HABITAT FOR HŪREPO

Key requirements for bittern to thrive.

"Ultimately it isn't enough to just save a species, it needs to be saved in the context of the natural ecosystem in which it lives".
ALISON BALLANCE

LOVE BITTERN PROJECT

1 Record your bittern.

Do you have bittern or crake in your wetland?

Are bittern feeding in your boggy paddocks, or in your waterways?

Do you hear a male bittern booming in the spring?

One of the easiest things you can do to help save bittern is to record them.

This helps us to understand the networks of habitat they use.

You can do this privately on **lovebittern.com**
need help? contact Wendy on 022 526 1972



2 Start with the wai.

Gradual slopes into clear, shallow water to wade in and catch eels or fish.

Deeper, more stable water for security while nesting and resting.

-for 90 days from Spring.

Bittern are visual hunters, they need to be able to see the fish to catch them.

3 Check the kai.

An abundant supply of small eels and native fish.

Fish passage to ensure an ongoing food supply.

Provide a variety of habitats for a variety of fish.

Bittern are starving. Provide access into your farm drains, waterways or edges of ponds to help them.

4 Right plant, right place.

Low stature plants for cover and that allow access to fish in shallow water.

Tall reeds/rushes over deeper water for security while nesting and resting.

Tall flaxes or trees to lift bittern up and over roads or power lines and screen them from people.

5 Everything is connected.

Large networks of habitat protected in the catchment for future generations.

Low stature cover along waterways that connect habitat for young bittern who walk to find food.

Safe passage through flyways over roads and hills.

35% of deaths are from collisions.



HABITAT FOR HŪREPO

Score your wetland.

Give yourself a point for each key habitat requirement you meet.
There are 3 defined in each section and a total of 12.

LOVE BITTERN PROJECT

SCORE out of 3 >

Start with the wai.

- Gradual slopes into clear, shallow water to wade in and catch eels or fish.

  Slopes <20 degrees
  Shallow 15-25cm
  Clear to >25cm

- Deeper, more stable water for security while nesting and resting.

  Depth >25cm
  Fluctuation in water level <20cm

- Water stays for 90 days from Spring .. so water can continue to provide security and food as close to the nest as possible.

SCORE out of 3 >

Check the kai.

- An abundant supply of small eels and native fish.

  Do you see fish most of the time? What's your fish biomass (CPUE)?

- Fish passage to ensure an ongoing food supply.

  Are fish present for at least 90 days from Spring?

- Provide a variety of habitats for fish.

  What species of fish are present and have you got what they need to thrive?

<SCORE out of 3 >

Right plant, right place.

- Low stature plants for cover and that allow access to fish in shallow water.

  Shallow edges planted in native sedges, grasses reeds and rushes <80cm tall

  Sparse enough to allow fish penetration & access to fish.

- Tall reeds/rushes over deeper water for security while nesting and resting.

  Emergent reeds or rushes >80cm tall

- Tall flaxes or trees to lift bittern up and over roads or power lines and screen them from people.

SCORE out of 3 >

Everything is connected.

- Large networks of habitat protected in the catchment for future generations.

  Areas are fenced to keep farm animals, including dogs, out. Predators are intercepted before arriving at the wetland.

- Safe passage along connected waterways and through flyways and little to no human disturbance.

- Wetland habitat is valued, protected (ideally QEII covenanted) and restored in the wider catchment.

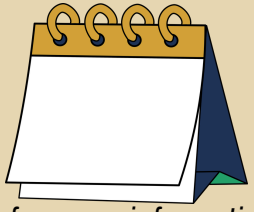
TOTAL SCORE out of 12>

< The requirements are in priority order

Make a list of actions you can take to help:

Action List

Set a date to complete and re-check:





for more information or to share your results contact us:
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