

Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu & Taupiri **Urban Design Assessment**

JULY 2024






 **Beca**

Waikato

District Council
Te Kaunihera ā Takawā o Waikato

Revision History
Project Number: 4671678

Document Acceptance

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Introduction

Waikato District Council is undertaking a review of the Ngaaruawaahia and Surrounds Structure Plan, which includes the villages of Taupiri and Hopuhopu. This Urban Design Assessment is to support the development of the updated structure plan and recognise, and reflect the changes that have occurred in the area since 2014.

Over the last 9 years, the Waikato district and this area has seen strong growth, and the completion of significant infrastructure projects such as the Waikato Expressway (SH1) and the Te Awa River Ride cycle route.

This Urban Design Assessment considers the changes that have occurred in the district, the community aspirations that have been identified and communicated through other spatial projects such as the town Blueprints, and opportunities that future investment in the region and the district, such as transport projects identified in the Hamilton-Waikato Metro Spatial Plan, will bring. The report has been informed by the findings of technical transportation and economics assessments, and the Tāngata Whenua Statement and Engagement Report that have been carried out independently of this report.

The Assessment has been developed with input from a range of partners, stakeholders and the community, with aspirations and ideas shared through a number of surveys and open days, reflecting the passion and investment in the success of these towns and villages. The Assessment is carried out at different scales. Firstly, it considers the wider context of opportunities and interventions in relation to Ngaaruawaahia, Taupiri and Hopuhopu; recognising that Waikato-Tainui will manage and deliver the masterplan for Hopuhopu. Secondly it focuses into the Ngaaruawaahia town centre, with location specific key moves, recommendations and investments identified.

Mana Whenua input

Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri are significant places for Mana Whenua. This Urban Design Assessment is part of a suite of documents that have been prepared to develop the Ngaaruawaahia and Surrounds Structure Plan.

As part of this process, Waikato District Council have commissioned an independent Tāngata Whenua Statement and Engagement Report prepared by Te Huia Ltd which involves Mana Whenua Engagement. They have also undertaken separate engagement with Mana Whenua regularly throughout the project.

Waikato District Council have also undertaken separate engagement and consultation through various forums as part of the wider structure plan process. These forums included surveys, focus group sessions, and attendance at public events where the urban design inputs were shared. The feedback received from these engagements has informed the development of this Assessment.

Purpose

The purpose of this Assessment is to identify the urban design outcomes and opportunities for Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri. This will contribute to the development of the wider Ngaaruawaahia, Taupiri and Hopuhopu Structure Plan and Ngaaruawaahia Town Centre Plan. The Assessment identifies key moves and investment opportunities to improve the liveability, strengthen the towns identity and supporting public realm investment as these areas continue to grow.

This Assessment presents a framework of opportunities for the Waikato District Council, the community, and other stakeholders to plan and invest in their future. Its goal is to create vibrant communities where people can live, work, and thrive. Some

projects outlined in this Assessment may require further investigation, along with detailed costings, designs, and consultation prior to implementation.

This Assessment will undergo regular reviews to ensure its relevance and allow the Council to seize opportunities as they arise. Some of the projects identified will require substantial investment and collaboration with other entities for successful implementation. Additionally, certain opportunities will be carried out by other parties, while the Waikato District Council will assume a supportive and enabling role when appropriate.

Approach and methodology

This plan has been developed with input from a wide range of stakeholders and partners over the past year. Mana Whenua and the community have helped to identify issues and opportunities for Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri. The Assessment identifies the vision for the area over the next 30 years. This was developed in collaboration between Waikato District Council and the Project Steering Group, which included representatives from a range of partners and stakeholders.

To support the vision, a set of outcome principles has been developed. These principles articulate the vision and serve as a framework for assessing investment outcomes and opportunities. The themes covered by these principles include Connected Communities, Identity, Natural Environment and Growth and Economy.

The Assessment includes a contextual analysis of Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri. This analysis examines various aspects such as cultural significance, land use, transportation and connections, economics, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), natural environments, and climate change. The purpose of this analysis was to gain insight into the challenges and opportunities present in these towns. The findings from this analysis formed the basis for the initial round of community consultation and engagement. Through this process, we aimed to understand the perspectives and experiences of those living in these communities. By combining these exercises, we were able to identify opportunities and constraints across all three towns.

The opportunities identified as part of the previous exercise were grouped into themes consistent with the outcome principles identified above:

- Connected Communities
- Identity
- Natural Environment
- Growth and Economy

A second round of consultation and engagement with stakeholders and the community was conducted to gather feedback on the projects. This feedback was used to determine the level of community support for each project, as well as identify lower priority or unsupported projects. The combined feedback was then utilised to identify key moves and investments recommended for each town, along with their proposed prioritisation over the short, medium and long term.

Development of Vision and Principles for Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri

The vision and principles for Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri were developed for the document with the "Structure Plan Reference Group" over two sessions to ensure thorough discussion and input from all participants. It was determined that due to the close relationship between the three towns, they should be covered by the same vision and principles.

The overarching vision for Waikato District Council is “*We work together as a district to build liveable, thriving and connected communities as our district grows.*” This process served as the foundation for developing a more place-specific vision for the three townships. By engaging with the community and seeking their input on their desired future for Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu, and Taupiri, we were able to establish an overarching vision that reflects the aspirations and direction of these towns. It was important that the towns were understood together and acknowledge the relationships between them. The vision speaks to the rich history of the area and the opportunities of the townships, linked through the Waikato Awa and landscape; “*To create opportunities for the communities of Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu, and Taupiri and their descendants, connected through the landscape, the awa, and collective yet unique histories.*”

The following guiding principles articulate the vision in more detail. From initial consultation and surveys undertaken by Council, technical inputs and discussion with the reference group, it was determined that Cultural Values should be woven into these themes, rather than being a separate set of principles.

From these discussions, four themes emerged relating to Identity and History, Connectivity, Natural Environment and Growth. The design principles are supported by articulating design outcomes that provide clear outcomes that are anticipated to occur as a result of the vision and principles.

The design principles and outcomes are:

Connected Communities: Promote safe, efficient and attractive active mode connections to encourage walkability and reduce car dominance.

- Create clear and accessible connections to places people want to go.
- Support easy and safe to access by active modes and public transport.
- Deliver resilience and respond to a changing climate.
- Provide places for people to meet and connect.
- Investments in our towns to enable us all to reduce our carbon footprint.

Identity: Strengthen the strong sense of identity and character of the place.

- Weave the presence of the rich natural landscape into the local context.
- Share the rich history of place.
- Respond respectfully to culturally significant sites and landscapes.
- Recognise and celebrate Kiingitanga.

Natural Environment: Celebrate and connect communities to blue-green networks and significant cultural areas supporting recreational use and preserve local identity.

- Protect and enhance our natural environment.
- Provide residents of our towns easy access and connection to the natural environment.
- Bring the natural environment into and through our towns.

Growth and Economy: Support projected growth with well-connected services, amenities and commercial opportunities to fit the needs of the community.

- Focus on the development of a strong commercial core in our towns.
- Invest in the infrastructure to support access to, and enjoyment of the town/village centre.
- Enable and support the development of key sites to encourage increased vibrancy, vitality and amenity in the town/village centre.



Vision for district

We work together as a district to build liveable, thriving and connected communities as our district grows.

Our Vision

To create opportunities for the communities of Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu, and Taupiri and their descendants, connected through the landscape, the awa, and collective yet unique histories.

Principles

Connected Communities

Promote safe, efficient and attractive active mode connections to encourage walkability and reduce car dominance.

Identity

Strengthen the strong sense of identity and character of the place.

Natural Environment

Celebrate and connect communities to blue-green networks and significant cultural areas supporting recreational use and preserve local identity.




Growth and Economy

Support projected growth with well connected services, amenities and commercial opportunities to fit the needs of the community.

Outcomes

-  Create clear and accessible connections to places people want to go.
-  Support easy and safe access by active modes and public transport for people of all ages and abilities.
-  Deliver resilience and respond to a changing climate.
-  Provide places for people to meet and connect.
-  Investments in our towns to enable us all to reduce our carbon footprint.

-  Weave the presence of the rich natural landscape into the local context.
-  Share the rich history of place.
-  Respond respectfully to culturally significant sites and landscapes.
-  Recognise and celebrate Kiingitanga.

-  Protect and enhance our natural environment.
-  Provide residents of our towns easy access and connection to the natural environment.
-  Bring the natural environment into and through our towns.

-  Focus on the development of a strong commercial core in our towns.
-  Invest in the infrastructure to support access to, and enjoyment of the town/village centre.
-  Enable and support the development of key sites to encourage increased vibrancy, vitality and amenity in the town/village centre.

Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato

Tooku awa koiora me oona pikonga he kura tangihia o te maataamuri.

The river of life, each curve more beautiful than the last.

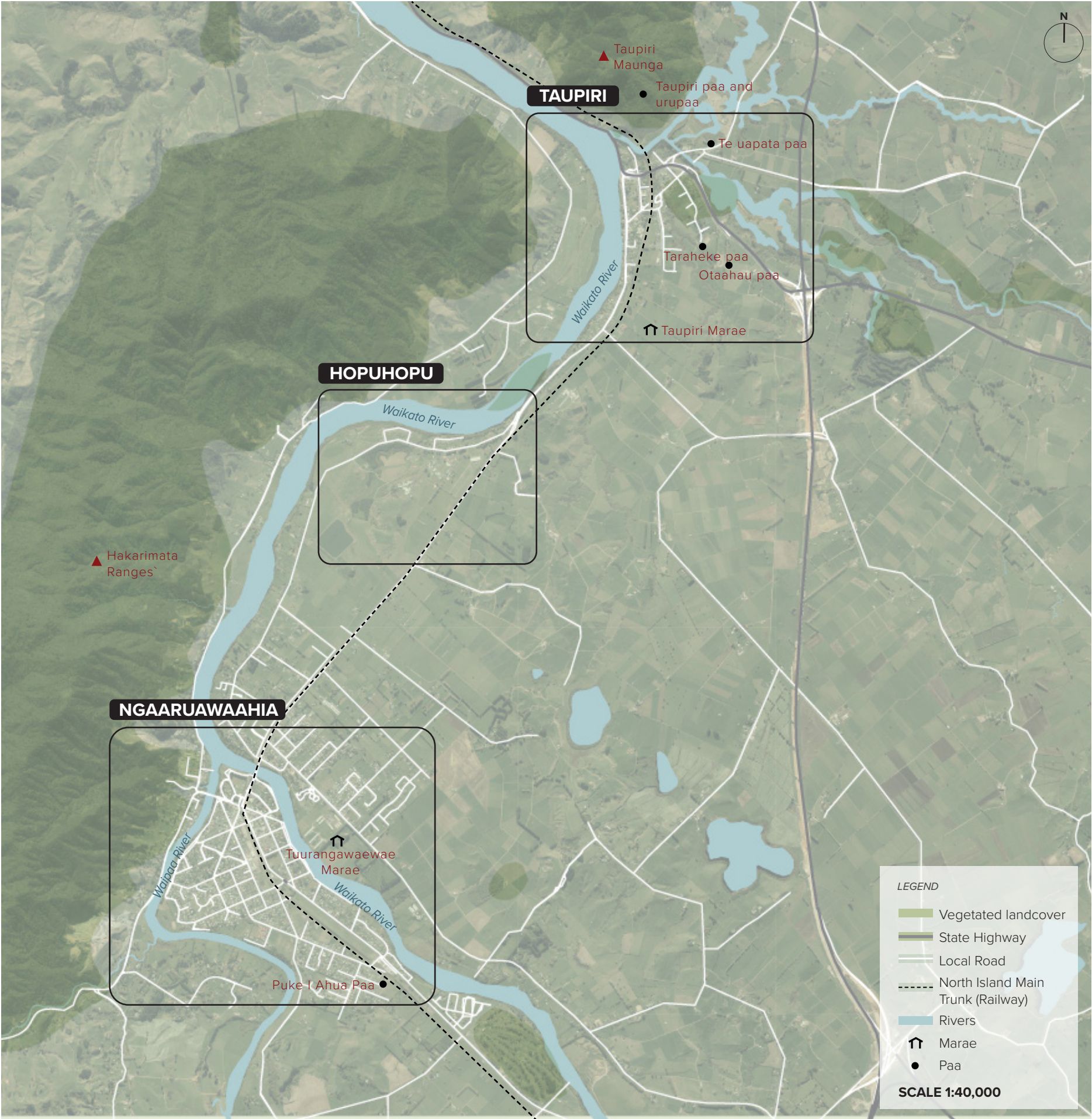
- Kiingi Taawhiao, the second Maaori King

Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato, the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River, is the primary policy document for the Waikato River Catchment. It acknowledges the degradation of the river and aims to restore and safeguard its health and well-being. The document also emphasises the importance of the relationship between Waikato-Tainui and the Waikato River, encompassing economic, social and spiritual aspects.

The Vision and Strategy aims to restore and protect the community’s relationship with the Waikato River, ensuring appropriate access while safeguarding and enhancing the river’s health and well-being.

Further, the Vision and Strategy seeks to recognise and protect waahi tapu sites of significance to Waikato-Tainui and River iwi to promote cultural, spiritual and historic relationship with the Waikato River.

The Waikato River plays a vital role as the defining feature of the area, connecting the three towns and fostering a strong sense of identity for each of them. The Urban Design Assessment takes into account the input from Mana Whenua obtained through the Mana Whenua consultation process. It also considers the Vision and Strategy, aiming to use urban design outcomes to support the achievement of the Vision and Strategy, particularly in terms of celebrating the Waikato and Waipaa Rivers, acknowledging culturally significant sites to Mana Whenua, and promoting interaction with the River corridors. These considerations are integral to the design principles and have guided the development of key moves and desired outcomes.



Strategic Context

Regional Context

The Waikato Region spans over 25,000 square kilometres, extending from Pukekura (Bombay Hills) and Te Puuaha o Waikato (Port Waikato) in the north to Mt Ruapehu in the south. It covers a vast area of the North Island, stretching from Mokau on the west coast to the Coromandel Peninsula in the east. The Waikato district is situated in the northern part of the Waikato region, encompassing the area north and west of Hamilton, as well as reaching up to Pokeno in the north. It is bordered by Hauraki and Matamata-Piako districts towards the east.

Early settlement of the area focused on the coast and alongside the rivers. Some of these settlements have developed into today's towns, including Ngaaruawaahia. Ngaaruawaahia sits within the Waikato district, on the confluence of the Waipaa and Waikato Rivers. It is an important location for Maori, being the seat of Kiingitanga, the Maori King. Hopuhopu is located approximately 4km north of Ngaaruawaahia. Taupiri village is located at the foot of Taupiri Maunga, and connects to SH1 via the Taupiri interchange.

Ngaaruawaahia is a rural service town, previously located on State Highway 1. In 2013, the town was bypassed by the Ngaaruawaahia Section of the Waikato Expressway. It is the home of Waikato District Council and connects with the surrounding towns of Huntly, Horotiu and Taupiri. Further afield it connects to Hamilton City, providing access to further education and employment opportunities. Auckland is 108km to the north. This relationship with nearby towns and cities provide opportunities to strengthen connections to these places, and enable people to access the amenities and offerings of the wider catchment.

This location within the Waikato puts Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri in the 'Golden Triangle', the area between the major cities of Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga, which contains around 50% of New Zealand's population and economic output. It is signaled to be the focus of future growth in NZ. This location, provides opportunities for future growth of the town and surrounds.

Situated on the banks of the Waikato River, Ngaaruawaahia is incorporated into the Hamilton-Auckland Corridor Plan and is recognised as part of the broader Hamilton Metropolitan area. The Auckland-Hamilton Corridor Plan designates priority development areas for this region, which involve conducting precinct planning to identify Transit Oriented Development prospects, enhancing transportation links between Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu, and Taupiri, and implementing urban area modifications to support growth.

Subregional Context

As identified in the regional scale, the townships of Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri have a close sub-regional relationship with the neighbouring Hamilton City and Waipaa district. These relationships are particularly apparent in the strategic documents of the Auckland – Hamilton Corridor Plan, the Waikato focused, Hamilton-Waikato Metro Spatial Plan (MSP) and the Future Proof Growth Strategy. These documents consider the inter-relationships between district and towns, with a focus on providing for growth and connecting these areas by all modes of transport.

Future Proof highlights the anticipated growth of Ngaaruawaahia and surrounds, projecting these areas to accommodate nearly 20% of the districts growth to 2050, with the district anticipated to grow by 58% over this time. Growth is likely to present infrastructure and funding challenges.

The MSP identifies Ngaaruawaahia as a node for future rapid transit investment, which is expected to enable growth to occur around a future rapid transit station. Hopuhopu and Taupiri are expected to be serviced by a frequent transport network, providing connections between, to and from destinations along the future transit corridor, providing residents frequent, efficient access to employment, amenity and recreation opportunities.

Future Proof anticipates that future development in Ngaaruawaahia and Taupiri will be 30-50 dwellings/ha in defined intensification areas and 20-25 dwellings/ha in greenfield locations. Current analysis suggests that there is sufficient capacity to meet residential and business demand.

Local Context

Previous work has been undertaken through the Local Area Blueprints, which included Ngaaruawaahia and Taupiri. These identified key moves for future investment and investigation in the towns across the Waikato district.

The top priority initiatives identified for Ngaaruawaahia included:

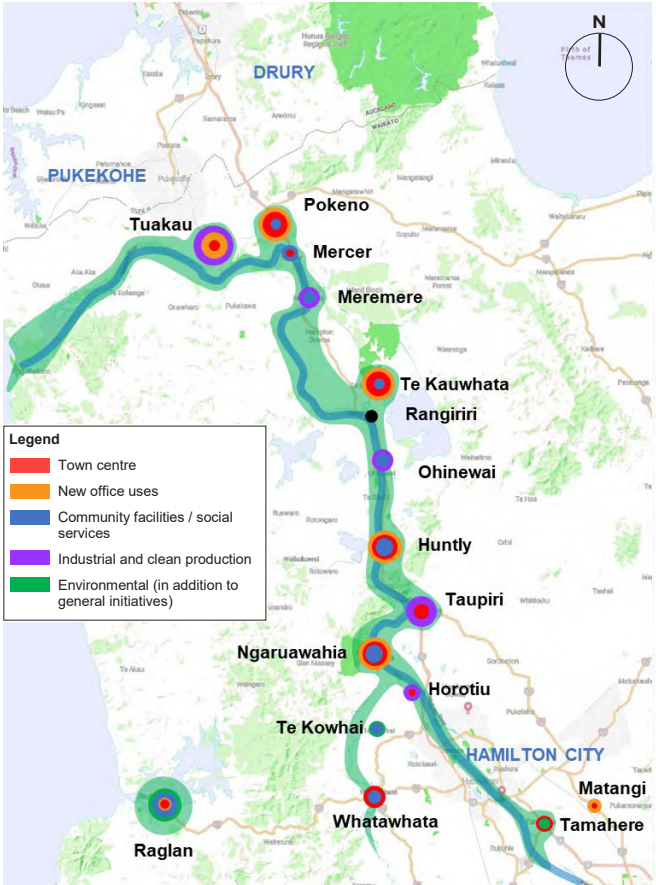
- Progress opportunities for a new community hub
- Undertake strategic conversations around Council-owned land and halls for reinvigoration of community assets.
- Produce a planting plan and social space at Te Mana o Te Rangi reserve.
- Work with relevant entities to support the strategy for youth initiatives.
- Undertake initiatives to ensure tidy commercial and industrial street frontages.
- Provide longer distance walking and cycling connections to Taupiri, Te Otamanui, Glen Massey, and the eastern side of the Waikato River to Horotiu.
- Promote local cultural tourism by local iwi.
- Build a strong identity based on the Waikato and Waipaa River corridors.

The top priority initiatives for Taupiri included:

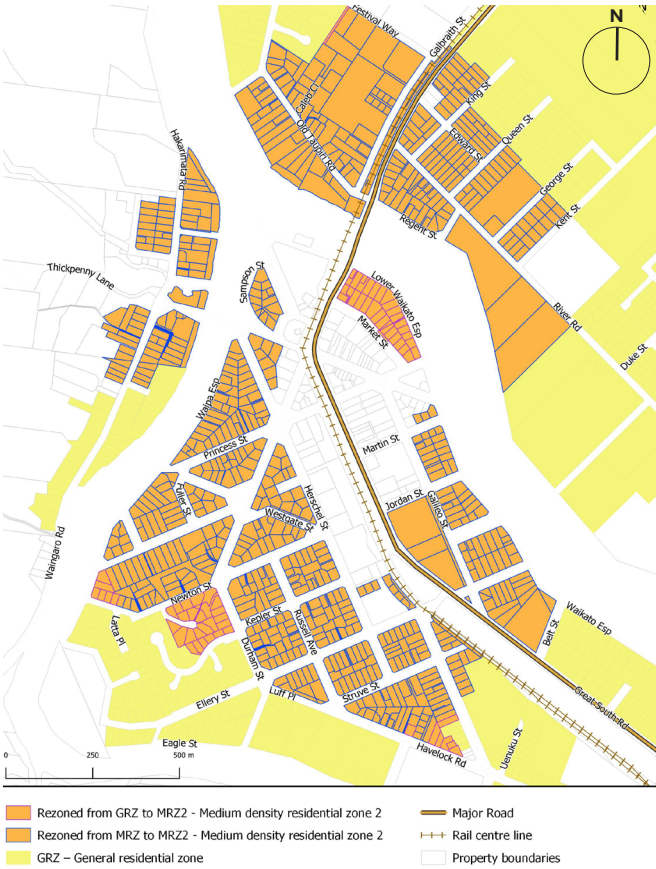
- Deliver pedestrian crossings throughout the township to ensure safer movements throughout the community.
- Support when appropriate the upgrade of the local dairy to a supermarket, as the population grows.
- Develop a town centre plan to address fragmentation and services required to support employment and residential growth. Also consider the impact of a new service centre at the interchange and the new entrance into Taupiri from the Expressway (now completed).
- Allow for the continuation of the Te Awa River Ride cycle route.
- Investigate the opportunity for industrial land.

Waikato 2070 is the district's Growth and Economic Development Strategy. This identifies the planned growth areas for residential, commercial and industrial and town centres across the district in the short, medium and long term. For Taupiri and Ngaaruawaahia, it identifies areas for residential, and commercial development out to 30 years.

Recently, Waikato District Council has notified Variation 3 to the Proposed District Plan in response to requirements to incorporate Medium Density Residential Standards into the plan and provide for intensification. It identifies enabling medium density housing in and around the town centre. The extent of the zoning is to be confirmed through the plan change process.



Waikato Blueprint opportunity



Ngaaruawaahia proposed zoning

Technical Inputs

The Urban Design Assessment is an important part of several technical contributions that will inform the update to the Ngaaruawaahia and Surrounding Areas' Structure Plan. Where relevant, these other contributions have been taken into account in the Urban Design Assessment. If not directly included in the Assessment, they are considered within the larger structure plan document, which covers all these aspects collectively.

The following is a summary of the technical inputs that have been considered as part of the development of the Urban Design Assessment.

Tāngata Whenua Statement and Engagement Report

Te Huia Natural Resources Ltd (Te Huia Ltd) developed a Tāngata Whenua Statement and Engagement Report with the support of Waikato-Tainui, Taupiri Marae, Tuurangawaewae Marae, Taupiri Marae and Ngaati Tamainupoo to inform the Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu, Taupiri Structure Plan and Ngaaruawaahia Town Centre Plan.

This area is the heart of the Kiingitanga and is of special significance to Waikato-Tainui featuring significantly in identity of the tribe. Tuurangawaewae Marae, Ngaati Tamainupoo and Taupiri Marae are tāngata whenua and are at the centre of the report. Therefore at the outset, Te Huia Ltd sought, and gratefully received, formal support from them to facilitate engagement and prepare the report. The report expresses their values, narratives and koorero, their sites and areas of significance and their outcomes and aspirations to inform the structure and town centre plan.

The engagement approach was distinct, as Te Huia Ltd and the Waikato District Council wanted the engagement, waananga and research to be delivered and facilitated by tāngata whenua. Furthermore, that tāngata whenua will be remunerated for their contributions, acknowledging the time and information shared. Te Huia Ltd collated information shared by tāngata whenua and sought the expertise of GMD Consultants to assist with the preparation of the report in a manner that can be implemented by the Council and respectful of information shared. Tāngata whenua hosted and facilitated online and in-person hui with their beneficiaries to consider what their respective spaces should look like in the future. The information provided in the full report is given with their blessing in the hope that their aspirations are reflected in the Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu, Taupiri Structure Plan and Ngaaruawaahia Town Centre Plan and subsequent designs.

Proposed Tāngata Whenua Outcomes

The workshops facilitated by tāngata whenua are presented in the *Tāngata Whenua Statement and Engagement Report*. Taupiri and Tuurangawaewae generated outcomes proposed in the report through workshops and marae hui. Ngaati Tamainupoo also held workshops and facilitated a survey amongst its tribal members. In general, the outcomes proposed reflected aspirations for a future community and its taonga.

The general themes proposed to the structure and town centre plans included:

- Recognition of the significance of the Waikato River through cultural expression opportunities, improvement of its relationship with tāngata whenua, improved access, restoration and environmental improvements and adherence to the advancement of Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato;
- Recognition of the significance of Taupiri Maunga and protection of its integrity, cultural viewshafts and shifting of North Island Main Trunk Line;
- Support the growth of tribal assets proposed around marae and in particular the tribal developments for Hopuhopu, for commercial, education and sporting purposes;
- Improving connectivity to communities and regional spaces. Creating attractions to bring in visitors;
- Provide for cultural expression, symbolism and signage that reflects the historic significance of Taupiri, Hopuhopu and Ngaaruawaahia;
- Realising the needs and aspirations of tāngata whenua regarding community facilities, commerce, goods and services, and enjoyment of recreational reserves; and
- Protection of sites of significance including the addition of sites to the plan.

The Mana Whenua Engagement Report presents full details of the narratives and information shared, including outcomes drawn from workshops and surveys. These broad outcomes relevant to urban design have been considered as part of the development of the Urban Design Assessment and have helped inform the urban design outcomes identified in this report.

Transport

Land use changes and growth will place increasing demand on the transport network, change is necessary to support the town centre and manage these effects.

In summary:

- Traffic volumes are projected to increase over the coming years with Great South Road experiencing substantial growth. Left unchecked, this would be inconsistent with desired outcomes for Ngaaruawaahia town centre.
- New road connections and intersection upgrades are required to enable development in growth areas.
- Safety at rail level crossings will increasingly become a focus. Some existing level crossings are recommended for upgrades or closure to traffic in the coming years.
- Investment in walking and cycling infrastructure is recommended to improve accessibility and safety, and reduce car dependency.
- Transport projects should consider transport needs for all members of the community, including children, the elderly, low income households, and those with mobility and visual impairments.

A range of projects are proposed to improve connections between key areas and improve access to sustainable transportation modes.

The staging of the proposed investments is as follows:

- The short-term plan includes creating a low-speed, accessible Ngaaruawaahia town centre and addressing safety concerns, while achieving the key moves for walking and cycling in the town centre.
- In the medium term, the focus is on improving walking and cycling connectivity along with new road connections and intersection upgrades to support growth.
- The long-term vision includes a transport hub in Ngaaruawaahia to support high-frequency bus services and expanded walking and cycling networks.

Retail economics

The retail catchments of Ngaaruawaahia and Taupiri are expected to continue to grow at a steady pace over the next 30 years. The retail catchments are the areas connected to the townships that are likely to visit these centres to spend money. The current estimated population within the retail catchments of Ngaaruawaahia is 13,950 people. This is anticipated to grow to between 17,500 and 20,000 people by 2053, based on medium to high growth projections. This is a significant increase of up to 44% and could result in an additional 700 new dwellings in the area under the high growth scenario.

With future investment in improved transport connections to Hamilton signaled, it is anticipated that the high growth scenario better represents the future population scenario. This growth brings economic and housing opportunities to the area.

The Taupiri catchment is also growing and is expected to increase from about 800 people to a population of around 1350 people by 2053, an increase of approximately 73%, about 500 households.

The analysis shows that the current centres have a lot of potential to support growth and increased spending. Currently a large amount of spending happens outside Ngaaruawaahia, mostly in Hamilton. There is a significant opportunity for the town centre to retain a higher proportion of the catchments spending in the town centre by improving the customer experience and feel of the centre. Property Economics identifies that there is a need for public and private investment focused on the Jesmond Street core retail area to create a more attractive town centre and catalyse the revitalisation of the area.

This could include projects like streetscape improvements and the redevelopment of the site that previously contained the Waipaa Hotel as a catalyst development.

Importantly, the report identifies that there is no need to extend the commercial zoning of the town centre.

Taupiri is currently a small retail centre and is spread out. The existing service centre on SH1 also captures a portion of the market. No further commercial zoning is required in Taupiri, however a focus on revitalising the core through public and private investment would benefit the centre and the town.

Ngaaruawaahia and Taupiri CPTED Assessment

The Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Assessment provided a summary of safety issues observed in Ngaaruawaahia and Taupiri during the day and night, aiming to gather input for the development of the Urban Design Assessment.

A desktop review of safety information, including crime statistics, was conducted. Site walkovers with stakeholders were performed on March 28, 2023, to identify key issues and discuss design recommendations. The study focused on public streets and reserves in Ngaaruawaahia town centre and Taupiri Village.

The findings from this Assessment are crucial for prioritising implementable projects and ensuring that the Urban Design Assessment incorporates measures to create safer and more secure environments for residents and visitors.

Based on the National Guidelines for CPTED in New Zealand, the Assessment focused on seven qualities for safer places:

1. Access: Safe movement and connections.
2. Surveillance and sightlines: See and be seen.
3. Layout: Clear and logical orientation.
4. Activity mix: Eyes on the street.
5. Sense of ownership: Showing a space is cared for.
6. Quality environments: Well designed, managed and maintained environments.
7. Physical protection: Using active security measures.

The findings highlight positive CPTED aspects that can be drawn upon for best practice responses and quick wins. They also prioritise implementable projects while emphasising the importance of CPTED principles in creating safer environments. These findings have informed the recommendations for improvement in the Ngaaruawaahia Urban Design Assessment.

Climate Change and Sustainability

A broad consideration of climate change and sustainability was undertaken to help inform the development of the urban design inputs.

The key affects of climate change that need to be considered include:

- More extreme weather events.
- Warmer summers and more hot days.
- Milder winters.
- Seasonal rainfall shifts.
- More concentrated rainfall, with higher likelihood of flooding.
- Increased drought risk over spring and summer.

The Waikato District Council Climate Policy identifies the following responses to climate change:

- Mitigation (emission reduction)**
- Support and encourage community to reduce green house gas emissions.
 - Promote and encourage conservation and enhancement of natural environments.

- Adaptation**
- Support the community, in partnership with others, in preparing for the likely and potential effects of climate change.

- Priority Actions**
- Minimise waste, pollution and energy use.
 - Protect the environment and indigenous biodiversity.
 - Promote low emission transport options including electric, hybrid, active transportation modes.

These responses and the identified affects have informed the design principles and the identification of urban design outcomes and key moves. The implementation tables identify those projects that relate to climate change mitigation actions, including resilience projects and those that will support a reduction in Vehicle Kilometres Travelled (VKT).

Engagement Summary

Mana Whenua Engagement Process

To support the development of the wider structure plan process, an independent Cultural Assessment was undertaken by Te Huia Ltd, which involved Mana Whenua Engagement.

Waikato District Council have also undertaken separate engagement and consultation through a number of forums as part of the wider structure plan process including surveys, focus group sessions and attendance at public events, where the urban design inputs were shared, and feedback provided that has informed the development of this document.

Community Engagement Summary

Working in partnership with Waikato District Council, community engagement has occurred over an 8 month period beginning in March 2023.

Public engagement and consultation has been undertaken via a number of forums both online and in person throughout this period. These consisted of community open days, Council led reference group meetings consisting of Councilors, Mana Whenua representatives and Community Board Members and also a web based social pinpoint campaign.

A Mana Whenua and wider community survey was undertaken by Council prior to the start of the project and helped to provide some background for subsequent consultation particularly around community identity and cultural aspirations.

Prior to open days, Council were at attendance for the Waikato-Tainui Games in February.

The first series of community open days were held in early March in Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri. Large format maps were pinned up, allowing the community to take part in identifying opportunities and issues as well as thoughts and suggestions on ideas for the future of their community. Council also gathered Mana Whenua input from the Tuurangawaewae Regatta in March after the open days. The feedback was used to inform key outcomes and a project list.

A second series of community open days were held in September in Ngaaruawaahia and Taupiri. Again large format maps were pinned up, this time with key outcomes identified as projects and feedback posters allowing the community to show their support for specific projects. At the same time these key outcomes and projects maps were also made available via Social Pinpoint, allowing the community opportunity to provide feedback online through their mobile phones, tablets and computers. Additionally, a youth session was held at Ngaaruawaahia High School on the 21 September. Furthermore, Council consulted with Tuurangawaewae, Taupiri Marae and Waikato-Tainui to seek their feedback and input.

The feedback from the second series of consultation formed the basis of the implementation framework. Working closely with Council, each of the projects were categorised and tagged with level of complexity, time frames for implementation and delivery lead.

Key themes arising through the engagement included:

- Future walking and cycling facility across the Waikato River.
- Create a legible and safe walking and cycling loop for both Ngaaruawaahia and Taupiri centres.
- Redevelopment of the corner site in Ngaaruawaahia.
- Upgrading toilets and provide shelter and seating at Paterson Park.
- Support in both Ngaaruawaahia and Taupiri to celebrate sites of cultural significance and protect waahi tapu sites through a suite of bi-lingual signage, art work trails, cultural expression and storytelling opportunities.
- Development of a reserve site masterplan for Te Mana o Te Rangi that expresses and represents hapuu koorero through signage, planting and artwork.

Engagement Timeline



Over all of the platforms we had around **1105** individual votes received

We had **141** projects

5 open day sessions in Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri in March and September

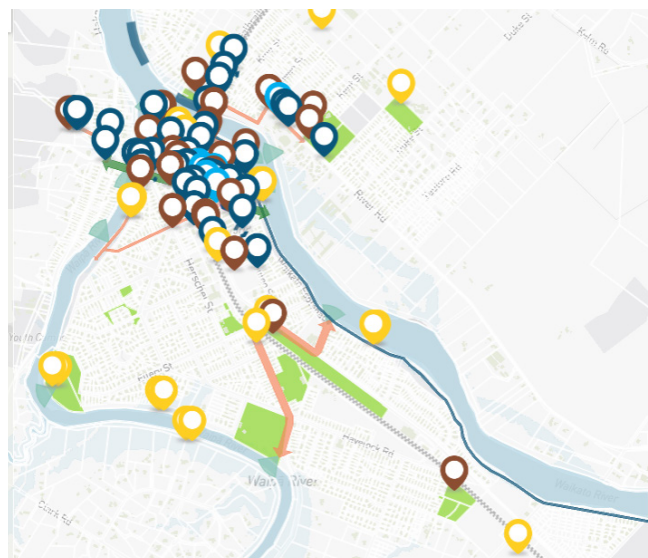
Social Pinpoint Statistics

- Over **890** page visits
- **620** votes
- **47** comments

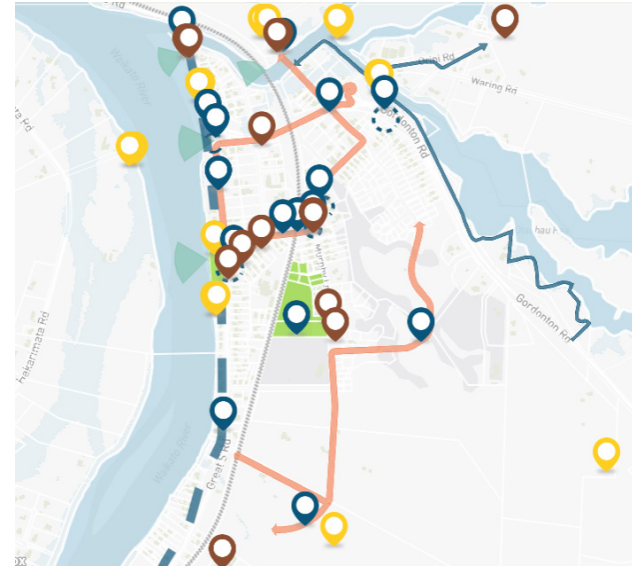
CATEGORY	UP VOTE	DOWN VOTE
CONNECTED COMMUNITY	198	27
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	135	7
IDENTITY	192	33
GROWTH AND ECONOMY	25	3

Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu, and Taupiri Structure Plan & Town Centre Plan

We're seeking feedback on the Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu, and Taupiri Structure Plan and Ngaaruawaahia Town Centre Plan.



Community Open Day at Ngaaruawaahia War Memorial Hall



Social Pinpoint Campaign in September 2023

**Together for tomorrow:
Shaping our Community's Future!**

Join us at the Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu, and Taupiri

Structure Plan and Town Centre Plan drop-in

Last year we asked you to share your aspirations and concerns for Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri. We have heard your voices and would now like to share some possible project ideas with you! Come along and help prioritise the proposed project ideas for your community.

When:

Ngaaruawaahia
5:30pm - 7:30pm
Tuesday 26
September

Taupiri
5:30pm - 7:30pm
Thursday 28
September

Where:

Ngaaruawaahia War
Memorial Hall
5 Galileo St

Taupiri War
Memorial Hall
16 Greenlane Rd

Can't attend in person? We've got online feedback options. Your input is valuable to us and we want to ensure that everyone's voice is heard. **Visit our website below for more details, or scan the QR code. Link live from 18 September - 6 October.**

Contact us
0800 492 452
info@waidc.govt.nz
shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/ourplan



Waikato
District Council
Te Kaunihera aa Takiwaa o Waikato

Community Open Day poster



Who we are

The current population of the Waikato district is 90,100. This number is expected to grow by 35% by 2050, resulting in a population of approximately 121,554.

Ngaaruawaahia holds significant cultural importance as the site of Tuurangawaewae Marae, the seat of the Maaori King. This cultural significance is reflected in its demographics, with Ngaaruawaahia having a higher average population of Maaori compared to the wider Waikato district. The anticipated growth in Ngaaruawaahia could see a population of approximately 8,965 residents by 2050.

Hopuhopu, which is located nearby, has the smallest population among the three settlements. Growth in Hopuhopu will be facilitated by the Waikato-Tainui Masterplan for the site, which includes residential development.

Taupiri, known for its iconic maunga and historic Maaori burial grounds, also has a diverse mix of ethnicities but maintains a strong Maaori presence. Rapid population growth is anticipated for Taupiri by 2050 with an increase of 79.7%, adding 555 people to its population.

How we travel

A large proportion of residents in Ngaaruawaahia and Taupiri rely on cars for their daily commute, with 4.1% of Ngaaruawaahia residents and 1.8% of Taupiri residents utilising active modes of travel. The use of public transportation is low, accounting for 2.2% combined usage in these two locations.

However, when it comes to school travel, there is a higher percentage of students using active modes of travel like walking and cycling, as well as taking the bus (typically the school bus). This can be assumed to be due to many students living within close proximity to their schools.

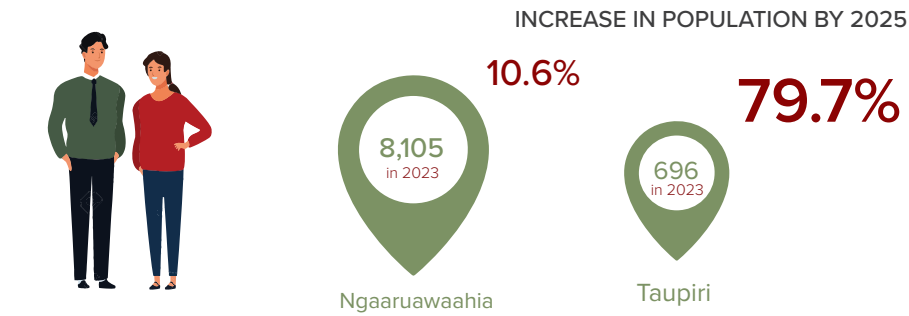
These statistics highlight the importance of investing in safe and well-connected active mode infrastructure for both leisure and commuting purposes. This is particularly crucial for the younger population, as they have increased ability to utilise active modes of transport.

SNAPSHOT OF THE REGION

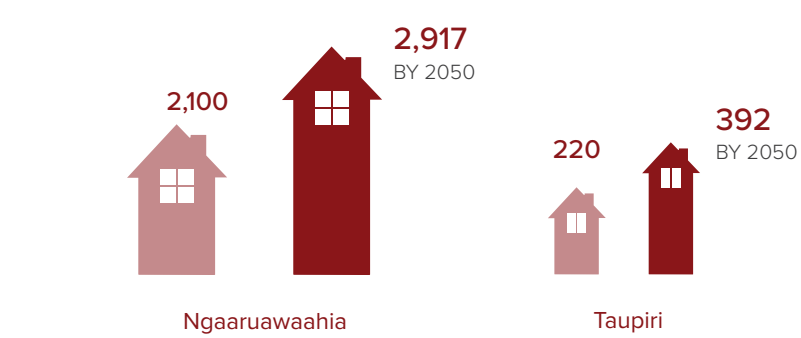
Data is based on the 2018 Census data and LTP projections. Taupiri Census data includes the Hopuhopu region.

2050

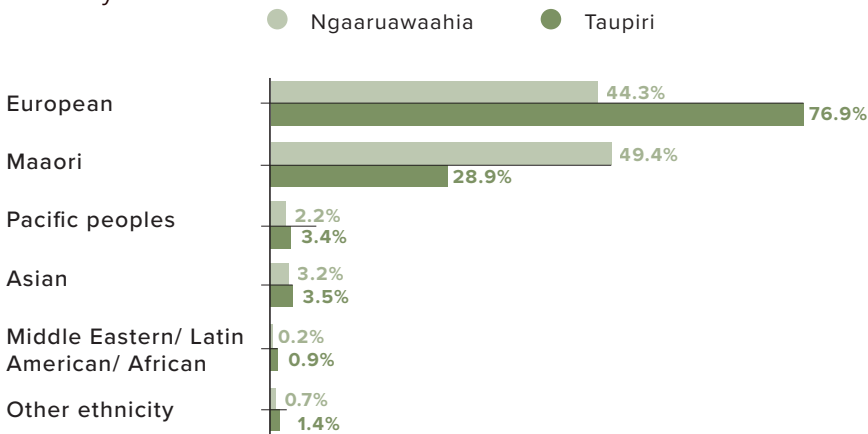
Population



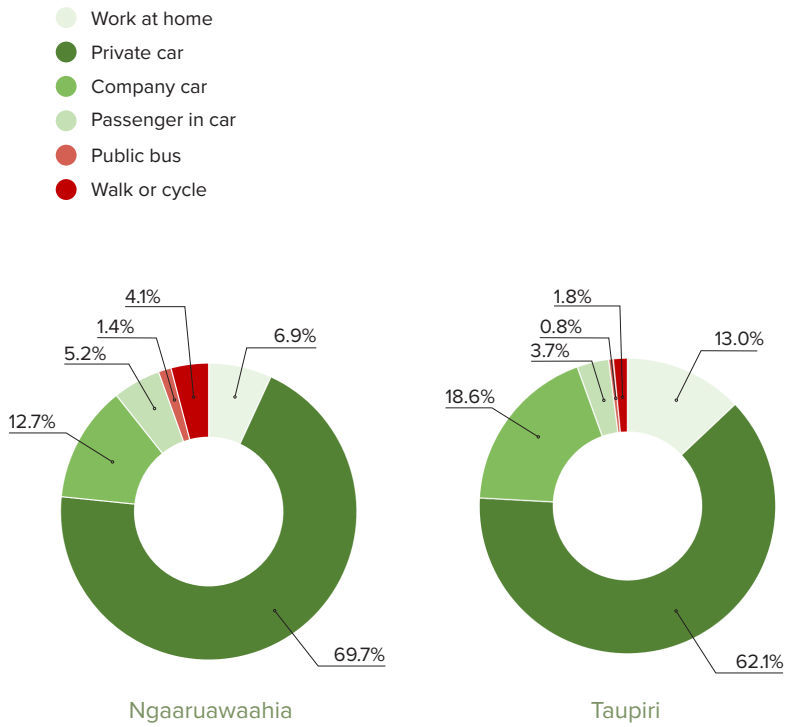
Households



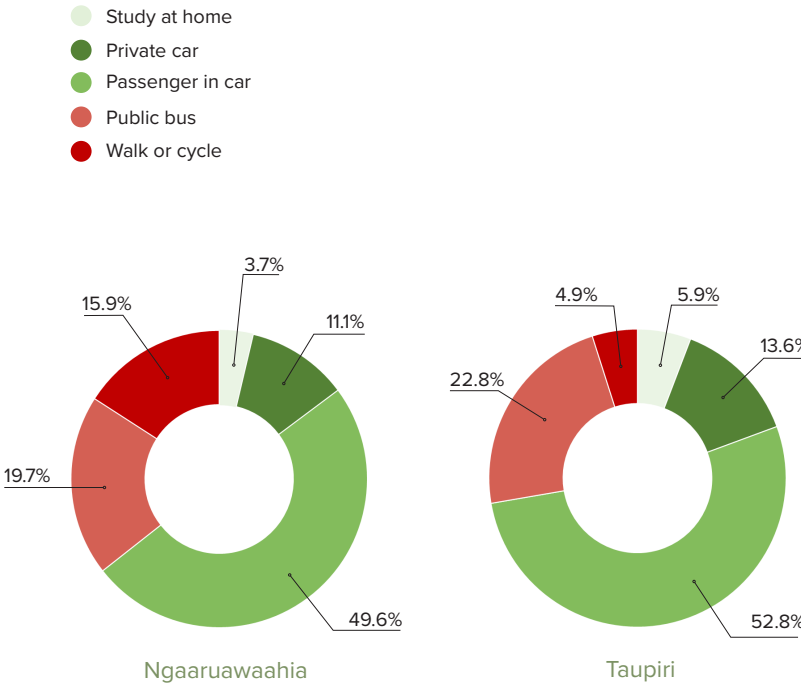
Ethnicity



Getting to work



Getting to education





Ngaaruawaahia

View of Jesmond Street in Ngaaruawaahia

Local Context

Ngaaruawaahia is the largest of the three towns in the study area, a role that it will retain. It is located on the confluence of the Waikato and Waipaa Rivers, emphasised by the well known open space reserve “The Point”.

A significant place for Mana Whenua, Ngaaruawaahia is the home of Kiingitanga, and the Tuurangawaewae Marae. The area has a strong cultural heritage and history, with significant sites such as the Puke-i-aahua Paa in and around the town.

The town has a good level of access and is connected via Great South Road, previously SH1 and is bisected by the North Island Main Trunk (NIMT). Access to the rail is a significant opportunity and long term investment across the region brings the opportunity of frequent transport to Hamilton and Auckland in the future.

The town centre of Ngaaruawaahia is under performing. This presents an opportunity to improve and enhance the amenity of the town centre, building off the resident population, future growth and the visitors that are attracted to the area through assets like the Te Awa River Ride and the Hakarimata Ranges. The entrepreneurial spirit of the town can be seen in the Durham Precinct which contains pop-up eateries and shops, showcasing how these type of activities can thrive when provided the opportunity.

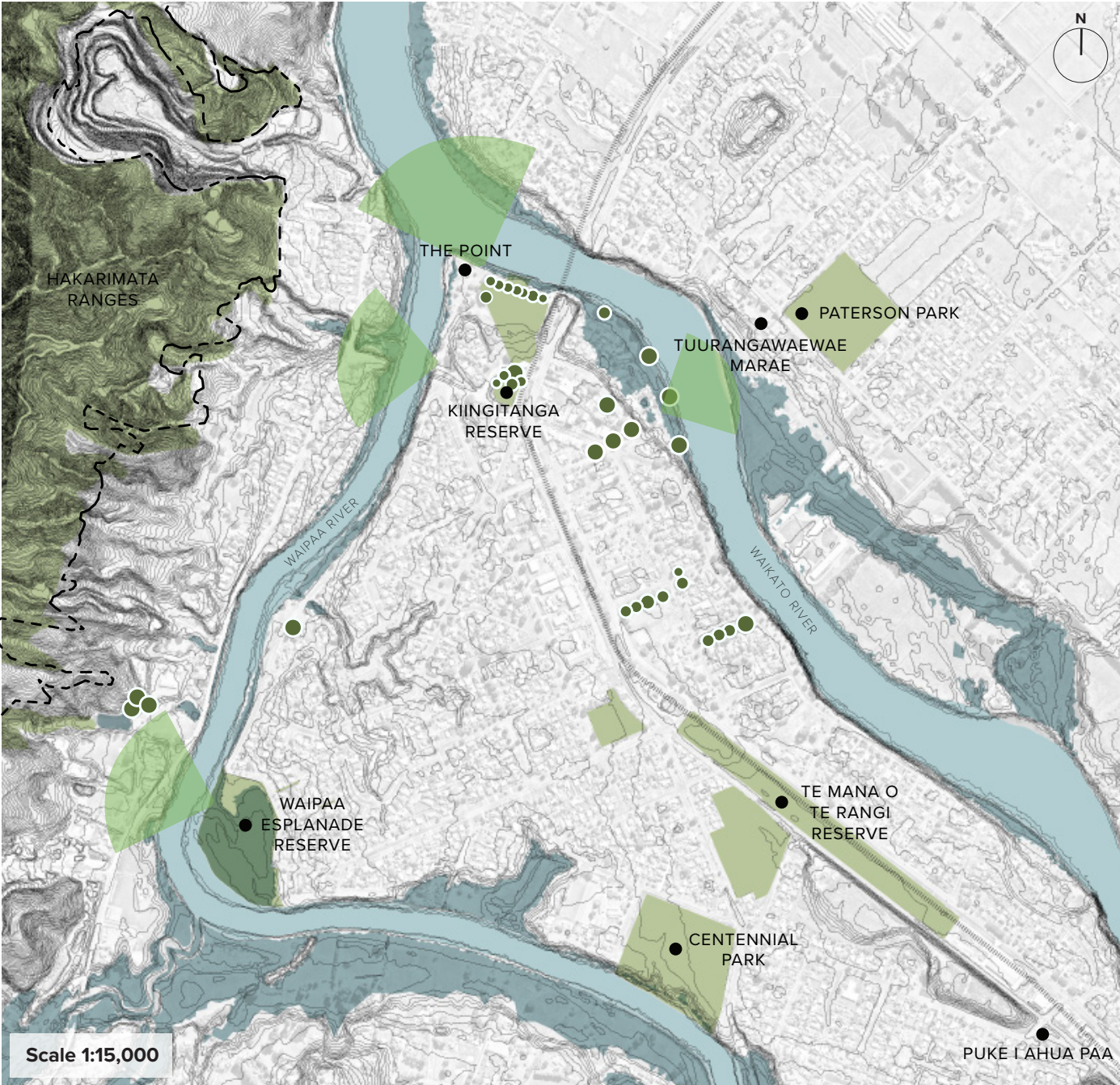
Growth is anticipated in the town and areas have been identified for intensification close to the town centre. New areas will be identified as part of the update to the structure plan.



Site photos



Site Analysis



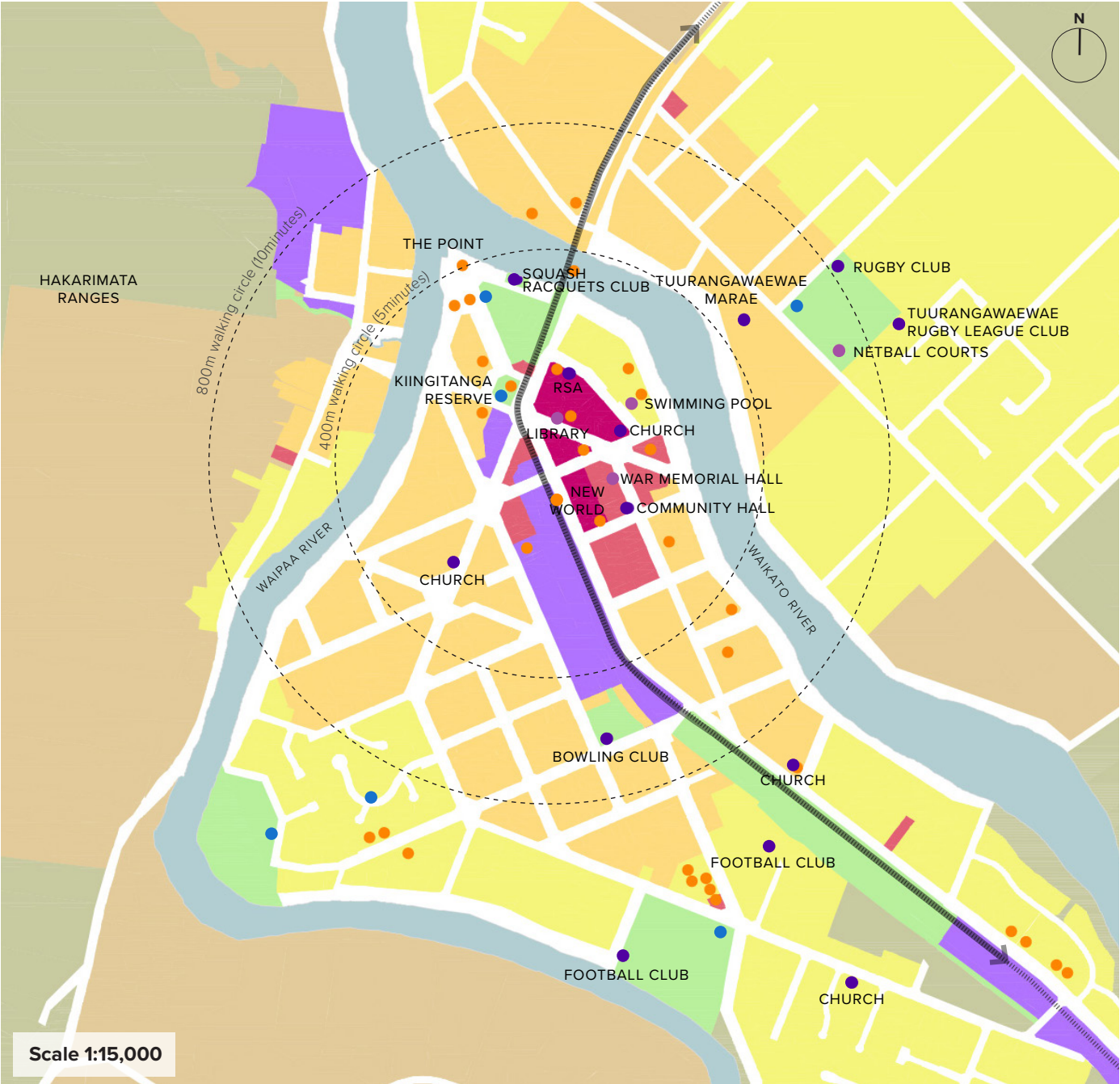
Natural features

Ngaaruawaahia has a relatively low elevation, with an average height of 30 metres above sea level. To the east of the town, the topography is relatively flat with small ridges and valleys. To the west the Hakarimata Ranges rises in elevation from the river providing panoramic views of the region. Heading south from Ngaaruawaahia, the landscape transitions into the Waikato Plains, which are vast low-lying plains.

Key natural features of the area are the Waipaa and Waikato Rivers and the Hakarimata ranges. Large areas of flooding has been identified along the banks of the Waipaa River and along the gullies of the land east of the Waikato River.

LEGEND

- Flood zones
- River
- Open space
- Notable Trees
- Viewshafts



Existing site features and land use

Development in Ngaaruawaahia extends from the entry to the town from the south to the joining of the Waikato and Waipaa Rivers. There is a small area of urbanisation to the north-west over the Waipaa River and a larger area of residential development to the north-east of the Waikato River.

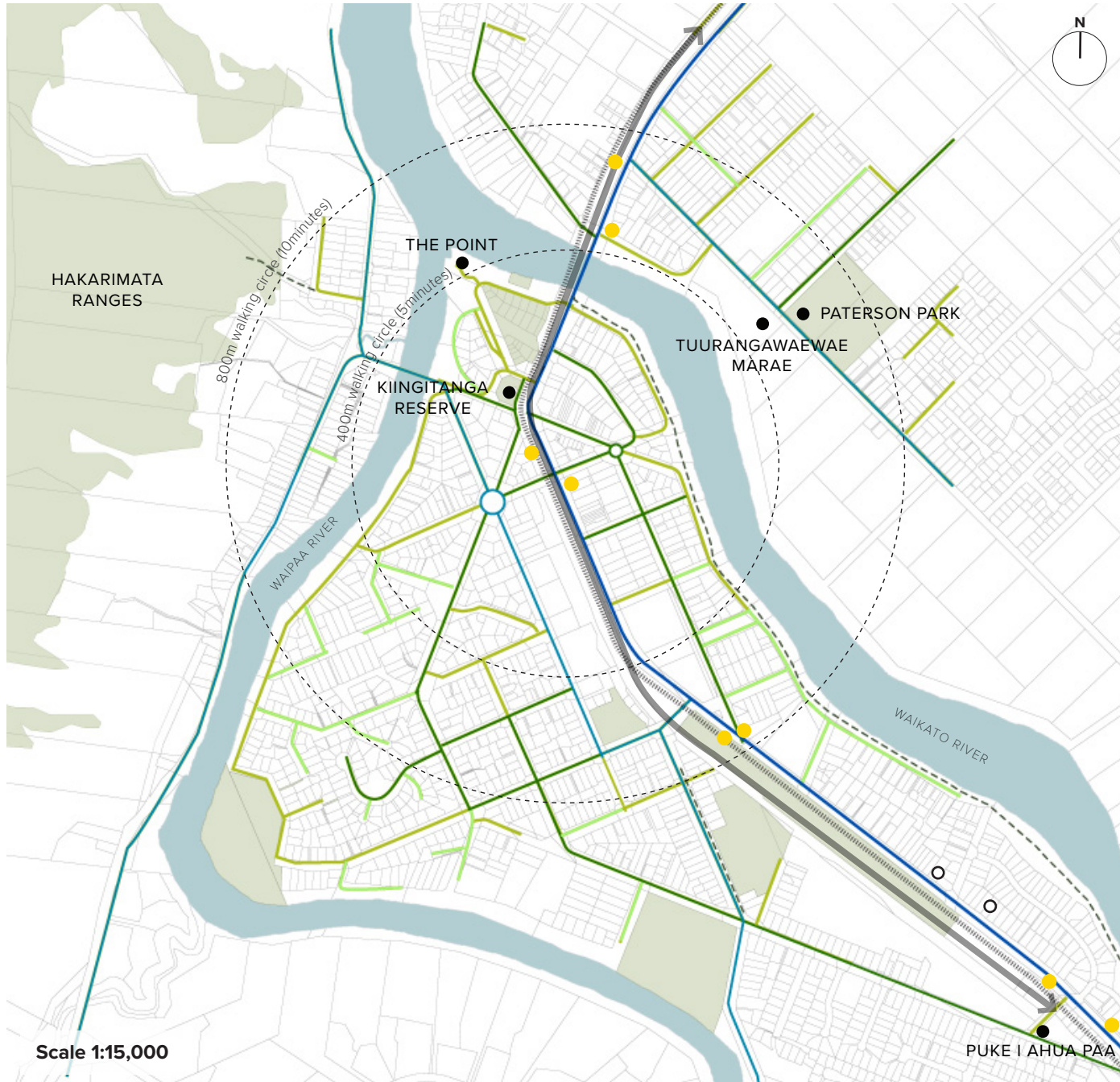
Commercial development is focused in the town centre, however there are areas of industrial and commercial land use to the west of the NIMT and to the south.

Residential intensification is signaled within a walkable catchment of the town centre, which will increase the number of people with good access to the town centre.

The 800m walking circle shows the distance that can generally be covered by a 10 minute walk, meaning that a large area of the town is within a walkable distance of the town centre.

LEGEND

- Railway (NIMT)
- Non Council-owned community facilities
- Council-owned community facilities
- Historic heritage areas (District Plan)
- Playground
- Land use
 - Business - Town Centre
 - Business - Industry
 - Residential - Suburban Zone
 - Rural Country Living Zone
 - Open space



Access and cycle connections

Ngaaruawaahia is bisected by the major corridors of Great South Road (previously SH1) and the NIMT. These create a barrier for east-west access within the town, and make direct access for people walking or on bikes to the town centre difficult, with limited safe crossing locations.

The Te Awa River Ride is a popular scenic cycling and walking trail in New Zealand spanning 65km from Lake Karapiro and terminating at Ngaaruawaahia. The trail features various access points, rest areas, and amenities. The two bridges crossing the Waipaa and Waikato River have a narrow footpath but no provision for cycling to connect to the western and northern areas. There is limited cycle facilities throughout the local network.

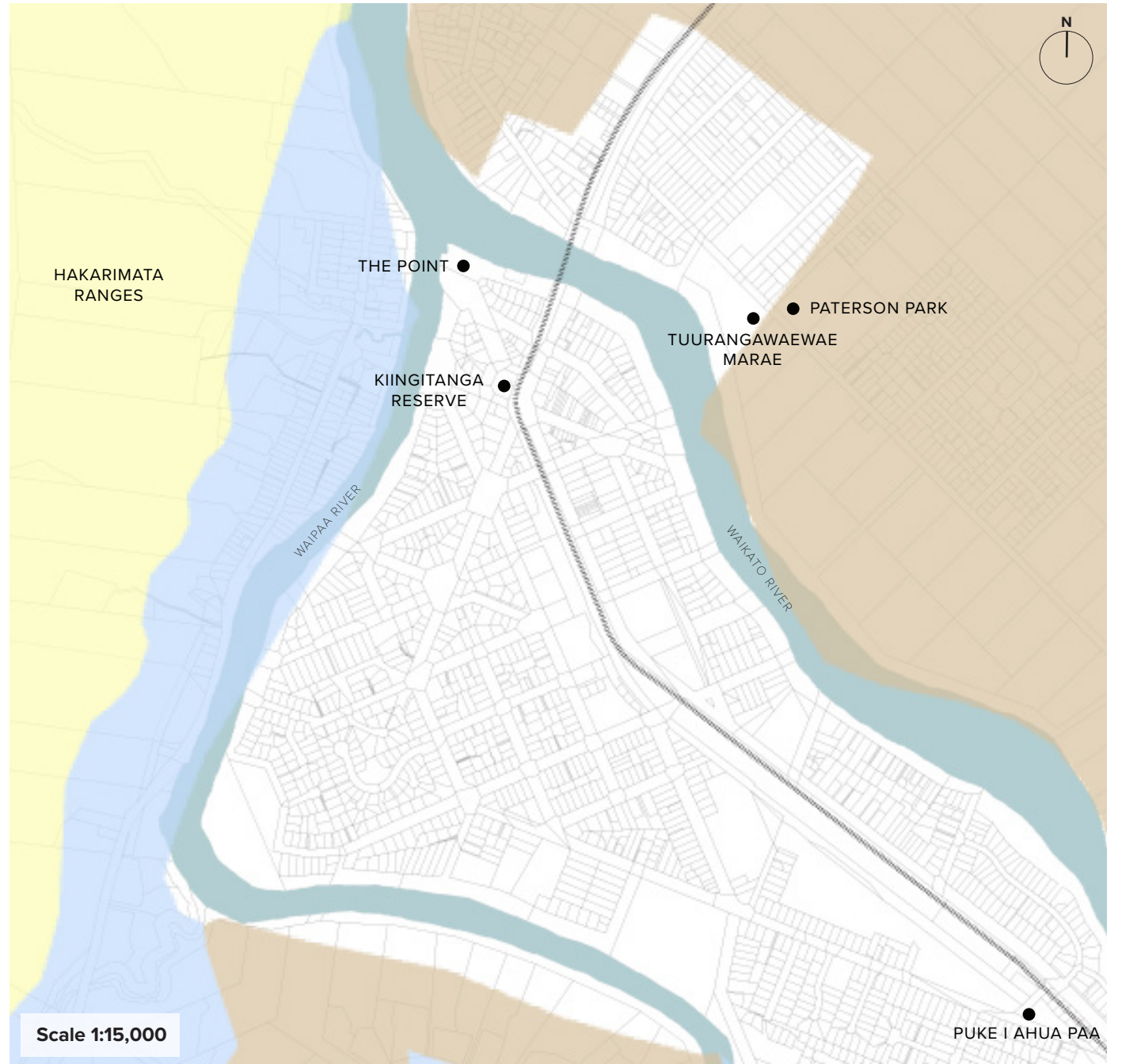
There is a regional bus service running along Great South Road connecting Ngaaruawaahia to Hamilton and other nearby towns. Currently there is no 'within-town' bus services serving Ngaaruawaahia.

LEGEND

- Railway
- Bus stop
- Cycle path

Road classification

- Arterial
- Primary Collector
- Secondary Collector
- Access
- Low volume



Soil drainage

Areas to the north of the Waikato River and south of the Waipaa River are characterised by lowland plains. A large stretch along the western bank of the Waipaa River is poorly drained.

There are a number of sites of contamination particularly along Great South Road, where there was previously an old land fill. The history of these sites create challenges for their reuse and puts significant constraints on their future development opportunities.

LEGEND

- River
- Soil Drainage**
 - Very Poorly Drained
 - Poorly Drained
 - Moderately Well Drained
 - Well Drained

Identification of Opportunities

Opportunities have been identified for the three settlements of Ngaaruawaahia through a multi-staged approach. They are a combination of:

- The contextual analysis.
- A spatial analysis undertaken through a desktop assessment.
- A site visit in combination with Council staff, Elected Members and Community Board representatives.
- Input received from technical reports.
- Inputs received by Council through community surveys.
- Feedback received from the community via online engagement and community open day event held in Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri. These sought to understand the issues experienced by the community, and opportunities seen by those that live, work and play in the three towns to improve the liveability of these places.

The opportunities for investment have been grouped under the headings of the design principles, noting that some opportunities will align with multiple design principles.

The opportunities were grouped into themes relating to:

- **Connected Communities**
Opportunities relating to transport and accessing the places people want to get to, such as the town centre and key destinations like Tuurangawaewae Marae.
- **Identity**
Opportunities related to telling the history, and highlighting the identity, of Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri.
- **Natural Environments**
Opportunities related to improving access to, and the quality of, the natural environment.
- **Growth and Economy**
Opportunities related to enhancing commercial activity and supporting future growth.

The following pages provide a summary of the opportunities identified through this process. Some of the opportunities sit outside of the remit of Waikato District Council, however were recorded to fully understand the issues and opportunities seen by the community. These opportunities have been assessed and considered by Council as part of this process and have informed the key moves and outcomes. Not all opportunities have been progressed.



View of rail bridge over Waikato River

Ngaaruawaahia - Wider Town Opportunities

Connected Communities

Promote safe, efficient and attractive active mode connections to encourage walkability and reduce car dominance.

1. Extend the Te Awa River Ride cycle route from Ngaaruawaahia via Hopuhopu to Taupiri, . There is a desire to promote Ngaaruawaahia as a destination incorporating the Hakarimata Ranges, Waipaa and Waikato Rivers.
2. Connect the town centre with the Waikato River and Te Awa River Ride cycle route.
3. Identify a site along Great South Road for a Te Huia stop (Hamilton to Auckland Rail service).
4. Provide safer east west active mode connections across Great South Road and NIMT.
5. Improve active mode connections across the Great South Road bridge to connect to the wider community.
6. Establish walking and cycling path along Old Taupiri Road.
7. Improve walking and cycling along Waingaro Road bridge.
8. Provide traffic calming initiatives along Hakarimata Road to reduce speeding issues.
9. Provide a pedestrian access point to Waipaa River from Hakarimata Road.
10. Establish signage to the Hakarimata Ranges.
11. Opportunity to reroute freight movement.
12. Strengthen connections between the Waipaa Esplanade Walkway to The Point.

Identity

Strengthen the existing identity and character of the place.

1. Celebrate areas of cultural significant such as the Kiingitanga Reserve, the Point, Hakarimata Ranges, Tuarangawaewae Marae and House through wayfinding, artwork and storytelling.
2. The Waikato River is well-used for the annual Waka Ama event held in March. Opportunities for riverside recreation, access, river edge improvements and viewing areas toward Marae.
3. Opportunity to highlight the riverside heritage features of the flour mill.
4. Opportunity for additional amenities such as a seating and picnic tables at Te Mana o Te Rangī Reserve.
5. Opportunity for additional seating, upgrade of toilets and playground at Paterson Park
6. Emphasise entry to Tuarangawaewae House.
7. Establish township gateways as a way of physical markers to signify the town's entrance and exit points.

Other opportunities

- Identify locations for youth facilities such as a basketball courts.

Natural Environment

Connect communities to blue-green networks and provide recreational activities and opportunities.

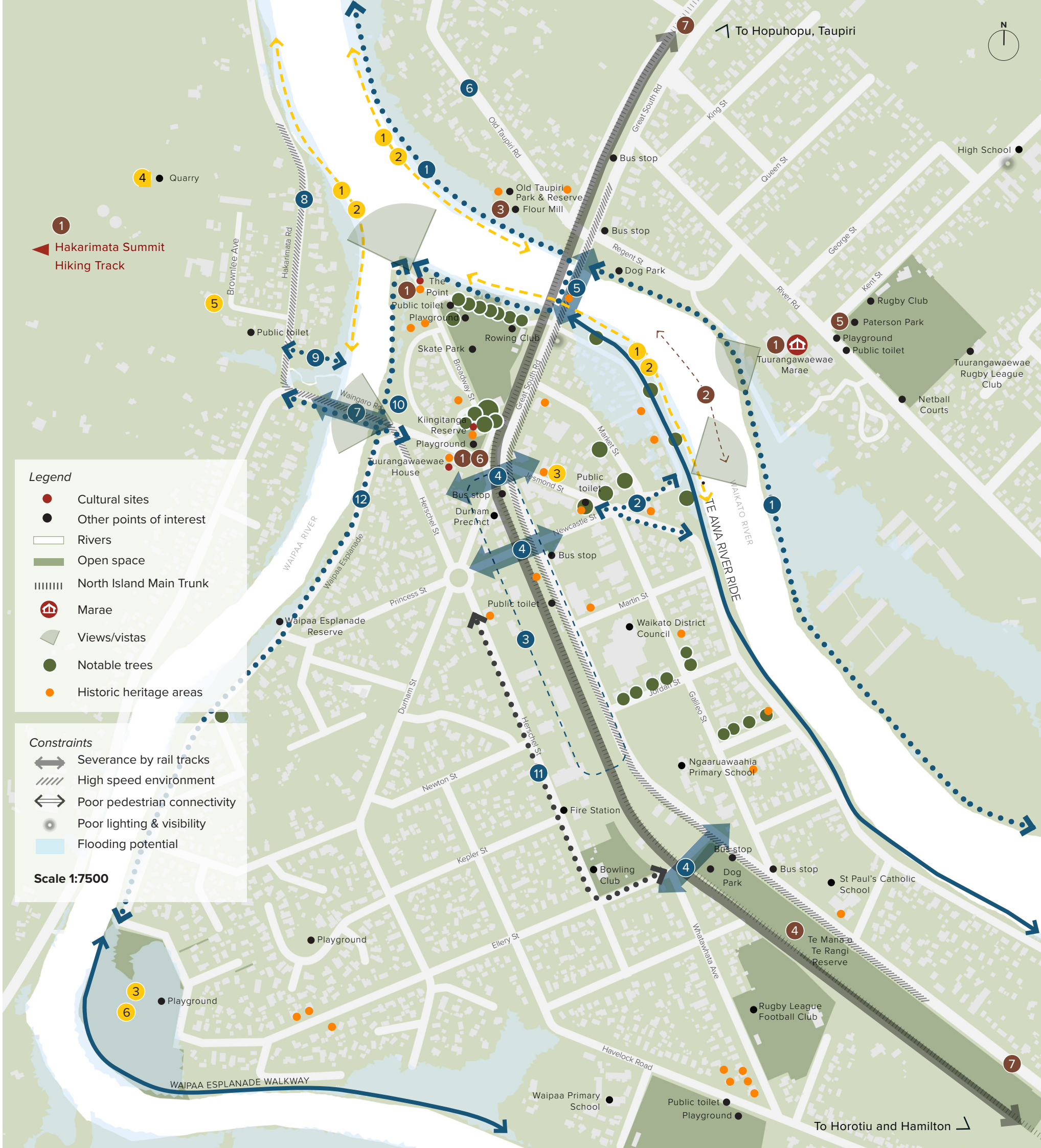
1. Provide community amenities to the riverside such as viewing platforms, shelters and community gathering spaces.
2. Native re-vegetation of riverside to improve water quality, indigenous biodiversity and pest control.
3. Identify locations for community gardens and community nurseries.
4. Rehabilitate old quarry back to native bush with the potential for recreation uses.
5. Provide secure bike parking at Hakarimata Reserve.
6. Provide additional community amenities to utilise this open space.

Other opportunities

- Identify opportunities for additional open spaces for the northern community.

Growth and Economy

Support projected growth with well connected services, amenities and commercial opportunities to fit the needs of the community.



Ngaaruawaahia - Town Centre Opportunities

Connected Communities

Promote safe, efficient and attractive active mode connections to encourage walkability and reduce car dominance

1. Create a high quality pedestrian experience along Jesmond Road with reduced speeds and pedestrian prioritised movement.
2. Provide a clear pedestrian link from bridge down to edge of the Waikato River.
3. Improve the Jesmond Street five leg roundabout at the eastern end with a pedestrian and cycling focused solution.
4. Provide a safe and prioritised pedestrian and cycling connection.
5. Review of on street parking, there are carparks too close to zebra crossing obstructing visibility.
6. Upgrade intersection at Old Taupiri Rd and Regent St.
7. Clear sightlines and visibility at New World carpark entry points.
8. Increase visibility turning out of Martin Street.
9. Maximise active mode connectivity through roundabout to improve access to Durham Street Precinct.
10. Improve visibility at the corner of Waingaro Road and Herschel Street.

Other opportunities

- Create a wayfinding and signage strategy and plan that reinforces key cultural sites, routes and amenities.

Identity

Strengthen the existing identity and character of the place

1. Kiingitanga Reserve, an Urupa, and Tuurangawaewae House are significant cultural sites that deserve recognition by way of protection and preservation.
2. Provide visual cues across the North Island Main Trunk by improving the back/service areas of Durham Street buildings and edge of Kiingitanga Reserve with landscape treatment and art.
3. Opportunity for a rest point with bike parking and e bike charging stations at The Point and along Waikato River.
4. Market area at Jesmond Street - inclusion of shelter to encourage more active use of the space.
5. Proposed masterplan for The Point with recreational facilities, extended Te Awa River Ride cycle route/walkway and carparking.
6. Key corner site - opportunity for mixed use community functions such as library, meeting rooms and retail.

Other opportunities

- Design guidelines around town centre appearance and improved existing retail and commercial frontages with canopies, street furniture, seating, planting etc. Involve local schools in painting murals to built a sense of ownership within the community.
- Opportunity for story telling, signage and expression of cultural narratives through township - specific places to be investigated.
- Consolidate community facilities where possible, consider relocation or land swap.

Natural Environment

Connect communities to blue-green networks and provide recreational activities and opportunities

1. Protect existing trees and look to provide upgraded seating, bins and other amenities.

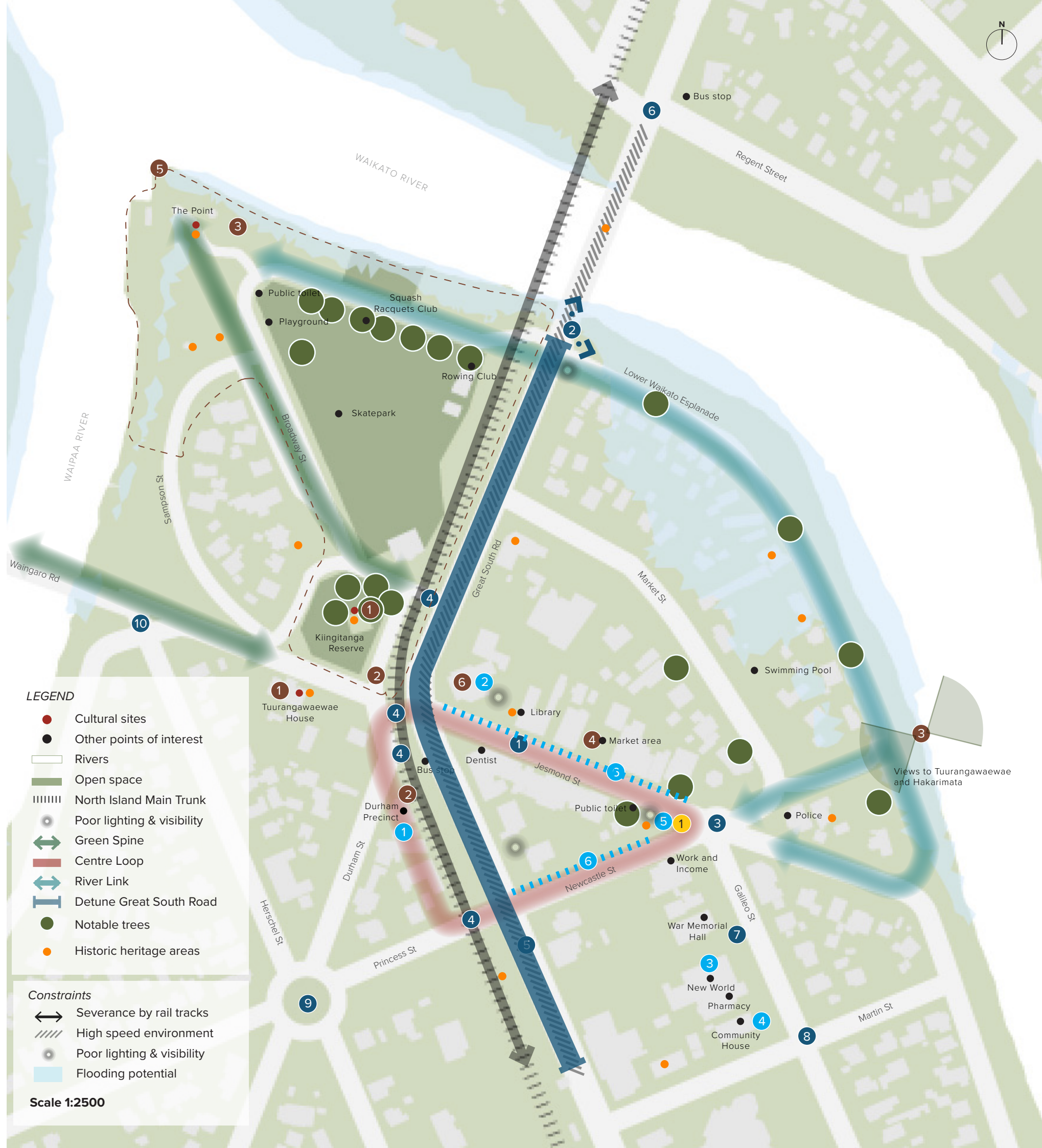
Other opportunities

- Consider inclusion of water sensitive design initiatives such as rain gardens, planted medians, permeable paving, swales and drought resistant planting.

Growth and Economy

Support projected growth with well connected services, amenities and commercial opportunities to fit the needs of the community

1. Future proof Durham Precinct.
2. Redevelop the corner site with opportunities to combine with other community uses.
3. Consider future expansion of New World as a anchor tenant and catalyst.
4. Opportunity to relocate Community House to accommodate and enable growth of community services.
5. Redevelop Plunket building for future community use.
6. Consolidate gaps in the streetscape and reactivate vacant sites with functions that provide active uses after hours.



Town Centre Edge Conditions

A high quality public realm is made up of a number of qualities that engages with pedestrians.
The three main qualities investigated here are:

- Permeability
- Transparency
- Built to Boundary

Permeability looks at the provision of pedestrian access points at street frontage.
Transparency involves the visual extension of the public space in to the private space and is particularly important for retail uses where they rely on visual cues to draw in passing pedestrians.

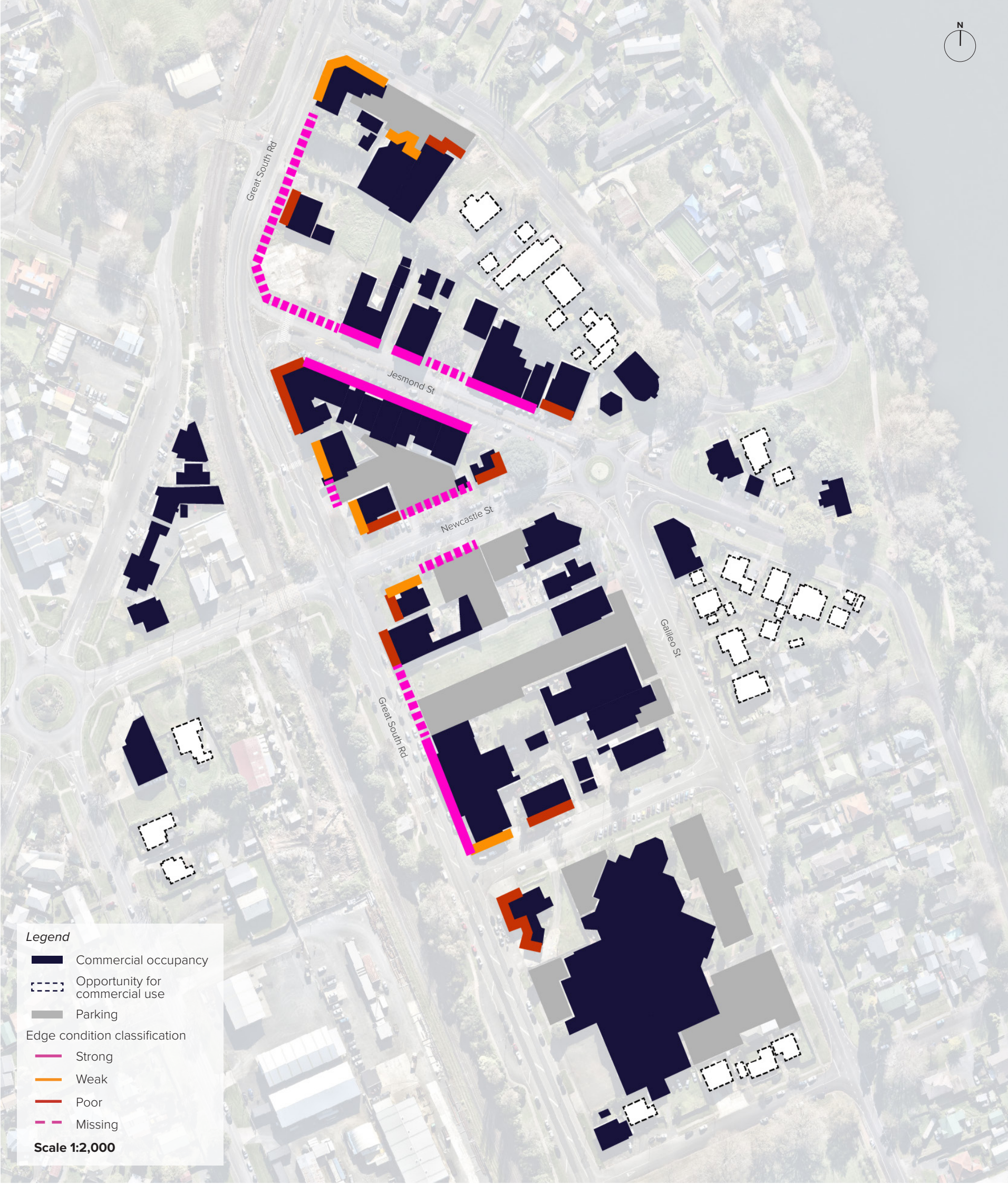
The public/private interfaces of the Ngaaruawaahia and Taupiri town centre streetscapes have been visually evaluated based on the above qualities and identified on the plans below as strong, weak, poor or missing edge conditions.

A building frontage that illustrates all three of the above characteristics is identified as having a strong edge condition and a building frontage with just one as poor.

The key frontages identified in the District Plan for Ngaaruawaahia are Jesmond Street and Great South Road from Jesmond to Martin Street. The frontages are fragmented and a mix of strong, weak and poor. A key area of improvement is the built form at the intersection of Jesmond and Great South Road, the two corner sites are gateways and bookends to the main street and will be a significant contributor to the quality of the streetscape. The town centre is also characterised by a large amount of mid block parking, resulting in large gaps along these key street frontages.



View of Jesmond Street in Ngaaruawaahia



Key Moves & Outcomes

The opportunities identified were shared with the community across two open days and through online engagement, where feedback and support was gathered. The opportunities were also assessed against the agreed Outcome Principles for the project, providing a basis for assessment.

The feedback received relating to the opportunities identified were considered together to confirm the key moves and outcomes for Ngaaruawaahia and how these are to be prioritised over the short, medium and long term. It was recognised that some of the projects are highly complex, will have associated cost, and will need further detailed investigation before they are able to be confirmed in the Long Term Plan for delivery.

The key moves and outcomes have been identified on the following maps. The anticipated prioritisation of these is addressed in the Implementation Section of the document. The key moves and outcomes have also been grouped into the design principles of:

- **Connected Communities**
- **Identity**
- **Natural Environment**
- **Growth and Economy**

Walking and cycling activities have been identified separately as inputs from the Transport Workstream.




View of The Point in Ngaaruawaahia


Ngaaruawaahia - Wider Town

Natural Environment

Recreational

- 
1. Undertake open space and playground assessment and investigate potential locations for parks to serve wider Ngaaruawaahia. Consider multi functional uses such as wetland, playground and community gardens.
 2. Complete masterplan for The Point.


Ecological

- 
3. Improve resilience to localised flooding through a possible suite:
 - Increased permeable surfaces and attenuation planting.
 - Riverbank planting.
 - River edge terracing to protect recreation areas next to the river.
 - Greening of current paved spaces (swales).
 - Wetlands (to be confirmed through investigation).
 - Water sensitive urban design (to be confirmed through investigation).
 4. Increase native tree cover and fruit trees in town.
 5. Include additional street trees along Great South Road.

Other projects

- Improve native fauna habitat through education/interpretation and restoration of waterways (native fish, eels etc).
- Undertake a climate risk assessment.

Growth and Economy

- 
6. Key catalyst development sites:
 - a. Corner of Great South Road and Jesmond Street. Community uses - Library, community hall, innovation hub, communal working hub.
 - b. Investigate the use of the Chorus site at centre of Jesmond Street as a village green - Potential uses include urban community garden, urban play space and maintaining the weekend market.
 - c. Redevelop Plunket building for future community use.



Playground



Urban play in Village Green



Mountain bike/pump track



Kids bike park



River access











Urban community garden



Ngaaruawaahia - Town Centre

Connected Communities



Active modes

-  1. Extension of the Te Awa River Ride cycle route, including a footpath connection to Tuurangawaewae Marae.
-  2. Create a clear walking and cycling recreation link from the Waikato River to the Waipaa River, linking Hakarimata Ranges through Kiingitanga Reserve, Jesmond Street and Waikato Esplanade.
-  3. Create a clear walking and cycling recreational loop to include Waipaa Esplanade Reserve, The Point, Regent Street/Old Taupiri Road, Lower Waikato Esplanade, Durham Precinct and Tuurangawaewae House.
-  4. Create a pedestrian and cycle connection between Te Awa River Ride cycle route (Belt Street), St Paul's Catholic School, Rugby League Club (Whatawhata Avenue), Centennial Park and the Waipaa River Trail.
-  5. New active mode connection over the Waikato River.
-  6. Upgrade active modes facilities over Waingaro Road bridge.
-  7. Create a gateway marker at 46 & 108 Great South Road.
-  8. Upgrade of corridors with active modes:
 - Jesmond Street.
 - Great South Road (Both directions - cycleway and footpath).
 - Hakarimata Road and Brownlee Avenue (shared path).
 - Waikato Esplanade (bi-directional cycleway and footpath).
 - Lower Waikato Esplanade (Both directions - cycleway and footpath).




Intersection and roundabout upgrade

-  9. Improve the safety and visibility of intersections:
 - Great South Road and River Road.
 - Great South Road and Jesmond Street (proposed new roundabout).
 - Great South Road, Princess Street and Newcastle Street (signalisation under investigation).
 - Great South Road and Waingaro Road (proposed closure under investigation).
 - Great South Road and Market Street.
 - Waingaro Road and Herschel Street (traffic calming or mirrors).
 - Old Taupiri Road (south), Great South Road and Regent Street.
 - Martin Street and Galileo Street (still under investigation).
-  10. Improve the safety and visibility of Jesmond Street roundabout.

Enhancing the corridor experience

-  11. Jesmond Street improvements:
 - Consider shared zones and additional informal crossings to improve pedestrian connections.
 - Additional informal crossings and streetscape upgrades. Integrate crossings with intersection upgrades and development sites.
-  12. Great South Road improvements:
 - Traffic calming and speed management.
 - Roadway art at existing pedestrian crossings.
 - Additional informal crossing points.
 - Beautify the streetscape with planted promenade.
 - Separated active modes corridor.
 - Formalise crossing on Galileo Street outside Ngaaruawaahia Primary School.
13. River Road:
 - Traffic calming and speed management.
 - Formalise crossings in front of Tuurangawaewae Marae.

Transport Infrastructure

-  14. Locate Transport Hub to south of Durham Precinct (location under investigation).
-  15. Provide bike parking at the base of the Hakarimata Ranges and The Point.
-  16. Identify spaces for charging points for electric vehicles and bikes at Hakarimata Ranges, Jesmond Street and Durham Precinct.
17. Define and formalise car parks at the Paterson Park in front of the netball courts.



Wayfinding signage



Active modes bridge



Sheltered and protected bike parking



Separated active modes parking



Tactical urbanism at crossings



Bus hub

Identity

Amenities

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
1. Development of a reserve site masterplan for Te Mana O Te Rangi Reserve that expresses and represents hapuu koorero through signage, planting and artwork.
 2. Upgrade toilets, provide shelter and seating at Paterson Park.
 3. Provide rest stops, drinking fountains, bike parking, shelters and viewing platforms along the Waikato River (Lower Waikato Esplanade and Sampson Street).
 4. Upgrade Waipaa Esplanade walkway trail with rest stops, lookouts, outdoor seating.
 5. Create a wayfinding suite for key destinations including the following; Ngaaruawaahia town centre, Hakarimata Ranges, The Point and Waipaa Esplanade Walkway.
 6. Celebrate sites of cultural significance and protect waahi tapu sites through a suite of bi-lingual signage, art work trails, cultural expression and storytelling opportunities at Kiingitanga Reserve, The Point, Hakarimata Ranges, Tuurangawaewae Marae and House, Pukeiaahua Paa and The Flour Mill.
 7. Placement of expressions (pou, koowhatu, native trees) to whakanoa (restore balance) to locations of colonial reminders.

Maintenance/CPTED/Safety

-
-
-
-
9. Fix light bulbs that are not working along Great South Road.
 10. Introduce mirrors and lights at staircase at the base of the bridge.
 11. Trim overgrown vegetation at 3 Galileo Street, 3 Kent Street, The Point, Great South Road and Market Street.
 12. Clean up of graffiti at 11 Jordan Street, 21 River Road, 3 Broadway Street, Great South Road bridge and along Great South Road.

Other projects

- Review and update the Commercial Design Guidelines.
- Undertake maintenance and repair of street lighting across the township.



Cultural storytelling signage



Integrated narratives



Shelter and shade at parks



Viewing platform along river



Village green/Town Square



Integrated gateway and interpretive signage

Ngaaruawaahia - Active Modes

Active Modes

- 1

Future walking and cycling facility across Waikato River.
- 2

Improved walking and cycling connection to Hakarimata Ranges and Te Araroa.
- 3

Improved walking and cycling connection to Te Awa River Ride via Jesmond Street and Waikato Esplanade.
- 4

Upgrade Old Taupiri Road/Great South Road intersection (under investigation).
- 5

Upgrade Great South Road/Princess St intersection to better integrate with rail crossing. Potential signalisation and a raised intersection under investigation.
- 6

Proposed roundabout with raised platforms for pedestrians and cyclists (under investigation).
- 7

Safety improvements at existing roundabout (under investigation).
- 8

Jesmond Street upgrade. This could include providing safer facilities for active modes, increased space for pedestrians, or provision of more space next to shop frontages for outdoor dining (under investigation).
- 9

Remove existing zebra crossing when new crossings are provided at Princess St signals and Jesmond roundabout.
- 10

Provide raised platform at the existing zebra crossing to improve access to public toilets.
- 11

Closure of Waingaro Road intersection and level crossing.
- 12

Provide connections to Tuurangawaewae Marae



Artist Impressions of Key Moves

Amenity upgrades to Paterson Park



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Hopuhopu

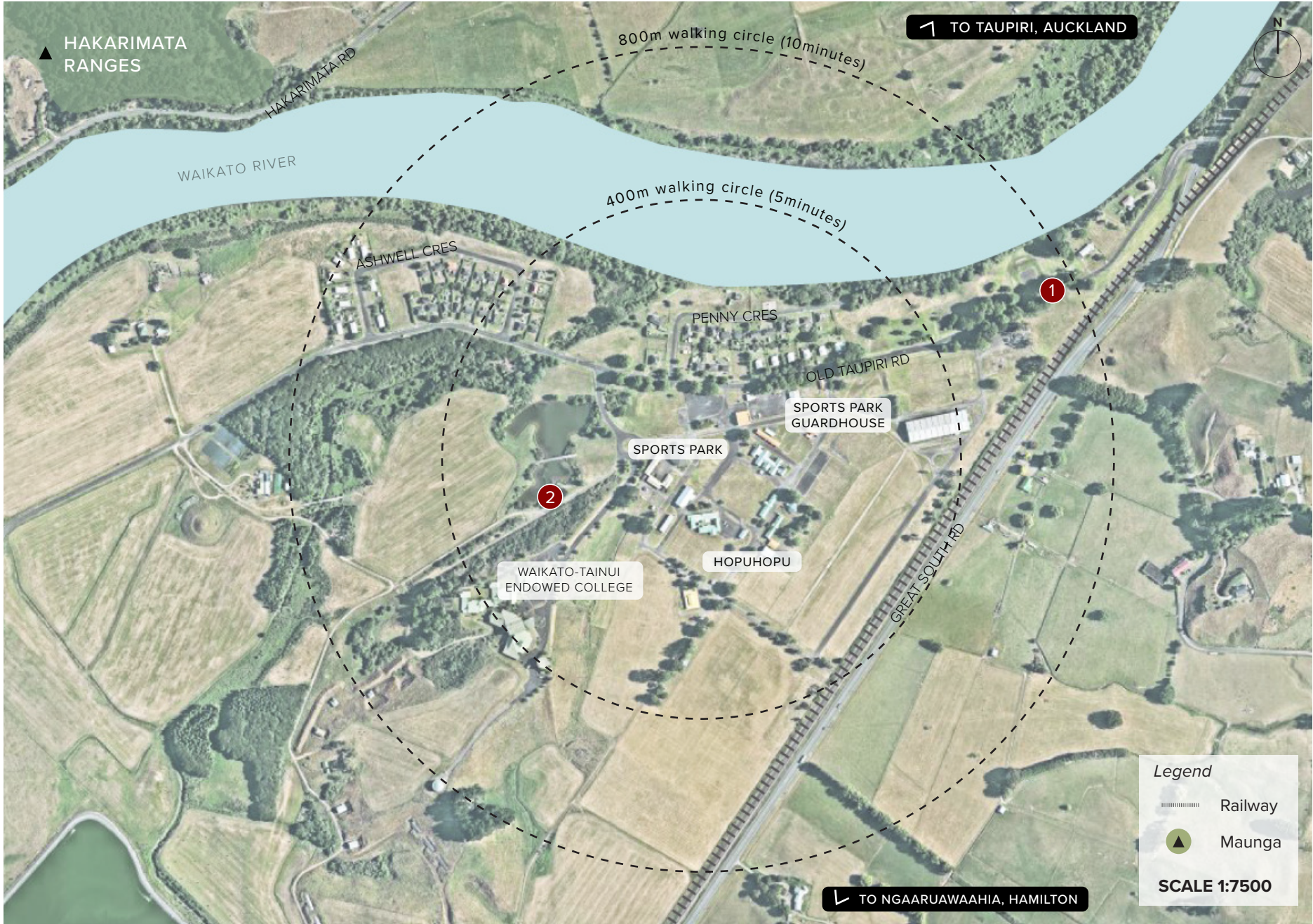
Local Context

Hopuhopu played a crucial role in the raupatu (confiscation) Treaty settlement negotiations of 1989 until 1995 for Waikato-Tainui. Through the treaty settlement process, the land was returned to Waikato-Tainui. It is held under Te Wherowhero title, which was established as part of the Waikato Raupatu Claims Settlement Act 1995. The Te Wherowhero title land is held by Custodian Trustees for the benefit of all members of Waikato-Tainui.

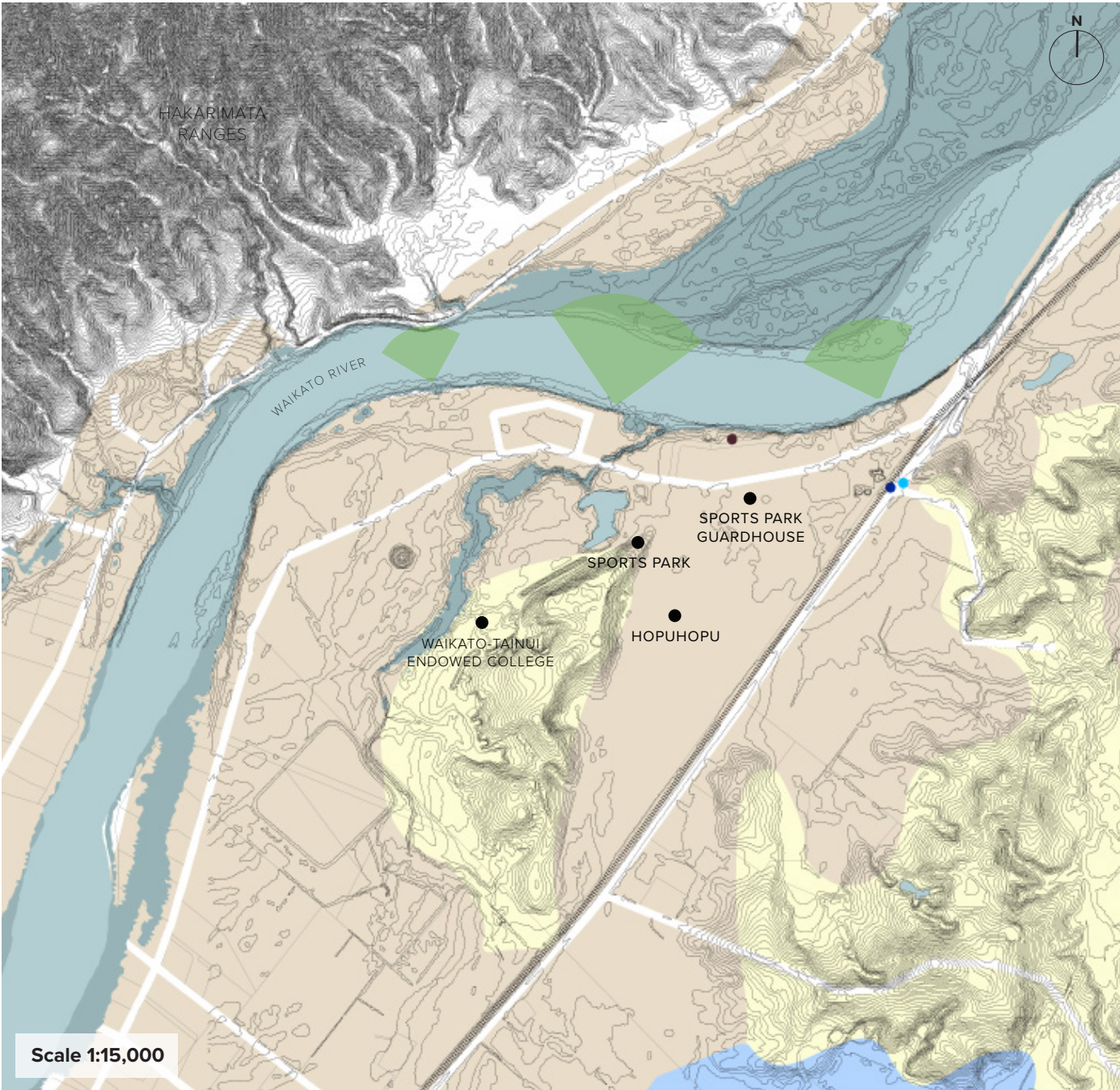
From 1922 until 1989, Hopuhopu served as an active military camp. As part of base closures within the New Zealand Defence Force, Hopuhopu ceased to be an active military camp.

Waikato-Tainui have developed a masterplan for the Hopuhopu Innovation Hub, which includes housing, recreation, education, and nursery facilities. It also will be home to the Tribal Hub.

This plan seeks to support the development of the Hopuhopu Innovation hub, and focuses on how access to Hopuhopu from Ngaaruwaaahia and Taupiri can be better facilitated.



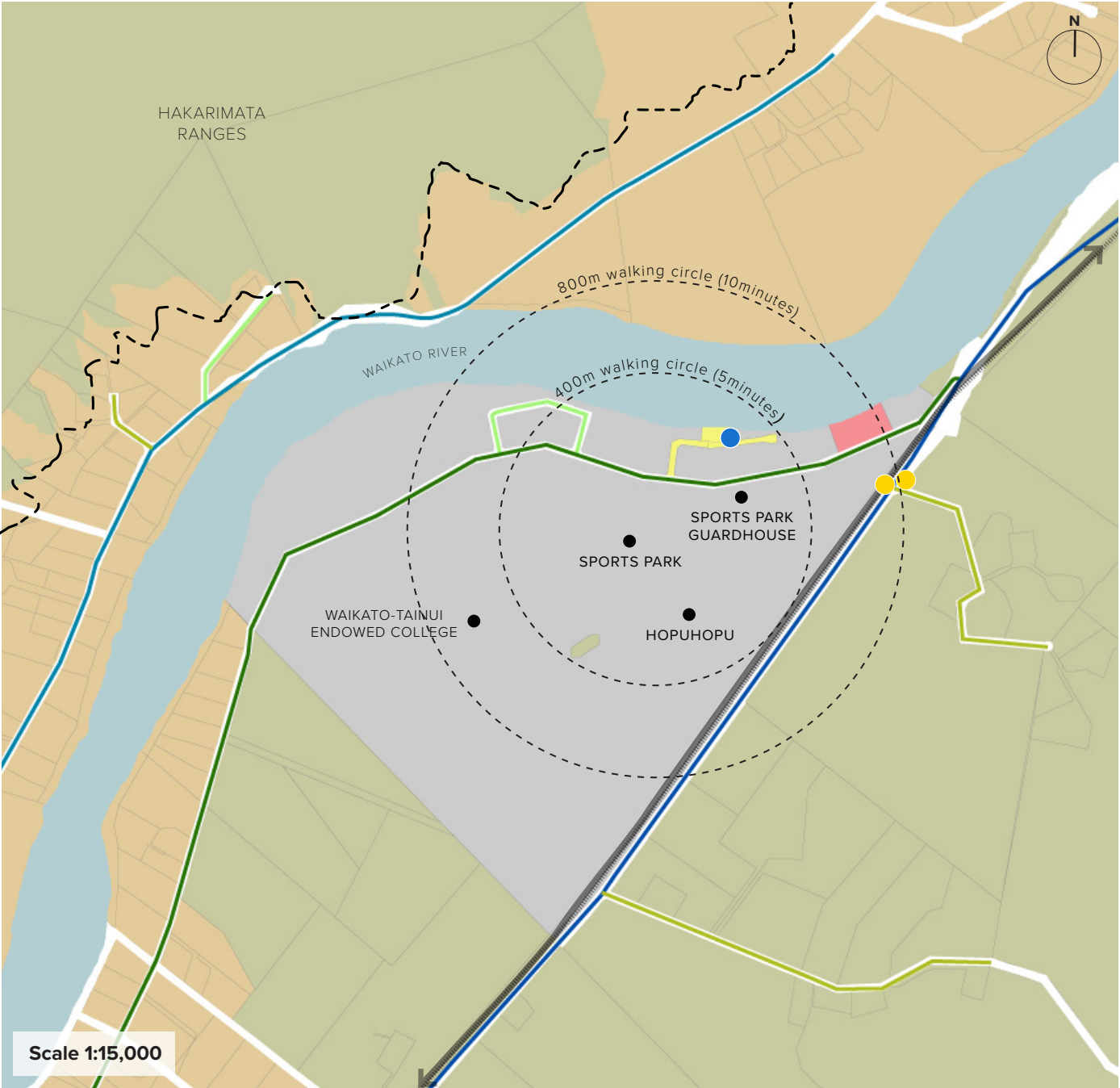
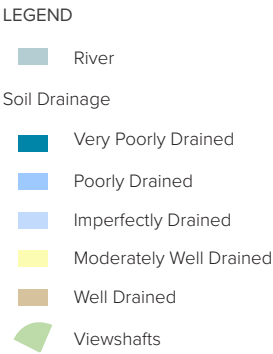
Site Analysis



Natural features, soil drainage

Hopuhopu is relatively flat with an average height of 30 metres above sea level, with the Endowed College elevated above the lower areas. The College provides panoramic views of the Hakarimata Ranges and Waikato River. Key view points have also been identified along the Waikato River towards the Hakarimata ranges.

The landscape is characterised by lowland plains contributing to fertile and alluvial soil, influenced by the deposition of sediments carried by the Waikato River. Most of the area is relatively well drained.



Existing site features, land use and access

The majority of Hopuhopu is zoned as Special Purpose. The site consists of various buildings, with the most significant one being the Waikato-Tainui Endowed College for Research and Development.

There are existing housing units along the Waikato River, storage and maintenance buildings, and a large portion of the area is dedicated to sports fields and open space.

Waikato-Tainui are currently developing the 170ha Hopuhopu Innovation Precinct over the next 20-30 years. The precinct will include housing, recreation, a nursery, education facilities, a tribal hub, business incubator and a whare taonga, to share the rich history of Waikato-Tainui.

The relationship of this document with Hopuhopu is to support the aspirations of Waikato-Tainui on this site and identify how access and connection to Ngaaruwaaahia and Taupiri can be provided that strengthen the connection between these three towns.



Identification of Opportunities

Opportunities have been identified for the settlement of Hopuhopu through a multi-staged approach. These have focused on how the development of Hopuhopu by Waikato-Tainui can be supported through connectivity and access. The opportunities are a combination of:

- The contextual analysis.
- A spatial analysis undertaken through a desktop assessment.
- A site visit in combination with Council staff, Elected Members and Community Board representatives.
- Input received from technical reports.
- Inputs received by Council through community surveys.
- Feedback received from the community via online engagement and community open day event held in Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri. These sought to understand the issues experienced by the community, and opportunities seen by those that live, work and play in the three towns to improve the livability of these places.

The opportunities for investment have been grouped under the headings of the design principles, noting that some opportunities will align with multiple design principles.

The opportunities were grouped into themes relating to:

- **Connected Communities**
Opportunities relating to transport and accessing the places people want to get to, such Ngaaruawaahia and Tuarangawaewae Marae, and Taupiri and the Taupiri Urupaa.
- **Identity**
Opportunities related to telling the history, and highlighting the identity, of Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri.
- **Natural Environment**
Opportunities related to improving access to, and the quality of, the natural environment.
- **Growth and Economy**
Opportunities related to enhancing commercial activity and supporting future growth.

The following pages provide a summary of the opportunities identified through this process. Some of the opportunities sit outside of the remit of Waikato District Council, however were recorded to fully understand the issues and opportunities seen by the community. These opportunities have been assessed and considered by Council as part of this process and have informed the key moves and outcomes. Not all opportunities have been progressed.



Hopuhopu Opportunities

Connected Communities

Promote safe, efficient and attractive active mode connections to encourage walkability and reduce car dominance.

- 1. Extend the Te Awa River Ride cycle route from Ngaaruawaahia through Hopuhopu with the inclusion of wayfinding, rest stops and improved facilities along the river.
- 2. Provide safe and prioritised active mode connections between Ngaaruawaahia and Taupiri that is located off the main road. Consider safety, directness and visibility.
- 3. Upgrade and bus shelters and improve access to bus stops on Great South Road.
- 4. Review bus routes and bus stops down Old Taupiri Road in response to anticipated growth of the settlement, providing residents better access to public transport.

Identity

Strengthen the existing identity and character of the place.

- 1. A boulevard of trees line Old Taupiri Road as you enter the Hopuhopu area from the north-east. There is opportunity for a physical marker and a similar boulevard to be planted on the west as gateways into the township.
- 2. Enable continued development of cultural and visitor activities in collaboration with Waikato-Tainui that reflects the heritage of the area.

Natural Environment

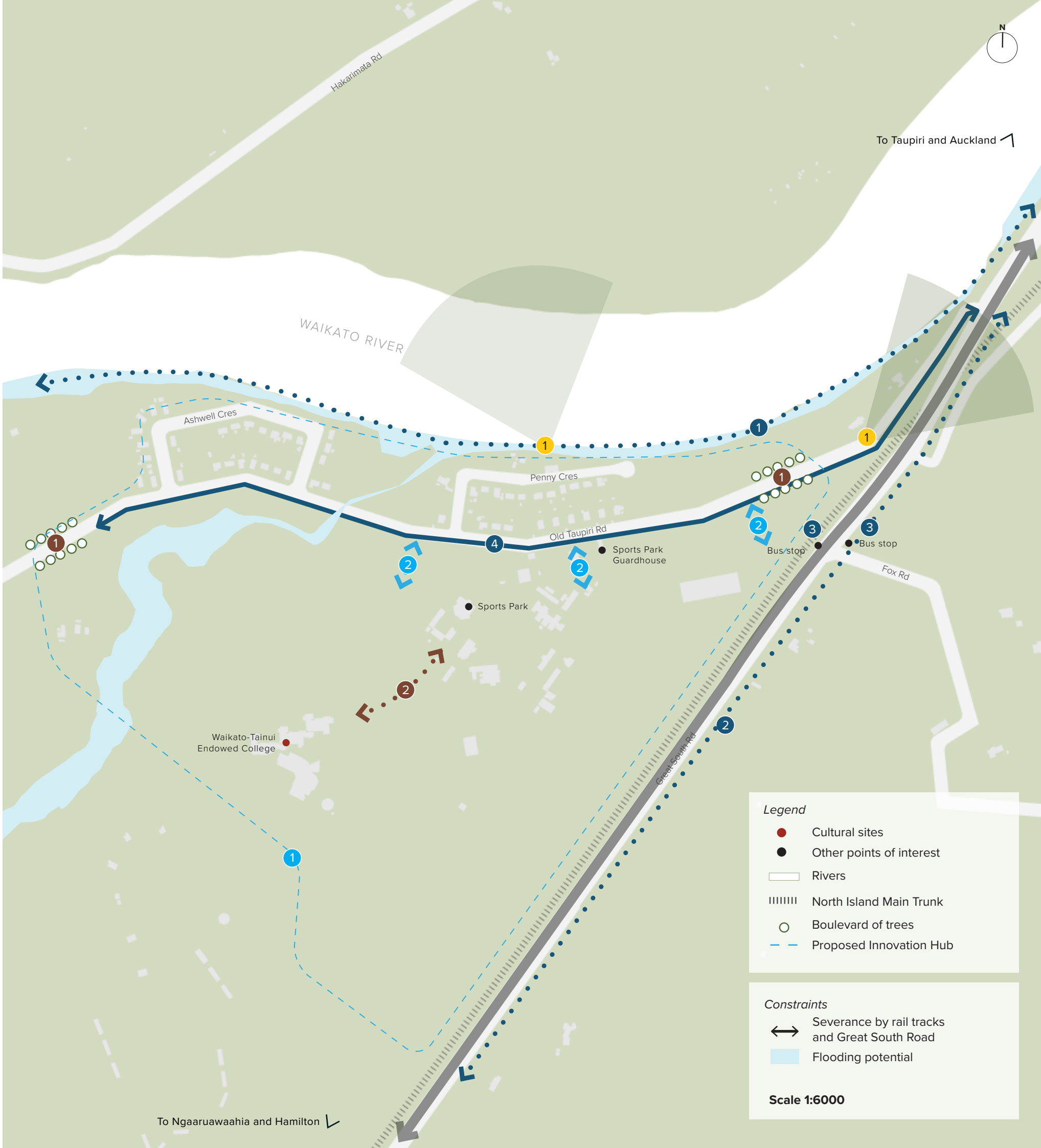
Connect communities to blue-green networks and provide recreational activities and opportunities.

- 1. Opportunities to open up view corridors to significant natural features such the Waikato River, Taupiri Maunga and Hakarimata Ranges.

Growth and Economy

Support projected growth with well connected services, amenities and commercial opportunities to fit the needs of the community.

- 1. Future Hopuhopu Innovation Hub which will include residential, commercial, education and recreational functions.
- 2. Proposed entry points.



Key Moves & Outcomes

The opportunities identified were shared with the community across two open days and through online engagement, where feedback and support was gathered. The opportunities were also assessed against the agreed Outcome Principles for the project, providing a basis for assessment.

The feedback received relating to the opportunities identified were considered together to confirm the key moves and outcomes for Hopuhopu and how these are to be prioritised over the short, medium and long term. It is recognised that some of the projects are highly complex, will have associated cost, and will need further detailed investigation before they are able to be confirmed in the Long Term Plan for delivery.

The key moves and outcomes have been identified on the following maps. The anticipated prioritisation of these is addressed in the Implementation Section of the document. The key moves and outcomes have also been grouped into the design principles of:



- Connected Communities
- Identity
- Natural Environments
- Growth and Economy

Walking and cycling activities have been identified separately as inputs from the Transport Workstream.




Hopuhopu

Connected Communities


Active mode opportunities

-  1. Extension of the Te Awa River Ride through Hopuhopu with the inclusion of rest stops and formal and informal viewing areas.
-  2. Create a safe and clear active mode connection between Ngaaruawaahia and Taupiri along Great South Road (separated cycleway).

Enhancing the pedestrian experience

-  3. Establish a boulevard of trees as a gateway marker into Hopuhopu.
-  4. Protect existing trees/boulevard.
-  5. Provide bus shelters and a new pedestrian crossing for existing and future bus stops. Explore the re-location of bus stops to a location within Hopuhopu that does not require users to cross Great South Road and the NIMT and provides better access to public transport for residents.

Intersection and roundabout upgrade

-  6. Improve the safety and visibility of the Old Taupiri (north)/Great South Road intersection (under investigation).

Identity

-  7. Support the development of the Waikato-Tainui Masterplan for Hopuhopu.



Rest stop and viewing area



Upgraded bus shelters



Riverside shared path



Tree boulevard



View of Te Putu Street

Taupiri

Local Context

Taupiri Village is located at the foot of Taupiri Maunga, a significant site for Waikato-Tainui. Adjacent to the Waikato River, and the Mangawara Stream, the village has a population of approximately 560 people, with strong growth anticipated to occur in the area.

There are a number of paa sites in and near the village and the area is significant to Mana Whenua.

The town is located on Great South Road, previously SH1 and Gordonton Road (SH1B). With the opening of the Huntly Bypass Taupiri is no longer the main transport route through the Waikato, however still remains a busy route providing access to the south of Huntly. The North Island Main Trunk Line bisects the town, creating a barrier to east-west movement particularly for people walking and people on bikes.

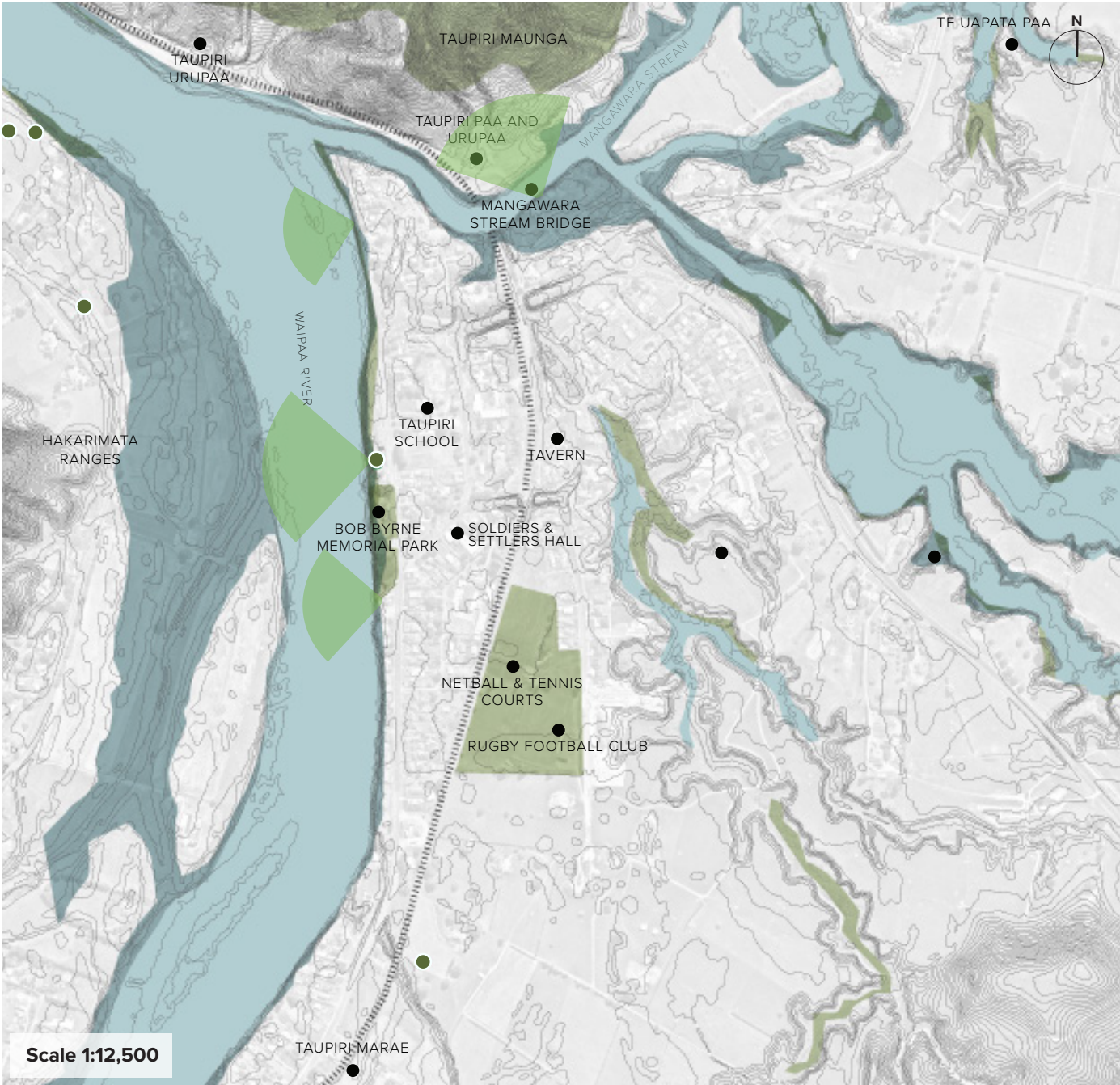
There are small areas of commercial activity within the village, focused on Te Putu Street. The Taupiri interchange, accessed via Gordonton Road, provides some convenience retail for residents.



Site photos



Site Analysis



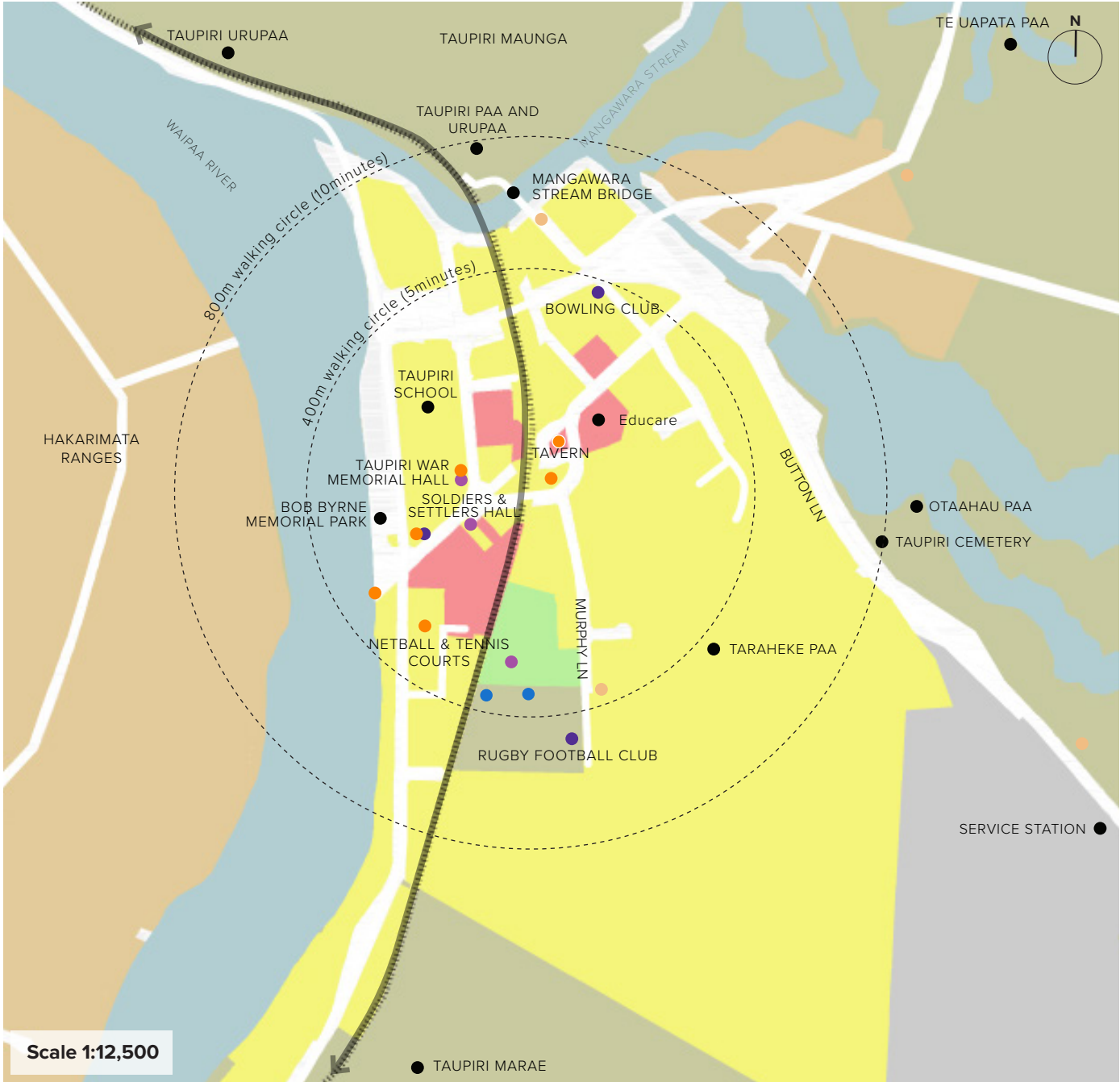
Natural features

Taupiri is relatively flat with an average height of about 30 metres above sea level.

To the north, one of the prominent features is the iconic Taupiri Mountain, a Maaori paa and urupaa with strong historical significance. The area is characterised by greenery, agricultural fields, and the Waipaa River and its tributaries and waterways.

LEGEND

- Flood zones
- River
- Open space
- Notable Trees
- Viewshafts



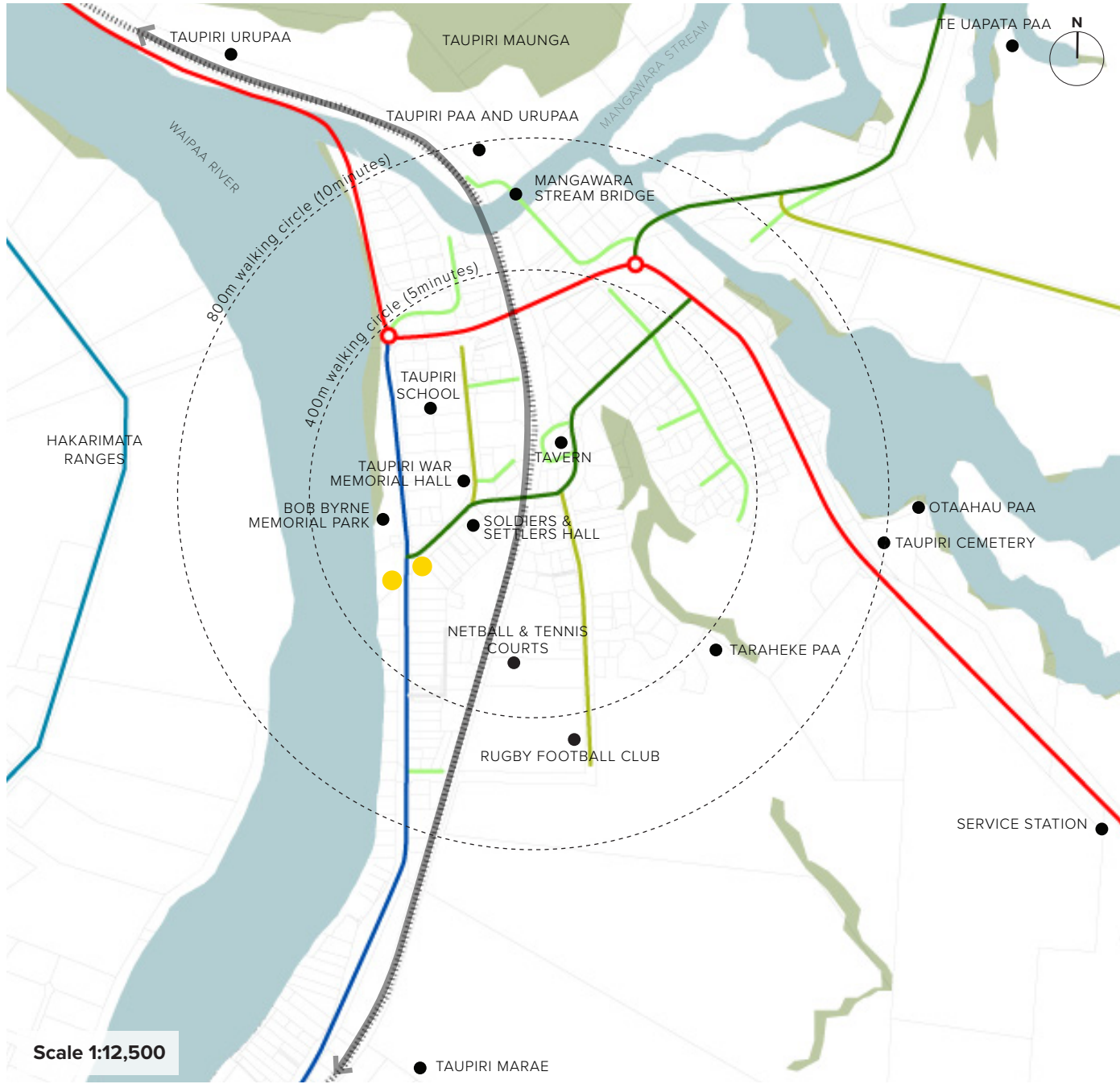
Existing site features and land use

The Proposed District Plan has identified new residential areas between Murphy Lane and Buton Lane to facilitate future growth.

The upgrade of services should be carefully identified and planned to support both employment and residential growth within a walkable catchment of the Township. By focusing on urban forms of growth primarily in towns and villages and encouraging compact urban development, residents have the opportunity to “live, work, and play” in their local area.

LEGEND

- Railway (NIMT)
- Non Council-owned community facilities
- Council-owned community facilities
- Historic heritage areas
- Playground
- Paa site entry
- Land use
 - Business - Centre Zone
 - Residential
 - Open space
 - Future Urban Zone



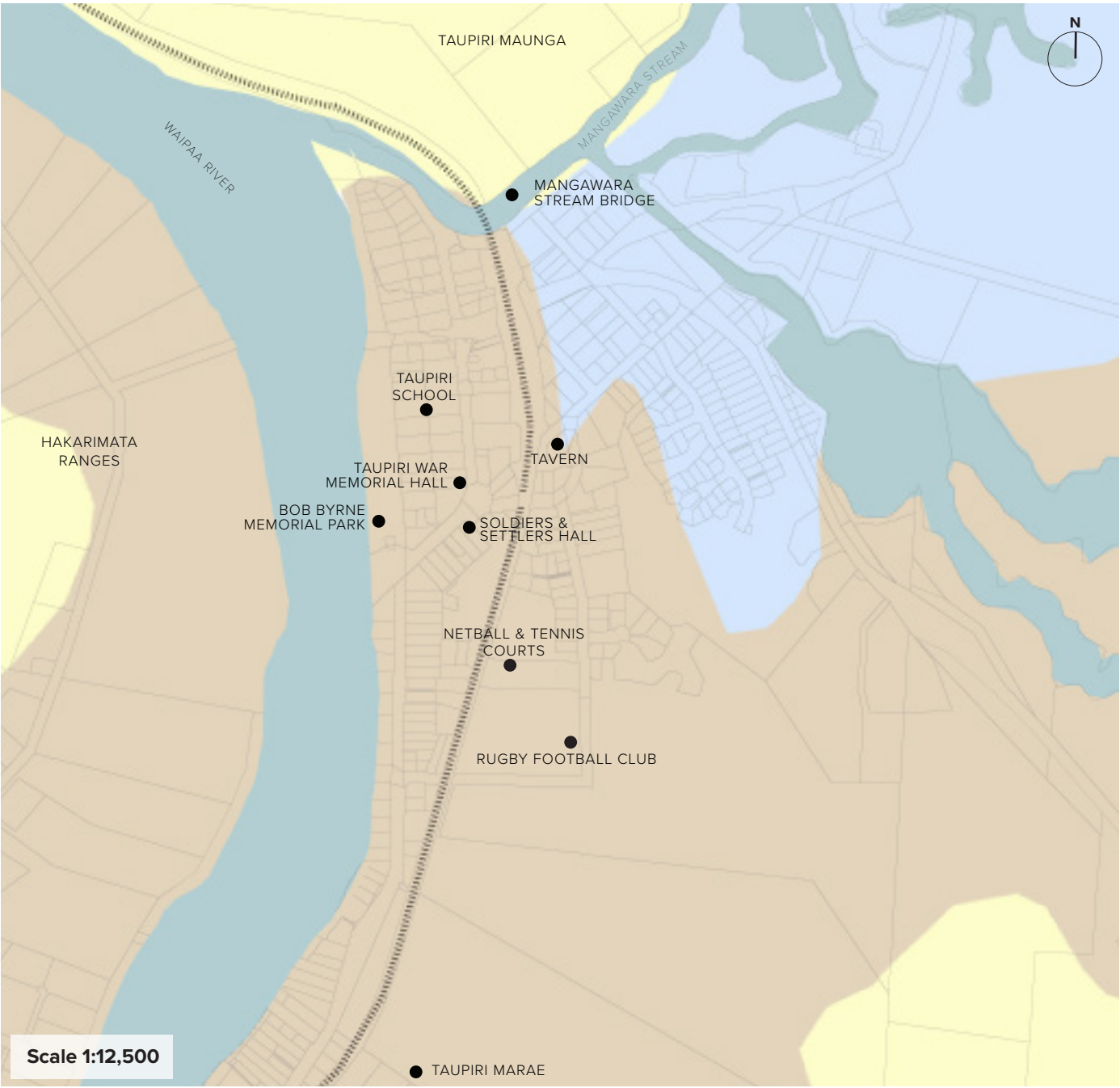
Access and cycle connections

Taupiri has strong north/south connections with the road network running parallel to the Waikato River and the NIMT. East/west connections are limited to where the current network crosses the NIMT at Gordonton Road to the north and Te Putu Street to the south.

Walking and cycling facilities are limited and generally constrained. There are underpasses for pedestrian access under Gordonton Road and Te Putu Street that are of a poor standard. There are no east/west connections to the south of Te Putu Street.

LEGEND

- Railway (NIMT)
- Bus stop
- Road classification**
 - Arterial
 - Primary Collector
 - Secondary Collector
 - Access
 - Low volume



Soil drainage

Taupiri is mainly characterised by lowland plains to the south of the Maunga. Large areas of land to the south of the Mangawara Stream has drainage issues and is prone to flooding.

Large areas of contaminated land has been identified within the township particularly in the new residential development area between Murphy lane and Button lane.

LEGEND

- Soil Drainage**
 - Imperfectly Drained
 - Moderately Well Drained
 - Well Drained

Identification of Opportunities

Opportunities have been identified for the settlement of Taupiri through a multi-staged approach. The opportunities are a combination of:

- The contextual analysis.
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- Input received from technical reports.
- Inputs received by Council through community surveys.
- Feedback received from the community via online engagement and community open day event held in Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri. These sought to understand the issues experienced by the community and opportunities seen by those that live, work and play in the three towns to improve the livability of these places.

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- **Natural Environments**
Opportunities related to improving access to, and the quality of, the natural environment.
- **Growth and Economy**
Opportunities related to enhancing commercial activity and supporting future growth.

The following pages provide a summary of the opportunities identified through this process. Some of the opportunities sit outside of the remit of Waikato District Council, however were recorded to fully understand the issues and opportunities seen by the community. These opportunities have been assessed and considered by Council as part of this process and have informed the key moves and outcomes. Not all opportunities have been progressed.



View of Taupiri Maunga from Great South Road

Taupiri Opportunities

Connected Communities

Promote safe, efficient and attractive active mode connections to encourage walkability and reduce car dominance.

1. Opportunity to extend the Te Awa River Ride cycle route from Ngaaruawaahia via Hopuhopu to Taupiri.
2. Provide safe walking and cycling connections to the service station precinct on Gordonton Road.
3. Create safe and visible pedestrian and cycling connections between Taupiri Marae and Hopuhopu.
4. Provide a safe crossing facility at Great South Road bus stop.
5. Review layout of the Great South Rd and Gordonton Rd roundabout to improve visibility and safety.
6. Provide signage to Taupiri urupaa along Watts Grove.
7. Create safer crossings at Te Putu St from Educare to the footpath across the road.
8. Upgrade active modes facilities on Te Putu Street bridge.
9. Improve the connection at Taupiri School, currently a kea crossing but no formal pedestrian crossing. Maneuvering & on-street parking outside Taupiri School is limited.
10. Improve the safety of Murphy lane/Te Putu St intersection visibility.
11. Upgrade stairs to the urupaa.
12. Provide interim CPTED solutions at the two underpass - Te Putu Street and Greenlane Rd and consider future alternative crossing solutions.
13. Detune Great South Road to enable better cross connectivity and minimise severance to the river.
14. Provide north-south connections through the new growth area between Taupiri Marae and Murphy Lane.
15. Improve safety and visibility of Button Lane and Gordonton Road intersection.

Identity

Strengthen the existing identity and character of the place.

1. Utilise the river as a future transportation route and/or ecotourism opportunity with fishing/ river kai activities to tie-in with local community.
2. Opportunity for storytelling to improve connections, outcomes & protection of areas of cultural significance. E.g. Puke I Ahua, Taupiri Maunga, paa sites, urupaa.
3. Establish a community focal point on the eastern side of the rail tracks that reflects the local "village" identity.
4. Establish a riverside focal point that connects between the Hopin Stopin cafe, Bob Byrne Memorial Park and Te Putu Street commercial functions.
5. Improve lighting in targeted areas such as the Rugby Football Club.

Natural Environment

Connect communities to blue-green networks and provide recreational activities and opportunities.

1. Taupiri Maunga, Waikato River, Urupaa, Hakarimata Ranges, Flaxmill and several heritage sites are the assets that make Taupiri unique. These should be celebrated and promoted through story telling, way finding and iconic sculptures.
2. Upgrade pathways to include wayfinding, shelter, and rest stops to support riverside recreational use along the Waikato River and adjacent reserves. Consider other benefits such as weed/pest control and re-vegetation for river ecosystem restoration.
3. Initiatives to restore kiwi habitat at Taupiri Maunga.

Growth and Economy

Support projected growth with well connected services, amenities and commercial opportunities to fit the needs of the community.

1. Opportunity to consider local convenience to service new growth area closer to the Taupiri Marae.
2. Opportunity for future industrial uses around service station precinct on Gordonton Road.
3. The existing Taupiri Rugby Football Club are well used with the desire for another sports/ community hub targeted for the youth.
4. Opportunity for new community amenities within township i.e. Supervalu, post office, afterschool care and Educare.

Other opportunities

- Future proof for the aging population in Taupiri with the provision of appropriate accommodation and amenities.
- Identify and provide high quality open spaces to service future growth.



Town Centre Edge Conditions

A high quality public realm is made up of a number of qualities that engages with pedestrians.

The three main qualities investigated here are:

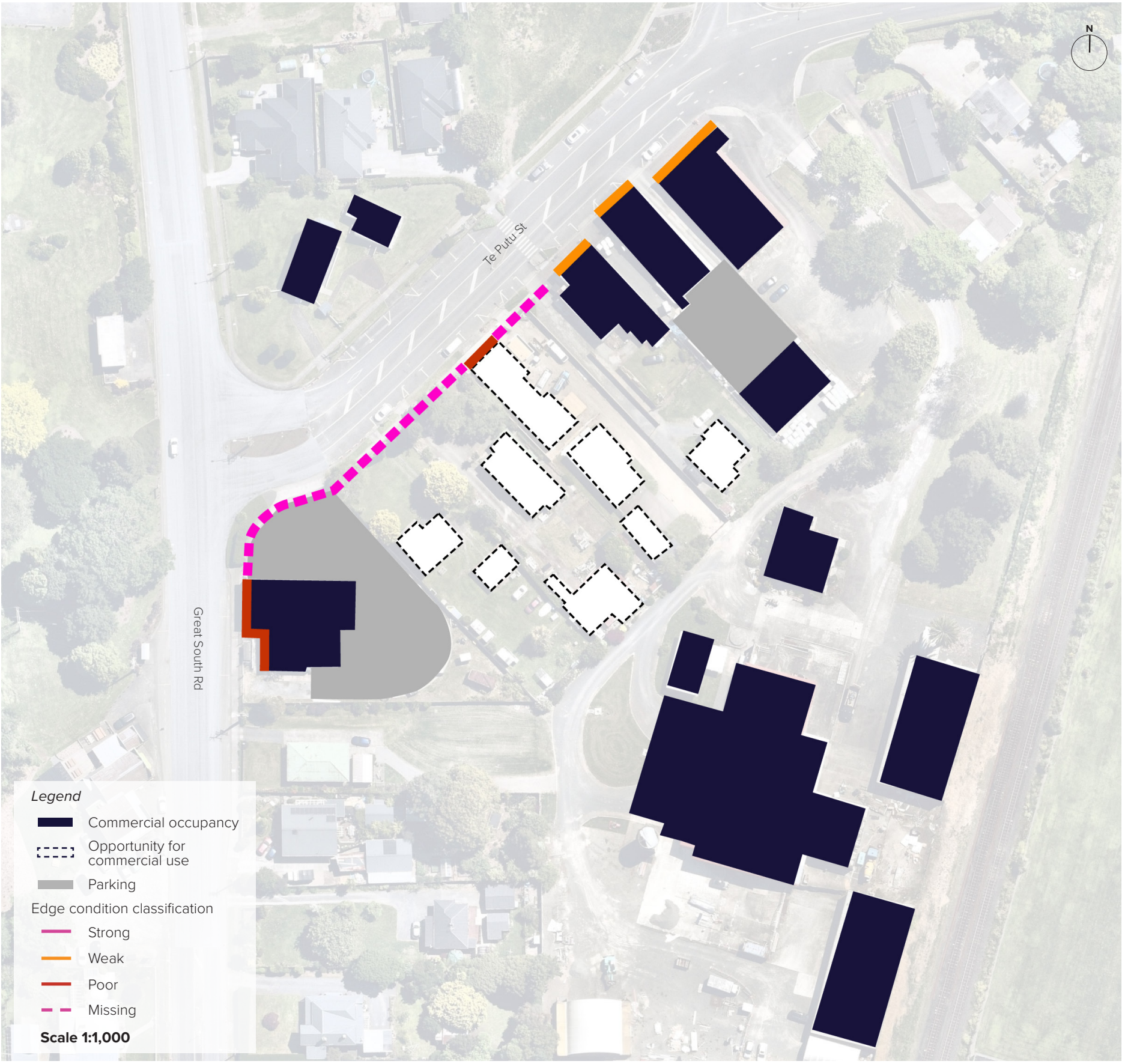
- Permeability
- Transparency
- Built to Boundary

Permeability looks at the provision of pedestrian access points at street frontage. Transparency involves the visual extension of the public space in to the private space and is particularly important for retail uses where they rely on visual cues to draw in passing pedestrians.

The public/private interfaces of the Taupiri town centre streetscapes have been visually evaluated based on the above qualities and identified on the plans below as strong, weak, poor or missing edge conditions.

A building frontage that illustrates all three of the above characteristics is identified as having a strong edge condition and a building frontage with just one as poor.

The edge condition along the main street of Taupiri is characterised by weak and missing frontages. Future opportunity to consolidate the centre with commercial development that is built to the boundary should be encouraged.





View at Te Putu Street in Taupiri

Key Moves & Outcomes

The opportunities identified were shared with the community across two open days, and through online engagement, where feedback and support was gathered. The opportunities were also assessed against the agreed Outcome Principles for the project, providing a basis for assessment.

The feedback received relating to the opportunities identified were considered together to confirm the key moves and outcomes for Taupiri and how these are to be prioritised over the short, medium and long term. It is recognised that some of the projects are highly complex, will have associated cost, and will need further detailed investigation before they are able to be confirmed in the Long Term Plan for delivery.

The key moves and outcomes have been identified on the following maps. The anticipated prioritisation of these is addressed in the Implementation Section of the document. The key moves and outcomes have also been grouped into the design principles of:

- Connected Communities
- Identity
- Natural Environments
- Growth and Economy

Walking and cycling activities have been identified separately as inputs from the Transport Workstream.



View of Bob Byrne Memorial Park

Taupiri Township

Connected Communities

Active mode opportunities

- 1. Extension of the Te Awa River Ride to Taupiri with the inclusion of rest stops and viewing areas.
- 2. Create a clear walking and cycling loop from town centre - Great South Road, Te Putu Street, Onslow Avenue, Gordonton Road and segregating off to Watts Grove to connect to Taupiri paa and urupaa.
- 3. Other active mode connections:
 - a. Upgrade Te Putu Street and bridge.
 - b. Taraheke Paa, Taupiri Marae and Great South Road with a connection over rail (under investigation).
 - c. Investigate pedestrian and cycle overbridge of railway connecting Great South Road to sports fields.
- 4. Create a wayfinding suite for key destinations including the urupaa, Taupiri Maunga, Te Putu Street, historic waka landing, Bob Byrne Memorial Park and sports field.
- 5. Create gateway markers into Taupiri.

Enhancing the pedestrian experience

- 6. Great South Road improvements:
 - Create more pedestrian connections with additional crossings including existing bus stops.
 - Short term tactical urbanism at existing pedestrian crossings.
 - Beautify the streetscape with green promenade and provision for active modes.
- 7. Te Putu Street improvements:
 - Beautify the streetscape.
 - Traffic calming measures.
 - Upgrade pedestrian crossings.
 - Safe access to The Crescent.
 - Provide a pedestrian crossing outside of the childcare facility.
 - Roadway art at Te Putu Street and Great South Road intersection.

Intersection and roundabout upgrade

- 8. Improve the safety and visibility of intersections:
 - Gordonton Road and Te Putu Street.
 - Murphy Lane and Te Putu Street.
 - Great South Road and Te Putu Street to connect to Bob Byrne Memorial Park.
 - Greenlane Road and Te Putu Road.
- 9. Improve the pedestrian safety and visibility of Gordonton Road and Great South Road roundabout (under investigation).



Streetscape beautification



Wayfinding



Te Awa River Ride extension



Protected cycleway on Great South Road



Raised pedestrian crossing



Traffic calming with planted buildouts

Identity

Amenities

- 1. Investigate the use of Council-owned facilities within Taupiri and consider additional community needs or commercial development that could be accommodated.
- 2. Celebrate sites of cultural significance and protect waahi tapu sites through a suite of bi-lingual signage, art work trails, cultural expression and storytelling opportunities (Taupiri Mountain, urupaa, historical waka landing site, Taraheke paa, Taupiri Marae, and Te Uapata paa, key transport nodes i.e. roundabouts).
- 3. Provide formal viewing areas and storytelling boards for waka landings beside existing carpark/boat ramp. In particular for major Tangi processions from Tuurangawaewae Marae to the urupaa.
- 4. Upgrade and provide signage to public toilets.
- 5. Upgrade bus stops and shelters.
- 6. New bi-lingual "Welcome to Taupiri" sign.

Maintenance/CPTED/Safety

- 7. Introduce mirrors, art and wayfinding at Murphy Lane and Greenlane Road underpasses.
- 8. Provide lighting at the Rugby Field carpark/Murphy Lane.
- 9. Trim overgrown vegetation at Murphy Lane and Greenlane Road underpass, Te Putu Street and urupaa bridge.
- 10. Clean up of graffiti at Murphy Lane underpass and along Great South Road.

Other projects

- Identify opportunities and locations for cultural expression and symbolism.
- Upgraded suite of street furniture including rubbish bins, drinking fountains and seating.
- Undertake maintenance and repair of street lights across the township.

Natural Environment

Recreational opportunities

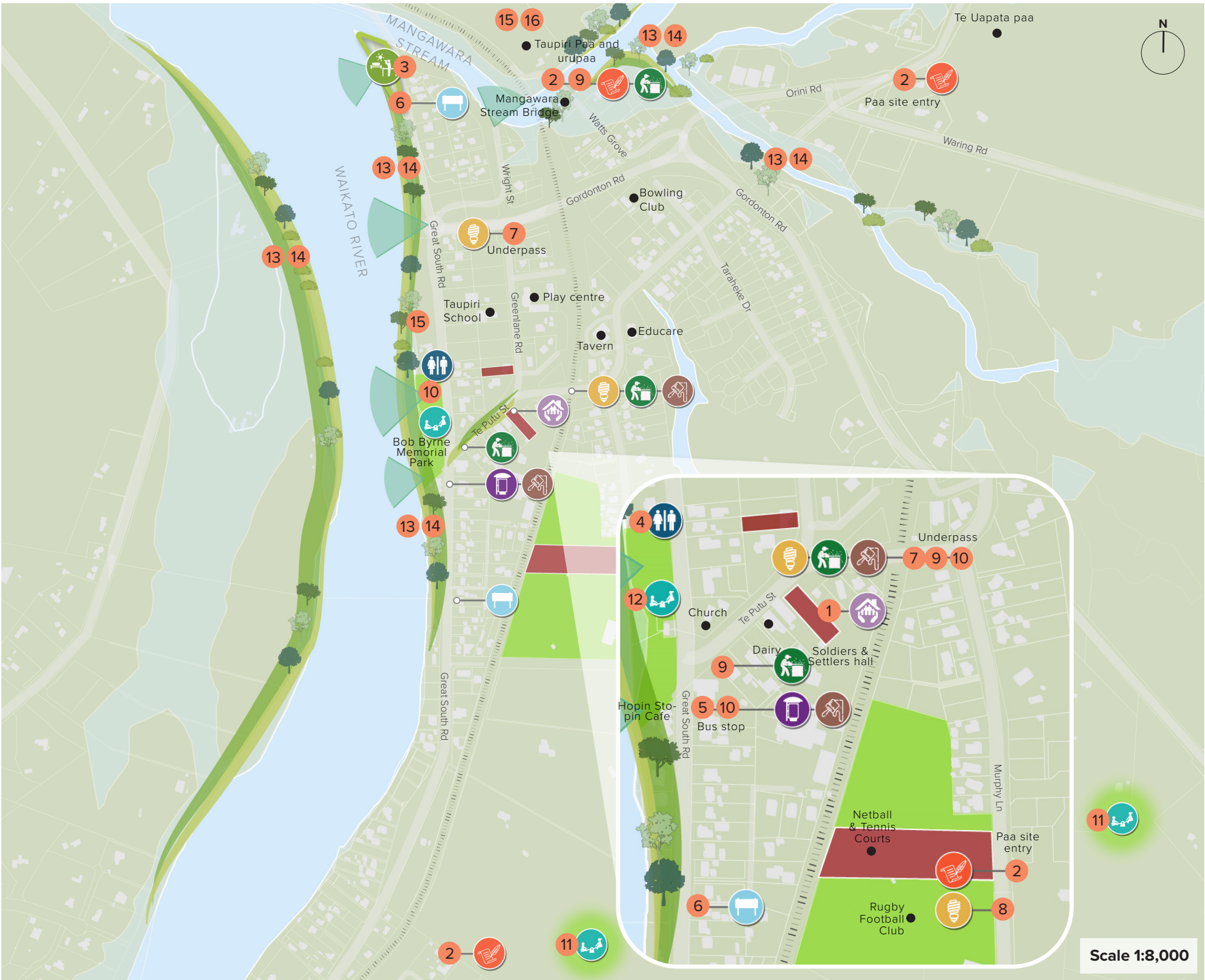
- 11. Investigate potential locations for playgrounds to serve wider Taupiri (Gordonton Road and Kainui Road).
- 12. Upgrade Bob Byrne Memorial Park with nature play and improved connections north and south to the Hopin Stopin Cafe.

Ecological opportunities

- 13. Improve the resilience to localised flooding through:
 - Increased permeable surfaces and attenuation planting.
 - Riverbank planting.
 - River edge terracing to protect recreation areas next to the river.
- 14. Increase native tree and fruit trees in town – Urban Ngahere (Forest), to attract native birds into township.
- 15. Native tree restoration for Taupiri Maunga.
- 16. Pest and predator management plan on Taupiri Maunga.

Other projects

- Improve native fauna habitat through education/interpretation and restoration of waterways (native fish, eels etc).



Riverside seating



Storytelling and cultural narratives



Underpass



Village feel



Nature play at Bob Byrne Memorial Park



Separated cycleway on Great South Road

Taupiri - Active Modes

Active Modes

- 1

Provide raised platform at existing zebra crossing.
- 2

Investigate options to reallocate space on Te Putu Street. This could include removing the flush median to provide space for wider footpaths, cycleways and changes to on-street parking.
- 3

Investigate new pedestrian crossing at Te Putu Street intersection using existing island. Could provide a staged crossing on raised platforms.
- 4

Investigate new crossing of Great South Road to improve access to existing bus stops.
- 5

Investigate footpath widening on the approach to the pedestrian underpass.
- 6

New raised crossing outside childcare and extend existing footpath to new crossing.
- 7

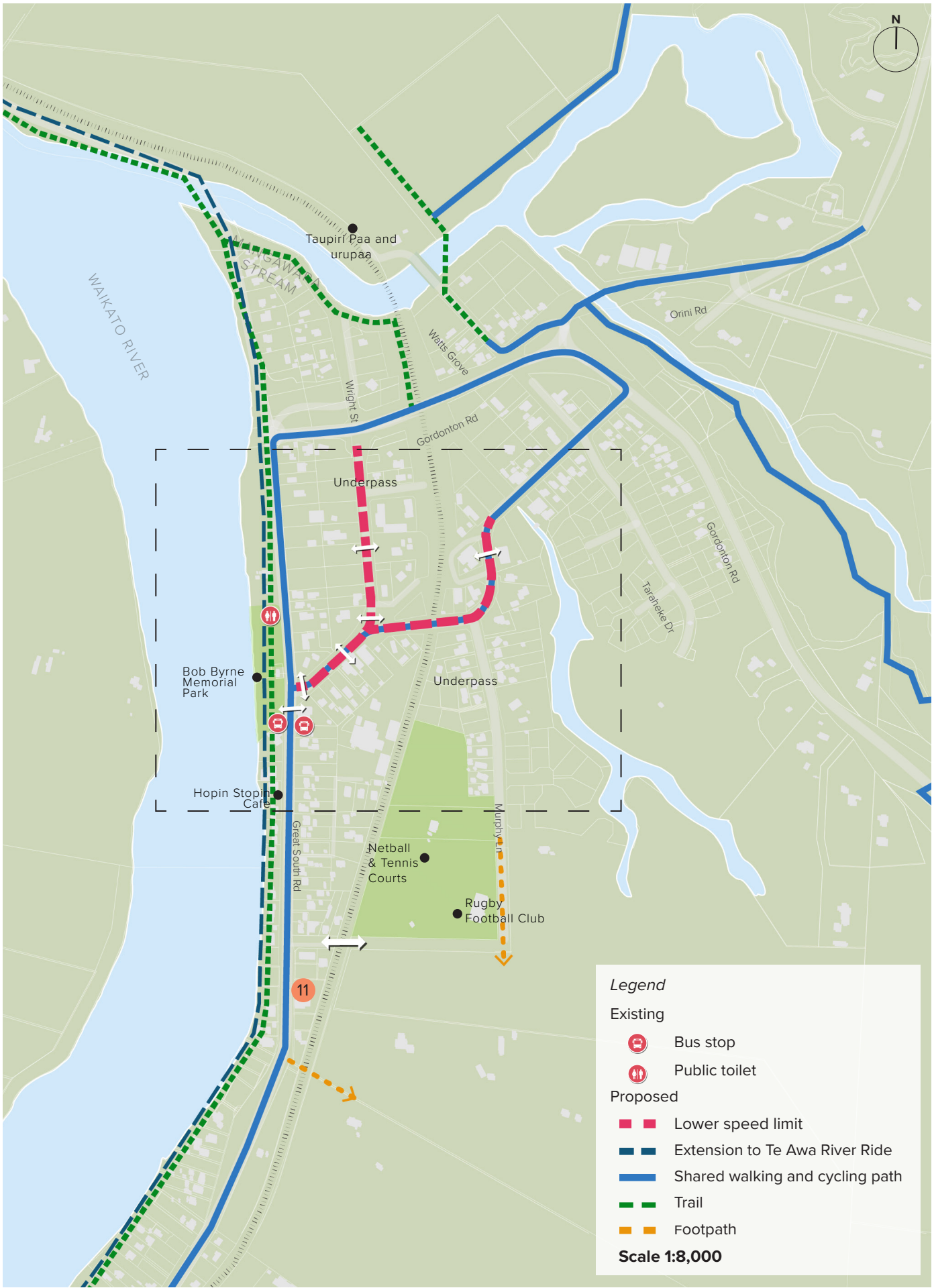
Investigate options to improve pedestrian safety when crossing The Crescent. Review kerblines and provide kerb build-outs to reduce the crossing distance.
- 8

Provide raised platform at existing crossing outside the school. Investigate shared paths along Greenlane Road to encourage walking and cycling to school.
- 9

Provide angle parking within existing berm north of the school.
- 10

Investigate new raised crossing at Te Putu St/Greenlane Road intersection to support a continuous route along Te Putu Street.
- 11

Investigate pedestrian and cycle overbridge of railway at Lovell Ave connecting Great South Road to Murphy Lane via sports fields.



Artist Impressions of Key Moves

Amenity upgrades to Bob Byrne Memorial Park



Enhance Te Putu Street pedestrian experience





Implementation

Implementation Approach

How this plan is to be implemented

The Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri Urban Design Assessment identifies a series of proposed projects and initiatives to support future growth and place shaping across Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri. The projects and initiatives are intended to be progressed across short, medium and long term time frames with a range of stakeholders and partners as outlined below.

The key moves and outcomes identified will go from being aspirational opportunities, to being funded and delivered when funding and partners have been identified. This will involve partnering and engaging further with key stakeholders including Mana Whenua, the community, local community organisations and businesses, and key landowners within Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri. Waikato District Council consider that it is important to continue to work in collaboration with community partners in all significant Council projects.

To support the implementation of the Urban Design Outcomes, it is recommended that a detailed implementation plan for each of the opportunities is developed, identifying key outcomes to be achieved, those responsible for delivery, project costs, and timeframes.

Role of Waikato District Council

Waikato District Council plays a key role in realising the future vision for Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri, as depicted in this Assessment. This role may range from direct investment in public works to advocating for positive changes to encourage investment (such as with the NZ Transport Agency/Waka Kotahi, local businesses and investors.)

The Council will also need to engage with the Mana Whenua, community and key stakeholders to advocate for public and private initiatives that assist to achieve the outcomes and projects identified across the three towns.

Funding implications

The Long Term Plan (LTP) is the Council’s main budgetary tool for the current 10-year period. This Plan provides a longer term capture of community aspirations and thereby informs the LTP.

Some of the actions are already budgeted for in the LTP, or are business as usual. Actions that need new funding will require advocacy to become new LTP initiatives. It is important to note that the availability of funding from the Council for proposed projects is not guaranteed. Funding and prioritisation will be determined as part of the LTP and Annual Plan process.

This plan can be used as a tool to assist in decision making on funding priorities. There are multiple ways that the projects and initiatives identified in this document can be achieved other than the LTP.

These include:

- Community led actions
- Fundraising
- Funding/grants
- Private investment and development

Monitoring and review

The Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu, and Taupiri Urban Design Assessment is intended to be a living document responsive to changes. Similarly, flexibility is needed because some actions require further work such as additional consultation, feasibility testing, detailed design, and/or funding. The Council should undertake reviews of the plan periodically and in line with LTP processes. Keeping the document ‘live’ and up to date will help achieve the outcomes desired by the stakeholders, or will identify if projects should be reconsidered in relation to new information being available.

Projects and initiatives have been grouped as short term, medium and long term projects. Implementation of the projects will be managed through the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan process.

Implementation Table

The following table identifies the key moves and outcomes that have been identified through this document. It considers the alignment with the outcome principles, the project complexity and likely timeframe required to implement the projects.

The table provides a tool for future identification and prioritisation of investment across the three townships across the short, medium and long term.

Projects which relate to Climate Change Mitigation Actions include those that include improved resilience and will support reductions in Vehicle Kilometres Travelled (VKT).



View of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Ngaaruawaahia

Implementation Framework

Ngaaruawaahia

Project	Climate Change mitigation action	Prioritisation			Complexity		
		Short term 1-3 years	Medium term 3-10 years	Long term 10+ years	Low	Medium	High
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT							
2. Complete masterplan for The Point.		✓			✓		
3. Improve resilience to localised flooding through a possible suite:							
· Increased permeable surfaces and attenuation planting.	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
· Riverbank planting.	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
· River edge terracing to protect recreation areas next to the river.	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
· Greening of current paved spaces (swales).	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
· Wetlands (tbc).	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
· Water sensitive urban design (tbc).	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
CONNECTED COMMUNITIES							
1. Extension of the Te Awa River Ride cycle route.				✓			✓
4. Create a pedestrian and cycle connection between Te Awa River Ride cycle route (Belt Street), St Paul’s Catholic School, Rugby League Club (Whatawhata Avenue), Centennial Park and the Waipaa River Trail.	✓			✓			✓
5. New active mode connection over the Waikato River.	✓			✓			✓
6. Upgrade active modes facilities over Waingaro Road bridge.	✓			✓			✓
7. Create a gateway marker at 46 & 108 Great South Road.		✓			✓		
8. Upgrade of corridors with active modes:							
· Jesmond Street.	✓			✓		✓	
· Great South Road (Both directions - cycleway and footpath).	✓		✓			✓	
· Hakarimata Road and Brownlee Avenue (shared path).	✓	✓			✓		
· Waikato Esplanade (bi-directional cycleway and footpath).	✓	✓			✓		
· Lower Waikato Esplanade (Both directions - cycleway and footpath).	✓	✓			✓		
9. Improve the safety and visibility of intersections:							
· Great South Road and River Road.			✓	✓			✓
· Great South Road and Jesmond Street (proposed new roundabout).			✓	✓			✓
· Great South Road, Princess Street and Newcastle Street (signalisation under investigation).			✓	✓			✓
· Great South Road and Waingaro Road (proposed closure under investigation).			✓	✓			✓
· Great South Road and Market Street.			✓	✓			✓
· Waingaro Road and Herschel Street (traffic calming or mirrors).			✓			✓	
· Old Taupiri Road (south), Great South Road and Regent Street.		✓					✓
· Martin Street and Galileo Street (still under investigation).			✓	✓			✓
10. Improve the safety and visibility of Jesmond Street roundabout.			✓	✓			✓
11. Jesmond Street improvements:							
· Consider shared zones and additional informal crossings to improve pedestrian connections.				✓		✓	
· Additional informal crossings and streetscape upgrades. Integrate crossings with intersection upgrades and development sites.				✓		✓	

Ngaaruwaahia

Project	Climate Change Mitigation Action	Prioritisation			Complexity		
		Short term 1-3 years	Medium term 3-10 years	Long term 10+ years	Low	Medium	High
12. Great South Road improvements:							
· Traffic calming and speed management.			✓			✓	
· Roadway art at existing pedestrian crossings.			✓			✓	
· Additional informal crossing points.			✓			✓	
· Beautify the streetscape with planted promenade.			✓			✓	
· Separated active modes corridor.			✓			✓	
· Formalise crossing on Galileo Street outside Ngaaruwaahia Primary School.		✓	✓		✓		
· Saulbery Road / Great South Road intersection upgrade (detailed design in the short-term, with construction in the longer term).		✓		✓		✓	
13. River Road:							
· Traffic calming and speed management.			✓			✓	
· Formalise crossings in front of Tuurangawaewae Marae.			✓			✓	
IDENTITY							
5. Create a wayfinding suite for key destinations including the following; Ngaaruwaahia town centre, Hakarimata Ranges, The Point, Waipaa Esplanade Walkway, Te Awa River Ride cycle route and proposed extension.		✓			✓		
6. Removal of playground equipment and tables/chairs from Kiingitanga Reserve.		✓			✓		
7. Celebrate sites of cultural significance and protect waahi tapu sites through a suite of bi-lingual signage, art work trails, cultural expression and storytelling opportunities at:							
· Kiingitanga Reserve.		✓				✓	
· The Point.		✓				✓	
· Hakarimata Ranges.		✓				✓	
· Tuurangawaewae Marae.		✓				✓	
· Tuurangawaewae House.		✓				✓	
· Pukeiaahua Paa.		✓				✓	
8. Placement of expressions (pou, koowhatu, native trees) to whakanoa (restore balance) to locations of colonial reminders.			✓			✓	
GROWTH & ECONOMY							
1. Future proof Durham Precinct.			✓				✓
2. Redevelop the corner site with opportunities to combine with other community uses.			✓				✓
3. Consider opportunities to work with anchor businesses to catalyse growth and investment in the town centre.				✓			✓
4. Opportunity to relocate Community House to accommodate and enable growth of community services.				✓			✓
5. Redevelop Plunket building for future community use.			✓				✓
6. Consolidate gaps in the streetscape and reactivate vacant sites with functions that provide active uses after hours.			✓				✓



View of Great South Road in Ngaaruwaahia

Hopuhopu

Project	Climate Change Mitigation Action	Prioritisation			Complexity		
		Short term 1-3 years	Medium term 3-10 years	Long term 10+ years	Low	Medium	High
CONNECTED COMMUNITIES							
1. Extension of the Te Awa River Ride cycle route through Hopuhopu with the inclusion of rest stops and formal and informal viewing areas.				✓			✓
2. Create a safe and clear active mode connection between Ngaaruawaahia and Taupiri along Great South Road (separated cycleway).	✓			✓		✓	
3. Establish a boulevard of trees as a gateway marker into Hopuhopu.			✓			✓	
6. Improve the safety and visibility of the Old Taupiri (north)/Great South Road intersection (under investigation).			✓			✓	
BUSINESS AS USUAL							
4. Protect existing trees/boulevard.	✓	✓			✓		
5. Provide bus shelters and a new pedestrian crossing for existing and future bus stops.	✓	✓			✓		
GROWTH & ECONOMY							
1. Support Waikato-Tainui and the future Hopuhopu Innovation Hub which will include residential, commercial, education and recreational functions.							



Taupiri

Project	Climate Change Mitigation Action	Prioritisation			Complexity		
		Short term 1-3 years	Medium term 3-10 years	Long term 10+ years	Low	Medium	High
CONNECTED COMMUNITIES							
1. Extension of the Te Awa River Ride cycle route to Taupiri (stopping at Bob Byrne Park) with the inclusion of rest stops and viewing areas.				✓			✓
2. Create a clear walking and cycling loop from town centre - Great South Road, Te Putu Street, Onslow Avenue, Gordonton Road and segregating off to Watts Grove to connect to Taupiri paa and urupaa.	✓		✓			✓	
3. Other active mode connections:							
· Upgrade Te Putu Street and bridge.	✓			✓			✓
· Taraheke Paa, Taupiri Marae and Great South Road with a connection over rail (under investigation).	✓			✓			✓
· Investigate pedestrian and cycle overbridge of railway connecting Great South Road to sports fields.	✓			✓			✓
4. Create a wayfinding suite for key destinations including the urupaa, Taupiri Maunga, Te Putu Street, Bob Byrne Memorial Park and sports field.			✓		✓		
5. Create gateway markers into Taupiri.			✓		✓		
6. Great South Road improvements:							
· Create more pedestrian connections with additional crossings including existing bus stops.	✓			✓			✓
· Short term tactical urbanism at existing pedestrian crossings.	✓			✓			✓
· Beautify the streetscape with green promenade and provision for active modes.	✓			✓			✓
7. Te Putu Street improvements:							
· Beautify the streetscape.				✓		✓	✓
· Traffic calming measures.				✓		✓	✓
· Upgrade pedestrian crossings.				✓		✓	✓
· Safe access to The Crescent.				✓		✓	✓
· Provide a pedestrian crossing outside of the childcare facility.				✓		✓	✓
· Roadway art at Te Putu Street and Great South Road intersection.				✓		✓	✓
8. Improve the safety and visibility of intersections:							
· Gordonton Road and Te Putu Street.			✓	✓		✓	
· Murphy Lane and Te Putu Street.				✓			✓
· Great South Road and Te Putu Street to connect to Bob Byrne Memorial Park.				✓			✓
· Greenlane Road and Te Putu Road.			✓	✓	✓		
9. Improve the pedestrian safety and visibility of Gordonton Road and Great South Road roundabout (under investigation).				✓		✓	✓
IDENTITY							
2. Celebrate sites of cultural significance and protect waahi tapu sites through a suite of bi-lingual signage, art work trails, cultural expression and storytelling opportunities (Taupiri Mountain,urupaa, historical waka landing site, Taraheke paa, Taupiri Marae, and Te Uapata paa).		✓				✓	
3. Provide formal viewing areas and storytelling boards for waka landings beside existing carpark/boat ramp. In particular for major Tangi processions from Tuurangawaewae Marae to the urupaa.		✓				✓	
5. Upgrade bus stops and shelters.	✓		✓	✓	✓		
6. New bi-lingual “Welcome to Taupiri” sign.		✓			✓		
Other projects							
· Identify opportunities and locations for cultural expression and symbolism.			✓			✓	

Taupiri

Project	Climate Change Mitigation Action	Prioritisation						Complexity					
		Short term 1-3 years		Medium term 3-10 years		Long term 10+ years		Low		Medium		High	
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT													
13. Improve the resilience to localised flooding through:													
· Increased permeable surfaces and attenuation planting.	✓	✓		✓		✓						✓	
· Riverbank planting.	✓	✓		✓		✓						✓	
· River edge terracing to protect recreation areas next to the river.	✓	✓		✓		✓						✓	
14. Increase native tree and fruit trees in town – Urban Ngahere (Forest), to attract native birds into township.		✓						✓					
BUSINESS AS USUAL													
7. Introduce mirrors, art and wayfinding at Murphy Lane and Greenlane Road underpasses.		✓						✓					
8. Provide lighting at the Rugby Field carpark/Murphy Lane.		✓						✓					
GROWTH & ECONOMY													
1. Further investigation required to consider local convenience to service new growth area closer to the Taupiri Marae.				✓						✓			



View of Taupiri Maunga and Church



View of Tuurangawaewae House

**make
everyday
better.**

