



Wildlands

Ecology and Restoration

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Auckland Wildlands team.
We've had a busy - and 'unprecedented' - couple of years.

When should you engage an ecologist?

When starting a new project it's always a good idea to get some initial advice from an ecologist to ensure that your development is sensitive to any ecological constraints and to smooth the consenting process. Here's a list of the key things to look for that should trigger you to contact us.



Senior Ecologist Brent Henry carrying out an electric-fishing survey in West Auckland.

Wetlands: The NPS-FM and NES-F

So many acronyms! What do they mean?

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) and National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (NES-F) regulate activities that occur in or near streams and natural inland wetlands.

Both of these documents were amended earlier this year and ecologists now have much clearer guidance on how to classify natural inland wetlands, particularly in pastoral landscapes.

If there are any streams, drains, or damp/swampy/wet areas on your site you'll need to have these assessed to determine how they should be classified against the stream and wetland definitions in the Auckland Unitary Plan and the NPS-FM.

Depending on how these areas are classified, you may need to factor in wetland buffers, riparian yards, and fish management for your proposal, and you may need to pay close attention to stormwater management to ensure that there are no changes to the hydrological functions of wetlands in the catchment.

If in doubt, give us a call. Our team is highly experienced with stream and wetland delineation and has an excellent understanding of the rules and regulations.

Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs)

If any areas on your property are covered by an SEA overlay, get us to take a look. SEA boundaries have generally been mapped as a desktop exercise using aerial photography, so it is worthwhile to get an ecologist to assess the actual ecological value of the area.



Ecologist Jessica Patiño-Pérez getting up close and personal with a longfin eel in South Auckland.

Other Vegetation

Vegetation that isn't classified as an SEA can still provide good habitat for indigenous fauna species, which may be protected under the Wildlife Act (1953). You may need to consider how you will manage adverse effects on lizards, birds, and bats that utilise otherwise low value vegetation such as rank grass or large old pine trees or macrocarpa. We can plan and implement a range of fauna survey and salvage projects for a diverse range of species. Our highly skilled herpetology team has rescued and relocated thousands of indigenous lizards across the Auckland Region.



Moko skink rescued from a lizard salvage site on Aotea Great Barrier Island.

Key message

Engaging an ecologist early is always a good idea. Ecological values can be tricky to assess, and high value species can turn up in what superficially looks like low value vegetation. So call us to discuss your next project and we can help to steer you in the right direction.

Restoration Team

Once consent has been granted for a development you may need assistance to implement all the fantastic ecological management plans you had prepared as part of the consenting process. Our restoration implementation team is here to help. Even if Wildlands didn't prepare your plans, we can make them a reality. Our team can provide project management, site preparation, pest plant control, planting, planting maintenance, and pest animal control services over multiple years to satisfy your ecological restoration consent conditions. We have a large and experienced team of field staff and contract managers. We understand the complexities of implementing ecological restoration projects and have planted hundreds of thousands of plants and controlled pest plants and pest animals across a large variety of sites and scales. No job is too big, or too small.

We also undertake post-planting assessments to assess whether your consent conditions have been satisfied, including planting completion reports, or assessments at the end of the maintenance period. We can provide certification if your requirements have been achieved.

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