

Maunga ki Tai

Newsletter

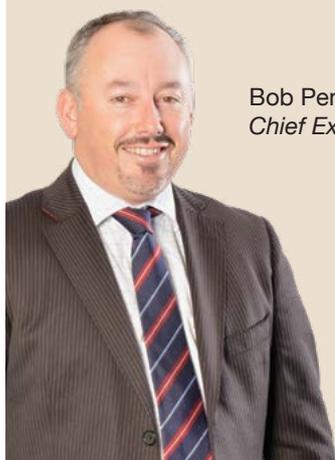
March 2021



Waikato River Authority

CE Message

The Waikato River Authority Board has determined it is time for Te Ture Whaimana (the Vision & Strategy) to be reviewed with changes to its content considered. The Vision & Strategy has not been amended since its inclusion in the 2010 Waikato River legislation. The opportunity this presents is to ensure the Vision & Strategy remains the primary direction setting document for the Waikato and Waipā River catchments for at least another decade. The Vision & Strategy is currently silent on some issues affecting the catchment such as climate change and water allocation. It will be important that any changes proposed within an amended Vision & Strategy are thoroughly consulted with River Iwi and the Crown, stakeholders and catchment communities. To support this process we will soon call for tenders to ensure we have the expertise and support to deliver an inclusive process with high quality information provided for all parties to support the best outcome for our waterways and lakes.



Bob Penter
Chief Executive

2021 funding priorities to be set

The Waikato River Authority will be embarking on its 11th funding round for awa restoration next month with the publication its annual funding strategy.

The Authority has decided that up to \$6 million will be available for distribution this year.

The 2021 Funding Strategy will be published at the end of April with applications for project funding open in June.

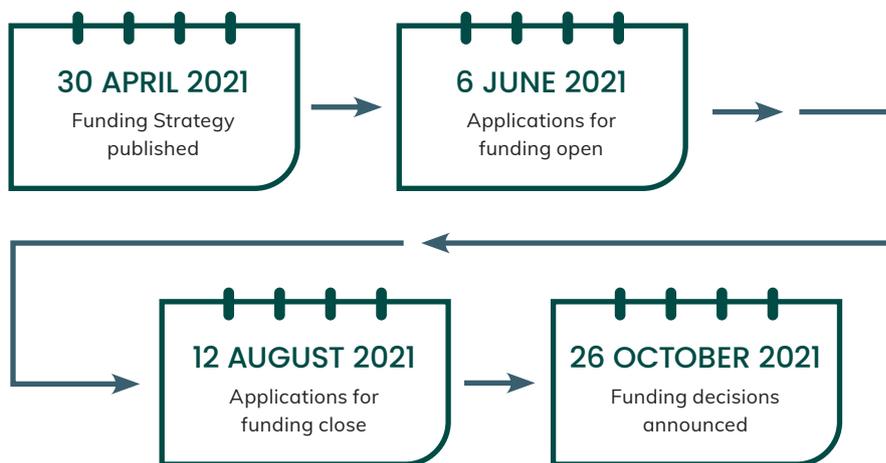
Authority co-chairs, Paula Southgate and Tipa Mahuta are signalling the need for applicants to be bolder to ensure maximum impact with funding resources available.

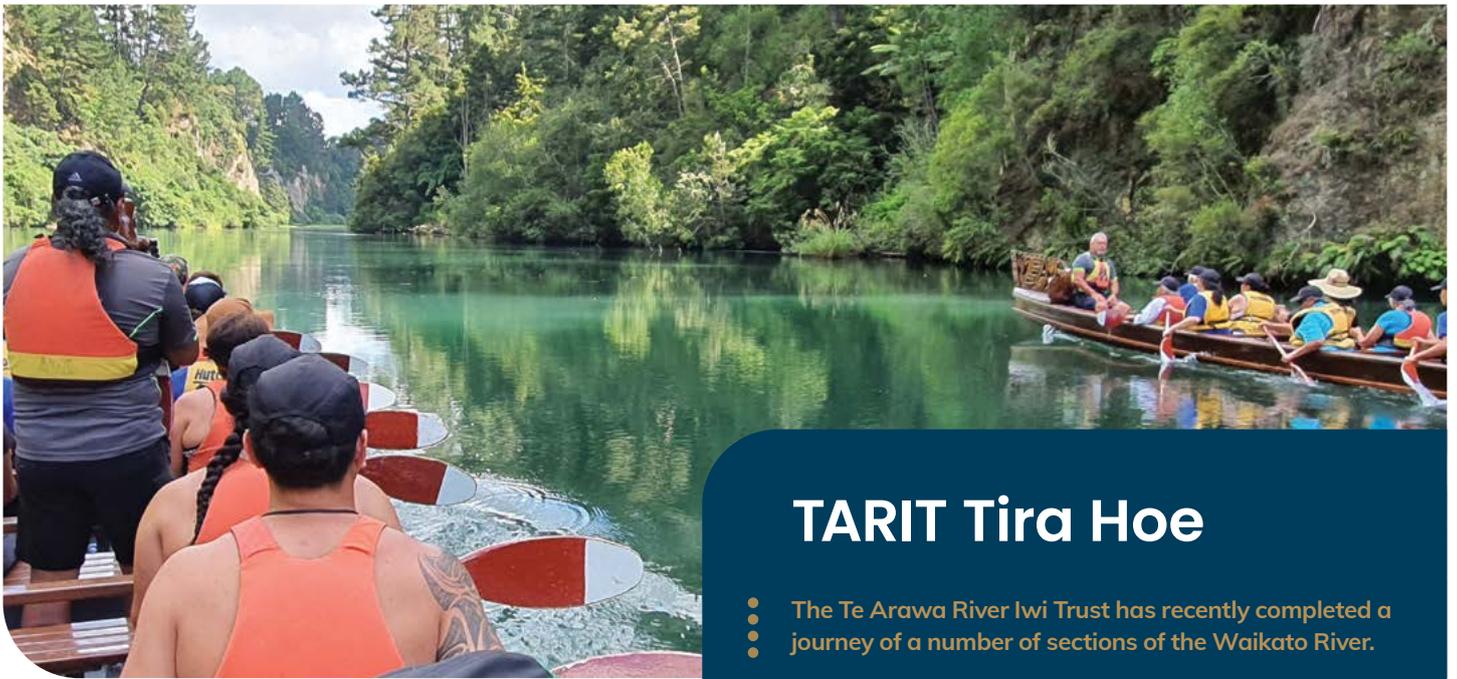
They have also reinforced the role of the Restoration Strategy for the Waikato River and Waipā River in achieving a healthier river.

“We are confident that the Restoration Strategy continues to provide the guidance and blueprint for the most effective restoration initiatives that can be carried out for the wellbeing of the catchment. We would again urge funding applicants to refer to the Restoration Strategy as part of their application process. This year, an important focus for the Funding Strategy is working with iwi to achieve the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment. These funding partnerships are essential to achieving Te Ture Whaimana o te awa o Waikato. The Waikato River Authority will continue investing in iwi capacity building through its funding, to help ensure that wherever possible, iwi projects are delivered by iwi.”

In the previous ten years of funding the Waikato River Authority has allocated more than \$50 million. The Authority looks forward to once again receiving and approving a range of high-quality collaborative projects from stakeholders and the wider community that will help achieve the vision for a restored and protected Waikato River.

FUNDING TIMELINE





TARIT Tira Hoe

- The Te Arawa River Iwi Trust has recently completed a
- journey of a number of sections of the Waikato River.

The aim of the paddle was for TARIT iwi to connect with the awa and gather stories.

Evelyn Forrest, Chair of TARIT, says the tira hoe included going to the source of the Waikato River which is something not many of the group has done before.

“You can get stuck in your own stretch of the river, this journey has enabled us to learn about other stretches of the river and the korero and stories from those areas and their meaning for other river iwi,”

The tira hoe was partly funded by the Waikato River Authority to help build greater connection with the river.

In all 63 members of TARIT iwi took part as well as some invited guests along the way.

TARIT CEO, Eugene Berryman says the feedback from the kaihoe (paddlers) taking part was hugely positive.

“Everyone was extremely impressed with the hospitality shown to us and also with the stories we were told. Equally, river iwi were also really appreciative of being visited and being able to tell their stories”.



New iwi co-chair

Waikato River Authority has a new iwi co-chair with the election of Waikato-Tainui’s appointee Tipa Mahuta.

Ms Mahuta was elected unanimously by her iwi colleagues on the Authority board, following Roger Pikia (TARIT) stepping down from the role after a two year term.

Tipa Mahuta joins Paula Southgate as a co-chair after Ms Southgate was appointed last year by the Minister for the Environment.

The full membership of the Waikato River Authority Board is available at www.waikatoriver.org.nz/about.



Restoration lesson in lower Waikato mahi

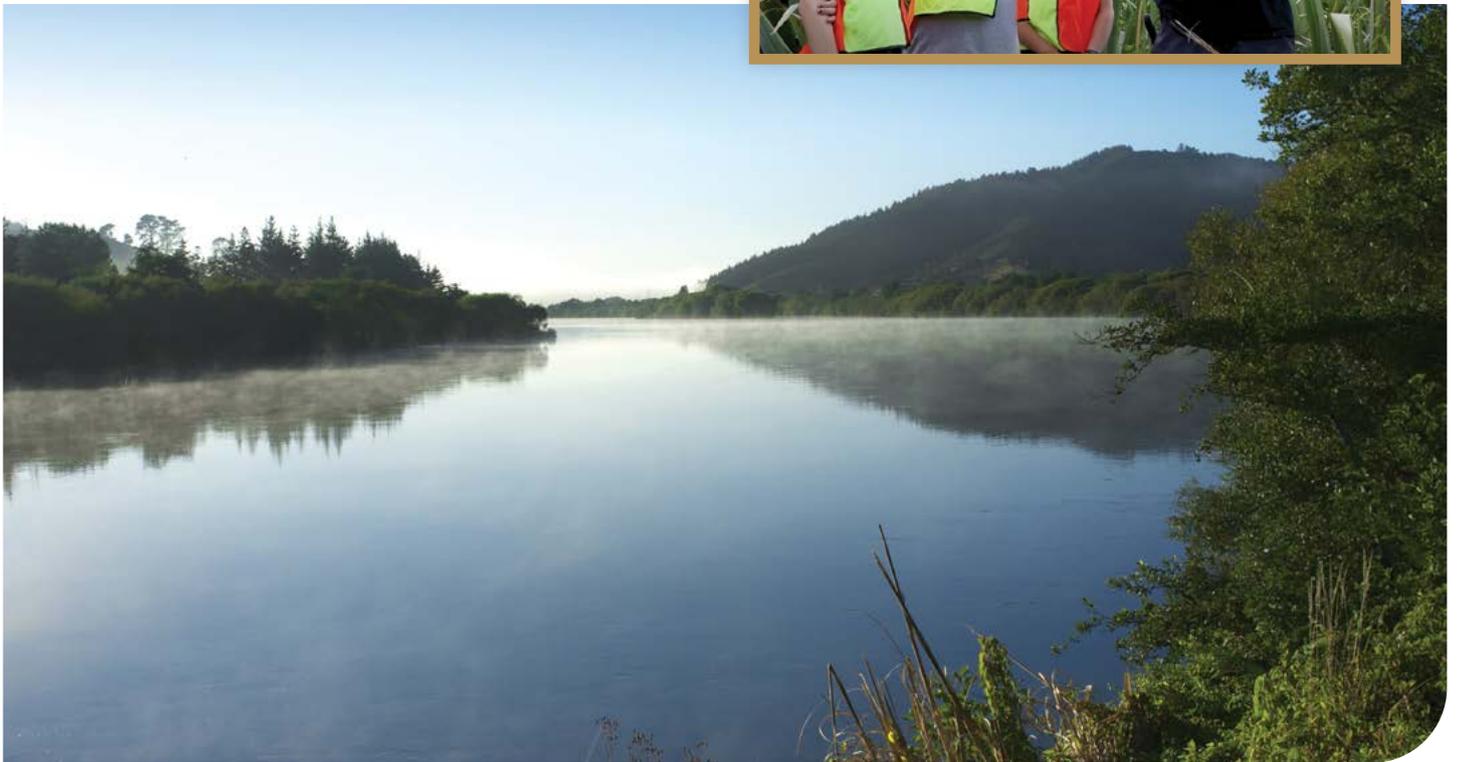
Environmental restoration work carried out by lower Waikato dairy farmer Stu Muir and his whanau is providing valuable lessons on a national and community stage.

Stu Muir has had amounts of funding nearly every year for the last ten years from the Waikato River Authority focused around whitebait habitat restoration. In recent times he has had funding to improve access to the restored river margins, to better showcase what has been achieved.

The Muir's have also spearheaded local pest eradication initiatives to help the return of bird life to the area.

With the removal of pest plants and willows choking waterways there has been a marked improvement in waterflow and water quality. Together with native plantings this has improved the habitat for spawning whitebait and other native fish species.

- Watch the video here:
- www.waikatoriver.org.nz/project-stories
- and see further information on what has been achieved at the Waikato River Authority's Project Story page at
- www.waikatoriver.org.nz



Hearing on water take for Auckland

The Waikato River Authority will be making a submission on the resource consent application by Watercare to take an additional 150 million litres of water per day from the Waikato River.

Submissions on the consent close on 26 March 2021.

The resource consent hearing was called in by the Minister for the Environment Hon David Parker in June last year as a matter of priority.

Three people have been appointed to a Board of Inquiry by the minister to hear water applications.

They are Chief Environment Court Judge David Kirkpatrick, Professor Linda Te Aho, an expert on Māori legal issues relating to land and freshwater, and municipal engineer Anthony Wilson.

In its application, Watercare says it wishes (with the new consent) to take up to a total of 300 million litres of water per day all year round from the river.

Watercare also takes water from dams in the Hunua Ranges which are fed from the Mangatāwhiri and Mangatangi streams, which are also part of the Waikato River catchment.

Board combines meeting with visit to Waikato Iti

The Waikato River Authority's programme of taking its board meetings across the river catchment saw the February meeting head to Ngāti Tūwharetoa where the Board was hosted by the Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board, at their Turangi office.

Co-chairs Paula Southgate and Tipa Mahuta say moving the two monthly board meetings to different iwi locations gives the opportunity to hear from others and gain a greater understanding. The Authority is also intending to combine a field visit as part of having its meetings hosted across the catchment.

Last month's meeting in Tūrangi enabled the Waikato River Authority representatives to be taken to Waikatoiti, at Mount Ruapehu. The trip began with karakia and continuous kōrero along the journey visiting Tongariro National Park and Tongariro power development sites before receiving a kohatu to recognise the waters, Maunga ki tai – from mountain to sea. A point to note is that Tūwharetoa talk about the waters from Ruapehu to Lake Taupō as Waikato runga, the upper Waikato.

Thank you to the House of te Heuheu, the Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board and also Te Kanawa and Kataraina Pitiroi for hosting the Waikato River Authority team.



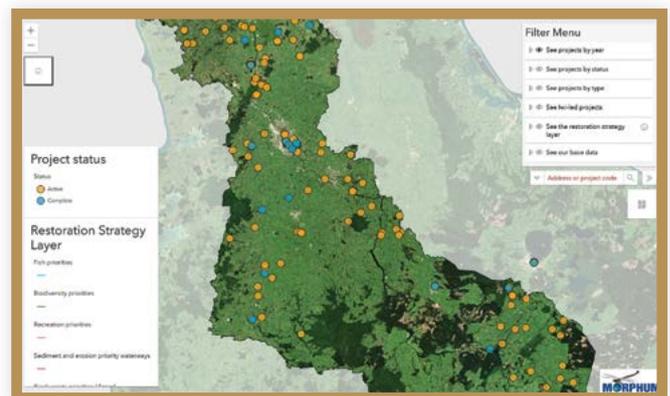
Hosts Tūwharetoa arranged for the Waikato River Authority party to visit Waikato Iti on Mount Ruapehu

Projects on-line with Story Maps

Further progress has been made to show funded projects and other mapped information through the Waikato River Authority website.

The Story Maps section displays projects that have been funded by the Authority during 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Projects from 2011 to 2016 will be added over time. You can use this map to view Authority funded project locations as well as information about the type of work funded. Where available, videos and project reports are also accessible. Active projects are those funded projects that are still underway and yet to be completed as they are multi-year projects.

Story Maps has information layers which can be shown separately. For example a Restoration Strategy layer shows projects directly related to the strategy.



Story Maps can be found by scrolling down on the front page of the Authority website www.waikatoriver.org.nz