



# QUEEN ELIZABETH II NATIONAL TRUST

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Ngā Kairauhi Papa | Forever Protected



QEII **NATIONAL TRUST**

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## WHO ARE WE?

Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust (QEII) is a registered charity and an independent statutory organisation. We've got our own act, the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Act 1977.



The QEII story began in 1977. There was a desire in the community among farmers and other landowners to protect areas on private land that were home to native species. Their vision was for protection to be both voluntary and everlasting, legally securing the land forever.



QEII is governed by a board of directors. We have 26 regional representatives nationwide who are the main point of contact for our landowners. The regional representatives are supported by staff at our head office in Wellington, who provide advice on legal, ecological, health and safety, policy, and communications.

## WHAT DO WE DO?



Our mission is to partner with landowners to protect special places on private land for the benefit of present and future generations. Landowners retain ownership of the land they are protecting, and we provide legal protection and ongoing trusteeship.



Our vision is to encourage new protection and stewardship of covenants and to inspire New Zealanders to work with, and support us, to protect biodiversity on private land.

We also work with central and local government and a wide range of other organisations throughout the country to support the protection and appreciation of open space values on private land.



## PROTECTING YOUR LAND

We work in partnership with landowners to protect areas of biodiversity on their land with covenants. Each covenant is tailored to reflect the intent of the landowner.

We manage the covenanting process in-house. We respond to initial enquiries from landowners, then proposals are prepared and evaluated. We use criteria including ecological significance, national priorities for biodiversity protection on private land, connectivity to other protected places, and site sustainability. If approved, we go on to negotiate the covenant agreement with the landowner and organise fencing, surveying, and covenant management plans. The final step in the process is to arrange to have the approved covenant officially registered on the related land titles. Once a proposal is approved, we aim to have it registered on the land title within two years. We normally cover the legal fees, costs of surveying and match landowner contributions to fencing.

Throughout the process, regional representatives work closely with landowners to ensure that their land is protected in accordance with their intentions. They will also provide guidance on how best to look after the values in the covenant.

Protected land remains in the ownership of the covenantor and they are responsible for managing it. We continue to support landowners, providing management advice, and ensuring the covenant agreement is respected by current and future owners.



## OUR ROLE

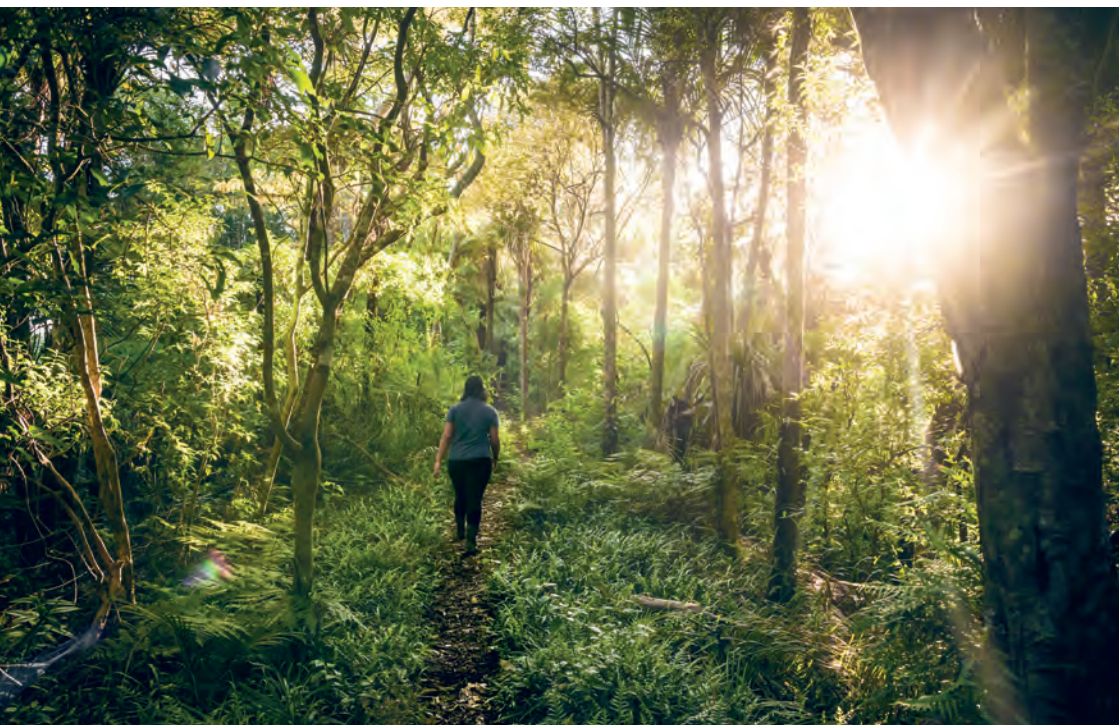
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QEII operates as the perpetual trustee. This means when we partner with landowners to protect land, that protection is in place forever. Any new owners are subject to the restrictions in the covenant deed, as intended by the original landowner. When a property with a covenant is sold, we contact the new landowner to make sure they know about the covenant and what it means.

Our regional representatives visit each covenant every two years. The visits are a great chance for landowners to celebrate their covenant and to connect with their local rep, who is a great source of advice on managing protected places. If a covenant requires attention, such as a broken fence, we require the landowner to resolve that issue. If there are invasive weeds or pests, the landowner may wish to apply for assistance from our contestable fund, The Stephenson Fund, which can help landowners with weed and animal control, and covenant enhancement.

We can also consider landowners' requests for consents to carry out certain activities in their covenants, or to vary a covenant agreement. Variations and consents are only approved if they are in line with the purpose of the covenant agreement and do not compromise the covenant's open space values.

If there is a serious, deliberate breach of a covenant agreement, and discussions with the landowner have been unproductive, we may take legal action as a last resort.



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## BIODIVERSITY ON PRIVATE LAND

In New Zealand, publicly owned national parks generally protect biodiversity in upland areas, covering around 30% of our country's land that was either too hard to access or too difficult to develop. QEII plays an important role in protecting biodiversity across the 70% of New Zealand's landscapes that are privately owned and have usually been highly modified. This is where some of our richest biodiversity is represented, but where it is least protected and most at risk.

Our current resourcing allows us to establish approximately 100 covenants a year. The demand from landowners to protect land is higher than this number, so we prioritise covenant proposals carefully.

At least 90% of our covenant proposals have ecosystem and habitat types identified in the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2000 as national priorities for protection. The remaining covenant proposals protect diverse features like important landscapes, cultural and historic values, geological sites, and opportunities for public access and enjoyment of open space.





## **ORDINARY PEOPLE DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS**

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The network of QEII covenantors has grown from a handful in the late 1970s to more than 8,000 members with over 4,600 covenants. Together they protect over 175,000ha – which comes to about 1% of all privately-owned land in New Zealand.

Covenantors voluntarily protect our unique natural and cultural heritage, including forest remnants, wetlands, tussocklands, dunelands, threatened species habitats, landscapes, archaeological areas, and geological sites – special places across our rural landscapes that we identify with and cherish as a nation.

Their actions extend far beyond the fence lines to benefit nature and society. As guardians of our heritage, they leave a legacy on the land for current and future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

## SUPPORTING QEII

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The demand from landowners to protect land is greater than what we can protect. We would like to give every landowner with significant features on their land the opportunity to preserve those features with covenants.

Donating to us is one of the most cost-effective ways that you can help to protect New Zealand's natural and cultural heritage. Every dollar you give will help grow the network of protected land in New Zealand.

If you donate more than \$50, you will automatically become a QEII National Trust member. Membership means that you're a part of an organisation that stands up to protect the natural heritage of Aotearoa and includes other benefits such as a year's subscription to our Open Space magazine, invitations to QEII events in your area and free or discounted entry to National Trust properties all over the world.

Go to [www.qeiiationaltrust.org.nz](http://www.qeiiationaltrust.org.nz) to find out more about donating or joining as a member.

If you have any questions about the work we do, or would like to get in touch with your local regional representative, a full contact list is available on our website.

**Call us on 0800 467 367 or email us at [info@qeii.org.nz](mailto:info@qeii.org.nz).**



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**0800 467 367 | [qeiiinternationaltrust.org.nz](https://qeiiinternationaltrust.org.nz)**



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