

Vegetation Control – Chemical Herbicides

Overview

Council's network road maintenance contractor is responsible for vegetation control within the road. This includes the use of non residual chemical herbicides to knock down vegetation growing in the roadway including around street furniture. The Contractor is also responsible for control of the following pest plants within the road as well as other noxious weeds identified in Council's Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy:

- Gorse
- Fennel
- Hemlock
- Blackberry
- Broom
- Bracken
- Purple Pampas Grass
- Box Thorn

Purpose

This policy is intended to allow residents to request their frontage not be chemically sprayed and instead, undertake vegetation control themselves.

In the case of organic farming where the grower wishes to maintain a spray free environment or, where someone has a medical condition in the house-hold whom could be affected, then Council will inform its road network maintenance contractor not to spray these frontages. However, the frontage will only be that of the applicant who applied providing marker pegs designating these areas are maintained.

Legislation References

- Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP)
- Tasman District Council's Road Maintenance Specification
- Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy
- Council's Engineering Department – Resource Consent for Roadside Spraying

Policy

Council will permit sections of road frontage to forego spraying providing the applicant whose frontage is not to be sprayed maintains it to a satisfactory standard.

Process – Areas of Spraying

Non Urban Roads (Rural)

Non urban roads generally do not have kerbs and the land adjacent to the road is zoned Rural.

Council's roading maintenance contractor is required to maintain a vegetation free environment within the *roadway* for all non urban roads including spraying around ends of culverts, marker posts and other street furniture. Pest Plants are also to be controlled within the road.

Urban Roads

For urban roads Council's roading maintenance contractor is responsible for keeping the roadway between the back edges of the kerb and full width of footpaths free of vegetation as well as the road free of pest plants.

Comment

Council has a responsibility to maintain the roading asset including, controlling all nominated pest plants to prevent them spreading into private property.

Process – Applications for Spray Free Frontage

Applicants are required to fill out an application form and forward this to Council's Engineering Department for processing.

Conditions relating to Council agreeing not to spray frontages is attached to the application form.

Note: The area which is to be excluded from chemical control is between the roadway centreline to the boundary of the applicant and extending either over the full length of their frontage or a part of it as indicated by the marker pegs.

Comment

The applicant must be certain that they are able to control vegetation including destroying all identified pest plants. If all land owners including council are to destroy all identified pest plants then it is unreasonable to allow pest plants to infest parts of road margins where permission for non chemical control has been granted.

Process – Where a frontage is not being maintained

Where an applicant is not complying with the conditions set down for the control of vegetation along their frontage including, maintaining pegs identifying the section of frontage for non chemical control, then Council will in the first instance contact the applicant giving them *one month* to bring the frontage up to specification.

Where after one month the frontage is out of specification and the applicant is unwilling to meet the requirements even with an extension of time then the applicant's frontage shall be removed from the "No Spray Frontages" list.

Comment

It is necessary that applicants control the vegetation on their frontage and where this requirement is not met to give them reasonable time to rectify the situation

Process – Marker Pegs

Red marker pegs are to be installed at the start and end of the no spray zone and for these to be clearly visible from the road. Council will arrange for suitable marker pegs to be supplied at the Council's cost.

When a new permit is issued the Council reserves the right to charge permit holders for replacement pegs.