

Case Study

Analytical Testing / Environmental Research / Research & Development



Tane te Wairoa NIWA

Completion Date: 2023

Location: Kirikiriroa, Hamilton

Services: Specialist Laboratory Architects



Lab-works Architecture, in collaboration with Warren and Mahoney Architects, were tasked with redeveloping NIWA Hamilton's new building located on the Waikato University campus.

The building is called Tane te Waiora, describing the building blocks of freshwater, oceans and atmosphere which are the key pillars of NIWA's science.

The build is the first completed phase of the Masterplanning for Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch locations. Lab-works was the laboratory specialist who worked closely with the client and laboratory stakeholders to understand the existing operations and facilities. This provides future direction of NIWA's science programme and ensures the facilities can accommodate for the planned growth.



The Hamilton project incorporates a variety of spaces required for the wide range of research that NIWA's scientists undertake. They range from temperature-controlled rooms for experimental work with fresh or saltwater fish and shellfish, aquatic plants, pollution mitigation, and analytical along with water quality and ecotoxicity laboratories.

The Store Building contains two laboratories dedicated to workshop-style laboratories for 3D printers, electronics and instrument calibration.

The design includes three types of speciality waters – sea, spring & raw water. These are fed into various laboratories from the 'tank farm' outdoors via filters to regulate the temperature. This delivers the right type of water to the end user at the required temperature.

The facility is designed for the future and to inspire staff, draw in new talent, build confidence and trust with clients and collaborators, and allow NIWA to showcase the high quality of its science and operations.

