

Te Henga Wetland Proposed Target Spraying Frequently Asked Questions

Why are you spraying in the wetland?

To kill off Crack Willows in the Mokoroa Arm of Te Henga wetland. These willows are environmentally invasive weeds that block the flow of water and increase the flood risk. They are also destroying the habitat for native water-birds

Where will you be spraying?

We propose to spray in the Mokoroa Arm is private property in the north western part of Te Henga wetland. It is at the back of three farms in the valley and is inaccessible to boat and vehicles.

Will you spray over my house?

No, we will not be spraying over any houses. The closest house is more than 600m away.

Won't the spray drift over my house though?

No. A combination of spraying on windless days, and using advanced spray equipment directed onto the trees from a helicopter only a few metres above them, has been specified to ensure that the spray does not drift outside the spray area. Before we spray we will have tested the system thoroughly to be sure that it performs in the way described.

What chemicals are you using?

Glyphosate Green – a Glyphosate; the mildest herbicide available for spraying over water. Neither this - nor the Pulse “surfactant” - are toxic to aquatic life or invertebrates. A surfactant is a liquid into which the Glyphosate is mixed and helps the mixture stick to leaves.

When is the spraying going to occur?

November is the appropriate month but we have not yet decided which year - indeed the final decision to spray at all, has not been taken – which means it is a year away at the earliest.

The decision will be made once we have resource consents and have completed tests which assure residents that the system will perform as we have said, in that area.

Will you notify us when the spraying is going to happen?

Yes, we are required to do this by law. We will put mailers out to local residents, notices in the paper and also keep up to date information on our website.

Does the community get any say in the spraying?

We have undertaken extensive community consultation and have received many submissions from residents and the wider community both in support and in opposition to the proposal. All of these comments were considered when the decision to continue was made.

Has Waitakere City Council made this decision on its own?

No, this is a joint project between Rodney District Council, the Auckland Regional Council, and the Department of Conservation. This work is a part of the Waitakere River Flood Protection Scheme that has been running for more than ten years.

How can I get more information about the spraying?

You can visit our website www.waitakere.govt.nz, contact our Call Centre on 839 0400, or email info@waitakere.govt.nz.