

From: [Harry Caley](#)
To: [Jane Andrews](#)
Subject: FW: Auckland query - Glyphosphate willow spraying - effect on wildlife
Date: Monday, 19 January 2026 8:25:01 am
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Kia ora Jane,

Here are some thoughts from one of our Biorangers who works at Whangamarino.

Hope this helps

From: Lizzie Sharp <@..>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 January 2026 11:21 am
To: Harry Caley <@..>; Gary Boyd <@..>
Cc: Suliana Teasdale <@..>; Kate McAlpine <kmcalpine@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Auckland query - Glyphosphate willow spraying - effect on wildlife

Kia ora koutou

I have been aerially spraying willow at Whangamarino, and there is a lot to consider for sure. There are lots of options for monitoring, but it's a balance of undertaking operational work or researching and monitoring on a small budget.

My priority for willow control is to open up matuku-huurepo habitat (feeding and breeding), and to prevent encroachment into the peat bogs. I try hard not to bite off more than I can chew so that we don't have bigger issues to chase the following year with successional weeds.

Within my control and budget are to wait until the end of January so that matuku have a chance of fledging and getting mobile (same for other wetland species), but aerial willow control needs to happen before the willow drop their leaves which starts in week 1 or 2 of Feb in Waikato. It's a short timeframe but do-able. I also consider what vegetation types are underneath the willow so that I can use a method and chemical to bring back the desired species as fast as possible. I found a matuku-huurepo foraging, and a nest near by, under a dead willow canopy one year after spraying which to me is a good sign.

If there are sedges and rushes underneath, I sometimes use MET, though this now has a lot of NES conditions to meet. I am seeing natives regrowing at site after a couple of years though. There are very few studies on the effect of glyphosate on aquatic animals in NZ, but one by Wech et al. 2018 suggest that it's unlikely to affect negatively, especially when you account for the ecosystem benefit of removing willow.

Mudfish have been known to utilise willow root systems when the desired natives are not present, you could monitor populations before and after, though it may take several years for effects to be seen.

Happy to talk further

Ngaa mihi
Lizzie

From: Harry Caley <@..>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 January 2026 9:02 am
To: Gary Boyd <@..>; Lizzie Sharp <@..>
Cc: Suliana Teasdale <@..>; Kate McAlpine <@..>
Subject: FW: Auckland query - Glyphosphate willow spraying - effect on wildlife

Kia ora korua,

My familiarity with glyphosphate spraying is limited but I am aware of several events where this takes place, and I am sure there are many more. I have been browsing our literature for known effects on wildlife but have only found papers relating to invertebrates or native flora.

I figured it best I reach out to some people in the Department who may have experience in this space!

Could you please point me in the right direction to some resources about spraying in wetlands. Were there considerations for wetland birds and what were they if so?

Ngā mihi nui,
Harry

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Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
✓	✓	✓	✓	X/X

✓ = Working, X = Not at work

From: Jane Andrews <@..>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 January 2026 8:33 am
To: Harry Caley <@..>
Subject: RE: Auckland query

Kia ora Harry,

I'm following up on my email I sent last year regarding an urgent query about glyphosate spraying of willows. Although some time has passed since I emailed the query is still urgent. Do you have any time today or tomorrow for a quick chat?

Many thanks
Jane

Jane Andrews | Team Manager Ecological Advice
Environmental Services
Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau | Auckland Council
Level 19, Te Wharau o Tāmaki - Auckland House, 135 Albert Street.
Visit our website: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

From: Jane Andrews
Sent: Tuesday, 16 December 2025 5:13 pm
To: @..
Subject: Auckland query

Kia ora Harry,

My colleague Sabine has passed on your details. I have an urgent query regarding impacts of drone spraying (glyphosate) on wetland birds. Are you around tomorrow for a quick teams or phone call?

Kind regards
Jane

Jane Andrews | Team Manager Ecological Advice
Environmental Services
Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau | Auckland Council
Level 19, Te Wharau o Tāmaki - Auckland House, 135 Albert Street.
Visit our website: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



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