

Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere is one of New Zealand’s most important wetland systems and is a regional, national, and international taonga. Today, it is also one of New Zealand’s most polluted lakes. It is going to take considerable time, effort and resource to restore and rejuvenate the many values of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere.

The lake’s importance is recognised in a National Water Conservation Order which lists its outstanding features as habitat for wildlife, indigenous wetland vegetation and fish; and significance in accordance with tikanga Māori in respect of Ngāi Tahu history, mahinga kai and customary fisheries.

To restore the mauri of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere we must work closely together as iwi, central and local government, industry and the wider community.






The Te Waihora Co-Governance group comprises Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council and Christchurch City Council. Respectively we hold kaitiaki and statutory responsibilities in relation to Te Waihora and its catchment. The Parties have come together under a voluntary Co-Governance Agreement. We are jointly committed to providing direction for all those who have a role in, or responsibility for, restoring the mauri of Te Waihora while maintaining a prosperous land based economy and thriving communities for current and future generations.






Co-Governance is the korowai of kaitiakitanga over Te Waihora and its catchment.

Whākana ki ō manuhiri i tō kāinga

Mana is upheld through fulfilling roles and responsibilities

The members of the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group are:

	<i>Lisa Tumahai, Kaiwhakahaere Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, and Co-Chair of the Te Waihora Co- Governance Group</i>
	<i>Steve Lowndes, Environment Canterbury Chair, and Co-Chair of the Te Waihora Co- Governance Group</i>
	<i>Sam Broughton, Mayor of Selwyn District Council</i>
	<i>Lianne Dalziel, Mayor of Christchurch City</i>
	<i>Liz Brown, Ngāi Tahu Co-Governor</i>

	<i>Yvette Couch-Lewis, Ngāi Tahu Co- Governor</i>
	<i>Elizabeth Cunningham, Environment Canterbury Councillor</i>
	<i>Megen McKay, Ngāi Tahu Co-Governor</i>
	<i>Rei Simon, Ngāi Tahu Co-Governor</i>
	<i>Honorary Professor Peter Skelton, CNZM, Environment Canterbury Councillor</i>