

THE PUBLIC VIEW OF AN INCURSION RESPONSE TOOL: A VEGETATION CONTROL ZONE IN HAMILTON, NEW ZEALAND

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In 2003, MAF declared a vegetation control zone in Hamilton to limit the potential spread of the Asian gypsy moth. The control zone restricted the movement of vegetation from inside the specified area. This study was designed to investigate the effectiveness of a vegetation control zone as a tool for biosecurity incursions. A preliminary round of interviews was conducted with members of gardening clubs to gather their views. Awareness of the zone and its boundaries was low. Only a few of the interviewees had read material on the vegetation control zone or had noticed road signs on the zone boundaries. With one exception, no members of the groups interviewed had changed their behaviour in response to the zone. It was concluded that understanding public engagement with biosecurity incursion response tools is critical to ensuring their effectiveness. The next stage of the project will explore people's engagement with biosecurity through more case studies. This work was funded by FRST through the Better Border Biosecurity (B3) programme (www.b3nz.org).

BIREA – BIOCONTROL INFORMATION RESOURCE FOR ERMA NEW ZEALAND APPLICANTS

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This web-based information resource (<http://www.b3nz.org/birea/>) is intended to assist biological control researchers and practitioners who are planning to prepare an application to ERMA New Zealand to bring a new organism into New Zealand for the purpose of biological control. The information contained may also be useful to submitters, stakeholders, Maori and others who have an interest in biological control applications. It comprises information and advice on: biological control safety; applying to bring new organisms for biological control into containment; containment testing methods; preparing an application for general or conditional release; preparing for a public hearing; release methods; and post-release monitoring; and it contains an annotated bibliography. BIREA was funded by New Zealand's Foundation for Research, Science and Technology through contract CO2X0501, the Better Border Biosecurity (B3) programme (www.b3nz.org).