



Lake Rotoiti Community Association Incorporated

Registered Charity CC11386

PDC Mourea RD4 Rotorua

Secretary: Helen Prior - Ph (09) 489 5287
Treasurer: Gerald Plested - Ph (09) 529 2124 Fax (09) 529 2125

Email prior_helen@ihug.co.nz
Email gplested@xtra.co.nz

29th October 2009

The Chief Executive
Environment Bay of Plenty
P O Box 364
Whakatane 3158

Dear Sir,

SUBMISSION ON PEST MANAGEMENT IN THE BAY OF PLENTY

The Lake Rotoiti Community Association supports the goals of protecting biodiversity, public health and community amenity.

Control pests present in the Association's area include wild ginger, yellow flag iris and the aquatic plants weeds *Egeria densa*, *Elodea canadensis*, *Ceratophyllum demersum* (hornwort) and *Lagarosiphon major*. None of these plants are easy to control and it is difficult to see why the aquatic plants are placed in a category where "the responsibility will rest with the landowner/occupier."

There is no indication on how it would be decided whether control by landowners/occupiers is feasible. Pest plants and animals do not recognise property boundaries, so it is possible for one household working by control can be undermined by neighbours who are not, thus allowing re-invasion.

Some owners of holiday homes, who may value the 'bush or wilderness' of their property are likely to have a higher tolerance of woody weeds and vines and probably don't recognise some as weeds on their properties. These areas can provide cover for more insidious pest plants, such as climbing asparagus, mile-a-minute and wild ginger, often spread by birds.

If encouragement and regulation does not achieve control of pests in this category, then Council could take steps to undertake control, before it becomes completely impossible to achieve.

Possibilities include:

- Encouragement and support of neighbourhood groups working together (but this would probably include only the keen people and few absentee owners);
- Staff and property owners working together at times of inspection;
- Staff with permission from owner/occupier, undertaking control;
- Contractors, acting with permission.

Any control measures initiated by Council would need to be regularly followed up, with further action as necessary.

Advisory pests. If these pests are not practical or cost-effective to control, why are they listed? Yet, there are problem plant and animal pests in this list. Rabbits, mustelids, rodents, possums, for example, can have severe effects on biodiversity values, and in a very short time can undo work of communities to improve local community and environmental values. Assistance with control of

these pests can make a big difference to the ability of communities or landowners to work on their control.

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 is concerned that *Cytisus and Genista*, which belong to the legumes (*Leguminosea*), broom, are not included on the Provisional Future Categories of Pest list. Like gorse it is acknowledged it fixes large amounts of nitrogen. This is not good in lake catchments. Additionally LRCA believes that Gorse should be listed as a Control Pest in view of its nitrogen fixing capabilities and the detrimental affect this has in lake catchments. We further believe that willow should be added to control pests on lake margins and major tourist tracks.

LRCA agrees that priority should be given to surveillance and undertaking early control to stop new pests establishing in the region but believes that existing pests should not be forgotten by Council.

LRCA seeks the opportunity to speak to its submission and requests that this take place at a Rotorua location. Additionally we would request a meeting with the relevant Councillors to discuss points of concern to our Association.

Yours faithfully

Hilary Prior
Chairperson