

## 5.14 Giant needle grass (*Austrostipa rudis*)

### Why is it a threat?

Giant needle grass is a perennial, tussock forming grass, which originates from Eastern Australia. Its general appearance is not unlike Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*). It will grow up to 1.3 metres high, which is twice the height of Chilean needle grass. It spreads through seed, which lacks the aggressive point and barb that Chilean needle grass has. Giant needle grass will displace desirable pasture species and forms dense infestations if left uncontrolled.

A small number of infestations have been identified in Marlborough located in the Upper Wairau Valley and Weld Pass areas. Intensive management has been ongoing while the infestations are small in nature.



### 5.14.1 Objective

Over the duration of the RPMP, control giant needle grass (*Austrostipa rudis*) in the Marlborough district to less than or equal to 2014 levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing.

#### Intermediate Outcome:

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
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### 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 giant needle grass 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.

## 5.14.2 Rules

### Rule 5.14.2.1

Occupiers are required to notify Council of any new infestation of giant needle grass (*Austrostipa rudis*) on land that 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.