



Raahui-Pookeka Huntly Community Board Plan 2024-2026

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A message from your Community Board



"Ki te kotahi te kaakaho ka whati. Ki te kaapuia e kore e whati."

- Kiingi Tāwhiao

"If a reed stands alone, it can easily break. But when bound together it is unbreakable."

Raahui Pookeka have a legacy of producing exceptional leaders. These local leaders demonstrate deep commitments to culture, governance, politics, health, and more. This proves that Raahui Pookeka nurtures some of Aotearoa New Zealand's most influential figures.

Raahui Pookeka Huntly Community Board want to enable and continue this legacy by ensuring community members are provided with authentic, relevant information that develops leadership opportunities, rooted in grassroots knowledge and experiential learning. Through this we will ensure that your voices shape the future of our community.



About community boards

Community Boards play an important role in local governance and community-led decision making, serving as the primary link between the local community and the Council. We are your representatives at council, and respected connectors into the community.

The Community Boards are representatives, advocates and connectors of their communities, promoting economic, cultural, social and environment wellbeing for our diverse communities.

Our roles are governed by the Local Government Act 2002. Some of the roles specified are:

- The key connector between the community and council.
- Advocate for and represent the interests of our community.
- Consider and report on all matters referred to us by the council, or any other matter of interest to us as a board.
- Keep track of the services provided by the council in our community.
- Prepare an annual submission to the council for expenditure within our community.
- Engage with organisations and special interest groups within the local community.

Community Board Plans

Community Board Plans are developed every three years and outline our key priorities for our elected term. They also indicate how we will work in partnership with locals and mana whenua to achieve the Council's community outcomes.

A key part of the development of our plan is engagement with locals to ensure that our priorities reflect the needs and desires of Raahui Pookeka.



— Road
 □ Property
 ■ Waterbody or River

The numbers on the map indicate the street address of properties on or near the boundary





Key amenities and services

Council Facilities



1 Library and Council Services Centre



10 Council parks

Community and Education



1 Community museum



1 Te Wananga o Aotearoa campus



7 Marae



4 Primary schools, **1** secondary school, **1** Wharekura, **10** early childhood education centres, **5** Te Koohanga Reo

Emergency Services



1 Volunteer fire brigade



1 Ambulance service



1 Police station

Recreation and shopping



Huntly offers a range of recreational activities for all ages.



1 Shopping area on the main street



Community Outcomes

Everything we do is aimed at improving the wellbeing of the people that live, work, and explore the Waikato District. Following community consultation, Council's Community outcomes were developed under the four wellbeing pillars and describe what we want to achieve for the Waikato District into the future.



Cultural

We celebrate who we are.

We celebrate all cultures. We treasure our diverse communities, and acknowledge our cultural rights and obligations. We honour, understand and implement Te Tiriti o Waitangi and acknowledge the relationship with mana whenua of our district.



Economic

We support local prosperity.

We champion sustainable growth in our local economy. We support local enterprise and encourage innovation and socio-economic prosperity for all, while managing regulatory processes to protect and promote our unique district. We acknowledge our rural and Maaori economies as key contributors to our district's prosperity and sustainability.



Environmental

Our environmental health underpins the health of our people.

We want waterways which are healthy and create connections. We protect and enhance our soils, water and native biodiversity and take care of our taiao (natural environment) for the health and wellbeing of our people, our communities and for future generations.



Social

We have well connected communities.

Our communities are connected, safe, accessible and resilient. We put community wellbeing at the heart of our decisions, and we embrace partnerships to get things done to improve people's lives.



Raahui Pookeka Huntly Community Board's Vision

Raahui Pookeka Community Board is committed to leading with transparency, accountability, and a deep respect for the voices of our community.

We strive to create a future where Raahui Pookeka is not only a place where people live, but a place where they thrive.

By working together we can create a community that honours its past, embraces the present, and is prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Our vision statements:

- We have an open and transparent decision-making process that our community can trust, understand, and engage in.
- Our community is empowered to express their views, needs and ideas.
- Our priority is to strengthen environmental, cultural, social and economic wellbeings.
- To have a strong relationship with our community as a respected arm of Waikato District Council.
- To have a strong relationship with Council so that the voice of our community is kept well-informed of things happening in our area.

Raahui Pookeka Community Board's priorities

E kore teenei whakaoranga e huri ki tua o aku mokopuna” - Kiingi Tawhiao.

We must provide our children and their children a better platform than the one we inherited.

It is our duty to create and maintain a safe environment where our mokopuna, and those beyond, can flourish. Safety is not just a moment but a legacy we leave for the generations to come.

Cultural Wellbeing

Grow and strengthen our partnerships with mana whenua, and our local community to ensure our multi-cultural community is celebrated and our history is preserved.

The Raahui Pookeka Community Board are kaitiaki (guardian) of an area with a unique natural environment and significant heritage that makes up its unique identity; this includes te awa o Waikato, the three lakes, and the Hakarimata Ranges.

Our commitment

- Continue to partner with mana whenua to ensure their input and perspective is heard.
- Actively promoting and celebrating arts, culture, and heritage to encourage strength, togetherness and belonging.
- Actively promoting and celebrating our diverse community, ensuring everyone feels safe around their cultural practices.

- We as a Board will support discretionary funding on projects aligned to enhancing cultural wellbeing.
- As a Board we will support community-led development with letters of support for our community's priorities identified through the Blueprints and other community aspirations.

Success looks like...

- Increased signage that is relevant to our local history.
- The seven marae are being engaged with on matters that impact significantly on whaanau.
- Arts are celebrated and actively promoted in Raahui Pookeka.

Economic Wellbeing

Supportive of investment and reinvestment that enables the community to thrive.

A thriving economy is dependent on growth, investment, and tourism and all have a considerable positive impact on our people in Raahui Pookeka through business creation, increased workforce, youth employment and visitor attraction.

Our commitment

- Advocate and lobby for land to be purposely used to enable growth and investment to occur.
- Build a relationship with Council's planning teams to discuss planning options for future growth.
- Build relationships with local businesses to offer pathways to support our young people into sustainable employment.

- Promote and advocate for environmentally and socially sustainable tourism opportunities to attract visitors to our community.
- We as a Board will support discretionary funding on projects aligned to enhancing economic wellbeing.
- As a Board we will support community-led development with letters of support for our community's priorities identified through the Blueprints and other community aspirations.

Success looks like...

- Workshops have been co-ordinated with the Council teams to identify future growth opportunities.
- The Board has actively promoted and advocated for growth, investment and tourism for Raahui Pookeka.
- Pathway sessions have been held in partnership with relevant groups.
- The Community Board will host a networking hui held with local businesses to showcase the Board's priorities regarding economic wellbeing and youth to local employment.

Environmental Wellbeing

Raahui Pookeka Community Board has a duty to protect, enhance and preserve our natural environment, now and for future generations.

Our commitment

- Partner with relevant groups to identify the many opportunities for native planting and ecological restoration.

- Undertake a stock take of the projects and initiatives happening within Raahui Pookeka.
- Partner with other organisations, to educate and encourage the preservation of our natural environment.
- Promote and support annual clean-up days with the Raahui Pookeka community in partnership with the Waste minimisation team at Council and our schools.
- Advocate for greater collaboration between community groups on their environmental initiatives.
- Encourage and support community-led resilience planning.
- We as a Board will support discretionary funding on projects aligned to enhancing environmental wellbeing.
- As a Board we will support community-led development with letters of support for our community's priorities identified through the Blueprints and other community aspirations.

Success looks like...

- A meeting with relevant groups to discuss opportunities for native planting and ecological restoration is held.
- The Community Board will host an education day with the community to promote the importance of our protecting and preserving our natural environment in partnership with others.
- A workshop has been co-ordinated with the Council's Waste Minimisation and Climate Action and Sustainability Teams on opportunities to educate the Raahui Pookeka community on

what it means to protect and enhance our environment.

- Resilience planning which includes climate mitigation measures within the Raahui Pookeka community has been promoted through various channels.

Social Wellbeing

Connecting our diverse community through affordable social activity to provide a sense of safety, togetherness and belonging through community-led action.

We have a multi-cultural and growing community; therefore it is important that we foster and nurture social cohesion to ensure our community feel connected, safe and welcome so that our people don't feel socially isolated.

Our commitment

- Identify and promote social activities that are inclusive of our community.
- Undertake a stocktake of what activities and social services are available in Raahui Pookeka and promote these activities through various communication channels.
- Advocate for walkways, buses, rail, cycleways, and green spaces to enable connectivity and safe passage through our community.
- Promote and advocate the connection to nature through appropriate infrastructure.
- We as a Board will support discretionary funding on projects aligned to enhancing social wellbeing.
- As a Board we will support community-led development with

letters of support for our community's priorities identified through the Blueprints and other community aspirations.

Engagement

We are committed to community-led decision-making.

We are representative of the community that elected us to office therefore it is important that we bring the voice of our people to the decision-making table.

Our commitment

- Build capability in our community around Council processes for example, Long Term Plans, Annual Plans, Policy Reviews and other matters that Council is seeking consultation on.
- Through its partnership with Council the Board will be the main conduit out to its community to increase participation in community-led decision-making.
- Engage with our community on plans in the Huntly area using a variety of communication channels.



- Facilitate community hui on matters of interest to ensure the voice of the community, including the voice of mana whenua, is well represented within our decision-making.
- Identify key stakeholders within our community and strengthen our relationships with them.
- Continue to strengthen our engagement with local Marae and Hapu groups.
- Co-opt passionate individuals to support the Board when required.
- Minutes and agendas will be posted on Raahui Pookeka Community Board Facebook page.

Success looks like...

- Increased numbers of submissions are evidenced on areas that the community feel strongly about.
- Regular communication to the community following Community Board meetings and on matters directly relating to the Raahui Pookeka community is made.
- Increased levels of community involvement on matters and issues that relate to them.
- Relationships with key stakeholders are being fostered and nurtured.
- The community is using Council systems for their requests.





Community Board Investment

The Huntly Community Board has funding available for allocation each year.

The Discretionary Board Fund is open for applications all year, from 1 July to 30 June. The purpose of this fund is to assist community groups where the project and funding request falls outside other council funding criteria and/or closing dates.

If you would like to apply for funding, or for more information, please visit waikatodistrict.govt.nz/community-funding-grants or scan the below QR code.



Your Community Board



Sheryl Matenga
Chairperson



Vacant
Deputy Chairperson



Eden Wawatai



Frank McNally



Jas Sandhu



Kim Bredenbeck



**Councillor Paaniora
Matatahi-Poutapu**



Councillor David White



CREATING
LIVEABLE, THRIVING
+ CONNECTED
COMMUNITIES