

Creating Bittern Friendly DRAINS & WATERWAYS

Connect waterways to ensure fish passage

- check culverts allow fish passage
- track your waterways back to the sea or your fish breeding habitat

Time your improvements for late Summer

- to avoid disturbing bittern feeding
- to help fish spawning in Autumn and which return to mature in Spring

Remove over steep banks- they are sources for erosion

Check out 2-tier drains!!

Bittern are visual hunters, they need to see their prey to strike!

Grasses, sedges, reeds & rushes in shallow water as well as bacteria help filter water - keeping it clean & clear!

Create gradual sloped sides

- gives Bittern foraging access to 15-25cm water at all times
- provides ideal conditions for spawning whitebait
- reduces maintenance

Plant the right mix of plants

1-3m

3-5m

>5m

Plant slopes into the water and edges to at least 5m if you can

- 1-3m on slopes - grasses, sedges, reeds or rushes up to 80cm tall
- 3-5m from edge flaxes and shrubs to 2m tall
- >5m from edge, trees like cabbage trees that let some light through!

Flooded paddocks make great foraging grounds

- keep grass long for cover
- consider returning boggy pasture to wetland.

KEEP YOUR FOOD CHAIN INTACT

kahu
matuku
fish/eels
snails/insects
plants

Meandering waterways provide more diverse fish habitat- and create more edges for foraging.

LOVE BITTERN
PROJECT

KEEP WATER CLEAR

15-25cm

MAKE MORE EDGES!