

Makarewa Headwaters Catchment Group

Makarewa Headwaters' purpose is to understand how to manage farming practices to better the on-farm environment, to take responsibility for water quality, comply with environmental legislation and promote the values that drive food production in the area.

Makarewa Headwaters Catchment Group is made up of a core team of 10-12 people, with a wider group of 60 people (and growing). Members include sheep, beef, dairy and deer farmers, horticulture sector, and community members.



INVESTIGATION USING LUCI-AG

Teaming with Ravensdown, the Makarewa Headwaters Catchment Group has used the Land Utilisation Capability Indicator (LUCI-Ag) modelling tool to identify the impacts of land use on six farms in the catchment. This has pinpointed nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment (soil loss) hotspots.

The farms represent each of the different farm types in the catchment and each one is in a strategic location.

Findings have enabled each farm to explore different mitigation options to find the best solutions, both for their property and for the community and waterways in the area.

A FEW EVENTS WE ARE PROUD OF:

» National Environmental Standards for Freshwater Field Day – 27 October 2020

Makarewa Headwaters Catchment Group hosted an event to consider practical aspects of the new legislation and potential on-farm solutions.

» Native Seed Nursery/Propagation Field Day – 26 February 2021

Malcolm and Margaret Mackenzie talked about how to propagate native seed from local sources. Attendees also saw what native shelterbelts can look like in a short period when well managed.

» The Great Gorge Clean Up – September 2021

This competition (via Facebook) provided some fun for the community during lockdown while cleaning up roadsides in the area with participants competing for prizes.

OBJECTIVES:

- » Be proud of what goes into the Makarewa River
- » Encourage Good Management Practices intergenerationally
- » Strive for best practice – sharing of knowledge and on-farm findings
- » Retain nutrient inputs utilising them as efficiently as possible
- » Continue to swim in our waterways, downstream and on-farm, for years to come
- » Hold community events
- » Create shared spaces
- » Provide a social, educational environment to upskill and share knowledge and connections
- » Provide a collective voice.



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*Tōnui ana te whenua. Tōnui ana te takata.
A thriving, prosperous land. A thriving, prosperous people.*

