



Manaaki Whenua
Landcare Research

The management of riparian zones is important for the filtration of sediment and nutrients from land. Planting along riparian margins can also provide shade and increase habitat for native wildlife. Landowners, industry bodies and regional councils are all involved in the protection of New Zealand's waterways; working together to ensure appropriate fencing, planting and management of riparian zones is undertaken to meet local and national policy and good practice.

Riparian Planner is designed to overcome challenges in implementing good riparian practice, originally developed for dairy farmers by Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research and DairyNZ with input from Regional Council land managers.

Riparian Planner is a simple, online tool that enables the user to map, describe and then plan actions for waterways that implement good riparian practices on-farm. The tool is not prescriptive and draws on regional and industry resources for planting lists and other advice.

The tool and support is accessed here
[www.dairynz.co.nz/environment/waterways/
riparian-planner/](http://www.dairynz.co.nz/environment/waterways/riparian-planner/)

“A free to use, digital, farmer-friendly and -driven tool that promotes on-farm actions that reduce contaminant loss to waterways by surface pathways.”

Riparian Planner – a tool for farmers and consultants



Using Riparian Planner

Riparian Planner is free to use, and the online tool steps you through the process of:

- Identifying waterways and wetlands by drawing them on the map of your farm
- Noting fencing and planting already completed
- Working out what fencing or planting still needs to be done
- Planning and budgeting the work required over the next five years.
- Storing and updating your plan on the website and downloading or printing a pdf version of the plan.

Your final farm-specific riparian management plan includes:

- costs, actions and a timeline
- a plant list suited to your farm
- a map and details on how much material to buy
- site preparation and pest control.

“Without the tool we would have had to spend a bit of time with a ruler and a calculator. The tool just simplifies that process dramatically.”

Keith Lambeth, dairy farmer.

Who uses the plan?

There are now over 2000 users of Riparian Planner covering properties in all sectors – dairy, sheep and beef and a few in horticulture and arable farming. Plans are made by the farmers themselves, or in some cases by their consultants or regional council land managers. The tool is not prescriptive enabling users to draw on appropriate advice from others to ensure the planned actions will deliver appropriate and long-lasting riparian protection.

Support and sustaining the tool

The Riparian Planner is hosted and supported by Manaaki Whenua under a Service Level Agreement with DairyNZ. This ensures the ongoing availability of the tool and means that fixes and minor technology changes can be addressed as they arise.

Further development

One of the key features of Riparian Planner has been the collaborative approach to the development of the tool so that it can meet multiple needs: for farmers, industry and regional councils. The technical design used in the development of Riparian Planner ensures it can be updated, modified and extended. This means that Riparian Planner can continue to evolve to meet the needs of users.

Data sharing

In 2019 we have developed a pilot data-sharing facility to explore the ability to share data (permitted by the farmer / plan-owner) from Riparian Planner into other online / electronic systems. This is intended to reduce the burden for farmers while providing input for farm plans or other geospatial data portals. Data-sharing is expected to provide further impetus for uptake and value to partner organisations.

The screenshot shows the DairyNZ website header with navigation links: Publications, Research, Dairy Careers, Work at DairyNZ, Rural Professionals, Business, Environment, People, Feed, Animal, Milking, Events, News. The main heading is 'Riparian Planner' with a sub-header 'Home > Environment > Waterways > Riparian Planner'. The main content area features a 'SHARE THIS' section with social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Email, Print) and a star icon for 'Add page to Fav'. The text reads: 'Creating a riparian management plan to fence, plant and protect waterways is now easy with our new online tool.' Below this is a 'Map out your farm's waterways and get all the costs and tasks around fencing, planting and maintenance in one handy plan.' and a blue button 'Start your riparian plan now'. The section 'The Riparian Planner' lists benefits: 'Helps you fulfil supply and consent conditions', 'Works to your budget, goals and farm situation', 'Offers you intuitive mapping, built-in calculators, regional plants', 'Lets you spread budget and tasks over a few years', 'Allows you to update your plan whenever necessary', and 'Makes riparian planning easy - even if you've never done it before'. A small image of the Riparian Planner interface is shown at the bottom right of the screenshot.

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