

WAIWHAKAIHO WILDLINK VISION

Why develop a vision for the Waiwhakaiho Awa?

We want bird song along its banks, our community to be able to swim and enjoy its clean water, our native fish species to be able to migrate up along the awa without barriers, and we want to be able to access, enjoy and appreciate the beauty of the Waiwhakaiho Awa. Most importantly, we want future generations to have better water quality than what we have presently. This cannot be achieved without a collaborative and intergenerational approach. To start us on our journey of awa restoration we need a vision to steer us.



Korimako,
NZ Bellbird

The draft vision has been created as a starting point to talk to our community and landowners about:



Long-Fin Tuna,
Long-Fin Eel

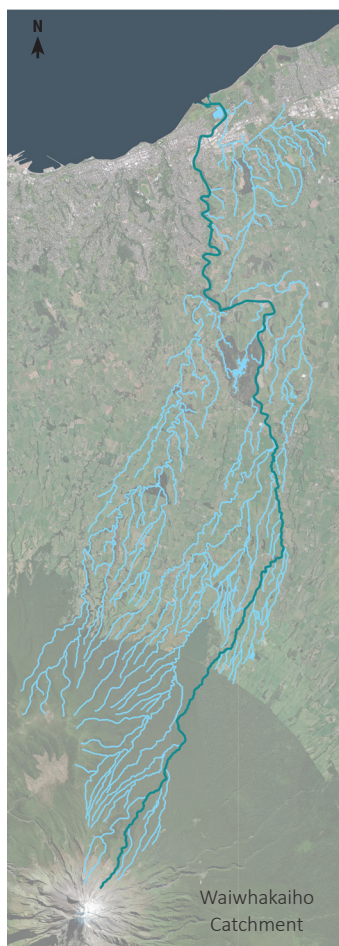
- ▶ Elevation changes along the awa and the bioclimatic zones that have different types of naturally occurring tree species for restoration.
- ▶ The range of bird life and freshwater species we want to flourish along the awa corridor.
- ▶ Our bird species can fly between bush remnants, and the desire to see them sustain thriving populations. However, small distance flyers or non-flying species like kiwi, lizards and geckos cannot do it without a corridor, hence the name *wildlink*.

How landowners might engage with the vision work?

Firstly, the draft vision document is about engaging hearts and minds to establish values for the awa, not about rules and regulations. The vision does not impose restrictions on private property rights. It does not require owners to do anything, but any contributions, no matter how small, all help to build a mosaic of habitat for our native flora and fauna along the river corridor.



Toutouwai,
NI Brown Robin



Waiwhakaiho
Catchment

What would first steps look like?

- ▶ The Waiwhakaiho flows from the maunga through rural and urban areas before it reaches the coast. Initial steps might include sharing this vision and the story of the awa with the community and creating planting guides for landowners.
- ▶ As a landowner, supporting the vision on your property might be through removing invasive species with some native fruiting and flowering plant species that will attract native birds to your garden, or backyard pest trapping or bait stations.
- ▶ Next steps involve working with the community to identify opportunities for restoration, connection and recreation. These would then guide future priorities and projects. The vision map highlights the importance of the remnant bush areas as islands of biodiversity along the corridor. These are a great starting place to build on, paired with weed/pest management. Initiatives could involve partnering with Council and hapū to retire areas adjacent to the Waiwhakaiho and its tributaries, check/improve fish passage, convert exotic plantations, pest trapping and restoration/riparian planting projects.
- ▶ Land will remain in private ownership but can be an integrated part of the overall vision.
- ▶ Many landowners already look after areas of indigenous vegetation by QEII covenants and Significant Natural Areas. It also complements Taranaki community's existing biodiversity protection work such as Towards Predator-Free Taranaki, Taranaki Mouna Project, Planting Our Place and TRC's Riparian Management Programme.