

Pest management in Taranaki



Factsheet: 4

Good Neighbour Rules

The *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* includes new 'Good Neighbour Rules' that require land occupiers, including the Crown, to prevent pests from affecting environmental or agricultural values on adjacent properties.

(See *Factsheet 3* to read more about the Plan).

Good Neighbour Rules apply to what pests?

The Plan identifies twelve 'Sustained Control' pests for which Good Neighbour Rules apply. They include one animal pest – brushtail possums, and 11 pest plant species. All 12 species are widespread in the region and the aim of having rules is to minimise impacts and costs being imposed on neighbours.



Giant gunnera

Boundary control distances

Good Neighbour Rule requirements are subject to appropriate boundary control distances based on the biological characteristics and dispersal of pests.

The Plan contains Good Neighbour Rules for 12 pests with the boundary distances specified in relevant rules that reflect their biological characteristics, dispersal, spread, and control requirements.

Adjacent land values and compliance costs

Good Neighbour Rules are also subject to a determination that unreasonable costs are being imposed on adjacent land occupiers. Any Good Neighbour Rule requirement is dependent upon:

- The values to be protected on adjacent properties; and
- The cost of compliance relative to values being protected.



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Pest	Boundary distance	Values being protected
Brush-tail possums	500m	Production, animal health, biodiversity
Giant buttercup	5m	Dairy and beef production
Giant gunnera*	500m	Biodiversity
Gorse	10m	Pastoral or forestry production
Kahili ginger*	1000m	Biodiversity
Nodding thistle	100m	Dairying and sheep and beef production
Old man's beard*	10m	Biodiversity
Plumeless thistle	100m	Dairying and sheep and beef production
Variegated thistle	5m	Dairying and sheep and beef production
Wild broom	10m	Dairying, sheep and beef or forestry production
Yellow ginger*	5m	Biodiversity
Yellow ragwort*	20m	Dairying or beef production

* Applies to Crown land only as private land occupiers are covered by another (general) rule to help Taranaki achieve wider control for environmental weeds and ragwort.



Land occupiers must prevent pests from affecting 'values' on adjacent properties

Pest management on Crown-owned land

Good Neighbour Rules are the only pest rules that are binding on the Crown. The Crown's inclusion in Good Neighbour Rules will help manage the spread of pests.

Crown property represents about 20% of Taranaki land and is predominantly managed by the Department of Conservation.

KiwiRail, the New Zealand Transport Authority and Land Information New Zealand are also significant Crown land occupiers in this region.