



PŪKOROKORO MIRANDA, HAURAKI

RESTORING WILDLIFE HABITAT AREAS IN A FARMING LANDSCAPE

PROJECT DETAILS

Project cost:

\$981,500 including land purchase, plans, consents, subdivision, fencing, and establishing a Trust with seeding funds to begin ecological restoration work.

Location:

Pūkorokoro Miranda

Parties:

Vendor

Purchaser

Land Acquisition Fund (co-purchaser)

Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust

Ngāti Paoa

Project purpose:

- To build landscape resilience for wildlife by increasing the available land for estuarine and freshwater wildlife habitats in this catchment by 20%
- Facilitating ecological restoration while demonstrating this will not adversely affect the drainage or productivity on adjoining farms

Project timeframe:

2014 - 2023



This project is looking to trial effective ways of identifying, acquiring, and restoring suitable farmland to increase estuarine and freshwater wildlife habitat for internationally significant migratory birds

BACKGROUND

- The limited size of remaining coastal wildlife habitat and the limited room for expansion in the Pūkorokoro Miranda catchment was identified early in the Living Water programme.
- Wildlife in the area occasionally use dairy farm paddocks for roosting and feeding, but drainage and conversion to farmland has reduced breeding and feeding habitat dramatically.
- Drains are regularly cleared mechanically reducing water quality and disturbing stream bed habitat.
- The only feasible area to increase wildlife habitat was identified around the Miranda and Pūkorokoro stream mouth.
- A local farmer offered 60ha of farmland for sale in 2014 providing an opportunity to increase habitat.
- Funding from DOC's Land Acquisition Fund (LAF) and a private partner was obtained to purchase the land which in October 2018.



AT A GLANCE

Total area of catchment:

- 6000 hectares plus part of 8500 hectares of intertidal area designated of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

Total area of catchment:

- ~60ha with about 23ha to become coastal wildlife habitat reserve land vested in a Trust

Desired Outcomes

- Increase the area of freshwater and estuarine wetland by 23 hectares (20% extra)
- Complete necessary subdivision plans for the property and fence it
- Establish a Trust for the ongoing management of the reserve including seed funding to develop an ecological restoration plan and get restoration underway including to restore the natural hydrologic function while not detrimentally impacting on the drainage of adjoining properties.

Lessons Learnt

- The administrative arrangement of the Partnership meant that funding had to be sourced by the Crown, which required complex business cases, high levels of approval and necessitated applying to the Land Acquisition Fund and obtaining the support of an adjoining landowner to complete the deal.
- Complexity of Crown land acquisition process requires specialist skills and expertise.
- The complexity and commitment to the purchase increased over time and so other less complex options to improve existing publicly owned wildlife habitat or focus on other freshwater ecosystem restoration gains may have produced results sooner.

Find out more

- The project still has steps to be completed before the sale and purchase is completed in October 2018. Further updates will be provided as milestones are achieved

