**07 July 2020**

Lakes Operations Team (C / Justine Randall)

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Corner Pukaki and Fenton Streets

Rotorua

Dear Justine,

Regional Pest Management Plan exemption to rules relating to aquatic pest plants

We understand that Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) Lakes Operations Team removes lake weed strandings from amenity areas for recreational and commercial purposes. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council biosecurity team supports your efforts to maintain a tidy and usable environment for the community. However, given this activity involves the transporting of pests named within the Regional Pest Management Plan for the Bay of Plenty 2011 – 2016 (RPMP) it is technically in breach of three RPMP rules and an exemption is required.

Specifically, the pests of concern are: hornwort, *Lagarosiphon major*, and *Egeria densa* which are all classified as Containment pests, and *Elodea canadensis* which is classified as a Restricted pest. These pests are subject to following rules contained within the RPMP:

* For hornwort, *Lagarosiphon major*, and *Egeria densa*:
  + D(6): No person shall move, allow to be moved, any machinery, vessel, organism, risk goods or other goods that is contaminated with any Containment pest plant.
  + D(7): No person shall knowingly communicate, cause to be contaminated, release, or cause to be released, or otherwise spread any Containment pest plant.
* For *Elodea canadensis*:
  + F(2) No person shall knowingly communicate, cause to be contaminated, release, or cause to be released, or otherwise spread any Restricted pest plant.

Section 78 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 allows a Regional Council to exempt a person from a requirement of a rule. In considering your case for exemptions to rules D(6), D(7) and F(2) of the RPMP we are satisfied that:

* That your proposed actions will not significantly prejudice the attainment of the RPMP’s objectives.
* The prescribed requirements are clearly unreasonable or inappropriate in your particular case

Given this, I grant Bay of Plenty Regional Council (Lakes Operations) and their agents exemptions to rule D(6), D(7) and F(2) of the RPMP subject to the following conditions:

1. To prevent the introduction (or further introductions) of any pest to the water body, the operator of any vehicle, vessel, equipment or machinery to be used in or adjacent to any water body must take all practicable steps to ensure that it is not contaminated with any pest or unwanted organism.
2. To prevent the accidental spread of pests within the Lake Rotorua catchment or to another waterbody the operator of any vehicle, vessel, equipment or machinery used to transport pest plant material to disposal and/or de-watering sites must;

* take all practicable steps, including a physical inspection, to remove any weed or pest plant fragments attached on the outside of the vehicle, vessel, equipment or machinery prior to the vehicle, vessel, equipment or machinery being moved from its loading site.
* take all practicable steps to ensure all weed or pest plant fragments are contained within the vehicle, vessel, equipment or machinery in a manner preventing their escape during transportation.
* take all practicable steps to ensure all weed or pest plant fragments are removed from the vehicle, vessel, equipment or machinery prior to the vehicle, vessel, equipment or machinery being used for any other purpose.

1. Any de-watering site and the disposal site and method of disposal must be communicated to and agreed to by myself to ensure it is appropriate, this communication needs to be in the form of an email that outlines;

* the site/s where the plant material will be disposed of.
* the method/s used to dispose and contain the plant material.
* It is preferable that the disposal site and any de-watering site is within the Rotorua catchment.

**This exemption applies only to the removal of stranded pest plants along the shoreline of Lake Rotorua.**

**This exemption is valid from 7 July 2020 to 31 August 2020.**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the conditions we propose, feel free to contact the BOPRC Rotorua Office.

Yours Sincerely

Greg Corbett

**Biosecurity Manager**