



Whakaora Te Waihora Programme Strategic Summary

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 vision for Whakaora Te Waihora is “To restore and rejuvenate the mauri and ecosystem of Te Waihora and its catchment”

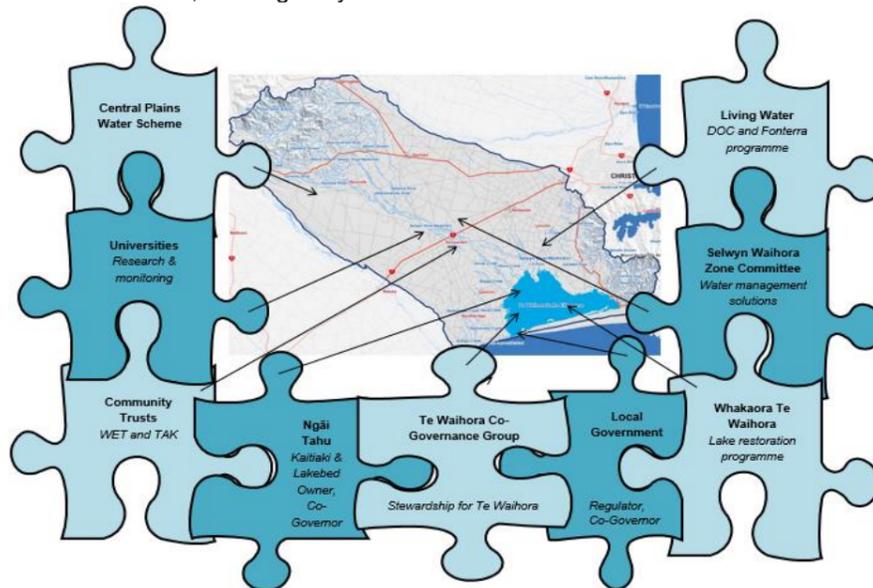
Summary and purpose

The Whakaora Te Waihora programme is an ecological and cultural restoration programme for Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere. The programme started in 2012, and Phase One (2012-2017) has initiated restoration actions. To achieve the vision – that will take approximately two generations (35-40 years) to achieve – the programme has the following long-term aims:

1. Accelerate the restoration of ecosystem health of an internationally significant wetland, notable for its wildlife and native vegetation values.
2. Begin the process of restoring and enhancing specific cultural sites and mahinga kai.
3. Protection and restoration of lake margin wetland habitats, existing indigenous native vegetation and wildlife, and restoration of specific lowland tributary streams and riparian habitats.
4. Improve lake and catchment management practices by focussing on sustainable land use and drainage practices within the catchment.
5. Establish a robust monitoring and investigations programme that ensures the lake response to management is understood and management activities are adapted accordingly.

How we work with others

The delivery of Whakaora Te Waihora is underpinned by relationships and collaboration. The programme is one part of the solution to restore Te Waihora and its catchment, and regularly communicates with other stakeholders.



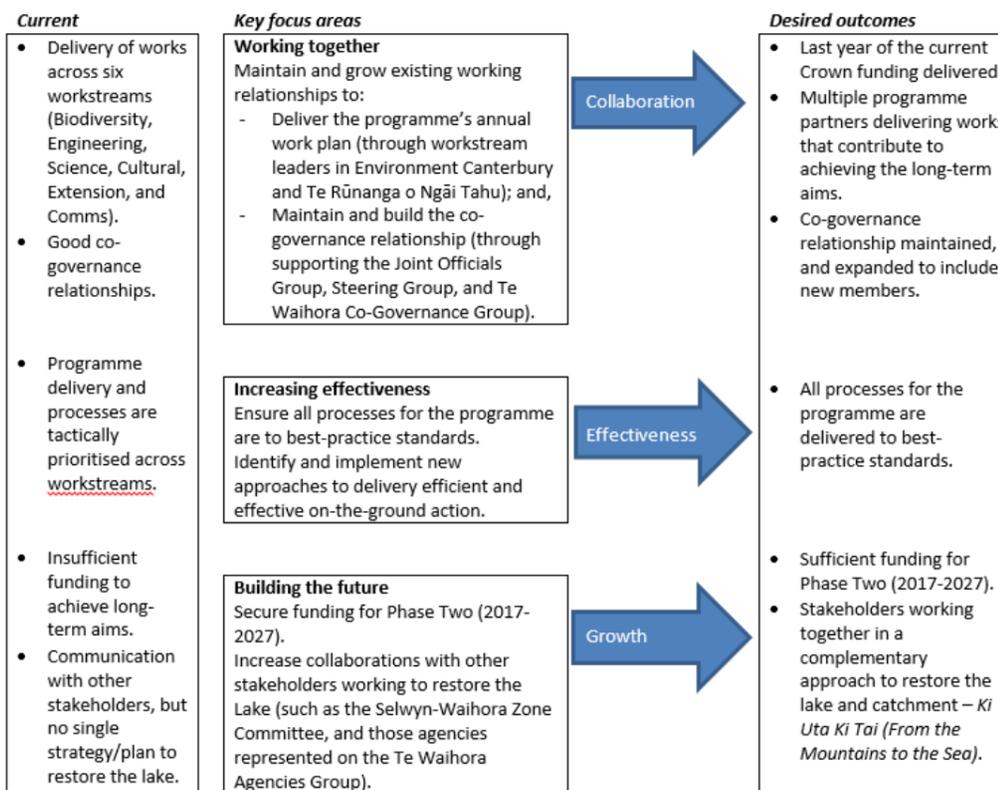
Risks and challenges

Insufficient funding: Without resources for Phase Two (2017-2027) of the programme there is a high risk that the vision will not be achieved within the target of two generations (35-40 years).

Achievements

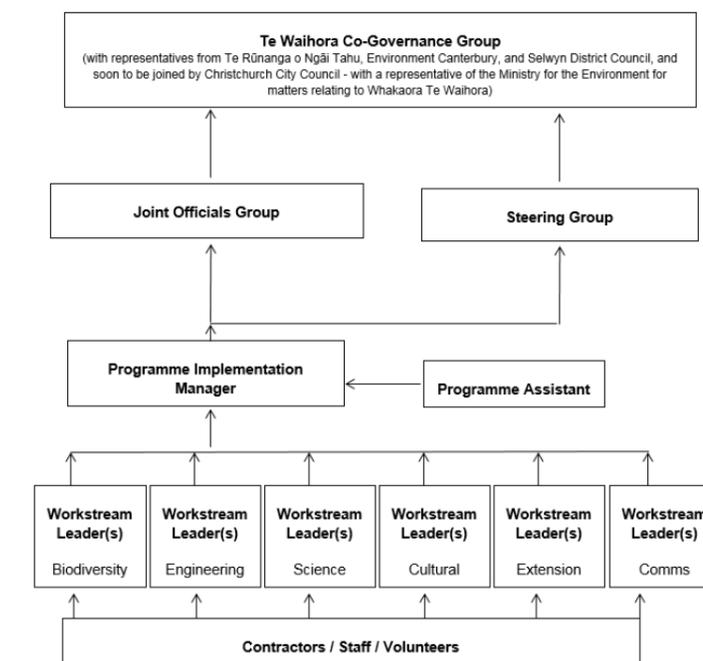
- Achievements of the programme include:
- Over 200,00 plants planted;
 - Re-establishing a wetland (Te Repo Orariki);
 - Weed and willow control at priority sites. Due to combined efforts in recent years, willows have largely been controlled on the eastern shore of the lake;
 - Achieved real-time monitoring of lake water quality;
 - Completed scientific investigations, including for a trial establishment of macrophytes that will be planted behind wave barriers (Photo 1), fish recruitment/fisheries management, the lake opening, mahinga kai bio-health, assessment of nutrient attenuation, and nutrient cycling;
 - Supporting Lincoln University on the development and implementation of an integrated monitoring plan;
 - Supporting Te Ara Kākāriki to deliver the Kids Discovery Plant-out, reaching 11 schools and 1,000 students (Photo 2);
 - Re-battered 31.7km of waterways to reduce sediment;
 - Implemented restoration actions for the Huritini/Halswell River, Waikekewai Stream, Hart’s Creek, and Kaituna River;
 - Held five Farm Environmental Plan (FEP) workshops, completed 53 FEPs, and held two field-days;
 - Implementing a Strategic Communications Plan, with regular stories on the programme’s website (<http://tewaihora.org/>), and over 1,100 followers of the programme’s Twitter account (@tewaihora); and,
 - Established a robust programme management structure for reporting, financial management, contract management, Health and Safety, and risk management.

What we are doing and where we are going



How we are governed and funded

- **Governance:** The programme is governed under the Te Waihora Co-Governance Agreement between Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council, and Christchurch City Council. Strategic decisions are made by the Joint Officials Group and the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group (see figure below).
- **Funding:** Representatives of funders make up the programme’s Steering Group (see figure below), which makes funding-related decisions. Phase One of the programme (2012-2017) was funded by the Crown (through the Ministry for the Environment), Environment Canterbury, and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and partners.



Photos



Photo 1: Wave barrier on Te Waihora.



Photo 2. Students planting.