

## JOBS FOR NATURE

# Horowhenua Freshwater Management Unit Water Quality Interventions

## Kohuturoa Marae Hui

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Kohuturoa Marae, Hōkio Beach Road

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## NOTES

**In Attendance:** Deanna Paki, Sharon Haeapa, Mike MacGyver, Dean Wilson.

**Horizons staff:**

Logan Brown, Charlotte Minnis.

**Supporting:**

Cr Sam Ferguson.

**Welcome**

Logan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Horowhenua Wetland Project: (Logan Brown)**

**Comments/Questions**

- There was some discussion around the need for more water to be put into the Lake to help flush it and whether we can get a bore to bring more water into the lake. **Response:** There is a risk that by bringing groundwater to the surface with a bore that we are intercepting water that would be making its way into the Lake naturally through groundwater movement. Therefore, effectively not increasing the volume of water going to the lake but intercepting it on its way to the lake naturally. We would have to take water from outside the Lake Horowhenua groundwater capture zone which would be logistically difficult.
- There was some discussion around the wider issues outside of the wetland project in particular the weir and the sediment on the bed of the lake. **Response:** Although this is outside the scope of the Horowhenua Wetland Project we are aware of these issues and their impact on the health of the lake. The weir height is set via the ROLD Act and cannot be changed without a change in legislation. The removal of the sediment on the lakebed is an issue that has been discussed and comes with a high risk of substantial ecological damage to the lake if undertaken.
- There was a discussion around the re-establishment of historical flow paths for streams that have been put into channelized drainage within the Horowhenua Wetland Complex. **Mike:** Thought that this was a great initiative within the Wetland Complex but had asked if it was possible to have this done across the entire Lake Horowhenua Catchment. **Response:** Although we see the benefit in returning waterways to their

natural channel we don't have the authority to force private landowners to do this.

- Overall, the response towards the Horowhenua Wetland Complex Project was supportive. There is some disheartenment towards the fact that the health of the lake is unlikely to be restored in the next generation and that they would like to see implementation work happening sooner.

Key feedback/issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The wetland is a positive project for Lake Horowhenua but that the timeline to improve the lake is too long and would like to see progress happen faster.</li><li>• Dredging the lake/removal of sediment from the Lake bed.</li><li>• Removal of the Hōkio weir.</li></ul>