

# White weed

## White weed

*Austroeupeatorium inulaefolium*

### Impacts

- This is one of the most serious weeds on the island due to the speed of its spread and its tall, dominant nature
- Requires high maintenance to keep pasture and forestry land free
- Paths can be overgrown in just a few years
- It represents a conservation threat to native species
- Cut stumps can regenerate in less than 1 year, and the species can take over recently-cleared land very rapidly
- The plant is not eaten by livestock, therefore there is no natural control



Photo: Andrew Darlow



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### Actions

- Long-term commitment to produce an effective strategy to help reduce the problem
  - Control measures are costly, and often involve manual clearance and targeted herbicide application
  - Spraying is not encouraged in ecologically-sensitive areas
  - Biological control has been considered (a leaf-eating moth has potential), but there is too a great a risk to endemic plants, as the moth might also impact them
- It is difficult to remove every plant. However, numbers can be reduced by sticking to high standards of land maintenance, and making sure that recently cleared areas, new plantations, and even road banks, are actively replanted with ground cover (for example, the native fern swards are a good alternative)
  - It is actively and rapidly removed in Diana's Peak National Park