

Section 3 Activities

Taiao Māori me Nohonga
Tautīnei

Natural Environment and Sustainable Living



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Natural Environment and Sustainable Living

Council's Environment Strategy
sets out Council's contribution
to achieving a clean, green and
valued environment.

What we provide

- Education programmes and initiatives
- Support for environment service delivery providers
- Environmental programmes
- Community group support
- Liaison with the regional council and partners (with a focus on environmental issues).

Why we provide this activity

Our community outcome

- Our environment is clean, green and valued.

Natural Environment and Sustainable Living

Council has a statutory obligation under the Local Government Act 2002 to promote environmental wellbeing for the benefit of today's and future generations. Under the Resource Management Act 1991 we have responsibilities to control the effects of land use on the environment including natural hazards and indigenous biodiversity.

Council provides incentives for landowners undertaking conservation and environmental restoration work, through protection lot rules in the District Plan. Council also supports environmental monitoring programmes, so that we have relevant data to understand the value of the work we're doing and ensure it is being maintained.

Our communities value their local green space and sites of natural and cultural significance. Parks and reserves can provide habitat for native species and connections to rivers, harbours and the ocean. Protecting and enhancing natural and cultural sites of significance not only preserves the sites, it enables the historical knowledge gained from those sites to be preserved and used to inform our present actions.

The Western Bay of Plenty is fortunate to have several large projects and programmes involving Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Tangata Whenua, landowners and community environmental groups, that aim to improve biodiversity and water quality. These projects have grown from the desire of local communities to protect and enhance the natural environment that they value so highly. Council supports these initiatives and will continue to collaborate with local communities on project delivery.

Protecting and enhancing our natural environment also contributes to our resilience to the impacts of climate change. Healthy natural habitats maintain our groundwater, sequester carbon and improve air and water quality.

Green 'corridors' through urban areas can have multiple functions and bring nature into our towns. Iwi and Hapu have a strong connection to their whenua. It is important Iwi and Hapu are able to access and protect significant sites. Council will invest in projects led by mana whenua to enable this.

Fostering our connection to nature is essential, in particular in our towns. Council supports programmes that engage local communities in the environment around them and educates them about how their choices and actions affect the environment. The community is interested in having a lighter environmental footprint and Council supports programmes that engage individuals and communities in how to do this.

Over the next three years Council will focus on:

Kaituna - Supporting implementation of the Kaituna River Action Plan.

Education - Continuing to fund programmes that build understanding and educate us about our unique natural environment, how we can protect it and how we can have a lighter environmental footprint.

Cultural Heritage - Investment into Iwi and Hapū led initiatives that restore and protect natural and cultural heritage sites.

Collaboration and funding support - Continuing collaboration and funding support for existing projects and building relationships to support future projects.

Funding support to local environmental projects through the Community Matching Fund - Ecological Fund.

Biodiversity opportunities - We will investigate and implement opportunities to increase biodiversity on council land e.g., restoring an converting land to native habitat.

Ecological Corridors - We will support other agencies and the community to build, enhance and protect ecological corridors across the district.

Biosecurity - We will support agencies and the community to reduce biosecurity threats and deliver education.



Photo by Hollie Jones of her furry friends going for a swim at Tuapiro Point.

How we will achieve our community outcomes

Goal	Our approach
Increasing indigenous biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will align our funding and support with multi-agency collaborative projects involving Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Department of Conservation, local conservation and restoration groups, local landowners and Tangata Whenua. Our funding will contribute to identified local actions. We will support and fund action plans where Council is a partner agency, including Te Maru o Kaituna and the Tauranga Moana Harbour programme. We will continue to support the Coastcare programme.
Connecting people with the natural environment and having a lighter footprint.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will support local environmental education programmes that engage communities and schools, in both urban and rural environments. We will continue to provide funding support to community led initiatives which connect residents to the natural environment. We will use the Community Matching Fund to support local environment projects that have both ecological and sustainable living outcomes.
Protecting important natural and cultural areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will continue to use incentives, rules and monitoring to protect important natural and cultural areas. This includes the use of protection lot provisions. Council will continue to monitor protection lots to ensure they are maintaining and enhancing important ecological features. We will work with Tangata Whenua on mapping cultural heritage sites and methods for protection.
Address the impacts of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will develop tools and use structure planning processes to develop gullies network plans. We will restore and protect dune systems to mitigate against the affects of climate change. We will investigate opportunities to increase biodiversity on council owned land. We will develop a sustainable procurement policy.



Photo by Peter Drix capturing a seagull enjoying the sunset at Waihi Beach.

What are we planning to do

Project ID	Name	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
306902	Compliance - Environmental Monitoring Protection Lots	51,650	57,590	59,139	60,689	62,187	63,633	65,079	66,474	67,920	69,314
357901	Environmental Programmes - Multi-agency funded programmes	160,000	178,400	183,200	188,000	192,640	197,120	201,600	205,920	210,400	214,720
252302	Environmental Services Contract - Ecological Education	62,000	69,130	70,990	72,850	74,648	76,384	78,120	79,794	81,530	83,204
252306	Environmental Services Contract - Maketu Ongataro Wetland Society Education Programme	37,000	41,255	42,365	43,475	44,548	45,584	46,620	47,619	48,655	49,654
306403	Environment Capacity Building - East	30,990	34,554	35,484	36,413	37,312	38,180	39,047	39,884	40,752	41,589
306405	Environmental Capacity Building - West	55,000	63,555	66,410	70,500	74,648	76,384	78,120	79,794	81,530	83,204
311701	Reserves - Ecological Financial Contributions Fencing	514	557	569	581	593	605	617	629	640	652
311702	Reserves - Ecological Financial Contributions Enhancement Plantings	925	1,003	1,024	1,046	1,067	1,089	1,110	1,131	1,153	1,173
311810	Grant - Tauranga Moana Biosecurity Capital	11,000	12,265	12,595	12,925	13,244	13,552	13,860	14,157	14,465	14,762
311812	Environmental Services Contract- Envirohub	44,000	49,060	50,380	51,700	52,976	54,208	55,440	56,628	57,860	59,048
352201	Community Matching fund - Ecological projects	60,000	66,900	68,700	70,500	72,240	73,920	75,600	77,220	78,900	80,520
354801	Climate Change Responsiveness	100,000	107,700	82,500	84,150	85,800	87,375	88,950	90,600	92,175	93,750
356402	Environment - Kaituna River Action Plan Implementation	50,000	55,750	57,250	58,750	60,200	61,600	63,000	64,350	65,750	67,100
162401	Reserves - Esplanade Strips Compensation funding	10,330	17,277	17,742	18,207	24,875	25,453	26,032	26,589	27,168	27,726
244602	Reserves - Community Contract Coastcare	18,555	20,689	21,245	21,802	22,340	22,860	23,379	23,880	24,400	24,901
302302	Reserves - Pukehina Beach Protection funding	15,495	17,277	17,742	18,207	18,656	19,090	19,524	19,942	20,376	20,794





How we will track progress

What we do	How we track progress	Result	Target				
		2023	2025	2026	2027	2028-30	2031-34
We support multi-agency programmes and community-led programmes that increase indigenous biodiversity, improve water quality and protect significant natural habitats and cultural heritage sites, in both urban and rural environments.	Percentage of projects funded through Community Matching Fund that are completed.	91%	>90%	>90%	>90%	>90%	>90%
	Number of community groups supported who aim to improve environment outcomes.	New measure	>7%	>7%	>7%	>7%	>7%
We use incentives, rules and monitoring to increase protection of significant natural and cultural features.	Number of QEII covenants and protection lots monitored throughout the District.	New measure	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100
<p>We support environmental education programmes that build our understanding of the natural environment and how we can have a lighter footprint and lead to action.</p> <p>We use structure planning processes and assessment tools to develop blue/green networks that maintain and protect natural assets.</p>	Number of environmental and sustainable living education initiatives.	11	>6	>6	>6	>6	>6

Where the money comes from

Please refer to 'Policies, Summaries and Statements' for the Revenue and Financing Policy for the Natural Environment and Sustainable Living Activity.

Significant effects of providing this activity

Wellbeing	Positive	Negative	How are we addressing these effects
 <p>Social</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides environmental education which is recognised as one of the most valuable methods of supporting the natural environment. The natural environment is a highly valued community asset. Everyone benefits from an enhanced natural environment. Residents and visitors use the natural environment as a community resource and for opportunities to socialise. Engagement of community members to create environmental community groups provides both social and environmental enhancement outcomes. Provides environmental education which is recognised as one of the most valuable methods of supporting the natural environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There may be some community environmental groups who consider our work with the natural environment to be inappropriate (possibly by location or by method of remediation/enhancement). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We focus on education as a means of helping communities understand why we do this work, for example by targeting schools. Research indicates that developing an awareness of environmental sustainability early in life means that practices/understanding are embedded and often practiced in later years.
 <p>Cultural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The natural environment is a valued and significant cultural asset. Protection and enhancement of the natural environment and cultural sites supports local identity. Fosters respect for the cultural traditions and heritage of an area/environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of cultural sites being seen as less important. Risk of the mauri or spiritual significance of a cultural site being diminished. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that staff have access to relevant information and are appropriately equipped with the knowledge and skills to share information relating to the cultural significance of our natural environment.
 <p>Environmental</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps support habitats for native flora and fauna. Helps to ensure that our use of the natural environment for farming practices is more sustainable into the future. Helps to sustain and enhance biodiversity within our District. Contributes to landscape character and visual amenity. Can be used to manage or mitigate natural hazards and the predicted impact of climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There may be some members of the community who hold differing views on the methods by which we seek to improve our natural environment, for example clearing mangroves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We work with communities, landowners and environmental groups to provide education and support regarding the work we are undertaking.
 <p>Economic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A high quality natural environment is vital for continued commercial success across a range of businesses reliant on natural resources. Provision of funding support is a vital tool in ensuring the establishment and ongoing support for these environmental protection and enhancement projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental restoration and protection projects may be perceived as impeding economic progress, for example land development. Our work may initiate projects which will require financial support long term. Groups unable to manage themselves effectively in the future may request further financial support at a later date. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We work with landowners and commercial businesses to help educate them in terms of both regulatory provisions and environmental best practice. We support groups and provide longterm advice about managing projects and sourcing longterm funding.

