

Catchment Care Programme Factsheet

What is the Catchment Care Programme?

The Catchment Care programme is a proactive collaboration between Central Government, Council and the community aimed at supporting and partnering with landowners to meet the community's desire for better water quality. It is not compulsory, nor is it a compliance programme.

This programme aims to improve water quality by partnering with landowners to identify and develop solutions, implement remediation work, support catchment groups and measure success through monitoring.

There are three core objectives:

- protect or improve water quality
- reduce erosion and sediment production
- protect sensitive receiving environments

What is involved?

Catchment Care uses several tools to help landowners improve waterways, including water quality monitoring, catchment condition surveys and mitigation strategies (such as fencing, planting, and dung beetles).

Prior to planning mitigation works, a Catchment Condition Survey (CCS) is done by Council. This is a voluntary survey undertaken with landowner permission to collect information regarding waterways. The survey involves a catchment care advisor walking the waterways on a property, mapping their location and any associated features including in-stream conditions, stream structures (culverts, stream crossings), bank erosion, fencing, riparian buffers, critical source areas and weeds.



How much will the survey cost?

There is no cost to landowners. The cost of the CCS is covered by funding provided by Ministry for the Environment and Council.

What is Council going to do with this information?

After the surveys are completed, Council staff will meet with landowners to discuss the survey results and subsidies available to complete mitigation work to improve water quality. With a limited budget, the survey helps Council to prioritise mitigation work across the catchment.

Data collected through the CCS is only shared with the landowner. It is stored in Council's GIS mapping system and is not available to the public or neighbours. Landowners may wish to share their data with independent consultants helping them with freshwater farm plans.

To report back to funding agencies, the information for an entire catchment is grouped and anonymized. Parcel-specific data is not shared.

What are the benefits to landowners for being involved?

Mapping of waterways, slopes and wetlands can help to identify areas benefiting from mitigation works, for example through fencing, planting and identification of areas at risk for losing contaminants.

Assistance, including funding, is available to help landowners with solutions such as fencing, hillside erosion control, native planting, and the release of dung beetles.

The survey can also help identify which waterways may require stock exclusion, and direct funding to help landowners to meet their obligations under the Stock Exclusion Regulations (see Council's factsheet on this to get more detail).

The data may also be used by landowners in the development of their Freshwater Farm Plans.

What kind of funding is available and when?

The Catchment Care programme currently has funding until June 2025 and there are subsidies available for fencing, native riparian planting and the release of dung beetles in priority catchments (Te Hoiere, Linkwater, Are Are, Tuamarina and Flaxbourne).

There is also funding available for erosion prone areas across the region through the hill country erosion fund. There is also funding for the protection and enhancement of significant natural areas across Marlborough, through the Council's SNA programme. Please see the Council website for more information or get in touch with one of the team.

Do I have to be involved?

Involvement in the programme, including the Catchment Condition Surveys, is completely voluntary. However, for Catchment Care mitigation funding, a Catchment Condition Survey must be completed first.

Are there any other useful resources available?

- There are several factsheets available on the stock exclusion rules, intensive winter grazing, freshwater farm plans etc. Ask for a hardcopy or for one to be emailed to you.
- The Marlborough District Council website has further detail and provides key information to landowners.



Contact the Land and Water team

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