

CONCEPT SHEET 5

Transforming Taranaki – streamside fencing and planting

Riparian (streamside) management – specifically the protection of waterways with fences and vegetation – is an important concept in Taranaki. Fences prevent stock from directly fouling waterways, while vegetation effectively intercepts runoff from stock effluent and fertiliser before it can enter the stream. The plants also provide shade for the stream habitat.

Already, much has been achieved on the Taranaki ring plain and coastal terraces. The region has a world-scale Riparian Management Programme thanks to a long-standing partnership between farmers and the Taranaki Regional Council. More than 3.5 million plants have gone into the ground, 80% of streambanks in the programme are now fenced and 65% are protected with vegetation.

The Draft Fresh Water and Land Plan seeks to 'lock in' completion of this programme by 2020.

Why is this important?

More than 300 rivers and streams drain from Mt Taranaki to the sea. On the ring plain below Egmont National Park, much of the original riparian vegetation has been cleared.

The ring plain is now one of the world's most intensive dairy farming areas, and almost every farm has at least one stream dissecting it.

The clearing of vegetation has left waterways vulnerable to erosion, flooding, lack of shade and pollution caused by farm and animal wastes.

While river and stream waters in Taranaki are of good quality overall, the Council's monitoring shows deterioration of water quality further downstream in some catchments.



This often coincides with an increase in agricultural land use, where farm run-off and the number of discharges increases. The potential for stock to access to waterways also increases further downstream.

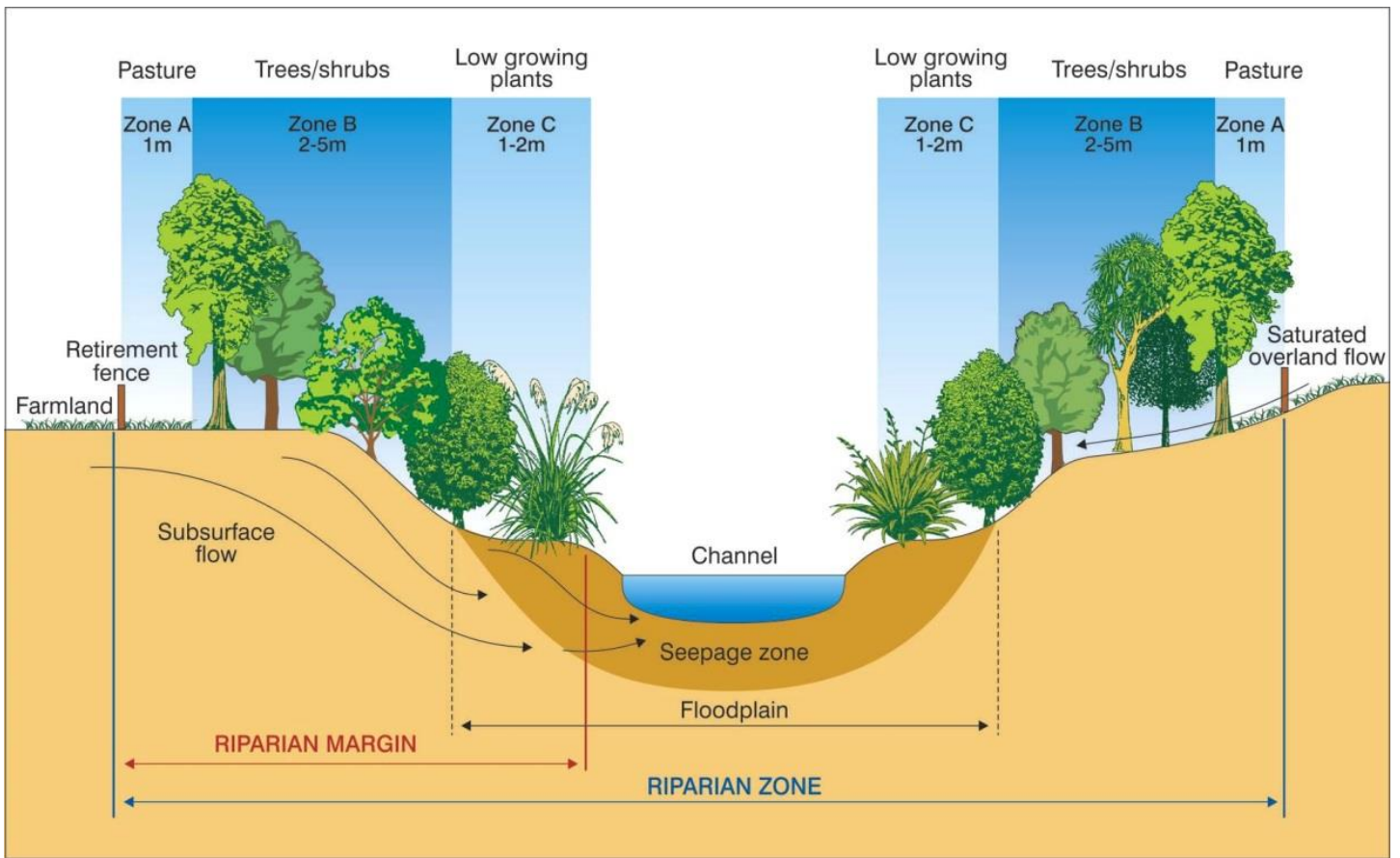
How does riparian management work?

Effective fencing of stream banks keeps stock out of waterways, while properly established riparian vegetation helps to trap and filter run-off from pasture.

Planting provides shading, food and shelter for wildlife and encourages biodiversity in rivers and streams.

It all works generally to support water quality, as well as visually transforming the landscape as plants mature.

The illustration overleaf shows how the process works.



What does the Draft Plan propose?

Farmers on the ring plain and the northern and southern coastal terraces would be required to ensure that the streambanks on their properties are fenced and appropriately vegetated or planted by 1 June 2020.

If this is not achieved, they would need to apply for a resource consent requiring stock exclusion from waterways and completion of riparian planting. The consenting process would cost an estimated \$1200-\$1700 plus annual monitoring costs.

What is the Council doing to help landowners?

As it has been doing since the mid 1990s, the Council will continue to prepare riparian plans for individual farms at no charge, while providing millions more native plants at the lowest possible cost. Ongoing advice and support will also be available.

Feedback and more information

Go to www.trc.govt.nz/draft-plan to find:

- The Draft Freshwater and Land Plan in full.
- A summary and background document.
- Info sheets and background papers.
- An online form for giving us feedback.

You can also send us your feedback by emailing info@trc.govt.nz or writing to the Council at Private Bag 713, Stratford 4352. Or contact the Council's freshwater planning team directly by calling 0800 736 222. We can give you more information, take your feedback or arrange a meeting.

Our deadline for feedback is Friday 26 June.



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