

# Identification of Opportunities

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

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

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

The opportunities were grouped into themes relating to:

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

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



View of Taupiri Maunga from Great South Road



# Taupiri Opportunities

## Connected Communities

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

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

## Identity

Strengthen the existing identity and character of the place.

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

## Natural Environment

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

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

## Growth and Economy

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

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

### Other opportunities

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



**Legend**

- Cultural sites
- Other points of interest
- ▭ Rivers
- ▭ Open space
- ▭ North Island Main Trunk
- ▭ Marae
- ▭ Maunga
- ▭ Taupiri Charitable Trust Walkways
- Notable trees
- Historic heritage areas

**Constraints**

- ↔ Severance by rail tracks
- ▨ High speed environment
- ↔ Poor pedestrian connectivity
- ⊙ Poor lighting & visibility
- ▭ Flooding potential

**Scale 1:6,000**



# Key Moves & Outcomes

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

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

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

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

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



View of Bob Byrne Memorial Park



# Taupiri Township

## Connected Communities

### Active mode opportunities

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

### Enhancing the pedestrian experience

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

### Intersection and roundabout upgrade

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



Streetscape beautification



Wayfinding



Te Awa River Ride extension



Protected cycleway on Great South Road



Raised pedestrian crossing



Traffic calming with planted buildouts



## Identity

### Amenities

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

### Maintenance/CPTED/Safety

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

#### Other projects

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

## Natural Environment

### Recreational opportunities

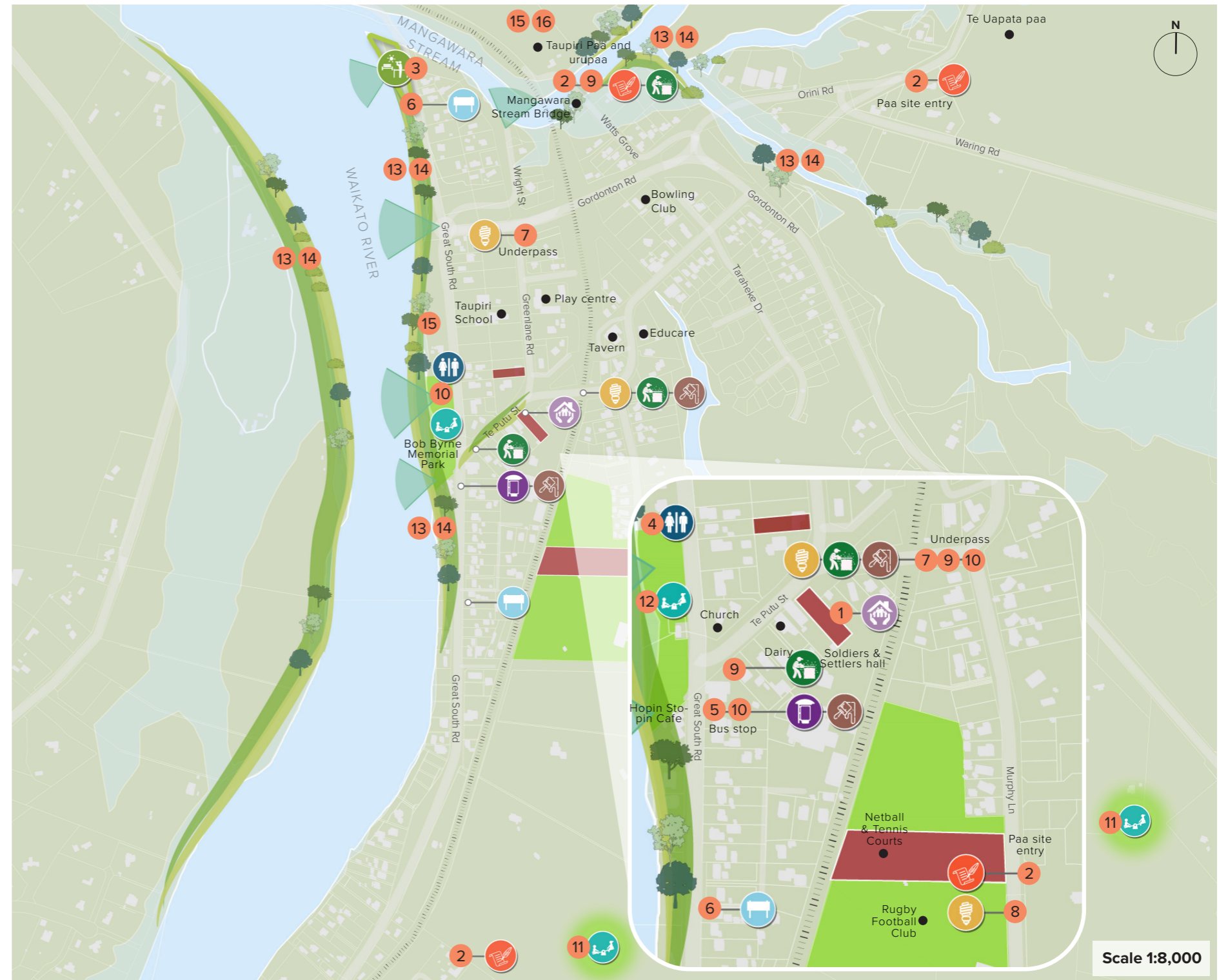
11. Investigate potential locations for playgrounds to serve wider Taupiri (Gordonton Road and Kainui Road).
12. Upgrade Bob Byrne Memorial Park with nature play and improved connections north and south to the Hopin Stopin Cafe.

### Ecological opportunities

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

#### Other projects

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



Riverside seating



Storytelling and cultural narratives



Underpass



Village feel



Nature play at Bob Byrne Memorial Park



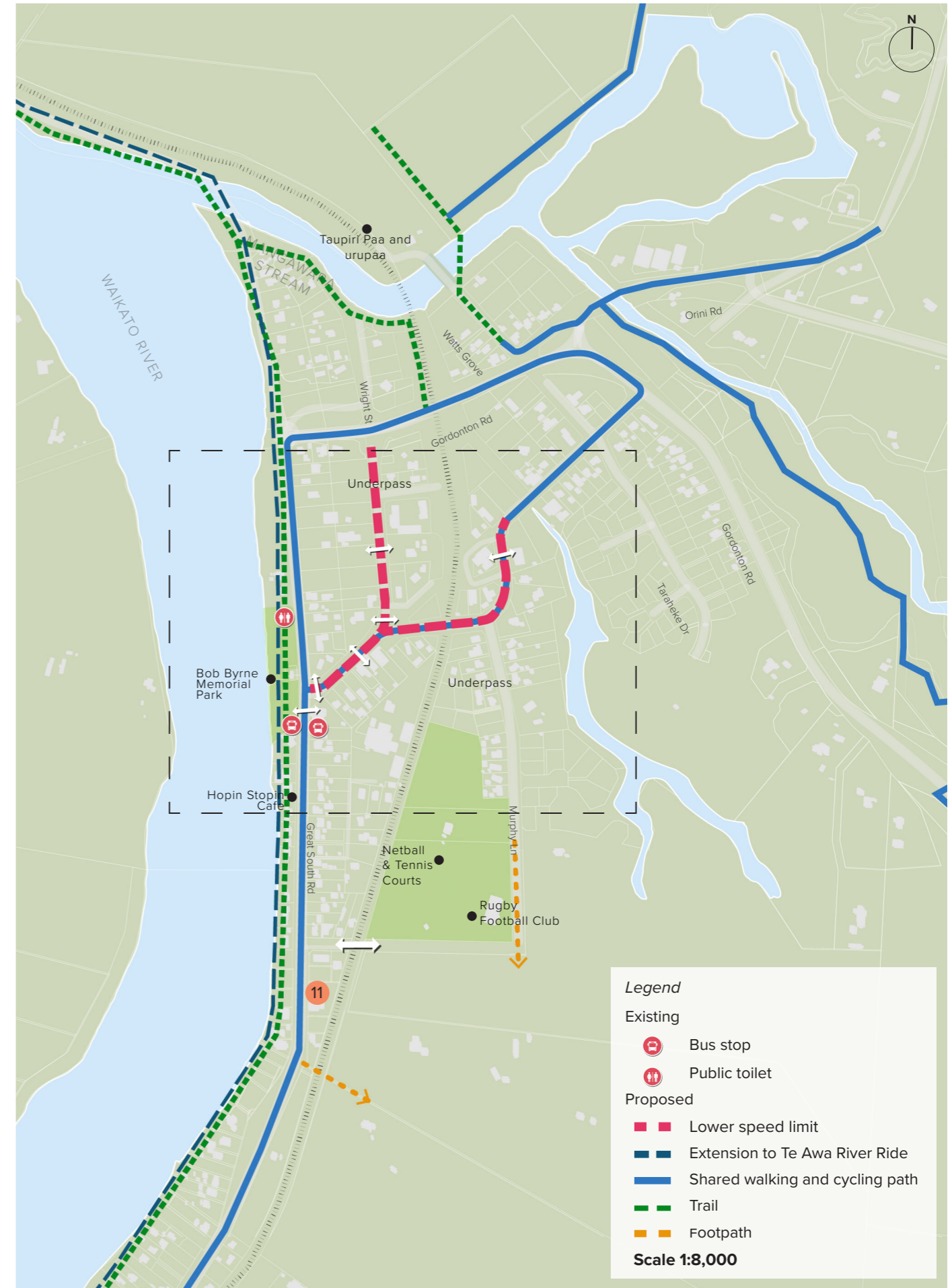
Separated cycleway on Great South Road



# Taupiri - Active Modes

## Active Modes

- 1 Provide raised platform at existing zebra crossing.
- 2 Investigate options to reallocate space on Te Putu Street. This could include removing the flush median to provide space for wider footpaths, cycleways and changes to on-street parking.
- 3 Investigate new pedestrian crossing at Te Putu Street intersection using existing island. Could provide a staged crossing on raised platforms.
- 4 Investigate new crossing of Great South Road to improve access to existing bus stops.
- 5 Investigate footpath widening on the approach to the pedestrian underpass.
- 6 New raised crossing outside childcare and extend existing footpath to new crossing.
- 7 Investigate options to improve pedestrian safety when crossing The Crescent. Review kerblines and provide kerb build-outs to reduce the crossing distance.
- 8 Provide raised platform at existing crossing outside the school. Investigate shared paths along Greenlane Road to encourage walking and cycling to school.
- 9 Provide angle parking within existing berm north of the school.
- 10 Investigate new raised crossing at Te Putu St/Greenlane Road intersection to support a continuous route along Te Putu Street.
- 11 Investigate pedestrian and cycle overbridge of railway at Lovell Ave connecting Great South Road to Murphy Lane via sports fields.







# Implementation



## Implementation Approach

### How this plan is to be implemented

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

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

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

### Role of Waikato District Council

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

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

### Funding implications

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

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

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

These include:

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

### Monitoring and review

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

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

### Implementation Table

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

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

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



View of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Ngaaruawaahia



# Taupiri

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



# Taupiri

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



View of Taupiri Maunga and Church