

13 February 2008

**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Executive Committee**

Notice of Meeting

A meeting of the Executive Committee will be held in the Taranaki Regional Council Chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on:

Monday 18 February 2008 commencing at 10.00am.

B G Chamberlain
Chief Executive

**THE TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL REQUESTS THAT THIS
AGENDA REMAINS EMBARGOED UNTIL COMMENCEMENT OF
THE MEETING**

**Agenda for the Executive Committee meeting of the
Taranaki Regional Council to be held in the Taranaki
Regional Council Chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on
Monday 18 February 2008 at 10.00 am.**



Councillors
D N MacLeod
D L Lean
R F H Maxwell
N W Walker

In Attendance

Messrs	B G Chamberlain	(Chief Executive)
	M J Nield	(Director - Corporate Services)
	R A Phillips	(Director-Operations)
Mrs	K van Gameren	(Committee Administrator)

Apologies

Notification of Late Items

	Pages
<u>Item 1</u> Financial and Operational Report	1 - 2
	Two Separate Reports
• Recommendations	2
<u>Item 2</u> Capital Expenditure - 2008-2009 Annual Plan	3 - 5
• Recommendations	5
<u>Item 3</u> Flood and river control works projects	6 - 9
• Recommendations	9
<u>Item 4</u> Combined application for maintenance of six regionally significant wetlands	10 - 45
• Recommendations	11
<u>Item 5</u> Wetland Enhancement: Lake Waiiau Wildlife Management Reserve and Huiakama Lagoon and Tongaporutu whitebait spawning and habitat protection	46 - 61
• Recommendations	48

Item 6 General Business

18 February 2008

ITEM ONE

**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Executive Committee**

Financial and Operational Report

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to receive information on the operational and financial performance of the Council and to confirm the use of the Council's Common Seal.

Background

2. The Council produces a Monthly Financial Report outlining the financial performance for the month and year to date. This memorandum supports the Monthly Financial Report by providing additional supporting operational and financial information. The Council operates its Common Seal under delegated authority. Part of that delegated authority is the reporting back of all Seal transactions.

Financial report

3. Attached are the Monthly Financial Reports for November and December 2007. The financial results so far are good and in line with the *2007/2008 Annual Plan*. Notable financial variances to date are:
 - Policy and planning under budget \$72,596 – time spent on other areas, in particular transport planning services.
 - Consent processing and administration over budget by \$45,522 due to higher than planned levels of activity.
 - Land management is over budget by \$78,070 due to deposits on this year's riparian plant purchasing programme and costs associated with the new nursery.
 - River control and flood protection under budget by \$100,996. There are significant maintenance works being undertaken in the first quarter of 2008.
 - Environmental enhancement grants under budget by \$43,745. The level of activity is lower than anticipated.
 - Pest animal management is over budget by \$85,224 due the timing of payments for initial control work (carry over of the Toko initial control project from last financial year).

- Regional gardens under budget by \$54,417. Implementation of the asset management plans will increase expenditure over the second half of the 2007/2008 year.

Operational report

4. Operationally, all programmes are currently on target with the planned levels of activity established in the *2007/2008 Annual Plan*.

Common Seal

5. The following documents were signed under seal during the period to 18 February 2008:
2007/18 Renewal of Lease. Renewal of Lease 336915 – Lot 2 DP 5364 Mangorei Road, New Plymouth

Decision-making obligations

6. Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the Local Government Act 2002 has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the Act.

Policy considerations

7. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the Local Government Act 2002, the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Financial considerations

8. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Council Community Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Legal considerations

9. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Recommendations

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives this memorandum and adopts the Monthly Financial Reports for November and December 2007
2. notes the Common Seal has been affixed to the following documents:
2007/18 Renewal of Lease. Renewal of Lease 336915 – Lot 2 DP 5364 Mangorei Road, New Plymouth

BG Chamberlain
Chief Executive

18 February 2008

ITEM TWO

**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Executive Committee**

Capital Expenditure—2008/2009 Annual Plan

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to obtain approval for the proposed 2008/2009 capital expenditure programme for inclusion in the draft *2008/2009 Annual Plan*. Capital and maintenance expenditure on flood control schemes and the regional gardens were approved as part of the adoption of the asset management plans.

Summary of estimated fixed asset movements

2. The following table summarises the fixed asset movements proposed for the draft *2008/2009 Annual Plan* compared to the budget established for 2008/2009 in the *2006/2016 Long-Term Council Community Plan*:

	2008/2009 Estimate \$	2008/2009 LTCCP \$
Opening Balance	\$9,941,047	\$9,804,028
Plus Capital Expenditure	\$718,274	\$628,449
Less Disposals	\$75,000	\$75,000
Less Depreciation	\$1,042,166	\$996,700
Closing Balance	\$9,542,155	\$9,360,777

Categories of plant

3. The following table categorises capital expenditure by the major asset groups.

	2008/2009 Estimate \$	2008/2009 LTCCP \$
General office	\$69,200	\$69,200
Plant and equipment	\$111,074	\$53,249
Information technology	\$195,000	\$195,000
Buildings	\$25,000	\$25,000
Vehicles (net of trade-in)	\$243,000	\$211,000
Total capital expenditure	\$643,274	\$553,449

Major capital expenditure items

4. The major items of capital expenditure for 2008/2009 are as follows.
 - Photocopier - Printery black & white \$50,000
 - Telephone exchange - CDEM \$28,000
 - Financial systems development \$25,000
 - Document management systems development \$25,000
 - GIS development \$50,000
 - Databases development \$25,000
 - Hardware infrastructure \$70,000
 - Infra-red spectrophotometer - Laboratory \$25,000
 - Vehicles net of trade-in: \$243,000.

5. The Council's policy is to replace vehicles every four years with provision for Chief Executive's discretion to delay or accelerate any individual purchase. The Chairperson's vehicle is replaced every three years to coincide with local body elections.

Decision-making obligations

6. Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the Local Government Act 2002 has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendation(s) made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the Act.

Policy considerations

7. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the Local Government Act 2002, the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Financial considerations

8. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Annual Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Legal considerations

9. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Recommendation

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. approves the capital expenditure programme for inclusion in the draft *2008/2009 Annual Plan*.

MJ Nield
Director - Corporate Services

Approved:

B G Chamberlain
Chief Executive

18 February 2008

ITEM THREE

**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Executive Committee**

Flood and river control works projects

Purpose

1. To provide information on some current projects, seek Council endorsement of actions taken and to seek Council approval of expenditure for work to be undertaken outside of approved operational budgets.

Background

2. Some activities with which the previous Council was familiar have been ongoing. Others are new or developing. It is appropriate to provide an update to Council and obtain endorsement and approval where required.
3. This memorandum deals with various projects under subject headings.

Topic

Stony River diversion downstream SH45

4. Aggradation of gravels immediately downstream of the SH45 bridge in a natural drop zone has resulted in channel instability and lateral erosion in that locality over a period of years. Various attempts to protect river frontages have been made by adjoining landholders over the years. In the past, gravel extraction and processing at the site assisted. Severe deterioration of stability in the catchments headwaters during the last 10 - 15 years has caused massive volumes of bedload to be transported to and through the channel. Council has assisted with and initiated a number of projects to provide relief in this locality during the last decade. The most recent project was initiated in May 2007.
5. Council approved a proposal to construct a diversion cut through the deposited gravels at an estimated cost of \$60,000. The work being funded by a \$12,500 contribution from two adjoining landholders, \$30,000 from within operational budgets and \$20,000 approved additional expenditure.
6. Work commenced in early June and was nearly completed when heavy rainfall events at the end of June caused two significant breaches to occur and resulted in outflows from and deposition within the cut. Expenditure on the work at that time was some \$50,000.

7. Council was advised of the need to undertake restoration work by verbal report to the Executive Committee 30 July 2007 meeting. The estimated cost was some \$45,000 to be funded by the previous approvals balance, the adjoining landholder commitment and Contingency/Emergency Expenditure of about \$25,000.
8. Restoration work commenced in early December and was completed a week before the Christmas storm event, at a cost of some \$42,000.

Lower Waiwhakaiho Flood Control Scheme - proposed work

9. High flows have resulted in the development of a serious bank erosion over a length of about 100 metres on the right bank of the Waiwhakaiho River in the vicinity of Constance Street. The erosion site is largely in soft worked over and in-filled material and has potential to threaten stopbank foundations and a sewer line.
10. A gravel beach was removed from this river locality in 1996 and has reformed to a larger size. The beach has an adverse effect on river alignment and is a contributory cause of the bank erosion.
11. It is considered that this site requires remedial treatment as a matter of priority. The current operational budget for the Lower Waiwhakaiho Scheme provides only for routine maintenance (weed control, mowing, stopbanks, etc) and has no provision for works. Funds are available from within the North Taranaki River Control Reserve Account.
12. Proposed remedial works include:
 - 100 metres rock rip rap bank lining
 - 100 metres @ 12 tonne/m @ \$34/tonne placed
 - 100 metres @ \$400 - \$40,000

Beach grooming by deep ripping to destabilise and mobilise gravels for natural transport by high flows.

Plant hire - 25 hours @ \$120/hr \$3,000

Scheme upgrade investigation

13. Preliminary investigations were commenced last year to obtain information required to consider options for upgrading the level of flood protection provided by the Lower Waiwhakaiho Flood Protection Scheme. The Scheme was constructed in 1997/98 when the floodable areas within the "basin" were occupied by industrial/commercial premises. The protection design standard adopted was 2% AEP (nominal 50 yr) plus freeboard.
14. In recent times land use change has been dominated with the introduction of high value retail and associated intensive increase of public use. Where similar values are at risk it is common to adopt a 1% AEP (nominal 100 yr) or higher flood protection design standard.
15. A firm of consultant engineers have been engaged to evaluate the existing scheme and prepare recommendations for protection level improvement. A draft report has been received and is being evaluated. This work has cost about \$45,000.
16. Following receipt of the final report Council will be required to consider alternatives and then determine an option which will then require detailed design and costing. A decision to proceed then follows with appropriate planning and budgetary provisions.

Mangaone Stream improvement

17. Some structural works were undertaken following the April 1995 storm event and as a precursor to incorporating the Mangaone Stream into the Lower Waiwhakaiho Scheme which was being designed at the time. These included the removal of a vehicle crossing over the stream and its replacement with a constructed spillway. The Katere Road culvert was also replaced with an enlarged structure.
18. At the time of construction of the gabion crate floodwall along the Mangaone Stream, it became evident that the Katere Road culvert efficiency could be increased. The construction of a concrete wingwall upstream of the culvert was proposed but not actioned. The proposal was revisited in 2006 and after some delays it was constructed in late 2007 at a cost of about \$22,000.

Decision-making obligations

19. Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the Local Government Act 2002 has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendation(s) made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the Act.

Policy considerations

20. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the Local Government Act 2002, the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Soil Conservation and River Control Act 1941.

Financial considerations

21. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Council Community Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Legal considerations

22. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Recommendations

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the information contained in the memorandum;
2. approves and endorses actions taken;
3. notes that there will be continuing expenditure to complete investigations into upgrading of the Lower Waiwhakaiho Scheme; and
4. approves expenditure of \$43,000 for priority new protection works in the Lower Waiwhakaiho River Scheme.

Approved:

R A Phillips
Director - Operations

B G Chamberlain
Chief Executive

18 February 2008

ITEM FOUR

[Back to index](#)

**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Executive Committee**

Combined application for maintenance of six regionally significant wetlands

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to seek approval for funding from the Environmental Enhancement Grant for maintenance works on six regionally significant

Background

2. Funds have been approved in the past for the six wetlands as outlined in the officers reports attached to this memorandum. These funds have been predominantly for capital fencing, enhancement planting or initial plant pest control. During the subsequent years after project completion, significant weed invasion or unexpected regrowth can occur that is beyond reasonable expectation for the landowner to control. Some sections of fence that were considered reasonable when the original application was made can deteriorate and require replacement or maintenance. Maintenance such as weed control, often require completion over several years.
3. Rather than apply for an Environmental Enhancement Grant each year for individual projects, a combined application is considered the preferred approach.

Proposed works

4. Lake Kaikura	\$9200
Spence Road Wetland	4475
Umutekai Bush	4791
Huiakama Wetland	5000
Nowells Lake	5757
Lake Taumaha	<u>2375</u>
	\$31598

Decision-making obligations

5. Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the Local Government Act 2002 has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendation(s) made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the Act.

Policy considerations

6. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the Local Government Act 2002, the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Financial considerations

7. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Council Community Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Legal considerations

8. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.
9. Council assistance supporting the wetland enhancement programme is through policy which provides for funding being made available for works through the Environmental Enhancement Grants.

Recommendation

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the officers reports attached to this memorandum, relating to maintenance of Lake Kaikura, Spence Road, Umutekai Bush, Huiakama, Nowells Lake and Lake Taumaha wetlands.
2. approves environmental enhancement grants of:
 - (a) \$9,200 for Lake Kaikura
 - (b) \$4,475 for Spence Road
 - (c) \$4791 for Umutekai Bush
 - (d) \$5000 for Huiakama Wetland
 - (e) \$5757 for Nowells Lake and
 - (f) \$2375 for Lake Taumaha

Approved:

RA Phillips
Director - Operations

B G Chamberlain
Chief Executive

Memorandum

To RA Phillips, Director - Operations
DW Shearman, Land Services Manager
From JM Hill, Land Management Officer
Document 411226
Date 11th February 2008

Lake Kaikura

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to seek funds from the Environmental Enhancement Grant for Lake Kaikura Wetland to undertake additional fill-in planting to the areas that have already been enhancement planted, and also funding for weed control.

Summary

Lake Kaikura is a coastal lake 24.67 hectares in size and extends over three properties. It is located 8km west of Patea and is a gully system that has been blocked by windblown sand, forming a lake and swampy gully arms. Lake Kaikura is classified as a Regionally Significant Wetland (0941-0), a Key Native Ecosystem, and a Significant Natural Area under the South Taranaki District Plan.

Coastal lakes are uncommon in Taranaki and are important for migratory and local birds. Lake Kaikura is an important habitat for a significant number of waterfowl, including the spotless crane, New Zealand scaup and the New Zealand shoveler. Australasian bittern are also present.

2000 plants are recommended for enhancement planting to fill in some areas. Further weed control of gorse and willow is proposed.

The projected cost for this is \$9200

1. Ownership and land tenure

Lake Kaikura lakebed is owned by the Department of Conservation and the wetland area is owned by the following three owners and contained within the following land parcels.

Richard Dwyer
1236012200 LOT 3 DP 2782 BLK II CARLYLE SD
1236012100 LOT 4 DP 3974 LOT @ DP 2781 BLK

Maurice & Robyn Le Prou
1236008300 LOT 1 DP 2050 SECS 413 BLKS I & II CARLYLE SD
1236008401 LOT 4 DP 14552 BLK I CARLYLE SD - X REF 12360/83 -

Suzanne Baker
1236012300 LOT 4 DP 2782 BLK II CARLYLE SD

2. Current protection status

Lake Kaikura is classified as a Regionally Significant Wetland under the Taranaki Regional Council Fresh Water Plan (Wetland number 0941-0). It is listed as a Key Native Ecosystem as a site with indigenous biodiversity values of regional significance by Taranaki Regional Council. It is classified by the South Taranaki District Council under its District Plan as a Significant Natural Area.

3. Ecological values

Coastal wetlands are uncommon in Taranaki. The lakes provide important habitat for coastal birds including migratory birds. Also provides core habitat for Australasian bittern and little black shag, and other indigenous birds.

The Lake Kaikura wetland is partially fenced and the majority of the wetland margin has been planted. The wetland is in reasonable condition now with virtually no stock access, successful enhancement plantings, and ongoing pest and weed control.

3.1 Flora

The Lake Kaikura site contains a large raupo (*Typha orientalis*) wetland at the top end of the lake. Other vegetation types include flaxland and reedland, containing toetoe, flax (*Phormium tenax*) and *Carex* spp. Vegetation types alter according to the gradient from wetter to drier sites on the gully arms. Small forest remnants are present, including karamu (*Coprosma robusta*) and wharangi (*Melicope ternata*).

Exotic species such as pines and macrocarpa are also present.

3.2 Fauna

Lake Kaikura is a feeding area for a significant number of native water birds including the 'Acutely Threatened (Nationally Endangered)' matuku/ Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) and the 'At Risk (Sparse)' Spotless crane (*Porzana tabuensis plumbea*).

It is an important habitat for water fowl, including New Zealand scaup (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*) and the New Zealand shoveler (*Anas rhynchotis*).

4. Plant and animal pests

Lake Kaikura is unfortunately not in Taranaki Regional Council's self-help possum programme. The landowners carry out annual possum control. There may be future possibilities for pest control of other pest species, such as mustelids and rats, through the biodiversity funding.

Weed control is carried out regularly by landowners but willow and gorse have increased in areas which are more difficult to access.

5. Fencing and enhancement planting

Fencing has been carried out partially by the landowners. Fencing, planting and releasing has been funded with Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Enhancement Grant funding to a total of \$18,000 in 2002.

Conservation Plan 187 and the recent aerial photograph are attached.

6. Estimated costings

2000 plants @ \$2.50/plant	\$5000
Planting 2000 @ \$1.75	\$3500
Weed control	\$700
Total cost	\$9200

7. Time period

Fencing and weed control can be implemented immediately and planting can be carried out in June 2008 on the provision that funding is approved by the Taranaki Regional Council.

8. Recommendation

That the Taranaki Regional Council approves an Environmental Enhancement Grant of \$9200 for the proposed works around Lake Kaikura.

Memorandum

To RA Phillips, Director - Operations
DW Shearman, Land Services Manager
From JM Hill, Land Management Officer
Document 411225
Date 11th February 2008

Spence Road Pond

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to seek funds from the Environmental Enhancement Grant for Spence Road Pond Wetland to undertake weed control and additional planting.

Summary

Spence Road Pond wetland is small southern coastal lake area which is located 2km west of Kakaramea. It is 15.79 hectares in size and extends over two properties. Spence Road Pond is classified as a Regionally Significant Wetland (0990-0), and a Key Native Ecosystem. There is an existing Taranaki Regional Council Memorandum of Encumbrance on works done on the wetland of 1 of 2 owners. Spence Road Lake is fully fenced and stock proof at present.

Coastal lakes are uncommon in Taranaki and are important for migratory and local birds. They are a feeding area for a significant number of native water birds, including the little shag.

700 plants are recommended for enhancement planting to fill in some areas. Further weed control of gorse and willow is recommended to prevent spread.

The total projected cost for this is \$4475.

1. Ownership and land tenure

Spence Road Pond is owned by the following two owners and contained within the following land parcels.

Schrider Family Trust
1236012800 LOT 2 DP 3974 LOT 2 DP 5259 BLK II CARLYLE SD - TNA X REF 12360/138
1236013902 LOT 2 DP 12996 - X REF 12360/138
1236013903 LOT 3 DP16725 BLK II CARLYLE SD - X REF 12360/138

Memorandum

To RA Phillips, Director - Operations
DW Shearman, Land Services Manager
From MF Stewart, Land Management Officer
Document 409824
Date 31 January 2008

Umutekai Bush Wetland

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to seek funds from the Environmental Enhancement Grant for funds for the Umutekai Bush to undertake weed control and additional planting.

Umutekai Bush is a Key Native Ecosystem that has had a Biodiversity Plan prepared. Please find attached along with costing sheet.

Summary

Umutekai Bush wetland is 42.75 hectares in size and extends over 3 separate properties. Umutekai Bush wetland is classified as a Regionally Significant Wetland (0914-0), a Key Native Ecosystem and a Significant Natural Area. Two overlooked sections of the wetland are to be put into QEII Open Space Covenants in 2008.

This wetland has a very high ecological significance. Umutekai Bush Wetland is the only remnant of a swamp forest type that was previously common on the ring plain.

Biodiversity Plan 2 has been carried out to enhance the biodiversity of the site and works are currently being carried out to monitor animal pests. TRC staff are now working more closely with other agencies to improve management of the site. Funds are now required from the Environmental Enhancement Grant to undertake some of these actions.

An 800 metre section of fence was replaced and funded from the Environmental Enhancement Grant in 2007. To help prevent weeds it is proposed the area behind the new fence is enhancement planted.

Land owners and QEII Trust undertake weed control annually, but with the 11 kilometres of bush edge it is proposed a contractor is employed to do a total knockdown this year, with chemical and some labour supplied by QEII Trust and landowners. To avoid weeds getting to this stage again annual maintenance is required.

1. Ownership and land tenure

Umutekai Bush Wetland is owned by the following three owners and contained within the following land parcels.

A Rumball – 11641 362 00: PT LOT 4 DP 20565 PT LOT 6 DP 19984 – LOTS 2 4 DP 20565 LOTS 2 4-6 8 DP 19984 BLK VI PARITUTU SD

C Cowley – 11641 337 00: PT LOT 3 DP 20565 AREAS A-J- LOT 3 DP 20565 LOT 1 DP 19984 BLK VI PARITUTU SD INT IN R/W

K & HD Zimmerman – 11641 373 00: PT LOT 2 DP 14181 PT SBDN 1 OF PT SEC J AREAS A-D ON DP 20436 & AREA A ON DP 322504 – LOT 4 DP

Total size (hectares) – 42.75

2. Current protection status

Umutekai Bush Wetland is classified as a Regionally Significant Unprotected Wetland under the Taranaki Regional Council Fresh Water Plan (Wetland number 0914-0). It is listed as a Key Native Ecosystem as a site with indigenous biodiversity values of regional significance by Taranaki Regional Council. It is classified by the New Plymouth District Council under its District Plan as a Significant Natural Area (SNA).

Recently it was discovered due to a surveying mistake that two areas of the wetland were not protected by QEII Open Space Covenants. These areas are on Alison Rumball's property who thought they were covenanted also. QEII will re-survey the areas and correct the mistake early 2008. Alison Rumball also intends to covenant two other areas of bush on her property that are in close proximity to Umutekai.

3. Ecological values

Umutekai Bush wetland is a large remnant of semi-coastal forest on the Pouakai ring plain, between the headwaters of the Manganaha and the Mangemiemi Streams, two small tributaries of the Waiwhakaiho River. The wetland is in close proximity to the Umutekai Conservation Area.

This is the only remnant of a forest type that was previously common in Taranaki. Vegetation types include: kahikatea-pukatea forest, kahikatea forest, tawa-rewarewa forest, raupo reedland, *Coprosma tenuicaulis* scrub and *Juncus* sp. reedland. It is the only lowland location of *Gahnia xanthocarpa* and *Astelia grandis* which are commonly found in montane bogs in Egmont National Park, and the only known location of the fern *Athyrium japonicum* in the region.

The wetland is in excellent condition now with no stock access, ongoing pest control and weed control.

4. Plant and animal pests

Biodiversity Plan 2 has been prepared to enhance the biodiversity of the site and works are currently being carried out to monitor animal pests. TRC staff are now working more closely with other agencies to improve monitoring and management of the site.

Umutekai landowners participate in Taranaki Regional Council's self-help possum programme. They carry out annual maintenance with thirty bait stations. Landowners have now agreed to increase to 89 bait stations around the wetland. Rodent monitoring lines and tracking tunnels have now been installed in the wetlands to get an indication on species and numbers present. Note on the costing sheet that this commitment from the landowners translates into a considerable annual investment of resources (funds or time).

Weed control is carried out on an annual basis with the help from land owners and QEII on woolly nightshade and gorse. These are only growing on the outer edges of the wetland fence lines and are having no effect on the interior of the wetland.

An 800 metre section of fence was replaced and funded from the environmental enhancement grant in 2007. To help prevent weeds it is proposed the area behind the new fence is enhancement planted.

Weeds, particularly woolly nightshade and gorse, have been an ongoing problem on the edges of the wetland and has concerned landowners. This has been a source of weeds onto pasture land, has displaced native plants and they look unsightly. Land owners and QEII Trust undertake control annually on the worst areas, but with the 11 kilometres of bush edge weed control is a major task and often areas are left two or three years before further control is carried out (refer attached costing spreadsheet for indication of landowner contribution). By this time weeds are seeding and large and weed control becomes a harder task than if it was all controlled annually.

It is proposed to employ a contractor to complete an initial knockdown of all weeds identified on the edges of the bush to a cost of \$1400 this summer (QEII will contribute an additional \$600 to enable the employment of a contractor to carry out this work this financial year). It is then proposed to fill in plant the gaps with in May-June 2008 to help prevent weeds returning at a projected cost of \$3391.

This planting will help to a degree but woolly nightshade is still able to grow through dense vegetation. Therefore, it is important that annual maintenance is continued to control these edge weeds.

It is recommended that \$1400 be approved for weed control in February 2008, that \$3391 be approved for May 2008 for planting and that up to \$400 is approved for follow up labour costs towards weed control annually. QEII and landowners will provide the chemical and some of the labour. The projected cost for 2008 is \$4791.

5. Estimated costings

Initial weed control	\$1400
Plants (karamu/flax)	\$1904
Planting	\$1487
Total cost	\$4791

Annual ongoing maintenance	Up to \$400
-----------------------------------	--------------------

6. Time period

Weed control can be implemented immediately and planting can be implemented in May 2008 on the provision that funding is approved by the Taranaki Regional Council.

7. Recommendation

That the Taranaki Regional Council approves an Environmental Enhancement Grant of \$4791 weed control and planting around the Umutekai Bush Wetland with ongoing maintenance of up to \$400 annually.

Memorandum

To DW Shearman, Land Services Manager
RA Phillips, Director - Operations
From EC Ries, Land Management Officer
Document 414087
Date 11 February 2008

Huiakama Lagoon – Willow Control

1. Purpose

To obtain funding through the Environmental Enhancement Grant for the control of willow regrowth in Huiakama Lagoon at the cost of \$5,000.

2. Summary

Huiakama Lagoon, 33km east of Stratford, is a palustrine and riparian swamp that drains into the Mangaotuku Stream. This is one of the Significant Wetlands. It is mostly comprised of kahikatea and sedges, and threatened indigenous species (spotless crane) have been recorded in the area.

The area is partly fenced. However, the wetland is subject to some pugging and grazing by stock on other margins. Presently the area has a large number of willows that have been sprayed 3-4 years ago, and now require the regrowth to be controlled.

Enhancement works proposed for the future include willow and barberry control, fencing of the remaining margins with an 8 wire fence and supplementary planting of native species. A conservation plan has been prepared for the area – CP 95.

The cost of willow control in this area by helicopter will be \$5,000.

3. Ownership

Harrison Trust. Contact is May Harrison.

4. Protection status

The owner is keen to see the wetland put into a Queen Elizabeth II Trust. Past works have been protected by a Memorandum of Encumbrance.

6. Estimated costs for willow control

Willow control (by helicopter)	\$5,000
Total cost	\$5,000

7. Time period

Willow control would commence as soon as possible in early 2008 on the provision that funding is approved by the Taranaki Regional Council.

8. Recommendation

That the Taranaki Regional Council approves an Environmental Enhancement Grant of \$5,000 for the control of willow regrowth in Huiakama Lagoon.

Memorandum

To RA Phillips, Director - Operations
DW Shearman, Land Services Manager
From MF Stewart, Land Management Officer
Document 409844
Date 31 January 2008

Nowell's Lakes

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to seek funds from the Environmental Enhancement Grant for funds for Nowell's Lakes to undertake fence maintenance, weed control and additional planting.

Summary

Nowell's Lakes are coastal dune lakes which are 10.39 hectares in size and extend over two properties. Nowell's Lakes are classified as a Regionally Significant Wetland (0939-0), a Key Native Ecosystem and a Significant Natural Area. All of the proposed works are on Mr Roberts property. Mr Roberts agrees to put a Memorandum of Encumbrance on the previous and current works proposed.

Coastal dune lakes are uncommon in Taranaki and are important for migratory and local birds. They are a feeding area for a significant number of native water birds, including the 'Acutely threatened (Nationally Endangered)' Australasian bittern and the 'At Risk (Sparse)' little black shag.

Some sections of fencing now need replacement before stock regain access to the wetland. 230 metres of post and batten fencing requires replacement with 3-wire electric fencing. 492 metres of one wire electric fence needs replacement towards the area closest to the coast which has been left open for wading birds. A 99 metre section of fencing is proposed to be shifted out and have the wire replaced but does not require planting. 223, 51 and 89 metre sections are proposed for re-fencing further out and enhancement planting. Refer to map of proposed works attached.

550 plants are recommended for enhancement planting where fences are being shifted further out from the lake and to fill in some other areas.

Further weed control of gorse, pampas and gunnera is recommended to prevent their spread.

The projected cost for this is \$5757.

1. Ownership and land tenure

Nowell's Lakes are owned by the following two owners and contained within the following land parcels.

Fonterra - 12300 114 00LOT 12 PT LOT 4 DP 2625 BLKS IX & X HAWERA SD - LOT 12 DP 2625 SUBJ TO ESMTS ON DP 20779

Roberts Trust - LOTS 9 11 DP 2625 BLK IX HAWERA SD - LOT 9 SUBJ TO ESMTS ON DP 20777 - LOT 11 SUBJ TO ESMTS ON DP 20778

LOT 10 DP 2625 BLK IX HAWERA SD

2. Current protection status

Nowell's Lakes is classified as a Regionally Significant Unprotected Wetland under the Taranaki Regional Council Fresh Water Plan (Wetland number 0939-0). It is listed as a Key Native Ecosystem as a site with indigenous biodiversity values of regional significance by Taranaki Regional Council. It is classified by the South Taranaki District Council under its District Plan as a Significant Natural Area (SNA).

The proposed works are entirely on Mr Roberts property who owns the majority of the lakes. Mr Roberts agrees to cover the previous and proposed works with a Memorandum of Encumbrance.

3. Ecological values

Coastal dune wetlands are uncommon in Taranaki. The lakes provide important habitat for coastal birds including migratory birds. Also provides core habitat for Australasian bittern and little black shag, and other indigenous birds.

The wetland is in good condition now with no stock access, successful enhancement plantings, ongoing pest control and weed control.

3.1 Flora

The Nowell's Lake site contains reedland and flaxland made up of raupo (*Typha orientalis*), flax (*Phormium tenax*), and lake club rush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontanii*). Other native plants present are cabbage trees (*Cordyline australis*), taupata (*Coprosma repens*), and toetoe (*Cortaderia fulvida*).

Exotic plants such as jointed rush (*Juncus articulatus*), sweet grass (*Glyceria maxima*), and pines (*Pinus radiata*) are also present.

3.2 Fauna

Nowell's Lakes are a feeding area for a significant number of native water birds including the 'Acutely Threatened (Nationally Endangered)' matuku/ Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) and the 'At Risk (Sparse)' little black shag (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*).

Other birds present include the white-faced heron (*Ardea novaehollandiae novaehollandiae*), pied stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), cattle egret (*Bubulus ibis coromandus*), paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*), pukeko (*Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus*), and Canadian goose (*Branta canadensis*).

4. Plant and animal pests

Nowell's Lakes landowners participate in Taranaki Regional Council's self-help possum programme. They carry out annual maintenance. There may be future possibilities for pest control of other pest species, such as mustelids and rats, through the biodiversity funding.

Weed control is carried out regularly by landowners but gorse has increased in some areas which are more difficult to access. Gunnera (Chilean rhubarb) and pampas have also spread into some areas.

5. Fencing and enhancement planting

Fencing has been carried out partially by the landowners. Fencing, planting and releasing has been funded with Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Enhancement Grant funding to a total of \$14557, in 1998, 1999, 2001 and 2003.

During recent monitoring it has been observed that some of the fences and wires are now failing. Being an extreme coastal site, wires are exposed to salt winds. Some of these fences are amongst the wet swampy areas and Mr Roberts is willing to now move these fences out further and allow some planting. This will help protect the lake water quality by excluding stock access to these wet areas and provide a plant buffer. Barry Hartley from the Ornithological site has visited the site and was involved with the recent riparian management plan. We have agreed to leave the wading bird feeding areas free of planting and only plant further out in some areas.

The attached Riparian Management Plan map shows the location of fence lines recommended for replacement and the locations for proposed planting.

6. Estimated costings

504 metres (230 + 51 + 223m) @ \$4.00/metre	\$2016
680 metres (492 + 89 + 99m) @ \$1.00/metre	\$680
550 plants @ \$2.36/plant	\$1298
Planting 550 @ \$1.75	\$963
Weed control (gorse, pampas & gunnera)	\$800
Total cost	\$5757

7. Time period

Fencing and weed control can be implemented immediately and planting can be carried out in June 2008 on the provision that funding is approved by the Taranaki Regional Council.

8. Recommendation

That the Taranaki Regional Council approves an Environmental Enhancement Grant of \$5757 for the proposed works around Nowell's Lakes.

Memorandum

To RA Phillips, Director - Operations
DW Shearman, Land Services Manager
From KT Cash, Land Management Officer
Document 406748
Date 30 January 2008

Lake Taumaha

1. Summary

Lake Taumaha is a coastal dune lake which is 5.17 hectares in size. Lake Taumaha is classified as a Regionally Significant Wetland, and a Key Native Ecosystem.

Coastal dune lakes are uncommon in Taranaki and are important for migratory and local birds. They are a feeding area for a significant number of native water birds, including the 'Acutely threatened (Nationally Endangered)' grey duck and the 'At Risk (Sparse)' little black shag.

150 plants are recommended for blanking where losses have occurred.

Further weed control of gorse and pampas is recommended to prevent their spread.

The projected cost for this is \$2375.

2. Ownership and land tenure

Lake Taumaha is owned by the following owner and contained within the following land parcels.

Murray Cresswell SAXTON
Edna Janice SAXTON
PT LOTS 1 & 2 DP 5030 BLK XIV HAWERA SD - AREA A 5.5800 - SUBJ TO QEII COVENANT

3. Current protection status

Lake Taumaha is protected by a QEII covenant and classified as a Regionally Significant Wetland under the Taranaki Regional Council Fresh Water Plan (Wetland number 0959-0). It is listed as a Key Native Ecosystem as a site with indigenous biodiversity values of regional significance by Taranaki Regional Council.

4. Ecological values

Coastal dune wetlands are uncommon in Taranaki. The lakes provide important habitat for coastal birds including migratory birds. Also provides core habitat for "Acutely Threatened" grey duck and little black shag, and other indigenous birds.

The wetland is in good condition now with no stock access, successful enhancement plantings, ongoing pest control and weed control.

4.1 Flora

Lake Taumaha contains reedland and flaxland made up of raupo (*Typha orientalis*), flax (*Phormium tenax*), and lake club rush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontanii*). Other native plants present are cabbage trees (*Cordyline australis*), taupata (*Coprosma repens*), and toetoe (*Cortaderia fulvida*).

Exotic plants such as jointed rush (*Juncus articulatus*), sweet grass (*Glyceria maxima*), and pines (*Pinus radiata*) are also present.

4.2 Fauna

Lake Taumaha is a feeding area for a significant number of native water birds including the 'Acutely Threatened (Nationally Endangered)' grey duck and the 'At Risk (Sparse)' little black shag (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*).

Other birds present include the white-faced heron (*Ardea novaehollandiae novaehollandiae*), pied stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), cattle egret (*Bubulus ibis coromandus*), paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*), pukeko (*Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus*), and Canadian goose (*Branta canadensis*).

5. Plant and animal pests

There may be future possibilities for pest control of pest species such as mustelids and rats through biodiversity funding.

Weed control is carried out regularly by Mr Saxton but pampas has increased in some areas which are more difficult to access.

6. Fencing and enhancement planting

Fencing has been carried out partially by the landowners. Fencing, planting and releasing has been funded with Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Enhancement Grant funding to a total of \$31,000 in 2005.

7. Estimated costings

Planting 150 @ \$2.50	\$ 375
Weed control (gorse, pampas & gunnera)	\$2000
Total cost	\$2375

8. Time period

Weed control can be implemented immediately and planting can be carried out in June 2008 on the provision that funding is approved by the Taranaki Regional Council.

9. Recommendation

That the Taranaki Regional Council approves an Environmental Enhancement Grant of \$2375 for the proposed works around Lake Taumaha.

ITEM FIVE

18 February 2008

**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Executive Committee**

**Wetland Enhancement : Lake Waiau Wildlife Management Reserve,
and Huiakama Lagoon and Tongaporutu whitebait spawning and
habitat protection**

Purpose

1. To seek approval of proposals to protect:
Lake Waiau Wildlife Management Reserve, and
Huiakama Lagoon
which are classified in the Regional Freshwater Plan as regionally significant wetlands
and a proposal to protect whitebait spawning and habitat areas on the Tongaporutu and
Hutiwai Rivers and their tributaries.

Background

Lake Waiau Wildlife Management Reserve

2. The Lake Waiau Wildlife Management Reserve wetland is classified as regionally significant and is 48.76 ha in size. It is surrounded by two properties, the lake edge is largely fenced on one of the properties. The remaining side of the lake is on and bordering the property owned by C & K Amon, where unfenced margins allow dairy cows to push into the wetland, threatening the ecological values. The lake has already had some works completed in 2007 as "stage 1" of a larger plan to protect the whole wetland area over the next 5 years. Stage 2 involves replacement and new fencing of the remaining sections and repairing the existing fence in section 8 & 9 with supplementary planting along these areas and follow-up gorse control of the wetland under. A QEII covenant is presently being finalised.
3. The cost for stage 2 of the project is \$33,000.

Huiakama Lagoon

4. Huiakama Lagoon, 33km east of Stratford, is a palustrine and riparian swamp that drains into the Mangaotuku Stream. It is classified as a regionally significant wetland. It is mostly comprised of kahikatea and sedges and threatened indigenous species (spotless crane) have been recorded in the area. The area is partly fenced. However the wetland is subject to some pugging and grazing by stock on other margins. Presently, the area has a large number of willows that have been sprayed three years ago and now require the re-growth to be controlled.

5. It is proposed that initial barberry control, 530m of fencing and planting be carried out commencing in 2008 at an estimated cost of \$8,330. The owner is keen to see the wetland put into a Queen Elizabeth II Trust Covenant. Past works have been protected by a Memorandum of Encumbrance.

Tongaporutu whitebait spawning and habitat protection

6. This project proposes to protect whitebait spawning and habitat areas on the Tongaporutu and Hutiwai Rivers and their tributaries. These areas adjoin the Tongaporutu estuary which has been identified in the coastal plan as being an area of outstanding value and identified in the Inventory of Coastal areas as an area of Local and Regional Significance. The initial areas are situated on Emma O'Sullivan's and Evan Lobbs property. The project aims to include further properties for whitebait spawning and habitat enhancement in the future. Honda, through their Tree Fund have funded 800 trees that were planted on two properties in 2007 and are planning to fund native trees again in 2008. The community has also shown an interest with involvement from the local school and local whitebait fisherman keen to help with future plantings.
7. At present the spawning and habitat areas identified by Council staff and Department of Conservation officers are unfenced, have very little vegetation and are grazed by stock. It is proposed that 1370metres of fencing be erected in 2008 at a cost of \$18,495 with further fencing in the future. The landowners have agreed to sign a Memorandum of Encumbrance to protect the sites.

Proposed works

8. Lake Waiau	Fencing	29,300	
	Plants and planting	1,700	
	Spraying	<u>2,000</u>	33,000
Huiakama Lagoon	Weed control	385	
	Fencing	7,420	
	Plants and planting	<u>525</u>	8,330
Tongaporutu	Fencing	18,495	18,495

9. Additional information is available on the attached officers reports.

Decision-making obligations

10. Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the Local Government Act 2002 has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendation(s) made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the Act.

Policy considerations

11. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the Local Government Act 2002, the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Biosecurity Act 1993.
12. Council assistance supporting the wetland enhancement programme is through policy which provides for funding being made available for works through the Environmental Enhancement Grants.

Financial considerations

13. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Council Community Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Legal considerations

14. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Recommendation(s)

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the officers reports attached to this memorandum, relating to protection of Lake Waiau Wildlife Management Reserve, Huiaka Lagoon and Tongaporutu whitebait spawning and habitat,
2. approves environmental enhancement grants of :
 - a) \$33,000 for the protection of the Lake Waiau Wildlife Management Reserve;
 - b) \$8,330 for the protection of the Huiakama Lagoon; and
 - c) \$18,495 for protection of whitebait spawning and habitat areas on the Tongaporutu and Hutiwai Rivers and their tributaries.

Approved:

RA Phillips
Director - Operations

B G Chamberlain
Chief Executive

Memorandum

To RA Phillips, Director - Operations
DW Shearman, Land Services Manager
From EC Ries, Land Management Officer
Document 409358
Date 31 January 2008

Lake Waiau Wildlife Management Reserve

1. Purpose

To obtain funds from the Environmental Enhancement Grant to the sum of \$33,000 for the completion of "Stage 2" of the fencing, planting and weed control in Lake Waiau Wildlife Management Reserve, Waverley.

2. Summary

The Lake Waiau Wildlife Management Reserve is classified as regionally significant under the Taranaki Regional Council Fresh Water Plan. The Wetland is 48.76ha in size and is surrounded by two properties, one of which is mostly fenced. The remaining side of the lake is on and bordering the property owned by C & K Amon, where unfenced margins allow dairy cows to push into the wetland, threatening the ecological values.

The lake has already had some works completed in 2007 as "Stage 1" of a larger plan to protect the whole wetland area over the next 5 years (put to EEG May 2007). This involved fencing, 800 plants ordered for supplementary planting of these areas (to be completed in June 2008), with initial gorse control planned to be carried out during February 2008.

"Stage 2" involves replacement and new fencing of the remaining sections (sections 1, 3 & 6 - see CP035), and repairing the existing fence in sections 8 & 9, with supplementary planting along these areas and follow up gorse control of the wetland under a QEII Covenant. The cost for this part of the project is \$33,000.

3. Current Protection Status

Lake Waiau Wildlife Management Reserve is classified as a Regionally Significant Protected Wetland and as a Department of Conservation Wildlife Management Reserve. The land parcel on which the top end of the wetland occurs, owned by C Amon, is currently in the process of getting protection by a QEII Covenant, and this will be finalised in February 2008.

4. Ecological Values

Lake Waiau is one of a series of southern coastal lakes with indigenous biodiversity values, located close to Waitotara. It has extensive swamps at north and south ends, some fringing swamp and reed beds on longer east and west margins and there is a small 'island' surrounded by swamp at the southern end with Maori food storage pits on the ridge which

are of cultural significance. It is comprised of dense raupo, flax, Carex species, cabbage trees and *Baumea articulate*, as well as birdlife such as the fernbird, spotless crane and Australasian bittern, all classified as sparse by the New Zealand Threat Classification Systems List.

5. Threats

Overall, the wetland is in good condition, with the section along the Amon property posing the greatest threat to Lake Waiau's ecological values due to dairy cows presently having access to some areas of the wetland. There is also quite extensive gorse growth within this section, which the owners together with DOC keep in check and will continue to maintain. It is envisaged that with the exclusion of stock, annual maintenance of gorse, and some supplementary planting between the fence and wetland, that the condition of this part of the wetland will quickly improve and be protected from future pressures.

6. Ownership and Land Tenure

The Wetland is surrounded by two properties, one dairy and one dry stock unit.

Amon Brothers Limited – 104.605ha, Lot 1 DP 85709 & Sec 2, Blk XII, Wairoa SD
AE Symes & WI Lupton – 131.917ha, Sec 306, Blk XII, Wairoa SD

7. Conservation Plan

Land Management Officer Emma Ries has completed Conservation Plan 035 to address the issues relating to the wetland along the Amon Brothers property. A copy of this is attached and the costs of "Stage 2" are outlined below.

8. Estimated Costs

1820m of 8 wire fencing @ \$15/m	\$27,300
Repair of 640m of 2wire fence	\$2,000
400 plants @ 2.50 each	\$1,000
Planting costs @ 1.75 each	\$700
Follow up spray of gorse	\$2,000
Total Cost	\$33,000

9. Time Period

On the provision that funding is approved by the Taranaki Regional Council, the proposed works would start to be implemented during 2008. This is the second stage of a larger project, detailed in Conservation Plan 035, to fence and protect the whole wetland area along the Amon property over the next 5 years. On completion of this stage it will mean the wetland is completely fenced and planted on the Amon side and will only require a small amount of maintenance in future.

10. Recommendation

That the Taranaki Regional Council approves an environmental grant of \$33,000 for the enhancement of the final part on the Amon property of Lake Waiau Wildlife Management Reserve, Waverley.

Memorandum

To DW Shearman, Land Services Manager
RA Phillips, Director - Operations
From EC Ries, Land Management Officer
Document 412329
Date 11 February 2008

Huiakama Lagoon

1. Purpose

To obtain funding through the Environmental Enhancement Grant for the enhancement of Huiakama Lagoon at the cost of \$8,330.

2. Summary

Huiakama Lagoon, 33km east of Stratford, is a palustrine and riparian swamp that drains into the Mangaotuku Stream. This is one of the Significant Wetlands. It is mostly comprised of kahikatea and sedges, and threatened indigenous species (spotless crane) have been recorded in the area.

The area is partly fenced. However, the wetland is subject to some pugging and grazing by stock on other margins. Presently the area has a large number of willows that have been sprayed three years ago, and now require the regrowth to be controlled.

Enhancement works proposed for the future include willow and barberry control, fencing of the remaining margins with an 8 wire fence and supplementary planting of native species. A conservation plan has been prepared for the area – CP 95.

3. Ownership

Harrison Trust. Contact is May Harrison.

4. Protection status

The owner is keen to see the wetland put into a Queen Elizabeth II Trust Covenant. Past works have been protected by a Memorandum of Encumbrance.

6. Estimated costs for enhancement project

Barberry control	\$385
530m fencing @\$14/m	\$7420
100 Plants	\$350
Planting costs @\$1.75/plant	\$175
Total cost	\$8,330

7. Time period

Initial barberry control, fencing and planting would commence in 2008 on the provision that funding is approved by the Taranaki Regional Council.

8. Recommendation

That the Taranaki Regional Council approves an Environmental Enhancement Grant of \$8,330 for the proposed works in Huiakama Lagoon.

Memorandum

To RA Phillips, Director - Operations
From J Loveridge, Land Management Officer
Document 382309
Date 7 November 2007

Tongaporutu Whitebait Spawning & Habitat Protection

Summary

The project has been established to protect whitebait spawning and habitat areas on the Tongaporutu and Hutuwai Rivers and their tributaries. The initial areas are situated on Emma O'Sullivan's and Evan Lobbs property.

The project aims to include further properties for whitebait spawning and habitat enhancement in the future. Honda, through their Tree Fund have got involved in the project and funded trees in 2007, 800 were planted on two properties. A further 2000 plants are projected to be planted on these two properties. The community also has shown an interest with the local school planting the trees from Honda and local whitebait fisherman keen to help with future plantings. Honda are planning to fund native trees again in 2008.

At present the spawning and habitat areas identified by Taranaki Regional Council staff and Department of Conservation officers are unfenced, have very little vegetation and are grazed by stock. Conservation Plan 230 has been prepared to outline areas identified for fencing and planting.

It is proposed that sections 1, 2 & 3 be fenced in 2008. Further proposals for fencing other sections will be submitted in the future. The cost for fencing in 2008 is \$18495.

Current Protection Status

This area is currently under private ownership with the land owners agreeing to sign a Memorandum of Encumbrance to protect the sites.

Conservation Plan

Land Management Officer Jason Loveridge has recently completed Conservation Plan 230 to address the spawning and habitat protection issues on the Lobb/O'Sullivan property. It is a 6 year project to fence and plant those areas. It has been calculated that 5376m of fencing and a total of 630 native plants are required to complete the project.

2008 Estimated cost

1370m of 8 wire fencing @ \$13.50/m	\$18495
Total Cost	\$18495

Recommendation

That the Taranaki Regional Council approves an environmental grant for \$18495 for the protection of whitebait spawning and habitat on the Lobb/O'Sullivan property at Tongaporutu.

Ecological Values

1. Ecological values of the Tongaporutu and Hutiwai Rivers and their tributaries:

The Tongaporutu and Hutiwai rivers are valuable from an ecological perspective. These rivers and their tributaries are home to a diversity of native freshwater fish including eels, kokopu, inanga, torrentfish and bullies including threatened species such as Giant and Shortjawed kokopu.

The juveniles of inanga and kokopu are what are known as whitebait. Whitebait are the focus of important recreational and commercial fisheries which have been in decline since the early 1900's, primarily due to habitat destruction. The banks of the Hutiwai and Tongaporutu Rivers and their tributaries harbour a number of whitebait spawning areas and have the potential to harbour many more if parts of these tributaries that flow through pastureland are adequately fenced.

The Tongaporutu and Hutiwai rivers and their tributaries are also home to and visited by a number of water bird species. Of particular note are fernbird which are classified as nationally 'at risk (sparse)' by the Department of Conservation, and which are particularly uncommon in Taranaki.

A large majority of the upper reaches rivers and stream in the Tongaporutu catchment flow into native forest including protected forest in the Whitecliffs Conservation Area and Hutiwai Conservation Area. The Hutiwai Stream is fed by a large wetland within the Hutiwai Conservation Area which has been deemed a "Significant Wetland". This wetland is known to be home to significant numbers of Banded kokopu.

The stretches of the Hutiwai and Tongaporutu rivers which flow through pastureland flow in-between and around the Hutiwai Conservation Area, Whitecliffs Conservation Area and Tongaporutu Conservation area/Pou Tehia Historic Reserve. These reserves are home to a diversity of forest bird species including threatened species such as North Island brown kiwi, kaka and New Zealand pigeon.

2. Ecological value of the project:

While the upper reaches of many tributaries in the Tongaporutu catchment flow through native bush and thus provide high quality habitat for adult whitebait, these upper reaches are not suitable for whitebait spawning. Adult whitebait spawn at low elevations near the limits of tidal inundation. In the Tongaporutu catchment, the majority of these areas are in pastureland, where tributaries are unfenced and have no riparian vegetation.

Where tributaries flow through pastured areas and are unfenced, they are unsuitable as whitebait spawning areas. Furthermore they provide poor adult habitat and poor passage for adult whitebait travelling up and down stream between their adult habitats, spawning areas and the sea.

Fencing is crucial for management of whitebait adult habitat and spawning areas as it prevents trampling of eggs and destruction of streamside vegetation by livestock. Streamside vegetation is important for whitebait because it;

- a) helps maintain water quality by absorbing sediment and excess nutrients,
- b) provides whitebait with shelter and hiding places,
- c) helps maintain water temperatures at levels favourable for whitebait,
- d) provides woody debris which cause water to back up creating the deep slow flowing pools which whitebait prefer and,
- e) provides a place where whitebait can spawn and where eggs can stay moist

Fencing of riparian margins in the Tongaporutu catchment would be valuable in creating whitebait spawning areas and in restoring and enhancing adult habitat. This in turn is likely to a) increase whitebait abundances, b) help sustain the biodiversity of waterways in the catchment and maintain them as viable, natural and healthy freshwater ecosystems and c) enhance the whitebait fishery (which has been deemed to be an unimportant factor in whitebait declines¹).

Fencing and revegetation of riparian areas in the Tongaporutu catchment would have additional benefits for other species aside from whitebait. Such species include other native freshwater fish, aquatic invertebrates, birds, lizards and terrestrial invertebrates. Riparian vegetation will provide additional habitat for threatened fernbird and will compliment and increase connectivity among the Conservation Areas and Reserves listed above.

Ownership and Land Tenure

¹

The initial sites identified are all on the one property being run as a dry stock unit.

Emma Colleen O'Sullivan & Evan John Lobb - 78.2Ha Lots 1-3 DP 16452 Blk IV Mimi SD

¹ Richardson, J. & Taylor, M.J. (2002) A guide to restoring inanga habitat. *NIWA Science & Technology Series No. 50*

Document: 375918

12 November 2007

Lobb & O'Sullivan Partnership
52 Pilot Road
RD4
Urenui

Dear E Lobb & E O'Sullivan

Conservation Plan 230

Land Management Officer Jason Loveridge has recently completed a Conservation Plan for your Tongaporutu property.

The plan has been prepared for the purpose of identifying spawning and habitat areas for whitebait and the fencing and planting costs for those areas.

Yours faithfully
B G Chamberlain
Chief Executive

per: DW Shearman
Land Services Manager

Whitebait Spawning and Habitat Protection: Tongaporutu

The plan outlines a 6 year project to fence and plant the spawning and habitat areas on the property. Monitoring of these areas to identify the main spawning sites will also be undertaken. Once these have been established, pest control will also be recommended.

Two types of fencing are recommended, 8 wire post and batten with 1 electrified, and a post and 2 wire electric. Plant prices are from the Taranaki Regional Council's plant scheme.

2008 Sections 1, 2, 3

Fencing: 1370m @ \$13.50/m	\$18495
Planting: 444 plants @ \$2.50/plant	\$ 1110

2009 Sections 8, 10, 11

Fencing: 752m @ \$13.50/m	\$10152
Planting: 108 plants @ \$2.50/plant	\$ 270

2010 Sections 12

Fencing: 582m @ \$13.50/m	\$ 7857
---------------------------	---------

The fencing and plantings in 2007, 2008 and 2009 are seen as the highest priority in terms of both habitat and potential spawning areas so a 8 wire batten fence with 1 electrified is recommended.

2011 Sections 4, 5

Fencing: 999m @ \$ 3.50/m	\$3496
---------------------------	--------

2012 Sections 6, 7

Fencing: 815m @ \$ 3.50/m	\$2852
---------------------------	--------

2013 Section 9

Fencing: 858m @ \$3.50/m	\$3003
Plants: 75 @ \$2.50/plant	\$ 187

The areas outlined from 2010 onwards are recommended to be fenced with a 2 wire electrified fence.

Several information sheets are included with this plan.