SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI)

1. PURPOSE

1.1. This report is to update Members about progress on Horizons’ Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) for the period 1 January to 28 February 2019.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1. The report provides an overview of progress on SLUI for the 2018-19 financial year.

2.2. Since the SLUI programme began in 2006, more than 35,200 ha of work has been completed.

2.3. The allocated SLUI work programme so far indicates there will be more than 5,300 ha of work (target 3,000 ha) and $2.8 m of grant expenditure by the end of this financial year on June 30. Last year the grant expenditure totalled $1.778 m. Current works allocation suggests use of SLUI reserves may be necessary.

2.4. The extra funding to the Hill Country Erosion Fund (HCEF) through the HCE Funding Boost is reported against targets in this report. This boost in funding is referred to as the Supplementary SLUI Programme (SSP).

2.5. The successful Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) application has added further funding to SLUI and other grant funded programmes but is reported within this programme as the bulk of the targets are SLUI-related.

2.6. Horizons has secured a total of $6.493 million of central Government funding over the next four years through the Hill Country Erosion Fund (HCEF). This represents a 55% increase in the baseline SLUI funding when compared to this year. The amount of funding approved and the allocation of funding to work streams changes from year to year. Staff are currently working through the implications of these changes with Te Uru Rākau (TUR) with the aim of having a contract ready for signing by the end of April.

2.7. The new central government funding for the next four years is for specific works types. Forecast interest in forestry for next year exceed the combined resources for the HCF funding and Horizons rates with approximately 7,000 ha of forestry interest signalled for this year. Staff have been working with the Te Uru Rākau around potential funding through 1 Billion Trees and some of the work will clearly be able to be diverted to the 1 Billion Trees programme. However this has differing requirements and payment schedules to Horizons grants and may not be considered feasible by some landowners for the work they have proposed. At this stage the forecast is that Horizons will not be able to meet the demand for grants for forestry and some may not go ahead planned. Staff are working through options on revised grant rates and allocation arrangements for Councils consideration. The aim is to provide more detailed information to Council at the June Catchment Operations Committee.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends that Council:

a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-54.
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, the Provincial Growth Fund and Supplementary SLUI Programme.

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 of Primary Industries (MPI) has a key role in part funding and overseeing this activity.

5.3. The SLUI Advisory Group is updated approximately every six months about progress with this programme and receives copies of these agenda items. The group last met on 25 September. The next meeting is planned for June 11.

6. **SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT**

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

7. **BACKGROUND**

7.1. SLUI has been in operation in the Region since 2006. The initiative, targeting hill country erosion, is funded from Central Government’s HCEF plus Horizons’ rates and farmer contributions.

7.2. MPI is contracted to contribute to SLUI $1.15 m of its $2.2 m in total available funds through the national HCEF this year. The Government’s 2018 May budget announcement added $1.8 m to this fund.

7.3. SLUI is delivered by Horizons in partnership with the HCEF and MPI, through a contracted works programme which sets targets for plans and works completed.

7.4. This report is delivered in year four of a four-year contract with MPI, which runs until 30 June 2019.

7.5. This year’s work programme includes an additional $310,750 though SSP and $970,600 through PGF.

8. **REPORT ON PROGRESS**

**Contract and Annual Plan Targets (2018-19)**

8.1. The claim process is ramping up as planting programmes are complete and autumn fencing projects begin to come through. March to May are traditionally the biggest time for claims.
8.2. The contract targets for 2018-19 are:

- 28,000 poles planted;
- 900 ha of non-retirement work;
- 1,150 ha of forestry established;
- 350 ha retired;
- 500 ha riparian retirement;
- 100 ha managed retirement;
- 15,000 ha of farm plans mapped;
- 11,500 ha of land in priority area under farm plans; and
- 1 sediment monitoring report.

Note the Horizons Annual Plan target for farm plans mapped is 20,000 ha.

SSP

- 2,000 poles planted;
- 500 ha reversion;
- 13,000 riparian plants established;
- 2 on-farm assessments for poles entry into ETS;
- 1 case study on-farm.

PGF

- 1.3 m trees established on 1,000 ha;
- 20 customised forestry investment appraisals completed.

8.3. Progress against these targets is reported later in this document.

Whole Farm Plan (WFP) Production

8.4. WFPs are a tool for both bringing new land into the programme and for allocating grants to the various land types (priority land). An important part of maintaining the momentum of SLUI is the ability to bring new farms, new land and new work into the programme. This table shows the plans completed in SLUI's Life to Date (LTD) and progress in bringing new plans on board.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. Plans</th>
<th>Hectares</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>707</td>
<td>529,145</td>
<td>WFPs completed in SLUI to 30 June 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Less plans completed but not yet delivered to farmers (from 2017-18).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>8,911</td>
<td>Plus plans completed in 2018-19 and delivered to farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>719</td>
<td>538,056</td>
<td>Equals landowners / hectares able to be engaged in SLUI WFP implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>5,522</td>
<td>Plans / ha mapped in 2018-19 but yet to be delivered to farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>7,010</td>
<td>Plans allocated to contractor for 2018-19, yet to be mapped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,983</td>
<td>Committed to a plan and on the list for 2018-19, yet to be allocated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- All 45 plans (28,133 ha) from 2017-18 have been completed and delivered to landowners and 42 of the 45 have agreed on a work programme.
- Of the 12 plans delivered from the current financial year, 10 have already agreed to a works programme, although works will be unlikely to start until autumn or winter.
- There are now 43 plans allocated to the contractors for this financial year (up from 33 in the last report).
Along with the 43 plans allocated, there are three further plans to allocate, bringing brings total hectares allocated for the 2018-19 year to 23,426 ha which will achieve the LTP target of 20,000 ha.

We are awaiting the return of information documents from a further 40 farms (24,756 ha). Those still with paperwork out have been prioritised by: having existing plans, being on Top and High Priority land and the Oroua Catchment, and likelihood of doing works.

We are on track to complete between 24,000 to 25,000 ha of new WFPs this financial year.

Whole Farm Plan Implementation (2018-19 Year)

8.5. The implementation rate of WFPs provides a measure of uptake of work during the year. The number of landowner contacts made, the amount of work completed to date and the projections for work this year are shown in Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. Plans</th>
<th>Hectares</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>707</td>
<td>529,145</td>
<td>Plans completed by 30 June 2018 have been delivered and the landowners have had time to consider and start their works programmes this year. (see Table 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>316</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Landowner contacts in 2018-19 (can be more than one contact per landowner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>152</td>
<td>957</td>
<td>Work completed and claimed through the grant process (222 claims)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>372</td>
<td>5,312</td>
<td>Indicative commitment to works 2018-19 (483 claims)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Plan reviews and five-year programmes completed this year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The record of contacts for the year is based on items recorded on staff iPads and includes phone, written and personal contacts. The bulk of the 316 contacts have been for pole delivery, with advice and discussions on work programmes then provided. Most contacts are followed by claims.

The estimated number of plans carrying out works, and hectares of work to be completed, changes throughout the year and staff are in contact with farmers to keep updated on progress. Autumn fencing programmes remain problematic with landowners committed to the work but unable to complete by year's end. We are continuing to monitor outstanding works.

Whole Farm Plan Activity

8.6. While contract targets focus on the number of plans completed, the activity of individual plans is another measure of SLUI activity. The number of plans active in any one year can and does change. Figure 2 tracks the number of plans that have had no activity at all in terms of implementation of grant works. This measure is complicated by the increasing number of plans as new plans come into the programme during the year.
At the time of this report there are 591 active plans involved in the work programme (Table 3) and this is increasing as more plans are completed and previously inactive plans carry out works. The number of active plans at June 30 2017 was 540 and in January 2018 the total was 552.

The ratio of active to inactive plans has improved considerably. In 2010 there was approximately one active plan to one inactive plan, but by the end of June 2018 this had improved to more than four active plans for every inactive plan, and at the end of February the ratio was around 1:4.5.

In the early part of every financial year we would expect a slight rise in the number of inactive plans as the new plans are delivered and there is a lag before the work programme commences.

The data in Figure 1 (591 active plans) shows five newly active plans since the last report to the Catchment Operations Committee.

Of the 25 inactive plans that are less than two years old, our contacts with landowners suggests only nine of these are yet to agree on a works programme, while the other 18 will have started work but not yet had a claim recorded to become “active”.

Of the eight plans: four are from 2017-18 and two are likely to start work this winter, and one has started but no claim has been completed. The five plans from 2018-19 have been delivered to the landowners since November 2018.

The continuing trend is for one to two plans older than two years to go from inactive to active every two months.
SLUI Life to Date Achievements (by work type)

Graph 1: SLUI works completed by work type over the life of the programme against annual contract targets (red line). NB the SSP and PGF targets are not shown in this graph.

8.7. Graph 1 shows the annual works completed in the programme, indicated by work type:

- Each year since 2010 the contract target for hectares of works completed has been exceeded.
- The amount of work completed was relatively stable from 2010-16. However, 2013 was an exceptional year with 3,224 ha of afforestation.
- This was due to uptake of Afforestation Grant Scheme and retirement projects in association with Ngā Whenua Rāhui.
- The 2017-18 year was the third largest work year, largely due to an increase in the afforestation category with an increase in mānuka planted.
- The 2017-18 year was also the largest year by individual jobs (claims) completed with 437 claims, six more than the previous year.
- Up until June 2018 Afforestation (red) has made up approximately 40% (13,694 ha) of the work completed and retirement/riparian retirement (green) 40% (13,852 ha). These two work types account for the bulk of the hectares of work completed during the life of the programme.
- Up until June 2018 the On-farm conservation (purple) is predominantly space planting and gully planting with poles. It makes up 19% (6,537 ha) of the work by area, but also includes structures and earthworks. In total, the programme has planted more than 164,000 poplars, with 27,634 ha planted in 2017-18. We expect to exceed that number this year with more than 30,000 poles.
Map 1 Location of all grant works completed and claimed from July 1 2018 to December 31 2018.

### 2019 Worktype Locations

Map prepared by W McKay, NRP Group on 26/03/2019

Map 1 Location of all grant works completed and claimed from July 1 2018 to December 31 2018.
Year to Date Achievements

8.8. Table 5 shows the types of works completed and claimed from 1 July 2018 to 28 February.

Table 5: Works YTD (completed and claimed, by grant amount and land priority)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Type</th>
<th>Claims</th>
<th>Farms</th>
<th>Grant $</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Not Erodible</th>
<th>Erodible</th>
<th>High Priority</th>
<th>Top Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afforestation</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>356,623.01</td>
<td>421.0</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>142.7</td>
<td>118.0</td>
<td>157.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>50,250.18</td>
<td>58.4</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>37.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riparian Retirement</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>332,170.50</td>
<td>169.0</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>44.7</td>
<td>26.2</td>
<td>79.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetland Retirement</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>33,052.45</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space Planting</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>153,907.14</td>
<td>298.1</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>161.0</td>
<td>87.6</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>129.65</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>926,132.93</td>
<td>956.9</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>365.4</td>
<td>238.0</td>
<td>317.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 957 ha of works have been completed and claimed this year, which is 32% of the 3,000 ha target.
- 555 ha or 58% of works completed are on Top and High Priority land.
- Afforestation claims completed include 25 projects funded through PGF which have had a grant cost of $304,612.

Forecast v Actual (targets vs actual by work type)

8.9. Table 6 shows the forecast figures against target for 2018-19. The work programme is fluid and changes throughout the year. Some of the changes are due to postponements or cancellations and some due to new plans coming on stream and bringing in new work programmes.

Table 6: Proposed work 2018-19 (Contract v Forecast v Actual) and difference Forecast to Contract

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Type</th>
<th>Contract</th>
<th>Target Ha x1000</th>
<th>Forecast</th>
<th>Actual Ha</th>
<th>Dif Ha</th>
<th>Dif %</th>
<th>Target $ x1000</th>
<th>Forecast</th>
<th>Actual $ x1000</th>
<th>Dif. $ x1000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afforestation</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td>1,377</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>-519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>2,133</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1,783</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riparian Retirement</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>1,632</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managed Retirement</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-99</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space Planting and Gully Planting</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>932</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structures/Earthworks</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-99</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>5,313</td>
<td>956</td>
<td>2,313</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,104</td>
<td>2,856</td>
<td>926</td>
<td>752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSP – 2,000 poles (57ha)</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSP - reversion</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGF – 1.3 m trees</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,049</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,283</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>-373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,557</td>
<td>5,870</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,942</td>
<td>4,321</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*A – includes wetland
*B – afforestation and PGF Forecast in total is for 1,377 ha. This will include PGF PGF/SLUI, Free Manuka, and AGS on SLUI farms. The PGF alone proportion of this planting is 1,049 ha, but this will include non SLUI farms.
*C – The total ha of work forecast for completion will be through joint funding by SLUI, SSP, and PGF.
SLUI

8.10. The following bullet points update on works on SLUI farms. The next section provides updates on a broader land area:

- The target for works for 2018-19 is 3,000 ha and at this stage we are forecasting 5,313 ha to be completed. This is a small increase since the last report of 241 ha largely due to an increase in afforestation programmes. All numbers are changing at the moment as staff are reporting cancellations as well as new works.

- The value of grant work forecast to be completed by the end of the 2018-19 year is now $2,856,000 this is down from $3,283,000 reported last period. Some of this is due to cancellations but the bulk is due to splitting the afforestation which will be PGF funding off from the SLUI grant cost. The $2,856,000 is still above the budgeted level of $2,104,000. This would signal possible use of SLUI reserves, but it is too early to make accurate forecasts for overall expenditure, noting last year around 70-75% of allocated expenditure came to charge.

- The SLUI contracted afforestation target of 1,150 ha will include some SLUI properties where the grant is paid by PGF or PGF/SLUI. The total ha proposed under SLUI/PGF/SLUI & PFG/Free Manuka on SLUI properties was 1,021 ha and 1.6 million trees. An additional 356 ha and 519,000 trees will be reported through SLUI targets as staff facilitated AGS funding for establishment on SLUI properties.

- Total grant paid for afforestation to date is $356,623 (this will include some fencing cost) and $282,196 of this is fully accountable to the PGF budget. This leaves $74,427 as a SLUI alone cost.

- SLUI has a contracted space and gully planting target of 800 ha. This will be reported separately from the SSP target of 2,000 poles (the equivalent ha target is 57 ha). At this stage the grant paid under SLUI is $153,907 with a further $5,152 paid under SSP.

Wider Land Programme

8.11. The following bullet points include works on SLUI farms and other farms as the PGF programme was not limited to works on SLUI farms:

- The PGF or PGF/SLUI projects which have been approved have an estimated grant cost of $910,800 and total trees of 1,350,524. To date 25 of these projects have been claimed with a grant cost of $304,612 and 418,507 trees planted.

- The TUR agreement to fund free Manuka seedlings has resulted in 4 other projects taking place on SLUI properties, with around 648,000 seedling being planted. Horizons’ staff have been involved in these jobs that were originally identified through SLUI. Staff assisted landowners in the process of funding applications and implementation of works. All of the free manuka projects received SLUI grant for some component of the works.

9. ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Season

9.1. The last two months have been dry but from a tree establishment perspective survival has been good, up around 90% for both seedlings and poles.

Staff activity

9.2. Staff are contacting landowners to confirm works are on track and complete claims where possible, 109 claims have been completed since the beginning of January.
9.3. Staff have had a number of enquiries from landowners wanting to know how the 1 Billion Trees (1BT) programme could work for them, at this stage only two of these enquiries have led to assistance with applying to the programme; 1 x 5 ha native planting and 1 x 100 ha Manuka.

9.4. Work is continuing on upgrading the SLUI database, this work is aimed at improving the “on farm” reporting and linking claims directly to the finance system to minimise duplication in work reporting for Contract and Council reports.

9.5. Staff have been involved in a number of hui in the Whanganui River, and are looking at options to develop WFP with landowners, sometimes on land with multiple ownership.

9.6. Staff and some Councillors attended and spoke at the “Love Your Land” field day will be held on 14 February by the Agricultural Communities Respecting the Environment (ACRE) on Justin and Mary Vennell’s property at Rewa in the Rangitikei District.

9.7. The current HCEF programme is continuing as planned, three Milestone reports (August, October and February) have been completed for TUR along with funding invoices in October and February.

9.8. The SSP programme first Milestone report was completed in February along with a funding invoice. This Milestone focused on the establishment of the 2,000 poles in the Ruapehu area.

9.9. Under the PGF tree planting programme two Milestone reports have been completed (November and December), with an invoice for the December Milestone.
9.10. The HCEF funding announcements have been made, with Horizons receiving $6.49 million over four years. Our application was for $8.35 million. This is an increase over our current level of funding of approximately $600,000 per year.

9.11. Work is continuing with TUR around finalizing the contract for the HCEF, further staff are working with TUR around options to fund work for the next financial year (starting in July) as current interest in works exceeds the ability for the programme to fund works, even with the additional funding secured.

9.12. Progress against SLUI contract targets is shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Progress against MPI contract targets (Year to Date)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28,000 Poles planted</td>
<td>Approx. 13,500</td>
<td>Planting completed; will exceed the target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>claimed to date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900 ha Non-retirement work</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>Mostly related to pole planting, will exceed target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,150 ha Forestry established</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>Underway; planting complete this spring, will exceed target when included with PGF and AGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350 ha Retired</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>Underway, will exceed target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 ha Riparian retirement</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>Some carry over from last year, will exceed target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 ha Managed retirement</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No claims yet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,000 ha Farm plans mapped</td>
<td>14,433 mapped</td>
<td>Contractors have more than 23,400 ha to map to date, will exceed target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>but plan not</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>complete</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,500 ha Land in priority area under farm plans</td>
<td>Not assessed yet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Sediment monitoring report</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not planned at this stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000 SSP – Poles planted Ruapehu (57 ha)</td>
<td>Planting completed, have met the target but follow up inspections not complete.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 ha SSP - Reversion</td>
<td></td>
<td>Have discussed possible variation with MPI. One landowner in discussion will decide in May.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 SSP – ETS space planting assessments</td>
<td></td>
<td>Two landowners confirmed, and consultant engaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 SSP – ETS case study (from above assessments)</td>
<td>One case study and a info sheet planned</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13,000 SSP – riparian plants established</td>
<td></td>
<td>Checking with riparian planting projects, will meet target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 m PGF – trees planted of various species</td>
<td>350,000</td>
<td>Planting completed, claims coming in, 1.35 million trees expected to be claimed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 PGF – customised forestry appraisals</td>
<td></td>
<td>ROI completed, consultants engaged, site inspections on farm have commenced. Will achieve target</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Operational Plan Work Streams

- This section discusses completion of internal targets and progress on issues outlined in Sections 5 and 6 of the SLUI Operational Plan. Some progress on issues is noted, including:
  
  - Maintain WFP database wait time, with average 250 days. The average for this year so far is 150 with a range from 80 to 224 days.
  - 90% of previous year’s plans are being implemented or agreed by December following the plan being completed. For February 2019, this figure was 91%.
  - Provide holiday work to SLUI Scholarship students. This year we have a former student on a fixed-term contract to support improvements to the SLUI database.
  - Audit/monitor works on at least five existing WFPs. This work has started and seven site visits have been completed. We anticipate doing at least 10 full visits this financial year.
  - Maintain staff training with at least two internal training sessions. One session has been held with a site visit to a farm being converted to a mānuka plantation near Taihape.
  - Manage applications for grants in excess of $20,000 via a “large grants” process. There are 15 approved large grant jobs this year with a total grant cost of $720,419.
  - Maintain grant allocations spreadsheets. These are updated regularly and reported via Table 5 of this report.
  - Maintain JV (joint venture forests) to meet contract and budget targets, including insurance and audit. See section below.
  - Review some aspects of the grant programme. This remains is a work in progress. Some options for variation to grant rates were presented to a Council workshop in March. This outlined grant rates for properties without a full SLUI plan.

Joint Venture Forestry

9.13. Silviculture work has been suspended on JV forests due to high fire risk.

9.14. The consultant has been engaged to complete the annual forestry valuation in time for end of year financial reports.

NEXT THREE MONTHS (Mar - May)

- Continue on claims for work programme, including assessments of survival in order to meet milestone targets for PGF claims.
- Deliver and discuss work programmes from the new 2018-19 plans.
- Continue with landowner contacts for five-year reviews and non-active plans.
- Maintain WFP priority process.
- Meet with MPI contract manager for SLUI to discuss and negotiate the contract for Hill Country Erosion Fund/SLUI during 2019-2023. Aim to finalise the contract by late April.
- Begin the procurement process for WFP mapping as the current contract expires at the end of this financial year.
- Complete field visits with forestry and land use consultants to prepare land use assessments.
10. **SIGNIFICANCE**

10.1. This is not a significant decision according to the Council’s Policy on Significance and Engagement.

Grant Cooper  
**MANAGER – LAND & PARTNERSHIPS**

Jon Roygard  
**GROUP MANAGER NATURAL RESOURCES & PARTNERSHIPS**

**ANNEXES**

There are no attachments for this report.