



2024-25

Mid Dome Wilding Conifer Control Programme

Project managed by Boffa Miskell

Annual Summary



PREPARED BY

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on behalf of the Mid Dome Wilding Tree Trust

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THE 2024/25 SEASON

Highlights

- 8716 hectares of Aerial Basal Bark Application (ABBA) was delivered, controlling 14,947 trees.
- 428 hectares of ground control was completed.
- No Aerial Foliar Spraying Application (AFSA) was delivered due to decreased funding.
- A total operational spend of \$831,765 was invested into the Mid Dome Wilding Conifer Control Programme this season.
- Three ground control contractors and two aerial operator were engaged to deliver the programme.
- Two of these contractors were new to the programme this season.
- 68 people were employed at Mid Dome this year, undertaking enough work to and equate to 4.5 FTEs.
- A successful volunteer day was held on Cattleflat Station on the 5th March 2025.

MDWTCT chair Ali Ballantine holding up a wilding douglas fir on Cattleflat 2.





Ground Control

Completed by DM Holdings Ltd, Godfrey Pest Management Ltd, and Trap and Trigger Ltd

Ground control techniques utilise chainsaws, handsaws, and loppers to cut trees at their base. Stumps are treated with herbicide as insurance against regrowth. Smaller trees are removed by pulling the whole plant, including the root system, from the ground. Contractors also have the responsibility to take GPS waypoints of coning trees.



The spread of invaders: Young trees pulled out by ground crews, trees growing in the DOC 6 block, and a carpet of trees overtaking the native scrub.

Ground control was carried out between mid November 2024 and late March 2025 in the Cattleflat 1, Cattleflat 2, Cattleflat 3, DOC 6, Five Rivers 2, Five Rivers 3, LINZ 1, LINZ 2, and Flagstaff 1 operational areas across both the Mid Dome and Flagstaff Management Units.

428.3 hectares were treated using ground control methods

The Mid Dome Wilding Conifer Programme enabled a total of **64** people to undertake ground control in the 24/25 season.



Aerial Basal Bark Application (ABBA)

Completed by Amuri Helicopters and
Aspiring Helicopters.

Aerial Basal Bark Application (ABBA) involves a person applying herbicide via a wand to the base of trees from a helicopter. This enables large, sparse areas to be surveyed and treated. Information gathered while undertaking ABBA helps to inform the programme by determining priorities and control methods for future seasons. This includes gathering information on areas that may be too densely infested and require an alternative method to be utilised, the identification of tree age, and species information.

ABBA was carried out in Cattleflat 1, Cattleflat 2, DOC 1, DOC 6, Five Rivers 3, Nokomai 1, LINZ 1, LINZ 2, Flagstaff 1, and Flagstaff 2 operational areas.



ABBA control is carried out in remote and inaccessible areas, Amuri Helicopters' machine.

14,947 trees were controlled over
an area of **8715.8 hectares**.