

Council is returning a large portion of our largest forestry asset – Pamoā Forest – to native bush to enhance our region's biodiversity and protect the Waingake drinking water pipeline. In addition to planting natives, the project involves extensive pest control and eradication measures.



Enviroschools WaiRestoration is an innovative approach to restoring waterway health and biodiversity that brings together the energy of young people, educators, farmers, kaumatua, scientists, Council and many others. Restorations to date include Waikanae Stream (fencing, planting 1,300 trees and laying stoat and rat traps) and Pakowhai Stream (a spawning zone for inanga, the native fish caught as whitebait – the project involved fencing, planting and pest management).



Our region is susceptible to erosion due to our geology, heavy rainfall and previous removal of forest cover. Council is working with landowners to protect our most vulnerable land. 42,946ha (86%) of our land requiring treatment for erosion (Land Overlay 3A) now has effective tree cover, with a further 7,223ha (14%) still requiring action – 3,207ha of this is in the Waiapu catchment.



Together Council, DOC and our community identified **long-tailed bats, a nationally-critical species**, living around the Wharekopae River – **an exciting find** as part of the Wharekopae River Restoration Project.



On the Poverty Bay Flats there has been a **110% increase in irrigated high-value crops** such as apples, kiwifruit and persimmons over the last ten years.



Water quality for summer swimming at our region's beaches is excellent. All Gisborne beaches have been graded suitable for swimming. All monitored beach sites had between 97% and 100% of samples graded in the "suitable for swimming" category.



Urban streams around Gisborne are heavily impacted by the urban area. Key issues are high bacteria, nutrients and some heavy metals. Council's DrainWise project is helping fix stormwater and wastewater issues. The Waipaoa Catchment Plan includes **projects to improve the water quality** in the Taruheru and Waikanae catchments.



There has been a 51% increase in the area consented for irrigation since 2016. There is now 7,120ha consented for irrigation, predominantly on the Poverty Bay Flats. Council's Managed Aquifer Recharge Trial is investigating whether it's possible to take water from the Waipaoa River in times of high flow to recharge the Makauri Aquifer.



Air quality in Gisborne is generally good, with only one exceedance of the permissible level of the national environmental standard for PM10 (fine particles) in 2018 and 2019.



Important areas of native bush are designated "Protection Management Areas" (PMAs). Most of these areas are on private land so **landowner action is key to protecting them from threats like weeds**, livestock, wild deer and goats. Landowners are encouraged to apply to **Council's Natural Heritage Fund**.



Between June 2015 and May 2020 there were **12 wet-weather overflows from the sewer systems into Gisborne's rivers** (and then out into Poverty Bay). Council's DrainWise project is working to reduce these occurrences.



In partnership with Ngati Oneone, Council's four-year project is underway to restore Titirangi (Kaiti Hill). A key part of the project is replacing pine forests with natives, along with extensive weed control. Titirangi maunga is a significant regional reserve, a major landmark with deep historical, archeological, recreational and cultural importance.



Coastal natural hazards are prevalent in our region, with coastal erosion, coastal inundation and hazards exacerbated due to climate change. Council surveys several beaches throughout Tairāwhiti each year to understand how these beaches are changing.



The Taruheru River is in a poor state, affected by high nutrient and high E.coli bacteria levels and critically low dissolved oxygen levels. Council is investigating sources of contaminants through the **Taruheru Water Quality Improvement Project.**



Average waste sent to landfill in our region is **506kg a person a year, against a national average of 701kg.** Council supports a number of waste minimisation initiatives in line with its own efforts to raise awareness and reduce waste.



Gisborne Port is home to a wide range of marine life including kelps, seaweeds, mussels and starfish. It is also the location of a young crayfish puerulus (post-larva) nursery.



Since 2016, **18 projects** - like some riparian restoration in the Turihaua Stream catchment - have been funded by **Council's Natural Heritage Fund.**



We are fortunate to be able to view the Milky Way, unlike 50% of New Zealanders whose ability to see the stars at night is diminished by light pollution.



Oneroa Walkway, our beachfront cycle and walkway from Waikanae to Midway Beach, tells stories of navigation while improving access to our beaches. Winner of the Keep New Zealand Beautiful Kiwi Choice Award, Oneroa Walkway was recognised as a favourite spot in New Zealand.



A huge landslide in February 2018 formed a new lake - the largest in our district - on the Mangapoike River.



Water quality in the **Motu catchment is affected by increasing intensification of pastoral farming and cropping.** This has seen the river deteriorate significantly in recent years with negative effects on native fish and trout. Council will begin working with the community to develop the Motu Catchment Plan in 2020.

