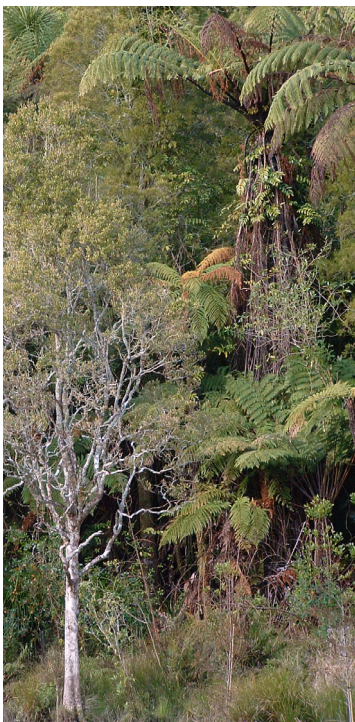




*Ephemeral Wetland (Tarawera K).*

# Priority Biodiversity Sites

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has developed a voluntary programme to empower landowners and care groups to protect and enhance Priority Biodiversity Sites (PBS) across the Bay of Plenty.



*Kahikatea and Swamp Maire.*

## What is a Priority Biodiversity Site?

PBSs are a network of ecologically important sites that include the full range of native ecosystems (e.g., wetlands, forests, sand dunes) and threatened species in the region.

PBSs were identified in collaboration with Te Papa Atawhai/Department of Conservation to help achieve our joint goal of “maintaining or restoring a full range of Bay of Plenty’s ecosystems to a healthy functioning state”.

Protection and restoration of PBSs is important to ensure examples of our indigenous ecosystems and species survive into the future. PBSs require careful management to ensure they are healthy and continue to provide suitable habitat for native plant and animal communities.

### Without active management, PBSs can be degraded by threats such as:

- pest plants that take over and outcompete native vegetation
- pest animals that damage vegetation and eat native wildlife (e.g. deer, stoats, possums and rats).
- livestock that trample and damage vegetation
- loss of habitat through clearance of vegetation and drainage of wetlands.



*Frost Flats in the Rangitāiki.*

## Common methods to manage Priority Biodiversity Sites:

- Pest plant control
- Pest animal control
- Stock exclusion/fencing
- Restoration planting
- Re-establishing native fish passage to areas they need to live and breed.

## I have a PBS on my property... what now?

Identification of an area as a PBS does not, in itself, impose any additional regulatory obligations on your use of the land (they are non-statutory). PBSs enable Regional Council to prioritise its support for biodiversity management activities across public and private land.

If you are interested in protecting and enhancing a PBS on your property, Regional Council can offer support. As well as free site assessments, advice and support, we offer grants for biodiversity management at a PBS through funding agreements/management plans called 'Environmental Programmes'.



Scan this QR code to find your property.

## What's an Environmental Programme?

An Environmental Programme (EP) is a management plan/funding agreement that sets out actions required to protect and restore a PBS. Developed in consultation with the landowner, they set out the actions that landowners can take to manage a PBS and how Regional Council or care groups can help. An environmental programme for a PBS typically includes grants for management activities.

## Other helpful resources:

- Our guide to funding and support [boprc.govt.nz/living-in-the-bay/community-funding/a-helping-hand](https://boprc.govt.nz/living-in-the-bay/community-funding/a-helping-hand)
- Department of Conservation [doc.govt.nz/nature/biodiversity](https://doc.govt.nz/nature/biodiversity)
- Ngā Whenua Rahui [doc.govt.nz/get-involved/funding/nga-whenua-rahui](https://doc.govt.nz/get-involved/funding/nga-whenua-rahui)
- QEII [qeiiinternationaltrust.org.nz](https://qeiiinternationaltrust.org.nz)

## Talk to our team today:

For more information, or to discuss your site, contact Bay of Plenty Regional Council to talk to your local Land Management Officer.

Phone: **0800 884 880**

Email: [info@boprc.govt.nz](mailto:info@boprc.govt.nz)

Visit: [boprc.govt.nz/land-management-officers](https://boprc.govt.nz/land-management-officers)

