

Kaituna River and Ōngātoro/ Maketu Estuary Strategy Summary

From Okere Falls to Ōngātoro/Maketu Estuary



The Vision:

Where we want to be in 10 Years

The vision for the Kaituna River and Ōngātoro/Maketu Estuary Strategy is to ensure that as a wider community our policies and plans, our activities and actions:

*“Celebrate and honour Kaituna River and
Ōngātoro/Maketu Estuary life as taonga”*

*“Whakanuia, whakamawawatia te mauri o te
Kaituna me Ōngātoro hei taonga”*

The Kaituna River, wetlands and Ōngātoro/Maketu Estuary are taonga – valued by the community for their clean water, healthy ecosystems, recreational and cultural values. The vision for the Kaituna River and Ōngātoro/Maketu Estuary is to ensure that by 2018 there is an improvement in the sustainable management of valuable river and estuary resources through our policies, plans, activities and actions. This will ensure that the river and estuary remain home to indigenous flora and fauna, including native plants, kōura, eels, fish, trout, inanga and waterfowl, and be able to provide a bountiful source of kaimoana.



Ngā Mānatunatu – the Issues

There are community concerns about the pressures that the Kaituna River and Ōngātoto/Maketu environment faces from:

- Flood protection works reclaiming water bodies and draining wetlands, affecting water levels, flooding and the shape of the river and estuary – it can also damage shellfish and habitats for aquatic and bird life.
- Development around streams, the river and estuary can lead to loss of habitats, reduced buffers between the land and water, and an increase in nutrients and contaminants entering the water. It can also lead to loss of cultural landscapes and significant cultural sites, creating instability for Maori, and impacting on the ability of tangata whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga.
- Silt washing into the Kaituna River and silt and sand incursion into the estuary can change the way water circulates, it traps pollutants and affects shellfish beds.
- Stock grazing can affect salt marsh and river/stream edges, nesting grounds for birds and spawning habitats for fish.
- Nutrients and contaminants washing into the stream, rivers and estuary from farms and septic tanks. Industry and development can lead to poor water quality - affecting fish, shellfish, vegetation and river and estuary life.

A reduced flow of water to the estuary from the river remains a concern to the local community as a relatively small volume of water passes through Ford's Cut.





Improving Water Quality

Te Whakapai Ake i te Āhua o te Wai

Protect and enhance water quality in the Kaituna River and Ōngātoro/Maketu Estuary.

Strategic Actions

- Manage land use to minimise sediment and contaminant run-off entering the Kaituna River and its tributaries and associated waterways from many different sources
- Use riparian strips, swales and wetlands for stormwater treatment
- Consider alternative options for sewage and stormwater treatment
- Ensure sewage discharges comply with Regional Plan rules
- Endeavour to meet the targets set in the Dairy and Clean Streams Accord.



Restoring Healthy Ecosystems

Te Haumanu i ngā Pūnaha Rauropi

Improve the coastal and tidal environment. Protect and enhance existing wetlands, while increasing the extent of wetlands in the lower Kaituna Catchment, to provide for Maori cultural values and uses of wetlands, habitats for endangered indigenous wetland species (including birds, fish and flora) and habitats of waterfowl.

Strategic Actions

- Rehabilitate the coastal sand-dune environment.
- Kaituna River to the Ōngātoto/Maketu Estuary re-diversion (exploring options to increase water flow from the river to the estuary)
- Create at least 100ha of wetland in the lower Kaituna Catchment by 2018
- Identify, prioritise, protect and enhance water-based habitats
- Manage and protect riparian margins
- Undertake natural habitat restoration projects to provide for indigenous flora and fauna, and for fish to spawn
- Increase and enhance the extent of wetlands in the lower Kaituna Catchment
- Protect, enhance and showcase the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve.

Ensuring Sustainable Resource Use

Te Whakapūmau ka Whakamahi Tauwhirotia ngā rawa

Sustainable land-use development. Recognise kaitiakitanga when managing activities.

Strategic Actions

- Increase riparian reserve areas
- Protect the existing character and amenity values of the catchment and its settlement
- Improve resource management protocols
- Development of a sub-regional/regional park in the lower Kaituna area
- Identify culturally significant sites for protection
- Manage recreation activities to ensure the environment is not damaged.



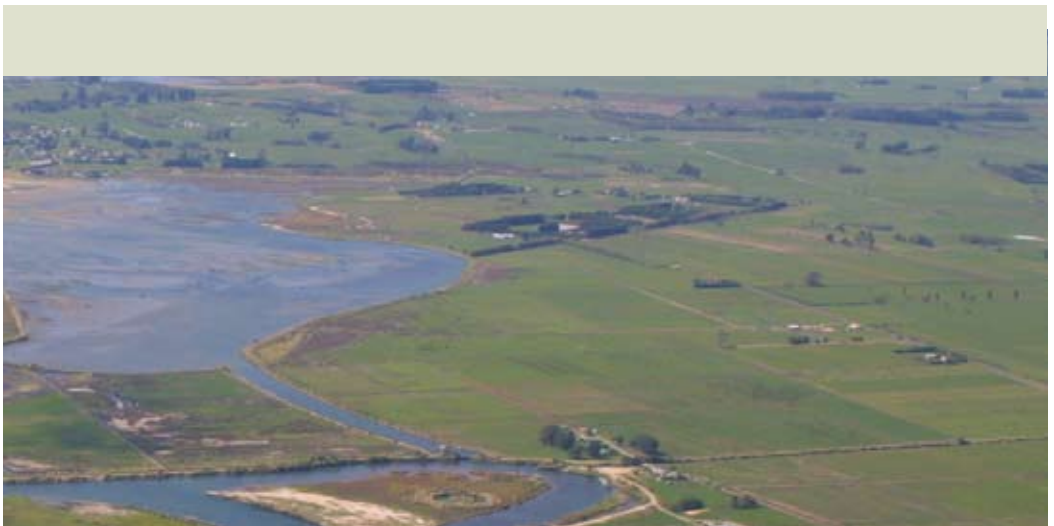
Supporting Kaitiakitanga and Local People's Stewardship

Te Tautoko i te Kaitiakitanga me ngā Tikanga Kaitiakitanga a te Hau Kāinga

Include tangata whenua and local people in the management of the Kaituna River and Ōngātoro/Maketu Estuary. Improve access and recreation opportunities. Restore kaimoana in the Ōngātoro/Maketu Estuary.

Strategic Actions

- Educate the public about the spiritual relationship between tangata whenua and the Kaituna River and Ōngātoro/Maketu Estuary
- Identify options for the restoration and enhancement of the Kaituna River and Ōngātoro/Maketu Estuary
- Promote and encourage local restoration initiatives, such as wetland restoration, by landowners and community groups
- Improve access and outlook points and walking links in the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve and other identified public reserves
- Provide adequate recreational and social space and facilities within new urban development
- Restore kai awa and kaimoana beds and fish populations to the Ōngātoro/Maketu Estuary.



Delivering the Strategy

It will take the whole community working together to deliver the Strategy's vision.

The Strategy has an Implementation Plan that outlines a programme of actions to achieve the Strategy's vision and outcomes.

The Strategy can be used by the Kaituna River and Ōngātoto/Maketu Estuary community into the future as a catalyst for continuing to work towards the vision to "celebrate and honour river and estuary life as taonga". This can occur through requests to local authority Annual Plan and Ten Year Plans.

For a copy of the Strategy or more information, please visit Environment Bay of Plenty's website www.envbop.govt.nz.