

## BLM 6: The sustainable use of water by Maori

In Maori tradition, all elements of the natural world are related through whakapapa (genealogy). The Maori world was created through the union of Ranginui (Sky Father) and \_\_\_\_\_ (Earth Mother). Ranginui sheds tears over Papatuanuku allowing life to exist. These tears fall in the form of rain and settle on the whenua (land), they flow from the pukaki (streams) into the awa (rivers) and down to the moana (sea).

Water is very important to Maori. The streams, rivers and sea are considered to be taonga (treasures). Maori therefore see themselves as the kaitiaki (guardians) of these \_\_\_\_\_. This role of \_\_\_\_\_ (guardianship) is passed on from generation to generation. Tipuna (ancestors) were the kaitiaki of the water and resources on Earth and the children of today are the future kaitiaki.

Water is looked after for a number of reasons:

1. It is important that the streams and rivers are clean and healthy as they provide \_\_\_\_\_ and drinking water from which Maori live.
2. The streams, rivers and the sea are also important to Maori as they have a great spiritual significance.

For these reasons, several restrictions can be put on the waterways. These ensure the \_\_\_\_\_ and physical health of the water ways are maintained.

Rahui is a temporary restriction of a part of a waterway. For instance if an area has been over-eeded a \_\_\_\_\_ can be put in place at the spawning ground so the eels can reproduce. After a certain length of time (when the eel population has increased), the rahui can be lifted and fishing can continue.

Tapu is both a physical and spiritual restriction. One of the meanings to tapu is \_\_\_\_\_. If a person dies in a stream, a tapu can be put on the area to prevent people using the stream. This give respect to the bereft as well as reducing the risk of people getting sick or the accident happening again.

Both tapu and rahui are enforced by \_\_\_\_\_, the guardians of the taonga (treasures). Maori have a conservation ethic (tikanga) for water. They try to ensure the health of the stream is maintained at a good level. When the role of kaitiaki passes through the generations they know that the future health of the waterways and the lives of people will be maintained.

treasures  
spiritual  
Papatuanuku  
food

kaitiakitanga  
rahui  
sacred  
kaitiaki

