

# Memo

8 February 2017

To: Environment and Community Committee members

cc: Barry Potter, Director Infrastructure and Environmental Services, Dean Kimpton, Chief Operating Officer

From: Mayor Phil Goff, CNZM and Councillor Penny Hulse, Chair Environment and Community Committee

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**Subject: Appointments to Auckland Council's Weed Management Political Advisory Group**

## Purpose

To inform members of the Environment and Community committee of mayoral appointments to Auckland Council's Weed Management Political Advisory Group to oversee the implementation and delivery of the Weed Management Policy.

## Background

Auckland Council adopted a Weed Management Policy for parks and open spaces in August 2013 (resolution number RDO/2013/137). This policy is supported by an action plan which sets out 32 tasks and actions that Auckland Council will carry out to implement the vision and objectives of the Weed Management Policy. The implementation of the policy was expanded to give full effect to the definition of 'parks and open spaces' and consequently includes all members of the Auckland Council family.

In line with the listed action points of the Weed Management Policy, a weed management political advisory group was established in the previous term of council 'to oversee the implementation and delivery of the Weed Management Policy'. In parallel a best practice reference group to 'ensure that the weed management policy and all operational programmes maintain international best practice' was established. The policy outlines that the formation of the governance group is to be determined by the governing body.

In September 2016, the Regional Strategy and Policy Committee considered a report which recommended a review of council's weed management policy. The committee decided not to review the policy, rather it resolved as follows:

*Resolution number REG/2016/86*

*MOVED by Chairperson GS Wood, seconded by Deputy Chairperson AJ Anae:*

- b) recommend to the appropriate committee of the incoming council that the Weed Management Political Advisory Group be re-appointed and continue to monitor and review implementation of Auckland Council's Weed Management Policy and practice.*
- c) express its concerns about the use of glyphosate to the incoming council.*

In December 2016, the Finance and Performance Committee resolved to 'agree that a political group be appointed by the Mayor monitors and reviews the implementation of Auckland Council's Weed Management Policy and practice' (resolution number FIN/2016/173).

## **Governing Body Appointments**

The Mayor and Chair of the Environment and Community Committee have signaled that political groups should ideally be small to enable decisions to be made effectively and efficiently. Considering a good geographical spread, size and expertise the Mayor and Chair of the committee have appointed the following councillors to the Weed Management Political Advisory Group:

- Deputy Mayor Bill Cashmore
- Councillor Alf Filipaina
- Councillor Christine Fletcher
- Councillor Penny Hulse
- Councillor John Watson
- Councillor Sharon Stewart

Please note that Councillor Sharon Stewart is yet to confirm her participation.

Representation from the Independent Māori Statutory Board will be requested via memo. The two local board chairs on the Weed Management Political Advisory Group will be determined at the Local Board Chairs' Forum, scheduled for 13 February 2017.

While the final makeup of the political advisory group aims to take into account the geographical spread of elected representatives, if an implementation aspect requires additional representation from elected members, the political advisory group will be in a position to co-opt members as needed.

The Weed Management Political Advisory Group will report back to the Environment and Community Committee on progress within six months of re-establishment.

## **Next Steps**

Following the appointments from the Independent Māori Statutory Board and local board chairs the meeting dates will be established.

A forward work programme and draft terms of reference will be prepared for the first weed management political advisory meeting.