

Mid Oreti Catchment Group

Southland Wetland Directory

The first stop on Southland
landowners' journeys to
creating wetlands, runoff
detainment bunds and
sediment traps.



Introduction

The Mid Oreti Catchment Group has been on a journey to learn about and understand wetlands, runoff detainment bunds and sediment traps. Throughout this journey, the group has connected with many experts and passionate wetland enthusiasts. It turns out there's a wealth of great information out there that everyone has been more than happy to share.

This Southland Wetland Directory focuses on the creation of wetlands, bunds and sediment traps. It provides access to the useful information and helpful contacts that the Mid Oreti Catchment Group has discovered along the way. We hope it helps you on your journey too.

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How do wetlands, bunds and sediment traps help?

Wetlands, sediment traps and runoff detainment bunds have significant water quality, climate and biodiversity benefits. They help us by...

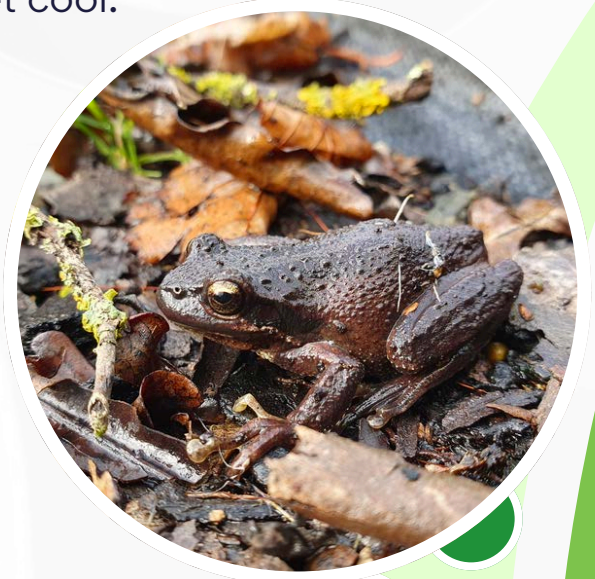
- Catching nutrients and sediment lost from land use, and stopping them flowing down our rivers into the sea - great to put back on your paddocks!
- Doing great stuff with nitrogen! Wetland plants use nutrients, and pooled water is home to bacteria that convert nitrogen into nitrogen gas or into forms that are more easily available for plant uptake.



- Increasing native biodiversity and habitat for fish, plants, birds and invertebrates.
- Reducing flooding and erosion by slowing down the flow and/or acting like sponges that gradually release water - 98% of Southland's historic wetlands have been lost.
- Sequestering and storing carbon - keeps our planet cool.



- Providing places where people can go and relax - great spots for bird watching and duck shooting. A duck pond is a type of wetland after all.



Guides and science

Constructed wetlands, detainment bunds and sediment traps have been widely adopted nationwide, with plenty of great science and resources available. We hope the following links help guide you in the right direction, if you'd like to learn more.

TIP - Looking at a printed copy of this Wetland Directory? Simply google the keywords in bold and the info should pop right up in your browser.

- **NIWA - Constructed Wetland Guidelines** - Everything from practical to technical information on constructed wetlands and targeted riparian buffers for managing farm and catchment contaminant loads in New Zealand. [NIWA - Wetlands Guides](#)
- **NZ Landcare Trust - Managing Wetlands as Farm Assets** - A three-year project aimed at working with a cross-section of farmers to provide advice and share knowledge about the benefits wetlands offer the farming system and the wider community. [NZ Landcare Trust - Wetland farm asset](#)
- **Massey University - Phosphorous Mitigation Project - Detainment Bund P120** - Research carried out on the effectiveness of runoff detainment bunds on agricultural land to mitigate phosphorous and sediment loss. [Massey - Detainment Bunds](#)
- **Environment Southland - Guide To Sediment Trap Construction** - A practical guide on how to build sediment traps on farm. [ES Sediment Trap Guide](#)
- **Environment Southland - Guide To Constructed Wetlands** - A practical guide with wetland design considerations and helpful case studies with costings. [ES Wetlands Guide](#)
- **Fish and Game Southland - Wetland Creation and Development** - A practical guide on constructing a wetland, including case studies and Southland-based rules and regulations. [Fish and Game - Wetlands](#)

Better understanding your landscape

Before hiring the digger, it's important to understand your landscape. This will help you determine the best location for your wetland or bund to maximise its value for you and your land. There are many helpful resources available, and combining them with your knowledge of the land will set you up for success.

- **Environment Southland's Beacon** - Soil types, climate data, historical images, waterways information and more. [ES Beacon](#)
- **Hedgehope-Makarewa Catchment** - Explore Hedgehope-Makarewa's landscape characteristics, susceptibilities and opportunities in this interactive mapping experience. [Hedgehope - Makarewa Story Map](#)
- **Lower Oreti Wetland Identification Project** - Showing the local hydrology network and relative wetness gradient. [Lower Oreti - Wetland Story Map](#) - *Contact Sarah (027 5885200) if you have any trouble opening.*
- **Between the Domes Catchment Group - NIWA Wetland development** - Describing, understanding and improving the Between the Domes Catchment with wetland development. [Domes - Wetland project](#)
- **Winton Stream Catchment - Marshalling the Best Tool** - Flow pathways, land wetness and erosion susceptibility, and site suggestions for wetlands and bunds. Winton Stream Storymap (including tool) - [Winton Stream \(arcgis.com\)](#) and Marshalling the Best Tool - [Marshalling the Best](#)
- **Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research - S-map** - Interactively explore soil maps based on S-map data. Maps include the S-map soil type (or S-map sibling), soil depth, soil profile, available water and soil drainage. Detailed factsheets (soil reports) can also be displayed. [S-MAP](#)
- **Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA)** - Information about local water quality and the issues relevant to that catchment. [LAWA](#)

Want more detailed information for your catchment? Talk to your local Catchment Group or to Thriving Southland about local mapping projects.

Considerations before construction

Before beginning any construction on sediment traps, detainment bunds and wetlands, we recommend taking the time to consider the following...

Is there water flowing all year round, part of the year or only after rainfall in this space?

Depending on your answer, this will affect what rules apply to your situation around construction and whether you may need a resource consent. The flow frequency will determine what sort of wetland, bund or sediment trap might be best suited for this area. Environment Southland's Land Sustainability Officers are a great team to ask for advice.



- **What goals would you like to achieve?**

Setting clear goals from the outset can help you determine what type of creation will best meet your needs. Here are some examples:

- **Create habitat for wetland birds** - a ponded wetland area with Carex planted would be a good starting point to attract wetland birds like ducks.
- **Reduce sediment loss to waterways** - a sediment trap could be constructed in a channel on farm, or a runoff detainment bund to slow down ephemeral flow.
- **Reduce nutrients leaving the farm** - a wetland would be the best bet for this. Check out the resources and links in this directory to find out what type might suit you best.



What's downstream/downhill?

Think worst-case scenario. If a bund gave way during extreme weather, would the water dissipate across farmland or could it potentially affect neighbouring houses or important infrastructure? Considering how a creation might impact downstream or downhill areas can influence the size of the structure, the amount of water it can hold back, and the materials used for construction.



Fish passage?

Many of New Zealand's native freshwater fish, including the five species of whitebait, need access to the ocean at some stage of their lifecycle. As juveniles, they swim upstream from the ocean to find suitable habitats. Building a wetland would provide awesome habitat for these fish, but remember they need to be able to access the wetland to begin with, and move through it to reach higher habitats. There's some great fish passage info on the DOC website.

[Fish Passage DOC](#)



Do I need consent? What can I do without consent?

A good starting point is to gather up all the info about your proposed creation and check the rules section in this directory. It's also a great idea to have a yarn with some experienced folk!

The following are good starting points:

- Environment Southland's Land Sustainability Team
- Southland Fish & Game
- Your local Catchment Group
- Thriving Southland Catchment Group Coordinators: they can put you in touch with people who have done similar projects.

Rules to think about

Before you turn your idea into action, we **strongly recommend** seeking advice and written confirmation from Environment Southland, especially if your project is within 100m of a natural wetland. Natural wetlands are getting very rare and have specific rules to protect them — a quick chat can be very helpful.

For advice on your on-farm options, possible funding support and permitted activity queries, please contact the Land Sustainability Officers in the Catchment Integration team. Consent advice can be obtained from the Resource Consents team.

Getting a bit more technical

Rules and regulations can change, so it's important to check the latest ones with Environment Southland.

As of November 2024, a key rule to review is the Southland Water & Land Plan's permitted conditions for wetlands (Rule 60: Dams and Weirs).

[For greater detail see Rule 55A & 60 in the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan 2018.](#)

An important thing to remember with dams is that there are national rules/regulations for dams over 4m, and the risk to life and property increases with increased dam size and water impoundment. Therefore larger dams require resource consent.

If water flows over the dam face, rules for weirs in the National Environmental Standard for Freshwater would also apply – regulations 72 and 73.

There are special conditions for activities in and near existing natural wetlands (even if they don't look very flash), so contact Environment Southland's Land Sustainability Officers in Catchment Integration to discuss these specifically.

The steps - Starting out

So, you're interested in constructing a wetland, bund or sediment trap but don't know where to start? Here are some suggested steps from those who have successfully completed similar construction projects.

1. Identify the location - You know your land better than anyone else! Look for areas where water accumulates and flows after heavy rain and think about your difficult wet spots. These are great places to work on.

2. Set your goals - What do you want to achieve?

- slow down water flow
- increase biodiversity and create habitats
- capture and reduce nutrients
- collect sediment

3. Seek inspiration - Visit similar projects for ideas or talk to someone who has done this before. Reach out to your local Catchment Group or neighbours for advice, or contact the experts listed in this directory.



4. Choose the right construction - Match your goals to the right structure. Wetlands boost biodiversity, while bunds and sediment traps are better for sediment capture. Check out our 'Guides and science' and 'Better understanding your landscape' sections, and talk to people about your ideas. Understanding your landscape and soils can really influence what you choose to do.

5. Know the rules - Familiarise yourself with relevant rules and regulations. Have a look at our 'Rules to think about' section to understand what you can do without consent, and what might require it. Talk to other farmers who have done similar projects and run your ideas past your local Environment Southland Land Sustainability Officer.

The steps - How to build

Now that you've chosen your spot, set your goals, and checked the rules and regs, it's time to get started. This is where the fun begins!

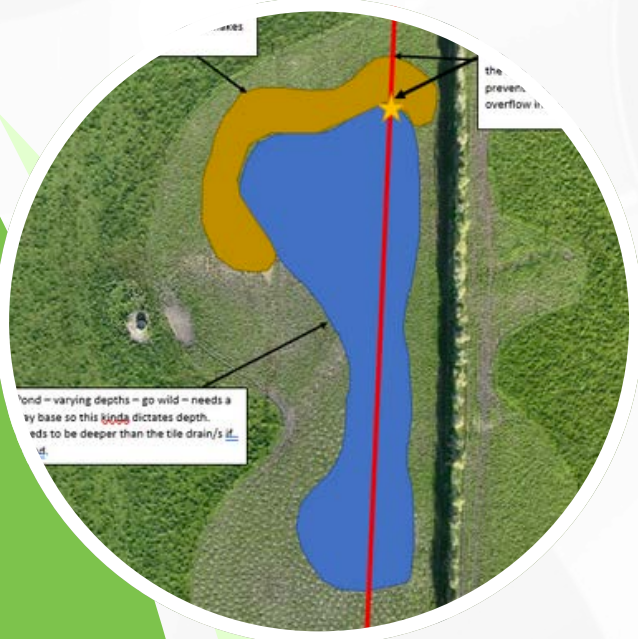
1. Marking out & fencing - A great starting point. Stand in the paddock and think about how it could work - where could the fence go? Does a gateway need to be moved? Make a rough drawing - you could even jot down some points to think about. Remember, fences don't need to be straight. If your plan includes lots of earthworks, consider temporary fencing or just marking out with spray paint until the work is done. Consider heavy machinery movements and whether a fence might limit them.



2. Draw up a plan - Now that you've identified the area and know exactly what you want to build, it's time to draw up a quick plan. This can be as simple as printing out a farm plan, photo or a Google Map, and noting down features such as:

- ponded water areas - temporary and permanent standing
- inlets and outlets (if any)
- planting areas
- tile drains (if known)
- banded areas

A map using LiDAR is useful for understanding contours and how the landscape will best help you.



3. Invite someone with experience to have a look at your area and go over your plan -

Discussing your plan with an expert can help ensure you're following regulations and provide advice on whether you need consent. They might also offer design suggestions. You can reach out to organisations like Environment Southland's Land Sustainability team, Southland Fish & Game, or a rural environmental consultant. Most of these organisations have access to better maps utilising LiDAR. Just keep in mind, that for larger or more complex projects, you may need to do additional planning after your meeting.



4. Construction - Once your plans are finalised, get together with your contractor and seek expert help to go over your plan. This will help to keep everyone on the same page and how to best achieve your goals. You can either hire a local earthworks contractor — many have experience constructing duck ponds and wetlands across Southland — or, if you're skilled with a digger, consider renting the equipment and starting the construction yourself. It's worth getting quotes from a few different contractors as costs can vary. Good communication throughout your build with your contractor is key.



5. Give it time - Allow some time to see if your project is progressing as expected. Often, adjustments are needed to improve performance. For example, if a bund is draining too quickly for effective sediment removal, you can simply reduce the outlet pipe size.

6. Plant the area out - A wetland will greatly benefit from having some initial native wetland vegetation planted. Check out our recommendations for plants in the 'Plants' section of this directory.

TIP - If you've built a ponded area, either laser level out the maximum height your water will reach, or wait until it fills up before planting. Very few plants can survive being inundated year round. Carex is ideal closest to the water. It doesn't mind wet feet!

Is it working?

How can you tell if your wetland, bund or sediment trap is working?

Sometimes it's as simple as going and taking a look! You don't always need to fork out for testing.

Sediment traps - A sediment trap filling up with sediment is definitely working. After heavy rainfall, check if the water exiting the trap is clearer than the water entering; this is another sure sign it's doing the trick. To remain effective, the sediment in the trap should not reach the same height as the outlet or inlet, as shown in the photo. Take a look at this full trap that is ineffective in this state. In this case, it's ready for a careful cleanout with a digger. Don't forget to put the sediment back on your paddocks. It's full of goodies!



Detainment Bund - After rainfall

- is there water pooling behind the bund?
- is this water being released downhill slower than it would be without the bund?
- is there sediment left on the grass or behind the bund when the water is gone?
- is there a noticeable drop in flow or flooding downstream from the bund, and is this water less murky?

If the answer is yes, then the bund is certainly working. Take a look at this photo. After heavy rain this runoff detainment bund is doing its job perfectly. The water will subside in a couple of days, allowing the grass to start growing again, using the nutrients left behind.



Wetlands - While you can't directly observe a wetland reducing nutrients, you can estimate nutrient removal using NIWA's wetland guides and their handy nutrient calculator. Find the link in the 'Guides and Science' section, and be inspired by the Pomahaka pages later in the directory.

If you made a wetland for biodiversity and habitat benefits, or to sort out a problem area on your farm, you can often see the positive changes.

Are there more birds, fish and bugs?
Are your wetland plants healthy and thriving?
Are your paddocks and farm animals happier and healthier?

The man-made pond on the right provides great habitat and has sorted out a wet area of paddock.



Want to know more about what's living in your stream or wetland and how to check if it's healthy?

Environment Southland has some great guides on backyard stream studies, including how to do a Rapid Habitat Assessment (RHA) and examine macroinvertebrates (the tiny bugs in your stream).

Check out Bob, who is examining some macroinvertebrates he collected using a sieve and ice cream containers.

Follow this link for guides and great videos: [Backyard Stream Studies - ES](#)



Potential funding

Various funds are available that may help finance your wetland, bund, or sediment trap project. Take a look at the list of contacts below that often provide funding or can connect your project with environmental enhancement resources.

- **Environment Southland** - Each year, Environment Southland offers an Environmental Enhancement Fund. Reach out to their Land Sustainability Team to ask about other potential funding avenues that might be suitable for your project. [Enhancement Fund Info](#)
- **Southland Fish & Game** - Funding could be available to help you construct a wetland, particularly if it will create good habitat for game birds. [Fish and Game Funding](#)
- **Your Local Catchment Group** - Southland's Catchment Groups have resources available to help you source funding for projects. Find your local Catchment Group here: [Southland Catchment Groups](#)
- **Thriving Southland** - Thriving Southland has a wide network of funding opportunities and may be able to link you up with suitable funding for your project - particularly if it benefits the wider catchment and community. [Thriving Southland](#)
- **MPI On Farm Support** - The on farm support team may be able to link you up with a suitable funding opportunity. [On Farm Support](#)



Plants

Plants are an essential component to any wetland. They offer many benefits, including nutrient uptake and providing habitat and food for wetland-loving birds, fish and insects.

Establishing plant cover in a wet area? These plants are key for beginning wetland planting in Southland.



Carex secta & virgata



Flax - Phormium tenax



Toetoe - Austroderia richardii



Cabbage Tree - Cordyline australis



Manuka - Leptospermum scoparium



Ribbonwood - Plagianthus regius



Mingimingi - Coprosma propinqua



Red Tussock - Chionochloa rubra

There's plenty of great plant knowledge in Southland! Check out these links for more info:

- **The Southland Community Nursery** - Local experts share everything from wetland planting lists to restoration tips. [Community Nursery](#)
- Two fantastic guides to help you grow your own natives from the **South Otago River Care Group** and the **AB Lime crew**.
 - [Otago South River Care Start your Own Nursery](#)
 - [AB Lime Seed Collecting Calendar](#)

Need plants? Get in touch with one of our many local native plant nurseries.

- **Pukerau Nursery** - [Pukerau Nursery](#)
- **Green Machine** in Tuatapere - [Green Machine](#)
- **Te Tapu o Tane** in Invercargill - [Te Tapu o Tane Nursery](#)
- **Plants South** in Invercargill - [Plants South](#)



TIP - Get in touch with your local Catchment Group! Many groups have projects on growing more native plants and small community-based nurseries.



Want a hand with planting or maintenance? Or prefer to let someone else take the lead? There's some great help locally. Check out these local legends:

- **Fork and Spade** - On farm planting, planting planning and maintenance. [Fork and Spade](#)
- **NZ Conservation Services** - Pest control, planting, maintenance and planning. [NZ Conservation](#)

Protecting your precious plants when they go in the ground will boost their chances of survival. There are plenty of plant protectors and weed mats available locally and nationally to help with this.

- **Garto** - Dipton locals redesigned plant guards to provide better survival and less work. [Garto](#)
- **Advance Landscape Systems** - A range of plant guards and mats. [Advance Landscapes](#)
- **Future Ecology Em-guards** - The original cardboard plant protector. [Em-guard](#)



TIP - Got some old sheep dags? Stuff these into the bottom of your plant guards to save on buying weed mats. Ask your Catchment Group if they can put the word out that you want dags.

Filling in the gaps - 'Go-to' contacts

We hope we've already pointed you in the right direction with many contacts throughout this directory. To help fill in any gaps, here are some additional contacts that can assist with constructing wetlands, bunds and sediment traps.

Wetland, Bund and Sediment Trap Design Advice

- **Collaborations** - Involved in wetland and catchment projects nationwide. Mitigation design and catchment mapping, through to technical advice on rules and regulations. [Collaborations](#)
- **Land Water Science (LWS)** - Involved in many Southland-based projects. The team has extensive knowledge of Southland and wetlands, bunds and sediment trap design. [LWS](#)
- **Ryal Bush Transport - Contracting Division** - The Ryal Bush Contracting team has vast experience and knowledge in the rural sector, construction, and the Southland environment.

Contact: Nick Webb, Contracting Operations Supervisor

Email: nick.webb@ryalbush.co.nz - Phone: 03 221 7192 - [Ryal Bush](#)

Equipment Hire

- **Fiordland Hire** - Te-Anau - Mini Digger Hire. [Fiordland Hire](#)
- **Gore Machine Hire** - Gore - Mini to heavy digger hire. [Gore Hire](#)
- **Hire and Go Winton** - Winton - 1.7-2.5 tonne digger hire. [Winton Hire](#)
- **Hirepool** - Invercargill & Gore - Mini to larger digger hire. [Hirepool](#)
- **Southland Hire** - Invercargill & surrounds - Mini Digger hire. [Southland hire](#)
- **Southland Machine Hire** - Invercargill - Larger diggers and dozer hire. [Machine Hire](#)
- **Two Tyre Tracks and Hire** - Invercargill - Mini diggers charged by machine hours. [2TyreTracks](#)

Projects in our backyard

There have been some great wetland, detainment bund and sediment trap projects carried out in Southland. Check out the following projects and links for inspiration.

TIP - Looking at a printed copy of this Wetland Directory? Simply google the keywords in bold and the info should pop right up in your browser.

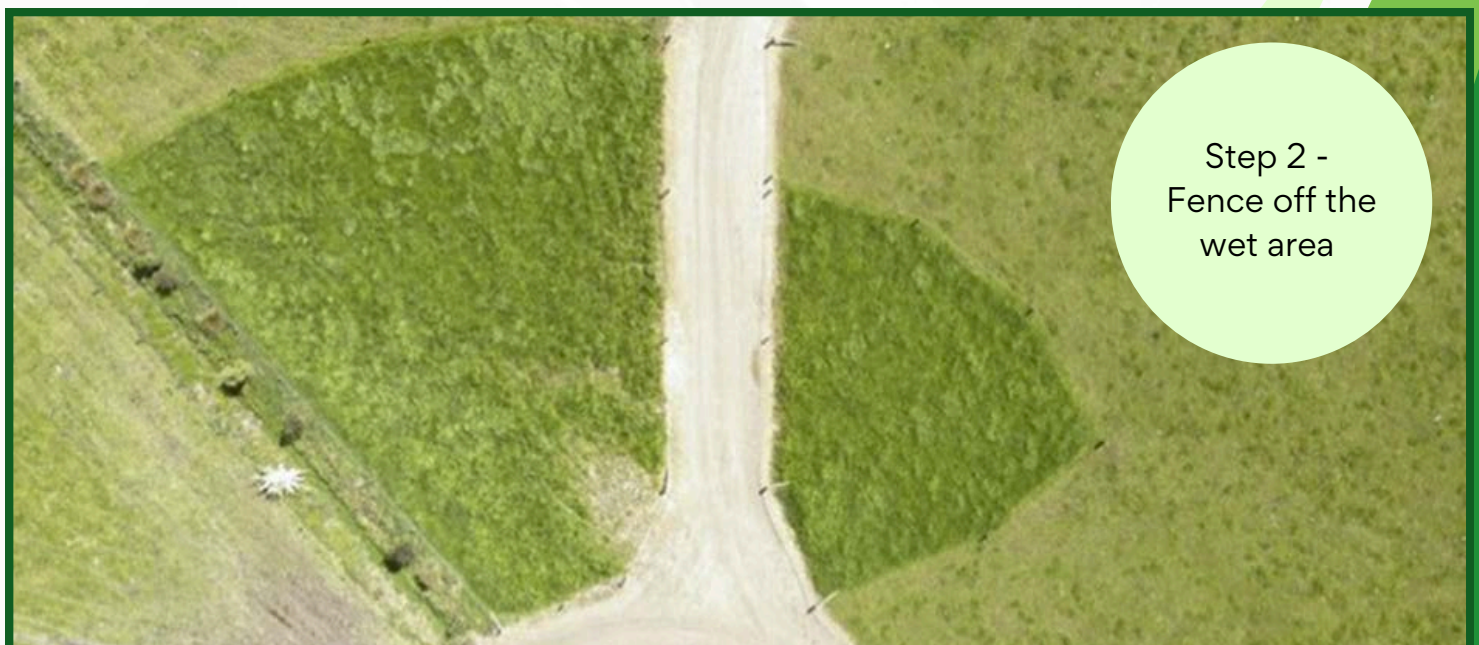
- **Living Water - Waituna Lagoon Project** - Focusing on designing and implementing a catchment-wide nutrient and sediment management approach, with the main goal of slowing the flow of water to decrease contaminants and build freshwater habitat. [Living Water - Waituna](#)
- **Aparima Community Environment (ACE) - Sediment Trap Network** - Information and case studies on sediment traps built in the Aparima Catchment. [ACE Sediment Trap](#)
- **Southland Fish & Game - Wetlands** - Involved in creating wetlands across Southland. Check out some inspirational before and after shots on their website. [Southland Fish and Game - Wetlands](#)
- **Pomahaka Water Care Group - Wetland Creation** - Discover the fantastic wetland creation and trial work our neighbours in the Pomahaka region have been undertaking. For more details, see the end of this section or visit their website. [PWCG - Wetlands](#)
- **Between the Domes Catchment Group - NIWA Wetland Development** - Focusing on describing, understanding and improving the Between the Domes Catchment through wetland development. [Domes - Wetland project](#)

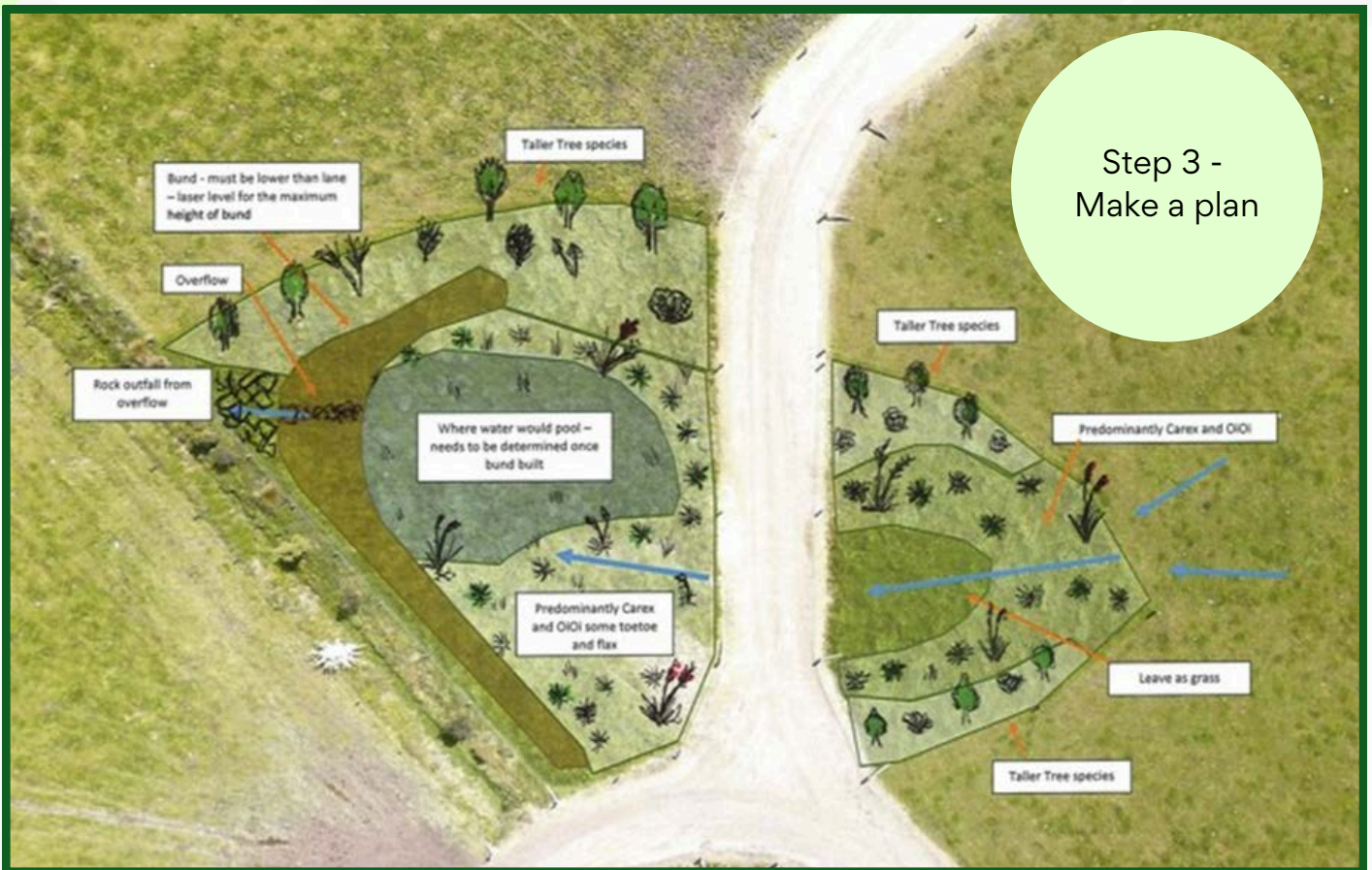


Building a small runoff detainmentment bund

AB Lime Dairy Farm - Winton

After a heavy downpour, it was observed that surface runoff was flowing directly into a channel from the dairy farm flats. This area was almost flat with a smaller catchment of around 20ha. The affected area, located just before the channel, was fenced off, and a plan was developed to construct a small detainment bund to slow the flow. This bund would allow sediment to settle out, preventing it from entering the channel. Overall, this was a cost-effective and straightforward solution. It took only two days to construct using a 1.8-tonne mini digger and approximately 400 native plants.





Step 3 -
Make a plan



Step 4 -
Construct and
plant out

Approximate
cost,
excluding
plants:
\$1000

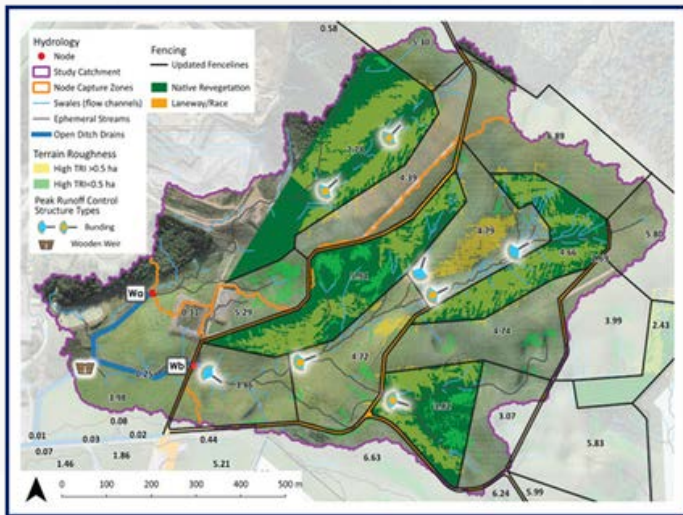
Planning this bund involved initially assessing how far back water could pool based on the height of the bund before becoming a nuisance, such as flooding over the lane. This was evaluated using a laser level, with the height of the lane set as the maximum height of the bund, and an overflow cut made below the height of the lane. Using the laser level, the area where water would pool at its maximum could be marked out. Since there was no productive area affected by pooling water, it was decided not to install any artificial drainage in the bund, such as pipework. Instead, an overflow was installed to allow for overtopping during extreme rainfall events. The water slowly soaks through the soil in the days following rainfall. This bund has captured 99% of rainfall so far, with only one flooding event occurring over the overflow. *Carex virgata* and *secta* were the main plants used here, and they are establishing well.

Building a large runoff detainment bund

AB Lime Dairy Farm - Winton

The Issue

During rainfall events there is significant ephemeral flow of dairy farm runoff from the AB Lime hill blocks. This runoff has high levels of sediment, nutrient and *E. coli* and significant volume and velocity, causing flash flooding in the lower reaches of the property. This flooding is not only a nuisance operationally but it also raises environmental concerns, including significant sediment loss off farm and to waterways, significant nutrient and *E. coli* loss to waterways, and the flooding of cow underpasses that may contain effluent.



The Research

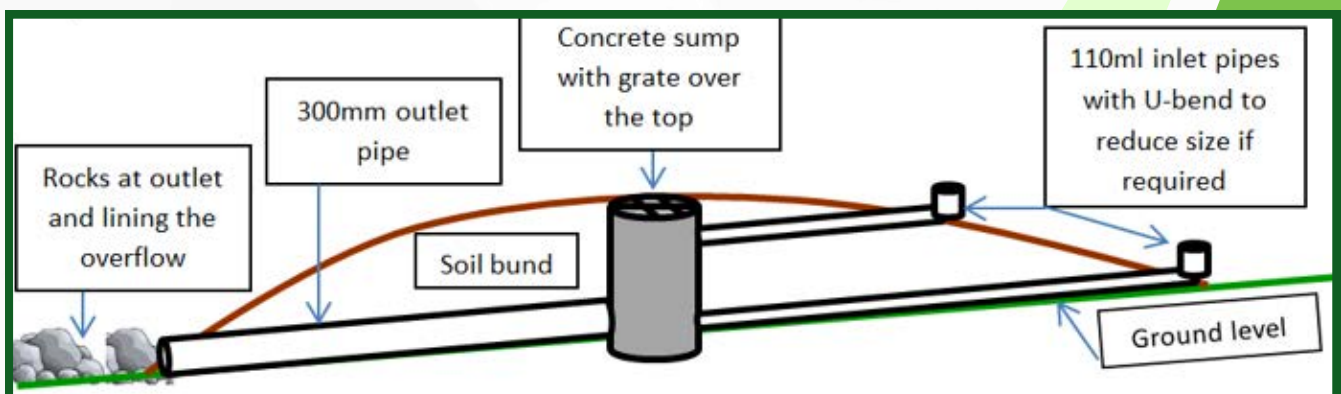
AB Lime engaged Land and Water Science (LWS) to undertake a hydrological assessment for farm contaminant retention on the dairy farm. This included researching all permanent and ephemeral water pathways to identify where rainfall across the AB Lime farm flows to as surface runoff. LWS also produced recommendations for short- and long-term mitigation measures to reduce sediment and contaminant loss off farm. The long-term measures involve retiring dairy cow grazing on 25ha of the steepest terrain on the hill blocks and planting it in native vegetation. The short-term measures involve constructing a series of soil runoff detainment bunds in the hill blocks. The catchment is 36ha which is considerably steep.

The Design

AB Lime investigated the research and construction of detainment bunds on farmland in Rotorua by John Paterson. Along with site-specific calculations and research tailored to AB Lime's hill property, two bund designs were developed:

- Bunds in productive dairy farmland – designed with a series of pipes to ensure water flows through with a planned retention time of no more than three days, allowing paddocks to still be grazed.
- Bunds in retired areas – constructed entirely of soil without a pipe network. These bunds are planted with wetland vegetation, retaining water for longer periods. These areas are not grazed by livestock.

The design of the bunds allows runoff to accumulate behind them to reduce the flow of the runoff and enhance sediment and nutrient settlement.



The Planning

As this was a considerably large catchment in steep terrain, planning involved firstly going out and looking at the proposed area to build the largest bund. It was decided that the most nuisance water flooding back would cause in this area was flooding a water trough. The overflow of the bund was then set to the height of the trough, which was set back from the bund area where water would pool. The next step was to ensure everything was being done within local planning rules, so AB Lime contacted Environment Southland's Land Sustainability Team to discuss further. After a very positive and proactive meeting, Environment Southland provided some rules to follow so that the bund construction remained a permitted activity and wouldn't require consent. Using a laser level, the height of the bund was set, and the extent of the maximum height of pooling water was marked out to understand how much water the structure would hold. An assessment was carried out to consider the potential impact if the bund were to fail and release its maximum pooled water immediately. Since the receiving environment was flat farmland where the water would spread out, this risk was considered minor.



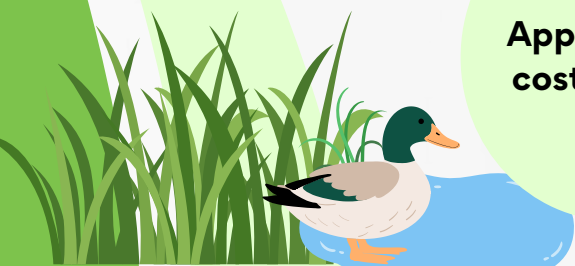
The Construction

The bund was constructed entirely of soil, using clay-dominant soil for the inner structure and top soil to blend the bund into the surrounding landscape and provide a growing medium. A series of pipes and sumps were installed during construction, as per the design on the previous page. A depression was created at the top middle of the bund to provide an overflow, and this was lined with rocks to prevent scouring. The middle of the bund and the lowest points were fenced to prevent stock access and damage. A U-bend was used to rise up the two inlets to promote further ponding with adjustable sizes to modify the pooling period from one to five days. The bund is five times wider than its height, and is contoured into the surrounding landscape.

Success?

AB Lime is very pleased with the results of installing this bund. The bund significantly reduced peak flows in the downstream catchment and greatly mitigated the flooding that used to occur. Initially, the water did not pool long enough behind the bund, so the pipe size at the inlet was reduced. Now, water pools for about 2-3 days, depending on rainfall. Sediment is seen left behind on the grass after each rainfall. After three rainfall events in one week, water pooled for about five days, leading to yellowing of the grass, so pooling for less than this duration is recommended in productive areas. Four rounds of water quality testing have been conducted so far, showing an average sediment reduction of 40% and phosphorus reduction of 33%. This reduction could be improved by extending the water pooling time, and AB Lime is now considering a plug system where the plug is removed a day after rainfall to hold the water longer, but it's important to find a balance so the paddock stays productive.

**Approximate
cost: \$5000**

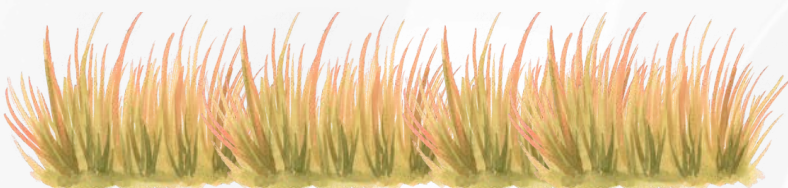


Building an excavated seepage wetland

AB Lime Dairy Farm - Winton

The AB Lime dairy farm flats have notoriously wet areas, with some paddocks only grazed successfully during the few drier months of the year. They decided the best use of this land moving forward was to create a wetland, with the main goals of providing habitat for wildlife, increasing biodiversity, and potentially creating an area for duck shooting on the farm.

Farm manager Mitch marked out a wet area by walking along noting pooling water at the surface and poor grass growth. Mitch knows the area well - it's particularly wet all year round. This area was then fenced off.



Step 1 -
Fencing
off



Soil banded up from pond creation – more a landscaping feature to provide some height in the landscape and for plantings. Additional soil bunds can be made elsewhere the more the merrier as makes for better planting

Mapped tile drain – the one we know of - if tile drains are unearthed these need to be marked and followed back with excavation. At the lowest point or the very edge of the pond these will need a pipe riser set up so that water gets to a certain level and then discharges via the riser pipe/s. This will prevent soggy paddock or overflow into paddock

Pond – varying depths – go wild – needs a clay base so this kinda dictates depth. Needs to be deeper than the tile drain/s if found

Step 2 -
Planning

Keeping the goals in mind for the wetland area, a plan was drawn up on a map. This included a ponded area with plenty of space for complementary wetland plantings. Water quality was not a primary focus for this wetland as there was no inflow or outflow of water in the form of a creek or channel. Avoiding flooding of tile drains was important, so the team looked at tile drain maps to identify their locations.

Once a plan was established, AB Lime checked local planning rules for wetland construction and asked Environment Southland's land sustainability team to come out and confirm what AB Lime needed to follow to avoid requiring consent. The ES team always has lots of handy advice!

AB Lime engaged Ryal Bush Transport - Construction Division to construct the wetland using a dozer and excavator. Having a knowledgeable contractor helped not only achieve AB Lime's goals but also enhance them. The tile drain was a wee way off the original map, but they found it. The perforated novo-flow pipe was cut off at each side of the ponded area. It was then rejoined using a solid pipe to prevent water from flooding back through the tile, creating unwanted wet areas on the farm or draining all the wetland water away. An overflow outlet was installed so if the wetland pond gets too high after significant rainfall, the pond will discharge into the tile instead of flooding neighbouring paddocks. There was no complicated sealing of the pond, as the soils were clay dominant, creating a natural base seal. The soil from the excavated pond was pushed up and contoured into a bund around the wetland pond for aesthetics, creating some elevation in the flat landscape and a raised area for planting.

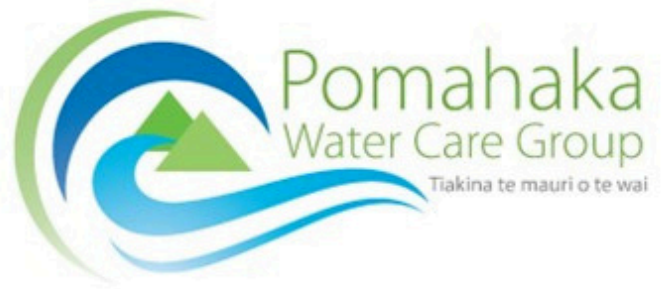


Once the wetland construction was finished, AB Lime began planting the area. The area closest to where the pond water would sit was left until the pond filled, which took about three months. The pond is now home to a range of birds, including pied stilts, kingfishers, herons, oyster catchers, and lots of ducks. *Carex virgata* and *secta* are thriving in the wetland!



**Approximate
cost - excluding
planting =
\$10,000 - 0.4ha
pond.**

Pomahaka Catchment Project Mitigation Trials



Instream sediment trap & planting - Tapanui

Waterway: Permanently flowing

Process: Instream sediment trap, fencing, planting



Contaminant reduction highlights:

Sediment	38%	Phosphorus	24%
Nitrogen	47%		

Constructed wetland - Waipahi

Waterway: Intermittently flowing tile drain

Process: Sediment trap, followed by two bay constructed wetland, flowing into wetland areas
fencing, planting



Contaminant reduction highlights:

Sediment	63%	Nitrogen	55%
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Edge of field wetland - Waikoikoi

Waterway: Intermittently flowing waterway

Process: Instream sediment trap, followed by wetland area

Highlights: AgResearch have chosen this site to undertake further research to how effective wetlands are at mitigating contaminant loss from land to water



Contaminant reduction highlights:

Sediment	26%	Phosphorus	25%
Nitrogen	37%	<i>E.coli</i>	62%

Instream wetland - Clydevale

Waterway: Intermittently flowing waterway

Process: Instream sediment trap, followed by wetland area

Highlights: AgResearch have chosen this site to undertake further research to how effective wetlands are at mitigating contaminant loss from land to water



Contaminant reduction highlights:

Sediment	39%	Phosphorus	12%
Nitrogen	10%		

Thank you

Lots of wonderful people and organisations helped us with this project. They shared their time, knowledge and experience.

Thank you to all of you!

- AB Lime
- Christina, Cam and Wally Nelson
- Clare and John Officer
- Keith Finlayson and Rob Bird from Environment Southland Land Sustainability Team
- Land and Water Science
- Rosie Forbes and Fortuna farms - Piriti
- Tom, James, Stu and Jono from Collaborations
- Zane Moss and Ben Febery - Southland Fish & Game
- Thriving Southland



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