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### 3.1.6 Weed Control

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<b>POLICY TYPE:</b>	<i>RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL:</i>
<b>ADOPTED:</b>	<i>14 December 1993 (Revised 21 June 2006)</i>
<b>MINUTE REFERENCE:</b>	<i>PRE 8</i>
<b>REPORT:</b>	<i>Policy for Weed Control in Council Controlled Public Areas</i>
<b>COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITY:</b>	<i>Community Services</i>
<b>CONTACT DIVISION:</b>	<i>City Services</i>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<i>Parks &amp; Environment Manager</i>
<b>DATE OF LAST REVIEW:</b>	<i>December 1993</i>
<b>DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:</b>	

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#### Preamble

North Shore City as part of its commitment to Healthy Cities has a policy of encouraging and promoting environmentally sensitive methods of weed control in the city. (*Note: Biosecurity Act 1993 - refer ARC, Pest Strategies*)

#### Intent

The intention of this policy is to preserve the visual amenity of the city by controlling weed growth in streets, parks and other public areas. Weed control is necessary to protect and maintain assets such as roads and footpaths and to prevent flooding through the accumulation of silt and debris in channels. Weed control is also necessary to remove environmentally damaging or noxious weeds in order to ensure native species are not displaced and also to encourage regeneration of natural areas.

Residents will be encouraged to use environmentally sensitive methods of weed control within their own properties and also take responsibility for the maintenance of the frontages of their properties by cutting the grass berms and controlling weed growth.

#### The Purpose of Weed Control

##### *Preservation of assets*

##### Streets

- The control of weed growth in streets is important to protect and maintain the road- ing asset for visual amenity and to prevent flooding within the street scene.
- Weed growth generally occurs in cracks, crevices etc across the entire street scene. In particular in cracks along the fender line of the kerb and channel of the carriageway, in the invert of the channel behind the kerb and across the footpath area. Growth can occur in cracks on the carriageway itself especially in low traffic volume roads.
- In rural areas weed growth is normally confined to the water table invert. Noxious weed control is also necessary.

Parks & Reserves

- Weed growth can be a problem in passive and bush reserves especially bush reserves which can progressively being taken over by Ginger, Privet, Woolly Nightshade and other environmentally damaging and noxious weeds, displacing native species and preventing regeneration.
- In sportsfields and other active recreational areas many weeds can be found which often affect the playability and level of use of these amenities.

Noxious Plants

- The Council has a statutory obligation to carry out the control of noxious plants on Council owned land in the City. The control of noxious plants will be by the most effective method which will not necessarily involve the use of chemicals.

### **Administration of Policy**

*Methods of weed control:*

Methods of weed control will continue to be assessed to ensure that these methods are appropriate for use in public areas. In assessing the appropriateness of any method, consideration will be given to factors such as potential damage to assets like asphalt on footpaths, the cost of treatment, potential toxicity, human and environmental safety.

Council will seek alternative environmentally sensitive methods of weed control by carrying out regular information searches in order to keep abreast of new techniques and will trial these as appropriate.

*Public Involvement:*

Council will encourage residents and occupiers in positive ways to maintain the frontage of their properties by cutting grass areas, controlling weed growth and becoming involved in projects for the beautification of their neighbourhood areas.

*Use of Chemicals*

As a matter of policy North Shore City is endeavouring to encourage and promote environmentally sensitive methods of weed control. In the event that chemical means of weed control are required it shall be carried out within the conditions set out in this policy.

### **Intention**

The intention of the policy is:

1. To carry out weed control by manual, mechanical or other methods and limit the use of chemicals to areas where it is not practical or economical to use other methods.
2. Where chemical control is required, to control the quantity of herbicide use in the city to the minimum amount necessary to achieve a reasonable level of weed control.
3. Where weed control is required, to use the least toxic method as necessary to achieve such control. To ensure that where approved herbicide use occurs measures are adopted to protect public health and safety.

*Conditions for use of chemicals*

The following conditions shall be adhered to when chemicals are used.

1. Chemical weed control in public areas will be limited to chemicals with a toxicity rating greater than an LD50 of 5000 milligrams/kgs, except where this is required to control noxious weeds or in areas where specialist treatment is necessary, (for example playing fields and golf courses). In these areas weed control will be undertaken using the least toxic effective chemical.
2. A register will be kept of all properties and persons wishing to maintain their property frontage. These properties will not be sprayed by Council's contractor provided the residents sign an agreement undertaking to maintain the frontage to Council's satisfaction. Should that frontage not be kept weed free to Council's satisfaction, then Council will carry out weed control as part of its advertised city-wide weed control programme.
3. Appropriate public notices of impending weed control programmes will be published at least 48 hours prior in local newspapers or Council publications. The notices are to specify the areas or parks where the weed control programmes are to be carried out and should specify the dates, subject to weather conditions permitting. Area offices will be advised in advance of spraying occurring.
4. The Contractor's spraying vehicle will be suitably identifiable by name, phone number, and signs to indicate that it is undertaking weed spraying.
5. Spraying will not be carried in wind velocities exceeding 5 knots at point of application.
6. Weed spraying operations will be undertaken at suitable times so as to not conflict with peak pedestrian movement at a particular location. Particular care should be taken in the vicinity of schools, pre schools or places of public assembly. For example, no application of herbicide will be applied between the hours of 8.00am - 9.00am and 3.00pm - 4.00pm Monday to Friday.
7. Parks may be sprayed when essential. In such cases, etc, signs will be erected, giving warning 24 hours before and after spraying has taken place.
8. Cricket pitches may continue to be treated with pesticides as necessary to control weeds and fungi.
9. All weed control if undertaken by spraying will be in accordance with SANZ Draft Document 5854 and attachment A of this document.
10. All contractors employed by Council to spray herbicides will be registered with the Pesticides Board as ground chemical applicators. Material application procedures will be as set out on the product label and in accordance with the draft SANZ Document 5854. Application of chemicals will be undertaken under the supervision of a registered applicator.
11. Noxious plant control shall be undertaken using the least toxic but effective medium and applied in accordance with the requirements of this policy.

## **ATTACHMENT A (for Weed Spray Policy)**

### *Special Treatment Areas*

The following is a list of all parks and Reserves within Devonport and other special treatment areas.

In these areas weeds will be controlled by mechanical means except where there are new plantings when chemical weed control may be necessary until they are established.

### **RESERVES**

Memorial Drive

Balmain Reserve

Bath Reserve

Cheltenham Beach Reserves

Devonport Domain - outfield, playground and parking areas

Mount Victoria

Allenby Reserve

Stanley Bay Beach Reserves

Woodall Park and Narrow Neck Beach Reserve

Queen's Parade and King Edward Parade Reserve

Dacre Park

Achilles Reserve

Blair Park Calliope Reserve

Fraser Reserve

Kiwi Reserve

Mount Cambria Reserve - No spraying to occur during Kindergarten hours.

Wairoa Reserve

Windsor Reserve

Shoal Bay Reserve

Hill Park

Abbotsford Way

Ngataranga Bay Reserve

Hanlon Reserve

Lake Road Reserve

Seabreeze Reserve

East Coast Bays - Special Area

Sherwood Reserve

Oaktree Reserve

Oaktree/Palliser Reserve

Squirrel Lane Reserve

Sherwood Basin (Browns Bay) -

12. Local residents, through the Sherwood Community Co-operative/Friends of Sherwood may undertake weed control in the Sherwood Basin and other designated areas of East Coast Bays. All the work within the contract must comply with Council's Weed Control Policy including the use of Pesticides Board approved products.

### **Glossary of Terms**

13. That the weeds outside properties on the chemical free register be treated by non-chemical methods, and that any significant cost implications that arise be reported back to the Works & Environment Committee at the time.

14. Pesticide - Any substance used against unwanted mammals, arthropods (includes insects, spiders, and mites), plants, fungi, reptiles, fish, amphibians, nematodes (and other worms) other than that on or in humans or livestock.

15. LD50 - The lethal dose to kill 50% of test animals. The most hazardous chemicals have a low LD50, and the least toxic have a high LD50 in milligrams per/kg. An example would be the acute oral LD50 dose for rats as 250 milligrams/kg -body weight for 'Paraquat': whereas 'Roundup' would require 5400 milligrams/kg per kilogram of body weight for rats.

16. SANZ 5854 - This draft SANZ document has been designed to bridge the gap between the present, voluntary training and examination system by the Pesticides Board resulting in registration as a ground chemical applicator. The present form of the Code of Practice is currently being taught at Carrington Polytech, Auckland.

17. Noxious & Environmentally Damaging Plants - Those plants that the Auckland Regional Council Noxious Plants Authority has declared as noxious or recognised as being a threat to our parks, native bush, reserves, and the general environment. For noxious plants there is a legal requirement to eradicate them from the district.

18. Spraying - Hand gun spot spray

19. Boom spray - Knapsack wand spotspray

20. Approved Herbicide for use - Those products registered and approved for use by the Pesticide Board.

## NOXIOUS PLANTS (PLANTS DECLARED NOXIOUS IN THE NORTH SHORE DISTRICT\_

### COMMON BOTANICAL

#### Class 'A'

- |                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| - Cape Tuli      | Homeria collina      |
| - Johnson Grass  | Sorghum Halepense    |
| - Salvina        | Salvina molesta      |
| - Water Hyacinth | Eichhornia crassipes |
| - Water Lettuce  | Pistia stratiotes    |

#### Class 'B'

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| - African Feather Grass                        | Pennisetum macrourum                 |
| - Alligator weed                               | Alternanthera philoxeroides          |
| - Australian Sedge                             | Carex Longbrachiata                  |
| - Barberry                                     | Berberis glaucocarpa                 |
| - Bathurst Burr                                | Xanthium spinosum                    |
| - Blackberry                                   | Rubus fruticosus agg                 |
| - Boxthorn                                     | Lycium ferocissimum                  |
| - Broom  | Cytisus scoparius                    |
| - Chilean Needle Grass                         | Stipa neesiana                       |
| - Entire Marshwort                             | Nymphoides geminata                  |
| - Fringed water-lily                           | Nymphoides peltata                   |
| - Gorse  | Ulex spp.                            |
| - Green Cestrum                                | Cestrum parqui                       |
| - Hawthorn                                     | Crataegus monogyna                   |
| - Hemlock                                      | Conium maculatum                     |
| - Nassella Tussock                             | Stipa trichotoma                     |
| - Nodding Thistle                              | Carduus nutans                       |
| - Old Man's Beard                              | Clematis vitalba                     |
| - Ragwort                                      | Senecio jacobaea                     |
| - Sagittaria                                   | Sagittaria graminea ssp. platyphylla |
| - Skeleton Weed                                | Chondrilla juncea                    |
| - Sweet brier                                  | Rosa rubiginosap                     |
| - Variegated thistle                           | Silybum marianum                     |
| - Water poppy                                  | Hydrocleis nymphoides                |
| - White edged nightshade                       | Solanum marginatum                   |
| - Woolly nightshade                            | Solanum mauritianum                  |
| - Wild Ginger                                  | Hedychium flavescens                 |
| - H. gardnerianum                              |                                      |
| - 'Aquatic Noxious Plants'Egeria (oxygen weed) |                                      |
| - Egeria densa                                 |                                      |
| - Eel grass                                    | Vallisneria gigantea                 |
| - Hydrilla                                     | Hydrilla verticillata                |
| - Lagarosiphon (oxygen weed)                   | Lagarosiphon major                   |
| - Hornwort                                     | Ceratophyllum demersum               |

"ENVIRONMENTALLY DAMAGING PLANTS" - Plants that have yet to be legally declared Noxious but are recognised as being a threat to our parks and native bush reserves. Occupiers are encouraged to control them, without legal obligation.

COMMON BOTANICAL

- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| - Black Wattle         | Acacia decurrens          |
| - Climbing Dock        | Rumex sagittatus          |
| - Cape Ivy             | Senecio angulatus         |
| - Castor Oil Plant     | Ricinus communis          |
| - Climbing Asparagus   | Asparagus scandens        |
| - Cotoneaster          | Cotoneaster glaucophyllus |
| - Elaeagnus            | Elaeagnus pungens         |
| - German Ivy           | Senecio mikanioides       |
| - Giant Reed           | Arundo donax              |
| - Japanese Honeysuckle | Lonicera japonica         |
| - Mignonette Vine      | Andredera cordifolia      |
| - Moth Plant           | Araujia sericifera        |
| - Pampas Grass         | Cortaderia jubata         |
| - Parrot's Feather     | Myriophyllum aquaticum    |
| - Privet               | Ligustrum species         |
| - Wandering Jew        | Tradescantia fluminesis   |