

Lake Waahi collaborative restoration



Waikato Raupatu River Trust & Waahi Whanui Trust & Genesis Energy - Erina Watene-Rawiri

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To improve the health and wellbeing of Lake Waahi

This project aims to:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of Lake Waahi, through pest fish control
 and riparian habitat enhancement, using innovative and holistic measures
 that blend scientific knowledge, engineering solutions, and matauranga
 Maori methodologies, and to share this information to support other
 restoration efforts in the catchment and;
- Support Waikato-Tainui, Waahi Whaanui Trust, and the people of its marae to build capacity in native plant nursery establishment and operation, riparian enhancement and protection, and ecological and kaitiaki monitoring.

The project concept centres on an holistic restoration cycle involving:

- 1. Gates to prevent and trap pest fish entering and exiting Lake Waahi;
- 2. Removal of the pest fish and converting them into high value compost using a digester;
- 3. Use of the compost in developing nurseries, which grow plants specifically eco-sourced for the lake;
- 4. Use of the plants for riparian enhancement to improve habitat and water quality around the lake and streams.

This project received funding from the Waikato River Authority (WRA 11-113)

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