

## Submission to Bay of Plenty Regional Council in support of Endothall Consent

Our Society has a proud history of advocacy for the restoration of our Rotorua Lakes and wish to make the following supportive submission. Our Society and its aims and objectives can be viewed on our website at

<http://lakeswaterquality.co.nz/about-lwqs/>

- LWQS can trace its origins back to the formation of the Lake Weed Control Society in the 1960s which promoted and funded research on control of the oxygen weed, Lagarosiphon, and the effects of those control methods on the environment. This led to the eventual use of the herbicide diquat to control weeds within the Lakes.
- Since the turn of this Century it has principally focused on nutrient reduction and sewerage reticulation. Much has been achieved and there still remains a lot to be done in this area, it is a long road.
- This clean-up is costed at \$235m but very little emphasis has been placed on control and eradication of lake weeds. Once one gets beyond the perception of algae blooms and safe swimming waters the next public focus is the amount of invasive weed that now dominates most of our lakes. The degraded status of our biomass is a major concern.
- We still have a number of a lakes above their targeted TLI and Lake Rotoiti failing to see reoxygenation of its subliminal waters. Professor David Hamilton considers this in part is due to the oxygen demands of decaying biomass associated with the vast weedbeds that have established around the periphery of the lakes and across many of the shallower bays.

- Our Society moved to more fully understand these issues and organised a symposium “Lake Weed and Wallabies” held in March 2015. We commend the proceeding to you

<http://lakeswaterquality.co.nz/lwqs-symposium-2015-full-documentation/>

- Much was made of our inadequate toolbox and the potential benefits of adding Endothall to it.
- BOPRC has consulted directly with the LWQS on its proposal to expand the herbicide toolkit for aquatic weed control within the Rotorua Lakes by seeking resource consent for the use of Endothall (trade name Aquathol K).
- The LWQS views weeds as a major and long term environmental challenge for the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes.
- Over time, we have seen first-hand how invasive species smother and displace native plant species, forming nuisance surface reaching growths of weeds that require annual control in several lakes.
- Aquatic weeds also have a huge impact on recreational activities like boating, fishing and swimming and adverse flow on impacts for tourism within the region.
- We understand that endothall has the potential for high efficacy against some of our Lakes worst weeds such as hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) and *Lagarosiphon major*.
- Endothall also has some advantages over diquat, in that it is a contact herbicide and with a short residual contact time (12-48 hours) which makes it effective in still or slow moving water in lakes
- When endothall is applied correctly it has very little effect on our native flora and can assist in enhancing biodiversity where pest plants threaten vulnerable habitats.
- Weed control also allows aquatic life such as kōura, kākahi, tuna, watercress and other taonga species to flourish.

- Overall it is our view that the benefits of using endothall within the Lakes, in a controlled manner, significantly outweigh the potential risks/adverse effects. It will provide BOPRC and its biosecurity partners access to more control options to reduce weed impacts.

**For the reasons outlined above, we fully support the BOPRC's resource consent application for endothall use within the Lakes and would like to be heard at any hearing to support the application.**