Spraying Methods

The spraying methods undertaken by the applicants to apply the agrichemicals described in section 6.3 include:

- Hand-held spraying (Figure 1 and Figure 2)
- Spraying from an airboat (Figure 3 and Figure 4) and
- Aerial spraying (Figure 5) in the case of larger scale infestations.

Application methods vary on a site by site basis depending on the scale of plant pest infestation, the type of plant pest encountered and the environmental conditions experienced at the site of the infestation. Spraying methods are often undertaken in conjunction with one another, for example, hand held spraying is often complimented by spraying from an airboat to ensure effective levels of control are achieved.

The decision to spray always involves the consideration of alternative methods as outlined in section Error! Reference source not found. of this application.

Coastal Environment Methods

Coastal pest plant species are treated using the techniques outlined above but in a way which maximises the duration of exposure of the plant above water. Personnel and equipment are positioned to commence spraying when the tide is receding. This method has two benefits:

1. Spray contact with water is limited
2. Target pest plants have a greater chance of absorbing the herbicide

The application method aims for a two-hour absorption period.
Figure 1. Handheld knapsack spraying at Lake Whangape.

Figure 2. Handheld spraying of Sagittaria from boat.
Figure 3. Airboat accessing the Waikato River Delta.

Figure 4. Spraying from airboat, Waikato River Delta.
Figure 5. Spraying Alligator Weed with metsulfuron-methyl from helicopter, Waikato River Delta.

**Contracted personnel**

All staff and personnel contracted to the applicants who apply agrichemicals in the field are approved handlers of agrichemicals under the HSNO Act and are also “Grow safe” accredited. Grow safe accredited persons need to adhere to New Zealand Standard NZS8409:2004 Management of Agrichemicals (Appendix D) which sets out a range of limitations for the application of agrichemicals in the field. These standards include taking account of factors such as the weather, speed of application, maximum volumes of application and maximum areas for spray application.

All pilots involved in aerial application of agrichemicals under this consent will hold or be under training for a Pilot’s Chemical Rating issued by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The proposed consent conditions set out in Section 13 of this application confirm these requirements for all the applicants to this consent.