



## Weed Risk Modelling Workshop

### An invitation to improve weed management decision-making in New Zealand

**Venue:** Wairakei Resort Hotel, Taupo, Friday 20th July 2012, in association with NETS 2012

**Time:** 9.30am to 11.15am.

**Aim of the workshop:** There have been many advances in recent years in the data handling and ecological modelling tools that have the potential to take the guess work out of weed management decision-making. To that end, the aim of this workshop is to answer the question “*How can weed managers make better decisions about what species to manage and provide better weed risk management information for policy and funding purposes?*”

**Outcome of the workshop:** Our expectation is that the workshop will produce a conceptual model of the processes and tools required to *make better decisions*. This model will be expressed in a clear diagram, will consider those tools already available, and will not be constrained by perceived cost.

**Who should participate?** The workshop is aimed at people involved in the strategic management of weeds. In particular it is targeted at those involved in planning, delivering and measuring the performance of work programmes and those involved in developing weed management policy. The workshop will explore the possibilities to utilise web based information management, spatial modelling, GIS, etc. to create new tools to assess and measure weed risk and impact into the future. These tools will have the potential to provide weed managers with the ability to make better-informed decisions about what weeds to manage and how much to invest in their management over time.

#### **Programme:**

9:30 – 10:00 **Introduction:** “Weed risk modelling: What does it offer weed management?” Dr Graeme Bourdôt, Principal Scientist, AgResearch, Lincoln, will provide some background to the workshop using the example of a grass weed newly discovered in Canterbury to illustrate the components of a robust approach to deciding if and how this species should be managed.

10:00 – 10:15 **Workshop – Stage 1:** Brain-storming the question  
During this phase of the workshop, Dr Mike Dodd, Senior Scientist, AgResearch, Palmerston North, will facilitate a brain-storming session during which participants will identify the drivers of, and barriers to, good weed management decision-making.

10:15 – 11:15 **Workshop – Stage 2:** Creating a conceptual model  
During this phase of the workshop we will organise the identified drivers and barriers into groups (variables) for our conceptual model. This is likely to be a lively session during which we will share our different ideas on what a perfect weed management decision-making system looks like and how the components interact. Mike will facilitate this discussion and Graeme will construct a diagram representing our model.

**Reporting back:** The diagram of the model will be used by a workshop participant to report the findings to the full conference.