

5. **AQUATIC VEGETATION MANAGEMENT (EGERIA DENSA)** RR 9933

The Water Services Manager reported, advising that a new, invasive, aquatic weed species had been discovered in the Avon River and that additional maintenance funding will be required to control this new weed.

During discussion on this clause, several members of the Committee questioned the need for the City Council to fund the weed control programme given the Regional Council's responsibility for the control of noxious weeds. It was agreed that an approach should be made to the Regional Council for funding for this work.

The circumstances surrounding the introduction of the weed to the river were also discussed by the Committee and it was concluded that as *Egeria* has been found in other rowing venues in the country it could well have been inadvertently bought in on a rowing skiff. It was agreed that the Water Services Manager prepare a draft policy designed to prevent the introduction of noxious plants into the city's waterways.

The Committee **decided**:

1. That a letter of appreciation be sent to the weed harvest operator who discovered the new weed species at Kerrs Reach thanking him for his vigilance.
2. That the Water Services Manager liaise with the Canterbury Regional Council regarding the cost of removing the *Egeria densa* colonies from Kerrs Reach.
3. That the Water Services Manager prepare for the Committee's consideration a draft policy for preventing the introduction of noxious plants into the city's waterways.