

# Braided River Programme

BRaid Seminar 26 June 2019

Braided River  
programme

Braided River plans

BRIDGE

BRAG



# Council Long Term Plan 2018-2028

- Braided Rivers – a new programme
  - Key focus to maintain and enhance natural character and mahinga kai
  - Work collaboratively
    - Land owners
    - Partners through water zone committees
    - BRAG - includes Ngāi Tahu, Fish & Game, Forest & Bird, Federated Farmers, DoC and LINZ
    - Others working in braided rivers
  - Two new work streams
    - Non-statutory braided river plans (9 over 10 years)
    - Environment Canterbury Land management
  - Alignment with existing work
    - E.g., braided river habitat and bird work supported by Environment Canterbury



# Community value

- Braided Rivers????
  - Average New Zealander, something we drive across



# Braided River Values

- Mahinga kai
- Natural character
- Flood protection
- Biodiversity
- Recreation and amenity
- Heritage
- Economic
- Tourism

# Building Value

- Plans have the objective of contributing to a step change in biodiversity.
- Planning and delivery will include building community appreciation of braided river values
  - People connect to nature through recreation

# Summary

- **Plan Content/Purpose**
  - Non-statutory
  - Work with stakeholders to identify actions for implementation
  - Reference water quality and minimum flows
  - Plans include management options for all values - mahinga kai, ecological, recreation, heritage, tourism etc
- **Plan scope (each river will be assessed)**
  - Main channels - mountains to the sea
  - Significant braided tributaries
  - Lowland stream tributaries
  - Associated hydraulically connected wetlands

# Delivery

- 9 plans over 10 years (first 30 June 2020)
- Joining up existing work streams across all groups
- Community and commercial partnerships
- Focus will be on leveraging new and existing funding



# BRIDGE

- Project to provide certainty as to where the riverbed rules apply – working with community ‘river reach’ groups
- Intended to include this in the Omnibus Plan Change (Land and Water Regional Plan) to be notified this year
- Dewhurst - High Court decision defines the riverbed as narrower than Environment Canterbury has previously applied.
- Environment Canterbury has appealed the High Court decision - with this legal uncertainty, riverbed matters are not included in the 2019 omnibus plan change

# BRAG

- Convened in response to extent of land use change in braided rivers
- 11,630 ha of formerly undeveloped or forested river margin converted to intensive agricultural use between 1990 and 2012, (av 530 ha per year)
- 40% was public reserve (ECan, DOC, LINZ, TAs) or unallocated Crown land
  - Crown land inconsistently & poorly managed
    - Adverse affects contributed to:
      - Decline of ecosystem health
      - Loss of natural character

3000 Crown parcels,

40,000 hectares,

10 major braided rivers

# BRAG

- Partners
  - Environment Canterbury
  - Ngāi Tahu
  - DoC
  - LINZ
  - Fish & Game
  - Federated Farmers
  - Forest & Bird
  - District Councils

# BRAG

- Purpose
  - Maintain the braided river character of Canterbury's rivers in keeping with the CWMS.
  - Consider innovative and regulatory opportunities to improve land management in braided rivers and their margins.
  - Work together to prioritise and implement those changes consistently across the braided rivers.
- Current focus
  - One Crown /One Public partnership approach
  - Agencies working together for positive and sustained outcomes
    - Cultural, Environmental, Economic, Social

# BRAG Progress

- Gathering source of truth information on the 3000 parcels
- Now discussing and progressing
  - What success looks like
  - Rangitata pilot aspirations and recommendations
  - Immediate best practice management (BPM)
  - Innovation, regulatory and funding opportunities