

Ahu Ake, Waipā Community Spatial Plan

Future Scenario for the Interim Draft Spatial Plan

SP&P Committee approved [29 Nov.]



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Future Scenario for the Interim Draft Spatial Plan

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1 Overview: What is the Future Scenario

1.1 Purpose of this report

This report sets out the foundation for Ahu Ake, a spatial plan for Waipā's next thirty years. It lays out a pathway to deliver the Vision and Community Outcomes that brings to life what we want Waipā to be like in 2050.¹ This is described in the Future Scenario for the Interim Draft Spatial Plan, set out in this report. When finished, Ahu Ake will:

1. Set a clear long-term direction at a portfolio level to help focus Council activities on the Vision and Community Outcomes.
2. Be guided by partnership with Mana Whenua to make decisions, and engagement with stakeholders and the community to set priorities.
3. Set out the next steps to achieve the Vision and Community Outcomes.
4. Adapt to changing priorities over time, with monitoring and regular updates.

1.2 Report structure

The report has three parts:

1. Overview: which provides context about the Future Scenario and how it was developed.
2. Waipā in 2050: discusses the process, vision and community outcomes, and Mana Whenua aspirations. It addresses the bottom lines, which are guiding principles for how to implement Ahu Ake.
3. Future Scenario: this sets out the Future Scenario, including a description of Waipā district's future state in 2050 and priority initiatives to move towards these outcomes.

¹ The Vision and Community Outcomes were established in consultation with partners, stakeholders, and the community during the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan process

1.3 Who we are planning for

We are planning for those who are here now and for those who will be here after us.

The people living in Waipā now, and those who will move here – and their children and grandchildren – because we want Waipā to continue to be a liveable, prosperous district where people feel they belong and have a bright future. The population is projected to grow from 55,000 in 2018 to approximately 75,000 by 2045.²

A changing ethnic makeup, with more people from many cultures living in Waipā – including a growing Māori population.

Between 2006 and 2018 the Māori population increased from 13.1% to nearly 15% of the population. Migration into the district is driving growth and an increasingly diverse population. In the same period, the Asian ethnic group grew from 1.7% to 4.3%.

There is a larger ageing population, with specific and changing needs.

The number of residents aged over 65 will double to 30% by 2050.³

1.4 Turning vision into reality

To provide direction on how we shift from where we are to successfully deliver the Vision and Community Outcomes, each section of Ahu Ake outlines a programme of activities. These activities are intended to become priority initiatives for Council staff, partners, and stakeholders to consider when confirming projects through Long Term Plans and/or similar planning processes.

Given its broad scope, canvassing everything from peat lakes to affordable housing, it is strategic and focuses on big changes from business as usual. Because it is a long-term plan, this plan includes the first steps. Later updates to Ahu Ake will set out new priorities and activities.



Figure 1. Alignment of Ahu Ake with other Council processes

² NIDEA High projections 2021 used in Future Proof Strategy (2022)

³ Census 2018, Stats NZ, Waipā District Place Summary

1.5 How the Future Scenario was created

Ahu Ake's Future Scenario results from a series of evaluation steps conducted on five possible future scenarios. This process, called scenario planning and evaluation, was used to explore the different ways that Waipā could grow while providing for decision making aligned with short to long term outcomes. The Future Scenario blends together the most favourable components of the five scenarios. It does not carry forward a single Possible Future Scenario directly.

The five Possible Future Scenarios were described in terms of changes from the base case (the status quo) and are briefly summarised below.⁴

Scenario 1 - Status Quo

The base case is that Waipā grows and changes over the next 30 years largely in accordance with the agreed population and business land assumptions.

Scenario 2 - Back to the land

Scenario anticipates a faster than predicted growth, particularly in rural and village locations means growth areas across the district fill more rapidly and new growth areas are required sooner.

Scenario 3 - Hamilton Grows South

Scenario presents how the completion of the Southern Links expressway enables Hamilton's urban area to grow South towards the airport.

Scenario 4 - Population Growth Dwindles

Scenario explores a future where the migration into the District slows or even stops, and young people leave the district for work and other opportunities.

Scenario 5 - Urban Densification

Scenario anticipates faster than predicted growth in our main towns and higher than expected average housing densities.

1.5.1 Developing and evaluating the scenarios

Each scenario incorporated assumptions and pressures identified early in the project to explore how these might affect future spatial patterns of growth.

While the scenarios were refined through stakeholder engagement, their assessment was carried out against a multi-stage qualitative and quantitative assessment including:

- A community outcomes-based multi-criteria assessment (MCA);
- A Mātauranga Māori-based MCA;
- An accessibility analysis (the relative potential for people to connect with opportunities in a given scenario);

⁴ The full details of each and their spatial representation can be found on the Storymaps platform available at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/42e6350a9e8b442996bab04bfb208d0c>

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- An economic and employment growth modelling study; and
- A scenario cost and affordability review.

A final scenario refinement step took place on 12 September 2022 during a Partners' Workshop when Elected Members, Mana Whenua and Iwi Joint Management Agreement representatives used the highest scoring elements of the five scenarios to build the foundation of the Future Scenario presented in this report.

The multi-staged assessment determined that components of the Possible Future Scenarios were more likely to achieve the Community Outcomes than the base case - Scenario 1. The Future Scenario is based on the best parts of the Possible Future Scenarios. It is therefore likely to outperform the base case as a pathway to deliver on each of the community wellbeing aspects defined in the Community Outcomes. Appendix B provides detail on the assessment criteria applied.

1.6 Context for implementation

There are external factors that influence what we can do and what we must do. Many of these are from other levels of government or partner organisations. The legislative and strategic context for Ahu Ake is fast changing.

A substantial influence will be the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991 being replaced by the Spatial Planning Act, Three Waters Reform, and the Future of Local Government Review.

Ahu Ake is going through a thorough process to clearly document a set of strategic priorities that a sub-regional spatial plan can adhere to. Ahu Ake is Waipā's position to take forward into the new planning framework and to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

1.6.1 Notable parameters and limitations for the Future Scenario

- Te Ture Whaimana O Te Awa Waikato - The objectives of the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River are set out clearly and its application sits ahead of any subordinate legislation or planning documents under the RMA 1991. However, the planning mechanisms to ensure this primary direction setting document is given effect to are yet to be determined fully.
- The Government is replacing the RMA (1991) with three new pieces of legislation. It is expected that the passing of these new Acts will lead to significant changes in our current planning processes at a sub-regional and district level. While the Future Scenario includes recommendations for changes to the current district plan, which is our leading RMA planning instrument, these also signal requirements for any new plans prepared following the RMA reform.
- Future for Local Government Review - Ahu Ake is a strategic vehicle for the Waipā District Council to guide the efficient delivery of services (quality and quantity) to address local needs. Key functions of local government are currently up for major changes like the RMA review and the Three Waters Reform. Without the full responsibility for the Three Waters and the diminished responsibility for resource management, the extent to which activities are undertaken by councils is yet to be determined.

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- Population projections – The Future Scenario aligns with National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis (NIDEA) High Growth Series projections. These underpin the Future Proof Strategy (2022). While the short to medium term growth management and allocation across the district is well understood and remains at capacity, there are still some knowledge gaps. These relate to the long-term implications of the development of south Hamilton, including the construction of Southern Links urban arterial routes in the vicinity of Hamilton Airport and related impacts on growth in the northern parts of the district. Further investigations are to be undertaken to understand the northern growth of the district beyond the 30-year planning horizon. Overall, the pace of growth from immigration and migration will be primary influences on the population change realised. Ahu Ake’s implementation will need to respond accordingly in its first iteration and future iterations.

1.6.2 Next steps

Ahu Ake’s Future Scenario will support the preparation of Ahu Ake 1.0, the first version of the Waipā Community Spatial Plan. For it to be successful, it must set a clear benchmark baseline with a directive pathway for improvement.

The next step is to develop the Ahu Ake interim draft plan which will inform our Community Engagement scheduled for February / March 2023.

The Future Scenario presented in this report forms the core of this interim plan and will be represented in a series of maps in addition to the Ahu Ake Implementation Plan.

1.6.2.1 Overview of mapping for Ahu Ake, Waipā’s Community Spatial Plan

The following maps are expected to be developed for Ahu Ake:

A. Key moves summary map

This map will set out an overview of the spatial plan’s main components, as a sort of executive summary for the plan. It is also important because it will identify thematic spatial elements that overlap.

B. Thematic maps for different strategy topics

This series of maps will illustrate more specific elements of the key moves, which explain the key moves summary map in detail. This series of maps is described under each topic of the Future Scenario.

C. Constraints map

These maps will outline the strategic constraints to development, relying on the Wāhi Toitū/protection and Wahi Toiora/mitigation spatial data from the Future Proof Strategy. These will also break out components of the Future Proof layers that are particularly impactful for Waipā, including peat lakes/catchments, peat soils, and highly productive soils as different maps.

D. Lifeline infrastructure

Locational map of critical infrastructure, such as the Karapiro dam and spill zone, highways, healthcare services, major utility corridors, bridges, water/wastewater plants, rail, and primary telecommunications network.

E. Concept plan map for each settlement

The content of these maps will be developed during the engagement events, and they will be designed to show the priorities for Council and partner activities identified in each community across the district during engagement.

1.6.2.2 The Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan will allocate strategic project owners and partners to deliver priority projects at a programme level, linking strategic direction to council investments.

Review cycles will be applied in line with the Long Term Plan process and tied to key performance indicators to measure the performance and success of the plan.

While we intend for the implementation process to be developed closely with Council Managers and Business writers with an initial workshop in December 2022, key prioritisation projects will be further tested and formulated during our informal Community Engagement with stakeholders and the wider community in early 2023.

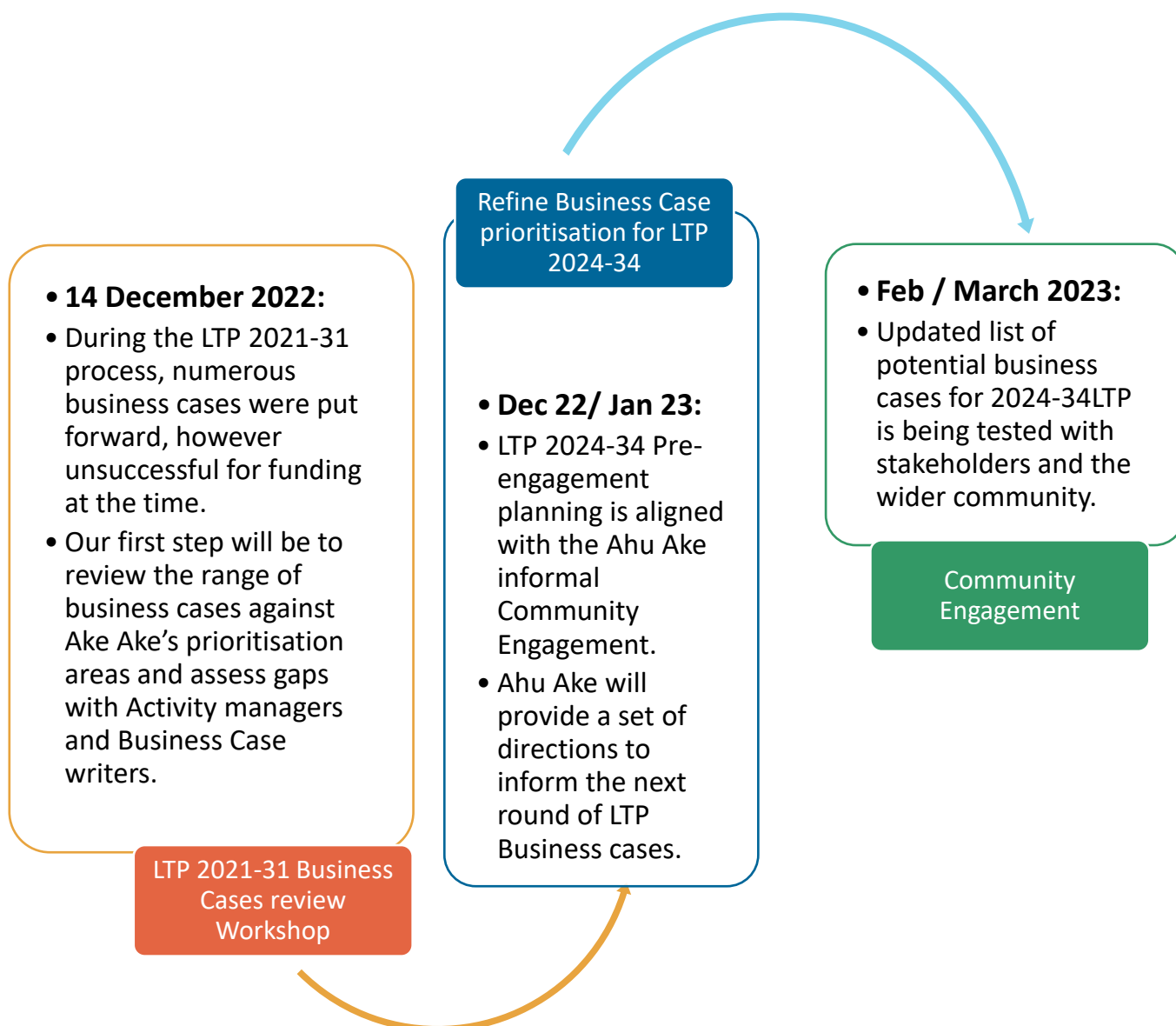


Figure 2 Next steps towards formulating the interim Draft Ahu Ake Plan

2 Waipā in 2050: where we want to go

There are several ways that the strategic direction of Ahu Ake has been set. Where we want to go, and how we will measure progress, are derived from the Vision and Community Outcomes from the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan, from a series of hui with Mana Whenua and review of iwi environmental management plans, and finally in a workshop with partners (Council and Joint Management Agreement representatives). The partners workshop set the strategic direction for Ahu Ake on key topics and provided a series of bottom lines that influence the type of implementation actions put forward.

2.1 Waipā's Vision & Community Outcomes

The Vision and Community Outcomes were formulated from engagement for the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan. They provided a starting point for the strategy and implementation pathways set out in Ahu Ake. The benefits sought by Ahu Ake (Appendix A) were endorsed by the Ahu Ake Project Control Group to help select the future scenario, and to ensure implementation activities will connect back to the Vision and Community Outcomes.



COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



**SOCIALLY
RESILIENT**



**CULTURAL
CHAMPIONS**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
CHAMPIONS**



**ECONOMICALLY
PROGRESSIVE**

2.2 Mana whenua aspirations

Mana Whenua aspirations (Appendix A) were developed through a review of iwi environmental management plans, and through a series of hui with Mana Whenua and Ngā Iwi Tōpū O Waipā (NITOW). They were authorised by the Ahu Ake Project Control Group to inform the evaluation of scenarios leading to the Future Scenario. Implementation activities in pursuit of the vision and community outcomes must be compatible with Mana Whenua aspirations.

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The aspirations relate to these important topics:

- Papakāinga and housing affordability
- Wāhi tapu, wāhi whakahirahira [*sacred and significant places*]
- Māori economy
- Te taiao [*the environment*]
- Waka hourua [*partnership*]
- Te Ture Whaimana [*the vision and strategy for the Waikato River*]

2.3 Direction by Council and Mana Whenua as partners forms the basis for Ahu Ake

In September 2022, Waipā District Councillors, members of the Project Control Group including Mana Whenua representatives; and Iwi Joint Management Agreement (JMAs)⁵ representatives came together to agree a strategic direction for Waipā's next 30-years based on the evaluation of the Possible Future Scenarios, including how they aligned to the Vision and Community Outcomes and Mana Whenua Aspirations. This pivotal workshop is the basis for Ahu Ake.

The implementation plan for Ahu Ake, and the future state it seeks for Waipā, must achieve the direction provided from this workshop over time. There were two main types of direction provided:

1. **Strategic matters:** The strategic direction (on topics like papakāinga, transport, peat lakes, or the economy) from the partners workshop influences the narrative of the Future Scenario which sets out key positions on things like growth management, parks and community facilities.
2. **Bottom lines:** Bottom lines are core principles which describe the important things that Ahu Ake should seek to deliver – success factors. The implementation plan for Ahu Ake, and the future state it seeks for Waipā, must achieve the direction provided from these bottom lines. The methods identified to implement the plan are directed by the bottom lines.

2.4 Bottom Lines

Bottom lines are things that Ahu Ake must deliver to be successful. If we fail to achieve these things, then we will not have delivered on the Vision and Community Outcomes, or the aspirations identified through this planning process. They are an important gateway for decision-making when planning implementation. Activities which are not aligned to the bottom lines should not advance.

⁵ JMAs have been signed with Raukawa, Ngāti Maniapoto and Waikato-Tainui.

2.4.1 Collaboration bottom line

1 Work and plan together to improve people's lives

Those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in a place⁶ need to work and plan together, with partners and local communities, to improve the lives of people, support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create more successful places.

2.4.2 Socially resilient bottom lines

2 There is housing for everyone

The housing stock suits the range of housing needs, budgets, and aspirations of every person in Waipā.

3 There are more papakāinga in Waipā

Barriers to papakāinga are removed, and as a result, new papakāinga are developed.

4 Our roads are safe

A safe transport system in the Waipā district where no one is killed or seriously injured.

5 People can access the services they need

All people in Waipā have equitable access to education, social services, healthcare, and open space.

6 We bounce back quickly from extreme environmental events

Waipā communities are resilient to climate change and other natural hazards.

7 Day-to-day needs are either a 10-minute walk or bike ride away

In the towns and villages everyone can meet their day-to-day needs (such as a library, supermarket, café, school, open space) within a ten-minute walk or bike ride from home because of equal access to shop, play or learn.

8 Everyone feels at home in our towns and villages

The urban environment of our towns and villages means everyone feels at home because the past, present, and future is represented in the shape of our towns/villages, architecture, artwork, and public spaces.

2.4.3 Cultural champions bottom lines

9 Cultural diversity is celebrated

Waipā's towns and villages have a strong sense of local identity and purpose linked to their location, people, and histories meaning that the cultural diversity of Waipā is

⁶ Place is where people, location and resources combine to create a sense of identity and purpose, and it is how we can realise the full potential of Waipā's communities. Places are shaped by the way resources, services and assets are directed and used by the people who live in and invest in them.

celebrated throughout the district. The number of cultural events in Waipā increases and a broad range of people participates in events.

10 Mana Whenua history is recognised and celebrated in our towns and villages

Our communities are places that increasingly recognise and celebrate Mana Whenua histories. Mana Whenua feel at home in our towns and villages.

11 Culturally significant areas and practices are recognised, protected, and enhanced

Significant cultural areas, taonga, customary activities, wāhi tapu, wāhi whakahirahira, wāhi tupuna, mahinga kai are recognised, protected, and enhanced.

2.4.4 Environmental champions bottom lines

12 We uphold Te Ture Whaimana and do our part to connect to and improve our rivers

Waipā upholds Te Ture Whaimana and Tāwhiao's vision for "Tōku awa koiora me ōna pikonga he kura tangihia o te mātāmuri" [the river of life, each curve more beautiful than the last].

13 Our environment is protected, restored, and enhanced

We take measures such as reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to protect, restore and enhance mauri and life supporting capacity of te taiao [the environment].

14 There is a network of predator-free ecological corridors

A network of predator-free ecological refuges (corridors and steppingstones) protects ngā koiora tuku iho [natural heritage and biodiversity].

15 Greenhouse gas emissions have been lowered

District wide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to net zero by 2050.

16 We prefer to walk, cycle, and use public transport to get to where we need to go

Enable people to walk, cycle and use public transport, reducing vehicle kilometres travelled (VKT) throughout Waipā.

2.4.5 Economically progressive bottom lines

17 There is a diverse range of businesses in our District

The types of businesses in Waipā diversify with growth focusing increasingly on knowledge based economic activities with higher value employment, improving local career choices for the next generations.

18 There are more Māori owned businesses in Waipā

Mana Whenua can better use their land to support their whānau wellbeing

19 High quality soils and peat soils are preserved

We minimise further loss of high-quality soils and peat soils

20 We manage growth so it is affordable

Growth and the provision of infrastructure are integrated for a cost-effective approach to development.

3 Future Scenario: what Waipā looks like in 2050 and how to get there

Ahu Ake is purposefully aspirational

The Future Scenario blends the best parts of the possible future scenarios. Ahu Ake sets a high bar for what we want to achieve. With a great vision we can make change happen. If we set the bar too low, we risk not achieving what we want and becoming less than our potential.

The following topics describe the future in 2050

- Growth and housing
- Papakāinga
- Economic development
- Rural economy
- Environment
- Heritage, arts, and culture
- Parks and public facilities
- Transport
- Three Waters

These topics describe our future state, and that “By 2050” we have accomplished great things for Waipā and its people. These descriptions are followed by a ‘*what we will have to do differently*’ section that set out a series of initial activities that Ahu Ake proposes for Waipā District Council to deliver alongside partners and stakeholders. As this is the first iteration of Ahu Ake, we will come to know more about our future and later updates to the plan will outline the next steps to achieve our Vision.

3.1 Growth and housing

By 2050, our communities feel like home. They have grown, but they still echo the look and feel from thirty years ago - with many changes and improvements. Their character and vibrancy are stronger.

Most communities - whether rural or urban - have not expanded beyond the growth areas set out in 2022. Very little rural residential development has taken place.

A strong partnership model is reflected across all our governance arrangements.

A boosted Māori economy and increase in the papakāinga developments has changed the way our community functions. Marae are social hubs for the local community.

Cambridge and Te Awamutu's population has nearly doubled, with diverse housing choices and everything we need to live, work, and play locally.

Cambridge and Te Awamutu grew quickly to nearly double their populations, expanding to fill planned growth cells - but with greater density and more infill/redevelopment than initially expected. These towns now feel like small cities. Developing as urban villages⁷ (compact, mixed use, and walkable) they have attracted high-end employers and offer a broader range of services locally - with emphasis on locally owned businesses.

The rural villages are vibrant, with many new families calling them home, and except for Ōhaupō, they have not expanded from their 2022 boundaries.

The villages still retain their small village rural feel and have not grown beyond their boundaries. Most are constrained by highly productive land which means they cannot grow and maintain these soils (or peat lands). Unless there is great public transport available (at a level that outcompetes cars) village growth leads to an increase in car trips contrary to climate change targets.

We can walk or bike to meet most of our day-to-day needs.

The towns and villages have more local shops and job opportunities than they used to, and most of us live close by to a local commercial centre. The existing business zoned lands are more intensively developed than they were thirty years ago. This means we spend less time travelling out of town for work or shopping and can walk or bike to meet most of our day-to-day needs in a safe and enjoyable 10-minute journey. Most students now choose to walk or bike to school because it is safe and convenient. People living rurally outside the urban areas still rely on their cars to access goods, services, and employment.

⁷ Urban villages describe a community that is compact, mixed use, with very walkable neighbourhoods that are easy to get around without driving. They are planned to provide a range of services and jobs close to where people live to reduce the need to travel large distances (resulting in lower vehicle kilometres travelled), have a popular commercial centre, encourage stronger social connection between residents with high quality pedestrian-friendly public spaces, and enable public transport to compete with the car. They support sustainable economic development by reducing transportation costs, leaving residents with more money to spend on local goods, and by creating more efficient and attractive commercial districts.

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There are more housing choices in Cambridge and Te Awamutu, well suited to an ageing population and those on lower incomes

Intensification and infill have been ongoing over the past 30 years, mainly in Cambridge and Te Awamutu. The housing supply has diversified, and there are more duplexes, townhouses, and small apartments providing a wider range of housing choices and affordability. These are often in central locations that are close to high amenity locations – like shops, parks, schools, and local retail centres. Many of these types of houses are well suited to an elderly population, as they are low maintenance and designed to be very accessible. Some of them are also more affordable than a stand-alone house.

Council has worked closely with affordable housing providers like Kāinga Ora and other community housing providers to develop affordable housing on surplus Council lands. Because development was more intensive than initially planned, some new planning, infrastructure and public realm initiatives were required. Papakāinga developments enable Mana Whenua to return to their lands, benefiting from more housing supply in the places they want.

Ōhaupō has grown to provide housing choices in the district, close to employment and on a frequent public transport route

Because of employment growth in south Hamilton and at Hautapu and nearby at the airport, Ōhaupō has recently (e.g. 2045 and beyond) begun to grow into a small town. No other village in the district has expanded beyond its 2022 boundary defined in Waipā 2050.

Before Ōhaupō was allowed to grow, the following pre-conditions were met: a growth study was endorsed by Future Proof partners indicating that Ōhaupō expansion is favourable; frequent public transport services were in place to provide priority bus lanes all the way to central Hamilton, and to connect with Te Awamutu/Cambridge; a masterplan for a complete community was agreed for the growth area with landowners through a structure planning process; and, reticulated water, stormwater, and wastewater services were available at an affordable rate.

With this new growth care is being taken to improve the nearby peat lakes, and the town is therefore planned to grow mainly to the north away from most peat lake catchments. The new growth will purposefully contribute towards the betterment of the peat lakes. Reducing effects on the peat lakes from wastewater effluent discharges to soil was a big part of the decision to provide wastewater services to Ōhaupō in the first place.

This growth is planned to include a larger town centre (off Highway 3), a cycle network, improved parks, and a new school. A range of housing similar in density to what you see in Hamilton’s general residential zone (smaller lots around 400m², some duplexes and even townhouses around the new town centre) has begun to develop. Strip development along SH3 was not desirable due to the impacts on its operation as a strategic transport route.

Most people living in Ōhaupō choose to bus to work or school as the frequent public transit service is faster and more reliable than driving and cheaper than paying for parking in the city or towns. They can cycle the length of the community to local parks and sports fields on safe and connected off-road facilities, with connections to access the peat lakes.

A cycle connection to the airport and into Hamilton’s cycle network means people can also take an e-bike to work outside of the community, and people from Hamilton can bike to the peat lakes, which are key attraction points for day-trippers. Cycle connections to Te

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Awamutu and Cambridge are also now being considered, linking with the Te Awa River Ride.

Karāpiro lake is a renowned recreation destination all the way around the lake.

The Karāpiro lake is now bejewelled all the way around with joined-up recreational pockets where people connect with the lake and pursue recreational activities. The State Highway 1 Cambridge to Piarere extension created a new and safer highway alignment and in doing so enabled Waipā to improve lake access points, cycling connections, and biodiversity along this stretch of road. It took a while for funding to become available and a decade for the new highway to be built, meaning the highway project was completed in the 2040s⁸.

When the highway was relocated, Karāpiro village did not expand as a residential area, and no new rural lifestyle blocks were permitted. Instead, Council recognised the opportunity to further develop the Karāpiro lake access points for day users as part of a recreational network around the lake – building the reputation of Lake Karāpiro as a year-round sports and recreation destination. We now have a network of well-used day-use areas along the length of the lake at key points, attracting people from throughout the North Island and beyond, including expanded picnic and swimming options, alongside boating, and cycling facilities.

As part of the highway realignment process, Council lobbied Waka Kotahi and the Ministry of Education to improve the Karapiro school access so that children could walk/bike to school locally and were not next to a busy expressway. With the changes, the school has become even more central to how this community functions as it shifted inside the village boundaries.

3.1.1 What we may need to do differently about growth and housing

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
15. Greenhouse gas emissions have been lowered	➤ 1. Long term growth management (Ōhaupō, Karāpiro, and the future growth of Cambridge and Te Awamutu / Kihikihi)	➤ Productive soils Reduce carbon emissions
19. High quality soils and peat soils are preserved	Waipā currently has sufficient residential land supply for a thirty year period ⁹ . Ahu Ake provides general direction on where high growth communities in Waipā may need to expand, beyond the 30-year planning horizon and the growth cells set out in Waipā 2050.	
20. We manage growth so it is affordable		

⁸ Timing for the State Highway 1 Cambridge to Piarere extension is not known, and it is possible that it could happen later than 2040 or in a different form.

⁹ [NPS-UD Housing Development Capacity Assessment, Future Proof Partners, 2021](#)

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Update the District Plan and inform the Future Development Strategy to indicate where changes to the planned future urban areas may take place. b. Cambridge is likely to grow on the Leamington side due to the lower land use capability classifications in this area. A study of the soils pursuant to the NPS-Highly Productive Lands is required to confirm. Ōhaupō is likely to expand to the north as a complete community. c. Growth area studies are required to substantiate these sorts of expansions, the timing of which will be determined by future land supply requirements. To maintain suitable supply of land (as required in the NPS-UD) It is expected that in the 10-20-year timeframe it would be required to perform an 'unanticipated development' criteria assessment, as outlined in the Future Proof Strategy to support any long term proposed growth outside of previously agreed boundaries. d. If accepted as part of the Future Development Strategy, develop a planning and investment programme to enable Cambridge and Ōhaupō's long term expansion. 	
<p>7. Everything we need is either a</p>	<p>➤ 2. Local centres</p>	<p>➤ Equitable access to services and opportunities</p>














Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
<p>10-minute walk or bike ride away</p>	<p>To enhance the ability for residents to live and shop locally for most daily needs identify a local centre network in the district plan and prioritise improvements to the public realm and walking/biking infrastructure in vicinity. Include an update of the Transport Strategy to reflect this prioritisation and review district plan provisions to enable higher densities in these locations.</p>	<p>Reduce carbon emissions</p> <p>Diverse and resilient economy</p> <p>Te Taiao</p>
<p>5. People can access the services they need</p> <p>16. We prefer to walk, cycle, and use public transport to get to where we need to go</p>	<p>➤ 3. Karāpiro school relocation and community hub</p> <p>Work with and advocate to Waka Kotahi and Ministry of Education to relocate the Karāpiro school into the village boundaries so that children can walk/bike to school locally and the school can provide a public facility in the village.</p> <p>With changes the school can become even more central to how the Karāpiro community functions.</p> <p>Co-locate it with a park space, early childhood centre, and small retail area which can fit into the ‘destination Karapiro’ concept, ensure good walking and cycling connections.</p>	<p>➤ Equitable access to services and opportunities</p> <p>Reduce carbon emissions</p>
<p>11. Culturally significant areas and practices are recognised, protected, and enhanced</p>	<p>➤ 4. Māori design statements</p> <p>Require a Māori design statement as part of new structure plans, open space designs, and masterplans undertaken for growth cells in the district, including as part of early investigations into new growth cells so the resultant development approach ensures design that lets everyone feel at home in Waipā by reflecting cultural elements in the design of new communities and open spaces.</p>	<p>➤ Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira</p> <p>Waka Hourua</p>

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
<p>1. Work and plan together to improve people’s lives</p> <p>17. There is a diverse range of businesses in our District</p>	<p>➤ 5. Long-term investment plan for Lake Karāpiro</p> <p>Develop a long-term investment plan for Lake Karāpiro to further develop and connect the recreational activities so they can be marketed as a package, e.g. ‘destination Karāpiro’, to leverage the long-term opportunity that the SH1 Cambridge-Piarere realignment presents. Ensure destination Karapiro functions independently of the highway realignment.</p> <p>Consider biodiversity improvements and a more joined-up cycleway that goes around the lake (including a crossing) and links into Te Awa River Ride. Consider partnerships with volunteer groups and other agencies, and philanthropic entities.</p>	<p>➤ Equitable access to services and opportunities</p> <p>Diverse and resilient economy</p> <p>Access to open space/passive and active recreation areas</p> <p>Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira</p> <p>Waka Hourua</p>
<p>1. Work and plan together to improve people’s lives,</p> <p>2. There is housing for everyone</p>	<p>➤ 6. Affordable housing and housing choices</p> <p>Partner with Kāinga Ora and other community housing providers by identifying lands surplus to Council requirements where affordable housing projects can be built. Investigate providing less restrictive densities in the district plan or remitting a portion of development contributions in locations near to main retail centres to incentivise sought after housing outcomes.</p>	<p>Housing supply and affordability</p> <p>Waka Hourua</p> <p>Papakāinga and Housing affordability</p>

Ahu Ake

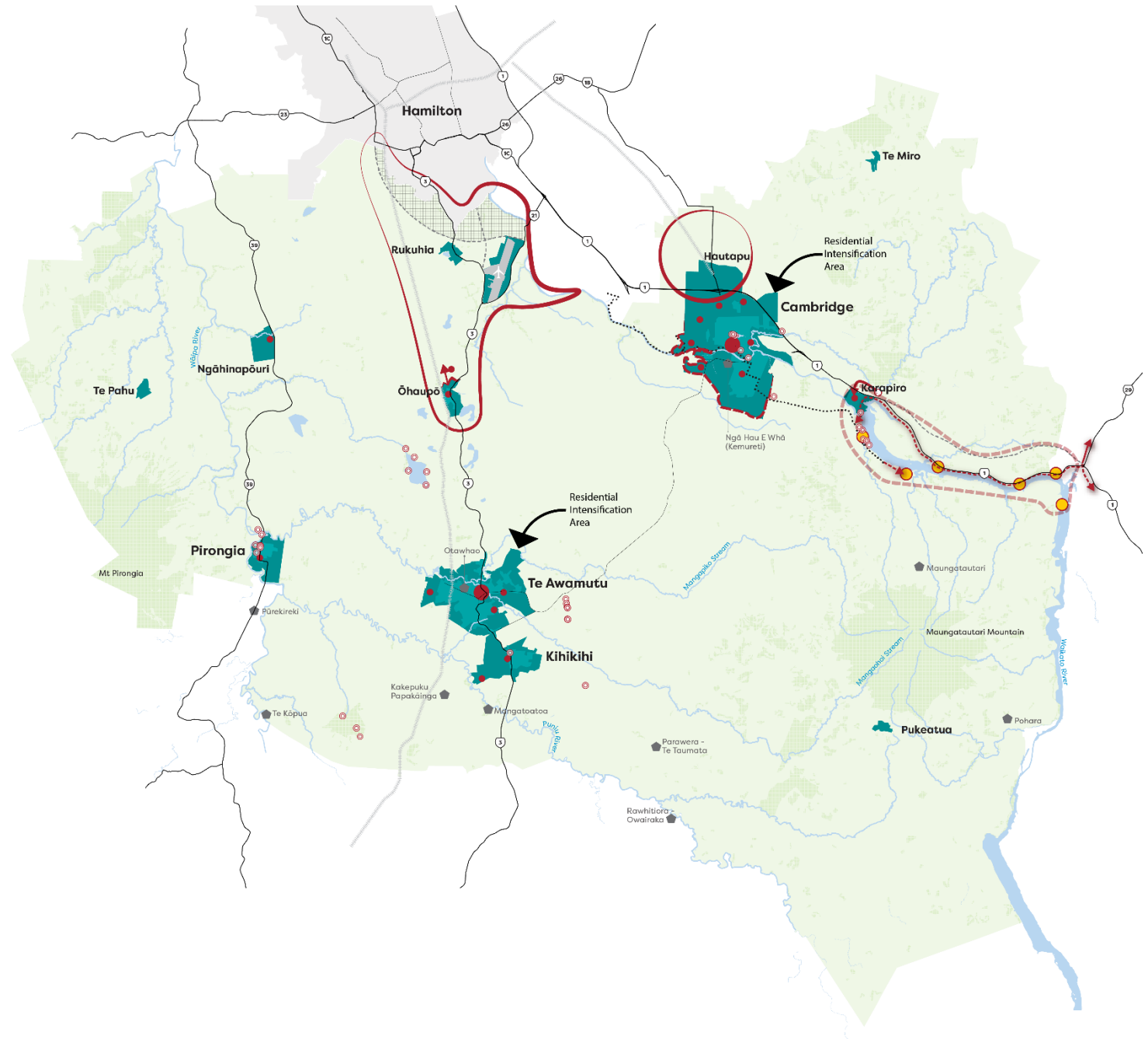
Waipā Community Spatial Plan

Key

-  District boundary
-  Potential future land transfer to Hamilton
-  State highways
-  Rail
-  Southern Links Designation and SH2 Realignment
-  Te Ara Wai Journeys
-  Te Awa River Ride
-  Marae
-  Forested - vegetation
-  Rivers, large streams, lakes
-  Peat lake
-  Urban Areas 2011
-  Urban Areas 2050

Growth and housing

-  Economic activity masterplanning areas
-  Residential intensification areas
-  Expansion of Ohaupo
-  Monitoring land supply in Cambridge / need for expansion
-  Destination Karāpiro (inc. cycle links and destinations)
-  Improving connection / location of Karāpiro school
-  Local and town centres - focus for active mode improvements



3.2 Papakāinga

In 2050, papakāinga enables Mana Whenua to return to their lands, bringing back, in a fair way, what was there before. Māori are enabled to use their ancestral lands and resources for cultural and housing needs.

Papakāinga can take place where there is Māori land tenure, in all its forms

Papakāinga has been enabled to take place on Māori land that has been retained, returned, or purchased - including general land owned by Māori. Re-established villages have been regenerated through papakāinga, located mostly (but not always) around a marae. Several significant papakāinga developments and associated iwi business developments across the district have revitalised our marae, and Māori culture is more visible and prominent in the cultural fabric of the district than it was 30 years ago.

Papakāinga evolves to meet changing needs of whānau and communities

Papakāinga have been built by Mana Whenua where opportunities presented throughout the district, in both urban and rural locations and in different forms and scale. Once set up, they have no end point and over time continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of whānau and communities. There are marae-based papakāinga, urban/contemporary forms of papakāinga, papakāinga developments with economic, social and cultural activities within it. And in instances where papakāinga is pursued by mātāwaka and taura here¹⁰, a tikanga based approach is undertaken with Mana Whenua. Kura and Hauora centres have also been set up to deliver Māori health and education outcomes, and commercial initiatives that are appropriate and suitable for the local environment.

Where papakāinga are nearby Council infrastructure, for example within a suitable water supply area, connection arrangements have been made - as any other development would. Where papakāinga are not near Council services, Mana Whenua have installed local three waters services and transport infrastructure for these developments.

¹⁰ Taura here are tribal members/whānau group(ing) living outside of the rohe/takiwā of the iwi but still connected to their iwi.

3.2.1 What we may need to do differently about papakāinga

Bottom lines	Possible method (subject to change)	Primary benefits & <i>Mana Whenua aspirations</i>
<p>1. Work and plan together to improve people’s lives</p> <p>3. There are more papakāinga in Waipā</p>	<p>1. Papakāinga enablement programme</p> <p>Undertake a Papakāinga enablement programme, including the following key activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm a definition of Papakāinga with Joint Management Agreement Partners and Mana Whenua • Enable development of papakāinga through changes to the district plan (i.e. Plan Change 23), and review of other council approval requirements/processes to clarify how they could apply and may need to change (e.g. engineering standards and approvals). <p>➤ 2. Practice note</p> <p>Work with Mana Whenua to co-publish a Papakāinga practice note for related council approval processes (e.g., resource consent, building consent, or infrastructure approvals, where water services can be readily available), and to outline lessons learned from best practice papakāinga.</p> <p>This would aim to improve the delivery of successful small and large scale papakāinga developments in Waipā, and create a broader understanding of what it is, how it gets built/serviced, and how to achieve it.</p> <p>The note could clarify expectations as to who will facilitate infrastructure for papakāinga; to clarify Mana Whenua’s and Council’s roles, it might also include pre-approved assessments of environmental effects for certain types of development.</p>	<p>Mana whenua are empowered to utilise land under their control for the wellbeing of their whānau</p> <p>Housing supply and affordability</p> <p>Papakāinga and Housing affordability</p> <p>Māori Economy</p>

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Waipā Community Spatial Plan

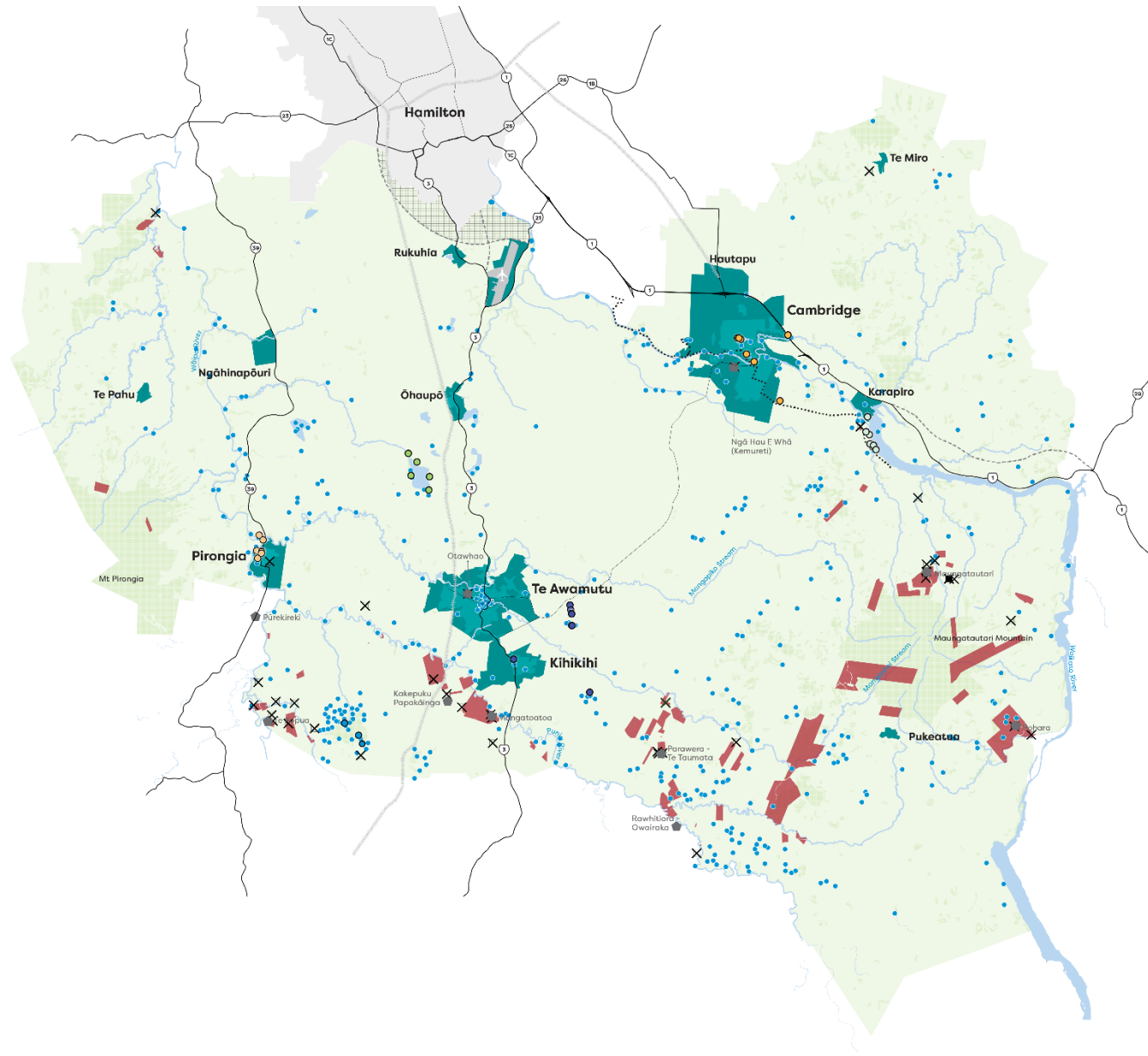
Key

- District boundary
- Potential future land transfer to Hamilton
- State highways
- Rail
- Southern Links Designation and SH2 Realignment
- Te Ara Wai Journeys
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- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Peat lake
- Urban Areas 2011
- Urban Areas 2050

Papakāinga

Map features are relevant to papakāinga but do not indicate where it might take place.

- Heritage points: cultural sites from the District Plan 2016 with importance to Mana Whenua (e.g. Urupa)
- Heritage points: archaeological sites from the District Plan (2016) (source: New Zealand Archaeological Association records as at 2009) - Excluding buildings
- Māori land titles
- Te Ara Wai: Sites of Cultural Significance
 - Rangiaowhia-O-Rākau
 - Kakepuku
 - Karāpīro
 - Ngā Roto
 - Cambridge
 - Pirongia



3.3 Economic development

By 2050 our local businesses, creative industries, and entrepreneurs are engaged in high-value, high-productivity endeavours that are globally competitive. There are diverse career pathways for upcoming generations in Waipā. Hautapu, the airport precinct, Cambridge, and Te Awamutu have all seen major growth in high-value employment. We have both protected and built up our natural assets as tourism attractions. Māori owned businesses have successfully developed alongside papakāinga developments.

Cambridge and Te Awamutu have become urban villages with new high-end employers adding to the diverse employment opportunities

Cambridge and Te Awamutu grew quickly, and Council has focused on maintaining and improving residents' quality of life. There is always something exciting going on in the town centres with markets, events, restaurants, and nightlife meaning we rarely go to Hamilton for a night out or a family adventure. Between them, Te Awamutu and Cambridge have all the retail, cultural and recreational opportunities we need.

These towns are more like urban villages¹¹. They have attracted new high-end employers because of a lifestyle where people can access all the things needed day-to-day within a short walk or bike ride, and because they are authentic places showcasing our collective heritage in our public spaces and with cultural activities. Public transport is affordable, frequent and reliable, and population growth attracted new retailers and services, including medical care providers, in the main urban centres.

Waipā is a renowned travel destination for recreation and sporting activities

Mystery Creek, Lake Karāpiro, and the Maungatautari to Pirongia corridor have become event and recreation destinations for locals and tourists alike, improving quality of life and attracting people to live in Waipā. The Fieldays event (and others) at the Mystery Creek facility, high performance sports, an expanded recreation activity network around Lake Karāpiro (following realignment of SH1), and eco-tourism options - alongside cultural elements like Te Ara Wai Journeys - mean that Waipā is a top national destination for people to visit.

Māori have more employment opportunities than before

A growing Māori population brought new investment to the district. Iwi business developments across the district revitalised marae and made Māori culture more visible, supporting economic diversification and creating employment opportunities for Mana Whenua wishing to return to their rohe.

Hautapu, the airport precinct, Cambridge and Te Awamutu are the main employment centres of the district. Distributed office-based employment opportunities are available in neighbourhood precincts in the towns.

In Cambridge, industry has fully relocated to Hautapu from Carters Flat and Pope Terrace precincts, which are now commercial precincts. There are many new businesses and jobs opportunities available in Hautapu, the airport precinct, and in Cambridge and Te Awamutu.

¹¹ Urban villages describe a community that is compact, mixed use, with very walkable neighbourhoods that are easy to get around without driving. Refer to footnote 8 for the full definition of urban village.

SP&P Committee approved for Community Engagement

The improved economic diversity means our youth now have many different career opportunities and many residents can find careers locally, meaning they do not have to seek employment elsewhere. Local business has local skills and talent available to meet the district's needs.

Business zones in the villages have expanded slightly

The trend of remote working has continued. With more people working from home there is more support for local businesses such as cafés, shops, and use of community spaces. As a result, a few more commercial and community facilities and services established in our villages, including more home-based businesses. Locally produced goods are increasingly popular, and new “makers” markets take place monthly with locally grown produce and crafts for sale in the towns and larger villages. These draw people from nearby towns and cities who also shop at the markets and in the local shops.

A new town centre begins to grow in Ōhaupō, away from the highway

In response to the growth of the village and because of employment growth in south Hamilton and at Hautapu and the airport, Ōhaupō has developed a new town centre in a central location off of the highway to service workers and residents – and day-trippers looking to access the rejuvenated peat lakes. This will likely continue to grow as the village expands.

3.3.1 What we may need to do differently about economic development














Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
<p>17. There is a diverse range of businesses in our District</p> <p>18. There are more Māori</p>	<p>1. Economic development strategy</p> <p>Prepare an Economic Development Strategy and supply implementation resources. The Future Scenario aims for vibrant economic centres and seeks to attract major employers to Waipā, particularly in the urban centres. This requires a detailed strategy, plan, and resources to achieve it.</p> <p>The economic development strategy should address three primary themes: 1. High-quality employment growth in urban areas, 2. Rural economic growth, 3. Tourism / destinations and culture-based narratives. Urban design in towns becomes a core economic development tool.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Grow Waipā’s brand as a lifestyle destination to encourage migration from other parts of New Zealand, and internationally. b. Encourage a shift in urban areas to knowledge-based businesses and examine 	<p>Diverse and resilient economy</p> <p>Equitable access to services and opportunities</p> <p>Infrastructure attracts new industry</p> <p>Māori Economy</p>

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & <i>Mana Whenua</i> aspirations
<p>owned businesses in Waipā</p>	<p>the role of business incubators in smaller communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Link economic development, creative industries, and tourism opportunities to create a unique place-based proposition for economic growth in Waipā. d. Consider creating a destination management plan for Waipā district, focusing on primary destination nodes (Karāpiro, Mystery Creek/Airport, Peat Lakes, Maungatautari and Pirongia Mountain Bike Tracks etc) and creating a plan to further develop these along with partners and stakeholders for tourism purposes. e. Address the Māori economy in each of the three focus areas for the plan f. Consider the role of cultural, arts, and natural assets in tourism and economic development outcomes. Identify related priority locations for placemaking/public realm enhancements. g. Provide implementation resources to enable a shift from business as usual. 	
<p>9. Cultural diversity is celebrated</p> <p>17. There is a diverse range of businesses in our District</p> <p>18. There are more Māori owned businesses in Waipā</p>	<p>2. Placemaking implementation plan</p> <p>Develop a targeted urban design and strategic property acquisition programme to coordinate further investments in community infrastructure (e.g. town centre redevelopment and public realm enhancement) that attracts high quality businesses and employees who want to invest, live, and work in Cambridge and Te Awamutu. The economic development strategy can help to define priorities/catalyst sites and cost-benefits for investments based on what the intended audience might best respond to.</p>	<p>Diverse and resilient economy</p> <p>➤ Infrastructure attracts new industry</p> <p>The cultural diversity of the district is recognised and celebrated</p> <p><i>Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira</i></p>






Ahu Ake

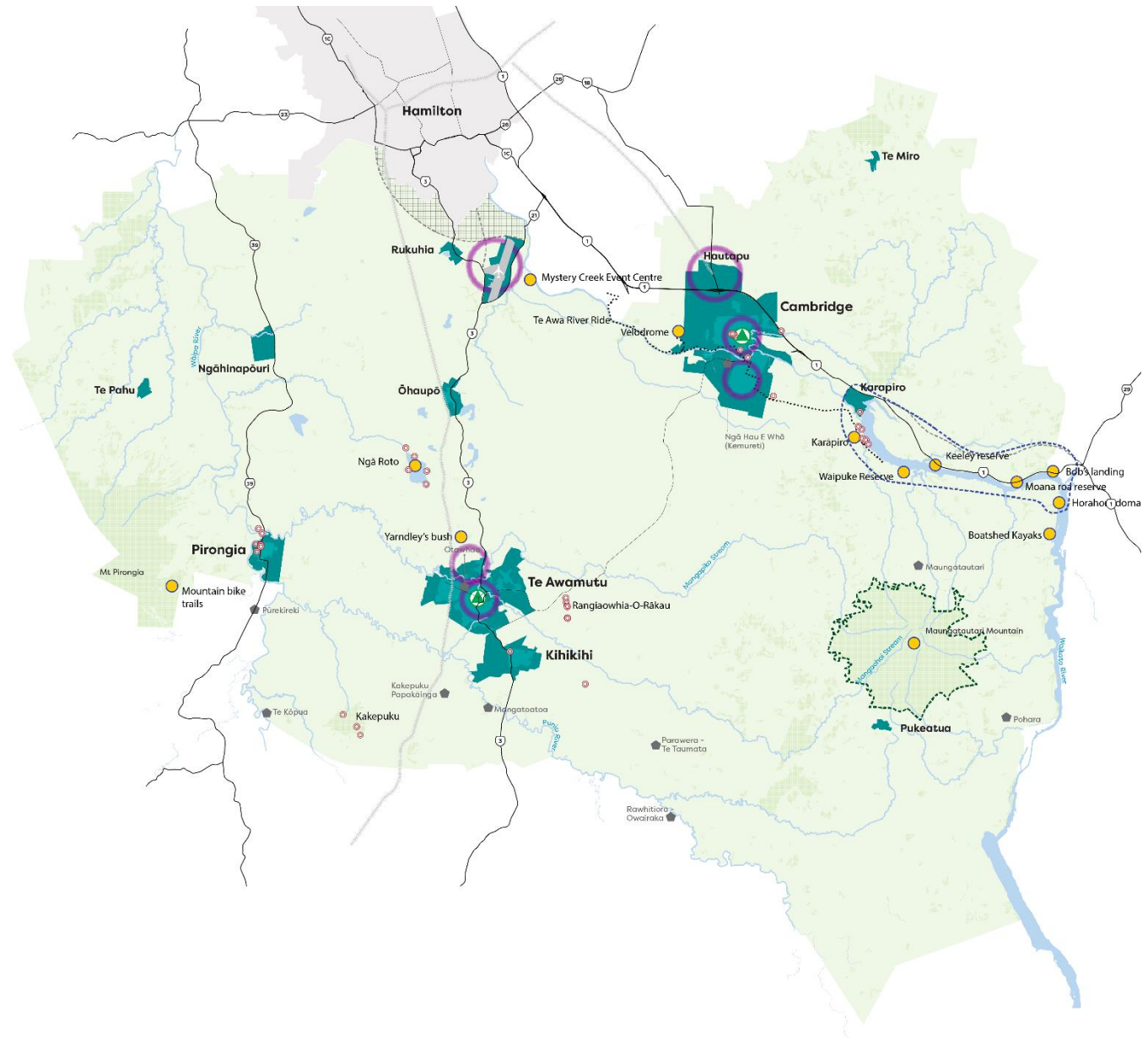
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-  Peat lake
-  Urban Areas 2011
-  Urban Areas 2050

Economic development

-  Employment high growth area
-  Public realm improvement; priority location
-  Existing tourism destinations
-  Maungatautari Mountain Scenic Reserve
-  Destination Karāpiro



3.4 Rural economy

By 2050, the rural economy has diversified, resulting in an improved resiliency to wider economic changes. The agricultural industry is flourishing through innovation and protection of highly productive lands.

The diversification of agriculture in response to climate change and economic drivers such as land value increases has changed the agricultural economy of the district, which has adapted to meet these challenges.

Highly productive soils have been preserved and enable the sustainable operation of our agricultural economy. Dairy and sheep and beef farming are still the backbone of the rural economy, but they have been supplemented by growth of intensive horticulture operations bringing new jobs for seasonal workers, packhouses and industries to service automation of agriculture. Practices have changed and diversified to meet increasingly stringent climate change objectives.

The horticultural industry has grown. Many dairy farms and dairy support farms have grown larger through amalgamation while some smaller farms have converted to other crops such as kiwifruit or berries. The food processing industry has expanded, with packhouses and cool stores expanding into rural zones near areas of cropping. This change has increased the number of people working seasonally in the district. The rise in horticultural activities has created new reverse sensitivity issues with nearby rural residential uses that are managed through the district plan. Accommodation for seasonal workers has been enabled through regulations in the district plan in suitable locations to cater for the influx of horticultural workers to ensure people are well housed.

Interest in regenerative farming and organic systems has spurred innovations and enhanced the Waipā brand.

Carbon farming has grown on marginally productive lands

Some hilly rural terrain that is marginally productive has been converted to carbon farming (e.g., forestry). Council has worked with carbon farmers to encourage native plantings that can both lock in carbon and result in biodiversity enhancements.













3.4.1 What we may need to do differently about the rural economy

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
<p>1. Work and plan together to improve people's lives</p>	<p>1. Agricultural economic strategy</p> <p>Develop an Agricultural Economic Strategy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Engagement with agricultural sector and other rural businesses on barriers and opportunities, and what Council can do to support their ventures. b. Investigate trends of loss of farmland and subdivision of farms. c. Investigate carbon farming opportunities and Council's role. Consider encouraging sustainable practices employing native plant species, and which improve the quality of the Waikato and Waipā rivers, in locations on marginally productive farmland. d. Investigate how to support agricultural diversification to horticultural activities, and to manage reverse sensitivity from horticultural activities for other uses. e. Identify needs and a district plan change to enable accommodation for seasonal workers in suitable locations throughout the district. 	<p>Diverse and resilient economy</p> <p>Māori Economy</p>
<p>19. High quality soils and peat soils are preserved</p>	<p>2. Implement the NPS-Highly Productive Lands</p> <p>Implement the NPS-Highly Productive Lands through a District plan change. Update the district plan to avoid developing on deep peat soils, including monitoring of highly productive soils and peat land lost to development to ensure controls are working effectively.</p>	<p>Productive soils</p> <p>Māori Economy</p>
<p>19. High quality soils and peat soils are preserved</p>	<p>3. Actively monitor rural residential growth</p> <p>Make it a priority to monitor effectiveness of district plan controls on rural residential development and subdivision to assess their efficacy and make improvements if needed.</p>	<p>Productive soils</p> <p>Māori Economy</p> <p>Te Taiao</p>






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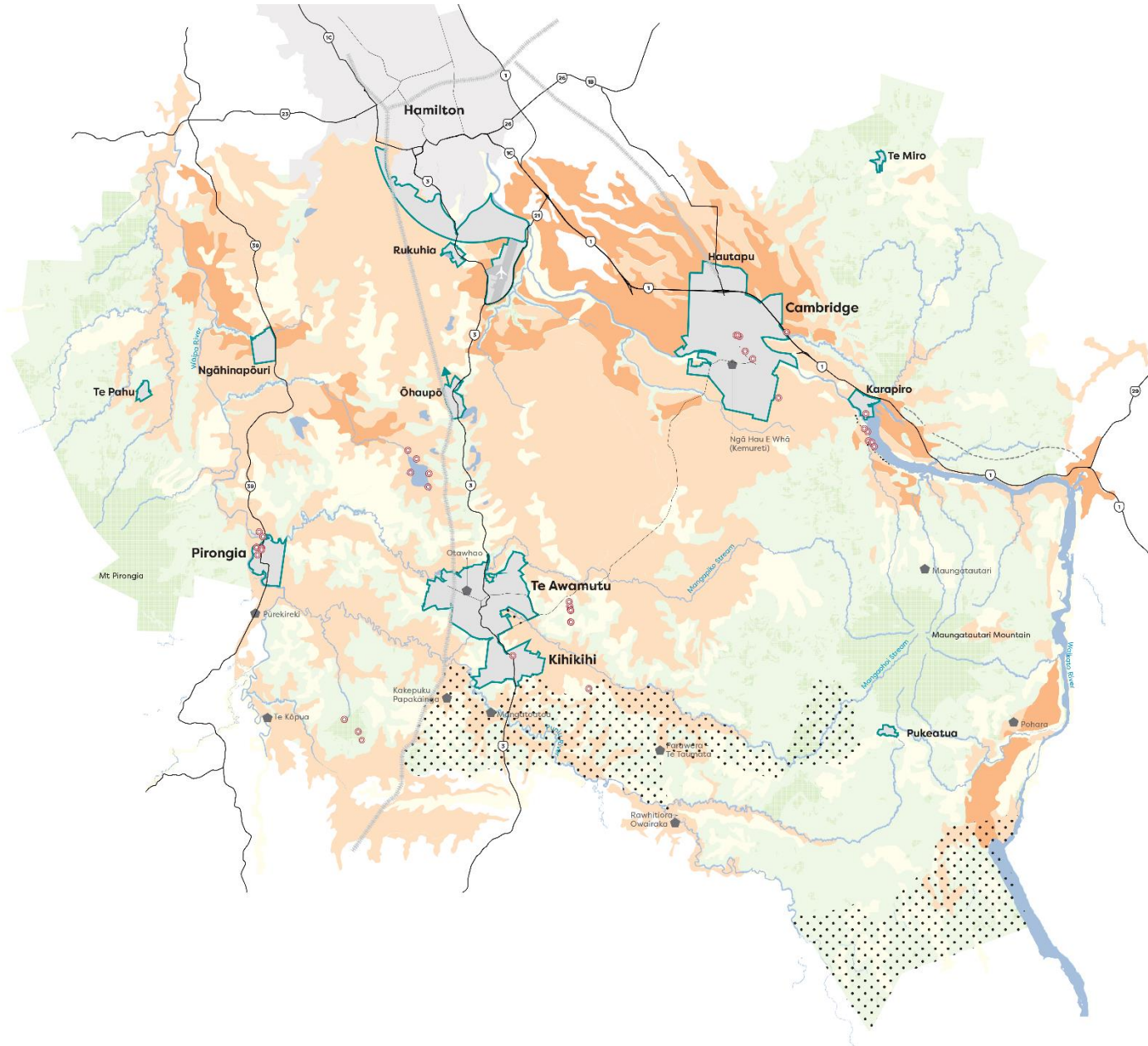
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-  Urban Areas 2011
-  Urban Areas 2050

Rural economy

-  Highly Productive Lands Class 1
-  Highly Productive Lands Class 2
-  Highly Productive Lands Class 3
-  Area of high social deprivation (deciles 7-10, NZDep2018)
-  Urbanised area by 2050 (based on District Plan 2016, and land transfer area north of airport)



3.5 Environment

By 2050, Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato means we are seeing a marked improvement in the health of the Waikato and Waipā rivers. Pirongia and Ōhaupō have reticulated wastewater, avoiding impacts on the Waipā River and peat lakes from private wastewater systems. Areas of highly productive soils, peat soils, peat lakes (and their catchments), and aggregate resources are protected. Taiea te Taiao (a partnership to promote an ecological corridor to link Maungatautari to Mt Pirongia) has been effective and the corridor and steppingstones are well on their way to being fully established.

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

[The river of life, each curve more beautiful than the last]

The restoration, health, and wellbeing of our waterways, including the Waikato and Waipā rivers and peat lakes, is a strong focus. Volunteer groups, along with land owners, have come together to protect the environment. In urban areas pocket parks, corridors and street trees are attractive habitat for flocks of kākā and tūī that come down from the maunga seasonally. Stormwater management has been integrated into new open spaces in growth cells and retrofitted into urban areas where feasible. Pirongia and Ōhaupō have reticulated wastewater systems to avoid the nutrient loading effects on the Waipā river and peat lakes caused by the clusters of onsite private wastewater treatments systems.

Natural resources are protected from loss

Areas of highly productive soils, peat soils, peat lakes (and their catchments), and aggregate resources are protected. Because villages are not expanding beyond their boundaries (with the exception of Ōhaupō), this has led to a process of sustainable and affordable intensification and diversification of housing (e.g., redevelopment with more intensive housing types) within our villages. Infill and redevelopment meant that water quality and biodiversity improvements resulted from better stormwater management approaches and low impact development techniques. Sustainable development has enhanced water quality and biodiversity whilst protecting gullies and streams.

A network of ecological reserves link Pirongia, Kakepuku, Maungatautari, as well as our key peat lakes

In 2050, we continue to work on a walking and cycling trail network to link our key villages and towns and significant sites. This is also to enable the extension of our esplanade reserves, creating a network of ecological reserves linking Pirongia, Kakepuku, Maungatautari, as well as our key peat lakes, and providing extensive access to the Waikato and Waipā Rivers. Esplanade reserves support the relationship of Māori with their taonga (e.g., protection of wahi tapu) and protection of customary rights (e.g., gathering of mahinga kai) Volunteer community groups with support from Department of Conservation and Council keep predators control along these corridors as well as around the maunga.

“Taiea te Taiao Mā Mangapiko, mai i Maungatautari ki Pirongia ahu ake. Translated, this means “Cherish the environment, following the Mangapiko, from Maungatautari to Pirongia, and beyond.”

Taiea te Taiao is a partnership to promote an ecological corridor to link Maungatautari to Mt Pirongia. The purpose for the partnership is to increase connectivity between Maungatautari and Pirongia maunga via ecological steppingstones (habitat nodes). This corridor

reconnected these areas with biodiversity plantings which enhance native species present, transformed iwi connections to the awa, and ultimately improved water quality – particularly of the Mangapiko stream. Council was an active contributor and supporter for the project, particularly when it was near or on Council owned lands.

Carbon offsets with native plantings are leading into a carbon neutral future

Council has undertaken a purposeful carbon offset programme that improves riparian margins with native plantings across the district and implements planting programmes in urban open spaces – like the Cambridge or Pirongia town belts, Waipuke Park, surrounding the peat lakes, and in other parks with large open spaces. Plantings have also focused on the steppingstones for the ecological corridor from Maungatautari to Pirongia mountain.

3.5.1 What we may need to do differently about the environment

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
<p>12. We uphold Te Ture Whaimana and do our part to connect to and improve our rivers</p> <p>13. Our environment is protected, restored, and enhanced</p> <p>14. There is a network of predator-free ecological corridors</p>	<p>1. Environmental programme</p> <p>Establish an environmental programme, with step 1 as the Environment Strategy and action plan to provide the detail for the programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the Environmental Strategy to define and scope activities and priorities in greater detail. Peat lakes are at risk, and with Te Ture Whaimana in mind, this must be treated urgently. Recognizing that a lot of work has been undertaken in this space, Council should develop a partner-based short term action plan to tangibly improve the peat lakes. This could, for example, include an increased pace of funding for biodiversity improvements for peat lakes and land acquisition. Farm Environment Plans for private landowners in the catchment will also need prioritising. It may build from existing platforms like the Waipā Peat Lakes Accord or the Waikato and Waipā River Restoration Strategy. Coordinate with volunteer groups and landowners to prepare an implementation plan to create a network of predator free ecological corridors connecting to Maunga, Peat Lakes, riparian areas – with priority given to Taiea Te Taiao (Plan for an ecological corridor from Maungatautari to Pirongia). Consider long term funding sources. 	<p>A network of predator free ecological corridors connects our Maunga, Peat Lakes, riparian reserves, and urban forests</p> <p>Peat Lakes restored and enhanced</p> <p>Access to open space/passive and active recreation areas</p> <p>Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira</p> <p>Te Taiao</p> <p>Te Ture Whaimana</p>














Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline the opportunities for walking and cycling trails to link key ecological sites (and our towns, villages) and esplanade reserves. Consider the need to preserve and restore wāhi tapu and wāhi whakahirahira, and to provide access. Consider a carbon offset programme that improves riparian margins with native plantings across the district and implements planting programmes in urban open spaces. Note co-benefits towards Te Ture Whaimana. <p>The strategy should also consider the other methods outlined in this section.</p>	
<p>12. We uphold Te Ture Whaimana and do our part to connect to and improve our rivers</p> <p>13. Our environment is protected, restored, and enhanced</p>	<p>2. Urban areas biodiversity enhancements</p> <p>Develop an urban forest and open spaces improvement programme (and street tree planting programme). Urban areas biodiversity improvements can focus on a suitable mix of native and exotic species planting improvements for parks and open spaces. Urban street tree planting can help mitigate stormwater runoff effects on the rivers, mitigate effects from climate change related to heat, improve urban habitat, and street appeal.</p>	<p>Community resilience to climate change and other natural hazards</p> <p>Te Taiao Te Ture Whaimana</p>
<p>12. We uphold Te Ture Whaimana and do our part to connect to and improve our rivers</p>	<p>3. Water quality improvement incentives for rural properties</p> <p>Develop a water quality improvement incentive programme for rural properties, to incentivise riparian improvements with tools like grant programmes or tax rebates. Make this a one-portal service, aligning with similar programmes that may be offered by the regional council or the Waikato River Authority.</p>	<p>Community resilience to climate change and other natural hazards</p> <p>Te Taiao Te Ture Whaimana</p>

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
<p>13. Our environment is protected, restored, and enhanced</p>	<p>4. Continuous esplanade networks</p> <p>To grow a continuous esplanade network will require a Plan Change requiring provision of an extensive network of esplanade and riparian reserves during structure planning/consenting, resulting in a network of trails managed by the Council.</p>	<p>A network of predator free ecological corridors connects our Maunga, Peat Lakes, riparian reserves, and urban forests</p> <p>Te Taiao Te Ture Whaimana</p>
<p>6. We bounce back quickly from extreme environmental events</p>	<p>5. Climate change risk and vulnerabilities study</p> <p>Undertake a climate change risk and vulnerabilities study to better understand both community and infrastructure related risks that can be caused by climate change and what a broad adaptation response can address. The scope of the investigation should include how climate change will affect Council interests, those of Mana Whenua, and those of the wider community. It should outline effective resiliency and adaptation measures.</p>	<p>Community resilience to climate change and other hazards</p> <p>Te Taiao</p>






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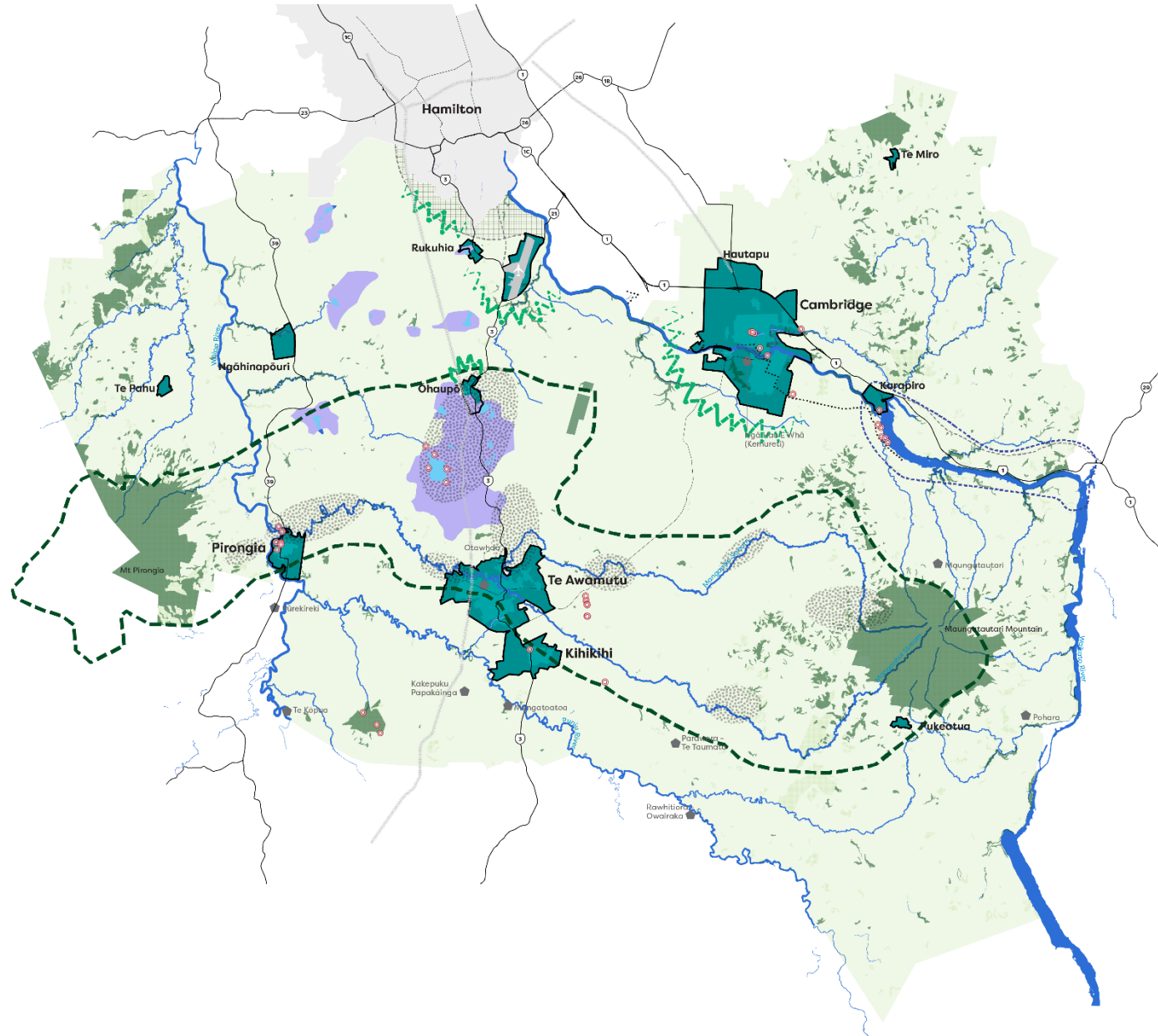
Waipā Community Spatial Plan

Key

-  District boundary
-  Potential future land transfer to Hamilton
-  State highways
-  Rail
-  Southern Links Designation and SH2 Realignment
-  Te Ara Wai Journeys
-  Te Awa River Ride
-  Marae
-  Forested - vegetation
-  Rivers, large streams, lakes
-  Peat lake
-  Urban Areas 2011
-  Urban Areas 2050

Environment

-  Improve the peat lakes: peat lake catchments
-  Maungatautari to Pirongai Ecological Corridor and steppingstones
-  Destination Karāpiro area
-  Significant natural areas (District Plan, 2016)
-  Areas under pressure from future development



3.6 Heritage, arts, and culture

By 2050, the youthful population in our rural villages has reinvigorated our village communities. The Māori and more recent history of the district is given equal weight in our storytelling. There are many opportunities for, and high participation rates, in multi-cultural events.

People have more opportunity to partake in cultural events; there are stronger social connections

The multi-cultural nature of the community is celebrated through public events and art. The village halls are now used often for all sorts of different events. Many needed a first update to ensure they were fit-for-purpose, and over time they have been continually improved to become more multi-purpose. Central public open spaces have been created or improved in the main towns and villages, supplying public venues for cultural activities. The diverse population in terms of age and ethnicity has strengthened the social fabric of the district. High participation in the arts contributes to the district's cultural identity.

Pre- and post-European history are given equal weight

The Māori and more recent history of the district is given equal weight in our storytelling. Cultural heritage is celebrated throughout the landscape with storytelling in spaces, public art, and with interpretation and design elements at sites of significance (when appropriate). Public art has become a focus in each community with new and changing installations adding to the amenity of the public spaces and identity of each place. The museums are places where history is documented and celebrated.

We better connect to areas of cultural and historical heritage helping us preserve and experience it

As the Te Ara Wai Journeys have been operational and the network of walking and cycling trails through the district has expanded, we have been able to work in partnership with Mana Whenua to identify, highlight, protect and make accessible more areas of cultural and historical heritage through the creation of parks and reserves - when appropriate and desirable. The reconnection to these features now attracts day visitors who stop off as they are travelling through or stay in Hamilton and make day trips to Pirongia, Maungatautari, Karāpiro, the peat lakes, and other distinguishing places in the district. Wāhi tapu and wāhi whakahirahira have been preserved and restored, with access.

3.6.1 What we may need to do differently about heritage, arts, and culture

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
<p>9. Cultural diversity is celebrated</p> <p>➤</p>	<p>1. Heritage, arts, and culture programme</p> <p>Establish a heritage, arts, and culture programme, with step 1 being to prepare a Heritage, Arts, and Cultural strategy to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further support the heritage, arts, and culture sector to increase the number of opportunities for residents and visitors to learn more about the history and heritage of Waipā and all of its people. • Further support language and culture being celebrated in the district, creating opportunities for people to connect through related activities in ways that increase social ties and create improved demand for the sector. • Develop a closer and more formal working relationship with Hamilton Waikato Tourism, and Creative Waikato to prepare and implement the strategy. • Create appropriate infrastructure and long-term funding sources to support the heritage, arts and cultural sector. This can include a review of the Heritage Fund budget, criteria, and outcomes and other similar funds available through Council and partner agencies. <p>The strategy should also consider the other methods outlined in this section.</p>	<p>The cultural diversity of the district is recognised and celebrated</p> <p>➤</p> <p>Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira</p>
<p>8. Everyone feels at home in our towns and villages</p> <p>9. Cultural diversity is celebrated</p> <p>➤</p> <p>10. Mana Whenua history is</p>	<p>2. Demonstrate Māori cultural design leadership</p> <p>Prepare design guidance and develop Council policy to ensure that public sector projects in Waipā are demonstrations in excellence for how cultural narratives are expressed through urban design, open spaces design, and architecture.</p>	<p>The cultural diversity of the district is recognised and celebrated</p> <p>➤</p> <p>Sites of cultural and historical significance in the district are protected,</p>














Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
<p>recognised and celebrated in our towns and villages</p>		<p>restored, and enhanced</p> <p>Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira Waka Hourua</p>
<p>11. Culturally significant areas and practices are recognised, protected, and enhanced</p>	<p>3. Improved asset management approach requires a register of cultural, arts and heritage items</p> <p>Determine the condition and list of heritage, arts, and similar cultural assets that Council owns/manages. There are current issues with the asset management database with respect to this class of assets that means they can be better managed and maintained with improved condition and location information.</p> <p>There may be maintenance funding gaps related to this class of assets that can be better identified with an appropriate register. There are specific maintenance procedures and information requirements for some types of cultural/art installations, including for pou that need to be documented.</p>	<p>Sites of cultural and historical significance in the district are protected, restored, and enhanced</p> <p>Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira</p>
<p>11. Culturally significant areas and practices are recognised, protected, and enhanced</p>	<p>4. Pathways that link to cultural sites</p> <p>As the network of cycleways and walkways throughout the district expands, identify, highlight, protect and make accessible more areas of cultural and historical heritage through the creation of parks and reserves. Noting that some culturally significant sites are better managed without access.</p>	<p>Sites of cultural and historical significance in the district are protected, restored, and enhanced</p> <p>Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira</p>
<p>11. Culturally significant areas and practices are recognised, protected, and enhanced</p>	<p>5. Preserve more historic heritage</p> <p>Leverage partner funding opportunities and update mapping of archaeological sites, heritage items, and other culturally significant places where beneficial.</p> <p>This could be followed up with a historic heritage plan change to any new items in the district plan to be subject to the protective rule framework.</p> <p>Also consider when and how to address conversion of pastoral uses to horticultural uses</p>	<p>Sites of cultural and historical significance in the district are protected, restored, and enhanced</p> <p>Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira</p>

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
(which cause greater land disturbance and have higher potential to affect cultural sites).		
<p>8. Cultural diversity is celebrated</p> <p>10. Mana Whenua history is recognised and celebrated in our towns and villages</p>	<p>6. Programme activities in public spaces</p> <p>Programme multi-cultural activities in public spaces, so people can take part in cultural activities. Investigate a markets / events and public realm coordinator position, along with an implementation budget. A dedicated staff resource to help activate community spaces with events, art, and cultural exhibitions. Leverage community funding and partnerships to bring life to public spaces and encourage people to take part in cultural activities.</p>	<p>Diverse and resilient economy</p> <p>The cultural diversity of the district is recognised and celebrated</p> <p>Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira</p>






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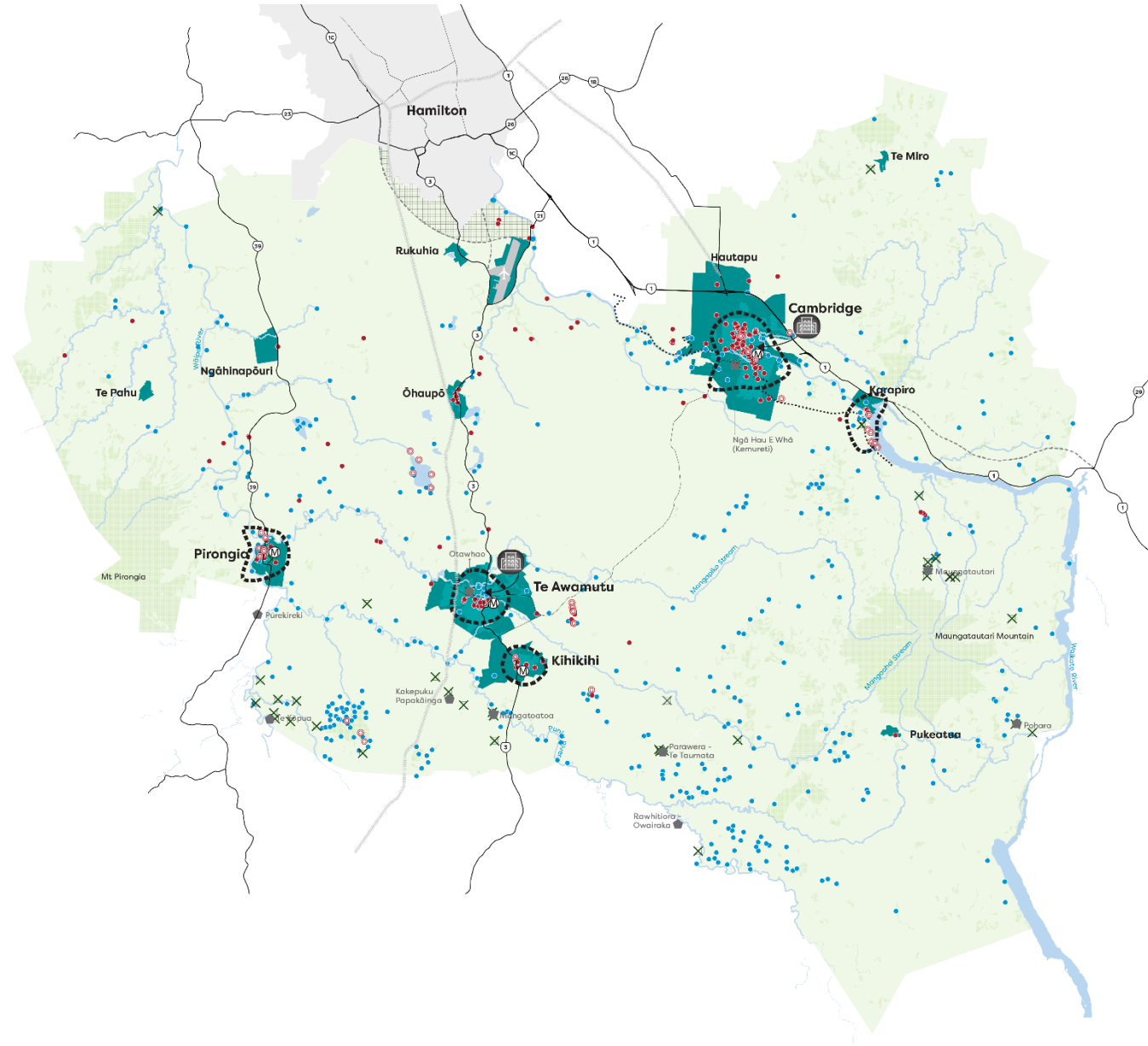
Waipā Community Spatial Plan

Key

-  District boundary
-  Potential future land transfer to Hamilton
-  State highways
-  Rail
-  Southern Links Designation and SH2 Realignment
-  Te Ara Wai Journeys
-  Te Awa River Ride
-  Marae
-  Forested - vegetation
-  Rivers, large streams, lakes
-  Peat lake
-  Urban Areas 2011
-  Urban Areas 2050

Heritage, culture, arts

-  Heritage, culture, arts focus area with a high place-function due to a concentration of features
-  Cultural points (District Plan 2016)
-  Archaeological points (District Plan 2016: NZAA 2009)
-  Heritage buildings (District Plan 2016)
-  Place making priority location



3.7 Parks and public facilities

By 2050, the parks, public facilities, and marae are even more important because our towns are bigger, and our villages are more populated. We have a greater affinity with our environment because open spaces and parks are interwoven in our urban areas. We are overall an older population however our villages have been reinvigorated with new families moving in and the Māori portion of the population is youthful. Elderly people have concentrated in the towns.

There are more ways that residents can be active - meaning the elderly and disadvantaged can participate in active recreation.

Walking, jogging, cycling, and swimming are popular activities. Parks and open spaces have become increasingly flexible and multi-purpose, offering a range of play, active recreation, and sporting opportunities. Play opportunities include mana whenua led Mārā Hūpara and also exercise equipment for adults/older demographics alongside play for tamariki.

Demographic changes, with an older overall population, mean the parks and public facilities are used differently – particularly in the towns. Because of the large elderly population, there has been a continual increase in demand for age-appropriate activities like walking and cycling, with demands on formal sports facilities remaining more static across the district. Parks now have more activities for adults, like exercise equipment and walking loops, as well as things for children.

While focusing on improving accessibility and opportunities for the elderly, we have also pursued an equity-based investment approach. This means that those areas of higher deprivation levels have been a focus of investment in new and improved recreation facilities and customised programmes designed to meet the needs of the people living in these areas.

A good number of our parks now have community gardens and food forests which are looked after by community volunteers, and their regular tending contributes to residents' active lifestyles.

Towns and villages showcase our collective heritage in our public spaces and cultural activities.

Because development was more intensive than initially planned, some new planning, infrastructure and public realm initiatives were required. In urban areas pocket parks, corridors and street trees are attractive habitat for flocks of kākā and tūi that come down from the maunga seasonally. Stormwater management facilities are designed alongside open spaces in growth cells and retrofit into urban areas where feasible. Ōhaupō has recently begun to grow into a small town. This includes additional investments into a larger town centre (not on Highway 3), improved park facilities, and a new school.

Destination Karāpiro, an expanded recreation network of day use areas and tourism businesses

When SH1 was realigned for the Cambridge to Piarere connection, Council recognised the opportunity to further develop the Karāpiro lake access points for day users as part of a recreational network around the lake – reinforcing the reputation of Lake Karāpiro as a sports and recreation destination. We now have a series of well used day-use areas along the length of the Lake at key points, including expanded picnic and swimming options,

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alongside boating facilities. There are new tourism businesses which have been encouraged to operate in the area.

Marae, village halls, and schools have become more central to the wider communities

Marae have become local community hubs, providing schooling for rangatahi right up to secondary school age, whānau ora facilities, as well acting as emergency management hubs and holding community events that attract the wider community.

The village halls are being used frequently for all sorts of different purposes and events, enabled by a slow but steady pace of improvements made by Council to make them increasingly more multi-purpose.

School pools have been made available to the public through partnerships with the Ministry of Education.

A network of ecological reserves linking Pirongia, Kakepuku, Maungatautari, as well as our key rejuvenated peat lakes.

We continue to work on a walking and cycling trail network to link our key villages and towns and significant sites. This includes the extension of our esplanade reserves, creating a network of ecological reserves linking Pirongia, Pukemako, Kakepuku, Maungatautari, as well as our key peat lakes. Volunteer community groups with support from Department of Conservation and Council maintain predator control along these corridors as well as around the maunga.

Council has identified specific opportunities to provide increased protection for significant sites, and improvements to access and quality of traditional mahinga kai gathering sites make this possible. Wāhi tapu, wāhi whakahirahira have been preserved, and restored, with improved access.

3.7.1 What we may need to do differently about parks and public facilities

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
<p>5. People can access the services they need</p>	<p>1. Increase renewals and level of service in urban locations of high growth, and high deprivation</p> <p>➤ To ensure access to parks and public facilities we will need to increase parks level of services and improve universal accessibility. This may require increasing community asset renewals at a faster pace.</p> <p>Previously Council has benefited from volunteers providing assets in parks. These are beginning to fail, and Council must fund renewals. The renewal programme work will need to increase.</p>	<p>Equitable access to services and opportunities</p> <p>➤ Access to open space/passive and active recreation areas</p> <p>People can participate in the diverse culture of the district regardless of age and ability</p> <p>Papakāinga and Housing affordability</p>

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
<p>5. People can access the services they need</p> <p>7. Day to day needs are either a 10-minute walk or bike ride away</p>	<p>2. Sufficient libraries, parks, pools</p> <p>In places that are likely to change a lot (such as Cambridge, Te Awamutu, Ōhaupō, and Pirongia) assess capacity and provide funding for new or expanded libraries, pools, sports fields, urban parks.</p> <p>Consult with migrant organisations and a variety of ethnic communities to consider a broad range of needs when reviewing levels of service. Engage with the Ministry of Education about how school pools can become widely used by the local communities.</p> <p>Consider a hubbing model for major facilities where more than one entity occupies a building to create a vibrant community space.</p>	<p>Equitable access to services and opportunities</p> <p>➤ Papakāinga and Housing affordability</p>
<p>8. Everyone feels at home in our towns and villages</p>	<p>3. Multi-cultural funeral facilities, including urupā</p> <p>Review cemeteries facilities to ensure urupā are in place and services are available to support tangi, and that other cultural needs can be catered for.</p>	<p>The cultural diversity of the district is recognised and celebrated</p> <p>➤ Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira</p>
<p>4. Our roads are safe</p> <p>5. People can access the services they need</p>	<p>4. Universal accessibility for parks and facilities</p> <p>Parks and facilities will have to cater to an older user group than initially designed for. Open space will need to be better connected to where people live and provide a well-connected pathway network, including through existing parks.</p> <p>Scope and implement universal accessibility improvements in parks and facilities and consider improvements to popular access routes leading to these sites. Walking, including pathway networks in parks that connect with the wider community creates many more opportunities for passive recreation- particularly with an older population.</p>	<p>➤ People can participate in the diverse culture of the district regardless of age and ability</p>

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
<p>8. Everyone feels at home in our towns and villages</p> <p>9. Cultural diversity is celebrated</p> <p>10. Mana Whenua feel at home in the towns and villages</p>	<p>5. Strategic placemaking to create ‘third places’¹² where people can socially connect</p> <p>Develop a targeted placemaking strategy to coordinate further investments into community infrastructure that attracts high quality businesses and employees to want to invest, live, and work in Cambridge and Te Awamutu.</p> <p>This may focus on main street redevelopments and a strategic property investment plan to catalyse redevelopment. It should also address the concept of community hubs/groups which can co-locate to create vibrant shared spaces.</p> <p>The Economic Development Strategy can help to define priorities. The intent is to continue to attract investment and high-quality employees to Waipā because of the great quality of life and public places which express pre- and post-colonial history are part of it.</p>	<p>Diverse and resilient economy</p> <p>Infrastructure attracts new industry</p> <p>The cultural diversity of the district is recognised and celebrated</p> <p>Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira</p>
<p>9. Cultural diversity is celebrated</p>	<p>6. Activate the public realm so people have more cultural activities to engage in</p> <p>Expand the markets / events and public realm coordinator resources, along with a larger implementation budget. Additional dedicated staff resources to help activate community spaces and leverage community funding and partnerships can help bring life to public spaces and encourage people to participate in multi-cultural activities.</p>	<p>The cultural diversity of the district is recognised and celebrated</p> <p>Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira</p>
<p>1. Work and plan together to improve people’s lives</p> <p>17. There is a diverse range</p>	<p>7. Destination Karāpiro</p> <p>Work closely with mana whenua to develop a long-term programme to create ‘destination Karāpiro’, including public realm improvements, investments, and a partnership plan and marketing strategy. This should function independent of future</p>	<p>Equitable access to services and opportunities</p> <p>Access to open space/passive and active recreation areas</p> <p>Infrastructure attracts new industry</p>

¹² The term ‘Third place’ was coined by the sociologist Ray Oldenburg in the 1980s and refers to a physical location other than work or home where there is little to no financial barrier to entry and where conversation is the primary activity.

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
<p>of businesses in our District</p>	<p>changes to State Highway 1, and also recognise the opportunity this presents.</p> <p>Consider the role that the former highway link could provide to the area, define a preferred cycle network that links to important open spaces, and what lobby activities could be required of Waka Kotahi.</p> <p>Consider what other opportunities there may be for external parties and funders to contribute to the destination Karapiro concept.</p>	<p>Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira</p> <p>Māori Economy</p>
<p>8. Cultural diversity is celebrated</p>	<p>8. Enhance the community halls</p> <p>Community halls provide an essential function in small and large communities; however they are in need of updating. Consider a long term investment plan for the community halls. This might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define needs across all the community halls as a programme, • Review the suitability of the halls and related costs for improvements. Prioritise the core facilities, e.g. toilets and kitchens need to be good quality. • Develop a business plan for improvements that explores funding options. In growth areas consider funding hall improvements with growth funding. Examine if they can be run differently to better meet community needs. Identify partnership options and commercial options. 	

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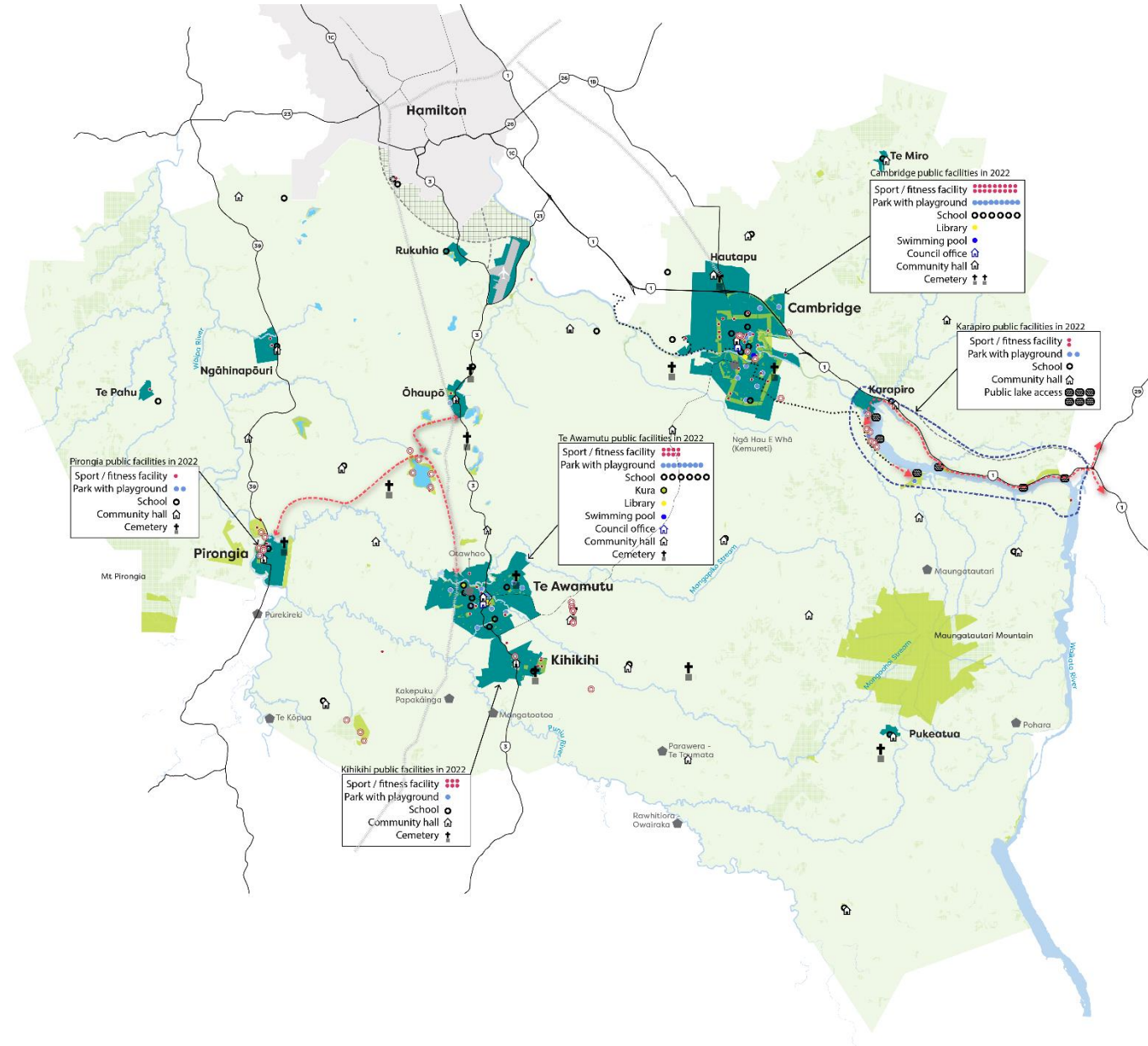
Waipā Community Spatial Plan

Key

- District boundary
- Potential future land transfer to Hamilton
- State highways
- Rail
- Southern Links Designation and SH2 Realignment
- Te Ara Wai Journeys
- Te Awa River Ride
- Marae
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Peat lake
- Building footprints 2021
- Urban Areas 2050

Parks and public facilities

- Park or reserve
- Sports / fitness facility
- Park with a playground
- School
- Kura
- Library
- Swimming Pool
- Council office
- Community hall
- Cemetery
- Public lake access
- Cycle network extensions for destination Karāpiro and the Pirongia - Ngā Roto - Ōhaupō - Te Awamutu link.



Pirongia public facilities in 2022
 Sport / fitness facility
 Park with playground
 School
 Community hall
 Cemetery

Te Awamutu public facilities in 2022
 Sport / fitness facility
 Park with playground
 School
 Kura
 Library
 Swimming pool
 Council office
 Community hall
 Cemetery

Kihikihī public facilities in 2022
 Sport / fitness facility
 Park with playground
 School
 Community hall
 Cemetery

Te Miro Cambridge public facilities in 2022
 Sport / fitness facility
 Park with playground
 School
 Library
 Swimming pool
 Council office
 Community hall
 Cemetery

Karāpiro public facilities in 2022
 Sport / fitness facility
 Park with playground
 School
 Community hall
 Public lake access

3.8 Transport

By 2050, people and freight in Waipā have access to an integrated, safe, sustainable transport system that provides a range of travel choices. Walking, wheeling¹³, cycling, and public transport are the preferred mode by 2050.

We hardly ever need to use our car in the towns or villages.

Footpaths and cycleways provide great connectivity, and every town has excellent public transport services that connect every suburb. Children can safely walk and cycle to schools and other community amenities. In the main urban centres, we can get around by walking and cycling although most families still have access to a car.

The bus and other public transport options are frequent and fast; many people prefer it to the car

Improvements in public transport throughout the Waikato region mean we can move easily within and between urban areas, and key employment centres like the airport and Hautapu, without driving. By 2050, the bus service between Cambridge and Hamilton has improved to a dedicated right of way with faster travel times than general traffic. Bus services from Te Awamutu through Ōhaupō and into Hamilton also now feature prioritised corridors with frequent services. The park and rides in Te Awamutu and Cambridge are popular, and easily accessed by bike or e-scooter. There is a reliable bus service between Cambridge and Te Awamutu.

The roads are well-maintained for freight and for rural and agricultural related traffic

In our more rural areas, demand responsive PT services (like on-demand rideshare) helps people access public and personal services like healthcare or grocery stores. Rural cycleways are under development between villages and urban areas to improve rural and village residents' ability to access larger urban centres without always having to drive. Many people still drive from the other villages to get to work in Hamilton, or at the airport or Hautapu, when they are not nearby a bus route. Electrification of vehicles has reduced climate emissions from this activity.

The strategic roading network has been expanded and safeguarded

A series of strategic transport projects are in varying stages of planning or completion in the district including Cambridge-Piarere SH1 extension, Southern Links urban arterials and state highway components, northern on-ramp at the Cambridge southern expressway, Cambridge Third Bridge and urban mobility network, and the Te Awamutu western arterials and urban mobility network.¹⁴ These have the potential to improve key transport routes, mode choice, safety, and amenity.

Cambridge urban mobility improvements create opportunities to develop Cambridge's CBD as a more people friendly place, aligned with the third bridge. Te Awamutu's western arterials and the completion of the Southern Links network can further enhance transport

¹³ Referring to small wheeled mobility devices, like e-scooters and e-skateboards.

¹⁴ For strategic transport projects, implementation timing and funding are unconfirmed. The form and function of these projects may change. The future scenario assumes these projects take place late in the 30-year period or beyond, acknowledging that it could be sooner or later, incrementally instead of all-at-once, and that the scope of the projects can change substantially from what is known now.

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efficiency both through and to district, enabling the airport’s strategic industrial node to grow and for Te Awamutu to benefit from expanded business access to markets.

Growth at the Airport impacted on state highway and district road connections like SH21 and SH3. Council was able to work effectively with the airport, Mystery Creek and Waka Kotahi to address these challenges and unlock growth in these areas.

3.8.1 What we may need to do differently about transportation

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
<p>15. Greenhouse gas emissions have been lowered</p> <p>16. We prefer to walk, cycle, and use public transport to get to where we need to go</p>	<p>1. Transformative mode shift for urban areas</p> <p>Enable transformative mode shift for urban areas by investing in the H-W MSP Transport Programme Business Case implementation.</p> <p>Denser urban environments work better when there is high quality public transport. We need to mitigate climate change, and help people access opportunities in cost effective ways. High frequency public transport is necessary to these aims.</p> <p>Develop a wraparound transport investment programme to support the H-W MSP transport programme by further investment into the active mode networks in Cambridge and Te Awamutu and improving the public amenity and accessibility in the vicinity of future stop locations.</p> <p>Deliver a demand management programme including road and parking space reallocation in our urban areas away from private vehicle storage to be more people centred and about walking and cycling to local destinations. Accommodate active modes, utilise parking lots for higher value business and housing uses (whilst considering needs or rural users), utilise on road parking spaces for walking, cycling, passenger transport and environmental enhancement activities like trees, stormwater treatment. Space re-allocation is a highly cost-effective mode shift approach.</p>	<p>Infrastructure attracts new industry</p> <p>Reduce carbon emissions</p> <p>Equitable access to services and opportunities</p> <p>Safe journeys</p> <p>Te Taiao</p>
<p>1. Work and plan together to improve people’s lives</p> <p>17. There is a diverse range of businesses in our District</p>	<p>2. Masterplan high growth business parks</p> <p>An efficient roading network supports people who still need to use the road - particularly freight.</p> <p>Outside of the urban areas, Te Awamutu and Cambridge, there are substantial employment growth areas that need to be addressed through an integrated transportation lens - particularly the</p>	<p>Infrastructure attracts new industry</p> <p>Safe journeys</p> <p>Equitable access to services and opportunities</p>

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
<p>20. We manage growth so it is affordable</p>	<p>airport / Mystery Creek environs and Hautapu where growth is constrained by the strategic roading network.</p> <p>Master planning these business park areas in collaboration with partners / developers can leverage co-investments in enabling infrastructure and unlock economic development.</p> <p>This may be particularly important around areas constrained from growth by the transport network, such as the airport/Mystery Creek location.</p> <p>Consider developing business cases to lobby for direct investment by Government where economic growth is demonstrably being stymied by a lack of transport access or capacity.</p>	<p>Māori Economy</p>
<p>7. Day-to-day needs are either a 10-minute walk or bike ride away</p> <p>16. We prefer to walk, cycle, and use public transport to get to where we need to go</p> <p>20. We manage growth so it is affordable</p>	<p>➤ 3. Invest into walking and cycling access for local centres</p> <p>Significantly improve satellite CBDs in the main towns, and ensure new centres are designed for walking and cycling first.</p> <p>Make local centres into places where people and cycling are the priority. Growth will occur across the urban areas meaning that smaller shopping nodes like Leamington will need to expand to service the local community.</p> <p>Prepare wider walking/cycling connections and end-of-trip facilities. Prioritise school catchments, connecting with future rapid / frequent bus services stops and park and rides, and in the walking catchment of local centres.</p>	<p>➤ Reduce carbon emissions</p> <p>Equitable access to services and opportunities</p> <p>Access to open space/passive and active recreation areas</p> <p>Safe journeys</p> <p>Papakāinga and Housing affordability</p> <p>Te Taiao</p>
<p>5. People can access the services they need</p> <p>16. We prefer to walk, cycle, and use public transport to get to where we need to go</p>	<p>➤ 4. Destination Karapiro and the SH1 Cambridge to Piarere response</p> <p>Develop a cycle network plan for Lake Karapiro as part of the Destination Karapiro concept.</p> <p>Cambridge to Piarere SH1 extension is currently unfunded in the National Land Transport Programme and timing is unknown. As part of the destination Karapiro concept, and working alongside partners like Waka Kotahi, consider the</p>	<p>➤ Reduce carbon emissions</p> <p>Equitable access to services and opportunities</p> <p>Safe journeys</p>

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
	<p>following activities triggered by the highway project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Karapiro school: relocate into or adjacent to the village (preferred option) or provide a safe pathway connection from the village to the existing school. 2. Develop a cycle network along the north side of Lake Karapiro that supports the intended user audience for destination Karapiro and links to the wider network and key destinations. 	
<p>5. People can access the services they need</p>	<p>5. Rural public transport access</p> <p>➤ Work with partners (like Waikato Regional Council, Ministry of Transport, and Waikato DHB) to establish a rural PT rideshare programme that focuses on connecting rural communities and other hard to reach places. Consider transfers to future frequent bus services and park and rides.</p>	<p>➤ Equitable access to services and opportunities</p>

Ahu Ake

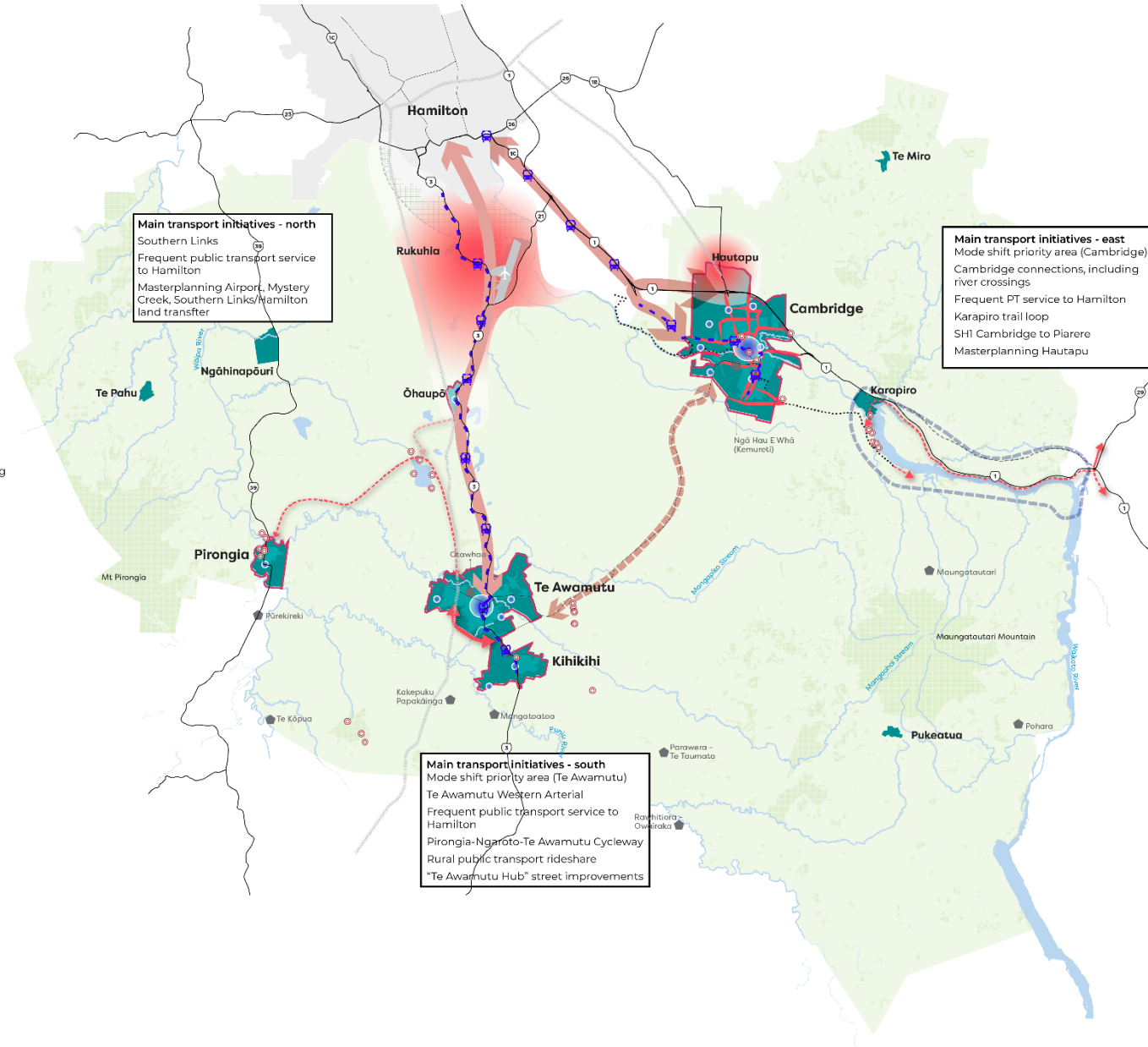
Waipā Community Spatial Plan

Key

- District boundary
- Potential future land transfer to Hamilton
- State highways
- Rail
- Southern Links Designation and SH2 Realignment
- Te Ara Wai Journeys
- Te Awa River Ride
- Marae
- Forested - vegetation
- Rivers, large streams, lakes
- Peat lake
- Urban Areas 2011
- Urban Areas 2050

Transport

- Frequent PT Service Corridor
- Existing bus services on main corridors
- Future multi-model connection
- High growth area - employment, requiring masterplanning
- Future cycle path connection
- Cambridge connections
- Te Awamutu Western Arterial
- Mode shift priority places
- Local and Town Centre active mode priority destinations



Main transport initiatives - north
 Southern Links
 Frequent public transport service to Hamilton
 Masterplanning Airport, Mystery Creek, Southern Links/Hamilton land transfer

Main transport initiatives - east
 Mode shift priority area (Cambridge)
 Cambridge connections, including river crossings
 Frequent PT service to Hamilton
 Karapiro trail loop
 SH1 Cambridge to Piarere
 Masterplanning Hautapu

Main transport initiatives - south
 Mode shift priority area (Te Awamutu)
 Te Awamutu Western Arterial
 Frequent public transport service to Hamilton
 Pirongia-Ngaroto-Te Awamutu Cycleway
 Rural public transport rideshare
 "Te Awamutu Hub" street improvements

3.9 Three Waters

By 2050, three waters infrastructure gives effect to Te Ture Whaimana and provides affordable and effective services for our growing population. Systems have expanded to meet demand and improve quality of service.

Since 2024 a new three waters entity has operated the waters networks

Council is no longer responsible for the delivery of all three waters functions but rather has a representative voice in how these services are delivered.¹⁵ Ahu Ake sets out some of Waipā District Council’s priorities that will need to be addressed by the new three waters entity.

3.9.1 What we may need to do differently about three waters

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
<p>20. We manage growth so it is affordable</p>	<p>1. Increase urban network capacity and performance (new three waters entity)</p> <p>➤ The NPS-Urban Development means an ongoing increase in densities in the Tier 1 urban areas of the district, including Cambridge and Te Awamutu. The NPS-Highly Productive Lands results in limits on greenfield growth in these areas, providing more weight towards infill growth to accommodate more people. Te Ture Whaimana requires improvement to the Waikato and Waipā rivers, meaning three waters networks that are fit for purpose. The three waters networks will come under increasing strain and need improvement over time to meet these new performance demands.</p>	<p>➤ Housing supply and affordability</p> <p>➤ Infrastructure attracts new industry</p> <p>Te Ture Whaimana</p> <p>Te Taiao</p> <p>Papakāinga and Housing affordability</p>
<p>1. Work and plan together to improve people’s lives</p>	<p>2. Integrate urban stormwater alongside open spaces (new three waters entity and Council)</p> <p>➤ Open spaces can play a central role in providing for stormwater management in urban areas. The new three waters entity should consider how to work with Waipā District Council land assets and new parks and open spaces to combine recreation / transport / three waters functions where feasible to deliver overall cost savings in cases where the function of combined assets is not sacrificed.</p>	<p>Te Ture Whaimana</p> <p>➤ Te Taiao</p> <p>Community resilience to climate change and other natural hazards</p>

¹⁵ Noting some discrete functions like rural stormwater management will remain a council responsibility.

Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
<p>12. We uphold Te Ture Whaimana and do our part to connect to and improve our rivers</p> <p>13. Our environment is protected, restored, and enhanced</p>	<p>➤ 3. Wastewater reticulation for Ōhaupō and Pirongia (new three waters entity)</p> <p>Wastewater discharge from Ōhaupō, which is presently private land discharging to groundwater, likely affects the peat lakes. This scenario also takes place in Pirongia with respect to the Waipā River. Considering Te Ture Whaimana requirements, in the long term (e.g. 20-30 years) both communities should be provided with reticulated wastewater services. For Ōhaupō this should also reflect future growth parameters for the community.</p>	<p>➤ Te Ture Whaimana</p> <p>Te Taiao</p> <p>Housing supply and affordability</p> <p>Peat Lakes restored and enhanced</p>
<p>12. We uphold Te Ture Whaimana and do our part to connect to and improve our rivers</p> <p>13. Our environment is protected, restored, and enhanced</p>	<p>➤ 4. Improve climate resilience by managing effects of urban densification towards stormwater</p> <p>Waipā Council infrastructure already has good control of the quality of urban stormwater, the focus will need to shift to quantity management.</p> <p>As urban intensification takes place, peak flows will increase meaning the stormwater system has to change to provide more attenuation capacity. Climate change is expected to cause more acute rainfall events, making this an even more important focus for improvement.</p> <p>As an example, there are opportunities to improve local attenuation in places like Pirongia where wide surplus road verges can be planted for stormwater and amenity benefits.</p>	<p>➤ Te Ture Whaimana</p> <p>Te Taiao</p> <p>Community resilience to climate change and other natural hazards</p>
<p>12. We uphold Te Ture Whaimana and do our part to connect to and improve our rivers</p> <p>13. Our environment is protected, restored,</p>	<p>➤ 5. Review rural drainage management approach</p> <p>Review regulation and performance of existing rural drainage systems. There are changing expectations and aspirations that may require an updated approach to rural drainage. Especially in relation to the peat lakes.</p> <p>Rural drainage will remain with Waipā district as a responsibility. Urban stormwater will come into rural environment and Waipā will have to address this in the rural drainage systems. This will require combined responsibilities and activities between</p>	<p>➤ Te Ture Whaimana</p> <p>Te Taiao</p> <p>Peat Lakes restored and enhanced</p>

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Bottom lines	Possible method (may change)	Primary benefits & Mana Whenua aspirations
and enhanced	private landowners, Waikato Regional Council and Waipā District Council.	

Appendix A. Bottom lines

Bottom lines edit: post-partners workshop, and IWG feedback

Bottom lines have been edited based on the partners workshop feedback, from review by the Internal Working Group, and to be simpler.

Original bottom line from Partners Workshop	Updated bottom line for Future Scenario
<p>1. Those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in a place need to work and plan together, with partners and local communities, to improve the lives of people, support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create more successful places.</p> <p><i>[Place is where people, location and resources combine to create a sense of identity and purpose, and it is how we can realise the full potential of Waipā's communities. Places are shaped by the way resources, services and assets are directed and used by the people who live in and invest in them.]</i></p>	<p>1 Work and plan together to improve people's lives</p> <p>Those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in a place need to work and plan together, with partners and local communities, to improve the lives of people, support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create more successful places.</p> <p><i>[Place is where people, location and resources combine to create a sense of identity and purpose, and it is how we can realise the full potential of Waipā's communities. Places are shaped by the way resources, services and assets are directed and used by the people who live in and invest in them.]</i></p>
<p>2. The housing stock in Waipā suits a range of housing needs and budgets.</p>	<p>2 There is housing for everyone</p> <p>The housing stock suits the range of housing needs, budgets, and aspirations of every person in Waipā.</p>
<p>3. It becomes easier to establish papakāinga, and as a result, new papakāinga are developed.</p>	<p>3 There are more papakāinga in Waipā</p> <p>Barriers to papakāinga are removed, and as a result, new papakāinga are developed.</p>
<p>4. Zero tolerance to death and serious injury on the Waipā transport network.</p>	<p>4 Our roads are safe</p> <p>A safe transport system in the Waipā district where no one is killed or seriously injured.</p>
<p>5. All people in Waipā have equitable access to education, social services, healthcare, and open space.</p>	<p>5 People can access the services they need</p> <p>All people in Waipā have equitable access to education, social services, healthcare, and open space.</p>

Original bottom line from Partners Workshop	Updated bottom line for Future Scenario
<p>6. Waipā communities are resilient to climate change and other hazards.</p>	<p>6 We bounce back quickly from extreme environmental events</p> <p>Waipā communities are resilient to climate change and other natural hazards.</p>
<p>7. In the towns and villages everyone can meet their basic needs within a short walk or bike ride from home because of equal access to core services and opportunities.</p>	<p>7 Day-to-day needs are either a 10-minute walk or bike ride away</p> <p>In the towns and villages everyone can meet their day-to-day needs (such as a library, supermarket, café, school, open space) within a ten-minute walk or bike ride from home because of equal access to shop, play or learn.</p>
<p>8. The urban design of our towns and villages means everyone feels at home because the past, present, and future is represented in the urban form, architecture, artwork, and public space.</p>	<p>8 Everyone feels at home in our towns and villages</p> <p>The urban environment of our towns and villages means everyone feels at home because the past, present, and future is represented in the shape of our towns/villages, architecture, artwork, and public spaces.</p>
<p>9. Waipā’s towns and villages have a strong sense of identity and purpose linked to their location, people, and histories meaning that the cultural diversity of Waipā is celebrated throughout the district.</p> <p>(9 is combined with 10)</p> <p>10. The number of cultural events in Waipā increases and a broad range of people participate in events.</p>	<p>9 Cultural diversity is celebrated</p> <p>Waipā’s towns and villages have a strong sense of local identity and purpose linked to their location, people, and histories meaning that the cultural diversity of Waipā is celebrated throughout the district. The number of cultural events in Waipā increases and a broad range of people participates in events.</p>
<p>11. Our communities are places that increasingly recognise and celebrate Mana Whenua histories. Mana Whenua feel at home in our towns and villages.</p>	<p>10 Mana Whenua history is recognised and celebrated in our towns and villages</p> <p>Our communities are places that increasingly recognise and celebrate Mana Whenua histories. Mana Whenua feel at home in our towns and villages.</p>

Original bottom line from Partners Workshop	Updated bottom line for Future Scenario
<p>12. Cultural landscapes, taonga, customary activities, wāhi tapu, wāhi whakahirahira, wāhi tupuna, mahinga kai are recognised, protected and enhanced.</p>	<p>11 Culturally significant areas and practices are recognised, protected, and enhanced</p> <p>Significant cultural areas, taonga, customary activities, wāhi tapu, wāhi whakahirahira, wāhi tupuna, mahinga kai are recognised, protected, and enhanced.</p>
<p>13. Waipā upholds Te Ture Whaimana and Tāwhiao’s vision for “Tōku awa koiora me ōna pikonga he kura tangihia o te mātāmuri” [the river of life, each curve more beautiful than the last].</p>	<p>12 We uphold Te Ture Whaimana and do our part to connect to and improve our rivers</p> <p>Waipā upholds Te Ture Whaimana and Tāwhiao’s vision for “Tōku awa koiora me ōna pikonga he kura tangihia o te mātāmuri” [the river of life, each curve more beautiful than the last].</p>
<p>14. The mauri and life supporting capacity of te taiao [the environment] is enhanced.</p>	<p>13 Our environment is protected, restored, and enhanced</p> <p>We take measures such as reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to protect, restore and enhance mauri and life supporting capacity of te taiao [the environment].</p>
<p>15. A network of predator-free ecological corridors protects ngā koiora tuku iho [natural heritage and biodiversity].</p>	<p>14 There is a network of predator-free ecological corridors</p> <p>A network of predator-free ecological refuges (corridors and steppingstones) protects ngā koiora tuku iho [natural heritage and biodiversity].</p>
<p>16. Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to net zero by 2050.</p>	<p>15 Greenhouse gas emissions have been lowered</p> <p>District wide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to net zero by 2050.</p>
<p>17. Support people to walk, cycle and use public transport, reducing vehicle kilometres travelled (VKT) throughout Waipā.</p>	<p>16 We prefer to walk, cycle, and use public transport to get to where we need to go</p> <p>Enable people to walk, cycle and use public transport, reducing vehicle kilometres travelled (VKT) throughout Waipā.</p>

Original bottom line from Partners Workshop	Updated bottom line for Future Scenario
<p>18. The types of industries in Waipā diversify, and as part of this Mana Whenua can use their land to support their whānau wellbeing</p> <p>(18 is split into two bottom lines)</p>	<p>17 There is a diverse range of businesses in our District</p> <p>The types of businesses in Waipā diversify with growth focusing increasingly on knowledge based economic activities with higher value employment, improving local career choices for the next generations.</p> <hr/> <p>18 There are more Māori owned businesses in Waipā</p> <p>Mana Whenua can better use their land to support their whānau wellbeing.</p>
<p>19. There is no new loss of high-quality soils or new development on peat soils.</p>	<p>19 High quality soils and peat soils are preserved</p> <p>We minimise further loss of high-quality soils and peat soils.</p>
<p>20. Communities and employment grow at a rate and in places that are affordable for the community, including the affordable provision of three waters and community infrastructure.</p>	<p>20 We manage growth so it is affordable</p> <p>Growth and the provision of infrastructure are integrated for a cost-effective approach to development.</p>

Appendix B. How we will map our progress

The benefits sought by Ahu Ake were endorsed by the Ahu Ake Project Control Group to inform the assessment of scenarios and to ensure implementation activities lead back to the vision and community outcomes.

Benefits sought to deliver the Vision and Community Outcomes

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing supply and affordability 2. Equitable access to services and opportunities 3. Safe journeys 4. Access to open space/passive and active recreation areas 5. Mana Whenua are empowered to utilise land under their control for the wellbeing of their whanau 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The cultural diversity of the District is recognised and celebrated 7. Sites of cultural and historical significance in the District are protected, restored and enhanced 8. People are able to participate in the diverse culture of the district regardless of age and ability 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Reduce Carbon emissions by a minimum of 25% (from 2018/19) by 2030, on the path to Net zero carbon emissions by 2050 10. Community resilience to climate change and other hazards 11. Peat Lakes restored and enhanced 12. A network of predator free ecological corridors connects our Maunga, Peat Lakes, riparian reserves and urban forests 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Productive Soils 14. Diverse and Resilient Economy 15. Infrastructure attracts new industry
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Mana Whenua Aspirations

Mana Whenua aspirations were developed through review of iwi environmental management plans, with Mana Whenua and NITOW, and authorised by the Ahu Ake Project Control Group. They informed the evaluation of scenarios, leading to the Future Scenario. Implementation activities must lead back to the vision and community outcomes, and the Mana Whenua Aspirations.

<p>3.9.1.1 Papakāinga and Housing affordability</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enable papakāinga development on rural and urban land 2. Reduce the housing shortfall and provide a range of different housing typology/choice in the District for Māori by 2030, particularly for those people in greater need for housing 3. Provide Mana Whenua with equitable access to the education, healthcare and social services they need without having to travel too far from home. 4. Enable Mana Whenua to utilise the land that they own or lease without inappropriate constraints
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<p>3.9.1.2 Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Whakahirahira</p>	<p>5. Recognise and celebrate Mana Whenua’s historical and existing place in the district</p> <p>6. Recognise, protect and enhance cultural landscapes, taonga and sites, customary activities, wāhi tapu, wāhi whakahirahira, wāhi tūpuna, mahinga kai</p> <p>7. Recognise Mana Whenua values and ability to access (including agreed level of community access), use and care for cultural landscapes and taonga (customary activities)</p>
<p>3.9.1.3 Māori Economy</p>	<p>8. Protect and restore our highly productive soils and provide for mahinga kai</p> <p>9. Provide a diverse Māori economic base that is resilient to changing circumstances</p>
<p>3.9.1.4 Te Taiao</p>	<p>10. Reduce GHG emissions and/or protect marae, Wāhi etc from risks of climate change and natural hazards</p> <p>11. Enhance the quality and extent of wetland habitat and peat lakes in the District</p> <p>12. Protect and restore ngā koiora tuku iho, natural heritage and biodiversity</p> <p>13. Enhance the mauri and life supporting capacity of land</p> <p>14. Enhance the mauri and life supporting capacity of water.</p>
<p>3.9.1.5 Waka Hourua</p>	<p>15. Provide for strong partnerships between Mana Whenua, council and the community working collectively for mutually beneficially outcomes.</p>
<p>3.9.1.6 Te Ture Whaimana</p>	<p>16. Tooku awa koiora me oona pikonga he kura tangihia o te maataamuri / The river of life, each curve more beautiful than the last</p> <p>17. Restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, Waipā River and their tributaries’</p>

Appendix C. How the Future Scenario stacks up to the status quo (Scenario 1)

The multi-staged evaluation process specified that each of the Community Outcomes were best delivered through the other scenarios rather than through our base case - Scenario 1. The hybrid scenario, therefore, presents an updated pathway to best deliver on each of the community wellbeing aspects. This is outlined via a series of proposed interventions which in turn will provide direction to the projects being planned and funded by Council over the next 30 years.

The project team has reviewed the scoring of the earlier scenario options and finds the Future Scenario likely to perform better for these reasons:

Community Outcome 1 : Socially Resilient

Housing supply and affordability:

- Provides a wider range of housing typologies and urban-rural densification continuum ranges from towns i.e. Cambridge to emerging towns i.e. Ōhaupō to smaller villages i.e. Karāpiro.
- Enables papakāinga throughout the district and is not limited to Māori-owned land. Papakāinga is established as single person living or communities living in urban and rural areas; settled not only within proximity to marae, wāhi tapu and wāhi whakahirahira and which can also be located on privately owned, general title land.
- Future Scenario takes into account Southern Links and the shift of Hamilton city boundaries generating additional pressure on Ōhaupō to develop as a larger settlement in the mid to long term future.

Equitable Access to services and opportunities:

- Towns developed in well-distributed convenient neighbourhoods. The majority of our communities have the ability to meet most of their everyday needs within a 5-10 mins walk, cycle or public transport trip of their home.
- Equivalent accessibility outcome as scenario 2 and less deprivation than scenario 5.
- Provides for on-demand public transport services spread throughout the district.
- Delivers more centralised services with locally owned businesses, new retailers, and services, including medical care providers

Safer Journey:

- Greater ability to invest in safer modes (PT, safe walking and cycling connections) and traffic calming measures.
- Higher level of investment and interventions to provide for safer journeys within Ōhaupō.
- Safer pathways to school and other community amenities for children via footpaths and cycle paths.
- Provides for on-demand public transport services spread throughout the district.
- Delivers mode shift investments are spread across the district and beyond just the major towns.

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Access to open space /passive and active recreation areas:

- Urban densification provides opportunities for new planning of infrastructure and public realm initiatives within newly developed neighbourhood.
- Scenario provides for equitable access to open and recreational spaces.
- Improvements to access and quality of traditional mahinga kai gathering sites while Wāhi tapu, wāhi whakahirahira have been preserved, and restored with improved access.

Mana Whenua are empowered to utilise land under their control for the wellbeing of their whānau:

- Plan Change (PC) 23 enables Papakāinga to be built where opportunities are presented throughout the district in both urban and rural locations in different shapes and forms.
- Marae are revitalised as social hubs for the wider community providing schooling for rangatahi right up to secondary school age, whānau ora facilities, as well acting as emergency management hubs and holding community events that attract the wider community.
- Several papakāinga have been formed on land that Māori have retained, purchased, or leased

Community Outcome 2 : Cultural Champions

The cultural diversity of the district is recognised and celebrated:

- The pre-European history of the district is given equal weight in storytelling to the most recent history.
- The scenario intends to provide for the stimulation of a diverse population in terms of age and ethnicity that strengthen the social fabric of the district.
- Prioritise investments to renew some assets used as social hubs in rural communities, i.e. village halls increase participation and community involvement.

Sites of cultural and historical significance in the district are protected, restored and enhanced:

- Investments into linking key villages and towns and significant sites to walking, cycling, and horse bridle trail network.
- Improvements to access and quality of traditional mahinga kai gathering sites while wāhi tapu, and wāhi whakahirahira have been preserved, and restored with improved access.
- Provides for more capital and funding for the protection and restoration projects within urban areas.

People are able to participate in the diverse culture of the District regardless of age and ability:

- Marae are social hubs for the wider community providing schooling for rangatahi right up to secondary school age, whānau ora facilities, as well acting as emergency management hubs and holding community events that attract the wider community.
- Village halls are used frequently. High participation in the arts contributes to the district's cultural identity.

Community Outcome 3 : Economically progressive

Productive soils (Refers to long-term land use capability):

- Giving effect to the National Policy Statement-Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL) limits further sporadic rural development. Constraints are retained for rural subdivisions located on classed soils.
- Underpinning principles are guiding urbanisation in the peat lakes catchment.

Diverse and resilient economy:

- The invigoration of local businesses, creative industries and entrepreneurship has created new opportunities across the district. Depending on the local market, more commercial and community facilities and services are established in our towns and villages, including more home-based businesses (e.g. in Pirongia, Ōhaupō, Karāpiro, Cambridge, and Te Awamutu).
- Iwi business developments across the district have revitalised our marae, and Māori culture is more prominent in the cultural fabric of the district than it was 30 years ago.

Infrastructure attracts new industries:

- Density brings scale for much larger businesses.
- Towns have developed into urban villages, attracting high-end employers and offering a broader range of services locally - with emphasis on locally owned businesses.
- Identification of a local centre network in the district plan and the prioritisation of improvements to the public realm and walking/biking infrastructure.

Community Outcome 4 : Environmental Champions

Reduce carbon emissions by a minimum of 25% by 2030 on the path to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050:

- Developments are avoided around peat lakes preserving the carbon sequestration process and therefore limiting further CO₂ emissions.
- The Future Scenario is proactive in embedding climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in its implementation.
- Some hilly rural terrain that is marginally productive has been converted to carbon farming (e.g., forestry not intended for harvest).

Community resilience to climate change and other natural hazards:

- Better integrated water management applied across urban and rural areas. Although urban stormwater management is complex and flooding risks increase.
- Provides long-term funding sources for community environmental partners and improve community capability.

Peat lakes are restored and enhanced

- Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato is explicitly embedded in our decisions making
- Minimises pressure from urban/ rural sprawl on sensitive areas.
- Planning tools are updated to avoid developments on deep peat soils, including monitoring peat land lost to development.

A network of predator-free ecological corridors connect our Maunga, peat lakes, riparian reserves, and urban forests:

- Minimises pressure from urban/ rural sprawl on sensitive areas.

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- Provision for integrated water management, well-managed intensification of towns and villages at a different scale, and greater ability to influence land uses and activities enables better ecological protection.
- Enables to the extension of esplanade reserves, creating a network of ecological reserves linking Pirongia, Kakepuku, Maungatautari, as well as our key peat lakes (inclusion of Ecological corridor stepping stones)
- Enhances collaborative delivery between volunteer community groups with support from national agencies and Council and to maintain predator control along the corridors as well as around the maunga.