

You
are part of a
special area
of unique
value

The backdrop of forests and multitude of streams weaving their way through farms and lifestyle blocks form the major catchment of the Pauatahanui Inlet.

How to get involved

We want your input to ensure the project provides real benefits to you and the wider community. Please get involved through:

1. filling in and returning the attached form
2. attending focus group meetings
3. reading and responding to material we send out
4. participating in seminars and field days, mid 2006
5. and above all, sharing your experience and ideas, and telling us when we are wrong!

To contact us and obtain more information:

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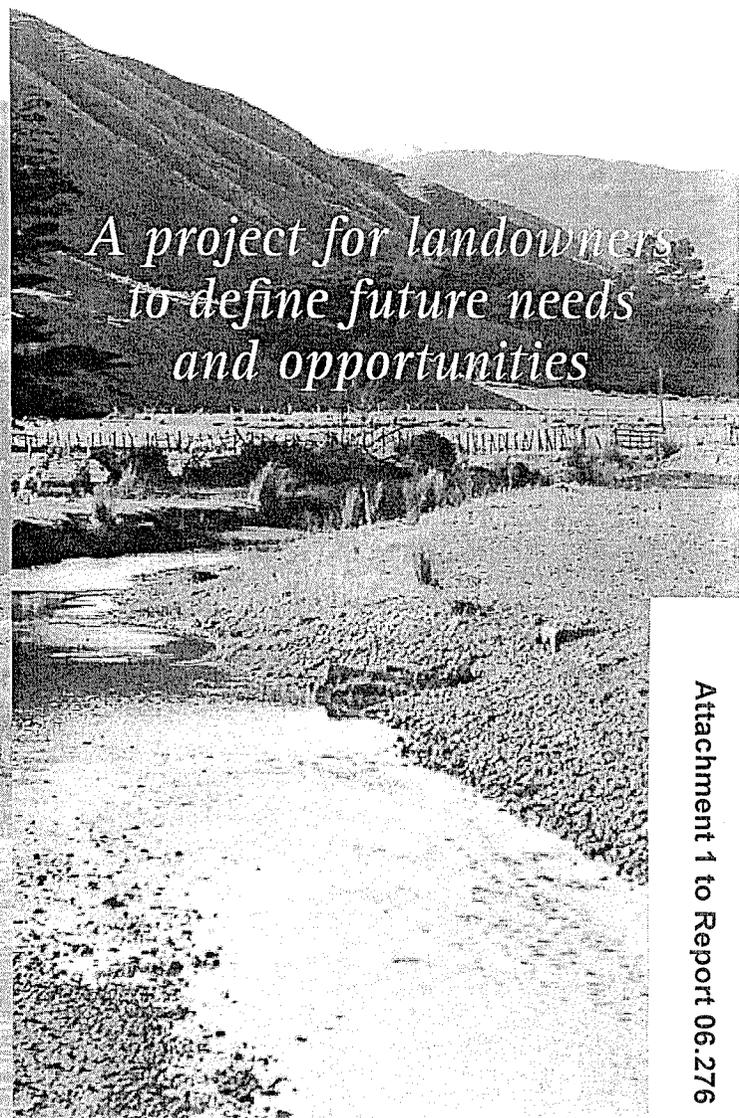
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Pauatahanui

*water, vegetation,
and communities*



*A project for landowners
to define future needs
and opportunities*

A special place with unique values

The forests, farms and waterways provide incomes, lifestyles, and recreational opportunities for people in the catchment and supply water to a highly significant estuary. It is also home to a diversity of wildlife and fish.

But like many catchments in New Zealand, Pauatahanui is under pressure from erosion, sedimentation and flood damage which threaten to degrade its value. These issues affect those living in the catchment and impact on the health of the inlet – a special, fragile place.

Water quality and downstream values – the significance of vegetation

Woody vegetation – shrubs, trees and forests – in key areas of the catchment is important to water quality. Vegetation can:

- protect soils that are vulnerable to erosion
- shelter the ground from weather extremes and bind the soil
- stabilise bank erosion and provide a final filter for sediment
- keep water cool and reduce algal growth
- regulate flood events and control stream channel erosion.

Most importantly, vegetation can be modified relatively quickly by landowners' management choices.

Creating a vegetation framework to sustain important values

We want your help to build a vision for vegetation in the catchment that meets the needs of individuals and the wider community. We'd like to explore how woody vegetation can be used to:

- enhance the productivity and value of your property
- improve your living environment
- provide you security from storms
- improve your streams.

Having first understood the potential benefits for you, then we can build a vision for a vegetation framework that supports the wider community.

The community defining its own future

Any initiative you take is completely voluntary – but we very much need your input. This project is not about us telling you what to do on your land, it is about working together to maintain and enhance the special values of where you live and the income it provides. It is about landowners and the wider community creating a shared vision – or

map – of future vegetation cover in the catchment and directing future action. Our role is to help you create a workable and shared vision.

Who are we?

We are independent consultants with backgrounds in integrated land use planning, forestry and ecology. We have funding from the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund, and support from Greater Wellington Regional Council, Porirua City Council, Kapiti Coast District Council and QEII National Trust. The project is running concurrently in the Pauatahanui Basin and the headwaters of the Waikanae River.

What will the project provide?

- Access to information about the catchment.
- A broad map of the catchment that identifies areas where different types of vegetation and vegetation management would be suitable – helping you plan any planting you wish to undertake.
- Examples of whole-property plans that maximise multiple benefits from vegetation – helping individual landowners while fitting within a framework that benefits the whole community.
- Access to practical guidelines on what, where, and how to plant, and care for plants.
- A network of support (eg provision of information, advice, access to cheap plants, coordinated pest control, funding etc), so landowners can quickly get involved and begin enhancing vegetation on their properties.

