

What is the One Billion Trees Fund?

The Fund encourages an increase in tree planting to:

- improve land productivity and landscape resilience;
- reduce erosion and improve water quality;
- increase native biodiversity;
- provide diversification options for landowners;
- provide employment and boost regional development.
- increase carbon sequestration to off-set greenhouse gas emissions.

Large-scale conversion of good farmland to forestry is not supported by the Fund.

There are two funding options available:

- Direct Grants offer targeted funding directly to landowners wanting to plant new forests or encourage native reversion on their land.
- Partnerships offer co-funding for projects to enable increased tree planting and improve the way we grow and plant trees.

The funding aims to contribute to the costs of the project, but it is not intended to cover the total costs.

You can use Direct Grants and Partnerships together for the same project. For example, a catchment group could get a Direct Grant for the trees and co-funding from Partnerships for their project management and co-ordination costs.

Eligibility criteria for a Direct Grant

- If your project doesn't meet all the criteria, particularly if you are wanting to plant natives, get in touch to discuss your options.

Land eligibility

- You must own the land or have the right to plant on it (e.g. a forestry right).
- The land can't already have received funding for the same activity from another related government scheme.
- The land can't be in forest land now or in the five years prior to applying.

Category	Size	Base rate/hectare	Available top-ups /hectare			
			Priority land		Fencing	Ecological restoration
			Erosion-prone land	High land preparation costs		
Native Planting	1 – 300 hectares	\$4000	Up to \$500	Up to \$500	Up to \$500	Up to \$2000
Native Reversion	5 – 300 hectares	\$1000	Up to \$500	Up to \$500	Up to \$500	NA
Mānuka/Kānuka Planting	5 – 300 hectares	\$1800	Up to \$500	NA	NA	NA
Exotic Planting	5 – 300 hectares	\$1500	Up to \$500	NA	NA	NA

Project eligibility

- The maximum planted area is 300 hectares per year, exceptions may be considered.
- Each block must include at least enough tree species to meet the minimum amount of 750 stems per hectare. Native planting requires that a minimum of 300 tall tree species are included in the mix. These amounts are required to be met by the last milestone payment, meaning you will need to plant higher quantities to allow for loss during the establishment phase.
- The native planting grant category has a minimum size of one hectare.
- All other categories have a minimum size of five hectares, which can be made up of one hectare blocks of the same or multiple categories.
- Each block must meet a minimum average width of 30 metres and a height of five metres at maturity. Riparian planting must achieve five metres at maturity.

How do Direct Grants work?

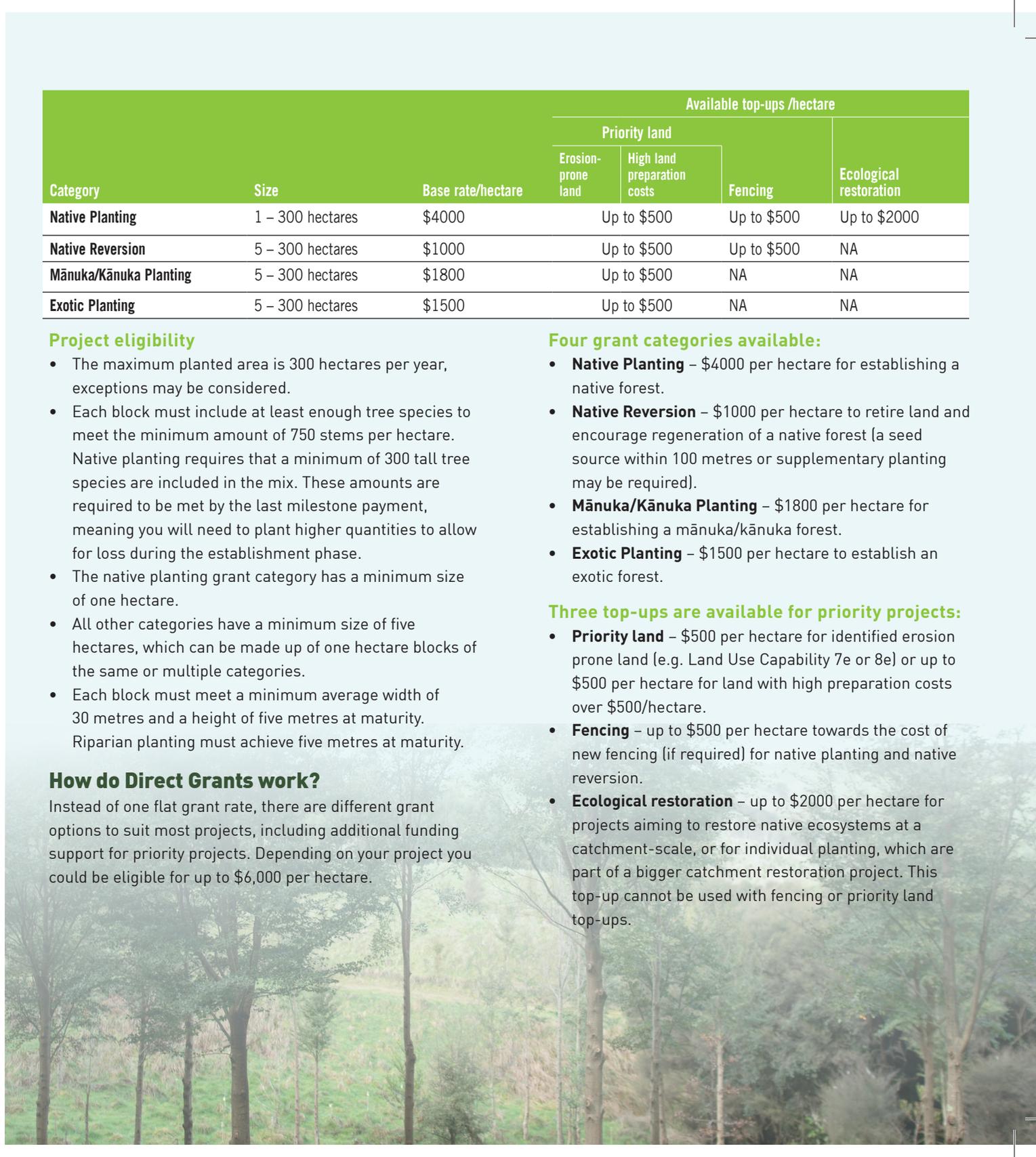
Instead of one flat grant rate, there are different grant options to suit most projects, including additional funding support for priority projects. Depending on your project you could be eligible for up to \$6,000 per hectare.

Four grant categories available:

- **Native Planting** – \$4000 per hectare for establishing a native forest.
- **Native Reversion** – \$1000 per hectare to retire land and encourage regeneration of a native forest (a seed source within 100 metres or supplementary planting may be required).
- **Mānuka/Kānuka Planting** – \$1800 per hectare for establishing a mānuka/kānuka forest.
- **Exotic Planting** – \$1500 per hectare to establish an exotic forest.

Three top-ups are available for priority projects:

- **Priority land** – \$500 per hectare for identified erosion prone land (e.g. Land Use Capability 7e or 8e) or up to \$500 per hectare for land with high preparation costs over \$500/hectare.
- **Fencing** – up to \$500 per hectare towards the cost of new fencing (if required) for native planting and native reversion.
- **Ecological restoration** – up to \$2000 per hectare for projects aiming to restore native ecosystems at a catchment-scale, or for individual planting, which are part of a bigger catchment restoration project. This top-up cannot be used with fencing or priority land top-ups.



Milestone payments

Direct Grants are a 10-year agreement between the landowner and the Crown beginning the year you sign the Grant Agreement.

Depending on the complexity of your project the grant will typically be paid in either two or three milestones over the contract period.

Project Underway (typically 30 percent) is paid once Te Uru Rākau receives evidence the project has started according to the terms of the contract, e.g. seedling invoice.

Successful Establishment (50 percent or 70 percent) is paid following successful establishment of at least 750 stems per hectare – most projects will receive the remainder of the grant at this point.

Successful Maintenance (20 percent) is only for more complex projects and is paid once the tree species have been successfully maintained to a certain standard.

Registering with the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

If you establish a forest using a Direct Grant, you are not restricted from registering it with the ETS. An exception to this is radiata pine, which is restricted from registering for 6 years after planting.

Eligibility for the ETS is not guaranteed as the criteria to receive a Direct Grant is different to the eligibility criteria for the ETS. You can find out more information about ETS eligibility at:

www.teururakau.govt.nz/ets

How to apply

Direct grants are open until mid-2021, so you can make an application through the website at any time.

Where to go for advice

Contact your regional council to see what forest and land management advice is available in your region. Many regional councils also have other funding options available and can help you understand any local plan rules your project may need to adhere to.

Forestry and ecology consultants can help you with understanding your species options and shaping up your proposal.

More information

For more information about Direct Grants and other funding options in the One Billion Trees Programme go to:

www.teururakau.govt.nz

If you have any questions you can contact us at:

0800 00 83 33 or **1bt@mpi.govt.nz**



Te Uru Rākau
Forestry New Zealand



One Billion Trees Fund Introduction to Grant Funding

Are you looking to plant trees on your property? You might be eligible for a grant.



New Zealand Government



New Zealand Government

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