

# Meeting Notes of the Sounds Advisory Group held in the Committee Room at Marlborough District Council On Monday 17 February 2020 at 9.30 am

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## Present

Clr Faulls (Chair) Rob Schuckard, Eric Jorgensen, Ross Withell, Tim Greenhough, Judy Hellstrom, Vic Koller, Linda Booth, Ned Wells, Jodi Milne, Ken Roush, Poneke Rene and Emma Hopkinson-Young

## Guest Speakers

Margot Ferrier (DOC), Christine McNeil Waste Management Plan

## MDC Staff

Oliver Wade and Alan Johnson (attending in pm)

## In Attendance

Chris Hines (Council Secretary)

### 1. Welcome

- Clr Faulls introduced herself as the new chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. All present introduced themselves and advised where they are from/who they are representing.

### 2. Apologies

- Clr Oddie, Lynley Perkins, Monyeen Wedge, Rick Osbourne, David Hayes (DOC), Alan Johnson (attending in pm), Clr Taylor (attending pm)

### 3. Confirmation of the Previous Minutes

- **Tim Greenhough/Ross Withell:** The notes from the meeting held on 2 September 2019 were taken as read.

### 4. Actions from the Previous Meeting – 2 September 2019

Action	Person Responsible
1. Provide an update on the SNA Programme and how to determine an SNA and the role of Council and DOC in relation to these areas – <i>Mike Aviss has been busy in the field and this item deferred to the next meeting.</i>	Oliver
2. Provide feedback to Alan via email on the role of SAG. <i>Feedback has been received and attached to agenda sent out for this meeting.</i>	Members
3. Arrange for education to about not driving across wetlands be sent to residents of Endeavour Inlet. <i>See note below.</i>	Alan/Dave
4. Invite Policy team member to provide an update on NZCPS. <i>Deferred until post MEP notification.</i>	Alan

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Action	Person Responsible
5. Provide six questions by mid-October to Jodi Milne for the Aquaculture Representative, for the next meeting. <i>No questions were received by Jodi.</i>	Members

**Action Point 3:**

- A letter has been sent to ratepayers about quad bikes on paper roads/tracks but did not mention the wetlands. Judy advised that this is only a problem when there has been a lot of rain and the river is flooded. It may also be advisable to include those living on the Queen Charlotte Track. David Hayes to discuss this further with Alan.

**5. Fisheries Update – Jodi Milne**

- Coronavirus has had quite an impact on the fishing industry. Government is supporting the industry to mitigate the impact to fishers from this event including where appropriate returning live fish to sea, encouraging industry to develop new markets for those rock lobster that cannot be returned, and exploring the ability for fishers to carry over any uncaught catch entitlements to the next fishing year beginning 1 April 2020.
- Draft Inshore Finfish Plan – consultation closes on 19 February 2020. There is information on the website.
- Scallops – the Southern Scallop Working Group has been meeting regularly to finalise the strategy following the consultation last year (received just under 400 submissions), and will be seeking approval of the strategy by the Minister of Fisheries which is likely to be next month or so.
- Blue Cod regulations – it is expected the regulations will come into effect in April. Going through Cabinet at the moment.
- Sea Cucumber – there was a review last year. Part of the review was that there would be an annual feedback loop. Any concerns let Jodi know directly or Anthony Brett at: [Anthony.Brett@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Anthony.Brett@mpi.govt.nz).
- Compliance overview of fishing behavior over summer. There has been over 1,500 inspection in Nelson/Tasman/Sounds areas (a significant number of which were in the Marlborough Sounds). So far there have been 80-100 offences, most of which are for illegal fishing gear or undersize fish. Main offences seem to be around blue cod, crayfish and paua.
- Marine Protected Areas (MPA) policy consultation is expected in March. Jodi confirmed it is a joint project between MPI and DOC policy teams.
- The Aquaculture Unit suggest someone from the King Shag working group could come to a future meeting to talk about the Kind Shag program funded by MPI, if the SAG is interested. The Unit is supportive of Smart Connect and improved aquaculture monitoring.

**Questions and Answers**

- There were questions about what is happening with the commercial fishers in the Sounds depleting recreational stocks, mainly flounder.
- A snapper and flatfish review is to occur this year. Snapper research has been available a lot earlier and there has been engagement to input into options to manage this stock. A flatfish characterisation should be complete about April/May so that will feed into how stocks interrelate and help determine appropriate sustainability settings. There will be public consultation around June/July.
- The process for change to sustainability settings is that the science generally comes through around April. Depending on the research outcomes, priority stocks for review are finalised. Consultation documents will go out to the public. Upon receipt of feedback, final advice goes to the Minister for his/her decision.

- Regarding sea cucumber. As above, a review last year saw an increase in total allowable commercial catch (TACC), and a harvest plan was developed to try provide more transparency for the community. It is largely commercially harvested and this is governed by the Fisheries Act. Any concerns about harvesting should be directed to MPI, either through 0800 4 POACHER or contacting Jodi on Jodi.Milne@mpi.govt.nz.

## 6. DOC Update – Margot Ferrier

- Margot gave an update on items of interest to the group, attached as **Appendix 1**.
- Posters are available as outlined in Appendix 1, or by contacting Margot at: [mferrier@doc.govt.nz](mailto:mferrier@doc.govt.nz).

### Questions and Answers

- It was suggested that a 'poo in a loo' poster be put up at the Queen Charlotte Track start at Meretoto/Ship Cove.

### Christine McNeil arrived at the meeting at 10.15 am

- Camping on Sounds Foreshore Reserve is only illegal where it has been gazetted as a 'no freedom camping' area. There is no permit required, however, there should be no camping in front of occupied houses, no permanent structures can be built and the area must be kept clean with all rubbish removed. Informal or freedom camping is limited to a maximum stay of 7 days at any one site unless authorised by a special permit. DOC Warranted Officers can be called to deal with Freedom Campers however availability is limited after hours. For serious issues out of hours the DOC Hotline (0800 DOC HOT) can be called.
- Barbara mentioned that MDC are having a review of freedom camping and the public will have an opportunity to make a submission on rewrite of the Council by-law.
- Rod advised that there is a significant number of goats on the Ronga Saddle. Margot will pass this on to the biodiversity team. The hunting programme in the Sounds generally operates over the winter months and will restart in the next month. As with all DOC work it is prioritised to the highest priority biodiversity sites and the ability to react to other sites is limited by resources and also legal requirements.

## 7. Coastal Science Update – Oliver Wade

### Multibeam Survey Update

- Being conducted by two companies, iXblue and DML (Discovery Marine Limited). iXblue have finished their portion of the survey and because of the early finish are surveying a larger area coming down the Reach to Nydia Bay (see attached **Appendix 2**). It is hoped that DML will also be able to survey a larger area than first thought. All surveys should be finished in May, and data will be delivered to LINZ for processing.
- There was discussion about the benefits of the surveys. Oliver commented that spatial multibeam mapping is expensive and funding determines what mapping will be done but over time it is hoped that more will occur.
- Estuary monitoring has occurred over the year, building on the baseline of estuaries in the region. Mahau Sound was surveyed last week which has never been done before. Estuaries have been critical for fish like flounder.

11 am Break for morning tea.

## 8. Waste Management Plan– Christine McNeil

- Christine has been contracted to consult with the community on the Councils behalf to determine the issues with waste management and minimisation. She has been in contact with all the resident associations that fall within the SAG area and asked them to complete the on-line questionnaire or pass information through SAG members.

- Current issues for members:
  - There is no waste management; it is left up to individuals/communities to manage. Some manage it well and others not so, which can result in whiteware being deposited in the sea for example, or rubbish being put 'over the bank'.
  - Council has advised Duncan Bay community members that they are no longer allowed to collectively burn their green waste, but as individuals they can do so on their own properties. A resource consent is now required for community collection and burning. Other small communities within the Sounds have similar problems.
  - Some of the fly tipping which occurs on the sides of Port Underwood Road identifies itself as being from urban areas.
  - A Council by-law prohibits greenwaste/rubbish being stored on a neighbour's property unless there is resource consent. This is happening in some communities without resource consent.
- Barbara mentioned that some issues may be addressed when the Environment Plan is released on 20 February 2020. She suggested that Christine, herself and other Ward Councillors could work in conjunction with Council staff to get a clear plan and possibly a template that could be used by Sounds communities. Christine suggested that the issues raised require interdepartmental discussion.
- There is a second round of 20 meetings (some were held prior to Christmas in Blenheim and Picton) with industry/community groups. From the initial meetings, plus the on-line survey information will be collated and assessed. The second round of meetings is about getting information back to the public, and to determine what areas are to be focussed on. Regarding minimisation, people seem to be more focussed on how to dispose/reduce waste, rather than minimisation.

#### **Linda Booth left the meeting at 11.40 am for a short period**

- Vic suggested that more creative ways to use rubbish for other purposes, such as in Europe, could be the answer.

#### **Christine McNeil left the meeting at 11.45 am**

### **9. The Mussel Restoration Project – Ned Wells**

- Ned gave a presentation to the group on the Mussel Restoration Project, attached as **Appendix 3**.
- Following baseline monitoring and seabed surveys late last year to identify sites, there are now 15 experimental sites. These sites will be monitored monthly to see how the mussels perform. In 2022/23 bigger beds will be put in. The spat comes from the local region. (Locations on attached map in **Appendix 3**.)
- There has been excellent coverage of the project on national news – accessible at internet address below:

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/making-comeback-project-see-more-marlborough-mussels-in-wild>

### **10. Freedom Camping – Ken Roush**

- The Port Underwood Road is a prohibited area for freedom campers but it is unclear who has responsibility when this is breached. Barbara suggested that Council should be contacted so that a breach is logged and there is a record. If communities have an issue with freedom campers they need to make a submission to the by-law – this means coming in to Council. Those re-writing the by-law are then equipped with more information that could influence a new by-law.
- Margot mentioned that there had been a suggestion of having rangers cross-warranted so that Council rangers could respond to those camping on DOC land. Having one point of contact (eg Council) for reporting purposes would make it less confusing for the community and the opportunity to gather more information about the problem. Margot and Barbara will follow this up with MDC staff.

- If freedom campers are on private land, this is a Police matter and they should be contacted.

## **11. Update Aquaculture provisions for MEP – Ken Roush/Eric Jorgenson**

- The three SAG members (Eric, Judy and Rob) who were part of the Aquaculture Review working group are disappointed the aquaculture provisions are not included in the Environment Plan. The draft provisions went to Council, but Council has now gone to Central Government to determine how engagement will take place with community and industry.
- Judy believes that marine farmers are taking advantage of a window that has been created because of Council's inaction and getting resource consents for the next 30 years.
- All three members are extremely unhappy feeling their time and Council money spent on the working party to have this outcome, was wasted. They wanted to have their dissatisfaction noted in the minutes. Barbara advised that she would follow up on this issue and email the Judy, Eric and Rob before the next meeting.

**Linda Booth returned at 12.45 pm**

**Meeting adjourned for a working lunch at approximately 12.50 pm**

## **12. Road Signage - Ken Roush**

- Ken wanted to know whether it was possible to have signage for the bays (particularly around Tumbledown Bay Road) that is similar to that used up to Port Underwood? Barbara will talk to Steve Murrin of Marlborough Roads.
- Following a recent incident which necessitated calling a helicopter, Linda was informed that Duncan Bay is not a locality name for where she lives and she actually resides in Tennyson Inlet. This needs to be brought to Council's attention and rectified. Barbara said she would follow up.

## **13. Sustainable Land Transition Fund – Eric Jorgensen**

- Eric was part of this working group and wanted an update as there had been no feedback following the matter going to the Council's Regional Planning Community Advisory Committee.
- Oliver advised that funding was an issue for Council and an application was made to the Provincial Growth Fund which was not successful. It may now have been superseded.
- Barbara will follow up as to what has happened with this piece of work.

## **14. Coastal Research Strategy – Eric Jorgensen**

- 12 June 2018 at the Regional Planning Community Development meeting, a development plan for a Coastal Research Strategy was tabled and approved by Council. It was proposed that a completed plan would be presented in 12 months' time on 30 June 2019. There has been no update.
- Oliver confirmed there is no strategy. However, there is movement underway for Council, DOC and MPI to have integrated management of the Sounds.
- Barbara suggested it might be beneficial to have a small group headed by Eric meet and go through some of the issues raised around Council process and communication.

**Alan joined the meeting 1.10 pm**

## **15. Establishment of 'EBM research zone within the Marlborough Sounds' – Eric Jorgensen**

- November 2018 researchers from Auckland, Waikato Universities and others come into the Sounds and did a rat health assessment. Findings were presented back to Council in February 2019. Council

staff was directed to establish an EBM (Ecosystem Based Management) research zone within the Marlborough Sounds. Eric was interested in the progress of this work.

- Oliver mentioned that this is a Sustainable Seas led initiative.
- Alan advised that Council has been working with an integrated management group of DOC, MPI and MDC. There has been a hui with Iwi this morning to bring them into the group. Iwi were having a hui this afternoon to discuss a proposal to come back to Council about how the group can work together in the Sounds and seascape. This would be more effective going forward as Council are not the only managers of the seabed.
- Jodi acknowledged that each agency has a different strategic priority and alignment and it is about working those all in together with having the science (eg multibeam surveying, fish stock management and so on) available. It is not an easy process and will take time.

## **16. NIWA survey – seabed floor video – Eric Jorgenson**

- Last year Tara Anderson presented camera footage around Perano Shoal showing more damage to the benthos than previously understood. Eric asked what the management response to that situation was. He acknowledged that resources do impact, but feels Council response is so slow.

## **17. Draft National Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan – Eric Jorgenson**

- Although the Act has always enabled environmental management the consultation document is a strong steer into how fisheries management want to go in the inshore finfish space. It is Eric's view that it is critical Council is engaged in this.
- Eric believes that in the meantime, whilst thinking and discussing how agencies work together this is an issue that could be worked on together right now.
- Allan said that while the science is available, the multibeam, work Conrad has done, NIWA survey, video camera work and the science from MPI, from the Council perspective of translating this into policy, there is not enough capacity to build on the existing plan framework already in place. The Council policy team has been so involved with the MEP, there has been no chance to look at the future state. There is a need for capacity building in policy.
- Barbara pointed out to Alan that prior to his coming to the meeting Eric had raised policy documents, submissions etc that have been presented to Council but there has been a lack of information coming back to the people who have submitted or participated in the workshops. Barbara had suggested getting a small group of people along with Council staff (including Alan) who can discuss what is needed, eg, more resourcing, better messaging.
- Barbara believes the Sounds News which could be an ideal opportunity for keeping Sounds people/communities informed of what is happening with the issues affecting their communities. She has spoken to Glyn Walters (Council Communications Manager) who would welcome information from the Sounds communities for the Sounds News.
- Vic acknowledged Eric, Judy and Rob for their persistence and work put into the workshops they have been part of.

## **18. Ratepayers expectations of Councils functions for smaller communities – Linda Booth**

- Linda advised she is here to represent her community and asked how do others get information if they have no representation.
- Barbara apologised for not getting round to community AGMs. Nadine, David along with Barbara are available to get to their meetings, but they need to know when they are being held.

**Clr Taylor joined the meeting 1.35 pm**

- Suggestions for communication were newsletter, update with rates demand. Digital communication is difficult because of coverage. Linda proposed that as a member of SAG, she believes it is her responsibility to take information back to her community

## 19. General Discussion (other items)

### Offsite meeting (D'Urville – Monyeen)

In Monyeen's absence this option for the next offsite meeting was discussed by members present. Alan will look into going to D'Urville for the first offsite meeting. The venue for the second offsite meeting was also discussed. Duncan Bay, Punga Cove, Picton were amongst the suggestions.

### Review of SAG and process - Alan

There has been a workshop with councillors in the Sounds. They have given a mandate to go ahead and review SAG and some of the Picton groups (Smart Connected, Picton Regional Forum). Dean Heiford is heading the review, feeding back to the affected groups and then to back to councillors for a decision.

The review will cover the role, membership and purpose of SAG. The first workshop has been held. No timeframe has been given but Alan expects there may be an outcome around the end of June.

### Sustainable Land Transition Fund - Alan

The report went to the senior staff of the Provincial Growth Fund who made the decision not to fund.

The option now is to take the philosophy of the Sustainable Land Transition Fund and make it part of the Te Hoiere catchment program, as part of the land management.

### Te Hoiere Project - Alan

The current stakeholders for the Te Hoiere catchment restoration project are Council, DOC and Iwi. The project is in two phases. The first is a land phase and involves all the tributaries that run into and off the Pelorus River. The second is a sea phase which will probably happen in a couple of years' time.

An interim scope working group has been set up, and a governance group will follow. The key objectives will be determined with the community in the catchment.

The Ministry of the Environment and Department of Conservation are directly involved and funding is expected from both the DOC and Mfe Freshwater Management Funds. The working and governance groups are developing a strategic business case to go to Ministers by the end of June for funding to implement restoration programs in the catchment. Landcare Trust has been engaged to help with facilitation with landowners in the catchment, forestry and pastoral farmers.

It is an exciting non-regulatory project and a new way of operating in an integrated way with the Crown, Iwi and community working together looking at solutions for long term restoration.

A brochure giving an overview of the project has been developed and is attached as **Appendix 4**.

### Noisy Mussel Boat – Vic Koller

Vic wanted to know if there were any restrictions on noise emitted from boats as there has been a mussel boat from Golden Bay in Mahau Sound which has been particular noisy. Vic was assured by Ned that that particular boat had had new mufflers fitted.

### MEP Launch

Judy mentioned that no SAG members had received invitations to the launch. Barbara believed that all SAG members that were part of the hearing process would have received an invitation.

The MEP will be available to the public electronically, It will include tracked changes so readers are aware of where changes have occurred.

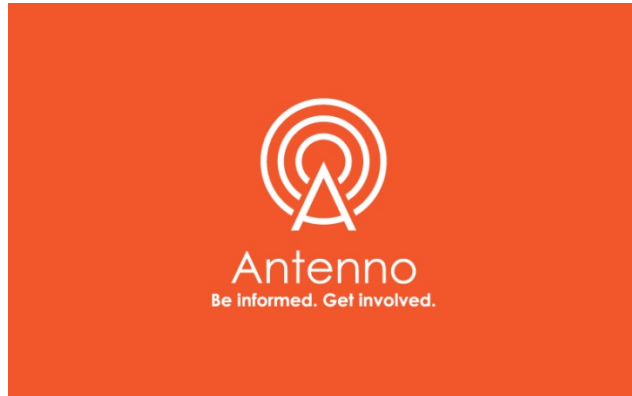
The MEP after the launch on 20 February enters a statutory appeal period of 1 month. A submitter may appeal within this period. The appeal then goes to the Environment Court for a decision.

### Alerts – Ken Roush

There was no notification about a road closure on the MDC site following the recent fire at Monkey Bay.

Alerts are accessible through Antenno app which can be downloaded at no cost from the internet address below.

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/apps/antenno>



Ken advised that people in his community would rather the alerts be on the Council website as there is a lot of information put through on Antenno which has stopped some from using it. In addition while fires in the community are not always the responsibility of Council, there is a tab for fires on the Council website which makes people think that Council does have some responsibility for the information and notification to the community. Barbara will follow up with the Communications Manager.

### Indigenous Biodiversity – Poneke Rene

RMA reforms are coming up, and Poneke expressed concern about the changes and how it could affect integrated management.

Alan advised there has been national direction about RMA reforms. Indigenous biodiversity – a new proposed national policy statement has been released. Council is putting in a submission – they close 14 March. NPS Indigenous biodiversity has impacts on the community and Council as proposed at the moment. There are additional costs as well. The NPS Indigenous Biodiversity paper is available on MFE's website.

In addition a New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy has been released by DOC who is the lead agency. It is not yet finalised but expected before the election.

### Essential Water Program - Alan

This has a range of expectations on Council's and community. Council are awaiting government decisions.

### Speakers

Suggestions were: someone to talk about SNA's; the Kohitanga mo Taiao Project.

## 20. Positive Feedback

- Barbara acknowledged the success of the Tuia 250 celebrations saying they were spectacularly well done and congratulated those involved.



## Proposed Dates for meetings in 2020

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 18 May - venue yet to be advised.

Monday 3 August

Monday 16 November

The meeting closed at 2.40 pm.

## Actions from the meeting

	Action	Person Responsible
1.	Provide an update on the SNA Programme and how to determine an SNA and the role of Council and DOC in relation to these areas.	Oliver
2.	Talk to David Hayes about a letter to residents of Endeavour Inlet (and possibly Queen Charlotte Track) regarding driving across the wetlands.	Alan/David Hayes
3.	Invite Policy team member to provide an update on NZCPS. (Deferred until post MEP notification.)	Alan
4.	Meet with other Ward Councillors, Christine McNeil (Waste Management Plan) and Council staff to develop a template for small Sounds communities to remedy their waste management issues.	Barbara
5.	Set up a meeting with DOC and MDC staff (Jane Tito of Parks and Reserves) to discuss how the community should respond when freedom campers are in a prohibited area. Who should they contact? Should rangers be cross-warranted? How to determine what area is DOC and what is MDC?	Margot/Barbara
6.	Follow up on the Aquaculture Review working group members grievances and email them before the next meeting.	Barbara
7.	Speak to Steve Murrin about signage for the bays, similar to that used up to Port Underwood.	Barbara
8.	Follow up Linda's correct address – Duncan Bay v Tennyson Inlet.	Barbara
9.	Sustainable Land Transition Fund – Barbara will find out what has occurred with this proposed work and let the members know.	Barbara/Alan
10.	Barbara will identify Council staff to meet with a small group headed by Eric to talk about Council process and feedback to project participants.	Barbara
11.	Determine possible venues for the two offsite meetings for SAG this year.	Alan/Barbara
12.	Enquire about SAG invitations to the launch of the MEP.	Alan
13.	Are Alerts being duplicated on the MDC website (along with Antenno)?	Barbara

## Appendix 1

### Department of Conservation Activities and issues of interest.

Prepared for Sounds Advisory Group meeting 17 February 2020.



#### Recreation

##### *Queen Charlotte Track*

- Dry conditions in the Sounds are heading toward a time when part of the Queen Charlotte Track will likely need to be diverted for public safety reasons. Stakeholders and landowners have been notified and if no rain falls then a closure in mid-February is probable.

We base our decisions on the Fire Weather data that is collected at Kenepuru Head and by on the ground observations.

- Schoolhouse Bay campsite is receiving a lot more use now that it is directly on the track following the Queen Charlotte Track realignment work last year.
- Love this place promo – posters shown. Members can order posters or other information for their communities via the links below.

##### *Other sites*

- Some of our campsites have received more campers than in previous years. These tend to be the ones that are on the national booking system. This includes Whatamango Bay where restrictions will need to be put in place before the next summer over the Christmas/New Year period.
- We will close camping on Oruawairua/Blumine Island if the fire danger triggers closures on the mainland. This is recognising that there are endangered species on the island that are very vulnerable to fire.
- Overall, the recreation infrastructure has stood up well over the busy period with no emergency repairs or pump outs required. Portaloos were placed at a number of sites for the peak period to help avoid congestion.

#### Historic

##### *Tuia 250*

- DOC staff supported the powhiri at Meretoto to welcome the flotilla that travelled around the sites that Cook visited 250 years ago. This event was a great example of the success that can come from collaboration and it involved a wide range of groups co-ordinated by the Totaranui 250 Trust.

#### Biodiversity.

- A lizard survey was conducted on many of the Sounds islands by some of the country's leading herpetologists. They had hoped to find striped gecko on Te Kakaho Island but instead found one on Arapaoa Island where they hadn't been recorded before.
- There has been a focus on improving biosecurity systems and plans as part of our desire to keep reducing any chance of our own operations and those associated with our work transferring anything undesirable to high value ecological areas. A lot of this work has focused on improving our quarantining practices.
- The annual Spartina work is underway in the inner Pelorus Sound and Havelock estuary area. This year we have incorporated two Spartina detection dogs into the programme.
- We are coordinating work to increase the monitoring of Orange Fronted Parakeets on Oruawairua/Blumine Island. This population continues to outbreed other populations at other sites, but the reasons why are not really known. Survival of this species may depend on what can be learned on the island. One of the situations that we don't want is for any Yellow Crowned Parakeets to find their way to the island where they can hybridise with their cousins. Any reports of sightings of Yellow Crowns in the vicinity of Oruawairua/Blumine Island would be helpful.

- Forest and Bird have successfully used acoustic lures to capture a breeding female bat at Pelorus Bridge. The ability to do this will lead to better identification of roost sites and greater opportunity to gain more knowledge about these unusual mammals.
- The 're-watering' of the former wetland at Moawhitu, Greville Harbour, on D'Urville Island is progressing well. Research has been conducted on the reasons for repeated algal blooms in the adjacent lake. Potential solutions have been proposed and these are being discussed at the moment with the key partners in the project. Native plantings will be ramped up over this autumn and winter.
- Compliance stepped up on Long Island Marine Reserve, hunting, behaviour around marine mammals and biosecurity over the summer including weekends.

### Community

- Tenders are being evaluated for the renewal of the farming lease at Titirangi in the outer Sounds.
- It appears that a large number of people got a drone for Christmas and have applied to use them in the Sounds.
- Several events have been run over the summer as part of the summer event programme. Not all of these are DOC led which is providing a great way for us to interact meaningfully with key partners while providing a great service to the public. All events have been well attended.
- Compliance done on concessions mainly for guided groups and also behaviour around marine mammals.

### Staff

- Kaja Vetter has joined the team as the Senior Ranger Community. Kaja was based in Queenstown as the Supervisor of the DOC Visitor Centre. She replaces Shelly Sidley who is now fully based in Nelson.
- Frank Rosie has replaced Tansy Bliss as the Biodiversity Supervisor in charge of the islands with staff and the Biosecurity portfolio. Frank used to be in the team 4 years ago and has been working for DOC in Twizel.
- Greg Bettjeman from the Havelock Recreation & Historic team retired in January after close to 40 years service to the Department and its predecessors.





- A3 and A4 posters
- Email signatures
- Pocket guides (kiwi way branded)

Some posters and email signatures available in a variety of languages, including Te Reo Māori, English, Chinese, and German.

**How to download and order assets**

To download digital and printable assets, find them on Dropbox here:  
<http://bit.ly/lovethisplacedigital>

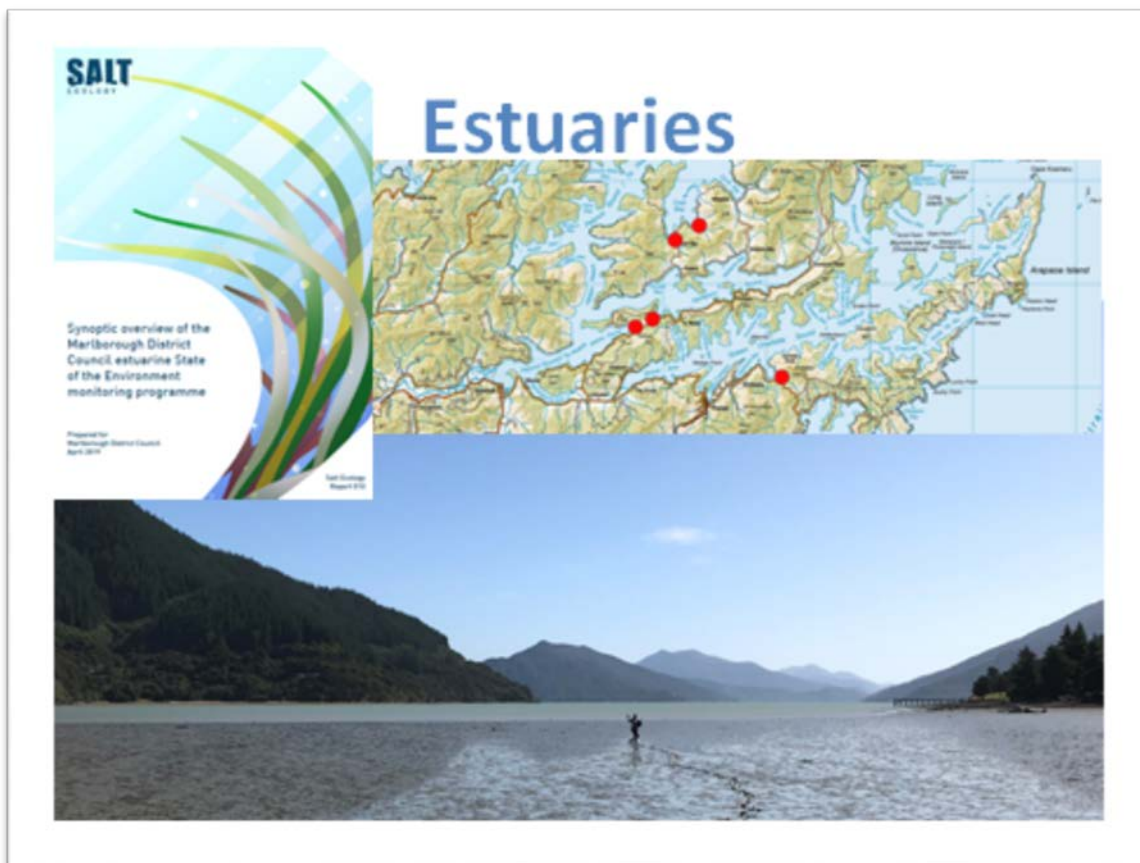
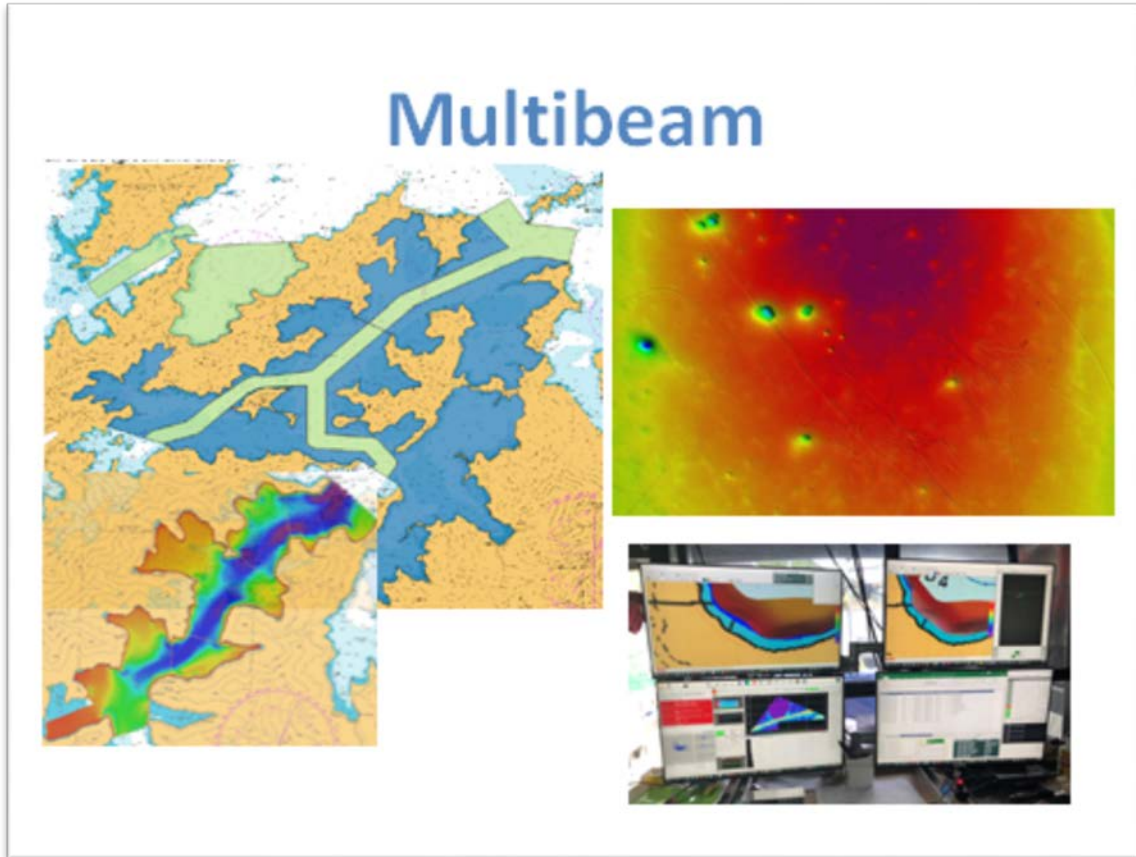
To order printed posters and pocket guides, find them on Bluestar here (the items that say 'Summer Campaign')  
<http://bit.ly/lovethisplaceprint>

**Sharable content**

Keep an eye out on DOC's social media channels for good campaign content to share. You can also find a selection of video content on Youtube here:  
<http://bit.ly/lovethisplacevideo>

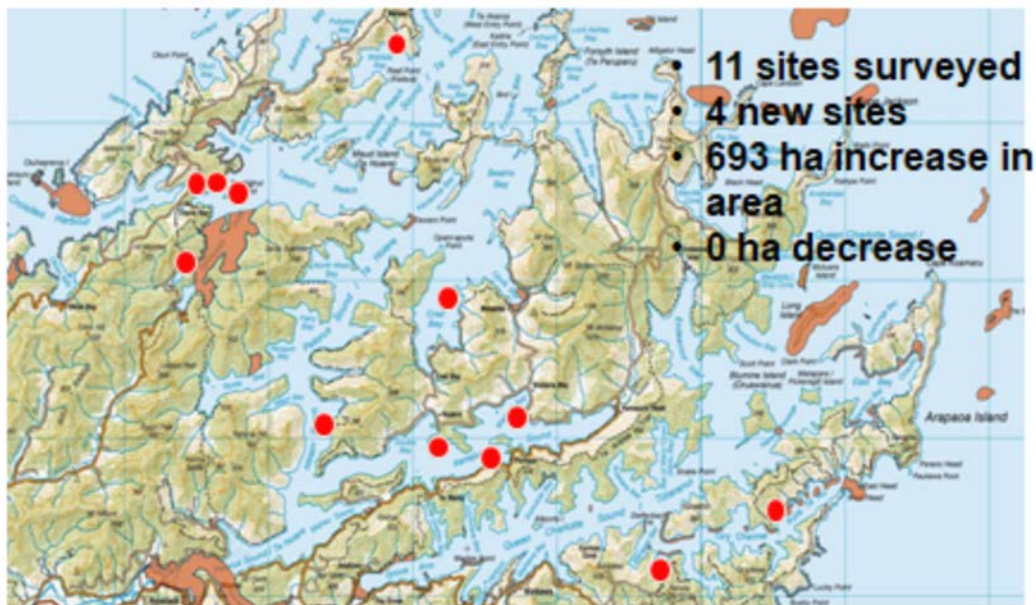


## Appendix 2

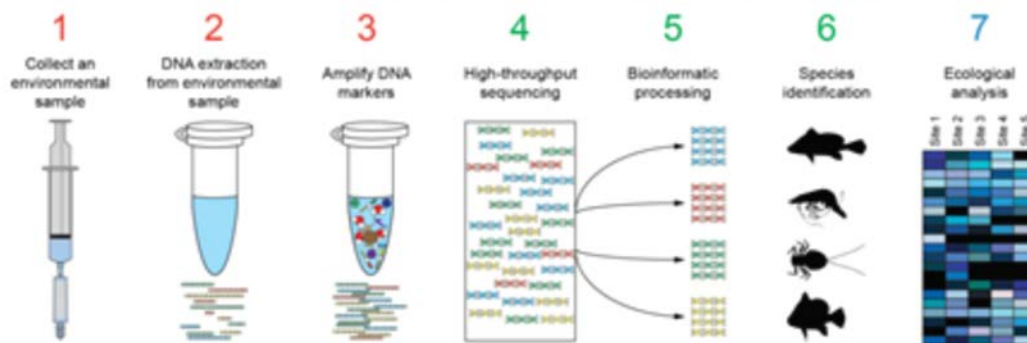




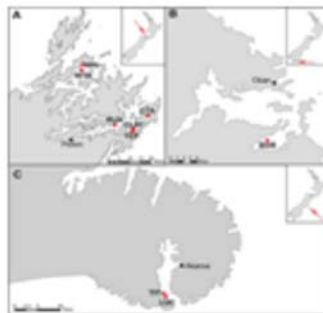
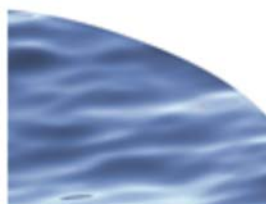
## Ecologically significant marine sites



## Environmental DNA



REPORT NO. 340  
A VALIDATED PROTOCOL FOR BENTHIC MONITORING OF NEW ZEALAND'S SALMON FARMS USING ENVIRONMENTAL DNA



## Appendix 3

### **Mussel Restoration Project for the Marlborough Sounds - August 2019**

Last century parts of the Marlborough Sounds, especially Pelorus Sound, had extensive wild mussel beds. Widespread harvesting wiped out the beds in the 1990's and they have not since recovered. Understanding how these mussel beds might be restored, and what the benefits might be, is the focus of a three year research project led by the Marine Farming Association, with expert input from the University of Auckland and NIWA.

Research in the Hauraki Gulf has found that wild mussel beds provide many ecological benefits, such as improving fish abundance, diversity and sediment stabilisation. Similar results are expected for the Marlborough Sounds, and establishing more wild mussels may also increase the local spat supply.

The success of this project will rely on the continued support of industry, including knowledge and advice, help with mussels and logistics, and cash contributions. The indicated contributions from MFA and industry have been used to leverage an additional \$450,000 of contributions to support the project from the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), The Nature Conservancy, the University of Auckland and NIWA.

Funding from MPI's Sustainable Farming Fund (\$398,000) has recently been contracted by the MFA, and agreements with the research partners are being finalised at present.

Work has begun on preparing a detailed research plan which is based around three sets of experimental deployments of mussels over three years and the subsequent monitoring of their performance and associated environmental effects. The research includes the use of returning mussel shell material to the seabed to stabilise soft sediment prior to establishing mussel beds ovetop. In addition, methods for enhancing natural recruitment to establish and maintain new mussel beds will be investigated.

The first phase of the project is beginning in September and will involve the selection and baseline survey of suitable sites for the mussel restoration experiments. The selected sites will be supplied with mussels as soon as possible, possibly by the end of the year.

Two trainee scientists will be working on the project full time for the three years, supported by scientific expertise and equipment from University of Auckland and NIWA, and the Australian arm of The Nature Conservancy.

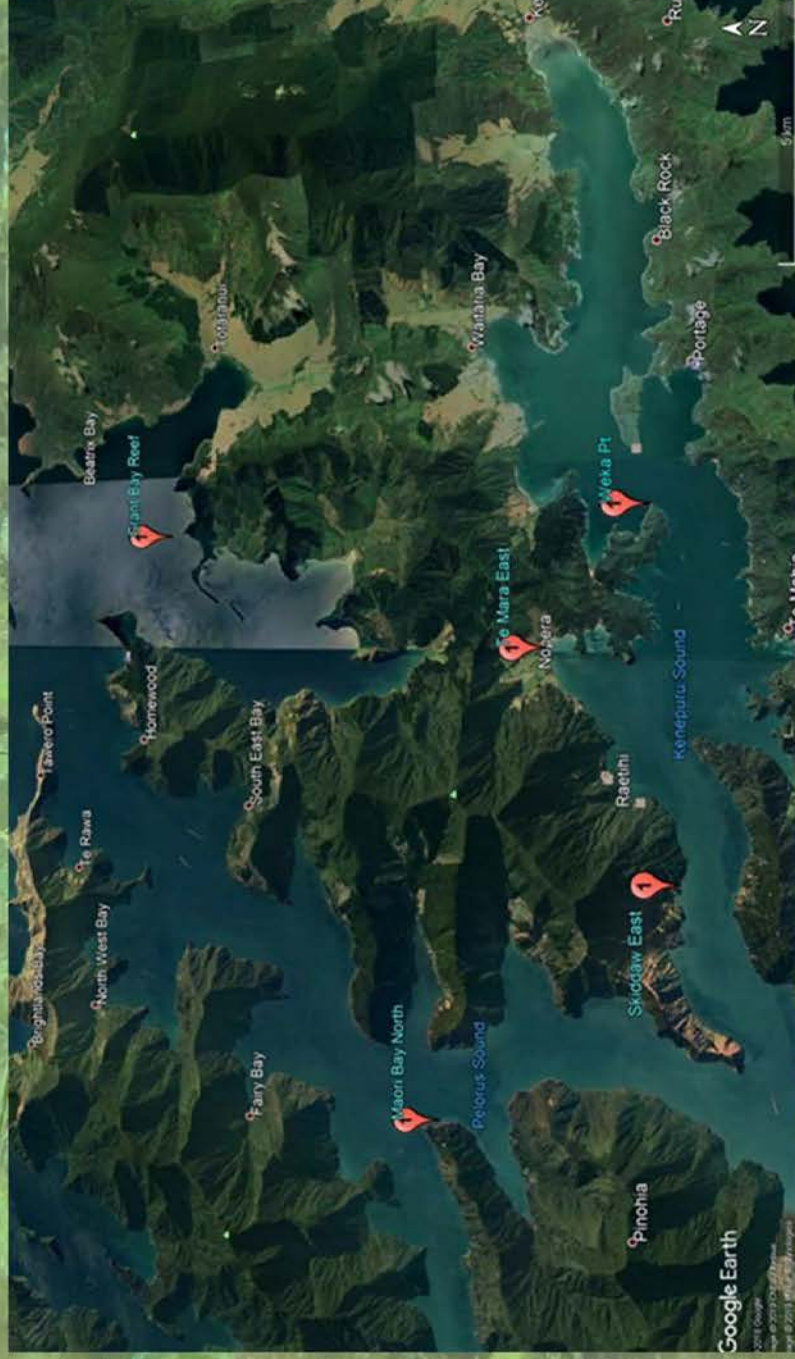
The detailed research plan will be discussed and approved by the MFA, and all subsequent reporting on the project will come to the MFA and will be shared through presentations at the AGM, and regular updates through the MFA Newsletter. The MFA is also developing a governance group to oversee and facilitate the implementation of the project.

If you would like to be involved in the restoration project in any way, please contact Ned Wells on 03 578 5043 or 027 255 2069.





# Trial Restoration Sites:



Appendix 4

Next Steps

Kōwhirianga mā te Tekeo provides the framework for the Te Hoiere Pelorus project, but it's up to the community, landowners and businesses to work together to help make it happen.

The next step is to talk to all stakeholders about their priorities for the restoration and future management of the catchment.

A Project Steering Group, including representatives from the community, will be assembled and will work alongside a technical advisory panel of knowledge experts. They will provide advice and supervision on each project phase. The group will also be able to help prioritise the work ahead. Depending on interest, up to 10 subcatchment groups will be formed to inform priorities. Community members will be invited to carry out the work identified by the Project Steering Group.

Meanwhile, a business case will be prepared to help the catchment group apply for funding from the Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment and other external sources.




Get Involved

Te Hoiere Pelorus Project is an exciting time for conservation and a great opportunity to get involved in a large-scale project. There are many ways you can be involved in restoring this special place:


- Attend an upcoming public drop-in session to find out more
- Saturday 4th April and Hawkeek School Hall from 9am - 3pm
- Put your name forward to be on the Project Steering Group or a subcatchment group
- Join a restoration project – eg. planting riparian areas, controlling weeds, getting rid of predators – or start one of your own
- Contact Council, DOC or NZ Landcare Trust if you have a Te Hoiere Pelorus story to share or project you want to initiate





**Te Hoiere Pelorus Project**

INFORMATION SHEET



**Te Hoiere Pelorus River catchment is a special place. A place worth looking after.**

Which is why Council, Ngāi Tahu, and the wider community are coming together for Te Hoiere Pelorus Project – an ambitious approach to look after the whole catchment from the mountains to the sea (ki uta ki tai).

The bush-clad high slopes of the headwaters are home to native trees and endangered species while low-lying valley floor have been developed for forestry and farming. Use enters through the landscape, Te Hoiere Pelorus River and Kaituna River sustain the whole area on their journey down to Motuwaia Harbour estuary and Te Hoiere Pelorus Sound. Te Hoiere Pelorus Project is all about these headwaters and how we can work together to protect the environment, people and the businesses that depend on the catchment.

Contact

Marlborough District Council  
 G3 320 A400  
 Pete Howell | pete.howell@marlborough.govt.nz  
 Matt Oliver | matt.oliver@marlborough.govt.nz

Department of Conservation  
 Merit Fyfe | 03 349 3286 | merit.fyfe@doc.govt.nz  
 NZ Landcare Trust  
 Matt Oliver | 027 724 4445 | matt@nz.landcare.org.nz





## The Kaupapa

Te Hoere Peorus has been chosen as the pilot project by Kahurangi mō te Taiao, Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri, an alliance of Councils, the Department of Conservation who share the kaupapa of working together on landscape-scale conservation across the Buller, Tasman, Nelson, Marlborough and Kaitiaki regions.

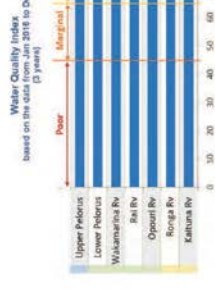
Kaitiaki mō te Taiao, "working as one for our environment" Te Hoere Peorus catchment is a special habitat for several species.

- Ecological diversity: It has 14 of the 16 recognised fish species in New Zealand, 2 species that aren't found anywhere else, and 14 species of native freshwater fish (including two threatened ones).
  - Engaged iwi: Ngāi Tahu have along cultural ties to the catchment and a commitment to protecting the environment.
  - Water quality improvements in monitoring and land use management: We have a good example of how to look after our water.
  - Engaged farmers: Significant improvements made to water quality have been achieved by farmers who work with Council and other agencies.
- Te Hoere Peorus Project has also caught the attention of the Government. It is one of 1000's priority catchments for the Ministry for the Environment has named it one of the 'Freshwater Exemplar' catchments (total budget \$22M).
- Te Hoere Peorus Project is now poised to be a leading example of collaborative catchment restoration driven by local expertise, community and business involvement and national media support.

## The Issues

### Water Quality

Water quality is the key issue for Te Hoere Peorus Project. Nitrogen runoff, E. coli and sediment have been targeted as risks for the catchment. There are a number of nitrogen pathways including from pasture, fertiliser, and septic tanks. Nitrogen levels are being better managed as knowledge improves about fertiliser levels, nitrogen use and the benefits of riparian E. coli concentrations will come from stock access to waterways and soil erosion pressures. There is a good record of E. coli levels as waterways have been monitored, consented and used to avoid stream crossings, and effluent systems upgraded.



Work by farmers, the Landcare Trust and Council has significantly improved water quality in the past 10 years and the trend is to see this trend continue as it does. However, water quality in other parts of the catchment, can we still catchments to the Very Good? Like farming, forestry is a significant contributor to the total impact of catchment management. To reduce the environmental impact of forestry, we need to focus on how we manage the catchment. This includes riparian planting, riparian revegetation, and riparian fencing. This is the sediment on another animal and plants that live in the estuary. Council monitoring shows the estuary is one of the most polluted in the country. Riparian planting helps to reduce sediment from each catchment to speed down the causes of water quality issues. Based on the information, community catchment groups will carry out targeted work for improvements.

## The Project

This is a big catchment, and it's going to be a big project, approached in stages.

- Phase 1:** The land, freshwater and estuary areas associated with Te Hoere Peorus and Kaitiaki Wāhi.
- Phase 2:** Expanded into Te Hoere Peorus Sound.
- What we're aiming for:**
- Maintaining and improving the ecology of the land, freshwater estuaries
  - Restoring the natural landscape and the sea - kaitiaki.
  - Better, environmentally sustainable and thriving primary industries
  - People connected to and enjoying healthy land, water and seas.



## Biodiversity

The Te Hoere Peorus catchment is brimming with biodiversity.

Fourteen species of native freshwater fish have been recorded, along with freshwater wahoas, crayfish and molluscs. However, those also suffer when water quality drops, which can impact on the water. Native fish, wahoas and crayfish are under pressure from pressure, grasses and pigs, as well as rats, stoats and weasels. Weed throughs include whiting pens and other black weeds. There have been lost streams and blacked-out, including the opportunity to riparian out each month and impacting wetland and estuary birds.

Natively critical kingfisher birds have been found at the estuary in the Buller and Peorus valleys. Kingfisher birds are also found in the Buller and Peorus valleys. Endangered control programmes, in partnership with Ngāi Tahu.

Te Hoere Peorus Project aims to work collaboratively to monitor and manage endangered species and work to improve their habitat and long-term prospects.

Te Hoere Peorus Project

www.meritborough.govt.nz

## How we're going to do it:

- Talk to the community and businesses about their priorities for the Hoere Peorus catchment. We'll work with local businesses, schools, environmental groups, voluntary organisations and schools.
- Draw on the knowledge of our wāiwhiri Ngāi Tahu and incorporate Māharaunga Māori and local priorities for land and water restoration.
- Work with land owners and science advisors to identify the state of each catchment and where more information and monitoring is needed.
- Design potential projects, eg catchment enhancement plans for farms and forestry areas, riparian planting, riparian revegetation, and riparian fencing.
- Seek funding for projects.
- Engage with community for support and involvement.

