



TE WAI MĀORI TRUSTEE LIMITED FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 - 2025





TE WAI MĀORI TRUST

Te Wai Māori Trustee Limited is the Trustee of Te Wai Māori Trust.

Te Wai Māori Trust is established under Section 92 of the Maori Fisheries Act 2004 to hold and manage the trust funds on trust for and on behalf of the beneficiaries under the Deed of Settlement, in order to advance Maori interests in freshwater fisheries, but not in a manner that could adversely affect the charitable status of the Trust.

To achieve the Trust's purpose, Te Wai Maori Trustee Limited must:

- manage the trust funds; and
- distribute the annual trust income for activities that include:
 - undertaking or funding research, development, and education related to Māori interests in freshwater fishing; and
 - promoting the protection and enhancement of freshwater fisheries habitat in lakes, rivers, and other water bodies, particularly those that have traditionally supported iwi and whose shores have been the location of their marae; and
 - promoting the establishment of freshwater fisheries; and
 - using its resources to bring direct or indirect benefit to Māori in respect of their freshwater fishing interests.



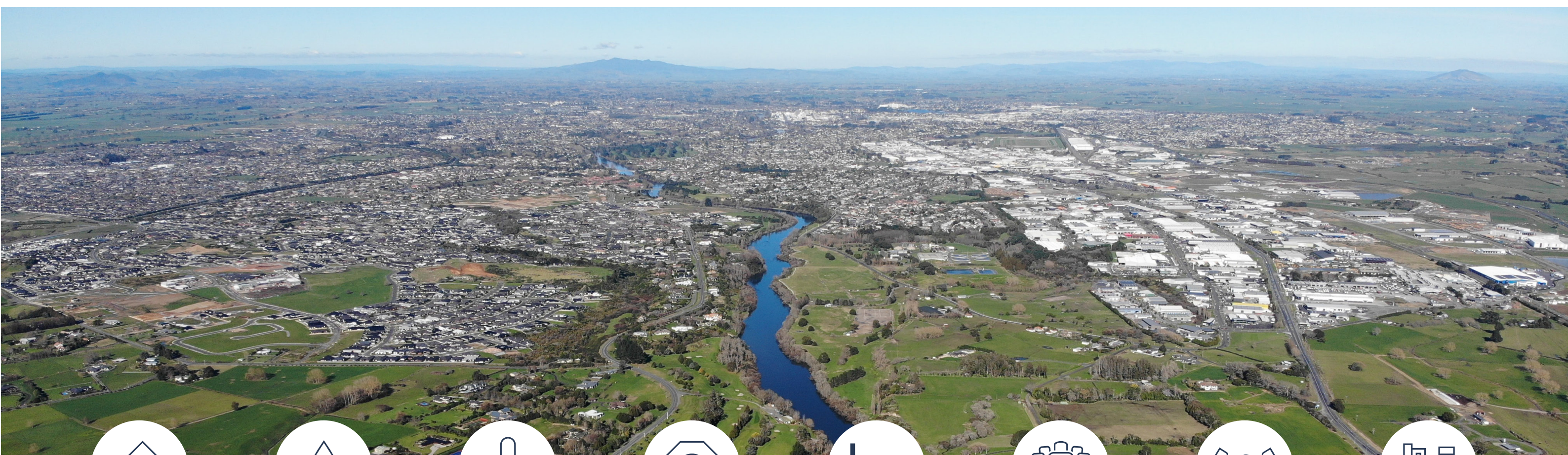
MAORI FISHERIES ACT 2004 TE KĀHUI O TE OHU KAI MOANA (TE OHU KAI MOANA GROUP)

The Maori Fisheries Act 2004 created four fisheries settlement entities: Te Wai Māori Trust, Te Ohu Kaimoana Trust, Te Pūtea Whakatupu Trust, and Aotearoa Fisheries (Moana New Zealand). Te Wai Māori Trust is committed to working with the other entities created under the Maori Fisheries Act 2004 to advance Māori interests in freshwater fisheries.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Mana motuhake** independence and autonomy – empowering tangata whenua to maintain their traditional relationships with taonga and mahinga kai.
- **Whakapapa** expressed clearly in the nature of our relationship and responsibility for the health and wellbeing of freshwater environments.
- **Kaitiakitanga** and the reinforcement of iwi, hapū and whānau values along with greater control to iwi, hapū and whānau to utilise their respective Mātauranga.
- **Tiriti o Waitangi** upheld so that our stakeholders (Government agencies) fulfil their statutory and other obligations.
- **Tikanga** providing for strength in our own knowledge and wisdom and ensuring we always work within our own frameworks.

Te Ao Māori recognises the interconnectedness of all living things within te taiao, an indivisible entity that cannot be separated into constituent parts. What happens on the whenua, affects wai, which flows into the moana. For freshwater fisheries, Iwi and hapū have their own Mātauranga Māori which can differ between Iwi and between catchments, but one common theme is that the health and wellbeing of taonga freshwater species supports and is reflective of the health and wellbeing of the people. This is affected by the interconnected pressures associated with freshwater quality, suitable habitat, water quantity, fishing pressure, and the ability of Iwi and hapū to maintain their traditional relationships with taonga species.



HABITAT DESTRUCTION

- Ongoing destruction of wetlands
- Stream diversion and flood control
- Vegetation clearance
- Ecosystems unable to support healthy fish populations



DECLINING WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY

- Impact of land use on water quality e.g. discharges, soil disturbance and sedimentation from pastoral farming, clear felling and urban development
- Allocation/use of freshwater



CLIMATE CHANGE

- Vulnerability of taonga species to a changing climate
- Extreme weather events
- Increased water temperature
- Impact on flows



FISH PASSAGE

- Barriers to migration prevent fish passage
- Fish mortality due to infrastructure e.g. flood pumps and hydro station turbines



DECLINING ABUNDANCE

- Fishing pressure: commercial, recreational and customary
- Introduced species/predation



INFLUENCE AND DECISION MAKING

- Barriers to Māori to participation in freshwater and fisheries decision-making
- Capacity and capability of government officials and decision-makers to consider and provide for Māori interests in freshwater fisheries.
- Lack of Māori representation



KAITIAKITANGA

- Need to ensure the relationship of Iwi and hapū with taonga species and freshwater fisheries
- Lack of Government support, resourcing and investment for Māori in resource management



RESEARCH NEEDS

- Need for targeted research to address freshwater and freshwater species knowledge gaps
- Lack of support, and investment in Mātauranga Māori



THE OUTCOMES WE WORK TOWARDS

Advancing Māori interests in freshwater fisheries means taking a long-term approach to:

- Increasing Iwi and hapū capacity and capability in freshwater fisheries, and their ability to control their freshwater fisheries.
- Promoting indigenous fisheries expertise, knowledge and understanding.
- Increasing the quality and range of information available to iwi and hapū on freshwater fisheries and habitat.
- Ensuring that freshwater fisheries are abundant, healthy and functioning, and are capable of supporting the needs of Iwi and hapū.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 - 2025

To give effect to our purpose and functions under the Maori Fisheries Act 2004, Directors have identified a number of strategic priorities for the Trust for 2020 – 2025.

These strategic priorities are based on the development and evolution of Te Wai Māori work programmes through previous Strategic and Annual Plans, and from feedback received from Iwi and hapū. re capable of supporting the needs of Iwi and hapū.



Te Wai Māori Trust aims to give effect to its purpose by supporting and being a trusted advisor to Māori on freshwater fisheries issues.

The Trust will do this by:

- Supporting Māori to build their capacity and capability in freshwater fisheries through contestable and targeted funding for iwi and hapū.
- Influence and advocate:
 - *building political and policy influence*
 - *producing and distributing freshwater fisheries research*
 - *increasing awareness of the pressures facing freshwater fisheries and their habitat, and supporting initiatives that aim to address those issues*
 - *building and maintaining key relationships*
 - *changing the way Government agencies think and talk about the relationship of Māori with their freshwater fisheries, mahinga kai, and Mātauranga Māori.*
- Shifting our focus from responding to Government, to developing Māori initiatives for freshwater fisheries and habitat (targeted projects):
 - *Identification of key research objectives by Māori*
 - *Communications and public relations*
 - *Jointly developing freshwater fisheries and habitat policy with Iwi, hapū and Crown agencies.*

In doing so, we will work to build:

- Strong political relationships, networks and advocacy potential (with iwi, government, industry, communities) that could be leveraged to enable restoration and enhancement of freshwater environments. This will involve strong policy development and operational performance – local, nationally, and internationally.
- Strong capacity and capability for Iwi, hapū and the Trust.
- Collective succession planning across the Kāhui entities, policy and fisheries training with Iwi and hapū, and identification of key matters requiring leadership.
- Appropriate platforms for sharing Mātauranga – knowledge, research, understanding.
- Unity – shared goals and objectives, collective understanding and momentum.
- Collective leadership, collaboration and communication.

