



Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
Manatū Mo Te Taiao

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



ACTION FOR  
**HEALTHY WATERWAYS**  
NGĀ MAHI MŌ  
TE WHAKAORA WAI



## Support and advice available to farmers and communities

This information sheet is one of a series explaining the new Action for healthy waterways regulations and how they will work. **This sheet focuses on how the Government is supporting** changes to improve land-use practices and achieve better freshwater outcomes.

**Information on new investment announced in Budget 2020 is also provided.**

### Support and funding you can apply for now

The programmes listed below can link farmers and growers with advice and support, and some can contribute funding for projects to improve environmental outcomes on farm. This is not an exhaustive list. More information is available at the websites listed at the end of this section.

#### **Sustainable Food & Fibre Futures – support for innovative projects**

Sustainable Food & Fibre Futures (SFF Futures) is a Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) programme that co-invests in projects that aim to make a difference to New Zealand's agriculture, food and fibre sector. SFF Futures can co-invest in a range of projects – from small, one-off initiatives needing a small grant to long-running, multi-million-dollar partnerships. It may be a new product or service, or a better way of doing something. You contribute co-investment (financial and/or in-kind) over the life of the project.

Projects can include developing new products or services, undertaking research, boosting environmental outcomes, increasing skills and capability, and knowledge and information sharing.

#### **More information**

Information about the types of projects SFF Futures can co-invest in, contact details, and guidelines for applicants are available at [www.sff-futures.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.sff-futures.mpi.govt.nz).

You can also email the team at [sff.futures@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:sff.futures@mpi.govt.nz).

## Māori Agribusiness Extension (MABx) Programme

MABx helps Māori land trustees or agribusinesses connect with others to undertake change with confidence. It focuses on providing shared, group-learning opportunities and exploring sustainable system changes to deliver better environmental and economic outcomes.

### More information

To find out how the MABx Programme can help, email the team at [maoriagribusiness@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:maoriagribusiness@mpi.govt.nz) or visit our website: [www.mpi.govt.nz/maori-agribusiness](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/maori-agribusiness).

## Advice and funding for planting trees to improve or protect water quality

**The One Billion Trees (1BT) Fund** can help you plant the right tree, in the right place, for the right purpose.

1BT Direct Grants are available to help landowners with the costs of planting trees or reverting land back to native forest. 1BT Partnership Funding supports projects such as catchment restoration, workforce development, and scientific or technological innovations. A current focus is on supporting landowners to plant trees to restore erosion-prone land, and to plant higher value exotic species (often hardwoods) and indigenous plantation forestry (including Mānuka). Generally, a contribution either financially and/or in-kind is required.

### More information

Information about Direct Grants and Partnership Funding, including One Billion Trees application criteria, is available at [www.mpi.govt.nz/1BT](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/1BT) or email the team at [1bt@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:1bt@mpi.govt.nz).

If you have areas of less productive or erosion-prone land on your farm, trees can help keep it stable, and you could benefit from on-farm forest planting by earning carbon credits through the **New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS)**.

Te Uru Rākau funds the Hill Country Erosion (HCE) Programme to both plan for and treat erosion-prone land using sustainable management practices. It is run through a number of regional councils and unitary authorities. The HCE Fund complements the One Billion Trees Fund, and you can apply for grants from both funds for different planting activities. For the Gisborne district, there is additional funding available through the Erosion Control Funding Programme (ECFP), which is focused on reducing wide-scale erosion problems.

### More information

Information about the HCE Programme is available at [www.mpi.govt.nz/hce](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/hce) or email [forestgrants@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:forestgrants@mpi.govt.nz).

For information about planting trees to earn carbon credits in the NZ ETS, phone 0800 CLIMATE (0800 25 46 28) or email [climatechange@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:climatechange@mpi.govt.nz).

## Advice and guidance from others with experience – rural support trusts

### Rural support trusts

Are you concerned about someone – a family member, partner, worker, yourself?

Your local rural support trust is a great place to start for a free and confidential chat. Rural support trusts have people experienced in farming, getting through adverse events, and stress management and, with your agreement, can put you in touch with other services that can help.

Call 0800 787 254 (0800 RURAL HELP) to arrange a free and confidential chat on the phone, at your place or somewhere else that suits you.

[www.rural-support.org.nz](http://www.rural-support.org.nz)

## Links to industry, community, government and on-farm environmental projects

The following websites contain numerous case studies of growers, farmers and communities who have been taking care of their land for generations, and others who have started more recently to make changes.

There are also links to sources of funding support to make improvements on your farm. Many councils also offer direct support and/or advice.

The Provincial Growth Fund can support projects that benefit the region

<https://www.growregions.govt.nz/get-funding/>

Beef + Lamb NZ – Introduction to freshwater quality

<https://beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/module/introduction-freshwater-quality>

Beef + Lamb NZ – Stock and water management

<https://beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/module/stock-water-management>

DairyNZ – advice on caring for waterways

[www.dairynz.co.nz/environment/waterways/](http://www.dairynz.co.nz/environment/waterways/)

DairyNZ – advice on managing nitrogen fertiliser

[https://www.dairynz.co.nz/media/5788746/tech\\_series\\_december\\_2017\\_web.pdf](https://www.dairynz.co.nz/media/5788746/tech_series_december_2017_web.pdf)

Ministry for the Environment – Good Farming Practice working group and guides

[www.mfe.govt.nz/fresh-water/we-all-have-role-play/land](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/fresh-water/we-all-have-role-play/land)

Ministry for the Environment - Freshwater Improvement fund and projects

[www.mfe.govt.nz/more/funding/freshwater-improvement-fund/freshwater-improvement-fund-projects/table-of-projects](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/funding/freshwater-improvement-fund/freshwater-improvement-fund-projects/table-of-projects)

Ministry for Primary Industries – guidance on healthy waterways and links to other information

[www.mpi.govt.nz/growing-and-harvesting/land-care-and-farm-management/farm-management-for-healthy-waterways/](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/growing-and-harvesting/land-care-and-farm-management/farm-management-for-healthy-waterways/)

Ministry for Primary Industries – hill country erosion programme

[www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/environment-and-natural-resources/hill-country-erosion-programme/funded-hill-country-erosion-programmes/](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/environment-and-natural-resources/hill-country-erosion-programme/funded-hill-country-erosion-programmes/)

NZ Landcare Trust – find out how to set up a catchment group

[www.landcare.org.nz/resource-item/starting-a-catchment-group](http://www.landcare.org.nz/resource-item/starting-a-catchment-group)

One Billion Trees – Matariki Tu Rākau community planting projects

[www.teururakau.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/forestry/planting-one-billion-trees/matariki-tu-rakau/](http://www.teururakau.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/forestry/planting-one-billion-trees/matariki-tu-rakau/)

One Billion Trees – landowner planting grants

[www.teururakau.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/forestry/planting-one-billion-trees/one-billion-tree-fund/#landowner](http://www.teururakau.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/forestry/planting-one-billion-trees/one-billion-tree-fund/#landowner)

## Investing in our environment and our primary sector

In announcing the Action for healthy waterways package, the Government has been clear that our food and fibre sectors will play a critical role in New Zealand’s economic future, including as we recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

The Government continues to be committed to supporting the transition to a more sustainable economy as well as improving freshwater outcomes.

Through investment of over \$700 million from Budget 2020 (from July 2020), the primary sector, iwi/Māori, local government and their communities will be supported in implementing freshwater-related activity.

Budget 2020 makes a \$232 million investment targeted specifically at increasing jobs in the primary sector and rural New Zealand, and sector growth opportunities, including:

- \$100 million committed to control wilding pines and \$28m to control wallabies to protect farmers from costly pests and also provide hundreds of jobs for people most affected by COVID-19
- \$45.3 million for the horticulture sector over four years to help it seize opportunities for future growth
- \$19.3 million to help attract and train recently unemployed New Zealanders to grow the primary sector workforce by 10,000 people over the next four years
- \$20.2 million to help rural and fishing communities recover from COVID-19.

Direct investment in environmental projects includes:

- an additional \$10 million of Catchment Group funding has been established through Te Uru Rākau to provide support to existing catchment groups for projects not previously eligible for One Billion Trees funding. These include planting of non-tree species (eg, grasses and shrubs), planting smaller areas and narrower riparian margins, and activities that underpin successful planting such as pest control and capability support
- \$55 million from July 2020 through the Freshwater Improvement Fund which supports projects that help communities manage freshwater within environmental limits
- \$100 million from the Provincial Growth Fund for waterway fencing, riparian planting and stock water reticulation (see <https://www.growregions.govt.nz/> to find a regional investment advisor you can talk to)
- a \$433 million package to fund 4000 jobs over five years in regional environmental projects, which will include restoring mini wetlands, stabilising river banks, removing sediment, and providing for fish passage. Details on how this money will be invested will be available on the Ministry for the Environment’s website once confirmed.

## Vision for the primary sector – fit for a better world means healthy freshwater

The Primary Sector Council’s vision for the future of New Zealand’s agriculture, food and fibres sector, which was launched in December 2019, is committed to meeting the greatest challenges humanity faces; rapidly moving to a low-carbon emissions society; restoring the health of our water; reversing the decline in biodiversity; and at the same time, feeding our people.

This vision was developed after consulting with hundreds of New Zealanders from all parts of the agriculture, food and fibre industries and rural communities.

Central to the vision is Te Taiao – a holistic framework for how our food is produced and how value chains will be shaped for a sustainable, low-carbon future.

Achieving this vision for the future of New Zealand’s food and fibre sectors will be supported by the Government’s decisions on Actions for healthy waterways.

### Disclaimer

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