

Gorse Implementation Plan

What is the Plan trying to achieve

Implementation Plan:

- Strategy and tactics to achieve 30 t N reduction from current gorse areas by 2022

Approach

- Must be clear and transparent to landowners, public and staff
- Must be fair – open to all landowners with gorse
- Efficient – propose we base process on existing LM process
- Responsive / adaptive – open to any proven end land use = $\leq 4\text{kg N}$

Criteria

- Techniques must have high certainty of suppressing mature gorse
- Changes must result in $\leq 4\text{Kg N ha}$
- P loss must not increase
- Mature gorse is permanently suppressed
- Land must be within the Lake Rotorua groundwater catchment
- Landowners must be compliant with RWLP

Security

Propose that:

- Conversion secured by enduring contractual agreement
- Encumbrances
 - will seek opinion from Māori Court on potential alienation issues associated with Māori land
- Default forestry rights

Proposed Delivery of plan

- Implementation to be led by BOPRC LM staff
- Funding provided to landowners for independent advice
- Individual conversion plans developed based on limitations of site, aspirations of owners, gorse fund criteria
- Staff will proactively approach landowners with largest infestations
- Any landowner with gorse will be eligible

Funding

We propose that:

- 100% funding be provided for site preparation and forest establishment up to \$4.5K per ha (dependent on tree species)
- Interest free loans provided for silviculture
- Support provided for any non-legume tree species

Things that need further thought

- Small gorse areas or area not suitable for commercial tree crops?
 - Practical solution - encourage/incentive retirement to native? – what would work?
- Areas of scattered gorse (but still grazed to some degree)
 - Practical solution – make eligible for Gorse project? Land then not eligible for Incentives Fund?

Your thoughts?