

TETW – Te Ture Whaimana – Vision and Strategy

Overview

- (1) The relationship of Waikato-Tainui with the Waikato River cannot be underestimated as it lies at the heart of their identity as well being a major influence on their spiritual, cultural, historic and physical wellbeing. To Waikato-Tainui, the Waikato River is their Tuupuna Awa, an ancestor.
- (2) The Waikato River Claim was filed with the Waitangi Tribunal by Sir Robert Mahuta on 16 March 1987 on behalf of Waikato-Tainui, the Tainui Trust Board and Ngaa Marae Toopu but was excluded from the 1995 Raupatu Land Settlement for future negotiation.
- (3) The 2009 Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Waikato-Tainui acknowledges the deterioration of the health of the Waikato River while the Crown had authority over the river. The Deed of Settlement has an overarching purpose of restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for future generations. This district plan aims to restore the river's health in conjunction with other agencies. The Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 gave effect to the 2009 Deed of Settlement in respect of the raupatu claims of Waikato-Tainui over the Waikato River.
- (4) Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato (Te Ture Whaimana) is the Vision and Strategy and is the primary direction-setting document for the Waikato River and activities within its catchment.
- (5) This District Plan reflects the new era of co-management between Waikato District Council and iwi. The Settlement Act requires that a district plan shall give effect to Te Ture Whaimana.
- (6) Te Ture Whaimana responds to four fundamental issues:
 - (a) The degradation of the Waikato River and the ability of Waikato River iwi to exercise kaitiakitanga or conduct their tikanga and kawa;
 - (b) The relationships and aspirations of communities with the Waikato River;
 - (c) The cumulative effects of physical intervention, land use and subsurface hydrological changes on the natural processes of the Waikato River;
 - (d) The time and commitment required to restore and protect the health and well-being of the Waikato River.
- (7) Section 13 of the Waikato River Act requires that district plans be reviewed and where necessary updated following an RMA Schedule 1 process no later than 12 months after the completion of a review of Vision and Strategy.

Definition of Waikato River and its catchment area

- (8) The body of water known as the Waikato River flowing continuously or intermittently from the Huka Falls to the mouth of the Waikato River shown as located within the areas marked "A" and "B" on SO plan 409144, and
- (9) All tributaries, streams and watercourses flowing into the part of the Waikato River, including the Waipaa River, described in paragraph (8), to the extent to which they are within the areas marked "A" and "B" on SO plan 409144, and

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- (10) Lakes and wetlands within the areas marked "A" and "B" on SO plan 409144, and
- (11) The beds and banks of the water bodies described in paragraphs (8) to (10).
- (12) For the avoidance of doubt, this definition is an excerpt from the interpretation of 'Waikato River' in Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010. The area contained within SO plan 409144 is administered by a number of territorial authorities. Waikato District Council only administers that part of SO plan 409144 that is within the Waikato District.

Issue – Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River

- (13) Land use and development activities can adversely affect the ability of the Waikato River to sustainably support the economic, social, cultural and environmental aspirations of Waikato-Tainui and the community.

Objectives

TETW-O1 Achieving Te Ture Whaimana (Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River).

The health and well-being of the Waikato River is restored and protected and Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato (the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River) is achieved.

Policies

TETW-PI Implementing Te Ture Whaimana (Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River).

- (1) To restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River including by;
 - (a) Identifying and recognising the Waikato River as an Outstanding Natural Cultural Landscape;
 - (b) Acquiring appropriate public access to and along the Waikato River at time of subdivision;
 - (c) Protecting and restoring significant natural areas, riparian margins and wetlands within the catchment;
 - (d) Providing for conservation activities;
 - (e) Protecting waahi tapu, sites and areas of significance to Maaori;
 - (f) Recognising and providing for application of maatauranga Maaori; and
 - (g) Managing the effects of subdivision, use and development including those associated with:
 - (i) Building in river setbacks;
 - (ii) Intensive farming;
 - (iii) Earthworks and land disturbance; and
 - (iv) Subdivision.