

## **8.6 Explanation and principal reasons for the methods**

### **8.6.1 Advocacy**

Environment Canterbury has an important role in advocating to industry and land management agencies to take initiatives that will improve practices and awareness within the community for soil conservation issues.

### **8.6.2 Information and promotion**

Working with groups within the community to share and disseminate information will be effective in:

- (a) increasing awareness and adoption of those practices most effective in maintaining soil quality;
- (b) encouraging new initiatives and demonstrating new techniques and alternatives for management; and
- (c) enabling people to make informed choices on the techniques most suited to their own situations.

It is recognised that no one group in the community holds all the knowledge about the sustainable management of the land. Working in partnership with landholders and land management agencies will encourage an integrated approach to information provision and commitment to sustainable management practices. This is seen as a more desirable approach to achieving change than imposing regulatory controls on practices.

### **8.6.3 Investigations**

Environment Canterbury has a key role to play in recognising where there are still gaps in the understanding of soil conservation issues, and facilitating and supporting investigations to improve this understanding. Part of this role will be to encourage the integration of work being undertaken by a range of agencies concerned with soil conservation issues and the sharing and distribution of information between all sections of the community.

### **8.6.4 Economic instruments**

Sustainable management and management initiatives often benefit the wider community as well as the individual landholder. Environment Canterbury will recognise this by making available various forms of assistance that help to share the financial and social costs of projects that provide ongoing and net benefits to the region.

### **8.6.5 Environment Enhancement Fund**

Environment Canterbury has targeted financial assistance for projects that will contribute to the protection of the indigenous biodiversity of the region. This has been recognised as part of a national commitment to preserving what is special and unique about New Zealand's natural heritage. Environment Canterbury has a role to encourage a range of initiatives for achieving this protection, particularly on private land, through the effective integration of production and protection goals for management. There will be many opportunities to achieve soil conservation objectives, including the achievement of a healthy and intact vegetation cover, in ways that also enhance and protect the indigenous biodiversity of the region. The Environment Enhancement Fund will provide financial recognition for such initiatives while assisting the sustainable management of the land.

### **8.6.6 Territorial authorities**

This method recognises that under the RMA, territorial authorities have responsibilities in managing the effects of land use in an integrated manner. Territorial authorities have a role in considering the likely effects of activities as part of their functions to control any actual or potential effects of the use, development or protection of land, including for the prevention of any adverse effects from land use activities that may affect soil quality or increase the risk of soil erosion. It is important that territorial authorities and Environment Canterbury have a

consistent approach to the management of land use activities to achieve soil conservation in the region.

## **8.7 Environmental results anticipated**

Implementation of the policies and methods in this chapter is expected to achieve the following environmental results within 10 years of this plan becoming operative, unless otherwise stated:

### **8.7.1 Environmental result anticipated SCN1(a)**

No loss in the intactness and resilience of vegetation cover in the non-arable hill and high country.

### **8.7.2 Environmental result anticipated SCN1(b)**

- (a) A reduction in the gross area of non-arable hill and high country land where there is currently more than 20 percent induced bare ground.
- (b) An improvement in vegetation vigour under pastoral management where it does not meet the criteria of Objective SCN1.

### **8.7.3 Environmental result anticipated SCN2**

Soil nutrient levels for non-arable soils are maintained or enhanced to levels that will support a resilient vegetation cover.

### **8.7.4 Environmental result anticipated SCN3**

The achievement of soil conservation outcomes is not compromised by the discharge of Land Improvement Agreements.

### **8.7.5 Environmental result anticipated SCN4**

An increase in the total area of effective stabilising deep-rooted vegetation cover established on land that is susceptible to, or showing evidence of, deep-seated forms of erosion achieved by meeting the following targets:

- (a) no reduction in the existing area of deep-rooted vegetation cover; and
- (b) establishment of effective stabilizing cover over at least 25 percent of the priority areas.

### **8.7.6 Environmental result anticipated SCN5**

A reduced risk of erosion resulting from earthworks and vegetation clearance activities.

### **8.7.7 Environmental result anticipated SCN6**

At least 90 percent of arable farmers are using effective management practices to maintain and enhance soil quality.

### **8.7.8 Environmental result anticipated SCN7**

An increase in the use of management practices to reduce the risk of erosion of arable soils in areas of medium to high erosion risk.

### **8.7.9 Environmental result anticipated SCN8**

A reduction in the rate of accumulation of cadmium in the soil.

### **8.7.10 Environmental result anticipated SCN9**

No widespread application of new chemicals that have the potential to cause persistent contamination of soil.