

APRIL 2017

LAKE WAIKARE AND WHANGAMARINO WETLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

TE MĀHERE MŌ TE WHAKAHAERE I TE ROHE KŪKŪWAI O WAIKARE, O WHANGAMARINO



NATURAL ASSETS WORTH PROTECTING

Lake Waikare and the Whangamarino wetland have multiple important values and interests – cultural, ecological, recreational and economic. As work gets underway on a plan to protect these natural assets we want to better understand your goals for this catchment, and what's important to you.

This feedback will help with development of the catchment management plan (CMP), which Waikato Regional Council has committed to through its 2015-2025 Long Term Plan. The CMP could include catchment-scale actions to address concerns such as poor water quality, loss of biodiversity and increasing sediment and nutrient loads. For the development of this plan, the project team is focusing on a wide range of topics, including soil and land, biodiversity, water quality, water and flood management, and cultural and recreational values.

Whangamarino is recognised under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international significance and is, together with Lake Waikare and four smaller lakes in the catchment, home to rare native animals and plants. In addition, the catchment forms an indispensable part of the Lower Waikato-Waipā Flood Control Scheme which protects valuable rural land and regionally significant infrastructure from the negative effects of prolonged and frequent flooding.

HAVE YOUR SAY AND HELP MAKE A CHANGE

We cannot protect and restore the lakes and wetlands alone. We need the support of local stakeholders, including rural landowners and iwi.

We want to fully understand what the values and goals are for everyone living in the catchment. Your input will help us define workable solutions and actions keeping interests and requirements of those working and living in the area in mind. Ultimately our goal is to develop a plan that is achievable and fully supported by a community that is willing to come together and make a change.

VALUE OF FARMING

Farmers play a very important role in the Lake Waikare and Whangamarino wetland catchments. Agriculture forms the dominant economic activity in the area and, combined with the other rural industry sectors, contributes approximately \$156.7 million to the Waikato gross regional product.

DRAFT DOCUMENTS FOR CONSULTATION

We have been working on two key documents which will form the backbone of the catchment management plan.

- Part one – catchment overview (draft).
- State of understanding report (draft), including gap analysis document (draft).

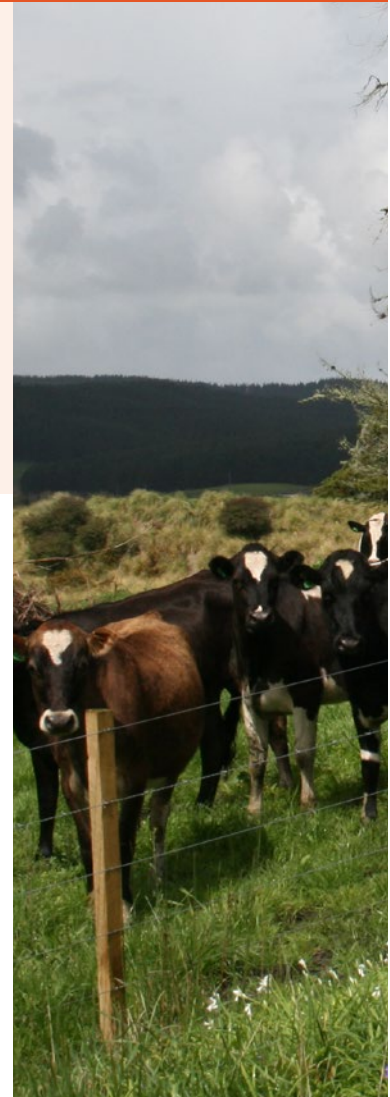
These documents, and the maps that accompany them, provide background information on the Lake Waikare and Whangamarino catchment. They reflect our current knowledge, but we need input and feedback from key stakeholders to complete and finalise them.

We're asking representatives of local landowners, iwi, the Lower Waikato Catchment Committee, Department of Conservation, Fish & Game New Zealand and Waikato District Council to help us review and complete them.

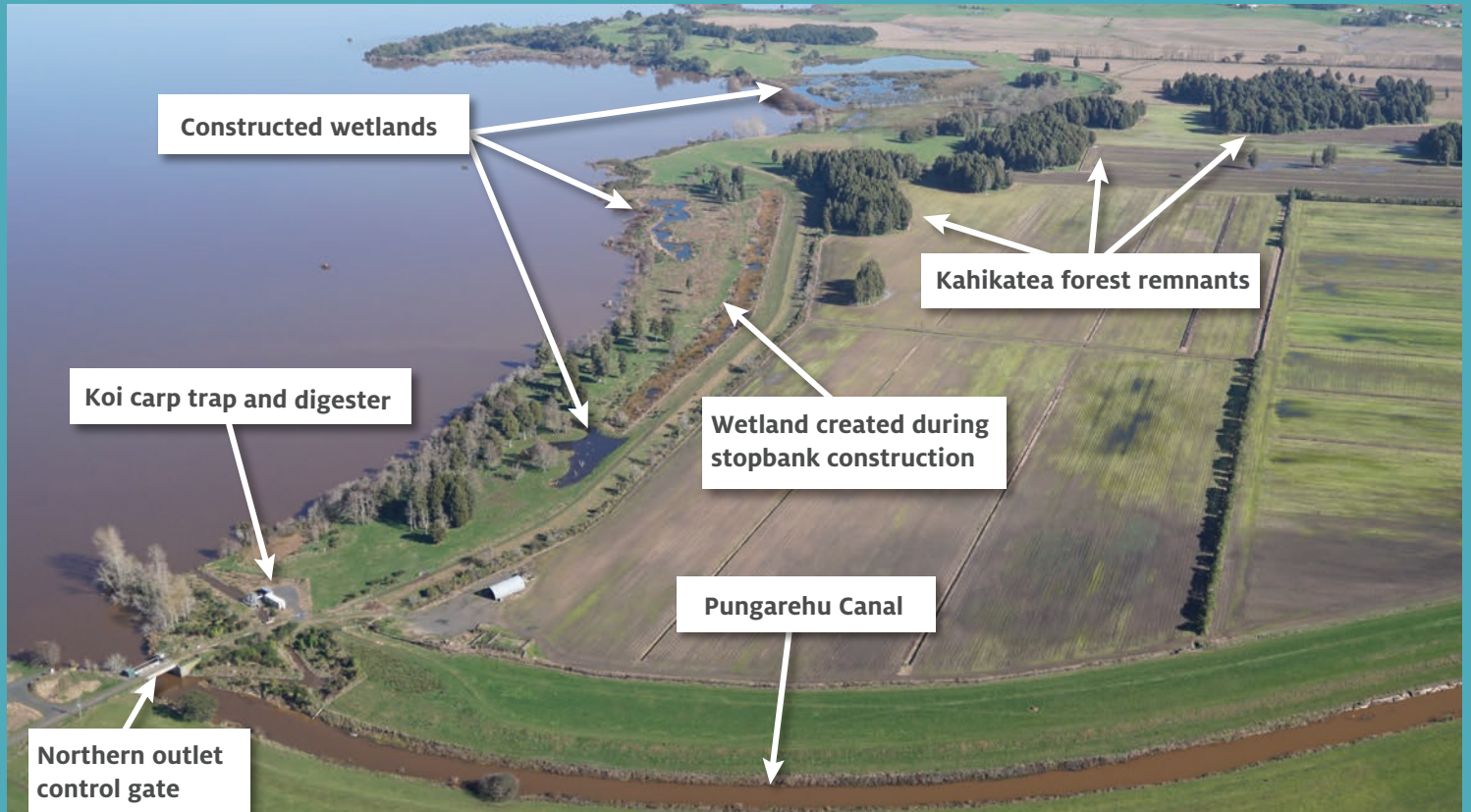
However, these are not the only people we would like to hear from. We also welcome feedback and input from you and other local community members.

The documents are available online at waikatoregion.govt.nz/lakewaikarefeedback.

Send any feedback you have to lakewaikareplan@waikatoregion.govt.nz, before 1 May 2017.



LAKE WAIKARE NORTHERN FORESHORE RESTORATION PROJECT



CURRENT PROJECTS

While we're working on a catchment management plan, a lot of things are continuing to happen in the Lake Waikare and Whangamarino catchment. One of the projects we're working on is the Lake Waikare northern foreshore restoration.

Waikato Regional Council started this restoration project in 2010 to realign fences on the northern foreshore of Lake Waikare and create more wetland habitat around the lake. The project area spans over 20 hectares and features kahikatea forest remnants, significant areas of new native planting and three constructed wetlands.

One of the wetlands has been constructed by creating a 400 metre long earth bund. This bund allows an area to be flooded with cleaner catchment water, and separates the wetland from the poor quality water in the lake. Constructed wetland scrapes – shallow ponds of less than a metre deep – produce an ephemeral habitat. This means it dries out each summer, which prevents koi carp from becoming an issue.

The area has become home to a range of special wetland birds including bittern, dab chick, shoveler and grey teal. In the future, threatened mudfish may be translocated to the site. The Waikato River Authority has helped co-fund this project with Waikato Regional Council, with Fish & Game and local iwi providing in-kind support.

PROJECTS SECURE WAIKATO RIVER CLEAN-UP TRUST FUNDING

In late 2016, the Waikato River Authority granted funding of nearly \$1.14 million to six projects in the Lake Waikare and Whangamarino catchment area. See an overview of the projects, the applicants and awarded funding below.

PROJECT	APPLICANT(S)	MAXIMUM FUNDING
Identifying interventions to protect and restore the Whangamarino Wetland	Waikato District Lakes and Wetland Group, including Waikato Regional Council	\$300,000
Investigating mānuka-dominated ecosystems to improve water quality	ESR Ltd. and Waikato Regional Council	\$302,400
Lake Waikare northern foreshore restoration – phase 2	Waikato Regional Council	\$32,500
Tūhono Project (Te Onetea Stream to Lake Waikare)	Waikato RiverCare	\$55,000
Waikare Urupa restoration	Waikare Marae	\$250,000
Shallow lake restoration – Phase 1	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd (NIWA)	\$200,000

CONTACT US

To learn more about the catchment management plan and provide feedback please:

- visit waikatoregion.govt.nz/lakewaikareplan
- send an email to lakewaikareplan@waikatoregion.govt.nz
- call Waikato Regional Council on 0800 800 401 and ask for Michael Duffy.