



Mangapu River Riparian Restoration



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To undertake riparian enhancement work on the Mangapu River at Oparure.

The Mangapu catchment sits west of Te Kuiti, and flows north onto Otorohanga where it joins with the Waipa River. Much of the upper catchment is limestone, and so the awa flows underground, surfacing at various puna around Oparure and Troopers Road. The Mangarawa and Mangatea Streams are major tributaries within the Mangapu catchment, and all are significant awa to the local community.

Much of the catchment is now in agriculture, and whilst stands of kahikatea are common, the banks of the awa are bare of native vegetation through most of its journey. As such sedimentation and bank erosion is common, and biodiversity and ecology values of the river have been severely degraded.

This application, on behalf of the Oparure community seeks to develop a community care group model for the catchment, and undertake riparian restoration throughout up to 6km of riparian margin. This restoration and enhancement will be delivered through increased riparian set-backs and well planned margins, whilst through the three years of the project the community will be provided with opportunities to connect with the awa and engage in restoration activities and partnerships. This project will not complete the restoration of the Mangapu, but is a significant starting point that will provide motivation and inspiration for many years to follow.

Overall the project will improve the water quality of the Mangapu River by reducing sedimentation and microbial contamination through provision of increased set-backs along approximately 6km of riparian margin.

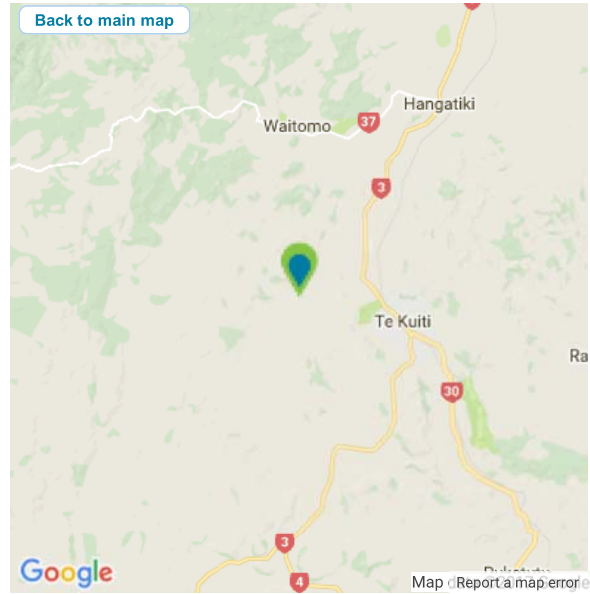
Another outcome will be an increase in ecosystem and biodiversity values, and the protection of the Mangapu River banks from further erosion and flooding by promoting the planting of native species. Create corridors of native vegetation along the riparian margins to provide links between significant protected Kahikatea remains i.e. Pehitawa and Te Uira A2.

Through relationships with Te Wharekura O Maniapoto, the local Oparure community, iwi, agencies and councils, this project will provide an opportunity for partnerships and increased involvement in environmental enhancement. The aim of this is to develop Oparure based Restoration Care Group within the local community, which in turn will build on the enhancement work undertaken as part of this project.

This project is funded by the Waikato River Authority (WRA 13-051).



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