

COMMUNITY ACTIVE IN WETLAND PROJECT SUPPORTING RARE & THREATENED SPECIES

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Project: Upgrade of Flow Management Structures **Location:** Robson Lagoon, Lower Clutha

Ageing infrastructure at Robson Lagoon, South Otago, has been replaced with new flood flow systems including a solar powered flow control gate which will encourage the flows of tributaries to the wetlands, and improve land drainage.

This promotes sustainable water flow for the 'Regionally Significant Wetland' which is home to many rare and threatened species and is significant for Kai Tahu for cultural and spiritual beliefs, values and uses.

Community forms around project

The area is used as a popular recreation area by the local community. The area includes a walkway / cycle track which circumnavigates the lagoon. Local landowners, DoC, Fish and Game and Aukaha (a mana whenua-owned consultancy) were actively involved during the project.

This project will realise benefits intergenerationally, with the continued availability of the area for the community and the species within it providing for cultural values into the future. Improved access to the wetland also makes it safer for recreational use for the public. The wetland includes a diverse mosaic of indigenous flora and fauna, many of which are threatened species like the Australasian Bittern, Banded Dotterel, long and shortfin eels, galaxiid (whitebait), swamp nettle and Isolepis basilaris.

Project funding

Kānoa \$352,000 | Otago Regional Council \$497,000

Total project cost

\$849,000

Social and Environmental Benefits



Contractors and consultants that worked on this project were almost exclusively from Otago, providing **direct benefit to the local economy**



Enhancing a **Regionally Significant Wetland**, home to over 50 bird species



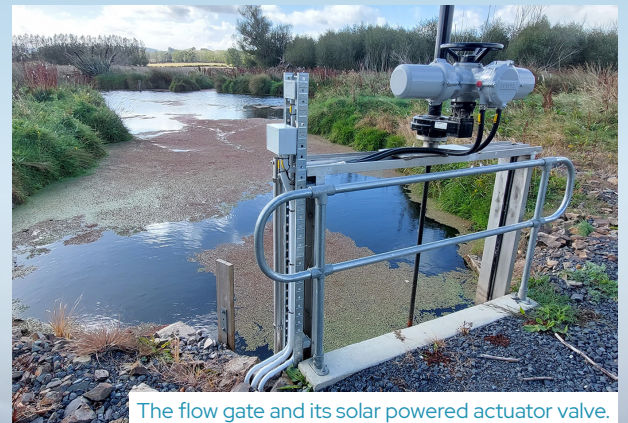
Ranked 5th in **New Zealand's Top 10** Wetland Wildlife Habitats

Enhanced protection of natural and ecological values at the 566-hectare lagoon complex.

"The new gate will enhance ecological values in the wetland complex and will ultimately provide the community with long term, lasting benefits."

– **Denis Greer**

Denis Greer is a local landowner from Milton and a member of the Lake Tuakitoto Catchment Group.



The flow gate and its solar powered actuator valve.
Photo: ORC/Tim Ware



The opening of the flow gate was attended by the local community.