



Transition Guidelines for Sustainable Land Use

What are the Transition Guidelines?

The Transition Guidelines are a practical tool to support landowners and managers in planning for and implementing transition of erosion-prone land into permanent vegetation cover.

The guidance relies on indicative Transition Zone mapping. This map identifies the highly erodible land in Tairāwhiti using expert data and analysis. This is a non-regulatory tool to help landowners identify erosion-prone areas and work toward transition. These maps are available on Council's website:

www.gdc.govt.nz/environment/land/sustainable-land-use



Scan this QRCode to go to the website...

Why is this important?

These guidelines can help future-proof your land and build long-term resilience:

- Protect your land's productivity and long-term value.
- Support healthy ecosystems and improve water quality.
- Prepare for future regulations and access funding opportunities.

The Four Transition Scenarios

Recognising land use across pastoral and forestry is different, the Guide provides high-level, best practice advice across four transition scenarios.

1. Pastoral land use transition in the presence of stock
2. Pastoral land use transition involving stock exclusion
3. Forestry land use transition involving harvest
4. Forestry land use transition without harvesting

Who developed them?

The Guide was developed by the Transition Advisory Group (TAG), a locally led, cross-sector group made up of local experts from a diverse range of stakeholders. TAG comprises 30 members representing forestry, farming, iwi/mana whenua and environmental sectors, with independent facilitation and support from Council and MPI.

Benefits for Landowners

- Prevent long-term damage to erosion-prone areas.
- Use guidance grounded in local knowledge and real-world conditions.
- Reduce impacts to the environment.

What's next?

- Council will introduce the guidelines to the community, landowners and land managers.
- A regional business case is being drafted to seek government and other investment to support transition costs and delivery requirements.
- An opportunity to review and add to guidance is scheduled for late 2025.

How can I get involved?

- Read the guidelines.
- Start conversations within your community.
- Connect with Council's Land Management Advisors to get help on land transition.

Find the guidelines at gdc.govt.nz/environment/land/transition-advisory-group



Frequently asked questions

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| Are these guidelines mandatory? | No, the guidelines are not mandatory, but they are strongly encouraged for best practice. They provide practical, locally relevant advice that can help protect your land, improve long-term productivity and reduce impacts on our environment. |
| What happens if I don't follow these guidelines? | This is a voluntary tool, designed to help landowners prevent ongoing challenges with land productivity and long-term damage to your whenua. Over time, this can lead to higher costs, loss of usable land and greater environmental impacts. The guidelines are a way to invest in the future of your land and protect the wider environment. |
| Are there funding or support options available to help me transition my land to permanent vegetation cover? | There is currently no funding available, but TAG is developing a regional business case and delivery plan to address this challenge and help bring funding support to the region. |
| Who can provide me with technical advice on planting? | The guidelines include a list of contacts of the TAG members who may offer useful advice and/or services. Refer to Part 1 – Appendices on Page 3 for a list of individuals or commercial entities who may help. |
| I don't know where to start – who can help me? | Call Council's Land Management Advisor to help you out. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Phone: 0800 653 800- Email: service@gdc.govt.nz |
| Will these guidelines change over time? | Yes, this is version 1. These guidelines will be reviewed and updated based on feedback and ongoing learnings. |
| What else is Council doing to support sustainable land use? | <p>Council has been actively working on a programme to support sustainable land use and responding to the ministerial inquiry's recommendations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Drafting policies and rules under the freshwater provisions2. Commissioning supporting technical work3. Establishing a cross-sector Transition Advisory Group (TAG)4. Completing a landslide susceptibility model with Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research to inform the 'Transition Land' overlay5. Advancing freshwater catchment planning6. Developing new forestry consent conditions7. Exploring integrated farm and forestry planning |