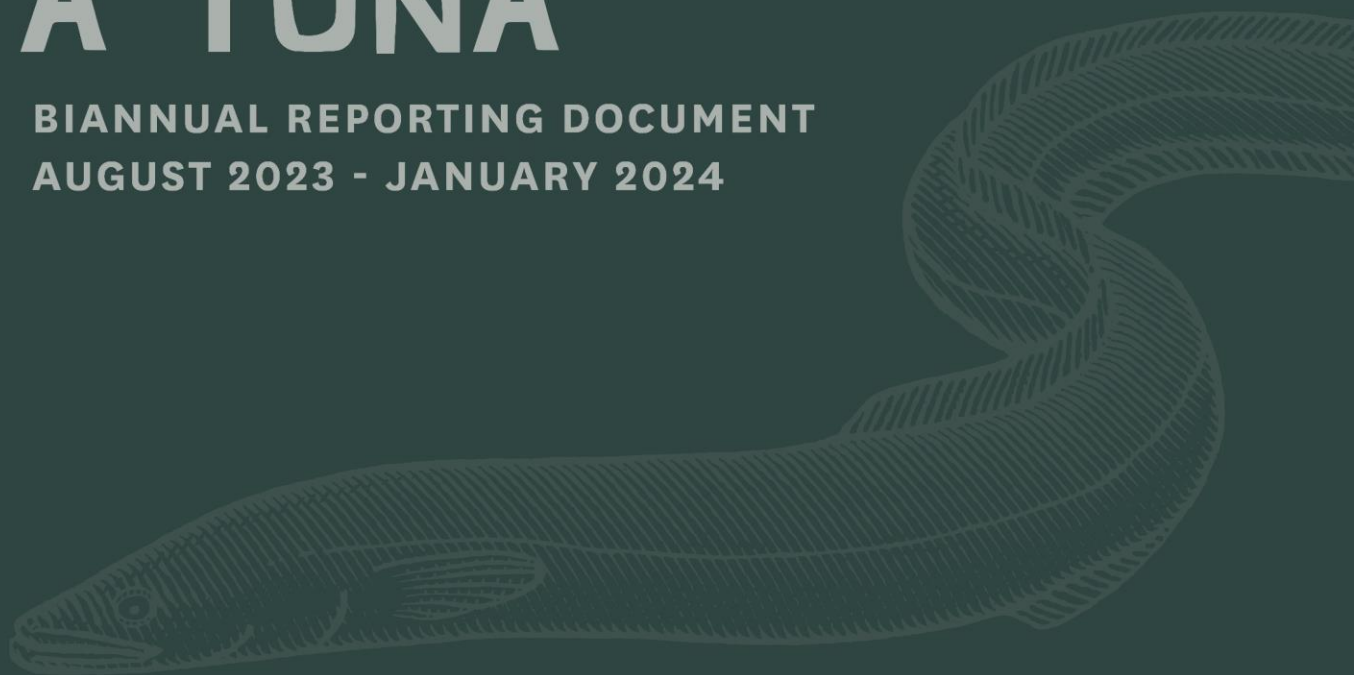




TE TINI A TUNA

BIANNUAL REPORTING DOCUMENT
AUGUST 2023 - JANUARY 2024



A plan of action prepared by Te Maru o Kaituna

Projects not yet Started

- ❖ **Project 15 – Coastal Park Network**

Outputs - 15A Concept Plan Completed/15B Concept Plan Implementation

- ❖ **Project 18 – River Restoration and Enhancement Fund**

Outputs - 18A Fund Established/18B At Least Two External Funding Partners Secured/18C Annual Funding Round

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	45%
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	55%
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	35%
Project 9 – Pataka Kai	TMoK	Green	50%
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 16 – State of the Awa Integrated Monitoring and Reporting	BOPRC	Amber	10%
Project 17 – Kaituna Catchment Network Mapping	BOPRC, WBOPDC	Green	45%

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 5 properties in 2022/23 financial year with approximately 6 km of upgrades in the lower Kaituna catchment.
- Best practice drains upgrade work planned for 2023/24 financial year – at least 3 properties committed to works with over 3 km of upgrades planned and intention for BOPRC and landowners to carry out more works into future.
- Monitoring continues on the TAML farm 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). Further improvements to be made to the restored drains and these will be monitored for at least five years.
- 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.
- Development of a Lowland Drains Strategy would be useful to help prioritise works areas and leverage LTP funding for works in future.

Planned Completion date: [30/06/2030](#)



Drain restoration example after 2.5 years growth in Ford Rd/Waipetupia Focus Catchment (lower Kaituna) “DairyNZ best practice lowland drain standard”.

Project 1 - Lowland Drains and Drainage Canal Improvement

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

Project Lead – Kathy Thiel-Lardon (BOPRC)

Progress update

Resource Consents and Archaeological Authority have now been granted for the pump station construction and drain widening works.

The project will be implemented in three main stages as follows:

Stage 1 – Drainage Improvement works - To commence Jan/Feb 2024.

Stage 2 – Construction of the new pump station – timeframes TBC

Stage 3 – Decommissioning and removal of the existing Ford Road Pump Station – timeframes TBC

Stage 1 – Drainage improvement works.

This first stage of works will involve earthworks associated with the widening of approximately 1.6km of existing network drains (drains known as the Internal Drain and Cruickshank's Drain), the removal of two existing box culverts and one bridge, the installation of three new bridges and the associated realignment of one farm access track (to accommodate the drain widening). The material excavated from the drains will be spread across the adjacent paddocks south of the Internal Drain. The widening of the drains will be undertaken in a manner to accommodate the proposed riparian planting along both sides.

Two contracts have been awarded. The drain widening will be undertaken by J Swaps Contractors Ltd, and the structures will be designed and build by Bridge IT NZ Ltd. Cultural Monitors will be monitoring the earthworks activity.

The detailed design for the pump station is underway.

Planned Completion date-Stage 1: July 2024

Project 2 – Freshwater Quality and Quantity Limits

Outputs - 2A Identified freshwater objectives and limits/Project 2B Draft Regional Plan Change / Project 2C Formal Regional Plan change process

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

Progress Update

These three projects form part of Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Essential Freshwater Policy Programme (EFPP). We are continuing work 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) and also reviewing the freshwater related chapters.

In December 2023, Government amended the deadline for notifying freshwater changes from Dec 2024 to Dec 2027. They have also stated they will progress changes to how the hierarchy of obligations contained in Te Mana o te Wai parts of the NPSFM apply to consent applications and consent decisions this year. Furthermore, replace the NPSFM2020 and amend freshwater regulations in 18 – 24 months. As a result, late last year Toi Moana postponed making a decision to release the draft freshwater changes. In February, Toi Moana will revisit the timeframe for notification of these changes, currently set as December 2024, which will extend the overarching programme timeline.

Ngā kaupapa miramira Highlights – Aug 2023 to Jan 2024

- From April – September 2023 community engagement events were held across the region about draft management options being considered.
- Hui a rohe wai māori were held in May.
- In person community events were held in each of the 13 Freshwater Management Unit areas and online webinars for some, including the Kaituna.
- Kaituna Freshwater drop-in sessions were held on 6 May and 15 Sept at the Te Puke Memorial Hall and 6 July at Whakaue Marae, Maketū and an online webinar on 4 August. [View recording.](#)
- A freshwater feedback summary report was collated and presented to Council and is available [here](#) – (see item 8.1 and attachments).



*Kaituna FMU drop-in session at Whakaue Marae, Maketū
6 July 2023*



Kaituna FMU online webinar 4 August 2023 – [view recording](#)



Kaituna FMU drop-in session at Te Puke Memorial Hall 15 September 2023

Ngā mea e whai ake nei Next steps

- Continue to invite and support involvement of tangata whenua
- Continue to support various iwi led projects to advance their input and advice into this work programme
- Continue progressing draft policy options and draft plan change text at pace
- Planning for the targeted release of draft RPS & RNRP freshwater changes for feedback once the programme timeline is reset.

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)
- 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, [view the recording](#) of the 4 Aug Kaituna online engagement webinar.
- 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 Margaret Courtney if you have any queries – Margaret.courtney@boprc.govt.nz
- Check out Te Maru o Kaituna's website [here](#)
- 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 960 Compliance Monitoring Actions related to water takes, discharges, and stormwater discharges within the Te Maru O Kaituna Rohe during August 2023 to January 2024 monitoring period. Compliance Monitoring Actions are made up of both visits to the consent holders site and processing data at the office; and are assessed as either: complying, low risk non-compliance, moderate non-compliance and significant non-compliance against the conditions of consent which have been assessed. Of the total number of Compliance Monitoring Actions 88.3% were assessed to be complying, which is an increase from 80% from the previous reporting periods. Significant non-compliance across all activities is 0.4% which is under the long-term average for significant non-compliance. Once again OSET discharges and dairy discharges received the lowest compliance rating in the TMOk Rohe with bore installations, surface water takes receiving high compliance.

Compliance Monitoring Actions – Water takes and discharges within TMOk rohe = 960

Compliance Rating	Count	%
Complying	848	88.3
Low risk	87	9.1
Moderate non-compliance	21	2.2
Significant non-compliance	4	0.4

Site Visits and follow-up site visit = 106

Compliance Rating	Count	%
Complying	75	70.8
Low risk	17	16.0
Moderate non-compliance	12	11.3
Significant non-compliance	2	1.9

Monitoring data = 854

Compliance Rating	Count	%
Complying	773	90.5
Low risk	70	8.2
Moderate non-compliance	9	1.1
Significant non-compliance	2	0.2

Per Activity

Activity	Inspection & monitoring data	Complying	%	Low Risk	%	Moderate	%	Significant	%
Dairy discharge	32	23	71.9	6	18.8	1	3.1	2	6.3
Discharge to land	82	70	85.4	7	8.5	5	6.1	0	0
Discharge to water	69	59	85.5	7	10.1	3	4.3	0	0
Groundwater take	523	474	90.6	45	8.6	2	0.4	2	0.4
Install a bore	7	7	100	0	-	0	-	0	-
OSET discharge	58	35	60.3	15	25.9	8	13.8	0	-
Surface water take	160	151	94.4	7	4.4	2	1.3	0	-
Geothermal water take	29	29	100	0	-	0	-	0	-
Total	733								

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

65 compliance monitoring actions

Site inspections, follow up inspections and receiving information post visit = 24

Compliance Rating	Count	%
Complying	19	79
Low risk	4	17
Moderate non-compliance	1	4
Significant non-compliance	0	0

Performance monitoring actions = 41

Compliance Rating	Count	%
Complying	39	95
Low risk	1	2.5
Moderate non-compliance	1	2.5
Significant non-compliance	0	0

Planned Completion Date: Completed for this reporting period

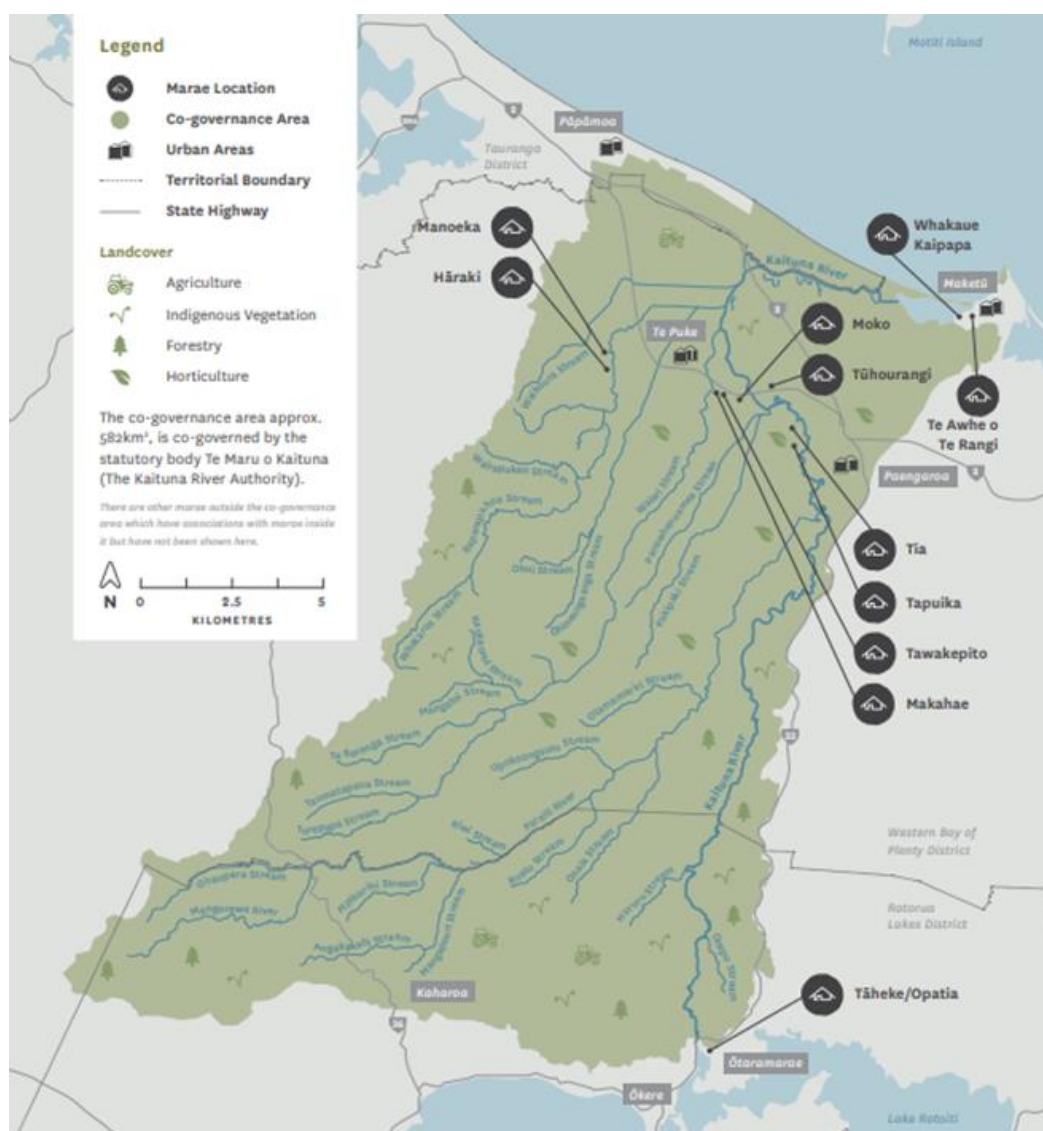
Output - 3B Annual reporting by city and district councils about urban wastewater and stormwater management

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

Progress Update

- TCC Reporting will be completed as the consents require for 2022/2023.
- 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 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 August 2023 and January 2024, WBOPDC demonstrated compliance for all monitoring required by condition 9.3 except for the Total Phosphorus rolling median, which exceeded the Maximum Acceptable Value (MAV) from 13 September 2023 to 10 January 2024. It has since returned to compliant. All monitoring for condition 9.4 complied with consent RM16 0204.

Table below contains sampling results required by condition 9.5.

Date	Site	pH	Suspended Solids - Total	BOD5 - Total	Total Phosphorus	Total Nitrogen	E. coli
14/08/2023	Upstream of Discharge	7.2	7	2	0.035	1.09	33
	Downstream of Discharge	7.2	10	2	0.088	1.27	36
18/09/2023	Upstream of Discharge	7.1	7	2	0.034	1.14	58
	Downstream of Discharge	7.1	8	2	0.085	1.36	53
9/10/2023	Upstream of Discharge	7.1	9	2	0.030	1.06	38
	Downstream of Discharge	7.1	8	2	0.100	1.38	53
15/11/2023	Upstream of Discharge	6.5	5	2	0.024	1.04	36
	Downstream of Discharge	6.8	5	2	0.122	1.21	50
11/12/2023	Upstream of Discharge	7.2	5	2	0.030	1.12	72
	Downstream of Discharge	7.2	6	2	0.098	1.23	69
8/01/2024	Upstream of Discharge	7.1	6	2	0.033	1.09	23
	Downstream of Discharge	7.1	5	2	0.081	1.22	40

WBOPDC was granted a comprehensive stormwater consent 67481 to discharge stormwater. A Monitoring Plan required by this consent has recently been certified by Regional Council, which means that stormwater monitoring can now begin.

Planned Completion Date: Annual reporting requirement

Annual report will be completed by 31 August 2024.

Project 3 – Consented Takes and Discharges

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

Project Lead – Chairman Flavell/Raponi Wilson (TMOk)

Progress Update

A meeting between the representatives will be scheduled for 2024.

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 2023 year within the wider Kaituna Catchments, particularly in the Upper Kaituna where landowners are approaching council to enter environmental programmes in support of the Kokako 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.

Te Arawa Lakes Treatment Wetland: Weather has restricted earthworks significantly this past year. However, works will resume to complete the remaining 25% of earthworks in February 2024. The final large-scale planting will be in February 2025 when plants become available. Currently open water habitat has been seen hosting bittern and dab chicks.



Photo taken in 2023 of retirement planting of steep stream margin area in the Paraiti catchment.

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

Te Ohu Parawai o te Waiari agreed to progress the Mauri model proposed by Dr Kepa Morgan. There is an opportunity to develop a Mauri model that spans both consents. The proposal has been signed off by Te Ohu Parawai o te Waiari and will be presented at the next Waiari Kaitiaki meeting which is due to occur in June.

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 new Government has suggested there may be some changes to [Freshwater Farm Plan \(FW-FP\) regulations which were gazetted on 8th June 2023](#) as a key part of the Essential Freshwater work programme to improve water quality and provide a nationally consistent farm planning framework. It remains unclear what the changes may entail but there could potentially be a focus on simplifying the regulations. As far as we understand:
- FW-FPs will be a mandatory and enforceable tool subject to Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement functions by Councils under the RMA. They will require certification and audit.
- FW-FPs will need to consider the risks of the farming/growing operation on local water quality and identify practical time-bound actions on farm to help improve the health of water.
- As a minimum, BOPRC will need to support FW-FP implementation through:
- Providing our best available information on Catchment Context, Challenges and Values to be considered in the FW-FP (already occurring as part of our Essential Freshwater Policy programme)
- Working on the regional training and appointment of certifiers and auditors (with the support of a National Appointment Body, and
- Fulfilling our Council compliance, monitoring and enforcement functions under the RMA.
- FW-FPs are likely to be phased in by the government in the Bay of Plenty Region around at the end of 2025.

Planned Completion Date: 30/06/2025

Project 6 – Post Kaituna River Rediversion Enhancement

Output - 6A Restoration Work Programme Completed

Project Lead – Pim de Monchy (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 maximise the ecological and cultural benefits (in progress since 2017).
- Inspections, annual cross section surveys and other monitoring are ongoing.

Latest Results – Water Quality and Shellfish (from Stephen Park, Senior Environmental Scientist):

- Water and shellfish bacterial loads monitored in summer & winter.
- Nutrients concentrations monitored over whole tidal range in summer and low tide in winter.
- Logger deployed (project) to measure oxygen and salinity mid at Site 5 and Papahikahawai Creek.



Pipi Results:

- MPI food safety limit for *E. coli* now 230/100g median (5 rep) & sample max 700/100g.
- Winter and recent summer results have exceeded the guideline – rain affecting summer results.

Nutrients and bacteria – water column:

- Site 5 (see map over page) bacterial numbers increased 2022/23 due to rain but still within past levels.
- Nitrate results slightly higher in 2023, but overall, within levels prior to the increased flow in 2020.

Water column salinity :

- Both Site 5 and Papahikahawai Creek show expected drop in salinity following the increased river diversion.
- 2023 results show lowest salinity in response to high river flows.
- This bodes well for seagrass as the mid-estuary salinity profile is now within the optimal range for this species.

Water column Dissolved Oxygen:

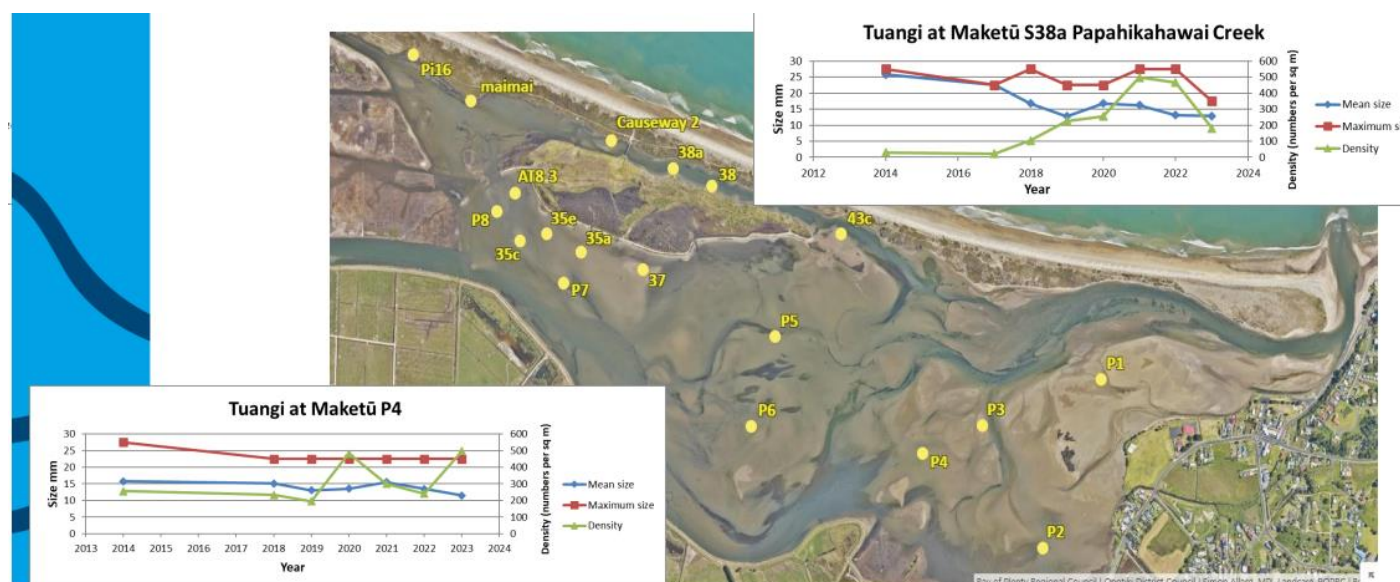
- Both Site 5 and Papahikahawai Creek show improving trend in dissolved oxygen (DO) levels.

Benthic Ecological monitoring – sites monitored:



2023 Results – Mid estuary shellfish:

- Shellfish monitoring (density and size) has shown that the improvements previously noted in areas that have had tidal flows restored (particularly in Papahikahawai Creek) have been maintained.



Sediment organics & nutrients:

- Reductions of macroalgae and hence organic and nutrient content of sediments linked to improvements seen in Papahikahawai Creek and upper estuary.

Pipi Surveys:

- Consent requires pipi survey of at least 8 replicate samples along a transect.
- 2021 - 12 transects surveyed to provide extensive baseline
- Bottom 2023 photo - pipi just down from transect 1.



2023 pipi density:

- Pipi densities similar pre and post increased Kaituna River diversion.

2023 pipi size:

- Densities of 40-60 mm pipi on transects may be slightly lower in 2023.

Sea Grass Monitoring:

- Sea grass declined from over 10 hectares in the mid-1900s, to disappear completely in 2019.
- 2020 re-established in at least 18 patches up to 8m across.
- Now remaining patches have sparse leaf density.
- Iwi-led trial with netting to protect seagrass rhizomes from swan grazing

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.
- Erosion along re-diversion channel at Fords Cut continues to be monitored and protection measures can be implemented if erosion worsens.
- Rubbish dumping and damage to some plantings from white baiters and other members of community. New signage to address rubbish dumping to be installed.



Drone imagery captured 26/01/2024, looking at Te Pā Ika wetland, Maketū estuary and Kaituna cut.



Drone imagery captured 26/01/2024, looking north across central spur at Te Palka toward Kaituna cut.

Planned Completion Date: 30/06/2024

Project 7B: Te Pourepo o Kaituna Project

Public Easement on Tumu Kawa block

- Public easement being lodged with LINZ for registration.

Annual update of works

- Final year of school planting finished in Waiomamae block of the wider Te Pourepo o Kaituna project area.
- Planting of remaining sedgeland areas in Waiomamae block are upcoming (30,000 plants)
- 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

Channel clearing

- Generally undertaken between now and end of March, expected that the team will be in there in the next few weeks to start this.
- Okere gates have been open a lot in the last year which has made flushing of the wetland more challenging, as well as the increased rainfall. The channels in the wetland are currently looking quite choked up.

Fish monitoring

- looking at macrophytes impact on fish and been monitoring fish in the wetland as a result of improved flows into the wetland through new culverts/fish friendly gates. Write up planned for the next year.
- Write up of results planned for 2024/2025

Predator control work

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

Birds surveys

- November matuku surveys undertaken and found that there were a number of birds calling in the wetland, follow up nest surveys did not find any matuku nests.
- Baseline bird surveys undertaken in 2019, the plan is to repeat these bird surveys this year and again in 5 years.



Drone imagery captured 26/01/24 looking over Te Pourepo o Kaituna project area.



School planting education programme 2023 – kahikatea forest mix.

Planned Completion Date: 30/06/2025

Project 7C: Whakapoukorero Wetland

- New Environmental Programme (EP) has been signed between Te Arawa Lakes Trust/Te Arawa Management Limited (landowner) and Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC).
- The new EP provides restoration plans for the period 2023 to 2027.
- The plan provides funding for activities including restoration pest plant control, planting, predator control and monitoring (ecological and hydrological).

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)



Drone imagery captured 26/01/2024, looking over Whakapoukorero wetland toward Maketū estuary.

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 \$59,664.00 and \$19,888.00 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).

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 \(Wetland re-creation project\)](#).



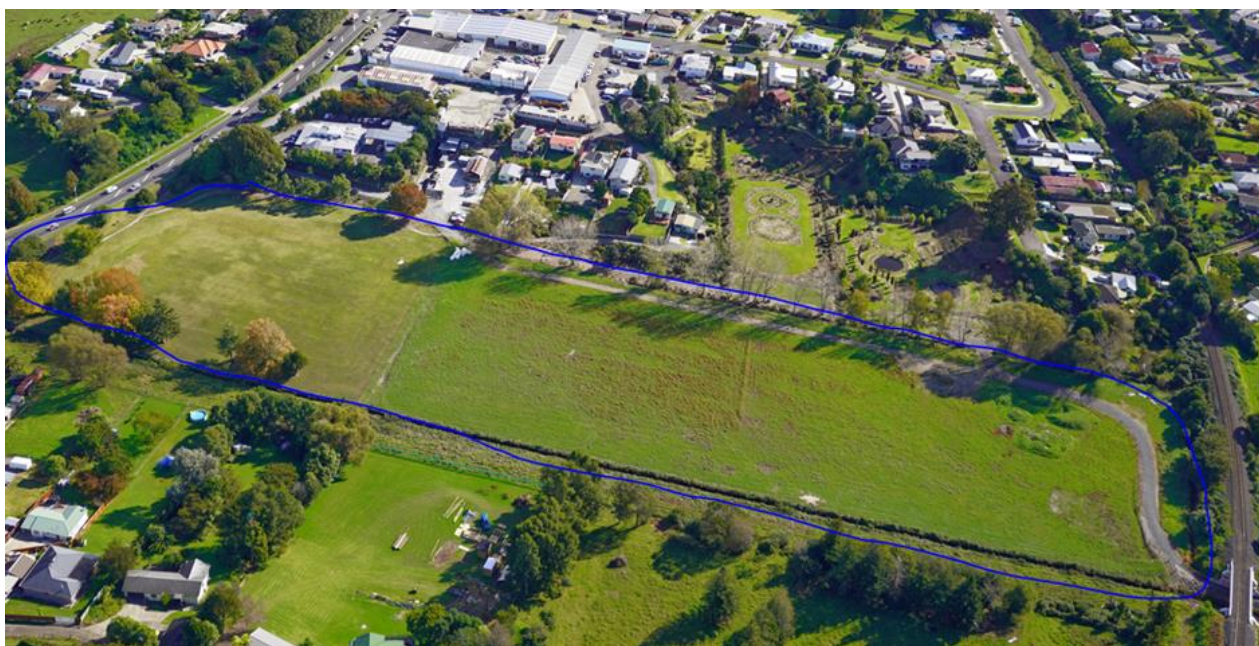
Photoblique image of Te Huauri o Te Kawa on the true right side of Kaituna River.

Outputs – 7E Lawrence Oliver Park Constructed Wetland

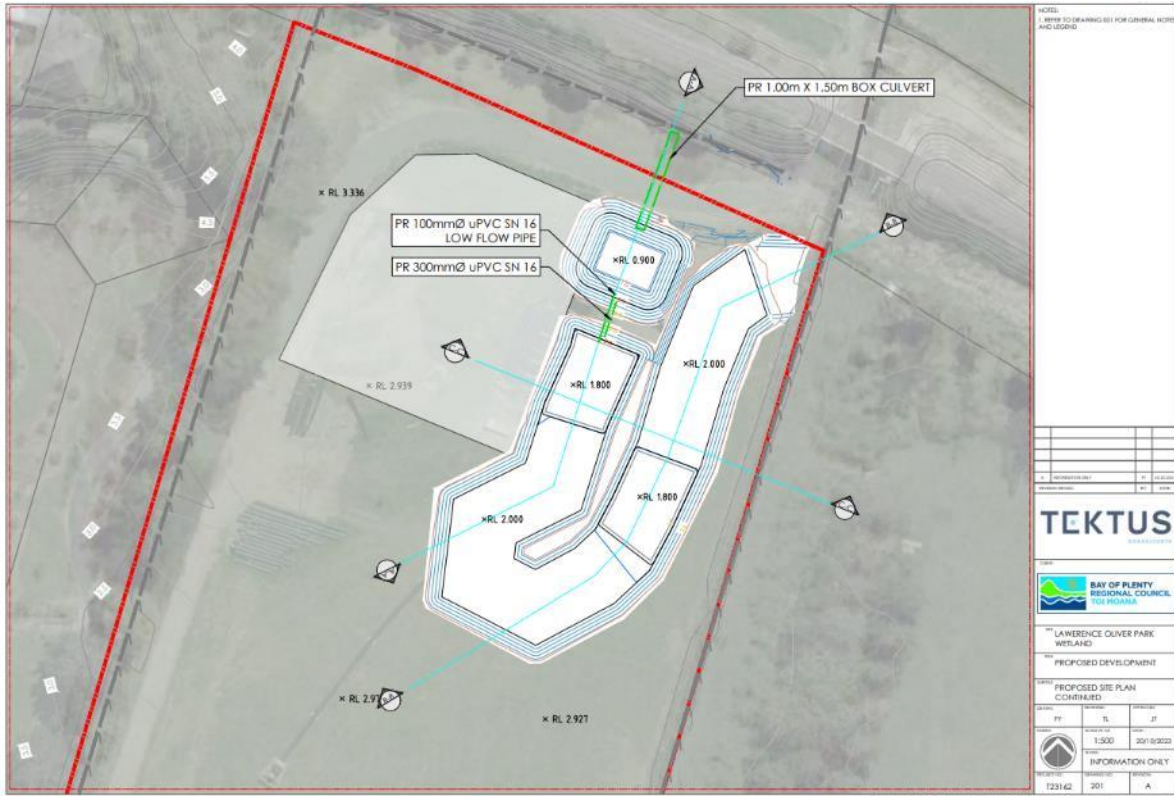
Project Lead – Jackson Efford (BOPRC)

Progress Update

A brand new publicly accessible wetland development and restoration is planned for Lawrence Oliver Park in Te Puke. This 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 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. A consent and design has now been completed, and procurement for a earth works contractor to build the wetland is now underway. Earthworks will likely commence in November 2024. The design is based on the DairyNZ/NIWA constructed treatment wetland guidelines.



Lawrence Oliver Park in Te Puke- the future location of a constructed wetland and biodiversity area alongside the Te Ara Kahikatea walkway.



Wetland design for Lawrence Oliver Park.

Planned Completion Date: 30/06/2025

Project 8 – Kaituna Habitats Network

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

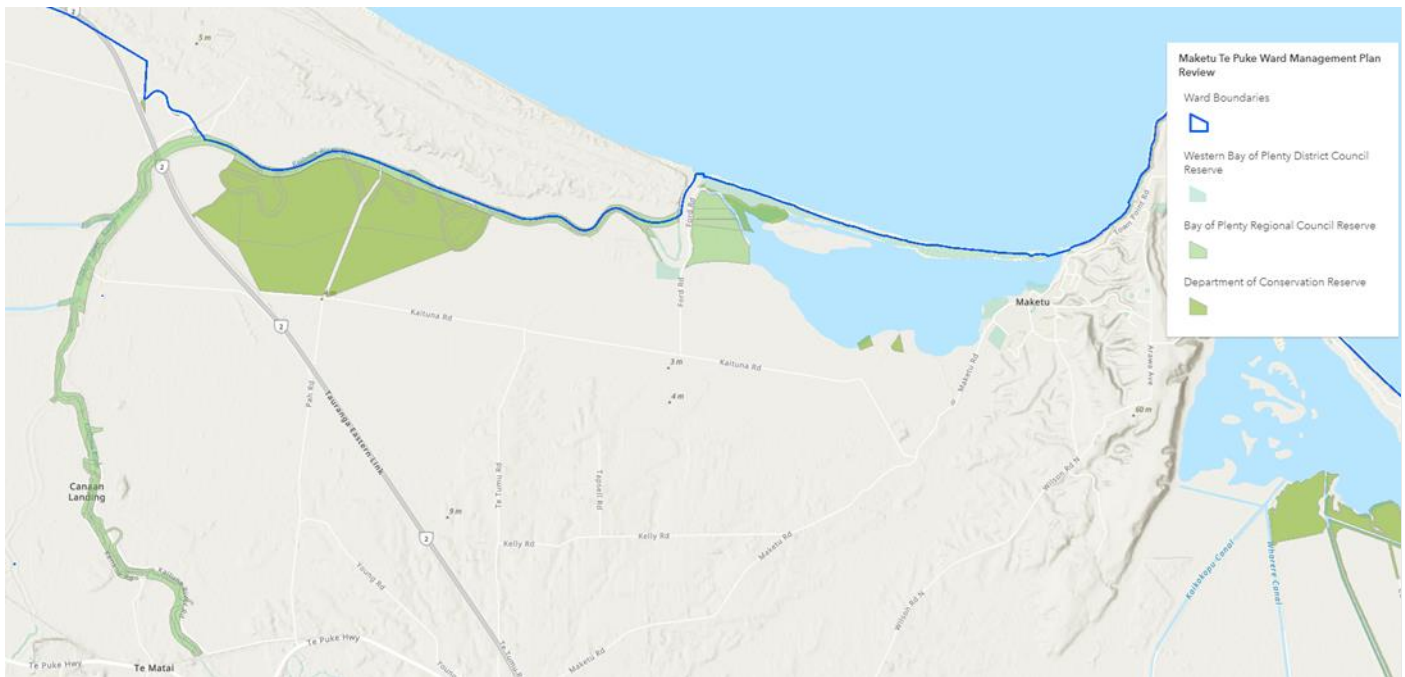
Project Lead – Jason Crummer (WBOPDC)

Progress Update

Project 8A is closed off 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 – 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.
- There has been some interest shown by community members between Ōtawa and Ōtānewainuku to undertake predator control in the farmland and orchards between these two sites to prevent pest incursion from adjacent farmland. Scoping of this is ongoing.

Planned Completion Date: 2050

Project 8 – Kaituna Habitats Network

8C At least one Habitat Network Connection Project complete

Project Lead – Raponi Wilson (Tapuika Iwi Authority)

Progress Update

- Kokako Ecosystem Expansion Programme. An ambitious, multi-generational project that aims to work with its stakeholders to support connectivity between isolated populations of kokako, through habitat expansion, predator control and the creation of green corridors.
- Broad range of stakeholders invested including mana whenua, care groups, catchment groups, the forestry sector, local government, and NGO's.

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 – Raponi Wilson (Tapuika Iwi Authority)

Progress Update

Highlights over the last two months:

August:

- Baseline Monitoring Plan revised and finalised.
- Pātaka Kai pānui established

September:

- 1 more koeke interview conducted.
- Two restoration sites determined.
- Restoration Plan of two restoration sites drafted and finalised.
- Wānanga to share overview and findings of the project, restoration goals and outline opportunities for whānau contribution
- Implementation of the Pātaka Kai Monitoring plan and 2 site restorations to commence once funding agreement is complete, this will commence within the next two - three months.

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 – Chairman Flavell/Raponi Wilson (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.

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 – Jason Crummer (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 – Council has completed the draft feasibility study for Kaituna River Access with the final report due February 2024.

Targeted engagement comprised a mix of site visits, informal discussions, and presentations with hapū, iwi, the Maketu Hoe Waka Ama Club, Council’s elected members, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Tamariki and other river users during site visits, Te Ihu o Te Waka o Te Arawa Forum (Council’s tangata whenua partnership forum) and Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority forum.

Overall, engagement provided clarity on areas of importance, current access and use, experiences with launching watercraft and opportunities for river access enhancement. Of most value was the cross-pollination of ideas and discussions about next steps including who to engage with for each priority area.

Next steps – To finalise the draft report, develop project plans, and work programmes for the respective recommendations within the report.

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



Kaituna
Bell Road Reserve

Reserve specific Information	
Address/Location	Bell Road, Kaituna
Reserve Act Classification	Road reserve
Reserve Category (Primary Purpose)	Recreation and ecological linkages
District Plan Zone	Rural
Property ID	NA
Parcel ID	1386
Site	NA
Current State	Informal carpark with jetty
Maintenance Levels of Service	None at this time
Inventory	Jetty, Seat, carpark
Utilities	None
Leases	None

Background

- Informal carpark with jetty located at the end of Bell Road providing access to the Kaituna River.

Reserve Issues

- Limited open space at the site.
- Some feedback from the community that jetty facility could be improved and that the wooden structure may not last long term.

Reserve Management Approach

- Investigate potential for additional reserve facilities such as seating.
- Investigate opportunity to provide naming signage at reserve frontage.
- Continue to maintain reserve as small utilities and recreation area.
- Investigate designation of part of road reserve to recreation reserve.
- Continue to work with Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority to improve access to the Kaituna River and implement Te Tini a Tuna – Kaituna River Action Plan.
- Investigate opportunity for site to be used for waka launching site.
- District-wide reserve objectives and policies apply.

2021-2029 Long Term Plan	Indicative Costings (total)	Indicative Timing
Bell Road Kaituna River Access	\$192,000	2021 - 2029

Ongoing maintenance will continue. See information above for agreed levels of service.

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 WBOPDC's application to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (Round 6), for funding towards a cycleway along the stopbank between the TEL and Ford Road (Otaiapia 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 – Chairman Flavell/Raponi Wilson (TMOk)

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

2023 -2024 to date and within the initial project area (Iwi land to the right of the Kaituna/Okere Awa):

- 9 hectares removal of gorse, blackberry.
- 60 pest traps set and monitored.
- 66 possums, 245 Rats and 13 Stoats.
- 2 x Completed bird counts with increased bird activity identified.
- 40,000+ 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.
- 286kg of rubbish from the area/roadside has been collected by Rotorua Rafting and Rotorua Staff and locals

2023 - 2024 to date within the expanded area the Okere Falls area (Te Akau Peninsula).

- Successful with funding from Rotorua Trust, with funds being spent on plant pest eradication, pest traps and plants.
- Set up a Pest Trap Library with locals having access to traps.
- Order of a further 12 Auto traps to be distributed to the community (including Otaramarae).
- Currently 50+ plants in the ground, but a further 6000 plants purchased and planned for Autumn planting.
- A further 1.3km/s of new trap line alongside lake edge (Pohutukawa showing strong signs of comeback this summer).
- 274 Possums, 286 Rats, 2 stoats.
- Possums fur being used and the meat is being turned into possum food and distributed throughout the community.



Ongoing work

- Clearing and re-baiting traps fortnightly (spring-summer) and monthly (autumn-winter).
- Relocating traps to keep them productive and in working order.
- Roll out toxin control as required.
- Conduct ongoing monitoring (trap catch data, bird counts and photo points).
- Provide evidence that traps and bait are being used following best practice.



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.

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.

Proposed area for future key projects (below map)



Planned Completion Date: Unknown at this stage

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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

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)

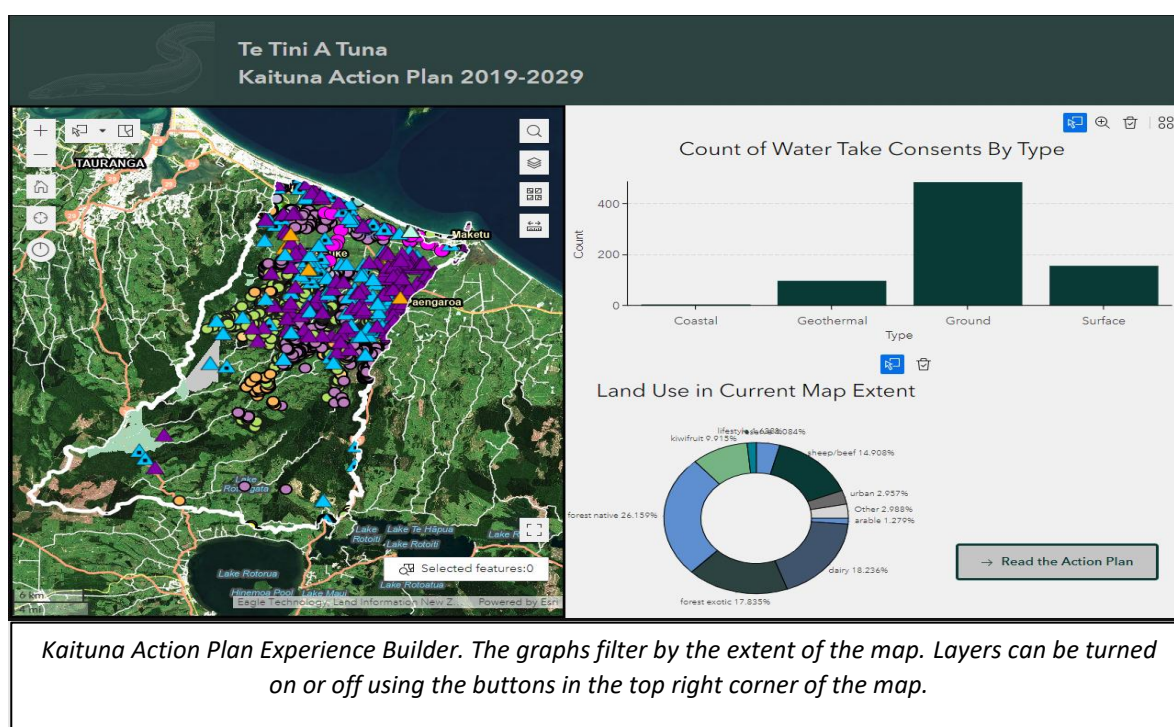
Progress Update

17A (Georgia Edwards, BOPRC) - Map with relevant layers and graphs is still available in our ArcGIS Online environment and ready to share for feedback with anyone interested in reviewing the tool. Next steps for 17 A/B/C remain consistent with previous quarter. Further guidance on how this tool is going to be used and the audience for this tool is required to guide any further updates and how widely the link to the tool should be shared.

17B (Georgia Edwards, BOPRC) - Previous reporting stated that data for this project is mostly available. These datasets have been included in the web map/experience builder project mentioned above. Project 7 remains a focus for my discussions with land management officers.

17C (Georgia Edwards, BOPRC) - Datasets I currently have that are relevant to this project are included in the web map/experience builder. Project 8 remains a focus for my discussions with land management officers.

Planned Completion Date: 2023





**KAITUNA
HE
TAONGA
TUKU
IHO** A TREASURE
HANDLED DOWN



Te Maru
o Kaituna