



February 2024

To the Householder/Tēnā koe

### **Spartina weed control – Waikawa Conservation Area**

The Department of Conservation is planning to undertake a herbicide operation to control the weed, *Spartina* (*Spartina anglica*, *Spartina alterniflora*), within the inter-tidal zone of the Waikawa Stream (see map overleaf).

*Spartina* is an invasive weed that colonises inter-tidal zones such as river mouths and estuaries, detrimentally altering such ecosystems. It forms dense clusters that trap sediment over time, raising the ground level above the high tide mark. Large estuaries and shallow harbours can be reduced to thin drains surrounded by weedy pasture, resulting in an immense loss of biodiversity. For this reason, it is important that *Spartina* is controlled to maintain low density levels.

The control operation will be undertaken between the 19<sup>th</sup> of February and the 08<sup>th</sup> of March 2024. Three known *Spartina* incursions exist at Waikawa, encompassing an area of approximately 1.5m<sup>2</sup>. They occur adjacent to the Waikawa Stream, between the end of Waikawa Beach Road and the ocean. The infestations will be treated with a 1.5% glyphosate-based herbicide solution via a knapsack. To minimize the risk of applying herbicide to non-target species and reducing adverse effects to the environment, the operation will only be undertaken during low tide and light winds.

If you have any concerns and/or questions regarding the operation, please contact us via the details below. Additionally, if you would like ≈24-hour notification of the operation's commencement, please advise.

Kind regards/Nāku noa, nā

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# Spartina Weed Operation - Waikawa Conservation Area

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## Legend



-  Known Spartina Incursions

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SCALE 1:2,257

0.1 0 0.1 Kilometers

Projection: NZGD\_2000\_New\_Zealand\_Transverse\_Mercator

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THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*