



Shore Futures consultation report

**Shore
Futures**
www.ew.govt.nz/shorefutures

A collective vision for healthy harbours and communities
in the Kawhia and Aotea catchments.

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1. Introduction

This document is intended as a summary of consultation undertaken between June 2006 and June 2007 for the Shore Futures project. It is not subject to comment itself. It is a record of conversations and correspondence, so contains people's opinions and suggestions which may or may not be shared by others. It does not represent policy or opinion of any of the agencies involved with the Shore Futures project. This document will help to inform the drafting of the Shore Futures report and there will be opportunity to make submissions on this report when it is complete.

Consultation for the project is not complete – consultation with iwi and key stakeholders is ongoing. In addition, a group of interested members of the Kawhia/Aotea community have been selected by the Shore Futures governance group to form a community reference group. This group has been selected from a list of 40 people who put their names forward to represent a cross-section of the community. The community reference group will have a role in reviewing the draft Shore Futures report before it is finalised and released for public consultation.

Key contacts for the project, including community reference group members, are included in Appendix 8.8.

2. Consultation undertaken

2.1 Information days

Two public information days were held as the first real contact with the wider community. These were not part of consultation per se but were used as a means of talking about Shore Futures and the opportunities to get involved. They were more about providing information than collecting information. Over 100 questionnaires were given out at the first information day in Kawhia. Sixteen enquiries were generated through the information days, and were followed up over the coming weeks (and months in some cases).

The information days were advertised in local papers, as well as on the radio, Shore Futures webpage, posters and a brochure which was distributed via direct mail to over 1200 land owners, residents and other stakeholders.

2.2 Questionnaire

A questionnaire (see Appendix 8.1) was designed as a means to obtain basic information about values and issues the community has in relation to the Kawhia and Aotea catchments.

Copies of the questionnaire were available at the information days and workshops, and were mailed to over 1200 land owners, residents and other stakeholders. Freepost envelopes were also provided. A number were completed and returned during the open days and workshops. In addition, an online version was available on the Shore Futures web page.

2.3 Workshops

Workshops followed on from the information days as the project moved in to a phase of gathering information from the community. Three key topics were chosen for discussion. Water quality and development were chosen as it was felt they were likely to be of high interest/concern to the community. The third topic (landscape) was chosen also because it was thought likely to be of high interest but also because it was an aspect that had been identified as an area requiring work in the current district and regional plans.

Workshops were promoted at the information days, on the radio and via the questionnaire, web page, posters and direct mail (Appendix 8.2).

2.4 Iwi

Consultation with tangata whenua of Kawhia and Aotea was initiated formally in June 2006 with a letter to the various groups (Appendix 8.3). This was followed up in the coming weeks by phone, seeking a first meeting to introduce the project properly. The project team has sought input from 10 groups (via marae and runanga). This consultation is far from complete.

2.5 Stakeholders

Organisations that were considered to potentially have an interest in Shore Futures were written to on 30 January 2007 (Appendix 8.4). Comment/involvement from agencies with a particular statutory or other role to play in the catchment has further been sought as discussed within this report. This consultation is ongoing.

3. Information days

The information days involved static displays detailing some of the types of information held about the catchment. Displays related to the natural environment, land use, business and tourism, public areas, coastal hazards, and natural and cultural heritage. Representatives from Environment Waikato, Otorohanga, Waitomo and Waikato district councils, the Ministry of Fisheries and Department of Conservation were available at either or both days. The days ran from 9am to 4pm.

Two presentations (10am and 3pm) were given by Natasha Hayward (Environment Waikato) on each of the two days, outlining the Shore Futures project and opportunities for people to get involved.

3.1 Kawhia

The first of two information days was held in the Kawhia Community Hall on Sunday, 18 February 2007. This was the first introduction many in the community had to the project and it was well attended by over 100 people. Areas of particular interest seemed to be pest management and Clean Streams¹.

Figure 1: Kawhia information day morning presentation, Sunday, 18 February 2007.



¹ Clean Streams is an Environment Waikato funding programme to assist farmers and other land owners to retire riparian areas from grazing with fencing and planting.

3.2 Te Waitere

The second information day was held two weeks later at the Te Waitere Boating Club on Saturday, 3 March 2007. It attracted 30-40 people over the course of the day. Of particular interest was information about rules in the Waikato Regional Plan relating to stock exclusion from certain waterways (this information was not available at Kawhia).

Figure 2: Te Waitere information day, Saturday, 3 March 2007.



4 Workshops

This section includes a summary of matters discussed at each of the nine workshop sessions run throughout March, early April and late May.

Every effort was made to capture all comments, including disagreements and differing opinions where these occurred. However, it should be noted that the inclusion of a matter discussed by a group does not necessarily imply that this was the opinion of the whole group.

The workshops generally started with a PowerPoint presentation covering the background of the project, schedule for the workshop and key topics for discussion. Following this, attendees were split into groups. The first 10 minutes or so of group time was used to get attendees to individually answer three focus questions before moving in to a group discussion of the three topics.

The following are summaries of the comments made by members of the community at the nine workshop sessions. Although the project team answered questions and provided points of clarification about information presented to support the discussion topics, responses from the project team are generally not included.

4.1 Hauturu Hall – Wednesday, 7 March 2007

4.1.1 Attendees

The five attendees were all farmers/farm managers in the local area.

4.1.2 Group one

There were a lot of questions and considerable discussion about the water quality monitoring Environment Waikato undertakes. There was concern about the economic impacts of fencing waterways. It was commented that there is no more stock being farmed now than there was 10 years ago and that there is not a lot of intensive grazing, particularly in steeper areas. Part of the reason for this is that there are less people working the land now, not multiple families per farm as had been the case in the past. Regarding the 'new' regional stock exclusion rules, it was questioned how many farmers were aware of the rules but agreed that the rule was reasonable and seemed a good idea.

The group had trouble looking beyond current land ownership issues. That is, they felt that many areas would never be developed out of farming because of who owned the properties now (related to harbour fringe properties). Some development/subdivision was seen as necessary, but it should not impinge on existing rural activities. Infrastructural improvements associated with development should be paid for by developers – local people funding new development was seen to be unfair.

Waahi tapu coastal areas were seen as safe from development (for the same reason given above). The development of Kawhia township was also seen to be restricted due to sewage problems. It was felt that development might be okay as long as it did not affect the harbour (for example, through run-off and septic tanks). Land stability was seen to be another determining factor. It was felt that any concentrated development should require a sewerage system. There was seen to be a balancing act between development and getting new services. Current development just before Kawhia township (particularly relocatable dwellings) was seen to be unacceptable in terms of visual effects and proximity to the harbour. A controlled activity status for new development/subdivisions was suggested.

The possibility of wind farms to provide power locally (or supply outside) was mentioned. Another comment was that there should be no wind farms.

4.1.3 Summary

An underlying concern of the group was the economic sustainability of farming in the catchment. For example, there was concern that requiring farmers to fence and plant streams could make some farms uneconomic.

No one was opposed to further development and the associated benefits of development, such as new services, were recognised. However, the group also recognised the need for controls (for example, to avoid effects on the harbour, to avoid unstable areas, to avoid substandard development and to ensure that developers meet the full costs).

4.2 Te Uku Hall – Friday, 9 March 2007

4.2.1 Attendees

There were eight attendees representing a cross-section of local iwi, farmers, land owners and environmental advocates (Kawhia Harbour Protection Society).

4.2.2 Group one

This group supported keeping stock out of streams when farming is intensive and agreed that fish passage is important in waterways. Mangroves were seen as undesirable in the harbours.

It was thought that all of the councils involved need to be consistent and have the same goals. Steep bushclad sites were seen as inappropriate for development (act to filter water). Land stability was also seen as an issue for development.

Particularly important to this group was the need to provide opportunities for people (both Maori and non-Maori) to return home. Papakainga housing is seen to be important, however, it was recognised that this needs to be subject to standards to protect the environment, and to ensure services are sufficient. Access to remote areas and currently land-locked areas was raised as an issue. Setbacks from the harbour edge were seen to be a good idea though there was concern regarding the effect these might have on some existing sites (in terms of their ability to be developed). Regarding hazards, the feeling was that development should avoid these and that seawalls were not appropriate.

Oysters were seen to be a creeping pest within the harbours and *Spartina* was also identified as a pest.

The group felt that there should be access to the 'wild west' without destroying it – that is, access to experience it. Regarding vehicle use on beaches, it was felt there should be allowance for need only, not purely joyriding. The group accepted that some uses were necessary but that people should be taught how to use, not abuse. There was discussion about the evolution of 'new toys' and that this would continue. Education needs to start with the youth and be cohesive (from the councils).

Regarding commercial opportunities, it was considered hard to predict what people might want to commercialise in the future.

4.2.3 Group two

This group expressed definite concern about declining water quality. It was identified that community/marae-based monitoring is already occurring via Motakotako Marae (Nga Hapu o Aotea) and that there was a willingness to share this information (monitoring sites were marked on a map). It was felt that we need to be clear why water quality is declining. A number of comments were made about road works along the Raglan Road and the effects of this on water quality. This was attributed and considered to be a negative effect of the tourism industry. The group felt that rehabilitation of slipped land should be compulsory.

It was felt that water quality drops when it is fertilising season. It was identified that stock are currently accessing streams and harbour flats and the regional stock exclusion rules were supported, however, it was felt they could apply further inland than 2 km and that there was a need for enforcement. Defoliation of steep hillsides in close proximity to streams was raised as an issue (Pirongia West Road was an example given), and the question was raised as to why this was allowed to occur.

The group felt that implementation of on-site sewage disposal rules was improving and that this was a small cause of water quality problems, relative to other sources. Of greater concern was animal effluent and there was a perceived need for attitudes of farms and other businesses to change. Regarding the effects of harvesting exotic forestry on water quality, the group felt that these issues should be addressed when the plantation is established (that is, not left to be addressed at time of harvest).

It was considered that development should be contained within existing settlements (for example, Oparau, Kawhia and Te Waitere). Further development at Te Maika and Aotea was not considered appropriate. Development should be allowed to satisfy the need and speculation should be discouraged. The skyline was seen to be a priority for protection and a significant setback from mean high water springs for buildings was considered appropriate. The 'Maoriness' of the area should be recognised and enhanced. It was also seen that there is a need to act quickly due to the pace of development escalating – coordinated plan changes were requested without waiting for the Otorohanga District Plan review. Consultation is considered an important component to allowing new development, and education of the community about consultation was seen to be needed. One participant suggested that all consent applications within a certain distance of the harbour (for example, 5 km) should be publicly notified.

The catchments were considered to have a large volume but relatively few species of weed. There was a perceived need for a mangrove management plan. Finally, papakainga housing was supported following a suggestion from a facilitator.

4.2.4 Summary

Both groups supported controls on activities adversely affecting water quality, including residential development.

Group one was particularly focused on the need to provide for papakainga housing. Group two had more to say about where it was appropriate for development to occur – primarily around existing settlements. This group also sought greater restrictions on development and activities (such as through consent requirements).

Both groups seemed to regard the natural environment as being the bottom line.

4.3 Kawhia Hall – Wednesday, 21 March 2007

4.3.1 Attendees

Twenty attendees representing a cross-section of residents, farmers and environmental advocates (Kawhia Harbour Protection Society) attended the Kawhia workshop. A marine farmer and historian also attended.

4.3.2 Group one

This group noted a number of contributors to a decline in water quality, including pine pollen, septic tanks, run-off from hill country (identified need for streams to be planted), stormwater, forestry harvesting, soil erosion from the Raglan Road catchment and new activities related to new demographics.

Regarding natural character and landscape, rock formations around Rakaunui ('pancake rocks') were noted to be "splendid". The threats from people, pests and weeds were noted, as well as the difficulty in identifying historic sites. Any development proposals should include an assessment of heritage matters.

It was noted that development should be focused on current patterns so that it is easy to service, causes less visual impact and is more sustainable (in relation to energy demands). More houses visible from the harbour was seen to be undesirable. Considering Maori land to be 'protected' (due to the nature of the ownership) was not seen to be good enough. The Morrison subdivision at Aotea was seen as a good example in relation to being off the harbour edge (big buffer) and having its own sewerage system. Sea level rise should be factored in. The safety of the state highway in relation to rock falls was noted as well as the need for public transport. The reaction to wind farms was mixed, partly due to visual factors. Harnessing wave energy was considered a possibility.

It was thought that vehicles should be restricted to the firm, wet sand when used on beaches (use of by fishermen okay). A tunnel linking the carpark at the end of Te Puia Road to Ocean Beach was raised as a possible access solution. It was commented that "all young hoons" should be banned. A number of suggestions were offered regarding the use of signage in the area for education along local walkways (birds/fish, harbour features, hot springs information). There was support for an upgrade of the local museum, and for the economic opportunity for local people from forestry.

4.3.3 Group two

This group voiced a number of concerns and questions about the water quality monitoring and results, including saying that the current monitoring did not provide enough information and harbour monitoring should occur more regularly. Concern was expressed about the outfall within Kawhia (near playground). The need for a reticulated sewerage system for Kawhia (and other communities also) was raised but noted that there are issues around paying for it. Upgrading of septic tanks was supported. It was felt that people are increasingly aware of water quality. Drainage by farmers was identified as a cause of decline. It was noted that the natural sediment in the harbour is very fine and easily suspended during rainfall events – that is, not all coming off the land during events. Questions were asked about the effects of swans and ducks on water quality. It was noted that they would cause direct contamination of the water through run-off. Paradise ducks were seen to be becoming a pest and a future issue.

The group noted that they had no issues with navigation safety matters at this time. They felt that parks and reserves should be planned for now to allow general public access, particularly around the harbour fringe. A vision for a walkway right around the harbour was noted. A concern was loss of access to beaches for the public and the proximity to mean high water springs that buildings and occupation are allowed.

Slipping and erosion on the Raglan Road was noted to be an issue and some sought this to be sealed.

Regarding proposed or future subdivision and development, the group felt that it very much depended on where and how this occurred as to whether they could support such. They did not want to see any high rises in the area and they felt that any development must protect against pollution, run-off and erosion. Concerns were also expressed about the standards of housing (particularly relocatable houses near the entrance to Kawhia) – this was linked to the first impressions of Kawhia that people get. Further development within Kawhia township was seen to be okay (clustered development rather than scattered). Someone noted that some farmers have been here for generations and should be able to benefit financially, however, this was countered by someone else who felt that subdivision does not generate income. The need to attract permanent residents (as opposed to absentee land owners) in order to keep services such as doctors was identified. The lack of public transport (into major town centres) was identified as an issue (used to be possible to catch rides with the local postie but this practice no longer allowed).

Vehicles on beaches attracted quite a bit of discussion. It was identified that there needs to be access to the hot water springs but that inappropriate use damaged the dunes and threatened birds. The group could appreciate the temptation to play around, however, did not believe this type of behaviour was appropriate. Speed was an issue. In terms of a solution it was felt that there needed to be a single jurisdiction which should address ecological effects and be policed. Access should be restricted and shut down if there were any breaches.

There was some discussion about the status of commercial fishing in the area. It was noted that there used to be 28 people employed in this area but now the Kawhia quotas are actually caught elsewhere and the skill-base has gone. Set-netting for rig and shark has stopped because of restrictions to protect Maui's dolphin.

It was noted that visitors to the area all commented that they came here to get "off the beaten track". The lack of facilities (including no café on Mondays) was discussed and seen to be both a positive and a negative. The new public toilets were felt to be a good improvement and parking was seen to be adequate. The success of the annual kai festival was mentioned and also the lack of signage regarding Maori heritage.

Regarding landscape and natural character, Rakaunui was seen to be unique and worthy of protection but noted to be in private ownership. The Morrison subdivision at Aotea was mentioned as a good example of development with plenty of green spaces and clustered development. It was felt there should be restrictions on development (such as height). The need for more people was mentioned again and the issue of the blacklisting of Kawhia from a WINZ perspective and the need for work for local people was highlighted. Taharoa mining operations were given as an example of industry supporting a community. Sand mining, marine farming, wind farms and wave farms were all thought to be okay for the area.

4.3.4 Group three

It was commented that people rarely think about water quality but that it was necessary. Run-off from roading was a concern within Aotea. In Kawhia it was felt that silting in the harbour had been significant over the past 30 years (for example, Waiharakeke Bridge) and that major waterways should be fenced off (noted that would still get sediment but this would help considerably). There was concern at the lack of a sewerage system in the area. Smaller systems (such as at Morrison subdivision) perhaps preferable to a large system – noted that filtered systems not possible in all situations (such as Kawhia with smaller developments). Need for some development (in order to keep services such as doctors) noted.

Regarding landscape and natural character, Puti Point was identified as an important area, as were the Waipuna rocks (white sand, limestone pillars, birds and wildlife). A sympathetic agricultural system that enhances wildlife and natural character should be promoted. It was questioned why the heads of the harbour near Kawhia were not regarded as important. The changes in the Taharoa area since BHP arrived were discussed (change from natural desert of black sand) and also linked to changes in coastal area between Kawhia and Aotea. It was felt that pine trees should not be planted close to the harbour but also noted that they are a barrier to sand moving further inland. Noted that pohutukawa would be more appropriate to prevent sand shifting than pines.

Swans and geese were felt to have a big impact on the quality of the harbour and it was questioned whether plovers are causing problems with native birds.

There was a desire for a seawall from the corner of the museum to John Staples' house and lane. Others wanted angle parking and seating, however, some felt this would make the fish go away. The possibility of 3-5 storey high rises in the area of the pub through to the doctor's surgery was discussed (felt this area would never be too close to the water). Braine Road was identified as a potential area for development and growth. Commented that, regarding development, it is not so much a matter of where it is done but how it is done. Sewage was seen to be a major issue. Some principles to be applied to development were identified: sewage, impact on environment, decent sized sections and landscape. There was also some discussion regarding requirements to consult with iwi when development is occurring on private land.

Ribbon development was seen to be undesirable and visual appeal was important. The matter of relocatable houses was raised (regarding tendency to create shanty town appearance) but it was identified that these can be utilised/restored well (such as Bill Water's house, Aotea). The character of the area was felt to be well cared for and looked after but slightly unkempt. Some felt that the style of housing (such as colour) should be down to personal choice.

The need for employment was identified. There was some discussion around sewerage systems – there were questions as to why installation of a new one at a cost of \$20,000 was necessary, suggestions that people should put money into a scheme and concerns noted that people want one to come but don't want to be caught out in payment of their individual systems.

4.3.4 Summary

All groups had concerns about water quality. The main attributing factors they identified were septic tanks and sediment-laden run-off.

No one seemed opposed to further development but all recognised the need for controls to protect aspects such as water quality and landscapes. Two of the groups identified a need for restrictions on the use of relocatable dwellings.

The sustainability of the area was an underlying theme. There was a lot of discussion about the changing demographics within Kawhia and about the need for a critical mass of permanent residents to support existing services and allow additional services (for example, public transport).

4.4 Kinohaku Hall – Friday, 23 March 2007

4.4.1 Attendees

The eight attendees were farmers, residents and bach owners in the local area.

4.4.2 Group one

It was felt that farmers needed to know about the regional plan rules relating to stock exclusion from water bodies. The amount of money spent on removing debris from the road around the edge of the harbour was noted within the context of the fact that this debris fall from papa faces would have occurred and ended up in the harbour naturally. Tracking and earthworks were not seen to be big problems in relation to water quality. It was also noted that farming is possibly less intensive now that it has been in the past due to land being taken out of farming in the Waitomo district and the absence of dairy farms now. There were also comments that the water quality in this arm of the harbour was potentially very different to elsewhere.

A number of pest plants were identified in the area, including acacia, agapanthus, spartina and ginger.

Public access was seen to be an important issue, especially in the context of future developments. It was identified that there is little public access to Kawhia Harbour but also noted that there are some benefits to this in relation to there subsequently being fewer people. It was felt that any subdivision/development should not alienate people from existing available areas. It was also noted that some of these access areas are actually private and should be added to the public domain. There were difficulties with access due to the terrain. There was some pressure on existing facilities noted (such as Kawhia and Te Waitere boat ramps), however, this was not seen to be a significant issue at this point in time and there were no issues with navigation safety matters on this side of the harbour as pleasure craft were restricted by the nature of the harbour. Facilities were generally felt to be okay for the current population and Waiharakeke was identified as a potential site for a boat ramp, however parking issues with this site were noted.

The group thought that due to the nature of the land, development was likely to be in clusters of its own accord (that is, without council restrictions). It was identified though that there was a real potential to “get it right”, and there was a need to retain the existing environment (such as native bush on harbour fringes). In response, it was commented that there is little bush around the bulk of Kawhia Harbour. There was some discussion about the requirements for accessways to new development and whether or not these should be stronger. Other possible standards mentioned related to height of buildings (regarding visual amenity) and sewage and wastewater disposal. It was felt that standards of septic tanks/sewage disposal within a certain distance of the harbour needed to be considered.

‘Pancake rocks’, Waipuna/Rakaunui were identified as areas worthy of protecting from a natural character/landscape perspective. It was felt that the “essence” of the area should be kept and development should be sympathetic to the environment. It was identified that people were coming to this area because it was quiet and they were “stepping back in time”.

Willow Point and Grace Point were identified as areas traditionally used as camps.

The group discussed the need for a sustainable community with more people and more business. BHP was noted as allowing for services to be provided within Taharoa that otherwise would not be possible.

In response to questions about heritage, it was agreed that interpretation and signage would be useful to aid understanding and awareness.

4.4.3 Summary

There was no one factor that the group could easily identify as being the reason for a decline in water quality and there seemed to be a general perception that water quality on the southern side of the harbour might be different, perhaps better, compared to other areas within the Kawhia catchment.

The group felt that as long as the appropriate processes and controls were in place, development (including business opportunities) should be considered on its merits. There was quite an attachment to the existing character of the Te Waitere/Kinohaku area and a desire to retain this in the future.

4.5 Oparau Hall – Wednesday, 28 March 2007

4.5.1 Attendees

Eight attendees representing a cross-section of local iwi, farmers and environmental advocates (Kawhia Harbour Protection Society) attended this workshop.

4.5.2 Group one

This group noted that water quality was generally good and questioned whether any changes/decline might be due to climatic changes rather than human activities. It was noted that rivers had been silting up since willows were removed and that in the past there was boat access up Oparau River. Infilling had also been observed on the Te Waitere side of Kawhia Harbour. Monitoring of water quality was supported and the frequency was thought to be good, but it was noted that there could potentially be further testing after specific events. The increase in mangroves was said to be an indicator of nutrient and sediment input. It was identified that more research was needed to identify what was having a negative effect on water quality and that, in principle, water quality should have improved. There was concern about the practical implications for farmers in regard to potential actions to improve water quality and an expression of pride in the way that families have looked after the land with retention of bush cover and non-intensive farming practices. It was also identified that streams and their health are important to farmers too.

It was felt that water supply was a restraint to the growth of Kawhia and noted that Aotea has a good water supply and diversified supply gives some assurances for the future. It was identified that most people want to build where there is a view and also that assistance is needed to minimise the effects of development. Cultural heritage was thought to require better identification as people are often unaware and can cause damage unknowingly. There was discussion around concern about “death by 1000 cuts” caused by sporadic development and the possibility of a mechanism to deter speculative development was raised. It was thought to be hard to predict future trends. It was suggested that ‘no go’ areas be set aside to retain the character of what makes the area special, and that new development shouldn’t impact on water quality or occur in hazardous areas, should provide for public access to the coastal marine area, and should be focused on existing settlements. There were differing opinions on whether a coastal setback was appropriate.

Regarding public access, some thought there should be more provision and any paper roads should be retained in the public domain where there was potential for future use. It was identified that there are considerable tracts of Department of Conservation land, however, less public land around the harbour (noted that there are some areas in Kawhia, Te Waitere and Waiharakeke).

In relation to landscape and natural character, it was noted that all of the areas identified were terrestrial, yet there was significant value in other areas such as intertidal flats (such as Te Wharu Bay – also important for migratory birds). It was identified that Rakaunui was noted to be a landscape of significance in 1904 and was also an area that contained a village historically. The group agreed that landscapes were important and should be protected. It was identified that the emphasis should be on incentives and education (rather than regulation) and that this was already starting to happen on its own. Work done through Project Crimson was mentioned as a positive action (for example, the Shaw property, Braine Road), as was the work of Te Hinengaro o Kawhia Trust. It was suggested that there should be compensation where protection of areas is required and this led to some discussion about the concept of transferable development rights – this concept was thought to be okay in principle.

It was questioned whether there has been a depletion of kaimoana and whether there could be restoration. Management of mangroves was mentioned. Wetlands were thought to be under-represented in terms of protection. An area south of the Awaroa River bridge (owned by Greens) was noted to be an important wetland area which used to be used for the collection of tuna and watercress and contained rare birds. This area was felt to be under threat from current management practices and to require fencing. There was discussion around the protection of pohutukawa on the Kawhia foreshore and it was identified that while work was done to identify significant trees during the development of the District Plan, this information was omitted when the plan was produced. It was thought that tourism needed to be managed in regard to its effects and that corridors for migratory birds should be identified and protected. The presence of weeds around the harbour was noted, including woolly nightshade and spartina.

4.5.3 Group two

There was some discussion about the water quality monitoring undertaken by Environment Waikato. The group thought it was important to be able to swim in streams, however, noted that most are not deep enough for swimming. The removal of crack willows from stream banks was a concern in relation to bank stability. It was noted that Oparau River clears quickly after storm events. It was thought to be of concern if water quality continues to decline, however, people wanted to know why this was occurring so that policies can address the source of decline.

There were comments in relation to 1080 poisoning and fertiliser applications in the early 1990s and their possible impacts on water quality. It was felt that water quality was valued but that they wanted to be able to continue to farm and that there needed to be a balance between economics and environmental considerations. It was noted that it was not possible to fence every stream, that farming had occurred for over 100 years and the water quality was still good and that farming was the backbone of the area. There was concern about the ongoing viability of farming in the face of increasing restrictions and it was noted that farmers are environmentalists and are getting a bad rap in some cases.

Regarding landscape and natural character, it was felt that Te Maika should be protected completely and that its remote nature was special. It was thought that there should not be any high rise development in the area, that the natural character of the catchments was valued, that gravel roads were good in that they kept traffic levels down and there was a concern about overseas investors benefiting above local communities.

It was questioned where the pressure for subdivision and development was occurring and noted that the area needs more people. It was felt that Aotea township subdivision/development was appropriate and that the focus should be on existing clusters/settlements. A desire to be able to subdivide properties for family/retirement was expressed and development that provides economic opportunity for the local area was thought to be okay. It was agreed that there needed to be consistency between the councils. Distinction was made between 'big' and 'small' subdivisions in relation to the need for controls and opportunity for community to have their say.

Septic tanks around Kawhia were identified as a problem for water quality in the harbour.

4.5.4 Summary

There was concern about how water quality is monitored in the Kawhia catchment, including frequency and location. However, the underlying concern of the people at this workshop was the impact any future restrictions could have on land use and farming practices, including the ability to subdivide properties.

Both groups highlighted that there are good farmers who have done a lot for the environment of their own accord. Both groups also placed value on landscapes and natural character in principle.

Subdivision or development focused in clusters or on existing developments were considered appropriate. Rakaunui and Te Maika were identified as special areas in terms of landscapes.

4.6 Te Kauri Lodge – Friday, 30 March 2007

4.6.1 Attendees

The seven attendees were mostly farmers in the local area, as well as an environmental advocate (Kawhia Harbour Protection Society) and custodian of Te Kauri Lodge.

4.6.2 Group one

There was considerable discussion and questions about the water quality monitoring undertaken. It was identified that a lot of sediment is now entering the harbour but this was balanced by comments that the seagrass in the harbour indicates that sediment is not an issue and also that harbours naturally infill. Slips within native bush were noted to be a contributing factor to water quality decline. Water quality was thought to be important for swimming and other contact recreation. Questions were raised about the impact of declining water quality on birdlife and bird populations generally. The group wanted to see the harbour preserved so that fishing and other activities were still possible in the future, and sought that the sources of decline be identified. It was commented that farming is less intensive now than it has been in the past and that farmers are also more environmentally aware.

It was felt that development in Kawhia township had been inappropriate. There was a vision that the area be picturesque in 50 years time and that houses built blend in or are sympathetic to the environment. Some felt people should be able to build “within reason” on their own land and that the rights of existing land owners should not be changed by regulation. Development was seen to be incompatible with retaining natural character and the biggest risk was “death by a thousand cuts”. There was conversation around what needed to be protected, places where people could be accommodated and separate rules for developers. Also, allowing options and enabling investment in the area were discussed. It was thought development could be encouraged in Kawhia and Te Waitere. It was noted that the economy is based on farming and tourism and that tourists are coming to see the natural character/landscape. There was conversation around supporting the tourists by way of facilities.

The natural and heritage character of the area was seen to be important. Tiritirimatangi was noted as a potential reserve due to its significant birdlife. Islands in the harbour were seen to need pest management and encouragement and protection of birdlife. It was felt that Kawhia Harbour as a whole has outstanding natural character. It was also noted that the population of the area 150 years ago was significantly greater than it is now, however, this did not leave an impact. It was identified that demand for subdivisions often occurs in pristine locations because of the premium value, however, it was felt that in most instances these should occur in already settled areas. There was discussion around the need to contain sprawl and limit size, however, noted that this might be obstructive to property rights. There was some comparisons between Raglan and Kawhia and it was noted that there are opportunities to control what happens.

People thought vehicles on beaches should be allowed as a tourist activity on the hard sand, in addition to horses. Access was an issue to be addressed and the difference between “hooning” and other uses was noted. Behaviour needs to be addressed. The lagoon area was identified as an area suffering from this activity. People thought there needed to be more information for boat users about navigation safety, bar crossing etc. It was thought that a lookout to identify features of the area could be developed. Dumping of inorganic rubbish on the main road was identified as an issue with the possibility of an inorganic collection service raised.

4.6.3 Summary

There was an underlying concern from many of the participants about restrictions on perceived “property rights” and the economic future of the area.

Subdivision and development within existing settlements, specifically Kawhia and Waitere, was considered appropriate. However, this needs to be sympathetic to the natural environment.

4.7 Environment Waikato offices, Hamilton – Wednesday, 4 April 2007

4.7.1 Attendees

Eighteen attendees representing a cross-section of local iwi, permanent residents, absentee land owners, farmers and advocates attended this workshop.

4.7.2 Group one

This group commented that water quality wasn't declining, rather that it was naturally variable and influenced by variable rain patterns. Extreme events especially lead to erosion. It was felt that not enough monitoring is undertaken and the community should undertake some. Sediment traps were seen as easily helping to solve sedimentation issues and these could be turned into wetlands. Hillside erosion at Rakaunui on conservation land had been observed. The presence of spartina in the harbour was linked to sedimentation.

It was noted that there were efforts to replant the Rakaunui area but that problems were experienced with cattle and possums. A further problem was noted with stock in rivers and the harbour margins leading to reduced water quality in the harbour. The planting undertaken in Raglan was seen to have seemed to have helped matters in that harbour and identified as desirable for Kawhia. One person felt very strongly that fencing stock out of waterways does not help improve water quality and that these resources need to be put into other areas.

There was discussion about wind farms and the pros and cons, including visual effects and effects on birds. Birds and plants were felt to be important factors of natural character and important for tourism. Another opinion was that tourism shouldn't be encouraged and that these areas should be for the local community only. Later on, there was also discussion about marine farms, fisheries and tidal energy generators. People thought small scale marine farms were no concern, however, there was concern about environmental effects, including sedimentation, of larger operations. Anecdotal evidence was noted regarding the state of the fishery now vs the past and it was commented that it would be good to allow only locals to fish to give stocks a chance to recover, or no fishing from motorised boats. Tidal energy generators were seen to have both good and bad aspects but worthy of investigation due to the renewable nature of this option.

People thought there were problems associated with motorbikes in the dunes and within the lagoon area. Boardwalks were suggested as an alternative for access. It was thought that access for fishermen along the wet beach was okay. Problems with access include environmental damage, safety (linked to behaviour) and effects on endangered birds. Another natural area identified as being vulnerable and unstable and requiring protection (unclear what protection required) was the Aotea spit sand dunes.

It was noted that the landscape study seems to value areas with trees (not grass). The whole of Aotea and Kawhia were identified as being important, not just parts. A pohutukawa tree next to Aotea Harbour was noted to require the highest protection (marked on map). These areas were identified as being a good example of New Zealand history which should be preserved and could be used for educational purposes. It was felt that a lot of local information was not known or understood by people.

It was thought that large minimum lot sizes were needed for new development and that new houses need to be not visible (for example, not on ridges and in respect of colours used). The Morrison subdivision at Aotea was identified as not being desirable for some people. There was a cultural expectation that homes are as attractive as possible. It was identified that some development was necessary in order to get more services, however, no more villages (such as Aotea) were desirable as these were too visible from all parts of the harbour. There was concern about the effect of restrictions on subdivision in that it may create a "gold rush" to beat the restrictions. It was thought that small subdivisions (such as a bach on 5 hectares) could be encouraged over large/expensive houses, and also that the costs of subdivision need to be reduced so that people don't aim to recover costs by having extravagant and expensive developments and keep to the character of the area. The remoteness of Aotea was identified as being an attraction to part-time residents.

There was some discussion about the character of development desirable. East coast type developments, including high rises, were seen as inappropriate. It was felt that development needed to be kept small scale and within the current character, and to not impact on the environment.

It was felt that there was a lot of interest in local history and heritage and a lot of this was kept within families (for example, Nelson whanau at Rakaunui). There was discussion about necessary services and it was thought that broadband would be good (particularly for full-time residents) and that there were issues with rates. It was noted that central government seems to forget small places like Aotea. District councils working with the regional council was supported. Public access near Rakaunui was mentioned with regard to the reopening of a paper road that would allow community and marae access to the harbour without the need for access through private land.

There was discussion around seawalls – a need was identified for erosion protection structure to protect urupa being eroded. There was support for structures to protect existing development and important areas but adhoc/cleanfill type structures were not supported.

4.7.3 Group two

This group highlighted a lack of information about the harbour such as about sedimentation, ecology and features. Concerns were expressed about recent spartina control operations and effects on food collection from the harbour. Similarly, there were concerns about incidences of pollution observed in swimming holes on the Oparau River. A recent study undertaken by NIWA about tangata whenua values associated with Kawhia Harbour was mentioned as being finalised in the near future. The balance of ecology and presence of species that should be in the harbour was identified as important. Whitebait farming in Raglan Harbour and the potential to bring this to Aotea to help improve fish stocks was discussed, as well as the potential to replicate planting efforts in Raglan. Riparian planting was seen to encourage whitebait leading to bigger and improved fish stocks in the harbour. It was noted that sand has given way to mudflats in some areas, that while there is nothing wrong with water quality, the environment is changing, that infestation of pacific oysters is changing the landscape (can no longer walk without shoes), and that a few mangroves were turning up and their spread was undesirable. The recent presence of a particular 'puff ball' in the harbour is reported to indicate the water is healthy. The northern part of the harbour was identified as being less healthy than the southern side due to the higher number of people. There was mention also of issues associated with the lack of a sewerage system. The issue of swans in the harbour was raised with a question over them consuming juvenile flounder and also fouling water.

The local nursery, Project Crimson and planting for tuis were all identified and supported. The need for information about the north head of Aotea harbour was identified. This area was previously accessed by people with motorbikes who abused it, and now access is restricted. There was discussion about the changes in the beach environment, about how Ocean Beach should extend to Aotea settlement, how dunes are disappearing and how Aotea settlement used to extend further seaward before erosion. Vehicles on beaches were identified as causing damage in the lagoon area, destroying birds and shellfish.

Regarding natural character and landscape, there were concerns regarding the ability to undertake activities (including constructing a dwelling) in northern Aotea due to areas being identified as high natural character. The identification of a particular area was questioned due to it having been cleared. It was noted that it is important to retain the character of the "wild west coast".

People felt that the appearance of buildings was an issue, as was the construction of dwellings on low lying sections (close to sea level) – they felt the rules were blurry in this situation. The use of septic tanks on these harbour edge sections was also a concern. It was identified that people come to Kawhia for its wild and natural character but that this was a threat to that very character. It was suggested that developers should either plant or retain a certain amount of bush. Following a question about appropriate criteria for clustering development, people thought that the retention of bush and discreet housing in keeping with the contour of the land should be included. It was felt that there needed to be consistency between the district councils regarding standards for development (such as section size). It was noted that for economic reasons, people were needed in some places; also, some Kawhia residents were being forced out due to the high price of land. The nature of land tenure in Kawhia (that is, leasehold) was seen to discourage people from purchasing property and provide little opportunity for development. The introduction of a reticulated sewerage system was seen to lead to smaller section sizes and intensification of development which was undesirable. Water supply was seen to be another restricting factor for the expansion of Kawhia, noting that people want spring water, not tank water.

The isolation of south Kawhia from services and access to the harbour (such as boat ramps) was noted as an issue. There was general agreement about the principle of trade offs – development of one area in return for protection of other areas. It was noted, however, that such a scheme should be reviewed every 50 years. The fact that some multi-owned coastal property may have demand/potential for resettling was noted, and that this might be appropriate for a trade-off type approach.

There was discussion about wind energy and it was noted that wind farms don't bring people with them (that is, they don't create employment). Tourism was mentioned as an economic opportunity if packaged properly (for example, ecotourism, heritage trail). Marine farming was discussed as an option. Job opportunities should be encouraged so that people stay in the area. It was noted that public access to the coastal marine area is a constraint due to the terrain and also the tidal nature of the harbour.

4.7.4 Group three

This group felt that water quality should be important and would have deteriorated (Aotea) over the past 20-30 years (for example, silt from roading, top dressing). It was noted that mostly phosphate and lime fertilisers are used. The effect of herbicide entering the water from weed spraying near water bodies was mentioned. There was general support for the protection of key streams in response to a discussion about the Regional Plan stock exclusion rules. It was noted that factors such as shading of streams by riparian vegetation is key to stream ecology health. It was thought that septic tanks must be managed properly and sediment controls were needed.

There was a conversation around the need to protect the coastline, which could provide a good filtration strip and buffer for the harbour. However, it was noted that a large setback (such as 100 m in the Waikato district) could be tough on some land owners where this would severely/totally restrict the use of their property. It was also noted that the 100 m rule did not consider elevation. This led to a discussion about setbacks and the need to specify what was important (for example, erosion, public access, natural character, waste management, water quality and/or native vegetation) in order to determine appropriate width. This was seen to provide some certainty for consent processes.

With regard to landscapes and natural character, the group agreed that these were important to protect but that development is also essential. It was felt that clustered development would be preferable to sprawl. There were mixed views on the control of colours through district plans. It was thought that there needed to be flexibility in the rules and the concept of trade offs with some areas protected and others developed was discussed. Encouraging a new generation into the area through mechanisms such as papakainga housing was discussed, as was the need for self-sufficiency into the future (for example, energy efficient buildings).

The area where Te Papatapu Road lies next to the water was identified as an area where public access to the coast could be provided. It was also identified that some would like access to Aotea's north head. However, it was noted that people needed to understand why this area was important to iwi so they could access it appropriately and with respect. It was thought that information on iwi values should be made available to the public.

Tourism was seen to be positive.

There was some discussion around roading and road improvements leading to increased traffic and bigger boats. It was suggested that roading standards be set to control the level of development. It was thought that suitable densities for development should be identified on a site-by-site basis (site specific structure plans) so that houses are integrated into the landscape and a range of options are available. It was also thought that there should be some determination of what facilities were needed in Kawhia and that this would help determine the appropriate size of the settlement (critical mass).

4.7.5 Summary

There were differing opinions about whether water quality is declining or not. Stock access to waterways, septic tanks and sediment-laden run-off were considered potential causes of a decline in water quality. Two of the three groups supported riparian planting and fencing along streams and the harbours.

Landscapes and the naturalness of the Kawhia and Aotea catchments were considered important. Cultural heritage came through as another defining feature of these two catchments.

There was a general acceptance that any development should be clustered and low key or integrated within the landscape.

Figure 3: Group sessions at Hamilton workshop, Wednesday, 4 April 2007.



Figure 4: Group sessions at Hamilton workshop, Wednesday, 4 April 2007.



4.8 Te Kauri Lodge – Sunday, 27 May 2007 (Session 1: 1-4pm)

4.8.1 Attendees

The seven attendees at this workshop included farmers and other land owners, tangata whenua and environmentalists. The attendees identified the following concerns, interests and background information when they introduced themselves.

- Concerned about mud entering Aotea Harbour.
- Small block owner in Kawhia catchment for three years, come out to escape the “hustle and bustle”.
- Concerned about subdivision and the impacts of this on the price/value of farmland and subsequently farming.
- Wanting to see good development occurring, however, concerned about effects of development/subdivision.
- Environmentalist.
- Born and bred in the area and heart still here, though living elsewhere.

4.8.2 Group one

There was general concern within this group about water quality and identifying the source of any decline. It was commented that within Aotea, sediment takes a long time to clear after heavy rain (can still be visible two weeks later), and it was felt that this had impacts on fisheries. Makomako Stream was a particular source identified. Crab and pupu populations were also noted to be disappearing and this was partly linked to over harvesting which was also discussed later in the session (Asian gatherers were particularly identified as being guilty of this practice). Landslips were identified as being the major contributors of sediment and there was discussion around a particular slip that has resulted in the closure of one end of the road to Bridal Veil Falls. It was felt that these landslips could have been stabilised properly rather than allowed to repeatedly fail and result in sediment entering the streams.

There was a question as to why mangroves are increasing in Kawhia Harbour as it was felt this was undesirable. Pacific oysters were similarly felt to be a significant pest in the harbours. It was identified that it is no longer possible to walk in many areas in bare feet as used to be the case and also that the oysters trap silt and rip nets. There were questions about the impact of these oysters on fisheries and what can be done about them.

The group discussed the issue of septic tanks and how these should be managed. It was noted that there are pros and cons to both septic tanks and reticulated systems. Reticulated systems can cause significant problems with power outages and the impacts of a failure of a large system can be significantly worse than the failure of an individual septic tank. A practice used in other areas, where inspection and maintenance of septic tanks was compulsory every two years, was suggested as a means of avoiding problems, though noted that it is still possible for problems to occur in between.

It was identified that the water coming out of Toreparu wetland was quite good and that this was a function of wetlands. There was concern, however, at the spread of willows within the wetland.

The human impact of fisheries issues was raised again with it identified that people had been observed taking very small shellfish and/or cleaning out entire areas. It was felt that more education/signage was needed on limits and over-harvesting. Rahui/temporary closures were a possible mechanism to help increase fish/shellfish stocks. It was later identified that there was a lot of dead shellfish around the harbour (with only Pacific oysters surviving) and there were suggestions that this could be linked to run-off from the land, including from spraying activities.

There was discussion around public access in light of changing cultures – we no longer always know the land owners or the people seeking access – and around the ‘Queen’s Chain’. It was generally felt that public access was important and that information needed to be provided to clarify the facts about the so-called Queen’s Chain and central government’s walking access strategy. It was identified that a jetty near Rakaunui is available for public use, however, private land is crossed to access it and this has associated problems and does create tension. Access for watercress and eeling are other reasons access to the harbour and waterways was desirable and noted that this is often enabled by local farmers. Stock that have access to waterways consume watercress and destroy eel habitats. It was further noted that human elements (overharvesting) are similarly an issue regarding eels. Cattle access to the foreshore near Rakaunui was identified as an issue of concern.

Regarding landscape and natural character, the group felt what is left should be protected. It was identified that too much native bush has gone from hillsides and this results in soil erosion. The group agreed that vegetation should be retained on steep slopes. Replanting of natives should occur where vegetation has been cleared. This would help reduce sediment pollution of the harbours. It was noted that around the harbours’ edge there was more and more development pressure and development in these areas (areas identified as special) should be done “properly”. There was some discussion about what this means, including avoiding clearance of vegetation (for example, Acacia Bay headland development). It was felt that there should be case-by-case consultation, however, noted that this creates issues in terms of lack of certainty (for both applicants and community). It was suggested that there should be a tax on gorse where rates were charged per acre of gorse – it was felt this would encourage land owners to clear gorse. It was also noted, however, that gorse can act as a nurse species.

There was discussion around the issue of speculative developers/land owners and around developments that do not contribute to the local economy and raise expectations for services (which can be to the detriment of the existing community). There was also discussion around the fact that there is one road in and out of Kawhia and many people don't know where it is because it's not on a main route to anywhere else. It was noted that some people like it like that and it was questioned whether people would come to live permanently if there was work in the area. Possible employment opportunities to attract permanent population were identified, including energy generation (such as wave farms), boat building, marine farming and forestry. Further, it was identified that with broadband access it would be more possible for people to work from home and that this could be marketed. A question was asked about where it would be appropriate to have further development and it was thought that these should be clustered. Some recent proposals (for example, Bird subdivision, Waipuna Road) were identified as being inappropriate in terms of stability and other issues.

A question was asked about the possibility of Environment Waikato funding full-time possum hunters and Councillor Neeley provided information about proposed pest management measures for the catchment. It was noted that possum infestation and development go hand in hand and that there was a need to get rid of possums before thinking about development. This was likened to the situation in Hamilton where there are considerable difficulties dealing with possums in the city's gully systems due to its urban nature.

Other issues raised included what could be done about magpies and what were the proportions of native bush in the catchment versus farmland.

4.8.3 Summary

This group was concerned about declining water quality. They highlighted septic tanks, sediment-laden run-off and natural slips as potential causes of the decline.

Although the participants appreciated the need for development they were concerned about potential impacts on the environment and on the existing community.

Fisheries resources and the nuisance created by Pacific oysters were other issues of particular concern to a number of the participants.

4.9 Te Kauri Lodge – Sunday, 27 May 2007 (Session 2: 6-9pm)

4.9.1 Attendees

This group of twenty-three was largely comprised of local farmers, with a couple of holiday home owners (Kawhia township). Many had long associations with the area but several were more recent arrivals.

4.9.2 Group one

The group raised a number of questions about process and about the science behind the water quality information provided, including whether there was any difference in the rate of deterioration of water quality over different periods (for example, how does the rate of deterioration over the past five years compare with that of the previous 5-10 years?). There was a strong concern that farmers needed to be able to work collaboratively with the councils. The overwhelming desire seemed to be to leave things alone and allow farmers to carry on their activities without interference. The group was reminded that at no stage had the blame for declining water quality been attributed to farming and that with changing pressures, including a changing community, a review of the management of the area was necessary even if only to keep things the way they were – that is, things would not remain the same without changes to the management of the area. The group was further advised that the councils were seeking to work collaboratively with the community, including through the workshop opportunities that had been offered and also through the reference group that was to be formed.

The discussion continued around water quality matters, and the issue of septic tanks near the foreshore of Kawhia township not working properly was raised. There was a particular site that was of concern to certain members of the group and it was felt that Otorohanga District Council knew about the issue but had failed to act. It was questioned whether there were other contaminants in the harbour and it was noted that in front of the motor camp there had been in the past a build up of lots of brown silt. It was noted, with regard to the monitoring undertaken inland, that the Oparau and Awaroa Rivers have very different geology, with one being a volcanic rock substrate and the other being papa. There was concern that this factor had not been taken into account in monitoring. It was questioned what Environment Waikato was doing about sedimentation coming out of Pirongia (following comments that monitoring higher up the catchment showed there was contamination coming from native bush which had been attributed to pests). It was noted that pest control is undertaken in the park by the Department of Conservation. The fact that willow removal (Awaroa River) caused the remobilisation of a lot of silt (previously the river was stony-bottomed) was mentioned. It was identified that this river seems to be returning to a more natural state now without the willows and perhaps now that the trapped sediment has been flushed out, the sediment load will stabilise; and that there was a need to factor these types of activities in to assessments.

There was some discussion around the regional stock exclusion rules and questions relating to the benefits to farmers of fencing the lower 2 km. It was mentioned that little pollution occurs within this 2 km stretch and that more problems are probably created higher up in the catchments and that these other areas should possibly be targeted for fencing. Flowing on from this discussion (regarding whitebait spawning as the rationale), issues were raised around other fisheries, including the increase in 'gadgets' to help catch fish, the large number of fishing contests and the over-harvesting of shellfish and eels.

It was suggested that a good tactic would be to document what farmers have been doing over the past 100 years which has prevented pollution and follow that lead (with some improvements). It was felt that we shouldn't be trying to fix something that wasn't broken, though it was noted that the harbour has silted up but felt that this couldn't be undone. It was identified that there have been no drastic land use changes in the catchment for decades and that there were unlikely to be in the future, though it was noted that there were areas that had the potential to be converted (for example, to dairying).

On the topic of landscape and natural character, a question was raised about the amount of green area (outstanding landscapes) as a proportion of the total catchment. Similarly, people wanted to know how much of remaining native bush was in private ownership and not protected through organisations such as QEII. The group felt that they want the area to stay as it is now, without the weeds and with more native birds. It was considered that farmers could be trusted to look after natural landscapes but that the same couldn't be said for speculative investors. In response to this, it was asked who had sold the land to the speculative investor in the first place (that is, the farmer). Generally the group expressed agreement that landscape was important, however, they felt it was quite safe in current hands. Well-planned subdivision was seen to be that which didn't detract from the existing character/environment. Aspects that need to be considered included visual effects, effects on water quality, sewage disposal, land stability and stormwater disposal. There was discussion around the issue of sewage reticulation and it was suggested that developments over a certain size (such as 30 houses) should require a central system. This type of requirement was used in Taupo though it was noted that the soil types were quite different in this location.

The group discussed the need for farming practices to be protected from reverse sensitivity issues and also from any regulations relating to development (for example, the ability to construct farm buildings versus new dwellings). There was also a conversation around 'property rights' and impacts on these by potential restrictions on development. It was thought that development could be kept within existing 'urban' areas (such as Kawhia and Te Waitere) but also the question was raised about whether farmers shouldn't be able to subdivide blocks which were no longer viable, or for their retirement.

Figure 5: Group discussion at Te Kauri Lodge, Sunday, 27 May 2007.



4.9.3 Summary

This group was very concerned about potential restrictions which could affect either the economic viability of farming in the area or their ability to undertake activities 'as of right'. Underlying these concerns, however, there was a strong sense of stewardship regarding the natural environment and a fierce pride in past and current management of the land.

There were contradictory views when it came to discussing what was appropriate use and development. On the one hand, the group did not want restrictions on their potential to undertake activities; on the other, they saw the need for restrictions on others (such as speculators).

4.10 Focus questions

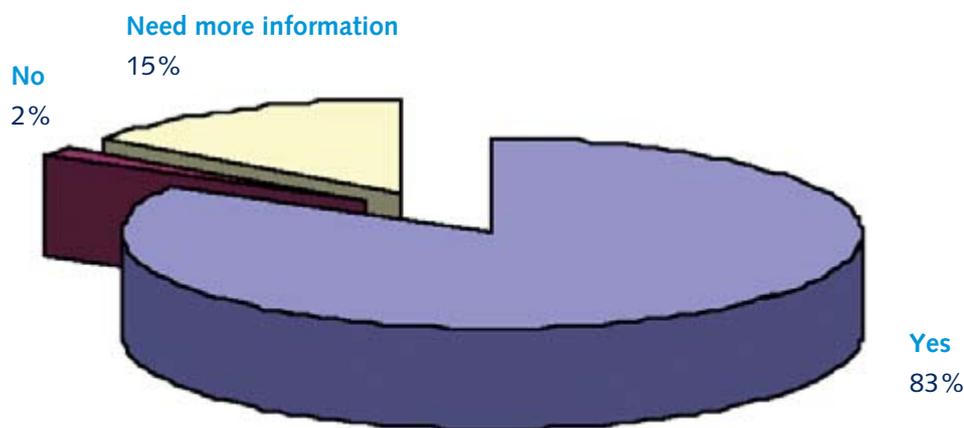
At each of the workshops, participants were provided with a set of focus questions (see Appendix 8.5) to answer. These reflected the three key topics chosen for discussion as discussed in section 2.3. These were designed to be a 'warm up' exercise before moving in to group sessions, and also to ensure that people could record their thoughts even if they weren't comfortable speaking in front of a group. Not everyone handed a sheet in – a total of 54 sheets were collected.

4.10.1 Water quality

Question 1 asked people whether they thought anything should be done (and, if so, what), about monitoring results which show a decline in water quality in the catchment over the past 12 years. Forty-seven responses are summarised below.

Responses to water quality focus question

Thirty-nine people believed something should be done about water quality, one believed no action was necessary and seven felt that more information was required about causes, and rates of decline.



Of the 39 who believed action should be taken to halt decline, the following actions were suggested.

- Address causes (including nutrients, sewage) (n=14).
- Replanting (n=13).
- Stock exclusion/fencing (n=11).
- Controlling sediment input (n=9).
- Education (n=1).
- Reducing stocking rates on farms (n=1).
- Reducing wildlife numbers (for example, swans, Canada geese) (n=1).

4.10.2 Landscape and natural character

Question 2 asked people what areas they valued in terms of landscape and natural character, and why. Thirty-one responses were given but few people told us why they valued the areas they listed.

A number of people identified the whole harbours (n=3) or the whole catchment (n=3). Others referred to particular features/aspects and areas, and general areas. These are summarised below.

Particular features/aspects

- Native bush (n=14).
- Limestone/rock formations (n=5).
- Sand dunes (n=3).
- Headlands (n=2).
- Pa sites/historic areas (n=2).
- Areas important to birds (n=1).
- Coastal environment/harbour fringes (n=5).

Particular areas

- Rakaunui (n=2).
- Hauturu (rock formation opposite school) (n=1).
- Te Kauri forest (n=1).
- Te Maika (n=1).
- Waipuna (n=1).
- Motutara Peninsula (n=1).
- Tiritiri Island (n=1).
- Oioroa Block (n=1).

General areas

- Kawhia south (n=1).
- Aotea Harbour fringe (n=1).

4.10.3 Subdivision and development

The third question asked people where they believed development should be directed and why. There were 38 responses that have been summarised.

Eleven people believed development should be restricted to existing areas, some specifying specific areas:

- Kawhia (n=3)
- Te Waitere (n=1)
- Aotea (n=2).

The majority (n=26) specified that development should be controlled in some way to avoid effects on the environment, including landscapes, infrastructure and water quality. Several (n=4) indicated that development should be directed away from the harbours, though one respondent believed the “harbour front” was the appropriate area for development due to ease of access to services. One person simply specified that development should be directed away from Aotea Village and another suggested the area between Kawhia and Braine Road.

5. Questionnaire

5.1 Number returned

In total, 149 questionnaires were returned; 32 online and 117 hard copies (by mail or handed in at workshops/open days). Four of these were received by mail after 31 May but have been included in this analysis nonetheless.

Only four were returned anonymously. Two responses (one anonymous) had no relevance to the purpose of the questionnaires. These were responded to separately and are not included further in this analysis.

Three people returned two questionnaires each but as these contained differences, they have each been included in this analysis.

This analysis, therefore, considers 147 questionnaires in total.

5.2 Analysis

5.2.1 Values

Respondents were asked in Question 1 what aspects of the catchments they valued. A list of options was provided with space available for additional aspects to be listed by respondents. The options provided were: water quality, landscape features, indigenous vegetation, indigenous wildlife, residential development opportunities, economic growth opportunities, local education opportunities, cultural/other heritage sites, fisheries and shellfish resources, recreation opportunities, open space, and low population/small settlements. Two respondents did not answer this question, so 145 responses have been included in this analysis.

The responses are summarised below in order of most to least popular answers.

Water quality	Fisheries and shellfish	Open space	Landscape features	Indigenous vegetation	Indigenous wildlife	Low population	Recreation	Heritage sites	Education	Economic growth	Residential development	Other
133	132	118	115	113	110	110	95	93	56	40	39	23
90.5%	89.8%	80.3%	78.2%	76.9%	74.8%	74.8%	64.6%	63.3%	38.1%	27.2%	26.5%	16%

5.2.2 Priority values

Question 2 asked respondents to list the three valued aspects from Question 1 most important to them.

A number of people grouped 'indigenous vegetation' and 'indigenous wildlife' together as a single aspect for this question. For the purposes of this analysis, the two categories have been combined into a single category ('ecology').

Some people chose an 'Other' as one of their priority values – these aspects included: property rights; safety; Maori population; wetlands, rivers and streams; and air quality. A number listed aspects related to the character of the area: "quiet and uncommercial"; "peace etc", "untouched by development"; and "aesthetic appeal". These have also been recorded as 'Other' responses.

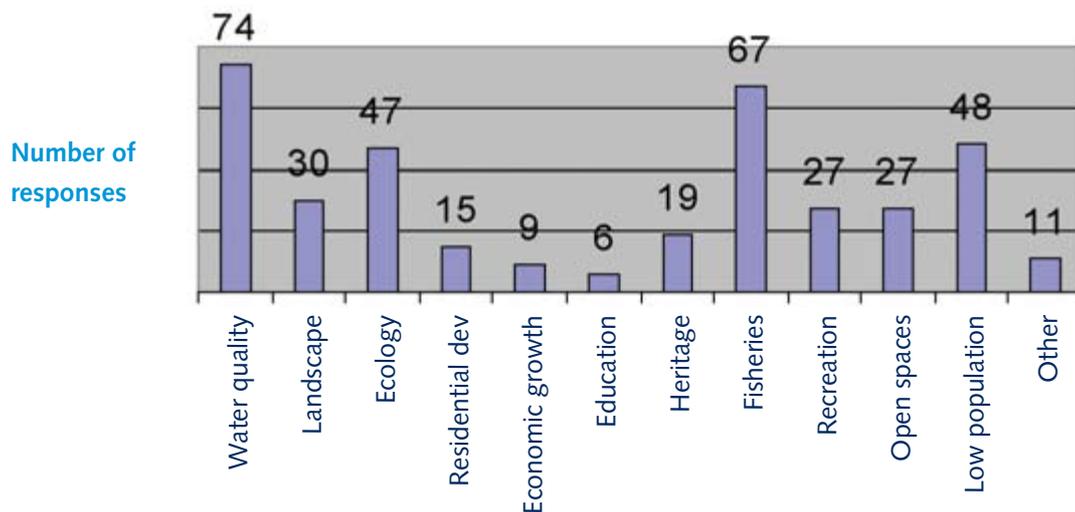
Some respondents noted a difficulty in separating the different aspects and two simply noted, "all are important".

Not counting those who treated indigenous vegetation and wildlife as a single aspect (and consequently chose four priority values as set out in the questionnaire), some chose more than three aspects and these have not been included in this analysis².

Several people did not provide any answer, or a clear answer, to this question.

For the purposes of analysis of the answers to Question 2, 134 responses have been included. Responses are summarised below.

Priority valued aspects

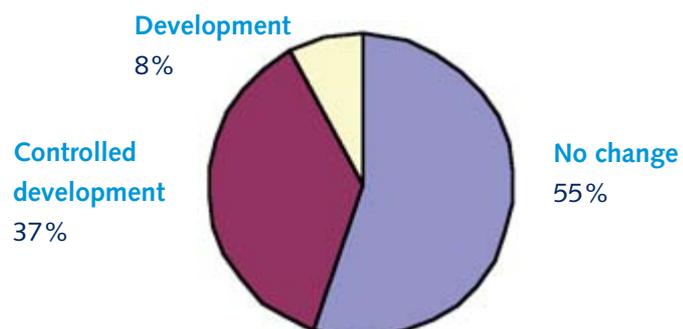


5.2.3 Future of the catchments

Question 4 asked what people would like the catchments to look like in the future. Examples given in the question included: keep them as they are now; more development; more forestry; more aquaculture; ecotourism centre. 135 responses to this question have been analysed.

Most responses (118 out of 135) can largely be split into three broad categories. The first is those who want the areas to stay much (or exactly) as they are now. This includes people who indicated a preference for things to stay the same while acknowledging this is unlikely/unrealistic. The second group is those who use terms like “good”, “balanced”, “controlled”, “sensible” and “contained” in relation to development. Many of them do not seem to be particularly in favour of further development of the catchments, however, state that what development is to occur must be carefully managed. Others within this category have a slightly different perspective and do see a need for development but also specify that this must be appropriate (requires management). Many across both of these categories comment on the character (for example, “bach culture”) and landscape of the area and other aspects, such as water quality, which require protection. The third group of responses are those which specify a need for development but do not specifically mention or imply a need for control over this. These responses are graphed below.

Future vision for Kawhia/Aotea catchment



² Six respondents chose only one or two aspects and these have been included in the analysis – only those with more than three have been excluded.

In addition to the above analysis, 26 people gave responses that indicated a desire for improvements to the environment (such as improved water quality, replanting of native vegetation, less rubbish). Thirty-seven respondents commented on ecotourism, three were against and 30 supported the development of this industry for the catchments, with an additional four indicating it must be controlled. Eleven people supported more forestry in the catchments (with several specifying native over exotic species), while 10 were opposed. Twenty people commented on aquaculture, with most (n=17) supporting it as an industry. Two people were opposed and one commented only that it should be prohibited in certain areas. Other visions for the catchments included shared management for the areas with mana whenua, redevelopment and beautification of the entrance to Kawhia township, tighter/better management of the fisheries resources, protection of established trees, more employment opportunities and more activities for youth in Kawhia township, and development of a marine centre. Several people specifically mentioned the desirability of a vegetation belt around the harbours to filter run-off, and one person wanted to see a return to pre-European vegetation with access opportunities for everyone. Another person felt that the catchments could become an example for other areas by becoming more self sufficient, including through recycling and the use of solar power, all supported by the community. They stated the area could be:

"a jewel – a place which would shine and be a great example to other areas to strive to be like. A holistic centre with local produce being used and local projects supporting business ventures. Where mutual respect from all other peoples for local Maori culture would work hand in hand."

5.2.4 Issues

Respondents were asked what issues or problems they think the catchments are currently facing and that Shore Futures should focus on. A list of options was provided with space available for additional aspects to be listed by respondents. The options provided were: vehicles on beaches, navigation safety in the harbours, land use change (such as subdivision), coastal hazards, fisheries resources, soil erosion/land instability, water quality, pest management, public access to and around the harbours, impacts on native plants, animals and ecology, infrastructural services (roads, waste/storm water, water supply).

For the purposes of analysis of the answers to Question 5, 144 responses have been included (three people did not answer this question). The responses are summarised below in order of most to least popular answers.

Land use change	Water quality	Erosion/ instability	Fisheries resources	Vehicles on beaches	Pest management	Infrastructural services	Ecological impacts	Public access	Navigation safety	Coastal hazards	Other
98	98	94	87	79	69	67	62	55	35	21	15
66.7%	66.7%	63.9%	59.2%	53.7%	46.9%	45.6%	42.2%	37.4%	23.8%	14.3%	10.2%

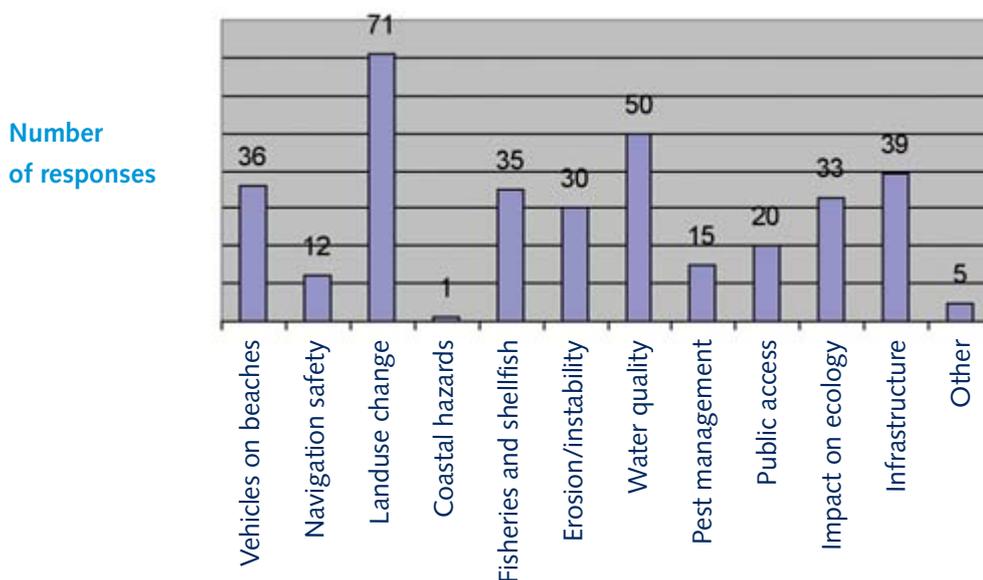
5.2.5 Priority issues

Question 6 asked respondents to list the three issues from Question 5 most important to them. Similarly to Question 2, responses where more than three issues were selected have not been included in this analysis. A total of 130 responses are summarised below.

For over half (54.6 per cent) of all respondents to this question, land use change was selected as one of the top three issues they believe the catchments are currently facing. Water quality was the next most pressing issue identified, with 38.5 per cent of the 'vote'. Infrastructural services, vehicle use on beaches, fisheries and shellfish resources, impacts on ecology and land erosion/instability all scored similarly (between 23.1 and 30 per cent) as graphed below.

In the 'Other' category, five people listed sewage related issues (for example, "effluent outfall", "sewerage system") – these have been counted within 'Infrastructural services'. The remaining 'Other' responses included "rates" and "public transport".

Priority Issues



5.2.6 Emerging issues

Question 8 asked people to identify whether there are any emerging issues or problems they think the catchments are likely to face in the future, and that the agencies should be thinking about.

Many of the matters raised in the responses to this question were continuations of the themes established in the earlier questions. For example:

- 45 responses related to concerns about development or the need for development and growth (including rising/declining/changing population and impacts on the environment and character of the area)
- 31 were concerned about infrastructure (11 specifically mentioning sewage but water supply, lighting, parking and traffic issues were also mentioned)
- five comments were about rising costs for residents (driven by development and cost of services)
- 10 were concerned about decision-making processes.

Fisheries resources (n=12), erosion (n=4), water quality (n=7), vehicles on beaches (n=2), pest management (n=3 – including mangroves and pacific oysters), public access (n=1) and heritage (n=1) also attracted further comments.

Pollution, including litter, effects of outdated two-stroke outboard motors and commercial fisheries offal attracted several comments.

The infilling of the harbour was raised by two respondents as an emerging issue. Three people raised issues around security and criminal behaviour. Off-shore sand mining, climate change impacts and alcohol bans were all mentioned by individual respondents also.

5.2.7 Respondents

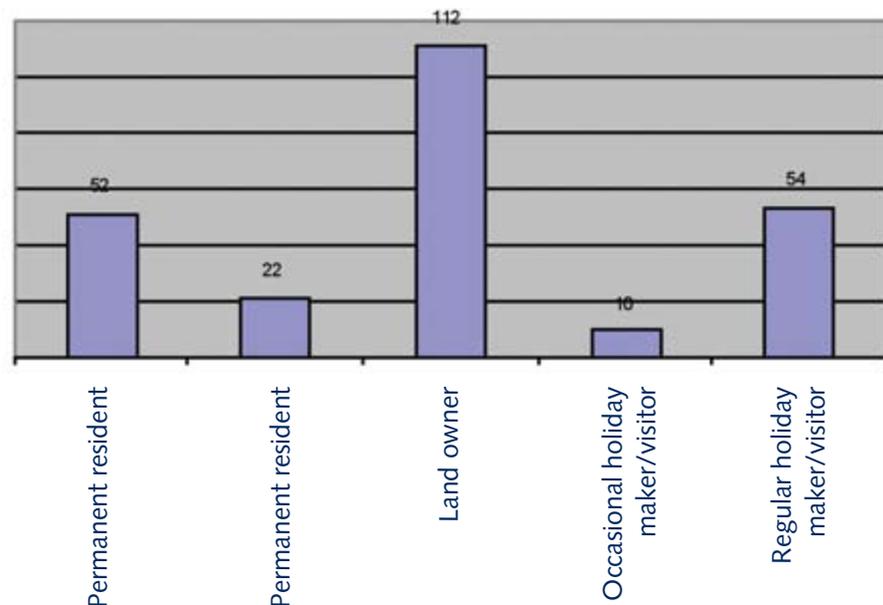
One hundred and twelve of the 147 respondents identified themselves as 'land owners' within the catchment and 52 as 'permanent residents'. A 'tangata whenua' category should have been included as an option – six respondents listed 'tangata whenua' or 'mana whenua' under 'other' but it is certain that not all who are such indicated so. This would have been a useful statistic. It would also probably have been worthwhile including an option for 'leaseholder' as well as 'land owner'. A number of respondents noted that they were bach or holiday home owners, without ticking 'land owner' as, presumably, they are on leased sections, which is a significant characteristic of Kawhia.

Seven respondents indicated that they either planned to relocate permanently to the area or build a holiday home on land they currently owned in the catchment in the future. Twenty-two respondents indicated they were 'part-time residents', and 54 'regular holiday maker/visitor'.

A number of respondents noted long personal/family connections to the area.

Respondents

Number of responses



6. Iwi

The Shore Futures project team have undertaken workshops with mana whenua of Kawhia and Aotea catchments, including:

- Ngati Mahuta
- Ngati Hikairo
- Ngati Maniapoto
- Ngati Te Wehi
- Ngati Mahanga.

Presently there are 11 marae located around the two harbours that are affiliated to one or more of these five iwi or hapu. The Aotea marae are Motakotako, Te Papatapu, Te Tihi o Moerangi and Okapu. The Kawhia marae are Maketu, Mokai Kainga, Waipapa, Mokoroa, Tokopiko, Rakaunui and Te Mahoe. There are also a number of historical pa sites and iwi or hapu.

Information about issues, values and aspirations is being sought from the various groups. The information will be used in part to acknowledge the cultural richness of these areas and provide recognition and protection, but also to educate the local and regional community about who the groups are and what is important to them.

Information from the groups is being gathered through oral discussions at workshops, from current or pending iwi management plans, websites and other documentation. Appendix 8.6 contains a summary of the consultation undertaken so far for the project.

The approach that has been taken is engagement at the marae level or with established management committees (Te Runanganui o Ngati Hikairo Resource Management Committee, and Nga Tai o Kawhia Regional Management Committee). Consultation with iwi commenced (July 2006) with a letter to each of the marae (Appendix 8.3). This letter introduced the project and invited participation from each of the groups. Since this time, several hui and workshops have been held with many of the groups. There is a considerable amount of engagement and discussion still to occur.

The following are brief summaries of what has been learnt to date.

These summaries should not be taken as complete accounts and have not yet been confirmed by iwi.

6.1 Ngati Hikairo

Ngati Hikairo is a confederation of approximately 20 hapu. No formal hui has been held with Te Runanganui-o-Ngati Hikairo to date. Informal discussions have occurred with representatives of the Resource Management Committee about the project generally and members of the hapu have attended the general workshops and completed questionnaires as individuals.

6.2 Ngati Mahanga

Mahanga was the son of Tuheitia, both important ancestors of the Waikato people and descendants of the Tainui canoe. Mahanga was a chief renowned for travelling widely, having many wives and children and successfully engaging in many battles and conflicts (www.teara.co.nz).

There are Ngati Mahanga marae located in Whatawhata, namely Te Papa-o-Rotu and Omaero, Te Kaharoa in Aramiro and others that share in this common ancestry.

Environment Waikato staff attended an AGM of Nga Uri o Mahanga Board of Representatives in Hamilton on 14 February 2007 to introduce the project, and met with representatives at Environment Waikato offices in Hamilton on 30 May 2007 to further discuss the group's potential involvement in the project. Ngati Mahanga have expressed a desire to engage for the project but would prefer a workshop be held with the wider whanau in the future.

6.3 Ngati Mahuta

Maketu Marae is the home of Ngati Mahuta (hapu of Waikato) and is the final resting place of the Tainui waka. Ngati Mahuta boundaries are extensive, however, within Kawhia area extend from the Maketu Block on the northern side of the harbour entrance, across the harbour entrance to include the southern regions of Te Maika and Taharoa.

Several hui and workshops have been held with Ngati Mahuta representatives at Maketu to identify and discuss the important aspects within the Ngati Mahuta rohe. In addition, Environment Waikato staff have met with individual representatives on a number of occasions.

Figure 6: Hui at Maketu Marae, Saturday, 9 December 2006.



The following is a summary of the information and views that have been captured so far for this group.

Subdivision and development

- Restoration of traditional place names.
- Avoid urupa or prominent landscapes, unstable areas.
- Appropriate development that is sympathetic to the environment.
- Coastal hazard setbacks.

Cultural

- Significant cultural sites and landscapes – protection and education.
- Retention of cultural information.

Environmental

- Water quality – septic tanks.
- Streams, wetlands, harbour.
- Planting and fencing of waterways.
- Impact of vehicle use on beaches.
- Pest management.

Figure 7: Hui at Maketu Marae, Saturday, 17 February 2007.



6.4 Ngati Maniapoto

Maniapoto is an iwi of the Tainui confederation. The Ngati Maniapoto rohe covers the northern sector of the King Country.

There are two Ngati Maniapoto affiliated groups within the Kawhia catchment, Te Mahoe marae whanau and the Nga Tai o Kawhia Regional Management Committee which represents Rakaunui, Mokoroa, Tokopiko and Mokai Kainga marae.

6.4.1 Te Mahoe

A representative of this marae advised Environment Waikato staff (6 November 2006) that they would not participate in Shore Futures at that time, however, may choose to be involved at a later date.

6.4.2 Nga Tai o Kawhia Regional Management Committee

Consultation with Nga Tai o Kawhia Regional Management Committee has been reasonably extensive and involved several hui. Nga Tai o Kawhia Regional Management Committee is responsible for several marae and hapu in the Kawhia catchment and comes under the Ngati Maniapoto Trust Board.

The following is a summary of what we understand from this group to date.

Subdivision and development

- No development/subdivisions in unstable areas – conservation lots.
- Good technical information to support subdivision consent applications.
- Appropriate housing on the harbour edge including sufficient coastal setbacks to avoid coastal hazards, unstable areas and preserve the natural character of the coast and reduce visual impacts.
- Land value increases = rates increases = unaffordable.

Cultural

- Education about heritage sites and landscapes in the Kawhia catchment.
- Street names that reflect the heritage of an area.
- Appropriate iwi consultation for subdivisions and developments in the Kawhia catchment.
- Identification and protection of heritage sites from development, and enforcement when damage or destruction occurs, requires funding.
- Papakainga housing.

Environmental

- Inter-agency approach.
- Education.
- Protection of wetlands, rare plants and bird life areas.
- Riparian planting.
- Management of fisheries and kaimoana resources.
- Open space, remoteness.
- Pest management.
- Water quality – dumping of rubbish, septic tanks.
- Vehicle use on beaches.
- Native vegetation.

Economic and social

- Cultural-based tourism.
- Public facilities and access to the harbour.
- Navigation safety.
- Local schools.

In addition to the above, there are three broad goals within the Ngati Maniapoto Iwi Management Plan relevant to this project. Ngati Maniapoto are seeking, through this plan, to participate actively in decision making (including those decisions related to the restoration and preservation of waterways and the coastal environment), educate the community (internal and external) about their environmental priorities, and develop effective relationships with local and regional authorities.

6.5 Ngati Te Wehi

6.5.1 Okapu

Representatives from Environment Waikato and Otorohanga District Council attended a hui organised by the Ministry of Fisheries at Okapu Marae in September 2006, at which a brief introduction to the project was given. Several meetings were had with one of the local kaitiaki to progress the group's involvement, leading to a Shore Futures hui at Okapu on Saturday, 5 May 2007.

Marae representatives have indicated a willingness to participate in the project. A workshop with the wider whanau is scheduled for 8 July 2007. According to Moana Rahui o Aotea Inc website (www.aotearoa.co.nz), and based on initial discussions with some of the whanau, the following aspects are important to Ngati te Wehi Okapu whanau:

- fisheries and kaimoana resources
- water quality – streams, wetland, harbour
- coastal dune systems
- native forests, birds and mammals
- freshwater native flora and fauna
- waahi tapu sites
- kaitiakitanga
- environmental restoration
- ability to be self sufficient – kai and resource management
- meaningful consultation
- illegal coastal structures, discharges and sedimentation of Aotea harbour
- pest management
- commercial fishing.

Figure 8: Hui at Okapu Marae, Saturday, 5 May 2007.



6.5.2 Te Papatapu

Environment Waikato staff met with representatives from Te Papatapu in Hamilton on 22 May 2007 to seek involvement from the group. Subsequently staff attended a meeting of trustees at the marae on 4 June 2007. The Te Papatapu Marae trustees have indicated a willingness to participate in the project. Due to other commitments currently, a workshop with the wider whanau is planned for September 2007.

The following matters were raised at an initial hui at Te Papatapu Marae.

- Te Papatapu means 'sacred place and main travel route'.
- Number of known important cultural sites in the area.
- Fisheries and kaimoana resources are important.
- Land value increases = rates increases = unaffordable.

6.5.3 Te Tihi o Moerangi

Apart from the initial letter and introduction at Okapu Marae discussed above, a meeting is yet to be scheduled with this group.

6.5.4 Motakotako

Environment Waikato and Waikato District Council staff have attended two meetings at Motakotako Marae since June 2006. The whanau have indicated a willingness to participate in the project. A workshop with the wider whanau is still to be scheduled. From discussions to date, the following are believed to be important aspects for the whanau:

- fisheries and kaimoana resources
- cultural sites and landscapes
- water quality.

7. Stakeholders

A letter was sent to stakeholder groups at the end of January 2007 (see Appendix 8.4), inviting their participation and/or comment on Shore Futures. This section of the report contains a brief summary of contact with these organisations since this time.

7.1 Police

A representative met with Environment Waikato staff to discuss the project and later provided written feedback asking that the agencies be cognisant of any social development issues that could impact on policing in the future (which could arise out of population growth and development).

7.2 Telecom

Provided response via email recognising what the agencies are trying to achieve through Shore Futures and confirming that in allowing development, agencies need to also recognise necessary telecommunication facilities as an important part of our social fabric and economy.

7.3 Advisory Committee for the Regional Environment

Submitted questionnaire, requested presentation on project. This group has indicated particular support for efforts to protect landscapes.

7.4 Ministry of Tourism

The Ministry responded via email supporting the consultation being undertaken for Shore Futures. They asked to be kept informed as the project progresses and for a copy of the report once it is complete.

7.5 Aggregate & Quarry Association of NZ

This group have provided a written response outlining what the organisation is and the importance of aggregate production in New Zealand. They indicated they are keen to be involved further in the project as opportunity arises.

7.6 Health Waikato

Contacted and met with staff, keen to have wider social issues incorporated into council planning where appropriate.

7.7 Historic Places Trust

Environment Waikato staff met with a representative of the Historic Places Trust (HPT) in March 2007 following email correspondence. Discussion was had about means of identifying and protecting heritage as well as the roles of HPT vs other agencies. HPT are officially part of the technical working group for Shore Futures.

7.8 NZ Archaeological Association Inc

The NZ Archaeological Association wrote that they support efforts to recognise and protect the archaeological resource of New Zealand and were thankful for opportunity to comment on Shore Futures at an early stage. They asked to be kept informed of progress and to have opportunity to comment again at a later stage.

7.9 Ministry of Fisheries

Environment Waikato staff attended a Ministry of Fisheries iwi liaison group meeting in February 2007. Environment Waikato staff further met with Ministry representatives in Auckland in June 2007. It was agreed that the Ministry could provide information and support regarding fisheries management issues as the need arises. The Ministry of Fisheries is officially part of the technical working group for Shore Futures.

7.10 Transit

A representative met with Environment Waikato staff in May 2007 to discuss the project and expressed support for consideration of the transit network in planning for future development. They will be providing a list of issues to be considered in drafting the Shore Futures report as a first step.

7.11 Federated Farmers

Following meetings with staff in November 2006, Federated Farmers were invited to have a representative from their policy team on the technical working group for Shore Futures in December 2006. Since this time they have had opportunity to provide advice and comment on the work of this group. They have also been involved in disseminating information about the project, including about scheduled workshops, to their members in the community.

8 Appendices

8.1 Shore Futures questionnaire

1. What aspects of the catchments do you value?

Please tick as many as apply.

- Water quality
- Landscape features
- Indigenous vegetation
- Indigenous wildlife
- Residential development opportunities
- Economic growth opportunities
- Local education opportunities
- Cultural/other heritage sites
- Fisheries and shellfish resources
- Recreation opportunities
- Open space
- Low population / small settlements
- Any others? (please specify)

2. Of the aspects chosen above, which three are most important to you?

3. Please tell us why these are your top three.

4. What would you like the catchments to look/be like in the future?

For example, would you keep them as they are now? Should there be more residential and commercial development? More forestry? More aquaculture? Do you see the catchments becoming 'ecotourism' centres where people come to enjoy a 'wild' or 'natural' area? Please tell us your ideas.

5. What issues or problems (if any) do you think the catchments are currently facing, that the Shore Futures team should focus on?

Please tick as many as apply.

- Vehicles on beaches
- Navigation safety in the harbours
- Land use change (such as subdivisions)
- Coastal hazards
- Fisheries resources
- Soil erosion/land instability
- Water quality
- Pest management
- Public access to and around the harbours
- Impacts on native plants, animals and ecology
- Infrastructural services (roads, waste/storm water, water supply)
- Any others? (please specify)

6. Of the issues chosen above, which three are most important to you?

7. Please tell us why these are your top three.

8. Are there any emerging issues or problems you think the catchments are likely to face in the future that we should be thinking about?

9. Tell us about yourself.

Please tick as many as apply.

- Permanent resident
- Part time resident (for example, 3-6 months of the year)
- Land owner
- Occasional holiday maker/visitor
- Regular holiday maker/visitor
- Other (please specify)

This information will enable us to better understand which issues are important to the various groups that have an interest in the Kawhia and Aotea catchments.

10. Name and address.

Please add any additional comments you may have on extra sheets of paper and return with this questionnaire.

Thank you for participating. If you would like more information about Shore Futures, contact any of the agencies involved (see below), or visit Environment Waikato's website www.ew.govt.nz/shorefutures.

- *Natasha Hayward or Jenni Paul, Environment Waikato – phone 0800 800 401*
- *Otorohanga District Council – phone 07 873 8199*
- *Allan Turner, Waikato District Council – phone 07 824 8633*
- *John Moran, Waitomo District Council – phone 0800 932 4357*

8.2 Letter advising of workshops

Document No: 1152422

22 February 2007

You may be aware by now that Environment Waikato, Otorohanga District Council, Waikato District Council, Waitomo District Council and the Department of Conservation are working together on an integrated catchment planning project for the Kawhia and Aotea catchments (known as the 'Shore Futures' project).

The purpose of this project is to come up with policies and objectives for managing activities and development, both on land and in the coastal marine area, while taking into account the special aspects and features of these west coast catchments (see the EW website for more details about the project www.ew.govt.nz/shorefutures).

Consultation is an important aspect of this project. We recently held an open/information day at Kawhia (18th of February 2007) which was well attended. A second open day (similar in format to the Kawhia open day) is to be held at the Te Waitere Boating Club on the 3rd of March 2007 (10-4pm), for those wanting information about the issues your catchment is facing as it changes and grows, the current state of its natural resources, and how you can get involved in Shore Futures.

We are also running a series of community based workshops throughout March 2007, at various locations within the Aotea and Kawhia catchments. These are your chance to tell us what you love about your catchment, what you may want protected, and how you think we should manage the issues your catchment is facing. A questionnaire is enclosed for you to complete and bring along with you to one of our workshops.

The details for the Shore Futures workshops* are:

Wednesday	7th March 2007	Hauturu Hall	6-9pm
Friday	9th March 2007	Te Uku Hall	6-9pm
Wednesday	21st March 2007	Kawhia Community Hall	6-9pm
Friday	23rd March 2007	Kinohaku Hall	6-9pm
Wednesday	28th March 2007	Oparau Hall	6-9pm
Friday	30th March 2007	Te Kauri Lodge	6-9pm

If you can't make it along to one of these workshops, you can still have your say about how you think the issues facing your catchments should be managed, by completing the enclosed questionnaire and sending it back to us in the free post envelope provided. The questionnaire can also be completed online – check the website. If you have any questions, please contact either Jenni Paul or myself on 0800 800 401.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Hayward

Environmental Planner, Policy and Strategy

* Other workshops may be held depending on the level of interest. Please check the website for updated information regarding workshops and for the project generally.

8.3 Initial invitation to iwi groups

Document No: 1091746

24 July 2006

Kia ora

He honore, he kororia

He maungarongo ki te mata o te whenua,

He whakaaro pai ki nga tangata katoa

Arohaina nga teina me nga tuakana e noho nei i runga i te whakaaro kotahi

Me whakahonore hoki Te Arikinui Te Atairangikaahu

Nga tini aitua o te motu haere, haere, haere

Paimarire

Nei ra te mihi ki a koe i runga i nga tini ahuatanga o te wa

Kawhia and Aotea harbours

Environment Waikato along with the Otorohanga, Waitomo and Waikato District Councils are undertaking a joint project focusing on the sustainable management of Kawhia and Aotea catchments. The project is called:

"Shore Futures"

– A collective vision for healthy harbours and communities in the Kawhia and Aotea catchments.

There is increasing pressure for subdivision and land use change in the Kawhia and Aotea catchments. Current regulations may not be enough to ensure that this development occurs in the right places and in the right way. The purpose of this project is to come up with recommendations (to be produced in a report) for the future management of the Kawhia and Aotea catchments (land and sea). These recommendations will ultimately feed into the various district and regional plans and control such things as the location and type of subdivision or land use that can occur.

The Councils are seeking to establish a partnership with tangata whenua for this project so that we can take into account those values that are especially important to iwi, hapu, marae and whanau of the Kawhia and Aotea harbours. These can then begin to form part of the long-term plan for the area.

I am writing to you as a first step towards seeking your support to enable Councils to inform and include whanau from your Marae in the project. Environment Waikato will be in contact with you in the near future to discuss arrangements for a hui (preferably Marae based) to meet with representatives (including senior Council people) from the Councils involved.

The purpose of the hui will be to discuss whanau participation and involvement so that tangata whenua values are represented appropriately when recommendations for the Shore Futures project are drafted.

I look forward to talking and meeting with you soon.

"Manawatia e koe te kura pae a Mahina"

Kia ora

Natasha Hayward

Environmental Planner, Policy and Strategy

8.4 Letter to stakeholder groups

Document No: 1181317

30 January 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

Shore Futures

Environment Waikato is currently working on a joint project with the Waitomo, Waikato and Otorohanga district councils, as well as the Department of Conservation, addressing management of the Kawhia and Aotea Harbour catchments.

The project has been driven by a need to review council plans (district and regional) to reflect current knowledge and be locally relevant, and, importantly, to provide some consistency and integration between planning documents for the various parts of the catchment. Background information can be found on our website www.ew.govt.nz/shorefutures.

We have identified your organisation as potentially having an interest in this planning initiative and wish to invite your participation in/comment on the Shore Futures project. In particular, we would like to know about any issues we should be aware of when planning for the future development, use and protection of the Kawhia and Aotea catchments. The primary legislative steer for this project comes from the Resource Management Act and so we are interested in environmental, economic, social and cultural issues and outcomes. Some outcomes of the project may also fall outside the RMA, such as community initiatives or Local Government Act regulation.

We enclose for your information details of upcoming events for the Shore Futures project.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you. Please contact either Natasha Hayward (Natasha.Hayward@ew.govt.nz) or myself (Jenni.Paul@ew.govt.nz) by email or phone 0800 800 401.

Yours faithfully

Jenni Paul

Environmental Planner - Coastal

8.5 Focus questions for workshops

Workshop focus questions

1. Monitoring data suggests that water quality in the catchments is ok but has declined over the last 12 years. If nothing is done to reduce nutrient and sediment inputs to waterways, this decline will continue. Do you think anything should be done about it? What?

2. Areas of high natural character and outstanding landscape have been identified around the harbour catchments. Many include stands of native bush and coastal headlands. What areas are of high value to you? Please explain why (e.g. visually pleasant, cultural reasons).

3. Pressure is gradually increasing for development and intensified land uses in the catchments surrounding the two harbours. Where should development be directed? Please explain why.

8.6 Summary of iwi consultation

As at 11 June 2007

Group	Letter (July 06)	Initial hui	Workshop	Iwi Liaison Rep	Other info sources
Motakotako Marae	✓	✓	#	✓	MFish iwi management plan (pending)
Te Papatapu Marae	✓	✓	#		MFish iwi management plan (pending)
Te Tihi o Moerangi Marae	✓	✓			MFish iwi management plan (pending)
Okapu Marae	✓	✓	1		Moana Rahui o Aotea Inc website
Ngati Mahanga	✓	✓	#		
Ngati Mahuta	✓	✓	2	✓	
Te Runanganui o Ngati Hikairo Resource Management Committee	✓				NIWA report (pending), Ngati Hikairo website
Nga Tai o Kawhia Regional Management Committee	✓	✓	1	✓	Maniapoto Iwi Management Plan
Te Mahoe Marae	✓				Maniapoto Iwi Management Plan

Yet to be scheduled

8.7 List of stakeholder groups

Advisory Committee for the Regional Environment
Aggregate and Quarry Association
Auckland Botanical Society
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority
Environmental Defence Society
Federated Farmers
Fish & Game
Forest & Bird
Hamilton Junior Naturalist Club
Hamilton Tramping Club
Health Waikato
Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences
King Country Energy
Maritime Safety Authority
Massey University
Ministry for the Environment
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Ministry of Economic Development
Ministry of Fisheries
Ministry of Maori Development
Ministry of Tourism
National Rural Fire Authority
NZ Archaeological Association
NZ Farm Forestry Association
NZ Fire Service – Bay Waikato Fire Region
NZ Historic Places Trust
NZ Minerals Industry Association
NZ Native Forest Restoration Trust
NZ Police
NZ Speleological Society
NZ Tourism Board
Ornithological Society
Project Crimson
QEII Trust
St John
Te Kauri-Waikuku Trust
Te Kuiti Tramping Club
Telecom NZ
Tourism Waikato
Transit NZ
University of Auckland
University of Waikato
Waikato Botanical Society
Waikato Regional Rural Fire Committee
Waikato Rural Fire Authority
Waikato Tramping Club
Wanderers Tramping Club

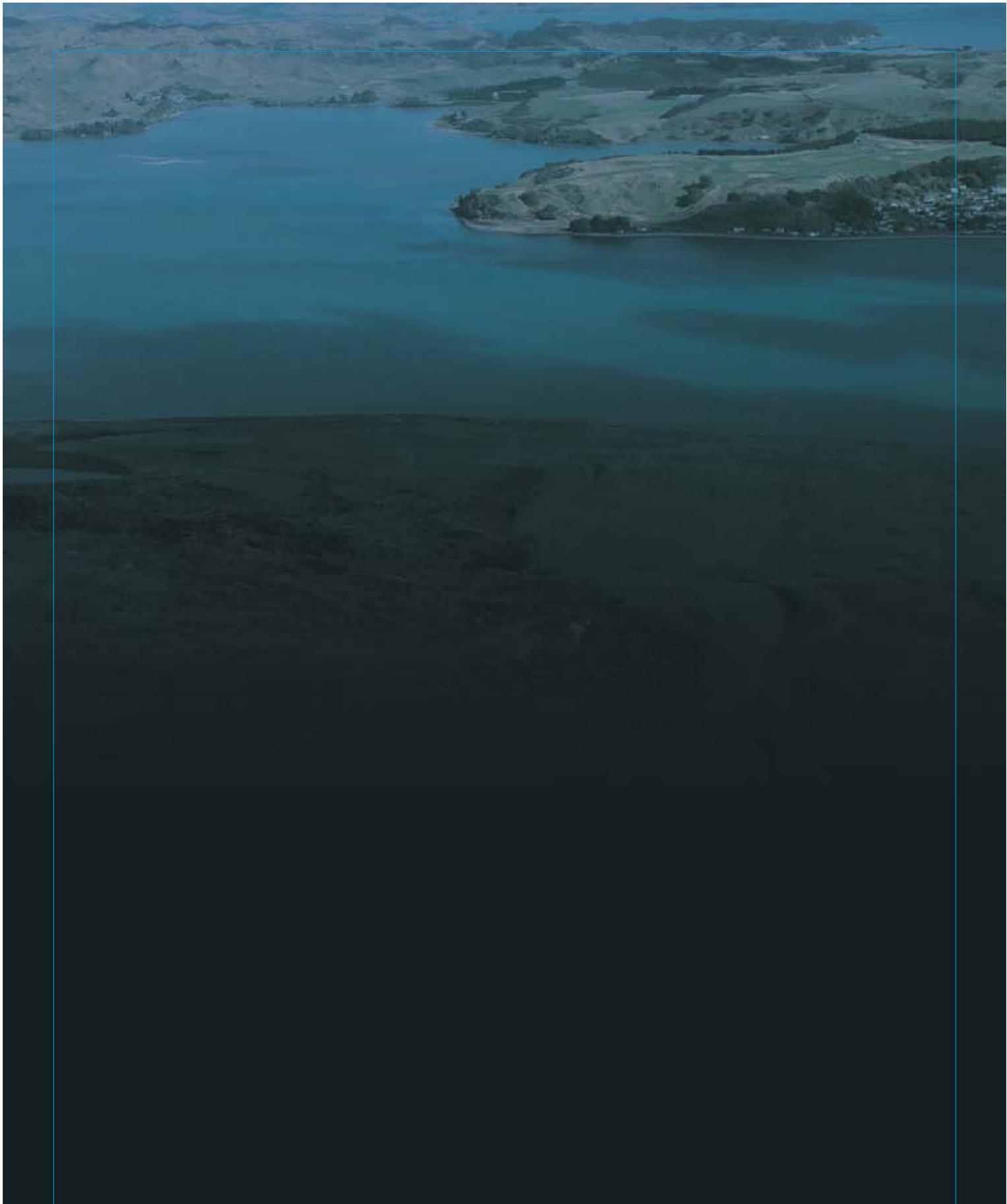
8.8 Shore Futures key contacts

Technical working group contacts

Name	Organisation	Phone	Email
John Moran	Waitomo District Council	0800 932 4357	johnm@waitomo.govt.nz
Andrew Loe	Otorohanga District Council	(07) 873 8199	andrewl@otodc.govt.nz
Allan Turner	Waikato District Council	(07) 824 8633	allan.turner@waidc.govt.nz
Jenni Paul	Environment Waikato	0800 800 401	jenni.paul@ew.govt.nz
Natasha Hayward	Environment Waikato	0800 800 401	natasha.hayward@ew.govt.nz
Vicki Carruthers	Department of Conservation	(07) 838 3363	vcarruthers@doc.govt.nz
Grant Kettle	Federated Farmers	(07) 838 2589	gkettle@fedfarm.org.nz

Community reference group contacts

Name	Phone
Alan Nicholson	(07) 871 0633
Bev Bevan	(07) 856 4845
Bill Thomson	(09) 267 2509
Denton Perry	(07) 871 0013
Fiona Scott	(07) 871 0780
John Barton	(07) 876 7597
Liz LaFranchie	(06) 758 2466
Nick Riley	(07) 871 0009
Peter Scott	(07) 871 0724
Roger Carter	(07) 825 7305
Sue Smith	(07) 876 7518
Tania Cooper	(07) 853 9312



**Shore
Futures**
www.ew.govt.nz/shorefutures

**Environment
Waikato**
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Waitomo
District Council

OTOROHANGA
DISTRICT COUNCIL
make the kiwi connection

Waikato
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai