

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

ARARIRA-LII RIVER, CANTERBURY 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 approximately \$300k/year
- Technical input
- Network of participating farmers
- Participation of key stakeholders, including iwi, Selwyn District Council, Fish & Game and community trusts

Activities

- **On-farm:** Trialling tools, monitoring at farm and catchment scale, FEPs
- **Restoration support:** For public land at Yarrs Flat and Tārekeautuku - 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 Tārekeautuku - 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 mātauranga māori is integrated into our work

Medium term (by 2023)

- Other landowners in the catchment are implementing freshwater management actions on-farm
- Yarrs Flat and Tārekeautuku - 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
- Councils and other land managers have scaled techniques from Living Water activity to other catchments

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

