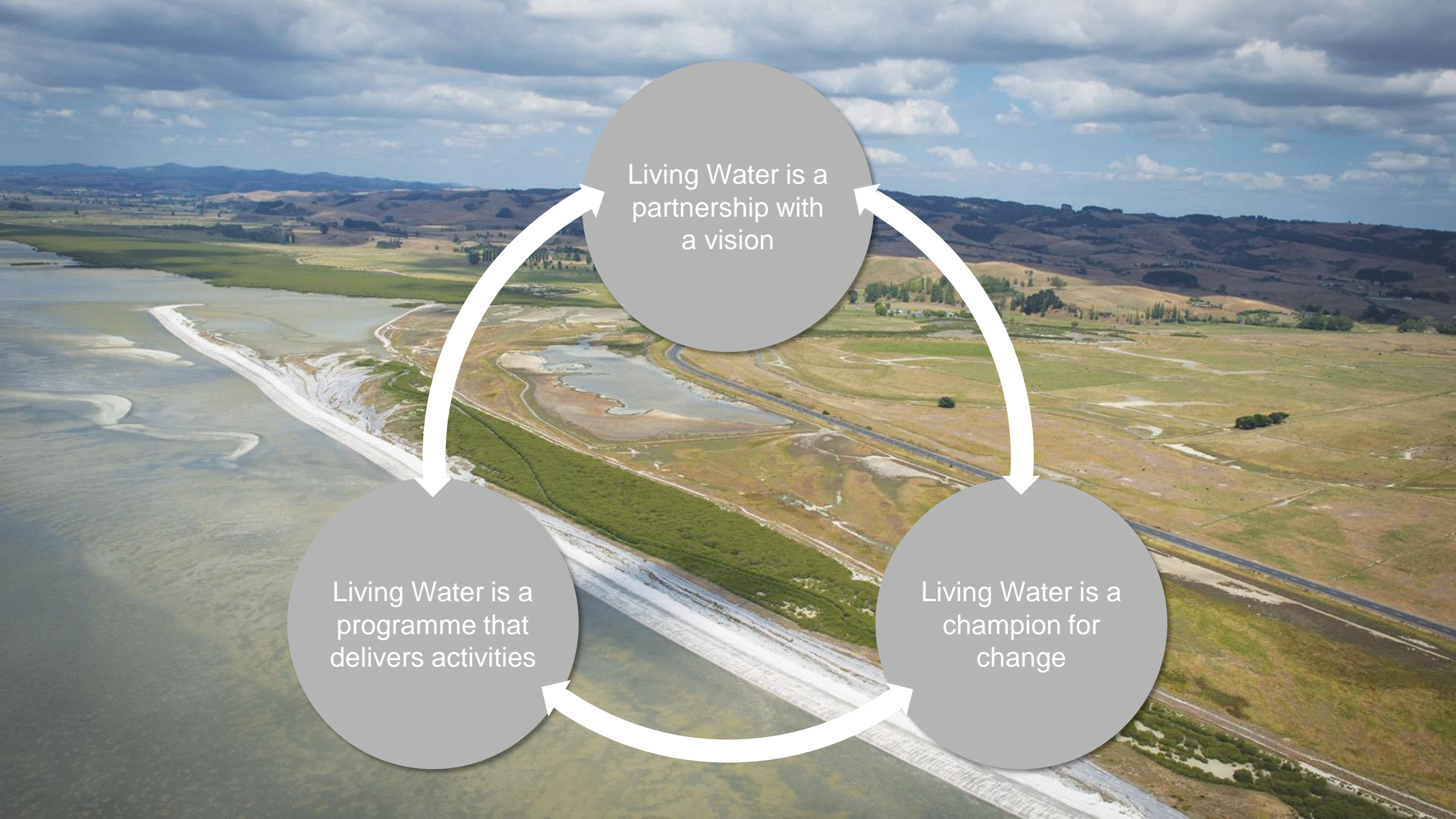


# WAITUNA STRATEGIC PLAN

LIVING

WATER

Dairy and freshwater thriving together

An aerial photograph of a water treatment facility, likely a desalination plant, featuring a long, straight concrete channel with a low wall, surrounded by green fields and a body of water. In the background, there are rolling hills and a cloudy sky. Overlaid on the image is a circular diagram with three grey circles connected by white arrows in a clockwise cycle.

Living Water is a  
partnership with  
a vision

Living Water is a  
programme that  
delivers activities

Living Water is a  
champion for  
change

## OUR VISION

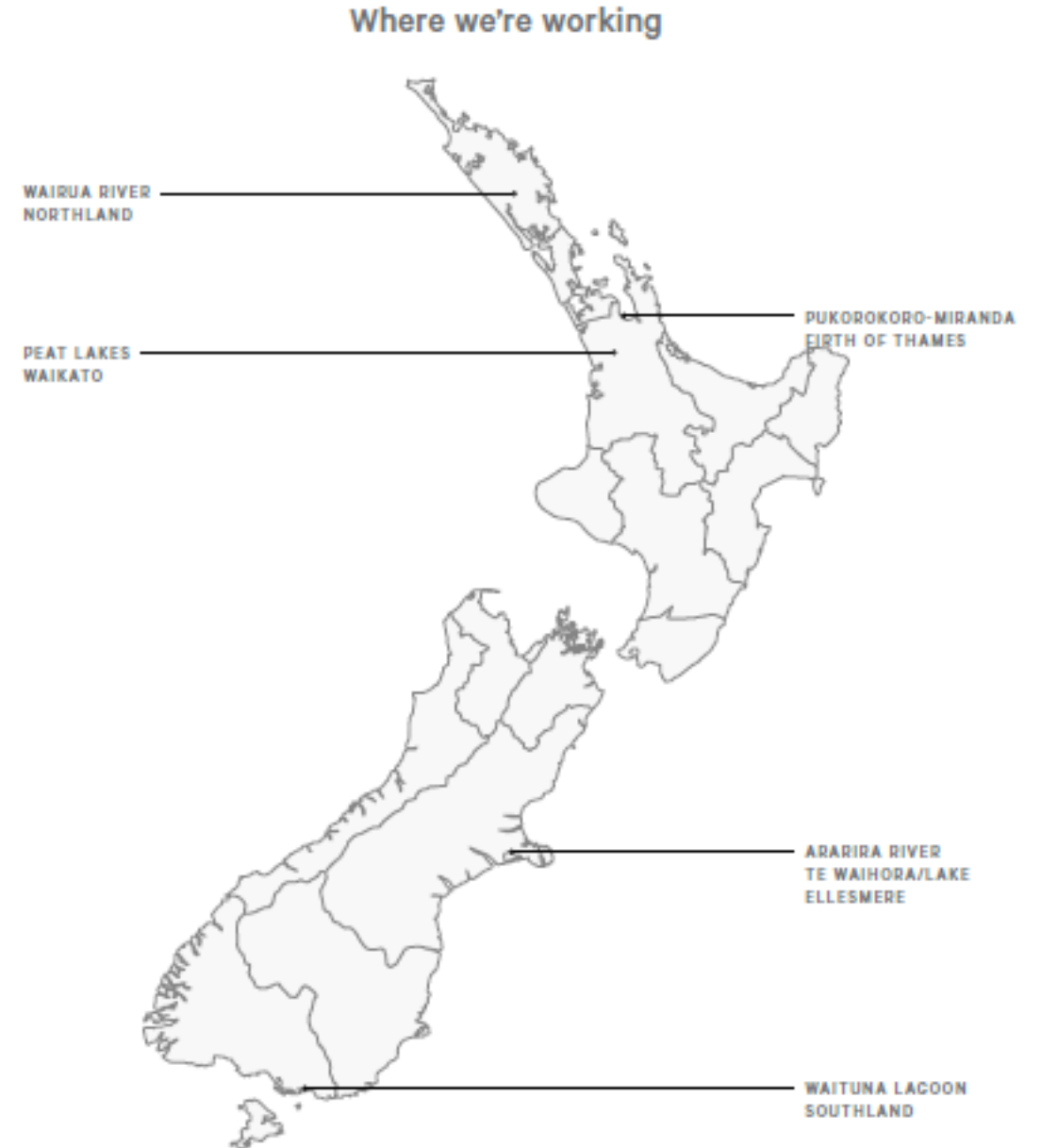
A sustainable dairy industry is part of healthy  
functioning ecosystems that enrich  
the lives of all New Zealanders

## OUR INVESTMENT

We are working in five sites across New Zealand, starting with \$20m over 10 years

DOC and Fonterra staff work together, side by side on the ground

We actively seek collaboration with other partners to bring together skills, ideas, and additional funding



## OUR PURPOSE

To implement game-changing and scalable solutions that demonstrate sustainable dairying in healthy freshwater ecosystems



## OUR SCOPE

We are focused on the interface between dairy farming practice and freshwater ecosystems.

We prioritise on-farm actions, improving freshwater quality, and reconnecting lowland habitats via freshwater corridors.

Our work needs to contribute towards advancing sustainable farming systems in New Zealand's agricultural sector.

## OUR LONG TERM OUTCOMES

### **Environmental**

healthy resilient lowland freshwater ecosystems

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### **Economic**

profitable responsible dairying

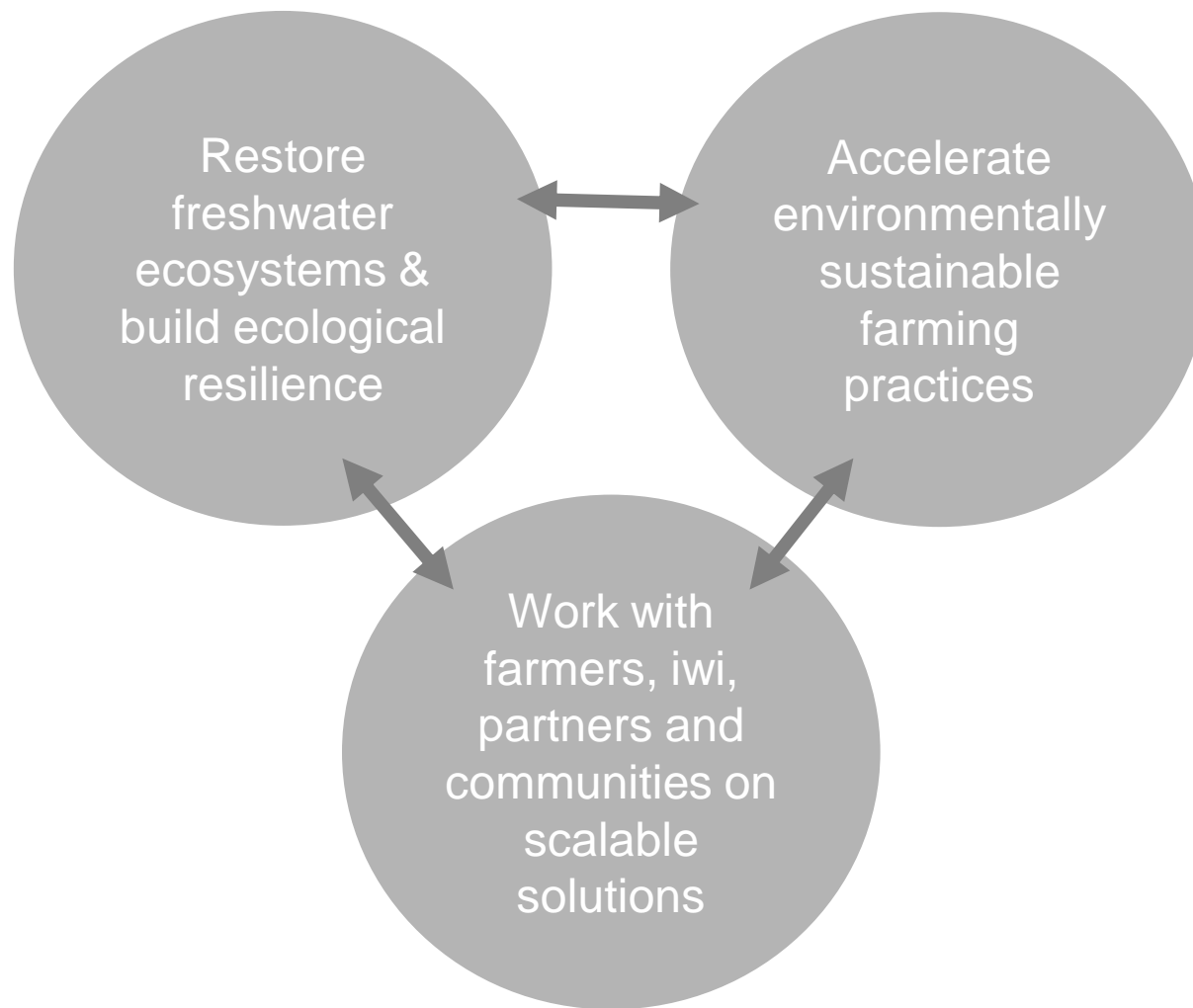
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### **Social and Cultural**

a shared understanding of the interdependence of  
agriculture, economy and environment

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## OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES & APPROACH



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## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Collaborate and Partner | Integrate Mātauranga Māori | Create Connections  
Above and Beyond Regulation | Measurable and Repeatable | Learn and Share

## OUR IMPLEMENTATION CONTEXT – AGRICULTURE IN NEW ZEALAND

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### ENHANCED CURRENT STATE

Individual sites (public & private)  
Good management practice  
People taking action to meet current or  
future regulatory limits within current  
economic tolerances

### TRANSITIONAL STATE

Sites as part of a catchment  
Prioritised actions based on 'best bang for  
buck' and contribution to catchment  
outcomes  
Communities working together towards  
voluntary targets / aspirations

### UNKNOWN FUTURE STATE

Diversification / disruption  
Socio-ecological resilience  
Climate change adaptation  
NZ's opportunity in changing global  
markets

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**Living Water is** adding ecological  
considerations into FEPs and funds  
acceleration & restoration projects

**Living Water is** ground-truthing the theory,  
freshwater-farming demonstrations at  
multi-farm scale, contribute to integrated  
catchment projects, calculate costs of  
implementation

**Living Water is** contributing to  
conversations led by others and  
providing evidence / learnings

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**LIVING WATER** AIMS TO BUILD A RESILIENT LANDSCAPE READY FOR ANY FUTURE PRODUCTIVE LAND USE

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## OUR IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

### **Build it**

show people what a Living Water farm could look like

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### **Operationalise it**

what capability, capacity and support does the farming sector and communities need to get there

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### **Cost it**

what is the cost of conversion (farm, catchment and national scales) so farmers and communities can plan for future investment

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## AWARUA-WAITUNA CATCHMENT





## AWARUA-WAITUNA: THE MAIN ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Significant loss of wetland and freshwater ecosystems and lowland habitat

Poor water quality caused by high levels of suspended sediment, nutrients (P and N), and phosphorous leach from hydrologically sensitive peat soils

Modified waterway, wetland and lagoon hydrology due to primarily managed for drainage to reduce the threat of flooding for landowners in the catchment

## WAITUNA: SOCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

### **Social awareness of freshwater issues**

There is a high level of community awareness about the ecological state of Waituna Lagoon, so farmers are motivated to find solutions

### **Water management**

Environmental Southland utilises local drainage committees to oversee waterway management, with the committee made up of representatives of landowners who pay a drainage levy

## WAITUNA VISION

Mana oranga; Mana tangata; Mana ki uta; Mana ki tai;  
Mana Waituna

*Ensuring the wellbeing of the people, the land, the  
waters, the ecosystems and the life force of the Waituna  
catchment and lagoon, now and for future generations  
through a partnership approach*

# Strategy and Action Plan for Waituna



August 2015

WAITUNA STRATEGIC OUTCOMES THAT LIVING WATER ACTIVITIES WILL CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS

Healthy catchment and lagoon

Thriving communities and sustainable economies

Abundant and healthy mahinga kai

Healthy streams – habitat and water quality

Protect enhance and value biodiversity

Ngai Tahu able to exercise Kaitiakitanga

## WHAKAMANA TE WAITUNA INTEGRATED PROJECT

### WHAKAMANA TE WAITUNA GOVERNANCE GROUP

#### WORKSTREAM 1:

Access, Community & Resilience

#### WORKSTREAM 2:

Lagoon Hydrology & Landward  
Buffer Establishment

#### WORKSTREAM 3:

Catchment Nutrient & Sediment  
Pathway Programme

#### WORKSTREAM 4:

Governance, Finance,  
Operational Processes and  
Systems

#### LIVING WATER ROLE:

Workstream Member  
Advisory  
Planning  
Enabling  
Support

#### LIVING WATER ROLE:

N/A  
*DOC represented via Arawai-  
Kakariki  
Fonterra represented via Farm  
Source Team and Landowners*

#### LIVING WATER ROLE:

Workstream Leader  
Planning  
Delivery  
Monitoring  
Evaluation

#### LIVING WATER ROLE:

Workstream Member  
Advisory  
Planning  
Enabling  
Support



## **LIVING WATER'S FOCUS IN AWARUA-WAITUNA**

Designing and implementing a catchment-wide approach to nutrient and sediment management using solutions that build ecological resilience (as part of the Whakamana Te Waituna integrated freshwater improvement programme).

THEORY OF CHANGE / CHANGE JOURNEY [under development]

OUR TARGETS (under development)

50% increase in on-farm freshwater/fish habitat

50% nutrient load reduction

30% increase in wetlands

100% existing wetlands protected

100% Fonterra farms engaged

100% landowners engaged

IMPLEMENTATION

ACTIVITIES / PROJECTS	RESTORE Freshwater Ecosystems	ACCELERATE Sustainable Farming	PARTNER With Others	GAME CHANGER	SCALABLE
LW Farm Environment Plans (FEPs) Project for all Fonterra farms (40) in the catchment	X	X			X
Nutrient and Sediment Management Toolbox Project in partnership with DairyNZ and NIWA	X	X	X		X
Lower Waituna Creek Transformation Project in partnership with the Department of Conservation	X		X		X
Catchment-Wide Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Programme (as part of the Whakamana Te Waituna integrated catchment programme)	X	X	X	X	X



## OUR ROADMAP

- Baseline information gathering (hydro modelling, filter trials, physiographics, ecology)
- Concept developed for Lower Waituna Creek Project
- Initial on-farm wetland and riparian protection and planting
- Concept development of Whakamana Te Waituna (the integrated work programme) with Waituna Partners Group

- Complete N & P Filter trials and Physiographics work
- Complete LW FEP's for all Fonterra farms
- Pilot nutrient & sediment reduction tools
- Complete planning of the Lower Waituna Creek transformation project and start implementation
- Co-design of Whakamana Te Waituna (the integrated work programme) with partners

- Develop contaminant reduction intervention tool box
- Participate in Whakamana Te Waituna
- Lead nutrient and sediment management programme design and implementation
- Complete Lower Waituna Creek Project

**PHASE 1**  
Years 1-3

**PHASE 2**  
Years 4-5

**PHASE 3**  
Years 6-10

## OUR INVESTMENT

### AWARUA-WAITUNA CATCHMENT

#### **‘ENHANCED’ CURRENT STATE**

- Riparian planting of Waituna Creek sites
- On farm wetland and riparian protection and plantings

#### **TRANSITIONAL STATE**

- Whakamana Te Waituna Integrated Catchment Programme
- LW leading a workstream focused on nutrient and sediment management at a catchment scale

#### **‘UNKNOWN’ FUTURE STATE**

- Participate in regional discussions led by Environment Southland

#### **RESOURCES**

FY14-17: \$911,000  
FY18-23: \$128,000

#### **RESOURCES**

FY14-17: \$300,000  
FY18-23: \$3,000,000

#### **RESOURCES**

FY14-17: N/A  
FY18-23: Staff Time



# LIVING WATER



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*