



**BAY OF PLENTY
REGIONAL COUNCIL
TOI MOANA**

Environmental Programme Grants Policy Integrated Catchments

August 2021 - Version 5

Approved by the Strategy & Policy Committee on 4 August 2021

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Part 1:

Purpose

This policy and guidance document is for use by Bay of Plenty Regional Council's (BOPRC's) Integrated Catchments Group (principally Land Management Officers). It is a guide for the use of financial support for Environmental Programmes (EPs) with Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Management Activities¹. This policy:

- Provides a clear and transparent framework for allocation of grants for EPs, as a tool to help achieve BOPRC's Freshwater for Life and A Healthy Environment community outcomes.
- Provides a coordinated and consistent approach to the provision of grants and advice to incentivise improved biodiversity protection and enhancement, and improved water quality and land management in priority catchments.
- Promotes protection and management of a full range of the Bay of Plenty's natural ecosystems², especially sites containing rare and threatened ecosystem types.
- Prioritises actions that are most important to protecting and restoring ecological integrity at biodiversity sites.
- Improves alignment with the National Priorities for Protection of Biodiversity on Private Land³.
- Provides clear guidance on when and how BOPRC can and should provide funding and other incentives to achieve sustainable management of water and land resources on behalf of the public.
- Provides clear guidance on levels of grant funding for different activities for different purposes.

¹ Biodiversity management activities refer to works designed to protect, improve and restore the ecological integrity of ecosystems, such as fencing, control of invasive species, and plantings. Sustainable Land Management activities refer to works designed to protect or improve water quality by reducing contaminant losses from land and managing erosion.

² This is the goal of the Department of Conservation/BOPRC Biodiversity Partnership.

³ Ministry for the Environment & Department of Conservation (2007). Protecting our Places - Information on the national priorities for protecting rare and threatened native biodiversity on private land. Ministry of the Environment Publication ME 805, April 2007.

Part 2:

Background

Through the provision of grants under EPs, BOPRC aims to complement its regulatory functions of planning, consenting and compliance under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Funding provided aims to encourage landowners to adopt sustainable land management practices.

Financial costs and lack of time can be significant barriers for landowners in undertaking environmental and habitat protection projects (e.g., fencing, planting, pest control) on their land. Incentives can help to remove these barriers, recognising that actions by individual landowners and community members have public benefits. It also fosters goodwill amongst communities and may enable the achievement of outcomes over shorter timeframes than landowners would achieve on their own.

These incentives directly contribute to two of the four community outcomes in BOPRC's Strategic Framework and Direction:

- **He taiao ora - A healthy environment:** We protect and enhance our air, land, freshwater, geothermal, marine, coastal resources and biodiversity for our communities. We support others to do the same.
- **Te mana o te wai - Freshwater for life:** Our water and land management practices maintain and improve the life-giving ability of the region's freshwater resources.

In some circumstances, grant funding may also contribute to other community outcomes and strategic priorities, particularly in relation to climate change (adaptation and mitigation) and regulatory reform (freshwater and biodiversity).

Biodiversity

Environment Aotearoa 2019⁴ and Biodiversity in Aotearoa 2020⁵ both concluded that terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems have continued to decline in recent decades with biodiversity now at crisis point. This is 20 years on since the publication of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2000-2020⁶ with its goal of "halting the decline".

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has statutory obligations under the RMA to maintain and sustainably manage biodiversity in our region, both for its intrinsic, and its ecosystem services value. Additionally, regional councils are likely to have a key role to play in implementation plans developed under Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020.

In accordance with these obligations, BOPRC's Long Term Plan 2021-31 (LTP) contains a stated outcome to "protect and restore biodiversity (...) by working with landowners, tangata whenua, industry and the wider community", and our Regional Policy Statement (RPS) contains a range of objectives, policies and methods, aimed at providing for biodiversity maintenance through both regulatory and non-regulatory approaches.

⁴ Ministry for the Environment & Stats NZ (2019). New Zealand's Environmental Reporting Series: Environment Aotearoa 2019. Available from environment.govt.nz and www.stats.govt.nz

⁵ Department of Conservation (2020). Biodiversity in Aotearoa: an overview of state, trends and pressures 2020. Available from doc.govt.nz.

⁶ Department of Conservation (2000). The New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy. Department of Conservation, February 2000.

Two key methods for achieving biodiversity maintenance listed in the RPS are:

- (26) *facilitation and support of community based ecological restoration programmes;* and
- (64) *encouraging agencies and landowners to protect key sites.*

These methods are implemented primarily by Land Management Officers in BOPRC's Integrated Catchments Group.

Financial grants are an important tool used by Land Management Officers to encourage legal protection and ecological restoration. However, growing public interest in conservation initiatives (combined with resource limitations) require that grant funding is:

- (a) directed towards sites providing the greatest value for biodiversity, and
- (b) transparent and consistent in the way financial support is allocated.

This policy prioritises funding to 'Priority Biodiversity Sites' (PBSs). This supports the Department of Conservation's (DOC) and BOPRC's joint goal⁷ of *maintaining or restoring a full range of Bay of Plenty's ecosystems to a healthy functioning state*⁸. Within PBSs, rare and threatened ecosystem types have priority and are eligible for higher grant rates.

Development of the PBSs was a joint effort between DOC and BOPRC⁹. It is important to note that PBS designation is for non-regulatory purposes only, and these represent only a fraction of natural areas considered significant¹⁰ under the RPS for the Bay of Plenty and scheduled in District Plans. A map showing all PBSs is included in Appendix 1, and priority levels are described in more detail in Appendix 3.

Sustainable Land Management

Works that contribute to sustainable management of land and soil resources, and in turn freshwater quality, are an integral part of BOPRC's functions and the work is driven from national and regional policy.

In particular, Central Government's *Essential Freshwater* policy package, including the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM), provides strong direction for improved fresh water and freshwater ecosystem health outcomes.

Policies WL 1B, WL 2B, WL 3B, WL 6B and WL 7B in the RPS support the implementation of the NPS-FM by requiring water quality protection or improvement. The policies include identifying catchments at risk and then using a combination of rules and incentives to achieve reductions in contaminants.

The community outcome of Te mana o te wai - Freshwater for Life, is dependent on improved land management. Environmental Programmes help deliver improved land management, and in turn, improved water quality. Within the LTP, this is measured by the percentage of monitored river and stream sites that are suitable for primary contact (e.g., swimming), determined in accordance with Appendix 3 of the NPS-FM. The current target is 75% of monitored sites meeting this standard.

⁷ DOC/BOPRC (2013). A Shared Commitment to the Protection of Bay of Plenty's Biodiversity. Signed June 2013 (Objective # A1882734).

⁸ This goal is aligned to Goal 3 in the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, and the purpose of the Reserves Act 1977.

⁹ Consistent with Method 56 (Identify areas for restoration, or rehabilitation of natural character) and Method 70 (Take an interagency approach) in the RPS for the Bay of Plenty 2014.

¹⁰ Using criteria in Appendix F Set 3 Indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna.

In addition, elements of freshwater management in some catchments in the Bay of Plenty are now subject to co-governance arrangements with tangata whenua. These arrangements follow from Treaty of Waitangi Settlements and include the Rangitāiki River Forum and Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority. These bodies have statutory mandates and have produced river documents and action plans that seek the protection and restoration of the well-being of each awa.

These changes reflect higher expectations from communities about fresh water and ecosystem health outcomes. Grant funding provided under this policy should also respond to these expectations.

Focus Catchments

Over the past two decades, Land Management Officers have engaged with landowners anywhere in the region to offer advice and co-funding grants under EP agreements. Activities funded include riparian and biodiversity protection, pole planting, erosion control, stock races/crossings, pest management, grazing regimes, land use and nutrient management. While many landowners have improved their property's environmental performance through the implementation of these EPs, the effectiveness at a catchment scale is not known. Landowners implementing these agreements are usually surrounded by others who do not, and monitoring improvement in water quality has generally not occurred.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council now understands that some of the region's streams, rivers, lakes and estuaries need specific reductions in contaminant levels in order to meet ecological, cultural or human health values. These range from swimming or shellfish gathering sites with too much bacterial risk, to estuaries with excessive nutrient inputs and algal growth, to streams with high sediment yields. Some catchments in the region are not under the same pressures as others. Therefore, it seems logical to focus on the catchments that need our attention most ('Focus Catchments'). Table 1 identifies the current Focus Catchments; a map of these is included in Appendix 1.

Table 1 List of the first twelve Focus Catchments

| Focus Catchment | Primary water quality objectives as currently understood |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Rotorua Lakes Catchment Area | Various, including achieving specific TLI targets for each lake and other targets where required |
| Uretara, Katikati | Reduce <i>E. coli</i> for swimming suitability |
| Te Mania, Katikati | Reduce sediment and <i>E. coli</i> |
| Kopurererua, Tauranga | Reduce sediment and <i>E. coli</i> |
| Waitao, Tauranga | Reduce <i>E. coli</i> and sediment for swimming suitability |
| Kopuaroa, Te Puke | Reduce N, P, sediment and <i>E. coli</i> |
| Ford Road/Waitepuia, Maketū | Reduce N, P, sediment and <i>E. coli</i> |
| Waihi Estuary, Pongakawa | Reduce N, P, sediment and <i>E. coli</i> |
| Awakaponga, Matatā | Reduce N, P, sediment and <i>E. coli</i> |
| Upper Rangitāiki, Taupō District | Halt increasing nitrate trend |
| Ōhiwa Harbour, Ōhope/Ōhiwa | Reduce sediment |
| Waiōtahe, Waiōtahe | Reduce <i>E. coli</i> for shellfish gathering safety |

The philosophy behind the approach is that BOPRC's co-funding through grants and EPs is preferentially applied to the highest priority actions in each of these Focus Catchments for a defined period of time, to achieve both engagement and measurable improvements in water quality (as shown by monitoring of the attributes of concern). It is envisaged that in years to come, the focus of funding will move on to the next tranches of priority catchments. This will complement regulatory approaches arising from the NPS-FM and other *Essential Freshwater* policies, as these regulatory efforts would almost certainly be easier to implement if the community was already invested in achieving the required changes to water quality.

Land Management and Science staff have developed monitoring plans for each of the current Focus Catchments. These detail the monitoring required to measure changes in water quality, enabling better and more informed conversations with landowners and our communities. In most cases, monitoring will include water quality samples taken throughout the catchment to create a spatial picture of water quality issues at a higher resolution than possible, using only the Natural Environment Regional Monitoring Network (NERMN) data.

Depending on the catchment, ecological and receiving environment monitoring may also be included. These monitoring plans will inform catchment action plans. Some Focus Catchments already have good monitoring and a catchment action plan in place. The current process will ensure that we are adopting a reasonably consistent approach across these catchments.

The Focus Catchments approach does not affect our support for Care Groups such as Coast Care, Estuary Care and Biodiversity Programmes (BPs).

The resourcing for these Focus Catchments will come from a reduction in the number and value of EPs outside of Focus Catchments, although existing EPs will be honoured until their expiry.

Part 3:

Policies

Policy 1 - Maximum grant rates

Grants provided to cover the actual and reasonable costs of biodiversity and sustainable land management activities can be allocated up to the maximum rates prescribed in Appendix 2.

Guidance notes

Biodiversity

When determining the appropriate grant rate and funding level to offer to landowners and to recommend to the Catchment Manager under this policy, the Land Management Officer and Team Leader shall consider the value proposition of each proposal. This may include:

- the suitability of the site for care group activities (e.g., accessibility and safety),
- the ability of the landowner to contribute to management,
- the amount of funding required, and
- the level of risk to the site if no action is taken.

Sustainable land management

Bay of Plenty Regional Council is generally able to fund up to 80% of the cost of priority actions within Focus Catchments, and up to 25% in Non-Focus Catchments, at its sole discretion and in accordance with budgets. Funding above these rates can be applied at the discretion of the General Manager (Integrated Catchment), on recommendation from the Principal Advisor (Land and Water) and the Catchment Manager, as defined in Policy 2.

It is intended that landowners contribute to mitigation works on their property, although exceptions may be made for multiple owned land blocks where revenue is not likely to be gained from the mitigation works.

Works may include those that will reduce sediment, nutrient and/or bacterial contamination of water. This includes works on, in, adjacent to, or having a direct effect on streams, drains, wetlands, lakes, estuaries or the open coast. Works may include the following (at the Catchment Manager's full discretion):

- Works for all land uses (agriculture, horticulture, industrial, lifestyle, urban and forestry) where the landowner agrees to do more to protect water quality than is required of them by a law, a plan rule, or a consent condition (i.e., works required by a law, rule, industry code of practice/requirement or consent condition are **not** eligible for funding).
- Works that offset the effects of sediment, nutrient and/or bacterial contamination of water such as shade planting, re-establishing hydraulic connections to oxygen-rich water sources, removal of nitrogen fixing vegetation, or similar initiatives.
- Works that contribute significantly towards more sustainable management of soil resources.

- For large BOPRC investments (more than \$35,000) the following should be considered:
 - On land where a nutrient discharge restriction applies, a reduction in the nitrogen discharge allocation may be negotiated with the landowner and secured with an encumbrance to protect BOPRC's investment.
 - On land where a nutrient discharge restriction does not apply, a land use restriction may be appropriate, secured with an encumbrance, to protect BOPRC's investment.

When determining the appropriate grant rate and funding level to offer to landowners and to recommend to the Catchment Manager under this policy, the Land Management Officer and Team Leader shall consider the value proposition of each proposal. This may include:

- the likely water quality improvements resulting from the proposal,
- the contribution towards relevant LTP levels of service,
- the extent to which the works go above and beyond what is expected by industry standards or existing legislation,
- the customer budget available,
- the BOPRC budget available,
- alternative funding sources available (leveraging other funding preferred).

In addition to grant funding, BOPRC staff time in kind can be used for the preparation of applications for external funding sources and developing partnership opportunities (on behalf of landowners) anywhere in the region.

Policy 2 – Exceptions

In some circumstances, where the benefit of a specific project justifies it, grant funding above prescribed maximum grant rates or outside eligibility criteria may be warranted (notwithstanding other policies). Any such exceptions require written approval from the General Manager (Integrated Catchments), based on a recommendation from the relevant Catchment Manager and:

- in the case of biodiversity projects, the Environmental Scientist (Terrestrial Ecology); or
- in the case of sustainable land management projects, the Principal Advisor (Land and Water).

Policy 3 – Exclusions

Grants will not be provided for:

- Works (e.g. fencing, planting, weed control) associated with beautification of subdivision lots, lifestyle blocks, businesses, gardening, or urban green space.
- Capital works/items other than those listed (for example, sheds, feedpads, herd homes, vehicles, machinery, bridges, water scheme development – infrastructure that supports a property's business long-term).

- Works required by a law, a plan rule, industry code of practice/requirement or a consent condition (including management of 'protection lots'), except in relation to archaeological assessment and compliance works, or consents required to undertake the restoration activity itself. Works that go above and beyond legal requirements can be funded.¹¹
- Large-scale forestry (over 10 ha in area).
- Intensive rat and mustelid control at sites which do not contain threatened or at risk species or which do not have a community group (unless it is less than \$5,000 over 5 years).
- Excavations within natural wetlands for duck ponds (note Modification of Wetlands Rules in Natural Resources Plan, and relevant part of the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater).
- Recreational infrastructure.
- Land purchase or leasing (proposals that involve this must be considered on a case-by-case basis outside of this Policy).

Policy 4 – Funding activities on public land

Financial support shall generally be restricted to activities on private (rateable) land. However, funding for activities on public land can be provided:

- to a registered community group (subject to maximum grant rates as per Policy 1), or
- for management and restoration of Priority 1 PBSs (subject to a maximum 50% grant rate across all activities, notwithstanding Policy 1).¹²

Policy 5 – Ecosystem management prescriptions

Ecosystem management prescriptions, developed in 2016 and accessible at Objective ID # A2497263, should guide funding of biodiversity management activities at PBSs.

Policy 6 - Biodiversity covenants

Grants will be paid only when work is complete and a suitable protection mechanism¹³ or covenant¹⁴ is signed that reflects BOPRC's investment.

The Catchment Manager may waive the requirement for a covenant where:

- works are not within a PBS,
- the total grant is less than \$35,000 over five years, and
- there is low risk that BOPRC's investment will not be sustained for at least 25 years.

¹¹ In particular, Land Management Officers should confirm that any works proposed to be funded are not legal requirements on landowners under the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020, Resource Management (Stock Exclusion) Regulations 2020 and any relevant regulations relating to farm planning promulgated after the adoption of this policy.

¹² Note that support for management and restoration of Priority 1 PBSs on DOC/BOPRC land where there is no community group shall only be provided for projects which are initiated following approval of this Policy (i.e. new work which wouldn't otherwise occur).

¹³ E.g., Memorandum of Encumbrance, Memorandum of Understanding with Māori on Māori land.

¹⁴ E.g., QEII, Ngā Whenua Rāhui, Conservation Covenant.

Policy 7 – Sustainable land use agreement covenants

An appropriate covenant or encumbrance will be required where:

- (a) BOPRC's grant funding exceeds \$35,000 over five years,
- (b) the customer wishes to formally protect the works, or
- (c) there is a moderate to high risk that BOPRC's investment to protect water quality will not otherwise be sustained in the long term (at least 25 years).

This requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Catchment Manager.

Part 4:

Liability and review

Ongoing maintenance

Bay of Plenty Regional Council assumes no long-term responsibility or liability for works supported through EPs.

In most cases, works that are funded through an EP will require ongoing maintenance, and may be at risk of damage or failure over time. In particular, erosion control structures and stream works will be impacted by things like floods and other natural processes, and fences may be damaged. In addition, some interventions such as debris and gravel removal can only be considered short term or interim solutions.

By supporting landowners to undertake works on their property through an EP, there may be an expectation that BOPRC will assume responsibility for those works over the long-term. To manage this expectation, LMOs will:

- Provide clear options to the landowner, particularly where there is a variety of short and long-term solutions.
- Be upfront with the landowner about long-term uncertainties, and that works can be damaged or fail due to natural process.
- Clarify with the landowner that BOPRC is not obliged to maintain or replace any works over time.
- Ensure maintenance requirements are clearly set out in the EP.

In some cases, BOPRC may agree to provide additional support for works that have already been undertaken (e.g., further debris removal in an area that has already been cleared or removal of trees planted under an historic agreement with BOPRC). Where a flood or rainfall event creates damage during or after the completion of works, BOPRC may also provide further support (e.g. with erosion and flood control works). The decision to do so will be on a case by case basis and will be dependent on site and/or catchment priorities.

The landowner is responsible for all ongoing management and maintenance of works, including:

- Ensuring the protection, maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity with regard to the goals and objectives of the EP,
- Revegetation plantings will be maintained free of competing weeds until plants are well established,
- Undertake such measures from time to time in the control of pest plants or other exotic species that may compromise biodiversity protection and ecological values,
- Fences will be maintained in a sound condition to exclude stock, and
- Stream works undertaken for erosion control will be checked by the landowner on a regular basis, for integrity and effectiveness, and debris and gravel build up will be cleared.

The landowner will consult and take account of the views of BOPRC in regard to any proposed development activity, significant change in land use, or the grant of third party rights over the land which may directly impact on the goals and objectives of the EP.

The landowner will notify BOPRC of any pending change of ownership or subdivision of the land, to facilitate an up-to-date record of landowner details.

Health and safety

Bay of Plenty Regional Council assumes no responsibility or obligation under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 in relation to the works or land, except as may be separately agreed between the parties or when a BOPRC employee, contractor or agent meets the definition of a Person in Charge of a Business Undertaking (PCBU). For the avoidance of doubt, if BOPRC will not be controlling the works, the landowner accepts they are the person controlling the place of work for the purposes of the health and safety obligations.

Review

This document will be reviewed at least every three years.

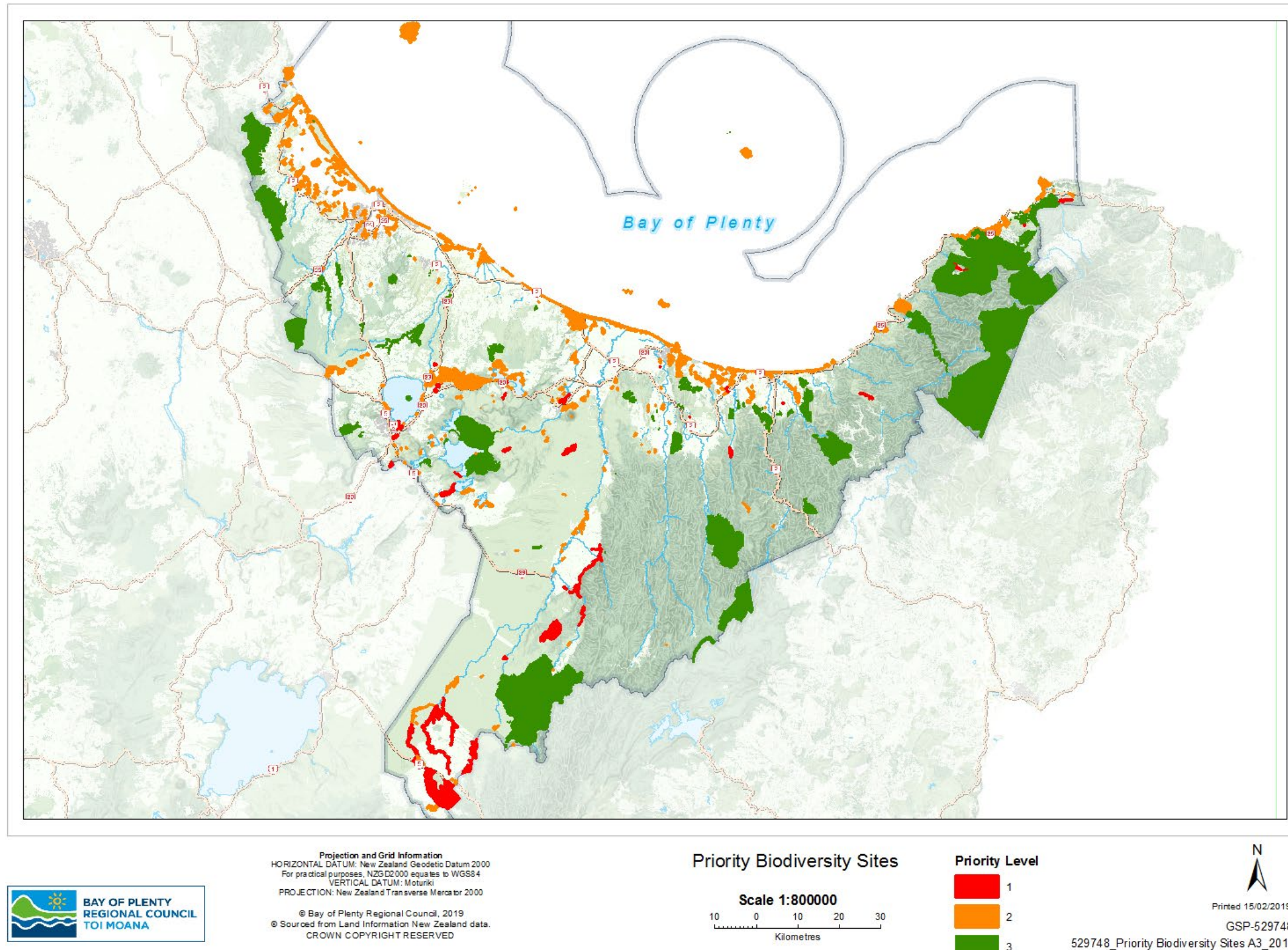
Appendices

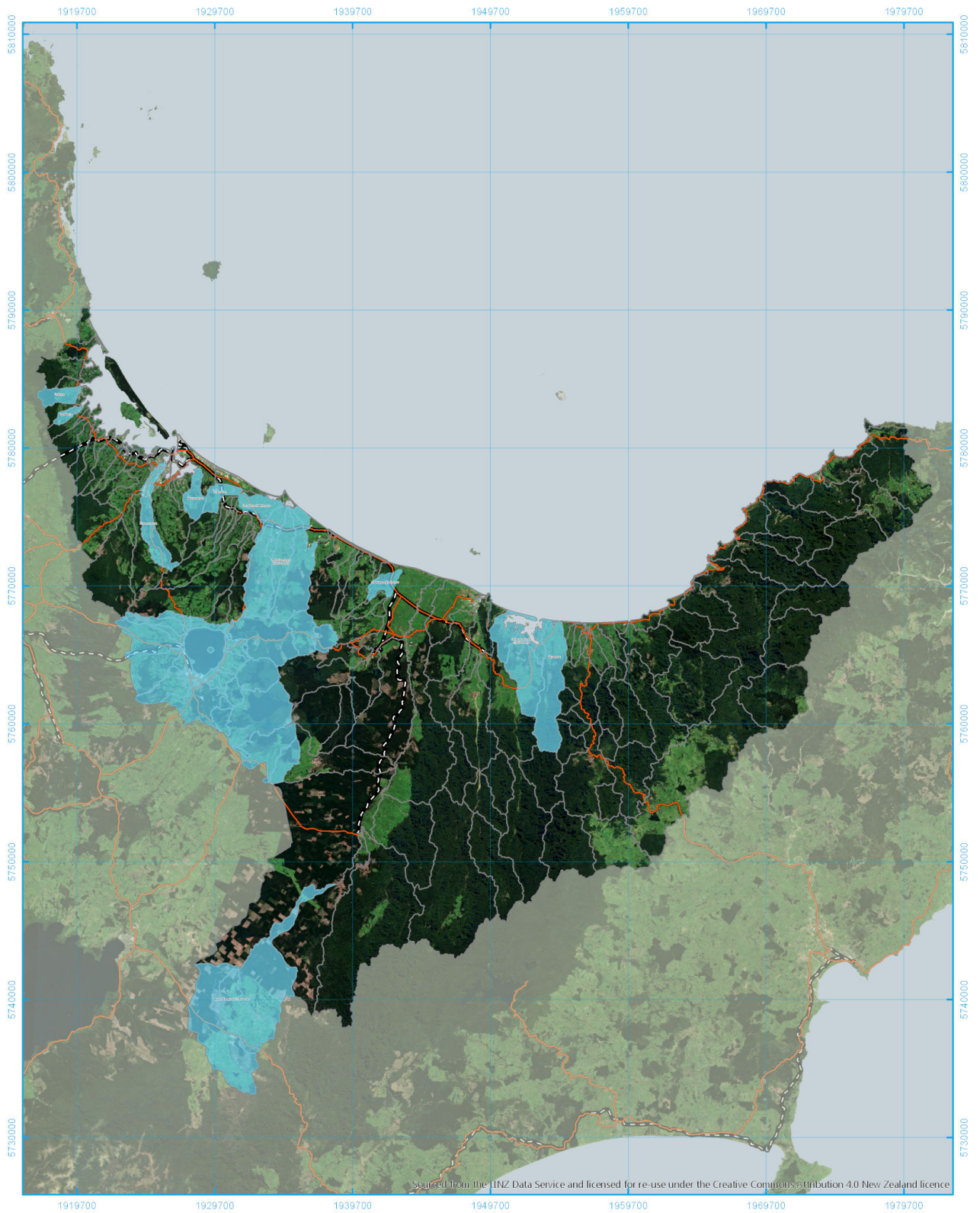


Appendix 1

Priority Biodiversity Sites and Focus Catchments maps

These maps are valid at time of printing. Ensure that you check the geospatial layers (vector.GIS.BiodiversitySitesOfPriority and vector.GIS.LandManagement_FocusCatchment) for the most up to date information.





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HORIZONTAL DATUM:
New Zealand Geodetic Datum 2000
For practical purposes NZGD2000 equates to WGS84
VERTICAL DATUM: Moturiki
PROJECTION: New Zealand Transverse Mercator 2000
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FOCUS CATCHMENTS



577819_SubCatchmentAreaMaps_Coastal
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Appendix 2

Maximum BOPRC grant contributions for qualifying biodiversity and sustainable land management activities/work types

| Work or activity type | Maximum BOPRC grant rate (%) | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----|-----|------------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------------|
| | Priority Biodiversity Sites | | | Non-priority community group sites | Water Quality and Sustainable Land Use | | |
| | | | | | Focus Catchments Priority Actions ¹⁵ | | Non - Focus Catchments |
| | Priority Level ¹⁶ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | |
| Fencing and fenceline preparation | 100 | 75 | 50 | 50 | 80 | 50 | 25 |
| Pest plant control, including buffer control | 100 | 75 | 50 | 50 | 80 | 50 | 25 |
| | Exclusion and containment pests will be funded as per current Regional Pest Management Strategy. | | | | | | |
| Pest animal control as per Management Prescriptions | 100 | 75 | 50 | 50 | 80 ¹⁷ | 50 ¹⁷ | 25 ¹⁷ |
| | Ungulates, rodents, marsupials, wasps, rabbits, including result monitoring ¹⁸ and buffer control. | | | | | | |
| Pest animal control not in Management Prescriptions | 50 | 25 | N/A | 25 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Intensive mustelid and rodent control for threatened species recovery, including result monitoring and buffer control. | | | | | | |
| Restoration/buffer planting | 100 | 75 | 50 | 50 | 80 | 50 | 25 |
| | BOPRC can fund up to 100% of plant costs (max \$3.50/plant) provided landowner funds 100% of costs for site preparation, transport plants to site, planting, releasing until closed canopy (est. value \$4.50/plant over 3-5 years). | | | | | | |
| Sediment and nutrient interception for wetland protection | 100 | 75 | 50 | 50 | 80 | 50 | 25 |
| | E.g., sediment traps, drain diversions. | | | | | | |
| | 100 | 100 | 50 | 50 | 80 | 50 | 25 |

¹⁵ Actions are set out in each Focus Catchment Action Plan and prioritised based on the likelihood/degree to which mitigation works will address the water quality issue of concern.

¹⁶ Priority Levels are as shown in vector.GIS.BiodiversitySitesOfPriority, and vector.GIS.LandManagement_FocusCatchment. Priority Levels are described in Appendix 1.

¹⁷ Management prescriptions do not apply.

¹⁸ Result monitoring - to check that management actions are effective in reducing threats or pressures (e.g. rats); outcome monitoring - to see if reduction in pressures improves biodiversity attributes (e.g. birds).

| Work or activity type | Maximum BOPRC grant rate (%) | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----|-----|------------------------------------|---|-----|------------------------|
| | Priority Biodiversity Sites | | | Non-priority community group sites | Water Quality and Sustainable Land Use | | |
| | | | | | Focus Catchments Priority Actions ¹⁵ | | Non - Focus Catchments |
| | Priority Level ¹⁶ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | |
| Hydrological improvements for wetlands | E.g., filling, rearranging/re-battering drains, water control structures. | | | | | | |
| Treatment wetland construction | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL | 80 | 50 | 25 |
| Ecological values and condition assessment | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | N/A | | N/A |
| Obtaining resource consent for restoration activities | 100 | 100 | 100 | 50 | 100 | 50 | N/A |
| Covenant/protection mechanisms | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | E.g., Conservation, QEII, and Ngā Whenua Rāhui, Memorandum of Encumbrance. | | | | | | |
| Archaeological assessment and compliance works | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Water Quality, Ecological or other outcome monitoring | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Interpretative signage | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | N/A |
| | Consistent with priority level, visitation and/or investment. | | | | | | |
| Restoration of indigenous fish passage/pest fish barriers | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Fencing and planting riparian margins that are potential inanga spawning habitat | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | Natural waterways only - not drains. | | | | | | |
| Alternative water supplies (non-capital works) | 100 | 75 | 50 | 50 | 80 | 50 | 25 |
| Exotic or indigenous forestry | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL | 80 | 50 | 25 |
| | Including plantings established for carbon credits, oil, honey or other commercial products. Conversions to forestry or similar exotic tree woodlots under 10 ha in size must have been in pasture (or alternative intensive land use) for at least five years. | | | | | | |
| Design of works and structures | 100 | 100 | 100 | 50 | 100 | 50 | N/A |
| | E.g., wetlands, detention bunds, etc. | | | | | | |

| Work or activity type | Maximum BOPRC grant rate (%) | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----|-----|------------------------------------|---|-----|------------------------|
| | Priority Biodiversity Sites | | | Non-priority community group sites | Water Quality and Sustainable Land Use | | |
| | | | | | Focus Catchments Priority Actions ¹⁵ | | Non - Focus Catchments |
| Priority Level ¹⁶ | 1 | 2 | 3 | | 1 | 2 | |
| Construction/establishment of erosion control structures | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL | 80 | 50 | 25 |
| | Including flumes, detention bunds and/or ponds, debris dams, contour banks, and spaced soil conservation tree planting. | | | | | | |
| Other works or interventions | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL | 80 | 50 | 25 |
| | Where there is scientific evidence showing or strongly suggesting that nutrients, bacteria or sediment contamination of fresh water will be reduced, or effects of the contamination offset. E.g., groundwater de-nitrification walls, shade planting, restoring hydraulic connections to oxygen-rich water sources, nutrient management plans). | | | | | | |
| Stream works | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL | 80 | 50 | 25 |
| | E.g., clearance of vegetation causing erosion/flooding; bank shaping; riprap rock, groyne, and gabion baskets; live willow planting; gravel removal; debris dam removal. | | | | | | |
| Farm and Nutrient Management Tools | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL | 80 | 50 | 25 |
| | E.g., Overseer, MitAgator, LUCI, etc. | | | | | | |
| Re-establishment of estuarine coastal wetlands | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | Sites adjacent to estuaries that have previously been drained. For all associated activities listed above, notwithstanding maximum grant rates prescribed for such activities, and any other ancillary activities not listed above. | | | | | | |

Appendix 3

Priority Biodiversity Site priority levels

Appendix 2 in this Policy provides different grant rates for Priority Biodiversity Sites (PBSs) based on their 'Priority Level'. Priority Levels allocated to each Priority Biodiversity Sites are shown in vector.GIS.BiodiversitySitesOfPriority. Priority Levels are based on the threat level of the ecosystem type(s)^{19,20} they contain.

Priority 1 PBSs contain (or predominantly contain) ecosystem types that have been reduced to less than 10% of their natural extent within the region (based on LCDB4.1), or 'originally rare ecosystems' ranked Nationally Critical (Holdaway et al 2012)²¹.

Priority 2 PBSs contain (or predominantly contain) ecosystem types that have been reduced to less than 20% of the natural extent in the region (based on LCDB4.1) or 'originally rare ecosystems' ranked Nationally Endangered (Holdaway et al 2012).

Priority 3 PBSs contain (or predominantly contain) ecosystem types which retain more than 20% of their natural extent in the region (based on LCDB4.1)²². These ecosystem types are considered 'not threatened' - though some may still be of very limited extent or occur in only a few sites (e.g. volcanic ecosystems at Mount Tarawera).

All PBSs are all important to achieving our regional goal (maintaining and restoring a full range of ecosystems to a healthy functioning state) regardless of their Priority Level. However, Priority 1 and 2 sites are at greatest risk of being lost in the short to medium term and should be managed as a matter of urgency²³.

The ecosystem types falling within each Priority Level are shown in the table below.

Figures in square brackets indicate the estimated proportion and/or area of each ecosystem type remaining in the region, or national threat status as per Holdaway et al 2012²⁹. Remaining cover was calculated by clipping the Potential Ecosystems Layer (Singers & Lawrence 2014²⁸) by indigenous cover types in LCDB4.

¹⁹ Singers, N. & Lawrence, C. (2014). A potential ecosystem map for the Bay of Plenty region Compiled by Nicholas Singers Ecological Solutions Limited for the Bay of Plenty Region, NSES Ltd report: 2014/15. And subsequent updates.

²⁰ Holdaway RJ, Wiser SK, Williams PA (2012). A threat status assessment of New Zealand's naturally uncommon ecosystems. *Conservation Biology* 4: 619–629.

²¹ PBSs containing regenerating scrub not currently of a Priority 1 or 2 type, but with potential to succeed into a Priority 1 or 2 type have been included as Priority 1 or Priority 2 sites.

²² As the amount of habitat reduces the susceptibility to loss of species increases exponentially. Species loss becomes especially rapid/dramatic once a habitat is reduced to less than 20%.

²³ This approach is consistent with the National Priorities for Conservation of Rare & Threatened Biodiversity on Private Land (MFE/DOC 2007).

Priority levels for ecosystem types

| Priority level | Ecosystem types |
|-------------------|--|
| Priority 1 | <p>Critically endangered ‘Originally Rare Ecosystems’ (Holdaway et al 2012²⁹):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Frost flats/Old tephra plains [<8%, 6609 ha] ▪ Shell barrier beaches [unknown] ▪ Geothermal (Geothermal)²⁴ [185 ha] ▪ Seabird burrowed soil/seabird guano deposits/marine mammal rookeries ▪ Ephemeral wetlands [unknown] <p>Potential ecosystem forest types with <10% remaining (Singers & Lawrence 2014²⁸):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MF10, Totara, matai, kahikatea [~5%, <1945 ha] ▪ WF8, Kahikatea, Pukatea forest [~6%, <1,216 ha] ▪ WF7-3, Kahikatea, Purer Forest [~1%, <8 ha] ▪ WF2 and WF2.2, Totara, matai, ribbonwood and kahikatea, totara, matai [~10%, <2320 ha] ▪ WF5, Totara, kanuka, broadleaf [dune forest] [~7%, <667 ha] <p>Potential inanga spawning habitat²⁵</p> |
| Priority 2 | <p>Freshwater wetlands (includes MF4, Kahikatea forest [~25%, 4,399 ha])</p> <p>Nationally endangered and vulnerable ‘Originally Rare Ecosystems’ (Holdaway et al 2012²⁹):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Frost hollows (T14 Coprosma, olearia scrub) [NE] ▪ Estuaries (including SA1, SA2, SA3) [NV] ▪ Lake margins [NV] ▪ Stable and active sand dunes (including DN2 and DN5) [NE] ▪ Shingle beaches [NE] ▪ Young tephra plains and hillslopes (e.g. White Island) [NV] <p>Potential ecosystem forest types with 10%-20% remaining in indigenous cover; or with 20-40% remaining but less than 2000 ha in total (Singers & Lawrence 2014²⁸):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WF4, Pohutukawa, puriri, broadleaved forest [~20%, 6,560 ha] ▪ WF7-1, Puriri, totara forest [~14%, 1,985 ha] ▪ CLF5, Matai, Hall’s tōtara, kāmahī forest [~16%, 2,419 ha] ▪ WF11, Kauri, podocarp, broadleaved forest [~32%, 1,670 ha] ▪ MF11-3, Rimu, matai forest and MF11-4 Kahikatea rimu forest [~10%, 4208 ha] |
| Priority 3 | <p>Potential Ecosystem types not mentioned under Priority 1 and 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AL4, Mid-ribbed and broad-leaved snot tussock tussockland/shrubland [unknown]. ▪ CDF4, Halls totara, pahautea, kamahi forest [unknown] ▪ CDF6, Olearia, pseudopanax, dracophyllum scrub [~99%] ▪ CDF7, Mountain beech, silver beech, montane podocarp forest [~99%] ▪ CL1, Pohutukawa treeland/flaxland/rockland [~62%] ▪ CL6, Hebe, wharariki flaxland, rockland [unknown] ▪ CL10, Kiokio fernland/rockland [unknown] ▪ CL11, Mountain tutu, hebe, wharariki, Chionochloa shrubland, tussockland/rockland [unknown] ▪ CLF10, Red beech, silver beech forest [~99%] ▪ CLF11, Silver beech forest [~99%] |

²⁴ Including heated ground, hydrothermally altered ground (now cool), acid rain systems, fumaroles, geothermal streamside.

| Priority level | Ecosystem types |
|----------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CLF12, Silver beech, mountain beech forest [unknown] ▪ CLF9, Red beech, podocarp forest [~96%] ▪ MF20, Hard beech forest [~99%] ▪ MF22, Tawa, rimu, northern rata, beech forest [~93%] ▪ MF7-1, Tawa, mangleo forest [~38%] ▪ MF7-2, Rata, Tawa, kamahi, podocarp forest [~90%] ▪ MF8-2, Kamahi broadleaved podocarp [~88%] ▪ MF8, Kamahi broadleaved podocarp [~86%] ▪ Volcanic [~99%] ▪ MF9, Tanekaha forest, locally with Nothofagus [unknown] ▪ VS1, Pohutukawa scrub/forest [~98%] ▪ VS11, Short tussock tussockland [~100%] ▪ VS2, Kanuka scrub/forest [~44%] ▪ VS2, Kanuka scrub/forest and VS5, Broadleaved species scrub/forest mosaic [~50%] ▪ VS8, Monoao scrub [~99%] ▪ WF12, Kauri, podocarp, broadleaved beech forest [~91%] ▪ WF13, Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hinau, podocarp forest [~31%] ▪ WF14-1, Kamahi, tawa, podocarp, hard beech forest [~76%] <p>Other types not listed and other originally rare ecosystem to be discussed with and approved by Environmental Scientist, Terrestrial Ecology.</p> |

Notes:

WF13 should be considered a high priority within priority 3 due to having been reduced to only around 30% of their original extent and being highly vulnerable to impacts of browsers. There are 12,351 ha of this ecosystem type within Priority Biodiversity Sites respectively.

Despite not having been reduced to less than 20% of their former extent, volcanic (VS) ecosystems and cliff (CL) ecosystems are nonetheless very restricted in extent (they are naturally rare) and sites containing these ecosystem types are particularly important to meeting the regional goal (maintaining and restoring a full range of ecosystems to a healthy functioning state).