

Ahiaruhe Eco Area Catchment Group Living Plan 2020

Why are we coming together?

INTRODUCTION Our Reasons

The Ahiaruhe Eco Area Catchment Group has been formed to help engage all landowners in developing and maintaining a long-term vision of land, water and environment care for current and future generations.

This will include a living action plan for environmental enhancement, balancing the requirements of commercial farming with a reduced carbon footprint, restoration of native flora and fauna, and improved water quality, while drawing on the experience of farmers, the Greater Wellington Regional Council and other groups with similar goals and objectives.

CURRENT STATE

- **Ruamahunga River water quality** – sediment levels and E.coli the two main concerns
- **Pests** threatening recovery – deer, stoats, rabbits, hares, possums, old man's beard etc.
- **Biodiversity** –pockets of indigenous bush and increasing variety of indigenous birds.

Where are we going?

VISION



A catchment that is rich in biodiversity and has a sustainable and diverse water environment that benefits people, the natural environment and the economy of the local area.

GOALS

- **Resilient and connected community** – a kind and collaborative community that works together to achieve our common vision. We actively connect, communicate and willingly share skills and resources.
- **Enriched biodiversity** – a resurgent, and sustainable environment characterised by an enriched, sustainable biodiversity.
- **Healthy waterways** - manage/enhance aspects of the ecosystem in the Ahiaruhe Eco Area catchment with the health of the Ruamahunga River being a measure of the health of the surrounding landscape/community
- **Predator and pest free** – enable and support our vision and goals by taking action to identify and remove pests (plant and animal) and introduced predators.

How are we going to get there?

INITIATIVES

Connected Community

- Share history of area – Maori and European
- Community planting days (not too many), including socialising.
- Revitalise entrance to Ahiaruhe Road in 2020 as first visible act.
- Capture and communicate our journey – use the road email group; write a plan and share widely, including Beef and Lamb website.
- Link with Palliser to Pukaha (P2P), Ponatahi Eco Zone etc.

Biodiversity

- Understand the current state, e.g. area of indigenous bush.
- Increase planting in catchment area.
- Share lists of endemic plants and eco-sourced seedlings and plants.
- Encourage planting of varieties that support native birds, e.g. tree lupin for kereru.

Healthy waterways

- Understand current state.
- Walk the waterways within the catchment through property boundaries.
- Include plantings in catchment funding applications.
- Prioritise planting in wetlands, permanent and ephemeral waterways.
- Trial FarmIQ FEP (farm environment plan) biodiversity module in 20/21.

Pests and Predators

- Identify the pest hot spots.
- Join with Ponatahi Eco Zone for combined pest programme.
- Include eradication of old man's beard in catchment funding application.
- Explore links with Predator Free 2050.