



## **Zest String Quartet - Voluntary Climate Change Mitigation Report for the year ending Mar 2023**

### **Our Sustainability Goal:**

*Creating meaningful change in our communities through positive climate action*

In this report, we measure our efforts on the 6 Principles from the [Interim Guidance 2022](#) from the Ministry for the Environment *Manatū Mō te Taiao*

### **Transparent**

We have taken Voluntary Climate Change Mitigation by directly financially supporting the work of Matuku Link, an organisation aiming to protect and restore a critical piece of wetland in Te Henga.

Not only is the wetland significant ecologically for native species such as matuku (bittern, our namesake), pekapeka touroa (longtailed bat), tuna (eel) and many native birds and insects, wetlands are better at carbon sequestration than forests and Matuku Link is working consistently to re-vegetate the wetlands with regular plantings from their nursery. They also work actively in the community to educate and inspire efforts to preserve our country against the effects and causes of climate change.

We had the joy of playing for many weddings in West Auckland this past season so we're thrilled to be strengthening our ties to the area by supporting Matuku Link.

The primary part of our carbon footprint comes from travel to events. Our emissions in Apr 2022-Mar2023 were calculated as 0.579 tonnes of Co2. We based the dollar value of our voluntary climate change mitigation on the emissions price range recommended for bringing New Zealand to net-zero Greenhouse Gas emissions by the [NZ Productivity Commission enquiry](#) (this price is at least double the price at the most recent NZ Emissions Trading Scheme Auction in Mar 2022).

This document detailing our Voluntary Climate Change Mitigation is publicly available on our website.

### **Real, Measurable and Verified**

Matuku has a real and measurable impact on reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Due to the costs of becoming a verified carbon positive business (which adds a cost of almost three times the cost of our carbon offset itself) in certification costs paid to a third-party auditor, we have not engaged an auditor to audit our efforts towards carbon positivity. We believe that at the small scale of our business, our funds (and our clients funds!) are best directed fully towards our core goal of creating meaningful change in our communities through positive climate action.

### **Additional (not business-as-usual)**

The removal of Co2 via our support of Matuku Link is a specific intervention on our part and would not have occurred as part of our business-as-usual.

### **Not Double-Used**

We are not double-using (claiming and surrendering as separate actions) carbon offset claims.

We are not a member of the NZ ETS (Emissions Trading Scheme), nor are we required to be.

**Address Leakage**

This action does not create additional carbon usage elsewhere in our business operations.

**Permanent**

The actions we have taken are permanent – the land managed by Matuku link is fully covenanted (protected for eternity) – keeping the carbon in place and sequestering even more in the future with all the trees growing. Matuku Link also has protection projects such as pest control, ensuring that the habitat remains secure for our native plants and wildlife.

6 July 2023