

Te Matuku Scenic Reserve

Moth Plant Control

DOC Contract 2941697

Contractor: Weedfree Waiheke

FIRST PERIOD: January 23rd 2017 - 26th Jan
MU1 Pohutukawa Paddock

Volunteer hours worked alongside contractors:

23 rd	4hrs
24 th	4hrs
25 th	5hrs
26 th	7 hrs

Total: 20 hrs

Moth plant infestations from the entrance and on the ridge of MU1 are mostly mature, currently flowering and extensive. Extremely dense grass, including kikuyu, hampers progress. Substantial amounts of fallen gorse & woolly nightshade debris harbours moth plant as well as creating hazards on steep slopes. The area is a heat trap with little shade, so hot weather is also challenging. A month into flowering season and pods are already forming.

Photo Point 1: kanuka in grass, facing North



23rd January: before control began



26th January: end of first control period



Boundary of scrub bar work 26th January



Just-released silver fern

Subject: TMBSR Moth Plant Control - Jan 23rd to Jan 26th report

Here is my interim report for the first period of control. Full documentation with photos is ongoing & will be sent out at the end of the contract.

Goal: Primarily to achieve best value from our funding. It has been important to demonstrate that I/we are committed to the task at hand, with the intention to continue, to ensure a sustainable long-term outcome.

Role & Tasks: We've created a role which allows me to work adjacent without compromising Nona's contract requirements. Access has been my primary focus, both to the site plus defining the main infestation boundaries & creating openings through the bush edge & beyond. I have not treated nor handled any moth plant myself, instead enabled the contractors to perform their task more efficiently

Hours: I have worked onsite for 4 days. 20 hours in total (4,4,5,7hrs). This is as unpaid labour not volunteering. My horticultural charge out rate is significantly higher than the \$15/hr that volunteer work is valued at.

Observations: This area will be significantly more complicated to restore than I had imagined. Nona's approach has demonstrated that extensive moth plant control, when funding is erratic, is almost worse than no control at all. It is vital we start planning now for the next tranche of funding.