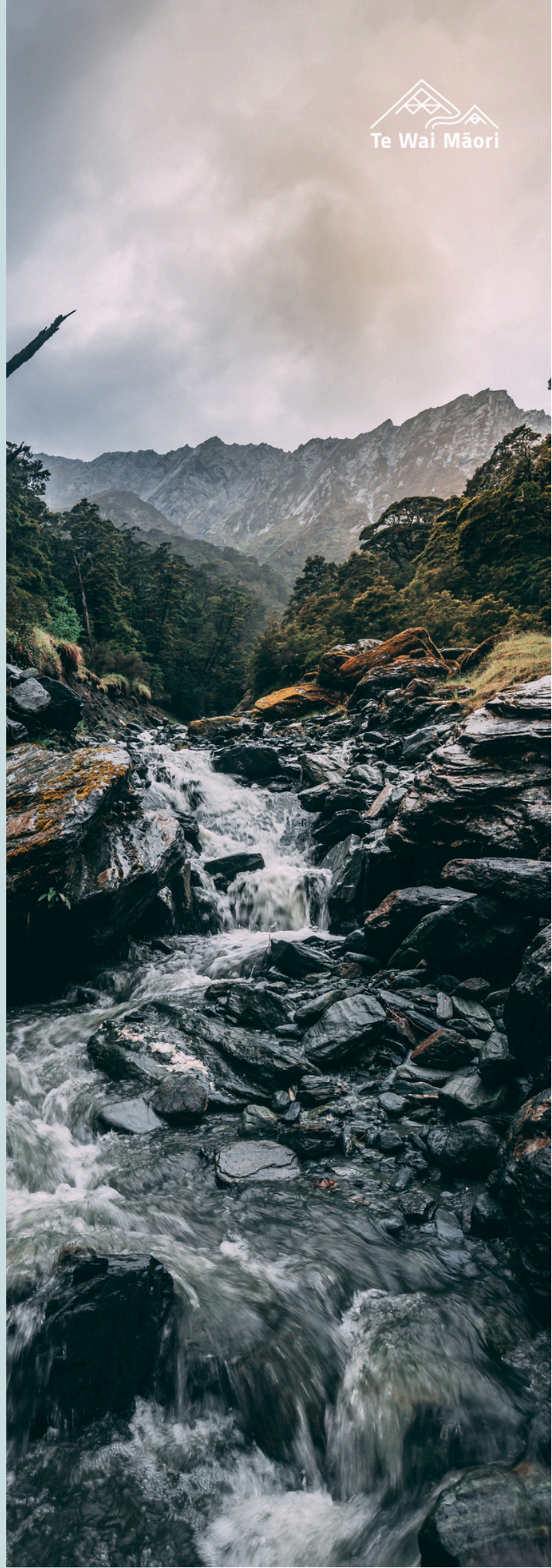


2023/24 Te Wai Māori Trust Q3 Report

HE REO TŌ TE WAI
HE REO TŌ TE TANGATA
KOTAHI TONU TE WHAKAPAPA
WHAKAKOTAHITIA!



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Karakia

Ko Rangi,
ko Papa,
ka puta ko Rongo,
ko Tane Mahuta,
ko Tangaroa,
ko Tumatauenga
ko Haumietiketike,
ko Tawhirimatea.

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!
Hui e, Taiki e!

This is Te Wai Māori's quarter three (Q3) report to iwi against the 2023/24 Annual Plan and covers the period 1 April to 30 June 2024.

Tēnā koutou katoa,

We are pleased to present to you our third quarter report of the 2023/24 financial year. There were a few key highlights from the quarter to share.

The first was meeting with Te Mana o ngā Tuna (tuna advisory roopu) in June. In this hui we welcomed two new Co-Chairs, Erina Watene and Erina Wehi-Barton, and farewelled outgoing chairs Ben Potaka and Charlie Bluett. Both Ben and Charlie are founding members of this roopu, and I'd like to thank them for the knowledge they shared and time they committed to this roopu. Te Mana o ngā Tuna also discussed two documents that have been commissioned to look at best practices for safe tuna passage at hydroelectric power stations and drain clearance, both of which have significant impact on tuna. It is our hope that these will be useful resources for iwi and hapū when it comes to formulating a response to resource consent applications, in the hope that our practices become more consistent and tuna-friendly throughout Aotearoa.

A second highlight was the annual Wai Ora Fund round for 2024. We had a significant response from iwi, hapū and whānau. It shows the interest, commitment and need for funding like this to support project work that protects and enhances freshwater fisheries and their habitat.

Our work programme supports the strategic priorities and long-term outcomes detailed in the Trust's Annual Plan. These include:

- Enhancing the health and wellbeing of indigenous fisheries and their habitat
- Enhancing the recognition and status of indigenous species
- Providing better opportunities for the participation of iwi and hapū in resource management decision making processes
- Promoting and sharing indigenous fisheries expertise, knowledge and understanding
- Increasing the quality and range of information to iwi and hapū
- Supporting iwi and hapū capacity and capability in freshwater fisheries.

As always, we welcome your feedback on the structure and content of our reporting.

Nāku noa, hā,



Rawiri Faulkner,
Chair Te Wai Māori Trust



Wai Māori around the motu



Ngāti Pāhauwera Development Trust

On the 20th – 21st January 2024, Ngāti Pāhauwera Development Trust held a wānanga at Lake Rotoroa in Putere.

In attendance were Pāhauwera tamariki, rangatahi, pakeke and kaumatua, representatives from Putere Marae, as well as staff from Putere School, local landowners and their tamariki, staff from Te Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui ā Orotu, Trust kaimahi and Ngāti Tūwharetoa waikōura expert Dr Ian Kusabs.

Those in attendance learned about:

- the waikōura life cycle;
- preferred habitat and threats;
- and traditional Māori methods (whakawehu) and scientific methods for catching and monitoring waikōura.

Priority areas and actions for restoration in the local area were discussed, as well as intentions to apply for funding to undertake hornwort control, and riparian fencing and planting to protect and extend the habitat available for waikōura.

The wānanga has resulted in a monitoring programme for waikōura populations at Rotoroa and one of her tributaries. Putere School will be involved in carrying out the monitoring, and Ngāti Pāhauwera Development Trust will use the results to prioritise next steps for restoring and protecting waikōura populations in the area.

Monitoring is also planned for other parts of the Pāhauwera rohe, and staff from Te Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui ā Orotu are planning to implement what they learned in their rohe as well.



Making whakawehu with Dr Ian Kusabs (right)



Measuring waikōura

Waikawa Lands Trust

A geographical information systems (GIS) database has been developed for the Waikawa Lands Trust.



Recent weather events in Tauranga Moana highlighted the vulnerability of waterways on the whenua, in part due to historical forestry practices. Representing Te Whānau a Kahurautao, Te Whānau a Apanui, Waikawa Lands Trust worked with consultancy firm Catalyst Group, to employ drones and engage whānau members to capture high-resolution landcover data over the otherwise difficult to access land blocks.

Wānanga a mātauranga and EDNA sampling were undertaken to identify the presence or absence of taonga species, and research was undertaken to understand options available to mitigate and minimise the impacts of forestry slash. The hapu has also developed a cultural monitoring framework which will inform future decisions and encourage further data collection for the block.

The research, information and drone photography gathered will inform a long-term strategy for the Waikawa blocks that includes identification and prioritisation of suitable areas for indigenous replanting to ensure the health and well-being of the waterways and taonga species present. In addition to freshwater fisheries restoration, the data will inform future decisions regarding economic development, housing, and cultural restoration across the whenua.



Performance against Annual Plan



Enhance the health and wellbeing of indigenous fisheries and their habitat

Fish Futures Working Group hui

The Fish Futures Working Group met in Wellington on 9 April 2024. A key component of the hui was to give roopu members from DOC and Fish and Game space to discuss what their respective organisations are doing in the freshwater fish space, and to answer pātai from our rohe partners. There are lingering concerns about Fish and Game, particularly from Te Arawa Lakes Trust around continued stocking of trout in the Rotorua Lakes and the elevation of introduced fish species over native species.

Since then, Te Wai Māori staff have been working with Cawthron on a wider communication strategy around Mass Mortality Events and with Justine Inns (of Oceanlaw) to finalise her report on freshwater fisheries management.



Enhance the recognition and status of indigenous species

Te Mana o Ngā Tuna

This quarter we met ā-tinana with Te Mana o Ngā Tuna in Auckland on 14 June 2024. The roopu appointed new co-chairs Erina Watene and Erina Wehi-Barton at the meeting and farewelled outgoing chairs Ben Potaka and Charlie Bluett.

The hui was attended by Jacques Boubée of Vaipuhi Consulting who shared the first draft of his report on best practice consent conditions for safe tuna passage at hydroelectric power stations. Jacques has struggled to draft the document in a way that could be picked up and applied by iwi/hapū for consents due for renewal next year. This was a concern to Te Mana o Ngā Tuna members who gave comprehensive

feedback and suggested several changes to the document. We are expecting another iteration of the report next month.

Dr Jane Kitson also attended the meeting to discuss her work on best practice guidelines for drain clearing to reduce adverse effects on freshwater taonga. Drain clearance is a big issue, particularly in rural areas. It is largely unregulated, which means mana whenua have no input at all and no way of knowing what is happening and where. Drain clearance can cause mass mortality events due to strandings, suffocation in drain spoils, habitat destruction and sedimentation from reduced dissolved oxygen levels. Jane's work was well received and the roopu is considering how best to use this information. Since drain clearance is a permitted activity in most regions there may be scope to draft and share specific recommendations with iwi/hapū, councils and catchment managers.



Provide better opportunities for the participation of Iwi and hapū in resource management decision-making processes as they relate to freshwater fisheries and habitat

Resource Management Reform

Te Wai Māori this quarter drafted submissions on the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill and the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill insofar as they affect Māori interests in freshwater fisheries. Staff also gave an online oral submission to the Environment Committee on the Fast Track Approvals Bill.

Staff are continuing to work with the Freshwater Iwi Advisory Group and are planning an ā-tinana catch up at the Trust offices on 10 July 2024 to discuss next steps.



Promote and share indigenous fisheries expertise, knowledge and understanding.

Māori Freshwater Fisheries Conference

Preliminary planning continues for the next conference to be hosted by Maniapoto.



Support iwi and hapū capacity and capability in freshwater fisheries.

Wai Ora Fund

This quarter, the Trust opened the 2024 Wai Ora funding round for applications. The funding round is set to close on 17 July. The Trust concluded funding agreements with Te Kaahui o Rauru and Tūhourangi Tribal Authority. The Trust continued to support projects from the 2023 funding round: Hokonui Rūnanga Floriculture Limited; Tuawhenua Trust; Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated; Maungataniwha ki Rangaunu Trust; Te Wai Mauri Charitable Trust; and Waikawa Lands Trust.

The Trust continues to support one remaining project funded in 2022 - Ngāti Pahauwera Development Trust.

The Trust continues to seek to support one funding recipient from FY 21/22 to complete their project milestones - Te Ani Waata Whānau Trust.

Tiaki Wai Fund

This quarter, the Trust entered into an agreement with Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust and concluded the funding agreement with Ngāti Pāhauwera Development Trust. The Trust continues to seek to support one funding recipient from FY 21/22 to complete their project milestones -Te Aitanga o Ngā Uri o Wharekauri.

MfE Essential Freshwater (Tangata Whenua) Fund

The Te Mātāpuna o te Wai fund has a pool of \$12.8 million to develop the capability and capacity of hapū and iwi in their aspirations for their freshwater taiao. Te Mātāpuna o te Wai offers a three-year investment through planning support for Te Mana o te Wai/Taiao System approaches and supporting the capacity of hapū and iwi by resourcing kaimahi (full time employees).

An independent panel was formed at the end of last quarter to assess the Te Mātāpuna o te Wai applications and Pou Taiao approved the funding of 41 successful applications.

The coordination of contractual agreements in accordance with MfE guidelines was the focus for the quarter (led by subcontractors Poipoia Limited).

Financial performance against plan

The following table summarises each area of work identified in the 2023/24 annual plan by presenting the forecasted year-end position and comparing actual to forecasted expenses for the year to date.

Te Wai Māori Finance Report to 30 September 2024

	YEAR TO DATE			FULL YEAR		
	ACTUAL	FORECAST	VARIANCE	FORECAST	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Projects						
Responding to legislative reform and policy	880	1,504	(624)	2,132	2,500	(368)
Indigenous freshwater species	24,101	9,098	15,003	46,986	52,891	(5,905)
Targeted research	10,726	21,139	(10,413)	34,144	49,999	(15,855)
Māori Freshwater Fisheries Conference	168,971	168,969	2	168,969	160,000	8,969
Supporting iwi and hapū through freshwater funding	187,592	188,733	(1,141)	335,151	323,951	11,200
MfE Essential Freshwater (Tangata Whenua) Fund	1,411,535	527,825	883,710	709,526	672,000	37,526
Outreach and Relationship Building	-	20,000	(20,000)	20,000	20,000	-
Operations						
Governance	88,973	106,393	(17,420)	143,608	141,524	2,084
Operations	331,882	389,076	(57,194)	563,895	564,521	(626)
TOTAL	2,224,659	1,432,737	791,922	2,024,411	1,987,386	37,025

NB: the figures shown in the tables above have not been audited.

Comments on financial performance

- Te Wai Māori have incurred \$2.225m of costs to 30 June 2024.
- The majority of spend has been for the MfE fund, including \$730k of grant payments and \$598k of subcontractor / consultancy.
- A comprehensive reforecast was performed at midyear / 31 March, which has been adopted for reporting purposes.
- Operational and governance savings of \$75k have accrued over quarter three. Mostly for HR savings due to vacancies. Subsequent recruitment in Quarter 4 is set to remedy this for budget 2025.
- Project costs are \$17k underspent against forecast, mostly in Outreach and Relationship Building as well as Targeted Research. Freshwater Funding is tracking close to budget which is encouraging.
- Final costs for the Māori Freshwater Fisheries Conference are received, landing \$9k over budget which is a reasonable result.



Photo credit: Department of Conservation