

King Country River Care Strategic Plan 2018 – 2028

Vision: “Supporting resilient and thriving rural communities”

King Country River Care (KCRC) is an incorporated society taking a long-term view to caring for our environment, our people, and our communities. We have three primary objectives that are interconnected:

- 1) To protect the culture, economy, and resilience of our wider community
- 2) To facilitate and promote “good farming practice” of sustainable land management principles.
- 3) To ensure our regions farmers have a voice and are represented in communications with external stakeholders and development of policy.

Key Strategic Themes *(Review dates)*

1. Promote excellent on farm management *(March2022)*
2. Growing an active, engaged, inclusive membership based around catchment communities. *(May, June22)*
3. Build key stakeholder relationships and promote KCRC. *(Feb22)*
4. To protect and improve the quality of our waterways. *(July22)*
5. Gather evidence, identify and manage research needs. *(Sept22)*

KCRC Key statistics & Measurements

Catchments	Awakino	Mokau							Upper Mangaokewa	Nth Kawhia HC	Sth Kawhia HC	Marokopa
Subcatchments			Upper Mokau/ M'pehi	Mapiu/ Mapara	Mid Mokau	Mangaotaki	Mokaui ti	Lower Mokau				
Length	77km	167km										
Tributaries	502km	2003km										
Total Area; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reserve/DOC ● Farm ● Forestry 	383km ²	1444km ²										
No. monitored sites	4	6	1			1	2	2				
Landowners ¹	40	250										
Farmers engaged ²	35	145	26	23	19	25	33	19				
Fencing (km) ³		250										
Retired (ha) ⁴	6765	3200										

¹ Greater than 10ha

² Attended or apology at SC meeting 2019

³ Estimate for 2019

⁴ Estimate for 2019

Strategic Theme 1: Promote excellent on farm management practice (Updated March 2022)

Strategic Priority	Outcomes	Measures	Targets & Timeframes
Promote excellent on farm management	<p>Behaviours align with the Good Farming Practice Action Plan.</p> <p>Members and SC groups put in place Farm Environment Plans (FEPs), review existing FEPs, and promote the adoption of practical good farm practice, while maintaining financial resilience.</p>	<p>Workshops/Events completed (KYN, FEP, emergent) FEPs in progress/reviewed (%)</p> <p>Around wetlands/waterways /native bush: Fencing completed (km) Area retired (ha) Trees/plants/poles planted (no.)</p> <p>Changes in land use (include land into pines) Changes in on farm stocking rate Changes in cropping practices – establishment, area, timing, management Changes in attitude/awareness</p>	<p>Report on Changes every 2-3 years (2020, 2022, 2025...) included in Annual stakeholder reporting.</p> <p>All participants supported to have; “Know GHG Number” by 2025, 60% Landowners have FEP by 2023, 80% native bush (>1ha) to be fenced by 2028, 60% permanent waterways to have cattle excluded by 2028.</p>

	<p>Investigate & undertake Pilot farms in each sub-catchment</p>	<p>Pilot farms or pilot projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MitAgator - complete • LUCI – complete • FGN – planned for 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 pilot farms or projects underway June 2019 • Forest Grade natives 2022
	<p>Educate and inform members and SC groups. Plan and run workshops/field days where needed.</p>	<p>Number of workshops/Fielddays held Number of attendees Survey requirements and whether meeting need SCGs to advise their needs going forward</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk mitigation or similar to all interested SCs by May 2019; complete • WQ workshop to members by April 2019; complete • WQ results presented to SCGs quarterly & included on website; Annual WQ/eDNA testing report highlighted. • MPI & 1BT project KPIs met or exceeded • 50 workshops/events/meetings annually • 750 attendees annually

Strategic Theme 2: Growing an active, engaged, inclusive membership based around catchment communities

Strategic Priority	Outcomes	Measures	Targets & Timeframes
Committed Farmer Membership	KCRC is well supported by farmers within Awakino & Mokau and Wider West Coast region.	Number of farmer members, Area of farm land involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 25% of all farmers are members by end 2019 ● 60% of farmers members by 2024 ● 80% of farm land area involved by 2024
	Farmers actively participate in KCRC events	Level of attendance at sub catchment meetings	75% of members attend each sub catchment meeting/event
Active, engaged sub-catchment groups	Each sub catchment group attracts members	Members by catchment sub group	20% membership of each sub catchment by end 2019
	Sub-catchment progress monitored and reported	Reports to KCRC meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meetings/actions ● Project/resource requests ● Level of attendance 	Reports to each KCRC meeting. Co-ordinator to follow-up

	Each sub catchment group is operating as an effective unit	There is a lead farmer and updated membership list for each sub catchment.	All sub catchments have at least 3 events annually.
	Each sub catchment creates, reviews/refreshes its own annual plan	Every sub catchment has an up-to-date plan.	Sub catchment plans reviewed annually.

Strategic Theme 3: Build Key Stakeholder relationships and promote KCRC (Updated Feb2022)

Key messages – farmers talking to farmers; farmers taking responsibility; how KCRC makes people feel.

Scarlatti reports & Google form data useful for insights.

Strategic Priority	Outcomes	Measures	Targets & Timeframes
Build key Stakeholder relationships and promote KCRC	Collaborative, strategic networks with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WRC West Coast zone committee and staff ● WRC elected councillor ● Waitomo & Otorohanga District Councils ● Local iwi – Maniapoto post treaty settlement organisation ● MPI, Te Uru Rakau, MfE 	Regular communication Attendance at meetings	Monthly WRC, MPI, MfE meetings or catchups Meet each party at least annually (ongoing).
	A diverse membership – targeting wider community and stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schools ● Dairy NZ, B+LNZ ● Fish & Game, Fed Farmers, DOC ● NZ Landcare Trust ● Local businesses ● Nurseries, other suppliers 	Regular communication Attendance at meetings	Meet or talk with each party at least annually (ongoing).

	KCRC influences future regulations for WRC West Coast Zone – encourages policy that results in actions that ensure resilient rural communities.	KCRC members understand current and future policy – national and regional	Ongoing
	Positive, trusted media relationship	Regular coverage in Waitomo News, Piopio Birdtalk, wider Waikato media and national rural media	Coverage at least twice a year locally and once a year in wider media.
	Regular email communication; Interactive, informative Facebook page and website.	Members, stakeholders, and public are well-informed around KCRC activities and thinking	Monthly member emails; 500 fb followers by December2019; Website developed June2022.
	Secure external funding for KCRC and SC group activities	Future funding sources identified; applications completed.	One new external funder/partner on board annually.

Strategic Theme 4: To protect and improve the quality of our waterways.

Strategic Priority	Outcomes	Measures	Targets & Timeframes
To protect and improve the quality of our waterways.	Improved understanding of water quality and stream /river health.	<p>Establish a 5year “Baseline” using existing WRC monthly data.</p> <p>Members and SC groups understand annual & quarterly WQ results</p>	<p>Stream health/WQ meetings run for all SGs annually with FW ecologist or similar.</p> <p>Monitor & report quarterly and annual testing results – ongoing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SC groups ● Local newspaper ● website
	Improving trend for WQ and stream health measures over time.	<p>Improving trends from WRC Baseline.</p> <p>Improvement in Band (colours) for all attributes.</p> <p>Increased diversity and numbers of Indigenous life on eDNA/MCI/SHMAK testing.</p>	Ongoing trend of improvement over 3yr KCRC testing program; reviewed & reported annually.

	Further testing & investigation where required to understand anomalies or degradation.	Evaluate need for further WQ testing sites. Discussion within SCs around most appropriate measures for their area and requirement for sites.	Following Annual review confirm any further testing or actions required with SCG and FW ecologist or similar.
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Strategic Theme 5: Gather evidence, identify and manage research needs.

Strategic Priority	Outcomes	Measures	Targets & Timeframes
Gather evidence, identify and manage research needs	Improved understanding of water quality and stream /river health. Evaluate need for further WQ testing sites	Discussion within SCs around most appropriate measures for their area and requirement for sites; Members and SC groups understand monthly WRC WQ results	Stream health/WQ Fieldays run (WRC, NIWA) Monitor & report quarterly and annual WQ results – ongoing; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SC groups email ● Local newspaper ● KCRC monthly Newsletter ● Website & Facebook
	Improved understanding around measures for soil health, biodiversity and carbon neutrality.	Investigate future measures and targets for healthy soils, thriving biodiversity and reduced carbon emissions	Annual AGM reporting (June) – Aggregate GHG emissions info, plus other data where opportunity arises

	Improve understanding of social and economic impact for farming in our region.	Develop social & economic KPIs for region, also KPIs for evaluating effectiveness of on farm actions	Engage with interested parties annually – Landcare, WRC, AgResearch, NIWA By June 2023 - economic cost of GHG levy/HWEN options. Utilise MPI Pilot farm project funding.
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