



Lower Waitaki South
Coastal Canterbury
Water Zone Committee



Braided river work helps protect endangered birds

The plight of black-fronted terns and black billed gulls has improved following the clearance of vegetation in braided river island habitats along the Waitaki River.

Both rare species, and others, are under threat from predators which hide in vegetation along braided river islands where the birds like to breed.

More than 6.5ha of river-bed has now been cleared and a total of six species have directly benefited from this work and large breeding colonies have been sighted.

This means the birds can now camouflage themselves against the gravel until they are ready to fly off. Check out the image – you’ll see just how hard it is to spot the eggs and chicks!

Environment Canterbury will provide more than \$300,000 over five years to help improve braided river character and bird habitat, a key recommendation in the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee’s implementation programme.

