

Report No.	19-136
Information Only - No Decision Required	

LAND MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT AND PROGRESS UPDATE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This report covers work carried out by the Natural Resources and Partnership – Land Management team for the 2018-19 financial year. It includes the activity areas of SLUI, Regional Land and Coast, and Nursery. The annexes provide an update on progress for this financial year (1 July to 15 August 2019).
- 1.2. Traditionally this report has been included as part of the annual Operational Plan.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. This report focusses on the operational targets of the Annual Plan 2018-19 and the contract targets with the Ministry for Primary Industries, and provides an overview of achievements in relation to the budgets allocated.
- 2.2. All of the Annual Plan 2018-19 operational targets were achieved. Activities included 3,613 hectares of on-farm work including over 2.3 million trees planted and 156 km of fencing completed.
- 2.3. Our Whole Farm Plan (WFP) programme achieved 22,968 ha of new farm plans mapped bringing the overall total of WFPs within SLUI to 552,067 ha (745 plans).
- 2.4. Our nurseries produced a record number of poles, and procured more to enable over 37,000 poles to be distributed for erosion control works.
- 2.5. We undertook two extra contracted projects with funding from Central Government through the Ministry for Primary Industries and Te Uru Rākau drawing in an additional \$707,000 of central government funding.
- 2.6. We continued to support industry and good management farming practices in our region particularly through our support of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards and the Poplar and Willow Research Trust.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-136 and Annexes.

4. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 4.1. There are no direct financial impacts associated with this report. However, it does update members on a number of financial matters associated with SLUI, Regional and Coast, and Nursery activities.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1. Consultation was carried out through the 2012-22 Long-term Plan (LTP) submission process and the recent Annual Plan process.

- 5.2. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has a key role in part-funding and overseeing the SLUI section of this activity.
- 5.3. The SLUI Advisory Group is updated on SLUI progress approximately every six months. The group is tentatively due to meet again in November at the Woodville pole nursery.

6. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT

- 6.1. There are no significant risks inherent in the adoption of the recommendations contained in this report.

7. BACKGROUND

The Land & Partnerships Team

- 7.1. The Land team is managed by Grant Cooper.
- 7.2. There are three teams and each team is coordinated as follows:
 - 7.2.1. Land Information – Coordinator Malcolm Todd; the team is responsible for recording progress and reporting results, inputting all claim and management data, monitoring and audit, soil health advice, and State of Environment soil monitoring.
 - 7.2.2. Land Management Regional and Coast – Coordinator Libby Owen; manages staff in the Turakina, Rangitikei, Manawatū, and other catchments and coastal area. Coordinates relationships with Ballance Farm Environment Awards, Poplar and Willow Trust, and Beef and Lamb.
- 7.3. Land Management Whanganui Catchment and Forestry – Coordinator John Jamieson; manages staff in the Whanganui, Whangaehu and western catchments, the Whanganui Catchment Strategy, Whanganui River Enhancement Trust, our Joint Venture forests, and nurseries. Coordinates relationships with forestry groups.
- 7.4. During the year Dave Harrison retired, Sarah Nicholson went onto maternity leave, and Myles Guy and Bryan McCavana resigned.
- 7.5. Libby Owen has moved into the Regional and Coast Coordinator role, and we have recruited Daniel Regtien and Phil Hodges. As at early August, we are recruiting for a Land Manager to replace Myles Guy.
- 7.6. Two new positions were created during the year: Land Management Advisor – Forestry (Josh Penn) and Information Support (Charlotte Holdsworth).

Annual Plan, Contract Targets and Operational Plan Results

7.7. The tables below provide an overview of the Land team results against annual work targets. More commentary on these results is provided in the Activity section of this report.

Table 1: Annual Plan results 2018-19

MEASURE	TARGET	RESULT	%	COMMENT
Sustainable Land Use Initiative				
Erosion reduction works programmes in targeted SLUI catchments (hectares)	3,100	3,155	102	Less hectares covered but more jobs completed than last year
Hectares of Whole Farm Plan properties mapped per year	20,000	22,968	115	There are still plans on the waiting list to be completed
Regional Land Initiatives, WCS, Coastal and Nursery				
Manage Environmental Grant programme to deliver erosion reduction works (hectares)	175	457	261	Well in excess of target; some support from Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) project
Support industry initiatives that promote sustainable land use via industry partnerships (incl. Whanganui River Enhancement Trust)	5	7	140	PWRT, BFEA, Beef & Lamb NZ, Middle Districts FFA, LandWise, FLRC and SFF
Operate Council nursery and source additional commercial material to deliver poles (poplar and willow) to erosion control programmes (number of poles)	30,000	37,624	125	A record level of Council production

PWRT – Poplar & Willow Research Trust, BFEA – Ballance Farm Environment Awards, FFA – Farm Forestry Association, FLRC – Fertiliser Lime Research Centre, SFF – Sustainable Farming Fund.

Table 2: SLUI contract results 2018-19

MEASURE	TARGET	RESULT	%	COMMENT
Sustainable Land Use Initiative				
Erosion reduction works programmes in targeted SLUI catchments (hectares)	3,100	3,155	102	
Hectares of Whole Farm Plan (WFP) properties mapped per year	15,000	22,968	153	
Hectares of WFP properties mapped in priority catchments (hectares)	10,500	21,985	209	A subset of 22,968
Supplementary SLUI				
Plant poles (Ruapehu storm response)	2,000	2,005	100	
On farm assessments for eligibility of poplar/willow poles into the ETS and (see below)	2	2	100	
One case study on above	1	1	100	
Hectares of reversion projects completed	500	0	0	
Riparian plants established	13,000	22,691	175	
Provincial Growth Fund				
Planting mixed species trees on 1,000 ha of erosion prone land	1.3 million	883,970	68	
Customised forestry appraisals for farm scale forestry	20	22	110	

Table 3: Operational Plan results 2018-19 (targets are key actions from the Operational Plan, not “hard” contractual targets)

MEASURE	TARGET	RESULT	%	COMMENT
Sustainable Land Use Initiative				
Sediment load reduction report	1	0	0	Variation of contract agreed, using information from the SLUI review rather than a new report
SLUI Advisory Group meetings held	2	2	100	Achieved
Catchment Operations Committee meetings and minutes	5	5	100	Achieved
Client case study	1	1	100	Achieved
New SLUI application submitted, successful and new contract signed	1	1	100	Achieved
Regional and Coast				
Manage Environmental Grant projects (R&C)	50	53	106	Achieved
Manage Environmental Grant projects (WCS) including WRET funding	50	46	92	Less jobs but 319 ha of work completed compared to 117 ha last year
Run soil health workshops	2	1	50	Not achieved In conjunction with Deer industry
Continue to implement State of Environment soil health monitoring programme	1	1	100	Achieved
New SOE monitoring sites	10	10	100	Achieved Completed last spring
Commit funding to the NZ Poplar and Willow Trust	1	1	100	Achieved
Commit funding and support to the Ballance Farm Environment Award programme within our region	1	1	100	Achieved
Nurseries				
Provide trial sites suitable for bulking new poplar and willow clones	2	4	200	Four new trial sites established
Finalise pole strategy (nursery)	1	1	100	Achieved In conjunction with HBRC
Complete capital upgrade and Woodville nursery	-	-		Site development completed. Still to investigate irrigation

Financial Results

- 7.8. Overall financial results are reported in the Annual Report. The Annual Report results include Fluvial Resources and Land Research activities, which are part of the NRP – Science activity.
- 7.9. The financial results for the land management programme, excluding the land science programme, are outlined below.

Revenue

- 7.10. An increase in revenue of \$0.707 million due to SLUI, the Supplementary SLUI Programme (SSP) and Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) programmes. There was also additional nursery revenue of \$0.089 million.

Expenditure

- 7.11. Expenditure exceeded budget by \$0.233 million, which includes a favourable result in Regional and Coast (\$0.072 million), offset by expenditure in excess of budget in SLUI (\$0.182 million) and Nursery (\$0.118 million).
- 7.12. Capital expenditure exceeded budget due to approved use of SLUI reserves for development of the Woodville nursery.

Overall land management activity

- 7.13. The end-of-year result varied from the Annual Plan. There were two significant new funding programmes entered into during the financial year: the PGF and the SSP. Together these created more expenditure by the team along with more revenue. At approved levels these programmes committed Council to use of SLUI reserves.
- 7.14. The following table shows the contracted and delivered cost share of PGF funded programmes.

Table 4: PGF contracted cost share

PGF	HRC/SLUI	HRC ALONE	LANDOWNER	TOTAL
Contracted Cost				
970,600	7,703	391,943	526,765	1,933,010
Delivered Cost				
587,279	153,993		470,212	1,211,484

- 7.15. The projected additional contracted spend for this project was \$391,943, which was partially offset by less expenditure in SLUI. The final result was an additional spend of \$153,993.
- 7.16. Less work was carried out than the application requested resulting in lower costs to PGF and Horizons. The lower level of work was primarily due to the changing funding environment from Central Government with alternate grant rates (e.g. free mānuka trees) made available during the year.
- 7.17. The following table shows the contracted and delivered cost share of SSP funded programmes.

Table 5: SSP contracted cost share

SSP	HRC/SLUI	LANDOWNER	TOTAL
Contracted Cost			
310,750	310,750	19,500	641,000
Delivered Cost			
66,907	66,907	54,501	188,315

- 7.18. Assuming the full contract was met, there would have been an extra cost to Horizons of \$310,750. These costs were primarily a 50/50 share of works for the Ruapehu pole planting programme and a 25/25/50 share of works within SLUI farm plans.
- 7.19. Less work was carried out than the application requested. The proposed major work by cost was the reversion of pasture to forest; however, this did proceed.
- 7.20. The overall results for all the land activity are shown in Table 6. The programme was \$1,153 million favourable, primarily due to additional central government revenue and increased income from the forestry revaluation.

Table 6: Revenue and expenditure for NRP land activity

ACTUALS	RATES REVENUE	EXTERNAL REVENUE	TOTAL REVENUE	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	NET RESULT	% EXTERNAL REVENUE
SLUI	3,677,003	1,139,500	4,816,503	4,550,085	266,418	24%
Forestry revaluation	348,000	346,052	694,052	-	694,052	-
SSP	-	68,737	68,737	73,697	(4,960)	100%
PGF	-	587,279	587,279	445,977	141,302	100%
R&C	681,140	90,489	771,629	674,585	97,044	12%
Nursery	1,590	640,449	642,039	682,686	(40,647)	100%
Total	4,707,733	2,872,506	7,580,239	6,427,030	1,153,209	38%
Less forest revaluation						459,157

7.21. Key points:

- SLUI revenue at \$1,139,500 was \$50,993 more than budgeted due to late payment from the 2017-18 MPI contract;
- Overall SLUI expenditure at \$4,550,085 was \$340,435 less than budget. This was due in part to PGF expenditure on afforestation offsetting some SLUI expenditure, less contractor charges to complete WFP, and riparian fencing programmes being incomplete at the end of the year;
- The increase in the SLUI Joint Venture forest value was double what had been budgeted reflecting continued strong log markets at the time of the valuation (March–April 2019). This increase in value is reflected in the SLUI balance sheet not in the SLUI cash position;
- SSP and PGF resulted in increased revenue and expenditure of \$656,016 in the work programme this year. Some of the PGF expenditure remains within the SLUI work coding. Overall the PGF programme and SSP were a net increase in cost to the SLUI programme;

- The Regional and Coast activity revenue at \$771,629 was \$25,489 more than budgeted due to an additional payment from WRET for marginal land use appraisals. This income was offset by external consultant expenditure to carry out the appraisals;
- Overall Regional and Coast expenditure at \$674,585 was \$71,555 less than budget. This was due to less labour cost (staff time) and lower Environmental Grant expenditure with the PGF programme picking up some budgeted afforestation costs;
- The Nursery activity revenue at \$642,039 was \$88,999 more than budget due to increased nursery sales from nursery production and product being bought in;
- Nursery expenditure at \$682,686 was \$117,576 more than budget reflecting extra cost in growing more poles and product purchases, and expanding new production beds;
- Overall the nursery made a loss of \$40,647 due to additional investment to enable greater production as current forecasts show demand exceeds supply;
- External revenue makes up 38 per cent of total revenue, or 33 per cent if the forestry revaluation is excluded;
- SLUI UAC rated activity had a favourable result. When the forestry revaluation was excluded this totalled \$402,760 available to SLUI reserves; and
- Regional Land and Coast, and Nursery general rated activities had a favourable result of \$56,397.

Activity Results

7.22. The favourable financial end-of-year results were within a work programme that also achieved all its main targets. The SLUI and Environmental Grant programmes exceeded all environmental works targets. This was helped by additional funding from the PGF programme that supported afforestation projects within the region.

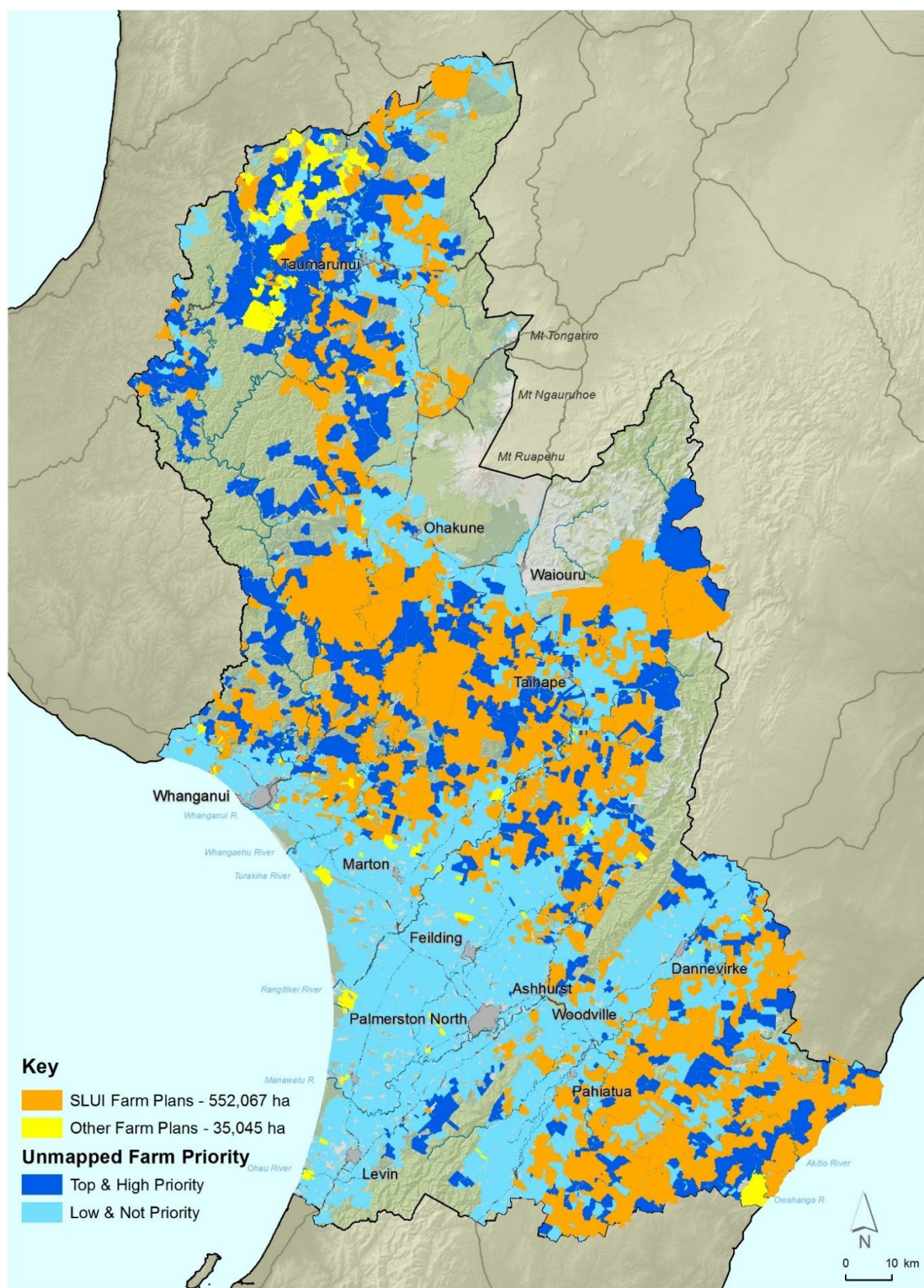
Table 7: Summary of work programme for land activity by activity area

PROGRAMME	# JOBS	TOTAL \$	GRANT \$	HECTARES	NO. TREES	FENCING (M)
SLUI SSP	59	149,997	95,495	71	28,557	
SLUI PGF	38	880,685	469,276	759	828,699	
SLUI AGS/1BT	3	-	-	489	932,612	
SLUI	380	3,030,471	1,438,833	1,838	461,932	142,446
Total SLUI	480	4,061,152	2,003,604	3,155	2,251,800	142,446
WCS PGF	4	157,280	78,640	39	25,671	
WCS	42	305,743	123,398	281	4,617	3,491
Total WCS	46	463,023	202,038	319	30,288	3,491
Egrant PGF	7	43,477	16,543	27	29,600	
Egrant	46	249,174	74,589	111	8,046	10,865
Total Egrant	53	292,651	91,132	138	37,646	10,865
TOTAL	579	4,816,827	2,296,774	3,613	2,319,734	156,801

7.23. The key points:

- There were 579 jobs claimed over all the activity areas within SLUI, which is an increase from 480 jobs claimed last year;
- Total expenditure on works was just over \$4.8 million. The various grant programmes committed \$2.296 million and landowners committed \$2.52 million (52 per cent);
- 3,613 ha of works were completed and claimed. SLUI totalled 3,155 ha of works and all programmes achieved their targets;
- 2.3 million trees were planted including 36,293 poplar and willow poles; and
- 156 km of fencing was completed. The bulk of this was carried out for riparian or wetland retirements.

SLUI, SSP and PGF Activity



SLUI Plan Progress

Map prepared by W McKay, NRP Group on 20/08/2019

Map 1: SLUI target farms and Whole Farm Plans

- 7.24. The SLUI work programme met all its contract targets with MPI. This included the target for new WFP with 22,968 ha of new plans mapped. This result brings the total area of WFP under SLUI to over 552,000 ha across 745 farms.
- 7.25. The work programme involved 480 individual claims (437 in the previous year) on over 300 farms, and our rate of “active farm plans” has continued to increase over the year. In the 12 months ending June 2019 we had improved from 79 per cent of plans active to 83 per cent.
- 7.26. Priority targeting of farm plans and provision of grants for works completed continue to have an emphasis. In doing this we will treat our top priority farmland, the land providing the greatest quantity of sediment to water, at the fastest possible rate.
- 7.27. This year we have completed 3,155 ha of work under SLUI, with 571 ha on top priority land (20 per cent); 1,263 ha on high priority land (40 per cent); 1,095 ha on erosion prone land; and 119 ha on land that is not prone to erosion. Over the life of the programme to date, a total of 37,268 ha of work has been completed. Of this, 11,855 ha of work has been on top priority land.
- 7.28. As a rule of thumb top priority land is likely to produce 100 times more sediment than non-priority land, and at the extreme level, Manaaki Whenua LCR suggest our most erodible land classes will produce 400 times more sediment than the lesser erodible land classes.

Table 8: Summary of work programme for SLUI, SSP and PGF by work type

WORK TYPE	# JOBS	TOTAL \$	GRANT \$	HECTARES	NO. TREES	FENCING (M)
Afforestation - PGF	38	880,685	516,048	759	828,699	
Afforestation - AGS	3	-	-	489	93,2612	
Afforestation - SLUI	15	584,577	254,612	319	42,9780	18,214
Retirement - SLUI	27	537,660	239,249	515	3,051	29,052
Riparian Retirement - SSP	27	86,139	41,061	25	22,691	
Riparian Retirement - SLUI	85	1,067,019	555,916	333	300	77,822
Wetland Retirement - SSP	7	18,848	9,424	7	3,861	
Wetland Retirement - SLUI	15	152,845	75,172	25	117	10,784
Managed Retirement - SLUI	3	86,076	29,854	19	0	6,574
Space/Gully Planting - SSP	25	45,010	45,010	39	2,005	
Space/Gully Planting - SLUI	232	593,568	297,137	624	28,834	
Structures/Earthworks SLUI	3	27,707	11,054	3	0	
Other - SLUI						
Total	480	4,080,134	2,074,537	3,155	2,251,950	142,446

- 7.29. Total grant expenditure over the work programme was \$2.074 million. This is an increase on last year when grant expenditure was \$1.778 million. As with last year, the commitment of funds to grant works was greater than the final claims. In February 2019 the forecast grant expenditure was \$3.283 million, including \$1.568 million of riparian and wetland fencing. The final fencing expenditure was \$0.681 million.
- 7.30. Afforestation was largely on track with over 2.19 million trees planted through SLUI, AGS and PGF. Of the 1,565 ha planted, 75 per cent were in mānuka. The largest individual job was 209 ha and 230,000 mānuka seedlings planted. The largest radiata pine planting was 68 ha and 70,000 seedlings. The average size of planting blocks was 28 hectares.

- 7.31. Along with riparian and bush retirement fencing, there were a number of areas where plantings were carried out either for riparian protection or bush infill planting. These were overwhelmingly native seedlings with just over 30,000 plants established. The SSP contributed to 22,691 of these plantings at a 50 per cent cost share between MPI and Horizons.
- 7.32. Space planting of poplar and willow poles included 28,834 poles planted in SLUI and a further 2,005 poles planted under the SSP in the Ruapehu erosion support programme. This was the highest SLUI planting year in the SLUI programme to date.
- 7.33. Overall the planting programmes were carried out to a high standard with survival rates across all planting types averaging over 80 per cent. This positive survival rate can be attributed to good planting stock, good ground preparation and planting techniques, and favourable growing conditions. There were two sites that stood out with poor survival. A mānuka planting of 12 ha claimed under PGF achieved only 48 per cent survival, with the landowner since committing to a blanking programme. A mixed mānuka and native planting that had very poor survival was not claimed, and the landowner will blank and re-submit the area for grant payment.

PGF

- 7.34. The contracted funding with PGF was for a central government share of \$970,600 and Horizons share (from SLUI or SLUI reserves) of \$391,943. The contract did not meet the targets with only 883,970 trees established against a target of 1,354,890 trees.
- 7.35. In reporting the results to PGF, circumstances changed considerably from the time of signing of the contract in mid-2018. Additional central government funding announcements through the One Billion Trees programme allowed landowners to choose different funding sources. A “free mānuka” seedling programme resulted in four PGF projects and 648,000 trees being lost to the programme.
- 7.36. The final programme outcome was accepted and payment received, resulting in a dollar saving to SLUI.

SSP

- 7.37. The contracted funding with SSP was for a central government share of \$310,750 and Horizons share (from SLUI or SLUI reserves) of \$310,750. This contract did not meet the targets with all of the proposed reversion work not being taken up resulting in a saving of \$250,000 to each party. Additional central government funding announcements through the One Billion Trees programme allowed landowners to choose a reversion fund offering \$500 per ha more than the offer proposed under the SSP contract. Two projects with a possible 330 ha of work have not proceeded as landowners consider their options, and one project of 200 ha is progressing with an application for funding under the One Billion Trees programme.
- 7.38. Key points in SLUI activity:
- Completion and publication of the SLUI Review;
 - Successful application to the fourth SLUI funding contract, resulting in funding of \$6.4 million over four years and the new contract signed in early August 2019;
 - Completion of two case studies: one on continuous canopy forestry and the other on entering pole planting into the Emissions Trading Scheme;
 - Support of the ACRE field day highlighting environmental progress made on a SLUI property;
 - Maintaining the completion time of a farm plan at around 160 days against a target of 250 days;

- Maintaining interest in the SLUI WFP with landowners on a wait list for the 2019-20 financial year;
- Maintaining Joint Venture forestry operations within budget and completion of a re-valuation to audit requirements;
- Improving the SLUI database;
- Completion of milestone reporting to MPI; and
- Maintaining the grant programme records and shapefiles, recording where funding went across all the potential funding streams.



Photo 1: Land preparation for mānuka establishment on LUC Class 7e11 land; SLUI WFP property with funding from PGF. Photo courtesy of Courtney Haywood, October 2019

Regional Coast and Land Activity (including WCS and WRET)

7.39. The Regional Coast and Land activity met all its Annual Plan targets. The targets for Environmental Grant programmes in Regional and WCS were both exceeded, and when additional PGF tree planting was added, the hectares of work achieved was 260 per cent over target.

Tables 9 and 10: Summary of Environmental Grant programme for Regional and WCS

WORK TYPE	# JOBS	TOTAL \$	GRANT \$	HECTARES	NO. TREES	FENCING (M)
Afforestation - PGF	7	43,477	16,542	27	29,600	
Afforestation - E grant	2	40,157	11,884	4	4,600	1,179
Retirement - E grant	4	35,094	10,528	19	339	3,708
Riparian Retirement - E grant	4	92,183	27,654	45	-	5,978
Wetland Retirement - E grant	1	29,397	8,819	0	300	
Managed Retirement - E grant						
Space/Gully Planting - E grant	34	50,919	15,275	43	2,807	
Structures/Earthworks - E grant						
Other - E grant	1	1,425	427	0	-	
Total	53	292,651	91,131	138	37,646	10,865

WORK TYPE	# JOBS	TOTAL \$	GRANT \$	HECTARES	NO. TREES	FENCING (M)
Afforestation - PGF	4	157,280	78,640	39	25,671	
Afforestation - WCS						
Retirement - WCS	4	107,720	38,621	212	1,970	-
Riparian Retirement - WCS	13	123,709	54,518	21	-	3,491
Wetland Retirement - WCS	1	5,765	2,430	1	-	-
Managed Retirement - WCS						
Space/Gully Planting - WCS	24	68,549	27,830	46	2,647	
Structures/Earthworks - WCS						
Other - WCS						
Total	46	463,023	202,038	319	30,288	3,491

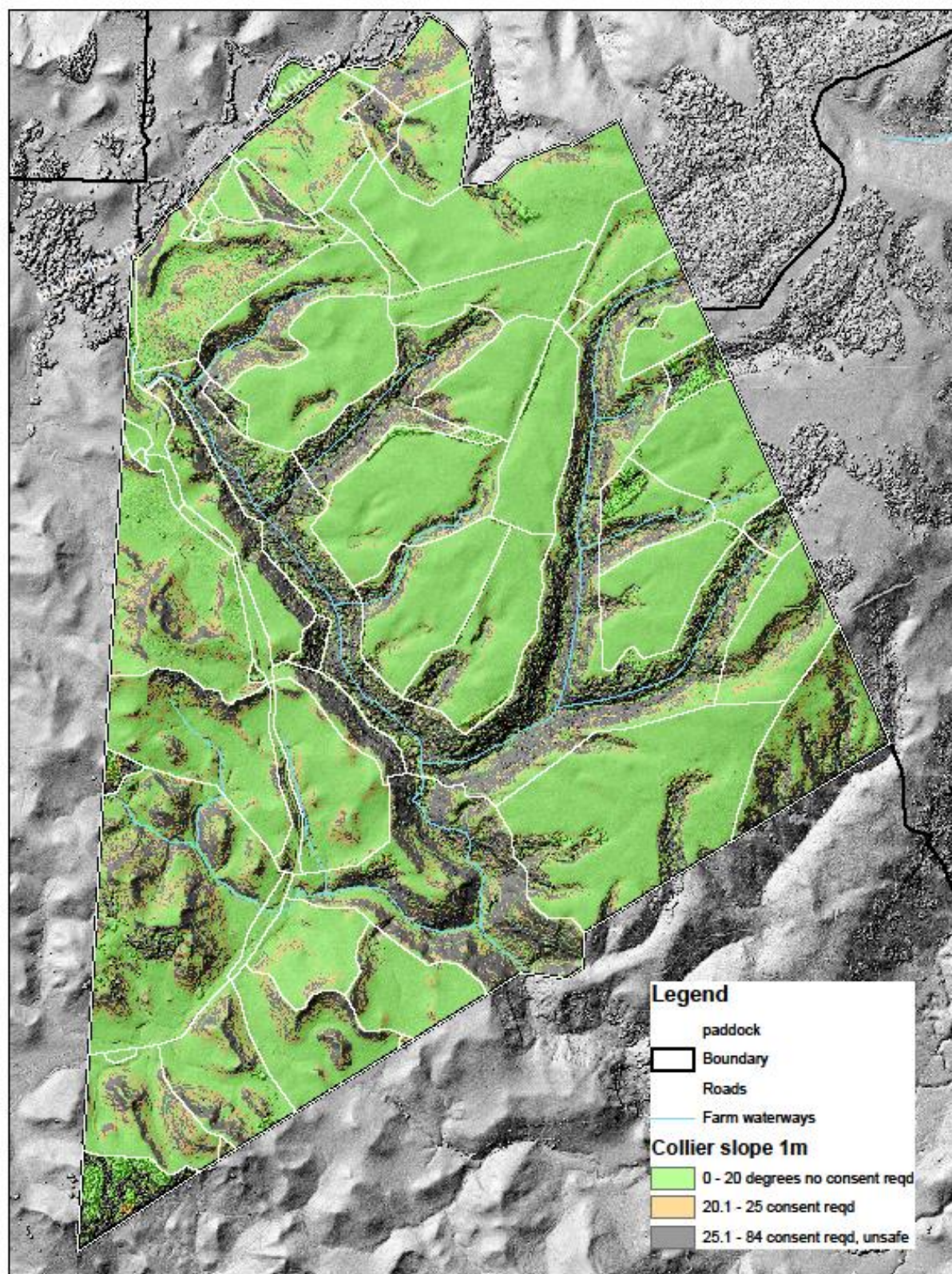
7.40. The land Environmental Grant programme consisted of 53 projects with a total grant spend of \$91,131. Seven projects were fully funded by the PGF totalling \$16,542. The remaining programme spend of \$74,589 was against a budget of \$80,000.

7.41. Afforestation (PGF and Environmental Grant (E grant)) accounted for 30 ha of work and over 34,000 trees planted. These were typically smaller jobs (up to 10 ha) and mostly radiata pine.

7.42. The bulk of the work programme is pole planting, usually on land that isn't high priority for SLUI or with landowners who are only interested in pole planting and have been doing so for years. The average pole job was 80 poles with a range of 25–300 poles.

7.43. The WCS Environmental Grant programme consisted of 46 projects with a grant spend of \$202,037. Four projects were funded in full by PGF with a grant spend of \$78,640. Of the remaining spend of \$123,397, WRET contributed \$63,716 in grants to these projects. The emphasis is on work within the Ohura and Waikaka catchments relating to their high sediment loads, however the programme can include projects throughout the Whanganui River Catchment.

- 7.44. The afforestation projects funded by PGF were primarily mixed exotic species and natives. There were no radiata pine plantings and the largest block was 25 ha.
- 7.45. The bulk of the work by value was retirement fencing (bush, riparian and wetlands). One 2,200 m fence accounted for 110 ha of retirement work.
- 7.46. Space planting has been increasing throughout the catchment; 2,807 poles were planted across 34 projects. The average job was 116 poles planted with a range 10–500 poles planted. The Ruapehu pole planting project (SSP) accounted for another 2,005 poles planted last year. The total 4,812 poles planted in 2018-19 was an increase from the 3,800 planted in 2017-18.
- 7.47. Key points in this activity:
- Continued to develop our relationship with WRET and received their support in our move to account for WCS farm plans within the SLUI programme, allowing for wider works funding;
 - Completed another successful Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme, with staff providing input on the local organising committee, first round and finalist judging, and the winners field day;
 - Signed another two-year BFEA partnership agreement;
 - Supported the Poplar and Willow Research Trust. Horizons staff are members of the Technical Advisory Group and provide financial support through our Accounts department. One Horizons staff member is a member of the Trust through appointment by the Land Managers' Special Interest Group. The Taihape demonstration farm on SH 1 had signage erected this year. Staff continued to support the giant willow aphid trial with the research paper published this year;
 - Supported Sustainable Farming Fund projects around winter grazing and catch cropping. Final results back from MfE, Environment Canterbury and Horizons' project on aerial cropping;
 - Supported industry and other regional councils in winter grazing publicity campaign for the 2018 and 2019 winter seasons;
 - Completed the soil health monitoring programme with 10 new sites added last spring;
 - Investigated new techniques to derive slope information in hill country in the absence of regional LiDAR coverage. This was a collaborative effort with the Catchment Information team (see Map 2); and
 - Supported a number of new community catchment groups in the Rangitikei, Whangaeahu and northern Manawatu.



Collier Maukuku Rd slope for cultivation - 1m

Map drawn by M Todd

Hillshade and slope layer derived from 2016 Aerial photography

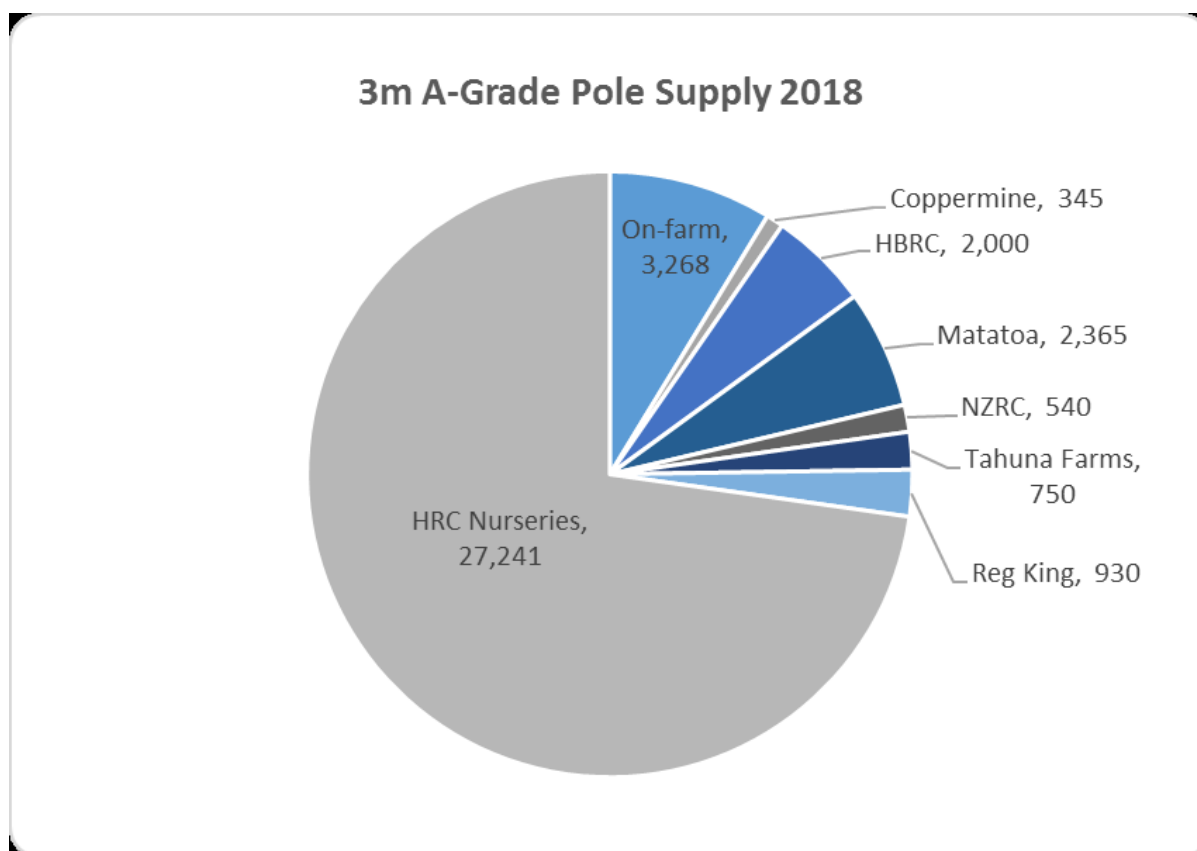
0 80 160 320 Meters



Map 2: Using aerial photos to derive slope map information. Map prepared by Malcolm Todd

Nursery Activity

- 7.48. The Nursery activity met its Annual Plan target with 37,624 poles distributed for use in erosion control plantings. This number relates to distribution of “A” and “B” grade poles for space planting operations. Additional poles of lower specifications and a number of stakes were also distributed.
- 7.49. Not all of these poles were grown in Horizons nurseries. Some were supplied by commercial growers and some supplied by farmers.
- 7.50. Horizons nurseries produced 73 per cent of the total number of three metre A-grade poles supplied this year. On-farm nurseries supplied 9 per cent and the remaining 18 per cent came from other nurseries.



Graph 1: A-grade pole suppliers in winter 2018

- 7.51. The Woodville nursery produced 22,500 of the total Horizons production (83 per cent).
- 7.52. The nursery budget is also used to buy in poles and sleeves required for erosion control plantings, pine seedlings for afforestation projects and a small number of native plants for riparian projects. Purchased material is on-charged to landowners undertaking work programmes.
- 7.53. The 2018-19 growing season has produced poles for the winter 2019 works. This will be formally recorded as part of the 2019-20 programme.
- 7.54. Production for winter 2019 will be lower due to fluctuations caused by nursery development work. The fluctuations in production will even out once all nursery development work is complete. We have also entered into MOU supply agreements with commercial growers and farmers to ensure the availability of poles into the future.

- 7.55. A nursery strategy/supply analysis was completed for North Island nurseries this year. This work was led by Hawke's Bay Regional Council and supported by Horizons. The results confirm our regional knowledge that demand for poles continues to exceed supply and that regional councils are the main supplier of material. Greater Wellington, Northland and Hawke's Bay regional councils are all looking to increase production. Collaborative work to investigate increasing supply is underway.
- 7.56. Development in the Woodville nursery continued with the major infrastructure now in place. This work includes the provision of a shed, access road and internal tracking, pole storage facility and new land brought into production.



Photo 2: Poles loaded at Woodville nursery for delivery to Taihape Depot. Photo courtesy of John Jamieson, July 2019

8. SIGNIFICANCE

- 8.1. This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

Grant Cooper

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER LAND

Jon Roygard

GROUP MANAGER NATURAL RESOURCES & PARTNERSHIPS

ANNEXES

- A Regional Coast, Land and Nursery Management Progress Report
- B Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) Progress Report