

Public consultation (2017) concerning the EPA application to introduce *Uromyces pencanus* for the biological control of Chilean needle grass.

Consultation with Te Herenga, Iwi, hapu and marae

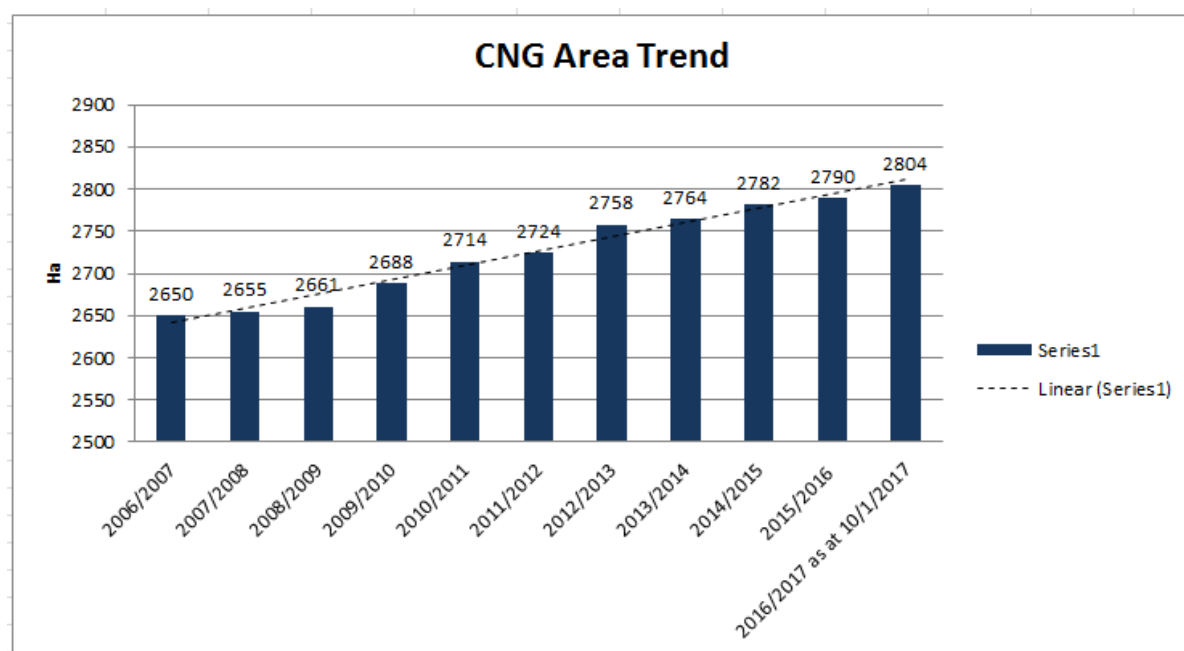
No additional comments were received over and above the responses to consultation received in 2011.

Consultation with Marlborough District Council and Environment Canterbury

Jim Herdman, Marlborough District Council.

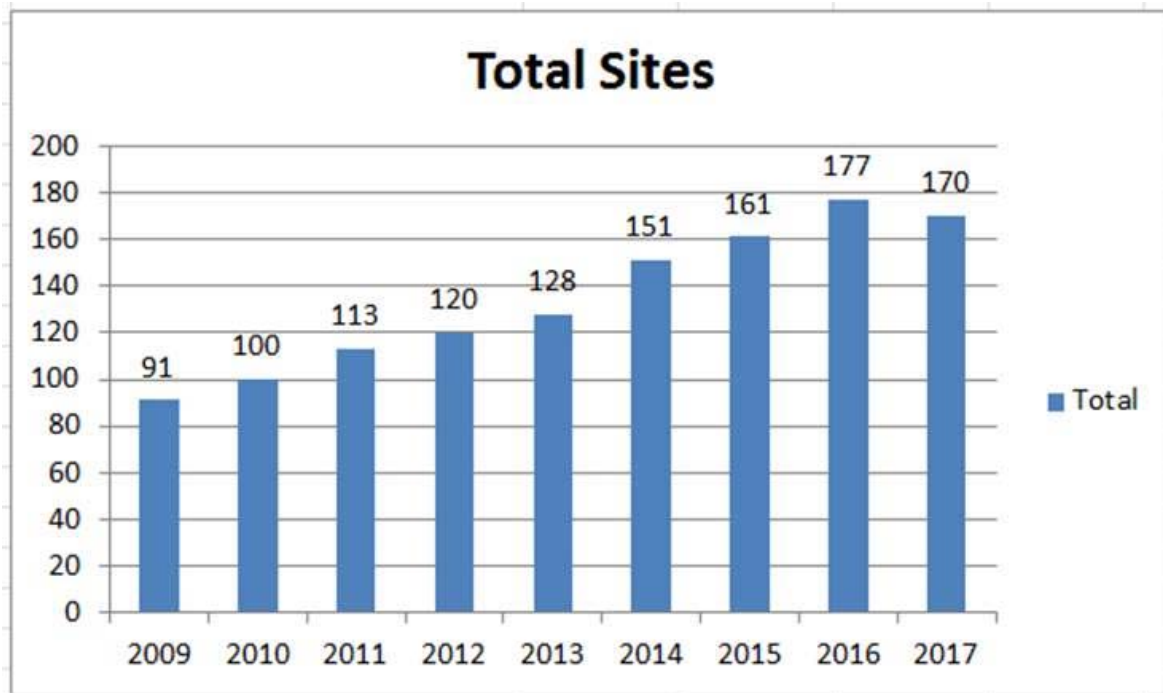
In reply to your questions

1. Total area affected in MDC 2804ha



2. Number of sites 170 (link to MDC smart map

<https://maps.marlborough.govt.nz/smmaps/?map=bef9b2e5c73d43ec9fef4aeb09c9a31f>



- One sentence describing MDCs vision or policy for the outcome of CNG management

Currently is to prevent any increase in distribution and density of Chilean Needle Grass and reduce infestation over time where possible.

Our Regional Pests Management Plan is under review and this is likely to get updated .

- Approximate annual cost of CNG management for the Council

200k approximately this may rise to 500k with the new Regional Pests Management Plan 2018/19

- What are occupiers obligations for CNG management, and what tools do they employ (just point form is fine)

Surveillance property MDC control - 101 sites. Fringe property control all CNG - 43 sites. Core property control 10m boundary - 26 sites.

- Approximate total cost to occupiers regionally

I would have to say unknown because it too hard to quantify.

Laurence Smith, Environment Canterbury

- Currently 16 sites in Canterbury

- All but 2 sites are reasonably minor with scattered plants/patches, but one of these are over extensive areas of a hard hill country property.\
- 2 sites are infested over large areas >150ha. One of these is a hard hill country property of which >150 ha is infested (at low to medium density) of 550ha in total property ha. The other consists of a flat to rolling farm/vineyard on which some of the >150 ha infested is high density.
- Sites are located mainly in Cheviot area and Parnassus, with one site at Omihi and one at West Melton.
- In all approximately 325 ha are infested.
- Sites are reasonably well contained with hygiene agreements in place
- Potential distribution modelling indicates up to half of the Canterbury Region is climatically suitable.
- The potential for spread over many years (multiple decades) undetected is high considering the movement of high risk vectors on multiple risk pathways, mainly from Marlborough but including Hawkes Bay and within Canterbury within the last 20 years.
- Attempts are being made currently to educate land occupiers and industry to change behaviours in respect of On Farm Biosecurity.
- Awareness is high, but uptake of behaviours preventing spread risk is low.
- In my view some areas of Canterbury, particularly North Canterbury are at high risk of having CNG, either now as undetected infestations or in the future. This is because it is a grass in pasture (other similar species), lack of On Farm Biosecurity, lag phase between movement of seed., establishment and detection. High risk to the region.
- *Nassella trichotoma* occurs at 1450 properties in Canterbury and is increasing in site numbers (but not density because of control programmes) and CNG, *Nassella neesiana* is more than likely to prefer the same land type/use/topography/climate.
- ECan spend approximately \$225k annually (regionally) on CNG including inspection, control, research, investigation, awareness and surveillance.
- Land occupiers affected also contribute to control which can vary at estimated combined \$100k - \$150k, including On Farm biosecurity, hygiene protocols, control and losses.
- A CNG group was established in Canterbury in 2008 and is an official Pest Committee of Ecan. The committee is also represented on a National farmer led committee by the Canterbury committee Chair, Charles Wiffen, Inverness, Parnassus.

Hope this assists, let me know if you have any questions