



Wetland Restoration Te Pahu



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This stunning showcase in Te Pahu will be an exemplar of best practice for dairy farmers in New Zealand. This three year project (2015-2017) will retire 31 ha of land from grazing by restoring a 22 ha gully wetland and riparian planting another 9 ha of land adjacent to the Paratawa Stream, a tributary of the Waipā River.

This wetland is sited below the Kapamahunga Range, an area identified as an "ecological hot spot" in the Waipa District Significant Natural Areas Assessment.

This farm is subject to regular floods and the volume of water passing through the farm is considerable, especially when the Waipā River backflows through the wetland. By restoring this wetland, biodiversity will be enhanced and important ecological services will be repaired e.g. flood control, groundwater replenishment, sediment and nutrient retention.

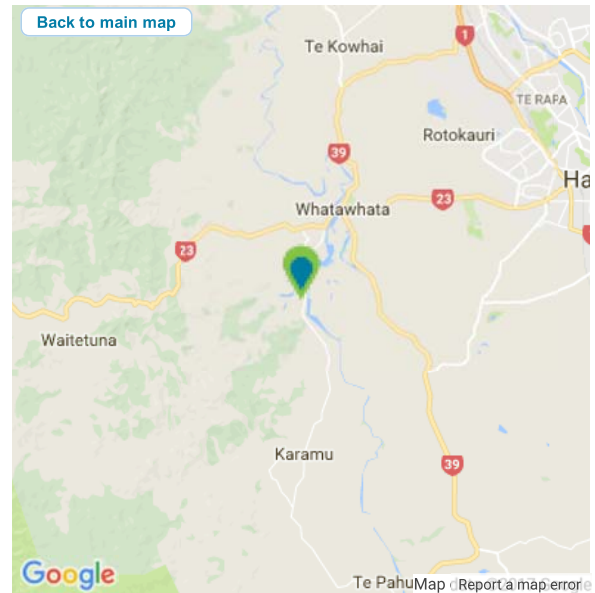
As water moves into a wetland, the flow rate decreases, allowing particles to settle out. Plant surfaces provide for filtration, absorption of solids and add oxygen to the water. Growing plants remove nutrients and play a cleansing role that protects the downstream environments.

Project Objectives:

- To propagate and plant up to 100,000 eco-sourced native trees per annum in the lower Waipā River Catchment.
- To reduce sediment, nutrient and bacterial runoff from farmland between Pirongia and Ngaruawahia into the Waipā River and its tributaries.
- To restore a 22 ha wetland and to undertake 9 ha of riparian planting with a landowner in Te Pahu to improve water quality, reduce sediment and nutrient runoff into the lower Waipā River.
- To showcase a visible wetland restoration with kahikatea forest remnants adjacent to the Waipā River in Te Pahu for promotion to other landowners in the Waipā and Waikato catchments.
- To provide an opportunity for in-stream habitat restoration for native fish including eels, banded kokopu and probably giant kokopu and bully species.
- To provide an opportunity for the restoration of riparian spawning habitat for banded and giant kokopu who lay their eggs in long grasses on the flood plains of streams.

This is a Waikato River Authority funded project (WRA 14-052)

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