


From: Environment Canterbury
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: Proposal for the Canterbury RPMP Plan [#46]
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Please tick those that apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I do wish to be heard in support of my submission; and if so,• I would be prepared to consider presenting my submission in a joint case with others making a similar submission at any hearing
Attach any supporting documents here.	<div></div> <div>1707_submission_on_canterbury_pest_mgmt_plan.pdf 1.93 MB • PDF</div>

SUBMISSION ON CANTERBURY REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017-2037

This submission is made on behalf of the Ashburton District Council Biodiversity Working Group (ADBWG).

This group was established by Ashburton District Council (ADC) in 2011, is currently chaired by Cr Selwyn Price and is administered by ADC staff.

Members represent the following organisations:

Foothills Landcare Group, QEII Trust, Ashburton Branch of Forest & Bird, Ashburton Community Conservation Trust, Federated Farmers, Fish and Game, Lake Heron Trapping Group, Environment Canterbury, Dept. of Conservation, Mt Somers Walkway Soc., Synlait Milk, Fonterra, Whitcombe Landcare Group, Open Spaces Dept of ADC.

As well as the above, members have connections to other community groups concerned with biodiversity and environmental projects.

The purpose of the Ashburton District Biodiversity working group is to:

- Co-ordinate the implementation of the Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Plan
- Maintain partnerships between local and regional organisations with an interest in the management of indigenous biodiversity
- Provide a forum for discussion and community-wide promotion of biodiversity.

The group meets on a bi-monthly basis to discuss implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan and issues of concern to members.

At the last meeting of ADBWG on 20th June, 2017, it was decided that a submission from this group to the CRPMP was appropriate.

1. Tree Lupin - *Lupinus arboreus*

We oppose the exclusion of Tree Lupin as a pest.

There is no mention in the CRPMP of the Tree Lupin. During the last 8 – 10 years there has been a rapid spread of this large Lupin species in the lowland rivers of the Ashburton District and it is now appearing in the higher reaches of the alpine rivers, the Rakaia and Rangitata. Tree lupin is also a weed of coastal habitats. It competes with native plants on the narrow coastal dunes, low coastal banks, dongas and gravel pits (Davis, M, 2014. Native Remnants of the Mid-South Canterbury Coast, Canterbury Botanical Society Journal 45.)

Tree Lupin forms a large plant (2m x 2m) which is able to withstand the conditions on a shingle river bed where the substrate often moves, or may be inundated in a flood. It tolerates wind, salt, hot or cold temperatures, physical damage and grazing (not readily eaten), drought, low fertility (fixes nitrogen) and fire. (NZPCN)

As well as physically smothering and precluding the growth of native plants that occur on the river bed and its verges, Tree Lupin changes the chemical composition of the soil it grows in by fixing nitrogen. This allows the growth of other weeds and the higher nitrogen levels change soil conditions to the detriment of native plants adapted to low nitrogen levels.

The long lasting seed is spread as pods dry and explode, spreading seeds in the immediate vicinity. Its ability to grow in riverbeds, on sandy beaches and other difficult sites, means control is not straightforward. Immediate efforts are needed to control the spread into ecologically sensitive areas.

Tree Lupin in braided rivers contributes significantly to the stabilisation of islands within the river. This affects the natural movement of shingle, a vital feature of braided river ecosystems. Stable, weed covered islands provide cover for mammalian predators of the birds that nest on the rivers, and minimise the site selection options for endangered bird species such as Black Billed Gulls, Black fronted Terns, Banded Dotterel, Wrybill, Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt and Black Stilt.

It is listed on the Weedbusters website:

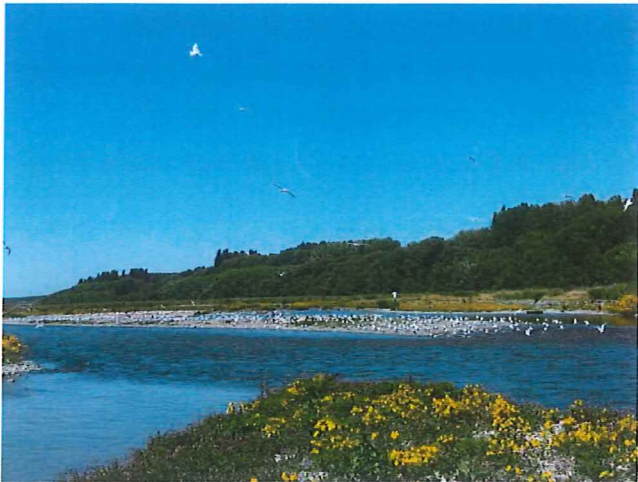
<http://www.weedbusters.org.nz/weed-information/lupinus-arboreus/59/>



*Tree Lupin in the Rakaia River, approximately 15km above the Rakaia Gorge, Summer 2017.
Photo V. Clemens*

Tree Lupin has no economic value, is not palatable to grazing animals, is difficult to eradicate because the seed persists in the environment, and grows in areas where there are few other weed species. The effect of masses of Tree Lupin in braided river beds has the potential to be catastrophic for birds which nest on the shingle beds of rivers, such as the Ashburton/Hakatere, Rakaia and Rangitata.

Last year, as the nesting season of the critically endangered Black Billed Gull approached, Ashburton Forest and Bird members attempted to clear Tree Lupin from the customary nesting area beside the SH1 bridge in Ashburton. This was very difficult work.



Ashburton Forest and Bird members clearing Tree Lupin and other weeds in the Ashburton River in an effort to provide suitable nesting area for the critically endangered Black Billed Gull.
Nov. 2016

The effects of Russell Lupins on the braided river environment and its inhabitants are well known. The Tree Lupin has a similar effect, if not worse, due to its larger size, and therefore greater seed production and spread.

Suggested action: Tree Lupin be declared a pest due to its "adverse effects on the environment" and that a Sustained Control Programme be included for high value rivers.

2. False Tamarisk: *Myricaria germanica*

We oppose the exclusion of False Tamarisk from the list of organisms to be controlled under a Site-led Programme.



False Tamarisk is a deciduous shrub (to 1.5 m) with upright branches and small, narrowly triangular leaves (up to 5.5 mm x 1.6 mm) held close to its branches that appear bluish-green due to salt secretions on the underside. Small, pink, 5-petalled (3.2 mm) flowers are in hanging clusters from January, and are followed in February and March by small grey capsules containing seeds (0.7-0.9 mm). (Weedbusters website)

False Tamarisk is another weed of the river beds. It has not yet become widespread but has the potential to, causing similar adverse effects. Prompt action will prevent the need for expensive control measures. The seed is not long lived so timely control measures might prevent further spread and costly intervention in the future.

Suggested Action: Add False Tamarisk to the list of organisms to be controlled under a Site-led Programme.

3. Bennetts Wallaby

We oppose the proposed implementation measures from controlling Bennetts Wallaby.

Members of conservation groups within the Ashburton area have noted with alarm, the spread and increase in numbers of wallabies in South Canterbury. Recent sightings close to the south bank of the Rangitata, and on the south side of the Waitaki are seen as an indication that current control measures are not effective. There is a real concern that Wallabies will cross the Rangitata very soon and the effect of their browsing habits on the sensitive ecosystems of the Hakatere Conservation Park have the potential to be catastrophic.

The effects of wallaby browsing in forest remnants in the Hunter Hills are preventing regeneration. Their habit of eating young plants completely, leaving only bare ground, and of eating the bark from mature trees puts such remnants at serious risk.

That three men can go onto a single property and shoot 250 wallabies in a weekend (pers.comment A. Sinclair) indicates the wallabies' prevalence and the ineffectiveness of current control measures. The increase of wallaby populations has particularly been noted since the disbanding of the Wallaby Pest Board. An increase in wild pig populations in recent years has also been a source of concern.

The difficulty of dealing with large numbers of wallabies is recognised but the threats are evident and serious.

Suggested Action:

Support the Objective, Principle Measures and Rules as proposed but review and strengthen the implementation measures.

Include local stakeholders and landowners on any wallaby control entity. Local knowledge is invaluable.

Whenever possible prosecute those who spread either wallabies or wild pigs into areas where they are not currently present.

Written by Val Clemens BSc BLA , Member of Ashburton Biodiversity Working Group.

4. Sycamore:- *Acer pseudoplanatus*

Sycamore is one of the worst threats to Ashburton District's native forest areas. Ashburton District has very small areas of remnant native forest. These remnants are under serious threat from Sycamore spread. Allowed to spread unchecked the Sycamore will eventually shade out native forest species.

Sycamore can grow 1 to 2 meters per year and their copious number of winged seeds can travel long distances. Seeds will live for more than 200 years.

Sycamore is prevalent in Staveley campsite bush, Taylors Stream area (part of Hakatere Conservation Park) and Alford Forest.

Unlike the campaign to reduce wilding pine spread where access is relatively easy on grassland, eradicating Sycamore in forested areas is much more difficult, hence the need to stop the spread now.

Fifteen years ago I attended a meeting in Ashburton on CRC Pest Management Programme and suggested Sycamore needed to be controlled, unfortunately my submission at the time was ignored. Since then Sycamores have become a more serious problem and to date there are still no control programmes in Ashburton District, rather it is left to individuals to try and control this pest.

Two year ago I tried without success to interest the Ashburton Zone Committee to start a control program in Taylors stream as one of their projects. Department of Conservation own most of the land that the Sycamores have spread to.

Alford Landcare Inc. based at Staveley, has been recently been formed to co-ordinate individual programmes of pest control of animal and plant pests. It has no resources other than individual's labour. It would be willing to work in with an ECAN control program for Sycamores.

Suggested Actions:

Working with Alford Landcare Inc. set up a Site Led programme. Determine the worst infestations, landowner responsibility and a control programme.

Written by Alan Totty, a recently retired ADC councillor. Alan has lived in the Staveley area all of his life, has farmed there and was the first landowner in the Ashburton District to establish a QEII covenant.

SIGNED:

 (CR SELWYN PRICE, CHAIRMAN)

DATE:

3.07.2017

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