

Conservation Horticulture: the importance of aligning *in situ* and *ex situ* programmes between agencies to achieve threatened plant recovery

E.J. Simpkins

Auckland Council, Auckland, New Zealand

Corresponding author email: emma.simpkins@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Keywords: conservation horticulture, partnership, strategy

Aligning *ex situ* conservation in botanic gardens with agencies that deliver *in situ* plant conservation is critical to threatened plant recovery. To address this challenge, a collaborative partnership between departments in Auckland Council; Environmental Services (ES) and Auckland Botanic Gardens (ABG), was identified as critical for achieving native plant conservation outcomes, drawing together and building skills, knowledge, resources, partnerships and capability. These departments have clear responsibility and mandates to work in their respective fields, ES focusing on *in situ* conservation and ABG focusing on *ex situ* conservation. In Auckland, there are 450 threatened species requiring active management. A strategic plan was developed, documenting roles and responsibilities, opportunities and resources, while helping to mitigate *in situ* management issues with *ex situ* conservation tools. A key component of making this partnership a success is raising the botanic gardens profile within the Council and highlighting the role of conservation horticulture as a management action for each threatened species. Working in partnership to align existing and future projects has enabled clear species priorities to be set, relationships built with indigenous communities and land managers, and advocating for long term capacity and resourcing to deliver on regional, national and international goals.