

12 July 2021



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your request received on Thursday 24th June 2021. Please find below information relevant to your request, which we have released under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

1. *Who on the Council is responsible for the oversight of weed detection and identification?*
Carterton District Council have multiple staff with horticultural backgrounds within the Parks and Reserves team. Our Parks Manager and Team Leader would typically be identifying potentially hazardous weeds.

2. *What methods are used to achieve correct identification of any possible hazardous ones such as hemlock?*

Identification is made with the help of a pest plant book if necessary. Plant identification apps are useful however the identification is based on the photo taken, therefore if not all characteristics are in the photo it cannot always identify the correct plant or weed. We recently undertook identification of potential Hemlock near a sports field. Hemlock has purple spots on the stem which this weed did not. Hemlock also gives off an unpleasant smell, the smell from this weed resembled the smell of a carrot. The weed also had a hairy stem which Hemlock does not have. With that conclusion we can confidently say that the subject weed was *Daucus Carota* - Wild Carrot.

3. *How regularly are checks made for dangerous plants in public playing fields?*

Playing fields are maintained weekly and sprayed multiple times during the year with organic weed spray.

You have the right to seek a review of our response/these decisions by way of complaint to the Ombudsman, under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Yours sincerely

Blair King

Interim Chief Executive