



Lake Rotoiti Community Association Incorporated

Registered Charity CC11386

PDC Mourea RD4 Rotorua

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Regional Pest Management Strategy
Bay of Plenty Regional Council
P O Box 364
WHAKATANE 3158

**Submission to the
Draft Regional Pest Management Strategy for the Bay of Plenty 2011 – 2016**

Lake Rotoiti Community Association (LRCA) is pleased to have this opportunity to make submissions to Council's Draft Regional Pest Management Strategy.

LRCA recognises Council's desire to develop strategy for the management of pests in the Bay of Plenty Region.

Lake Weed

LRCA supports the identification of the following lake weeds within "Section D: Containment Pest Rules":

- *Egeria densa*
- Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)
- *Lagarosiphon major*

and recognises the management objective of reducing their abundance to a level that can be sustained at minimal cost. LRCA commends Council's commitment towards the prevention of these lake weeds spreading to lakes that currently do not contain same. However, at least eight of the twelve lakes in the region are currently infested and there appears to be no strategy formulated as to how containment or eradication in these lakes is to be achieved.

The current budget of \$60,000 that Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) has for weed spraying is largely ineffectual. LRCA acknowledges that BOPRC is carrying out harvesting of lake weed in Lake Rotoehu and Okawa Bay, Lake Rotoiti, under an environmental budget to remove nutrients from the water column. However, the Draft Regional Pest Management Strategy does not appear to contain any management plan to address amenity values and health and safety issues for the Te Arawa Lakes.

LRCA wishes to submit that:

- (1) *BOPRC establishes which bodies are responsible for managing the containment of pest plants in the Te Arawa Lakes and that policies and plans be put in place to hold them accountable.*

(2) Environmental, amenity and health and safety issues be included in the pest plant management programme for the twelve Te Arawa lakes.

LRCA fully supports the submissions made in respect of lake weed that have been made by the Rotorua Lakes Community Board.

Gorse

Section D: Containment of pest plant rules (page 19)

LRCA believes that gorse eradication needs to be seriously undertaken in the Te Arawa Lakes' catchments and expresses deep concern that the Plan's focus is only for Lakes Okareka and Rotorua. Considerable gorse concentrations exist in the catchments of other Te Arawa lakes.

Gorse is known to leach nitrogen and during autumn and winter such leaching can reach 50 kgs per hectare per year. Deterioration in water quality is of substantial concern throughout the Te Arawa Lakes region and LRCA recognises that gorse is a contributor to this problem.

LRCA believes the case for gorse control is persuasive and we submit:

(3) that all lakes catchments should be included in the D(3)(a) category.

General Weeds

Roadsides of main roads through the district can be a source of weeds, especially those spread by wind and traffic movement, such as pampas. It would be encouraging to landowners if such highly visible weeds were controlled, rather than left to spread onto private land. An example has been the pampas at the south end of the Mourea Hill, left to grow over many years. Control of such easily accessible outliers would prevent this spread.

The Lake Rotoiti area is unusual in the Rotorua District in that it enjoys a somewhat milder climate than most of the District. For this reason a number of weeds, generally regarded as confined to warmer regions, are becoming a cause for concern. These include wild ginger (*Hedychium gardnerianum*), Chinese jasmine (*Jasminum polyanthum*), *Senecio petasitis*, climbing asparagus (*Asparagus scandens*), ivy (*Hedera helix*), and others. It would be valuable if EBOP was to initiate measures to encourage permanent and holiday residents to recognise these weeds and the threat which they pose, and to encourage, and assist with, appropriate control measures.

LRCA seeks the opportunity to speak to its submission and requests that this takes place at a Rotorua location.

Hilary Prior
Chairperson