

Ngāti Hikairo

Iwi Management Plan- Freshwater



View over Te Wharu Bay, Kāwhia.

August 2005-August 2015

RECEIVED

Waitangi Tribunal

25 Sep 2013

Ministry of Justice
WELLINGTON

1. Vision Statement

Ngāti Hikairo ki Kāwhia in our role as kaitiaki are aware of the continued pressure of development, pollution and destruction of waterbodies and waterways in our rohe.

We approach kaitiakitanga with a holistic perspective. Water like everything is inextricably connected to everything else via mauri. The mauri of every entity must be kept intact lest the mauri of another be directly effected and suffer so.

Ngāti Hikairo traditions maintain that mauri were brought to Kāwhia upon Tainui Waka and were placed within the harbour, on the land and upon the mountain, Pirongia. This event has bound us over the generations to protect these mauri and the resources they represent in order to ensure a physical and spiritual balance within the natural environment.

Water determines life! Our self-determination means that we exert ourselves to all lengths to ensure that there is life and life-giving resources for the present and future generations.

The waterways have been traditionally resourced for freshwater, tuna, inanga, koura, watercress among other resources. It is our responsibility to ensure that these waterways remain in a pristine state in order to guarantee water quality and healthy living conditions for flora and fauna. As we are a Harbour people, further onus is placed upon the health of the waterways, therefore in order to protect the health of Kāwhia Harbour, into which the majority of the freshwater tributaries empty.

Ngāti Hikairo's vision is to protect and foster the mauri of all freshwater bodies, and their biodiversity in order to sustain our cultural, spiritual, and social and kaitiaki needs. In doing so we shall retain and maintain our rangātiratanga.

2.Tikanga

Water like everything is within a cycle of co-existence, everything is connected physically and spiritually. Each has its role and responsibility to provide for and co-exist with the neighbouring component of life. In our role of kaitiaki, tikanga have been set in place, to firstly establish this responsibility, and secondly to implement it. It is the tikanga that we practice that allow us to understand, enjoy and protect our resources without fear of compromising the health of those resources.

Tikanga are varied and have varying backgrounds, however a large number just come down to common sense and responsible actions.

Some essential tikanga being:

1. To refrain from polluting water with human waste
2. Refrain from using the water body for a period of time if a fatality has occurred in or around the resource.
3. Restrict certain resources in order to ensure sustainability.
4. Acknowledge and respect certain areas and resources for the risks they present
5. Seasonal use and harvesting
6. Maintain oral traditions in relation to natural resources
7. Uphold, respect and retain the mauri of natural resources

3. Matauranga Maori

“Ki te mimiti te wai o Te Puna-o-Rona
Ka pērā hoki te mana ki te whenua”

Ngāti Hikairo from generations gone by to the present have maintained a high understanding of Matauranga Māori in regards to our relationships to freshwater and the resources therein. Traditions are preserved pertaining to water bodies, their qualities and their kaitiaki, and shall continue to be preserved for the betterment of the environment and our role as kaitiaki.

Freshwater is the essence of life, the life giving quality that descends from Ranginui then in turn sprouts forth from Papatuanuku. For that very fact it should be cherished as a precious gift direct from the Atua. A connection to the Atua, between the parents and their children, a connection we cannot fracture, for once fractured, life shall shrivel up and cease.

It is this sense of mutual relationship and the cultural package that accompanies it that we strive to maintain. If water-bodies are polluted, altered or destroyed then a wealth of knowledge that has been accumulated over generations, becomes null and void. So too, if the knowledge is altered, forgotten or purposely suppressed then so too does the water-body suffer. We therefore avidly promote our environmental and cultural responsibilities, lest the springs of knowledge and life, dry up and cease to be.

4. Manawhenua

Manamoana

In more recent times Ngāti Hikairo has been associated predominantly with Kāwhia. We traditionally occupy the North West portion of Kāwhia Harbour including the Ōpārau Valley and Mount Pirongia (Pirongia-te-aroaro-o-Kahu). However our territory also includes areas in around Pirongia Township and east into the Waipā to include Lake Ngā Roto.

Our association with all these areas begins with the placing of the mauri in Kāwhia Harbour and on Mount Pirongia, and has been strengthened by generations maintaining the kaitiakitanga over this rohe.

Maintenance of kaitiakitanga has been achieved through the following principles:

1. Take tupuna
2. Take tuku
3. Take ātete
4. Ahi kā
5. Mahinga Kai
6. Mātauranga Māori
7. Tikanga

We are a coastal people, a harbour people, and an inland people. We have traditionally utilised the coast, the harbour, the mountains, the forests, the rivers and the lakes.

In contemporary times we now face new obstacles that challenge our mana whenua and kaitikaitanga. However we hold on firmly to our traditional principles of mana whenua/mana moana and adapt to deal with each respective challenge.

We have had to develop relationships with the Ōtorohanga and Waipā District Councils and also Environment Waikato. We also continue to maintain relationships and work collectively with our neighbouring marae, hapū and iwi. We support all these groups and welcome all in the protection, preservation and betterment of all freshwater resources in both our and neighbouring rohe.

Inventory of Lakes and Streams in Ngāti Hikairo Rohe

Kāwhia

Te Ārai-o-te-Wiwini-o-Rongo/Te Wao-o-te-Wiwini-o-Rongo/Tāoro (stream)
Te Puna-o-Rona
Te Puna-o-Koata
Tatakareao
Ōrongohura (Swamp)
Waiehu
Waipara (Swamp)
Torea (Swamp)
Kaiwaerau
Pārangi (Lake)
Wharenuī (Swamp)
Manawatuhatuha
Te Iringa
Paiaka
Pūpūkaireka
Te Pōhutu
Pōawatea
Te Tūāhu-a-Tahua
Matakahikatea
Mangaora

Pirongia West

Ōihuroa
Kawaroa
Waihohonu
Pirau
Ngauringa
Ōkiore
Mangawhero
Mangahōanga
Ōpārau
Ōtūngaoko
Ōkupata
Mangapapa
Ōmanawa
Mangakotukutuku
Waikükü

Pirongia East

Ngutunui
Ōngarārā

Pekanui
Ngakoahia
Mangaputa
Mangakiekie
Whakarautawa
Mangatī
Te Tahi
Mangarewarewa
Tīwarawara
Hihikiwi
Manawarū
Mangauika
Pūniu
Waipā

Waipā

Mangapiko
Lake Mangakaware
Mangakaware
Ngāroto
Manga-o-Tama

Ngāti Hikairo Freshwater Management Plan

Desired outcome:

Ngāti Hikairo will actively participate in the management of all freshwater resources within its Rohe (boundaries).

5. Rivers, Streams and Lakes

5.1 Issues:

Ngāti Hikairo has identified the following issues in relation to the management of freshwater rivers, streams and lakes within its rohe:

- Loss of spawning habitat for indigenous fish species
- Lack of riparian management along the margins of rivers and streams
- High sediment loads in the Ōpārau river, Ōkupata, Ōmanawa, Ōtūngāoko and Mangaora streams and the smothering of in stream habitat
- The adverse effects of effluent discharges into all rivers and streams
- The adverse effects of nutrient discharge into all rivers and streams
- Loss of traditional mahinga kai areas
- Loss of traditional fishing sites

5.2 Objectives:

The following goals have been identified by Ngāti Hikairo as part of the process for achieving our desired outcomes for the effective management of all freshwater resources within the rohe. Some of the goals require a joint approach with other agencies responsible for the management of freshwater under the Resource Management Act 1991.

1. To gradually improve the availability of suitable spawning habitat for indigenous fish species especially Koura, Inanga and Tuna.
2. Increases in the population of aquatic species.
3. The promotion of effective management of the river, stream and lake banks to protect riparian habitat.
4. A reduction in sediment inflows, enabling the river and streams to return to their natural character.
5. A reduction in effluent discharges in all rivers, streams and lakes.
6. A reduction in nutrient loading in all rivers, streams and lakes.

7. Improvement and increases in mahinga kai sites
8. The return of traditional fishing sites
9. Improved access to reaches of the river and streams used traditionally for accessing kai and other traditional resources.

5.3 Implementation:

Ngāti Hikairo will do the following:

- Approach individual farmers along the Ōpārau River and request their participation in the Clean Streams Project
- Participate with land owners, in any restoration of the riparian habitat
- Initiate and participate with other agencies in community education
- Develop our own monitoring processes, using traditional indicators
- Participate in any scientific research or monitoring projects of any rivers, lakes, streams or springs within the rohe.
- Monitor the response of indigenous fish species to changes in the in stream environment using traditional indicators.

Ngāti Hikairo expects that the Ōtorohanga District Council and Environment Waikato will:

- Make available a summary of any results of monitoring of discharges in to any rivers and streams within Ngāti Hikairo's rohe.
- Make available a summary of any results of general ecosystem monitoring within Ngāti Hikairo rohe.
- Include Ngāti Hikairo in any research or monitoring projects of any rivers, lakes, streams or springs within the rohe.
- To quickly respond to any notification by Ngāti Hikairo of any adverse effects on any rivers, lakes, streams and springs.

6. Freshwater springs

6.1 Issues:

Ngāti Hikairo has identified the following issues in relation to the management of Kāwhia's freshwater springs system:

- The freshwater spring system of Kāwhia is a unique water resource and needs to be protected for future generations.
- Pressure will continue on all the freshwater springs of Kāwhia as the town population increases.
- As Kaitiaki we must do all we can to protect this precious resource, as increased demand for water will put the springs at risk.
- There is currently no water management strategy in place that addresses the long term sustainability of Kāwhia Townships water supply, when considering its potential growth.
- Poor consultation regarding any changes to the quality of the water or quantity taken from the spring.
- The risk of salt water infiltration in fragile sand aquifers when using the bore.
- The damage to the unique freshwater ecosystem
- The loss of traditional mahinga kai areas due to alterations in the environment of the springs and streams.
- The risk of contamination from pollution.

6.2 Objectives:

1. Kāwhia's freshwater springs will be sustained for future generations.
2. The development of a Water Management Plan that will address the long term sustainability of the freshwater springs in Kāwhia Township.
3. Ngāti Hikairo will be consulted regarding any concerns regarding water quality.
4. Ngāti Hikairo will be consulted if there are any increases in the quantity of water required by the Council from either surface water or bore.
5. All water will be extracted in a way that is less likely to cause disturbance to the spring's ecosystem.
6. The riparian habitat will be restored through the reestablishment of native plants
7. The unique freshwater ecosystem will be maintained
8. There will be ongoing access to mahinga kai areas
9. The springs will not be effected by pollution.
10. Education of the Kāwhia community regarding water conservation during the summer peak season.

6.3 Implementation:

Ngāti Hikairo will do the following:

- Mandated members will actively participate in any long term Water Management Planning with the Ōtorohanga District Council and other effected agencies
- Utilise its own traditional indicators for freshwater monitoring.
- Participate in and support any restoration of the riparian habitat.
- Continue to liase and consult with Kaumatua and other Marae regarding the use of the freshwater springs in Kāwhia.
- Actively endorse and support any strategies put in place to protect the on-going sustainability of Kāwhia's freshwater springs.
- Participate in any community education.

Ngāti Hikairo expects that the Ōtorohanga District Council and Environment Waikato will:

- Develop a Water Management Plan that will address sustainability of the freshwater springs in Kāwhia Township.

Within that plan identify:

- Water monitoring processes and describe how they are implemented
 - Key indicators that will alert to any problems that may occur with the surface or bore water supply, including indicators of over use, pollution, contamination or salt water infiltration
 - Key indicators for situations when it will be necessary to use the ground bore.
 - Advise of strategic planning regarding the estimate of projected water use over the next 10-20years
 - Include the acknowledgement of all freshwater resources in Kāwhia Township as a taonga to tangata whenua in any Water Management Planning.
 - The consultation process with Ngāti Hikairo regarding freshwater supply and use in the Kāwhia Township.
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- Have established a Water Management Plan before investing in any further infrastructure.
 - Discuss thoroughly with Ngāti Hikairo before submitting any changes to the current resource consent conditions regarding the taking of water for the Kāwhia Township.

Assessment and review

The following processes will be used to review this freshwater Management Plan

Annual review

- Ngāti Hikairo will hold an annual hui to review this Freshwater Management Plan
- The review will include a revisit of issues, outcomes and methods and identify any changes.
- If necessary the hui will initiate any changes or amendments to the plan.
- The hui will also assess the progress of any joint project between Ngāti Hikairo and other effected agencies.

Assessment criteria

The changes to this Iwi Management Plan will be subject to the following criteria:

- The effectiveness of the objectives in pursuing the outcomes
- The effectiveness of the implementations in achieving the objectives
- The resources required to implement and achieve the objectives
- The effectiveness of a Iwi Management Plan

Kāwhia Township water supply Agreement.



August 2005

Single Issue- Fresh Water
Te Puna o Rona- Kawhia Township water supply

*“Ka mimiti te wai o te Puna a Rona
Ka pērā hoki te mana ki te whenua”*

Mātauranga Māori

Te Puna o Rona is directly linked to the well known Māori tradition of Rona and the Moon. Local Kāwhia traditions have it that Rona lived close to Maketū, and regularly visited the nearby spring, she would then fill her gourd and return. One night she stubbed her toe, and due to the moon being veiled by the clouds, she cursed the moon. As a result the moon came down and swept the reluctant Rona away, and she continues to be identified as the lady on the Moon. Hence, the spring was named Te Puna o Rona. Tainui tradition tells of the connection between Te Puna o Rona and the naming of an important ancestor Tamainupō, the eponymous ancestor of Ngāti Tamainupō.

According to local traditions Te Puna o Rona, refers not only to the Maketū located spring, but also a subterranean cavern or collection which in turn feeds all springs, a number of which were subsequently named Te Puna o Rona.

The puna symbolises our life-line, it is a network of veins flowing from one source. Our dependence upon its existence is both tangible and intangible. The tangible being that we need water to survive, we have to resource it physically. It is the only source of fresh water in the whole Kāwhia sand-dune belt. As long as there is water here there is life. There in turn is the reference to the intangible, mana, if we can protect the life giving qualities of the puna, then we in turn retain our occupation of the land.

Issue Description

The issue of long term water sustainability for Kāwhia Township came to the fore when the Ōtorohanga District Council sent Te Runanganui-o-Ngāti Hikairo Resource Management Committee (RMC) a resource consent application to extend the use of a Bore that had been in place since 1979. Previous consents had been misplaced and council had been advised by Environment Waikato that a new consent was required.

- We responded by advising council that the springs were of cultural, historical and spiritual significance to Ngāti Hikairo and all descendants of the Tainui waka.
- That there were concerns about the ongoing sustainability of this precious resource, when considering the rate of growth of Kāwhia township over the next 10-20 years.
- We advised the council that we were concerned about the impact the bore would have on the surrounding spring's system, because according to our traditions the water all came from the same source.

We requested to see the following reports before we would agree to consent:

- Hydro-geological report (volume, depth, source, impact upon other springs, etc.)
- Ecological report (impact on biodiversity, flora and fauna)
- A cultural and historical report (spiritual and cultural significance to Tangata Whenua).

We further requested that Ōtorohanga District Council develop a long term water sustainability management plan for all Puna around the Kawhia area. We believe that once these reports had been presented, Otorohanga District Council would have made responsible attempts to acknowledge water sustainability and local community interests.

A meeting was arranged between the Resource Management Committee and representatives of the Ōtorohanga District Council, discussion included emphasis of the springs as a significant taonga to Tangata Whenua. Council responded by advising us that they did not consider any of the reports that we had requested were necessary, but they would carry out hydrogeological tests to determine that the use of the bore would have no effect on any of the other springs.

Te Runanganui o Ngāti Hikairo Resource Management Committee were not satisfied with the Ōtorohanga District Council's response so sought assistance from the National Institute for Water and Atmosphere (NIWA), who carried out preliminary tests on the biodiversity of 6 of the springs. The report from NIWA included the need to ensure the protection of the unique ecology of the springs. Copies of the NIWA report were forwarded to Ōtorohanga District Council.

Ōtorohanga District Council's Proposal

Eventually another meeting was arranged between Te Runanganui o Ngāti Hikairo Resource Management Committee and the Otorohanga District Council.

The Council had considered our concerns, and following some testing over the 2003 summer period, were reconsidering the original July 2003 Resource Consent. Accompanying documentation explained that they wished to propose a 'medium term water supply option' its aim was defined as:

'To ensure that an adequate and sustainable supply of water is available for the Kāwhia township until longer term strategies and plans are developed and implemented.'

The request was to:

'Maximise utilisation of spring water in the vicinity of Tāhuri St, retaining bore(with consent) as emergency backup only'

The proposal explained:

- The intention is to increase the surface water collected for the town supply, therefore reducing the need to take water from the bore.
- The surface water was to be collected from 2 springs, one at the end of Ahurei St (Wai Māori) and the other at the end of Tainui St (Pouewe).
- Both springs have had streams redirected to underground culverts and currently drain into the sea.
- Tests indicated that water collected from one of the springs, and combined with the usual town supply, would reduce the amount of water needed to be taken from the bore by 90%.
- If both springs were used it would be expected that it would be unnecessary to use the bore at all in non emergency situations (i.e an extremely dry summer).
- That this water arrangement could continue to meet the needs of Kāwhia Township at it's current rate of growth for the next 3-4 years.
- By using water that has already come out of the ground there is less potential for adverse effects on other springs or ground water.

Resource Consent changes:

The following new resource consents or changes to existing resource consents are envisaged:

- Increase permitted daily take of water to 600m³ per day
- Obtain a new consent for the use of the bore as an emergency back-up supply, providing water at up to it's maximum capacity (350m³ per day) but only for a limited number of days per year.

An emergency situation is defined as:

- Extremely dry conditions occurring prior to the Christmas New Year period, resulting in inadequate flows.

It was hoped that the modifications would be done by the end of 2004.

Ngāti Hikairo's response

Following the discussions regarding the Ōtorohanga District Council's proposal, Te Runanganui o Ngāti Hikairo Resource Management Committee began a long consultation process with all Kaumatua originally involved and also arranged consultation hui with Ngāti Hikairo. The following requests were made.

- That the Ōtorohanga District Council familiarise themselves with Ngāti Hikairo's Freshwater Management Plan, and participate in it's implementation, particularly the section relating to freshwater springs.
- That the proposed '**medium term water supply option**' is an interim measure only, while the Otorohanga District Council develops it's long term water management strategy.
- Ōtorohanga District Council makes a commitment to a long term Water Management Plan before investing in any further infrastructure.
- Council will endeavour to collect water in a way that is less likely to cause a disturbance to the ecology of the sites, including damage to the traditional mahinga kai areas.
- That the means by which the water is to be collected from the springs will not be intrusive or invasive.
- That the Ōtorohanga District Council advises adjoining land owners/leasers to preserve the riparian habitat.

Upon Ōtorohanga District Council agreeing to the above, resource Consent to be granted for a period of no more than 10 years upon the following agreement between Ngāti Hikairo and Otorohanga District Council.

- The 2 springs identified as Wai Māori (the end of Tāhuri St) and Pouewe (the end of Tainui St) be included in the current town supply.
- Increasing the daily take of surface water to 600m³ per day
- If the bore is used it will be used in emergency situations only.
- The bore is to be used 4 days a year only, extracting a maximum of 350m³ a day.
- The consent shall be subject to an annual assessment and 3 yearly reviews by Environment Waikato.
- Otorohanga District Council will provide Ngāti Hikairo RMC with copies of all information submitted to Environment Waikato, as required by the consent and shall also provide the RMC with copies of the relevant correspondence from Environment Waikato, including copies of the annual consent evaluation report.

Signed :
(Otorohanga District Council)

Date:

Signed:
(Te Runanganui o Ngāti Hikairo Resource Management Committee)

Date:

Te Runanganui o Ngāti Hikairo Resource Management Committee
consultation process

11 July 2003

Initial request for resource consent.

21 July 2003

RMC response requesting a long term water sustainability plan ecological report, hydrogeological report, historical & cultural report.

18 August 2003

Hui with ODC to discuss historical significance of the springs.

28 August 2003

ODC response, agreed to carry out hydrogeological tests only.

4 September 2003

Letter to NIWA and EW asking for advice and direction in relation to ODC request for Resource consent.

5 September 2003

Response from EW stating that they will further investigate the resource consent application.

10 September 2003

Response from NIWA asking to meet and discuss the possibility of a carrying out research on the biodiversity values of the springs and assessing human impact.

14 November 2003

RMC meet with representatives from NIWA to discuss the proposed research and possible benefits for Ngāti Hikairo.

November 2003

Consultation begins with Ngāti Hikairo, Ngāti Mahuta, Te Patupō, Ngāti Te Wehi and Mokai Kainga.

29 November 2003

Consultation Hui with Kaumatua at Waipapa Marae, springs to be tested identified.

16 December 2003

Visit by NIWA tests carried out at 6 significant springs around Kāwhia and Aotea.

23 January 2004

Test results and report received from NIWA

February 2004

Copy of NIWA report delivered to participating Kaumatua, copy also sent to each Marae.

29 February 2004

RMC send copy of NIWA report to ODC letter includes request to consider the impact of salt water infiltration on sand aquifers.

15 March 2004

Letter from ODC stating that water tests have been carried out that indicate that it is unlikely that the springs are connected, no reference to our further request regarding a water management plan or concerns regarding salt water infiltration.

5 April 2004

Letter from ODC requesting to meet with us to discuss future water management and stating that they would be seeking to change the resource consent conditions.

17 April-18 April 2004

Hui Wananga at Waipapa Marae, iwi consultation regarding resource consent sought by ODC and the Kāwhia Township water supply. Feedback gathered from Iwi.

27 Apr 2004

Ian Gooden & Dave Clibbery (ODC) met with RMC to discuss an alternative proposal for Kāwhia Water Supply and changes to the original resource consent conditions for both surface water and bore water.

Mid May-Mid June 2004

ODC's new proposal taken out for consultation to individual Kaumatua, representing Ngāti Hikairo, Ngāti Mahuta, and Te Patu Pō, regarding changes to resource consent conditions, and request for Ōtorohanga District Council to take water from 2 springs.

17 July 2004

Consultation Hui at Waipapa Marae with Ngāti Hikairo Iwi, regarding changes to resource consent conditions, and request by Ōtorohanga District Council to take water from 2 springs. Concerns and conditions identified.

18 September 2004

Final consultation at the Annual General Meeting Te Runanganui o Ngāti Hikairo.

27 February 2005

Discussed at RMC hui, councils proposals reviewed, would like to include council conditions in the Iwi Water management Plan. Then take it to the Runanga to vote.

9 April 2005

Discussed with the Runanga executive, agreed to pass the consent as long as include amendments in the Plan for council to consult regularly. Meeting with council to discuss consultation process.

27 June 2005

Met with council, discussed changes that we could agree upon. Also discussed amendments to the Iwi Water Management Plan.

18 July 2005

Letter received from ODC, outlining the conditions that we agreed to for the 10year resource consent to take water.

23 July 2005

Discussed with Runanganui executive. Amendments agreed and accepted.