

LIVING

WATER

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

ARARIRA/LII SITE FOCUS: Transforming the drain and water network into a healthy freshwater ecosystem in a productive agricultural landscape

Critical Issues

- Significant loss of wetland and freshwater ecosystems and lowland habitat
- Poor water quality incl. high levels of suspended sediment, nutrients & faecal coliforms
- The Ararira river catchment is highly modified and is primarily managed for drainage to reduce the threat of flooding for landowners in the catchment
- 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 \$300k/year
- Technical input
- Network of participating farmers
- Participation of key stakeholders, incl. iwi & SDC

Activities

- **On-farm:** Trialling tools; monitoring @ farm scale; attribution; economic cost benefit case study; FEPs
- **Restoration support** for public land Yarrs Flat, Yarrs Lagoon
- **The water network:** Trialling alternative drain management approaches, Improving instream habitat and function
- **Strategic partnerships:** working with mana whenua, operational agencies and others.
- Monitoring progress, telling our story and championing change

Outputs

- Farm Environment Plans
- Fencing, riparian and wetland planting
- Weed control
- Tool trials
- Instream habitat trials
- Memorandums of understanding with partners
- Sharing learnings through website, social media, professional forums, community events

Outcomes/Impacts

Short term (by 2020)

- All Fonterra farmers are implementing freshwater actions in their FEP's and targeted farms are participating in trials for freshwater management on-farm
- The ecological enhancement and management of Yarrs Flat and Tarerekautuku - Yarrs Lagoon is included in the plans of the responsible agencies
- Biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are improving in the drainage network on Fonterra farms
- Mana whenua are actively involved in Living Water projects and matauranga maori is integrated into our work

Medium term (by 2023)

- Other landowners in the catchment are implementing freshwater management actions on-farm
- Yarrs Flat and Tarerekautuku -Yarrs Lagoon are valued by the catchment community as key ecological assets in the water network for their ecological integrity and as source areas for biodiversity
- Biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are improving in the public drainage network
- ECAN, SDC and other land managers have scaled techniques from Living Water activity to other catchments

Long Term Outcomes

Healthy lowland freshwater ecosystems

Responsible profitable dairying

A shared understanding of the interdependence of agricultural, economy and environment by the broader community

