

Forestry and Wilding Trees Issues and Options

Why is Wilding Spread a Problem?

The wilding spread of introduced trees raises a number of issues:

Conservation – dominates/replaces native flora, fauna and habitat

Production – shades out grazing species

Landscape – affects the character and views of existing open and often treeless natural landscapes

Property – fire risk increases with wilding spread

Recreation – can affect tramping, walking cycling and running

Historic – can damage or hide historic and archaeological sites

Water – lowers the water yield.

The District Plan Review can only address the planting of new wilding trees. The Council spends over \$100,000 per year controlling existing wilding spread.

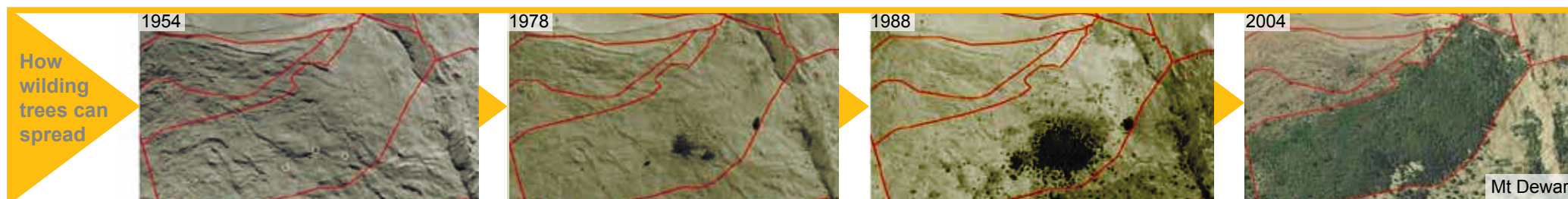
The following species are currently listed in the District Plan as having wilding potential:

Contorta or Lodgepole **Pine**
SCOTS PINE DOUGLAS FIR
European larch
Corsican Pine BROOM
GORSE
RADIATA PINE
Bishop Pine Ponderosa Pine
LUPIN
All Eucalyptus varieties
Hawthorn Boxthorn
Sycamore

We're currently reviewing the District Plan and looking at what works well and what needs to be changed.

As part of this process, we've been looking at the provisions that manage the planting of forests and wilding trees and how they are working, as well as case law from the Environment Court.

'Wilding' is the term used for the natural regeneration (seedling spread) of introduced trees that occurs in unintended locations and is not managed for forestry production.



The Current Situation

Currently the District Plan rules that manage forestry and wilding trees lack consistency. Here's a summary of the existing rules:

Forestry Activities and Shelterbelts

New forestry plantations larger than 0.5ha and shelter belts require a consent in the Rural General zone, and extra consents are needed above 1070m in altitude or within 20m of a boundary.

Wilding Trees

Planting of listed wilding species also requires consent. Currently applications for wilding trees are not publicly notified.

The following table shows how new planting of wilding trees is treated in different zones.

District Plan Zones		Status
Rural General	Three Parks	Requires Consent
Ski Area sub-zone	Jacks Point	
Wanaka Residential	Hawea Township	Prohibited
Mt Cardrona Station	Kingston Village	
Parts of Rural Living	Open Space	
All other zones		Permitted

Proposed Changes

The Council would like to address the wilding issue more consistently through the District Plan Review. Possible changes could include:

- Reviewing the existing list of wilding trees.
- Allowing consent applications for planting new wilding trees to be publicly notified.
- Prohibiting use of wilding trees in landscape treatment for new houses, or the use / retention of wilding trees to screen new development.
- Making the planting of wilding trees a prohibited activity on all or parts of the Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features, and above 1070m (about the height of the Coronet Peak car park).
- Preparing more specific objectives, policies and assessment matters to ensure where planting is feasible, wilding spread can be controlled.
- Prohibiting planting of wilding trees in all urban zones.
- Making the unintended growing of wilding pines a prohibited activity as per recent Environment Court decisions.

What do you think?

- Have we identified the issues with wilding trees correctly (refer over page)?
- Is the wilding list over the page accurate? Should any tree types be added or removed?
- What activity status should planting of wilding trees have in the Outstanding Natural Landscape areas?
- How should the wilding tree rules reflect landscape categories?
- How should the District Plan align with the Regional Pest Management Strategy?
- How appropriate is the 1070m altitude limit?

Please send your comments to:

Policy & Planning
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Email services@qldc.govt.nz

Or comment online at

www.qldc.govt.nz/district_plan_review

Comments should be received by
13 July 2012

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