

Whakaora Te Waihora Programme Strategic Summary

Summary and purpose

- The Whakaora Te Waihora programme is an ecological and cultural restoration programme for Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere.
- It is an operational programme of the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group (Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council, Christchurch City Council, and the Department of Conservation), and started in 2012.
- The programme's long-term goal is to achieve the vision of Co-Governors "To restore and rejuvenate the mana, mauri and ecosystems of Te Waihora and its catchment", which will take approximately two generations.
- As a path to achieving this long-term goal, the programme:
 - Is working towards achieving four 10-year anchor projects identified by Co-Governors, which are: (1) Te Waihora Wetland Park/Mahinga Kai Park; (2) Taonga Species of Te Waihora; (3) Restoration of Te Waihora Tributaries; and, (4) Te Waihora Visitor and Education Centre; and,
 - Delivers a range of projects every year focused on achieving the 10-year anchor projects.

How we are governed and funded

- **Governance:** Whakaora Te Waihora is governed under the Te Waihora Co-Governance Agreement between Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council, Christchurch City Council, and the Department of Conservation. Strategic decisions are made by the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group and the Joint Officials Group (the officials of the Co-Governance partners).
- **Funding:** The staffing for the programme is funded by Environment Canterbury. The programme's projects are funded by Environment Canterbury, Co-Governance partners, and external funders dependent on the project (e.g. the Government's Freshwater Improvement Fund is a co-funder for the Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai project).

How we deliver projects

- Whakaora Te Waihora has a robust programme management platform that provides assurances and reporting to Co-Governors and funders (including progress on delivery, financial management, Health & Safety, and the management of risks and issues).
- Within this platform, individual projects are managed and delivered by either the programme or external partners. Some of these are:
 - Te Taumutu Rūnanga who lead the Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai project (Figure 5);
 - The Department of Conservation for the Weed Strikeforce (Figure 1);
 - NIWA for the trial re-establishment of macrophytes/water-plant beds; and,
 - Te Ara Kākāriki for the Kids Discovery Plant-out (Figure 2).

Risks and challenges

Insufficient funding: Without further funding for Whakaora Te Waihora, there is a high risk that the vision will not be achieved within the target of two generations.

Achievements

- Over 350,00 plants installed.
- Restoring Te Waikēkēwai/Waikēkēwai Stream through the Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai project (Figure 5) – a partnership project led by Te Taumutu Rūnanga – that has included the restoration of the Te Repo Orariki wetland.
- Established the [Whakaora Te Ahuriri constructed wetland](#) in partnership with rūnanga and neighbouring farmers (Figure 4).
- Support the Department of Conservation's Weed Strikeforce, who are on target to make the lakeshore willow-free, which results in natural regeneration of lakeshore habitat (Figure 1).
- Achieved real-time monitoring of lake water quality.
- Undertaking a trial re-establishment of macrophytes (water-plant beds).
- Completed scientific investigations for fish recruitment/fisheries management (Figure 6), the lake opening, mahinga kai bio-health, assessment of nutrient attenuation, and nutrient cycling.
- Supporting Te Ara Kākāriki to deliver the Kids Discovery Plant-out (Figure 2).
- Re-battered 21.3km of waterways to reduce sediment.
- Established the Whakakōhanga Kōrero forum for organisations delivering restoration projects and programmes around Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere.

Images



Figure 1. Willow control delivered by the Weed Strikeforce.



Figure 2. A planting event for the Kids Discovery Plant-out.



Figure 3. Mātauranga Māori monitoring at Ahuriri Lagoon.



Figure 4. The Whakaora Te Ahuriri constructed wetland.



Figure 5. Riparian restoration for the Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai project.

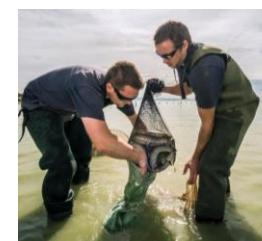


Figure 5. NIWA scientists undertaking fisheries research.

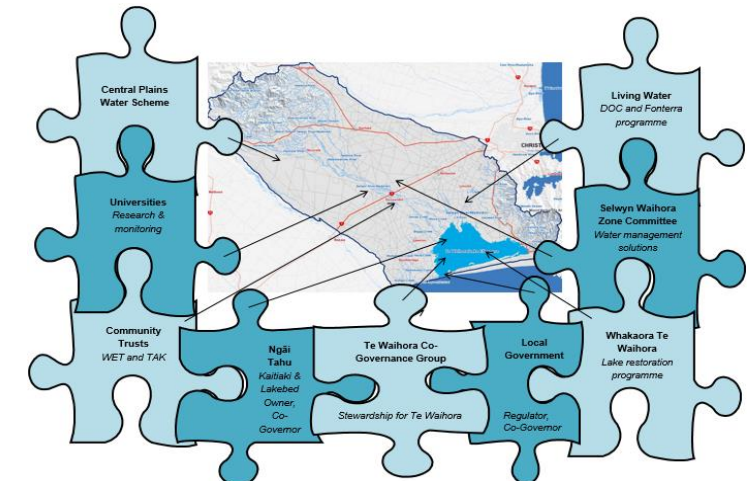
How we work with others

Mā whero, mā pako ka oti ai te mahi ki uta ki tai – The task shall be achieved through unity from the mountains to the sea

The restoration of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere is a large task that cannot be achieved by one organisation alone. Therefore, the delivery of Whakaora Te Waihora is underpinned by relationships and collaboration. The programme is one part of the solution to restore Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and its catchment, and regularly communicates with other stakeholders.

Strategic partnerships

Whakaora Te Waihora, the Joint Officials Group, and the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group communicate and work with a range of partners across the catchment.



Operational partnerships

Whakaora Te Waihora is part of the Whakakōhanga Kōrero, which is an operational forum of organisations and programmes delivering projects around Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere. The purpose of this forum is to communicate, coordinate, and work towards a common goal to restore the lake. Other members of the forum are: Te Taumutu Rūnanga; Christchurch City Council; Department of Conservation; Ellesmere Sustainable Agriculture Inc.; Fish and Game North Canterbury; Pest Free Banks Peninsula; Selwyn District Council; the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee; Waihora Ellesmere Trust; and, Environment Canterbury.

