



TE TINI A TUNA

BIANNUAL REPORTING DOCUMENT
FEBRUARY - JULY 2025



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	Green	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	70%
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

- 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, was successfully completed in February 2025. The work involved widening approximately 1.6km of drains, removing two existing box culverts and a bridge, and installing three new bridges. A farm access track was also realigned, and new riparian planting was put along both sides of the drains. Getting this work done has improved the flow of stormwater through the existing drainage channels, enhancing flood resilience, and supporting the new pump station location.

Stage 2 – Detail Design and Construction of the new pump station (Target Completion: Mid-2027)

Stage Two involves the installation of a new pump station at the Diagonal Drain site, adjacent to the existing facility. In September 2024, Council approved the use of an Archimedes screw pump, which was ordered in December 2024 and is currently being manufactured by FishFlow Innovations in the Netherlands.

This pump is specifically designed to move floodwaters from low-lying areas over the stopbanks into the river. It is recognised as the most fish-friendly option available, ensuring safe passage for tuna and operating with relatively low energy consumption.

The scope of this phase includes:

- Detailed design and construction of the pump station
- Installation of pipework and discharge structures
- Associated civil and environmental works

We continue to work closely with the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Fish & Game to minimise and mitigate any potential impacts on the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve. DOC has granted a Concession/Easement, allowing Council access to a small area of reserve land required for the works.

Procurement for the Design and Build contract has been completed, with four high-quality proposals received. The contract has been awarded to GT Civil Limited, with detailed design scheduled for completion by February 2026.

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 projects form part of Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council’s Freshwater Policy Programme. We have been working on changes to 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.

In October 2024, the Government changed the Resource Management Act 1991 to stop regional councils from notifying freshwater changes until the NPSFM 2020 is replaced, or 31 December 2025 (whichever is sooner). This has recently been extended by a further two years, with the Government’s latest ‘Plan Stop’ direction issued to Council’s on 16 July 2025. The Plan Stop policy will be progressed as part of an amendment to the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill and is expected to be enacted by the end of August.

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 done between 2023 and 2025 which cannot be met; 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.

MfE’s [Plan Stop - Fact Sheet](#) states work that is important to deliver on the Government’s priorities such as upholding Treaty settlement obligations, housing growth, or relates to natural hazards will be allowed to continue through automatic exemptions. Toi Moana staff are currently assessing whether any parts of its freshwater policy programme may qualify for exemption, particularly where they relate to Treaty obligations or co-governance arrangements. We 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. 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. Identified topics include water quantity limits; enabling environmental enhancement e.g. rules for sediment detention devices and constructed treatment wetlands; farming land use options to reduce contaminant losses; and on-site effluent treatment (OSET). These topics are not new and are continuing discussions that began in 2023.

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 1,062 Compliance Monitoring Actions related to water takes, discharges, and stormwater discharges within the Te Maru o Kaituna Rohe during February 2025 to July 2025 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 80% were assessed to be complying, which is a slight decrease from 82% from the previous reporting periods. The 14 significant non-compliance detected are associated with exceedances of water take volume consent limits and conditions at earthworks and OSET consented sites.

Compliance Monitoring Actions – Water takes and discharges within TMoK rohe = 963

Compliance Rating	Count	%
Complying	771	80
Low risk	131	14
Moderate non-compliance	47	5
Significant non-compliance	14	1

Site Visits and follow-up site visit = 192

Compliance Rating	Count	%
Complying	138	72
Low risk	28	15
Moderate non-compliance	20	10
Significant non-compliance	6	3

Monitoring data = 870

Compliance Rating	Count	%
Complying	718	83
Low risk	107	12
Moderate non-compliance	34	4
Significant non-compliance	11	1

Per Activity

Activity	Inspection & monitoring data	Complying	%	Low Risk	%	Moderate	%	Significant	%
Dairy Discharge	4	4	100	0	-	0	-	0	-
Discharge to Land	72	48	67	17	24	7	10	0	-
Discharge to Water	52	49	94	3	6	0	-	0	-
Earthworks or Excavation	77	63	82	4	5	7	9	3	4
Geothermal Discharge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ground Water Take	513	448	87	53	10	8	2	4	1
Install a Bore	22	22	100	0	-	0	-	0	-
OSET Discharge	98	53	54	29	30	13	13	3	3
Surface Water Take	193	140	73	28	15	18	9	7	4
Water Take Geothermal	31	29	94	1	3	1	3	0	-
Total	1062	856		135		54		17	

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

31 compliance monitoring actions

Site inspections, follow up inspections and receiving information post visit = 15

Compliance Rating	Count	%
Complying	8	15
Low risk	4	27
Moderate non-compliance	3	20
Significant non-compliance	0	-

Performance monitoring actions = 16

Compliance Rating	Count	%
Complying	1	6
Low risk	15	94
Moderate non-compliance	0	-
Significant non-compliance	0	-

Planned Completion Date: Completed for this reporting period

WBOPDC Reporting

Quarterly Effluent Monitoring for: Te Puke 24891/RM16 0204

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

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).

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 February – 31 July 2025 WBOPDC demonstrated compliance for the monitoring required by condition 9.3 and 9.4 of consent RM16-0204, except for the Total Phosphorus Rolling Median, which exceeded the consents limits from 19 March 2025 – 30 April 2025. In addition, extremely high flows on the 29 and 30 July following a significant rain event, contributed to the total nitrogen discharge to exceeding the new limit of 70kg/day.

Table below contains sampling results required by condition 9.5.

Date	Site	pH	Suspended Solids - Total	BOD5 - Total	Total Phosphorus	Total Nitrogen	E. coli
25/02/2025	Upstream of Discharge	7.2	3	<2	0.034	1.15	80
	Downstream of Discharge	7.4	3	<2	0.121	1.62	68
3/03/2025	Upstream of Discharge	7.1	3	<2	0.029	1.16	150
	Downstream of Discharge	7.2	2	<2	0.116	1.53	160
7/04/2025	Upstream of Discharge	7.2	3	<2	0.036	1.23	200
	Downstream of Discharge	7.1	2	<2	0.124	1.46	130
5/05/2025	Upstream of Discharge	7	5	<2	0.16	1.55	84

	Downstream of Discharge	6.9	5	<2	0.15	1.54	72
3/06/2025	Upstream of Discharge	6.9	4	2	0.032	1.18	80
	Downstream of Discharge	6.9	4	<2	0.132	1.72	53
9/07/2025	Upstream of Discharge	7.5	9	<2	0.031	1.23	96
	Downstream of Discharge	7.4	10	<2	0.162	1.75	53

Stormwater Monitoring for: Eastern comprehensive stormwater consent 67481

Background sampling has continued, and one rain event sampling round has been completed.

Further sampling and monitoring will give a more comprehensive picture of any effect of stormwater discharges in the catchment.

Planned Completion Date: Annual reporting requirement

Annual report will be completed by 31 August 2025.

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

No progress to report here to date. William Anaru will be contacted to progress this further.

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.

Some progress has been made during the 2024/25 year within the wider Kaituna Catchments, 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 drain restoration projects undertaken in the lower Kaituna area in the last year.

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.

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 ox-bow of the Kaituna river at the Paraiti and Kaituna River confluence.



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 – EJ Wentzel (WBOPDC) and Jennifer Pearson (TCC)

Progress Update

WBOPDC will be considering the awarding of the construction contract to build a new plant early in September. Te Ohu Parawai has emphasised the urgency to progress the alternative disposal option. WBOPDC has run a similar process for the Katikati disposal system and it is suggested that a similar approach should be followed.

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 by the end of the year.

Planned Completion Date: 30/06/2026

Project 6 – Post Kaituna River Rediversion Enhancement

Output - 6A Restoration Work Programme Completed

Project Lead – Courtney Bell (BOPRC)

Progress Update

The Kaituna River Re-diversion and Te Awa o Ngatoroirangi/Maketu Estuary Enhancement Project was implemented:

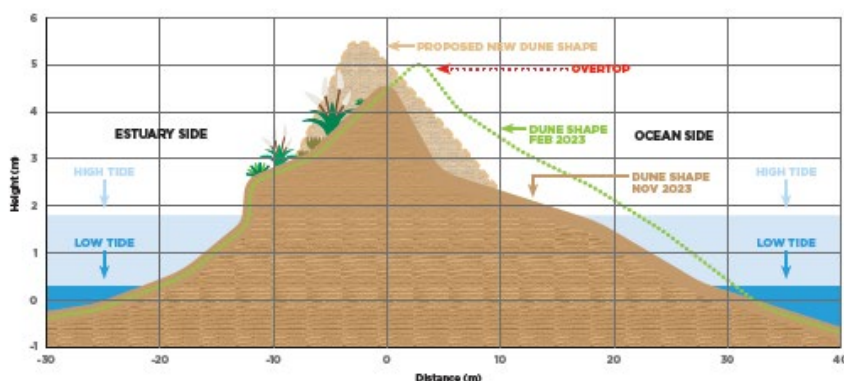
- To return at least 20% of the Kaituna River flows to Maketū (achieved 2021).
- To create at least 20 ha of new wetlands (achieved 2019).
- To increase the size of the tidal estuary by 19% (45 hectares, completed 2020).
- To maximise the ecological and cultural benefits (in progress since 2017).
- Inspections, annual cross section surveys and other monitoring are ongoing.

Due to narrowing and lowering of the spit opposite Whakaue Marae associated with both La Nina storms in 2023 and the gradual erosion of the estuarine side, there are plans to do a 'dune re-nourishment' or 'beach push-up' project in coming months. This is due to the potential negative ecological, cultural and recreational effects on the estuary from a breach. In the long run it is predicted that breaching risk will reduce as the Re-diversion's higher flows create wider and deeper channels in the lower estuary. The push-up will add just over a metre in height to the dune crest over about 150m length using sand from the adjacent beach.



WHAT COULD HAPPEN IN THE EVENT OF A STORM SURGE OR COASTAL INUNDATION

CROSS SECTION - SPIT MIDDLE



**Got questions?
Talk to our team:**

Phone: 0800 884 880

Email: michael.tyler@boprc.govt.nz



Photo showing the completed dune nourishment following planting, taken 14th January 2025.

Planned Completion Date: 2030 – although 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. Plantings now becoming well established.
- Pest plant control and predator control programmes ongoing, there were challenges with pampas control in this last season as a result of re-incursion from other estuary/river margin sites.
- Erosion along re-diversion channel at Fords Cut continues to be monitored and protection measures can be implemented if erosion worsens.



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.

Annual update of works

- 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.
- Continued pest plant control is ongoing throughout the whole wetland.
- Water levels and rainfall have been a continued challenge for the last year 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 surveys were undertaken again October 2024 with 3 matuku heard over the course of the 3 nights. DOC plan to hold more Matuku surveys again in October 2025.
- 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.



Photos of summer 2025 Carpark Block sedgeland planting (taken 2025-01-21)



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.
- Drone trial completed for pampas pest plant control in southern area of wetland.
- School planting programme being held at Whakapoukorero 2024 run by Maketū Ōngātoro Wetland Society and supported by the wetland committee, involving approximately 8 local schools.
- Predator control programme being implemented and pest plant control work brief for 2024/25 being renewed.
- Fish surveys planned for early 2025.
- Investigations for improving hydrological connections.
- Enhancement and track repairs scheduled for summer to ensure safe access for public and contractors.

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 crane 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 crane 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.
- Signage being drafted to support community awareness and interaction with the wetland.
- 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 nearing completion. 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 had been flagged for restoration and enhancement including the construction of a biodiversity and treatment wetland. The project team includes BOPRC, WBOPDC, the Te Ara Kahikatea Pathway Society, Waitaha and Tapuika Iwi, with funding support from Fonterra and TECT. Earthworks and planting are largely complete with the final stage of the project being a community planting day held on the 19th of July, and the final connection of the wetland to the inlet drain in summer 2025. Wetland planting of the shallow water areas has been successfully completed by Te Kapu o Waitaha Iwi with the support of Fruition horticultural students. 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!



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)



Fruition Hort Students planting the completed wetland with Te Kapu O Waitaha in March 2025



Wetland plants establishing well after a flood in May 2025.



Managh's Drain at Lawrence Oliver Park before (left) and after (right) battering and native planting enhancement.

Planned Completion Date: 30/06/2026

Project 8 – Kaituna Habitats Network

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

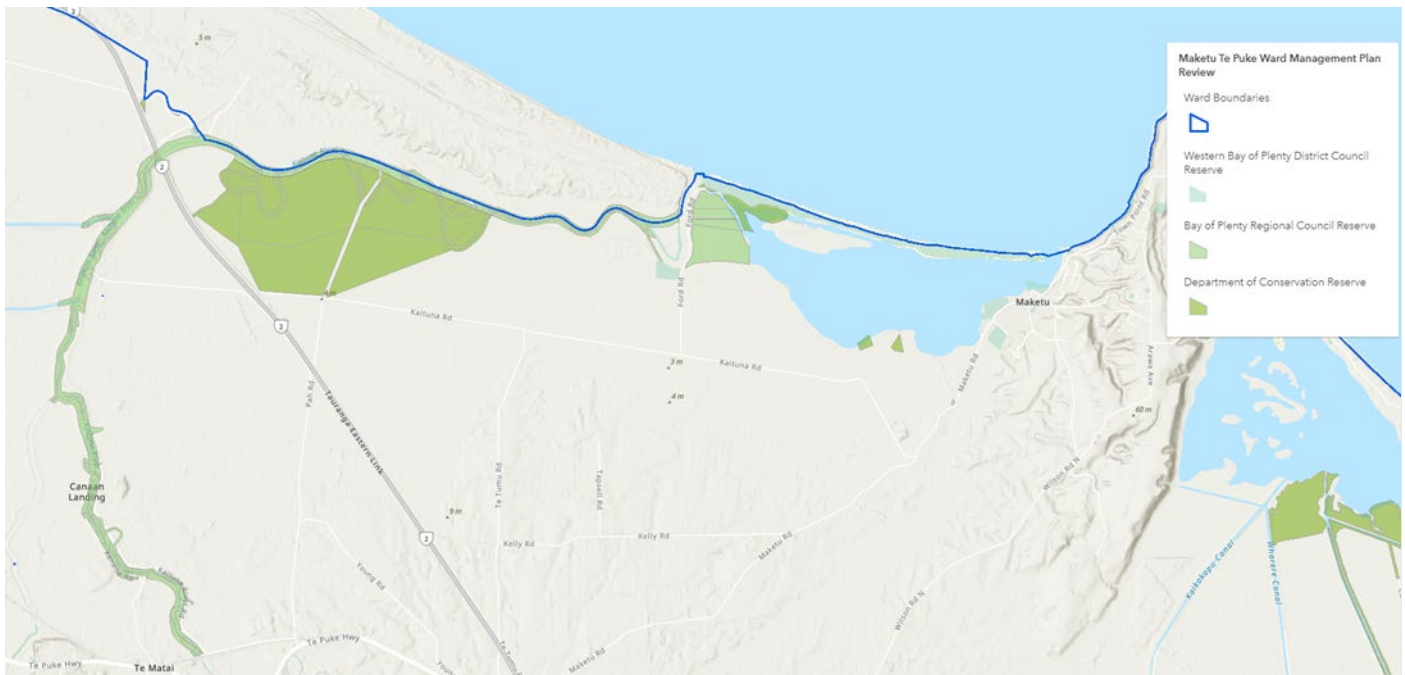
Project Lead – Katy McGinity (WBOPDC)

Progress Update

Project 8A is completed, now that the [Te Puke-Maketū 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-Maketū 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-Maketū 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 – 8C 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 under development 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

8C At least one Habitat Network Connection Project complete

Project Lead – Hinga Marsh (Tapuika Iwi Authority)

Progress Update

- A Connectivity Strategy map has been produced for KEEP to outline connections between suitable habitat for kōkako across native forests in the rohe. This map can show the potential places where pest control can be targeted for maximum effectiveness to further build on the habitat connectivity around the Kaituna.
- [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

Project Lead – Hinga Marsh (Tapuika Iwi Authority)

Progress Update

Highlights over the last six months:

Good progress has been made on Pātaka Kai this season – however in late May 2025 a new team member was added – Brayden Hohaia (as Sapphire Peak resigned) Brayden has contributed to this project in a short time. He brings a wealth of knowledge from his recently completed Environmental degree. We have started to introduce him to the Pātaka Kai/contract space.

Te Wheoro has worked on producing Tapuika’s water monitoring methodologies, cultural monitoring, water planning across awa in the Takapū. This plan can be further expanded upon in the next stages of the Pātaka Kai project.



Planting day at Bell Rd boat ramp with local schools September 2024

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.

Planned Completion Date: 28/02/2023

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

Planned Completion Date: 31/08/2022

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

Planned Completion Date: 31/08/2022

10D At least one annual community event – Update will be provided within the next Biannual Report.

Planned Completion Date: TBC

10E River Symposium held – This has been picked up by the Tapuika Iwi Authority to lead and will be undertaken as per the date below.

Movement on this project has occurred. After discussion with BOPRC and TMOK we are working on planning for this Symposium to occur next year on the 6 February 2026.

Staff changes limited the success of initial coordination of this event, but we have pivoted to engaging Iarau in planning this piece of work. Iarau will provide a Project Plan for the Planning of the River Symposium including Iwi consultation. The contract starts in August & ends in November 2025.

Planned Completion Date: 30/04/2025

Project 11 – Kaituna River Access

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

Project Lead – Katy McGinity (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 photopoints).

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:

- Link to the historic imagery viewer was fixed after an upgrade to the general BayMaps website.
- Information pop ups requested for the current consents layer. I enabled these for all layers on the map.
- Added BOPRC values dataset to the dashboard map as this contains information relating to cultural values such as mahinga kai, wai tapu and indigenous species.

Next steps:

- To investigate splitting out consents so that different categories can be turned on/off.
- 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