



# WHAKAPUĀWAI FACT SHEET

Whakapuāwai is a wide-reaching environmental programme that incorporates the establishment of an industrial scale nursery to propagate native plants. The 15-hectare site at Synlait Dunsandel, will be capable of growing more than one million native trees and shrubs annually, and our goal is to plant four million native trees on farms and community land by 2028.

Whakapuāwai means “to cause to blossom, develop, flourish, prosper, thrive”. It is Synlait’s commitment to restoring and regenerating native ecosystems, waterways and wetlands, flora and fauna. It is about

drawing people and groups together to improve water quality and restore biodiversity and re-establish mahinga kai – the places and natural resources that are culturally important to Māori.

Synlait staff receive one paid day per year to contribute to the Whakapuāwai initiative. It is a way for them to live Synlait’s purpose of *‘doing milk differently for a healthier world’*, engaging with their communities and contributing to environmental restoration in the places where they live and work.

## THERE ARE THREE ASPECTS TO WHAKAPUĀWAI:

1. Extensively landscape and plant thousands of native trees and shrubs on the 15 hectares of grazing land behind our Dunsandel operation. While the early planting programme requires plants sourced from local nurseries, within a couple of years the plants will come from our own nursery. In time, it will contain a wetland, along with walking tracks, exercise zones and meeting areas
2. Work with farmers to identify areas on farms that would benefit from restoration of natural ecosystems. This will focus on the areas that will have the greatest environmental impact – riparian planting and wetland areas. Plants from our own nursery will be provided free to farmers, and our staff days will be used to help the farmers regenerate these areas. Our farmer suppliers were also given a tree during our annual supplier conference
3. Form partnerships to identify and restore community areas of shared value. As an example, Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere) is a catchment area that has been significantly degraded as a result of changes in surrounding land use. That part of Canterbury was once a large wetland, home to thousands of species of animals and plants, and a critical source of food for Ngāi Tahu. We are now on a pathway to forming a partnership with our local hapū, Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki, to work on restoration projects, starting with extensive planting and wetland restoration around Muriwai (Cooper’s Lagoon). We hope the improvements to this small piece of land will become an exemplar for restoration that land owners all around Te Waihora will follow

## WHERE DOES WHAKAPUĀWAI FIT WITHIN SYNLAIT’S WIDER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN?

In June 2018 Synlait announced its refreshed commitment to sustainability with the release of its 10-year sustainability plan. In the plan, Synlait made new commitments around water usage, greenhouse gases, nitrogen loss, palm kernel expeller (PKE), and coal.

Included in the people area of the plan, Whakapuāwai, is a key initiative that is enabling Synlait people and communities to live and breathe our purpose of *‘doing milk differently for a healthier world’*.

## MORE ABOUT WHAKAPUĀWAI

The 15 hectares behind the Synlait Dunsandel truck yard will be extensively landscaped and planted with native trees and shrubs.

A wetland will be built there which will cleanse the waste water from the Synlait factory and encourage flora and fauna to thrive. It is expected that the programme will take a number of years to complete.

Whakapuāwai will include walkways, exercise zones and meeting pods to encourage Synlait staff to enjoy nature.

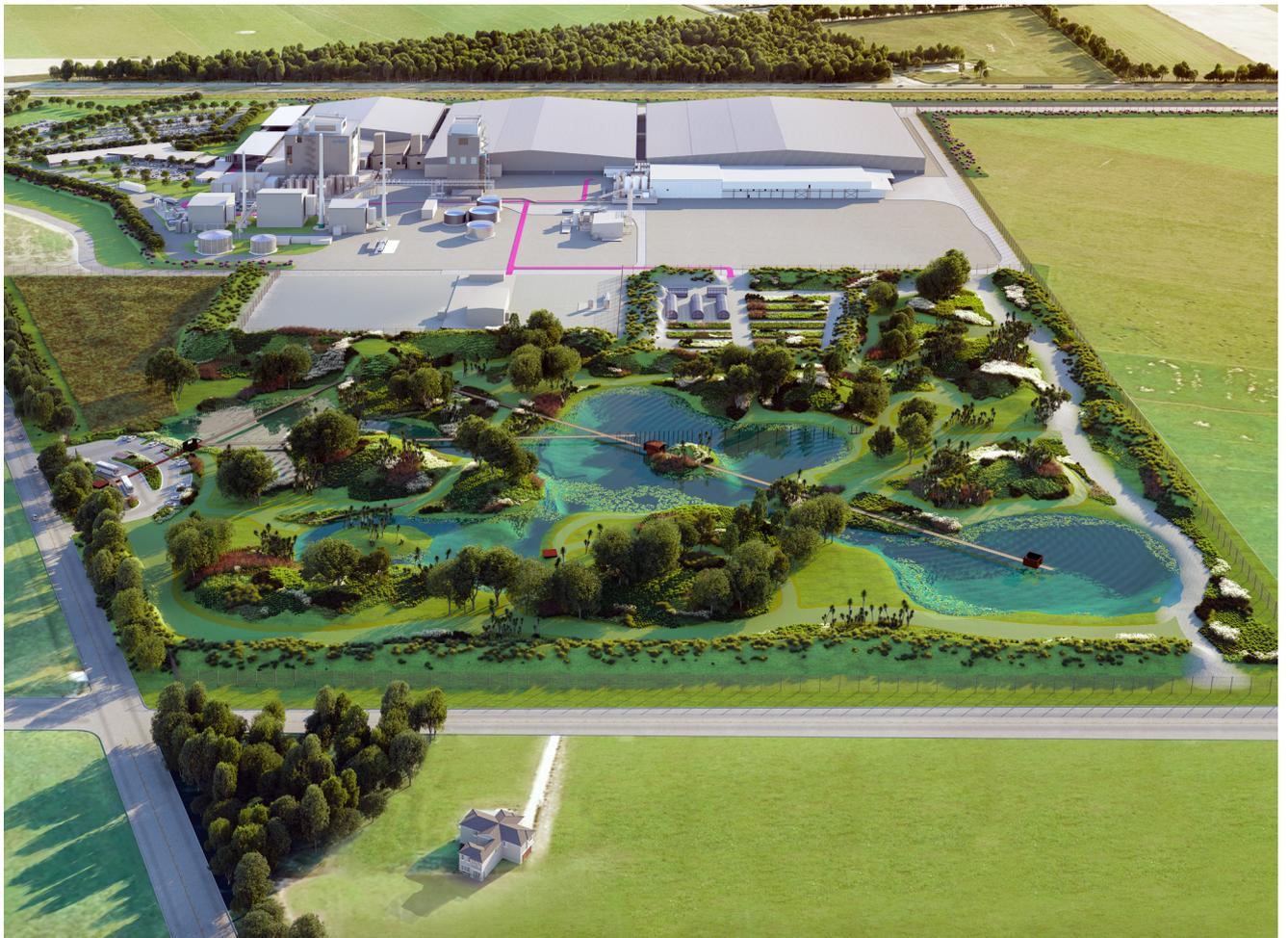
Synlait also has plans to build a large-scale native plant nursery, and eventually they will build an education centre for staff and visitors.

## WHAKAPUĀWAI FACTS

The Whakapuāwai programme site at Synlait Dunsandel will cover an area of 15 hectares.

This site will be capable of growing more than one million native trees and shrubs annually.

Our goal is to plant four million natives trees on farms and community land by 2028.



*An artist's impression of Whakapuāwai at Synlait Dunsandel*