

Executive summary

This report reviews the Taranaki Regional Council's performance and achievements on its land management functions for the 2008/2009 year.

Implementation of the Sustainable Land Management Programme continues to be the Council's operational focus for land management. This programme focuses on the provision of advice and advocacy through property planning services whereby plans are prepared addressing sustainability issues on a site-specific basis.

Set out below is a summary of the main land management activities carried out by the Council in 2008/2009:

- Prepared 16 comprehensive farm plans and three agroforestry plan covering an additional 12,180 hectares of hill country. As at 30 June 2009, the Council has prepared a total of 286 comprehensive farm plans and 27 agroforestry plans, which together cover 179,182 hectares.
- Prepared 266 riparian management plans covering 1,292 kilometres of stream bank. As at 30 June 2009, the Council has prepared a total of 2,255 riparian management plans, which cumulatively cover 12,212 kilometres of stream bank. The Council's planning phase relating to the riparian programme is now largely completed and increasing focus is going on the implementation of riparian plans.
- Monitoring confirms that land holders are implementing the recommendations set out in riparian management plans but at a slow pace – in 2008/2009 monitoring indicated that land holders planted 186.7 kilometres of stream bank and fenced 510 kilometres of stream bank.
- As at 30 June 2009, land holders had fenced 1,014 km of stream bank and planted 613 km of stream bank by way of implementing their riparian plans. Taking the existing fencing and planting into consideration, this means 66% of stream banks are fenced and 56% of stream banks (that require protection with vegetation) are planted.
- Prepared five conservation plans addressing site-specific soil conservation and water quality issues.
- Liaised with and provided supplementary advice to plan holders on 4,482 occasions.
- Responded, within ten working days, to 403 requests for general advice and assistance on sustainable land management, soil conservation and riparian management practices.
- Provided a total of 257,535 plants for soil conservation and riparian enhancement purposes, at cost, to 770 plan holders.
- Through the Council's land management activities, significant parts of Taranaki's erosion prone areas are being sustainably managed and soil erosion minimised or avoided. Likewise, the fencing and planting of riparian margins through intensively farmed land on the ring plain is making a significant contribution to avoiding, remedying or mitigating the effects of land use practices on water quality. These activities are contributing towards achieving community outcomes relating to a prosperous and sustainable Taranaki.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

This report reviews the Taranaki Regional Council's performance and achievements on its land management functions for the 2008/2009 year.

1.2. Background

The Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) has responsibilities for sustainable land management in the Taranaki region derived from the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941.

Over 60% of Taranaki's total land area of 723,610 hectares has been developed for pastoral farming. The rest is mainly indigenous forest (half of which lies in the public conservation estate) with some exotic forestry. Good management of the region's land resource is essential for Taranaki's environmental and economic future. The soil resource, which supports the flora and fauna, and is the base for the region's primary production, must be carefully managed.

Under the Resource Management Act, Council has prepared the *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki* (1994), the *Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki* (2001), and the *Regional Soil Plan for Taranaki* (2001). These policy documents, amongst other things, underpin and promote sustainable land use, soil conservation and riparian management programmes.

The Council promotes sustainable land management largely through non-regulatory methods that target the hill country and coastal sand country (to mitigate land use effects on soil conservation), and the ring plain (to mitigate the effects of diffuse runoff on water quality). The non-regulatory methods involve the provision of advisory and extension services to land holders to promote voluntary change towards sustainable land management practices.

Through its property planning service, Council provides four types of



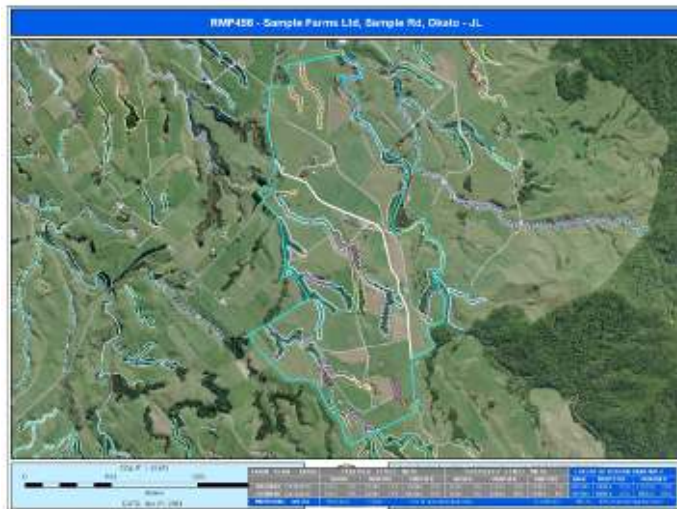
The most 'at risk' area in terms of soil erosion occurs in the hill country and on the coastal terraces



Mount Taranaki and streams flowing from mountain

plans to interested land holders addressing land management issues.¹ These are:

- **Comprehensive farm plans:** These are prepared for properties in erosion prone parts of the eastern hill country and look at all aspects of a farming operation including land and stock management and specifically address management practices that protect soil and water resources while maximising the productive capability of the property. If forestry is seen as part of the property's future viability, this plan can also include an agroforestry plan.
- **Agroforestry plans:** These are prepared primarily for properties in the hill country but on occasion can be applied to other parts of the region. These plans are based upon a computer programme designed to model the physical and financial effects of a sustained planting to felling regime on a property.
- **Conservation plans:** These are prepared primarily for properties with individual site-specific soil or water conservation problems that do not require long term input and planning. Examples include shelterbelts and sand drift control.
- **Riparian plans:** These are prepared primarily for properties on the ring plain. The plans provide advice on the retirement and re-vegetation of land along the banks of rivers and streams for the purpose of enhancing water quality.



An example of a riparian plan monitoring map prepared using GIS technology

Set out below are the objectives and performance measures of the Council's significant land management activities.

1.2.1. Objective

The objectives for land management activities for 2008/2009, as set out in the Council's 2008/2009 Annual Plan, are:

"To promote sustainable land and riparian management by providing property-planning services that identify actions for land use and management on an individual property basis".

"To promote sustainable land and riparian management to the regional community through advocacy and facilitation".

1.2.2. Performance measures

The performance measures for land management activities for 2008/2009 (as set out in the 2008/2009 Annual Plan) are:

¹ The Council also prepares a fifth type of plan – the biodiversity plan – which is not addressed in this report. These plans target biodiversity issues and are addressed in a separate report – Biodiversity Annual Report 2008/2009.

- Provide property planning services to land holders, comprising comprehensive farm plans, agroforestry plans and conservation plans. The target for 2008/2009 is for plans covering not less than an additional 12,000 hectares from an estimated 30 properties
- Provide riparian management plans to land holders. The target for 2008/2009 is for plans covering not less than an additional 1,200 kilometres from an estimated 250 properties
- Liaise with and provide supplementary advice to approximately 2,100 property owners for whom plans have been prepared
- Monitor and report on progress on implementation of all sustainable land management plans
- Respond to 100% of requests (approximately 600 per annum) for general advice and assistance on sustainable land management, soil conservation and riparian management practices within ten working days
- Provide servicing and support to the Taranaki Tree Trust and assistance to other organisations involved in promoting sustainable land management
- Provide, on a cost-recovery basis, suitable plants for land stabilisation, soil conservation and water protection programmes. The target for 2008/2009 is to provide an estimated 300,000 plants for these purposes.

2. Report on progress

2.1. Preparation of comprehensive and agroforestry plans

Each year, the Council receives requests from land holders to prepare comprehensive farm plans or agroforestry plans for their properties. The coverage of the comprehensive plans and agroforestry plans as at 30 June 2009 is shown in Figure 1. Of note, the most 'at risk' area in terms of soil erosion occurs on steep slopes in the hill country and on the coastal terraces – particularly, pasture land on Class VIe, VIIe and VIII land.

Comprehensive farm plans cover all environmental aspects of a farming operation including land and stock management while maximising the productive capability of the property. The plans are based upon a detailed land resource inventory and include an analysis of soils, geology, vegetation, slope and erosion. Land use and management recommendations promoting the stabilisation and protection of the productive capability of

the soils within the property are also included in the Plan. The comprehensive farm plan format has evolved over the past three years to indicate production potentials for the different land units and provide some basic economic analyses.

In 2008/2009, the Council prepared 16 comprehensive farm plans covering an additional 10,420 hectares of farmland in the hill country and on the coastal terraces (compared with 21 plans covering 14,648 hectares in 2007/2008). As at 30 June 2009, the Council has prepared 286 comprehensive farm plans covering 171,845 hectares.

The Council also receive requests from land holders to prepare agroforestry plans for their properties. The Council prepares these plans for land holders interested in diversification by establishing woodlots or plantations.

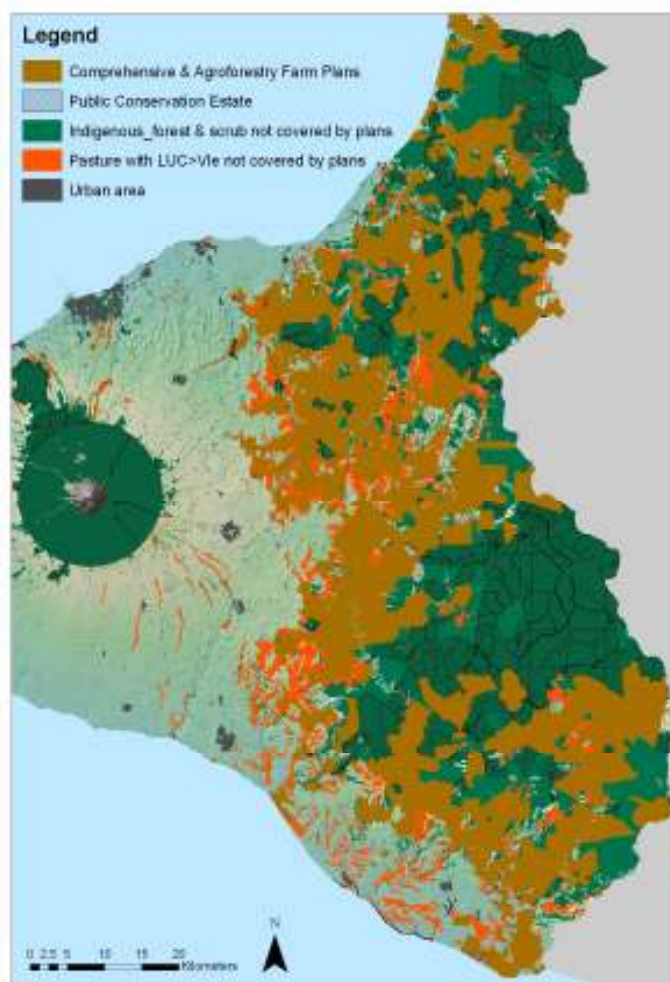


Figure 1: Comprehensive and agroforestry farm plans, as at 30 June 2009

Agroforestry plans involve the use of the Agroforestry Estate Model to generate a number of scenarios taking into account land use capability and the nature and extent of forestry in which the land holder is interested. In 2008/2009, the Council prepared three agroforestry plan covering 1,760 hectares (compared with one plan covering 707 hectares in 2007/2008). As at 30 June 2009, the Council has prepared 27 agroforestry plans covering 15,288 hectares.

Table 1 below highlights the Council's progress over time in the preparation of comprehensive farm plans and agroforestry plans. As at 30 June 2009, a total of 313 comprehensive farm plans and agroforestry plans have been prepared covering 179,182 hectares.

Table 1: Comprehensive and agroforestry plans prepared

Year	Comprehensive plans		Agroforestry plans	
	No. of plans	Ha	No. of plans	Ha
Prior to 2000/01	91	55,708	20	11,444
2001/2002	23	11,516	0	0
2002/2003	17	14,532	2	812
2003/2004	37	14,917	1	412
2004/2005	41	25,827	0	0
2005/2006	19	11,737	0	0
2006/2007	30	15,031	0	0
2007/2008	21	14,648	1	707
2008/2009	16	10,420	3	1,760

2.1.1. Monitoring implementation of plans

Over the last few years, Council has been developing a programme to monitor implementation of comprehensive and agroforestry plans. Each year, plan holders are contacted to assess what changes they are making to their farming practices and land use as a result of the plans. This information is recorded on the Council's databases. However, a significant number of plans were prepared before 2002 (when Council adopted the current GIS format for its farm plans) and information for these plans was, until recently, not on the Council's databases.

In 2007/2008, the Council completed the job of digitising farm plans developed before 2002 to bring them into the current GIS format. In addition, changes in land use (as a result of implementing the farm plans) were also digitised. The Council has subsequently developed and installed new monitoring software, which it is currently testing in terms of its functionality (after a recent upgrade of Council's GIS). Once the



Comprehensive farm plans provide landowners with advice and information on managing erodible land.

monitoring software has been tested, the Council will be able to accurately monitor progress with implementing farm plan recommendations.

2.1.2. Promoting sustainable land management

In addition to its property planning service, the Council undertook a range of advisory, educational and extension activities promoting sustainable land management. A major emphasis was the potential business opportunities that exist for land holders through climate change initiatives such as the proposed Forestry Emissions Trading Scheme, the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative and the Afforestation Grants Scheme.

In 2008/2009, the Council organised a series of meetings for farmers (largely targeting the hill country) informing them of the opportunities for carbon farming as an alternative and sustainable land use. The carbon farming seminars, involving Council, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the forestry industry and carbon investors, were held at Ararewa Station in the Waitotara Valley in April 2009 and at Nukuhau (inland from Waverley) in June 2009. Some 60 people attend the Waitotara seminar and 30 attended the Waverley seminar. The Council also discussed carbon farming issues, along with other sustainable land management issues, with a Tarata discussion group on two occasions in October 2008 and May 2009.

The Permanent Forest Sink Initiative, in particular, offers hill country land holders new scope for developing useful new income streams off steep, highly erosion-prone, infertile land – while at the same time meeting the sorts of soil conservation objectives pursued by the Council. This was highlighted at the Waitotara Valley seminar. There is flexibility too, so the land holder can decide which land pockets might be best for reversion to scrub and which would be best for planting trees.

In February 2009, the Council also visited and advised plan holders of the forestry opportunities available through the Afforestation Grant Scheme. This Scheme involves the land holder receiving a grant to establish a forest on Kyoto compliant land; in return the government receives the carbon credits and liabilities for the first 10 years. After the contract expires, the land holders may enter the forest in the Emissions Trading Scheme and earn carbon credits. In 2008/2009, the Council, on behalf of interested land holders, obtained funding for 320 hectares of new plantings from the Scheme.

Complementary to the above schemes, Council has applied for and been successful in securing \$1,063,000 over four years from the government's Sustainable Land Management Hill Country Erosion Fund. The fund is administered by the Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry. Council's South Taranaki and Regional Erosion Support Scheme (STRESS) will deliver a programme of poplar and willow pole planting, close spaced planting, retirement and reversion fencing, targeting the Waitotara Catchment and other erodible land in the region.

In addition to the above, the Council continued to support the Taranaki Monitor Farm at Tikorangi and the Taranaki Shelter and Farm Forestry Association.

2.2. Preparation of riparian management plans

Each year, Council targets and receives requests from land holders to prepare riparian management plans for their property. Riparian management plans focus upon the protection of watercourses, primarily on the ring plain. These plans set out recommendations for the retirement or re-vegetation of land along the banks of rivers and streams for the purpose of enhancing water quality.

Complementing the planning service is the provision of riparian plants at cost to plan holders. To make riparian planting more affordable, Council contracts nurseries to supply, in bulk, suitable indigenous plants, and then passes on the savings to participating land holders (see section 2.4.2 below).



Riparian planting near Inglewood

In 2008/2009, the Council surveyed and prepared 266 riparian management plans covering 1,292 kilometres of stream bank (compared with 301 plans covering 1,584 kilometres of stream bank in 2007/2008). As at 30 June 2009, the Council has prepared 2,255 riparian management plans covering 12,212 kilometres of stream bank.

Figure 2 shows the coverage of riparian plans throughout Taranaki as at 30 June 2009. Of note, the riparian programme covers most of the ring plain. The Council's planning phase relating to the riparian programme is now largely completed and increasing focus is going on the implementation of riparian plans.

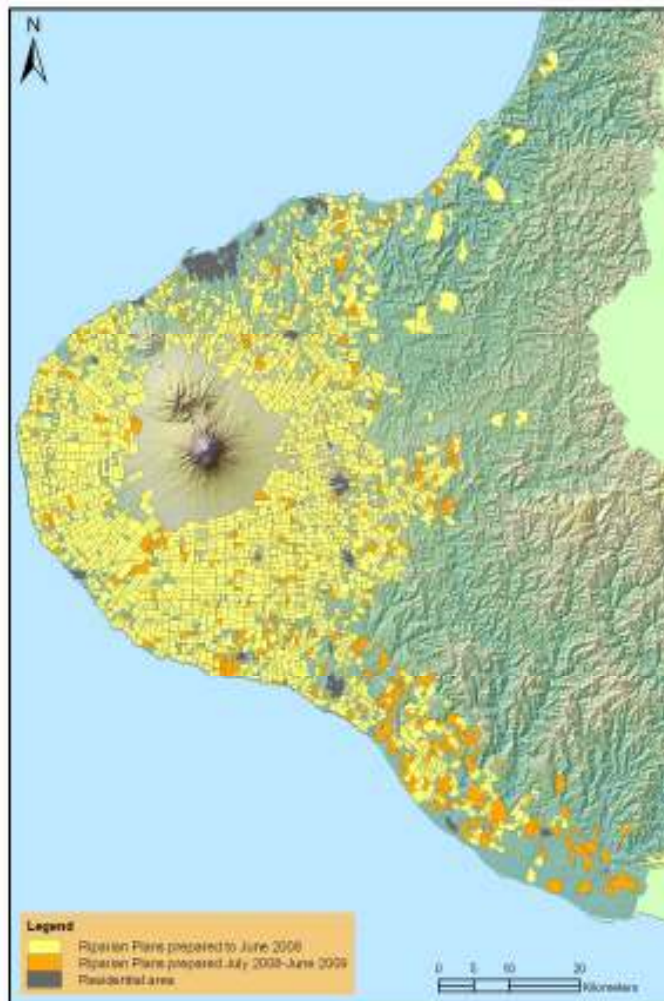


Figure 2: Riparian farm plans, as at 30 June 2009

2.2.1. Monitoring implementation of riparian plans

Since 2004/2005, the Council has been monitoring the implementation of riparian management plans. The monitoring records additional riparian fencing and planting carried out following the preparation of the plan. The monitoring confirms that land holders are implementing the recommendations set out in riparian management plans but at a slow pace.

In 2008/2009, Council monitoring indicated that land holders planted 186.7 kilometres of stream bank and fenced 510 kilometres of stream bank. As at 30 June 2009, land holders have fenced 1,014 kilometres of stream bank and planted 613 kilometres of stream bank (Figure 3).

Taking the existing fencing and planting into consideration, this means that 8,001 kilometres of stream banks are fenced (66% of the total covered by a riparian plan) and 5,094 kilometres of stream banks are protected by vegetation (existing or newly planted). This is 56% of the length identified as relevant for planting.

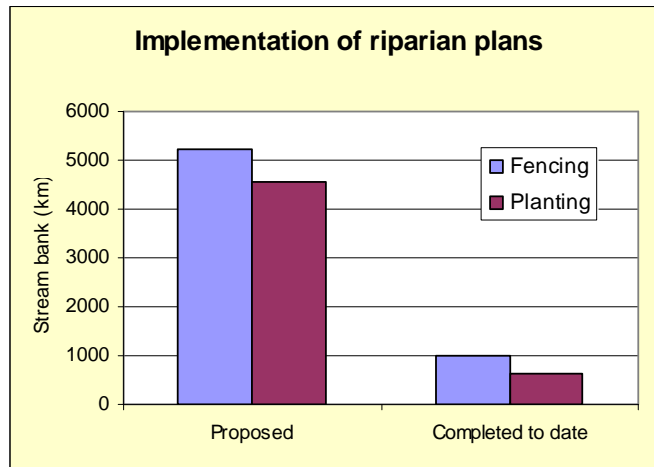


Figure 3: Extent of proposed fencing and planting that has been completed

The Council's riparian programme is a key component of the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord. Progress against targets set in the Accord is reported on separately.

2.2.2. Promoting the riparian programme

In order to promote the riparian programme and to encourage uptake of the riparian plan recommendations by landowners, the Council has continued to work in partnership with Fonterra to implement a joint communication strategy (2008). The aim of that strategy is to move the focus from 'awareness raising' to achieve a specific behaviour, which is the fencing and planting of riparian margins.

In 2008/2009, the Council prepared a number of press releases relating to riparian management. Key messages included incorporating riparian management expenses into your annual budget, ordering your plants a year in advance (in order for Council's native plant scheme to provide plants at cost), the importance of riparian fencing and planting for the environment, and farm management and to future-proof dairy production and the industry.

In 2008/2009, the Council continued with a recent initiative to tender for the provision of planting contract services for land holders who were undertaking their first lot of riparian planting. The Council facilitated the matching up of contractors with land holders and over 20,000 plants were planted as a result. Feedback from all involved in the scheme was positive.

One of the actions from the communications strategy involved Fonterra sponsoring two major prizes in a competition to encourage farmers into riparian management. Prizes included a package of 700 riparian plants, pre-planting preparation, planting and maintenance valued at \$3,500, and goods to the value of \$2,500 from a RD1 store. Eighty riparian plan holders, who ordered over 400 riparian plants before 1 April 2009, also received \$50 RD1 vouchers.

A second sponsor, Revital Fertilisers, was also found for non-Fonterra suppliers. The prize was \$1,000 worth of riparian plants and \$2,000 worth of Revital Fertiliser.

The promotions were a success, with increased plant orders arriving a month earlier than last year to make the prize-winning cut-off date.

2.2.3. Preparing conservation plans

Each year, the Council receives requests from land holders to prepare conservation plans for their property. Conservation plans are prepared primarily for properties with localised site-specific land or water conservation problems, e.g. shelter establishment, sand restoration, wetland protection, and erosion control. The advice set out in conservation plans do not require long term or on-going input and planning.

In 2008/2009, the Council prepared five conservation plans covering 19.2 hectares (compared with seven plans in 2007/2008). As at 30 June 2009, the Council had prepared 229 conservation plans covering 13,651 hectares.



On-going liaison with plan holders is an integral part in promoting the fencing and planting of riparian margins

2.3. On-going liaison

On-going one to one liaison between Council and property plan holders is the most important component of ensuring that the plan holders implement the plans' recommendations over time.

In 2008/2009, the Council liaised with and provided supplementary advice on 4,482 occasions to land holders with existing property plans (Figure 4). This was significantly higher than the preceding year (2,487) and previous years (where the average had been about 1,600 occasions). This reflects both the increased

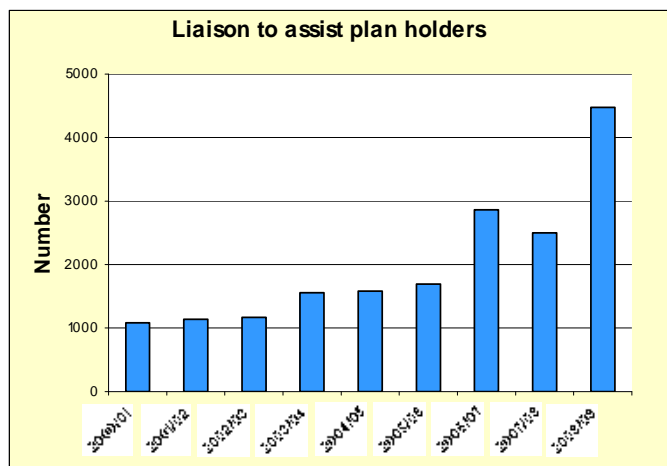


Figure 4: Number of times Council provided support to plan holders

number of riparian plans and also the Council's commitment to on-going liaison with plan holders.

2.4. Requests for general advice and assistance

2.4.1. Information requests

Each year the Council receives and responds to numerous requests from the public for information on sustainable land management. Public requests may relate to vegetation clearance, native logging, implementation rate of the sustainable land management programme and riparian management strategy, aerial photography, planting advice and new property plan enquiries.



Council has a wide variety of advice and educational material on land management issues

Council officers also distribute a large number of pamphlets and other educational material to interested individuals and organisations in relation to sustainable land management.

In 2008/2009, the Council received and responded to 403 requests for advice and assistance on a wide variety of land management related issues (compared with 554 information requests the preceding year). Most of these requests related to practices, and, to a lesser extent information requests from other agencies. All requests for general advice and assistance were responded to within ten working days.

2.4.2. Planting material

The Council has two plant production schemes whereby it grows or obtains quality conservation planting material and makes these plants available to property plan holders at cost. The provision of planting material at cost is a key component in the success of the Council's soil conservation and riparian management programmes.

The first scheme involves Council supplying low cost poplar and willow plants for soil stability purposes. In 2008/2009, the Council provided 3,497 poplars and willows to 68 plan holders (Table 2). This is a significant decrease from the preceding year when the Council focused considerable effort on river control and soil stabilisation works in the Waitotara valley.

The second scheme is the 'Riparian Plant Scheme'. This scheme involves the Council contracting

Table 2: Number of plants supplied

Year	Poplar & willows	Riparian plants	Total
2007/2008	9,862	243,869	253,731
2008/2009	3,497	254,038	257,535

nurseries to supply suitable native riparian planting material (14 nurseries supplied plants to the scheme). By bulk purchasing these plants, the cost of the plants is reduced and the Council passes on these savings to riparian management plan holders. Demand for riparian plants continues to increase (refer Figure 5). In 2008/2009, the Council supplied 254,038 plants to 702 property plan holders (Table 3).

In total, the Council supplied a total of 257,535 plants to plan holders in 2008/2009. Since 1996, the Council's plant production schemes have supplied over 1.6 million plants to plan holders.

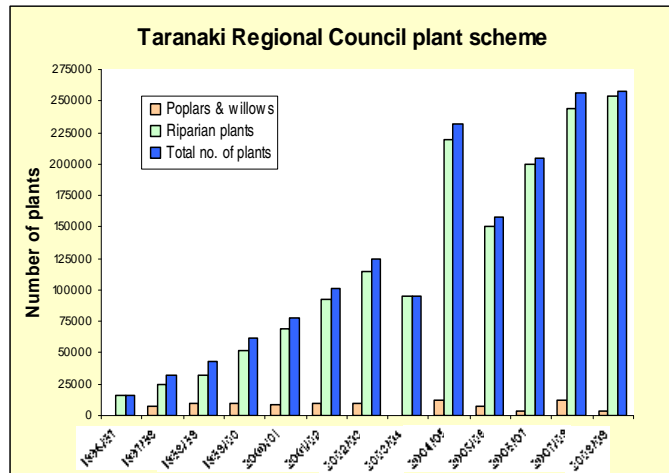


Figure 5: Number of plants supplied

2.4.3. Poplar nursery development and production programme

In 2007/2008, Council established a nursery on State Highway 3A, near Lepperton. The nursery facilitates the implementation of Council's Sustainable Land Management Programme through the production of quality three-metre poplar and willow material, suitable for Taranaki conditions, and which can be harvested on a two to three year rotation basis. The nursery will also assist the Council to meet the anticipated increased demand for planting material arising from its successful STRESS application. It will also be used to produce shrub willow material for riverbank stabilization.



Riparian plants all laid out ready for pick up at the Council's nursery at Lepperton

In 2008/2009 an additional 1,500 cuttings were planted at the nursery bringing the total number plants to 12,500. A further 3,500 cuttings will be planted in August 2009. The first harvest is expected to be in July 2010. The Council also established a wetland/riparian planting demonstration site on the existing gully on the property. A fully serviced building has been erected at the nursery and improvements to the riparian plant dispatch area completed.

2.4.4. Taranaki Tree Trust

The Council continues to administer and service the Taranaki Tree Trust – a charitable trust dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the region's ecosystems and landscapes. It also donated \$30,000 to the Trust from the Environmental Enhancement Grant.

The Trust met five times during the year to consider potential projects. The annual report of the Trust was approved at the Annual General Meeting held on October 2007. In late January 2009, Biodiversity Advice Fund's funding commenced and the Coordinator's hours increased from 10 to 20 hours per week. The funding has increased the Trust's capacity to further grow its brand and continue with the good work it has been involved in on Taranaki's behalf since 1991.

The Taranaki Tree Trust continues to receive contributions and attract sponsorship. It is therefore in a position to financially support a number of projects.

Highlights for 2008/2009 included facilitating the Hutiwai Stream whitebait restoration project funded by the Honda Tree Fund. This project involves assisting with the fencing and replanting of the Hutiwai Stream to improve whitebait spawning habitat in the area. The Taranaki Tree Trust also provided funding for the Lake Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust. The Trust further participated in a World Wetland Day public field trip to a recently restored wetland.



Council officer, Jason Loveridge, assisting with riparian planting along the Hutiwai Stream

On 1 February 2009, the Taranaki Tree Trust, along with representatives from the Taranaki Regional Council, Queen Elizabeth 11 National Trust and Taranaki Fish & Game celebrated World Wetlands Day at Auroa wetland. Approximately 50 people attended the occasion.



World Wetland Day being celebrated on Kevin & Marianne Murphy's property in Auroa

The Taranaki Tree Trust has confirmed its strategic direction in line with the recently published National Priorities for the Protection of Biodiversity on Private Land. It will continue to focus on financially supporting land holders to protect and restore remnant wetland and forest areas, particularly on land environments where there is little original indigenous vegetation left.

2.4.5. Wetlands

Wetlands, such as lagoons, estuaries, bogs, swamps, shallow lakes and farm dams, have a vital role in maintaining the health of the region's natural environment.

The Council promotes wetland protection through education, advice and information and financial incentives. In particular, the Council focuses on protecting those wetlands identified as 'regionally significant' in the *Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki*. Seventy-seven wetlands or groups of wetlands are identified as regionally significant covering a land area of 2,819 hectares.

In 2008/2009, the Council, through its Environmental Enhancement Grant, spent \$39,423 on works contributing to the maintenance and enhancement of eight regionally significant wetlands. Funding focuses on fencing, supplementary planting and covenanting the wetlands for their long term protection. This figure is additional to Environmental Enhancement Grant funding spent by the Biodiversity Section of Council (for further information, refer to *Biodiversity – Annual Report 2008/2009*).

Where possible, the Council advocates for the 'formal protection' of wetlands.² There are two protection mechanisms available – a covenant (with either QEII National Trust or the Department of Conservation) or a management agreement (Memorandum of Encumbrance) with Council. As at 30 June 2009: 16 of the regionally significant wetlands have 22 QEII covenants on part or whole of the wetland; 26 wetlands have Department of Conservation covenants on part or whole of the wetland; and six wetlands have eight Memoranda of Encumbrance on part or whole of the wetland. There are 27 regionally significant wetlands that lie partly or wholly in the public conservation estate.

In 2008/2009, the Council worked with land holders on securing protection or undertaking maintenance or enhancement on eight of the 77 regionally significant wetlands. These were Waikirikiri Lagoon, Lake Rotokare, Lake Waiau; Umutukai Bush, Nowell's Lakes, Lake Kaikura, Spence Road Ponds, Toko Wetland and Huiakama Lagoon.

The protection status of the 77 regionally significant wetlands, as at 30 June 2009, is set out in Table 3. Of note, two additional wetlands (Dorset Road and Huiakama Lagoon) were formally protected in 2008/2009.

Table 3: Protection status for the regionally significant wetlands

Formal protection status	Year	
	2007/2008	2008/2009
Formally protected – whole of wetland	41	42
Formally protected – part of wetland	6	7
No formal protection	31	28
Wetland destroyed*	1	1
	Total	77

* Refers to wetland destroyed in 2000. All parties involved in the unauthorised incident were prosecuted under section 15 of the Resource Management Act.

In 2008/2009, as part of its wetland monitoring programme, the

² Formal protection refers to where land has been set aside for conservation purposes, e.g. the site lies in the conservation estate, is protected as a reserve, or has a covenant or caveat on the title protecting natural values associated with the land. Of note, all wetlands are protected by rules under the *Regional Freshwater Plan for Taranaki*.

Council visited 20 of the privately-owned regionally significant wetlands. Site visits involved officers liaising with the land holders, and monitoring and recording information relating to the protection, maintenance and enhancement of the wetlands, including follow-up on any Council works initiated.

3. Conclusion

In summary, the Council has met its objectives and performance measures for land management activities as set out in its *Annual Plan 2008/2009*.

The implementation of the Sustainable Land Management Programme continues to be the Council's operational focus. Set out below is a summary of the main land management activities carried out by the Council in 2008/2009:

- Prepared 16 comprehensive farm plans and three agroforestry plan covering an additional 12,180 hectares of hill country. This means that at 30 June 2009, the Council has prepared a total of 286 comprehensive farm plans and 27 agroforestry plans, which together cover 179,182 hectares.
- Prepared 266 riparian management plans covering 1,292 kilometres of stream bank. This means that as at 30 June 2009, the Council has prepared a total of 2,255 riparian management plans, which cumulatively cover 12,212 kilometres of stream bank. The Council's planning phase relating to the riparian programme is now largely completed and increasing focus is going on the implementation of riparian plans.
- Monitoring confirms that land holders are implementing the recommendations set out in riparian management plans but at a slow pace – in 2008/2009 monitoring indicated that land holders planted 186.7 kilometres of stream bank and fenced 510 kilometres of stream bank.
- As at 30 June 2009, land holders had fenced 1,014 km of stream bank and planted 613 km of stream bank by way of implementing their riparian plans. Taking the existing fencing and planting into consideration, this means 66% of stream banks are fenced and 56% of stream banks (that require protection with vegetation) are planted.
- Prepared five conservation plans addressing site-specific soil conservation and water quality issues.
- Liaised with and provided supplementary advice to property plan holders on 4,482 occasions.
- Responded, within ten working days, to 403 requests for general advice and assistance on sustainable land management, soil conservation and riparian management practices.
- Provided a total of 257,535 plants for soil conservation and riparian enhancement purposes, at cost, to 770 plan holders.

Through the Council's land management activities, significant parts of Taranaki's erosion prone areas are being sustainably managed and soil erosion minimised or avoided. Likewise, the fencing and planting of riparian margins through intensively farmed land on the ring plain is making a significant contribution to avoiding, remedying or mitigating the effects of land use practices on water quality. These activities are contributing towards achieving community outcomes relating to a prosperous and sustainable Taranaki.

This report will be forwarded to interested stakeholders for land management.