

Maunga ki Tai



A newsletter from the
Waikato River
Authority

2014 Funding Strategy sets direction for clean-up projects

THE WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY'S 2014 FUNDING STRATEGY HAS BEEN PUBLISHED PRIOR TO THE 4TH FUNDING ROUND GETTING UNDERWAY.

The document meets the legislative requirement to prepare and publish a strategy document that identifies priority areas for funding.

The latest Strategy, which is available on the Waikato River Authority website www.waikatoriver.org.nz provides updated direction and guidance for applicants seeking funding to help clean-up the river.

Among the areas the Authority is giving priority to in the updated Strategy are:

- Wetlands: A greater emphasis on the protection and restoration of wetland projects and those projects.
- Co-ordinated and Collaborative Approach: Projects that form part of multi year strategic plans by applicants working together and that have links to other catchment projects.

- Lower Waikato and Waipa: Projects that impact positively and directly on the Waipa River (supporting the implementation of the 20 year Catchment Plan) and lower Waikato River, which are the areas that are most degraded.
- The development of a whole of catchment restoration plan.

Authority co-chairs Hon John Luxton and Tukoroirangi Morgan say this year will see up to \$7 million made available for clean-up projects. "However we again stress the need for high levels of co-funding as part of successful applications. The funds available to the Authority will not be sufficient on their own to see the vision for a restored and protected Waikato River achieved so it is important we foster additional funding partnerships.

"To date there have been 108 projects funded with committed funds approaching \$16 million. We look forward to receiving and approving additional projects this year that will help us achieve the vision for the Waikato River."

MESSAGE FROM THE CE

It is a further milestone for the Authority to begin its 4th Funding Round on 1 July. While we have funded approximately \$16 million of projects to date it is timely to remember that the Authority with \$220 million to administer over the next 26 years has only about 15 per cent of the financial resources required for the substantive Waikato River clean-up. The need for co-funding and partnerships is crucial.

A key undertaking demonstrating partnerships is the Waikato Regional Council's Healthy Rivers Plan process that is now underway. This plan is fundamentally important to the future of the Waikato River and it is therefore encouraging to see so many stakeholder groups already involved in the process.



Bob Penter
Chief Executive



The Tunawaea landslide in the upper Waipa catchment occurred in the early 1990's. It is estimated to have put many hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of material into the Waipa River system. In the past 20 years there has been considerable planting work to help repair the damage from the slip and thereby improving Waipa River water quality.

Process for deciding successful funding applications

Waikato River Authority decides how much funding to make available in the upcoming round (this year \$7 million)



Funding Strategy reviewed and published



Funding applications made online at www.waikatoriver.org.nz



Applications submitted for funding between 1 July and 29 August 2014



All applications considered by an independent funding Evaluation Panel, against common criteria, that makes recommendations to the WRA's Investment Committee.



A Technical Advisory Group is also appointed to give advice to the Evaluation Panel on technical aspects of applications as required.



WRA Investment Committee makes recommendations on successful applications to full Waikato River Authority Board for its approval.



Applicants advised of funding decision before the end of November 2014.



Project Plans finalised and Deeds of Funding signed.



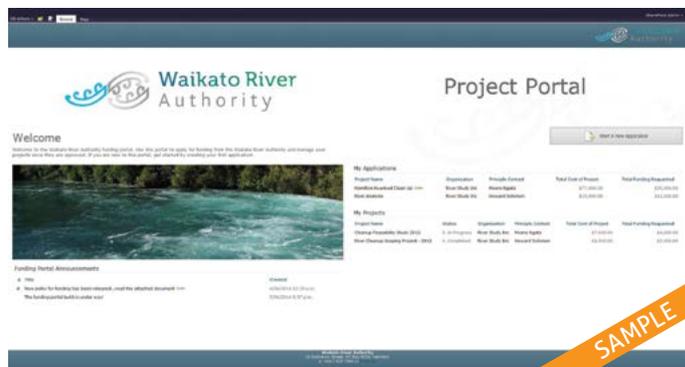
Funding process audited by Audit New Zealand.

Move to on-line applications

THE WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY WILL MOVE EXCLUSIVELY TO AN ON-LINE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR.

For organisations or individuals making an application the form can be accessed at www.waikatoriver.org.nz/funding.

Authority Chief Executive Bob says the progression to the web-based process allows a much more efficient and effective funding system.

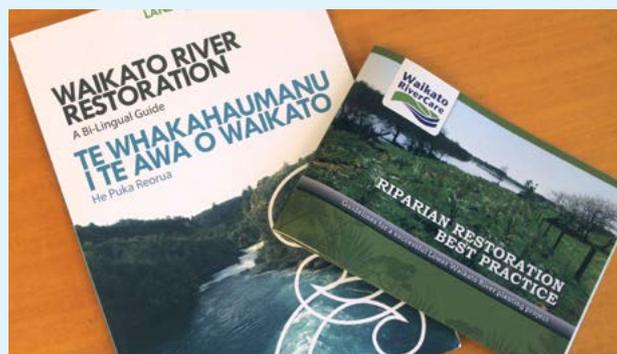


Bilingual Guide and Riparian Best Practice

TWO WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY FUNDED PROJECTS PROVIDING RIVER RESTORATION INFORMATION HAVE COME TO FRUITION.

NZ Landcare Trust has produced Waikato River Restoration: A Bi-lingual Guide and Waikato River Care has published Riparian Restoration Best Practice.

The resources are available by emailing info@waikatorivercare.co.nz and info@landcare.org.nz



Waipa River field trip

WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS CARRIED OUT ONE OF THEIR MOST COMPREHENSIVE STUDY TRIPS WHEN THEY FLEW OVER THE WAIIPA RIVER CATCHMENT AT THE END OF APRIL.

The trip was undertaken with the help of guides from the Waikato Regional Council and prepared background material providing information on important points of interest.

The trip took in the whole of the Waipa River from its confluence with the Waikato at Ngaruawahia through to the headwaters at Pekepeke.

The board is hoping to take a first hand look at the whole of the Waikato River Authority catchment before the end of this year with the last remaining area being the Upper Waikato River. It has previously visited the lower Waikato River catchment by boat.

The Waipa River, which produced 180,000 tonnes of sediment into the Waikato River every year, is one of the priority areas in the 2014 Funding Strategy.

The board wishes to reinforce the importance of the Waipa River within the Vision & Strategy of the Waikato River and its integral part in the overall catchment.



Improving the water quality in the Waipa River will have a significant impact on the Waikato River. The confluence of the Waipa and Waikato at Ngaruawahia shows the sediment load carried by the Waipa River.

Huge effort in tree planting contributes to WRA Catchment Awards

MARGARET AND KEITH ORMSBY WERE WINNERS OF THE BALLANCE FARM ENVIRONMENT CATCHMENT IMPROVEMENT AWARD THIS YEAR SPONSORED BY THE WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY.

There is some irony that the rolling hills of the Ormsby property south of Mt Pirongia once contained native trees that 78-year-old Keith helped cut down as a young man to get the farm established.

By contrast in the past five years alone the Ormsby family have planted 25,000 natives on the Ngutunui farm and in the past 10 years all waterways and bush areas have been fenced and planted, and QEII National Trust covenants placed over 25 hectares.

In making the award the judges commended the Ormsbys for their proactive approach to water protection and their good management of soils and pastures.



WRA deputy co-chair Jenni Vernon with Margaret and Keith Ormsby with their Catchment Improvement Award at the Ballance Farm Environment Awards presentation.

Project showcasing working together

ONE OF THE LARGER WEED CLEARANCE AND RIVERBANK PLANTING PROJECTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN WITH AUTHORITY FUNDING IS GETTING UNDERWAY NORTH OF HUNTLY.

The two year project is being led by the Tainui Development Authority with major support from the Kanaea Kakariki Trust. The project will concentrate on the western side of the Waikato River heading north of Huntly covering an area of more than twelve hectares.



Project operational manager Victor Nikau (right) with Sean Newland from the Waikato River Authority at the start of the riverbank clearance and planting in Huntly.

Operational managers Te Winika and Victor Nikau have been involved in a significant amount of planning due to the scale of project.

"We have had a lot of discussion with a number of marae and the regional council given that most of the work to be carried is on their land but we are now approaching the hands on ground work," say the couple.

The Waikato River Authority has also been closely involved in the project. Through collaboration during the funding application process the TDA project was combined with one from Waahi Whaanui Trust to ultimately be awarded \$1.2 million in funds.

"From the WRA's viewpoint we are not only seeking an important environmental outcome from this project but see it as an example of collaboration and sharing of information in large scale undertakings that can be replicated," says Authority Funding Manager Sean Newland.

Waikato River Restoration Forum established

A STRATEGIC WAIKATO RIVER LEADERSHIP GROUP HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO CHART NEW TERRITORY IN THE WAY INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT AND IWI ORGANISATIONS CAN WORK TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WAIKATO AND WAIPA RIVERS.

Members of the group, known as the Waikato River Restoration Forum, all have significant interest in the Waikato River. It includes representatives from the Waikato River Authority, the five Waikato River iwi (Waikato-Tainui; Raukawa; Te Arawa; Tuwharetoa; Maniapoto), Department of Conservation, Fonterra, DairyNZ, Mighty River Power, Genesis Energy (also representing other marae organisations) and the Waikato Regional Council. The group has agreed terms of reference aimed at collaborating to achieve integrated restoration for the benefit of the river.

Waikato River Authority Chief Executive and Forum Chair Bob Penter says an important role for the Waikato River Restoration Forum will be to share information and to work together on major projects relating to the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

"Each member of the Forum, sometimes on an individual basis, is involved in significant work relevant to the river. By combining or sharing our resources we have the opportunity to ensure substantial, effective and enduring progress towards the vision for a restored and healthy Waikato River."

It is proposed the Waikato River Restoration Forum will also take on a key support role for the development of a medium term restoration action plan for the Waikato River. It will also look for opportunities to raise community awareness and appreciation of the value of the Waikato River catchment. The Forum is also open to other organisations that can support an integrated and coordinated approach to river restoration initiatives.