

# Maunga ki Tai

## Restoration Strategy launched

THE RESTORATION STRATEGY FOR THE WAIKATO AND WAIPĀ RIVER CATCHMENTS WAS RECENTLY LAUNCHED TO A LARGE GROUP OF STAKEHOLDERS BY THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HON DAVID PARKER.



*Minister for the Environment Hon David Parker with Waikato River Authority Co-chair Hon John Luxton at the launch of the Waikato and Waipā River Restoration Strategy.*

The strategy is regarded as a milestone for the future wellbeing of the area.

The Restoration Strategy has been a three-year project between DairyNZ, Waikato Regional Council and the Waikato River Authority creating a prioritised masterplan for restoration activities.

The strategy was officially launched at Waikato-Tainui College at Hopuhopu.

Co-chairs of the Waikato River Authority, Hon John Luxton and Tukoroirangi Morgan, say the collaboration and effort which has produced the strategy gives further promise to the restoration work ahead for the catchments.

“While significant work is already

underway, the prioritised and coordinated approach will further strengthen the goal of achieving Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato, the Vision & Strategy for the Waikato River.”

The Restoration Strategy is a non-statutory and non-regulatory framework to help with future ‘on the ground’ activities for restoration around the Waikato River and Waipā River. The document provides a foundation to guide organisations that fund or undertake restoration through identification of specific, technically achievable and prioritised actions. Key to developing the strategy has been the input and support of mana whenua, landowners and many other stakeholder groups in the catchment.

### MESSAGE FROM THE CE

Last year I initiated discussions with a wide range of public sector and Not-For-Profit funders of environmental restoration projects to understand how they measure the outcomes of their investments from individual projects. I discovered the challenge the WRA faces of moving from the measurement of project outputs to outcomes is universally shared. The WRA established a small group of River Iwi, CRIs and other funders to consider this challenge. Our workshop highlighted the complexities in this space, particularly those associated with changes to water quality that tend to take many decades to emerge. We will be focussing on improvements to our next 5 Year River Report Card with work commencing later this year.



**Bob Penter**  
 Chief Executive

# Authority signals funding priorities for 2018

THE WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY HAS ANNOUNCED FUNDING IT WILL HAVE AVAILABLE FOR 2018 AND SIGNALLED A STRONG DESIRE TO CONTINUING WORKING ON MEASURING EFFECTIVENESS OF PROJECTS IN THE YEAR AHEAD.

The Authority has again allocated \$6 million for clean-up projects in this its 8th year of funding.

A key influence for identifying projects in the year ahead will be the recently launched Restoration Strategy for the Waikato and Waipā river catchments. This 15-year masterplan strategy, developed with extensive collaboration, prioritises restoration work that can provide the greatest benefit for the catchment.

Waikato River Authority Chief Executive, Bob Penter, says completion of the Restoration Strategy is a significant step forward in ensuring clean-up work is as effective as it can be.

"With 11 thousand square kilometres of catchment, and potentially decades of delay before improvements can be seen, it is a constant challenge to ensure effort and resources are well targeted. By

establishing a blueprint for restoration priorities, we are in a much stronger position," he says.

In addition, the Authority is also looking to focus on measuring effectiveness. Considerable effort has already been put into developing a Report Card for the health and wellbeing of catchment, and it is likely this work will be built on in the next year or two.

The Waikato River Authority has also taken steps to enable smaller organisations to apply for funding. The Authority has lifted the requirement threshold for GST registration. Previously projects greater than \$10,000 needed GST registration but this has now been lifted to \$25,000.

The 2018 funding process will open on 2 July with applications again being managed online at [www.waikatoriver.org.nz](http://www.waikatoriver.org.nz)

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## Weir provides whitebait with helping hand

NIWA WHITEBAIT RESTORATION WORK, ASSISTED WITH FUNDING FROM THE WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY HAS SEEN THE INSTALLATION OF FISH BARRIERS TO HELP WHITEBAIT POPULATIONS.

A weir installed in the lower reaches of the Puketirini Stream operates as a critical selective barrier protecting whitebait species within the Waahi and wider Waikato catchment. This allows the passage of juvenile eels and whitebait, capable of climbing the wetted margins of instream structures, but prevents the pest fish species perch, koi carp, rudd from accessing habitats above the weir.

NIWA's Dr Cindy Baker says resident banded kokopu and giant kokopu populations (two whitebait species) are of particular importance.

"We have carried out analyses of otoliths (ear bones) which have shown that banded and giant kokopu residing in Waikato River tributaries near Hamilton have reared in the Lake Waahi catchment. Therefore, the whitebait in the Puketirini Stream tributary are of considerable conservation value because they

help to sustain these rarer whitebait species and their populations in the wider Waikato catchment," she says.



*A recently installed fish barrier weir in the Puketirini Stream. The fish barrier allows whitebait movement but prevents pest fish.*

# Turangawaewae riverbank restoration completed

A MAJOR UNDERTAKING BY THE TURANGAWAEWAE TRUST BOARD, WITH FUNDING HELP FROM THE WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY, HAS SEEN SIGNIFICANT ACCESS IMPROVEMENT TO THE RIVER.



The project which has been planned and implemented over a number of years, has seen river bank erosion protection through planting and other stabilisation, as well as the installation of a concrete pathway.

The pathway provides access from Turangawaewae Marae and also links to a new waka launching ramp.

The project has also been a collaboration between a number of other parties, including Waikato-Tainui, the Waikato Regional Council, Genesis Energy and Mercury.



## Team changes at WRA

The Authority is currently recruiting for a funding support role (see back page) following Keri Neilson's decision to return to the Waikato Regional Council at the end of this month.

Keri has played a pivotal role during her time as Trust Fund Manager and significantly lifted the Authority's project administration and support to funding recipients and applicants.

Keri's position as Trust Fund Manager is being filled in the interim by Michelle Hodges, who previously provided back-up to Keri.

All funding inquiries should be directed to Michelle at [michelle@waikatoriver.org.nz](mailto:michelle@waikatoriver.org.nz) or 07 839 7966.

## Switch to SmartyGrants for 2018 applications

THE WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY IS THIS YEAR MOVING TO A DIFFERENT ONLINE SYSTEM FOR MANAGING FUNDING APPLICATIONS.

The new system will still be accessed through the Authority's website at [www.waikatoriver.org.nz](http://www.waikatoriver.org.nz) under 'Applications and Project Reporting'. The new system is known as SmartyGrants and is widely used through Australia and New Zealand by funding organisations.

SmartyGrants is both a funding application and reporting system. Initially the new system will be used for 2018 projects onwards with current projects moved across on a case-by-case basis.

SmartyGrants will offer improved functionality and ongoing software improvements.

# Landcorp Burgess Dairy Unit, winner of Catchment Improvement Award



THE WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY CATCHMENT IMPROVEMENT AWARD AT THIS YEAR'S WAIKATO BALLANCE FARM ENVIRONMENT AWARDS WENT TO REPOROA LANDCORP DAIRY FARM.



Waikato River Authority Trust Fund Manager Keri Neilson with Authority BFE Catchment Improvement Award winners Warwick Halford and Joan Barendsen.

The farm is part of the Wairakei Estate with a herd of 600 cows.

The judges found the farm had a very high standard of waterway fencing and riparian planting and had worked to promote native biodiversity within gullies and stream margins.

The farm is also using a high level of innovation and technology and is monitoring ground water flows with the help of NIWA. There is a significant focus on nitrogen use and nitrogen leaching on the farm.



## RESTORATION PROJECTS ADVISOR

WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY

Contract Role (2-3 Days/Week)

The Waikato River Authority (WRA) is looking to contract a Restoration Projects Advisor who will oversee the delivery and reporting of the upper Waikato River catchment projects and ensure all funding recipients have an appropriate and compliant health and safety framework.

Checking and reporting on project milestones and holding all funding recipients accountable are key responsibilities, as is liaising with any project enquiries, processing project variations and undertaking site inspections.

### Key skills and attributes sought include;

- An Environmental/Science degree with an interest in either ecology, biodiversity or water quality is essential;
- Understanding of water-related issues and responses;
- Strong knowledge of the Waikato catchment;
- Proven application of project management skills, preferably across environmental or restoration projects;
- Strong relationship building skills with the ability to liaise and interface with rural and iwi communities;
- High attention to detail;
- Proficiency in Excel and Word;
- Results orientated and a self-starter.

This is a contract role looking for an immediate start and working between 16 - 24 hours per week, based in the WRA office in Hamilton.

For all confidential enquiries, contact Michelle de Beer on 021 798 882.

All expressions of interest via email by Wednesday 13 June 2018 to jennad@svs.co.nz



For more information on the Waikato River Authority, visit [www.waikatoriver.org.nz](http://www.waikatoriver.org.nz)