

**Working with landowners to implement sustainable land management practices and biodiversity management is our priority. Council is focused on safeguarding the natural characteristics of soil, land, water and indigenous habitat for current and future generations. This factsheet provides information on how the Bay of Plenty Regional Council can help.**

Sustainable land management is about working with the land to support the best possible environmental outcomes while still utilising the land for economic or recreational purposes.

Biodiversity management activities can include site condition assessment, fencing, pest plant control, pest animal control, planting, and species monitoring.

In order to reduce erosion, improve water quality and store carbon, it is essential to care for and restore our forests, wetlands, estuaries and streams. This is an important part of biodiversity management and sustainable land management in the Bay of Plenty. Our natural ecosystems benefit us all by stabilising our landscape, supporting native wildlife, improving pollination for natural products (Mānuka oil), and providing opportunities for recreation.

Our Land Management Officers can assist on-site and provide advice on many different sustainable land management and biodiversity topics and can also let you know if any works are eligible for funding.

### On site discussion can include:

- Identifying areas of environmental and biodiversity interest.
- Identifying areas that could be retired from grazing.
- Identifying best land use for each Land Use Capability Class.
- Assessment and advice on erosion issues (including soft and hard engineering solutions).
- Advice on fencing requirements.
- Advice on plant species and plant numbers required for planting.
- Advice on pest plant control.
- Advice on pest animal control.
- Advice on how to create or improve fish and invertebrate habitat and wetland areas.



*This new fence that permanently removes stock from the waterway was partially funded by BOPRC*



*Pest animal control protects bird species.*

# Grants for landowners

## Priority Biodiversity Sites

Priority Biodiversity Sites are a set of 430 sites prioritised for proactive biodiversity management. They were developed jointly with the Department of Conservation (DOC) to represent the full range of our native ecosystem types and key populations of threatened species. Grant rates for work in these sites vary between 50-100% (depending on their ranking). There is a huge variety of work that can be done – talk to your Land Management Officer to find out more about your site's eligibility.

Priority Biodiversity Sites are areas of indigenous vegetation with distinctive biodiversity values.

## Riparian sites

Grant funding up to 50% is also available for fencing to permanently exclude stock from waterways and other water bodies like lakes, springs, wetlands, streams, rivers and estuaries. Riparian margins can be revegetated with native species for the same grant rate.

Riparian management primarily includes fencing and planting of waterways.

## Erosion and stream works

Erosion control structures and stream works are eligible for up to a 50% grant rate. These structures include flumes, detention bunds, contour banks, and spaced soil-conservation pole planting. Stream works include clearing obstructing vegetation within a stream, bank shaping, rip-rap rocking, Gabion baskets, and removal of gravel or debris dams.

## Other funding

Registered Community Care Groups, other areas with biodiversity value, structures to assist with native fish migration and potential inanga spawning areas are also eligible for funding – depending on what work is required.

## How does it work?

A Land Management Officer will visit your site to discuss your environmental issues and needs. They will create an Environmental Programme that suits your land and budget, including costs and grant allocations. The Plan, which will need to be signed by the landowners or a landowner representative, can be spread over a maximum of five years. Each year the Land Management Officer will visit and inspect any completed works, undertaken

either by the landowner or their chosen contractor, and then grant monies will be provided. Any ongoing maintenance will be the responsibility of the landowner. Financial support is available for Priority Biodiversity Sites, sustainable land management activities, riparian management, erosion control and stream works.

## Are there any legal obligations?

An Environmental Programme is an agreement in 'good faith' between the landowner and Bay of Plenty Regional Council. A suitable protection mechanism (Memorandum of Encumbrance or Memorandum of Understanding) or covenant (QEII, Ngā Whenua Rāhui or Conservation Covenant) is only required if the land is a Priority Biodiversity Site or the total grant is over \$35,000 over five years. Riparian programmes don't require formal protection.

## For further information and advice

Your Land Management Officer can provide further details specific to your property. Contact Bay of Plenty Regional Council on 0800 884 880 or email your query to [info@boprc.govt.nz](mailto:info@boprc.govt.nz) (please include the area you live in).



*This tōtara-matai-kahikatea stand has been protected by permanently removing stock. Weeds inside the fence will also be removed overtime to allow native plants to naturally regenerate.*



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