

Hi Pim

My passion for returning Kaituna River floods and ecosystem food chains and the spiritual significance (mauri – life principle, life force) to Maketu Estuary continues to burn most brightly. It is shared by the whole of Te Arawa Iwi who I had as a child decided to try and help when I learnt of the heartbreak that they had felt and do still feel from the removal of the Kaituna River from Maketu Estuary. I had also then used to stand on a beach at Papamoa with a surfcasting rod for two weeks and wonder where the fish had gone that I had used to hear about from old fishermen who have now also gone.

If you have not recognised that heartbreak following public consultation, then your eyes must be closed: 20 pages of Maketu Te Arawa signatures collected without effort by leaving my petition to return the river with supporting copy letters at Maketu Landing, where people could read and consider the petition and copy letters and then sign if they agreed: The signatures emailed to you do demonstrate that we as a public do want the Kaituna River ecosystem food chains put back through Maketu Estuary please Council.

Te Arawa people whom I have personally known have died asking for this. Council must be aware of the public desire expressed for a long time. Council could at less cost have already returned Kaituna River ecosystem food chains back through Maketu Estuary without risk of flooding, by raising Maketu Road and lowering Ford Road as I have long described and recorded in Background copy letters on [www.wetlandsnz.com](http://www.wetlandsnz.com).

I invite Council to revisit my recommendations now that all can see how comparatively ineffective your recent \$17 million works plus numerous salaries have been: Maketu Estuary is still without fish and is still full of sand, the spit is again being eroded and narrowed from behind inviting storm overtopping and beach sand intrusion into the estuary, as had previously happened immediately that Council had reopened Ford's Twin Cuts and before the latest expensive contraption was built there, and the toe of Maketu Estuary spit has continued to build and infill the lower estuary. One significant Kaituna River flood through Maketu Estuary as had used to occasionally occur could remedy all of this as it had used to do. Fish could be consistently back at Maketu Estuary entrance with Kaituna River ecosystem food chains as they are now at Te Tumu. If you recreate supporting wetlands upstream there could be a lot more of them.

Steve Everitt as Council engineer told me in my Te Puke office that he was not prepared to recommend putting Kaituna River floods back through Maketu Estuary. I question if he was the right man to be giving Council engineering advice given that he never intended to recommend returning the Kaituna River to Maketu Estuary and that his public consultation had ignored public input in favour of a predetermined outcome. His new river course has been an expensive failure and has not stopped saltwater intrusion through Ford's Twin Cuts as he had designed it to do. Construction of it was also an environmental disaster that saw the beach east of Te Tumu entrance littered with dead tuna (eel) following the works. His design has not stopped river weed and logs blocking the new boat ramp as he had designed it to do. Sunken logs occasionally floating in the new river course are a boating hazard that has damaged outboard motors. Spawning Kaituna river galaxius (whitebait) on a spring tide that will spawn in fresh or salt water, are not being allowed to find Maketu Estuary maritime marshlands as they could now be over an overtopping weir onto what was formerly Brain owned land at the back of the estuary, that was formerly marshland spawning habitat pictured on [www.wetlandsnz.com](http://www.wetlandsnz.com).

There has inevitably been some improvement in mud flushing and in shellfish numbers and their placement within Maketu Estuary after Council had put some Kaituna River fresh water back through Maketu Estuary. Maketu Estuary until then had been an isolated saltwater pond that had been strangled by previous Council engineers all be it under a different title, who had drained the Kaituna swamp to grow grass for pastoral farming. They destroyed the productivity of the Kaituna River catchment freshwater fishery and so also the inshore coastal fishery that depends upon food chains created in fresh water, as described by Graham, McDowell and by many others recorded in their books who had witnessed the decline in fisheries following the drainage of this country's wetlands.

I request that BOP Regional Council does now reintroduce Kaituna River high tide and flood flows through Maketu Estuary in the way that I have described in copy letters posted on [www.wetlandsnz.com](http://www.wetlandsnz.com) to best restore original ecosystem food chains and kaimoana (seafood), and to also recreate a deep water anchorage at Maketu with a bar crossing that is sheltered by Okurei (Town Point) Maketu.

Kindest Regards

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