



Nature-Based Solutions Investigation – Ōroua and Pohangina Rivers

Project Objectives

Purpose

To develop a holistic and sustainable flood protection model for the Pohangina, Ōroua, and Manawatū (between the Pohangina and Ōroua confluences) Rivers.

Aim

To work with the natural environment, minimising the need for engineering interventions and ongoing maintenance.

Objectives:

Principles we will use to achieve our purpose:

- (a) Prioritising the river's room to move to express her natural character;
- (b) Restoring the integrity of riparian margins, gravel bar habitats and floodplain connectivity;
- (c) Avoiding channelisation of the river corridor, and promoting and enhancing habitat complexity with pools, riffles, runs, meanders and side channels;
- (d) Increasing channel size and capacity to provide for flood flows within defined floodplains;
- (e) Where possible, prioritising the removal of infrastructure from flood plains that is vulnerable to flooding;
- (f) Promoting financial resilience and long term solutions, minimising maintenance needs over time, and focusing on preventative rather than reactive works;
- (g) Maintaining fish passage and fish habitat;
- (h) Maintaining access to existing recreational areas, preserving and enhancing the desirable features of those recreation areas;
- (i) Maintaining and promoting access to food gathering, mahinga kai harvesting areas and wāhi tapu, preserving and enhancing the populations of mahinga kai and important characteristics of wāhi tapu; and
- (j) Promoting community, social, economic and cultural connection and resilience.