

PUT NATURE FIRST



Aotearoa has lost about 90% of its original repo | wetlands – and they’re still disappearing.

That adds up to 2.25 million hectares of wetlands lost so far – the same as 13 and a half Rakiura | Stewart Islands.

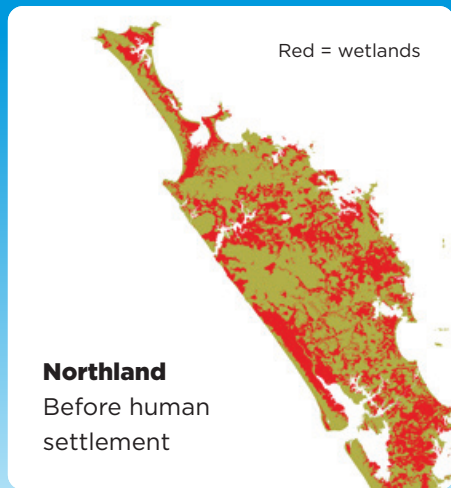
For a healthy environment, scientists say we need at least 20% of each ecosystem type to be present – so, the area of wetlands in NZ needs to double. We desperately need to protect what’s left, restore (bring back) wetlands, and recreate them where we can!

In 2020, there was real progress made for nature in the passing of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM). But, the Government now wants to change it.

What is planned instead looks like it will greatly reduce the protections in place for repo and other freshwaters they connect with.

Why have we lost wetlands?

- Wetlands have been drained, filled in, built on, or modified (changed) so towns, cities, farms, landfills, and mines could be built or expanded.
- Invasive plants and animals have come in and taken over wetland ecosystems.
- People haven’t been aware of how special and important wetlands are.
- Economic interests (money/profits) have been put before nature.



See the loss of wetlands in your region here



Did you know that wetlands actually store twice as much carbon as our ngahere | forests? What climate heroes!

Send the Prime Minister an important postcard

Let the Government know that you want them to put nature first!

PUT NATURE FIRST FOR ALL CREATURES!

What to do:

Photocopy or trace this page, then colour it in. Cut out the front of the postcard, and the back. Stick them on the front and back of a piece of card the same size. Sign the card (and add a PS if you’d like, maybe with a cool fact about wetlands). Post to the Prime Minister for free.



Dear Prime Minister

I want to be able to swim in our rivers, streams, and lakes without getting sick – just like people your age once could.

I also care about our freshwater fish, birds, and bugs. They need healthy, swimmable waterways too. The water is their home!

Please don’t change the standards for freshwater.

Signed,

Prime Minister
Freepost Parliament
Private Bag 18888
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

