

# Flood Material Tracking and Disposal Plan for Asiatic Knotweed Management – Motueka Valley

## Context

Asiatic knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is an invasive pest plant found throughout the Motueka Valley, with smaller infestations also present in the Riwaka and Wai-iti catchments. Tasman District Council lists Asiatic knotweed as an eradication species in the Tasman Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan. TDC Biosecurity staff have been running an eradication programme in the Motueka Valley to control its spread since 2019.

The recent flooding event in the Motueka Valley caused widespread damage across large areas, significantly affecting many Asiatic knotweed sites. In some cases, entire infestations covering areas of 100–200 m<sup>2</sup> have been completely washed away.

One of the most concerning characteristics of Asiatic knotweed is its ability to spread easily through fragmentation. The plant primarily reproduces through its rhizomes, and even a tiny fragment is capable of regenerating into a new plant. This makes the species extremely difficult to control. Any movement of soil or debris containing rhizome fragments can result in new infestations becoming established elsewhere.

Ideally, to minimise the spread of Asiatic knotweed, all debris and flood related material downstream from the Motueka/Wangapeka confluence will stay within the Motueka Valley. This material can be utilised in place by spreading over damaged pastureland, as per the Ravensdown [–Guide to re-grassing flood damaged pastures .](#)

To cover situations where landowners are not able to store debris on their properties, or where contractors need to remove debris from infrastructure, please ensure you notify Tasman District Council Biosecurity team of the destination where the material has been transported to.

[Biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:Biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz)

## Do you have any flood related material downstream of the Wangapeka/Motueka confluence? Here's what you can do

- Option 1 - keep the material on-site
- Option 2 – If material cannot be kept on-site it may be relocated to other properties within the Motueka Valley. If you choose this option, please ensure you notify Tasman District Council Biosecurity team of the destination where the material has been transported to – [Biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:Biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz)

**It is extremely important that all movements of flood debris, silt and any earthworks between properties are tracked and monitored. Any stockpiling of material needs to stay in the Motueka Valley, or as directed by TDC Biosecurity**

## Residual Risk and Monitoring

The intention of this containment plan is to be practical and to deal appropriately with the bulk of the material. Some risk of plant dispersal due to vehicle movements or material missed during cleanup remains, and unfortunately Asiatic knotweed will grow in most places.

Specific monitoring checks of all sites with a focus on Asiatic knotweed will be necessary during the growing season (November – March). These sites will need to be treated with a specific agrichemical (Imazapyr) during inspections if plants are found.

## Important Biosecurity Notice for Contractors

Contractors must make every effort to always prevent the spread of contaminated soil. Good biosecurity practices are essential. If equipment has been used for flood recovery work in the Motueka Valley below the Motueka/Wangapeka confluence and is then transported to another site outside the valley, please make sure it is thoroughly **cleaned beforehand!**

There is a serious risk of spreading Asiatic knotweed via contaminated machinery. Please take all necessary precautions to avoid the unintentional transfer of this invasive species.

## Just a reminder - it is an offence under Section 52 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 to knowingly spread Asiatic knotweed

- If you do need to remove/ relocate soil or flood debris from your property, or have done so already, let us know!
- Record the details of any movement or earthworks occurring below the confluence of the Wangapeka and Motueka rivers, and send the information to:  
[recovery.intelligence@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:recovery.intelligence@tasman.govt.nz)
- Inspect and clean machinery, equipment and vehicles as much as possible.
- Any sightings of Asiatic knotweed need to be reported to the Tasman District Council Biosecurity team immediately.