



Slip Lands Ngahere Reserves and covenants/kawenata Rewild opportunity



Inspiring our community to rewild these places

The Opportunity

Rewild all Aotearoa primary production slip lands to enhance freshwater, marine and indigenous forest ecosystems, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create a carbon sink for past ngahere clearance emissions, and immediately reduce water pollution, flooding, siltation, soil erosion, and timber debris harm to our ecosystems, communities, businesses and infrastructure.

These former indigenous forests/tussockland will reach their full potential when rewiled and stop much of the current devastating harm caused to ecosystems, communities, businesses and infrastructure. Even exotic forestry areas do not stop the harm as they are extremely vulnerable to slipping during the road construction, harvesting and deforested stages of the production cycle. Much of this land should never have been burnt and cleared from indigenous forest/tussockland under the direction of our government. The harm will only increase with more intense rainfall from atmospheric and ocean temperature rise. The government, legislation, RMA, regulators, and primary industry have failed to heal this land and stop the harm, so a new red-zone approach is required.

An Aotearoa Rewild Landuse Change Fund should be established to fund transition of the landuse to a wild indigenous ecosystem state and fund reserve-purchase/covenant/kawenata of land from willing public/private/iwi owners to legally protect the funded rewild investment for future generations.

A new class of Reserve is needed - **Ngahere Reserve** status under the Reserves Act.

Current Management

19% of Aotearoa comprising up to 5 million hectares are Very High to Moderate Slip Erosion Lands currently managed for unsustainable primary production. These areas are largely managed by private owners who lack the ability to change land-use away from harmful primary production. Harmful adverse effects range from the direct in catchments with extensive Very High slip risk (e.g. Waimata, Pakarae, and Uawa), to the cumulative in catchments with extensive Moderate to Very High slip risk (e.g. Banks Peninsula, Ligar Bay area, Patea, Whangaehu, Turakina, Manawatu, Esk, Wairoa, Waipaoa, and Waiapu). Portions of catchments with extensive Very High to Moderate slip risk are also unsustainable and have harmful adverse effects downstream. (e.g. Shotover, Oroua etc.) Continued grazing and exotic forestry on slip lands is unsustainable due to the extensive harmful downstream effects, and low economic viability in much of our hill country.

Context

Rewilding the slip lands under primary production now will result in immediate increased ecological value, reduced freshwater and marine ecosystem pollution, enhanced indigenous forests/tussocklands, reduced flooding, reduced siltation, reduced insurance costs, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and a new massive carbon sink for past ngahere clearance emissions. Rewilding will also provide many jobs to manage the rewilding transition and sustaining – pest control, wilding/planted conifer control, fencing, planting, tracking, surveying and land transfer etc.

Key Benefits

Up to 5 million hectares of unsustainably grazed and exotic plantation areas rewiled to forest/tussockland and stream ecosystems, while creating a carbon sink for past ngahere clearance emissions, reducing the harm of flooding and siltation, enhancing low flows, ending water pollution and ending current carbon/methane/nitrogen emissions from stock and fossil fuel derived inputs. Up to 5 million hectares of new Ngahere Reserve/covenant/kawenata integrated legal protection as publicly managed/protected indigenous forest/tussockland ecosystems, mahinga kai and cultural harvest taonga, public recreation/tourism/access open space, and the enhancement of natural landscape and character.

Dedicated to te mana o te wai, our communities and Manu.

Further reading

Less productive land could be afforested with little impact on farming productivity or employment. A comprehensive national programme to establish more native forests.

<https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/public/Inaia-tonu-nei-a-low-emissions-future-for-Aotearoa/Inaia-tonu-nei-a-low-emissions-future-for-Aotearoa.pdf>

One of the main things we hope to see from the ERP is a comprehensive national programme to establish more native forests. <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/public/Uploads/ERP-letters-to-Ministers/01-04-2022-Letter-from-Dr-Rod-Carr-Climate-Change-Commission-to-Minister-Stuart-Nash-Emissions-Reduction-Plan.pdf>

The Government needs to urgently promote the planting and regeneration of native forests widely across Aotearoa for landscape resilience, climate change mitigation and addressing the biodiversity crisis

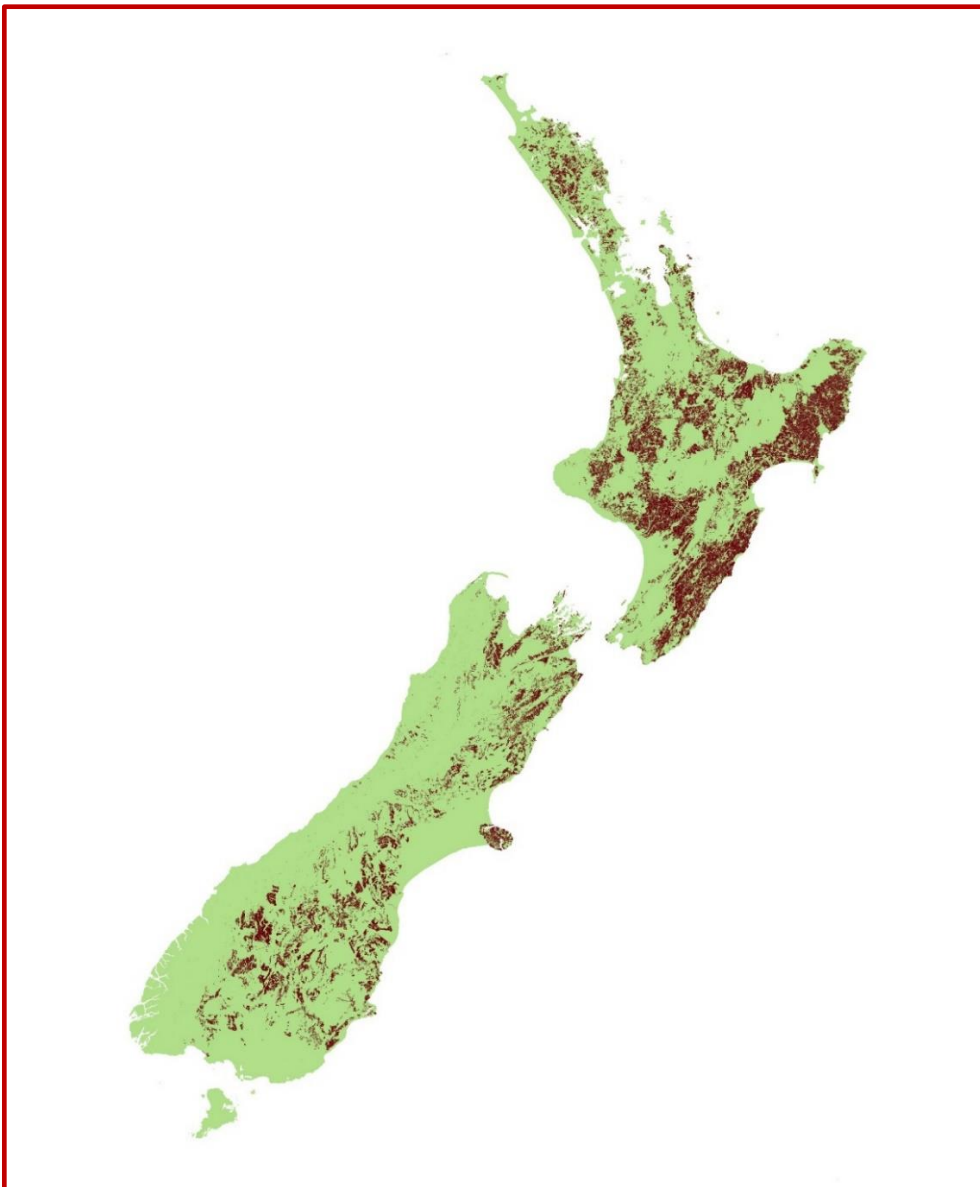
<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/exotic-tree-crops-established-for-carbon-credits-morally-corrupt>

The climate has changed for the worse <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/were-building-things-based-on-a-climate-we-no-longer-live-in/#>

Permanent native forest on slip lands <https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/28-07-2023/the-side-eye-deeper-roots>

Much of the current land use is unsustainable, and exhausted <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/Outrage-to-Optimism-CORRECTED-17.05.pdf>

Opportunity Location



Rewilding: to create and protect healthy ecosystem processes and functions that can sustain themselves, our society, and our economy.

