

# Creating Bittern Friendly WETLANDS

## PEST CONTROL & MONITORING

1. Set your first line of defence away from your wetland.
2. Don't perpetuate tracks into your wetland for predators to use.
3. Monitor plant and animal pests- be strategic to stop invasion and disturbance

### No human disturbance

- Create hides or use hills as vantage points to observe.
- Restrict access during breeding season Sept-Feb.

### Fenced off to control stock

- and deter dogs, pigs and other animals from entering

### Scalloped, wiggly edges

- to create more edge habitat

**DO IT RIGHT**  
Draw predators away and not to or into your wetland!

## #1 IS YOUR WETLAND WET ENOUGH?

Seems obvious but often wetlands aren't wet enough for long enough.

Target retaining 15-25cm of water for foraging for at least 90 days Sept to Feb ..

...and keep a 50/50 ratio of open water (including deep pools) to reeds/rushes.



Get your 'Habitat for Hurepo' checklist from our website



[www.lovebittern.com](http://www.lovebittern.com)

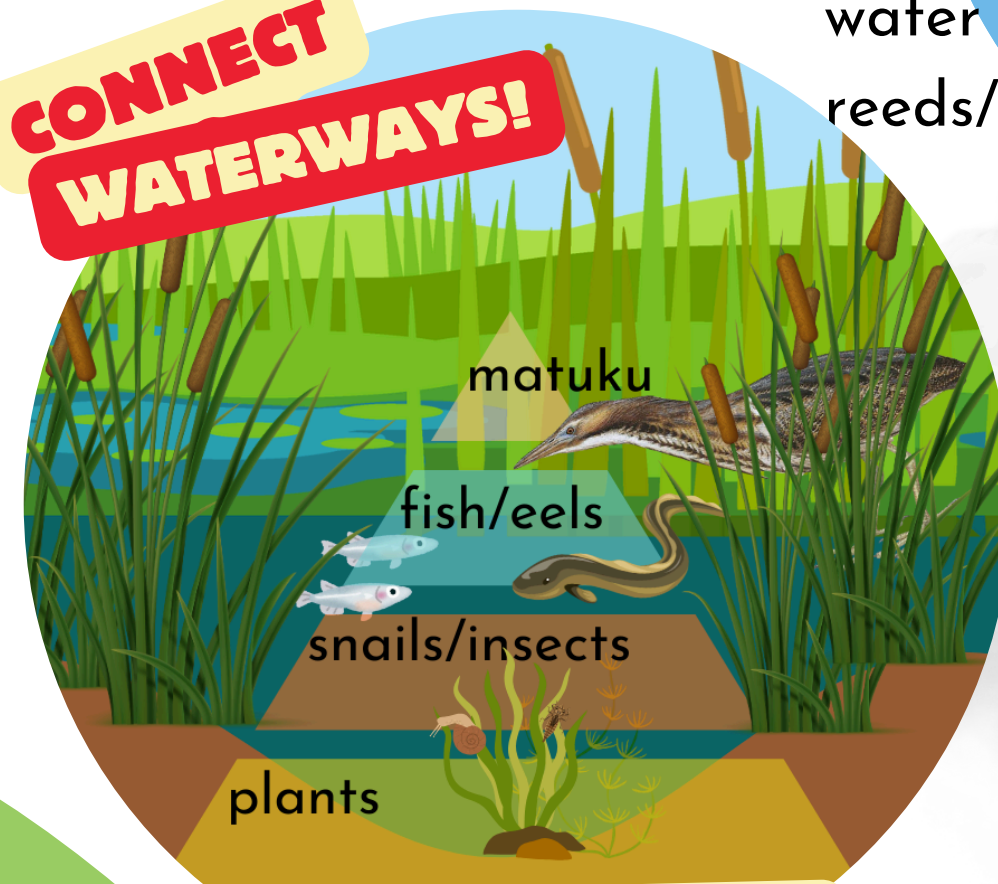
LOVE BITTERN PROJECT



### Little or no canopy forming trees in interior of wetland

- provides easy escape routes
- helps keep your wetland wet!

### CONNECT WATERWAYS!



### KEEP YOUR FOOD CHAIN INTACT

### Vast areas of reeds and rushes over permanent water

- gives protection for nesting and resting
- reduces erosion from ripples and waves

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Bittern are visual hunters, they stalk and stab their prey, this means they need wade-able (shallow 15-25cm) clear water to see and catch their prey.

### Clear, shallow water for foraging

- planted with sedges, rushes reeds and low stature plants
- provides cover
  - helps filter excess nutrients

### Open water & deep pools

- provides a range of habitat for fish and eels
- helps sediment and heavy phosphates to drop out

