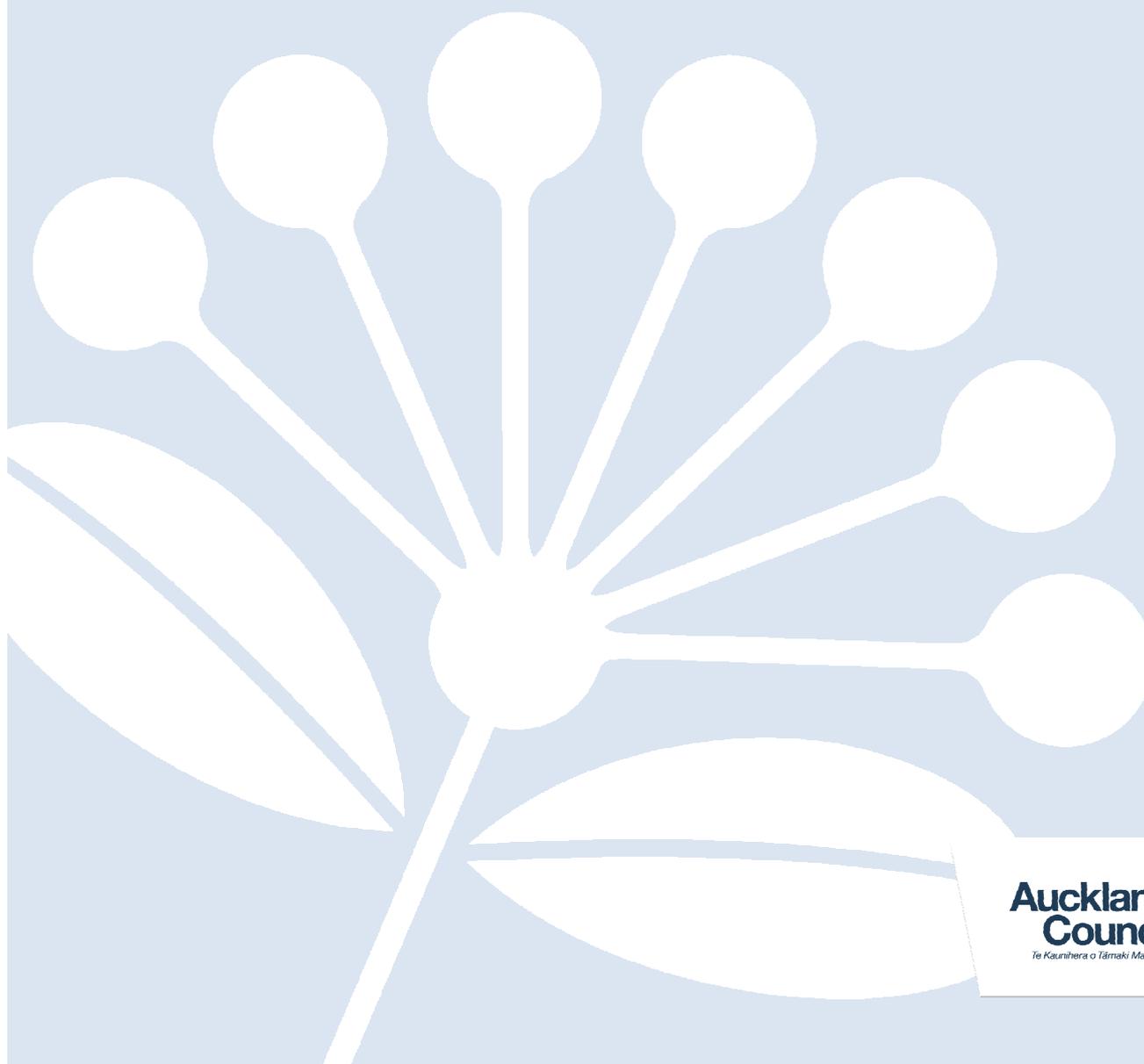


DRAFT

Weed Management Policy for parks and open spaces

5 March 2013



**Auckland
Council**

Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau



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Introduction

Development of Auckland Council's weed management policy

This draft Weed Management Policy has been developed to guide the management of weeds in Auckland's parks and open spaces, including the road corridor.

The policy will help deliver the strategic priorities of the Auckland Council's draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (June 2012) and will also support the strategic outcomes of the Auckland Plan and the priorities identified in the 21 Local Board Plans.

While the weed management policy is a non-statutory document, a range of regulatory tools exist which will be used to implement the policy vision and objectives. These include the Unitary Plan, the Auckland Council Regional Plan: Coastal and the Auckland Regional Pest Management Strategy.

The development of the policy has been informed by a review of weed management policies developed by the legacy councils, national and international best practice and current trends in weed management.

In tandem with the development of the weed management policy Auckland Council is also undertaking a Weed Management Operational Review. The operational review will include a review of current weed management operational approaches, practices and costs and consider alternative approaches and their financial implications and required changes to levels of service. The output of the operational review will be a weed management policy implementation plan.

Auckland Council is now seeking feedback on this draft Weed Management Policy. We would like to know your views on the ideas we have developed so far and look forward to hearing what you think.

What do we mean by a weed?

Different plant species may be considered a weed in different locations, often dependent on land use. For the purpose of the Auckland Council Weed Management Policy, a broad definition of weeds has been adopted.

A weed is a plant growing where it is not wanted *and* which has a harmful impact. It can be harmful to human activities, such as farming or recreation, or it can be harmful to New Zealand's unique environment. Weeds are usually plants that have been introduced to New Zealand by people.¹

As defined in this policy, weeds include, but are not limited to, pest plants identified in the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

To be considered a weed, as defined by this policy, a plant needs to be growing in the wrong place and having a harmful impact on people, infrastructure, other built assets or the natural environment.

¹ Source: Landcare Research, 2012.

A harmful impact includes where plants are:

- competing with native vegetation or planted exotic species
- damaging infrastructure
- impacting on system performance (e.g., impeding the flow of stormwater resulting in flooding)
- reducing the usability of sports parks and turf areas
- damaging or negatively impacting on heritage sites
- impacting on human health
- presenting an invasion risk to other parts of Auckland as defined by its pest plant status in the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

A plant may be considered to be in the wrong place, but if it does not have a harmful impact as defined by this policy it is not considered a weed. This includes, as an example, trees and shrubs, which are considered to be obstructing views or overgrowing walkways. Decisions regarding what, if any, action is appropriate in such circumstances is controlled by operational policies and guidelines, tree protection rules, requirements for resource consent for vegetation removal, or other rules of the Unitary Plan. The weed management policy does not supersede such requirements.

What do we mean by parks and open spaces?

The draft Weed Management Policy has been developed to guide the prevention and management of weeds in Auckland's parks and open spaces. This includes the management of weeds within all Auckland Council-owned or administered land, including parks and reserves, road corridors, civic spaces, riparian margins, wetlands, beaches, volcanic landscapes, as well as areas of wilderness and native forest.

While the draft Weed Management Policy does not directly apply to land that is not owned or administered by Auckland Council, the policy aims to influence and empower other landowners to work towards achieving the vision for weed management as set out by the policy.

The draft policy recognises that weed management also encompasses a broader definition of vegetation control. In the road corridors and street environments this includes the control of grass verge edges where growth occurs over footpaths, kerbs and channels, and drainage culverts. There are differences between urban and rural road environments in terms of their roadside vegetation and the potential options for vegetation control. In parks, vegetation control includes edging of turf areas where vegetation grows up against hard surfaces such as paths, buildings and furniture, as well as edge control around gardens. Weed management activities in parks will encompass weed control in gardens, sports fields, and pest plant control in bush and natural areas. The Weed Management Operational Review will provide further comment, guidance and recommendations on these weed management and vegetation control functions.

What is the relationship of the Weed Management Policy to the Regional Pest Management Strategy?

The Regional Pest Management Strategy (RPMS) has been developed under the Biosecurity Act 1993 and provides the statutory framework for the efficient and effective management of plant and animal pests in the Auckland region.

The RPMS 2007-2012 lists 192 introduced pest plants that meet the criteria for inclusion in the document. Each pest plant is considered capable of causing serious adverse effects to people or the environment and has passed a cost-benefit analysis for control. The RPMS specifies the responsibility for management, be this eradication by the council (Total Control Pest Plants), control by landowners in certain locations (Containment Pest Plants) or restrictions on sale and distribution (Surveillance Pest Plants).

The Weed Management Policy applies to the management of all pest plants listed in the RPMS. It also provides a policy direction for the prevention and management of other plants, which while not considered a significant threat as to be included in the RPMS, are considered weeds as defined by this policy.

The council has resolved to approve a rollover of the RPMS, to take account of the requirements of the Biosecurity Law Reform Bill 2012 (passed in September 2012) and consequent National Policy Direction from the Minister which is due in mid-2013. The review of the RPMS will commence in 2013 and will include full public and sector consultation.

Who is responsible for the Weed Management Policy?

Auckland Council is responsible for the development and implementation of the Weed Management Policy.

The policy applies to council-owned or administered parks and open space, including road corridors. All council and Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) staff and contractors will be required to adhere to the policy.

Weed management on private land and other public land not owned or administered by Auckland Council or its CCOs is outside of the scope of the Weed Management Policy. However, the policy does propose to influence and empower others to take action on their land to prevent the establishment of weeds, to effectively manage their control and to stop them spreading to other locations.

Figure 1 provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities for weed management in the Auckland Region and the level of control and/or influence that the council has over the various parties.

	Auckland Council	Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs)	Other landowners, managers, stakeholders
	Direct council control	Indirect council control and influence	Council influence
Policy:	<p>Governing Body: Regional policy and minimum levels of service</p> <p>Local Boards: Local policy and variations to levels of service</p>	<p>Compliance with Auckland Council policy and regulatory requirements (e.g., Unitary Plan and RPMS)</p>	<p>Compliance with regulatory requirements (e.g., Unitary Plan and RPMS)</p>
Operations:	<p>Parks and open space</p> <p>Cemeteries</p> <p>Stormwater infrastructure</p> <p>Council properties</p> <p>Street gardens, planted traffic islands and roundabouts</p>	<p>Road corridor, Park and Ride carparks, off-road carparks (Auckland Transport)</p> <p>Regional facilities (Regional Facilities Auckland)</p> <p>Waterfront (Waterfront Auckland)</p> <p>Potable water and wastewater infrastructure (Watercare)</p> <p>Council properties (Auckland Council Property Limited)</p>	<p>Examples include:</p> <p>Private land</p> <p>Commerce and industry</p> <p>Plant nurseries</p> <p>Maori land</p> <p>Schools (Ministry of Education)</p> <p>Motorways (NZTA)</p> <p>AT-NZTA boundary locations</p> <p>Rail (Kiwirail)</p> <p>DOC land</p>

Figure 1. The different roles and responsibilities of Auckland Council, its CCOs and other landowners for weed management across the Auckland Region and the level of control and/or influence the council has over the various parties.

Vision statement

The vision statement of the draft weed management policy is:

Working together to reduce the impacts of weeds and their management on people and the environment.

This policy vision statement acknowledges that weed management is the collective responsibility of all Aucklanders and that a partnership approach between Auckland Council and the community is the best way to achieve the desired outcomes.

The policy vision statement recognises that weeds can have adverse impacts on Auckland's people and the environment. Weeds can cause allergies and health problems in some people, damage infrastructure, affect heritage sites, reduce amenity values in public spaces, negatively impact on sports fields and other playing surfaces and increase the cost of asset maintenance. Exotic weeds can also invade areas of native vegetation, directly affecting the integrity of ecological systems and the diversity of native flora and fauna in our region. Weeds can also adversely impact on the rural production sector by competing with trees in forestry plantations, horticultural and agricultural crops and desirable pasture species.

The policy vision statement also acknowledges that the process of managing weeds must be undertaken in a way that minimises adverse impacts on people and the environment. Best practice weed management targets the prevention and control of weeds using the method of least disturbance to achieve the desired outcome. In circumstances where weeds are not having an adverse effect or are providing benefits their retention can also be an appropriate option.

Objectives

The objectives of the weed management policy are to:

- **Take an integrated approach to weed management**
- **Ensure best practice in weed management**
- **Minimise agrichemical use**
- **Minimise non-target impacts of agrichemical use**
- **Ensure public health and safety**
- **Protect and enhance the environment**
- **Empower the community to manage weeds**
- **Deliver weed management which is value for money**

Auckland Council must consider all eight objectives when weighing up options for weed management.

Take an integrated approach to weed management

An integrated approach involves the use of a range of different techniques to effectively prevent and manage weeds. This requires taking a site-led approach, tailoring weed management to address the specific weed species and site conditions at a particular location.

An integrated approach would include:

- **Prevention** – Methods for preventing and/or reducing the establishment of weeds, including: biosecurity at borders, best practice weed hygiene to prevent spread by people and machinery, designing infrastructure with regard to reducing or eliminating sites for weed establishment, using native or non-weedy exotic species in amenity plantings and appropriate land management practices – e.g., revegetation of weed-infested riparian margins with appropriate native plant species to suppress exotic weeds.
- **Control** – Methods for the effective control of established weeds, including: manual control using hand tools, mechanical control (e.g., mowing, slashing, felling, frequent grading of unsealed roads), biological control using selected invertebrates or pathogens, habitat modification to remove establishment sites, trialling and adopting new technologies and the judicious use of herbicides. Control methods used should reflect current best practice to achieve the desired outcome.
- **Education** – Training of the council's staff and contractors on the full range of effective weed management techniques in keeping with current best practice. Also includes the role of public education, engagement, advocacy and support to encourage effective weed management on private land.
- **Restoration** – Ecosystem restoration and the wider use of native plants, including species for rongoa (medicine), mahi toi (arts and crafts) and kai (food) where appropriate.

- **Cooperation** – Facilitating inter-agency cooperation to prevent, control and eradicate weed species. Encouraging partnerships between the council, relevant stakeholders and the community.

Ensure best practice in weed management

Ensuring the integrated use of current best practice methodologies in the prevention and management of weeds is critical to the success of the weed management policy.

Best practice weed control requires constant research to keep up to date with evolving weed management techniques, both locally and internationally, and continual innovation to achieve effective, efficient and sustainable outcomes. The best practice approach necessitates cooperation and sharing of information between Auckland Council, other agencies and organisations, stakeholder groups, businesses and the public.

Auckland Council will set a best practice example for weed management on the land it owns or administers. This includes managing the environment to reduce or eliminate habitat for weed establishment and selecting appropriate control techniques that minimise resource use and adverse environmental impacts. The council will also ensure it is a good neighbour by managing weeds on land it owns or administers in a way that prevents adverse impacts on adjacent land.

Minimise agrichemical use

This objective recognises that certain weeds species cannot be effectively managed by manual or mechanical methods, and require herbicides to achieve control.

Agrichemicals are substances, whether inorganic or organic, manufactured or naturally occurring, modified or in their original state, that are used in any agricultural, horticultural or related activity, to eradicate, modify or control flora and fauna (NZS 8049:2004). Herbicides are the main agrichemical used for weed control.

The goal of minimising agrichemical use reflects national and international trends aimed at reducing costs and promoting environmental sustainability while still achieving desired weed control outcomes. To this end, the council will work to promote innovation and continual revision of weed management practices to maximise efficiency and effectiveness while minimising the use and adverse impacts of agrichemicals. The simplest way of achieving an overall reduction in agrichemical use is through restrictions on the application of chemicals in specific areas or at specific times. Reduction of agrichemical use may require changes to existing levels of service but this may be acceptable if stakeholders and the public are educated as to the relative benefits and cost-savings achieved.

Minimise non-target impacts of agrichemical use

Agrichemicals can provide a valuable tool for weed management of weeds, and where they are used, it is vital that non-target impacts are minimised, and wherever possible, eliminated.

Non-target impacts can be minimised through the use of targeted application methods such as cut and paint, drill and inject, or spot spraying of herbicide, rather than broadcast application. Where appropriate, the use of low toxicity herbicides or selective herbicides can be effective in reducing non-target impacts. The selection of herbicides (both organic and synthetic) and additives (e.g., dyes, stickers, surfactants) needs to carefully consider their suitability, including efficacy and relative toxicity, with respect to the situation in which they are to be used and the desired outcome.

In New Zealand, NZS 8409:2004 Management of Agrichemicals is the industry standard for the use of agrichemicals and sets minimum health and safety and training requirements for contractors and staff applying chemicals. The Weed Management Policy considers NZS 8409:2004 to be the minimum standard.

Ensure public health and safety

Herbicide use is a highly regulated activity, and is subject to the following legislation to protect public health and the environment: The Resource Management Act 1991, Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1992, the RPMS and the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992. The available scientific knowledge shows that when applied by trained operators in accordance with legal requirements and best practice, the risks to human health and the environment are not significant.

Additionally, Auckland Council has obligations under the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 and other legislation to ensure the safety of its staff, contractors and the public when undertaking weed management in public open space.

Therefore, any agreements with external parties or the public to manage weeds on council-owned or administered land must acknowledge this and safeguard the council from undue risk.

Public health and safety can be achieved through:

- Appropriate training for staff, contractors and volunteers.
- Careful selection of appropriate weed management techniques, including chemical and non-chemical approaches.
- Adherence to industry best practice, noting that national standards such as NZS 8409:2004 Management of Agrichemicals set a minimum requirement, including:
 - Notification of the use of agrichemicals in public parks and open spaces (to fulfil this obligation the council currently publishes spraying schedules for parks in local newspapers)
 - Use of the lowest toxicity herbicide and additives (e.g., dyes, stickers, surfactants) to effectively achieve the desired outcome

- Providing the ability for the public to opt-out of chemical weed control on the boundary of their properties (e.g., No Spray Register – noting obligations on ‘registrant’ to maintain to a specified standard)
- Taking particular care when using chemicals near sensitive locations including schools, hospitals and rest homes.

Removing weeds can contribute to public safety by contributing to sight lines and security in public parkland, near pathways and roads. Public health can be enhanced by reducing the incidences of allergies and other health problems that are caused by some weed species.

Protect and enhance the environment

Weeds can have a harmful impact on both the natural and the built environment. Weed management is often necessary as part of routine asset maintenance in order to protect infrastructure and maintain the quality of parks and open spaces.

Weeds have the ability to overgrow and out-compete plants in both natural and planted areas. They can directly reduce the range of native plant species in the local area, and remove food sources and habitat for native birds, lizards, bats and invertebrates. Weeds can decrease native ecosystem diversity by modifying the genetics of native species and interfering with their regeneration through competition for establishment sites and other resources. Effective weed management is therefore essential to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.

As well as the impact of the weeds themselves, care must also be taken to avoid potential adverse environmental effects of the methods used to manage weeds, both immediate and long-term. Particular care is required to reduce non-target effects of weed management. This includes the adverse effects of spray drift onto desired plants, accidental removal of desired species or the contamination of soil or water. When deciding which weed management methodologies to employ at a site the positive and negative impacts on native biodiversity, including the presence and location of at-risk or threatened flora and fauna must also be considered.

In some circumstances, weeds can provide ecological functions in the form of habitat, environmental buffers, shelter, erosion control and shading for waterways. The retention or gradual replacement of exotic weed species can be particularly important in areas of low native biodiversity. The impacts and benefits of weed management and removal need to be assessed on a site-by-site basis to ensure the protection and enhancement of native biodiversity, soil and water quality are not compromised.

Also, some locations, including sites of cultural significance, may require specific methods of weed management. Weed management must consider the heritage, botanical, amenity or other value provided by exotic species, including historic plantings.

Empower the community to manage weeds

Any effective long-term solution to managing weeds in Auckland must include measures to educate and empower the community to help, and in some instances lead weed management across parks and open spaces. A lack of knowledge about specific weeds in Auckland can mean that people are unaware of the extent or implications of the weed problem. For those that can identify weeds, there is often misinformation about the most effective methods of control.

Empowering and partnering with the community, provides an opportunity for local people to get involved in the care of parkland and roadsides. This includes local management initiatives such as no-spray roads, through to the care of local parks by local people and volunteer groups, supported by the council.

Community education, advocacy and partnerships with relevant external organisations and stakeholders are an integral component of weed management. This is particularly important as Auckland Council manages only a small proportion of the region's land area. Educating the community will allow residential, industrial and commercial landowners to more effectively manage their land and will potentially reduce weed abundance across the region.

Encouraging adjoining property owners/occupiers to work in tandem with the council's weed management endeavours is essential as weed re-infestation can occur on council-owned or administered land from seed sources on untreated neighbouring properties and vice versa.

Education can include changing people's perceptions of weeds and expectations of weed management. In some locations, exotic plants perform beneficial functions and weed control may not be required. For example, weeds can sometimes provide valuable habitat for native animals (e.g., copper skinks, *Oligosoma aeneum*, utilise rank grass), act as a nursery for regenerating native forest (e.g., gorse, *Ulex europaeus*) and/or prevent other weed species from establishing and reduce overall maintenance requirements. Tree weeds can require staged removal while native trees are planted beneath them to gradually replace the weed species. Internationally, long grass on roadsides is acceptable and even encouraged as animal habitat. Changing people's perceptions of weeds can therefore deliver environmental benefits as well as cost-savings.

Deliver weed management which is value for money

The Auckland Council has a responsibility to ensure that ratepayers' money is spent wisely. Weed management is an operational expense and needs to be cost-effective.

Achieving value for money requires that weed management is done as efficiently as possible. This places the responsibility on Auckland Council and its CCOs to ensure staff and contractors are appropriately trained and employ best practice. Weed management needs to be tailored to the specific site conditions and weed species under consideration. A blanket approach across all situations is inappropriate.

Weed management needs to consider the whole-life costs of proposed methods. This includes the long-term effectiveness of the method, environment impacts – including the toxicity and persistence of any chemicals used – and inputs of fossil fuels, personnel and other resources. Alternatives to existing management regimes should also be considered.

Changing current management practices and expectations of the extent to which weeds need to be managed can also deliver cost savings and value for money. This can be achieved by managing weeds differently and changing public perceptions and expectations of what are acceptable levels of weed management. As mentioned above, internationally, long grass on roadsides is acceptable and even encouraged.

Local schools, community groups, volunteers and Department of Corrections Community Work groups also provide an opportunity for the council to develop partnerships with external parties. These partnerships can be mutually beneficial by helping educate the wider community about weeds while obtaining their help in managing them across the region and reducing the financial burden on the council and its CCOs.

Action plan

The Policy Action Plan sets out the range of tasks and actions that will be undertaken to implement the Vision and Objectives of the policy. The action plan does not directly address issues relating to specific changes to current operational approaches. The Operational Review will inform a subsequent Implementation Plan which will outline recommended new approaches to weed management.

The actions have been grouped into six categories:

- **Planning, policy and regulation**
- **Operations**
- **Identification and mapping**
- **Governance, monitoring, research and reporting**
- **Advocacy and education**
- **Funding**

Planning, policy and regulation

- Incorporate the vision and objectives of the weed management policy into the Unitary Plan, the review of the RPMS, and other relevant Auckland Council plans, policies and strategies as they are developed or reviewed by providing appropriate input during the consultation phase.
- Within the Unitary Plan, explore incentives and regulation to manage and prevent weeds on privately owned land.
- During consent processing, encourage the use of appropriate species for amenity planting, street trees and restoration plantings on public and private land – e.g., practice notes for planners, approved species lists.
- Investigate ways to reduce impediments to weed control on public and private land, including the need for resource consents – e.g., not requiring resource consents for the removal of weedy tree species such as privets (*Ligustrum* spp.) or wattles (*Racosperma* spp.) no matter how large or where located.
- Auckland Council will work with its CCOs, Crown entities and other relevant organisations to ensure compliance with the Weed Management Policy – e.g., statements of intent, memoranda of understanding, service level agreements.

Operations

- Undertake an Operational Review to:
 - Catalogue existing weed management approaches
 - Clearly document costs, benefits and risks of existing weed management approaches

- Identify alternative approaches and their implications, including costs and changes to levels of service in accordance with the objectives of this policy
- Consider opportunities to change levels of service where plants are not causing significant harmful impacts
- Enable the development of a clear policy implementation plan which will become part of all relevant contract management procedures
- Assist local boards in setting levels of service for weed management across local parks and open spaces which align with the vision and objectives of the weed management policy by providing relevant technical assistance to inform decision-making.
- Enable the development of a regional level of service which Auckland Council's CCOs can be incorporate into their statutorily required statements of intent.
- Include all Weed Management Policy objectives within weed management contracts by reviewing and amending contracts where appropriate.
- Effectively manage the council's contractors to ensure adherence with approved best practice methods by making appropriate amendments to auditing specifications and procedures.
- Develop an Implementation Plan based on the findings of the Operational Review.

Identification and mapping

- Locate populations of Total Control Pest Plants and any new weed species incursions across the region, with the objective of eradication.
- Collate and utilise existing Significant Ecological Area (SEA) information held by Council to prioritise weed management across the region.
- Identify areas that require more intensive weed management to protect infrastructure, assets or the natural environment to enable appropriately targeted and cost-effective prioritisation of investment.
- For sites of high ecological value, develop park-specific weed management plans, including the identification and mapping of weed infestations.

Governance, monitoring, research and reporting

- Form council-wide governance group which will oversee the implementation and delivery of the Weed Management Policy. This group will comprise of representatives from local boards, council, key staff (and potentially, relevant external parties) to ensure robust decision-making which takes account of both community and technical considerations. Composition of the governance group and its exact functions will be determined by the Governing Body. The governance group will meet at least twice annually and will audit the performance of both the Weed Management Policy and all relevant operational programmes.

- Form a best practice reference group, which will report to the Governing Body and the governance group on order to ensure that the Weed Management Policy and all operational programmes maintain international best practice. The best practice reference group will comprise senior technical staff from the council and its CCOs, relevant external parties and independent national and/or international experts. This group will meet periodically to recommend improvements to procedures and will maintain a presence on the Auckland Council website. Group members will be expected to keep up-to-date with relevant research and trends in weed management.
- Liaise with and provide weed management information to the Research, Investigations and Monitoring Unit so that the council's State of the Environment reporting can include data on the council's weed control methods, types and volumes of herbicides used and areas being managed.
- Collaborate and undertake research on potential and actual weed species and weed management methods, including biological control with the council's Biosecurity staff, Landcare Research and any other relevant parties.
- Disseminate information on research and best practice to the council's staff, CCOs and contractors, relevant external organisations and stakeholders and the general public.
- Access government funding for research where possible.
- Trial alternative methods of weed management and, where successful, promote them internally and externally.

Advocacy and education

- Support and/or work with volunteer groups to establish weeding and planting programmes to reduce weeds and weed habitat on public land.
- Develop initiatives around educating the public on how to eliminate weeds and prevent weeds establishing or re-establishing on their land and provide information that encourages the planting of appropriate non-weedy, preferably native, plant species.
- Publicise the council's weed management rationale and educate the public on the relative threats that weeds pose to change public perceptions and expected levels of service.— e.g., long grass on roadsides may look messy but in some situations it may be the most environmentally sustainable and cost-effective way to manage that environment.
- Encourage collaboration between existing weed control programmes and initiatives across Auckland to prevent and control weeds, improve ecological health and increase community participation in weed management operations.
- Assist local boards in advocating, partnering and supporting community initiatives and education.

- Promote exemplary weed management on private and public land – e.g., through well-publicised Environmental Sustainability Awards.

Funding

- Ensure appropriate resourcing is provided for weed management by the council and its CCOs.
- Provide funding and appropriate support for weed control by community groups, other relevant organisations and the public.
- To ensure that all recipients of council funding for weed management programmes adhere to council-approved best practice methods:
 - Auckland Council will need to fund any changes in weed control practice which result in additional costs to its departments, CCOs or stakeholders².

² With regard to potential cost implication for AT, it must be noted that there are limitations of New Zealand Transport Agency subsidies.

Glossary

Term	Definition	Source
Agrichemical	Any substance, whether inorganic or organic, man-made or natural occurring, modified or in its original state, that is used in any agriculture, horticulture or related activity, to eradicate, modify or control flora and fauna.	New Zealand Standard 8409:2004, Appendix A.
Containment Pest Plant	Refers to pest plants that landowners/occupiers are required to treat throughout or in defined areas of the region, or in boundary situations, as described in section 7 of the RPMS. Plants are to be treated by a recognised method, at intervals that ensure the pest plant is completely controlled or controlled to or from a stipulated distance from a property boundary.	Auckland Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007-2012
Herbicide	An agrichemical that is specifically designed to kill or eradicate unwanted plants.	New Zealand Standard 8409:2004, Appendix A.
National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA)	<p>The NPPA is a cooperative agreement between the Nursery and Garden Industry Association, regional councils and government departments with biosecurity responsibilities.</p> <p>All plants on the NPPA are unwanted organisms under the Biosecurity Act 1993. These plants cannot be sold, propagated or distributed in New Zealand.</p>	National Pest Plant Accord 2012
Naturalise	Introduced plants that form self-sustaining populations outside cultivation, either through the production of viable seed or by vegetative reproduction.	Auckland Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007-2012
Parks and Open Spaces	Parks and reserves, harbours, waterways, wetlands and beaches, volcanic landscapes, and wilderness and native bush areas, streets and civic spaces.	Auckland Council Draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2012
Pest	An organism specified as a pest in a pest management strategy.	Biosecurity Act 1993
Pest Plant	<p>Introduced plants subject to control or restrictions under the RPMS. Includes Total Control Pest Plants, Containment Pest Plants, and Surveillance Pest Plants.</p> <p>Can also refer to species listed in the NPPA.</p>	Auckland Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007-2012

Term	Definition	Source
Plant	<p>Any grass, tree, shrub, flower, nursery stock, culture, vegetable, or other vegetation, and also includes the fruit, seed, spore, portion or product of any plant. Includes all aquatic plants.</p> <p>Note that algae and lichens are not considered plants for the purposes of this policy but the use of agrichemicals for their management should be guided by the principles of this policy.</p>	Auckland Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007-2012
Surveillance Pest Plant	Refers to pest plants for which there is no requirement prescribing control of field infestations, but for which the sale, propagation, distribution and exhibition has been prohibited, in order to arrest the further spread of these plants by humans, as described in section 8 of the RPMS.	Auckland Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007-2012
Total Control Pest Plant	Pest plants that are of limited distribution or density within the Auckland region, or defined areas of the region, and are considered to be of high potential threat to the region, for which Auckland Council shall assume responsibility for funding and implementing appropriate management programmes. The aim is to eradicate these plants.	Auckland Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007-2012
Weed	A weed is a plant growing where it is not wanted and with a harmful impact. It can be harmful to human activities, such as farming or recreation, or it can be harmful to New Zealand's unique environment. Weeds are usually plants that have been introduced to New Zealand by people.	Landcare Research www.landcareresearch.co.nz/resources/teaching/weed-control 11/09/12.