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30 August 2019

Mt John Glover
Chairman
Glenorchy Community Association
Glenorchy

Dear John

Enclosed is a copy of correspondence I have had with QLDC this year regarding problem weeds on QLDC reserves in the Upper Wakatipu area.

I would welcome support from the GCA in encouraging the QLDC in meaningful work to address the weed problem I have outlined.

I would be happy to comment on any aspects of this at your next GCA meeting in September.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely



Geoffrey Thomson

Encl.

1. Letter GLT to Jim Boulton, 28 Feb. 2019.
2. Email Mike Theelen to GLT, 11 Mar. 2019.
3. Email Thunes Cloete to GLT, 19 Mar. 2019.
4. Emailed letter GLT to Thunes Cloete, 8 Apr. 2019.
5. Email Graeme Davies to GLT, 24 Apr. 2019.

**Mount Earnslaw Station
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New Zealand**

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28 February 2019

Mr Jim Boulton
Mayor
Queenstown Lakes District Council
Private Bag 50072
Queenstown 9348

Dear Jim

QLDC Reserves in Upper Wakatipu area – Weed Control Proposal

I enclose a report outlining the weed problem in a number of QLDC reserves (including the Glenorchy-Queenstown road reserve).

My request is that the Council recognise the need to address the weed problem and set up a long term (say 10 years) plan to control, and eliminate as much as possible, the main weeds on these reserves. I suggest this should be done in co-ordination with DOC and LINZ who are working on weeds on their reserves in the area.

I would be happy to discuss with councillors and staff how to set up a plan of action to deal with this problem.

Many thanks.

Kind regards



Geoffrey Thomson

QLDC – UPPER WAKATIPU WEED CONTROL PROGRAMME

SUMMARY

The following is a suggested approach to weed management and control in the Upper Wakatipu (north of Bennett's Bluff) area. The weeds considered are gorse, broom, Spanish Heath and Grey Willow.

Three areas managed by the QLDC are 1) QLDC reserves, 2) Glenorchy road reserve from Glenorchy airfield to Bennett's Bluff, 3) Pigeon & Pig Islands in Lake Wakatipu.

Weed control is currently undertaken by DoC and LINZ on their reserve areas, and co-ordination with their efforts will provide a more effective (and cheaper in the long term) approach to weed management.

The QLDC requires private property owners to manage weeds when they apply for building consents, so it would be expected that adjacent council reserve land also had a weeds programme.

This report recommends that QLDC set up a 10-year weed management programme over its reserve areas so that efficient use of resources by all agencies will reduce the weeds to a low, easily managed level.

QLDC Reserves in the Upper Wakatipu.

1. Precipice Creek.
2. "Puahiri Park" - Glenorchy-Paradise road.
3. Buckler Burn
4. Glenorchy-Queenstown road reserve
5. Pigeon and Pig islands

These reserves all have infestations of broom.

Comment on reserves

1. Precipice Creek

This reserve runs from the Glenorchy-Paradise road upstream to the Precipice gorge. Broom is the main problem weed, but the total area is not great. Adjacent land owners have controlled their properties of broom, but need the QLDC to do the same to stop continual re-infestation on their properties.

Precipice Creek



Photo 1. Precipice Creek upstream of Glenorchy-Paradise road. 14/2/19



Photo 2. Precipice Creek. Close-up of broom adjacent stream. 14/2/19

2. "Puahiri Park" on Glenorchy-Paradise road.

Extensive areas of broom exist on this park. The total area of the park is not large, so a programme to remove the broom would not require much further costs over the coming years.



Photo 3. Puahiri Park – looking west. Extensive broom. 14/2/19



Photo 4. Puahiri Park looking North-West. Extensive broom. 14/2/19

3. Buckler Burn.

This reserve land extends from Lake Wakatipu up the Buckler Burn on the south side of the stream. I understand it is leased to Wyuna Station, so a combined approach from QLDC and the lessee would be needed to control the broom on this land.



Photo 5. Bucklerburn. Looking South. Broom on terrace reserve. 14/2/19



Photo 6. Bucklerburn. Looking upstream. Broom on terrace reserve. 14/2/19

4. Glenorchy-Queenstown road reserve.

This road reserve (particularly between the roadway and the fenced boundary above the road) has infestations of broom as the main problem weed.



Photo 7. Gly-Qn road. Broom on road reserve – 4.3km S. of Gly roundabout. 15/2/19



Photo 8. Gly-Qn road. Broom/grey willow on road reserve 9.4km S. of Gly 15/2/19

Glenorchy-Queenstown road reserve

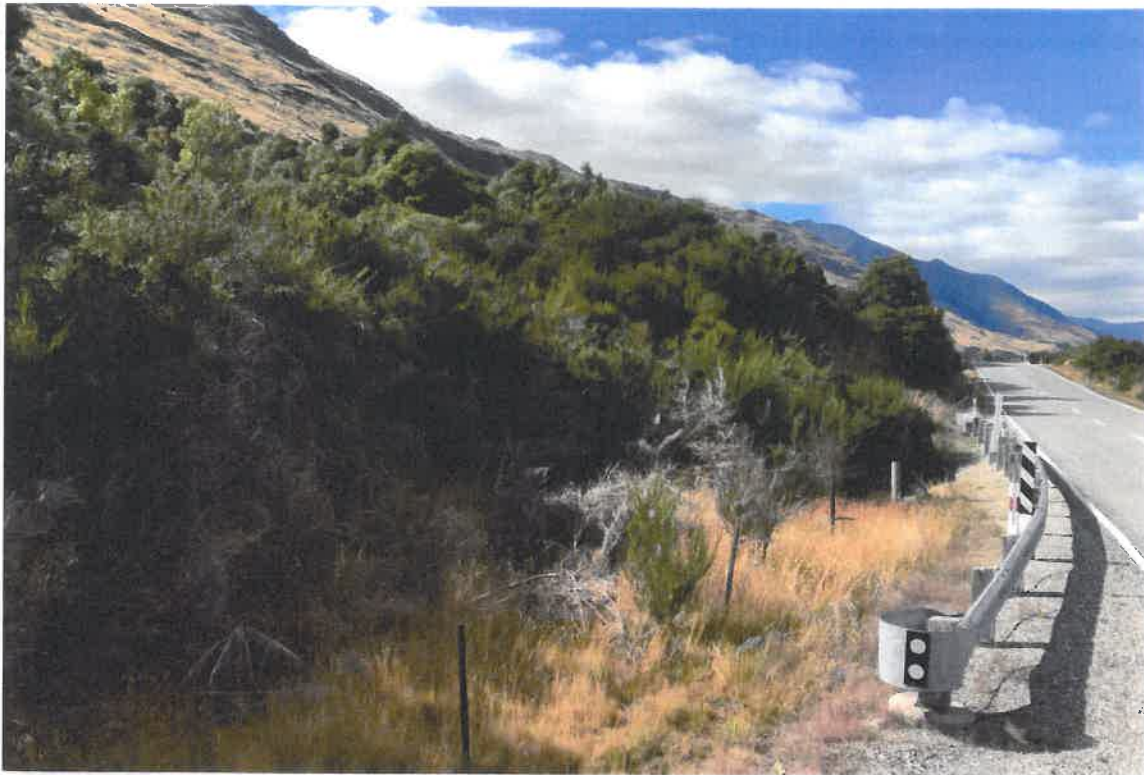


Photo 9. Gly-Qn road reserve. Broom at Slurry Creek, 10.8km S. of Gly 15/2/19

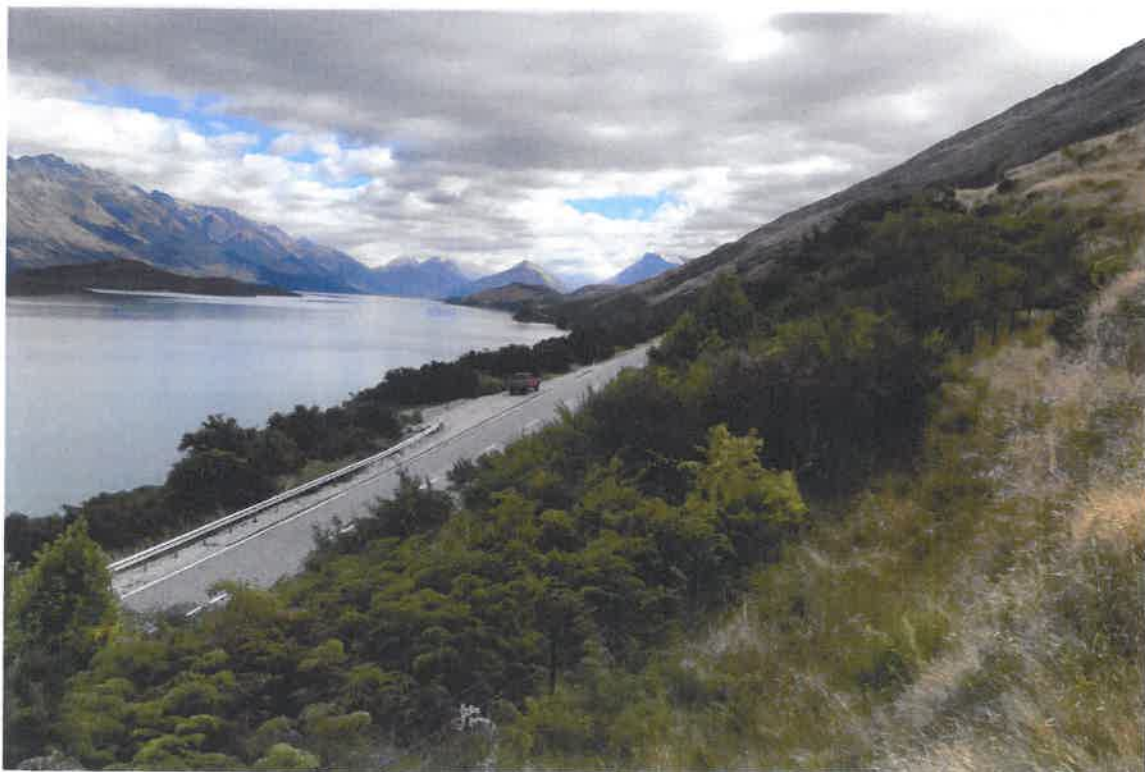


Photo 10. Gly-Qn road reserve. Broom on reserve 14.35km S. of Gly roundabout. 15/2/19

5. Pigeon and Pig Islands

The main islands in Lake Wakatipu have a very significant weed problem, with widespread areas of broom, gorse, Spanish Heath & grey willow.

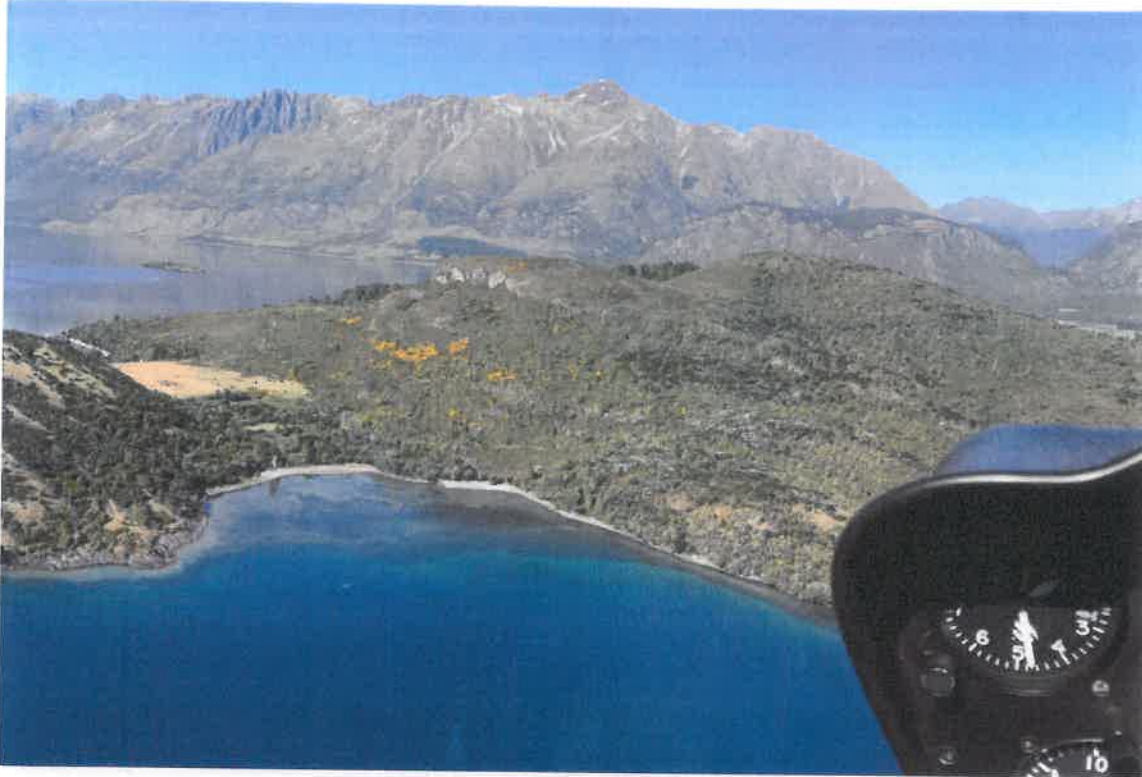


Photo 11. Pigeon Island. Looking SW. Broom on hillside. 23/11/17



Photo 12. Pigeon Island. Looking East. Spanish Heath & Broom. 27/9/18

Pigeon & Pig Islands



Photo 13. Pigeon Island S. end. Widespread broom. 23/11/17



Photo 14. Pigeon Island S. end, looking S. Broom & Spanish Heath close-up. 27/9/18

Pigeon & Pig Islands



Photo 15. Pigeon Island. Looking S. Widespread Spanish Heath. 27/9/18



Photo 16. Pigeon Island. Closeup looking S. Widespread Spanish Heath. 27/9/18

Pigeon & Pig Islands



Photo 17. Pig Island. Looking N. Broom & grey willow. 23/11/17



Photo 18. Pig Island. Looking S. Closeup of widespread broom & grey willow. 23/11/17

Recommendation

It is recommended that the QLDC treat the weed problem as a serious environmental issue which can and should be addressed.

A planned 10-year spray programme (in conjunction with the efforts of DoC and LINZ) be budgeted for to reduce the infestation and spread of the major weeds: broom, gorse, Spanish Heath and Grey Willow. After 10 years the programme would involve monitoring and controlling any regrowth of these weeds, but would require less resources.

The practical approach would be to work in with the prevailing NW wind direction and develop the control programme from north to south. This will reduce the prospect of re-infestation and maximise the use of resources over time.

This report gives a photographic record of the weed situation in late 2018 and early 2019 and shows that a widespread weed problem exists. However, careful planning in co-operation with other agencies LINZ, DOC and ORC, will ensure that the weed spread is contained and gradually reduced. LINZ and DOC manage reserves around the lakes and river beds.

Such a programme would also give private land owners an incentive to control the weeds on their land – to the benefit of the whole community.

This report has been produced by:

Geoffrey Thomson
1255 Paradise Road
Glenorchy 9372

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Geoffrey Thomson <mount.earnslaw@gmail.com>

Weed management across the district

4 messages

Mike Theelen <Mike.Theelen@qldc.govt.nz>

Mon, Mar 11, 2019 at 8:49 AM

To: Geoffrey Thomson <mount.earnslaw@gmail.com>

Cc: Jim Boulton <jim.boulton@qldc.govt.nz>, Thunes Cloete <thunes.cloete@qldc.govt.nz>

Hi Geoffery

Thankyou for the material you have forward to Jim regarding weed issues on the GY road and around GY. You have obviously taken some time to put this material together and that is appreciated.

I have forwarded this to Thunes Cloete, our GM Community Services for him to provide some advice to us on.

I note you also refer to the regrowth of weeds on Pigeon Island. The bush on there is managed by the Wakatipu Reforestation trust, who do sterling work, and we do liase closely with them on this area. Similarly we do have very good relationships with both DOC and LINZ (and NZTA) all of whom need along with us to manage a wide variety of sites across the district, and these efforts are continuing.

Thank you once again and we will be in touch

Regards

mike

Mike Theelen | Chief Executive

Queenstown Lakes District Council

DD: +64 3 441 0471 | M: +64 21 997 637

E: mike.theelen@qldc.govt.nz



Geoffrey Thomson <mount.earnslaw@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 11, 2019 at 5:25 PM

To: Mike Theelen <Mike.Theelen@qldc.govt.nz>

Cc: Jim Boulton <jim.boulton@qldc.govt.nz>, Thunes Cloete <thunes.cloete@qldc.govt.nz>

Dear Mike

Thank you for your reply.

I hope we can plan and make good progress on this issue.

Your sincerely
Geoffrey Thomson

[Quoted text hidden]

Hannah White <Hannah.White@qldc.govt.nz>
To: Geoffrey Thomson <mount.earnslaw@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 19, 2019 at 4:35 PM

Good afternoon Geoffrey

I'm conscious that you still haven't heard from Thunes further to Mike's email below, however I have been assured a response should be sent to you in the next day or so. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

Kind regards

Hannah White | Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive

Queenstown Lakes District Council

P: +64 3 450 1770

E: hannah.white@qldc.govt.nz



[Quoted text hidden]

Geoffrey Thomson <mount.earnslaw@gmail.com>
To: Hannah White <Hannah.White@qldc.govt.nz>

Wed, Mar 20, 2019 at 5:52 PM

Dear Hannah

Thank you - Thunes has replied today.

Kind regards
Geoffrey Thomson

[Quoted text hidden]

19 March 2019

Geoffrey Thomson
Mount Earnslaw Station
1255 Paradise Road
Glenorchy
Mount.earnslaw@gmail.com

Good afternoon Geoffrey

Thank you for the hard copy material relating to weed management around Glenorchy. I will respond to your comments in the order that you raise them in the document:

- 1 & 2 Precipice Creek and Puahiri Park – weeds will be sprayed by QLDC contractor, Recreation Services.
- 3 Buckler Burn – the creek area is owned by Department of Conservation (DOC) and the rest is within the boundaries of the new subdivision and on the high country station. Otago Regional Council (ORC) is responsible for negotiating weed management with private land owners. We will contact DOC to inform them of the noxious weeds on their land, being the creek bed.
- 4 Glenorchy-Queenstown road reserve – Councils' roading maintenance contractor is required to spray all noxious plants within the legal road reserve. We have passed on your concerns to our Roading team to address.
- 5 Pigeon and Pig Island – Pigeon Island is managed by a trust. They manage the control of noxious weeds on the Island. Pig Island is not managed by a trust. DOC manage animal pests on both islands.

Council has been working on a weed/pest strategy in conjunction with ORC. ORC are in the process of finalising their biodiversity and weed strategy. Our strategy needs to align with the region wide weed/pest strategy to be effective. As you are aware, the management of weed and pests should be done across all properties and at regular intervals over time.

In the past year we have worked with LINZ (Land Information New Zealand) and set up regular meetings to discuss issues that relate to LINZ and QLDC across the district. As soon as our weed/pest strategy is finalised, this topic will be discussed with LINZ and also DOC. To date we have worked with DOC on weed/pest issues as they have arisen.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further comments or queries.

Regards

Thunes Cloete
General Manager, Community Services



Geoffrey Thomson <mount.earnslaw@gmail.com>

Weed management

1 message

Graeme Davies <graeme.davies@qldc.govt.nz>
To: "mount.earnslaw@gmail.com" <mount.earnslaw@gmail.com>
Cc: Thunes Cloete <thunes.cloete@qldc.govt.nz>

Wed, Apr 24, 2019 at 5:00 PM

Hi Geoffrey,

Your letter to Thunes Cloete has been referred to my team. In regards to the points that you have raised;

Points 1 & 2. Councils contractor Recreational Services will be spraying noxious across the district (of which Precipice Creek and Puahiri park are included) over the next two months. Currently Fulton Hogan are carrying out bridge deck replacement work and are using Precipice creek reserve for a site office, they will reinstate this to its original form.

Point 3. There is currently no coordinated approach between QLDC and DOC in Buckeburn. QLDC will discuss this area with DOC to establish if there is anything Council can assist DOC with regarding the noxious in this area.

Point 4. Glenorchy Queenstown road reserve – wilding conifers were removed from this area last year as part of the Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group (WCG) work program.

The WCG will know at the end of April if they have funding for next season in the Glenorchy areas (2019/20). If so wilding work will continue in the Glenorchy region.

Point 5. Pigeon and Pig Island – While there is broom and Spanish heath on Pigeon Island, there is currently no maintenance program to control these weeds. There has been significant planting on Pigeon Island over the last 10 years and many plants are now starting to grow above the noxious weeds shading them out.

Instead of using chemical on the island when the long lasting seed is already present, the noxious weeds are being utilised as a nursery crop as both broom and Spanish heath are usually succeeded by native plants in tall-growing plant communities, which is the case on the islands. The Volunteer group do target areas of broom and Spanish heath around the edge of the island to reduce the threat to the mainland. QLDC also work with DOC in regards to these areas.

Ngā mihi,

Graeme Davies | Parks Manager | Community Services

Queenstown Lakes District Council

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**Mount Earnslaw Station
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8 April 2019

Dr Thunes Cloete
General Manager
Community Services
Queenstown Lakes District Council
Private Bag 50072
Queenstown 9348

Dear Thunes

QLDC Reserves in Upper Wakatipu area – Weed Control Proposal

Thank you for your reply dated 29 March 2019.

I am pleased that some of the weedy areas I referred to in my report are on the QLDC work programme.

Some questions: (I refer to the areas mentioned in my report)

1 & 2. Precipice Creek & Puahiri Park. When will Recreation Services be doing the spraying work?

3. Bucklerburn. Is there any co-operative work being done between QLDC, DOC and the land owner of Wyuna Station? Broom is widespread from the Bucklerburn gorge to Lake Wakatipu, and a co-ordinated approach will be the only way to get a successful eradication.

4. Glenorchy-Queenstown road reserve. What is the quality control to ensure the weeds are dealt with along the reserve? Also, what weeds are required to be controlled by the Roding team? (There is areas of grey willow, wilding pines, and Spanish Heath as well as broom.)

5. Pigeon Island. What QLDC oversight is applied to the success or otherwise of the Trust's weed control work? As shown in my report, the island has extensive areas of broom, Spanish Heath & grey willow. Seeds from these plants are being carried by the prevailing NW wind down to Pig Island & the mainland south of the wharf at Mt Creighton Station.

Pig Island. As for Pigeon Island, major areas of weeds exist on this island. What is the QLDC plan for managing these?

LINZ & DOC are co-ordinating weed control work on the Rees and Dart rivers, and DOC is doing broom control work along the shore of Lake Wakatipu from the head of the lake south. I think it is very important for effective weed control for funds from all agencies (ORC, QLDC, LINZ, & DOC) be used in a co-operative way for maximum efficiency, and to ensure no areas miss out on being addressed.

I look forward to your reply.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoffrey Thomson', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Geoffrey Thomson