

13

Exotic Plants



13.1 Introduction

No person may introduce or plant any exotic or introduced plant in, on or under the foreshore or seabed within the coastal marine area unless expressly allowed by a rule in this Plan or by a resource consent (Section 12(1)(f) of the Act). In the past, exotic plants have been introduced into the coastal marine area or into areas adjacent to the coastal marine area (eg, on dune systems), mainly for erosion control. *Spartina* has been introduced in areas around New Zealand and in some areas has resulted in increased silting and reclamation of estuarine areas.

13.2 Issue

13.2.1 Exotic and introduced plants may adversely affect:

- (a) Sites of cultural significance; or
- (b) Areas having conservation values; or
- (c) The natural character of areas within and adjacent to the coastal marine area; or
- (d) Natural physical coastal processes acting upon the foreshore and seabed.

Explanation

The introduction of introduced or exotic plants into an area can cause the displacement of indigenous flora and the loss of habitat for indigenous fauna. The physical appearance and growth of such plants can result in the loss of amenity values and the loss of the natural character of an area as those coastal plants and habitats are displaced. The plants can also affect natural physical coastal processes acting in estuarine and shallow water areas by retaining silt and leading to the gradual reclamation and loss of the foreshore and seabed areas.

Objective 13.3.1 to 13.3.3

Policies 13.4.1 to 13.4.4

13.3 Objectives

13.3.1 To recognise and provide for values associated with:

- (a) Areas of cultural significance; and
- (b) Areas of conservation values;

when considering the introduction of exotic and introduced plants into the coastal marine area.

Principal reasons for adopting

Native plants provide a habitat and food source for native species. Kai Tahu also have concerns over the introduction of plants which could affect native species. For these reasons and given Section 6 of the Act, native plants should be protected from the introduction of exotic plants.

Policies 13.4.1, 13.4.2

Other Objectives 5.3.1, 13.3.2, 13.3.3

13.3.2 To prevent exotic and introduced plants from adversely affecting the natural character of the coastal marine area.

Principal reasons for adopting

Introduced or exotic plants may cause a loss of natural character in an area as a result of the introduced plants replacing existing plant communities and affecting landscape values. Section 6 of the Act requires the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment.

Policies 13.4.2, 13.4.4

Other Objectives 5.3.1, 6.3.1, 10.3.3, 13.3.1, 13.3.3

13.3.3 To prevent exotic and introduced plants from having any adverse effect on natural physical coastal processes.

Principal reasons for adopting

Introduced or exotic plants may also adversely affect natural physical coastal processes resulting in the silting up of areas. The introduction of any plant into the coastal marine area will need to be carefully assessed in terms of the likely and potential effect of that introduction in order that unintended effects are avoided.

Policy 13.4.3

Other Objectives 5.3.1, 13.3.1, 13.3.2

13.4 Policies

13.4.1 In order that any proposed introduction of exotic or introduced plants that will, or is likely to, have an adverse effect on cultural values, can be identified by kaitiaki runanga, Kai Tahu will be:

- (a) **Treated as an affected party for non-notified resource consent applications to introduce any exotic or introduced plants into areas, or adjacent to such areas, identified in Schedules 2 and 3 of this Plan as having cultural or spiritual values to Kai Tahu; and be**
- (b) **Notified about notified resource consent applications to introduce any exotic or introduced plants into the coastal marine area.**

Explanation

Notifying Kai Tahu of notified resource consent applications allows them to assess the implications of each application in respect of their coastal domain and recognises the kaitiaki role that Kai Tahu have over the tai whenua (coastal area). Where resource consent applications are received for areas within or adjacent to any area identified in Schedules 2 and 3 of this Plan as having Kai Tahu spiritual or cultural values, the kaitiaki runanga will be treated as an affected party and their written approval will be required, in accordance with Section 94 of the Act.

Principal reasons for adopting

The use of consultation to address Kai Tahu values that were not identified within the coastal protection area of this Plan is seen by them as being the most appropriate way to recognise and protect the cultural relationship that Kai Tahu hold with the tai whenua (coastal domain). Waahi tapu or waahi taoka values applicable to any site or area can be established through consultation. Such sites underpin the cultural relationship and identity to the coastal resource of a particular runanga. Section 8 of the Act requires that the Otago Regional Council take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).

Rule 13.5.1

Other Methods 13.6.1 to 13.6.4

Other Policies 5.4.1, 5.4.2, 5.4.9, 9.4.1

- 13.4.2 For activities involving the planting of any exotic plant, priority will be given to avoiding adverse effects on values associated with any area identified in Schedules 2 and 3 of this Plan as being a coastal protection area, an area of outstanding natural features and landscapes, or an area important to marine mammals or birds.**

Explanation

Exotic plants introduced into a coastal protection area, or adjacent to areas important to marine mammals and birds, or adjacent to areas of outstanding natural features and landscapes can adversely affect the values associated with those areas. Priority will be given to avoiding any adverse effects.

Principal reasons for adopting

Section 6(a) of the Act requires the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment. The features identified form part of the natural character of Otago's coastal marine area.

Rule 13.5.1, 13.5.2

Other Methods 13.6.1 to 13.6.4

Other Policies 5.4.1, 5.4.2, 5.4.5, 5.4.6, 5.4.7, 5.4.9, 6.4.3, 6.4.4, 6.4.6

- 13.4.3 To consider potential adverse effects of, and the need for, any proposed introduction or planting of any exotic or introduced plant into Otago's coastal marine area.**

Explanation

The introduction or planting of any introduced or exotic plant, which includes seaweeds, has the potential to result in adverse effects such as the displacement of indigenous flora and fauna and the alteration of natural physical coastal processes. The need for introducing or planting any introduced or exotic plant will be considered and taken into account when considering resource consent applications for introducing or planting such plants.

Principal reason for adopting

Consideration of the need for any introduction or planting and consideration of the potential for adverse effects arising from that introduction or planting recognises the precautionary principle.

Rule 13.5.1, 13.5.2

Other Methods 13.6.1 to 13.6.4

Other Policies 5.4.2, 5.4.6, 5.4.8

13.4.4 When restoration plantings take place, preference will be given to the use of indigenous species with a further preference for the use of local genetic stock.

Explanation

When undertaking restoration planting, indigenous stock, and where possible, local genetic stock should be used.

Principal reasons for adopting [Repealed]

Rule 13.5.1, 13.5.2

Other Methods 13.6.1 to 13.6.4

Other Policies 5.4.2

13.5 Rules

Any activity specified in this Section as a discretionary activity requires a resource consent. Chapter 15 of this Plan specifies the information that must be submitted to the Otago Regional Council with a resource consent application.

13.5.1 Introduction of exotic or introduced plants

13.5.1.1 The introduction or planting of any exotic or introduced pest plant in Otago's coastal marine area is a *prohibited* activity.

13.5.1.2 *[Repealed]*

13.5.1.3 The introduction of any exotic or introduced plant is a *discretionary* activity.

Principal reasons for adopting

The introduction of any exotic or introduced plant in, on or under the foreshore or seabed can only occur if a resource consent is held, unless this Plan provides for that introduction (Section 12(1)(f) of the Act). The introduction of recognised pest plants is prohibited in recognition of their status as pests. Within Otago, *spartina* has been identified as a pest plant within the Pest Plant Management Strategy for the Otago Region. Its introduction to the coastal marine area is therefore prohibited. Any other activity involving the planting or introduction of introduced or exotic plants is a discretionary activity in order that any adverse effects can be assessed.

13.5.2 Removal of exotic or introduced plants

13.5.2.1 The removal of exotic or introduced plants identified in the Pest Plant Management Strategy for the Otago Region, and any associated disturbance of the foreshore and seabed, is a *permitted* activity provided:

- (a) All pest plant material is removed from the coastal marine area; and
- (b) Any disturbance of the foreshore or seabed is smoothed over.

13.5.2.2 Except as provided for by Rule 13.5.2.1, the removal of exotic or introduced plants is a *discretionary* activity.

Principal reasons for adopting

Exotic plants that have been identified as pest plants will have adverse effects on the environment. Section 12 of the Act only allows for the removal of these plants by a rule in a plan or by a resource consent. Exotic plants such as *spartina* have adverse effects on the coastal marine area and their removal will have beneficial environmental effects.

13.6 Other methods

13.6.1 Consultation

13.6.1.1 Recognise and take account of Iwi Management Plans as a basis for consultation with Kai Tahu.

Principal reasons for adopting

The use of consultation to address Kai Tahu values is seen by them as being the most appropriate way to recognise and protect the cultural relationship that Kai Tahu hold with the tai whenua (coastal domain). Iwi Management Plans would form a basis for consultation with Kai Tahu.

13.6.2 Other plans

13.6.2.1 The Otago Regional Council will consider the development of pest management strategies as necessary to deal with any plant or animal pest within Otago's coastal marine area.

Principal reasons for adopting

Pest Management Strategies developed under the Biosecurity Act provide the appropriate consideration of pests and the need for and mechanisms available to deal with them.

13.6.3 Education

13.6.3.1 The Otago Regional Council will educate the boat-using public where necessary about the potential for transferring noxious exotic plants between water ways on ships in an effort to reduce the spread of such plants.

13.6.3.2 The Otago Regional Council will make information available to the general public about effects of unwanted introductions of exotic plants, including seaweeds.

Principal reasons for adopting

If a water way has a plant pest problem, it is important that this problem is not allowed to spread. Educating boat owners about the problem is one method of preventing it.

13.6.4 Liaison

13.6.4.1 The Otago Regional Council will liaise with other agencies regarding the use of native species for erosion control of the coastal environment.

Principal reasons for adopting

To achieve the integrated planning of the coastal environment, activities which may have effects on both sides of the mean high water springs boundary are best considered by the appropriate agencies jointly.

13.7 Anticipated environmental results

13.7.1 The values and concerns of Kai Tahu are fully considered when considering resource consent applications to introduce exotic or introduced plants into the coastal marine area.

13.7.2 The introduction of exotic or introduced plants to Otago's coastal marine area does not result in a loss of cultural or conservation values in an area.

13.7.3 The introduction of exotic or introduced plants to the coastal marine area does not result in a loss of natural character from Otago's coastal environment.

13.7.4 Applications for resource consents for the introduction of exotic or introduced plants to the coastal marine area which might permanently affect water and sediment movement are considered carefully and a precautionary approach taken

