

Mahinga kai guidelines for Selwyn farmers



April 2017

Mahinga kai? What do I need to know?

If you're a farmer in the Cultural Landscape Values Management Area (CLVMA) and require a land use consent to farm, there are also additional requirements on you to address mahinga kai values.

As part of your resource consent application, you will be asked whether you agree to an additional mahinga kai management objective and targets in your Farm Environment Plan (FEP).

If you accept this, your practices and how they address the objective and targets will be examined during your Farm Environment Plan audits. All farmers will be audited at regular intervals depending on the grades you receive.

You won't need to start again. Use the checklist over the page to identify the practices and actions you'll need in place – and keep it alongside your FEP, ready for your audit.

Mahinga kai management objective and targets

What is mahinga kai and why is it important today?

Mahinga kai relates to the traditional value of food resources and their ecosystems. Mahinga kai is about survival for Ngāi Tahu, what sustains and nourishes the human body – clean water, clean kai, clean air, sufficient shelter, access to and being able to gather kai as our ancestors did, in a sustainable way for future generations.

Ka hāhā te tuna ki te roto, ka hāhā te reo ki te kāika, ka hāhā te takata ki te whēnua.

If there is no tuna in the lake, there will be no language resounding in the house, there will be no people on the land.

Nā Charisma Rangipuna i tuhi

Mahinga kai in Selwyn Te Waihora

For generations, Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and its streams were the abundant food basket of Ngāi Tahu, and they remain a considerable tribal resource. Today, however, Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere is also one of New Zealand's most polluted lakes, while the streams also often don't meet national requirements for water quality.

If you are farming in this area, there is therefore more to think about, although many farmers are already on the right track.

You'll now need to be aware of the mahinga kai values and risks on your farm, and address these when you apply your Industry-agreed Good Management Practices. You will also need to be more aware of how your drains are being managed and cleaned and proactively look at how you can enhance biodiversity values on your farm over time.

Doing so will ensure that your farming activities meet today's community expectations around good management practice, while also protecting traditional mahinga kai values and sustainability for generations to come.

How do I know if my property contains mahinga kai?

All properties in the area will contain mahinga kai, whether in the form of species, natural habitats, materials used for harvesting food or places where food or resources were gathered. This will include:

- Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere, Muriwai/Coopers Lagoon, and associated wetlands
- All waterways, drains (with water), wetlands, and springs
- Native vegetation and riparian area, and
- Areas with specific mahinga kai species and their habitats.

Objective:

To protect mahinga kai and manage waterways and drains recognising the cultural and ecological sensitivity to discharges of contaminants.

Targets:

1. Mahinga kai values are protected by implementing all other Farm Environment Plan Objectives and Targets taking mahinga kai values into account.
2. Mahinga kai species and habitats are protected when waterway (including drain) management and vegetation clearance occurs.
3. Mahinga kai habitats and species are sustained through management of remnant native vegetation and wetlands.
4. Properties within Selwyn District Council Drainage Scheme comply with any District Council Discharge of Land Drainage Water resource consent.

Values and key risks	<i>Identify here the mahinga kai values you have identified on your farm and key risks</i>
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Industry-agreed good management practices (To implement Target 1)	Yes No N/A	Example of Evidence
<i>Knowledge of mahinga kai values and risks on-farm are reflected in the application of Industry-agreed Good Management Practices. www.canterburywater.farm/gmp</i>	✓ ✗ —	
Additional management practices (To implement Targets 2, 3 and 4 in conjunction with Industry-agreed Good Management Practices)		
<i>Drain management practices are consistent with Selwyn-Waihora: A guide to managing your drains (Waihora Ellesmere Trust). www.wet.org.nz/projects/sustainable-drain-management-project</i>	✓ ✗ —	
<i>Plan drain clearance to avoid adverse effects on spawning times or migration of native fish (E.g. November to April are when young eels are present and īnanga spawning season is March to May inclusive)</i>	✓ ✗ —	
<i>Plan drain clearance to avoid disturbance to key mahinga kai species including koura (freshwater crayfish) and kākahi (freshwater mussels) and key habitat for species such as lizards as far as practicable.</i>	✓ ✗ —	
<i>Check worksites before starting drain clearance for any native nesting birds. If present, plan work to avoid disturbing them.</i>	✓ ✗ —	
<i>If there is potential for fish to be stranded, have someone to recover fish and return them to an undisturbed area upstream during the work and for at least one day after work has been completed.</i>	✓ ✗ —	
<i>Drain clearance material is disposed of so:</i> • Sediment is not lost back into waterbodies; • Damage to mahinga kai species and/or habitats is avoided	✓ ✗ —	
<i>Areas of remnant native vegetation, wetlands and springs are being protected.</i>	✓ ✗ —	
<i>An active programme to control or remove pest species is in place</i>	✓ ✗ —	
<i>Consent conditions in any District Council Discharge of Land Drainage Water resource consent that apply to the property are being met (currently Osbornes drainage catchment only).</i>	✓ ✗ —	
Key Actions (To implement Target 3 in conjunction with Industry-agreed Good Management Practices and the additional practices above)		
<i>Ways to enhance on farm biodiversity (e.g. habitats and/or corridors) have been identified and over time continuous progress is being made.</i>	✓ ✗ —	
Other Actions (If you indicated 'No' to any of the practices above, please outline your planned actions here. Use the next column to identify when you will carry out the actions)	When	Evidence of completion
	✓ ✗ —	



“ Got a question? I’m here to help you identify mahinga kai values on your farm and risks, and to discuss your practices to manage those risks. Together, we can restore the strong cultural and natural values in this land. ”

*Mananui Ramsden
Cultural Land Management
Advisor - Kaitohutohu
Tikanga Whenua*

You’re already on the right track

If you are implementing Industry-agreed Good Management Practices you will already be managing effects on water quality and helping to protect mahinga kai.

If your drains are being managed and cleaned to best practice you will also be making a significant contribution.

Riparian planting and any restoration alongside streams, drains (with water), wetlands, lakes or springs heads on your farm are also considered as protective steps to restore mahinga kai.



We can help

 Call Customer Services on
0800 324 636

- For help with whether you are in the CLVMA and need a land use consent to farm
- For assistance with identifying mahinga kai species
- For copies of Selwyn-Waihora: A guide to managing your drains; or
- To get in touch with our Cultural Land Management Advisor.

 Visit our website at
canterburywater.farm

- For information to help you determine whether you are in the CLVMA and require a land use consent to farm
- For photos of mahinga kai species
- To download Selwyn-Waihora: A guide to managing your drains.