



"How can we expedite the restoration of rivers from an indigenous perspective?"

### Waikato and Waipa River Catchment



#### Waipa River 115 km in length 3,050 km<sup>2</sup> catchment area





<u>Waikato River</u> 425 km in length

14,456 km<sup>2</sup> catchment area



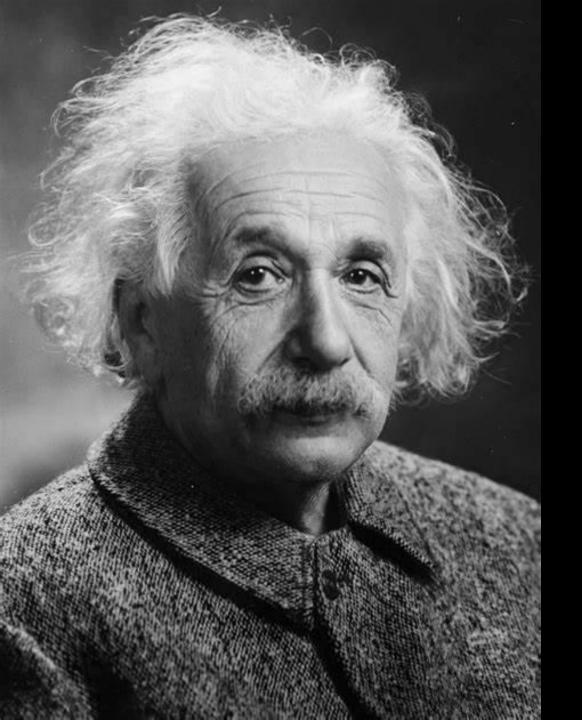


 Sediment Agricultural Runoff • Pest fish Industrial pollution • Habitat Loss • Urban Runoff Sewage and Wastewater Discharges **Nutrients** • Landuse Changes • Ecoli • Habitat Loss Hydroelectric Power Development Thermal and Geothermal Electricity Development Poor Clarity Invasive Species Pest weeds Climate change Pest clams Water takes Commercial Fishing • Erosion

### The Fundamentals of River Restoration

- State and cause
- Clarity and achievability
- Feasibility, cost and timeframe
- Engage and support
- Maintain effort and will

- 10 Tonics
- Governance
- Engagement
- Dairy farms
- Dry stock farms
- Point source discharges
- Public health
- Access
- Fisheries, kai, taonga
- Shallow lakes restoration
- Protection (precautionary)



"We can't solve problems with the same thinking we used when we created them"

# Worldview

- River is a tuupuna
- The tribe's name is derived from the river and is an essential part of our identity.
- Its lifeforce sustains ours, the spirits of our tupuna and the traditions we continue to observe.
- In ancient times it provided food and water, and a means of transport and trade.
- Its prestige reflected the mana and <u>mauri</u> of the tribe, embedded in the proverb:
- He piko, he taniwha, he piko, he taniwha, Waikato taniwha rau
- At every bend a guardian, Waikato of a hundred guardians.

# Teachings of our ancestors

- From an indigenous perspective, our most valuable possessions we hold are the learnings/wisdom of our ancestors, taonga tuku iho, handed down from one generation to the next.
- We are fortunate to have been left with many beautiful tongikura that continue to guide how we are as a people, how we behave, how we work, and how we live.
- Other lessons/knowledge come through *puurakau* as well as other means
- Principles and values



### "Kotahi te koohao o te ngira e kuhuna ai te miro maa, te miro pango, te miro whero,"

"There is but one eye of a needle, through which white, black and red cotton are threaded."

Kiingi Pootatau Te Wherowhero (d. 1860)

"Mehemea ka moemoeaa ahau, ko ahau anake. Mehemea ka moemoeaa taatou, ka taaea e taatou."

If I dream, I dream alone. If we dream as a collective, we can achieve our dream.

Te Puea Hērangi (1883-1952)

### "Ki te kotahi te kaakaho ka whati, ki te kaapuia, e kore e whati."

When a reed stands alone it can easily break, but when bound together it is unbreakable

"Maaku anoo e hanga tooku nei whare, ko ngaa whare pou oo roto, he maahoe, he patatee ko te taahuhu he hiinau. Me whakatupu ki te hua o te rengarenga me whakapakari ki te hua o te kawariki" Ishall fashion my own house. The pillars inside will be of maahoe and paatete, and the ridgepole of hiinau. The inhabitants shall be raised on rengarenga, and nurtured on kawariki.



### Tuna are a taonga species

- Tuna are as old as Aotearoa itself.
- Connected through Whakapapa
- We have obligations and responsibility as Kaitiaki to protect, preserve, and care for tuna
- The importance of tuna for many iwi and hapu cannot be underestimated
- Fisheries are considered a taonga, they sustain the Waikato way of life, both physically and spiritually.



## Current state of tuna

# **LAINU**











General Manager



**Michelle Phillips** Ngāti Tahu Ngāti Whaoa, Te Arawa River Iwi Taiao Manager Trust, Taiao Manager

Ngaati Koroki Kahukura,

**Board Member** 



Zane Eramiha Ngaati Koroki Kahukura, Restoration Manager

Joseph Kaponga Raukawa, Project Advisor





Taroi Rawiri

Waikato-Tainui,

Taiao Manager

Kataraina George

Ngāti Kearoa Ngāti

Tuara, Taiao Manager

Kahukura, Kaimahi

He piko, he taniwha

Ngaati Koroki









**Roku Mihinui** 

Te Arawa River Iwi Trust,

Project Manager

Wikitoria Tane

Maniapoto, Board

Member



Erina Watene Waikato, Tuna Kaimahi



#### Ngaati Koroki Kahukura







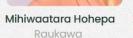
# TAINU











Aiden Riki Te Kanawa

Jaedyn Falwasser Waikato-Tainui



Kahurimu Flavell Waikato-Tainui



Whaoa



Cody Te Huia

Raukawa

Taane Te Aho

Raukawa







Ngaati Koroki Kahukura





He piko, he taniwha



### Strategy – Prioritised Aspirations

Action Plan based on the lifecycle of tuna

No 2 Priority. Saving migrant eels, trapped above dams or flood gates etc Trap, transfer and release

> No 4 Priority - Habit Restoration



No 3 Priority – Information Sharing (e.g. Regs, Bylaws) Baseline total catchment Survey

No. 1 Priority. Trap and transfer of elvers under our own autonomy, we authorise it, we do it, we decide where they go (not the commercial fishers)



### • KARAPIRO

- Elver Trap and Transfer since 1992
- Initially had some iwi
  involvement, but
  predominantly run by
  the commercial eel
  industry for over 30
  years
- Form of wild ranching to prop up industry
- Didn't really align with the iwi values

### Mana Motuhake

#### Version as at 6 October 2023



#### Waikato-Tainui (Waikato River Fisheries) Regulations 2011

(SR 2011/294)

Anand Satyanand, Governor-General

#### **Order in Council**

At Wellington this 22nd day of August 2011

Present: His Excellency the Governor-General in Council

Note

The Parliamentary Counsel Office has made editorial and format changes to this version using the powers under subpart 2 of Part 3 of the Legislation Act 2019.

Note 4 at the end of this version provides a list of the amendments included in it. These regulations are administered by the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Pursuant to section 186 of the Fisheries Act 1996 and section 93 of the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010, His Excellency the Governor-General, acting on the advice and with the consent of the Executive Council, makes the following regulations.

- We wrote our own authorisation (Permit)
- Empowered through our Settlement Fisheries Regulations
- We decided where the tuna went as a collective – throughout our catchment not just up into the hydro-lakes.
- Sites were selected by mana whenua because the were significant
- We did it our way!

### Our tikanga, kawa and maatauranga



"The day was a very special day for those involved in it... knowing that it will one day provide food for our whaanau and hapuu once again made it extra fulfilling – aa wairua nei! To have karakia and takutaku recited and whaikoorero delivered along with the karanga was another poignant moment to be experienced by all."

"The experience for me was quite a wairua moment. It was something that I had never seen or experienced before."

We performed ancient karakia at the collection point and at both release points to ensure that the baby tuna have a healthy and vigorous journey ahead of them - some, up to 52 years.





### Intergenerational Transfer of Knowledge





"The attending school children (whose school name coincidentally is Waitetuna) will no doubt have these memories etched into their minds for some time."

"When we teach our mokopuna what to look for and when is the right time and the different methods of catching tuna, we strengthen the bonds between us and we teach them to appreciate what is around them - the world they live in. That's the bond between themselves and their environment."

### Partnerships













TE ARAWA RIVER

GATITAHU - NGATI WHAOA

RUNANGA TRUST









Ngaati Koroki Kahukura

### Te Ture Whaimana - Our Vision and Strategy • OBJECTIVES

- a. The restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- b. The restoration and protection of the relationship of Waikato-Tainui with the Waikato River, including their economic, social, cultural, and spiritual relationships.
- c. The restoration and protection of the relationship of Waikato River iwi according to their tikanga and kawa, with the Waikato River, including their economic, social, cultural and spiritual relationships
- e. The integrated, holistic and coordinated approach to management of the natural, physical, cultural and historic resources of the Waikato River
- i. The protection and enhancement of significant sites, fisheries, flora and fauna.
- M. The application to the above of both maatauranga Maaori and latest available scientific methods

### • STRATEGIES

- Develop and share local, national and international expertise, including indigenous expertise, on rivers and activities within their catchments that may be applied to the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River
- Encourage and foster a 'whole of river' approach to the restoration and protection of the Waikato River, including the development, recognition and promotion of best practice methods for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River
- Establish new, and enhance existing, relationships between Waikato-Tainui, other Waikato River iwi (where they so decide), and stakeholders with an interest in advancing, restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

# "How can we expedite the restoration of rivers from an indigenous perspective?"



Recognise that there are other ways of knowing being and doing.

Understand Indigenous people are not going anywhere – and they know how to collectivise and GSD (Our own way, based on our knowledge, tikanga and kawa)

Incredible outcomes from Indigenous-led approaches including social, environmental, cultural, and spiritual.

Our approach prioritises collective decision-making, autonomy, selfdetermination, and empowering iwi to manage their resources and apply their maatauranga and practices in a culturally appropriate manner.

There is a growing body of examples of Indigenous led approaches to biodiversity and water management

Understand the barriers and mitigate – eg flexible funding models, streamlining H and S etc

Tips for our partners who are looking to work differently: Connect, Listen, Collaborate, Co-create, Resource, and Empower!