



Guardians Establishment Committee

RESTORING AND PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THE WAIKATO RIVER



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

VISION AND STRATEGY FOR THE WAIKATO RIVER



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HE MIHI

E ngaa mana, e ngaa reo, e ngaa waka, teenaa koutou, teenaa koutou, teenaa koutou katoa.

Ko te timatatanga o te whakaaro nui ko te wehi ki te Atua me whakahoonoretia te Kiingi Maaori a Tuheitia e noho mai na i runga i te ahurewa tapu o oona tuupuna me toona whaea. Ki a raatou kua haere ki tua o te tatau pounamu. Ngaa mate huhua o te waa, kotahi atu te koorero kia raatou ki te hunga kua moe. Haere ki tua o Paerau, whakangaro atu ki te putaketanga mai o te tangata.

E whakamahara ana maatou ngaa mema o te GEC ki ngaa koorero a Taa Te Kotahi Mahuta e kii ai, “Noo maatou teenei tuupuna te Awa o Waikato, he tuupuna whaimana. He mauri tutahi e kore e wehea.”

E kore e mutu te whakamihi atu ki ngaa maatua tuupuna na raatou te kaha, na raatou hoki i whakatoo te whakaaro kia whakamanawa maatou ki te tiaki i te mana me te mauri o te Awa o Waikato i raro i ngaa tikanga tuku iho.

E mihi kau atu ana ki a Waikato-Tainui me te Karauna. Na raaua te roopu GEC i tohu. Ko te mahi tahi a ngaa mema katoa mo te oranga o taa taatou tuupuna awa te kaupapa tino whakaharahara rawa atu. Kia eke ra ki ngaa koorero o Taawhiao, “Ki te kotahi te kakaho ka whati, ki te kapuia e kore e whati.”

Noo reira e rau rangatira maa, anei ngaa whakapaunga werawera. Ko te tiaki i te Awa o Waikato me toona rohe whaanui, mai i ngaa wairere o Huka puta atu ki Te Puuaha o Waikato, te tino ngako o ngaa whakaaro o te GEC. Ko enei kaupapa koorero e haangai atu ana ki ngaa mahi ki ngaa taumata koorero hei whakaora i te Awa o Waikato.



Guardians Establishment Committee

FOREWORD

The Guardians Establishment Committee strongly endorses this Vision and Strategy for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. The Guardians Establishment Committee had the privilege of listening to the hopes and aspirations of kaumaatua, iwi, local government, industry, interest groups and the many communities along the Waikato River. All agree that the Waikato River is seriously degraded along much of its length. This Vision and Strategy seeks to make substantial progress in restoring the Waikato River within the next 20 years and to protect it from further degradation.

Kia ora

Tukoroirangi Morgan
Co-Chairperson/Co-Convenor

Gordon Blake
Co-Chairperson

GUARDIANS ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE

Waikato-Tainui

Tukoroirangi Morgan, GEC Co-Chair, Co-Negotiator Waikato River Claim, Chair Te Arataura and Waikato Raupatu Lands Trust

Rangitiaho Mahuta, Specialist Projects Officer, Huakina Development Trust

Taipu Paki, Claims Consultant and Legal Analyst, PCL Limited

Linda Te Aho, Associate Dean of Maaori, School of Law, University of Waikato

Other Waikato River Iwi

Weo Maag, (Ngaati Maniapoto) Board Member, Maniapoto Maaori Trust Board

Stephanie O'Sullivan, (Raukawa) Environmental Manager, Raukawa Trust Board

Roger Pikia, (Te Arawa) Board Member, Te Pumautanga o Te Arawa

Dean Stebbing, (Ngaati Tuwharetoa) Advisor, Tuwharetoa Maaori Trust Board

For the Crown

Gordon Blake, GEC Co-Chair, Former Mayor, South Waikato District Council, Dairy Farmer

Clint Baddeley, Deputy Mayor, Waikato District Council

Traci Houpapa, Principal, THS & Associates Ltd

Alan Livingston, Mayor, Waipa District Council

Andra Neeley, Councillor, Environment Waikato (nominated by Environment Waikato)

Don Scarlet, Key Relationships Specialist, Mighty River Power

Bob Simcock, Mayor, Hamilton City Council

Jenni Vernon, Former Chair, Environment Waikato, Farmer

Secretariat to the GEC

Tuti Cooper, Secretariat Manager

Bob Penter, Senior Crown Appointed Advisor

Hester den Ouden, Crown Appointed Advisor

Liza Hiku, Secretariat Administrator



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BACKGROUND

The Waikato River Claim was filed in the Waitangi Tribunal by Sir Robert Mahuta on 16 March 1987 on behalf of Waikato-Tainui, the Tainui Maori Trust Board and Ngaa Marae Toopu.

The claim arose from the Crown's raupatu (invasion and war by land and by the Waikato River, and subsequent confiscation of Waikato lands) and the consequences of raupatu which continue today to impact on the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and the relationship of Waikato-Tainui with the Waikato River.

The river claim was specifically excluded from the 1995 raupatu land settlement with Waikato-Tainui and was set aside for future negotiation.

In December 2007 the Crown and Waikato-Tainui reached an Agreement in Principle regarding the outstanding claim of Waikato-Tainui over the Waikato River. This Agreement included the formation of the Guardians Establishment Committee (GEC) to develop a Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River.

THE VISION AND STRATEGY

The Vision and Strategy contained in this document has been achieved via a number of consultative hui, public open days, and meetings with various stakeholders. Additionally, submissions were called for and received that have guided the GEC in preparing this document.

The Vision and Strategy responds to four fundamental issues as set out below:

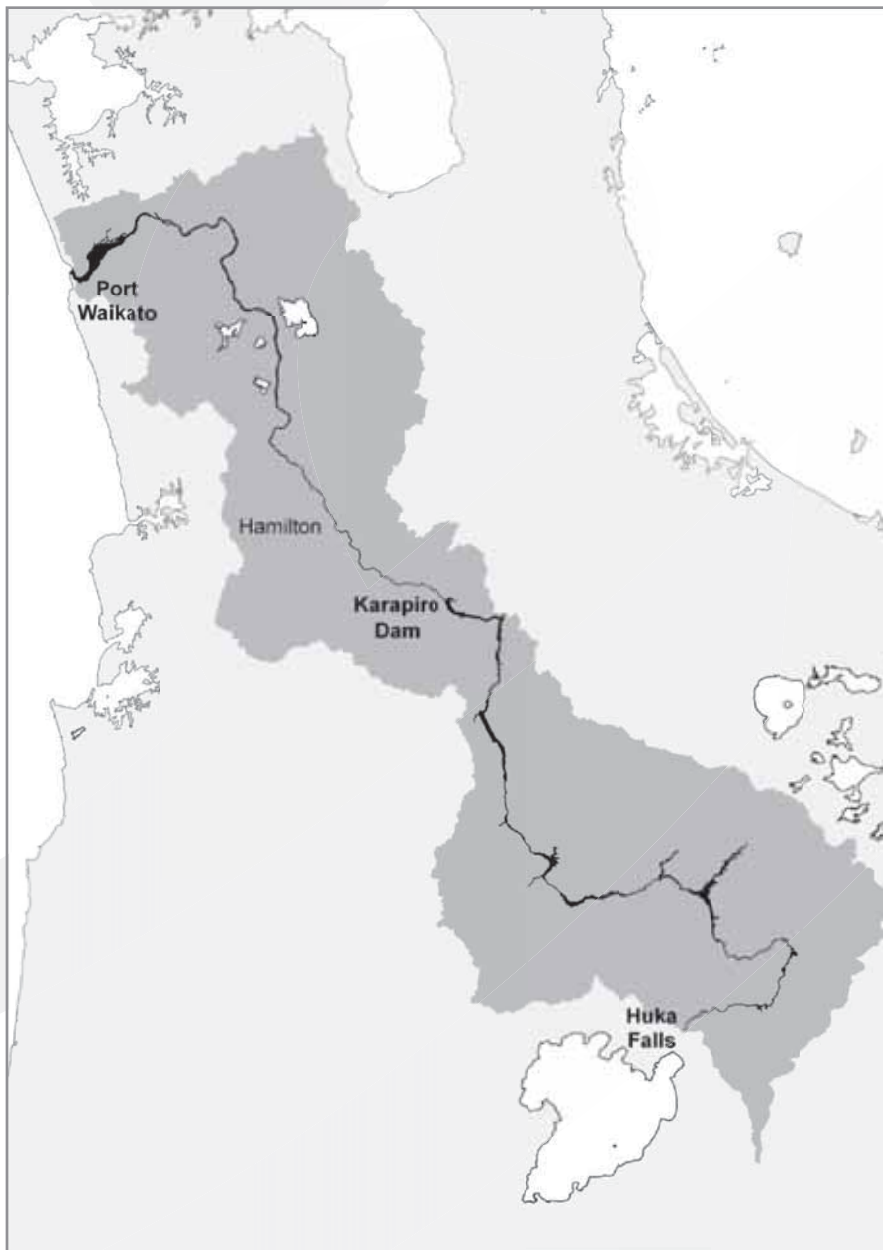
1. The degradation of the Waikato River and its catchment has severely compromised Waikato River Iwi in their ability to exercise kaitiakitanga or conduct their tikanga and kawa;
2. Over time, human activities along the Waikato River and land uses through its catchments have degraded the Waikato River and reduced the relationships and aspirations of communities with the Waikato River;
3. The natural processes of the Waikato River have been altered over time by physical intervention, land use and subsurface hydrological changes. The cumulative effects of these uses have degraded the Waikato River; and
4. It will take commitment and time to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

The Vision is consistent with the overarching purpose of the settlement between Waikato-Tainui and the Crown to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. The Vision and Strategy incorporates the objectives provided by Waikato-Tainui as set out in the Agreement in Principle, and other Objectives that reflect the interests of Waikato River Iwi, and of all New Zealanders.

THE AREA SUBJECT TO THE VISION AND STRATEGY

As the Waikato River is important to all the people of the region, the ultimate measure of this Vision and Strategy will be that the Waikato River will be safe for people to swim in and take food from over its entire length.

The area that the Vision and Strategy applies to is the Waikato River from Huka Falls to Te Puuaha o Waikato and the Waipaa River from its junction with the Puniu River to its junction with the Waikato River as shown in the map below. The Vision and Strategy also applies to the activities in the catchments affecting the Waikato River.



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VISION FOR THE WAIKATO RIVER

Tooku awa koiora me oona pikonga he kura tangihia o te maataamuri

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Our Vision is 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.

REINFORCING THE VISION

Tooku awa koiora me oona pikonga he kura tangihia o te maataamuri

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These words form part of the Vision and are taken from the maimai aroha, or lament, by Kiingi Taawhiao, the second Maaori King, in which he recorded his adoration for the Waikato River and the significance of the river as a treasure for all generations. These visionary words inspire the actions that will be necessary to restore the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.



OBJECTIVES FOR THE WAIKATO RIVER

In order to realise the Vision, the following Objectives will be pursued:

- A. The restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.*
- B. The restoration and protection of the relationship of Waikato-Tainui with the Waikato River, including their economic, social, cultural, and spiritual relationships.*
- C. The restoration and protection of the relationship of Waikato River Iwi according to their tikanga and kawa, with the Waikato River, including their economic, social, cultural and spiritual relationships.
- D. The restoration and protection of the relationship of the Waikato Region's communities with the Waikato River including their economic, social, cultural and spiritual relationships.
- E. The integrated, holistic and coordinated approach to management of the natural, physical, cultural and historic resources of the Waikato River.*
- F. The adoption of a precautionary approach towards decisions that may result in significant adverse effects on the Waikato River, and in particular those effects that threaten serious or irreversible damage to the Waikato River.*
- G. The recognition and avoidance of adverse cumulative effects, and potential cumulative effects, of activities undertaken both on the Waikato River and within its catchments on the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.*
- H. The recognition that the Waikato River is degraded and should not be required to absorb further degradation as a result of human activities.*
- I. The protection and enhancement of significant sites, fisheries, flora and fauna.*
- J. The recognition that the strategic importance of the Waikato River to New Zealand's social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing is subject to the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- K. The restoration of water quality within the Waikato River so that it is safe for people to swim in and take food from over its entire length.
- L. The promotion of improved access to the Waikato River to better enable sporting, recreational, and cultural opportunities.
- M. The application to the above of both maatauranga Maaori and latest available scientific methods.*

**Indicates a Waikato-Tainui objective for the Waikato River as set out in the Agreement in Principle dated 16 December 2007 relating to the Waikato-Tainui River Claim.*

STRATEGIES FOR THE WAIKATO RIVER

To achieve the Objectives, the following Strategies will be implemented:

1. Ensure that the highest level of recognition is given to the restoration and protection of the Waikato River.
2. Establish what the current health status of the Waikato River is by utilising maatauranga Maaori and latest available scientific methods.
3. Develop targets for improving the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River by utilising maatauranga Maaori and latest available scientific methods.
4. Develop and implement a programme of action to achieve the targets for improving the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
5. Develop and share local, national and international expertise, including indigenous expertise, on rivers and activities within their catchments that may be applied to the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
6. Recognise and protect waahi tapu and sites of significance to Waikato-Tainui and other Waikato River Iwi (where they so decide) to promote their cultural, spiritual and historic relationship with the Waikato River.
7. Recognise and protect appropriate sites associated with the Waikato River that are of significance to the Waikato regional community.
8. Actively promote and foster public knowledge and understanding of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River among all sectors of the Waikato regional community.
9. Encourage and foster a 'whole of river' approach to the restoration and protection of the Waikato River, including the development, recognition and promotion of best practice methods for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
10. Establish new, and enhance existing, relationships between Waikato-Tainui, other Waikato River Iwi (where they so decide), and stakeholders with an interest in advancing, restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
11. Ensure that cumulative adverse effects on the Waikato River of activities are appropriately managed in statutory planning documents at the time of their review.
12. Ensure appropriate public access to the Waikato River while protecting and enhancing the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

METHODS AND RECOMMENDED INDICATIVE TIMEFRAMES

The timeframes and their commencement noted in this section are dependent on a number of factors. These factors include the formation of the Guardians of the Waikato River and the provision of necessary funding to implement the Objectives, Strategies and Methods to not only ensure substantial progress is achieved towards the Vision in the next 20 years, but that ultimately the Vision is realised.

Methods to implement the Strategies include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

METHOD

1. Develop and implement a Cultural Health Index (CHI) for the Waikato River to understand environmental matters and the mauri of the Waikato River. The CHI will incorporate maatauranga Maaori and latest available scientific methods to direct and prioritise resources for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

RECOMMENDED INDICATIVE TIMEFRAMES

- Within 2 years: 25% of the Waikato River has been incorporated within a CHI monitoring programme.
- Within 4 years: The CHI has been incorporated within the monitoring regime for the Waikato River.
- Within 8 years: 100% of the Waikato River is subject to the Waikato River CHI monitoring programme.

METHOD

2. The Guardians of the Waikato River will facilitate and encourage participation in fora that enable sharing of national and international river enhancement experiences that will foster and assist in the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

RECOMMENDED INDICATIVE TIMEFRAMES

- Within 5 years: One international river symposium has been held in the Waikato Region with a focus on the restoration and protection of the Waikato River.
- Within 6 months, and thereafter at least every 6 months: Mini fora are held locally.



METHOD

3. Review activities that have the potential to adversely affect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River to understand the key drivers of river degradation, both individually and cumulatively, in relation to water quality, environmental flows, fisheries, cultural health, flora and fauna, and amenity values. The review will recommend and include a programme of action to address the key drivers of river degradation. In particular, the review will consider the:
 - i. monitoring undertaken by statutory agencies and other stakeholders to determine if there are deficiencies in the information, including an analysis of adverse cumulative effects, required to understand threats to the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River;
 - ii. practicable means of restoring each aspect of river degradation and responding to the risks of degradation. It is anticipated that this will include the development of strategies for -
 - a. water quality enhancement (including natural determinants, storm water run-off, and sedimentation arising from land use practices);
 - b. surface water, ground water and wetland hydrology connections;
 - c. water quantity (including environmental flows, allocation, land use, water use and biodiversity);
 - d. soil protection;
 - e. riparian enhancement (particularly focusing on erosion control and habitat creation);
 - f. fisheries restoration and enhancement;
 - g. lake and wetland restoration and enhancement;
 - h. restoration and enhancement of amenity, cultural and recreational values;
 - i. pest management (aquatic and terrestrial);
 - iii. effects of climate change;
 - iv. impacts of structures (e.g. bridges, culverts and dams); and
 - v. practicable means of implementing the recommendations arising from the review of activities.

RECOMMENDED INDICATIVE TIMEFRAMES

- Within 12 months: The review is completed.
- Within 6 months after the review is completed: Baseline targets are set and a programme of action is commenced.
- Within 10 years: The programme of action has led to a net improvement to water quality (in particular levels safe for swimming (human contact) and food gathering from the Waikato River), and native flora and fauna within and adjacent to the Waikato River.

METHOD

4. Support the establishment of a clean up fund for the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

RECOMMENDED INDICATIVE TIMEFRAME

- At the earliest opportunity.

METHODS

5. Promote the development of curricula for schools in the Waikato region focusing on the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
6. Promote the development of a public education programme focused on the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
7. Promote greater public knowledge and understanding of Waikato River Iwi relationships with the Waikato River.
8. Promote greater public understanding of the relationship of the wider community with the Waikato River.
9. Promote the development and delivery of Postgraduate Scholarship programmes focused on the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
10. Promote joint leadership programmes between key stakeholders on the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

RECOMMENDED INDICATIVE TIMEFRAMES

- Within 3 years: The curricula for schools in the Waikato region includes a focus on the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- Within 3 years: Public education programmes focused on the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River are implemented. The programme will include updates on the state of health of the Waikato River, and actions that residents can take to positively influence the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- Within 3 years: Postgraduate Scholarships are developed.
- Within 3 years of the Postgraduate Scholarship being established: At least two postgraduate degrees have been successfully completed. Appropriate undergraduate programmes will include within their courses a focus on the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- Within 3 years: A joint leadership programme has been established with the involvement of Waikato-Tainui and at least two other key stakeholders.

METHOD

11. Promote the identification, development, and use of best practice methods that lead to the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

RECOMMENDED INDICATIVE TIMEFRAMES

- Within 6 months: Best practice models that lead to the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River have been identified.
- Within 12 months: A programme that promotes best practice models that leads to the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River has been developed.
- Within 24 months: At least six best practice models are acknowledged and actively promoted.

METHODS

12. Promote a survey of the status, extent and ecological quality of existing riparian margins along the entire Waikato River to provide a baseline from which enhancement initiatives are developed.
13. Advocate for stronger enforcement of existing riparian fencing rules.
14. Advocate for more resourcing for riparian enhancement initiatives.

RECOMMENDED INDICATIVE TIMEFRAMES

- Within 1 year: A survey of the existing riparian margin (including present enhancement initiatives) is completed for the Waikato River.
- Every two years: A review of the extent of riparian fencing and riparian enhancement initiatives is conducted that measures their effectiveness on the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

METHOD

15. Promote the development of management plans to restore and enhance indigenous fisheries, flora and fauna in the Waikato River.

RECOMMENDED INDICATIVE TIMEFRAMES

- Within 2 years: A Waikato River Fisheries, Flora and Fauna Restoration Management Plan is developed.
- Within 5 years: Freshwater Customary Fishing Regulations are developed.

METHOD

16. Promote surveys of waahi tapu and other significant sites (where appropriate) within the Waikato region to protect and recognise their cultural and historic significance and importance.

RECOMMENDED INDICATIVE TIMEFRAME

- Within 3 years: Waahi Tapu and Significant Sites Management Plans have been completed.

METHOD

17. The Ministry for the Environment and Local Government New Zealand will appropriately emphasise the application of the precautionary approach, and the understanding of tikanga and kawa of Waikato River Iwi in its Hearings Commissioner Training Courses, and undertake a workshop with each council with a statutory role in the area subject to the Vision.
18. Encourage Waikato River Iwi to nominate one or more tribal members to become Hearings Commissioners for any statutory process.

RECOMMENDED INDICATIVE TIMEFRAMES

- Within 2 years: A workshop has been held with each council in the area which is subject to the Vision.
- Within 3 years: At least one tribal member has successfully completed the Hearings Commissioner Training Course.

CLOSING REMARKS

The GEC has included in this document a number of objectives and strategies together with some more detailed methods and indicative timeframes that it firmly believes are necessary to achieve the overarching purpose of restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

The GEC acknowledges everyone who participated in the consultative process and who provided verbal and/or written submissions to the Committee to assist in producing this Vision and Strategy.

The GEC considers that this Vision and Strategy will successfully usher in a new era of co-management at the forefront of the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. It will create a paradigm shift that coalesces in a “whole of river” approach for the Waikato River and activities within its catchment.

The GEC therefore strongly recommends this Vision and Strategy to Waikato-Tainui and the Crown for approval and inclusion in a deed of settlement, and settlement legislation that provides for the highest level of recognition of this Vision and Strategy.

E mihi tonu ana ki a Waikato-Tainui me te Karauna. I whai tikanga whai waahi ai te roopu GEC ki te whawhati i te kupu mo te Awa o Waikato te take.

Ka puumau tonu maatou kia tika tonu taa maatou haapai i te mana o te Awa o Waikato i raro i ngaa tikanga tuku iho aa ngaa iwi katoa.

E whakaae katoa ana maatou e kore e oti ngaa mahi whakatikatika whakaora hoki i te Awa o Waikato i roto i te waa poto. Ko te tuumanako kia kitea tonutia ngaa hua o a maatou mahi i roto i ngaa rua tekau tau ki mua. Ko te tuumanako kia taea anootia a maatou tamariki te kaukau, te tiki kai hoki i roto i ngaa wai o Waikato ahakoa ki whea.

Na ngaa tuupuna o Waikato-Tainui hoki te kii, “ko te Awa o Waikato he wai oranga, he wai tuku kiri, oranga wairua, oranga ngaakau, oranga tinana. E mau ana te mana, te mauri me te kaha o te iwi.”

Ko te kii a te GEC me whai niho te rehu me te mahere rautaki i roto i te ture. Kaare i koo atu i teeraa, koira te taumata.



Guardians Establishment Committee

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