

Riparian Fund Criteria

Background

The majority of our waterways are in a severely degraded/modified condition. Removal of vegetation and access of stock to waterways increases sedimentation, nutrient runoff and fecal contamination. The result of this is a loss of native terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and poor water quality.

Sedimentation is a major issue in our flood prone catchments such as the Waikanae, Ōtaki and Wharemauku that pass through urbanised areas. The single largest contributing factor to high sediment loads in lower reaches is the lack of woody vegetative cover in the steep upper reaches.

Criteria / Principles

The overriding purpose of the fund is to encourage better management of our waterways by preventing stock access and the permanent retirement of riparian margins to allow the establishment of native vegetation buffers.

- Funding assistance is available for fencing, plant supply and weed control.
- Funding is a maximum 50% share of the total project cost (An in kind contribution in the form of labour will be accepted. Labour component can be calculated at a rate of \$15 per hour).
- The area must be put into permanent retirement.
- Domestic stock must be excluded from the area.
- A Memorandum of Understanding must be entered into outlining the future use of the area

Location / How to identify project suitability

Priority will be given to projects that have the greatest potential positive benefits on water quality and biodiversity within the Kāpiti District. These benefits can be assessed by the length of riparian margin, whether the project addresses an issue such as active erosion in the upper catchment or removes direct stock access from the waterway.

The level of landowner commitment towards the project will be taken into account.

Maintenance of projects from previous years will be made a priority.

MOU or Covenant

To be eligible for funding, landowners must sign into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kāpiti Coast District Council or register a conservation covenant on the title of the property. See example below.

Memorandum of Understanding

The purpose of this document is to achieve better riparian management on the property located at _____.

Details of the project (include costings):

The Kāpiti Coast District Council agrees to contribute towards this project (as detailed above) to enhance the water quality and biodiversity values of the area.

By signing this document I the current landowner agree to maintain the following management practices on the project area (see aerial photo):

- The stretch of stream/river shall be permanently retired from grazing;
- The fencing of this area shall be maintained to a stock proof standard which will be the responsibility of the landowner. Contribution towards fencing maintenance will be looked at on a case by case basis to allow for flood damage repairs;
- Kāpiti Coast District Council shall be informed as soon as noxious vegetation is observed in the project area to enable an assessment to be made for control.

Kāpiti Coast District Council agrees to assist with maintenance of plantings for up to two years to ensure a good survival rate.

This agreement is made on the _____ day of _____ 201____.

Between:

The Landowner/s

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Kāpiti Coast District Council

Name: _____.

Position: _____.

Signature: _____.