

Key Native Ecosystem Programme



greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Pane Matua Taiao

Key Native Ecosystem sites

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) is working to protect and restore indigenous biodiversity in our region.

Current scientific knowledge and geographical mapping is used to identify and prioritise areas with high biodiversity values. Sites that include different types of ecosystems (forest, wetland, freshwater, estuarine and coastal) that are typical for our region are identified using widely accepted criteria including ecological representativeness, rarity and diversity. Many of these are managed as part of our KNE programme.

KNE sites can be located on public or private land. The involvement of landowners is voluntary.

Why Key Native Ecosystem sites are important

New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity continues to decline, both nationally and in the Wellington region. The KNE programme provides ongoing management and protection at our region's most precious sites. The aim is to maintain or restore native plant and animal communities, as well as ecological function, by managing threats like ecological weeds and pest animals.

Without active management of KNE sites, many native plants and animals would not survive there. The protection of these areas is an investment in the future of the Wellington region's representative ecosystems.

How Key Native Ecosystem sites are managed

It can take many years for an ecosystem to recover from damage caused by human activities and introduced species. Ongoing management is often required and this is why the management of KNE

sites is a long-term commitment. GWRC prepares management plans for individual KNE sites that specify actions to achieve ecological objectives for the sites, for example, to increase native bird populations.

GWRC works proactively and in partnership with relevant stakeholders such as private landowners, iwi, territorial authorities, the Department of Conservation, other agencies and non-government organisations.



Kahikatea tree with native epiphytes

Common methods used to manage Key Native Ecosystem sites

Ecological weed control to protect native plants. If left unmanaged, these pest plants can out-compete native species, prevent natural regeneration and degrade habitats of native plants and animals.

Pest animal control to protect native plants from browsing animals (such as possums), and native animals from being preyed on by predators, such as stoats, wild cats and hedgehogs.

Enhancing legal protection (covenanting) to protect the ecosystem from land use change.

Stock exclusion/fencing to protect ecosystems from being trampled or browsed by livestock.

Restoration planting to help restore areas where native vegetation have been depleted.

Re-establishing fish passage in rivers and streams, where the connection between and along waterways has been lost, to allow native fish species to get where they need to be to live and breed.

Involvement in Key Native Ecosystem site management

As KNE plans are developed, GWRC invites selected landowners to discuss whether they would like to be involved in the programme. When work is done on private land, it is at the discretion of landowners, and their involvement in the programme is entirely voluntary. Involvement may just mean allowing work to be undertaken on that land.

Much of the work planned for KNE sites is carried out by GWRC staff and contractors. For example, Biosecurity Officers carry out ecological weed and pest animal control to achieve the objectives set out in KNE plans.

GWRC provides resources to work towards achieving objectives for each KNE site.

Location of Key Native Ecosystem sites

KNE sites have been identified across the region. An interactive map showing the location of KNE sites is on the GWRC website at mapping.gw.govt.nz/gwrc. The layer can be found in the "Our Environment" theme.



GWRC staff checking a bait station

If you would like further information about the Key Native Ecosystem programme please contact the Biodiversity department: biodiversity@gw.govt.nz

For any pest control enquiries please contact the Biosecurity department: pest.animals@gw.govt.nz or pest.plants@gw.govt.nz

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