

KARAMŪ STREAM

We want to improve the state of the Karamū Stream

The Karamū Stream has a large catchment flowing from the hills and wetlands south of Hastings, and draining rain water from urban and farm areas of Hastings and Havelock.

The Clive River, in the lower coastal reaches, is popular for rowing, waka ama, boating and other recreation.

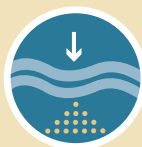
Many organisations, including the regional council, landowners and volunteers, have been working to improve the look of the stream and the water quality in it.



WHAT DO WE WANT TO FIX?



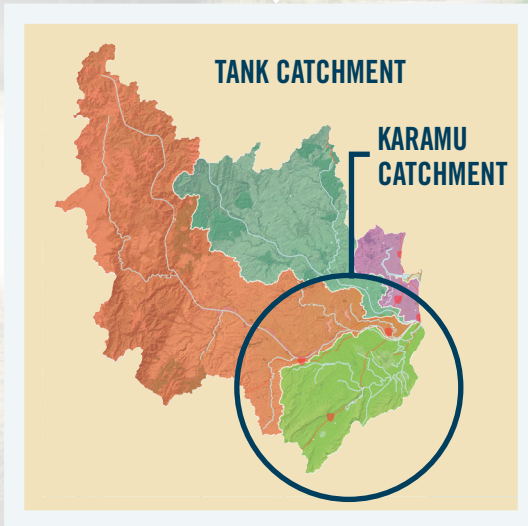
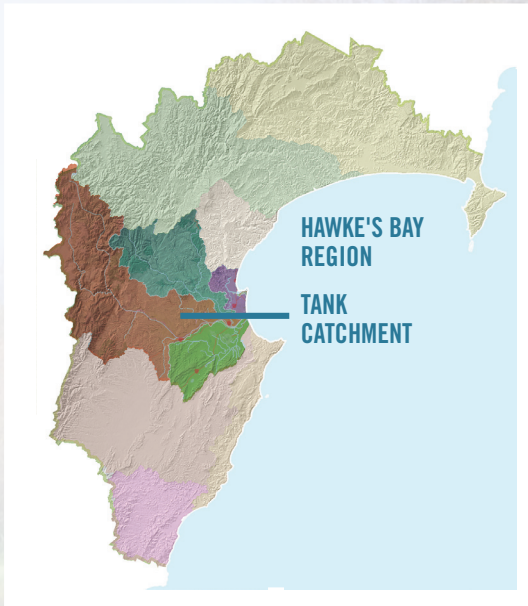
We want to accelerate the current stream edge enhancement programme.



We want to improve water quality and ecology by reducing the contaminants entering the water.

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS?

- Rain run off from urban areas of Hastings and Havelock North takes contaminants into the stream untreated.
- Sediment from stream bank erosion and from farmland, and chemical run off from orchards impacts on the ecology of the stream, such as the loss of pātiki (flounder) fisheries.
- Contaminants in the water also cause health issues for rowers and other water users in the Clive River and Waitangi Estuary.
- Many of the smaller tributaries in urban areas are used as dumpsites or 'compost' areas, encouraging weeds, pests and water contamination. Better awareness by homeowners can reduce this problem.
- During summer the sunshine, warmer nutrient-laden water with a lower flow, encourage excessive weed growth.



HISTORY

The Karamū is in fact a former river bed of the Ngaruroro but after floods in 1878 the Ngaruroro took its present course, except for the lower part of the river by Clive.

To reduce flood risks to the township, a river diversion scheme in the 1970s put the Ngaruroro into its current channel. The Clive River section was left below the confluence of the Raupere and Karamū streams.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?



There's been a lot of work done along the stream in the past 20 years, which continues, much of it involving voluntary work coordinated by Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

In the early 1970's channel clearance and willow control programme started to untangle and unclog the overgrown waterways.

1997 St Columba's Havelock North Environmental group started a restoration project lead by Hetty and Cyril Park.

The Karituwhenua Stream Enhancement Group is a group of neighbours who, over the past 20 or more years, have planted and enhanced a water course by their properties that drains part of Te Mata Peak into the Karamū.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council has worked with Hastings District Council, community groups and volunteers to enhance the stream side area alongside Havelock North with the result that this has become a very popular spot for rest and recreation.

Many marae are working with Hawke's Bay Regional Council to plant stream side areas on the Karamū and tributaries to improve water quality and habitats. Hastings-Havelock North Forest and Bird members have taken on a project to enhance the Poukawa Stream.

The TANK group is considering future policy needs for land and water use for the Greater Heretaunga Plains including the Karamū.



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