

QEII National Trust Open Space Covenants — Four Decades of Perpetual Private-Land Biodiversity Protection (New Zealand)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · New Zealand

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Since 1977, New Zealand's QEII National Trust has registered voluntary, perpetual covenants protecting over 187,000 hectares of private land — forest, wetland and grassland habitat — but a funding freeze since 2015 now forces the Trust to turn away landowners on its waiting list.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	1/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-23

[QEII National Trust](#) — accessed 2026-09-23

[QEII National Trust — Protecting Your Land](#) — accessed 2026-09-23

[NZ Plant Conservation Network — QEII Open Space Covenants](#) — accessed 2026-09-23

[RNZ — QEII National Trust prepares to dramatically scale back work](#) — accessed 2026-09-23

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