



Waikato River Restoration Strategy



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This project is a partnership between DairyNZ and the Waikato Regional Council and will provide the long term foundation and framework for all other organisations involved with Waikato River restoration activities.

Many organisations are engaged in significant Waikato River catchment restoration activities but these are not well coordinated or integrated, risking duplication and inefficiencies, and funding leverage opportunities are not being identified. To address this, a Waikato River Restoration Forum has been created, comprising:

- Waikato River Authority
- All Waikato River Iwi
- DairyNZ
- Waikato Regional Council
- Fonterra
- Genesis Energy
- Mighty River Power
- Department of Conservation
- Territorial authorities

The Forum is chaired by the Waikato River Authority. The purpose of the Forum is to maximise opportunities to realise the vision for the Waikato River catchment: for a future where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, and all it embraces, for generations to come.

The first priority for the Forum will be preparation of a 5-15 year Waikato River Restoration Strategy, which is the purpose of this funding application. This Strategy will guide all Forum members engaged in restoration activities to ensure the most appropriate, logical, coordinated, effective and efficient approach to restoration is adopted.

The Strategy and process for developing it will share information, knowledge and support amongst the members of the Forum and the wider community to best support and leverage funding opportunities through an integrated, prioritised and coordinated approach to Catchment restoration activities. The Strategy will be aligned to the policy and strategic priorities in the Healthy Rivers Plan, and will be a key tool to achieving the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River.

Although the Strategy will not be binding on Forum members, it is expected that it will guide and commit each organisation in ensuring future restoration activities are consistent with the Strategy. As such, key documents such as the WRA Vision and Strategy and future funding priorities, council Long Term Plans, the Waikato Regional Council Environmental Enhancement Fund, and the Sustainable Dairy Water Accord may be amended to be consistent with the Strategy and its priorities. This is a Waikato River Authority funded project (WRA 14-004)

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