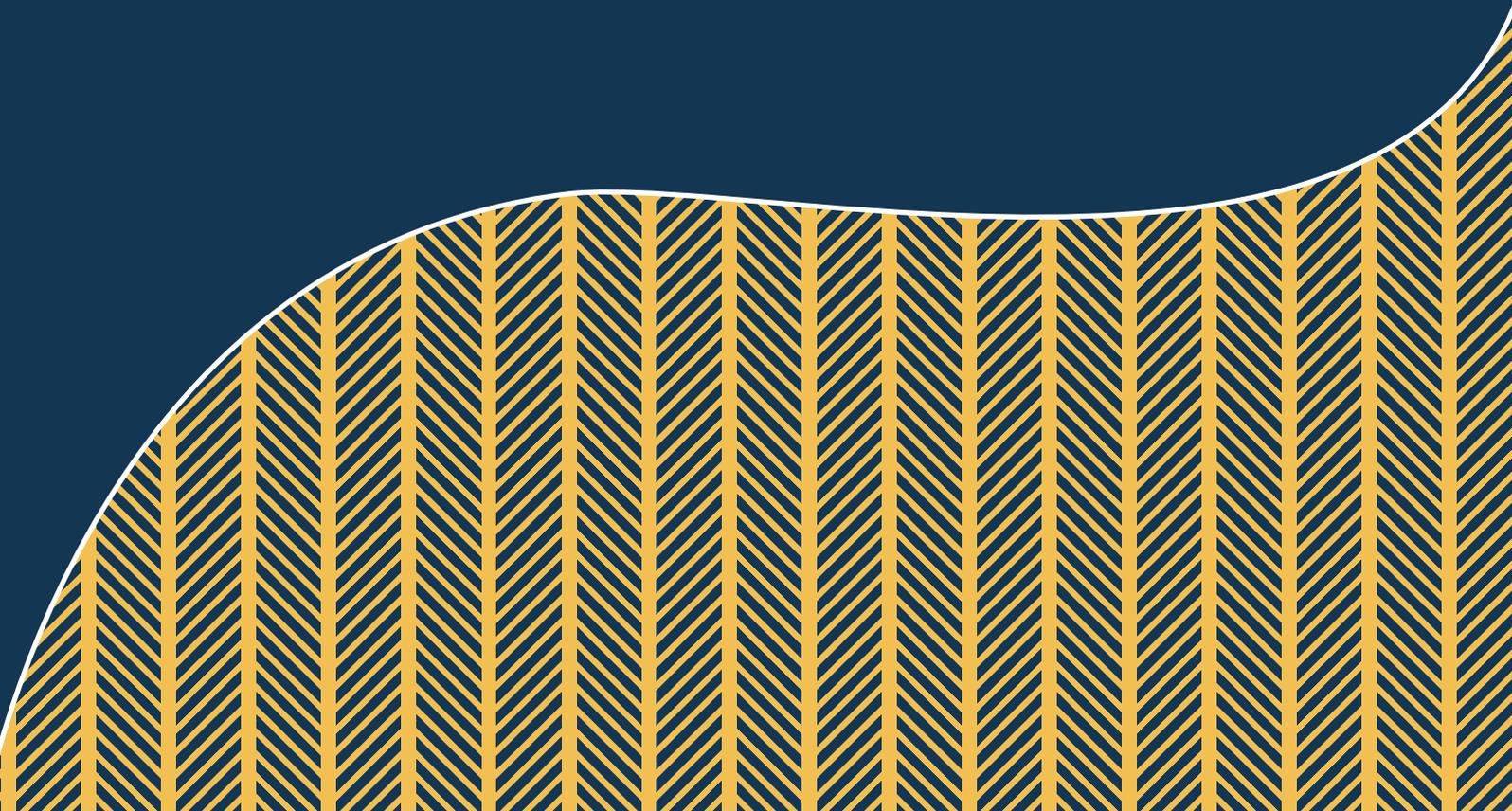




# Te Wai Māori

QUARTER REPORT TWO  
1 JANUARY 2020 - 31 MARCH 2020



**He reo tō te wai**

**He reo tō te tangata**

**Kotahi tonu te whakapapa**

**Whakakotahia!**



## **Summary**

This briefing for Iwi provides an overview of Te Wai Māori's work against the 2019/20 Annual Plan and covers the period 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020.

## **Published by**

Te Wai Māori  
8 June 2020



**Te Wai Māori**

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# Karakia

Ko Rangi

Ko Papa

Ka puta ko Rongo

Ko Tāne Mahuta

Ko Tangaroa

Ko Tūmatauenga

Ko Haumia-tiketike

Ko Tāwhirimatea

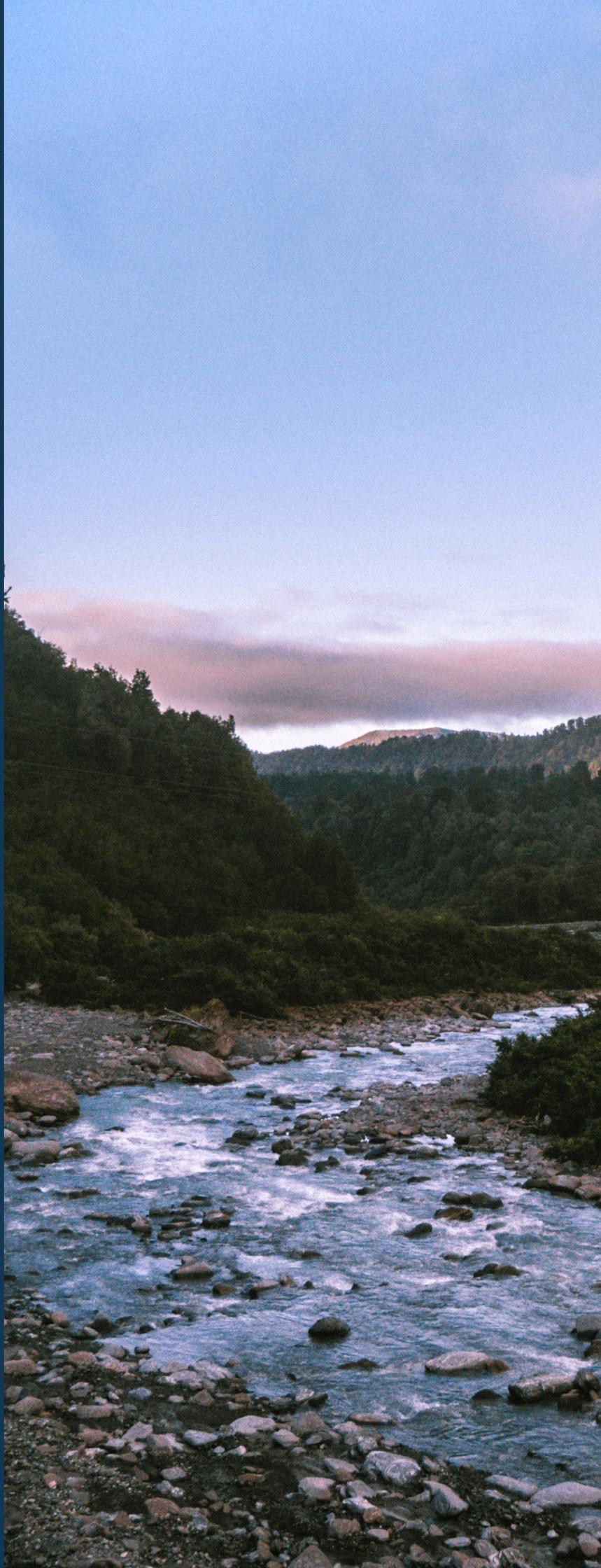
Tokona te Rangi ki runga

Ko Papa ki raro

Ka puta te ira tangata ki te whai ao,  
ki te ao marama

E Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga, Kia Tina! Tina!

Haumi e! Hui e, Taiki e!



# Chair's Kōrero

Tēnā koutou,

I'm pleased to present the second quarterly (Q2) report and my first as Chair, on the activities of Te Wai Māori against our 2019/20 Annual Plan, which covers the period 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020.

This quarterly report has been developed to give Iwi more regular insight into the work the Trust undertakes on behalf of Mandated Iwi Organisations.

The key strategic priorities for Te Wai Māori Trust for the year are:

- Protect Māori rights and interests in freshwater and freshwater fisheries;
- Advance Māori interests in freshwater fisheries; and
- Build and maintain effective strategic relationships.

We welcome your feedback on the structure and content of our reporting.

Ngā mihi,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa te Heuheu'.

Lisa te Heuheu

**Chair - Te Wai Māori**



# Our Board



**Lisa te Heuheu**

Chair



**Miria Pomare**

Director



**Pahia Turia**

Director



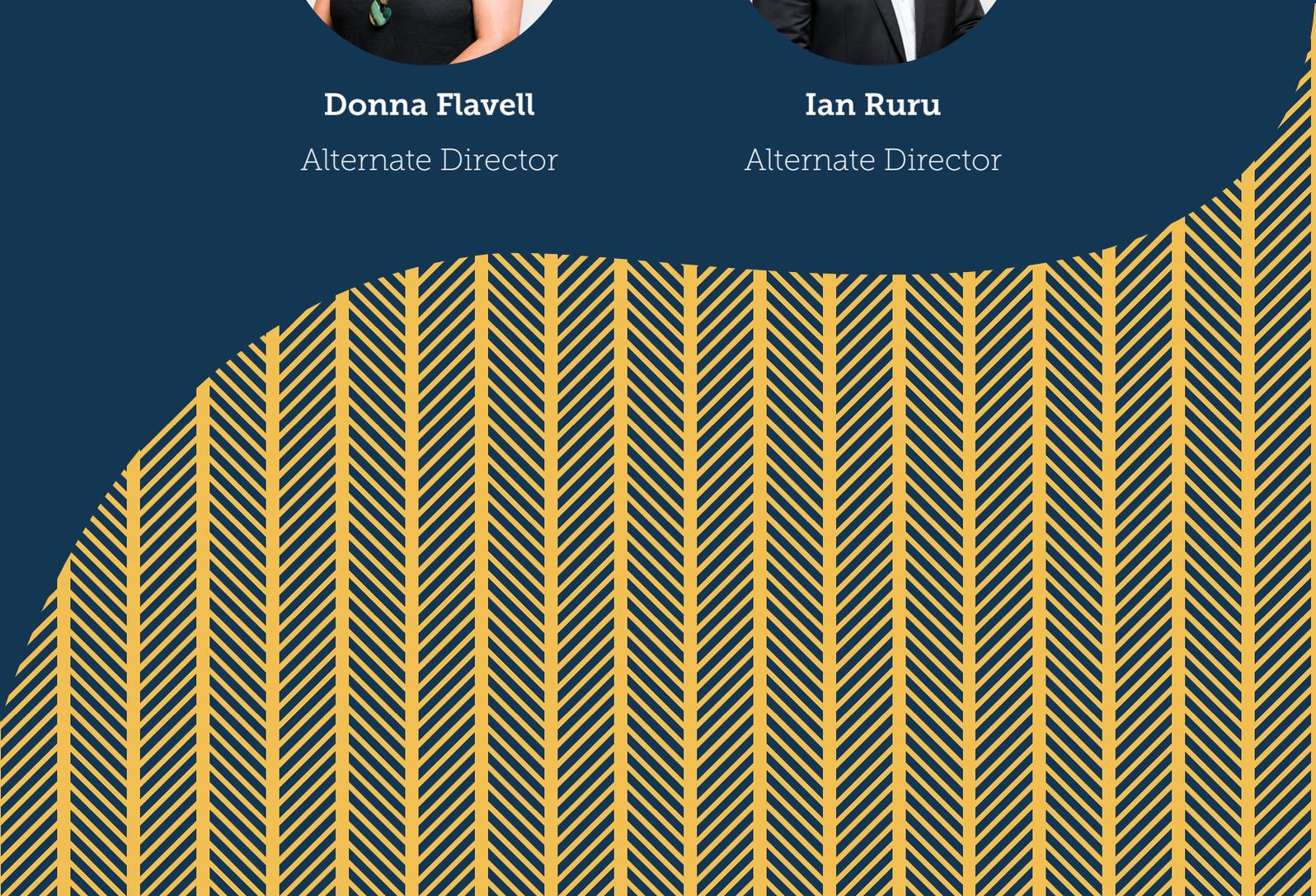
**Donna Flavell**

Alternate Director



**Ian Ruru**

Alternate Director



# Operational performance against annual plan 2019/20

## Protect and enhance Māori rights and interests in freshwater fisheries



### Supporting Iwi and hapū to protect and enhance their rights and interests in freshwater fisheries

#### Īnanga review

In late 2018/early 2019, the Minister of Conservation announced that the Department would be consulting with the public to understand the issues facing the six species of fish collectively and commonly known as whitebait.

Following public engagement, the Department released a summary of feedback received from Māori and the public, but were slow to act on the next phase of the work which we understood to include public engagement on a series of options for regulatory reform in response to the issues raised in Phase 1 of DOC's consultation. In June 2019, officials noted the Department's intention was to co-develop reform options with Iwi, with a discussion document released to the wider public for consultation in mid-late August, however no progress was made on co-development or further public discussion.

The Trust continued to regularly engage with officials and became aware that the scope for the review would not be as broad as the issues covered in the initial public discussion, and that the response would involve reform of the whitebait fishing regulations around fishing method, season and establishing catch limits. We expressed our disappointment with the missed opportunity to undertake a wider review of the species including around the habitat necessary to support it in its juvenile, adult, and breeding stages.

In January 2020 the Department released the discussion document 'Improving whitebait management Te whakapai ake i te whakahaere Īnanga'. On 16 March Te Wai Māori responded to DOC on the review reiterating our disappointment with the missed opportunity to undertake a wider, cross-agency review of the species (including habitat loss and degradation, fish passage barriers, water quality degradation, climate change and predation by introduced species); concern at the Department's engagement approach, lack of analysis of the impacts on Māori and failure to meet their obligations under Section 4 of the Conservation Act.

Te Wai Māori will continue to assist Iwi and hapū with technical advice throughout the next stages of the review process and regularly engage with officials on concerns raised. The board have also sought a meeting with the Minister of Conservation to discuss the wider issue of engagement with Iwi on Īnanga, and to form a positive governance relationship.

# Essential freshwater

In late 2019 the Trust provided a very brief response to the Government’s Essential Freshwater programme noting that the Trust supports many of the proposals but that the Crown must ensure that it works with Iwi and hapū as partners in the development of the proposals further.

Te Wai Māori will continue to actively seek to engage with the Ministry on the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management having been scheduled to attend MfE’s Māori freshwater technicians and advisors implementation hui in late March which was subsequently cancelled due to Covid-19 concerns.

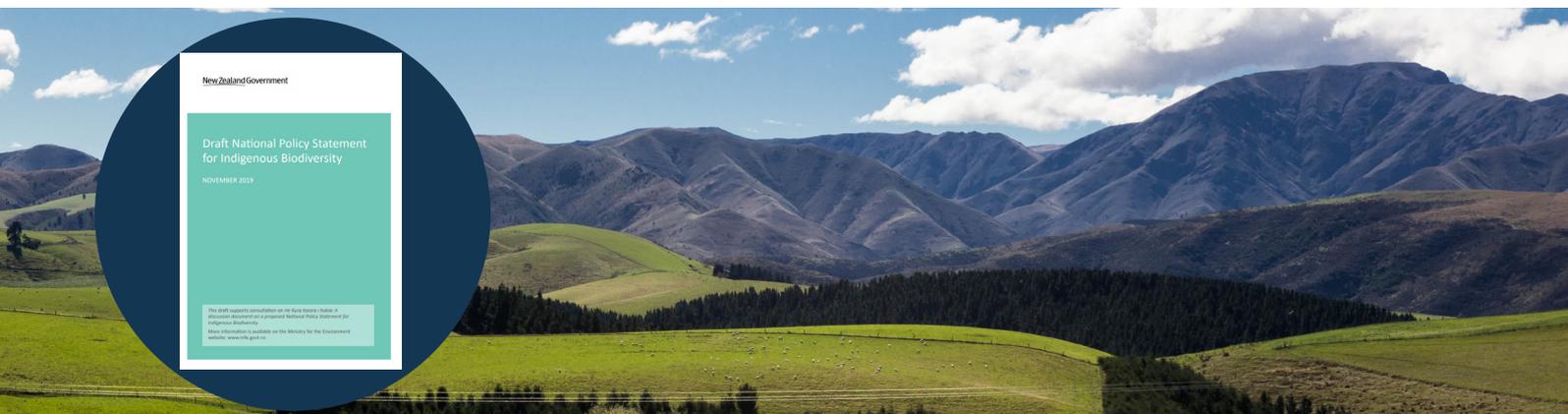


# Biodiversity

The Department of Conservation and Ministry for the Environment released the draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) and discussion document in late 2019, with submissions closing in mid-March. The purpose of the NPSIB is to provide direction to councils on their responsibilities for identifying, protecting, managing and restoring indigenous biodiversity under the Resource Management Act 1991, including on privately owned land.

The Trust provided feedback on the draft NPSIB highlighting a number of concerns pertaining to process and inadequate recognition and provision made for Māori in the NPSIB. It was urged that expert analysis be undertaken specific to the impacts on Māori of the proposals, including economic impacts and impacts on the Māori economy.

The Trust will continue to monitor progress and to engage with officials to seek to influence the further development of the NPS.



# Resource Management System Review

The Government is undertaking a comprehensive review of the resource management system, with a focus on the RMA. It is approaching this in two stages, the first stage being amending the RMA by way of the Resource Management Amendment Bill (which included amendments to provide for the proposed new freshwater planning process), and the second the undertaking of a comprehensive review of the of the RMA. The comprehensive review of the resource management system is being led by an independent panel chaired by Hon Tony Randerson QC – Chair – (former lawyer and judge).

The panel released an issues and options paper in November 2019 which identified significant pressure on the natural world (climate change, biodiversity and wider environmental decline); the struggle to keep pace with population growth and rapid changes in rural land use and increasing pressure on ecosystems as the key challenges facing the resource management system. The issues and options paper identified a wide range of systemic issues with the existing resource management system, including insufficient recognition of the Treaty and lack of support for Māori participation.

Te Wai Māori provided feedback to the review panel through a joint response with Te Ohu Kaimoana and again in further feedback which the panel invited attendees at MfE's 'joined-up' consultation hui in early 2020 to provide. The Trust took the opportunity to provide feedback on a number of systematic issues and areas of concern being: the proposed new freshwater planning process; underutilisation of existing RMA mechanisms; lack of resourcing of Māori in freshwater planning process, lack of accountability of when Treaty obligations not met; use of Māori terms and concepts in legislation; lack of Māori representation and involvement in policy development and decision-making; protection of habitat of taonga species and allocation of freshwater (deemed out of scope of the review).

The review panel's final report is scheduled to be provided to the Minister for the Environment on 31 May 2020. MfE officials will work with the panel to develop proposals' that will go out for public consultation in June 2020. The Trust will continue to monitor progress of this review.



# 02

## Develop and implement mechanisms that provide better recognition and status for tuna

### Te Mana o Ngā Tuna

During this period, the Trust continued to work with FNZ to progress the national tuna review. In mid-2019 Te Wai Māori proposed to those agencies a multi-agency review of the pressures and issues affecting the tuna fishery (barriers to migration, effects of fishing, habitat, water quality). It was our aspiration that the review would be led by Te Wai Māori Trust, and involve Iwi, Te Ohu Kaimoana, and those Crown agencies with responsibilities for the health and wellbeing of tuna.

The Trust has created the two of three mini documentaries to highlight the pressures on tuna, including water quality and quantity, habitat destruction, and barriers to migration. These documentaries were to be launched at the Māori Fisheries Conference in March, but with its cancellation the Trust are now looking at alternative ways to launch them.



# 03

## Assist Iwi and hapū to develop and implement initiatives to enhance the status of piharau/kanakana

The Trust continues to work with the Piharau/Kanakana iwi steering group to enhance the status of this ancient species. In late 2019 the group approved the final Piharau/Kanakana Strategy which will direct the Trust's future work in this area.

A project has been scoped with Southland kaitiaki to support their research on Kanakana. In mid-March contracts were finalised with Dr Jane Kitson and NIWA (pheromone sampler production and lab analysis) in order to support research and undertake baseline monitoring and pheromone testing in a series of Southland rivers, with opportunities for mentoring others in this work. Due to COVID-19 and now the winter, the fieldwork has been delayed and will have to be deferred until Summer 20/21.

The Trust has also begun developing a communications strategy to grow awareness of Piharau/Kanakana.

## Advancing Māori rights and interests in freshwater fisheries

01

### Building and supporting Iwi and hapū capability and capacity in freshwater fisheries

Te Wai Māori continued to work with 2018/2019 Wai Ora funding recipients to complete their project milestones. For this financial year the board has approved funding of \$250,000 to support 10 projects across Aotearoa.

The Trust received two applications for funding through the Tiaki Wai Fund, which were approved by the board. This fund was established to support small projects that aim to address some of the freshwater fisheries information gaps identified in the Te Wai Māori publication 'Understanding Taonga Freshwater Populations in Aotearoa New Zealand'.

02

### Increasing the quality and range of information available to Iwi and hapū on freshwater fisheries and habitat

In 2019, Te Wai Māori engaged the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) to develop a literature review of all published research on the effects of a changing climate to freshwater fish species, then to develop assessments on the vulnerability of our taonga freshwater species to a series of climate change scenarios. This will take in examples from Aotearoa and international research.

The final research will be launched by the Trust later in the year.

# 01

## Relationship building and reporting

One of the outcomes from the 2019 Te Wai Māori Freshwater Fisheries Conference was the need for a toolkit for Iwi and hapū to help them respond to local effects of a changing climate.

The Trust is developing plans to use current research and Mātauranga shared by kaitiaki to develop the toolkit. The Trust was also unable to run its climate change workshop with Iwi at the Māori Fisheries Conference due to COVID-19. The Trust continues to maintain working relationships with Iwi, key government agencies, and other stakeholders.



## Provide governance, oversight and resources to enable the Trust to operate effectively



The Te Wai Māori board maintain and regularly review a register of strategic and operational risks. Management and Directors receive regular reports on the performance of Te Wai Māori funds managed by Portfolio Management Services Limited and Cambridge Associates.

The Trust has sought to meet with Minister Sage in April 2020 to establish a relationship and avenue for ongoing dialogue on the Trust's aspirations and the Department's work programme.

# Communications



## Provide regular quarterly updates to Iwi and other stakeholders on the work of Te Wai Māori Trust

The Trust's first quarter report against the 2019/20 Annual Plan was sent to Iwi during the month of March. This report can be found on our website in our publications sections, under reporting – or by [clicking here](#).

## Promote Te Wai Māori as a source of expert advice and information

The Trust has sent four pānui to Iwi in the second quarter; covering the Department of Conservation's review of whitebait management, our response to indigenous biodiversity, our joint Māori Fisheries Wānanga, and the appointment of Lisa te Heuheu as Chair.

The second in our series of mini-documentaries focused on tuna was filmed in Taranaki is ready for release. The two documentaries that have been filmed were to be premiered at the Māori Fisheries Conference in March, which was cancelled due to COVID-19. A third mini-documentary is to be filmed in Southland, but this has been postponed due to COVID-19. The Trust is currently exploring new options to premiere the documentaries, given these current times.



The Trust has recently begun advising of rāhui that have been declared in freshwater spaces throughout Aotearoa on its social media platforms. This is inline with what Te Ohu Kaimoana does for rāhui issued for the moana in an effort to help dispel myths about why rāhui are issued as well as raise awareness.

The Trust published and released three responses in the second quarter. The first to the Department of Conservation regarding its discussion document on improving inanga/whitebait management, the second was our feedback on the issues and options paper of the Resource Management Review Panel, and flowing that was further feedback on the RMA.



The Trust has published ten stories on its website in the second quarter, covering rāhui, new resources for hapū and Iwi, office details for the Trust during lockdown, Lisa te Heuheu's appointment as Chair, our response to MFE's report on freshwater and commentary on recent freshwater pollution events.

The Trust was unable to participate in and sponsor this year's Māori Fisheries Conference due to its cancellation as a result of COVID-19. This was particularly unfortunate for the Trust as it was an opportunity to launch our first two tuna documentaries (as mentioned earlier), announce the establishment of Te Mana o ngā Tuna, and launch our new study on climate change and taonga species.

The Trust was also unable to runs its workshop with Iwi on climate change due to COVID-19.

## Grow the awareness and influence of Te Wai Māori

We increased interactions with our posts on social media by 64% against the first quarter and increased our reach by 245%. This was largely due to the announcement of Lisa te Heuheu as Chair.

Our website had a 13% increase in users in the second quarter and a 67% increase in sessions.

The screenshot shows the RNZ website interface. The main article is titled "Te Wai Māori appoints first wahine chair" under the "TE AO MĀORI / ENVIRONMENT" category. It is dated 9:17 pm on 2 April 2020. The article text states: "Ensuring Māori get a say on the management of tāonga species like inanga (whitebait) is a priority for the first wahine chair of the Māori freshwater fisheries trust." Below the text is a large portrait of Lisa te Heuheu. To the right, there are "RELATED STORIES" including "New whitebaiting rules proposal includes phasing out exports" and "West Coast whitebaiters wary of restrictions as gov denies ban". At the bottom of the page, there is a list of other news items.

The Trust published two media releases over the course of April. The first was regarding the appointment of Lisa te Heuheu as the Trust's new chair, which resulted in interviews on Radio New Zealand and Radio Waatea.

The second release was following an interview with Radio New Zealand regarding the lack of consultation on the Ministry for the Environment and Stats NZ's 'Our Freshwater 2020' report. Lisa spoke to NewsHub Radio, Radio Waatea and Te Hiku Radio regarding this.

The screenshot shows the Waatea news website. The article is titled "New chair for Te Wai Māori Trust" and features a portrait of Lisa te Heuheu. The text includes: "Lisa te Heuheu has been appointed chair of the Te Wai Māori Trust. She replaces the last chair, who stepped down." It also mentions that the Trust is a statutory body under the Māori Fisheries Act and that Lisa te Heuheu has been a director of the trust since 2017. There are social media sharing options and a "More Related Stories" section at the bottom.

The screenshot shows the RNZ website article titled "Māori frustrated by freshwater report process" under the "ENVIRONMENT" category. It is dated 12:44 pm on 16 April 2020. The article text states: "Our Freshwater 2020, released today, finds more than three-quarters of Aotearoa's freshwater fish are threatened or at risk of extinction and says climate change is set to make things worse." Below the text, there is a "Listen" button and a "More Related Stories" section. At the bottom, there are social media sharing options and a "Tags" section with "environment".

