

WEST COAST NEWS

HEALTHY WEST COAST ZONE CATCHMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL WELLBEING



ARAMIRO STATION RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT

A LARGE 1900 HECTARE STATION IN WAITETUNA VALLEY, SOUTH-EAST OF RAGLAN, HAS RECEIVED FUNDING FOR SIGNIFICANT RIPARIAN PLANTING AND FENCING WORK TO REDUCE EXTENSIVE BANK EROSION.

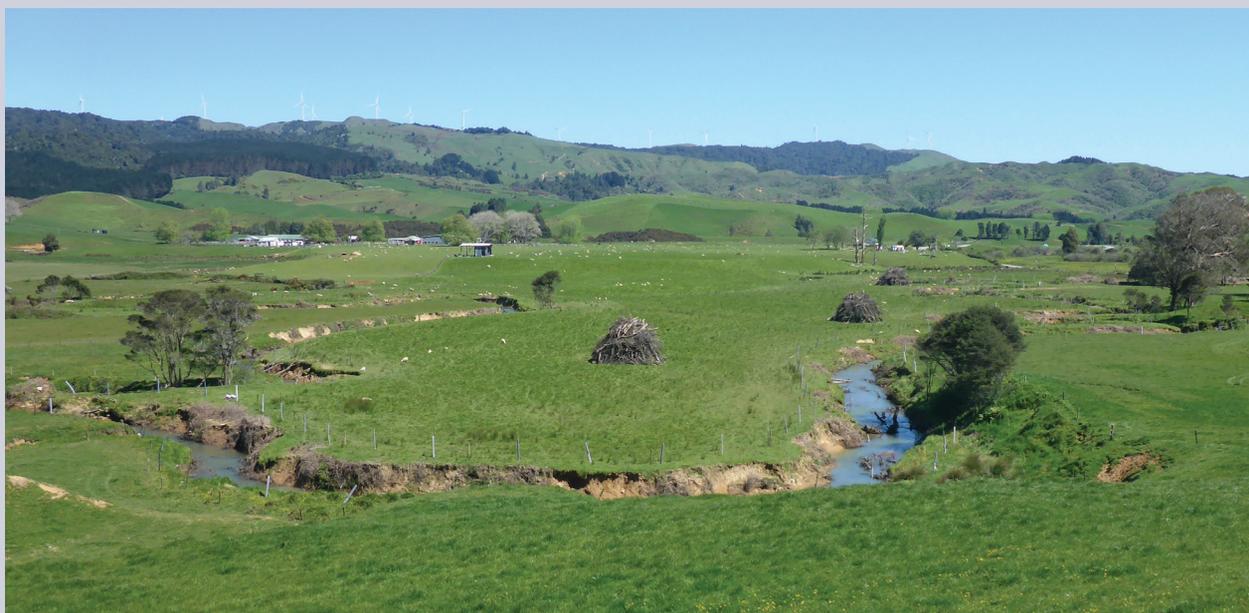
Aramiro Station Trust recently received confirmation that it would receive approximately \$200,000 of funding from Ngā Whenua Rahui (a subsidiary of the Department of Conservation) and Waikato Regional Council.

The funding is being used as part of a project along the margins of the Waitetuna River. The programme of work includes approximately 6 kilometres of riparian fencing, 10,000 native plantings, 400 hybrid willow plantings, water reticulation and weed control.

The photo below clearly shows extensive stream bank erosion along the Waitetuna River flowing through the station. This would no doubt be a source of high levels of sedimentation entering the nearby Whāingaroa Harbour.

Once stock are excluded from the river, and with appropriate plantings, we hope bank erosion will be significantly reduced. This will create positive soil conservation, water quality and biodiversity benefits into the future.

It has taken several years to get this project off the ground and we would like to thank our key partners, Aramiro Station Trust and Ngā Whenua Rahui, for their vision and support. It is hoped this will be the first stage of a long-term project with many positive environmental benefits.



Bank erosion along the Waitetuna River at Aramiro Station.

NUKUHAKARI STATION

At Nukuhakari Station, three years of planting has helped to reduce sand movement landward and provide habitat for a broad range of native animals and plants along the west coast.

The station is a large sheep and cattle farm located north of Awakino and south of Marokopa Beach exposed to prevailing westerly winds.

The dunes are mobile due to a lack of vegetation cover caused by many years of stock access, and they now cover several hectares.

Several thousand spinifex planted in 2015, 2016 and 2017 has formed a vegetated foredune and reduced the amount of sand movement inland and covering pasture.

Targeting areas between existing vegetation to form a continuous zone of vegetation is proving successful.



The main restoration area in February 2013.



By April 2017, planting has seen the development of a spinifex dominated foredune. Thanks to planting, the dune has reduced its landward migration, allowing the landowner to resow pasture.

CARING FOR THE COAST

Beachcare is being renamed to reflect our broader approach to restoring the Waikato's coastlines. It's not just about popular beaches, so we are now calling our programme Coastcare.

Waikato Regional Council's coastal restoration programme has been operating on the west coast for more than 20 years. Over that time it's morphed from being a primarily natural hazard (storm surge and erosion) response of replanting native sand dunes to be more about restoring coastal ecosystems and values. That includes cultural and social values, biodiversity and natural character.

We're also working to expand the education component of the programme by increasing our involvement with schools and teaching skills like pest control, species identification and monitoring to our communities.



Spinifex, left, and pīngao, right, are the two main sand-binding species in New Zealand. Pīngao is also a threatened species and can be sustainably harvested for traditional weaving.

FENCING, EARTHWORKS AND THE RULES

FENCING OFTEN REQUIRES SOME EARTHWORKS AND VEGETATION CLEARANCE TO CREATE BENCHES AND ACCESS TRACKS. THESE ACTIVITIES ARE GOVERNED BY RULES IN THE WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN, TO MANAGE ANY POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

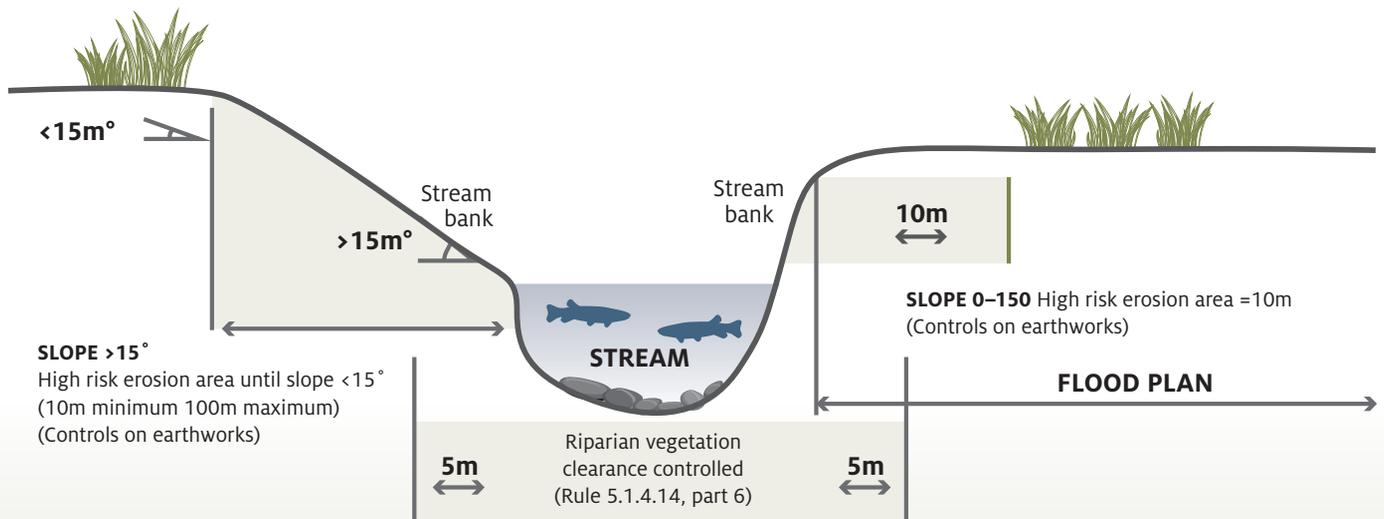
Potential impacts associated with earthworks and vegetation clearance are mostly related to sediment run off to waterways and wetlands and accelerated erosion.

In terms of the rules, earthworks and vegetation clearance associated with fencing can fall broadly into one of two situations: within high risk erosion areas (HREA) and outside HREA.

HIGH RISK EROSION AREAS ARE:

1. Where the land slope is greater than 25 degrees.
2. Where the land slope is greater than 15 degrees within 100 metres of any wetland, river, stream* or lake bed or mean high water spring tides, or up to the first point at which the slope reduces to 15 degrees or less, whichever is lesser.
3. For land slope up to 15 degrees within 10m of any wetland, river, stream* or lake bed.
4. Coastal frontal dunes on the east coast, coastal sand country on the west coast and within 50m landward of an estuary.

Visit waikatoregion.govt.nz/earthworks for further information on Waikato Regional Plan rules and earthworks.



* This includes all ephemeral streams draining catchments that are more than 100ha. Ephemeral streams are streams that flow for at least three months between March and September but don't flow all year round.

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

KEY TO AVOIDING EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT IS GOOD SITE MANAGEMENT THROUGH EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROLS. HERE ARE SOME BASIC PRINCIPLES TO BE AWARE OF.

1. Have a plan – make sure everyone knows what works are required, where they are to occur, the location of “no go” areas and who is responsible for the different parts of the job.
2. Keep disturbance to a minimum.
3. Control run off on track surfaces to avoid erosion.
4. Don't put loose material in locations where it can wash away and enter waterways or wetlands.
5. Stabilise exposed areas as soon as possible through metaling or regrassing and mulching with hay/straw.



Mulching with hay or straw helps stabilise exposed areas.



PREVENTING HILL COUNTRY EROSION TOGETHER

A GOVERNMENT FUNDING BOOST FOR SOIL CONSERVATION WORKS HAS SEEN PEOPLE SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO WORK TO COMBAT HILL COUNTRY EROSION.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) allocated \$630,000 of its Hill Country Erosion Fund over a four year period to support soil conservation works in three catchments: Awakino, Mangaotaki and Lower Mokau. It means farmers in these catchments can get funding of up to 70 per cent of the cost of soil conservation works on their land (35 per cent from MPI and 35 per cent from Waikato Regional Council).

There has been an extremely positive response from the local community and many people have taken the opportunity to do some work on their land. So far:

- 21 farm environment plans have been completed
- 264ha of land and 48km of streambank have been permanently retired from grazing
- 2609 poplars and willows covering 271ha have been planted for erosion control
- 9093 natives have been planted.

The photo below shows the importance of this work. It was taken at the outlets of Awakino and Mokau rivers on the west coast after heavy rainfall, and clearly shows a massive sediment plume. By preventing hill country erosion, we can reduce the amount of sediment that ends up in our waterways and coastal areas.



Sediment plume at Awakino and Mokau river outlets.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

ON-FARM PROJECTS

We contribute up to 35 per cent for on-farm projects throughout the West Coast Zone. Call Adrian or Callum to find out more.

HILL COUNTRY SOIL CONSERVATION

Up to 70 per cent funding is available for soil conservation works in Awakino, Mangaotaki and Lower Mokau catchments. Call Adrian to find out more.

FREE FARM PLANS

Waikato Regional Council offers farmers in the three Hill Country Erosion Fund catchments (Awakino, Mangaotaki and Lower Mokau) a free farm plan. Call Adrian for more information.

RIVER MANAGEMENT WORKS

In addition to clearing unexpected river blockages that cause serious flooding in the west coast, we have a river management works programme in place, with landowners receiving up to 50 per cent funding. Call Lyndon for more information.

WHO TO CONTACT

If you have any questions about our projects or want to find out how we can help you, please contact Jolene, Adrian, Callum or Lyndon via email, on 0800 800 401 or all them on their direct dial numbers.

NAME	ROLE	PHONE	EMAIL
Jolene Francis	Zone manager	07 859 2765	jolene.francis@waikatoregion.govt.nz
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Callum Bourke	Catchment management officer	07 859 0830	callum.bourke@waikatoregion.govt.nz
Lyndon Stokes	River management officer	07 859 0936	lyndon.stokes@waikatoregion.govt.nz

HE TAIAO MAUIORA HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT
HE ŌHANGA PAKARI STRONG ECONOMY
HE HAPORI HIHIRI VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

For more information call Waikato Regional Council on 0800 800 401 or visit waikatoregion.govt.nz.

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Waikato
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato