

**Mt Messenger Bypass Project, Summary of Evidence of Eric Edwards
(Invertebrates) for DOC**

1. I am an expert in the conservation of threatened invertebrates and invertebrate biodiversity assessment. Occasionally I advise other Government Departments (including MPI) on invertebrate biosecurity matters.

Biosecurity

2. In my evidence I raise concern that the ELMP does not discuss the use of invertebrate expertise to inspect rooted plants for pests potentially arriving at Mount Messenger planting sites.
3. For example, the measure for invasive Argentine ants is to consider containment if an incursion is later discovered. However, no site surveillance programme for Argentine ants or any other potential new invertebrate incursion associated with replanting programmes is proposed.
4. Paragraphs 48 and 49 of Mr McGibbon's Rebuttal evidence states, in relation to the proposals in my evidence for increased biosecurity measures:

"... I support the measures proposed and recommend that they are added to (and I will redraft) the Biosecurity Management Plan section (Section 11) of the ELMP.

In paragraphs 6.4 and 6.5, Mr Edwards proposes before construction and after planting surveys of the Project site for invertebrate pests by a suitably qualified entomologist. I agree with this approach as it will serve to determine what if any pest species are present before construction commences and therefore allow biosecurity efforts to focus on those high risk pests that are not present."

5. I understand it is now agreed that the measures in [6.3] my EIC will be undertaken including inspection of nurseries where rooted plant material is sourced and in [6.4] the inspection prior to planting activity. I also recommended ([6.5]):

"Within the growing season of any plantings and a year after any planting activity a person qualified to survey or identify invertebrate pests should carry out invertebrate pest surveillance of the Project Area and any plantings."

6. Dr Watts states (in speaking notes) *"I am of the view that during and after post-construction monitoring would have little benefit."*
7. I remain of the view that such post-construction monitoring should benefit biosecurity from invasive species, and should be included in the ELMP.