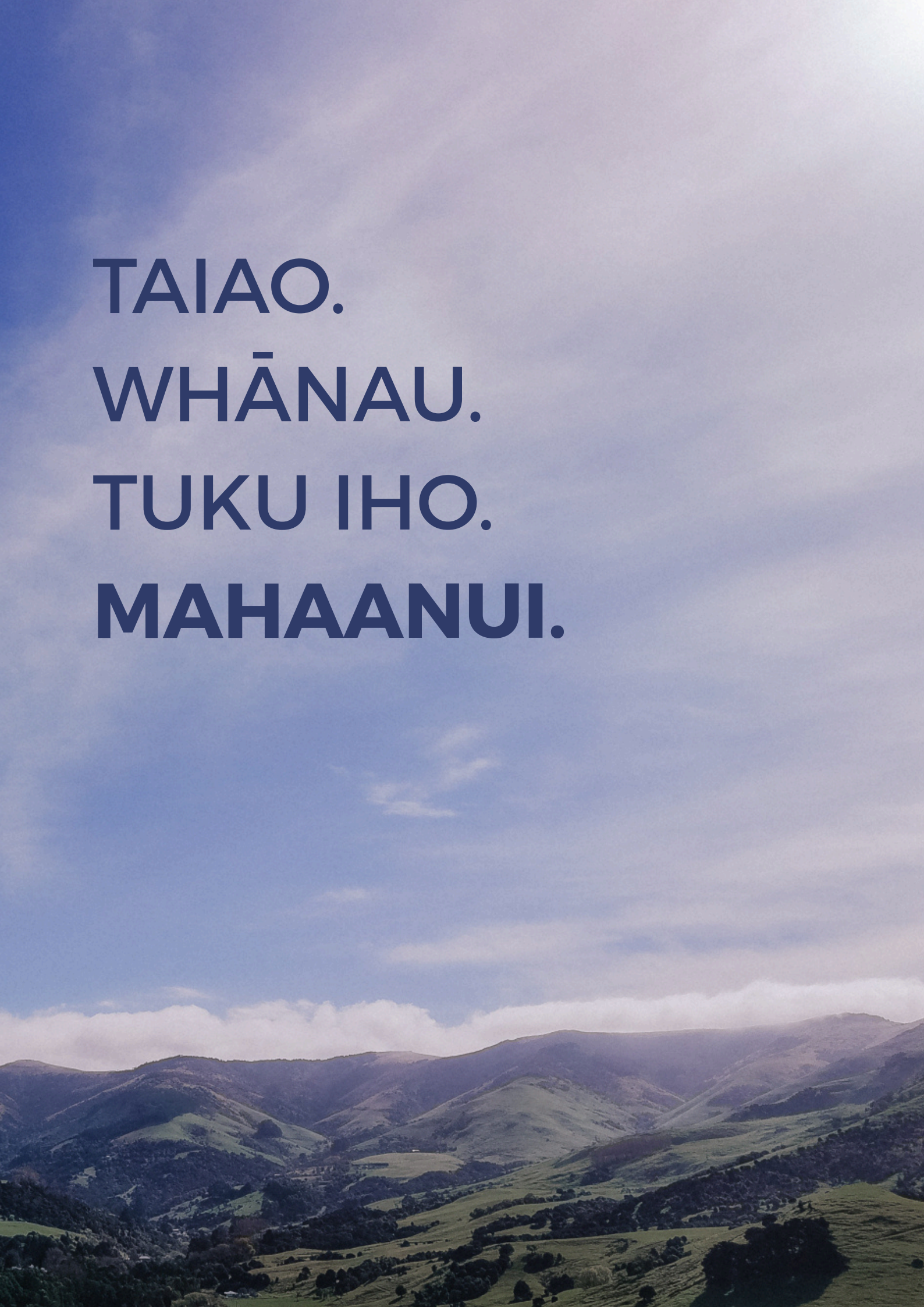


Mahaanui
Kurataiao Ltd

2025|2026
ANNUAL REPORT


Mahaanui
Kurataiao Ltd


TAIAO.
WHĀNAU.
TUKU IHO.
MAHAANUI.

He Kupu Whakataki

Whanake rā
koutou te pua-ā-Tāne
Kia whakatipu, kia whakamōmōna
i te whenua, i te takata
Tuia te raki e tū nei
Herea te nuku e takoto nei
Ko te wai te toto o te whenua
He whenua te toto takata
Ka roko te po
Ka roko te ao
Tihei mauri Ora

Grow forth
The seeds, blossoms & life essence of Tāne
To grow & enrich
the land, the people
Bind the sky above
bind the earth below
Water is the lifeblood of land
Land is the the lifeblood of people
Heed the night
Heed the day
Behold the breath of life



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NGĀ RŪNANGA



















HE KUPU WHAKATAKI

CHAIR'S REPORT



I begin my report with a mihi to our incredible staff.

In a year full of legislative changes and challenges to Te Tiriti obligations and Te Ao Māori in general, they have continued to go about their mahi in a professional manner, with pride and strong commitment to our values and purpose. I want to acknowledge our Pou Whakahaere, Manaia Cunningham for his leadership in creating a strong, supportive work culture, which has implemented within the company, and is exemplified by the whakatauki:

Kia Kaha, Kia Māia, Kia Manawanui

This has been our first full year of working in a changed environment with significant external changes impacting on our mahi. Central government changes to RMA legislation, Te Tiriti obligations, other acts and policies have resulted in less emphasis on Te Ao Māori and the need to engage with Māori on many issues. Alongside this, traditional Iwi annual funding to support Papatipu Rūnanga taiao kaupapa was cut, and with Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga exiting the company, the value of our contracts with territorial authorities has dropped significantly. These changes have had a major impact on our financial bottom line. These impacts and the financial outcome have not come as a surprise to our board, we knew they were coming and management has been mindful of this in their planning and operations during the year.

Our company remains strong with cash reserves to support the company through these tough times. We have professional, engaged kaimahi who remain focused and committed to our company and its values, there has been an increase of other taiao related workstreams such as research and project based kaupapa during the year, and this has strengthened another income stream for the future. You will see more details regarding some of these projects within our annual report.

I encourage you to look at the section within the report, which speaks to the mahi carried out on behalf of our Papatipu Rūnanga shareholders. It is wonderful to see the mahi that is taking place within and on behalf of our marae. Some of this mahi is carried out without any cost to the Papatipu Rūnanga, and the outcomes from these services, while not providing any financial gain to the company or shareholder, do provide significant gains in cultural, environmental and social outcomes which while difficult to measure quantitavely, are of high importance and value to us as Māori.

The board has set a goal to ensure we provide stronger support to our Papatipu Rūnanga in the areas they identify, with a strong focus on supporting them in achieving their strategic goals within te taiao, balancing this with remaining commercially viable and increasing our other non-financial outcomes.

Nga mihi,



Gail Gordon





TE RĪPOATA POU WHAKAHAERE

MANAGER'S REPORT

Kei ngā mana, kei ngā hapū, kei ngā marae, kei ngā whānau o te Mahaanui takiwā, tēnā koutou katoa.

Nōku te whiwhi ki te whakatakoto i tēnei pūrongo mō te tau kua hori. Inā ōna whakapātaritari, engari e ū tonu ana a Mahaanui Kurataiao. E mihi nei te ngākau. Tēnā, kia huri ahau ki ngā kōrero o te tau nei.

It has been a busy year, with a number of changes both within our organisation and across the wider resource management environment. I would like to acknowledge our previous Pou Whakahaere, Manaia Cunningham, and wish him all the best on his haerenga ki te Tai Poutini. Tēnā koe i te taumata tiketike o ngā mahi kua oti i a koe. Kua rangatira mātou i a koe.

Following the departure of our previous Pou Whakahaere in late July 2026, I stepped into the interim General Manager role. My immediate focus has been ensuring business continuity, manaaki and tautoko to our kaimahi, and meeting our commitments to our whānau, our hapū and our partners.

The increase in applications through the Fast-Track Approvals process, alongside ongoing changes to the Resource Management Act (1991) has created another stream of focus to ensure we are incorporating mana whenua values in all reporting. The Government has also continued their phased programme of amendments to, and the eventual replacement of, the RMA. These changes have implications for environmental management, local decision-making and the recognition of Māori rights and interests. This evolving landscape reinforces the importance of remaining informed, agile and actively engaged. We will continue to monitor these reforms closely, assess the implications of proposed projects within our rohe and advocate for early, genuine and well-resourced engagement with rūnanga. This work will require strong internal capability, trusted relationships and a clear understanding of our collective priorities.

While this has been a period of adjustment, our team has continued to get on with the mahi and provide services in the changing operating environment. With the support of our board, we move our kaupapa forward with three pou:

Kurataiao: Our legacy environmental pou,
Kurawhānau: Enabling whānau and rangatahi success in the work we facilitate and deliver,
Kurapounamu: Looking to further facilitate tribal economy development that sees intergenerational impact for our people.

Thank you to our kaimahi, shareholders, whānau and partners for their significant contributions to our year.
"Kua tawhiti kē tō haerenga mai, kia kore e haere tonu. He nui rawa ō mahi, kia kore e mahi tonu"

Nāhaku noa,



Nā Maioha

NGĀ RŪNANGA


TE HAPŪ O NGĀTI WHEKE


ŌNUKU RŪNANGA


TE TAUMUTU RŪNANGA


WAIREWA RŪNANGA


TE RŪNANGA O KOUKOURARATA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GAIL GORDON



• NGĀI TAHU • NGĀTI MUTUNGA KI WHAREKAURI •

Gail has long been a dedicated advocate for her rūnanga, proudly representing Rāpaki with warmth and wisdom. Recently, she has chosen to focus her energy and passion on te Taiao and her role as Chair of Mahaanui, where her deep commitment to caring for the environment and upholding rūnanga values continues to shine. Gail brings heart, vision, and steady leadership to all that she does.

TE HAPŪ O NGĀTI WHEKE

RIK TAINUI



• NGĀI TAHU • TE WHAKATŌHEA •

As Chair of Ōnuku Rūnanga for the past ten years, Rik is deeply committed to creating opportunities that uphold kaitiakitanga and rangatiratanga, particularly in protecting and caring for our taiao and harbour. When he's not advocating for rangatiratanga, Rik can be found spending time with his mokopuna, listening to their songs and enjoying their company.

ŌNUKU RŪNANGA

TYLA HARRISON-HUNT



• NGĀI TAHU • NGĀTI POROU • TE ĀTIAWA •

Tyla is currently the Christchurch City Councillor for Riccarton. Before his role, he was a consultant with a background in several kaupapa-driven ventures supporting Māori innovation, youth development, and organisational changemaking. In his spare time, he takes his whānau on adventures across Te Wai Pounamu, hits the tracks and keeps active.

TE TAUMUTU RŪNANGA

MAIRE KIPA



• NGĀTI IRAKEHU • NGĀI TE RAKIAMOA •NGĀI TŪĀHURIRI • NGĀTI TŪWHARETOA •

Representing Wairewa Runanga, Maire is a Te Ao Māori champion in Hauora, Rongoā, and Marae resilience—reclaiming indigeneity to heal whenua and whanau for future generations.

WAIREWA RŪNANGA

MANAIA CUNNINGHAM



• NGĀTI HUIKAI • NGĀTI MUTUNGA KI WHAREKAURI •

Manaia has been a consultant at a national level and worked across different councils in relationship management between Government sectors and iwi. Manaia enjoys fishing at Koukourarata and walking his fur-baby Chatham during his spare time.

TE RŪNANGA O KOUKOURARATA


NGĀ KAIMAHI

MAHAANUI ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

BOARD DIRECTORS
REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH RŪNANGA

POU WHAKAHAERE | GENERAL MANAGER

POU O TE TARI | OFFICE MANAGER

POU WHENUA | OPERATIONS MANAGER

Pou Arataki Mātārauemi
Project Lead, Resource Management

Pou Arataki Mātātaki
Project Lead, Māori Environmental Intelligence

Pou Arataki Mātāhuanui
Project Lead, Impact & Innovation

Pou Arataki Mātātere
Project Lead, Iwi & Rūnanga Leadership

Pou Taiao
Environmental Advisor

Pou Manaaki
Administrator

Pou Rauoraka Taiao
Environmental Wellness Advisor

Pou Here
Strategic Engagement Advisor

TE TIRA HAUTŪ
SENIOR LEADERSHIP



Manaia Cunningham
Pou Whakahaere | General Manager
Ngāti Irakehu, Ngāti Mutunga ki Wharekauri



Maioha Clark
Pou Whenua | Operations Manager
Ngāti Kahu, Ngāpuhi, Tainui, Kāi Tahu

Mā mua ka kite a muri, mā muri ka ora a mua
The strategic Pou of Mahaanui

The Board set clear priorities for the year; retain our people, build a workplace where staff want to be and prepare Mahaanui for the significant local government and RMA reforms to come. Manaia and Maioha worked collaboratively to ensure these priorities were the focus for the financial year.

Retaining our people meant investigating each individual's experience of working at Mahaanui, the support they needed, and the opportunities they were wanting to chase for professional development. Developing and maintaining the systems and processes are a key part of the continuity of the mahi, along with making room for people to contribute, to take on new responsibility and provide opportunities to step up and lead the team.

Manaia's focus was on the business direction, keeping all decision-making connected to our kaupapa and the aspirations of our rūnanga. Maioha's approach targeted how to implement those aspirations and strengthening the process behind the scenes while supporting the kaimahi who deliver this mahi everyday. Together they collaborated with the kaimahi to prepare to be resilient, agile and courageous for the upcoming changes, while keeping core responsibilities and values on track.

NGĀ POU ARATAKI

PROJECT LEADS OF MAHAANUI



Angela Burton

Pou Arataki
Mātārauemi
Postgraduate Diploma in Water Resource Management and
Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Management



Dr. Ai Lian Liu / Irene Setiawan
Pou Arataki
Mātāhuanui
Doctor of Philosophy in Groundwater Science and Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Honours)



Henare Te Aika-Puanaki
Pou Arataki
Mātātere
Ngāti Mutunga ki Wharekauri, Kāi Tahu
Master of Business,
Te Panekiretanga o te Reo Māori



Matt Walcott

Pou Arataki
Mātātaki
Ngāti Kahungunu
Bachelor of Science in Geography

Pou Arataki give life to our collective vision. Guided by Te Tira Hautū, they lead projects, build strong relationships with kaimahi and stakeholders, and uphold the mana of our kaupapa through the quality of their mahi. They work closely alongside our people, offering guidance and support so we move forward together.

Through a changing political landscape, changes within our organisation and new areas of mahi, Pou Arataki bring **Manawa Tītī, Manawa Tapatahi** and **Manawa Pono** to their leadership.

NGĀ KAIMAHI

"Ko te toa i a tini i a mano o te takata - ānei ngā kaimahi ō Mahaanui Kurataiao.



Tayla Spencer
Pou Taiao
Postgraduate Certificate in Environmental Management and Bachelor of Science in Zoology and Marine Science



Tama Te Rangi Hamilton-Morrison
Pou Taiao
Kāi Tahu, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngā Rauru
Bachelor of Science in Geography



Grace King
Pou Taiao
Bachelor of Environmental Science - Honours in Environmental Change



Renee Cridland
Pou Taiao
Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga



Jake Tamati-Thomas
Pou Here
Ngāti Mutunga ō Wharekauri and Te Ati Awa Ki Whakarongotai
Bachelor of Te Reo Māori and Indigenous Studies



Laura Graham
Pou Manaaki
Bachelor of Animation in Interactive Media and Game Design



Aaria Rolleston
Pou Rauoraka Taiao
Kāti Irakehu, Kāti Mako, Kāi Tahu, Ngāi Te Rangi
Bachelor of Science in Biological Science and Environmental Science, Ecology Endorsement








TUTEHUAREWA










NGĀ RATONGA



MĀTĀRAUEMI

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Planning, consenting, compliance, and environmental strategy — embedding mana whenua values into decision-making and working in tandem with the evolving role of local government.



MĀTĀHUANUI

RESEARCH AND SCIENCE

Mahaanui's research and thought leadership hub, producing new research, publications, and strategic analysis. Incubator for new kaupapa Māori frontiers.



MĀTĀTERE

IWI AND RŪNANGA LEADERSHIP

Enabling iwi and rūnanga leadership through coordinating collective action, strategic facilitation, and channels insights from governors into operational and advocacy work.



MĀTĀTAKI

MĀORI ENVIRONMENTAL INTELLIGENCE

Kaupapa Māori intelligence and assessment function that combines mātauranga Māori and western science to monitor and restore the mauri of biodiversity - whenua, wai.

Mahaanui Plan on a Page FY26

Our Values

MANAWA TĪTĪ | BE BOLD
We lead, innovate, and grow kaupapa Māori and Tiriti impact.

MANAWA PONO | TRUSTED AND TRUSTING
We build trust through follow-through, clarity, and respect with those we serve.

MANAWA TAPATAHI | MOVING TOGETHER
We move with unity, pride, and purpose. We draw strength from our collective. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Our Mission

We transform relationships into enduring outcomes, empowered by trusted leadership and rangatiratanga

Our Strategy

Strategic Pou 1: Kurataiao Environmental Leadership

Championing mana whenua leadership in kaupapa Māori planning, policy, and regeneration to restore and protect the lands, waters, and biodiversity of our takiwā.

Strategic Pou 2: Kurawhānau Thiriving Whānau, Thriving Communities

Uplifting whānau and community strength through kaupapa Māori services and place-based solutions that nurture connection, belonging, and collective care.

Strategic Pou 3: Kurapounamu Intergenerational Prosperity & Innovation

Unlocking hapū-led innovation, research, and investment to grow enduring prosperity, build capability across hapū, and shape thriving futures.

Our Mahaanui Services

Mātārauemi: Resource Management

Planning, consenting, compliance, and environmental strategy — embedding mana whenua values into decision-making and working in tandem with the evolving role of local government.

Mātātere: Iwi & Rūnanga Leadership

Enabling iwi and rūnanga leadership through coordinating collective action, strategic facilitation, and channels insights from governors into operational and advocacy work.

Mātāhuanui: Impact & Innovation

Mahaanui's research and thought leadership hub, producing new research, publications, and strategic analysis. Incubator for new kaupapa Māori frontiers

Mātātaki: Māori Environmental Intelligence

Kaupapa Māori intelligence and assessment function that combines mātauranga Māori and western science to monitor and restore the mauri of biodiversity - whenua, wai.

Our Focus for the Year Ahead

- Deepen partnerships with iwi, hapū, and key sector leaders.
- Activate new initiatives that reflect shared aspirations in taiao, mātauranga, and hauora.
- Secure long-term agreements to support sustained growth.
- Diversify our services to ensure a resilient and thriving organisation.
- Embed a fit-for-purpose framework to drive consistent, high-quality delivery.
- Produce research and publications that inform iwi-led decision-making and influence policy.
- Champion kaupapa Māori projects that make a tangible impact for our rūnaka and communities.

















CANTERBURY REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Environmental Canterbury (ECan) are reviewing their Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan. We've been contracted by ECan to assess the effectiveness of the current plan from a rūnanga perspective, and to identify gaps, opportunities, and priories to be integrated into the development of the new plan.

We have hosted one hui with Te Pātaka kaitiaki and completed one round of written consultation with all rūnanga (as of the 18th of June). We have consolidated the feedback received into a report for ECan to use in their 'Effectiveness Report'.
This mahi will continue in the next financial year where we will begin providing feedback into, and potentially co-authoring sections of, the amended Pest Management Plan – ensuring that it appropriately protects mahinga kai and provides for tikanga and mana whenua values.

WILDING CONIFER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

We are working alongside Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to input into a refreshed National Wilding Conifer Management Strategy. We attended an online hui in early June where representatives from a handful of iwi / environmental entities country wide also attended. This mahi will continue into the next financial year.

A draft strategy will be available for review in mid-July, it will be at this stage that we take our finding to, and seek feedback from our rūnanga kaitiaki. Our objective is to see the plan provide for mana whenua values, protect indigenous biodiversity from invasive wildings, and integrate mātauranga Māori throughout the document.

PLAN CHANGE 12: COASTAL HAZARDS

Plan Change 12 is a proposed amendment to the Christchurch City Council's (CCC) District plan. It is intended to manage new developments and activities within areas at risk from coastal hazards. Currently the Christchurch District Plan does not restrict land use due to these hazards and this is an issue because of the warming climate, sea level rise, and an increase in extreme weather events. Our role is to identify values, opportunities, and limitations from a mana whenua perspective, and to advocate for the new planning framework to provide for papakāinga, rangatiratanga, and the protection of taonga.

So far, Mahaanui staff have attended two wānanga hosted by the council and undertaken one round of written consultation with rūnanga. This will be ongoing into the next financial year when the plan changes begining being drafted.

GRAVEL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Mahaanui's contribution to the renewed Gravel Management Code of Practice (Gravel COP) has helped strengthen protections for indigenous wildlife and improve how rūnanga are informed of gravel extraction within their takiwā. Following completion of the Gravel Management Strategy in 2025, Environment Canterbury reviewed and renewed the Gravel COP. The code sets out operational requirements for contractors undertaking gravel extraction of any volume, with particular guidance on gravel authorisations for activities that do not require resource consent. Over approximately six months, Mahaanui provided advice on behalf of Te Taumutu Rūnanga, working with Te Taumutu kaitiaki to ensure rūnanga values informed the updated code. This included seeking clarity on matters not fully addressed in the strategy and recommending changes to strengthen environmental protections and rūnanga involvement.

Our feedback secured several important changes: explicit protection for indigenous birds and dryland and riverbed fauna, including lizards, under section 2.8; a requirement for an Accidental Discovery Protocol for all extractions; and an updated engagement process. Released on 30 June 2026, the renewed Gravel COP is now fully operational. These changes strengthen the practical requirements for gravel extraction and support the role of rūnanga as kaitiaki within their takiwā.

SMART AND ENABLING REGULATOR COMPLIANCE IMPROVEMENT

Mahaanui is helping shape ECan's approach to regulation and compliance, ensuring mana whenua perspectives inform how risks are assessed and monitoring priorities are set.
The regulatory improvement project aims to create a simpler, more responsive framework that uses digital tools, focuses on risk, and reflects user needs. Mahaanui has been engaged to support rūnanga involvement in these changes. Mahaanui kaimahi have worked alongside ECan compliance staff to refine risk criteria and scoring for different consented activities. This work will support more targeted compliance monitoring, with each property assigned a risk score to help identify monitoring priorities. Throughout the project, Mahaanui and Aoraki Environmental Consultancy (AEC) have contributed mana whenua perspectives on compliance risk.

Mahaanui kaimahi have drawn on the Mahaanui Iwi Management Plan and previous kaitiaki feedback on resource consents to inform advice across the project's workstreams. Environment Canterbury is also seeking to understand Mahaanui and rūnanga experiences of their incident response process to identify opportunities for improvement.

The next phase focuses on:

- Completing and validating the compliance risk assessment work.
- Establishing a clear, consistent process for engagement on compliance priorities.
- Developing a practical approach to identifying, prioritising and tracking unique or novel consent conditions.
- Embedding mana whenua input into core compliance processes and staff roles.

RMA REFORMS

AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR TAIAO

Changes to resource management remained a significant issue during the year. The replacement of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) with the Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill will change how whenua, wai, development, and the wider environment are managed across Aotearoa. The reforms place emphasis on economic development, infrastructure, and private property rights. They aim to simplify planning and make development easier. For iwi, a key concern is how these objectives will be balanced with the protection of te taiao.

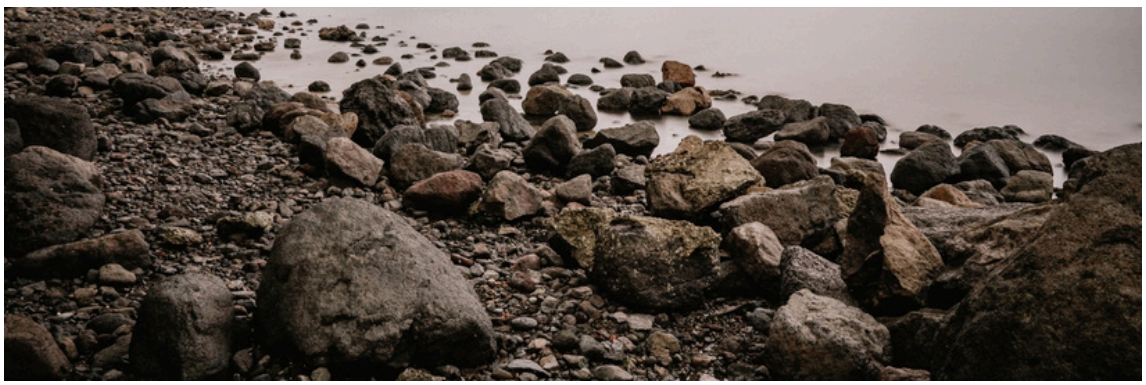
Proposed changes to environmental standards, biodiversity protections, and resource consenting will need close attention. Fewer activities are expected to require consent, with greater reliance on national rules, mapping, and planning overlays.

More decisions would instead be made when plans are developed. This makes early involvement in regional and national planning especially important. We will need to ensure that iwi values, mātauranga Māori, and cultural landscapes are recognised in the plans and rules that guide all future activity.

Questions also remain about how well the proposed system will protect indigenous biodiversity and ecosystem health. Environmental limits are part of the proposals, but their effectiveness will depend on how they are set, applied, and enforced, including when exceptions are allowed. The treatment of climate change also needs scrutiny, particularly development in areas exposed to natural hazards and the cumulative effects of greenhouse gas emissions.

These changes give us a clear reason to review our Iwi Management Plan. Under the proposed framework, iwi management plans would continue to be considered when regional spatial and environmental plans are prepared. An updated plan can help us make the most of that opportunity by clearly setting out what matters to our iwi, what needs protection, and where we want to see restoration and development occur.

Looking ahead, reviewing the Iwi Management Plan will be a priority. The review will need to reflect our current environmental, cultural, economic, and social priorities, alongside the challenges facing te taiao. It will provide a stronger basis for our participation in planning processes and help us advocate for outcomes that support our people and the environment.



MĀTĀRAUEMI *Resource Management*

4

- AKAROA WHARF
- AKAROA TREATED WASTEWATER (EXCEEDANCE) OCCASIONAL HARBOUR DISCHARGE
- DUVAUCHELLE TREATED WASTEWATER
- AKAROA RAW SEWERAGE OVERFLOW

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2 FAST TRACK REFERRALS

1 CONSENT HEARING

UNDERSTANDING FAST TRACK

What the process does, how it differs and what it means for Rūnanga.

	RMA	FAST TRACK
WHO DECIDES?	Usually the local council or its delegated decision-maker	Minister for Infrastructure decides referral; an expert panel generally decides approvals
MAIN FOCUS	Sustainable management and assesment of environmental effects	Delivery of projects with significant regional or national benefits
HEARINGS	May be held for notified applications: participation depends on the process	A hearing is not guaranteed. The panel decides whether to hold one
APPEALS	Environment Court appeals may be available, subject to statutory limits	Final decision cannot be appealed unless on a question of law, not appropriateness
TE TIRITI O WAITANGI	The principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Section 8) must be taken into account.	Te Tiriti is not mentioned. Instead, Māori rights are limited to ensuring consistency with existing Treaty settlements

One application. Multiple approvals.

What about the other Acts?

As part of its intention to "speed up the consenting process". A project going through the fast-track process will have consents and approvals under multiple Acts processed at the same time, including:

- The Resource Management Act 1991
- Complex freshwater fisheries activities
- The Crown Minerals Act 1991
- The Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012
- Cultural and heritage approvals (under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014)
- Conservation and environmental legislation (like the Conservation Act 1987, Reserves Act 1977, Wildlife Act 1953, and the National Parks Act 1980)

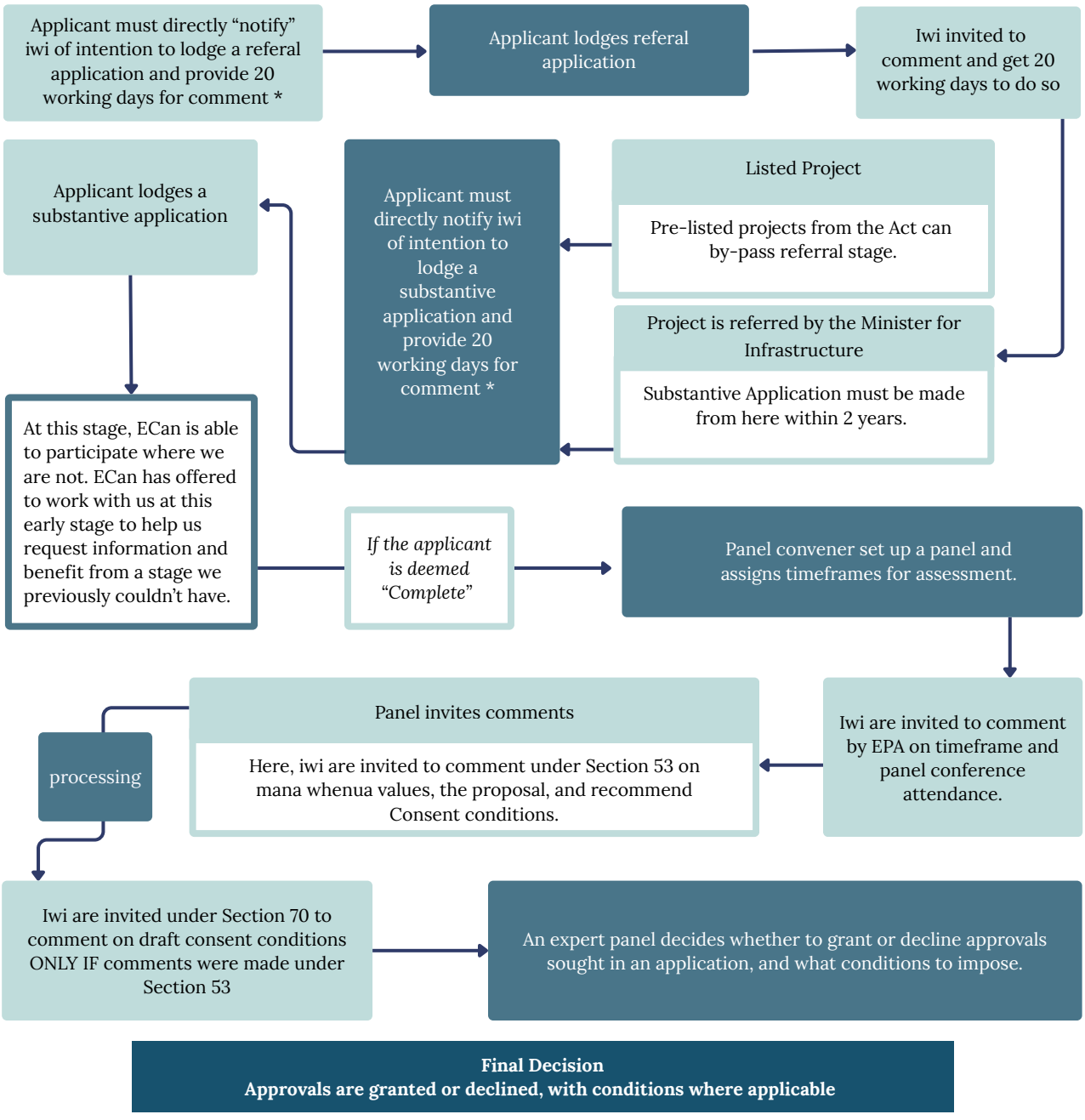
KEY CONCERNS FOR MANAWHENUA

Time Restraints:
Short response periods put pressure on our ability to assess proposals and prepare feedback.

Resourcing:
Prescribed contributions may not cover the full cost of participation. Referral Stage covers up to $2,000 and Substantive up to $10,000 excluding GST.

Influencing:
We remain concerned about the weight given to mana whenua values, environmental effects and our feedback.

FAST TRACK AND MANA WHENUA ENAGEMENT



*Cost recovery must be sought directly from applicant. Not covered under FastTrack process.

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

Enage Early:
Applicants have sought our views so far, early input matters. However, 'Notification' does not guarantee consultation.

Build Capacity:
We need internal and specialist support to participate confidently in panels and conferences.

Strengthen Feedback:
Tailor our feedback to the Fast Track system. Explain the effects, the changes sought, and evidence based reasons.

TE HAPU O NGĀTI WHEKE (RĀPAKI)



Huri te tau, huri ngā whakaaro

Over the past year, Mahaanui has continued to provide strong support and guidance across all five Papatipu Rūnanga.

Mahaanui completed a total of **55** rūnanga reports and mana whenua advice reports for consents within Te Hapu o Ngāti Wheke (Rāpaki) takiwā. The main activities that kaitiaki provided feedback on were earthworks and subdivision and development.

Pre-application:

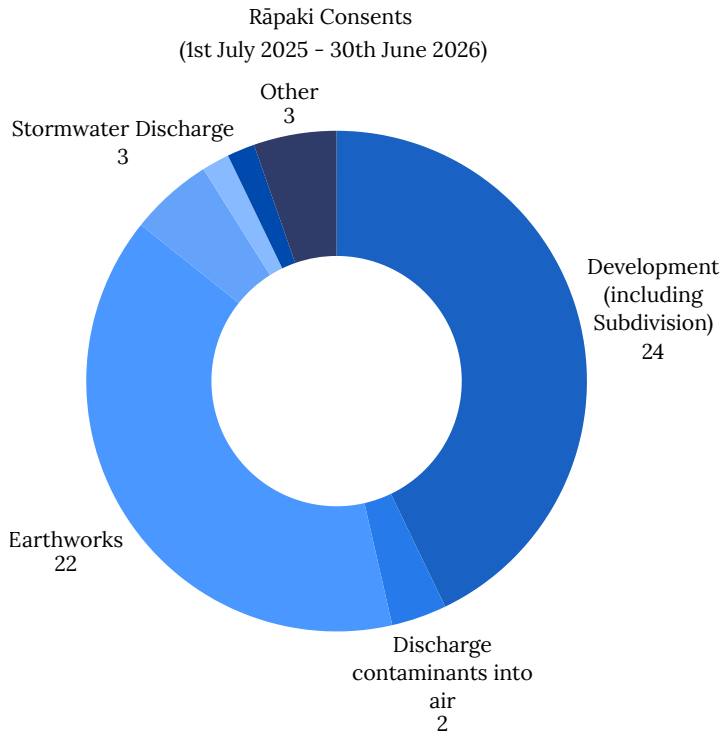
- Stevenson Steep Stormwater Project
- McQueens Valley Runanga Sensitive Area

Submission/Hearing:

Mahaanui provided in-kind support through the preparation of evidence and attendance at a hearing with Ngāti Wheke.

Mana Whenua Advisory Statements:

- Cass Bay
- Corsair Bay
- McCormacks Bay & Marriner Street combined.



TE RŪNANGA O ŌNUKU

Huri te tau, huri ngā whakaaro **-**
During the 2025/26 financial year, Mahaanui completed 30 resource consent applications within Te Rūnanga o Ōnuku takiwā. Key activities requiring cultural assessment and feedback included earthworks, subdivision, development proposals, and wastewater discharges.



CIA:

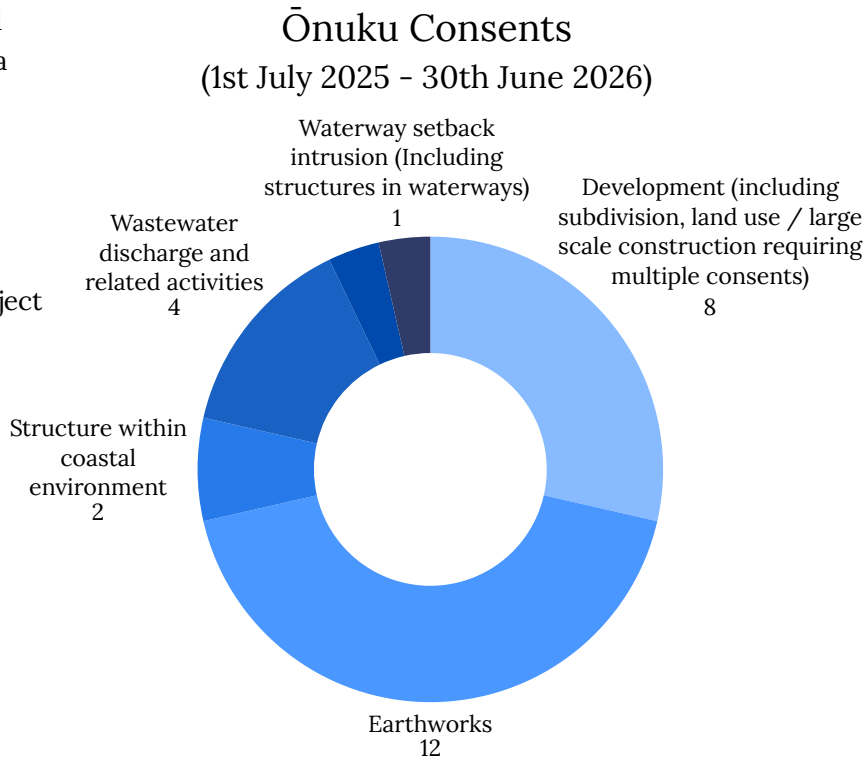
- Akaroa Wharf
- Akaroa Treated Wastewater (Exceedance) Occasional Harbour Discharge
- Duvauchelle Treated Wastewater
- Akaroa Raw Sewerage Overflow

MWAS:

- Water submain Ōnuku
- Water Supply Tilford Hereford Submain Renewals (Takamatua sites).
- Rue Pompallier, Akaroa.
- Rue Lavaud, Akaroa.

Other

- Stormwater Improvement Project at Hempleman Drive.



TE TAUMUTU RŪNANGA

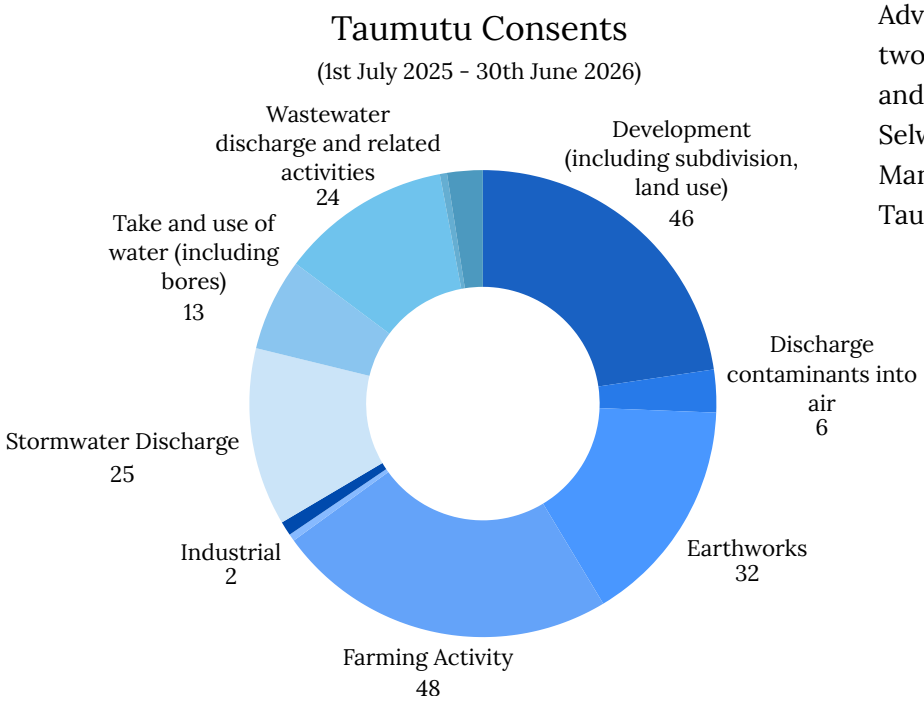


Huri te tau, huri ngā whakaaro -
During the 2025/26 financial year, Mahaanui completed 202 rūnanga reports and mana whenua advice reports for consent applications within Te Taumutu Rūnanga takiwā.

Key activities on which Te Taumutu Rūnanga kaitiaki provided feedback included farming and effluent discharges, earthworks, subdivision and development, stormwater discharges, and wastewater discharges.

Mahaanui also provided preliminary feedback on six Fast Track pre-applications and feedback on two Fast Track referral applications.

Mahaanui prepared one Mana Whenua Advisory Statement, two submissions, two Private Plan Change documents, and cultural values sections for two Selwyn District Council Catchment Management Plans on behalf of Te Taumutu Rūnanga.



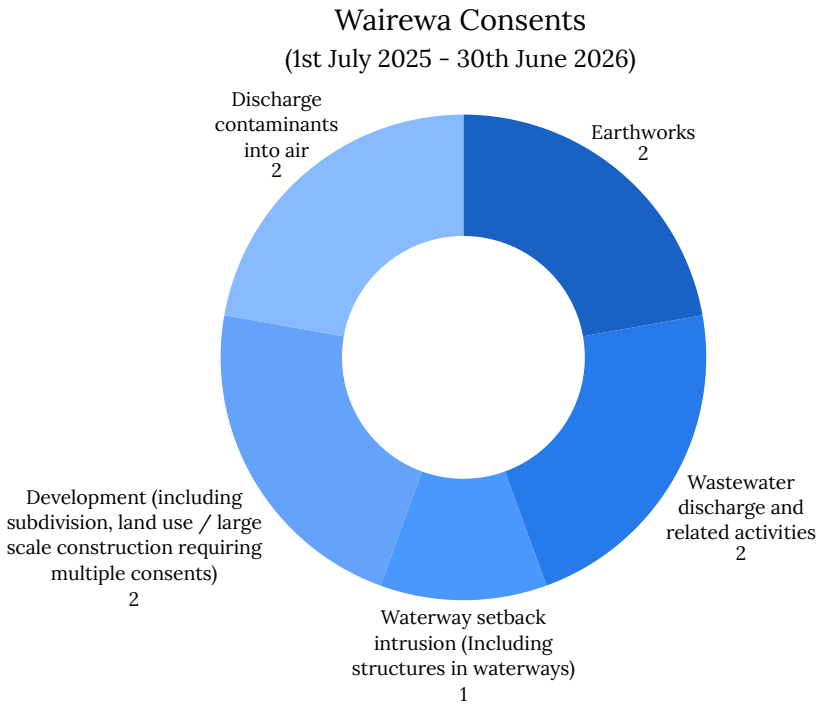
WAIREWA RŪNANGA



Huri te tau, huri ngā whakaaro - Over the past year, Mahaanui completed a total of 9 rūnanga reports and mana whenua advice reports for consents within Wairewa Rūnanga takiwā.

The consented activities that Wairewa Rūnanga kaitiaki provided feedback on were earthworks, wastewater, subdivision and development, waterway setback intrusions and global air discharges.

Other jobs of note within the 25/26 financial year include the facilitation and review of pre-application advice for the Te Ara Pātaka Shelter and the Rod Donald Hut (tramping hut). Two Mana Whenua Advisory Statements were written on behalf of Wairewa Rūnanga.



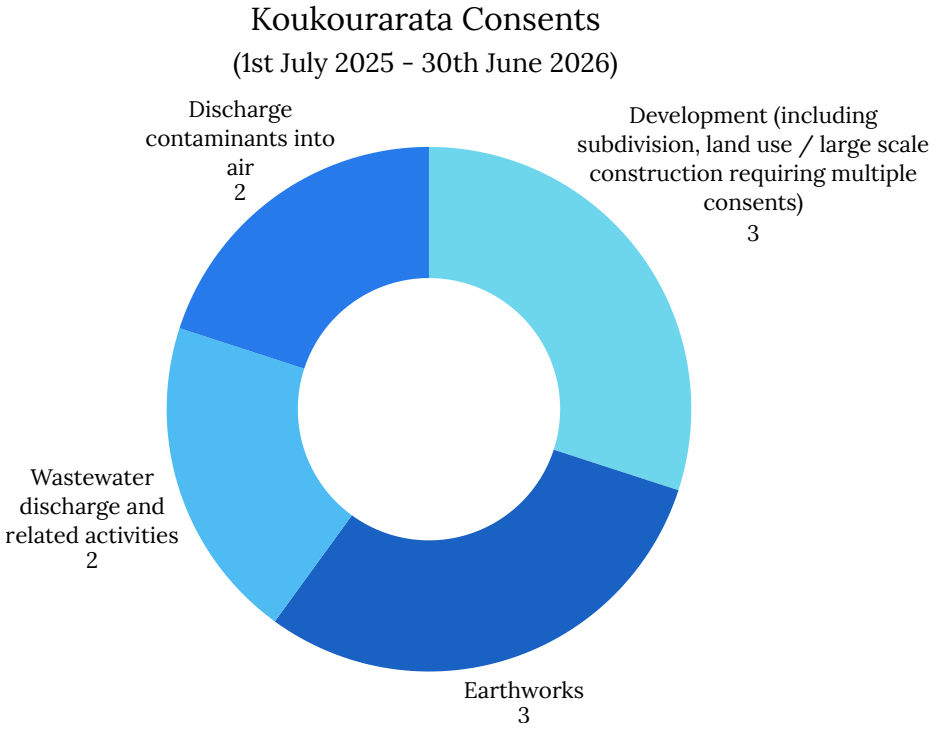
TE RŪNANGA O KOUKOURARATA

Huri te tau, huri ngā whakaaro -
During the 2025/26 financial year, Mahaanui completed 10 rūnanga reports and mana whenua advice reports for consent applications within the takiwā of Te Rūnanga o Koukourarata.

Kaitiaki provided feedback on a range of proposed activities, primarily earthworks, subdivisions and developments, wastewater discharges, and global air discharge consents.

Mahaanui kaimahi also prepared a Mana Whenua Advisory Statement for Christchurch City Council's Holmes Bay Road bank reinstatement works.





















BLUE CARBON REPORT

The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa are looking to develop a national Blue Carbon Vision for New Zealand. Mahaanui were successful in our application for funding, securing $10,000 from The Nature Conservancy to host hui with Papatipu Rūnanga.

The intended outcome of these hui was to gain an understanding of the value that Blue Carbon/takutai moana spaces hold to rūnanga, to encapsulate whanau long term visions, and to understand the priorities each rūnanga see for managing blue carbon spaces within their own takiwā. The final output of this kaupapa is a report, sharing this whakaaro with the Nature Conservancy.

Our understanding is that the Nature Conservancy will use this information (and similar from other iwi / rūnanga entities) to guide the development of their national vision.
We see this as important opportunity as we want to ensure that mātauranga, tikanga, and mana whenua values are weaved throughout any statement that intends to present a 'national vison' for te taiao.

Looking forward, we want to use this as a building block towards quantifying the blue carbon being stored in each takiwā. We intend to use the information we collect, especially around key opportunities and priorities, as a collective data base to reference when exploring funding opportunities.

ENDEMIC INVERTEBRATES ANTI-BACTERIAL SYMBIOTES

Mahaanui has been working closely with researchers and science institutes such as the Bioeconomy Science Institute. This work includes assessing and providing feedback onto research projects starting with Victoria University undertaking a research partnership with the Bioeconomy Science Institute. The team has collected an array of introduced, native, and endemic invertebrates from Hinewai Reserve, Akaroa and plans to investigate the bacteria that lives within them – also known as their symbiotic organisms.

This research aims to discover new bacteria with beneficial properties – such as being antibacterial.

Our role in this research is to ensure that:
1. Rūnanga are aware of the use of taonga fauna in their takiwā.
2. Provide rūnanga the opportunity to recommend any tikanga that the BSI team should build into their research/publication process.

We have also utilised this new relationship in our Rangatahi Program.

YELLOW FLAG IRIS BIOCONTROL

The Yellow Flag Iris is an introduced plant species that negatively impacts native flora and fauna in freshwater environments. The National Biocontrol Collective is applying to introduce the Yellow Flag Iris Flea Beetle to New Zealand as a biocontrol agent in an effort to control populations of the Yellow Flag Iris plant. ECan was invited to comment on this application and extended the opportunity to us. Mahaanui kaimahi undertook an internal assessment of the proposal, identified gaps in the application and potential impacts of the biocontrol agent to the wider taiao. Along with kaitiaki, we raised questions and concerns that ECan will include in their feedback.
We hope that our contributed comments will lead the application to return to the testing phase and assess all the gaps that we identified in their application from the mātauranga Māori perspective.

BIRD FLU RESPONSE PLAN

This year New Zealand has 3 confirmed detections of HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza), commonly known as Bird Flu.
This highly contagious strain of Bird Flu has now been detected in every country world wide and while every effort is being made to limit the spread of bird flu in New Zealand, it is likely just a matter of time before we are unable to control it.
Therefore, ECan is developing a Bird Flu Response Plan that will explain the roles and responsibilities of council, disposal methods for dead birds, notification rules, etc. Mahaanui has been contracted by ECan to ensure that this plan represents papatipu rūnanga interests, values, and tikanga.

We will work with ECan on developing best notification, monitoring, tracking, and disposal methods, and to ensure that rūnanga interests and tikanga is built into the response plan in the event where taonga species or locations are involved.



KOUKOURARATA TAKUTAI MOANA

Mahaanui is privileged to support Koukourarata Rūnanga with their Takutai Moana (Marine and Coastal Area) claim. This claim will enable the rūnanga to apply for their customary rights in relation to the takutai moana to be legally recognised. This area can include any area up to 12 nautical miles offshore, including any offshore islands (Horomaka Island).

Working alongside Te Kura Taka Pini and Koukourarata Rūnanga, we will prepare a comprehensive historical report to support the recognition of customary marine title and/or protected customary rights.
Successfully obtaining customary marine title will empower the rūnanga to exercise authority and protect and enhance their significant coastal areas under the Takutai Moana Act.

Research is expected to begin in late August/September and will draw from available records from at least 1840 until the present day, as well as whānau interviews to include important oral mātauranga. The project aims to produce a robust, evidence-based report that can withstand scrutiny in court or by the crown depending on the approach Koukourarata Rūnanga choose to take.

THE PROJECT WILL INVOLVE 2 KEY STAGES:

1 Information gathering and assessing claim pathways.
We will prepare a historical report outlining evidence for the claim, gathered from a combination of archival research and whānau interviews.

2 After preparing this report, Mahaanui will work with Koukourarata Rūnanga to identify next steps for the claim pathway – either direct crown engagement or court proceedings.







TE KETE RANGAHAU O TE TAI TONGA

This research project funded by Te Mātāwai investigates the current state of te reo Māori and ta rē Moriori across the 11 iwi and imi of Te Tai Tonga with a focus on immersion. The purpose of this research is to inform Te Pae Motuhake's investment decisions to create the best possible gains for te reo and ta rē.

This significant research project engages with Māori communities and leaders across Te Waipounamu to understand the depth of form and function of reo Māori immersion.



Providing Mātauranga Māori leadership towards capability uplift with our local government partners. Mahaanui are looked to for providing thought-leadership on how mātauranga Māori is understood, applied, protected and safeguarded with respect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, mana raraunga and mana mātauranga. Though this work straddles FY26 and FY27, we look forward to realising the significant undertaking with and for our rūnanga shareholders.

Over 24 participants were interviewed, and data sharing agreements with Te Mātāwai allowed for a deep analysis of investment impact. Our work will be published later in 2026.

Project Outcomes

GIS heat maps showing reo and rē landscape change over time, investment reach, and immersion depth, and a clear baseline for future investment planning.

Concise system overview outlining conditions that enable or constrain successful immersion.

Clear, actionable investment insights and recommendations for Te Pae Motuhake.

Achievements reached

The team has interviewed 24 te reo and ta rē champions across Te Tai Tonga and mapped Te Mātāwai investment data.

BUILDING RESILIENT WHĀNAU:
LESSONS FROM COVID-19 FOR FUTURE INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREPAREDNESS

This research project explored the feasibility of developing a sustainable, community-led infectious disease response plan for Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū and Te Kete Ika o Rākaihautū. Drawing on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and international best practice, the project sought to strengthen local preparedness, resilience, and community wellbeing. Guided by a Kaupapa Māori framework, the research was undertaken across three phases: a literature review, a series of wānanga, and the synthesis and analysis of findings.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

This project represented several firsts for Mahaanui, being both the organisation's first internally led research project and its first kaupapa hauora initiative. As a result, kaimahi undertook a significant learning journey, building capability in qualitative research methodologies and research project management.

The project also exceeded its initial budget allocation, highlighting the importance of robust project scoping and financial planning. This experience has provided valuable lessons that will strengthen budgeting practices and project delivery approaches for future research initiatives.

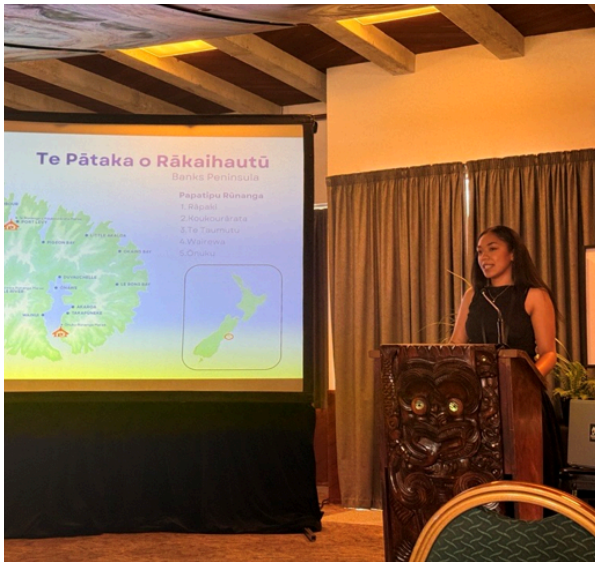
Outcomes and Achievements

The research proposal received approval from Te Niwha in July 2025, with Ngahiraka Dallas engaged to support the project from August to December 2025.

In November 2025, Ngahiraka and Ai Lian attended the Infectious Diseases Summit held at Tūrangawaewae Marae. During the summit, they showcased the project through a poster presentation, with Ngahiraka also delivering a lightning presentation to share emerging insights and findings.

Nei rā te mihi owha kia koe Ngahiraka, mō tō mahi rangatira mō tō hapori.





Building Resilient Whānau: Lessons from COVID-19 for Future Infectious Disease Preparedness

Ngahiraka Dallas, Dr Irene Setiawan
Te Mātāpuna Hauora & Mahaanui Kurataiao, Waitaha

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected Māori, particularly those in rural areas where access to timely and culturally appropriate care was limited.[1] While national public health responses were rapidly developed, they often failed to reach or reflect the realities of rural Māori communities.[2] Despite this, Māori quickly mobilised collective values of manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, and kotahitanga to support and protect whānau.[1,3,4]

Te Pātaka o Rākaihautu (Banks Peninsula) and Te Kete Ika o Rākaihautu (Lake Ellesmere) are rural regions of Waitaha (Canterbury) where many kaumātua and whānau experienced isolation and service disruption during COVID-19.[4]

The aim of this research is to assess the feasibility of establishing a sustainable, community-led infectious disease response plan for these areas, learning from COVID-19 lessons and international best practices to strengthen local preparedness and resilience.

METHODS

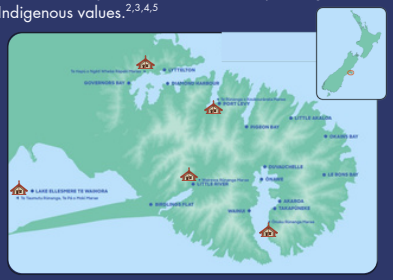
Literature review: A literature review of 34 articles examined lessons learned from previous infectious disease responses among Māori and rural communities in Aotearoa, and international best practice among Indigenous and rural communities in Australia, North America, and Central America. Thematic analysis was used to identify key themes, supported by a SWOT framework to summarise international literature.

Wānanga: Three semi-structured wānanga were held with 13 participants including Rūnanga representatives, health professionals, and whānau from five Papatipu Rūnanga (Koukourārata, Ōnuku, Rāpaki, Te Taumutu, and Wairewa). Discussions explored lived experiences and insights from the COVID-19 pandemic.
Findings from both methods were synthesised to identify key themes that align with the study aim of strengthening sustainable, community-led infectious disease preparedness.

KEY THEMES

He Tāngata, He Tāngata

The most successful and effective pandemic responses were driven by trusted local leadership and grounded in Indigenous values.[2,3,4,5]



What worked well
- Māori-led initiativeswere more agile and effective at reaching whānau
- Familiar faces, whanaungatanga and manakaakitanga fostered trust
- Whānau-based models of care filled gaps

"When Dr X came to the marae, people listed. She spoke like one of us, not at us."

"All those tangas...those are our superpowers."

Marae & Rūnanga: Anchors of support
- Culturally safespace: kaidistribution, marae-based clinics, kaumātua check-ups
- Relational networks and strengths

Centralised vs Local Realities

A core barrier to an effective response was the significant disconnect between top-down government systems and the realities of rural communities. This clash created confusion, inequity, and mistrust.[4]

Systemic weaknesses such as chronic under-resourcing resulted in bureaucratic delays, inequitable funding, and immense frustration on the ground.

"You'd ring the Healthline, get one answer, then your mate would ring and get another. It was all over the place."

Centralised Challenges	Community-Led Strengths
Red tape slowed response	Marae acted quickly and compassionately
Overloaded with inconsistent info	Trusted local messengers gave clarity
One-size-fits-all planning	Locally adapted, culturally grounded solutions

Titiro Whakamuri, Kōkiri Whakamua

Synthesising lessons fromall data sources providesa clear blueprint for establishing a sustainable, community-led infectious disease response plan.

Key recommendations for future preparedness:

- **Embed Māori-led decision-making and coordination hubs**
- **Invest in local preparedness roles and infrastructure**
- **Support intergenerational training and wānanga-based learning**
- **Strengthen communication via trusted local messengers**

"We shouldn't have to wait for Wellington to tell us what to do. We already know what our people need."

Across literature, and reiterated within wānanga, there is a call to strengthen Indigenous health workforce and invest in whānau-led capacity.

DISCUSSION

Across both the literature and wānanga, consistent key themes emerged confirming that a sustainable, community-led infectious disease response is not only feasible, but essential for Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū and Te Kete Ika o Rākaihautū. The feasibility, however, is not a question of community capability, as this was proven to be immense during COVID-19, but of systemic willingness to enable and resource it.
The core finding is a fundamental disconnect: while community and Māori-led responses are agile, trusted, and culturally effective, they are consistently undermined by centralised, bureaucratic systems that create barriers rather than pathways.[1,2,3,4] Our local findings mirror international evidence, which shows that Indigenous communities possess the knowledge and social infrastructure for effective crisis management but are hampered by structural inequities and a lack of genuine power-sharing.[5]
Therefore, achieving a sustainable plan requires more than just a document; it demands a fundamental shift from top-down control to a model of tino rangatiratanga, where local Māori leadership is formally acknowledged for their role as champions of health. Hence, empowering and resourcing them to lead preparedness for their own communities. True sustainability will come from embedding this authority into the system, not from short-term emergency funding.

IMPLICATIONS

The study's findings demand a fundamental shift in how preparedness is planned, funded, and executed:

- **Funders & policy makers:** Shift from top-down control to devolved authority and flexible, long-term funding.
- **Māori governance:** Leverage evidence to formalise Māori leadership by diverting from improvising crisis response to a recognised, resourced role in emergency management.
- **Public health sector:** Become enablers of community-led responses via partnership and transparent data-sharing.

NEXT STEPS

- **Strengthen local preparedness working groups** to coordinate effective plan development.
- **Build relationships/partnerships** between local iwi and hapū, public health, and local government (city, district, and regional councils).
- **Co-design an all-hazards preparedness framework/toolkit** defining clear roles, communication pathways, and resource management.
- **Secure sufficient funding** to support a dedicated coordinator and long-term resourcing.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank everyone who supported this project: Te Niwha (Kia Tupu – Community Development Grant), Te Mātāpuna Hauora, Mahaanui Kurataiao, project advisors, wānanga participants, and all contributors to the research.

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TE MĀTĀPUNA HAUORA

Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd

PRIVATE NATIVE CARBON PARTNERSHIP

Mahaanui has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to become a delivery partner in a private native carbon programme focused on intergenerational environmental outcomes across Te Waipounamu.

Our contribution spans cultural monitoring, mātauranga monitoring, and iwi and hapū engagement. Mahaanui is currently supporting due diligence to clarify and verify the programme's delivery approach ahead of its anticipated start in FY27.

CLIMATE PLATFORM FUNDING

Mahaanui has supported rūnanga to secure a significant share of a $7 million climate funding pool for works across several marae. Our support covered funding applications and consenting considerations for projects including storm management and solar battery storage.

This investment will help strengthen marae resilience to climate impacts and support their vital role in community emergency response. As the heart of rūnanga and places of refuge and coordination during emergencies, marae are central to the wellbeing of whānau and the wider community.

KĀ KAITIAKI O TE PĀTAKA TAIAO LEADS FORUM

Mahaanui is supporting collective leadership on environmental kaupapa through Kā Kaitiaki o Te Pātaka Taiao Leads Forum, which brings together rūnanga-appointed taiao portfolio holders.

At members' request, Mahaanui began coordinating, facilitating and administering the forum in October 2025. Since then, we have supported several full-day forums and facilitated engagement with local government on biodiversity, pest management, energy infrastructure, regulatory compliance and environmental monitoring.

The forum provides a dedicated space for members to share priorities, strengthen connections and engage collectively on matters affecting their taiao.












TE KOHANGA REO
O WHAREKAURI





NGĀTI MUTUNGA O WHAREKAURI

SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDOM OF UNDERSTANDING





October 2025, a MoU was signed between Mahaanui and Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi Trust (NMOWIT), for Mahaanui to become their preferred environmental entity for the Chatham's.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS RĒKOHU / WHAREKAURI

In February 2026, Mahaanui travelled to Rēkohu/Wharekauri (the Chatham Islands) to strengthen relationships, share our approach to environmental management, and better understand local environmental priorities.

During the visit, the team met with the Chair of NMOWIT and engaged with several key organisations, including the Chatham Islands Council (CIC), Chatham Islands Enterprise Trust (CIET), and Hokotehi Moriori Trust (HMT). These conversations provided valuable opportunities to exchange knowledge, identify shared priorities, and explore future opportunities for collaboration.
A particularly significant outcome has been the ongoing relationship with Hokotehi Moriori Trust and its Post-Governance Settlement Entity, the Moriori Imi Settlement Trust (MIST). Through continued engagement, both organisations have recognised strong alignment in their aspirations for indigenous-led environmental stewardship and the protection of culturally significant landscapes and waters.

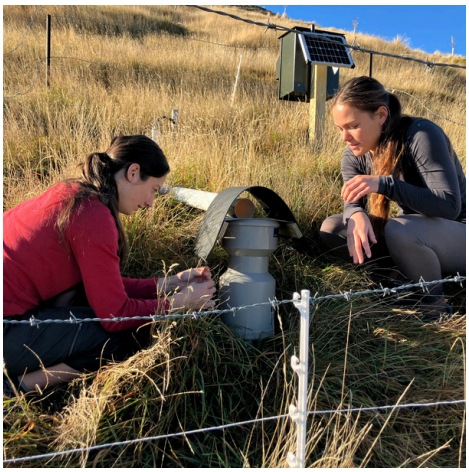
Building on this momentum, Mahaanui is exploring the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding with *Tchakat Henu*—the Moriori expression for mana whenua—to formalise a collaborative partnership founded on mutual respect, shared learning, and collective kaitiakitanga. This relationship reflects our commitment to strengthening indigenous partnerships and working together to achieve enduring environmental outcomes across our respective takiwā.







RANGATAHI PATHWAYS





ECan has provided working opportunity for two Rangatahi to conduct Erosion monitoring in Koukourarata.

Kupu Arataki | Introduction

Mahaanui was approached by Te Kura ki Uta ki Tai to deliver a Rangatahi Pathways programme. This programme is designed to build confidence, capability, and connection to whenua and moana, while identifying clear pathways into employment, training, or further development within the environmental sector.

As a collective of rangatahi, we were guided by the whakaaro: "You do not need a degree to be kaitiaki of our taiao." This reflects our aspiration to support rangatahi to see themselves within spaces and industries where they have not traditionally been represented, particularly within environmental and corporate sectors.

In response to the current climate and project timeframes, we have refined the programme to better align with the realities facing rangatahi today. This programme will be delivered in the month of August, but we have already secured 2 casual roles within the programme.

What the programme will include:

- Two sessions (either a full day or half day) wānanga per week of partner-led hands on environment experience
- Sessions delivered in partnership with iwi, rūnaka, environmental organisations and industry providers
- Potential job opportunities with partners and CV support from Mahaanui.

Two Rangatahi from the project have already been secured in casual work with ECan for erosion monitoring on two Māori Reservations in Port Levy.

Koukourarata Erosion Monitoring Objectives:

- Collect sediment/water samples after rain events.
- Ensure monitoring equipment is functioning and report observed damages.
- Support trial site maintenance (weeding, equipment validation, further planting).
- Assist with measuring and monitoring plant progress.

















TĀREREKAUTUKU YARRS LAGOON
MĀTAURANGA MONITORING

Selwyn District Council (SDC) approached Mahaanui and Te Taumutu Rūnanga in 2023 to help implement and facilitate a Mātauranga Māori monitoring programme as part of ongoing environmental restoration work at Tārerekautuku Yarrs Lagoon. During this time Mahaanui worked with Taumutū whānau to develop an appropriate montioring programme that will outline baseline cultural values and catchment health.

In March 2026 Mahaanui facilitated cultural monitoring at Tārerekautuku with four hapū representatives – Bridget Robilliard, Khan McKay, Jacinda Moore-Keats, and Dan Buchanan. Monitoring field work was conducted over two days and followed State of Takiwā methodology. Results collected were used to frame a cultural monitoring report, outlining current state of cultural health and values, and providing recommendations to help improve environmental and cultural health, and mahinga kai values.

Despite undergoing significant modification in the past, Tārerekautuku and the wider catchment remains culturally important to Ngāi Tahu and Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki whānau. Tārerekautuku was once part of a wider network of kāinga and mahinga kai surrounding the rich mahinga kai area of Te Waihora. Throughout the two days of mātauranga Māori monitoirng at Tārerekautuku, whānau observed parts of the historic wetland for their first time and shared kōrero from their tīpuna on how the wetland helped sustain their hapū prior to European settler arrival. This helped provide further context for the final report and the signifcance of wetland restoration for Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki whānau.



Undertaking State of Takiwā montioring with Te Taumutu Rūnanga at Tārerekautuku Yarrs Lagoon.



State of Takiwā monitoring with Te Taumutū whānau at a site with regenerating mānuka at Tārerekautuku Yarrs Lagoon.

WHAKAORA TE WAIKĒKĒWAI
MĀTAURANGA MONITORING PROGRAMME

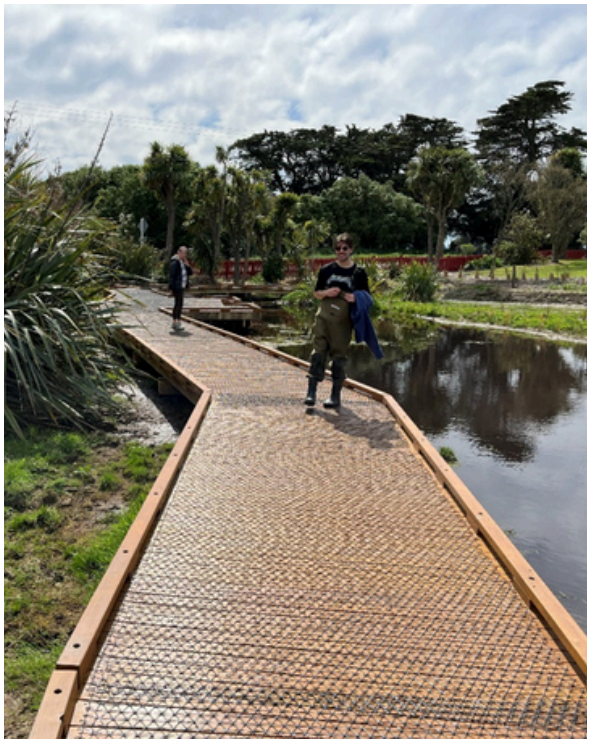
2025/2026 was the fourth and final year of the Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai Mātauranga Māori Methodolgy and Monitoring Programme.

Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai is a 5-year restoration project aimed at restoring the lower-mid catchment of Te Waikēkēwai/Waikēkēwai Stream, through improving water quality, enhancing mahinga kai opportunities and increasing indigenous biodiversity. The project is led by Te Taumutu Rūnanga, and co-managed in partnership by Te Taumutu Rūnanga (Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai) and ECan (through the Whakaora Te Waihora programme, which is an operational programme under the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group).
Mahaanui facilitates cultural monitoring alongside cultural monitors from Te Taumutu Rūnanga – Tania Nutira, Bridget Robilliard, and Khan McKay.

Monitoring staff observed seasonal variability in some health characteristics of the awa and neighbouring land, such as awa flows and depth at some monitoring sites, which prevented them from undertaking a full fish survey during the time of montioring.
In all instances monitors were able to set gee minnow traps at a minimum.

Te Waikēkēwai/Waikēkēwai Stream signifies an important whakapapa connection for Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki and Te Taumutu Rūnanga.

The wider area was an important mahinga kai site, where whānau could gather a wide range of resources as the stream flowed through rich wetlands before reaching Te Waihora, which is another culturally significant site for Taumutu whānau and Ngāi Tahu.



12
Monitoring Sites visited



CHRISTCHURCH STORMWATER
NETWORK DISCHARGE CONSENT

Mahaanui facilitates engagement with papatipu rūnanga and cultural monitoring relating to stormwater discharges and the CSNDC.

The consent is authorised by ECan and authorises discharges to water from the CCC stormwater network. There are over 60 consent conditions required to be met by CCC, many of which involve engagement with mana whenua and ongoing monitoring to ensure stormwater discharges are not having detrimental effects on the receiving environment.

60+
Consent Conditions Monitored

Cultural monitoring is undertaken using State of Takiwā methodology and has Attribute Target Levels defined based on this methodolgy.

The State of Takiwā monitoring methodology was developed by Ngāi Tahu and enables mana whenua to gather, store, analyse and report on information important to mana whenua, including cultural values and health of waterways and mahinga kai. The State of Takiwā blends western science with mātauranga Māori to present a holistic view of catchment health by assessing a range of indicators of waterway health.



Carl Crofts observing stream bed at Little Akaloa.



Rangatahi conducting Mana Whenua health assessment at Pawsons Stream.

MĀTAURANGA MĀORI MONITORING

The State of Kaitorete Mātauranga Monitoring Programme delivered by Tāwhaki is an exciting project that Mahaanui has supported. The purpose of this programme is to build and transfer mātauranga Māori by working with whānau of Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Wairewa Rūnanga to foster a deeper understanding of Kaitorete and the surrounding environment of Te Waihora.
The programme incorporates cultural monitoring with site assessments, collecting social outcomes data, analysis and reporting on the current state of Kaitorete, documenting the assessment days through photography and videography for archival purposes, and presenting all findings to whānau and project partners.
In 2025, Tāwhaki comlpeted the fourth year of their State of Kaitorete monitoring programme, and planning is underway to continue this mātauranga Māori based monitoring programme for 2026.



Whānau and kaimahi who participated in State of Kaitorete monitoring.

Mahaanui continues to work with ECan and papatipu rūnanga of Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū to develop and implement an environmental and social impact monitoring programme that prioritises mātauranga Māori, respects information soverignty, and paves a new way for local whānau and hapū to actively and sustainably engage in the protection and management of their taonga species and places.

This will involve a series of wānanga designed to identify at-risk mahinga kai species that hold high cultural values to whānau, and shape the monitoring framework accordingly. Mahaanui will continue facilitating this stage of the monitoring programme to enable whānau to undertake appropriate mātauranga Māori monitoirng on their mahinga kai species and harbours.

WHAKAMATAU/LAKE COLERIDGE
TUNA TRAP AND TRANSFER MONITORING

In 2024 Contact Energy contracted NIWA to investigate the potential number of migrant eels requiring downstream passage within Whakamatau/Lake Coleridge.
The Coleridge Power Station (which Contact Energy manages) is a significant barrier to fish migration, particularly for freshwater tuna. Adult migrant longfin tuna, the only tuna species previously recorded from the Coleridge catchment, are prevented from accessing the sea to spawn by the Coleridge Power Station and there is no clear pathway out of the lake for migrant eels under normal operating conditions.



The Whakamātau Eel Management Trust was established in 1998 between Ngāi Tahu and Trustpower to focus on the conservation, care, and sustainable management of tuna. This trap and transfer programme is one workstream which helps address the sustainability of tuna species and ensure they have an opportunity to complete their life cycles.

Mahaanui facilitates engagement with Taumutu and Ngāi Tūāhuriri whānau, providing an opportunity for rangatahi to participate in the tuna trap and transfer and monitoring processes alongside NIWA scientists.

Kahurangi Burgman and Ihakara Piripi-Burgman joined Mahaanui staff on these visits and had the opportunity to learn about tuna heke while assisting NIWA staff with releasing trapped tuna into the Rakaia River.



NIWA Scientists and whanau checking the traps on Lake Coleridge.



















TE ANGA WHAKAMUA
LOOKING AHEAD

Taiao. Whānau. Tuku Iho. Mahaanui.
The year ahead presents new opportunities for Mahaanui to build on our foundations and explore new services. We have taken a specific focus on mātauranga Māori and wānanga-based projects. We look forward with confidence and a grounded sense of direction.

Mahaanui Kurawhakaaro.
Our strategy remains on diversifying services and building resilience across our traditional environmental Kurataiao Pou. We have determined a rangatahi parallel pathway alongside our projects to give material effect to our Kurawhānau Pou. We will create opportunities for rangatahi to learn, contribute and build meaningful pathways into employment and the tribal economy.

We recognise that lasting change requires more than responding to the challenges of today. It calls for new thinking, collective leadership and the confidence to shape the decisions of tomorrow. Our Research arm - Mātāhuanui, seeks to extend the reach and impact of our mahi, ensuring the knowledge of our people continues to inform and influence the future. Central to this ambition is growing the distinct thought-leadership Mahaanui has enjoyed developing, reaching national audiences. We will continue this distinction to move our kaupapa forward.

Through wānanga and shared learning, Mahaanui will galvanise the tripartrite relationship of applied intellectual property, mass communication across whānau and rūnanga, and unlocking scale with the investment in technology, to define our Mahaanui distinction.

Kurataiao. Kurawhānau. Kurapounamu.
These three pou will continue to guide our journey, bringing together environmental leadership, thriving whānau and communities, and intergenerational prosperity. Together, they reflect our commitment to building on the strength of our past while creating new possibilities for those who follow.

Our whānau, our rūnanga and our communities will see themselves in the mahi and the kaupapa we champion - all towards a thriving mokopuna and taiao future.

Mahaanui ki te ao! E kō, kō, i e ara e!

FUNDERS AND PARTNERS





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Mahaanui
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