

Agenda for a meeting of the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee to be held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **WEDNESDAY, 5 APRIL 2023** commencing at **9.30am**.

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GJ Ion
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUSTAINABILITY AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Reports to:	Council
Chairperson:	Cr Lisa Thomson
Deputy Chairperson:	Deputy Mayor Carolyn Eyre
Membership:	The Mayor and all Councillors
Meeting frequency:	Six-weekly
Quorum:	Majority of the members (including vacancies)

Purpose

The Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee is responsible for:

1. Developing strategies and plans to achieve the goals of Council's Long-Term Plan as they relate to sustainability and the four wellbeings.
2. Enhancing the District's economic position by promoting it as a business-friendly and business-enabled location and providing direction on strategic initiatives, plans, projects, and potential major developments relating to economic and business development.
3. Monitoring of Council's sustainability and wellbeing related strategies and plans.
4. Partnering to guide the provision of strategic community services to meet the current and future needs of the district and the enhanced wellbeing of its communities.
5. Facilitating community and stakeholder involvement and engagement with community infrastructure, safety, and wellbeing matters.
6. Overseeing civil defence and emergency management.
7. Approval and monitoring of funding to benefit the social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of communities.

In addition to the common delegations, the Sustainability & Wellbeing Committee is delegated the following Terms of Reference and powers:

Terms of Reference – Sustainability & Wellbeing

- To develop, monitor and review Council's plans and strategies in relation to climate resilience and adaptation.
- To develop, monitor and review Council's plans and strategies in relation to desired community outcomes, including Blueprints.
- To develop, monitor and review Council's Economic Development plans and strategies.
- To develop, monitor and review Council's social development and cultural wellbeing plans and strategies.

Terms of Reference – Engagement and Funding:

- To develop and agree engagement strategy and plans for the purpose of enhancing community engagement and involvement.
- To provide advice on the development and implementation of strategies in relation to the impacts on sustainability and the four wellbeings.
- To receive and consider presentations and reports from stakeholders, government departments, organisations and interest groups on development and wellbeing issues and opportunities within the District.
- To determine funding applications for the Discretionary Grants Fund in accordance with the Discretionary Grants Policy and Guidelines, in a fair and just manner.
- To monitor and review the work of the Creative Communities Scheme Assessment Committee on a regular basis.
- To prioritise allocation of funding for community activities in accordance with Council policy and strategy

Terms of Reference – Civil Defence and Emergency Management:

- To monitor the performance of Waikato District’s civil defence and emergency management response against Council’s requirements under the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act including:
 - a.) implementation of Government requirements; and
 - b.) co-ordinating with, and receiving reports from, the Waikato Region Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group Joint Committee.

Civil Defence and Emergency Management

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 - a. implementation of Government requirements; and
 - b. co-ordinating with, and receiving reports from, the Waikato Region Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group Joint Committee.

The Committee is delegated the following powers to act:

Approval of:

- Climate resilience and adaption strategies and plans
- Economic Development strategies and plans
- District and Community Blueprints

- Social Development and Cultural strategies and plans
- Community Engagement strategies and plans
- Approval of funding applications for the Rural Ward Fund within the funds allocated by the Council on an annual basis (other than those applications to be determined by the relevant community board or community committee).
- Approval of funding applications for the Heritage Assistance Fund and Conservation Fund as recommended to the committee by officers or relevant assessment bodies.
- Approval of funding applications for any other community-based funding as delegated to the committee by the Council.

To	Sustainability & Wellbeing Committee
Report title	Confirmation of Minutes
Date:	5 April 2023
Report Author:	Grace Shaw, Democracy Advisor
Authorised by:	Gaylene Kanawa, Democracy Manager

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

To confirm the minutes for a meeting of the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee held on Wednesday, 22 February 2023.

2. Staff recommendations

Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the minutes for a meeting of the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee held on Wednesday, 22 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

3. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1 – S&W Minutes – 22 February 2023.

Minutes of a meeting of the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee of the Waikato District Council held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2023** commencing at **9.30AM**.

Present:

Cr L Thomson (Chairperson)
Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church
Cr C Beavis
Cr CA Eyre (Deputy Mayor)
Cr JM Gibb
Cr K Ngataki
Cr EM Patterson
Cr M Raumati
Cr LR Thomson
Cr P Thomson
Cr T Turner
Cr D Whyte

Attending:

Mr G Ion (Chief Executive)
Mr C Morgan (General Manager Community Growth)
Mr K Abbott (Executive Manager, Projects and Innovation)
Mr J Ebenhoh (Planning and Policy Manager)
Mr R Turner (Customer Experience Manager)
Ms J Dolan (Economic and Community Led Development Manager)
Mrs G Kanawa (Democracy Manager)
Ms K Rhind (Senior Community Engagement Advisor)
Ms R Goddard (Senior Advisor Climate Action)
Ms L Van Den Bemd (Community-Led Development Advisor)
Ms A McPhee (Business Resilience Advisor)
Ms E Saunders (Democracy Advisor)
Ms G Shaw (Democracy Advisor)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Crs Gibb/Patterson)

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee accepts the apologies from:

- a. Cr Keir, Cr Matatahi-Poutapu and Cr Reeve for non-attendance.

CARRIED

S&W2302/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Cr Eyre/Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church)

THAT:

- a. the agenda for a meeting of the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee held on Wednesday, 22 February 2023 be confirmed;
- b. all items therein be considered in open meeting, with the exception of those items detailed at agenda item 7, which shall be considered with the public excluded; and
- c. all reports be received.

CARRIED

S&W2302/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

REPORTS

Emergency Management Framework and Update
Agenda Item 4.1

The report was received [*S&W2302/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- The Executive Manager, Projects and Innovation provided an update.
- On Friday 27 January 2023, Council activated its Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in response to the severe weather event impacting the North Island.
- At the time of the meeting, Council had red stickered seven (7) properties, yellow stickered thirteen (13) properties and had also white-stickered multiple other properties that had been affected by Cyclone Gabrielle.

- Council was working to support families/individuals displaced by the damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle.
- Council was working with communities to identify and assist with welfare needs and recovery, specifically Miranda, Tuakau, Raglan, Ruapuke, Rangiriri, Huntly and Port Waikato.
- Recovery planning requires a holistic view, affecting multiple teams/lines of work.
- Noted that Council staff had been fatigued and under considerable pressure since late 2022. Point was raised that staff were responding to a state of emergency but were also expected to manage business as usual.
- Suggested staff hold a series of workshops for community boards and committees to discuss community response plans, provide an overview of how these should be managed and required actions/next steps. Staff confirmed that discussions had been initiated, noting communities sought bespoke templates targeted to their unique requirements. In response, staff were looking to create an easily adaptable template.
- Councillors requested staff explain what each category of sticker (red, yellow, white) meant for affected properties/owners. Staff provided an explanation.

ACTION: Staff to provide Councillors with a written explanation/outline of what the red, yellow and white stickers mean for affected properties/owners.

- Maraes within the district had been challenged to produce effective local emergency management plans.
- *How could we capture learnings from recent events to ensure we have appropriate capacity to address future disaster events?* Council required to have a broad-scale discussion in this regard.
- It was noted that single elderly individuals were particularly vulnerable and often did not seek assistance. Raised a point that Council needed to become more aware of, and raise greater awareness around, vulnerable groups in the community.
- Council needed to also work on mitigation strategies as weather events were occurring with increased frequency and severity.
- Suggested that an updated communications plan was required to better utilise the website and ensure all relevant information was compiled/available in once space for affected communities to seamlessly access. Council needed to build this capacity as soon as possible.

ACTION: Staff to create an updated communications plan to better utilise the website and ensure all relevant emergency response information was compiled/available in once space for affected communities to seamlessly access.

- Staff were encouraged to ensure they were taking care of themselves while assisting communities through this crisis. We cannot clearly see what other people's state of mind is from the outside looking in, so needed to be mindful of what may be occurring underneath the surface.
- Council commended staff on a nimble response.
- Council needed to ensure it could adapt and react to situations of this kind; it appears adverse weather events would occur with greater frequency and severity in the future.

Resolved: (Crs Raumati/Peter Thomson)

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee endorses the 2023 Emergency Management Work Programme.

CARRIED

S&W2302/03

Climate Action Progress Update
Agenda Item 4.2

The report was received [*S&W2302/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- Recent climate related events had highlighted the district's vulnerability to climate change.
- There had been a five-fold increase in extreme weather events over the last ten (10) years.
- Impact of increased climate related events were expected to be significant in areas of health, economy, and culture, therefore, it was imperative we act and become more prepared through the establishment and implementation of consistent frameworks and systems.
- Councillors noted that climate action should be a high priority and expressed concern that staff resource was insufficient to tackle the proposed workload in this area.
- Noted there was a lack of robust data in the waste section. For example, landfills on private properties were rarely monitored. Opportunity for more comprehensive data in this space.
- The suggested 'think tank' was felt to be a great idea. Suggested it should be led by the Senior Advisor, Climate Action.
- Staff would need to determine if the think tank session would be district-wide, regional or national.

ACTION: Senior Advisor, Climate Action would provide a synopsis/business case for a climate action think tank session to the Executive Leadership Team.

- Staff were investigating the possibility of a Sustainability and Climate Response Unit within Council as the work required in this space is broad and multi-faceted. Important for the Executive Leadership Team to get this right and well resourced.

- Staff were working through how to make it work from a funding perspective, against other priorities. Suggested longer term resourcing would be a Long-Term Plan (LTP) decision.
- It was suggested that competing funding priorities should not prevent progressing a climate response and sustainability direction. Suggested that Council endeavour to find a tangible funding solution.
- Some councillors urged that Gavin and ELT urgently resource climate action.
- Waiting for the next LTP for a business case that is already in front of us is self-defeating. Stated it was critical to resource this now for the greater good, and future, of our communities.
- Staff noted that we would need to educate the entire organisation as all teams should be working towards climate and sustainability goals.

ACTION: Staff to investigate funding options for increased climate change and sustainability staff.

Economic and Community Led Development Work Programme

Agenda Item 4.3

The report was received [S&W2302/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

- The Economic and Community-Led Development Team introduced themselves to Councillors.
- Considering recent adverse weather events across the district, it was important to remember people and communities affected by damaged infrastructure.
- *What mahi could the Economic and Community-Led Development Team undertake to prevent drug testing from creating employment barriers for young people who occasionally use marijuana?* Understood it had been a concern, and there were several ideas and projects the team could investigate in this space.
- Work was underway for the Ngaruawahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri Structure Plan. Noted that the Community-Led Development Team needed to align their work with this plan, particularly from the economic perspective. Staff advised that they had been supporting other teams with this piece of work.
- A discussion was held highlighting the importance for Council to build knowledge and understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi and its impact on cultural heritage and identity. Staff confirmed that they would seek a hui with Maori Councillors around this topic.

- *Did the team have an update regarding enquiries in the renewable energy sector?* Little could be discussed from a confidentiality perspective. Acknowledgement that economic development is about investment, but further work is required regarding sustainable development.
- It was suggested that all Councillors and the Mayor should be involved in hui regarding iwi engagement, not just Maaori Councillors.

ACTION: Community-Led Development Team to involve all Councillors and the Mayor in iwi engagement hui.

Blueprint Implementation Progress Update Agenda Item 4.4

The report was received [*S&W2302/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- The purpose of the report was to provide the Committee with an update on implementation progress on each Blueprint initiative and at a summary level across both Council-led and Community-led initiatives.
- Using the same reporting software as was used for quarterly reporting on non-financial key performance indicators, implementation progress updates were obtained for the approximately 260 Blueprint initiatives, contained in the Districtwide Blueprint and the 15 existing Local Area Blueprints.
- Noted tension between realistically being able to have a truly 'alive' document versus maintain consistency with the overall framework. Council had grown to understand this tension since the inception of the Blueprints.
- Intent for the Blueprints to be a suitable base of community priorities. Appreciated that change could be rapid, therefore, the team was still figuring out how to maintain the integrity of the document for planning processes and changing community needs.
- *How do we truth test this document to ensure all information presented is accurate?* A check-in with Community Board Chairs had been added to assess/check staff progress updates.
- *How do Councillors assist staff with feedback on their community's Blueprint?* Staff would contact Councillors offline with suggestions/answers to this query.

ACTION: Staff to provide Councillors with an update regarding how they could provide assistance/feedback regarding community blueprints in their ward/s.

To	Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee
Report title	Actions Register – April 2023
Date:	5 April 2023
Report Author:	Michele Badenhorst, PA General Manager Community Growth
Authorised by:	Clive Morgan, General Manager Community Growth

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

To update the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee on the actions arising from the previous meeting.

2. Staff recommendations

Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee receives the Actions Register – April 2023.

3. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1 – Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee Actions Register April 2023

	Action	Responsible to Action	Status/Update/Response
1.	<p><u>Emergency Management Framework and Update</u></p> <p>Staff to provide Councillors with a written explanation/outline of what the red, yellow and white stickers mean for affected properties/owners.</p>	Scott Bult, Emergency Management Advisor	<p>April 2023</p> <p>Complete - email sent to councillors and Her Worship the Mayor with link to all information, FAQs and updates. Information is publicly available on Council's website. The link can be found here: https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-district/district-overview/towns/port-waikato/port-waikato---cyclone-gabrielle-update/red-and-yellow-stickers</p>
2.	<p><u>Emergency Management Framework and Update</u></p> <p>Staff to create an updated communications plan to better utilise the website and ensure all relevant emergency response information was compiled/available in once space for affected communities to seamlessly access.</p>	Scott Bult, Emergency Management Advisor	<p>April 2023</p> <p>Complete - Council's Communications Team leading communication plan for community regarding Council's recovery programme. Executive Manager Communications working with Recovery Managers, Councillors and Her Worship the Mayor to progress the plan.</p>
3.	<p><u>Climate Action Progress Update</u></p> <p>Senior Advisor, Climate Action would provide a synopsis/business case for a climate action think tank session to the Executive Leadership Team.</p>	Rachael Goddard, Senior Advisor - Climate Action	<p>April 2023</p> <p>This item is being taking to ELT in the 6th April meeting for discussion.</p>

	Action	Responsible to Action	Status/Update/Response
4.	<p><u>Climate Action Progress Update</u></p> <p>Staff to investigate funding options for increased climate change and sustainability staff. Manager to ensure cultural considerations are accurately reflected.</p>	Rachael Goddard, Senior Advisor - Climate Action	<p>April 2023</p> <p>A Climate Action & Sustainability Coordinator's position has been approved. The position description has been written and the position has been job sized. We expect to advertise next month. In addition, we are scoping a potential future role around Resilience, Preparedness and Adaptation.</p>
5.	<p><u>Economic and Community Led Development Work Programme</u></p> <p>Community-Led Development Team to involve all Councillors and the Mayor in iwi engagement huis.</p>	Economic and Community Led Development Team	<p>April 2023</p> <p>Team has met with individual Councillors. Full Iwi engagement hui has not yet occurred and will be planned in the near future.</p>
6.	<p><u>Economic and Community Led Development Work Programme</u></p> <p>Staff to provide Councillors with an update regarding how they can provide assistance/feedback regarding community blueprints in their ward/s.</p>	Economic and Community Led Development Team	<p>April 2023</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Councillor meetings with individual councillors ongoing as part of the Blueprint review planning processes.</p>

To	Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee
Report title	Three Waters Reform Better off Funding Special Project Update April 2023
Date:	5 April 2023
Report Author:	Deron Sharma, Three Waters Reform Project Manager
Authorised by:	Gavin Ion, Chief Executive

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

To inform the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee of current workstreams, activities, and key matters under the three waters reform better off funding special project.

2. Executive summary

Whakaraapopototanga matua

In 2021, Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa (New Zealand Government) announced the better off funding package, valued at \$500 million, as part of the three waters reform program. Te Kaunihera ā Takiwā o Waikato's (Waikato District Council's) allocation of this pūtea (fund) is \$31,531,126. The first 25%, valued at \$7.88 million, was allocated to Kaunihera under tranche 1, with the remainder to be introduced on 1 July 2024, contingent upon the three waters reform program progressing through Parliament.

Kaunihera (Council) was one of the only territorial authorities in the motu (island) to allow community-led initiatives to be considered. Furthermore, Kaunihera developed an assessment panel comprised equally of iwi and kaimahi (staff) representatives to assess the applications in alignment with Te Tari Taiwhenua (Department of Internal Affairs) criteria as well as Kaunihera's vision of "Liveable, thriving, and connected communities - He noohanga aahuru, he iwi whai ora, he hapori tuuhono tahi."

The better off funding application process saw a total of 115 applications being received, with a cumulative value of over \$50 million. A shortlist of 19 projects, valued at \$6.864 million, was developed. Whilst a standard, procurement process was followed in the evaluation of the longlist to the shortlist, the shortlisted projects have a mix of Council led, community led, and iwi led projects.

There are recoverable costs for kaimahi time, iwi panel member time, administration, and project management that will be disbursed from the funding. Accounting for recoverable costs, project management and contingency during the delivery period, there was funding available to realize our community's aspiration for fortifying community safety through the installation of, and upgrades to, CCTV cameras with automatic number plate recognition capabilities within the takiwā.

Te Tari Taiwhenua has approved all the shortlisted projects for funding from tranche 1 of the better off funding. The pūtea has been committed, with the first 10% instalment ready to be claimed by Kaunihera. However, there exists a financial risk to Council and other applicants if the reporting requirements, set by Crown Infrastructure Partners, are not met by any one of the successful applicants. To minimize these risks, kaimahi need to analyze the reporting template, seek to negotiate any onerous obligations in the interest of community advocacy, and mirror other obligations in the back-to-back funding agreement that each applicant will need to enter into with Kaunihera.

Under clause 4.1 of the Three Waters Reform Better Off Package (Tranche 1) Funding Agreement, the commencement date is now in effect. However, kaimahi have assessed the impact of delaying the reporting template on project deliverability as a risk with respect to rising labor and material costs. This has been escalated to the Kaiwhakahaere Matua (Chief Executive) to cite at the Chief Executive Forum.

3. Staff recommendations Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee:

- a. notes that the project management for the three waters reform better off funding is ongoing; and**
- b. acknowledges that the initial 10% instalment can be claimed by Council; and**
- c. accepts that staff are awaiting the reporting template from Crown Infrastructure Partners before claiming the fund to minimize the financial risk to Council and the community.**

4. Background Koorero whaimaarama

The three waters reform better off funding is a funding package announced by Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa in 2021 as part of a suite of funding available under the three waters reform program. The program aims to reform the way that drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services are delivered in Aotearoa New Zealand. The goal of the program is to improve the quality, reliability, and resilience of these essential services.

Te Tari Taiwhenua is administrating the three waters reform program on behalf of Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa. As such, Te Tari Taiwhenua has released a suite of funding to assist territorial authorities, which began with a \$761 million injection in 2021 to assist with post-COVID, economic stimulation and promotion of participation in three waters reform before the program was mandated through legislation.

This was followed by the introduction of the better off funding in 2022. It must be noted that the better off funding available to Te Kaunihera ā Takiwā o Waikato has been distributed between two tranches, with tranche 2 becoming available on 1 July 2024 (**Attachment A**). The estimated funding available to Kaunihera (Council) under the three waters reform program has been summarized (**Figure 1**).

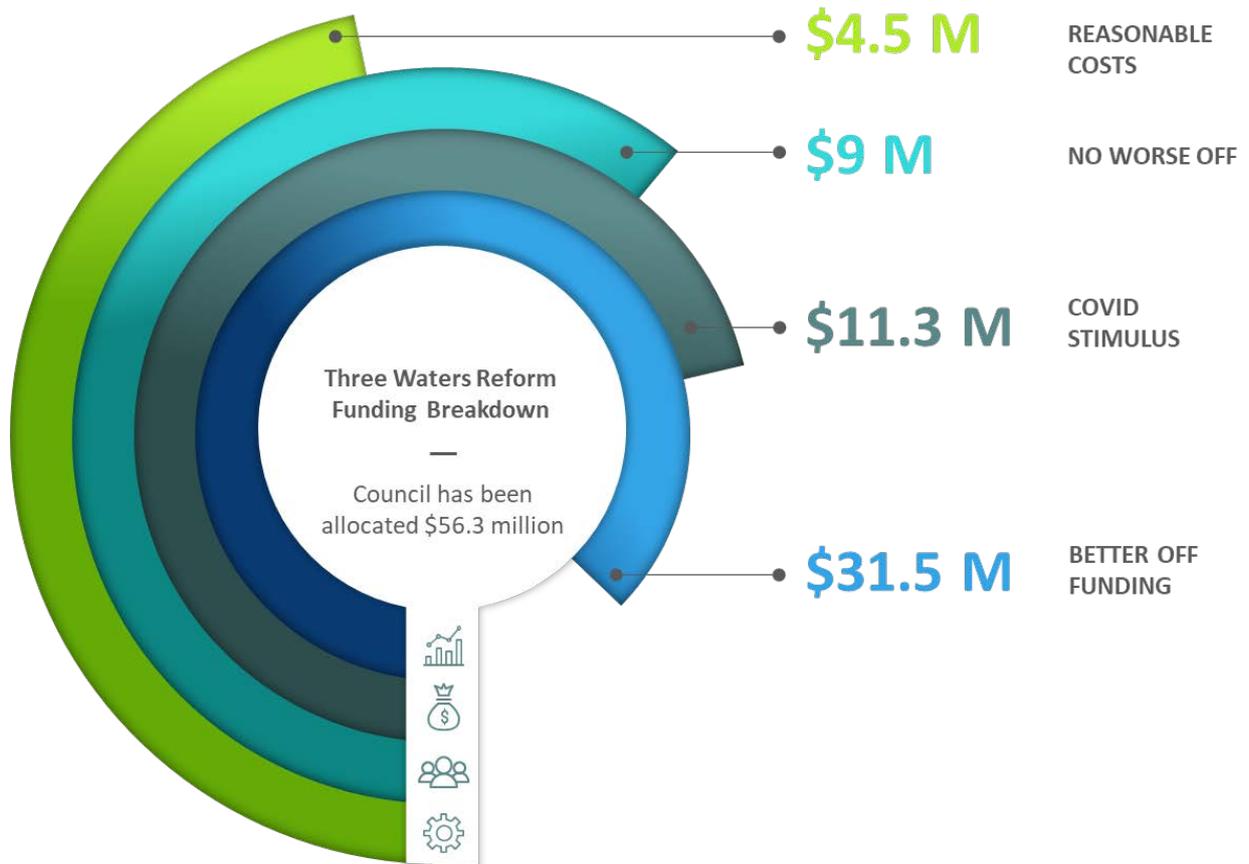


Figure 1: Three waters reform funding allocation to Kaunihera

The better off funding package is an investment by the Crown into local government and communities for future wellbeing. This is designed to assist local government bodies transition to a new model for delivering three waters services. Under the new model, three waters services would be delivered by four water service entities.

Territorial authorities will be required to demonstrate that the use of this pūtea kāwanatanga (government funding) supports the three waters service delivery reform objectives and other local wellbeing outcomes, whilst aligning with the priorities of central and local government, through meeting all or some of the following criteria:

- supporting communities to transition to a sustainable and low-emissions economy, including building resilience to climate change and natural hazards.

- delivery of infrastructure and/or services that:
 - enable housing development and growth, with a focus on brownfield and infill development opportunities where those are available.
 - support local place-making and improvements in community well-being.

Unlike most councils across the motu, kaimahi at Te Kaunihera ā Takiwā o Waikato saw this opportunity to take the conversation into the heart of our communities and let our people show us what our vision of 'liveable, thriving, connected communities' means to them. This was achieved by administering the pūtea as a contestable fund to the community. Kaunihera recognized that the criteria for the funding package required engagement with iwi/Māori in determining the funding allocation.

The Department of Internal Affairs' minimum expectations of Kaunihera regarding iwi/Māori engagement for the first tranche of funding were:

- Identify Māori impacted by the kaupapa (purpose) of the work, with a focus on hapū, iwi, post-settlement government entities, other mana whenua.
- Evidence of genuine engagement, extending beyond standing committees.
- Identify issues/concerns arising from the engagement, and steps taken to accommodate and support these interests.

On 22 May 2022, the Infrastructure Committee agreed to the establishment of an assessment panel to consider applications for better off funding and make recommendations to Kaunihera on how the first \$7.88 million pūtea should be allocated.

At this meeting, Council agreed that kaimahi Kaunihera and our treaty partners should be equally represented on the panel (**Table 1**) and that the panel should operate under a Terms of Reference (**Attachment B**) that needed to be approved by Kaunihera.

Table 1: Composition of better off funding assessment panel

Representatives	Name	Representative of
Chairperson Iwi Representative	Carolyn Hopa	East Ward Representative
Deputy Chairperson Iwi Representative	Donald Turner	South Ward Representative
Iwi Representative	Haydn Solomon	West Ward Representative
Iwi Representative	Crystal Cherrington	North Ward Representative
General Manager, Service Delivery	Roger MacCulloch	Waikato District Council
Procurement Manager	Everard Whangapirita	Waikato District Council
General Manager, Community Growth	Clive Morgan	Waikato District Council
Chief Financial Officer	Alison Diaz	Waikato District Council

The Terms of Reference was developed to assist the panel in carrying out its designated functions.

The purpose of the terms of reference was to:

- consider funding applications and projects in accordance with the Department of Internal Affairs' requirements, iwi aspirations and Council's values.
- provide a wellbeing assessment setting out the expected benefits and wellbeing outcomes for each project or initiative that outlines how the program will deliver on the broader "wellbeing mandates" under the framework of the Local Government Act 2002.

The Terms of Reference also set the entitlements for remuneration of iwi panel members, which was absorbed as project management costs from the better off funding. On 30 June 2022, Council approved this Terms of Reference, authorizing the panel to assess the incoming applications and make recommendations to Kaunihera on projects best suited to receive the funding based on the aforementioned criteria. Under the given timeframe constraints, the team saw the value of working within the community, utilizing marae infrastructure, connectivity, and established relationships.

The panel operated within strict timeframes to develop an application process, evaluation process (**Attachment C**), and engagement plan for the fund, congruent with the requirements of Te Tari Taiwhenua and Te Kaunihera ā Takiwā o Waikato's vision of "Liveable, thriving, and connected communities - He noohanga aahuru, he iwi whai ora, he hapori tuuhono tahi." Te Tari Taiwhenua's partnership matrix (**Figure 2**) provided a framework, highlighting Council's foresight to enable the opportunity for early partnership through the establishment of the panel.

		1 Current State			2 Future State
		Inform	Consult	Collaborate	Partner
Principles of Effective Engagement	Engage early	▶ Advise iwi/Māori of what is happening			
	Be inclusive	▶ Provide information to iwi/Māori	▶ Keep iwi/Māori informed ▶ Seek feedback from iwi/Māori	▶ Work together with iwi/Māori	▶ Pre-existing relationship with iwi/Māori
	Think broadly		▶ Listen to iwi/Māori ▶ Acknowledge iwi/Māori concerns & aspirations	▶ Determine issues/problems together	▶ Determine issues/problems together
Principles of Partnership	Plan and co-design together			▶ Develop solutions together	▶ Develop the solution together
	Share decision-making			▶ Involve iwi/Māori in the decision-making process	▶ Co-design the process
	Relationship built on trust and respect	Weak Strong			

Figure 2: Department of Internal Affairs partnership matrix

A Mātauranga Māori approach was taken by the panel. Mechanistically, this encompassed the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing mandates required in the Local Government Act 2002. The assessment panel's process was broken down into two phases: the former being qualitative and the latter, quantitative. This enabled the panel to objectively assess projects solely on the merits against the funding criteria and Council's strategic focus areas before considering projects based on financial information. This involved utilizing a marae-based engagement model wherein the panel members and applicants were welcomed through a Pōwhiri facilitated by iwi panel members.

Wāhanga Tuatahi – Phase One

Phase one saw projects evaluated qualitatively against the criteria. While Te Tari Taiwhenua only required projects to meet one of the funding criteria to be eligible for funding, kaimahi developed an evaluation methodology that rewarded projects for meeting multiple criteria. The purpose of doing this was two-fold: firstly, to set the bar higher than Te Tari Taiwhenua to increase likelihood of success for Council's recommendations, and secondly, to ensure that projects were scored fairly and holistically against all the available criteria. This method gave the panel the ability to be consistent while reviewing to a high standard under tight turnaround times.

Following the marae presentations, phase one saw paired panel members (one kaimahi Kaunihera and one iwi representative in each pair that was assigned to each ward) independently score each application before reaching a consensus amongst themselves. Projects scored higher than 7 out of 10 points were presented to the entire panel for further consideration until consensus amongst the quorum was reached. During this phase, if panel pairs had uncertainties or concerns about a particular application, it was raised with the remainder of the panel as a point of discussion. This constituted the qualitative phase wherein the panel considered each application based on its merits against the Te Tari Taiwhenua and Kaunihera criteria under probity in practice.

Wāhanga Tuarua – Phase Two

In this phase, the philosophy distinguishing the differing levels of experience between council or community is explained by the approach of tuakana and tēina, or big brother and little brother, respectively. The panel acknowledged the disparities in resources available to, and capabilities of, tuakana and tēina projects during the assessment.

Once the panel moderated on projects that best fit the Te Tari Taiwhenua criteria and Kaunihera's vision, the pricing associated with each application was released to the panel. Based on the criteria, the scoring of each project, its value for money, and deliverability, a secondary moderation was carried out to develop a shortlist.

Projects that were filtered out during this phase was classified as a contingency project. Contingency projects are a list of projects that can be substituted into the program of works (by virtue of meeting the Te Tari Taiwhenua criteria) if a shortlisted project cannot be achieved during the delivery period or was not approved by Te Tari Taiwhenua.

The denouement of the panel's shortlisting process also realizes iwi aspirations for the district. The panel gave equal consideration to the needs of Kaunihera and our wider community.

The panel used auxiliary prioritization factors to litmus test projects during moderation:

- credibility of applicant
- likelihood of successful delivery
- profiteering
- number of beneficiaries within the community
- shovel readiness
- delivery timeframe (realistic/compliant)
- independence/reliance on other funding sources
- balance of stakeholder benefits (fair representation)
- value of request against the funding available to ensure equitable distribution of funds.

In total, 107 applications, with a cumulative value of over \$50 million, were received and assessed using the process outlined above. The distribution of projects received from the North, South, East, and West wards were relatively even (**Table 2**).

Table 2: Summary of application numbers and project costs by ward

	East	North	South	West
Number of Applications	24	23	26	31
Cost of Projects (\$ million)	12.797	5.866	17.505	13.833

Out of the 107 projects, the Taupiri Community Shared Pathway was split into two stages as it was a multi-stage project, and the Te Paina project was split into seven different projects as the application form referenced seven discrete projects. Once this splicing was applied, it brought the total application count to 115.

Out of this total count, 19 projects were shortlisted, and 11 projects were classed as contingency projects.

The mahi (work) undertaken by kaimahi to deliver the three waters reform better off funding was above planned or business as usual activities; the costs associated with delivery was attributed to project costs, thereto.

Kaunihera has already incurred approximately \$180, 000 to date (**Table 3**) and will continue to incur recoverable costs for staff time, project management, and administration.

Table 3: Summary of costs incurred

Activity	Cost (\$)
Community engagement costs	10,000
Recovery of staff time on assessment panel	70,000
Remuneration of iwi panel members	30,000
Project management and administration	70,000
Total costs incurred	180,000
Total available funding for projects	7,700,000

These costs were drawn down from the \$7.88 million allocation, which brought the available funding down to \$7.7 million.

The assessment panel's shortlisted projects have a cumulative value of \$6.018 million. When a 10% contingency and 20% project management cost is applied, this brings the total to \$6.86 million, leaving a remainder of \$840,000 (**Table 4**).

The Whaingaroa Wharf Walkways project already has contingency and project management programmed into the application costs so additional disbursements should not be required.

Table 4: Summary of shortlisted projects with associated delivery costs

Shortlisted Project	Value (\$)	Contingency (10%)	Project Management (20%)	Project Total
Whaingaroa Wharf Walkways	3,200,000	-	-	3,200,000
Taupiri Community Shared Pathway (Stages 1 and 2)	529,750	52,975	105,950	688,675
Whatawhata Playground	250,000	25,000	50,000	325,000
T.A.S.K (Te Akau South Kaitiaki)	44,022	4,402	8,804	57,229
Te Kauwhata Community Transport Service Electric Car Project	45,000	4,500	9,000	58,500
Te Ao Moana Whaingaroa	17,957	1,796	3,591	23,344
Whatawhata Country Tennis Club Upgrades Lights	90,000	9,000	18,000	117,000
Naike Wellness Hub/Community Gym	142,024	14,202	28,405	184,631

Waerenga Community Hub Feasibility	116,390	11,639	23,278	151,307
Accessibility Lift for Creative Space Building at Raglan Old School Arts Centre	29,536	2,954	5,907	38,397
Restoring Mauri to Davies Park	421,500	42,150	84,300	547,950
Te Kowhai Structure Plan	250,000	25,000	50,000	325,000
Kimihia Lakes Irrigation and Picnic Site	96,040	9,604	19,208	124,852
Community Heartsaver Defibrillators	29,490	2,949	5,898	38,337
Raglan Bowling Club Irrigation Upgrade	7,018	702	1,404	9,123
Te Paina Project 2 - Te Paina Restoration	485,000	48,500	97,000	630,500
Te Paina Project 1 - Pest Eradication	130,000	13,000	26,000	169,000
Te Paina Project 4 - 3 Waters Program	75,000	7,500	15,000	97,500
Waka Energy Resources & Papakainga Project	60,000	6,000	12,000	78,000
SUB-TOTAL	6,018,727	281,873	563,745	
TOTAL				\$6,864,345.10

In addition to the aforementioned projects, the community strongly indicated a desire to fund CCTV cameras across the takiwā, which was received through three separate applications. The applications referenced Pōkeno, Ngāruawāhia, Rāhui Pōkeka Huntly, Whaingaroa Raglan, and Tamahere.

Kaimahi have adopted high level estimates of installing and maintaining CCTV in these locations based on the CCTV installation in Rāhui Pōkeka Huntly. Estimates totaled approximately \$540, 000 for 20 cameras with pan, tilt, zoom capability as well as automatic plate number recognition in 10 locations. With the available funding of approximately \$840, 000 Council's aspiration of having safer communities through CCTV can also be realized (**Table 5**).

Table 5: Breakdown of estimated CCTV project costs

Activity	Value (\$)	Contingency (10%)	Project Management (20%)	Project Total (\$)
Capital Expenditure				
Design	18,000	1,800	3,600	23,400
Hardware - Cameras	40,000	4,000	8,000	52,000
Hardware - Storage & Networking	180,000	18,000	36,000	234,000
Hardware - Poles	25,000	2,500	5,000	32,500
Traffic Management	30,000	3,000	6,000	39,000
Security (2x static Armourguard)	-	-	-	-
Electrical Work	30,000	3,000	6,000	39,000
Installation Contractor	50,000	5,000	10,000	65,000
SUBTOTAL CAPEX	373,000	37,300	74,600	484,900
Operational Expenditure				
Grid connection annual fee	2,000	200	400	2,600
Network Management cost per node	100	10	20	130
Monitoring of cameras	20,000	2,000	4,000	26,000
Repairs and Maintenance	20,000	2,000	4,000	26,000
SUBTOTAL OPEX	42,100	4,210	8,420	
SUBTOTAL	415,100	41,510	83,020	
TOTAL				\$539,630

The assessment panel has also recommended a list of 11 contingency (backup) projects to Kaunihera (**Table 6**). These contingency projects also scored well against the Te Tari Taiwhenua criteria and can be substituted into the better off funding delivery program if one of the shortlisted projects cannot be delivered or if, in the future, Kaunihera finds itself incurring lesser project management and delivery costs than current estimates.

Table 6: Summary of contingency projects

Backup Project	Value (\$)	Contingency (10%)	Project Management (20%)	Project Total (\$)
Taupiri Community shared Pathway (Stage 3)	925,425	92,543	185,085	1,203,053
Hinemoa H2O - Feasibility	1,000,000	100,000	200,000	1,300,000
Durham Precinct Revitalisation	625,000	62,500	125,000	812,500
The Refinery Health and Fitness Ltd	143,000	14,300	28,600	185,900
Pura Whetu ki Whaingaroa	99,500	9,950	19,900	129,350
WDC Shades of Playgrounds	92,000	9,200	18,400	119,600
Te Paina Project 3 - Water, Air & Soil Testing	750,000	75,000	150,000	975,000
Te Paina Project 5 - Taiao Safe Marae	50,000	5,000	10,000	65,000
Te Paina Project 6 Mātauranga Māori Academy	20,000	2,000	4,000	26,000
Te Paina Project 7 Land Wars Heritage Trail	2,000	200	400	2,600
TIAKI Feasibility - Huntly Green Energy	590,000	59,000	118,000	767,000
SUB-TOTAL	3,901,250	390,125	780,250	
TOTAL				\$5,586,002.50

By establishing a Mātauranga Māori approach, Te Kaunihera ā Takiwā o Waikato recognized the requirement to *Inform, Consult, Collaborate, and Partner* to enable a successful transition for future funding within tranche two, should it become available.

5. Discussion Matapaki

On 5 December 2022, Kaunihera was notified that all the shortlisted projects were accepted by Te Tari Taiwhenua for funding (**Attachment D**). This was relayed to the successful applicants along with the execution of a [media release](#).

The Three Waters Reform Better Off Package (Tranche 1) Funding Agreement that Kaunihera signed with the Te Tari Taiwhenua poses a financial risk to Council and other applicants if the reporting requirements are not met. For example, if one applicant does not adhere to Te Tari Taiwhenua's reporting requirements, other applicants could be at risk of not receiving the funds.

Staff had anticipated this risk in running a contestable-funding application process and requested that Crown Infrastructure Partners provide Kaunihera with a reporting template in fulfilling its function as monitor of the funding arrangement.

The purpose of this reporting template was to minimize the funding risk to Kaunihera, as well as other applicants, by incorporating the reporting requirements in the funding agreement between each applicant and Council, in addition to transferring other obligations placed upon Kaunihera by Te Tari Taiwhenua onto each successful applicant.

Kaimahi are also cognizant that some applicants may not be equipped to meet the standards that Kāwanatanga usually holds councils to and will work with each applicant to mitigate these or provide support where possible.

While the pūtea has been committed to Council and is ready to be claimed, kaimahi have not sought to claim the fund until the reporting template is made available. This is because the reporting requirements will have to be mirrored in the back-to-back funding agreements between Council and the successful applicants to minimize the financial risk.

Moreover, the commencement date has been effectuated as per clause 4.1 of the funding agreement. Kaimahi have assessed the delayed reporting template as a risk to project delivery within the specified timeframes and with respect to rising costs. As such, this issue has been escalated to the Kaiwhakahaere Matua (Chief Executive) to raise at the Chief Executive forum.

6. Next steps Ahu whakamua

Crown Infrastructure Partners is due to provide the reporting template by the end of March 2023 (**Attachment E**).

If any onerous or exorbitant requirements are identified, kaimahi will attempt to negotiate these with Te Tari Taiwhenua and Crown Infrastructure Partner in the interest of advocating for our communities or devise mechanisms to protect Kaunihera and other applicants.

Kaimahi will continue to explore avenues for negotiation or risk mitigation until Kaunihera is reasonably comfortable with the reporting requirements. Thereupon, kaimahi can begin to frame the back-to-back funding agreements with each successful applicant.

At this juncture, the better off funding project will be handed over to Kaunihera's Enterprise Project Management Office for delivery. Thereafter, kaimahi will meet with each applicant ā-kanohi to discuss these requirements and develop a plan for project delivery.

Kaimahi will advise the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee of the outcomes of the discussions between Te Tari Taiwhenua and the Kaiwhakahaere Matua.

7. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment A:	Better off Funding Package Guide from Te Tari Taiwhenua
Attachment B:	Terms of Reference – Better off Funding Assessment Panel
Attachment C:	Better off Funding Evaluation Process
Attachment D:	Te Tari Taiwhenua Notifies Kaunihera of Better off Funding Project Approval
Attachment E:	Crown Infrastructure Report Template Update

Three Waters Better Off Support Package

Guide to the better off funding package for
local authorities



Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs

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Headline Information



Key Dates

- ▶ Funding Proposal submission portal opens online **Monday 11 April 2022** and close **Friday 30 September 2022**
- ▶ Tranche 1 funding is available for use from **1 July 2022**



Applying for Funds

- ▶ There are **two** key **documents** to apply for and access the funding:
 - The Funding Proposal, outlining your council's intentions
 - The Funding Agreement
- ▶ You can only submit **one** Funding Proposal, but may include multiple projects or initiatives.
- ▶ You can use funding to cover projects up to **five years** in duration (through to 30 June 2027)
- ▶ You have a **relationship manager** assigned to your council to help you complete your proposal and access the funds (see **Appendix D** for details)



Funding Release

- ▶ An **initial instalment** of 10% of your funds will be released on approval of your Funding Proposal
- ▶ Subsequent instalments will be released in **arrears of costs** incurred, on receipt of:
 - A payment request (up to **one a month** can be submitted); and
 - Proof of **progress** on your expenditure programme

About the better off package

The better off package is:

- An investment by the Crown into the future for local government and community wellbeing; and
- In recognition of the significance to the local government sector (and the communities they serve) of the transfer of responsibility for water service delivery.

The use of this funding supports councils to transition to their new role post-reform through meeting some or all of the following criteria, as laid out in the Heads of Agreement:



Supporting communities to transition to a sustainable and low-emissions economy, including **by building resilience to climate change and natural hazards.**



Delivery of infrastructure and/or services that **enable housing development and growth**, with a focus on brownfield and infill development opportunities where those are available.



Delivery of infrastructure and/or services that **support local place-making and improvements in community well-being.**

About the application and funding process

The better off package is one of the financial support packages to be provided to Local Authorities under the Three Waters Reform, as outlined in the Heads of Agreement.

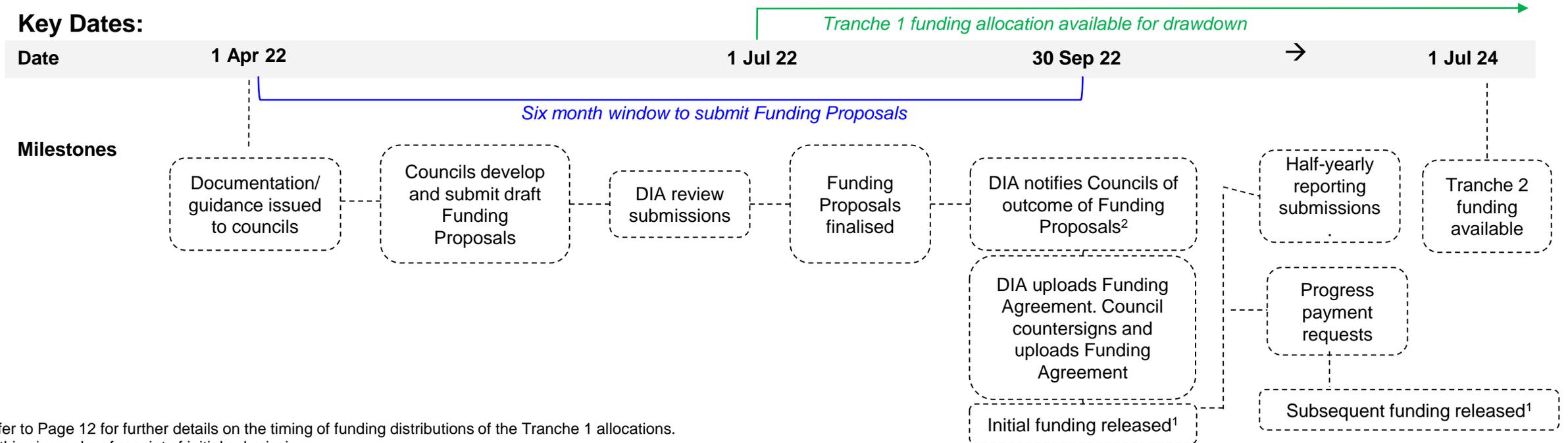
The \$2 billion package has been pre-allocated to councils based on a nationally consistent formula, and is available in two tranches. The first \$500 million of Crown Funding is available from 1 July 2022 and the remaining \$1.5 billion is available from 1 July 2024. This guide is specific to the first tranche of funding, however it is expected that access to Tranche 2 funding will follow a similar process.

This guide sets out the information needed for Local Authorities to engage with the Funding Agreement and Funding Proposal templates.

These are available on the Three Waters Reform webpage at: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/three-waters-reform-programme-reform-support-package>:

- Funding Proposal template available **01/04/2022** (NB: template for review only, proposals must be submitted online via the Grants Management System)
- Funding Agreement available **01/04/2022**

Key Dates:



¹ Refer to Page 12 for further details on the timing of funding distributions of the Tranche 1 allocations.

² Within six weeks of receipt of initial submission.

Relationship managers

To streamline the funding application and approval process, each council will be assigned a Relationship Manager to support them in developing their Funding Proposals. They will be available to provide additional guidance on an as-required basis.

Crown Infrastructure Partners have been appointed to fill this role.



The Relationship Manager's Role

Relationship managers are in place to work with, and support local authorities through the end-to-end Funding Proposal process. They also provide a liaison point between the councils and the DIA throughout the approval process.

Identify and Prioritise

Assist councils to **identify** and **prioritise** initiatives that:

- ▶ Meet the funding criteria & conditions
- ▶ Provide value for money
- ▶ Demonstrate wellbeing outcomes

Prepare

Help local authorities to **prepare** funding proposals, including:

- ▶ Preparing the schedule of expenditure
- ▶ Identifying milestones linked to project delivery
- ▶ Advising on contingency requirements
- ▶ Completing the wellbeing assessments

Submit

Support Councils to **submit** funding proposals to DIA:

- ▶ Navigate the online Grants Management System
- ▶ Liaise with the DIA and the Cross Government Evaluation team to resolve any queries on the Funding Proposal

Funding application documentation

Funding Agreement

Local Authorities are required to sign the **Funding Agreement** to access the better off funding package.

DIA will provide a completed Funding Agreement following its review of the funding proposal. A pro-forma copy of the Funding Agreement is available [here](#).

The Agreement sets out the **purpose** of the funding, and the **requirements and conditions** that local authorities agree to meet to access the funding. The Agreements includes detail on the following:

- Funding conditions and criteria
- Overview of what the funding stimulus may be spent on
- Conditions attached to the funding
- Engaging with and supporting transition activities
- Reporting and other requirements

Funding Proposal

The Funding Proposal is the document Local Authorities will use to access funding, and specifies the Programme of Expenditure they wish to apply funding to. It will be submitted to DIA for review to ensure that it meets the following criteria:

Funding criteria

- The Programme must support one or more of the better off package criteria (*refer page 4*)
- Funding proposals must be for:
 - new initiatives/projects; and/or
 - to accelerate, scale-up and/or enhance the quality of planned investment
- The duration of the Programme of Expenditure must be 5 years or less (completion date on or before 30 June 2027)
- The Total Maximum Amount Payable must be equal to or less than the funding allocation (*refer page 13*)

Local Authorities have flexibility to apply better off funding as they deem appropriate, provided it is consistent with these funding conditions and the Funding Agreement, and approved via the Funding Proposal.

The Funding Proposal will cover the following elements:

- Programme overview (including work to be undertaken, summary of costs, relevant milestones and dates.)
- Demonstration that engagement was undertaken with iwi/Māori on the use of funding.
- How the Programme meets one or more of the better off package funding criteria and conditions
- A brief wellbeing assessment setting out the expected benefits of the Programme



Administration of the better off package will be managed through the DIA online Grant Management System. **To apply you will need access to this system.** See **Appendix C** for more information

How to Identify and Prioritise Initiatives

The funding criteria provides flexibility for Councils to identify a potentially wide range of funding proposals.

Where a council has existing strategic plans and documentation that meet the funding criteria, these may inform your project selection, including proposals to accelerate, scale up or enhance current and planned initiatives.

To assist in identifying and prioritising your initiatives, below are examples of projects that may be eligible based on the criteria, along with key considerations when prioritising a list of initiatives. Judgement is required when making these decisions, and councils may choose to assign different weighting to these prioritisation factors based on the needs of your community.

Initiative Examples	
1	Public Transport Improvement Programme* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace bus fleet with electric buses Upgrade public transport hubs to make them more user-friendly and safe Increase frequency of services in busy times, and identify and provide public transport options to under-serviced areas
2	Street Lighting Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace street lights with energy efficient bulbs Increase street lighting in underlit and unsafe areas
3	Coastal Placemaking Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New coastal public space and open air water park
4	Community Connectivity Initiative* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist communities in need with affordable wifi connections and wifi-enabled devices
5	Digital Automation Programme* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transform resource consent application system
6	Supporting people living with disabilities to participate fully in society* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve accessibility to community facilities including ramp access and handrails Installation of high specification bathrooms for people with complex disabilities

Initial Eligibility Check	
Does the initiative meet the funding conditions listed on page 4?	
Prioritisation Factors	
Value for Money	Do the identified wellbeing outcomes justify the cost?
Strategic Plans	Is there existing strategic planning documentation to support this initiative?
Iwi/Māori Support	Has the council engaged with iwi/Māori on the intended use of the funding?
Risk Analysis	Does your risk analysis show any undue concerns in completing the project - for example, are the resources required readily available?
Community Support	Does the initiative have rate-payer and local community support?

*See Appendix B for examples of wellbeing assessments for these initiatives

Funding Proposal – Key areas of consideration

Key areas of consideration to be aware of when developing the Funding Proposal:

Relationship between funding tranches

The first tranche (\$500m available in July 2022 as per this guidance document) is distinct from the second, but councils are expected to **consider how the first tranche could support funding proposals for the second tranche**.

Local authorities do not have to apply for the full Tranche 1 amount upfront, funds not applied for in Tranche 1 will be made available in Tranche 2.

The second tranche will be subject to future guidance and application processes, however the same funding criteria and conditions are expected to apply.

Output-based milestones

Milestones must be linked to **specific and measurable outputs**.

Milestones should reflect progress of project delivery.

For example:

- In relation to project stages (e.g. procurement, design, construction); or
- Based on project progress (e.g. percentage of works completed)

Contingency

When preparing your schedule of expenditure, consider whether a contingency allowance is appropriate to allow for cost increases outside your control.

A process will be developed in the coming months to enable you to utilise unspent contingency.

Prior funding applications

If you have a project that meets the better off funding criteria, and has previously been submitted and reviewed through **another contestable funding source**, speak to your Relationship Manager.

You may be able to re-use your prior application details to streamline your Funding Proposal application.

Examples of funding that may fit this criteria are:

- Infrastructure Acceleration Fund (IAF)
- National Land Transport Programme (NLTP)
- IRG Shovel Ready

Other areas of consideration

Iwi/Māori: Pathway to target state of partnership

Refer to Page 10

Wellbeing assessment

Refer to Page 11



Relationship Managers will work with Local Authorities to finalise their Funding Proposals. They will be able to assist with specific questions around these considerations.

Iwi/Māori engagement

The criteria for the Better off funding package recognises that local authorities are expected to engage with iwi/Māori in determining how it will use its funding allocation. For tranche one, it is expected that the Funding Proposal demonstrates genuine engagement, extending beyond standing committees (see below).

The diagram below illustrates a continuum of engagement to partnership between Local Authorities and iwi/Māori. The funding tranches have been designed in a way that understands that most councils sit on the continuum at or near the current state. Investment in time and resources is required by both parties in order to build a relationship that is closely aligned to partnership. In recognition of this, the **minimum** expectations for Tranche 1 are set around the current state. However, the expectation with respect to accessing Tranche 2 funding is that the target state is achieved, or that there is a demonstrated pathway as to how it will be achieved.

		1 Current State → Future State 2			
		<i>Inform</i>	<i>Consult</i>	<i>Collaborate</i>	<i>Partner</i>
Principles of Effective Engagement	Engage early	▶ Advise iwi/Māori of what is happening			
	Be inclusive	▶ Provide information to iwi/Māori	▶ Keep iwi/Māori informed ▶ Seek feedback from iwi/Māori	▶ Work together with iwi/Māori	▶ Pre-existing relationship with iwi/Māori
	Think broadly		▶ Listen to iwi/Māori ▶ Acknowledge iwi/Māori concerns & aspirations	▶ Determine issues/problems together	▶ Determine issues/problems together
Principles of Partnership	Plan and co-design together			▶ Develop solutions together	▶ Develop the solution together
	Share decision-making			▶ Involve iwi/Māori in the decision-making process	▶ Co-design the process
	Relationship built on trust and respect				
		Weak			Strong

Tranche 1 Minimum Expectations (Current State):

- Identify Māori impacted by the kaupapa (purpose) of the work, with a focus on hapū, iwi, post-settlement government entities, other mana whenua
- Evidence of genuine engagement, extending beyond standing committees
- Identify issues/concerns arising from the engagement, and steps taken to accommodate and support these interests.

Tranche 2 Minimum Expectations (Target State):

- Relationships built on trust and mutual respect
- Funding Proposals have been co-designed and co-implemented from inception
- Decision-making on initiatives to fund and prioritise have been made jointly.

Wellbeing assessments

Councils are expected to provide a wellbeing assessment setting out the expected benefits and wellbeing outcomes for each Programme.

The assessment should outline how the programme will deliver on:

- The broader “wellbeing mandates” under the framework of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), and
- The specific wellbeing criteria for the better off package shown on page 3

LGA areas of wellbeing



Social wellbeing



Economic wellbeing



Environmental wellbeing



Cultural wellbeing

Considerations for completing the Wellbeing Assessment

- **Define** the expected wellbeing outcomes from the Programme.
- **Describe** how the Programme outcomes will promote the better off package outcomes and wellbeing objectives for your community.
- **Decide** how you will measure, monitor and report on your stated wellbeing outcomes, preferably using your existing processes. (e.g. indicators of change/key performance indicators)



See **Appendix B** for examples of Wellbeing Assessments based on the initiatives shown on page 8.

Administration Process - Key areas of consideration

Key administration principles to be aware of when planning and applying for the better off funding package:

Release of funding	<p>Following approval of a Funding Proposal and an executed Funding Agreement, an initial disbursement of 10% of the Total Maximum Payable amount will be released.</p> <p>The remainder will be disbursed on receipt of a progress payment request from Councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils may submit a progress payment request, along with a progress report, up to once a month. This will be reviewed and approved by Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP). • The review will focus on evidence that payments are linked to progress on the Programme. • On confirmation the review is satisfactory, funds will be released in arrears of costs incurred.
Monitoring and reporting	<p>The Funding Agreement will outline the reporting requirements for councils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting is half-yearly (periods ending 30 June and 31 December), and a template will be provided to submit online. • CIP will monitor local authorities' progress against the Funding Proposal to provide assurance that Crown funding is being spent as intended and that projects are progressing within a reasonable timeframe. • The half-yearly reporting will also include monitoring of the achievement of outcomes as specified per the Funding Proposal. • There will be a process to address any material under-delivery or deviation from scope.
Project Substitution	<p>There may be circumstances in which a council wishes to substitute or re-allocate funds allocated to another project in the Funding Proposal. These decisions will be considered by CIP, and made on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>It may be prudent to consider having a “back-up” list of projects you have discussed with your relationship manager that can be used as a substitute in the event an approved initiative is unable to proceed.</p>
Funding shortfalls	<p>Funding allocations will not be ‘topped up’ to meet any shortfalls experienced by councils.</p>

Funding allocations - methodology

A funding allocation framework has been developed, which is based on a nationally consistent formula.

The Government and Local Government New Zealand have agreed to this formula as it recognises the relative needs of local communities, the unique challenges facing local authorities in meeting those needs and the relative differences across the country in the ability to pay for those needs.

General approach to determining notional funding allocations



The **population** in the relevant council area.
(75% weighting)



The NZ **deprivation index*** adjustment to recognise the relative distribution of need across the country
(20% weighting)



The **land area** covered by a council, excluding national parks
(5% weighting)

*The New Zealand index of deprivation is an area-based measure of socioeconomic deprivation in New Zealand that combines nine variables from the Census, including income levels, educational qualifications, home ownership, employment, family structure, housing and access to transport and communications. It has been introduced in the formula for allocating the better off component of the support package to recognise the relative distribution of need across the country. It enables a balanced distribution of funding across territorial authorities that complements the remaining two criteria that recognise needs associated with a larger population base and land area.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Notional funding allocations

Council	Allocation (\$m)		
	Tranche 1	Tranche 2	Total
Auckland	127.14	381.43	508.57
Ashburton	4.19	12.57	16.76
Buller	3.50	10.51	14.01
Carterton	1.70	5.10	6.80
Central Hawke's Bay	2.83	8.50	11.34
Central Otago	3.21	9.63	12.84
Chatham Islands	2.21	6.62	8.82
Christchurch	30.61	91.82	122.42
Clutha	3.27	9.82	13.09
Dunedin	11.54	34.63	46.17
Far North	8.79	26.38	35.18
Gisborne	7.21	21.62	28.83
Gore	2.29	6.86	9.15
Greater Wellington	5.08	15.23	20.31
Grey	2.98	8.95	11.94
Hamilton	14.65	43.95	58.61
Hastings	8.72	26.16	34.89
Hauraki	3.78	11.34	15.12
Horowhenua	4.99	14.96	19.95
Hurunui	2.67	8.01	10.68
Invercargill	5.78	17.33	23.11
Kaikoura	1.55	4.66	6.21
Kaipara	4.04	12.11	16.14
Kapiti Coast	5.26	15.79	21.05
Kawerau	4.32	12.95	17.27
Lower Hutt	8.36	25.07	33.43
Mackenzie	1.55	4.65	6.20
Manawatu	3.76	11.29	15.05
Marlborough	5.76	17.28	23.04
Masterton	3.88	11.65	15.53
Matamata-Piako	4.32	12.95	17.27
Napier	6.46	19.37	25.82
Nelson	5.18	15.54	20.72
New Plymouth	7.90	23.69	31.59
Total			

Council	Allocation (\$m)		
	Tranche 1	Tranche 2	Total
Opotiki	4.68	14.04	18.72
Otorohanga	2.66	7.99	10.65
Palmerston North	8.16	24.47	32.63
Porirua	5.41	16.22	21.63
Queenstown Lakes	4.03	12.09	16.13
Rangitikei	3.33	9.99	13.32
Rotorua Lakes	8.05	24.15	32.19
Ruapehu	4.12	12.35	16.46
Selwyn	5.59	16.77	22.35
South Taranaki	4.55	13.65	18.20
South Waikato	4.64	13.92	18.56
South Wairarapa	1.88	5.63	7.50
Southland	4.80	14.41	19.21
Stratford	2.57	7.70	10.27
Tararua	3.80	11.39	15.19
Tasman	5.64	16.91	22.54
Taupo	4.93	14.80	19.74
Tauranga	12.10	36.30	48.41
Thames-Coromandel	4.05	12.15	16.20
Timaru	4.97	14.92	19.90
Upper Hutt	3.90	11.69	15.59
Waikato	7.88	23.65	31.53
Waimakariri	5.54	16.63	22.18
Waimate	2.42	7.26	9.68
Waipa	5.24	15.73	20.98
Wairoa	4.66	13.97	18.62
Waitaki	3.71	11.13	14.84
Waitomo	3.55	10.64	14.18
Wellington	14.42	43.27	57.69
Western Bay of Plenty	5.34	16.03	21.38
Westland	2.79	8.36	11.15
Whakatane	5.66	16.99	22.66
Whanganui	5.98	17.94	23.92
Whangarei	9.48	28.45	37.93
Total	500.00	1,500.00	2,000.00

APPENDIX B: Wellbeing assessment examples

Example 1	Initiative Description: Public Transport Improvement Programme		
	Better off funding criteria met:		Wellbeing areas met:
	1. Supporting communities to transition to a sustainable and low-emissions economy 2. Delivery of infrastructure and/or services that support local place-making and improvements in community well-being.		1. Social 2. Environmental
	Wellbeing Outcomes	How Outcome is Measured	How Outcome is Reported
Lower carbon emissions	Reduction in carbon emissions	Annual Report	
Increase in use of public transport	Increase in # people using buses and trains Increase in % people that feel safe using public transport	Annual Report	

Example 2	Initiative Description: Community Connectivity Initiative		
	Better off funding criteria met:		Wellbeing areas met:
	1. Delivery of infrastructure and/or services that support local place-making and improvements in community well-being.		1. Social 2. Economic
	Wellbeing Outcomes	How Outcome is Measured	How Outcome is Reported
Increase in access to reliable at home wifi service	Increase in # people with access to reliable wifi connections	Annual Report	
Increase in access to wifi enabled devices to support work and study from home	Increase in % people with the ability to work and/or study from home	Annual Report	

APPENDIX B: Wellbeing assessment examples

Example 3	Initiative Description: Digital Automation Programme		
	Better off funding criteria met:		Wellbeing areas met:
	1. Delivery of infrastructure and/or services that enable housing development and growth		1. Economic
	Wellbeing Outcomes	How Outcome is Measured	How Outcome is Reported
Faster processing of resource consents	Decrease in time taken to process a consent Increase in customer satisfaction on consent process	Annual Report	

Example 4	Initiative Description: Supporting people living with disabilities to participate fully in society		
	Better off funding criteria met:		Wellbeing areas met:
	1. Delivery of infrastructure and/or services that support local place-making and improvements in community well-being.		1. Social 2. Cultural
	Wellbeing Outcomes	How Outcome is Measured	How Outcome is Reported
Community facilities are inclusive and accessible to those living with disabilities	Increase in # community facilities with disability friendly access Increase in % people with disabilities that feel community spaces are accessible	Annual Report	
Those with complex disabilities can access and use public bathroom facilities	# Public high specification bathrooms installed	6 Monthly Better Off Report Submission	

Appendix C: How to access the DIA's Grants Management System

STEP 1: Create the Better Off organisation profile

- ▶ Your relationship manager will provide DIA staff with the following information on behalf of your council:
 - Council name
 - Contact name (*this person will become the "Profile Secretary"*)
 - Contact phone number
 - email address (*this will be used for payment advice and other correspondence*)
- ▶ DIA staff will create the Better Off organisation

STEP 2: Linking an individual to administer the profile

- ▶ A RealMe invitation link will be emailed to the nominated contact, connecting them to the Better Off council profile. RealMe credentials are required for logging in, but can be created if need be.
- ▶ The contact person will fill out the organisation profile, including:
 - Bank account for payment
 - Upload of bank account verification document (bank deposit slip, statement confirming bank account name and number)
- ▶ Once logged in, the named contact can invite other individuals to join the organisation profile (to act as signatories for example).

STEP 3: Submit the Funding Proposal

- ▶ Nominated individuals linked to the Better Off organisation can create, edit and submit the Funding Proposal for the Council they represent.
- ▶ Once submitted, the Funding Proposal will be reviewed and the DIA will issue a decision within 6 weeks.

email ▶ community.matters@dia.govt.nz phone ▶ 0800 824 824 login: ▶ <https://communityadviceandgrants.dia.govt.nz>

Appendix D: Relationship manager details

Below are the contact details for the Relationship Managers assigned to each region.

Region	Name	email contact
Auckland & Northland	Martin Smith	martin.smith@crowinfrasturcture.govt.nz
Bay of Plenty & Waikato	John Mackie	john.mackie@crowinfrasturcture.govt.nz
Taranaki	Anthony Wilson	anthony.wilson@crowinfrasturcture.govt.nz
Manawatu/Rangatikei & Top of the South	Ian Garside	ian.garside@crowinfrasturcture.govt.nz
Hawkes Bay	Geof Stewart	geof.stewart@crowinfrasturcture.govt.nz
Wellington	Brent Manning	brent.manning@crowinfrasturcture.govt.nz
Canterbury	Paul Utting	paul.utting@crowinfrasturcture.govt.nz
Otago/Southland and West Coast	Steve Apeldoorn	steve.apeldoorn@crowinfrasturcture.govt.nz

3 Waters - Community Aspirations Fund (Wai Toru - Ko te Tahua Puutea Wawata aa Hapori)

(Assessment Panel)

Reports to:	JMA Committee and Waikato District Council
Chairperson:	Carolyn Hopa
Deputy Chairperson:	Donald Turner
Membership:	<p>4 Waikato District Council (WDC) staff members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roger McCulloch • Alison Diaz • Clive Morgan • Everard Whangapirita <p>4 Iwi representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ East – Carolyn Hopa ▪ West – Haydn Solomon ▪ North – Crystal Cherrington ▪ South – Donald Turner
Meeting frequency:	As and when required, at least weekly
Quorum:	5 Panel members.

Whakatakinga | Introduction

The 3 Waters – Community Aspirations Fund (“3W-CA”) is an investment by the Crown into the future for local government and community wellbeing; and in recognition of the significance to the local government sector (and the communities they serve) of the transfer of responsibility for quality water service delivery.

The use of this fund supports WDC to transition to their new role post-reform through meeting some or all of the following criteria, as laid out in the Heads of Agreement by Supporting communities to transition to a sustainable and low emissions economy, including by building resilience to climate change and natural hazards. This fund also supports the delivery of infrastructure and /or services that enable housing development and growth, with a focus on brownfield and infill development opportunities where those are available. Delivery of infrastructure and/or services that support local place-making and improvements in community well-being.

The funding criteria set by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) for 3 Waters – Community Aspirations Funding provides flexibility for an Assessment Panel within WDC to

identify a potentially wide range of funding proposals.

Where Council and Iwi have existing strategic plans and documentation that meet the funding criteria, these may inform project selection, including proposals to accelerate, scale up or enhance current and planned initiatives.

Furthermore, to assist in identifying and prioritising applications the Assessment Panel may choose to assign different weighting to these prioritisation factors based on the needs of the community and the aspirations of Whaanau, Hapuu and Iwi.

Ngaa wai e toru – Ko te Tahua Puutea Wawata aa-Hapori he haumitanga naa te Karauna moo te aapoopoo maa ngaa kaawanatanga aa-kaainga me te oranga o te hapori, ka mutu koia hei taapae i te hiranga ki te raangai kaawanatanga aa-kaainga (me te hapori ka tuaritia e raatou) o te tuku i te takohanga ki te taha tiaki wai.

Ko te whakamahinga o teenei tahua puutea hei tautoko i te Kaunihera aa Takiwaa o Waikato i too raatou whakahoutanga kia tutuki i eeteahi, i te katoa raanei o ngaa paearu e whai ake nei, ka mutu, kua whakaraupapahia o roto i te Whakaaetanga aa ngaa Upoko maa te taunaki i ngaa hapori kia whakawhiti atu ki te ohanga toittuu me te ohanga tukuwaro-iti hoki, kia mataara anoo hoki ki te aa-huarangi hurihuri me ngaa moorearea nui.

Ka taunakihia anootia teenei tahua puutea i te whakaherenga tuuaahanga me ngaa ratonga e whakaae ana i te whakatuunga whare me te whakatupu, ka mutu, e aro tahi ana ki ngaa waahi kua roa nei e tuu tahanga ana me ngaa waahi hoki kaaore anoo kia whakamahia.

Ko ngaa whakahaerenga tuuaahanga me ngaa ratonga e haapai ana me te whakapiki i te oranga o te hapori.

Ko ngaa paearu o te tahua puutea kua whakaritea e te Tari Taiwhenua moo ngaa wai e toru- Te Tahua Puutea Wawata aa-Hapori e whakaae ana ki teeteahi kaahui whiriwhiri o roto i te Kaunihera aa Takiwaa o Waikato ki te whakataungia he ara tonoo aa-puutea.

Ko ngaa rautaki me ngaa tuhinga a te Kaunihera me te Iwi e haangai ana ki nga paearu tahua puutea, maa eenei pea e whakatau i ngaa kaupapa ka tohua, tae raa anoo ki te whakaterenga, ki te whakanui me te whakakaha raanei i ngaa kaupapa.

Ka mutu, hei aawhina i te kaahui whiriwhiri ki te tohu me te whakarite i ngaa tonoo ka tirohia, kei aa raatou hoki te tikanga meenaa ka aronui atu ki te momo o te kaupapa ka tohua kia haangai atu ki ngaa hiahia o te hapori me ngaa wawata o ngaa whaanau, ngaa hapuu me ngaa iwi.

Te Aronga me te tuutohu mahi | Purpose and Terms of Reference:

1. The DIA has released the opportunity for WDC to apply for 3 Waters – Community Aspirations Funding in partnership with Iwi, Council and the DIA.
2. To consider funding applications and projects in accordance with the DIA guidelines, Iwi aspirations and Council’s mission statement.
3. To provide a wellbeing assessment setting out the expected benefits and wellbeing outcomes for each project or initiative that outlines how the programme will deliver on the broader “wellbeing mandates” under the framework of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), and the specific wellbeing criteria for the Community Aspirations funding package.

4. The Chairperson will provide an update report to the Waikato Tainui Joint Management Agreement Committee and any other relevant committee considered necessary be the Chairperson.
 5. The terms of reference are for the period of Tranche 1 funding and related to the assessment, evaluation and approval of projects for Tranche 1 Community Aspirations funding.
1. **Kua whakaaetia e te Tari Taiwhenua kia tonu atu a WDC i Ngaa Wai e Toru – Te Tahua Puutea Wawata aa-Hapori, he mea mahi tahi hoki me te Iwi, te Kaunihera me Te Tari Taiwhenua.**
 2. **Kia whai whakaaro atu ki ngaa tonu puutea me ngaa kaupapa e haangai ana ki ngaa aratohu a DIA, ki ngaa wawata a te Iwi me te korero tauaakii o te Kaunihera.**
 3. **Kia waihangahia he aromatawai oranga e whakarite ana i ngaa hua oranga me ngaa putangaa oranga moo ia kaupapa, ka mutu ko te tirohanga whaanui o te kaupapa e haangai ana ki te “mana oranga” ki raro i te taahuuhuu o te Ture Kaawanatanga aa-Kaainga me ngaa paearu oranga o te Tahua Puutea Wawata aa-Hapori.**
 4. **Maa te Tiamana e whakarite he riipoata maa Waikato-Tainui me te komiti JMA me eeteahi atu raanei.**
 5. **Ko te tuutohu mahi moo te waahanga tuatahi o te tahua e haangai ana ki te aromatawai, ki te arotake me te whakaaetanga o ngaa kaupapa ki raro i te waahanga tuatahi o te Tahua Puutea Wawata aa-Hapori.**

**Kua tukuna te mana whakahaere ki te komiti moo ngaa mea e whai ake nei |
The Committee is delegated the following powers to act:**

- a) Evaluating projects and initiatives against the criteria determined by the DIA to enable funding proposal to be submitted for approval of applications for the 3 Waters Community Aspirations Fund.
- b) Uphold and exercise the protocols of partnership within the Waikato Tainui Joint Management Agreement and Co-governance arrangements when considering applications.
- c) Identify a Long List of projects and Initiatives
- d) Keep Council informed and report regularly on activity
- e) Determine and agree the weighting and values being applied to the criteria as part of the assessment scoring to enable the priority factors as defined by the needs of the community, WDC and the aspirations of the Whaanau, Hapuu and Iwi.
- f) Convert Long List into a Short List for approval by Council
- g) Present shortlist and recommendations to Council
- h) apply a wellbeing assessment setting out the expected benefits and wellbeing outcomes for each programme that outline how the programme will deliver on the broader

“wellbeing mandates” under the framework of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), and the specific wellbeing criteria set by the Panel for this fund.

- a) Te arotake i ngaa kaupapa ki taa ngaa paearu a Te Tari Taiwhenua kia whakaaetia ki ngaa tono puutea ka tonoa moo te Tahua Puutea Wawata aa-Hapori.
- b) Kia haapaitia ake, kia whakatiinana anoo i ngaa tikanga o te mahi tahi o Waikato-Tainui me te JMA i a taatou e whakaaetia ana i ngaa tono.
- c) Tautohua he raarangi tono kaupapa roa.
- d) Whakamoohio atu ki te kaunihera me te whakarite riipoata moo ngaa mahi.
- e) Whakataungia me te whaakaae ki te momo o te aronga paearu kia tika te aromatawaitia o ngaa whakaarotau me ngaa hiahia o te hapori, o WDC me ngaa wawata o te whaanau, hapuu me te iwi.
- f) Whakawhaaitihia te raarangi tono kaupapa kia whakaaetia e te Kaunihera.
- g) Tukuna atu ngaa tono kaupapa kua whakawhaaiti me eeteahi atu whakaaro ki te Kaunihera
- h) Whakauru atu he aromatawai oranga e whakarite ana i ngaa hua oranga me ngaa putangaa oranga moo ia kaupapa, ka mutu ko te tirohanga whaanui o te kaupapa e haangai ana ki te “mana oranga” ki raro i te taahuuhuu o te Ture Kaawanatanga aa-Kaainga me ngaa paearu oranga o te Tahua Puutea Wawata aa-Hapori.

Eeteahi atu | Other :

- External appointees to the committee will be entitled to remuneration for attendance at meetings in accordance with the terms agreed between the Council and DIA.
- Alternates may be used where committee members cannot fulfil functions at any time.
- Ka utua ngaa maangai o waho ka tohua ki te komiti moo aa raatou taaenga atu ki ngaa hui.
- Ka taaea te whakamahi i te maangai tuarua i ngaa waa ka kore e tae atu te maangai matua.

LONGTAIL PROCESS – Teams of Two**Wāhanga Tuatahi****14 July – 19 Aug**

Submissions are emailed to betteroff@waidc.govt.nz

All submissions need to include the completed Attachments section from the Application form (pages 10-13) – regardless of if a formal submission has been provided

and

A request to attend wāhanga tuatahi to present orally.

We will still require a written submission for Probity, however, this can be passed by the speakers to the evaluators on the day

14 July – 19 Aug

Email administrators (DS, AG & NAH) will reply to each submission with

- An acknowledgement of receipt and
- Ask which Ward (closest marae) the submitters would like to attend
- Ask how many will attend
- Contact details for attendees
- Add to the relevant marae schedule

15 Aug – 19 Aug

All submissions will be collated (including assessment sheets) and the qualitative aspects sent/given to the individual evaluators prior to the wāhanga.

An electronic calendar appointment & interim run sheet will be sent for each marae wāhanga to attendees, evaluators, assistants and marae admin.

Panel members to update their COI forms if required.

15 Aug – 19 Aug

Prior to the wāhanga tuatahi

- The evaluator teams of two will need to make time to read the submissions provided
- Make note of any questions to ask the submitters on the day
- Allow for time after the verbal submissions to debrief and discuss the written

15 Aug – 19 Aug

During the wāhanga tuatahi

- Each evaluator will need to complete an evaluation score sheet for each submission
 - Circle the relevant DIA criteria (1-5)
 - Circle the relevant well-being
 - Make notes
 - Score the application based on the evaluators guide and 'best practice' example
 - Name, date and sign each evaluation

22 Aug – 26 Aug

After the wāhanga tuatahi all individual score sheets will need to be returned to Council for collating into a single scoring matrix soon after the end of wāhanga tuatahi. This will be shared with the Panel as soon as possible to enable the next two steps.

15 Aug – 19 Aug

Non-compliant or very low-scoring (<5) submissions will be advised of not going any further in the process

20 Aug

Submissions that have been shortlisted will be advised of next steps and timelines. Submissions that have not been shortlisted will be advised that they have been unsuccessful, that evaluations are ongoing and we may reconsider their application should our circumstances change.

15 Aug – 19 Aug

Potential 2nd stage shortlist – *dependant on if a large number of submissions are received. If not then we can proceed directly to tuarua.*

The teams of two may need to advocate to the other members which submissions they want to take forward to tuarua (no more than five)

This will be the basis for the Tēina assistance into wāhanga tuarua

20 – 28 Aug

Support and assistance offered to Tēina Applicants

SHORTAIL PROCESS – Full Panel**Wāhanga Tuarua – Qualitative****29 – 30 Aug**

Admins will

- Arrange an electronic calendar appointment & interim run sheet for wāhanga tuarua to attendees, evaluators, assistants, and marae admin

29 – 30 Aug

- Tēina submissions who have been helped to 'polish' their tuatahi submissions can re-present their kaupapa in wāhanga tuarua to the full Panel
- Tuakana submissions who have previously not given a verbal response are expected to attend wāhanga tuarua so that the Panel may ask for any clarification that may be required.

The matrix will be cleared of tuatahi scores and the Panel members will score each submission again during the wāhanga to create the prioritisation list to take into the quantitative phase.

Wāhanga Tuarua – Quantitative**1 - 3 Sep**

Price sheets are introduced for the highest scoring submissions

1 - 3 Sep

Full Panel will need to deliberate on the completed matrix and submissions to establish the recommendations to be taken to the JMA and Council

3 Sep

Submissions that have been recommended will be advised of JMA, Council and DIA timelines for approval

Mid Oct

Submissions that haven't been recommended will be advised that they are unsuccessful. A debrief will be offered for those who would like



45 Pipitea Street
Wellington
Phone 0800 25 78 87
dia.govt.nz

5 December 2022

Deron Sharma
Three Waters Reform Project Manager
Waikato District Council
deron.sharma@waidc.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Deron

Thank you for your application for the first tranche of Better Off funding.

I am pleased to confirm that I have approved the allocation of up to \$7.88 million funding from the first tranche of Better Off funding to the projects proposed by Waikato District Council as outlined below:

1. Whaingaroa Wharf Walkways
2. Taupiri Community Shared Pathway (Stages 1 and 2)
3. Community wellbeing initiatives:
 - T.A.S.K (Te Akau South Kaitiaki)
 - Te Kauwhata Community Transport Service Electric Car Project
 - Te Ao Moana Whaingaroa
 - Whatawhata Country Tennis Club Upgrades
 - Naike Wellness Hub/Community Gym
 - Waerenga Community Hub Feasibility Study
 - Accessibility Lift for Creative Space Building at Raglan Old School Arts Centre
 - Kimihia Lakes Irrigation and Picnic Site
 - Community Heartsaver Defibrillators
 - Raglan bowling club Irrigation Upgrade
 - Waka Resources
4. Restoring Mauri to Davies Park
5. Te Kowhai Structure Plan
6. Te Paina Projects
 - Te Paina Project 1
 - Te Paina Project 2
 - Te Paina Project 4
7. Whatawhata playground
8. CCTV Cameras

The funding agreement is currently with Crown Infrastructure Partners, as Monitor, for execution. Once it is returned we will provide it to you to review, sign and return to DIA for final signature.

We will then send back the fully executed agreement and details to arrange payment of the initial instalment.

I wish you and the Council all the best for your projects, I look forward to hearing about progress in due course.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hamiora Bowkett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hamiora" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bowkett".

Hamiora Bowkett
**Executive Director, Three Waters Reform
Local Government Branch**

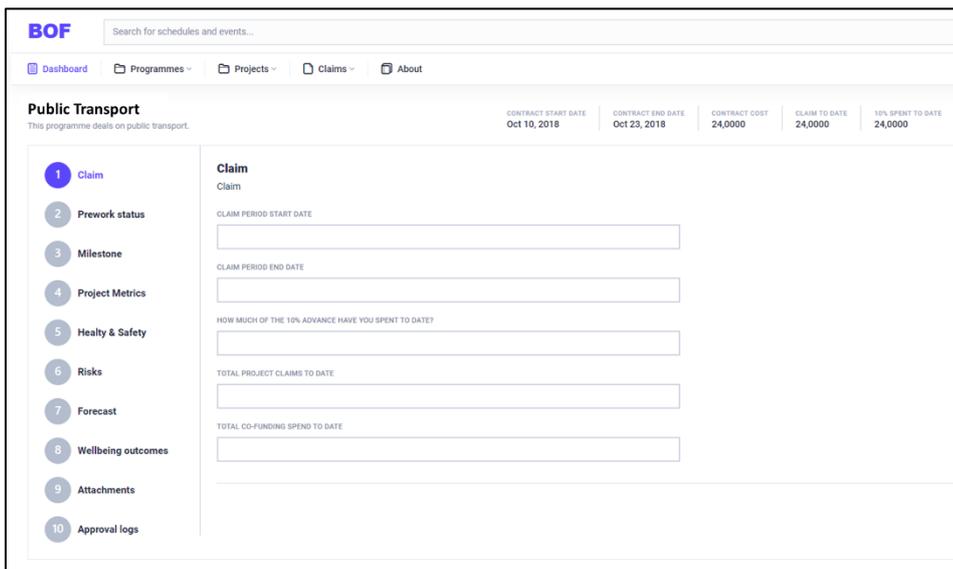
Reporting system and CIP portal

The DIA Grant Management System (GMS) does not have the level of functionality necessary for DIA’s reporting requirements on the Better Off Fund programme. Matters such as project expenditure (actual and forecasting), health and safety reporting, and managing project substitution/change requests, have not been able to be incorporated into GMS.

CIP have an existing system that is used for the Infrastructure Reference Group (IRG – *shovel ready*) projects; the IRG project owners access the system through the CIP website. CIP are ‘re-skinning’ and enhancing this system for the Better Off Fund reporting system.

The CIP Better Off Fund system will be reviewed and tested by the CIP Relationship Manager and Monitor team 8 March 2023, piloted, and refined over the following fortnight, targeting a roll-out to all Councils by the end of March 2023.

We will give an update on what Councils reporting inputs are likely to look like earlier in March 2023.



Progress claims

The DIA Funding Agreements allow for Councils to make progress claims as regularly as monthly or multiples of monthly periods thereafter, up to a maximum period of six-monthly.

Given our recent experiences with the Three Waters Stimulus Fund programme, it is generally expected three-monthly claims would be appropriate, and efficient, for all parties. The final call is however up to each Council to decide.

Further guidance will be given to Councils round what appropriate supporting information is required to accompany each claim. This will be included in the next CIP update in March 2023.

Reporting frequencies

Throughout the Three Waters Stimulus Fund programme 109 Project Substitution Requests (PSR) were approved with each PSR typically withdrawing, amending and/or introducing multiple new projects. Given the scope of the Better Off Fund programme is wider and over a longer period the same level of PSR activity is expected.

With the six-monthly Better Off Fund reporting period, it is expected that each six-monthly Report should be a full restatement of each Council’s Funding Proposal at that time including new expenditure forecasts, timeline and milestone adjustments and an overview of PSRs approved in the period showing all the adjustments between projects that have been made, any new projects that have been introduced and any projects that have been abandoned. This comprehensive restatement

of Council's position will be necessary to ensure all parties are clear and agree on the progress that has been made and what is expected. The CIP system will facilitate this reporting.

Reporting 'worker' hours and FTE determination

With the Three Waters Stimulus Fund programme, a myriad of methodologies were used to determine project worker hours. For the Better Off Fund the intention is to have a more consistent national methodology applied.

CIP will ask for all 'worker' hours in the month to be reported by project/programme. This will be, for example, all on and off-site hours for construction projects including all main and subcontractors plus consultants (design, construction supervision, health and safety etc) and/or other service providers directly supporting the project; or for a capacity building initiative all stakeholder direct involvement hours including project management time and facilitators and/or trainers.

For a given month, CIP will calculate FTE by dividing total reported hours worked by standard hours in a month (assuming 8 hours a day, excluding weekends and public holidays). This is also how FTE are determined from worker hours on IRG projects.

CIP will also report an indicative FTE using the total project value, in conjunction with the primary project category classification to assess the project's labour component, and a typical average labour wage rate for the category, plus overall percentage and hourly rates for e.g. design and contract supervision for consultant/project management input.

Reporting programmes of work of value greater than \$250k

To assist with reporting efficiencies the Council projects approved in the Better Off Funding proposals have been reviewed with recommendations suggested on combining similar project types, where possible, to a minimum combined-project value of \$250,000. The Relationship Managers will be in touch with each Council in the next week or two to: check the BOF crown amount per project (excluding co-funding), project summations to the Council total crown allocation, confirm any project roll-ups, and the project categorisations.

Contestable project funds

Several Councils have projects with components of contestable funds. In most cases the frameworks through which applications will be made for the contestable funds are still to be developed by the Council, including the way that CIP will be involved in the process to ensure the applications being evaluated by Councils comply with the DIA criteria for the Better Off Fund.

Please keep your CIP Relationship Manager informed on the development of the Council or partner frameworks so that all parties, including CIP, are efficiently involved in application processing once the local systems are open for applicants.

To	Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee
Report title	Hamilton & Waikato Tourism - Six Monthly Report 1 July to 31 December 2022
Date:	5 April 2023
Report Author:	Nicola Greenwell, Chief Executive, Hamilton & Waikato Tourism
Authorised by:	Clive Morgan, General Manager Community Growth

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

To advise the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee that Nicola Greenwell (Chief Executive) from Hamilton & Waikato Tourism will be in attendance to present the six-monthly update report to Council.

2. Staff recommendations

Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee receives the Hamilton & Waikato Tourism Six Monthly Report 1 July to 31 December 2022.

3. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1- HWT report to Waikato - six months to Dec 2022

Attachment 2 - HWT presentation to Waikato – six-month update (Jul-Dec 2022)

Six Month Update to Waikato District Council 1 July – 31 December 2022

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism (HWT) is the region's Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) whose role is to generate competitive economic benefit through visitor sector strategies focused on increasing visitor length of stay and spend.

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism is a subsidiary company under the Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) of Waikato Regional Airport Limited. It has a commercial board with Richard Leggat appointed as the Chair in December 2021. Nicola Greenwell was appointed as Chief Executive from 1 July 2022.

HWT is funded through a public/private partnership with the region's tourism industry and six local authorities including Hamilton City, Matamata-Piako, Ōtorohanga, Waikato, Waipā and Waitomo. This is the six-month report covering the period from 1 July 2022 through to 31 December 2022.

Key highlights (July to December 2022)



Executive summary

During the first six months of the financial year we have seen strong return of visitation across the country, and our own region. When the borders opened in August and our Covid restrictions were lifted in September, a sigh of relief was heard and felt across the tourism, events and hospitality sector. We had been looking ahead to the 2023 calendar year with positivity, albeit cautiously.

We have challenges to realising a full recovery. Labour shortages across the sector continue to impact deliverability and availability of some experiences and services. While not part of this six-month reporting period, the weather impacts during January and February have been devastating in our neighbouring regions and across parts of our own region. Waikato District Council declared a State of Emergency with severe damage to Port Waikato and to the main road access to Raglan; Waitomo District Council also declared a State of Emergency with particular focus on Te Kuiti and Waitomo Village; Matamata-Piako suffered flooding; the waterways were deemed unsuitable to engage with for a week; and some individual operators suffered damage to properties. The weather continues to impact, with Cyclone Gabrielle resulting in a State of National Emergency; the longer-term impacts are yet to be realised. This weather certainly dampened spirits and the hope of a strong summer season for some of our operators.

Looking ahead, we have some incredible events that bring opportunities for our visitor sector. The FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ event, with five games being hosted in Kirikiriroa Hamilton, will bring visitation right across region. An estimated \$18 million will be pumped into the Waikato region during the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™. The spending is projected to come from both international and domestic visitors throughout the main tournament.

Waikato Stadium will host five matches between 20 July – 20 August 2023 and it's estimated the region will see 12,500 unique international visitors spend \$13.7 million in the region. In addition, these matches will see many domestic visitors, who will contribute \$3.9 million into the region economy. These estimates do not include the additional Play Off Tournament being hosted in Hamilton in February.

The FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ will be the largest women's sporting event ever held globally. TV viewership alone is forecast to be two billion compared to 1.2 billion in France in 2019.

The benefit from hosting provides the opportunity to create legacy for our city and region – for example, the people watching on the other side of the world may be inspired to visit. Those visitors attending the event, if we host them well and offer a great experience in our region, will head home and share their stories with friends and family, increasing our international profile and likelihood of return and future visitation.

The Central Government funding received by all Regional Tourism Organisations was originally required to be utilised by December 2022. Due to many projects being delayed with Covid restrictions, we have an extension for some projects to be delivered by June 2023. Once this funding has been fully utilised, our activity will return to 'business as usual', based on our council funding and industry contributions.

As HWT continues to lead the sector in managing the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and recovery, key focus areas for the upcoming period include embedding the Destination Management Plan into our regular activities, as well as assisting and encouraging operators to embed Regenerative Tourism and sustainability measures into their own activity.

HWT recognises its role to support event organisers, venues and suppliers with the ongoing challenges with hosting events, including those already experienced in the current year. We will also be continuing to work more broadly with our industry to develop enhanced capability for hosting additional events, both business and major events, in region through the Business Events Strategy for Waikato and the Thermal Explorer Regional Event Fund.

With much change in the political and regulatory environment, continue to lobby and advocate for the tourism sector with Government.

Performance targets

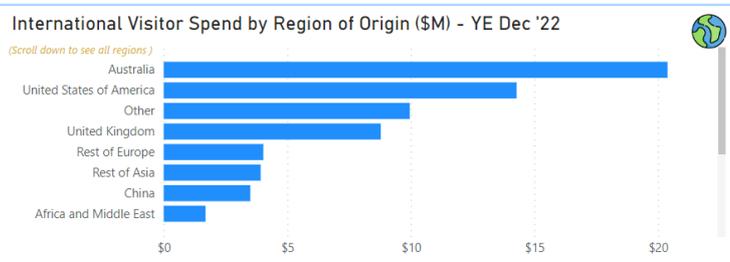
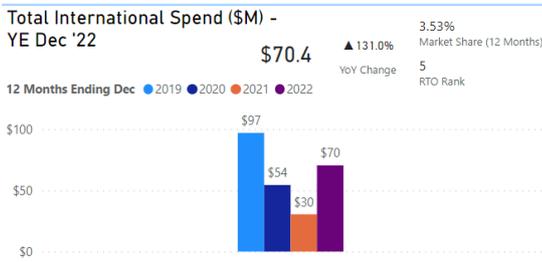
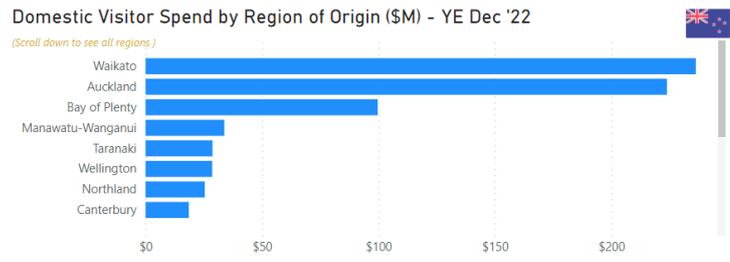
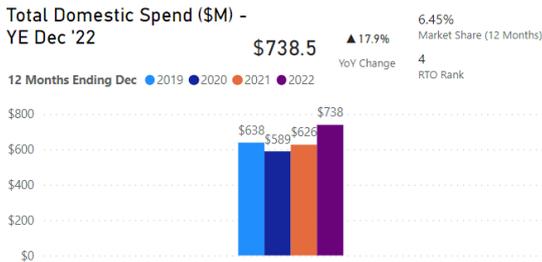
Hamilton & Waikato Tourism (HWT) have eight performance targets which are set in the 'Schedule of Services for Local Government 2022-2023'. The results are provided below.

Measure	Result	Measure	Result
Visitor nights Hold total visitor nights compared to previous year	1.1million visitor nights (YE Dec 2022) 52.7% occupancy (NZ: 46.7%)	Media & travel trade 10 media outlets hosted 150 travel trade trained or hosted	22 media outlets hosted 34 agents hosted and 174 agents trained (as at 31 Dec)
<small>SOURCE: MBIE, Accommodation Data Programme Note: Excludes MIQ hotels and MSD motels</small>			
Visitor spend electronic card transactions 5% increase in total visitor spend across region compared to previous year	DOMESTIC 18% increase on last year 16% increase on 2019 \$738million 6.5% market share INTERNATIONAL 131% increase on last year 27% decrease on 2019 \$70million 3.5% market share (YE Dec 2022)	Govt funded projects Successfully deliver STAPP and RESET funded projects	99% of funding allocated/spent MBIE have approved extended timeframes to June 2023 for Capability Building and Destination Management projects
<small>SOURCE: MBIE, Tourism <u>Electronic Card Transactions</u> TECT does not capture ALL spend, ie: pre-paid accommodation/experiences or cash purchases, are not included</small>			
Conventions & business events Rebuild and restore market share of total business events to 5%	11% market share of business events 11% of delegates (YE Dec 2022)	Regional Events Fund (REF) Successfully deliver year one of the REF for Waikato, Rotorua, Ruapehu & Taupo	Workshops held in Ruapehu and Waikato Small Contestable funding round opened January 2023 – utilising returned/unutilised allocated funding
<small>SOURCE: Business Events Data Programme</small>			
Industry investment \$100,000 of industry contributions towards marketing activities	\$156,000 partnership \$73,000 Visitor Guide (As at 26 Jan 2023)	Cashflow To ensure the company has sufficient cash to fund activity for the year without recourse to the shareholder	Cashflow maintained

Visitor statistics

Visitor expenditure in Waikato Region

Domestic visitation contributed \$738.5m per annum to the regional economy, an increase of 17.9% on 2021. This ranks the Waikato region fourth against other RTOs and achieves 6.45% market share of all domestic spend in the country. International visitation contributed \$70.4m per annum to the regional economy; an increase of 131% on 2021. This has Waikato region ranked 5th, with 3.53% market share of international spend.

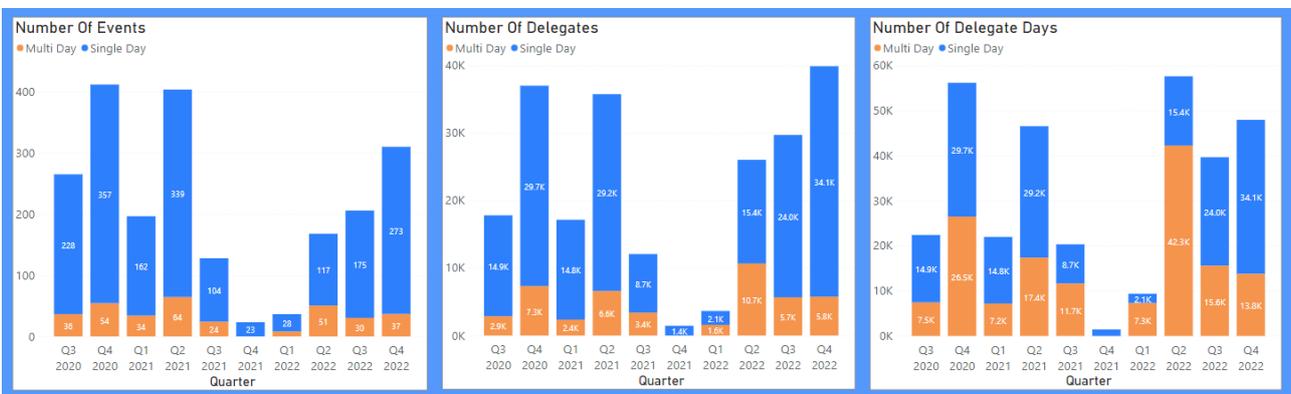


Source: Tourism Electronic Card Transactions, MBIE (Dec 2022) The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) have discontinued the Monthly Regional Tourism Estimates (MRTEs) as they were becoming unreliable within the COVID-19 environment. They have replaced the data with an interim data set capturing electronic card transactions. The key difference is that this data does not make any estimates for online or cash spending.

Business Events in Waikato Region

Waikato hosted 720 business events; 11% of NZ events. These events hosted 99,300 delegates; 10% market share.

For the third quarter of 2022 (October-December) – we achieved 12% market share of events hosted, 10% market share of delegates hosted, 9% market share of delegate days.

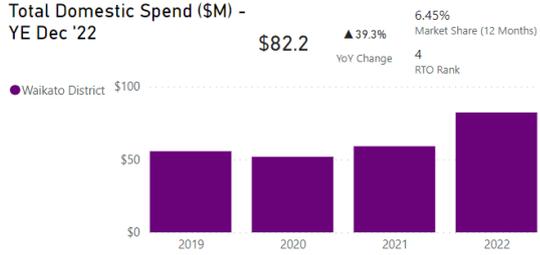


Explanation: The Business Events Data Plan (BEDP) is another new data set developed by Fresh Info; this replaces the older Business Events Research Programme (BERP). The development was co-funded by RTNZ and MBIE, with RTOs contributing annually for access. As per the ADP above, venue are not obliged to provide their data.

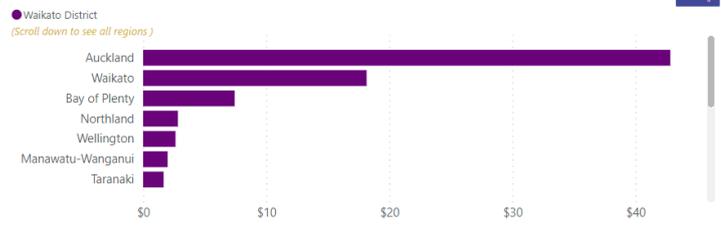
Visitor expenditure in Waikato District

Domestic visitation contributed \$82.2m per annum to the Waikato district, an increase of 39.3% from December 2021. International visitation contributed \$6.9m per annum, an increase of 184.1% from December 2021.

Total Domestic Spend (\$M) - YE Dec '22



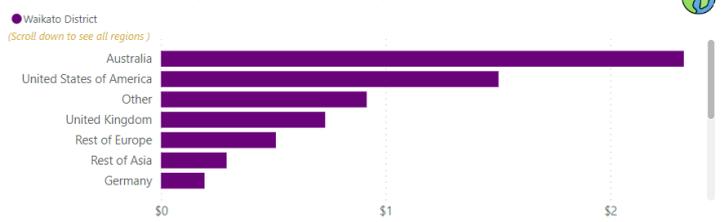
Domestic Visitor Spend by Region of Origin (\$M) - YE Dec '22



Total International Spend (\$M) - YE Dec '22



International Visitor Spend by Region of Origin (\$M) - YE Dec '22



Source: Tourism Electronic Card Transactions, MBIE (Dec 2022) The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) have discontinued the Monthly Regional Tourism Estimates (MRTes) as they were becoming unreliable within the COVID-19 environment. They have replaced the data with an interim data set capturing electronic card transactions. The key difference is that this data does not make any estimates for online or cash spending.

Commercial accommodation in Waikato

Based on the Accommodation Data Programme (commercial accommodation), Waikato district achieved 50.7% occupancy rate for the month of December 2022, an increase of 62.8% on December 2021. The district provided 24,200 guest nights in December 2022, an increase of 23.5% on December 2021.

Total Guest Nights by TA



Monthly Average Occupancy Rate by TA

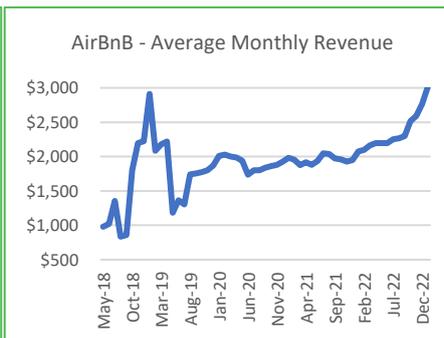
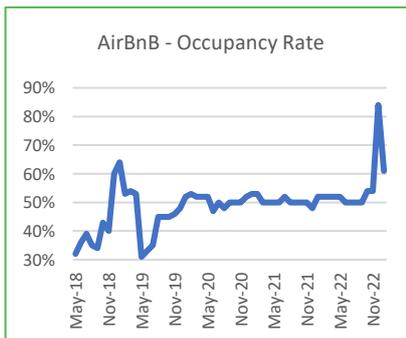
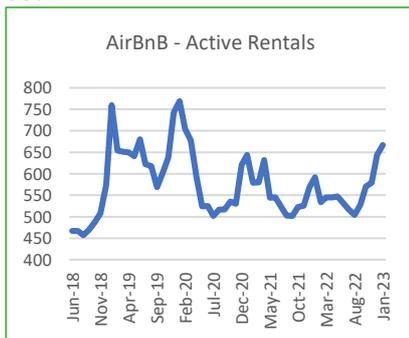


Source: Accommodation Data Plan, MBIE (Dec 2022)

Non-commercial accommodation in Waikato

Waikato also had 644 properties listed on AirBnB during December 2022 as alternative accommodation to the traditional commercial offerings. This has increased by 75 listings from December 2021.

These properties experienced 84% occupancy during December 2022, which was 36% higher than December 2021. For the 12 months December 2022, the average occupancy rate for AirBnB properties in Waikato was 59%.



Source: AirDNA (Jan 2023)

Destination management

Destination management brings together different stakeholders to achieve the common goal of developing a well-managed, sustainable visitor destination. It is an ongoing process that requires destinations to plan and considers the social, economic, cultural and environmental risks and opportunities.

Adopting a destination management approach enables communities and destinations to respond to changing conditions and determine the type of tourism they would like to have and the benefits they would like to receive, taking an active role in managing these.

Destination management requires a holistic and integrated approach across the following 16 components:



A 12-page Destination Management Plan “[Snap Shot](#)” is available on our website. The document provides operators with a brief description of what the management plan entails and how their tourism activities contribute to achieving the common goal of developing a well-managed, sustainable visitor destination.

Positioning Project

Our Positioning Project is now underway with Miles Partnership. Underpinning the DMP, this project will create a destination positioning strategy which identifies three to four key pillars on which the current and future destination marketing and management decisions will be based.

Using our Mighty Waikato brand as a foundation the project will look at what the region ‘owns’ in regards to domestic and international tourism, and how we can position ourselves as a destination going forward ie what we want to become known for.

This is not about a brand, campaign, logo or tagline. It is not about one event, attraction or experience; it is about creating a long-term thematic or values-based framework that will base our destination positioning on.

It is important that this framework supports the short- and long-term goals of Waikato stakeholders and communities and authentically reflect what the Waikato stands for.

It will shape how we develop and market the region going forward in all aspects – from consumer, business events, travel trade and media activities to product development and regenerative tourism initiatives.

Leisure & Trade Marketing

Domestic marketing

HWT has undertaken a number of marketing campaigns between July and December 2022 to keep Waikato at the front of minds for those looking to travel domestically, and to highlight key experiences, events, F&B and passion points for locals and visitors as they progress through the travel decision-making process. HWT has targeted the drive markets of Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Manawatu and Taranaki; and the fly markets of Wellington and Christchurch; as well as our own Waikato residents. We implemented hero/impact campaigns to drive travel over the summer and winter periods as well as an 'always on' demand layer campaign through Facebook and Google. Similar to our 'always-on' Facebook approach, HWT also undertakes year-round activity through Weibo to promote visiting the Waikato to the Chinese New Zealanders community, predominantly in Auckland.

Matariki

From 10 June to 17 July HWT profiling experiences, accommodation and activities as well as all the fantastic events taking place across the region through Matariki ki Waikato. Working in partnership with Matariki ki Waikato, activity targeted Waikato residents and key drive markets via digital channels and printed newspaper ads. Print ads ran in the Waikato Herald, Bay of Plenty Times, Hamilton Press, Cambridge Edition, Piako Post, Taupo Times, Waikato Times, King Country News and TA Courier with a total reach of 320,856.

Berry Activation

'Berry' has been identified as a key pillar of the region's F&B narrative in our Food & Beverage Tourism Market Development Plan. As such, and in partnership with the F&B Advisory Group, HWT launched the inaugural 'Berry Month' campaign in late November to highlight all the places in the region where Waikato locals can pick your own, try tasty berries on the menu, grab a real fruit ice cream or purchase fresh berries to take home. This campaign was scaled back from initial concept due to the devastating frost that impacted the blue berry producers, but the aim is to expand this activity further in 2023.

Events

HWT continues to support HCC, FIFA and Tourism NZ with tourism related activities in the lead up to the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 Play-Off Tournament in February and the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 Tournament in July-August. Alongside Hamilton Central Business Association and Hamilton City Council, HWT co-hosted a FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 information evening on 22 November for retail, hospitality and tourism providers, from around Hamilton and the Waikato region. The purpose of this evening was to allow businesses to learn more about this major event and how they can get involved.

HWT has supported regional events during July-December by profiling them in campaign activity, on social media and coverage on waikatoz.com. Events are an important driver for domestic visitation as well as local expenditure, and post-COVID provide great reasons for repeat visitation to a region. In partnership with the Waikato i-SITE network, HWT exhibited at the Motorhome & Caravan show in September to promote the activities and attractions in the region.

Waikato to Taranaki Way

Central government STAPP funding allowed HWT and Venture Taranaki Tourism to partner on the creation of 'The Waikato to Taranaki Way' road journey to encourage visitors and road trippers to discover new experiences while travelling along State Highway 3.

The Waikato to Taranaki Way is a curated map and itinerary for an easy, self-driving journey along the west coast of the North Island from Port Waikato to Paritutu in Taranaki. The itinerary recommends a number of activities and attractions, to discover local stories and facts, places of cultural significance, and stunning views along the way. The road trip was launched in late November and promotion to date has included local and industry media coverage, Auckland International Airport advertising, and a digital marketing campaign.

Annual Visitor Guide

50,000 copies of the 2023 Official Regional Visitor Guide were distributed in late December 2022 and early January 2023. They have been distributed nationally through i-SITEs and airports, displayed at visitor attractions, used at trade shows, and conference delegate packs. This guide remained a cost-neutral project with advertising sales funding production and distribution.

Media

HWT has continued to work on a number of media pitches over the last six months. Born out of our Mighty Local campaign, we have managed to secure a regular editorial spot in the Waikato Herald to showcase our local tourism operators and hospitality. We continue to be successful in pitching to domestic publications including Good Magazine, Motorhomes, Caravans and Destinations Magazine, and Dish Magazine with additional features being worked on for early 2023. International media attention has also increased in line with the border enabling the planning for several key broadcast opportunities in late 2022 and in to 2023 including the Today Show from Australia.

Communications Specialist

HWT employed a 12month Communications Specialist in November 2021. This role was funded from central Government funding. This role sat within the marketing team and created content for all departments across the organisation including media releases and pitches, case studies/testimonials, articles, e-newsletters, web copy and promotional collateral. This was a very welcome addition to the team and allowed HWT to capitalise on further content and media opportunities. Now that this funding has been fully utilised, this contracted position has also ended. The consequence is that we will no longer have the resources to elevate our media/content creation to this same level unless additional funding is able to be secured.

Travel Trade

With international borders opening, we have experienced a hybrid model of trade training and sales activity with on- and off-shore travel trade in the last six months. HWT travelled to North America as part of the 70pax strong NZ contingent for the first Tourism New Zealand KiwiLink event in three years. We represented the region and the wider Thermal Explorer International Marketing Alliance (TEH IMA) of Waikato, Rotorua, Taupo and Ruapehu. HWT also attended KiwiLink Asia; was represented by TEH IMA partner regions at KiwiLink UK/Europe; and undertook several virtual webinars updating North American and Australian travel sellers about the Waikato's tourism experiences and accommodation offering. The last few months have also seen the re-introduction of international trade famils into NZ, with several leisure and incentive famils from the US, UK/Europe and Singapore markets spending time in the region.

HWT had the unparalleled opportunity to host over 100 Tourism New Zealand staff on who were in New Zealand for their Global Hui in November. We hosted 89 staff on a 'surprise and delight' mini famil at Hamilton Gardens, while another group of 19 key TNZ off-shore staff spent two days exploring the region in more depth with us.

Marketing activity for Waikato

A summary of specific trade and leisure marketing for Waikato is detailed below:

Target market	Campaign or activity	Waikato experiences profiled
Media – domestic & international famils + coverage	Media coverage, hosting and famils profiling Waikato: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dish Magazine • Canvas Magazine • Good Magazine • Waikato Herald • Stuff.co.nz • Motorhome, Caravans and Destinations Magazine 	The Shack, Raglan Roast, Workshop Brewing, Orca Eatery & Bar, Three Streams, Raglan Surf School, Zealong Tea Estate, Hunt & Gather Bee Co, Meyer Cheese, Vilagrad Wines, Raglan Food Co, Sculpture Park at Waitakaruru Arboretum, Hampton Downs Motorsport Park, Hakarimata Scenic Reserve, Te Awa – The Great NZ River Ride, Te Toto Gorge, Pukemokemoke Bush Loop, Lake Hakanoa, Punnet Eatery, Raglan township

Hamilton & Waikato

TOURISM

Travel Trade – webinars & training	International trade events and webinars profiling/attended by Waikato: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eXplore virtual event –AU & NZ wholesalers • ECNI Down Under Endeavours virtual training • KiwiLink North America • KiwiLink Asia • KiwiLink UK/Europe Hosted in region: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singapore incentive famil • TNZ UK ‘launch’ famil • TNZ US ‘launch’ famil • TNZ Global hui – 2 x famils 	Trade-ready products included: Zealong Tea Estate, Cornerstone Alpacas, Brew Bus – Waikato Tour, Te Awa - the Great NZ River Ride, Sculpture Park at Waitakaruru Arboretum, Thundercross, Hadleigh Boutique Lodge, Castaways Resort, Raglan Surf School, Raglan Rock, Raglan Sunset Motel, WahineMoe.
Domestic consumer -Local, Hamilton & Waikato	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matariki June – July 2022 • Always On Facebook • Motorhome & Caravan Show • Berry Activation • The Waikato to Taranaki Way 	Zealong Tea Estate, Te Awa – The Great NZ River Ride, Punnet Eatery, La La Land, Raglan Chocolate, Hakarimata Scenic Reserve, Camarosa, Ruakura Berry Farm, Raglan township, Soundsplash, Matariki ki Waikato events, Thundercross, Cornerstone Alpaca Stud, Cornerstone Resort, Bridal Veil Falls, Te Ara Kakariki, The Waikato to Taranaki Way
Domestic consumer - External Drive & Fly Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matariki June – July 2022 • Winter Campaign • Always On Facebook • Motorhome & Caravan Show • The Waikato to Taranaki Way 	Zealong Tea Estate, Te Awa – The Great NZ River Ride, La La Land, Raglan Chocolate, Matariki ki Waikato events, Camarosa, Ruakura Berry Farm, Hakarimata Scenic Reserve, Raglan township, Cornerstone Alpaca Stud, Thundercross, Castaways Resort, Te Ara Kakariki, The Waikato to Taranaki Way
Domestic consumer – Chinese New Zealanders	Ongoing campaign activity has continued through our Weibo social media channel, blogs, community forums etc	Woodlands Estate, The Sculpture Park at Waitakaruru Arboretum, Punnet Eatery, Cornerstone Alpaca Stud, Zealong Tea Estate, La La Land, Raglan, Raglan Chocolate.
Domestic & International consumer and trade	2023 Hamilton & Waikato Regional Visitor Guide	Waikato district and towns profiled in ‘Regional highlights’, ‘North Waikato’ and ‘Raglan’ sections. Waikato district-based tourism operators have advertised in their respective sections. Events based in Waikato have also been profiled in the ‘Events’ section.
Domestic & international consumer, travel trade and media	Quarterly e-newsletters distributed to our consumer, trade and media databases featuring: The Sculpture Park at Waitakaruru Arboretum, Hampton Downs Motorsport Park, Stories in the Landscape, Port Waikato, The Waikato to Taranaki Way, Soundsplash Music Festival, Raglan Arts Weekend, Raglan Old School Arts Centre, Castaways Resort, Bridal Veil Falls, Mt Karioi	
Domestic & International consumer	Waikato District profiled through HWT’s website and various social profiles including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter & YouTube, including: The Waikato to Taranaki Way, Pukemokemoke Reserve, Lake Hakanoa, Karakariki Track, Mt Karioi, Bridal Veil Falls, Taupiri Sunflower Farm, Perry Cycle Bridge, Te Awa River Ride, Sunset Beach, Tamahere, Port Waikato, Tauwhare, Vivian Falls, Hakarimata Summit Track, Raglan, Whatawhata Berry Farm, Pancake Rock, Raglan township, Orca Eatery & Bar, Ngarunui Beach, Zealong Tea Estate, Hampton Downs motorsport park, Cornerstone Alpacas Stud, Cornerstone Kitchen. Events featured on social media: Mid-Winter Christmas Buffet Lunch, The Hampton Downs 2 Hour Race Track Run, Project Ruru, Whiskey Tasting - World Tour, Sensational 60's, Auto Addict, NZ Cherry Blossom Festival, DELIGHT: Blossom in the Park, Hampton Downs Pedal4Prostate, Christmas Market, Tamahere Twilight Market, Dream Garden Freedom2Fly Hall, Raglan Growers Market, The Raglan Spirit of Christmas, Raglan Arts Weekend, Stories in the Landscape, Soundsplash Music Festival	

Events and Incentives

Business Events

The HWT partnership model has been reconsidered with the restructured model successfully rolled out and included joint face to face meetings with partners. We have held two successful partner breakfast events.

We have presented seven regional conference bids in the last six months; proposals are proving hard to win due to funds provided from some of our other regional competitors.

The HWT Business Events team have attended MEETINGS, Corporate PA Summit, Office PA Show, AuSAE Linc Conference and tradeshows representing the Waikato as a business events destination to New Zealand and Australian buyers. Have also attended two AuSAE networking events and the BEIA Industry Conference.

We hosted two prestigious business events in region over the past six months, Tourism Summit Aotearoa and the NZ Tourism Awards. We also hosted a number of buyers along with some of our regional business events partners at our annual Wellington Soiree. Other joint hosted activities have included a Christchurch PCO dinner, International Hobbit Day, Wellington Association Executives lunch and an Auckland PCO luncheon. We also wrapped sales calls around those hosting visits and have met with event professionals in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Waikato over the last six months.

We welcomed attendees to Tourism Summit Aotearoa on three pre famil itineraries and in early December we held a Waikato Mega Famil (first since 2019) which saw 13 quality buyers spend two days with us learning what the Waikato has to offer future delegates.

We have started to grow our regional business events image library with a joint Woundcare Conference shoot at Claudelands Conference & Exhibition Centre. We also grew image capacity with capturing our regional Mega famil as well as a shoot at Hamilton Gardens and Jet Park Hotel Hamilton. We have more imagery planned to shoot in the next 6 months also.

Thermal Explorer Regional Events Fund

The four regions of the Thermal Explorer Highway collective including Waikato, Rotorua, Taupō and Ruapehu were approved \$3.75 million for regional events by Tourism Minister Stuart Nash on 18 December 2020. The Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs), alongside their council partners, developed a collaborative regional events investment plan to drive additional domestic visitation into their regions.

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism were selected as the Lead Entity for the Regional Events Fund across the four regions. The collaboration between Waikato, Rotorua, Taupō and Ruapehu has led to a strong and compelling event proposition for our four regions.

The bulk of the \$3.75 million fund has been allocated through a contestable funding process with successful events being supported over a three-year period. Two rounds of contestable funding have now been allocated. These two rounds have resulted in 34 events being allocated \$2.9million. This sees the contestable fund aspect fully utilised and allocated. There have been a number of events that have not been able to go ahead which has caused previously allocated funds to be returned. In December the panel agreed to move forward with a third contestable funding round. However, this round will be much smaller than previous rounds and is now open, due to close June 2023.

ThermEx capability workshops have been held online and in person over the last six months. Capability will continue for this sector over the next two years including a Thermal Explorer roadshow being planned centred around capability building, event development and feasibility initiatives.

Development and support

Product support provided to cultural operators across the region

The team have provided a variety of support services to our Maori tourism operators. Some of this support has been funded by STAPP/RESET funds allocated to provide consultants; attendance at capability building workshops; and other support has been by the way of one-on-one support with the HWT team:

- Te Ahurei Maori Tourism – now BRONZE Qualmark certified
- Sands of Kawhia Hotel
- Tainui Waka Tourism Inc
- Rangiriri Development
- Okū Tea
- Te Puna Wai Tours
- Move Your Tinana Kawhia (event)
- NZ Maori Tourism connections and strong relationship developing
- IBCPC Dragon Boat Event – connected organisers with local hapu for assistance

In addition, the HWT team have been working more with NZ Maori Tourism and have undertaken Te Reo lessons with Fraser High Schools's Adult Learning team.

Capability Building for the Industry

Our central Government STAPP and RESET funding has provided us with the opportunity to offer an accelerated capability building programme. Symposiums, workshops, webinars and one-on-one support has been provided to a range of operators throughout the region.

The funding timeframe was extended until June 2023 for this activity therefore, we have many more opportunities scheduled for the remainder of this financial year.

Ambassador programmes

Designed for anyone engaging with manuhiri (visitors) who come to the Waikato, our Ambassador Programmes help create storytellers and ambassadors who can connect with people and authentically engage with what all New Zealanders understand as 'manaakitanga' and 'kaitiakitanga'. There are five unique location centric programmes that will support Kirikiriroa Hamilton, Waikato, Waipa, Waitomo/Otorohanga and Matamata-Piako. Programmes have been promoted and commence in March 2023.

Regenerative Tourism

The Mighty Waikato Sustainability Programme has been developed in conjunction with InStep and has been launched to our operators late January. The Programme provides guidance to operators to measure what they do and identify changes to their business to achieve better regenerative outcomes. Operators will sign up by donating \$50 to Waikato RiverCare, then attend an individual sustainability coaching session with InStep. InStep will provide a report of the operator's sustainability actions, carbon emissions and recommendations for improvements. Our aim is to encourage 100 Waikato operators to participate in the programme.

We have introduced a Regenerative tourism section of waikatonz.com for operators, providing advice and resources to assist operators on their journey. The visitors section is underway.

Food & Beverage Tourism Strategy

We utilised STAPP funding to produce a Food & Beverage Tourism Market Development Strategy for the region. The strategy was developed with consultation from producers, hospitality sector, event managers and caterers. We are now implementing the strategy's action plan including:

- Development of an Advisory Group to share in the ownership of the strategy, to help guide direction for the action plan and collaborate on specific projects
- Content creation – new content created and existing refreshed for waikatoz.com, social media content created including Reels, specific media pitching and coverage (see above marketing media section)
- Image library asset creation – photo and video shoot in May in Hamilton, Raglan and Cambridge areas
- Development of a Waikato Provenance Mark – research project currently underway to explore if and what a provenance mark for the Waikato could look like.
- Conducting feasibility work towards developing a new event for the region.

Visitor Perceptions and Positioning

We engaged Angus & Associates to conduct research to ascertain what potential visitors think that Waikato has to offer. The research was updated with new survey data for the year ending December 2022. Key findings:

- 21% of NZers who travelled around NZ last year, visited Waikato
- 48% of NZ travellers associate Waikato with “Gardens, Parks and Reserves”
- 55% of NZ travellers agree that Waikato is a great place to visit for a short-term break
- 36% of NZ travellers agree that they would pay more for a regenerative tourism experience over an otherwise equivalent experience
- 71% agree that Waikato is either “highly appealing” or “somewhat appealing” as a destination to visit.
- However, 83% of those who have recently visited, said that the region is either “highly or somewhat” appealing.

And of our Australia visitors:

- 16% of Australians who travelled to NZ last year, visited Waikato
- 37% of Australian travellers associate Waikato with “Walking & Hiking”
- 65% of Australian travellers agree that Waikato is a great place to visit for a short-term break
- 50% of Australian travellers agree that they would pay more for a regenerative tourism experience over an otherwise equivalent experience
- 71% agree that Waikato is either “highly appealing” or “somewhat appealing” as a destination to visit.
- However, 97% of those who have recently visited, said that the region is either “highly or somewhat” appealing.

This research will now inform the work we are conducting with Miles Partnership to confirm what our Positioning Pillars are and how we then include these in our activity moving forward.

Residents Sentiment towards Tourism

This is another substantive research project carried out by Angus & Associates – this time ascertaining what our residents consider to be the benefits of tourism, and what are the challenges that tourism brings to their community. The first survey period was summer 2021/22, which has already been shared with councils. The results from the new survey, conducted over summer 2022/23, will be shared as results become available.

Insights tool

HWT partnered with Bay of Plenty, Ruapehu, Taupō and Tairāwhiti to develop a data/insights dashboard. This is simple to use, provides interactive filters to produce data for each district/TLA (where its available). This will help our reporting in the future.

Weather related State of Emergency

At the time of writing this report, a National State of Emergency has just been announced in response to the damage caused (and ongoing) from Cyclone Gabrielle, which has followed closely behind Cyclone Hale and been even more devastating.

With official advice being “delay travel” and only travel if absolutely necessary, visitation over the two long weekends has been much lower than we would have expected for this time of year. Our operators will be greatly impacted at a time when they had hoped to have some form of recovery over the summer period.

MBIE instigated the Visitor Support Emergency Advisory Group (VSEAG) to support visitors to Auckland. They then invited us, Northland and Coromandel to join the meeting; and extended again to include Tairāwhiti and Hawkes Bay. This group consists of TEC, TIA, TNZ, MBIE, NEMA, MFAT, DOC, Ministry of Education, Immigration NZ etc. The purpose of VSEAG is to support the emergency response when the emergency impacts large numbers of visitors and managing the response for those visitors; and then some small part in the "recovery" afterwards.

Sustainable Funding

Post Central Government Funding

As you are aware, HWT received funding from central Government as part of covid recovery funding packages, as did all RTOs. This additional funding elevated our existing mahi and allowed further workstreams to be implemented. This funding has now been utilised, with some projects being granted extended timeframes to June 2023.

With this funding concluded, returning to our normal levels of funding will see our activity also return to pre-covid levels. Therefore, the projects/workstreams impacted are:

- Food & Beverage – we now have a fantastic Food & Beverage Tourism Market Development Strategy for the region and have created powerful assets. We will include the food and beverage offering within our usual work but will be unable to elevate further or fully realise the recommendations of the Strategy.
- Regenerative Tourism/Sustainability – we are providing our Mighty Waikato Sustainability Programme for operators until June, and then will need to cease any major work towards this including subsidising the operator assessments.
- Communications Specialist – this was a 12-month fixed term position which enabled increased content creation and cut-through with media articles and coverage. This activity will return to pre-covid levels.
- Ambassador programmes – the four additional programmes have been created and workshops will be provided free of charge while this funding is available until the end of June 2023. After this funding, we will need to charge an attendance fee to cover the associated costs.
- Capability Building – work will continue as per pre-covid plans – two symposiums per year and our Development Manager available to support operators. However, the extensive and intensive workshop programme which was provided to operators free of charge will no longer be possible to deliver.
- Marketing campaigns - domestic, international and business events promotional activities were elevated and increased in frequency with this funding. This activity will return to pre-covid levels.

Hamilton & Waikato TOURISM

- Mighty Local campaign – this activity was launched during Covid. Building on existing efforts the increased focus on targeting locals proved incredibly beneficial in building ongoing awareness of our visitor offerings. This activity will return to pre-covid levels.
- Attraction of Business Events was increased during this period. We were able to host more event buyers in region and out of region than we are typically able to with usual levels of funding.

We are grateful for the funding we receive, however sustainability delivering to the now elevated stakeholder expectations while also managing rising implementation costs will become challenging. We will need to work with councils to either seek increased funding or decrease expectations.

The above information and comments are not provided for resolution for this council reporting period but are intended to highlight the discussions that we'll be seeking during the next Long Term Plan process.

CPI Increases to Council Funding

CPI increases have been applied to funding by four of our six funding councils each year, two do not – Matamata Piako and Waikato. The difference is now becoming disproportionate.

Like all sectors and businesses, we too are experiencing increasing costs of delivery across all our activities. Income/revenue/funding needs to increase to enable the same level of deliverables – or deliverables/expectations will need to be reassessed.

The HWT board will be seeking to have this reconsidered for the coming financial year and within the pending Long Term Plan period.

Conclusion

As we continue to lead the sector with recovering from the impacts of covid, and now cyclones, our key focus areas for the remainder of the financial year and the coming year includes:

- further embedding the Destination Management Plan into our activities
- continuing to assist and encourage operators to embed Regenerative Tourism and sustainability measures into their activity
- delivering the new Ambassador programmes for Waipā, Ōtorohanga-Waitomo, Waikato and Matamata-Piako districts
- supporting event organisers, venues and suppliers with new methods of hosting events
- continuing to work with our industry to develop capability
- delivering enhanced capability building opportunities with the Regional Events Fund for Waikato, Rotorua, Ruapehu and Taupō
- delivering the remaining programmes of work funded under STAPP/Reset
- continuing to lobby and advocate for the tourism sector with Government.

On behalf of the board and management of Hamilton & Waikato Tourism, we thank Waikato District Council, our local government partners and the industry for their continued support. Your proactive support is greatly appreciated by the tourism sector and our community.

Nicola Greenwell

Chief Executive
Hamilton & Waikato Tourism
March 2023

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism

Your Regional
Tourism
Organisation (RTO)



Our goal

Increase visitor numbers, length of stay and expenditure in the region*

***by creating and coordinating effective marketing and promotional activity and destination management**

How tourism works



The Mighty Waikato

Where magic runs deep

THE NEW ZEALAND TOURISM STRUCTURE



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

National Tourism Organisation (NTO)

Tourism New Zealand

Tourism New Zealand is a government-funded organisation tasked with promoting New Zealand as a tourism destination internationally.

To achieve maximum yield for the tourism industry from limited resources, Tourism New Zealand's marketing activity is carefully focused on a number of key markets around the world and a select group of consumers within those key markets.



100% PURE
NEW ZEALAND

Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO)

Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs) are responsible for promoting their regions to domestic and international visitors. There are currently 31 RTOs in New Zealand and these vary in size, structure, and scope of the activities they undertake.

Some are funded in part or in full by local council, others by annual membership fees. All RTOs act as a bridge between tourism operators, national tourism bodies, and local and central government.



Hamilton
& Waikato
TOURISM

Operators

Operators are the businesses that work within the tourism industry and provide visitor experiences, transport and accommodation options for visitors to New Zealand.

i-SITES

i-SITES are the Visitor Information Centres across New Zealand. They are the 'local experts' with information on all the best things to do, places to stay and ways to get there. They also take care of bookings, working directly with local activity and accommodation operators in their area.

Cluster Groups

Cluster groups are formed by like-minded local tourism businesses who are from a certain sector of the tourism industry or located within close geographic proximity to each other. They are passionate about growing tourism and visitor numbers for their sector or local area and community.

The Mighty
Waikato

Where magic runs deep

Hamilton and Waikato region

Private/public partnership model

- Hamilton City Council
- Matamata Piako District Council
- Otorohanga District Council
- Waikato District Council
- Waipa District Council
- Waitomo District Council

- Businesses and suppliers
- Retail and hospitality providers
- Venues and conference centres
- Tourism operators and attractions
- Travel trade and transport operators



What we do

Destination
marketing

Business events
attraction, bidding
and coordination

Product and
destination
development

Travel trade
marketing and
hosting

Major event
coordination

Capability building

Regenerative tourism

Our board



Richard Leggat
Chair



Mark Morgan
Hamilton Airport



Steve Gow



Gus Gilmore

Our team



Nicola Greenwell
Chief Executive

Development



Tash Pearce
Development Manager

Events



Aimee Tyson
Events Manager



Shellie Moses
Events Coordinator



Caz Wood
Event Secretariat

Marketing



Rebecca Evans
Marketing Manager



Amber Doughty
Marketing &
Media Executive



Natasha Chevtchenko
Digital Marketing
Executive



Rheanna Kingma
Marketing Executive



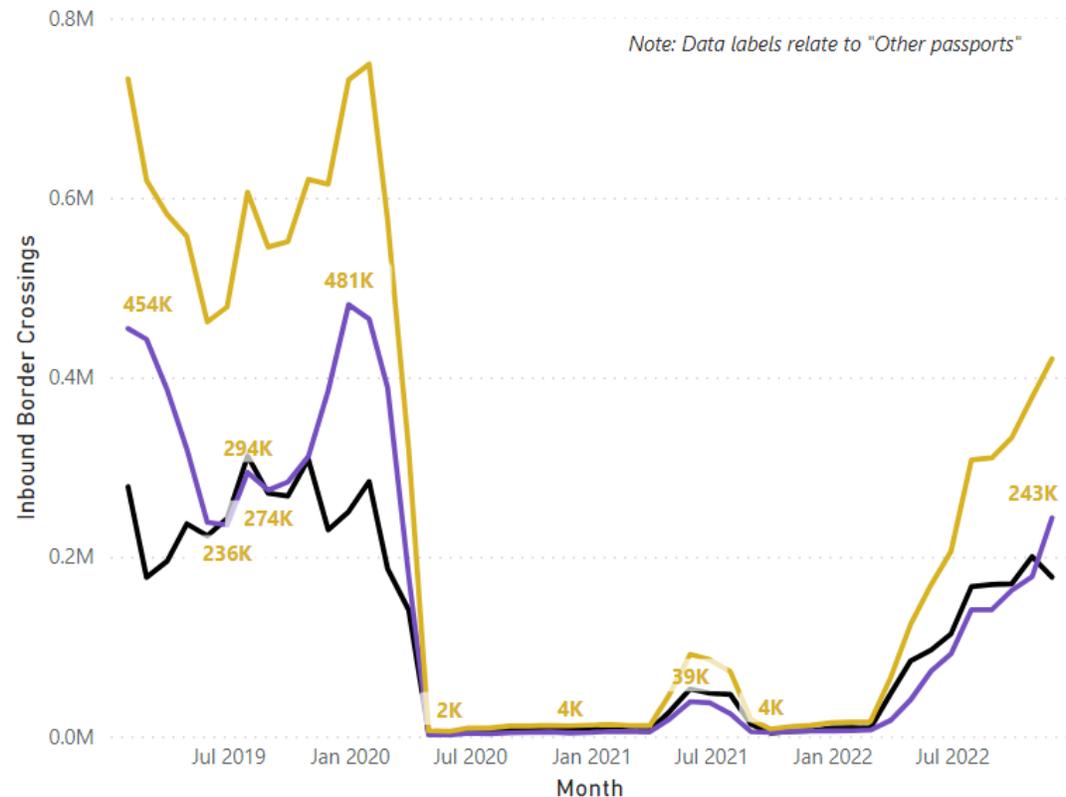
Vanessa Payne
ECNI/Contractor

International Arrivals - annually ⁸¹

Dec 2023: 1,427,595 : 232% increase

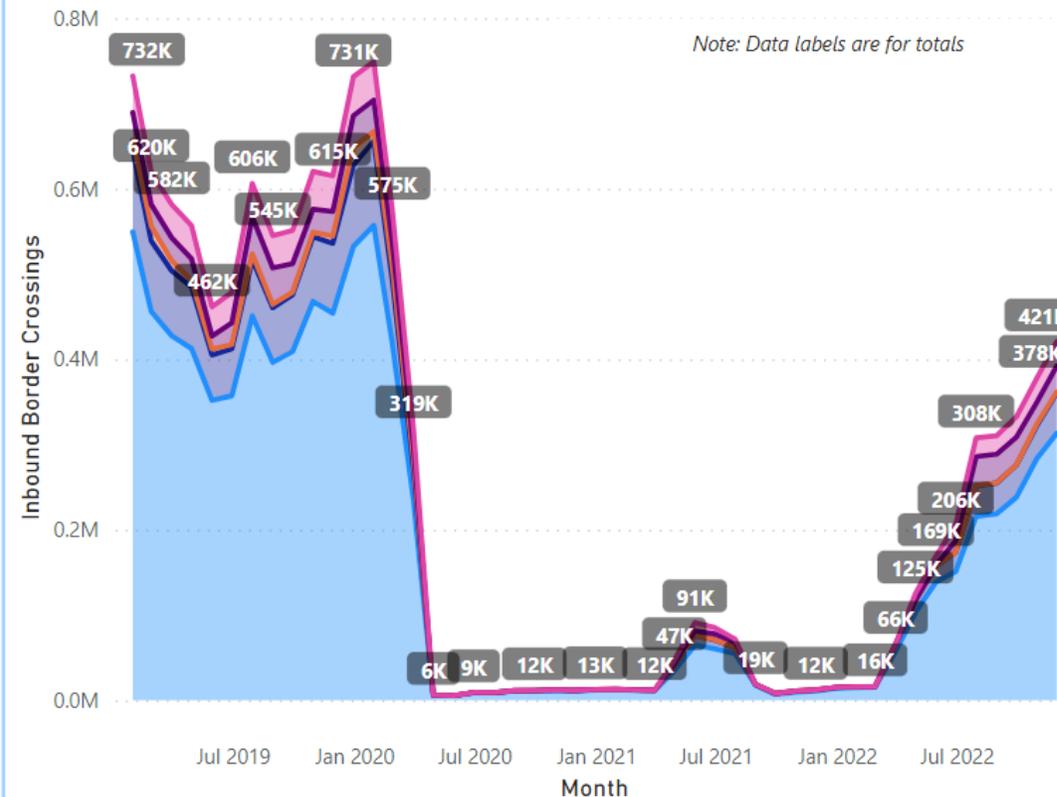
Monthly Border Entries by Passport Type

Traveller Type ● New Zealand passport ● Other passports ● Total



Monthly Border Entries by Port of Arrival

Port of Arrival ● Auckland ● Christchurch ● Other ports ● Queenstown ● Wellington



SOURCE: StatsNZ, International Visitor Arrivals (Nov 2022)

Visitor Expenditure - annual

Total Domestic Spend (\$M) - YE Dec '22

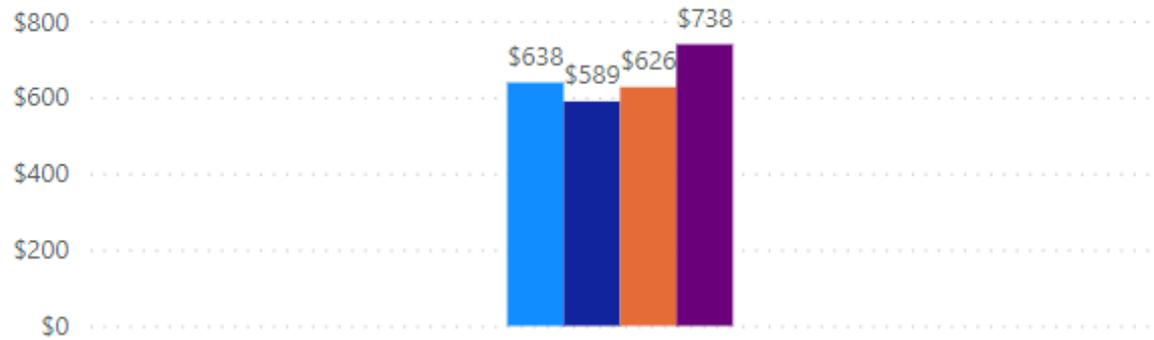
\$738.5

▲ 17.9%
YoY Change

6.45%
Market Share (12 Months)

4
RTO Rank

12 Months Ending Dec ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022



Total International Spend (\$M) - YE Dec '22

\$70.4

▲ 131.0%
YoY Change

3.53%
Market Share (12 Months)

5
RTO Rank

12 Months Ending Dec ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022



SOURCE: MBIE, Tourism Electronic Card Transactions (MONTH Dec 2022)

Visitor Expenditure – monthly

Domestic Visiting Cardholder Spend (NZ\$)



International Visiting Cardholder Spend (NZ\$)



SOURCE: MBIE, Tourism Electronic Card Transactions (MONTH December 2022)

Commercial Accommodation

Select RTO

Waikato

Select Property Type

All

60.0K

Guest Arrivals (GA)

▲8.1%

GA MoM Change

▲83.5%

GA YoY Change

119.2K

Guest Nights (GN)

3.1%

GN Market Share

13

GN Rank by RTO

▲18.1%

GN MoM Change

▲55.8%

GN YoY Change

▲23.5%

GN - National - MoM

▲76.0%

GN - National - YoY

58.4%

Occupancy Rate (OR)

▼-2.3%

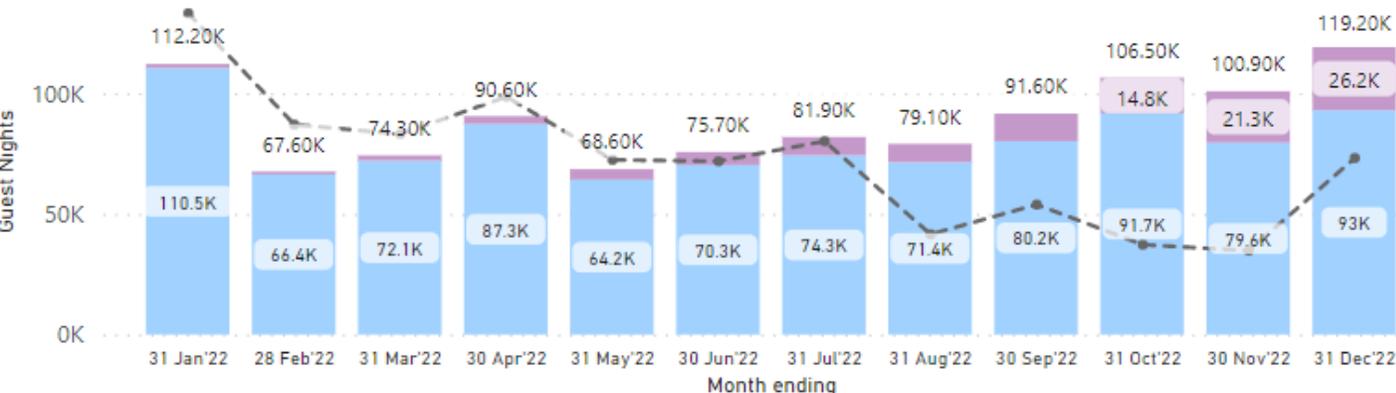
OR - MoM Change

▲63.6%

OR - YoY Change

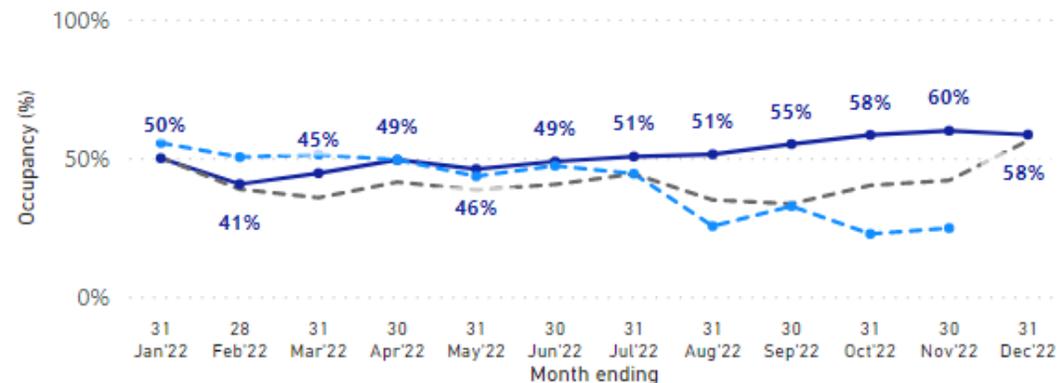
Total Guest Nights by Month

Domestic International Total Same Month Previous Year (line)



Occupancy Rate by Month

RTO Occupancy Rate (%) RTO Same Month Previous Year National Average



SOURCE: Accommodation Data Plan (December 2022)

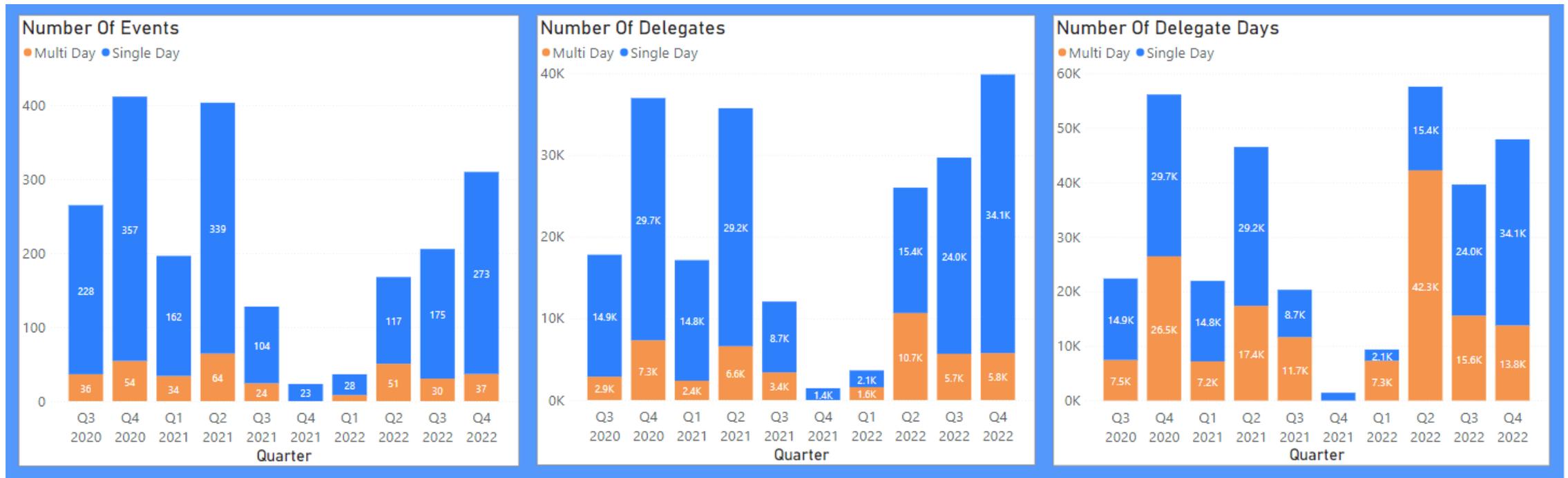
The Mighty Waikato

Where magic runs deep

Business Events

720 business events
11% of NZ events

99,300 delegates
10% market share



SOURCE: Business Events Data Programme (YE Dec 2022)
<https://www.bedata.nz/>

**The Mighty
Waikato**
Where magic runs deep



86

The Mighty Waikato

Where magic runs deep



WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL

Six Month Update: July to December 2022

**Hamilton
& Waikato**
TOURISM

Key highlights

Jul-Dec 2022

\$738m

DOMESTIC Tourism Electronic Card Transactions
6.5% share of domestic visitor spend

\$70m

INTERNATIONAL Tourism Electronic Card Transactions
3.5% share of international visitor spend

SOURCE: MBIE: Tourism Electronic Card Transactions (YE Dec 2022)

1,100,000

commercial guest nights for the year

3.5% share of commercial
guest nights in New Zealand

52.7% occupancy of
commercial accommodation
(NZ Occupancy = 46.7%)

SOURCE: Accommodation Data Programme
(YE Dec 2022)

99,300 delegates
hosted at **720** Business

Events = **11%** share

SOURCE: Business Events Data (YE Dec 2022)

International visitor arrivals

1,427,595

to New Zealand

SOURCE: Stats NZ International Visitor Arrivals
(YE Dec 2022)

**The Mighty
Waikato**

Where magic runs deep

Waikato

Commercial Accommodation

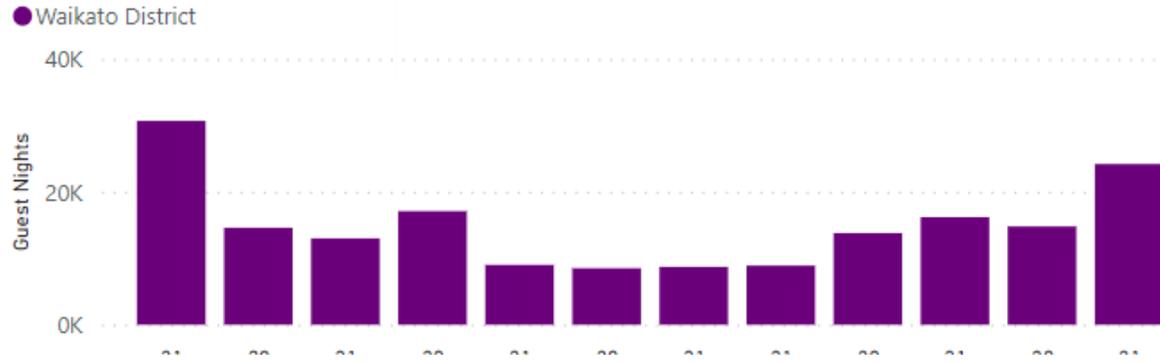
37% occupancy (NZ: 47%)

183,600 guest nights

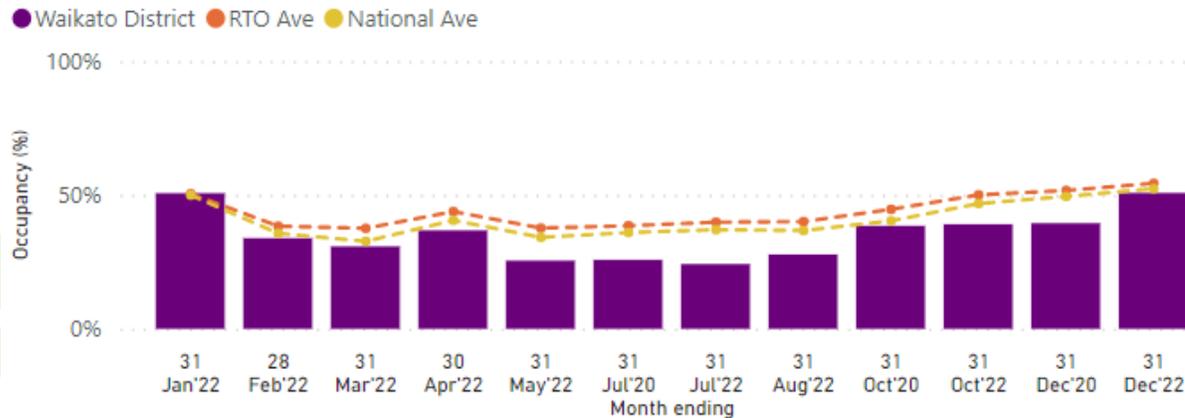
2.1 Average nights stayed

Year End Dec 2022

Total Guest Nights by TA



Monthly Average Occupancy Rate by TA



Accommodation Data Plan (ADP): year ending Dec 2022 (MBIE)

Jul-Dec 2022

Visitor Spend

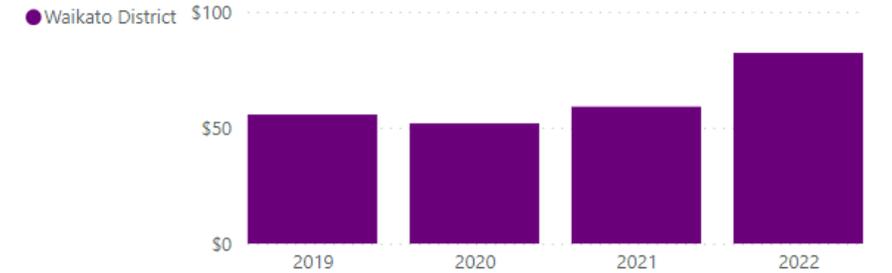
Total Domestic Spend (\$M) -
YE Dec '22

\$82.2

▲ 39.3%
YoY Change

6.45%
Market Share (12 Months)

4
RTO Rank



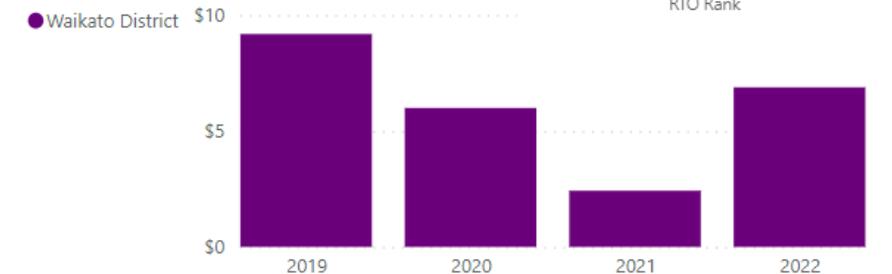
Total International Spend (\$M) -
YE Dec '22

\$6.9

▲ 184.1%
YoY Change

3.53%
Market Share (12 Months)

5
RTO Rank



Tourism Electronic Card Transactions (TECT): year ending Dec 2022 (MBIE)

The Mighty Waikato

Where magic runs deep

HWT key activity

Jul-Dec 2022

Marketing activities

Matariki 2022
Mighty Local
Berry Activation
Winter Campaign
Regional Events
FIFA activation
Motorhome&Caravan Show
Summer Events Guide
Social Media Stickers
2023 Visitor Guide
Always on Facebook

Media activities

Waikato Herald
Good Magazine
Motorhomes, Caravans & Destination Mag
Dish Magazine
Waikato Business News
Today Show (Australia)
Travel & Leisure US
Motorship (Singapore)
Beyond the Moment

Travel Trade

Kiwi Link North America
Kiwi Link Asia
Kiwi Link UK/Europe
Tourism NZ Global Hui
eXplore virtual event
ECNI DownUnder Endeavours

Event activities

Partner breakfasts
MEETINGS
Corporate PA Summit
Office PA Show
AuSAE Linc
AuSAE networking
BEIA Industry Conference
TIA Tourism Summit
TIA Tourism Awards
Wellington Soiree
Christchurch PCO dinner
International Hobbit Day
Auckland PCO luncheon
Image library grown
Mega Famil

STAPP and RESET project delivery

Destination Management Plan; Food & Beverage Tourism; Regenerative Tourism and Sustainability; Ambassador development; Insights; Visitor Perception; Positioning; Residents Sentiment; accelerated capability building

Supporting the sector – Tourism and Events

Kia kaha

The Mighty Waikato

Where magic runs deep



Find out more:
waikatonz.com

To	Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee
Report title	Updates to the Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement and its Terms of Reference
Date:	5 April 2023
Report Author:	Vishal Ramduny, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships Manager
Authorised by:	Clive Morgan, General Manager Community Growth

1. Purpose of the report

Te take moo te puurongo

To seek Council agreement and endorsement of the updated Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement and its associated Terms of Reference.

2. Executive summary

Whakaraapopototanga matua

The Future Proof Implementation Committee (FPIC), at its meeting held on 9 March 2023, resolved to approve the amended Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement ('the Agreement').

The Agreement is required to be signed by all Future Proof partners. FPIC also approved the associated Terms of Agreement that governs the Committee's meeting with the recommendation that that all partners endorse and sign the document.

The proposed Agreement and Terms of Reference enable a more consistent approach to the operation of FPIC, whilst still enabling all partners to have input on Future Proof matters.

3. Staff recommendations

Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee:

- a. recommends to Council the approval, and execution, of the amended Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement and its associated Terms of Reference.**
-

4. Background

Koorero whaimaarama

The Future Proof partnership is as an effective structure for collaboration across local and central Government agencies on growth management, land use and transport planning. The recent completion of the Hamilton-Waikato Metro Transport Programme Business Case (MTPBC) that followed the Hamilton-Waikato Metro Spatial Plan, the Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan and Future Proof Strategy refresh are examples of a partnership approach.

5. Discussion and analysis

Taataritanga me ngaa tohutohu

The Future Proof Implementation Committee (FPIC), at its meeting held on 9 March 2023, resolved (FP23/10) to approve the amended Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement which is signed by all Future Proof partners. FPIC also approved the associated Terms of Agreement that governs the Committee's meeting with the recommendation that that all partners endorse and sign the document. Copies of the revised Agreement and Terms of Reference are attached (Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 respectively). Also attached is a copy of the FPIC resolution of 9 March.

The changes recommended by FPIC provide a more consistent mechanism for the Committee to operate under and removes the dual workstreams of Future Proof and the Hamilton to Auckland Corridor work.

The updated Terms of Reference provide full participation by all partners across all workstreams of Future Proof, including Ministers of the Crown.

The detail of the Committee's operation is now contained in the Terms of Reference, making any future changes more easily achievable. Currently the Agreement details the mechanism of the Committee and if any changes are needed, this would need to be via an Addendum or new Agreement to be signed by all parties. The amendments therefore simplify any future changes by having the detail included in the Terms of Reference. This would enable the Terms of Reference to be recommended to Partners without the need for each to re-sign the Agreement.

Council is represented on Future Proof by Mayor Jacqui Church and Deputy Mayor Carolyn Eyre. Cr Eugene Patterson is the alternate.

5.1 Options

Ngaa koowhiringa

Option 1- Support the changes and continuing to be a member of the Future Proof partnership.

Option 2 - Council could choose not to approve the Agreement or the Terms of Reference but doing this would be counterproductive and detrimental to a partnership approach for regional and sub-regional growth management, land use, infrastructure planning and funding. It would mean that Council will not be able to engage in and influence the partnership discourse on matters of that have implications for the district at both a sub-regional level and with central government.

5.2 Financial considerations

Whaiwhakaaro puutea

There are no material financial considerations associated with this report. Council currently contributes \$153,150 per annum through the Long-Term Plan to the Future Proof partnership.

5.3 Legal considerations

Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture

This report complies with the Council's legal and policy requirements, and obligations under the Local Government Act.

5.4 Strategy and policy considerations

Whaiwhakaaro whakamaaherehere kaupapa here

The report and recommendations are consistent with the Council's policies, plans and prior decisions.

5.5 Maaori and cultural considerations

Whaiwhakaaro Maaori me oona tikanga

FPIC has three representatives appointed by Waikato tāngata whenua – one from the Tainui Waka Alliance, one from Waikato-Tainui and one from Ngā Karu Atua o te Waka, and three representatives appointed by and from the Auckland Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Forum.

5.6 Climate response and resilience considerations

Whaiwhakaaro-aa-taiao

Climate change and resilience considerations are integral to the Future Proof Strategy. The Strategy recognises the need to respond to climate change with urgency, building resilience and supporting the transition to a lower carbon economy including through achieving a more compact urban form and a shift to active modes and public transport.

5.7. Risks

Tuuraru

If Council does not approve the recommendations, then we risk not being a full member of the Future Proof partnership. This could affect our ability to be involved in subregional and regional processes which have implications for the district and being part of a collective voice to inform government reform processes and policy initiatives.

6. Significance and engagement assessment

Aromatawai paahekoheko

6.1 Significance

Te Hiranga

The decisions and matters of this report are assessed as of low significance, in accordance with the Council's [Significance and Engagement Policy](#).

6.2 Engagement

Te Whakatuutakitaki

Highest level of engagement	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
	✓	✓	✓	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
The contents of the report and the attachments have been discussed with the Future Proof Senior Managers Steering Group, the Future Proof Chief Executive Advisory Group, Ngā Karu Atua o te Waka and the Future Proof Implementation Committee.					

7. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1: Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement

Attachment 2: Future Proof Implementation Committee Terms of Reference

Attachment 3: Future Proof Implementation Committee Resolutions of 9 March 2023

Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement



Background

On 15 August 2019, an agreement (Original Agreement) was entered into pursuant to clause 30(A) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 to enable the appointment of the Future Proof Implementation Committee (Committee) as a joint committee of the member entities. Changes are required to the Original Agreement to reflect changes to the Committee. These changes are reflected in this agreement (Agreement) which replaces the Original Agreement.

Parties

1. Hamilton City Council, Waikato District Council, Waipā District Council, Waikato Regional Council, Matamata-Piako District Council (together referred to as the Waikato local authorities)
2. His Majesty the King acting by and through his Ministers appointed from time to time to the Committee (the Crown)
3. Tainui Waka Alliance
4. Waikato-Tainui
5. Ngā Karu Atua o te Waka
6. Auckland Council
7. Auckland Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Forum

Operative part

1. The parties agree that this Agreement replaces the Original Agreement from the date it is signed by all parties.
2. The parties agree that the Future Proof Implementation Committee was appointed, and continues to be appointed, pursuant to clause 30A, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).
3. That the objectives, responsibilities, powers, and membership of the Committee are included in the *Term of Reference* attached to this Agreement. The *Terms of Reference* also sets out quorum and voting requirements, amongst other things.
4. As a matter of convenience, the Future Proof Implementation Committee will operate in accordance Waikato Regional Council's *Standing Orders* as current from time to time.
5. The Crown and Auckland Council's participation in the Committee does not constitute endorsement its initiatives. All financial, policy and other decisions require approval by the Crown, Auckland Council or any Auckland Council-controlled organisation boards.

Signed by the parties by their representative

Hamilton City Council	<hr/> Signature <hr/> Printed name and position <hr/> Date
Matamata Piako District Council	<hr/> Signature <hr/> Printed name and position <hr/> Date
Waikato District Council	<hr/> Signature <hr/> Printed name and position <hr/> Date
Waipā District Council	<hr/> Signature <hr/> Printed name and position <hr/> Date
Waikato Regional Council	<hr/> Signature <hr/> Printed name and position <hr/> Date
The Crown	

	<hr/> Signature <hr/> Printed name and position <hr/> Date
Tainui Waka Alliance	<hr/> Signature <hr/> Printed name and position <hr/> Date
Waikato-Tainui	<hr/> Signature <hr/> Printed name and position <hr/> Date
Ngā Karu Atua o te Waka	<hr/> Signature <hr/> Printed name and position <hr/> Date
Auckland Council	<hr/> Signature <hr/> Printed name and position <hr/> Date
Auckland Mana Whenua	

Kaitiaki Forum	<hr/> Signature <hr/> Printed name and position <hr/> Date
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Attachment 2

Future Proof Implementation Committee Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference | Ngā Tikanga Whakahaere

1. Mana ā-Ture / Status

This Committee was created by Hamilton City Council, Matamata-Piako District Council, Waikato District Council, Waikato Regional Council and Waipā District Council (Waikato local authorities); pursuant to clause 30A of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002. It was established by way of agreement between the participants and is a joint committee. The Committee is not discharged at the end of the triennial period pursuant to clause 30(7) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002. The Waikato Regional Council *Standing Orders*, current from time to time, apply to the Committee subject to any amendments necessary to accommodate the joint nature of the Committee.

2. Ngā Kawenga / Responsibilities

This Committee is responsible for implementing the *Future Proof Strategy* and executing the implementation plan (refer [Knowing our future by planning today – Future Proof](#)) including:

- 2.1 Providing leadership on growth management and spatial planning in the territorial areas of the Hamilton City Council, Matamata-Piako, Waikato and Waipā District Councils (Future Proof Sub-region).
- 2.2 Overseeing the implementation of the *Future Proof Strategy* and undertaking reviews and updates, including adopting any draft strategies for public consultation.
- 2.3 Monitoring the *Future Proof Strategy* and ensuring a joined-up approach to implementation, this includes monitoring and reporting progress against milestones.
- 2.5 Reviewing and recommending adjustments to the *Strategy* if circumstances change.
- 2.6 Addressing cross-boundary matters within the Future Proof Sub-region, as well as with other neighbouring areas and regions that are consistent with the agreed settlement patterns, while working with other growth management/spatial planning partnerships as appropriate
- 2.7 Approving submissions to local authorities, central Government and other agencies on Future Proof related matters.
- 2.8 Identifying and resolving any consultation inconsistencies between the *Future Proof Strategy* and subsequent public consultation processes of Hamilton City Council, Matamata-Piako, Waikato and Waipā District Councils (Partner Councils).
- 2.9 Facilitating consultation with the community.
- 2.10 Implementing any memorandum of understanding or similar documents to provide and maintain relationships between the Partner Councils.
- 2.11 Championing integration and implementation through Partner Council strategies, programmes, plans and policy instruments and through partnerships with other sectors such as health, education and business.
- 2.12 Advocating relevant Future Proof growth management matters to central Government and other organisations.
- 2.13 Addressing cross-boundary matters between Auckland and the Waikato, and within the Future Proof Sub-region, as well as with other neighbouring regions.
- 2.14 Ensuring alignment with existing council plans, strategies and policies, and with existing evidence.

- 2.15 Ensuring alignment with initiatives already underway.
- 2.16 Facilitating consultation with the Partner Councils and the wider community where relevant.
- 2.17 Adopting non-significant variations to the *Regional Public Transport Plan* that only affect the Future Proof Sub-region in line with the significance policy in that *Plan*. This delegation is provided to the Committee only for the purpose of sub-delegation to the Metro Public Transport Subcommittee to be appointed by the Committee, the delegation being ineffective in the hands of the Committee except to that extent.
- 2.18 Appoint subcommittees with relevant delegations in accordance with clause 30 of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Ngā Apatono / Powers

All powers necessary to perform its responsibilities.

4. Tokamatua / Quorum

Six voting members pursuant to clause 30A(6)(b) and clause 30A (6)(c)(iii) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002. The quorum has been set recognising that final decisions on substantive matters are referred back to member organisations rather than being made by the Committee.

5. Ngā Tikanga Pōti / Voting

Decisions of the Committee are made by majority vote of members present and voting. In the case of equality of votes, the Chair or any other person presiding at the meeting does have a casting vote. Refer to clause 24 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act and *Standing Orders*.

6. Ngā Tūranga/ Membership

6.1 Ngā Mema / Members

The committee has 22 voting members, and three non-voting members as follows:

- a. Two elected member representatives appointed by each of the contributing authorities (Hamilton City Council, Matamata-Piako District Council, Waikato District Council, Waikato Regional Council and Waipā District Council), including the Mayors and Regional Council Chair.
- b. Three Ministers of the Crown, appointed by the Crown.
- c. One representative appointed by the Auckland Council Governing Body.
- d. One representative appointed by the Franklin Local Board.
- e. Three representatives appointed by Waikato tāngata whenua – one from the Tainui Waka Alliance, one from Waikato Tainui and one from Ngā Karu Atua o te Waka.
- f. Three representatives appointed by and from the Auckland Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Forum.
- g. One independent Chair appointed by the Committee.
- h. One non-voting member appointed by Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency being its Director of Regional Relationships or equivalent.
- i. One non-voting member appointed by Te Whatu Ora.
- j. One non-voting member appointed by Entity-B (the regional organisation responsible for the delivery of three waters services).
- k. The Committee may invite a maximum of four additional non-voting experts to assist the Committee in its development and implementation of the *Future Proof Strategy*.

6.2 Ūpoko me te Ūpoko Tuarua / Chair and Deputy Chair

The Chair is independent and appointed by the Committee. The Deputy Chair of the Committee is appointed by the Committee from the existing voting membership, by way of election pursuant to clause 25 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

6.3 Ngā Kairiwhi / Alternates

Any appointing agency or organisation may appoint one alternate member. Where the member appointed by the agency or organisation concerned is absent, the alternate will have full voting rights in the place of the absent member (where that member had those same rights).

7. Ngā Hui i te Tau / Frequency of meetings

Bi-monthly or as required.

DRAFT

Future Proof Implementation Committee Resolutions of 9 March 2023

FP23/10

Moved by: Cr Liz Stolwyk

Seconded by: Mayor Jacqui Church

Resolved (Section A under delegated authority)

- 1. That the report Metro Public Transport Subcommittee Establishment (Future Proof Implementation Committee, 9 March 2023) be received.***
- 2. That the Future Proof Public Transport Subcommittee is established, and its Terms of Reference adopted as set out in Appendix 1 of these minutes.***

Recommended (Section B for recommendation to Future Proof Partners)

- 3. That the Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement (Attachment 3, Future Proof Implementation Committee Agenda at page 30) including the Future Proof Implementation Committee Terms of Reference (Attachment 2, Future Proof Implementation Committee Agenda at page 27) are approved and the member organisations are requested to execute the Agreement replacing the existing agreement and Terms of Reference in a timely manner.***
- 4. That the Draft Terms of Reference for the Regional Transport Committee are approved (Attachment 4, Future Proof Implementation Committee Agenda at page 35) and referred to Waikato Regional Council for adoption.***

carried

To	Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee
Report title	Amendment to Council's Governance Structure Delegations to reflect the agreed name of the Future Proof sub-committee to oversee public transport in the sub-region
Date:	5 April 2023
Report Author:	Vishal Ramduny, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships Manager
Authorised by:	Clive Morgan, General Manager, Community Growth

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

The purpose of this report is to enable a tidy-up amendment to be made to Council's Governance Structure Delegations to reflect the name of the sub-committee approved by the Future Proof Implementation Committee on 9 March 2023 to provide governance oversight on sub-regional public transport matters, and

To re-confirm the appointment of Council's representative and alternate representative to this sub-committee.

2. Executive summary

Whakaraapopotanga matua

On 21 December 2022 Council approved the following resolutions:

- c. the appointment of Cr Eugene Patterson as the Council member on the Metropolitan Public Transport Sub-Committee (or amended name).*
- d. the appointment of Cr David Whyte as the alternative Council member on the Metropolitan Public Transport Sub-Committee (or amended name).*

On 9 March 2023 the Future Proof Implementation Committee (FPIC) approved the establishment of the transport sub-committee but agreed to name it the Future Proof Public Transport Sub-committee (rather than the Metropolitan Public Transport Sub-Committee) after advocacy from Waikato District Council (see attachment 2).

The approved name of the sub-committee is more reflective of the wider sub-regional scope of the partnership which is aimed at providing an effective vehicle to achieve collaborative alignment in the governance of public transport services and infrastructure in the Future Proof sub-region, including the Hamilton-Waikato Metropolitan area.

3. Staff recommendations Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee recommends to Council:

- a. that a tidy-up amendment be made to its Governance Structure Delegations by changing the name of the Metropolitan Public Transport Sub-Committee to the Future Proof Public Transport Sub-committee; and by consequence,**
- b. by consequence, confirms the appointment of Cr Eugene Patterson as the Council member and Cr David Whyte as the alternative Council member on the Future Proof Public Transport Sub-committee.**

4. Discussion and analysis Taataritanga me ngaa tohutohu

On 21 December 2022 Council approved the appointments of Cr Eugene Patterson as the Council member and that of Cr David Whyte as the alternative Council member on the Future Proof Metropolitan Public Transport Sub-Committee, noting that the name of the sub-committee could change.

On 9 March 2023 the Future Proof Implementation Committee (FPIC) approved the establishment of this sub-committee but agreed on the name '*Future Proof Public Transport Sub-committee*' after advocacy from the Waikato District Council. The name agreed to by FPIC is more reflective of the wider sub-regional scope of the partnership which is aimed at providing an effective vehicle to achieve collaborative alignment in the governance of public transport services and infrastructure in the Future Proof sub-region including the Hamilton-Waikato Metropolitan area.

This would enable a partnership approach geared at achieving more than would otherwise be possible where the provision of services, infrastructure and funding are separately legislated.

With the name of the sub-committee now having been confirmed, a minor adjustment to Council's Governance Structure Delegations is required to reflect this.

The approval from FPIC for the establishment of the Future Proof Public Transport Sub-committee follows an initial proposal from Waikato Regional Council, engagement with partners and endorsement of the Future Proof Chief Executives Advisory Group.

The creation of the sub-committee reflects the trust and confidence in Future Proof as an appropriate entity for joint governance of an operational programme – in this case relevant aspects of public transport services and the next steps in Metropolitan Transport Programme Business Case.

The Terms of Reference (attachment 1) provides the following in the Future Proof Sub-region:

- a. Oversight of public transport performance
- b. Oversight of the implementation of the Regional Public Transport Plan
- c. Oversight of the implementation of the Metro Spatial Plan Transport Programme Business Case
- d. Power to approve adjustments to public transport services that are not significant.
- e. Power to recommend policy, programmes, and investment requirements to relevant authorities, including to the Regional Transport Committee.

Membership of the Sub-committee has been set as:

- a. An independent Chair.
- b. Two voting members appointed by Waikato Regional Council, one of whom will be the deputy Chair reflecting Waikato Regional Council's role as the public transport authority.
- c. Two voting members appointed by Hamilton City Council reflecting the significant proportion of total public transport services and high degree of inter-dependence between services and infrastructure in the Hamilton City area.
- d. One voting member from each other of Future Proof's local government partners who fund public transport service and infrastructure,
- e. One member from Ngā Karu Atua o te Waka.
- f. Non-voting membership of:
 - i. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency - while a funding partner they would also receive funding applications recommended or endorsed by the sub-committee.
 - ii. KiwiRail – as the delivery partner for the Te Huia passenger rail service.
 - iii. Disability Sector – recognising the importance of a disability voice in the planning and delivery of public transport services and infrastructure.

The Sub-committee is scheduled to meet quarterly.

While the Future Proof Public Transport Sub-committee undertakes transportation oversight within the Future Proof Sub-region (Hamilton City, Waikato District, and Waipā District), the Regional Transport Committee oversees the remainder. A close working relationship and knowledge between the two committees is essential.

4.1 Options

Ngaa koowhiringa

This is an administrative change to Council's Governance Structure Delegations to tidy up a decision that has already been made by reflecting the correct name of the sub-committee to which councils' member and alternate member have been appointed to. This is the correct thing to do.

4.2 Financial considerations

Whaiwhakaaro puutea

There are no material financial considerations associated with this report.

4.3 Legal considerations

Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture

This report complies with the Council's legal and policy requirements, and obligations under the Local Government Act.

4.4 Strategy and policy considerations

Whaiwhakaaro whakamaaherehere kaupapa here

The report and recommendations are consistent with the Council's policies, plans and prior decisions.

4.5 Maaori and cultural considerations

Whaiwhakaaro Maaori me oona tikanga

A member of Ngā Karu Atua o te Waka will be on the Future Proof Public Transport Sub-committee.

4.6 Climate response and resilience considerations

Whaiwhakaaro-aa-taiao

The work of the Future Proof Public Transport Sub-committee would help support the implementation of the Hamilton-Waikato Metropolitan Spatial Plan and the Regional Transport Plan both of which have a focus on reducing carbon emissions.

4.7 Risks

Tuuraru

There are no risks to Council from making this minor amendment to its the Governance Structure Delegations.

5. Significance and engagement assessment

Aromatawai paahekoheko

5.1 Significance

Te Hiranga

The decisions and matters of this report are assessed as of low significance, in accordance with the Council's [Significance and Engagement Policy](#).

5.2 Engagement

Te Whakatuutakitaki

Highest level of engagement	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
	✓	✓	✓	✓	☐
<p>The contents of the report and the attachments were discussed with the Future Proof Transport Working Group, the Future Proof Senior Managers Steering Group, the Future Proof Chief Executive Advisory Group, Ngā Karu Atua o te Waka, the Future Proof Implementation Committee, and the Waikato Regional Council.</p>					

6. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1: Future Proof Transport Sub-Committee Terms of Reference

Attachment 2: Future Proof Implementation Committee Resolutions of 9 March 2023

Future Proof Public Transport Subcommittee

Terms of Reference / Ngā ture tohutoro

1. Mana ā Ture / Status

This is a subcommittee of the Future Proof Implementation Committee and was created by, and at the discretion of that Committee pursuant to clause 30(1)(a) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002. It may be discharged or reconstituted by resolution of the Future Proof Implementation Committee pursuant to clause 30(5)(a) and (b) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

2. Whāinga / Objective

The objective of the subcommittee is to enhance the wellbeing of communities in Hamilton City, Matamata-Piako, Waikato and Waipā Districts (Future Proof Sub-region) through the achievement of the transport goals set out in the *Future Proof Strategy*; the *Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Study*; the *Hamilton - Metro Spatial Plan*, the *Hamilton - Waikato Metro Spatial Plan Transport Programme Business Case (MSPTPBC)*, the *Regional Land Transport Plan*; the *Access Hamilton Transport Strategy* and the transport strategies of the subcommittee member organisations.

3. Ngā Kawenga / Responsibilities

The subcommittee is responsible for considering and making recommendations on:

- 3.1 Matters relevant to the implementation and monitoring of the MSPTPBC and *Regional Public Transport Plan* including the Te Huia passenger rail service.
- 3.2 Transport policy and investment in the Future Proof Sub-region, including the *Regional Land Transport Plan*, the *Regional Public Transport Plan* and *Long Term Plans* of the relevant authorities.

4. Ngā Apatono / Powers

The subcommittee has all powers necessary to perform its responsibilities including:

- 4.1 Receiving regular monitoring reports and presentations on relevant matters.
- 4.2 Preparing recommendations on transport policy, programmes and investment requirements to the relevant authorities including for the Regional Transport Committee on the *Regional Land Transport Plan* and *Regional Public Transport Plan*.
- 4.3 Adopting non-significant variations to the *Regional Public Transport Plan* that only affect the Future Proof Sub-region in accordance with, and as defined, in the significance policy as set out in that Plan.
- 4.4 Preparing recommendations on the implementation and monitoring of the *Regional Public Transport Plan*, *MSPTPBC* and *Regional Land Transport Plan* for the Future Proof Implementation Committee, Regional Transport Committee and Hamilton City, Matamata-Piako, Waikato and Waipā Districts for decision-making.

5. Tokamatua / Quorum

Four voting members, pursuant to clause 23(3)(b) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

6. Ngā Tikanga Pōti / Voting

Decisions of the subcommittee are made by majority vote of members present and voting. In the case of equality of votes, the Chair or any person presiding at the meeting has a casting vote. Refer to clause 24 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act and *Standing Orders*.

7. Ngā Tūranga / Membership

7.1 Ngā Mema / Members

The subcommittee has nine voting members, and four non-voting members as follows:

- a. The independent Chair of the Future Proof Implementation committee who is the Chair of the subcommittee.
- b. Two member[s] appointed by Hamilton City Council.
- c. One member[s] appointed by Matamata-Piako District Council.
- d. One member[s] appointed by Waikato District Council.
- e. Two member[s] appointed by Waikato Regional Council, one of which shall be the Deputy Chair of the subcommittee.
- f. One member[s] appointed by Waipā District Council.
- g. One member[s] appointed by Ngā Karu Atua o te Waka.
- h. One non-voting member appointed by the Auckland Council Governing Body.
- i. One non-voting member appointed by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.
- j. One non-voting member appointed by KiwiRail.
- k. One non-voting member appointed by CCS Disability Action Waikato (to represent the access and mobility sector).

7.2 Ūpoko me te Ūpoko Tuarua / Chair and Deputy Chair

- a. The Chair of the subcommittee is the independent Chair of the Future Proof Implementation Committee.
- b. The Deputy Chair is appointed by the Waikato Regional Council from one of their appointed subcommittee voting members. This appointment is made recognising that Waikato Regional Council is the delegating public transport authority.

7.3 Ngā Kairiwhi / Alternates

Any appointing agency or organisation may appoint one alternate member. Where the member appointed by the agency or organisation concerned is absent, the alternate will have full voting rights in the place of the absent member (where that member had those same rights).

8. Ngā Hui i te Tau / Frequency of meetings

Every second month or as required.

ATTACHMENT 2

Future Proof Implementation Committee Resolutions of 9 March 2023

FP23/10

Moved by: Cr Liz Stolwyk

Seconded by: Mayor Jacqui Church

Resolved (Section A under delegated authority)

- 1. That the report Metro Public Transport Subcommittee Establishment (Future Proof Implementation Committee, 9 March 2023) be received.**
- 2. That the Future Proof Public Transport Subcommittee is established, and its Terms of Reference adopted as set out in Appendix 1 of these minutes.**

Recommended (Section B for recommendation to Future Proof Partners)

- 3. That the Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement (Attachment 3, Future Proof Implementation Committee Agenda at page 30) including the Future Proof Implementation Committee Terms of Reference (Attachment 2, Future Proof Implementation Committee Agenda at page 27) are approved and the member organisations are requested to execute the Agreement replacing the existing agreement and Terms of Reference in a timely manner.**
- 4. That the Draft Terms of Reference for the Regional Transport Committee are approved (Attachment 4, Future Proof Implementation Committee Agenda at page 35) and referred to Waikato Regional Council for adoption.**

carried

To	Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee
Report title	Approval for Appointment of a Deliberations Panel for the Draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy
Date:	5 April 2023
Report Author:	James Fuller, Senior Environmental Planner
Authorised by:	Clive Morgan, General Manager Community Growth

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

To inform the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee on the review of the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy.

AND

To seek approval to appoint a deliberations panel consisting of a quorum of 3 to review and recommend decisions on written submissions to the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy.

2. Executive summary

Whakaraapopotanga matua

Waikato District Council has reviewed its Conservation Strategy and Esplanade Strategy and combined both documents to develop the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy. The draft Strategy provides a long-term plan to achieve the Council's vision to build liveable, thriving, and connected communities while helping to maintain, protect and restore indigenous biodiversity throughout the district. The approach outlined in the draft document allows it to be more relevant and implementation-orientated than the previous document(s).

The draft Strategy is intended to:

- Provide overarching guidance to communities, iwi, hapū, businesses, and action-orientated neighbouring local authorities to help deliver on the conservation vision, goals and actions identified;
 - build on the current protections under the District Plan with support and collaboration around Taiao; and
-

- guide council staff on Taiao's goals and actions (including restoration and education) that should be prioritised within existing budgets and resources, as well as projects and activities that should be considered for funding through the development of the Council's Long-Term Plans (LTPs).

The document was released for public submission on 15 August 2022 for a time period of six weeks, ending on 27 September 2022. Overall, 21 submissions were received (one of which was received late), and it is noted that many of the submissions were made by stakeholders who were initially consulted with regarding the development of the draft Strategy.

3. Staff recommendations Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee:

- appoints a deliberations panel consisting of Cr Gibb (Chairperson), Councillors Eyre, Beavis, Keir and Ngataki to consider submissions on the Taiao Strategy; noting a quorum would be three of the five appointed; and**
- notes that the deliberations panel will make decisions on responding to submissions and recommend back to the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee on the proposed changes to the Strategy for adoption.**

4. Background Koorero whaimaarama

In 2004 Council approved a Waikato District Conservation Strategy (WDCS) with the following vision of three main threads;

- Promoting the council's focus to lead by example when carrying out service delivery functions on its parks and reserves;
- promoting conservation of private land; and
- education through the wider communities about the benefits of conservation.

Whilst it was a non-regulatory document, the Conservation Strategy 2004 provided direction for the Operative District Plan (Waikato Section) biodiversity-related provisions.

In 2020, the Strategic Planning team began a review of the Conservation Strategy (2004) and identified several shortcomings of the Strategy. Staff set up a steering group that included three councillors and relevant staff from across the business. The steering group developed a new vision, goals and a series of actions around the goals, with monitoring and implementation to progress over time through a series of report cards. Key themes were to set a clear vision for the district given the current and future conservation environment. The themes included:

- Improve the Taiao;
 - Support and collaborate with others;
 - Include mana whenua; and
 - Promote access where it is appropriate.
-

The steering group met regularly to develop the vision and goals, which were workshopped with councillors as required. Several key stakeholders were also contacted (Waikato Tainui, Waikato Regional Council, Federated Farmers and QEII), and their views were incorporated into the drafting of Taiao in the Waikato.

The draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy was brought to the Strategy and Finance Committee on 3 August 2022. Council approved the public release of the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy for public consultation for a period of six weeks.

5. Discussion and analysis

Taataritanga me ngaa tohutohu

Council received 21 submissions through this public consultation period between 15 August and 27 September 2022. Responses were received from Waikato Tainui, Waikato Regional Council, Forest and Bird, Federated Farmers and QEII, amongst others.

The general themes of the submissions received focused on the following:

- General support for the revised Conservation Strategy and addition of the Esplanade Reserve;
- Protection and restoration are key topics that submitters spoke to and want to see results on the ground. This means appropriate resourcing from the council through staff and funding, e.g., reinstating the conservation fund or an equivalent;
- Te Ture Whaimana must be at the heart of the district's conservation efforts, where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities;
- Helping tamariki learn and participate in restoring our Taiao in the Waikato;
- Empowering our communities with the tools and support they need to restore the Taiao in Waikato from new and existing restoration groups, predator-free groups, individual landowners etc.;
- Providing safe and easy access to the Taiao, where we can go through esplanade reserves and access strips; and
- Creating ecological corridors by linking SNAs with Council and private landowners supporting each other.

5.1 Options

Ngaa koowhiringa

Staff have assessed that there are two viable options for hearing and deliberations of submissions for the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee to consider. This assessment reflects the significance level (see paragraph 6.1) and the work completed on reviewing council-wide policies. The two options are listed below.

Option 1 (preferred): The Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee can recommend that the Council approve the delegation to a deliberations panel consisting of a quorum of three (3) with chairperson Cr Gibb, and two (2) of Councillors Eyre, Beavis, Keir or Ngataki that will review the submissions made and make decisions in response to submissions on the Taiao in the Waikato Strategy. This option will ensure best use of Councillor's time and be more efficient than having the entire committee review and make decisions on submissions. This is the preferred option.

Option 2: The Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee in its entirety will review the submissions made and make decisions in response to submissions on the Strategy. This option could mean it would take more time to work through submissions and reach agreement on responses.

Staff recommend **Option 1** because it is the most efficient use of councillors' time and resources.

5.2 Financial considerations

Whaiwhakaaro puutea

Council has a sufficient budget to finalise the draft Taiao in the Waikato final document. The budget will go towards finalising the document based on responses to submissions and updating the design of the final document with related images.

It is important to note that on the 18 October 2021 at Strategy and Finance Committee, a series of Funding Review recommendations were adopted, primarily focusing on re-aligning discretionary funds. A new Community Aspirations and Blueprints budget that includes funding for conservation groups will be available subject to an application process. With the removal of the Conservation Fund, private landowners will no longer be able to apply under individual applications as set out in the Conservation Strategy 2004.

5.3 Legal considerations

Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture

Staff confirm that option one complies with the Council's legal and policy requirements and best practices. Option two is a viable alternative to finalise the Taiao in the Waikato document via submission. Still, it may take time and resources away from more pressing matters the council is currently dealing with.

5.4 Strategy and policy considerations

Whaiwhakaaro whakamaaherehere kaupapa here

The report and recommendations are consistent with the Council's policies, plans and prior decisions. Furthermore, the preferred option 1 adheres to Council's engagement policy for community engagement. The report and recommendations are consistent with the Council's policies, plans and prior decisions.

Finalising the draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy focuses on refreshing Council's Vision for conservation, setting goals and actions consistent with the current 2004 Conservation Strategy intent, but extending it into best practice, collaboration and education.

5.5 Maaori and cultural considerations

Whaiwhakaaro Maaori me oona tikanga

The draft document sets goals for Council's role in supporting Tangata whenua aspirations, including facilitating conversations with Waikato-Tainui for iwi-led and hapū-led conservation projects that should be investigated through the Long-Term Plan process. In addition to individual participants that have contributed to the co-design process for the Strategy review.

Waikato District Council also sought further input from Waikato-Tainui as part of the draft Taiao in the Waikato submissions focus and will recommend that their late submission be accepted. Waikato Tainui's submission will be considered alongside other key submitters and stakeholders.

5.6 Climate response and resilience considerations

Whaiwhakaaro-aa-taiao

The matters covered in the Strategy are consistent with the Council's Climate Response and Resilience Policy and Climate Action Plan and will help it meet its resilience planning outcomes. It is hoped that the protection, management, and restoration of indigenous biodiversity, supporting and collaborating with other parties, and education will help the district's resilience to climate change improve.

5.7 Risks

Tuuraru

The overall risk profile is low. The document review process and consideration of the submissions will follow a clear council process as detailed in Promapp. Any submissions with opposing or conflicting recommendations will be discussed in deliberations, and reasons for any changes will be identified.

6. Significance and engagement assessment

Aromatawai paahekoheko

6.1 Significance

Te Hiranga

The decisions and matters of this report are assessed as of low significance in accordance with the Council's [Significance and Engagement Policy](#).

6.2 Engagement

Te Whakatuutakitaki

This report aims to seek an opportunity to consider the 21 submissions received to the draft Taiao in the Waikato and finalise the document for councillors to make a final decision. The engagement has been challenging due to Covid, with the focus to date being on iwi and key stakeholders. Key stakeholders have made up the majority of the submissions on the draft Taiao in the Waikato, who generally agree with the document's themes, but have requested specific changes. It provides an opportunity to finalise the document based on stakeholders previously involved in the development Taiao in the Waikato and some new submitters.

Highest level of engagement	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Tick the appropriate box/boxes and specify what it involves by briefly explaining the tools used to engage (refer to the project engagement plan if applicable).</i>	<i>The Conservation Strategy 2004 needs to be updated, and an initiative under the Waikato District Blueprints 2019 requested the review of Strategy (2.1) as a top priority under the nature section.</i>				

State below which external stakeholders have been or will be engaged with:

Planned	In Progress	Complete	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Internal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Boards/Community Committees
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waikato-Tainui/Local iwi and hapuu
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affected Communities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Affected Businesses
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other; Federated Farmers, New Zealand Walking Access Commission, Waikato Regional Council, QEII National Trust, Hamilton City Council, Waipa District Council and Auckland Council.

7. Next steps

Ahu whakamua

The Strategic Planning Team will undertake preparations for the deliberations on the submissions by the panel. The submissions will be grouped by topic, and each point of submission will be addressed with a recommendation from staff of accepting the submission (in part or as a whole) or rejecting the submission and the reasoning for this.

The Deliberations panel will work through these submissions under delegation and decide on the submissions and changes proposed to Taiao in the Waikato Strategy. These will be tracked changes to the draft Taiao in the Waikato document for review by the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee, before the final document and design work is completed with approval to adopted by Council and revoke previous strategies by July 2023.

8. Confirmation of statutory compliance

Te Whakatuuturutanga aa-ture

As required by the Local Government Act 2002, staff confirm the following:

The report fits the Council's role and the Committee's/Community Board's Terms of Reference and Delegations. Refer to the Governance Structure	Confirmed
The report contains sufficient information about all reasonably practicable options identified and assessed in terms of their advantages and disadvantages (<i>Section 5.1</i>).	Confirmed
Staff assessment of the level of significance of the issues in the report after consideration of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy (<i>Section 6.1</i>).	Low
The report contains adequate consideration of the views and preferences of affected and interested persons taking account of any proposed or previous community engagement and assessed level of significance (<i>Section 6.2</i>).	Confirmed
The report considers the impact on Maaori (<i>Section 5.5</i>)	Confirmed
The report and recommendations are consistent with Council's plans and policies (<i>Section 5.4</i>).	Confirmed
The report and recommendations comply with Council's legal duties and responsibilities (<i>Section 5.3</i>).	Confirmed

9. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1 – Draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy [Link to Taiao \(Nature\) in the Waikato Draft Strategy Document](#)

TAIAO 'NATURE' IN THE WAIKATO

AUGUST 2022

DRAFT STRATEGY CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Waikato

District Council
Te Kaunihera aa Takiwaa o Waikato

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INTRODUCTION

Where we have come from:

This document reviews the Conservation Strategy 2004[1] to identify broad priorities for protecting and enhancing Taiao, including indigenous biodiversity values[2], to improve conservation and ecosystems. This strategy encompasses the Waikato District open spaces, reserves, esplanades, private Land, wetlands, peat bogs, the Waikato and Waipa Rivers, and tributaries. The rivers, lakes and tributaries extend from downstream of the confluence of the Waipa and Waikato Rivers at Ngāruawāhia, all the way downstream to Port Waikato.

What is Taiao (nature)?

Taiao is "nature" and much more; it is the earth, natural world, environment, and our country. Taiao speaks to the natural environment that contains and surrounds us. It encompasses all the environment, its offspring and mauri. Because we are born of the earth, and it is born of us, we have an eternal connection to Taiao – the earth, sky, air, water, and life are all interdependent. Taiao is about finding our way forward by forging an interconnected relationship with that environment based on respect. That interdependency lies at the heart of our Taiao methodology[3].

Biodiversity has been mapped in Waikato District using a comparison study of indigenous ecosystems' historical and current cover as a spatially mapped layer from the Waikato Regional Council. Split between descriptions of indigenous ecosystems across the region and the current distribution of surviving indigenous ecosystems (e.g. Bioveg2).

Priority sites (high-value indigenous biodiversity) within the lower Waikato Zone identified 127 priority sites (Leathwick 2016). Totalling 14,592 ha, equating to 37% of the surviving indigenous-dominated cover, with only 5.2% of the potential terrestrial ecosystem extent (Kessels 2017)[4]. Some key examples of good Taiao catchment types include:

[1] https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/docs/default-source/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/strategies/conservation-strategy-2004.pdf?sfvrsn=918e95c9_2

[2] Biodiversity priorities for the Lower Waikato Zone

[3] <https://fitforabetterworld.org.nz/taiao/>

[4] <https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/assets/WRC/WRC-2019/TR201736.pdf>

- Mangatāwhiri;
- Managatangi;
- Whakapipi;
- Waikato at Tuakau Bridge;
- Awaroa (Waiuku);
- Waikato at Port Waikato;
- Ohaeroa;
- Whangamarino at Jefferies Road Bridge;
- Waikato at Mercer Bridge;
- Whangamarino at Island Block Road;
- Lake Opuatia (Peat Lake);
- Waerenga;
- Waikare;
- Matahuru; Waikato at Rangiriri;
- Whangape; Managawara;
- Awaroa AT Harris/Te Ohaki Bridge;
- Awaroa (Rotowaro) at Sansons Bridge;
- Waikato at Huntly – Tainui Bridge and Komakorau.

Elements of the Waikato District and Taiao (nature)

The Waikato district covers 418,893ha, a strategically-significant land area between two of the fastest-growing metropolitan centres in New Zealand - Hamilton and Auckland. It is also located in the heart of the 'golden triangle', the economic zone encompassing Auckland, Hamilton, and Tauranga, which generates over 50% of New Zealand's gross domestic product (GDP) and is home to over 50% of NZ's population.

The current state of Nature in the Waikato District identified 71,312 ha (16.4%) of the Waikato District as Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), and a further 47% of which are legally protected under statute or covenant. The SNAs comprise 61,292 ha of indigenous vegetation (85.9%).

The District is also home to large areas of significant indigenous vegetation, including the Haakarimata Scenic Reserve near Ngaruawahia.

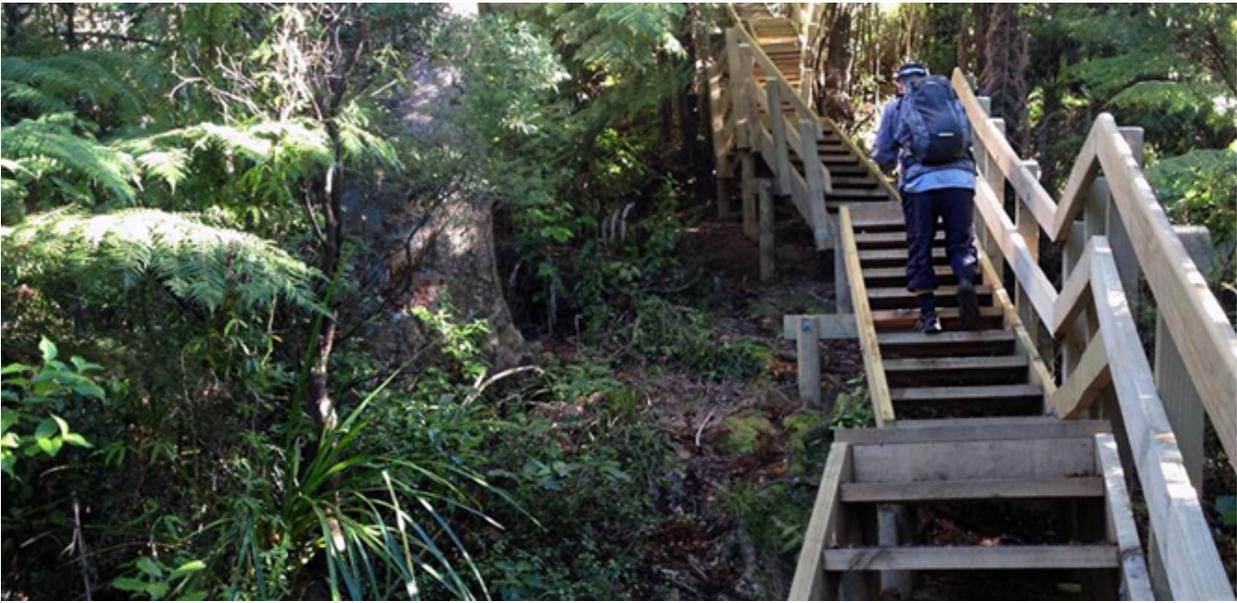
The Waikato River (NZ's longest river) flows through the District. It is a critical water body contributing to the region's biodiversity, providing potable water for the area and neighbouring population centres. It has significant cultural value to iwi, hapū and Māori (Waikato Tainui and Maniapoto). T

The Waikato district boundary extends along the western coast of New Zealand, from Aotea Harbour to Port Waikato, and touches the eastern coastline at the settlement of Miranda on the Hauraki Gulf.

Some examples of well-managed reserve areas in the Waikato District:

- Waingarō reserve – WRC recently reviewed this in a Biodiversity Monitoring report on this reserve that used an adaptation of the Kahikatea Green Wheel monitoring tool as developed by WRC

- Coastal reserves around Raglan and Port Waikato (Whakaupoko West Franklin Landcare group) are managed well, particularly in restoration activities, and there is good community consultation with these
- Hakanoa Reserve Management Plan
- Mount Karioi
- Taupiri Range
- Whangamarino wetland



Hakarimata Summit Track [image credit Department of Conservation]

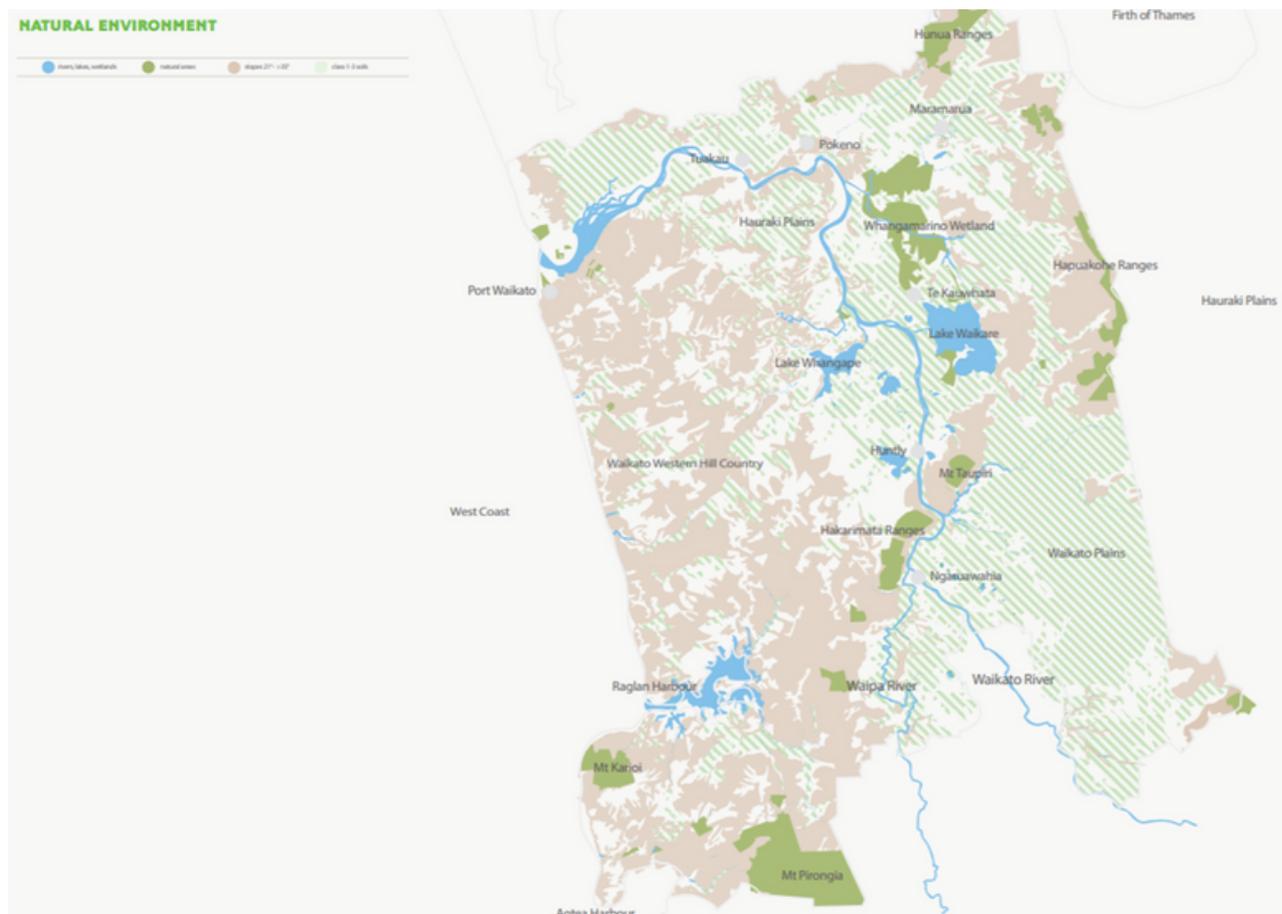
The Waikato district contains some of the country's most highly productive soils, which are vital contributors to the country's agricultural and horticultural sectors. The District, therefore, makes a critical contribution to the country's economy in terms of contribution to revenue generation and GDP. The Strategy is about maintaining and enhancing the natural environment while achieving the best community and economic outcomes. Emphasis should be placed on strengthening indigenous biodiversity and protecting native bush, wetlands, peat bogs and quality soils.

The Waikato district once contained large areas of forest and wetland. The dominant forest species were typically kauri in the north, podocarp in central locations and a combination of rimu and tawa in the south. Variations were seen between coastal and inland areas. The major wetland areas were northeast Hamilton and around the lower Waikato River. Indigenous lowland vegetation was modified by Māori and then primarily replaced with exotic pasture by European settlers to establish the District's social and economic foundation.

Taiao in Waikato and the rest of New Zealand is under pressure. At the same time, little deliberate felling of the indigenous forest takes place, and the main threats to forests are stock browsing and plant and animal pest infestation.

Drainage continues to pose a threat to wetlands and peat bogs. Large areas of rimu and tawa forest remain on the hill country, most of which is publicly owned and legally protected. Most of the internationally recognised Whangamarino Wetland is also legally protected. These areas and the lower Waikato lakes form a semi-continuous band of indigenous habitats from the northeast (Miranda) to the southwest (Aotea Harbour).

Outside of this band, indigenous vegetation and habitats have been significantly depleted; in some cases, only small remnants remain. Few of these remnants are formally protected (Map 1) unless they have been covenanted as part of a subdivision (council covenant) or through a QEII covenant initiated by a willing private land owner.



Map 1 - Waikato District Council Natural Environments

Why protect Taiao (nature)?

It is more cost-effective to conserve ecosystems or stop degrading our environment than start from scratch creating new ones in rural or brownfield areas. Conservation and current protection see District Plan[5] are no longer enough to arrest the loss of Taiao.

Investment needs to increase in maintenance/monitoring and restoration of Taiao for long-term sustainability (National Policy Statement – Indigenous Biodiversity[6]). The protection, maintenance, and monitoring of what you have. This can be done as non-statutory efforts through fencing and pest control while keeping tabs on the environment. Alternatively, regulatory protection can be put in place that legally requires conservation and restoration.

Restoration sits on a sliding scale. It takes many forms depending on the ecosystem, whether pristine or degraded. Passive restoration and letting nature take back what it needs on its own).



[5] <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/waikato-district-plan/operative-district-plan/waikato-section>

[6] <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/NPSIB-exposure-draft.pdf>



Active restoration is where we actively weed and control pests, protecting areas (fencing) and adding new native plants to increase the diversity.

Passive (Rewilding):



Leave things alone (Nature does its own thing). The contrast between fencing and non-fencing native areas.

Active (Engineering with nature):



We actively enhance this (by fencing, weed and pest control, planting and maintenance)

Both options include assessing the area, soil and water conditions, tree and bush plantings and maintenance plans over time.

It has to be the right place with suitable species that are native eco-sourced and varied types of trees, plants and grasses. Recently planted trees to be used for carbon sequestration has come to the forefront, focusing on *Pinus radiata*.

Planting a monoculture species is easy, and building indigenous ecosystems is challenging but more rewarding from a biodiversity perspective and more adaptable over time.

Further research is needed, but wetlands and peat bogs all have carbon-sequestering species. Where can the Council help by providing reasonable solutions in different places?

Categories of Taiao (nature)

Conserving indigenous biodiversity and restoring ecosystems will have a positive knock-on effect on the climate. Specific economic capture of tangible benefits might include sustainable wood, improved agricultural yields and eco-tourism revenues. Non-valued elements include clean air, water, pollination, pest control, nutrient recycling, carbon sequestration, reduced animal-transmitted diseases and greater resilience to extreme weather and natural disasters. In comparison analogue, roads and bridges don't generate returns themselves, but they are foundational to increased economic benefits through the movement of goods and services. We value this infrastructure but do not apply the same principles to Taiao.

- Forests - Threats: encroachment from urban and agriculture, pollution, invasive pests, and wildfires
- Restorers: Replanting native trees; conserving plants and animals, and rewilding areas
- Wetlands – Threats: irrigation, dams, canalisation and agricultural drainable, pollution
- Restorers: Controls on water extraction, restoring water flows to wetlands, wastewater treatment
- Peat bogs -Threats: Peat extraction, drainage for agriculture, infrastructure, fire, overgrazing and pollution.
- Restorers: Re-wetting, conservation
- Cities/towns – Threats: Urban Sprawl, waste and emissions from industry, traffic
- Restorers: Better policy and planning, cleaning up waterways and former industrial sites, tree planting, and creating green spaces and urban wetlands. Protect pockets of native vegetation and waterways during development.

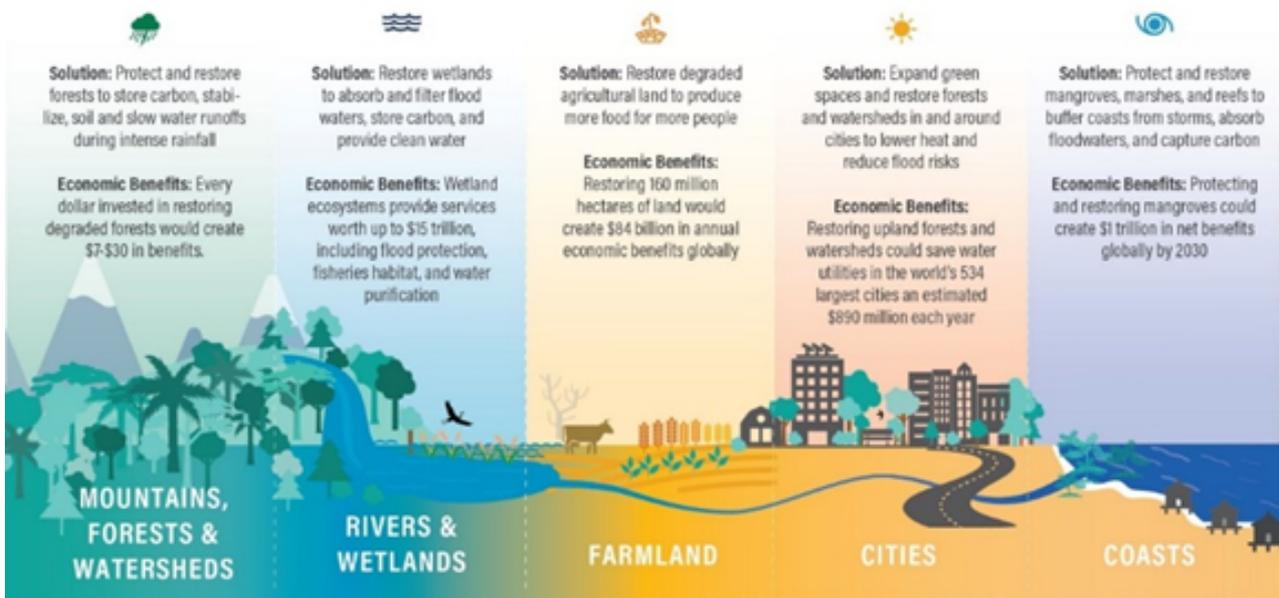
Benefits of Taiao (nature)

An example is the United Nations Environmental Protection initiative to restore 3.5 million square kilometres of land over the coming decade.

Investment in ecosystems can accrue an environmental benefit of \$1 invested in biodiversity and can return between \$3 - \$75 of economic benefits from the subsequent ecosystem goods and services. Valuing the environment and better identifying its benefits are a critical step to protecting and restoring what we have.

Nature-based solutions are a smart investment now more than ever (see Figure 1 below).

Nature-Based Solutions Can Deliver Big Economic Benefits



Source: Verdone and Seidl, *Roots of Prosperity*; Millennium Ecosystem Assessment; A. Wu, *How Can Restoring Degraded Landscapes Deliver Financial Returns?*; The Nature Conservancy, *Beyond the Source*; Global Commission on Adaptation, *Adapt Now*.

 WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Figure 1: Nature based solutions

OUR DISTRICT

Where we have come from:

The District's natural environment is one of the natural features and constraints that create Waikato's identity and make it a special place to live, work and play. Essential features of the natural environment include the Waikato River and its tributaries; the Waipa River; numerous lakes and wetlands; coastlines; steep hill country and inland range landscapes; and distinctive gully systems.

Areas of particular value are identified as outstanding natural features and natural landscapes, including significant amenity landscapes.

Those with particular terrestrial ecological value are identified as significant natural areas (SNAs), and the District is taking measures to provide and protect these areas under the district plan^[7]. Through targeted restoration efforts, there is an opportunity to promote, protect and enhance these ahead of and during development.

[7] <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/waikato-district-plan/district-plan-review/decisions/proposed-waikato-district-plan>

Ecological enhancement such as restoration planting and pest control can enhance amenity values and is supported through Taiao in the Waikato.

The District's rural environment contains rural land and villages and will continue to be a central focus and integral part of our District. The rural environment and rural villages significantly contribute to the District's economy. It is vital to continue to protect the rural economy and the soils that support activities within the rural environment.

Waikato 2070 promotes sustainable farming practices by protecting outstanding landscapes, significant natural areas, and rural amenities. Lifestyle opportunities are also provided within the rural environment in the Waikato district. These must be managed carefully with an evidence-based approach in the future to help better maintain and sustain the rural environment.

How we went about updating the document and who helped us:

WDC formed a steering group of councillors and staff and set about undertaking the review of the conservation strategy. They developed the Vision and Goals and a communications plan of who could input into the process as below:

- Engagement with stakeholders such as Iwi, landowners, Agricultural partner Federated Farmers, Hamilton City Council, Waikato Regional Council, Auckland Council, Department of Conservation (DOC), Waikato River Authority, Biodiversity Forum, and Community groups with the majority providing views.
- Engage with the community via submissions/consultation to review the consultation strategy. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, it will be via online consultation and suggestions. Promotion will be supported through small additional boosts (WDC Facebook), other social media platforms, the WDC website and Shape Waikato, and media releases.
- Legal requirements (public notices) under Clause 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 were not considered to require a hearing as this review document will be updated every three years.
- Communication of the outcome to the community of the new Conservation Strategy (social, website, media release(s) Taiao in the Waikato.

Developing our vision and goals:

In consultation with the Council (Councillors and staff) and the Community wellbeing and Blueprints (community initiatives and District-wide).

The Conservation Strategy 2004 supported River, Lake and Lowland habitat restoration and Community-led Gully Restoration. WDC will amend its conservation strategy for its public open space areas (parks and reserves) and seek to showcase the best environmental management practices. Extending it to roading and waters operations and delivery where possible.

With the district's private landowners, WDC will seek to encourage bush blocks, bush areas, native fragments, and esplanades to be actively fenced off. In coordination with other agencies, it will provide essential information and support for the maintenance and restoration of Taiao. Consider opportunities to develop the WRC Enviroschools programme around the importance of indigenous biodiversity.

VISION

To create a liveable, thriving and connected environment where our district values understand the importance of our natural systems and Kaitiakitanga.

We all work together to protect, sustain, and improve our natural ecosystems. So all can enjoy and share the benefits as the foundation for Taiao in Waikato. The full range of New Zealand's indigenous ecosystems and species thrive from the mountains to the sea.

GOALS

- Maintain, create and improve a full range of natural habitats and ecosystems to a healthy functioning state across their natural range and genetic diversity.
- Support actions to conserve, maintain and improve a healthy ecosystem's ecological linkages and promote sustainable natural resource use and emissions reduction.
- Seek collaboration opportunities to work with others, including mana whenua, to achieve the Taiao in the Waikato vision.
- Unlock native bush and esplanade areas through access agreements and landowner support to provide for walking and cycling

Links to key documents

- [National Policy Statement – Indigenous Biodiversity \(NPS-IB\) \(draft\)](#)
- [National PA Pest Management Plan \(NPAPMP\)](#)
- [Waikato Regional Plan*](#)
- [Waikato Regional Coastal Plan*](#)
- [Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan, Tai Tumu Tai Pari Tai Ao](#)
- [Waikato Proposed District Plan \(Decisions Version\)](#)
- [Department of Conservation – Biodiversity Strategy \(Kauri Dieback, Copper Skinks and Mudfish\)](#)
- [QEII – Map of Protected Land](#)

*Waikato Regional Council - Regional Plan and Coastal Plan [<https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/Community/Your-community/iwi/Tangata-Whenua-Management-Plans/>]

Strategic context:

How does the Conservation Strategy review fit in with New Zealand's international obligations and the upcoming legislation, including the Resource Management Act (RMA) and National Policy Strategy – Indigenous Biodiversity (see Appendix A). A summary is illustrated below:

1. International Obligations – United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) - 15 Life on the Land
2. New Zealand – Resource Management Act 1991 (Exposure Draft National Policy Strategy – Indigenous Biodiversity)
3. Reserves Act 1977, Wildlife Act 1956
4. Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy and Implementation Plan
5. Waikato Regional Council – Regional Policy Statement, Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategies (LIBS)
6. Waikato District Council – Decision Version Proposed District Plan (Conservation Covenants, SNAs), rules that minimise vegetation removal
7. Conservation and Esplanade Strategies are part of this review and inclusive of the proposed updates; Connectivity Strategy 2022

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TAIAO (NATURE)

As in all countries, land of high value for agricultural production is the first to be cleared of native vegetation. In New Zealand and Waikato, the trend is for more marginal Land to be removed, often for non-native forestry or development. These pressures have led to the degradation of Waikato District native ecosystems through the loss and fragmentation of indigenous biodiversity.

Today less than 10 per cent of the indigenous forests and less than four per cent of wetlands that once dominated the Waikato district remain. Pressures leading to land clearance within the district include reclamation of land for agricultural and horticultural purposes, meeting the growing population's housing demands and industrial/commercial development.

The region's land area covered in indigenous terrestrial vegetation has decreased from 94 per cent in 1840 to 27 per cent in 2018. Since 1840 six local authority areas have lost over 80 per cent of their indigenous cover (Hamilton City, Matamata-Piako District, Rotorua District, South Waikato, Waikato District and Waipa District). There was a net loss of 89 hectares of indigenous forest and 312 hectares of indigenous scrub and shrubland from the region between 2012 and 2018.

The rate of vegetation loss reduced from an average of 85 hectares per year between 1996 and 2012 to 60 hectares per year between 2012 and 2018. The most significant losses between 2012 and 2018 occurred in the lowland bioclimatic zone. Much of the recent clearance happened in the less threatened environments (areas with >20 indigenous cover left), with gains in the two most threatened environments – (areas with less than 20 per cent cover of indigenous vegetation).

Therefore, our baseline is low, meaning the importance of protecting what we have cannot be over emphasised. These areas will help us sustain the Taiao while restoring our new sites. This is supported by SDG 15 – Life on the Land and where human life depends on our earth and its plants, which is becoming even more critical in the Climate Change era (see Appendix A).

Scope, geographic spread, Taiao and Iwi

Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) are recorded in the Proposed District Plan: Decision version. Indigenous Biodiversity and its life-supporting capacity in SNAs are protected or enhanced. The SNAs of the Waikato District: "Terrestrial and Wetland Ecosystems data" were derived from analysis and interpretation of aerial photography along with information from ecological reports and data (where available), local environmental knowledge and limited field surveys. The data comprises an extensive yet provisional inventory and assessment of SNA of terrestrial and wetland ecosystems of the Waikato District

The SNA layer was received as a dataset from the WRC and used in the PDP. It is noted that the information was based on a desktop assessment (aerial photography) or knowledge of significant native areas. A small percentage of landowners made submissions to the PDP, and these areas were checked as to whether they would meet the criteria of an SNA. These have either been retained or dropped from the SNA layer, which now provides guidance rather than a specific rule framework.

The study mentioned above identified 698 sites, comprising an area of 71,312 ha (16.4%) of the Waikato District, as SNAs. Almost 47% of the area of SNAs is legally protected under statute or covenant; 61,292 ha of the SNAs were comprised of indigenous vegetation (85.9%) of the total area of SNAs. The public consultation process revealed that most landowners were motivated to protect and restore SNAs found on their Land. However, while formal protection of natural areas was an ideal first step, the ongoing management of these SNA (including weed and animal pest control, fencing and restoration) is of primary concern. The NPSIB exposure draft and other legislation must consider incentives for landowners to protect and restore indigenous biodiversity.

Description - Opportunities for improving the Taiao (should reflect the actions)

Research and Evidence:

- Land protection with covenants
- Vegetation protection through, Community-led projects
- Fauna protection with targeted pest control
- Waterways, Esplanades through good urban management and a joined-up approach with the WRC
- Urban (residential/Commercial/Industrial), low-impact design for stormwater and recognition of urban trees
- Rural promotion of information with pest control and help to facilitate fencing bush blocks and native fragments
- Our Culture is one that values Taiao and the importance of indigenous biodiversity
- An economy that steadily maintains and restores Taiao-based activities.

Protection and management of native flora and fauna (Vision)

The Council will regularly report on the outcomes of conservation covenants partnering, providing education, and supporting (non-financial) landowners to protect native bush and waterways.

Restoration – empower (skills, knowledge and education) iwi, hapū, communities and landowners

Set up a portal on the WDC website to help iwi, hapū, landowners and community groups access restoration information. Include a range of technical information about the different areas within the Waikato and the types of vegetation present. Have critical links to other information and other organisations that can help, e.g., the Waikato Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Biodiversity Forum, Trees for Nature, etc.



Propagation Table

Coordinate with QEII for more significant-high-quality native areas where possible

Investigate a reduced covenant costing regime for QEII covenants within the Waikato District. Map these areas and coordinate monitoring initiatives with QE II staff.

Emerging Threats (Climate-related impacts), weeds and pests open up new areas

Climate change will increase pressures on natural systems, but we do not yet know how to respond adequately to this threat. What we do know is the predicted climate change impacts in the Waikato could include, and the timeframes will vary:

- Warmer air and water temperatures (lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands)
- Sea level rise
- Changes in rainfall patterns
 - Increases in the frequency of storms and droughts
- Ocean acidification
 - Will impact inshore coastal ecosystems.

These changes will adversely affect our rural areas and natural indigenous biodiversity. The conditions may allow existing and new invasive pests to impact different habitats. This could mean that native species struggle to adapt to climate changes. We also know that healthy soils, native plants, wetlands, and peat bogs can capture carbon and reduce it from driving climate change (although this is a global issue).

While Taiao is the key focus, it will be improved by restoring the connectivity of natural areas that have become fragmented in an overwhelming dominance of the exotic landscapes. This will help increase natural resilience to climate change and our rural areas. It is integrating climate change into the strategy where it impacts indigenous biodiversity, e.g. sea-level rise, droughts and flooding.

Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)

The identified SNA layers let landowners know they have potential natural areas that could be protected with opportunities for further restoration. Under the previous conservation fund, the Council had provided a small contribution to applicants who undertook improvements to protect conservation areas.

This has included support for fencing, plants, weed and pest control. Although this funding has been reorientated to Community-led projects (including conservation), WDC will still provide support and education on Taiao in the Waikato.

WDC will seek to update the SNA layer with a better technical layer in coordination with the Waikato Regional Council. Most likely utilising a satellite-based approach subject to central government support. It would use image spectrometry and Artificial Intelligence to measure the reflectance of light for plant identification leading to enhanced education and monitoring outcomes.

To be augmented with land-based ecological assessments as and when they can be arranged, e.g. linked to land development applications. Non-regulatory policies are supported in this document. Includes assistance with establishing protective covenants, service delivery, education, funding ecological assessment with WRC and helping to manage the threats of Kauri Dieback and Long-Tailed Bats.

Esplanade reserves

Esplanade reserves may be required when land is subdivided, reclaimed, developed (through conditions), or when a road is stopped under the LGA 1974. Esplanade reserves can also be created voluntarily. They are classified as reserves under the Reserves Act 1977, and land ownership is transferred upon deposit (completion) of the subdivision plan to a territorial authority.

The boundary of an esplanade reserve is measured from its bank where it is a river or stream, its margin where it is a lake, or from the mean high-water springs (MHWS) in a coastal area. In all cases, the landward boundary is a fixed survey line. Accordingly, the landward boundary does not change as the water boundary accretes or erodes.

Esplanade Reserves created as part of a subdivision (each allotment that abuts a waterway) will sit under Council control to manage. The policy approach follows national and regional direction with four underlying principles, including:

1. Private property rights must be respected
2. Landowners are responsible for minimising the effects of land use on Waterbodies
3. Where esplanade management results in public benefits, funding should be available from public sources
4. The Council must be cost-effective in seeking to implement the above principles.

These principles are retained in this review, and where possible, WDC will promote access to wider walking networks, parks, and reserves with willing landowners.

Esplanade strips

A rule may require esplanade strips in a plan when land is subdivided, reclaimed, or developed; or when a road is stopped. A condition may also direct them to apply for resource consent for reclamation. Additionally, an esplanade strip may be created voluntarily by agreement.

Esplanade strips are a legal instrument made between landowners and territorial authorities. They are registered on the title, but the land within the strip remains in the ownership of the land owner. Although identified on a survey plan, they do not need to be formally surveyed.

The creation of a strip, and restrictions and requirements relating to its use and management, are noted on the title and bind every party having an interest in the land. The form of the agreement and standard restrictions imposed on an esplanade strip is defined in Schedule 10 of the RMA.

An esplanade strip can include provisions to exclude access by the public during certain times or under certain conditions (as prescribed in Form 31 of the Resource Management (Forms, Fees, and Procedure) Regulations 2003 - also see examples of conditions in the advantages and disadvantages space.

Unlike esplanade reserves, the width of an esplanade strip remains unchanged within the same allotment. So if a riverbank is eroded by 2 metres, the width of the esplanade strip extends beyond its old boundary by 2 metres to offset the lost ground.

Esplanade strips can be varied or cancelled by a territorial authority subject to the procedure in s234 of the RMA. Similarly, an esplanade strip can be changed, reviewed, and cancelled if a condition applies under s127-132 of the RMA.

Access strips

Access strips can enable public access to or along with water bodies or public land. They can be established by agreement between the land owner and the territorial authority under s237B of the RMA.

Access strips are surveyed and fixed, but their ownership remains with the land owner. The creation of a strip and restrictions and requirements relating to its public use is defined in Schedule 10 of the RMA and are set out as an easement registered against the title to the land.

Access strips may be cancelled by agreement between the land owner and territorial authority, considering the matters in s237B(4) of the RMA.

Summary on access

Overall, Esplanade Reserves, Esplanade Strips and Access Strips are a range of tools available to the Council, community groups and private land owners to provide public access to native bush or water bodies. Things for all parties to consider when determining the strategic approach for native bush and esplanade areas are the form of the protection and level of management.

- The Nature of the resources and the land abutting water bodies (inclusive of coastlines)
- The Nature of land uses (e.g., rural/urban/natural habitats/features and their proportions within the District)
- The possibility of developing an integrated network of access points to water bodies through the use of esplanade reserves, strips and Access strips.

The Council will treat Esplanade Reserves, Strips and Access Strips based on each case's merits and focus on public access or recreation demand. Where there are significant conservation features on privately owned riparian areas, encouragement for protection is essential.

Sustainable management, minimising conflicts, protecting public benefits, partnering with Tangata Whenua, community and recreation groups, and private landowners will be sought. Key reserve priorities are water bodies, including the Waikato and Waipa Rivers, the West Coast, lakes, and others (rivers, streams, and a short coastline area on the Firth of Thames). The Council also seeks to promote connectivity and conservation outcomes and work with conservation agencies, iwi, hapū, community groups, and landowners.

BRINGING IT TO LIFE AND CONSIDERATIONS

Māori and mana whenua

By 2022-25 Treaty partners, Iwi, hapū and Te Ao Māori organisations as mana whenua and kaitiaki are sufficiently supported.

Waikato District Council helps them to secure appropriate resourcing to help protect and manage indigenous biodiversity, particularly taonga species in their place and associated with local Marae.

Co-governance roles ensure the Treaty Partnership is honoured through Tino-rangatiratanga, fulfilling the promise of Te Mana o Te Taiao Aotearoa, the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, that Treaty partners are mana whenua and kaitiaki.

The Joint Management Agreement (JMA) is WDC and Waikato Tainui's response to the co-governance of the Waikato River. WDC also have a JMA with Ngati Maniapoto.

Both agreements support the conservation and Kaitiakitanga of the District's indigenous biodiversity. Taiao in Waikato should be viewed with this lens. Where each party can help manage and restore Te Awa and Taiao through conservation, it should be progressed as an ongoing partnership, and this section will evolve.

Working with private landowners/businesses (knowledge, skills and funding opportunities)

By 2023-26, new programmes are in place to support landowners, businesses, resource users/owners and industry in delivering more Taiao.

If appropriate, incentivise or seek sponsorship to protect and restore indigenous biodiversity as a standard part of the business within the Waikato District. It should not fall to only landowners; identifying opportunities for those supportive businesses will create dual benefits.

Collaboration – Central government, regional, Waikato River Authority, Community groups, DOC (Jobs for Nature): providing advice vs funding

What opportunities can we provide with our blueprint funding to manage and restore native habitats (Flora/fauna)? Consider whether WDC could be a platform for helping groups manage the logistics of conservation work using systems like the Econet-designed platform.

Track investment in labour time, flora (plants) and materials (fencing, traps, fertiliser) over time. Tap into government and regional funding where possible to accelerate restoration.

Biosecurity

The control of plant and animal pests (and other risks that require positive action) needs to be recognised as the core dimension of indigenous biodiversity management.

Protecting Taiao should utilise central and local government expertise in pest control and provide this to landowners and customers as tools, knowledge, and services. Support the development of new technologies for controlling pests, e.g. biocontrol and large-scale permanent trap networks.



Biocontrol on the weed Tradescantia (Tradescantia fluminensis)

Opportunities in Taiao (and monitoring)

Investigate hosting a digital platform for community groups to manage their funding, labour and work programmes around pest management, plantings, and maintenance. This could be replicated for multiple groups across the District. WDC is investigating the Conservation Activity Management System (CAMS)[8] and whether it could be applied to new and existing groups. Current pest control uses scientific and Mātauranga Māori monitoring (what works) and citizen science opportunities to improve Taiao.

LTP – Funding, broader community funding and community initiatives; Some conservation funding left (not to be topped up); investigate funding from external providers, can Council facilitate

The conservation fund transfers to the Blueprint Community fund. Conservation funding is still supported, with less emphasis on individual landowners (unless they provide public or ecological access) to more community initiatives that support employment and community health. Fencing bush blocks, bush remnants and pest control are still supported in the Blueprint Community fund. By 2022-25 community groups have the information that lets them be appropriately resourced, growing, connected, and coordinated: access knowledge, expertise, and information to progress their projects supporting Taiao in the Waikato.

[8] <https://econet.nz/our-projects/>

Policy and Planning – Policies supporting Taiao in the Waikato

Be at the "cutting-edge" of indigenous biodiversity management, enhancing it and restoring ecosystem processes in agricultural and urban landscapes. This is particularly relevant in the Waikato Region, where agricultural development has led to extensive habitat loss and modification. Taiao management is a multi-faceted undertaking and is the responsibility of many public agencies, private landowners, and business/sector groups. While co-operative approaches involving key stakeholders offer meaningful opportunities, facilitating and coordinating collaborative efforts also present significant challenges.

The National Policy Statement – Indigenous Biodiversity^[9] Exposure Draft indicates some critical areas of focus:

- Provisions to protect, maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity
- An enhanced role for Tangata whenua in decision-making regarding indigenous biodiversity and identifying significant natural areas (SNA). This includes managing indigenous biodiversity in a way that gives effect to the new concept of Te Rito o te Harakeke
- Indigenous biodiversity must be protected and managed both within and outside SNAs. This is to include highly mobile fauna such as birds and bats.
- A nationally consistent set of assessment criteria for identifying SNAs and a requirement for local authorities to undertake assessments to identify those areas
- A policy direction that specific adverse effects on SNAs from the new subdivision, use and development are avoided. This policy direction could significantly impact developments if the listed exceptions do not apply.

Currently, Waikato Regional Council (Regional Policy Statement 1.6 Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategies - LIBS) will assist Territorial Authorities at a district scale and collaborate with territorial authorities to develop LIBs that:

1. Use the information produced under methods 11.1.10a) and 11.2.1;
2. Establish indigenous biodiversity targets to enable local authorities to prioritise resourcing, track progress and monitor effectiveness in achieving indigenous biodiversity objectives and actions
3. Identify:
 - i) opportunities and priorities for re-creating habitat
 - ii) options and priorities for restoring, enhancing, or re-creating buffers, linkages, and corridors
 - iii) important threats to indigenous biodiversity
 - iv) minimise Plantation Forestry from taking over productive farmland and promoting localised native plantings for carbon credits.

[9] <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/npsib-exposure-draft-summary.pdf>

4. identify areas or sites:
- i) of indigenous biodiversity value
 - ii) that may require protection
 - iii) that may require enhancement

Thus the implementation model illustrated in Figure 3 is broadened to incorporate a range of resource management and strategic directions through the LIBS programme [See Figure 2]. This will be updated as part of the new NPS-IB.

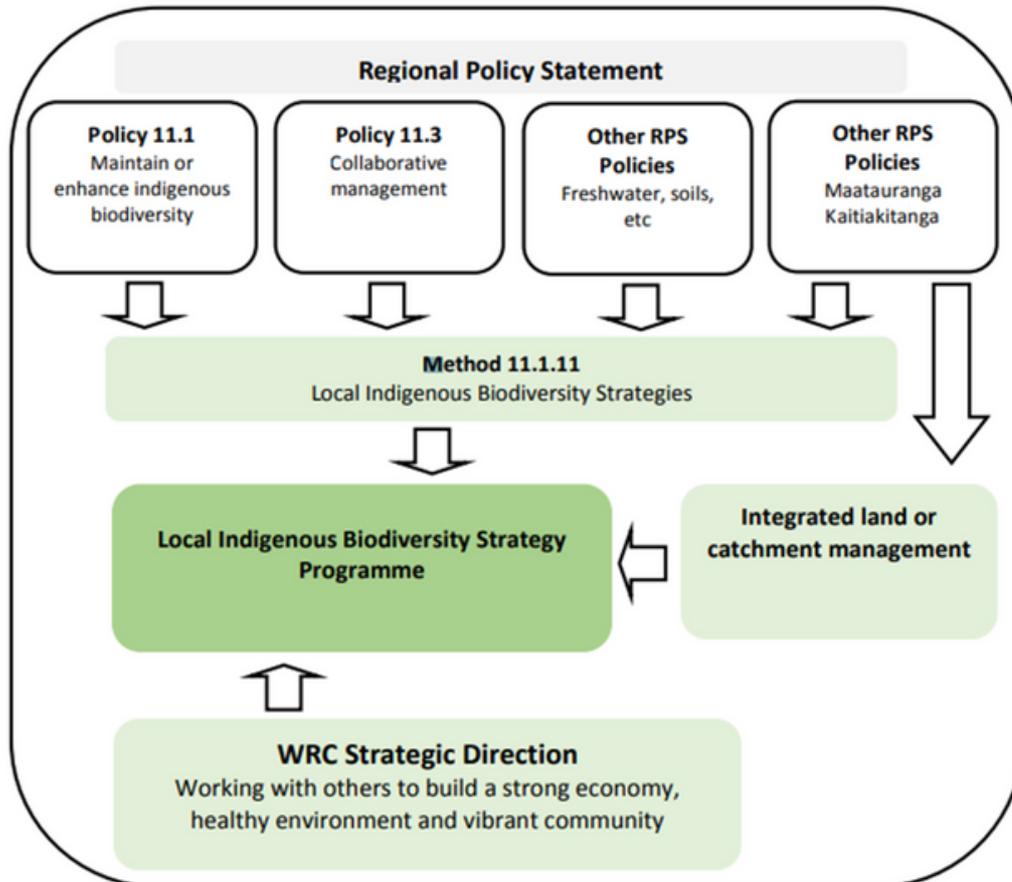


Figure 2: The Local Indigenous Biodiversity Programme



The District Plan

The District plan contains objectives, policies, and rules to protect habitats. The District Plan sets out regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to managing vegetation removal and particular species, Kauri, Cooper skinks and long-tailed Bats.

Kauri Dieback is identified as a significant issue, and this strategy references the Kauri Dieback Programme[10] and protecting kauri: A Rural Landowner's Guide[11]. Protected species, long-tailed bats and copper skinks habitats should be avoided, or an ecological assessment should be undertaken in conjunction with the Wildlife Act 1956, administered and permitted by DOC.

Reference can also be made to the Waikato Regional Council website with corresponding information[12] on a future Draft Bat Strategy to be referenced. Please note that the District Plan will be subject to a future NPSIB, which requires a Regional Biodiversity Strategy to be developed at this stage.

Communications and Engagement

Building engagement and understanding was seen by many as essential. This included: fostering collaboration, providing education, and disseminating better practices and incentives. A range of existing programmes exist. These could be used as potential building blocks, including EnviroSchools, Marae-based te Taiao initiatives, DoC Programmes, Jobs for Nature, QEII covenants, River Care, Māori/Iwi land programmes etc.

The Steering Group will consider setting up a quarterly newsletter with SNA of the Month, what individual landowners are doing, and send it to media outlets. Fonterra and Dairy NZ are good at promoting these types of stories.

Connection/Collaboration/celebrating successes of improved Indigenous Biodiversity should be key actions to come out of Taiao in the Waikato. As part of the Strategy, the digital connections might include a Facebook Subgroup to help connect different parts of the community with Taiao knowledge and resources (plants, pest control) with those seeking it. The strategy's actions will better investigate access to CAMMS or apps to track resources and labour for community projects.

[10] <https://www.kauriprotection.co.nz/how-to-guides/>

[11] https://www.kauriprotection.co.nz/media/2050/6617-kauri-dieback-guide-booklet-a5_3_wr_final.pdf

[12] <https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/environment/biodiversity/bats/>

Snapshot of Goals – maintain and improve ecological corridors, stock-proof natural areas, promote weed and pest-free

Many methods were proposed to support indigenous biodiversity and biosecurity action. These included:

- Research and monitor indigenous biodiversity, native plants, animals and other organisms and the ecosystems that sustain them
- Funding – multiple streams
- Cultural – sites containing indigenous biodiversity and taonga identification
- Wildlife corridors – between SNAs and council reserves
- Biosecurity – preventing or reducing the spread of pest plants, animals and other organisms that might work comfortably in natural ecosystems
- Protected areas – Council-owned, private covenants, DOC, iwi and hapū
- New technologies – satellites, network traps, IoT sensors and cameras
- Adjacent to Regional Riparian protection
- Land acquisition and bequeaths
- Soft technology
- Integrated planning – opportunities to enhance Taiao and manage land
- Enabling landowners – knowledge and understanding of the benefits of Taiao and how to get started
- Education – teaching our communities and young people the benefits of Taiao
- Resource Management Act tools – investigate the simplified version of protection covenants
- New indigenous biodiversity initiatives

Digital layers available for Council and landowners

Councils maintain GIS layers to include SNAs, Conservation Covenants and Open space. Consider hosting a platform like Econet[13] or Restor[14] for community groups throughout the Waikato District. Alternatively, work with WRC to promote their app if it can achieve improvements in Taiao. WDC support all efforts in tracking, maintaining, monitoring, and restoring Taiao.

Ideas for funding:

- Local offsetting by business, developers (connecting them with landowners)
- Secondary CO2 offset – collective view of the District or within catchments
- 1 ha – 3,000 plants, 5m in height

[13] <https://econet.nz/our-projects/>

[14] <https://restor.eco>

- National – Register and apply for funding with Central Government funding; alternative funding, businesses, Lotteries etc
- Waikato Regional Council - Funding
- WDC – Funding and Partnership opportunities (shifting from private landowner assistance to a community group funding approach)
- This Council supports other ecological partners for funding and grants rather than applying ourselves.

Council and Crown Reserve/Land (SNA's) showcase best practice

The Council will showcase best practices in maintaining, managing, monitoring, and restoring Taiao in the Waikato. Where possible, these areas will also be used for education and research to enhance Taiao.

We need to embrace and create more of the stories in our district like C/O Pukemokemoke Bush Trust:

The most recently planted area seems to be doing incredibly well, although the recent drought has taken out a few species, particularly perhaps akeake and maybe mahoe, and they'll need to be replaced, but otherwise, this area is doing very well.

The next area is a very wet area and was planted in flax some three years ago and could well do with interplanting with particularly kind kahikatea and pukatea, again the two well-established wetland plants of the area.

Private landowner example (QEII covenant, Mt Karioi area) showcasing best practice July 2022:

We are very encouraged by the regeneration in the covenants on the farm. White maire is coming up along one of the ridges, and also Puriri, which is great because Wayne is finding them difficult from seed. Last month, Moniqua from Waikato Regional Council (WRC) walked through the areas with us and commented on the good health of the canopy.

We spotted Hinau seedlings, never seen them regenerating before; rata flowering and kohekohe fruiting in March (as above on page 24). Over the summer, we picked up the sound of a bat at dusk. Moniqua pointed out that the mature Puriri would be good bat roosts, so we are trying to trap and bait near those trees. WRC are contributing towards the plants, and our problem is getting enough plants. Waikato District Council contributed towards the planting preparation. In the open areas at the edges of the forest, we sprayed or cut down kikuyu grass to make planting plots.

ACHIEVING OUR VISION AND GOALS

Targets and tools

Goals

- Maintain, improve, and promote a full range of natural habitats and ecosystems to a healthy functioning state across their natural range and genetic diversity.
- Support actions to conserve, maintain and improve a healthy ecosystem's ecological linkages and promote sustainable natural resource use and emissions reduction.
- Seek collaboration opportunities to work with others, including mana whenua, to achieve Taiao in the Waikato vision.
- Unlock native bush and esplanade areas through access agreements and landowner support to provide for walking and cycling.

Focus Areas -- Timeframes (-Short-Term / -Medium-Term / Long-Term)

Actions (Maintain; Improve; Promote, e.g. 1.1 Maintain, Improve and Promote

- Consider areas of farmland for retirement – Carbon Credits, Rates relief, funding
- Identify significant pockets (SNAs, plus conservation covenants)
- Linkage between Pockets (Ecological Corridors)
- Prioritise areas of indigenous biodiversity
- Funding; Education links into WRC (Enviroschools); DOC and QEII (massive scope for improvement)
- Local community Nursery set up: Social Benefits, Training, Skills (Kimihi Lakes Project)
- App to track data – WRC app; Restor and Econet

Focus Area 1

Natural habitats and ecosystems are healthy functioning states.

This focus area is about WDC stepping up its support and actively managing indigenous biodiversity at a district level. WDC will work with the Regional Council, iwi, hapū and communities to ensure that ecological programmes can be rolled out.

Maintain, restore, and improve a range of natural habitats and ecosystems to a healthy functioning state in public spaces.	Lead	Timing	Goal Alignment	State of Environment
<p>Action 1.1 - Illustrate Best Practice</p> <p>WDC, through this strategy, seeks to integrate statutory and non-statutory indigenous biodiversity functions such as monitoring, research and collaborative action and showcase this on land owned and administered by the Council.</p> <p>This includes planting a range of indigenous natives (preferably Eco sourced) on public reserves, e.g., passive areas, pocket areas adjacent to waterways, and within Esplanades, maintaining appropriate levels of pest control (weed and animal species) across the council reserves and helping adjacent landowners with native bush areas.</p>	WDC	2022-2052 Short term to long term	1, 2	Maintain, Improve and Promote Linkages, Education and App
<p>Action 1.2 - Linking Taiao areas to multiple indigenous biodiversity impacts</p> <p>An essential action underpinning this strategy is to develop a district-wide prioritisation of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems. Identify key areas as a mapped layer for future ground-truthing. Tie in with Waikato Tainui principles of Te Ture Whaimana and broader Mātauranga Māori principles.</p> <p>These areas have the potential to enhance existing ecosystems. Places with the potential to enhance existing ecosystems as a corridor link to multiple SNA areas in proximity and identify where the gaps might be for future expansion. Map iwi, DOC and community indigenous biodiversity initiatives that support indigenous biodiversity across the Waikato. The benefit of this exercise is valuable in aligning and coordinating operational work and sharing resources across all parties.</p>	WRC, WDC and Iwi, hapū and Land owners	2022-2052 Short term to long term	1, 2, 3	Maintain, Improve and Promote Identify
<p>Action 1.3 - Identifying those areas of highest priority (remnant areas not well represented).</p> <p>Prioritisation</p> <p>Once areas (ecosystems) are mapped, they can be prioritised for restoration and active management. This includes existing and threatened conditions like weeds and pests, current control, and restoration initiatives.</p>	WRC, WDC and Iwi, hapū and Land owners	2022-2052 Short term to long term	1, 2, 3	Maintain, Improve and Promote Prioritise
<p>Action 1.4 - Catchment and Area Planning (ICMP)</p> <p>Adopt H2A principles, e.g. Low Impact Design (LID) standards for stormwater; the road network incorporates ecological links and minimises corridors acting as barriers to ecology</p>	WDC	2022-2032 Medium term	1, 2	Improve and Promote Consider and Prioritise

Focus Area 2

Support actions to conserve, maintain and improve a healthy ecosystem's ecological linkages and promote sustainable natural resource use and greenhouse gas emissions (reduction).

Support actions to conserve, maintain and improve a healthy ecosystem's ecological linkages and promote sustainable natural resource use and greenhouse gas emissions (reduction).	Lead	Timing	Goal Alignment	State of Environment
<p>Action 2.1 – Promote Local Nurseries set up: Social benefits, Training skills (e.g. Kimihia lakes Project)</p> <p>Investigate the development of a programme to support and advise people managing land with better indigenous biodiversity values. Set up a database with all projects and investigate the use of blockchain to secure the information for individual landowners. This can be based on the current WDC projects and identifying willing landowners initially.</p> <p>Advice and access to resources will include management and legal options that would be most useful to maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity on properties. Display the information as a dashboard.</p> <p>Create a database of the existing nurseries and their capacity for people to contact and purchase plants. See if there is potential to increase capacity and scale up native propagation with current nursery providers and the capability for community groups to maintain their growing programmes and enlist schools.</p>	WDC, Iwi/ hapū and local providers	2022 - 2025 Short term	1, 3	<p>Improve and Promote</p> <p>Funding and Education</p>
<p>Action 2.2– Identify pockets of Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), Conservation Covenants and Esplanade opportunities</p> <p>Link good ground-truthed SNAs and conservation covenants to A1.2 and A1.3 to existing information. Managed areas could be complemented voluntarily with legal protection through other mechanisms such as covenants or designations. Include unique linkage to other funders, including Waikato Regional Council, QE II Trust, and Waikato River Authority. Explore a programme to identify key native areas (logged over time) and how these could be captured, logged, and monitored over time.</p>	WDC, WRC, DOC and MfE	2022-2032 short term - medium term	1, 2, 3	<p>Maintain, Improve</p> <p>Consider, Identify and linkage</p>

<p>Action 2.3 – Submit relevant government legislation to promote sustainable natural resource use, reduce emissions and support our rural communities (Update with changing legislation)</p> <p>Identify key principles to direct submissions on future legislation, including Te ture Whaimana and Mātauranga Maaori.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Primary Industries – Afforestation incentives in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) • RMA reforms – Natural Built Environment Act, Spatial Planning Act and Climate Change Adaptation Act • National Policy Statement – Indigenous Biodiversity Exposure Draft; • Waikato Regional Coastal Plan • Regional Pest Management Plan (WRC) • National Policy Statement – High-Quality Soils • National Pest Management Plan for kauri protection • Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan <p>All focus areas and actions must consider the strategy's vision, goals, and our partnerships with Tangata Whenua.</p>	WDC, Iwi/ hapū and local providers	2022 - 2025 Short term	1	Maintain, Identify
<p>Action 2.4 - Support Walking Access to our native environments utilising Esplanade Reserves and Access strips, with community groups and willing landowners</p> <p>Work with community groups and landowners to promote walking access (use existing Esplanade Reserves, Strips) and help engage with private landowners to complete access (access strips) as required.</p>	WDC, Community Groups, Private Landowners, New Zealand Walking, Access Commission	2022-2052 short term - long term	2, 3	Promote Funding and Education

Focus Area 3

Seek collaboration opportunities: Central and local government, mana whenua, businesses, and communities.

Seek collaboration opportunities to work with others, including mana whenua, to achieve the Conservation Strategy vision.	Lead	Timing	Goal Alignment	State of Environment
<p>Action 3.1 – Investigate Applications and Platforms to track ecological data (plantings, pest and weed control) for conservation projects</p> <p>WRC app/software, Restor, Econet or solutions could help manage and maintain conservation projects. There is potential for community groups to run and support conservation projects. The Council will explore hosting and supplying the app, run a CAM Weeds pilot using ArcGIS, and develop a CAMS CRM for plantings. See whether a local community group could utilise a digital solution and WDC host it.</p>	WDC or provider, e.g. WRC App, Econet or Restor	2022-2025 short term	2, 3	Improve and Promote Consider and Prioritise
<p>Action 3.2 – Consider Funding education links into WRC (Enviroschools); DOC, and QEII opportunities (Scope to improve)</p> <p>Helping, funding or non-financial opportunities for community groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability of expertise, resources, and space to help groups carry out their work planning and operational work. Connecting the relevant parties to funding streams - Help community groups with Health and Safety support (councils systems and processes) - Identify land and retirement and incentives 	DOC, WRC, WDC	2022 - 2025 short term	2, 3	Maintain, Identify
<p>Action 3.3 - Identify areas of farmland for retirement – Carbon Credits, Rates relief, funding</p> <p>Investigate key land areas that could be retired and explored for restoration and the potential benefits to the Council and the wider community.</p>	WDC, Community Groups, Private Land owners	2022-2032 medium term	1, 2, 3	Improve, Consider

Focus Area 4

Policy, rules and regulation

Policy, rules and regulation	Lead	Timing	Goal Alignment	State of Environment
<p>Action 4.1 – Implement the Regional Pest Management Plan</p> <p>Review and implement the Regional Pest Management Plan, provide operational feedback on the National Pest Management Plan for kauri protection; Draft Waikato Bat Strategy</p>	WRC, WDC	2022-2025 short term	1, 3	Maintain, Identify
<p>Action 4.2 – Strengthen provisions to enhance indigenous biodiversity in reviews of National, Regional and District strategies and plans</p> <p>Seek to enhance indigenous biodiversity in other legislation, National and Regional strategies, plans and policies with on-the-ground skills, knowledge, and experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Maintain contacts with WRC – Natural Heritage and Strategic and Spatial Planning Make submissions on draft legislation (RMA reforms, Regional Biodiversity Strategy, Waikato Coastal Plan) 	WDC, Taituara, WRC	Ongoing 2022-	2	Maintain, Identify

Focus Area 5

Education and community engagement

Education and community engagement	Lead	Timing	Goal Alignment	State of Environment
<p>Action 5.1 – Develop in consultation with WRC advice and management around best practices for Taiao</p> <p>Advice and management of indigenous biodiversity. Through education: current examples include Enviroschools[1]. Ka mihi ki a Ranginui, ki a Papatūānuku, ka mihi ki te ngao o te wheiao.</p> <p>Connect with the Waikato Enviroschools programme to support and expand the education profile for early childhood centres. Schools commit to a long-term sustainability journey, where tamariki/students connect with and explore the environment. Then plan, design and take action in their local places in collaboration with their communities, particularly active community Groups.</p> <p>Augment the Enviroschools tools with Council information and support to utilise student skills better and collaboratively plan, design, and take action on the issues they are passionate about. Information for landowners on what they can do, where to plant, what to grow and how to maintain those areas.</p> <p>[1] https://enviroschools.org.nz/</p>	WRC, WDC, Biodiversity Forum	2022 - 2032 Medium term	2	Promote Funding, Education and App
<p>Action 5.2 – Support community groups working to enhance indigenous biodiversity by providing advice, connections, and funding</p> <p>Community group advice and guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect volunteers with community groups for planting days • Donations and sponsorship • Facilitate applications for funding of group projects • Provide or link ecologically sourced native plants when resources are available • Planning and technical advice (weeding, land preparation, types of plants and season/timing of planting, maintenance and pest management till the plants are established) • Plants for residents adjacent to parks, reserves, and esplanades when resources are available • Check with Hamilton City Nursery if any unallocated plants are known for restoration projects • Concerning 5.1, see whether any school horticultural programmes have propagated plants that could be utilised. 	WDC, HCC, WRC	2022 -2032 and ongoing	1, 2, 3	Maintain, Improve, Promote Identify Local Community Nursery and App

Current projects and websites

[Enviroschools](#)

[Biodiversity Waikato](#)

[Go Eco](#)

[Establishing a Nursery](#)

[Waikato Regional Council – Planting guides](#)

[Trees for Survival](#)

MONITORING AND REVIEW

This Strategy will guide staff with day-to-day decisions relating to Taiao in the Waikato and offer guidance to the community. The strategy will be reviewed every three years in advance of the Waikato District Long Term Council Community Plan to remain current and relevant.

A future Steering group will monitor progress at three levels:

1. Focus Areas
2. Actions/Who is doing the work
3. Outcomes/results

The future Steering Group will periodically report progress on actions to the Council and partners that will be determined as contributing to or leading each step.

Progress on each Action will be reviewed by the future Steering group once a year.

Taiao in the Waikato Strategy will be reviewed every three years. An integrated approach will be used to report while building a comprehensive framework in which decisions can be made on investment, monitoring, and reporting on indigenous biodiversity.

This task will require a commitment of resources by the council and partner organisations once the framework is established and populated by the Council and partners. Appropriate investment priorities can be set, with the gathering and collating data to track progress on outcomes can be finalised.

A template could be used for the Standard Report Card on each outcome as set out below. Each steering group meeting will focus on one outcome in a sequence, which means all outcomes could be addressed over three years.

The Report Card example template is illustrated for Outcome 1 below:

Illustrate Best Practice	
Narrative Context: How does this fit into the regional and broader Waikato District context	
<p>State: Increase native plantings (indigenous biodiversity) within Council Reserves. Log the number of trees planted, area and Survival per annum</p> <p>Pressure: Funding for new plants, impacts on mortality of plants (climate, disease, pests, human)</p>	
<p>Intermediate Outcome: Plantings occur in less frequently used reserve areas (esplanades)</p>	<p>Indicators: Increase in vegetation coverage (natives) on Council Reserves, corresponding increases in native fauna (birds, reptiles, and insects)</p>
<p>Intermediate Outcome: Community groups help contribute to council reserve plantings and incorporate their areas into council reserves (Tamahere Gully system)</p>	<p>Indicator: More groups working and recreating in native areas</p>
Analysis and recommendations	

Starting in 2023, each outcome will form the focus of a Steering Group meeting

APPENDIX

Appendix A – From Sustainable Development Goal 15 "Life on Land" to the RMA, NPS, WRPS; PDP and the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy

GLOSSARY

Bioveg2

Is an example of the Waikato Regional Council's initial satellite imagery-based layer identifying Indigenous Forest remnants.

Carbon Sequestration

Carbon sequestration is the process by which carbon dioxide is absorbed during photosynthesis and is stored as carbon in biomass (trunks, branches, foliage, and roots).

Engineering with Nature (Native Engineering)

Engineering With Nature is defined as the intentional alignment of natural and engineering processes to deliver economic, environmental, and social benefits efficiently and sustainably through collaborative processes.

Rewilding

Rewilding is a progressive approach to conservation. It's about letting nature take care of itself, enabling natural processes to shape land and sea, repair damaged ecosystems and restore degraded landscapes. Through rewilding, wildlife's natural rhythms create wilder, more biodiverse habitats²³

Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)

Any area that, on the commencement date, is identified in a policy statement or plan as an area of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitat of indigenous fauna (regardless of how it is described)

State of the Environment (SOE)

State of the Environment monitoring helps with policy development and informs decision-makers of the consequences of actions and changes in the environment. It involves setting targets, monitoring, analysing, and interpreting data, then reporting findings, and continuing this process over time

Taiao

Is Māori for Nature, consisting of natural resources; it speaks to the natural environment that contains and surrounds us it encompasses all of the environment and its offspring.

APPENDIX

A: From Sustainable Development Goal 15 “Life on Land” to the RMA, NPS, WRPS, PDP and the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 SDGs are integrated—they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. United Nations – Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 15 – "Life on the Land" sets out the importance of plant life on land.

“Human life depends on the earth as much as the ocean for our sustenance and livelihoods. Plant life provides 80 percent of the human diet, and we rely on agriculture as an important economic resource. Forests cover 30 percent of the Earth's surface, provide vital habitats for millions of species and are important sources for clean air and water, as well as being crucial for combating climate change”.

All SDGs are interlinked, but SDG 15 sits at the base of the biosphere

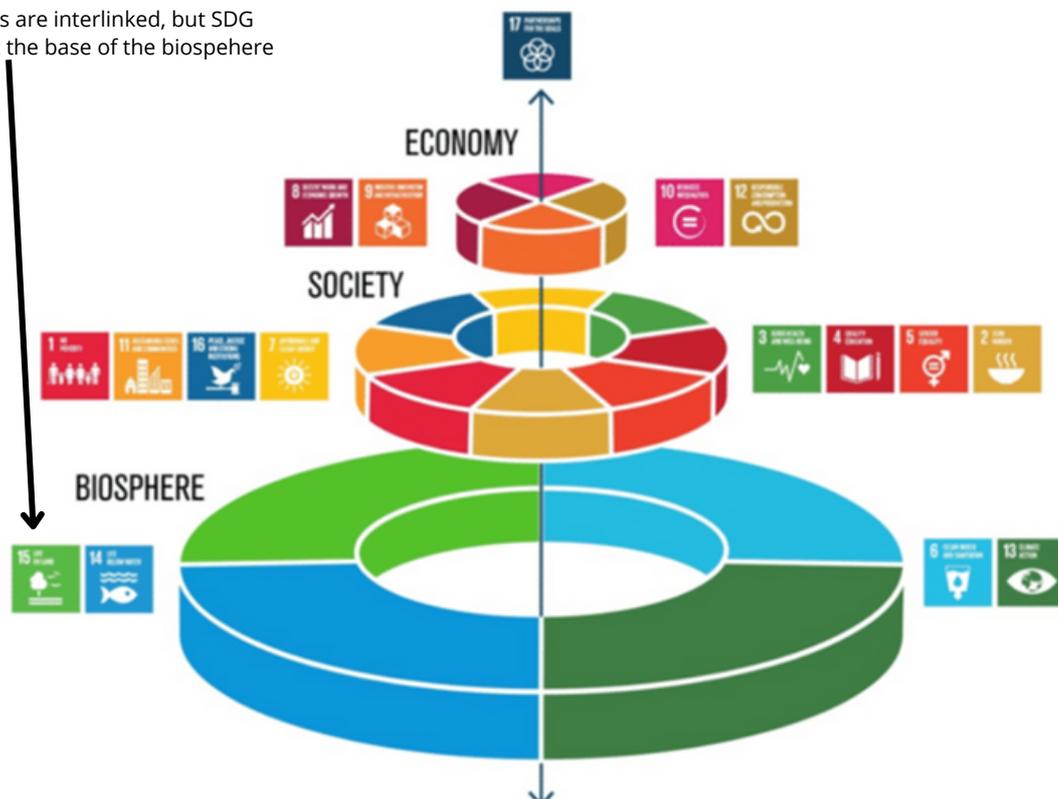


Figure 1: A nature-positive goal recognises that all SDG's can only be realised if the Biosphere related goals are met (care of the United Nations).

Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

The maintenance of indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems is critical in achieving the purpose and principles of the Resource Management Act 1991. Section 5(2)(b) refers to safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of ecosystems. Biodiversity is a component of ecosystems, and maintaining and enhancing it is one means of achieving the direction of Section 5(2)(b). Biodiversity provides for elements of indigenous natural character which need to be preserved as part of Section 6(a).

Section 6(c) requires the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna. Indigenous biodiversity has important cultural values reflected in Section 7(a) regarding kaitiakitanga and Section 8. Section 7(d) requires particular regard for the intrinsic values of ecosystems. Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity will contribute to achieving the directions of the RMA.

National Policy Statements (NPS)

National Policy Statements (NPS) are instruments used under section 52(2) of the RMA. An NPS states objectives and policies for matters of national significance, which Councils must have regard for when developing the regional policy statements and District Plans. Under section 58B of the RMA, the purpose of national planning standards is to assist in achieving this Act's goal; and the requirements or other provisions relating to any aspect of the structure, format, or content of regional policy statements and plans.

National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) - Draft

The Draft NPSIB documents including the exposure draft and statement aim to protect and restore indigenous biodiversity to Aotearoa. This decision-making can be in the form of specific plan changes requiring the protection of certain areas of native vegetation, which are significant and may be important habitats for species, e.g., pekapeka (long-tailed bats). They can influence designations and resource consents. The Central Government's focus in the NPSIB is to halt the decline in indigenous biodiversity and help to restore and enhance it.

The Draft NPSIB received 7305 submissions and recently an Exposure Draft focused on implementation was released in June 2022. The proposed NPSIB sets out the objectives and policies to identify, manage, protect, and restore indigenous biodiversity under the RMA. From Waikato District Council's view most of the costs generated by the requirements in the Draft NPSIB are likely to fall on local councils (regional and district) to implement the proposed objective and policies. The central government and Tangata whenua will also be involved to a lesser extent.

Regional Policy Statement

Under the RMA and NPS, the Waikato Regional Council has a role in terms of maintaining indigenous biodiversity (Section 30(1)(ga)) and the maintenance and enhancement of ecosystems in water bodies and coastal water (Section 30(1)(c) (iia)). District Councils have a similar function to maintain indigenous biodiversity under Section 31(1)(b). The Waikato Regional Policy Statement under section 11 includes a chapter specifically on managing indigenous biodiversity. District councils must give effect to the Regional Policy Statement.

The RMA biodiversity function (as amended in 2003) includes an objective within the process itself. Not only do local authorities have to manage natural resources to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on biodiversity, but they must also maintain biodiversity.

This is a significant task for the following two reasons:

1. Maintaining biodiversity in the face of various threats will likely require more than managing the adverse effects of resource use. It will require active interventions by councils, other agencies, or both.
2. Whether biodiversity is maintained will depend on a range of parties and actions outside of a local authority's control (including, for example, how well the Department of Conservation (DOC) manages its estate and species recovery programmes).

There has also been a tendency for discussion about biodiversity to revolve around protecting Significant Natural Areas (SNA) (as dictated by S6 RMA). But rather than about how to maintain biodiversity across the landscape. While these sites are critical dimensions in biodiversity management, ecosystems support biodiversity across the landscape, and sites seldom operate in isolation from their surrounding environment (biota moves in and out of such areas, while water, nutrients, and energy flow through sites).

Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy (Waikato Regional Council)

Managing biodiversity is not simply about managing defined areas of vegetation in isolation from their surrounding context. To maintain biodiversity, we need to partner with others to manage ecological networks at district and regional levels. Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy (LIBS) programme by Waikato Regional Council is a community-led and values-based project. The project will strongly focus on engagement and implementation at the flax roots (hapū/marae) and grassroots (landowners/land managers) levels. The LIBS framework envisages biodiversity integration into production lands (e.g., forestry, farming) and urban environments.

An identified ecological network will also provide a coherent picture to pull together a range of existing projects (including those undertaken by WRC) and give them a clearer focus. The LIBS programme will also encapsulate a strong Mātauranga Māori and kaitiakitanga component based on engagement with mana whenua at the marae level.

Ecological protection and restoration of indigenous biodiversity as part of land development options for multiple-owned Māori Land can provide social, cultural, economic, and environmental benefits, for example, through:

- contributing to marae and whanau wellbeing through sustainable ecologically based business development, including the incorporation of cultural/ecotourism
- improving indigenous health using traditional resources (Rongoa Māori)
- education and training for rangatahi in ecological restoration, and engaging them in the land development programme.

Thus, the implementation model for the LIBS Programme is shown in the Draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy and it incorporates a range of resource management and strategic directions to be achieved through the LIBS programme.

Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)

Councils must carry out extensive, resource-intensive, costly processes to identify and map SNAs, including conducting practicable physical inspections and engaging with landowners. Regional Councils would also need to undertake extensive work to identify possible habitats of highly mobile fauna, taonga species, degraded and depleted environments, and areas targeted for restoration and enhancement.

Giving effect to the NPSIB may also require councils to develop new/revised provisions to manage indigenous biodiversity and progress these changes to regional policy statements and district plans through the Schedule 1 process (including engagement, notification, public submissions, hearings and potential litigation and appeals). Tangata whenua and other stakeholders will face costs (time and financial) to resource their involvement in these processes. However, this may be supported by councils and central government.

Landowners and infrastructure providers may face increased costs to manage the effects of their activities on indigenous biodiversity as well as opportunity costs associated with subdivision, use and development of land (over and above the status quo). There is a management hierarchy to ensure that certain adverse effects on High value SNAs are avoided in the first place, and they if they can't be avoided, remedied or mitigated, offsetting may be an option.

Implementation costs for councils and (to a lesser extent) central government are a key consequence of the NPSIB provisions. Many of the NPSIB provisions require specific changes to be made to regional policy statements and district plans, and councils will need to prepare these changes and progress the proposed provisions through the Schedule 1 process to "give effect to" the NPSIB. Waikato District Council consider that their objectives, policies and rules are on track and consistent to a point with the National Legislation. However, more work will need to be done around highly mobile fauna and spatially mapping these sites.

Some of the research has indicated that a very small share of properties containing an area of defined (or indicative) SNA have a high risk of precluding new subdivisions, use and development. Councils will have to be careful around interpreting the requirement to "avoid" certain adverse effects on SNAs in the NPSIB (i.e., smaller properties with widespread High SNA coverage).

Conservation and Collaboration

Weaving conservation principles into sustainable land management practices will rely on strong alignment with existing initiatives. This includes Forest Stewardship Certification, Sustainable Dairying Water Accord, local initiatives such as the Upper Waikato Sustainable Milk Project and exploration of new options, including greenways, carbon sequestration farming, and honey production.

Building engagement and understanding was seen as essential. This included: fostering collaboration, providing education, and disseminating better practices and incentives. A range of existing programmes exist.

These could be used as potential building blocks, including Enviroschools, Marae-based te Taiao initiatives, DoC Programmes, Jobs for Nature, QEII covenants, River Care, Māori/Iwi land programmes etc.

The Waikato District Council Conservation Steering Group

As part of the Draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy, Waikato District Council will retain a Steering Group to maintain momentum on the proposed Actions. It will also consider setting up a quarterly newsletter with SNA of the Month. Promote what individual landowners are doing and send it to media outlets. QEII, Fonterra, Dairy NZ and NZ Beef and Lamb are good at promoting these stories for their landowners e.g., the Balance Farm awards promote best farming practices. Waikato District would like to follow suit and highlight community and individual landowner best practices for the protection of indigenous biodiversity.

Connection/Collaboration/celebrating successes of improved Indigenous Biodiversity should be key actions to come out of the Draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy. As part of the Strategy, the digital connections might include a Facebook Subgroup to help connect different parts of the community with Taiao knowledge and resources (plants, pest control) with those seeking it. The Draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy's actions will better investigate access to CAMMs or apps to help the Council and Community Groups to track conservation resources and labour for Council and community projects.