


# Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2026



*Plate 1: Trustees and Contractors overlooking previous HEA areas on Fortuna's Elya property February 2026.*

# Table of Contents

Executive Summary ..... 5
1 Introduction ..... 5
1.1 History ..... 6
1.2 People ..... 7
1.3 The Trust's work ..... 9
2 Summary of income and expenditure ..... 12
2.1 Investment of the Trust fund ..... 12
2.2 Investment results ..... 12
2.3 Summary of expenditure ..... 12
3 Statement of service performance ..... 12
3.1 Project expenditure and achievements (inputs and outputs) ..... 12
3.1.1 Output A – Main Stem Wetland habitat enhancement projects ..... 12
3.1.2 Output A – Habitat Enhancement Agreements and Joint Waiau Trust/QEII National Trust Projects. ..... 51
3.1.3 Output B – Access projects ..... 54
3.1.4 Output C – Research projects ..... 56
3.1.5 Output D – Consultation, partnerships, communication, community relationships and advocacy.. ..... 56
3.1.6 Output E – Databases ..... 60
3.1.7 Output G – Duncraigen Weir ..... 61
3.1.8 Output J – Project investigation and advice ..... 61
3.1.9 Output H – Project management ..... 62
3.1.10 Output H – General field ..... 62
3.1.11 Output H – Trust servicing ..... 63
3.2 Compliance, outcomes and long-term performance ..... 63
3.2.1 Compliance with relevant legislation ..... 64
3.2.2 Compliance with the Trust Deed and Supplementary Deed of Variation ..... 68
3.2.3 Outcomes – Performance in relation to Deed Objects and Purposes and the Strategic Plan 69
4 Summary of the year's operation of the Trust ..... 5
5 Performance report for the year ended 31 March 2026 (BDO) ..... 81
Appendix A: Objects and Purposes of the Trust Deed and Supplementary Deed of Variation ..... lxxxii

Front cover: Rakatu Wetlands, with Kuta (Tall Spiky reed) an emergent macrophyte and favoured bittern habitat. November 2025.

# Executive Summary

This year, the Waiau Habitat Trust celebrated 29 years of operation. The Trust, alongside landowners, has protected an additional 6.25 km of stream and 443.57 ha of wetland and riparian habitat. 2.6 ha of this protected area is newly created wetland habitat. The quantity and types of habitat created and enhanced shows good progress over time. The Trust now has 288 habitat projects, enhancing a total of 3,928.5 ha of habitat. Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF) work has been a major focus for the year with five main project sites benefiting from investment in enhancement planting, weed and pest control. Further work has progressed at the Wairaki Oxbow Wetland extending the walking track to a second lookout, alongside the Smith Family, with further planting, weed control and installation of a trap network undertaken. The Trust has also continued its predator trapping network and macroinvertebrate and bird monitoring programmes. The Trust values its ongoing partnership relationships with QEII National Trust, Pamu, the community of the Waiau Catchment, Environment Southland and Meridian Energy, among others. Over the year the Trust spent $651,881. The Trust had a trading deficit of -$220,812, or a surplus of $80,306 when including a revaluation of the investment portfolio, with a ROI of 6.32%.

# 1 Summary of the year's operation of the Trust

The twenty-ninth year of operation of the Waiau Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust has resulted in further advancement of the Trust's Objects. Project and administration expenditure for the year totalled **$651,881**. The Trust had a trading deficit of **-$220,812**, or a surplus of **$80,306** when including a revaluation of the investment portfolio, with a ROI of **6.32%.**

The Trust's Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives (SIPO) continues to focus on investment types designed to provide certainty of cash flow, as well as providing for long-term growth of the Fund. The return on the investment portfolio 6.32%. Investment returns are estimated based on Investment Income received (including both realised and unrealised gains less fees and brokerage) divided by the opening portfolio balance less withdrawals for the year.

The following is a list of achievements the Trust considers to be the highlights for the year:

- Beginning work towards extending the Wairaki Wetland track to create a loop track around the wetland.
- Working with the Love Bittern Trust to provide a wetland and bittern education programme to the primary schools of the Waiau Catchment.
- Finishing and maintaining the planting nearly 15,000 plants across the Paptotara, Rakaku, Inanga, Wairaki Wetland and Home Creek sites that was started in the 2024/25 year.
- Extending the existing trapping networks at the Trust's Paptotara, Rakaku, Inanga, Wairaki Wetland and Home Creek sites.
- Ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the whitebait habitats - Whitehead Suite (built in March 2009), McCulloch Suite (constructed March 2012) and Inder Wetland (built February 2015), at the mouth of the Waiau River.
- Completion of 8 HEA projects protecting 6.25 km (31.57 ha) of streams, wetlands and their riparian margins, involving 7.7 km of fencing.
- Completion of 2 joint Waiau Trust/QEII Trust projects protecting 412 ha of wetlands, streams and bush habitat, involving 8.99 km of fencing.
- Investigation of 14 potential new wetland and stream riparian protection projects.
- Maintaining the predator trap network at Rakatu/Redcliff wetlands.

- Maintaining the predator trap network at the Whitebait project.
- The ongoing relationships between the Waiau Trust and the QEII National Trust, Pamu and Meridian Energy Ltd.
- The ongoing implementation of macroinvertebrate/electric fishing long-term monitoring programme in Te Anau basin sub-catchments in conjunction with Fish and Game Southland.

# 2 Introduction

The Waiau Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust (Waiau Trust) is pleased to present the twenty-ninth Annual Report.

This report has been prepared in accordance with Public Benefit Entity (PBE) Accounting Tier Three standards issued by the External Reporting Board. This includes a "Statement of Service Performance" of non-financial information. The Statement of Service Performance documents Outputs and Outcomes in relation to established projects and new projects that arose during the year. The Output categories are derived from the Trust Deed and Supplementary Deed of Variation Objects and Purposes. It includes the mandatory Statement of Financial Performance.

Similarly, these documents record and illustrate the outcomes, around habitat enhancement, public access, education and advocacy for the environment. These, combined with the Strategic Plan, drive the Trust's activities and determine progress toward achieving short-, medium- and long-term Outcomes.

This Annual Report also performs the important role of being a historic record of all Trust activities since inception in 1997.

## 2.1 History

The Waiau Habitat Trust was established in late 1996. In 1990 ECNZ (now Meridian Energy Ltd) began the process of renewing the Resource Consents for the Manapouri Power Scheme. Between 1990 and 1996 the power company and the Southland community (through the Waiau Working Party community consultative group) worked together to address the adverse effects of the Manapouri Power Scheme on the Waiau catchment, and in particular the Lower Waiau River. The establishment of the Waiau Trust was one of the negotiated outcomes of the resource consent renewal process for the Manapouri Power Scheme.

Over nearly 30 years, the Waiau Fisheries & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust has worked alongside others to enhance the Waiau Catchment through large-scale wetland creation, riparian protection, ecological monitoring, predator control, and public access development. The Trust has established more than a hundred Habitat Enhancement Agreements, partnered on over a hundred QEII covenants, created and restored major wetland complexes, protected thousands of metres of streams, and built enduring partnerships with landowners, agencies, and communities. Its work represents one of New Zealand's most sustained and successful catchment-wide restoration programmes.

Highlights include:

1) Large-scale wetland creation and restoration – the Trust has created dozens of open-water wetlands across the Lower Waiau, including major complexes at:
   a) Waiau Mouth: Around 30 ha of created wetlands hydrologically linked to the river and lagoon.
   b) Rakatu Wetlands: 49 ha of created wetlands plus 65.5 ha of natural wetlands protected.

   c) Papatotara Wetlands: 4 ha of created open-water habitat on DOC Stewardship land.
   d) Wairaki Wetland: Restoration of a regionally significant wetland, including development of a 2 ha harakeke swamp.
2) Extensive riparian protection through Habitat Enhancement Agreements (HEAs) with landowners to protect wetlands and riparian habitat. The aim of the programme is to progressively restore ecological connectivity from headwaters to the mainstem on a sub-catchment by sub-catchment basis. 154 HEAs completed since inception, protecting some 4,000 ha of wetland and riparian habitat through riparian fencing wetlands, tributaries and gullies.
3) The Trust's long-term partnership programme with QEII National Trust has seen 134 joint QEII–Waiau Trust projects. In conjunction with landowners, these projects see high-value wetlands, gullies, and forest remnants protected in perpetuity through covenants, ensuring both fisheries values and biodiversity values are protected.
4) Catchment-wide predator control networks, with multi-site trap networks at the Trust's major project sites. This has seen thousands of predators removed over the programme's lifetime, reducing pressure on ground-nesting birds and wetland species.
5) Long-term ecological monitoring, demonstrating increasing diversity and use of restored habitats. Regular monitoring includes:
   a) Annual spring bird counts at major wetlands for more than a decade.
   b) Macroinvertebrate, habitat quality, and fine sediment monitoring at multiple HEA sites.
   c) Periodic fish surveys confirming successful habitat creation for inanga, eel, and other native species.
6) The Trust has built and maintained walking tracks, bridges, boardwalks, viewing platforms, and signage at 13 locations throughout the catchment, including:
   a) Home Creek
   b) Rakatu Wetlands
   c) Wairaki Wetland
7) The Trust has undertaken several major land acquisitions and wetland developments, such as Rakatu Wetlands, as well as long-term management of forestry blocks, vehicle tracks, spillways, dams, and wetland infrastructure.
8) The Trust is very grateful to the landowners we work with, the community organisations and schools we engage with, and the agencies we partner with, including Love Bittern, the Mahika Kai Trust, QEII National Trust, the Motorcaravan Association, Meridian Energy, Environment Southland, Fish and Game Southland and the Department of Conservation. These partnerships underpin nearly every project and have enabled catchment-scale restoration.
9) The Trust's delivery would not be possible without sound financial stewardship and investment growth. The Trust has maintained strong financial performance over its lifetime. This has enabled over $8.9 million in project expenditure since inception, supported by over $12.4 million in revenue.

## 2.2 People

The Trustees of the Waiau Habitat Trust for the 2025/26 year were:

**Steven Sutton (Chair)** – Steven, the chair of the Waiau Habitat Trust, is the Deputy Chief Executive at Te Puni Kōkiri | Ministry of Māori Development. Steven brings a wealth of governance experience from his background in corporate law and central government.

**Glenys Dickson** – Glenys is a retired farmer with experience in Central and local Government which gives her strong skills in policies and legislation, particularly Resource Management where she is a certified RMA commissioner.

She has a background in accounting practises and has owned a successful business.

She has sound experience in Governance being the Chair of Southern REAP a director of REAP Aotearoa, Director of Gore Health, Chair of Forest Hill Foundation Trust, a trustee of Mid Dome Wilding Pine Trust and presently a Gore District Councillor.

Glenys was a past member and Chair of the Southland Conservation Board and has a keen interest in Conservation and the environment.

Having a residence in Te Anau gives Glenys the opportunities to enjoy and experience outdoor recreation, with particular interests in water quality and predator control.

Making a positive change to protect and enhance the environment for future generations to enjoy is her motivation.

Glenys is a nominee of the Department of Conservation.

**John Whitehead** – John is a retired farmer. He is experienced in negotiating environmental outcomes and consensus building and has a sound understanding of governance issues and conservation laws and policies. His lifelong interest is in natural history and conservation, in particular, high-country issues, rivers, and indigenous fisheries management and Predator Free 2050.

John is Chair of the Pomona Island Charitable Trust (an Island restoration project), a trustee on the Waiau Fisheries & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust, and a trustee on the Mid Dome Wilding Pine Trust. His outdoor recreation interests are tramping and predator control.

John is a nominee of the Department of Conservation.

**Andrew Feierabend –** Andrew is a qualified resource management planner and has held a number of different roles within local government before joining Meridian Energy Limited in 2010. Andrew brings a wealth of management experience to the Trust as well as his understanding of resource management and plan making processes.

Andrew enjoys his connection to Southland which has become a second home via his statutory advocacy and stakeholder role he holds with Meridian. He has a keen interest in the natural environment and enjoys tramping, mountain biking and fishing when his spare time allows.

Andrew is the Statutory and Compliance Strategy Manager, Meridian Energy, nominee of Meridian Energy Ltd.

**Graeme Watson -** Graeme is involved with farming, fly fishing guiding tourism and is a Trustee of the Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Trust. He is a former Chairman of Southland Fish & Game and was the Southland representative of the QEII National Trust for 8 years.

Graeme is a nominee of Fish and Game New Zealand, Southland Region.

**Johnathan Hodson** – Johnathan is a surveyor based in the Te Anau area, and manager of the Te Anau office of Bonisch Consultants Ltd. Johnathan is a nominee of Fish and Game New Zealand.

**Mike O'Brien** – Farmer of Monowai, joint nominee of the Fish and Game New Zealand, Southland Region and the Department of Conservation representing the rural community in the Waiau Catchment.

**Nathan Cruickshank** – Nathan joined the Trust in 2023. Nathan has extensive experience in managing and advising in on-farm biodiversity, both on his own property and in Environment Southland's Land Sustainability Team for 15 years. This includes water quality testing, riparian management, winter grazing plans, rule interpretation, investigating constructed wetlands and producing farm plans.

The Trust's operations are managed by a team of independent contractors:

**Roger Hodson** – Roger is the Trust's operations consultant. Roger has a background in environmental and water resource management. With experience including hydrology, freshwater ecology, and water quality, environmental systems dynamics, having worked as senior environmental scientist, expert witness, appointed member of the Lakes Guardians and the Southland Conservation Board.

**Kristy Nind** – Kristy looks after the Trust's financial and administrative functions. Kristy is a chartered accountant, who joined the Trust in 2021. Kristy lives with her family in the Waiau Catchment.

**Claire Jordan** – Claire has a background in environmental science and resource management planning. Claire undertakes planning, consents, compliance and strategic policy work for the Trust. Claire has been with the Trust since 2019 and calls the Waiau Catchment home.

This annual report has been prepared by the three contractors. Photographs featured in this Annual Report are taken by Roger Hodson unless stated otherwise.

## Contacts:

Postal Address:

Waiau Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust
P O Box 159
Invercargill 9840

Telephone: 03 2159117

Email: claire.jordan@waiautrust.org.nz roger.hodson@waiautrust.org.nz kristy.nind@waiautrust.org.nz
Website: www.waiautrust.org.nz

## 2.3 The Trust's work

The key focus of the Trust's mahi is riparian and wetland habitat protection and enhancement. This primarily involves wetland creation and riparian fencing. The Trust also provides opportunities for the community to engage with the Waiau River through providing river enhanced accessways throughout the catchment.

While the Trust owns and manages some project sites, the majority of its work is undertaken on the land of others, and the Trust is incredibly grateful to those landowners for their commitment and contribution to habitat restoration and enhancement.

The Trust's activities are governed by the Trust Deed and Supplementary Deed of Variation, in particular the Objects and Purposes of these Deeds, which are provided in Appendix A. The Trust's Strategic Plan 2020 also provides direction to the Trust's activities.

The following maps give a sense of the geographic spread of the Trust's projects across its workstreams.

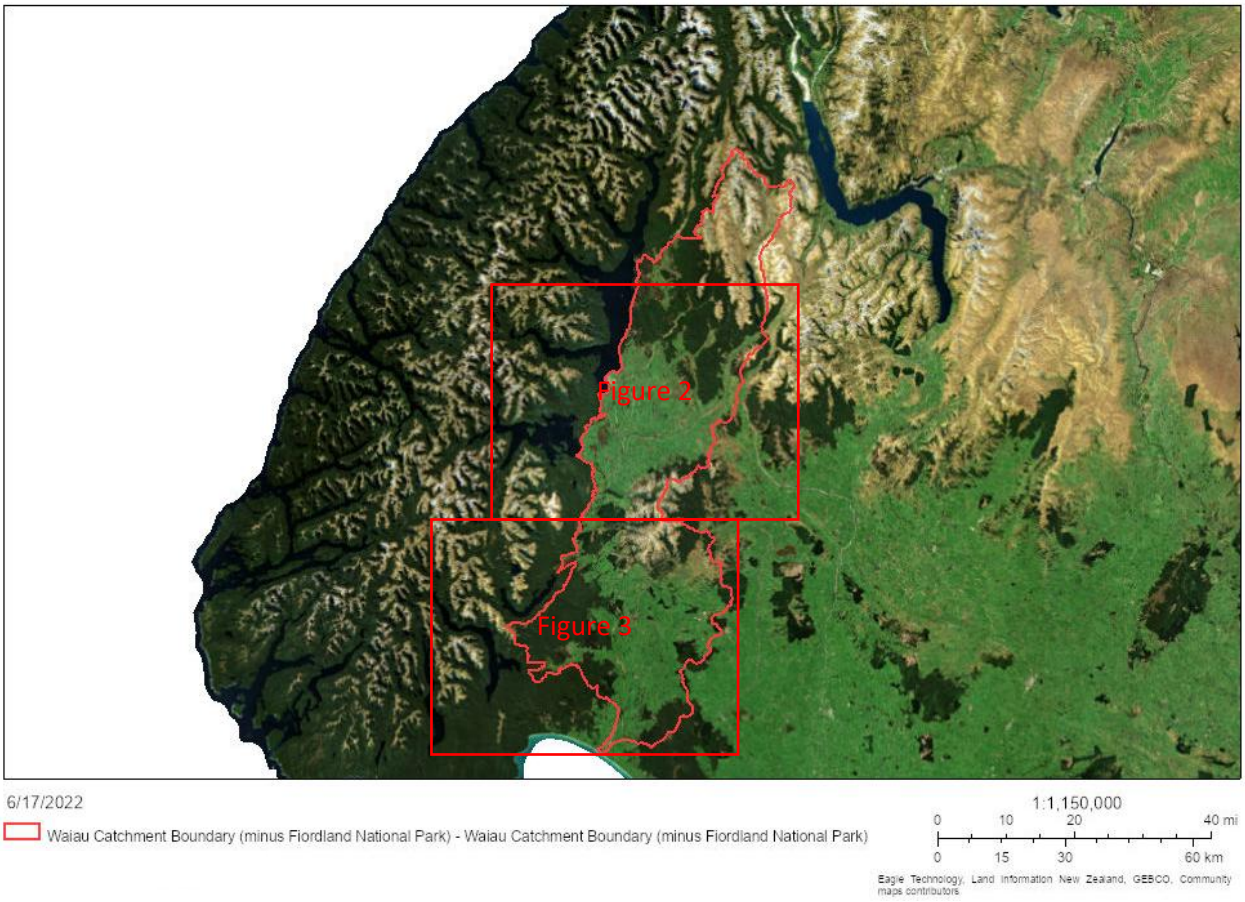



*Figure 1: Waiau Catchment excluding Fiordland National Park, which is outside the Trust's work programme.*

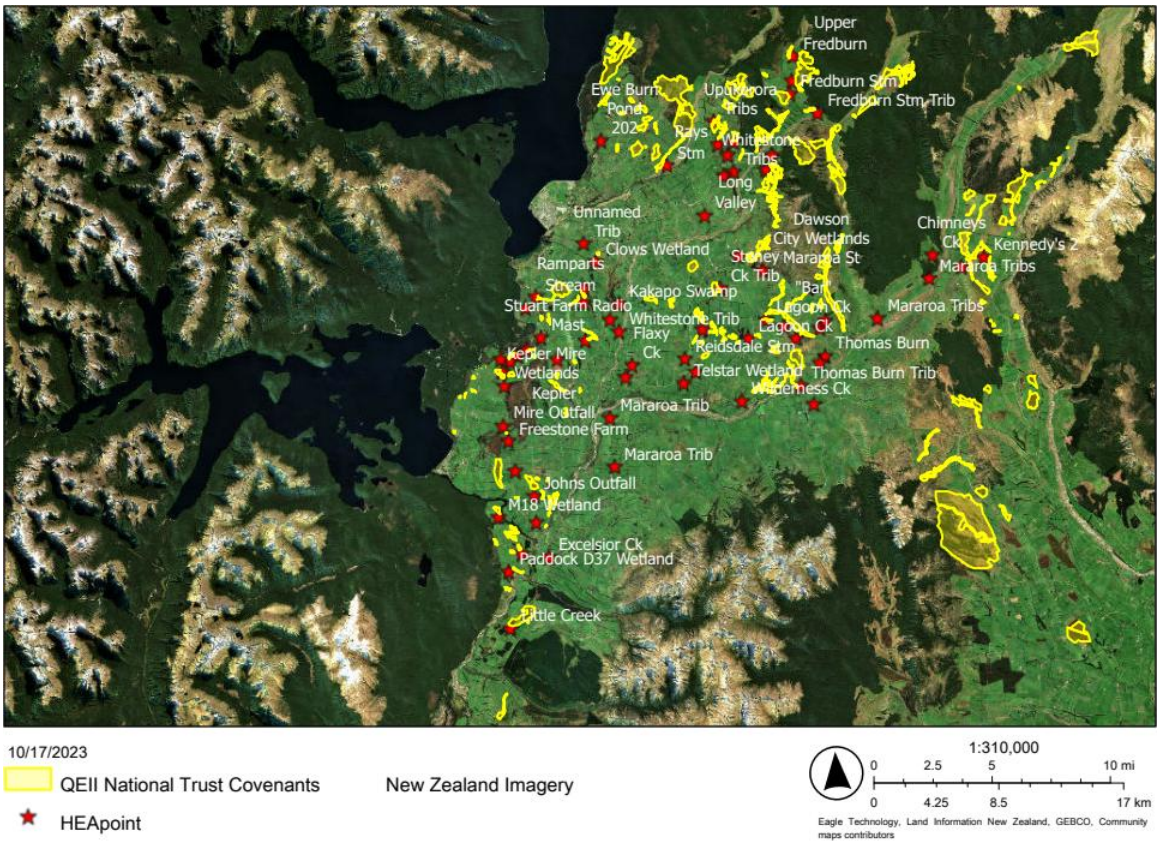



*Figure 2: Habitat Enhancement Agreements and Joint QEII Projects, Te Anau Basin.*

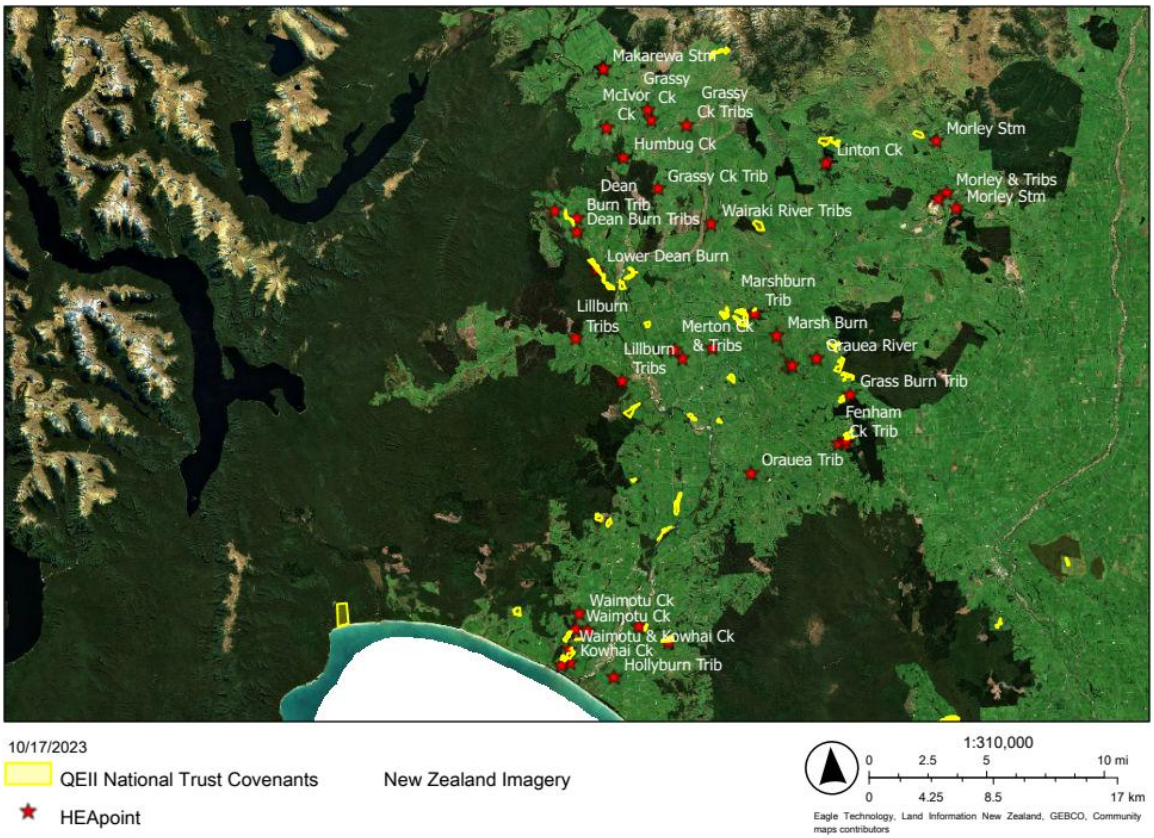



*Figure 3: Habitat Enhancement Agreements and Joint QEII Projects. Lower Waiau Catchment.*

# 3 Summary of income and expenditure

Detailed financial statements for 2025/26 are presented in Section 5 of this report.

## 3.1 Investment of the Trust fund

The Trust board has approved a Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives (SIPO) to manage and monitor the Trust Fund. The fundamental principles of investment of the Trust Fund to create cash flow for the Trust in the short-term, and growth of the Fund in the long-term. It has clear objectives and operational parameters around both the fixed income and equity assets investments. A review of the SIPO was conducted during the financial year by Scott Rainey from Cambridge Partners.

From time to time the Trust independently reviews the management of the portfolio and the performance of the Fund Managers. Currently, three Fund Managers - Craigs Investment Partners, Jarden's and Milford Asset Management manage the Fund. A breakdown of the funds managed by each Fund Manager is given in Section 3.2.1.2 and 5 of this report.

## 3.2 Investment results

Investment of the Trust Fund produced a positive return this year. The return from all 3 Fund Managers was 6.32%.

## 3.3 Summary of expenditure

Project by project expenditure is outlined in Section 3(A) of this report.

For the year 2025/2026 the Trust budgeted to spend **$941,305.** Adjustments were made to project targets during the year and priorities changed as the year progressed. Actual expenditure for the year was **$651,881.** The Trust's expenditure since inception now totals **$10,122,847** This compares to total revenue for the same period of **$13,740,334.**

During the 2024/25 year, the Trust was granted funding for the Inanga (Whitebait), Papatotara, Wairaki Oxbow Lake, Rakatu and Home Creek projects, totalling $99,972.90[1]. This funding was received in June or July 2025. At the end of the Trust's 24/25 year, over half the EEF work had been completed. The income from the Environmental Enhancement Fund was listed as anticipated income in the 24/25 annual plan for completeness and was repeated in the 25/26 annual plan as this was the financial year in which the money was to be received.

# 4 Statement of service performance

## 4.1 Project expenditure and achievements (inputs and outputs)

### 4.1.1 Output A – Main Stem Wetland habitat enhancement projects

Habitat enhancement projects are the Trust's flagship projects. They typically involve riparian wetland restoration or creation near the main stem of the Waiau River. These projects seek to restore parts of the extensive riparian wetland systems that were present along the Waiau River prior to water diversion.

[1] We ended up receiving $99,972.90 rather than $100,000 due to a slight underspend on the Papatotara project.

#### 4.1.1.1 A3 Home Creek Riparian Habitat

##### 4.1.1.1.1 Expenditure

Budgeted **$41,750**, Actual **$29,636**

##### 4.1.1.1.2 Key outputs/measures this year

*Maintenance: Annual pest plant spray programme focusing on release spraying of enhancement plantings gorse and broom across the site and spraying of the walking track. Some adjustments to the walking track were made in response bank erosion encroaching under the walking track.*

*Capital: Completed planting of 1,700 native plants, including flax, manuka, toi toi, cabbage trees, beech trees and red tussocks, and extended the pest animal trapping network. The Trust is grateful to the adjacent Motor Caravan Association's Southland members for their continued support and specifically co-ordinated planting in Q1.*

##### 4.1.1.1.3 Description of the project

This 14 ha project is located 1 km east of Manapouri and is accessible via a sign-posted public road from the Manapouri-Hillside Road. The permanent protection, through fencing (1997) and removal of grazing animals, continues to benefit this unique meandering stream and its riparian habitat. Much of the site is owned by the Trust, with the balance being a mixture of DOC and LINZ administered Crown land.

The 1.6km circular walking track around the lower part of the property, is popular with local people and visitors to the area; being an integral part of the Manapouri community "green belt". The track is maintained to a high standard.

Native restoration planting at the site has been underway for 20 years. Some 28,000 + plants have been planted since 1998. It is a difficult site for plant establishment. Summer droughts and late spring frosts can impact new plantings.

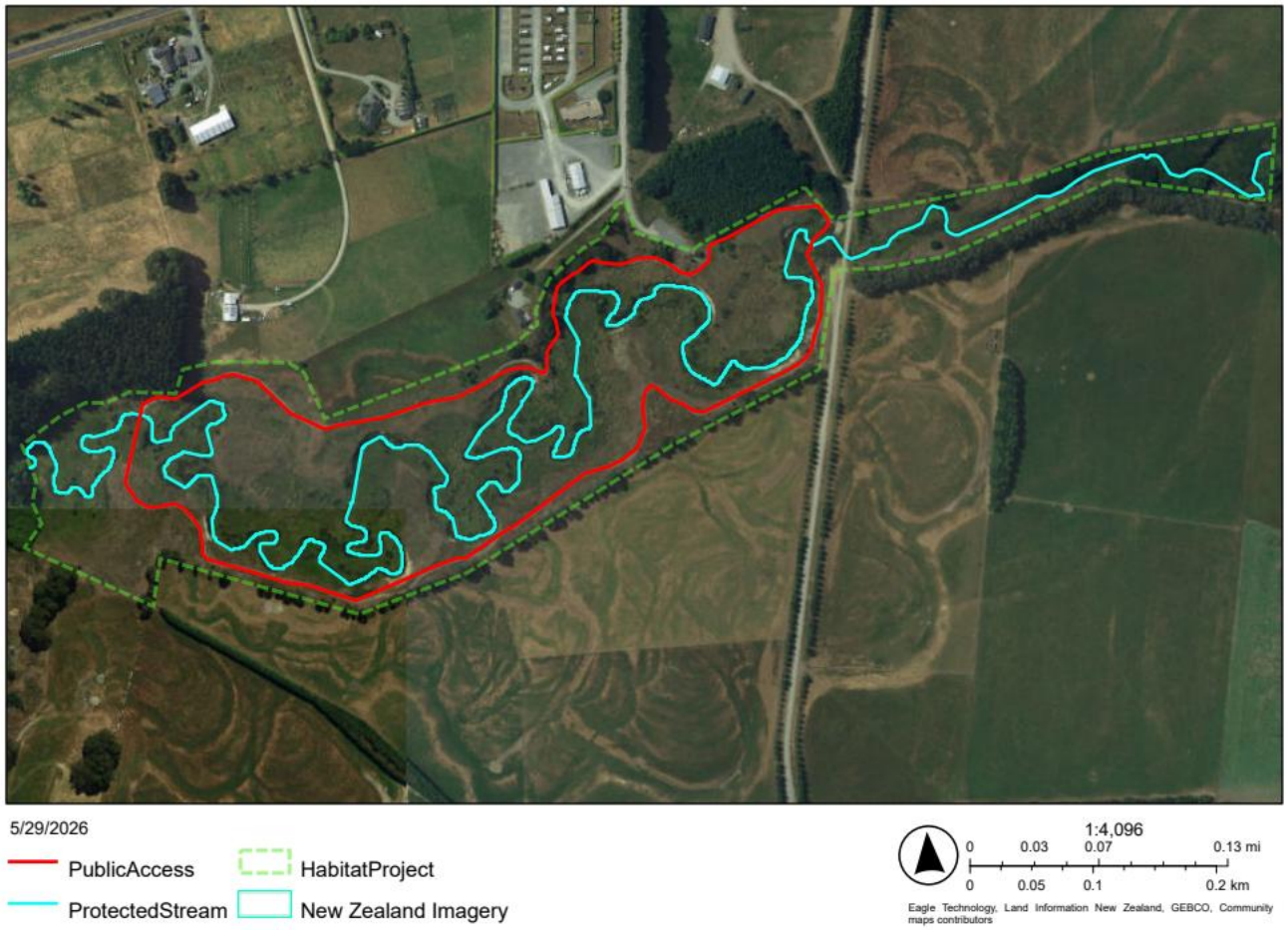



*Figure 4: Home Creek Habitat Project.*

#### 4.1.1.1.4 Achievements and progress

##### *4.1.1.1.4.1 Maintenance*

Annual pest plant spray programme, focusing on release spraying 2025 plantings, emergent broom, lupin, douglas fir, blackberry seedlings throughout the area and the walking track maintenance.



*Plate 2: Home Creek track after maintenance.*



*Plate 3: Bank erosion means track realignment is required.*

#### *4.1.1.1.4.2 Monitoring*

##### *4.1.1.1.4.2.1 Pest animal control*

The new predator trap network at Home Creek was installed this financial year. The network consists of 8 DOC 200s and 2 AT220 traps. The traps were checked and cleared 5 times during the 2025/26 season. Pests caught are presented below, averages will be displayed once more than one year of data is available.

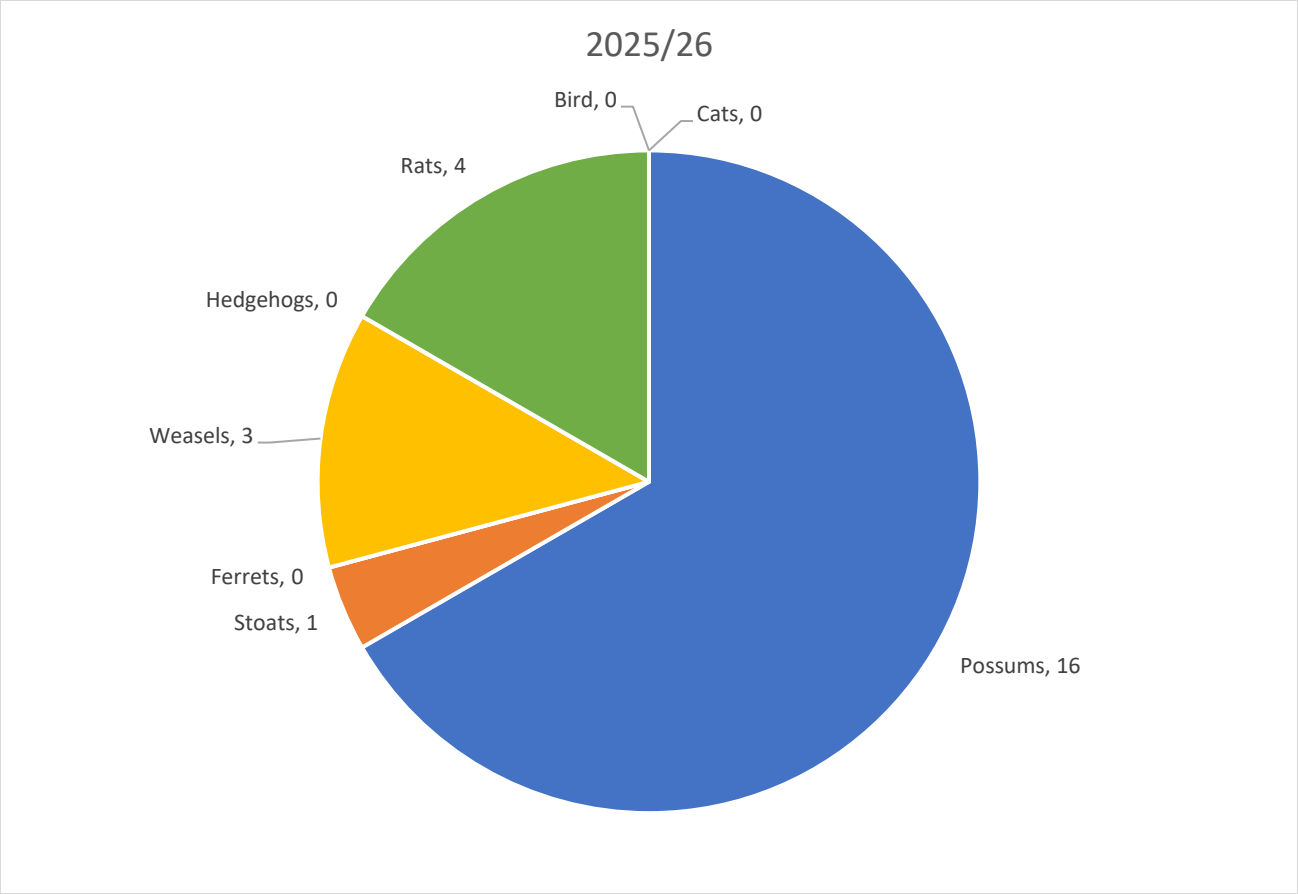



Figure 5. Pest animal results for the first year of the trapping programme at Home Creek.

#### *4.1.1.1.4.3 Capital*

Home Creek attracted funding from Environment Southland's Environmental Enhancement Fund, which contributed to planting 1,700 native plants, including flax, manuka, toi toi, cabbage trees, beech trees and red tussocks. We also extended the pest animal trapping network. This work was commenced in the 24/25 financial year and completed in the 25/26 financial year. We are very grateful to the motor caravan association members and visitors for their continued contribution of time to pull douglas fir seedlings and maintain plantings.



*Plate 4: Members of the Motorcaravan Association at a planting day at Home Creek.*

#### 4.1.1.2 Inanga Waiau Mouth Habitat Project

##### 4.1.1.2.1 Expenditure

Budgeted **$72,900**, Actual **$51,670**

##### 4.1.1.2.2 Key outputs/measures this year

*Maintenance: Release spraying and maintenance of enhancement plantings, pest plant spray, maintenance of wetland infrastructure, diversion channel inflows & dry cuts.*

*Monitoring: Bird surveys, wetland inflow, pest trap monitoring.*

*Capital: installed telemetered water level monitoring in the respective intakes to give early notice of low or at risk of drying wetland water level conditions.*

##### 4.1.1.2.3 Vision

The Trust vision for the project is to enhance whitebait (predominantly inanga) habitat in the vicinity of the Waiau Lagoon and maximise opportunity for successful spawning and rearing of inanga, to benefit whitebait and freshwater fisheries in the Waiau catchment.

In addition, the project aims to maximise habitat benefits for other fish and wildlife species, as far as possible without detracting from the primary purpose, as well as provide visitor facilities to enhance public use of the area and increase public understanding and appreciation of the habitat enhancement work at the site.

##### 4.1.1.2.4 Description of the project

This project is located on Meridian Energy Ltd (MEL) land and DOC administered land, adjacent to the Waiau Lagoon, at the mouth of the Waiau River. Between 1999 and 2004 the Trust carried out whitebait

habitat enhancement in the area on a small, experimental scale, creating 6 ha of open water whitebait (*inanga)* rearing habitat. Monitoring of the ecological outcomes of that work and expert advice received gave the Trust confidence to expand the scale of this project. This expansion created large open water wetlands (30 ha in total), hydrologically linked to the Waiau River and Waiau Lagoon, on the low-lying flat paddocks adjacent to the Lagoon.

The below map shows the project site, comprising three 'suites' of wetlands, each approximately 10 ha in size. The Whitehead suite was constructed in March 2009. Originally water was pumped from the Holly Burn to supply the wetlands. Wetland water levels fluctuated with the seasons and the volume of water pumped, but they provided valuable fish and bird habitat. The McCulloch Suite followed in 2012, which is gravity-fed by a diversion channel from the main stem of the Waiau. 2015 saw the Inder Suite constructed, gravity-fed by another diversion channel 300 m upstream. As shown in the map below, the Inder Suite discharges into the McCulloch when full, and then into the Waiau Lagoon. Since 2016, the Inder Suite has also supplied the Whitehead Suite via a syphon, making the pump obsolete.

These wetlands have been hugely successful from a fisheries and wildlife perspective.




*Figure 6: Waiau Mouth Habitat Project.*

#### 4.1.1.2.5 Achievements and progress

Maintenance activities included of the recent enhancement plantings, pest animal trapping, pest plant spraying, and maintaining wetland infrastructure and the integrity of the diversion channels. We undertook spring bird counts, recorded wetland inflows and monitored the number and species of pests caught.

##### *4.1.1.2.5.1 Resource consents*

The Trust holds four resource consents at the Waiau Mouth Wetlands. RC 205792 was for the diversion of water from the Holly Burn, which is no longer undertaken.

Resource consents for the diversion from the Waiau River into the wetlands (AUTH-20211137-01-V1) and discharge into the Waiau Lagoon from the wetlands (AUTH-20211137-02) were obtained in 2021 for a

duration of 35 years. The Trust applied to remove the annual monitoring and reporting conditions from AUTH-20211137-01-V1 in 2024, this was granted.

There is also a land use consent AUTH-20158428 to disturb the bed of the Waiau River side-braids. These 'dry cuts' are required periodically to maintain water supply into the diversion channels. Large floods change the riverbed and channel pattern, while low flows (<60m3/s) can cut off flows down side-braids supplying the wetlands. This consent was used during this financial year. Consent compliance requirements involve reporting to Environment Southland before and after each time the consent is exercised. These requirements were met.

#### *4.1.1.2.5.2 Maintenance*

The nature of this project and its location, in a highly dynamic environment, means maintenance is an ongoing task. Following the series of spring high flows the riverbed at the McCulloch Intake has lowered and the Mculloch intake becomes ineffective at < ~60 $m^3s^{-1}$, wetland drying poses a catastrophic risk to the aquatic habitat it has been managed to create and necessitated two dry cuts, one in July and one in January to provide sustaining inflow volumes.

Ground spraying of gorse/broom occurred in March 2026 - along the wetland dams, around the shorelines of the wetlands, the Inder diversion channel banks and regrowth at previous spray sites. This is an annual programme.

Dam crests were repaired after having had flowing water across them several times in recent years there were several damaged areas that have been repaired to a uniform height. Outlets were maintained.



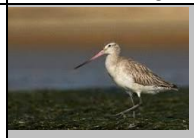
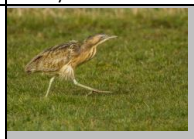
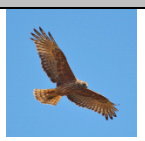
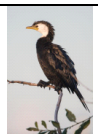
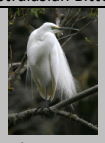
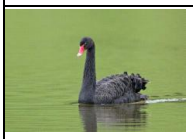
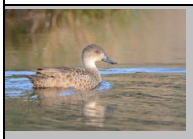
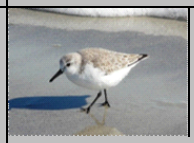
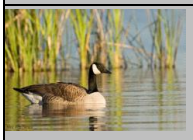
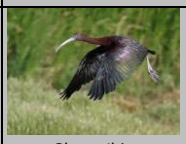
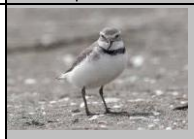
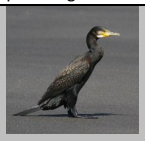
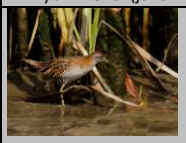
*Plate 5: Partial drying of Inanga habitat wetlands during January 2026 following the spring 2025 high flows that compromised inflows.*

#### *4.1.1.2.5.3 Monitoring*

##### *4.1.1.2.5.3.1 Bird surveys*

Three bird counts were completed this year, results shown in Table 1. All wetlands were counted, which can be difficult, so numbers should be treated as a minimum. Wetland water levels were at design (full) on the days of all counts. When the wetlands are a 'full' capacity the available feeding habitat for wading species such as dotterel is reduced.

*Table 1: Results of Bird Surveys 2025/26. Greyed species have been observed at the site, either this year or previously, but were not observed during the 2025/26 spring bird counts.*

| Waterfowl | | Water Associated Species | | | | International Migrants | Other Species | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | 130<br>160<br>140 |  | 8<br>0<br>0 |  | 0<br>0<br>2 |  |  | |
| Mallard Duck | | Black-billed Gull | | South Is Pied Oystercatcher | | Bar-tailed Godwit | Welcome Swallow | |
|  | 46<br>35<br>32 |  | 6<br>0<br>4 |  | |  |  | 3<br>6<br>2 |
| NZ Scaup | | Pied Stilt | | Australasian Bittern | | Banded Dotterel | Harrier Hawk | |
|  | 26<br>18<br>16 |  | 4<br>2<br>1 |  | |  |  | |
| Shoveler Duck | | Little Shag | | White Heron | | Asiatic Tern/Little Tern | NZ Falcon | |
|  | 2<br>2<br>2 |  | |  | |  |  | |
| Black Swan | | Royal Spoonbill | | Southern Skua | | White-winged Black Tern | South Island Fern Bird | |
|  | |  | |  | |  |  | 0<br>2<br>0 |
| Grey Teal | | White-fronted Tern | | Black--fronted Dotterel | | Sanderling | Magpie | |
|  | |  | 6<br>0<br>12 |  | |  | | |
| Canada Geese | | Black-backed Gull | | NZ Dotterel | | Glossy Ibis | | |
|  | 16<br>200<br>200 |  | 6<br>15<br>13 |  | | | | |
| Paradise Duck | | Pukeko | | Caspian Tern | | | | |
| | |  | 8<br>6<br>12 |  | | | | |
| | | Spur Winged Plover | | Wrybill Plover (juvenile) | | | | |
| | |  | |  | | | | |
| | | Black Shag | | Marsh Crake | | | | |
| | |  | 1<br>2<br>3 |  | | | | |
| | | White- faced Heron | | Black- fronted Tern | | | | |

*Photos sourced from Birds Online NZ, reproduced with permission as follows: Adam Clark -White-faced Heron, Asiatic Tern/Little Tern, Chaffinch; Alan Tennyson - Grey Heron, House Sparrow, White-fronted Tern, Sanderling, Feral Goose; Andrew Thomas - White-winged Black Tern; Con Duyvestyn, Glossy Ibis; Craig Martin - Marsh Crake; Craig McKenzie - NZ Falcon, Tui, Bellbird, Grey Warbler; Diana Womersley - Australian Mountain Duck; Duncan Watson - Spur-winged Plover; Glenda Rees – Bittern, Bar-tailed Godwit; Imogen Warren - Harrier Hawk; James Russell - Southern Skua; John Flux - Black-billed Gull; Les Feasey - Caspian Tern, Magpie; Neil Fitzgerald - Canada Goose, Black-fronted Dotterel, Banded Dotterel, Blackbird, Grey Duck; Ormond Torr - Pukeko, Paradise Duck, Shoveler Duck, Black Shag, White Heron, Welcome Swallow, Coot, NZ Pipit, Song Thrush, Kereru; Oscar Thomas - South Is. Fern Bird, Dunnock, Skylark, Red-billed Gull; Paul Sorrell – Redpoll; Phillip Griffin – Starling; Raewyn Adams - Scaup ; Rebecca Bowater - Black-fronted Tern, South Is Pied Oystercatcher, Black-backed Gull, Kingfisher; Rob Lynch - Wrybill Plover, Greenfinch, Fantail; Sonja Ross – Yellowhammer; Steve Attwood - Royal Spoonbill; Tony Whitehead – Mallard, Grey Teal, Black Swan, Pied Stilt, Little Shag, NZ Dotterel, Goldfinch, Wax Eye.*

#### *4.1.1.2.5.3.2 Fish surveys*

A fish survey was not undertaken this year, acknowledging the unsuitable sampling conditions following a wetland drought event in January 2026. Depletion fyke net surveys to quantify fish population are typically undertaken five yearly. The survey that was due during the financial year will be conducted in 2026/27 instead.

#### *4.1.1.2.5.3.3 Pest control*

The pest trapping programme is an ongoing commitment for the Trust, involving 32 DOC 200 traps, 4 DOC 250 traps (designed for ferrets and feral cats), 2 AT220's and 2 SAA cat trap chimney boxes. During the 2025-2026 financial year, the traps were checked on 9 occasions, while visiting the area for other purposes. Results from the permanent trapping programme are shown in Figure 7. Stoats, rats and cats are the main predators caught to date.

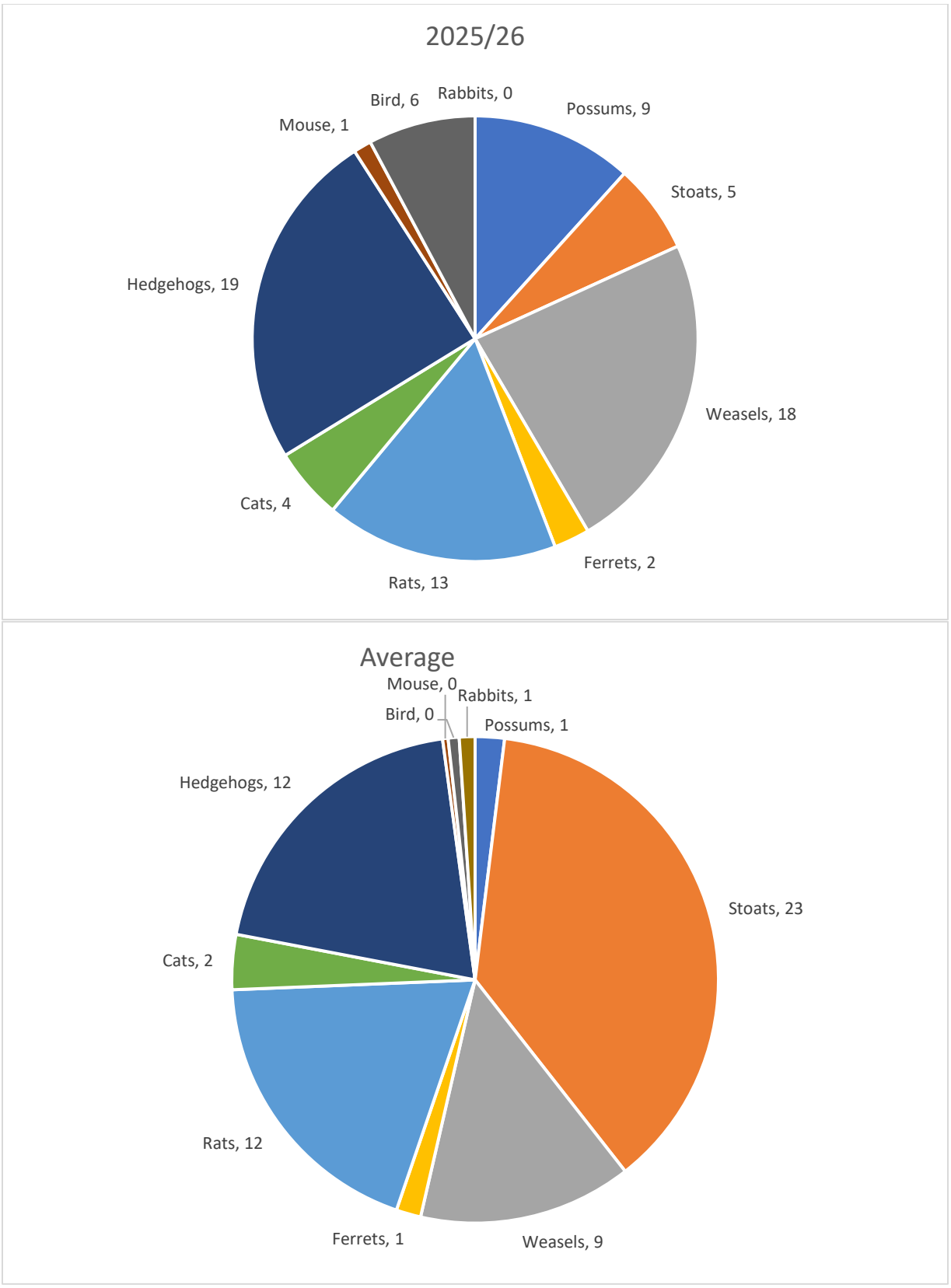



*Figure 7. Pests Caught at the Inanga Project in 2025/26 compared to the annual average over the lifetime of the trapping programme.*

#### 4.1.1.2.6 Land management

Fowle Contracting of Orawia continue to harvest the standing grass at the project site, on areas of the project site not required for wetland creation. Baleage is cut, usually two to three times per year, on the 12 ha of higher terrace and some larger areas adjacent to the main wetlands. The Trust regrassed the higher terrace in December 2022. The Trust remains responsible for soil testing and fertiliser application on the higher terrace.

#### 4.1.1.2.7 Capital

The Inanga Project was one of the project sites which attracted funding from Environment Southland's Environmental Enhancement Fund. The funding contributed to planting 2000 native plants, including flax, manuka, cabbage trees, toi toi, ribbonwood. This work was largely completed in the 2024/25 year, with the last of it completed in the 2025/26 year. This year we installed telemetered water level monitoring to give early warning of low or risk of drying in wetlands.



*Plate 6: Water level sensor provides daily water level information to minimise the duration of wetland drying periods. Note the syphon intake out of water.*

#### 4.1.1.3 Lower Waiau Whitebait Habitat – Papatotara

##### 4.1.1.3.1 Expenditure

Budgeted **$33,800**, Actual **$23,943**

##### 4.1.1.3.2 Key outputs/measures this year

*Administration and Planning: Completed compliance reporting to Environment Southland*

*Monitoring: Monitored performance of dams and wetlands, Carried bird surveys on new wetlands.*

*Maintenance: Minor outlet channel maintenance was completed to remove macrophyte growth and maintain water levels at design height. Following high flows, some minor repairs and maintenance to fences were required.*

*Capital: Completed planting of 2000 native plants (spread over 24/25 year and 25/26 year).*

##### 4.1.1.3.3 Description of the project

This project is located 1.5km upstream of the Waiau River mouth on the Papatotara (west) side of the Waiau River. The habitat enhancement project has a number of elements including:

- damming of 2 spring-fed streams to create 4ha of open water habitat.
- maintaining permanent fish passage between the wetlands, the "Blue Hole" (a known whitebait spawning site) and the Waiau River.
- permanent fencing of the new wetlands and their riparian margins
- permanent fencing of the streams and their riparian margins supplying the wetlands.
- Permanent fencing of remnant kahikatea forest.

The project site is Stewardship land, under section 62 of the Conservation Act 1987, it is administered and managed by DOC. Currently this parcel of Stewardship land (149ha) is under a Grazing Concession to the Erskine family who have grazed the area for many years. The Trust has worked very closely with the Erskine's and DOC. The project is located on about 9 ha of the parcel of Stewardship land. The Resource Consent "to dam and use surface water for the purpose of creating two open water wetlands" expires in 2053. A Variation of Management Agreement with DOC, which enables to Trust to create the wetlands, was signed by both parties in February 2019.

It is not possible to access these wetlands from the Papatotara Road. Public access to the wetlands is possible by walking up the floodplain of the Waiau River from the Lagoon, via public land.

##### 4.1.1.3.4 Achievements and progress

###### *4.1.1.3.4.1 Maintenance*

Release spraying and weeding of recent enhancement plantigns as well as ongoing gorse and broom control , wilding pine and willow has been required at this project site during the year.

Following spring high flows at the site, some minor repairs and maintenance to fences and outlets to maintain design height water levels were required, the minor nature of these repairs validated the changes to the fence design that were made after the flooding in 2023 & 2024.



*Plate 7: Example of the condition of fencing at the Papatotara site post spring 2025 high flows.*

#### *4.1.1.3.4.2 Monitoring*

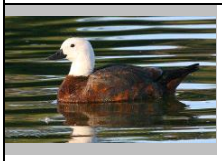
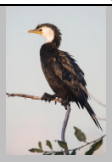
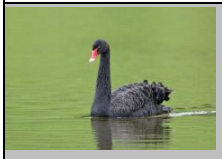
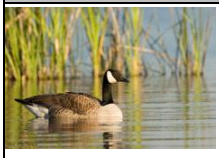
##### *4.1.1.3.4.2.1 Bird surveys*

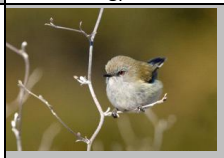
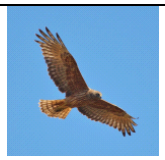
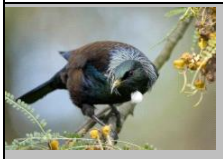
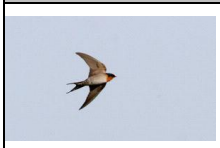
Spring bird counts are ongoing. Table 2 documents the results of bird surveys this year and notes the birds which have been observed at the site, either this year, or previously, but not during the bird surveys themselves.

This year's results show continued bird presence at the wetlands, not only of waterfowl, but also passerine and forest species. The wetlands are located at the base of the high terrace, as are sheltered from the prevailing south westerly wind. This fact may contribute to the high use by many bird species.

Of particular note is the use of the dead willows on the Terrace Wetland by Royal Spoonbills and Little Shags, and the successful hatching of Pukeko on site. The nesting colony of these species continues to occur with Royal Spoonbills and Little Shags. This season the Wetlands have also become a very popular Paradise Shelduck moulting site with up to 2000 of this species present for a three-week period.

*Table 2: Results of Bird Surveys 2025/26. Greyed species have been observed at the site, either this year or previously, but not during the 2025/26 surveys themselves.*

| Waterfowl | | Water Associated Species | | Other Species | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  Paradise Duck | 8<br>1800+ |  Royal Spoonbill | 10<br>14 |  Black--fronted Dotterel | |
|  Mallard Duck | 72<br>24 |  Red-Billed Gull | |  Black-billed Gull | 0<br>50+ |
|  NZ Scaup | 16<br>8 |  Black Shag | 2<br>0 |  Black-backed Gull | 25<br>0 |
|  Shoveler Duck | |  Little Shag | | | |
|  Grey Teal | 6<br>0 |  Spur-winged plover | | | |
|  Black Swan | |  White- faced Heron | 2<br>1 | | |
|  Canada Geese | 2<br>0 |  Pied Stilt | | | |
|  Grey Duck | |  Pukeko | 2<br>7 | | |
| | |  Black-fronted Tern | | | |

| Other Species | |
|---|---|
|  Magpie | 0<br>4 |
|  Grey Warbler | |
|  Fantail | 5<br>3 |
|  Harrier Hawk | 3<br>1 |
|  Bellbird | 2<br>1 |
|  Tui | |
|  Wax Eye | |
|  Kereru | |
|  Welcome Swallow | 0<br>4 |

*Photos sourced from Birds Online NZ, reproduced with permission as follows: Adam Clark -White-faced Heron, Asiatic Tern/Little Tern, Chaffinch; Alan Tennyson - Grey Heron, House Sparrow, White-fronted Tern, Sanderling, Feral Goose; Andrew Thomas - White-winged Black Tern; Con Duyvestyn, Glossy Ibis; Craig Martin - Marsh Crake; Craig McKenzie - NZ Falcon, Tui, Bellbird, Grey Warbler; Diana Womersley - Australian Mountain Duck; Duncan Watson - Spur-winged Plover; Glenda Rees – Bittern, Bar-tailed Godwit; Imogen Warren - Harrier Hawk; James Russell - Southern Skua; John Flux - Black-billed Gull; Les Feasey - Caspian Tern, Magpie; Neil Fitzgerald - Canada Goose, Black-fronted Dotterel, Banded Dotterel, Blackbird, Grey Duck; Ormond Torr - Pukeko, Paradise Duck, Shoveler Duck, Black Shag, White Heron, Welcome Swallow, Coot, NZ Pipit, Song Thrush, Kereru; Oscar Thomas - South Is. Fern Bird, Dunnock, Skylark, Red-billed Gull; Paul Sorrell – Redpoll; Phillip Griffin – Starling; Raewyn Adams - Scaup ; Rebecca Bowater - Black-fronted Tern, South Is Pied Oystercatcher, Black-backed Gull, Kingfisher; Rob Lynch - Wrybill Plover, Greenfinch, Fantail; Sonja Ross – Yellowhammer; Steve Attwood - Royal Spoonbill; Tony Whitehead – Mallard, Grey Teal, Black Swan, Pied Stilt, Little Shag, NZ Dotterel, Goldfinch, Wax Eye.*

#### *4.1.1.3.4.2.2 Fish surveys*

A depletion fyke net fish survey was undertaken at Papatotara in February 2026. In late Autumn 2025 four eel otoliths were sampled in collaboration with Cawthron, to be included as a case study in Cawthron work to understand eel diet and growth rate. The fyke net survey at Papatotara was conducted over 5 days in February. Surveys are typically undertaken approximately once every five years. The catch was dominated by short fin eel, consistent with previous survey efforts at the site. The survey was impacted by two environmental factors: one – following the high spring and early summer river flows through the site the outlet scour meant the water level was relatively low and concurrently approximately 1800 paradise shelduck moulting at the site in January, consequently the water levels were low and the macrophyte beds were almost non-existent. This meant there was less habitat available to be fished than previous surveys; Two – on the 3rd day of the survey a downstream migration event seemed to occur and large numbers of short fins were caught moving into the dams from upstream. Creating a depletion curve to estimate population requires a decreasing catch with each day of the survey. Consequently, the catches were not able to be modelled to generate robust population estimates. The Trust will re survey in the 26/27 summer season.

Pest animal control

Poor accessibility during winter and spring meant that the new predator trap network at the Papatotara Wetlands was installed in January 2026. The network consists of 12 DOC 200s, 2 DOC 250s, 6 AT220s and 2SA Cat Traps. The traps were checked three times during the season. Pests caught are presented below, averages will be displayed once more than one year of data is available.

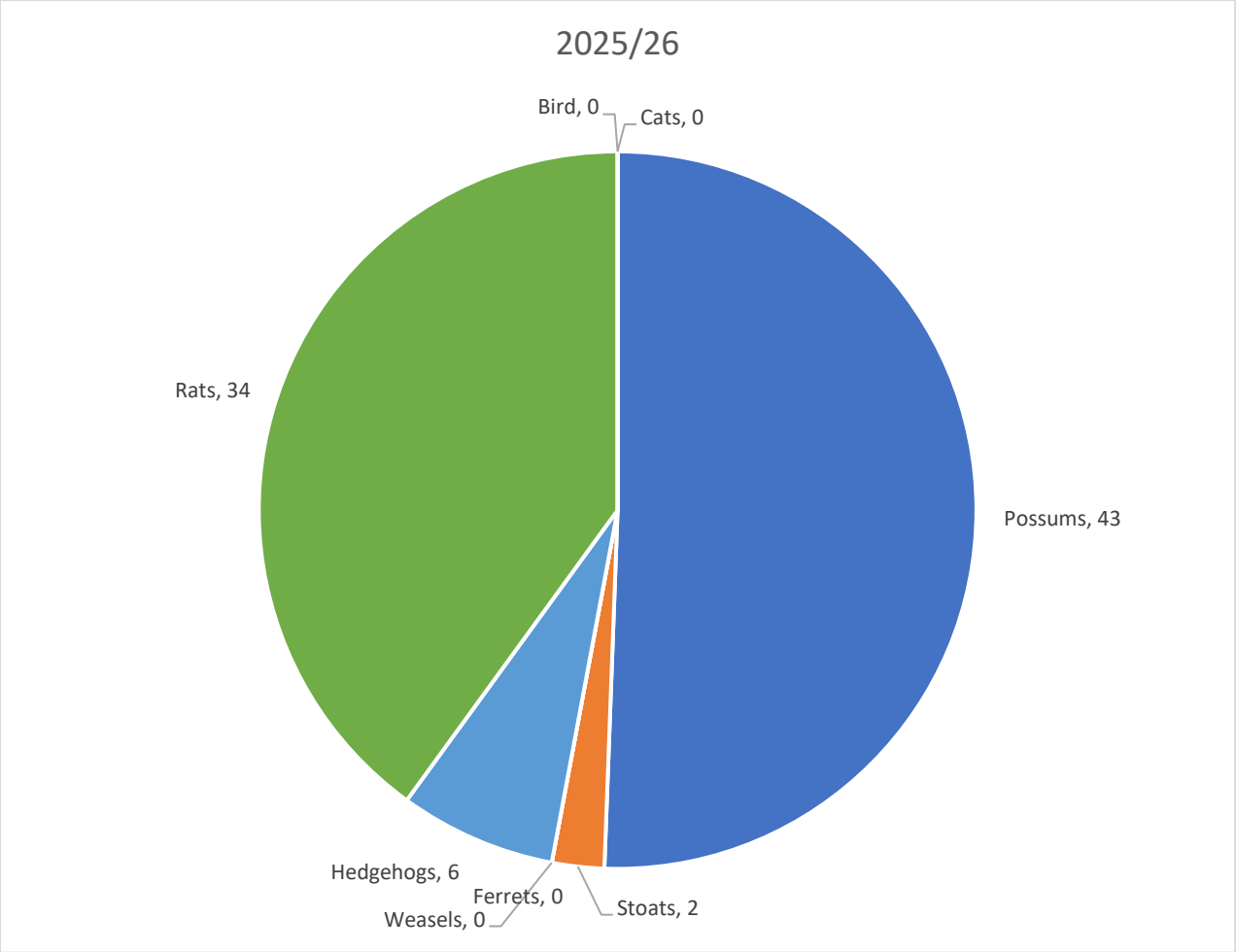



*Figure 8. Pest animal results for the first year of the trapping programme at Papatotara Wetlands.*

#### 4.1.1.3.5 Capital

The Papatotara Wetlands Project was one of the project sites which attracted funding from Environment Southland's Environmental Enhancement Fund. The funding contributed to planting 2,000 native plants, which were planted under the remnant kahikatea at the site. This work was largely completed in the 2024/25 year, with the last of it completed in the 2025/26 year.



*Plate 8: Restoration planting under remanent kahikatea forest.*

#### 4.1.1.4 A10 Rakatu Wetlands

##### 4.1.1.4.1 Expenditure

Budgeted - **$95,800,** Actual - **$57,800**

##### 4.1.1.4.2 Key outputs/measures this year

*Maintenance: release spraying of enhancement plantings, Pest plant programme, Pest animal trap network, Walking track maintenance, Dam wall maintenance, Wetland spillways and secondary outfalls maintained, repairs to the access road from spring flooding.*

*Monitoring: Spring bird counts & Bittern monitoring*

*Capital: Completed planting of 2000 plants started in 2024/25, and installed an additional 400 m of fencing.*

##### 4.1.1.4.3 Vision

The Trust's vision for the 278ha Rakatu property is:

To create an ecologically sustainable wetland/small stream ecosystem complex, for the benefit of fisheries and wildlife in the Rakatu/Redcliff area of the Lower Waiau River catchment. The complex will incorporate and link with the existing Redcliff Wildlife Reserve.

To provide public access to facilitate the public's enjoyment, recreational use and aesthetic appreciation of the resources, and to educate and enhance the public understanding of the fisheries and wildlife habitat and the Waiau Trust's objectives.

#### 4.1.1.4.4 Description of the project

Rakatu Wetlands, purchased by the Trust in 2000, has been open to the public since March 2006.

The property is located adjacent to the Lower Waiau River along the Clifden - Blackmount Road, 17 km from Manapouri Township and 7 km downstream of the Manapouri Lake Control Structure (Mararoa Weir).

Key elements of the project are set out in the table below.

**Table 3: The Rakatu Project**

| Actions | Details |
|---|---|
| **Natural wetland protection** | 4 wetlands, totalling 65.5 ha de-stocked and protected allowing natural regeneration processes to re-establish. These natural areas link with, and incorporate, created wetlands. |
| **Wetland creation** | 20 interconnected open water habitats created, totalling 49 ha, with 18km of shoreline. All fenced. |
| **Stream protection** | 13.3 km of small stream habitat protected or incorporated into new wetlands. |
| **Forestry** | 15.5 ha of forestry managed to provide ongoing income for the project. |
| **Native vegetation restoration** | Small areas to be trialled using natural regeneration processes, seed scattering techniques, native plantings and exotic plantings under planted by natives. Some amenity planting completed. Manuka trial.<br><br>Direct seeding trial of native species. |
| **Visitor facilities** | 1.4km road and car park. 9.8 km of walking tracks, offering 4 different walking options, with stiles, bridges, toilet, lunch shelter, lookouts, signage and interpretative panels built. |
| **Pest Plant Control** | Annual spray programme to prevent spread on dry lands, wetland margins, access tracks and dams. Wetland water level design incorporates gorse/broom patches. Public walking tracks to be sprayed up to 3 times per year. |
| **Pest Animal Control** | Network of 80 DOC 200, 12 AT220 and 6 DOC-250 and 4 Steve Allan cat traps set around Rakatu and the neighbouring Redcliff wetlands – installed 2011-2017. |
| **Ecosystem Monitoring** | Fish surveys – 5 yearly intervals<br><br>Spring bird counts - annual |




*Figure 9: Rakatu Wetlands.*

#### 4.1.1.4.5 Achievements and progress

##### *4.1.1.4.5.1 Maintenance*

Maintenance expenditure this year included:

- Pest plant control (walking tracks, fences lines, gorse and broom)
- Regular cleaning contract (for toilets and Look Out).
- Maintenance of the tunnel barn
- Wetland perimeter fence line
- Maintenance of walking track and Speights 1 Dam sill post flooding



*Plate 9: Post-flooding repair work undertaken at Rakatu.*

#### *4.1.1.4.5.2 Monitoring*

##### *4.1.1.4.5.2.1 Bird surveys*

The Trust has now been undertaking spring bird counts at Rakatu for 15 years. Table 4 is the summary of data from spring bird counts conducted during 2025/26. The numbers on each bird count for each species observed are presented along with all the species observed since records began. Those species not observed this year, but observed previously are greyed out. Two separate wetland habitats were sampled. Two counts were completed. A total of 5 waterfowl species and 2 water associated species were recorded, including broods of Black Swan.

The data shows a good diversity of species is resident, resident and breeding or visiting the wetlands. Waterfowl tend to dominate the wildlife population in terms of numbers of birds recorded, but numbers of individual species do vary from year to year. All waterfowl species have been recorded as breeding on site, over the 15-year sampling period.

The diversity of water associated species at Rakatu reflects the scale and types of habitat available. Shallow shorelines and pasture margins suit the waders. Regenerating native wetland vegetation suit S.Is Fernbird, plus the secretive Australasian Bittern and Marsh Crake (and chicks) both of which have been

observed outside the official survey times. The shag species and White-faced Herons are clearly finding a food source within the open water habitats.

The wetlands and their margins provide additional habitat and food source for the bush birds living in the wider area, including Fiordland National Park. The regeneration of wetland vegetation, particularly the flaxes and shrub lands, are now visually noticeable and add to the biodiversity values of the wetland complex.

In addition, bittern monitoring was conducted over two evenings in November, with the assistance of Wendy Ambury from the Love Bittern Trust. Wendy's summary of the monitoring is reproduced below, along with her recommendations for future bittern monitoring:

*Bittern Monitoring- Rakatu Wetlands – by Wendy Ambury*

*Last year (2024) while introducing me to the wetlands, a foraging boom was thought to be heard at Rakatu. This year (2025) active listening was carried out over two nights on 11th and 12th November in fair (11th) to moderately difficult (12th) listening conditions. Foraging booms were heard on both nights (yellow pins) from adhoc listening locations (blue pins). Foraging booms are typically a single boom and are heard in slightly different positions each time while there is still enough light for prey to be visible, and they stop when visibility drops. Bittern will then move to a resting place or closer into where the male considers a good breeding territory and should more consistently boom from the same relative spot from there on.*

*No consistent booming position was located on the 11th, however it was noted that a boom could have been coming from behind us, towards the oxbow. On the 12th listening was carried out at a slightly different location as a better observation point over the foraging territory we had heard Bittern booming from the night before. The conditions were moderately difficult with wind gusts, after foraging booms heard around the 'kuta' ponds, two male Bittern were consistently heard (red pins) when visibility dropped at 20:29, one from the oxbow (5 sequences of 1 or 2 booms) and the other from behind the end of the gum trees (7 sequences of 1-2 booms).*



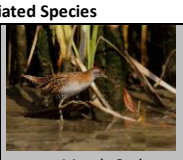
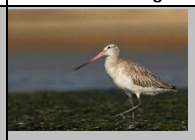
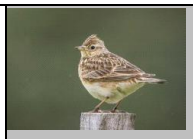
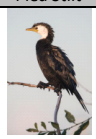
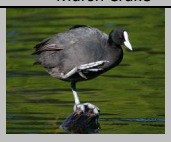
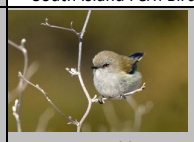
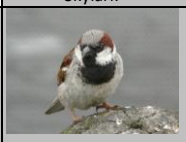
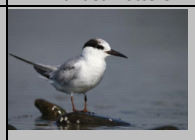
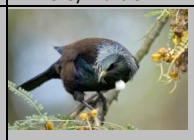
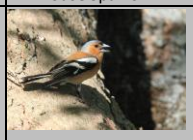
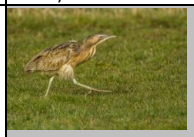
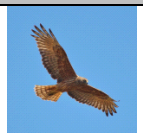
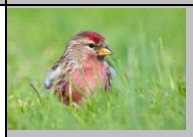
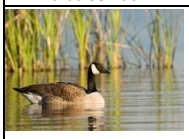
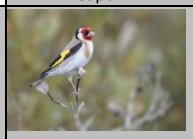
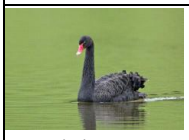
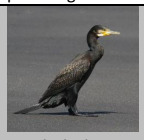
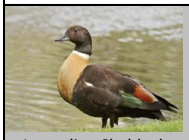
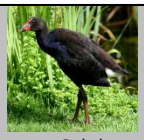

*Figure 10: Rakatu bittern monitoring locations, November 2025.*

*It should be noted that Roger also listened on the 11th to tune in, then on the 12th was stationed between Redcliff upper dam. There was significant noise disturbance and the possibility of foraging booms heard here also. On the 12th as we were parked up giving a summary of the evening another boom was heard from the direction of the main car park. These locations need to be further investigated.*

***Recommendations***

- *Mark/waypoint stations 500m apart along the length of the wetlands from Red Cliffs along the trail and place as many listeners as we can out to help determine the number of individual males and more likely breeding locations within the wetland complex.*
- *Use acoustic recorders to determine the high frequency sites for boom records and plan to place listeners around these wetland areas so we can more accurately triangulate the position of the Bittern.*

*Table 4: Results of 2025/26 Bird Counts at Rakatu – Species Present and Numbers, greyed species were observed outside the formal bird counts, either this year or previously.*

| Waterfowl | | Water Associated Species | | | International Migrants | | Other Species | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | 14 8 18 16 |  | |  |  | |  | 0 1 0 1 |  |
| Mallard Duck | | Pied Stilt | | Marsh Crake | Bar-tailed Godwit | | South Island Fern Bird | | Skylark |
|  | 4 0 2 0 |  | 2 1 1 2 |  |  | |  | |  |
| Grey Duck | | Little Shag | | Coot | Banded Dotterel | | Grey Warbler | | House Sparrow |
|  | 26 32 22 30 |  | 2 0 4 0 |  |  | |  | |  |
| NZ Scaup | | South Is Pied Oystercatcher | | Black-backed Gull | Asiatic Tern/Little Tern | | Tui | | Chaffinch |
|  | 6 0 2 0 |  | | |  | |  | 1 4 2 2 |  |
| Paradise Duck | | Australasian Bittern | | | White-winged Black Tern | | Harrier Hawk | | Redpoll |
|  | 14 2 18 16 |  | 8 0 2 0 | |  | |  | |  |
| Canada Geese | | Spur Winged Plover | | | Sanderling | | NZ Falcon | | Goldfinch |
|  | 2 0 2 0 |  | | |  | |  | 0 0 6 0 |  |
| Black Swan | | Black Shag | | | Glossy Ibis | | Welcome Swallow | | Starling |
|  | 0 8 0 6 |  | 14 0 0 0 | | | |  | |  |
| Shoveler Duck | | Black-billed Gull | | | | | Wax Eye | | Yellowhammer |
|  | |  | | | | |  | |  |
| Australian Shelduck | | Pukeko | | | | | NZ Pipit | | Greenfinch |
|  | |  | | | | |  | |  |
| Feral Goose | | Black- fronted Tern | | | | | Blackbird | | Dunnock |
|  | 0 4 0 0 |  | | | | |  | |  |
| Grey Teal | | White- faced Heron | | | | | Song Thrush | | Fantail |

*Photos sourced from Birds Online NZ, reproduced with permission as follows: Adam Clark -White-faced Heron, Asiatic Tern/Little Tern, Chaffinch; Alan Tennyson - Grey Heron, House Sparrow, White-fronted Tern, Sanderling, Feral Goose; Andrew Thomas - White-winged Black Tern; Con Duyvestyn, Glossy Ibis; Craig Martin - Marsh Crake; Craig McKenzie - NZ Falcon, Tui, Bellbird, Grey Warbler; Diana Womersley - Australian Mountain Duck; Duncan Watson - Spur-winged Plover; Glenda Rees – Bittern, Bar-tailed Godwit; Imogen Warren - Harrier Hawk; James Russell - Southern Skua; John Flux - Black-billed Gull; Les Feasey - Caspian Tern, Magpie; Neil Fitzgerald - Canada Goose, Black-fronted Dotterel, Banded Dotterel, Blackbird, Grey Duck; Ormond Torr - Pukeko, Paradise Duck, Shoveler Duck, Black Shag, White Heron, Welcome Swallow, Coot, NZ Pipit, Song Thrush, Kereru; Oscar Thomas - South Is. Fern Bird, Dunnock, Skylark, Red-billed Gull; Paul Sorrell – Redpoll; Phillip Griffin – Starling; Raewyn Adams - Scaup ; Rebecca Bowater - Black-fronted Tern, South Is Pied Oystercatcher, Black-backed Gull, Kingfisher; Rob Lynch - Wrybill Plover, Greenfinch, Fantail; Sonja Ross – Yellowhammer; Steve Attwood - Royal Spoonbill; Tony Whitehead – Mallard, Grey Teal, Black Swan, Pied Stilt, Little Shag, NZ Dotterel, Goldfinch, Wax Eye.*

#### *4.1.1.4.5.2.2 Fish surveys*

A fish survey was undertaken in January 2026 year; Fish and Game Southland and volunteers enabled this valuable repeat monitoring to occur. Surveys are typically undertaken approximately once every five years. The results from the 2026 season were consistent with previous surveys, with a slight increase in average weight indicating that eels are continuing to grow.



*Plate 10: Fish and Game ranger Josh Tabak showing nice brown trout specimen at Rakatu in January 2026.*



*Plate 11: Long fin eel dominated the fish catch consistent with previous surveys at Rakatu. The high proportion of medium to large eels was notable.*

#### *4.1.1.4.5.2.3 Pest animal control*

The predator trap network around Rakatu and the neighbouring Redcliff Wetlands consists of 102 traps, 80 DOC 200 traps, six DOC 250 traps, 4 SA cat traps, and 12 AT220 traps. The traps were checked and rebaited on 11 occasions during the year. Pest numbers trapped were higher than previous years, reflecting the value of the addition of AT220s in contributing to possum control, as well as increased trapping effort from a volunteer recreational deer hunter, which has enabled more frequent use of meat in the traps, subsequently attracting cats to a number of traps.

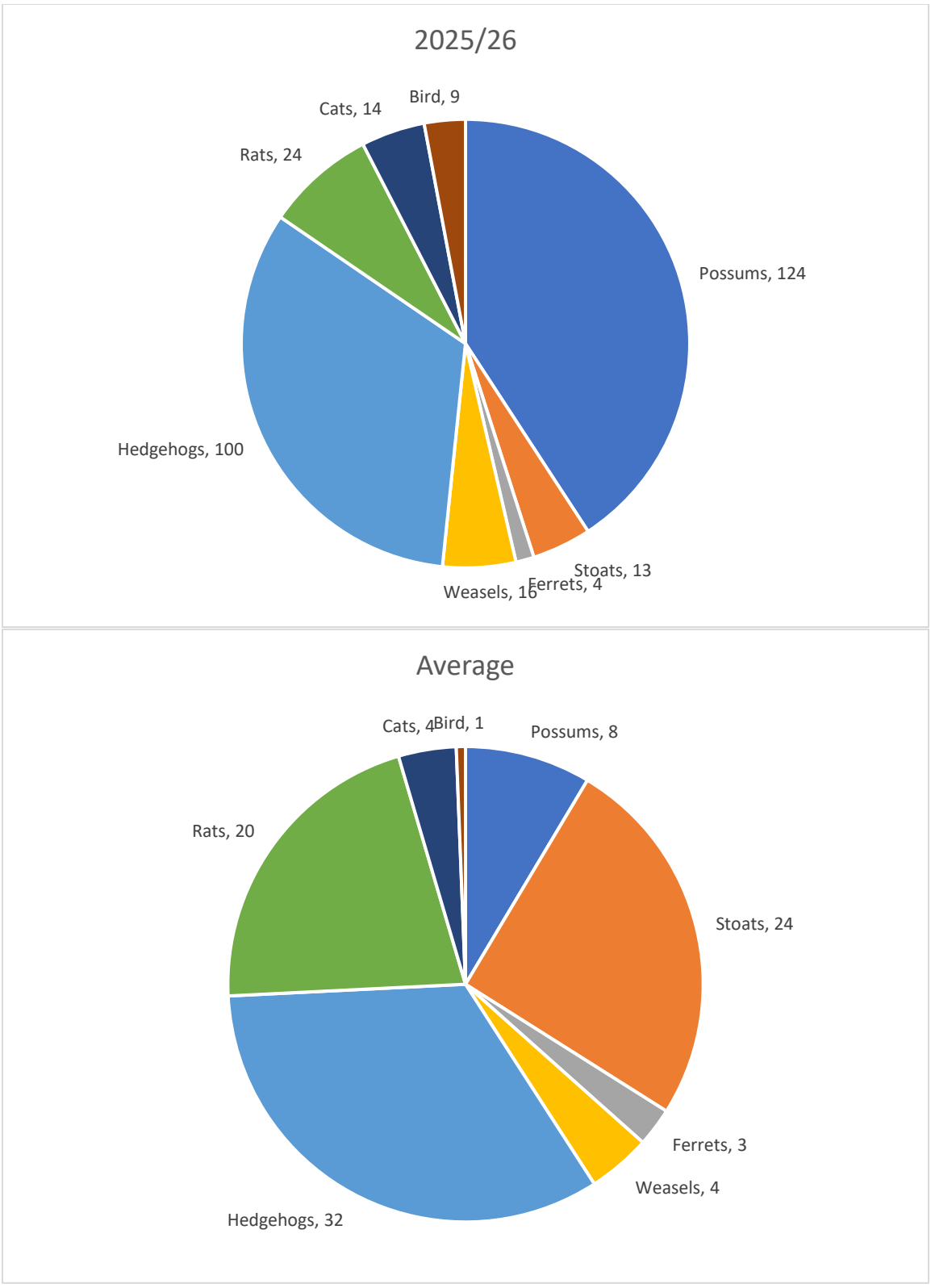



*Figure 11: Trapping results for 2025/26 compared with the annual mean results over the lifetime of the trapping programme. Note the increase in possum catches post the installation of the AT220 battery powered self resetting traps.*

Predators are an ongoing problem at Rakatu and Redcliff. Stoats, rats and hedgehogs are the most numerous and problematic pests at the site. Numbers of stoats and rats fluctuate from year to year and are linked to the beech mast years, with high numbers of stoats and rats typically occur in the following year. Reduction in pest animals should result in less predator pressure on bird species, particularly the ground nesting species.

This year we have continued working with local recreational hunters to manage the deer numbers at Rakatu, to manage the impact of deer on our new plantings. In addition to hunting Deer across Rakatu Pete Yunng has regularly checked and rebaited traps at Rakatu.



*Plate 12: Volunteer hunter and trapper Pete Young, with Redcliff wetlands in background and Rakatu beyond. Here assisting with deployment with acoustic recorders to detect Bittern.*



*Plate 13: The addition of AT220's have proved to be a valuable tool against possums.*

#### 4.1.1.4.6 Capital

Rakatu was one of the project sites which attracted funding from Environment Southland's Environmental Enhancement Fund. The funding contributed to planting 2,000 native plants, as well as funding to extend the pest trapping network. This work was largely completed in the 2024/25 year, with the last of it completed in the 2025/26 year. Further funding for additional/replacement traps was obtained for 10 AT220 automatically resetting traps, and 40 DOC 200 traps with the support of the AirNZ Every Corner project. We also put in 400 m of additional fencing to extend the protected area and provide separation between stock and pedestrians for the track to the Waiau River.

### 4.1.1.5 A5 Stony Creek/Whitestone Habitat Enhancement

#### 4.1.1.5.1 Expenditure

Budgeted - **$1,800**, Actual - **$365**

#### 4.1.1.5.2 Key outputs/measures this year

*Maintenance: Spraying if required.*

#### 4.1.1.5.3 Achievements and progress

This Trust owned project is located in the mid-reaches of the Whitestone Catchment. Our objectives for this property include restoration of the natural river meander processes of the Whitestone River, wetland creation, protection of a small stream (Stony Creek) and protection of the native vegetation on the terrace escarpment. Two shallow water wetlands were constructed in Dec 2006. As expected, these wetlands are largely seasonal, filling over the winter months or during large floods and drying out over summer and autumn. They are built on free draining soils and underlying alluvial sediments. Seasonal wetlands provide valuable habitat for specific wildlife species (waterfowl and waders) and provide diversity of habitat type.

Seasonal wetlands are of lesser fishery value. When full, these wetlands have a combined open water area of 2.6 ha and shoreline length of 1160m.

Boundary and spot spraying of gorse and broom was undertaken this year.

The Trust is of the view that the purchase of this 17.6 ha property has met its original objectives, in that the floodplain section of the property is again part of the Whitestone River berm, negating the need for ongoing expenditure on the maintenance of the adjacent stop banks.

#### 4.1.1.6 A7 Dean Burn Kowhai Riparian Habitat

##### 4.1.1.6.1 Expenditure

Budgeted - **$0**, Actual - **$0**

##### 4.1.1.6.2 Key outputs/measures this year

*Maintenance: Willow control if necessary.*

##### 4.1.1.6.3 Achievements and progress

The Dean Burn is a tributary of the Waiau River. It arises in Fiordland National Park and the Dean Forest and flows in a southeasterly direction before joining the Waiau River on the true right bank, 1.5km downstream of the Wairaki River.

This reach of the Dean Burn (1.5km) and the adjacent riparian habitat (5.9 ha) is protected, in perpetuity, by a QE II National Trust Covenant.

Under the QE II National Trust's Management Statement for the covenanted area, the Waiau Trust has an ongoing obligation to "progressively control or eradicate" the crack willow within the area, after consultation with the landowner. The 2008 willow removal work plus the 2009 follow up spray work has been successful. Further follow up spray of willow regrowth occurred in the spring of 2014, and February 2022.

#### 4.1.1.7 A15 Ramparts Road Wetland and Riparian Habitat:

##### 4.1.1.7.1 Expenditure

Budgeted - **$7,800**, Actual - **$5,946**

##### 4.1.1.7.2 Key outputs/measures this year

*Maintenance: Pest plant spray programme.*

##### 4.1.1.7.3 Achievements and progress

This wetland property is located 9km northeast of Manapouri, along the Hillside-Manapouri Road. It is accessible to the public from Ramparts Road, via two easements and one main access road has been created on the easement at the lower end of the property.

The Trust has owned this 44ha property of wetland habitat and associated riparian margins, including 0.4km of outlet stream, since September 2000. This wetland complex is located immediately downstream, and connected to, the 16 ha DOC administered Steven's tributary wetland. A second wetland of 8 ha, on Pamu's Stuart Farm, also lies upstream of the Ramparts Road wetland. This Trust project contributes significantly to habitat protection within this sub-catchment. The wetland complexes, lying in the valley floor of this small catchment, are significant habitats and play an important role in sustaining stream flows.

Since the purchase of this property a number of areas in the same catchment, upstream of this wetland, have been fenced and protected by QEII Covenant or part of the Trust's Habitat Enhancement Agreement project.

The wetland had been subject to fire, grazing and drainage over the years, resulting in considerable disruption to the ecosystem. Under Trust ownership, these activities no longer take place, so the natural restoration processes occur undisrupted. The native vegetation continues to flourish in the absence of grazing animals.

In 2011 a 1 ha open water wetland at the lower end of the property was constructed. Spring bird counts were carried out in 2011 and 2012, and annually from 2015-2021.

The pest plant control programme, designed to maintain the integrity of the wetland and the indigenous vegetation cover, continued this year. The access track was also sprayed.

The replanted forestry block on the southern escarpment continues to flourish. Silviculture was undertaken in this year.

#### 4.1.1.8 A2 Wairaki Wetland



*Plate 14: Wairaki oxbow lake from lookout number 1.*

##### 4.1.1.8.1 Expenditure

Budgeted **- $65,400** Actual **- $52,196**

##### 4.1.1.8.2 Key outputs/measures this year

*Maintenance: Weed spraying, public access, release spraying of plantings and restoration planting.*

*Monitoring: Bird counts, a 5 yearly fyke net fish survey was undertaken over 4 days. The Trust are grateful for the support from Southland Fish and Game, Pattle Dalamore Partners and a community volunteer.*

*Capital: Extension of the Wairaki Wetland walkway along the top terrace to a second look-out. Preparation and design for further extension of the walkway to complete a loop around the wetland. Completed planting 5400 trees through the Environmental Enhancement Fund.*

#### 4.1.1.8.3 Description of the project

The Wairaki Wetland is listed as 'Regional Significant' in Environment Southland's Water and Land Plan. But despite this regulatory protection, the Wairaki Wetland has gradually degraded over time. We are fortunate that the current owners, the Smith Family, are keen to work with the Waiau Trust and QEII to restore it. This includes not only protecting what is there but reinstating almost 2 ha of harakeke swamp at the southwestern corner of the Wetland and planting on the terrace whose springs feed into the Wetland. The wetland includes approximately 6 ha of open water, and the total area protected is approximately 14 ha.

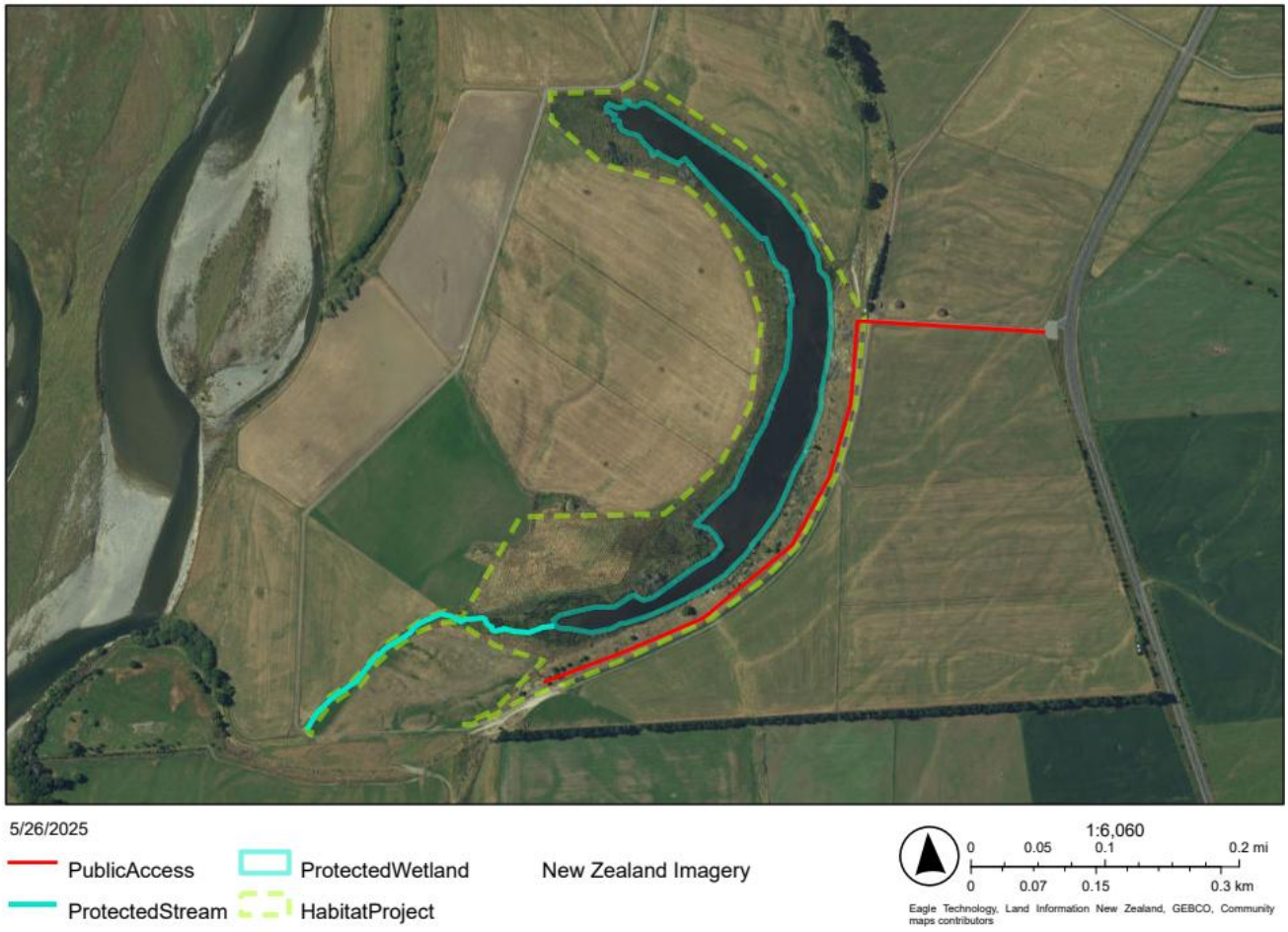



*Figure 12: Extent of the Wairaki Wetland Habitat Project. The open water portion covers approximately 6 ha within the protected area. The Main Stem of the Waiau River is immediately to the west and the Wairaki River is immediately to the north.*

#### 4.1.1.8.4 Achievements and progress

This year has been the third year with the public access open. It continues to be well used, with anecdotal reports of multiple cars often being parked there. The planting and weed control work continued, with support from Environment Southland's Environmental Enhancement fund. This included additional planting on the escarpment above the wetland and an extension of the pest animal trap network. This year was the second full year of the trapping network being in place, the results are reported below.

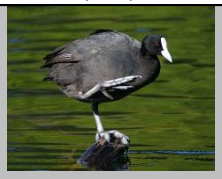
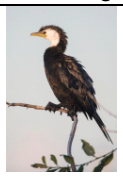
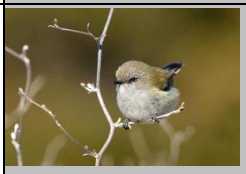
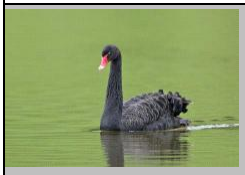
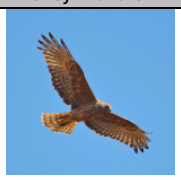
##### *4.1.1.8.4.1 Monitoring*

Bird counts are undertaken each year and fish surveys undertaken periodically to assess any changes overtime.

###### *4.1.1.8.4.1.1 Bird surveys*

Two spring bird counts were conducted at Wairaki this year, with more species recorded than last year. A large number of Canada Geese numbers were observed on the site during the two bird surveys.

*Table 5: Wairaki Wetland bird count 2025/26.*

| Waterfowl | | Water Associated Species | | Other Species | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  Canada Goose | 600+<br>8 |  Royal Spoonbill | 0<br>2 |  Welcome Swallow | 4<br>12 |
|  NZ Scaup | 18<br>12 |  Coot | |  Fantail | 2<br>5 |
|  Mallard Duck | 16<br>22 |  Black Shag | 0<br>1 |  Bellbird | |
|  Paradise Duck | 40<br>70 |  Little Shag | 2<br>2 |  Grey Warbler | |
|  Black Swan | |  Black-billed Gull | 0<br>18 |  Harrier Hawk | 3<br>1 |
|  Shoveler Duck | 8<br>6 |  Pukeko | 0<br>1 | | |
|  Grey Teal | |  White- faced Heron | 1<br>0 | | |
| | |  Black-backed Gull | 8<br>12 | | |

*Photos sourced from Birds Online NZ, reproduced with permission as follows: Adam Clark -White-faced Heron, Asiatic Tern/Little Tern, Chaffinch; Alan Tennyson - Grey Heron, House Sparrow, White-fronted Tern, Sanderling, Feral Goose; Andrew Thomas - White-winged Black Tern; Con Duyvestyn, Glossy Ibis; Craig Martin - Marsh Crake; Craig McKenzie - NZ Falcon, Tui, Bellbird, Grey Warbler; Diana Womersley - Australian Mountain Duck; Duncan Watson - Spur-winged Plover; Glenda Rees – Bittern, Bar-tailed Godwit; Imogen Warren - Harrier Hawk; James Russell - Southern Skua; John Flux - Black-billed Gull; Les Feasey - Caspian Tern, Magpie; Neil Fitzgerald - Canada Goose, Black-fronted Dotterel, Banded Dotterel, Blackbird, Grey Duck; Ormond Torr - Pukeko, Paradise Duck, Shoveler Duck, Black Shag, White Heron, Welcome Swallow, Coot, NZ Pipit, Song Thrush, Kereru; Oscar Thomas - South Is. Fern Bird, Dunnock, Skylark, Red-billed Gull; Paul Sorrell – Redpoll; Phillip Griffin – Starling; Raewyn Adams - Scaup ; Rebecca Bowater - Black-fronted Tern, South Is Pied Oystercatcher, Black-backed Gull, Kingfisher; Rob Lynch - Wrybill Plover, Greenfinch, Fantail; Sonja Ross – Yellowhammer; Steve Attwood - Royal Spoonbill; Tony Whitehead – Mallard, Grey Teal, Black Swan, Pied Stilt, Little Shag, NZ Dotterel, Goldfinch, Wax Eye.*

#### *4.1.1.8.4.1.2 Fish surveys*

A fish survey was undertaken this year. Surveys are typically undertaken approximately once every five years. Very few large eels and no large trout were caught during the survey. This may be linked to a widespread fish kill at the site last year, we were advised of by a member of the public. It was the first reported fish kill at the site and coincided with a period of high temperatures. It highlights the risk to the systems health from high temperature and eutrophication and there may be options to explore to minimise this risk in future.

#### *4.1.1.8.4.1.3 Pest animal control*

The predator trap network around the Wairaki Oxbow is in its second year of operation. This year we expanded the pest trap network, which consists of 13 DOC 200s, and 2 AT220 traps. The traps were checked and rebaited on 8 occasions during the year. There has been an increase in the pest numbers caught which reflects the increased trapping network.

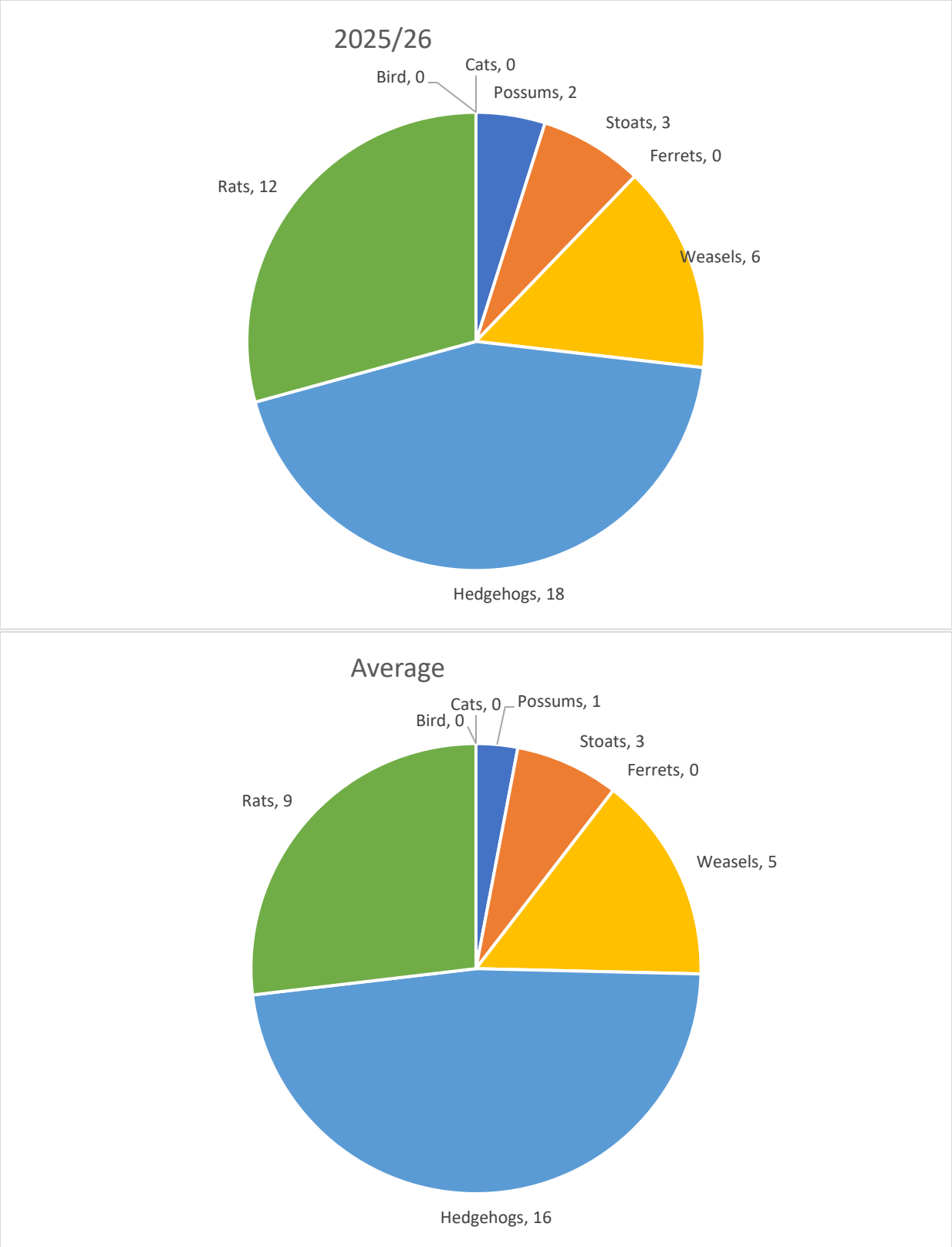



*Figure 13: Pest animal results for 2025/26 at Wairaki Wetland.*

#### 4.1.1.8.5 Capital

Wairaki was one of the project sites which attracted funding from Environment Southland's Environmental Enhancement Fund. The funding contributed to planting 5,400 native plants, as well as funding to extend the pest trapping network. This work was completed over the 2024/25 and 2025/26 years. This year capital expenditure was made at the Wairaki oxbow lake access, extending the existing walking track along the top of the terrace above the wetland to a second lookout. With the Dean Burn Delta Wetland being paused this year, the decision way made to investigate further extending the walking track at Wairaki to complete a loop track around the oxbow. Design and planning for this project has been started.

### 4.1.1.9 A21 Dean Burn Delta Wetland

#### 4.1.1.9.1 Expenditure

Budgeted - **$15,000**, Actual - **$592**

#### 4.1.1.9.2 Key outputs/measures this year

*Administration: On hold with the exception of ongoing liaison with DOC and existing lease holder.*

#### 4.1.1.9.3 Achievements and progress

The Dean Burn is a tributary of the Waiau River. It arises in Fiordland National Park and the Dean Forest and flows in a southeasterly direction before joining the Waiau River on the true right bank, 1.5km downstream of the Wairaki River.

The Dean Burn Delta is DOC administered stewardship land which is currently leased to the adjacent landowner. This lease expires in 2028, at which time the Trust may seek to take over that lease and develop additional wetland habitat.

## 4.1.2 Output A – Habitat Enhancement Agreements and Joint Waiau Trust/QEII National Trust Projects

#### 4.1.2.1.1 Expenditure

Budgeted - **$ 368,800** Actual - **$173,592**

#### 4.1.2.1.2 Key outputs/measures this year

*Capital: HEA projects completed (9)*
*Joint Waiau Trust/QEII Trust projects completed (2).*
*Monitoring: On going photographic record of project site restoration*
*Year 6 of the ecosystem response monitoring programme -Macroinvertebrate and fine sediment.*

#### 4.1.2.1.3 Background

The philosophy behind this aspect of the Trust's work is progressively to achieve sub-catchment by sub-catchment wetland, gully and stream enhancement from the headwaters to the confluence with main stem waterways. This results in restoring longitudinal (upstream to downstream) and lateral (riparian) ecological linkages and enhancing habitat for the benefit of fisheries and wildlife.

This project work is split into two parts.

a). The first relates to the Trust's **Habitat Enhancement Agreements** (HEA). This Agreement is designed to provide grant monies to landowners for the fencing of stream and wetland habitats and their riparian

margins. The signing of the Agreement by the landowner provides a degree of long-term security for the Trust's investment and security and protection for the enhanced habitat.

The Habitat Enhancement Agreement provides grant money as an interest free loan for a term of 20 years. At the 20 year point the grant money will be written off, if the Agreement has been complied with. The penalty for non-compliance during the 20-year period requires the repayment of the capital sum, plus interest. If the land changes hands within the 20-year time frame, then the existing landowner must arrange for the new landowner to enter into a replacement agreement with the Waiau Trust. The 20-year term applies from the date of signing by the original landowner. The Trust has adopted the 20-year term, taking the view that riparian fencing will be standard practice within that time frame. Grants vary between 25 and 50% of the total cost of the fence, depending on the assessed ecological value of the habitat.

b). The second part of this work is the **Joint Projects** we undertake with the QEII National Trust and landowners. The joint approach of the Waiau Trust and QE II National Trust is an efficient use of resources, resulting in covenants over parcels of land with high conservation values and opportunities for fisheries and wildlife habitat enhancement.

In practice the joint approach means parcels of land that meet QE II criteria are covenanted, while those wetlands/streams/riparian margins with specific fisheries and wildlife values continue to be protected by the Waiau Trust's Habitat Enhancement Agreement. From a financial perspective, the Waiau Trust has contributed to the fencing of a number of QE II Covenants, at a grant rate of 25% of the value of the fence. In these cases the Trust does not require the landowner to sign a Habitat Enhancement Agreement, as it takes the view that the QE II Covenant also secures the Trust's interests in protecting the habitat in perpetuity. This arrangement works well.

With current constraints on QEII's funding, there are no new Joint Projects planned. We hope to continue working with QEII in the future.

**Achievements and Progress:**

This area of work remains a key focus for the Trust. Progress continued to be made during the year.

This year 9 Habitat Enhancement Agreement projects and 2 Joint Waiau Trust/QE II Trust projects were completed. The total funding provided to landowners was $127,624.93 A further 14 potential new projects were investigated, under Output J. These are at various stages of planning by landowners.

Time to completion of these projects can take from a few months to several years, which complicates our annual budgeting. Those not completed in a current financial year are often carried over to the following year.

**HEA Projects:**

Table 6 documents the 9 projects completed under the **HEA** category during the year. Protection of **6.25 km** of stream and **31.57 ha** of wetland and riparian habitat was achieved. Additionally, **2.6 ha** of wetland habitat was created or enhanced. The Trust now has **154** such agreements on its books. It should be noted that riparian fencing projects are often completed section by section, over a number of years. HEAs are signed at the completion of each section and once the whole project is complete.

*Table 6: Habitat Enhancement Agreements (HEAs) signed this year.*

| Landowner | Catchment/Stream | Fence Length (m) | Stream Length Protected (m) | Protected Area (ha) | Enhanced/constructed Wetland Area (ha) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Te Koawa Mahinga kai Trust | Unnamed tributary of Jerricho Stream | Na | 178 | 1.5 | 0.2 |
| Grassy Downs | Merton Creek tributary | 740 | 740 | .37 | - |
| Jerricho Station | Wetland area | 480 | Na | 1 | - |
| Brunnel Peaks | Unnamed tributary of Ligar Creek | 1140 | 720 | 4.3 | - |
| Taylor | Unnamed tributary of the Whitestone | 940 | 630 | 1.5 | - |
| PAMU – Eweburn | Upukerora tributary | 774 | 662 | 3.7 | 1.1 |
| Broughton | Unnamed tributary of Shepards Creek | 130 | 156 | 1.2 | 0.1 |
| PAMU – Mararoa | Dale Valley | 3487 | 3164 | 18 | 1.2 |
| **Total** | | **7691** | **6250** | **31.57** | **2.6** |

NB: The measurements of fence length, stream length and area are not based on formal surveys and are measured off aerial photos. They are therefore less accurate.

**Joint Waiau Trust/QEII Trust Projects:**

Table 7 details the **2** Joint Waiau Trust/QEII National Trust projects completed this year, protecting **412 ha** of habitat (subject to final survey). These are mainly headwater wetlands, gullies and stream systems with significant native vegetation cover; hence they met the QEII National Trust criteria. The Trust now has **134** Joint projects on the books.

*Table 7: Joint Waiau Trust/QEII National Trust Projects Funded this Year.*

| Landowner | Catchment/Stream | Fence Length (m) | Protected area (ha) |
|---|---|---|---|
| PAMU – Mararoa | Dale Valey | 4597 | 209 |
| PAMU – Mararoa | Dale Valley | 4400 | 203 |
| | **Total** | **8997** | |

* The areas and fence lengths are subject to final survey and may change.

**Waiau River Liaison Committee:**

The Waiau River Liaison Committee, administered by Environment Southland, also runs a stream riparian fencing programme. This programme and the Trust stream protection work are complementary. Consultation from time to time ensures best use is made of limited resources and good environmental outcomes are achieved.

**Macroinvertebrate Monitoring:**

The Macroinvertebrate monitoring, started in 2017, involves ecological monitoring at six sites where habitat enhancement, including riparian fencing to exclude stock had been undertaken. The program includes three aspects of freshwater ecosystem health: Macroinvertebrates; Habitat Quality; and fine sediment in an on the stream bed. There are a couple of missing years of data owing to COVID. Formal analysis of the data will be possible with 10 years data. It is relevant to note that the anticipated time frame for meaningful recovery is generally 10-15 years or greater depending on the nature of issues driving ecological degradation and scale of restoration activities undertaken.

### 4.1.3 Output B – Access projects

#### 4.1.3.1.1 Expenditure

Total for all Accesses**:** Budgeted **- $10,650**, Actual - $7,017

#### 4.1.3.1.2 Key outputs/measures this year

*Maintenance: Annual maintenance programme.*

*Capital: Extension of the Wairaki Wetland walkway, described and accounted for under the Wairaki Wetland habitat project above.*

#### 4.1.3.1.3 Description of the project

Access projects are about reconnecting people with the Waiau River. When the Waiau River was diverted for electricity generation, the recreational and cultural values of the river changed, and the places and ways people were able to access and interact with the river changed too. Through this workstream the Trust has created 13 public accessways to enable people to physically get to the main stem of the Waiau River and its tributaries. They comprise a mixture of pedestrian and vehicular accessways, distributed throughout the catchment, providing a range of opportunities for the community to engage with the river.

The access projects fulfil Purposes (b), (c), (g) and (l) of the Supplementary Deed.

#### 4.1.3.1.4 Achievements and progress

The Trust's efforts to provide public access to the Waiau River and its tributaries continues to be a priority, and all accesses are fully operational. Public access to the resources is a broad concept and includes access for specific water-based activities such as angling and harvesting the game bird resource, where appropriate. Important also is access for passive recreational pursuits, and in the case of our wetland properties, for education purposes.

The total number of Access Projects, open for public use is 13. The budgets for 5 of these (Rakatu, Ramparts, Wairaki Wetland, Home Creek, and Wairaki oxbow lake) are associated with, and therefore accounted for under, Habitat Projects. Key expenditure relates to the maintenance of the other 9 accesses, which involves grading, maintenance graveling and spraying of the carriageway, roadside verges and walking tracks from the car parks to the river, as required.

This year capital expenditure was made at the Wairaki oxbow lake access, extending the existing walking track along the top of the terrace above the wetland to a second lookout. This was accounted for in the expenditure under the Wairaki oxbow lake habitat project above.

This year maintenance expenditure (in the form of road spraying and grading and stile treads and handrails) occurred at the Whare Creek, Rakatu, Jericho and Sunnyside/Monowai accesses. Stiles at the Dean Burn and Sunnyside/Monowai and Home Creek access were maintained. Maintenance costs for the other accesses were slightly less than expected, as spraying and grading is not always needed at every access, every year.

Table 8 provides location details for the 13 accesses.

*Table 8: Waiau Trust Access Projects.*

| Access | Location | To Where | Type | Purpose |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Whare Creek** | Lower Waiau, Blackmount-Redcliff Road, 4.2km d/s Mararoa Weir | Waiau River | 1.5km gravel road to car park | Anglers, general recreation. |
| **Dean Burn** | Lower Waiau, west side, 25km upstream of Tuatapere | Dean Burn & Waiau River | 0.5 km gravel road to car park | Anglers, general recreation. |
| **Wairaki** | Lower Waiau, east side, 25km upstream of Tuatapere | Waiau & Wairaki River | 1km gravel road to car park | Anglers, general recreation. |
| **Wairaki Wetland** | Lower Waiau, east side, 25km upstream of Tuatapere | 2 Viewing platforms over the Wairaki Lagoon | 700 m gravel walking track from roadside carpark. | General recreation, education. |
| **Redcliff/Jericho** | Waiau, Blackmount Redcliff Road, 12.6 km downstream of Mararoa Weir | Waiau River | 1.62km gravel road to car park. | Anglers, general recreation. |
| **Princhester Creek** | SH 94, 28 km east of Te Anau | Princhester Creek & Mararoa River | 0.5km gravel road, then grassed walkway to river | Anglers, general recreation. |
| **Rakatu** | Lower Waiau Blackmount -Redcliff Road, 8.8km downstream of Mararoa Weir | Waiau River and Rakatu wetlands | 1.4km gravel road to car park, 9 km walking tracks round wetlands and to the Waiau River | Anglers, general recreation, walking, bird spotting, education. |
| **Home Creek** | Manapouri- Hillside Road, 1.5km from Manapouri | Home Creek | 0.8km gravel road, 1.6km circular walking track. | Anglers, general recreation, walking, education. |
| **Johnston Access** | Dale Road Off Kakapo Road, 16 km from Te Anau | Upukerora River | 1.2 km gravel road to car park | Anglers, general recreation. |
| **Pump House Road** | Pump House Road, off Lynwood Road, 14 km from Te Anau | Whitestone River | 0.4 km gravel road to car park | Anglers, general recreation. |
| **Ramparts Wetland** | Ramparts Road, off Hillside -Manapouri Road, 11.5 km from Manapouri | Wetland | 0.2km gravel road to car park, freedom walking around wetland | General recreation, botanical interest. |
| **Mararoa-Whitestone** | Off Hillside-Manapouri Road, 13km from Manapouri and 17.8 km from Te Anau | Whitestone River, Mararoa River and Flaxy Creek | 0.75km gravel road to car park | Anglers, general recreation. |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sunnyside-Monowai** | Off Sunnyside Road, 5km from Monowai Village | Lower Waiau River | 0.32km gravel road to car park | Anglers, general recreation. |

### 4.1.4 Output C – Research projects

The research projects fulfil Purposes (f) and (i) of the Supplementary Deed.

#### 4.1.4.1.1 Expenditure

Budgeted **- $10,000**, Actual **-** $1,947

#### 4.1.4.1.2 Key outputs/measures this year

The budgeted inanga spawning habitat report has been deferred until the 2026/27 financial year to enable data collection over the March 2026-May 2026 spawning period to be captured and used in conjunction with available regional Lidar data.

Cawthron's analysis of eel growth has been deferred until the 2026/27 financial year to align with the Cawthron work program the analysis is housed within.

### 4.1.5 Output D – Consultation, partnerships, communication, community relationships and advocacy

This Output fulfils Purposes (g), (j), (k) and (l) of the Supplementary Deed.

**Expenditure:**

Budgeted - **$10,310**, Actual - $16,481

#### 4.1.5.1.1 Key outputs/measures this year

*Administration: Attend relevant field days/educational initiatives in the catchment.*
*Maintain and enhance good working relationships with all partners and stakeholders.*
*Implement aspects of the Communications Plan*

#### 4.1.5.1.2 Achievements and progress

Relationships within the community remain a high priority for the Trust. It is separated into 4 categories:

***Consultation*** – As an ongoing form of consultation the Trust provides a copy of its Annual Report to a number of relevant organisations, including the Te Waiau Mahinga Kai Trust and Tuatapere Amenities Trust.

***Partnerships-*** these include formal partnerships with organisations/people with whom we have legally binding documents. The key partnership is with MEL, through the Trust Deed. Our relationship with Meridian Energy Ltd is of particular significance to the Trust, given the role the Trust has in terms of mitigating and remedying the adverse effects of the Manapouri Power Scheme on fisheries and wildlife habitat. It is important to keep Meridian up to date with Trust projects and progress. The Trust is mindful of the fact the Resource Consents for the Manapouri Power Scheme will need to be renewed prior to 2031.

Partnerships can also be informal and are more appropriately defined as "working relationships". There is no doubt that the most important of all the people the Trust works with are landowners and farm

managers. These are the people with whom we work to protect streams and wetlands and provide public accesses to the resources. The Trust highly values the working relationships established between Pamu, QE II National Trust, DOC, Environment Southland and Fish and Game Southland – all of whom have helped us achieve enhancement and protection of wetlands and streams during the year. We are particularly grateful for the investment Environment Southland has made in the Trust's projects through the Environmental Enhancement Fund. We continue to work with the Waiau River Liaison Committee, Te Anau River Liaison Committee, the Waiau Rivercare Group, Te Waiau Mahika Kai Trust, Te Ao Marama Inc, Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka, the Waiau Working Party, The Orauea Catchment Group, Thriving Southland, Southland District Council, and others as opportunities arise.

***Communication, Public Awareness and Information Dissemination –*** This involves a multifaceted approach including, implementing the Communication Plan, identifying targeted audiences, key messaging, media items, project site public events, circulation of monitoring data and reports and the website (www.waiautrust.org.nz). This year the Trust engaged the Love Bittern Trust to provide a wetland and bittern education module to the schools of the Waiau Catchment. Over a week, the programme was provided to Hauroko Valley Primary School, Takitimu Primary School, Waiau Area School (WAS) and Mararoa Primary School. The junior school of WAS visited the Inanga Project, where each class was given a tour of the wetland, including netting eels. The Trust circulates 120 copies of the Annual Report to interested organisations and individuals in the community. Roger provides tours of the Trust's major habitat projects to various groups and presents on the Trust's work on request. The Trust education policy initiative, of using contract students to carry out project monitoring/research work is viewed as an important aspect of Trust work under this Output. The Trust has a number of ecological monitoring reports available on request.




*Plate 15: Work by students from WAS learning about wetland ecosystems.*




*Plate 16: Wendy delivering the Love Bittern programme to schools in the catchment.*



*Plate 17: Retrieving a fyke net during WAS field trip to the Inanga Project at the Waiau Mouth.*

***Advocacy –***The national interest in freshwater issues and biodiversity has gained momentum in the last decade with a number of statutory documents under development and review. The Trust has engaged in statutory submission processes on a number of these documents. The increased awareness of the value of habitat protection and enhancement has assisted the Trust's work, with increasing numbers of landowners keen to fence streams and wetlands.

### 4.1.6 Output E – Databases

This Output fulfils Purposes (h) and (i) of the Supplementary Deed.

#### 4.1.6.1.1 Expenditure

Budgeted - **$18,320**, Actual - $3,299

#### 4.1.6.1.2 Key outputs/measures this year

*Administration and Planning: Update Photographic library*
*Maintain Databases*
*Develop catchment protection maps*
*Update HEA maps*

#### 4.1.6.1.3 Achievements and progress

The Habitat Enhancement Agreement and Joint Waiau Trust/QEII Trust Project databases have been maintained during the year. The integrity of our databases is important, as they provide a detailed record of all projects - GPS points, fence lengths, areas protected and expenditure.

This year the Trust has started digitising historic HEA documents to have all maps on the same electronic system, this is pertinent to protect the trust and landowners interests by having accurate mapping and also supports ongoing assessment as HEA areas begin to reach the maturity of their 20 year duration.

The extensive photographic record the Trust now has for all projects continues to be added to as required. During the year continued effort went into ensuring our project photographic library for the Trust's HEA projects was up to date.

Work has continued on sub-catchment protection maps. These detail all the streams and wetlands the Trust has been involved in protecting.

The HEA project system has been running for more than 20 years now. Each agreement has an attached map showing streams and wetlands protected and fences funded. Hard copies of all HEA agreements are filed. A file (maps) of all the Joint projects completed with QEII National Trust is also maintained. A digital database of both types of HEA projects is also maintained.

The habitat enhancement ecological response monitoring reports commissioned or prepared by the Trust are also an important part of our information base.

### 4.1.7 Output G – Duncraigen Weir

This Output fulfils Purpose (e) of the Supplementary Deed.

#### 4.1.7.1.1 Expenditure

Budgeted - **$0,** Actual - **$0**

#### 4.1.7.1.2 Achievements and progress

No work was required at the Duncraigen Weir this year.

### 4.1.8 Output J – Project investigation and advice

This Output fulfils Purposes (a), (b), (c) of the Supplementary Deed.

#### 4.1.8.1.1 Expenditure

Budgeted-**$15,500,** Actual- **$24,588**

#### 4.1.8.1.2 Key outputs/measures this year

*Administration: Respond to landowner requests to investigate potential new projects.*

#### 4.1.8.1.3 Achievements and progress

This output category covers expenditure on investigating new habitat and access projects and providing advice on habitat enhancement and protection. 14 potential new projects were investigated during the year, involving a site visit. A number of phone call enquiries from landowners thinking about stream and wetland protection were responded to.

The additional expenditure in this work area is a function of timing of enquiries from landowners, including two relatively large partner organisations that are expanding landholdings that offer new opportunities or changing priorities and personnel that have necessitated engagement, investigation of opportunities and advice.

Initial project investigation involves a site visit, discussion with, and advice to, the landowner and assessment of the fisheries and wildlife habitat and conservation values. This then leads to a decision about proceeding with the project and if it is solely a Waiau Trust project, a QEII National Trust project or a joint project.

This work is preliminary and does not always result in a project coming to fruition. Such preliminary investigations are often confidential in nature and involve discussions with individual landowners, so it is considered appropriate that recording and reporting expenditure should be under this general category. The Trust is of the view that reporting this expenditure in this manner is a good balance between transparency and the privacy of the Trust and individual landowners.

When potential projects progress to the stage of becoming a certainty, they are assigned separate project numbers.

### 4.1.9 Output H – Project management

#### 4.1.9.1.1 Expenditure

Budgeted – **$24,000**, Actual – $24,241

This output covers all general planning work, by Contract Planner Claire Jordan, which cannot be readily attributable to a specific project. A number of projects have been worked on this year, in addition to the project planning work. The Annual Plan and Budget come under this output category, as does preparation of meeting agendas, meeting attendance, other day-to-day planning/management issues and inquiries, and keeping abreast of advances and news in the field.

### 4.1.10 Output H – General field

#### 4.1.10.1.1 Expenditure

Budgeted – **$25,000**, Actual – $21,981

#### 4.1.10.1.2 Key outputs/measures this year

*Administration: Management oversight of all projects.*

#### 4.1.10.1.3 Achievements and progress

This output covers all project related work by Field Operations Consultant Roger Hodson, which cannot be readily attributed to a specific project. The Annual Plan and Budget come under this output category as does meeting agenda preparation, meeting attendances, general enquiries and other day to day matters that arise.

### 4.1.11 Output H – Trust servicing

#### 4.1.11.1 General administration

##### 4.1.11.1.1 Expenditure

Budgeted – **$36,005**, Actual – $48,764

##### 4.1.11.1.2 Key outputs/measures this year

*Administration: Annual Report completed by 30 June.*

##### 4.1.11.1.3 Achievements and progress

All targets, including maintaining the Trust's financial accounts and records, securing a set of audited accounts for the Annual Report, coordinating Fund Manager reports, production and distribution of the Annual Report, negotiating contracts on behalf of the Trust, general office running and performing other administration/secretarial duties as required have been met. Insurance costs relating to public liability and statutory liability are accounted for under this output.

#### 4.1.11.2 H2 Trust Board

##### 4.1.11.2.1 Expenditure

Budgeted – **$9,500**, Actual – $8,203

##### 4.1.11.2.2 Key outputs/measures this year

*Administration: Hold 5 meetings of the Trust Board*
*Insurance – Trustees Professional Indemnity.*

##### 4.1.11.2.3 Achievements and progress

The Trust met on five occasions during the year, incorporating a field trip to Fortuna's Elaya & Mt Prospect Station on 5 February 2026.

Trustees are of the view that this frequency of meetings enables them to keep abreast of project developments and maintain an appropriate level of continuity.

#### 4.1.11.3 H7 Financial management

##### 4.1.11.3.1 Expenditure

Budgeted – **$70,000**, Actual – $67,168

##### 4.1.11.3.2 Achievements and progress

The fund management system, involving three Fund Managers, continued.

## 4.2 Compliance, outcomes and long-term performance

The Annual Reporting process provides an opportunity for the Trust to critically review, assess and evaluate its performance, for the financial year. Section 3 (A) of the report does this in terms of Outputs. Over the longer time frame, it is an opportunity to assess our performance in terms of whether Outcomes are being achieved. The ecological monitoring programme the Trust has in place for major projects is a key component for determining if Outcomes are being achieved.

The requirement to report non-financial information, under the financial reporting requirements for Registered Charities/PBE's (effective from 1 April 2015), formalises and complements the practice, the Trust has adopted for some years.

Other aspects of the Trust's internal audit of activities, relate to compliance with the Charitable Trusts Act 1957, the Trustees Act 1956, the Trustee Amendment Act 1988 and the Charities Act 2005. An Outcome audit also needs to look at compliance and performance with the Trust Deed, Variation of Deed and the Strategic Plan.

The annual financial position of the Trust is subject to independent audit and the results of this are included in Section 5 of this report.

### 4.2.1 Compliance with relevant legislation

The legislation governing the operation of Trusts provides the basis for measuring the compliance of Trust activities and business practices. These statues are: Charitable Trusts Act 1957, The Trusts Act 2019, the Charities Act 2005 and Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

#### 4.2.1.1 Charitable Purposes

The first matter of compliance is around the activities of the Trust being charitable. "Charitable purposes" is defined in Section 38 of the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 and the activities of the Trust comply with (g) and (k) of that section. The Trust is registered with Charities Services (Charities Act 2005) to ensure the continuance of the Trust "charitable-purpose tax exempt status". A requirement of the registration and the retention of the "charitable status" is to report to Charities Services on an annual basis. This requirement has been met.

Under the Financial Reporting Requirements for Charities, the Trust reports under Tier 3, which requires accrual accounting, but no independent audit. The Trust continues with an independent audit, as required by the Trust Deed and in line with the high standard of transparency and accountability adopted by the Trustees throughout the Trust's history. The more complex fund management arrangements now in place also influenced the decision to continue with a full independent audit.

#### 4.2.1.2 Prudent Financial Management

The second matter relates to the Trust's investments. The Trusts Act 2019 requires trustees to act with reasonable care, diligence and skill, and to follow a prudent investment process.

The primary source of income for the Trust is from the returns on investment of the Trust Fund. Currently three Fund Managers manage the fund. Table 9 details each Managers opening balance, the balance on 31 March 2026 and the investment return for the year (based on interest, dividends and revaluations, less withdrawals, fees and brokerage). The balance as at 31 March 2026 for the 3 Fund Managers represents an average 6.32% investment return for the 2025/26 year.

The Trust's Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives (SIPO) provides direction to the 3 Fund Managers. An independent review of the Investments and SIPO was undertaken during the 2025/26 financial year by Scott Rainey from Cambridge Partners.

Table 10 is the breakdown of investment types for each Fund Manager and the percentage (asset allocations) of the fund in each investment type. It also shows how the asset allocations relate to the agreed asset allocation limits (targets) for each Fund Manager, as at 31 March 2026. It is important to emphasise that because each Fund Manager has different asset allocation targets, each Manager's investment returns are not directly comparable. On occasions Fund Managers seek the approval of the Trust to deviate from the SIPO and in particular the asset allocation limits.

Reporting, by Fund Managers, to the Trust is very specific in terms of time, content and performance. Detailed quarterly reports were produced, plus the end of year report. Each Fund Manager came to at least one Board meeting during the year, on a rotational basis. Issues that arose between meetings or quarterly reporting dates, were discussed with the Trust Chairman.

The SIPO, and adherence to it, ensures the Trust continues to meet the key business and investment management compliance obligations under the Trusts Act 2019.

All the above processes enable informed decision- making.

*Table 9: Fund Managers and Investment Fund Values.*

| | Craigs Investment Partners | Milford Diversified Income Fund | JBWere | Total/ Ave % return |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Investment value 31 March 2025 | 3,582,805 | 3,115,271 | 1,772,439 | **8,470,517** |
| Investment value 31 March 2026 | 3,467,741 | 3,141,656 | 1,860,623 | **8,470,021** |
| Annual Net Investment Return (after withdrawals, fees & Brokerage) 31 March 2026 | 7.60% | 4.05% | 7.90% | 6.32% |

*Table 10: Waiau Trust investments as at 31 March 2026*

| Waiau Trust Investments as at 31st March 2026 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Craigs Investment Partners | Milford Income Fund | JBWere | Total | % of fund | Target % |
| Cash | $79,326 | $333,958 | $24,057 | **$437,341** | 5% | 4% |
| **Total Cash (I)** | **$79,326** | **$333,958** | **$24,057** | **$437,341** | **5%** | **4%** |
| NZ Fixed Interest | $1,112,209 | $702,789 | $700,902 | **$2,515,900** | 30% | 36% |
| Australia & Global Fixed Interest | $217,278 | $1,170,268 | | **$1,387,546** | 16% | |
| **Total Fixed Interest (I)** | **$1,329,487** | **$1,873,056** | **$700,902** | **$3,903,445** | **46%** | **36%** |
| | | (Australasian) | | | | |
| NZ Properties | $159,536 | $228,084 | $127,735 | **$515,355** | 6% | 7% |
| Aust Properties | $30,598 | | | **$30,598** | 0% | |
| **Total Properties (G)** | **$190,134** | **$228,084** | **$127,735** | **$545,953** | **6%** | **7%** |
| NZ Equities | $690,144 | $143,260 | $383,580 | **$1,216,983** | 14% | 20% |
| Australia Equities | $465,220 | $334,272 | $141,966 | **$941,459** | 11% | 15% |
| International Equities | $713,431 | $229,027 | $482,383 | **$1,424,841** | 17% | 18% |
| **Total Equities (G)** | **$1,868,795** | **$706,559** | **$1,007,930** | **$3,583,283** | **43%** | **53%** |
| **Other** | | | | | | |
| **Total portfolio** | **$3,467,741** | **$3,141,658** | **$1,860,623** | **$8,470,021** | **100%** | **100%** |

The Trust is mindful that our mandate is to produce ecological outcomes and though it is difficult to put a dollar value on ecological assets, the Trust is of the view that these enhanced ecological assets also go some way toward inflation proofing the Fund.

The long-term horizon drives Trust thinking. Enhanced habitats need to operate in perpetuity to ensure permanent environmental outcomes and ongoing resources are required for the Trust to continue with its valuable habitat enhancement and other project work.

#### 4.2.1.3 Other Income Sources

The Trust received $163,563 of total income from sources other than the investment of the Trust Fund. The Trust owns or leases a number of properties that have the ability to produce income from grazing, production forestry (plus the Emissions Trading Scheme) and harvesting grass for silage/baleage/hay, without jeopardizing the primary purpose of habitat enhancement. This also includes a contribution from Environment Southland's Environmental Enhancement Fund, AirNZ's Every Corner Project and donations received at donation boxes at the major projects.

#### 4.2.1.4 General Financial Management

The Trust sees itself operating in perpetuity and is now thinking strategically out to 2031 when the Meridian Energy Ltd resource consents for the Manapouri Power Scheme expire and will require renewal. The Trust will continue to work with Meridian Energy to promote a shared vision of the catchment from a natural ecosystem perspective and how it might look beyond 2031. This will include continuing with the current habitat enhancement work including habitat enhancement agreements. In addition, the Trust intends to identify a series of new flagship projects as part of its strategic programme of works which will require new levels of funding into the future.

The Trust continues to look for efficiencies and effectiveness in the expenditure of the Trust Fund, in terms of project management, implementation and administrative structures. Reviews of expenditure and reassessment of project priorities throughout the year, depending on investment performance, are considered to be a prudent management approach. Contracts for the provision of secretarial/administration, field and planning services remain cost effective. Records of hours each contractor spends on Waiau Trust work are kept.

Trust costs continue to increase, and management of resources will be an ongoing challenge. Habitat and access projects have been established in perpetuity. This will require the permanent provision of resources to manage and maintain such projects. As time moves on, the number of operative projects will increase as will the resources required to maintain the larger number of projects. Operationally this means providing for pest plant and animal control, road maintenance, fence maintenance and other habitat maintenance in the Annual Plan, as required. Financially this means ensuring the returns from investment of the capital fund are sufficient to provide income necessary to meet the ongoing costs of projects created by the Trust, long term. This is an issue of sustainability for the Trust and will require further thought in the future.

The provision of additional services, such as legal, surveying, valuation, audit, construction, fencing and pest plant control, some infrastructure design and installation are contracted as required. The Trust has a portfolio of such service providers, who provide efficient and effective service to the Trust. From time to time a selective tendering process is used to test the market or enable a number of contractors to compete for work. Local contractors are used if possible, so that Trust money stays within the local community.

#### 4.2.1.5 Health and Safety

The Trust undertook a review of its health and safety policy this year. The purpose of the revised Health and Safety Policy is:

“To ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of all workers, contractors, and others affected by our operations, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA) and relevant regulations.”

The Trust also commissioned an independent review of its health and safety processes, to ensure the Trust is operating in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act (2015), and that its processes are appropriate for the work being undertaken.

Currently, at each Trust meeting, Trustees receive a health and safety report, documenting the change in status of known hazards, any new hazards that have arisen at project sites and any incidents. Focus is particularly on the project sites where the public have access.

## 4.2.2 Compliance with the Trust Deed and Supplementary Deed of Variation

### 4.2.2.1 Objects and Purposes of the Trust

The major compliance elements in the Trust Deed *"Objects of Trust"* and the Supplementary Deed of Variation *"Objects and Purposes",* provide the reporting framework. For simplicity the level of compliance focusses on the Supplementary Deed of Variation *Objects and Purposes* as they encompass all the original Deed *Objects*. The emphasis is on enhancement of fisheries and wildlife habitat, facilitation of public access to the enhanced Waiau River, fisheries research, databases, consultation, partnerships, communication, and advocacy. Meeting the *Objects and Purposes* of the Trust is reported in terms of Outputs, on an annual basis, and project by project, as per section 3 of this report. All habitat enhancement, access and research projects comply. Each new project is assessed to ensure compliance.

There has been activity on 9 of the 12 *Objects and Purposes* this year. The Trust has actively investigated new projects, particularly those suitable for Habitat Enhancement Agreements (Purposes a, b & d). The ongoing maintenance and monitoring at the two whitebait projects meet Purpose d.

There are 13 public access roads to the Waiau River and tributaries and wetlands, with their maintenance remaining a focus (Purpose c). The 9 km of walking tracks at Rakatu Wetlands and the 1.6 km circular track at Home Creek add significantly to the public access facilities provided by the Trust. These projects continue to meet Purpose c. Trust habitat enhancement work on private land always presents a dilemma for the Trust in terms of our purpose of providing public access to resources. The reality is that it is not always possible or desirable to provide such access.

The Trust has 16 major habitat enhancement projects on the books, 5 of which are also accounted for as joint Waiau Trust/QEII National Trust projects. There are 145 completed Habitat Enhancement Agreement projects (A100) for stream riparian and wetland habitat, plus 132 completed joint Waiau Trust/QEII National Trust projects. These 249 habitat projects come under Purposes a, b and d.

The maintenance of the Duncraigen Weir, (Purpose e) did not incur any costs this year and no further expenditure is anticipated in the medium term.

Provision of public access and interpretative signage at Trust project sites promotes public understanding of the values for which the Trust was established (Purpose g). The Rakatu project contributes substantially to the meeting of Purpose g. The work with Hauroko Valley Primary School and Waiau Area School also contributes to Purpose g.

We consistently receive positive feedback from visitors to our major project sites, such as Rakatu. Public access and interpretative panels about whitebait, their lifecycle and habitat requirements are an integral part of the Inanga Project at the Waiau Mouth.

Purposes h (Databases) and i (Monitoring) have long been part of the Trust's "business as usual". Consultation, partnerships and communication (Purposes g, j, and k) are similarly ongoing, but now more clearly defined in the Strategic Plan. The Trust continues to advocate (Purpose i) for ecosystem health, conservation, wetland and stream protection and sustainable riparian management in the national, regional and local flora.

### 4.2.2.2 Other Trust Deed and Supplementary Deed of Variation Compliance Matters

The Trust Deed directs Trustees to "consult at least annually" with the Trustees of the Te Waiau Mahika Kai Trust and the Tuatapere Amenities Trust and to provide them with a copy of the minutes of Board

meetings within one month of the date of each meeting. Supply of our Annual Report has been found to be the most efficient and practical way to communicate. Any day-to-day issues are dealt with on an as required basis. The Trust is particularly supportive of the Te Waiau Mahika Kai Trust's protection initiatives at their Jericho property, which is in close proximity to Rakatu Wetlands and the Redcliff Reserve. In February 2026 the Trust supported the Mahika Kai Trust's tuna wānanga with eels from Rakatu. Consultation with the Tuatapere Amenities Trust has occurred between individual Trustees and Contractors, usually at Waiau Working Party meetings.

The Trust is required to recognise and have regard to the traditional relationship of the tangata whenua with the resources of the Waiau River and in particular their interest in the native fishery. The enhancement of habitat for native species continues to be a significant part of all our habitat enhancement projects. We are particularly concerned about the state of New Zealand's eel fishery and view our habitat enhancement work as a significant contribution to sustaining populations of this and other native fish species, particularly in the Lower Waiau catchment. We have a good relationship with Te Ao Marama Inc, and Oraka Aparima Runaka who are very supportive of our habitat enhancement work.

The Trust Deed has specific requirements with respect to the Annual Report and Accounts. The first is the keeping of true and fair accounts of all money received and expended. This is covered elsewhere in this report. The second is the publication and circulation of the Annual Report and Financial Statement to the nominating organisations and Meridian Energy Ltd and any other person or organisation requesting a copy. These obligations have been met.

### 4.2.3 Outcomes – Performance in relation to Deed Objects and Purposes and the Strategic Plan

This section provides an assessment and evaluation of the annually reported Outputs in relation to the Trust Deed and Supplementary Deed of Variation Objects and Purposes and the Strategic Plan and expresses the Trust performance over time in terms of Outcomes.

The Strategic Plan covers a large number of topics, including legislative framework, land matters, conservation ethics, project security, community relationships, habitat enhancement principles, access principles, visitor facilities, etc. All strategies are designed to aid the smooth running of the Trust. All strategies have specific associated outcomes.

Outcomes, for the purpose of performance reporting, are the long-term cumulative expression of project outputs. They are broad in nature and measure the positive impacts of the Trust's work. Outcomes have quantity and quality elements over time and place. They need to be measured in order to assess performance.

#### 4.2.3.1 Key Trust Outcomes

a). Increasing the number and areas of **enhanced habitats** for a wide variety of fishery and wildlife species, in the modified areas of the Waiau catchment.

b)**. Improving ecosystem health** in the Waiau catchment by enhancing networks of connected habitats.

c). Creating **awareness** and building strong **relationships with the community** to advance the Trust's work.

d). Provision of facilities so the community can **access the river resources** in the Waiau Catchment for recreational and educational purposes.

### 4.2.3.2 Outcome Performance Measures

#### 4.2.3.2.1 Enhanced Habitats

The quantity and types of habitat created and enhanced shows good progress over time. The Trust has **288** habitat projects, enhancing a total of **3,928.5 ha** of habitat.

The quality of the enhanced habitats is measured through the monitoring programmes the Trust has developed for projects, based on the Trust Monitoring Strategy (2011).

The Monitoring Strategy is focused on the ecological response and benefits to fisheries and wildlife at major projects. It is not possible, or necessary, to monitor every aspect of every project. The cost would be prohibitive. The ecological benefits of riparian fencing of streams and wetlands are well established and reported widely in the national and international literature. Preventing animal access to streams has benefits for stream bed and bank stability as well reducing direct sediment, faecal and nutrient inputs to streams. Protected riparian margins allow vegetation recovery and often regeneration of native species. Healthy swards of riparian vegetation improve the uptake of nutrients and sediment and improve the filtering ability of these margins, thus reducing all contaminant inputs to streams. These are all positive benefits for stream ecosystem health. Our monitoring programmes therefore reflect the type and scale of each project and provide information to indicate progress with the enhancement of the habitat and assist management of the enhanced habitat.

As reported earlier a macroinvertebrate, fine sediment and electric fishing monitoring programme is in place at 6 sites in the Te Anau basin, where the Trust has completed on-farm stream and wetland protection. All results will be provided to the relevant landowners.

With each passing year more data becomes available for the monitored projects. Ecological outcomes of particular note are the fishery and bird monitoring results at the Whitebait habitats. This project site started with grass paddocks. The creation of wetlands has produced productive fishery and wildlife habitats, linked to the Waiau Lagoon and the Waiau River. This response occurred within a very short time frame.

The Trust has extensive photographic library of all projects. Comparisons of sites over time is a good visual measure of ecosystem restoration and health.

*Table 11: Habitat Enhancement Project data bases and monitoring information.*

| Habitat Enhancement Project | **Types of Data Available.** |
|---|---|
| Home Creek Riparian Habitat | Baseline fisheries data,<br>Baseline vegetation survey,<br>Permanent photograph points and monitoring of re-vegetation sites. |
| Lower Waiau Whitebait Habitat, Waiau Mouth | Pond physical properties,<br>Colonization – macrophytes and fish, fish biomass, (4 reports, 1999-2003).<br>Photograph records<br>Spring bird counts and preliminary fish surveys on new habitat -2011-2020.<br>Analysis of water flow volumes into wetlands, up to 2024 |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Baseline fisheries surveys of Whitehead and McCulloch Wetlands – 2013 and 2014.<br>Pest animal trap lines installed and maintained. Pest tallies<br>Fish distribution, life history and re-establishment PhD study 2017 – 2020<br>Fish survey 5 yearly |
| Lower Waiau Whitebait Habitat, Papatotara. | Pre- dam construction- bird surveys<br>Pre- dam construction – fish surveys, Terrace Creek and Erskine Stream<br>Post wetland construction - annual bird surveys from 2020<br>Fish survey 5 yearly<br>Pest animal trap lines data– from 2020 |
| Dean Burn Kowhai Riparian Habitat | Occasional spring native bird counts,<br>Monitoring of kowhai vegetation and willow control,<br>Permanent photograph points. |
| Wairaki oxbow lake | Spring native bird counts<br>Fish survey 5 yearly<br>Baseline fish and macroinvertebrate survey 2022. |
| Rakatu | Baseline reconnaissance survey of natural wetland vegetation,<br>Baseline stream hydrology,<br>Fisheries and wildlife surveys and comparisons with other habitats, Photographic records.<br>M.Sc. project funded, includes baseline fish community surveys<br>Fish Survey, (J Futter 2008)<br>Fish surveys approximately 5 yearly<br>Spring Bird counts completed from 2010.<br>Predator trap network installed 2011 and expanded and maintained. Pest tallies.<br>Vehicle and visitor numbers (2006-2020). |
| Upukerora Wetland | Baseline vegetation survey,<br>Permanent photograph points,<br>Baseline fisheries survey, wildlife counts – pre and post wetland construction |
| Ramparts Wetland | Baseline vegetation survey,<br>Permanent photograph points,<br>Anecdotal monitoring of wetland water levels for forward planning<br>Spring bird counts 2011, 2012, 2013,2014,2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 |
| Flaxy Creek | Water quality data above and below fenced stream,<br>Photographic records |

| | |
|---|---|
| A100 Projects | Photographic records of all projects.<br>Water Quality data - Dale Farm,<br>Baseline fishery surveys of a number of streams 2010.<br>Annual inspections as per QEII Trust requirements<br>Macroinvertebrate/electric fishing programme. – 6 sites |

**Habitat Enhancement Agreement Project photos**



*Plate 18: Habitat Enhancement Agreement area on Eweburn Station incorporating 1.1 ha constructed wetland habitat. Left to Right: Farm manager (Ryan Thompson), Sustainability Adviser (Francesca Harris-Wight) and Environmental Manager (Gordon Williams)*



*Plate 19: Habitat Enhancement Agreement area on Eweburn Station incorporating 1.1 ha constructed wetland habitat.*



*Plate 20 A and B: Completed Habitat Enhancement Agreement areas on tributaries of the Mararoa River.*



*Plate 21: HEA work on an unnamed tributary of the Whitestone River.*

#### 4.2.3.2.2 Improved ecosystem health

The Waiau community, as expressed through the Waiau Working Party and the Waiau Rivercare Group, is focused on improving ecosystem health of the Waiau River and catchment. The Trust's habitat enhancement strategies and their implementation will produce long-term positive outcomes for ecosystem health. An ecosystems approach to habitat enhancement has been adopted. This means understanding past disruption to stream and wetland ecosystem processes. We take a sub-catchment by sub-catchment approach and restore longitudinal (headwaters to confluence) and latitudinal (riparian) linkages. In practice it results in enhanced habitats and enhanced ecosystem connectedness and networks. The Trust has now achieved the complete protection of wetlands and streams in a number of sub-catchments, particularly in the Te Anau basin. The new macroinvertebrate/electric fishing programme will quantify ecosystem health within the catchments sampled.

Ecosystem restoration, through habitat enhancement is a complex process, but often there are immediate, measurable results. The regeneration and re-establishment of native vegetation takes decades but is faster where seed sources exist. The colonisation of created wetland habitats by wildlife can occur within a matter of months; establishment of sustainable fisheries takes longer. We have seen the beginnings of a recovery of remnant native vegetation at Home Creek (in wet areas and along stream banks), aided by restoration plantings. The colonisation by macrophytes, inanga, eels and bullies in some of the original whitebait habitat enhancement ponds was rapid, as was the colonization of the "Whitehead", "McCulloch" and "Inder" wetlands at the same locality. The expansion of bird life into new habitats at Rakatu (early 2000's) was rapid and permanent. Likewise, the Papatotara wetlands rapidly

provided valuable habitat for many bird species and Short and Long Fin Eel. Similar rapid colonisation of new smaller 1-2 ha open water habitats has been observed with waterfowl and wading species being some of the first to utilise new habitats.

The Trust is confident that over time the cumulative effect of all Trust projects will be very positive for the Waiau catchment ecosystem and its fisheries and wildlife values.

**Ecosystem restoration progress – before/after photos:**



*Plate 22: Elya Farm 'house' Wetlands prior to protection and enhancement 2025.*



*Plate 23: Elya Farm 'house' Wetlands following protection and constructed wetland enhancement 2025.*



*Plate 24: Papatotara pre enhancement funded planting 2024.*



*Plate 25: Papatotara post enhancement planting 2025.*



*Plate 26: Whitebait Project direct seeding trial showing the growth of native plants after 15 months.*



*Plate 27: Whitebait Project direct seeding trial showing the growth of native plants as of February 2024.*

#### 4.2.3.2.3 Community relationships and awareness

Community relationships and the Trust's identity within the Waiau Catchment and wider community are important aspects of our Strategic Plan. The Trust is well aware that habitat enhancement and access projects would not be possible without the co-operation of individual landowners and the wider community. In achieving the habitat enhancement and access projects, the Trust has worked with a large number of individual landowners and managers. All this work is carried out within a context of also considering the practicalities of every-day farming and other land use activities. This approach is working well, with mutual benefits for both landowners and fisheries and wildlife habitat being achieved.

The Trust has become established as an independent entity contributing to fisheries and wildlife habitat enhancement and management in the Waiau River catchment. Building and maintaining working relationships with individual landowners, Pamu, Department of Conservation, LINZ, Southland District Council, Environment Southland, QEII National Trust, Meridian Energy Ltd, Te Waiau Mahika Kai Trust, Te Ao Marama Inc., and the schools in the catchment remains a top priority. The outcome of this effort over time has resulted in some very good habitat enhancement and access projects. The co-operation of these people and their understanding and acceptance of the Trust's work is very important to the Trust.

The number of ongoing enquires the Trust receives from landowners and the number of new projects completed each year is testament to the high level of public awareness of the Trust and the good community relationships that have been established.

#### 4.2.3.2.4 Access to resources

Public access to habitat enhancement projects to encourage passive recreation, educate the public about fisheries and wildlife and promote the Trust's work is an important part of the Strategic Plan. The Trust has placed great emphasis on providing quality paths/roads (**13 in total**) and other visitor facilities at project sites; examples include the Rakatu Wetlands and the Whitebait Project.

Vehicle and/or walking access is available on land owned by the Trust, via easement (Right of Way) or across Crown land at **6** of the major projects. The other access projects provide access to various rivers in the catchment. Use of these facilities occurs at a steady, consistent level, where measured. Access, where provided is free to all.

The Habitat Enhancement Agreement places lesser importance on public access as many of these projects are on private land, often well away from public roads. Access is available at some of these project sites or upon request from the landowner.

# 5 Performance report for the year ended 31 March 2026 (BDO)

# Performance Report

Waiau Fisheries And Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust
For the year ended 31 March 2026

Prepared by BDO Invercargill

# Contents


**3** Compilation Report and Disclaimer of Liability to the Trustees

**4** Entity Information

**5** Approval of Performance Report

**6** Statement of Service Performance

**8** Statement of Financial Performance

**9** Statement of Financial Position

**10** Statement of Cash Flows

**11** Statement of Accounting Policies

**15** Notes to the Performance Report

# Compilation Report and Disclaimer of Liability to the Trustees

## Waiau Fisheries And Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust
## For the year ended 31 March 2026

Compilation Report and Disclaimer of Liability to the Trustees of Waiau Fisheries And Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust.

### Scope

On the basis of information provided and in accordance with Service Engagement Standard 2 Compilation of Financial Information, we have compiled the Performance Report of Waiau Fisheries And Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust for the year ended 31 March 2026.

This Report has been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in the Notes to the Performance Report.

### Responsibilities

The Trustees are solely responsible for the information contained in this Performance report and have determined that the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet their needs and for the purpose that the Report was prepared.

The Performance Report was prepared exclusively for the Trustees benefit. We do not accept responsibility to any other person for the contents of the Report.

### Independence

We are not independent of Waiau Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust because a Partner of this firm is the administrator of the entity.

### Disclaimer

We have compiled these financial statements based on information provided which has not been subject to an audit or review engagement. Accordingly, we do not accept any responsibility for the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the compiled financial information contained in the Performance Report. Nor do we accept any liability of any kind whatsoever, including liability by reason of negligence, to any person for losses incurred as a result of placing reliance on this Performance report.

BDO Invercargill

BDO Invercargill

136 Spey Street, Invercargill

Dated: 27 July 2026

# Entity Information

## Waiau Fisheries And Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust
## For the year ended 31 March 2026

### Legal Name of Entity

Waiau Fisheries And Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust

### Entity Identifier

Charities Commission Registration Number: CC20449

### Entity Type and Legal Basis

Registered Charity

### Entity's Purpose or Mission

The objectives of the Trust are to enhance and develop fisheries and wildlife habitat in the Waiau River Catchment

### Entity's Operational Structure

Single Unit

### Entity's governance arrangements

- Steven Sutton - Chairman
- Glenys Dickson - Dept of Conservation
- John Whitehead - Dept of Conservation
- Mike O'Brien - Rural Community Representative
- Johnathan Hodson - Southland Fish & Game Council
- Andrew Feierabend - Meridian Energy Ltd
- Graeme Watson - Southland Fish & Game Council
- Nathan Cruickshank

# Approval of Performance Report

## Waiau Fisheries And Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust
## For the year ended 31 March 2026

The Trustees are pleased to present the approved Performance report including the historical financial statements of Waiau Fisheries And Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust for year ended 31 March 2026.

APPROVED

Signed by:
6A43876F861E3ADB

Signature

Steven Sutton - Chairperson

Date 31/07/2026

Signed by:
DEFE620451859A78

Signature

Andrew Feierabend - Trustee

Date 31/07/2026

# Statement of Service Performance

## Waiau Fisheries And Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust
## For the year ended 31 March 2026

The objectives of the Trust are to enhance and develop fisheries and wildlife habitat in the Waiau River Catchment. These objectives are achieved via an annual plan focusing on the following.

### Our medium to long term objectives

- Protection, restoration, creation and enhancement of fisheries and wildlife habitat in the Waiau Catchment, including whitebait habitat in the vicinity of the Waiau River mouth.
- Provision and maintenance of public access to the resources of the Waiau River.
- Provision of facilities and information to enhance the understanding of the public of the values for which the Waiau Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust was established.
- Fund research and monitoring to measure habitat enhancement ecological outcomes.

### Our key activities

| **Key activity 1** | **2026 (actual)** | **2026 (budget)** | **2025 (actual)** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of new projects | 9 | 20 | 12 |
| New area protected | 443.57 | Not specifically identified in the budget | 56.6 ha |
| Total Area protected | 3,928.57 | Not specifically identified in the budget | 3,485 ha |
| | | | |
| **Key Activity 2** | **2026 (actual)** | **2026 (budget)** | **2025 (actual)** |
| Number of assess projects maintained | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| | | | |
| **Key Activity 3** | **2026 (actual)** | **2026 (budget)** | **2025 (actual)** |
| Hours spent on education and public awareness ** | 101.75 | 115 | 115 |
| Annual Report prepared and made available to public | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Website Maintained | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Relevant signage maintained at major project sites | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | | | |
| **Key Activity 4** | **2026 (actual)** | **2026 (budget)** | **2025 (actual)** |
| Number of times pest network kills recorded at Rakatu and the Ingana Project (the Trust's two main trapping networks) | 11 and 9 respectively | 7 and up to 12 respectively | 12 and 9 respectively |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of spring bird counts conducted | 4 and 3 respectively | 4 and 3 respectively | 2 |
| Fish survey conducted (5 yearly) | 3 | 4** | 0 |

### Additional Information

* The projects listed in the budget are those that are currently uncompleted (including ongoing projects) and projects that are scoped but may not be initiated by the landowner. Many of these will not occur in a given financial year.

**One site was too dry to complete survey, postponed until summer 2026.

# Statement of Financial Performance

## Waiau Fisheries And Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust
## For the year ended 31 March 2026

| | NOTES | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Revenue** | | | |
| Donations, koha, bequests, and other general fundraising activities | 1 | 1,398 | 325 |
| General grants | 1 | 12,000 | - |
| Government service delivery grants/contracts | 1 | 99,973 | 16,263 |
| Revenue from commercial activities | 1 | 49,810 | 46,400 |
| Interest, dividends, and other investment revenue | 1 | 267,888 | 373,691 |
| Other revenue | 1 | 301,118 | 135,707 |
| **Total Revenue** | | **732,187** | **572,386** |
| **Expenses** | | | |
| Employee remuneration and other related expenses | 2 | 187,321 | 178,135 |
| Expenses related to commercial activities | 2 | 32,758 | 17,847 |
| Other expenses related to service delivery | 2 | 347,740 | 292,384 |
| Other expenses | 2 | 84,063 | 71,287 |
| **Total Expenses** | | **651,881** | **559,652** |
| **Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year** | | **80,306** | **12,734** |

This statement should be read with the Audit Report, Compilation Report-Disclaimer of Liability and Notes to the Performance Report.

# Statement of Financial Position

## Waiau Fisheries And Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust
## As at 31 March 2026

| | NOTES | 31 MAR 2026 | 31 MAR 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Assets** | | | |
| **Current Assets** | | | |
| Cash and short-term deposits | | 527,953 | 721,853 |
| Debtors and prepayments | | 52,371 | 47,259 |
| **Total Current Assets** | | **580,324** | **769,113** |
| **Non-Current Assets** | | | |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 3 | 468,315 | 464,017 |
| Investments | 5 | 8,032,679 | 7,765,303 |
| **Total Non-Current Assets** | | **8,500,993** | **8,229,320** |
| **Total Assets** | | **9,081,318** | **8,998,433** |
| **Liabilities** | | | |
| **Current Liabilities** | | | |
| Creditors and accrued expenses | | 60,280 | 57,701 |
| **Total Current Liabilities** | | **60,280** | **57,701** |
| **Total Liabilities** | | **60,280** | **57,701** |
| **Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)** | | **9,021,037** | **8,940,731** |
| **Accumulated Funds** | | | |
| Accumulated surpluses or (deficits) | 7 | 9,021,037 | 8,940,731 |
| **Total Accumulated Funds** | | **9,021,037** | **8,940,731** |

This statement has been compiled without undertaking an audit engagement or review engagement and should be read with the Compilation Report-Disclaimer of Liability and Notes to the Performance Report.

# Statement of Cash Flows

## Waiau Fisheries And Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust
## For the year ended 31 March 2026

| | NOTES | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Capital grants and donations** | | | |
| **Cash Flows from Operating Activities** | | | |
| **Cash was received from** | | | |
| Donations, koha, bequests, and other general fundraising activities | | 1,398 | 325 |
| Government service delivery grants/contracts | | 99,973 | 16,263 |
| General grants | | 12,000 | - |
| Revenue from commercial activities | | 60,866 | 37,045 |
| Interest, dividends and other investment receipts | | 267,969 | 373,849 |
| **Total Cash was received from** | | **442,206** | **427,482** |
| **Cash was applied to** | | | |
| Employee remuneration and other related payments | | (186,194) | (177,770) |
| Payments related to commercial activities | | (29,406) | (11,441) |
| Other payments related to service delivery | | (349,770) | (266,532) |
| Goods and Services Tax paid | | (15,416) | (2,351) |
| Other payments | | (82,274) | (67,937) |
| **Total Cash was applied to** | | **(663,060)** | **(526,031)** |
| **Total Cash Flows from Operating Activities** | | **(220,854)** | **(98,549)** |
| **Cash Flows from other activities** | | | |
| **Cash was received from** | | | |
| Receipts from the sale of investments | | 33,742 | 392,525 |
| **Total Cash was received from** | | **33,742** | **392,525** |
| **Cash was applied to** | | | |
| Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment | | (6,788) | (2,556) |
| **Total Cash was applied to** | | **(6,788)** | **(2,556)** |
| **Total Cash Flows from other activities** | | **26,954** | **389,969** |
| Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash | | (193,900) | 291,420 |
| **Opening Cash Balance** | | | |
| Bank accounts and cash | | 721,853 | 430,433 |
| **Total Opening Cash Balance** | | **721,853** | **430,433** |
| Closing Cash Balance | | 527,953 | 721,853 |
| **Bank Accounts and Cash** | | | |
| BNZ | | 90,612 | 16,641 |
| Craigs Investment Partners - Cash on Call | | 79,326 | 47,765 |
| JBWere - Cash on Call | | 24,057 | 31,277 |
| Milford Fund Cash | | 333,958 | 626,170 |
| **Total Bank Accounts and Cash** | | **527,953** | **721,853** |

# Statement of Accounting Policies

## Waiau Fisheries And Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust
## For the year ended 31 March 2026

### Basis of Preparation

The entity has elected to apply with XRB's Tier 3 PBE (NFP) standard. This is on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses equal to or less than $5,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

The Trustees have also elected to adopt PBE NFP IPSAS 41, with reduced disclosure Requirements applied, in its accounting for Financial Instruments. This is an allowable departure from XRB's Tier 3 PBE (NFP) .

### Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The entity is registered for GST. All amounts are stated exclusive of goods and services tax (GST) except for accounts payable and accounts receivable which are stated inclusive of GST.

### Bank Accounts and Cash

Bank accounts and cash in the Statement of Cash Flows comprise cash balances and bank balances (including short term deposits) with original maturities of 90 days or less.

### Presentation Currency

The Performance Report is presented in New Zealand dollars (NZ$) and all values are rounded to the nearest NZ$.

### Revenue Recognition

Donations and grants with a documented expectation regarding use have been recognised as revenue over time as the expectation is satisfied.

Donated goods or services are not recorded.

Sale of goods is recorded when the goods are sold (usually when the goods are received by the purchaser).

Lease or rental revenue is recorded on a straight line basis unless another systematic basis is representative of the user's benefit.

Interest income is recorded as it is earned.

Dividend income is recorded when the revenue is receivable.

### Trade Receivables

Trade receivables are initially measured at the amount owed. When it is likely that the amount owed, or some portion, will not be collected, an impairment adjustment is recorded. Interest charged on overdue amounts are added to the individual debtor balance.

### Property, Plant and Equipment

Items of property, plant and equipment are initially recognised at cost. Historic cost includes items of expenditure directly attributable to the acquisition of assets and includes the cost of replacements that are eligible for capitalisation when these are incurred.

Items of property, plant and equipment are subsequently measured under the:

• Cost model: Cost (or fair value for items acquired through non-exchange transactions) less accumulated depreciation and impairment.

All other repairs and maintenance expenditure is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance as incurred.

Depreciation is calculated on a diminishing value basis over the estimated useful life of the asset. The following estimated depreciation rates have been used:

| | |
|---|---|
| Land | 0% DV |
| Buildings | 3 - 4% DV |
| Land Development | 6.3% DV |
| Office equipment | 39.6 - 48% DV |
| Plant | 12 - 100% DV |
| Rakatu Forestry Blocks | 0% DV |

An item of property, plant and equipment or investment property is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal. Any gain or loss arising on derecognition of the asset (calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset) is included in the Statement of Financial Performance in the year the asset is de-recognised.

## Investments

Investments have been valued at current market value. All interest due is recorded as owing to the Trust.

Current investments represent funds invested with an original maturity between 3 and 12 months. Term investments represent funds invested with an original maturity exceeding 12 months.

## Financial Instruments

The Trust initially recognises financial instruments when the Trust becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. The Trust derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or it transfers the rights to receive the contractual cash flows in a transaction in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred. Any interest in transferred financial assets that is created or retained by the group is recognised as a separate asset or liability.
The Trust derecognises a financial liability when its contractual obligations are discharged, cancelled, or expire. The Trust also derecognises financial assets and financial liabilities when there has been significant changes to the terms and/or the amount of contractual payments to be received/paid.
Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount presented in the Statement of Financial Position when, and only when, the Trust has a legal right to offset the amounts and intends either to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.
The entity classifies financial assets into the following categories:
Financial assets Classification and subsequent measurement
On initial recognition, a financial asset is classified as measured at: amortised cost, or fair value through surplus or deficit (FVTSD).
A financial asset is measured at amortised cost if it meets both of the following conditions and is not designated as at FVTSD:
i. it is held within a management model whose objective is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows; and
ii. its contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.
All financial assets not classified as measured at amortised cost as described above are measured at FVTSD. This includes the investment portfolios (see note 5).
1. Craigs Investment Partners
2. JBWere
3. Milford Asset Management
Financial Instruments classified as fair value through surplus or deficit are subsequently measured at fair value with gains or losses being recognised in surplus or deficit.
**Amortised cost financial liabilities**
Financial liabilities classified as amortised cost are non-derivative financial liabilities that are not classified as fair value through

surplus or deficit financial liabilities.
Financial liabilities classified as amortised cost comprise payables.

**Financial assets – Management model assessment**

The Trust makes an assessment of the objective of the management model in which a financial asset is held at a portfolio level because this best reflects the way the business is managed, and information is provided to management.
The information considered includes:

i. the stated policies and objectives of the portfolio.
ii. how the performance of the portfolio is evaluated and reported to the group's management.
iii. the risks that affect the performance of the management model (and the financial assets held within that management model) and how those risks are managed; and
iv. the frequency, volume and timing of sales of financial assets in prior periods, the reasons for such sales and expectations about future sales activity.

Financial assets that are held for trading or are managed and whose performance is evaluated on a fair value basis are measured at FVTSD.

**Financial assets – Subsequent measurement and gains and losses**

Financial assets at FVSD - These assets are subsequently measured at fair value. Net gains and losses, including any interest or dividend income, are recognised in surplus or deficit.
Financial assets at amortised cost - These assets are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The amortised cost is reduced by impairment losses. Interest income, foreign exchange gains and losses and impairment are recognised in surplus or deficit. Any gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in surplus or deficit.

**Financial liabilities – Classification, subsequent measurement and gains and losses**

The Trust classifies all its financial liabilities at amortised cost. These financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Interest expense and foreign exchange gains and losses are recognised in surplus or deficit. Any gain or loss on derecognition is also recognised in surplus of deficit.

**Impairment of non-derivative financial assets**

The Trust recognises loss allowances for expected credit losses (ECLs) on financial assets measured at amortised cost.
The Trust measures loss allowances at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs, except for the following, which are measured at 12-month ECLs:

i. bonds and term deposits that are determined to have low credit risk at the reporting date; and
ii. other bonds and term deposits and bank balances for which credit risk (i.e., the risk of default occurring over the expected life of the financial instrument) has not increased significantly since initial recognition.

The Trust considers a financial asset to be in default when:

• the borrower is unlikely to pay its credit obligations to the entity in full, without recourse by the group to actions such as realising security (if any is held); or
• the financial asset is more than 90 days past due.

Lifetime ECLs are the ECLs that result from all possible default events over the expected life of a financial instrument. 12-month ECLs are the portion of ECLs that result from default events that are possible within the 12 months after the reporting date (or a shorter period if the expected life of the instrument is less than 12 months). The maximum period considered when estimating ECLs is the maximum contractual period over which the Trust is exposed to credit risk.

**Measurement of ECLs**

ECLs are a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses. Credit losses are measured as the present value of all cash shortfalls (i.e., the difference between the cash flows due to the group in accordance with the contract and the cash flows that the group expects to receive). ECLs are discounted at the effective interest rate of the financial asset.

**Credit-impaired financial assets**

At each reporting date, the Trust assesses whether financial assets carried at amortised cost are credit-impaired. A financial asset is ‘credit-impaired’ when one or more events that have a detrimental impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset have occurred. Loss allowances for financial assets measured at amortised cost are deducted from the gross carrying amount of the assets. The gross carrying amount of a financial asset is written off when the group has no reasonable expectations of recovering a financial asset in its entirety or a portion thereof.
The Trust considers bonds and term deposits to have low credit risk when its credit risk rating is equivalent to the globally understood definition of ‘investment grade’.

## Tier 2 PBE Accounting Standards Applied

PBE IPSAS 41 Financial Instruments

## Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies. Policies have been applied on a consistent basis with those of the previous reporting period.

# Notes to the Performance Report

## Waiau Fisheries And Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust
## For the year ended 31 March 2026

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| **1. Analysis of Revenue** | | |
| **Donations, koha, bequests, and other general fundraising activities** | | |
| Rakatu Wetland - Donation Box | 176 | 325 |
| Wairaki Oxbow Lagoon - Donation Box | 12 | - |
| Other Donations | 1,210 | - |
| **Total Donations, koha, bequests, and other general fundraising activities** | **1,398** | **325** |
| **General grants** | | |
| General Grants Received | 12,000 | - |
| **Total General grants** | **12,000** | **-** |
| **Government service delivery grants/contracts** | | |
| Environmental Enhancement Funding Received | 99,973 | 16,263 |
| **Total Government service delivery grants/contracts** | **99,973** | **16,263** |
| **Revenue from commercial activities** | | |
| Rakatu Wetland - Grazing Lease | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Whitebait Habitat - Sale of Baleage | 29,810 | 26,400 |
| **Total Revenue from commercial activities** | **49,810** | **46,400** |
| **Interest, dividends and other investment revenue** | | |
| Interest & Dividends | 382 | 2,436 |
| Craigs Investment Partners Interest and Dividends | 143,168 | 147,419 |
| JBWere Interest and Dividends | 63,262 | 61,165 |
| Milford Income Fund Interest and Dividends | 61,077 | 162,671 |
| **Total Interest, dividends and other investment revenue** | **267,888** | **373,691** |
| **Other revenue** | | |
| Revaluation of Investments | 301,118 | 135,707 |
| **Total Other revenue** | **301,118** | **135,707** |

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| **2. Analysis of Expenses** | | |
| **Employee remuneration and other related expenses** | | |
| **Home Creek Riparian Habitat** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 3,653 | 3,369 |
| **Total Home Creek Riparian Habitat** | **3,653** | **3,369** |
| **Lower Waiau Whitebait Habitat, Waiau Mouth** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 5,841 | 6,964 |
| Monitoring | 7,457 | 7,427 |
| **Total Lower Waiau Whitebait Habitat, Waiau Mouth** | **13,299** | **14,392** |
| **Lower Waiau Whitebait Habitat, Papatotara** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 1,499 | 2,723 |

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| Monitoring | 6,976 | 3,286 |
| **Total Lower Waiau Whitebait Habitat, Papatotara** | **8,475** | **6,010** |
| **Stony Creek / Whitestone Habitat** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 366 | - |
| **Total Stony Creek / Whitestone Habitat** | **366** | **-** |
| **Ramparts Road Wetland and Riparian Habitat** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 431 | 369 |
| Monitoring | 26 | - |
| **Total Ramparts Road Wetland and Riparian Habitat** | **457** | **369** |
| **Rakatu Wetland** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 7,534 | 12,853 |
| Monitoring | 12,583 | 7,873 |
| Ongoing Maintenance | 2,068 | 2,704 |
| Ongoing Maintenance Withholding Tax | 81 | 676 |
| **Total Rakatu Wetland** | **22,266** | **24,106** |
| **Kepler Trig Wetland** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 891 | 154 |
| **Total Kepler Trig Wetland** | **891** | **154** |
| **Dean Burn Wetland** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 592 | 4,015 |
| **Total Dean Burn Wetland** | **592** | **4,015** |
| **Wairaki Oxbow Lagoon Habitat** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 13,824 | 8,175 |
| **Total Wairaki Oxbow Lagoon Habitat** | **13,824** | **8,175** |
| **Habitat Enhancement Agreements** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 27,774 | 16,693 |
| Monitoring | 5,188 | 9,268 |
| **Total Habitat Enhancement Agreements** | **32,962** | **25,962** |
| **Whare Creek Access** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 480 | 380 |
| **Total Whare Creek Access** | **480** | **380** |
| **Princhester Creek Access** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 590 | 801 |
| **Total Princhester Creek Access** | **590** | **801** |
| **Dean Burn Access** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 273 | 533 |
| **Total Dean Burn Access** | **273** | **533** |
| **Wairaki Access** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 338 | 432 |
| **Total Wairaki Access** | **338** | **432** |

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| **Redcliff / Jericho Access** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 552 | 119 |
| **Total Redcliff / Jericho Access** | **552** | **119** |
| **Upukerora Access** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 531 | 1,223 |
| **Total Upukerora Access** | **531** | **1,223** |
| **Pump House Road Access** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 145 | 107 |
| **Total Pump House Road Access** | **145** | **107** |
| **Mararoa / Whitestone Access** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 277 | 107 |
| **Total Mararoa / Whitestone Access** | **277** | **107** |
| **Sunnyside / Monowai Access** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 164 | 201 |
| **Total Sunnyside / Monowai Access** | **164** | **201** |
| **General Project Costs** | | |
| General Field | 21,981 | 21,117 |
| General Planning | 24,241 | 36,332 |
| **Total General Project Costs** | **46,223** | **57,448** |
| **Project Investigations and Advice** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 24,536 | 16,169 |
| **Total Project Investigations and Advice** | **24,536** | **16,169** |
| **Research Projects** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 1,915 | - |
| **Total Research Projects** | **1,915** | **-** |
| **Education, Information, Consultation and Advocacy** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 11,815 | 8,290 |
| **Total Education, Information, Consultation and Advocacy** | **11,815** | **8,290** |
| **Databases** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 2,699 | 2,100 |
| **Total Databases** | **2,699** | **2,100** |
| **Trust Servicing** | | |
| Administration | - | 3,672 |
| **Total Trust Servicing** | **-** | **3,672** |
| **Total Employee remuneration and other related expenses** | **187,321** | **178,135** |
| **Expenses related to commercial activities** | | |
| **Lower Waiau Whitebait Habitat, Waiau Mouth** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 1,801 | 2,053 |
| Ongoing Maintenance | 8,793 | 6,406 |
| **Total Lower Waiau Whitebait Habitat, Waiau Mouth** | **10,594** | **8,459** |

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| **Rakatu Wetland** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 3,276 | 2,227 |
| Capital | 18,888 | 3,051 |
| Ongoing Maintenance | - | 4,110 |
| **Total Rakatu Wetland** | **22,164** | **9,388** |
| **Total Expenses related to commercial activities** | **32,758** | **17,847** |
| **Other expenses related to service delivery** | | |
| **Home Creek Riparian Habitat** | | |
| Admin & Planning | - | 5 |
| Capital Expenses | 22,695 | 14,868 |
| Ongoing Maintenance | 3,288 | 3,396 |
| **Total Home Creek Riparian Habitat** | **25,983** | **18,269** |
| **Lower Waiau Whitebait Habitat, Waiau Mouth** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 2,000 | 2,029 |
| Capital Expenses | 3,159 | 34,675 |
| Monitoring | 1,472 | 49 |
| Ongoing Maintenance | 21,147 | 7,600 |
| **Total Lower Waiau Whitebait Habitat, Waiau Mouth** | **27,778** | **44,353** |
| **Lower Waiau Whitebait Habitat, Papatotara** | | |
| Admin & Planning | - | 99 |
| Capital Expenses | 6,643 | 27,920 |
| Monitoring | 2,534 | 10 |
| Ongoing Maintenance | 6,292 | 2,399 |
| **Total Lower Waiau Whitebait Habitat, Papatotara** | **15,468** | **30,428** |
| **Stony Creek / Whitestone Habitat** | | |
| Ongoing Maintenance | - | 472 |
| **Total Stony Creek / Whitestone Habitat** | **-** | **472** |
| **Ramparts Road Wetland and Riparian Habitat** | | |
| Capital Expenses | 3,405 | - |
| Ongoing Maintenance | 2,084 | 1,043 |
| **Total Ramparts Road Wetland and Riparian Habitat** | **5,489** | **1,043** |
| **Rakatu Wetland** | | |
| Admin & Planning | - | 10 |
| Capital Expenses | 20,374 | 18,319 |
| Monitoring | 6,069 | 171 |
| Ongoing Maintenance | 18,488 | 5,806 |
| **Total Rakatu Wetland** | **44,930** | **24,306** |
| **Dean Burn Wetland** | | |
| Monitoring | - | 10 |
| **Total Dean Burn Wetland** | **-** | **10** |
| **Wairaki Lagoon Oxbow Habitat** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 250 | - |

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| Capital Expenses | 30,617 | 23,318 |
| Monitoring | - | 10 |
| Ongoing Maintenance | 7,505 | 13,925 |
| **Total Wairaki Lagoon Oxbow Habitat** | **38,372** | **37,253** |
| **Habitat Enhancement Agreements** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 9,127 | 185 |
| Capital Expenses | 127,625 | 92,381 |
| Monitoring | 3,525 | 5,010 |
| Ongoing Maintenance | 353 | 3,673 |
| **Total Habitat Enhancement Agreements** | **140,630** | **101,249** |
| **Whare Creek Access** | | |
| Admin & Planning | - | 10 |
| Ongoing Maintenance | 570 | 1,271 |
| **Total Whare Creek Access** | **570** | **1,281** |
| **Princhester Creek Access** | | |
| Ongoing Maintenance | 268 | - |
| **Total Princhester Creek Access** | **268** | **-** |
| **Wairaki Access** | | |
| Ongoing Maintenance | - | 159 |
| **Total Wairaki Access** | **-** | **159** |
| **Redcliff / Jericho Access** | | |
| Ongoing Maintenance | 1,970 | 1,634 |
| **Total Redcliff / Jericho Access** | **1,970** | **1,634** |
| **Sunnyside / Monowai Access** | | |
| Ongoing Maintenance | 858 | 435 |
| **Total Sunnyside / Monowai Access** | **858** | **435** |
| **Project Investigations and Advice** | | |
| Possible Future Projects and Facilitations | 52 | - |
| **Total Project Investigations and Advice** | **52** | **-** |
| **Research Projects** | | |
| Research Projects | 32 | - |
| **Total Research Projects** | **32** | **-** |
| **Education, Information, Consultation and Advocacy** | | |
| Admin & Planning | 2,614 | 485 |
| Website Design | 2,053 | 1,600 |
| **Total Education, Information, Consultation and Advocacy** | **4,667** | **2,085** |
| **Databases** | | |
| Ongoing Maintenance | 600 | 545 |
| **Total Databases** | **600** | **545** |
| **Trust Servicing** | | |
| Administration - General | 23,381 | 12,954 |

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| Annual Report | 3,016 | 2,739 |
| Bank Fees | 19 | 41 |
| Insurance | 1,700 | 1,570 |
| Insurance | 3,065 | 3,040 |
| Printing, Stamps & Stationery | 690 | 886 |
| **Total Trust Servicing** | **31,870** | **21,230** |
| **Trust Board Expenses** | | |
| Board Mileage | 5,367 | 5,850 |
| Board Meeting Expenses | 1,977 | 1,783 |
| H2 Trust Board - Trustee Succession | 859 | - |
| **Total Trust Board Expenses** | **8,203** | **7,633** |
| **Total Other expenses related to service delivery** | **347,740** | **292,384** |
| Total Trust Administration including BDO and Contractors | 23,381 | 16,626 |
| **Other expenses** | | |
| Accounting Fees | 7,854 | 7,124 |
| Audit Fees | 6,550 | 6,250 |
| Investment Reviews | 7,000 | - |
| Depreciation | 2,490 | 1,859 |
| Investment Management Fees | 54,864 | 50,716 |
| Brokerage | 5,304 | 5,338 |
| **Total Other expenses** | **84,063** | **71,287** |

## 3. Property, Plant and Equipment

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| **Land** | | |
| Opening carrying value | 403,369 | 403,369 |
| Addtions/(Disposal) | - | - |
| Depreciation | - | - |
| **Total Land** | **403,369** | **403,369** |
| **Buildings** | | |
| Opening carrying value | 24,048 | 24,795 |
| Addtions/(Disposal) | - | - |
| Depreciation | (725) | (747) |
| **Total Buildings** | **23,323** | **24,048** |
| **Plant** | | |
| Opening carrying value | 6,128 | 4,516 |
| Addtions/(Disposal) | 6,788 | 2,556 |
| Depreciation | (1,612) | (944) |
| **Total Plant** | **11,304** | **6,128** |
| **Office Equipment** | | |
| Opening carrying value | 8 | 12 |
| Addtions/(Disposal) | - | - |

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| Depreciation | (4) | (4) |
| **Total Office Equipment** | **4** | **8** |
| **Land Development** | | |
| Opening Carrying Value | 2,418 | 2,581 |
| Addtions/(Disposal) | - | - |
| Depreciation | (152) | (163) |
| **Total Land Development** | **2,266** | **2,418** |
| **Forestry Block** | | |
| Opening Carrying Value | 28,048 | 28,048 |
| Addtions/(Disposal) | - | - |
| Depreciation | - | - |
| **Total Forestry Block** | **28,048** | **28,048** |
| **Total Fixed Assets** | | |
| Opening Carrying Value | 464,017 | 463,321 |
| Additions/(Disposal) | 6,788 | 2,555 |
| Depreciation | (2,490) | (1,859) |
| **Total Total Fixed Assets** | **468,315** | **464,017** |

## 4. Heritage Assets

**Heritage Assets**
Waiau Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust hold assets of environment significance. These are reflected in the Financial Statements at initial purchase cost and included in Land above. Subsequent work and value is not able to be reliable measured. Heritage assets include:

***Home Creek (purchase cost $1,868)***
Meandering stream system and riparian habitat. Re-fencing and pest control work along with re-vegetation with native plants to provide a green belt for the local community.

***Rakatu Wetlands (purchase cost $329,478)***

The creation of ecologically sustainable wetlands and small stream ecosystems for the benefit of fisheries and wildlife in the Lower Waiau River catchment. The establishment of a public access and facilities for recreational and educational use to promote the values of the wildlife and fishery habitats.

**Public Access Ways**
***Mararoa / Whitestone (purchase cost $14,990)***

***Princhester Creek (purchase cost $6,475)***

Public access ways created to the Waiau River and tributaries to improve access for recreational and educational activities.

***Waghorns / Stony Creek (purchase cost $26,243)***

Restoration of natural Whitestone River meandering process via establishment of 2 wetland areas and protection of small creeks and native vegetation.

***Ramparts Road (purchase cost $30,805)***

Significant wetland, protected and created for habitat protection of the sub-catchment of the Mararoa River to ensure sustainability of stream flows.

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| **5. Investments - Fair Value through Surplus or Deficit** | | |
| **Craigs Investment Partners** | | |
| Craigs Investment Portfolio | 3,388,415 | 3,535,040 |
| **Total Craigs Investment Partners** | **3,388,415** | **3,535,040** |
| Withdrawals for the Year | 360,000 | 180,000 |
| Net Investment Returns after Withdrawals, Fees & Brokerage | 8 | 4 |
| **JBWere** | | |
| JBWere Portfolio | 1,836,566 | 1,741,162 |
| **Total JBWere** | **1,836,566** | **1,741,162** |
| Withdrawals for the Year | 48,000 | 48,000 |
| Net Investment Returns after Withdrawals, Fees & Brokerage | 8 | 5 |
| **Milford Income Fund** | | |
| Milford Income Fund Portfolio | 2,807,698 | 2,489,101 |
| **Total Milford Income Fund** | **2,807,698** | **2,489,101** |
| Withdrawals for the Year | 96,000 | 96,000 |
| Net Investment Returns after Withdrawals, Fees & Brokerage | 4 | 8 |
| Total Portfolio Investments | 8,032,678 | 7,765,305 |
| Net Investment Returns after Withdrawals, Fees & Brokerage | 6 | 5 |

The investment portfolios comprise diversified holdings including New Zealand and international equities, fixed interest securities, listed property investments and cash, and are measured at fair value through surplus or deficit. Investment returns are estimated based on Investment Income received (including both realised and unrealised gains less fees and brokerage) divided by the opening portfolio balance less withdrawals for the year.

**Realised and Unrealised Gains (Other Revenue)**

| | **2026** | **2026** | **2025** | **2025** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Realised | Unrealised | Realised | Unrealised |
| | $ | $ | $ | $ |
| Craigs Investment Partners | 141,121 | (16,209) | 61,162 | (50,146) |
| Milford Asset Management | - | 83,160 | - | 88,413 |
| JBWere | 930 | 92,116 | 2,554 | 33,724 |
| | 142,051 | 159,067 | 63,716 | 71,991 |
| | | | | |
| Total (Realised + Unrealised) | **301,118** | | **135,707** | |

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| **6. Investment Management Fees and Brokerage** | | |
| H7 Craigs Investment Partners - Fees | 15,513 | 15,563 |
| H7 Craigs Investment Partners Brokerage | 5,304 | 5,338 |
| H7 Milford Income Fund - Fees | 21,852 | 18,656 |
| H7 JBWere (FNZC) - Investment Fees | 17,500 | 16,497 |
| **Total Investment Management Fees and Brokerage** | **60,168** | **56,054** |

Milford Asset Management Fund is a PIE investment with fees calculated on a management and administration expenses ratio which includes a base administration fee and a performance based fee (if performance exceeds a benchmark).

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| **7. Accumulated Funds** | | |
| **Accumulated Funds** | | |
| Opening Balance | 8,940,731 | 8,927,997 |
| Accumulated surpluses or (deficits) | 80,306 | 12,734 |
| **Total Accumulated Funds** | **9,021,037** | **8,940,731** |
| **Total Accumulated Funds** | **9,021,037** | **8,940,731** |

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| **8. Commitments** | | |
| **Commitments to lease or rent assets** | | |
| Current (less than twelve months) | 1,000 | 2,000 |
| Non Current (later than twelve months) | - | 1,000 |
| **Total Commitments to lease or rent assets** | **1,000** | **3,000** |
| **Commitments to provide loans or grants** | | |
| Current (less than twelve months) | - | 4,532 |
| Non Current (later than twelve months) | - | - |
| **Total Commitments to provide loans or grants** | **-** | **4,532** |

Meridian Lease of 54.3 hectares. Sec 1-3 plan 12225. Registration number 35841 Waiau Mouth. This lease is a 35 year lease with rights to renewal every 5 years. The lease was renewed on the 30 September 2022 for a further 5 years until September 2027 at an annual lease payment of $2,000 per year.

### Operational Commitments

The Trust has an operating commitment to Te Waiau Mahika Kai Trust as at 31 March 2026 of $1,195 for wetland habitat creation (2025: The Trust had an estimated operational commitment of $4,532 to Landcorp Farming Ltd to provide funding for fencing at Dale Farm).

### 9. Related Parties

Andrew Feierabend is a Trustee of the Waiau Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust and is a Trustee of Te Waiau Mahika Kai Trust. During the year the Waiau Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust paid a Habitat Enhancement related grant of $3,800 to Te Waiau Mahika Kai Trust. (2025: Nil).

## 10. Events After the Balance Date

There were no events that have occurred after the balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report

## 11. Additional Information - Emissions Units

**Pre 1990 Forest**

Included in Rakatu wetland is pre 1990 forestry land. The land is subject to the provisions of the New Zealand emissions trading scheme ('ETS'). The implication of this on the financial statements is twofold:

1. Should the land be deforested (i.e. The land is changed from forestry to some other purpose), a deforestation penalty will arise;
2. Given the deforestation restriction, compensation units are being provided from the New Zealand Government.

Compensation units have not been recognised as income in the financial statements. As a registered charity, any income from the receipt or sale of these units is not taxable.

The deforestation contingency is not recognised as a liability on the balance sheet as there is no current intention of changing the land use subject to the ETS.

**Post 1989 Forest**

Waiau Fisheries And Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust has voluntarily entered into ETS in respect of further forest land located on the Rakatu wetland (the specified area). This entitles the Trust to receive emission units ('The units') for carbon stored in the specified area, from a 2008 baseline. As at the date of this report the Trust holds 2968 NZU's.

## 12. Contingencies

There are no contingencies as at 31 March 2026. (2025: The Trust had secured funding from the Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF) of $100,000 based on providing 50% of the total funding themselves. The trust had an obligation to provide evidence of the money spent to receive reimbursement from EEF. As at 31 March 2026 funding of $99,973 has been received based evidence provided of money spent in the current year. There is no further funding to be received.)

**Crowe New Zealand Audit Partnership**
173 Spey Street
Invercargill 9810
C/- Crowe Mail Centre Private Bag 90106
Invercargill 9840 New Zealand
Main +64 3 211 3355
Fax +64 3 218 2581
www.crowe.nz

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

**To the Trustees of Waiau Fisheries & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust**

## Opinion

We have audited the performance report of Waiau Fisheries & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust (the Trust) on pages 4 and 8 to 24, which comprises the entity information, statement of financial performance and statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 March 2026, the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2026, and the statement of accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion:

the performance report on pages 4 and 8 to 24 presents fairly, in all material respects:

- the entity information for the year ended 31 March 2026; and
- the financial position of the Trust as at 31 March 2026, and its financial performance, and cash flows for the year then ended

in accordance with Reporting Requirements for Tier 3 Not-for-Profit Entities.

## Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit of the statement of financial performance, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows, statement of accounting policies and notes to the performance report in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) (ISAs (NZ)), and of the entity information in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) ISAE (NZ) 3000 (Revised). Our responsibilities under these standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Performance Report* section of our report.

We are independent of the Trust in accordance with Professional and Ethical Standard 1 *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards) (New Zealand)* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Trust.

## Other Matter

We are not responsible for expressing an opinion on the statement of service performance.

*Findex (Aust) Pty Ltd, trading as Crowe Australasia is a member of Crowe Global, a Swiss verein. Each member firm of Crowe Global is a separate and independent legal entity. Findex (Aust) Pty Ltd and its affiliates are not responsible or liable for any acts or omissions of Crowe Global or any other member of Crowe Global. Crowe Global does not render any professional services and does not have an ownership or partnership interest in Findex (Aust) Pty Ltd.*

*Services are provided by Crowe New Zealand Audit Partnership an affiliate of Findex (Aust) Pty Ltd.*

*© 2026 Findex (Aust) Pty Ltd*

**Information Other Than the Performance Report and Auditor's Report**

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included on pages 3 and 5 to 7 but does not include the performance report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the performance report does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the performance report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the performance report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Trustees' Responsibilities for the Performance Report**

The Trustees are responsible on behalf of the Trust for:

(a) the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated performance report in accordance with Reporting Requirements for Tier 3 Not-for-Profit Entities issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board;

(b) the selection of elements/aspects of service performance measures and/or descriptions and measurement bases or evaluation methods that present consolidated service performance information that is appropriate and meaningful in accordance with Reporting Requirements for Tier 3 Not-for-Profit Entities;

(c) the preparation and fair presentation of consolidated service performance information in accordance with the entity's measurement bases or evaluation methods, in accordance with Reporting Requirements for Tier 3 Not-for-Profit Entities;

(d) the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated service performance information in accordance with Reporting Requirements for Tier 3 Not-for-Profit Entities; and

(e) such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the consolidated financial statements and consolidated statement of service performance that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the performance report, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Performance Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (NZ) and ISAE (NZ) 3000 (Revised) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in

the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of this performance report.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (NZ) and ISAE (NZ) 3000 (Revised), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Trustees and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the performance report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance report, including the disclosures, and whether the performance report represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Trustees regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Restriction on Use**

This report is made solely to the Trust's Trustees, as a body. Our audit has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trust's Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trust and the Trust's Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Crowe

**Crowe New Zealand Audit Partnership**

Dated at Invercargill this 31st day of July 2026

*The title 'Partner' conveys that the person is a senior member within their respective division and is among the group of persons who hold an equity interest (shareholder) in its parent entity, Findex Group Limited. The only professional service offering which is conducted by a partnership is external audit, conducted via the Crowe Australasia external audit division and Unison SMSF Audit. All other professional services offered by Findex Group Limited are conducted by a privately owned organisation and/or its subsidiaries.*

# Appendix A: Objects and Purposes of the Trust Deed and Supplementary Deed of Variation

The Trust Objects State:

" The Settlor directs and the Trustees declare that the Trustees hold the Trust Fund upon the following trust, to be used to further the following charitable purposes and objects with the intent that the Trust Fund shall be expended on projects within the Waiau River catchment which, together with the minimum flow regime in the conditions of consent for the Manapouri Power Scheme, will create, enhance and maintain habitat for freshwater fish and wildlife to at least the quantity and quality which studies carried out for the Waiau Working party have identified as being the maximum achievable by flows of up to 30 cumecs from the Manapouri Lake Control Structure and to facilitate public access to the enhanced Waiau River, including:

*i. To identify and evaluate areas of the Waiau catchment worthy of protection, restoration, improvement, creation or procurement (primarily as fisheries and wildlife habitat) and to create habitat within the Waiau catchment.*

*ii. In order to carry out the first purpose to negotiate, where appropriate the protection, restoration, improvement, creation or procurement of fisheries and wildlife habitat with landowners and to ensure the best possible public access to fisheries and wildlife resources.*

*iii. To provide and maintain two access tracks for anglers' access in the vicinity of Whare Creek and Redcliff Creek confluences such that advantage can be taken of the fishery.*

*iv. In accordance with the first and second purposes, to provide for the creation of additional areas of whitebait habitat on land owned by ECNZ[1] or held by the Minister of Conservation adjacent to the Waiau Lagoon as defined by studies carried out for the Waiau Working Party, as necessary.*

*v. To provide for the rearrangement and ongoing maintenance of the rock weir immediately below the Duncraigen Bridge identified in studies carried out by ECNZ as necessary to enhance the habitat for fish and the aesthetic sense of landscape values of the river between the weir and the Manapouri Lake Control Structure at minimum flows.*

*vi. To provide for a study over 5 years of freshwater fish in Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau to demonstrate the present state of the fisheries and present trends.*

*vii. To provide or assist with the provision of information or facilities to enhance the understanding of the public of the values for which the Trust was established.*

*viii. Such further or other measures which, in the opinion of the Trustees will better provide for the matters set out in sections 5(2)(a), 5(2)(c). 6(a), 6(d), 7(a), 7(c), 7(f) and 7(h) of the Resource Management Act 1991.*

*The objects or purposes of this Trust are or shall be charitable as approved by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue and shall be deemed not to include or extend to any matter or thing which is or shall be held or determined to be non-charitable and the powers and purposes of the Board and trusts hereby created shall be so restricted."*

A Supplementary Variation of Deed was approved by the Companies Office in March 2019 and Charities Services in May 2019. The purpose of the Deed review was twofold. Firstly, the review updated the Deed to reflect the Charities Act 2005 (and Amendments). Secondly the Objects and Purpose of the Deed were revised to better reflect the work of the Trust 22 years after inception. The revised objects and purposes DO NOT replace the original Deed Objectives and Purpose.

The Supplementary Deed of Variation Objects and Purposes are:

10) The Settlor directs, and the Trustees declare, that the Trustees hold the Trust Fund upon the following trusts, (in this clause 4.1) and to be used to further the following charitable purposes and objects in 4.2(a) to (k).
11) The Trust Fund shall be expended on projects within the Waiau River catchment which, together with the minimum flow regimes in the conditions of consent for the Manapouri Power Scheme, will mitigate and remediate adverse effects by:

[1] ECNZ is now Meridian Energy Ltd.

- Creating, enhancing, protecting and maintaining habitat for freshwater fish and wildlife;
- Maximising ecological connections and habitat sustainability within and between all water
- bodies;
- Enhancing the overall ecosystem health and biodiversity values of the Waiau River and
- its tributaries;
- Facilitating and enhancing public access to the Waiau River;
- Enhancing the recreational and amenity values of the catchment.

12) Purposes of the Trust

(a) To identify and evaluate habitats within the Waiau Catchment worthy of protection, restoration, improvement or creation as fisheries and wildlife habitat. This will include areas for possible procurement with potential for habitat enhancement.

(b) To negotiate the protection, improvement, creation or procurement of fisheries and wildlife habitat with landowners and ensure, where practicable, the best possible public access to fisheries and wildlife resources and other recreational resources, is secured.

(c) To provide and maintain public accesses for recreation activities to the main stem of the Lower Waiau River and the major tributaries within the catchment.

(d) To provide for the creation of additional habitat for fish and wildlife, and in particular whitebait habitat, on land owned or administered by MEL, the Minister of Conservation or other public land, adjacent to the Waiau Lagoon.

(e) To provide for any rearrangement and ongoing maintenance of the rock weir immediately below the Duncraigen Bridge identified in studies carried out by Electricity Corporation of New Zealand/MEL as necessary to enhance habitat for fish and the aesthetic sense of landscape values of the river between the weir and Manapouri Lake Control at minimum flows.

(f) To provide for studies of freshwater fish in Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau, to determine the state of the fisheries and trends over time, as necessary.

(g) To provide or assist with the provision of information or facilities to enhance the understanding of the public of the values for which the Trust was established.

(h) To provide for the development and maintenance of project databases, documenting:

- The number and scale of all habitat enhancement and access projects;
- The cumulative mitigation and remediation outcomes achieved.

(i) To provide for the monitoring of the ecological response of the enhanced habitats, to ensure habitat enhancement outcomes are achieved.

(j) To work with MEL to communicate and disseminate information about the quantity and quality of habitat and public access mitigation and remediation outcomes achieved, in the Waiau catchment by the Trust.

(k) To foster partnerships with other organisations in the community in order to achieve habitat enhancement and environmental outcomes and public access to resources in the Waiau catchment, in a cost effective manner.

(l) Such further or other measures which in the opinion of the Trustees will:

13) (a) Assist with the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater (NPSFW) or any other relevant policy statement; and

14) (b) Provide for the matters set out in sections 5(2)(a), 5(2)(c), 6(a), 6(c), 6(d), 7(a), 7(aa), 7(d), 7(c), 7(f) and 7(h) of the RMA 1991

15) In the Waiau River catchment.

**16)** The objects or purposes of this Trust are or shall be deemed not to include or extend to any matter or thing which is or shall be held or determined to be non-charitable other than an ancillary non-charitable purpose within the meaning of Section 5 Charities Act 2005 and the powers and purpose of the Board are restricted accordingly.