

# COMBINED ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS BASIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

# **FRESHWATER**

If you are wanting to fence off a waterway to exclude stock Horizons maybe able to help fund this project. Horizons freshwater team may also be able to assist with native planting within retired riparian margins.

There are some basic criteria, listed below, that need to be met to be eligible for funding;

- The type of fencing is negotiable and in some situations may only exclude cattle
- All stock types must be excluded from the area when planting is being undertaken
- Project sites must be visited by Horizons staff prior to any work taking place to ensure funding; retrospective funding cannot be given
- In most situations stock will need to be excluded from both sides to ensure they cannot walk across the waterway to access the retired area
- No boundary fences will be funded, however in some circumstances where the waterway forms the boundary funding may be available where both sides are fenced by individual land owners
- Animal and plant pests need to be identified and controlled prior to planting and ongoing maintenance is likely to be the responsibility of the land owner
- The funding maybe limited where large riparian areas are being planted

Funding levels range from 30-50% of the total cost depending on what catchment your property is within. We can also help with some logistics such as sourcing of plants and contractors.

### **LAND**

There are three different environmental land initiatives, which focus on erosion control and preventing sediment and associated nutrients entering our regions waterways. Your project may be eligible for funding from one of these initiatives listed below.

#### 1. Environmental grant

These funding grants are focused on erosion control and preventing sediment entering waterways, they can include tree planting, fencing and retirement. In the coastal area we will support sand dune stabilisation.

Funding is limited each year and the grant rate is usually 30% up to a maximum of \$10,000 per application.

#### 2. Whanganui Catchment Strategy

Grants are focused on improving the water quality within the Whanganui River and its' tributaries. Grants will include tree planting, waterway and retirement fencing and planting. Grant for planting may be limited depending on the level of funding available.

We are fortunate to have funding support from the Whanganui River Enhancement Trust and with their support grants can range from 30 - 70% of the total cost of works.

## 3. Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI)

The Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) will provide for grants to hill country properties where a Whole Farm Plan (WFP) has been prepared. The WFP is developed through the SLUI programme and is free for landowners of hill country properties.

SLUI is funded by Horizons ratepayers and Central Government through the Hill Country Erosion Fund. Grants are generally between 30 -70% and are available for a variety of works which target erosion and prevent sediment getting into watercourses. These works will include; stream fencing, land retirement, poplar and willow planting, and afforestation with pines, manuka and other species.

In all cases project funding is not retrospective, the site must be visited and the project approved by Horizons staff prior to any work being carried out.

#### **BIODIVERSITY**

If you want to fence off a wetland or some native bush to exclude stock Horizons may be able to help fund this project. We may also be able to assist with fencing, native planting within retired blocks, weed control to protect native habitats and predator control to protect native wildlife.

There are some basic criteria, listed below, that need to be met to be eligible for funding;

- The type of fencing is negotiable and in some situations may only exclude cattle
- All stock types must be excluded from the area when planting is being undertaken
- At planting sites, animal and plant pests need to be identified and controlled prior to planting and ongoing maintenance is likely to be the responsibility of the land owner
- The funding may be limited where large areas are being planted
- Project sites must be visited by Horizons staff and approved prior to any work taking place to ensure funding; retrospective funding cannot be given

Funding is limited each year and funding levels range from 30%-100% of the total cost depending on factors such as the significance of the site and environmental education benefits.