

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME NEWSBRIEF

If you require further elaboration or clarification of items contained herein, or any other matters relating to F&G business, please don't hesitate to contact your local councillor or the office.

Matters arising from the Council Meeting of 14 March 2026

Murray Young Wetland: The Chief Executive advised that weed control work had been completed following the conclusion of contracts with Natural Habitats. The maimai build had also been completed.

Banding Programme: The Chair queried whether banding approximately 3,000 ducks was normal. The Chief Executive advised that this is within expected levels. It was noted that banding on the Hauraki Plains did not occur due to adverse weather conditions.

Stone Jug Road Project: Council discussed progress on the Stone Jug Road project. The Chair suggested that once easements are registered on title, a formal opening should be held.

Licence Sales and Financial Update: The Chief Executive advised that licence sales in the Auckland Waikato region continue to track well against budget.

Matters Arising from the Chief Executive's Report

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Drift diving

Drift Diving - The Waihou, Awakino and Mangatutu were surveyed but the Whakapapa has not been completed due to staff availability and weather.

Population Surveys

Feedback on National Harvest Survey - Beau has worked on providing feedback on a National Harvest Report written by Matt McDougall from Eastern, as well as collating the North Island regions' feedback on the complementary report written by Matt and Heather Garrick.

Fish Harvest Survey

Tag Returns - Wild and Hydro Lake tag returns were updated in the respective databases. The Lake Arapuni Sterile Trout Study will end after the Arapuni Competition in March, and the report can be written during the winter.

HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT

RMA

Island Block Pump Station Replacement Consent Application - Following from the review of the Island Block Road Pump Station Replacement consent application, Clare raised concerns with the processing officer regarding the applicant's assessment of both the Waikato Regional Plan and the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (NES-F), particularly in relation to the legal status of the ongoing diversion and discharge activities and the adequacy of the applicant's assessment.

Hunua Quarry Fast-Track Application - Clare and Adam met with representatives from Winstone Aggregates to discuss their Fast-track consent application to expand the existing Hunua Quarry in the Hunua Ranges.

National Wastewater Discharge Standards - The new National Wastewater Discharge Standards have now been released as regulations under the Water Services Act 2021 (Local Water Done Well reforms). Clare and David attended a presentation with Kate McArthur reviewing the standards and discussing the implications for Fish & Game advocacy and consent involvement.

Waikato Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant Project - Clare met with consultants from Beca and representatives from Waikato Regional Council to discuss the Waikato Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant (Southern WWTP) project, part of the Hamilton City Council's City-Wide Waters programme.

Council Land

Wetland Works started on Cocks Block. Few small hiccups with identifying new patches of Cuscuta, but the groups working well with us to identify new patches and being flexible in working around them.

The wheelchair accessible maimai at the Murray Young Wetland has begun construction.

Non-Council Land

Works have started on Bob Clarkes wetland project. This project is funded by Gamebird Habitat Trust which we received \$8000 from for the project. The project aims to create a 0.8 ha area of shallow water habitat, adjacent to, but unconnected to the Mangapiko Stream

PARTICIPATION

Access Negotiation

Stone Jug Road - The final paperwork for the Stone Jug Road easement is waiting for Nigel's signature. Once the easements are registered the final invoice can be sent to the Outdoor Access Commission and the land can be sold to purchase other property.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ranging

Between John and Adam 22 contacts were made with anglers at Pupuke and the Cambridge area. No citations were given.

ADMINISTRATION

OSH

Health and Safety - The team has been spending time setting up and learning the new health and safety system, GetHomeSafe. There are still a couple of things to work out, but it is looking very promising.