



## Notification under section 114A of the Biosecurity Act 1993 of intention to conduct aerial spraying at Te Henga wetland, Bethells Road, Auckland

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is undertaking a targeted helicopter spraying programme to eradicate an infestation of the aquatic weed salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) from areas of the Te Henga wetland.

If left untreated, salvinia will continue to spread throughout this unique ecological system, crowding out native plants, decreasing oxygen in the wetland waters and affecting habitat for native fish and birds.

MPI has discussed the options for treating this weed infestation with the local community and informed residents that targeted helicopter application of herbicide is the safest and most effective means of removing salvinia. MPI has trialled hand removal on site and this method has proved ineffective. A helicopter can better reach plants which are inaccessible to ground or water-based applicators and this method also uses less herbicide than ground-based applications.

Targeted helicopter based treatment is expected to start on the first suitable weather day from 20 April 2015 and is likely to be repeated at intervals of approximately 14 days as required. Spraying will be carried out by an experienced operator and will only take place on days with light wind to further reduce any risk of spray drift.

### What is the treatment being used?

The recommended herbicide is a commercial product called Reglone which contains the active ingredient diquat in a 20% solution. It is then further diluted for use.

MPI is confident that diquat is not harmful to human health when used at the prescribed dilution required for aquatic weed control.

Diquat has been safely used in New Zealand waterways for almost 50 years,

particularly in the Rotorua Lakes, and intensive monitoring has found no detrimental effects to aquatic ecosystems.

MPI will be monitoring water quality on site at Te Henga.

### Treatment area

There are several areas in the wetland affected by salvinia and requiring treatment. Treatment could take place where required within the area indicated in this aerial photograph.



There is only one public access point to the wetland area being treated (off Bethells Road) and this area will be clearly signposted and entry prohibited.

As a precautionary measure people must not enter the waters of the wetland for 24 hours after treatment application and signposts will make this clear.

MPI and its contractors will be present at the site while the work is undertaken to ensure compliance with the spraying plan and local authority resource management conditions.

Full information is at  
[www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/salvinia](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/salvinia)

For enquiries about this programme please contact

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