



AGENDA

Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting Wednesday, 6 March 2024

**I hereby give notice that a Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting will
be held on:**

Date: Wednesday, 6 March 2024

Time: 9.30am

**Location: Tauranga City Council
Ground Floor Meeting Rooms 1 & 1b
306 Cameron Road
Tauranga**

*Please note that this meeting will be livestreamed and the recording will be publicly available on
Tauranga City Council's website: www.tauranga.govt.nz.*

**Marty Grenfell
Chief Executive**

Terms of reference - Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group

Membership

Co-chairs	Two members to be appointed as co-chairs. Commissioner Shadrach Rolleston, Co-chair representative of consent holder; and Darlene Dinsdale – Mokopuna o Tia me Hei, Co-chair representative of iwi/hapū
Tauranga City Council representatives (2)	Commissioner Shadrach Rolleston Commissioner Bill Wasley
Western Bay of Plenty District Council representatives (2)	Mayor James Denyer Deputy Mayor John Scrimgeour
Iwi/ hapū representatives (4)	Jo'el Komene - Tapuika Iwi Authority Maru Tapsell – Te Kapu o Waitaha Darlene Dinsdale - Mokopuna o Tia me Hei Manu Pene - Ngāti Whakaue ki Maketu (Te Hononga)
Iwi/hapū representatives (alternates)	Tapuika Iwi Authority Te Kapu o Waitaha Mokopuna o Tia me Hei Ngāti Whakaue ki Maketu (Te Hononga)
Bay of Plenty Regional Council representative (non-voting)	Consents Manager
Quorum	<p>Two representatives from the consent holders and two representatives from iwi/hapu, including one of the Co-chairs. However, where a major decision is required, the quorum will be one representative from each entity.</p> <p>The Bay of Plenty Regional Council representative is not counted towards quorum.</p>
Decision-making	<p>By consensus where possible. If consensus cannot be reached, by majority vote.</p> <p>If there is an equal number of votes, the Co-chair who is chairing the meeting has a casting vote.</p>
Meeting frequency	Four times a year or as required by the group. Meetings to alternate between week and weekend days if possible.
Meeting venue	To alternate between marae and council venues; or as appropriate to a meeting agenda and agreed by the Co-chairs.

Advisory staff

Tauranga City Council	Chief Executive General Manager: Infrastructure Director: City Waters Manager: Water Services Manager: Water Infrastructure Outcomes Manager: Strategic Māori Engagement
Western Bay of Plenty District Council	Chief Executive Group Manager: Engineering Utilities Manager
Bay of Plenty Regional Council	Compliance Officer with responsibility for Resource Consent #65637

Ko te wai te ora o ngā mea katoa

Background

- The Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group (WKAG) was established by consent conditions to provide advice to Tauranga City Council (TCC) and Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC) as the joint consent holders in relation to matters covered under Resource Consent #65637, which authorises the take and use of water from the Waiāri Stream for municipal supply.
- Resource Consent #65637 was granted in 2010; since then there has been significant consolidation of iwi interests in the region.
- Te Kapu o Waitaha (2013) and Tapuika Iwi Authority (2014) have signed historic Treaty Settlements and Te Runanga o Ngāti Whakaue ki Maketu (Te Hononga) are still in negotiations.
- Tauranga City Council has active protocol agreements with Waitaha, Tapuika and Ngāti Whakaue ki Maketu including addendums that set out items and areas of significance to each entity.
- The treaty settlements, protocols, addendums and any subsequent plans submitted by Waitaha, Tapuika and Ngāti Whakaue ki Maketu shall be considered as background and context to the operations of the WKAG.
- Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority was established by the Tapuika Claims Settlement Act 2014 for the purpose of restoration, protection and enhancement of the environmental, cultural and spiritual health and wellbeing of the geographical area of the Kaituna River Catchment. It is a permanent joint committee under the Local Government Act 2002 and co-governance partnership between local authorities and iwi that share an interest in the Kaituna River. Recommendations will be made to Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority where required.

Role

- To exercise kaitiakitanga in relation to the Waiāri Stream to restore, protect and enhance the awa.
- To provide advice and recommendations to Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council, as the joint consent holders, in relation to matters covered under Resource Consent #65637 which authorises the taking of water from the Waiāri Stream for municipal supply.

Scope

- Provide advice and recommendations to the consent holders relating to projects, action or research designed to restore, protect or enhance the health and well-being of the Waiāri Stream.
- Consider the monitoring requirements and outcomes under conditions 7.1 and 7.2 of the consent. Discuss the results of other monitoring undertaken by the group, which may include monitoring the adverse effects on environmental, heritage, cultural, economic and recreational aspects.
- Determine the actions to be taken in response to monitoring reports and make recommendations to the consent holders as appropriate.
- Provide advice and make recommendations to the consent holders and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council in relation to Part 2 and, in particular, to sections 6(e) and 7(a) of the Resource Management Act 1991, as they relate to this consent.
- Inform the Bay of Plenty Regional Council of the effects of the water take authorised under the consent on the mauri and mauriora of the Waiāri Stream.
- Review and provide feedback to Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council on the Water Conservation Strategy required to be submitted as a condition of the consent.
- Discuss any other relevant matters that may be agreed by the group.
- Work together with the Kaitiaki Group established under Resource Consent RM16-0204-DC.04; which authorises the Western Bay of Plenty District Council to discharge treated wastewater from the Te Puke Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Waiāri Stream.
- Provide advice and recommendations to the consent holders on the future governance model of the Waiāri Stream.
- Provide recommendations to Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority where required.

Reporting

- The Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group will report to its member entities key discussion points, outcomes and actions following each formal meeting of the Advisory Group.

Co-chair selection process

- Co-chairs will be appointed every three years in alignment with the local government election cycle. The appointments will take place as soon as is reasonably practical following local government elections.
- The Co-chair representing the consent holder will be appointed by the Tauranga City Council and Western Bay District Councils.
- The Co-chair representing iwi/hapū will be appointed by the iwi/hapū representatives.

NB: *Resource consent condition 10.2 defines the membership of the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group.*

Resource consent condition 10.7 notes that the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group shall cease if all members of the group agree the group is to be disbanded. In such case Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council (as consent holders)¹ shall give written notice of this to the Chief Executive of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Advice notes from Resource Consent #65637 include:

¹ Insertion made for clarity

- (10) *The Kaitiaki Advisory Group may make recommendations to the Regional Council to review conditions of this consent in accordance with condition 11 and s128 of the Resource Management Act 1991.*

For the avoidance of doubt, the Advisory Group is informal in nature and is NOT established as a committee, subcommittee or other subordinate decision-making bodies of Council under clause 30(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 and does not have any delegated decision-making powers.

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- 1 OPENING KARAKIA**
- 2 APOLOGIES**
- 3 PUBLIC FORUM**
- 4 ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS**
- 5 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE OPEN**
- 6 CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS**

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 Minutes of the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 8 November 2023

File Number: A15575239

Author: Anahera Dinsdale, Governance Advisor

Authoriser: Anahera Dinsdale, Governance Advisor

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Minutes of the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 8 November 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Minutes of the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 8 November 2023



MINUTES

**Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group
meeting**

Wednesday, 8 November 2023

Order of Business

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**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL
WAIĀRI KAITIAKI ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE TUHOURANGI MARAE, 1443C TE PUKE HIGHWAY, TE PUKE
ON WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 9.30AM**

PRESENT: Commissioner Shadrach Rolleston (Chairperson), Ms Darlene Dinsdale, Commissioner Bill Wasley, Mayor James Denyer, Deputy Mayor John Scrimgeour (WBoPDC), Mr Jo'el Komene, Mr Manu Pene (via audio visual link), Mr Maru Tapsell, Mr Mokoera Te Amo

IN ATTENDANCE: Carlo Ellis (Manager: Strategic Māori Engagement), Peter Bahrs (Manager: Water Services), Kelvin Hill (Manager: Water Infrastructure Outcomes), Sam Hema (Tangata Whenua Liaison), Keren Paekau (via audio visual link) (Team Leader: Takawaenga Māori), Coral Hair (Manager: Democracy & Governance Services) and Anahera Dinsdale (Governance Advisor).

Western Bay Staff Chris Nepia, Jason and Cedric.

Iwi Members Dr Kepa Morgan, Elva Conroy, Raponi Wilson and Helen Biel.

1 OPENING KARAKIA

Mr Jo'el Komene opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

APOLOGY

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA4/23/1

Moved: Mayor James Denyer

Seconded: Ms Darlene Dinsdale

That the apology for absence received from Mr Reuben Fraser be accepted.

CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

4 ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

5 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE OPEN

Nil

6 CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

CHANGE THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA4/23/2

Moved: Commissioner Bill Wasley

Seconded: Deputy Mayor John Scrimgeour

Amends the order of business so the next item of business is 10.2 Operation Report followed by 10.1 Cultural Recognition.

CARRIED

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 Minutes of the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 6 September 2023

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA4/23/3

Moved: Commissioner Bill Wasley

Seconded: Ms Darlene Dinsdale

That the minutes of the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 6 September 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

9 DEPUTATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS

9.2 Elva Conroy – River Access Project Update

External Elva Conroy, Conroy Consultants

Power point presentation

Key points

- Ms Conroy spoke to her power point and identified key points
- River access points were identified along Waiāri Stream and parts of Kaituna River to enhance swimming, mahi kai, waka launching and water quality monitoring.
- The preliminary findings were three priority areas which included Te Kopua Bell Road previously Ōtūmatawhero, Waiāri Landing and Rangiuru Reserve in Waitangi.
- The overview map showed other areas for enhancement work.

Te Kopua - Bell Road boat ramp

- The Te Kopua site was identified as a priority area with cultural heritage as there were Tapuika Paa sites located nearby. These Pa Sites included Te Karaka, Te Kapua and Te Paroa along the Kaituna River.

- There were wetlands also located near Te Kopua which were found to be individually owned by different entities and iwi.
- The Project Group looked at the Te Kopua area as a whole and not just upgrades to the Bell Road Boat ramp.
- The next steps included co-develop a concept plan with all the involved entities (BOPRC, Western Bay of Plenty District Council, DOC, TCC and Iwi Members) The concept plan would include safe access point for swimming, wharepaku, picnic facilities and recognition of cultural contexts areas.
- There will be some workplan coming in the next six months on safety and enhancements due to some issues and basic enhancements.
- It was noted that Resource Consents may be required for areas of this concept plan, and it is recommended that regional council is involved in the working group.

Waiāri Landing

- The presentation focused on Challenges, opportunities and next steps for the priority areas.
- There were significant erosion issues found at Waiāri Landing and limitations due to stock banks.
- The Waiāri Landing Area was a well-used swimming area which many opportunities for enhancement. Ultimately, the access for swimming needed to be addressed.
- High level next steps was to co-develop an area wide concept plan that included access to swimming, picnic facilities, connectivity to marae and walkways and cultural recognition and historical context.
- It was noted that Resource Consents may be required for areas of the concept plan.

Waitangi Area

- This area was currently in an idea stage and it was identified that it needed more time and discussion to elaborate on what was possible.
- The Project Group identified this area as a priority due to this space being an ideal area for swimming as it already had carparks and picnic facilities. The erection of a jetty would create a safe access for swimming.
- It was noted that there was a possibility for a concept plan or an easy work
- These other areas Otaiparia, Muriwharau, Maungarangi Road, Te Matai Marae, WTP Plant, WKAG Cultural Recognition Report were identified.

In response to questions

- Scope of upgrades not determined for Bell Road boat ramp but possibly basic repairs needed
- There were further six areas identified for the Waiāri, next steps and this were to be reported in December and this will include data on water quality from a swimming prospective.
- There hasn't been any swimming since the waste water treatment plant has been implemented.
- The work Ms Conroy was doing included District council, Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group and Te Maru o Kaituna.

Discussion points raised

- Report should include social and cultural responsibilities with shared resources with other groups. A copy of this presentation would be distributed to Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group Members.

Attachments

- 1 PowerPoint presentation - Conroy_River Access Project Update

9.1 Waiāri Mauri Model - Dr Kēpa Morgan

External Dr Kēpa Morgan

Key points

- Dr Kēpa Morgan spoke and presented to Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group the Mauri Model website and all the details.
- The indicators on the website were identified at a Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group and Project Working Group workshop held in 2023.
- The Mauri Model currently identified the swimming ability at the Waiāri Landing was not feasible due to shallow waters.
- The next steps for the implementation of the Waiari Mauri Model would be discussed in a further workshop meeting.

10 BUSINESS

10.2 Waiāri Operational Report

Staff Peter Bahrs, Manager: Water Services

Key points

- The Waiāri water flow remained significantly higher than normal average. Staff were unsure how long as the weather was forecasted to be a dry 2023/2024 Summer.

In response to questions

- The planning for climate change was underway. Council staff were also preparing a Fresh Water Management Plan which would also include Mountain to the seas.
- The flat red line in the graph indicated the water being extracted from the Waiari Stream was 50L per second.
- The yellow line in the graph presented in the report indicated the stream flow when Council had to notify Tapuika Iwi Authority.
- The rain fall in 2023 had recharged the water aquifers and ground water. It was noted that the weather patterns was unpredictable during this time.
- TCC introduced a number of measures to ensure water was used efficiently which included the TCC Water Watches Plan. It was believed to be a good water management plan in terms of Te Mana o Te Wai.

Discussion points raised

- The Chairperson, Commissioner Shadrach Rolleston, thanked Peter and staff on their works with the Water Watches Plan which won an award at the National Water Conference.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA4/23/4

Moved: Commissioner Bill Wasley

Seconded: Mr Jo'el Komene

That the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Waiāri Operations Report".

CARRIED

10.1 Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group - Cultural Recognition Development Update November 2023

Staff Kelvin Hill, Manager: Water Infrastructure Outcome
Sam Hema

PowerPoint presentation

Key points

- It was noted that the Cultural Recognition working group only managed to have one group meeting since the last Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting.
- It was noted that staff to spend time with Dr Kepa Morgan for discuss the Mauri Model for the Waiāri.
- Mr Hema provided an update on the Project Working Group.
- The indicators of the Waiari Mauri Model were set at the last Project Working Group meeting.

Mauri Model LTP Application

Waiāri Rest Area

- The suit of enhancements contained within the report was \$520,000.
- This project presented with opportunity for funding from outside funding sources.

Tohu Māori – Storytelling

- There was currently budget available from TCC to begin the storytelling project.
- Engagement of some sort needed with tangata whenua to identify key information needed for this project.

River Access Point

- \$100,00 draft budget across the six areas to develop plans and understand the scope further.

Regeneration Programme & Education and Employment Pathways

- It was noted these were both a work in progress with organising plans underway.

Summary & Next Steps

- It was estimated the six cultural recognition initiatives would cost approximately \$1.4M.
- It was identified that items will require a resource consent and timing would need to be considered.
- Requested a letter from iwi members to send each letter in support of the six cultural initiatives
- Based on today's presentation, a recommendation should be incorporated in to the Resolutions in support of the draft budget.

In response to questions

- This application benefits Waiāri and Kaituna. Potential to “kill two birds with one stone” working with BOPRC.
- Time frame, potential allocation of funding, helpful in terms of getting a sense.
- Not aware of LTP but potentially an AIP.
- Western Bay requested a priority list of initiatives.

Discussion points raised

- Acknowledged staff and externals for their presentations today.
- It was clear that the cultural recognition project would benefit the community and tangata whenua.
- Tangata whenua recognised that the six cultural recognition initiatives were a priority and the progress of these initiatives felt unattainable.
- Context was given by staff of costings for the infrastructure and pipework for water intake and this was compared to the six initiatives that tangata whenua had proposed.

- It was noted that the outcomes were for the community. Support was shown by the Group that funding would be sourced by other entities e.g. TECT and Waka Kotahi.
- Western Bay noted that their LTP was tight and that it was not only tangata whenua proposals that looked at possible denial.
- The Marae water supply ultimately sat with Western Bay as they were responsible to Tapuika/Waitaha/Tuhourangi marae.
- The Marae water supply initiative wasn't included in the TCC Draft LTP application budget.
- It was suggested to keep the marae water supply separate to the Cultural Recognition process.
- It was noted that the volumetric charge for water was free for marae in Tapuika/Waitaha/Tuhourangi.
- Tangata whenua didn't compare their cultural recognition initiatives with monetary value.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA4/23/5

Moved: Commissioner Bill Wasley

Seconded: Ms Darlene Dinsdale

That the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- Receives the report "Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group - Cultural Recognition Development Update November 2023".
- Requests a workshop be held with Western Bay of Plenty District Council staff, Tauranga City Council staff and tangata whenua on the draft policy for providing free water to marae.
- Supports a submission from Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group to the three councils (Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council) Long Term Plan processes, in support of the proposed draft budget for the six prioritised cultural recognition programmes for the Waiāri, as set out in the table below: noting that some funding arrangements will come from external sources and also noting that timeframes, prioritisation and approval for these projects are yet to be determined by each Council:

Name of cultural recognition programme	Budget \$
Mauri Model Application	\$210,000
Rest Area Restoration (Waiāri Bridge)	\$620,000
Tohu Māori - Storytelling cultural interpretation options	\$100,000
River Access Points	\$100,000
Regeneration Programmes	\$150,000
Education and Employment Pathways	\$220,000
Total	\$1,390,000

- Delegates authority to the Co-Chairs to approve the submission.

CARRIED

Attachments

- Presentation - Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group

11 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

12 CLOSING KARAKIA

Mr Mokoera Te Amo closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 1:05pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 6 March 2024.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

9 DEPUTATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS

9.1 Elva Conroy - Kaituna Waiari River Access Feasibility Study

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. 2024 02 26 Kaituna-Waiari River Access Feasibility Report_Revised - A15590258** [↓](#) 

Connecting People to Place:

Kaituna-Waiari
River Access Feasibility Study

PREPARED BY

Conroy | Donald Consultants, February 2024

He Aumihi

This feasibility study brings together and draws upon the insights from tāngata whenua and community representatives associated with the Kaituna River and Waiari Stream.

They gave generously of their time to share their experiences, perspectives, and ideas in relation to river access, use and wider aspirations for these treasured awa.

A huge debt of gratitude is extended to all who provided valuable guidance to inform and shape the recommendations within this report.

E ngā rau rangatira mā
e kore te puna o mihi e mimiti
tēnā koutou katoa

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1. Introduction

This report presents the outcomes of a feasibility study to identify priority areas and sites for river access enhancement. It is limited to the Kaituna River and the Waiari Stream (and tributaries).

In the context of this report, river access enhancement is focused on activities such as swimming, food gathering, boat or waka launching, water quality monitoring, cultural practices as well as relaxation.

Key drivers for action

In 2019, Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority (TMOK) released their Action Plan: Te Tini a Tuna. Western Bay of Plenty District Council (Council or WBOPDC) is responsible for leading projects to progressively enhance river access within the Kaituna Catchment.

In 2023, tāngata whenua representatives of the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group (KAG) identified actions relating to river access, Waiari bridge rest area restoration and cultural recognition elements.

Council and TMOK have also heard concerns or complaints about the lack of safe river access, particularly at the Waiari road bridge.

Where to prioritise action

An adaptive process was taken to identify possible areas to enhance river access, based on research and engagement (Sections 1-3).

Criteria was used to determine where best to focus action over the coming years (Section 4).

Four priority areas were identified for focused and collaborative action.



Figure 1. Priority and secondary areas for focused and collaborative action.

The secondary sites or areas do not meet the criteria for a priority project but connect with, or build on, existing projects.

Sections 6-10 of this report outline further details about each area. Sections 11 and 12 outline the findings and recommendations. Appendix 1 contains detail about all actions.

Opportunities

The study highlights benefits and opportunities from river access enhancement, including:

- ▶ More people, of all ages and abilities, accessing and enjoying these areas.
- ▶ Tāngata whenua reconnecting to their awa, history and cultural practices.
- ▶ Public and visitor awareness and appreciation of the rich cultural and historical context of these areas.
- ▶ Potential education and tourism opportunities.

2. Strategic landscape

Enhancing physical access to the Kaituna River and Waiari Stream aligns with, and contributes to, multiple strategies, plans and projects.

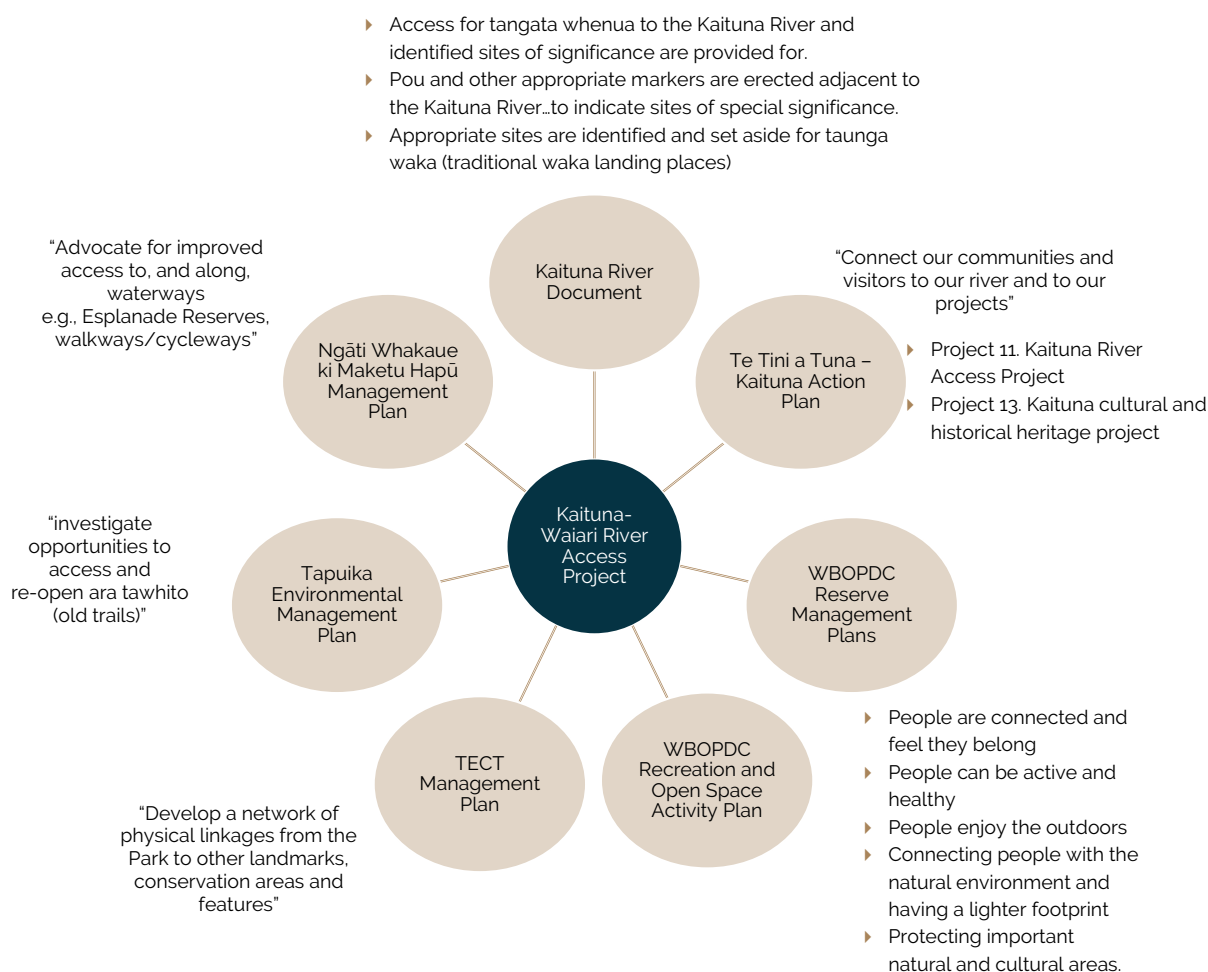


Figure 2. Examples of strategies and plans of relevance to this feasibility study (not an exhaustive list)

3. Understanding people and place

There is a wealth of publicly available information relating to the Kaituna River and Waiari Stream. This information provides a strong foundation to enable meaningful discussions that consider different viewpoints and unique aspects associated with each awa.

Information sources include:

Type	Example
Cultural values and heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Iwi Management Plans ▶ Treaty settlement documents ▶ Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group: Cultural recognition report (2023) and preliminary site visit report (2024).
Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Kaituna River Document (including submissions) ▶ Te Tini a Tuna ▶ Presentations by Te Karangi A 3D 2B Ahu Whenua Trust (2021) and Councillor Dally (2023) ▶ Kaituna River Day feedback (2018) ▶ Quarterly reports.
Local authority plans and reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Bay of Plenty Water Access Inventory. ▶ Otaiparia Concept Plan (including submissions). ▶ Long Term Plans ▶ Reserve Management Plans
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Te Puke Flaxmills ▶ Ford Family History - Lower Kaituna River and Te Tumu

Cultural and historic context

There is no shortage of information highlighting the cultural and historic context of the Kaituna River and Waiari Stream.

This study provides an overview of the:

- ▶ intergenerational connection of tāngata whenua to these awa.
- ▶ historic use of the Kaituna River and Waiari Stream as pathways or routes for people, flax, stock and supplies.

This is evident through the location of pā sites, marae, settlements and flax mills in close proximity to these awa (Figure 3).

Connection and significance to tāngata whenua

Kaituna and Waiari Stream are significant awa to the multiple iwi of Te Arawa waka, including Tapuika, Waitaha, Ngāti Pikiao, Ngāti Whakaue and Ngāti Rangiwewehi.

These awa are treasured as taonga and a source of cultural identity, as evident in the references to one or both awa within pepeha, customs, waiata and purakau.

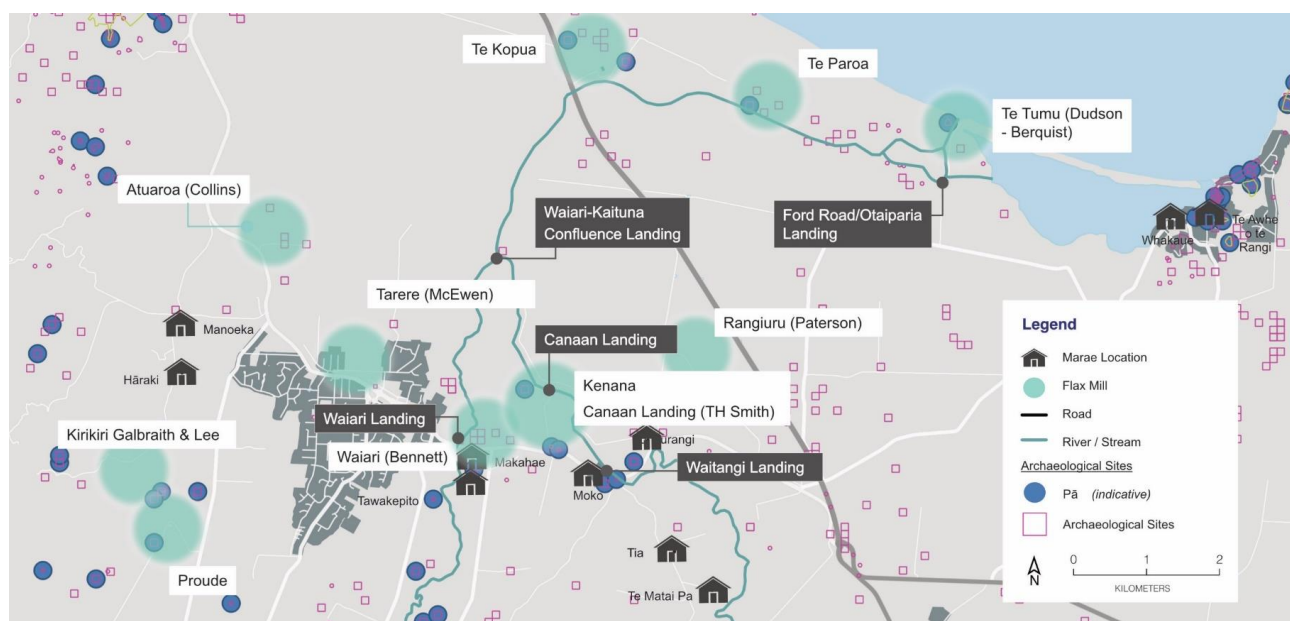


Figure 3. Distribution, extent and proximity of pā sites, marae and flax mills within the mid-lower Kaituna Catchment. Flax mills identified in Te Puke Flaxmills, by Richard Hart

"The Kaituna River is a provider... its river banks crowded with watercress, its waters filled with tuna (eel), kākahi (fresh water mussels), kōura (freshwater crayfish), inanga and kōaro.

Its tributaries fed numerous swamps where flaxes of untold varieties were harvested to make clothes and building materials.

The name Kaituna is derived from the eating of eels which were caught in abundance"

- Tapuika Statement of Association for the Kaituna River

"Harakeke was found in profusion along the banks of the Waiari Stream. Harakeke was gathered for medicinal purposes; and to make weirs and hīnaki to catch eels.

Eels were found in abundance along the Waiari Stream and often they were so plentiful and the water so clear, that you could spear them from the banks rather than trapping them in weirs or using a hīnaki."

- Waitaha Statement of Association for the Kaituna River

Pathways and transport routes

Waterways were important traditional routes for tāngata whenua travelling between the coast and inland. For example, Te Kaharoa o Ruangutu was a track which connected coastal areas to Rotorua and Kaharoa via Paraiti Stream, Te Rerenga Stream and Mangorewa River.

From the late 1800s, the Kaituna River was the major transport route for people, crops, stock and agricultural supplies to inland areas, as far upstream as Pakatore.

Key loading and unloading points were at Ford's Landing (Otaiparia), Waiari Landing, Canaan Landing (1881), Waitangi Landing (1909). There were also smaller landing points along the awa next to processing plants (e.g., flax mills).

Prior to the opening of Cannan's landing, boats would anchor at the Waiari-Kaituna confluence. Ngāti Tuheke waka would be used to take passengers and cargo upstream to Waiari Landing, at the foot of Te Kahika Pā.



Figure 4. Te Paroa mill on the Kaituna river edge and adjacent flax drying fields
 Photo sourced from retrolens.co.nz (1939, image 14_b_15, Kaituna River).
 Flax mill identified in Te Puke Flaxmills, Richard Hart

Paroa Flax mill

Paroa flax mill was the longest operating flax mill in the area, operating between 1889 and 1945 (Figure 4). Flax was harvested from the natural wetlands of the lower Kaituna. Later plantations were established to support a flourishing industry. Flax bundles were transported upstream and downstream by scow.

River changes

It is important to highlight the difficulty in mapping historic river access.

Large-scale engineering works, such as river straightening, stopbanks and drainage schemes have forever changed the course and form of the Kaituna River and Waiari Stream (Figures 4 and 5).

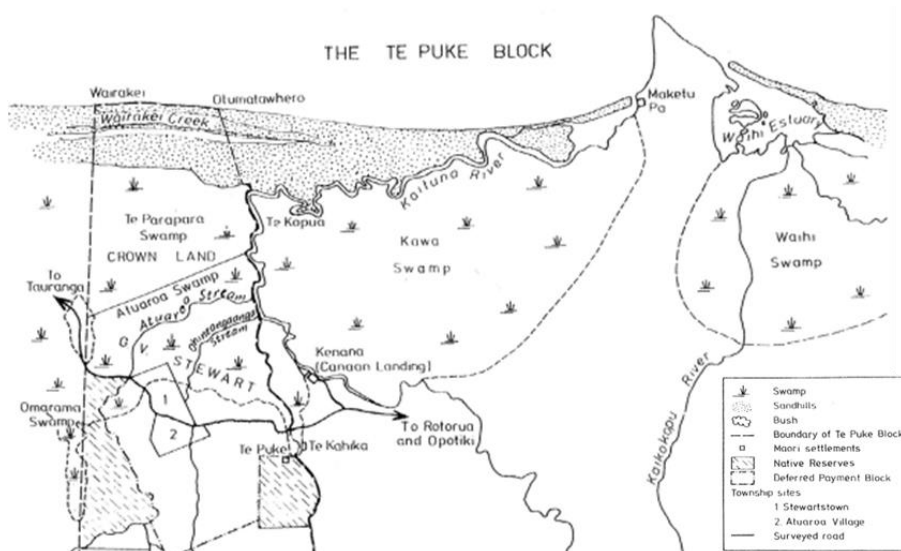


Figure 5. Te Puke Block c1879 showing the original course of the Kaituna River and Waiari Stream.
 Source: A History of Tauranga County, by Evelyn Stokes

Current river access points

The following is not an exhaustive list but an indication of known sites for river access.

Swim spots

Known swim spots include Waiari bridge (road and rail), Waitangi bridge (road and rail), an area just upstream of the Waitangi bridge, Bell Road boat ramp area as well as Maketu.

Watercraft launching

There are formed boat ramps at Otaiparia, Bell Road and Maketu. In recent years, waka launching has occurred at Rangioru

Whenua Reserve (Kaituna River Day, 2018) and Canaan Landing (during the Kaituna Re-diversion works).

Maungarangi Bridge has also been used as the starting point for Tapuika Waitangi Day raft races.

Reserves by the Kaituna River

Council reserves include Otaiparia, Bell Road, Kaituna Bridge Esplanade (Waitangi) and Rangioru Whenua (Waitangi).

The District Plan lists an esplanade strip, downstream of the Paraiti-Kaituna confluence (left bank only). There are also several proposed esplanade strips:

- ▶ Paraiti Stream, upstream of the Paraiti-Kaituna confluence (both banks).
- ▶ Upstream and downstream of the Paraiti-Kaituna confluence (left bank).
- ▶ Upstream and downstream of Maungarangi bridge (left bank).

Reserves next to the Kaituna Waiari Stream

Council reserves include Waiari Landing and Waiari Esplanade (by the Water Treatment Plant).

The District Plan lists an esplanade strip, just upstream of Tawakepito Marae to the Waiari Road Bridge (left bank only). There are also a number of proposed esplanade strips:

- ▶ Downstream of Waiari Esplanade Reserve (both banks).
- ▶ Downstream of Waiari bridge to the Waiari-Kaituna confluence (both banks).

The Waiari Stream Site, at the end of Shaw Road (Te Ranga), was previously managed by the Department of Conservation. In 2013, this 28.8 ha scenic reserve was vested in the Tapuika Iwi Authority due to treaty settlement legislation. This site is currently inaccessible.

Connectivity to river access points

An important factor for river access is proximity to a settlement and/or water users.

This makes it easier and convenient for activities such as swimming, food gathering or boat launching.

It also reduces travel time and effort to reach a site, encouraging more frequent use and fostering a stronger connection to place.

Access by car

All of the listed swim spots and watercraft launching sites are accessible by car.

There is even distribution of river access points across the mid-lower part of the Kaituna Catchment for boat launching. This ensures that a boat ramp or swim spot can be accessed within a 20-minute drive (Figure 6).

Access by bus

There are limited public transport options to reach any of the river access sites. None of the sites are near a bus stop. The closest bus stop is Te Puke town centre on the Bayhopper 143 bus route.

Nearby walkways and cycleways

There are a number of walkways and cycleways close to river access points (Figure 7). This includes:

- ▶ Te Ara Kahikatea pathway by the Waiari road bridge.
- ▶ Cycleway alongside the Tauranga Eastern Link which connects Pāpāmoa, Bell Road, Maketu and Paengaroa.
- ▶ Kaituna wetland loop walk.
- ▶ Te Rerenga Tunnel Track (TECT Park).

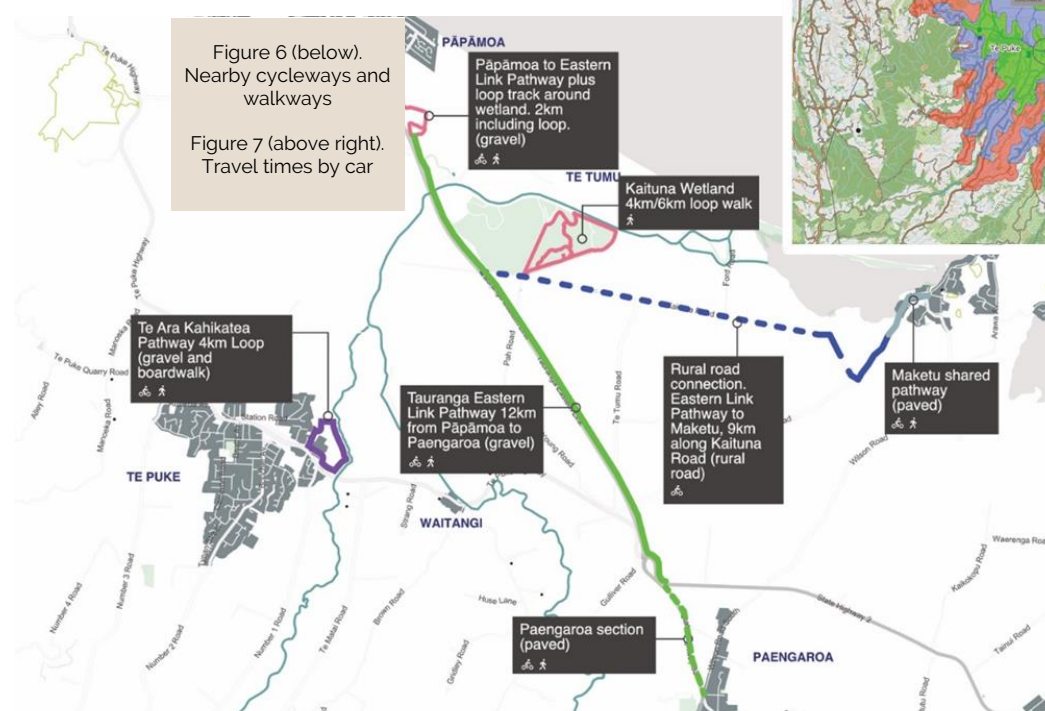
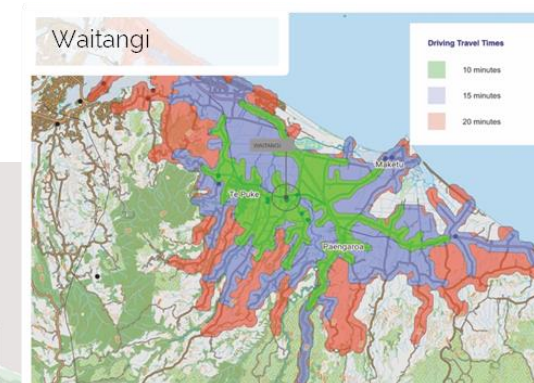
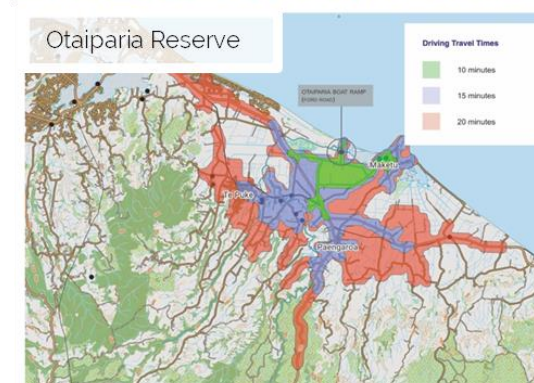
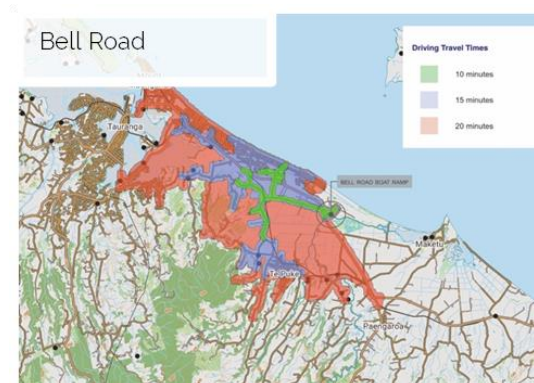


Figure 6 (below).
Nearby cycleways and
walkways

Figure 7 (above right).
Travel times by car

4. Engaging to shape ideas

Engagement was an essential step to discuss current river use along with aspirations, challenges and opportunities associated with river access enhancement. This in turn would guide prioritisation of areas and projects.

Engagement planning was guided by Council's Kaupapa Māori Team to ensure that engagement occurred with the right people and in the right way. This was underpinned by research (Section 2 & 3) so that discussions built on known aspirations, challenges and opportunities.

Initial email contact was made key contacts to introduce the project and identify preference(s) for discussions. As a result, a number of site visits and meetings were held.

Targeted engagement

Targeted engagement comprised a mix of site visits, informal discussions and presentations, including:

- ▶ **Hapū and iwi**, through meetings, informal discussions and groupings (right). Some hui did not eventuate due to tangihanga and capacity.
- ▶ **Maketu Hoe Waka** at Otaiparia Reserve to discuss challenges with river access.
- ▶ **Council elected members** via site visit to discuss known issues and opportunities.
- ▶ **Bay of Plenty Regional Council** (Regional Council) river engineers to understand the practicalities of river access particularly in areas near stop banks and prone to flooding.
- **Tamariki and other river users** during visits to Bell Road and Waiari bridge.

Presentations and discussions were held with the collective groups:

Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority
Co-governance entity through Tapuika Claims Settlement Act

Presentation and discussion on 4 August and 24 November 2023.

Te Ihu o Te Waka o Te Arawa Forum
Council's tāngata whenua partnership Forum

Presentation and discussion on 6 December 2023.

Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group (Waiari KAG)

Oversees Waiari water take consent
Presentations and discussion on 21 August and 8 November 2023.

Regular project updates are expected from each of these groupings.

Engagement outcomes

Overall, engagement provided clarity on areas of importance, current access and use, experiences with launching watercraft (e.g. waka ama at Otaiparia, rafts at Maungarangi Road) and opportunities for river access enhancement.

Of most value was the cross-pollination of ideas and discussions about next steps including who to engage with for each priority area.

5. Where to focus effort

Criteria was developed and applied to determine where best to focus river access efforts over the coming years.

This criteria (Figure 8) considered matters such as use, cultural and historical significance as well as connectivity to places and projects.

Recreational use

- Area is historically or currently popular for activities like swimming or boat launching.

Cultural and historical significance

- Is of cultural significance to tāngata whenua.
- Is of historic significance to tāngata whenua and wider Te Puke / Papamoa community.

Connectivity

- On or close to, an existing Council reserve.
- Close to a marae, ensuring ease of access for tāngata whenua.
- Close to a main road, ensuring ease of access by car or bus.
- Close to a walkway or cycle way, ensuring ease of access by foot or bike.
- Has co-benefits with existing or potential projects.

Priority Areas

Based on this criteria, four priority areas were selected:

- ▶ Bell Road area
- ▶ Waiari area
- ▶ Waitangi area
- ▶ Canaan Landing

Sections 6-9 of this report provide further detail about these areas.

Secondary sites and areas

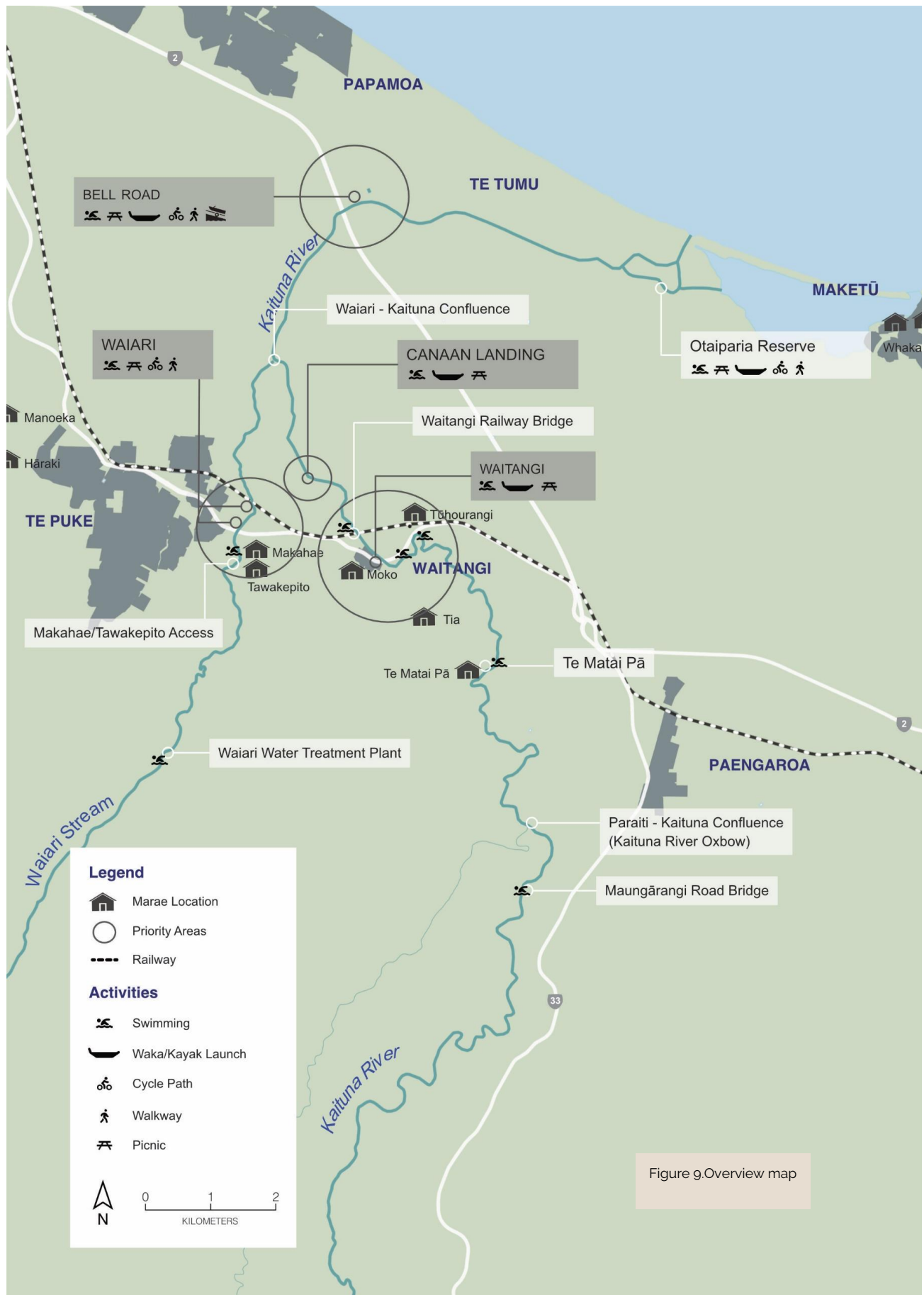
This report also identified six secondary sites or areas:

- ▶ Otaiparia Reserve
- ▶ Waiari-Kaituna confluence
- ▶ Te Matai Pā
- ▶ Paraiti-Kaituna confluence
- ▶ Maungarangi bridge
- ▶ Upper Waiari

While the secondary sites or areas do not meet the criteria for a priority project, they still connect with, or build on, existing activities or projects.

Section 10 of this report provides further detail about these sites and areas.

Figure 8. Criteria for identifying priority locations to enhance river access



PRIORITY AREA 1

BELL ROAD AREA



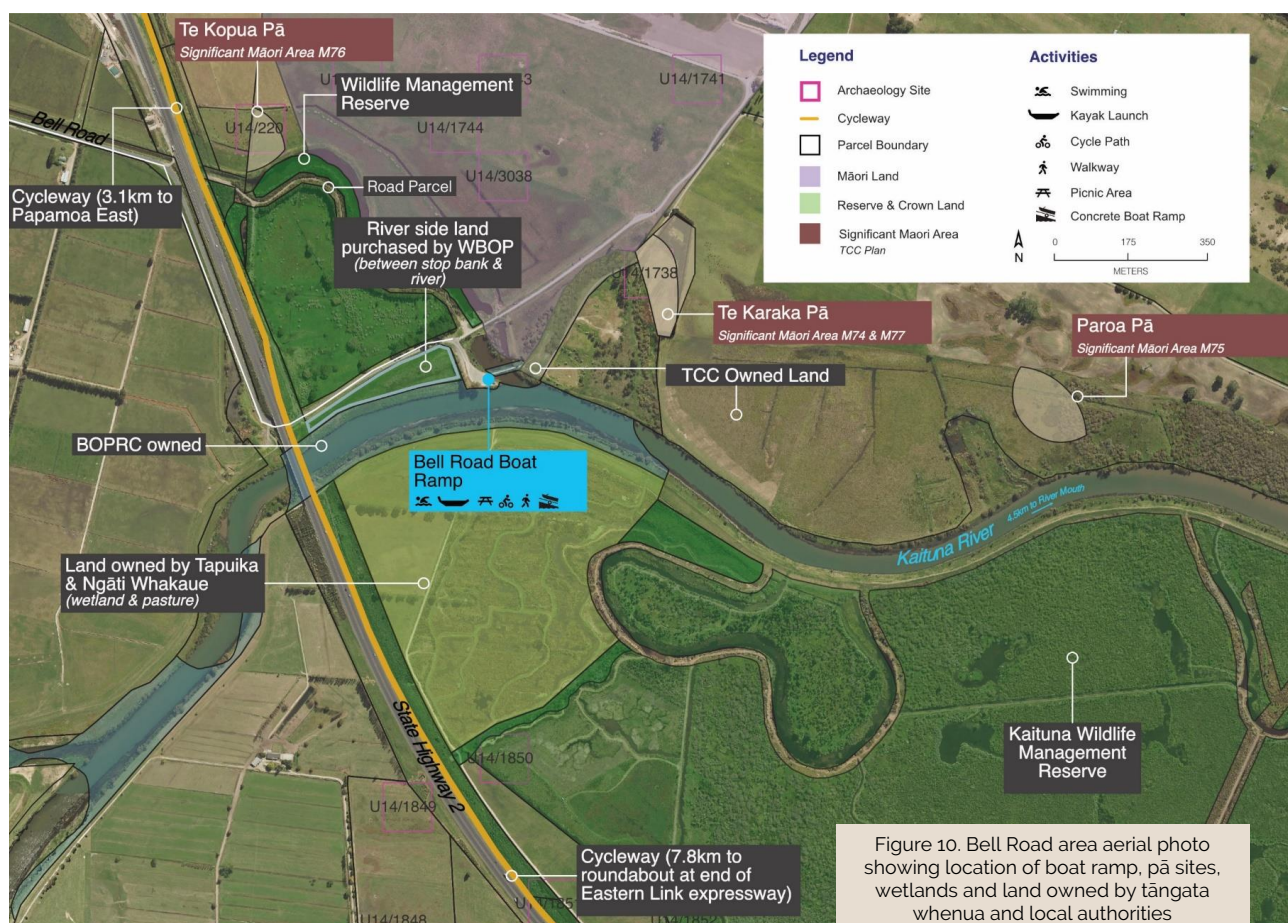
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6. Bell Road

This Priority Area is located at Bell Road, east of Pāpāmoa. It includes the extent of the Kaituna River from the Tauranga Eastern Link (TEL) State Highway bridge to Paroa Pā.

Within this area are former pā, waahi tapu and other places of significance, including Te Kopua, Karaka, Te Paiaka, Paroa and further along Te Tumu.

Multiple flax mills established in this area, including Kopua (1913-1934) and Paroa (1889-1945) on the left bank of the river. Bell Road was a vital access way for the flax mills.



Visual assessment



Figure 11. Looking down Kaituna River from TEL bridge.
Area highlighted was recently purchased by Council.

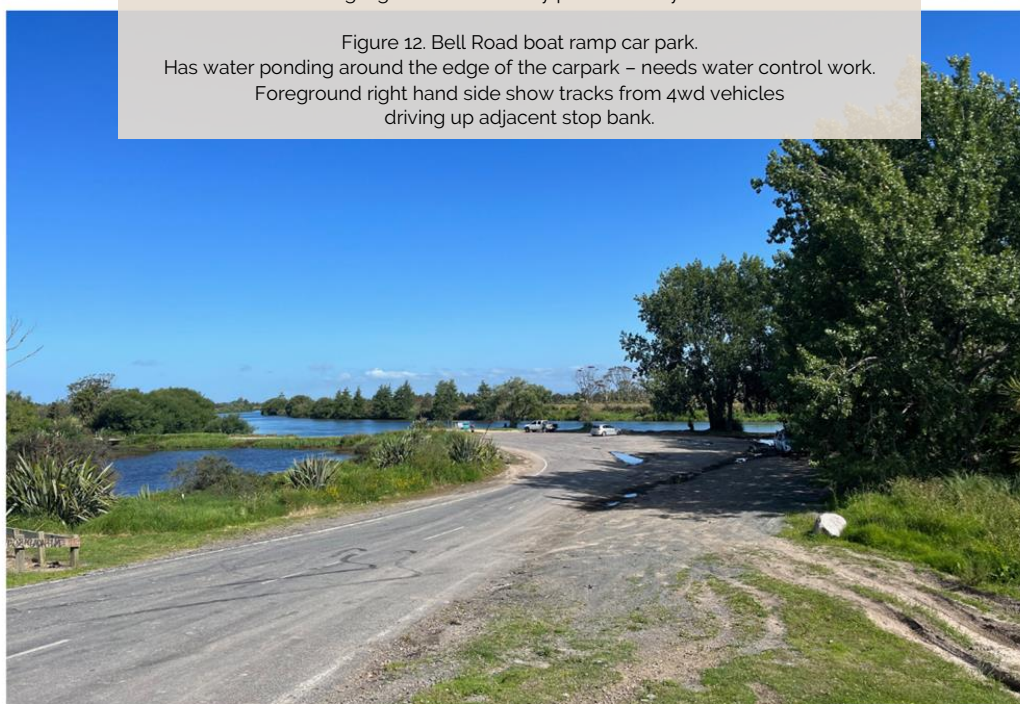


Figure 12. Bell Road boat ramp car park.
Has water ponding around the edge of the carpark – needs water control work.
Foreground right hand side show tracks from 4wd vehicles
driving up adjacent stop bank.



Figure 13. Bell Road boat ramp

Figure 14. Aquatic weeds around the boat ramp.

Figure 15. Water ponding at car park area

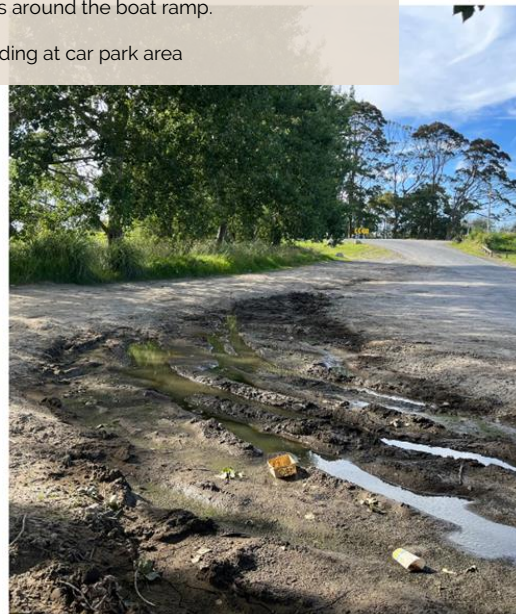
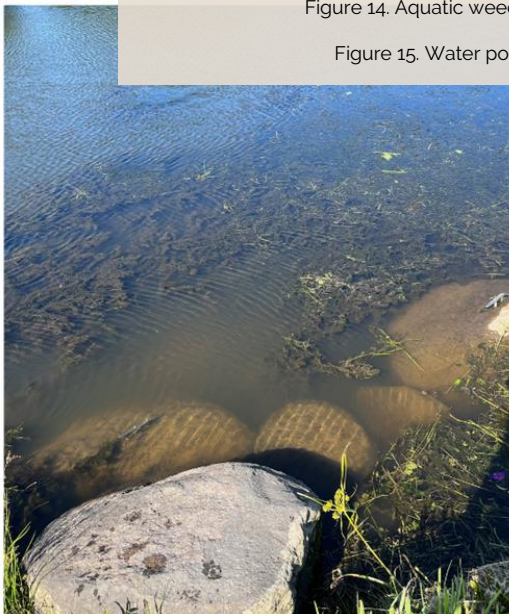




Figure 16. Rope swing in tree. An example of good access to river via large rocks with a flat face to provide a good jump off point into the river.

Figure 17. Ladder constructed on riverbank tree. Used by tamariki for climbing and jumping into the river.

Figure 18. Example of poor access to the river for swimming due to small angular rocks. Larger rocks have slipped down into the river, creating a shallow, muddy, weedy area that is less pleasant for swimming.

Access and use

This area is accessible by car (Bell Road) and bike (cycleway alongside the Tauranga Eastern Link that connects Pāpāmoa to Paengaroa).

Recreational use mainly occurs at, or from, the boat ramp. It provides handy access to the Kaituna River for those travelling from Pāpāmoa and Te Puke. The closest alternatives are Otaiparia Reserve (Ford Road) and Taylor's Reserve (Pāpāmoa).

Representatives from Maketu Hoe Waka confirmed that they do not currently launch or land at the boat ramp.

The riverbank provides good access for fishing and casting into the river.

Swimmers access the water by the car park, jumping from the riverbank or stepping down the steep stream bank. In some places, large flat faced rocks (placed along the water's edge) provide reasonably good access for stepping down into and up out of the water. Tamariki jump into the water from a riverside tree or via tree rope swing.

Known issues

Boat ramp

The Bay of Plenty Water Access Inventory report highlighted that the Bell Road boat ramp was a "very poor launching area for small craft".

Aquatic weeds are also visible in the vicinity of the boat ramp.

Swim access

Access to the water for swimming is difficult in places due to a steep riverbank bank or small angular sized rock rip rap at the toe of the riverbank. These areas are muddy and silty. This makes it hard to access, move across to deeper water and get back out of the river. There are only a few large flat faced boulders for accessing the river.

Carpark

The carpark area has ponding and needs water control work.

The Bell Road Reserve carpark has, at times, a lot of rubbish onsite.

It is evident that this site is used by vehicles recreationally, leaving deep tracks in the adjacent grass verge and stopbank.

At the time of drafting this report, Council was planning a series of safety and amenity enhancement works at the Bell Road carpark. This includes:

- ▶ New picnic tables
- ▶ Traffic calming elements
- ▶ Improved drainage and carparking.
- ▶ Planting.

Open space

There is limited open space and amenity at the carpark area. There is no seating or picnic tables or a buffer between the riverbank and carpark. Only a small grass verge along the riverbank is available to sit and enjoy the area.

The area is adjacent to the Wairākei and Te Tumu Urban Growth areas. This highlights the need for more open space to accommodate a growing population.

Onsite information

There is a lack of onsite information and storytelling of the area. This includes recognition of the cultural and historical significance of the whole area. Likewise for the ecological significance of nearby high value wetlands.

Flood resilience

The area is located within a floodplain and protected by stopbanks. Consideration will need to be given to any structure or planting to ensure resilience to flooding and easy maintenance. Regional Council bylaw authority may be needed for structures and planting.

Opportunities to enhance river access

Bell Road forms a natural central point for this Priority Area as it is already well used for recreational activities.

There are opportunities to enhance open space and river access within this area. It is understood that Council has purchased land next to Bell Road reserve. This area would become a Local Purpose Reserve, providing much needed open space for potential access points to river.

Any works to improve access to the Kaituna will need to be discussed with the Regional Council, as the land title does not extend to the river and is within an area that is prone to flooding.

There is also potential for future waka ama groups to launch from this site, especially given its close proximity to Pāpāmoa as well as the Wairākei and Te Tumu Urban Growth areas.

Ideas for enhancing access for swimming

- ▶ Construct a jumping platform (e.g., pontoon or streambank platform with steps) and/or more rope swings for tamariki.
- ▶ Establish more defined swim access points along this area.
- ▶ Install concrete riverside steps or more large boulders (with a flat surface) to enter and exit the river.

Ideas for enhancing access for watercraft (boats/waka /kayaks):

- ▶ Construct a designated area to launch non-powered craft such as waka ama and kayaks.
- ▶ Upgrade boat ramp. This could include a boardwalk access alongside the ramp.
- ▶ Ensure there is enough space for on water manoeuvring around the boat ramp, especially if multiple craft are entering/exiting or waiting.
- ▶ Establish defined car and boat trailer parking.

Continued discussion will be needed with tāngata whenua and waka ama clubs about future aspirations for waka launching within this area.

Beyond river access: other opportunities

This area stands out as a noteworthy district and a versatile destination for locals and tourists. For example:

- ▶ Amenity enhancement through picnic area facilities, boardwalk(s), shelter(s) from weather and toilets.
- ▶ Cultural and historical recognition and storytelling through artwork, wayfinding elements, whakairo (carving), information boards and Tohu Māori (indigenous designs).
- ▶ Enhanced linkages to / between river access points, wetlands, pā sites, and flax mill sites ('heritage trail').
- ▶ Enhanced connection to taiao, culture and heritage through education, citizen science, bird watching, walking, cycling, kayaking and other recreational activities.
- ▶ Potential for tourism opportunities including eco-tourism, guided historic, cultural or ecological tours (walking, cycling, kayaking).

These opportunities link with multiple projects with Te Tini a Tuna (Kaituna Action Plan). This includes creating a multi-landowner coastal park network as well as protecting and cultural, historical and ecological sites and features.

Summary of Actions

The following are indicative actions for the Bell Road Priority Area. It is noted that the timing of actions is indicative only, as it is dependent on funding and priorities of each partner to this project.

Short-term (Jan 2024 – Jun 2025)

- ▶ Complete carpark safety and amenity enhancement work.
- ▶ Identify interim options to ensure safe river access for swimming.
- ▶ Carry out aquatic weed control at the boat ramp.
- ▶ Establish work programme for Bell Road Concept Plan.

Medium term (Jul 2025 – Jun 2028)

- ▶ Continued carpark improvements.
- ▶ Carry out concept planning for the priority area (TEL bridge to Paroa Pā). To include:
 - flood-resilient river access points
 - upgraded boat ramp, carpark and amenity facilities.
 - potential uses of the new reserve.
 - greater connectivity to places and features within and between priority areas.
 - potential for a cultural, heritage and/or ecological trail.
 - potential establishment of a coastal park network.

Case study: The Ōtakaro Avon River Corridor Regeneration Plan is an excellent example of an area-based plan which connects people to place.

Long term (Jul 2028 onwards)

- ▶ Implement concept plan

Further details are provided in Appendix 1 of this report.

PRIORITY AREA 2 WAIARI AREA



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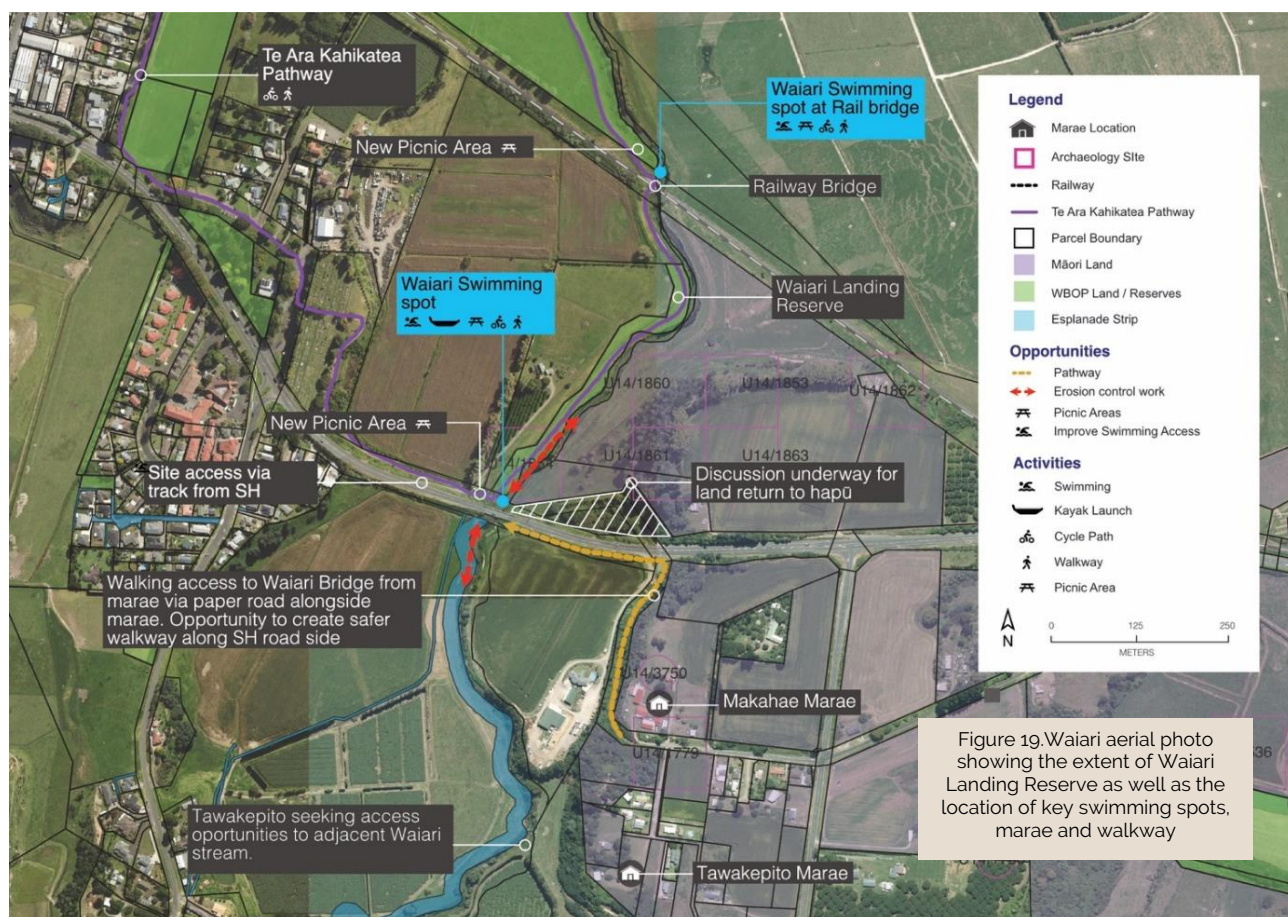
7. Waiari

This Priority Area is located immediately east of Te Puke and includes the Waiari Stream, from Tawakepito marae to the Waiari rail bridge. It includes two marae, the road bridge and part of the Te Ara Kahikatea walkway.

Within this area are pā, urupā, waahi tapu and other places of significance, including Tawakepito and Makahae marae.

Both marae and nearby urupā are scheduled cultural heritage sites within the District Plan.

The awa provided access from Maketū to Te Puke Township, with the landing place ("Waiari Landing") at the foot of Te Kahika pā. The Waiari flax mill (1890-1898) and later sawmill was located on the right bank, downstream of the road bridge.



Visual assessment



Figure 20. Car park area for Waiari Landing Reserve.



Figure 21. Track up the stop bank towards Waiari Landing Reserve. Consider accessibility needs, as bank may be too steep for some.

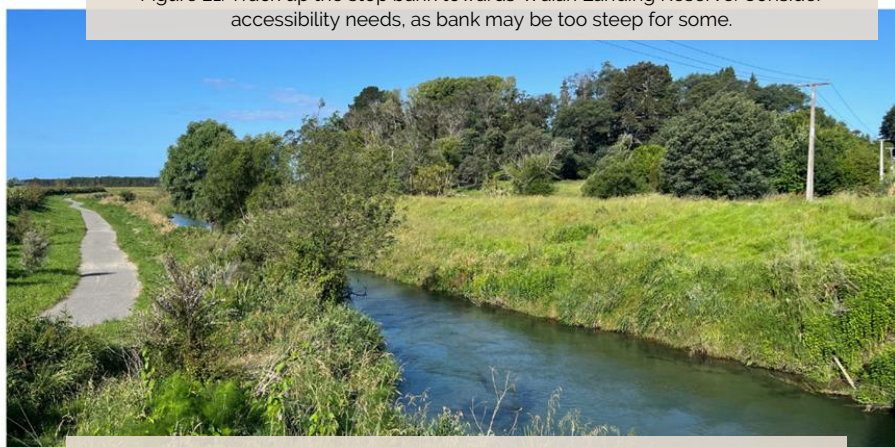


Figure 22. Looking downstream of the Waiari - Te Ara Kahikatea pathway running parallel. Overgrown grass area in the foreground is the main swim access point.



Figure 23. Main swim access at Waiari Landing Reserve, downstream of the road bridge. Stream bank is steep, slippery and the stream edge/bed is silty and muddy.

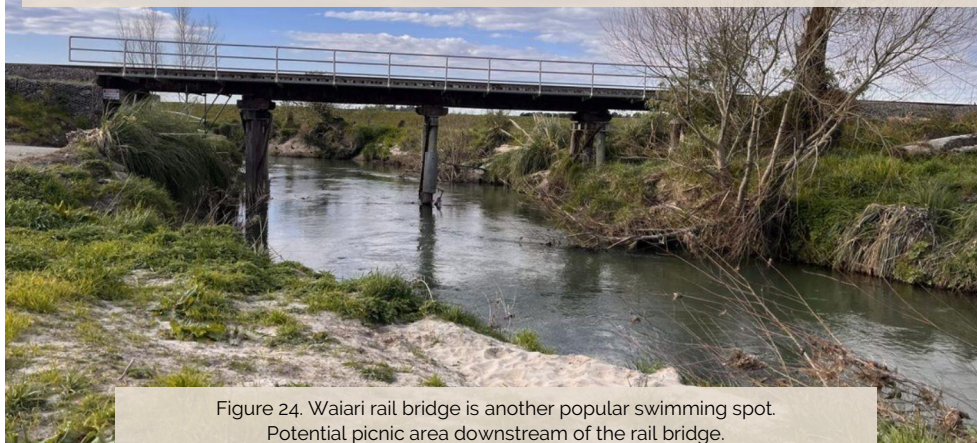


Figure 24. Waiari rail bridge is another popular swimming spot. Potential picnic area downstream of the rail bridge. Pest trees/plants and streambank erosion in the foreground.



Figure 25. Gabion baskets below the bridge

River access and use

The Waiari road and rail bridges are popular swimming spots. The bridges themselves are sometimes used as jumping platforms.

Waiari Landing Reserve (road bridge end) is the main access point to this area.

For those arriving by car, there is an informal driveway and car park west of the road bridge. Both of these are located on road reserve.

Cyclists and walkers travelling from Te Puke can access Waiari Landing Reserve via the 1.2km Te Ara Kahikatea pathway or along the main road. There are currently no formed pathways from the east (by Makahae Marae).

There have been discussions for a number of years about extending walking and cycling tracks/trails to Waitangi, either via the main road or rail corridor.

Known issues

Stream access

"Safe access across and into the awa has long been an issue for Ngāti Tuheke, parking and the ability to enjoy recreational activities is far too limited.

We want to see this area improved and restored to create positive experiences for our tamariki"

- Waiari KAG Cultural Recognition Report

Access to the Waiari Stream at the road bridge can be difficult. This is due to streambank steepness and stability, which creates slippery and potentially unsafe access points.

Concerns have also been raised about the safety of tamariki jumping from the road and rail bridge.

Flooding and bank stability

Streambank erosion is evident, between the road bridge and rail bridge

The area is protected by stopbanks and prone to flooding. This means that options for improving river access must be practical and flood-resilient.

Cultural practices

Direct access from local marae to the Waiari Stream is hampered by private land and road safety issues.

"The ability to catch tuna (eels) bring back the ari, catch kōura and harvest rongoā as well as swimming and bombing as a way of life is important for tangata whenua."

- Waiari KAG Cultural Recognition Report

Cultural and historic recognition

There is no visible information of the cultural and historical significance of the area, particularly given the importance of Waiari Landing and the role of tāngata whenua in providing transport for settlers and cargo.

Amenity

There are pest trees along the riverbank (willow and wattle) and the riparian area is overgrown.

There is no seating and limited car parking.

Opportunities to enhance river access

Waiari Landing Reserve (road bridge end) forms a natural central point for this Priority Area. At the time of drafting this report, Council staff confirmed that a rope-type handrail system had been installed as an interim measure to enable safer stream access for swimming.

Longer-term options for river access could include, but not be limited to:

- ▶ reshaping the streambank to create a gentler contour (top).
- ▶ placing large size rocks flat side up to form steps down to the awa (middle).
- ▶ Installing gabion baskets (like the rail bridge) with decking timber on top to create safer steps (bottom).
- ▶ constructing concrete steps (bottom).

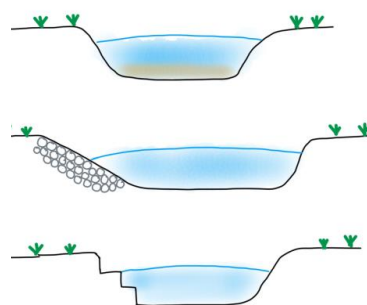


Figure 26. River access options

Regional Council (flood protection asset managers) should be involved in determining the appropriate option(s) for access. They could also provide practical advice, based on their experience across the region.

Local hapū, members of the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group and Te Ara Kahikatea Inc. Society should also be involved.

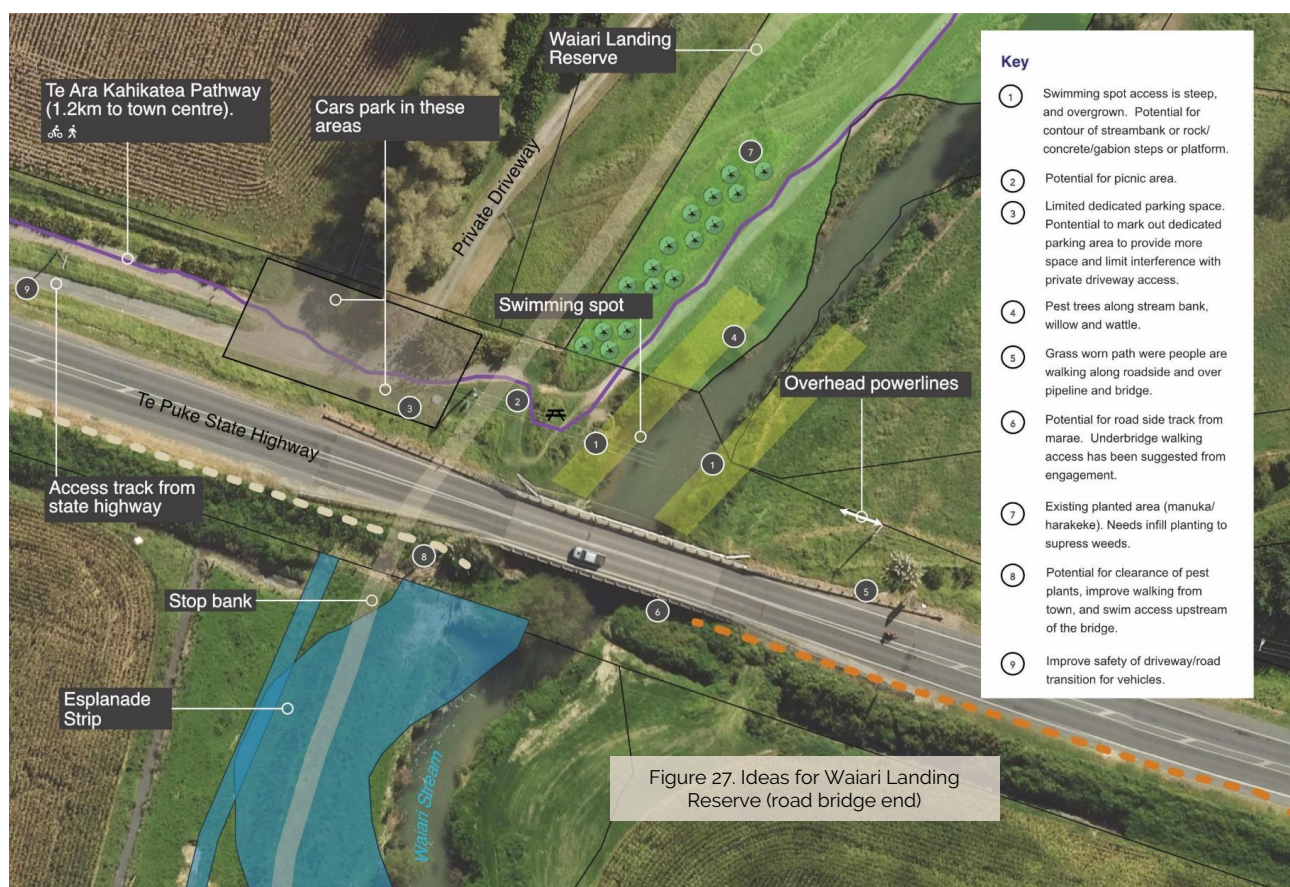


Figure 27. Ideas for Waiari Landing Reserve (road bridge end)

Beyond river access: other opportunities

This Priority Area presents significant opportunities to enhance outcomes in addition to river access. This includes:

- ▶ recognising and celebrating local history through artwork, wayfinding elements, whakairo (carving), information boards and Tohu Māori.
- ▶ amenity and biodiversity related improvements such as picnic tables, seating, weed control and riparian planting.

Safer walking access is needed to the awa from Te Kahika Pa (Makahae Marae) and Tawakepito Marae to the road bridge site – this is currently a minimum 500m walk along the roadside of the busy Te Puke Highway.

It is noted that discussions are underway between hapū, Council and NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi to regarding the return of land parcels downstream of the road bridge (right bank).

The land parcels were taken by the Crown in 1886 for road construction purposes. Tāngata whenua have aspirations to revitalise cultural practices beside the awa at the waahi tapu, known as Te Pito o Te Whenua.

Summary of Actions

The following are indicative actions for the Waiari Priority Area. It is noted that the timing of actions is indicative only, as it is dependent on funding and priorities of each partner to this project.

Short-term (Jan 2024 – Jun 2025)

- ▶ Install interim measures for safe stream access at the road bridge.
- ▶ Community awareness about safety measures and planned work.
- ▶ More frequent mowing at Waiari Landing Reserve.
- ▶ Stream bank erosion assessment.

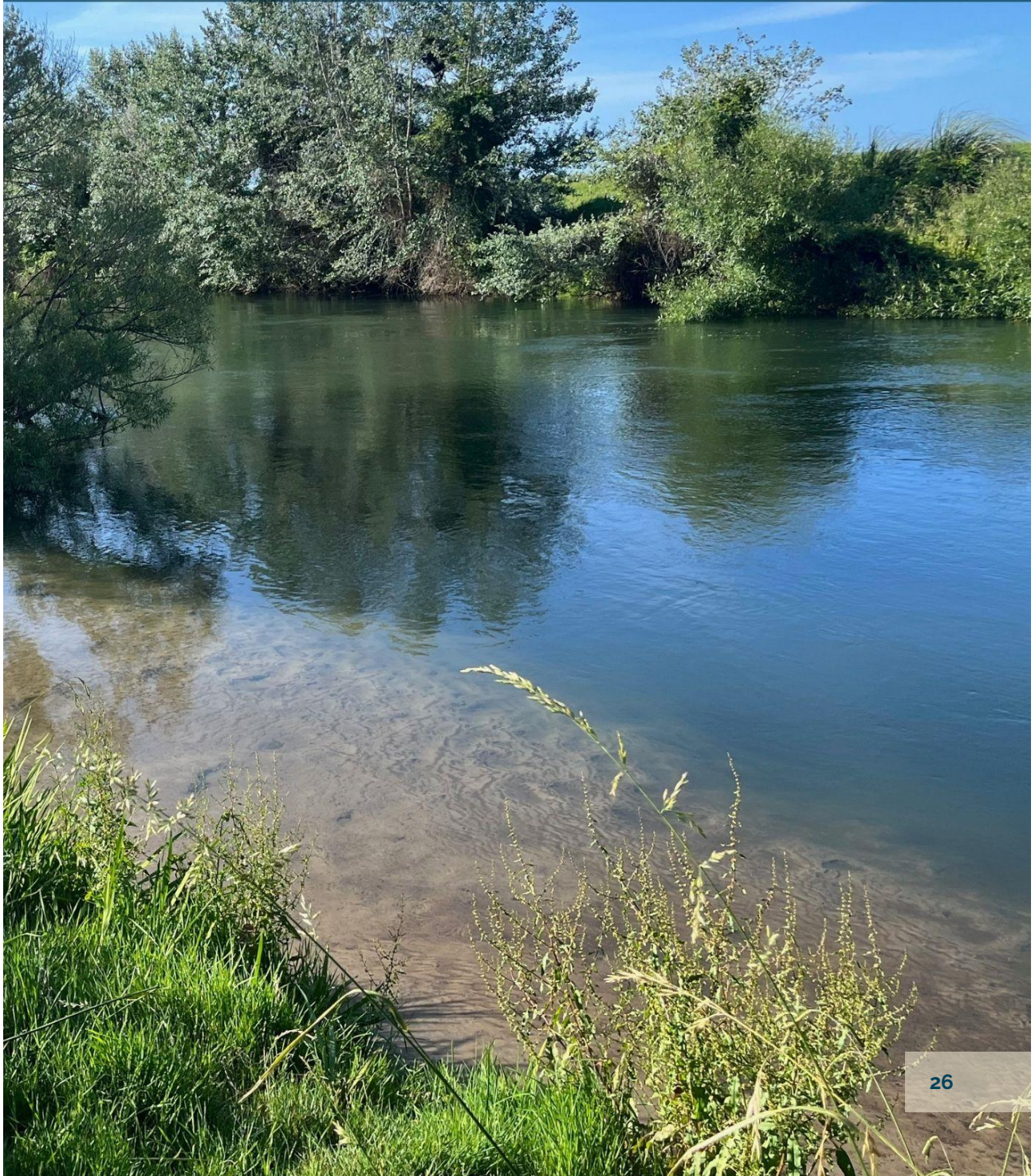
Short-medium term (Jan 2024 – Jun 2028)

- ▶ Install at least one cultural design element (e.g. pou, anchor stone) within this area.
- ▶ Develop and implement a plan for Waiari Landing Reserve. To include:
 - flood-resilient river access points.
 - carpark and driveway improvements.
 - safe walking access from marae.
 - Information relating to cultural and historic significance.
 - Pest plant control and riparian planting.
- ▶ Restore access to Waiari Stream:
 - behind Tawakepito and Makahae Marae.
 - Downstream of the road bridge (right bank).
- ▶ Assess options for safe stream access at the railway bridge.

Further details are provided in Appendix 1 of this report.

PRIORITY AREA 3

WAITANGI AREA



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8. Waitangi Area

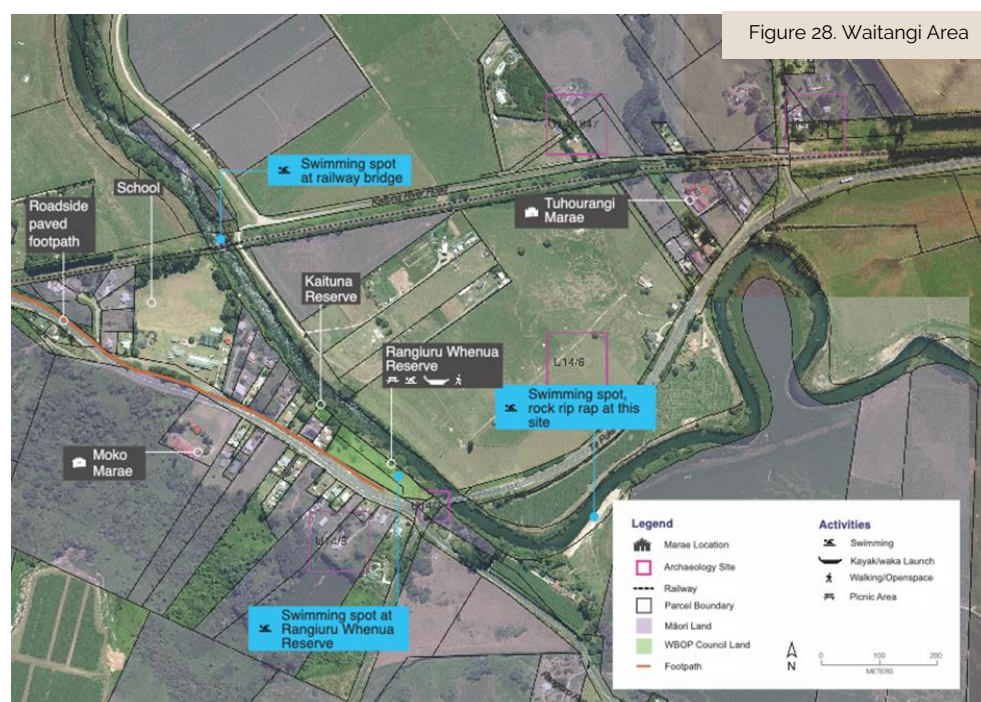
This Priority Area is located at Waitangi, approximately 3.5km east of Te Puke. It includes the extent of the Kaituna River, upstream of the road bridge, adjacent to Rangioru Whenua Reserve and the rail bridge. It is an area of cultural and historical significance, particularly to Tapuika and Tuhourangi.

Rangioru Whenua Reserve is located within Waitangi. It is accessible and within walking distance to Moko Marae, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Matai, homes and local dairy. Tuhourangi Marae is located to the east of the road bridge.

Kaituna Reserve is inaccessible. It is located between the river and a home.

Known swim spots are at the rail bridge (Kaituna River Road end) and immediately upstream of the road bridge.

There have been discussions for a number of years about a small jetty at Rangioru Whenua Reserve to enable access to the Kaituna River.



Visual assessment



Figure 29: River access point at Waitangi Rangiuru Reserve.
Streambank has a reasonably gradual slope down to the water.

The area is overgrown with grass and some weeds.
The riparian margin of the bank has pest plant trees overhanging this river.
The trees may pose a hazard for swimmers and launching of watercraft.

Figure 30: Rangiuru Reserve at Waitangi
has a large grass area, trees and picnic tables.

Known issues

Overgrown vegetation

Rangiuru Whenua Reserve is an open grass area with trees near to the riparian margin. The riparian margin is overgrown, with trees potentially blocking visibility e.g., parents supervising children.

Erosion works

Concerns were raised by tāngata whenua about the swim spot immediately upstream of the road bridge, which was affected by Regional Council erosion protection works.

Regional Council would like to carry out erosion protection works immediately downstream of the road bridge.

Cultural and heritage recognition

There is a lack of visible information recognising the cultural or historical context of the area.

Waka and kayak launching

There are limited safe or easy sites within this area to launch waka or kayaks.

Opportunities

River access

While a jetty has been talked about for years, engagement feedback highlighted a floating pontoon as a potential alternative to a fixed structure as they are more resilient to variable river flows.

The pontoon could have multiple uses such as swim access, jumping platform, waka/kayak/ paddle board launching as well as environmental monitoring and education.

Consideration should be given to providing greater accessibility to the river for all ages and abilities (e.g. elderly, wheelchair access, prams, children).

Amenity and Biodiversity

Opportunities include biodiversity enhancement from riparian pest control and planting. Likewise for providing BBQ facilities and all-weather shelters for community enjoyment.

Cultural and heritage recognition

This could include artwork, wayfinding elements, whakairo (carving), information boards and Tohu Māori.

Summary of Actions

The following are indicative actions for the Waitangi Priority Area. The timing of actions is indicative only.

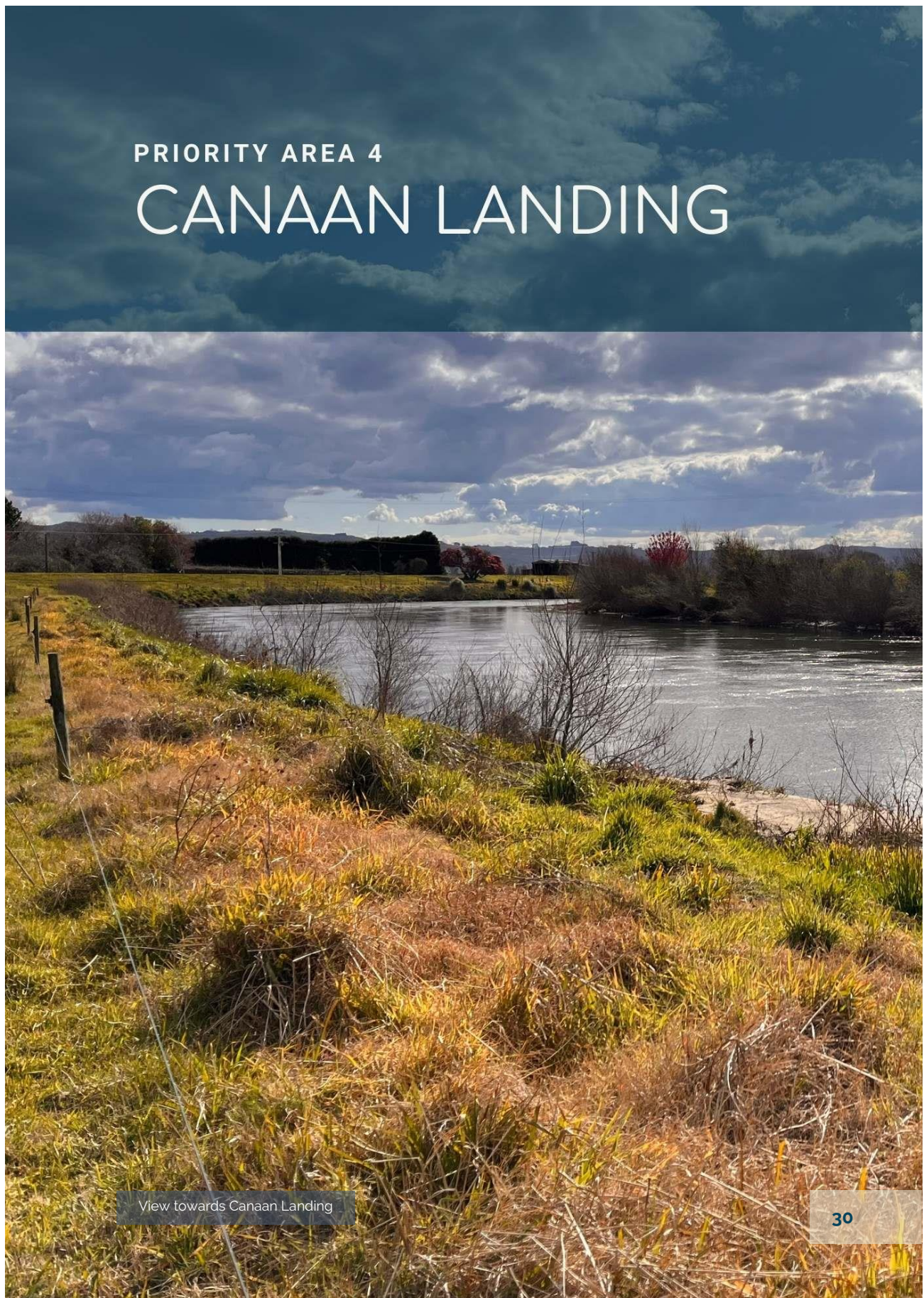
Short-term (Jan 2024 – Jun 2025)

- ▶ Practical action to address immediate issues relating to river access, riparian vegetation, and erosion, upstream and downstream of the road bridge.
- ▶ Investigate viability of floating pontoon at or near Rangiuru Whenua Reserve.
- ▶ Confirm site(s) for carved pou.

Medium term (Jul 2025 – Jun 2028)

- ▶ Confirm appropriate form and site(s) of cultural and historical design elements.
- ▶ Link aspirations within this report to any spatial or community planning for this area.
- ▶ Provide more amenity facilities at or near Waitangi Whenua Reserve.

Further details are provided in Appendix 1 of this report.



9. Canaan Landing

This area is located along Kenana Road, near Waitangi. Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority representatives nominated Canaan Landing as a Priority Area to recognise the cultural and historic significance of this place.

The wider area, which included Tapuika Pā sites and settlements, was originally called Muriwharau.

It was later renamed Kenana (after Canaan, the promised land) following the re-settlement of Tapuika in the late 1830s. They were also joined by Waitaha and Ngāti Rangiwewehi. Soon after, Thomas Chapman and Hakaraia established a Christian mission at Kenana.

In the late 1800s Canaan Landing was a key feature of the area, as it facilitated the movement of people and cargo by boat along the Kaituna River.

The Canaan Flax Mill (1894-1914) was located close between Canaan Landing and Waitangi Landing.

Access and use

Kenana Road is accessible by car.

Maketu Hoe Waka temporarily utilised the Council reserve for waka storage and launching while during the construction of the Kaituna Re-diversion at Ford Road.



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Known issues

There is a lack of public awareness about the history of this area; no obvious public access to the river or visible information recognising the cultural or historical context of the area.

Opportunities

There are opportunities to create connectivity to the Kaituna River and the rich history of the area.

This could include:

- ▶ utilising riverside land as a reserve.
- ▶ establishing access points at appropriate locations.
- ▶ recognising and celebrating local history through artwork, wayfinding elements, whakairo (carving), information boards and Tohu Māori.
- ▶ amenity and biodiversity related improvements such as picnic tables, seating, weed control and riparian planting.
- ▶ linkages to / between river access points, pā sites, and flax mill sites ('heritage trail').

Tāngata whenua have been exploring opportunities to reestablish the natural course of the Parawhenuamea Stream within this area.

In 2021, representatives for Te Karangi A 3D 2B presented to TMOK¹. They shared plans for the land block, which featured a native plant nursery, harakeke and rongoā cultivations as well as riparian and wetland planting.

¹ Link to presentation:
https://infocouncil.boprc.govt.nz/Open/2021/05/TMOK_20210521_MAT_3395.htm

They also have aspirations for tourism development on this block and greater connectivity to local walkways and cycleways.

Summary of Actions

The following are indicative actions for the Canaan Landing Area. The timing of actions is indicative only.

A collaborative approach is needed to identify *what is possible* for this area.

Short-term (Jan 2024 – Jun 2025)

- ▶ Confirm focal point for area and potential riverside land for access point(s).
- ▶ Establish work programme for Canaan Landing Concept Plan.

Medium term (Jul 2025 – Jun 2028)

- ▶ Carry out concept planning for the area which includes:
 - flood-resilient river access points
 - ways to share the history of the area.
 - amenity facilities.
 - biodiversity enhancement.
 - greater connectivity to places and features within and between priority areas.
 - potential for a cultural or heritage trail.

Long term (Jul 2028 onwards)

- ▶ Implement concept plan

Further details are provided in Appendix 1 of this report.

SECONDARY SITES OR AREAS



10. Secondary sites / areas

A number of additional sites or areas have also been identified for river access enhancement. While they did not meet the criteria for a priority project, they still connect with, or build on, existing activities or projects.

The recommended sites are:

- ▶ Otaiparia Reserve
- ▶ Waiari-Kaituna confluence
- ▶ Te Matai Pā
- ▶ Paraiti-Kaituna confluence
- ▶ Maungarangi bridge
- ▶ Upper Waiari

Otaiparia Reserve

Otaiparia (also known as Ford's Landing) is located at 83 Ford Road. Maketu Hoe Waka raised concerns about the current waka launching site (i.e., concrete pad is needed). There are also ongoing issues about debris impeding access following storm events.

The Chair of Te Maru o Kaituna spoke about a new local project call Nga Niao o te Kaituna for youth to learn about waka building, currents and star navigation. There are aspirations for a future berthing site at Otaiparia for double hulled waka.

This site is already captured by the Otaiparia Concept Plan. Indicative costings for the waka launching site are included in this concept plan. However, the reference to "waka launching site" has been changed to "boat ramp" within the Te Puke Maketu Reserve Management Plan. This will need to be checked to ensure there is sufficient funding for the waka launching site upgrade.



Figure 32. Waka launching site



Figure 33. Waiari-Kaituna Confluence

Waiari-Kaituna Confluence

The Waiari-Kaituna Confluence, also known as Kongutuawa ki te Kaituna, was nominated by the Kaitiaki Advisory Group.

This is a culturally and historically significant area. The islands within the Kaituna River channel were known for its high-quality fertile soils, making it easy to grow kumara and other tubers.

Prior to the opening of Cannan's landing, boats would anchor in this area, take passengers and cargo up the stream by waka to Waiari Landing.

There is limited public access to this place. Stopbanks and proposed esplanade strips line the banks of both awa.

Nevertheless, there are opportunities to recognise and celebrate the cultural and historic context of the area through storytelling elements such as information boards, pou and art. Likewise for connecting this area to Waiari Landing Reserve and Canaan Landing.

Figure 34. Waiari-Kaituna Confluence



Te Matai Pā

Te Matai Pa is located near McMeeking Road, Rangiu. It is the home of Ngāti Kuri, a hapū of Tapuika. Ngāti Kuri has a block of Māori land along the Kaituna river that they would like to plant up with native trees, particularly rongoā. They would also like to improve access at this site to the river for swimming.

Swimming access in this area has been impacted by rock protection works. Regional Council has been working with Ngāti Kuri to address the problem.

This area is culturally significant to tāngata whenua. The Paraiti River - where it enters the Kaituna River - was the entrance to one of the main passages for those travelling inland from the coast to Rotorua.

Travellers would stay at Otamamarere / Otama Marere Pā, located on the right bank of the Kaituna, just upstream of the confluence. The wetland around the pa was known to be abundant in tuna and watercress. Despite being protected by a Historic Places Trust covenant, the site was largely destroyed in the 1980s.

Paraiti-Kaituna Confluence

This area is located near the confluence of the Paraiti River and Kaituna River, in line with Partridge Lane, Paengaroa.

Within this area, there are no Council reserves, although esplanade strips are dotted along the banks of both awa.

Otamamarere urupā is the only remnant feature of this area. Tāngata whenua representatives have raised concerns about severe erosion of the riverbank by the urupā.

There is no public access to the river or urupā as the landowners have prohibited access to the river from Partridge Lane.



Figure 35. Confluence of Kaituna River (left) and Paraiti River (below), with view upstream towards Otamamarere urupā (top of photo). Source: Regional Council

The Regional Council is working with adjacent landowners to:

- ▶ restore the hydraulic connection of a river oxbow directly opposite of the confluence.
- ▶ retire 4ha of land next to the Kaituna for wetland restoration purposes.

Maungarangi bridge

The Maungarangi bridge is located approximately 3km south of Paengaroa. Roadside parking is limited at this site.

This area has in the past been used as the starting point for Tapuika Waitangi Day raft races.

There are opportunities to improve river access at this site, particularly along the right bank of the Kaituna River.

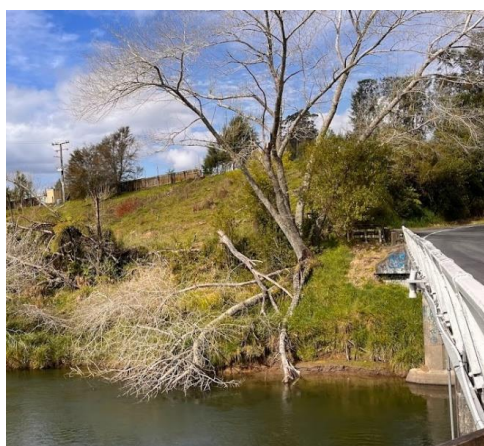


Figure 36. Kaituna River at Maungarangi bridge

² involving Council staff and tāngata whenua members

Upper Waiari

Upper Waiari extends from TECT Park to just downstream of the Waiari Water Treatment Plant. The Waiari Stream and its tributaries retain its most pristine qualities within this extent, especially compared to the lower reaches of the awa.

Five sites or areas of cultural significance were identified by the Waiari KAG and verified through a site visit² in mid-January 2024. These sites or areas are:

- ▶ Te Rerenga Wairua
- ▶ Te Ranga ō Hineata
- ▶ Te Raho ō Totokau
- ▶ Waiari Esplanade Reserve
- ▶ Pōtakataka

Tāngata whenua have aspirations to access and reconnect to these culturally significant places.

There are opportunities to enhance river access at many of these sites, for swimming, cultural practices, water quality monitoring as well as biodiversity enhancement. Likewise, for safe pathways, clear wayfinding elements (signage) and Tohu Māori to access and share the history of these places.

Te Rerenga Wairua

This area comprises Te Rerenga stream, from the mid reach to its confluence with Waiari Stream. It includes nearby pā sites, kāinga, pathways and food gathering areas.

For example, Te Rerenga Wairua ō Kahukura is a particular site of significance. It is located close to the Te Rerenga Tunnel Track within TECT Park. There is no direct access from this track to the site.

Further downstream is Heruiwi Pā, located at the confluence of the Te Rerenga and Whataroa Streams. There is no direct river access due to terrain and private blocks.

There are opportunities to enhance river access, particularly through TECT Park, and provide for Tohu Māori to share the history and significance of these places.

Te Ranga ō Hineata

Te Ranga ō Hineata is located at the end of Shaw Road, Te Ranga. It is the site of Ngaengaenui, a treasured puna (spring) and wāhi tapu. This wāhi tapu, associated with tohi (birth-right ceremonies) is referenced within multiple Tapuika.

The Tapuika Claims Settlement Act 2013 resulted in the vesting of the adjacent stream reserve ("Waiari Stream Site") from the Department of Conservation to Tapuika.

There is no direct access from Shaw Road to this site.

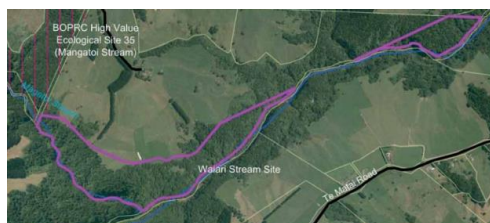


Figure 37: Waiari Stream Site, cultural redress site (source: Tapuika Environmental Plan)

Te Raho ō Totokau

Te Raho ō Totokau is located between 650 and 700 No.1 Road, just upstream of the Waiari Water Treatment Plant.

There is no direct access to this wāhi tapu from No.1 Road.

Waiari Esplanade Reserve

Waiari Esplanade Reserve is located on the left bank, immediately downstream of the Waiari Water Treatment Plant. The purpose of the stream-side reserve, which is owned and managed by Council, is "recreational and ecological linkages".

Physical access to the stream from No. 1 Road is difficult due to the steepness of the terrain.

There are opportunities associated with pest management and biodiversity enhancement of this block, in line with the purpose of the reserve.

Pōtakataka

Pōtakataka is a stretch of the awa located downstream of the Waiari Esplanade Reserve. It comprises comprising multiple bends and deep swirling water, which provide habitat for tuna (eels), watercress and other mahinga kai species.

Tapuika aspires to reconnect to this area to revitalise cultural practices and knowledge sharing activities.

Ease of access is variable due to land ownership. There is also a proposed esplanade strip along both stream banks within this reach.

Pest plant control and riparian planting is needed along this stretch of the awa.

Summary of actions

The following are indicative actions Upper Waiari Area. The timing of actions is indicative only.

A collaborative approach is needed to identify *what is possible* for this area.

Short-term (Jan 2024 – Jun 2025)

- ▶ Develop design plan and verify funding allocation for upgraded waka launching site at Otaiparia.
- ▶ Resolve river access problems caused by rock protection works at Te Matai Pā.
- ▶ Identify measures to address riverbank erosion by Otamamarere Urupā.

Short-medium term (Jan 2024 – Jun 2028)

Across all sites and areas, continue identifying and creating defined access points to awa. This includes, where appropriate:

- ▶ new or upgraded signage to guide river access.
- ▶ cultural and historical recognition.
- ▶ amenity and biodiversity enhancement.
- ▶ pest plant control.

Medium term: (Jul 2025 – Jun 2028)

- ▶ Explore feasibility of a berthing site for double-hulled waka.
- ▶ Connect the Waiari-Kaituna confluence to Waiari Landing Reserve and Canaan Landing.

Further details are provided in Appendix 1 of this report.

11. Summary of findings

This feasibility study identifies priority locations to improve physical access and connection to the Kaituna River and Waiari Stream. This includes safer access, particularly for recreational activities (swimming), waka launching and education.

Although this feasibility study was intended to just identify potential locations to enhance physical river access there are also opportunities to foster connection.

Engagement feedback and research highlighted that there are many potential sites where river access could be enhanced. Criteria helped to determine where best to focus efforts over the coming years.

Priority Areas

Four areas were identified and assessed as priorities as they meet the required criteria and provide opportunities for initiatives beyond physical river access.

Based on this criteria, four priority areas were selected:

- ▶ Bell Road area
- ▶ Waiari area
- ▶ Waitangi area
- ▶ Canaan Landing

Three of the areas also comprise multiple river access sites. Waka launching sites could potentially be established within the Waitangi and Bell Road priority areas.

Secondary sites and areas

Six secondary sites or areas were also identified:

- ▶ Otaiparia Reserve
- ▶ Waiari-Kaituna confluence
- ▶ Te Matai Pā
- ▶ Paraiti-Kaituna confluence
- ▶ Maungarangi bridge
- ▶ Upper Waiari

While they did not meet all of the required criteria for a priority project, they still connect with, or build on, existing activities or projects.

Opportunities

The study highlights the opportunities to **Connect People to Place**, whether it is connecting people, marae and walkways to the awa; integrating universal design for people of all ages and abilities; as well as showcasing the cultural and historic significance of these special awa.

12. Recommendations

The following recommendations are critical factors to the effective implementation of the actions proposed in this report



Consideration should be given to the formation of a project or priority area-specific tāngata whenua working group, as suggested at the recent meeting with Te Ihu o Te Waka o Te Arawa. Adequate resourcing will be essential.

Finally, further discussions will be needed with Council's Kaupapa Māori team with regards to engagement planning, key contacts, forum meeting calendars and ways to resource tāngata whenua involvement.

Integrate Cultural and historic narratives

This report highlights the rich history of the awa particularly in relation to:

- ▶ cultural significance and long-standing connection of hapū and iwi.
- ▶ historical significance in the 1880's to early 1900's in relation to the river landings and flax mills.
- ▶ intergenerational impacts of river changes resulting from large-scale engineering works.

This report recommends integrating cultural and historic narratives within the concept plans for the priority areas and the actions associated with some of the individual sites.

"Storytelling is our cultural capital that council will be able to embrace to increase the value of investment in the area. We have pā sites significant to us from the top to the bottom of the awa. We have wāhi tapu and caves that are sacred and embedded in our histories."

"We want our mokopuna to know our real stories. We want to be able to reconnect and access the awa".

- Cultural Recognition Report, prepared on behalf of the Kaitiaki Advisory Group

Storytelling elements

This involves communicating cultural and historic narratives in a compelling and accessible manner, utilising interpretive elements such as signage, storytelling boards, or digital media.

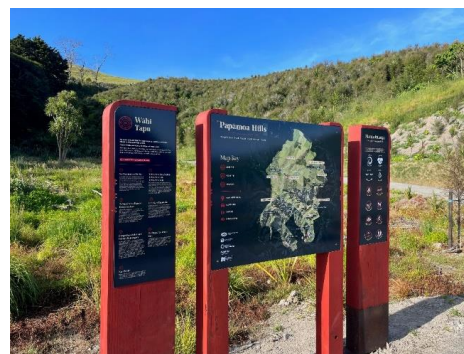


Figure 39. New information board at Pāpāmoa Hills Cultural Heritage Regional Park

Figure 40. New information board at Pāpāmoa Hills Cultural Heritage Regional Park



Māori design principles

Te Aranga Māori Design Principles could be used to guide the concept plans to help embody tāngata whenua values, expression and creativity, and ensure recognition of their association with the areas.

The principles are also useful to guide how the project team can work together collaboratively and communicate design elements.

Cultural design elements

Cultural design elements could include:

- ▶ Pou, kōhatu (mauri or anchor stones), carvings and wayfinding markers.
- ▶ Signage acknowledging original place names or events.
- ▶ Plants for rongoā and weaving.

There are also opportunities for cultural elements in architectural design and landscape features (e.g., facilities, furniture, pathways, colours, patterns).



Figure 41. Cultural design element of seating on Mauao



Figure 42. Kohatu and pou at Dive Crescent, Tauranga

The following are best practice examples of cultural design elements and storytelling:

- ▶ Pāpāmoa Hills.
- ▶ Mauao.
- ▶ Ōtakaro Avon River Corridor Regeneration Plan
- ▶ Ōtāhuhu Station Transport Interchange.

Create a connected story along the awa

Design elements used at all priority areas could have a consistent look or feel. Consideration should be given to ways in which they connect to each other, not only physically but also in terms of the shared history (e.g., from Waiari Landing to the Waiari-Kaituna Confluence then downstream to Bell Road).

River side pou or kōhatu could be placed at key sites along the Kaituna River (and Waiari Landing) as a form of wayfinding and signifying the cultural and historical significance of the areas.



Figure 43. Pou at the TEL Kaituna River Bridge

"Pou and other appropriate markers are erected adjacent to the Kaituna River where considered appropriate by iwi, to indicate sites of special significance."

- Outcome 2b, Kaituna River Document

Integrate connectivity

Consideration should be given to enhancing connections to, and between priority areas. This could include, where appropriate, walkways and cycleways.

This includes connecting Makahae and Tawakepito marae to the Waiari Stream as well as Moko, Tuhourangi and Tia Marae as well as Te Matai Pā to the Kaituna River.

Integrate accessibility

This means designing for people of all ages and abilities. For example:

- ▶ use of ramps and minimising steps.
- ▶ paved paths leading from parking areas to rest areas and seating.
- ▶ wide parking spaces to cater for mobility parking needs.
- ▶ picnic table design that caters for wheelchair and pushchair use.

Integrate flood resilience

All priority areas are within the Regional Council flood control scheme areas. Considerations must involve:

- ▶ designing areas knowing that floods may/will occur.
- ▶ ensuring furniture and structures are resilient to flooding i.e., bolted down or inset into concrete.
- ▶ ensuring that furniture and structures are out of the way of machinery carrying out river maintenance work.
- allowing for post-flood maintenance and/or repair.



Figure 44. Flood resilient furniture at Dallington Landing, Christchurch

Includes raised and reinforced concrete footing for seating, picnic tables and shelter/shade

It would be advisable to involve the Regional Council's Rivers and Drainage team during concept planning and/or options analysis to ensure that structures or facilities are fit for purpose, resilient and located in the right place.

Create distinctive multi-use areas or spaces

Within each priority area, considerations for facilities that create distinctive multi-use zones or spaces include, where appropriate:

- ▶ Jumping platforms, rope swings, floating pontoons.
- ▶ Seating for resting and tables for picnics.
- ▶ Shelter from sun and rain (built structure and trees).
- ▶ Vehicle parking space, including accessible parking spaces.
- ▶ Cycle parking stands.
- ▶ Playground equipment.
- ▶ Waka ama equipment storage.
- ▶ Toilets and drinking water fountains.
- ▶ Open space for play and recreation.

Resource consents and approvals

The works associated with enhancing river access at the priority areas and individual sites may require approvals, such as:

- ▶ Resource consents from the Regional and/or District Council under the Resource Management Act.
- ▶ Bylaw authority under the Regional Council Flood Protection and Drainage Bylaws.
- ▶ Archaeological authority under the Heritage Protection Act.
- ▶ Easements.

Cultural impact assessments may also be needed for resource consent processes.

In the context of this feasibility study, it is too early to determine what may be needed in each area. It is expected that this will be confirmed in the next stage.

Prioritise efforts that result in visible progress

Many of issues and opportunities within this report are not new. Engagement feedback highlighted the need for swift implementation of pragmatic and tangible solutions.

Appendix 1 Actions

The following tables provide further detail about actions relating to related to the identified issues and opportunities within this report:

- ▶ All Areas (as recommended in Section 12)
- ▶ Bell Road (as outlined in Section 6)
- ▶ Waiari (as outlined in Section 7)
- ▶ Waitangi (as outlined in Section 8)
- ▶ Canaan Landing (as outlined in Section 9)
- ▶ Secondary sites and areas (as outlined in Section 11)

In total, there are 43 actions however, many of these can be carried out in parallel.

Timeframe

The timing of actions is indicative only and relates to three time periods:

- ▶ Short-term (Jan 2024 – Jun 2025)
- ▶ Medium term (Jul 2025 – Jun 2028)
- ▶ Long term (Jul 2028 onwards)

The timing of actions is indicative only, as it will be dependent on funding and priorities of each partner to this project.

Key parties

The action tables provide an *indication* of the key parties to be involved in each action or grouping of actions. The list is not exhaustive.

Further discussion will be needed to confirm the specific role, available resourcing and capacity of:

- ▶ Local authority staff and elected members: WBOPDC, BOPRC and Tauranga City Council (TCC) and representatives on Waiari KAG and TMOK.
- ▶ Tāngata whenua: marae committees, hapū, Iwi, and representatives on Waiari KAG, Te Ihu o Te Waka o Te Arawa as well as TMOK.
- ▶ Key agencies or groups such as Department of Conservation, KiwiRail, Maketu Hoe Waka, Te Ara Kahikatea Inc. Society.

The involvement of staff and representatives will vary from area to area; action to action; as well as stage of implementation (e.g., planning, design, delivery).

Guidance is provided within the recommendations in Section 12 of this report.

All Areas

Action	Where	Timeframe	Key parties (indicative)	Comment
1. Take a collaborative and design-led approach to implementation of actions that involves tāngata whenua, BOPRC river engineers, and where applicable, landowners, local groups and stakeholders.	All areas	All	WBOPDC, supported or resourced by all partners within Te Maru o Kaituna.	Involve tāngata whenua in project and engagement planning.
2. Develop a tailored plan for each area and/or site which integrates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – cultural and historic narratives and designs. – river access points that are flood resilient. – multi-use spaces. – amenity and biodiversity enhancement. – environmental monitoring and education. 	All areas	All	As above	The nature and size of the plan and associated process should reflect the scale and complexity of each area or site.
3. Develop a cultural and historic interpretation plan to create a connected story along the awa.	All areas	Medium	Te Maru o Kaituna, led or guided by tāngata whenua	Links with Project 13 of Te Tini a Tuna. Explore opportunities for external funding
4. Explore the feasibility of a 'heritage trail' to create a connected story along the awa. This could include physically connecting priority areas, river access points, wetlands, pā sites (where appropriate), and former flax mill sites.	All areas	Medium	Te Maru o Kaituna, led or guided by tāngata whenua	Links with Project 13 of Te Tini a Tuna. Explore opportunities for external funding
5. Provide regular project updates to Te Maru o Kaituna, Te Ihu o Te Waka o Te Arawa and Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group.	All areas	All	WBOPDC	-

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Action	Where	Timeframe	Key parties (indicative)	Comment
6. Capture more aerial photos and drone footage of the areas and sites to support project planning and monitoring.	All areas	All	WBOPDC, supported by BOPRC	-

Bell Road

Action	Where	Timeframe	Key parties (indicative)	Comment
Actions related to area-based planning				
7. Confirm work programme and project team for the Bell Road Concept Plan.	Whole area	Short	WBOPDC with TCC, BOPRC and tāngata whenua	Refer Actions 1 and 2. Include a stocktake of all projects within this area
8. Develop and implement Bell Road Concept Plan.	Whole area	Medium – Long	As above	-
Actions relating to river access				
9. Carry out aquatic weed control	Boat ramp	Short	WBOPDC or BOPRC	Site visit to discuss options
10. Identify interim options for safer river access for swimming. For example, larger flat faced boulders where riprap has fallen into the river.	Boat ramp area	Short	WBOPDC and BOPRC	Site visit to discuss options
11. Identify long term options for safe and flood-resilient access into Kaituna River. This includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boat ramp upgrade - Jumping platform or pontoon - More defined swim access points - Area for waka and kayak launching. 	Boat ramp area and adjacent Council land	Medium	WBOPDC via collaborative approach	Refer Actions 1 and 2.

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Action	Where	Timeframe	Key parties (indicative)	Comment
Actions relating to carpark improvements				
12. Complete planned carpark safety and amenity enhancement work	Boat ramp area	Short	WBOPDC	-
13. Continued carpark improvements, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wider buffer between the carpark and riverbank. - Barriers to keep vehicles off stop bank and grass areas. - Defined car and boat trailer parking. - Carpark re-sealing, where needed. 	Boat ramp area	Medium	WBOPDC	-

Waiari

Action	Where	Timeframe	Key parties (indicative)	Comment
Actions related to area-based planning				
14. Confirm work programme and Project Team for Waiari Landing Reserve Plan.	Waiari Landing Reserve	Short	Waiari KAG (incl WBOPDC, tāngata whenua and TCC) and BOPRC	Refer Actions 1 and 2.
15. Develop and implement a plan for Waiari Landing Reserve that incorporates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - flood-resilient river access points. - carpark and driveway improvements. - safe walking access from marae. - information and design elements relating to the cultural and historic context. - environmental education and monitoring. - pest plant control and riparian planting. 	Waiari Landing Reserve (road bridge to rail bridge)	Short - Medium	As above Te Ara Kahikatea Inc. Society	Refer Actions 1 and 2.

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Action	Where	Timeframe	Key parties (indicative)	Comment
Actions relating to river access				
16. Install interim safety measures to clearly mark hazards and guide swimmers to entry and exit points at Waiari Landing Reserve.	Waiari Landing Reserve	Short	WBOPDC	Confirm approach(es) with Waiari KAG and BOPRC.
17. Improve community awareness of the temporary safety measures and long terms plans for river access.	Waiari Landing Reserve	Short	WBOPDC	Utilise a range of ways to provide information in a proactive way.
18. Discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> long-term options for safe and flood-resilient access by the road bridge. measures to address potential safety risks at the rail bridge with the use of existing gabion baskets as entry and exit points for swimming. 	Waiari Landing Reserve (road bridge to rail bridge)	Short	WBOPDC with BOPRC and Waiari KAG (incl tāngata whenua and TCC)	Requires site visit - needs to include WBOPDC reserve planners and roading engineers as well as BOPRC river engineers. Also, KiwiRail for the rail bridge.
19. Enable safer pedestrian access from Makahae and Tawakepito to Waiari Landing Reserve.	Waiari Landing Reserve	Short	WBOPDC, with Waiari KAG and marae reps	-
20. Increase frequency of mowing and maintenance activities on the left bank of the Waiari Stream to improve riverbank visibility and access.	Waiari Landing Reserve	Short	WBOPDC	-
21. Restore access to Waiari Stream: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> behind Tawakepito and Makahae Marae. downstream of the road bridge (right bank). 	As stated	Short – Medium	Ngāti Tuheke, supported by Waiari KAG reps	-
Action relating to cultural and historical recognition				
22. Install at least one cultural design element (e.g., pou, anchor stone) within this area.	Waiari Landing	Short – Medium	Waiari KAG (incl WBOPDC, tāngata whenua and TCC)	Preference to utilise local carvers

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Action	Where	Timeframe	Key parties (indicative)	Comment
Actions relating to erosion and amenity				
23. Assess and discuss the severity, and potential measures to address, stream bank erosion and pest plants.	Waiari Landing Reserve (road bridge to rail bridge extent)	Short	WBOPDC and BOPRC	Requires site visit. Needs to include WBOPDC reserve planners and roading engineers as well as BOPRC river engineers.
24. Install a picnic table and/or seating at an appropriate location(s).	Waiari Landing Reserve (road bridge to rail bridge extent)	Short	WBOPDC guided by BOPRC and Waiari KAG reps	Requires site visit. Needs to include WBOPDC reserve planners and roading engineers

Waitangi

Action	Where	Timeframe	Key parties (indicative)	Comment
Actions related to area-based planning				
25. Confirm work programme and Project Team for Waitangi.	Whole area	Short	WBOPDC, tāngata whenua, BOPRC	Refer Actions 1 and 2.
26. Link aspirations within this report to any spatial or community planning for this area.	Whole area	Short – Long	WBOPDC	-
Actions relating to river access				
27. Investigate the feasibility of a floating pontoon at for swimming, waka launching and environmental monitoring.	At or near Rangiuuru Whenua Reserve	Short	WBOPDC, BOPRC, tāngata whenua	Refer Actions 1 and 2. Link with Rotorua Lakes Council re: floating pontoons

Connecting People to Place:
Kaituna-Waiari River Access Feasibility Study, February 2024

Action	Where	Timeframe	Key parties (indicative)	Comment
28. Identify opportunities for a pathway, from the footpath to the Kaituna River that meets accessibility needs for all ages and abilities.	At or near Rangiuuru Whenua Reserve	Medium	WBOPDC, tāngata whenua	-
29. Identify practical solutions to river access concerns, due to erosion protection works.	Immediately upstream of the Waitangi Road bridge	Short	WBOPDC, BOPRC and Ngāti Moko.	-
30. Trim or remove hazardous riparian vegetation.	At or near Rangiuuru Whenua Reserve	Short	WBOPDC, BOPRC, tāngata whenua	-
Action relating to cultural and historical recognition				
31. Confirm appropriate type and site(s) of design elements or features to highlight the cultural and historic significance of the area. This could include carved pou, kōhatu, signage, information boards etc.	At or near Rangiuuru Whenua Reserve	Short	Tāngata whenua, supported by Tapuika Iwi Authority and WBOPDC	Include discussion about the four pou that have been carved.

Canaan Landing

Action	Where	Timeframe	Key parties (indicative)	Comment
Actions related to area-based planning				
32. Confirm work programme and Project Team for Canaan.	Whole area	Short	WBOPDC, BOPRC and tāngata whenua	Refer Actions 1 and 2.
33. Develop and implement Canaan Landing Concept Plan.	Whole area	Medium	As above	-

Connecting People to Place:
Kaituna-Waiari River Access Feasibility Study, February 2024

Action	Where	Timeframe	Key parties (indicative)	Comment
Actions relating to river access				
34. Identify a suitable riverside location at or near Canaan's Landing to establish an access point. This could result in a new recreation reserve.	At or near Canaan Landing	Medium	WBOPDC, working with adjoining landowners and tāngata whenua	-
35. Install road signage on Te Puke Highway to indicate the presence and location of the riverside reserve.	Corner of Kenana Road and Te Puke Highway	Medium	WBOPDC	-
Action relating to cultural and historical recognition				
36. Confirm appropriate type and site(s) of design elements or features to highlight the cultural and historic significance of the area. This could include carved pou, kōhatu, signage, information boards etc.	At or near Canaan Landing	Short	WBOPDC with tāngata whenua Local historian	-
Action relating to amenity				
37. Identify options for reserve facilities such as benches, picnic tables and/or an all-weather shelter.	At or near Rangiuuru Whenua Reserve	Medium term	WBOPDC	-

Connecting People to Place:
Kaituna-Waiari River Access Feasibility Study, February 2024

Secondary sites and areas

The following actions are organised by location rather than type for ease of implementation.

Action	Where	Timeframe	Key parties (indicative)	Comment
Actions relating to Otaiparia				
38. Develop design plan and verify funding allocation for upgraded waka launching site at Otaiparia.	Otaiparia	Short	WBOPDC with Maketu Hoe Waka	-
39. Identify options to address concerns about debris impeding access following storm events.	Otaiparia	Short	WBOPDC, BOPRC and Maketu Hoe Waka	-
40. Explore the feasibility of a berthing site for double-hulled waka.	Otaiparia	Medium	Te Maru o Kaituna, guided by tāngata whenua representatives	-
Actions relating to Waiari-Kaituna Confluence				
41. Determine the feasibility of establishing a defined river access point at this site.	Waiari-Kaituna confluence	Short - Medium	Waiari KAG, BOPRC and private landowners (where applicable).	-
42. Determine the form of cultural design element(s) to highlight the cultural and historic significance of this site. This could include carved pou, kōhatu, signage, information boards etc.	Waiari-Kaituna confluence	Medium	Tāngata whenua representatives of Waiari KAG supported by WBOPDC, TCC and BOPRC	
43. Investigate and pursue opportunities to physically connect the Waiari-Kaituna confluence to Waiari Landing Reserve and Canaan Landing.	Waiari-Kaituna confluence	Medium	WBOPDC, Waiari KAG, tāngata whenua, BOPRC, TCC and private landowners (where applicable).	

Connecting People to Place:
Kaituna-Waiari River Access Feasibility Study, February 2024

Action	Where	Timeframe	Key parties (indicative)	Comment
Actions relating to Te Matai Pā				
44. Resolve river access problems caused by rock protection works at Te Matai Pā.	Te Matai Pā	Short	BOPRC and Ngāti Kuri	
45. Carry out riparian enhancement work along the Kaituna River.	Te Matai Pā	Short	Ngāti Kuri, supported by BOPRC	E-introduction in late 2023 between BOPRC land management officer and Ngāti Kuri representatives
Actions relating to Paraiti-Kaituna Confluence				
46. Take a collective approach to wetland restoration, biodiversity enhancement and cultural heritage protection.	Paraiti-Kaituna Confluence	Short-Medium	BOPRC working with landowners, tāngata whenua and WBOPDC	-
47. Identify measures to address riverbank erosion by Otamamarere Urupā.	Paraiti-Kaituna Confluence	Short-Medium	BOPRC and tāngata whenua,	-
Actions relating to Maungarangi Bridge				
Pursue opportunities for river access and amenity enhancement.	Maungarangi Bridge	Short-Medium	WBOPDC and tāngata whenua	-
Actions relating to Upper Waiari				
48. Pursue opportunities, where appropriate, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - create pathways and/or defined river access points. - secure access across private land. - install design elements or features to recognise the cultural significance of a site. - install or upgrade signage to guide stream access. - carry out pest control and riparian planting. 	Upper Waiari	Short-Medium	Waiari KAG, supported by WBOPDC, TCC and private landowners (where applicable).	-

Connecting People to Place:
Kaituna-Waiari River Access Feasibility Study, February 2024

10 BUSINESS

10.1 Western Bay of Plenty District Council Verbal Report

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

10.2 Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group - Cultural Recognition Development Update March 2024

File Number: A15576013

Author: Kelvin Hill, **Manager:** Water Infrastructure Outcomes

Authoriser: Wally Potts, **Acting General Manager:** Infrastructure

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide an update on the status of the cultural recognition meetings and discussions with iwi representatives as requested at the previous Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group (WKAG) meeting held on 8 November 2023 at Tuhourangi Marae in Te Puke.
2. The Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group (WKAG) members to discuss all (six) actions and tasks including costings and cost centres and provide direction and allow work to commence across all six cultural initiatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group - Cultural Recognition Development Update March 2024".

-
3. The Cultural recognition report is a summary of decisions and discussions leading to a list of prioritised initiatives for cultural recognition for the Waiāri Water Supply Scheme project. Iwi representatives met to discuss the subject in late 2022, 13 April and 2 May 2023 for the purpose of contributing their input into the cultural recognition document developed with the Takawaenga team in 2022.
 4. The agreed approach moving forward is for staff from both Councils to form a sub-group with Tapuika, Waitaha, Ngāti Whakaeu ki Maketu & Mokopuna o Tia me Hei.
 5. A number of representative changes have taken place since the WKAG meeting last year, with Tapuika's new representative Raponi Wilson taking over from Jo'el Komene and Waitaha's new representative Luke Whare taking over from Mokoera Te Amo.
 6. Key members of this subgroup as of February 2024 included:
 - TAPUIKA Representative – Raponi Wilson
 - TAPUIKA Representative - Helen Biel (Alternate)
 - WAITAHA Representative – Luke Whare
 - NGATI WHAKUE KI MAKETU Representative - Manu Pene
 - MOKOPUNA O TIA ME HEI Representative - Darlene Dinsdale
 - Tauranga City Council Representative - Yolanda Tipuna
 - Hemasphere Ltd - Sam Hema
 - Tauranga City Council Representative – Kelvin Hill
 - Tauranga City Council Representative – Peter Bahrs
 - Western Bay of Plenty District Council Representative - Chris Nepia
 - Western Bay of Plenty District Council Representative – EJ Wentzel

7. The purpose of the report is to provide an update to the WKAG meeting, reflecting the status of each of the six Cultural initiatives.
8. Since the last (WKAG) meeting on 8 November 2023 held at Tuhourangi Marae in Te Puke, the cultural recognition project subgroup has continued meeting with an online meeting being held on 23 November 2023, and a final face-to-face meeting on 14 December 2023 in Te Puke.
9. One of the key activities to take place during January 2024 was the planning and undertaking of a 3-day tangata whenua led review, to identify potential areas of land that provide river access to the Waiāri.
10. This initiative involved two days in the field on 16 and 17 January visiting a list of potential sites and subsequently developing a suitable plan to enable safe and functional use of these access points. A number of these identified access points are through privately owned blocks of land. The third day was a cultural connection day for iwi and hapu to discuss the plans and produce a preliminary working document that captures the sites visited. Refer Attachment A.
11. A presentation on the day will be provided by Sam Hema from Hemasphere Ltd who co-ordinated the site visits and the working document on behalf of tanga whenua representatives. The intent is that this is the main agenda item for this meeting.
12. The working document provides a summary of activities to date, noting that further site activities are planned. The report has been prepared to help and enable decisions to be made around prioritising the chosen sites. At this point, three recommendations from the working document have been highlighted. These will be discussed at the meeting as part of the presentation.
13. Dr. Kepa Morgan has been progressing with the Mauri Model Application, focusing on inputs into the Mauri Model and in particular the cultural indicators. An update on progression will be provided at the next planned WKAG meeting on 5 June 2024.
14. For clarity, the format of this report includes the same information as the previous published report of the last WKAG meeting, held in November 2023.
15. A presentation on the day will be provided by the report author on the proposed budgets for each of key tasks contained within this report. The intention will be to explain the makeup of these budgets, confirming that a budget of \$500k has been submitted as part of Council's Long Term Plan (LTP).

BACKGROUND

16. The rationale of this report is to frame up the six cultural recognition initiatives for Council to provide advice on costings and potential budget options for membership of the KWAG to discuss. Each initiative has also been initial accessed for readiness and execution.
17. The initiatives are as follows:

- Mauri Model Application	Immediate
- Rest Area Restoration (Waiāri Bridge)	Business case
- Tohu Maori - Storytelling cultural interpretation options	Business case
- River Access Points	Business case
- Regeneration Programmes	Immediate
- Education and Employment Pathways	Immediate

MAURI MODEL APPLICATION

18. **Brief:** Design an Iwi Monitoring Programme that implements the Mauri Model in an ongoing manner to be implemented as soon as possible.
Aim: To develop the Iwi Monitoring Programme including key aspects and costs and secure ongoing funding from suitable sources.

Objective: To create a suite of tools that act as a mechanism for accountability of Council's consent conditions and useful to mitigate.

19. The Mauri Model developed by Dr. Kepa Morgan acts as an expression that supports a Te Ao Māori perspective covering environmental, cultural, educational, social, governance and economic areas that impact our taonga te Waiāri. An Iwi Monitoring Programme includes this model and involves tangata whenua to exercise their kaitiakitanga and lead the monitoring of the Waiāri. This has been the desire from the outset. Bay of Plenty Regional Council will work with iwi to deliver on this aspiration as well as Local Government partners.
20. Iwi Monitoring Programme includes:
 - Mauri-o-meter - continued use of the Mauri Model developed by Maioro Mahi Professionals – Dr. Kēpa Morgan.
 - Management Programme co-developed by Council and iwi to include activities, responsibilities, inspection and monitoring schedule and reporting.
 - Tangata whenua monitors appointed that meet Mauri Model objectives.
 - Education - Matauranga Maori opportunities provided by iwi to include in the Iwi Monitoring Management Programme.
21. The key tasks are:

Key Task	Lead Owner	Cost ESTIMATE	Budget Plan OPEX / CAPEX / LTP	Status
1. Appoint two monitors & complete terms and conditions with Iwi.	BOPRC / iwi	\$		First meeting Sept 2023
2. BOPRC & iwi co-write a management plan on the expectations of these roles.	BOPRC / iwi	\$10,000		Underway
3. Complete outstanding actions from previous scope for Mauri Model delivery pre site opening.	TCC	N/A	N/A	Completed

REST AREA RESTORATION (WAIĀRI BRIDGE)

22. Brief: The Rest Area at the Waiāri Bridge needs urgent attention to enable safe access.
23. Aim: Prioritised redevelopment of reserve through WBOPDC Reserve Management Plan or similar.
24. Objective: Address the following matters for immediate action:
 - (a) WBOPDC to meet with tangata whenua to redesign the area to be more welcoming and functional, taking cultural priorities into account.
 - (b) Consider modifying current ditch and stop bank to be more accessible e.g., design a ladder system for entry and exit.
 - (c) Consider improving landscaping, planting, and resources e.g., picnic table/BBQ.
 - (d) Install measurement indicators onto bridge pylons to enable transparency on river levels.
25. Tangata whenua want to maintain their cultural practices and recreational activities without any impedance or hinderance from unsafe structures, land usage and awa access issues

created by Councils. The area once was a business hub for Ngāti Tuheke people with the production of a flax milling plant exporting to international markets and providing a way of life for our people.

26. In the past whānau camped along the river in various spots and lived on the river bringing their families up providing nohoanga for the hapū. The ability to catch tuna (eels) bring back the ari, catch koura and harvest rongoa as well as swimming and bombing as a way of life is important for tangata whenua.
27. Rest Area Suite of Enhancements include:
- (a) A safe walkway / cycleway bridge built across the Waiāri awa alongside the existing bridge, connecting the marae to the area.
 - (b) A platform for water activities including bombing, swimming, swing etc.
 - (c) Safer wider paths to get across the esplanade.
 - (d) An information board that provides historic significant information by Ngāti Tuheke.
 - (e) An appropriate amount of pontoon toilets, bins.
 - (f) An inviting and inspiring food area with recreational activities provided including, BBQ tables, BBQ facilities, seating.
 - (g) An appropriate parking area with enough space for the communities.
 - (h) Mauri Model measurement indicators on the bridge pylons branded by tangata whenua.
 - (i) Tohu Māori in place as a marker for cultural recognition.
28. The key tasks are:

Key Task	Lead Owner	Cost ESTIMATE	Budget Plan OPEX / CAPEX / LTP	Status
1. Action immediately a Co-design plan with iwi for the bridge, rest area, parking, access etc.	WBOPDC / TCC	\$		
2. Create a timeline for delivery.	WBOPDC / TCC	\$		
3. Prepare a cultural event to open the area.	Council / iwi	N/A		

TOHU MAORI – STORYTELLING CULTURAL INTERPRETATION OPTIONS

29. **Brief:** Take a taonga centric approach to storytelling, acknowledgement, and cultural recognition along the Waiāri.
30. **Aim:** To utilise TCC pledged funding (\$200k) on suitable cultural recognition by June 2023 and secure suitable ongoing annual funding from TCC Annual Plan. To confirm WBOPDC and BOPRC contributions. To target suitable external funding.
31. **Objective:** Develop an interpretation plan for the length of the Waiāri that acknowledges the sources through the entire network including tributaries to and then also from the Waiāri, identify suitable points for cultural recognition including type of recognition and agreed storytelling. Align with River Access Points plan outlined below. Price and timetable an implementation plan.
32. **Cultural Value:** Storytelling is our cultural capital that council will be able to embrace to increase the value of investment in the area. Tanga Whenua have pā sites significant to us from the top to the bottom of the awa. We have waahi tapu and caves that are sacred and

embedded in our histories. We have taniwha that live in the awa who guide and protect our cultural heritage. We have members of our whakapapa that have achieved significant things all along the awa. Our true story includes the awa and we are the holders of that knowledge and therefore have the authority to share them as well as protect them.

33. **Interpretation Plan:** This is directed by the sites identified in Theme: *River Access Points*.

34. The key tasks are:

Key Task	Lead Owner	Cost ESTIMATE	Budget Plan OPEX / CAPEX / LTP
1. Commission a history of the awa document to be used for interpretation identified to particular sites. Potential to have an APP that supports the storytelling.	TCC	\$ 20,000	
2. iwi to wananga on what information remains in the hands of iwi and what is open to the public.	iwi / TCC	\$20,000	

RIVER ACCESS POINTS

35. The following sites have been agreed to and identified as not only access points to the awa, but places for Tohu Māori, providing historical and backstories significant to the area that are useful for an interpretation plan.

- (a) Te Rerenga - this site has access that TCC can explore through TECT. There are lakes swamps and puna. Tapuika have exclusive access.
- (b) Te Ranga o Hineata - Shaw Road This site has access on private land. The water is clear and deep in areas and there are puna and stones in the area around Ngaingainui.
- (c) Potakataka - this area has access that TCC can explore. The awa is deep and cold in this area and has minimal erosion. It has easy access and is suitable for Tapuika to have nohoanga activities and spaces for cultural practices.
- (d) Tawakepito - access to this site is suitable behind the marae, however, WBOPDC need to look into landowner permission; potential pathway leading behind the marae to the awa. Perfect opportunity to connect both Makahae and Tawakepito marae to the awa.
- (e) Waiāri Bridge - access available, however, this needs to be improved and made safer. Surrounding lands need to be explored by WBOPDC for the development of a rest area. This area is significant to Ngāti Tuheke and the flax industry they once led.
- (f) Kongutuawa ki te Kaituna - the bottom end of the awa currently has stock banks surrounding and access is more challenging. WBOPDC to explore.

36. The key tasks are:

Key Task	Lead Owner	Cost ESTIMATE	Budget Plan OPEX / CAPEX / LTP
1. Work on a six site project approach for access points and prioritise each one for development and funding.	TCC/ WBOPDC / iwi	\$TBC	

Key Task	Lead Owner	Cost ESTIMATE	Budget Plan OPEX / CAPEX / LTP
2. Explore development plans land access issues and opportunities.	TCC / WBOPDC	\$TBC	
3. Prioritise site development and funding allocation starting with the Waiāri Bridge.	TCC / WBOPDC / iwi	\$TBC	
4. Look into the potential of nohoanga at Potakataka and develop plans.	TCC / WBOPDC / iwi	\$TBC	

REGENERATION PROGRAMMES

37. Cultural Value: The mauri of the river is important to Tangata Whenua. Key to this is having skilled people learning about rongoa, riparian planting and our cultural values. Consideration needs to be given when making appointments to roles on the stance around employing the right people who understand kaitiakitanga (use) and mauri (life force). We want to feel connected and that leads on to other activities and so on. As kaitiaki, it allows our people to be involved and employed with these initiatives to be connected to develop programmes to revive our practices with our people.

Current Regional Programmes List

38. Te Maru o Kaituna - the purpose of Te Maru o Kaituna is the restoration, protection, and enhancement of the environmental, cultural, and spiritual health and well-being of the Kaituna River. WKAG iwi representatives have identified that this programme aligns with the cultural values, priorities, issues & concerns as well as opportunities raised to address potential solutions. (TCC/BOPRC).
39. Te Ohu Parawai - Kaitiaki Advisory Group “Ko mātou te awa, ko te awa ko mātou” - we are the river, and the river is us; currently non-existent, however, WKAG members wish to attend these meetings and find ways for alignment. (WBOPDC).
40. Ngā Awa River Restoration Programme - department of Conservation (DOC) - taking a whole catchment approach, Ngā Awa is working in partnership with others to restore the biodiversity of fourteen rivers from mountains to sea. WKAG iwi representatives have access to local DOC initiatives that support iwi currently through “Jobs for Nature” that focus on restorative approaches. (TCC / iwi / BOPRC).
41. Kaituna River re-diversion and Maketu Estuary enhancement - Bay of Plenty Regional Council. The goal of the Kaituna River Re-diversion and Estuary Enhancement Project is to significantly increase the volume of water (particularly fresh water) flowing from the Kaituna River into Te Awa o Ngātoroirangi/Maketū Estuary by 2018 in a way that maximises the ecological and cultural benefits (particularly wetlands and kaimoana) while limiting the economic cost and adverse environmental effects to acceptable levels. WKAG iwi representatives have access to local BOPRC support to develop a specific Waiāri Programme that aligns itself with this catchment approach. (TCC / iwi / BOPRC).
42. Athenree Waiau Wetland Environmental Programme - Te Whānau a Tauwhao / BOPRC / DOC / NZTA / WBOPDC. This hapū led initiative is part of the outcomes sought by Te Whānau a Tauwhao to bring mana to the hapū and enable them to reach their aspirations in restoration for their whenua & awa. KWAG have an opportunity to develop a similar outcome via a multi-agency approach. (TCC/BOPRC).

43. Wetland Creation Initiative - refer to initiative developed by WBOPDC to develop existing wastewater wetlands into freshwater wetlands. KWAG are in agreement to review and support this, however, the WBOPDC Wastewater Project is disconnected with a catchment approach. (TCC/WBOPDC).
44. The key tasks are:

Key Task	Lead Owner	Cost ESTIMATE	Budget Plan OPEX / CAPEX / LTP
1. Develop a Waiāri Restoration Plan - and create opportunities for alignment with existing plans.	TCC / WBOPDC / iwi	\$ TBC	
2. KWAG formal alignment with Te Maru o Kaituna.	KWAG	\$TBC	
3. Explore TCC Wetland Initiative for development.	TCC / iwi	\$TBC	
4. Work through above initiatives to identify contract opportunities for iwi.	TCC / iwi	\$TBC	

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS - The Following Items are Taken Directly from the Cultural Recognition Development Report

45. Cultural Value - Tangata whenua seek to be working at the Waiāri site alongside Council staff delivering education, cultural aspects and kaitiakitanga. An opportunity exists for tangata whenua to be in partnership with Council in the allocation process through scholarships, procurement, and up-skilling staff. Council staff benefit from this approach as tangata whenua develop their cultural capacity within their teams.
46. Scholarship approach - scholarship to cover tertiary fees, living costs - support the student to have 100% focus on study ideally \$5k annually. Applicants should have an educational programme at the plant with schools, community groups, businesses, and Council. Council to front the financial responsibilities of the scholarship.
47. Education Centre approach - Tangata whenua will work with TCC to co-design the aesthetics of the water treatment plant to reflect cultural inclusion, this includes interior design, cultural interpretation, storyboards, activity zones, access, and entry visuals.
48. At the very least cultural practices like whakatau & manaaki are practiced at the site to continue whakawhanaungatanga values. Council staff, new staff inducted especially those who deal with the Waiāri Project.
49. Community groups should have an opportunity to be educated as well as schools targeted for ongoing opportunities.
50. Council to setup processes that align with expectations.
51. Recruitment approach - Tapuika & Waitaha to lead cultural aspects and expectations into job descriptions and scholarship applications.
- Co-chair of the KWAG forum to sit on recruitment process and scholarship.
 - Council to setup scholarship processes that align with expectations and technical role.
 - Bonding period - scholarship helps to get qualified, applicant must give back for a particular period of time.

52. The key tasks are:

Key Task	Lead Owner	Cost ESTIMATE	Budget Plan OPEX / CAPEX / LTP
1. Complete a scholarship plan ready for applications by 2024	TCC	\$TBC	
2. Schedule Waiāri Watertake Site cultural design and development meetings confirmed by June 2023.	TCC / iwi	\$TBC	
3. Investigate recruitment opportunities at the Waiāri site to align with scholarship opportunity.	TCC	\$TBC	

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

53. The development of this framework requires partners and Councils (BOPRC and WBOPDC) to work collaboratively on options that will allow the delivery of this project across various cost centres; OPEX / CAPEX / LTP etc. These projects will support decision making with legal effects. This includes for example the usage of Council reserve lands and access points.
54. Consultation / Engagement - the development of this framework requires partners and Councils (BOPRC and WBOPDC) to work collaboratively on options that will allow the delivery of this project across various cost centres; OPEX / CAPEX / LTP.

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT



55. Ongoing engagement with a wide range of stakeholders is anticipated. This includes working in collaboration with landowners, tangata whenua partners and Councils (BOPRC and WBOPDC).
56. Monthly WKAG IWI REP HUI are essential in the delivery of the cultural recognition project. They act as an accountability tool for Council staff.
57. Council teams to programme regular activities to work through each item on the list with tangata whenua.
58. Develop an interpretation plan for the length of the Waiāri that acknowledges the wider Cultural significance of the area.

NEXT STEPS

59. Continuation with the implementation of the Mauri Model Programme and the initiation of an integrated and shared approach with Councils by the next KWAG meeting.
60. TCC & WBOPDC adopt a restoration programme approach to the Waiāri in conjunction with tangata whenua by the next WKAG meeting.
61. TCC & WBOPDC design a scholarship programme in conjunction with tangata whenua and report back to WKAG meeting. (Timing to be confirmed).
62. Scheduled design meeting with iwi representatives and Council staff for the development of a 'Waiāri Site Office Cultural Plan'.
63. Scheduled procurement activities with BOPRC & Iwi representatives on the process of hiring iwi monitors for the Waiāri.
64. Development of an Education Scholarship Programme in conjunction with tangata whenua.

65. Work through Waiāri Bridge priorities and potential business case scenarios.
66. Work through the Tohu Maori & Access Points Initiatives and potential business case scenario.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **KWAG Tangata Whenua Reps Meeting - 14 February 2024 - Attachment - A15574122**  [↓](#)
2. **KWAG Tangata Whenua Reps Meeting - 14 February 2024 - Attachment - A15574151**  [↓](#)



Engagement and Collaboration

"Kua rarangi tahi tātou he whāriki"
Together we weave the mat

KWAG Tangata Whenua Reps Monthly Meeting
Teams Meeting Online
2:00pm - 4.00pm
14/02/24

Attendees:

Raponi Wilson (Tapuika Iwi Authority)
Luke Whare (Te Kapu o Waitaha)
Darlene Dinsdale (Mokopuna o Tia me Hei)
Kelvin Hill (TCC)
Chris Nepia (WBOPDC)
EJ Wentzel (WBOPDC)
Sam Hema (Hemasphere Ltd)

Apologies: Manu Pene (Ngāti Whakaue ki Maketu), Elva Conroy (Contractor)

1. Karakia - SH**2. Apologies/Acknowledgements**

Apologies from Manu and Elva tabled

Acknowledgement of Jo'el who has also moved on and Raponi Wilson officially taken over his role

Acknowledgement of Darlene as KWAG co-chair, and work she has put in across the years.

Acknowledgement of Mokoera has now moved on to the education space

Introduction from Luke Whare who has recently joined to replace Mokoera's role.

3. Cultural Recognition Site Visits - January 2024

Refer to the report provided by Sam Hema.

Feedback from Sam Hema & Raponi Wilson:

Seven sites were visited across two days. The first three sites, Te Rerenga Site 1, Te Rerenga Site 2 and Te Ranga o Hineata were either not accessible at all or not easily accessible. Water could not be seen or heard at Te Rerenga sites as the water beds were dry. It may be due to possible upper catchment management issues, this will need further investigation.

Access at Te Ranga o Hineata site began at the school but was semi-restricted to a certain point. Only four of Raponi's team could continue until water was sighted, where they enjoyed swimming and reconnecting with Waiari. This is a site we want to reconnect whanau with. Building a relationship with the school is key and getting the right infrastructure will need to be implemented for better access. Biodiversity wise, there is naturally regenerated Totara which doesn't occur a lot in our catchment.

The second day of site visits began at Potakataka. Access is from Te Matai Road to the intake. It's not just a singular site, it's a reference to a lot of twirls in the river. It's quite degraded now as there's been a lot of deforestation for different land uses, so there's a lot of erosion in this part of the awa.

Tawakepito site is the closest access point to Makahae and Tawakepito. As far as identifying a traditional swimming site, this is it. Water is deep. The right infrastructure could provide proper access from the Marae.

Waiari Bridge is the most visible part that we can connect to the Waiari. The water is shallow with lots of erosion exacerbated by swimming. There's a lot of recreational value in this site because of the walkway.

The last site visited was Kongutu ki te Kaituna, the most polluted point of the river. Using traditional indicators to measure the health of the river, the team placed a hinaki in the river but caught very few eels. A lot of the earliest trade in the region occurred down at this site, steam boats and flax trading. The heritage of the site and public access provides lots of potential to rekindle cultural recognition. Planting projects to provide shade for this area of the river along the stock-bank would be beneficial. Access wise, this would be a priority site for environmental restoration.

The report highlights a baseline of cultural recognition opportunities across all sites.

These seven site visits occurred over two days. Tangata whenua want a third day to visit these sites and give an extra cultural lens over the cultural recognition opportunities and reconnect with some of these identified areas that have been raised.

The summary section of the report provides recommendations to move forward, however any changes required by KWAG are welcome. Kelvin shared that some of the wording for the recommendations should be more concise to give better direction to get the message across clearly. Sam and Kelvin will review and amend these then distribute to the group for further feedback. Peter shared that it would be valuable to highlight in the report the priority areas for what the best value for money for tangata whenua would be. Sam suggests starting from the bottom of the river where it's more accessible, and working your way up.

Jason Crummer from WBOP Council attended the second day of site visits and shared some feedback and updates by email in response to the report.

Waiari Bridge Area

- I met with our Reserves team recently. They will organise more regular mowing/maintenance of the Waiari Bridge grass banks (side that we were standing on during site visit) and tidy the area up by removing overgrown vegetation.
- We (WBOPDC) need BOPRC consent to plant along the banks to improve stability/fight erosion, but that conversation is pending.
- We will look to erect some posts/piles with a rope "handrail" at the existing slippery steps into the awa. This can be used by people to balance themselves entering/exiting the awa. Although it's a quick fix, it is simple to achieve and believe it'll be beneficial. We'll just have to monitor it and we'll be keen for public feedback once it's established. I don't have an ETA for this, but the Reserves & Facilities Manager (Peter Watson) followed up with me this week about it, so it's certainly on their work programme.
- We talked about placing a picnic table on the upper portion of the banks
- We talked about methods to clear/improve carparking in the area. This will require a lot more work and future conversations with the adjacent private landowner who needs clear access to his property at all times (can't be blocked by parked cars). One improvement was to utilise the grass area parallel with the main road (vehicles parking nose-first up the slope).

Drone captures

Had a very quick catch up with James from GIS who advised me that he and his team have flown some of the areas to date and will continue progressing work for all identified sites.

General actions from the report

Let me know where you need Council to get involved and I'll do my best to make it happen. I realise this is just talk right now (I haven't actually achieved much), but this is such a great project to be part of and will advocate for the aspirations of KWAG, iwi reps and all associated partners.

James from WBOP Council, who attended both days of site visits, has since returned to fly drones across some of the sites and will provide further updates on the identified sites in due course.

4. Proposal from TIA - Raponi Wilson

Under the cultural recognition project, we have identified multiple community accessible sites that will need to have riparian planting and habitat restoration but also recreational areas and access for reconnection of people with the natural environment. This would also include sustainable cultural take access for kai and there is an opportunity to educate river users of the significance of the river and surrounding environments through information boards, recognition pou and educational trips.

Some of the potential sites are:

- Tawakepito Marae swimming and recreational access site.
- Waiari Bridge Site.
- Tect Park Te Rerenga access site and walking track.
- Waiari Kōngutu Awa access

4. Updates from TCC & WBOPDC

Summary from Kelvin Hill:

The hearings for the LTP have been ongoing. Had a good discussion with the commissioners around funding of this. We've put funding in the LTP to spend in the first two years. It's a big process because there are other competing environments but we're comfortable it will go through without issue. We also still have funding from existing projects that we can support to get going straight away.

Summary from Chris Nepia:

Like TCC, we've got money in the proposed LTP for work to be done in the Waiari, specifically around the bridge. We will keep advocating to keep the funds in there to support the work being done.

In regards to the updates shared by Jason, we've talked about getting a concept report done around the area to give more clarity around what that may look like, how much it might cost to fund and how to utilise the funds. I'm prepared to financially support the development of a concept report if it's something the group is interested in progressing with.

ALL - Agree

5. General business

None

6. Karakia - LW (Waitaha)

ACTIONS by next meeting

1. RW to send proposal (inserted) back to the group regarding funding
2. KH & SH to meet and review draft report and scope of works for 2024
3. CN & SH to meet regarding concept report for the Waiari
4. KH & SH to prepare final report for KWAG Agenda meeting in two weeks
5. SH follow up with organising a cultural site visit for tangata whenua
6. SH follow up with meeting venues for 2024

Sam Hema - Minute Taker
Consultant/Director
Hemasphere Ltd





Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group

CULTURAL RECOGNITION

SITE VISIT JANUARY 2024

PRELIMINARY REPORT

By Hemasphere Ltd
Contributors: Tapuika Iwi Authority

Purpose: An initiative lead by tangata whenua to block out 3 Days dedicated to include technical assessments (2 Days) and cultural connection (1 Day) for iwi and hapū.

Brief: Identify potential areas for river access and develop suitable plans to enable safe and functional access.

Aim: To secure support from corresponding landowners to develop each access point





River Access Points

Objective:

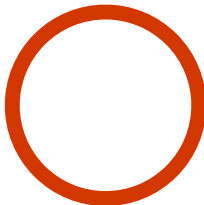
- (a) Identify points of significance for tangata whenua as priority areas – this may include wahi as identified in the interview notes, but also natural areas of priority associated with activities or deities eg the taniwha identified
- (b) Identify landholdings of each entity that may enable this work stream to materialize – that may include landholdings but also the public river margins that may be suitable for development into reserves or other mechanisms
- (c) Co-design development plans that enable access for cultural activities, kayaking and other forms of connection, platforms to support safe egress, possibly a bridge away from the main road to enable crossing but also interaction eg swimming
- (d) Enable other forms of interaction eg summer camping areas with associated assets

Assessment Criteria

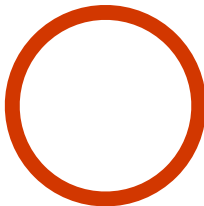
Access // Recreational // Environmental // Monitoring & Cultural Recognition options

This will include - Site Name // Location Details // Land block details // Short description // Visibility // Size // Environmental constraints // Known sites of significance // Access points // Water monitoring details // Cultural Assessment details including record of resource consents active & historical.

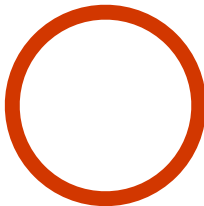
Sites of Significance



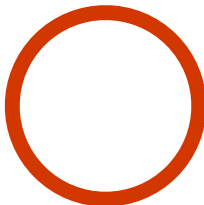
Te Rerenga - This site has access that TCC can explore through TECT. There are lakes swamps and puna there. Tapuika have exclusive access. Te Rerenga 2



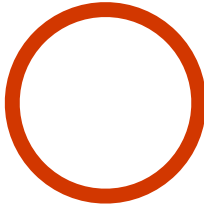
Te Ranga o Hineata - Shaw Rd This site has access on private land. The water is clear and deep in areas and there are puna and stones there in the area around Ngaingainui.



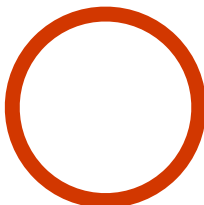
Potakataka - This area has access that TCC can explore. The awa is deep and cold in this area that has minimal erosion. It has easy access and is suitable for Tapuika to have nohoanga activities and spaces for cultural practices.



Tawakepito - Access to this site is suitable behind the marae however WBOPDC need to look into land owner permission - potential pathway leading behind the marae to the awa. Perfect opportunity to connect



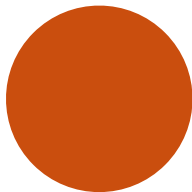
Waiari Bridge - Access available however this needs to be improved and made safer. Surrounding lands need to be explored by WBOPDC for the development of a rest area. This area is significant to



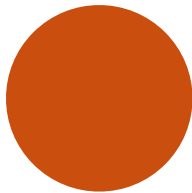
Kongutuawa ki te Kaituna - The bottom end of the awa currently has stock banks surrounding and access more challenging. WBOPDC to explore.



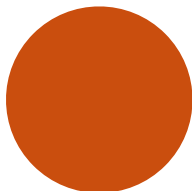
Added Sites of Significance



Te Rerenga 2 - Access from Shaw Road required

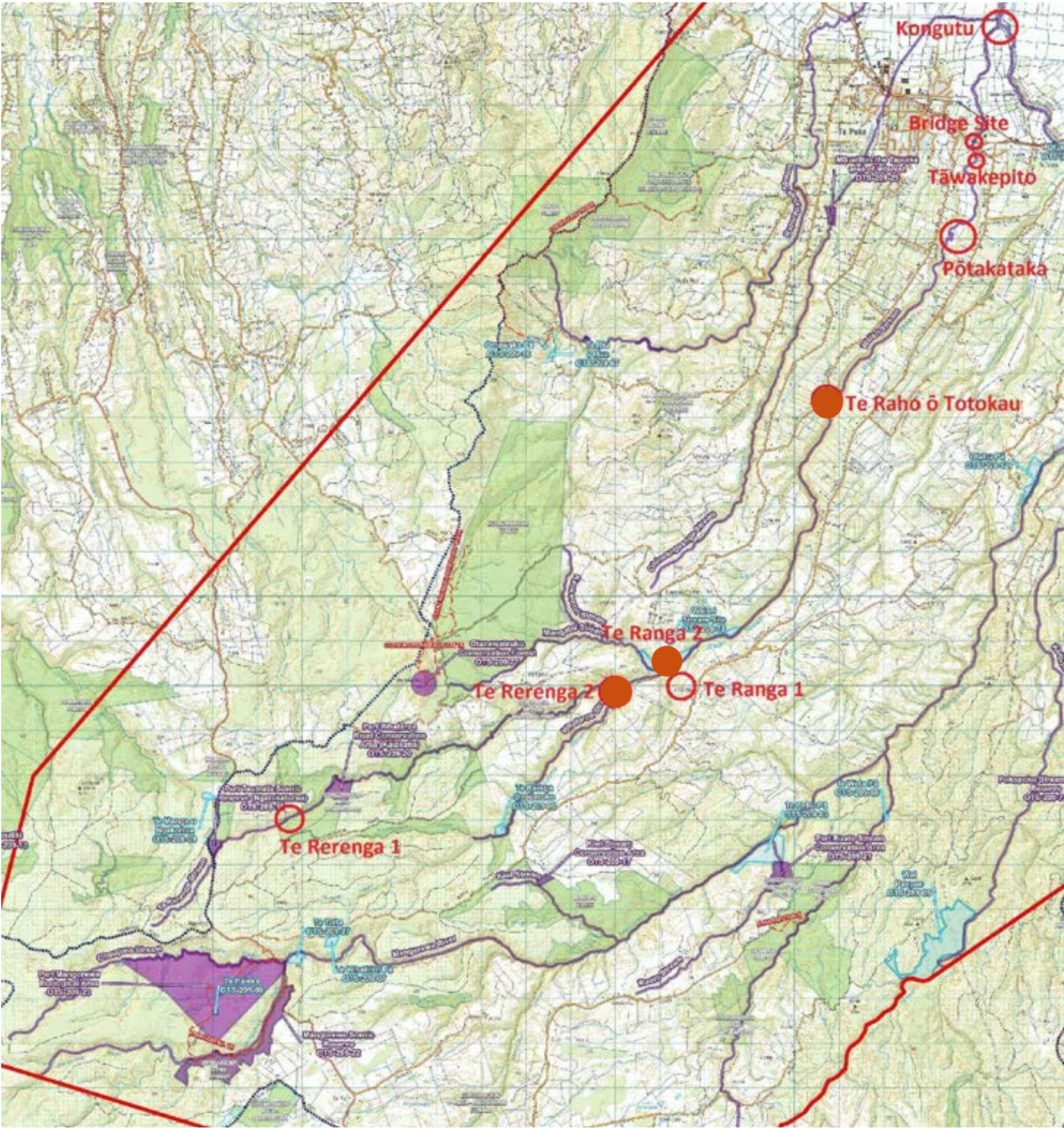


Te Ranga 2 - Access from No2 Road required



Te Raho o Totokau - Access from No2 Road required

**Updated sites have been added to the list as per the significance to Iwi*



ATTENDEES DAY 1 & 2

Attendees Day 1 & 2		
NAME	ORGANISATION	ROLE
RAPONI WILSON	TAPUIKA IWI AUTHORITY	SITE VISIT LEAD AND SITE IDENTIFICATION - CULTURAL LEAD
X 6 STAFF MEMBERS	TAPUIKA IWI AUTHORITY	MONITORS, ASSESSORS
JO'EL KOMENE	TAPUIKA IWI AUTHORITY	CULTURAL LEAD - TIKANGA
X 2 TAMARIKI	NGĀTI TUHEKE	NGĀ URI O TAPUIKA
WĀTANA WILLIAMS	TE KAPU O WAITAHA	REPRESENTATIVE
DEAN FLAVELL + MAGGIE FLAVELL	TE MARU O KAITUNA	CHAIRMAN CULTURAL LEAD
ELVA CONROY Day two	TE MARU O KAITUNA	CONSULTANT / CONTRACTOR
VANCE SKUDDER Day Two	TAPUIKA IWI AUTHORITY	BOARD MEMBER
JASON CRUMMER Day Two	WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT COUNCIL	SENIOR RECREATION PLANNER
JAMES CHAPLIN	WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT COUNCIL	DRONE OPERATOR
SAM HEMA	HEMASPHERE LTD	CONSULTANT / CONTRACTOR
X 1 STAFF MEMBER	HEMASPHERE LTD	DOCUMENT & CAPTURE





1. Te Rerenga (Site 1)

Address: TECT Park, Whataroa Road, Ngawaro 3188

Land Parcel Details: Part Section 26 Block XV
Otanewainuku SD

Assessor: TIA Environment Manager & Team

Capture: Hemasphere Ltd

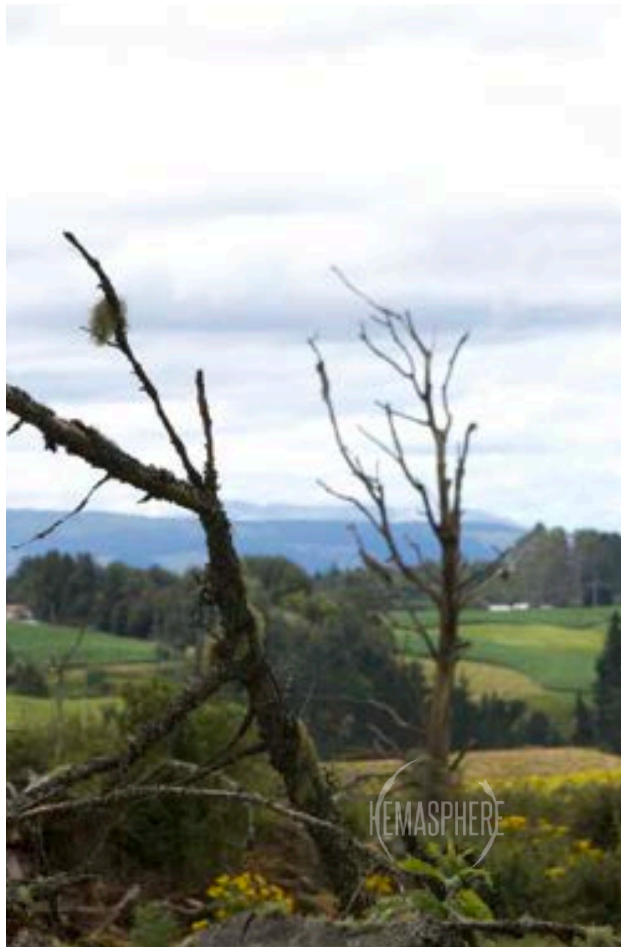


Assessment & Opportunities	
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulty: Access to the Te Rerenga isn't easily possible from the existing track network, we did not manage to access the Te Rerenga directly.
Recreational	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Although access to the Te Rerenga was not achieved, there is huge cultural and recreational potential in the existing track network established by the TECT Park.• Walks and camping.
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mostly regenerated Rewarewa, and a mix of native and pest plants.• Lots of pest sign including possums, and ungulate damage.• Unhealthy understory.• Dried riverbed no life.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pest monitoring and control required.• Water testing• Catchment management investigation needed.• Observational Monitoring Plots.
Cultural and Historical significance	<p>The area was traditionally known as Te Waitakahī, Taumata, Ngāwaro.</p>
Cultural Recognition Options	Option 1 - Mahi whakairo, carved pou to commemorate an event or tupuna
	Option 2 - Kohatu to signify points along the journey and key narratives on signboards
	Option 3 - Signage upgrade to incorporate cultural designs along walkways and camping sites
	Option 4 - Cultural access ways and infrastructure to areas leading to the awa
	Option 5 - Procurement opportunities for iwi in maintenance, monitoring, commercial interests and education programmes



Aerial image of Te Rerenga (Site 1)

Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access for Te Rerenga 1 is through TECT Park using the Te Rerenga Tunnel Loop Track. To create a clear guided track to minimise confusion if we cut and mark the area out for our whanau it will give a better understanding on where they are needing to go. There is potential to establish a new track or redirect the current track for easier access. As we are wanting our whanau to reconnect with the awa thinking about our kaumatua, we want to make the area safer as parts of the track are difficult to access due to the terrain being slippery or steps being uneven or steep.• It was great to reconnect with these sites and hear the historic values. Being able to listen all history that has occurred in the area creating part of our culture was amazing. Looking around and seeing the different stages of regenerating rakau it shows signs of new life forming from the older rakau that have been in place well over 20 years. Not being able to see any water flowing created a gloom over the day and you could feel the wairua shift in everyone at attended. This raised questions as to where the water is going, why it isn't flowing and what is blocking the flow. At different points on the track, it is clear to see there is a pinch higher up stream as there is no free-flowing water through Te Rerenga Stream while there are areas pooling it doesn't flow through - Raponi Wilson - TIA Pou Taiao - Environmental Manager



2. Te Rerenga (Site 2)

Address: TECT Park, Whataroa Road,
Ngawaro 3188 (through private land)

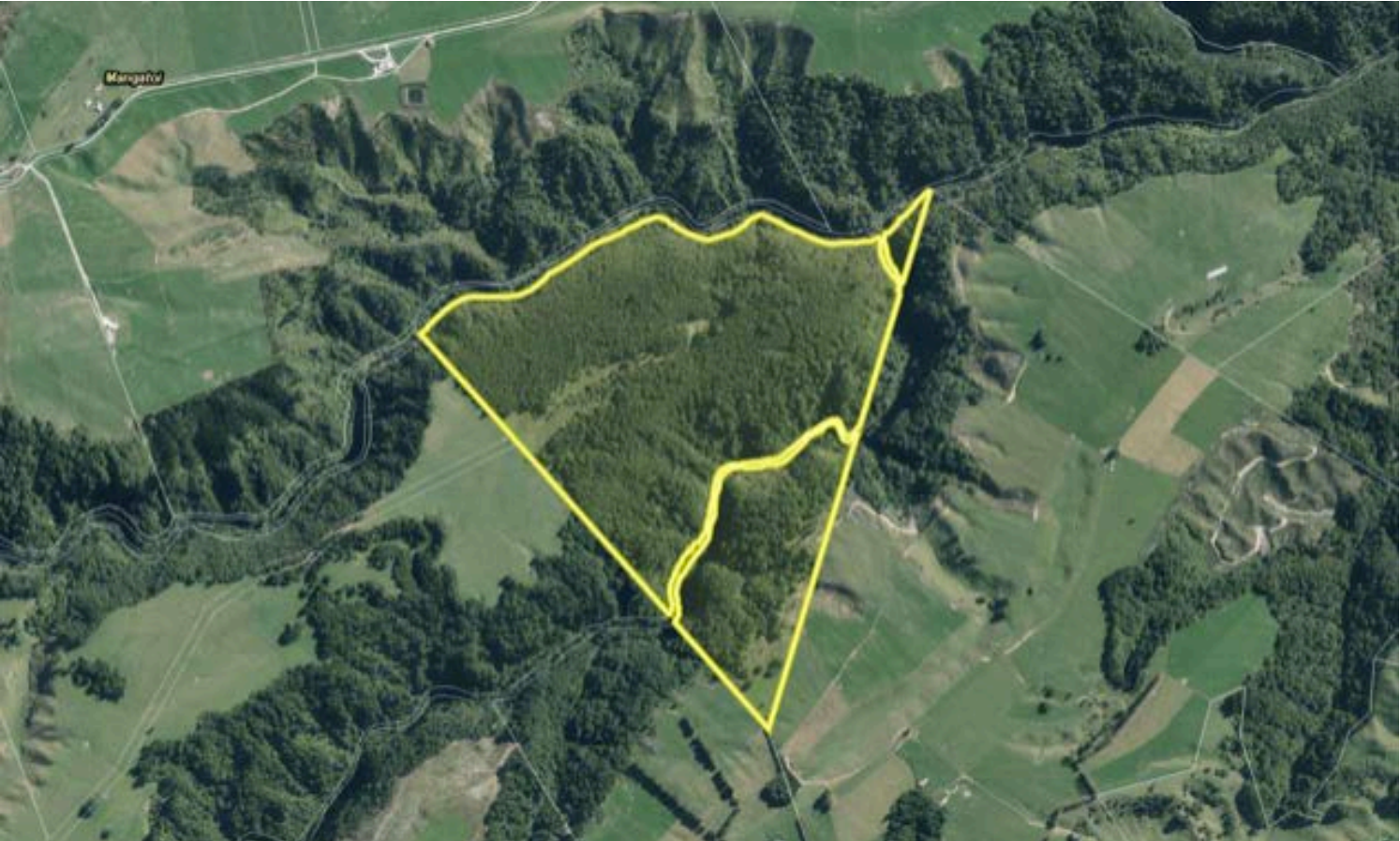
Land Parcel Details: Ngatipahiko B2B Block

Assessor: TIA Environment Manager & Team

Capture: Hemasphere Ltd



Assessment & Opportunities	
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulty: Access is difficult due to the terrain and being landlocked from private blocks.
Recreational	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not a lot of recreational potential due to the difficult and unsafe terrain.
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mostly regenerated Rewarewa, and a mix of native and pest plants.• Lots of pest sign including possums, and ungulate damage.• Dried riverbed no life.•
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pest monitoring and control required.• Water testing• Catchment management investigation needed.• Observational Monitoring Plots.
Cultural and Historical significance	<p>The area was traditionally known as Heruiwi, a significant pā site that overlooked the convergence of the Te Rerenga and the Whataroa rivers to create the Waiari.</p>
Cultural Recognition Options	Option 1 - Mahi whakairo, carved pou to commemorate an event or tupuna
	Option 2 - Kohatu to signify points along the journey and key narratives on signboards
	Option 3 - Signage upgrade to incorporate cultural designs along walkways and camping sites
	Option 4 - Procurement opportunities for iwi in maintenance, monitoring, commercial interests and education programmes



Aerial image of Te Rerenga (Site 2)

Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Due to access restrictions, we were not able to reach the point we intended to go to due to different landowners. We managed to make it past one locked gate with the help of Steve who owns Huntaway Horse treks and is the first landowner.• By meeting Steve and talking with him this is where we were able to gain access to the Huntaway Horse trek property, this is where we found out there is more than one landowner that we will need to speak with to gain access to the point we are wanting to reach. Although we did get hit a wall Steve allowed our kaimahi access through his property to head down towards the awa.• The terrain heading down to the awa is not suitable for the average person. It was identified as a difficult, steep and rocky site. Although this was not the original area, we wanted to view this was a starting point. If we cannot gain access through both landowners, we have started a relationship with Steve and hope to continue this relationship. If this is going to be used as an entrance point to the site, there will need to be clear tracks cut with ropes being installed to create a safer hike up and down the ridge line.• Once the boys had reached the bottom of the ridge to where the awa should be flowing through they identified it to be bone dry. The old riverbeds are dried out and dusty which shows there have been no signs of flowing water through there in years.• Seeing how dry the awa is created a lot of sadness in the team and they felt defeated after hearing all the different korero around this stream thriving in the past to what it is now.



3. Te Ranga ō Hineata

Address: Te Ranga School 1492 Te Matai Road, Te Ranga 3188

Land Parcel Details: Lot 1 DPS 75831

Assessor: TIA Environment Manager & Team

Capture: Hemasphere Ltd



Assessment & Opportunities	
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulty: Access is difficult due to the steep terrain and being landlocked from private blocks, Access for monitoring purposes a priority, some access agreements with land owners and light infrastructure required to make it safe.
Recreational	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not a lot of recreational potential due to the difficult and unsafe terrain.
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farmland with small 20 – 50 meter riparian buffer of native mostly naturally regenerated, includes a lot of Tōtara and Rewarewa.• Lots of pest sign including possums, and ungulate damage.• Healthy river below.•
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water species monitoring including Koura, tuna and water invertebrates.• Water testing• Observational Monitoring Plots.• Steady source of water from the Mangatoi tributary, water appears very clean.
Cultural and Historical significance	<p>Te Ranga ō Hineata is an old garden and settlement that was occupied by predominantly Tapuika and Waitaha. Potential for a recognition project to occur with the nearby school.</p>
Cultural Recognition Options	Option 1 - Mahi whakairo, carved pou to commemorate an event or tupuna
	Option 2 - Kohatu to signify points along the journey and key narratives on signboards
	Option 3 - Signage upgrade to incorporate cultural designs along walkways and camping sites
	Option 4 - Procurement opportunities for iwi in maintenance, monitoring, commercial interests and education programmes



Aerial image of Te Ranga ō Hineata Site

Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To access the entrance for this site we are needing to go through private property. Peter Marks is the landowner that we contact to gain access through his land. Driving along fence boundary of the farm it will take you down to a small opening that is used to get to the cliff face. Once reaching the entrance the track is not formed so it is an uneven and slippery surface gradually getting steeper the more you go towards the cliff face.• After making it to the bottom and seeing the water flowing through in abundance you could feel the wairua shift. There was a strong sense of reconnection after seeing how dry Te Rerenga was then heading down the road to Te Ranga ō Hineata and seeing it thriving.• It was identified the track down is steep and slippery but with clear marking, cutting and a few small infrastructure items put in place it will help getting to the bottom of the cliff. This site will be a great monitoring spot however with access through private property and how the terrain is formed it is not ideal for recreational purposes.



4. Pōtakataka

Address: Te Matai Road Access way, Te Puke

Land Parcel Details: Multiple owners

Assessor: TIA Environment Manager & Team

Capture: Hemasphere Ltd



Assessment & Opportunities	
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulty: Safe access quite easy, low land farming and orchard land, some permission agreements required with landowners.
Recreational	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Great potential for swimming spots.• Easy safe access.
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low lying farms and orchards.• Lots of weeds on the river margin.• Lots of erosion.• Shallow wide river points.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water species monitoring including Koura, tuna and water invertebrates.• Water testing.• Observational Monitoring Plots.• Very full water appears clean, slightly murky, needs monitoring.
Cultural and Historical significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Site known for the multiple swirling waters and river bends.• Lots of bends that harbour Kai such as water cress and tuna.• Sits below multiple pā sites.
Cultural Recognition Options	Option 1 - Mahi whakairo, carved pou to commemorate an event or tupuna
	Option 2 - Kohatu to signify points along the journey and key narratives on signboards
	Option 3 - Signage upgrade to incorporate cultural designs along walkways and camping sites
	Option 4 - Procurement opportunities for iwi in maintenance, monitoring, commercial interests and education programmes



Aerial image of Pōtakataka Site

Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This area is partially accessible. We were able to reach the awa using the paper road owned by TCC however, to get to the area we were wanting to assess crosses over a kiwifruit orchard. We could not contact the owner to gain access, so we stayed upstream from the site. There is potential there to create a relationship with the landowner, so we can cross through to get to the area we are wanting to.• Although we didn't make it to the point we were wanting to go, looking over the site we were able to identify a few different things that will need to be done. Pest plant control will need to happen as it is very noticeable, there are multiple different weeds present along the margins in full force. If we are looking into removing the pest plant species, we will need to do riparian planting as it was very noticeable the pest species are what is holding the banks together.• The site itself is accessible and we don't necessarily need to cut tracks. By using paddle-boards, we can use the awa to get to the site as an option but, if we build a relationship with the orchard owner this site will be even easier to access.• There is a lot of history that has occurred along the awa that can be shared with whanau and this area we are can easily monitor the site for water quality, species, flora and fauna. This site can also be used for recreational purposes, there are parts of the awa that can cater to all being shallower in some areas and deeper in others.	



5. Tāwakepito

Address: Te Matai Road Private Owner access

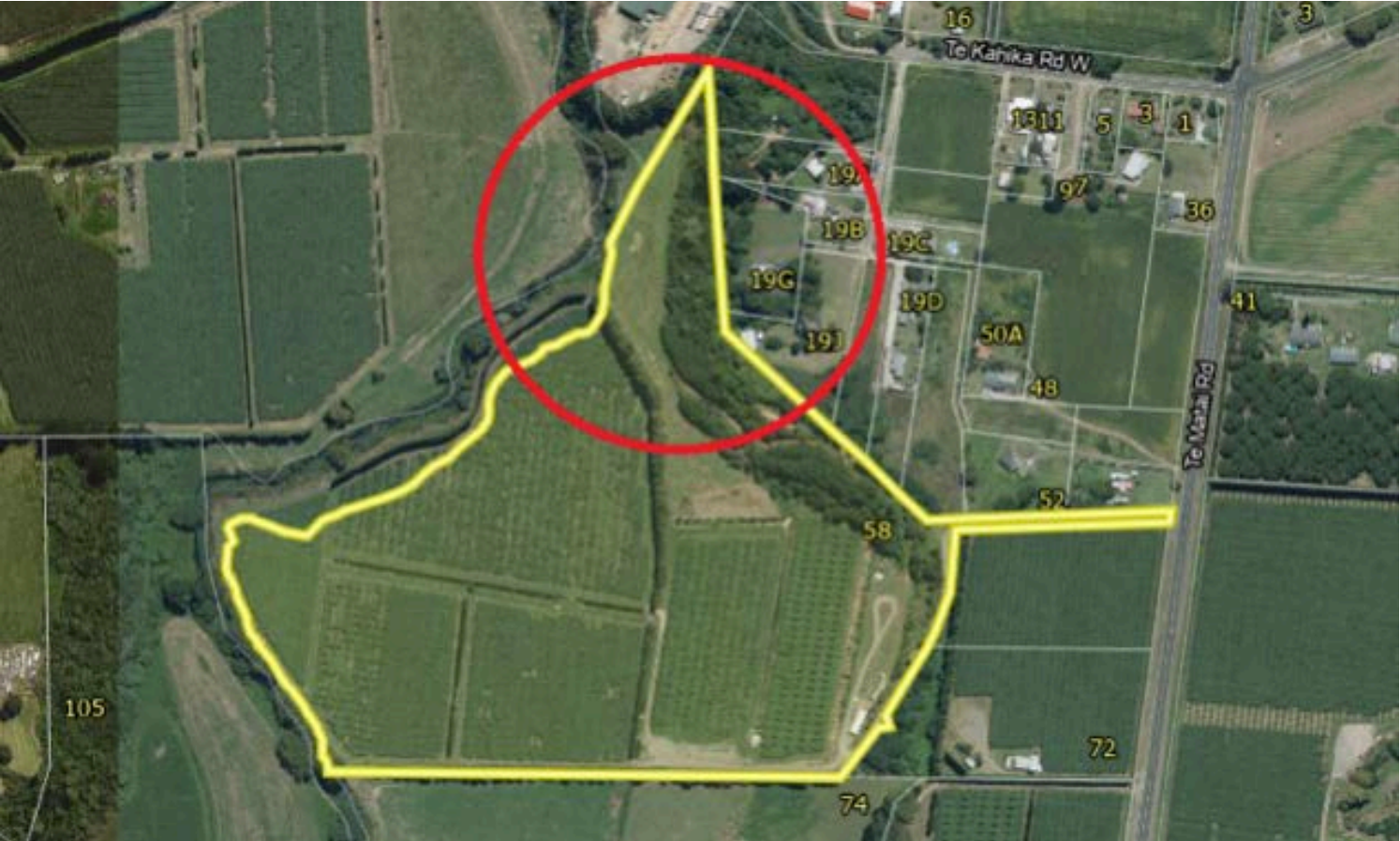
Land Parcel Details: Lot 7 DP 373042

Assessor: TIA Environment Manager & Team

Capture: Hemasphere Ltd



Assessment & Opportunities	
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Difficulty: Safe access quite easy, low land farming and orchard land, some permission agreements required with landowners. Feasible tracks with some light infrastructure securing traditional access for both Tawakepito and Makahae Marae.
Recreational	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Potential swimming site.Camping site and kai site.
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Low lying farms and orchards.Lots of weeds on the river margin.Cattle grazing the stop bank.Deep narrow point on the river.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Water species monitoring including Koura, tuna and water invertebrates.Water testing.Observational Monitoring Plots.
Cultural and Historical significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A traditional access point for Te Kahika pāLots of historical significance of this site.
Cultural Recognition Options	<div>Option 1 - Mahi whakairo, carved pou to commemorate an event or tupuna</div> <div>Option 2 - Kohatu to signify points along the journey and key narratives on signboards</div> <div>Option 3 - Signage upgrade to incorporate cultural designs along walkways and camping sites</div> <div>Option 4 - Procurement opportunities for iwi in maintenance, monitoring, commercial interests and education programmes</div>



Aerial image of Tāwakepito Site

Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Accessing this area can be completed two ways. The first way is through private land, this is an active kiwifruit orchard that creates road access being available to drive down to the awa. The second way to access the awa is by heading down the hill behind Tāwakepito Marae, although this is a way to access the awa there is no clear track.After assessing the site, we can identify different ways we can cut and mark out a clear track as a safer way to get to the awa. If we start at the bottom of the hillside, we will be able to safely cut and mark clearly a track compared to going over the top as there is uneven surface and pest plants growing over. With this being in mind we are wanting to create this track easily accessible and walkable for all ages.If we build a strong relationship with the landowner, we may be able to collaborate to help with riparian planting and the removal of pest plants as they are very noticeable along the banks. There is the potential to create an opportunity for our whanau to reconnect with the awa while removing the pest plants or helping to plant out the riparian margin.This area is a perfect spot for recreational purposes, it is a safer place for tamariki to swim without having to cross a busy road. This site has the potential to have a jumping platform installed for bombing, diving, launching waka, teaching our tamariki how to swim against the current there is so much potential for this area.This is another area that has a lot of history as this is an area our tupuna would use daily being so close to the marae.	



6. Waiari Bridge

Address: The Pacific Highway, Te Puke

Land Parcel Details: N/A

Assessor: TIA Environment Manager & Team

Capture: Hemasphere Ltd

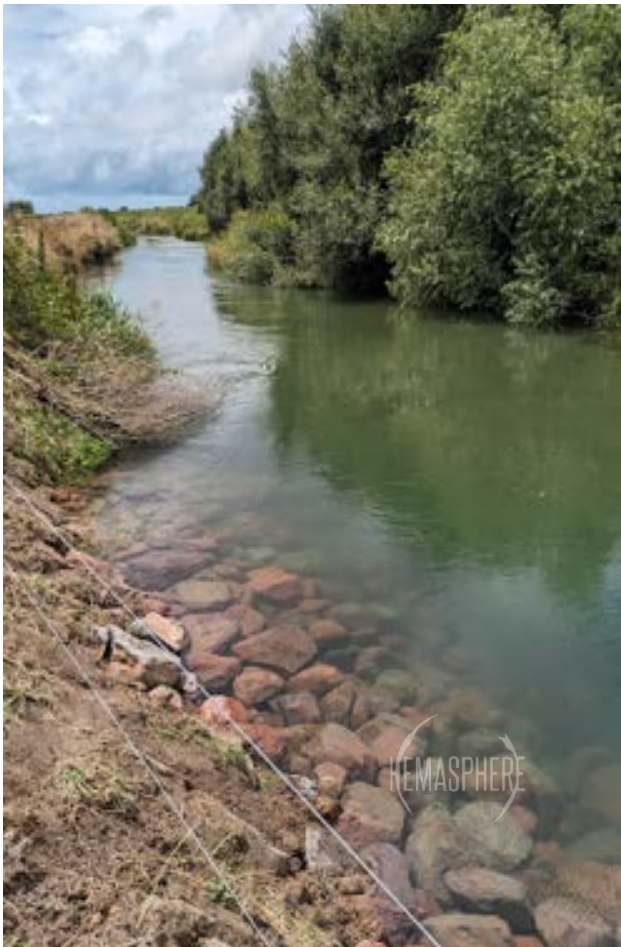


Assessment & Opportunities	
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Access is easy via the Te Ara Kahikatea track or via roadside, however quite dangerous especially for kids given the proximity to the highway.
Recreational	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Current well used swimming site can be dangerous due to the road.Camping site and kai site.
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lots of public walkers on nearby track.Stormwater discharge.River edge is quite eroded due to swimming and lack of riparian vegetation.River is very shallow at this point.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Water species monitoring including Koura, tuna and water invertebrates.Water testing.Observational Monitoring Plots.Water depth and monitoring of stormwater discharge.
Cultural and Historical significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Is near multiple historically significant sites including, urupa, a Taniwha lair and an old mill.
Cultural Recognition Options	Option 1 - Mahi whakairo, carved pou to commemorate an event or tupuna
	Option 2 - Kohatu to signify points along the journey and key narratives on signboards
	Option 3 - Signage upgrade to incorporate cultural designs along walkways and camping sites
	Option 4 - Procurement opportunities for iwi in maintenance, monitoring, commercial interests and education programmes



Aerial image of Waiari Bridge Site

Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">As this has been an active swimming spot for years this site it is easily accessible. If you are wanting to access this safely there is a small area where you can park near the bridge, another area for parking is on Landscape Road opposite the squash club using the Kahikatea walking track that is open to public.While visiting the site it was clear to see species present floating around in the pools near the edge of the banks. We didn't identify the area to be overly populated with pest plants compared to upstream, but it could do with some riparian planting to maintain the upkeep of the banks. This is a site where we will be able to monitor water quality, species, flora and fauna.This area holds a lot of memories for whanau as there have been generations on generations swimming in this area. Being close to the Makahae marae this is an active swimming hole for tamariki to go and swim, however we have noticed it is very unsafe to access as you are needing to cross the road which is one of the busiest roads in Te Puke.We have identified a couple of ways we can make this site safer and easily accessible from the marae by building a light infrastructure underneath the bridge so tamariki can cross under safely, but we can incorporate this into being a jumping platform for recreational use.



7. Kongutu ki te Kaituna

Address: Te Puke Waste Water Treatment Plant - Gordon Street, Te Puke 3119

Land Parcel Details: N/A

Assessor: TIA Environment Manager & Team

Capture: Hemasphere Ltd



Assessment & Opportunities	
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulty: Access is easy via the wastewater treatment plant, although it is quite a walk it can be driven.
Recreational	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swimming site
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All farmlands, river heavily stop banked.• Wastewater treatment discharge.• No riparian natives but instead lots of weed including Willow.• Pretty poor quality water comparative from the top end, just as a visual observation.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water species monitoring including Koura, tuna and water invertebrates.• Water testing.• Observational Monitoring Plots.• Water depth and monitoring of stormwater discharge.
Cultural and Historical significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lots of stories exist for this site, including it sustaining multiple generations of occupation.• Establishment of Flax trade and was a steam boat trade route.• Unique Island gardening and fishing.
Cultural Recognition Options	Option 1 - Mahi whakairo, carved pou to commemorate an event or tupuna
	Option 2 - Kohatu to signify points along the journey and key narratives on signboards
	Option 3 - Signage upgrade to incorporate cultural designs along walkways and camping sites
	Option 4 - Procurement opportunities for iwi in maintenance, monitoring, commercial interests and education programmes



Aerial image of Kongutu ki te Kaituna Site

Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This area is accessible for an average walker. Accessing this site, you will need to jump a few fences when walking down however, it does connect to the Kahikatea loop track. Once arriving we were able to view different access points where there will be the potential to create relationships with the surrounding landowners so we can use their roads for vehicle access. This is an area where it is more than ideal to monitor for water quality, species, and flora/fauna. Scanning over the area this is where the Waiari meets with Parawhenuamea Stream before heading into Kaituna creating a triangle.• This area could do with some serious riparian planting as it was noticeable there has been stock along the stop bank and this will help towards filtering any runoff before it reaches the awa. With riparian planting this will also help stabilise the banks and create shade over the awa for any species present. This will also help to keep weeds and pest plants at bay.• Recreationally this is an area that will be ideal for swimming, launching of waka, paddle boarding and more. There is potential to build a jumping platform for bombing. Along with this there are different korero around this area and surrounding areas making this site have historic and cultural significance.

Summary

Overall the site visits were both technical and inspirational as the group were able to be apart of preliminary assessments conducted safely and culturally appropriate. Tapuika and Waitaha members were present with the help and expertise provided by Ngāti Tuheke leader and Tapuika Iwi Authority Environmental Manager Raponi Wilson and his team and Ngāti Tuheke leader and Te Maru o Te Kaituna Chairman Dean Flavell.

The report acts as a record that tangata whenua were able to have an opportunity to visit these sites, some for the first time and others a return visit however a more culturally focused visit is planned for the near future. Access to the first four sites proved to be very difficult as the report shows, there is some work to do to open up the doors for access with the help of an iwi and council approach. The last three sites provided good access and the group were able to experience what potential recognition could be like at each of these.

With the preliminary work done Tapuika Iwi Authority noted that further visits are required to eventually have access to the awa at the more difficult sites and to capture findings. Having the ability for tangata whenua to conduct a Cultural Connection site visit is also the next phase. To have iwi gather and meet at these sites, bring visitors and have regular connection with the awa and whenua is the ultimate aspiration. The cultural options outlined in the report are a

baseline only at this stage with more investigative work required.

The report will enable decision makers to prioritise the delivery of the cultural recognition initiatives at each of these sites and prioritise the resourcing of activities, as this was previously not possible without the actual connection and assessment from an access, environmental and cultural lens.

The recommendation from Iwi reps to the Kaitiaki Waiari Advisory Group is as follows:

- 1) Council support the revisit approach and cultural visit by tangata whenua to sites that were not previously accessible and continue with the assessment.**
- 2) A completed report by June 5th 2024 to be presented back to the KWAG to include these additional assessments and cultural information.**
- 3) Resourcing and planning for delivery of cultural recognition at each of these sites to be the topic of priority and discussion at all KWAG meetings in 2024 as a continual commitment to tangata whenua.**

KWAG Iwi & Tangata Whenua Representatives

SCHEDULE DAY 1 & 2

SCHEDULE Day 1 - Tuesday 16th January 2024		
	SITE	DETAIL
8:00 - 8:30 AM	MAKAHAE MARAE	MEET UP - DAILY TOOLBOX (H&S, KARAKIA)
8.30AM - 10.00AM	SITE 1 (First Access) – Te Rerenga Wairua	Meet at TECT Park entrance, and take track walk down to the Te Rerenga Stream for the first access point and complete assessment template. Approx. 45 mins to 1 hour.
10.00AM	Tect Car Park	Morning Tea
10.00AM – 11.30AM	SITE 1 (Second Access) – Te Rerenga Wairua ki Heruiwi	Travel down Whataroa road vehicle, weather and terrain dependant. Scope feasibility for site and river access.
12.30PM – 1.00PM	Tect Car Park	Lunch
1.00PM – 2.30pm	SITE 2 (First Access) – Te Ranga School	Travel down behind Te Ranga School test out river access. Complete Assessments.
3.00pm - 3.30pm	MAKAHAE MARAE	FINISH UP - DEBRIEF (KARAKIA)
SCHEDULE Day 2 -Wednesday 17th January 2024		
	SITE	DETAIL
8:00 - 8:30 AM	MAKAHAE MARAE	MEET UP - DAILY TOOLBOX (H&S, KARAKIA)
8.30AM - 10.00AM	SITE 2 – Pōtakataka	Meet at the Te Matai Access entrance for the Water take site. Complete Assessments.
10.00AM	Tāwakepito	Morning Tea
10.00AM – 11.30AM	SITE 3 – Tawakepito	Drive down the drive was at 58 Te Matai Road. Complete Assessments.
12.30PM – 1.00PM	Tect Car Park	Lunch
1.00PM – 2.30pm	SITE 3 and 4 – Waiari Bridge Site and Kongutu ki te Kaituna	Stop at Waiari Bridge and complete assessments. Then drive to Wastewater Treatment Plant and complete assessments.
3.00pm - 3.30pm	MAKAHAE MARAE	FINISH UP - DEBRIEF (H&S, KARAKIA)

Another One Day site visit (TBC) will be set aside for Iwi and Hapū.

10.3 Waiari - Operational report ending Jan 2024

File Number: A15568672

Author: Peter Bahrs, Manager: Water Services

Authoriser: Wally Potts, Acting General Manager: Infrastructure

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To report on operational activities associated with the Waiāri Water Supply Scheme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

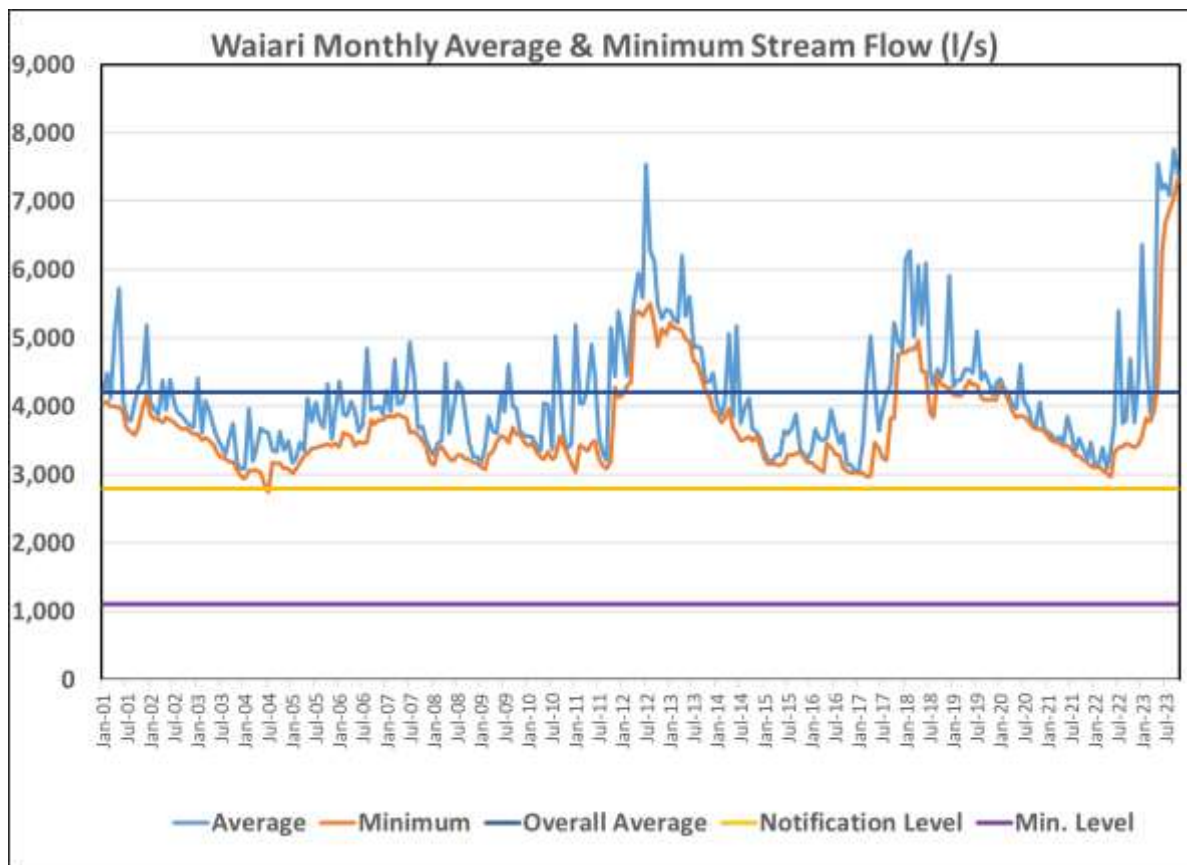
- (a) Receives the report " Waiāri Operational Report".
- (b) Receives comments on the "Waiāri Operational Report".

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

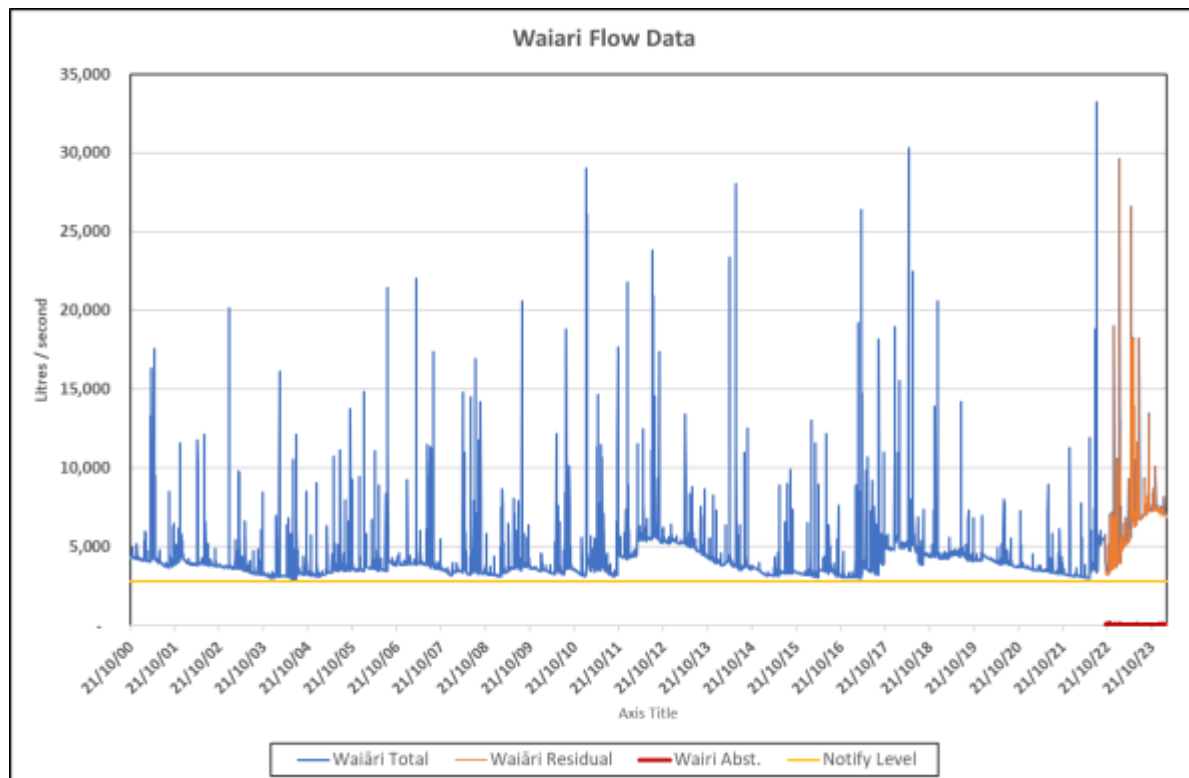
2. Overall, the Waiāri stream flows have remained at a higher flow compared to the longer-term average flows.

WAIĀRI STREAM FLOW DATA

3. The Waiāri stream flow for monthly average and minimum flows from January 2001 to end of January 2024, and is shown in the first graph below. The maximum flows have been omitted to allow better definition of the data.



4. The graph shows that overall, the daily Waiāri flows remain much higher than the longer-term average flows.
5. The January monthly average was about 7,286 litres per second (l/s) compared to the long-term average of about 4,200 l/s. This is about 70% more than the average.
6. The second graph shows monthly average and minimum flows for the Waiāri January 2001 to end January 2024 and includes the amounts abstracted and the stream residual flow.
7. The average abstraction for January 2024 was 66 l/s with a maximum of 130 l/s.



8. Graph showing daily flows for the Waiāri January 2001 to end January 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

11 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS

12 CLOSING KARAKIA