

## **Erosion Control Funding Programme - Questions and Answers July 2014**

### **Why change the name from the East Coast Forestry Project to Erosion Control Funding Programme?**

In response to a number of public submissions the grant scheme has been rebranded to reflect the primary purpose of the scheme which is sustainable land management on eroding and erosion prone land, rather than simply encouraging the expansion of planted forests.

### **Who can receive a grant?**

The landowner or a party with the right to use the land (e.g. farm lease or forestry right) can receive a grant.

### **I want to apply for a grant, what is the new arrangement?**

New grants will be made under a grant agreement with a term of 15 years to allow the erosion treatments to establish.

### **How do you know how much to give me?**

Once we receive your application, we will assess it for eligibility using GIS and calculate the value of the grant based on the payment schedule.

### **How do I know if I am a high priority site?**

You would know if you are a priority site because you would have been contracted by a member of the team who will support you throughout the erosion treatment process.

### **I already have an approval certificate from you, what happens now?**

You have the option of switching to a grant agreement, and having any associated covenants revoked and removed from your land title. The value of grant approved will not change.

### **I already have an approval certificate from the 2014 funding round but it is not signed, what happens now?**

An approval certificate from the 2014 funding round that has not been signed will become obsolete on 28 August 2014 and a grant agreement will be required.

### **I already have an approval certificate but it has expired, what happens now?**

An approval certificate that has expired (e.g. you did not plant as required by the approval certificate) is obsolete and you will need to reapply.

### **When can I remove my covenant and sign up to a grant agreement?**

From 28 August 2014.

### **How do I remove my covenant?**

A grant agreement must be agreed before a covenant is removed from the land title. The grantee is responsible for applying to Land Information New Zealand on the prescribed form including a registration fee.

### **If people can remove their covenant and the grant is only for 15 years, won't that mean areas treated for erosion will be cleared?**

The risk of grant areas being cleared would be managed under the terms and conditions of the grant agreements and the vegetation clearance controls in the Combined Regional and District Plan.

### **What happens after grant agreement expires?**

After expiry of the Grant Agreement the Grant-aided Area will be of sufficient size (2 metres tall in continuous canopy) that the vegetation clearance rules in the Combined Regional and District Plan will apply.

### **What if I sell or transfer my land within the 15 year grant agreement?**

If you are proposing to sell, lease or otherwise transfer the land or your interest in the land to which the grant applies, you must first notify MPI, and transfer the Grant Agreement via a Deed of Novation to the new owner before your landholding is transferred.

The new owner will then be bound by the Grant Agreement in place of you.

### **When are payments scheduled?**

All erosion treatments have two key milestones to which payments are made:

- 1) *Establishment* – to plant trees or to retire the area approved for indigenous reversion; and
- 2) *Maintenance* – to ensure the erosion treatment has been managed appropriately for example, final thinning of closely planted trees to maintain stand health or livestock have been excluded for the benefit of long-term erosion control.

### **How are the payments made to me?**

Following the completion of the erosion treatment you (the grantee) will lodge a claim for payment and supporting information (e.g. quality control data, shape files or map) highlighting the Actual Treated Area to MPI.

MPI or a duly authorised representative will undertake a site inspection to confirm the eligible area for payment. MPI aims to make payments within 30 days of completing a site inspection, unless further information and/or mapping is required.

### **What are minimum stocking rates?**

Minimum stocking rates are to ensure an effective erosion control treatment is established and maintained.

### **What if I have new erosion features that are not identified as target land?**

New erosion features can be mapped by the Gisborne District Council who participates in the assessment of applications. The area mapped as Land Overlay 3A is eligible for funding.

**What other support can MPI provide?**

In addition to the ECFP grant, grantees can enter into the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI). This allows grantees to generate carbon credits as an additional incentive to manage erosion.