

5.26 Rough horsetail (*Equisetum hyemale*)

Why is it a threat?

Rough horsetail is an erect, colony-forming primitive fern-ally. The stems have a distinctive black collar at the joints. It forms an extensive network of underground rhizomes. This plant spreads rapidly and can re-sprout from underground stems. It can form pure stands in a wide range of damp habitats, and preventing the growth and regeneration of native species. These stands can also hinder or even block watercourses that can lead to an increased risk of flooding.



In Marlborough, one small infestation occurs in the natural environment on the outskirts of Renwick. However, this pest has been found on numerous occasions within the confines of a manged or semi-managed garden landscape due to a history of being propagated and grown for landscaping purposes.

5.26.1 Objective

Over the duration of the RPMP, control rough horsetail (*Equisetum hyemale*) in the Marlborough district to a population trend that is level or reducing, to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Intermediate Outcome:

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Exclusion | Eradication | Progressive Containment | Sustained Control | Site-led |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------|

Principle measures to achieve the objective

1) Council Inspection and Service Delivery

Inspection by Council may include staff or contractors:

- a) Delivering a service to control rough horsetail in liaison with the occupier.
- b) Visiting properties or doing surveys to determine whether pests are present.
- c) Monitoring effectiveness of control.
- d) Carry out control using administrative powers of the Biosecurity Act 1993, if necessary.

2) Requirement to Act

Land owners and/or occupiers or other persons may be required to act where rules or statutory obligations dictate:

- a) The presence of pests is to be reported.
- b) Pests are not to be spread (propagated, sold or distributed).

3) Advocacy and Education

Council may:

- a) Provide general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to land owners and/or occupiers and the public about pests and pathways (and control of them).
- b) Encourage land owners and/or occupiers to control pests.
- c) Promote industry requirements and best practice to contractors and land owners and/or occupiers.
- d) Encourage land owners and/or occupiers and other persons to report any pests they find.
- e) Facilitate or commission research.

5.26.2 Rules

Rule 5.26.2.1

Occupiers are required to notify Council of any new infestation of rough horsetail (*Equisetum hyemale*) on land they occupy within 5 working days of the initial observation.

A breach of this rule will create an offence under section 154N(19) of the Biosecurity Act.

Note: Current distribution data is able to be viewed online via Council's Smart Maps service.

Explanation of the rule:

The purpose of this rule is in accordance with section 73(5)(a) to assist Council with surveillance. Requiring occupiers to notify Council of new sites and plants on their properties, in addition to Council's own surveillance, will assist Council in achieving the objective of the programme. New infestations will be able to be controlled and incorporated into the programme.

Notifying the Council of the presence of the specified pest will enable the Council to:

- Update its records.
- Map new sites of this pest.
- Carry out control work before they spread.
- Determine whether new control regimes should be considered.
- Provide advice and information to occupiers where appropriate.

Council as the management agency will administer the rule.