

# Ngā mahere taiao a ngā iwi

## Iwi environmental management plans

*Healthy, clean water is the focus of Waikato Regional Council's Freshwater Policy Review which will involve making changes to the Waikato Regional Policy Statement and Waikato Regional Plan.*

That's why, we want tangata whenua to be involved in the discussion, so that te ao Māori perspectives are reflected in the decisions about how our local waterways will be managed.

Iwi throughout our rohe have already recorded and shared some of their aspirations and interests with respect to waimāori (fresh water) in environmental management plans, joint management agreements and Te Tiriti o Waitangi deeds of settlement.

As the basis for our kōrero with tangata whenua about waimāori, we have drawn on the information contained in these documents and this information is outlined below.

In addition to these documents, we are also aware that iwi have developed mātauranga tools and frameworks for kaitiaki when assessing, monitoring, and improving freshwater. We are also keen to kōrero with you on how these can be applied in our mahi going forward.

## Mō Te Mana o te Wai

What we know from iwi management plans as they relate to Te Mana o te Wai

We need to understand what Te Mana o te Wai means in the Waikato.

Below is what some of the plans are telling us about the long-term visions iwi have for freshwater.

### Te Pae Tawhiti

#### Overarching visions

- Our waterways and waterbodies are safe to drink, safe to swim and safe to take kai from.
- We first take care of the lands, waters, natural resources, and heritage upon which, our survival and identity depends.
- Healthy waters sustain abundant life for generations to come.
- Iwi are making final decisions about waterbodies through the eyes of the next generation.

### Ngā hua

#### Outcomes

##### Mauri

- Sustain, protect, and enhance the mauri of water bodies for past present and future generations.

##### Kaitiakitanga

- Fulfil our intergenerational obligation to connect with, restore, maintain, and protect all waters within our rohe.

##### Mana Whakahaere

- Whakapapa (our relationship) with waterbodies gives rise to responsibilities to protect them, and to exercise mana whakahaere in accordance with tikanga to ensure their wellbeing.
- Iwi are making decisions about waterbodies.

##### Manaakitanga

- Waterbodies that can sustain and provide for our people and guests.
- Mokopuna know what it is to be kaitiaki and the tikanga about how to manaaki the environment learnt from their tupuna, mātua and whānau.

##### Governance

- Resource users and decision makers have an obligation and responsibility to provide back to the environment to pass it on in a better state.
- The highest level of recognition is given to restoring and protecting waterbodies.

##### Stewardship, care and protect

- Everyone (iwi, industry, central and local government, and the wider community) has a role in the restoration and protection of waterbodies.

## Mō Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato

### What we know from Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato

Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato – the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River is the primary direction setting document for activities that affect the Waikato and Waipā rivers.

Te Ture Whaimana encompasses the vision for a future where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, and all it embraces, for generations to come.

## Mō ngā wāhi waimāori

### What we know from iwi environmental management plans about cultural and historic heritage sites

We need to consider sensitive locations when proposing policies, rules or methods to manage freshwater activities.

Below is what some of the plans are telling us about some ways in which sites can be significant.

#### Mahinga kai

- Enable connection with waterbodies and the transfer of knowledge.
- Mahinga kai species include watercress, tuna, kōura, freshwater mussel (kākahi), black flounder, grey mullet (kanae), whitebait (īnanga and banded kōkopu) and piharau (lamprey).

#### Ngā wāhi hirahira me ngā wāhi tapu Sites of significance

- Waterbodies for generations have provided ritual, cleansing and healing properties.
- Kāinga, pā, urupā and cultivations are along the banks or near rivers.
- Rivers and waterbodies serve as markers and tribal pou.
- Geothermal resources were prized by tūpuna for their many uses.
- Pā and papa kāinga were built near geothermal areas to cope with cold weather.
- Data Sovereignty – information regarding historic and cultural sites is sensitive, iwi are the owners and holders of this information.

## Mō ngā mātāpono me ngā hua taiao

### What we know from iwi environmental management plans about freshwater values and environmental outcomes

We want you to tell us what you value about freshwater, and why. Integrating mātauranga Māori into freshwater management will provide greater understanding of our freshwater systems, improve the information available to local authorities and enable positive outcomes for fresh water that will benefit the whole community.

Below is what some of the plans are saying about freshwater values, and how those values should be provided for into the future.

#### Ngā mātāpono Values

- Waterbodies provide a means of sustenance and are integral to heritage and identity.
- Interaction with water happens when collecting kai, swimming, bathing, waka ama and through rituals, cleansing, baptism and karakia.
- Mahinga kai is an indicator of the health of people and the ability to manaaki others.
- Mahinga kai enables connection with waterbodies, the ways of our tūpuna and the transfer of knowledge.
- Waterbodies are habitat for rare, threatened species and many taonga species.
- Waterways are significant in whakapapa and tribal identity, expressed through karakia, pepeha, whakataukī and waiata.

#### Ngā hua taiao Environmental outcomes

- Swim, drink, and gather kai from all waterways in our rohe.
- Waterways are healthy and sustain abundant life.
- Clean water is available and prioritised for our social, cultural, environmental, and economic wellbeing.
- Iwi are making final decisions about waterbodies through the eyes of the next generation.
- Natural movement and location of water – no unnatural mixing of waters.

# Mō ngā tūāhuatanga

## What we know from iwi environmental management plans about water quality and the health of water

We need to understand what the water is currently like, whether it provides for values, and if not, what we want our water to look like in the future. The council undertakes monitoring of water, but there are other ways to understand whether the water is healthy.

Below is what some of the plans are saying about quality of water resources, and ways it can be measured.

### Āhua o nāianeī

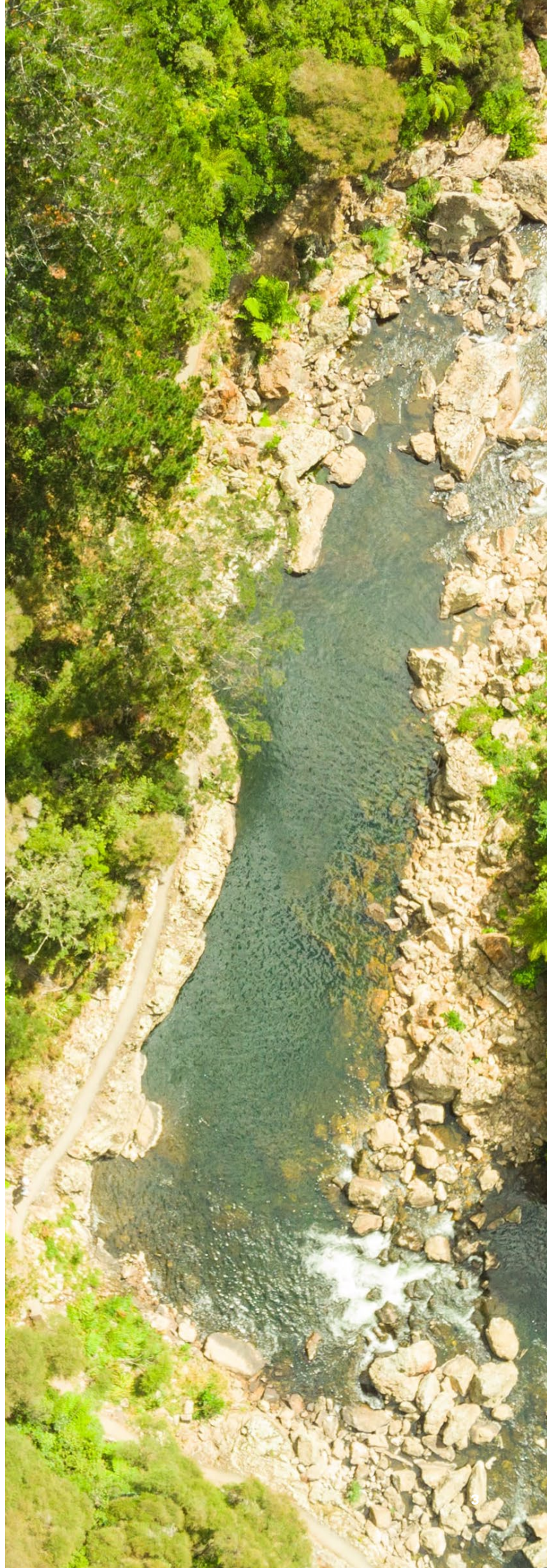
#### Current state

- We can no longer swim, collect food or drink from many waterways.
- Water is no longer clear and flowing naturally.
- We don't have secure access to water for our marae, papa kāinga and future aspirations.
- Wastewater is discharged to our waterways.
- Mahinga kai is no longer abundant and harder to find.
- Many of our waterways have high levels of heavy metals.
- Margins of our waterways are bare/barren.

### Mō ngā tohu

#### Identifying and measuring attributes

- Can we swim, drink, and gather kai from the waterbody?
- Is there sufficient, secure, and reliable clean water for marae, papa kāinga and our future aspirations?
- Can we collect kai – is the kai source abundant and in a healthy state/size?
- Is our kai source safe and consistent? Is the water safe to enter to collect kai?
- Is our mātauranga about mahinga kai being transferred to our mokopuna?
- Habitat – is the habitat of our mahinga kai species present and what state is it in?
- Do our kai species provide for our sustenance – can we manaaki our visitors like we did in the past?
- Can we access mahinga kai sites – can we still collect kai from where our tūpuna did?
- Is fresh water available to accompany kai?
- Is the waterbody flowing naturally or is it modified, dammed, diverted, or channelled?
- Can we access our significant sites?
- Are our sites protected?
- Is our mātauranga of sites protected?
- Are kaitiaki involved in monitoring of developments and sites of significance?





## Mō te ara tutuki

What we know about actions or activities currently underway and what else we can do to improve fresh water

We'd like to explore how we can achieve long-term visions and protect our freshwater values.

Below are some examples of the mahi being done to improve freshwater throughout our rohe, and what else needs to be done.

### Ngā mahi ō nāianei

#### Current mahi

- Iwi led restoration projects and initiatives.
- Gathering and sharing mātauranga – iwi led monitoring, reporting and research.
- Co-management and co-governance – joint management agreements.
- Stock exclusion rules.

### Ētehi atu mahi anō

#### What else we can do to improve fresh water

- Ensure that iwi are making decisions at all levels.
- Policies and rules on taking, use damming, diverting, and discharging water to protect our relationship and freshwater values.
- Recognise and provide for iwi rights and interests in freshwater in the allocation and management of water.
- Identify and reduce sources of contamination which affects clarity, nutrient levels, or other contamination dangerous to human health.
- Early engagement in consents and the management of freshwater.
- Restore mahinga kai and fisheries and protect from damage and pollution.
- Restore riparian margins and wetlands with indigenous species.
- Improved/effective monitoring, enforcement and reporting of activities that affect waterbodies.

## Where can I find more information? | Mō te puna kōrero

Check out [waikatoregion.govt.nz/freshwater-policy-review](https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/freshwater-policy-review) to find:

- information sheets breaking down the Freshwater Policy Review
- how to share your views
- a summary of key milestones
- update on our progress.

You can also email us at [policy@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:policy@waikatoregion.govt.nz) or call 0800 800 401 to speak to a member of our Freshwater Policy Review team.