



# Erosion Control Funding Programme (East Coast) Guidelines for land treatments

May 2018

## Disclaimer

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, the Ministry for Primary Industries accepts no liability for any error or omission.

Copies of this publication can be requested from [funding@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:funding@mpi.govt.nz) or by calling 0800 00 83 33.

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# ABOUT THE EROSION CONTROL FUNDING PROGRAMME

# LAND TREATMENTS

These guidelines are for applicants that would like to receive an Erosion Control Funding Programme (ECFP) – Land Treatment grant to treat erodible land in the Gisborne district.

## Erosion in the Gisborne district

The Gisborne district has a severe erosion issue – 26 percent of Gisborne district's land is susceptible to severe erosion, compared with only 8 percent of all land in New Zealand. Gisborne's annual rate of erosion is around 4,800 tonnes per square kilometre. This is more than twice the rate of the South Island's West Coast, which has the next highest erosion rate by volume.<sup>1</sup>

Severe erosion causes long-term damage to the productivity of rural land. It threatens communities and rural businesses, including farms and orchards, roads and bridges. It lowers water quality by contributing large amounts of sediment to river systems, and it harms the natural and cultural values of the land and the coastal environment.

It is estimated that 192 million tonnes of eroded soil enters New Zealand's waterways each year, of which 40 million tonnes is from the Gisborne region.<sup>2</sup>

Gisborne District is susceptible to regular high intensity weather events that cause soil erosion and downstream flooding. These weather events are likely to get heavier and/or more frequent. For a mid-range global greenhouse gas emission scenario, a 1-in-100 year event

now could become a 1-in-50 year event by the end of the century<sup>2</sup>. In 2009 the Gisborne District Council introduced a District Plan rule (Section 6:10 of the Combined Regional and District Plan) that requires landowners with eroding land identified as "Land Overlay 3A" (LO3A) to have effective tree cover by 2021.

## About the ECFP

The ECFP has the primary objective of achieving sustainable land management on the worst eroding or erosion-prone land in the Gisborne district. Funding from the Crown has been available to support landowners in the Gisborne district since 1992.

Under the ECFP land treatments, landowners can receive a government grant for treating erosion on their land through planting or encouraging natural reversion to native bush.

Grant recipients own the erosion treatments, while the Crown supports sustainable land management initiatives with Local Government, iwi and the community.

## Options for land treatments

ECFP land treatments can include the following types of erosion treatments:

- forestry planting (both exotic and indigenous);
- pole planting (willows or poplars); and
- indigenous reversion.

Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis, and approval for erosion treatments will depend on site specific circumstances and any medium to long term erosion issues.

See *Appendix 1* for further details on erosion treatment types.

<sup>1</sup> Estimated long-term soil erosion [www.stats.govt.nz/browse\\_for\\_stats/environment/environmental-reporting-series/environmental-indicators/home/land/long-term-soil-erosion.aspx](http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/environment/environmental-reporting-series/environmental-indicators/home/land/long-term-soil-erosion.aspx).

<sup>2</sup> NIWA Climate Change Projections for New Zealand [http://www.niwa.co.nz/sites/default/files/import/attachments/IPCC\\_08\\_report\\_02s.pdf](http://www.niwa.co.nz/sites/default/files/import/attachments/IPCC_08_report_02s.pdf)

**Tip:** Activities outside of these three treatment types may be eligible for funding under an ECFP community projects grant. For more information about these grants, refer to [www.mpi.govt.nz/ecfp](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/ecfp).

## Grant rates

ECFP grants cover a significant portion of the costs of implementing an erosion control treatment. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) will calculate the total amount of grant applicable to any application, based on fixed rates for the type of treatment.

Applications may be made for a grant for projects starting in any nominated year(s) up to 5 years after the application date.

A grant is paid out in four milestones, which will be outlined in the Grant Agreement. The Agreement also describes approved erosion treatments and their implementation, any conditions and the payment schedule.

The four key funding milestones for all treatments are outlined below:

Grant rates and more detailed milestone descriptions can be found in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.

## Compatibility with other schemes

In addition to the ECFP grant, grant areas can enter into the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/agriculture/agriculture-ets> and the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI) <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/funding-programmes/permanent-forest-sink-initiative.aspx>

This allows grantees to generate carbon credits as an additional incentive to manage erosion.

#	Work required	Funding	Evidence of completion
1	Contract and order placement	50%	Signing of contract and proof of order placement (e.g. invoice or receipt)
2	Planting/Fencing completed	30%	Contractor invoice, receipt, photos or other agreed evidence that fencing or planting has been completed
3	Establishment Inspection	0%	MPI inspection to confirm treatment meets required standards and conditions are met
4	Maintenance Inspection	20%	MPI inspection to confirm treatment meets required standards and conditions are met. Occurs 5 or 8 years after establishment, depending on treatment type.

## FUNDING CYCLE FOR ECFP

# LAND TREATMENTS

The steps in the funding process are summarised below.

Step	Applicant/Grantee	MPI
Application (see pages 6-7)	Submit a complete application with supporting documents	Check applications for completeness
Assessment (see page 8)		Complete geospatial land eligibility and treatment assessment
Approval		Confirm whether applicants successful
Contract drafted		Send out contract for review and signing
Milestone 1: Contract signing and ordering (see pages 9-10)	Sign and return the Agreement together with claim for payment and evidence that supplies ordered	Action claim for payment
Milestone 2: Planting/fencing completed (see page 10)	Plant/fence off the approved treatment area, send claim for payment	Action claim for payment
Milestone 3: Establishment Inspection (see page 10)	Manage the approved treatment area	Inspect the treatment, determine the established area and compare it to the approved area
Milestone 4: Maintenance Inspection (see pages 10-11)	Maintain the approved treatment area, send claim for payment	Inspect the treatment, determine the maintained area and compare it to the approved area, action claim for payment
Ongoing maintenance (see page 11)	Maintain the approved treatment area for duration of 15 year contract	Monitor and audit as required

# APPLICATION

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## Who can apply for an ECFP land treatment grant?

Applicants for an ECFP land treatment grant must own or have an interest in the land, and may include a trust or incorporation. An interest in the land includes a lease on the land or a forestry right that applies to the land.

Anyone who intends to purchase, or gain an interest in, the land may also apply for a grant. In this situation, the application must include evidence of the applicant's intention to purchase, or gain an interest in, the land.

## Making an application

MPI and the Gisborne District Council can help with the preparation of applications, and can identify what land is eligible for funding.

Applications for ECFP land treatment grants must be received by MPI on the prescribed application form by **30 June each year or by the closing date** publically notified.

The application forms can be obtained from the MPI website <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/ecfp>.

Completed applications should be submitted:

**By email to:** [funding@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:funding@mpi.govt.nz) with ECFP application in the subject line

**By post to:** Erosion Control Funding Programme  
Investment Programmes Team  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
PO Box 2526  
Wellington 6140

**In person to:** Ministry for Primary Industries  
(Gisborne Office)  
59 Awapuni Road  
Gisborne

## What land is eligible for a grant?

All land in the Gisborne District with a Land Use Capability (LUC) class rating of VIe, VIIe or VIIIe<sup>3</sup>, or land classified as Land Overlay 3A in the Gisborne District Council Regional Plan, will be considered for an ECFP grant. Some of the limitations of this land, which is unsuitable for pastoral use, include:

- moderate to severe erosion hazard and/or severe effects of past erosion;
- steep to very steep slopes;
- very stony or very shallow soils;
- very frequently damaging flooding.

Other eligibility criteria include:

- the land has, or has had, no existing exotic or native tree cover (greater than 1 hectare in size) since 1989;
- the proposed grant area is 5 hectares or more in total size;
- each individual area is at least 1 hectare in size; and
- for indigenous reversion only, a sufficient natural seed source is encouraged to achieve effective tree cover (2 metres tall in continuous canopy).

## Ineligible land

Land that is ineligible for a grant includes:

- areas with existing closed canopy forest cover (indigenous or exotic);
- sites of special wildlife interest;
- recommended areas for protection;
- archaeological sites; and
- land not legally held by the applicant (unless evidence of intent to purchase can be provided), including paper roads and Queen's Chain.

<sup>3</sup> Landcare Research and Ministry of Works & Development (1999). New Zealand Land Resource Inventory – Gisborne East Coast (2nd edition), Landcare Research report no 28, Manaaki Whenua Press, Lincoln.

### Areas of scrub and forest cover

Areas of existing closed canopy forest cover<sup>4</sup> (indigenous or exotic) over 1 hectare, or any areas of native forest, are ineligible because this vegetation cover already provides effective erosion control.

Areas that have been cleared of closed canopy forest cover since 1999 are also ineligible.

### Sites of Special Wildlife Interest and Recommended Areas for Protection

All Sites of Special Wildlife Interest (SSWIs) and Recommended Areas for Protection (RAPs) are ineligible for an ECFP grant. Should the proposed grant area include an SSWI or RAP, MPI will consult with the Department of Conservation on the boundaries of the area and exclude them from the grant area.

<sup>4</sup> Closed canopy cover is scrub or tree vegetation that is at least two metres tall and has touching or interwoven branches.

### Archaeological sites

Archaeological Sites identified in the Gisborne Combined Regional Land and District Plan are ineligible.

Should the proposed grant area fall within the Heritage Alert Layers, the applicant will be required to employ an approved archaeologist to survey the proposed area and mark out any archaeological sites present. These sites will then be excluded from the grant area. The archaeological survey must be undertaken before the grant agreement is approved.

**Tip: Don't leave it to the last minute!** Submitting your application well before the closing date gives us an opportunity to check it for completeness, in time for you to provide any missing information before the round closes

**Tip: Make sure that you review the Application Checklist** attached to the application form before submitting your application, as incomplete applications may be declined



# ASSESSMENT

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## How does MPI decide which applications to approve?

Submitting an application does not automatically mean a grant will be approved.

Priorities such as the presence of high-priority target land, the effectiveness of treatment and the availability of funding are key factors in deciding which applications to approve.

## Approval process

1. Applications are checked for eligibility and the potential grant value is determined according to the eligible grant area and applicable grant rate.
2. An assessment panel of erosion scientists, soil conservators, practitioners, MPI, Gisborne District Council, Department of Conservation and Tangata Whenua reviews each application on its merits as an effective erosion control treatment. The assessment panel recommends projects to be funded to MPI.
3. MPI aims to notify applicants of the funding decisions within 30 working days of the assessment panel meeting.
4. Successful applicants are sent a provisional approval letter and map to allow for any necessary discussions over grant details and preparations.
5. Unsuccessful applicants are provided feedback as to why their application was declined. Applicants can address the assessment panel's feedback and resubmit applications in a subsequent year.

# CONTRACTING

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## Grant agreement

Successful applicants will be offered a Grant Agreement when:

- unconditional rights to the land are confirmed (Certificate of title/lease/forestry right);
- if required, archaeological site certifications have been obtained.

A sample Grant Agreement is available at: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/ecfp>

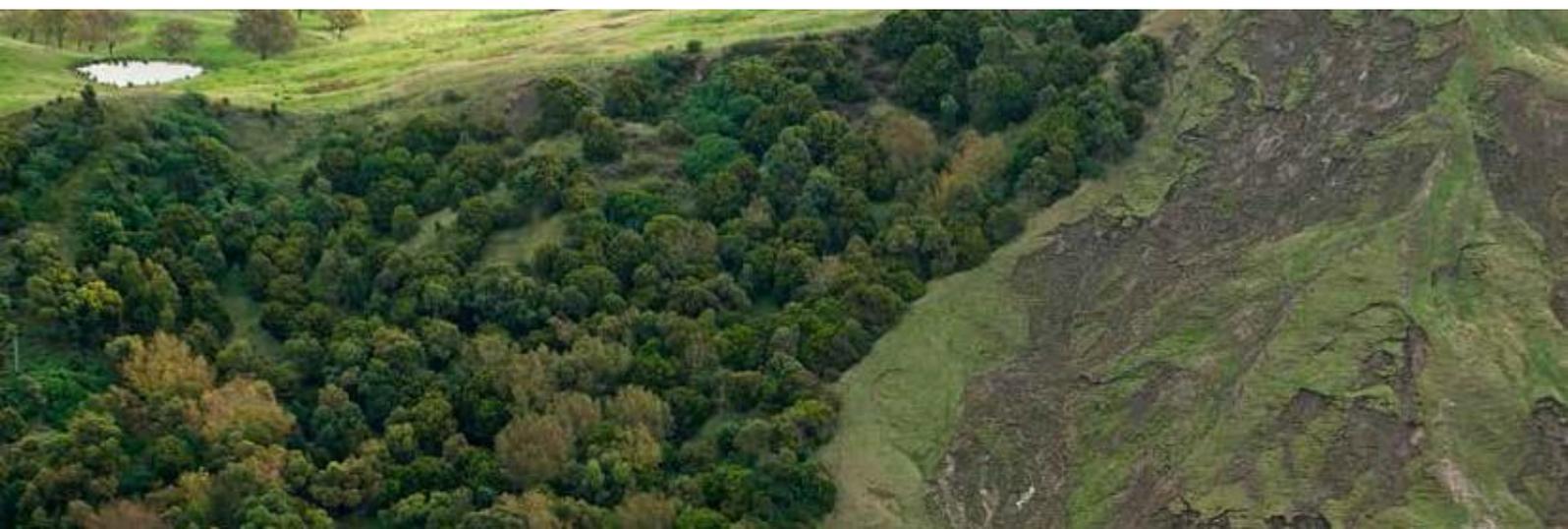
Grantees are advised to obtain independent legal advice before signing the Agreement.

## Grantee responsibilities and obligations

Key Grantee responsibilities and obligations are outlined below. Please see the sample Agreement on the website for further detail.

- The term of the Agreement is 15 years.
- The Grantee may make a claim for payment upon signing of the Agreement and, as per the milestone process outlined on page 4.

- The Grantee will:
  - establish the erosion treatment in the area and year agreed.
  - comply with all conditions set out in the Grant Agreement.
  - take all reasonable steps to protect the grant area from loss, damage or destruction.
  - contact the Grantor regarding risks or issues that could compromise the grant or ECFP.
  - If the conditions of the Agreement are not complied with, MPI may require the Grantee to remedy the breach or repay the Grant in part or in full. A breach is a condition or number of conditions in the Agreement not met by the Grantee.



# MONITORING

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## Claims for payment

A Grantee may lodge a claim on the Claim for Payment form (available at [www.mpi.govt.nz/ecfp](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/ecfp)) when the relevant milestone activities have been completed. The claim for payment must include supporting information such as invoices, receipts, quality control data, shape files or maps highlighting the actual treated area.

MPI or an authorised representative will carry out site inspections at milestones three and four to confirm the treatment meets the treatment standards and conditions in the Grant Agreement.

- For forestry, establishment inspections are carried out at milestone three, no sooner than 5 months after planting to ensure accurate survival counts. Final payment inspections for milestone four are carried out after final thinning or at year eight, whichever is sooner.
- For indigenous reversion, establishment inspections are carried out at milestone three when the grant area is stock free and the required, stock proof, fencing is in place. Final payment inspections for milestone four are carried out no sooner than 5 years after establishment.
- For pole treatments, establishment inspections are carried out at milestone three, no sooner than 5 months after planting to ensure accurate survival counts. Final inspections for milestone four are carried out no earlier than 5 years after establishment.

MPI aims to make payments within 30 days of receiving a claim form for milestones one and two, or within 30 days of completing a site inspection for milestone four.

Details of the four stage milestone structure, including activities required under each milestone, can be found in Appendix 3.

An inspection may reveal that MPI has paid more than required, or that conditions have not been met. Examples of situations that might lead to this include:

- stocking rate is lower than approved;
- actual treated area is smaller than approved and paid for;
- conditions (e.g. fencing, stock proofing, pest management etc) not met or maintained.

In these situations, MPI may require remedial work, withhold further payments, or require repayment of funding paid to date. Details can be found in the Grant Agreement template, which can be found on our website:

[www.mpi.govt.nz/ecfp](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/ecfp).

## Site inspections

MPI or an authorised representative may undertake a site inspection of the grant area during the term of the agreement, and up to 12 months after expiry of the agreement, for compliance with the terms of the Grant Agreement.

Aerial site inspections may be carried out at any time and without notification.

For on-site inspections, the Grantee will be given at least 48 hours' notice (unless the Grantee agrees a shorter notice period), with details of the inspection outlined.

A person conducting an inspection will always carry identification, must not unreasonably disrupt the Grantee's use of the area, and must comply with the Grantee's reasonable health and safety requirements.

### Long term monitoring

Monitoring of the grant area will be undertaken to ensure the effective tree cover is maintained for the 15 year grant duration.

Monitoring will be undertaken in collaboration with Gisborne District Council on the LO3A requirements for landowners to have effective tree cover by 2021.

After expiry of the Grant Agreement, MPI will work with Gisborne District Council to continue monitoring the grant area. Clearance rules in the Combined Regional and District Plan will apply. See <http://www.gdc.govt.nz/district-plan/>

### Variation of the Grant Agreement

A variation to the approved treatment will be considered by MPI, subject to the suitability and effectiveness of the changes requested. The treatment may be varied from time to time as agreed by the Parties in writing.

### Transfer of the Grant Agreement

If the Grantee transfers the grant area (for example through sale of the land), the Grantee must notify MPI, and transfer the Grant Agreement via a Deed of Novation.

The transferee will be bound by the Grant Agreement in place of the Grantee.

### Income tax

Grant payments are treated as grants to businesses under section DF1 of the Income Tax Act 2004. The grant is made by the government under a contract at an approved value and is not a reimbursement of costs. Other spending relevant to grant operations should be accounted for under normal accounting procedures in the year incurred.

### Goods and Services Tax (GST)

All grant applications are calculated on a GST-exclusive basis. GST is added to the grant payment and must be accounted for in the usual way.



## APPENDIX 1:

## TREATMENT TYPES

**Forestry planting (both exotic and indigenous)**

This option has a wide range of solutions from plantation forests through to specialty native timber options such as totara, beech and manuka.

Forestry planting is suitable for larger scale erosion (e.g. gully catchments greater than 5 hectares). Consideration should be given to the long term effects of forestry on areas that will be uneconomic or impractical to harvest. It is recommended that applicants consult a registered professional forestry consultant for advice on appropriate forestry treatments.

**Establishment**

To ensure an effective erosion control treatment, forestry plantings will have regular initial planting stocking densities. Stocking rates are outlined in the table below.

Lower stocking rates will be considered on a case by case basis.

For alternative species, stocking densities at establishment may differ with pre-approval from MPI.

**Maintenance**

Maintenance of forestry plantings is required, including final thinning of closely planted trees to maintain stand health and an effective erosion treatment.

Thinning is allowed within the following parameters:

- the mean tree height must be five metres before thinning can occur;
- when the mean tree height is between five and 12 metres, the stocking rate must be at least 500 stems per hectare; and
- when the mean tree height is 15 metres or more, the final stocking rate is to be between 250 and 500 stems per hectare.

**Stocking rates for forestry treatments:**

Species	Recommended Stems per Hectare	Final Stocking (Year 15)
Radiata Pine	1250	300 (when mean tree height is 15m or more)
Douglas Fir	1500	300 (when mean tree height is 15m or more)
Eucalyptus/Redwood	1250	300 (when mean tree height is 15m or more)
Manuka	1500	800-1000
Other indigenous forestry	At MPI discretion	

\* The recommended stems per hectare for forestry treatments above is higher than the Minimum Established Stocking Rate against which full grant payment is made. This recognises that some seedling mortality is inevitable in the first year following planting. If the results of a site inspection show the survival rate to be less than 85% of the recommended stems per hectare, MPI may withhold some or all of the payment.

## Poleplanting (willows or poplars)

The options referred to as poles are predominantly willow and poplar trees. These are suitable as their root systems quickly establish and also allow crops and pasture to be grown in close proximity.

Pole planting is suitable for small scale erosion (e.g. earthflows, low severity linear gullies and small slumps). Pole planting is not suitable for the treatment of large and/or deeply eroded linear gullies or for amphitheater-shaped gullies.

### Indicative spacing for widely spaced poplar and willow poles are as follows:

Erosion feature	Planting location	Spacing at establishment	Thinning
Moderate earthflow	Unstable part of flow or gully walls	7–10 metres (10–12 metres if blanking* is to be undertaken)	10–12 metres at 10–20 years
Severe earthflow	Unstable part of flow	7–10 metres	None
Moderate linear gully	Watercourse	6–8 metres	10–12 metres at 10–20 years
Severe linear gully	Watercourse	6–8 metres	None
Moderate slump	Unstable part of slump	7 metres	10–12 metres at 10–20 years
Severe slump	Unstable part of slump	5 metres	None

\* Blanking (replanting poles) is required where poles do not survive.

## Indigenous reversion

The reversion option allows native trees and scrub to repopulate erosion sites and support the surrounding areas. The advantages of reversion are low maintenance costs and its ability to dominate unwanted exotic plants such as gorse.

Indigenous reversion is suitable for larger scale erosion (e.g. gully catchments greater than 5ha).

Reversion treatments are most successful when there is at least 50% existing scrub cover to provide for a seed source to enable reversion to occur. The scrub cover can be either Closed Canopy Indigenous Scrub (CCIS) or scattered indigenous scrub. Existing CCIS areas do not qualify for grant payments.

Where there is less than 50% existing scrub cover, MPI will consider the proposed treatment on a case-by-case basis, and it will be strongly encouraged that additional planting of native species is carried out.

Reversion areas must be fenced where necessary to prevent livestock entering the grant area, and feral animals must be controlled within the grant area.

## Multiple treatments

A combination of erosion treatments may occur as part of the planting programme, for example, gullies over two hectares may require a different erosion control treatment to the surrounding area (stream channels may need treatment with willow poles, while the surrounding area is planted with forest).

## APPENDIX 2:

## GRANT RATES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Treatment	Recommended stems per hectare*	Grant rates	Milestone 1: Contract and order placement	Milestone 2: Planting or fencing completed	Milestone 3: Establishment	Milestone 4: Maintenance (5 to 8 years after establishment)	Final Stocking (Year 15)
Planted Treatments # *		\$1,500/ha	50% payment upon contract signing and proof of order	30% payment upon proof of payment/work completed	0% payment. Inspection and assessment of planting/fencing completed	20% payment at final thinning – about year 8 (final thinning can occur when mean tree height is 5m)	300 stems/ha (when mean tree height is 15m or more)
Radiata pine	1,250*						
Douglas Fir	1,500*						
Eucalyptus, Redwood	1,250*						
Mānuka # *	1,500*	\$1,500/ha					
Other planted Indigenous forestry	At MPI discretion	\$1,500/ha	50% payment upon contract signing and proof of order	30% payment upon proof of payment/work completed	0% payment. Inspection and assessment of planting/fencing completed	20% payment at year 5 (1,000–1,250 stems/ha)	
Indigenous Reversion #	Not applicable	\$1,500/ha	50% payment upon contract signing and proof of order	30% payment upon proof of payment/work completed	0% payment. Inspection and assessment of fencing completed	20% payment at year 5	Closed canopy cover (at MPI discretion)
Space-planted poplars and willows poles or wands	Variable (25–100 poles/ha)	\$26 per 3m A poles (cattle) \$16 per 2–2.5m B poles (sheep)	50% payment upon contract signing and proof of order	30% payment upon proof of payment/work completed	0% payment. Inspection and assessment of planting/fencing completed	20% payment at year 5	As per original establishment plan

# Forestry, Mānuka and reversion treatments within the catchments of high-priority gullies over 2 hectares in size will also qualify for a further top-up of \$500/ha.  
\* The stems per hectare for forestry treatments recommended above is higher than the Minimum Established Stocking Rate against which full grant payment is made. This higher planting rate recognises that some seedling mortality is inevitable in the first year following planting.

## APPENDIX 3:

# MILESTONE DESCRIPTIONS

#	Milestone name	Description of work	Payment*
1	Contract signed and supplies ordered	The grantee is required to sign the contract and return a copy to MPI. In addition the grantee is required to provide evidence that seedlings and/or fencing supplies (depending on treatment type) have been ordered and a deposit paid (if required by supplier). Evidence may include, but will not be limited to, a copy of an invoice or a letter from the supplier confirming the order has been received. Once the signed contract and satisfactory evidence of supply order has been received, payment will be made.	50%
2	Planting/ Fencing completed	The grantee is required to complete the planting and/or fencing (depending on treatment type) in the year specified in the contract and provide evidence that this has been completed. Evidence may include, but will not be limited to, an invoice from the contractor, a letter from the contractor confirming that the work has been completed, or photos of the completed work. Once satisfactory evidence has been received, payment will be made. If insufficient evidence is provided, MPI may withhold payment until an inspection is undertaken.	30%
3	Establishment Inspection	After planting has been completed (poles and forestry treatments), or once fencing is in place (reversion treatments), the grantee will request an establishment inspection. An MPI staff member or other authorised person will complete the inspection to check that the work has been completed to the required standard and in accordance with the claims made in milestones 1 and 2. Once MPI is satisfied that obligations have been met the grantee will be provided with a confirmation letter.  If the area treated or the number of poles planted differs from that claimed in milestone 2, or if the work has not been completed to the required standard, MPI will have the right to request further work to bring the treatment in line with claim received and/or withhold further payments and/or claim funding back.	0%
4	Maintenance Inspection	Noting that the term of the contract is 15 years, the grantee is required to maintain the treatment for a number of years. After 5 years (for reversion or pole treatments) or 8 years (for forestry treatments) the grantee requests a maintenance inspection by an MPI staff member or other authorised person. If the inspection confirms that the treatment has been maintained to the required standard, payment will be made.	20%

\*Payment is a proportion of the total grant funding eligible relating to a block approved. If all work is to be completed at one time, then payments will be percentages of the full grant as noted above. If planting/fencing will be completed over a number of years, then payments are prorated to reflect the portion of work carried out in any given year.





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