



2023 Community Survey Results



Motueka Catchment Collective

2023 Community Survey Results

The Motueka Catchment Collective (MCC) surveyed residents in the Motueka catchment Over July and August 2023. The survey was sent to approximately 800 people by email, and more than 6,000 by letterbox drop off. MCC received 255 valid responses.

The main purpose of the survey was to seek feedback about what the catchment community valued most about the Motueka catchment and what were considered to be the highest priority issues in terms of enhancing the habitat and health of the catchment. This would then help the Motueka Catchment Collective focus its efforts and allocate resources.

Content

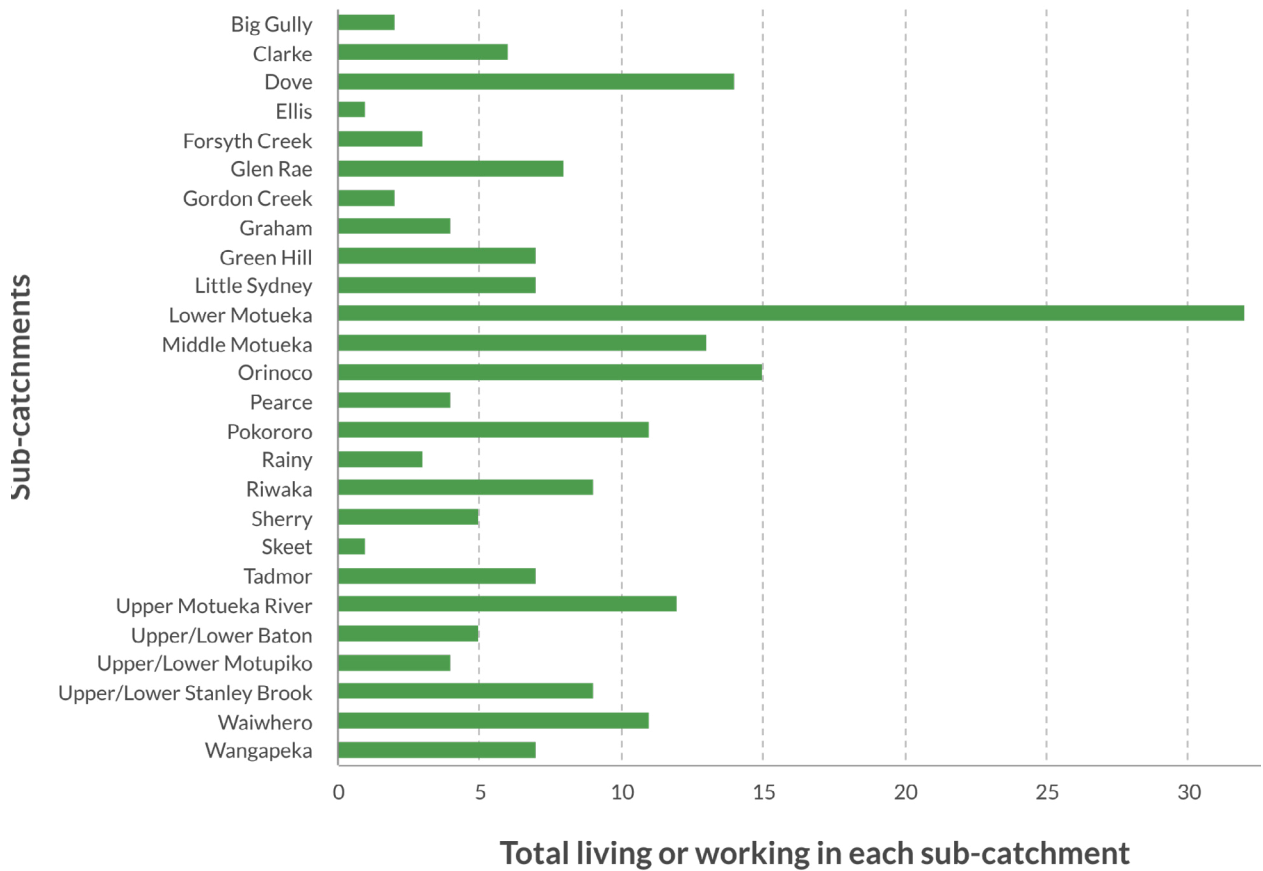
- 03 Who answered the survey?
- 04 What did the survey ask?
- 05 How do people connect with the Motueka River?
- 06 What do people consider are the key pressures on the river?
- 07 What did people want MCC to help them with?
- 09 What catchment projects should MCC do?
- 10 How would you like to be involved?
- 10 Suggestions, comments and ideas



Who answered the survey?

Of the 225 people who answered the question about where they live, there was a good spread across the sub-catchments, with the Lower Motueka sub-catchment being the biggest group, and of this 13% live in Motueka. This is not surprising given this is where the majority of the people in the catchment reside.

Which sub-catchment do you live and/or work in?



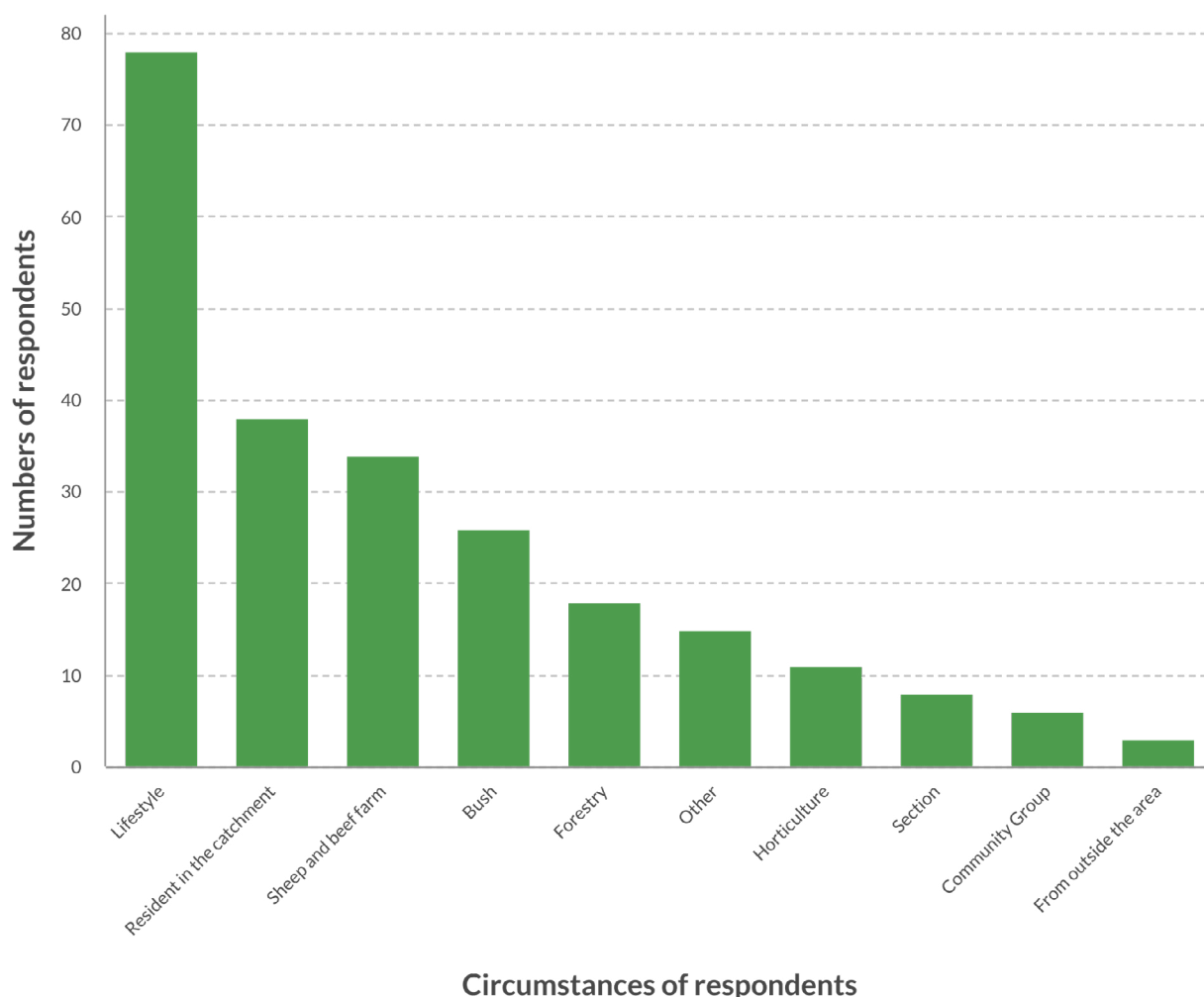
Where do you live?

This pie chart shows the split between those living in a town and those living rurally.



■ I live rurally (72%) ■ I live in a town (28%)

As shown in Figure 3 below, the highest number of respondents live on lifestyle properties, with the next highest proportion being either a resident or from a sheep and beef farm.



What did the survey ask?

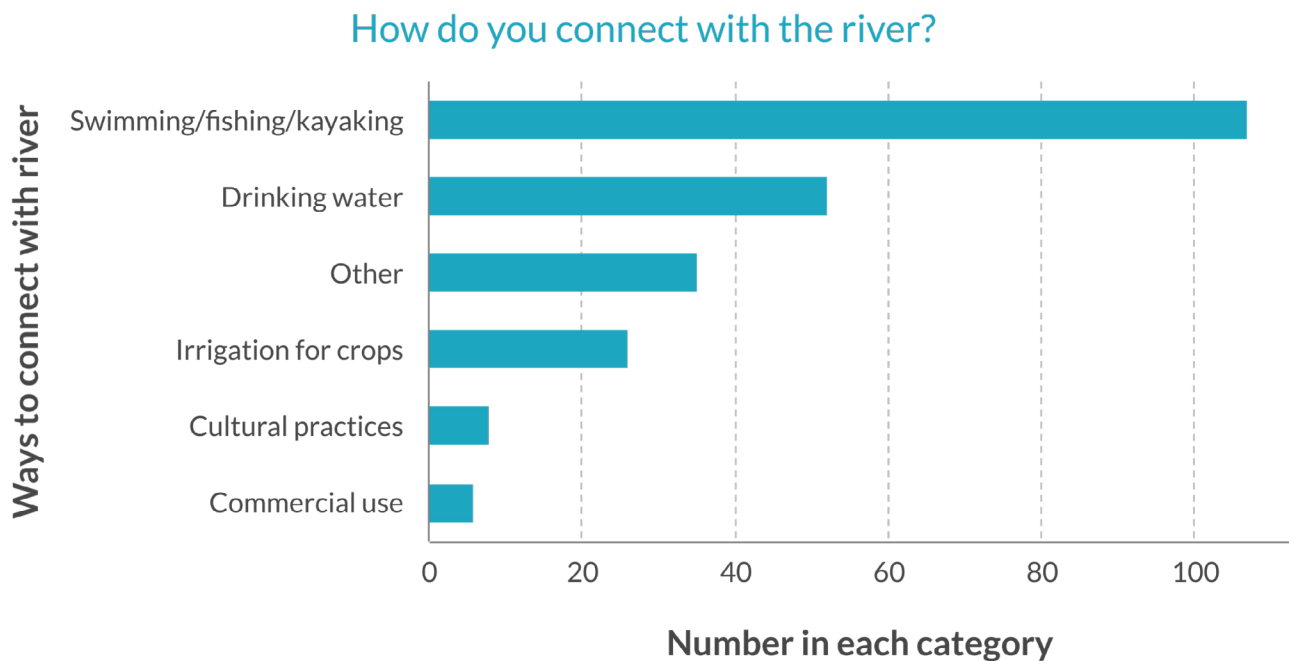
The survey had 15 questions. These were centred around seeking information from respondents about:

- their context (as described above)
- how they connected with the river
- what they thought were the challenges for the river and catchment
- what actions they thought the MCC should prioritise
- what help they'd like from MCC



How do people connect with the Motueka River?

The most common answer people gave about how they connect with the Motueka River was by swimming, fishing or kayaking answered by 107 people or 78%. Drinking water was the next highest answer.



25% of people chose the “other” category. Responses included:

- a number of people live near a stream or have a stream running through their property and feel connected to it,
- it contributes to wellbeing,
- listening to and watching wildlife,
- aesthetic appreciation,
- planting natives and enhancing eel habitat,
- daily walk or bike riding next to,
- spiritual appreciation,
- work,
- being tangata whenua.

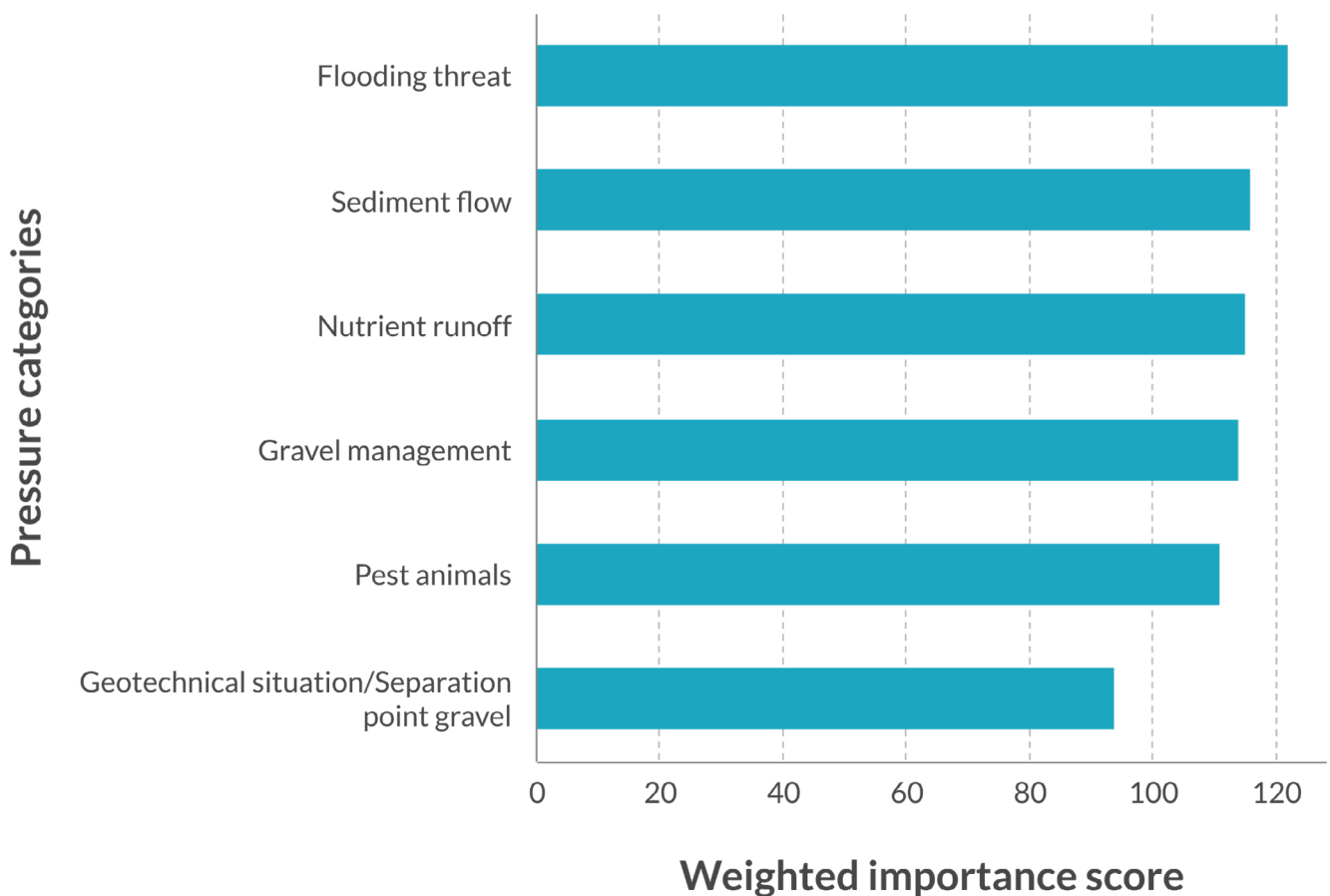


What do people consider are the key pressures on the river?

Respondents were asked to rank these choices from 1 (least important) to 5 (most important). The ranked scores for all respondents were added up for each category, and the categories with the highest scores were ranked as the most important to the most people. This is called a weighted importance score.

Out of seven options, flooding threat followed by sediment flow were considered to be the two biggest pressures. Pest plants, nutrient runoff and gravel management were also seen as key pressures and the difference between the answers was not high, meaning all options had some degree of importance to the community. Answers were reasonably similar whether residing in urban or rural areas although pest animals were seen as a bigger pressure by rural dwellers.

Weighted importance of main pressures on waterways in sub-catchments



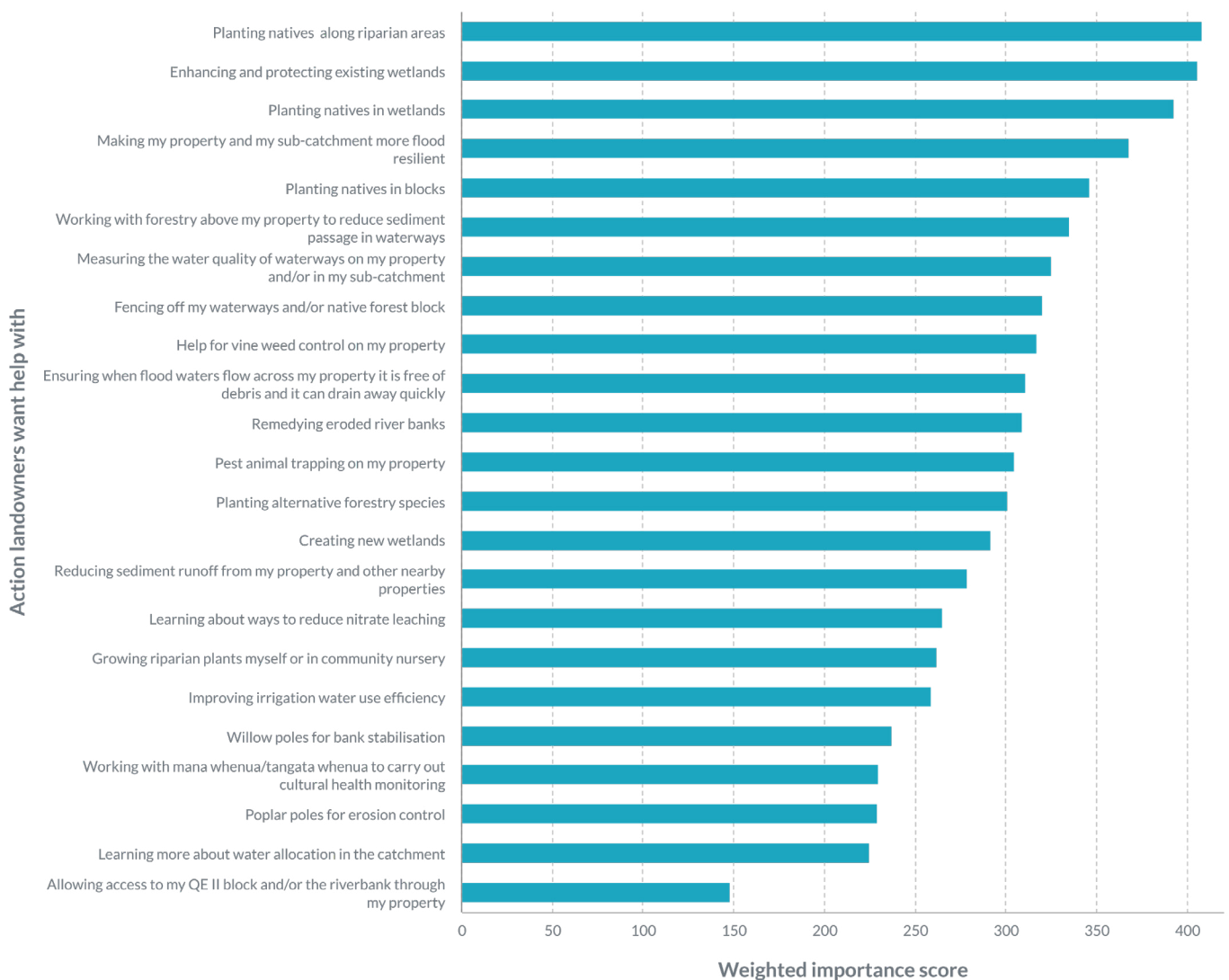


What did people want MCC to help them with?

People were given 23 choices as to what they would like MCC to help them with. Respondents were asked to rank these choices from 1 (least important) to 5 (most important). The top five weighted importance scores were:

1. Planting natives along riparian areas
2. Enhancing and protecting existing wetlands
3. Planting natives in wetlands
4. Making my property and sub-catchment more flood resilient
5. Planting natives in blocks

Weighted importance of actions landowners want help with



Community members were asked questions about this assistance. These were the combined answers for the questions:

79



New wetlands
on 35 properties

7

km



Fencing for lifestyle
dwellers

14

km



Fencing for sheep
and beef farmers

105,200

Natives to plant



400

Vine weed cleared



727

Pest traps



Relatively low order priorities for people were poplar poles for erosion control, willow poles for bank stabilisation, planting alternative forestry species, working with mana whenua to carry out cultural health monitoring, allowing access to my QEII block, improving irrigation water use efficiency.

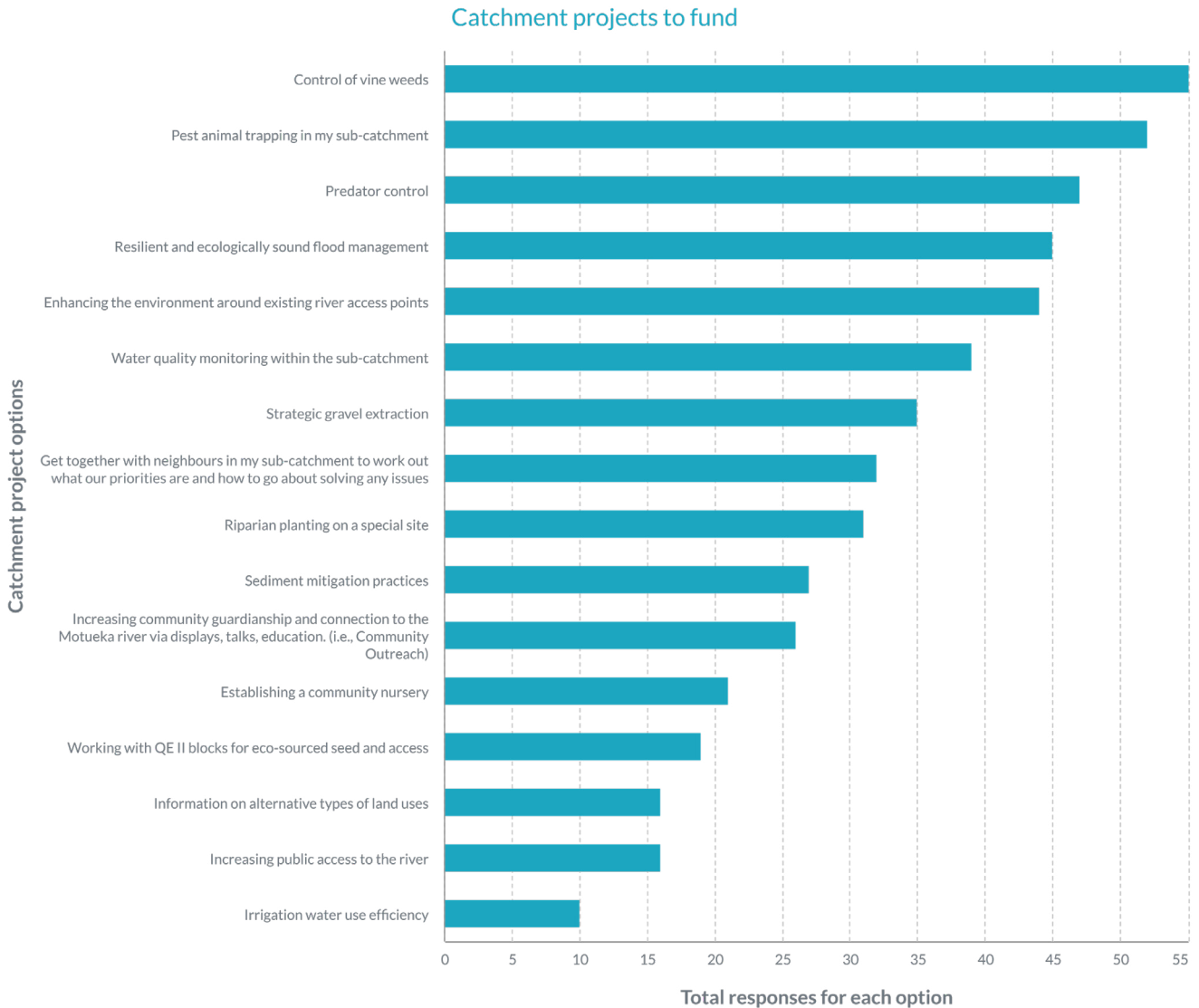




What catchment projects should MCC do?

The next question asked “If we could fund a project for your sub-catchment/local community from the list below, which would most interest you?”

Results are shown in the graph below.



Out of 16 categories, the top seven most chosen in order of priority were:

1. Control of vine weeds
2. Trapping of animal pests
3. Predator control
4. Resilient and ecologically sound flood management
5. Enhancing river access
6. Water quality monitoring
7. Strategic gravel extraction

For urban dwellers, the first priority was to plant natives. Gravel extraction wasn't in the top 5.



How would you like to be involved?

Some answers included:

- 87% want to be informed of MCC events
- 92 % want to receive a monthly newsletter
- 55% want to attend catchment events such as planting, weeding, BBQs
- 24% would like training and capability development in environmental conservation
- 58 people (25% of all respondents) wanted to be part of MCC working groups, including 5 people wanting to be part of the Biodiversity and Restoration group, 6 part of freshwater monitoring, 4 part of pest management.

Some individual comments were made about suggestions, comments and ideas:

There are a lot of groups, subgroups, different organisations, different funding bodies and other players around. It's very hard to see a complete picture of who is doing what, where, and how they interrelate.

Community working bees to do weed control in existing privately-owned native bush blocks being regenerated would be really helpful.

I have fished the Motueka river for over 40 years and can say trout numbers and size has decreased over this time. Flooding and Several floods and high river flows with sediment loads occur quite often now which probably have a negative impact on the fishery and habitat.

I would would like to see MCC have a set of monitoring equipment (SHMAK) to share amongst the community. And possibly establish a shared calendar for those sub catchment groups who have water monitoring projects, to help manage that equipment and share lessons with each other or help support continued monitoring in the future

Interested to support cultural monitoring, supporting application of concepts like Mauri to the river

Fenced off our riparian areas 22 years ago. Have been planting and doing weed control since then. Have lots of seedlings and regen happening.

I work full time, have kids and restoring our lifestyle block back to being useful and with more natives. So time is a precious commodity but do want to help the wider environment in which we live. It would be good to know the commitment of being part of a special interest group. Also if it is inappropriate since we possibly live outside the catchment?

In time I would consider contributing more actively to working groups however i still have a young family and work full time, so dont have any additional capacity at the moment. Great work - and it would be good to get some funding for the fencing & protection of existing native bush - surely it makes sense to first protect what we have, before we look to plant more.

We have an existing QEII block and a second area of approx 5,000 native planting commencing since 2018 which is now in the process of having a Restoration Agreement. We have fenced off most waterways to stock and trapping within our QEII block. I'm amazed by the growth of the native planting since 2018 and would be happy to show people what we have achieved and the mistakes we have made on the way.



