# **Submission to Environment Canterbury Annual Plan 2022-23**

**From Redcliffs Residents’ Association**

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21 April 2022

We offer our apology for lateness, and we will be grateful if you would be able to accept and incorporate these comments in your submission summary.

We do not wish to be heard at a hearing.

**Our submission relates to Topic Three/ Kaupapa tuatoru – Future funding for responding to climate change**

**Our submission is that Ecan should develop a future levy to increase funding to enable more action for boneseed and banana passionfruit control, particularly in Barnett Park, Redcliffs where we are currently actively volunteering.**

The section of the Annual Plan addressing Biosecurity and Biodiversity does not specify particular weed species but refers to various plans and strategies that do. Our concern is with boneseed and banana passionfruit.

Where it is not managed by landowners or Council these plants are suppressing the growth of native species and providing a seed source for wider distribution.

The section on Biosecurity in the Annual Plan says the following of the Council's role:

*"Providing leadership in activities that prevent, reduce, or eliminate adverse effects from harmful organisms to meet requirements under the Biosecurity Act 1993. The Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan is one of the important tools for this work. This portfolio has the following external commitment."*

Below (without your useful formatting which disappeared when copied) is a copy from the Annual Plan the core message from which is the Councils commitment to revitalising the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy:

*LoS 13: Lead a shared regional approach to biodiversity in Canterbury Performance measures Targets Year 1 2021/22 Year 2 2022/23 Year 3 2023/24 Year 4-10 2024+ Implement the revitalised Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy Continue to revitalise the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy Continue to revitalise the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy Establish a partner and stakeholder group to scope and commence the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy revitalisation. Revitalise the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy, ensuring it identifies regional priorities and the roles of all partners and stakeholders 13.1 Provide Ngāi Tahu with the roles sought for developing and implementing the regional biodiversity strategy Provide Ngāi Tahu with the roles sought for developing and implementing the regional biodiversity strategy Provide Ngāi Tahu with the roles sought for developing and implementing the regional biodiversity strategy Seek Ngāi Tahu input on their priorities and preferred roles for developing and implementing the regional biodiversity strategy.*

We are struck by the repeated use of the words lead and leadership. We look to the Council for this!

Boneseed is managed by Ecan. We are advised that this is done by containing it, focusing a modest funding on control at the margins (literally) of the Containment area and with public awareness activities*.*We repeat, where it is not managed by landowners or Council it is suppressing the growth of native species and providing a seed source for wider distribution.

The principal land owner in the Containment area is the City Council and much of its Reserve land and road side land is infested with boneseed. This is enabling distribution of seeds into private land by birds. Possums and birds are replicating this distribution of passionfruit.

**We seek three things. That Environment Canterbury:**

1. Pressure the City Council to remove boneseed and banana passionfruit from its land.

2. Create a boneseed free corridor through the Containment area at Barnett Park, Redcliffs, to enable boneseed control to proceed on two fronts from the centre.

3. Assist community groups such as the Redcliffs Residents Association with funding and/or contract resources to tackle both weed species.