



Biodiversity

Biodiversity is one of the 'Big Four' critical environmental issues facing our Region. Our Region has lost much of its original indigenous habitat and our precious remnants are under threat from land development and pest plants and animals. Only 23% of our Region's original forest cover, and just 3% of our original lowland wetland-forest area remain today.

How does the One Plan address these issues?

The One Plan recognises that it is vital to protect, link and expand our natural areas of bush, wetland, coastal and aquatic habitats. The Plan focuses on Horizons being the lead agency for biodiversity management in the Region and puts the emphasis on managing habitats rather than on individual species or genetic biodiversity.

It sets out how Horizons plans to continue working with landowners and other interested groups to protect and enhance our Region's top bush remnants and wetlands, by providing advice and funding for fencing and other work.

Resource consents will be required for a number of activities that could damage habitats that are rare, threatened or at-risk.

What has changed since the Proposed One Plan was released?

Policies and other information clarifies how the One Plan will help landowners and councils recognise which biodiversity areas are significant and in need of protection. It also spells out criteria used for deciding on

the significance of an area of habitat and explains how different kinds of habitats are classified.

The Plan clarifies which activities require resource consents and which activities must be allowed by councils.

What do the One Plan rules mean for landowners and others?

A number of activities, including vegetation clearance, land disturbance and cultivation, and drainage and discharges require a resource consent in areas of rare, threatened and at-risk habitats. The focus on protecting whole habitats means that the rules do not cover someone wanting to cut down single trees on their property. See Chapters 7 & 12, Schedule E, Glossary.

How can Horizons help?

Horizons staff are happy to inspect any area that may come under the One Plan rules, provide information the council has available, and give advice to landowners. Advice and financial assistance is also available for biodiversity protection under Horizons' Environmental Grants programme. Measures such as bush regeneration and fencing wetlands are eligible for assistance under the Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) and the Whanganui Catchment Strategy.

DID YOU KNOW?

Horizons is already providing advice and financial incentives to many owners and other groups who are keen to actively manage and enhance their wetlands and bush remnants. The One Plan sets out the goal of having the Region's Top 100 wetlands under active management within 10 years of the Plan becoming operative.



Need more information?

A copy of the One Plan is available on Horizons' website www.horizons.govt.nz

To request a copy of the One Plan on CD or to speak with someone about how the changes may affect you freephone **0508 800 800**