WAIORA MANUHEREKIA

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Manuherekia wetland network

Chatto Creek Wetland

Site Details

- **Landowner:** Andrew Paterson – Matakanui Station
- **Primary contact:** Andrew Paterson.
- **Location**
  - Coordinates: Easting 1325857, Northing 5003810
  - Ecological District: Maniototo
  - Ecological Region: Central Otago
- **Wetland dimensions:** 3.6 ha.

Site Map

**existing fence lines are indicative only*

Current wetland condition photo

Photo taken November 29, 2024.

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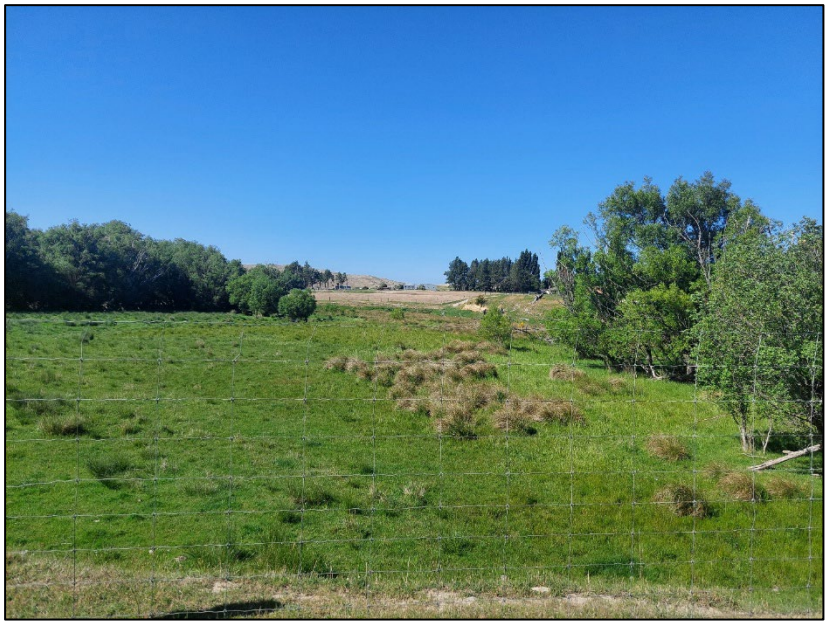

Site Description

General

Primary hydrosystem: Palustrine
Secondar hydrosystem: Riverine
Primary wetland class: Marsh
Secondary wetland class: Swamp
Primary wetland form: Flat
Secondary wetland form: Basin
Primary structural class: Grassland
Secondary structural class: Sedgeland

Topography

Soils: Information retrieved from S-Map Online, 27/03/2025.
Soil Sibling: Omel_2a.1. Shallow, loam, well drained. Proportion: 100%.

Current Vegetation

Vegetation around the edges and banks of the wetland area comprises pasture grasses and exotic herbs with scattered gorse and broom. The creek runs through the centre of the site, vegetation along creek edges is dominated by tall, dense crack willow. Vegetation in depressions adjacent to the creek and channels with flowing water includes blue sweet grass and water forget-me-not and occasional pukio. The wider marsh is dominated by grasses and sedges including sharp spike sedge, Yorkshire fog, lotus, creeping bent and rushes (soft rush, wi and jointed rush). A *Carex* species (possibly *Carex sinclairii*) was also dominant within this area, however, no seeds or flowers were present and identification was not possible.

Special Features

This site has good connectivity to other similar wetlands within the catchment.

Nearby Natural Areas

The upstream wetland area is also being restored within this project. Further up the catchment, on the same property, is good existing native plant values. There areas will be providing habitat for terrestrial and aquatic native wildlife.

Wildlife

Presence of native galaxias and cockabullies was identified upstream of this site during the project visit on 29th of November 2024. Methods to detect the fish were electric fishing and eDNA samples.

Description of water flow and drainage

The flow path through this wetland has become somewhat constrained due to dense crack willows growing along the creek margins.

Current condition

The wetland is currently being impacted by stock access, woody weeds, exotic grasses and sports fish.

Enhancement Proposal

Vision

Allow wetland area to retain and improve native vegetation values, extend the revegetation efforts of the upstream area, improve water quality outcomes in Chatto Creek and continue to support habitat for native galaxias.

Objectives

Exclude stock from wetland area and remove all woody weeds and allow native vegetation to regenerate.

Expected outcomes

Fencing & Planting

The true right and downstream border requires fencing to exclude stock from this site. Stock exclusion will allow existing native values higher in the catchment to establish along this reach. The total fencing length required is approximately 410 m. No planting is scheduled to happen under this project. However, enrichment planting of appropriate native species at a later date will improve the biodiversity values of the site. Do this as time and resources allow.

Weed control

Aerial spray willows and continue to hand spray gorse and broom. Cut and pasting gorse and broom instead of spraying could be considered once plants are at a low abundance. Also recommend searching the area for small crack willow outside of the large area of trees and controlling them.

Sedimentation

Sedimentation from surrounding land use will accumulate in wetland vegetation along the margins of this wetland before it can enter the waterway. Floods will continue to re-mobilise these sediments, but as vegetation re-establishes, the effects of sediment remobilisation will lessen. Preventing stock from accessing waterway will also prevent the re-mobilisation of sediments.

Total Investment

Fencing: $6,052
Weeds: $0
Planting: $0
Total: $6,052

Funding source

Fencing materials – Waiora Manuherekia
Fencing installation & ongoing weed maintenance – Landowner.

Monitoring

Annual photopoint monitoring to be used to track changes in the wetland.
Annual SHMAK monitoring can be used to track improvements in ecosystem health.