

Working Towards a Better Tukituki

Tukituki Plan Change and the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme

Why are things changing?

In recent decades, most of the pollution of the Tukituki River from factories and businesses has been stopped. However, the river still has water quality issues.

The river's poor health has been due to soil erosion, farm run off and inadequately treated town wastewater. This pollution has a greater impact when the river flow is low.

Over many years the Hawke's Bay Regional Council has allowed land owners to take water for irrigation from the river, its tributaries and aquifer.

In summer the need for irrigation water is at its

highest, just when river flows are at their lowest, and when people most want to swim, fish and collect kai.

These low summer flows increase the concentration of nutrients in the river and, combined with higher temperatures, grow slime and weed that is harmful to the environment and our enjoyment of the river.

To make matters worse, these low flows can't flush away the slime and so the river stagnates.

The Council has always restricted water takes in times of very low flow but these restrictions haven't been enough to stop the growth of slime and weed, and a degraded habitat for birds, fish and insects.



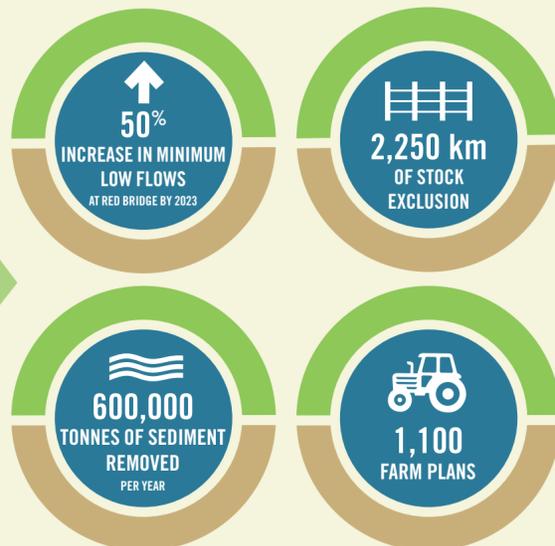
What's changing?

In 2014 the rules controlling the use of water from the Tukituki River and the land surrounding it, were updated to improve the health of the river in what is called the 'Tukituki Plan Change'.

These rules are aimed at reducing sediment and nutrients in the river, and improving flows during summer months so the water quality improves.

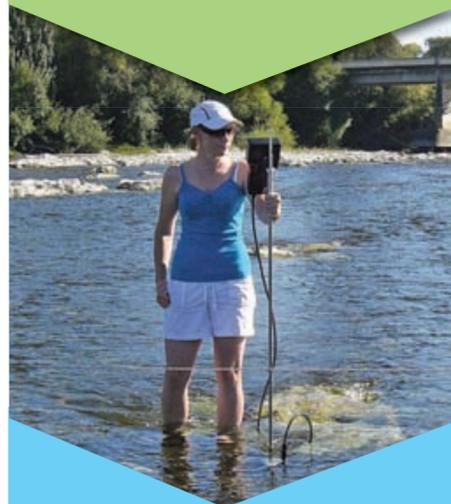
The Council's land management team is working with farmers to establish plans to fence waterways, reduce erosion, protect wetlands and manage fertiliser and stock.

This work is estimated to involve:



What's happening in the Tukituki catchment?

Big changes are happening in the way the Hawke's Bay Regional Council manages the Tukituki River and its tributaries. This is the start of a long and challenging journey to improve the health of our treasured Tukituki River.



How does the proposed Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme fit in?

The proposed Ruataniwha Scheme is a long-term water supply solution for Central Hawke's Bay. It is part of a wider programme to better manage water resources in the Tukituki Catchment.

The scheme is a 90 million m³ storage reservoir located in the upper Makaroro river, storing water during periods of high flow and over winter.

Water would be released in summer to improve river flows for aquatic life and recreational river users, while also providing secure water to irrigators.

The scheme would deliver \$10 million of biodiversity projects including 24 km of fencing and 85,000 plants.

The scheme is expected to cost around \$330 million and will be financed by public and private investors and ultimately paid for by irrigators.



All Part of the Plan Restoring the Tukituki to good health

- UNDER RUATANIWhA SCHEME
- UNDER TUKITUKI PLAN CHANGE



What happens if the Ruataniwha Scheme doesn't proceed?

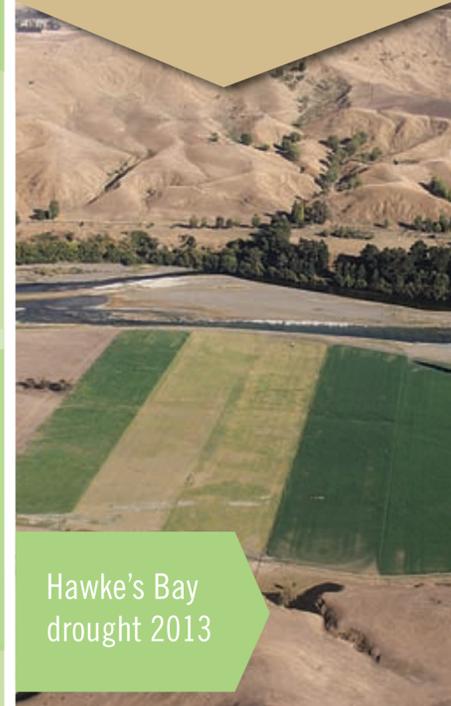
The tougher new rules put in place in 2014 will remain in force.

To achieve the higher minimum flows the Council will have to impose longer and more frequent bans on irrigation for growers and farmers. In turn, this will reduce food production and quality and in some cases may result in lost crops, plants and trees.

Rather than growing the economy, it is likely that economic output for the region will be reduced.

The Council will also not have any stored water to flush slime and weed from the river during summer, or the benefit of additional ongoing flows.

In some parts of the catchment we won't be able to achieve higher stream flows and the associated ecological benefits.



Hawke's Bay drought 2013