

31 October 2016

Hi Pim

I summarise my 29 October 2016 recommendations by telephone. I recommend that BOPRC could best:

1. Purchase lowlands between the eastern arterial link bridge and Maketu Road. Any separate lots that are purchased and developed could be interconnected with others and with the sea in the interim via existing farm drains.
2. Convert those lowlands into flax, raupo and kahikatea planted v-drains running north south to reduce sunshine intrusion into v-drains and with sills at either end allowing flood waters to move through them in succession, or to temporarily completely cover the area during major floods, while also keeping the salt water out.
3. Remove the Kaituna River Stop-bank between the Eastern Arterial Link Bridge and Ford Road leaving only a sill to keep the salt water out as required.
4. Remove Kaituna Road and Ford Road and construct a stop-bank against the eastern arterial link.
5. Allow all Kaituna River floods to infill the area with fresh water and to settle sediment and nutrients there while seeding commercial fisheries production with adult galaxius (whitebait) and tuna (eel) habitat. The larger the v-drains constructed the greater could be the habitat created.
6. Allow original Kaituna River flow into Maketu Estuary in the way that I have described in the attached presentation to BOPRC to further enhance commercial fisheries rebuild with original access to Maketu Estuary maritime marsh galaxius spawning habitat for Kaituna River galaxius (whitebait) which your current proposal would deny and which would again inevitably destabilise Maketu Estuary spit.
7. Declare the forested wetland area created to be a Scenic Reserve for its long-term preservation which is in line with a current BOPRC proposal to create a wetland recreation reserve and which could ideally include a much larger area of floodable lowland.

Works done to date by BOPRC on Te Arawa Lakes Trust swamp have I believe been less beneficial than they could have been because:

1. Ponds created instead of v-drains have reduced a potential area of wetland with large areas of dry land between them.
2. Ponds created are isolated from potential fisheries rebuild that needs to be in connection with salt water during times of flood flow.
3. V-drains running north south could instead allow for maximum productive wetland habitat in any given area.
4. If planted as I have described v-drains could best purify swamp water.
5. If interconnected as I have described v-drains could best expose moving swamp water to purifying plants.
6. If receiving water from No 1 Pumping Station as I have described v-drains could purify farm drain water before it entered a lower level Maketu Estuary.
7. Pumping stations numbered 1 and 2 could otherwise be decommissioned.
8. Agrochemical sprays being applied to the Te Arawa Wetland could make that habitat less attractive to galaxius (whitebait), bully (a fish) and tuna (eel) that may have more perception for what is desirable in wetland habitats than do the sprayers.

Kindest regards

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