



Hao (Longfin Eel)
ANGUILLA AUSTRALIS

2 Vision and Strategy

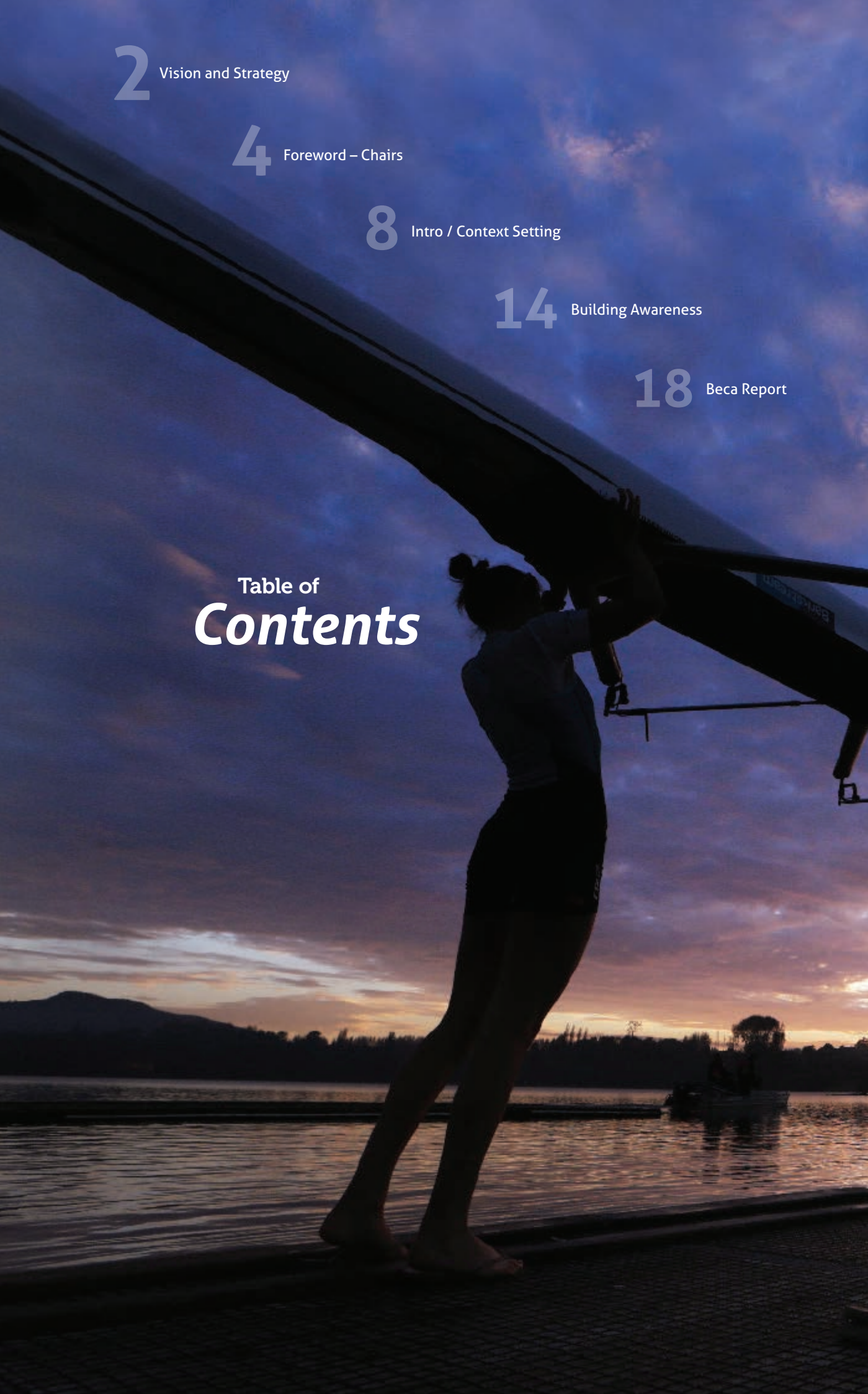
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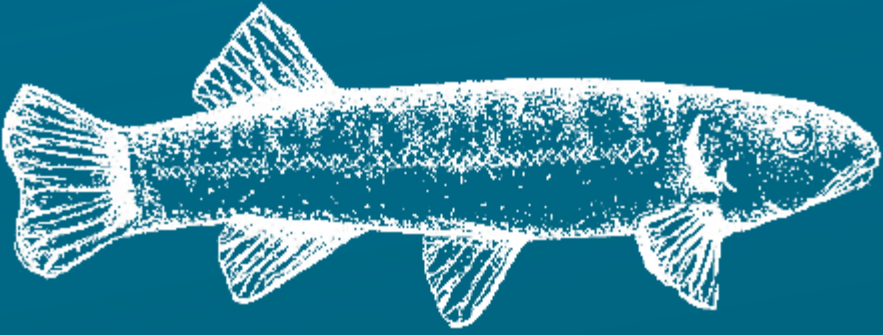
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Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato

Vision and Strategy

Our vision is for a future where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and all it embraces, **for generations to come.**



Short-jawed Kookopu
GALAXIAS POSTVECTIS

Foreword

from the Co-Chairs

It is with satisfaction that the Waikato River Authority, in accordance with its establishing legislation, presents the first Five Year Report to the Crown and Waikato river iwi on the effectiveness and achievements of the Authority.

This is one of the most important milestones for the Authority since it became operational on 25 November 2010, following on from Treaty of Waitangi settlement legislation.

In introducing this report we look back on the two main aspects of the role of the Authority. Firstly, this is to ensure and implement an effective Vision and Strategy for the future health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipa rivers; and secondly, to fund clean-up initiatives through the Authority's role as the sole trustee of the Waikato River Clean-up Trust.

The unique relationship between the Crown and Waikato River iwi that has been embodied in the establishment of the Authority has meant a successful start to the considerable task ahead of restoring and protecting the rivers. In this first five years, the Waikato River Authority has ensured the special partnership has been underpinned with funding to allow comprehensive future planning and clean-up project delivery.

Vision and Strategy implementation

The creation of the Waikato River Authority as part of the Treaty of Waitangi settlement legislation has meant a special legal status for the Waikato River Vision and Strategy, not previously seen before. By requiring, through legislation, that other agencies, organisations and individuals whose activities impact on the Waikato River give effect to the Vision and Strategy we have been able to make immediate progress on its implementation. This report gives an assessment of progress on how various key agencies have performed in this regard. Alongside legal requirements have been the partnerships that have developed with the Authority to ensure an effective Vision and Strategy. Foremost among these has been the creation of the Waikato River Restoration Forum that represents river iwi, industry and local and central government. This is a strategic leadership group that was established under the leadership of the Authority to facilitate greater collaboration for the benefit of Waikato and Waipa rivers. The Forum provides a leadership framework to deliver restoration activities that are both coordinated and planned.

An example of this is work on the Restoration Strategy for the Waikato and Waipa rivers launched in 2015 by the Minister for the Environment. The Restoration Strategy is a joint initiative by the Waikato River Authority, DairyNZ and the Waikato Regional Council that will provide a five to 15 year master plan for the protection and restoration of the Waikato and Waipa rivers.

We are also pleased to include as part of this Five Year Report the first whole of catchment Report Card for the Waikato and Waipa rivers. This document, and future Report Cards, will provide a measure of progress towards our goal of cleaner waterways.

The independent leadership that the Waikato River Authority has been able to demonstrate for the benefit of the river has been a welcome consequence of the mana surrounding the establishment of the Authority. While the Authority's legal standing and funding resources have enabled it to make solid progress for the betterment of river, the ability to provide an influential leadership pivot-point for many other

<i>Iwi</i>	funding in first 4 years
Waikato-Tainui	\$7,644,000
Te Arawa	\$676,000
Raukawa	\$733,000
Tuwharetoa	\$290,000
Maniapoto	\$517,000
Total	\$9,860,000
Total of all funding	\$22,435,000

river stakeholders has been a mark of the first five years of operations. This collaborative leadership approach will secure the support for the rivers' Vision and Strategy and ultimately the health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipa rivers beyond what can be achieved with legal and financial resources alone.



Clean-up initiatives

The Authority is pleased to report that at the completion of five funding rounds \$27 million has been allocated to a total of 169 individual clean-up projects. The very largest of these projects have been partnerships between industry, government agencies, local government and iwi while the smallest have involved schools, community groups and individuals.

According to the Waikato River Independent Scoping Study commissioned by the Ministry for the Environment in 2010, the task to clean up the Waikato River is estimated at \$2 billion. With \$250 million of Crown funds allocated to the Waikato River Authority over a 30-year period, the need for co-funding from partnering organisations is essential. The Authority can report that over its first five funding rounds it has been able to achieve a co-funding ratio of \$1.42 dollars of funding and in-kind support for every \$1 of Waikato River Clean-up Funds allocated.

While the Authority has been established with a 30-year life span, the task of restoring and protecting the rivers is likely to take considerably longer. With this in mind the Authority has begun the creation of a long-term river restoration investment fund that will be

able to provide for river clean-up and wellbeing initiatives in perpetuity, at the end of the Crown's 30 year funding commitment. Currently the investment fund stands at \$47 million.

Acknowledgements

As we present this five-year report we wish to acknowledge the help and support that has been provided to the Waikato River Authority as it has become established. The commitment from current and previous Authority board members (including the Waikato River Guardians Establishment Committee), the support from the Hon Dr Nick Smith (Minister for the Environment), the Ministry for the Environment and the special relationship with the Waikato Regional Council have all contributed to positive progress.

We also recognise at this time that the undertaking to restore and protect the Waikato and Waipa rivers is considerable and there is much more to be done before we can swim in the rivers and have food gathered from their entirety.

Teena koutou, teena koutou, teena koutou kataoa.



Tukoroirangi Morgan
Co-Chair



Hon John Luxton
Co-Chair

Key facts

2011-2014

\$ 22.4m

*of Authority funding across
137 projects in four years*



1.1m

native trees and shrubs planted



85.2km

of waterways fenced



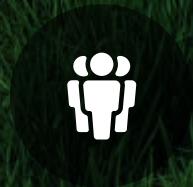
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*commissioners appointed by the
WRA to resource consent hearings*



\$ 10m

*funding for iwi and iwi partnership
projects in first four years*



\$ 1.42

*of project co-funding and in-kind
support for every \$1 of Waikato
River Authority funding*



Waikato River Authority

**Tooku awa koiora me oona pikonga
he kura tangihia o te maataamuri.**

**The river of life, each curve
more *beautiful* than the last.**

These words form part of the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River and are taken from the lament by Kiingii Taawhiao, the second Maaori King, in which he recorded his adoration for the Waikato River and the significance of the river as a treasure for all generations. These visionary words inspire the actions that will be necessary to restore the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

Since the first European settlers arrived in the Waikato region more than 150 years ago, and for Maaori before them, the Waikato River has played a central role in the economic and social wellbeing of the wider community.

Through the decades, and especially around the mid 20th century, the Waikato River became increasingly degraded. Industrial waste, sewage and farming run-off have all taken their toll on the wellbeing of the river.

While there have been improvements in recent years there is still much to be done.

Background

The Waikato River Authority was established in 2010 as the custodian of Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato (the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River). The Authority is also the body responsible for overseeing the implementation of the clean-up of the river as the sole trustee of the Waikato River Clean-up Trust.

The Vision and Strategy was developed and published in 2008 under the watch and direction of the Guardians Establishment Committee. Consultative hui, public open days and meetings with stakeholders with an interest and connection with the Waikato River were held. In addition, submissions were called for and received which guided the formation of the Vision and Strategy.

The Vision and Strategy is consistent with the overarching purpose of the settlement between Waikato-Tainui and the Crown to restore and protect the wellbeing of the Waikato River. The Vision and Strategy incorporates the objectives provided by Waikato-Tainui as set out in the Agreement in Principle, and other objectives that reflect the interests of Waikato River iwi, and all New Zealanders.

Complexity of the Catchment

The Waikato River is New Zealand's longest river at 442 kilometres and represents about a fifth of all water from the main North Island rivers. It encompasses a catchment of 11-thousand square kilometres. Along the course of the Waikato River it encounters geothermal fields and power stations. There are eight hydro-electric power stations creating a series of dams and reservoirs along what were formerly steep and turbulent sections of the river.

There are complex habitats associated with wetlands and lakes along the lower river floodplain. These areas provide a habitat for a range of species, including many native species that are considered threatened. The Whangamarino wetland and areas below Rangiriri, including islands and channels of the Waikato River delta are considered of international significance.

The Waikato River has over the centuries been a source of food, transport and economic benefit. The economic importance has increased through the decades with water supply to towns and cities, to agricultural production and electricity generation.

Today the Waikato River runs through the biggest export region in the country with increasing demands on its water. The Waikato River is of immense spiritual and cultural significance to tangata whenua that have lived along its shores for many centuries.



2007

Agreement in principle on Waikato River claim

Crown and Waikato-Tainui reach an Agreement in Principle regarding the outstanding claim to the Waikato River. This agreement included the formation of the Guardians Establishment Committee to develop a Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River.

2010

Enabling legislation for Waikato River Authority

Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 and the Ngaati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010 passed into law as enabling legislation for the Waikato River Authority.

2010

Establishment of Clean-up Trust and Authority

Waikato River Authority and Waikato River Clean-up Trust established.

2012

Maniapoto included in Vision and Strategy

Ngaai Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012 is passed into legislation extending the boundaries for the Vision and Strategy to include all of the Waipa River.

2015

Five Year Report to Crown and river iwi

Waikato River Authority prepares first Five Year Report to Crown and river iwi.

Preparation of the first whole of catchment Report Card for the Waikato and Waipa rivers.

Five Year Report:

The Waikato River Authority is required, as part of its enabling legislation, to report at least every five years to the Crown, Waikato-Tainui and the other appointers (the other river iwi Tuwharetoa, Te Arawa, Raukawa and Maniapoto).

The Authority is required to report on:

- The carrying out, effectiveness and achievement of its principal function;
- The implementation, effectiveness and achievement of the Vision and Strategy;
- The implementation, effectiveness and achievement of the clean-up initiatives funded by the Waikato River Clean-up Trust;
- This Five Year Report covers the period of 25 November 2010 through to 25 November 2015.

The Board of the Waikato River Authority:

The Board of the Waikato River Authority consists of ten members being made up of five Crown appointees and five iwi appointees (from the five Waikato River iwi).

The co-governance arrangement focuses on the primary purpose of the Authority being to:

- Set the primary direction, through the Vision and Strategy, to achieve the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for future generations;
- Promote the integrated, holistic and co-ordinated approach to the implementation of the Vision and Strategy and the management of the Waikato River; and
- Fund rehabilitation initiatives for the Waikato River in its role as trustee for the Waikato River Clean-up Trust.

In addition the Board oversees:

- The function and activities of the Waikato River Authority;
- The function and activities of the Waikato River Clean-up Trust, including the distribution of clean-up funds;
- The monitoring of the finances of the Authority and the Clean-up Trust;
- The creation of the long-term endowment fund to enable clean-up funding post 2040 (when Crown funding ceases).



Tukoroirangi Morgan
Iwi Appointee – Waikato Tainui
Co-Chair



Hon John Luxton
Crown Appointee
Co-Chair



Traci Houpapa
Crown Appointee



Weo Maag
Iwi Appointee – Maniapoto



Peter Buckley
Crown Appointee



Heemi Biddle
Iwi Appointee – Tuwharetoa



Vanessa Eparaima
Iwi Appointee – Raukawa



Alan Livingston
Crown Appointee



Roger Pikia
Iwi Appointee – Te Arawa
Deputy Co-Chair/Chair
Investment Committee



Jenni Vernon
Crown Appointee
Deputy Co-Chair

Funded Projects

2011-2015





Koura (Freshwater Crayfish)
PARANEPHROPS PLANIFRONS

Building Awareness, Reputation & Leadership

A key task for the Waikato River Authority in its first five years has been to build awareness of the organisation and the role it has in ensuring a cleaner Waikato River for the future.

In the first instance this has been achieved by adopting an approach of multi channel communication. Face-to-face presentations explaining the purpose and goals of the Authority have been key, and undertaken regularly by Board members and the Chief Executive. The Authority has also undertaken communication through its website waikatoriver.org.nz and its quarterly newsletter Maunga ki Tai. News media management has also been an important way to build understanding with the wider public about the role of the Waikato River Authority.

The Authority has endeavored to build its reputation as an organisation that is collaborative and approachable. The enormity of the clean-up task means that it can only be achieved through partnerships.

Although the Authority is not required directly in its establishing legislation to carry out a wider leadership role, the extent to which this has happened has been

highly beneficial. The special position of the co-governance arrangement combined with the independent nature of the Authority has encouraged other organisations to look to the Waikato River Authority to help broker positive working relationships for the betterment of the Waikato and Waipa rivers.

An example of its leadership role in action was the formation of the Waikato River Restoration Forum. The Forum is a group comprised of industry, iwi, central and local government and all with strong interest in seeing the Waikato region prosper. The Forum is a tangible way to provide greater collaboration and effectiveness in cleaning up both the Waikato and Waipa rivers. The Forum allows a more cohesive approach to funding initiatives and has an overview of the Five to Fifteen year Waikato and Waipa River Restoration Strategy, which is a joint undertaking by DairyNZ, the Waikato Regional Council and the Authority.

Waikato Regional Council's close working relationship with the Waikato River Authority has evolved over the past five years to a true partnership based on our shared kaupapa: the achievement of the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato and Waipa rivers. We have developed together a strategic approach for harnessing collective effort to improve the rivers' health. It is an approach aligned closely with the joint council and iwi Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai project which is also working to protect and restore the Waikato and Waipa rivers.

Kia kaha ki tēnei kaupapa!

Paula Southgate
Chairperson, Waikato Regional Council



FARMER

GOING WITH THE FLOW

In just a few minutes, we will be involved in...

Applications for river projects total \$17.2m

The Waikato River Authority has received 82 applications to fund river cleanup projects, totaling \$17.2 million in the first funding round.

Applications for the authority's first funding round closed at the end of August. There is up to \$7 million available to protect the Waikato and Waipaoa rivers.

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NEWS

All in to protect our precious river

The Waikato Regional Council's regulations could be overridden by harder measures if the river isn't restored and enhanced, and it's not a one-man job. Jamie Small reports.



...the compliance costs of an average home built are less than \$20 to stop it from being water-logged.

a big winner

Direct effect on the lower Waikato River. The Waikato and Lower Waikato have been the authority's focus for the year.

Many seek clean river funds

The Waikato River Authority has received 82 applications to fund river cleanup projects totaling \$17.2 million in its first funding round.

Strong level of applications for river cleanup funding

The Waikato River Authority has received 82 applications to fund river cleanup projects totaling \$17.2 million in its first funding round.



River projects in Waikato River Authority's first funding round. Photo: Chris Hayward/STV NZ

River group put focus on problem area

While the new focus on the Waikato River Authority's first funding round, the focus is on the lower Waikato and Waipaoa rivers.

News

Attitudes shift over care for river

Waikato time.co.nz What you looked at... Takaka area after logging common household items...

An attitudes change among the men of Waikato River is the focus of the new funding round...



John Lusk, Chairman of Waikato River Authority



Tabor Morgan, Director of Waikato River Authority

"I think the team has spent a lot of time... who have expertise in the area... how do we deal with some of these issues?"

Succ... just k...

The partnership between the Waikato Regional Council and the Waikato River Authority amplifies the effectiveness of iwi, stakeholder and community efforts to achieve the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for future generations. Through this partnership we contribute the policy tools, the funding, expertise, relationships, networks and governance relationships to make enduring changes to the way we care for the Waikato River to enhance environmental, economic, cultural and community outcomes.

Kia kaha tonu tatou kia whakatinana nga wawata a nga tipuna.

Vaughan Payne
Chief Executive, Waikato Regional Council

As the industry body for dairy farmers, DairyNZ has been involved with the Waikato River Authority since its inception. We have been joint funders of a range of projects aimed at enhancing the water quality of the Waikato River. The quality of partnership we have been able to develop with the Authority is testimony to its strength as a leadership body. Our organisation has found the Authority to be professional, positive and focused on results – demonstrating a significant focus on building relationships that will deliver projects that make a difference. The Authority is an efficient and effective organisation. It has been very rewarding to work with them to realise the region's vision for the Waikato River.

Tim Mackle
Chief Executive, DairyNZ

Initially our neighbours thought it was impossible to restore health to the waterways and swamp that surround our area, but because of the backing and support of the Waikato River Authority they have seen a dead and stagnant stream revitalised into a vibrant flowing waterway with numerous spawning ponds and thousands of native plants replacing the infestation of willows and pampas. This has led to a number of neighbouring farmers undertaking similar projects.

Stu Muir
Waiuku dairy farmer

By partnering with the Waikato River Authority, the Trust has been able to grow and expand its range of educational and practical 'how to' guides and resources for river and wetland restoration, enable new partnerships with maaori landowners and iwi, and to continue to undertake hands on practical ecological restoration work in priority peat lakes within the wider Waikato River catchment.

Nick Edgar
CEO, NZ Landcare Trust

The Waikato River Authority has provided essential leadership in the long-term journey to restore the Waikato River. **Hamilton City Council** has worked closely with the Authority across a range of relationships to help achieve the Vision and Strategy.

The Authority has been a key stakeholder in the Hamilton City River Plan project and part of the core team in producing the plan.

The Council also appreciates the funding made available to the city annually to progress initiatives aligned with the Vision and Strategy.

Richard Briggs
CEO, Hamilton City Council

Genesis Energy has found the Waikato River Authority a supportive, pragmatic and effective partner. The Authority remains engaged and supportive to ensure success.

Together with the Authority and our partners, Genesis Energy looks forward to seeing further positive project outcomes to build on the restoration efforts of many and contribute to the health and wellbeing of the river.

Tim McKenzie
Manager (Thermal),
Genesis Energy Environmental

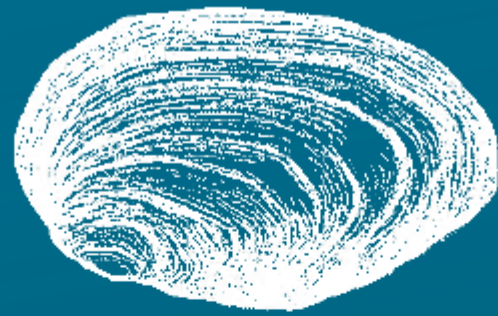
The **Waipa District Council** commends the Waikato River Authority for the progress it has made in the last five years. Through good governance and strong leadership it has been able to bring together a number of groups increasing focus around improving the Waikato and Waipa rivers.

We have found our relationship with the Authority to be highly constructive and has allowed us to progress significant wetland and peat lake projects that would otherwise have been difficult to fund. We have also engaged with the Authority on policy issues in relation to our proposed District Plan and have found their approach constructive, timely and helpful.

Jim Mylchreest
Mayor, Waipa District

The Waikato River Authority has responded to the Vision and Strategy by providing leadership, direction and support to stakeholders. The **Waikato District Council** in conjunction with other partners has been able to utilise funds from the Authority in order to advance the collective aims. The Authority has built strong relationships with a range of stakeholders. Through these relationships, collective action has been initiated to address the health of the river. The work of the Authority is progressing but is not complete; this is a long term project that requires consistent and long term direction and oversight. The Waikato River Authority provides the oversight and direction.

Gavin Ion
Chief Executive,
Waikato District Council



Kaeo (Freshwater Mussel)
ECHYRIDELLA MENZIESI

Waikato River Authority Evaluation of Effectiveness

Summary

THE PURPOSE OF THIS EVALUATION IS TO MEET THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY ("THE AUTHORITY"). THIS EVALUATION HAS TWO PARTS, BEING THE RESULTS OF MONITORING:

- the carrying out, effectiveness and achievement of the principal function of the Authority; and
- the implementation, effectiveness and achievement of the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River/Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato ('the Vision and Strategy')



Carrying Out, Effectiveness and Achievement of the Principal Function of the Authority

Carrying out the principal function

The function of the Authority is threefold:

- set the primary direction through the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River/ Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato ('the Vision and Strategy') to achieve the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for future generations;
- promote an integrated, holistic, and coordinated approach to the implementation of the Vision and Strategy and the management of the Waikato River;
- fund rehabilitation initiatives for the Waikato River in its role as trustee for the Waikato River Clean-up Trust.



The Authority is an independent co-governing organisation involving both the Crown and iwi focused on restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and its catchment for future generations.

The Authority's vision is: "for a future where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, and all it embraces, for generations to come."

The Authority represents a new approach to Crown and iwi relationships. It is the first of its kind in establishing co-governance for management of a water body. In contrast to the Waikato Regional Council, the Authority has a single focus – the health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipa Rivers and their tributaries.

The building blocks of the Authority have been well established in its first five years.

The Guardians Establishment Committee was the trailblazer for the work to be undertaken by the Authority. The Waikato River Independent Scoping Study (WRISS) was a foundation document providing an assessment of the health of the Waikato River and its catchment.

The Waikato River Clean Up Fund has been well established. Over the next 25 years the Authority will administer more than \$250 million in projects to help achieve a healthier Waikato River. In the past five years the Authority has allocated more than \$27m to 169 clean-up projects.

The Authority, at its creation, was faced with an enormous challenge – to reverse the degradation of the Waikato River that has occurred over the last 100-150 years, and make substantial progress in restoring the Waikato River within the next 25 years and to protect it from further degradation. Even at the end of that 25 years the job will not be finished. Management of our natural and physical resources has been, and will continue to be, a complex and contentious cross-sector, multigenerational issue.

Because of its small size the Authority needs to influence others, to undertake

initiatives to clean-up the river through its statutory powers and its funding of those with statutory responsibilities such as the Waikato Regional Council and industry responsibilities such as DairyNZ. In this regard, in early 2013 the Waikato Economic Impact Joint Venture was established. The primary project partners are the Ministry for Primary Industries and Ministry for the Environment, the Authority, Waikato Regional Council and DairyNZ. Similar collaborative processes have been formed with Waikato Regional Council's Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai ('Healthy Rivers Plan Change'). The Plan Change will help achieve reduction, over time, of sediment, bacteria and nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) entering water bodies (including groundwater) in the Waikato and Waipa River catchments.

There are a number of critical success factors that require improvement in the Authority's role to effectively lead the clean-up of the Waikato River. To meet this challenge the following is the current focus of the Authority:

- forge the way in this new era of co-management in respect of the Waikato River;
- continue good governance practices;
- advocate for the Vision and Strategy as the primary direction-setting document for the Waikato and Waipa rivers;
- ensure decisions are being made on the basis of sound evidence, through māutaranga Māori and with good science;
- promote the long term Vision and Strategy for river clean-up, through a collaborative approach and via others;

- effectively use the funding resource available to it, to target areas where the greatest leverage is achieved in cleaning up the river;
- align business planning and budgets to the above challenges to monitor and report on the achievements.

The Authority's challenge in the next five years relates to the increasing recognition that the Waikato and Waipa River catchment is coming under pressure from competing uses and in some critical areas it is approaching biophysical and usage limits for water quality and quantity. The ability to make marginal improvements has gone and a step change in response is required.

The recently established Waikato River and Waipa River Restoration Forum (which includes representatives from the Authority and the five Waikato River iwi, Department of Conservation, Fonterra, DairyNZ, Mighty River Power, Genesis Energy, territorial authorities in the region and the Waikato Regional Council) will have a significant role in achieving integrated restoration for the benefit of the river.

The first priority for the Forum is the preparation of a five-15 year Waikato River and Waipa River Restoration Strategy. This Strategy will guide all Forum members engaged in restoration activities to ensure the most appropriate, logical, coordinated, effective and efficient approach to restoration is adopted. The Strategy builds on the previous work of the WRISS.

Essentially the Strategy will ensure best return for resources. It will also help to co-ordinate a range of work to provide efficiencies where possible.



Effectiveness of the principle function

Our review identifies the changing environment to which the Authority needs to respond, and the challenge of managing increasing pressure on the Waikato and Waipa River catchment from competing uses, and the complex, cross-cutting and multi-generational nature of the issues.

Overall, the Authority is well placed after its first five years of operation. We endorse the Authority’s leadership mandate as spelled out in the Vision and Strategy. As a co-governance entity, the Authority has demonstrated that Crown/iwi post Treaty settlement arrangements can be successful.

The Authority is realistic in delivering on the Vision and Strategy for the river. Overall the Authority and the Board is well placed in ensuring its organisational planning, systems, structure and practices support the Vision and Strategy. Audit NZ reports highlight high compliance with the legislative requirements for the Board.

The key to the success of restoration will be to change people’s attitudes and behaviour. This requires a significant effort to engage with the community, industry, and local government. If people understand and support the objectives of restoration then it is more likely to be successful.

Understanding and support comes through ‘hands on’ involvement in restoration and protection and making greater use of the river, river banks, lakes, wetlands, etc. As such, the clean-up funding initiatives of the Authority are key to engineering restoration and protection.

The co-governance and co-management with iwi regarding the protection and enhancement of the Waikato and Waipa River has had the positive effect of iwi working alongside the local authorities and developing a healthy joint working relationship.

There is a growing acceptance that everyone needs to work together to promote the river’s health and therefore broadcasting what is happening now is important and will assist in gaining further buy-in. It will also help the Authority influence others. In this regard a particular area where the Authority needs to focus development is on monitoring of progress in achieving on the promise of the Vision and Strategy, and living up to expectations of the Authority. In this regard the five year review report will be the hallmark of first reporting of the Waikato and Waipa River Report Card – a project funded under the Clean-Up Fund. These Report Cards will measure the success of current and future restorative actions.

The Authority also needs to deliver on its promise of the Waikato River and Waipa River Restoration Strategy, which can only be led by the Authority. It must acknowledge its funding limitations and prioritise improvements according to what is required to underpin longer-term strategy. It must also provide leadership in setting priorities that all can agree upon. The Waikato River and Waipa River Restoration Strategy will also contain some significant implications for the Authority’s future business and delivery.





The implementation, effectiveness and achievement of the Vision and Strategy

The Vision and Strategy is the primary direction-setting document for the Waikato and Waipa rivers.

The Vision and Strategy must be 'given effect to' by regional and district plans within the rivers' catchments.

The Authority is responsible for promoting an integrated, holistic, and co-ordinated approach to the implementation of the Vision and Strategy and the management of the Waikato River.

The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River is an essential component of the Waikato Region's statutory planning framework. The weight that the document has been accorded is significant and is generally being interpreted as such. Whilst understanding and implementing the document has presented challenges to policy makers, there is in general, a positive approach being taken by local authorities towards the Vision and Strategy.

The Authority has monitored the progress of all policy developments by local authorities and promoted the Vision and Strategy where appropriate.

The Authority has chosen not to make formal submissions on planning documents but has rather chosen to engage in pre-consultation activities to ensure the Vision and Strategy is adequately reflected in the regional and district planning documents under the RMA.

The Authority has relied on the river iwi to express their views separately and has been there to support their actions. This early engagement approach has positive effects for both parties in being able to cut costs of consultation and appeals to the Environment Court because iwi are now involved formally at the beginning of the decision-making process through the presence of the Vision and Strategy.

There has been some observed inconsistent understanding of the direction sought by the Vision and Strategy by local authorities. The degree to which active change has been undertaken to review plans to "give effect" to the Vision and Strategy and not just ensure plans are "not inconsistent" with the Vision and Strategy is mixed.

The Authority has engaged with all local authorities within the Waikato catchment over the intent and implementation of



the Vision and Strategy. This has occurred under the guise of district and regional plan reviews led by those local authorities rather than through any private plan change process initiated by the Authority itself.

The most important milestone for the Vision and Strategy has been its adoption in the Proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement in its entirety. This went further than the requirements needed to “review the Waikato Regional Policy Statement to see whether it is consistent with the Vision and Strategy”.

A second important milestone for the Vision and Strategy occurred in October 2014 when the Environment Court released a significant decision affecting the interpretation of the Vision and Strategy. The Court in *Puke Coal Limited v Waikato District Council & Waikato Regional Council* [2014] NZEnvC 223 accepted/found that including the Vision and Strategy in the relevant regional and district plans has led to a stepwise change in the approach to consents affecting the catchment of the Waikato and Waipa River. The Court identified that it should not be “business-as-usual” where effects on the Waikato and Waipa River are concerned. Further degradation must be halted, and improvements must be achieved in the health and wellbeing of the river over time.

In short, the Court has signalled that if it

grants consent, this will only be on the basis that the applicant protects against any possible discharges to the relevant waterways to the fullest extent practicable, and in addition undertakes further works/ actions which will contribute to improving the quality of those waterways over time.

Significant implementation of the Vision and Strategy is required by the Waikato Regional Council. The Waikato Regional Council is required to assess whether its regional plan gives effect to the Vision and Strategy, and to initiate an amendment to the plan if it does not give effect to it. A full review of the Vision and Strategy has not yet been completed. A process to review the Waikato Regional Plan is one way of contributing to the achievement of the Vision and Strategy. The Healthy Rivers Plan Change is therefore the primary vehicle to achieve the objectives of the Vision and Strategy.

The Healthy Rivers Plan Change is about working with river iwi, the Authority and other key stakeholders to develop policy to help restore and protect the health of the Waikato and Waipa rivers. This project recognises that addressing water quality is a complex issue requiring strong collaboration with all those who have different tools available to develop and implement long term solutions.

Focus going forward

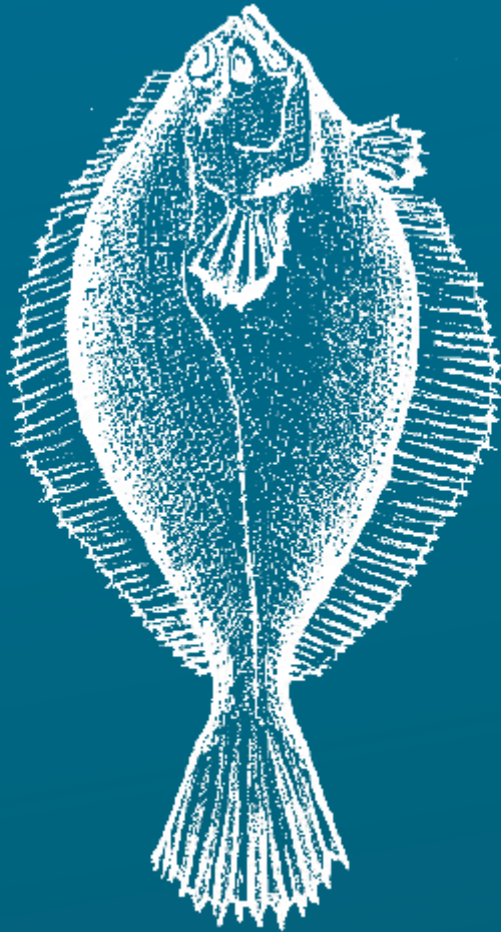
Our review highlights the focus of the Authority going forward should be:

- completion of the Waikato River and Waipa River Restoration Strategy;
- to review the Vision and Strategy after assessing the outcome of the Healthy Rivers Plan Change process;
- maintaining governance stability;
- a new mix of clean-up funding that contains both targeted requests for tenders and the general call for applications as currently occurs;
- identifying future sources of funding for clean up from industry and local government above business-as-usual, by continuing the approach to strategy led funding initiatives.

Significant achievements of the Authority

Significant achievements of the Authority in the first five years of operations include:

- adoption and annual review of a Funding Strategy for the Clean-Up Fund;
- allocation of more than \$27m to 169 clean-up projects in five funding rounds;
- a 97.5% success rate in achieving funding outcomes;
- creation and growth of a long term investment fund;
- review of the Vision and Strategy;
- a partnership agreement between the Authority and Waikato Regional Council ensuring a joint approach to restoring and protecting the Waikato and Waipa Rivers;
- inclusion of the Vision and Strategy within the Proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement;
- input into District Plan reviews;
- being part of Te Roopuu Hautuu (project steering group) for the Healthy Rivers Plan Change;
- an integral participant in the Waikato Economic Joint Venture Project, where the Authority CE served as chair;
- review and change of Board members;
- implementation of a communication strategy to highlight the role of the Authority using multiple channels e.g. website, newsletters, speaking engagements and award sponsorship;
- establishing the Authority in a new premises at 21 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton, during 2013/14 to help define its own identity;
- supporting the Ballance Farm Environment Awards;
- formation of the Waikato River and Waipa River Restoration Forum;
- initiation of the Waikato River and Waipa River Restoration Strategy;
- undertaking this review of the work achieved since the Authority's establishment in late 2010;
- appointment of 15 commissioners to resource consent hearings in relation to:
 - water takes
 - roading projects
 - river bed structures
 - coal mining
 - landfill.



Patiki (Black flounder)
RHOMBOSOLEA RETIARIA

Cleaning up the river

The effectiveness of the Waikato River Clean-up Trust through its Clean-up Fund is key to the future health and wellbeing of the river.

As the sole beneficiary of the Trust, each year the Authority undertakes a single funding application process as required under Section 22 (2) c of the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010.

The Process

This process is designed to be consistent and transparent, and ensure those projects that best support the achievement of the objectives of the Vision and Strategy are successful and receive funding. Prior to the funding round opening, the Trust, through the Authority, publishes an annual Funding Strategy. This strategy outlines the priority areas for funding identified by the Authority and the criteria against which applications

will be evaluated. Priorities are identified based on the funding from the previous year, feedback from river iwi, the Authority, and the Ministry for the Environment, the consideration of technical information (including the WRISS), and the state of any current restoration plans.

Applications are evaluated by an independent panel. The panel is convened and managed by the Authority but operates independently in making its recommendations. This panel is made up of four people who are selected to bring experience across a range of fields including project management, biological systems, and environmental restoration, as well as an understanding of social and cultural issues and needs within the Waikato catchment. Panel members serve a maximum of three years.

Each application is evaluated by each panel member against

common criteria. The criteria consist of considerations of the objectives of the Vision and Strategy, the Funding Strategy, the WRISS, as well as project viability and risk, and value for money.

While the evaluation panel is carrying out its work, the WRA provides details of those projects occurring within each river iwi's rohe to the river iwi. They are asked to confirm:

- i) the manner, and the extent to which an application is based on the mauri of the river; and
- ii) whether, and if so the extent to which an application furthers an objective of an iwi environmental management plan.

River iwi provide appropriate commentary which is then available to inform the Board's thinking. This is a requirement of the Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012, but has been extended to the other four river iwi as it is believed

Other funding achievements

2011

- Eight hundred sustainable milk plans for dairy farms were delivered
- Car wrecks were removed from the upper river
- Two iwi environmental plans and a fisheries plan were funded
- A koi carp trap and digester was established
- Open access to 15 kilometres of waterways was created through cycle trails
- A Maori science learning hub was developed at the Waikato-Tainui Endowed College
- A bilingual guide for river restoration was produced.

2012

- Wilding pine control of 850 hectares of highly erodible river was undertaken
- Work began on development of whole of catchment Waikato River Report Card
- One iwi environmental plan and one fisheries plan were funded
- The 20 year catchment plan for the Waipa was developed
- 130 kilometres of potential adult whitebait habitat for priority work in the lower catchment was identified
- Twenty plant growing units at schools through the catchment were established
- Access opened to a further five kilometres of river through cycle way creation.

doing so adds value to the decision making process of the Board.

The Board, having received the recommendations of the panel, makes its decision on which projects will be funded, to what level, and with what conditions (if any) attached to the funding. Deeds of Funding are then entered into between the Authority and the successful applicant. These set out the conditions of funding, including planned milestones, deliverables, and payments. Projects are monitored over the course of their lifetime by the Authority, including site visits, reviews of reports, or other such reviews as are appropriate to the project.

A final review is undertaken before the final payment is made for each project. Payments are made in two ways:

- Projects receiving less than \$50,000 in Authority funding are paid in advance, generally 60-80% as an

up front payment, with the remainder paid on successful completion of the project.

- Projects receiving more than \$50,000 are paid in arrears, upon completion of milestones. Evidence of milestones being completed is required.

A project portal allows the projects to report, share information, provide invoices and apply for modifications to their project electronically. This process provides an efficient means to monitor project delivery and record payments.

Each year a small number of projects are selected for independent audit. Independent auditors are also brought in if serious concerns are noted with regard to the delivery or management of a project.

Outcomes

In the first four years of projects funded through

the Authority, 189.4 hectares of land area was the focus of clean-up projects. The work undertaken on this land area included pest plant eradication and riparian planting.

A total of 1.1 million native plants and trees were planted in association with 137 projects from years one to four.

Fencing of restoration planting and wetland creation in the first four years amounted to 85.2 kilometres. The Authority has a fencing standards policy to guide project managers.

In the first four years of funding \$22.4 million was granted to clean-up projects. For every dollar allocated, an additional \$1.42 of co-funding or in-kind support was matched from other funding sources.

2013

- Multi agency tuna restoration project for the lower Waikato River gets underway
- Restoration of whitebait spawning habitat on the Mangati Stream carried out
- One further iwi environmental plan and one fisheries plan funded
- Guide for willow and alder management produced
- Pest plant clearance over an area of 152 hectares carried out
- Restoration of wetland within Otorohanga township leading to the Waipa River
- Pest fish reduction and riparian planting carried out at Lake Ngaroto

2014

- Twelve kilometres of river bank pest plant clearance carried out
- Sustainable milk plans for a further 845 dairy farms jointly funded
- Funding allocated for a comprehensive restoration strategy masterplan for the Waikato and Waipa rivers funded
- Twenty-nine hectares of wetlands created
- Restoration of Eastern Whangamarino wetland carried out
- Restoration and planting of a major wetland complex bordering the Waipa River at Te Pahu carried out.

An iwi direction

A key outcome for the Waikato River Authority in its first five years has been to partner with river iwi as they individually establish environmental blue-prints for the future. These Environmental Management Plans and Fisheries Plans not only set an iwi direction but provide overarching master plans for others working within iwi boundaries.

The Waikato River Authority has funded eight planning projects of this nature to date with a combined investment of nearly \$1.3 million. In recent times three river iwi Environmental Management Plans have been in the spotlight with Raukawa Charitable Trust and Te Arawa River Iwi Trust completing plans while Waikato-Tainui has been recognised for its plan which was launched 2013.

The Waikato-Tainui plan – known as Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao – won the New Zealand Planning Institute Best Practice award for Excellence in Strategic Planning and Guidance.

“The Waikato-Tainui plan – known as Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao – won the New Zealand Planning Institute Best Practice award for Excellence in Strategic Planning and Guidance.”

Te Arawa River Iwi Trust has also completed its Fisheries Plan as has the Raukawa Charitable Trust. The Maniapoto Maori Trust Board has its Environmental Management Plan and Fisheries Plan in progress.

The Waikato River Authority gives special weight to the priorities in the iwi Environmental Management Plans when making funding decisions for clean-up projects. The Plans are also intended as tools to provide clear high-level guidance on iwi objectives and policies with regard to the environment for resource managers, resource users and activity operators, and those regulating such activities.

The funding of these plans has ensured that the river iwi perspective has been captured and documented at the beginning of the Waikato River Authority journey for a healthier and protected Waikato River.





^ Rahui Papa of Waikato-Tainui receives the Excellence in Strategic Planning and Guidance Award from Andrew Willis, Deputy Chair of the New Zealand Planning Institute.

Making a difference

in the lower catchment

The Muir family has been the 'poster child' for the Waikato River Authority for the work completed and the difference made in the lower Waikato River near Waiuku.

Stu Muir and wife Kim are dairy farmers bordering the Waikato River. They are successfully combining their dairy farming with on-going environmental improvement. Their children are the sixth generation of Muirs to be living and working on the same land. In the 40 years that Stu Muir can remember there have never been tui in the wetlands

between the farm and the river, but now they are back and nesting. There is also an increasing abundance of native fish life including fresh water mussels.

The Muirs have received funding for projects from every Authority funding round. In the first four years this totalled \$150,000 for projects related to whitebait habitat restoration. The fifth year saw a further \$79,000 in funding for two additional projects.

In the first four years, the Authority funding has allowed the Muirs to clear seven kilometres of streams, removing willow and pampas

that were choking water flow. They have also created 15 ponds in the wetland area and planted native grasses and other plants to improve the habitat for spawning whitebait. They have worked through an area of about 400 hectares of river reserve.

Stu Muir says the river current is moving again through this area of the wetland bringing with it spawning fish. Together with schools and conservation groups they have planted tens of thousands of plants to ensure the habitat is right for the whitebait and other native species. Part of the habitat improvement has seen about

Case study

Restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River

100 ferrets, weasels and stoats removed in the last 18 months. There are now hundreds of bait stations in place.

The Muirs are immensely proud of what they have been able to achieve in five years.

“When we started people thought we were crazy and that the job was too big to tackle. With the support of the Waikato River Authority we started small but we are now seeing a big improvement in the environment in the areas we’ve been working to restore,” he says.

As well as making a difference to the native flora and fauna, the Muirs have set an example

that others are following. Neighbouring farmers and local iwi and working together to take on more of the choked streams to bring life back to the river.

The Muirs efforts have also been seen beyond their local community. The tangible nature of their success has been featured in the national news media as an example of what can be achieved. This year has also seen their work featured in a television documentary on Country Calendar, helping to showcase the effectiveness of their work to an even wider audience.





Case study

Rotopiko Restoration

National Wetland Trust

School kids, farmers, retirees, businesses, polytech students, backpackers, community groups, and keen Waikato locals have put in over 800 hours of volunteer labour to restore one of New Zealand's best peat lake complexes.

The National Wetland Trust has been working with the community and agencies over the past three years to create a showcase site for wetland conservation at Rotopiko/Lake Serpentine at Ohaupo, between Hamilton and Te Awamutu. Over 300 people attended the project launch, which started with a blessing from local iwi representatives and included fun family events, guided walks, and educational workshops.

With substantial funding from the Waikato River Clean-up Trust, and additional contributions from the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Fund, Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund, Waipa District Council and Waikato Regional Council, the restoration is well advanced.

A unique associations of plants and animals can already be experienced and enjoyed by visitors, with planned species re-introductions and natural restoration expected to greatly enhance the value of the site over time. The site is a hidden gem in the heart of Waikato dairy country. It is a diverse area, with three 14,000-year old peat lakes, formed at the

end of the last glaciation, a magnificent kahikatea forest stand, natural lake margin plant communities, and considerable areas of replanted native vegetation. Native long-tailed bats, spotless crane, bittern, fernbirds and mudfish have all been confirmed at the site.

"Over 2300 native plants have been established, with another 2500 planned for 2015 and 2016."

A pest fence has been built around 10 hectares of the site and all of the larger pests have been eradicated, with only mice left to target. Over 2300 native plants have been established, with another 2500 planned for 2015 and 2016. Numerous weeds have been targeted, including substantial areas of willow, arum lily and blackberry removal and ongoing control of other weeds. Five small ponds have been constructed to increase wetland bird forage habitat and future breeding ponds for pateke. Works have also started on removing nutrient-enriched farmland soils from the former lake bed to restore native peat-forming

plant communities and protect East Lake from farmland run-off. Scientists are working with volunteers to monitor progress, with baseline studies undertaken on pest animals, native lizards, birdlife, bats and vegetation.

To improve the experience for volunteers and visitors, the Trust and Waipa District Council have worked together to build a safer access off the highway and gravel parking area, installed an eco-friendly toilet, and built walking tracks and seating, with more planned.

Already visitors at Rotopiko can:

- picnic overlooking the lake in a spacious grassland;
- explore a forest of Jurassic giants (ancient kahikatea trees);
- see rare giant cane rush and look for the elusive 'Fred the Thread' caterpillar;
- stroll around a natural peat lake on newly constructed boardwalks;
- read a series of interpretation boards to learn about various wetland types;
- look for signs of increasing birdlife within the pest-free sanctuary.

Future plans of the National Wetland Trust are to build a state-of-the-art interpretation centre, with research and educational facilities, wetland gardens, heritage trails and a pest-free wildlife haven



"Scientists are working with volunteers to monitor progress, with baseline studies undertaken on pest animals, native lizards, birdlife, bats and vegetation."

teeming with rare species like North Island fernbird, spotless crake, Australasian bittern, native geckos and long-tailed bats. They are also teaming up with the NZ Landcare Trust to expand the pest control to the wider catchment, increasing the area of wetland with no or low pest numbers to around 40 hectares.

The grant from the Waikato River Clean-up Trust has kicked off a project of national significance which is capturing the imagination and support of the Waikato community.

Upper Waikato

Sustainable Milk Project

Over the past three years, dairy farmers in the Upper Waikato have been accelerating the adoption of environmental good practice that over time will improve the health of the Waikato River.

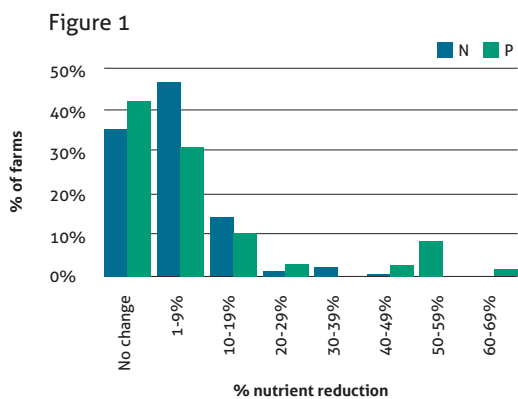


Figure 1: Estimated mean % reductions in individual farm N and P losses should all actions across all 643 SMP farms be completed.

This has been made possible through the implementation of the Upper Waikato Sustainable Milk project, which received major funding from the Waikato River Authority (\$685,000). There was additional funding by DairyNZ and the Ministry for Primary Industries, through the Transforming the Dairy Value Chain Primary Growth Partnership, making the DairyNZ-led project the largest environmental good-practice catchment plan ever undertaken by the dairy industry.

The project has allowed one-on-one advice and support to be delivered to 645 farmers in the Upper Waikato catchment via the development of a DairyNZ Sustainable Milk Plan (SMP). This method succeeds because actions are customised to the farm and the farmer can see how it will work for their own individual situation.

More than 5,900 voluntary specific actions are now being implemented and funded by farmers. Many of the actions exceed what is required under the Water Accord or by their milk supply companies.

This reflects an average of nine actions per farm distributed across the five management target areas (effluent, waterways, nutrients, land and water use). The majority of actions remain focused on nutrient management (31%), effluent management (29%) and water use management (17%). Land management

represents 12% and waterways management 10% of all recorded actions.

The actions include:

- improving fertilizer application and storage practices;
- committing to riparian management actions over and above the requirements of the Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord;
- actions to better manage current and future effluent storage;
- improving water use efficiency on the farm;
- reducing nitrogen leaching.

Over time, these collective actions by farmers in the Upper Waikato will demonstrably reduce dairy farm-sourced nutrients, sediments and faecal contaminants going into the Waikato River, and will improve water use efficiency on farms.

Results to date suggest that nitrogen loss to waterways would reduce by at least 8 percent and phosphorus leaching by 16 percent once all these actions have been completed. (Figure 1).

Reductions were estimated based on a combination of Overseer modelling and expert judgement, derived from existing scientific research. No change represents incomplete actions or farms with actions which did not have a direct impact on N or P load reduction, although will have indirect

benefits for improvement in environmental performance.

DairyNZ catchment engagement manager Adrian Brocksopp says the project has been successful as SMPs are not about telling farmers what to do, but about helping them identify risks and find practical solutions.

Environment Policy Manager for DairyNZ, Dr Mike Scarsbrook says the Upper Waikato Sustainable Milk Plan project

“A key benefit for farmers will be accurate and reliable data on how their farm is doing, so they can use that information to make decisions now and in the future,” says Adrian.

was given national recognition as a good example of farmers caring for water when it was named a finalist in the Ministry for Environment and Department of Conservation’s Green Ribbon Awards for 2015.

“Farmers are increasing their understanding of the environmental effects of farming activities, at the same time as setting out specific actions for improving performance,” says Mike.

The success of the project has led to the latest rollout of the SMP process to support farmers in the Waipa catchment. Having conversations with farmers about their farms helps set out a plan that farmers can see will work for their farms, for the local environment and ultimately the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.



A Plan

for the Waipa catchment

A key planning project for the Waikato River Authority in the last five years has been to provide funding to advance the preparation of the Waipa Catchment Plan. This now completed Plan provides 20-year goals for the catchment, outlines strategies to achieve the goals, and contains actions that are primarily focused on catchment priorities.

Case study



The Waipa Catchment Plan provides an important input into Waikato River Authority's Funding Strategy and a template for the whole of catchment Five to Fifteen year Waikato and Waipa River Restoration Strategy.

Ngaruawahia is of particular focus for the Waikato River Authority, being the most degraded part of the Waikato River. It will not be possible to see a tangible improvement in the lower Waikato without first improving the Waipa. The Waipa River's major issue is poor clarity caused by sediment, and the Waipa is the biggest contributor of sediment to the Waikato River.

"In 2012 the Waikato River Authority contributed \$100,000 of funding to advance the work by the Waikato Regional Council in developing the Waipa Catchment Plan. The Plan was completed in 2014."

The Waipa Catchment Plan is being implemented in partnership with Waipa and Waikato river iwi and catchment stakeholders, and will actively involve the wider community.

In 2012 the Waikato River Authority contributed \$100,000 of funding to advance the work by the Waikato Regional Council in developing the Waipa Catchment Plan. The Plan was completed in 2014.

The Plan contributes directly to the implementation of Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato (the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River) and the Healthy Rivers Plan Change currently under development. The Plan provides a roadmap for the protection and restoration of the Waipa River, ensuring its health and wellbeing, and in turn contributing to a healthier Waikato River below Ngaruawahia. The improvement of the Waikato River below



The goals for the Waipa Catchment Plan are:



- > LAND USE IN THE WAIPA CATCHMENT MATCHES CAPABILITY AND SOILS ARE STABLE AND PRODUCTIVE WITH EROSION AND ASSOCIATED SEDIMENT REDUCED
- > WATER IS A SWIMMABLE QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE CATCHMENT AND WATER IS VISIBLY CLEARER WHERE IT ENTERS THE WAIKATO RIVER AT NGARUAWAHIA
- > ECOLOGICAL HEALTH IS MEASURED, MAINTAINED AND ENHANCED
- > PEOPLE, PROPERTY AND INFRASTRUCTURE ARE PROTECTED FROM FLOODS
- > CO-MANAGEMENT PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WORK COLLABORATIVELY TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE USE AND HEALTH OF THE WAIPA CATCHMENT'S LAND AND WATER
- > CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT ACKNOWLEDGES TANGATA WHENUA AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASPIRATIONS
- > PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES ARE ACTIVE IN THE RESTORATION OF THE WAIPA CATCHMENT AS A PLACE TO WORK, LIVE AND PLAY.

Funding

Recipients 2015

Name	Approved maximum	Project
Waikato Regional Council	\$32,640.00	Mangapu River Riparian Restoration – Te Uira A2
Lower Mangapiko Stream Care Group	\$43,755.00	Lower Mangapiko Stream restoration 2016
Tauhei Marae	\$100,000.00	Mangatea Catchment Restoration Project
Waikato District Council	\$448,120.00	Lake Rotokauri Restoration
Waikato Regional Council	\$344,932.27	Mangaotama Wetland Restoration
Te Awa River Ride Charitable Trust	\$200,000.00	Te Awa River Ride – Avantidrome to Mystery Creek section
Waikato Regional Council	\$85,185.00	Lake Otamatearoa and Parkinson's Lake restoration
Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa Trust	\$64,677.00	Enhancement of Ngā Awa Pūrua Block on the Waikato River Margins – Stage 2
Waikato Rivercare	\$172,759.75	Mangawara oxbow wetlands
Ngati Haua Mahi Trust	\$203,000.00	Karapiro Catchment – Riparian Planting Project
Landcorp Farming Ltd	\$38,760.61	Te Kopia Road Swamp Restoration
Waipa District Council	\$37,267.50	Constructed Treatment System on Eastern Lake Ngaroto drain inflows
Landowner – Lance Kerr	\$77,336.00	Lake Rotongaro riparian restoration
Waikato Regional Council	\$34,650.00	Lake Waikare Northern Foreshore Enhancement
St Peters College	\$29,366.78	St Peters School Wetland Project with Ngati Haua Mahi Trust
Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa Runanga Trust	\$97,221.00	Te Awa o Waikato – Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa cultural history
Muir Family	\$49,000.00	Muir family whitebait habitat restoration project 2016
Waikato River Trails	\$205,000	Waikato River Trails Riparian restoration
Nikau Family Estate Trust	\$309,843	Stage 2 – Restoration of the Matahuru Wetland Lake Waikare
Maurea Marae Trust	\$38,421.00	Maurea Marae River Entrance Restoration and Access Enhancement Stage I
Waikato Regional Council	\$828,797.00	Waikato Waipa Restoration Strategy
Whaingaroa Harbour Care	\$211,080.20	Tunaekē Stream Riparian enhancement 2
Beef and Lamb NZ	\$170,300.00	Sheep and Beef Farmers – Working for the Waikato
Landowner – Sean Francis	\$18,337.00	Mangamingi Stream Restoration
Mangakotukutuku Stream Care Group Inc	\$41,400.00	Mangakotukutuku Stream Restoration (Rukuhia)

Name	Approved maximum	Project
Mangakotukutuku Stream Care Group Inc	\$115,000.00	Peacockes Riparian Restoration Project
Lewisridge Farms	\$80,000.00	Lewisridge Farms Riparian enhancement
Muir Family	\$30,000.00	Motu Kakaho Whitebait habitat Restoration Project
Indufor Asia Pacific	\$100,000.00	Waipa Catchment Afforestation Feasibility Study
Riverdale Group Ltd	\$358,714.50	Hooker Road Riverbank Restoration
University of Waikato	\$39,500.00	International Society for River Science hosting
St Peters College	\$50,563.82	St Peters School Riparian Planting Project with Ngati Haua Mahi Trust

Mangaotama Wetland Restoration

A major wetland restoration project will take place on the Mangaotama Wetland, located near Ngahinapouri in the Waipa catchment. The wetland is over 25 hectares and is home to rare species such as spotless crane and long-tailed bat. Restoration work will involve fencing, pest plant and animal removal and native planting.



Funding

Recipients 2014

Name	Approved maximum	Project
Kurt and Katharina Bucher	\$31,943.75	Totara Downs – wetland restoration
Auckland Waikato Fish and Game	\$172,500.00	Eastern Whangamarino wetland restoration
DairyNZ and Waikato Regional Council	\$230,000.00	Development of a 5-15 Year Waikato Catchment Restoration Strategy
DairyNZ Ltd	\$75,000.00	Wetland restoration with ongoing monitoring and reporting of on-farm nutrient attenuation outcomes
DairyNZ Ltd	\$1,000,000.00	Waipa Sustainable Milk Plan Delivery – supporting Waipa dairy farmers in reducing impacts on the catchment
Hamilton City Council	\$45,000.00	Support for private gully restoration activities within Hamilton City
JD & RD Wallace	\$31,092.00	Te Awakoura waterway restoration
Lincoln University/St Peters School	\$160,000.00	Supporting wetland restoration and waterway planting in conjunction with the St Peter's Dairy Farm Environmental Education & Monitoring Project
Lower Waikato River Enhancement Society Incorporated (Waikato RiverCare)	\$300,000.00	Waikato RiverCare – priority waterway and wetland restoration projects on the lower Waikato River and catchments
Mangakotukutuku Stream Care Group Incorporated	\$9,500.00	Riparian planting on the Mangakotukutuku Stream
Mangakotukutuku Stream Care Group Incorporated	\$10,000.00	Riparian planting at Resthills Park
Mangapiko Stream Care Group	\$57,328.00	Riparian planting along the Lower Mangapiko Stream
National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research	\$50,000.00	Educational aspects of demonstrating a culturally appropriate improved wastewater treatment alternative for use within the Waikato River catchment
National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd (NIWA)	\$200,000.00	Development of a catchment wetland inventory and methodology for determining the restoration potential of wetlands
New Zealand Farm Environment Trust	\$15,000.00	Incorporation of a Waikato Catchment Health and Well-being section within the Waikato Ballance Farm Environment Awards Programme
Ngati Haua Mahi Trust	\$100,000.00	Undertaking main stem riparian planting at St Peters school
Ngati Haua Mahi Trust	\$120,000.00	Maniapoto Pa Restoration project
Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa Runanga Trust	\$22,865.00	Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa Iwi Capacity Development
Nikau Family Estate Trust (NFET)	\$150,000.00	Restoration of the Matahuru Wetland Lake Waikare
NJ & LM Williams Dairy Farm	\$125,000.00	Maungatautari Wetland Restoration
Queen Elizabeth II National Trust	\$70,000.00	Undertaking protection and restoration activities within the catchment that feeds Lake Maratoto

Name	Approved maximum	Project
SMP Muir	\$49,000.00	Undertaking wetland restoration to improve whitebait spawning habitat in the lower catchment
South Waikato District Council	\$70,000.00	Wetland and riparian protection and restoration in the South Waikato District Council area
South Waikato District Council	\$49,500.00	Lake Moana nui wetland restoration
Sustainable Coastlines Charitable Trust	\$212,000.00	Wetland and riparian restoration at Waikareia Prison
Te Awa River Ride Charitable Trust	\$200,000.00	Planting associated with the Te Awa River Ride – Ngaruawahia to Horotiu Section
Turangawaewae Trust Board	\$297,756.00	Turangawaewae Marae Riverbank Restoration
Waikato Regional Council	\$90,650.00	Moakurarua River Restoration Project
Waikato Regional Council	\$111,320.00	Restoration of lake margin on southern arm of Lake Whangape
Waikato Regional Council	\$327,620.00	Waipā Rerenoa – Waipa River Restoration Project
Waikato Regional Council	\$132,663.00	Upper Mangatutu Stream Restoration
Waikato Regional Council	\$1,000,000.00	Implementation of Waipa Catchment Plan soil conservation schemes – WRC
Whaingaroa Harbour Care	\$550,000.00	Restoration and planting of a major wetland complex bordering the Waipa River at Te Pahu

Mangaktukutuku Stream Care

Members of the Mangakotukutuku Stream Group and their families were involved in a project to restore native mudfish to a specially created wetland area beside the Mangakotukutuku Stream at Sandford Park in Melville, Hamilton.



Funding

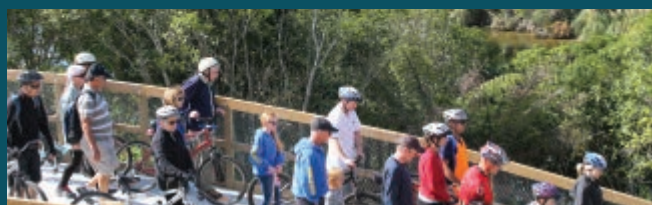
Recipients 2013

Name	Approved maximum	Project
Manaaki Tuna - restoration of tuna in the lower Waikato River (Waikato-Tainui College)	\$851,500.00	Waikato-Tainui College, NIWA and WRRT are funded to undertake a major tuna restoration project in the lower Waikato River catchment. A three-year project including development of a tuna restoration plan for the Waikato River, habitat restoration, eel transfers, and improvements in fish passage. Collating Waikato-Tainui maatauranga o te tuna.
Willow and alder management New Zealand Landcare Trust & WRRT	\$49,800.00	Development of a guideline for willow and alder management within the catchment, agreed across interested parties
Mangapu River restoration Waikato Regional Council & Maniapoto Maori Trust Board	\$49,800.00	Development of a guideline for willow and alder management within the catchment, agreed across interested parties.
Kaniwhaniwha Stream Waikato Regional Council & Nga Uri a Maahanga	\$46,428.00	Undertaking riparian restoration on the Mangapu River
Mangaonua Stream restoration Ngaati Hau Mahi Trust	\$48,877.00	Kaniwhaniwha Stream Riparian Restoration
Lower Mangapiko Stream Care	\$42,766.00	Mangapiko Stream Restoration – stock exclusion and riparian restoration
Maniapoto Stream Hillcrest, Ngaati Hau Mahi Trust	\$165,380.00	Mangaone Stream Riparian Restoration – plant pest removal and replanting
Wetland restoration Te Toke, Te Toke Ahu Whenua Trust	\$165,380.00	Mangaone Stream Riparian Restoration – plant pest removal and replanting
Provision of trees for planting South Waikato Environmental Initiatives	\$131,675.00	Restoration of a major wetland within the Te Toke Forest
Lower Waipa River riparian project, Whaingaroa Harbourcare	\$17,569.20	Provision of trees to supply riparian margin restorations in the South Waikato District
Evaluation of koura in hydro lakes NIWA	\$98,540.00	Strategic evaluation of koura populations in the upper Waikato – gaining an understanding of what impacts are causing much reduced koura populations in the hydro lakes
Maniapoto Fisheries Plan, Maniapoto Maori Trust Board	\$83,260.00	Development of the Maniapoto Fisheries Plan
Restoration from Willows, Opus International Consultants	\$49,300.00	Trialling restoration methods to move riparian vegetation from willows to indigenous plants using Western science and Maatauranga Maori.
Lake Ngaroto planting and pest fish removal, Waipa District Council	\$131,890.40	Lake Ngaroto -undertaking riparian planting & pest fish reduction programmes
GIS toolbox GHD Limited	\$71,760.00	Providing the WRA with a GIS Toolbox to allow evaluation of proposed and ongoing projects, and impacts on the catchment
Mangati Stream restoration, Stuart Muir	\$49,130.00	Restoration of inanga spawning habitat on the Mangati Stream, lower Waikato

Name	Approved maximum	Project
Te Awa River Ride and planting, Ngaruawahia south	\$160,383.95	Te Awa River ride enhancement through pest plant removal and replanting of a 1400m length of riparian area alongside the Te Awa River Ride at Ngaruawahia
Hamilton Gully Restoration, Hamilton City Council	\$50,000.00	Supporting restoration of Hamilton City streams and gullies through provision of eco-sourced plants, providing seminars and information to landowners, and promotion of restoration activities.
Cambridge Meadow Walk, Cambridge Tree Trust	\$15,000.00	Supporting the Cambridge Tree Trust in ongoing riverside planting activities at Cambridge
Kainui Wetland Restoration, 3 Way Charitable Trust	\$37,731.50	Kainui Wetlands Restoration – pest plant removal and replanting with native plant species
Cambridge linkage, Te Awa River Ride Charitable Trust	\$235,000.00	Riparian protection and planting aspects of the Te Awa River Ride – Cambridge section
Karapiro Gully restoration, Waipa DC & Ngaati Haua Mahi Trust	\$300,000.00	Fencing, pest plant removal and revegetation of the Karapiro Gully to reduce sedimentation loads to the Waikato River
Summary of restoration projects, New Zealand Landcare Trust	\$50,000.00	Capturing the extent of the restoration work being undertaken within the Waikato River catchment.
Wairere Stream enhancement – Maniapoto	\$115,000.00	Wairere Streams and Maniapoto Caves Enhancement – riparian and wetland protection and restoration associated with a site of cultural significance
Aka Aka inanga spawning, Toro Atu Charitable Trust	\$280,000.00	Inanga Spawning Habitat Restoration – through plant pest removal, recountouring and replanting in the lower Waikato River
Kimihia Stream and Lake, Solid Energy & Waahi Whaanui Trust	\$138,792.00	Kimihia Restoration Project – protection and replanting of Lake Kimihia
Lower Waikato peat lakes, Conservation Volunteers NZ	\$100,000.00	Healthy Habitats Waikato – Empowering Local Communities. Providing support for volunteer groups and individuals taking part in river restoration activities
Maniapoto Environmental Plan, Maniapoto Maori Trust Board	\$175,000.00	Undertaking a review of the Maniapoto Environmental Management Plan
Manaki Taiao: Vegetation management, Tainui Development Authority	\$1,200,000.00	A major riverbank clearance of exotic and pest plants between Huntly and Rangiriri Bridge. Together with the Kaneae Kakeriki Trust the project will initially see approximately six kilometres of riverbank cleared and replanted over two years.
Mangawara Stream Wetland, Landcare Research Ltd	\$200,000.00	Mangawara Stream Wetland & Riparian Project – protection and restoration of a wetland
River restoration and access at Otorohanga, Otorohanga District Council	\$100,000.00	Otorohanga Waterways and Streams – restoration of wetlands within Otorohanga.
Lake Waikare shore planting, Nikau Farm Estate Trust	\$68,800.00	Nikau Farm Estate Trust Riparian Project – fencing and planting of lake margin.
Lake Mangakaware improvement, Waipa District Council	\$41,400.00	Lake Mangakaware – Improving the quality of inflowing catchment water through the use of silt traps on major inflows

Te Awa River Ride

Te Awa River Ride has been funded over multiple years to improve public access to the river and carry out extensive riparian planting.



Funding

Recipients 2012

Name	Approved maximum	Project
NIWA-Waikato Raupatu River Trust	\$1,513,850.00	Restoration of whitebait habitat in the lower Waikato River. Comprehensive plan and overview of restoration work.
Te Awa River Ride Charitable Trust	\$350,000.00	Linking Community culture and ecology through active experiences and river access
Waikato River Trails Trust	\$350,000.00	Continuation of the River Enhancement and Community Awareness Project.
Whaingaroa Harbourcare Inc	\$170,881.00	Lower Waipa River & Tributaries – Riparian Planting
NIWA-Waikato Raupatu River Trust	\$331,525.00	Restoration of Waikato Islands – Maurea Islands
NIWA-Waikato Raupatu River Trust	\$323,730.00	Waikato River Restoration Report Cards and Monitoring tool
Ngaati Haua Mahi Trust	\$266,728.00	Mangaonua Stream (Gully System) Restoration Project 2013
Trees for Survival Trust	\$147,000.00	Education Project with local schools to grow and plant natives for riparian planting
Waikato Regional Council	\$100,000.00	20 year Waipa River Catchment Plan
Ngaati Tahu-Ngaati Whaoa Runanga Trust	\$100,000.00	Wilding Pine Control within Orakei Korako/Red Hills Tutukau Forest and Lower Mangatoetoe Stream
Department of Conservation	\$181,253.00	Restoration and enhancement of Lake Areare
Waipa District Council	\$138,500.00	Waipa River Margin Restoration
Solid Energy NZ Ltd & Waahi Whaanui Trust	\$95,000.00	Kimihia Restoration Project
Te Arawa River Iwi Trust	\$101,500.00	Fisheries Plan
Tauhara North No2 Trust	\$99,800.00	Puurua Reserve and the adjoining true right bank of the Waikato River – Aratiatia Taupo
Te Arawa River Iwi Trust	\$75,000.00	Environmental Management Plan
Lower Waikato River Enhancement Society Inc	\$65,970.00	Restore riparian ecosystems along lower Waikato River margins
Nga Uri a Maahanga	\$56,925.00	Reclamation and native revegetation around the urupa of Pehi Houkura

Name	Approved maximum	Project
Hamilton City Council	\$50,000.00	Natural areas streams restoration programme
Hamilton City Council	\$50,000.00	Gully Restoration Programme
Waikato District Council	\$49,999.00	Waikato and Waipa River riverbank Planting
Waahi Whaanui Trust	\$46,000.00	Yellow Flag Iris Eradication Project (Huntly – Rangiriri)
Waikato University	\$45,000.00	Oranga Lake Remediation & Education
Waahi Pa	\$44,250.00	Waahi Stream Riparian Enhancement
Stuart Muir	\$26,941.00	Restore and enhance habitat for inanga to spawn
He Kura ki Waikato Trust	\$25,220.00	Pest Plant Eradication and native revegetation
Lower Mangapiko Stream Care Group	\$23,863.00	Lower Mangapiko Stream Restoration, Pest Plant removal and Riparian planting
Cambridge Primary School	\$18,975.00	Cambridge Primary riverbank Project
Dairy NZ & Boffa Miskell	\$18,690.00	Riparian Planting – farmer outreach programme
Queen Elizabeth II National Trust	\$5,520.00	Harker Reserve Fencing Project



Mangapiko Farmer explains the clean-up story on his farm

Mangapiko Farmer Doug Smith explains the clean-up story on his farm at an open day to view progress. Thousands of native plants will be put in place on his property in the coming winter.

Funding

Recipients 2011

Name	Approved maximum	Project
DairyNZ Limited	\$685,000	Reduce nutrient loads, sedimentation and faecal microbe in the Upper Karapiro catchment by implementing auditable Environmental Management Plans
GHD Limited	\$32,000	To provide an interactive GIS web based tool to assist the WRA in overseeing water quality and ecological restoration initiatives
National Wetland Trust of New Zealand Inc	\$600,000	Promote Rotopiko/Lake Serpentine as a showcase site for visitors, education, training and research
NIWA	\$44,677	A project carried out by NIWA to research the number of koura present in the upper Waikato River.
NZ Landcare Trust	\$140,300	Community Catchment Restoration Action Plan for the Rotomanuka Lakes
Raukawa Charitable Trust	\$86,423	Stage Two. Produce an iwi fisheries plan for Area B of the Waikato River
Raukawa Charitable Trust	\$358,200	Raukawa Environment Management Plan
Solid Energy NZ & Waahi Whanui Trust	\$57,385	Kimihia Restoration Project – to restore riparian vegetation, long term outcome to increase adult whitebait
Te Arawa River Iwi Trust	\$98,426	Develop cultural framework based on Te Arawa River Iwi Matauranga which will be used to implement environmental restoration and management within Te Arawa River Iwi Trust tribal area
Te Awa River Ride Charitable Trust	\$150,000	Architecturally landscaped cycle trailway creating access to the river. Three year project
Kanae Kakariki Trust	\$300,000	Vegetation Management Plan – clearing exotic and invasive trees and plants on Waikato River bank
Tonkin Taylor & Mangakotukutuku Stream Care Group	\$140,300	Development of urban stream restoration demonstration sites in Hamilton City
Waikato Regional Council	\$85,000	Carp-N Neutral Pilot Project at Lake Waikare. The construction and delivery of a mobile digester to Lake Waikare. Supply to community groups for propagating native plants
Waikato River Care – Lower Waikato River Enhancement Society Inc	\$399,800	Restoration of riparian ecosystems at three sites along the margins of the Lower Waikato River
Waikato River Trails Trust	\$143,950	Further development of Waikato River trails in South Waikato together with riparian protection
Waikato-Tainui College for Research and Development	\$100,000	Collate Waikato-Tainui maatauranga Maaori and Science understandings of the Waikato River, develop into educational resources to be located on The Science Learning Hub website
Waikato-Tainui Te Kauhanganui	\$357,650	Develop Waikato-Tainui iwi management plan
Waikato-Tainui Te Kauhanganui, Waahi Whaanui Trust and Genesis Power	\$609,500	Holistic restoration of Lake Waahi, through pest control and riparian habitat enhancement

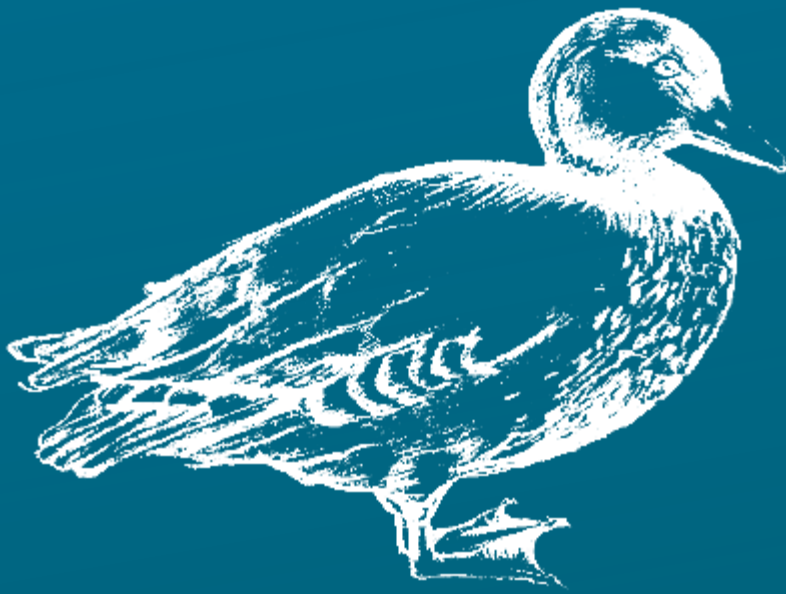
Name	Approved maximum	Project
Waipa District Council	\$120,000	Restoration of Lake Ngaroto and its environs
3 Way Charitable Trust & Taupiri Marae Committee	\$20,688	A small Taupiri Urupa River restoration project
3 Way Charitable Trust & Taupiri Marae Committee	\$32,646.20	A management plan for the restoration of awa
Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council	\$18,500	Restoration of whitebait habitat near Tuakau
Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council	\$48,500	Kopuku Wetland restoration at Whangamarino
Boffa Miskell Ltd	\$39,790	Provide a field tool for landowners to determine the most appropriate riparian species to plant to address issues specific to their watercourse
Cambridge Primary School	\$11,385	Turn an overgrown unusable piece of land into an outdoor classroom. Plant native area for students and community use
Cambridge Tree Trust	\$38,434	5 year plan to establish a Meadow Walk, with native plants and walkways. Aim to plant 10,000 plants over five years



Horotiu section of Te Awa River Ride opens

The Te Awa cycle path section south of the Horotiu Bridge. The recently completed section includes riverside picnic areas.

Name	Approved maximum	Project
Eel Enhancement Company Ltd	\$11,500	Assess the opportunity for quality eel production from Lake Waikare
Eel Enhancement Company Ltd	\$34,500	Assess the opportunity for increased quality eel production from Lake Whangape
Hamilton Fish & Game	\$18,750	Lake Koromatua restoration programme of waterway and reserve
Landcorp Farming Limited	\$8,625	Removal of car bodies from river
Mangakotukutuku Puna Koiora Trust	\$50,000	Extend the care of the Mangakotukutuku Stream with particular emphasis on maatauranga Maaori to restore and protect the indigenous biodiversity
New Zealand Farm Environment Trust	\$17,250	Creation of a WRA Award as part of the Waikato Balance Farm Environment Awards
Ngaa Muka Development Trust	\$36,535.55	Construct a water quality assessment tool based on maatauranga maaori and western science
Ngaati Haua Mahi Trust	\$49,678	Cultural mapping of Ngati Haua rohe – heritage places, sites and areas
NZ Landcare Trust	\$42,550	Produce a bi-lingual Waikato River Catchment Guide
Oruanui 9/10 Farm Block	\$39,900	Education and restoration of sustainable dairy farming practices on Oruanui 9/10 Farm Block
Raukawa Charitable Trust	\$32,631	Stage One. Development of a framework and template for a Raukawa Fisheries Plan in Area B of the Waikato River
Raukawa Charitable Trust	\$45,885	Demonstrate a measurable reduction in the farming footprint of the Te Raparahi Lands Trust by developing a sustainable farming system
Raukawa Charitable Trust	\$22,580	Restore and enhance two wetlands. One on Jack Henry Road in Area B, and the other Ongaroto Road wetland within the Raukawa rohe
SMP Muir Family Trust	\$10,810	Muir family restoration of whitebait habitat near Waiuku
Waipa District Council	\$28,175	Council assisted by iwi and community groups wish to make Matakītaki Pa site a showcase heritage site. Planting, wetland and Pa restoration, visitor access



Whio (blue duck)

HYMENOLAIMUS MALACORHYNCHOS

FEBRUARY 2016

REPORT CARD

THE WAIKATO RIVER AND WAIPA RIVER

Te Ture Whaimana

The Vision is for a future where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, and all it embraces, for generations to come.

The Waikato River Catchment Report Card

- Builds on the analysis in the Waikato River Independent Scoping Study
- Framework was guided by an advisory roopu comprising representatives from five Waikato River iwi. Waikato River iwi cultural values underpin the Report Card framework
- Is structured around eight taura (strands of a rope) that together capture aspirations of the Vision and Strategy (Te Ture Whaimana) for restoration of the health and wellbeing of the river and its people
- Each taura essentially equates to a high level or “mega-value set” such as kai that support cultural, recreational and commercial harvest. Each taura is then broken down into smaller strands or value sub-sets for example koura and tuna. Below this level are a number of indicators that in combination can be used to describe the state of each value sub-set
- This version of the Report Card has been populated using available information (e.g., regional council and scientific monitoring programmes) and the best professional judgement of personnel who have worked in the catchment for many years (including Waikato Regional Council, Fish & Game and NIWA)
- At the time of populating the Report Card, not all indicator information was available. The framework is flexible to incorporate the addition of this information in future versions of the Report Card
- Processes and underlying data that underpin the on-going development of the Report Card have been documented to allow deeper investigation and support future Report Card updates (anticipated to be five yearly).

About this Report Card

This Waikato River Authority Report Card summarises where we are on the journey towards meeting the aspirational objectives of the Vision and Strategy, Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato.

This Report Card was developed by NIWA, Diffuse Sources Ltd and the Waikato Raupatu River Trust.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

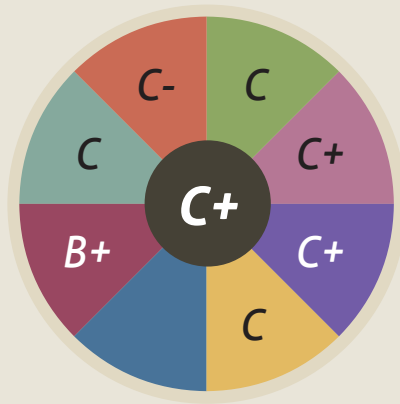
Information for the Report Card was obtained either directly or indirectly (e.g., from website information) from the following organisations: Waikato Regional Council, Waikato District Council, Waipa District Council, South Waikato District Council, Otorohanga District Council, Waitomo District Council, Taupo District Council, Hamilton City Council, Watercare, Fish and Game NZ, NIWA, DoC, Te Araroa Trail, Te Awa Trail, Waikato River Trails, and the Report Card Roopu involving representatives from Te Arawa, Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, Waikato-Tainui and Maniapoto.

We have endeavoured to use the information appropriately and take responsibility for the scores derived.

Report Cards are gaining popularity internationally as a communication tool because they:

- Use a simple familiar format
- Synthesise complex information into simple key messages for a broad audience
- Engage the community and provide accountability for environmental management and restoration actions

Overall grade



Taura/Indicators

Kai

Kai are healthy, and have a strong whakapapa, are safe to eat, locally abundant and can be harvested according to our traditional practices.

Effort

Communities, businesses and individuals are engaged in comprehensive contaminant control and rehabilitation to achieve the Vision and Strategy.

Water Security

Our land use practices and land development supports communities and taonga species having access to life sustaining supplies of water.

Water Quality

Land use and development practices support water bodies that have water that is safe to physically interact with.

Ecological Integrity

Aquatic life has access to healthy habitats protected from adverse effects due to land use and contaminants.

Experience

We have a flourishing and nurturing connection with the rivers and we are empowered to pursue and maintain our positive interaction.

Two additional taura were assessed at the whole catchment /regional scale only, due to lack of finer scale information. There was insufficient information to score Sites of Significance.

Sites Of Significance

Our sites of significance are forever recognised and celebrated as areas of historical and cultural importance and safe for us to interact with and support a healthy Awa.

Economy

Communities are prosperous, as shown by high levels of employment, housing affordability, gross domestic product and income equality.

A *Delivers in full on the Vision and Strategy aspirations for a healthy Waikato River.*

Excellent rating.

B *Delivers in part on the Vision and Strategy aspirations for a healthy Waikato River.*

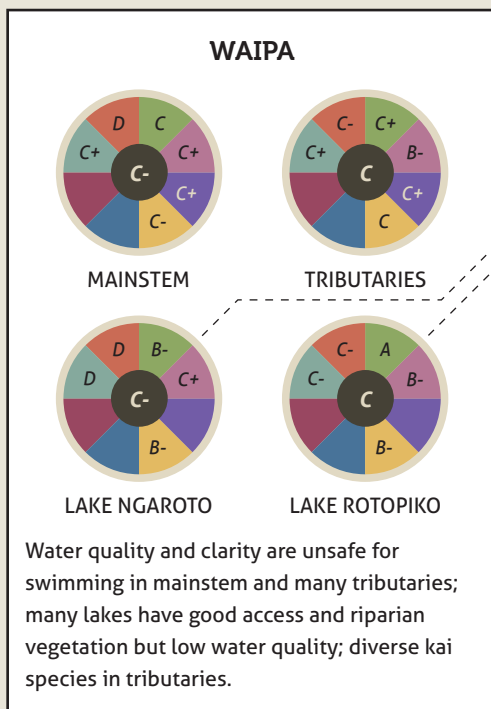
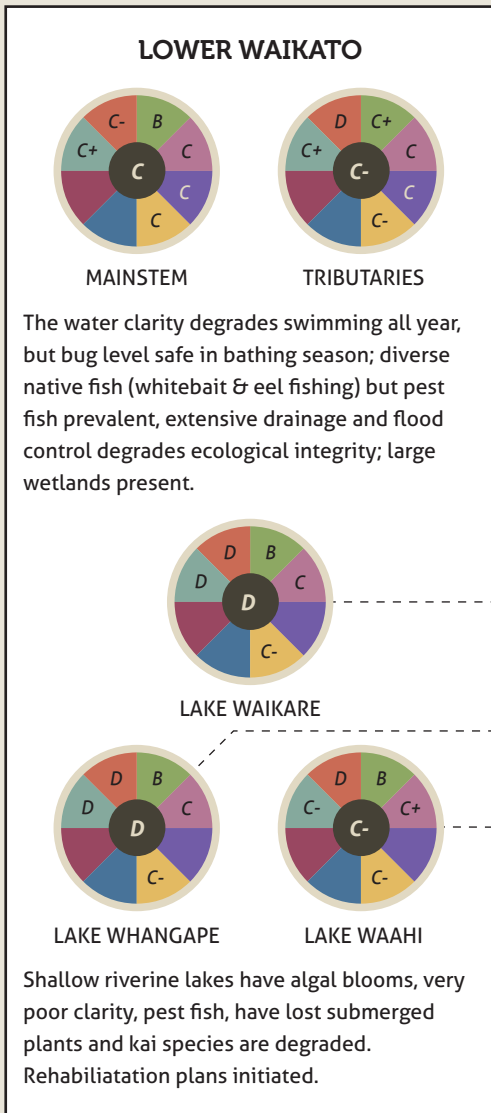
Good rating.

C *Delivers on only some of the Vision and Strategy aspirations for a healthy Waikato River.*

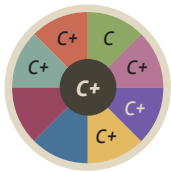
Low rating.

D *Does not deliver on the Vision and Strategy aspirations for a healthy Waikato River.*

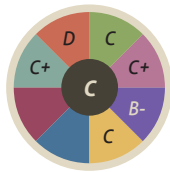
Poor rating.



MID WAIKATO

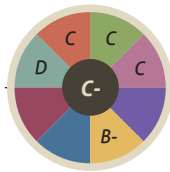


MAINSTEM



TRIBUTARIES

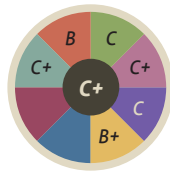
Water quality is safe for swimming only in the mainstem in bathing season; macroinvertebrate indicators reflect degraded conditions; good access and signage on mainstem and lake, efforts underway to improve fish passage.



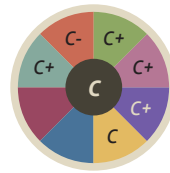
LAKE ROTOROA (HAMILTON)

Lake Rotoroa ecological integrity and water quality degraded.

OHAKURI TO KARAPIRO



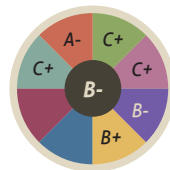
MAINSTEM



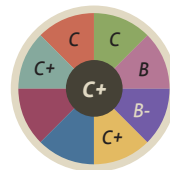
TRIBUTARIES

Water quality is safe for swimming in the mainstem but not most tributaries; six hydrolakes with good access support recreation; cumulative effects of farm inputs increasing; high degree of groundwater allocation; eels manually transferred from below Karapiro; high level of riparian fencing on dairy farms.

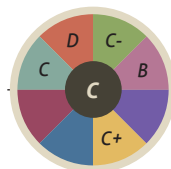
HUKA TO OHAKURI



MAINSTEM



TRIBUTARIES



LAKE NGAHEWA

Water quality is safe for swimming and good trout fishing; geothermal inputs have contaminated lake sediments and some tributaries; there are many high ecological quality streams but nutrients levels are poor; high level of riparian fencing on dairy farms; Ngahewa has degraded water quality.



* The upper Waikato River catchment grades are draft and subject to ongoing work between Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, Te Arawa River Iwi and the project team

Looking Forward

The most significant challenge for the Authority in next five years and beyond will be maintaining momentum. This challenge arises in two ways.

Firstly, as a result of public perception that the task of the Authority may not be achievable. It is crucial that partners and stakeholders believe we can be successful even though the task ahead is considerable. We know that some of the key contaminants to waterway health we seek to address have lengthy lag times measured over decades. Despite the multi-million dollar investment of the Authority, and other organisations, it seems likely that key indicators of waterway health and wellbeing will continue to decline. Keeping the river communities engaged and supportive of positive change to the health and wellbeing of the catchment's waterways will require understanding that the journey will be across many generations.

The second issue affecting momentum is capacity. Once projects move from a single property scale there are only a limited number of organisations within the catchment that can deliver larger projects. Once these organisations are funded to deliver a sizeable project our experience has been that they struggle to find the capacity to take on additional projects until the initial project is completed. Because larger projects tend to run over three years or more this effectively removes them from our applicant community.

The five to fifteen Year Waikato River and Waipa River Restoration Strategy will act as a game changer on a number of fronts. However, in relation to capacity it will identify specific medium and large-scale projects. To date as a funding organisation we have been largely dependent on the applicant community proposing worthwhile projects. The Restoration Strategy will allow the Authority to prioritise particular projects and almost in effect 'call for tenders' to deliver these projects. This could lead to an increase in

THE FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEAR
WAIKATO RIVER AND WAIPA
RIVER RESTORATION STRATEGY
WILL ACT AS A GAME CHANGER
ON A NUMBER OF FRONTS.

capacity with interest from the infrastructure contracting community, which to date have been absent from our funding rounds.

The Strategy will also lead to increased confidence that the limited funding dollar of the Authority is being spent where it will be most effective.

Of special significance is the release of the first whole of catchment Report Card for the Waikato and Waipa rivers. This document measures in a holistic way the health and wellbeing of these waterways. As the ultimate clean-up of the Waikato River is an inter-generational undertaking, this Report Card will serve as an enduring measure of our progress.

Perhaps the greatest progress we will see in the next five years and beyond will not be through the funding function of the Authority, but as a result of effect being given to the Vision and Strategy. In relation to the purpose of the Authority this will be significantly achieved by the Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai. The Authority, along with Waikato river iwi and many stakeholder organisations, has invested in the collaborative process to set targets and limits to restore and protect the Waikato catchment's

waterways. This process has a number of challenges but the Authority, itself a co-governed body, welcomes such a collaborative process to plan development rather than the traditional First Schedule RMA planning approach. It has to date enabled far greater information sharing, round table discussions, and understanding of different perspectives.

As a new statutory body we have been fortunate with the calibre of board appointees and the overall continuity of appointments. Within the next five years we anticipate this will continue and it is vital to our success that it does as the Five to Fifteen Year Restoration Strategy is completed and implemented, and the Healthy Rivers Plan for Change/Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai is notified and moves through the hearing process.

Equally important to the continuing success of the Authority will be the ongoing high quality of relationships developed by the Authority in its first five years. Principal among these relationships are our appointers, the Waikato Regional Council (ensuring our functions remain complementary), Hamilton City and district councils, industry, and funding

recipients. By working closely with one another, avoiding duplication while leveraging scarce resources and with a shared commitment to realising the vision for a restored and protected Waikato River catchment we will be successful.

Bob Penter
Chief Executive
Waikato River Authority

AS THE ULTIMATE CLEAN-UP OF THE WAIKATO RIVER IS AN INTERGENERATIONAL UNDERTAKING, THIS REPORT CARD WILL SERVE AS AN ENDURING MEASURE OF OUR PROGRESS.
