



Braided River Landscapes

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Figure 1. Te Awa-a-Takatamira, an example of how braided rivers left free to wander are beautiful and dynamic landscapes. Photo credit: H Harris

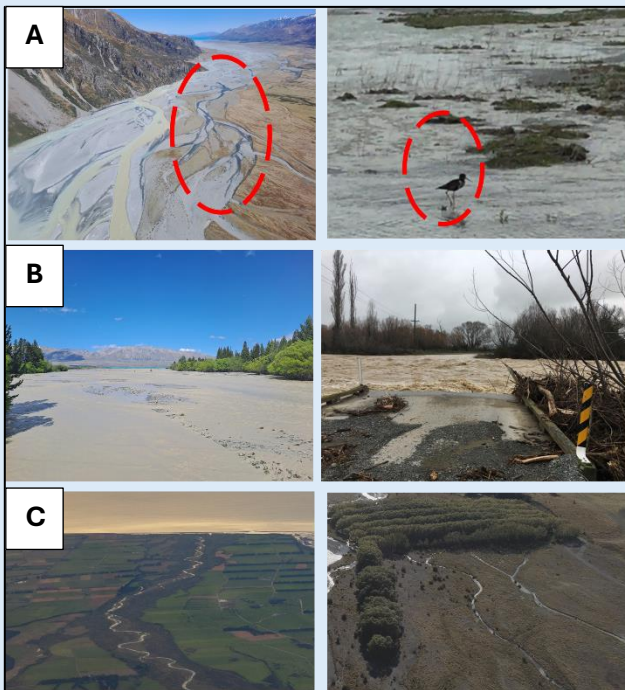


Figure 2. Braided river landscapes provide channels and habitats where birds and fish feed, breed, and seek refuge (A), but climate-driven changes to flow means floods (B) are becoming larger and more intense, taking over more of the river plain. Land encroachment, flood mitigation, and invasive vegetation (C) worsen flood effects, reducing food and refuge for native species and leaving them even more vulnerable. Preserving space for braided rivers to move is important to maintain habitat diversity and ecological resilience. Photo credit: A R McIntosh, H Harris, I Barrett.



Figure 3. Landscape scale changes can have rippling effects from mayflies, that live in the channel and emerge from the water to fly across the land, to fish like koaro that feed between channels and birds such as the tarapirohe that catch fish for courtship. Photo credit: A R McIntosh, N Boddy.