TE TINI A TUNA

BIANNUAL REPORTING DOCUMENT
AUGUST 2025 - JANUARY 2026

A plan of action prepared by Te Maru o Kaituna

Project	Lead Agency	Overall Status	Overall Progress
Project 1 - Lowland Drains and Drainage Canal Improvement	BOPRC	**Green**	25%
Project 2 – Freshwater Quality and Quantity Limits	BOPRC	**Amber**	70%
Project 3A, 3C – Consented Takes and Discharges	BOPRC	**Green**	100%
Project 3B – Consented Takes and Discharges	WBOPDC, RLC, TCC	**Green**	100%
Project 3D – Consented Takes and Discharges	TMoK	**Green**	10%
Project 4A – Focus Catchments	BOPRC	**Green**	45%
Project 4B – Focus Catchments	WBOPDC/TCC	**Amber**	10%
Project 5 – Farm Environmental Plans	BOPRC	**Amber**	10%
Project 6 – Post Kaituna River Rediversion Enhancement	BOPRC	**Green**	70%
Project 7 – Wetland Re-Creation	BOPRC	**Green**	100%
Project 8A – Kaituna Habitats Network	WBOPDC	**Green**	100%
Project 8A/8B – Kaituna Habitats Network	BOPRC	**Green**	100%
Project 8C – Kaituna Habitats Network	BOPRC	**Green**	10%
Project 8C – Kaituna Habitats Network	TMoK	**Green**	75%
Project 9 – Pataka Kai	TMoK	**Green**	80%
Project 10 – Kaituna Community Connection	TMoK	**Green**	70%
Project 11 – Kaituna River Access	WBOPDC	**Green**	55%
Project 12 – Kaituna Cycleway/Walkway	WBOPDC	**Amber**	10%
Project 13 – Kaituna Cultural and Historical Heritage	TMoK	**Amber**	0%
Project 14 – Upper Catchment 'Gateway'	RLC	**Green**	75%
Project 15 – Coastal Park Network	BOPRC	**Red**	0%
Project 16 – State of the Awa Integrated Monitoring and Reporting	BOPRC	**Amber**	10%
Project 17 – Kaituna Catchment Network Mapping	BOPRC, WBOPDC	**Green**	100%
Project 18 – River Restoration and Enhancement Fund	TMoK	**Red**	0%

Project 1 - Lowland Drains and Drainage Canal Improvement

Output - 1A Lowland Drains Rehabilitation Plan

Project Lead – Jackson Efford

Progress Update

- An additional 1.5km of lowland drain has been progressively restored in the Ohineangaanga catchment and 750m in the Kopuaroa catchment since the 2024/25 financial year.
- Best practice drains upgrade work completed on at least 13 properties since the inception of Environmental Programmes (EPs) in the lower Kaituna catchments from 2020.
- Approximately 19 km of drain upgrades in the lower Kaituna catchment has been completed with the intention for BOPRC and landowners to carry out more works into future.
- Monitoring continues on the paired drain experiment, with all battering, fencing, and planting now complete (to be compared/monitored against similar drains with no enhancements applied to determine effectiveness of the treatment). These will be monitored for at least five years. A total of 7.2km of fencing, 4km of drain restoration and 23,000 plants were undertaken to complete the project.
- 700 m best practice drain restoration planned in Parawhenuamea over 2025 winter.
- 1 km battering completed summer 2024/25 ready for fencing and planting winter 2025, lower Kaituna, Kaituna Road (Ford Road/Waitepuia sub-catchment).
- Current costs to restore drains to best practice standard remain at around $20,000-$40,000/km (includes re-battering drain, new fencing, and native planting). Opportunities exist to help reduce costs.
- Subject to what the Essential Freshwater Policy Programme delivers through Regional Plan Change 19, development of a Lowland Drains Strategy would be useful to help prioritise works areas and leverage LTP funding for works in future.

Best Practice Drain Restoration: has been an ongoing mitigation included in many environmental programmes, particularly in the lower Kaituna. Photos below highlight some before and after examples of restoration across multiple properties in the lower Kaituna Catchment.

Example of best practice drain restoration. Left) Taken 2021 soon after planting. Right) Taken August 2024.

Example of best practice drain restoration. Left) Taken 2021 soon after planting. Right) Taken August 2024.

Example of best practice drain restoration. Left) Taken 2021 soon after planting. Right) Taken August 2024.

Additional 2km best practice drain restoration in the lower Kaituna, planted winter 2024.

Project 1 - Lowland Drains and Drainage Canal Improvement

Output - 1B Ford Road Pump Stations Upgrade (relocation)

Project Lead – Kathy Thiel-Lardon (BOPRC)

Progress update

Stage 1 – Drainage improvement works *(complete)*
Stage One of the project focused on improving drainage in the area and was successfully completed in February 2025. Riparian maintenance and ecological enhancement planting are ongoing to ensure long-term environmental benefits.

Stage 2 – Detail design and construction of the new pump station *(Target completion: Mid-2027)*
Stage two involves the installing of a new pump station at the Diagonal Drain site adjacent to the existing pump station. The project includes the pump station, pipework, the discharge structure and associated works.

Additionally, further ecological enhancement planting along the Kaituna River downstream of the pump station will be undertaken on completion of the works.

Significant progress has been made on Stage 2:

- The pump manufacture is well progressed.
- Concession/Easements from DOC and LINZ have now been granted.
- Negotiation for land purchase and access easement with adjacent private landowner is being undertaken.
- A design and build contractor has been engaged, with final design expected to be completed by mid-February 2026.
- Site establishment is planned for late February 2026.
- An Environmental Management Plan will be prepared in line with the resource consent conditions.
- Cultural monitors have been invited to oversee works and ensure cultural values are respected.

Stage 3 – Decommissioning of the existing pump station *(Planned for 2030/31)*

The final stage of the project will involve the decommissioning and removal of the existing Ford Road Pump Station. This will occur once the new facility is fully operational and has demonstrated reliable performance.

Project 2 – Freshwater Quality and Quantity Limits

Outputs – Project 2 Freshwater quality and quantity limits project

A. Identified freshwater objectives and limits / B. Draft Regional Plan Change / C. Formal Regional Plan change process / D. Implement Plan Change

Project Lead – BOPRC Essential Freshwater Policy Programme – Jo Watts, Freshwater policy Kaituna Action Plan update

Progress Update

These four sub-projects form part of Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Freshwater Policy Programme. We have been working on changes to both the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and Regional Natural Resources Plan (RNRP) to:

- implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM),
- give effect to TMoK's RPS Change 5 (Kaituna River), and
- review freshwater related regional plan chapters for a number of years now.

Plan changes have been paused while government undertakes significant reform to the Resource Management system, including national direction and freshwater regulations. The two new Bills to replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) were introduced in December 2025.

- The **Planning Bill** contains the rules for how land can be used and developed.
- The **Natural Environment Bill** manages the use of natural resources and protecting the environment.

A suite of material on the new system is available on the MfE website, including an overview of the new planning system and fact sheets. Submissions on the two bills close on 13 February 2026 and they are expected to be enacted around the middle of 2026. Cabinet is Freshwater reform proposals are expected to consider a second tranche of national direction in the first quarter of 2026. Alongside RM reform, the government is also consulting on its proposal called 'Simplifying Local Government', with submissions closing on 20 February 2026.

Key implications for the freshwater policy programme, and TMoK's mahi include:

- The governments 'Plan Stop' direction prevents notification of freshwater plan changes until 31 December 2027, extending the previous hold by two years (unless an exemption applies).
- Te Tini a Tuna's project 2 timeframe for project 2 requires the formal Regional Plan Changes process to be undertaken between 2023 and 2025. Notification of freshwater plan changes within this timeframe has been prevented by the addition of section 80A clause 4A inserted in Oct 2024. We are awaiting further national direction on freshwater management at this stage; and
- Further delay in giving effect to RPS Change 5 (Kaituna River) and *Kaituna he taonga tuku iho – the Kaituna River Document* (KRD) in the regional plan. The KRD was approved by TMoK in Aug 2018 and will be up for review in 2028.

Toi Moana regional council staff remain committed to working in partnership with Te Maru o Kaituna and tangata whenua to ensure that the values and priorities of the Kaituna catchment are reflected in freshwater policy as fast as we are able. We will continue to monitor changes to national direction and resource management reform and provide an update as the legislative framework and exemption pathways become clearer.

Ngā mea e whai ake nei **- Next steps**

- Toi Moana continues to maintain an open invite for iwi, hapū and tangata whenua to engage with us when they are ready to do so. Please contact Kerry Brown – Kerry.Brown@boprc.govt.nz
- Continue to support various iwi led freshwater projects to advance their input and advice into this work programme.
- Continue targeted conversations with tangata whenua and stakeholders on key draft freshwater topics.

Ko etahi atu kōrero - Further information

- Keep informed - subscribe to the 'Freshwater Flash' eNewsletter here. (press 'Ctrl' button and click on underlined text to go to website links).
- Links to latest freshwater relevant publications:
  - Groundwater allocation limits for the Bay of Plenty Region
  - Access to water for the development of Maori land: Constraints and opportunities and
  - Nutrient sediment and Ecoli load reductions to meet desired target attribute state outcomes
- Further information about the freshwater changes is available here.
- Information about how Toi Moana is involving tangata whenua in this freshwater mahi.
- Here is the Region wide overview, the Kaituna FMU Story.
- Find Regional Council's Strategy and Policy Committee and Te Maru o Kaituna Committee agenda reports here.

Project 3 – Consented Takes and Discharges

Outputs - 3A - Annual Compliance Report about consented water takes and discharges/3C annual reporting by Regional Council about stormwater discharges to Kaituna River and Drainage Schemes

Project Lead: Stuart Standen

Progress Update

The Regulatory Compliance team completed 992 Compliance Monitoring Actions related to water takes, discharges, and stormwater discharges within the Te Maru o Kaituna Rohe during August 2025 to January 2026 monitoring period. Compliance Monitoring Actions are made up of both visits to consent holder sites and processing data at the office; and are assessed as either: complying, low risk non-compliance, moderate non-compliance or significant non-compliance against the conditions of consent which have been assessed. Of the total number of Compliance Monitoring Actions **84%** were assessed to be complying, which is a slight increase from **80%** from the previous reporting periods. The **20** significant non-compliance detected are associated with exceedances of **water take volume consent limits, failure to carry out a water meter verification, OSET consented site discharges and one unauthorised discharge of dairy effluent to pasture.**

Compliance Monitoring Actions – Water takes and discharges within TMoK rohe = 927

Compliance Rating	Count	%
Complying	785	85
Low risk	91	10
Moderate non-compliance	33	4
Significant non-compliance	18	2

Site Visits and follow-up site visit = 147

Compliance Rating	Count	%
Complying	101	69
Low risk	22	15
Moderate non-compliance	15	10
Significant non-compliance	9	6

Monitoring data = 845

Compliance Rating	Count	%
Complying	737	87
Low risk	70	8
Moderate non-compliance	27	3
Significant non-compliance	11	1

Per Activity

Activity	Inspection & monitoring data	Complying	%	Low Risk	%	Moderate	%	Significant	%
Dairy Discharge	21	9	43	10	48	1	5	1	5
Discharge to Land	55	29	53	16	29	8	15	2	4
Discharge to Water	36	24	67	7	19	5	14	0	0
Earthworks or Excavation	62	51	82	1	2	8	13	2	3
Geothermal Discharge	0	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Ground Water Take	454	427	94	17	4	1	0	9	2
Install a Bore	3	2	67	0	0	1	33	0	0
OSET Discharge	153	106	69	29	19	15	10	3	2
Surface Water Take	177	162	92	9	5	3	2	3	2
Water Take Geothermal	31	28	90	3	10	0	0	0	0
Total	**992**	**838**		**92**		**42**		**20**	

Discharges from Kaituna River and drainage schemes, discharge stormwater to Kaituna or tributaries

57 compliance monitoring actions

Site inspections, follow up inspections and receiving information post visit = 31

Compliance Rating	Count	%
Complying	23	74
Low risk	3	10
Moderate non-compliance	5	16
Significant non-compliance	0	0

Performance monitoring actions = 27

Compliance Rating	Count	%
Complying	15	56
Low risk	9	33
Moderate non-compliance	3	11
Significant non-compliance	0	-

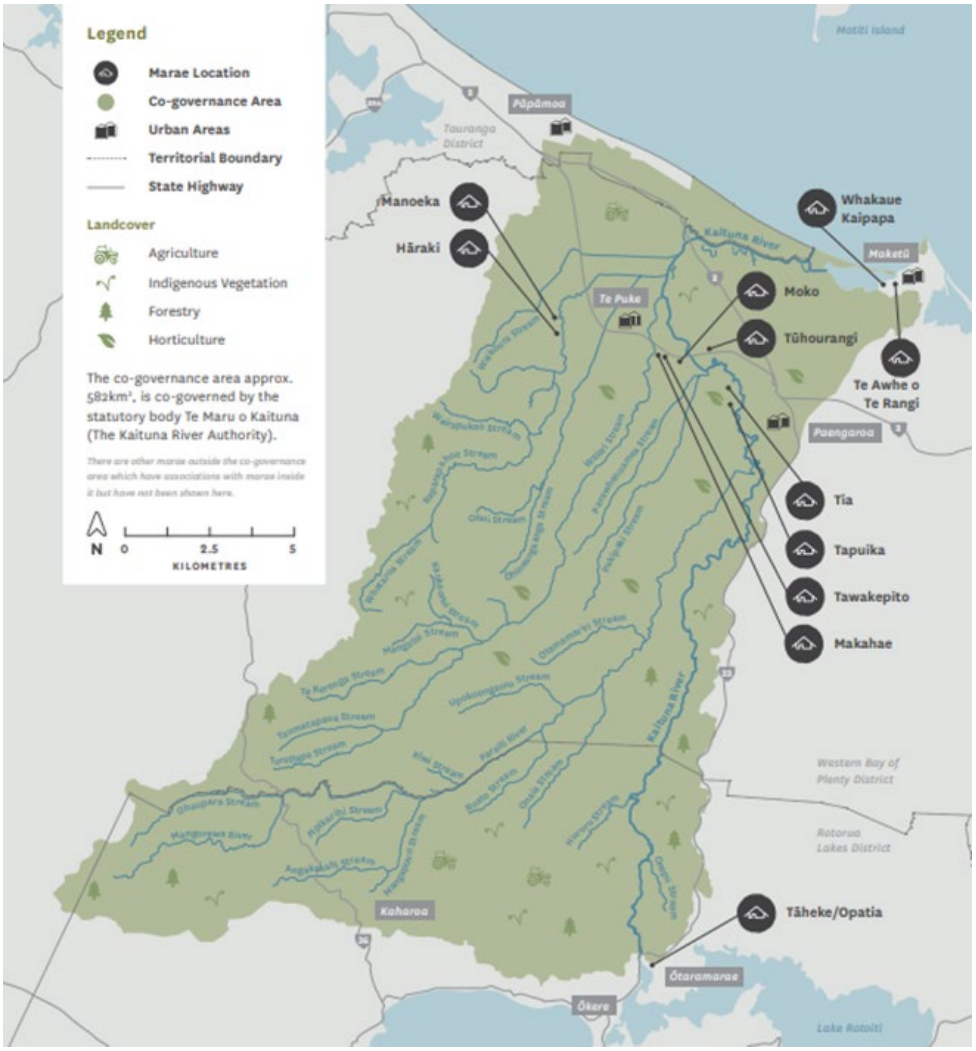
Planned Completion Date: Completed for this reporting period

Project Leads – Jackie Redward (WBOPDC), Jim Summers (TCC)

Progress Update

- **TCC** – During the six months to the end of this reporting period, the stormwater overflow to the Kaituna was not triggered.
- **RLC** – There are no urban wastewater or stormwater management systems within the Rotorua part of the Kaituna co-governance area, as can be seen on this map showing territorial boundaries. An update from RLC is not applicable for this project.

Planned Completion Date: Annual reporting requirement



WBOPDC Reporting

Quarterly Effluent Monitoring for Te Puke Wastewater Treatment Plant – Consent RM16 0204

Condition 9.3 – The consent holder shall take samples of the treated wastewater (immediately after UV disinfection, prior to discharge to the wetland) once per week. Samples shall be measured using a 24-hour flow proportioned composite treated effluent sample and shall be analysed by a certified laboratory for the following parameters:

- Total nitrogen (g/m3)
- Total phosphorous (g/m3)
- Total suspended solids (g/m3)
- cBODS (g/m3)
- pH

Condition 9.4 – The consent holder shall take a grab sample of the treated wastewater (immediately after the UV treatment system, prior to discharge to the wetland) once per week and have the sample analysed by a certified laboratory, for E.coli (CFU/100 ml).

Condition 9.5 – The consent holder shall take grab samples in the Waiari Stream upstream and downstream of the discharge (after reasonable mixing) on a monthly basis and analyse the samples for the contaminants listed in Conditions 9.3 and 9.4.

Between 1 August 2025 and 31 January 2026, WBOPDC demonstrated compliance with most of the requirements of conditions 9.3 and 9.4, except for the following:

- Suspended Solids, Total Nitrogen, Faecal Coliforms and E. coli exceeded their MAVs on 19 November 2025, due to high flows following a significant rain event.
- Additional exceedances of Total Nitrogen, Faecal Coliforms and E. coli were recorded on 6 August 2025, due to problems with dewatering equipment.
- Further Faecal coliforms and E.coli exceedances occurred on 15 October 2025 and 7 January 2026.

Table below contains sampling results required by condition 9.5.

Date	Site	pH	Suspended Solids - Total	BOD5 - Total	Total Phosphorus	Total Nitrogen	E. coli
06/08/2025	Upstream of Discharge	7.1	9	<2	0.028	1.32	44
	Downstream of Discharge	7.1	9	<2	0.096	2.02	50
15/09/2025	Upstream of Discharge	7.3	6	<2	0.033	1.2	54
	Downstream of Discharge	7.3	6	<2	0.186	1.78	110
06/10/2025	Upstream of Discharge	7.4	5	<2	0.035	1.13	61
	Downstream of Discharge	7.3	6	<2	0.197	1.46	110
04/11/2025	Upstream of Discharge	7.2	3	<2	0.043	1.26	54

	Downstream of Discharge	7.1	4	<2	0.145	1.68	75
09/12/2025	Upstream of Discharge	7.3	3	<2	0.037	1.16	100
	Downstream of Discharge	7.3	3	<2	0.144	1.47	180
13/01/2026	Upstream of Discharge	7.0	4	<2	0.034	1.15	140
	Downstream of Discharge	7.1	3	<2	0.117	1.34	190

Stormwater Monitoring for Eastern comprehensive stormwater consent 67481

Stormwater monitoring commenced in late December 2024. Background sampling is ongoing, with two rounds of rain event sampling completed, along with the annual sediment and ecology surveys.

Rain event sampling has identified exceedances at Donovan Park and Lawrence Oliver Park, which are being investigated further.

Continued sampling and monitoring will help build a comprehensive understanding of any effects from stormwater discharges within the catchment.

Planned Completion Date: Annual reporting requirement

Annual report was completed by the end of August 2025 and sent to Regional Council.

Project 3 – Consented Takes and Discharges

Output - 3D Annual Meeting with representatives of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group

Project Lead – Hinga Marsh (Tapuika Iwi Authority)

Progress Update

The TALT has been through a tumultuous 12 months of reset & review. I am pleased to advise that we have locked in a date for start of April 2026 to have our TALT/TIA hui.

Planned Completion Date: Date to be confirmed

Project 4 – Focus Catchments

Output - 4A Action Plans for Kopuaroa and Waitepuia/Ford Road sub-catchments

Project Leads – Tegan Arnold (BOPRC)/Anna Dawson (BOPRC)

Planned and completed land management works in the Kopuaroa and Waitepuia/Ford Road sub-catchments have been reported in previous reports to the group. In addition to those on-going works, Focus Catchment support is now also being offered to the wider Kaituna River catchment (outside of Focus Catchment areas), based on high-risk and larger land uses as the highest priority for funding.

This shift is due to the conclusion of several years of concerted engagement efforts in the Focus Catchments, whereby all landowners have been contacted and offered support, with some choosing to adopt new sustainable management practices and complete land management works etc, but being a voluntary programme, the amount of new works possible was declining, therefore we are now providing an opportunity for others in the wider catchment to receive support from BOPRC. Support will also continue to be available for those within the Focus Catchment.

In the 2025/26 financial year there has been further progress within the wider Kaituna Catchments, with a number of new landowners and landowner that have previously worked with BOPRC signing agreements for environmental restoration works on their properties. There has been a focus on this particularly in the Upper Kaituna where landowners are approaching council to enter Environmental Programmes in support of the Kōkako Ecosystem Expansion Programme. This project aims to create a network of native forest corridors that will link discrete kokako population. This work contributes to biodiversity and water quality improvements within the catchment. In addition to works in the upper Kaituna area there have been several additional drain restoration projects undertaken in the lower Kaituna area in the last year.
In October 2025 an EP was signed in the Waitepuia catchment for the retirement and restoration of a 35ha wetland.

Te Arawa Lakes Treatment Wetland: Weather has restricted earthworks significantly over the life span of this project. The remaining 25% of earthworks was completed November 2024. The final large-scale planting will be in March 2025 when plants become available. Currently the open water habitat has been seen hosting bittern and dab chicks.
Planting has been completed, final works of inlet instalment due to begin February 2026. This will see the completion of construction and transition into afunctional treatment wetland and maintenance phase.

Kaituna Corridor: BOPRC, private Landowners and Tapuika have been working to restore 3 contiguous properties that border significant sites of the Kaituna River. Environmental Programme activities include: 3.5ha of new wetland construction, 3.5ha of existing wetland protection and enhancement through pest plant control and native planting and restoration of an old oxbow of the Kaituna river at the Paraiti and Kaituna River confluence.

Earthworks for construction of the new 3.5 ha of wetland on private property will begin March 2026.

Figure 1: Looking southeast to the Kaituna oxbow from the new wetland project. Kaituna and Paraiti river confluence pictured to the right.

Project 4 – Focus Catchments

Output - 4B Action Plans for mid-lower Waiari Sub catchment

Project Leads – Fazrul Khairy (WBOPDC)

Progress Update

In terms of the alternative discharge options, Council and Te Ohu Parawai (TOP) have agreed in principle to set up a joint working group to progress discussions on alternatives. That workstream is still being established and discussions with TOP are ongoing. WBOPDC has previously followed a similar process for the Katikati disposal system, and it is intended that the same approach will be used here.

From a project delivery perspective, McConnell Dowell is continuing to progress Te Puke WWTP. The preliminary design has been reviewed and the project is now moving into detailed design. On site, the contractor has mobilised, the site office has been established, and initial site preparation works (including topsoil stripping) have been completed. Earthworks are programmed to commence next week.

Planned Completion Date: Yet to be confirmed

Project 5 – Farm Environmental Plans

Outputs - 5A Farm Environmental Plan template developed or adapted/5B Farm Environmental Plans progressed within the lower Kaituna Catchment

Project Lead – Jackson Efford (BOPRC)

Progress Update

The Government is working to improve the freshwater farm plan system and will be exploring ways to make the system more cost-effective and practical for farmers while acknowledging the good work they are already doing.

Some of the improvements have already been announced:

- Supporting rural New Zealand: one year of action (Beehive.govt.nz)
- Government Moves to Improve Freshwater Farm Plans (Beehive.govt.nz).

Freshwater farm plans are seen as a key tool for managing risks to freshwater.
The Government is continuing to work with sector groups to develop a pathway for recognising existing farm plans and industry programmes with the freshwater farm plan system.

Farmers who have already invested time and effort into developing their farm plans can expect to see that work recognised and built upon under the improved system.

The improvements are being progressed through the Government's RMA reform process and are expected to be in place sometime in the next few years.

Planned Completion Date: 30/06/2028

Project 6 – Post Kaituna River Rediversion Enhancement

Output - 6A Restoration Work Programme Completed

Project Lead – Courtney Bell (BOPRC)

Progress Update

Background/Summary

- The Kaituna River Re-diversion and Ngatoroirangi/Maketū Estuary Enhancement Project was commissioned in 2020 with the aim of restoring at least 20% of the Kaituna River's flow to the estuary and improving ecological and cultural health with a focus on wetlands and mahinga kai values. This annual report provides an update on the project for the 2024/2025 year.
- The call to bring back the river began as early as 1979 with the formation of the Maketū Action Group, following the 1956 diversion cut - the Kaituna River flow out to sea upstream of the estuary for drainage and agricultural land development purposes. That 1956 work led to long term degradation of the estuary's ecological and cultural values. Between 1956 and 2020, the lower estuary filled with coastal sands in the absence of flushing river flows, and large areas became anoxic and eutrophic.
- More information on the project history and associated documents can be found here on Bay of Plenty Regional Council's (BOPRC) website here:

  https://www.boprc.govt.nz/environment/fresh-water/focus-catchments/kaituna-river-rediversion-and-maketu-estuary-enhancement/

Key observations and changes – water quality

- Overall, the changes observed in the estuary since re-diversion are in line with what was predicted to occur with the restoration activities and increased river flow back into the estuary.
- Parts of the upper estuary have shown significant ecological improvements in terms of biodiversity and productivity, which contributes significantly to the overall ecological health and integrity of the estuary. Water quality data also shows results consistent with predicted changes, including increased concentrations of bacteria due to increased river influence.
- Many of the potential ecological benefits of higher river flows into the estuary, such as saltmarsh health, sediment and net nutrient transports out of the estuary, will occur more gradually over time.
- Following the re-diversion in 2020, there was a reduction in salinity and increase in nitrate concentrations in the mid-estuary and lower estuary. The increase in nitrate concentrations was particularly apparent in the mid-estuary (Site 5) and may be partially due to high algae cover prior to the diversion consuming nitrate. These changes are broadly in line with predictions from modelling.
- The concentration of *E.coli* bacteria in pipi and cockle samples collected from the lower estuary has increased since the re-diversion. This may correspond to differences in weather conditions as well as the increase flow. Pipi samples collected in 2024/25 were within microbial guidelines for approved shellfish growing areas.
- Water quality in Maketū Estuary has a general spatial pattern of the upper estuary having lower salinity, higher concentrations of nutrients (particularly nitrate), and high concentrations of faecal indicator bacteria.

Key observations and changes – estuary dynamics and monitoring

- A serious risk of breach of the Maketū spit was identified following 2023 erosion. The breaching risk was addressed using a dune push up approach in September 2024 and subsequently planted with dune species. It is likely without taking this action the breach probably would have occurred in 2024/2025.
- It is estimated this action has bought some time (possibly at least 15-25 years with current erosion trends).
- Estuary monitoring to date suggests the recent re-diversion has significantly improved /dynamics & should reduce the frequency of future breaches.
- It is noted while the estuary monitoring results are indicative only, and more substantial change will take time, it is encouraging at this stage.

Maintenance progress

- The gate closure for sediment reduction purposes was implemented on 18 December 2024. The 12 control gates close during large flood events to minimise the worst sediment inputs, while still retaining the benefits of flushing flows during smaller floods. Based on expert advice and following consultation and endorsement from tangata whenua and the wider community, the trigger for gate closure will be when river flow rate at Te Matai (Waitangi) reaches 70 cumecs. This change will exclude about 25% of the annual sediment load discharged by the Kaituna River into the estuary, while only closing the gates on average for 61 hours per year.
- The above change to the gate operating system has seen the gates close nine times since the first time 70 m^3/s was triggered in April 2024.
- Fine sediment build-up in the Kaituna mooring basin has resulted in the Coastguard rescue vessel becoming stranded as the tide approaches low. Condition 20.4 required BOPRC to undertake work to maintain the water depth within the manoeuvring area, at a minimum of 1m deep at mean low tide.
- Pest plant and pest animal control efforts are ongoing on Otaiparia, Ford Island, Te Pā Ika saltmarsh and Papahikahawai island (refer to Project 7)

Planned Completion Date: Capital works associated with this project are complete although resource consents are held through until 2050 and the project will continue indefinitely.

Project 7 – Wetland Re-Creation

Outputs - 7A Te Pā Ika Wetland/7B Te Pourepo o Kaituna Wetland/7C Whakapoukorero Wetland/7D Wetland projects within existing EEF/Environmental Programmes

Project Lead – Tegan Arnold/Michael Tyler (BOPRC)

Progress Update

Project 7A: Te Pā Ika Wetland

- Creation of up to 20 ha new wetland completed and the plantings now becoming well established.
- Pest plant control and predator control programmes ongoing.

Drone imagery captured 06/05/2025, looking at Te Pa Ika wetland and Kaituna cut.

Drone imagery captured 06/05/2025, looking north across central spur at Te Pā Ika toward Kaituna cut.

Planned Completion Date: 30/06/2024

Project 7B: Te Pourepo o Kaituna Project

Public Easement on Tumu Kawa block

- Public easement has been for walking access in the Tumu Kawa block.

Recent works undertaken

- The winter 2023 5 ha of planting that was partially undertaken by the education programme has established well.
- Planting of remaining sedgeland areas in Waiomamae block were undertaken in autumn 2024 (30,000 plants).
- Further planting of the carpark block – an additional 23,000 plants were planted in January 2025. Despite ongoing challenges with wet weather and water level management, these plants are establishing well.
- A further 10,700 sedges were planned to be planted over the summer 2025/26 period in the Kahikatea and Carpark blocks, however some of these plantings have been delayed due to January's weather event and subsequent high-water levels.
- Continued pest plant control is ongoing throughout the whole wetland.
- Water levels and rainfall remain a continued challenge in terms of access, planting and pest plant control.

Predator control work

- DOC are funding crew to undertake predator control targeting mustelids, cats and rats.

Birds surveys

- Matuku hūrepo surveys were undertaken again November 2025 with an estimated 6-8 matuku heard over the course of survey. DOC plan to hold more Matuku surveys again later in 2026.
- This year matuku surveys were undertaken at sunrise and were immediately followed by a thermal drone survey. This allowed confirmation of suspected bird locations and numbers to gain a more complete picture of activity across the wetland. At one of the booming locations identified through listening, the drone picked up a female and a male, and the pair were observed courting.
- Annual MPI bird banding was undertaken for avian flu surveillance in January.

Drone imagery captured 01/04/2025 looking over the planted dairy farmland from 2023 school education programme - Te Pourepo o Kaituna project area.

Drone imagery of male and female matuku hūrepo courting at Kaituna Wetland, November 2025

Photo captured 16/06/2025 showing plantings establishing despite the wet weather and high water levels

Planned Completion Date: 30/06/2025

Project 7C: Whakapoukorero Wetland

- Continuing operational works associated with the newly signed environmental programme.
- Predator control programme being implemented and pest plant control are priorities for restoration efforts.
- Infill planting may be required, particularly beneath willow canopy.
- Investigations for improving hydrological connections.
- Enhancement and track repairs scheduled for 2026 to ensure safe access for contractors and members of the public (encouraged to utilize the site).

1.5 Operational objectives / targets

1. To restore and maintain indigenous vegetation communities by achieving the following before the completion of this EP:

(a) reducing key environmental weeds to very low levels (<5% cover for pampas, arum lily, & Japanese honeysuckle) over the whole wetland.

(b) maintain very low density of willow and other pest plants in Vegetation Type 19 and reduce the grey willow densities to <5% cover.

(c) eliminate saltwater paspalum and other low incidence species (casuarina, tradescantia, blue morning glory, castor oil plant, kahili ginger, spindle tree, parrot's feather, and black locust) with the aim of eradicating (high priority).

2. To maintain and/or enhance populations of Threatened, At Risk, and regionally uncommon plant species present in the wetland.

3. Maintain or enhance populations of fernbird and spotless crake through animal pest control (focusing on rats, possums and mustelids). Pest animal control to be implemented by August 2023 subject to confirmation of the presence of crake and/or fernbird.

4. To protect and enhance fish populations through installation of fish friendly floodgates and hydrological investigations and fish monitoring.

5. Continue implementing programme to enhance public interaction with the site, while maintaining the sites ecological integrity.

Additional shared objectives Refer to Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority, Project 7C (wetland restoration and re-creation)

Native planting beneath canopy of willow trees that have previously been poisoned as part of the restoration.

Photoblique looking over Whakapoukorero wetland toward Maketū township

Project 7D: Te Huauri o Te Kawa

- New Environmental Programme (EP) was signed in November 2023.
- Funded by Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) and Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC).
- Total funding of $59,664 and $19,888 provided by BOPRC and WBOPDC respectively, over a four-year period between 2023 and 2027 Maketū Taiapure Trust undertaking fish monitoring with emphasis on inanga.

- This is a Maketu Taiapure project, with Maketū Ōngātoro Wetland Society undertaking the operational works associated with the Environmental Programme (EP).
- Operational works continuing successfully to further restore the site.
- Work briefs for operational activities in the EP being renewed for 2025/2026 in conjunction with MOWS.

Objectives

1. To protect and enhance the aquatic habitats:
   1.1 Provide suitable habitat for native migratory and non-migratory fish (refuge, rearing, residence).
   1.2 Maintain and protect inanga (*Galaxius maculatus*) spawning and rearing habitat.
2. To protect and enhance the wetland habitat for native flora and fauna.
   2.1 Suppress pest flora and fauna pressures on native biodiversity.
   2.3 Assist regeneration of geographically appropriate flora.
3. Biomonitoring on ecological and biological objectives to ensure objectives (1 & 2) are being achieved.
4. Support further opportunities for the community to engage with the wetland for educational and awareness purposes as appropriate.

These objectives are shared with and support the objectives of the Te Tini a Tuna – Kaituna Action Plan 2019-2029, Project 7 (Wetland re-creation project).

Photo of Te Huauri o Te Kawa (looking upstream) with Kaituna wetland in the distance (taken 20/05/2025).

Outputs – 7E Lawrence Oliver Park Constructed Wetland

Project Lead – Jackson Efford (BOPRC)

Progress Update

This publicly accessible wetland development and restoration at Lawrence Oliver Park in Te Puke is now complete.

The low-lying reserve owned by WBOPDC was previously leased for grazing but given its close proximity to town and the Te Ara Kahikatea Pathway tracks, the site has been enhanced with the construction of a biodiversity and treatment wetland. The project team included BOPRC, WBOPDC, the Te Ara Kahikatea Pathway Society, Waitaha and Tapuika Iwi, with funding support from Fonterra and TECT. The Managh's Drain through the park has also been enhanced with a new batter and native plantings as part of the project. During the earthworks for the wetland, a kahikatea tree was uncovered in the peat below the pasture and found with carbon dating to be a staggering 3,923 years old!

Now the project is complete; the site will be maintained longer-term by Western Bay of Plenty District Council with co-funding support from Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Weed control work will likely be ongoing in this situation. The wetland proves popular with visitors on the walking track every day, and it has attracted a number of tuna, inanga and various wetland birds.

Over the coming months, 2,775m² of this park will be transformed into a treatment wetland. Treatment wetlands are built in a way that can help improve water quality in an area. This is achieved by trapping sediment, nutrients and microbes (such as *E.coli*), and reducing their ability to get into neighbouring waterways, such as drains, rivers and streams, that then flow downstream and out to sea.

Because of where this wetland is located, it will help reduce contaminants from residential and industrial stormwater runoff, help with flood storage and retention, and provide an opportunity for native plants and birds to thrive – plus, it will be a great place to stop for Te Ara Kahikatea walkway users!

Why are we doing this?

Wetlands are incredibly important ecosystems. They help to maintain water quality, support biodiversity, provide a home for some of our most vulnerable wildlife, stabilise shorelines and riverbanks, and help reduce the impacts of flooding and droughts.

Returning this space to a wetland is an outcome of Western Bay of Plenty District Council's Reserve Management Plan, which was adopted in 2022.

This area has unique cultural history, as it is adjacent to the pā site Te Aore (which was a camp for forces during battle at Te Tumu).

Lawrence Oliver Park wetland in Te Puke following earthworks completion (March 2025)

Wetland plants establishing well after a flood in May 2025.

Wetland plantings (shallow water zone) January 2026. The vegetation is establishing nicely.

Plantings alongside the walkway January 2026.

Project Completed Date: 31/01/2026

Project 8 – Kaituna Habitats Network

Output - 8A Work Programme developed – Te Puke/Maketū Reserve Management Plan

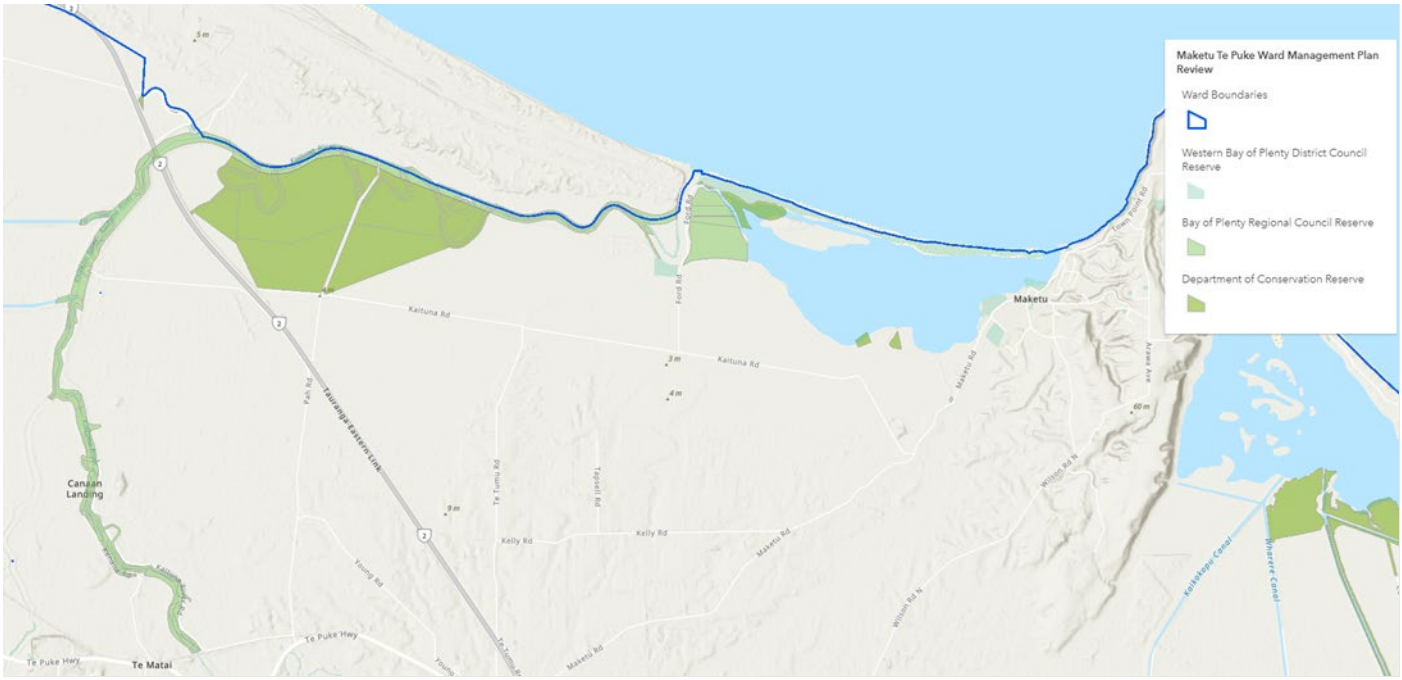
Project Lead – Katy McGinity (WBOPDC)

Progress Update

Project 8A is completed, now that the Te Puke-Maketu RMP has been adopted by Council. The decision story for the review of this RMP is available HERE and public maps can be viewed HERE.

Formal consultation on the Te Puke-Maketu Reserve Management Plan is complete, and the final plan adopted by Council on 14 June 2022.

As part of this review, a reserves map has been developed for the Te Puke-Maketu Ward with plans. This map is now available on Council's website and includes locations of reserves, public toilets, public playgrounds and picnic/BBQ areas. It also includes BOPRC Reserve and DOC Reserve information. This map can be further developed to include where specific wetlands are located, to better understand the Kaituna Habitats Network. Consideration will also be given to including Iwi owned land. A link to the map which is now publicly available is here.



Project 8 – Kaituna Habitats Network

Outputs – 8A Work Programme developed

Project Lead – Tegan Arnold (BOPRC)

Progress Update

- Land Management Officers are continuing work with landowners in the wider Kaituna catchment to support environmental restoration projects.
- Work continues with the Paraiti Catchment Care Group to retire and plant marginal land and undertake predator control in bush corridors and margins between the Kaharoa Conservation Area and Ōtānewainuku.
- A project is currently being implemented for the protection and enhancement of a 70-hectare area of native bush adjacent to the Kaharoa Kōkako Trust management area where it is expected that kōkako are likely to expand to in the future.

Planned Completion Date: 2050

Project 8 – Kaituna Habitats Network

8D At least three Habitat Network Connection Projects complete

Project Lead – Hinga Marsh (Tapuika Iwi Authority)

Progress Update

Along with the Connectivity Strategy map that has been produced for KEEP to outline connections between suitable habitat for kōkako across native forests in the rohe. TIA has also been actively supporting Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust in the translocation request to Ngāti Makino for the access to 15-20 breeding pairs from Rotoehu Forest to lift the genetics of the Ōtanewainuku Kōkako population, this is due to take place prior to breeding season. Pictures from 4 October 2025 hui at No. 1 Rd & OKT forest.

We are also investigating the potential project to have one of our Iwi members, Hiria Te Amo, undertake her master's in Environmental Science – to study Kōkako Eco habitat and from the perspective of mana whenua and the relationship of Kōkako with Tapuika tikanga as the basis.

TIA also attended the Flight of the Kōkako Fun Run due in March with Paraiti Care Group


Photo 1 & 2: Looking for Kōkako in Ōtanewainuku Forest, and information sharing at No. 1 Road Hall 4 October 2025. Ngati Makino & TIA in attendance along with OKT/KEEP & RET

- ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY STRATEGY - Map Viewer

Planned Completion Date: Ongoing Project with no end date as yet identified.

Project 9 – Pataka Kai

Outputs – 9A Kaiawa Working Group established/9B Work programme developed/9C Priority habitat restoration projects identified/9E Habitat restoration projects

Project Lead – Hinga Marsh (Tapuika Iwi Authority)

Progress Update

Highlights over the last six months:

Te Wheoro has produced Tapuika's water monitoring methodologies, cultural monitoring, water planning across awa in the Takapū. Together with the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group & TCC Cultural Redress we are planning to implement cultural water monitoring CWM starting with Waiari with a few to expanding to other water ways especially Kaituna, once the details of CWM's is refined.

The restoration and release of wetland plantings at Tumu Kawa and Kaiawa (Ox-bow) are completed. There will need to be further budget made available in order to maintain and keep plantings healthy and thriving.

Planned Completion Date: TBC

Project 10 – Kaituna Community Connection

Outputs - 10A Communications Strategy developed/10B TMoK Website Developed/10C Annual work plan released/10D At least one annual community event/10E River Symposium held

Project Lead – Hinga Marsh (TMoK)

Progress Update

10A Communications Strategy Developed – The website has now been completed with training to be provided in the New Year. The website forms a major part of the communications strategy., The communications strategy is being finalised as a final draft for approval by the committee.

Completion Date: 28/02/2023

10B TMoK Website Developed - Work on a new website for Te Maru o Kaituna has been completed.

Completion Date: 31/08/2022

10C Annual Work Plan Released - The secretariat work plan has been completed.

Completion Date: 31/08/2022

10D At least one annual community event – This event was included in the River Symposium & Float Fun Day held on 6 February 2026 at the Waitangi Reserve, Te Puk. The day was well attended with over 120 Iwi members taking to their Awa (Kaituna) – in a Float Fun Day, starting from Iwirau lands (Ngati Kūri – at the end of McMeeking Road) and finishing at Waitangi Reserve – it took between 1 ½ to 2 hours to float the 4.6km

Planned Completion Date: 6 February 2026

10E River Symposium held – Te Rā Tūhono ki Te Awanui o Tapuika

Event Report

Event Overview

The Waitangi Day Float 2026 was successfully delivered at Te Awa nui o Tapuika (Kaituna River), bringing together whānau, hapū, and the wider iwi in a day of remembrance, connection, and celebration. Held in loving memory of Uncle Peka Roberts, the event provided opportunities for whanaungatanga, cultural expression, and strengthening relationships with the awa and each other.

From the launch of the rafts through to the closing activities on the riverbank, the day was characterised by strong iwi participation with over 250+ people in attendance. The river came alive with a range of imaginative floats, including zebras, giraffes, and unicorns. One of the highlights was seeing three generations of whānau floating down the Kaituna River together, reflecting the strength of our intergenerational connections and our enduring relationship with the awa.

A range of activities supported intergenerational participation, including games, a large inflatable castle, a slip slide for tamariki, and horse rides. These activities fostered a welcoming environment that encouraged community interaction, celebration, and shared remembrance.

Community and Cultural Outcomes

The event successfully achieved key outcomes aligned with Tapuika Iwi Authority objectives, including:

- Strengthening whānau connections to the Kaituna Awa
- Supporting community wellbeing and engagement
- Providing opportunities for cultural expression and shared remembrance
- Encouraging intergenerational participation
- Enhancing partnerships with community organisations
- Promoting environmental awareness and kaitiakitanga

The event created a safe and inclusive space for whānau to reconnect with the awa while celebrating Tapuikatanga and community identity.

Partner Contributions and Collaboration

Ngāti Kurī Fundraising Committee

Ngāti Kurī played a key operational role in organising the raft float, coordinating games, and providing kai throughout the day. Their contribution ensured the smooth delivery of activities and supported a positive experience for attendees.

Quayside Holdings

Quayside and Tapuika Iwi Authority continue to work in partnership through the Rangiuru Business Park to restore and maintain a 48-hectare wetland, supporting environmental sustainability, enhancing biodiversity, and strengthening kaitiakitanga outcomes for Tapuika and the wider Te Puke community.

At the Waitangi Day Float event, Quayside representatives engaged directly with whānau, shared information about their work in the region, and provided resources and giveaways that supported environmental awareness and community connection.

Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust

Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust is a community-led conservation organisation focused on restoring and protecting the biodiversity of the Ōtanewainuku Forest.

The Trust collaborates with local iwi, including Tapuika Iwi Authority, on conservation initiatives that strengthen kaitiakitanga and support the restoration of indigenous ecosystems across the wider Te Puke and Western Bay of Plenty area.

Their presence at the event provided an opportunity to share information about conservation work, kiwi and kōkako restoration programmes, and community involvement opportunities. Their engagement helped promote environmental kaitiakitanga and strengthened relationships between conservation groups and whānau.

Manaaki Support Services

Manaaki Support Services operates a residential reintegration facility on Rangiuru Road that supports men transitioning from prison back into the community. The facility provides structured accommodation and rehabilitation programmes focused on developing life skills, employment readiness, and personal wellbeing, while also supporting access to housing, health, and social services.

Through collaboration with Tapuika Iwi Authority, Manaaki Support Services supports community development and wellbeing initiatives that align with iwi aspirations for whānau ora.

At the event, Manaaki Support Services connected with whānau, shared information about available support services, and provided resources that promoted wellbeing and community support.

Waste Watchers

Waste Watchers supported the environmental management of the event by providing recycling, compost, and landfill stations. Their contribution ensured responsible waste management practices and supported the event's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Overall Impact

The Waitangi Day Float 2026 successfully strengthened community connections, enhanced partnerships with regional organisations, and supported the wellbeing of whānau through shared cultural and recreational experiences. The event demonstrated the value of collaborative partnerships between Tapuika Iwi Authority, community organisations, and environmental groups in delivering positive outcomes for the wider Te Puke community.

The strong turnout and positive engagement reflect the importance of events that foster connection to the awa, celebrate community identity, and support ongoing collaboration across environmental, social, and cultural initiatives.

Completion Date: 6 February 2026

Project 11 – Kaituna River Access

Outputs - 11A River Access Mapping Task Completed/11B – Feasibility Study Completed for Waka Launching Site

Project Lead – Samantha Pottage (WBOPDC)

Progress Update

Project 11A – Formal consultation on the Te Puke-Maketu Reserve Management Plan is complete and the final plan adopted by Council on 14 June 2022.

This plan includes reserve specific information for Council owned reserves and outlines key information and approaches to the management of these, including community aspirations for each site and specifically recognises Te Tini a Tuna – Kaituna Action Plan 2019-2029.

Improved access to the Kaituna River has been reflected in the plan and especially under the reserve management approach for Bell Road Reserve, where Te Tini a Tuna and the investigation for the site to be used for a waka launching site is specially included.

Click on the link to view the Te Puke – Maketū Reserve Management Plan Te Puke-Maketū RMP.

Project 11B – Otaiparia Reserve – Ford Road, Maketu

Further implementation of the concept plan is taking place in the current financial year including updating of the heritage information and developing landscaping plans for the site. Further development of designs to support consent applications including those required for Waka Ama facilities including toilets are also taking place and are expected to be completed by the end of the financial year.

Planned completion date: Indicative timing for feasibility and implementation is 2022-2026.

Project 12 – Kaituna Cycleway/Walkway

Outputs - 12A Strategy Completed/12B Strategy Implementation (TEL to Maketū Connection)

Project Lead – Scott Parker (WBOPDC)

Progress Update

The only change since the previous update, is that there is no funding to progress a path connection at this stage (due to Government and Council funding cuts) for funding towards a cycleway along the stopbank between the TEL and Ford Road (Otaiparia Reserve) at Maketū, was declined. The project status is currently "amber" reflecting that funding is not yet allocated towards this project and therefore cannot be advanced for now. Implementation timing remains subject to funding prioritisation (zero funding is currently allocated) and all land access requirements resolved.

We understand that discussions by BOPRC with a private property owner, about cycleway route alignment along a short section of privately owned stopbank may have commenced and we look forward to an update about that if this is the case.

Staff have requested feedback from TMoK governance as to any expectations about timing or other aspects about this project – none has yet been received.

Planned Completion Date: Unknown at this stage

Project 13 – Kaituna Cultural and Historical Heritage

Outputs - 13A Interpretation Plan Completed/13B Interpretation Plan Implementation

Project Lead – Hinga Marsh (Tapuika Iwi Authority)

Progress Update

Planned Completion Date: Yet to be confirmed

Project 14 – Upper Catchment 'Gateway'

Output - 14A Concept Plan Developed

Project Lead – Nick Chater (RLC)

Progress Update

2025 to date

- 9 hectares that had the removal of gorse, blackberry etc, has been planted and the maintenance of this area is ongoing.
- 72 pest traps set and monitored.
- 250 possums, 550 Rats and 10 x stoats, weasels and possums.
- 1 x Completed bird counts with increased bird activity identified.
- Additional 10,000+ native trees in the ground with strong survival rates. Includes: planting, spraying, hand releasing juvenile native trees, plotting tree count and growth, eco sourced seed collection, preparing seed trays, sowing seeds, watering, transplanting seeds to T28s.

2025 to date within the expanded area the Okere Falls area (Te Akau Peninsula).

- More locals utilising the Pest Trap Library.
- A further 8,000 plants purchased and planned for planting over the next 2-3 months.
- Possums fur being used and the meat is being turned into possum food and distributed throughout the community.
- Continued projects in Okere Falls and Otaramarae with monthly community working bees.

Ongoing work

- Clearing and re-baiting traps fortnightly (spring-summer) and monthly (autumn-winter).
- Relocating traps to keep them productive and in working order.
- Conduct ongoing monitoring (trap catch data, bird counts and photo points).

Our members (volunteers)

Each month we collectively volunteer more than 120 hours to various projects around Okere Falls. Volunteers: Stu Luke, Sam Sutton, Neil Sutton, Carol Goodman, Sarah Uhl, Rotorua Ziplines and Rotorua Rafting staff. Otaramarae: Nick Chater and Andy Fuller.

Group aspirations

Our Goal is to restore the Mauri to the Okere Awa in conjunction with Te Maru O Kaituna.

Work Plan (future aspirations)

With much of the reforestation and pest trapping work around the top part of the Okere/Kaituna awa, our future aspirations are to move these projects out into the wider Okere Falls area and work with a range of organisations and motivated locals to achieve our key goals. Some work has already started as we start to remove pest species (animal and plant) and plant native plant species.

Planned Completion Date: Unknown at this stage

Project 16 – State of the Awa Integrated Monitoring and Reporting

Output - 16A Integrated Monitoring Plan Developed/16B Implementation of Integrated Monitoring Plan

Project Lead – Gina Mohi (BOPRC)

Progress Update

Incorporating Mātauranga Māori into research and monitoring within the Kaituna catchment:

- Further discussions with affiliated Iwi in the lower catchment to develop a collective strategic vision are required.
- Iwi-led Mātauranga research and culturally led monitoring continues to build kaitiaki capacity and capability.
- Resourcing the Iwi collective to deliver Project 16 continues to be a key barrier to implementation.

Planned Completion Date: 2023-2025

Project 17 – Kaituna Catchment Network Mapping

Output - 17A Completed Stocktake and Collation of Available Information BOPRC most aspects, WBOPDC River Access and Cycleway Component

Project Leads – Georgia Edwards (BOPRC), Jason Crummer (WBOPDC)

Output - 17B – Completed Feasibility Study for Project 7

Project Lead – Georgia Edwards (BOPRC)

Output - 17C Completed Feasibility Study for Project 8 – BOPRC most aspects, WBOPDC River Access and Cycleway Component

Project Leads – Georgia Edwards (BOPRC), Jason Crummer (WBOPDC)

Progress Update

The dashboard can be accessed through the following link:
https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/0f73f47b6b6f4afe9d96317ba82dbcc2

Since the last update there has been one request for changes/additions to the dashboard. The following actions were taken:

- Replaced the wetlands dataset link with our more updated/consolidated version.
- Added the option to turn on consents by categories to the legend of the map.

Next steps:

- Continue looking for further sources of cultural monitoring information (publicly available).
- Responding to any new requests for edits/additions to the dashboard.

KAITUNA HE TAONGA TUKU IHO

A TREASURE HANDED DOWN

Te Maru o Kaituna