

Maungatautari Wetland Restoration



NJ & LM Williams Dairy Farm - Duncan Stewart duncans@greenhousecleantech.com

The Maungatautari Wetland Restoration Project will deliver three separate native wetlands, in 2.5ha of ephemeral and perennial streams, within and adjacent to existing dairy farming pasture in Maungatautari.

The project is important because it will deliver meaningful improvements to local native biodiversity, restore water quality in tributaries to the Waikato River, provide a project for community interaction, and a basis for further education about the importance of upper-catchment management for the Waikato River. We also expect that the project will serve to demonstrate the economic and environmental benefits of active riparian and wetland management practices to other dairy farmers in the region.

The project will be undertaken between January 2015 to June 2015 by the dairy farm landowners, Neville & Louise Williams, with the assistance of specialists in consenting, engineering and wetland management. The project methodology includes the following key steps:

- 1. A wetland scoping study to identify three discrete wetland zones within the farm property and associated topographical data,
- 2. Concept design of wetlands including an engineering assessment methodology for weirs, planting location of native species, and location of bird nesting boxes,
- Consultation, consenting and community engagement, including garnering the support of local iwi and school children to assist with native plant selection and planting
- 4. Detailed engineering design of wetland weir and telemetry systems,
- 5. Physical works, including fencing, construction of engineered weirs, native tree planting, installation of bird nesting boxes and performance monitoring
- 6. Ongoing maintenance and management of the wetlands, including performance reporting and student education via a novel electronic system.

The landowners are making a considerable contribution in the form of both cash and in-kind contributions, however the grant funding is critical to the overall affordability of the project. This is a Waikato River Authority funded project (WRA 14-028).

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