

13 July 2020

Paekakariki



PROJECT KAKARIKI - MINISTERIAL CROWN BALANCE SHEET LAND TRANSFER APPLICATION – Update 2

Dear Minister Of Conservation

I am writing to you further to your letter of 14 May 2019 and the ongoing consideration of this proposed opportunity by yourself and the Department of Conservation.

Wainui Stream value

Wainui Stream represents the highest current biodiversity value on the Project Kakariki land.

I represented to you that the Wainui Stream is of regional importance as evidenced by its specific inclusion in the Greater Wellington Regional Council Natural Resources Plan as a “river... with significant indigenous ecosystems”.

New information to hand shows that the Wainui Stream is actually of greater than regional importance for freshwater biodiversity.

- Greater Wellington staff personally advise that Wainui Stream is one of the best freshwater indigenous ecosystems in the Wellington Region.
- Greater Wellington staff have recently found shortjaw kokopu (Conservation Status = Nationally Vulnerable) in the Wainui Stream, which has not been accounted for in the Natural Resources Plan or national FWENZ stream rankings.

Progressing Wainui Stream enhancements will only improve its importance above regional.

Wainui Stream future enhancements progressing

My earlier communications to you focussed on the present values of the Wainui Stream.

I am pleased to advise that the following enhancements are planned to further improve the present biodiversity values of the Wainui Stream:

- 20m Marginal Strips will be reserved from sale in 2021 along the Wainui Stream and be planted in native vegetation by local stream-care community groups such as Friends Of Paekakariki Streams and Ngā Uruora .
- Greater Wellington is progressing improved minimum ecological flows in the entire Wainui Stream catchment, where none exist at present.
- Kapiti Coast District Council is fixing high water leakage of 327m³/day (48 % of average water use) and high use above targets in the Paekakariki urban water supply system that is fed from the Wainui Stream. This will ensure increased stream flow to better sustain healthy Wainui Stream ecological life and mahinga kai. The current high use is aggravated by the lack of any summer water use restrictions at present. See https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/media/36385/2018_19_waterconservationreport_v3bt-signed-27-9-19.pdf
- A joint agency group comprising NZTA, DOC, Greater Wellington and Kapiti Coast DC are progressing ongoing improvements to the Wainui Stream, including providing fish passage to the upper reaches as was intended by the EPA Transmission Gully decisions.
- Kapiti Coast District Council is required to improve the quality of the existing small Haumia St urban stormwater discharge of ecoli and other pollutants into the Wainui Stream within 5 years.

These enhancements will greatly improve the value of the Wainui Stream for freshwater biodiversity and mahinga kai.

Wainui Stream catchment housing development threat

The District Plan current zoning of Project Kakariki land provides for rural lifestyle housing development, without regard to the health of the Wainui Stream

This level of housing and subdivision development under the District Plan was opposed by the Paekakariki Community Board and many Paekakariki residents who wished to protect the Wainui Stream, and retain the character of the village.

Reserving this land will avoid any harm to Wainui Stream from future property developer housing and subdivision and roading development. Reservation would avoid the adverse effects of increased water abstraction reducing minimum ecological flows particularly at times of summer low flow in the Wainui Stream, and increased pollution from contaminated surface and groundwater flows. The Paekakariki village and rural area are all on septic tanks that contaminate groundwater and streams on the stony soils present on this area of land.

Reserving this land will ensure that future housing development does not cause any harm to the Paekakariki village current water supply resilience levels, and ensure that it can better cope with the usual periodic droughts and any climate change increased droughts, particularly at times of summer low flow in the Wainui Stream.

COVID-19 Recovery Plan Employment

There is the opportunity for government to create spade-ready employment at scale on the land that Project Kakariki will Reserve.

Much of development of the Project Kakariki Reserve land was to be undertaken by volunteers, but employment would greatly advance this development comprising:

- Removal of fences
- Nursery raising of plants
- Planting and tending
- Weed control
- Pine/gum/willow removal
- Pest control

Some of the development of the Project Kakariki Reserve land entails construction works.

Funding these shovel-ready construction works now would greatly advance this development, comprising:

- Upgrading the existing Betty Perkins Way to provide Paekakariki village access for vehicles in an emergency.
- Constructing a lookout above the Paekakariki village on the walking track route supported by the Walking Access Commission. See <http://www.opengeo.co.nz/GrowPaekakariki/paekakarikiscartrackdraft1.jpg>
- Removal of four fish passage barriers.
- Modifications to two fish passage barrier culverts.
- Realigning streams and stockpiled gravel to provide a natural stream floodplain environment and reduce flooding of Paekakariki homes.
- Creating a new wetland as supported by yourself after a community request.
- Construct an extension of Te Ara o Whareroa cycleway <https://www.wellingtonregionaltrails.com/trails/te-ara-o-whareroa/> to connect with Betty Perkins Way as proposed by Council staff, to assist with Raumati resident cycle commuting to Paekakariki railway station and expand southwards the current Kapiti District cycleway network.
- Constructing the Tilley Rd Triangle Neighbourhood Park, and community garden. See <http://www.opengeo.co.nz/GrowPaekakariki/TilleyRdTrianglePark.pdf>
- Constructing a network of walking trails across the land to enhance Paekakariki as a Wellington and domestic walking recreation destination, that integrates with the existing Queen Elizabeth Park, Te Ara o Whareroa and Te Araroa - New Zealand's Trail networks.

Please protect the Wainui Stream by Reserving this Project Kakariki land when your opportunity arises, using your powers to progress a Crown Balance Sheet transfer..

Please create much needed spade-ready and shovel ready employment to advance Project Kakariki and governments COVID-19 recovery plan.

I am happy to meet with you to have a conversation about how you would like to progress Wainui Stream protection and enhancement as part of this significant once in a lifetime conservation opportunity for the region <http://opengeo.co.nz/ProjectKakariki/ProjectKakariki1.html>, and advancing governments COVID-19 recovery plan and Jobs for Nature employment.

Kind regards

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for [Project Kakariki](#)

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Paekakariki

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