

# Kāpiti Coast District Council Riparian Fund Criteria



## Background

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The majority of waterways within the Kāpiti Coast are in a severely degraded/modified condition. Removal of vegetation and access of stock to waterways increases sedimentation, nutrient runoff and faecal 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, which 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

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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 the living wage rate on the date of signing the MOU).
- The area must be put into permanent retirement.
- Domestic stock must be excluded from the area.
- A minimum riparian margin of 5m wide is required as part of the funding criteria.
- All plants used must be ecologically sourced and appropriate to the area.
- A Memorandum of Understanding must be entered into outlining the future use of the area.

## Location / How to identify project suitability

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Priority will be given to projects that have the greatest potential positive benefit on water quality and biodiversity within the Kāpiti District. 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 considered.

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

**A final decision on funding support will be made by the Team Leader – Environment and Ecological Services.**

## MOU or Covenant

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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 the following example.

## Riparian Fund Memorandum of Understanding

The purpose of this document is to record mutual understanding and obligations regarding collaboration to protect and restore the riparian margins of waterways located at:

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


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

- Stock will be permanently excluded from the riparian margins of waterways by appropriate fencing, and fencing will be maintained to a stock-proof standard by the landowner.
- A minimum riparian margin of 5m wide is required as part of the funding criteria.
- Fenced and retired riparian margins will be planted with appropriate local native plant species within three years of retirement.
- Plants supplied by the Council will be maintained\* for three years to ensure successful establishment and growth
- Only native plants ecologically sourced from the appropriate Ecological District will be used for the project.

\* Plant maintenance entails controlling weeds and pest animals that threaten successful establishment and growth of native plants supplied.

This agreement is made on: \_\_\_\_\_

Between:

The Landowner/s

Kāpiti Coast District Council

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Appendix 1: Map of Property and Restoration Area

