



REIMAGINING MATAURA PROJECT



REIMAGINING MATAURA PROJECT STEERING GROUP

Working together to consider a re-imagined Mataura River system, based on the bringing together of the catchment by design methodologies and Mātauranga Māori

Murihiku Rūnaka Representatives:

- Gail Thompson - Awarua
- Terry Nicholas - Hokonui
- Evelyn Cook – Waihōpai
- Muriel Johnstone – Ōraka/Aparima

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Representative

- Sue Corby

Funding Partners



Cain Duncan

Michael Green



Director – Megan Reid

Programme Coordinator – Louise Dennison



BACKGROUND

- The Mataura River is located in the Murihiku region and is approximately 240km long. The river's headwaters are located in the Eyre Mountains to the south of Lake Whakatipu.
- From there it flows southeast towards Gore, where it turns southward. It passes through the town of Mataura and enters the Pacific Ocean at Toetoes Bay on the southern coast of the South Island. Much of its channel is braided.
- Prone to flooding and ad hoc responses by local Government, there is a need to reconsider the current flood investment and floodplain management to move towards a climate-resilient platform in support of enhanced cultural, economic, biodiversity, and community outcomes.





WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

- We have an eye for the future and ensuring the Mataura River is a special place, culturally, environmentally and economically.
- We will gather information regarding what is planned along this catchment, what is underway, and where there are gaps.
- We want to inspire our people, communities, stakeholders, and agencies to contribute meaningfully to the vision.

PURPOSE

To reimagine the Maitara River System by bringing together the catchment by design methodologies and Mātauranga Māori in order to build cultural, environmental, and economic resilience in the catchment.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

The high level programme

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS





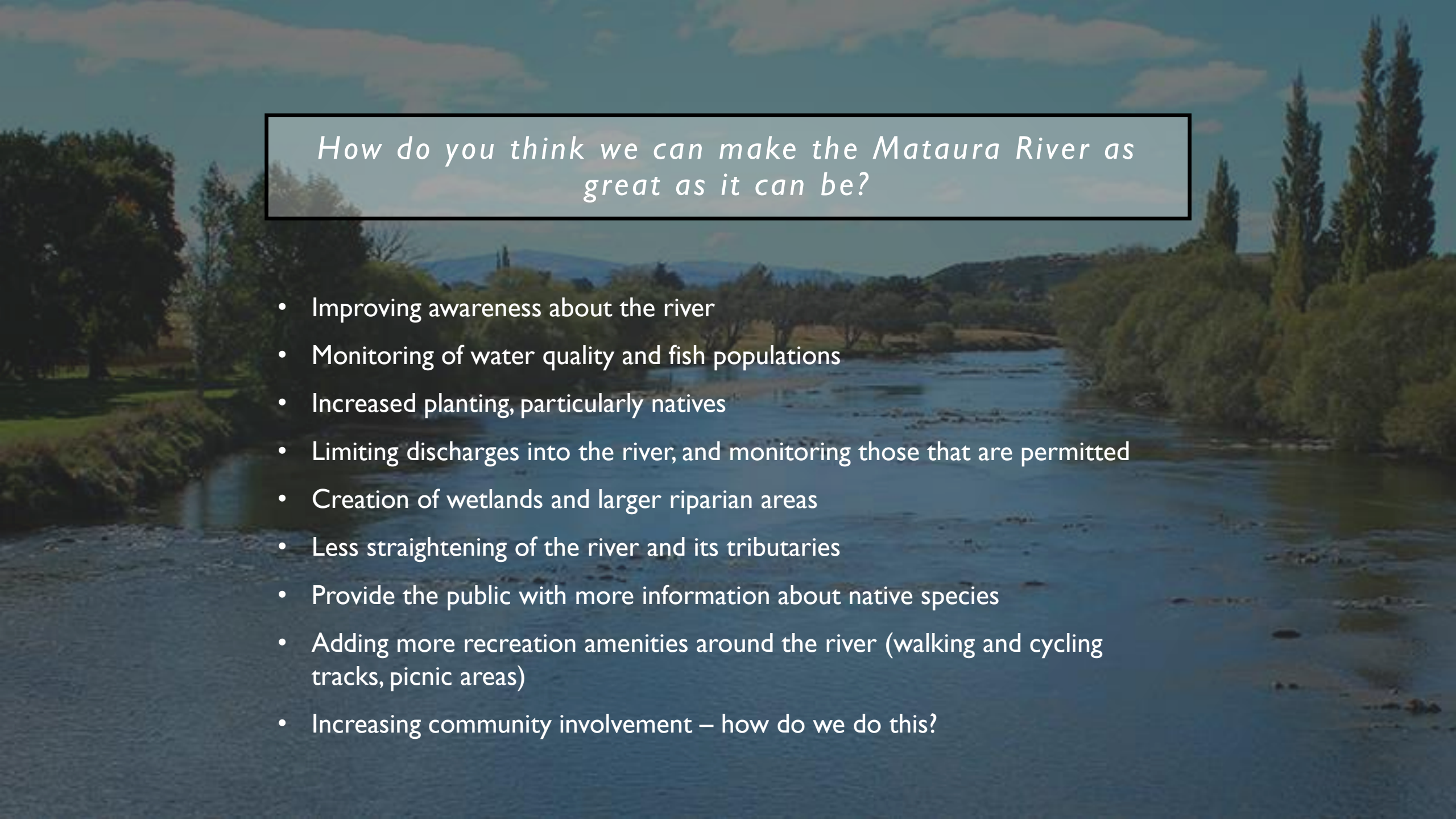
ON THE FLY MATAURA RIVER FESTIVAL

What is great about the Mataura River?

- ✓ Easy access for recreation
- ✓ Proximity to townships
- ✓ Connection to the local area
- ✓ Safe flow and depth for public users
- ✓ Important part of the local ecosystem
- ✓ Habitat for native and non-native species
- ✓ Offers good scenery, vistas, and views
- ✓ Attraction for families and children
- ✓ Popular for fishing

What are the issues with the Mataura River?

- ✗ Water quality
- ✗ Erosion
- ✗ Nitrate leaching
- ✗ Flooding
- ✗ Issues with silt and gravel
- ✗ Channelisation
- ✗ Bank stability
- ✗ Not always safe to swim in
- ✗ Toxic algae, bacteria, and pollution



How do you think we can make the Matura River as great as it can be?

- Improving awareness about the river
- Monitoring of water quality and fish populations
- Increased planting, particularly natives
- Limiting discharges into the river, and monitoring those that are permitted
- Creation of wetlands and larger riparian areas
- Less straightening of the river and its tributaries
- Provide the public with more information about native species
- Adding more recreation amenities around the river (walking and cycling tracks, picnic areas)
- Increasing community involvement – how do we do this?



STUDENT OPINIONS





SITE-SPECIFIC PROJECTS

Testing and trialling river system improvement works

An aerial photograph of a vast, rolling green landscape. In the foreground, a line of tall, thin trees runs diagonally across the frame. A winding stream or path cuts through the fields. The middle ground shows a mix of vibrant green and golden-brown fields, with a dense line of trees in the distance. The background features rolling hills under a clear sky. A semi-transparent white box with a dark border is centered over the image, containing the text.

BALFOUR PROJECT – GLENGORDON
WETLAND

Working with local
farmers Andrea and
Chris Bulleid



- Thriving Southland, Reimagining Mataura, and E3 Scientific
- Constructed wetland on-farm project
- Aim to hold back water during high rainfall events and filter sediments
- E3 Scientific is developing a wetland restoration plan for the site



PROPOSED SITE FOR CONSTRUCTED WETLAND



CATTLE FLAT PROJECT



Phase 1 Deliverables:

Gain site access and conduct a full site visit.

Removal of vegetation from gravel beds.



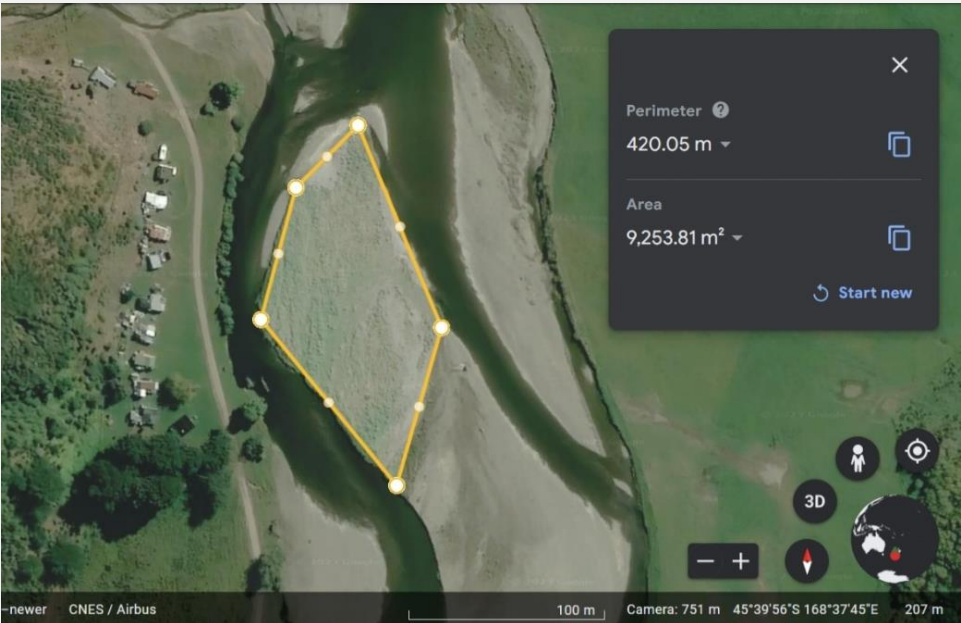
Phase 2 Deliverables:

Ongoing hydrological monitoring above and below the vegetation removal site.



Phase 3 Deliverables:

Ongoing restoration of farmland to wetland, working in collaboration with the landowner.



Vegetation removal area in the centre of the Matura River at the Cattle Flat site



Establishing ongoing water quality monitoring upstream and downstream of the vegetation removal site

The Mighty Waka

The Waka is housed in a modular floating unit made from Recycled Milk Bottles. Using IoT technology to gather data, the hydrodynamic design enables the Waka to sample in any condition.

SWARM OF NB³ pH C⁺ +/- O₂ Tu
Satellite IoT connectivity Cellular 4G-LTE connectivity pH level monitoring Temperature monitoring Conductivity monitoring Dissolved Oxygen monitoring Turbidity monitoring









FUTURE DIRECTION – SO WHAT'S NEXT?

- Research, test, and trial small-scale projects across the four key workstreams
- Find ways to enhance cultural, economic, biodiversity, and community outcomes within the project
- Drafting of a discussion document to determine how we scale projects and consider the catchment as a whole system
- The discussion document will provide options/recommendations for the next phase of the project
- Governance



SUMMARY



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