



# Alligator Weed Management

At Te Awa Lakes Development to Support Proposed PPC2

Peter Russell

# Outline

- Part 1 - key points of my primary evidence
- Part 2 – reading my submitter rebuttal evidence



# Overview

- Applicant wants to attempt eradication of alligator weed at the TAL site – minimise legacy issues
- Goal is ambitious – can only be achieved through a shared and collaborative approach to planning at all stages (present day to post development)
- All alligator weed management practices and mitigations outlined comply with Biosecurity Act provisions and the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan



# **HCC requested more information**

- **Demonstrate how the Restricted Place Notice will not be breached (during development of the site).**
- **Demonstrate how alligator weed is to be practicably managed and controlled, during full development.**
- **Outline ongoing implications of management in a residential environment and how the costs will be met.**

# How the RPN will not be breached

- A dedicated site manager to be selected with overall responsibilities for alligator weed controls at the TAL site
  - No alligator weed infested soil or vegetation is proposed to leave site
  - Machinery hygiene controls already implemented - will be stepped up (e.g. steam cleaning for high risk excavators) to ensure that no infested machinery (with soil/fragments) leaves the site
  - No stormwater will leave the site through new connections to the Waikato River and dewatering of all internal ponds before construction begins will assist with eradication.
- *Weed Hygiene Plan put in place for geotechnical investigations covered these 4 key points*

# **Management during full construction**

- **Site controls (in WHP) to meet RPN requirements will be scaled up – general principles will be same**
- **Major earthworks and remediation creates opportunity for eradication – not attempted before in NZ on this scale**
- **PPC establishes the need for resource consents to be obtained and development of AWMP**

# Management post development

- Eradication cannot be guaranteed – achieve ‘zero density’
- Contingency planning has commenced (e.g. managing grass clippings, training detector dogs)
- Application of Biosecurity Act principles – beneficiaries of weed control and exacerbators of weed spread to pay
- Three options considered ...

# Management post development – three options discussed

- The status quo - WRC continue to fund and undertake all work
  - Total transfer of all obligations and costs to new landowners
  - Shared approach to managing work and costs (between WRC, PGL and/or a proposed Te Awa Lakes Residents Society)
- *Much will depend on the outcome of eradication attempts, however shared approach to future funding has been socialised among the parties as the favoured option*

# **Caucusing outcome**

- **Took place 17 September 2019 – JWS signed. No areas of disagreement**
- **Maatauranga Maori aspects regarding alligator weed impacts and methods of control required further consideration (by iwi representatives who attended)**
- **Alligator weed management in a future residential environment was discussed – no determination made**

# **Section 42A report**

- **Noted significant adverse effects for TAL site and Waikato River if alligator weed ‘escaped’**
- **AWMP to be prepared in consultation with WRC/Iwi - with reference to existing WHP, Biosecurity Act provisions and principles identified through current RPN management practices**
- **Noted that PPC approach was an effective mechanism to address alligator weed concerns**

# Part 1 - Conclusions

- I note that alligator weed can be effectively managed through the range of mitigations and actions described for the different stages of the development.
- I agree that the approach taken in the Plan Change provisions to alligator weed management is appropriate to address any potential effects from alligator weed.
- I endorse that the plan rules in the Plan Change include 'information requirements' (notably AWMPs) that apply to all resource consent applications made regarding the Te Awa Lakes Structure Plan which address alligator weed management.

# Thanks

