



Biodiversity: it's important to protect our region's ecosystems

We're passionate about protecting Hawke's Bay's unique biodiversity so it can thrive.

At the Regional Council, we are working towards halting biodiversity decline and renewing the region's flora and fauna.

What we are protecting

Across our region there are original pockets of forests, wetlands and scrub that used to cover the whenua. Many of these areas are on private land. The Council is committed to protecting and restoring our indigenous flora and fauna, and does what it can through its regional parks and conservation projects to protect our natural flora and fauna, but the Council can't do it alone.

What are the challenges to our biodiversity?

Climate change, vegetation clearance, exotic weeds, browsers, and predators are the major threats to these pockets.

- Browsers such as stock, feral goats, deer and rabbits eat young plants and can damage or kill mature trees.
- Predators such as possums, mustelids and feral cats prey upon indigenous animals such as birds, lizards and insects.
- Climate change is forecast to result in warmer and drier conditions and more frequent extreme weather events for Hawke's Bay which will put these areas under additional pressure.

How we are protecting our biodiversity

Our current focus is to 'secure from extinction' 677 sites we've selected across the region that represent the full range of indigenous ecosystems. For each site, we work with landowners and groups to create an enduring plan on how to best protect and restore this site, which can include deer fencing, pest control and planting.

Protecting indigenous ecosystems can also help address issues such as soil/wind erosion and improve water quality.

To see how we are working with landowners, other organisations and community groups to protect our unique flora and fauna, go to hbrc.govt.nz/environment/biodiversity

How can we help you protect your piece of unique Hawke's Bay?

We will work with you to protect your special area. We will help you set up a plan and potentially gain funding either from the Council's Priority Ecosystem Programme or from other agencies like the QEII Trust. This money can be used to:

- Fence off your areas to protect them from browsers such as stock, feral deer and goats
- Retire adjoining land to support your unique area
- Manage or eliminate pest plants and/or animals

These areas can also be incorporated into your Fresh Water Farm Plan or Farm Environment Management Plan where applicable.

Together we can protect our region's unique biodiversity and ensure it is able to be enjoyed by future generations.

How you can help

If you have a natural site on your property that you would like advice on how to protect, please contact the Biodiversity Team on **06 835 9200** or email biodiversity@hbrc.govt.nz