

## 5. WATERWAY MANAGEMENT (EGERIA Densa ERADICATION)

Ken Couling and Chris Rance spoke to the City Council report on discovery of *egeria densa* in Kerrs Reach in April 1999. The action taken, cost and methods of control were outlined to the Committee. The future management strategy was for controls with ultimate eradication. However, because of the significant regional implications it was submitted that the status of the plant (in the Regional Pest Management Strategy) should be upgraded from “surveillance” category to “total control” and that the additional annual cost (\$60,000) be shared between the City and Regional Councils.

Regional Council staff advised that it was timely to add *egeria* to the list of new plants being considered for inclusion/re-categorisation in the Strategy. While that action was immediate the process required by legislation (not unlike a plan variation) would mean that the re-categorisation of *egeria* would not occur for about 12 months. The Regional Council could not take retrospective action in terms of cost sharing and the question of riverbed ownership also needed to be clarified.

Accordingly, Cr Johnson moved, seconded by Cr Crighton moved the adoption of three of the four staff recommendations (No.4 deleted) with minor word additions.

Cr Wells moved seconded by Cr Manning an amendment to Staff Recommendation 1 by including the words “...seek an urgent variation...”. This amendment was put and carried and the motion as amended was then put and carried.

### ***Resolved***

- (a) *That the Canterbury Regional Council seek an urgent variation to reclassify the E.densa species as a total control plant in the Regional Pest Management Strategy to acknowledge its serious threat to the Canterbury region.*
- (b) *That the City Council reports to the Regional Council by 31 October each year its proposed E.densa eradication programme for the following financial year.*
- (c) *That the Canterbury Region considers the annual E.densa eradication programme and funding when reclassifying the plant pest.*

Johnson/Crighton