

From: [Renee Weir](#)
To: [Hearings](#)
Subject: Plant Growth Trial Site Tiaki Maniototo - Helios Pannel Site Visit
Date: Thursday, 21 August 2025 11:46:48 am
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hello Tarryn,

I thought I would let you know that Tiaki Maniototo has a trial planting site for different native species out on Maniototo Road that the commissioners may like to visit. It is very easy to find as there is a large Tiaki Maniototo sign on the site. Alternatively, I have attached photos of this site taken two weeks ago on the Tiaki Maniototo road trip, celebrating the planting success of 4 years. You drive to Patearoa, go through the township (across the Sowburn Bridge, take the first right on to Maniototo Rd, follow the road until you see the Tiaki Maniototo sign that is in the image attached, that is the location of the trial site, if you reach the river you have gone too far)

This site is a wet site due to run off from pivots on the dairy farm and in a gully (so wet & high nutrient load) it was planted in September 2021, so four years in the ground, a comparable time to being discussed in the hearing, however with much more access to water.

Tiaki Maniototo used this site as a trial space to find out how well different varieties of plants grow and are very proud of the success of this site for growth. It would be well worth a trip out to see what four years looks like as the rates suggested by Habitat Restoration are hugely exaggerated.

Habitat restoration benefited from the planting of over 100,000 plants across this area and their estimate of 2 meters in 5 years is inaccurate and they will know this. However, there would be a likely financial benefit for them if this project goes ahead so better for the commissioners to see the trial site for themselves to realise this.

If they require a specific list of what is planted at the trial site Caitlin Daley, the Tiaki Maniototo project manager (botanist) will be able to assist. We have photo points at all of our planting sites so I am sure she would be happy to provide these also.

On another thought I live up Orangapai Rd and view the town of Ranfurly & Naseby from my house, my main window view, there is also a community that lives up on this hill that have around 80 people living their full time and have guests come that can be up to 50 at any time, they live close to off grid (other than power) so likely unaware of this hearing. This site will be looking over the solar panels so could be another viewpoint that has not been discussed, it is a long way away but the lights of Ranfurly are clearly visible, especially on Rugby training night where they are very bright. It might be another location to go to, as I believe the glint will be seen and not comment of consideration has been raised from the experts from this vantage point.

Kind regards

Renee

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 **Tiaki Maniototo**
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