



**You're invited to the next EWC webinar  
5pm Wednesday 11 February 2026**

## **Is the Biosecurity Act ready to address increasing weed invasions?**

**The speakers: Bob Lawton (Coordinator, AIWG)  
and an MPI staff member (*if available*)**

The BioSecurity Act has been undergoing changes over the past year and proposals are likely to be going to the Working Committee in the next couple of months. The proposed level of fines available to regional councils is only \$400 and the cost of compliance deters most Councils from pursuing a prosecution.

As most volunteers are aware, relatively few property owners voluntarily undertake weed control - allowing weeds like moth plant, woolly nightshade, old man's beard etc to spread back across the surrounding community. This is particularly the case with large land holders like who appear to only do the bare minimum of control after many complaints.

This webinar will explore how the Biosecurity Act and RPMP controls could be more effective.

*Bob Lawton is the coordinator of Pest Free Tamaki and has been active in raising concerns about how the Biosecurity Act can be made more effective to address invasive weeds. He is also coordinator of AIWG (the [Auckland Invasive Weed Group](#)), set up in 2025 to promote improved measures to support weed control. He has been in communication with MPI about improving the level of fines available to regional councils in their RPMP.*

NOTE: The AIWG has asked EWC to draw your attention to their [Draft Submission](#) raising their concerns that the Natural Environments Bill might undermine the weed control provisions in the Biosecurity Act. If you share their concern about the issues it raises, we invite you to adapt it and submit it before the closing date of 13 February 2026.

*There will be time for questions and discussion*

 [Add to your calendar](#)

**To join the EWC meeting, click on this Microsoft Teams link: [Join the meeting now](#)**

Meeting ID: 427 621 706 099 Passcode: reNRWW

Please note that this meeting may be recorded - if you don't wish to appear in the video, please turn off your camera and microphone.

For info about joining the meeting, please see [Information about the EWC Weeds Webinars](#)  
When you join the meeting, please register with your name and the group/area you are working with.

## Are you concerned about the impact of weeds on the native biodiversity and the ecological health of our environment?

Please join with us to work for better sharing of information, research, resourcing, coordination and collaboration - click our new sign up form to [Join-the-Environmental-Weed-Coalition](#)



- If you have any suggestions for other groups to be invited, please email [info@ewc.nz](mailto:info@ewc.nz)
- Please tell your colleagues, friends & contacts about the EWC meetings and encourage them to join the Environmental Weed Coalition
- This invitation is emailed to all people on the EWC subscribers list
- If you didn't receive a copy direct to you, please sign up
- To unsubscribe, please follow the instructions in the email or if that doesn't work, email [info@ewc.nz](mailto:info@ewc.nz) with "PLEASE UNSUBSCRIBE ME" in the subject line
  
- Webinars are scheduled for each second month: February, April, June, August, October, December.
- For videos of past meetings, see <https://www.youtube.com/@EWC-Webinars>
- **For more info about the Environmental Weed Coalition please go to:**
  - [Environmental Weed Coalition's ArcGIS Story Map](#) or [ewc.nz](http://ewc.nz)
  - or [facebook.com/EnvironmentalWeedCoalition](https://facebook.com/EnvironmentalWeedCoalition)
  - or email [info@ewc.nz](mailto:info@ewc.nz)
  
- Link to this invitation: [2026-02-11 EWC webinar - invitation and links](#)