

LAND MANAGEMENT

SUSTAINABLE LAND

Are You Interested in Protecting Your Native Bush?

Main Points

- Many farmers have small areas of native bush they want to protect.
- Each year, these unprotected areas are generally getting smaller. Many are being degraded by stock grazing or possum browse which stops any regeneration.
- There are several ways to protect these areas.

How can these areas be protected?

There are a number of ways areas can be protected, ranging from temporary to long-term or permanent methods of protection.

TEMPORARY PROTECTION MEASURES

Fencing

To recover, native bush must be retired from grazing as stock not only browse the branches but also eat the seedlings. Few, if any, seedlings survive grazing. The only solution is a stock-proof fence. Do not use the area as a storm shelter or drought feed source as even one grazing a year kills any regeneration.

If the bush is on eroding land, see your Land Management Officer for advice and possible financial assistance from the Regional Council.

Management Agreement

This is a legal contract between you and the Department of Conservation to manage an area according to agreed conservation objectives. Management responsibilities are set out in the agreement, eg there may be an agreement not to graze an area of bush. In exchange DOC can offer management advice and expertise. The agreement is not usually registered on the title.

Management Agreements are only binding on the current owner, and financial assistance is generally not available.

Photo Courtesy of QEII National Trust



LONG-TERM PROTECTION MEASURES

For areas of bush to survive and prosper, long-term protection is needed. The Queen Elizabeth II National Trust and the Department of Conservation, each have legal protection systems which can be used.

Covenants

Covenants allow you to legally protect the area while continuing to own it. They are registered on the title and bind existing and future owners for the term of the covenant (usually in perpetuity). This ensures that in the future no-one can damage the protected area.

Management generally rests with the landowner. The Department of Conservation and QEII National Trust can both offer management advice and specialist assistance when needed. Unless you choose otherwise, the public will need your permission before coming onto the land.

The Department of Conservation, QEII National Trust and Nga Whenua Rahui all have some funding available to assist with protection costs.

QEII National Trust Open Space Covenants

The Trust aims to protect privately owned areas of open space without jeopardizing the rights of ownership. "Open space" is "any area of land or body of water that serves to preserve or to facilitate the preservation of any landscape of aesthetic, cultural, recreational, scenic, scientific or social interest or value".

A QEII National Trust open space covenant is a legal agreement between the Trust and a landholder to protect a special landscape feature in perpetuity.

Significant Points:

- The landowner retains the land on their title.
- The public need not have access as of right.

- There is the possibility of rate relief.
- The National Trust may be able to help with financial assistance for fencing.
- The Trust usually meets the surveying and registration costs for the covenant.
- The area must be permanently retired from grazing and no native trees can be harvested.

For further information contact

QEII representative for Hawke's Bay - Marie Taylor, telephone 0-6-856 5585; or for areas north of Kotemaori - Malcolm Piper, telephone 0-6-867 0255; or contact QEII Head Office in Wellington 0-4-472 6626.

Department of Conservation Covenants

These are administered by the Department of Conservation under the Reserves Act or the Conservation Act. These are agreements between the landowner and the Department of Conservation to protect a certain piece of land.

The covenant is a standard agreement which can be negotiated to suit both parties. It can be uplifted at a later date with the agreement of both parties, but this could only occur if the conservation values were destroyed, eg. the area had been destroyed by fire or floods.

Significant Points:

- The landowner retains ownership.
- The public need not have access.
- There is the possibility of rate relief.
- DOC staff will put up a case to the Forest Heritage Fund for financial assistance for fencing, surveying and legal costs. To date, all Hawke's Bay cases have been approved with full costs.
- The area must be permanently retired from grazing and no trees can be harvested.

For further information contact

your local Department of Conservation Office.

Nga Whenua Rahui Kawenata

This can be used by owners of Maori land wishing to protect areas. The terms and conditions are similar to that of a Conservation Covenant (DOC) but it is usually for a set term, after which it is reviewed. This allows each generation to make its own decisions.

The decisions on Nga Whenua Rahui are made by a mainly Maori committee. These agreements fully recognise the rangatiratanga of Maori land owners and their traditional uses and cultural views regarding their forests. National funds are available for these covenants.

Significant Points:

- Terms and processes are similar to conservation covenants.
- Finance is generally available.
- Terms can be reviewed after an agreed time.

For further information contact your local Department of Conservation Office or the Executive Officer, Nga Whenua Rahui, PO Box 10420, Wellington, telephone 0-4-471 0726.

PERMANENT PROTECTION

Land Purchase

The Department of Conservation will, on request, consider the purchase of areas of native forest of particular significance. However they are not generally interested in small areas and require an agreement for public access.

The purchase is through a Land Purchase Fund generated from the sale of unwanted DOC land. The availability of funds for this purpose cannot be guaranteed.

The QEII National Trust may also consider facilitating the purchase of land in special cases of high conservation value.

Significant Points:

- Department of Conservation or the QEII National Trust purchases the area from the landowner.
- Public access is usually required.
- Finance is often limited.

For further information

For information on sustainable land management, ask for the other titles in this series, or contact Land Management staff at Hawke's Bay Regional Council for advice.

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