



Meeting: Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group

Meeting Date: 6 December 2024

Presentations

Agenda Item 9.1 Update on Refreshed Lakes Strategy

Presentation: Refreshed Lakes Strategy **2**

Agenda Item 8.1 National Corbicula (Freshwater Gold Clam) Programme Update

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Update on refreshed Lakes Strategy

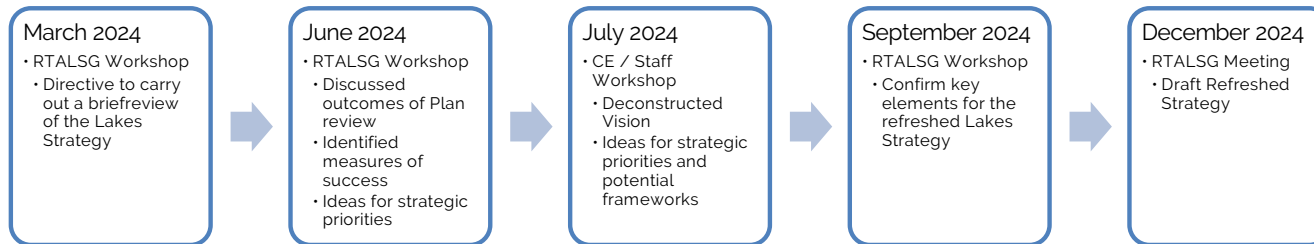
6 December 2024

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Rotorua
Te Arawa Lakes
Programme

Process to date

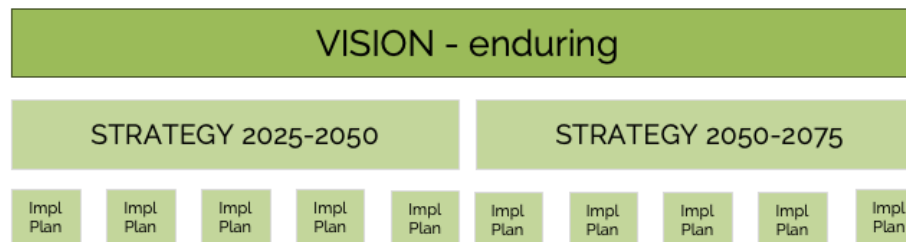


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Framework for the Lakes Programme

The lakes of the Rotorua district and their catchments are preserved and protected for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, while recognising and providing for the traditional relationship of Te Arawa with their ancestral lakes.



Medium term road map (25 years)

Action over shorter, flexible timeframes

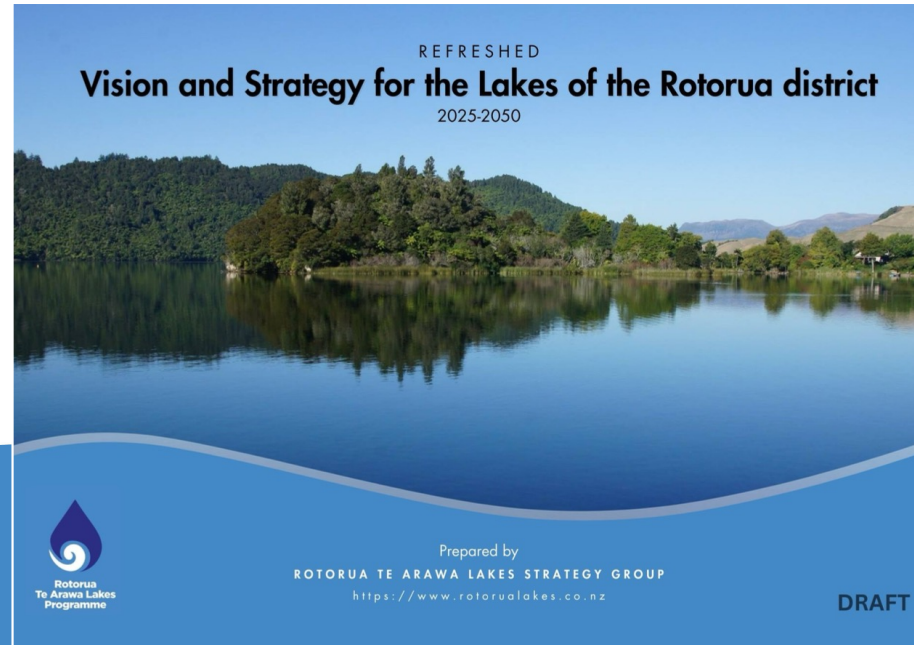
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme = work programme to deliver the strategy via action/projects within the Implementation Plan

Refreshed Lakes Strategy

Adaptive management, through:

- **strategy-led** (not funding-led) **action planning**; and,
- **outcomes-based** (not activity-based) **monitoring and reporting**.

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What's changed?

- More concise
- New Structure - whāriki (woven mat) framework
- New foreword by Independent Chair
- Revised principles (right)

To achieve our vision, we will be:

1. Outcomes-Focused:

We act with intention and clarity, ensuring that every initiative aligns with our long-term vision for the lakes.

2. Intergenerational:

We make decisions that benefit future generations, taking a long-term perspective that ensures the lakes' ecological and cultural wellbeing.

3. Adaptive and Knowledge-based:

We incorporate the best available knowledge - scientific data and insights as well as mātauranga Māori (including intergenerational knowledge) - and remain flexible to adapt to new information and changing conditions.

4. Grounded in Respect and Humility:

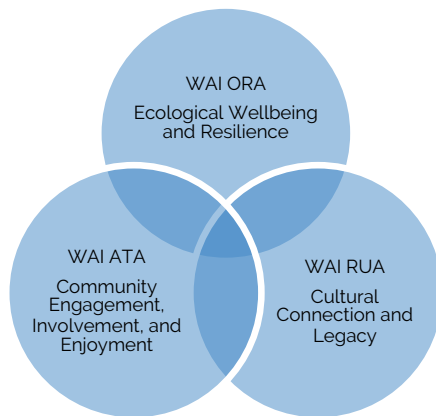
We approach our work with reverence for the lakes and their ecosystems, acknowledging the wisdom of past generations and learning continuously to improve our stewardship.

5. Collaborative:

We strengthen relationships across iwi, hapū, communities, landowners, and other stakeholders to foster collective impact and sustainable outcomes.

What's changed?

- New themes or Priority Focus Areas (evident from June workshop)



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: WAI ORA | ECOLOGICAL WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE

WAI ORA reflects efforts to improve the health and resilience of the lakes and their catchments. It focuses on improving lake water quality, restoring habitats and ecosystems, addressing biosecurity threats and safeguarding biodiversity to ensure the lakes remain sources of life and sustenance for future generations.

Outcome 1: The lakes and their ecosystems are thriving, resilient, and safeguarded for future generations.

Priority actions include:

- Nutrient management and water quality improvement initiatives.
- Restore wetlands and enhance riparian zones.
- Biosecurity surveillance and monitoring while carrying out pest control on land and in water.
- Develop and apply innovative solutions that combine mātauranga Māori and scientific methods.
- Incorporate climate change in research and monitoring to ensure adaptive management.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: WAI RUA | CULTURAL CONNECTION AND LEGACY

WAI RUA acknowledges the lakes as spiritual and cultural touchstones for Te Arawa hapū and iwi. This priority includes revitalisation of cultural practices and preservation of intergenerational knowledge systems along with the active involvement of Te Arawa in research, monitoring and restoration activities around the lakes.

Outcome 2: The enduring relationship and cultural practices of Te Arawa hapū and iwi with their lakes are honoured, revitalised, and actively upheld.

Priority actions include:

- Embed Te Arawa values in research, monitoring and restoration initiatives for the lakes.
- Iwi/hapū-led projects involving the lakes.
- Facilitate intergenerational knowledge transfer to empower younger generations.
- Enhance access to culturally significant locations.
- Structures, elements or events celebrating cultural identity (mahi toi, place names, storytelling).

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: WAI ATA | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, INVOLVEMENT, AND ENJOYMENT

WAI ATA relates to the active participation and collective expression of communities in caring for the lakes. The lakes serve as spaces of learning, connection, and shared enjoyment for both communities and visitors alike. By fostering opportunities for education, collaboration, and meaningful interaction, the lakes' significance is not only preserved but celebrated. This engagement builds a sense of ownership and responsibility, inspiring communities to take the lead in collective care and long-term stewardship of these treasured taonga.

Outcome 3: The Rotorua Te Arawa lakes are celebrated and accessible, providing meaningful opportunities for community engagement, education, and sustainable enjoyment.

Priority actions to achieve the above include:

- Educational resources, events and workshops.
- Lakeside events and initiatives.
- Community-driven lake care initiatives, such as clean-up days, citizen science projects, and planting events.
- Partnerships with local groups, businesses, and tourism operators.
- Cultural trails and interpretive signage.
- Accessible recreational areas.

Implementation or Action Plan

The following criteria was used to help filter the 'wish list' of ideas into a suite of realistic actions and projects:

- Aligns with the purpose of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group.
- Aligns with the Vision and one or more outcomes of the Refreshed Lakes Strategy.
- Enables collaborative action and collective impact.
- Progresses / complements existing projects.
- Involves innovative approaches.
- Involves opportunities for Iwi / hapū / community-led projects and/or environmental education.

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Ensuring success

1. **Strong leadership and coordination** - ensuring efficient decision-making and coordination across partners.
2. **Strong backbone** - ensure there is a core group that will drive delivery and ensure connection between the Strategy Group and community. This requires dedicated resourcing to ensure effective implementation.
3. **Outcomes monitoring and reporting** - to know that the resulting actions are making a tangible difference. It also enables adaptive management and transparent reporting.
4. **Funding and Resources** - Having diversified funding sources reduces reliance on a single funder and helps to ensure the financial sustainability of lake restoration projects.
5. **Knowledge Sharing and Connection** - find ways to share knowledge and learnings and fostering collaboration among experts, iwi, hapū, and broader community.
6. **Open and continuous communication** - so people know what is happening and how to get involved. An informed community is an engaged and involved community.

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Biosecurity New Zealand

Tiakitanga Pūtaiao Aotearoa

National Corbicula Programme Update

December 2024 – Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

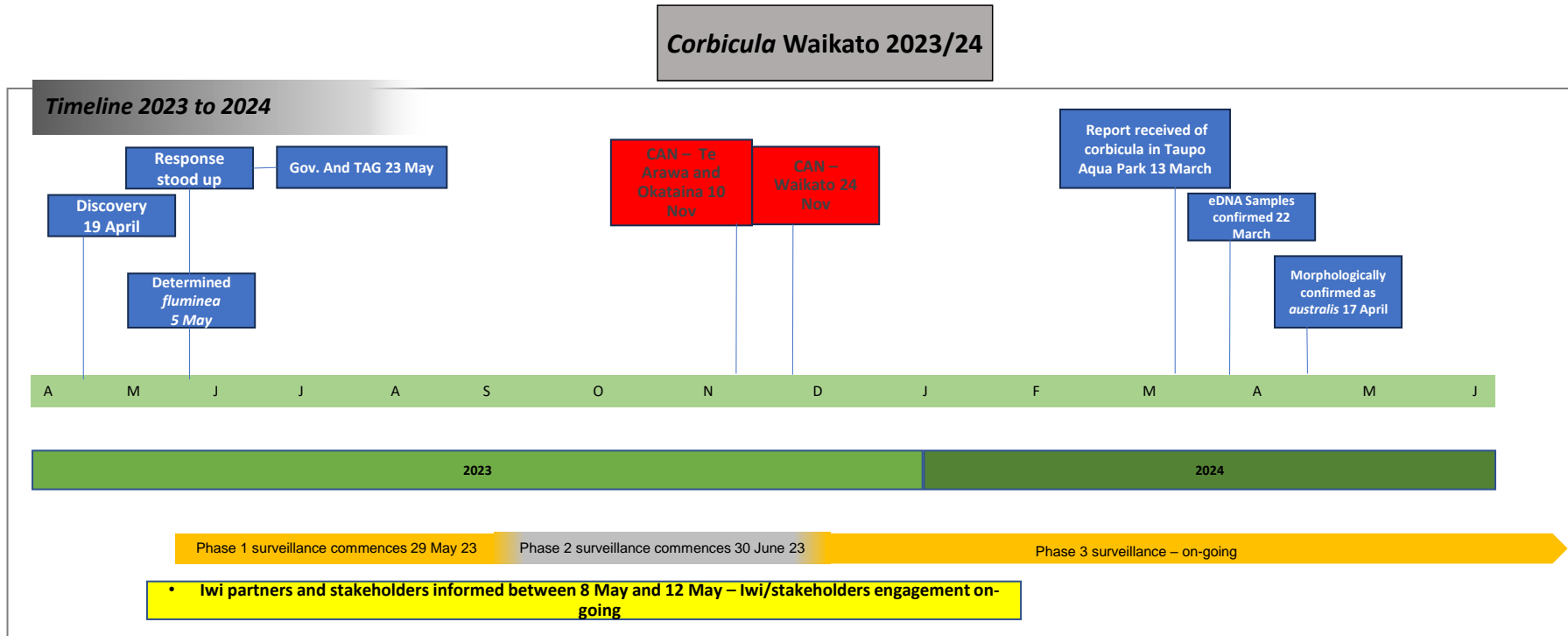


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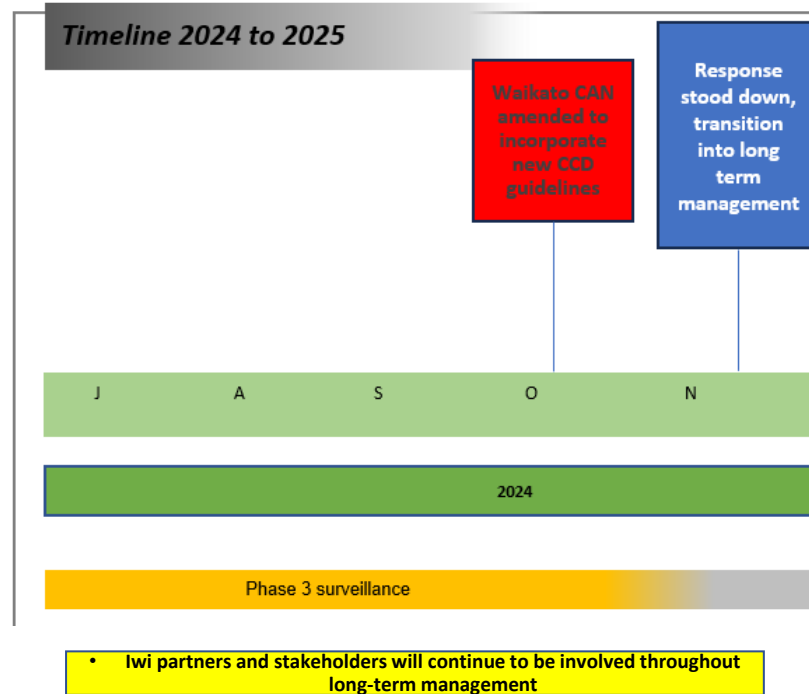
- Work to date
- Long-term management
- Summer priorities



Corbicula Timeline 2023/24



Corbicula Timeline 2024

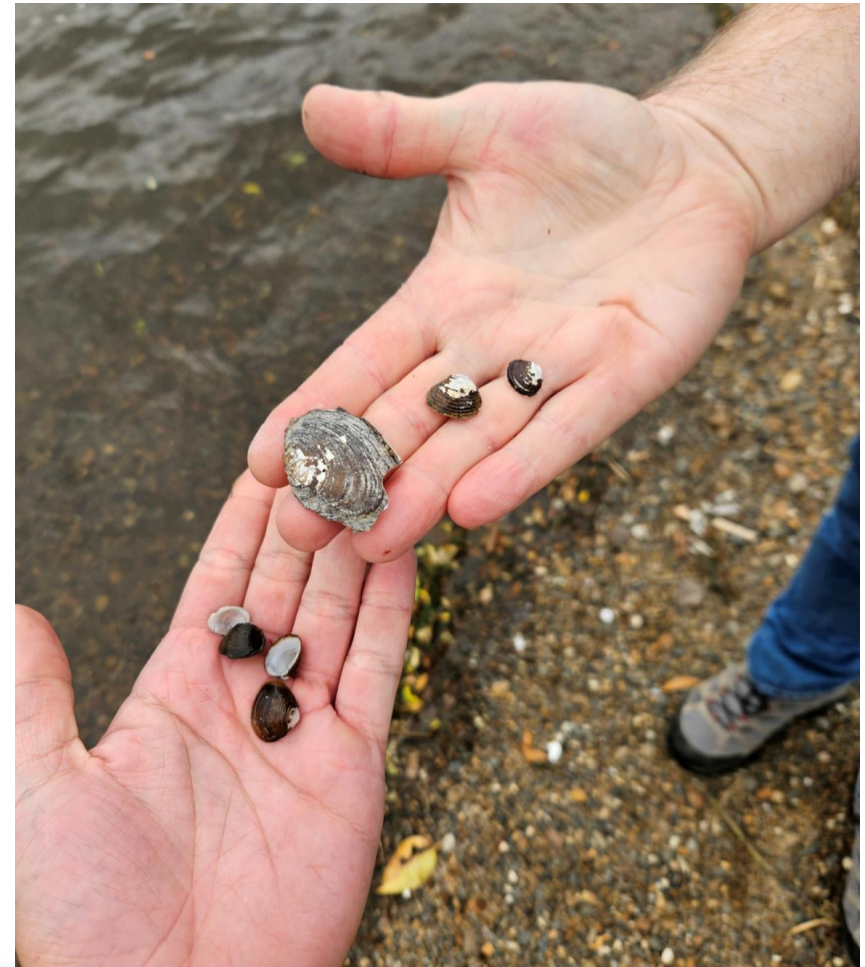


Impacts

C. fluminea:

- Potentially outcompete taonga species and impact cultural values (e.g. mahinga kai)
- Cause major infrastructure damage via clogging (\$ billions damage overseas)
- Disrupt freshwater ecosystems

C. australis assumed to be similar in impacts



Pest Management

No current eradication tools for *C. fluminea* in Waikato

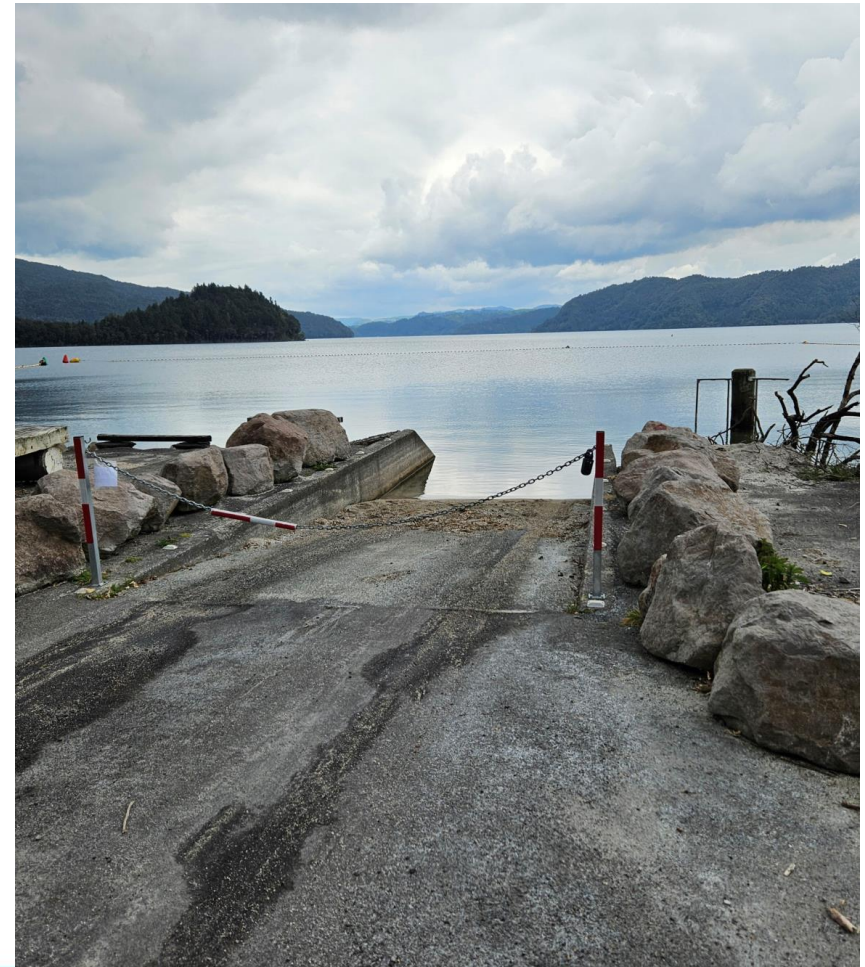
Local elimination of *C. australis* in aquapark:

- A small, isolated waterbody
- Copper Sulphate treatment (Jan 25)
- Remediation of lagoon (Mid 2025)



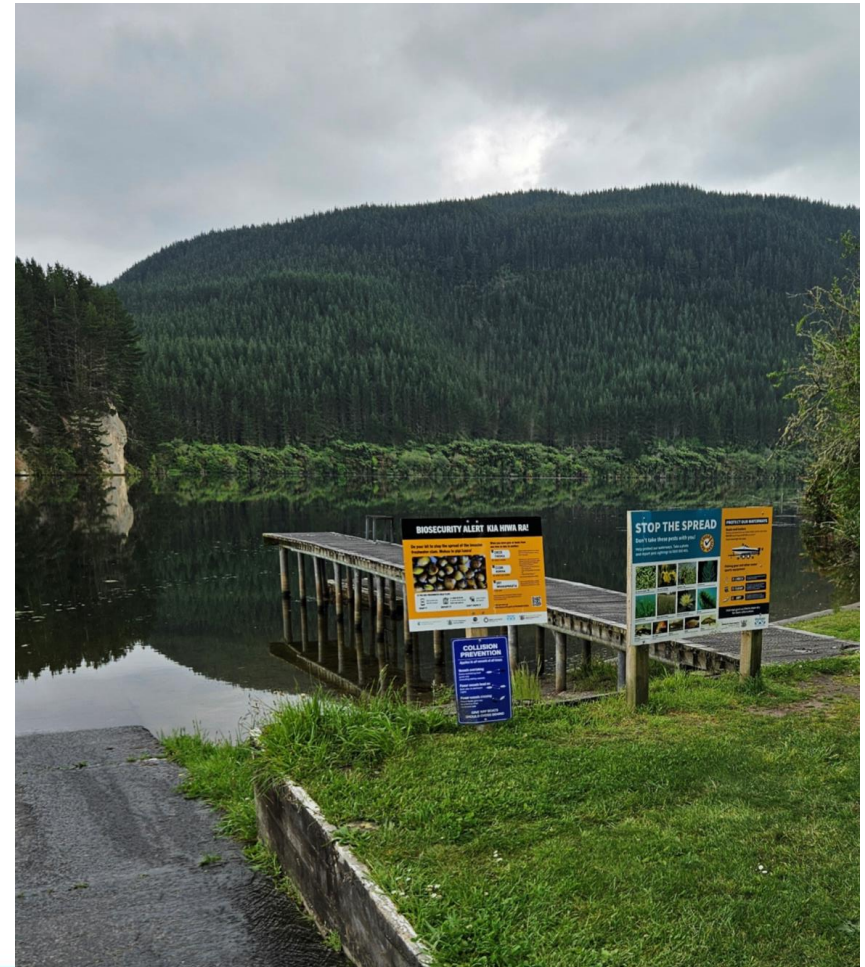
Pathway Management

- CANs in place in Waikato and Rotorua Lakes
- CCD behavior change programme
- Lake Ōkātina automated gate to be installed Jan 2025
- Ballast tank treatment trials
- National pathway management plan to be pursued long-term



Long Term Management Objectives

- Containing *Corbicula* to its existing range and areas of likely known spread in the Waikato catchment area
- Reducing the impact of *Corbicula* where feasible
- Develop the tools to better achieve this



Long Term Management Programme

Surveillance

- National surveillance plan

Operations

- Small-scale elimination, rapid assessment

Pathway Management

- CAN compliance, SOPs

Engagement and behaviour change

- Engagement strategy, CCD

Research

- Applied science & mātauranga plan

Policy and regulation

- CAN reviews, RPMP tools, NPMP



Long Term Management Delivery Model

- Working groups for programme workstreams
- BNZ led: Mana whenua, RCs, DOC working in partnership to operationally deliver *Corbicula* Management
- Supporting the CCD behaviour change programme



Immediate actions

Four working groups established to guide summer work:

1. **Event Compliance** – focused on CCD/CAN compliance during high-risk events
2. **Surveillance** – high risk site surveillance
3. **Rapid Assessment** – developing procedures in the event of range-extension
4. **Benthic Mat Suppression Trial**



Future Timeline

