

Waipa Catchment News



Revitalising the waters of the Waipa River

The Waipa Catchment Plan sets a 20 year plan to support the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waipa River, and the lower Waikato River. It includes actions to improve water quality, conserve soil, restore and protect important biodiversity habitats and meet iwi aspirations for these rivers.

What's new?

- Funding of up to 70 per cent is now available for works in your area (the Moakurarua and Kaniwhaniwha sub-catchments). This means works could be completed at zero cash cost to you, if you contribute in kind labour, materials or land to the value of 30 per cent.
- Excellent turnout at two field days held earlier this year has led to good results on the ground.



waikatoregion.govt.nz/waipaplan

Up to 70 per cent funding now available

You are receiving this newsletter because your property is in a priority area where funding is available for works to reduce soil erosion, and protect waterways and forest remnants. These works include:

- fencing out steep sidings and gullies
- creating buffers zones to help capture sediment and dung before it ends up in your waterways (streams, wetlands or seeps)
- fencing native forest remnants and wetlands
- planting natives along your waterways or in retired areas
- planting poplars and willows on hillsides to stormproof your farm and prevent erosion
- planting a tree crop such as manuka for honey production or other exotic species for timber.

If you're thinking about planting next year, in the next 6 months you'll need to plan and undertake fencing and weed control and plan and organise plants. Every bit of work makes a difference, so please give us a call today to discuss your plans and how we can help.

We also have access to competitively priced native plants, poles, contract fencers and planters.

'Here in the Waipa catchment we are very fortunate to have a number of funding opportunities available and I encourage farmers to find out about these for farm plans and to undertake physical works such as riparian fencing and planting to reduce the impact of their farms on streams and rivers. We are here to help you meet current and future environmental requirements.'

Alan Livingston, Chairperson, Waipa Catchment Committee

Field days lead to good results on the ground

Waipa Catchment Plan field days have helped to achieve great results on the ground.

At two field days last autumn farmers in the Kaniwhaniwha and Moakururu catchments found out more about farm plans and funding options.

Waikato Regional Council Catchment Management Officer Paul Smith said: "Many landowners responded to the opportunity to have work done on their properties, and this has contributed to some great results on the ground.

"In the past 18 months farmers in the Kaniwhaniwha and Moakururu sub-catchments have done 5km of riparian fencing, put 25,000 native plants in the ground, stabilised slopes by planting 300 poplar poles, and undertaken extensive river bank erosion control in the form of groynes, and planting natives and willows," he said.

Thanks to Dennis and Felicity Ahlers and Andre and Doreen de Haan for hosting these field days. Further field days are planned for 2016.

Fencing wet areas for better water

Seeps, wet gullies and wetlands are critical for improving water quality.

These areas act like the kidneys of the land. They trap sediment and faecal material from farm run off, and microbes living in wet soils remove nitrate.

Fencing off these wet areas improves filtering and reduces extra sediment being formed by stock walking through them. Once fenced, often wetland plants will recover in these areas or some additional planting can be undertaken in the margins.

Please contact us if you're interested in finding out more about funding available for fencing wet areas on your property.

If you're considering any riparian, wetland erosion control or bush work, we may be able to help both financially and with advice.

Who to contact

Please contact Jo Nash, Stephanie Benucci or Paul Smith at Waikato Regional Council on freephone 0800 800 401.

You can also contact one of the local farmers who are on the Waipa Catchment Committee.

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Waikato Regional Council Environmental Officer Mike Lake showing the range of native fish living in the Kaniwhaniwha Stream by electric fishing, which temporarily stuns the fish.



Recent wetland fencing and planting undertaken on the Hunter's property to improve water quality in the Kaniwhaniwha Stream