

2023 survey questions and common responses:

This survey was conducted in October 2023 and received 157 responses.

Would you be interested in receiving financial support to help you achieve biodiversity goals on your farm if support were available?

89% Yes

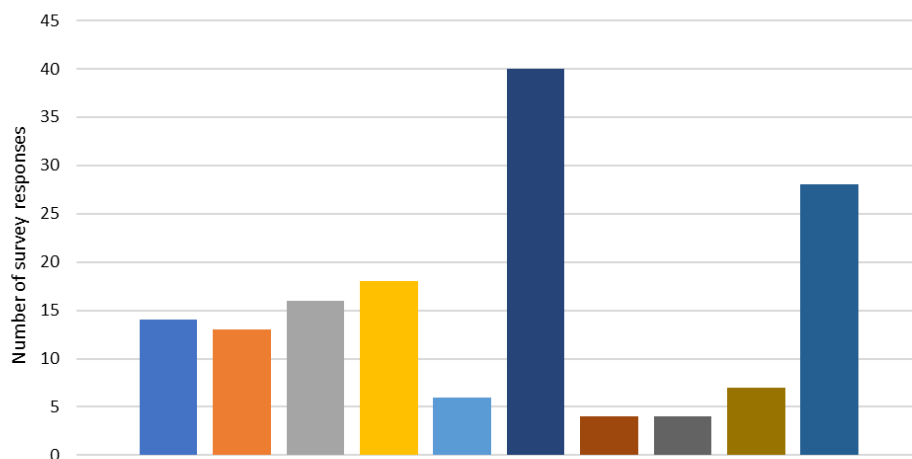
11% No

Provide any other comments you might have about receiving financial support below.

Most common reasoning for not being interested in receiving financial support was the assumption that the government would be involved and what strings/conditions would be attached.

What system or combination of systems do you think would be best for supporting biodiversity protection restoration long term?

What system or combinations of systems do you think would be best for supporting biodiversity protection/restoration long term?



■ Direct govt support for one-off investment

■ Direct govt support for ongoing maintenance

■ No additional govt involvement

■ Govt to play a development & administrative role in a centralised biodiversity credit market

■ Don't know

■ Direct govt support for one-off investment AND direct govt support for ongoing maintenance

■ Direct govt support for one-off investment AND direct govt support for ongoing maintenance AND no additional govt involvement

■ Govt playing a development & administration role in a centralised biodiversity credit market AND direct govt support for one-off investment

■ Govt playing a development & administration role in a centralised biodiversity credit market AND direct govt support for ongoing maintenance

■ Govt playing development & administration role in a centralised biodiversity credit market AND direct govt support for one-off investment AND direct govt support for ongoing maintenance

Should previous and/or existing work to retain protect or enhance indigenous biodiversity be recognised and if so how do you think that could work?

92% of respondents agreed that previous work done should be recognised. How this might work was varied, many weren't sure how that would work. Many also thought that previous

work done should be eligible for ongoing support, either through direct funding or a market system, for maintenance. Some respondents wanted compensation or retrospective credits for work done in the past.

If a centralised biodiversity credit market was established, what do you think is important to consider in developing the system?

- The importance for previous work done to protect and enhance biodiversity to be recognised.
- Utilise catchment groups.
- Keep it simple.
- A labour force is required.
- Any credit market to fit in the wider system of current initiatives, such as EKOS, Toha, QEII, Predator Free 2050. As well as assurance and premium programs, such as FAP+, Merino ZQ etc.
- Emissions offsets and the ETS.

What other ways outside of a credit system could farmers be recognised for and supported in their indigenous biodiversity work? These may be financial or non-financial we're keen to hear what would work for you.

Most common answers:

- Rates and/or tax relief.
- Advice and education for farmers wanting to do the work but are unsure how.
- Enhance the work of the QEII trust.

Do you have any other comments you would like to share about biodiversity support and incentives in general?

The following are some quotes from the survey:

- "There are many things we want to do but can't afford, we understand that there will need to be follow up to ensure the money is well spent however sometimes those requirements can outweigh the benefit in getting the funding."
- "Over the past 8 years we have grown from seed various native trees and have planted 50 thousand + approximately, of them on our deer farm. We have 3-4 metre gaps, double fenced between all our paddocks. we originally applied via project crimson and other online council/govt agencies to be supplied with any plants, but were ignored, so just went ahead and did this ourselves."
- "This [receiving financial support] would be wonderful as we have identified areas on our farm that we would love to fence off and plant with natives but cashflow doesn't always allow this."
- "Of course I would like to receive financial support, however I would be very hesitant to sign myself up to anything set up by the government or council as I have very little trust in them. I imagine it will come with mountains of paperwork and conditions and I would rather keep my farm well away from their spotlight."
- "I believe this to be an excellent concept as long as it is easy to access and not wrapped up in endless paperwork and bureaucracy. if it is too complicated to apply for funding there will be no incentive for farmers who already spend too much of their time dealing with paperwork to satisfy new regulation requirements."