



caring about you & your environment

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Report to the Landcare Committee
from Dr Philippa Crisp, Principal Advisor

Pest Plant Update – Parks and Forests

1. Purpose

To inform the Landcare Committee about the preparation of five-year pest plant control plans for each of the parks and forests.

2. Background

An overview of the threats to biodiversity on Council land was presented at the Biodiversity Workshop on 22 August 2002. The key threats identified were the impacts of possums, goats and pest plants. As part of our Environmental Asset Management Plan, we have developed a programme to control those pest plants that pose a threat to the long-term ecological viability of the parks and forests.

The Council has a statutory obligation to control specified pest plants on Council lands under the Regional Pest Management Strategy. In the past, the focus has been on eradicating those specified pests such as old man's beard. This "weed-led" approach places emphasis on controlling a particular pest plant across all Council land. As part of our Environmental Asset Management, we have adjusted the focus to "site-led" programmes. A site-led programme examines the ecological values of the site and looks to control all pest plants that threaten those ecological values. On Council land, some site-led work had begun at Queen Elizabeth Park and Battle Hill. However, all parks and forests contain areas of high ecological value and our monitoring identified a need for site-led plans for each of these areas.

3. The Process

Pest plant infestations were mapped across Council lands. These infestations were then ranked according to urgency and practicality of control. Control plans have been prepared for those sites and pest plants that are of greatest concern.

Priority pest plant targets include:

- **Queen Elizabeth Park**
Italian buckthorn, boneseed, karo, boxthorn, pampas and elder.
- **Kaitoke Regional Park**
Hawthorn, barberry, sycamore, holly, tradescantia and Japanese honeysuckle.
- **Battle Hill Farm Forest Park**
Holly, tradescantia, selaginella, hawthorn and convolvulus.
- **Belmont Regional Park**
Old man's beard, Japanese honeysuckle, banana passionfruit, selaginella and brush wattle.
- **Wainuiomata Recreation Area**
Montbretia, buddleia, wilding pines in Wainuiomata Water Catchment Area and Japanese honeysuckle, barberry and hawthorn.
- **Akatarawa Forest**
Old man's beard, Japanese honeysuckle, Darwin's barberry and sycamore.
- **Pakuratahi Forest**
Barberry, holly, tradescantia, sycamore, ivy and contorta pine.

The control plans allow for revisits to the sites in order to ensure that any seedlings or regenerating stumps are destroyed. In some places where weed control leaves areas bare of vegetation, replanting with native plants will also be required to avoid re-invasion by other pest plants.

4. **Communication**

No public relations or communication opportunities are available.

5. **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

- (1) **Receive the report.**
- (2) **Note the contents of the report.**

Report prepared by:

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