

WHAKAORA TE AHURIRI PROJECT ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT FOR 2018/2019

In the 2018/2019 the Whakaora Te Waihora programme successfully delivered the second year of its annual work plan. This achievement is of significance as all resource consents were granted, the delivery of the project's Mātauranga Māori monitoring programme began, and the engineering and earthworks phase is almost complete.

Key achievements were:

- **Consenting:** all resource consents were granted, and have been monitored during the engineering and earthworks phase.
- **Archaeology:** an archaeology survey was completed, and an Archaeological Authority was issued by Heritage New Zealand.
- **Blessing of site:** on Monday 4 February 2019 the Whakaora Te Ahuriri site was blessed before the start of the engineering and earthworks <https://tewaihora.org/ahuriri-lagoon-wetland-project-blessed/>.
- **Engineering and earthworks:** the majority of the engineering and earthworks have been completed, including the cleaning out of the old channel, installation of the culverts, and earthworks for the main body of the wetland (Photo 1).
- **Planting:** 80,000 aquatic plants and 48,000 terrestrial plants are being grown for planting in the spring of 2019.
- **Mātauranga Māori monitoring programme:** the delivery of the Mātauranga Māori monitoring programme commenced with two monitoring visits. During both monitoring visits consultants and rūnanga representatives use the Takiwā tool to undertake an assessment of cultural values at six locations within Ahuriri Lagoon (Photo 2), and undertake fish sampling as an index of the abundance of mahinga kai species.
- **Communications:** a sign was designed with input from staff and community representatives (both rūnanga and neighbouring farmers), and installed at the project site; and, regular drone footage showing the progress at the project site is available on the project's webpage <https://tewaihora.org/whakaora-te-ahuriri/>.



Photo 1: Earthmoving machinery creating the wetland.



Photo 2: Mātauranga Māori monitoring with the Takiwā tool.