

# Vegetation of Te Waihora 2013-2015

Jodi Rees – Senior Biodiversity Officer  
Selwyn-Waihora Zone

# How will we know when we have achieved success?

*“Significant indigenous vegetation of the lake margin, wetlands and tributary streams is protected and restored”*

# State of the vegetation

- Lake margin and adjoining areas surveyed in 1983 and 2007
- Survey to be repeated in 2017

# Pressures

- Weeds
- Stock grazing
- Vehicles

# Weeds

- Serious threat to indigenous biodiversity around the lake
- Weed control program underway
- Guided by strategy

# Reed canary grass

## *Phalaris arundinacea*



Photo: Carol Jensen

# Grey willow

*Salix cinerea*



Photo: NZPCN

# Yellow flag iris

*Iris pseudacorus*



Photo: Carol Jensen



# Green goddess

## *Zantedeschia aethiopica* cv. *Green Goddess*



Photo: Carol Jensen

# Purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*



Photo: Carol Jensen

# Beggar's tick

## *Bidens frondosa*



Photo: NZPCN

# Reed canary grass

- Highlighted as concern in 2013 State of the Lake report
- Well established and widespread in northern and north-western tributaries

# Stock grazing and vehicles



# Stock grazing



Photo: Carol Jensen

# Stock grazing



Photos: Carol Jensen

# Vehicle access



Photos: Carol Jensen



# Canterbury Maps Demonstration

<http://canterburymaps.govt.nz/>

# Influence of lake level management in last two years

- Several episodes of unusually prolonged lake openings 2012-2013
- Period of unusually high lake levels and associated flooding in June 2013

# So how are we going with measures of success?

Annual net gain of key habitats (e.g. raupō) and maintenance of other important habitat types (e.g. saltmarsh)



Maintain or increase populations of threatened or at risk plant species



Annually reduce and stop of spread of key problem willow species and other significant animal and pest weeds of native vegetation



Aquatic macrophyte beds re-established and show positive growth rates



# General recommendations

- Measures to address damage caused by vehicles access
- Additional resourcing for weed control and lake margin acquisition

# Monitoring recommendations

- Establish permanent 10x10m plots on public conservation land
  - Ensure comprehensive monitoring undertaken at regular intervals e.g. 3 yearly
- Continue to monitor lake margins and key tributaries for weed spread

# Monitoring recommendations

- Establish photo points to monitor change
  - Where willows have been removed
  - Where vehicle/stock access has been removed from lake shore

