

LIVING WATER

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VISION: A sustainable dairy industry is part of healthy functioning ecosystems that together enrich the lives of all New Zealanders

PŪKOROKORO-MIRANDA, HAURAKI SITE FOCUS: Restoring and reconnecting a rural freshwater ecosystem and sensitive coastal environment using a community-led 'mountains to sea' approach

Critical Issues

- Significantly degraded and reduced coastal shorebird habitat
- Highly modified hydrology and drainage systems to reduce the threat of tidal inundation and flooding for landowners in the lower catchment
- Increased levels of suspended sediment from hill country and stream/drain bank erosion
- Modification of the landscape in the catchment has impacted on cultural identity and activities
- Society has increased expectations of farmers/agricultural land owners in relation to water quality
- Landowners have an opportunity to engage more about this at a catchment level

Inputs

- DOC & Fonterra staff
- Funding approximately \$300k/year
- Technical input
- Network of participating farmers
- Participation of key stakeholders, including iwi, WRC HDC, councils and community trusts

Activities

- **Habitat expansion:** Land purchase and restoration via community trust
- **Mountains to Sea:** Catchment condition survey and baseline survey for mountains to sea, influencing new drainage district fish survey's
- **Restoration support:** For public land
- **Strategic partnerships:** Pūkoro-Miranda Naturalists' Trust (PMNT), landowners, DOC, iwi, councils
- Monitoring progress, telling our story and championing change

Outputs

- FEPs, Biodiversity Assessments on farms and projects to enhance riparian areas
- Wetland planting days, Fennel control trial, drain restoration
- Support for PMNT and their East Asian Australasian Flyway survey work
- Track to public viewing hide and cycleway interpretation
- Baseline surveys, Whitebait spawning sites awareness public events
- Establishing a community led trust
- Sharing learnings through website, social media, professional forums, community events

Outcomes/Impacts

Short term (by 2020)

- Coxhead land purchase completed and Community Trust established with restoration plan in place to manage 19.6 hectares of new reserve
- Mountains to Sea project supported by landowners in the catchment
- Mana whenua are actively involved in Living Water projects and mātauranga māori is integrated into our work
- Biodiversity and cultural values are included in the establishment of the Taramaire drainage district
- Western Firth Catchment Group and others are using Living Water tools and solutions to deliver their outcomes

Medium term (by 2023)

- Increased area of habitat suitable for shorebirds
- Community ownership of Mountains to Sea project
- Mountains to Sea project demonstrates improvement in freshwater outcomes for the catchment
- Biodiversity and cultural values are improving in the Taramaire drainage district
- Living Water tools and solutions have been scaled up to other catchments in the Firth of Thames

Long Term Outcomes

- Healthy resilient lowland freshwater ecosystems
- Profitable responsible dairying
- A shared understanding of the interdependence of agriculture, economy and environment by the broader community

