



Hill Country Erosion Fund – Questions & Answers

October 2018

Q: As a landowner how do I access funding from the Hill Country Erosion Fund?

A: Funding is distributed through regional councils and unitary authorities. We suggest that you make direct contact with your council's land management representative who will discuss with you your specific project requirements and find an appropriate solution.

Q: Our regional council has already committed to its long term planning process. Since an application to HCE requires councils to contribute a third of the project costs, can we still benefit from applying for a project that has not been budgeted for?

A: MPI has suggested a one-third contribution from councils but there is some flexibility around this and we will still consider applications with varying proposed contributions.

Q: As a landowner am I better off to wait for new incentives that have been announced coming out later this year?

A: The Hill Country Erosion Fund is currently the primary funding mechanism for treating erosion issues (except in the Gisborne District where MPI's Erosion Control Funding Programme applies). We suggest that you make direct contact with your council's land management representative who will discuss with you your specific project requirements and find an appropriate solution.

Q: As a regional council we do not have erosion-prone hill country; we have alpine (high country) and/or and coastal erosion-prone areas. How can HCE support our landowners that are currently affected?

A: From 2018, land susceptible to coastal erosion or where alpine erosion is causing downstream issues is included alongside hill country land in the target areas for the Hill Country Erosion Fund (HCE). Projects are eligible for HCE funding as long as the primary treatment for this target area of land is the planting of trees. HCE is intended to increase stabilised land, minimise the effects of erosion and to support communities to build resilience to the impacts of erosion. Coastal areas can be on varying LUC class and doesn't have to be 6, 7 and 8. However, they will need to be eroding or identified as at risk of erosion and the key treatment will need to be tree planting, including appropriate species for natural vegetative cover.

Q: How can we know that our proposed project is eligible?

A: The criteria are explained in detail on the HCE web page and Application Form. Visit: [HCE Eligibility criteria](#). The form is designed to be as simple as possible. We recommend that you review all the information and also make contact with MPI to discuss your application before submitting. funding@mpi.govt.nz

Q: I don't understand some of the eligibility criteria and need further explanation. Who can help?

A: Please email us at funding@mpi.govt.nz and we will either respond to your email or give you a call to discuss. Our team of MPI advisers are here to help. In most cases we will provide you with one consistent point of contact throughout your application process.

Q: How does MPI decide which projects are funded?

A: Applications are assessed by an independent panel of external experts, who will consider how well the proposed projects meet the funding criteria, and the benefits that would be delivered.

Q: How can we learn what projects have been funded previously?

A: Over the past 11 years, nine regional councils have partnered with MPI's Hill Country Erosion Fund to deliver a number of successful projects to assess and treat erosion-prone land. You can see snapshots of these on the MPI website: [HCE Funded programmes](#)

Previously funded Regional Councils are happy to share details on their projects and you are welcome to contact them.

Q: Is this the right mechanism for our local erosion control project at this time?

The HCE is the current dedicated funding mechanism to support erosion control activities through councils. MPI intends to commit \$34 million in the 2018 round.

Q: Should we hold off on applying since the announcement that new funding and partnership options for tree planting will be coming out?

It is unlikely that you would be disadvantaged in applying for HCE funding, regardless of what future funding options become available.

Q: As a regional council should we apply to the larger Provincial Growth Fund (PGF)?

A: The HCE is the current dedicated funding mechanism to support erosion control activities through councils and has been boosted with extra funding from the PGF (as part of the One Billion Trees Programme). Any PGF projects where tree planting is the primary activity, are managed by MPI regardless of whether councils apply through MBIE or MPI.

If you have ideas for other potential PGF projects, MPI may be able to advise you – firstly see the [Guide to the PGF on the MBIE website](#), then talk to us at MPI, or contact your MBIE Senior Regional Officer.

However, if you would like to be updated when the new grants and partnerships are launched, to help with your decision making, email a request to funding@mpi.govt.nz and we will ensure you receive these updates.

Q: We have an area which may be a good candidate for planting for erosion control, but grass and scrub may be preferable to trees. Would this be considered for the programme?

A: Under HCE funding, the most effective treatment for erosion prone land is the planting of trees. Where more appropriate, this may be complemented by species other than trees that can achieve natural vegetative cover and prevent erosion.

Q: Does the HCE Fund cover treatment for wind erosion?

A: We would not exclude applications focussing on treatment for wind erosion, however your application would have to clearly describe what the problem is and the significance of the erosion caused.

Q: Does the HCE Fund cover fencing?

A: Applications where a discrete portion of the project includes an initiative for fencing would be considered where the role of fencing in the planting of trees and the prevention/control of erosion – such as for stock control, reversion etc. – is clearly demonstrated.

Q: The application form refers to LUC 6/7E land – but is eligibility wider than those land classifications?

A: Yes – for the 2018 round, eligible land has been extended to include alpine (high country) and coastal land which will not necessarily be classed as 6e, 7e or 8e.