

191 Carrs Road
Loburn RD2
Rangiora 7472
September 1, 2017

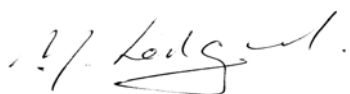
To Whom it may Concern

Contorta pine trees in Castle Hill village

Over the 2016-17 summer, the Ministry of Primary Industries' wilding control programme has been in full swing in the upper Waimakariri Basin. Well over \$1m has been spent. A particular challenge in any such control operation is to remove spread-prone trees from private holdings, as this often involves small numbers of trees on a number of properties under varying tenure. The risk of spread is the same whatever the land tenure, so removal is vital – especially where contorta pine is involved, as this is the most spread-prone species. Contorta pine matures and produces cones at a young age, plus it has the lightest seed which can be blown many kilometres. A recent study in the Basin showed that a single 11-year-old tree can produce over 4000 viable seeds per year.

One of the original sources of contorta pine seed in the upper Waimakariri Basin lies alongside Castle Hill village. Consequently, many mature wildings occur amongst the village trees. They will be shedding seed annually, and as long as they remain there is a high risk of unwanted wildings occurring on susceptible land downwind. Over the last year, seeding contorta pine trees have been removed from throughout the Basin, including from most other private properties. For obvious reasons, it is essential that those remaining in Castle Hill village be removed as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully



Nick Ledgard

Retired Senior Scientist,, Scion, Christchurch (specialising in wilding pine ecology)

BSc (Botany - Auckland); MSc (Forestry – Bangor, N Wales); Fellow NZ Inst Forestry;

QSO (2010) for services to forestry