

2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS

A number of agencies and individuals have responsibilities for pest management. These are generally set out by the Biosecurity Act. The following agencies, in addition to the Northland Regional Council, have been identified and are of relevance to the Northland Region:

- Landowner/occupier
- Territorial Authorities
- The Crown
- Road controlling authorities

2.1. NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Northland Regional Council is the management agency responsible for implementing a Regional Pest Management Strategy. This includes identifying pests, and developing and applying the measures to ensure the Strategy's objectives are achieved. It also includes developing and administering systems that ensure funding, monitoring and review processes are consistent with the requirements of the Biosecurity Act and other statutes. The Northland Regional Council, in making this proposal, is satisfied that it meets the requirements of section 84(3) of the Biosecurity Act in that:

- It is accountable to the Strategy funders through the representation and annual reporting Annual Plan or Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP), requirements established under the Local Government Act;
- It is acceptable to funders and those who may be subject to the Strategy provisions;
- It has the capacity, competency and expertise to carry out the implementation through public education, field operations, monitoring, support of landowner and community initiatives, funding and reporting.

2.2. LANDOWNER/OCCUPIER

Pest management is an individual's responsibility in the first instance, because generally the occupier is the exacerbator and in turn benefits from control of the pest. There is no differentiation of responsibilities based on differing forms of private land ownership.

2.3. TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES

There are three territorial local authorities in the Northland Region:

- Far North District Council
- Kaipara District Council
- Whangarei District Council

Territorial local authorities are both beneficiaries and exacerbators, and therefore each authority is required to control pests on land that it occupies (including roadside verges

for which that authority is responsible), in accordance with the Strategy rules prescribed in Part 6.4 of this document.

2.4. THE CROWN

For a number of reasons the Crown must be treated differently from private individuals. A Strategy cannot require the Crown to be bound, but under section 87 of the Biosecurity Act the Crown can agree to be bound and contribute to funding. The Crown does not pay rates, but a grant in lieu of rates may be negotiated in recognition of it being an exacerbator.

2.5. ROADING AUTHORITIES

The construction and maintenance of roads exacerbate pest plant problems by creating bare surfaces that provide establishment sites and by the introduction of seeds via machinery and road metal. In addition, roads are recognised as corridors for the spread of pest plants. The Biosecurity Act allows the option of making either roading authorities or neighbouring landowners responsible for road verge pest control. In Northland the responsibility for roadside verge control for all formed roads will be the responsibility of the roading authority, in common with other Pest Management Strategies in New Zealand.

Responsibility for pest control on unformed roads will lie with the land occupier who physically occupies the land. The Northland Regional Council believes there is benefit in developing management plans with road controlling authorities to facilitate effective pest management.