

THE FOREST BRIDGE TRUST STRATEGY: 2018-2020

Vision

A connected landscape with healthy forest and flourishing indigenous wildlife from the Kaipara Harbour to the Pacific Coast

Mission

Through practical landowner-centred support, enable the protection, enhancement and connection of forest remnants and wetlands.

Values

Respect. Integrity. Empathy

Steps to vision

Hubs of protected biodiversity, engaged landowners and a supportive community are created → Halos of protection are created and expand outwards from each *hub* to form a *Network* → Further *Hubs* and *Networks* are created → a sustainable forest bridge is formed

Framework for decision-making

Landowners require knowledge, time, energy, funding and commitment in order to take action.

We support these elements through:

- 1) building landowner knowledge of the science, financial advantage and best practice for fencing and trapping;
- 2) providing practical support to enable fencing and trapping; and
- 3) building a community of support by managing the bigger picture, demonstrating and communicating results and connecting each single initiative to a compelling whole.

Theme 1: Building the bridge				Theme 2: TFBT capacity and opportunity		
<p><i>Goal:</i> The Trust builds <i>Networks</i> of protected biodiversity supported by an engaged community.</p>				<p><i>Goal:</i> The Trust improves its practice by sharing and learning with other landscape scale projects. Opportunities to advance the vision of the Trust are planned for and explored.</p>		
Engage	Commit	Enable	Connect	Sharing & Learning	Growing	Exploring & Planning
<p>A 'spark of interest' inspires action to fence and control pests is ignited amongst landowners and the community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners commit to protecting biodiversity on their land using practical and affordable methods • Individuals willing to support local landowners are identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding secured for fencing and pest control projects • Advisory services are put into place (eg pest control advisors) • Resources (eg for fencing, trapping) are provided • Information and education are provided (eg CatchIT programmes) 	<p>A connected and self-sustaining network supports landowners in ongoing biodiversity protection</p>	<p>TFBT contributes to other like-minded projects to build its own capacity and share knowledge and skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships are developed with public good organisations • Funding opportunities are identified and explored to grow the capacity of TFBT 	<p>Future opportunities to enable the connection of <i>hubs</i> and creation of <i>networks</i> are explored and planned for.</p>

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Factors that influence the priorities and choices of our strategy:

Farmers:

- Are asset rich but cash poor and often are without the resources to implement environmental management decisions for their farms
- Sometimes fear environmental regulation (for both water quality and pest control) because of the costs
- Are concerned about negative publicity regarding environmental issues and withdraw from public engagement as a result
- Are receiving mixed messages about farming management and practice

Lifestyle blocks:

- Have a high turn-over of owners
- May have a low understanding of issues if they don't have a rural background
- Find land management capital intensive and don't always have high budgets for land management
- Face increasing development pressures

Forestry

- Face negative publicity about their business
- Face pest control issues including wilding pines

- Sediment off logging areas is a significant issue

Pest eradication technology

- A fast-moving field with a lot of active research
- Animal rights issues are expected to become more prominent

Funding

- Highly competitive
- Difficult to get operational funding
- Takes effort to be successful
- Sustainability of funding always an issue
- Funding success is dependent on having 'street cred'
- The new Auckland Council environmental targeted rate has potential to create new funding opportunities

Partners

- Face restructuring resulting in new and inexperienced staff
- Creating environmental policies and programmes eg Beef and Lamb are requiring all farmers to have environmental plans by 2022

Hubs are:

Areas of high ecological value where the community leads intensive protection, allowing halos to expand outwards

Networks are:

Connected hubs and halos achieving landscape scale protection