



Environment Fund

Northland Regional Council's Environment Fund supports farmers and landowners to exclude stock (including sheep) from waterways to improve the quality of freshwater in Te Taitokerau. The fund contributes to riparian and wetland fencing and when required, stock water troughs and tanks.

Note this is a contestable fund and does not cover works already completed and is not for boundary fences.

If you're interested in finding out more, please contact our kaimahi on 0800 002 004 or landadmin@nrc.govt.nz. If emailing, please include details of where your property is and a contact phone number.

Application Process

A Northland Regional Council Land Management Adviser (LMA) will visit your property to discuss the environmental challenges, possible mitigation options and your vision for the property. The LMA will work with you to develop a fencing plan. If you need support to provide water for stock fenced out of a waterway where they usually drink, talk to us about grant options for troughs and a tank. Note, we don't fund pipe or fittings.

The LMA will complete the application paperwork and submit it to the approval panel. The panel approves or declines applications based on their environmental benefit and the funding available. Unfortunately, we usually don't have enough funding to approve all the applications we receive. Applications are usually processed in late October, then an agreement is sent to landowners to sign and return.

The LMA will check in on progress regularly and confirm works have been completed as per the agreement. The landowner then supplies an invoice for the agreed amount and the grant is paid. In special circumstances we can arrange advance payments – please talk to your LMA if you need an advance payment.

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Fencing

Fence types funded (depending on farm system requirements, power supply and tractor access) are:

- post and wire using at least #2 round or #1 ¼ round posts with #2 strainers in the corners
- insulated line posts with wooden strainers in the corners
- arrow footed posts with wooden strainers in the corners
- galvanized Y posts with ezytube strainer posts or wooden strainers in the corners.

All fence types need to use 2.5mm HT wire with post spacings of no more than:

- eight metres for one or two wire fencing
- seven metres for three or four wire fencing
- five metres for five to seven wires or netting.

During fence construction benching / bulldozing / earthworks should be avoided. If it is unavoidable, these activities must be discussed and approved before the application is lodged. Waterway fencing must create a buffer of at least 3m from the top of the waterway bank full edge in lowland areas and 1m in hill country waterways.

Fencing must be completed by 31 March of the year following approval of your application, unless otherwise agreed.

Indicative funding rates

There is a per year funding cap of \$20,000 per property and a minimum fencing grant of \$1,000. Discretionary grants are available for properties below 10 hectares.

Stock water tanks can be funded at up to \$3,000 for a 25,000L tank (receipt required).

Troughs can be funded at up to \$300 for 150L, \$480 for 250L or \$600 for concrete troughs. Max five per application (receipt required).

Fencing is subsidised between \$9.40 per metre for a 2-wire fence and up to \$18.80 for a 7 wire or netting fence. During the assessment process per metre rates are sometimes reduced to help share the funding further.

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