



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

17 November 2014

Karl Webber

Email – fyi-request-2156-90a2d16d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Webber

Thank you for your letter of 6 November 2014 regarding wasp control on Kapiti Island and the three offshore islands.

The Kapiti/Wellington Office of the Department undertakes wasp control on Kapiti Island around public facilities where visitors to the island are potentially at risk. This control is reliant on staff locating wasp nests and using a pesticide to destroy the nest. The pesticide the Department uses is Permex. This is available for purchase from: Pest Management Services; 1/37 Te Roto Drive, Paraparaumu, Tel 0800 111 466 or 04 2982766.

At present the Kapiti/Wellington Team is not planning to undertake any large scale wasp control on Kapiti Island. The main reasons for this are:

- 1) Although wasps will be having some impact on the Kapiti Island ecosystem it is unlikely that this pest will cause significant ecological damage.
- 2) It is very expensive and difficult to undertake effective control using pesticides, and
- 3) The use of biological control, using the parasitoid is not that successful. Mathematical modelling suggests that the parasitoid may suppress wasp density by a maximum of 25% after 20–30 years.

Attached is a spreadsheet of nests controlled and their locations.

If you have any further queries about this issue please contact Brent Tandy, Senior Ranger Biodiversity, Kapiti/Wellington District – Tel 04 470 8412.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Damian Coutts'.

Damian Coutts
Conservation Services Manager
Lower North Island

Encl. 1

Treated wasp register

Date	Nest Location			Action (Tick)		Comment
	Location	In a building	Outside	Advised self help	Council or Department land	
January 2013	Kapiti Island - Rangatira, underneath clothes line of Red Ranger House		x	x	DOC	large nest - German
March 2013	Kapiti Island - Rangatira, Trig track 1/3 up		x	x	DOC	Hopeful this is nest relating to 'K' hihi feeder - German
March 2013	Kapiti Island - Rangatira, lowland track, 50m from Northern end.		x	x	DOC	Large nest, base of tree - German
Feb/March 2013	Otaki Forks - by picnic area swingbridge		x	x	DOC	
Feb/March 2013	Otaki Forks - wet weather track to Waitewaewae		x	x	DOC	
January 2014	Rangatira-North End track		X		x	3x nests located between trap boxes 262-158, all in the base of flax plants.
Feb 2014	Wharekohu		X		X	Small nest, 10m from Wharekohu Hut in grass.
Feb 2014	Wharekohu		X		X	Small nest, 30m from Wharekohu Hut in grass.
Feb 2014	Rangatira		x		x	Trig track, between hihi feeders 40 and K.

Treated wasp register

Date	Nest Location			Action (Tick)		Comment
	Location	In a building	Outside	Advised self help	Council or Department land	
March 2014	Rangatira		X		X	Large nest, nest entrance was about 80mm across. Nest located 15m from end of concrete path below red house.
Mar 2014	North End scrub		x		x	Approx 40 nests around the manuka scrub area.
Apr 2014	Rangatira		x		x	Behind Whare on bank 2.5m up.
Apr 2014	Rangatira		x		x	Below Rd House, 15m off concrete path towards creek. Ground nest.
Apr 2014	Rangatira		x		x	Junction of Rangatira loop and beach track, ground nest.