

# Restoring three Waikato peat lakes through the Living Water programme

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The Living Water programme is a partnership between the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Fonterra which aims to improve biodiversity and water quality in five sensitive water catchments throughout New Zealand. At each site a range of projects such as planting, pest control and on-farm changes beyond business as usual are being under-taken. The Living Water partnership is a significant investment by both organisations, in terms of money and staff time, spread across five sites throughout New Zealand. An overview of the Living Water programme will be given using one of the sites: the Waikato Peat Lakes (Lakes Areare, Ruatuna and Rotomanuka), as a case study. Implementing a programme of this scale, with multiple landowners, organisations, iwi and collaborators, to achieve sometimes differing objectives has presented both opportunities and challenges. Reflections on the progress of the programme to date and what are the next steps will be presented.