

## Land Management Environmental Grants



Horizons Regional Council funds individuals and communities for a variety of environmental projects. This handout provides information on the grants available for farms and lifestyle blocks within the Horizons region.

If you are interested in funding for work on your property, please contact us directly as our grants have different criteria and funding levels. We can also advise you on land management issues.

Call us on 0508 800 800 and ask for a Land Management Advisor (LMA) or email us at [slui@horizons.govt.nz](mailto:slui@horizons.govt.nz).

### Grant Funds

#### General Criteria

We only approve funding once the work type and estimated costs have been scoped by one of our LMAs.

In all but exceptional cases, grants are paid out once the work is finished. Our LMAs will carry out an inspection to ensure the work has been completed to standard and within budget.

You will be asked to fill out a claim form and an invoice so we can reimburse the agreed grant costs.

You are expected to maintain the works in good condition over their lifetime. This includes any weed and pest control in retired and planted areas.

#### Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI)

SLUI is the major environmental programme for the land team. This regional programme is targeted at erosion control and reducing sediment in our region's waterways. SLUI is a partnership between our regional ratepayers and central government and is funded through the Hill Country Erosion Fund.

The amount of funding available through SLUI is significantly more than through environmental grants. However, SLUI is targeted to priority land types in our hill country.

#### Farm Plans

To fund SLUI works, our LMAs need to be able to provide proof that the work type matches the erosion issue, is an appropriate treatment for the site, and will result in less sediment entering our waterways.

To do this, LMAs assess and map the land where the works are proposed. In the past this has been through a SLUI Whole Farm Plan, but we are now using a simpler property map. We still aim to map the whole property to ensure we are giving you sound advice and identifying all the erosion risks for the property.

Once the land has been mapped, you and the LMA will agree on a work programme. The grants cover 30% to 50% of the cost of the work. Some types of work attract an upper limit cost.

There is no limit to the grant available per property. However, individual projects with a grant expenditure of more than \$20,000 require an extra level of approval.

Funding for large scale afforestation projects over 150 ha or more than 50% of the property area have some extra restrictions.

In some cases, an agreement may need to be registered through either a memorandum of understanding or a resource conservation agreement.



## Environmental Grants

These grants, available throughout the region, are targeted at erosion control and water quality issues.

Funds are limited within annual budgets. Grants usually cover 30% of the total cost of the work.

You can apply for a maximum of \$10,000 per year. The total funding available per year is \$80,000.

### Environmental Grants (Whanganui Catchment Strategy - WCS)

We have additional funding available through the generous support of the Whanganui River Enhancement Trust. With the trust's help, we provide funding for erosion and sediment control works which will improve water quality within the Whanganui River catchment. Funding of up to 50% of the cost of the work is available.

There is no limit on the amount of grant per property per year; however, the total annual funding available is \$103,000.

### Work Types

We can fund the following work types. Note that not all work types are available through every grant programme.

Work type	Description	Funding type
Pole planting	Poplar and willow poles for erosion control	All funds
Afforestation	Pines, exotics, and mānuka for erosion control	All funds
Riparian fencing	Fences to exclude stock for sediment trapping and to reduce nitrogen and bacteria from entering waterways	Usually not available where stock exclusion rules apply, but may be available in other areas
Riparian planting	Planting native or exotics, primarily for control of streambank erosion	All funds and planting encouraged through WCS
Bush retirement fencing	Protection of bush on erosion-prone land	All funds
Wetland retirement and planting	Fencing and planting where wetlands will improve water quality through sediment trapping	All funds
Wetland / sediment traps	Developing wetland / sediment trap areas	WCS, SLUI
Erosion control structures	Debris dams, drainage, and flumes for erosion control	All funds. However, these works are often costly and funds are restricted within the environmental grant funding pool
Removal of end-of-life poplar and willow	Limited funding, part of which must go towards appropriate replanting	SLUI only
Willow removal from streams	For areas where streams are clogged, reducing flood flows and contributing to erosion	SLUI only

### Other Grants

We have other grant funds available. These include freshwater and biodiversity grants for riparian fencing and planting and significant biodiversity sites. Contact the freshwater or biodiversity teams on 0508 800 800 for details of funding in your area.

## Summary

The land team have a number of funding streams available for small one-off or longer term projects. These range from 30% for general funding level, through to more complex top-priority erosion sites where we can contribute more funding on a case by case basis.

One of our LMAs can give you advice on your eligibility for our funding programmes. Remember to always get approval for work before it is carried out.



For more information visit [www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz)  
or freephone Horizons on 0508 800 800