

Riparian Planting of Areas of Non-Cropped or Retired Land adjacent to CVP

Part of case study of costs for Balle Bros BRIEXX property Pukekawa

Balle Bros have undertaken an extensive riparian planting programme on the Brien property near Pukekawa to enhance to remnant native bush, stream and wetland areas.

As part of this project we have chosen to retire this land from dry stock grazing.

We have seen considerable enhancement of the natural habitat, and the connectivity of similar activities on other properties we own or lease nearby. This has had a very positive effect on native wildlife, the water courses that run through and general ecosystem health. We have done all of this work at considerable cost and time to our business without any subsidy from central or regional government.

We estimate the cost of these mitigations to be in the range of \$40,000 to \$50,000 per hectare.

If we look at the approx. area of 10 hectares of riparian planting, we have developed and divide this into the 33.66 ha of productive land the cost per ha ranges from \$11,833 to \$14,854 for the productive land.

While this activity is a 'nice to have' the riparian planting in itself does very little to mitigate the effects of soil run-off.

The best mitigation from an environmental perspective and therefore most cost-effective tool for growers to use to retain topsoil and prevent Sediment and Phosphorous leaching into receiving environments is to follow the sediment control guidelines as described in the Brien FEP.

