

# **OPEN**

# **MINUTE ITEM**

# **ATTACHMENTS**

**Ordinary meeting of the  
Environment Committee**

**Thursday 23 July 2020  
Commencing at 10.30a.m.  
Council Chamber**

**Civic House**

**110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson**

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Item 6: Chairperson's Report



**Environment Committee**

**23 July 2020**

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**REPORT R18179**

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**Chairperson's Report**

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**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To update the Committee on recent developments.

**2. Recommendation**

***That the Environment Committee***

- 1. Receives the report Chairperson's Report (R18179).***

**3. Updates**

- 3.1 Council has been successful in obtaining \$1.7 million funding over 5 years for the implementation of the Maitai/Mahitahi Ecological Restoration Plan. This will focus on the Maitai/Maitahi esplanade reserve from the reservoir dam to the sea.
- 3.2 The funding has come from the Ministry for the Environment Quick Start - Public Waterways and Ecosystem Fund. This is one of 22 Quick Start projects across New Zealand funded by the Ministry as part of the first tranche of the Jobs for Nature programme. Jobs for Nature is a programme of work administered by the Ministry for the Environment which aims to stimulate New Zealand post-Covid, by providing employment for up to 2,000 people whilst at the same time addressing major environmental concerns, thus playing a part in creating a regenerative economy.
- 3.3 Council submitted on four other environmental projects which may be considered as part of other funding rounds. These projects are: the Grampians Ecological Restoration Plan; Hira wetland project; significant natural areas and accelerating the Taiwan Cherry eradication programme.
- 3.4 The Central Government funding augments the success and extensive investment the Council and community has already made in this catchment. Council has been working in partnership for many years now with Te Tau Ihu iwi, Friends of the Maitai, the community and key agencies in the region to continually improve the health of the

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Maitai/Mahitahi River. Council's Project Maitai/Mahitahi funding was \$1.6 million over 4 years which resulted in significant ecological gains in the Maitai catchment. Examples include the Groom Creek Wetland and the Inanga spawning site at Shakespeare Walk.

- 3.5 The intention of the Maitai/Mahitahi Ecological Restoration Plan is to provide social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits all in one package. The overarching aim is to create a river that is safe to swim in and take kai from, as well as a place that everyone can feel connected to.
- 3.6 The Maitai/Mahitahi is of immense spiritual, traditional and historical significance for Te Tau Ihu iwi and there are opportunities to work with iwi on this project. For generations as a tūpuna awa (a sacred river), it has been an enviable source of water, food and wellbeing for iwi of this region.
- 3.7 The Ecological Restoration Plan is in its final stages of development. It takes a holistic view and makes recommendations for the various parts of the catchment. It includes the development of wetlands and further improvement to habitats. 24 hectares of land will be managed for weed control and eight kilometres of riparian planting will occur with a total of 125,000 plants to be planted. The existing values of the Maitai, including exotic specimen trees, will be retained and enhanced.
- 3.8 Intended outcomes include:
- enhanced water quality.
  - a massive reduction in weeds that will help to reduce the spread of invasive weed species across a wider area.
  - the replanting and preservation of indigenous tree and plant species, some of which are found only in the Maitai / Mahitahi Valley.
  - the development of a food corridor that will support the movement of native bird species across the Nelson region, from the mountains to the sea.
- 3.9 The Ministry has provided some upfront funding for a project manager to deliver the 5-year programme. The NCC based project manager will be appointed over the next month and plant orders are also in hand. The rest of the funding will be used primarily for the creation of 30 FTE in the conservation/restoration sector over 5 years. These roles will not be appointed by Council, with delivery being through experienced contractors who will employ for the positions.
- 3.10 One of the initial tasks of the project manager will be to reach out to iwi, Friends of the Maitai and the community to see how Council can look for opportunities for collaboration over the life of the project.

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- 3.11 The funding also provides a huge opportunity to accelerate work that the Council already had planned which progresses the objectives of National Policy Statements for Freshwater Management and proposed for Indigenous Biodiversity.
- 3.12 Council is looking to utilise the successful funding for leverage for additional funding to bolster the programme.

**Author:** Kate Fulton, Chairperson

**Attachments**

Nil





## Lower Maitai



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te kaunihera o whakatū





## Shakespeare Walk





## Brook Stream confluence



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## Hanby park





## Black Hole, Branford Park



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## Almond Tree Flat ford



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## Upstream of Almond Tree Flat



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## Near Sharlands Creek confluence





## Old nursery site



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## Groom Creek Wetland





## Groom Creek Wetland



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## Groom Creek area



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## Groom Creek/Maitai camp area



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## Friends of Maitai planting area opposite Maitai Camp



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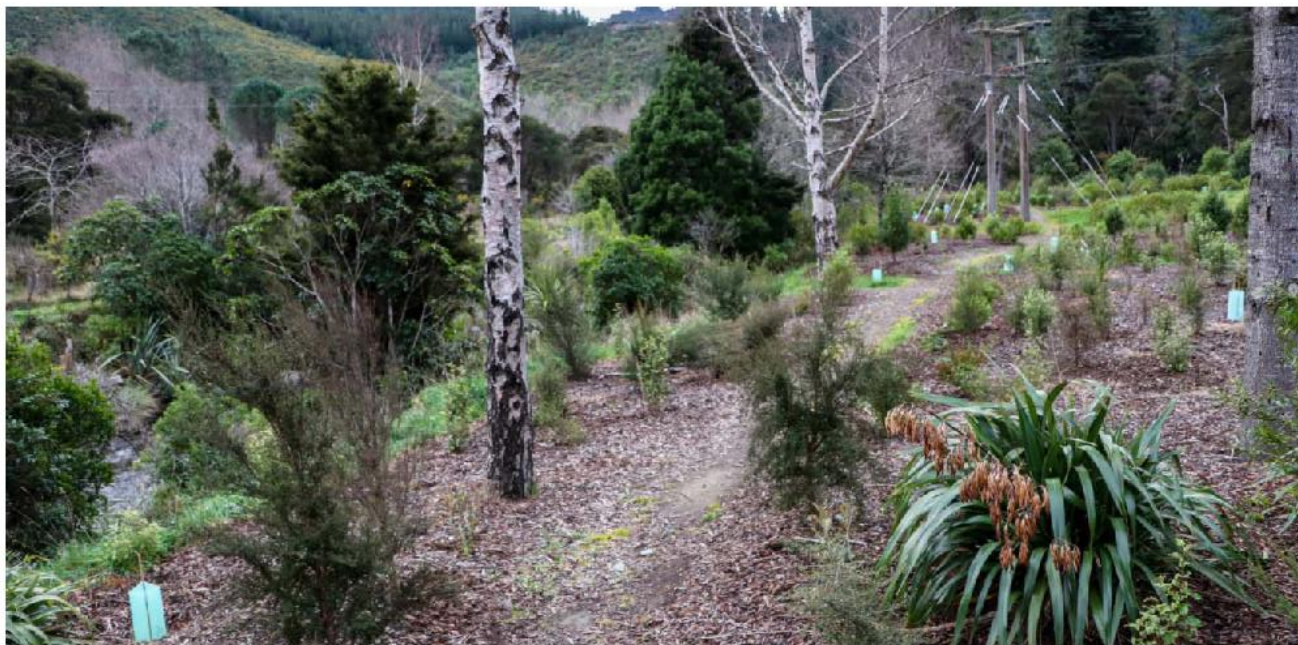
## Friends of Maitai planting area



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## Upstream of Maitai camp





## Horseshoe bridge







## Maitai Dam area



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## Maitai Dam area







## Upstream of Maitai dam

