

Mai te whenua ka rere iho ko te wai hei whāngai i te iwi

From the land flows the water that feeds the people

Our Values

In line with our affiliate organisation Te Ohu Kaimoana Trustee Limited (TOKM), we are a Māori organisation and operate in line with tikanga Māori. We will also balance the following core values:

- **Integrity**
- **Relationships**
- **Leadership**

What We Are

We are part of the Māori Fisheries Settlement and were established to advance Māori interests in freshwater fisheries. Freshwater fisheries includes species, habitat, surrounding land, water column, water quality and quantity. Protecting Māori interests in freshwater fisheries ultimately means protecting habitat to ensure quality water and abundant species.

Our Purpose

To advance Māori interests in freshwater fisheries through :

- Undertaking or funding research, development and education;
- Promoting the protection and enhancement of freshwater fisheries habitat;
- Promoting the establishment of freshwater fisheries; and
- Using resources to bring direct and indirect benefits to Māori in respect of their freshwater fisheries interests.

The Outcomes We Work Towards

Advancing Māori interests in freshwater fisheries means:

- Increasing iwi and hapū capacity and capability in freshwater fisheries and their ability to control their freshwater fisheries.
- Fostering indigenous fisheries expertise, knowledge and understanding.
- Increasing the quality and range of information to iwi and hapū on freshwater fisheries and their interests thereof.
- Ensuring that the indigenous fisheries are well and can be enhanced.

We take a long term and integrated view of our organisational outcomes.

Roles - There are two broad roles that direct our organisational outcomes:

Activities required by the Māori Fisheries Act 2004:

- Govern the Te Wai Māori Trustee Limited on behalf of beneficiaries under the Deed of Settlement.
- Advance Māori interests in freshwater fisheries.

Activities which are required by iwi and hapū:

- Research, development and education in relation to freshwater fisheries and Māori interests and rights thereof;
- Establishing , promoting , protecting and enhancing freshwater fisheries;
- Freshwater fisheries policy work and associated representation (rights protection and enhancement) .

Strategic Priorities (2012-2015)

• Iwi and hapū interests and rights in fresh water:

- *Strategic*: completion of current legal strategy work in relation to Māori ownership/tenure of water.
- *Core Business*: scoping training and research (environmental scanning and literature review) requirements .

• Freshwater fisheries development and advocacy:

- *Strategic*: consider impact of legal strategy work; and continue to build iwi and hapū capacity and capability.
- *Business Improvement*: increase iwi information and updates generally and in relation to any relevant impacts from Treaty Settlements; and undertake further exploratory work in relation to the National Eel Association.
- *Core Business*: respond to policy developments and iwi requests as required.

• Strategic relationships:

- *Business Improvement*: enhance key relationships with Māori sector (eg TOKM; Iwi Leaders Forum; iwi and hapū) and Government sector (eg Land and Water Forum; NIWA; MFish) organisations; and increase awareness of role and work of Te Wai Māori (eg branding; communications).
- *Core Business*: report as required to TOKM; and maintain existing relationships.

• Governance and management:

- *Business Improvement*: enhance relationship and work with TOKM including governance-to-governance planning discussions.
- *Core Business*: meet all statutory obligations as required (eg audits; annual reports); monitor investment portfolio; and continue to enhance directors skills.

Where We Have Come From

Te Wai Māori Trustee Limited (Te Wai Māori) is a statutory body. We are a product of the Māori Fisheries Act 2004. In the initial years after the passing of the Act, the work programme of Te Wai Māori was dominated by work scoping both freshwater fisheries and Māori interests. This baseline work provided an important foundation. Since then major projects undertaken by Te Wai Māori have sought to build on this by undertaking specific exemplar research projects jointly with iwi and hapū, working on legal issues concerning water ownership, acting as a clearing house for information to iwi and hapū (eg indigenous fisheries; species information; research; information templates), contributing to eel aquaculture discussions and participating in policy development areas which impact significantly on both freshwater fisheries and Māori interests (such as the Land and Water Forum).

Where Are We Going To

Iwi and hapū are becoming actively engaged in the fisheries sector generally and more so in relation to freshwater fisheries. As a result, Te Wai Māori will need to ensure that its role is well understood by iwi and hapū, and that it is well positioned to continue to protect and enhance their rights and interests in freshwater fisheries. The protection and enhancement is progressed through the work Te Wai Māori undertakes in areas such as research, information dissemination and policy. In the future, Te Wai Māori will be focused on working with iwi and hapū to increase their capacity, capability and control over their freshwater fisheries. Our work with iwi and hapū will be impacted on through the 2015 statutory reviews as provided for in the Māori Fisheries Act.