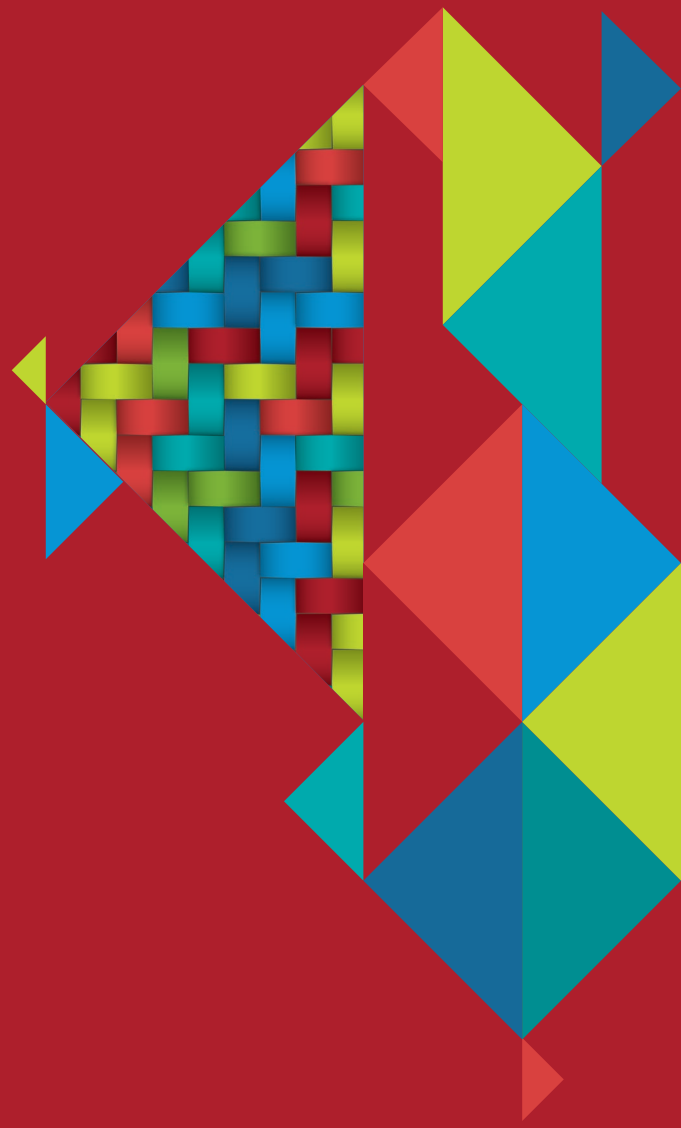
Ahu Ake
Waipā Community Spatial Plan



Draft Ahu Ake Waipā Community Spatial Plan

September 2024

Waipā
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our story and the look and feel of Ahu Ake, Waipā Community Spatial Plan has been inspired by Aotearoa's harakeke (flax) plant – a native plant with a long history of being both beautiful and practical.



Foreword

As Mayor of the Waipā District, it is my privilege to present the draft Ahu Ake - Waipā Community Spatial Plan. This plan is a testament to the collective vision and dedication of Mana Whenua, Iwi, key stakeholders and our community. Together, we have crafted a blueprint that reflects our aspirations and sets a clear path for our district's future.

Ahu Ake is more than just a plan; it is a commitment to our people, our environment, and our heritage. It represents our shared values and our vision to build a future that is inclusive, sustainable, and vibrant. This plan will guide us as we navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, ensuring that the Waipā District remains a place where we are proud to live, work, and play.

Our journey to this point has included extensive consultation and collaboration. The voices of our community have been instrumental in shaping Ahu Ake, and I am grateful to everyone who contributed their time, insights, and passion. Your input has been invaluable in creating a plan that truly represents the heart and soul of Waipā.

As we move forward, it is important that we continue to work together, creating strong partnerships and maintaining open lines of communication. The success of Ahu Ake depends on our collective efforts and commitment to the vision outlined in this draft Plan.

I am confident that, with the guidance of Ahu Ake, we will achieve great things for Waipā. Let's build a brighter future for all.

Ngā mihi nui,

Susan O'Regan
Mayor of Waipā



Lake Ngā Roto and Mount Pirongia

The name “Ahu Ake”

The name ‘Ahu Ake’ was gifted to the project by Mana Whenua and Iwi.

‘Ahu Ake’ reflects the essence of the Waipā Community Spatial Plan through a Māori lens and its intent with a Māori worldview and the way in which Māori perceive the world.

There are many meanings for ‘Ahu’ and, similarly, for the word ‘Ake’. In the context of our spatial plan, the meaning is:

- **Ahu:** To move, to proceed with a direction and focus or plan in place. To focus and proceed to a direction or place.
- **Ake:** An intensifier of the preceding word.

When both words are combined, ‘Ahu Ake’ captures the intent to proceed, move forward and progress into the future with a plan in place to guide and focus the movement on its aim and goals.

As our community moves forward, we do so with this special name.

Our Story

Our story and the look and feel of Ahu Ake, Waipā Community Spatial Plan has been inspired by Aotearoa’s harakeke (flax) plant – a native plant with a long history of being both beautiful and practical.

Māori have long used the harakeke for a multitude of purposes, including kete (woven baskets). The kete is a design that while being useful also represents a creation of strength, beauty, tradition and future use.

The act of weaving together the strong, often vibrant fibres that can be used by future generations, full of intricate detail, and able to be used in many ways, is how we see Ahu Ake - Waipā Community Spatial Plan. Intricately weaving a future plan for the Waipā District, creating places and spaces where we are proud to work, live and play. The weave creates strength, bringing together the past, present and future.

Its colours represent the different pillars in our district – including our people, our land, our environment, our wellbeing, our water ways. This is our community spatial plan – Ahu Ake.



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Moving Waipā forward with intent:
Ahu Ake, Waipā Community Spatial Plan

Ahu Ake, Waipā Community Spatial Plan, provides the blueprint for how we can achieve Waipā's Vision and Community Outcomes over the next 30+ years.

It is the foundation for Waipā's future planning and helps us prioritise investments in our places, shaping what we want our towns and villages to look and feel like.

Ahu Ake's implementation will deliver positive long-term outcomes for the diverse communities in Waipā. Mana Whenua and Iwi will be partners in this process, ensuring their voices are heard and respected.

Waipā District Council will collaborate with organisations which have established themselves as the existing and future wellbeing experts on the ground, recognising their invaluable knowledge and contributions to a shared vision

Four parts of Ahu Ake set out the vision, opportunities, place priorities, and implementation.

Part A: Vision, outcomes, and key influences: This section outlines Ahu Ake's foundation, guided by the Waipā District Council's Vision and Community Outcomes. It presents the legislative, demographic, and environmental context and other influences that must be considered.

Part B: Key focus areas and strategic opportunities: This section delves into the specific areas that the community has identified as important. It also lays out the approach Waipā District Council intends to pursue to fulfil the community's aspirations and capture the strategic opportunities that have been identified.

Part C: Priorities in place: This section highlights the important priorities identified by the community in each town and village currently experiencing growth.

Part D: Implementation: This section details how Ahu Ake will be brought to life, including the various partners that will be involved in the implementation process. It also outlines how Council plans to track progress over time to ensure success.

Ahu Ake was developed with guiding foundations to ensure its role as a leading strategy for Waipā District Council

In order to achieve success, Ahu Ake's core principles are:

- Be Council-led, but developed through partnership with Mana Whenua and Iwi
- Represents the voice of the Waipā community
- Articulates Council's intent to be an anchor within the community
- Responds to Central Government legislative changes
- Serves as the guiding strategy for Council's investments, providing evidence-based direction for the implementation of other strategies, long-term plans, and activity management plans
- Helps align Council's regulatory, funding, advocacy functions, and the implementation of plans
- Aims to capture opportunities for actions that can be delivered through collaboration with partner agencies and communities

What is Ahu Ake & what is it not?

Ahu Ake – Waipā Community Spatial Plan is:

- An umbrella strategy that links the Council's policy direction, investments and actions with the community's priorities and desired outcomes.
- A live document laying the foundation to inform the infrastructure planning and expenditure for our Waipā community to thrive over the next 30 years + horizon.
- A strategy that will be reviewed cyclically to support the prioritisation of investment through Council's plans and strategies i.e. Long-Term Plans, Infrastructure Strategy and District Plan.
- A strategy built on community engagement and aligning community aspirations with the prioritisation of projects in the 10-year Long Term Plans and the 30-year Infrastructure Strategy to make better funding decisions.
- A strategy which monitors progress and benefits against the four wellbeings.
- The foundation for the Waipā Partnership Management Framework with project delivery partners.

Ahu Ake – Waipā Community Spatial Plan is not:

- A Future Development Strategy (FDS). Future Proof leads the Future Development Strategy for the Waikato sub-region; however, Ahu Ake, through its strong anchor in community engagement and feedback, informs the FDS, ensuring our Waipā community is heard and listened to.
- A structure plan for the district with proposed land use zones. Ahu Ake, in its current form, doesn't designate land and its use for particular activities. It is informed by the work undertaken in 2017 for the Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy but doesn't supersede it.
- A static document. Ahu Ake is evolving in a rapidly changing landscape and will be amended as new circumstances arise, such as changes in Central Government policy or a review of the prioritisation of projects through the Long-Term Plan process.

Who are we planning for?

In order to achieve success, Ahu Ake's core principles are:

- *We are planning for those who are here now and those who will be here after us. Ahu Ake's* 30-year planning horizon aims for current and future generations to experience the outcomes and benefits outlined in this plan.
- *The people living in Waipā now, those who will move here—and their children and grandchildren—because we want Waipā to continue to be a liveable, prosperous district where people feel they belong and have a bright future.* The population is projected to grow from 55,000 in 2018 to approximately 75,000 by 2045.[1]
- *A changing ethnic makeup, with more people from many cultures living in Waipā - including a growing Māori population.* Between 2006 and 2018, the Māori population increased from 13.1% to nearly 15%. Migration into the district is driving growth and an increasingly diverse population. In the same period, the Asian ethnic group grew from 1.7% to 4.3%. The ethnic make-up of the district will continue to change over time.
- *There is a larger ageing population with specific and changing needs.* The number of residents aged over 65 will double to 30% by 2050.[2]

Who was involved in developing Ahu Ake?

- Mana Whenua and Iwi Partners.
- Central Government agencies and the various implementation partners, referred to in this plan as 'stakeholders'.
- The wider Waipā community as Ahu Ake represents the diverse voices of Waipā's residents.

[1] NIDEA High projections 2021 used in Future Proof Strategy (2022)

[2] Census 2018, Stats NZ, Waipā District Place Summary

Since 2020, Council has engaged with the Waipā community to understand what is important to them and what they want for their future Waipā.

The 2021-31 Long-Term Plan engagement process established the Council's Vision and Community Outcomes, which formed the foundation for Ahu Ake, Waipā Community Spatial Plan.

How to read this plan?

Ahu Ake, Waipā Community Spatial Plan is based on feedback received from our partners, stakeholders, and the community.

It is supported by evidence-based datasets and processes that have informed its spatial aspect.

Figure 1 presents the suite of accompanying appendices that provide essential background information on the development of Ahu Ake, Waipā Community Spatial Plan and should be reviewed alongside the plan.

When the plan says "we"

Throughout, Ahe Ake uses the plural pronoun "we" to describe intent. As a result of the significant involvement and input from the Waipā community during the development of this plan, this particular phrasing conveys the importance of the partnerships and relationships necessary to successfully achieve the aspirations outlined in Ahu Ake. This does not dictate the actions of people and/or organisations.



Ahu Ake Strategy and Implementation

Ahu Ake Executive Summary
The Short Story.

Ahu Ake Waipā Community Spatial Plan
30+ year strategy.

Implementation Plan: Guidance Note
Set of interventions and considerations for future implementation.

Dataset Directory
A record of the datasets used to generate Ahu Ake Maps.

Evidence base and record of the process

APPENDIX A
Scenario Development Report
How a future scenario was chosen and what options were considered.

APPENDIX B
Interim draft future scenario
A future scenario that describes what will happen under this draft future scenario, the platform for community engagement.

APPENDIX C
Scenario Refinement Report
What changed due to the community engagement on the Future Scenario for the Interim Draft Plan.

APPENDIX D
Engagement summary
Who was involved in creating Ahu Ake and what they said.

Figure 1 Ahu Ake, Waipā Community Spatial Plan – The suite of documents.

Part A

Vision, outcomes, and influences

Part A outlines the foundations for Ahu Ake as it aims to realise Waipā District Council's Vision- Home of Champions: Building connected communities- aligning with the four Community Outcomes, and the aspirations of our partners, Mana Whenua and Iwi. This section also sets out the contextual framework for the development of the plan and what it will need to address.

Partnership and engagement activities for Ahu Ake were guided by three strong principles set out at the outset of the project.

Work with Mana Whenua and Iwi as partners.

Tell the Waipā story and enable the community to give their feedback.

Seek out marginalised and under-represented groups.

Part A

1. Building connected communities

Ahu Ake is a platform to advocate for our community and influence decision-makers. It aligns decision-making, builds community support and ownership, and sets out priorities for investment planning.

In May 2019, the Local Government (Community Wellbeing) Amendment Act was enacted. This amendment restored the promotion of the four wellbeings to the statutory purpose of local government in the Local Government Act 2002. Local authorities were given the responsibility to promote community wellbeing through statutory planning and decision-making processes based on community consultation.

In 2020, Waipā District Council, in close collaboration with its communities, updated our vision for the district. This vision underscores our Council's commitment to partner with the community to enhance the overall wellbeing of the district and its residents. As a result, four community outcomes were formulated, aligning with the four aspects of wellbeing.

With a focus on community wellbeing, Waipā District Council has developed Ahu Ake, Waipā Community Spatial Plan. It seeks to inspire collaborative delivery of Waipā's Vision and Community Outcomes and Mana Whenua and Iwi aspirations to ensure the district is the 'Home of champions: Building connected communities'.

VISION

WAIPĀ
HOME OF CHAMPIONS

BUILDING CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



Socially Resilient

He aha te mea nui o te ao? Māku e kī atu he tangata, he tangata, he tangata! – it's all about people

- Waipā is a great place to live, work, play and invest.
- We invest in health and wellbeing and support community groups.
- Waipā provides a high quality of life.



Cultural Champions

Promoting our culture and heritage

- We champion the unique history of Waipā.
- We have a high level of cultural awareness.
- We partner with Tangata whenua.
- We respect the cultural diversity in our district.



Environmental Champions

Protecting and sustaining our environment

- We promote environmental awareness and responsibility.
- We support programmes that promote environmental sustainability.
- We are responsive to climate change.



Economically Progressive

Supporting a thriving, sustainable economy

We have financially sustainable decision making and work programmes.

We provide economic stimulus through new infrastructure.

Our services provide excellent value for money.

Waipā is a great place to invest and do business.

Table 1 Vision as outlined in the 2021-31 Long-Term Plan

Waharoa, James Webster, Mātakitaki Pā



Mana Whenua & Iwi partnership

Council and Mana Whenua and Iwi expressed an early principle in developing the plan, which was that it must be a Waka Hourua (double-hulled canoe). In this context, it is an analogy for strong partnerships between Mana Whenua and Iwi, Council and the community, working collectively for mutually beneficial outcomes.

Mana Whenua and Iwi historical context in Waipā and Tiriti o Waitangi settlements

Settlement of the Waikato and Waipā District in particular, by the Tainui people, started as they began to explore inland several generations after initially settling at their final landing place of Kāwhia.

They eventually displaced the earlier inhabitants, Ngāti Kahupungapunga, either by war or assimilation.

Virtually all the tāngata whenua (local people) of Waipā can trace their ancestry to Tāwhao, a direct descendant of Hoturoa, the captain of the Tainui canoe.

The settlement of Ōtāwhao is currently known as Te Awamutu, which means the 'end of the navigable way', where it was impractical to bring a canoe any further upstream.

Waipā District is a very fertile area and was densely populated by Mana Whenua for many generations until the land wars of the early 1860s.

The Crown Forces under General Cameron invaded the Waikato, which resulted in the confiscation of 1.2 million acres of land in the Waikato. This included Waipā's fertile agricultural lands with the southern boundary being the Pūniu River.

The Mana Whenua communities were then replaced by the garrison towns of Alexandra (Pirongia), Te Awamutu, Kihikihi, and Cambridge, and much of the land was then balloted to the military settlers.

The Crown's actions in displacing Mana Whenua from their whenua (lands) and awa (rivers) catastrophically impacted Mana Whenua communities' access to economic, social, and health opportunities and other metrics of wellbeing. Many Mana Whenua were forced to leave their rohe, seeking refuge in other parts of the country.

The Crown, Mana Whenua and Iwi have negotiated the settlement of claims against the Crown's breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi), resulting in redress being negotiated for those Mana Whenua and Iwi who have concluded settlements. To this day, negotiations continue for Mana Whenua and Iwi with outstanding claims.

The negotiated redress cannot and does not fully compensate Mana Whenua and Iwi for their losses at the Crown's hands, but these settlements herald a new era in Crown, Mana Whenua and Iwi relationships. Waipā District Council is part of these relationships through the Joint Management Agreements (JMAs) it has with River Iwi (Maniapoto, Raukawa, Waikato Tainui) as a result of Waikato and Waipā River settlement redress. Recognising the importance of the relationships, Council continues to nurture and develop partnerships with Mana Whenua and Iwi.

Treaty settlement redress also provides some resources for Mana Whenua and Iwi to advance their aspirations for wellbeing and prosperity as Mana Whenua, Iwi, and members of the community.

Mana Whenua and Iwi involved in Ahu Ake

Ahu Ake has been developed with Iwi and hapū, whose rohe (tribal areas) stretch across the district and the wider Waikato region. Iwi and hapū were involved to the extent that their capacity allowed. This included Mana Whenua and Iwi representatives nominated to the Council's Project Control Group[3], feedback from Ngā Iwi Tōpū O Waipā (NITOW)[4], Joint Management Agreement (JMA) partner meetings, meetings held at marae, and through online hui.

Two partner workshops were held with Council, Mana Whenua and JMA representatives. Firstly, to agree on a future scenario to set the direction for the Interim Draft Spatial Plan, and secondly to provide feedback on an updated draft version of Ahu Ake.

Mana Whenua / Iwi and hapū involved included:

- Maniapoto
- Ngāti Apakura
- Ngāti Hauā
- Ngāti Hikairo
- Ngāti Kahu
- Ngāti Koroki Kahukura
- Ngaati Maahanga
- Ngāti Paretekawa
- Ngāti Unu
- Ngāti Werokōkō
- Raukawa
- Raukawa ki Wharepūhunga
- Waikato-Tainui

Mana Whenua and Iwi aspirations

Mana Whenua and Iwi wish to call their people home so they can live, work, play and invest within their traditional rohe, exercising mana whakahaere (traditional and contemporary authority). Aspirations and priorities communicated throughout the planning process have influenced the scope and recommendations of Ahu Ake.

Māori housing: Kia ahu ake i te kāinga Māori / Facilitate Mana Whenua and Iwi to use the land they own or lease without inappropriate constraints.

- Reduce the housing shortfall and provide a range of different types of housing / choice for Māori, particularly for those in greater need.
- Enable Mana Whenua with equitable access to education, healthcare, and social services.
- Enable Mana Whenua and Iwi to use the land they own or lease without inappropriate constraints. Papakāinga (living areas/ settlements) could be built anywhere, including on general freehold land and in urban areas.

There is an important relationship between papakāinga and other wāhi (places), such as marae, urupā (burial places) and kōhanga reo (te reo cultural hub). This is linked to Mana Whenua and Iwi aspirations to establish papakāinga associated with ancient marae, wāhi tapu (sacred sites) or pā – but this should not limit where papakāinga can occur.

There is an opportunity to develop papakāinga on land currently owned by Mana Whenua and Iwi. While there is limited remaining Māori land in the district, there is plenty of whānau-owned land (land owned privately) which could be used for papakāinga instead of grazing.

[3] The Project Control Group was formed to oversee delivery of Ahu Ake and make recommendations to Council related to the project and to endorse the final plan. A core objective of the group was to ensure that Council and Mana Whenua and Iwi can give effect to Joint Management Agreement responsibilities, pursuant to the Waikato and Waipā river settlement acts, through the project. Membership included four Elected Members, the Māori Ward Councillor, four Mana Whenua and Iwi representatives, the Project Sponsor and Project Owner, and an Executive Team representative, who met regularly to endorse project deliverables and provide direction to the project team.

[4] Ngā Iwi Tōpū O Waipā (NITOW), translated as The Assembled People of Waipā, is a group that represents all hapū in the Waipā District. They meet monthly and consider resource consent applications. They also consider other issues that are brought directly to Mana Whenua and Iwi for consultation and consideration.

He kāinga te wāhi (the place is home): Kia ahu ake i te wāhi hei kāinga / Good urban density should feel like home for Mana Whenua and Iwi.

Mana Whenua and Iwi have told us that they currently feel unwelcome in many urban spaces – good urban density should feel like home for all. Some physical/design aspects that could achieve this include:

- Acknowledging the past, present, and future of Mana Whenua through artwork/design.
- Recognising, protecting and enhancing cultural landscapes, taonga (treasures, possessions) and sites, customary activities, wāhi tapu (sacred sites), wāhi whakahirahira (important sites), wāhi tūpuna (ancestral sites), and mahinga kai (food gathering and production).
- Recognising, protecting and enhancing cultural landscapes, taonga (treasures, possessions) and sites, customary activities, wāhi tapu (sacred sites), wāhi whakahirahira (important sites), wāhi tūpuna (ancestral sites), and mahinga kai (food gathering and production).

In urban areas:

- Achieve density within papakāinga without overcrowding.
- Create forested green areas and community gardens.
- Daylighting streams provide access to sunshine and a connection to the taiao (the environment).
- Balance openness and privacy. Don't create gated communities.

And in rural areas:

- Design needs to be site-specific, as in many rural areas buildings greater than two storeys will stand out. Some areas also don't have large enough properties for higher densities.
- The clustering of houses not only promotes a sense of community but also protects highly productive soils, offering a promising future for rural areas.
- On-site sewerage systems are needed to manage the effects of development on the whenua (land) and awa (waterways).

Māori economy: Kia ahu ake te Ōhanga Māori / Create opportunities for Mana Whenua to return to and remain in their rohe.

There is a perception that young Māori leave the district, not because they want to, but because they must if they want to secure well-paying jobs, for further education, or because of the lifestyle available in larger cities. To alleviate this trend, the following are needed:

- An environment that attracts young Mana Whenua currently living outside the district and fosters new businesses.
- Papakāinga, which enables young Mana Whenua to return to the district.
- Good quality internet and transport connections which connect papakāinga with the rest of the district, and other main destinations.

It is our collective responsibility to protect and restore highly productive lands and provide for mahinga kai (gathering of food) as a foundation for the economy. By doing so, we not only ensure the sustainability of our natural resources but also contribute to the overall wellbeing of our community.

Te Taiao: Kia taiea te taiao / Protect and restore ngā koiora tuku iho, natural heritage and biodiversity.

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect marae and customary activities from the risks of climate change and natural hazards.
- Enhance the quality of wetland habitat and peat lakes in the district.
- Enhance the mauri and life-supporting capacity of land and water.





Waipā District

Vision and Community Outcomes and Mana Whenua and Iwi aspirations are aligned

The Council's Vision and Community Outcomes and Mana Whenua and Iwi aspirations are aligned. They provide different lenses on related goals and a long-term direction for the benefits that Ahu Ake seeks to deliver. They have informed the engagement that has been undertaken and the implementation actions that have been designed to bring Ahu Ake to life.

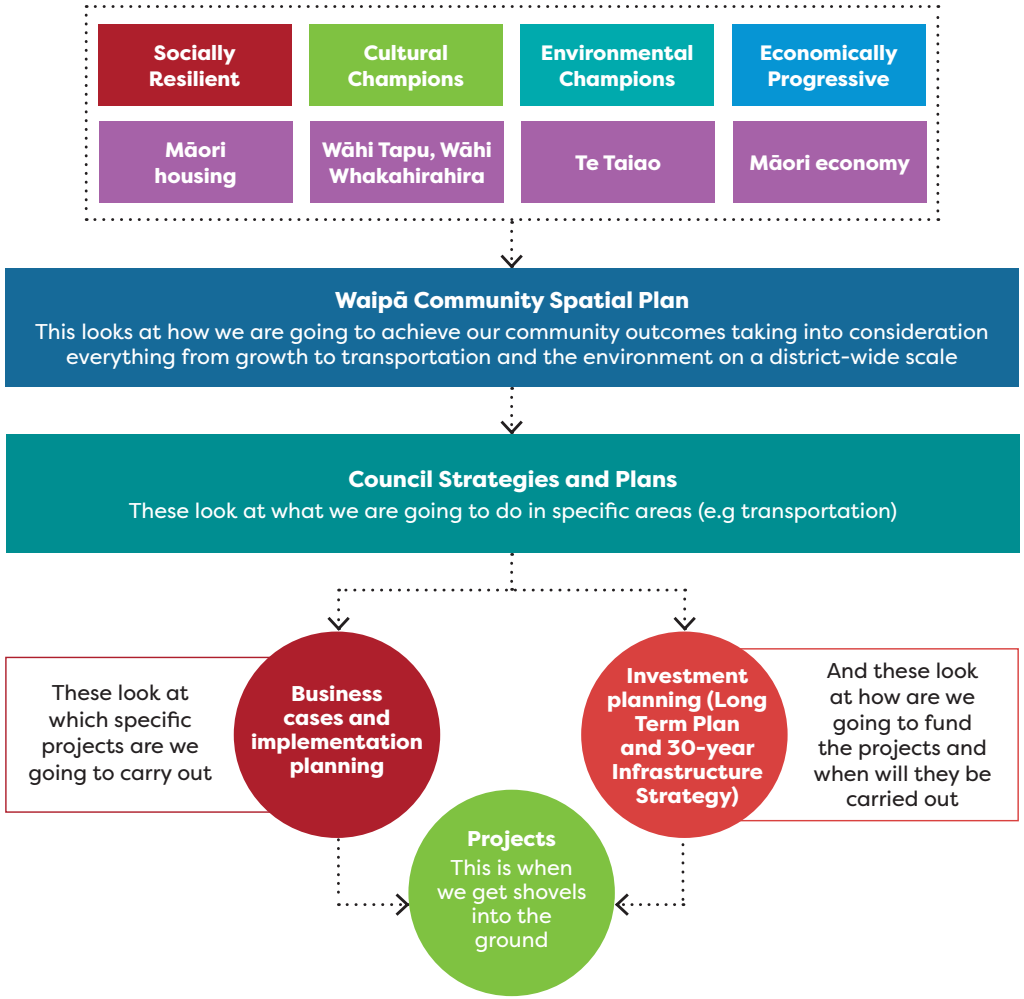


Figure 2 Ahu Ake Implementation steps



Lake Te Koo Utu

2. Context and influences

It is important to understand the context in which the Waipā district evolves as it helps define the opportunities and constraints that Ahu Ake will respond to. This section will elaborate on the district's factors, which include location, regional growth, important considerations about our people, economy, land and water, and infrastructure.

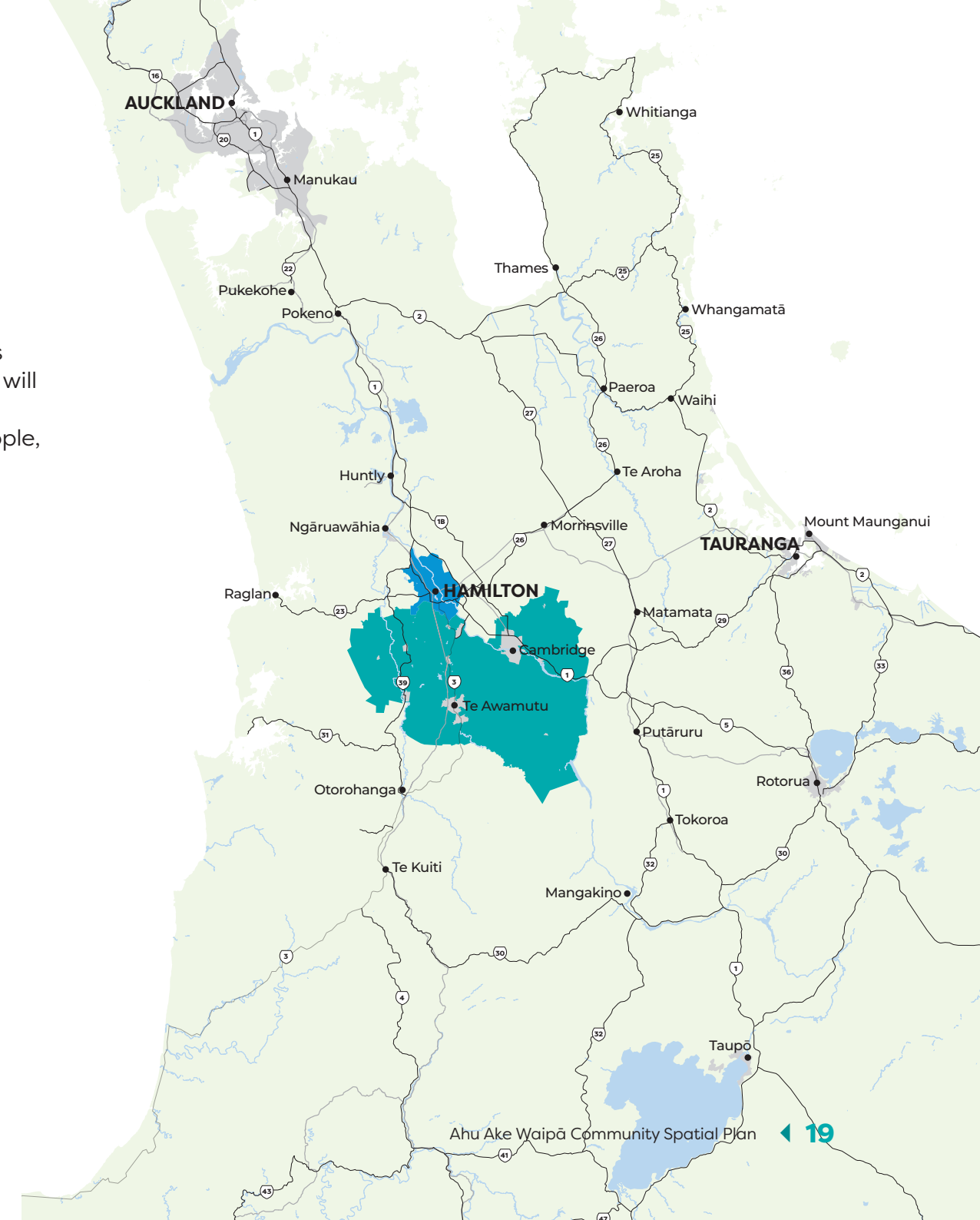


Figure 3 Waipā is centrally located in the North Island

Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato (the vision and strategy for the Waikato River)

Why this is important

Waipā District Council must give effect to Te Ture Whaimana through its planning and service delivery to ensure the protection and enhancement of the Waikato and Waipā Rivers and their catchments.

The Waikato River is a tupuna (ancestor), a taonga (treasure), and the mauri (life force) of Waikato-Tainui, Raukawa, Ngāti Tūwharetoa and the Te Arawa iwi. The Waipā River is the largest tributary of the Waikato River, and is a tupuna (ancestor), a taonga (treasure), and the mauri (life force) of Ngāti Maniapoto.[5]

Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato (the vision and strategy for the Waikato River), referred to as Te Ture Whaimana, is the primary direction-setting document for the Waikato River and activities which affect it. It applies to the activities in the catchments from Huka Falls to Te Pūaha o Waikato for the Waikato River and from the Waipā River source to its connection with the Waikato River.

Its foundation was set by the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010, more particularly clause 19, the Vision & Strategy. It was extended to incorporate the upper Waipā River through the Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipā River) Act 2012.

Te Ture Whaimana sets out the vision, objectives, and strategies to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. The ultimate measure of Te Ture Whaimana is that the Waikato River and Waipā River will be safe for people to swim in and take food from over its entire length.[6]

During conversations with Mana Whenua and Iwi, a question was asked about how to achieve Te Ture Whaimana. A key discussion point was the Whanganui iwi whakataukī **"ko au te awa, ko te awa ko au"** – "I am the river; the river is me", which highlights the importance of how the awa in Waipā are regarded. Examples of what this means include:

- Restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, Waipā River and their tributaries.
- Daylighting streams.
- Effective stormwater management.
- Not treating the awa like a pipe.
- Acknowledging the connection between people and the awa.
- The importance of the whole-of-catchment approach.
- Introducing innovative consent conditions such as karakia before water takes.
- Recognising the peat lakes as part of Te Ture Whaimana catchment.

[5] www.waikatoregion.govt.nz

[6] https://waikatoriver.org.nz/catchment/

Present situation

The health and wellbeing of the Waikato River is generally deteriorating despite the many actions taken to improve the health of the river.[7] Water quality and clarity are currently unsafe for swimming in the Waipā River, and in many of its tributaries.[8]

Waipā District Council upholds Te Ture Whaimana and Tāwhiao's vision for "Tōku awa koiora me ōna pikonga he kura tangihia o te mātāmuri" (the river of life, each curve more beautiful than the last).

Te Ture Whaimana is not only about the physical restoration and protection of the Awa or water quality, but also about the restoration and protection of the interconnected relationship between Iwi, the wider community and sector/ industry resource users.[9]

[7] Trends analysis for selected indicators of Waikato River health and wellbeing 2010-2019, NIWA

[8] waikatoriver.org.nz/wra-report-card/

[9] www.waikatoriver.org.nz

Map Legend

- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Lakes
- Urban Areas
- Hamilton City
- Waipā River
- Lower Waikato River
- Middle Waikato River
- Upper Waikato River

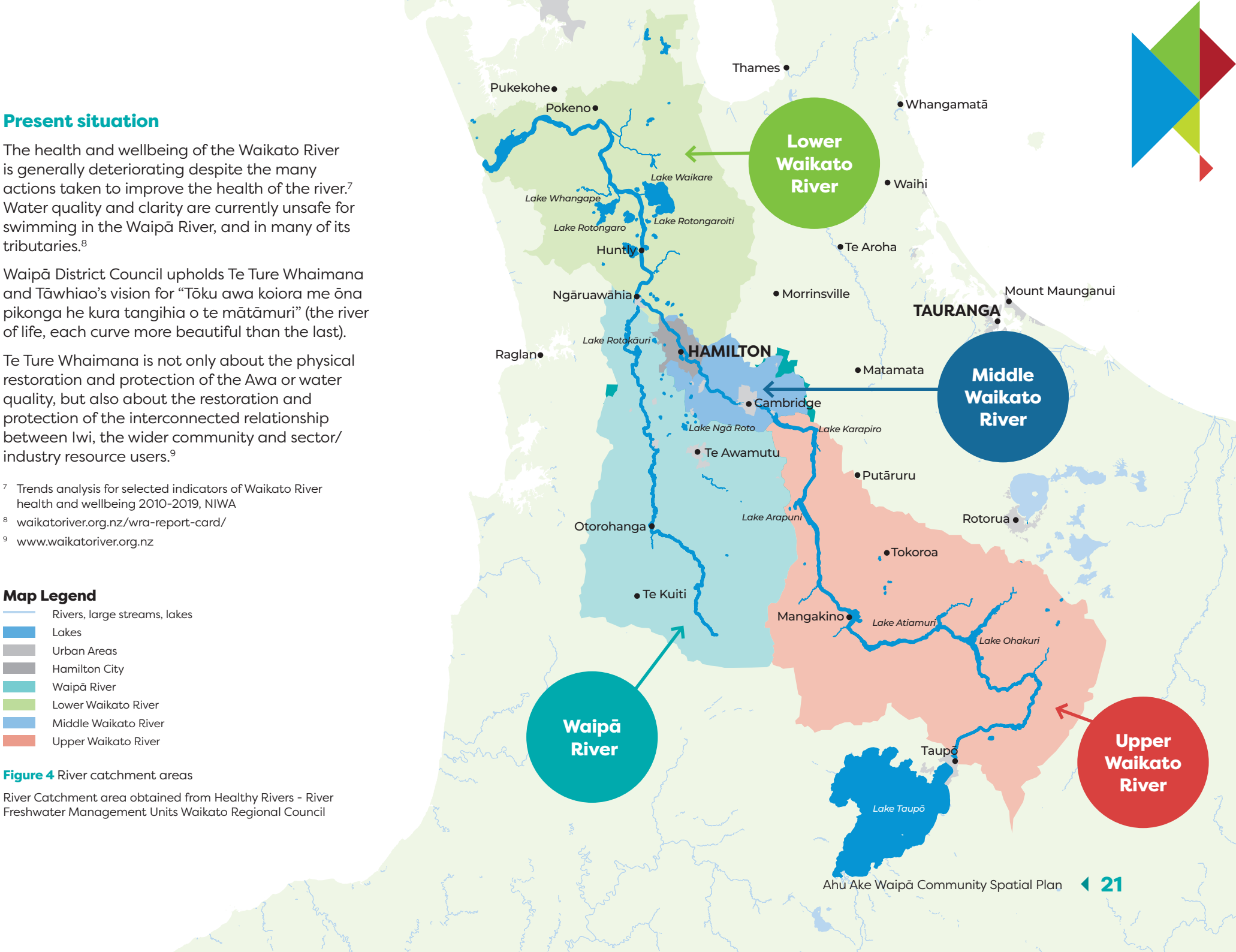


Figure 4 River catchment areas

River Catchment area obtained from Healthy Rivers - River Freshwater Management Units Waikato Regional Council



Waikato River

Significant natural and cultural features are part of our heritage and must be protected and enhanced

Why this is important

Waipā is graced with numerous distinctive natural features, such as Maungatautari, Mount Pirongia, and Kakepuku. The presence of the Waikato, Waipā, and Puniu Rivers, as well as their main tributaries like the Mangapiko stream and the peat lakes, contributes to the overall sense of place in Waipā. These natural elements not only enhance our way of life but also hold significant cultural importance for Mana Whenua and Iwi.

Present situation

The mountains, rivers, lakes and streams are a defining part of Waipā's landscape and give rise to its natural character.

These are important places throughout the district. They are a taonga (treasure) and the mauri (life force) for Mana Whenua and Iwi and are essential to our shared cultural fabric. Their role and prominence are of high environmental significance and contribute to enhancing our cultural, social, and economic wellbeing in our district. Preserving and restoring our waterways and natural areas is a high priority.

Overarching legislation, agreements and initiatives are currently in place to ensure actions are taken to restore and protect these natural assets:

Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato —The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River set the primary direction to promote an integrated, holistic, and coordinated approach to restoring and protecting the Waikato River and its tributaries (including the Waipā River and catchments and peat lakes). Since the arrival of Europeans, the catchments of the rivers have been transformed from a landscape dominated by native forest, scrub and tussock with significant areas of wetland in the north to a landscape where low-lying valleys are now dominated by pasture for agricultural use.

- The **Waikato River** is the longest river in New Zealand. It starts its journey in the central North Island volcanic zone and flows from Lake Taupō. From there it continues its journey north where it flows into the Tasman Sea at Port Waikato. In the past, Māori used the Waikato River in its entirety. It provided for spiritual and material needs, food, a source of cleansing and healing and a network for trade, travel and communication.[10]
- The **Waipā River**, the largest tributary of the Waikato River, begins its journey from Pekepeke in the southern King Country and flows northwards through Ōtorohanga, Pirongia, and Whatawhata before joining the Waikato River in Ngāruawāhia. Community-led restoration efforts along the river include projects like the Ngāhinapōuri walkway and cycling trail. This ongoing community-led project aims to create a 4.3km path that protects and restores the Mangahia Stream, promotes wellbeing, and acknowledges the historic Horokiokio Pā site as it leads down to the Waipā River.
- The **Pūniu River** is a tributary of the Waipā River. The Pūniu River flows from within the Pureora Forest, past four marae: Mangatoatoa, Rāwhitiroa, Aotearoa and Whakamārama through to Pirongia, where it flows into the Waipā River, and then on to the Waikato River. Pūniu River Care is a great example of a multiparty initiative using Mātauranga Māori to reinstate the awa, which was once a rich source of freshwater kai and provided many picnic and swimming spots for the local people.
- Waipā's 16 **peat lakes** are some of the oldest lakes in New Zealand, having formed between 18,000 and 22,000 years ago. They hold significant ecological and cultural value, as well as scientific, educational, and recreational interest[11].

[10] Waikato Te Awa, WRC

[11] Waipā District Peat Lakes and Wetlands, WRC

- **Lake Karāpiro** is an artificial reservoir on the Waikato River, powering the Karāpiro Power Station and providing recreational and competitive sports pursuits. These include one of the world's leading rowing courses, New Zealand's high-performance kayaking and rowing training centre, and many parks and boat launch areas.
- **Lake Arapuni** is situated upstream of Lake Karāpiro on the southeast of Te Awamutu township. Like Lake Karāpiro, Lake Arapuni is one of the many lakes that have been formed as a result of hydroelectric developments along the Waikato River. It is renowned as the premier trout fishery in the Auckland/Waikato Region[12].

Te Taiea te Taiao, Maungatautari to Mt Pirongia Ecological Corridor Project is a collaborative project involving NZ Landcare Trust, Mana Whenua, community conservation groups, landowners and councils. It is an initiative aimed at creating a connected ecological corridor between two of the region's most spectacular maunga, Maungatautari and Mount Pirongia, using the waterways which flow from the two maunga – the Mangapiko and Ngāparierua streams[13]. Its purpose is to collaborate with partners and landowners to restore native habitats, protect biodiversity, and enhance the area's ecological resilience.

- Mount **Pirongia** is the highest mountain in the Waikato region, a backdrop to the Pirongia village. The earliest settlements of the Waikato centred on the harbours of Kawhia, Aotea and Whāingaroa (Raglan). As the populations grew, people moved eastward over and around Pirongia and into Waipā[14]. Today the maunga has significant biodiversity value, hosts the Pirongia Forest Park (a protected area), and supports recreational pursuits.
- **Maungatautari** is a mountain, rural community, and ecological area near Cambridge. The Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari project is one of the largest ecological restoration projects in New Zealand. Maungatautari still has significant areas of old-growth forest, and new forest is regenerating while bird populations are growing, all thanks to the Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari project.[15]

Not included in the Taiea te Taiao ecological corridor, but nonetheless significant, are the Kakepuku Historic Reserve and Pukemako Scenic Reserve.

- Kakepuku is another important maunga in the district with cultural, historical and ecological significance. At its summit is the site of an ancient pā (Māori settlement), Hikurangi Pā Tirohia. The mountain was once surrounded by lush wetlands – these were drained to develop European agriculture. Today, conservation projects are helping wildlife, forests and waterways on and around Kakepuku. Many enjoy the journey from the base to the summit of Kakepuku, following a forest track. Kakepuku is managed by both the Department of Conservation (DoC) and Waipā District Council.[16]
- The Pukemako Scenic Reserve, located northeast of the district near the village of Te Miro, features a popular walking trail that winds through regenerating native forest. Previously named Maungakawa Scenic Reserve, Sanatorium Hill, and Gudex, this area was once home to a tuberculosis (TB) sanatorium for returning servicemen during the 19th and 20th centuries. Today, visitors can still spot old concrete footings and the remnants of a bygone building, serving as the only reminders of its historical purpose.[17]

The **Waikato Biodiversity Accord**, under development,is a multiparty high-level agreement intended to commit its stakeholders to working together on a regional biodiversity strategy to address the region's biodiversity loss. It is a statutory requirement for Regional Councils under the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity ('NPS-IB')[18]. The accord was identified as a goal in Takatū Waikato, Waikato Strategic Direction 2023-2025. It will be a living document. In early June 2024 Waipā District Council confirmed that it will become a signatory to the Waikato Biodiversity Accord.

[12] https://www.fishandgame.org.nz/

[13] NZ Landcare Trust/Ngā Matapopore Whenua

[14] www.mtpirongia.org.nz

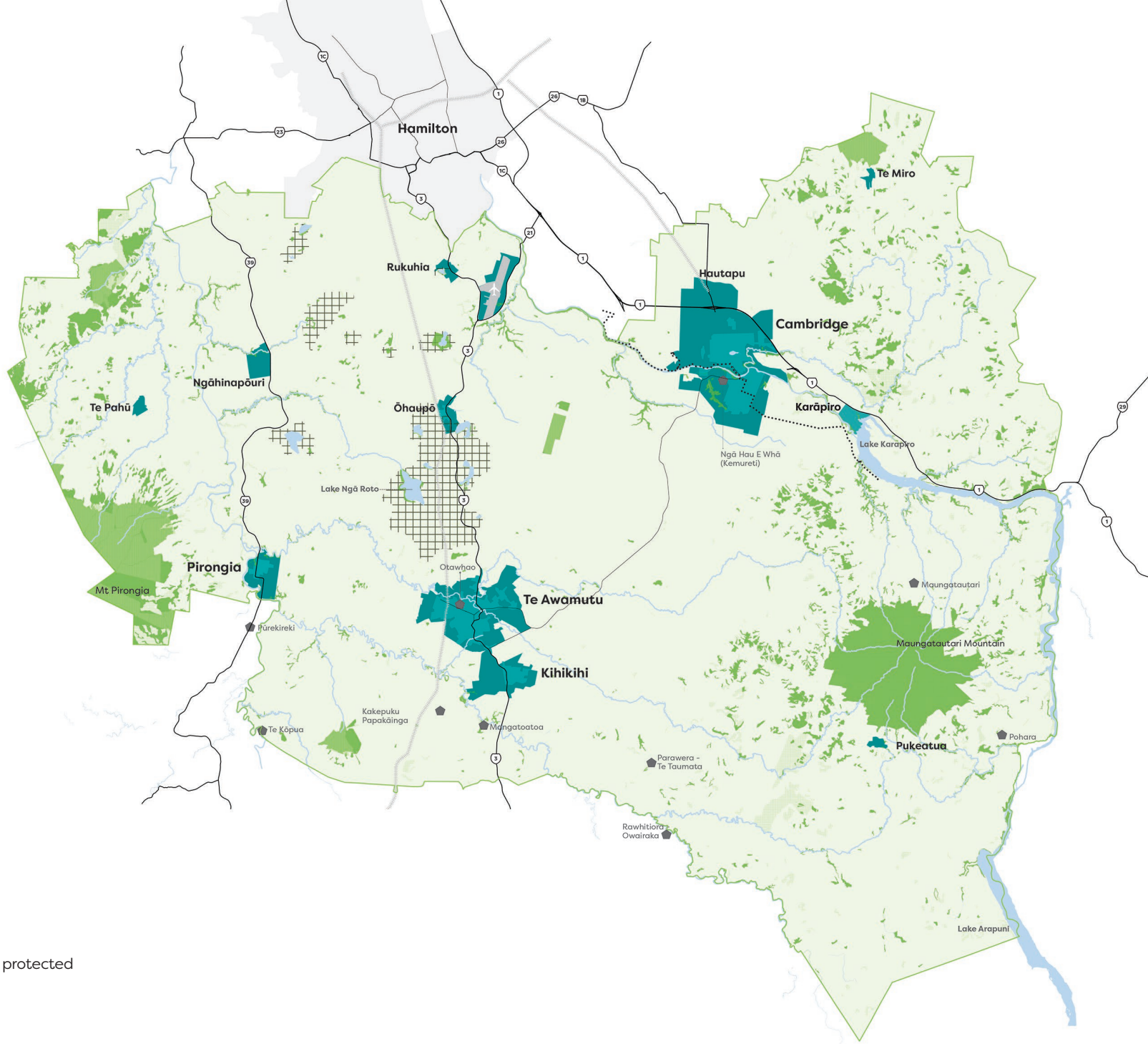
[15] https://tearawai.nz/explore-Karāpiro

[16] https://tearawai.nz/explore-kakepuku

[17] WaikatoNZ.com

[18] Noting at the time of writing, Central Government has signalled a review of the NPS-IB; however, indications are this review will not impact the development of the plan with the focus of the review understood to relate to the creation of new significant natural areas.

Significant natural features must be protected



Map Legend

- District boundary
- State highways
- Rail
- Te Awa River Ride
- Marae
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Peat lakes
- Urban Areas 2011
- Scenario Areas 2050
- DOC Public Conservation Land
- Significant Natural Areas
- Peat Catchment Areas

Figure 5 Significant natural features must be protected

Cambridge town centre



Waipā is a collection of connected towns, villages, marae, and rural communities

Why this is important

Waipā is a collection of connected towns, villages, rural places, and marae. People in urban areas increasingly rely on rural places for recreation and access to nature, while those in rural places rely on urban areas for employment and the servicing of day-to-day amenities.

Present situation

We are an increasingly urbanised district

Currently, around 70% of our population lives in towns and villages, with 30% in rural areas. Nearly 65% live in Cambridge, Te Awamutu, and Kihikihi. Looking ahead, the level of urbanisation is likely to increase, with around 90% of future growth gradually intended to occur within the identified urban areas of Cambridge, Te Awamutu, and Kihikihi and remaining population directed towards villages.[19]

Housing in Waipā is less affordable than the national average and surrounding territorial authority areas, particularly in urban centres and areas with few housing choices. Changes are being made to the Waipā District Plan to enable a greater choice of housing types, increased densities, and to better manage the long-term dwelling demand.

Intensification can change the mix of houses being provided to smaller houses on smaller sections, so there are more affordable options over time.

Rural residents depend on urban areas

Rural residents depend on villages and the services they provide to enable a sense of community. Currently, villages such as Pirongia and Te Miro are places where sports clubs, schools and shops have a rural focus providing a sense of community for rural Waipā. Further developing smaller villages like Ōhaupō, Te Miro, and Pirongia can help strengthen Waipā's rural community if undertaken in consideration of the rural users.

Part of a sub-regional settlement pattern

Waipā is a partner council in the sub-regional Future Proof Strategy. This is a growth management spatial strategy for the sub-region covering the Waikato District, Hamilton City, Waipā District and Matamata-Piako District. It establishes the settlement pattern and key subregional infrastructure priorities that are further endorsed in the Waikato Regional Policy Statement, which gives it legal effect.

As a partner council in Future Proof | Te Tau Tiitoki, Waipā District Council's planning, including Ahu Ake, must align with the Future Proof Strategy, which has been updated to meet the requirements of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development to be a 'Future Development Strategy' for the sub-region. In turn and once completed, Ahu Ake will provide evidence and community insight into the next iteration of the Future Proof Strategy.

Infrastructure affordability is a challenge

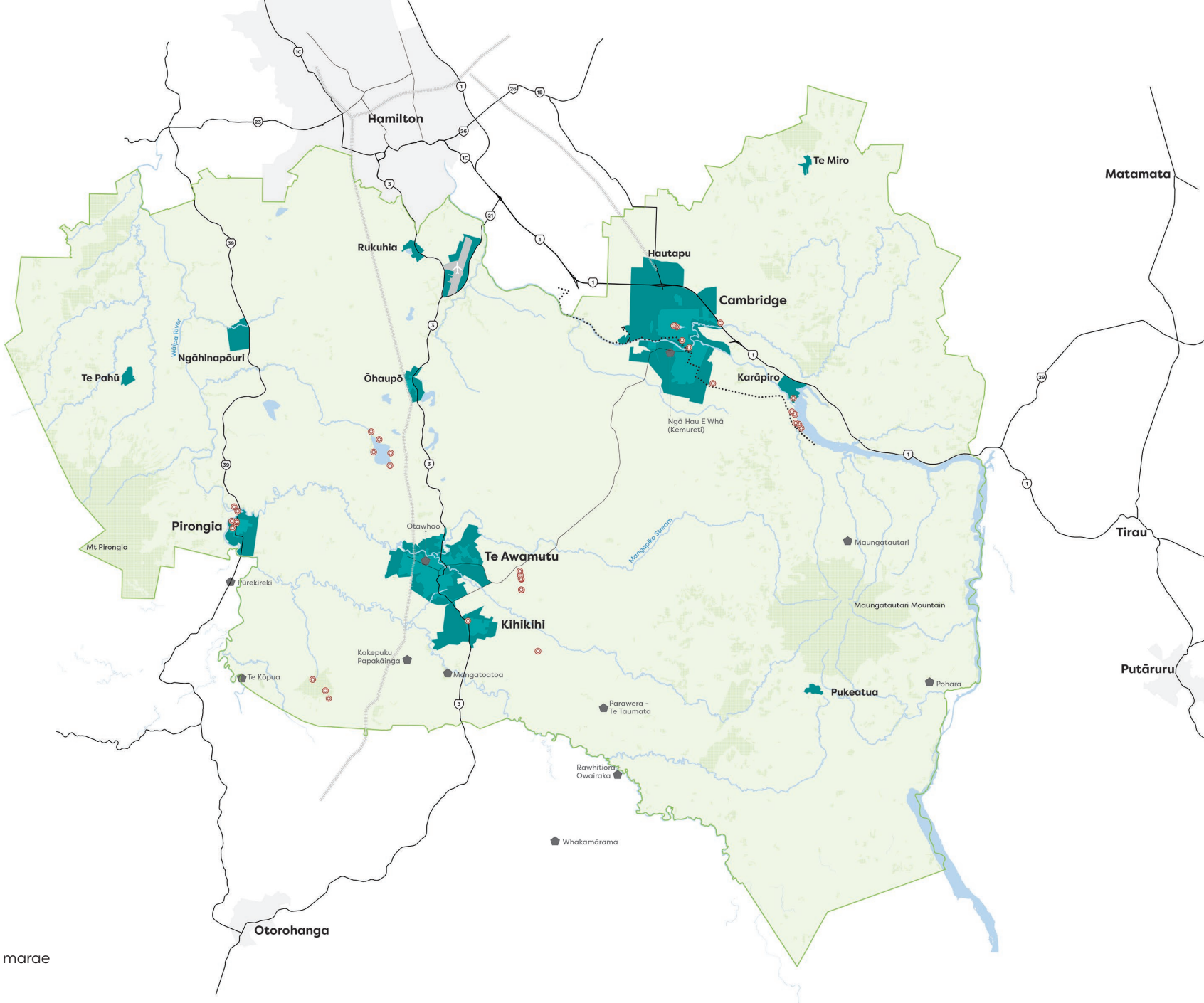
Meeting growth with infrastructure is becoming increasingly challenging. It costs a lot to build, operate new infrastructure and maintain existing infrastructure, either in transportation (i.e., efficiently managing road space and improving safety) or for water, wastewater treatment, and, more recently, to comply with stormwater standards to mitigate contamination. It is predicted that overall as a country, we need to invest $60 on renewing existing infrastructure for every $40 spent on new infrastructure[20].

Like other councils, Waipā District Council faces affordability challenges in providing infrastructure for new and existing growth areas and/or meeting changing service standards and expectations.

[19] Future Proof Development Strategy 2024

[20] New Zealand Infrastructure Commission (2023). How much do we pay for infrastructure? Household expenditure on infrastructure services. Wellington: New Zealand Infrastructure Commission / Te Waihanga.

Map of towns, villages, and marae



Map Legend

- District boundary
- State highways
- Rail
- Te Awa River Ride
- Marae
- Te Ara Wai Journeys
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Peat lakes
- Urban Areas 2011
- Scenario Areas 2050

Figure 6 Map of towns, villages, and marae

Location	2018	2024	2055	% change 2018-2055
Rural area	17,153	17,200	21,525	+25%
Cambridge	19,120	22,100	33,734	+76%
Te Awamutu	12,848	14,400	19,017	+48%
Kihikihi	2,900	3,800	4,716	+62%
Pirongia	1,250	1,400	1,613	+29%
Ōhaupō	743	750	915	+23%
Karāpiro	311	280	328	+05%
Ngāhinapōuri	200	200	200	0%
Te Pahū	100	100	100	0%
Rukuhia	164	200	361	+120%
Te Miro	310	286	286	-07% decline
Pukeatua	50	50	50	0%

Note: The Council's population projections were prepared by the University of Waikato in 2021 based on the 2018 Census. These projections will next be updated in May 2025 once Stats NZ releases the more detailed findings of the 2023 Census in October 2024.

Table 2 Projected population change in Waipā's towns, villages and rural areas

Explaining the limitations of the village population projections

Due to the small population size of Waipā's villages none, apart from Pirongia (with approximately 1,300 people) has a sufficiently large population to be recognised as a statistical area and are therefore embedded in larger rural statistical areas.

Furthermore, since many of the rural areas in Waipā are projected to have no or declining population growth, this lack of growth is present in the village population projections too.

It is only in some parts of north and east of the district, that the population of entire rural statistical areas is projected to grow due to a proximity to Hamilton and the likely future southward growth of the city.

At this time there is still much uncertainty about how much Hamilton will grow southwards and impact these northern parts of the district and the villages within them. The population projections for the villages of Ōhaupō and Rukuhia in particular are therefore only a guide.



Family playing in Pioneer Playground in Te Awamutu

Shifting demographics change how we have to provide services

Why this is important

We are planning for the people living in Waipā now, and those who will live here in the future, because we want Waipā to continue to be a liveable, prosperous district where people feel they belong and have a bright future. Thinking about how many people will live in Waipā, and their age or ethnicity, helps Council foresee changing demands and proactively act, like developing parks and open spaces that cater for the recreation needs of both elderly and youth.

Present situation

A rapidly growing population

Waipā district's total population was 42,500 in 2006[21], estimated at 61,100 in 2023, and is projected to reach 83,000 by 2055.[22] During the last decade, around 17% of population growth has come from natural increases (births minus deaths) and 21% from net international migration (arrivals minus departures). The balance (62%) has come from net internal migration.[23]

This means 22,000 new people will call Waipā home by 2055 and will need places to live, work, learn, shop and play. Because much of the population's growth is due to internal migration rates which are changeable and not something that can be controlled, future revisions of Ahu Ake will need to respond to actual growth and updated projections.

Increasingly diverse ethnic make-up

Waipā's ethnic makeup is diversifying, with more people from different cultures living in the district, including a growing Māori population. Between 2006 and 2018, the Māori population increased from 13.1% to nearly 15% of the population, with a relatively higher natural increase rate and a more youthful population. International migration into the district also drives growth and an increasingly diverse population. In the same period, the Asian ethnic group grew from 1.7% to 4.3%.[24]

A fast-changing population with changing needs

Waipā's population is ageing and will continue to be older than the national average. The number of residents aged over 65 will double to 30% by 2050. At the same time, the 0 to14-year-old age group is higher than the national average, and the Māori portion of the population remains more youthful overall.

The main gap in the age categories is from university to mid-career—late teens (19 +) to early 40s. This demographic shift results from a combination of factors, from educational opportunities to economic factors and quality of life. Improving employment and broadening access to educational prospects and training programmes may encourage people to stay in Waipā during their working years.

General trends on mode of transport choices across age groups point towards walking, cycling, and public transport, benefiting the elderly and youth who may find it difficult to access places like schools or grocery stores without relying on family members for transportation.

With around 20,000 households in 2018, Waipā is forecast to have 31,800 households in 2055.[25]

Different housing types and levels of accessibility are important considerations to accommodate the forecasted smaller household sizes due to the ageing population.

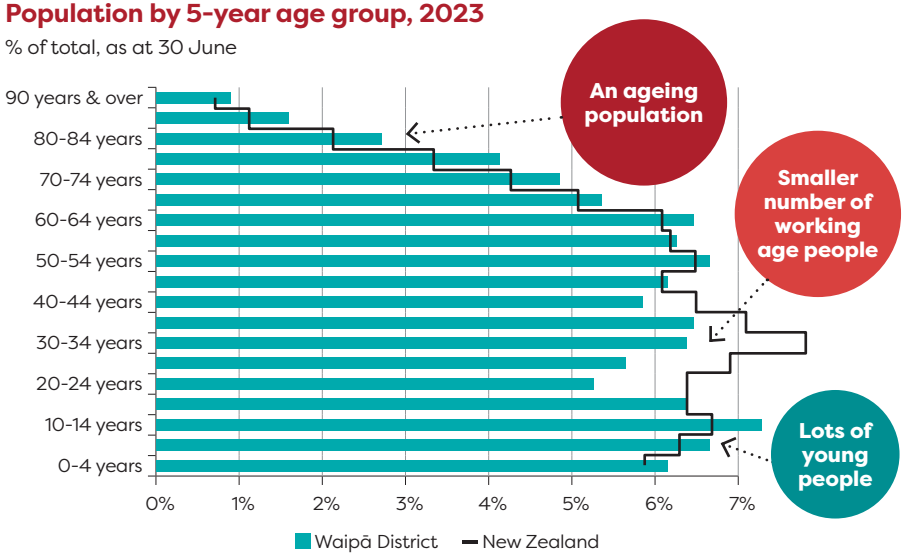
[21] Waipā 2050 Demographics Profile Statement, 2009

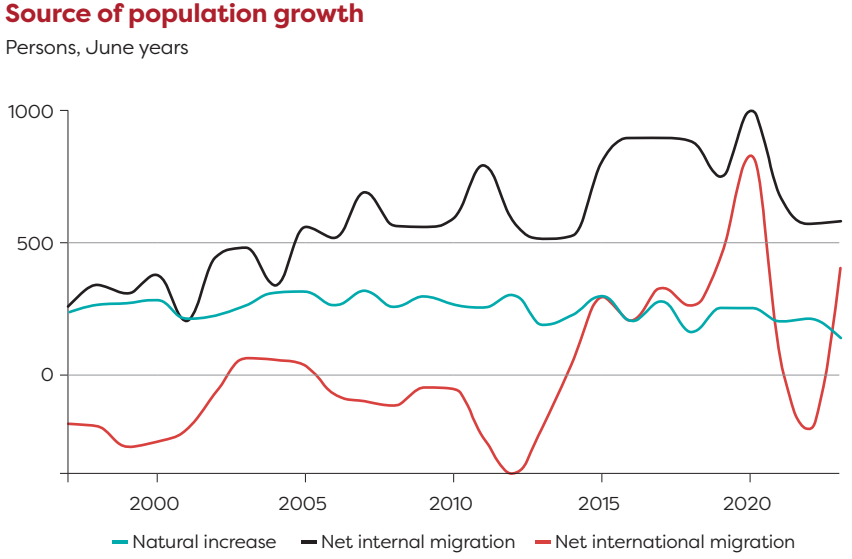
[22] Waikato Regional Council Technical Report 2021/22: 2018-base Population, Family and Household, and Labour Force Projections for the Waikato Region, 2018-2068, High-variant population projection

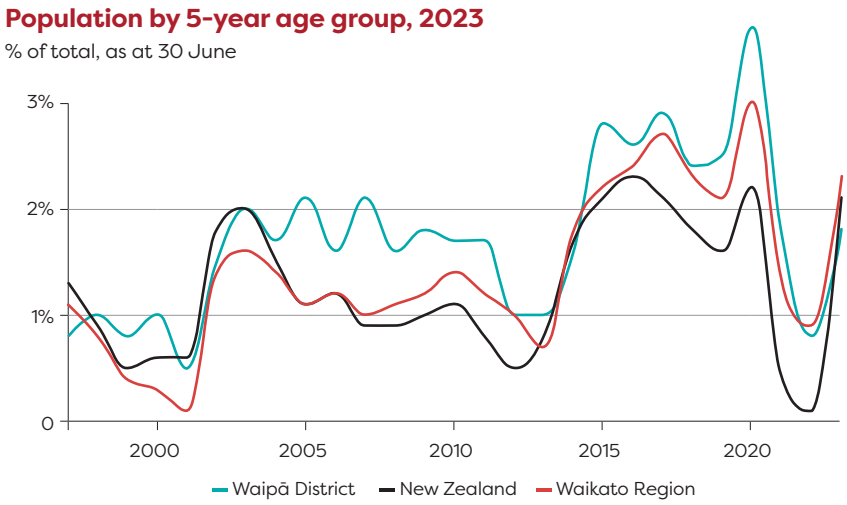
[23] Waipā District Regional Economic Profile, Infometrics

[24] StatsNZ, Waipā District Place Summary

[25] Households by TA by household type by NIDEA, obtained from www.creatingfutures.org.nz







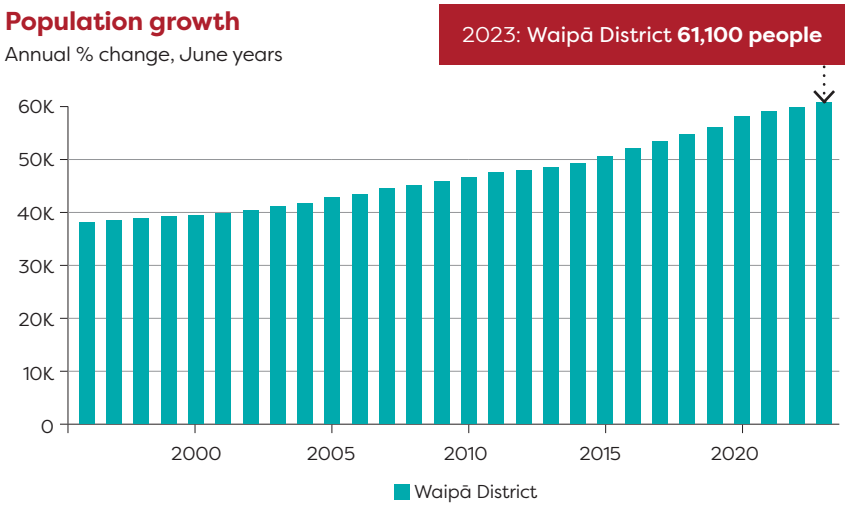
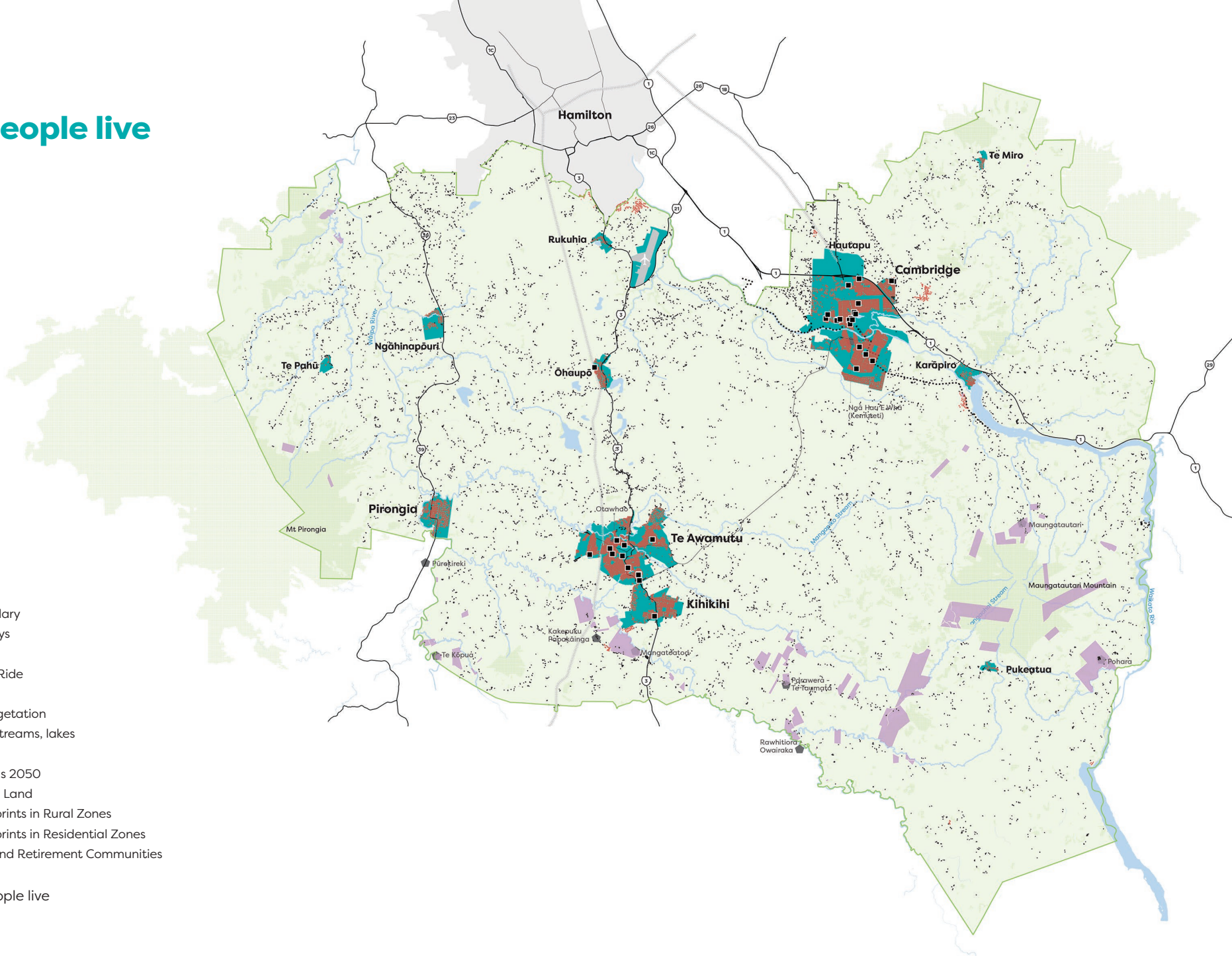


Figure 7 Population statistics on age and growth (Infometrics, 2024)

Where people live



Map Legend

- District boundary
- State highways
- Rail
- Te Awa River Ride
- Marae
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Peat lakes
- Scenario Areas 2050
- Māori Owned Land
- Building footprints in Rural Zones
- Building footprints in Residential Zones
- Rest homes and Retirement Communities

Figure 8 Where people live

Strong economic growth projected to slow in the long term, and to continue to diversify from a strong agricultural base

Why this is important

In 2023, Waipā district's largest industry contributors to economic growth were agriculture, forestry and fishing, manufacturing, construction and retail trades[26]. While agriculture is vital to Waipā, its economy is diversifying over time. Manufacturing, wholesale trade, health and social services are growing in importance, along with a growing horticultural industry.[27] The link between primary and secondary production (e.g., rural, and urban economic sectors) is critical for the success of Waipā's economy

Present situation

9% of the country's highly productive land is in Waipā

Primary production is a steady driver of economic activity in the Waipā district, and this arises because of the highly productive land and supporting infrastructure. Waipā has around 9% of New Zealand's 'highly productive' agricultural soils, with over 50% of the district land categorised as such. It is Waipā's responsibility to preserve and maintain the capability of these soils and enable food security for New Zealand. The district's land resource is a critical competitive factor for Waipā's economic strength.[28]

Dairy is our largest industry, and the economy is diversifying including a growing horticulture industry

The Waipā economy is expected to continue steadily diversifying, including a shift to horticulture. In 2003, primary industries accounted for 20.4% of employment in the district, compared to 13.6% in 2023.

In 2022, the industry in the Waipā district with the highest exports was dairy product manufacturing ($1,257.0m), followed by horticulture and fruit growing ($105.1m).

Employment growth is fast-paced in the short to medium term, requiring land to expand onto, most of which is already planned. Most business/industrial growth will take place in central Cambridge, Te Awamutu, and around the Hamilton Airport.[29] Hautapu and the Hamilton Airport area are expected to be the fastest-growth locations for employment lands.[30]

Low unemployment and high self-employment

Unemployment is typically lower than the national rate. In 2023, the annual average unemployment rate in Waipā district (2.6%) was lower than for New Zealand (3.5%). The top employment sectors are construction, agriculture, wholesale trades, and manufacturing.

Waipā has a high rate of self-employment. In 2023, self-employed workers accounted for 24.3% of the workforce in Waipā district, which was notably higher than for New Zealand (15.9%) and the Waikato Region (16.8%).[31]

[26] Waipā District, Te Waka at Waikato.com

[27] Regional Economic Profile, Infometrics, 2023

[28] Submission to the NPS-HPL, Waipā District Council, 2019

[29] Future Proof Strategy, 2022

[30] Economic outcomes of five scenarios for Ahu Ake – Waipā Community Spatial Plan, Infometrics, 2022

[31] Regional Economic Profile, Infometrics, 2023

Slowing GDP growth in the long term, and a growing Māori economic sector

Gross domestic product (GDP) growth is expected to taper off in the long term. Economic growth in Waipā District averaged 3.8 %pa over the 10 years to 2023 compared with an average of 3.0 %pa ifor New Zealand.[32] It is projected to slow towards 2050, given the demographic constraints on labour force growth from an ageing population.[33]

Māori employment growth is projected to surpass overall employment growth. In Waipā, Māori employment growth has historically outpaced non-Māori employment growth, mainly due to the rapid expansion of the Māori working-age population and high representation in the construction sector.[34]

The tourism sector is growing. In 2023, the tourism sector employed 4.5% of workers in Waipā and contributed 1.9% of GDP. Tourism spending has grown over time from $92M in 2013 to $208M in 2023, with around 83% of this coming from domestic visitors.[35]



[32] Regional Economic Profile, Infometrics, 2023

[33] Economic outcomes of five scenarios for Ahu Ake – Waipā Community Spatial Plan, Infometrics, 2022

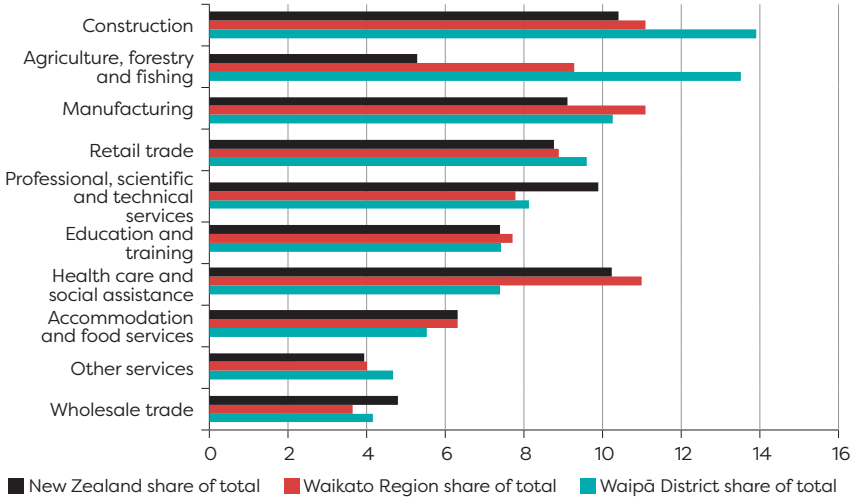
[34] Economic outcomes of five scenarios for Ahu Ake – Waipā Community Spatial Plan, Infometrics, 2022

[35] Regional Economic Profile, Infometrics, 2023



Kihikihi Lavender farm

Employment by Industry, Top Ten, 2023



GDP by Industry, Top Ten, 2023

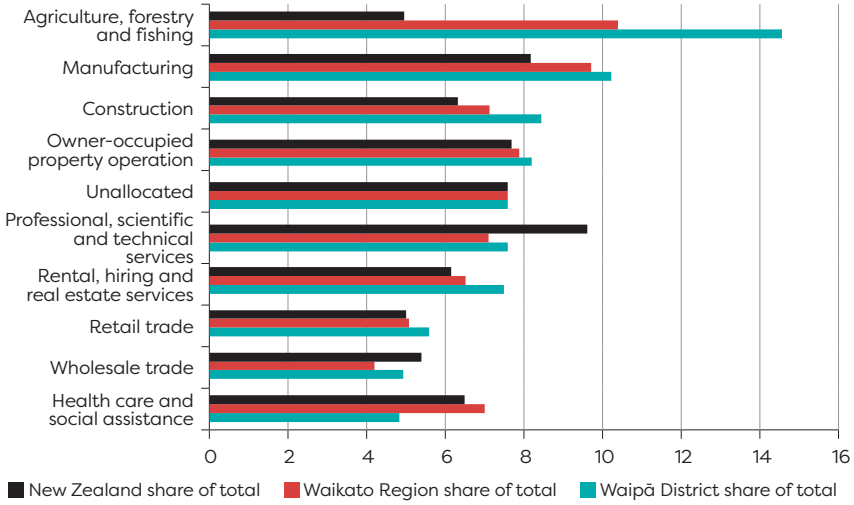


Figure 10 National, Regional and district economic profile [Infometrics]

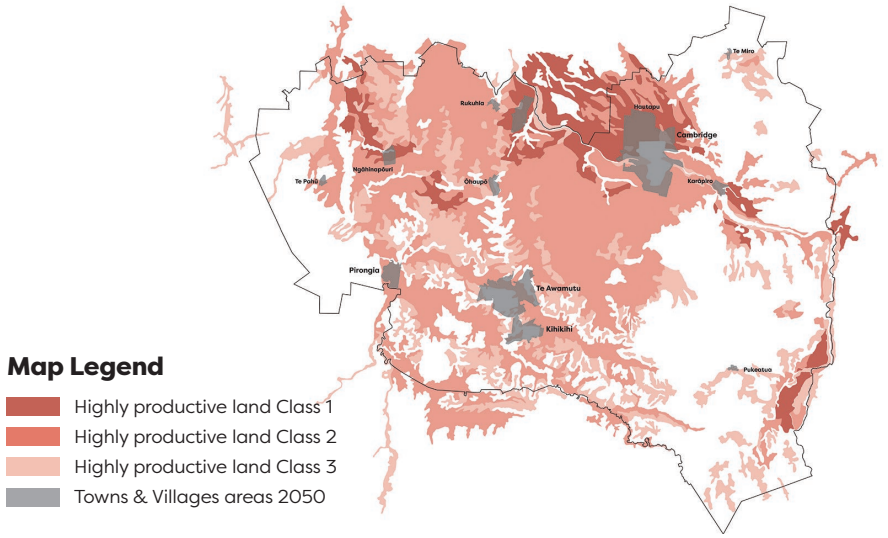
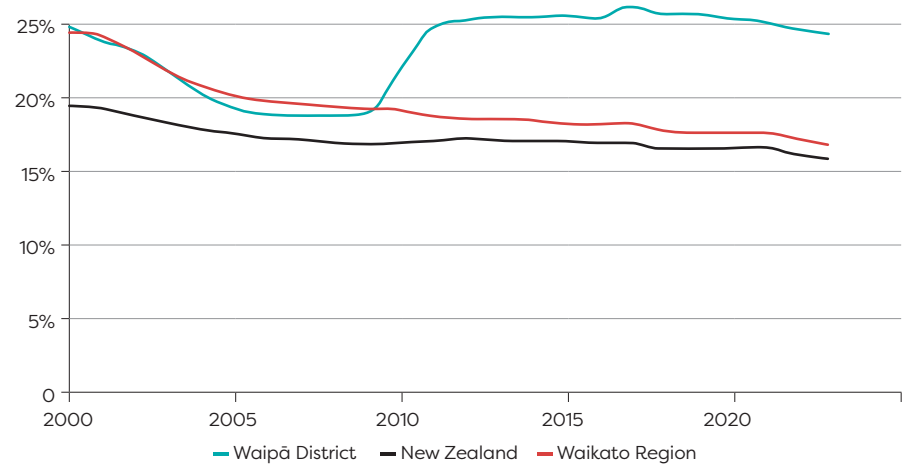


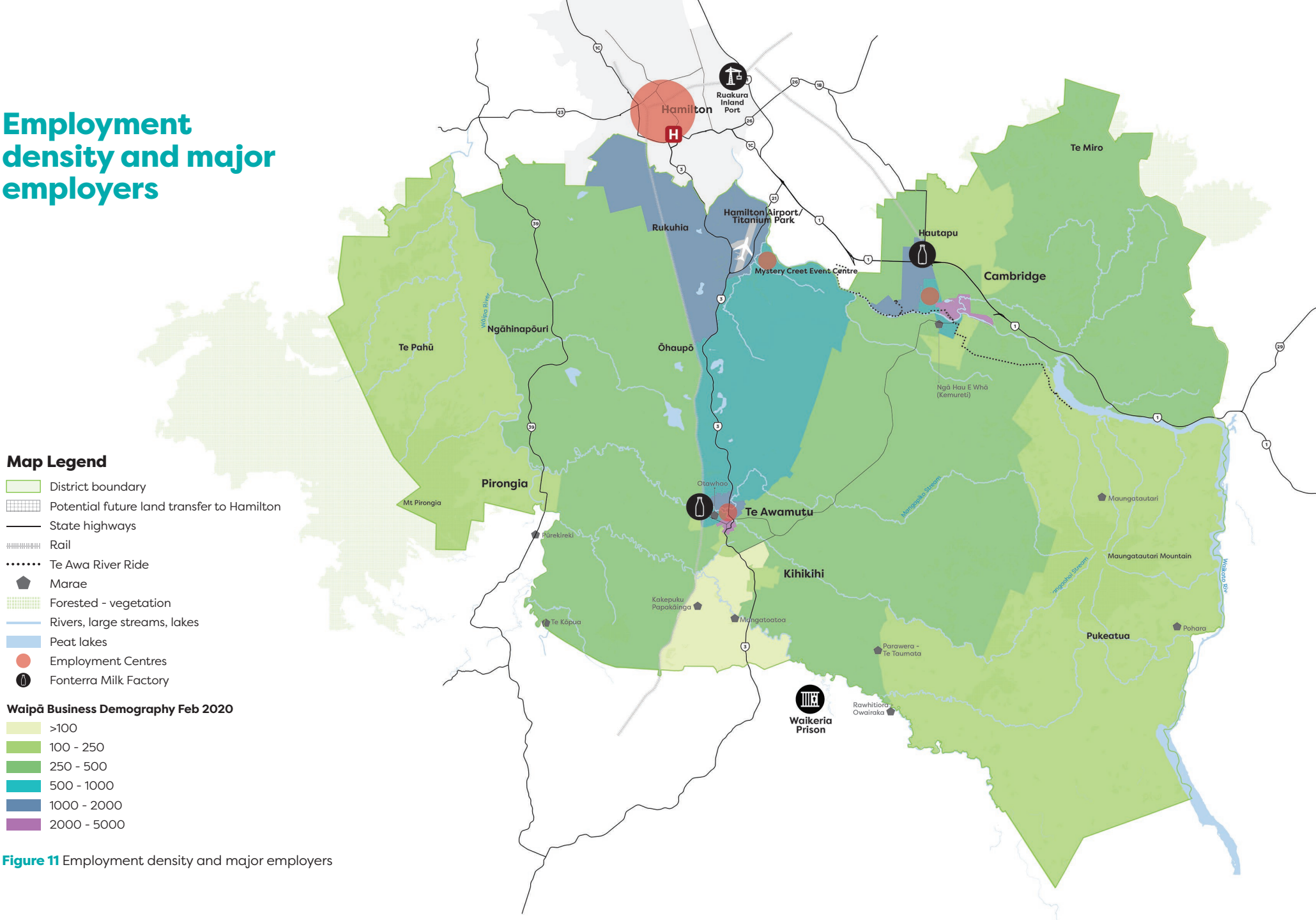
Figure 9 Highly productive land class coverage of the district.

Self-employment rate

% of total filled jobs, March years



Employment density and major employers



Map Legend

- District boundary
- Potential future land transfer to Hamilton
- State highways
- Rail
- Te Awa River Ride
- Marae
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Peat lakes
- Employment Centres
- Fonterra Milk Factory

Waipā Business Demography Feb 2020

- >100
- 100 - 250
- 250 - 500
- 500 - 1000
- 1000 - 2000
- 2000 - 5000

Figure 11 Employment density and major employers

Connections to markets, recreational activities, and other communities influence our pace of growth and create opportunities

Why this is important

Waipā's neighbouring urban areas (Auckland, Hamilton, and Tauranga) are experiencing strong growth and are projected to add over 900,000 new residents by 2048. Waipā is well connected by road and rail to quickly growing major urban centres adjacent to Hamilton City, one of the fastest growing cities in the country. People view Waipā as a great place to live, and this is driving the district's growth through migration from places such as Auckland. The road network provides residents and businesses with ready access to various recreational and business opportunities.

Present situation

At the southern end of the nation's most significant transport corridor

Waipā is at the southern end of the Hamilton-Waikato Metro Area, and is part of the Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan. The corridor connects two of New Zealand's fastest growing cities through an area of high natural and cultural importance and value. The parallel road and rail alignments make it New Zealand's most significant transport corridor.[36]

Waipā's large road network is critical for the vitality, resilience, and sustainability of our communities

Waipā district boasts a substantial road network, encompassing 1,112km of local roads and several key strategic state highways (SH1, 3, 21 and 39). This extensive infrastructure plays a pivotal role in connecting people and freight in the upper North Island, linking the key seaports in Auckland and Tauranga with the Waikato Ruakara inland port and logistics hubs. It is clear that this road network is not just a means of transportation, but a crucial element in supporting the district's economic growth and development.

Upon completion, the planned and long-term improvements to the Cambridge to Piarere expressway will not only enhance the resilience of the road network but also facilitate safer and faster freight and connections between Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, and Rotorua. These improvements, in addition to their safety benefits, aim to reduce the number of crashes, thereby increasing the efficiency of the highway and supporting productivity and economic growth in the Waikato region. Furthermore, the expressway's pathway and location could potentially open up new opportunities for development around Karāpiro, within and/or beyond existing growth areas.

The North Island Main Trunk (NIMT) Line strategic rail corridor is mainly used for freight. The Hautapu branch line (or Cambridge branch line) is regularly used by the Fonterra dairy factory at Hautapu to the East Coast Main Trunk line (from Hamilton to Tauranga).

Transport is about more than economic efficiency; it needs to support our places and is required to be fully integrated with the district land use. A well-designed network can facilitate accessibility and increase the liveability of an area by connecting it to essential amenities. For Mana Whenua and Iwi, a road network is often a prerequisite for developing other infrastructure for papakāinga, such as water supply systems, sewage systems, electricity networks, and telecommunications

[36] Future Proof Strategy 2024

infrastructure. It lays the foundation for the overall development and sustainability of Māori housing on Māori-owned land, often located in isolated rural areas.

As growth takes place, higher rates of traffic through towns and/or village centres are undermining the character of towns, like large trucks on the main street in Te Awamutu or highway traffic through the centre of Ōhaupō. High-traffic roads and the level of amenities they can provide often have a complex relationship, and many places in Waipā require careful urban planning and traffic management strategies.

The Future Proof Hamilton—Waikato Metropolitan Spatial Plan envisages a public bus service connecting Te Awamutu and Cambridge to Hamilton, establishing a multi-modal transport network, connecting the metro area and facilitating a radical shift to public transport. It will particularly improve connections between Hamilton and Cambridge, the Hamilton Airport, and Te Awamutu, which are intended to become frequent public transport corridors with high levels of service.

Good access means Waipā is a great place to visit and for events

Good access to and from other communities means Waipā district is a great location for events and high-performance sports. The district is a base for international high-performance sports facilities with equestrian facilities at Kihikihi, a track cycling velodrome in Cambridge, and an international rowing and kayaking course at Lake Karāpiro. The Hamilton Airport, Mystery Creek Events Centre and their surroundings are important employment hubs that draw significant commercial and industrial activities.

The Hamilton Airport connects us nationally

The Hamilton Airport in the northern part of the district provides a port for freight and passenger travel. It is an entry point for many tourists and a regional hub for air transport. Mystery Creek Events Centre is an important event, exhibition site and tourism feature for the region and nationally. Plan Change 20 (PC20) came into effect on 01 July 2024, allowing for the rezoning and expansion of the Airport Northern Precinct to accommodate future economic growth.



Balloons over Waipā



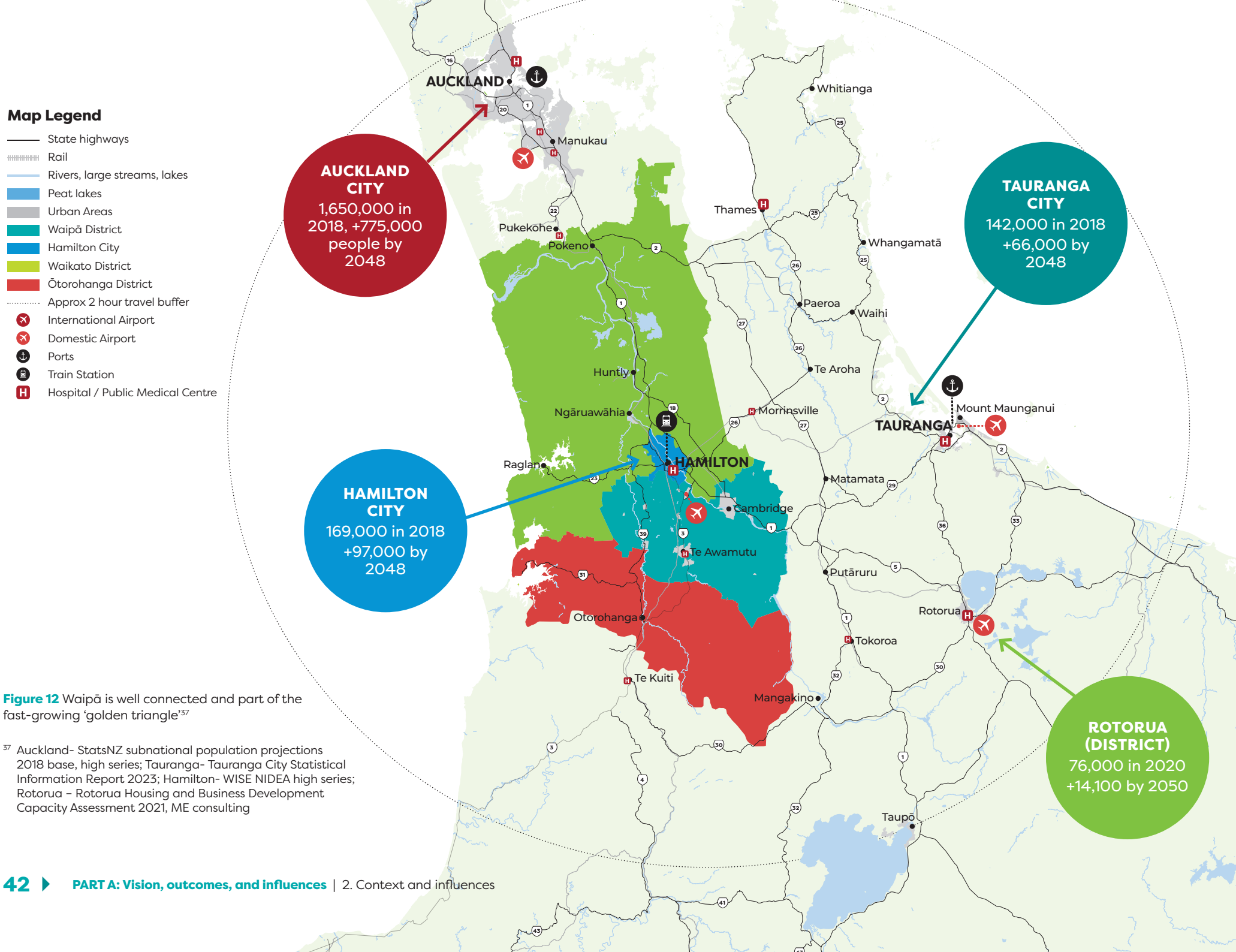


Figure 12 Waipā is well connected and part of the fast-growing 'golden triangle'[37]

[37] Auckland- StatsNZ subnational population projections 2018 base, high series; Tauranga- Tauranga City Statistical Information Report 2023; Hamilton- WISE NIDEA high series; Rotorua – Rotorua Housing and Business Development Capacity Assessment 2021, ME consulting

Areas of the district are unsuited to development, and others need protective measures

Why this is important

Waipā district remains proactive in managing its increasing growth. In 2017, the Council developed the Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy, which ensures land for residential development occurs in suitable locations, therefore avoiding protected areas or proceeding carefully in sensitive ones. It recognises that some places have better uses than urbanisation i.e., highly productive land, or are best left undeveloped because of hazardous conditions.[38]

Present situation

Waipā District Council is part of the Future Proof | Te Tau Tiitoki Partnership set up to consider how the subregion should develop in the future. Part of this includes managing urban growth areas to avoid places that are best left for other activities.

The Future Proof Strategy defines wāhi toitū areas (places with an enduring presence that should be protected from development in perpetuity) and wāhi toiora areas (places where change or development should only occur with the greatest care).

Waipā has large land areas of peat soils, peat lake catchments, significant natural areas, conservation lands, and highly productive lands which meet these criteria across the district. The district's Large Lot Residential Zone is designed to reduce the potential for reverse sensitivity and manage infrastructure. This zone is focussed around existing towns or rural villages that have been identified in the Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy as areas for future growth[39].

Te Ture Whaimana, the vision and strategy for the Waikato River (and Waipā River), calls for a protect-and-enhance approach to protecting rivers from land use and other unsuitable activities in their catchments.

Waipā's growth management plans must account for these constraints when considering development of new areas. Preserving natural resources like highly productive lands will ensure Waipā's ongoing strong economic performance. Maintaining peat lake catchments and healthy significant natural areas supports the health of the Waikato River, which helps achieve Te Ture Whaimana.

[38] Constraints on growth maps are identical with those in the Future Proof Strategy 2024. Some layers of information, particularly those which are sensitive to climate change like flood risk, are likely to change as newer information becomes available over time. In case of conflicts with this map to others, the Future Proof Strategy or Operative District Plan maps will prevail.

[39] Waipā Operative District Plan 2016

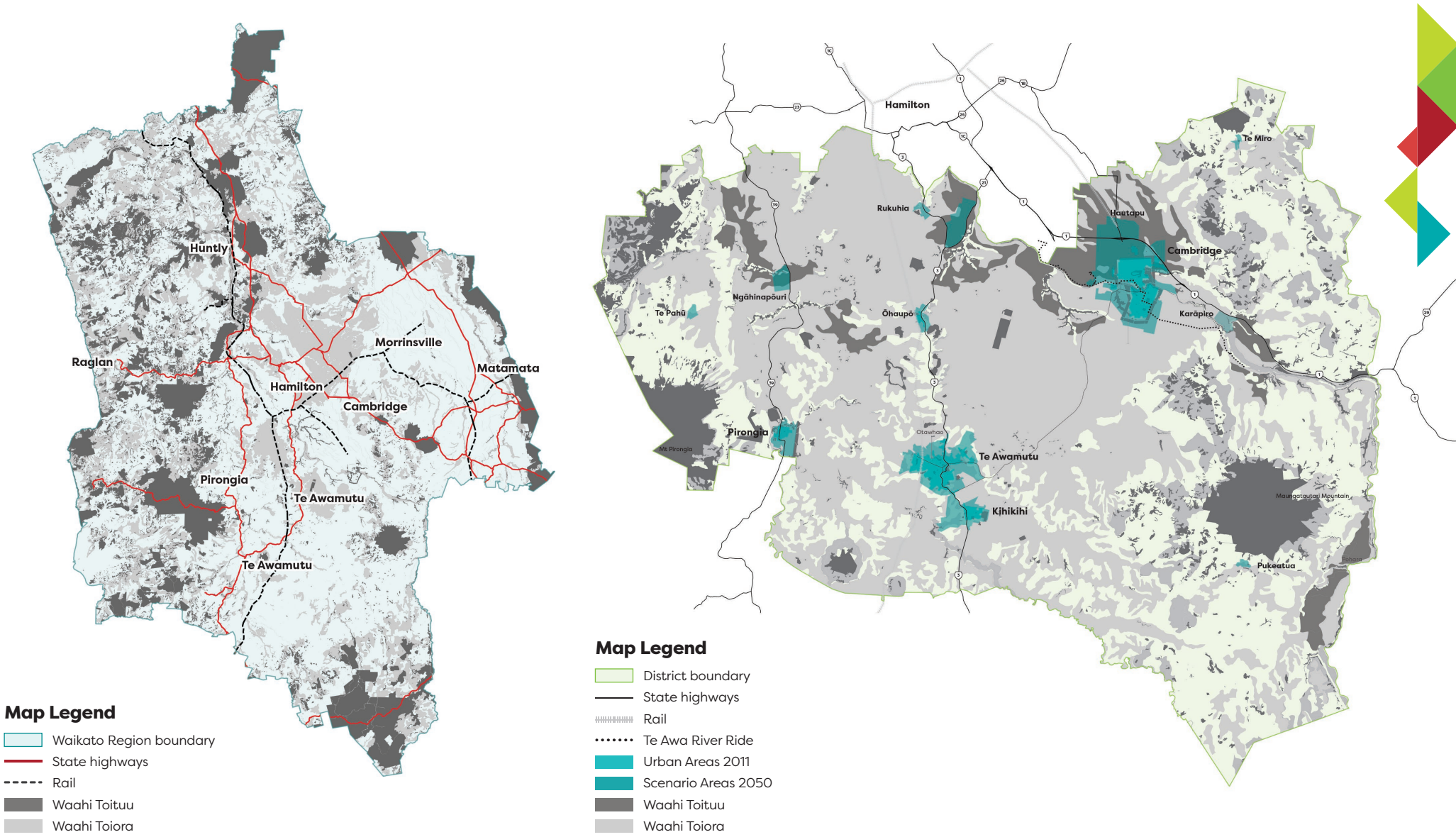


Figure 13 Areas to protect from / avoid with development – Waikato region in part (left) and Waipā District (right) (Future Proof, 2023)

Lake Ngā Roto



Lifeline utilities must be maintained to safeguard our communities

Why this is important

Lifeline infrastructures in the Waipā context refer to critical systems and services essential for the functioning of our communities. These include essential and enabling infrastructure and services provided, such as water, wastewater, transport, energy, healthcare facilities, emergency services and telecommunications. Waipā is a high-growth council, and these services are required to be maintained and enhanced to support community resilience, enable business growth, and underpin the provision and access of public services to all.

Present situation

Waipā boasts a robust set of 'traditional' lifeline infrastructures, ensuring essential services and support for residents, businesses, and visitors. Despite the district's general protection from many natural disasters, recent years have presented new challenges, with an ever-present risk linked to localised flooding, climate change impacts, and exposure to a global pandemic. As our communities grow, ongoing investments in infrastructure and disaster preparedness pose an affordability challenge for the Council.

Investments made at the sub-regional level can alleviate affordability challenges

The district is currently engaged in a sub-regional project to establish a shared wastewater treatment plant as part of the Future Proof partnership. This forward-thinking initiative takes a long-term approach, considering the economic and environmental benefits for the sub-region and surrounding areas over a 100-year period. This initiative has enabled the scalability of sewerage and water treatment plants. By sharing the capital costs and future operating expenses among a larger rating base, any new plant becomes more affordable.

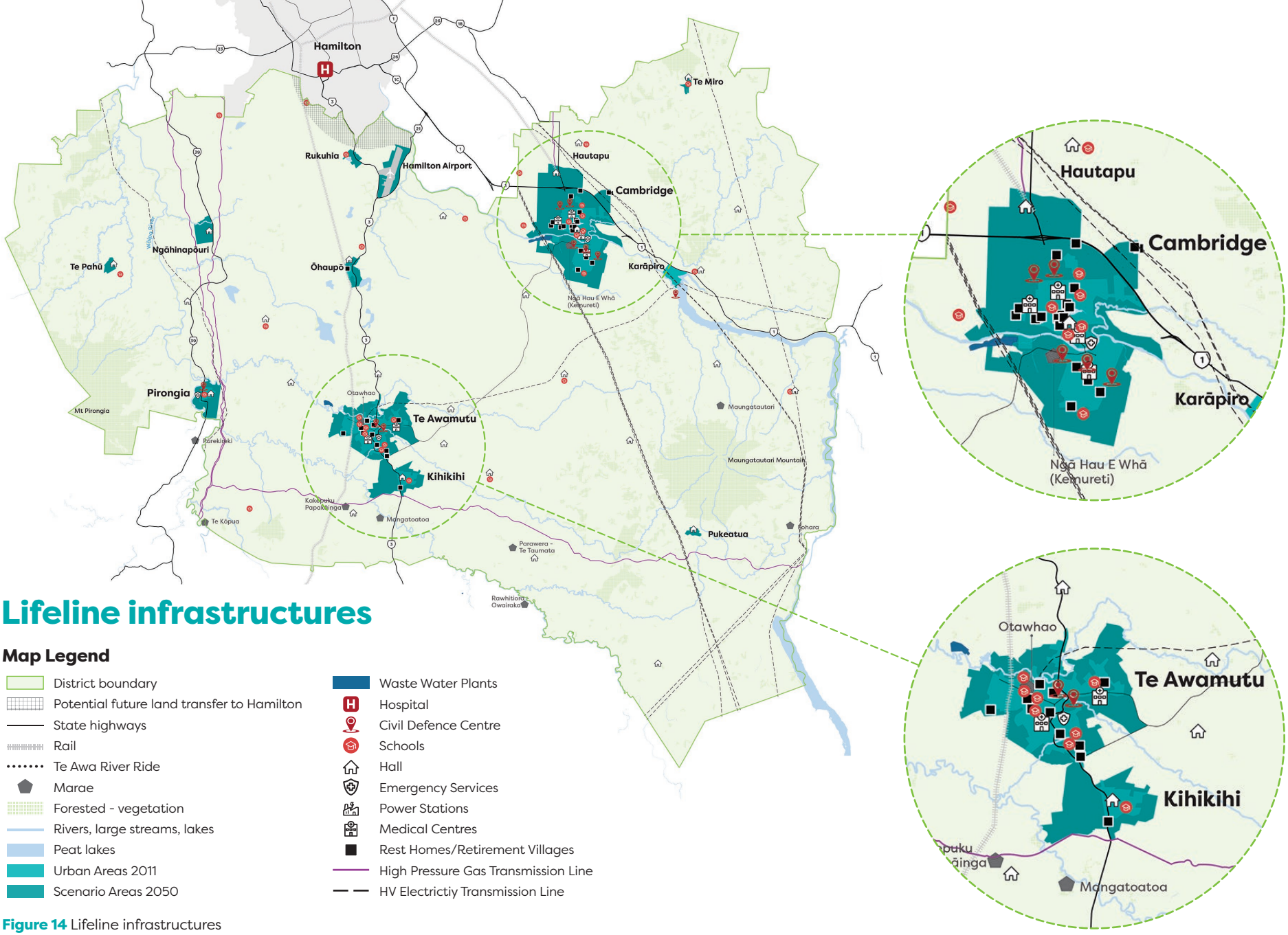
Furthermore, the partnership model has bolstered the resilience of the Waipā roading network, creating more resilient lifeline corridors with a higher standard of construction for roads and bridges. The Southern Links roading network will enhance resilience by replacing the old Narrows bridge, which is at risk in an earthquake and is vulnerable to vehicle damage closure due to its location on a tight bend. State Highway 3 (SH3) holds significant regional status as the primary route for road freight transport, serving as the main link between Taranaki and southwest Waikato to the upper North Island. On the other hand, SH21, which passes the Hamilton Airport, was strategically built to provide airport and port access. Beyond connecting destinations, SH3 also plays a crucial role in local and regional tourism, underscoring its strategic significance[40].

Community facilities network can be tapped into

Waipā boasts a wide array of community facilities spread throughout the district, even in our most remote areas. These include community halls, schools, marae, and civil defence posts, all of which cater to the needs of both urban and rural communities. These social hubs harbour individuals with valuable knowledge and connections within their communities, which can be invaluable during times of crisis or emergencies.

At the time of writing this plan, Te Whatu Ora / Health New Zealand's locality planning approach focuses on enhancing the health and overall wellbeing of communities. This place-based approach aims to improve the health of the population by organising health and social services according to the needs identified by communities and the local authorities. The approach and extensive dataset used to establish this locality model can provide accurate insight into the community it serves and provide essential support when health and wellbeing are at risk during crises and/or emergencies.

[40] Hamilton to New Plymouth corridor management plan



Lifeline infrastructures

Map Legend

- District boundary
- Potential future land transfer to Hamilton
- State highways
- Rail
- Te Awa River Ride
- Marae
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Peat lakes
- Urban Areas 2011
- Scenario Areas 2050
- Waste Water Plants
- Hospital
- Civil Defence Centre
- Schools
- Hall
- Emergency Services
- Power Stations
- Medical Centres
- Rest Homes/Retirement Villages
- High Pressure Gas Transmission Line
- HV Electrictiy Transmission Line

Figure 14 Lifeline infrastructures

Strategic policy context provides direction on important outcomes and priorities

Why this is important

Waipā District Council operates in a context of laws, strategies, policies, and plans at national, regional, sub-regional and local levels. As a local authority approved plan, the spatial plan must consider the legislative requirements and other higher order plans and policies.

Present situation

As of the time this plan was written, various elements of the strategic policy landscape had a significant impact on the development of Ahu Ake.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Having regard to the principles and articles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi is threaded through all national direction and through the preparation and objectives of Ahu Ake. In addition to Te Tiriti o Waitangi are the Waikato Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 and Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipā River) Act 2012. These treaty settlement acts establish requirements for co-governance and management as well as the primacy of the health of the Waikato and Waipā rivers.

A partnership approach was applied to the involvement of Mana Whenua and Iwi throughout the development of Ahu Ake, including representation in project decision-making forums and through a variety of hui to seek input on aspirations and methods to achieve these. This also included involving Joint Management Agreement (JMA) partners to determine the future scenario for the interim draft plan and to provide feedback on the draft plan for consultation.

Local Government Act (LGA) 2002 and Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991

Ahu Ake supports the purpose of local government by enabling local decision-making and by promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of Waipā's communities. Ahu Ake recognises and provides for the Council's obligations to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources by considering the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) Part 2 matters. These are illustrated by the Vision and Community Outcomes and Mana Whenua and Iwi aspirations, which set the direction for the plan, as well as through a process that enables local decision-making.

Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato – the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River

Te Ture Whaimana is recognised and is given statutory weight by the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010. It was extended to incorporate the upper Waipā River through the Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipā River) Act 2012. It is important because it sets out the vision, objectives, and primary direction-setting to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and its tributaries. Ahu Ake has taken direction from the vision, goals, and objectives of Te Ture Whaimana by applying these as part of the scenario evaluation process and to inform the implementation actions.

National Policy Statements (NPSs)

Ahu Ake has had regard to the suite of National Policy Statements. Some examples of this include: the NPS-Urban Development in promoting a well-functioning urban environment and Māori housing; the NPS-Highly Productive Lands in setting a priority to maintain Waipā's productive land base; the NPS-Freshwater Management in giving effect to Te Mana o te Wai (for example, prioritising the quality of peat lakes); and the NPS-Indigenous Biodiversity in terms of seeking improvement to the quality and extent of native vegetation and recognising the critical connection between Mana Whenua and indigenous biodiversity.

Iwi Environmental Plans

Several Iwi Environmental Management Plans have been developed by the Iwi and hapū located in the Waipā district. These include:

- Hingakākā-Ngāroto Iwi Management Plan (2006)
- Raukawa Environmental Management Plan (2015)
- Waikato-Tainui Environmental Management Plan (2018)
- Maniapoto Environmental Management Plan (2018)
- Ngāti Hauā Iwi Environmental Management Plan (2018)

These plans are designed to guide environmental management that aligns with the respective Iwi within their rohe and improves iwi economic aspirations.

In addition to these, the Waipā District Council promotes the governance capacity of Mana Whenua, hapū i and Iwi through the election of a Māori Ward Councillor and the appointment of Te Kanohi to key Council committees, ensuring local decision-making is more inclusive. The presence of a Māori ward councillor and Te Kanohi at the table ensures there is Māori representation and greater learning about the heritage and history of Waipā.

Land Transport Management Act

Ahu Ake has considered the Land Transport Management Act and the 2024 Government Policy Statement (GPS) on land transport. As a 30-year plan, Ahu Ake's implementation planning will adapt as future GPSs are prepared.

Zero Carbon Act and National Adaptation Plan

The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 requires the country to have a National Adaptation Plan and National Emissions Reduction Plan in place, and all local councils are required to have regard to these in the preparation of district-level plans. Domestic targets under the Zero Carbon Amendment Act are for net zero emissions of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions other than biogenic methane by 2050. Addressing and mitigating the effects of climate change is a driving influence for all areas of Ahu Ake. Climate change adaptation and mitigation were embedded in the development and assessment of all possible future scenarios and have directly influenced the design of implementation actions.

Regional plans: Future Proof Development Strategy, Hamilton-Waikato Metro Spatial Plan, Waikato Regional Policy Statement, Waikato Regional Land Transport Plan, Waikato Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP).

At the sub-regional level, the Future Proof Strategy 2024 is the leading strategy. Waipā is one of the partner district councils.

The strategy is a settlement pattern and growth management spatial plan for the sub-region covering the Waikato District, Hamilton City, Waipā District and Matamata-Piako District. The Future Proof Strategy has been updated to meet the requirements of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development and to meet the requirements for becoming the 'Future Development Strategy' for the sub-region. The Future Proof Strategy settlement pattern is further endorsed in the Waikato Regional Policy Statement in Part 3 Urban form and in development objectives and policies. Ahu Ake has been developed based on the direction given in the Future Development Strategy and will, in turn, inform future evolution of the sub-regional strategy by providing evidence and community feedback to support future reviews.

The Future Proof partnership has identified seven transformational moves for change including:

- Iwi aspirations
- Waikato River
- A comprehensive and fundamental evolution of our transport system
- A vibrant metro core and lively metropolitan and town centres
- Strong and productive economic corridors
- Thriving communities and neighbourhoods
- Water wise and water sensitive communities

The Hamilton-Waikato Metro Spatial Plan is a long-term plan for growth of the sub-region, including parts of Waipā, and is given effect through the Future Proof Strategy. Core components from the Future Proof Strategy are replicated in the Waikato Regional Policy Statement, Waikato Regional Land Transport Plan, and Waikato Regional Public Transport Plan.

The underlying themes and key focus areas set out in Ahu Ake have taken inspiration from the above transformational moves for change set out by Future Proof and apply consistent growth projections and residential and business demand needs assumptions for planning purposes. Regard has been had to the future land use form and transport networks proposed through the suite of regional planning documents.

Compared to the sub-regional plans, Ahu Ake stands out due to its focus on the Waipā perspective. It is deeply rooted in the thorough community engagement undertaken during its development, reflecting the voices of the Waipā community and setting forth future aspirations. As a result, Ahu Ake delves into potential long-term actions that might necessitate adjustments to the Future Proof Strategy when it is reviewed and/or implemented. These adjustments would follow agreed processes in line with the collaborative ethos of the Future Proof partnership.

The preparation of Ahu Ake is informed by its higher-order strategic context, and it provides direction to the Council on how it should best respond at a district and local level.

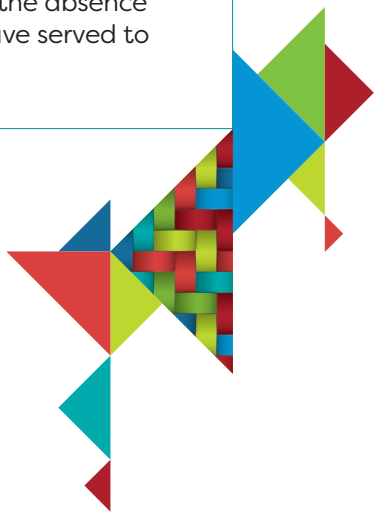
Spatial planning is an effective tool for pursuing long-term goals to promote and provide for positive social, economic, environmental, and cultural outcomes at a local level. It can help show how the strategic policy context applies locally.

Ahu Ake's purpose is more than responding to central and local government policy and reforms. It is critical to planning our future because the strategic policy environment in which Council operates can change quickly. It enables Waipā District Council to communicate and advocate, as a single voice, the priorities and aspirations of the community and how to achieve them over the long term, no matter what the strategic policy context looks like

A note on the early 2024 repeal of the Spatial Planning Act and Affordable Waters Reform.

Ahu Ake has a 30+ year outlook. Three decades ago, the Resource Management Act was yet to be enacted. In thirty years from now we cannot predict the legislative context. A plan founded on enduring aspirations provided through partner and community engagement is a strong platform from which to manage and direct change as the legislative environment shifts.

The repeal of the Spatial Planning Act, and the changes to Affordable Waters Reform in early 2024 by the new National led coalition government has no material impact on the need for and/or benefit of Ahu Ake. The plan is firmly grounded in the Local Government Act, Resource Management Act and local government decision-making processes. The development of an agreed spatial strategy that is supported by Mana Whenua and Iwi and which is intended to achieve long term partner and community aspirations is even more important in the absence of a statutory instrument that would otherwise have served to guide future planning and investment decisions.



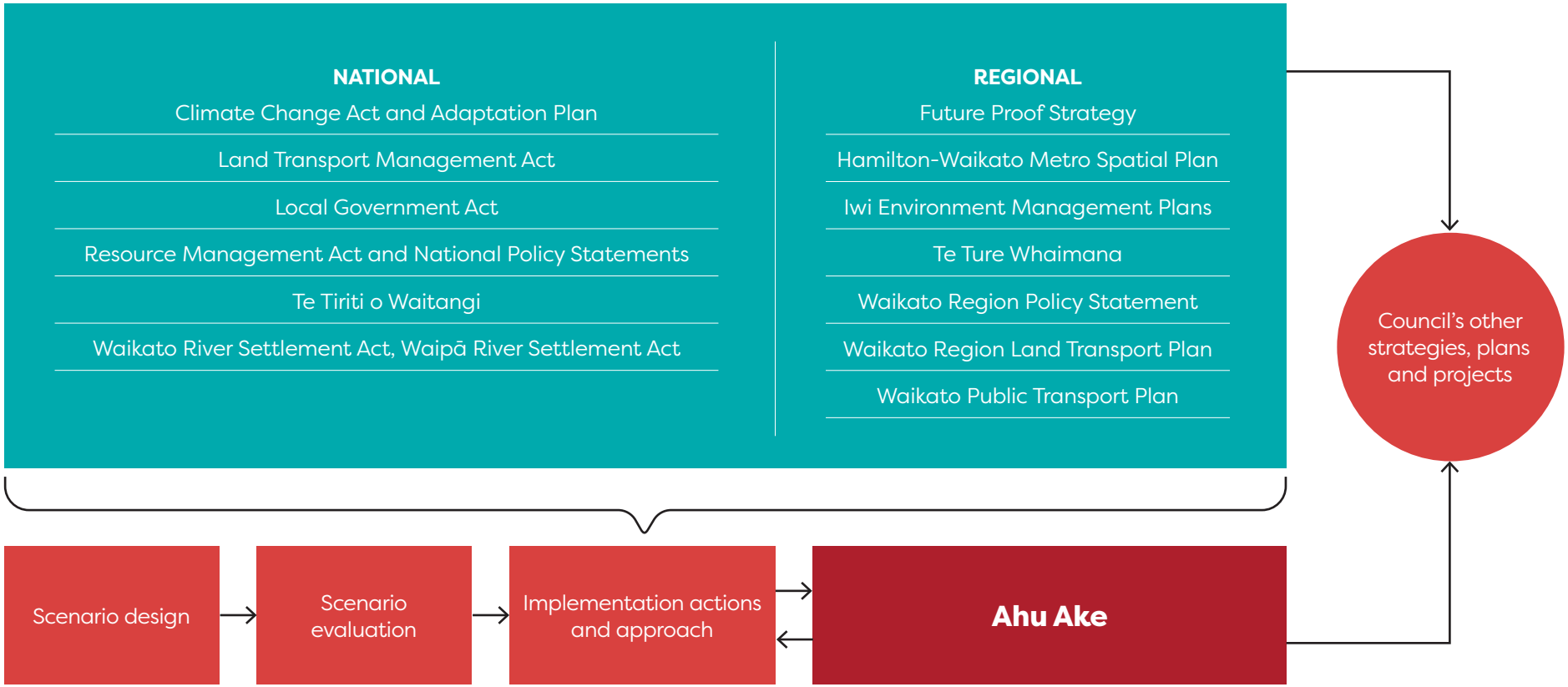


Figure 15 Ahu Ake and its strategic policy context



Fountain of the Birds, Rose Gardens, Te Awamutu

Part B

Key focus areas and strategic opportunities

Part B compiles the stories and aspirations shared with us by our Partners, Stakeholders, and the wider community during engagement in 2022 and 2023. These aspirations are categorised into seven key focus areas:

- Placemaking, future development, and housing.
- Economic development.
- Transport.
- Environment.
- Community spaces.
- Heritage, arts, and culture.
- Three waters.

The feedback received features as narratives in the 'Describing the future we want' sections and is translated into strategic opportunities to identify comprehensive, aligned interventions.

These interventions are detailed in the "How we plan to get there" sections and outline a pathway for Council on how to address these aspirations.

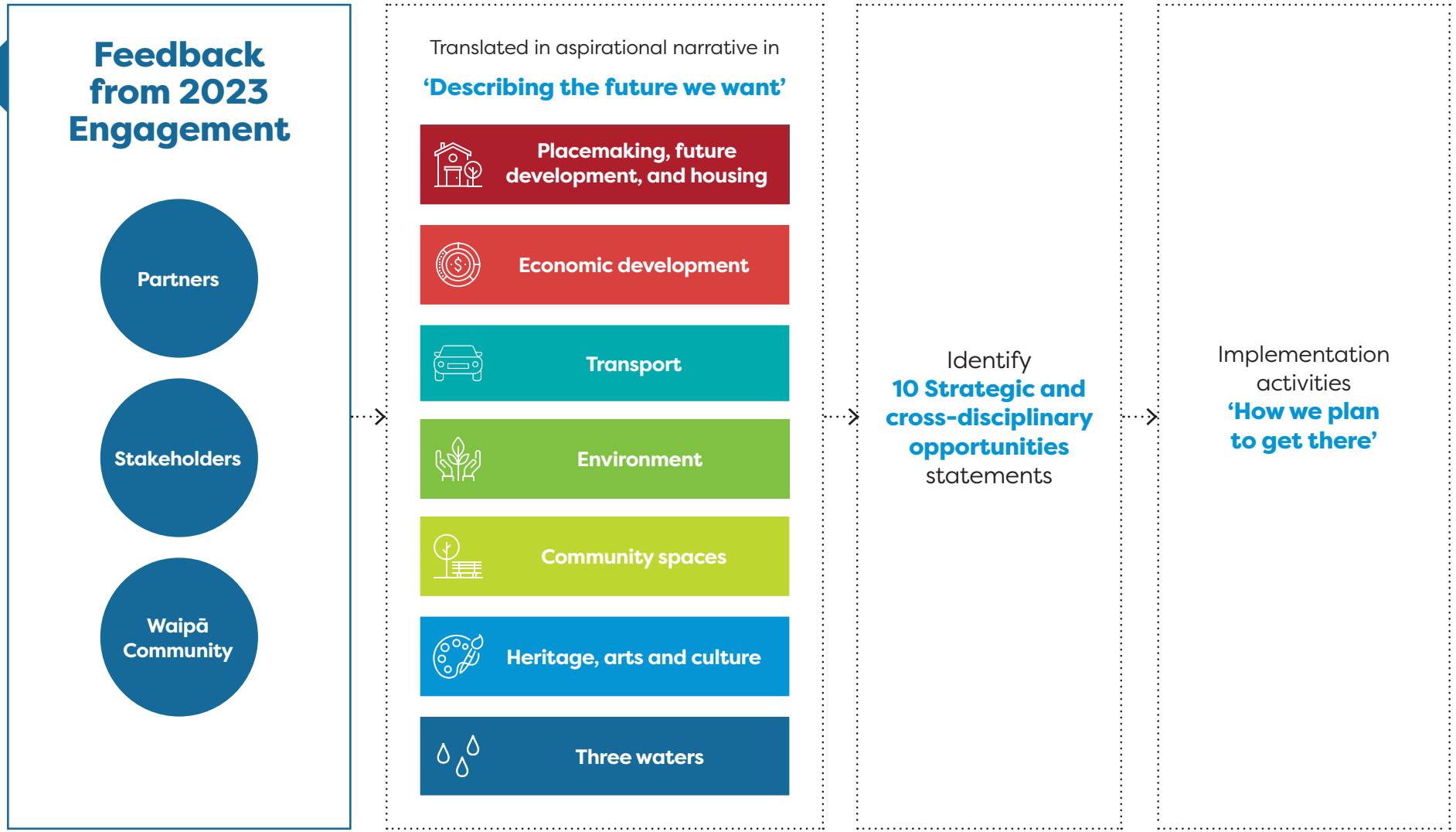


Figure 16 Feedback from 2023 Engagement

Placemaking, Future development and Housing

Describing the future we want

By 2055, our communities feel like home. They have grown, but still echo the attractive characteristics from 30 years ago - with many changes and improvements. Their character and vibrancy are stronger. Most communities - whether rural or urban - have yet to expand beyond the growth areas set out in 2024. Very little new rural residential development has taken place. Māori are enabled to use their ancestral lands and resources for cultural and housing needs.

People feel at home in Waipā

Waipā towns and villages have a keen sense of identity and purpose linked to their natural landscapes, location, people, and histories meaning that the cultural diversity of Waipā is celebrated throughout the building façades and streets in our district.

As places grow and change, people feel more at home in our urban centres, and Mana Whenua can recognise and see their culture and history reflected in our places.

New development has preserved important views from towns, villages, houses, and marae to Mt Pirongia, Kakepuku, and Maungatautari.

We retain and enhance urban forests, rural outlooks, important views, community planting and gardens and the green feel of our towns and villages because these are important to what we love about Waipā.

Housing meets our needs and is affordable.

Housing meets all residents' needs, especially those of youth and older adults, in a way that is integrated, affordable, accessible, and multi-generational. People do not have to move away because they cannot access the right type of housing in their community.

Different housing types are integrated and mixed to create diverse communities. Retirement villages have been well integrated into the main urban areas, and our towns are composed of multi-generational neighbourhoods.

Māori-housing enables Mana Whenua to return home to the Waipā district. Council works with Mana Whenua and Iwi to facilitate small- and large-scale Māori housing developments including papakāinga on and off Māori land in both rural and urban areas throughout the district.

Waipā's places are vibrant

10,000 new homes and 180 ha of industrial/business lands are developed mainly within the areas defined in the Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy. Our communities can access everything people need to live, work, and play locally.

The rural villages are vibrant places with a rural village character. Many new families call them home, and except for Ōhaupō, they are not planned to expand from their 2022 boundaries.

A boundary adjustment in the north of the district has brought Hamilton's

urban boundary towards the airport, and planning for Ōhaupō to grow into a larger village is underway to provide housing choices close to employment and on a frequent public transport route.

In response to the growth of the village and because of employment growth in south Hamilton and the airport, Ōhaupō has developed a new village centre off the highway with improved access to the school.

Infrastructure is delivered in timely and affordable ways

Communities and employment grow at a rate and in places that are affordable for the community, including the affordable provision of three waters, telecommunications/utilities, and community infrastructure.

New transport connections and wastewater supply unlock development around Hamilton Airport, which becomes one of the district's fastest-growing employment areas.

Strategic Opportunities

- Improve housing affordability and choice to meet evolving community needs and ensure housing developments and economic activities take place in appropriate areas.
- Maintain Waipā's quality of lifestyle while meeting the changing needs of both an ageing population and a growing youth demographic.
- Optimise social and economic benefits in towns and villages by taking a place-based approach to community planning to balance traffic levels and pedestrian amenities.
- Improve community resilience and wellbeing by maintaining high-quality community infrastructure, including lifeline utilities and adapting to climate change.

[41,42] Future Proof Strategy, 2022

How we plan to get there

Growing efficiently because we planned ahead

Waipā District Council has continued to work with Future Proof partners to take a collaborative approach to growth management in the sub-region. Monitoring and provision of sufficient land supply is an ongoing requirement of local government.

There is projected demand for around 180ha of business/industrial land in the district from 2020-2050.[41] Overall, there is sufficient available business and industrial land provided for in the District Plan. However, industrial land makes up a large proportion of this figure and is flexible in terms of where it takes place, dependent on sub-regional land supply. This means we should be ready for higher or lower growth of industrial lands.

Current projections outline that 22,000 new people who will live in Waipā district by 2055 will need around 10,000 new homes. We have sufficient planned capacity set out in the Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy but expect to need more land after 2050.[42] Looking to the near future and managed through the previously identified growth cells, Waipā mainly relies on greenfield development areas to meet housing demand. However, appropriate infill development will also be necessary over time.

The Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy has effectively managed population growth in district settlements. Ahu Ake will initiate a review of this document to ensure the implementation of a dynamic 'ceiling' approach, aligning growth with the necessary community amenities, including the need for community infrastructure.

To maintain an adequate future land supply, it is anticipated that within the next two decades, planning and enabling works for new residential growth areas, exceeding the scope outlined in the Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy, will be essential, particularly in Cambridge and Ōhaupō, Te Awamutu, and Kihikihi.

Implementation actions:

- Review Growth Strategy and Implementation Plan.

Use master planning to align investment in high economic growth areas

The Hamilton Airport and Hautapu will be areas of high employment growth in the district, as well as central Cambridge and Te Awamutu, and may require demand-driven expansions sooner than expected.

Council will promote master-planning exercises, bringing Council together with partners like developers, business owners, landowners, neighbouring councils and infrastructure providers, to determine the future look and feel of these places; to outline infrastructure requirements; and to agree implementation responsibilities.

Implementation actions:

- Review of the Three Waters Masterplan.
- Review of the Transport Strategy.

More housing choices, and facilitating Māori housing

The district's housing affordability is a known problem and is not expected to be resolved easily. The Council will continue to build on plan change outcomes such as the ones from Plan Change 26—Residential Zone Intensification and will continue championing affordable housing by applying regulatory tools and seeking opportunities with housing providers to enable a wider range of housing types. Council's rules enable multi-generational housing, such as smaller homes and multiple homes on a single property.

Mana Whenua and Iwi have expressed interest in rural and urban forms of papakāinga and have noted that there should be no planning limitations to providing papakāinga whether a marae is located nearby or not. Council will facilitate Māori-led housing initiatives, and proactively address policy barriers to enable more housing choice and better affordability for Māori housing.

Implementation actions:

- Update Housing Strategy and Implementation Plan.

Create vibrant places with authentic character, including contextual design for rural settlements

Placemaking will become a more deliberate part of Council's work. We will develop an approach to delivering community infrastructure and activate our public spaces to enable the community activities and cultural expression that residents are looking for in our towns and villages. This may include design guidelines being refreshed over time and anchored into the District Plan, examining how new developments can encourage strong social ties between generations, and an increased role for concept plans for towns and villages to set local investment priorities.

Housing intensification across Waipā's small towns and villages could have a detrimental effect on the character and identity of some of those smaller places. This was a consistent concern raised through the engagement on Ahu Ake. Changes to urban places, including infill development, is unavoidable. Council will review the design guidance and processes in place, seeking to promote contextual design which supports the character and sense of place that current and future residents value.

Implementation actions:

- Prepare a Placemaking Strategy and Implementation Plan
- Review Urban design guidelines.
- Develop Te Ao Māori Design Principles
- District Plan updates and Concept Plans monitoring and reporting.

Leveraging infrastructure projects to alleviate Karāpiro severance issues

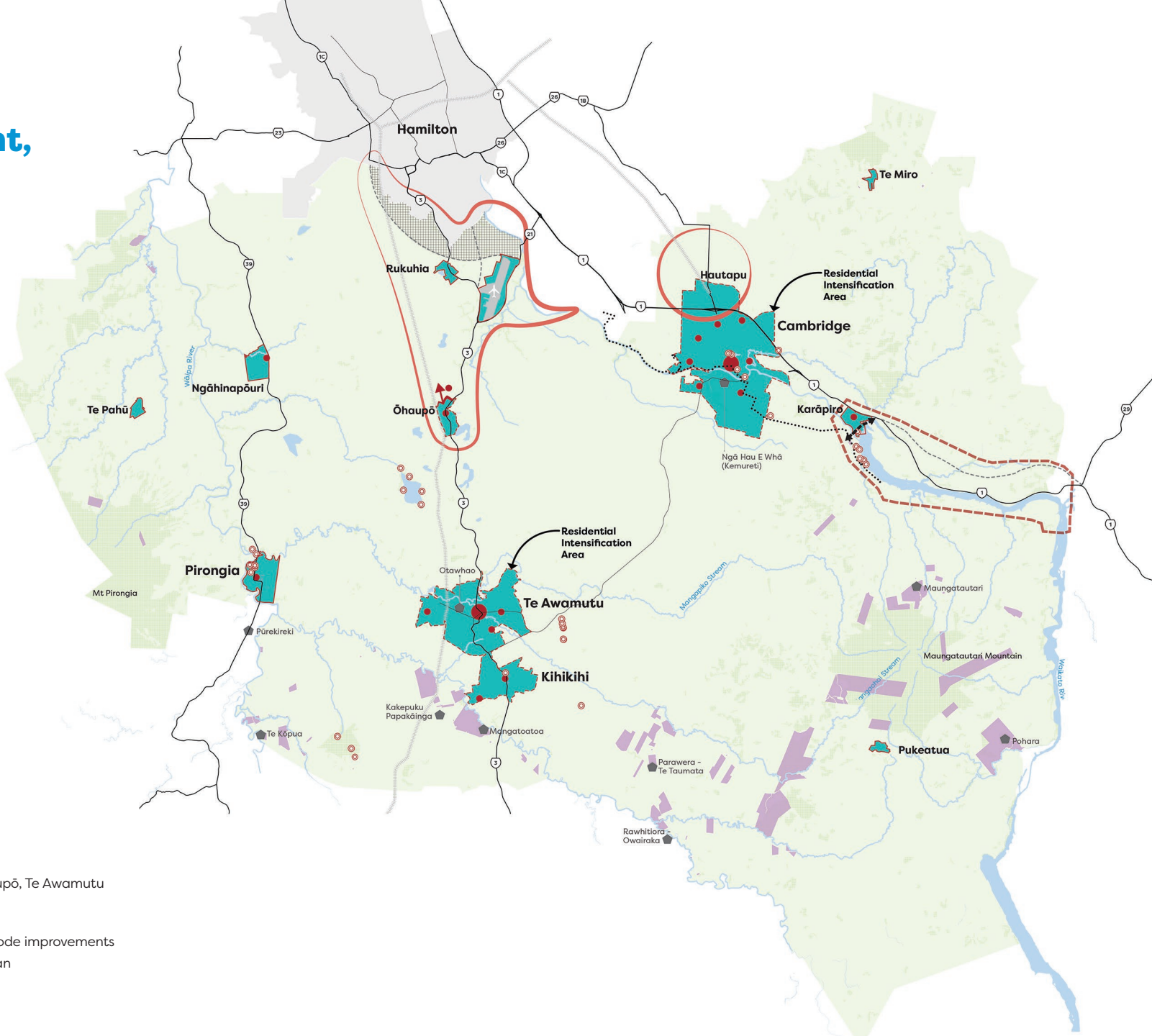
The village of Karāpiro is notable for its lake of the same name, which serves as an international hub for various water sports and is also popular for fishing, boating, and camping. The work being carried out by the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) on State Highway 1 (SH1) between Cambridge and Piarere has been recognised as a Road of National Significance in the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport published in June 2024. This project presents an opportunity to address the community severance issues in Karāpiro. Implementing an economy-of-scale approach in planning the village and surroundings can significantly mitigate these issues and improve overall community wellbeing. By enhancing Karāpiro's accessibility to surrounding areas, Council would facilitate improved movement for residents, visitors, and businesses. This increased accessibility has the potential to boost tourism and local economic growth for the area and the district.

Implementation actions:

- Prepare a Lake Karāpiro Destination Management Plan.
- Investigate Karāpiro Village Connections.



Future Development, Placemaking and Housing



Map Legend

- District boundary
- Potential future land transfer to Hamilton
- State highways
- Rail
- Te Ara Wai Journeys
- Te Awa River Ride
- Marae
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Peat lakes
- Town and Village boundaries 2050
- Maori owned lands

Future Development, Placemaking and Housing

- Economic activity masterplanning areas
- Expansion of Ōhaupō
- Monitoring land supply in Cambridge, Ōhaupō, Te Awamutu and Kihikihi for expansion
- Karāpiro improved connections
- Local and town centres - focus for active mode improvements
- Lake Karāpiro Destination Management Plan

Radars Fish Shop, Kihikihi Town District



Economic Development

Describing the future we want

By 2055 our local businesses, creative industries, and entrepreneurs are engaged in high value, high-productivity endeavours that are globally competitive. There are diverse career pathways for future generations in Waipā.

Land-based primary production flourishes thanks to the protection of highly productive lands, improved environmental outcomes, innovation within industry, and recognised links between the urban and rural economic sectors. Primary production has continued and has developed to support domestic and export opportunities.

A strong primary production[43] sector is the backbone of an increasingly diversified economy, where more residents can pursue high-quality careers locally

Rural and urban economies in Waipā are closely linked, and there is a significant focus on promoting land-based primary production by safeguarding highly productive lands and significant mineral resources from unsuitable development, improper subdivision, and inappropriate use of natural resources.

Diversification to horticulture in response to climate change (fewer frost events), food security needs, and economic drivers (such as land value increases), has changed the primary production industry in the district which has adapted to meet these challenges. Diversification to horticulture presents an opportunity to reduce emissions while increasing food production whilst remaining within environmental limits. The development of horticulture greatly benefits from the accessibility provided by the Waikato Expressway, facilitating rapid transportation of produce to domestic urban markets and international export ports in Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, and Wellington, ensuring the delivery of fresh produce.

The types of industry in Waipā diversify, and as part of this, Mana Whenua can use their lands to support the wellbeing of their whānau. The improved economic diversity means our youth now have many different career opportunities and many residents can pursue careers locally, meaning they do not have to seek employment elsewhere.

Balancing short-term job opportunities with long-term demographic shifts remains crucial. We have prioritised more permanent employment, which leads to a more stable workforce. It is important to consider attracting or retaining people to live in our district by offering job opportunities, rather than having people move to the district and struggle to find suitable employment. This requires a focus on creating jobs that appeal to potential residents and investment in a skilled and well-trained workforce.

The impact of climate change and the necessity to transition to a sustainable economy drives the diversification of the Waipā economy further as the district adjusts to new environmental conditions and challenges. This diversification stimulates economic growth by creating opportunities for new industries and services related to sustainability, climate change mitigation, and/or adaptation. Additionally, it is connected to the growing labour demand, changes in the required skill sets, and shifts in seasonal labour needs.

[43] means production, from agricultural, pastoral, horticultural, or forestry activities, that is reliant on the soil resource of the land.

Waipā has proactively encouraged and attracted industries and businesses that deliver social, cultural and environmental outcomes and invest back into our communities.

The Māori economy is an integral part of Waipā's economic success, providing opportunities for Mana Whenua wishing to return to their rohe

We take the opportunity to boost the Māori economy and increase the visibility of Te Ao Māori through placemaking. Māori have more employment opportunities than before. A growing Māori population has brought new investment to the district, revitalised marae and helped make Māori culture more visible. It supports economic diversification goals and creates employment opportunities for Mana Whenua wishing to return to their rohe.

The towns and villages act as recreational and services hubs for a well-connected vibrant rural community

Waipā's villages such as Pirongia, Te Miro, and Pukeatua are places where sports clubs, schools and shops have a rural focus which provides a sense of community for rural Waipā. Developing the community facilities of villages like Ōhaupō, Te Miro, and Pirongia has helped to better connect and enable our rural communities as part of the wider district and encourages rural economic productivity.

Waipā is a renowned destination for recreation and sporting activities, in the context of strong cultural narratives, vibrant communities, and a healthy environment

Waipā is a nationally significant sporting hub,with Rowing New Zealand and Triathlon New Zealand based in the district, along with Tieke Golf Estate, equestrian hubs and the velodrome, currently known as the Grassroots Trust Velodrome, a world-class cycling facility.

Waipā is blessed with significant natural beauty with natural features like Mt Pirongia, the Maungatautari Ecological Island Reserve, peat lakes, Lake Karāpiro, Lake Arapuni and many others that we have protected and improved over time, which underpin the lifestyle and visitor offerings in the district.

We successfully promote the great lifestyle that the district has to offer, and make sure public facilities are good enough to attract and retain people to live and work in the district.

The district is at a turning point where the East and the West, currently presenting a tale of two different experiences, are harmonised. While the eastern side is expected to maintain its strong reputation as a tourist and recreational destination, the west has become a thriving hub for cultural tourism, driven by the rising demand for cultural experiences. To realise this vision, visitor accommodation and infrastructure have developed in Te Awamutu, Pirongia, Ngāhinapōuri, and Te Pahū on the western side of the district.

Council attracts economic development that provides a return to the community, with business innovation hubs and places for businesses to grow, and a focus on promoting our key amenities.

Council has played a role to build capability and capacity for cultural tourism, and to provide network opportunities, it has supported working labs and micro business start-up facilities or places for people to connect and work. A high interest in social hub areas to increase activities and bring more people into town centres (e.g., combined event centre, library, theatre) has resulted in livelier town and village centre areas.

Strategic Opportunities

- Optimise social and economic benefits in towns and villages by taking a place-based approach to community planning to balance traffic levels and pedestrian amenities.
- Enhance economic development to provide local opportunities for working-age residents and Mana Whenuaand Iwi by leveraging market connections, the land-based primary sector, Māori economy, and heritage/ environmental tourism to facilitate high-quality job creation.
- Maximise regional economic development initiatives by focusing on key sectors to bolster economic resiliency, generate new growth opportunities for an ageing population and the emerging workforce.
- Safeguard the freight function of key transport corridors and integrate major transport infrastructure (i.e., airports, inland ports, freight hubs) with the development of our towns and villages in a symbiotic way.

How we plan to get there

Waipā District Council has a key role in boosting the local economy and building a stronger district at sub-regional and national levels. Economic development activities must focus on the interlinkages between the urban and rural economy, Māori economy, and Waipā's strong cultural and natural environmental foundations to support placemaking initiatives resulting in economic outcomes.

The Economic Development Strategy for Waipā was developed in 2012. The context in which this strategy was developed has changed significantly, making it redundant for the future.

Following engagement with partners, stakeholders and the community, three overarching themes will need to be explored in a new Economic Wellbeing Strategy, with the Māori economy being embedded in each of these themes.

1. High-quality employment growth in urban areas.
2. Rural economic growth, including support for land-based primary production industries and adaptation to climate change.
3. Tourism/destinations and culture-based foundations.

The implementation actions are expected to be wide-ranging, starting with reviewing the district plan to control reverse sensitivity mitigations according to the NPS-HPL. They also aim to protect important mineral resources, transition to a sustainable economy within environmental limits, deal with the shift from livestock farming to horticulture and forestry (including carbon forestry), and its impact on infrastructure. Additionally, they plan to use the district's cultural heritage, arts, and natural attractions to enhance tourism and economic development. Lastly, their goal is to promote Waipā as a place offering an excellent work/life balance and as part of a larger regional tourism network.

Implementation actions:

- Develop an Economic Wellbeing Strategy and Implementation Plan.
- Develop a Climate Change Strategy and Implementation Plan.

Master planned high economic growth areas.

Hautapu, the airport precinct, Cambridge, and Te Awamutu are expected to see major growth in high-quality employment areas and act as the primary employment centres in the district.

Cambridge and Te Awamutu have experienced significant urban growth,

evolving into town-scale entities with the development of communities and neighbourhood clusters resembling “urban villages.” This expansion has attracted new high-quality employers, thereby diversifying the range of employment opportunities available. Professionals are attracted to areas of new businesses where they can acquire a high-quality lifestyle with access to education, health, recreational and leisure opportunities within a short walk or bike ride. These are authentic places that allow people to develop a ‘sense of place’ – they feel safe in their environment, connected physically, culturally and emotionally, and are proud to call Waipā home.

Hautapu, the airport environs, and Ōhaupō have been master planned to resolve infrastructure requirements and reverse sensitivity issues at a strategic level. This also addressed environmental considerations.

Implementation actions:

- Review Growth Strategy and Implementation Plan.
- Develop an Economic Wellbeing Strategy and Implementation Plan.

Destination Karāpiro, an expanded recreation network of day use areas and tourism businesses connects visitors and residents with the Waikato River / Lake Karāpiro and the history of the area.

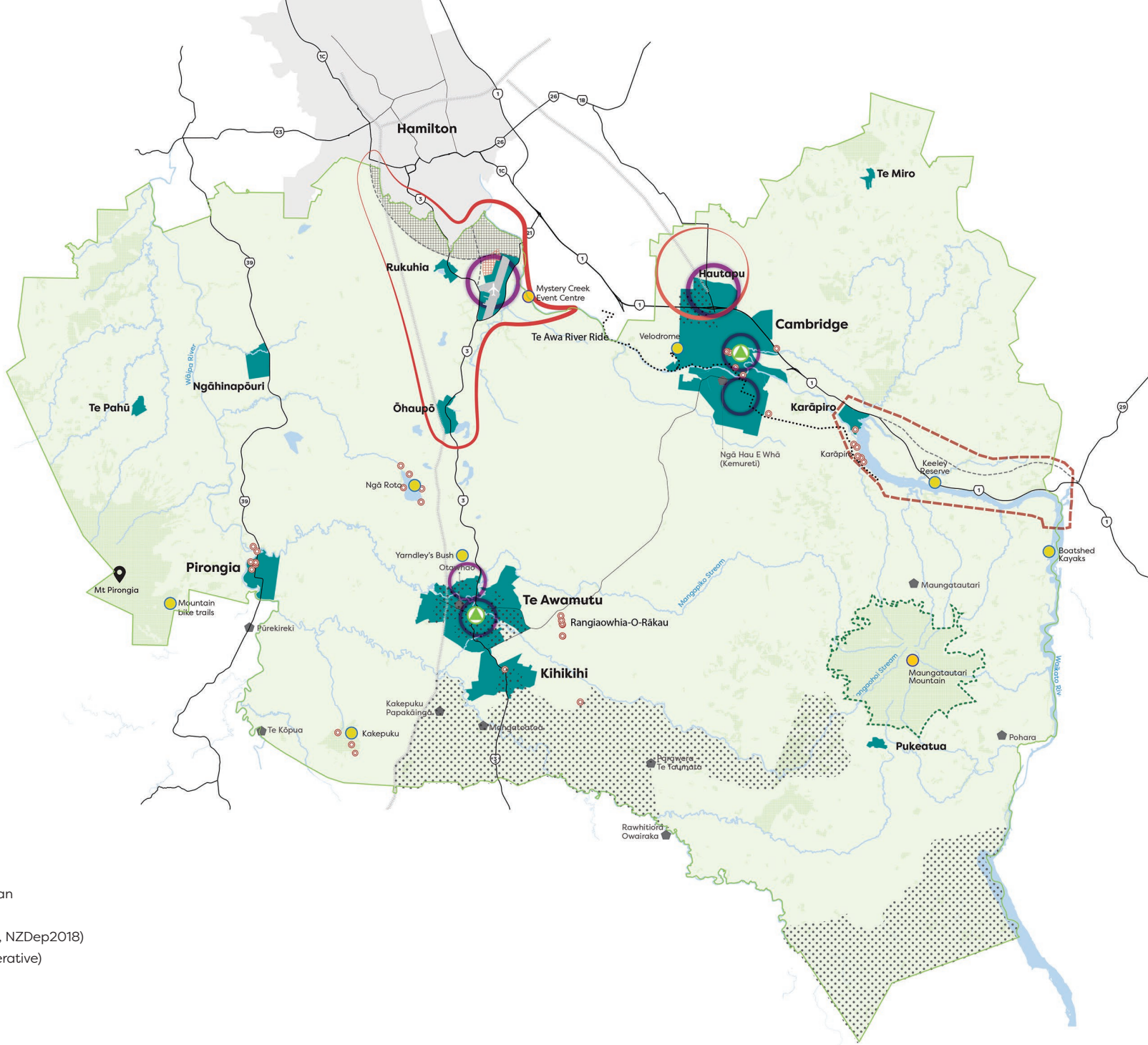
We leveraged the long-term opportunity presented by the SH1 Cambridge-Piarere realignment to enhance the experience of the Lake Karāpiro area, its environment, and the connections between Waipā residents and visitors to this significant location. By adopting an economy of scale approach, we can consolidate the benefits of this opportunity, allowing us to efficiently integrate and elevate both new and existing recreational and economic activities under a unified identity, such as ‘Destination Karāpiro.’ This will include preparing and implementing a comprehensive destination management plan, ensuring that the area is marketed as a cohesive package. To achieve this, we must develop a strong, distinctive identity for the area in partnership with Mana Whenua and Iwi, incorporating Te Ao Māori design principles and honouring the site’s historical significance of the Battle of Taumatawiwi.

Implementation actions:

- Prepare a Lake Karāpiro Destination Management Plan
- Develop Te Ao Māori Design Principles



Economic development



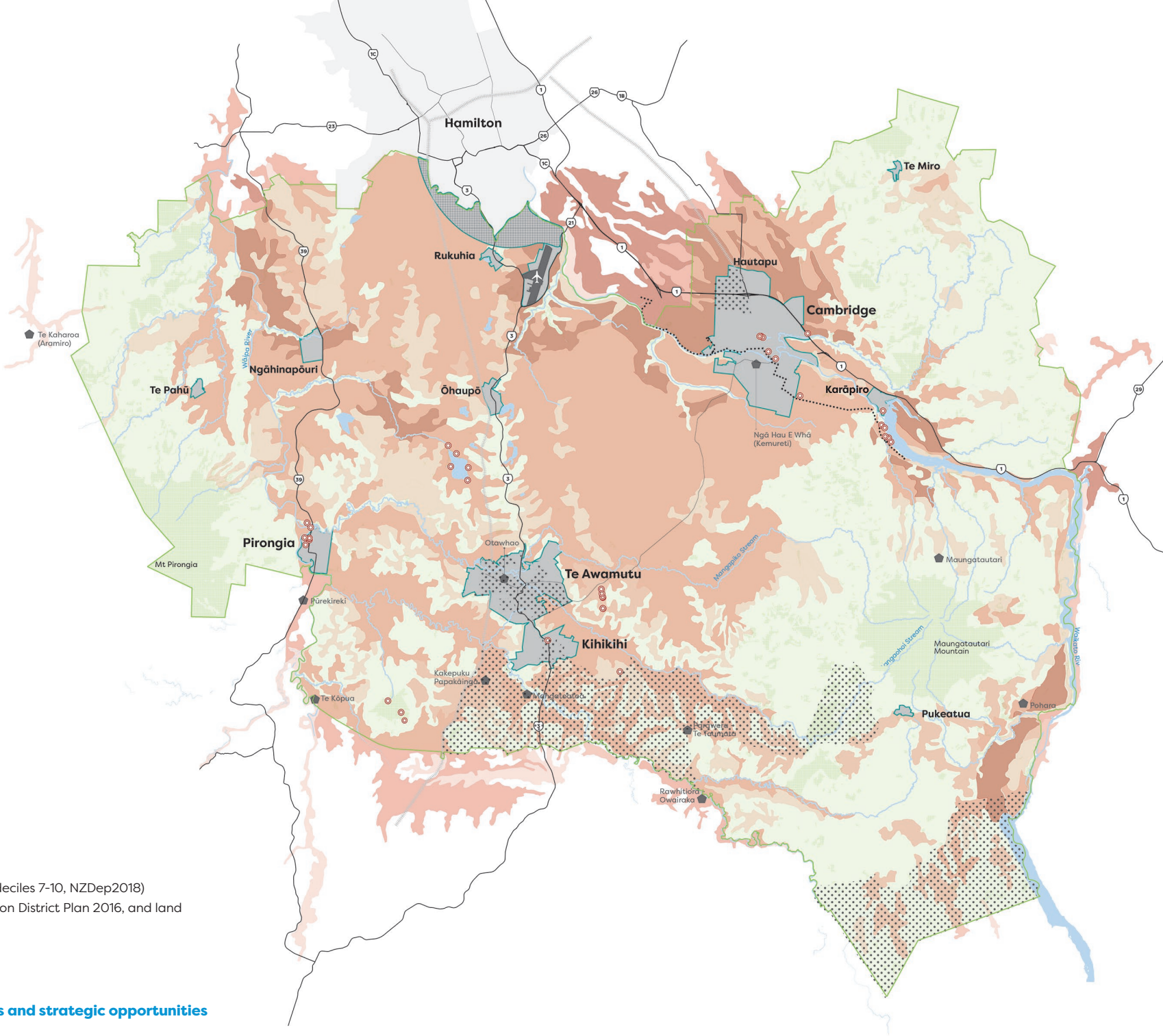
Map Legend

- District boundary
- Potential future land transfer to Hamilton
- State highways
- Rail
- Te Ara Wai Journeys
- Te Awa River Ride
- Marae
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Peat lakes
- Urban Areas 2050

Economic development

- Employment high growth area
- Public realm improvement priority location
- Existing tourism destinations
- Maungatautari Mountain Scenic Reserve
- Lake Karāpiro Destination Management Plan
- Economic activity master planning areas
- Area of high social deprivation (deciles 7-10, NZDep2018)
- Plan Change 20 - Airport Growth Area (Operative)

Rural Economy



Map Legend

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Rural Economy

- Highly productive land Class 1
- Highly productive land Class 2
- Highly productive land Class 3
- Area of high social deprivation (deciles 7-10, NZDep2018)
- Urbanised area by 2050 (based on District Plan 2016, and land transfer area north of airport)

Views of Maungatautari from Maungakawa



Environment

Describing the future we want

By 2055, The mauri and life supporting capacity of te taiao [the environment] is enhanced. Effective implementation of Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato means we are seeing a marked improvement in the health of the Waikato and Waipā rivers.

Tooku awa koiora me oona pikonga he kura tangihia o te maataamuri [The river of life, each curve more beautiful than the last].

The restoration, health, and wellbeing of our waterways, including the Waikato and Waipā rivers and peat lakes, is a high priority. This guides our environmental activities, and those with complimentary outcomes like three waters.

The mauri and life supporting capacity of te taiao [the environment] is enhanced.

A network of ecological corridors and reserves protects ngā koiora tuku iho [natural heritage and biodiversity] and links Pirongia, Kakepuku, Maungatautari, Pukemako as well as our key peat lakes. New natural areas have been established in and around our urban areas to link to the network of ecological corridors and reserves. These areas serve to improve biodiversity in the district and meet the objectives of the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity. We have strong practices and regulations in place to protect and improve the environment.

Waipā has an abundance of healthy natural features that we have protected and enhanced over time. This enables a growing Waipā tourism industry, capturing an opportunity to capitalise on Waipā natural assets while avoiding adverse impacts.

Waipā's residents are actively engaged as kaitiaki (guardians) through volunteer opportunities and responsible land management practices, with Council providing coordinating support.

A network of ecological reserves linking Pirongia, Kakepuku, Maungatautari, as well as our key rejuvenated peat lakes.

Taiea te Taiao has been effective and the corridor and stepping stones provide a platform for additional corridors to be considered for development north to Pukemako and south to Kakepuku.

Ōhaupō/Rotopiko will become a highly desirable destination and part of the wetland/cultural heritage/mountain offerings of the district. A National Wetland Centre at Rotopiko could support this through tourism and educational offerings and may benefit from a destination management plan.

Waipā communities are resilient to climate change and other hazards, and mitigated greenhouse gas emissions reach net zero by 2050 (other than for biogenic methane).

We act in advance to improve resiliency of our operations, infrastructure, natural systems, and communities to climate change impacts. Climate change is already impacting Aotearoa-New Zealand and is considered by many to be the most important challenge that we face. It affects all areas of Council services and creates risks to our communities. By 2050, in Waipā we expect that drought and extreme storm events with related flooding risks will increasingly affect the primary sector and natural areas will increasingly come under pressure. This in turn creates risks to our broader economy which is strongly linked to the primary sector.

Strategic Opportunities

Environment

- Preserve biodiversity and support ecosystem services by protecting and restoring the district's natural environment.
- Foster a sense of belonging and cultural continuity for all members of our community by actively promoting and safeguarding the district's rich cultural heritage – including its expression through natural features like the Waikato and Waipā rivers.

How we plan to get there

An Environment Strategy to guide and prioritise our efforts to improve environmental outcomes.

The strategy will:

- Contribute to a set of actions to achieve Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato.
- Provide ongoing support for Taiea Te Taiao and examine the benefits and methods of extending the concept of ecological corridors to other parts of the district.
- Support the regional goals set in the Waikato Biodiversity Accord to make a positive commitment to ensure healthy, functioning indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato Region.
- Specify the approach to deliver a biodiversity enhancement programme focused on urban areas (i.e., urban forest and rewilding of some areas) / and significant natural areas to deliver habitat improvements, and climate change emissions offset benefits.
- Consider sufficiency of significant natural area mapping in the district plan, to implement the NPS-Indigenous Biodiversity where environmental features need additional regulatory protection and to protect native bats and birds.
- Develop a policy approach to water quality improvement in high priority catchments in alignment with Waikato Regional Council activities and three waters master planning.
- Peat lakes are at risk, and with Te Ture Whaimana in mind, this must be treated urgently. Recognising that much work has been undertaken in this space, the strategy should consider a partnership-led short-term action plan to improve the peat lakes.
- Be developed with an intent to leverage volunteer-driven and collaborative opportunities with landowners.

Implementation actions:

- Prepare an Environment Strategy and Implementation Programme

A Climate Change Strategy to confirm adaptation and mitigation activities for Council to undertake.

The strategy will:

- A district-wide Climate Change Strategy will set the direction for community and Council actions to respond to issues and harness opportunities that climate change presents. Focus areas could include:
- Working with Waikato Regional Council to develop an evidence base for the Waipā district with respect to climate impacts, risks, and vulnerabilities.
- Developing an evidence-based set of actions for mitigation and adaptation that Council can carry out.

- Investigating greenhouse gas emissions related to growth and infrastructure.
- Understanding mitigation and adaptation measures required to sustain an appropriate level of service for public infrastructure, including community facilities, transport network and water services.
- Investing in waste management and minimisation.
- Supporting and reporting on carbon sequestration and offsetting programmes to enhance biodiversity and habitat coverage, including working closely with Waikato Regional Council to outline where carbon farming is acceptable and where it is not.
- Investigating emissions from Council operations.
- Understanding the relationship to other strategies and initiatives underway in Council and the community.
- Engaging with major industries in Waipā to mitigate emissions and improve resiliency.

Implementation actions:

- Develop a Climate Change Strategy

Different infrastructure activities will be considered for environmental outcomes.

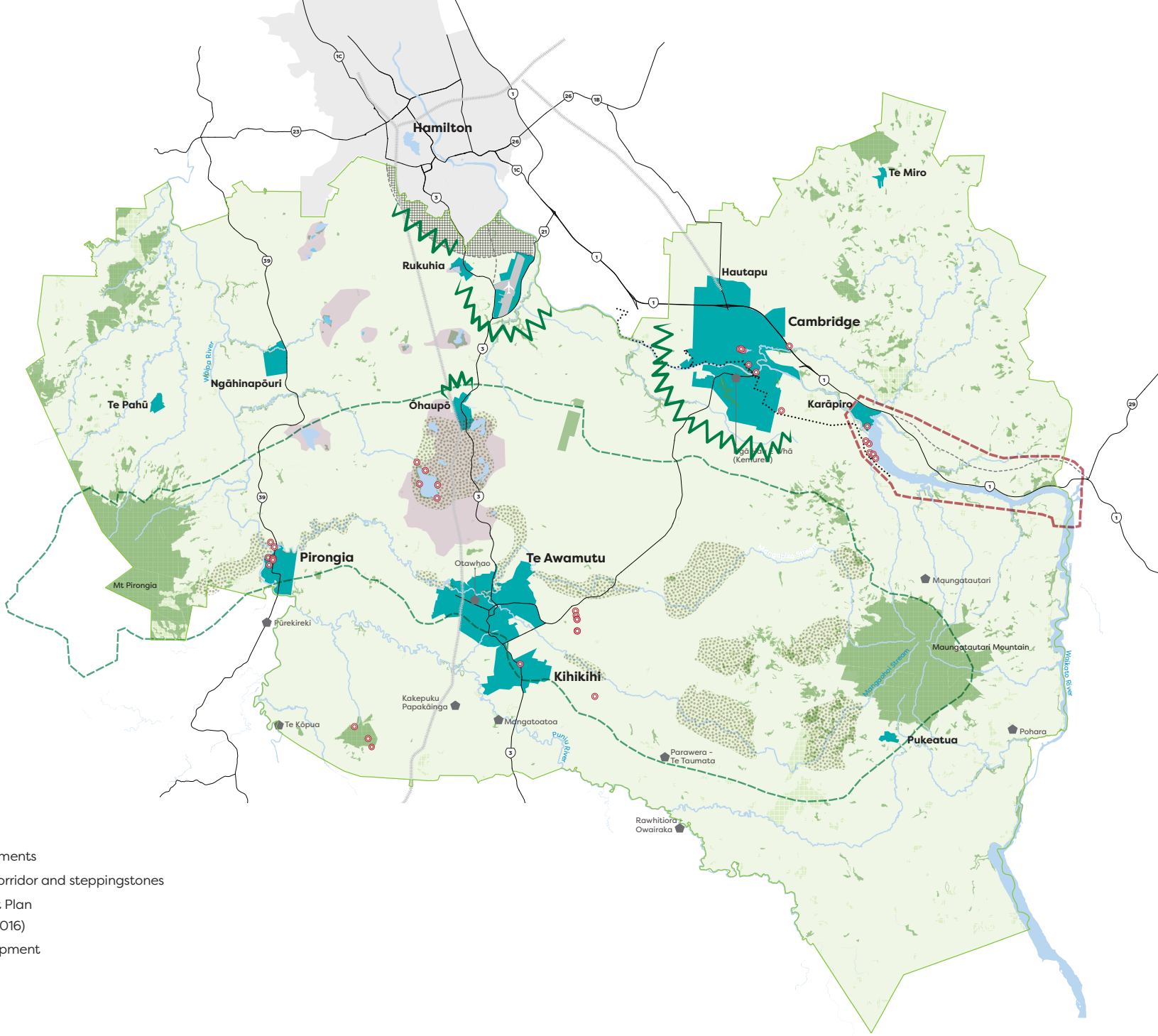
- There are strong links between environmental outcomes and infrastructure projects. Through three waters activities, Pirongia and Ōhaupō will be considered for reticulated wastewater systems as they grow and infill over time to avoid possible environmental effects of private wastewater systems and enable more intensive development.
- We will continue to work on a walking and cycling trail network to link our key villages and towns and significant sites with a rural cycleway network. This will also help to enable the extension of our esplanade reserves, creating a network of ecological reserves linking Mt Pirongia, Kakepuku, and Maungatautari, as well as our key peat lakes and providing extensive access to the Waikato and Waipā Rivers. Esplanade reserves can support the relationship of Māori with their taonga (e.g., protection of wahi tapu) and protection of customary rights (e.g., gathering of mahinga kai).

Implementation actions:

- Prepare an Environment Strategy and Implementation Programme
- Update and Implement the Three Waters Masterplan
- Update the Transport Strategy



Environment



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Environment

- Improve the peat lakes: peat lake catchments
- Maungatautari to Pirongia Ecological Corridor and steppingstones
- Lake Karāpiro Destination Management Plan
- Significant natural areas (District Plan, 2016)
- Areas under pressure from future development



Transport

Describing the future we want

By 2055, people and freight in Waipā have access to an integrated, safe, sustainable transport system that provides a range of travel choices. Walking, wheeling[44], cycling, and public transport are the preferred mode by 2050.

We rarely choose to use our cars in towns or villages, and new infrastructure has not come at a cost to the environment.

Bus and other public transport options are frequent and fast; many people prefer them to their cars for trips around town or between urban areas. Walking and cycling networks have improved around schools and local centres and are the preferred modes of transport for commuting to workplaces and leisure activities. A robust multi-modal network, when appropriate and possible, links main roads and parks to facilitate this. Per capita vehicle kilometres travelled (and greenhouse gas emissions) are reducing.

Transport systems provide balance between place and movement, and provide for rural access to urban amenities

Main streets and school zones are people-friendly places where active modes of public transport are prioritised over general traffic. Large vehicles do not rely on streets where there are lots of people and local businesses.

New industry has grown in places where there is good transport access available, or where it can be provided, so heavy vehicles and commercial traffic use the right roads. Existing industry continues to flourish with freight corridors protected from encroaching urbanisation.

Access from rural places to urban areas supports successful social and business connections. This requires parking availability and the right roading connections. We value our rural industry and enable successful business development. We manage traffic and parking provisions and ensure traffic does not detract from the welcoming, family-friendly character of our urban places and villages.

All people in Waipā have equitable access to education, social services, healthcare, and open spaces. This includes improvements in the choice of ways to travel because there are options, and to accessibility of the transport system for people with disabilities.

There is an expectation of reducing death and serious injury on the Waipā transport network and road safety outcomes are improving.

Strategic roading network has been expanded and safeguarded

A series of strategic transport projects have been finished or advanced into planning stages by 2055, including Cambridge-Piarere SH1 extension, Southern Links urban arterials, Cambridge Third Bridge and urban mobility network, and the Te Awamutu western collector road and urban mobility network.[45] These have improved key transport routes, mode choice, safety, and amenities. They have also unlocked economic growth areas around Hamilton Airport / Mystery Creek, Hautapu, and urban areas.

[44] Referring to small-wheeled mobility devices, like e-scooters and e-skateboards.

[45] For strategic transport projects, implementation timing, funding and the scope of projects are unconfirmed.

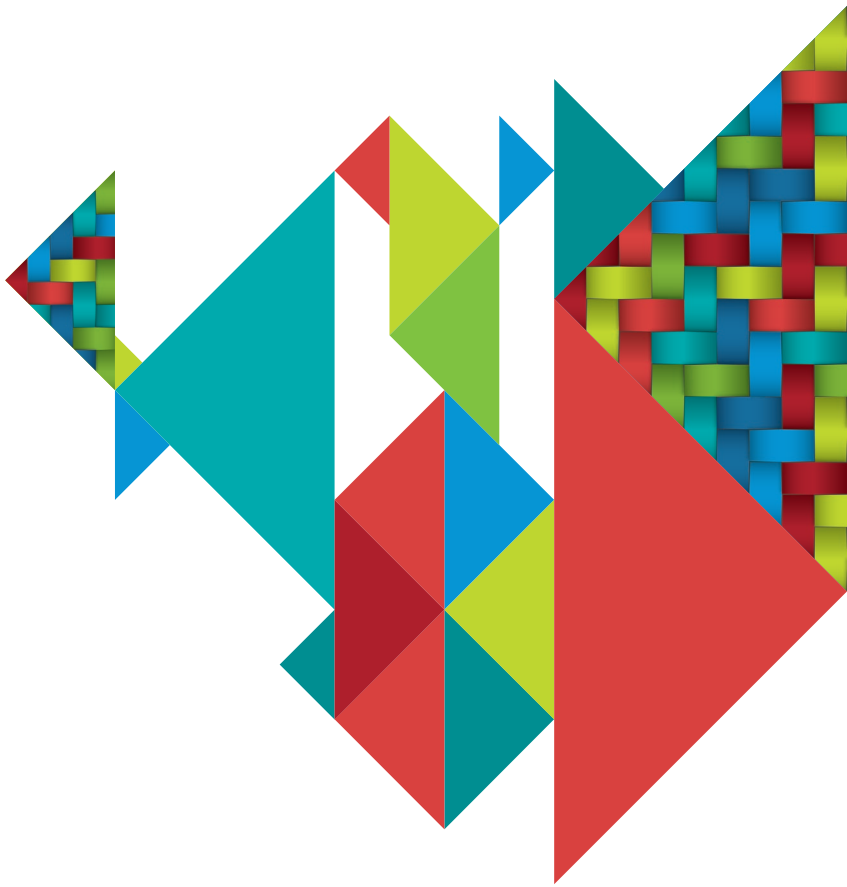
Southern Links has been developed over time in stages, with changes expected due to master planning work undertaken to define the future urban form of the area north of the Southern Links designation.[46]

Upgraded strategic network and active modes and public transport services have improved access throughout the district

Cambridge's urban mobility improvements create opportunities to develop Cambridge's CBD as a people-friendly place. Te Awamutu's western collector road and the completion of the Southern Links network can further enhance transport access and efficiency to and through the district. Roading improvements around the Hamilton Airport enable future growth opportunities.

Strategic Opportunities

- Improve community resilience and wellbeing by maintaining high-quality community infrastructure, including lifeline utilities and adapting to climate change.
- Prioritise local walking and cycling options when relevant and possible and strengthens existing and future regional connections with a comprehensive, safer, multi-modal transport system.
- Safeguard the freight function of key transport corridors and integrate major transport infrastructure (i.e., airports, inland ports, freight hubs) with the development of our towns and villages in a symbiotic way.
- Optimise social and economic benefits in towns and villages by taking a place-based approach to community planning to balance traffic levels and pedestrian amenities.



[46] Hamilton Southern Links Form and Function Review, Waka Kotahi, 2023

How we plan to get there

Update and implement the Transport Strategy

Update the Transport Strategy to respond to matters raised through Ahu Ake, including an implementation plan. This will include recommendations to undertake a work programme which considers:

- Continuing to prioritise investment into the active mode networks in Cambridge and Te Awamutu and improving the public amenities and accessibility in the vicinity of future frequent public transport stops. This will include school and local centres catchments.
- Completing the development of demand management programmes, including road and parking space reallocation in our urban areas focusing on areas of high user demand.
- Investigating universal accessibility improvement programmes for parks and facilities, with a focus on enhancing popular access routes to these sites and access for the disability community. These programmes will also facilitate improved connectivity between roads and destinations by developing and upgrading pathways throughout the parks and reserve network in a manner that aligns with the specific activities offered within each park and/or reserve.
- Working with Mana Whenua and Iwi to identify cultural sites on public lands that need access improvements through existing projects like Cambridge Connections and through future discussions and projects.
- In rural areas, identifying a public transport, ride sharing and active modes programme to improve rural access.
- Designing a long-term rural cycle network, incorporating key destinations such as Lake Karāpiro and Lake Ngā Roto to Pirongia cycleway and connection to the Te Awa River Ride.
- Investigating public transport connection between Te Awamutu to Cambridge along Cambridge Road.

Implementation actions:

- Update the Transport Strategy

Karāpiro village connections

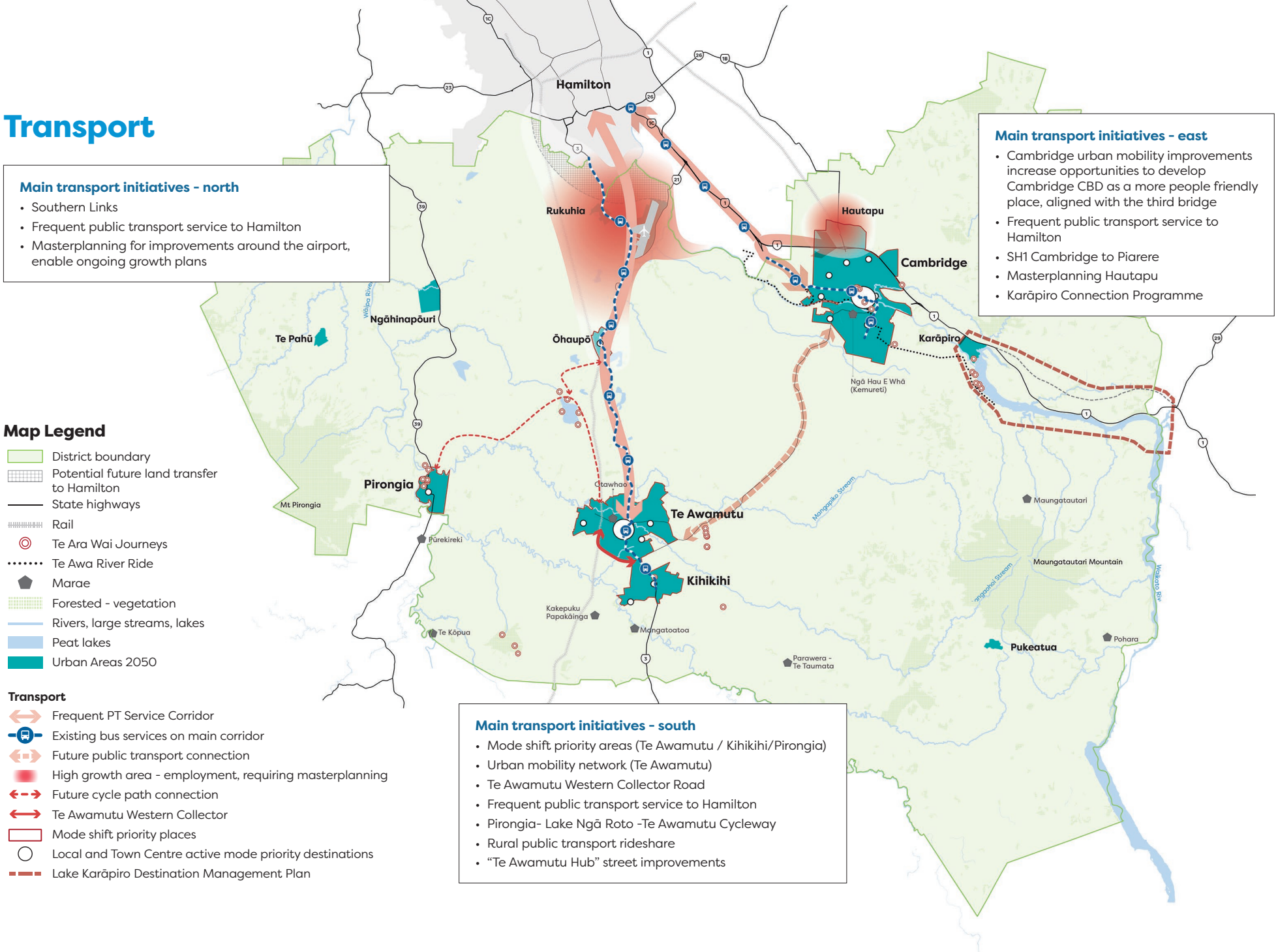
Karāpiro village relies on a road across a dam that closes periodically, and its children attend a school located outside of the village with access and transport safety challenges. Council will facilitate a discussion with Mercury and the New Zealand Transport Agency to investigate how to maintain public access across the dam in the long term and how to manage closures. This is important for the purposes of connecting residents, but also for access for people travelling to Lake Karāpiro for events.

Council will work with the School Board of Trustees, Ministry of Education, Ngāti Koroki Kahukura and the New Zealand Transport Agency to investigate the opportunities and benefits of changing the location of the school to within the village or undertaking a different intervention to improve safety for accessing the school and connections to the village. Relocation of the school is a concept that depends on asset owner agreement and funding being identified before it can be confirmed and alternative solutions may be available.

Implementation actions:

- Investigate Karāpiro Village Connections.

Transport



Main transport initiatives - north

- Southern Links
- Frequent public transport service to Hamilton
- Masterplanning for improvements around the airport, enable ongoing growth plans

Main transport initiatives - east

- Cambridge urban mobility improvements increase opportunities to develop Cambridge CBD as a more people friendly place, aligned with the third bridge
- Frequent public transport service to Hamilton
- SH1 Cambridge to Piarere
- Masterplanning Hautapu
- Karāpiro Connection Programme

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Transport

- Frequent PT Service Corridor
- Existing bus services on main corridor
- Future public transport connection
- High growth area - employment, requiring masterplanning
- Future cycle path connection
- Te Awamutu Western Collector
- Mode shift priority places
- Local and Town Centre active mode priority destinations
- Lake Karāpiro Destination Management Plan

Main transport initiatives - south

- Mode shift priority areas (Te Awamutu / Kihikihi/Pirongia)
- Urban mobility network (Te Awamutu)
- Te Awamutu Western Collector Road
- Frequent public transport service to Hamilton
- Pirongia- Lake Ngā Roto -Te Awamutu Cycleway
- Rural public transport rideshare
- "Te Awamutu Hub" street improvements

Family cycling in Cambridge



Community spaces

Describing the future we want

By 2050, the parks, public facilities, and marae are even more important because our towns are bigger, denser, and our villages are more populated. We have a greater affinity with our environment because open spaces and parks are interwoven in our urban areas.

We are overall an older population however our villages have been reinvigorated with new families moving in and the Māori portion of the population is youthful.

There are more ways for all residents to be active, meaning the elderly, those with disabilities, and the more disadvantaged can participate in active recreation.

Council prioritises making all parks, playgrounds, and other public facilities more physically accessible, inviting, and culturally inclusive. There are more ways for people to connect across generations through local programmes that foster shared experiences and activities.

Towns and villages showcase our collective heritage in our public spaces and cultural activities.

In our communities, there is a growing acknowledgement and appreciation for a diverse range of cultures, including the rich Māori heritage and Mana Whenua histories. Efforts are being made to ensure that all individuals feel a sense of belonging in our towns and villages by aligning customary practices with present and future needs. Cultural continuity[47] is protected for all, encompassing various aspects, such as funeral services and the preservation of urupā (Māori burial sites).

Community hubs (libraries, village halls, museums, schools and recreation clubs) have become more central to the communities they serve.

The function of village halls, clubs and schools has become increasingly wide and more relevant to the communities they serve. They are busy social and learning hubs for our communities. Council libraries and museums act as learning outlets, healthcare centres, business networking opportunities and shared spaces where diverse members of the community cross paths, share lifelong learning skills and co-work.

The number of cultural events in Waipā increases and a broad range of people participate in events.

Council promotes proven inter-generational initiatives and local programmes across the district to help people connect with each other through shared experiences and activities.

Equitable access to open spaces

Council ensures equitable investment in infrastructure and community facilities across the whole district based on user data.

Ensure new development has a good mix of open spaces that contain parks, playgrounds, and space for community gardens.

[47] Cultural continuity is defined as the transmission of the meanings and values characteristic of a culture, down through time and generations.

Strategic Opportunities

- Improve community resilience and wellbeing by maintaining high-quality community infrastructure, including lifeline utilities and adapting to climate change.
- Maintain Waipā's quality of lifestyle while meeting the changing needs of both an ageing population and a growing youth demographic.
- Foster a sense of belonging and cultural continuity for all members of our community by actively promoting and safeguarding the district's rich cultural heritage – including its expression through natural features like the Waikato and Waipā rivers.

How we plan to get there

Conduct a Parks and Public Facilities Needs Assessment

- We will review the needs of our present and future communities for parks and public facilities across the district to develop a refreshed long-term plan to meet growth and demographic changes with a level of public facilities that maintains our quality of life.
- Council works to make parks, playgrounds, and public facilities more physically accessible, inviting and culturally inclusive. It provides a transparent approach to equitable investment. The needs assessment will investigate the need for parks and community facilities over the next 30-year period and will provide the Council with a roadmap for future investment.
- Council will work to enable community hubs, including community halls, libraries, and museums so they are used to their capacity by the community they are built to serve. This could include things like resource-sharing centres (e.g., toy and tool libraries) in the range of services that village halls and schools provide to the community.

Implementation actions:

- Conduct a Parks and Public Facilities Needs Assessment for Future Direction

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Review needs for multi-cultural funeral facilities, including urupā (Māori burial site) facilitation and provisions.

As our district's cultural makeup changes, we will ensure that funeral and cemetery facilities meet current and future requirements.

Implementation actions:

- Review needs for multi-cultural funeral facilities, including urupā facilitation



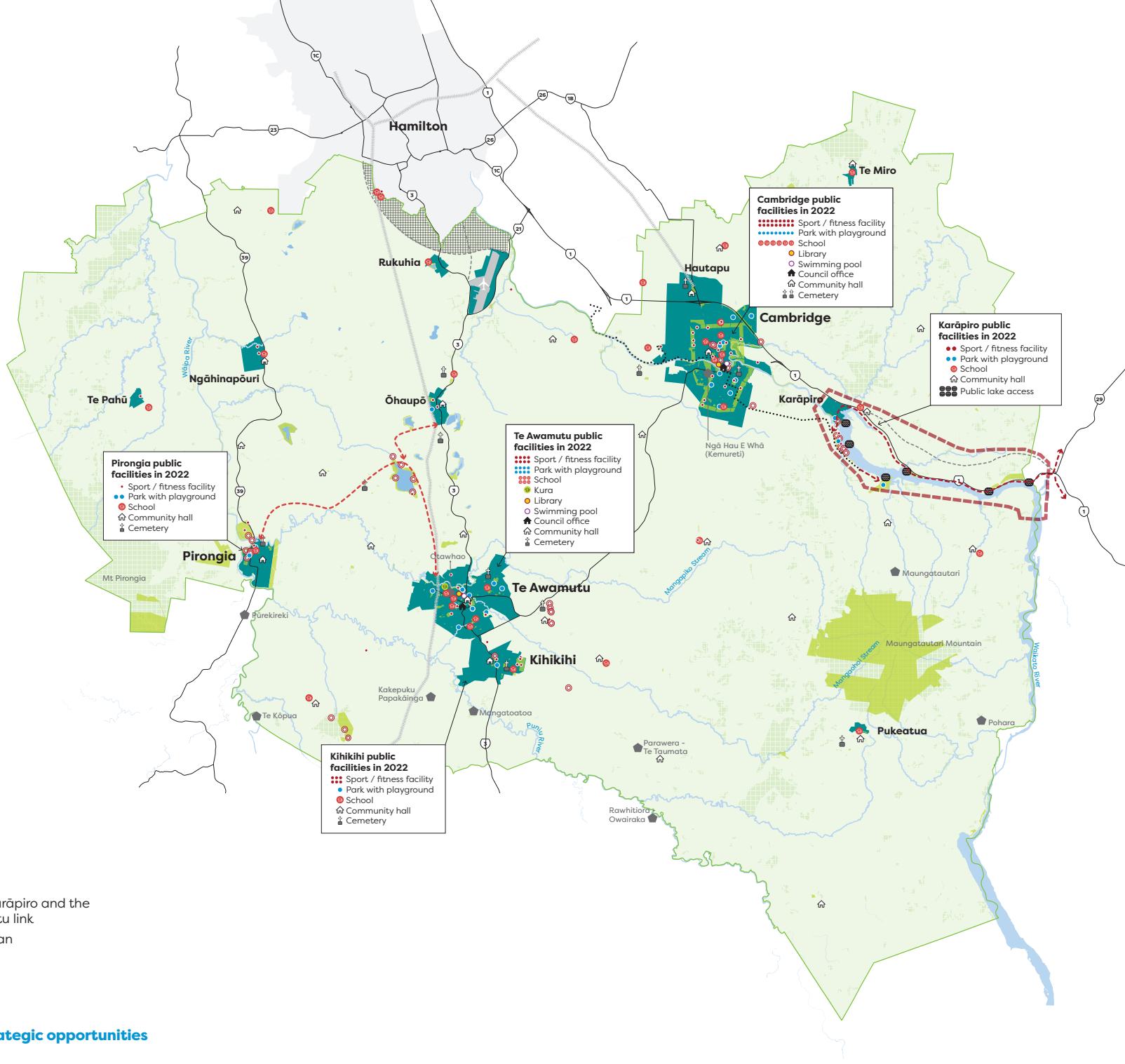
Parks and public facilities

Map Legend

- District boundary
- Potential future land transfer to Hamilton
- State highways
- Rail
- Te Ara Wai Journeys
- Te Awa River Ride
- Marae
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Peat lakes
- Urban Areas 2050

Parks and public facilities

- Park or reserve
- Sports / fitness facility
- Park with a playground
- School
- Kura
- Library
- Swimming Pool
- Council office
- Community hall
- Cemetery
- Public lake access
- Cycle network extensions for destination Karāpiro and the Pirongia - Ngā Roto - Ōhaupō - Te Awamutu link
- Lake Karāpiro Destination Management Plan



Waipuke park



Heritage, arts & culture

Describing the future we want

By 2055, Village communities have been reinvigorated by a youthful population. The Māori and more recent history of the district is given equal weight in our storytelling. There are many opportunities for, and high participation rates, in multi-cultural events. Council plays a lead role in the development of public arts, creating opportunities for important cultural activities and stories, and providing connections to important cultural sites.

Equal weight is given to our bicultural history in our storytelling

Waipā towns and villages have a keen sense of identity and purpose linked to their location, people, and histories meaning the cultural diversity of Waipā is celebrated throughout the district.

Council takes the lead in developing and promoting the arts in a way that reflects the district. Art represents the community and the history, and cultural narrative of the community, it's not just a static object but encompasses expressions of culture inclusive of languages, music, and dance festivals. The local artists and institutions are playing an active role in this process, and there is a strong emphasis on bringing together the right people to ensure a multicultural perspective, including Mana Whenua.

The results are visible in public spaces, public art, and with interpretation and design elements at sites of significance (when appropriate). We are better connected to areas of cultural and historical heritage, helping us preserve and experience it.

Cultural landscapes, taonga, customary activities, wāhi tapu, wāhi whakahirahira, wāhi tupuna, mahinga kai are recognised, protected and enhanced.

The diverse stories of people in Waipā are told, and Māori cultural sites and heritage are visible and are celebrated or commemorated. Important cultural narratives and heritage sites are more physically accessible where appropriate, and it is easier to understand information about what makes these things and places important.

People have more opportunities to participate in cultural events

The multi-cultural nature of the community is celebrated through public events and the arts. There are stronger social connections and an increasing level of community participation in events and with the arts.,

Public places [parks, playgrounds, and public facilities] are more inviting, with Mana Whenua input to event planning and building design processes, so they are culturally welcoming to all.

Strategic Opportunities

- Foster a sense of belonging and cultural continuity for all members of our community by actively promoting and safeguarding the district's rich cultural heritage – including its expression through natural features like the Waikato and Waipā rivers.
- Optimise social and economic benefits in towns and villages by taking a place-based approach to community planning to balance traffic levels and pedestrian amenities

How we plan to get there

Establish and apply Te Ao Māori Design Principles

Council leads a process to partner with Mana Whenua and Iwi in developing a Te Ao Māori customary and cultural design statement and develops a process for how to apply it in Council operations. This may include changes to the District Plan and other Council policies, plans, or strategies.

Implementation actions:

- Develop Te Ao Māori Design Principles

Placemaking strategy and implementation

Develop a Placemaking Strategy to coordinate further investments in community infrastructure and activation (like public arts and events) that attracts high quality businesses and employees to invest, live, and work in Waipā district. Council has a lead role in promoting the arts in ways that reflect the district.

Activities from this strategy will help people learn more about the history and heritage of Waipā and all of its people and celebrate culture in the district by creating opportunities for people to connect.

This could address things like improved asset management for cultural, arts and heritage items, identifying improvements for Te Ara Wai Journeys and Museum, linking with aligned organisations like Creative Waikato, Tourism Waikato, and Te Wananga O Aotearoa.

Cultural precincts have been defined to help prioritise investments, including Te Awamutu, Cambridge, Pirongia, and Karāpiro town / village centres.

Implementation actions:

- Prepare a Placemaking Strategy and Implementation Plan
- Review Urban design guidelines.
- Develop Te Ao Māori Design Principles

Create and Implement a Heritage Asset Master Plan

Council will work with Mana Whenua and Iwi partners and other recognised heritage stakeholders to develop an updated inventory of historic heritage sites to be preserved, commemorated, and celebrated, with changes to the District Plan when aligned to legislative criteria to offer a layer of protection.

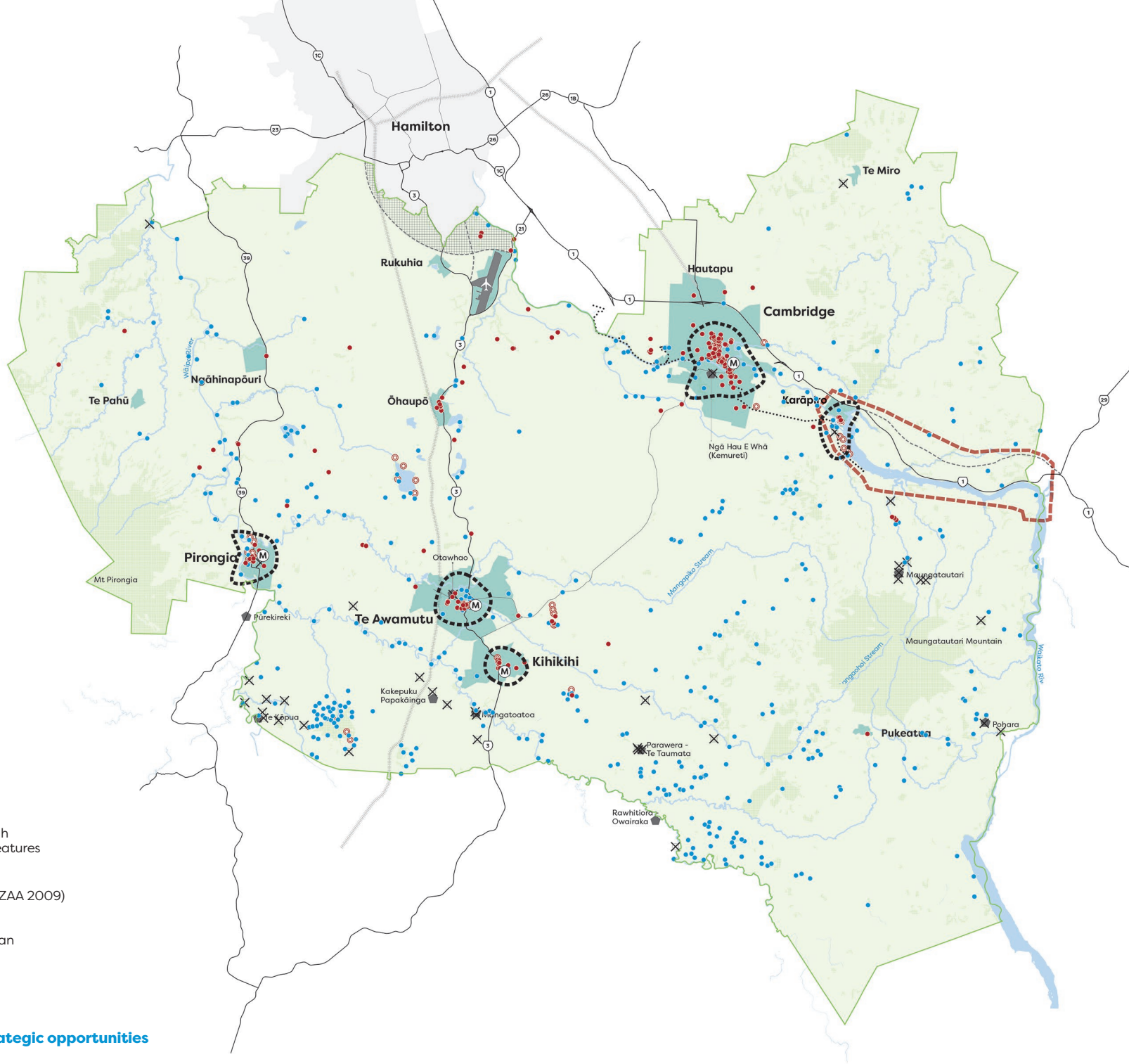
This would include working with Mana Whenua and Iwi to identify sites where there is support and interest to improve public access. Several sites were noted for further discussion during engagement and hui with Mana Whenua and Iwi partners and are provided here as a starting point.

- Rangiaowhia is an important cultural site for Mana Whenua and was repeatedly brought up through engagement.
- Tūrata Reserve needs to reflect the pre-colonial Māori history.
- Consider the role Te Miro had with Wiremu Tamihana in the Kingitanga Movement.
- Recognise the first Māori parliament site / King Tāwhiao history at Maungakawa.

Implementation actions:

- Create and Implement a Heritage Asset Master Plan

Heritage, culture, arts



Map Legend

- District boundary
- Potential future land transfer to Hamilton
- State highways
- Rail
- Te Ara Wai Journeys
- Te Awa River Ride
- Marae
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Peat lakes
- Urban Areas 2050

Heritage, culture, arts

- Heritage, culture, arts focus area with a high place-function due to a concentration of features
- Cultural points (District Plan 2016)
- Archaeological points (District Plan 2016: NZAA 2009)
- Heritage buildings (District Plan 2016)
- Lake Karāpiro Destination Management Plan

Three waters

We have an opportunity to deliver affordable three waters infrastructure that meets quality requirements and supports the pace of growth.

Describing the future we want

By 2050, three waters infrastructure gives effect to Te Ture Whaimana and provides affordable and effective services for our growing population. Systems have expanded to meet demand and improve the quality of service.

Meeting demand with improvements to the network

Waipā towns and villages have a keen sense of identity and purpose linked to their location, people, and histories meaning the cultural diversity of Waipā is celebrated throughout the district.

Council takes the lead in developing and promoting the arts in a way that reflects the district. Art represents the community and the history, and cultural narrative of the community, it's not just a static object but encompasses expressions of culture inclusive of languages, music, and dance festivals. The local artists and institutions are playing an active role in this process, and there is a strong emphasis on bringing together the right people to ensure a multicultural perspective, including Mana Whenua.

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People have more opportunities to participate in cultural events.

The multi-cultural nature of the community is celebrated through public events and the arts. There are stronger social connections and an increasing level of community participation in events and with the arts.

Public places [parks, playgrounds, and public facilities] are more inviting, with Mana Whenua input to event planning and building design processes, so they are culturally welcoming to all.

Strategic Opportunities

- Improve community resilience and wellbeing by maintaining high-quality community infrastructure, including lifeline utilities and adapting to climate change.

How we plan to get there

Review and Implement Three Waters Masterplan

Lead an update to Waipā District Council Three Waters Masterplan 2020 to address the following priorities illustrated in Ahu Ake, once Central Government legislative and policy directions have been clarified and progressed:

- Urban network capacity and performance to meet increasing demands and standards, including planning for new growth areas and increased density of existing urban residential areas outlined in Ahu Ake.
- Integrate urban stormwater alongside open spaces to improve climate change resilience to heavy rainfall events and flooding and maintain the open space experience for the community.
- Consider wastewater reticulation for Ōhaupō as part of regional wastewater treatment planning and /or as part of the Te Awamutu Wastewater Treatment Plan when upgraded
- Investigate the benefits of wastewater reticulation in Pirongia in the long term.
- Work closely with the Waikato Regional Council to review the regulation and performance of existing rural drainage systems to improve the water quality of the district's lakes and waterways.
- Upgrade water treatment standards, especially for wastewater, and use low-impact design for stormwater treatment and water use minimisation.

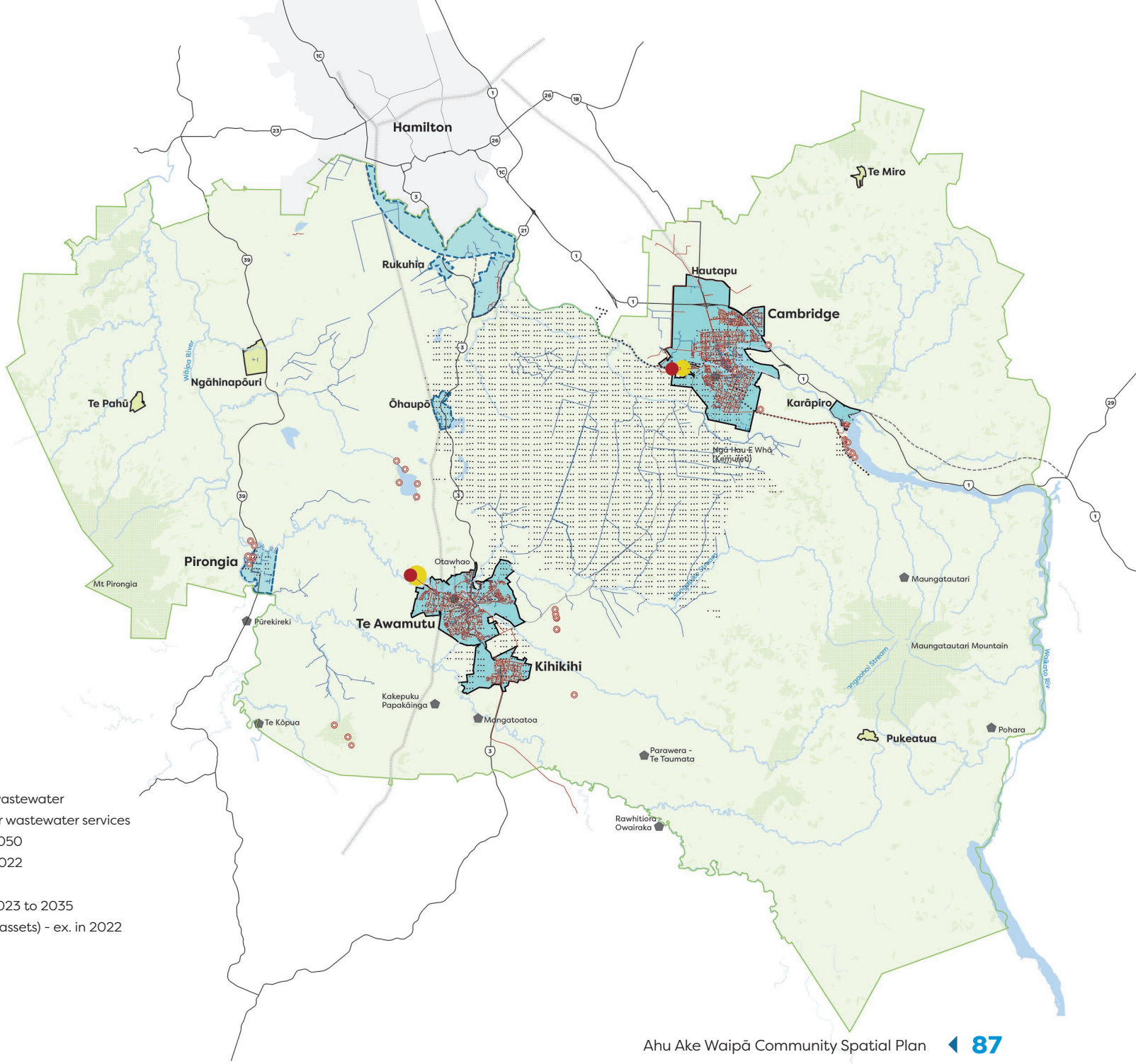
Wastewater treatment in Ōhaupō and large portions of the Hamilton Airport is presently by way of private individual septic tanks and has the potential to fail due to the need for renewals. Such failures could lead to the contamination of shallow groundwater, streams, and peat lakes.

At a point in time, this scenario might also apply to Pirongia if it is intensively developed and with respect to the Waipā River. Considering Te Ture Whaimana requirements, in the long term (e.g., 20-30 years), both communities are likely to be provided with reticulated wastewater services. For Ōhaupō, this should also reflect future growth parameters for the community once these are defined.

Implementation actions:

- Review of the Three Waters Masterplan

Three waters



Map Legend

- District boundary
- State highways
- Rail
- Te Ara Wai Journeys
- Te Awa River Ride
- Marae
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Peat lakes

Three waters

- Servicing intent by 2050: both water and wastewater
- Servicing intent by 2050: no public water or wastewater services
- Change to servicing status, from 2022 to 2050
- Wastewater treatment plant - existing in 2022
- Wastewater network - existing in 2022
- Wastewater treatment plant - Upgrades 2023 to 2035
- Rural drainage network (Council managed assets) - ex. in 2022
- Rural water supply zones - existing in 2022

Key moves - Summary

The key movements summarise specific interventions identified in Part B, which can be visually represented in a spatial manner. These are district-wide, transformational, cross-disciplinary, strategic, and long-term initiatives being proposed through Ahu Ake. They respond to the identified strategic opportunities and are part of the implementation package with long-term targets presented in Part D: Implementation.

High-economic growth areas: Fast-paced economic growth will continue to occur in these areas. To keep pace with this demand, we will work with our partners to make sure the necessary infrastructure (e.g. roads, wastewater services) is available.

More housing choices: We expect to see more housing choices (like small apartments, townhouses, and duplexes) in Cambridge, Te Awamutu and Kihikihi to accommodate our growing population in future urban planned areas.

Public transport connection: Together with our partners, we will continue to invest in a frequent public transport (PT) service linking Ōhaupō, Te Awamutu, Kihikihi and Cambridge to Hamilton and a PT service between Cambridge and Te Awamutu.

Expansion of Ōhaupō: We expect the population of Ōhaupō will grow to several thousand (from around 2045). This will be driven by growth in Hamilton South and the availability of high-frequency bus service and wastewater service. To accommodate this growth, we will work with key agencies and stakeholders to manage this growth, allowing Ōhaupō to become a small town.

Better walking and cycling connections: In our towns and larger villages, we will prioritise better walking and cycling connections to local shops, commercial centres and recreational spaces so people can access more of their daily needs without a car.

Strengthening Karāpiro village: To strengthen Karāpiro village, once SH1 is realigned, we will lobby to relocate the school closer to the village centre (and if not possible, then ensure there is a good pathway for walking and cycling connecting the school to the village).

Improvements around Lake Karāpiro: Lake Karāpiro is a significant cultural, recreational and tourism area. With the future realignment of State Highway 1 (SH1), we'll have an opportunity to work alongside our Mana Whenua partners and key stakeholders to improve and create more recreational and cultural areas around the lake. This will attract more visitors to Waipā and provide even better facilities for residents and tourists.

Protecting our peat lakes: To protect and improve our at-risk peat lakes, we will work with Waikato Regional Council and farmers to fast-track improved environmental practices in the peat lake catchment areas.

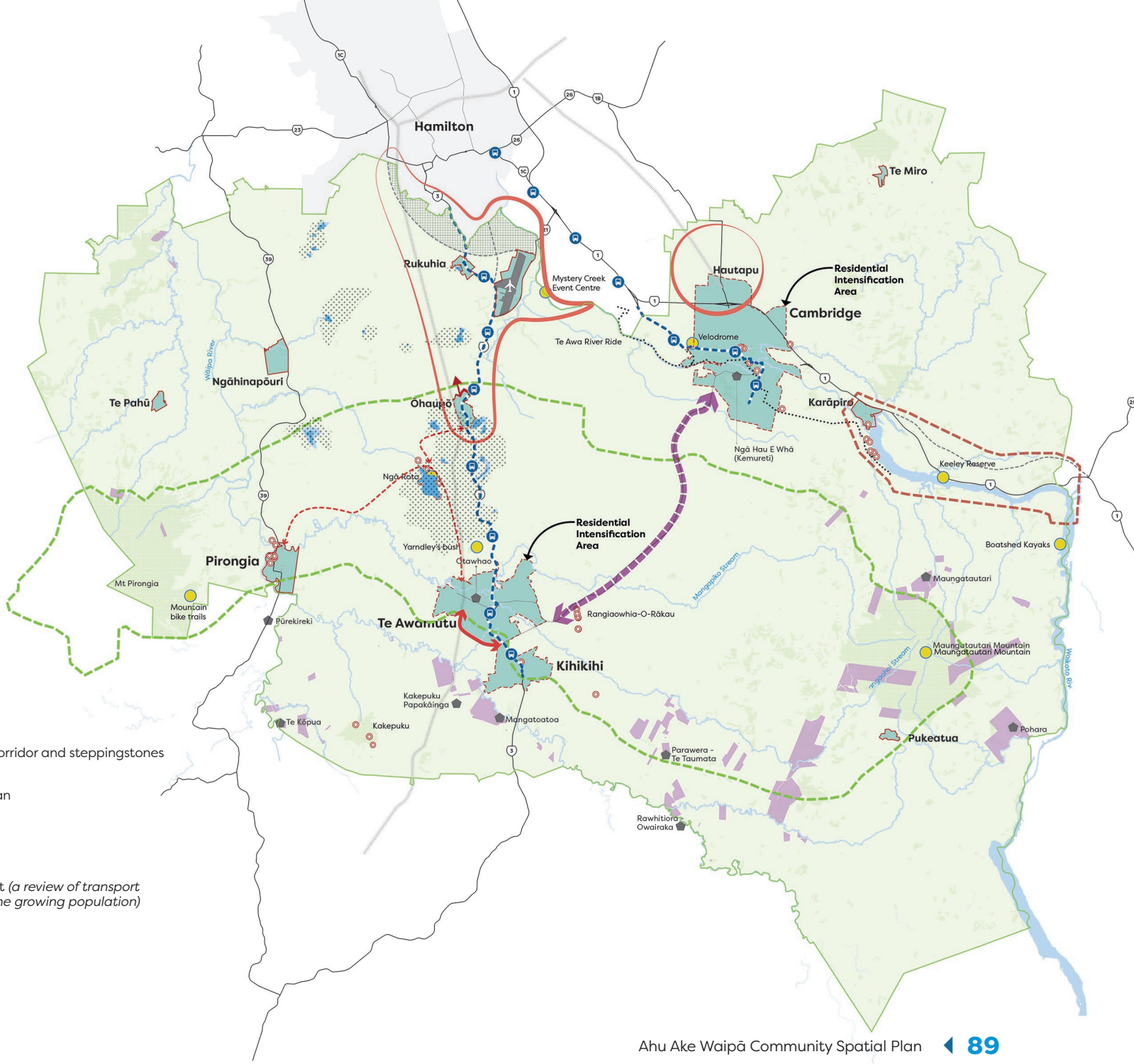
Taiea te Taiao (Maungatautari to Mt Pirongia ecological corridor): We will continue to support and invest in the creation and protection of a network of ecological reserves linking Mt Pirongia, Kakepuku, and Maungatautari, as well as our key peat lakes.

Heritage, culture, and arts precincts: In areas with clusters of cultural and heritage sites (e.g., historical buildings and pā sites), we will work alongside Mana Whenua and other heritage stakeholders to improve how we recognise and showcase these by promoting art, architecture, events, and design that connect us with our history.

Improving our public spaces: We will look to invigorate our town centres and make them more vibrant by improving existing public spaces (e.g. community halls parks and plazas) for people to connect with one another.

Rural cycleway network: We will complete and extend our recreational cycleway network to link Pirongia, Lake Ngā Roto, Ōhaupō and Te Awamutu.

Ahu Ake proposed Key Moves



Map Legend

- District boundary
- Potential future land transfer to Hamilton
- State highways
- Rail
- Te Ara Wai Journeys
- Te Awa River Ride
- Marae
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Peat lakes
- Towns & Villages areas 2050

Key moves

- Villages boundaries
- Residential Intensification Area
- Peat lakes catchment
- Maungatautari to Mt Pirongia Ecological Corridor and steppingstones
- Māori owned Land
- Lake Karāpiro Destination Management Plan
- Economic activity masterplanning areas
- Frequent PT service corridor
- Future cycle path connection
- Te Awamutu Western Collector Road Project *(a review of transport connections in Te Awamutu to provide for the growing population)*
- Future public transport connection.
- Existing tourism destinations


Maungatautari

Part C

Priorities in places

Part C details the priorities outlined for each community in every town and village that was visited as part of the Ahu Ake community engagement process undertaken in 2023. These priorities will play a crucial role in guiding decision-making for the identified focus areas highlighted in Part B.

Part C includes:

- Overview
- Northeast: Cambridge, Karāpiro, Te Miro
- Centre north: Ōhaupō, Rukuhia and the Hamiton airport
- Centre south: Te Awamutu, Kihikihi
- Southeast: Pukeatua
- Northwest: Pirongia, Te Pahū, Ngāhinapōuri

1 Overview

Waipā is a collection of communities, from towns and villages to marae and rural places.

In 2009, the Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy was established to identify areas within the Waipā district that were anticipated to experience population growth over the next 40 years. This strategy was updated in 2017 to reflect more current projections.

Following extensive engagement phase with the community in 2023, Ahu Ake anticipates and prepares for a future update to this Growth Strategy.

The urban-to-rural transect below offers a visual representation of the anticipated form, pattern, and potential growth of these communities.








Category	Towns	Business precinct	Large villages	Small villages	Rural village	Rural areas
Description	Main service centre for rural catchments and villages across the district, major employment centres	Area with high concentration of commercial activity and limited other uses	Local service centres for a rural catchment with most services available, limited employment	Local service centres for a rural catchment with minor level of commercial services available	Residential community in rural context, may have a rural hall, local park, or similar community facility with local commercial services	Mainly primary production with supporting residential or business activity
Includes	Cambridge Leamington Te Awamutu Kihikihi	Airport environs Hautapu	Pirongia **Ōhaupō and Rukuhia potentially become large villages beginning circa 2050**	Ngāhinapōuri Karāpiro Ōhaupō Rukuhia	Te Miro Te Pahū Pukeatua	Other locations in the district








Category	Towns	Business precinct	Large villages	Small villages	Rural village	Rural areas
Service catchment	Entire district	Entire district	15–20-minute drive	5–10-minute drive	Local	N/A
Current three waters	5–10-minute drive	Local	N/A	Water/stormwater	Private services	Private services
Net target densities defined by Future Proof[48]	25-35 dwellings per hectare (dph) in defined intensification areas 20-35 dph in greenfield locations	N/A	20-35 dph in greenfield locations, noting this would require reticulated wastewater services to be achieved	12-15 dph, where reticulated services exist	Expected to be less than small villages	N/A
Concept plans status	Kihikihi Urban Development Plan (2021) Cambridge (2019) Te Awamutu & Kihikihi (2010)	N/A – Airport master plan	Pirongia (2020)	Ngāhinapōuri (2021) Ōhaupō (2010) Masterplan required for Karāpiro	New ones required for rural villages, over time	N/A

[48] Dwellings per hectare (dph) to be achieved over time in defined locations, defined in the Draft Future Proof Strategy 2024.








Category	Towns	Business precinct	Large villages	Small villages	Rural village	Rural areas
2055 changes intended	Cambridge may need to expand beyond current growth cells in the long term depending on future population growth trends	New master planning for the southern Hamilton area including airport through Future Proof South Hamilton urbanisation around Southern Links, Airport environs become major employment hub Addition of wastewater services	Ōhaupō and Rukuhia to potentially become larger village beginning 2050 Pirongia and Ōhaupō to be considered for wastewater services in the long term	No changes to urban boundaries, infill considered, and additional community facilities required due to population growth	No changes to urban boundary	Maintain highly productive lands and primary production within environmental limits

Northeast: Cambridge, Karāpiro, and Te Miro

Overview

The Northeastern area of Waipā includes the communities of Te Miro, Cambridge, and Karāpiro, amongst other smaller ones. The area has experienced substantial growth in recent years due to various contributing factors. The state highway from Hamilton to Tauranga experiences heavy traffic and significant freight transportation. This strategic economic corridor has made Hautapu (north of Cambridge) an attractive commercial precinct.

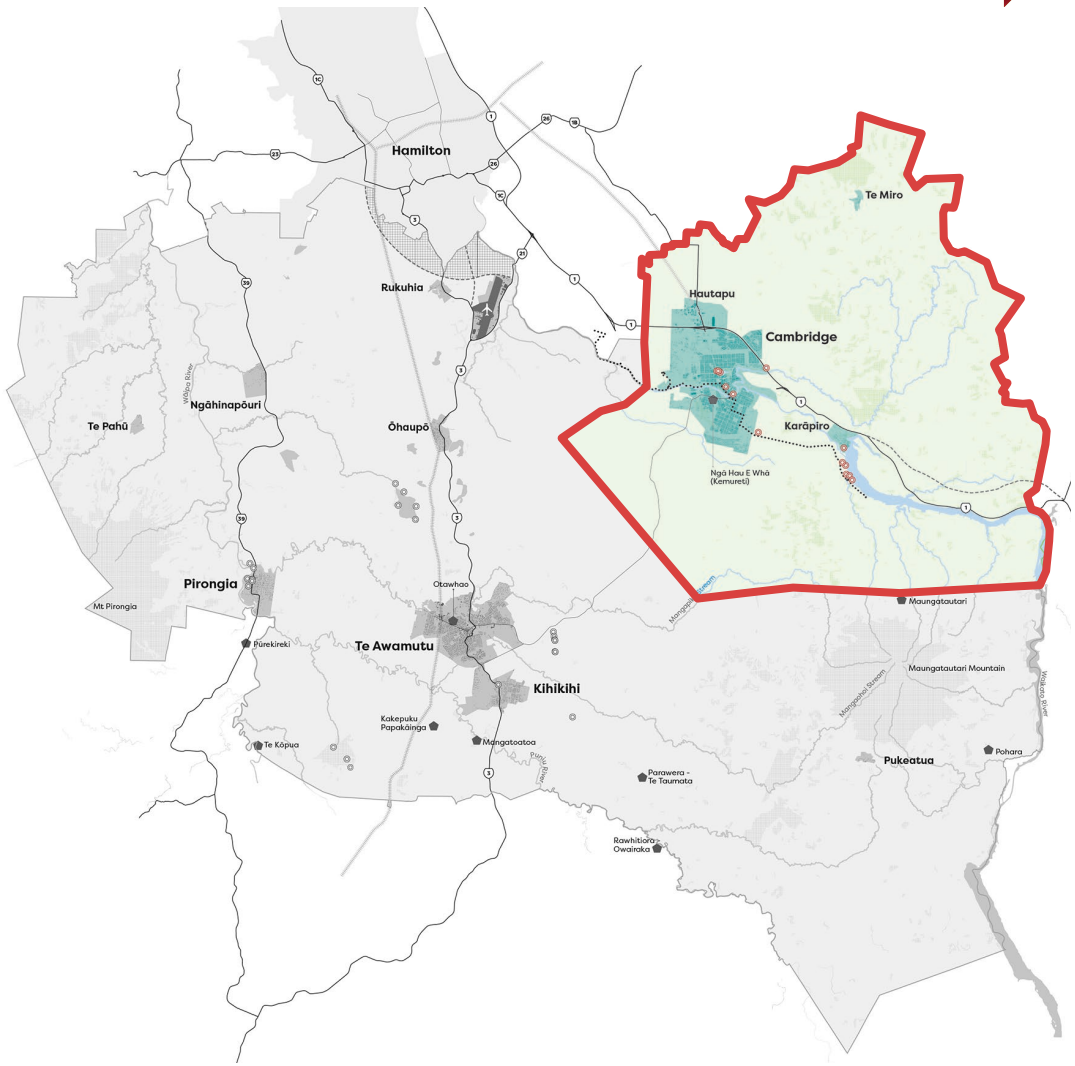
This area is known for its involvement in sports, such as cycling in Te Miro and rowing in Karāpiro.

Cambridge High School's catchment area extends from the Airport Road/Tauwhare Road/SH1 intersection east to the Tahuroa Road/Tauwhare Road intersection. Despite the proximity to Hamilton, it also draws students from the northern areas of the district.

In the area, Te Ara Wai Journeys showcases historical sites like Horotiu Pā and the Taumatawīwī Battle Site, providing valuable insights into the area's rich history.

Iwi Affiliations in the area:

Ngāti Hauā / Ngāti Korokī Kahukura/Waikato -Tainui
(Te Kāhui Māngai)



Map Legend

- District boundary
- State highways
- Te Ara Wai Journeys
- Te Awa River Ride
- Marae
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, Large streams
- Lakes/Peat lakes
- Urban Areas 2011
- Scenario Areas 2050

Hautapu



Cambridge/Leamington/ Hautapu

Key trends and influences

Cambridge is home to approximately 21,300 people[49].

The town's population is projected to grow to approximately 32,000 people by 2050, requiring approximately 5,800 new houses. Cambridge has approximately 600ha of land capacity for residential development in its growth cells, which, together with infill opportunities, is estimated to provide capacity for approximately 10,400 houses by 2050[50].

A variety of retirement communities are being established in Cambridge in response to the increasing number of elderly residents. Currently, the town has experienced the highest development of retirement centres in the district. The community's aspiration is for Cambridge to evolve into a more multi-generational neighbourhood and a cohesive community.

The Hautapu Industrial Area to the north is a key strategic industrial node within the wider Waikato area, and with continued growth it will further strengthen its importance as an industrial area. It is projected to grow from around 67 ha to 227 ha by 2050.[51]



Map Legend

- State highways
- Roads inside boundary
- Roads outside boundary
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Parks and open spaces
- Existing buildings 2021
- Town boundaries 2050
- Marae
- Town Hall
- Swimming Pool
- Schools

[49] Stats NZ Annual estimate

[50] Review of Housing and Business Development Capacity Assessment February 2023, Future Proof

[51] Draft Future Development Strategy, 2024, Future Proof

Vision and Priorities from the 2019 Concept Plan

In 2019, the development of the Cambridge Town Concept Plan Refresh provided a vision for Cambridge and its community. This vision and priorities are still relevant today and are supported by the work undertaken through Ahu Ake.

VISION > > > >

In 50 Years **Cambridge is celebrated as a vibrant social town with high-quality spaces for business, cultural, recreation, relaxation, and sport activities.**

Ko Arekahanara tōku hāona kaha
Ko Kemureti tōku Oko Horoi
Ko Ngāruawāhia tōku Tūrangawaewae

Alexandra [Pirongia] is a symbol of my strength of character
Cambridge is a symbol of my wash bowl of sorrow
And Ngāruawāhia my footstool.

- Nā Kiingi Taawhiao

Town Concept Plan Refresh Objectives/Outcomes

1. The town centre is a family-friendly place and the lively, social heart of the community
2. Cambridge is a safe, diverse, and welcoming community
3. Cambridge's unique culture and heritage are clearly expressed
4. Natural features are healthy, and accessible for all
5. Transportation is convenient, with walking and cycling a pleasure for all ages

Figure 17 Cambridge Town Concept Plan Refresh objectives (2019)

Community aspirations collected during Ahu Ake engagement

Placemaking, Future Development and Housing	• Support for more residential intensification instead of expansion of community boundaries. • A desire to see more integration of different housing types to avoid enclaves of one type whilst keeping the town's character (the "village feel") and addressing traffic growth. • Concern over the scale of retirement villages in Cambridge and their impacts in a changing demographic. • Highly productive land needs to be protected from Cambridge's urban expansion and impacts of reverse sensitivity. • Consider prioritising residential growth in places that do not impede planned industrial expansion.
Economic development	• Hautapu industrial growth provides for local employment and retains attractive built-form and characteristics in line with the Cambridge context. • Desire for more retail and commercial uses, including larger and more supermarkets, and local shops outside of the central area. • Consider more restaurants and retail on the southern side of the Waikato River to take advantage of the river views and scenery.
Environment	• Connect to the river and riparian areas as a feature. • Restore gullies and their ecological corridor function. • Design Cambridge as a 'sponge city' focused on permeable areas and tree coverage. • Restore Lake Te Koo Utu through the implementation of the concept plan.
Heritage, arts and culture	• A need to better acknowledge Māori heritage so it is more present in the community. • Renovate the town hall.
Community facilities	• A new library that can be a social hub. • More sports facilities – both indoor and outdoor, including a water park facility. • More youth and teen recreation activities. • Desire for more neighbourhood playgrounds, some destination ones, i.e., Kings Garden playground and Leamington Domain. (scheduled for 2024/25). • Desire to retain (and expand) the town belt for community gardens, promote biodiversity and provide for playing fields, bike paths, horse riding, and exercise activities.
Transport	• Strong support for cycleways in general, focused on school routes and on Leamington to connect to the town centre. • Strong support for greater pedestrian prioritisation of roads, particularly focussed on the town centre and for more pedestrian crossings near parks, schools, shops, and public facilities.



Karāpiro

Karāpiro, village and lake

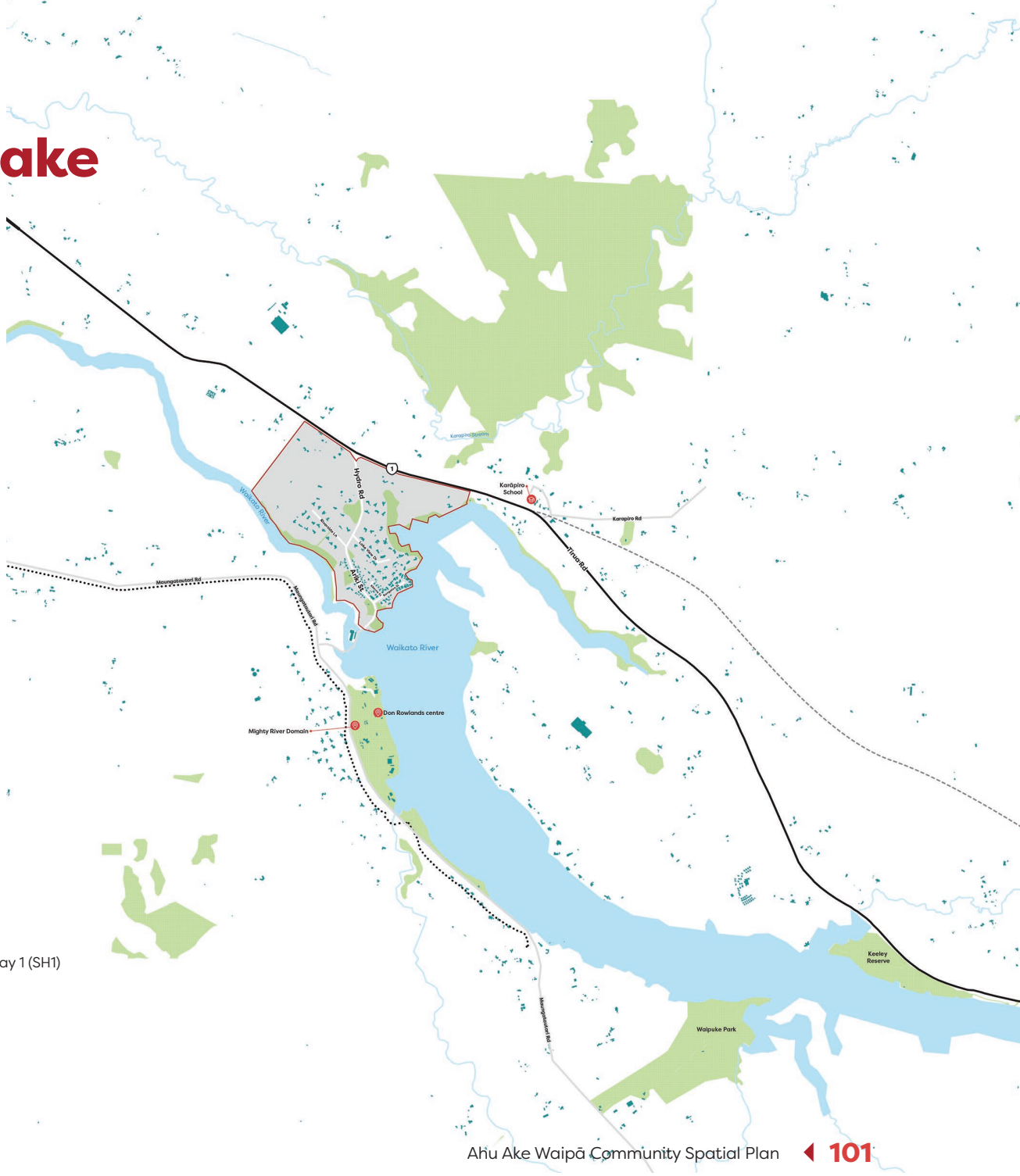
Key trends and influences

Around 250 people reside in the village, which is expected to accommodate 400 more residents in 165 new dwellings by 2050[52].

Lake Karāpiro and its surrounding community is a hub for recreation activities based around the sporting facilities provided.

The Karāpiro Hydro Power Station is operated by Mercury. It provides a road connection between the village and Mighty River Domain – it is an essential connection for the community and people using facilities in the area. The dam can be closed for maintenance and is not guaranteed for the long term.

The New Zealand Transport Agency has plans to deliver the Cambridge to Piarere State Highway 1 expressway, which would shift the location of State Highway 1. This creates opportunities for changing the access routes around the north side of lake, including opportunities to review the location and access for the Karāpiro school. No additional growth areas will be provided because of the limited access offered by the expressway.



Map Legend

- State highways
- Roads inside boundary
- Roads outside boundary
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Parks and open spaces
- Existing buildings 2021
- Town boundaries 2050
- Te Awa River Ride
- The realiganment of State Highway 1 (SH1)

[52] Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy (WDC,2017)

Community aspirations collected during Ahu Ake engagement

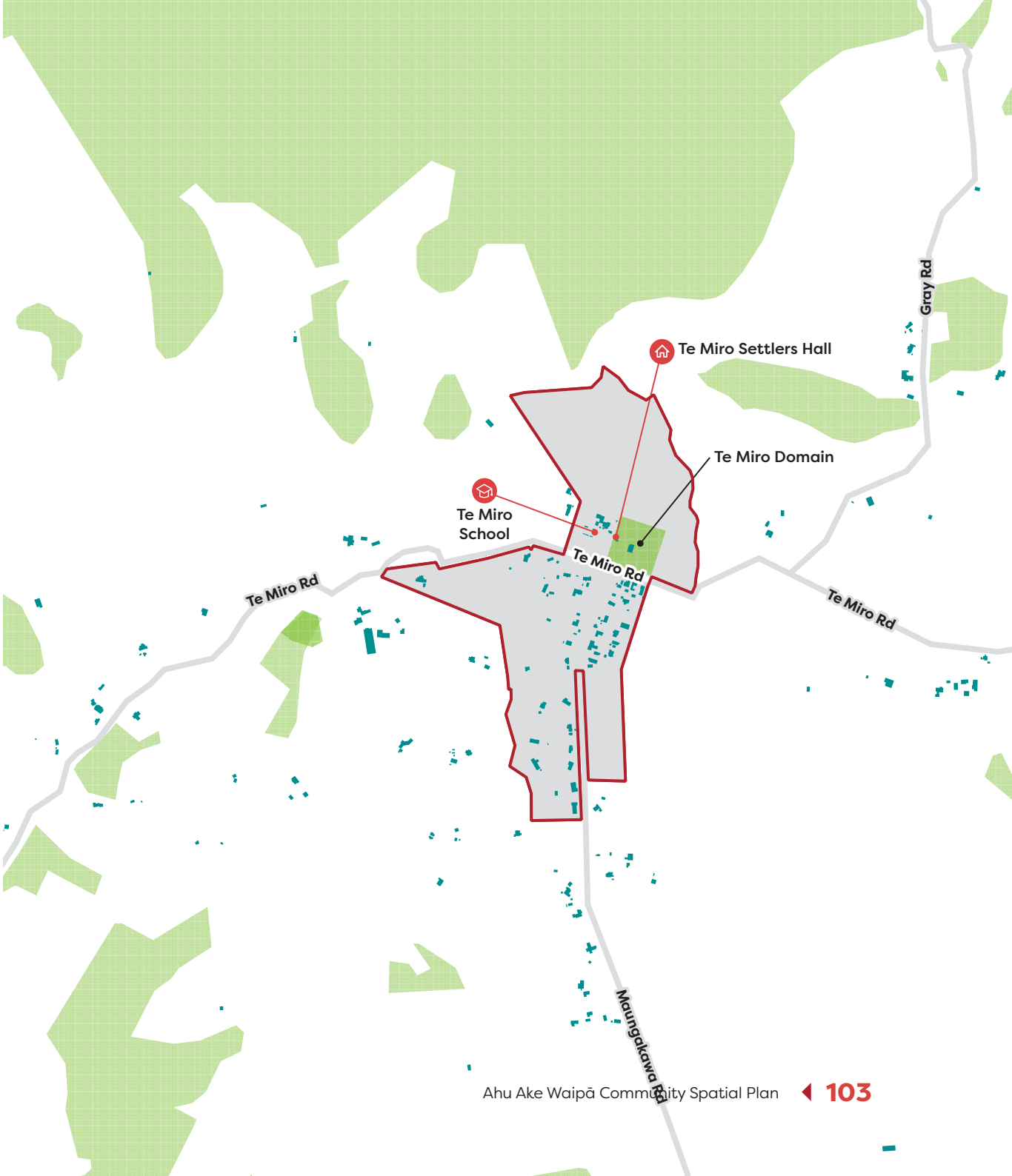
Placemaking, Future Development and Housing	• Address the importance of maintaining a connection from Karāpiro village across the dam, even if only for walking and cycling, although vehicles are a preference. • General support for relocation of the school into the village, with some dissenting opinions. Concern with the current location as it feels dangerous to get to. • Support to keep the village as a small village and not introduce new growth areas.
Economic development	• Interest in a small retail offering to meet day-to-day needs in the village. • Support for more sports and entertainment events at Lake Karāpiro.
Environment	• Karāpiro stream valley could become a destination for recreation. • Replant areas past the dam with native species.
Heritage, arts and culture	• Opportunity for more concerts at Karāpiro.
Community facilities	• Football fields are wanted, along with refurbishment of tennis courts. • A school pool and / or a water park are supported. • Lake access / walkways for swimming/beach use. This includes improved upkeep of existing access points (from the village to the lake) as well as developing new access areas around the lake. • Development of esplanade park to the north of the village with pathway for recreation. • Develop new boat ramps. • Consider a walkway loop in the village incorporating a boat ramp.
Transport	• Improvements are sought to existing access points to the lake from the village and developing new access areas around the lake, including boat ramps. • More footpaths in the village. • Concern over safety of the roading network accessing the village. • If the school is relocated into the village, consider safety outcomes at the state highway entrance. • Consider a bus service connecting to Hamilton via Cambridge, and a local service for the school (if not relocated). • Support for cycle paths connecting to Cambridge along the state highway.

Te Miro

Key trends and influences

Te Miro, located in the northeast corner of the district, is a compact community-based village centred around the local school. The residential areas are low-density, and the village is unserviced.

Te Miro currently houses approximately 100 people, and by 2050, its population is projected to increase by 85 more, accommodated by 40 additional dwellings developed on 15-18ha of new residential land[53]. New residential development opportunities will be around the outskirts of the currently established village.



Map Legend

- State highways
- Roads inside boundary
- Roads outside boundary
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Parks and open spaces
- Existing buildings 2021
- Town boundaries 2050

[53] Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy (WDC,2017)

Community aspirations collected during Ahu Ake engagement

Placemaking, Future Development and Housing	• Maintain the existing village boundaries and do not seek to expand further. • New development should be well connected to existing parts of the community. • Design of new development needs to address rural aesthetics and work with the terrain.
Environment	• Support for more native plantings, and pest species removal. • Consider how to extend the ecological corridor north from Maungatautari to include the Te Miro area.
Heritage, arts and culture	• Acknowledge the role Te Miro had with Wiremu Tamihana in the Kingitanga Movement.
Parks and public facilities	• Improve Settlers Hall, for example could it accommodate sporting support facilities like change rooms. • Maintaining tennis courts is important.
Transport	• Consider a rural cycleway connection to Te Miro Mountain Bike Park. • Road safety and speed limits are a concern, particularly around the school. • Consider a footpath and bike path along Te Miro Road to connect the community.
Three waters	• Support for not changing to urban water and wastewater services.



Centre-north: Ōhaupō, Rukuhia, and Hamilton Airport

Overview

Located adjacent to Hamilton, this northern area of the district is heavily influenced by the city. The northern part is particularly dependent on the city for employment and services. However, the area still maintains a strong rural identity due to the presence of primary schools and community halls in rural settlements like Ōhaupō, Rukuhia, and Kaipaki.

While the majority of the area is characterised by rural dairy farming, the vicinity around Hamilton Airport is rapidly evolving as it is designated for industrial and business purposes. Notably, the Mystery Creek Events Centre, situated to the southeast and adjacent to the airport area, hosts the annual Fieldays agricultural show, attracting over a hundred thousand visitors annually.

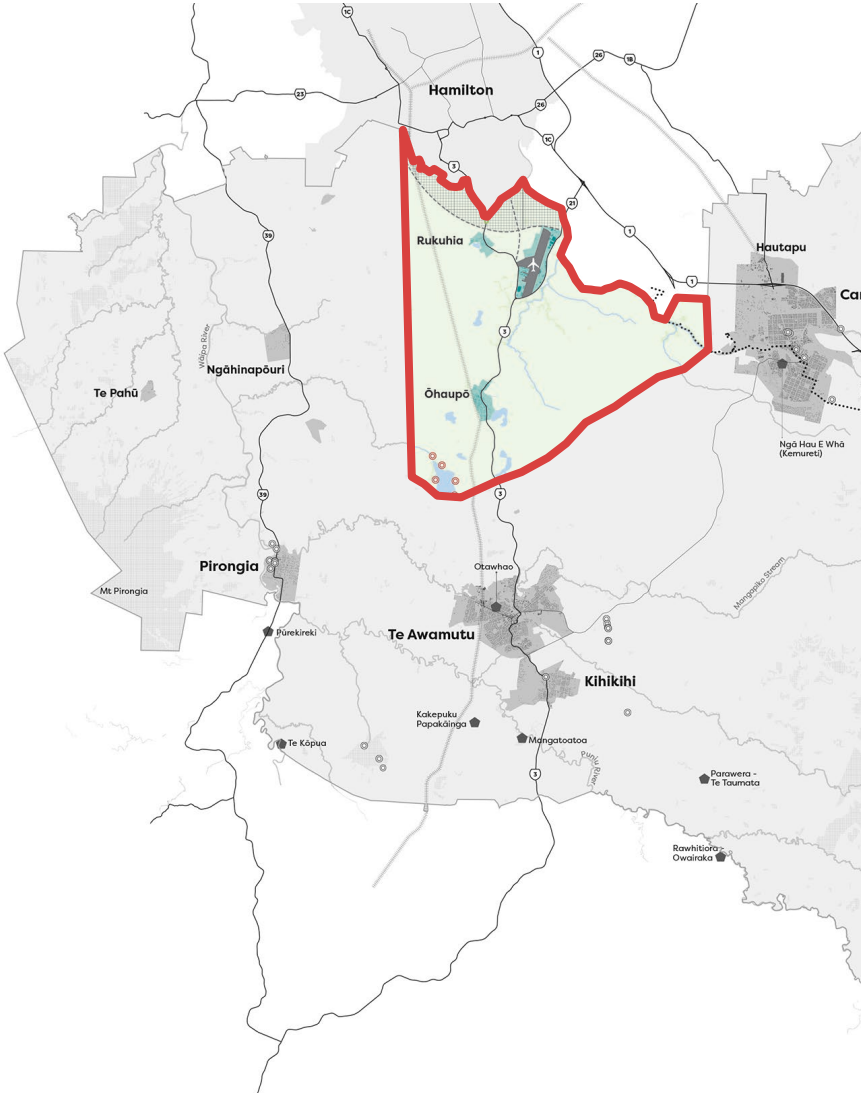
Hamilton's urban expansion, especially towards the airport, will continue to influence the northern part of this area. Plans are in place to gradually transfer part of the Waipā district on its northern edge to Hamilton to accommodate the city's expansion southwards. This transfer will extend up to the future Southern Links arterial road, which is intended to encircle the city's southern boundary.

A significant geographical feature of this area is its scattered 'peat lakes,' a network of self-contained water bodies that drain directly into the groundwater table without outflow streams.

Lake Ngā Roto, the centerpiece of Te Ara Wai Journeys, holds significant cultural and conservation value. The area, once home to two lakes, was surrounded by wetlands and forests that provided habitats for the tūpuna (ancestors of the Māori people) and numerous native species. The site also marks the Battle of Hingakākā, a significant event in New Zealand's history. This battle, the largest intertribal battle ever fought in the country, involved warriors from various tribes across the North Island and took place in the late 1700s.

Iwi Affiliations in the area:

Ngāti Hauā / Nagti Raukawa/ Waikato -Tainui
(Te Kāhui Māngai)



Map Legend

- District boundary
- Potential future land transfer to Hamilton
- State highways
- Rail
- Southern Links Designation and SH1 Realignment
- Te Ara Wai Journeys
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, Large streams
- Lakes/Peat lakes
- Urban Areas 2011
- Scenario Areas 2050

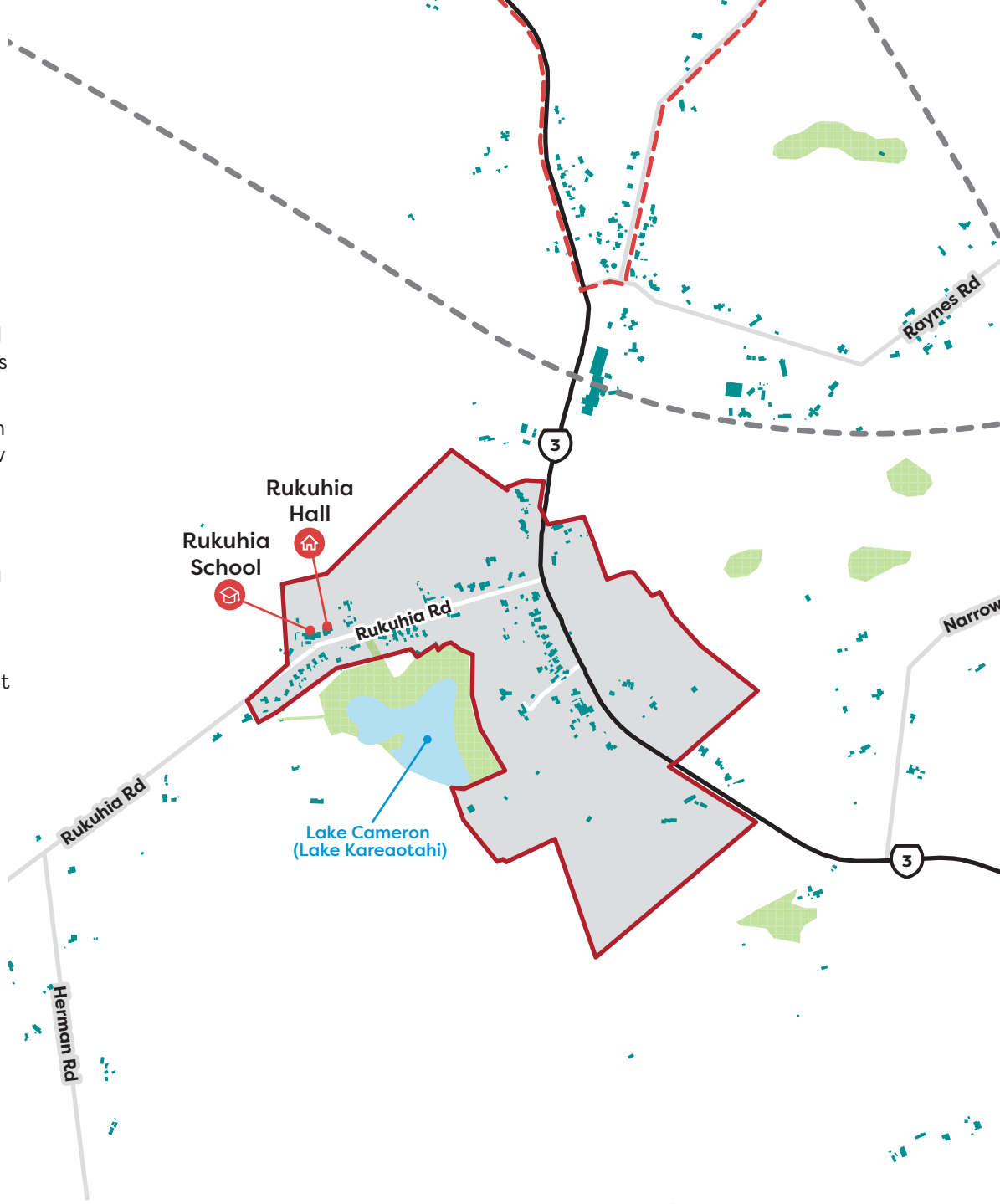
Rukuhia

Key trends and influences

The village of Rukuhia is located in the northern boundary within the Waipā district, on the outskirts of Hamilton. Consisting of large lot residential areas which are unserviced in terms of both wastewater and water supply, Rukuhia provides an alternative form of living for residents near Hamilton City.

Rukuhia is currently home to 100 residents and by 2050, the population is projected to increase by an additional 300 residents, adding 130 new households. Further large lot residential areas are expected to develop around the existing ones. Growth is limited by the surrounding geology (peatland).[54]

Rukuhia will be considered through the recommended master planning exercise undertaken for the southern Hamilton area, focused on the airport. It is adjacent to the South Hamilton Future Development Area, abutting the Southern Links designation, and is near to the airport and related commercial developments. It will change as these development areas evolve.



Map Legend

- State highways
- Roads inside boundary
- Roads outside boundary
- Southern Links Designation *(a new state highway and local road network in Hamilton South)*
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Parks, reserves, forest and vegetation
- Existing buildings 2021
- Town boundaries 2050
- Hamilton Urban Boundary

[54] Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy (WDC, 2017)

Community aspirations collected during Ahu Ake engagement

Placemaking, Future Development and Housing	• Impact of the Southern Links project on the community needs to be carefully planned for, to effectively manage effects on the community.
Economic development	• Interest in having a convenience store established.
Environment	• Strong interest in peat lake protection. • Interest in having walkways around the peat lakes. • Support for native plantings, particularly around the peat lake and on marginal farmland.
Heritage, arts and culture	• Need for a youth or community centre nearby.
Parks and public facilities	• Add public uses to peat lakes (including Lake Cameron) so they are valued more.
Transport	• Support for cycleways to link with Hamilton's urban cycle network through to Ōhaupō and the airport precinct. • Need for a footpath network connecting to the airport precinct. • Concerns about traffic speeds, pedestrian access, particularly around the school.



Hamilton Airport environs

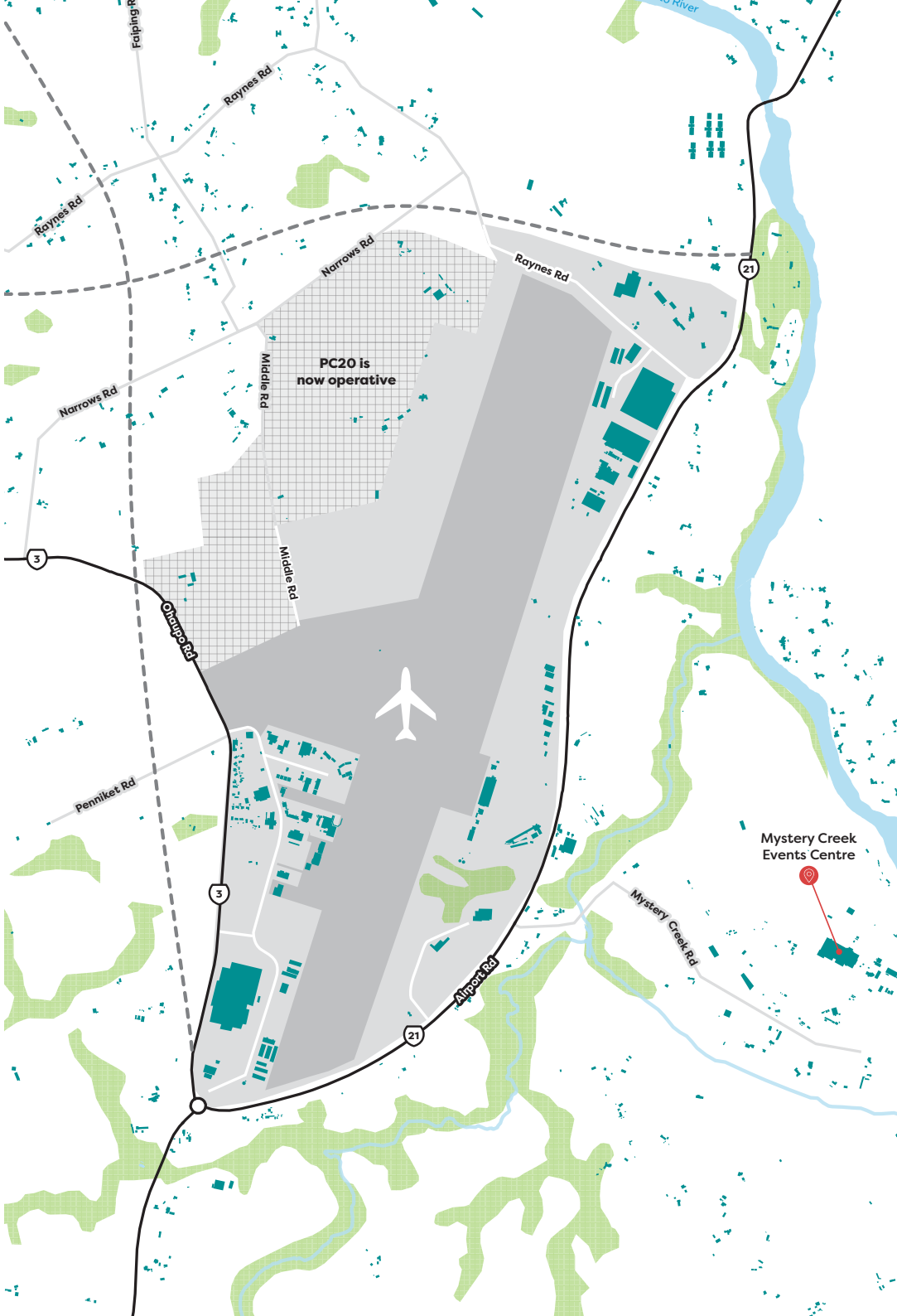
Key trends and influences

The Hamilton Airport sits in the north of the district, near the border with Hamilton City. This locality is a vital part of the regional economy, providing for both freight and passenger travel. Titanium Park is the area's business centre, capitalising on the opportunities provided by the airport. Nearby, the Mystery Creek area serves as the district's premier events location, and supports the infrastructure provided by the airport.

Titanium Park is expected to remain a strong growing industrial centre. The industrial node is projected to grow to 140 ha by 2050 from its current size of around 94 ha.[55,56]

Mystery Creek Events Centre and Tieke Golf Course are substantial commercial activities in the area. Mystery Creek hosts around 100 events annually and can exceed 25,000 visitors per day, with transport network levels of service being an ongoing issue at busy times.

The airport and surrounding development area are partly serviced for wastewater. The upgraded Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant will provide additional servicing in the interim and until the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant is in operation.



Map Legend

- State highways
- Roads inside boundary
- Roads outside boundary
- Southern Links Designation *(a new state highway and local road network in Hamilton South)*
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Parks, reserves, forest and vegetation
- Existing buildings 2021
- Airport northern business precinct (PC20 is now operative)

[55] Draft Future Development Strategy, Future Proof, 2024. Note, this includes some areas which are yet to be confirmed through relevant processes – refer to the FDS for details in section B8, table 4.

[56] Plan Change 20 - Airport Northern Precinct Extension, WDC, 2024

Community priorities from Ahu Ake engagement

The Future Proof Strategy identifies the area as a strategic industrial node, with Council seeking to provide further industrial development here in collaboration with Future Proof partners.

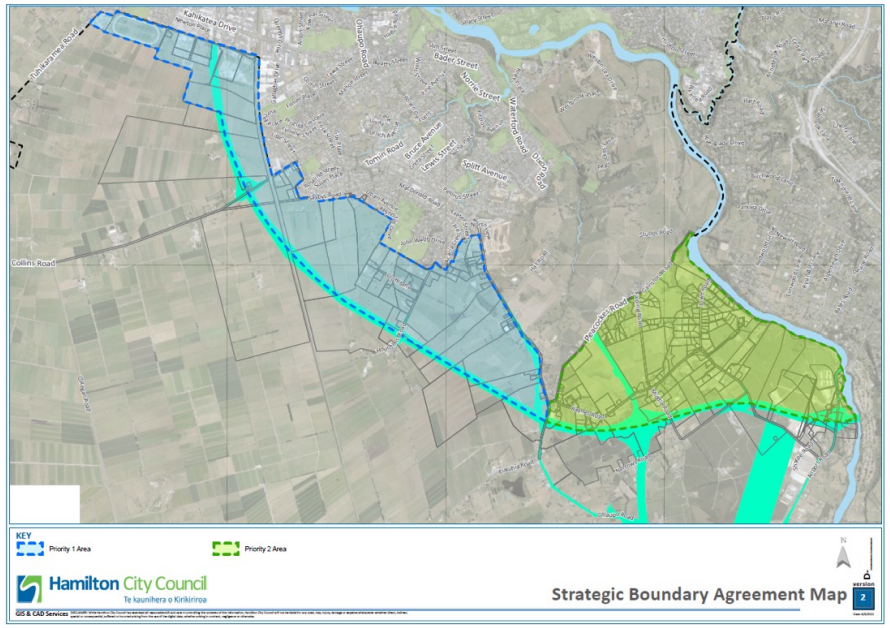
[57]Because of the airport's proximity to Hamilton City and Waikato District, it is important that changes to development patterns are planned at a sub-regional level and are agreed between Councils and landowners.

Success of the area is influenced by the availability of wastewater services, completion of Southern Links to resolve transport capacity challenges, and the future urbanisation of the South Hamilton future urban area (north of the Southern Links designation).

A master planning exercise is proposed for this area and the southern boundaries of Hamilton (i.e. SL1 and 2) due to the many parties involved. Its purpose is to facilitate development and to define a more detailed long-term vision and understanding of infrastructure requirements. This will enable a collaborative approach to deliver a strategic growth area that unlocks the benefits of an important commercial node that adds to the identity and economic opportunities of Waipā district and the broader subregion.

South Hamilton future urban area

The Hamilton Urban Growth Strategy 2023 identifies a future development area in Waipā district. This encompasses an area north of the future Southern Links designation, abutting Hamilton City's boundary. It is the subject of a strategic land agreement between Waipā District Council and Hamilton City Council that identifies a process for the proposed transfer of land into the jurisdictional boundary of Hamilton City Council.



[57] Note the form and function of the corridor will potentially be reviewed

Ōhaupō



Ōhaupō

Key trends and influences

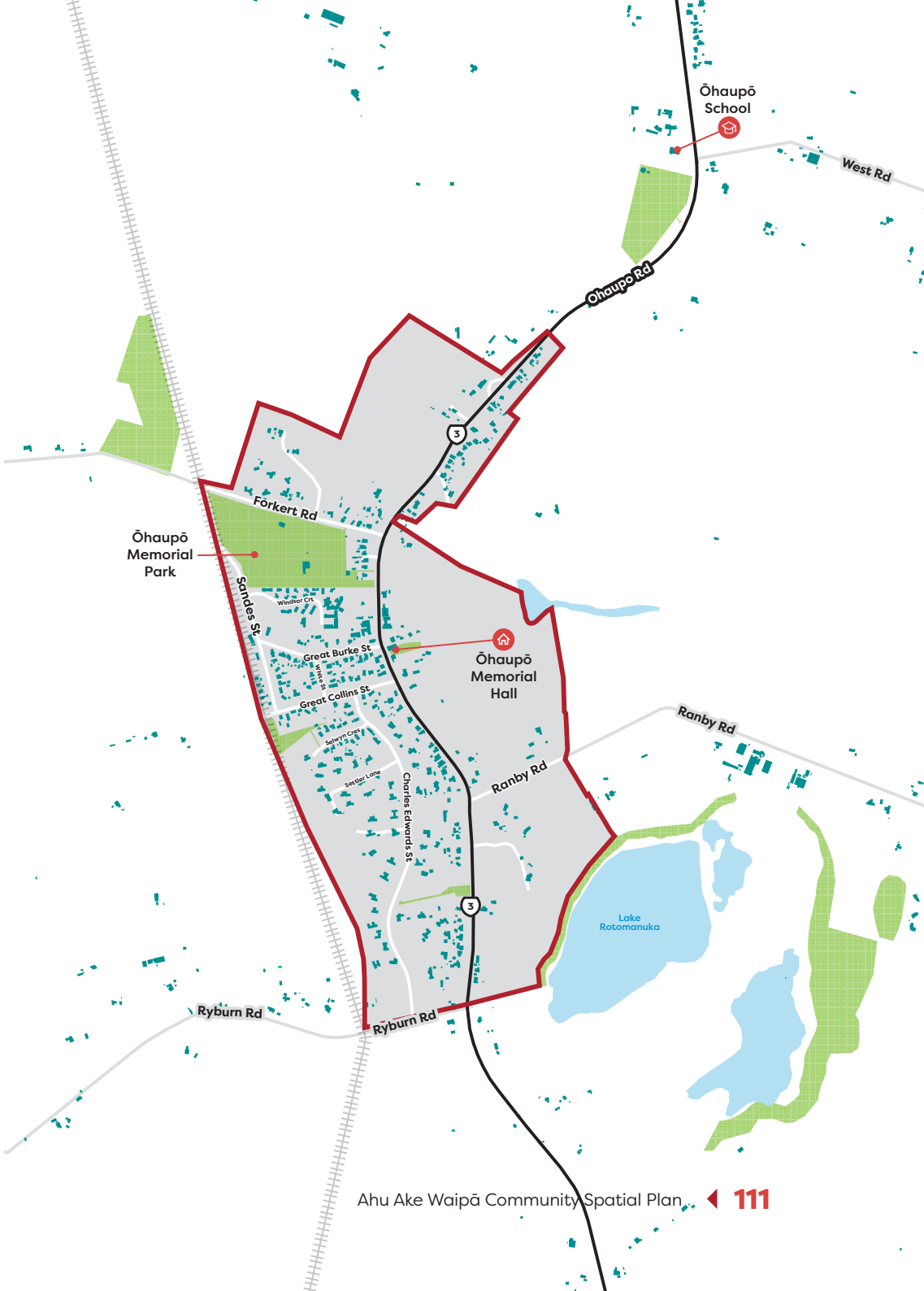
Ōhaupō village is the second residential village in Waipā and is located centrally in the district. It has a low-density village character. The settlement provides diverse amenities with commercial services but is not presently serviced by wastewater infrastructure.

Future development will allow for sustainable growth that delineates the boundary between the town and the surrounding rural environment and provides strong links between the two areas.[58] Under current planning settings, Ōhaupō is projected to grow by another 170 people by 2050.

However looking beyond 2030, there is a long-term proactive need to comprehensively plan for the expansion of Ōhaupō beyond its current scale into a larger village. This recognises growth pressures and the feasibility of wastewater services in the future when the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant is completed.

In the future, wastewater discharge from Ōhaupō, which presently discharges from private land to groundwater, could affect the peat lakes and presents a long-term risk to water quality. To safeguard and improve the peat lakes, Ōhaupō may become serviced with reticulated wastewater infrastructure over time.

It is on the planned future frequent public transport network, which will create quick and convenient connections to Hamilton, the Airport/ Cambridge and Te Awamutu, by bus as the service develops over time.



Map Legend

- State highways
- Rail
- Roads inside boundary
- Roads outside boundary
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Parks and open spaces
- Existing buildings 2021
- Town boundaries 2050

[58] Ōhaupō Concept Plan, 2010

Community aspirations collected during Ahu Ake engagement

Placemaking, Future Development and Housing	• When considering the possible expansion of Ōhaupō, use the Future Development Strategy process and the Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy to test the potential for Ōhaupō expansion. The timing of this will be determined by future land supply requirements and infrastructure requirements through the Futureproof Strategy. • Infrastructure, including public facilities, should be in place before new development occurs. • New development needs to respect the village's character, including the scenic views and incorporate lots of trees. • Discourage ribbon development along the state highway. • There was general acceptance and support from the community of the intent to plan for additional growth in the long term.
Economic development	• A new town centre will be needed with expansion. • The national wetland centre is a top destination.
Environment	• Impacts on the natural environment from growth will need to be considered, including protecting gully networks.
Heritage, arts and culture	• The Ōhaupō Sports and Recreation Centre is the main social hub, a new town centre will need to provide for additional community space if growth occurs.
Parks and public facilities	• Desire for more parks and public facilities to accommodate planned and new growth (basketball court, dog park, etc). • Ensure that school requirements are considered when planning any expansion areas.
Transport	• Structure plan the community to accommodate any planned expansion, including an approach to managing vehicle kilometres travelled (VKT), connecting Frequent Public Transport to the airport employment growth area, and locating any new town centre off SH3. • Footpaths on both sides of roads are needed. • Consider a path connecting the main street to the Ohaupo Sports and Recreation Centre via Roly Fields Park • Consider pedestrian access and bus service to Lake Rotopiko. • Cycleway and walkway - Ōhaupō lakes circuit - Rotomanuka, Rotopiko, Lake Ngā Roto.
Three Waters	• Consider providing three waters services, this is a pre-requisite to intensified and expanded development.

Centre-south: Te Awamutu, Kihikihi, and areas west

Overview

The southern central area is focused on the neighbouring towns of Te Awamutu and Kihikihi. These two towns sit at an important road junction on the regionally important State Highway 3, connecting Hamilton south through the King Country to Taranaki.

District arterial roads link these towns to the surrounding productive dairy farming area: west to Pirongia, east to Cambridge, and southeast to Maungatautari and Arapuni. Te Awamutu is situated on the north-south trunk rail link between Wellington and Hamilton and goes through to Auckland, even though the town no longer has a railway station.

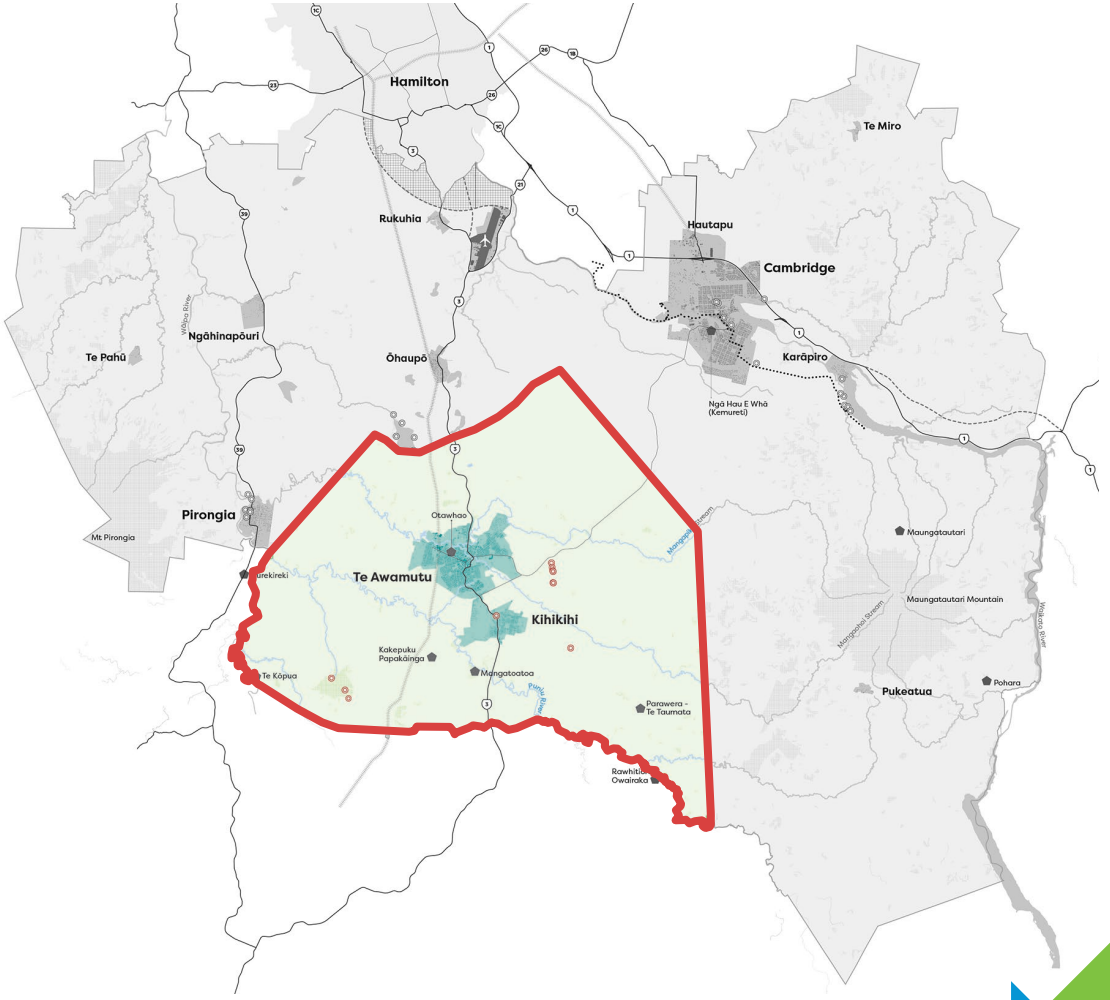
Te Awamutu is a crucial agricultural service centre and employment hub, housing one of Fonterra's larger dairy-producing factories.

This region is steeped in the history of Māori settlement, and the Te Ara Wai Journeys site provides an in-depth look at the final conflicts of the Waikato land wars at Rangiaowhia-O-Rākau in 1864.

The area marked the southern boundary of the Waikato Land war-related land confiscation, as depicted in the name of Frontier Road just north of the Puniu River.

Iwi Affiliations in the area:

Maniapoto / Ngāti Raukawa / Waikato -Tainui *(Te Kāhui Māngai)*



Map Legend

- District boundary
- State highways
- Rail
- Te Ara Wai Journeys
- Marae
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, Large streams
- Urban Areas 2011
- Scenario Areas 2050

Te Awamutu



Te Awamutu

Key trends and influences

The vision from the town concept plan (in 2010) focused on Te Awamutu being a place with these primary elements:

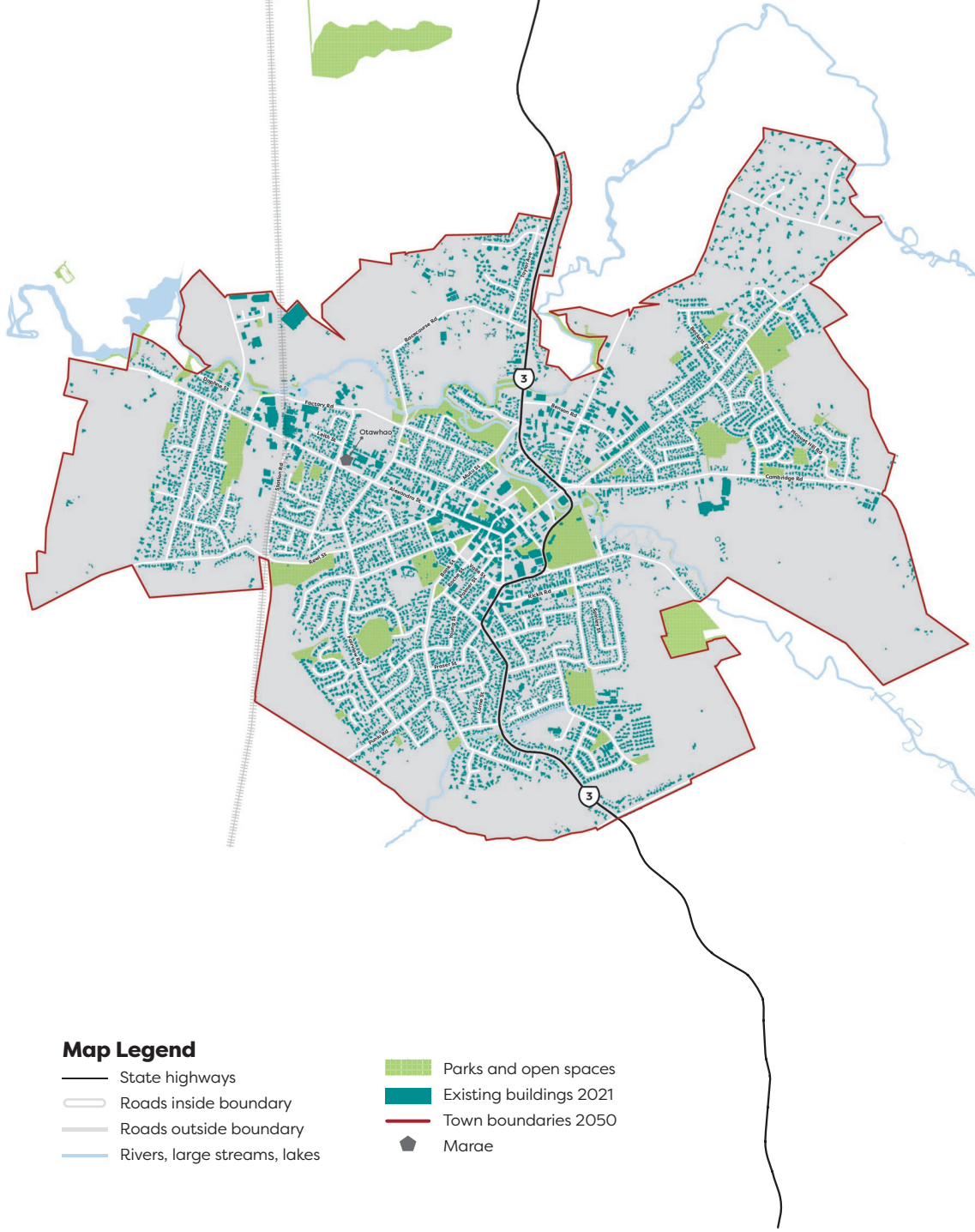
- A vibrant town centre – the Heart of Te Awamutu – that blends the modern and historical to provide a unique ambience and provide for a diverse and open, inclusive community.
- Pirongia maunga, Maungatautari, Kakepuku, and the Waipā peat lakes are taonga – treasured national storehouses of biodiversity.
- A well-defined urban area distinctively separated from the productive rural hinterland.
- A preferred location to live, work, and play where development and growth are planned and managed in harmony with the local environment.
- Dairying remains at the heart of the local community, where world-class practices support high levels of economic wellbeing and ensure sustainability.

Historically, population projections have combined Te Awamutu and Kihikihi. These estimates project that the population in this combined area will grow from 13,000 in 2018 to 23,700 by 2055.[59]

Te Awamutu has seen some of the highest growth in employment across the district, particularly in the town centre and on industrial/business lands in the northwest and northeast of town. It is an important rural service centre that connects the surrounding rural areas.

Te Awamutu is between two stepping stones, which are areas along the ecological corridor, between Maungatautari and Mt Pirongia. There is a focus on native planting by the waterways and areas of cultural significance are highlighted.

[59] Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy (WDC, 2017) and Kihikihi Urban Development Plan, 2021



Community aspirations collected during Ahu Ake engagement

Placemaking, Future Development and Housing	• Support for more housing choices with good quality apartments and multi-unit developments, which need to include the provision of community spaces and facilities. • Concern over the impact that intensification could have on the character of Te Awamutu and concern the "small town feel" and community cohesion will be lost.
Economic development	• There is a desire to see more retail and commercial uses in Te Awamutu. • Support for more activities for youth, particularly in evening hours.
Rural economy	• Support to maintain highly productive lands for primary production purposes.
Environment	• Emphasis on maintaining and expanding tree canopy, and considering the habitat benefits this provides. • Consider quality of stormwater management system outputs.
Heritage, arts and culture	• More community events/activities are needed. Some ideas include an annual run, fundraisers, themed parties, Matariki celebrations, outdoor concerts. • Working towards establishing Te Ara Wai Journeys in the area.
Parks and public facilities	• Interest in a youth recreation centre, a mental health/wellbeing centre, community gardens, and sports and recreation facilities including parks.
Transport	• Safe cycling options and bike lanes are generally supported, including bike racks in town and connection from Te Awamutu to Kihikihi, to Pirongia, and to Kakepuku. • Zebra crossings are encouraged, as are more comprehensive and widened footpaths in some locations near playgrounds and on the outskirts of town.



Kihikihi

Key trends and influences

Kihikihi is a small urban centre just south of Te Awamutu. The town has a strong sense of Māori and European history. Along with colonial heritage, the Māori presence in the community is emphasised by the Rewi Maniapoto Reserve (privately owned) and a strong sense of history that has arisen through the town due to the New Zealand Wars.[60]

In 2009, a vision was developed by representatives of the community of Kihikihi, that by 2050 Kihikihi is a vibrant thriving shopping centre which includes a post office with banking facilities, a medical centre, regular public transport for young and old and a good sporting centre for all sports. It will also celebrate its cultural historic sites, history and its uniqueness in Aotearoa.[61]

The Kihikihi Urban Development Plan (2021) identifies a need for around 260 new households within Kihikihi by 2050. These new houses are expected to be delivered by infill of existing residential lots. Adjacent large lot growth cells, between Kihikihi and Te Awamutu, enable around 189 ha of large lot residential development, which will add to the vibrancy of the community providing these areas are well connected.[62]



Map Legend

- State highways
- Roads inside boundary
- Roads outside boundary
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Parks and open spaces
- Existing buildings 2021
- Town boundaries 2050

[60] Kihikihi Urban Development Plan, 2021

[61] Kihikihi Town Concept Plan Draft Analysis, 2009

[62] Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy (WDC, 2017)

Community aspirations collected during Ahu Ake engagement

Placemaking, Future Development and Housing	• Incorporate a lot of greenspaces into new developments. • Access to affordable housing is a concern. • Support for papakāinga to happen now.
Economic development	• Interest in more local retail and commercial services.
Environment	• Support for native plantings on streets and public spaces, riparian areas –particularly around walking trails.
Heritage, arts, and culture	• Support for artwork on buildings and improvements to the town aesthetics. • Add and improve signage for historic sites. • Consider a heritage building/museum that showcases the town's history. • Consider a festival of lights, and events with local artists and musicians. • Support for the school to expand the mara kai.
Parks and public facilities	• Strong interest in a youth / recreation centre, and for more playgrounds. • Invest in active recreation around Kakepuku. • More public recycling facilities.
Transport	• Support for cycleways, including those currently in planning. • Interest in more pedestrian crossings for the main street, including signalised ones. • Interest in more regular bus services to towns and to Hamilton. • Concern over the condition of walkways / footpaths which require improvement. • Concern over speeds around the school, and on other busy streets. • Interest in cycle connections to Kakepuku and to Tokanui.

Southeast: Pukeatua

Overview

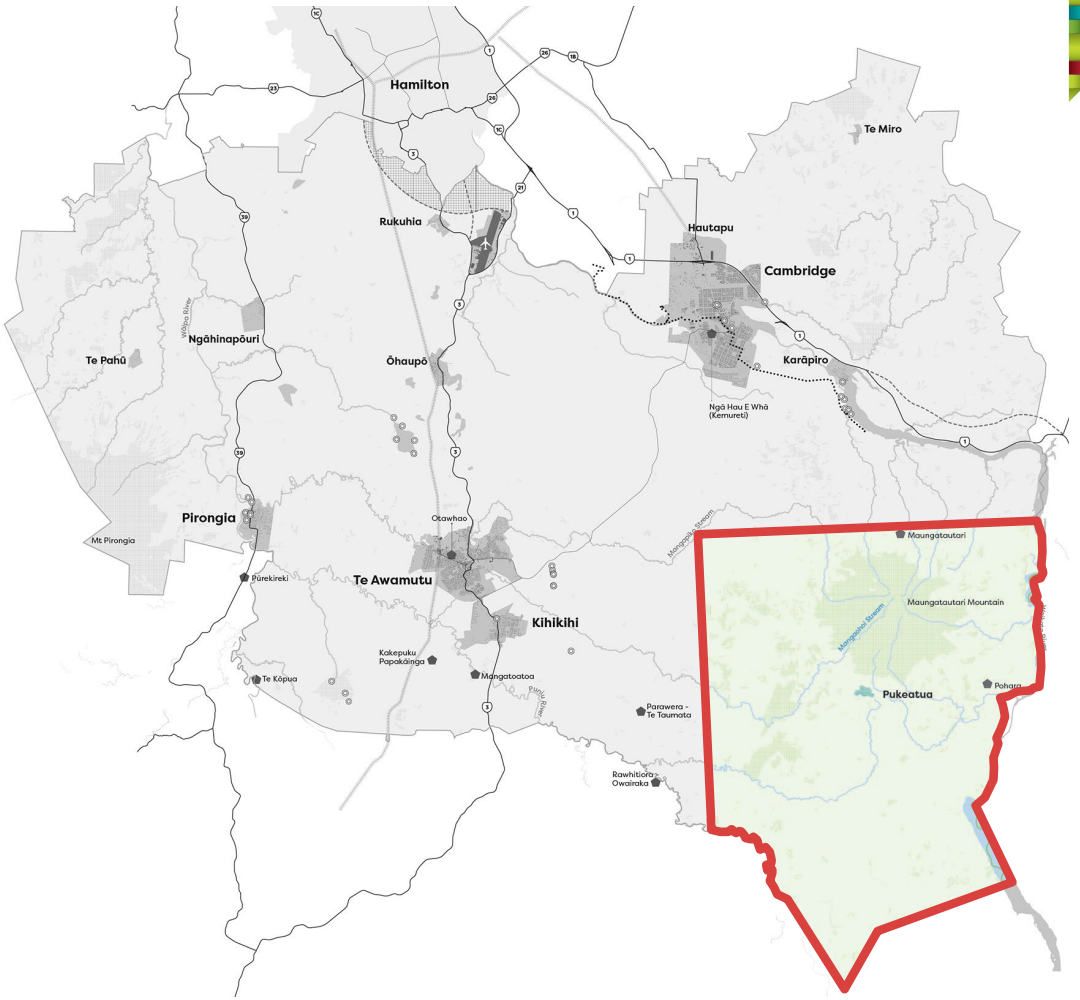
This southern corner of the district has a rural feel and is one of the least populated areas in the Waipā district. There are only a few small settlements in the vicinity, such as Pukeatua, Pohara Marae, and Westlea Road.

The main focus of this area is Maungatautari Mountain, which houses a sanctuary of national significance and is a popular tourist destination within the region.

Another prominent geographic feature of the area is the Waikato River, which borders its northern edge and is home to two hydro dams, Arapuni and Karāpiro. These dams play a significant role in hydroelectricity production and serve as important water recreation areas for the surrounding sub-region.

Iwi Affiliations in the area:

Ngāti Korokī Kahukura / Ngāti Raukawa *(Te Kāhui Māngai)*



Map Legend

- District boundary
- State highways
- Marae
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, Large streams
- Scenario Areas 2050

Pukeatua

Key trends and influences

Pukeatua, located in the southeast of the district, is a low-density rural village of 50 residents. It is not serviced with public water and wastewater. By 2050 Pukeatua is planned to be home for 70 more residents through the development of a further 17ha of large lot residential land accommodating around 35 new dwellings.[63]

Nearby Maungatautari is a highly valued natural area, protected though the avoidance of intensive development and a buffer zone between the village and the maunga. Maungatautari also generates local tourism, which has created some local commercial growth in tourist-based facilities.



Map Legend

- State highways
- Roads inside boundary
- Roads outside boundary
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Parks and open spaces
- Existing buildings 2021
- Town boundaries 2050

[63] Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy (WDC, 2017)

Community aspirations collected during Ahu Ake engagement

Placemaking, Future Development and Housing	• A small amount of growth would help sustain the community.
Rural economy	• Awareness of increased carbon farming activities nearby.
Environment	• Support for native plantings and habitat improvement, including support from Council for planting on private lands.
Parks and public facilities	• The village hall is well used, and needs ongoing maintenance. • More school related events would be welcomed, including at the village hall. • Expand bridle trails. • Support for reopening the walking track to Maungatautari. • Tennis courts could be upgraded, with additional play facilities like bike skills or similar.
Transport	• Speeds are a concern. A traffic island at the start of the 60km zone entering the village could help. • Footpath access to all properties.



Pirongia



Northwest: Pirongia, Te Pahū, and Ngāhinapōuri

Overview

Te Pahū, Ngāhinapōuri and Pirongia, situated on the northwestern sides of the district, have been appealing to new residents due to their outstanding natural beauty and welcoming environments.

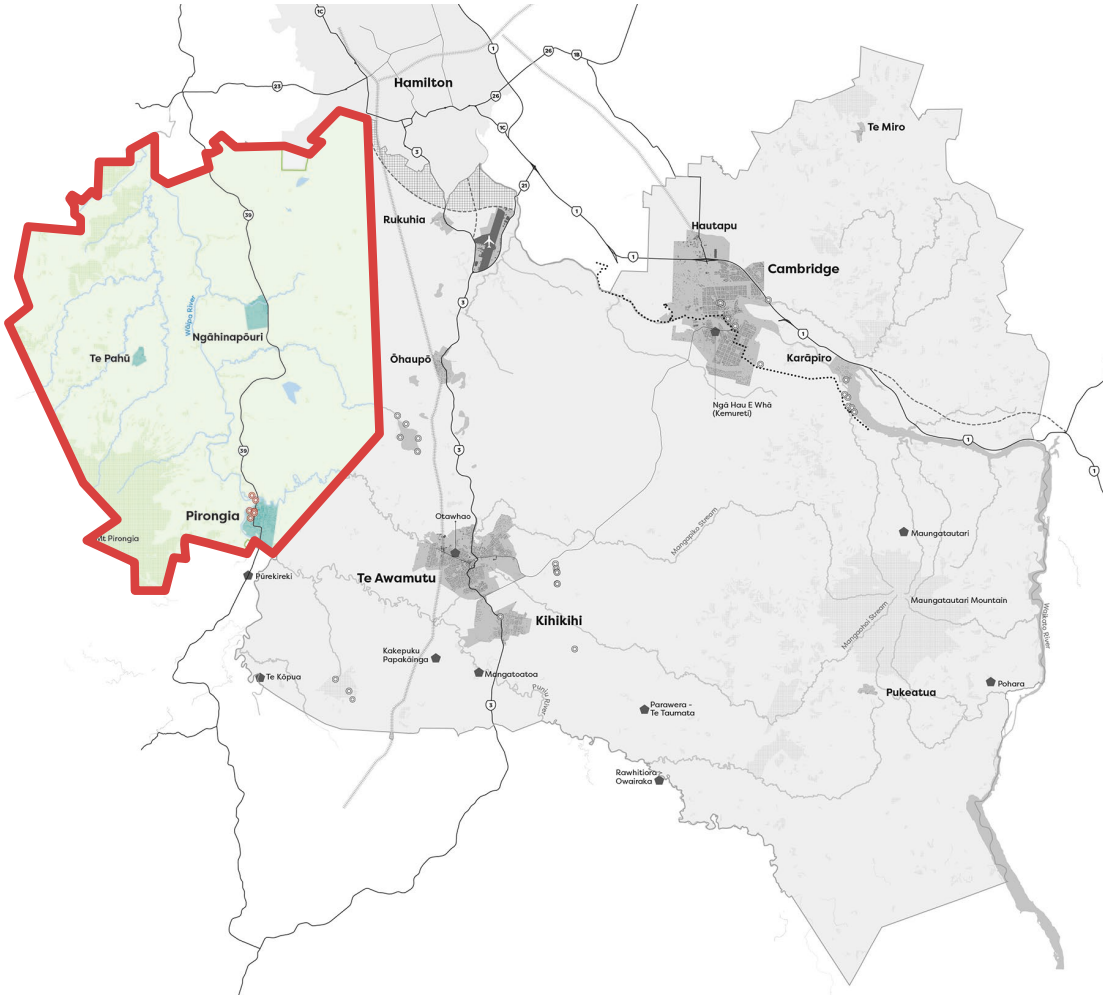
Te Pahū is nestled in a hilly, sparsely populated, and somewhat secluded part of the district. It is connected to the rest of the area by two bridges over the Waipā River at and near the village of Pirongia.

The hilly terrain of Te Pahū and Pirongia Mountain sets them apart from the flatter land to the east of the Waipā River towards Ngāhinapōuri. This area holds historical significance, and the Te Ara Wai Journeys outlines the events that have shaped the region and the district. The Musket Wars, a series of as many as 3,000 battles and raids fought throughout New Zealand among Māori from 1807 to 1837, and the New Zealand Land Wars, during which the British Crown invaded the Waikato in 1863-4 and confiscated 1.2 million acres of Māori land, are part of the historical narrative.

Pirongia constitutes five of the Te Ara Wai Journeys sites, including The Granary, King Tāwhiao and Early Settlement, Alexandra Redoubt, Alexandra East Redoubt, and Mātakitaki Pā.

Iwi Affiliations in the area:

Maniapoto / Waikato-Tainui *(Te Kāhui Māngai)*



Map Legend

- District boundary
- State highways
- Te Ara Wai Journeys
- Marae
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, Large streams
- Urban Areas 2011
- Scenario Areas 2050

Pirongia



Pirongia

Key trends and influences

Pirongia is a smaller village in the southwest of the district. It has a current population of about 1,500 residents, with large lot residential properties and some commercial activity making up the low-density character village. The population is projected to increase to 2,000 by 2050[64].

The village is largely unserved by sewerage and stormwater infrastructure, resulting in minimum lot size requirements to ensure onsite sewage disposal and stormwater management. If wastewater services were to be provided in the long term, densities and population could increase as the lot size requirements would be relaxed. There are currently no plans to provide wastewater services however this is proposed as a long-term area for investigation through Ahu Ake.

Pirongia village sits near Pirongia mountain, which has significant biodiversity value, hosts the Pirongia Forest Park (a protected area), and supports recreational pursuits. It also anchors one end of the Maungatautari to Pirongia Ecological Corridor. A mountain bike park is a popular facility on the mountain slopes.

The township we know today has a rich history dating back to the 1860s, a time marked by conflicts in the Waikato region during the New Zealand Land Wars. It hosts significant connections to the the Māori King and the Kīngitanga.

In 2020, the Pirongia Village Concept Plan Refresh was prepared, capturing the community vision and key objectives.



Map Legend

- State highways
- Rail
- Roads inside boundary
- Roads outside boundary
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Te Ara Wai Journeys
- Parks and open spaces
- Existing buildings 2021
- Town boundaries 2050

[64] Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy (WDC, 2017)

VISION

In 50 years **Pirongia village is renowned for its close community ties, with a mountain and waterways that are accessible and full of vitality. It has people-friendly streets, recreational and leisure activities and strong links to its heritage.**

E aro ana ki te ripa tauārai o Pūāwhē, ki te iwi e arohatia nei.

Acknowledging the ridge that leads to Pūāwhē*

* 'Pūāwhē' is an old name for Pirongia mountain and iwi have asked that what is now called 'The Cone' be recognised with that name.



Objective 1 - A people-friendly village well served by a variety of recreational and leisure facilities and commercial services for residents and visitors.

Objective 2 - A village which makes the best of its natural assets by improving their health, access to the Waipā River and Mount Pirongia.

Objective 3 - A village that retains strong links to its heritage and unique culture and identity through storytelling and wayfinding.

Objective 4 - A village with a safe, well connected walking and cycling network meaning walking and cycling is a pleasure for all ages.

Community aspirations collected during Ahu Ake engagement

Placemaking, Future Development and Housing	• Retain village atmosphere, character, and size. • Apply landscape design guidelines in new subdivisions/developments so developments fit in and support village character.
Economic development	• Support for more streetlights.
Rural economy	• Protect areas of highly productive lands.
Environment	• Protect Waipā River with a buffer from development. • Continue restoration/weed control of Mangapiko stream.
Heritage, arts and culture	• Improved public signage for heritage sites in and around town. • Recognise archaeological sites.
Parks and public facilities	• Expand and improve the mountain bike park. • Improve signage at Rangimarie Park. • Renovate the town hall to make it more multi-purpose. • Consider other recreational needs like a skate park, water park etc.
Transport	• Opening the bridges for cyclists and pedestrians. • Concern over speed limits in the town, particularly south of the northern bridge. • Support for bus services to Hamilton via other centres. • Cycle connection from Pirongia to Te Awamutu.

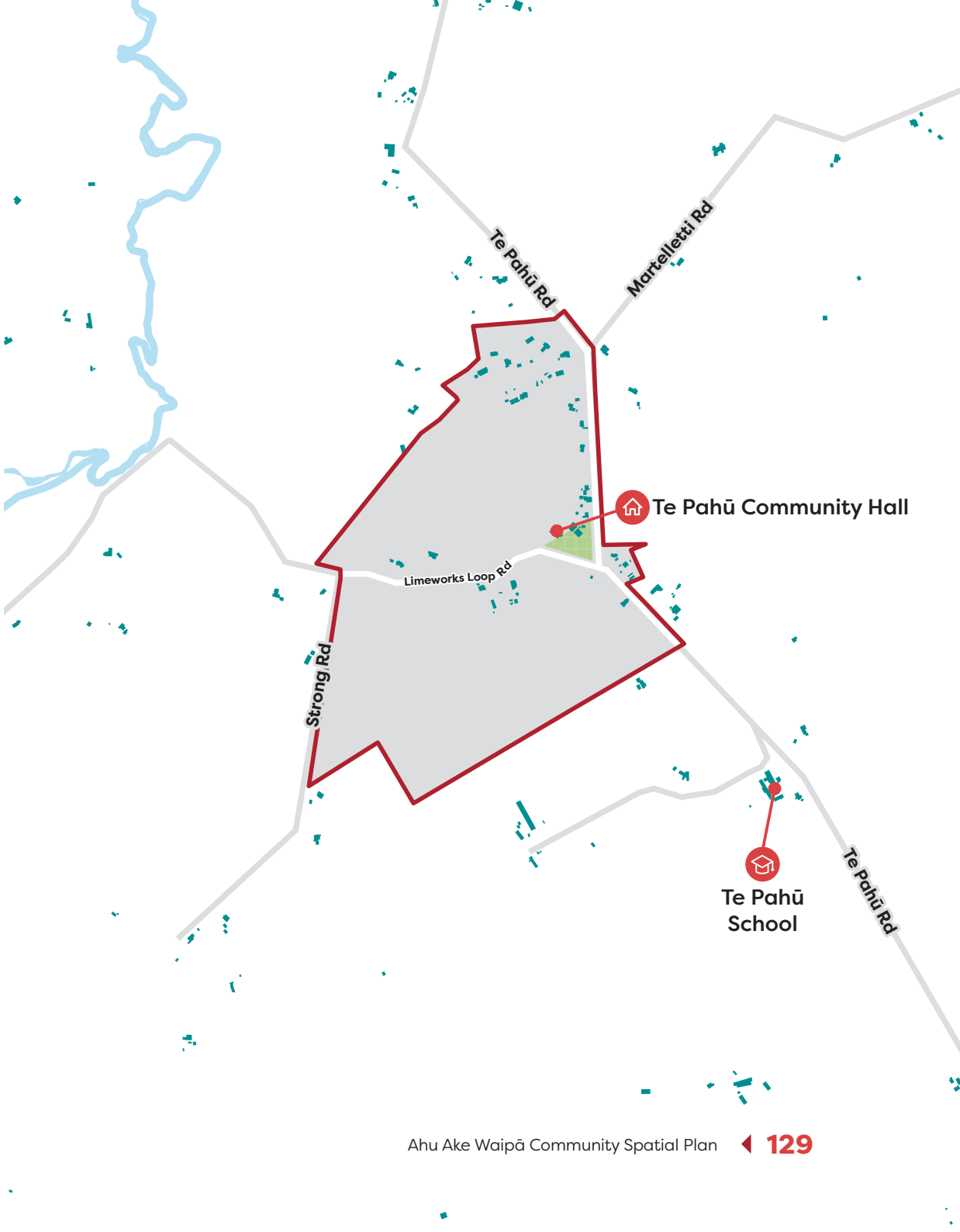
Te Pahū

Key trends and influences

Te Pahū is a small settlement in this area but is significant in having a primary school and the Te Pahū Hall, which provide important focal points for the rural residents of the area.

By 2050, the population is projected to increase by an additional 140 residents from around 100 in 2017. This will require the development of around 37ha of large lot residential area, and about 70 additional dwellings.[65]

Previous development has been scattered through the area and along Te Pahū Road, rather than focused on a village. The grouped orientation of the new development areas should encourage an improved cohesiveness for the community near to the school and hall.



Map Legend

- State highways
- Rail
- Roads inside boundary
- Roads outside boundary
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Parks and open spaces
- Existing buildings 2021
- Town boundaries 2050

[65] Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy (WDC, 2017)

Community aspirations collected during Ahu Ake engagement

Placemaking, Future Development and Housing	• Maintain the existing village boundaries and do not seek to expand further.
Economic development	• Interest in seeing more commercial accommodation options. • Enable a local commercial service or rural pub to be established.
Environment	• Support for native plantings in public areas and riparian areas.
Parks and public facilities	• Community hall needs investment – new roof and changes to increase usage. • Interest in a public place for dogs to be walked. • Interest in a cemetery being created. • Interest in a food forest.
Transport	• Concerns raised about pedestrian safety through town. • Consider a pedestrian / cycle bridge to connect with Ngāhinapōuri.



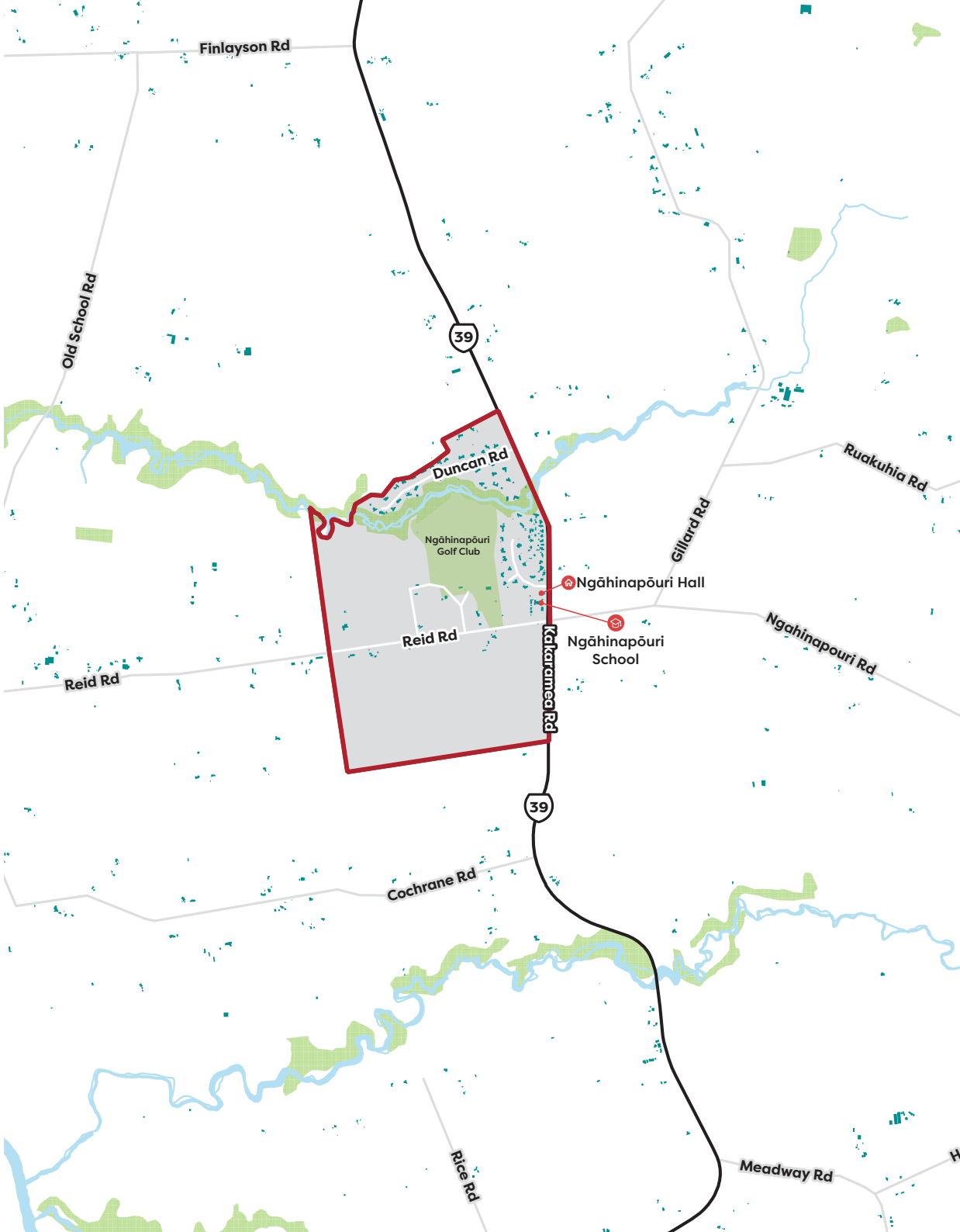
Ngāhinapōuri

Key trends and influences

Ngāhinapōuri is a small village in the northwest of the district, comprised of large lot residential developments. The village has developed around the amenity provided by the local golf course and has remained compact rather than spreading along the State Highway.

The village was home to around 200 residents in 2017 at which time the area's population was projected to increase to 650 residents by 2050[66]. Recent growth has occurred more quickly than planned.

An updated concept plan was prepared in 2021 to provide an overall concept that combined individual residential growth cells, a commercial block adjacent to the school with new park space, and to resolve access issues at the SH39 intersection.[67]



Map Legend

- State highways
- Rail
- Roads inside boundary
- Roads outside boundary
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Parks and open spaces
- Existing buildings 2021
- Town boundaries 2050

[66] Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy (WDC, 2017)

[67] Ngāhinapōuri Village Concept Plan (WDC, 2021)

Community aspirations collected during Ahu Ake engagement

Placemaking, Development and Housing	• Intent to remain a smaller community with a rural character and village feel.
Heritage, arts and culture	• Interest in educational opportunities to learn about the village's cultural/heritage significance/stones of the land.
Parks and public facilities	• Interest in a large, multi-purpose community hub. • Consider re-establishing the cemetery on Old School Road.
Transport	• Strong support for the Ngāhinapōuri / Mangohia walkway. • Cycleway connection to link schools, along the river. • More walking and cycling connections. • Interest in seeing improvements at the highway access for turning movements. • Speed near the school on the state highway is too high.



Part D

Implementation

Ahu Ake allows Council to understand with whom, how, where, why, and when we should deliver projects and services.

Ahu Ake seeks complex outcomes that are sometimes outside the Council's power to deliver alone. Coordinated delivery will be crucial to achieving the changes envisioned. This requires an adaptable, staged approach that is reviewed and adjusted over time with a strong emphasis on partnerships

1. Considerations for implementing Ahu Ake

Ahu Ake is Council's top-tier strategy aimed at delivering long-term transformative outcomes across a wide range of activity areas.

Ahu Ake is the guiding force, and implementation mechanisms will vary over time. Because of the strategic nature of the plan, it cannot resolve all implementation issues. Ahu Ake provides the direction to be implemented in greater detail by subsidiary strategies, policies, plans and projects.

The ten-year Long-Term Plan (LTP) provides a mechanism for funding decisions. Ahu Ake sets out the actions to implement, and the LTP is one of the mechanisms that determines how fast we can deliver these in alignment with available resources (funding and workforce).

Mana Whenua and Iwi are partners in preparing and implementing Ahu Ake. Council will continue to develop working partnerships with Mana Whenua and Iwi to facilitate their aspirations through Ahu Ake and its implementation actions.

Council cannot deliver everything all at once affordably. Instead of aiming to do many things slowly at the limit of Council and partner resources, Ahu Ake provides a list of priorities. The plan seeks to deliver the benefits that can be gained through doing fewer things, better. And once these are delivered, new priorities will be identified to progress.

Council will act as an anchor[68] to help create and reinforce the importance of local communities in providing for community wellbeing. Delivering Ahu Ake requires Council to take new and different approaches that emphasise collaboration, support, and reliance on partners, other agencies, and community groups over time to achieve the Plan's transformative key moves.

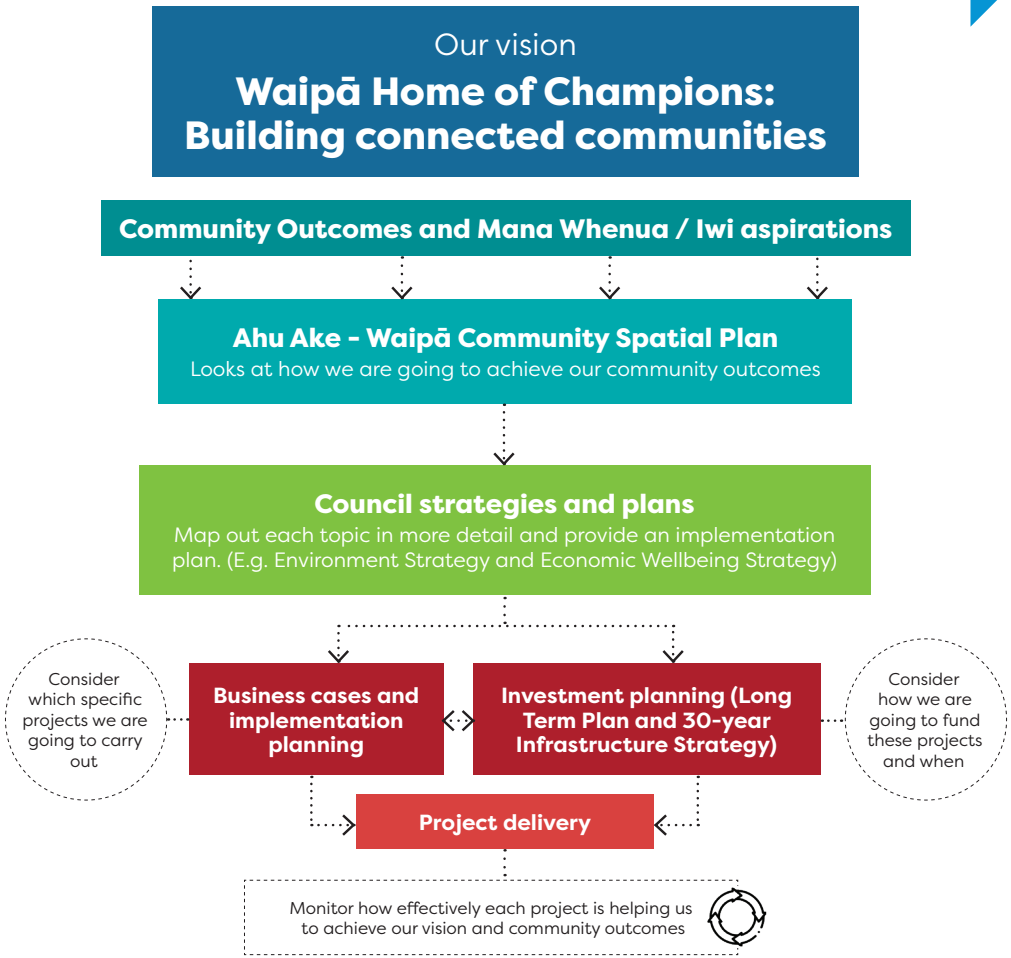


Figure 18 Ahu Ake Implementation flow

[68] The Future for Local Government Review report [June 2023] defines anchor institutions as 'organisations like councils, hospitals, universities, faith groups or other organisations within a town, city or defined region, with a long-term and enduring commitment and connection to the place. Anchor institutions play a vital role in local communities and economies.'

Focus of implementation changes each decade

Ahu Ake must be the guiding force, as methods will need to adapt in response to changing contexts. As a long-term 30-year strategy that Council will implement in a highly changeable local government environment, the methods need to be flexible, but the vision constant. More certainty is applied to the 'near future' (short-term: 0-3 years) implementation activities than to the mid- to long-term activities (4 - 30 years) as processes and the legislative landscape are expected to change over time.

Implementation will take time, and each decade could have a different emphasis. During the first decade, the emphasis will be on developing second-tier strategies. Concurrently, projects that are in the pipeline and funded, and that align with this strategy, will be delivered. The second decade will be about delivering the projects set out by the second-tier strategies, as well as setting the groundwork for larger projects and new (as of now unknown) projects for the third decade.

Concept plans can manage investment into places and influence character. As a district-wide strategy, Ahu Ake informs community planning and project delivery at a place-specific scale by focusing on function and outcomes. Taking cues from Ahu Ake, town and village concept plans and other placemaking plans will provide specifics as to how the form and layout of a place should respond to local opportunities and constraints, and document how to retain local character in the face of growth.

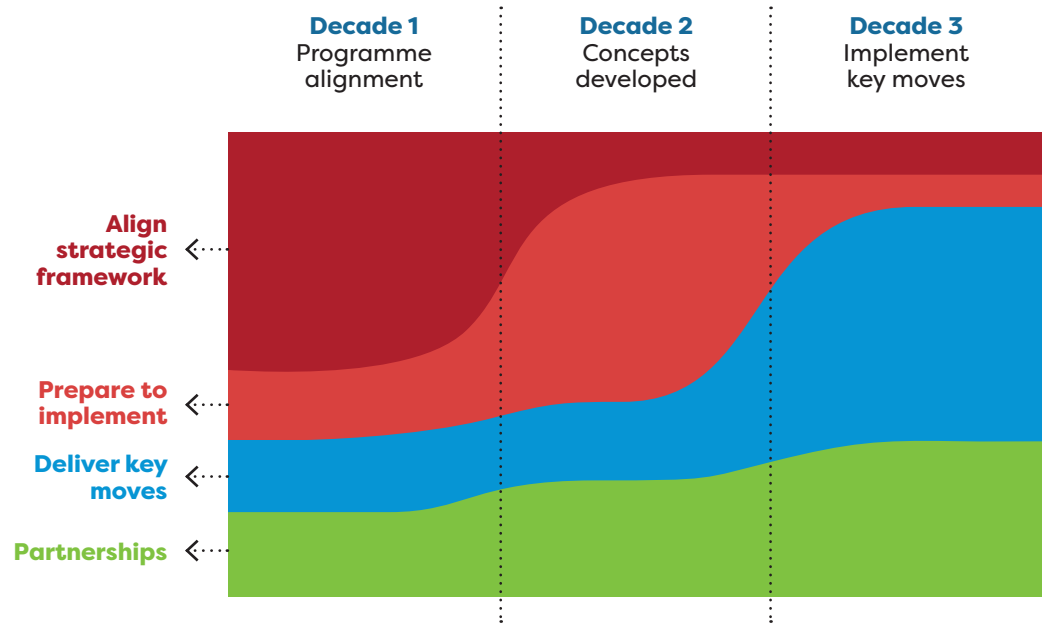


Figure 19 Ahu Ake's implementation focus changes each decade

Better together - Partners and stakeholders have a key role to play

Ahu Ake is an ambitious spatial plan for the Waipā district, and the outcomes the plan seeks to achieve go beyond what Council would normally deliver alone.

Ahu Ake requires a multi-party and a whole-of-district approach. The effective strategic partnerships and collaboration between Mana Whenua and Iwi, Future Proof | Te Tau Tiitoki, key agencies and community groups, is the cornerstone of the success of this plan. Co-ordinating delivery utilising a multi-party approach will share resources, investment strategies and risk.

Sometimes Council will not be the lead delivery agency but will still have an active role. To help clarify this approach, Ahu Ake specifies Council's role as:

- Partner: Establishing partnership and strategic alliances with other parties in the interest of delivering projects for the community.
- Provider: Leading projects and initiatives which look at services and asset management.
- Advocate: Promoting the interests of the community to other parties and decision makers leading community projects.
- Funder: Funding other organisations to deliver community projects and services.
- Regulator: Introducing regulatory activities using legislative mechanisms.

Monitoring and updating the plan regularly

Ahu Ake needs to be updated at regular intervals to be relevant and to reinforce the priorities it has identified. Outcomes will be monitored to ensure implementation activities are performing as expected and to enable changes if needed. Success will be dependent on consistent data and a set of outcomes-based key performance indicators (KPIs) will be developed, monitored, and reported publicly.

Council will determine Ahu Ake's review timings and change processes on a case-by-case basis. Some guidelines for this decision-making are provided below:

- Ongoing changes: limited scope reviews should be conducted as required, for reasons like updating Ahu Ake as second-tier strategies are completed for alignment purposes or when substantial actions are completed.
- Annual reporting: the status of implementation activities should be updated and reported outside of Ahu Ake and does not represent an update to the plan.
- Review alignment with Long-Term Plans (3 year cycle of reporting): review full implementation plan and undertake a prioritisation exercise alongside each long term plan to encourage alignment of investment with Ahu Ake priorities.
- Review steps for every second Long-Term Plan (at around 5-6 yearly intervals): the vision, community outcomes and key moves should be tested to enable changes to be made in step with every third Long-Term Plan.
- Full review: a full review and comprehensive engagement should be conducted periodically to ensure Ahu Ake remains relevant to changing contexts and priorities. To encourage effective implementation this could be timed to be ahead of a District Plan review.

KPIs selection & limitations

Ahu Ake endorses the role of a progress report against Council's Vision and Community outcomes, and work is ongoing to establish this reporting framework and identify appropriate key performance indicators (KPIs). In the context of Ahu Ake, reporting will focus on achieving long-term outcomes over the next 30 years in addition to reporting on the completion of individual projects.



Te Awamutu Park

2. Implementation Plan and Timeframes

The Ahu Ake Implementation Plan spans a 30-year strategic planning horizon, featuring a range of actions distributed throughout this timeline. Whereas Part B outlined the implementation actions, this section provides more detail regarding how they will be carried out and organised into distinct packages. Many of these actions are complex and involve multiple interconnected parts, which are delivered over different time periods. The table below outlines the commencement times for these actions. Additionally, short-term and medium-term strategies and investigations will contribute to a comprehensive implementation programme (strategic framework package), the specifics of which are yet to be determined. This is acknowledged through a placeholder in the long-term phase.

	Future development and housing package	Strategic framework package	Placemaking package	Community places package	Karāpiro programme package
Ongoing (Continuous)	FD2. Update Housing Strategy and Implementation Plan. FD3. District Plan updates and Concept Plans monitoring and reporting. FD4. Review of the Three Waters Masterplan.				
Short term (1-3 years)	FD1. Review Growth Strategy and Implementation Plan.	CC1. Develop a Climate Change Strategy and Implementation Plan. EC1. Develop an Economic Wellbeing Strategy and Implementation Plan.			
Medium term (4-10 years)	FD5. Develop and Implement a Heritage Asset Master Plan.	Env1. Review the Environment Strategy and Implementation Plan. T1. Review of the Transport Strategy.	P1. Develop a Placemaking strategy & implementation plan. P2. Review Urban design guidelines. P3. Develop Te Ao Māori Design Principles.	CP1. Conduct a Parks and Public Facilities Needs Assessment for Future Direction. CP2. Review needs for multi-cultural funeral facilities, including urupā facilitation.	K1. Prepare a Lake Karāpiro Destination Management Plan. K2. Investigate Karāpiro Village Connections.
Long term (11-30 years)	*Placeholder for implementation actions resulting from strategies and investigations planned in the short and medium term.*				

Reading the tables

Overall Intent

Describes the purpose of the package of activities

Socially Resilient | **Cultural Champions** | **Environmental Champions** | **Economically Progressive**

Māori housing | **Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira** | **Te Taiao** | **Māori economy**

= Indicates the outcomes and aspirations that the package is focused towards delivering

Activity	Expected timing	Partners	Stakeholders	Estimated Cost range	Status
A top-level summary description for the intended activity, including sub-tasks when identified. The reader should refer to the implementation guidance for a more comprehensive description of the intent behind the action.	Provide a commencement timeframe for the work package. **Ongoing:** Continues on a regular basis **Short-term:** 0 to 3yrs **Medium-term:** 3 to 10yrs **Long-term:** 10 to 30yrs	Identify key partners to deliver the package of works.	Identify key external stakeholders to support the delivery of the package of works.	$: Less than $500,000 $$: $500,000 to $2,000,000 $$$: More than $2,000,000 Costs are to deliver the activity, not including downstream implementation.	This section identifies the status of the package of works: Commenced, in progress and funded Not commenced, but planned and funding in the next Long Term Plan 2025-34 Not commenced, yet to be scoped/ investigated and confirmed

Future development and housing package

Overall Intent

Align infrastructure and planning regulation with development opportunities across the district to facilitate high quality growth outcomes that reflect Waipā's authentic places and people.

Socially Resilient | **Cultural Champions** | **Environmental Champions** | **Economically Progressive**

Māori housing | **Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira** | **Te Taiao** | **Māori economy**

Activity	Expected timing	Partners	Stakeholders	Estimated Cost range	Status
FD1. Review the Growth Strategy and Implementation Plan for long term high growth areas It is expected that to maintain a suitable land supply, the planning and enabling works for new residential growth areas will be required, primarily in Cambridge and Ōhaupō, Te Awamutu and Kihikihi in the long term. And for new industrial land around the airport and Hautapu in the short to medium term.	**Short term**	Future Proof (FP) Mana Whenua / Iwi / Joint Management Agreement partners (JMA) NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) Waka Kotahi Waikato Regional Council (WRC) Waikato Regional Airport Limited (WRAL) Mystery Creek Event Centre (MCEC)	Ministry of Education Water entity Developers Commercial landowners	$$	Not commenced, yet to be scoped/ investigated & confirmed
FD1a. Align Future Proof's Future Development Strategy with the planned future new urban development areas.	*Short to Medium term*				
FD1b. Amend the Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy and District Plan to indicate where planned future urban expansion may occur and prevent low-density development in these places in the meantime.					
FD1c. Develop an enabling planning and infrastructure works programme to support high-growth areas and a clear trigger point for opening new development areas.					
FD1d. Develop a network plan for esplanade connections and land acquisitions as part of subdivisions.					
FD1e. Identify open space and public facility needs for new high-growth locations.					

Activity	Expected timing	Partners	Stakeholders	Estimated Cost range	Status
FD2. Update Housing Strategy and Implementation Plan. Scope to consider: • Multi-generational living, including smaller homes or multiple units on the same property. • Identifying surplus public land for affordable and social housing projects. • Financial incentives to encourage intensification. • The intent for a multi-generational neighbourhood when locating and designing retirement communities. • Works closely with developers to provide a mix of housing types and price points. • Collaborate with Mana Whenua and Iwi on a package of work to better facilitate Māori housing in urban and rural context. This could include the development of a papakāinga practice note investigating planning, engineering and financing needs and requirements. • Regulations that produce good urban design outcomes.	**Ongoing**	Future Proof (FP) Mana Whenua / Iwi / Joint Management Agreement partners (JMA) NZ Transport Agency(NZTA) Waka Kotahi Housing providers Retirement Home providers	Private development sector and landowners	$	Not commenced, yet to be scoped/ investigated & confirmed
FD3. District Plan updates and Concept Plans monitoring and reporting framework As part of regular reporting for Ahu Ake, investigate and monitor: 1. The effectiveness of District Plan controls on: a. Future residential growth in alignment with the update of Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy, b. Rural residential development and subdivision to assess their effectiveness and make improvements if needed. 2. Provide regular updates for the implementation of activities for the existing and future Town and Village Concept Plans, alongside Ahu Ake implementation programme updates. 3. Effectiveness of District Plan to control and protect environmental features (wetlands, etc.) and protect overland flow paths, taking account of the development of urban (and rural) flood mapping. 4. Identify sites of significance and itemise them within known heritage areas.	**Ongoing**	Mana Whenua and Iwi Waikato Regional Council	Future Proof (FP) Developers Landowners	$$	Not commenced, yet to be scoped/ investigated & confirmed.

Activity	Expected timing	Partners	Stakeholders	Estimated Cost range	Status
FD4. Review of the Three Waters Masterplan Update Waipā Three Waters Masterplan 2020 to address the following priorities, once Central Government direction on Affordable Waters Reform lis clarified:	**Ongoing**	Future Proof Mana Whenua/ Iwi/ Joint Management Agreement partners (JMA)	Large commercial landowner (i.e. WRAL) Waikato Regional Council (WRC) NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) Waka Kotahi	$$$	Not commenced, yet to be scoped/ investigated & confirmed
FD4a. Urban network capacity and performance to meet increasing demands and standards, including for new growth areas and densities outlined in Ahu Ake.	*Ongoing*				
FD4b. Integrate urban stormwater alongside open spaces to improve climate change resiliency.	*Ongoing*				
FD4c. Consider wastewater reticulation for Ōhaupō and investigate the benefits of wastewater reticulation in Pirongia.	*Ongoing*				
FD4d. Review regulation and performance of existing rural drainage systems.	*Ongoing*				
FD4e. Update treatment standards, notably for wastewater, when Te Awamutu regional consent expires.	*Ongoing*				
FD4f. Identification and enabling works scoping for additional water source by 2035.	*Medium*				
FD5. Develop and Implement a Heritage Asset Master Plan Council to lead the development of a Heritage Asset Masterplan including an up-to-date inventory of historic heritage sites and sites of significance across the district. Identification of barriers to accessibility will form part of the inventory recorded items. Amendments to the District Plan will be considered to conserve heritage items.	Medium	Mana Whenua and Iwi Waikato Regional Council (WRC) Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga	Historical and Heritage Association and groups Creative Waikato	$$	Not commenced, yet to be scoped/ investigated & confirmed

Placemaking package

Overall Intent

Vibrant active places that reflect the district and its people. A comprehensive approach to placemaking can support locals and visitors to learn more about the history and heritage of Waipā and to commemorate and celebrate culture of the district by creating opportunities for people to connect around shared experiences.

Socially Resilient | **Cultural Champions** | **Environmental Champions** | **Economically Progressive**

Māori housing | **Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira** | **Te Taiao** | **Māori economy**

Activity	Expected timing	Partners	Stakeholders	Estimated Cost range	Status
P1. Develop a Placemaking Strategy & Implementation plan Develop a targeted Placemaking Strategy to coordinate the following: a. Encompasses heritage, arts, culture and open spaces to enable the diverse stories of people in Waipā and for Māori cultural sites and heritage to be visible / celebrated. b. Further develop and market Te Ara Wai Journeys. c. Develop an asset management plan for arts and cultural items. d. Review effectiveness / suitability of Council's community funding programmes aimed at the arts and public realm. e. Review opportunities for Council owned land to become places for events and arts to happen. f. Review of Council Public Art Policy.	**Medium**	Mana Whenua/ Iwi	Hamilton & Waikato Tourism Te Wananga o Aotearoa Sport Waikato Creative Waikato NZ Transport Agency (NZTA)	$$	Not commenced, yet to be scoped/ investigated & confirmed

Activity	Expected timing	Partners	Stakeholders	Estimated Cost range	Status
P2. Review Urban design guidelines. Council will lead an investigation and review of urban design controls, processes, and guidance in the district plan to ensure outcomes and efficiency are appropriate for the location, context, and desired future urban state.	**Medium**	Mana Whenua/ Iwi	Waipā District Council Urban Design Panel Developers	$	Not commenced, yet to be scoped/ investigated & confirmed
P3. Develop Te Ao Māori Design Principles Council to develop a Te Ao Māori customary and cultural design statement in partnership with Mana Whenua and Iwi and ensure clear and consistent processes on how to apply it in Council business. This document will carry forward the outcomes sought by the revisited Mana Whenua/Iwi Partnership Engagement Framework.	**Medium**	Mana Whenua and Iwi	Ministry for Environment, developers, landowners, Waikato Regional Council, Creative Waikato	$	Not commenced, yet to be scoped/ investigated & confirmed



Strategic framework package

Overall Intent

Prepare a set of strategic documents providing direction to achieve positive and long-term environmental, economic, transport and climate change outcomes.

Socially Resilient | Cultural Champions | **Environmental Champions** | **Economically Progressive**

Māori housing | Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira | **Te Taiao** | **Māori economy**

Activity	Expected timing	Partners	Stakeholders	Estimated Cost range	Status
T1. Review the Transport Strategy Update the Transport Strategy to respond to items raised through Ahu Ake, including high growth areas. This should include:	**Medium**	Mana Whenua and Iwi Future Proof (FP) NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) Waka Kotahi Waikato Regional Council	Chambers of Commerce Water entity Relevant utilities companies	$$	Not commenced, yet to be scoped/ investigated & confirmed
T1a. Ensure alignment with a wraparound transport programme to support the Hamilton-Waikato Metro Spatial Plan transport programme by further investment into the active mode networks in Cambridge and Te Awamutu and improving the public amenity and accessibility in the vicinity of future frequent public transport stop locations.	*Short*				
T1b. Outline a demand management programme including road and parking space reallocation in our urban areas, focusing on areas of high user demand.	*Short*				
T1c. Specify a universal accessibility improvement programme for parks and facilities and consider improvements to popular access routes leading to these sites.	*Medium*				
T1d. Identify walking and cycling improvement areas that should see higher prioritisation on this type of project investment, including school areas and local centres.	*Short*				

Activity	Expected timing	Partners	Stakeholders	Estimated Cost range	Status
T1e. Work with Mana Whenua and Iwi to identify cultural sites on public lands that need access improvements.	*Short*	Mana Whenua and Iwi Future Proof (FP) NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) Waka Kotahi Waikato Regional Council	Chambers of Commerce Water entity Relevant utilities companies	$$	Not commenced, yet to be scoped/ investigated & confirmed
T1f. In rural areas, identify a public and shared transport and active modes programme of improvements to improve rural access.	*Medium*				
T1g. Describe a long-term rural cycle network, incorporating key destinations like Lake Karāpiro and other changes noted in Ahu Ake. Includes Lake Ngā Roto to Pirongia cycleway.	*Long*				
T1h. Establish a scope and programme for multi-modal improvements along Cambridge Road, connecting Te Awamutu with Cambridge.	*Medium*				
EC1. Develop an Economic Wellbeing Strategy and Implementation Plan Prepare an Economic Wellbeing Strategy to define priority economic initiatives. The strategy will incorporate the three following theme areas. The Māori economy is embedded within each one of them. 1. High-quality employment growth in urban areas: Master planning business park areas at Hautapu and Southern Hamilton/Airport to leverage co-investments in enabling infrastructure and unlock economic development. 2. Rural economic growth: Outline Council's role supporting the rural economy and primary production (land-based and non-land-based). 3. Tourism/destinations and culture-based foundations: Prioritise making sure public facilities are of a quality to attract and retain people to live and work in the district.	**Short**	Mana Whenua and Iwi Anchor Institutions	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) Chambers of Commerce Business Associations Creative Waikato Academic/Training, apprenticeship and skill-building groups and organisations Rural and Farming advocacy groups Industry & Commercial Associations	$	Commenced, in progress and funded

Activity	Expected timing	Partners	Stakeholders	Estimated Cost range	Status
Env1. Review the Environment Strategy and Implementaion Plan Prepare an Environmental Strategy to define priority environmental initiatives and to develop implementation work plans for them: • Taiea Te Taiao (Plan for an ecological corridor from Maungatautari to Pirongia) is the district's first and primary ecological corridor project, and the strategy will address this. As a next step, it will also consider the benefits and methods of extending Taiea Te Taiao to include the peat lakes, northwards to Te Miro and Pukemako Scenic Reserve, and southwards to Kakepuku. • As part of a biodiversity enhancement programme, planting many more trees in public spaces throughout the district in urban places and in rural places or for ecological purposes. • Support efforts undertaken under the Waikato Biodiversity Accord to make a positive commitment to ensure healthy, functioning indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato Region. • Preservation of, and when suitable, providing access to, environmental features and places. This includes preserving and restoring wāhi tapu and wāhi whakahirahira (sacred and/or significant places) when they are within project locations and considering recreational access to these as part of environmental improvement actions. • Improve water quality from rural properties, mainly focused on riparian areas nearby to the Waikato River and the Waipā River and their major tributaries and peat lake catchments.	**Medium**	Mana Whenua and Iwi Waikato Regional Council (WRC)	Ministry for Environment Department of Conservation New Zealand Landcare Trust National Wetland Trust Waikato River Authority Environmental community organisations	$	Not commenced, yet to be scoped/ investigated & confirmed
CC1.Develop a Climate Change Strategy and Implementation Plan Lead the development of a district-wide Climate Change Strategy to set the direction for community and Council actions to respond to issues and harness opportunities that climate change presents.	**Short**	Mana Whenua and Iwi Waikato Regional Council (WRC) Future Proof (FP)	Ministry for Environment Department of Conservation Climate Change Commission Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) Mercury NZ	$	Commenced, in progress and funded

Community Places package

Overall Intent

Community facilities including community halls, public toilets, libraries, museums, sports fields, and aquatic facilities meet the needs of the community (both urban and rural).

Socially Resilient | **Cultural Champions** | Environmental Champions | Economically Progressive

Māori housing | **Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira** | Te Taiao | Māori economy

Activity	Expected timing	Partners	Stakeholders	Estimated Cost range	Status
CP1. Conduct a Parks and Public Facilities Needs Assessment For Future Direction Assessment of parks and public facilities provision at a district scale. It will consider how to make parks, playgrounds, and public facilities more physically accessible, inviting and culturally inclusive and take a transparent approach to equitable investment across the district. It will map out level of service and investment needs for community facilities over the next 30-year period considering some facilities provide a lifeline infrastructure function in some of our communities.	**Medium**	Mana Whenua and Iwi Community Halls Waipā Community Facilities Trust Sport Waikato	Ministry of Education Cultural and Heritage Community groups Museums Sports clubs and leaseholders	$$	Not commenced, yet to be scoped/ investigated & confirmed.
CP2. Review needs for multi-cultural funeral facilities, including urupā (māori burial site) facilitation and provisions. Supplement the June 2023 Waipā District Council Cemetery Concepts Plans by an update to include a broadened scope that addresses the following over a 30-year period: 1. Urupā access and easement support, to consider Council's role and level of support to Mana Whenua / Iwi. 2. Multi-cultural funeral facilities requirements due to the increasing diversity of ethnicities and cultures being interred in public cemeteries. 3. Confirm 30-year land needs and acquisition programme.	**Medium**	Mana Whenua and Iwi	Community Ethnic Group NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) Waka Kotahi Current lessees Local Funeral Directors	$	Not commenced, yet to be scoped/ investigated & confirmed.

Karāpiro programme package

Overall Intent

Alignment of opportunities arising from existing and planned programmes of works around the Karāpiro Village to maximise investment benefits and ensure Council, Mana Whenua / Iwi, and the Karāpiro community are fully involved.

Socially Resilient	Cultural Champions	Environmental Champions	Economically Progressive
Māori housing	Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira	Te Taiao	Māori economy

Activity	Expected timing	Partners	Stakeholders	Estimated Cost range	Status
K1.Prepare a Lake Karāpiro Destination Management Plan Prepare and implement a destination management plan for Lake Karāpiro to further develop and connect the new and existing recreational activities so they can be branded and marketed as a package, e.g., 'Destination Karāpiro'. This needs to develop a strong Identity for the area, leverage the long-term opportunity that the SH1 Cambridge-Piarere expressway presents, increase the quality of the area's environment, and improve the connections of Waipā residents and visitors to the area. It must be developed in partnership with Mana Whenua and Iwi, considering Te Ao Māori design principles.	**Medium**	Mana Whenua and Iwi Leaseholders	NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) Waka Kotahi Mercury Waikato Regional Council Sport Waikato Waikato tourism Regional Event providers	$$	Not commenced, yet to be scoped/ investigated & confirmed.
K2. Investigate Karāpiro Village Connections Karāpiro village and its community are experiencing severe issues caused by the dam and the state highway. Investigate how best to retain access across the dam, and to address around the school with access and transport safety challenges.	**Medium**	Mana Whenua and Iwi Ministry of Education	NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) Waka Kotahi Mercury	$$	Not commenced, yet to be scoped/ investigated & confirmed.

3. How the Implementation Plan addresses Mana Whenua and Iwi aspirations

The Ahu Ake Implementation Plan has been prepared to respond to the Waipā community's aspirations, including those of our Mana Whenua and Iwi partners. The following pages show how the implementation packages outlined in Part D will address the aspirations communicated during the development of the plan.



Waipā District

Kia ahu ake i te kāinga Māori

How we addressed 'Māori housing' in Ahu Ake

The related implementation actions are:

FD2. Housing Strategy Update

- Supports Māori housing developments through changes to the District Plan e.g., the ongoing Plan Change 23.
- Development of a papakāinga practice note.
- Ensures regulations facilitate multi-generational living.
- Collaborates to use public land for Māori housing projects and plans infrastructure to support these developments.

FD3. District Plan updates and Concept Plans monitoring and reporting.

- Ensures that the steps taken in the Housing Strategy and other initiatives align with the regulations in the District Plan.
- Ensures that cultural and heritage items requiring protection are being protected.
- Ensures that the aspirations formulated during the Concept's plans are brought to life.

P1. Placemaking Implementation Plan

- Incorporates Māori cultural elements into community spaces.
- Expands signage for Māori heritage sites.
- Aligns public art policies with Māori cultural values.

P2. Urban Design Review

- Guidelines are developed to deliver on the agreed look and feel of townships.
- Integrates Te Ao Māori design principles into urban planning, ensuring Māori values are included in the district plan through coordination with District Plan updates.

P3. Te Ao Māori Design Principles

- Develop a Te Ao Māori design statement with Mana Whenua / Iwi, integrating Māori values into urban design review and District Plan updates.

Kia ahu ake i te wāhi hei kāinga
How we addressed ‘He kāinga te wāhi’ (the place is home).

The related implementation actions are:

P1. Placemaking Implementation Plan	• Coordinates Council investments in community infrastructure and events, promoting heritage, arts, culture, and open spaces. • Developing and marketing Te Ara Wai Journeys. • Creating asset management plans for arts and cultural items, and ensuring Māori stories are visible and celebrated through arts.
P2. Urban Design Review	• The Te Ao Māori design principles will form an integral part of the Urban Design Review and of our urban design guidelines.
P3. Te Ao Māori Design Principles	• Provides guidance to Council on how to incorporate Te Ao Māori into public spaces and development projects.
CP1. Parks and Public Facilities Needs Assessment for Future Direction	• Ensures that parks and public facilities are culturally inclusive and accessible to everyone.
CP2. Review needs for multi-cultural funeral facilities, including urupā facilitation	• Guided by Mana Whenua / Iwi, the activity will provide support for urupā and culturally respectful funeral facilities, ensuring their burial practices are properly integrated and respected.
FD5. Create and Implement a Heritage Asset Master Plan	• Ensures that heritage items and sites are protected. The plan could potentially provide opportunities to identify and protect other taonga.

Kia ahu ake te Ōhanga Māori

How we addressed 'Māori economy'

The related implementation actions are:

EC1. Economic Wellbeing Strategy and Programme	• Māori economy will be investigated and supported in the following themes 1. high-quality employment growth in urban areas, 2. rural economic growth, and 3. tourism/ destinations and culture-based foundations.
ENV1. Environment Strategy and Programme	• Supports employment/business opportunities in environmental restoration and management e.g. Taiea Te Taiao project. • Sustainable practices and protection of natural assets make the district more attractive for tourism and cultural activities.
CC1. Climate Change Strategy	• Will help build resilience within the economy, including the Māori economy.
P3. Te Ao Māori Design Principles	• By fostering a greater sense of belonging, Waipā aims to motivate young people, including Māori, to either stay or return to their rohe. In turn, attracting entrepreneurial-minded individuals who could make a significant contribution to the Māori economy.
K1. Lake Karāpiro Destination Management Planning	• Showcases the cultural and natural assets around Lake Karāpiro, creating new eco-tourism opportunities of interest for Mana Whenua.

Kia taiea te taiao

How we addressed ‘Taiea te Taiao’ concept

The related implementation actions are:

ENV1. Environment Strategy and Programme

- For Mana Whenua / Iwi, this means better protection and access to sacred sites, improved water quality, and involvement in expanding ecological corridors.
- Commits and gives effect to Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato.
- Will support efforts towards Te Taiea Te Taiao ecological corridor.
- Will investigate further support to protect the peat lakes including their catchment areas.
- Will enhance biodiversity through increased native tree planting, protect significant environmental features, and improve rural water quality.

CC1. Climate Change Strategy

- Addresses how climate change affects Māori cultural sites and natural resources.
- Focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions related to growth and infrastructure.
- Provides opportunities for Mana Whenua to partner in initiatives like carbon sequestration and biodiversity enhancement projects.



Waipā
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