

# Kaituna River Re-diversion and Wetland Creation Project



Issue Two: September-October 2013

## Option chosen for Kaituna River re-diversion

The preferred option maximises the river's freshwater flow into Ongatoro/Maketū estuary while keeping Te Tumu cut open for flood protection.

Councillors have approved Option 2 for further study, with modifications suggested by the community during consultation in winter 2013. The main modification involves shifting the proposed intake further up-river to minimise salt water.

The proposal is likely to provide significant ecological improvements and reduced sedimentation in the estuary, and will allow up to four times more water from the Kaituna to flow into the estuary, while keeping Te Tumu Cut open. Some private land will need to be used to complete the project, and at least 20 hectares of wetland habitat will be created.

The Maketū community has long been concerned about degradation of their estuary, largely due to opening of Te Tumu Cut in 1956. This made the estuary more saline, destroying most wetland and reducing the estuary's ability to flush out sand and mud.

We've talked to landowners, tangata whenua and the community over the past few months on the two options, holding public meetings, drop-in sessions and meeting with individuals. The Project Team is currently focused on modelling the preferred option and assessing potential environmental effects. We will host public meetings in November 2013, February and May 2014 to explain and answer questions about the preferred option and the predicted effects.

The Regional Council plans to lodge resource consent applications and a Notice of Requirement in mid-2014 to designate land required for the project, with construction to start by the end of 2015, or once all consents and requirements are met.

If you have any questions about the project, contact Project Manager Pim de Monchy (contact details below).



*Project Team staff consulting with locals on project options at the Maketū market. Staff would like to pay tribute to the late Carol Poihipi (pictured in the scooter), Maketū Community Board Chairman, who passed away this month. Carol was a staunch and committed advocate for Maketū, a keen whitebaiter and very interested in the restoration of both the Kaituna River and Ongatoro/Maketū Estuary*

### Want more information?

Check out our website for important dates and information on how you can have your say. Get a more detailed scoping document and feedback form from the Maketū Information Centre, our website [www.boprc.govt.nz/kaitunamaketu](http://www.boprc.govt.nz/kaitunamaketu) or from Project Manager Pim de Monchy at [pim.demonchy@boprc.govt.nz](mailto:pim.demonchy@boprc.govt.nz) or phone 0800 884 881 extn 8518.

# Preferred option



## What this option looks like:

- About 20 percent of the Kaituna River's flow would be re-diverted into Ongaroto/Maketū Estuary.
- The re-diversion intake from the Kaituna River would be as far upstream as possible to maximise the amount of fresh water entering the estuary (and minimise the salt water component).
- The channel would need to be at least 60 m wide and excavated to a depth of -1.5 m below mean sea level.
- The capacity of the inlet structure under Ford Road would need to be increased significantly, either by bridging, or by increasing the number and size of the culverts and placing them at a lower level.
- The existing channel between Ford Road and Ford Island would need to be blocked. Options to create wetland on the south side of this block, and possibly a boat launching ramp on the north side, are being investigated
- Ford's Cut would need to be deepened and widened to increase its hydraulic capacity, especially as it merges into the upper estuary.
- The stopbanks/causeways between Papahikahawai Island, Maketū Spit and the low-lying land north of Ford's Cut would be removed or breached to re-connect the upper estuary to river and tidal flows.
- Appropriate wetlands would be restored by both natural regeneration and active restoration where conditions are suitable, including the low-lying land north of Ford's Cut and adjacent to Papahikahawai Island.

# Feedback from the community

Between May and August 2013 the Project Team consulted with tangata whenua, other stakeholders and the public on two options, and had responses from 35 separate individuals and groups.

Of the responses received, 74 percent expressed outright or conditional support for the project. Only 6 percent were opposed to the project, while 20 percent were neutral. However the responses did not provide a clear direction on a preferred option. Of the responses received, 20 percent preferred Option 1, with 14 percent

preferring Option 2. A large number, 66 percent, did not express a preference.

The responses highlighted a number of common issues about the perceived benefits of the project, areas of concern or unanswered questions, and general comments.

These included the following key themes, perceived benefits and perceived concerns which will be investigated in detail and addressed in the public meetings and the Assessment of Environmental Effects.

Key Issue	Perceived benefits	Community concerns to be investigated
<p><b>Navigation and erosion</b></p> <p>Changes to water depths and currents through the Ongatoro / Maketū Estuary entrance and at Te Tumu following the re-diversion and any effects on morphology and navigability of both entrances, or on erosion to land such as Papahikahawai Island and Maketū Spit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance of navigable access to open ocean at Te Tumu Cut.</li> <li>Option 2 avoids erosion of Maketū Spit.</li> <li>Potential improvements to navigability at Maketū entrance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effects on existing erosion protection structures and coastal morphology.</li> <li>Erosion caused by recreational boating.</li> <li>Erosion due to increased salinity and further loss of wetland.</li> <li>Erosion of beach at Maketū Surf Club.</li> <li>Increased erosion of Papahikahawai Island, Maketū Spit, land north of Kaituna River at Te Tumu, stopbanks, and Ford Island.</li> <li>Navigability of Te Tumu entrance for commercial fishing, recreational boating, coastguard, barge to Mōtītī Island and future urbanisation.</li> <li>Navigability of Te Tumu entrance would be improved by extending mole (the steel and rock fishing structure at the end of Ford Road).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Landscape and access</b></p> <p>The re-diversion will significantly change the existing landscape, particularly to the low-lying land north of Ford's Cut. Creating new wetland in this area will partially restore the landscape to what it looked like before 1956. Removing stopbanks will limit boat access only to Papahikahawai Island.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore area to its natural state.</li> <li>Restore poor quality farmland to wetland.</li> <li>Restore submerged land south of Papahikahawai Island to wetland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledgement of landscape changes as a result of future urbanisation.</li> <li>Effects on geothermal features in Maketū.</li> <li>Land acquisition should focus on buying adjacent farmland when available.</li> <li>Loss of access to Papahikahawai Island.</li> <li>Loss of productive farmland, effect on surrounding properties.</li> <li>New channel too wide as Ford's Cut could accommodate the entire flow.</li> <li>Ownership of reclaimed or purchased land.</li> <li>Papahikahawai Creek was largely a man-made flow-path – should not be used.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cultural and social</b></p> <p>The mauri [life force] of the estuary and river is expected to improve over time, and there should be no effects on known archaeological sites. Activities such as shellfish gathering, shore-based fishing, or white-baiting from Ford Road, should benefit from improved habitat long term.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community engagement through wetland plantings.</li> <li>Enables people to enjoy estuary for cultural and recreational purposes.</li> <li>Implement Kaituna River and Ongatoro/Maketū Estuary Strategy.</li> <li>Improve boat ramp and parking facilities at Te Tumu.</li> <li>Opportunity to develop a Wetlands Education Centre.</li> <li>Restore the mauri of the estuary.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledge both Māori and European history in area.</li> <li>Acknowledge Treaty Settlements, establishment of Kaituna River Authority, and Kaituna Governance Plan.</li> <li>Effects on existing boat ramps, recreational fishing, and water sports.</li> <li>Effects on cultural and historic sites, including Te Tumu Pā.</li> <li>Effects on water supply from Kaituna River for farms.</li> <li>Effects on water-based recreation and boating.</li> <li>No mention of tangata whenua in project objectives.</li> <li>Possible unmarked urupa in low-lying land north of Ford's Cut.</li> <li>Safety for swimming at Maketū.</li> </ul>

Key Issue	Perceived benefits	Community concerns to be investigated
<p><b>Ecology</b></p> <p>Water in parts of the estuary will likely become less saline, but have slightly higher levels of bacterial contamination. The project is expected to enhance habitat for wildlife and provide better protection for existing ecological sites. Edible shellfish and finfish populations are likely to improve over time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage clean-up of water quality in Kaituna River.</li> <li>Flushing of Maketū Estuary and Papahikahawai Lagoon and reduce sedimentation.</li> <li>Improved kaimoana and fish habitat.</li> <li>New wetland habitat.</li> <li>Reduced pests on Maketū Spit and Papahikahawai Island.</li> <li>Restore ecological integrity of Maketū Estuary.</li> <li>Restore the balance of fresh water and salinity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Channel margins should be naturalised. Use of hard-engineering for non-natural banks reduces benefits of project.</li> <li>Effects on edible sea lettuce and samphire in Papahikahawai Creek.</li> <li>Effects on kaimoana from increased bacterial contamination and sedimentation.</li> <li>Effects on Kaituna Wetland Reserve and Maketū Wildlife Reserve</li> <li>Filling in of Ford's Cut and parts of old Kaituna River bed.</li> <li>Incorrect methodology for modelling estuary morphology and water quality.</li> <li>Increase sedimentation and requirement for dredging of new channel.</li> <li>Loss of wetland north of stopbank upstream of Ford Island.</li> <li>Maintenance and management of wetland areas.</li> <li>Monitoring of water levels, flow rates, water quality, and discharges.</li> <li>Partial re-diversion will have a detrimental effect on estuary and existing wetland and not generate expected benefits.</li> <li>Poor water quality in Kaituna River from existing discharges; improvements required before re-diversion.</li> <li>Project ignores evidence of past failures to improve estuary.</li> <li>Suitability of wetland habitat for new salinity profile.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Natural hazards</b></p> <p>Flood protection, drainage levels, and conditions for grass growth upstream in the Kaituna River are unlikely to be affected. Water levels in the estuary and adjacent drains and wetlands may change, depending on the type of flow control structure used for the re-diversion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retention of Te Tumu Cut for peak flood flows.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blockage of flow control structures and flood gates with debris.</li> <li>Capacity of the Kaituna River to accommodate future flood flows, particularly stormwater discharges from Te Tumu urbanisation.</li> <li>Cost of protecting farmland with stopbanks and drainage works.</li> <li>Effects on Tauranga Eastern Link (TEL) and available freeboard for bridges.</li> <li>Increased flood risk for Maketū, land north of Kaituna River, and Ford Island.</li> <li>Increased flood risk upstream for Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme.</li> <li>Ongoing maintenance of culverts and design of alignment to avoid blockage.</li> </ul>

## What happens next?



### Project Stage

- Project plan, data collection and concept designs
- Pre-consent consultation: Phase one
- Draft resource consent and designation applications, feasibility designs
- Final resource consent and designation applications, feasibility designs
- Resource consent and designation processing (opportunity for submissions)
- Appeals, land acquisition and detailed designs
- Construction and implementation: Phase one
- Construction and implementation: Phase two
- Implementation and monitoring



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**There will be public meetings in November 2013, February and May 2014 and an opportunity to make submissions later in 2014.**