I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Weed Management Political Advisory Group will be held on:

**Date:** Tuesday, 8 September 2020  
**Time:** 10.00am  
**Meeting Room:** This meeting will proceed via Skype for Business. Either a recording or written summary will be uploaded on the Auckland Council website  
**Venue:**

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**Weed Management Political Advisory Group**

**OPEN AGENDA**

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**MEMBERSHIP**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Chairperson</th>
<th>Cr Richard Hills</th>
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<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td>Member Sandra Coney, QSO</td>
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<td>Waitākere Ranges Local Board</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Member Trish Deans</td>
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<td>Devonport-Takapuna Local Board</td>
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<td>Cr Alf Filipaina</td>
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<td>Member Danielle Hancock</td>
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<td>Rodney Local Board</td>
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<td>Member Kylee Matthews</td>
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<td>Waiheke Local Board</td>
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<td>Cr Greg Sayers</td>
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<td>Member John Spiller</td>
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<td>Howick Local Board</td>
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<td>Member Jon Turner</td>
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<td>IMSB Member Glenn Wilcox</td>
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<td>Puketāpapa Local Board</td>
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(Quorum 9 members)

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Suad Allie  
*Kaitohutohu Mana Whakahaere Matua / Senior Governance Advisor*  

1 September 2020

Contact Telephone: (09) 977 6953  
Email: Suad.allie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz  
Website: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

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**Note:** The reports contained within this agenda are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Members require further information relating to any reports, please contact the relevant manager, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.
Weed Management Political Advisory Group

Draft Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

The Weed Management Political Advisory Group was established in accordance with a resolution of the Regional Strategy and Policy Committee at its meeting on 2 July 2015 (resolution number REG/2014/120).

Re-establishment of the group for the 2019 to 2022 term will be approved by Environment and Climate Change Committee on 12 March 2020 (resolution number ECC/2020/13).

These Terms of Reference outline the structure, purpose and objectives, and protocols of the Weed Management Political Advisory Group. Members are expected to abide by these Terms of Reference, as well as the Code of Conduct for Elected Members of Auckland Council.

2. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the Weed Management Political Advisory Group is to provide guidance and oversee the implementation of the Weed Management Policy 2013.

The objective of the Weed Management Political Advisory Group is to oversee the implementation and delivery of the Weed Management Policy, taking into account both community and technical considerations.

The group is not a decision-making entity. All decisions on matters relating to the implementation of the Weed Management Policy will be sought from the appropriate committee or local board.

3. Membership and quorum

The Weed Management Political Advisory Group includes:

i) the Chair of Environment and Climate Change Committee
ii) the Chair of the Parks, Art, Community and Events Committee
iii) a councillor who is member of the Rural Advisory Panel
iv) three other interested councillors
v) a member of the Independent Māori Statutory Board
vi) six local board members
vii) mana whenua representation

*Note – specific names to be added once confirmed.*

The group will require a quorum of at least 50 per cent of the members to be present. Members must arrive within half an hour of the scheduled start of the meeting to be deemed present.
4. Governance

a) The chairperson of the Weed Management Political Advisory Group will be the chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee, being Councillor Richard Hills.

b) The deputy chairperson of the Weed Management Political Advisory Group will be elected by the members.

c) The Weed Management Political Advisory Group will aim to reach consensus on all of topics of discussion at meetings. However, if this is not possible, the recommendations of the group to the Environment and Climate Change Committee will also record minority views.

d) At times, as required, the views of the members of the Weed Management Political Advisory Group may be sought by staff through means other than meetings, such as by email.

5. Administration

a) Meeting schedule

An initial meeting will take place to agree the Terms of Reference for the group.

Meetings will be scheduled at least twice a year in order for staff to seek feedback from the Weed Management Political Advisory Group on key decisions relating to implementation of the policy.

b) Communications between Weed Management Political Advisory Group members

Most communications will be conducted via email unless otherwise agreed.

c) Agendas and minutes

Meeting agendas and supporting documents will be distributed at least two working days prior to the scheduled Weed Management Political Advisory Group meetings. Minutes will be circulated to members as soon as possible following scheduled meetings. Hard copies will be made available at or in advance of the meeting upon request.

d) Members’ attendance

Apologies for non-attendance should be communicated in advance of the meeting to:

Suad Allie – Senior Governance Advisor
Phone: +64 21 706 380
Email: suad.allie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

If a meeting is cancelled at short notice (less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting), members will be contacted directly by phone.

Members must accept the consensus reached by the rest of the Weed Management Political Advisory Group if they cannot attend a meeting.

e) Other matters

Weed Management Political Advisory Group meetings will be open to the public.

At the discretion of the chairperson, councillors, local board members, and Independent Māori Statutory Board members who are not members of the Weed
Management Political Advisory Group may attend meetings and participate in discussions. These elected members’ views will not be reflected in recommendations to the Environment and Climate Change Committee, except by consensus of the Weed Management Political Advisory Group.

6. Roles of the Weed Management Advisory Group

   a) Updates to Council

      Update the governing body when necessary.

      Update local boards six monthly or as required.

7. Media Enquiries and Public Communications

   a) Media enquiries

      Auckland Council’s Communications department will work with other council staff (including staff from council-controlled organisations) and the chairperson to ensure clear and consistent responses to any media requests received.

      The collective views of the Weed Management Political Advisory Group will be represented by the chairperson (or in their absence, the deputy chairperson, however this role may be delegated to other Weed Management Political Advisory Group members or senior staff at the discretion of the chairperson).

   b) Public and internal communications

      Staff will ensure that members of the Weed Management Political Advisory Group are kept well informed as to implementation of the Weed Management policy through detailed updates. Members of the Weed Management Political Advisory Group will also be given advance warning of any public communications so that they are well briefed to answer any enquiries they may receive from members of the public.
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1  **Apologies**

At the close of the agenda no apologies had been received.

2  **Declaration of Interest**

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

3  **Confirmation of Minutes**

No minutes to be confirmed.

4  **Extraordinary Business**

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“An item that is not on the agenda for a meeting may be dealt with at that meeting if-

(a) The local authority by resolution so decides; and

(b) The presiding member explains at the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public,-

   (i) The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and

   (ii) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.”

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting,-

(a) That item may be discussed at that meeting if-

   (i) That item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and

   (ii) the presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but

(b) no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion.”
Update to the Weed Management Political Advisory Group - September 2020

File No.: CP2020/11977

Te take mō te pūrongo
Purpose of the report
1. To update the Weed Management Political Advisory Group on various activities related to implementation of the Weed Management Policy.

Whakarāpopototanga matua
Executive summary
2. This report outlines topics that will be discussed at the next Weed Management Political Advisory Group meeting on 8 September 2020.
3. A memo providing an update on the implementation of Auckland Council’s Weed Management Policy, ahead of the Weed Management Political Advisory Group being re-established for the 2019-2021 term shown in Attachment A.
4. Staff will provide verbal updates on:
   - Community-led weed control and landscape weed control
   - Update on the Regional Review of Weed management methodologies in the road corridor.
5. Presentations on these topics will be published with the minutes of the meeting.

Ngā tūtohunga
Recommendation/s
That the Weed Management Political Advisory Group:

a) note the updates provided by staff on:
   i) Regional Review of Weed Management Methodologies
   ii) Community-led – Weed management and landscape weed control

b) approve the terms of reference for the Weed Management Political Advisory Group.

Ngā tāpirihanga
Attachments

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<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Auckland Council’s Weed Management Policy</td>
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Ngā kaihaina
Signatories

Author | Jenny Gargiulo, Principal Environmental Specialist Association Allie - Kaitohutohu Mana Whakahaere Matua / Senior Governance Advisor
Authoriser | Rod Sheridan - General Manager Community Facilities
Memorandum

24 August 2020

To: Weed Management Political Advisory Group

Subject: Update on Auckland Council’s Weed Management Policy

From: Jenny Gargiulo, Principal Environmental Specialist, Community Facilities

Contact information: jenny.gargiulo@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Purpose

1. To provide an update on the implementation of Auckland Council’s Weed Management Policy, ahead of the Weed Management Political Advisory Group being re-established for the 2019-2021 term.

Summary

- Auckland Council manages weeds for statutory, asset protection and amenity outcomes. The council employs different weed control methods depending on the species of weed, site characteristics, infestation level and wider landscape characteristics (see methods outlined in Attachment A). This includes the use of agrichemicals where manual methods are not practical or adequate at achieving the necessary level of control.

- Auckland Council’s weed management is guided by the eight objectives of the Weed Management Policy (Attachment B). The policy includes an action to establish a Weed Management Political Advisory Group including representatives from the Governing Body, local boards, and mana whenua. The re-establishment of the Political Advisory Group was agreed at the March 2020 Environment and Climate Change Committee meeting (resolution number ECC/2020/13).

- Implementation of the eight objectives of the Weed Management Policy include moving hard edging in local parks from chemical to mechanical edging in 2017 (all playgrounds continue to be maintained without agrichemical use), introducing a key performance indicator (KPI) to reduce agrichemicals in maintenance contracts, improving the online registration process for council’s no-spray register for berms and park boundaries, best practice pest plant control, and community-led conservation. Local boards can also fund service level changes to spray free for local parks, to reflect individual communities’ requirements.

- Staff from relevant departments within the council will update the Political Advisory Group on activities which support the implementation of the policy. In 2020, these include:
  - a review of the methodologies to manage weeds in the footpaths and kerb and channel in the urban road corridor
  - service levels for amenity weed management
  - landscape pest plant management to reduce agrichemical use over time

Context

Weed Management Policy

2. Auckland Council adopted a Weed Management Policy for parks and open spaces in August 2013 (resolution RDO/2013/137). The policy states that Auckland Council should consider eight objectives when determining options for weed management and vegetation control. The eight objectives are:

1. take an integrated approach to weed management and vegetation control
2. ensure best practice in weed management and vegetation control
3. minimise agrichemical use
4. minimise non-target effects of agrichemical use
5. ensure public health and safety
6. protect and enhance the environment
7. empower the community to manage weeds in accordance with the policy
8. deliver weed management and vegetation control which is value for money.

Auckland Council’s Weed Management Policy includes an action to establish a Weed Management Political Advisory Group including representatives from the Governing Body, Local Boards and mana whenua.

Weed Management Political Advisory Group meetings were made open to the public in 2017, which provided an opportunity for discussions with elected members and the public on weed management.

The re-establishment of the group was agreed at the March 2020 Environment and Climate Change Committee meeting (resolution ECC/2020/13). Representation on the group from the Independent Māori Statutory Board, Local Boards and mana whenua was also agreed. Two hour meetings will be scheduled at least twice a year for staff to seek feedback from the Weed Management Political Advisory Group on key decisions and initiatives relating to the implementation of the policy.

Weed management in Auckland

Auckland’s sub-tropical climate\(^1\) makes the region particularly vulnerable to weeds and introduced pest plants which can spread unchecked, displacing native and desirable plants and threatening biodiversity. The definition of a weed, in the Weed Management Policy, is a “plant growing in the wrong place and having an adverse effect on people, Māori cultural values, infrastructure, other built assets or the natural environment”.

The three drivers for weed management outcomes are statutory, asset protection and amenity. These requirements include:
- pest plant control as required by the Biosecurity Act and Regional Pest Management Plan, essential to the conservation and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity
- vegetation management in areas such as pathways for health and safety and amenity
- ensuring garden beds are filled with desirable, healthy and thriving plants
- sports field maintenance and renovations, providing communities with usable playing surfaces
- asset protection, including preventing the degradation of built assets such as pavements and buildings.

The council uses different weed control methods depending on the species of weed, site characteristics, infestation level, wider landscape characteristics and other factors such as legislative requirements. This includes the use of herbicide where manual methods are not practical or adequate at achieving the necessary level of control.

The council’s herbicide use is guided by the New Zealand Environmental Protection Agency. For all agrichemical use, Auckland Council complies with the industry Code of Practice (NZS 8409:2004 Management of Agrichemicals) for the storage, mixing, use, disposal and certification of contractors for agrichemicals.

Implementation of the Weed Management Policy

Weed management is completed by different units in the council, dependent on the asset type and outcome. Community Facilities is responsible for the management of weeds on community assets and the road corridor through the full facilities and specialist ecological contracts; Healthy Waters is responsible for weeds within the stormwater network. The Environmental Services team provides best practice support for the management of pest plants regionwide as per the Regional Pest Management Plan delivers the eradication programme for low incident

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1. Auckland Climate NZWA
pest plants and works with local boards on projects on private land. Community groups managing pest plants within parks are supported by rangers from the park’s unit.

11. All of council weed management activities need to consider the objectives of the Weed Management Policy. Auckland Council’s actions to implement the Weed Management policy includes:

- **Agrichemical reduction KPI for Full Facilities Contractors** – In 2017 hard edging in local parks changed from chemical to mechanical edging reducing agrichemical use in local parks (playgrounds continue to be maintained without agrichemical). Community Facilities contracts also include an annual key performance indicator to reduce agrichemical use over the contract area.

- **No-Spray register project** – As per the Weed Management Policy, council maintains a no spray register. This is a list of areas where there are instructions for no spray including berms, resident park boundaries and no spray council assets. The no spray register for the road corridor used to be managed by Auckland Transport. This was handed over to Community Facilities prior to April 2019. The application form is now on the council website and includes the ability to load up a proof of address. Simplifying the process for any resident to apply to ‘opt out’ of agrichemical being used on their berm or park boundary adjacent to their property. Requests to go on the register can still be made through the call centre.

- **Landscape pest plant management** – The council has a legal requirement to manage pest plants as per the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP). Best practice weed management, for the purpose of ecosystem and species conservation, will result in a reduction of the use of herbicide over time at a site. The aim is to reduce and keep pest plants at a level where they no longer threaten ecosystem function or species survival (for the threatened species programme). The council’s investment in biological control, using selected invertebrates or pathogens to manage weeds, presents another opportunity to reduce agrichemical use for the management of pest plants.

- **Community-led conservation**, including controlling of pest plants, is supported through local board-funded bio-delivery programs, Auckland Council’s pest-free programme and rangers in parks. These community groups have voiced that they would not be able to meet desired ecological outcomes without the judicious use of herbicide. The council supports best practice with advice and training, including the GrowSafe certification.

- **Local parks** – Weed management service levels that apply to local parks are set at a regional level by the governing body. A change in methodology for weed management within a park can be funded by local board through the locally driven initiatives budget to reflect local community desires.

**Discussion**

12. The purpose of the Weed Management Political Advisory Group is to oversee the continued implementation of the Weed Management Policy, bearing in mind both community and technical considerations and as per the attached Terms of Reference (Attachment C). Officers from relevant units will brief the political advisory group on how they are implementing the policy and seek feedback on programmes including community-led conservation, agrichemical reduction initiatives and landscape pest plant control.

13. Over the current term, feedback on the following initiatives will be sought at the Political Advisory Group meetings.

- **Streetscapes regional review** – In April 2019, there was a transfer of services and budget to the council’s Community Facilities unit to manage weeds within the road corridor on behalf of Auckland Transport. Community Facilities has continued with Auckland Transport weed control methodologies while completing a regional review. The evaluation includes costings for different methodologies, greenhouse gas emissions, community input and technical advice to support decision making for elected members.
- **Amenity weed management** - Adjusting service levels for amenity weed management is an opportunity to reduce agrichemical use. This could include approaching local boards to identify specific areas within parks where changes would not adversely impact the amenity or recreational use. Trials could be used to engage the public to change perceptions and expectations of what are acceptable levels of weed management or vegetation control.

- **Reporting** - Increased reporting on agrichemical use and initiatives to reduce agrichemicals can better support elected members’ understanding of the implementation of the Weed Management Policy.

14. Weed management, and particularly the use of herbicide by Auckland Council, generates a high level of community interest and feedback. The Political Advisory Group provides a platform for the public and elected members to discuss the council’s weed management collaboratively.

**Next steps**

**Attachments**

- **Attachment A** Weed Control methodology table
- **Attachment B** Weed Management Policy
- **Attachment C** Political Advisory Group Terms of Reference