



Riparian plant holders pick up their plants from the Council's depot at Stratford.

Riparian plants: All systems go

Myrtle rust can't dull sheen of successful programme

Taranaki's world-leading streamside fencing and planting programme remains on mission and on track.

This year's distribution of riparian plants was delayed by the discovery of myrtle rust – but it was more a minor glitch than a major disruption, says the Taranaki Regional Council's Director-Operations, Stephen Hall.

"Farmers can be assured that if they ordered plants, they'll get them – in fact, the vast majority of this year's plants have already been distributed," he says.

"And the species potentially affected by myrtle rust are only a small proportion of those used in this scheme. So farmers need not be concerned about plants that are already in the ground."

Myrtle rust is a serious fungal disease that affects plants in the myrtle family including

pōhutukawa, mānuka and kānuka, which are used in the riparian programme.

In May the fungus was found on a single pōhutukawa at the Council's Lepperton nursery, one of five regional depots from where farmers were due to start picking up a total of 360,000 riparian plants on 22 May. All depots were closed to allow full inspection of all plants, and distribution was put on hold for a week.

"All myrtle species at all depots were inspected and sprayed, and the fungus was not found on any other plants," says Mr Hall. "As a precaution, all the myrtle species at the Lepperton nursery were destroyed – around 3500 of them, which is 1% of the total number of plants being distributed this season. They are being replaced with non-myrtle species."

He says the myrtle species pōhutukawa,

Riparian planting and myrtle rust

Q&As

I ordered plants this season. Will I get them?

Certainly. Only 1% of this season's plants had to be destroyed because of concerns about myrtle rust. They're being replaced with non-myrtle species. You should have been able to pick up your plants by now. If you haven't, talk to your Land Management Officer, call the Council on 0800 736 222 or email riparian@trc.govt.nz.

Am I putting myself and neighbours at risk with my riparian planting?

No. All the pōhutukawa, mānuka and kānuka at our depots were inspected and sprayed. Apart from the one single pōhutukawa at Lepperton, no myrtle rust was found. The Ministry for Primary Industries, which has been managing the response to myrtle rust, was satisfied the rest of the plants posed no risk, and allowed their distribution.

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From the Chair

Fresh water emerges a big theme in this edition of Recount, which is a reflection of how important this resource is to the whole region.



Maintaining and improving freshwater quality is the driver of many of our programmes, including the flagship Riparian Management Programme. As you'll have noted, we're full steam ahead with riparian planting this season after a minor glitch because of myrtle rust. The vast majority of the millions of plants used in this programme are non-myrtle species, so the fungus can't have a big impact.

We're starting to reap the benefits of all the riparian fencing and planting that's already been carried out. This is borne out in the results of long-term independent research focusing on water quality in the Waiokura catchment – see Page 4 for details.

And have you met Tara and Reg? They star in a new comic series exploring aspects of Taranaki's fresh water that may not be widely known or understood. The series is called Talking on Water, and you can find it in community newspapers, on the Council's Facebook page, and on our website. Go to www.bit.ly/TalkingOnWater.

Still on the subject of fresh water, turn to Page 5 to read a summary of the Council's submissions on the Government's newly announced 'swimmability' targets. One of our major concerns is that Wellington hasn't got a clear definition of the problem it's trying to solve. We've urged them to go back to first principles and, for example, get more evidence on the extent of actual illness caused by elevated levels of E. coli bacteria in waterways.

In terms of maintaining and enhancing freshwater quality, Taranaki is making more progress than perhaps the Government and certainly some commentators seem to want to give our regional community credit for. The 'Taranaki way' is to get on and do things. It's working.

David MacLeod - CHAIRMAN

All systems go for riparian programme

From Page 1

mānuka and kānuka make up a very small proportion of the millions that have been used in the programme to date. "It will vary from farm to farm, but generally no more than 5% to 10% of the plants, and in some cases quite a lot fewer, are from the myrtle species. And it's still not known what sort of damage this fungus will do to.

"So the overall impact of myrtle rust on existing riparian planting is likely to be minimal. As far as we're concerned, it's all



Millions of plants have gone into the ground as part of Taranaki's Riparian Management Programme. Very few have been myrtle species.

systems go for streamside planting and fencing."

Completion of riparian (including regionally significant wetlands) fencing and planting by the end of the decade is a major priority for the Council.

"Most farmers are on target but those who haven't got a Certificate of Compliance for their riparian plan by 2020 are highly likely to face costly regulatory requirements — either from this Council or central Government, which is planning new regulations for stock exclusion," says Mr Hall.

For more than 20 years the Council has worked with landowners to develop riparian management plans for individual properties — primarily on the Taranaki ring plain. The free plans detail recommendations for fencing and planting the property's waterways, and set targets for implementation.

The Council contracts nurseries to supply native plants to farmers at cost. The Council can also arrange planting contractors to undertake the work if required. The Council's Land Management Officers maintain one-on-one contact with planholders, tracking implementation and offering advice.

Fencing streambanks keeps stock out of waterways and 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. All of these aspects generally support water quality — as borne out by Council monitoring showing ever-improving trends in the ecological health of waterways, and their physical and chemical state.

[Waiokura's good news - Page 4](#)

Myrtle rust - your questions answered

From Page 1

Is my existing riparian planting at risk from myrtle rust?

It's still not known how extensively or severely myrtle rust will affect native and exotic myrtle species in this country. It may be a number of years before a clear picture emerges. What we do know, however, is that myrtle species — primarily pōhutukawa, mānuka and kānuka — make up only a small

proportion of the more than 4 million plants that have already been planted under the Taranaki programme. Kānuka and mānuka have only been added in recent years. So the fungus won't be a game-changer.

Where can I find the latest news or more details about myrtle rust?

The response is being led by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). Check their website: www.bit.ly/MyrtleRustMPI



Council Chairman David MacLeod signs the Agreement at Parihaka.

Historic occasion heralds new future

A new chapter for Parihaka started in early June with the signing of Kawenata-ō-Rongo (Deed of Reconciliation) and Te Huangā ō Rongo (Relationship Agreement), between the village and Crown agencies and local authorities including the Taranaki Regional Council.

“I’m pleased that the Taranaki Regional Council can play a part in this new beginning for Parihaka,” says the Council Chairman, David MacLeod. “It’s a place of great significance, not just for Taranaki but for the whole country.”

Under Te Huangā ō Rongo, Councils and Crown agencies are committed to assisting the Parihaka Papakāinga Trust with its development aspirations and projects.

The Deed and Agreement arise out of Treaty settlements with the iwi of Taranaki, in which the Crown acknowledged the serious damage that it inflicted by its past actions at Parihaka and that its actions breached the Treaty of Waitangi. This acknowledgement was delivered in person by the Treaty Negotiations Minister, Hon Christopher Finlayson, at the reconciliation ceremony where the Deed and Agreement were signed.

“Mr Finlayson delivered a very well-worded

apology on behalf of the Crown that clearly articulated the wrongdoings of the past and the wish to help Parihaka move forward,” says Mr MacLeod.

“I found the occasion very emotional and I was struck by the large attendance of both pakeha and Maori from all over New Zealand, not just Taranaki.”

Parihaka’s special place in the nation’s history arises from the wisdom, leadership and charisma of Tohu Kākahi and Te Whiti-o-Rongomai, who from the 1860s onwards led a movement of non-violent resistance to the forced settlement of Taranaki lands. They created a community based on principles of equality, collectivism, self-sufficiency, empowerment, non-violent conflict resolution, sustainability and innovation. These principles continue to guide the Parihaka community.

Under Te Huangā ō Rongo, the Taranaki Regional Council will offer advice or assistance in a number of areas including riparian management, biodiversity planning, pest management, water quality monitoring, resource consenting information, waste management, public transport and communications.

See www.bit.ly/ParihakaDeed.

Regional rates staying stable

Regional rates will remain virtually unchanged under the 2017/2018 Annual Plan adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council.

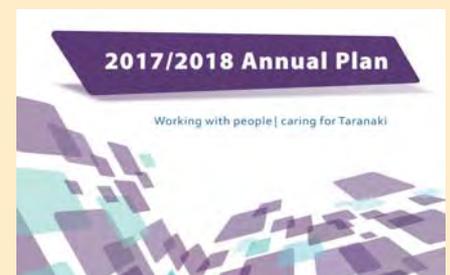
“It’s pleasing that we will remain one of the lowest-rating Councils in New Zealand,” says the Council Chairman, David MacLeod. “Our focus remains firmly on ensuring our programmes and operations are efficient and effective and of value to the community, and that high standards are maintained.”

The Annual Plan includes a 1% rise in general rates and minor adjustments to targeted rates. The Plan is largely in line with the 10-year Plan that was widely consulted on two years ago.

Relatively minor changes in three areas were the particular focus of public consultation that occurred in March and April. “The feedback endorsed the Council’s preferred approaches, and we’re grateful for the confidence shown,” says Mr MacLeod. The three changes are:

- The launch of a trial programme to test large-scale predator suppression and eradication techniques across the Waiwhakaiho catchment. The trial will cost \$1.7 million, of which the Council will fund \$700,000.
- Working with the South Taranaki District Council on a flood diversion scheme for Opunake township, to prevent a repeat of the flooding that occurred in August 2015. The Taranaki Regional Council will spend \$342,500 on this project, to be covered by a small targeted rate raising \$26,000 a year.
- Construction of a new Lodge as part of the current revamp of Pukeiti. The new Lodge requires an additional budget allocation of \$700,000, to come from accumulated funds. Depreciation is the only longer-term rating implication.

The Annual Plan 2017/2018 will take effect from 1 July.



Waiokura shows way to go

Latest results from a long-running scientific study strongly suggest Taranaki is taking the right approach to protecting and improving the quality of its rivers and streams.

Marked improvements have been progressively obvious in the Waiokura catchment, near Manaia, in the past 15 years and especially since 2014 – with the credit going to farmers' efforts in fencing and planting waterways on their properties, and switching to land-based disposal of dairy shed effluent.

“The Waiokura was originally chosen for this study because it wasn't doing very well at the time,” says the Taranaki Regional Council's Director-Environment Quality, Gary Bedford. “So seeing good results here means we can be sure of good results elsewhere across the ring plain.”

The Waiokura is part of a national project in which researchers from NIWA, AgResearch, DairyNZ and Regional Councils have been studying five ‘best practice dairy catchments’ – two in the North Island and three in the South Island – since the mid-1990s.

Latest findings, published in the *Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research*, include strong improvements in the Waiokura that have become particularly evident since 2014 – across ecological health (assessed by monitoring the number and type of small creatures living in the river), nitrogen levels, suspended solids, bacteria levels and water clarity.

“Notably, improvements (in ecological health) were greatest at the Waiokura catchment where active planting of riparian vegetation was greatest,” says the report, which focuses on the effectiveness of environmental measures in all five catchments nationally.

Mr Bedford says that early on in the project, researchers and farmers had concluded that stream health could be improved by riparian (streamside) fencing and planting, and by disposing of dairy shed effluent by spreading it on land rather than treating and discharging it to waterways.

“Both these measures are key Council environmental requirements right across the ring plain,” says Mr Bedford. “Thousands of kilometres of streambank across the ring plain have been fenced and protected with millions of plants by farmers, working in partnership



with the Council. And as consents for effluent treatment ponds expire, farmers are being required to switch to land-based disposal.”

Of the Waiokura catchment's 115km of streambank, 90% is now protected with fences and almost 70% is protected with vegetation, and work is continuing to complete the job.

Meanwhile, 15 of the catchment's 23 consented dairy discharges are to land or primarily to land, and conversions to land disposal will continue as consents expire. Over the study period, there has been a 67% reduction in the volume of treated farm dairy effluent discharged to the stream.

“It's very clear that we're now starting to see how these changes have led to a significant improvement in stream health and freshwater quality,” says Mr Bedford. “These latest research results can be seen as an independent validation of the Council's approach, and a vindication of the investment and effort by farmers.”

Crucially, farm productivity in the catchment has increased at the same time as stream health, he says. In 10 years, milk solids per hectare are up 21% and milk solids per cow are up 31%, while nitrogen loss per kilogram of milk solids is down 11% and nitrous oxide emissions per kilogram of milk solids are down by 7%.

Mr Bedford says the Waiokura is unusual because it is fed by groundwater originating from beneath dairy pasture, rather than springs fed from Mt Taranaki. “We never put it up as being a typical ringplain waterway – it has fewer natural advantages in its favour. Our thinking was that if ‘best practice’ could make a difference here, it could make a difference anywhere. These results suggest we're on the right track.”

He also says it's interesting to note that the research report's authors caution against making too much of a correlation between ecological stream health and nitrogen levels.

“The results are too inconsistent. Yes, Waiokura is enjoying both improved ecological health and reduced nitrogen levels. But another catchment in the study, Toenepe in the Waikato, is seeing increases in both nitrogen and in ecological health. The relationship between nutrient levels and stream ecological health is a complex issue, and the report suggests seasonal factors may be a stronger influence.”

The report will feed into the current review of Taranaki's Freshwater and Land Plan.

Meet Tara & Reg

Taranaki Regional Council has a couple of new ‘friends’ – and they love talking about water.

‘Tara and Reg’ are the stars of *Talking on Water*, a new comic series developed by the Council to highlight and discuss aspects of the region's freshwater resource that may not be widely known or understood.



They are appearing in community newspapers, the Council's Facebook page, and on the Council website. Find them at www.bit.ly/TalkingOnWater.

The Council Chairman, David MacLeod, says freshwater quality is never far from the headlines. “As the region's manager and regulator of natural resources, the Taranaki Regional Council welcomes public debate and discussion on freshwater quality,” he says.

“But it's important to keep science and facts at the forefront, especially when important decisions are being made. We hope Tara and Reg will encourage people to look beyond headlines and slogans.”

Contrast noted as reports analysed

The contrasting approaches of two high-profile national reports on water quality were noted at a recent meeting of the Council's Policy and Planning Committee.

One, by the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, was described as carefully considered, well-researched, informative and authoritative, emphasising the complex nature of freshwater management and the absence of 'silver bullets' to easily address outstanding issues.

Sir Peter's report also notes with approval the riparian fencing and planting occurring in Taranaki, the Committee was told.

"There is strong alignment between much of what the Council is undertaking and promoting, and the stance taken by Sir Peter at a number of points," a staff analysis said. "The Council will find much in the paper that validates the Council's approach."

In contrast, the 'Our Fresh Water' report by Ministry for the Environment and Stats NZ takes a more restricted approach, setting out problems and issues but not discussing the measures being taken in response.

"Councils within New Zealand and countries around the world routinely report on environmental quality using a 'pressure-state-response' model," a staff analysis said. "This ... provides a more comprehensive and meaningful reporting mechanism."

The 'Our Fresh Water' report also notes that its authors adjusted Regional Council data to present a standardised national overview. People wanting accurate and scientifically verified data on particular regions such as Taranaki should consult the relevant Regional Council reports.

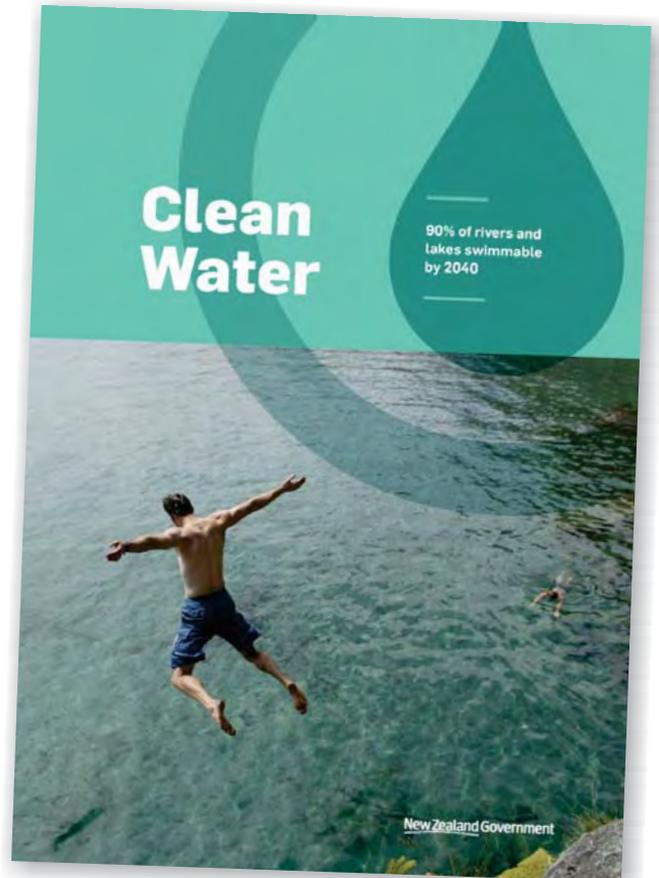
Clean water needs clearer thought

The Taranaki Regional Council has urged the Government to go back to first principles and clearly identify the nature of any problem before finalising its latest freshwater management proposals.

In a submission approved by the Policy and Planning Committee, the Council says the Government needs to clarify and refine the definitions used in its discussion document, 'Clean Water – 90% of rivers and lakes swimmable by 2040'.

The Council's submission says:

- The problem lacks definition. More evidence is needed on the extent of actual illness caused when people swim in water bodies with elevated levels of E. coli bacteria.
- The Government estimates that reaching its 2040 swimmability targets will cost \$2 billion in public and private funding – with no data on whether a response of this scale would actually work or whether it is in keeping with the size of the actual problem.
- Recent research has cast doubt on the reliability of E. coli as an indicator of faecal contamination, resulting in a review of the current 'danger' threshold of 540 E. coli per 100 ml. The review is continuing but the



Government is still using this threshold as the basis for its 2040 swimmability targets.

- Requiring year-round monitoring and compliance, even at times when it would be foolhardy to swim because of weather and/or dangerous currents and flows, imposes significant costs but with little purpose or community benefit.
- Proposed broad-brush national requirements for excluding stock from waterways fall short of what is actually required to reduce faecal contamination, and risk undermining successful and proven local initiatives such as Taranaki's award-winning riparian planting and fencing programme.
- It should be up to Councils working with their local communities to decide which rivers and lakes are most important for swimming, whether and how urgently improvements are required, and how success is measured.

Join in the conversation



Taranaki Regional Council
Taranaki Regional Gardens
Taranaki Civil Defence
Taranaki Public Transport



@TaranakiRC (Council)
@TaranakiRG (Gardens)
@TaranakiCD (Civil Defence)



Taranaki schools
environment group



TaranakiRC

Who deserves to be honoured this year?

It's time to think about who deserves recognition as one of Taranaki's environmental heroes.

Nominations open on 3 July for the Taranaki Regional Council's annual Environmental Awards, which recognise those who protect and enhance the region's environment.

Council Chairman David MacLeod says award-winners are always great examples of the Taranaki 'get on and do it' attitude.

"The awards celebrate the fact that the region's generally good-quality environment is the result of hard work across all sectors of the Taranaki community," he says.

"They highlight the importance of sound environmental stewardship, and give Taranaki the opportunity to celebrate its environmental achievers."

The Council has presented 249 environmental awards since the programme began in 1993,

with awards made in five categories:

- Te taiao me te pākihi – Environmental leadership in business, sponsored by Ngāruahine, Ngāti Ruanui, Te Ātiawa, Taranaki and Ngāti Mutunga.
- Environmental leadership in dairy farming, sponsored by Fonterra.
- Environmental leadership in land management, sponsored by Dow AgroSciences.
- Environmental action in the community, sponsored by Methanex.
- Environmental action in education, sponsored by Fairfax Media.

An online nomination form will be available on the Council website, www.trc.govt.nz, from 3 July. Nominations close on 23 August. The awards will be presented in October.



The Council Chairman, David MacLeod, at the presentation of last year's awards.

Councils combine to improve bus ticketing

Bus passengers in Taranaki and eight other regions will have improved ticketing by June next year.

Taranaki, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Manawatū-Whanganui, Hawke's Bay, Northland, Nelson, and Invercargill councils have been working as a consortium to secure a new ticketing system to replace the ageing technology currently in use.

"Working together to procure a new provider has meant cost savings for our ratepayers, and it will also bring big benefits for our bus passengers," said Mike Garrett, spokesperson for the consortium.

"Following a competitive tender process, we have just confirmed contract award to INIT, an international transport technology provider with more than 30 years' experience in ticketing and transport solutions worldwide," Mr Garrett said.

The new ticketing system will be rolled out over six months from next January on the public transport networks administered by the councils.

"Passengers will be able to check their balances and top-up the credit on their cards online, and they'll be able to use their card in the nine regions where this new system is being installed.

"The new system will also produce rich information about how passengers travel on the network, and that means we'll be able to provide services that better meet their needs," Mr Garrett said.

As key funder of the new system, the NZ Transport Agency has worked closely with the Councils throughout the process.

The new INIT system will allow time for the procurement of a longer term nationwide solution for public transport ticketing and payments. The system will be in place in the nine regions for five years while a longer-term solution is developed by all councils with public transport responsibilities, Auckland



Transport and the NZ Transport Agency.

The nine councils which have been working as a consortium to procure an interim ticketing solution are:

Taranaki Regional Council, Waikato Regional Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Horizons Regional Council, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Northland Regional Council, Nelson City Council, Otago Regional Council, Invercargill City Council.

Plenty happening at regional gardens

Upcoming gardens events:

High teas at Tūpare.
Sunday 2 July and Sunday 6 August,
2pm-4pm.

Dress up in your finest and soak up the atmosphere while enjoying a delicious high tea in Tūpare's Chapman-Taylor designed house. Fundraiser for Mangorei School PTA. \$20 a head.

Tickets available from Black Bird Boutique, 148 Devon Street East, New Plymouth.



**Home gardening workshop:
winter fruit-tree pruning.**
Tūpare, Sunday 9 July, 2pm-4pm.
Hollard Gardens, Sunday 23 July
10am-noon, repeated 2pm-4pm.

Learning pruning techniques and tips for looking after tools. These sessions are always popular so this year there is a choice of venues, dates and times. Registration is essential – please email workshops@trc.govt.nz.

Explorer Day – mystery garden rally.
Pukeiti, Sunday 6 August,
10.30am-2pm.

Discover Pukeiti's new Treehouse Trail with games, wayfinding and hidden clues galore. Fun for all ages.

ABOVE and BELOW: Intriguing tree houses and hidden bush trails await visitors to Pukeiti.



Taranaki Regional Council Facts File

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Twitter: @TaranakiRC
@TaranakiCD
@TaranakiRG
Facebook: TaranakiRegionalCouncil
TaranakiCivilDefence
TaranakiRegionalGardens
Environmental hotline: 0800 736 222
Civil Defence freephone: 0800 900 049
NP bus information: 0800 827 287
Total Mobility: 0800 868 662

REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

New Plymouth Constituency:

Tom Cloke	06 753 5586
David Lean	06 753 3325
Charlotte Littlewood	027 354 5330
Bev Raine	06 757 5825
Craig Williamson	027 687 4122

North Taranaki Constituency:

Mike Davey	06 756 7126
Donald McIntyre	06 762 4701

South Taranaki Constituency:

Michael Joyce	027 494 8975
David MacLeod (Chair)	06 278 5577
Neil Walker	06 278 7541

Stratford Constituency:

Matthew McDonald	027 481 4648
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MEETING SCHEDULE

Venue (unless otherwise stated): Council chamber, 47 Cloten Rd, Stratford.

Tuesday 25 July, 9.30am:

Consents and Regulatory Committee.

Tuesday 25 July, 10.30am:

Policy and Planning Committee.

Monday 31 July, 10am:

Executive, Audit and Risk Committee.

Tuesday 15 August, 10.30am:

Ordinary Council meeting.

Thursday 24 August, 10.30am:

Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee.

See www.trc.govt.nz/meetings/ for agendas and minutes, and www.trc.govt.nz/meetings-schedule/ for any last-minute schedule changes.

Joint effort earns results

Help is at hand for Taranaki wetlands.

The Taranaki Regional Council is providing funding towards the enhancement and creation of regionally significant wetlands throughout Taranaki, says Land Services Manager Don Shearman.

“Wetlands and seeps act like sponges by storing water and allowing it to seep out in an even and continuous flow. They’re also important for maintaining and improving water quality, and they provide vital habitat for rare and threatened species,” he says.

‘Regionally significant wetlands’ contain predominantly native plant species or are habitats for nationally threatened or regionally distinctive animal species.

“Ringplain and coastal terrace farmers are required to fence off their regionally significant wetlands as part of having their riparian management plan completed by 2020. But we do also encourage people to protect and enhance all wetlands, not just those that are regionally significant.”

Mr Shearman says farmers should talk to their Land Management Officers about what funding is available for the region’s ring plain, coastal terrace and hillcountry wetlands.

Additionally, the Council is boosting its funding towards the removal of invasive willows in rivers, riparian margins and regionally significant wetlands. These willows can choke waterways and cause flooding, so their removal helps wetlands and seeps function better.

North of Hawera, near Matapu, is a 180-hectare dairy farm that increasingly showcases healthy wetlands and good riparian management. The Inaha Stream flows through Andrew and Penny Meuli’s farm, and the couple have worked hard to protect and enhance the river and its borders.

“It’s mainly the stream that runs across the farm, but wetlands seep into it,” Andrew explains.

The Meulis, who have received Council money for willow removal, have poisoned then removed more than 2km of willows from their already fenced-off stream, wetlands and riparian areas, and planted those areas with



Andrew Meuli and his wife Penny have worked hard to protect and enhance the stream and wetlands on their property.

native vegetation. The couple milk 600 Friesian-cross cows, and started implementing their riparian management plan in 2009 with help from the Council’s Land Management Officers. Having removed the willows, they put 12,660 plants in their riparian and wetlands areas, with another 1500 ordered for 2017/18.

Andrew says the willow removal tidied the river and improved its channel and flow. “There’s less bank erosion and in adverse weather it sticks to its course, rather than flooding and doing damage.”

He figures the waterway is also cleaner, and says their wider riparian work has

brought improvements in health and safety, wildlife, aesthetics and stock safety.

Andrew is a fifth-generation farmer who’s been on the farm for 15 years and recently took over from his parents.

He and Penny understand the importance of environmental protection and caring for future generations.

“The dirty dairying thing – we need to knock that on the head. I don’t know an industry that’s been as proactive about the environment.

“We’ve personally been progressive every year with the (riparian) planting. It’s been blocked into the farm maintenance system as a cost, even in low payout years. The major benefit is that we’re done – we’re not behind. The Council’s been fantastic. We have the plans they prepared for us, and they come out and see what we’ve done – see what we need to do.

“I’ve had great support from them and they’ve come in with a good attitude. They haven’t said, ‘you’ve got to do this, do that’. They’ve worked with the farmer, which always goes down well. We work in well together.”

And he has this advice for farmers who’ve been reluctant to embrace riparian management: “Just get your head around that it needs to be done, and do it properly from the start.

“Too many people have made narrow margins and fenced, and they haven’t saved themselves anything. Do a bit every year and keep on top of it. Don’t hold it off, ‘cause you’re going to have to catch up.”

Contact the Council’s Land Management Officers on 0800 736 222 or riparian@trc.govt.nz for funding options, information and advice relating to the Riparian Management Programme.

Riparian fencing and planting ‘needs to be done, and do it properly from the start’