

## Appendix 4 - Record of mediation agreements reached 17 June 2025

Agreed amendments shown in red

### Highly erodible land

Land at risk of severe mass-movement erosion (landslide, earthflow, and gully) if it does not have a protective cover of deep-rooted woody vegetation. **For implementation of Policy CC.6(b) through a regional plan, highly erodible land shall be identified at a property-scale using high resolution spatial data.**

### **Policy CC.6: Increasing regional forest cover and avoiding plantation forestry on highly erodible land – regional plans**

Regional plans shall include objectives, policies, rules and/or non-regulatory methods that support an increase in the area and health of permanent forest in the Wellington Region, maximising the benefits for carbon sequestration, indigenous biodiversity, land stability, water quality, and social, cultural and economic well-being, while:

- (a) promoting and incentivising the planting or regeneration of permanent indigenous forest representative of the natural type expected in the area over exotic species, particularly on highly erodible land and in catchments where water quality targets for sediment are not reached; and
- (b) avoiding **the afforestation or replanting of** plantation forestry on highly erodible land, **particularly in catchments where water quality targets for sediment are not reached;** and
- (c) promoting and supporting the control of browsing pest animals in priority areas.

### **Explanation**

This policy recognises that, while there is a need for increased forest extent across the Wellington Region to help achieve net zero emissions by 2050, offsetting through carbon sequestration is only a short-term solution and that there are significant risks associated with unfettered afforestation across the Wellington Region. The policy directs regional plans to develop provisions that will support “right tree-right place”, seeking to ensure that an increase in forest extent for its sequestration benefits will be implemented in a way that maximises the co-benefits for indigenous biodiversity and aquatic ecosystem health, and provide for social and economic wellbeing as directed by Objective CC.5. Clause (a) recognises the significant values of indigenous forest, along with the need for incentives to support their planting and natural regeneration.

Clause (b) responds to the high risk of harvesting forest in areas that are highly erodible and in catchments where waterways already have high sediment loads. The National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry enables regional plans to regulate plantation forestry for the purpose of protecting freshwater quality. **In giving effect to this policy highly erodible land is required to be identified at a property-scale using high resolution spatial data.**

Clause (c) recognises the importance of controlling browsing pest animals to ensure that forests are healthy and can therefore provide maximum benefits.

#### **Method CC.4: Prepare a regional forest spatial plan**

By December 2024, prepare a regional forest spatial plan, using a partnership approach with mana whenua / tangata whenua and other key stakeholders, as appropriate, to identify where to promote and support planting and natural regeneration of permanent forest and associated browsing pest animal control, **and where to avoid the afforestation or replanting of plantation forestry**, to give effect to Objective CC.5 and contribute to achieving water quality targets for sediment, to inform the requirements of Policy CC.6.

This plan to include:

- (a) a target for an increase in permanent forest extent in the Wellington Region to support achieving Objective CC.5; and
- (b) evaluation of the potential impacts of increased afforestation on rural production and social well-being, and development of an approach that will maximise the environmental, social, and economic benefits; and
- (c) ways to implement and support capability for increasing the area of indigenous forest, including the provision of incentives; and
- (d) identification of the types of indigenous forest to prioritise for re-afforestation, including links to the strategic indigenous biodiversity targets and priorities identified through Policy IE.3 and Method IE.3; and
- (e) use of high-resolution spatial data to support identification of areas appropriate for permanent forest or plantation forestry, site-appropriate indigenous forests and other planting types; and
- (f) a process to monitor and report on changes in the extent and health of permanent forest.

Implementation: Wellington Regional Council\*, city and district councils at their discretion