

Our progress 2019/2020



Working towards a
common vision
of dairy and freshwater thriving together

35,000 ha

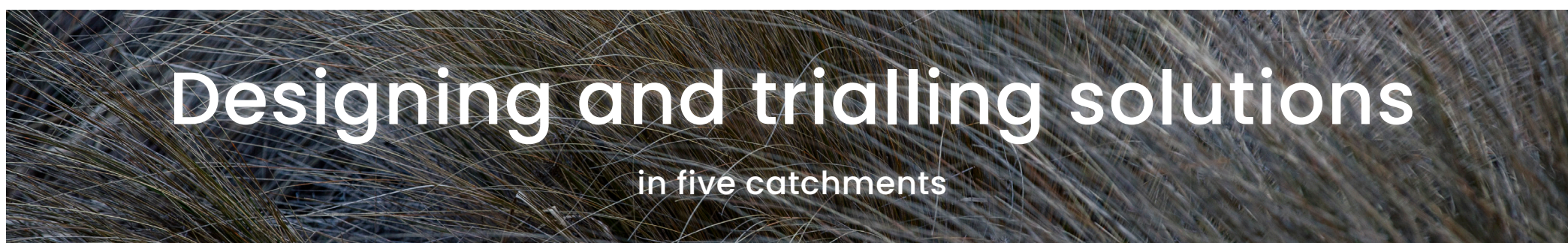
We are working with farmers, scientists, councils, mana whenua and local communities across 35,000 ha in five catchments across New Zealand

68%

of Fonterra farmers engaged in Living Water catchments
up from 59% in 2019

40%

of Fonterra farmers implementing freshwater improvement actions in Living Water catchments
up from 36% in 2019



Designing and trialling solutions in five catchments

60

projects underway or completed

34

trials of different tools and approaches to see what can be taken to scale to improve freshwater

9

solutions that have been scaled or are being used by others

8

case studies completed about our trials



Championing change to mindsets, approaches, systems and aspirations

52

partnerships in place

1481

social media followers
up from 556 in 2019

9

projects are directly building iwi and hapu capacity and capability as kaitiaki for freshwater

7

Living Water projects that directly integrate Mātauranga Māori

Catchment highlights 2019/2020

LIVING
WATER



Wairua, Northland

Restoration planting: 20,000 natives planted on dairy farms in the Okarika Pocket to help reduce sediments and nutrients reaching waterways.

Building capability: Members of Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngā Wai Māori join Living Water each month to sample water quality in the Okarika Pocket and have completed electric fishing training. The aim is to support members to continue monitoring water quality post Living Water and extend this mahi across the catchment.

Partnering for progress: 52 Farm Environment Plans totalling 12,065 ha delivered to date within the Waimā Waitai Waioira (Freshwater Improvement Fund) project. This has been a team effort of working with other project partners.

Pūkoro-Miranda, Hauraki

Mountains to sea: Worked with a commercial provider and the Western Firth Catchment Group to develop a cost-effective mitigation prioritisation tool to help catchment communities identify effective tools and where to place them in the landscape to get the best result. Tools (such as planting poplar poles, native trees and installing sediment detention bunds) and actions identified through Farm Environment Plans are now being implemented by landowners in the catchment.

Building community: Supported the establishment of a catchment wide community predator trapping programme. This has brought the catchment community together around a shared goal.

Partnering for progress: Finalised the establishment of the community based Tiaki Repo ki Pūkoro Trust that will be responsible for managing the restoration of the 19.6 ha Repo ki Pūkoro Reserve, purchased by the Crown in 2018. This has increased the habitat available in this internationally significant location for shorebirds. The Trust is now working on land use solutions that benefit both the environment and sustainable farming, to reduce contaminants from waterways entering the Firth of Thames.

Waikato Peat Lakes, Lake Areare, Lake Ruatuna and Lake Rotomanūka

Sediment and nutrient reduction: Worked with a consultant and landowners to identify where nutrients and sediments are entering Lake Ruatuna and are now addressing issues through actions within Farm Environment Plans.

Matāuranga Māori: Building on partnerships with mana whenua to develop cultural planting and future harvesting opportunities through a harakeke and rongoā garden at Lake Ruatuna.

Partnering for progress: The DOC - Department of Corrections 'Good to Grow' partnership provides community workers to deliver projects (weeding, planting, track building and maintenance) at Lake Ruatuna, making this a flagship site within the peat lakes network for showcasing the value of partnerships to achieve restoration goals.

Te Waihora-Lake Ellesmere, Canterbury

Transforming drains to waterways: Work completed to transform drains to waterways on several Fonterra farms by trialling re-shaped banks to reduce erosion and planting to shade aquatic weeds. This forms the basis of future work with Selwyn District Council, iwi and landowners to transform the drainage network at catchment scale.

Matāuranga Māori: Takiwā (area/catchment) assessment, cultural health index waterway assessment and fish surveys completed with Te Taumutu Rūnanga in August 2019 to assess the state of the Ararira-LII River, with follow-up assessments planned in 2020.

Partnering for progress: Living Water initiated an ecological restoration plan in 2016 for Yarrs Flat, a Wildlife Reserve on the edge of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere, and has been controlling willows and completing restoration planting with volunteers and students with support from Te Ara Kākāriki. This laid the groundwork for DOC to secure additional funding from the Te Uru Rākau/Forestry NZ One Billion Trees programme to plant a further 29,000 native plants at Yarrs Flat, including 16,500 in the past year.

Awarua-Waituna, Southland

Sediment and nutrient reduction: Construction is underway at four sites to build Peak Run Off Control Structures to test their function at slowing water flow and allowing sediment and nutrients to drop out. 30 locations have been identified to build structures to test catchment-wide benefits once we know how effective the initial structures are.

On farm action: 25 of 40 Farm Environment Plans have now been completed in the catchment, with 10 farms actively taking action for freshwater to date (riparian planting, wetland protection and planting and testing of nitrogen and phosphorus filters).

Waituna Creek restoration: Community consultation for the next phase of the Waituna Creek Restoration has been completed, planning is now underway for adding more habitat into the creek and addressing erosion issues in 2020.

