

# The Braided Rivers Partnership Project (BRPP)

**Funded by:**

DOC community partnerships fund  
Department of Internal Affairs (Lotto)

## Community Engagement & Citizen Science

*Sonny Whitelaw – Manager BRaid*

# Canterbury Water Management Strategy

- 10 broadly targeted areas
- Braided rivers are the **only ecosystem** to have its **own set of targets**

One target under 'Natural Character of Braided Rivers' is to implement actions to **correct the decline in useable braided river bird habitat.**

# Environment Canterbury (Temporary Commissioners and Improved Water Management) Act 2010

## Schedule 1

### Vision and principles of Canterbury Water Management Strategy—Strategic Framework, November 2009

ss 4, 6, 34, 50, 63

## Part 1

### Vision and principles

#### Vision

To enable present and future generations to gain the greatest social, economic, recreational and cultural benefits from our water resources within an environmentally sustainable framework.

#### *Fundamental principles*

#### Primary principles

##### 1 Sustainable management

Water is a public resource which must be managed in accordance with sustainability principles and be consistent with the Resource Management and Local Government Acts.

##### 2 Regional approach

- The planning of natural water use is guided by the following:
  - first order priority considerations: the environment, customary uses, community supplies and stock water
  - second order priority considerations: irrigation, renewable electricity generation, recreation, tourism and amenity

# Why community/stakeholder engagement?

**Issue:** Dramatic decline in bird populations still happening

## **Lack of resources to:**

- Locate birds and/or...
- Follow up fledgling success and/or...
- Determine reasons for failure, and...
- Implement (mobile) management strategies

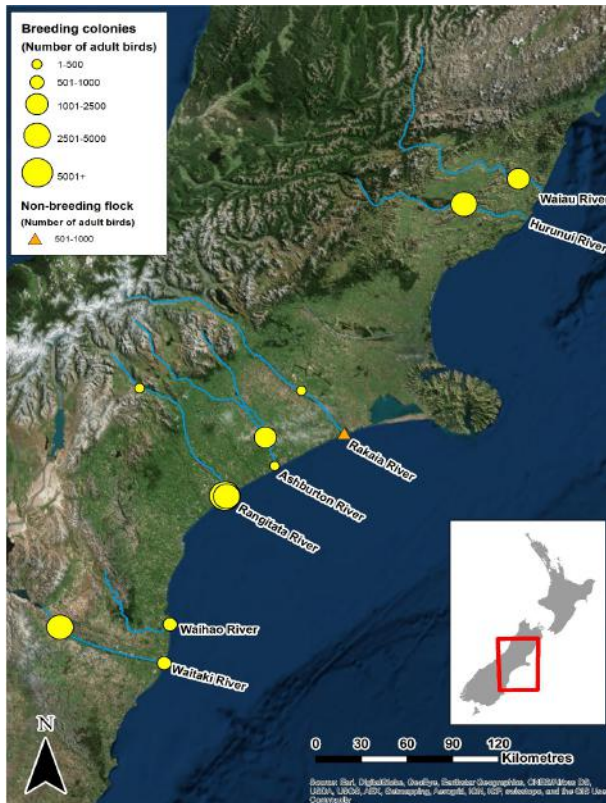
## How do we engage and enable?

Awareness → interest → knowledge (**enabling**)  
→ reporting → emotional/financial investment  
→ **action (supported by BRaid)**

**= Citizen Science**

# Focus on 2 species:

- Black billed gulls & black fronted terns
- Relatively easy to see because they're colony nesters



Black billed gulls aerial survey (courtesy WIL)




Black-fronted terns (photo: Linda Laing Waiau River)

# Engage and enable through...


- **Information** (bird IDs, issues, reason for fledgling failure)
- **Practical** help with management strategies (traps, signs, funding)
- **Promotional** tools (marketing and accreditation)

Going...going...  
...almost gone



**FOREVER**  
Black-billed gulls and black-fronted terns are found only in New Zealand where they breed in

**BRAIDED RIVERS**



But they are close to **EXTINCTION**

You can help save them

Braided Rivers Partnership Project  
[www.braid.org.nz/brpp](http://www.braid.org.nz/brpp)

Black-billed gull Unique to New Zealand we nest in braided rivers & are **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED!** You CAN help us: [www.braid.org.nz/brpp](http://www.braid.org.nz/brpp)








BRAID  
manager@braid.org.nz

Black-fronted tern Unique to New Zealand we nest in braided rivers and we are **ENDANGERED!** You CAN help us: [www.braid.org.nz/brpp](http://www.braid.org.nz/brpp)



BRAID  
manager@braid.org.nz

Have you seen these 2 bird species nesting on rivers or farms?  
Aren't all gulls the same?

<p>No! Black-backed gulls are common, predatory &amp; large: 60cm long and weigh up to 1 kg</p>  <p>✗</p>	<p>Red-billed gulls are declining, smaller 37-38cm long &amp; weigh 240-320 grams.</p>  <p>✗</p>	<p>Black-billed gulls are critically endangered &amp; small: 35-38cm long &amp; weigh 230 grams.</p>  <p>✓</p>	<p>Black-fronted terns are endangered &amp; small: 28-29cm &amp; weigh 95 grams.</p>  <p>✓</p>	<p>White-fronted terns are declining &amp; medium: 42cm &amp; weigh 160 grams.</p>  <p>✗</p>	<p>Caspian terns are vulnerable &amp; large: 48-62cm &amp; weigh 530-782 grams.</p>  <p>✗</p>
---	--	---	---	---	--

If you think you've seen black-billed gulls or black fronted terns (even if you're not sure) you can help them by letting us know:

Email: [manager@braid.org.nz](mailto:manager@braid.org.nz)  
Ph: 02-26378931

BRAID  
[www.braid.org.nz/brpp](http://www.braid.org.nz/brpp)

# Information jigsaw: Waitaki River Mouth



# Citizen science

Practical online tools:

Below is an interactive map of New Zealand showing recent (2014/13) and historic (2007-2013) known predator control activities for possums, mustelids and rodents by DOC, OSPRI and regional councils. We're also adding community group, hapū/iwi and private landowner information — add your information to the map now.

Predator control map  
Add Your Group

# Engaging commercial operators:

*“Globally, there is an increasing demand for sustainable and environmentally friendly products. Businesses that can meet this demand have a competitive market edge. Hence, gaining accreditation for environmental stewardship is simply **good business**.”*

- Tourism – jetboat, fishing guides, tours, accommodation, airport/airlines
- Irrigators and gravel extractors

## Goals:

1. Improve braided river bird habits & increase birds populations
2. Co-benefit: green credentials for tourism = **ECONOMIC BENEFITS**
3. Sustainable eg: ‘Your donation of...

\$5 will pay for baits for X traps for X weeks

\$20 will be pay for 1/3 of a DOC200 trap

\$60 ...etc

Bronze = reporting  
Silver = action  
Gold = leadership



# Engage and enable everyone

## Get **creative** join the fun, & help make

# #THE FLOCK nz



Every spring, **migratory birds** fly to the South Island's **braided rivers** to breed. Some come from the coast, while others fly from the North Island or across the ocean from Australia & Fiji. They've been making this journey for millions of years, but because of **predators & habitat loss**, some are **close to extinction**. Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre in the North Island, are creating **The Flock** to help spread the message about the threats facing them, and...



**Everyone can help!**

Right now, we're creating **The Flock**. We need help with:

1. **Making out our birds for decorating** - plywood or corflute needed, along with cutting skills
2. **Assembling and colouring the birds** - paint, write a message, knit a jersey, add **bling**...
3. **Host The Flock** - if you have an idea for a good spot (the more prominent the better), or can organise a spot, we'd love to hear from you!

See: [www.braid.org.nz](http://www.braid.org.nz) to...

- discover what birds belong to the **braided river wing** of **The Flock**, and where they nest
- download templates to cut out **The Flock**
- find out where you can deliver completed birds
- download learning resources for schools



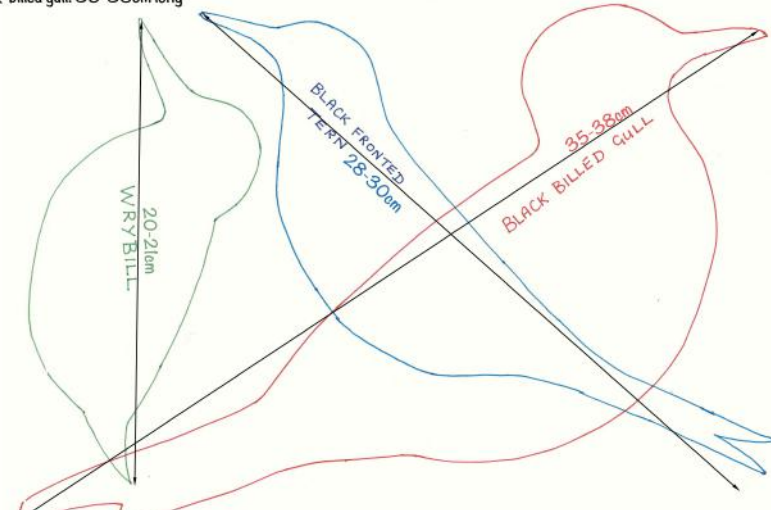
**Braid** Braided River Aid  
...has adopted the **braided river wing** of **The Flock**.

**Get your school, business, club or community group involved!**



Scale by following the measurement guidelines :

- Wrybill: 20-21cm long
- Black fronted tern : 28-30cm long
- Black-billed gull: 35-38cm long



Students from Mangatangi School, Firth of Thames in the North Island showing off their contributions to The Flock