

Regional Policy Statement Implementation Report

Geoff Skene, Manager

September 1999

1. Trees for Survival (Nigel Clarke)

At this time of the year there is little to report in the way of major developments. The task at the moment is mainly to ensure that schools are well stocked for the coming planting season.

Of note is Nigel's recent commendation for this work by the Wellington Region Environmental Agency through the Agency's annual environmental awards programme.

2. Waikanae River (Geoff Skene)

The RPS team's work on the Waikanae this year will be guided by the ecological strategy currently being prepared by Geoff Park for the Flood Protection Department and Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai. This strategy is expected to be completed in a few weeks. There are opportunities to undertake small scale wetland restorations and stream bank enhancements at several places along the river.

In anticipation of this, and the possibility of planting locally sourced native trees elsewhere in the river corridor once river works are completed, we are working with the tangata whenua to collect and pot up kohekohe seedlings which are growing in the bed of the river. These are areas which will be subject to upcoming river works and which would result in the loss of these plants. The seedlings will be grown on at the local marae. We will continue to develop our ecological enhancement work on the Waikanae in partnership with Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai.

3. Pauatahanui Inlet (Tim Porteous)

The Core Group has been formed to prepare the Vision and Action Plan for the Inlet. It held its first meeting on 16 August and will meet again to consider a range of options for the vision on September 8. The group, which represents the Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet, local authorities, farmers, residents, and the tangata whenua, is cohesive and dynamic and is approaching its task with gusto. Tim Porteous, who has now taken up his position, is running this project.

4. Waitohu Stream Care Group (Nigel Clarke)

A dedicated group of Otaki residents have formed a stream care group to improve the water quality and native fish habitat in the lower reaches of the Waitohu Stream. Nigel has assisted the group by giving advice on planting options. We have also provided some potting mix and seedlings and Nigel will continue to work with the group to

achieve both its and the Council's aims in regard to the stream. The group is also taking an interest in the dunes by the mouth of the stream and is working with the Kapiti Coast District Council to restore them.

5. **Kaiwharawhara Stream (John Holmes)**

Also part of this year's programme is a project to work on one of the degraded urban streams of the Wellington City area. After an approach from the Trelissick Park group, we have agreed to work on water quality and habitat issues in the lower part of this stream. This work will commence once John returns from leave in late September.