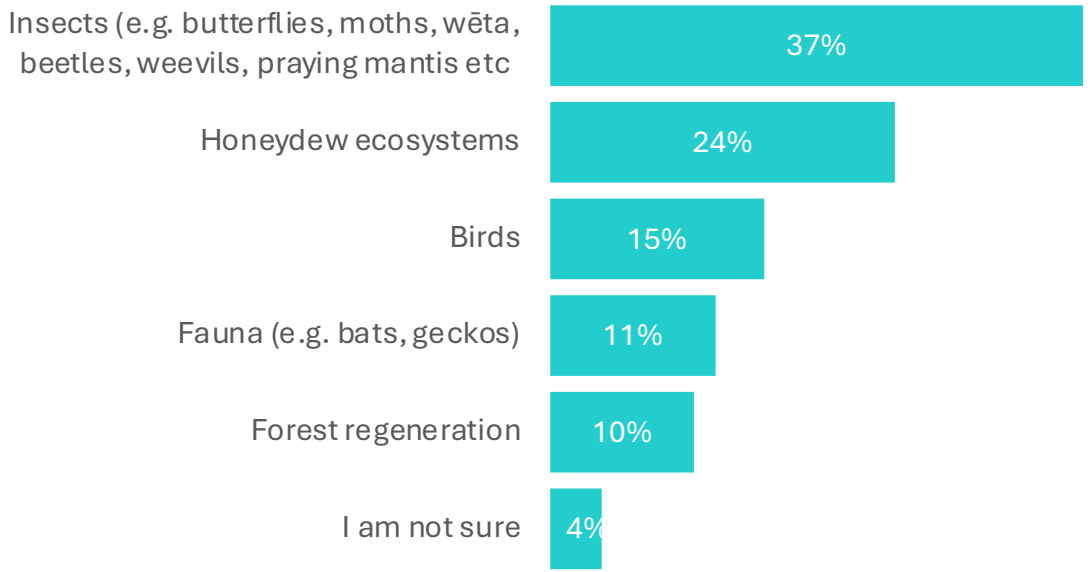
Perception of the most affected species

Interpretations -

Public understanding is **insect-centric**—people most readily see direct predation on caterpillars and other insects.

Broader ecosystem impacts (honeydew food webs, forest regeneration) are **less top-of-mind**, indicating a **communication gap**.

The relatively lower mentions of **birds/other fauna** suggest that links between wasps, prey availability, and knock-on effects for vertebrates need to be **made explicit** in education materials.



The **dominant association is with insects** (37%).

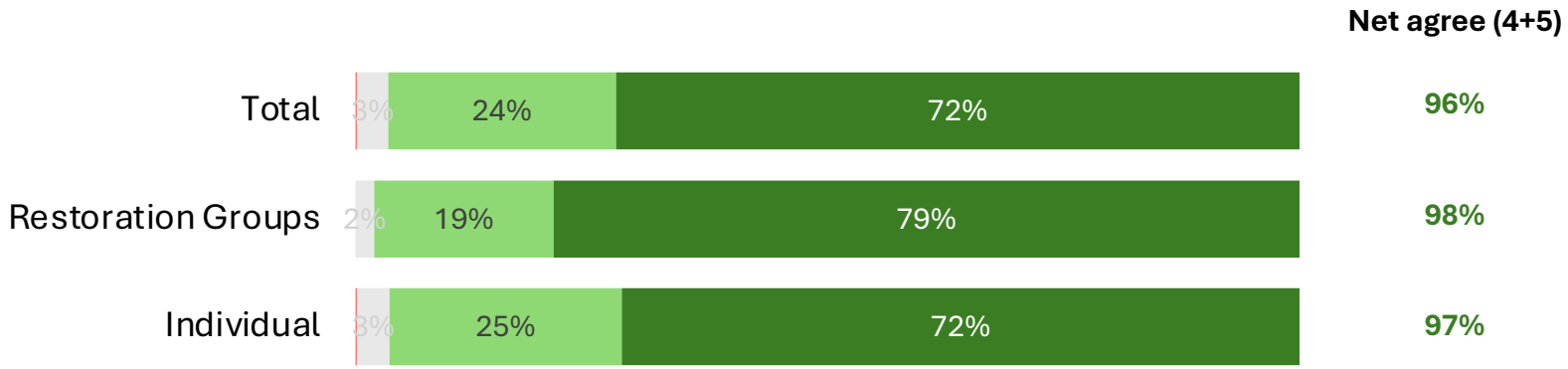
Ecosystem-level effects are the next strongest signal: **honeydew systems (24%)** and **forest regeneration (~10%)**.

Vertebrates are mentioned by a smaller share (**birds 15%**, **bats/geckos 11%**).

Uncertainty is low (3.5% “not sure”)

Base: All respondents
Source: Q 3. Which of the following do you believe are most affected by wasps?

Perception of the impact of wasps on insects, moths and butterflies



Overall sentiment

Overwhelming agreement that wasps impact such invertebrates: **~96.5% agree**, with **~72% strongly agree**.

Very little neutrality (~3%) and **negligible disagreement** (~0.2%).

Observation: Reported predation and disruption across insects (especially monarchs), hive collapse, and pressure on birds/other fauna

Interpretation: Ecological harm—especially to monarchs and hives—is the most consistent, salient concern.

Base: All respondents
Source: Q 7.I am/we are concerned about the impact of wasps on invertebrate species such as moths and butterflies. (1 – Strongly Disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither Agree nor Disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly Agree)

Impact of wasps on moths and butterflies

What did people say?

"Not many wasps this year, but almost NO monarch butterflies. Thus is heart/breaking as I actively nurture them."
- Nelson

"Didn't have many/ any butterflies found and destroyed wasp nests and butterflies reappeared."
- Northland

"My wife used to breed and release monarch butterflies here but the paper wasps have all but wiped them out. Any chrysalis formed outside are destroyed before they get a chance to hatch. Also caterpillars often disappear before even getting to crysalis stage."
- Marlborough

"All wasps are now out of control in back garden, now so badly, they have eaten butterfly eggs just after butterfly has laid. only 9 Monarchs survived last summer as they had to be human raised. I would like to see more awareness in mail drops or social media how to kill the increased numbers we are seeing."
- Auckland

"destroyed 4 german wasp nest last summer on my property plus no monarchs survived the onslaught of the paper wasps the local beekeeper sold out couple of years ago as his hives were being destroyed by German wasps (on next door property)
- Auckland

"I was a registered hobby beekeeper for many years and have lost a number of bee hives to German wasps. I currently have de-registered and given up on beekeeping, one reason being the endless fight against these yellow jacket wasps..."
- Waikato

Base: All respondents
Source: Q17. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your experience with wasps, wasp control or related issues?

Effects on Human Health, Safety & Outdoor Experience

Observation: Stings, allergies, fear, and constraints on work/recreation

Interpretation: Beyond ecology, wasps are a **public health and H&S** issue (schools, reserves, tracks, restoration sites), creating **avoidance** and **program me disruption**.

What did people say?

"Wasp nests onsite are one of our main safety concerns in the summer and have led us to stop maintenance work on sites. We have had students, volunteers, and an employee badly stung after accidentally disturbing wasp nests while releasing plants in restoration sites. One volunteer had to go to hospital due to the number of stings he received."

"I am allergic to wasp stings, could save money on epi-pens if we could eliminate wasps."

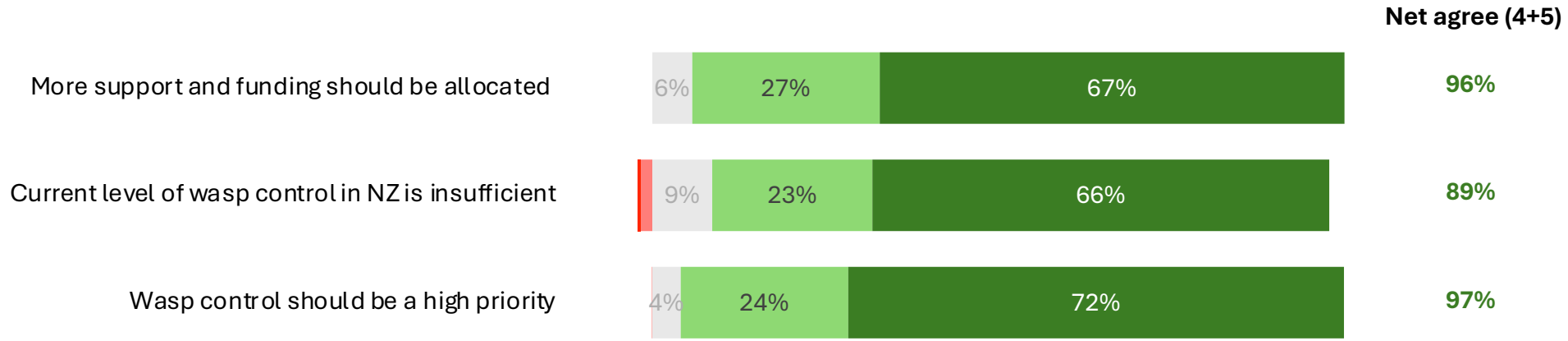
"Hospital visit via ambulance from an attack this summer! Not fun."

"We have noticed a marked increase in common wasps in our garden and also when tramping in beech forests. They are very aggressive and of particular concern to those with allergic reactions."

Base: All respondents
Source: Q17. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your experience with wasps, wasp control or related issues?

Attitudes & Priorities

Perceptions on current levels of wasp control



Mandate to act: Very high support for prioritising wasp control (**96% agree**) and for **more funding** (**94% agree**).

Status quo seen as inadequate:

89% say **current control is insufficient**.

Intensity: "Strongly agree" is dominant (66–72%) across items; opposition is negligible (0–3%).

Base: All respondents
Source: Q6. Wasp control should be a high priority for conservation efforts in NZ. (Select one response)
Q8. The current level of wasp control in NZ is insufficient to control wasp populations. (Select one response**)**
Q9. More support and funding should be allocated to wasp control and research. (Select one response)
(1 – Strongly Disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither Agree nor Disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly Agree)

Perceptions on current levels of wasp control

What did people say?

"FOF has monitored forest ringlet butterflies in Kahurangi National Park for 3 years and collated evidence on the impact of Vespula wasps on this iconic species. There is an urgent need for a safe landscape scale wasp control tool that can be used in this environment. There is no option currently available. We fear that we will monitor to extinction."

- Restoration group member, Tasman

Wasps have killed my beehives in the past and made it impossible to enjoy the summer months outside because of their presence. I've asked the council to help (they won't).

- Individual, Auckland

Base: All respondents
Source: Q17. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your experience with wasps, wasp control or related issues?

Actions & Methods

Frequency of wasp control monitoring

Inferences:

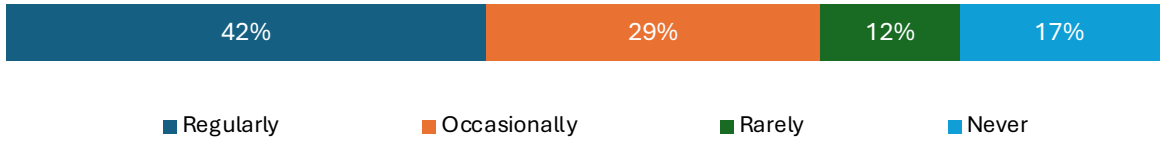
There is a **monitoring culture**, but it's not universal; nearly **1 in 3 sites** lacks consistent surveillance.

If a third of sites don't monitor reliably, nests go unseen and timing is off — so control feels inadequate.

Converting the **Occasional (29%)** group to **Regular** would deliver the biggest lift in early detection and well-timed control.

The **Never (17%)** segment is a prime target for basic training, simple protocols, and low-cost prompts.

Overall monitoring frequency across all respondents



71% monitor **at least occasionally** → a solid base of engagement.

29% monitor **rarely/never** → sizeable gap where nests and peak foraging may be **missed**, reducing the effectiveness/timing of control

Base: All respondents
Source: Q14. How often is your habitat monitored for wasp activity?

Frequency of wasp control monitoring

Frequency of monitoring vs. Perception that wasp control is insufficient

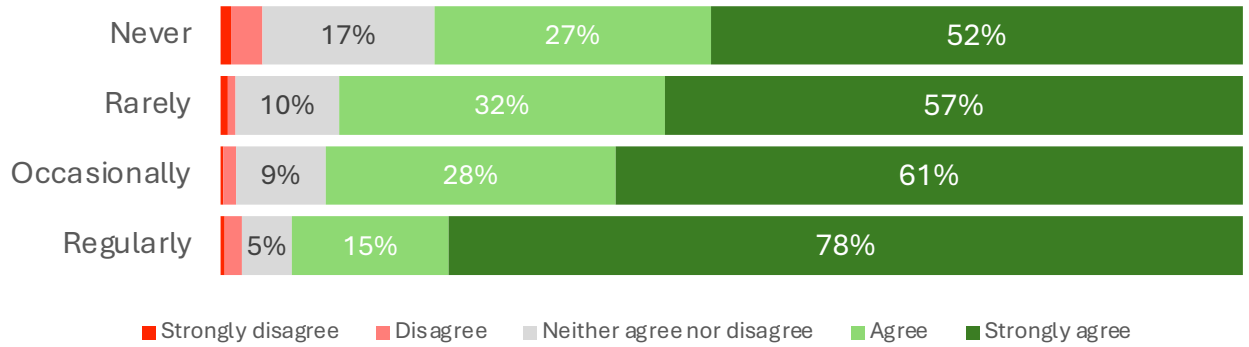
Inferences:

There is a **clear gradient**: the **more often people monitor**, the **more strongly** they say **current control is insufficient**.

"Strongly agree" drops from **78% (Regular) → 52% (Never)**.

Neutral/disagree roughly **triples** from **6.9% (Regular) → 20.9% (Never)**.

This likely reflects **exposure effect**: those who monitor see the issue first-hand. (Caveat: correlation ≠ causation—people concerned may also choose to monitor more.)



Stronger monitoring → stronger view that control is insufficient.
"Strongly agree" that current control is insufficient is highest among **Regularly monitored** habitats (**78%**), then **Occasionally** (**61%**), **Rarely** (**57%**), **Never** (**52%**).

Base: All respondents
Source: Q14. How often is your habitat monitored for wasp activity? (regularly, occasionally, rarely, never)
Q8. The current level of wasp control in NZ is insufficient to control wasp populations. (strongly disagree, disagree, neither disagree nor agree, agree, strongly agree)

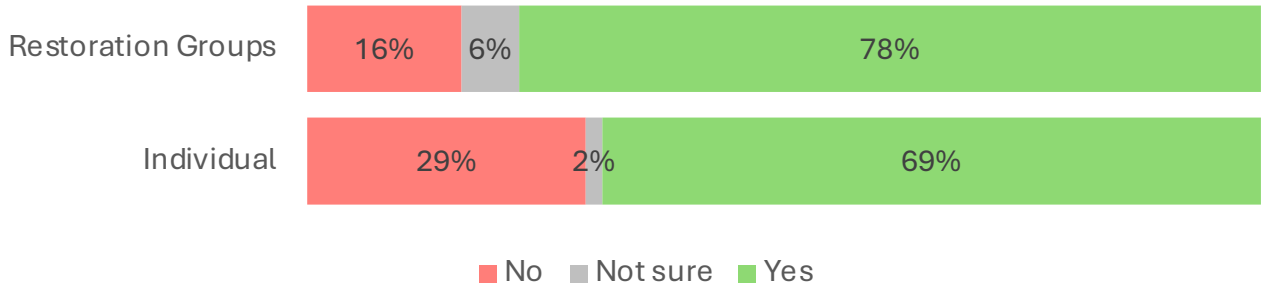
Participation in control activities

Implications:

Groups have **better access to know-how, gear, and coordination**, translating into higher action rates.

The **individual "No" segment (29%)** is a great opportunity for conversion through **access to knowledge, simple training, starter kits, and access to qualified applicators**.

Participation in control activities by group



Higher participation among restoration groups: **+9 pp** vs individuals (78% vs 69%).

Non-participation is almost half as common in groups (**16%**) as among individuals (**29%**) — a **13 pp gap**.

Base: All respondents
Source: Q12 Have you or your group conducted or participated in any wasp control in your habitat in the last five years?

Control methods used

Most-used method: Wasp nest destruction (43%) — identical for Individuals and Restoration groups.

Traps: 23% overall — more common among **Individuals (23%)** than **Groups (17%)**.

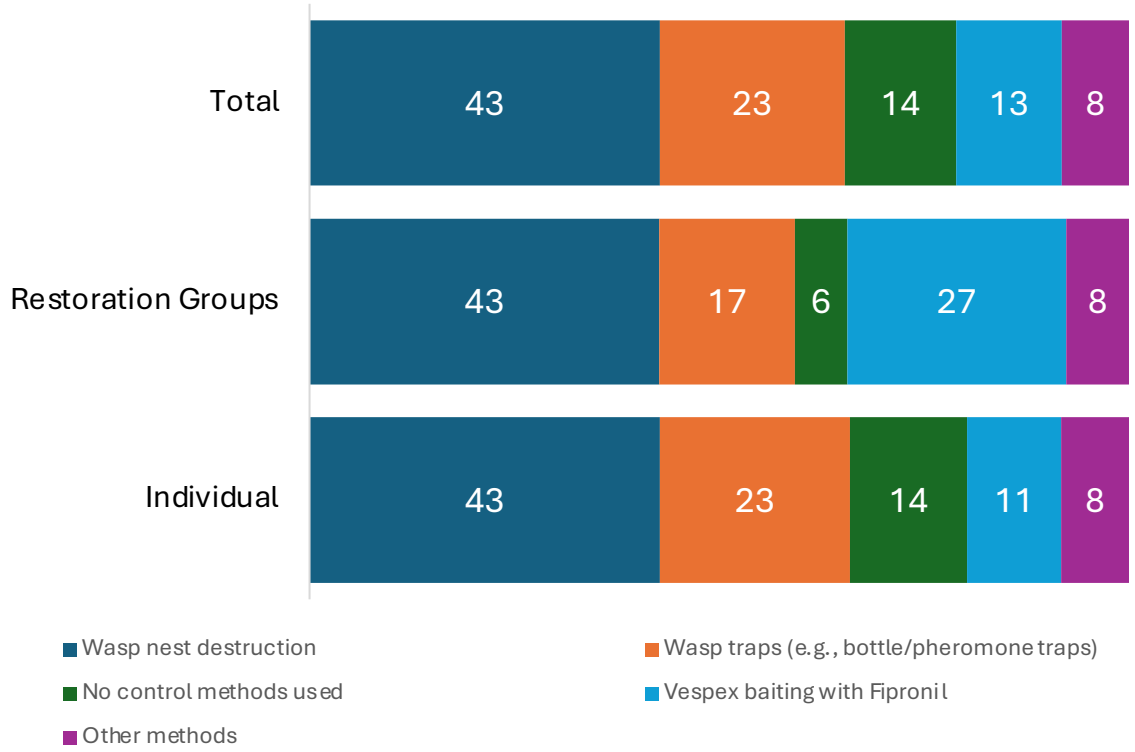
Vespex baiting: 13% overall, but heavily **group-led** — **27%** of Groups vs **11%** of Individuals (**+16 pp gap**).

No control used: 14% overall — higher among **Individuals (14%)** vs **Groups (6%)** (**–8 pp gap** for Groups).

Other methods: 8% for both cohorts.

Takeaway: Groups are far more likely to use **Vespex** and less likely to report **no control**, while Individuals lean more on **traps**. Nest destruction is equally popular across both.

Commonly used wasp control methods by group (%)



Base: All respondents
Source: Q13. Which of the following wasp control methods have been used in your habitat?

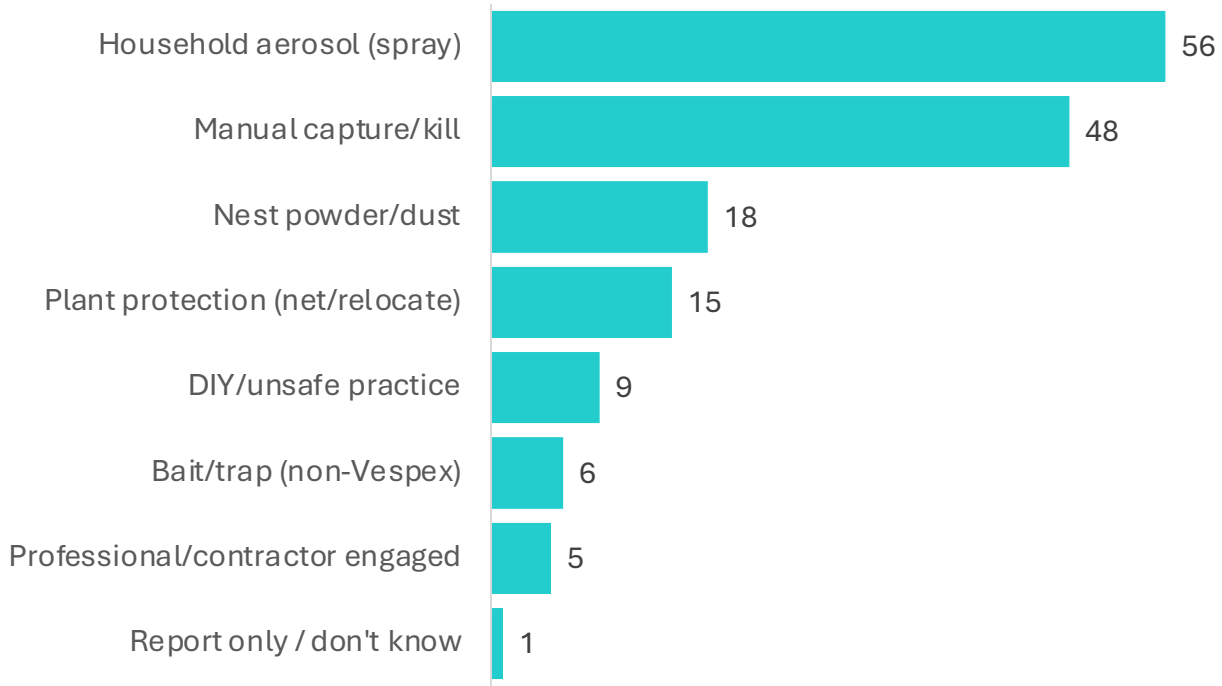
What other control methods did people use

Individuals mainly use **household sprays/powders** and **manual methods** around gardens, especially to protect **swan plants/caterpillars**.

Some engage professionals; **non-Vespex baits/traps** appear but with **mixed success**.

A minority report **risky DIY methods** (e.g., petrol, flame), underscoring the need for **clear safety guidance** and **access to qualified applicators**.

Reported instances of other control methods used (%)



Base: All respondents
Source: Q13. Which of the following wasp control methods have been used in your habitat?

What other control methods did people use

Household insecticides (most common)

Aerosol “fly/wasp spray” (Mitre10, Black Flag, Raid, PestXpert, Yates).

Powders/dusts: Kiwicare *No Wasps* / eliminator, permethrin “Dust2Dust”, carbaryl/“carbrol”, generic “yellow bottle powder”.

Use patterns: spray small nests at night; dust nest entrances.

Manual capture/destruction (very common)

Swatting (hand/fly swat/shoe), **electric fly bat/tennis racquet**.

Butterfly/hand nets, jars, vacuum cleaner.

Smash/trample/“spray and bash”; remove pupae.

Water spray to ground them, then crush; freezing caught wasps.

Plant protection/exclusion (frequent around monarchs)

Netting **swan plants**, moving/covering caterpillars, leaving alternative flowers.

Professional/authority call-outs (some)

“Wasp eradicator”/contractor; “pest control person”; occasional council reporting.

Baits/traps (some, mixed success)

Hawkeye bait stations; “bait (unsure)”; setting simple net traps.

DIY/unsafe methods (noted but fewer)

Petrol down holes; **flame + WD-40**; **smoking** nests; unspecified “poison”.

Base: All respondents
Source: Q13. Which of the following wasp control methods have been used in your habitat?

Barriers & Enablers

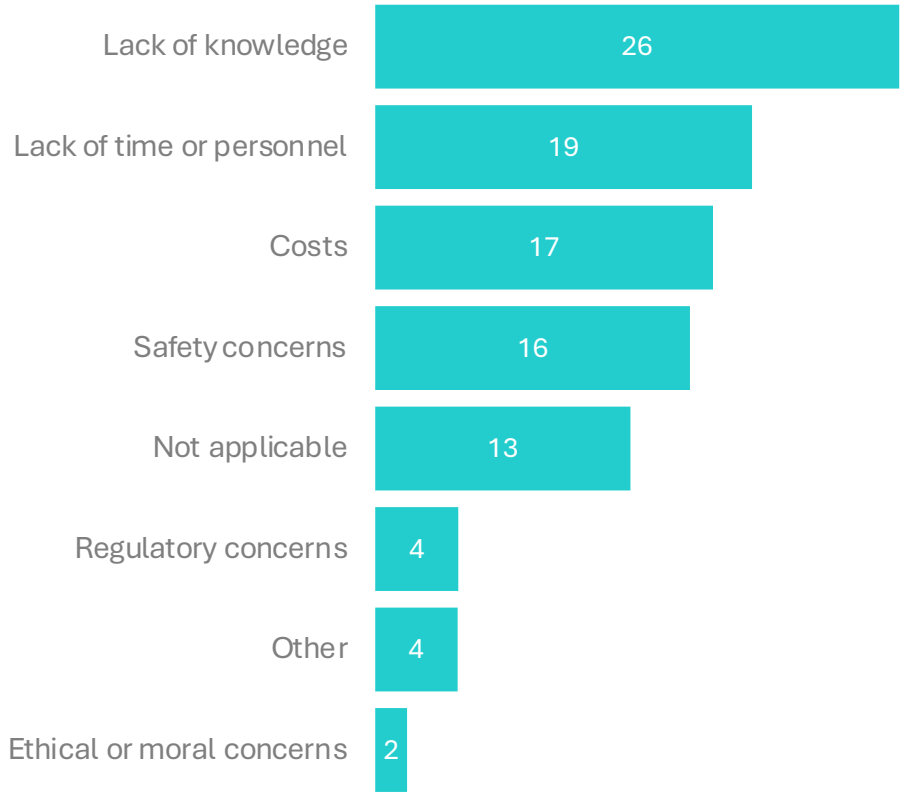
Barriers in implementing control measures

Lack of knowledge is the most cited barrier in implementing control measures, followed by lack of time or personnel and costs associated with implementing the measures.

Lack of knowledge is the most cited barrier mainly among individuals – clearly something that they lack from the restoration groups.

On the other hand, restoration groups (32%) cited a lack of time or personnel in implementing control measures.

Barriers in implementing control measures (%)



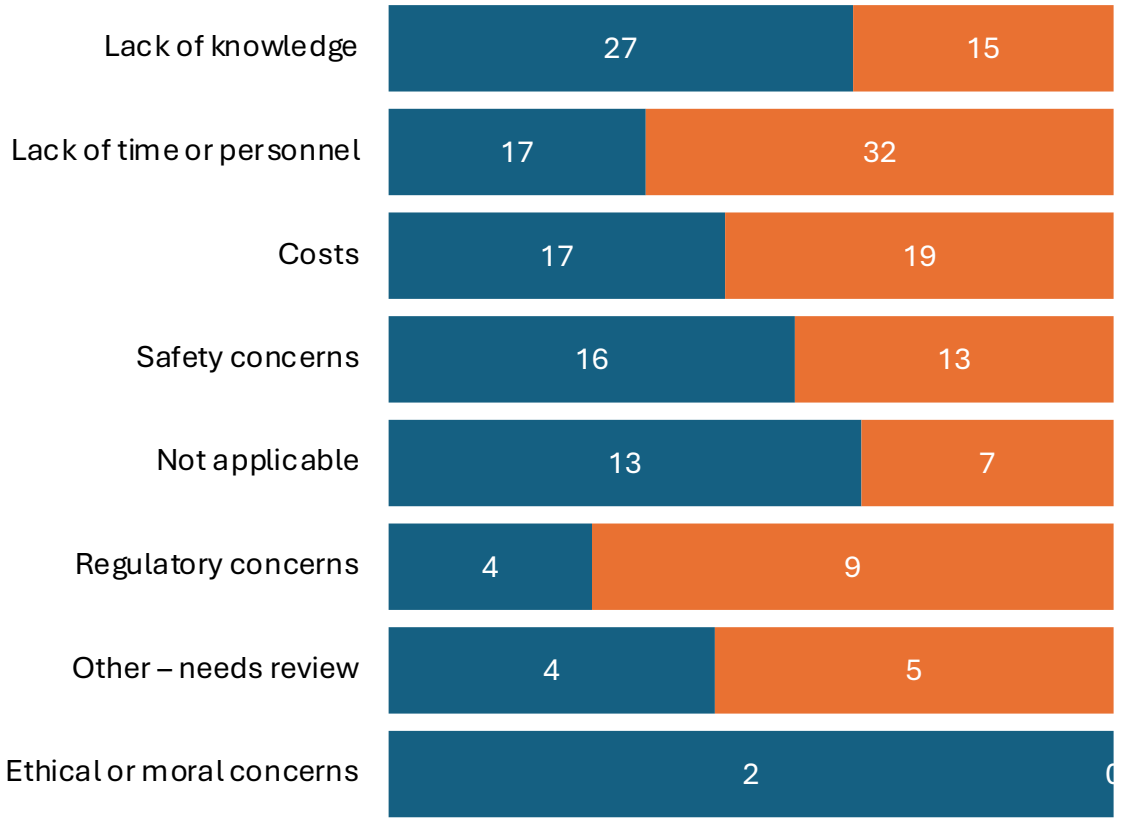
Base: All respondents
Source: Q15. What barriers (if any) prevent you or your group from implementing or participating in wasp control? (Select all that apply)

Lack of Knowledge as a barrier

Lack of knowledge is the most cited barrier mainly among individuals – clearly something that they lack from the restoration groups.

On the other hand, restoration groups (32%) cited a lack of time or personnel in implementing control measures.

Barriers in implementing control measures by group (%)



Base: All respondents
Source: Q15. What barriers (if any) prevent you or your group from implementing or participating in wasp control? (Select all that apply)

Lack of knowledge as a barrier

What did individuals say?

"There are lots of gimmick-type traps that simply don't work, or I am doing something wrong due to my lack of knowledge. Is there somewhere to get information about traps that work and how to best operate them?!!"
- Auckland

We had a small pear shaped wasp nest in our garden (Halswell, chch) this summer/autumn and left it alone mostly as we didn't really know how to deal with it. So if there are reliable information sources out there, that would be good as the Internet was a little confusing!"
- Canterbury

I would like to know how to track wasps to their nests as we see them all over our fences/ retaining walls but can't find the nests. The ones we find we destroy but I really think we are only getting a small proportion of them.
- Northland

"I would like to know more about the difference between certain wasps and more about how to control them and how to find the nests - We found many nests last summer but there were still so many around..."
- Tasman

"I saw a wasp hunting a caterpillar. No idea how to control wasps without hurting other insects."
- Canterbury

"...To be able to identify these wasps is a beginning and how to irradiated them in and around our farm, Marae and our city home is a beginning.-
- Wellington

Base: All respondents
Source: Q17. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your experience with wasps, wasp control or related issues?

Lack of knowledge, time or personnel as a barrier

What did members from restoration groups say?

"Ecological surveys of the valley have consistently identified the need for more wasp control in the area but the landscape (steep valley) and resources (mostly volunteers) makes this difficult..."

- Canterbury

"We destroy nests when we come across them, usually when our members find them or through the public informing us. We do not actively investigate the reserve looking for nests. More information about wasp habits and assistance in species identification would be helpful."

- Wellington

Lack of clear methodologies or best practice make it difficult to know what to choose as a suitable control measure. More information and acceptance of the problem would allow it to be include in grant applications etc.

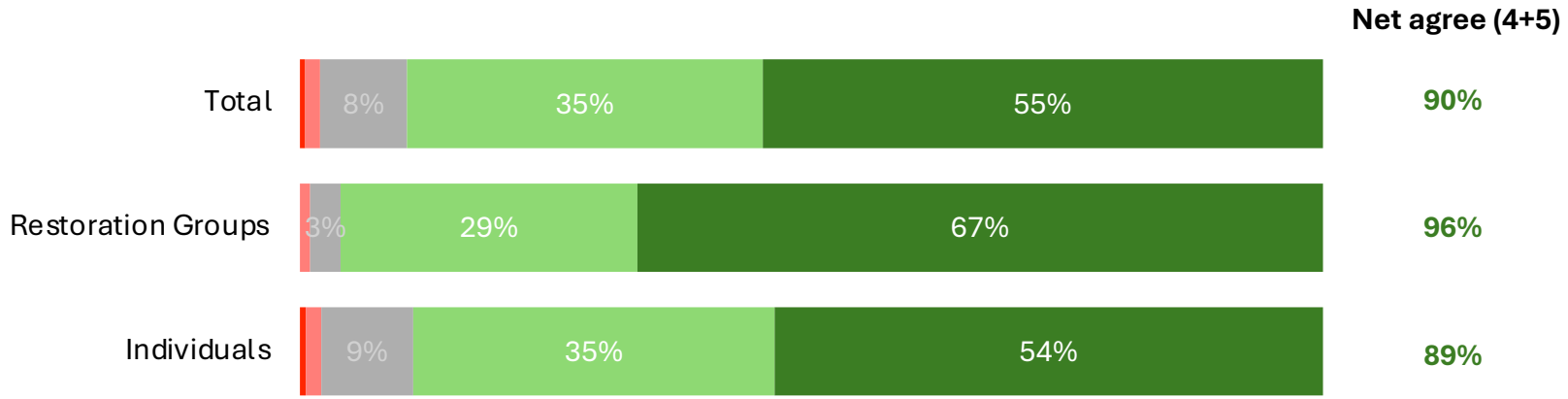
- Waikato

"German Wasps and the main species of concern in Waitakere and the biggest issue I have is not being able to locate and so be able to treat, nests. Help in some way here with this issue would be useful."

-Tasman

Base: All respondents
Source: Q17. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your experience with wasps, wasp control or related issues?

Perception towards responsible use of poison



The **overall acceptance** for the responsible management of poison is **90%.**

There is **broad, confident support** for using poisons **when managed responsibly**, especially among **restoration groups**.

Hesitation is small (8% neutral overall) and **outright opposition is minimal** (~1–3%).

For these who have expressed hesitation, **environmental concerns** – affecting soil and other organisms are a driver.

This suggests the public mandate exists for **approved baiting programs (e.g., Vespex)**, **training**, and **clear safety protocols** to minimise non-target risk.

Base: All respondents
Source: Q10. Using poisons for wasp control is acceptable when managed responsibly (1 – Strongly Disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither Agree nor Disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly Agree)

Perception towards use of poison

What did people say?

"I know wasps are out of control in NZ but I am averse to chemical control, and also, because we are here now, any GE methods. I dont think poison will eradicate wasps, it is only a quick-fix solution. I have no idea of the break-down products of vespex either - will it keep on poisoning, and create secondary poisoning (earthworms, fungi, microbes etc)?"

- An individual, West Coast

"I am wary of poisons/sprays being used by whichever departmental organisation is tasked to manage anything, which is deemed a pest. For example the blanket spraying of the Apple moth adversely impacted the Admiral butterfly population. Other methods of control should be exhausted before any further toxins are unleashed in our environment."

- An individual, Auckland

"Keen to set up a network of Vespex network in local area, but is a level of reluctance/aversion to using poisons amongst parts of the community, which I respect, so makes methods like this difficult to use."

- An individual, Tasman

"Wasp populations are growing in our 30 acre orchard. Only option seems to be poison sprays. Need more options."

- An individual, Northland

Base: All respondents
Source: Q10. Using poisons for wasp control is acceptable when managed responsibly (1 – Strongly Disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither Agree nor Disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly Agree)
Q17. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your experience with wasps, wasp control or related issues?

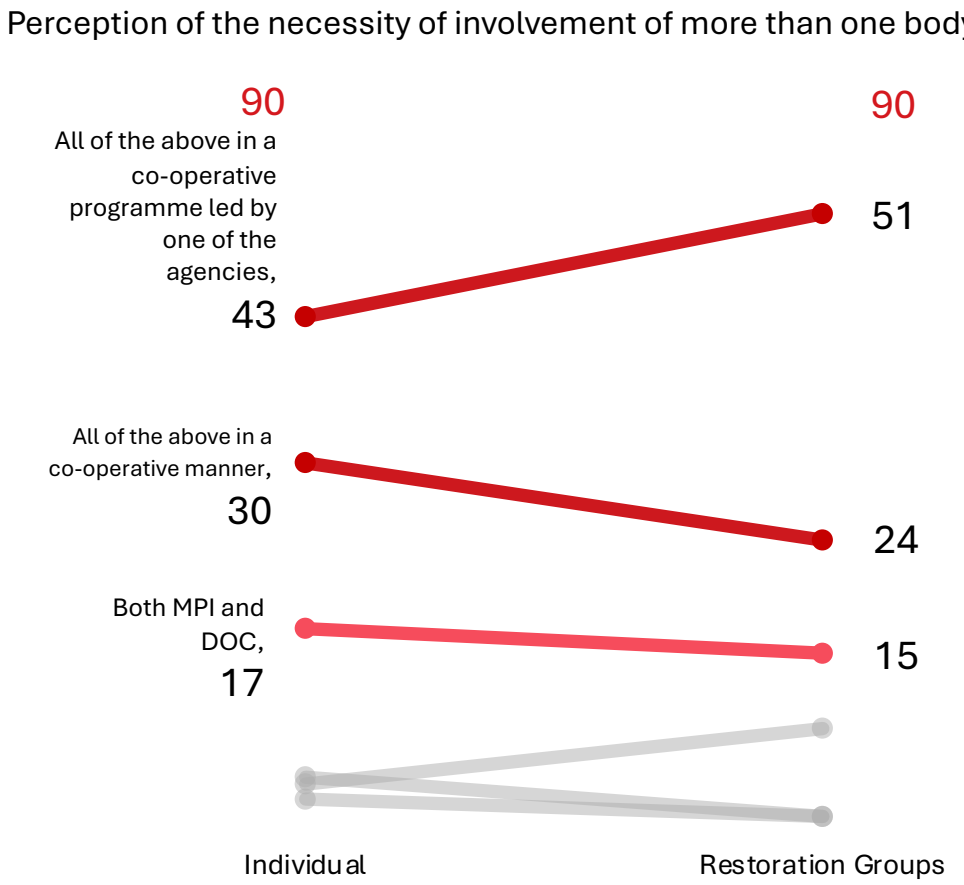
Governance Preference

Perception on whose responsibility for control activities

~90% favour a multi-agency response, which signals people see wasps as a **nation-scale problem** rather than something councils should shoulder alone.

Single-agency solutions have little support (**~10%**)

Perception on who should take responsibility (%)



Base: All respondents
Source: Q16. Whose responsibility should it be to provide funding and support where needed for wasp control in NZ?

Perception on whose responsibility for control activities

Want coordination *with leadership*
•A **led co-operative model (43%)** beats a purely co-operative one (30%).
•That reads as support for **clear accountability** (a named lead) rather than loose collaboration.

Restoration groups lean even more to a lead + council role
•Groups: **51% led co-op** (vs 42.5% individuals) and **8.3% local-govt only** (vs 3.7%).
•Interpretation: groups work on the ground and want **structured leadership** plus **council involvement** for delivery/permits/access.

Single-agency solutions have little support (~10%)
•DOC-only (2.4%), MPI-only (4.0%), councils-only (4.1%) are all low.
•This underscores that people view wasps as **cross-portfolio** (biodiversity + agriculture + public amenity).

"Both MPI & DOC" (16.5%) = dual central mandate
•Many explicitly want **conservation *and* agriculture** at the table, not just one portfolio.

Policy reading
•**National lead + multi-agency programme**, local delivery: e.g., a DOC-led (or PF2050-secretariat-led) programme with an MPI co-lead and **formal council roles** for operations/comms.

Comms framing
•Public will likely respond to framing that this is a **national ecological + agricultural + amenity issue**, not just a garden nuisance.

Base: All respondents
Source: Q16. Whose responsibility should it be to provide funding and support where needed for wasp control in NZ?

Perception on whose responsibility for control activities

What did people say?

"Some parts of the country more responsive than others in seeking public help to locate nests e.g. Nelson lakes. In the North Island, DOC is under funded and currently has dubious leadership. We are a small country, the size of a small city, we just need one protocol communicated clearly by a lead agency across the country that works for everyone, e.g. Predator Free teams, trampers, city lunchtime walkers, farmers, gardeners and home households."

- Restoration group member, Wellington

"Distribution via regional council would be ideal as they are great at providing traps and other pest control advice to landowners and community groups. Avoid going through central government - would take too long, too finicky, likely to have the rules changed often, unlikely to get anything started."

- Restoration group member, Northland

Base: All respondents
Source: Q16. Whose responsibility should it be to provide funding and support where needed for wasp control in NZ?
Q17. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your experience with wasps, wasp control or related issues?