## **Motueka Catchment Collective**

##  **Aims and Objectives**

October 2021

From an impartial standpoint, facilitate weaving the communities of the Motueka catchment together to ensure the wellbeing of the freshwater system and connected environment.

* Act to protect and enhance the Motueka catchment as a vital resource for the future;
* Develop a community that is inclusive of all;
* Encourage interest and build understanding of freshwater ecosystems;
* Weave Mātauranga Māori knowledge and wisdom together with an evidence-based conventional science approach to promote guardianship;
* Emphasise the involvement and engagement of young people in catchment guardianship;
* Enhance the health of the river and landscape environs through making sound choices based on good science and knowledgeable expertise;
* Establish a robust, transparent monitoring framework that is accessible to all whilst respecting the privacy rights of individuals’ information input;
* Obtain funding and guidance for relevant initiatives identified and collectively agreed upon.

The Motueka Catchment Collective was initiated in 2020 by concerned landowners in the Tapawera area with a strong collective desire to weave the communities in the Motueka catchment together, ensuring the wellbeing of the freshwater system and connected environment.

By organising meetings, educating each other and engaging the younger generation, local land-

users are acting to protect and enhance the catchments as vital resources for the future. An

inclusive community spirit binds residents, who identify with the watercourses as common

threads. They swim, walk, fish, paddle, picnic and socialise with the flowing water. They

encourage interest in the freshwater ecosystems, weave Mātauranga Māori knowledge and

science together to generate a wave of enthusiasm to promote Kaitiakitanga (guardianship).

The Motueka Catchment Collective aspires to capture more local interest to inform decisions on

priority actions, formulate plans and source funding.

The Motueka River catchment is over 2000 km2, the largest in the Nelson Region and the main river is about 110km long, providing the main freshwater flow into Tasman Bay/ Te Tai-o-Aorere. About half of the catchment is in national park land; forest & scrub & tussock grassland with high rainfall in the Kahurangi National Park. Roughly a quarter of the catchment is in commercial forestry and sheep & beef farming cover about a fifth. Horticulture and smaller land parcels are features of the lower reaches with Motueka township near the mouth of the river. Sheep & beef farmers initiated an upper Motueka catchment group mid-2020 and subsequently the Motueka Catchment Collective has been established for the whole of the catchment with the aim to weave the communities in the Motueka catchment together, ensuring the wellbeing of the freshwater system and connected environment.

With concerns about the health of the river and its life; desires to maintain a vibrant, healthy river system that we can prosper with, swim, fish, walk by, kayak and enjoy and think that our grandchildren can do the same, the Motueka Catchment Collective aims to increase our awareness of its health and make positive choices through sharing knowledgeable expertise, conversation and support. The Collective is in its early stages with action being taken by the Tapawera and upper Motueka communities and interest gathering in the middle reaches with intention to cover the whole river length and acknowledge the symbolic importance of the river and its awa for the area. Collective members are looking at establishing a significant project to help focus communal action and Old Man’s Beard is one on the cards. There is a lot of external support being expressed by Tasman District Council, NZ Landcare Trust, Federated Farmers and others which is very much welcomed. The challenge for the foreseeable future is to generate resources and coordination support that can establish greater involvement by landusers and catchment residents who are already swamped with other obligations and commitments!