

Whakaora Te Waihora

Mā whero, mā pako, ka oti ai te mahi
The task shall be achieved through unity



What is Whakaora Te Waihora?

Whakaora Te Waihora is a joint programme between Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Environment Canterbury. It is a shared commitment to the restoration and rejuvenation of the mauri and ecosystem health of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere. This programme has as its basis the long-term relationship agreement between the Te Waihora Management Board (for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu) and Environment Canterbury, signed in August 2011.

Aims

The aims of Whakaora Te Waihora are to:

- Accelerate the restoration of ecosystem health of an internationally significant wetland that is notable for its outstanding wildlife and native vegetation values
- Start the process of restoring and enhancing specific cultural sites and mahinga kai
- Protect and restore lake margin wetland habitats, existing indigenous vegetation and wildlife, and specific lowland tributary streams and riparian habitats
- Improve lake and catchment management practices by focusing on sustainable land use and drainage practices in the catchment
- Establish a robust monitoring and investigations programme that ensures the lake's response to management is understood and management activities are adapted accordingly.

Te Waihora means 'spreading waters'

Whakaora means 'to save, rescue, resuscitate, revive, restore to health, cure, heal'

The restoration of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere is the largest ecological clean up in New Zealand's history.

Over the first five years, actions are focused on achieving visible and meaningful improvements in ecosystem health. Initially, work will be concentrated on six main areas:

- Kaituna
- Halswell/Huritini
- Waikekewai
- Lake shore
- In-lake
- Lake opening

The initial phase is outlined in the Whakaora Te Waihora Joint Cultural and Ecological Restoration Plan (December 2011).

Mahinga kai

Food production is at the heart of Ngāi Tahu culture and identity. It is the cornerstone of Ngāi Tahu spiritual, social, and economic well-being. It is a symbol of the tribe's continuing relationship with the traditions and history of place and it ties Ngāi Tahu together as an indigenous people.

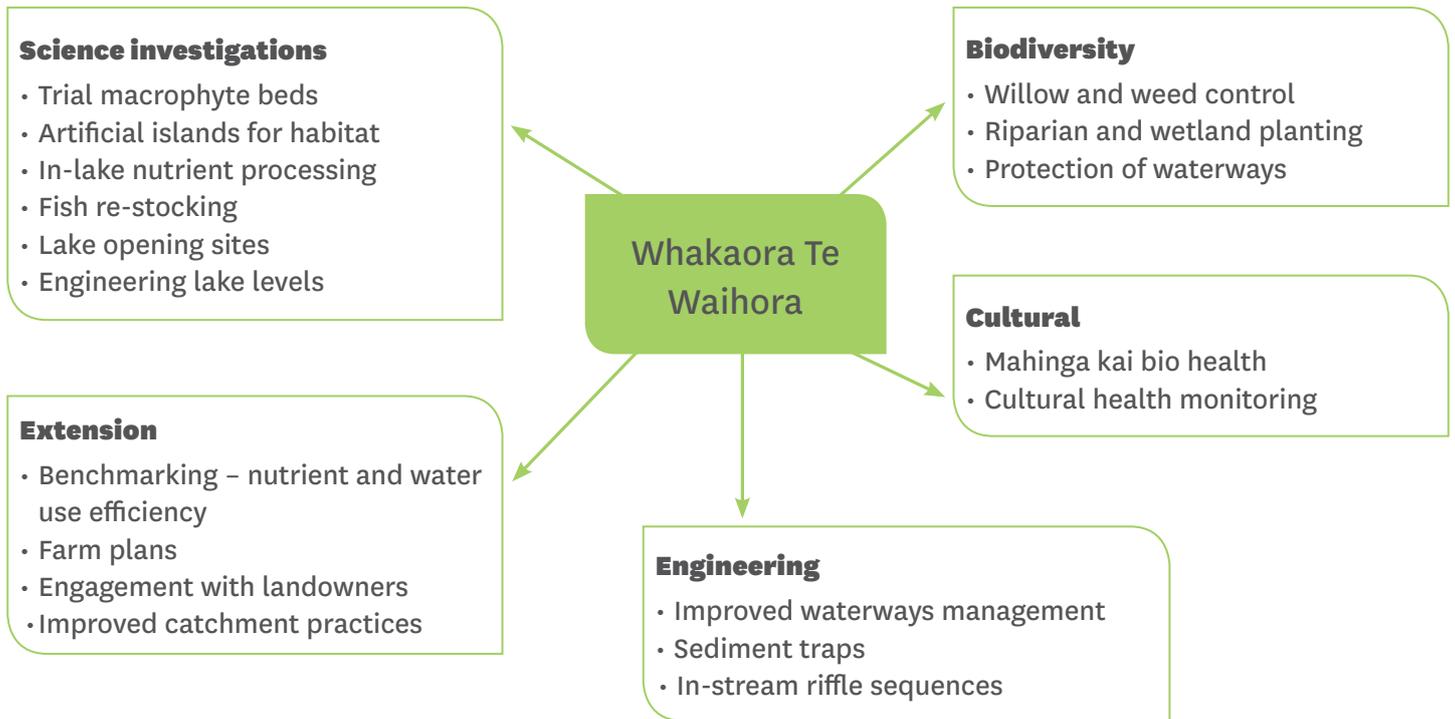
Mahinga kai was, and still is, the currency of the Ngāi Tahu people. It's all about manaaki – about looking after people; so the quality and quantity of food whānau (family) can produce is a reflection of mana (standing).

The ability of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere to sustain people as a mahinga kai (gathering place), is upheld in the whakataukī (tribal proverb) from Taumutu: Ko ngā hau ki ētahi wāhi, ko ngā kai ki Orariki – No matter which way the wind blows, you will always eat at the pā of Orariki, Taumutu.

No matter what the season, you will always be able to find food in the Te Waihora environment.



Activities



Partnership

The success of Whakaora Te Waihora depends on the support of and collective contributions from central and local government, tangata whenua, industry, tertiary institution, non-government organisations, landowners and members of the community. The plan involves a partnership between the Government,

Ngāi Tahu and Environment Canterbury. Fonterra are also making a very substantial contribution through their work on the farm. Many other organisations, including the Selwyn District Council, volunteer groups, the universities, CRIs and the local community, are also a vital part of this project.

The clean-up of Te Waihora will only work if we all pitch in. Please join us.

More information: www.tewaihora.org

David Murphy (Programme Implementation Manager), david.murphy@ecan.govt.nz