

# Makarewa Headwaters Catchment Group

Ministerial visit Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2021

## Makarewa Headwaters Catchment Group

Supporting information for ministerial visit, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

### **Background information:**

- Established late 2019 by local farmers.

### **Purpose for establishment:**

- To understand how to manage our farming practices collectively and proactively, to better the on-farm environment, take responsibility for our catchments water quality, comply with new environmental legislation and promote the values that drive food production in this catchment as a collective voice.
- **Connect and create shared values:** Sharing best practices management techniques and knowledge across the community in a way which fosters learning, community connection and ensures the quality of our land and water for future generations to enjoy.

### **Supported by Thriving Southland**

- Both financially and through invaluable support of the team through offering connections, resources and profiling of our work throughout Southland.

### **Objectives:**

- Be proud of what goes into the Makarewa River
- Encourage good management practices intergenerationally
  - Which encourages a broader focus on the values of farming, rather than only focusing on fencing and planting activities
- Strive for best practice - sharing of knowledge & on farm findings
- Retaining the nutrient inputs to utilise as efficiently as possible
- Continue to swim in our waterways, downstream and onfarm, for years to come
- Community events & connection- creating shared spaces
- Provide a social, educational environment to upskill and share knowledge and connections
- Provide a collective voice

### **Recent activities (2020/2021):**

- Presentation from Justin Kitto, DairyNZ.
  - Review of Environment Southland water sampling results for our catchment and interpretation of findings.
- Field day with Corina Jordan, Beef & Lamb.
  - Discussion of pending freshwater legislation and farm management practices to support incoming legislation.

Contact:

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- Rapid Habitat assessment on local farm completed by students of Limehills Primary School.
- Native plantings workshop and field day with local farmer Malcom McKenzie
- eDNA testing – results pending. Will provide valuable information highlighting genetic material passing through catchment waterways
- LUCI Ag Project – commenced July 2021
  - A decision support tool for investigating Phosphorus, Nitrogen and sediment loss and their pathways taken in any given farming ecosystem.
  - Using six farms, the findings will create key mitigations and recommendations at a whole catchment group level. Findings to be delivered through field days and engaging key industry stakeholders.
- Shared space and planting project alongside waterway – in initial planning stages

## Geography:

The catchment encompasses the Lora and Otapiri Gorge's to the middle reaches of the Makarewa River. It includes a range of land contour, including;

- Rolling hill country (including DOC land),
  - Vast privately owned native bush and tussock blocks,
  - Clear flat land near the township of Browns.
- Land use varies across the catchment and includes;
    - Dairy and dairy support
    - Cropping,
    - Sheep,
    - Beef,
    - Deer
    - Forestry and DOC land make up the balance of the catchment.



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