

Waikato Regional Heritage Forum

Terms of reference

Version 0.10

18 July 2023

1. Background

In May 2016, the Waikato Regional Policy Statement (WRPS) became operative. Chapter 10 of the WRPS provides direction for the collaborative, consistent and integrated management of historic and cultural heritage resources. The intent is to improve understanding, information sharing and cooperative planning to manage or protect heritage resources across the region.

As a region we are hampered in our management of heritage resources by a lack of common understanding on what heritage resources exist and what state they are in. There is also variation in how heritage resources are identified and managed. Good knowledge across the region is an important first step in effective integrated management of historic and cultural heritage.

The Waikato Regional Heritage Forum is a recognition of a need to coordinate the various management methods that are implemented by authorities and stakeholders across the region, particularly related to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

'Heritage', in this context, means those natural and physical resources that contribute to an understanding and appreciation of New Zealand's history and cultures, deriving from any of the following qualities: archaeological, architectural, cultural, historic, scientific, technological; and includes

- a) historic sites, structures, places, and areas; and
- b) archaeological sites; and
- c) sites of significance to Māori, including wahi tapu; and
- d) surroundings associated with the natural and physical resources.

2. Vision and purpose

To provide for regional collaboration and to identify, protect, manage, promote and enhance Waikato's places of heritage to retain the identity and integrity of the regions history and culture.

3. Workstreams

To achieve the vision, the forum will engage in the following workstreams:

- a) Identify opportunities for collaborating and sharing best practice approaches in heritage management, across legislative and organisational jurisdictions, particularly the RMA and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.
- b) Explore the development of a register of areas and places with historic and cultural heritage.
- c) Facilitate education, training, research and funding/resource opportunities relating to the operational management of heritage.
- d) Develop Waikato 'Heritage Stories' to enrich existing initiatives such as the Waikato Story, the Waikato Plan and Waikato Means Business.

A working group from members of the forum may be set up to achieve each work stream.

4. Membership

Non-political¹ heritage stakeholders from across the region including²:

- A representative from each local authority in the Waikato Region who are nominated by their organisations to participate on their behalf.
- Iwi representation³
- A representative from the Department of Conservation
- A representative from the following external agencies:
 - Heritage New Zealand
 - New Zealand History Federation
 - New Zealand Archaeological Association

5. Procedural Matters

- Waikato Regional Council will facilitate the Waikato Heritage Forum.
- Meetings will be held quarterly or as required.
- Meetings can be held at locations throughout the region.
- A secretariat shall be appointed from the members of the forum to manage the administration, operation and function of the forum.
- The chairperson and location will be rotational.

6. Reporting

- The Waikato Regional Heritage Forum reports to the Waikato Mayoral Forum.

7. Changes to Terms of Reference

- The Forum may amend these terms of reference with the agreement of the members.
- The Terms of Reference will be reviewed at least every 2 years.

Initially Approved: 17 July

2017 Reviewed: 18 July 2023

Next Review Due: July 2025

¹ The heritage forum is an implementation mechanism of the Waikato Regional Policy Statement, it is important membership is comprised of non-elected members and that any governance decisions are made through the Waikato Mayoral Forum.

² Stakeholders from organisations not listed may participate in workstreams dependant on the requirement of the Waikato Regional Heritage Forum.

³ Dependant on availability and interest