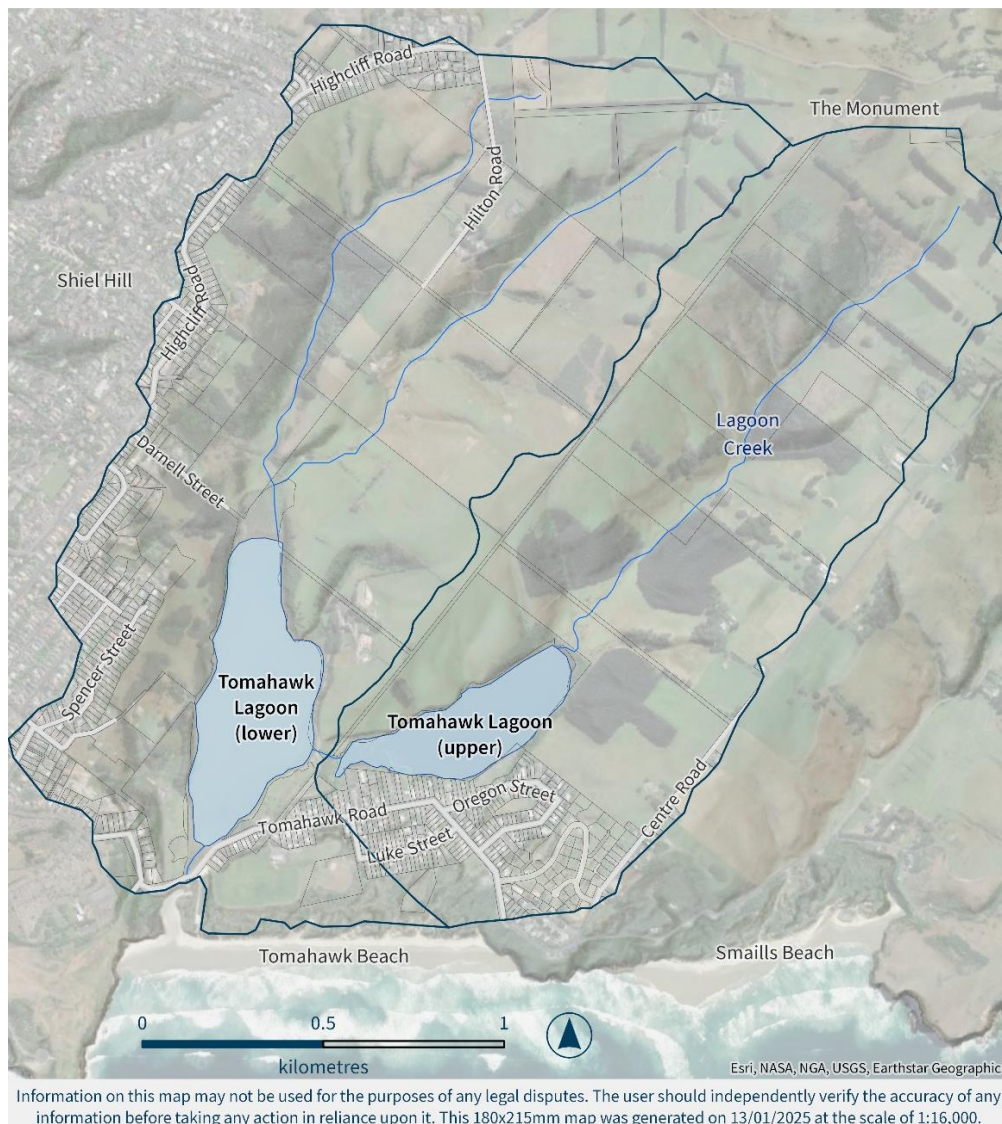


# Tomahawk Lagoon catchment - funding for habitat enhancement

You may be eligible for funding and support to enhance habitat on your property. Otago Regional Council has a funding pool of \$132,000 available to help landowners in the upper and lower Tomahawk Lagoon catchments. ORC will work with landowners and the community to identify and prioritise sites. Decisions about co-funding work will be based on achieving the project's overall vision.

## Working together to improve the Tomahawk Catchment

The vision is: “a thriving Tomahawk Lagoon catchment, where water quality and biodiversity are maintained and enhanced through community action to contribute to a healthy ecosystem for all to enjoy”.



## Timeframes

January – Feb - Get in touch! Site visits with landowners/ community groups. Identify potential enhancement areas. Discuss land use and aspirations. ORC will produce sketches of planting/ fencing plans.

March - ORC will identify catchment-wide priorities based on decision criteria, and produce habitat enhancement plans and costings. We'll discuss agreements with landowners and community (who does what). Planting and fencing budget will be allocated to sites according to priority and viability. Agreements developed and funds released.

April - Work underway. Support and progress checks.

## Funding decisions

Criteria are based on the Ecological Assessment produced by Cawthron Institute in 2023, and feedback from stakeholders.

1. Managing high nutrient and sediment concentrations in the inflow creeks is the priority. Stock exclusion and managing erosion will have the biggest impact. Wetland protection and enhancement will also be encouraged.
2. Nitrate levels in Lagoon Creek exceed those in the creek flowing into the lower lagoon, and improving the upper lagoon will have positive benefits for the lower lagoon. However, working with a variety of landowners across the two lagoon catchments will increase education and engagement.
3. Higher landowner input (labour or co-funding) produces better long-term results.
4. A check for cultural sites will be added to, and influence, the prioritisation of sites.



*Lagoon Creek planting with Tomahawk-Smaills Beachcare Trust*

### Interested? Please get in touch!

If you're a landowner within the upper or lower catchment, or want to help, please contact Jennifer Lawn, Project Delivery Specialist - Freshwater and Biodiversity.

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