

**Riparian  
Land Management  
Strategy**



**March 2001**

# Table of Contents

	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>PART 1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Purpose .....	1
1.2 Scope and Status of the Strategy.....	1
1.3 Background .....	1
1.4 Definitions .....	2
1.5 Report Format .....	3
<b>2. Why Should the Council be Involved in Riparian Management? .....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 What are the Issues? .....	3
2.2 Benefits.....	3
2.3 Statutory Responsibilities.....	4
2.3 Why is a Strategy Needed? .....	5
<b>3. Outcomes .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. How Does the Strategy Fit Within Council Functions? .....</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1 Annual Plan Process .....	7
4.2 Council-wide Approach.....	7
<b>5. Co-ordinated District-wide Approach .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6. What is the Council Doing Already?.....</b>	<b>8</b>
6.1 River Management .....	9
6.2 Regulation .....	9
6.3 Advice and Other Initiatives.....	12
 <b>PART 2: RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT FOR WATER QUALITY AND HABITAT VALUES .....</b>	 <b>14</b>
<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>14</b>
1.1 What are the Issues? .....	14
1.2 What are the Barriers? .....	14
<b>2. Actions.....</b>	<b>14</b>
2.1 Investigating Priorities for Enhancing and Maintaining Terrestrial Habitat Values in Riparian Areas .....	15
2.2 Priority Waterways for Investigating Water Quality Issues .....	15
2.3 Priority Waterways for Investigating Aquatic Habitat Issues .....	16
2.4 District-wide Actions.....	22
2.5 Catchment Action Plans .....	26
 <b>PART 3: PUBLIC ACCESS .....</b>	 <b>31</b>
<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>31</b>
1.1 What is the Issue? .....	31
1.2 What are the Barriers? .....	31
<b>2. Actions.....</b>	<b>32</b>

2.1 General Methods.....	32
<b>PART 4: EVALUATION AND REVIEW .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>37</b>

## TABLES

Table 1: Suggested Contributions from Different Groups.....	8
Table 2: Priority Waterways for Investigating Water Quality Issues .....	16
Table 3: Priority Native Fish Streams for Further Investigation .....	17
Table 4: Priority Trout Spawning Streams for Further Investigation .....	19
Table 5: Tasman District Commercial Eel Fishery.....	19
Table 6: Suggested Sites for Coastal Action Plans .....	20
Table 7: Candidate Catchments for Action Plans .....	28
Table 8: Priority Actions to Enhance Water Quality and Habitat Values .....	29-30
Table 9: Specific Actions for Council to Improve Public Access.....	35

## BOXES

Box 1: Types of Legal Access.....	13
Box 2: Principles for Effective Communication .....	24
Box 3: Criteria for Selecting the Catchments.....	27
Box 4: Wai-iti River Walkway .....	34

## FIGURES

Figure 1: A Stream and its Riparian Area Showing Management Possibilities .....	2
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## MAPS

Map 1: River Erosion Protection Work Areas .....	10
Map 2: Upper Catchment Work Areas .....	11
Map 3: Aquatic Habitats .....	18
Map 4: Coastal Areas of National or International Importance .....	21

## **PART 1: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Purpose**

The purpose of this first Riparian Land Management Strategy is to:

- Identify the priority actions for the Council to enhance water quality and habitat values, and public access through improved riparian management.
- Outline where further investigation and consultation is required to provide guidance on the management needs of riparian areas in the Tasman District.

### **1.2 Scope and Status of the Strategy**

This Strategy is about improving water quality, aquatic and terrestrial habitat, and public access by getting action on the ground to achieve real benefits. It takes a non-regulatory approach. There are no rules in the Strategy. It is a policy document to guide the actions of Council and other parties to implement the relevant objectives, policies, and methods contained in the Proposed Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP).

The focus is firstly on identifying where further information and consultation is required to better identify the values that need protecting, the problems that exist, and the potential solutions. This includes gathering information on cultural heritage and terrestrial habitat values in riparian areas over the next three years. The information already available has been used to identify priority actions and to take advantage of existing opportunities where environmental and public access gains can be achieved. The effectiveness of these non-regulatory actions will then be monitored.

It is intended that after three years the necessary investigations, monitoring, and consultation will be completed to make a decision on any plan changes that maybe required to the TRMP. Any proposed plan change would still require a formal public consultation process. The Strategy is a “living document” that will require regular review as new information becomes available.

### **1.3 Background**

In early 1994 the Council established a Technical Working Group on Riparian Land Management to provide advice on how it should address a range of riparian issues. The Council wanted to identify the different riparian values that existed and to determine the priorities for action. It wanted to target its efforts at the most important issues and use its scarce resources for the greatest benefit. The Technical Working Group helped develop the “Riparian Land Management Policy Paper” (Tasman District

Council, 1995). This paper recommended particular policies, including the development of a Riparian Land Management Strategy (RLMS). A commitment to prepare a RLMS was then included in the Proposed Tasman Resource Management Plan.

When staff became available to prepare the RLMS, this commenced in January 2000. A riparian working group was formed to help develop the draft Strategy. The group included representatives from Federated Farmers, forestry companies, iwi, Eel Management Committee, Fish and Game, Department of Conservation (DoC), MAF Policy, and Forest and Bird. Input was also sought from a number of recreational groups, including kayakers, trampers, and horse riders. A draft Strategy was released for public comment in October 2000. Changes have been made in response to these public comments.

## 1.4 Definitions

### Riparian Land

This is the area of land adjacent to and associated with water bodies including rivers, streams, wetlands, springs, lakes, estuaries and the sea. For water quality and aquatic and terrestrial habitat issues the riparian area links dry land with the water body (Figure 1).

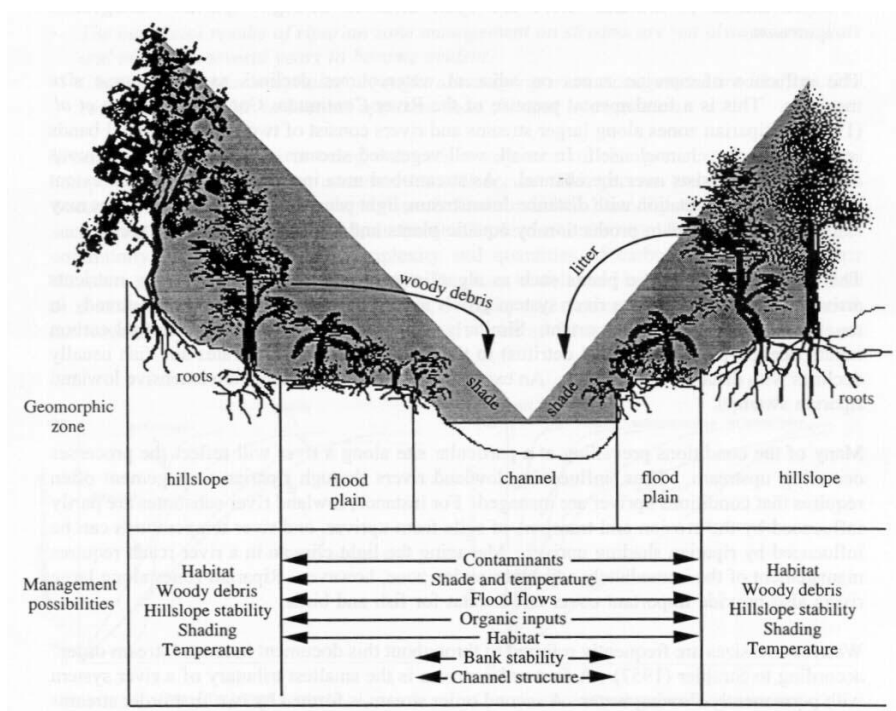


Figure 1: A stream and its riparian area showing management possibilities (Collier K J et al, 1995).

### Riparian Management

This refers to a collection of activities and practices that can be applied to the riparian area to achieve the desired outcomes, whether they be ecological, recreational, or production orientated.

## **1.5 Report Format**

Part 1 of the Strategy provides background on why riparian management is important and why a Strategy is needed. It also outlines how the Strategy fits within the wider context of Council's functions, and what the Council is already doing.

Part 2 of the Strategy focuses on the issues of water quality, and aquatic and terrestrial habitat. Part 3 focuses on the issue of public access to riparian areas. Each section identifies the particular issues, and the methods that will be used to address them. Priority areas for further investigation are then identified along with a list of priority actions.

The Strategy concludes with a few comments on how the Strategy will be reviewed and evaluated.

## **2. Why Should the Council be Involved in Riparian Land Management?**

The Council is promoting appropriate riparian land management to address some urgent problems, and because it provides economic, ecological and recreational benefits to the community, and fulfils the Council's statutory responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

### **2.1 What Are the Issues?**

Water quality in certain lowland rivers is deteriorating to the extent that some rivers are unfit for swimming or even for drinking water for stock.

Habitat for native fish and trout spawning has been greatly reduced by the loss of riparian vegetation on lowland streams.

The unique flora and fauna occurring in lowland riparian areas, such as wetlands, has been greatly reduced.

Increasing community demand for access to our rivers and coast needs to be provided for without causing adverse impacts on private landowners and the environment.

### **2.2 Benefits**

Appropriate riparian land management produces the following community benefits:

- Improved water quality.
- Enhanced aquatic habitat.

- Enhanced terrestrial habitat.
- Minimisation of stream bank erosion.
- Reduction of flood impact.
- Aesthetic enhancement.
- Improved recreational opportunities.
- Economic benefits to farming, aquaculture, and tourist industries.

Recent research in Tasman District indicates that water quality will be improved by promoting appropriate riparian land use practices, such as managing stock access to water bodies, and leaving vegetation buffers to trap contaminants running off the land. This type of contamination accounts for a large proportion of the contaminants entering Tasman waterways. Existing policies do little to target non-point source pollution. Clean water is vital to the District's economy and health. The dairy industry needs clean water for stock to drink and to clean milking equipment. Aquaculture is reliant on our clean coastal waters. Tourists visit our District to enjoy our relatively pristine rivers, lakes and coast. We all benefit from having clean water to drink, swim, and fish in.

Aquatic and terrestrial habitat is improved by maintaining and enhancing riparian vegetation that provides shelter, food and shade for wildlife. This enhances the trout fishery that brings hundreds of visitors to the District each year, with the associated economic benefits. The eel and whitebait fisheries also benefit. Riparian vegetation also enhances the District's biodiversity by providing habitat for such things as rare native fish, like the giant kokopu, and rare birds such as the banded rail and marsh crake. Being at the interface of land and water, riparian areas provide habitat for unique flora and fauna. Riparian vegetation can also provide wildlife corridors.

Stream bank stability is improved by planting deep rooting riparian vegetation. This protects productive land and reduces the amount of sediment entering water bodies, so improving water quality and aquatic habitat. The severity of flooding can also be reduced by riparian vegetation on smaller streams slowing the entry of surface and subsurface flows into the adjacent water body.

Healthy riparian vegetation enhances the aesthetic and amenity values of water bodies. Improving public access to riparian areas increases the recreational opportunities for our growing community, and provides additional attractions for tourists. Walking along rivers and the coast is very popular in the Tasman District. A Council recreation survey (Works Consultancy, 1993) found walking to be the single most popular recreational activity for the Tasman community.

## **2.3 Statutory Responsibilities**

The RMA recognises the high level of public interest in riparian areas by requiring the Council to take positive action to address riparian issues. Some of the relevant



provisions of the RMA are included below. The Act requires the Council as a “matter of national importance” to recognise and provide for:

*“Section 6(a) the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development;*

*Section 6(c) the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna;*

*Section 6(d) the maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers;*

*Section 6(e) the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga.”*

Other matters that the Council is required to have particular regard to under the RMA include:

*“Section 7(a) Kaitiakitanga;*

*Section 7(c) The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values;*

*Section 7(d) Intrinsic values of ecosystems;*

*Section 7(f) Maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment;*

*Section 7(h) The protection of the habitat of trout and salmon.”*

Section 8 of the RMA also requires the Council to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi when carrying out its functions under the Act.

## **2.4 Why is a Strategy Needed?**

The Strategy is required to:

- contribute to the fulfilment of the Council’s responsibilities under the RMA;
- contribute to the fulfilment of commitments in the TRMP;
- co-ordinate action on a range of issues involving numerous groups;
- set priorities to get the greatest benefit from the resources available.

The **Tasman Regional Policy Statement (TRPS)** identifies riparian land management as a regionally significant issue and sets the following objective and policy:

*“Objective 6.6*

*Maintenance and enhancement of flood mitigation, habitat conservation, water quality, recreational and public access values and opportunities of riparian lands.*

*Policy 6.3(b)*

*Protect and enhance the margins of wetlands, lakes and rivers for the purposes of:*

- (i) preserving the natural character of wetlands, lakes, rivers and their margins;*
- (ii) maintaining and enhancing natural habitats, water quality and the natural functioning of the adjacent water body;*
- (iii) maintaining and enhancing public access to or along the margin;*
- (iv) enabling public recreation use of the margin;*
- (v) maintaining channel stability and floodway efficiency of any adjacent river.”*

The Council’s **Proposed Tasman Resource Management Plan** provides more detail on how the Council will implement this policy. A method in the TRMP states that a Riparian Land Management Strategy will be prepared “*that identifies priority sites or the means of determining priority sites of riparian land and coastal margins for the following purposes:*

- *public access;*
- *recreation;*
- *conservation of natural ecosystems;*
- *maintenance and enhancement of water quality;*
- *protection of landscape values;*
- *protection of heritage sites;*
- *mitigation of flooding or river erosion.”* (Method 8.1.20(c)(ii))

This Strategy initiates the fulfilment of this commitment and identifies what further work is required.

The Strategy is also needed to provide a framework for co-ordinating action on a range of issues that involve numerous parties, in Council and outside. The Strategy will also assist in having riparian issues, such as public access, river erosion and aquatic habitat dealt with in an integrated manner rather than in isolation.

### **3. Outcomes**

At a general level the outcomes desired from the Strategy include:

- **Maintain and enhance aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in riparian areas.**
- **Enhance water quality.**
- **Enhance public access and recreation opportunities in riparian areas.**
- **Maintain and enhance the “natural character” of riparian areas.**

- **Maintain the stability of river banks and the ability of rivers to carry flood waters.**
- **Protect and maintain cultural heritage sites in riparian areas.**
- **Integrated management of riparian areas taking on board all the above outcomes.**
- **Co-ordinated action by all the agencies and individuals involved in riparian land management in Tasman District.**
- **Increasing public awareness about the values of riparian areas and appropriate riparian land management.**

This full set of desired outcomes will be taken into account when implementing the Strategy, even though this first Strategy does not address in detail how all of them will be achieved. As more information, on such things as terrestrial habitat and cultural values, becomes available, this detail will be included in the Strategy through future reviews.

Detailed outcomes will be developed for specific water bodies in partnership with local communities and interested parties.

## **4. How Does the Strategy Fit Within Council Functions?**

### **4.1 Annual Plan Process**

The Strategy links to the Council's Annual Plan process by identifying activities that require funding for the next three years. The Strategy also feeds into the detailed departmental work plans of the Environment and Planning, Community Services and Engineering departments of the Council by identifying activities for these departments to undertake.

The Annual Plan process determines where the Council's limited funds will be allocated to for carrying out the Council's functions. Each year's "bidding" for funds by different Council departments through the Annual Plan process does not occur in isolation, but is based on strategic management documents such as the Council's 10 year Long Term Financial Strategy, and departmental documents such as Asset Management Plans, and the Riparian Land Management Strategy.

### **4.2 Council-Wide Approach**

Three Council departments are particularly involved in riparian land management:

- **Environment and Planning**      Gather information, set policy, provide advice, process consents, monitor compliance, state of the

- Community Services environment monitoring, and pest management. Manage riparian reserves, recreation facilities, promote recreation opportunities.
- Engineering Services Manage road reserves, unformed roads, drains, river protection works.

The public sees the Council as one entity. There is a need for the Council departments to have a consistent attitude to improving riparian land management to enhance public access, water quality, and aquatic and terrestrial habitat, and that they work together in an integrated manner. This is especially the case when the Council is responsible for the management of large areas of riparian land. By taking account of the Strategy in its own riparian land management the Council can lead by example.

## 5. Co-ordinated District-Wide Approach

A large number of groups have an interest in achieving the outcomes of the Strategy, including industry, conservation, iwi, community, government and recreation organisations. Even though these groups may have different objectives, there is room for synergies. Successful implementation of the Strategy is far more likely if these groups “own” the Strategy, pool their resources and expertise, and work together. By getting agreement on priorities, and commitment to action from different organisations, the Strategy can be a catalyst for joint action.

Below is a table of organisations and an indication of what they could contribute to implementing the Strategy:

**Table 1: Suggested Contributions from Different Groups**

Group	Contribution
Tasman District Council	Expertise, facilitation, information, information delivery, works, funding.
Landowners	Expertise, information, labour, works.
Fish and Game	Expertise, funding, information delivery.
DoC, MAF, Ministry for the Environment	Expertise, funding, information.
Eel Management Committee	Expertise, funding for research.
Industry (Milk Company, LIC, Forestry sector, Meat Industry Monitor farm, fertiliser industry, Federated Farmers.)	Expertise, information delivery, information, incentives, resources.
Iwi	Expertise, information.
Community Groups (Forest and Bird, schools, recreation groups, landcare groups etc.)	Expertise, resources (labour), information, funding.
Science providers (Landcare Research, Cawthron)	Expertise, funding for research.
Landcare Trust	Expertise, facilitation, funding, information, co-ordination.

## 6. What is the Council Doing Already?

The Council is already using regulation, incentives, advice and service delivery to address a number of riparian issues. It is important to review what the Council is already doing in the riparian area to gauge how it can best improve riparian land management.

## 6.1 River Management

By far the greatest investment by the Council in riparian land management is the \$1.1 million it spends every year on river erosion protection work. The purpose of this work is to maintain the stability of river banks and the ability of rivers to carry flood waters. The bulk of this work focuses on the maintenance of existing rock works, stop banks, and riparian planting on 290 kilometres of the District's larger rivers (Map 1). "River care" groups have been established to allow affected landowners to have an input into what work is carried out protect land from erosion.

Funding is also provided to landowners for erosion prevention works on small streams. This funding is managed under the *Upper Catchment Works: Stream and Gully Control Programme*. The scheme was instigated by the old Nelson Catchment Board to minimise the damage to property from storm events. It primarily supports the planting of poplars and willows on waterways in the hill country to control erosion and achieve stability in the catchment system. The programme has resulted in approximately 220 kilometres of stabilised streams over the past decade. Map 2 shows where the Upper Catchment works have been carried out. Funding of \$100,000 per annum is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The TRMP sets two criteria for allocating the fund (12.1.20):

- "The erosion risk is resulting from natural erosion risk or from (discontinued) land use practices that have increased that risk; or
- The works provide or assist in providing benefits to off-site (downstream) resources, including river channels."

The funds are also allocated according to the following criteria:

- The landowner contributes 50% of the total cost of the work.
- The landowner agrees to maintain the works.

The Upper Catchment Programme provides benefits for water quality and aquatic habitats by reducing the amount of sedimentation.

## 6.2 Regulation

The TRMP contains numerous restrictions on activities in or adjacent to coastal riparian areas. The TRMP has provisions addressing subdivision, land disturbance, vegetation clearance, and discharge activities next to waterways. These include rules controlling such things as earthworks, and removing indigenous vegetation within 10 metres of a river. Within the discharges part (Chapters 33 – 36) of the TRMP there are rules targeting point source discharges, such as sediment discharges, to maintain and enhance water quality. In applying these rules the Council is setting resource consent

conditions, such as creating esplanade reserves (see Box 1) that provide ecological benefits, and requiring riparian planting as a mitigation measure.







The Council also sets resource consent conditions to improve public access to riparian areas. The most obvious example of this is requiring esplanade reserves or strips to be set aside or created when subdivisions create allotments of less than 4 hectares.

### **6.3 Advice and Other Initiatives**

To speed up the process of building a cohesive network, the Community Services Department of the Council is negotiating with landowners to increase legal access to riparian areas. They are also establishing walkways, erecting signs, producing pamphlets on walks and maintaining some existing riparian reserves when funds permit.

To improve aquatic habitat the Council has produced a series of riparian management information sheets with the Department of Conservation and Fish and Game. These provide information on how to go about revegetating riparian areas and managing riparian vegetation. On request, the Council also provides advice to individuals and groups on how to manage riparian areas. An increasing amount of this work is being undertaken.

**Box 1: Types of Legal Access****Esplanade Reserves**

Under the RMA (Section 230) esplanade reserves of 20 metre width are established where any allotment of less than 4 hectares is created when land is subdivided. This requirement can be waived and the width adjusted. On allotments greater than 4 hectares, or for reserves wider than 20 metres, compensation is payable unless otherwise agreed with the landowner. An esplanade reserve is generally vested in Council. Its boundaries are surveyed and are fixed. The purpose of an esplanade reserve (and strips, see below) can be for protecting and enhancing conservation values and/or enabling public access and recreation where that use is compatible with conservation values.

**Esplanade Strips**

An esplanade strip is similar to an esplanade reserve except that the strip remains in the ownership of the landowner. The strip is not surveyed, but may simply be identified on a survey plan. A strip maintains its position to the river or coast even when the margin of the water body moves within the allotment. Conditions of public use are set out in an agreement and are registered against the title of the land. The Council and landowner can negotiate an esplanade strip at any time.

**Access Strips**

These are for providing public access to or along any river, or lake, or coast, or to any public reserve. They are easements that result from negotiated agreements between the landowner and the local authority. Access strips are surveyed but land ownership remains with the landowner.

**Legal Roads**

Since the earliest days of European settlement in New Zealand, reserves 20 metres wide have been established on the margins of navigable rivers and the coast. Very often these are formed or unformed public roads. These unformed roads are a major public access asset managed by local authorities.

**Marginal Strips**

When Crown land, or an interest in Crown land has been sold next to rivers, lakes, and the coast, marginal strips are created. These are 20 metre wide strips very similar in nature to esplanade strips. Marginal strips are not surveyed, but are registered on titles. They can move with any changes in the position of rivers or the coast. They have a similar purpose as esplanade reserves. However, they are vested in the Crown and are the responsibility of the Department of Conservation.

## **PART 2: RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT FOR WATER QUALITY AND HABITAT VALUES**

### **1. Introduction**

The issues of water quality and aquatic and terrestrial habitat are considered together as the methods for addressing them are closely linked. This section outlines the problems and the barriers to solving them. The following section sets out what the Council will do to address these issues.

#### **1.1 What are the Issues?**

- Water quality and aquatic habitats in a number of rivers and streams are degraded and need to be improved.
- Particular catchments have high water quality or aquatic habitat values that need to be maintained.
- Information is needed on where the priority areas are for enhancing or maintaining terrestrial riparian habitat values.

#### **1.2 What are the Barriers?**

The main barriers to improving water quality and aquatic and terrestrial habitat include:

- Lack of information on the problems and their causes.
- Lack of awareness amongst landowners about the problems and potential solutions.
- Lack of resources to implement solutions.

### **2. Actions**

To overcome these barriers a range of different actions are required. As we do not have information on priorities for enhancing and maintaining terrestrial habitat values in riparian areas, investigations to gather this information are required. Priority areas have been identified for carrying out further detailed investigations and consultation on water quality and aquatic habitat issues. This will provide better information on the problems, their causes and potential solutions. The purpose of identifying these priority areas is for targeting active management. They are not for targeting rules. Just

because a waterway is not in a priority list does not mean it is not important. A range of District-wide actions is also described, with the aim of improving water quality and habitat values across the whole region. This section concludes with a list of specific actions for the next three years.

## **2.1 Investigating Priorities for Enhancing and Maintaining Terrestrial Habitat Values in Riparian Areas**

The Council will carry out investigations to identify riparian areas with high terrestrial habitat values that are at risk. This may include remnant areas of indigenous vegetation next to water bodies, such as estuaries and wetlands. In addition, the Council will be assessing the condition of riparian vegetation in the Motueka Catchment, as part of the Motueka Integrated Catchment Management Project (ICM). This will provide a basis for establishing methods to do this across the whole District. This will help identify important areas and allow for the long-term monitoring of the condition of riparian vegetation throughout the whole District.

After carrying out the investigation work, it is proposed to then consult with the relevant landowners over how the Council and other agencies can assist with the appropriate management of these areas to deal with any risks they face, whether it be from pests, stock grazing or other activities.

In the meantime, the Council will look to work with landowners who are wanting to enhance their riparian areas by fencing and planting natives, or carrying out pest control. It is hoped that national funding will contribute to this work.

## **2.2 Priority Waterways for Investigating Water Quality Issues**

The existing information on water quality in Tasman District shows that it is relatively high, but water quality is declining in some areas, and there are grounds for concern in a number of catchments. In particular, a number of small lowland streams have been found to have high bacteria and nutrient levels, and impoverished macro-invertebrate communities. As land use intensifies in some catchments, there is concern that there is increasing pressure being put on water quality in lowland rivers and coastal areas.

Further investigation and consultation is required to identify the causes of the water quality problems and potential solutions. The following matters have been considered when identifying those waterways that are a priority for further investigation (Table 2):

- The standard of water quality.
- The significance of the values of the waterway.
- The ability of riparian land management to maintain or enhance water quality.

The investigations will take the form of monitoring a number of sites along a waterway to detect where problems are arising. The results of this monitoring will then be

discussed with local landowners and communities to identify possible causes and solutions. This baseline monitoring will also be useful to identify any improvements that are gained from subsequent actions. The Council will also continue to undertake state of the environment monitoring across the District to detect long-term trends and any new problems that may arise.

**Table 2: Priority Waterways for Investigating Water Quality Issues**

Waterway	Water Quality Status	Values
Aorere catchment	Small lowland streams have high faecal coliform and nitrogen levels, as does the main river in high flows.  Algae growth and impoverished macro-invertebrate populations in some places.	High aquatic habitat values in small spring fed streams.  Swimming and fishing.  Shellfish in the Estuary.
Small streams from Onahau to Onekaka (Golden Bay)	Limited monitoring indicates high bacteria and nutrient levels.	High aquatic habitat and aesthetic values.  Coastal swimming and shellfish.
Motupipi River	High bacteria and nutrient levels.  Algae growth and impoverished macro-invertebrate populations.	High aquatic habitat values.  Whitebaiting and aesthetic values.
Takaka River – Payne’s Ford	High bacteria and nutrient levels.  Algae growth and impoverished macro-invertebrate populations.	Swimming and fishing.  Aesthetic values.
Waikoropupu Springs Catchment	High water quality that needs to be protected.	High water quality, aesthetic, recreation, tourist, and cultural values.
Te Kakau Stream (Takaka)	Weed infestation, sedimentation, high nutrients.	High aesthetic and recreational values.
Sherry River	Limited monitoring shows high faecal coliform and nutrient levels.	Domestic and stock water supply.  Trout spawning.  Some swimming downstream in Wangapeka.
Little Sydney Stream (Motueka)	Limited monitoring shows high bacteria and nutrient levels.	Domestic and stock water supply.
Reservoir Creek (Richmond)	High faecal coliform and nutrient levels, algae growth and impoverished macro-invertebrate communities.	Aquatic and aesthetic values in creek and downstream in Waimea Estuary.
Wai-iti River – Livingstone Rd	Consistently high bacteria and nutrient levels.  Impoverished macro-invertebrate populations.	Stock water.  Some swimming in Wai-iti, Waimea River and Inlet.  Shellfish in Waimea Inlet.

## **2.3 Priority Waterways for Investigating Aquatic Habitat Issues**

All waterways have aquatic habitat values that need to be maintained. However, particular waterways have been identified below for specific attention, given their value and the potential threats they face. More investigation and consultation is required in each area to determine what action is required to maintain and enhance these values.

## Rivers and Streams

The rivers and streams identified as a priority are those with significant native and trout fishery values that are potentially threatened by adjacent land uses.

DoC has identified a small number of streams as a priority for further investigation and consultation (Table 3, Map 3). These streams are important as they contain threatened **native fish**, such as giant and shortjawed kokopu, and there is the potential for their habitat to be degraded. Golden Bay streams near the coast have been identified as supporting a surprisingly high number of the nationally threatened shortjawed kokopu (DoC, 1999). There is limited information on the distribution of native fish and the priority list will need to be reviewed on a regular basis as more surveying is carried out.

**Table 3: Priority Native Fish Streams for Further Investigation**

Stream	Catchment
Gorge Creek	Aorere
Burton Ale Creek	Aorere
Little Granity Creek	Aorere
Dogan Creek	Onekaka
Onahau	Golden Bay
Waiwhero Creek	Motueka

The main threat to the native fisheries is the destruction of riparian vegetation that provides shade and habitat for native fish and their food. Turning these streams into channelled drains is another threat, along with nutrient enrichment and sedimentation.

Fish and Game have identified the priority river reaches for further investigation and consultation to maintain or enhance habitat for **trout spawning** (Table 4, Map 3). These areas are the most in need of action, rather than necessarily having the highest value. A major threat to trout spawning is the inappropriate location and design of fords. These can block fish passage and are often located in trout spawning areas. The other main riparian-related threat to trout spawning is sedimentation and stock access to waterways.





**Table 4: Priority Trout Spawning Streams for Further Investigation**

Priority	River/Stream Reach	Catchment	Issues
1	Glenrae	Motueka	Sediment, stock, vehicle movement, flows
1	Riwaka, north/south branches	Riwaka	Sediment, fords, flows
1	Dove	Motueka	Fords and flows
1	Wai-iti	Wai-iti	Dams, sediment, flows
1	Black Valley Stream	Lake Rotoiti	Sediment
2	Brough Creek	Motueka	Nutrient, stock, sediment
2	Stanley Brook	Motueka	Flows
2	Tadmor	Motueka	Stock, sediment, vehicles
2	Little Pokororo	Motueka	Sediment
2	Rough'ns Creek	Motueka	Sediment, fish passage
3	Rainy/upper Motupiko	Motupiko	Sediment, vehicle crossings
3	Gordon's Creek	Motueka	Sediment, fish passage
3	Sherry River	Wangapeka	Flows, sediment, nutrients
3	One Spec	Takaka	Nutrient, stock, sediment

Information on the **eel fishery** is included in the Eel Management Area Plan (1999) for Nelson. The plan makes the point that all wetlands, waterways, and river catchments contain eel populations. This means generic policies and methods for eel management are needed to encourage the appropriate management to address the threats identified below. A description of the Tasman eel fishery is provided in the plan:

**Table 5: Tasman District Commercial Eel Fishery**

Catchment	Short fin eel	Long fin eel	Extent of Commercial Harvest	Extent of Customary Harvest
Patarau	Pockets only	Creeks, river	Average	Average
Aorere	Lagoons, estuary	Creeks, river	Good	Poor
Takaka	Estuary, creeks	Creeks, river	Average	Poor
Motueka	Estuary, creeks	Creeks, river	Average	Poor

The threats to the sustainability of eel populations are identified in the plan as including:

- Drainage of wetland and natural habitat.
- Migration obstructions (irrigation devices, dams, weirs, culverts).
- Instream works (mechanical ditch cleaning).
- Weed spraying and chemical application may adversely affect habitats and water quality.
- Vegetation control.

- Flood control works (flood banks) may destroy habitat and affect water quality.
- Run-off from land uses.
- Taking of water and low flows.

## Coastal

Coastal areas of high value have already been identified in the TRMP (Schedule 25.1F) by identifying those areas that are internationally or nationally important according to ecological and geomorphic criteria (see Map 4). The report that this ranking is based on identifies the natural, cultural and historic values of each area, the management issues and makes management recommendations (DoC, 1993).

The TRMP classifies coastal water in the Tasman District according to contact recreation, shellfish gathering, aesthetic, and fishery values and uses that act as a basis for water quality management (Schedule 36.1(c), Planning Map CMA 1). This classification is for considering contaminant discharge applications, with the objective of maintaining these standards. The classification is based on a detailed report that identifies coastal areas that are valued for such things as, contact recreation, shellfish gathering, and cultural values (Cawthron, 1994). This information has been used to identify potential sites for coastal action plans (Table 6). The criteria used to select these areas include whether the area has high values that are under threat, and whether it is practical to achieve significant improvements through riparian management. The coastal action plans could be incorporated into wider catchment plans or initiated separately.

**Table 6: Suggested Sites for Coastal Action Plans**

Coastal Area	Issues
Onekaka Estuary	High ecological, recreational and cultural values. Weed and stock access issues. Mountain to sea catchment plan.
Waimea Estuary – Pearl and Neimans Creek	Native fish and whitebait spawning area. Stock access, and run-off issues.
Waimea Estuary – Higgs Reserve	Opportunity for enhancement as part of the Ruby bypass construction.

Coastal riparian areas are ecologically important for the sequence of environments that occurs between the sea and dry land. This area can stretch hundreds of metres and can contain significant flora and fauna, such as banded rail and marsh crake. Sheltered coastal areas, like estuaries, include some of the most biologically productive ecosystems in the world, but they are also one of the systems most modified by humans. Tasman District is fortunate to have 22 coastal areas that remain nationally or internationally important. These areas are under threat to varying degrees from siltation, water pollution, stock grazing, vehicle access, rubbish dumping, invasion by pests, stopbanking, infilling, and drainage.



## **2.4 District-Wide Actions**

District-wide actions are required for two reasons. First, the threats discussed above are not just isolated to the priority waterways identified, but involve most waterways in the District. Second, there is a need to support landowners who are wanting to improve riparian areas even if they are not in a priority area. The Strategy needs to balance protecting the ecological “jewels”, with supporting positive initiatives in the wider community. The Strategy is not just about protecting specific areas but also supporting a sustainable land management culture amongst landowners, so improvements are widespread and ongoing. The methods to be used across the District and in localised areas is discussed below, followed by details on specific actions (Table 8).

### **Information Gathering**

More information on the standard of water quality and aquatic habitat is required to determine if problems exist, what the causes are and what possible solutions exist. However, the need for more information should not be used as a basis for inaction in the meantime.

Detailed water monitoring has been carried out over the last year on the Onahau, Puremahaia, Pariwhakaoho, Burton Ale, and Clay Creek in Golden Bay. A masters student has also completed a year’s water quality monitoring in the Aorere catchment at eleven sites. Every month sixteen sites are monitored in the Motueka catchment as part of the Motueka Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) project. The Council is also monitoring another 27 sites throughout the district on a quarterly basis. Another project is monitoring the health of the Waimea and Ruataniwha estuaries.

The results of all this monitoring will be presented at meetings with local landowners and communities. Where problems are identified these groups will be encouraged to carry out ongoing monitoring using simple methods, such as with Stream Health Monitoring Assessment Kits (SHMAK). Further Council monitoring may also be required to identify causes of problems and whether the actions being taken are effective.

The Council is also approaching other organisations gathering water quality information to bring it together into one database. Industry groups that will be approached include forestry companies, the dairy industry, Transalta, and seafood companies.

The Council will look to Fish and Game and DoC for assistance in continuing to monitor native fish and wildlife values. The Motueka ICM project will also provide a wealth of information, such as on the condition of riparian vegetation in the Motueka catchment. This will provide a basis for gathering information on riparian vegetation

region wide, and will be linked to the Council's investigation into terrestrial habitat values.

## **Water Body Database**

A key component of the Strategy is to develop and maintain a database identifying the values and uses of each water body in the District. The database will have information on ecological, recreational, and hopefully cultural heritage values. It will also have information on what the water body is “used” for, such as domestic water supply or river bank erosion and flood protection. The database will provide a reference for making decisions about water and riparian land management. It will need to be regularly updated as more information becomes available.

The Council will be responsible for developing and maintaining the database, with assistance from any other group who has information on water body values, such as Fish and Game and DoC. Its contents will be available for public comment, especially from relevant landowners. The database will be available to everyone with an interest in the water bodies of the District, so they can use it to make appropriate decisions on the management of specific water bodies. The database will be made accessible through hard copy, electronic database, and the Council’s web site.

## **Advice and Education**

A major barrier to getting landowners to adopt appropriate riparian land management practices to address water quality and ecological problems is a lack of awareness about the issues, possible impacts of land use activities, and a lack of understanding of how they can be addressed in a cost-effective manner. The methods described apply to a whole range of land and water management issues, such as pest management and efficient use of water. Initiatives targeting riparian issues need to be co-ordinated with efforts targeting these other issues.

### ***Advisory Service***

Experience from other councils indicates that a crucial step to overcoming these barriers is having people in the field working with land managers to put in place appropriate riparian land management. This would involve staff working in partnership with individuals or groups of landowners to identify problem areas and actions to address them. This approach will be trialed by expanding the scope of the Upper Catchment Works Programme to provide advice on water quality and habitat management, as well as bank stability. After reviewing the success of the trial, there may be a need for additional funding. An expanded advisory service provides an opportunity for the Council to provide a positive service to the community and to lift its profile in rural areas. An advisory service would help fulfil the Council’s responsibilities under the RMA and TRMP. Without an advisory service the outcomes of enhanced water quality and habitat values are unlikely to be achieved.

### ***Industry Liaison***

The Council will work in partnership with industry groups to raise awareness about riparian land management issues and to develop industry initiated solutions. The dairy

industry, in particular, is developing a number of initiatives that the Council is keen to encourage. This includes supporting the "Healthy Water on Farm Project" being developed by the Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC) and the Landcare Trust. This will use existing dairy discussion groups to examine water management issues. Another proposal is to work with the local dairy company to demonstrate best practices on the company farm. Another opportunity for partnerships is organising joint field days and environmental awards with industry and landowner groups.

### ***Riparian Workshop***

Many other groups, such as Fish and Game, DoC, and QEII National Trust, are involved in providing advice on environmental management. The Council needs to work with these other agencies to try and co-ordinate our actions. A catalyst for achieving this co-ordination will be a workshop on land-water management for all those people in Tasman District providing advice to landowners on these issues. This will be part of a national programme of such workshops being planned by Ministry for the Environment.

### ***Fact Sheets and Other Publications***

Fact sheets are required as a resource for the advisory service to provide to land managers. Fact sheets have been produced in the past, but need to be revamped to adhere to the principles in Box 2. These principles also need to be the basis for preparing regular articles and events to raise general awareness about riparian issues and good practice.

### **Box 2: Principles for Effective Communication**

- Use facts.
- Use environmental data that is as local as possible.
- Provide facts on problems, and develop solutions with landowners.
- Promote positive messages and examples that are working.
- Recognise, reward and publicise successes.
- Provide information through trusted channels.
- Use established community and industry networks.
- Give examples of small inexpensive changes.
- Recognise and address problems, e.g. pest management in riparian areas.
- Provide information on the economic costs and benefits of different options.
- Make opportunities for people to see things in practice on a working farm.
- Maximise the use of visual forms of information.
- Promote local forums for discussing issues, e.g. discussion groups, field days.



The Fact sheets can be added to through time, but the priority topics include:

- Why manage streambanks: The benefits of riparian land management.
- Stream crossings: General principles.
- Riparian management: General principles.
- Riparian fencing and costs and benefits.
- Establishing riparian vegetation.
- Pest management in riparian areas.

### ***Community Stream Monitoring and Care Groups***

To lift awareness landowners, schools, and other community groups are being encouraged to monitor the health of their local streams. The Takaka Land Care Group and the Golden Bay High School have begun to monitor One Spec Creek. The Council will encourage similar initiatives across the whole District.

Working with the Landcare Trust the Council will continue to encourage and support groups of local people who have a shared interest in the local environment, and want to take action to enhance it. The Council will support such groups through providing technical advice, materials, and funding assistance where their work provides a benefit to the wider community.

### **Financial Incentives**

Providing advice alone will not enhance water quality or aquatic habitats. Another major barrier to landowners adopting riparian best practices is the capital cost of major works, such as planting, fencing and bridging streams for stock crossings. The Council has already recognised the need for incentives to improve riparian management (TRMP 12.1.20(d) and 33.1.20(d)).

To meet these commitments, incentives need to be provided through expanding the scope of the Upper Catchment Works Programme. This would require changing its name to the "River and Stream Management Fund". Incentives would be allocated on the basis of the level of public benefit achieved by the works, with a preference for targeting priority catchments. It will not be on a first-in first-served basis. The public benefits of the works may include preventing erosion, improving water quality, or protecting important habitat. The fund would work in a similar way to the Upper Catchment Works Programme, with the emphasis being on landowners taking ownership of the works and their maintenance. Funds need to be offered in co-ordination with other funding agencies, such as DoC, QEII Trust, Landcare Trust, Fish and Game, Forest and Bird, and the Tasman Environmental Trust.

Funding will initially come from the \$120,000 currently allocated to the Upper Catchment Works Programme. After a one-year trial, the level of demand for funding

will be reviewed, to determine if more funding is justified. The Council will also investigate applying for funds from the Government's Biodiversity Strategy fund.

Rate relief is another incentive that could be offered, but is likely to be insignificant in value, and a less efficient mechanism than the above incentives. The waiving of development impact levies on resource consents in return for riparian works may have potential. Other options include the provision of planting and fencing materials at cost, and the provision of labour, from such groups as the Kahurangi Trust.

## **Council Land Management**

A protocol will be developed to guide the relevant Council staff as to how this Strategy is to be implemented. This will result in the Environment and Planning, Community Services and Engineering Services departments examining how they can improve riparian management. For example, alternatives to planting just willows as part of river protection work will be examined in certain places, and Council pest management work will target particular high value riparian areas. The protocol will be developed with staff and signed by senior management.

### **2.5 Catchment Action Plans**

By targeting the above methods at particular catchments it is more likely that overall environmental quality will improve. The benefit of a landowner fencing a stream is marginal when other landowners on the stream allow stock access. A catchment approach is the most effective way to enhance water quality and aquatic habitat. This does not mean that the Council will not support landowners committed to making environmental improvements throughout the District. But a mix of "focus catchments" as well as "focus farms" is required.

The targeted catchments can provide a model for what improvements can be made using particular methods. Focusing on a particular catchment can also be a means to establish collaborative action across a number of organisations. It can also be a means to address a range of related issues in a catchment, from pest management to bank erosion. The trialing of this integrated approach would be good grounds for applying for funds from the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund (SMF).

A catchment action plan would identify the particular issues in a catchment and work with the local community to address these through the range of methods that have been discussed above. An important first step is to discuss with landowners the values of the water bodies on their property. Activities outside the riparian area, such as vegetation clearance, grazing management and irrigation, could also be addressed. Riparian management will be most cost-effective when embedded within a broader catchment management framework.

The Motueka Integrated Catchment Management project (ICM) will provide such a framework on a large scale and over a long time frame. The information and resources brought to the District through the ICM project needs to be capitalised on when implementing the Strategy. This may mean establishing a catchment action plan in a sub-catchment of the Motueka.

## **Catchment Action Plan Process**

### ***For the Catchments/Waterways***

1. Develop a “vision” for the priority catchment/waterway – a shared, community focus for the future.
2. Develop management objectives as steps towards the vision.
3. Develop a vision and management objectives for specific reaches.
4. Prioritise the management objectives and reaches.

### ***For Each Reach***

5. Assess the values – (baseline).
6. Identify problems – the gap between existing condition and the vision.
7. Identify riparian land management needs to deal with the problems.
8. Assess costs/benefits and likelihood of success.
9. Take action to meet riparian needs.
10. Monitor success against baseline and vision at reach and catchment level, and review programme.

### **Box 3: Criteria for Selecting the Catchments**

- Involves a significant obvious problem.
- We have information on what is causing the problem and possible solutions.
- The local community is aware of the problem and supportive of action.
- Other agencies and groups are willing to be involved.
- Resources are available for addressing the scale of the problem.
- There is a high likelihood of achieving measurable success.
- Innovation in this catchment will be applicable to other catchments.

There are a number of catchments that could meet at least some of these criteria. The availability of information on the extent of the problem and its causes is the first criteria that must be met. Table 7 lists some catchments and the issues that could be targeted by catchment action plans:

**Table 7: Candidate Catchments for Action Plans**

Catchment	Issues
The small catchments between the Onahau and Onekaka rivers.	Small high value streams with rare native fish. Degraded water quality and aquatic habitat. Impacts on high value coastal areas. Local community support.
Te Kakau Stream (Takaka)	Weed infestation and water quality problems. High aesthetic and recreation values. Local community support.
Aorere Catchment or sub-Catchments	High value streams with rare native fish. Degraded water quality and aquatic habitat. Impacts on high value estuary.
East Takaka Springs	Degraded water quality in small spring fed streams feeding into the Takaka River above Payne's Ford.
Waikoropupu Springs	Protect high water quality and cultural values of springs.
Motueka subcatchment - Waiwhero Stream Orinoco Stream Sherry River Little Sydney Creek	Link to ICM project. Degraded water quality. Impacts on fish spawning. Public access and amenity issues.
Wai-iti River	Degraded water quality. Impacts on trout spawning. Sites of high terrestrial habitat value. Public access and amenity issues
Reservoir Creek (Richmond)	Degraded water quality. Local community interested.

**Table 8: Priority Actions to Enhance Water Quality and Habitat Values**

No.	Yr	Action	Responsibility	Timing
1.1	1-3	Establish and promote the new River and Stream Management Fund and Advisory Service.	Policy Planner - MW Resource Scientist – ASB	Operational March 2001
1.2	1	Establish a protocol for Council staff to implement the Strategy.	Policy Planner - MW Department Managers – DBK, PT, LK	June 2001
1.3	1	Present findings of water quality monitoring to communities.	Policy Planner - MW Compliance – IG Resource Scientist – RS	Community meetings by May 2001
1.4	1-3	Meet landowners in priority catchments to discuss aquatic habitat issues, and carry out further investigations where required.	Policy Planner - MW DoC, and Fish and Game	Initial meetings by June 2001
1.5	1-3	Promote stream monitoring and care group concept to schools, landowners, and community groups.	Environmental Education – SC Policy Planner - MW	Hold teacher workshop March 2001 Ongoing liaison
1.6	1- 3	Establish partnership with Tasman Dairy industry.	Policy Planner - MW Resource Scientists - JT, RS	Meet dairy industry representatives and discuss options by June 2001
1.7	1- 3	Participate in Meat Board monitor farm field days.	Policy Planner - MW Resource Scientist – ASB	Ongoing
1.8	1	Develop Water body Values and Uses Database.	Resource Scientist – RS Fish and Game, DoC	June 2001
1.9	1-2	Develop water quality database including data from external groups.	Resource Scientist - RS	June 2001
1.10	1	Organise a land-water management workshop, and establish a project team from interested parties.	Council Project Team: ADF, MW, ASB, JT, SC	June 2001
1.11	1- 3	Produce and promote initial set of Fact Sheets. Provide media articles on an ongoing basis.	Environmental Education- SC Policy Planner- MW	June 2001
1.12	1	Select catchments and coastal areas for action plans.	Project Team: including Council and other parties	June 2001
1.13	1-3	Initiate mapping of riparian vegetation in Motueka catchment.	Motueka ICM Project	Ongoing
2.1	2	Review River and Stream Management fund and advisory service.	Policy Planner – MW Resource Scientist - ASB	Paper to Council February 2002
2.3	2-3	Where required, carry out more in-depth water quality monitoring and report results to communities.	Resource Scientist - RS Policy Planner - MW	Ongoing
2.6	2-3	Support dairy industry initiatives such as LIC “Healthy Water” project	Policy Planner – MW Resource Scientists -	Ongoing

No.	Yr	Action	Responsibility	Timing
		and "Focus Farm".	RS, JT	
2.8	2-3	Gather information for the Water Body Database and make it available to the public.	Resource Scientist – RS Fish and Game, DoC	June 2002
2.11	1-3	Produce and promote further Fact Sheets.	Environmental Education - SC	June 2002
2.13	2-3	Investigate and consult landowners on terrestrial habitat values in riparian areas.	Policy Planner - MW	June 2003
2.14	2-3	Prepare and implement Catchment and coastal Action Plan(s).	Project Team	Community meetings July 2001. Plans completed November 2001.
2.15	2	Apply for SMF funding for initial catchment action plan.	Project Team	November 2001

Year 1 is until July 2001

Year 2 is until July 2002

Year 3 is until July 2003

## **PART 3: PUBLIC ACCESS**

### **1. Introduction**

#### **1.1 What is the Issue?**

The issue is how can the Council best maintain and enhance public access to riparian areas to meet the recreational needs of the public, and in so doing minimise any adverse effects on neighbouring landowners and the environment. The Council is addressing this issue in recognition of the benefit to the community of improving access, and the fact the RMA requires the Council to maintain and enhance public access to riparian areas as a matter of national importance (Section (6d)).

Many members of the community, such as the Brightwater Walking Group, Golden Bay Public Access Group, and Fish and Game, are advocating for greater public access to riparian areas.

Some landowners have concerns about public access across their land. This is due to concerns about privacy, security, vandalism, the impact on stock, and perceived impacts on property values. However, these concerns can often be addressed by building a good relationship between the parties involved.

Public access may not always be appropriate in certain riparian areas due to the potential for environmental impacts, such as rubbish dumping, damaging native vegetation, and disturbing bird life.

#### **1.2 What are the Barriers?**

The barriers to enhancing public access to riparian areas include:

- Lack of information about where it is appropriate to improve public access and what form access should take (e.g. walking or vehicular).
- Physical barriers to access, such as vegetation, or lack of formed tracks.
- Lack of resources to establish and maintain access.
- Lack of legal access to riparian areas.



## 2. Actions

The Strategy focuses on the non-statutory actions the Council will take to improve access. The Council will focus on improving access to existing public land. The Council will also work with landowners who are willing to provide for public access, whether by informal or formal arrangements. A range of methods are required to address the barriers identified above, these include:

- Investigation and consultation.
- Management of public land.
- Negotiation with landowners.
- Information provision.

This section describes these general methods and concludes by identifying the priority actions for improving public access to riparian areas over the next three years.

### 2.1 General Methods

#### Investigation and Consultation

The Council has carried out a limited amount of consultation and investigation into where public access should be improved when considering, public demand, availability of access, and what form of access is appropriate. This work has shown that the coast and main stems of rivers are the most heavily in demand for public access.

What is now required is to examine specific areas in more detail to determine:

- What public access is already available?
- What demand is there for access to be improved?
- What form of public access (e.g. walking or vehicle, what conditions of access are required) is appropriate to avoid adverse impacts on the environment and landowners?
- What problems is existing public access causing (e.g. rubbish dumping) and how can these be addressed?
- How can access on public land be improved?
- Are any private landowners willing to improve public access through their properties?
- What will be the cost of any proposal to improve and maintain access?

This investigation will require consultation with relevant landowners and communities. The investigation and consultation would initially target those stretches of river and coast that are more likely to have demand for improved access. These include:

- Coastline: Mapua to Richmond.
- Coastline: Lower Moutere to Riwaka River mouth.
- Wairoa, Lee, Roding, Wai-iti, and Waimea rivers.
- Motueka River.
- Riwaka River.
- Takaka River.
- Aorere River.
- Buller River.

Work has already begun on the Wai-iti River and Waimea Estuary, given the interest shown by the communities in these areas. The output of the further investigation and consultation is envisaged to be a priority list of actions for the Council to improve access on public land, to negotiate with landowners willing to improve public access through their properties, and to address any adverse effects that existing public access is causing.

### **Council Management of Public Land**

After carrying out the above investigation and consultation in a particular area the Council will identify how its management of public land, such as Council reserves, can improve access in an appropriate manner. This will involve a number of Council departments, who will work together under the Council protocol established to implement this Strategy.

The type of action involved could include:

- Improving existing walkways and reserves by clearing vegetation, providing signs etc.
- Establishing new walkways.
- Renegotiating grazing leases to improve access.
- Altering the way river protection works are carried out to improve access on public land.

These actions would be incorporated in reserve management plans prepared by the Community Services Department, and river works programmes developed by the Engineering Services Department. There are grounds for the funding of some of this work to come from the general rate contribution of \$600,000 to the river and flood protection programme. Improving access to our rivers could provide a benefit to those ratepayers making a contribution to this programme but not receiving any direct benefit from flood protection work.

### **Negotiation With Private Landowners**

In certain cases there may be high demand for improved public access to riparian areas over private land. This may be for access to a swimming hole or to complete a walkway where there is a gap in public ownership.

The Council may approach private landowners in these situations to see if they are willing to provide public access. This does not mean private landowners will be under any compulsion to provide public access.

However, a private landowner may decide they have no problem with providing access, if certain conditions are met, or they may see benefits in having a designated accessway established with signs and styles to minimise some of the impacts of public access. Where the benefit to the community justifies it, the Council may also consider providing compensation, or actually purchasing the land concerned. The Council is already working with landowners in this manner, and will continue to do so as guided by the investigation and consultation described above. This is in accordance with the following method statement in the TRMP (8.1.20(d)(ii)):

“Acquisition or purchase of esplanade reserves and negotiation of esplanade strip and access strip agreements in agreed priority areas or circumstances.”

### **Information Provision**

There is a lot of uncertainty in the community as to where public access exists and where it does not. The detailed investigation described above will allow the Council to identify public land where public access is appropriate, and to promote it through signs and public access pamphlets. Maps showing where legal access exists in the District should also be made available to the public at libraries and Council offices.

### **Box 4: Wai-iti River Walkway**

An example of how Council can improve public access is its establishment of walkways on the Wai-iti River at Wakefield and Brightwater. These communities have expressed a desire for greater access to the Wai-iti River. The Council is responding by negotiating with landowners to fill the gaps in legal access between existing reserves and unformed roads. Vegetation is being cleared, tracks formed, and car parking and signs will all eventually be provided. Eventually these walkways may be linked to walkways in the Waimea Soil Conservation and River Control Reserve. This could be part of a river and coastal walkway network the Council could promote for residents and visitors to the District.

### **Specific Actions**

Based on the existing information the Council has, Table 9 outlines the specific actions that the Council will carry out over the next three years to improve public access to riparian areas. The criteria used to determine these actions include:

- Resources available.
- Existing actions.
- Public demand.
- Appropriateness of public access (safety, security, and environmental impacts).
- Local community and landowner support.
- Cost-effectiveness (e.g. making the most of existing legal access and formed tracks).

**Table 9: Specific Actions for Council to Improve Public Access**

No.	Yr	Action	Responsibility	Timing
1.1	1-3	Continue to develop Richmond to Mapua walkway on coast. Establish access from Craft Habitat to Sandeman Road, and Mapua to Higgs Reserve.	Community Services - LK, BW	June 2001
1.2	1-3	Establish walkway along Wai-iti River at Wakefield.	Community Services - GT	June 2001
1.3	1-3	Improve track and clear vegetation on Waimea River from Appleby to Queen Street.	Property Manager - JF	Improve track by June 2001 Ongoing maintenance
1.4	1-3	Continue to investigate establishing walkway on Wai-iti River at Brightwater.	Community Services - GT Engineering - JM	Establish legal access for walkway and clear vegetation by June 2001
1.5	1	Establish a protocol for Council staff to take account of the Strategy in their work.	Policy Planner - MW Managers - DBK, PT, LK	June 2001
1.6	1	Develop Water Body Values and Uses Database.	Resource Scientist - RS Fish and Game, DoC	June 2001
2.1	2	Negotiate access for Richmond to Mapua walkway from Sandeman Road to Research Orchard Road.	Community Services - LK, BW	June 2002
2.4	2-3	Establish walkway on Wai-iti at Brightwater and investigate linking it to the Waimea Soil Conservation and River Control Reserve.	Community Services - GT, LK Engineering - JM	June 2002
2.7	2-3	Continue investigating and consulting on options to improve public access.	Policy Planner- MW Community Services -BW	Complete Motueka by June 2002
2.8	2-3	Begin to signpost and promote existing public access points and walks.	Community Services - LK	June 2002
2.9	2-3	Make maps available to the public of where public access exists as results of investigation become available.	Policy Planner - MW	June 2002
3.1	3	Continue establishing Richmond to Mapua walkway.	Community Services - LK,BW	June 2003
3.4	3	Continue to establish Wai-iti/Waimea river walkway.	Community Services - GT, LK Property Manager - JF	June 2003
3.7	3	Complete investigating and consulting on access issues in priority areas.	Policy Planner - MW Community Services - BW	June 2003
3.8	3	Continue signposting access points and produce a river walkways pamphlet.	Community Services -LK	June 2003
3.9	3	Continue to prepare maps for the public to show where public access exists.	Policy Planner - MW	June 2003

3.10	3	Implement any recommendations to come out of investigations and consultation.	Policy Planner - MW Community Services - BW	June 2003
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## **PART 4: EVALUATION AND REVIEW**

The Strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis to incorporate new information and to formulate annual work plans. A full public review will be carried out in three years to update the Strategy and to set out any recommendations on what changes to the TRMP may be required.

Evaluation is important as it provides a means to:

- Review progress and determine whether the desired outcomes are being achieved.
- Ensure accountability for those funding the implementation of the Strategy.
- Demonstrate the benefit of the Strategy.
- Make improvements and plan new projects.

To evaluate the implementation of the Strategy it is proposed to use the following methods:

- Continued monitoring of the key catchments to measure changes in water quality, fish species, macro-invertebrate communities, and the condition of riparian areas.
- Attitudinal and awareness surveys of land managers every five years to determine changes in attitudes and the level of awareness of issues and solutions.
- Survey public usage and satisfaction with access to riparian areas every five years.
- Evaluation of participants involved in activities.
- Feedback from people to the Council.
- Review of whether the actions in Table 8 and 9 have been completed.

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