



# ANNUAL PLAN 2024-2025

He reo tō te wai,  
He reo tō te tangata  
Kotahi tonu te whakapapa,  
whakakotahitia!

Water has its language,  
As too do our people have theirs,  
Both born of one whakapapa,  
united!



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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!



# our DIRECTORS



**Rawiri Faulkner**  
**Chair**

Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngāi Te Rangi



**Pahia Turia**  
**Director**

Ngā Wairiki, Ngāti Apa, Whanganui, Ngā Rauru and Ngāti Tūwharetoa



**Donna Flavell**  
**Director**

Waikato, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Ruapani



**Erina Watene-Rawiri**  
**Alternate Director**

Waikato-Tainui, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāi Te Rangi



**Maria Nepia**  
**Alternate Director**

Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Rakaipaaka



**Ian Ruru**  
**Alternate Director**

Te Aitanga ā Māhaki, Ngāti Porou, Ngāi Tai, Te Whakatōhea



# our VALUES

## Whakapapa

reflecting the connection between  
whānau, hapū and Iwi, and te taiao.

## Te Mana o Te Wai

reflecting that freshwater ecosystems come first.

## Kaitiakitanga

reflecting whānau, hapū and Iwi obligations, as  
descendants of ngā Atua



# HE KŌRERO nā te WAI PUNA



From the Wai Puna | Manager  
Carly O'Connor  
Ngāti Kahungunu ki te Wairoa, Ngāti Tūwharetoa

**As we move into a new year and look at our priorities and objectives for the coming year, it's timely to acknowledge the wider context in which we operate.**

Te Wai Māori Trust was established under the Māori Fisheries Act 2004 and our purpose is to advance Māori interests in freshwater fisheries. In the 20 years since the Trust's establishment, we have developed a robust and outcome focussed approach to delivering on this. The 2024-25 Annual Plan is our fifth Annual Plan against our Five-Year Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025. As such, we will continue to deliver our work programmes that are designed to deliver maximum impact for iwi and hapū, freshwater fisheries and their habitats.

In 2025, the Trust will be hosting the sixth Māori Freshwater Fisheries Conference.

This event underpins many of the Trust's objectives - sharing indigenous fisheries knowledge and understanding; increasing the quality and range of information to iwi and hapū on freshwater fisheries and habitat; and supporting iwi and hapū capacity and capability in freshwater fisheries. But in the 10 years since its inception (with the 2015 National Tuna Conference) it's also become integral to strengthening the freshwater fisheries whānau network of kaitiaki, researchers, and iwi and hapū roopu.

Delivering our freshwater funds Wai Ora and Tiaki Wai continues to be a priority for the Trust. The potential impact of funded projects to enhance the health and wellbeing of indigenous fisheries and their habitat, to grow capacity and build connections with freshwater taonga is what makes these funds such a vital part of the Trust's mahi. As a result, we have continued to grow the pool of funds available.

With extensive policy and legislative change taking place, we will continue to do what we can to ensure our waterways and freshwater fisheries are considered.



Our mahi outlined in this year's Annual Plan will continue to support the strategic priorities and long-term outcomes that we continue to work toward:

- 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 as they relate to freshwater fisheries and habitat.
- Promoting and sharing indigenous fisheries expertise, knowledge and understanding.
- Increasing the quality and range of information to Iwi and hapū on freshwater fisheries and habitat.
- Supporting iwi and hapū capacity and capability in freshwater fisheries.

Despite the challenges we face at this time, we know that our work as a Trust focuses on te pae tawhiti – the distant horizon – where our taonga species are thriving and our waterways healthy. Until then, we'll continue to support the mahi being undertaken by iwi and hapū to see this reality.

Nāku na,  
Carly O'Connor





# PRIORITIES and ACTIONS FOR 24/25

PROJECTS	OVERVIEW	KEY ACTIONS
<b>Policy and legislation</b>	The Trust will seek to engage on the Government's ongoing resource management and freshwater reform and freshwater review processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to support the Freshwater Iwi Leaders Group in seeking to ensure that the rangatiratanga of iwi and hapū guaranteed under Te Tiriti o Waitangi is upheld in policy and legislation.</li><li>• Advocate for the relationship of Māori with traditional waters and fisheries and seek to ensure appropriate recognition and that customary fishing rights are upheld.</li></ul>
<b>Indigenous freshwater species</b>	The Trust will continue to support species specific work programmes and initiatives including work on Tuna, Piharau/Kanakana and Īnanga.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deliver indigenous freshwater species research and case studies.</li><li>• Raise awareness of pressures facing our freshwater taonga.</li><li>• Build strategic relationships to help advocate for indigenous freshwater species.</li><li>• Seek to ensure that the relationship of Māori with traditional waters and fisheries are given appropriate recognition and that customary fishing rights are upheld.</li><li>• The Trust will also continue to provide support and work alongside Te Mana o Ngā Tuna, the advisory group to the Trust on tuna and the Piharau Kanakana Iwi Steering Group.</li></ul>
<b>Targeted research</b>	Support research relating to indigenous freshwater species and their habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to work alongside Cawthron Institute on a multi-year 'Fish Futures' research programme looking at understanding how freshwater fish (including introduced/pest species) are valued across Aotearoa and how fish, their ecosystems, and our relationships with them might change into the future.</li></ul>



## PROJECTS

## OVERVIEW

## KEY ACTIONS

### Supporting iwi and hapū through freshwater funding

Provide funding to iwi, hapū and Māori through the Wai Ora and Tiaki Wai funds to support projects throughout Aotearoa to protect, enhance and develop freshwater fisheries and habitat.

The Trust has also established an annual Wai Māori scholarship. The Wai Māori scholarship has been established to strengthen the presence of Māori experts in freshwater fisheries and is available to tauira Māori undertaking research or academic study in related fields.

The Trust has entered into a funding agreement with the Ministry for the Environment on behalf of the National Iwi Chair Forum Pou Taiao (through its Freshwater Iwi Leaders Group). Fifteen million in funding was secured through the Essential Freshwater Fund to support Iwi Chairs Forum Pou Taiao in developing tangata whenua capability to participate in and respond to the essential freshwater, resource management and local government reforms.

- Effectively manage funding/scholarship rounds.
- Build relationships with recipients/partners and provide effective support.

### Māori Freshwater Fisheries Conference

The Māori Freshwater Fisheries Conference provides a forum for the coming together of iwi and hapū to share freshwater fisheries knowledge and expertise.

- Hold the 2025 Māori Freshwater Fisheries conference hosted by Maniapoto.
- Provide opportunities for iwi and hapū to share fisheries knowledge and expertise.

### Outreach and relationship building

Ensuring the Trust's mahi aligns with the aspirations of iwi, hapū and whānau and strong relationships are held.

- Focus on outreach and hui ā tinana
- Meet with whānau who have been supported through freshwater funding from the Trust.

key

# PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 24/25

1

**Providing better opportunities for the participation of iwi and hapū in resource management decision making processes as they relate to freshwater fisheries and habitat**

- Te Wai Māori Trust build strategic relationships and identify and foster opportunities for iwi and hapū to influence resource management decision making processes.
- Te Wai Māori Trust provide valuable support to the Freshwater Iwi Leaders Group.
- Te Wai Māori Trust undertakes high quality analysis and prepares quality responses to government reforms affecting freshwater fisheries and habitat.

2

**Enhance the recognition and status of indigenous species**

- Te Wai Māori Trust advocate for the health and wellbeing of freshwater taonga.
- Te Wai Māori Trust partner with iwi and hapū to develop and implement indigenous freshwater species strategies and research.

3

**Enhance the health and wellbeing of indigenous fisheries and their habitat**

- Te Wai Māori Trust invests resource in research focussed on indigenous fisheries and habitat.
- Te Wai Māori Trust work with iwi and hapū to understand and prioritise research needs for indigenous fisheries and habitat.
- Te Wai Māori Trust is collaborative, partnering with iwi, hapū, researchers and others who share our aspirations for indigenous fisheries to achieve greater impact.

4

**Supporting iwi and hapū capacity and capability in freshwater fisheries**

Te Wai Māori distributes funding to iwi, hapū and Māori supporting aspirations for freshwater fisheries and building capability and capacity.



# 5

## Promote and share indigenous fisheries expertise, knowledge and understanding

- Te Wai Māori Trust create and support opportunities for iwi and hapū to come together and share mātauranga on freshwater taonga.
- Te Wai Māori Trust produce, share and distribute research and information on freshwater fisheries.

# 6

## Te Wai Māori Trust complies with statutory obligations under the Māori Fisheries Act.

- Te Wai Māori Trust provide assurance of compliance with statutory obligations through transparent quarterly and annual reporting and relaying progress to iwi at the Te Ohu Kaimoana Group hui-a-tau.



# BUDGET

for

## 24/25

### Income

Income	Budget 2025
Portfolio Income – Operational	1,133,473
Cawthron Fish Futures	124,298
MfE Essential Freshwater (Tangata Whenua)	3,640,150
Other income	59,667
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,957,588</b>
Expenses	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,957,588</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(0)</b>
Portfolio Income - Non-operational	708,421
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>708,420</b>

### Expenses

Work programme	Description	Budget 2025
Responding to legislative reform and policy		2,500
Indigenous freshwater species		85,500
Targeted Research	Fish Futures Research Programme	37,600
Māori Freshwater Fisheries Conference		153,971
Supporting iwi and hapū through freshwater funding	Wai Ora Fund	262,000
	Tiaki Wai Fund	30,500
	Wai Māori Scholarship	41,500



## Expenses continued

Work programme	Description	Budget 2025
MfE Essential Freshwater (Tangata Whenua) Fund	Includes the Te Mātāpuna o te Wai Fund	3,640,150
Outreach and relationship building		20,000
Governance		131,599
Human Resources		448,732
Operations		103,537
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>4,957,588</b>

## Key Assumptions

Key assumptions in constructing the budget are:

Te Wai Māori income is based on:

- Annual drawdowns for operational expenditure are targeted to be no more than 4% of the average of the previous 3 years of the total portfolio investment fund attributable to Te Wai Māori.
- Short term funds held outside of the portfolio are managed to maximise returns, within acceptable risk parameters, for the period they are held.
- Available cash flows are managed to meet the needs of Te Wai Māori.
- The returns from the portfolio are monitored to ensure the planned expenditure is aligned with the prospective available returns.
- Surplus investment income, above the 4% available for annual drawdowns, is transferred into a capital maintenance reserve to preserve the real value of the portfolio and therefore income available for operational expenditure.

