

Te Hoiere/Pelorus Project Newsletter #1, July 2020

**The next community event is on 30 July at 7.00 pm
in the Havelock Town Hall
Come along to the project update and hear about
the baseline monitoring studies that are
underway in the catchment**

Project update

Te Hoiere/Pelorus Landscape Restoration Project is starting to gain some traction on the ground since the budget announcement on 6 December 2019. **The Project is a landscape scale proposal focused on improving freshwater, land and community resources - ki uta ki tai - 'from the mountains to the sea'**. Through using a holistic and collaborative approach, the Project's focus is on addressing land use derived issues and achieving wider conservation goals that have environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits. For further details please look through the brochure included with this newsletter.

Over the past few months we have been through an extensive scoping stage for the Project to secure central government funding, and we are finally in a place where we can begin our community engagement activities in earnest. More information on the Project can be found on our new website at <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/te-hoiere-pelorus-catchment-restoration-project>

One of the first steps identified in the initial community engagement in August last year was to start baseline monitoring in the catchment. Baseline monitoring is recognised as a priority action to identify the areas that need work, but also for us to be able measure successes from everyone's efforts, as we start enhancing the catchment with you.

In response to this we are developing a **baseline water quality monitoring programme**, funded by the Ministry for the Environment, to analyse water quality in the upper and lower catchments across all key tributaries. This study will help us develop a full picture of the catchment condition and fairly attribute potential water quality issues to their sources. The sites selected for the study will incorporate all land uses, including native catchment, forestry, dairying, low intensity grazing and urban inputs. We will be contacting landowners seeking permission to cross their properties when the proposed monitoring sites are on private land. The study will consist of monthly monitoring over a 12-month period.

We are also conducting catchment condition surveys to map the terrestrial state of the lower catchment. You may have already seen people in the catchment talking to landowners and the community.

The **Long-Tailed Bat/Pekepeka Project** that Forest & Bird have been working on at the Pelorus Scenic Reserve since 2010 has received a boost in funding as part of the post COVID-19 funding initiatives. The funding could extend the area of the predator control network, expanding on the Ronga Reserve plantings and tackling some of the serious weed issues in the reserves and alongside the river. Forest & Bird has worked closely with the community for some time now and is keen to network this into the Te Hoiere Project.

Cultural footprint mapping and research on the historic state of the environment has been undertaken by Ngāti Kuia.

We continue to explore the possibilities for a **native plant nursery** in the catchment and other initiatives to bring innovative jobs back to the area, focusing on low impact, sustainable and high quality products from native plants and bee products.



Project next steps

1. Form **community based sub-catchment groups**. How these will unfold will largely depend on what you, the community, key stakeholders and partners want to achieve. Actions identified by the sub-catchment groups will form the principles of an 'Integrated Catchment Management Enhancement Plan'.
2. Identify **sub-catchment coordinators**. There are up to 10 paid part-time positions proposed, with training taking place towards the end of this year. Two sub-catchment coordinators would also sit on the Project Steering Group.
3. Identifying **industry and community champions** to represent the different interests in the catchment and to represent those various interests within the Project Steering Group.
4. Commence '**early win**' **project opportunities** to utilise the infrastructure fund and soften the economic impact from COVID-19 in the short term. These projects feed into the longer term project goals and outcomes and could include:
 - Weed control programmes
 - Immediate action identified from the catchment condition surveys (fencing, critical source areas, problem weeds, etc)
 - Stock number surveys
 - Winter grazing monitoring and advice
 - Regenerative agricultural training and training in soils, nutrient management, farm planning and biodiversity, for farmers and landowners
 - Fencing wetlands and riparian areas
 - Soil moisture probes on farms

- Fertiliser and irrigation management planning on farms
- Native nursery establishment
- Riparian plantings
- Extension of the Long-Tailed Bat Monitoring Programme; and
- Marlborough Sounds' coastal marine spatial tools and interpretation.

If you want to participate on any of these actions in the coming months, get in touch with Project Manager Heli Wade at heli.wade@marlborough.govt.nz

Information evening, Havelock

We value community involvement that is open and honest and would like to continue to make sure that the Project intentions are well communicated. Please come along to **Havelock Town Hall on Thursday 30 July at 7.00 pm** to hear more about the Project, the baseline monitoring that is happening in the catchment and ask any questions you may have.

Further engagement events, talks and community drop-in sessions, as well as the Project's official launch event, are planned for the coming months - watch this space!

Project survey

And finally, to have your say, please **fill in the project survey** at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VJD3BDR> so we can start building an understanding of the things you think are important in Te Hoiere/Pelorus, Kaituna and Cullen Creek Catchments.

The results from the survey will feed into the Te Hoiere Integrated Catchment Management Enhancement Plan and serve as the starting point for further discussions, in order to build an action plan for Te Hoiere/Pelorus Catchment.



Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

