

Agenda for a meeting of the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee to be held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY 2023** commencing at **9.30am**.

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 - A meeting of the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee held on Wednesday, 5 April 2023
 - A meeting of the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee Hearings Panel held on Tuesday, 18 April 2023
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- 7. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

GJ Ion
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUSTAINABILITY AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE

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

Purpose

The Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee is responsible for:

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

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

Terms of Reference – Sustainability & Wellbeing

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

Terms of Reference – Engagement and Funding:

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

Terms of Reference – Civil Defence and Emergency Management:

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

Civil Defence and Emergency Management

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

The Committee is delegated the following powers to act:

Approval of:

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

To	Sustainability & Wellbeing Committee
Report title	Confirmation of Minutes
Date:	17 May 2023
Report Author:	Grace Shaw, Democracy Advisor
Authorised by:	Gaylene Kanawa, Democracy Manager

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

To confirm the minutes for a meeting of the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee held on Wednesday, 5 April 2023 and minutes for a meeting of the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee Hearings Panel held on Tuesday, 18 April 2023.

2. Staff recommendations

Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT:

- a. the minutes for a meeting of the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee held on Wednesday, 5 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record; and
- b. the minutes for a hearing panel of the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee to consider the Taiao Strategy held on Tuesday, 18 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

3. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1 – S&W Minutes – 5 April 2023.

Attachment 2: S&W Hearing Panel Minutes (Taiao Strategy Hearing) – 18 April 2023

Minutes of a meeting of the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee of the Waikato District Council held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **WEDNESDAY, 5 APRIL 2023** commencing at **9.30AM.**

Present:

Cr L Thomson (Chairperson)
Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church
Cr C Beavis – *arrived at 9.49am*
Cr P Matatahi-Poutapu
Cr K Ngataki – *arrived at 11.02am*
Cr M Raumati
C V Reeve – *arrived at 11.02am*
Cr P Thomson
Cr T Turner
Cr D Whyte

Attending:

Mr C Morgan (General Manager Community Growth)
Mr K Abbott (Executive Manager – Projects & Innovation)
Mr J Ebenhoh (Planning & Policy Manager)
Mr V Ramduny (Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships Manager)
Mrs G Kanawa (Democracy Manager)
Mr D Sharma (Three Waters Reform Project Manager) – *via audio visual conference*
Ms D Tracey (Strategic Planning Team Leader)
Mr J Fuller (Senior Environmental Planner)
Mr R Leahy (Democracy Advisor)
Ms G Shaw (Democracy Advisor)

Guests

Ms N Greenwell (Hamilton & Waikato Tourism)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Crs Whyte/P Thomson)

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee accepts the apologies from:

- a. Crs Gibb, Patterson, Keir for non-attendance; and**
- b. Crs Beavis, Ngataki for lateness.**

CARRIED

S&W2304/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Crs Eyre/Whyte)

THAT:

- a. the agenda for a meeting of the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee held on Wednesday, 5 April 2023 be confirmed; and
- b. all items therein be considered in open meeting, with the exception of those items detailed at agenda item 7, which shall be considered with the public excluded; and
- c. all reports be received.

CARRIED

S&W2304/02

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

THAT the minutes of a meeting of the Sustainability & Wellbeing Committee held on Wednesday, 22 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting, noting an amendment to remove the 's' from 'marae' and 'hui'.

CARRIED

S&W2304/03

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

ACTIONS REGISTER

- Noted that staff had circulated an email to Councillors on 10 March 2023 outlining differentiation of red, yellow, and white stickered properties (affected by recent weather events). Confirmed that information was also publicly available on the WAIDC website.

REPORTS

Three Waters Reform Better off Funding Special Project Update April 2023
Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received [*S&W2304/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- The report writer attended a hui with Crown Infrastructure partners. Report writer was expecting to receive a reporting template; however, it turned out to be a portal and which would request a description of activities undertaken.

- Legal Team would be consulted to review the portal and Crown Infrastructure partners would work through reporting expectations.
- Questions were raised regarding individual applications, staff responded and provided brief answers as where applicable.
- Councillors requested a list of Better Off Funding applicants. Staff to action this.

ACTION: Staff to provide Councillors with a current list of Better Off Funding applicants.

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

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee:

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

CARRIED

S&W2304/04

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism Six Monthly Report
Agenda Item 6.2

The report was received [S&W2304/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

- During the first six months of the financial year, Hamilton & Waikato Tourism saw a strong return of visitation across the region.
- Hamilton & Waikato Tourism aimed to provide 'real experiences' and was actively working towards this vision.
- Labour shortages across the sector continued to impact deliverability and availability of some experiences and services, and the weather impacts during January and February had been devastating in parts of the region and across neighbouring regions.
- Waikato Stadium will host five matches between 20 July – 20 August 2023 and it's estimated the region will see 12,500 unique international visitors spend \$13.7 million in the region. In addition, these matches will see many domestic visitors, who will contribute \$3.9 million into the region economy.
- Domestic visitation contributed \$738.5m per annum to the regional economy, an increase of 17.9% on 2021.

- Domestic visitation contributed \$82.2m per annum to the Waikato district, an increase of 39.3% from December 2021. International visitation contributed \$6.9m per annum, an increase of 184.1% from December 2021.
- Cr Lisa Thomson noted that Raglan’s visitor numbers had appeared to increase significantly in the last six (6) months.
- Councillors noted that we are a rural council, and queried if it was missing an opportunity in agri-tourism. The Report Writer noted that there were several projects underway in this space.
- Noted that all Raglan accommodation (including Air BnB) was frequently booked out.
- Committee queried if Waikato & Hamilton Tourism should reconsider its funding reduction for the ‘Mighty Local’ campaign.
- Discussion was held regarding Hamilton & Waikato Tourism’s relationship with Waikato Tainui. For example, does it take advantage of waka ama events hosted at Lake Karapiro? Suggested that the Maori economy is growing at pace and was internationally attractive. Also queried if marae are viewed as alternative accommodation. The Report Writer confirmed it has acknowledged and identified iwi relationships and had been working with Waikato Tainui to help Waikato & Hamilton Tourism communicate that narrative.
- Noted that Council does not always communicate/market tourism opportunities in the district very well. Queried how Council could improve its communications in this space.
- Queried if Council could build and strengthen relationships with Maori to build capacity in the tourism space. Noted this should be for all Councillors to lead, not just Maori ward Councillors.

ACTION: Staff and Councillors to investigate inclusion of Hamilton & Waikato Tourism (Nicola Greenwell) in a Mana Whenua forum to form authentic relationships and progress Maori perspectives in the local tourism space. Relevant Crs and staff to strategise what this might look like.

Updates to the Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement and its Terms of Reference

Agenda Item 6.3

The report was received [*S&W2304/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- The Future Proof Implementation Committee (FPIC), at its meeting held on 9 March 2023, resolved to approve the amended Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement. The Agreement was required to be signed by all Future Proof partners. FPIC also approved the associated Terms of Agreement that governs the Committee’s meeting with the recommendation that that all partners endorse and sign the document.
- The proposed Agreement and Terms of Reference enable a more consistent approach to the operation of FPIC, whilst still enabling all partners to have input on Future Proof matters.

- Councillors held a general discussion regarding the terms of reference.
- The Report Writer responded to queries regarding representation of Waikato Tainui and Waka Alliance.

ACTION: Staff to provide Councillors with a copy of the original Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement.

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

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee:

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

CARRIED

S&W2304/05

Amendment to Council's Governance Structure Delegations
Agenda Item 6.4

The report was received [*S&W2304/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- The purpose of the report was to enable a tidy-up amendment to be made to Council's Governance Structure Delegations to reflect the name of the sub-committee approved by the Future Proof Implementation Committee on 9 March 2023 to provide governance oversight on sub-regional public transport matters.
- The report also sought to re-confirm the appointment of Council's representative and alternate representative to this sub-committee.

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

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee recommends to Council:

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

CARRIED

S&W2304/06

Approval for Appointment of a Deliberations Panel for the Draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy
Agenda Item 6.5

The report was received [S&W2304/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

- Waikato District Council had reviewed its Conservation Strategy and Esplanade Strategy and combined both documents to develop the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy.
- The draft Strategy provides a long-term plan to achieve the Council's vision to build liveable, thriving, and connected communities while helping to maintain, protect and restore indigenous biodiversity throughout the district. The approach outlined in the draft document allows it to be more relevant and implementation-orientated than the previous document.
- Discussion was held regarding the distribution of Councillors appointed to the Panel, querying if consideration had been given to an indigenous lens.
- Some Councillors did not believe that the Panel distribution was inequitable and did not adequately cater for the Maori voice. Suggested that the Committee reconsider the Panel's composition.
- Suggested it was culturally inappropriate to appoint only one Maori Councillor to the Panel.
- Committee agreed to appoint Councillor Tilly Turner as an additional Maori Councillor to the panel.

ACTION: Staff and Councillors to consider equitable distribution of Maori Councillors on all panels and subcommittees moving forward.

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

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee:

- a. appoints a deliberations panel consisting of Cr Gibb (Chairperson), Councillors Eyre, Beavis, Keir and Ngataki, and Turner to consider submissions on the Taiao Strategy; noting a majority quorum would be four of the six appointed; and
- b. notes that the deliberations panel will make decisions on responding to submissions and recommend back to the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee on the proposed changes to the Strategy for adoption; and
- c. accepts a late submission from Waikato Tainui.

CARRIED

S&W2304/07

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 12.01pm

Minutes approved and confirmed this day of 2023.

Cr L Thomson
CHAIRPERSON

Unconfirmed

Minutes for a Hearing Panel meeting of the Sustainability & Wellbeing Committee held in Committee Rooms 1 & 2, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **TUESDAY, 18 APRIL 2023** commencing at **9.30am**.

Present:

Cr J Gibb (Chairperson)
Cr C Beavis
Cr M Keir
Cr K Ngataki
Cr T Turner

Attending:

Ms D Tracey (Strategic Planning Manager)
Mr J Fuller (Senior Policy Planner)
Ms S Chibnall (Resource Policy Team)
Mr F Bell (Strategic Planner)
Ms T Heera (Strategic Planner)
Mr B Wolf (Ecologist)
Mr G Mason (Open Spaces Team Leader)
Mr M Horsfield (Reserves Team) – *from 9.42am*

Ms E Saunders (Democracy Advisor)

The Committee opened the hearing with a Karakia.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Cr Ngataki/Cr Beavis)

THAT:

- a. an apology for non-attendance from Cr Eyre be accepted.

CARRIED

S&WH2304/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Cr Keir/Cr Turner)

THAT the agenda for a meeting of the Sustainability & Wellbeing Committee for the hearings and deliberations of the Taiao Strategy held on Tuesday, 18 April 2023 be confirmed:

- a. all reports be received and;
- b. all items therein be considered in open meeting.

CARRIED

S&WH2304/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of Interest.

REPORTS

Taiao in the Waikato Strategy Hearing & Deliberations Report
Agenda Item 4.1

The report was received [*S&WH2304/02 refers*], and a full overview of the Taiao Strategy was given to the Panel by the Senior Policy Planner:

It was confirmed by the Panel that the late submission from Waikato Tainui would be accepted and a resolution was passed to confirm this.

Resolved: (Cr Ngataki/Cr Turner)

THAT the Sustainability & Wellbeing Hearings Panel:

- a. accepts the late submission by Waikato Tainui;

CARRIED

S&WH2304/03

Funding: Resourcing and Collaborative Partners Discussion:

- A question was raised around funding for this strategy and where the funding would come from? It was confirmed that whilst this strategy was not focused on funding itself there was a still a brief discussion had about the Conservation Fund and who could apply for this funding (Council vs Private).
- The Conservation Fund was initially set up for private landowners who had covenants on their land to assist with maintenance of fencing and pest control. The full amount was not covered but it was a contribution.

- It was noted that when Council introduced Significant Natural Areas it was thought to open up the funding that the Conservation Funding Pot could be opened up to Private Landowners as these areas were marked as being on their land through no fault of their own.
- The Panel confirmed that there needed to be some wording changes in the draft strategy particularly around “funding” and making it clear that funding is not part of this strategy.
- Cr Turner queried what all the other organisations (i.e Waikato Regional Council; QEII etc.) are doing in this space and how funding from Council is contributing to this? A brief discussion was held about our collaboration partners and how funding could best be utilised.
- *The Panel queried if the Taiao Strategy is a specific target that sits outside what other organisations or ministries are doing? Or is it the same? Do we need to have a strategy for Council and what is the goal with this?* The Senior Policy Planner advised that this strategy showed best practice as Council would hopefully encourage landowners to do the same in collaboration with Council.
- The Panel queried how this fit in the funding argument if individual landowners could not access those funds unless they are part of a group? It was confirmed that it encourages landowners to work with community groups and to get involved in restoration projects in their area.
- It was noted that resourcing in this space is required but it is a discussion for the Long Term Plan process.
- It was noted that Council had a history of not utilising volunteers very well – particularly volunteer groups and this is something that could be looked at moving forward.

ACTION: Council Staff to update the wording around funding and resourcing as currently described in the strategy to ensure clarity and transparency.

DELIBERATIONS ON SUBMISSIONS:

Submission Themes:

Access:

- The Council Parks & Facilities Team are currently working on the Network & Connectivity Strategy which will go out for full consultation for submissions to be received.
- The Network & Connectivity Strategy will be worked on in collaboration with different community groups to understand the networking needs in each space.
- Submission number 6 – the points noted have already been included in the strategy but the wording needs to be improved to show the recommendation has indeed been included to make it clear.

ACTION: Council Staff to update the wording for Submission 6 to make it clear the recommendation has been included.

Best Practice & Key Documents:

- Access Strips – what is included in this? It was confirmed by the Policy Team what an access strip actually was, but the Senior Policy Planner confirmed this would be explicitly explained in the wording of the strategy.

ACTION: Council Staff to update the wording in the draft Strategy to make it clear what an access strip is.

Collaboration:

- Submission 14 (4737) – it was confirmed what Threat Species is and why it has been referenced.
- It was noted that Nature and the City will be referenced and Hamilton City Council will be worked with in this space.
- The Panel queried whether Council needed to be more specific about who we were collaborating with for this strategy?
- The Panel queried best practice and if this will be captured in the wording in the strategy.

ACTION: Council staff to update wording in the strategy around collaboration partners to not only include who Council are currently working alongside but to also show that the strategy is an evolving document that could include relationships with other partners moving forward.

Conclusion:

- Climate Change point was noted.

Elements of Waikato District:

- Point 1.1.1 will be slightly re-worded as per recommendation from the submitter.
- Point 21.2.2 – The 85% of Significant Natural Areas as referenced by the submitter needs to be clarified.
- The Waikato Tainui Submission was discussed and it was noted that work would be undertaken in collaboration with Council staff.

Emerging Threats:

- No further discussion on this theme.

Esplanade Reserves:

- It was noted in Point 12.2.1 that submission was acknowledged but that wording changes for the strategy is not required.

The Hearing adjourned for Morning Tea at 11am and resumed again at 11.18am.

Focus Areas (Including Actions):

- Council have accepted the recommendations from some of the submitters as noted in the submission theme document.
- It was noted by the Ecologist that Council already had a seat on the Biodiversity Forum that holds site visits once or twice a year.
- It was noted by Cr Beavis that Council needed to look at how they are wording these points to ensure they are clear. The wording in particular around point 5.2 needs to be strengthened.
- Point 7.4.4 – clarity was provided and it was confirmed that all submitters would be getting an acknowledgement that is specific to their submission.
- Point 7.4.15 – The last sentence in this point was highlighted as an error and it was confirmed that the submitter is wanting these weed species to be removed.
- Focus Area 5.1 of the Draft Strategy – a brief discussion was had around information provided to the public and whether more could be done to have this readily available.
- The Panel queried whether Council have a specific strategy around Plant Pests? It was confirmed that resourcing doesn't allow for this to be done on each reserve so it is more a case by case basis.

ACTION: Council staff to strengthen the wording in section 5.2 of the draft strategy to ensure it is clear and more fluid.

ACTION: Section 5.1 of the draft strategy - Council staff to investigate the possibility of having more information available to the public, particularly around different the plant species in NZ. The possibility of using the council website is to be explored and providing links to existing websites that have this information.

Funding:

- Points for this theme were raised in the initial conversation and there was no further discussion.

General:

- No further discussion on this theme.

Goals:

- Point 1.3.1 - The F&B link will be added as per the notes.
- Point 1.8.1 – Clearer wording is required to explain exactly what the benefits are of including this information in the strategy moving forward.
- The Panel advised that clarity in the wording is required around the Snapshot of the Goals (Page 26 of the Draft Strategy).

Introduction:

- The Senior Policy Planner gave a brief overview of this theme with no further discussion.

Layout & Comprehension:

- The Senior Policy Planner gave a brief overview of this theme with no further discussion.

Monitoring & Review:

- The Senior Policy Planner gave a brief overview on the Report Card but no further discussion was had.

Opportunities & Implementation:

- Whilst there was no further discussion on this theme it was noted by the panel that this was a good piece of work.

Other:

- Point 18.9.3 – clarity is required around macrons vs double vowels for te reo wording and guidance is required. It was confirmed that Waikato Tainui will be given the opportunity to go over the document to ensure consistency.
- Point 15.4.1 – further clarity with the wording is required.

Policy & Scope:

- No further discussion on this theme.

Private Landowners:

- No further discussion on this theme.

Recreation & Reserves:

- No further discussion on this theme.

Reporting:

- No further discussion on this theme.

Restoration & Riparian Plantings:

- No further discussion on this theme.

Rewilding (Passive):

- Point 7.2.1 – The submission noted and the Senior Policy Planner advised that the submitters point was taken and will be expanded on in the strategy.
- It was noted that Council have responded to Waikato Regional Council and that an alternative wording rather than rewilding will be used.

Significant Natural Areas:

- No further discussion on this theme.

Strategic Context:

- Points 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 (Vision of the Draft Strategy) – it was confirmed that further clarity with the wording is required.

ACTION: Draft Strategy Vision statement: Council staff to update the wording to have emphasis on the peoples values and to ensure the vision is clear and transparent.

Vision & Goals:

- No further discussion on this theme.

Waikato Tainui – Environmental Plan:

- No further discussion on this theme.

Next Steps Forward:

- It was confirmed that an updated draft strategy showing the changes that are required would be ready and completed in time for the next Sustainability & Wellbeing Committee Meeting (scheduled for Wednesday 17th May)
- Once those changes are accepted at the Sustainability & Wellbeing Committee Meeting the full changes can be made to the Taiao Strategy Document ready for a full recommendation to Council to adopt by the end of the financial year.
- The final Council meeting before the end of the financial year is scheduled for Wednesday, 28 June 2023.
- The wording changes to the document can be made in tandem with the Communications Team who are working on the layout and design of the Strategy to ensure the final document is ready to be adopted by the end of the financial year.
- It was confirmed by the Hearing Panel that the draft Taiao Strategy document is a really great piece of work and once the wording changes have been made the panel would be more than happy to recommend that Council adopts the strategy.

Resolved: (Cr Keir/Cr Turner)

THAT the Sustainability & Wellbeing Hearings Panel:

- a. considers and makes decisions on the submissions on the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy, pursuant to section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002, AND**
- b. recommends the attached tracked changes version of the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy, with further amendments as required, in response to decisions made on the 21 submissions, to the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee for approval.**

CARRIED

S&WH2304/04

The Committee closed the hearing with a karakia.

The hearing closed at 12.40pm.

Minutes approved and confirmed this _____ day of _____ 2023.

J Gibb
CHAIRPERSON

To	Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee
Report title	Actions Register – May 2023
Date:	17 May 2023
Report Author:	Michele Badenhorst, PA General Manager Community Growth
Authorised by:	Clive Morgan, General Manager Community Growth

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

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

2. Staff recommendations

Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

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






3. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1 – Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee Actions Register May 2023

	Action	Responsible to Action	Status/Update/Response
1.	<p><u>Economic and Community Led Development Work Programme</u></p> <p>Community-Led Development Team to involve all Councillors and the Mayor in iwi engagement hui.</p>	Economic and Community Led Development Team	<p>May 2023</p> <p>This work is currently focused around Open Waikato as part of our partnership and engagement with Waikato Tainui and as soon as we have the first phase of staff engagement completed, the team will share the wider engagement with Councillors.</p>
2.	<p><u>Economic and Community Led Development Work Programme</u></p> <p>Staff to provide Councillors with an update regarding how they can provide assistance/feedback regarding community blueprints in their ward/s.</p>	Economic and Community Led Development Team	<p>May 2023,</p> <p>At present, all Councillors should be engaged at some point with the Economic Community Led Development team members who are working across their wards. These meetings could take the form of one-on-one catch ups or through the engagement with Community Boards and Committees. The purpose of these is to provide share feedback around Blueprints and or Community Aspirations. If there are any issues in not being provided with the opportunities for this feedback, please inform the Economic and Community Led Development Manager so that the situation can be resolved. It is the aim of the Economic and Community Led Development Team to ensure that there are no surprises to councillors about what is taking place in their wards for Blueprint and Community Aspirations.</p>

	Action	Responsible to Action	Status/Update/Response
3.	<p><u>Hamilton & Waikato Tourism Six Monthly Report</u></p> <p>Staff and Councillors to investigate inclusion of Hamilton & Waikato Tourism (Nicola Greenwell) in a Mana Whenua forum to form authentic relationships and progress Maaori perspectives in the local tourism space. Relevant Crs and staff to strategise what this might look like.</p>	Economic and Community Led Development Team	<p>May 2023</p> <p>The Economic Development Team, as part of the Open Waikato partnerships with Waikato Tainui have started engagement with Waka Tourism with the scope to bring them together with Waikato Tourism to plan a partnership tourism strategy.</p>
4.	<p><u>Three Waters Reform Better off Funding Special Project Update April 2023</u></p> <p>Staff to provide Councillors with a current list of Better Off Funding applicants.</p>	Deron Sharma, Waters Reform Project Manager	<p>May 2023</p> <p>A Dropbox link containing all the applications that was previously shared with Her Worship the Mayor has now been circulated to the Mayor's EA for distribution to the Councillors. If the Councillors would like to filter the applications to only the successful applicants, then a J drive link has also been shared with the Mayor's EA to extract from. DS 04/05/2023.</p>
5.	<p><u>Updates to the Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement and its Terms of Reference</u></p> <p>Staff to provide Councillors with a copy of the original Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement.</p>	Vishal Ramduny, Strategic Projects Manager	<p>May 2023</p> <p>Sent 2nd May 2023 – See image</p>

	Action	Responsible to Action	Status/Update/Response
			<p>FOR INFORMATION: Future Proof Implementation Agreement from 2019</p> <p> Vishal Ramduny To  Councillors Cc  Michele Badenhorst;  Democracy</p> <p> FPIC-Agreement-signed-15-August-2019.pdf 5 MB</p> <p>Kia ora Elected Members,</p> <p>You may recall that at the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee hui on 5 April 2023 you approved the Future Proof Committee Agreement for 2023. There was also a request that the original Agreement from 2019 (when central government and Auckland Council first joined Future Proof) be shared. I have attached that Agreement for your information.</p> <p>Ngaa mihi,</p> <p>Vishal.</p> <p>_____ Vishal Ramduny Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships Manager</p>
6.	<p><u>Approval for Appointment of a Deliberations Panel for the Draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy</u></p> <p>Staff and Councillors to consider equitable distribution of Maaori Councillors on all panels and subcommittees moving forward.</p>	Staff and Councillors	<p>May 2023</p> <p>Update to be provided at next hui</p>

To	Sustainability & Wellbeing Committee
Report title	Application to the Rural Ward Fund
Date:	17 May 2023
Report Author:	Dominique Thurlow, Community Development Funding Advisor
Authorised by:	Clive Morgan, General Manager Community Growth

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

The purpose of this report is to provide a Rural Ward funding application received for consideration by the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee.

2. Executive summary

Whakaraapopotanga matua

Waikato District Council has funding available to assist community groups, non-commercial groups and voluntary organisations operating within our rural areas for projects that benefit the wider communities. On this note the Wellbeing and Sustainability Committee is being asked to consider the following application:

An application has been received from the Tauwhare Community Committee to support the publication of the community newsletter, the Tauwhare Transmitter, in 2023. The Transmitter is delivered to households in the Tauwhare area.

The Tauwhare Transmitter is a valuable source of information for members of the wider community. It provides articles from our local Councillors, as well as updates from the school and preschool, local clubs and societies, and announcements about upcoming events in the area.

In a recent survey of recipients, the great majority (90%) of respondents stated that they considered the publication very valuable, providing a valuable source of local information, bringing together the community, and that they read every issue. Several also said they valued receiving a printed copy and they would not read an online version.

The Community Committee is seeking \$800 to support this initiative from Council's Rural Ward Fund.

3. Staff recommendations

Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee:

- a. approves/partially approves/declines an allocation of \$800.00 (excl. GST) from the Rural Ward fund to:**
 - i. Tauwhare Community Committee to support the publication of the community newsletter, the Tauwhare Transmitter, in 2023. The Transmitter is delivered to households in the Tauwhare area.**

4. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1 – Application from Tauwhare Community Committee

Attachment 2 – Rural Ward Funding Guidelines

Michele Badenhorst**Subject:** FW: Tauwhare Community Committee Funding Application**From:** webadmin@waikatodc.govt.nz <webadmin@waidc.govt.nz>**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 6:00 PM**To:** Democracy <Democracy@waidc.govt.nz>**Subject:** New form response

New form response

Form: [Discretionary & Funding Committee Funding Application Form](#)

A new response was submitted on 12 February 2023.

Name of your organisation and contact person	Tauwhare Community Committee Fiona Rhodes
What is your organisation's purpose/background (who are you? what do you do?)	Tauwhare Community Committee is set up jointly by the Waikato District Council and the Tauwhare community to work collaboratively in dealing with local issues in Tauwhare and its surrounding rural area
Phone number/s	07 824 0961
Email/address	rhodesf@wave.kiwi.nz
What is your event / project, including date and location?	Funding is being sought to support the publication of the community newsletter, the Tauwhare Transmitter, in 2023. The Transmitter is delivered to households in the Tauwhare area. The number of households receiving the Transmitter has increased steadily; it is currently delivered to 375 residences and it is expected that this will increase in 2023. The newsletter is published monthly between March and December (10 issues); it is compiled, edited and delivered by volunteers. The only cost is printing and this is mostly funded by advertising, with occasional donations. However the cost of printing has increased substantially; between the beginning of 2022 and the start of this year this has increased by 37%, from \$296.70 per issue in February 2022 to an expected \$405.95 for February 2023. This does not take account of the increase in households in the area. Therefore there is a requirement for an additional \$700 to \$800, to cover the increase in costs, as shown below. 2022 2023 Expenditure Printing 275 copies -\$3105.00 -\$4,059.50 Printing 285 copies - -\$4,163.00 Income Advertising \$3,350.00 \$3,350.00 Credit/Deficit 275 copies \$245.00 -\$709.50 285 copies -\$813.00
How will the wider community benefit from this event/project?	The Tauwhare Transmitter is a valuable source of information for members of the wider community. It provides articles from our local Councillors, as well as updates from the school and preschool, local

	clubs and societies, and announcements about upcoming events in the area. In a recent survey of recipients, the great majority (90%) of respondents stated that they considered the publication very valuable, providing a valuable source of local information, bringing together the community, and that they read every issue. Several also said they valued receiving a printed copy and they would not read an online version.
Are you GST registered?	No
GST Number	
What is the total cost of your project/event?	\$4,059.50 to \$4,163.00 (inc. GST)
Existing funds available for the project. Include any projected income i.e. ticket sales, merchandise etc.	\$3,350.00 estimated advertising income
Project Breakdown (itemised costs of funding being sought)	Funding to meet printing costs
Amount	\$800
Project Breakdown (itemised costs of funding being sought)	
Amount	
Project Breakdown (itemised costs of funding being sought)	
Amount	
Total Funds being sought from WDC	
Has / will funding been sought from other funders?	No
Organisation	
Amount	
Organisation	
Amount	
Organisation	
Amount	
Total Funds being sought from other funders	
Describe any donated material / resources provided for the event/project:	The newsletter is compiled and delivered by volunteers
Copies of written quotes and any other additional information that may assist the board/committee	Transmitter Quote.pdf

to make an informed decision on your application	
Name	Fiona Rhodes
Date	2023-02-12
Position in Organisation	Committee member

[View response](#)

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DISCRETIONARY FUNDING GUIDELINES

How to make a funding application

Waikato District Council provides discretionary funding to assist community groups, non-commercial groups and voluntary organisations operating within the council's rural wards, community boards and the Te Kauwhata and Meremere Community Committees areas.

Funding Mechanisms

1. Waikato District Council Community Boards / Community Committees
2. Waikato District Council Discretionary and Funding Committee

Who can apply?

Any community group, non-commercial group or voluntary organisation can apply for a grant. Specific criteria for each fund are as follows:

1. Waikato District Council Community Boards and the Te Kauwhata and Meremere Community Committees
 Community boards and the Te Kauwhata and Meremere Community Committees allocate grants for events and projects in their areas. Applicants must outline how their event or project will contribute to the community board area and wider community. The relevant community board or committee has responsibility for determining grant applications in their area.
2. Waikato District Council Discretionary & Funding Committee
 The Discretionary & Funding Committee allocates grants from the Rural Ward Fund. Rural grants are available for events and projects in rural areas and areas that are not served by Community Boards or the Te Kauwhata and Meremere Community Committees. Applicants must outline how their event or project will contribute to the community Rural area and wider community. The Discretionary & Funding Committee has responsibility for determining grant applications in the Rural area.

3. Criteria for grants

Applications are required to meet the following criteria:

- a) Applications will be accepted from community groups, non-commercial groups and voluntary organisations. Applications from individuals will not be accepted.
- b) Applications will need to be made to the relevant community board or committee, or to Council's Discretionary & Funding Committee.

- c) Applications for Christmas parade/events will need to be made to the relevant community board or community committee.
- d) Applicants need to describe in their application why the event or project is important to the community and how the wider community will benefit by the event or project.
- e) Applicants can have in-kind contributions recognised in terms of the non-grant funding component provided they demonstrate good community engagement.
- f) Applications must detail how the monies sought will specifically be used and how the balance of the monies required for the event or project will be obtained.
- g) Capital expenditure items may be considered for grant applications.
- h) Applicants can make more than one application for a grant within a 12-month period provided that the grant being sought is for a different project or event and an accountability statement has been completed.
- i) Applications may be considered from schools where the Ministry of Education will not fully fund the project and the benefits are for the wider community.
- j) Grants will not be considered for events or projects that have already occurred / projects completed (i.e. no retrospective funding).
- k) Grants will not be given to oppose consent decisions, attend conferences or to contest legal cases.
- l) Applications from commercial entities will not be considered.
- m) All applications will need to provide the relevant template describing the event/project, budget and relevant quotes.
- n) The project or event must take place in the Waikato District Council area of jurisdiction.
- o) Council-owned property i.e. halls managed by hall committees and who receive a targeted rate are not eligible for funding.

Eligibility Criteria

Applications are required to meet the following criteria:

- a) Applicants must be either a community groups, non-commercial groups and voluntary organisations
- b) Successful applicants must complete a project accountability report within 2 months of the completion of the project before being eligible for further funding. This is essential for auditing requirements.
- c) Applicants may be required to attend the community board / community committee and the Discretionary & Funding Committee to present their application.

Funding Rounds

Applications to be presented to the boards/committee's chair or funding representative two weeks prior to the next scheduled meeting.

Presenting your application

Applicants are advised in writing by the community board/committee of the outcome of the funding.

To	Sustainability & Wellbeing Committee
Report title	Economic and Community Led Development Work Programme
Date:	17 May 2023
Report Author:	Julie Dolan, Economic and Community Led Development Manager
Authorised by:	Clive Morgan - General Manager Community Growth

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Economic and Community Led Development work programme.

A verbal update on the Economic Development and Community Led Development programmes will be provided by the Economic and Community Led Development Manager.

2. Executive summary

Whakaraapopototanga matua

It has been agreed that the Economic and Community Led Development team will report quarterly to the Sustainability and Wellbeing committee, the attachments to this report will be spoken to further at the meeting.

The Economic and Community Led Development team leverages key stakeholder relationships and partnerships to improve economic, community and social outcomes for Manu whenua, Iwi, communities' business, investors, residents, and visitors.

3. Staff recommendations

Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee receives the Economic and Community Led Development Work Programme update for May 2023.

4. Background

Koorero whaimaarama

Economic Development – Economic Development supports business sustainability and growth across the district. Working with regional and national partners to provide businesses with external support and advice to ensure investment is realised by local communities and iwi. A focus is ensuring that investment is driving improved employment and skills training to maximise better social outcomes for communities and Iwi.

This work is achieved through local business network events and through the Key Account Management framework for new investors to the district.

Economic Development works across the organisation to support business sustainability and growth and has strong links with agencies and Iwi representative organisations to drive better economic and social outcomes.

Community Led Development – Community Led Development delivers capability building within Boards, Committees, Community groups and Iwi. In partnership with regional and national agencies, communities and iwi are supported through training and development of governance, stakeholder engagement, financial management and project delivery.

Community Led Development works closely with Service Delivery of Council to support communities and Iwi and works with external regional and national agencies to grow community capability and capacity and increase regional and national investment into the district.

Blueprint and Community Aspirations

The Blueprint and Community Aspirations projects identified by Communities that could be achieved locally through Community Groups and with external agency support are also part of the Economic and Community Led Development work programme. A major focus at present is identifying groups within the community or Iwi that could be supported to lead on the projects through the governance and leadership training programme.

Capability for Community resilience leadership and governance

To better support our communities in the leading of community projects, training programmes to support Te Tiriti O Waitangi, citizen led democracy, stakeholder engagement, governance, funding and leadership are currently being designed to deliver to Community Boards, Committees and Community Groups. These programmes will support a focus towards the deliverables of the wellbeing's for our communities and will be completed for launch in March 2023.

5. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1 – The Economic Development Work programme

Attachment 2 –The Community Led Development Programme

Economic and Key Account Management Development Quarterly Report

February - May 2023

New Investment Enquiries – Key Account Management	Purpose	Opportunity	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New investment enquiries and key account management portfolios have grown since last quarter. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The continued interest by developers in the Waikato District shows our district comparative advantage will keep our local economies growing even in a tighter economic environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With a refresh of WDC’s economic development brand ‘Open Waikato’ and a targeted marketing approach our team will work to continue ensure that Waikato District is one of the first places that potential investors see when doing their initial research.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of investment enquiries/key account management activity: • <i>Key Account Management</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pōkeno Medical Centre ○ Mercer Service Centre Redevelopment ○ Sleepyhead ○ Glenergy ○ Vanderbrinks Enterprises in Tuakau ○ Northgate – Horotiu ○ Huntly Medical Centre • <i>Enquiries</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of our key account management activity, we work closely with each investor to understand the specific requirements of their business whilst assessing the broad economic, social and environmental impact of each business proposition and the infrastructure and resources required by the business. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With well managed key account management and targeted enquiry management our economic development team aim to make Waikato District the best council to work with in terms of customer service and transparency. • We have a real focus around driving high value employment opportunities and positive societal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From what we are hearing from development managers and other businesses we will expect further retraction of the economy, we are still unsure what effect this will have in the next 6 months. • It should be noted that some of these investors own the land and are working their way through the development process while others are in the feasibility stage.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Real estate agent/broker enquiring about available land for solar farms. ○ Mercer Wharf redevelopment ○ National building business expanding into Ngāruawahia. Connection to local workforce provided. ○ Meremere Speedway ○ Waikato Offshore Wind Project, early stages of feasibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We aim to give a seamless end-to-end service for our customers as they navigate WDC services. 	<p>change for WDC residents.</p>	
Sustainable Economic Development and Engagement	Purpose	Opportunity	Comments
<p><i>Business Networking</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our latest Business Networking event was postponed until June. We are planning to host the next business networking event in Pōkeno. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● These events not only give a local business the opportunity to showcase their business but also provide some valuable networking opportunity. ● Collaborating with our partners we are able to make presentations that relate to their needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will be making these a regular event and will be holding them in the North and in the South to cater to our large district. 	

<p><i>Business Associations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern ED Advisor has now met with the Tuakau Business Association. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An opportunity to introduce themselves as a new staff member in the role and talk about the purpose of their role within the local community. • Advisor is awaiting receipt of their revised strategic plan before co-designing business sustainability programmes for local businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This association has requested support as membership is low and they need some fresh thinking and approaches. • This is a chance to profile some of the Regional Business Partner Programme and encourage local business to focus on business sustainability and growing where there are growth opportunities. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern ED Advisor has met with the following groups in the to support business sustainability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Raglan Business Chamber 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided information on the cyclone recovery funds (where several applications were successful) • Will be attending meetings on a bimonthly basis to access barriers or opportunities business have and with our partners work, together to find ways we can assist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raglan Chamber is looking to raise their profile and add even more value to their members. We have introduced them to businesses that will help them with their strategy. We plan to co-host an event in the near future. 	

<p><i>Pakihi Māori (Māori Business)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern ED Advisor met with Kim Hill who leads Te Humeka, Waikato Māori Business Network. • Northern ED Advisor met with Saara Taawha who leads Start-up Ventures and the Kokiri Māori Business Accelerator programme for Te Waananga o Aotearoa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These hui were to explore what is happening within the Māori Business Network/Ecosystem in the region to understand how many of our district pakihi Māori are being supported and any potential synergies. 		
<p><i>Community Boards/Committees</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern ED Advisor has met with the following groups in the Northern Part of the District: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tuakau Community Board ○ Pōkeno Community Board ○ Mercer Development Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An opportunity to introduce themselves as a new staff member in the role and talk about the purpose of their role within the local community. 		

Sector Development/Engagement	Purpose	Opportunity	Comments
<p><i>Tourism</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern ED Advisor assisted Raglan Tourism business to access all the available Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Grants possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that Waikato District Tourism businesses have access to all the support available to enable their recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through WDC's well-coordinated recovery effort our tourism businesses have been well supported. 	
<p><i>Hamilton Waikato Tourism Ambassador Programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ED team are working closely with Hamilton Waikato Tourism to promote the delivery of the Local Ambassador programme in Gordonton and Raglan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team wants to ensure that as many Waikato District businesses as possible attend this free programme as it will lift the capability of operators to promote the key selling points of their local area and the region as a whole. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The opportunities presented by this free to access, central government funded programme are many. Important outcomes sought are for business operators to have a depth of knowledge around local histories to be able to share with visitors and customers. When attendees graduate from the programme, they will be equipped as a local ambassador of their town and also their district and region. 	

<p><i>Hamilton Waikato Tourism Regional Positioning Strategy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ED team recently contributed to the regional positioning strategy being undertaken by Hamilton Waikato Tourism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that the Waikato District is strongly represented in the Regional Positioning Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that the Waikato District is strongly represented in the Regional Positioning Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our team are now undertaking a full review of the Tourism Landscape in the District. This review will be completed in the next two months.
<p><i>Screen and Film Sector</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ED team have had ongoing engagement with the Waikato Screen Office. A business case for investment was re-submitted to the ED team and was accepted after internal analysis. The contract will be drawn up based on a one-year time frame with quarterly KPI's in the first year and first right of renewal after each year that KPI's are delivered. 	<p>The Waikato has been the only region without a film office, supporting Waikato screen not only helps put us on the map as far as productions go but will also help facilitate productions when they come, encouraging the industry to do more business in our district.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a growing sector and has the opportunity not only for direct spend into the district with productions filmed here but to showcase what our district has to offer to a wide audience. 	

Partner/Stakeholder Engagement	Purpose	Opportunity	Comments
<p><i>Hamilton Waikato Tourism</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have had several meetings with Tourism Hamilton/Waikato. Our economic development team are undertaking a full review of what is delivered in our district out of the Destination Management Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ascertain the service delivery levels in the Waikato District based on our level of investment into the regional workplan. This will also identify any areas for development in the tourism sector within the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To further enhance our tourism opportunities and increase domestic and international visitation and tourism revenue. 	
<p><i>MSD</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have had several meetings with MSD to understand how we can work together more closely to leverage opportunities for our community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have introduced ourselves to our district's work brokers and discussed how we are going to integrate this understanding into our work when employment opportunities arise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There as an opportunity that exists at present requires several builders and 2 apprentices. We are planning to get interviews underway. 	
<p><i>Ports of Auckland.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to have bimonthly updates with Ports of Auckland to get updates on developments at Horotiu and Auckland port. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping this regular dialog puts us front of mind to be brought in when new investors arrive to be able to provide key account management if required. 	<p>There are many lots yet to be developed, when they start to get filled more focus will be put on the feasibility of building the rail siding. This in turn will be self-propelling and create many more jobs for our region.</p>	

<i>Te Waka</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Waka held their first regional forum for the year where the EDs from the TLAs were able to give an update on projects and activity in their area. • The next forum is set for June. 		
<i>Soda, Regional Business Partner Programme and Callaghan Innovation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDC ED team met with 5 staff from the team at Soda who have recently taken over the regional delivery of the MBIE Regional Business Partner Programme and Callaghan Innovation services to understand how we can work more closely together to assist businesses in the Waikato District with growth and sustainability activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With business sustainability and resilience being a key priority for businesses in the district, we both teams want to ensure that Waikato District Businesses are getting their share of the MBIE investment in growth and innovation programmes (which Soda Administer) via the RBP growth advisors and Callaghan Innovation Navigators. 	
<i>Waikato-Tainui</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ED team have had regular meetings with key staff at Waikato Tainui to strengthen relationships and look at ways to collaborate. The team have now had one meeting with Mare Tukeri (Chief Operating Officer) two hui with Trina Pohatu McQueen (economic development lead) and now three hui with Glenda Taituha (GM Culture & Heritage). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are working to deliver JMA objectives through integrating our workplan with Waikato Tainui Economic Development Strategy. Our team have been able to work in consultation with Waikato Tainui in relation to several key matters that affect the WDC economic development programme such as 'Open Waikato' brand refresh and now we are entering into further discussion about the Waikato District Tourism programme. 	

<i>Waikato Regional Council</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have been working closely with WRC on the cyclone recovery and shared information on the impact of this event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRC has mentioned the setting up a cyclone recovery unit for potential future events and will keep us up to date with progress. • This relationship will be key for future information sharing. 	
<i>MPI</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial discussions with MPI have centered around the recovery efforts that our team are delivering in the economic and community led development space. We have also had further conversation with the On Farm Support team in relation to understanding and gathering insight into how we are working together to support land-based businesses in our district. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With land based/primary sector businesses being a continued focus for the economic development team with further integration with the MPI's On Farm Support team we will be able to understand in more depth the opportunities and barriers that this sector is currently facing and how WDC can best support them. • An initial meeting with the On Farm support team was hosted by Cr. Eyre and HWM along with our Northern ED Advisor. There is a follow up meeting to map a path forward to collaborate in May. 	
<i>Te Puni Kokiri</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Northern Advisor has met with Matua Jim from the enterprise team at Te Puni Kookiri to understand any synergies and how we could work together to support opportunities for Pakihi Māori in our district. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matua Jim was able to provide an overview of the workplan for TPK in the region and some great contacts that we should connect with in our district in relation to progressive procurement support. 	

Wider Economic Development activity	Purpose	Opportunity	Comments
<i>Sustainable Procurement Programme</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDC's economic development team have been working closely with the Procurement Manager to map out how we can work together to support sustainable procurement within the organization. • We see the activation of the procurement teams vision and approach for attaining our progressive procurement as a key priority as it will fulfil a number of goals in WDC's economic development strategy Waikato 2070. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building the capacity and capability of district small to medium enterprises. • Avoiding economic leakage (where money from our district is then paid to contractors who then circulate it in another economy). • Providing focused and targeted opportunities for Māori and Pasifica Businesses to build capability and capacity. 	
<i>Open Waikato Brand and Marketing Refresh</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With WDC's economic development work programme almost signed off we are working simultaneously to refresh our economic development brand and associated marketing plan. • With the initial brand developed back in 2014 it was in need of a refresh. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Waikato will once again become a well-known brand which will highlight and promote the benefits of doing business and investing in our district and communities. • The platform will showcase the interconnection between industry and the communities they are part of. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ED team have been very focused on undertaking a robust process with the brand refresh to ensure the brand is fit for purpose.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This initial brand was developed in partnership with Waikato Tainui and the tribe are once again keen to see this brand refreshed and bring benefit to district. • Open Waikato is not only a platform that is designed to attract new business but will hold relevant content and information for our existing businesses and residents that will help them build resilience and sustainability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our goal is to ensure that Waikato District ranks competitively when investors and residents alike are looking at investment, growth and sustainability. 	
<i>Business Database</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are in the process of creating a fit for purpose database. • This program will be able to break down the businesses in our district into several different categories, giving us the ability to extract information when required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A better understanding of our business in the district and where they are located will enable us to have better communication and provide targeted assistance and gather targeted information when required. We will be able to report on number of engagements in a given period and gain great insights in terms of patterns of opportunities and barriers that our district businesses are navigating. 	

<i>Work Programme</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have completed the implementation plan and have it ready to take to BECA for integration into the operational delivery model of Waikato 2070. • The plan not only has direct lines to Waikato 2070 but gives clear connection with the blueprint initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the implementation plan comes tasks and projects to be put into a programme of work that clearly defines the team responsible and the funding required. 	
<i>Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Northern Advisor has been involved ongoing as part of the cyclone recovery team lead by Reece Turner with a focus on economic impact and recovery. • We have taken the lead in terms of communicating cyclone recovery support to our local businesses. This has involved several activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This provided an opportunity for our team to connect with our local business communities, to communicate and encourage access to available support services to ensure that our district businesses remain sustainable through this event. • There has been ongoing work to establish the economic impact of these recent events on our district economy. It is important for WDC to have this information to advocate on behalf of our businesses. 	

Economic Overview	Purpose	Opportunity	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While external enquiries and growth has slowed, this shift allows our team to focus on nurturing the businesses we have in our district. We are focusing our efforts to ensure they have all the tools to be sustainable and resilient for what is expected to be a difficult few year ahead. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to keep the lines of communication open with investors, businesses, and partners alike. Our focus will be to help where possible and communicate through our business network events and Open Waikato as well as increase our good old-fashioned 'feet on the street' way of engaging with key businesses and sectors. • Our focus remains on the best outcomes for the communities we serve, and we look forward to supporting resilience and innovation to combat the challenges ahead.

Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

Community led Development Quarterly Report Ending April 2023

Community	Project Overview	Progress update	Groups/Partners Engaged	Outcomes (& next steps)
Mercer	<p>Blueprint: MC1.1 Build a strong identity based on the river corridor, and the unique qualities of the local area</p>	<p>Mercer Morgue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected committee to lease team re: morgue lease/ MOU • Extended cemetery maintenance contract to include morgue site <p>Mercer wharf:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request open spaces team to investigate backfilling ground adjacent to wharf • Discussion with Young group re: development of wharf as part of service centre redevelopment <p>Mercer on/off ramps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with Kiwi rail/ Waka Kotahi to address weeds, graffiti in respective corridors • Investigate opportunity for community planting project for land beside ramps <p>Preliminary discussions to test for interest in wider identity project to include jailhouse, morgue, Chorus building, surrounding paa sites, Te Araroa trail</p>	<p>Mercer Community Committee Leasing team Open spaces team</p> <p>Young Group Economic development team Strategic property team</p> <p>Kiwi Rail Waka Kotahi</p> <p>Walking Access NZ</p>	<p>Support funding application for morgue refurbishment</p> <p>Determine ownership of wharf</p> <p>Form work group to explore identity project plan</p>

Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

	<p>Blueprint: MC4.2 Consider the development of a community facility with a meeting place</p>	<p>Engaged Chorus property optimization manager to advise on what community need to do to gain lease on disused Chorus building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate community to continue correspondence with Chorus and coordinate with leasing team 	<p>Leasing team Chorus Community Committee</p>	<p>Follow up with Chorus</p>
<p>Te Kauwhata</p>	<p>Blueprint: TK1.1 Build a strong identity based on the river corridor, and the unique qualities of the local area TK4.3 Consider the provision of facilities to accommodate community, and active and passive recreational activities. TK7.1 Produce a cycling and walking strategy to develop local connections and paths, including around the lakes and the</p>	<p>Discussion with Kāinga Ora for culture & heritage/ecological identity project around Lake Waikere and greater Te Kauwhata, highlighting important historic and cultural sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation to community committee- is there appetite to consolidate various community signage projects into one overarching identity strategy • Create working/focus group to engage key community influencers • Developed draft structure plan for project- key work centers: cultural, 	<p>Kāinga Ora Lakeside residents Mana whenua Nga Muka trust Te Kauwhata community Toi Ako Te Kauwhata schools Community funding advisor Walking Access NZ Economic development team</p>	<p>Create next steps plan for project with community groups</p>

Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

	<p>Whangamarino Wetland. TK1.2 Promote Rangiriri, highlighting the area's history. TK6.3 Strengthen and emphasise linkages to the Waikato River and the Te Araroa Trail, and leverage for tourism.</p> <p>Community Aspirations: Safer communities/ community resilience</p> <p>Civil Defence and Emergency Management community planning</p>	<p>recreational, environmental, educational, economic/tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with Te Kauwhata Police, Safer communities' group, CPNZ group- • Procedures and boundaries for groups assisting police, CCTV, Lakeside • Connect safer communities' group to discretionary funding opportunities • Connect Kainga Ora placemaking advisor/ lakeside community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support community focus group to create community emergency plan • Conduit between focus group and resilience team 	<p>TK police Safer communities CPNZ Councilor Kainga Ora</p> <p>Community focus group Councilor Resilience team St John area committee Kainga Ora</p>	
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Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and resource mapping template provided • Structure for community – council connect confirmed • Consideration for best digital platform for info sharing/comms to align with council • Connect St John to local Maraes to explore opportunities for first aid training to build capability and resilience • Connect Kainga Ora placemaking advisor/ Lakeside community 		
Tuakau	<p>Community aspiration: Reinstate Tuakau community patrol (link to: Blueprint: TU4.5 Install lighting and CCTV for safety.)</p> <p>Blueprint: TU4.2 Support the community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPNZ- Assessment of governance model, funding, succession planning and volunteer management • Outline discretionary funding process through community board • Connect to residents and Port Waikato ratepayers association/ mayoral disaster relief fund to negotiate extension of service to the Port 	<p>CPNZ Tuakau Community Board</p> <p>TESCT Community Waikato</p>	

Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

	<p>aspiration for an emergency services hub.</p> <p>Community Aspiration: Create a stronger business community</p> <p>Community Aspiration: Continue community anti-graffiti program</p>	<p>Engaged with Tuakau Emergency Services Charitable Trust (TESCT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified the need for a strategic plan to manage growth of project Identified the need for a funding strategy to finance growth Strategic planning session facilitated through Community Waikato <p>Support for Menzshed concept as part of hub facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host vision, purpose and values workshop. <p>Engaged with Tuakau Business Association (formerly TDDA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified the need to evolve to attract more members Revisit business plan and adjust for relevancy 	<p>MenzShed NZ Local men TESCT</p> <p>Tuakau Business Association Economic development team</p> <p>Tuakau business Association Open spaces team Tuakau Graffiti group Tuakau community Board</p>	<p>Provide support to implement strategic plan</p> <p>Discuss Pasifika Garden concept for centre</p> <p>Visit existing sheds for ideas Connect to support services to help with design plans Ensure comms with TEST are clear and expectations met</p> <p>Support initiatives to reconnect with business community</p>
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Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

	<p>(supported by the business association)</p> <p>Blueprint: TU4.3 Develop a sports and recreation facility, including consideration of incorporation of the Council's pool facility.</p> <p>Community Aspiration: Increase capacity and capability of Youth Group Trust to enable better funding outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate new agreement • Ensure reporting is consistent and timely- • Establish report to Community Board rather than Council • Engagement with Bruce Pullman regarding investment into Tuakau Lightbody reserve through his gaming Trust • Tour of facilities and description of history, current aspirations and challenges • One on one session for governance structure, operations and funding 	<p>Bruce Pullman / Trust Councilor Tuakau Youth Trust Tuakau Combined Sports Trust Tuakau Community Board</p> <p>Community led development team Community Development Funding Advisor DIA</p>	<p>Continue to support Trust to implement best practice at meetings.</p> <p>Working alongside the Trust to become registered to be registered as a Charitable Trust.</p>
<p>Pokeno</p>	<p>Community aspiration: Create a new community club/hub at the Pokeno tennis club to coincide with court refurbishment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training provided to Chair: creating a meeting agenda, managing meetings, creating a new committee • New committee established • Application for incorporation started • Fundraising program established • Establish council guidelines for sponsorship signage 	<p>PTRC committee Open spaces team Economic development team Funding advisor Local residents Community Waikato Local businesses Events team</p>	<p>Continue incorporation preparation of committee to enable funding capability and council lease agreement</p> <p>Create a 12 month plan</p>

Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capability support for corporate sponsorship • Fundraising event to raise funds for opening of refurbished courts • Health and safety training for opening event 		Connect to potential user groups
Port Waikato	<p>Blueprint:PW 9.1/ 9.2: Strengthen relationship between residents and rate payers and community board (expanded to include manawhenua, community and council)</p> <p>PW3.3 Improve the relationships between WDC, the local community committee, and local mana whenua</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified the need to improve community relationships with mana whenua • Acknowledgement the association is unsure how to achieve this • Plan to deliver cultural capability workshop(s) 	Port Waikato residents and Ratepayers Association	Established community rep to collaborate with to deliver workshops
Onewhero	<p>Community aspiration: Reinstate the bowling club for social bowls and other community activities</p> <p>Community aspiration: Create a community cycle trail at the Domain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with Onewhero Bowling club and OSPA regarding structure of lease (as they share the same building) • Assess project to consider seed funding for concept plan design 	<p>Onewhero bowling club OSPA Lease team</p> <p>Domain committee Consultants</p>	<p>Support bowling club as needed</p> <p>Consider end to end plan for project and prospective funding</p>

Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

	<p>Community aspiration: Install solar panels onto theatre building to reduce running costs and increase community resilience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise on funding options and explore broader outcomes- power during extreme events etc. 	Funding advisor	options for construction
Rural North Waikato	<p>Community aspiration: Create a North Waikato community website for info sharing, resources, comms etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect with Wheronet (local web/broadband company) and community to rationalise idea/plan 	Wheronet Community Community Board	Meet to scope project plan late May
Matangi /Tamahere	<p>Community Aspiration Heritage Signage Project <i>Identity TM1.1 Build a strong identity based on the river corridor, and the unique qualities of the local area (refer to DW1.1 to 1.4). For Tamahere, consider the gully network, Wiremu Tamihana (celebrating heritage), and the markets.</i></p>	<p>Heritage story boards are being developed. These will be placed in and around Matangi, Eureka, Gordonton , Puketaha and Newstead Funds have been sourced Tamahere Community are creating 3 new signs. The project is to provide information to the public about the history of tangata whenua and events that have shaped the community of Tamahere. It is aligned with the work done through the Eureka-Tamahere Heritage Committee, with involvement from St Stephens Church Tamahere who is organising the erection of 'Story</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matangi, Eureka, Gordonton, Puketaha, Newstead Committees/residents/Iwi Tamahere Church, Tamahere Markets Tamahere Community Committee Iwi/hapu 	Project is nearing completion. Likely to be completed by end of April/May 2023.

Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

		Boards' detailing the history of both the cemetery and church.		
Ngaruawahia	Blueprint – Identity, community, Economic	<p>Work with the Community Board, Iwi, and community to increase activity back into the town centre and surrounding areas.</p> <p>Ngaruawahia Bowling Club Community Facility - internal upgrade. The Club have approached Council to seek support to assist with Blueprint seed funding for the upgrade. The facility has been identified as a community hub and is widely used for various activities amongst community groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Community Board • Community Led Development • Community Development Funding Advisor • Economic Development • Iwi Development Team • Service Delivery 	2023 onwards
Whatawhata	Blueprint WW4.1 New Community Facility	Communities WW4.1 Support the process to create a meeting space ('Our Place'). Blueprint budget has been allocated to this project as well as Wellbeing Trust funding and Rural Ward Funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whatawhata Community • Infrastructure Projects Team • Local Councillor 	Capability building for funding will be provided to user groups of this facility.
Huntly	Blueprints Huntly Rangatahi Youth Facility Project HU6.3	Continue to support the youth strategy to tie in with the development of the abovementioned proposed clusters (refer to HU6.1 and HU6.2).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development Team • Waahi Whanui/Marae Youth Sector Group • Community Leasing Team • Iwi Development Team • Huntly Community Board 	Currently holding initial community hui to develop the project

Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

	<p>Huntly Community reserve project HU7.2</p> <p>Raahui Pookeka Te huia/Museum Project</p>	<p>Rangatahi have identified a Council owned property and are working with staff to develop this.</p> <p>Taniwharau Rugby League Club – Maori Led Development</p> <p>The Club has recently updated its constitution to reflect that it is a Cultural Hub of the community. The Club is looking to rebuild its outdated leaking building that provides opportunities for tamariki, rangatahi, and whanau. This Group has also been successful in having the whenua returned to the Club from Waahi Pa.</p> <p>Support the production of a cycle/walking strategy that links the lakes, river and town centre. Build a community fitness trail along the river corridor. More detail to follow</p> <p>Re-site the old Huntly Rail Station Building. This initiative is a partnership project with the Huntly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Led Development • Community Development Funding Advisor • Councillors • Community Board • External Funders • External Stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Internal Teams • Councilors' • Community Board • Iwi Development Team • Huntly Museum Staff & Committee • Kiwi Rail and NZTA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Waikato • Councilors • Momentum Waikato • WDC staff • Community-Led Development Team 	<p>Staff to continue to build capacity and capability building in this space.</p> <p>Stage one – Building relocated by April 2023.</p> <p>Stage two to complete funding is underway.</p>
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Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

	<p>Review of the Huntly Social Services Trust Funds and property located at 143 Main Street, Huntly.</p> <p>HU4.2 - Promote Waka Ama on the Waikato River and Lakes.</p>	<p>Museum, Council, Kiwi Rail and NZTA The facility will house a new Museum and the public amenities for the Te Huia Train Station. Funds have been sought for stage one. Stage two funds for the internal fit out are being investigated and applied for from multiple funding agencies. Work is underway to build capacity and capability around funding and in the development of a funding strategy and calendar. Budget has been allocated to this project from the Blueprint project.</p> <p>Establish a new fund/trust for the Huntly Social Sector organisations Transfer the Huntly Social Services Trust Funds being held by Council to a protected and enduring fund under the guardianship of Momentum Waikato Community Foundation (Momentum Waikato).</p> <p>Promote the use of Lake Puketirini for waka ama activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development Funding Advisor • Service Delivery. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raahui Pookeka Waka Ama. • Community-Led Development Team. • Community Development Funding Advisor • Sport Waikato. 	<p>A report of the current state of 143 Main Street, Huntly will be presented to the infrastructure Committee for consideration.</p> <p>Initial discussions are underway with user groups. The Huntly Community</p>
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Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

	<p>HU1.1 - Identity</p>	<p>Promote the Arts sector for Huntly. Work is underway to create an arts facility to support multiple art groups in the area. The Huntly Scouts facility has been identified as a space for this activity. Staff are working with Arts Huntly regarding planning and funding for this initiative.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Delivery. • Community-Led Development Team • Community Development Funding Advisor • Service Delivery. • Community Arts sector • Councillors 	<p>Board support this idea. CLD are continuing support Waka Ama and this initiative.</p> <p>Lease arrangements are under negotiation with local art groups.</p>
	<p>HU6.3 - Oho Mauri – Youth to employment</p>	<p>Meetings are held regularly with Oho Mauri to support youth to employment initiatives and support funding opportunities.</p> <p>Attended a stakeholder event with key funders which promotes growing rangatahi into employment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-Led Development Team. • Community Development Funding Advisor 	<p>Stakeholder event in January 2023.</p>

Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

	Raahui Pookeka Strategy/Blueprints	<p>Huntly Community Board are holding a workshop to better understand the Blueprint concept and whether the current Blueprint projects are still relevant. Council's Community Growth staff will facilitate this session.</p> <p>Raahui Pookeka (Huntly) are preparing a social, economic and cultural development strategy for Iwi, hapu and community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huntly Community Board • Iwi & Hapu • Community Led & Economic Development • Govt agencies • Funding partners 	This work will start in May 2023.
Raglan	Blueprint Raglan Destination Blueprint: RA1.1	<p>Reigniting Tourism in Raglan – Creating a new look tourism sector that is self-sustaining and thriving, that promotes our unique identity while celebrating our people, our stories and our place. Blueprint budget – Stage one funded</p> <p>Work is underway around opportunities to partner with the Ministry of Social Development on job creation under their Flexi Wage Scheme.</p> <p>Building capability with this group to grow the funding portfolio for this work is underway with external investors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raglan Community Board, Raglan Business Chamber, Raglan Museum, Representative Ngati Mahanga, Raglan Arts Collective, Raglan Upcycling, Raglan Growers Markert, Raglan Naturally, community minded, passionate individuals • Ministry of Social Development • Community-Led Development Team • Raglan Councillors • Ministry of Social Development • Community-Led Development Team • Raglan Councillors • Raglan Museum Committee, our iwi rep, 	Stage one – completed.

Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

	<p>Align the Museum to Raglan Naturally/Raglan Blueprint</p>	<p>Raglan Museum Strategic Plan The aim is to set the direction for the heritage activity of the Whare Taonga o Whaingaroa,</p> <p>Raglan & Districts Museum Society Inc. In Whaingaroa. The project aligns with Raglan Naturally 2020 aspirations. In addition, the current purpose and mission contain objectives around 3 of RN's themes (Iwi, education, natural environment)</p> <p>Iwi Partnering with Iwi and hapū is very important, the museum currently holds a collection of significant taonga. It is responsible for ensuring that the mana and mātauranga of these taonga are preserved and enhanced through research, education initiatives and exhibitions.</p> <p>Planning enables the museum to prioritise work streams and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> our collections manager, interested members Community Board, Raglan Naturally and wider community 	<p>Strategic planning sessions have been held. A new strategic document is near completion. Community engagement with educational providers and the community is underway. Staff have suggested the Museum Committee join the Waikato District Heritage Forum.</p>
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Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

		also identify those areas where capacity is lacking.		
	Raglan Naturally	<p>Raglan Naturally Community Led Development initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Led Development training for community groups • Funding workshops • Youth strategy development <p>Discussions are underway with Raglan Naturally, Community Led Development and the Funding Advisor to explore greater connectivity with Community Groups and Raglan Naturally to provide greater cohesion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raglan Naturally • Community Led Development • Community Development Funding Advisor 	
Glen Afton / Pukemiro		<p>Mining Memorial Sculpture Project Stage Two:</p> <p>Create a memorial sculpture to the 11 men who lost their lives Glen Afton mining disaster on 24th September 1939 and other local miners who lost their life in mine. Blueprint budget and community funding/ in-kind allocated to the project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glen Afton & Pukemiro • Bush Tramway Club • Community Committees • Community Led Development Team • Community Development Funding Advisor • External funders • Wider community. 	Community Led Development staff continue to support these groups by building capacity and capability.

Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

		<p>Stage one: groundwork and footings completed.</p> <p>Glen Afton Hub – Rebuild This Community Group is currently looking to rebuild a facility that will connect both the Glen Afton and Pukemiro communities. This facility will be able to be used by many groups for multiple purposes. The constitution of the Group has been updated and was adopted by the Communities at its recent AGM.</p> <p>The Group has been successful in securing a significant in-kind contribution towards the earthworks associated with the rebuild.</p> <p>Council’s Funding Advisor has been working alongside the Group to establish a Funding Strategy and Funding calendar to support the rebuild.</p> <p>These projects will incorporate the local heritage and promote tourism.</p>		<p>Community Waikato and Community Led Development have been assisting the Glen Afton Citizens Club with updating its legal entity document. This will enable the Club to grow and develop its new community hub into a well utilized community space for the people of Glen Afton, Pukemirio and wider district.</p>
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Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

Gordonton	GN4.1 - Continue to redevelop Hukanui Park with a playground, and revisit seating and other possible recreation facilities and explore other opportunities on this Reserve.	Engagement has begun with the Gordonton Community Committee and Ngati Wairere to explore opportunities for the Reserve while ensuring cultural heritage is enhanced on this Reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordonton Community Committee • Ngati Wairere • Councillors • Community-Led Development Team • Service Delivery 	Hui has been and will continue to be held with the Gordonton Community Committee, Iwi and the community to discuss opportunities for this Reserve.
Tauwhare	Tauwhare Community Committee	Planning is underway to update their community plans and to identify new aspirations and initiatives that can be led by the community for the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tauwhare Community Committee • Councillors • Community Led Development • Tauwhare community 	The Community Committee are hosting the first session with the community in May 2023
Placemaking Initiatives	Tamahere – Eureka Cluster Heritage Group	Heritage signage is being created for the following areas: Gordonton, Puketaha, Tauwhare, Matangi, Tamahere Eureka and Newstead.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordonton, Puketaha, Tauwhare, Matangi, Tamahere • Eureka and Newstead Community Committees • Ngati Haua • Service Delivery • Community Led Development 	
	Regional Placemaking	Pacemakers across the region have set – up a new regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Council 	April 2023

Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

		forum for Councils and Communities.		
	Taupiri Community Mural	A new mural depicting the history of Taupiri has been developed and installed on a large chorus building wall. The community are now creating more mural initiatives as a result of this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taupiri Community Board • Taupiri Marae • Community • Community Led Development • Chorus • Citycare • Taupiri School 	

Funding

Community Led Development and Funding Quarterly Report

	A community funding workshop was held at Port Waikato in conjunction with Community Waikato and Council's Community Development Funding Advisor. This was well attended.
	Training has commenced with the Funding Representatives on Community Boards and Community Committees around their Discretionary Funds.
	A Funding expo for our communities across the Waikato Region is scheduled for 1 November 2023 in Hamilton to build capability. Council's Community Development Funding Advisor is on the Planning Group for this expo. If we have a number of community groups interested in attending, we will look to organise a bus.
	The Creative Communities Scheme Grant received a number of applications in this round. It is very exciting to have new Committee members on this Committee in this triennium.
	Capability and capacity building with community groups seeking assistance and guidance on where to go for funding continues with a number of groups being successful in their funding endeavours.
	The online platform for the Funds that Council administers is being reviewed to ensure an improved customer experience. The new platform will be tested in the next couple of weeks.
	Council's Community Development Funding Advisor attended the Waikato Funders Forum in March 2023.
	Relationships continue to be fostered and nurtured with investors (funders) at a district, regional and national level.

To	Sustainability & Wellbeing Committee
Report title	Climate Action Progress Update 2023
Date:	17 May 2023
Report Author:	Rachael Goddard, Climate Action & Sustainability Manager
Authorised by:	Julie Dolan, Acting Group Manager Community Growth

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

To update and inform the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee on the progress and implementation of the Council's Climate Response and Resilience Action Plan, the Climate Action and Sustainability Manager's works programme, the draft Climate Response Strategy and roadmap, and an overview of the key projects and achievements since February 2023.

2. Executive summary

Whakaraapopototanga matua

Since last updating the committee in February 2023, a number of initiatives have been progressed and further areas identified for consideration.

1. Draft Climate Response and Resilience Strategy with Roadmap and targets- Focus Groups
 2. Think Tank & Sustainability Framework
 3. Community Climate Response Programme
 4. Recruitment
 5. Huntly Gas Boiler
 6. Annual Co₂e Inventory
 7. EV Fleet Charging- Fleet Compound
 8. EV Infrastructure Regional Working Group
 9. Climate Action & Advisory Group
 10. Long Term Plan
 11. Climate action in the organisation
 12. National Direction on Renewable Energy Generation and Electricity Transmission
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3. Staff recommendations Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

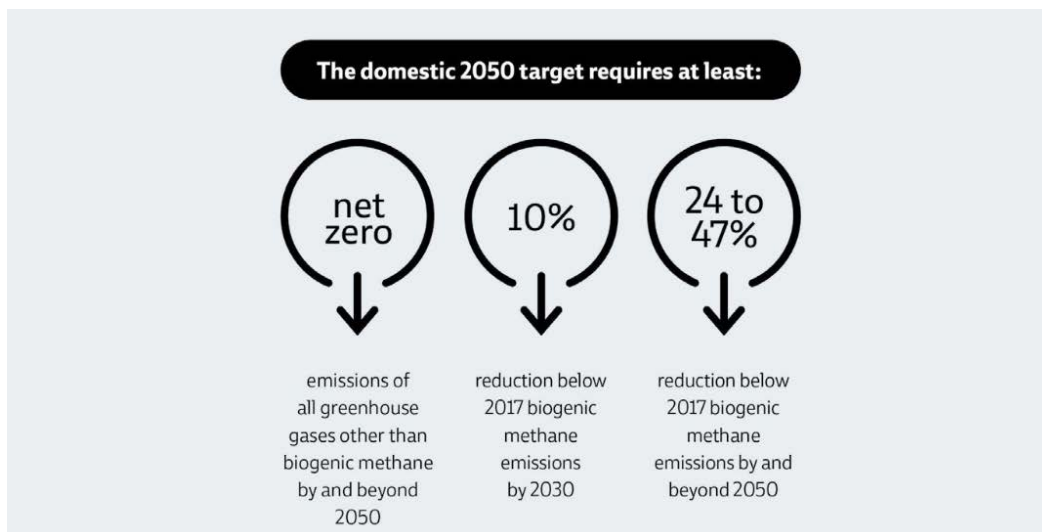
THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee receives the Climate Action Progress Update 2023.

4. Background Koorero whaimaarama

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) launched its latest [AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023](#) last week, summarising five years of reports on global temperature rises, climate change impacts and fossil fuel emissions. The report finds that, despite progress in policies and legislation around climate mitigation, it is likely that global warming will exceed **1.5°C in the next 8-12 years, and we have a small and rapidly closing window in which to act.**

The New Zealand Government's Emissions Reduction Plan (2022-2025) contains over 300 actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across a broad range of areas, such as transport, energy, building, agriculture, forestry, living standards, circular economy, Maori perspectives etc.

New Zealand has set targets to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and be net zero by 2050. To assist deliver on these targets, Government emissions budgets cap the amount of greenhouse gas emissions at a certain level over 5-year periods (2022-2025, 2026-2030, and 2031-35). Most councils are aligning with or endeavouring to deliver reductions, in accordance with the Government targets. Our draft Climate Response & Resilience Strategy is our key document to drive this.



5. Discussion Matapaki

Good progress is being made and the existing foundation is being built on. The following key areas for climate action have been achieved so far.

- 1) Draft Climate Response and Resilience Strategy with Roadmap and targets-** Focus Groups have been set up to provide feedback on the Strategy during June this year. The Strategy will align with and be delivered on by a revised version of the existing Climate Action Plan. In addition, interviews with key budget/unit holders have identified projects which align with the strategy. Further comms work will see the strategy socialised with staff and the community when approved.

The table summarises the type and number of existing climate projects and activities identified across Council which will be aligned to deliver on the Strategy.

TYPE	NUMBER
Adaptation	5
Education	13
Internal Change	8
Mitigation	21
Resilience	13
Sustainability	11

- 2) Think Tank & Sustainability Framework.** Council supported the development of a Think Tank to bring together and identify, map and make more cohesive the broad range of climate and sustainability related work and its relation to Government expectations, risk, planning, operations and reporting. ELT has agreed the formation of the group. In addition, the Sustainability Framework will map the mahi, reporting, Government requirements, plans and alignment.
- 3) Community Climate Response Programme.** 10 community climate advisors were trained to deliver a climate action and sustainability programme to 25 small organisations/charities in the Waikato. The programme supports not for profits, small business and charities track and report on their greenhouse gas emissions, set targets and develop plans for action. Funded by Trust Waikato, Waikato Regional Council, Hamilton City Council and supported by WDC. The Pilot runs from July 2022 -June 2023. The pilot is near completion, and the results and findings will be collated and assessed, and reports written for funders alongside with a hui in July. The continuation and development of the programme would likely sit with the partners, Go Eco and Para Kore.
-

- 4) Recruitment.** A total of 30 people applied for the role of Climate Action and Sustainability Coordinator, and three people are being interviewed next week.
- 5) Huntly Gas Boiler.** The design plan is complete, and the equipment is being built. We expect to remove the aging gas boiler in September this year, reducing a significant 14% of Co₂e.
- 6) Annual Co₂e Inventory (operational).** This has been provided with a summary to councillors via email (early May) There was a **3.8%** reduction in Co₂e for 21/22 financial year. The Climate Action and Sustainability Manager recommends that we aim to reduce our emissions by **17%** in 2023-2024. This proposed emission reduction target will be assessed further via the draft Climate Resilience and Response Strategy and roadmap. The emission targets will have to be agreed by ELT and council.
- With the replacement of the Huntly gas boiler later this year, an estimated **14%** of Co₂e will be removed next year.
 - Transition of some of the fleet to hybrid and EV will reduce emissions. Approximately 2.1 tonnes of Co₂e per car per year will be reduced from including EV's. 45% of the fleet is hybrid or plug in hybrids (PHEV). # EV's planned- unknown at this stage.
 - 10 Cattle reduced on Wainui Reserve. Up to 1.8 tonnes Co₂e per head= Approx. 18 tonnes Co₂e reduced.
 - LED light replacement Huntly Library scheduled.
 - Other areas are being identified and emission reductions calculated.
- We continue to assess our processes and systems for the improved collection and collation of data and tracking.
- 7) Electric Vehicles (EV's) Fleet Charging Compound.** A contractor has been approved to establish charging infrastructure in the fleet compound. 45% of the council fleet are hybrid/plug in hybrid, and we have purchased our first electric vehicle. The charging infrastructure will be faster and less time consuming.
- 8) EV Infrastructure Regional Working Group.** A suite of resources has been created to guide councils through the process and approach for establishing EV infrastructure and weighting criteria for assessing proposals. These will be made available on the WRC website shortly. The resources will be for council use and a separate site for suppliers wanting to access information and the process.
- 9) Climate Action & Advisory Group.** The group has been reformed with expanded staff membership and terms of reference. The first meeting will be this month.
- 10) Long Term Plan 2024-34.** We are working on how climate change/action is understood and included in the LTP.
-

11) Climate action in the organisation. We are currently exploring how this is included in our decision making, culture and operations. A 'How to Guide' on sustainability and climate action is being developed for staff.

12) National Direction on Renewable Energy Generation and Electricity Transmission - Consultation MBIE. We will be submitting on this important consultation. The NZ Government aims to electrify and decarbonise our economy to respond effectively to climate change. To meet the Government 2050 legislated net zero emissions target and energy and electricity targets, rapid expansion and major acceleration of renewable electricity infrastructure is required. Renewable electricity generation needs to increase by an estimated 50% to 70% by 2035 and increase by 170% by 2050.

For Council, we need to be aware that the proposal aims to strengthen the national policy statements for renewable electricity generation and transmission to provide a consenting process that is more efficient, certain and environmentally sustainable.

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/renewable-electricity/>

6. Next steps

Ahu whakamua

Key focus groups (internal and external) will give feedback on the draft Climate Response & Resilience Strategy. This strategy will be workshopped to progress. The Climate Action Plan will be updated and realigned to deliver on the Climate Strategy.

Proposed mahi for 2023:

- Sustainability/Climate Response framework development
 - Continue to deliver climate change/sustainability workshops
 - Climate Response Programme evaluation- community
 - Systems: tracking, benchmarking/reporting established
 - Planning/alignment and reporting- cohesiveness established
 - Staff engagement
 - Sustainable Building Protocol considered
 - Community engagement /collaboration
 - Energy Plan
 - Green Office Programme
 - Resilience Planning
 - Development of a 'think tank' to address and respond to the critical need for us to (re) plan for resilience and adaption, being mindful of Government expectations/legislation, with the intent to fully integrate climate change implications and sustainability across the organisation in terms of how we plan, make decisions, operate and engage.
-

We are beginning to gain good momentum with building and delivering impactful responses, systems changes, programmes, plans and policies to mitigate and adapt. Climate action is critical, across council, embedded in our mahi, approach and delivery.

7. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

None.

To Sustainability & Wellbeing Committee

Report title Emergency Management update

Date: 17 May 2023

Report Author: Scott Bult, Emergency Management Advisor

Authorised by: Kurt Abbot, Executive Manager – Projects and Innovation

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the emergency management work programme for Waikato District Council.

2. Executive summary

Whakaraapopototanga matua

This report provides a summary of current actions being delivered from the emergency management work programme. Delivery is prioritising community response and operational planning. Our 2023/2024 emergency management work programme development is about to commence.

The Recovery Office for Cyclone Gabrielle continues to support our communities across three environments – Natural/Built, Social/Economic and Rural. This includes a number of activities that are being reported regularly to the Infrastructure Committee. Additionally, the resilience team are supporting the administration of the mayoral relief fund and the establishment of case managers to support our communities.

Recent appointments to key positions in Emergency Management have increased our leadership capability in the event of an emergency.

3. Staff recommendations

Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

That the Sustainability & Wellbeing Committee receives the Emergency Management Update for May 2023.

4. Discussion Matapaki

As part of Cyclone Gabrielle's recovery process, the Waikato District Council Recovery Office continues to administer applications of funding for assistance through the Mayoral Relief Fund. Two rounds of this process have been completed to date.

A key welfare activity is the appointment of case managers who have been allocated to support residents from Port Waikato who were affected by land subsidence and had their homes placarded as result of Cyclone Gabrielle. This provides a single point of contact with council for those residents, and a source of information regarding the ongoing process.

Kurt Abbot has formally been appointed as controller by the Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Joint Committee at the March meeting. Will Gauntlett is returning to the Controller role from hiatus and Anisha McPhee is currently in the final stages of formal appointment as controller. Having three appointed and trained controllers is a significant capability boost for our emergency management response to the district. Mel Tarawhiti has been formally appointed as Local Welfare Manager.

Work is progressing with multiple community response plans. These are either commencing development or existing plans being updated. This project has been well supported by both Elected Members and Community Chairpersons with a comprehensive planning process developed and distributed to assist in discussion. Priority areas have also been identified and this informs urgency timeframes.

Due to recent responses (Auckland Anniversary weekend and Cyclone Gabrielle weather events) we will not be undertaking a formal exercise during the 22/23 financial year. This is due to high staff absence from the business during these responses and the impact this has on workloads. Instead, a formal assessment will be completed focused on our response to Cyclone Gabrielle. This will be completed by an independent assessor and the findings will inform our emergency management capability score and future training focus areas.

Operational planning is underway in collaboration with Western Waikato Emergency Operating Area (Waipa, Otorohanga and Waitomo District Council's) and facilitated by Toa Consulting. The operational plans will focus on our five main local hazards and the coordinated response by all agencies. Key to the formalisation of these plans is collaboration and consultation with partner agencies and NGO's within, and across our boundary's. This will ensure agreed and understood response procedures and plans for our district. Operational plans will include coordination with community response groups in each relevant area and these arrangements will be developed as planning progresses.

We are commencing development of our 2023/2024 emergency management work programme. This is required to be consistent with the Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan, which is currently under review. On completion of the Group Plan review our emergency management work programme will be updated for consistency. Our emergency management and resilience work are guided by the National Disaster Resilience Strategy which provides the priorities and objectives to improve our nation's resilience to disasters. The strategy provides a detailed understanding of resilience in the disaster context.

5. Next steps

Ahu whakamua

Our emergency management team is working on increasing the capability of response personnel by identifying and developing function specific leads. A key focus is the identification and appointment of an Alternate Welfare Manager.

The 23/24 work programme will be developed and updated on the completion of the Waikato CDEM Group Plan.

Community Response Planning will continue with priority.

6. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1 – The National Disaster Resilience Strategy (via link, no attached document)

<https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/publications/National-Disaster-Resilience-Strategy/National-Disaster-Resilience-Strategy-10-April-2019.pdf>

To	Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee
Report title	Amended draft Taiao in the Waikato Strategy
Date:	17 May 2023
Report Author:	James Fuller, Senior Environmental Planner
Authorised by:	Clive Morgan, General Manager Community Growth

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

To seek approval from the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee of the amended draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy (the draft Strategy) based on responses to submissions received and consideration given by the hearings and deliberations panel.

2. Executive Summary

Whakaraapopotanga matua

Waikato District Council has reviewed both its Conservation Strategy and Esplanade Strategy and decided it is appropriate to combine both documents and ultimately develop the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy. Staff seek approval from the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee to amend the draft Strategy (as attached with tracked changes) based on the discussions and decisions made by the hearings and deliberations panel, following the review of the 21 submissions received on the draft Strategy.

The draft Strategy provides a long-term plan to achieve the Council's vision of liveable, thriving, and connected communities while working towards maintaining, protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity throughout the district. The approach outlined in the draft document is more relevant and implementation-orientated than previous document(s).

The draft Strategy will:

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

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

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

The deliberations panel (consisting of Cr Gibb (chairperson), Cr Beavis, Cr Keir, Cr Ngataki and Cr Turner) met on 18 April 2023 and considered the submissions received and have made recommendations. Following this, Staff circulated the recommended changes to the draft Strategy to the hearings and deliberations panel on 5 May 2023. The deliberations panel agreed to have the draft Strategy be presented to the Sustainability and Wellbeing committee for approval to send to the designer.

3. Staff recommendations Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee:

- notes that the deliberations panel has considered and responded to the submissions received on the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy as per Attachment 4B on this agenda; and**
- approves the amendments to the draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy as recommended by the hearings and deliberations panel (Attachment 2), including allowance for spelling and grammatical adjustments during the design phase.**

4. Background Koorero whaimaarama

In 2020, Staff began a review of the Conservation Strategy (2004) and identified several shortcomings of the Conservation Strategy. Waikato District Council staff established a steering group that included councillors and relevant staff across the business. The steering group developed a new set of vision, goals and a series of actions, with implementation and monitoring processes to ensure progress over time.

The steering group developed key themes to set a vision for the district. The themes included the following:

- Improve the Taiao;
 - Support and collaborate with others (including knowledge sharing and education);
 - Include mana whenua; and
 - Promote access where it is appropriate.
-

Several key stakeholders were also contacted (Waikato Tainui, Waikato Regional Council, Federated Farmers and QEII Trust representative), and their views were incorporated into the draft Strategy.

The draft Strategy was initially brought to the Strategy and Finance Committee on 3 August 2022. The Strategy and Finance Committee approved the public release of the draft Strategy for public consultation for six weeks.

Following the closure of the submissions period, on the 5th of April 2023, the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee appointed a hearings and deliberations panel comprising Cr Gibb (chairperson), Cr Beavis, Cr Keir, Cr Ngataki, Cr Turner and Cr Eyre on 5 April 2023 to review the 21 submissions and make changes to the draft Strategy. The Strategic Planning Team summarised the submissions and undertook preparations for the hearing and deliberations on the submissions by the panel.

The submissions were grouped by topic, and each submission point was addressed where possible with a recommendation from the staff to accept the submission (in part or as a whole) or reject the submission and the reasoning for this. The hearings and deliberations panel came together on 18 April 2023, worked through these submissions, and decided on the submissions and changes proposed to Taiao in the Waikato Strategy.

5. Discussion and analysis

Taataritanga me ngaa tohutohu

Council received 21 submissions through this public consultation period between 15 August and 27 September 2022. Responses were received from various submitters, including Waikato Tainui, Waikato Regional Council, Forest and Bird, Federated Farmers and QEII Trust, and several individuals.

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

- General support for the revised Conservation Strategy and addition of the Esplanade Reserves;
 - Restoration – is what most submitters want to see
 - Collaboration – with iwi and the community
 - Funding – appropriate resourcing from the council through staff and funding, e.g., reinstating the conservation fund or an equivalent to help landowners, restoration and community groups;
 - People – are key to seeing results on the ground.
 - Seek that the Te Ture Whaimana be at the heart of the district’s conservation efforts, where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities;
 - Raise awareness of restoring our Taiao in the Waikato through schools and with individual landowners;
 - Empower our communities with the tools and support they need to restore the Taiao in Waikato from new and existing restoration groups, predator-free groups, individual landowners etc.;
 - Provide safe and easy access to parts of the Taiao
 - Create ecological corridors by linking SNAs with Council and private landowners while supporting each other.
-

5.1 Options

Ngaa koowhiringa

Staff have assessed two viable options for the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee to consider. This assessment reflects the significance level (see paragraph 6.1) and the work completed reviewing council-wide policies. The two options are noted below.

Option 1 (preferred): The Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee approve and adopt the hearings and deliberations panel recommendations in response to the submissions received on the draft Strategy. This option will ensure that amendments made to the draft Strategy based on submissions are carried through to the document. This is the preferred option.

Option 2: The Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee rejects the amendments made to the draft Strategy based on the submissions. This option would mean that the useful and effective suggestions made via submissions are not incorporated into the draft Strategy.

Staff recommend **Option 1** because consideration has been given to the submissions received, and appropriate amendments have been made to the draft Strategy. This is the most comprehensive way to ensure community participation and meets the requirements under section 83 of the Local Government Act.

5.2 Financial considerations

Whaiwhakaaro puutea

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

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

5.3 Legal considerations

Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture

Staff confirm that option one complies with the Council's legal and policy requirements and best practices.

5.4 Strategy and policy considerations

Whaiwhakaaro whakamaaherehere kaupapa here

The report and recommendations are consistent with the Council's policies, plans and prior decisions. Furthermore, the preferred option 1 adheres to Council's engagement policy for community engagement. As suggested by the submissions, the amendments will work to achieve the Council's vision, goals and actions relating to Taiao.

The updated draft Strategy is consistent with the current Conservation Strategy (2004). Still, it extends the focus through its vision, goals, and actions to focus more on people, best practices, collaboration, and education so the Council can improve the district's indigenous biodiversity.

5.5 Maaori and cultural considerations

Whaiwhakaaro Maaori me oona tikanga

The draft Strategy sets goals for Council's role in supporting tangata whenua aspirations, including facilitating conversations with Waikato-Tainui for iwi-led and hapū-led conservation projects that should be investigated through the Long-Term Plan process. Waikato District Council also sought further input from Waikato-Tainui, and the deliberations panel accepted that their late submission be received.

Waikato Tainui's submission has been considered alongside other submitters and stakeholders. Waikato-Tainui's Environmental Plan Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao sets out Waikato-Tainui's position on environmental issues and policies. Management methods will be referenced in the draft Strategy, and Council will seek to set up regular meetings with Waikato Tainui as part of the Strategy Implementation.

5.6 Climate response and resilience considerations

Whaiwhakaaro-aa-taiao

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

5.7 Risks

Tuuraru

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

6. Significance and engagement assessment Aromatawai paahekoheko

6.1 Significance Te Hiranga

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

6.2 Engagement Te Whakatuutakitaki

This report has considered the 21 submissions received over a six-week public consultation period. It is noted that engagement was challenging at times, particularly due to the various constraints imposed because of the spread of covid. This being said, the focus has primarily been on iwi and key stakeholders. Key stakeholders have made up most of the submissions on the draft Strategy and generally agreed with the document's themes but requested specific changes. The draft Strategy has been finalised on this basis.

Highest level of engagement	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Tick the appropriate box/boxes and specify what it involves by briefly explaining the tools used to engage (refer to the project engagement plan if applicable).</i>	<i>A steering group was put together with staff and councillors to review the Strategies (Conservation and Esplanade). The steering group identified key Stakeholders who were consulted with as part of the drafting and development of the Strategy.</i>				

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

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

7. Next steps

Ahu whakamua

These recommendation amendments to the draft Strategy are now tracked-changed for the Sustainability and Wellbeing Committee to approve and adopt. The next step after approval of these changes is for the final document and design work to be completed with approval to adopt by Council and to revoke the current strategies (Conservation Strategy 2004 and Esplanade Strategy 2000) by July 2023.

8. Confirmation of statutory compliance

Te Whakatuuturutanga aa-ture

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

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

9. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1 – Draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy

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

Attachment 2 - The draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy with tracked changes arising from the submissions and recommendations by the hearings and deliberations panel.

Attachment 3 - The draft Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy clean version

TAIAO (NATURE) IN THE WAIKATO

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Waikato

District Council
Te Kaunihera āa Takiwaa o Waikato

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GLOSSARY

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Bioveg2

Carbon Sequestration

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

Engineering with Nature (Native Engineering)

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

Rewilding

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

Restore (ecology)¹

The active intervention and management of modified or degraded habitats, ecosystems, landforms and landscapes in order to reinstate indigenous natural character, ecological and physical processes, and cultural and visual qualities.

Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)

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

State of the Environment (SOE)

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

Taiao

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

Ecosourced

Refers to the propagation of native plants from local areas and the planting of them back within the same geographic area.

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Conservation Covenants

A covenant is a legal agreement between the landholder and the covenanting agency about how an identified area's natural values will be protected.

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Indigenous Biodiversity

~~means~~ Means the living organisms that occur naturally in New Zealand, and the ecological complexes of which they are part, including all forms of indigenous flora, fauna, and fungi, and their ~~habitats~~ habitats.

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INTRODUCTION

Commented [JF4]: Elements of WD: 19.2.2 Vision and Goals: 8.1.1 - improve vision and introduction
9.1.1 - Changes will be made to the document to improve vision and clarify actions

Where we have come from:

This ~~strategy document reviews the Conservation Strategy 2004[1] to identify~~ broad priorities for protecting and enhancing Taiao, including indigenous biodiversity values~~[2]~~, to improve conservation and ecosystems. This strategy encompasses ~~and links to~~ the Waikato District open spaces, reserves, esplanades, private ~~land~~, wetlands, peat bogs, the Waikato and Waipa Rivers, and tributaries. The rivers, ~~lakes and some tributaries originate outside the district and tributaries extend from downstream of the and at Ngāruawāhia confluence of the Waipa and Waikato Rivers at Ngāruawāhia, converge~~ all the way downstream to Port Waikato. ~~The Waikato District Council sits within the Waikato Region, and Or partner with Waikato Regional Council who works to to sustainably manage natural resources, including these water bodies.~~

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

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What is Taiao?

Taiao is "nature" and much more; it is the earth, natural world, environment, and our country. Taiao speaks to the natural environment that contains and surrounds us. It encompasses all the environment, its offspring and mauri. Because we are born of the earth, and it is born of us, we have an eternal connection to Taiao – the earth, sky, air, water, and life are all interdependent. Taiao is about finding our way forward by forging an interconnected relationship with ~~that the~~ environment based on respect. That interdependency lies at the heart of our Taiao methodology. ~~Te Whakapakari I Te Taiao² towards environmental enhancement is the goal of Waikato-Tainui. The enhancement approach aims not to maintain but through our actions, to improve the quality of the environment for future generations.~~

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

Discussions about biodiversity have also tended to revolve around protecting Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) (as dictated by Section 6 Resource Management Act 1991). ~~But~~ rather than about how to maintain biodiversity across the landscape. While ~~these SNA sites~~ are critical dimensions in biodiversity management, ~~ecosystems support biodiversity across the landscape, and~~ sites seldom operate in isolation from their surrounding environment (biota moves in and out of such areas). ~~while water, nutrients, and energy flow through sites).~~ ~~The Waikato District Council needs to look at the entire role Taiao plays and its interactions with the wider environment.~~

Investigation into high-value indigenous biodiversity within the lower Waikato Region Zone identified 127 priority sites (Leathwick 2016). These ~~totaling~~ 14,592 ha, equating to 37% of the surviving indigenous-dominated cover, with only 5.2% of the potential terrestrial ecosystem extent (Kessels 2017)^[4]. ~~This includes Department of Conservation (DOC) land.~~ ~~Some~~ Key examples of ~~good to fair~~ Taiao catchment types include:

- ~~Mangatāwhiri; Managatangi; Whakapipi;~~
- ~~Waikato River at Tuakau Bridge; Awaroa (Waiuku);~~
- ~~Waikato at Port Waikato; Ohaeroa;~~
- ~~Whangamarino at Jefferies Road Bridge; Waikato at Mercer Bridge;~~
- ~~Whangamarino at Island Block Road; Lake Opuatia (Peat Lake);~~
- ~~Waerenga;~~
- ~~Lake Waikare;~~
- ~~Matahuru; Waikato River at Rangiriri; Whangape; Managawara Stream~~
- ~~Awaroa at Harris/Te Ohaki Bridge;~~
- ~~Awaroa (Rotowaro) at Sansons Bridge;~~
- ~~Waikato Tane Mahuta Reserve, at Huntly;~~

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

VISION, GOALS, TAIAO

Vision

To ~~create and reflect~~ foster a liveable, thriving and connected environment where the people of ~~the our~~ district values and understands the importance of our natural systems and Kaitiakitanga.

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

Goals

1. Maintain, create and improve a full range of natural habitats and ecosystems to a healthy functioning state across their natural range and genetic diversity; and
2. Support actions to conserve, maintain and restore healthy ecosystems and their ecological linkages and promote sustainable natural resource use and emissions reduction.
3. Seek collaboration opportunities to work with others, including mana whenua, to achieve the Taiao in the Waikato vision.
4. Unlock native bush and esplanade areas through access agreements and landowner support to provide for pest and weed control⁷, walking and cycling where possible

Potential Methods to

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Action 8: Draft Strategy Vision statement: Council staff to update the wording to have emphasis on the peoples values and to ensure the vision is clear and transparent

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Commented [JF11]: Action 4: Collaboration - Council staff to update wording in the strategy around collaboration partners to not only include who Council are currently working alongside but to also show that the strategy is an evolving document that can include relationships with other partners moving forward.

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~~achieve~~ achieve Taiao

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

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

~~Why~~ The benefits of protecting Taiao?

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

Investment needs to increase in maintenance/monitoring and restoration of Taiao for long-term sustainability (Proposed National Policy Statement – Indigenous

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Biodiversity (6). This means a focus on protection, maintenance, and monitoring of what you have. This can be done as non-statutory efforts through fencing and pest control while keeping tabs on the environment. Alternatively, regulatory protection can be put in place that legally require conservation and restoration.

Restoration sits on a continuum on a sliding scale from improving ecosystems through to full recovery as set in Figure 1. It takes many forms depending on the ecosystem, whether pristine or degraded. Passive restoration and letting nature take back what it needs on its own is passive. Active restoration speeds up the process and minimises/minimizes invasive pests and weeds.



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Figure 1: Restorative Continuum (restorative activities aimed at improving ecosystem functions)

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

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

Nature-based solutions are a smart investment now more than ever (see Figure 42 below).

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Nature-Based Solutions Can Deliver Big Economic Benefits



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

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Figure 2: Nature based solutions

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

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

We need to embrace and create more of the stories in our district like:

Community Group example (SNA's) showcasing best practice
 C/O From Pukemokemoke Bush Trust:

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

The next area is a very wet area and was planted in flax some three years ago and

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could well do with interplanting with particularly kind kahikatea and pukatea, again the two well-established wetland plants of the area”.

Private landowner example Queen Elizabeth II National Trust (QEII) covenant, Mt Karioi area) showcasing best practice July 2022:

C/O From Landowner

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

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



Photos: Kohekohe fruiting and Rata flowering

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Categories of Taiao

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

do not apply the same principles to Taiao.

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

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Restoration Opportunities

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

Passive Restoration - leave things alone (Nature does its own thing). The contrast between fencing, pest and weed control and non-fencing native areas that have been grazed.

Active Restoration - where sites are actively weeded and pests' control, protecting areas (fencing) and adding new native plantings to increase the diversity.



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Rewilding: 17.3.1 - More detailed description of the photo and/or alter the photo.

Contrast between native areas fenced (some regenerating ground cover) and unfenced (mature trees and no ground cover)

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Restoration is actively engineering nature:



New plantings adjacent to mature vegetation

We actively enhance this (by fencing, weed and pest control, planting and maintenance). Both options include assessing the area, soil and water conditions, tree and bush plantings and maintenance plans over time.

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It must be the right place with suitable species that are native eco-sourced and variation in the types of trees, plants and grasses. WDC wants to encourage native vegetation (protection and restoration) over exotic vegetation and transition exotic forests to indigenous bush.

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

Further research is needed, but wetlands and peat bogs all have carbon- sequestering species. Where it can the Council will help facilitate reasonable solutions in different places and show best practice examples on its reserves.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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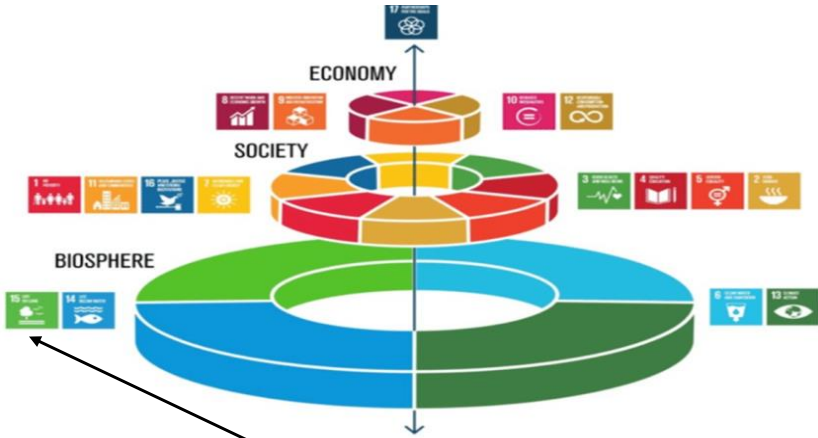
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The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 SDGs³ are integrated—they recognise that action in one area will affect outcomes in others and that development must be a balance of social, economic and environmental sustainability. United Nations – Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 15 – "Life on the Land" sets out the importance of plant life on land.

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

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

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Strategic context:

How does it The Strategy is about maintaining and enhancing the natural environment while achieving the best community and economic outcomes. Emphasis should be placed on strengthening indigenous biodiversity and protecting native bush, wetlands, peat bogs and quality soils. The Taiao in the Waikato Strategy fits in with New Zealand's international obligations and the upcoming legislation, including the Resource Management Act (RMA) and Proposed National Policy Strategy – Indigenous Biodiversity (see Appendix 3). A summary of the linkage is illustrated below¹⁰:

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International Obligations – SDG 15 – Life on Land

Resource Management Act 1991 – includes the Proposed National Policy Statement – Indigenous Biodiversity; Reserves Act 1977 and Wildlife Act 1956

Waikato Regional Council – Regional Policy Statement, Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy (LIBS)

Waikato District Council – Decisions Version of District Plan (includes Conservation Covenants and SNAs)

Taiao in the Waikato Strategy, Reserves Management Plans: Trails Strategy: Iwi/hapu management plans (Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan - Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao, Maniapoto Environmental Plan)

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Elements of the Waikato District and Taiao

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

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~~The district, therefore, makes a critical contribution to the country's economy in terms of contribution to revenue generation and GDP. The current state of Nature in the Waikato District identified 71,312 ha (16.4%) of the Waikato District as Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), and a further 47% of which are legally protected under statute or covenant. The SNAs comprise 61,292 ha of indigenous vegetation (85.9%).~~

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The ~~District~~ district is also home to large areas of significant indigenous vegetation. ~~DOC~~ is administering specific sites of significance, e.g.e.g., including the ~~Hākarimata Haakarimata Scenic Reserve~~ [Ranges](#) near [Ngaruawahia](#)¹⁰.

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The Waikato River (NZ's longest river) flows through the ~~District~~ district. It is a critical water body contributing to the region's biodiversity, providing potable water for the area and neighbouring population centres. It has significant cultural value to iwi, hapū and Māori (Waikato Tainui and Maniapoto). ~~The Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 recognises the river as a living entity with its own legal rights.~~

Commented [JF21]: Goals: 10.14.3 - Seek to include greater linkage between the draft Strategy and iwi management plans where possible. The Waikato River Authority is responsible for the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and Waipā River. [They have set the primary direction through Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato \(Vision & Strategy\) to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and Waipā River1. The Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims \(Waikato River\) Settlement Act 2010 recognizes the river as a living entity with its own legal rights2](#)

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

Waingarua ~~reserve~~ [Reserve](#) – WRC recently reviewed this in a Biodiversity Monitoring report on this reserve that used an adaptation of the Kahikatea Green Wheel monitoring tool as developed by WRC.

- Coastal reserves around Raglan and Port Waikato (Whakaupoko West Franklin Landcare group, Port Waikato and [Raglan](#) Community groups¹⁰) are managed well.

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particularly in restoration activities, and there is good community consultation in these areas.

- ◆ [Hākarimata Ranges](#)
- ◆ [Hakanoa Reserve Management Plan](#)
- ◆ [Mount Karioi](#)
- ◆ [Pukemokemoke Reserve](#)
- ◆ [Taupiri Range](#)
- ◆ [Whangamarino wetland](#)
- ◆ [Wainui Reserve \(Bush Park\)](#)



Hākarimata Summit Track [image credit Department of Conservation]

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

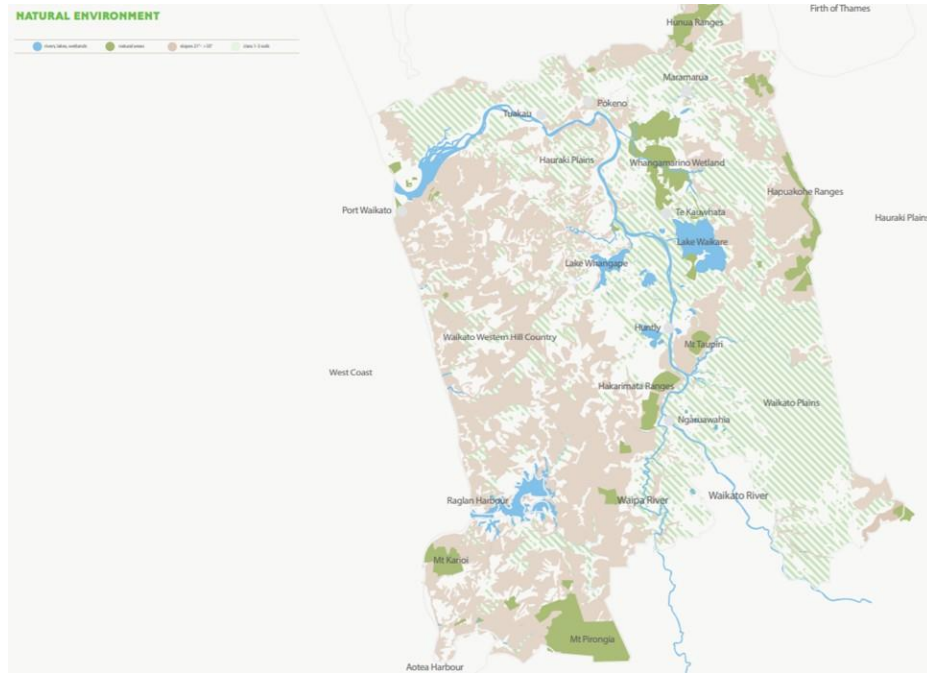
~~The Waikato district once contained large areas of forest and wetland. The dominant forest species were typically kauri in the north, podocarp in central locations and a combination of rimu and tawa in the south. Variations were seen between coastal and inland areas. The major wetland areas were northeast Hamilton and around the lower Waikato River. Indigenous lowland vegetation was modified by Māori and then~~

~~primarily replaced with exotic pasture by European settlers to establish the District's social and economic foundation.~~

Taiao in Waikato and the rest of New Zealand is under pressure. At the same time, little deliberate felling of the indigenous forest takes place, and the main threats to forests are stock browsing and plant and animal pest infestation, with climate change having more on-going influence over time.

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

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



Map 1 - Waikato District Council Natural Environments (new one, better definition)

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OUR DISTRICT

Where we have come from:

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

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

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

Ecological enhancement such as restoration planting and pest control can enhance

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amenity values and is supported through Taiao in the Waikato.

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

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

Links to key documents

- ♦ [National Policy Statement – Indigenous Biodiversity \(NPS-IB\) \(draft\)](#)
- ♦ [National PA Pest Management Plan \(NPAPMP\)](#)
- ♦ [Waikato Regional Plan and Coastal Plan](#)
- ♦ [Iwi Management Plans: Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan - Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao, Maniapoto Environmental Plan; See WRC links for other iwi documents\)](#)
- ♦ [Waikato Proposed District Plan \(Appeals Version\)](#)
- ♦ [Department of Conservation – Biodiversity Strategy \(Kauri Dieback, Copper Skinks and Mudfish\)](#)
- ♦ [QEII – Map of Protected Land <https://nztc.org.nz/QEII>](#)
- ♦ [Protecting our natural ecosystems' carbon – report: <https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/climate-change-and-introduced-browsers>](#)
- ♦ [Waikato District Council Reserves Management Plans](#)

~~1. International Obligations – United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) – 15 Life on the Land~~

~~3. Reserves Act 1977, Wildlife Act 1956~~

~~5. Waikato Regional Council – Regional Policy Statement, Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategies (LIBS)~~

~~7. Conservation and Esplanade Strategies are part of this review and inclusive of the proposed updates; Connectivity Strategy 2022~~

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~~New Zealand — Resource Management
Act 1991 (Exposure Draft National Policy
Strategy — Indigenous Biodiversity)~~ ^{2.}

~~Te Mana o te Taiao — Aotearoa New
4. — Zealand — Biodiversity — Strategy — and
Implementation Plan~~

~~Waikato District Council — Decision
6. — Version — Proposed — District — Plan
(Conservation — Covenants, — SNAs);
rules
that minimise vegetation removal~~

State of the Environment

As in all countries, land of high value for agricultural production is the first to be cleared of native vegetation. In New Zealand and Waikato, the trend is for more marginal Land to be removed, often for non-native forestry or development.

These pressures have led to the degradation of Waikato District native ecosystems through the loss and fragmentation of indigenous biodiversity.

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

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

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

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

Emerging Threats (Climate-related impacts), weeds and pests open new areas. Climate change will increase pressures on natural systems, but we do not yet know how to respond adequately to this threat. What we do know is the predicted climate change impacts in the Waikato could include, and the timeframes will vary:

- Warmer air and water temperatures (lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands) Sea
- Sea level rise

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- Changes in rainfall patterns
 - Increases in the frequency of storms and droughts
- Ocean acidification of coastal waters
 - Will increase impacts on inshore coastal ecosystems: aquatic flora and fauna,

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

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

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Opportunities for improving Taiao

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

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

Protection and management of native flora and fauna **(Vision)**

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

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

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Set up a portal on the [Waikato District Council](#) website to help iwi, hapū, landowners, [restoration groups](#) and community groups access restoration information. Include a range of technical information about the different areas within the Waikato and the types of vegetation present. Have critical links to other information and other organisations that can help, e.g., the Waikato Regional Council, Department of Conservation, [Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao, Waikato Biodiversity Forum](#), [Predator Free groups and Trees for Nature and etc.](#)

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Propagation Table

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

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

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Significant Natural Areas

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

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

The initial desktop analysis for the SNA layer identified 698 units. These units could capture more than one property and , comprising an area of 71,312 ha (16.4%) of the Waikato District, as SNAs. The SNAs were comprised of indigenous vegetation 61,292 ha (85.9%) of the total area of SNAs. The indigenous vegetation in SNAs must be protected to ensure the ongoing biodiversity in a District.

The public consultation process revealed that most landowners were motivated to protect and restore SNAs identified on their Land. However, while formal protection of natural areas (e.g., conservation covenant) is ideal, the ongoing management of these SNA (including weed and animal pest control, fencing and restoration) is a focus point for the Strategy. Currently as drafted the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity exposure draft and other legislation must consider incentives for landowners to protect and restore indigenous biodiversity.

The identified SNA layers on the Councils planning maps let landowners know they have potential-significant natural areas that could be protected with opportunities for further help with restoration. Under the previous conservation fund, the Council had provided a small contribution to applicants who undertook improvements to protect conservation areas of high value indigenous vegetation.

This has included support for fencing, plants, weed and pest control. Although this

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Commented [JF28]: SNAs: 19.4.1 reference to SNAs as found in the PDP; 19.4.2 Spacing between paragraphs pg 15.

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Commented [JF30]: Reworded this to make it clearer, but more generic in relation to the appeals version of the Proposed District Plan. Check with Susan.

funding has been ~~reorientated~~redirected to Community-led projects (~~including inclusive of conservation focused products~~), WDC will still provide support and education on Taiao in the Waikato Strategy.

Waikato District Council will ~~seek~~continue to update the SNA layer on the Council planning maps with a better technical layer in coordination~~in conjunction~~ with the Waikato Regional Council. ~~This will be an ongoing process and likely to be undertaken with meaningful engagement with property owners and ground truthing. Most likely utilising a satellite-based approach subject to central government support. It would use image spectrometry and Artificial Intelligence to measure the reflectance of light for plant identification leading to enhanced education and monitoring outcomes. To be augmented with land-based ecological assessments as and when they can be arranged, e.g., linked to land development applications.~~

~~To be augmented with land-based ecological assessments as and when they can be arranged, e.g. linked to land development applications. Non-regulatory policies are supported~~discussed in this document. ~~Includes~~include investigating assistance with around establishing protective covenants, ~~service delivery, education, funding ecological assessments~~ to established whether unmapped areas of indigenous vegetation meet one or more of the Criteria in APP2: Criteria for determining significance of indigenous biodiversity within the Proposed District Plan and therefore being identified as being an SNA on the planning maps. This may be undertaken in conjunction with WRC, and helping to manage ~~Also with an advocacy role when managing the threats of from~~ Kauri Dieback and loss of habitat to Long-Tailed Bats.

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placed over the principle of Te Mana o te Awa.

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Both agreements support the conservation and Kaitiakitanga of the district's indigenous biodiversity. Taiao in Waikato should be viewed with this lens. Where each party can help manage and restore Te Awa and Taiao through conservation, it should be progressed as an ongoing partnership as part of Taiao implementation. This will include cultural areas of natural significance so the effects of current and future pressures can be mitigated.

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Collaboration

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

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By 2026, new programmes are in place to support landowners, businesses, resource users/owners and industry in delivering more Taiao. If appropriate, incentivise or seek sponsorship to protect and restore indigenous biodiversity as a standard part of the business within the Waikato District. It should not fall to only landowners; identifying opportunities for those supportive businesses will create dual benefits.

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

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Waikato District Council explore partnership opportunities to provide funding and education to manage and restore native habitats (Flora/fauna). Tap into government and regional funding where possible to accelerate restoration. Consider whether Waikato District Council could be a platform for helping groups manage the logistics of conservation work using Council systems and website to manage their efforts e.g., track investment in labour time, flora (plants) and materials (fencing, traps, fertiliser) over time.

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Funding

Conservation funding is still supported, with less emphasis on individual landowners (unless they provide public or ecological access) to more community initiatives that support employment and community health. By 2025 restoration groups and community groups have the information that lets them be appropriately resourced, growing, connected, and coordinated: access knowledge, expertise, and information to progress their projects supporting Taiao in the Waikato. Funding opportunities to explore:

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- Increase the funding pool for restoration so protection of the Taiao is prioritised.

- [Investigate funding from external providers that Council could help facilitate e.g., local businesses and clubs, societies.](#)
- [Local offsetting by business, developers \(connecting them with landowners\)](#)
- [Secondary CO² offset – collective view of the district or within catchments 1 ha – 3,000 plants, 5m in height](#)
- [National – Register and apply for funding with Central Government funding, alternative funding, businesses, Lotteries etc.](#)
- [Waikato Regional Council - Funding](#)
- [Waikato District Council – Funding and Partnership opportunities](#)
- [Waikato District Council supports other ecological partners for funding and grants rather than applying ourselves.](#)

Biosecurity and other tools

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

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



[Biocontrol on the weed Tradescantia \(Tradescantia fluminensis\)](#)

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Opportunities in Taiao (and Tools and monitoring)

Investigate hosting a digital platform for restoration groups or community groups to manage their funding, labour and work programmes around pest management, plantings, and maintenance. This could be replicated for multiple groups across the district. Waikato District Council is investigating CAMS an information page and whether it could be used by existing groups to help new groups. Current pest control uses scientific and Mātauranga Māori monitoring (what works) and citizen science opportunities to improve Taiao.

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Commented [JF36]: Opportunities and implementation: 10.11.1 - Clarify CAMs - Computer Aided Management System or Conservation Activity Management System, downgrade to a webpage and build from there

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Digital layers available for Council and landowners

Councils maintain GIS layers to include SNAs, Conservation Covenants and Open space. Consider hosting a webpage for restoration groups, community groups throughout the Waikato District. Alternatively, work with WRC to promote their app if it can achieve improvements in Taiao. Waikato District Council supports all efforts in tracking, maintaining, monitoring, and restoring Taiao.

Commented [JF37]: Goals 17.5.1 industry standard software

ACCESS

Esplanade reserves

Esplanade reserves may be required when land is subdivided, reclaimed, developed (through conditions), or when a road is stopped along a riparian margin, the road is vested in the council as an esplanade reserve under the LGA 1974. Esplanade reserves can also be created voluntarily. They are classified as reserves under the Reserves Act 1977, and land ownership is transferred upon deposit (completion) of the subdivision plan to a territorial authority. New Esplanade reserves and strips should be surveyed and depicted on the cadastral maps.

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

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

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

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

Esplanade strips

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

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agreement.

~~Esplanade strips are a legal instrument made between landowners and territorial authorities. Esplanade Strips are legal instruments between landowners and territorial authorities; they do not need to be formally surveyed or identified on a survey plan. They are can be registered on the title, but the land within the strip remains in the ownership of the landowner. Although identified on a survey plan, they do not need to be formally surveyed.~~
 The creation of a strip, and restrictions and requirements relating to its use and management, are noted in the title and bind every party having an interest in the land. The form of the agreement and standard restrictions imposed on an esplanade strip is defined in Schedule 10 of the RMA.

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

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

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

Access strips

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

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

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

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Summary on access

Overall, Esplanade Reserves, Esplanade Strips and Access Strips are a range of tools available to ~~the Council~~ local government, Department of Conservation, restoration groups, community groups, ~~and~~ private landowners provide public access to native bush or water bodies on a voluntary basis. Things for all parties to consider when determining the strategic approach for native bush and esplanade areas are the form of the protection and level of management.

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

The policy approach follows national and regional direction with four underlying principles, including:

1. Adjacent private property rights where practicable should be respected¹² considered
2. Landowners are responsible for minimising the effects of land use on Waterbodies
3. Where esplanade management results in public benefits, funding should be available from public sources
4. The Council must be cost-effective in seeking to implement the above principles.

Where possible, WDC will promote access to wider walking networks, parks, and reserves with willing landowners. The Council will treat Esplanade Reserves, Strips and Access Strips based on each case's merits and focus on public access or recreation demand. Where there are significant conservation features on privately owned riparian areas, encouragement for protection is essential.

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

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ACHIEVING OUR VISION AND GOALS THROUGH ACTIONS

Focus Area 1

Maintain, restore, and improve a range of natural habitats and ecosystems to a healthy functioning state in public spaces. All focus areas and actions must consider the strategy's vision, goals, and our partnerships with Tangata Whenua.

Action 1.1 – Illustrate Best Practice - Maintain, restore, and improve a range of natural habitats and ecosystems to a healthy functioning state in public spaces.

Waikato District Council, through this strategy, seeks to integrate statutory and non-statutory indigenous biodiversity functions such as monitoring, research and collaborative action and showcase this on land owned and administered by the Council. The restoration of these council areas to be guided by evidence based best practice in plantings, weed and pest control (1.9.2).

This includes planting a range of indigenous natives (preferably Eco sourced) on public reserves, e.g., passive areas, pocket areas adjacent to waterways, and within Esplanades, maintaining appropriate levels of pest control (weed and animal species) across the council reserves and helping adjacent landowners with native bush areas. Including restoration and community groups in weed control either through identification or active control.

Action 1.2 – Linking Taiao areas to multiple indigenous biodiversity impacts

An essential action underpinning this strategy is to develop a district-wide prioritisation of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems. Identify key areas as a mapped layer for future ground-truthing.

These areas have the potential to enhance existing ecosystems. Places with the potential to enhance existing ecosystems as a corridor link to multiple SNA areas in proximity and identify where the gaps might be for future expansion. Map iwi, DOC and community indigenous biodiversity initiatives that support indigenous biodiversity across the Waikato. The benefit of this exercise is valuable in aligning and coordinating operational work and sharing resources across all parties. Establish connections with successful restoration projects outside the district.

Action 1.3 - Identifying those areas of highest priority (remnant areas not well represented).

Prioritisation - once areas (ecosystems) are mapped, they can be prioritised for restoration and active management. This includes existing and threatened conditions like weeds and pests, current control, and restoration initiatives. Utilise national and regionally threatened species to help identify these high-priority areas.

Action 1.4 - Catchment and Area Planning (Integrated Catchment Management Plan)

Adopt best practice principles, e.g., Low Impact Design (LID) standards for stormwater; the road network incorporates ecological links and minimises corridors acting as barriers to ecology.

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Focus Area 2

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

Action 2.1 – Promote Local Nurseries set up: Social benefits, Training skills (e.g., Kimihia Lakes Project)

Investigate the development of a programme to support and advise people managing land with better indigenous biodiversity values. Set up a database with all projects and investigate the use of blockchain to secure the information for individual landowners. This can be based on the current WDC projects and identifying willing landowners initially.

Advice and access to resources will include management and legal options that would be most useful to maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity on properties. Display the information as a dashboard.

Create a database of the existing nurseries and their capacity for people to contact and purchase plants. See if there is potential to increase capacity and scale up native propagation with current nursery providers and the capability for restoration and community groups to maintain their growing programmes and enlist schools.

Action 2.2– Identify pockets of Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), Conservation Covenants and Esplanade opportunities

Link good ground-truthed SNAs and conservation covenants to Action 1.2 and Action 1.3 to existing information. Managed areas could be complemented voluntarily with legal protection through other mechanisms such as covenants or designations. Include unique linkage to other funders, including Waikato Regional Council, QEII National Trust, and Waikato River Authority. Explore a programme to identify key native areas (logged over time) and how these could be captured, logged, and monitored over time.

Action 2.3 – Submit on relevant government legislation to promote sustainable natural resource use, reduce emissions and support our rural communities (Update with changing legislation)

Identify key principles to direct submissions on future legislation, including **Te ture Whaimana and Mātauranga Māori.**

Action 2.4 - Support Walking Access to our native environments utilising Esplanade Reserves and Access strips, with restoration groups, community groups and willing landowners

Work with restoration groups, community groups and landowners to promote walking access (use existing Esplanade Reserves, Strips) and help engage with private landowners to complete access (access strips) as required.

Focus Area 3

Seek collaboration opportunities to work with others, including mana whenua, to achieve the Conservation Strategy vision.

Action 3.1 – Investigate Applications and Platforms to track ecological data (plantings, pest and weed control) for conservation projects

WRC app/software, Restor, Econet, Trap.NZ and iNaturalist or solutions could help manage

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where tamariki/students connect with and explore the environment. Then plan, design and take action in their local places in collaboration with their communities, particularly active restoration groups and community groups.

Augment the Enviroschools tools with Council information and support to utilise student skills better and collaboratively plan, design, and take action on the issues they are passionate about. Information for landowners on what they can do, where to plant, what to grow and how to maintain those areas.

Action 5.2 – Support marae, hapū, iwi, restoration groups, community groups working to enhance indigenous biodiversity by providing advice, connections, and funding

Community group advice and guidance

Connect volunteers with restoration groups, community groups for planting days

Seek donations and sponsorship for Taiao projects

Facilitate applications for funding of group projects Provide or link ecologically sourced native plants when resources are available

Planning and technical advice (weeding, land preparation, types of plants and season/timing of planting, maintenance and pest management till the plants are established)

Plants for iwi/hapu and residents adjacent to parks, reserves, and esplanades when resources are available from local nurseries or other Territorial Authorities

Check with Hamilton City Nursery if any unallocated plants are known for restoration projects

Explore whether any school horticultural programmes have propagated plants that could be utilized by iwi/hapu and groups.

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 Other: 18.9.3 - use of Macrons and double Vowels - check with Crs Tuner and Ngataki, WT for final sign-off
 WT: 18.1.2 - check if where we put in (b) Tikanga and customary law, (c) common and customary law and (d) Treaty of Waitangi principles
 From Action 1: update opportunities around funding
 Action 6: Focus Areas - Strengthen Section 5.2 to ensure it is clear and fluid. Check with Councillor Bevis.

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MONITORING AND REVIEW

MONITORING AND REVIEW

This Strategy will guide staff with day-to-day decisions relating to Taiao in the Waikato and offer guidance to the community. The strategy implementation will be reviewed regularly and before each Waikato District Council Long Term Plan to remain current and relevant.

A future council group (Councilors and staff) will engage with key partners and monitor progress at four levels:

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

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

Progress on each Action will be reviewed by the future council group once a year. Taiao in the Waikato Strategy will be reviewed every three years. An integrated approach will be used to implement the strategy. This allows decisions to be made on investment, monitoring, and reporting on indigenous biodiversity.

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

A template could be used for the Standard Report Card on each outcome as set out below. Each council group meeting will focus on one outcome in a sequence. So, outcomes can be addressed on an ongoing basis.

Report Card (Example)

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

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

Appendix A — From Sustainable Development Goal 15 "Life on Land" to the Resource Management Act, National Policy Statements, Waikato Regional Pest Strategy, Proposed District Plan and the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy

Intermediate

Outcome: Plantings occur in less frequently used reserve areas (esplanades)

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Intermediate

Outcome: Restoration groups, Community groups help contribute to council reserve plantings and incorporate their areas into council reserves (Tamahere Gully system)

Indicators: Increase in vegetation coverage (natives) on Council Reserves, corresponding increases in native fauna (birds, reptiles, and insects)

Indicator: More groups working and recreating in native areas

Illustrate Best Practice

Narrative Context: How does this fit into the regional and broader Waikato District context

State: Increase native plantings (indigenous biodiversity) within Council Reserves. Log the number of trees planted, area and Survival per Annum.

Resources

Enviroschools

Biodiversity Waikato

Go Eco

Establishing a Nursery

Waikato Regional Council – Planting guides

Trees for Survival

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TAIAO (NATURE) IN THE WAIKATO

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GLOSSARY

Bioveg2

Carbon Sequestration

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

Engineering with Nature (Native Engineering)

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

Restore (ecology)

The active intervention and management of modified or degraded habitats, ecosystems, landforms and landscapes in order to reinstate indigenous natural character, ecological and physical processes, and cultural and visual qualities.

Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)

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

State of the Environment (SOE)

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

Taiao

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

Ecosourced

Refers to the propagation of native plants from local areas and the planting of them back within the same geographic area.

Conservation Covenant

A covenant is a legal agreement between the landholder and the covenanting

agency about how an identified area's natural values will be protected.

Indigenous Biodiversity

Means the living organisms that occur naturally in New Zealand, and the ecological complexes of which they are part, including all forms of indigenous flora, fauna, and fungi, and their habitats.

INTRODUCTION

This strategy identifies broad priorities for protecting and enhancing Taiao, including indigenous biodiversity values, to improve conservation and ecosystems. This strategy encompasses and links to the Waikato District open spaces, reserves, esplanades, private land, wetlands, peat bogs, the Waikato and Waipa Rivers, and tributaries. The rivers, and some tributaries originate outside the district and at Ngāruawāhia the Waipa and Waikato Rivers converge all the way downstream to Port Waikato. The Waikato District Council partner with Waikato Regional Council to sustainably manage natural resources.

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

What is Taiao?

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

That interdependency lies at the heart of our Taiao methodology. Te Whakapakari I Te Taiao² towards environmental enhancement is the goal of Waikato-Tainui. The enhancement approach aims not to maintain but through our actions, to improve the quality of the environment for future generations.

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

Discussions about biodiversity have also tended to revolve around protecting Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) (as dictated by Section 6 Resource Management Act 1991), rather than about how to maintain biodiversity across the landscape. While SNA sites are critical dimensions in biodiversity management, sites seldom operate in isolation from their surrounding environment (biota moves in and out of such areas). The Waikato District Council needs to look at the entire role Taiao plays and its interactions with the wider environment.

Investigation into high-value indigenous biodiversity within the lower Waikato Region Zone identified 127 priority sites (Leathwick 2016). These total 14,592 ha, equating to 37% of the surviving indigenous-dominated cover, with only 5.2% of the potential terrestrial ecosystem extent (Kessels 2017). This includes Department of Conservation (DOC) land. Key examples of Taiao catchment types include:

- ◆ Mangatāwhiri; Managatangi; Whakapipi;
- ◆ Waikato River at Tuakau Bridge; Awaroa (Waiuku);
- ◆
- ◆ Whangamarino at Jefferies Road Bridge; Waikato, Mercer Bridge;
- ◆ Whangamarino at Island Block Road; Lake Opuatia (Peat Lake);
- Waerenga;
- Lake Waikare;
- Matahuru; Waikato River at Rangiriri; Whangape; Managawara Stream
- Awaroa at Harris/Te Ohaki Bridge;
- Awaroa (Rotowaro) at Sansons Bridge;
- Tane Mahuta Reserve, Huntly

VISION, GOALS, TAIAO

Vision

To foster a liveable, thriving and connected environment where the people of the district value and understand the importance of our natural systems and Kaitiakitanga.

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

Goals

1. Maintain, create and improve a full range of natural habitats and ecosystems to a healthy functioning state across their natural range and genetic diversity; and
2. Support actions to conserve, maintain and restore healthy ecosystems and their ecological linkages and promote sustainable natural resource use and emissions reduction.
3. Seek collaboration opportunities to work with others, including mana whenua, to achieve the Taiao in the Waikato vision.
4. Unlock native bush and esplanade areas through access agreements and landowner support to provide for pest and weed control⁷, walking and cycling where possible

Potential Methods to achieve Taiao

Many methods can support indigenous biodiversity and biosecurity action. These included:

- Research and monitor indigenous biodiversity, native plants, animals and other organisms and the ecosystems that sustain them

- ◆ Funding – multiple streams (Local and Central government, community, iwi, NGOs, Business)
- ◆ Cultural – sites containing indigenous biodiversity and taonga identification
- ◆ Wildlife corridors – between SNAs and council reserves
- ◆ Biosecurity – preventing or reducing the spread of pest plants, animals and other organisms that might work in natural ecosystems
- ◆ Protected areas – Council-owned, private covenants, DOC, iwi and hapū
- ◆ Additional plantings adjacent to Regional Riparian protection
- ◆ Land acquisition and bequeaths
- ◆ New technologies – satellites, network traps, Internet of Things (sensors and cameras etc.)
- ◆ Integrated planning – opportunities to enhance Taiao and manage land
- ◆ Enabling landowners – knowledge and understanding of the benefits of Taiao and how to get started
- ◆ Education – teaching our communities and young people the benefits of Taiao
- ◆ Resource Management Act tools – investigate the simplified version of protection covenants
- ◆ New indigenous biodiversity initiatives

The benefits of protecting Taiao

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

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

Restoration sits on a continuum from improving ecosystems through to full recovery as set in Figure 1. It takes many forms depending on the ecosystem, whether pristine or degraded. Restoration and letting nature take back what it needs on its own is passive.

Active restoration speeds up the process and minimizes invasive pests and weeds.

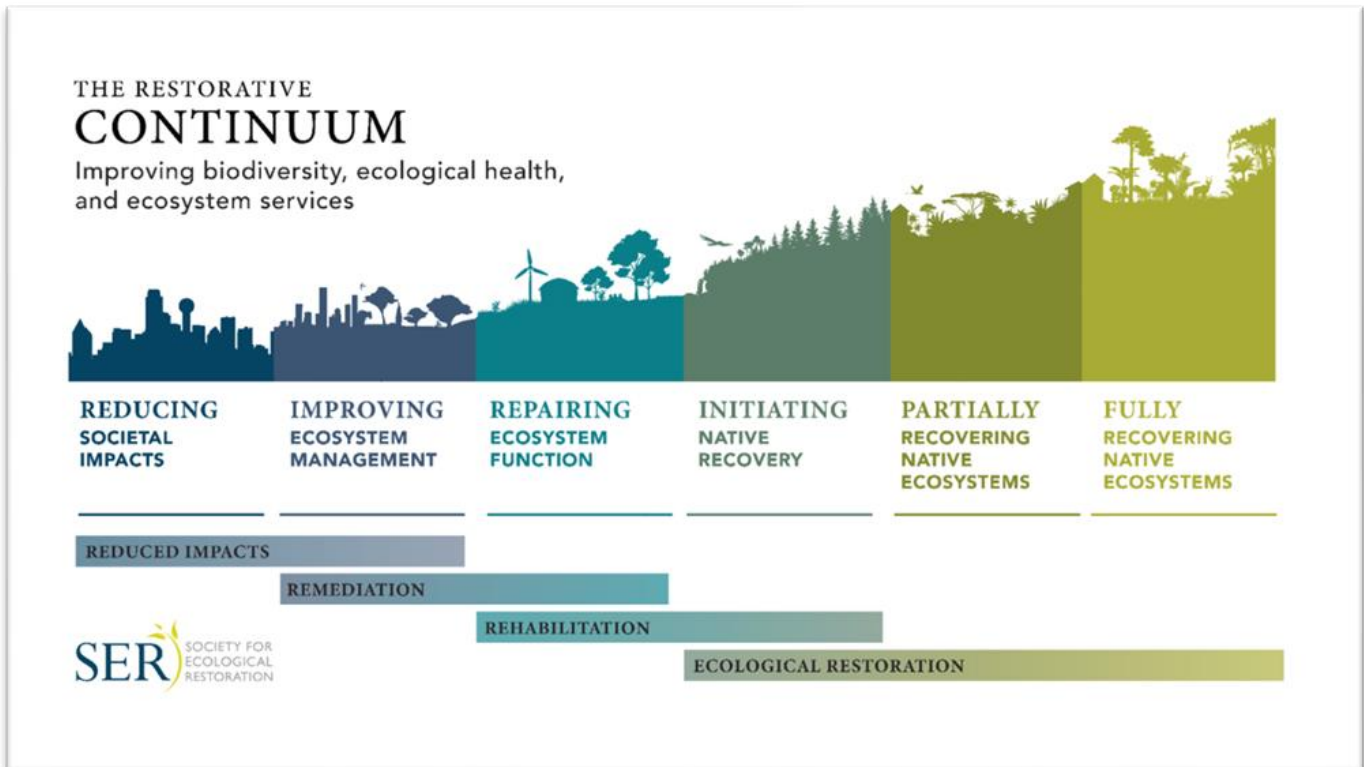


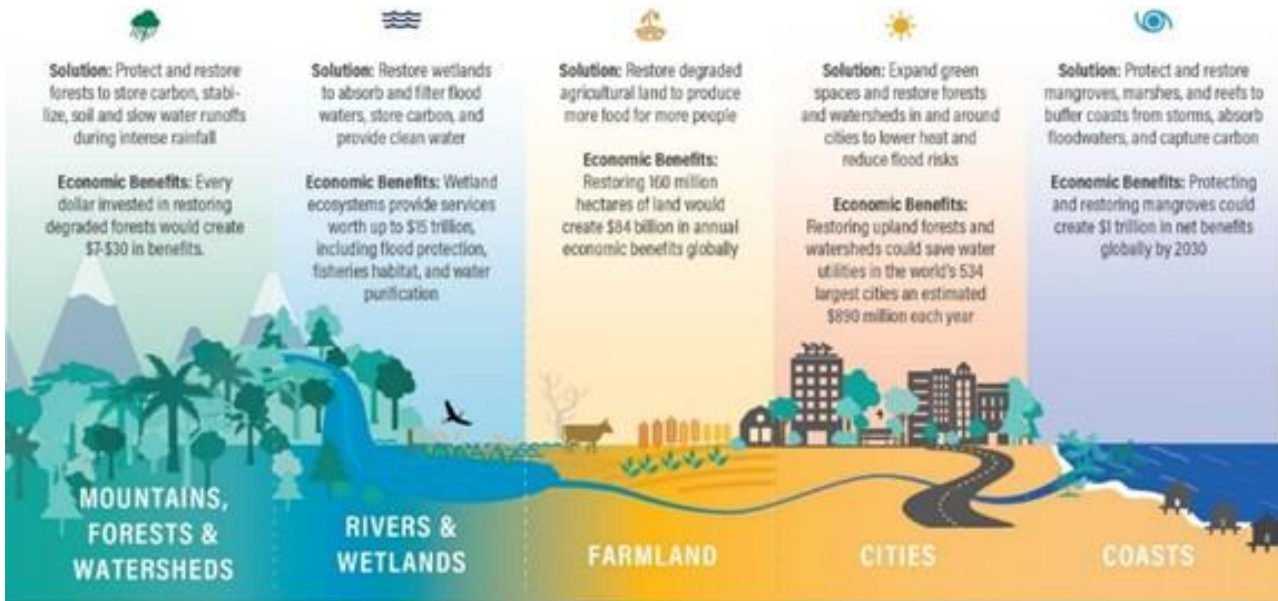
Figure 1: Restorative Continuum (restorative activities aimed at improving ecosystem functions)

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

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

Nature-based solutions are a smart investment now more than ever (see Figure 2 below).

Nature-Based Solutions Can Deliver Big Economic Benefits



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

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Figure 2: Nature based solutions

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

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

We need to embrace and create more of the stories in our district like:

Community Group example (SNA's) showcasing best practice

From Pukemokemoke Bush Trust:

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

The next area is a very wet area and was planted in flax some three years ago and

could well do with interplanting with particularly kind kahikatea and pukatea, again the two well-established wetland plants of the area”.

Private landowner example Queen Elizabeth II National Trust (QEII) covenant, Mt Karioi area) showcasing best practice July 2022:

From Landowner

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

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



Photos: Kohekohe fruiting and Rata flowering

Categories of Taiao

Conserving indigenous biodiversity and restoring ecosystems will have a positive knock-on effect on the climate. Specific economic capture of tangible benefits might include sustainable wood, improved agricultural yields and eco-tourism revenues.

Non-valued elements include clean air, water, pollination, pest control, nutrient recycling, carbon sequestration, reduced animal-transmitted diseases and greater resilience to extreme weather and natural disasters. In comparison roads and bridges don't generate returns themselves, but they are foundational to increased economic benefits through the movement of goods and services. We value this infrastructure but do not apply the same principles to Taiao.

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

Restoration Opportunities



Passive Restoration - leave things alone (Nature does its own thing). The contrast between fencing, pest and weed control and non-fencing native areas that have been grazed.

Active Restoration - where sites are actively weeded and pests' control, protecting areas (fencing) and adding new native plantings to increase the diversity.



Contrast between native areas fenced (some regenerating ground cover) and unfenced (mature trees and no ground cover)

Restoration is actively engineering nature:



New plantings adjacent to mature vegetation

We actively enhance this (by fencing, weed and pest control, planting and maintenance). Both options include assessing the area, soil and water conditions, tree and bush plantings and maintenance plans over time.

It must be the right place with suitable species that are native eco-sourced and variation in the types of trees, plants and grasses. WDC wants to encourage native vegetation (protection and restoration) over exotic vegetation and transition exotic forests to indigenous bush.

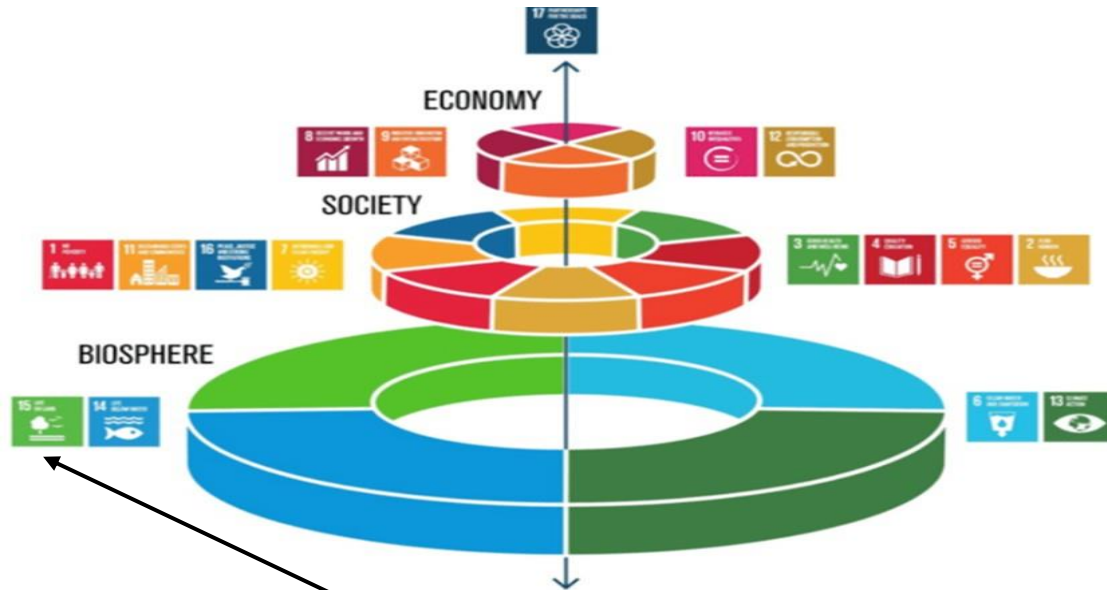
Planting a monoculture species is easy, and building indigenous ecosystems is challenging but more rewarding from a biodiversity perspective and more adaptable over time.

Further research is needed, but wetlands and peat bogs all have carbon-sequestering species. Where it can the Council will help facilitate reasonable solutions in different places and show best practice examples on its reserves.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 SDGs³ are integrated—they recognise that action in one area will affect outcomes in others and that development must be a balance of social, economic and environmental sustainability. United Nations – Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 15 – "Life on the Land" sets out the importance of plant life on land.

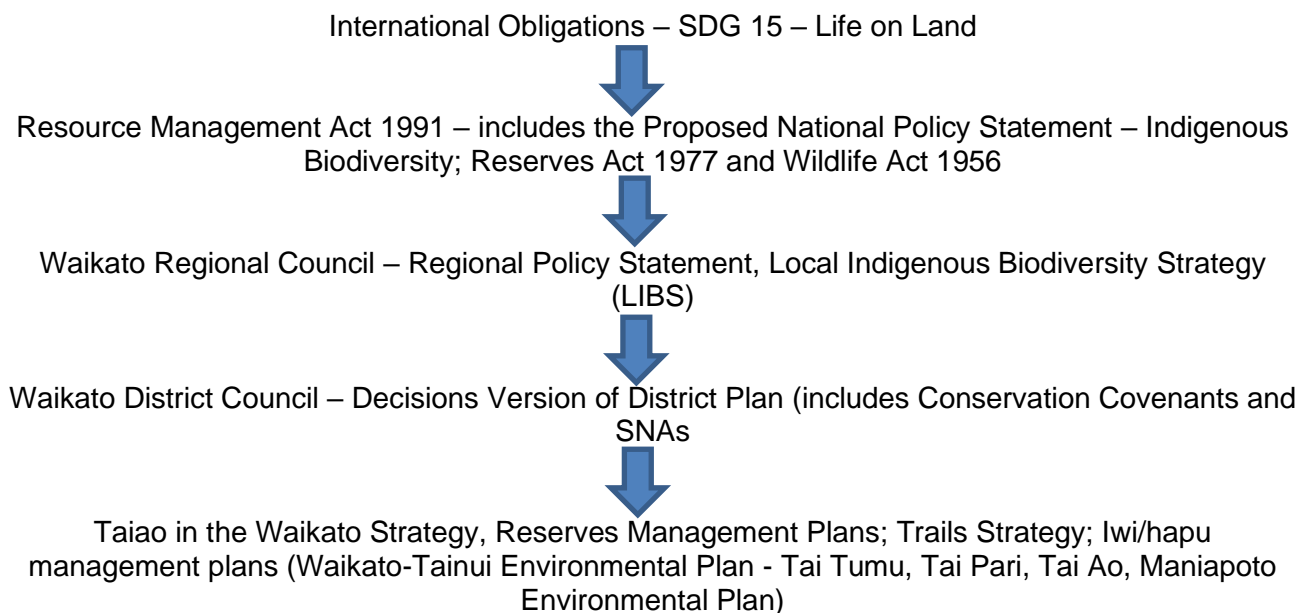
"Human life depends on the earth as much as the ocean for our sustenance and livelihoods. Plant life provides 80 percent of the human diet, and we rely on agriculture as an important economic resource. Forests cover 30 percent of the Earth's surface, provide vital habitats for millions of species and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



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

Strategic context

The Strategy is about maintaining and enhancing the natural environment while achieving the best community and economic outcomes. Emphasis should be placed on strengthening indigenous biodiversity and protecting native bush, wetlands, peat bogs and quality soils. The Taiao in the Waikato Strategy fits with New Zealand's international obligations and the upcoming legislation, including the Resource Management Act (RMA) and Proposed National Policy Strategy – Indigenous Biodiversity. A summary of the linkage is illustrated below:



Elements of the Waikato District and Taiao

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

The district therefore makes a critical contribution to the country's economy in terms of contribution to revenue generation and GDP.

The district is also home to large areas of significant indigenous vegetation. DOC is administering specific sites of significance, e.g., the Hākarimata Ranges near Ngaruawahia¹⁰.

The Waikato River (NZ's longest river) flows through the district. It is a critical water body contributing to the region's biodiversity, providing potable water for the area and neighbouring population centres. It has significant cultural value to iwi, hapū and Māori (Waikato Tainui and Maniapoto). The Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 recognises the river as a living entity with its own legal rights.

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

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

- ◆ Coastal reserves around Raglan and Port Waikato (Whakaupoko West Franklin Landcare group, Port Waikato and Raglan Community groups) are managed well, particularly in restoration activities, and there is good community consultation in these areas.
- ◆ ◆ Hākarimata Ranges Hakanoa Reserve
- ◆ Management Plan Mount Karioi
- ◆ Pukemokemoke Reserve
- ◆ Taupiri Range
- ◆ Whangamarino wetland
- Wainui Reserve (Bush Park)



Hākarimata Summit Track [image credit Department of Conservation]

The Waikato district contains some of the country's most highly productive soils, which are vital contributors to the country's agricultural and horticultural sectors.

Taiao in Waikato and the rest of New Zealand is under pressure. At the same time, little deliberate felling of the indigenous forest takes place, and the main threats to forests are stock browsing and plant and animal pest infestation, with climate change having more on-going influence over time.

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

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

OUR DISTRICT

Where we have come from

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

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

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

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

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

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

Links to key documents

- ◆ [National Policy Statement – Indigenous Biodiversity \(NPS-IB\) \(draft\)](#)
- ◆ [National PA Pest Management Plan \(NPAPMP\)](#)
- ◆ [Waikato Regional Plan and Coastal Plan](#)
- ◆ Iwi Management Plans: Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan - Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao, Maniapoto Environmental Plan; See WRC links for other iwi documents)
- ◆ [Waikato Proposed District Plan \(Appeals Version\)](#)

- ◆ Department of Conservation – Biodiversity Strategy (Kauri Dieback, Copper Skinks and Mudfish)
- ◆ QEII – Map of Protected Land <https://nztcs.org.nz/QEII>
- ◆ Protecting our natural ecosystems' carbon – report:
<https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/climate-change-and-introduced-browsers> Waikato District Council Reserves Management Plans

State of the Environment

As in all countries, land of high value for agricultural production is the first to be cleared of native vegetation. In New Zealand and Waikato, the trend is for more marginal Land to be removed, often for non-native forestry or development.

These pressures have led to the degradation of Waikato District native ecosystems through the loss and fragmentation of indigenous biodiversity.

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

The region's land area covered in indigenous terrestrial vegetation has decreased from 94 per cent in 1840 to 27 per cent in 2018. Since 1840 six local authority areas have lost over 80 per cent of their indigenous cover (Hamilton City, Matamata-Piako District, Rotorua District, South Waikato, Waikato District and Waipa District).

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

Therefore, the baseline is low for the Waikato Region and by extension the Waikato District. This means the importance of protecting what we have cannot be over emphasized. Protecting remnant areas will help us sustain the Taiao while restoring our new sites. This is supported by SDG 15 – Life on the Land and where human life depends on our earth and its plants, which is becoming even more critical in the Climate Change era.

Emerging Threats (Climate-related impacts), weeds and pests open new areas. Climate change will increase pressures on natural systems, but we do not yet know how to respond adequately to this threat. What we do know is the predicted climate change impacts in the Waikato could include, and the timeframes will vary:

- ◆ Warmer air and water temperatures (lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands) Sea
- ◆ level rise
- ◆ Changes in rainfall patterns
 - Increases in the frequency of storms and droughts
- ◆

- Ocean acidification of coastal waters Increases impacts on inshore coastal ecosystems: aquatic flora and fauna.

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

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

Opportunities for improving Taiao

Research and Evidence:

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

Protection and management of native flora and fauna

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

protect native bush and waterways.

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

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



Propagation Table

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

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

Significant Natural Areas

Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) are recorded in the Proposed District Plan (Chapter and Maps): Appeals version. Indigenous Biodiversity and its life-supporting capacity in SNAs are protected or enhanced. The SNAs of the Waikato District: "Terrestrial and

Wetland Ecosystems data" were derived from analysis and interpretation of aerial photography along with information from ecological reports and data (where available), local environmental knowledge and limited field surveys. The data comprises an extensive yet provisional inventory and assessment of SNA of terrestrial and wetland ecosystems of the Waikato District.

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

The initial desktop analysis for the SNA layer identified 698 units. These units could capture more than one property and , comprising an area of 71,312 ha (16.4%) of the Waikato District, as SNAs. The SNAs were comprised of indigenous vegetation 61,292 ha (85.9%) of the total area of SNAs. The indigenous vegetation in SNAs must be protected to ensure the ongoing biodiversity in a District.

The public consultation process revealed that most landowners were motivated to protect and restore SNAs identified on their Land. However, while formal protection of natural areas (e.g., conservation covenant) is ideal, the ongoing management of these SNA (including weed and animal pest control, fencing and restoration) is a focus point for the Strategy. Currently as drafted the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity exposure draft and other legislation must consider incentives for landowners to protect and restore indigenous biodiversity.

The identified SNA layers on the Councils planning maps let landowners know they have significant natural areas that could be protected with opportunities for further help with restoration. Under the previous conservation fund, provided a small contribution to applicants who undertook improvements to protect areas of high value indigenous vegetation.

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

Waikato District Council will continue to update the SNA layer on the Council planning maps in conjunction with the Waikato Regional Council. This will be an ongoing process and likely to be undertaken with meaningful engagement with property

owners and ground truthing. To be augmented with land-based ecological assessments as and when they can be arranged, e.g., linked to land development applications.

Non-regulatory policies discussed in this document, include investigating assistance around establishing protective covenants; education; funding ecological assessments to established whether unmapped areas of indigenous vegetation meet one or more of the Criteria in APP2: Criteria for determining significance of indigenous biodiversity within the Proposed District Plan and therefore being identified as being an SNA on the planning maps. This may be undertaken in conjunction with WRC. Also with an advocacy role when managing the threats from Kauri Dieback and loss of habitat to Long-Tailed Bats.

BRINGING IT TO LIFE AND CONSIDERATIONS

Taiao and partnership with Iwi/hapū

Where restoration relates to the Waikato River, the Waikato District Council recognises the signed Kiingitanga Accord and will work as a Treaty partner. Any decisions affecting the Waikato River, its waters or management over its waters, will maintain the principle of Te Mana o te Awa. Taiao in the Waikato seeks to improve the terrestrial environments, and this will have a corresponding improvement on the aquatic environments. Waikato District Council will work with Waikato Tainui and Waikato Regional Council to indirectly improve the Waikato River and its surrounding tributaries.

By 2025 Treaty partners, Iwi, hapū and Te Ao Māori organisations involved in Taiao and environmental management as mana whenua and kaitiaki will be sufficiently supported. Waikato District Council aims to support them to secure appropriate resourcing to help protect and manage indigenous biodiversity, particularly taonga species in their place and associated with local Marae. Co-governance roles ensure the Treaty Partnership is honoured through Tino- rangatiratanga, fulfilling the promise of Te Mana o Te Taiao Aotearoa, the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, that Treaty partners are mana whenua and kaitiaki.

The Joint Management Agreement (JMA) is Waikato District Council and Waikato Tainui's response to the co-governance of the Waikato River and Taiao in the Waikato can be used to protect and restore the land adjacent to Te Awa. Waikato District Council also has a JMA with Ngati Maniapoto. Waikato-Tainui has signed the Kīngitanga Accord to work with the Crown as a Treaty partner in the development of legislation, policies and any other decisions affecting the Waikato River, its waters or management over its waters, with importance placed over the principle of Te Mana o te Awa.

Both agreements support the conservation and Kaitiakitanga of the district's indigenous biodiversity. Taiao in Waikato should be viewed with this lens. Where each party can help

manage and restore Te Awa and Taiao through conservation, it should be progressed as an ongoing partnership as part of Taiao implementation. This will include cultural areas of natural significance so the effects of current and future pressures can be mitigated.

Collaboration

Working with private landowners/businesses

By 2026, new programmes are in place to support landowners, businesses, resource users/owners and industry in delivering more Taiao. If appropriate, incentivise or seek sponsorship to protect and restore indigenous biodiversity as a standard part of the business within the Waikato District. It should not fall to only landowners; identifying opportunities for those supportive businesses will create dual benefits.

Partners

Waikato District Council explore partnership opportunities to provide funding and education to manage and restore native habitats (Flora/fauna). Tap into government and regional funding where possible to accelerate restoration. Consider whether Waikato District Council could be a platform for helping groups manage the logistics of conservation work using Council systems and website to manage their efforts e.g., track investment in labour time, flora (plants) and materials (fencing, traps, fertiliser) over time.

Funding

Conservation funding is still supported, with less emphasis on individual landowners (unless they provide public or ecological access) to more community initiatives that support employment and community health. By 2025 restoration groups and community groups have the information that lets them be appropriately resourced, growing, connected, and coordinated: access knowledge, expertise, and information to progress their projects supporting Taiao in the Waikato. Funding opportunities to explore:

- ◆ ◆ Increase the funding pool for restoration so protection of the Taiao is prioritised.
 - ◆ Investigate funding from external providers that Council could help facilitate
 - ◆ e.g., local businesses and clubs, societies.
 - ◆ Local offsetting by business, developers (connecting them with landowners)
 - ◆ Secondary CO² offset – collective view of the district or within catchments
 - ◆ 1 ha – 3,000 plants, 5m in height
 - ◆ National – Register and apply for funding with Central Government funding, alternative funding, businesses, Lotteries etc.
 - ◆ Waikato Regional Council - Funding
 - ◆ Waikato District Council – Funding and Partnership opportunities

- ◆ Waikato District Council supports other ecological partners for funding and grants rather than applying ourselves.

Biosecurity and other tools

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

Protecting Taiao should utilise central and local government expertise in pest control and provide this to landowners and customers as tools, knowledge, and services.

Support the development of new technologies for controlling pests, e.g., biocontrol and large-scale permanent trap networks.



Biocontrol on the weed Tradescantia (Tradescantia fluminensis)

Tools and monitoring

Investigate hosting a digital platform for restoration groups or community groups to manage their funding, labour and work programmes around pest management, plantings, and maintenance. This could be replicated for multiple groups across the district. Waikato District Council is investigating ~~CAMS~~ an information page and whether it could be used by existing groups to help new groups. Current pest control uses scientific and Mātauranga Māori monitoring (what works) and citizen science opportunities to improve Taiao.

Digital layers available for Council and landowners

Councils maintain GIS layers to include SNAs, Conservation Covenants and Open space. Consider hosting a webpage for restoration groups, community groups throughout the Waikato District. Alternatively, work with WRC to promote their app if it can achieve improvements in Taiao. Waikato District Council supports all efforts in tracking, maintaining, monitoring, and restoring Taiao.

ACCESS

Esplanade reserves

Esplanade reserves may be required when land is subdivided, reclaimed, developed (through conditions), or when a road is stopped along a riparian margin, the road is vested in the council as an esplanade reserve . Esplanade reserves can also be created voluntarily. They are classified as reserves under the Reserves Act 1977, and land ownership is transferred upon deposit (completion) of the subdivision plan to a territorial authority. New Esplanade reserves and strips should be surveyed and depicted on the cadastral maps.

The boundary of an esplanade reserve is measured from its bank where it is a river or stream, its margin where it is a lake, or from the mean high-water springs (MHWS) in a coastal area. In all cases, the landward boundary is a fixed survey line.

Accordingly, the landward boundary does not change as the water boundary accretes or erodes.

Esplanade Reserves created as part of a subdivision (each allotment that abuts a waterway) will sit under Council control to manage.

Esplanade strips

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

Esplanade Strips are legal instruments between landowners and territorial authorities; they do not need to be formally surveyed or identified on a survey plan. They can be registered on the title, but the land within the strip remains in the ownership of the landowner. Although identified on a survey plan, they do not need to be formally surveyed.

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

An esplanade strip can include provisions to exclude access by the public during certain

times or under certain conditions (as prescribed in Form 31 of the Resource Management (Forms, Fees, and Procedure) Regulations 2003 - also see examples of conditions in the advantages and disadvantages space.

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

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

Access strips

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

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

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

Summary on access

Overall, Esplanade Reserves, Esplanade Strips and Access Strips are a range of tools available to local government, Department of Conservation, restoration groups, community groups. Private landowners provide public access to native bush or water bodies on a voluntary basis. Things for all parties to consider when determining the strategic approach for native bush and esplanade areas are the form of the protection and level of management.

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

The policy approach follows national and regional direction with four underlying principles, including:

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

Where possible, WDC will promote access to wider walking networks, parks, and reserves with willing landowners. The Council will treat Esplanade Reserves, Strips and Access Strips based on each case's merits and focus on public access or recreation demand. Where there are significant conservation features on privately owned riparian areas, encouragement for protection is essential.

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

ACHIEVING OUR VISION AND GOALS THROUGH ACTIONS

Focus Area 1

Maintain, restore, and improve a range of natural habitats and ecosystems to a healthy functioning state in public spaces. All focus areas and actions must consider the strategy's vision, goals, and our partnerships with Tangata Whenua.

Action 1.1 – Illustrate Best Practice - Maintain, restore, and improve a range of natural habitats and ecosystems to a healthy functioning state in public spaces.

Waikato District Council, through this strategy, seeks to integrate statutory and non-statutory indigenous biodiversity functions such as monitoring, research and collaborative action and showcase this on land owned and administered by the Council. The restoration of these council areas to be guided by evidence based best practice in plantings, weed and pest control (1.9.2).

This includes planting a range of indigenous natives (preferably Eco sourced) on public reserves, e.g., passive areas, pocket areas adjacent to waterways, and within Esplanades, maintaining appropriate levels of pest control (weed and animal species) across the council reserves and helping adjacent landowners with native bush areas. Including restoration and community groups in weed control either through identification or active control.

Action 1.2 – Linking Taiao areas to multiple indigenous biodiversity impacts

An essential action underpinning this strategy is to develop a district-wide prioritisation of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems. Identify key areas as a mapped layer for future ground-truthing.

These areas have the potential to enhance existing ecosystems. Places with the potential to enhance existing ecosystems as a corridor link to multiple SNA areas in proximity and identify where the gaps might be for future expansion. Map iwi, DOC and community indigenous biodiversity initiatives that support indigenous biodiversity across the Waikato. The benefit of this exercise is valuable in aligning and coordinating operational work and sharing resources across all parties. Establish connections with successful restoration projects outside the district.

Action 1.3 - Identifying those areas of highest priority (remnant areas not well represented).

Prioritisation - once areas (ecosystems) are mapped, they can be prioritised for restoration and active management. This includes existing and threatened conditions like weeds and pests, current control, and restoration initiatives. Utilise national and regionally threatened species to help identify these high-priority areas.

Action 1.4 - Catchment and Area Planning (Integrated Catchment Management Plan)

Adopt best practice principles, e.g., Low Impact Design (LID) standards for stormwater; the road network incorporates ecological links and minimises corridors acting as barriers to ecology.

Focus Area 2

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

Action 2.1 – Promote Local Nurseries set up: Social benefits, Training skills (e.g., Kimihia Lakes Project)

Investigate the development of a programme to support and advise people managing land with better indigenous biodiversity values. Set up a database with all projects and investigate the use of blockchain to secure the information for individual landowners. This can be based on the current WDC projects and identifying willing landowners initially.

Advice and access to resources will include management and legal options that would be most useful to maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity on properties. Display the information as a dashboard.

Create a database of the existing nurseries and their capacity for people to contact and purchase plants. See if there is potential to increase capacity and scale up native propagation with current nursery providers and the capability for restoration and community groups to maintain their growing programmes and enlist schools.

Action 2.2– Identify pockets of Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), Conservation Covenants and Esplanade opportunities

Link good ground-truthed SNAs and conservation covenants to Action 1.2 and Action 1.3 to existing information. Managed areas could be complemented voluntarily with legal protection through other mechanisms such as covenants or designations. Include unique linkage to other funders, including Waikato Regional Council, QEII National Trust, and Waikato River Authority. Explore a programme to identify key native areas (logged over time) and how these could be captured, logged, and monitored over time.

Action 2.3 – Submit on relevant government legislation to promote sustainable natural resource use, reduce emissions and support our rural communities (Update with changing legislation)

Identify key principles to direct submissions on future legislation, including Te ture Whaimana and Mātauranga Maaori.

Action 2.4 - Support Walking Access to our native environments utilising Esplanade Reserves and Access strips, with restoration groups, community groups and willing landowners

Work with restoration groups, community groups and landowners to promote walking access (use existing Esplanade Reserves, Strips) and help engage with private landowners to complete access (access strips) as required.

Focus Area 3

Seek collaboration opportunities to work with others, including mana whenua, to achieve the Conservation Strategy vision.

Action 3.1 – Investigate Applications and Platforms to track ecological data (plantings, pest and weed control) for conservation projects

WRC app/software, Restor, Econet, Trap.NZ and iNaturalist or solutions could help manage and maintain conservation projects. There is potential for restoration groups and community

groups to run and support conservation projects. The Council will explore partnership opportunities with other Territorial Authorities (e.g. Hamilton City Council's "Nature in the City") about hosting or supplying a technical option for pest and planting tracking. Consider LIBs and whether a local community group could utilise voluntary, regulatory or digital solutions with Waikato District Council support¹⁰. Partner and work with HCC NITC programme projects over time to extend and embed Taiao in the community including mana whenua.

Action 3.2 – Consider how we can fund and resource improving Biodiversity in the District. This could include funding education directly and link into WRC (Enviroschools); DOC, QEII opportunities and other NGOs.

Helping, funding or non-financial opportunities for restoration groups, community groups (two or more nearby landowners) (1.9.3):

Availability of expertise, resources, and space to help groups carry out their work planning and operational work. Connecting the relevant parties to funding streams

Help restoration groups, and community groups with Health and Safety support (council's systems and processes)

Action 3.3 - Identify areas of farmland for retirement – Carbon Credits, Rates relief, funding
Investigate key land areas with willing landowners that could be retired and explored for restoration and the potential benefits to Taiao.

Focus Area 4

Policy, rules and regulation

Action 4.1 – Implement the Regional Pest Management Plan

Review and implement the Regional Pest Management Plan, provide operational feedback on the National Pest Management Plan for kauri protection; Draft Waikato Bat Strategy

Action 4.2 – Strengthen provisions to enhance indigenous biodiversity in reviews of National, Regional and District strategies and plans

Seek to enhance indigenous biodiversity in other legislation, National and Regional strategies, plans and policies with on-the-ground skills, knowledge, and experience.

Maintain relationships with WRC – Natural Heritage and Strategic and Spatial Planning

Make submissions on draft legislation (RMA reforms, Regional Biodiversity Strategy, Waikato Coastal Plan)

Focus Area 5

Education and community engagement

Action 5.1 – Develop in consultation with WRC advice and management around best practices for Taiao

Advice and management of indigenous biodiversity. Through education: current examples include Enviroschools. Ka mihi ki a Ranginui, ki a Papatūānuku, ka mihi ki te ngao o te wheiao.

Connect with the Waikato Enviroschools programme to support and expand the education profile for early childhood centres. Schools commit to a long-term sustainability journey, where tamariki/students connect with and explore the environment. Then plan, design and take action in their local places in collaboration with their communities, particularly active

restoration groups and community groups.

Augment the Enviroschools tools with Council information and support to utilise student skills better and collaboratively plan, design, and take action on the issues they are passionate about. Information for landowners on what they can do, where to plant, what to grow and how to maintain those areas.

Action 5.2 – Support marae, hapū, iwi, restoration groups, community groups working to enhance indigenous biodiversity by providing advice, connections, and funding

Community group advice and guidance

Connect volunteers with restoration groups, community groups for planting days

Seek donations and sponsorship for Taiao projects

Facilitate applications for funding of group projects Provide or link ecologically sourced native plants when resources are available

Planning and technical advice (weeding, land preparation, types of plants and season/timing of planting, maintenance and pest management till the plants are established)

Plants for iwi/hapu and residents adjacent to parks, reserves, and esplanades when resources are available from local nurseries or other Territorial Authorities

Check with Hamilton City Nursery if any unallocated plants are known for restoration projects

Explore whether any school horticultural programmes have propagated plants that could be utilized by iwi/hapu and groups.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

This Strategy will guide staff with day-to-day decisions relating to Taiao in the Waikato and offer guidance to the community. The strategy implementation will be reviewed regularly and before each Waikato District Council Long Term Plan to remain current and relevant.

A future council group (Councilors and staff) will engage with key partners and monitor progress at four levels:

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

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

Progress on each Action will be reviewed by the future council group once a year. Taiao in the Waikato Strategy will be reviewed every three years. An integrated approach will be used to implement the strategy. This allows decisions to be made on investment, monitoring, and reporting on indigenous biodiversity.

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

A template could be used for the Standard Report Card on each outcome as set out below. Each council group meeting will focus on one outcome in a sequence. So, outcomes can be addressed on an ongoing basis.

Report Card (Example)

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

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

Intermediate

Outcome: Plantings occur in less frequently used reserve areas (esplanades)

Intermediate

Outcome: Restoration groups, Community groups help contribute to council reserve plantings and incorporate their areas into council reserves (Tamahere Gully system)

Indicators: Increase in vegetation coverage (natives) on Council Reserves, corresponding increases in native fauna (birds, reptiles, and insects)

Indicator: More groups working and recreating in native areas

Illustrate Best Practice

Narrative Context: How does this fit into the regional and broader Waikato District context

State: Increase native plantings (indigenous biodiversity) within Council Reserves. Log the number of trees planted, area and Survival per Annum.

Resources

[Enviroschools](#)

[Biodiversity Waikato](#)

[Go Eco](#)

[Establishing a Nursery](#)

[Waikato Regional Council – Planting guides](#)

[Trees for Survival](#)