

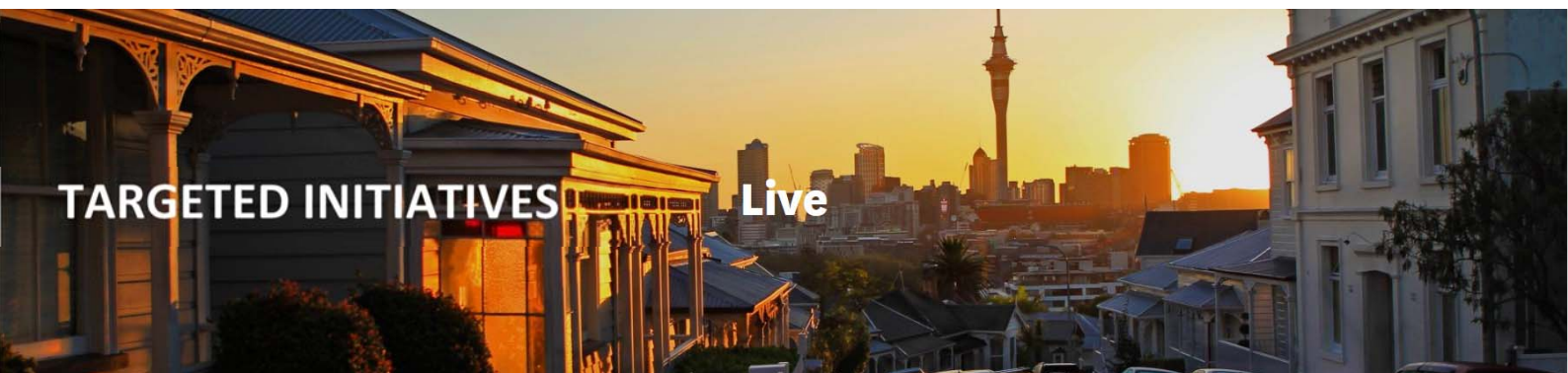
TARGETED INITIATIVES PROJECT PROPOSAL AUGUST 7, 2018

OVERVIEW

Title	Discharges from Cultivated Land
Area	Resource Management Act 1991
Location	South and West
Proposed starting date	7 August 2018
Project duration	12 months

PROJECT SCOPE Assess the extent of discharges from cultivated fields into the environment and take steps to minimise these discharges

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I. Project Background and Rationale

BACKGROUND | The big picture

Council has been involved in dealing with sediment discharge from cultivated land for many years. Auckland Regional Council and the Natural Resources and Specialist Input Unit in the Resource Consent Department of Auckland Council had teams responsible for compliance in the rural sector. Amongst other work, they dealt with sediment discharge from cultivated land.

RATIONALE | Relevance to LRC's vision statement¹, Issues addressed

The Regulatory Compliance Unit has become aware that there are potentially significant problems with these discharges, examples of which are shown in the attached memorandum from Morphem Environmental Ltd. The project will include:

- Assessment of the extent of the issue of sediment discharge from cultivated land throughout the Auckland region
- Identification of steps taken to date to address the issue
- Liaising with stakeholders such as the Rural Advisory Panel, Horticulture NZ and the Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association
- Where necessary, carrying out education of growers
- Where necessary carrying out enforcement actions.

It is essential that steps are taken to reduce the amounts of sediment entering waterways as a result of uncontrolled cultivated land. Sediment has a direct impact on waterways and organisms living in these environments. It physically smothers aquatic life, damages fish gills and mouthparts, increases temperature and turbidity (cloudiness of the water) and prevents light penetrating the water, all of which significantly alter fish habitats. Sediment also transports other pollutants such as agricultural nutrients into streams.

Excess levels of nitrogen can create conditions that make it difficult for aquatic insects and fish to survive. High levels of nitrogen can lead to excessive growth of algae. As the algae die and decompose, high levels of organic matter and the decomposing organisms deplete the water of available oxygen, causing the death of other organisms, such as fish.

II. Objectives and Expected Results

OBJECTIVES

1. Long-term objectives

The aim of the project is to reduce the discharge of sediment and associated contaminants from cultivated land into the environment, thus reducing the impacts of those discharges on the natural environment.

2. Project specific objectives

The objectives of the project are to:

- assess the extent and locations of discharges from cultivated fields
- carry out education of growers
- where necessary carry out enforcement actions.

BENEFICIARIES

General public

Natural environment

EXPECTED RESULTS / PROJECT DELIVERABLES

- Identification of locations and extent of discharge of sediment from cultivated land
- Causes of discharges
- Adoption by all growers of methods that will minimise discharges
- Significant reduction in discharge of sediment from cultivated land and its effects on the environment, particularly waterways

III. Project Management and Implementation

ACTIVITIES and WORK PLAN

The project is expected to commence on 6/08/18 and be completed as below:

Description	Start Date	End Date	Duration
Project Start			
Advise Chair of Rural Advisory Panel about project	7.8.18	15.8.18	
Meet with Rural Advisory Panel	7.9.18	7.9.18	
Meet with Hort NZ and Pukekohe Growers Association			
Check with Healthy Waters what work done to date			
Phase 1 Complete			
Inspect cultivated land in South			
Inspect cultivated land in West			
Phase 2 Complete			
Analyse information gathered from inspections			
Send letters to growers responsible for discharges			
Reinspect			
Milestone 10: Issue ANs and INs where necessary and appropriate			
Reinspect			
Take appropriate action			

Phase 3 Complete			
Review project			
Project End			

PROJECT GOVERNANCE

- Project Sponsor: Adrian Wilson
- Project Manager: Janet Whiteside
- Project Team: Katrina Channing, Gurveer Bhandari

IV. Monitoring and Evaluation

RISKS and ASSUMPTIONS

Risks to the project could include:

- Unavailability of staff from time to time, due to workloads, to carry out project tasks
- Reluctance on the part of some growers to take the necessary steps to reduce the loss of sediment from their fields

FUTURE MONITORING

Once the project has been completed, the checking of compliance of growers will be handed to the relevant compliance teams. Any relevant information, and enforcement templates developed during the project will also be provided to those teams.

MĀORI RESPONSIVENESS

Confirm that the following documents have been reviewed and considered:

Te Toa Takatini - What is Māori Responsiveness Yes No

Whiria Te Muka Tangata - Māori Responsiveness Framework Yes No

Explain which or what aspect:

VI. Contact details

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Annexes

Morphum Environmental Ltd Memorandum dated 18.6.18

