Lake Rotorua Gorse Conversion Project



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Gorse and Nitrogen

- SCION research by Magesan, G. and Wang, H. (2008)
- Confirmed that gorse is a significant contributor of nitrate leaching to groundwater.
- Study conducted during 2006 and 2007
- Results of the two years at two sites 59, 64, 36 and 40 Kg of N leached / ha
- This investigation derived a generic nitrate leaching of 50 kg N ha



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Gorse Mapping

- 2007 mapping carried out by an assessment of aerial photography assessed 870ha of Gorse in catchment
- 2015 Gorse mapped using satellite imagery assessed 778ha of Gorse in catchment
- Digitised areas of gorse ≥ 1 ha with $\geq 75\%$ cover by interpreting differences between SPOT6 spring vs. SPOTMaps summer imagery (looking for flowering gorse in the spring imagery)



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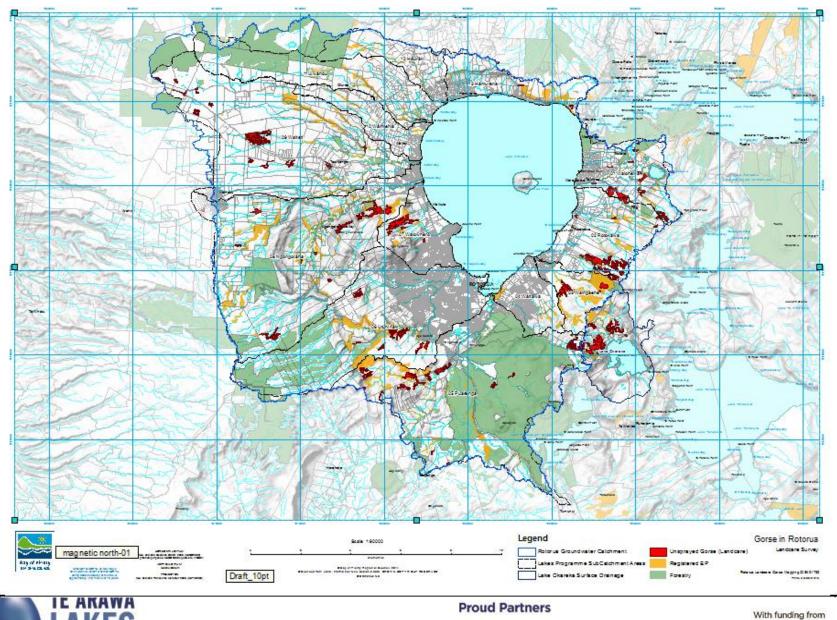
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Gorse/Land Use within the Rotorua Catchment

Land use	Area/Ha	Kg/N
Forestry	49	1,715
Environmental Programme	267	9,345
Farm Plan	182	6,370
Balance	280	9,800
Total	778	27,230



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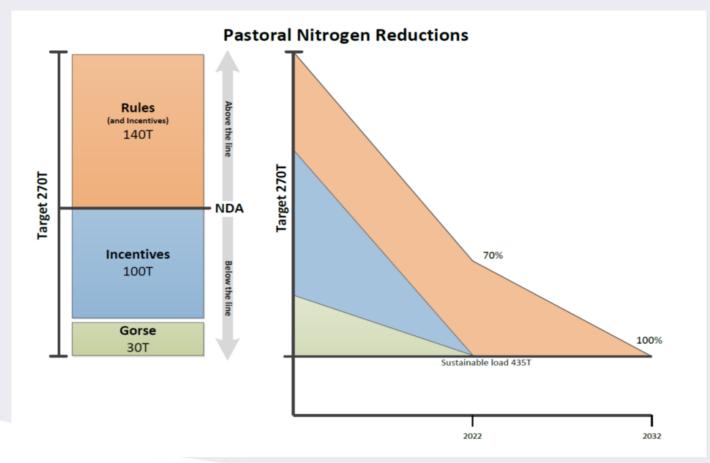


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Funding & budgets

- Funded through Rotorua Lakes Programme
- Up to \$4.5K per ha (budget based on average \$3K) – for establishment only.
- Up to \$2K available for independent legal/forestry advice



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Criteria

- Must have a high degree of certainty of removing or suppressing mature gorse permanently.
- Land must be within the Lake Rotorua groundwater catchment and within the Bay of Plenty region
- Changes must be to a N leaching rate equivalent to or less than forestry. (excludes legume tree species)
- Net P losses must not exceed levels prior to conversion.
- Gorse conversions secured by 999 year agreements



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Other Considerations

- Tie ins with the Incentives Programme for possible pasture conversion
- Small blocks of gorse managed reversion to native or managed high value species
- Ongoing mapping to establish success of programme
- AGS (Afforestation Grant Scheme)
- Carbon credits



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Questions ?





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