



Protecting the Environment
**Natural
Environment &
Sustainable
Living**
Taiao Māori me
Nohonga
Tautāine



Natural Environment and Sustainable Living

Taiao Māori me Nohonga Tautīnei

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 environmental service delivery providers.
- fencing subsidies (protected bush lots).
- community group support.
- liaison with the regional council and partners (with a focus on environmental issues).

Why we provide this activity

Our community outcome

A clean green valued environment, achieved by:

- increasing indigenous biodiversity
- protecting important natural and cultural areas
- having a lighter footprint
- connecting people with the natural environment
- making decisions to address the impacts of climate change.



Natural Environment and Sustainable Living

Overview

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.

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 River

Supporting implementation of the Kaituna River Action Plan and actions linked to the Tauranga Moana Harbour Programme.

Education

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

Cultural heritage

Investment into Te Tawa ki Tahataharoa as an important wetland and cultural heritage restoration.

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.

Ōmokoroa

Development of gullies within Ōmokoroa Structure plan to create a blue-green network with multi-functions – stormwater management, biodiversity, walkway / cycleway connections and cultural values.

How we will achieve our community outcomes

Goal	Our approach
Increasing indigenous biodiversity	<p>We will align our funding and support with multi-agency collaborative projects involving Bay of Plenty Regional Council, local conservation and restoration groups, local landowners and Tangata Whenua. Our funding will contribute to identified local actions.</p> <p>We will support and fund action plans where Council is a partner agency, including Te Maru o Kaituna and the Tauranga Moana Harbour programme.</p> <p>We will continue to support the Coastcare programme.</p>
Connecting people with the natural environment and having a lighter footprint	<p>We will support local environmental education programmes that engage communities and schools, in both urban and rural environments.</p> <p>We will continue to support Sustainable Backyards and Sustainable Neighbourhoods Projects.</p> <p>We will use the Community Matching Fund to support local environment projects that have both ecological and sustainable living outcomes.</p>
Protecting important natural and cultural areas	<p>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.</p> <p>We will work with Tangata Whenua on mapping cultural heritage sites and methods for protection.</p> <p>We will work in partnership with Tangata Whenua on the restoration of Te Tawa ki Tahataharoa.</p>
Making decisions to address the impacts of climate change	<p>We will develop tools and use structure planning processes to develop gullies network plans. We will start with the gullies through the Ōmokoroa Stage 3 Structure Plan area.</p>

What are we planning to do

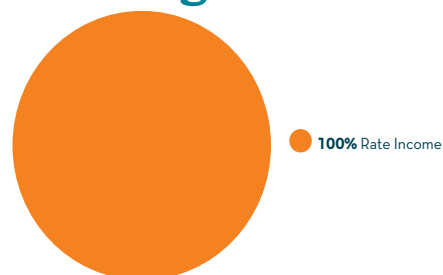
All information from 2023 - 2031 includes an adjustment for inflation.

Project number	Project name	\$'000									
		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
162401	Reserves - Esplanade Strips Compensation Funding	10	10	11	11	17	18	18	25	25	26
244602	Reserves - Community Contract Coastcare	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
252302	Environmental Services Contract - Ecology Education	52	53	55	57	59	60	62	64	65	67
252306	Environment - Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society Education Programme	35	36	37	39	40	41	42	43	44	46
302302	Reserves - Pukehina Beach Protection Funding	15	15	16	17	17	18	18	19	19	20
306403	Environment Support - Tahataharoa Longer Term Wetland Restoration	20	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
306405	Natural Environment - Ōmokoroa Gullies Development	-	-	53	55	57	58	60	62	-	-
306902	Compliance - Environmental Monitoring Protection Lots	50	52	53	55	57	58	60	62	63	65
311810	Grant - Tauranga Moana Biosecurity Capital	10	10	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
311812	Environment - Envirohub	40	41	43	44	46	47	48	49	51	52
352201	Environment - Community Matching Fund Ecological	40	41	43	44	46	47	48	49	51	52
356402	Environment - Kaituna River Action Plan Implementation	50	52	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
357901	Environmental Programmes - Multi-Agency	180	186	192	143	148	152	156	161	165	169

Where the money comes from

Please refer to 'Policies, Summaries & Statements' for the Revenue and Financing Policy for natural environment and sustainable living.

Funding sources for 2021-22



How we will track progress

What we do	How we will monitor progress	Actual 2020	Target				
			2022	2023	2024	2025-27	2028-31
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.	Key performance measure: Percentage of projects funded through Community Matching Fund that are completed.	New Measure	≥90%	≥90%	≥90%	≥90%	≥90%
	Key resident measure: Percentage of residents who perceive the environmental attributes monitored have improved or are being maintained (the features monitored include the quality of streams and rivers, harbours and estuaries, air quality, the amount of noxious weeds, protection of historic places, general level of cleanliness and the amount and quality of native plants and animals).	76%	≥75%	≥75%	≥75%	≥75%	≥75%
We use incentives, rules and monitoring to increase protection of significant natural and cultural features.	Amount of additional land included in protection areas in addition to what is shown as ecological features in the District Plan. Baseline per District Plan is 18,338ha.	New Measure	≥10ha	≥10ha	≥10ha	≥10ha	≥10ha
	Number of protection areas monitored to ensure compliance.	105	≥50	≥50	≥50	≥50	≥50
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.	Number of environmental and sustainable living education initiatives.	New Measure	≥6	≥6	≥6	≥6	≥6
	Number of schools engaged in local environmental and sustainable living initiatives led by local organisations.	New Measure	≥6	≥6	≥6	≥6	≥6
We use structure planning processes and assessment tools to develop blue/green networks that maintain and protect natural assets.	Percentage of structure plans incorporating a blue/green network plan.	New Measure	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%





Key assumptions

Assumption	Description	Risks
Working in partnership	It is assumed that our partnerships with other agencies in the region to co-operate with and provide programmes will continue as at present.	If partnership arrangements are varied, costs of programme provision may increase or services may no longer be able to be provided.



Pirirākau Care Group Plummers Point

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. 	<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 practised in later years.
 <p>Cultural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The natural environment is a valued and significant cultural asset. <p>Protection and enhancement of the natural environment and cultural sites supports local identity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.