

# TE HOIERE/PELORUS PROJECT

## Frequently Asked Questions

Haere, kakea te ara poka hou, go  
and ascend the newly trodden path

**We've put our heads together to come up with answers to farmers' questions about Te Hoiere Project.**

**1. *When will monitoring results be available?***

Catchment condition surveys and water quality monitoring have now been completed. Results have started being released to farmers whose properties were surveyed early then, with their consent, to catchment groups where they exist. Project's catchment care coordinators will follow up with everyone who participated over the next six months. Property-owners who missed out can request a survey any time.

It'll be 2-3 months before water quality results are released. Collection has finished and extensive analysis is underway.

**2. *Who will see the results from the monitoring on my land? I don't want people to know if there's a problem!***

Individual water testing and survey results are confidential to Council and landowners/managers. Results will be shared with farmers and catchment groups first. They'll get started with mitigation actions then the Project will go public with catchment-scale summary data.

**3. *I want to improve water quality on my farm. Where can I get advice?***

If a catchment condition survey's been done on your property, the Project's catchment care coordinators will talk you through plans for improvement and appropriate funding. If not, the best way forward is to request a survey.

**4. *Is money available through the Project to fix possible problems identified on my land?***

If your farm's been surveyed, you may be eligible for subsidies towards fencing, riparian/wetland planting and maintenance, improving fish passage, controlling weeds/predators, nutrient management advice and dung beetle release.

Funding is limited and must be spread across Te Hoiere catchments. Areas with the greatest potential for water quality improvements will be prioritised. Landowners must contribute towards all funded work, either cash or in-kind. Before starting, you'll sign an agreement outlining landowner obligations. Funded projects are regularly inspected, to ensure maintenance is done.

**5. *Is there funding to help me fence and plant my waterways?***

The Project is buying native plants in bulk, making them available at cost to farmers then funding maintenance of high priority sites for up to two years. This follows farmer feedback that getting plants in the ground isn't a problem, it's the ongoing maintenance. There's some funding assistance for fencing which must be built before planting begins.

**6. Do I have to do the work myself or can I get help?**

Landowners can employ people to do planting and maintenance or do it themselves. The NZ Landcare Trust, catchment groups and other community agencies and groups may help with planning and arrange on-farm working bees, sometimes assisted by organisations like Outward Bound, Forest and Bird or the Department of Corrections, for example.

**7. I think I have significant trees at the back of my farm. How can I protect them?**

Guidance and assistance may be available through the Council's voluntary Significant Natural Area (SNA) programme. Contact Biodiversity Coordinator, Mike Aviss or if you are interested in covenanting, Tom Stein from the QEII National Trust.

**8. Can I get help with controlling environmental weeds like Old Man's Beard and pests like possums, stoats and ferrets?**

Restoration and protection of biodiversity and ecosystem function has been flagged by the community and the partner agencies as a Project priority. Support is available through the N.Z. Landcare Trust who organise trapping and weed control workshops in collaboration with Department of Conservation. Further development of community trapping networks are encouraged and supported by the Project. The Department of Conservation is also extending its pest control in Te Hoiere catchments, to protect the Pekapeka, longtailed bat, and extending its trapping network under Government's Jobs for Nature programme. Technical information is available from Council.

**9. How do I stop streambank erosion? Can I remove gravel build-up to prevent flooding?**

We understand that streambank erosion in the recent flooding is causing massive problems on farms. The solutions aren't simple. Every situation is different and actions must not cause downstream effects. Regional rules don't permit gravel extraction which requires resource consent. Contact the Project's catchment care coordinator for guidance and connections with key professionals.

**10. I'm frustrated by the resource consent process and don't know what's permitted and what isn't. I'd like to change some culverts, for example. Can I do this?**

Applying for consents can be challenging and expensive. The resource consent process ensures all work is done to minimise impacts on the environment and other properties and people. The Council's resource consents planning duty officer will connect you with staff who'll advise on whether a consent is needed and if so, what's required. Local catchment groups may be able to point you to solutions others have used.

**11. With the Te Hoiere Project in my valley, could I be prevented from carrying out normal farming practices?**

All farmers, wherever they live, must make changes if farming practices degrade water quality, to comply with the new National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (NES-FW). The Project may help you meet the Standards. We'll be seeking relevant technology and research to share with land managers. You'll be encouraged to work with others in your catchment and community, to develop local solutions. If there's a topic that interests you, connect with your local catchment group and ask.

**12. I'm worried Council will take action against me if they find something wrong on my farm.**

If during surveys catchment care coordinator identifies non-compliance they'll talk to the property owner, providing time to fix a problem before it escalates. Enforcement is a last resort when nothing is done. If you are unsure - especially if doing something new or working around waterways – seek advice.

Like the Te Hoiere/Pelorus Project on [Facebook](#) and [follow on Instagram](#).

## **Useful Contacts:**

### Catchment Community Groups:

Rai Valley - Hamish Morrison [hamish.morrison@hotmail.com](mailto:hamish.morrison@hotmail.com)

Rai Valley - Antonia O'Donnell [antonia@marmeiaadmin.co.nz](mailto:antonia@marmeiaadmin.co.nz)

Linkwater area - Karen Morrison [kaz.morrison@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:kaz.morrison@yahoo.co.nz)

Canvastown/Lower Pelorus – Michael Shearer [mj.clshearer@gmail.com](mailto:mj.clshearer@gmail.com)

### Te Hoiere catchment care coordinator -

Aubrey Tai (starts on the 4<sup>th</sup> October) [Aubrey.Tai@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:Aubrey.Tai@marlborough.govt.nz)

### To request a catchment condition survey:

Matt Oliver [Matt.Oliver@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:Matt.Oliver@marlborough.govt.nz)

### Water quality monitoring:

Pete Hamill [Peter.Hamill@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:Peter.Hamill@marlborough.govt.nz)

### MDC catchment care coordinators

Rachel Russel [Rachel.Russell@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.Russell@marlborough.govt.nz)

James Mills-Kelly [James.Mills-Kelly@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:James.Mills-Kelly@marlborough.govt.nz)

### MDC Duty Planner

[Duty Planner Enquiry Form](#)

Or you can ring 0800 520 7400 for support on filling the form

### SNA Programme

Mike Aviss [mike.aviss@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:mike.aviss@marlborough.govt.nz)

### QEII covenants

Tom Stein [tstein@qeii.org.nz](mailto:tstein@qeii.org.nz)

### Department of Conservation

Phil Clerke [pclerke@doc.govt.nz](mailto:pclerke@doc.govt.nz)

### NZ Landcare Trust workshops and community group support

Wendy Sullivan [wendy.sullivan@landcare.org.nz](mailto:wendy.sullivan@landcare.org.nz)

### For support to start your own catchment community group

Heather Collins [heathercollins660@gmail.com](mailto:heathercollins660@gmail.com)

### For general project questions

Heli Wade [heli.wade@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:heli.wade@marlborough.govt.nz)

### Ngāti Kuia Kaitiaki Te Taiao

Lewis Smith [tariwairau@ngatikuia.iwi.nz](mailto:tariwairau@ngatikuia.iwi.nz)

### Rangitāne o Wairau Kaitiaki te Taiao

Sally Neal [taiao@rangitane.org.nz](mailto:taiao@rangitane.org.nz)

*The Te Hoiere Project brings together the community and the supporting partner agencies to look after Pelorus-Te Hoiere catchments from bush-clad tops to the sea – ki uta ki tai.*



Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



Ngāti Kuia  
Te Iwi Pākohe

