

***Ko Te Wairoa,
He Whakaora Whenua,
He Whakaora Tangata.***

***"The Wairoa River,
a River that gives
life to the land and the People"***



Wairoa River Valley Strategy

October 2013



Te Karanga o te Kuia

***“E noho ana ahau I runga
I te taumata o aku tupuna,
no te hono I wairua, I hono ai
te ture wairua ki te ture tangata
waihoki te Pouriuri ki te Ao Marama,
Tenei te Mana whakahihi, whakawehi,
Whakaora ki te moemoea I tuku iho
I tuku iho mana tikanga
mo to tatou Awa o Te Wairoa,
Hei oranga mo nga whakatupuranga
Kei te heke mai”***

Kuia Minnihaha (Poumako) Gotz



“I stand on the high sacred summit, the speaking place of our Ancestors,

that is the spiritual link between our Spiritual laws and the physical teachings of today.

Leave the long dark night of ignorance and emerge into the world of light, of understanding.

Absolute sacred Authority, power realised manifesting as intellectual creative inspiration – awe inspiring - encompassing energy, revitalising, strengthening – the spiritual vision, that which has been handed down to us by our ancestors, guardianship of our River, Te Wairoa, the source of living healing waters providing sustenance for us all. The River is the link between our past, present and future, a Cultural, Physical and Spiritual Icon, gifted to and for the coming generations.”

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1 Introduction

The Wairoa River flows into the Tauranga Harbour, located on the eastern coast of the North Island of New Zealand. The Wairoa River Valley is a special environment valued by the community for its natural and spiritual qualities. There are pressures both existing and emerging that are impacting on the Wairoa River and its environs. In particular, a surge in lifestyle block and residential subdivision and development, recreation, access and land use practices can seriously impact on those natural, cultural, social and economic assets that the community values.

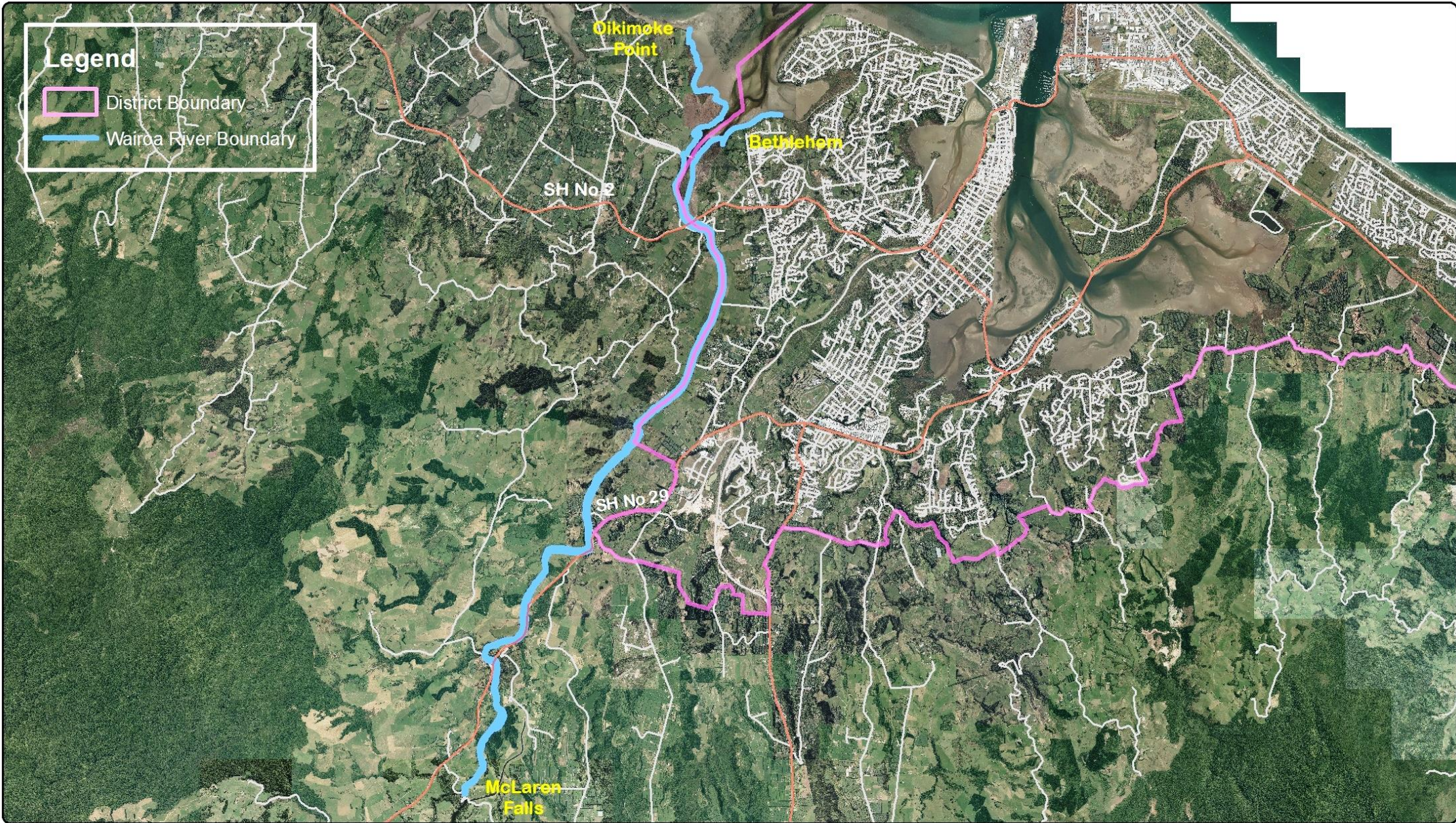
This Section provides details on the definition of the Wairoa River Valley environment for the purposes of this strategy, sets a context for the partnership that is inherent to the strategy and details where the strategy 'fits' in the legislative context.

What is the Wairoa River Valley environment?

The Wairoa River flows into the Tauranga Harbour located on the eastern coast of the North Island of New Zealand and is shown on Figure 1. To the south and west are the bush-covered Kaimai Ranges. The Wairoa River and its tributaries form the largest catchment of Tauranga Harbour.¹ The Wairoa River is approximately 14km in length and the largest freshwater tributary to Tauranga Harbour with a discharge of approximately 39l/s/square km. There are a number of tributaries that feed directly into the Wairoa River; the main tributaries include Mangakarengorengo, Opuiki, Mangapapa, Omanawa below Ruahihi, and Ruangangara (Ohourere). The tributaries upstream of the Wairoa River Valley are recognised as integral to the river valley environment but are outside the definition of the Wairoa River Valley. It is recognised that the Ruahihi Canal is in close proximity to the Wairoa River Valley as defined below and where appropriate potential opportunities for inclusion of this area in the Strategy are identified.

The **definition of the Wairoa River Valley** is provided below for the purposes of the Wairoa River Valley Strategy (WRVS).

“The Wairoa River Valley extends from McLaren Falls Bridge downstream to where the river meets the Tauranga Harbour (Oikimoke Point to the equivalent northern point in Bethlehem). It extends up to the dominant ridgeline beside the river and to encompass the communities of interest either side of the riverbank”

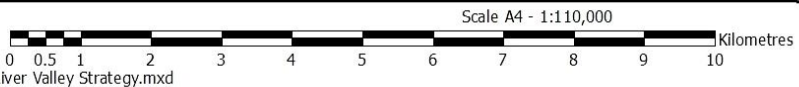


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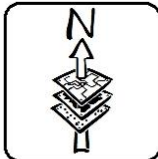
- District Boundary
- Wairoa River Boundary

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Email: gis@westernbay.govt.nz
 Date: 19/11/2013
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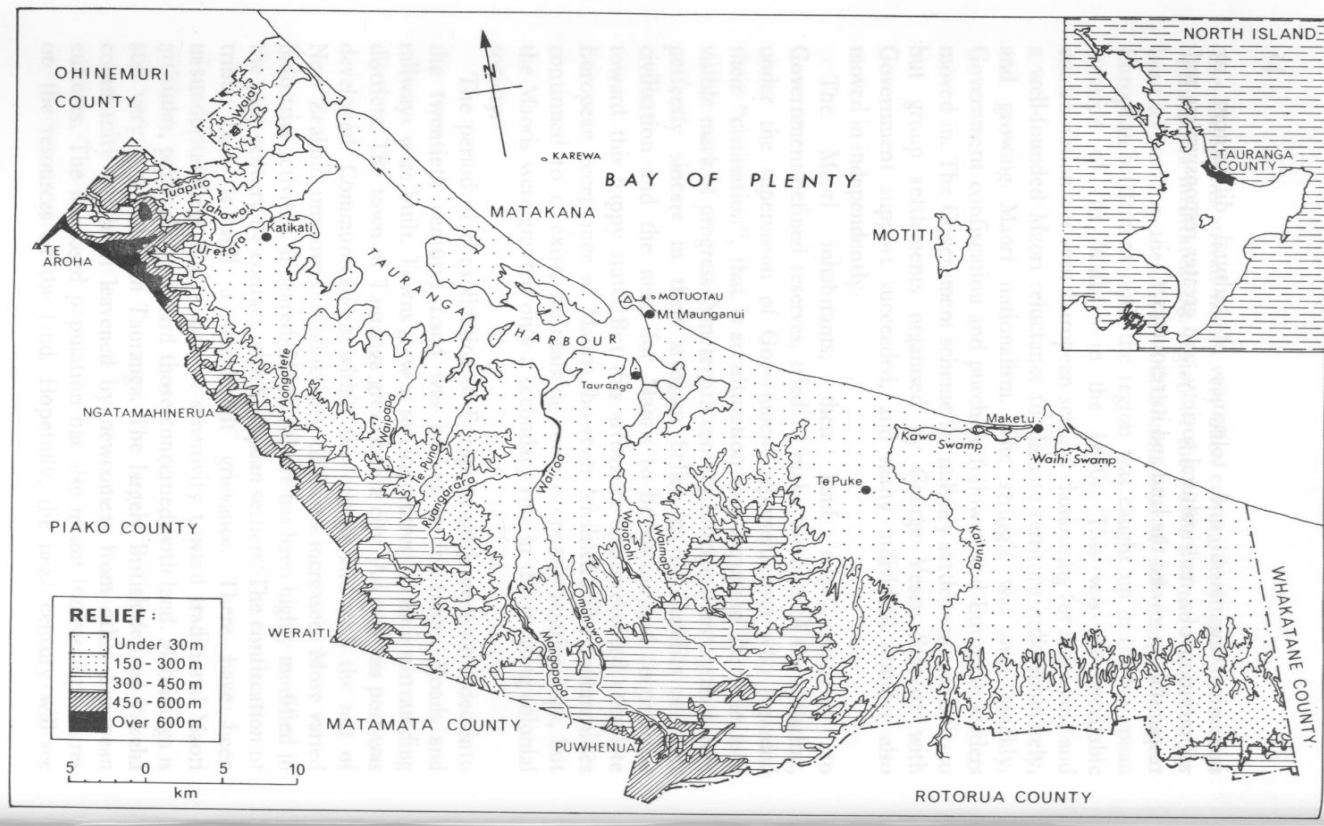


WAIROA RIVER VALLEY STRATEGY



This definition is not a legal definition. The definition has resulted from both background research and consultation with the community. There has been concern voiced by the Tangata Whenua and some parts of the community that the study boundaries must include the whole catchment, from the smallest stream in the Kaimai Ranges to the very mouth of the river in at the Tauranga Harbour, and that to only study the Wairoa River from McLaren Falls down to the harbour is not addressing the causes of many issues that are of concern to people along the Wairoa River Valley. The WRVS addresses the Wairoa River from McLaren Falls Bridge downstream. The Wairoa River tributaries are not included in the study area; however the Strategy recognises their importance. The Councils consider this to be the first step where there is the most pressure.

Figure 1: Map of Wairoa River Valley (Source: E.Stokes (1980) 'A History of Tauranga County')



The WRVS does not directly address the future use, management and development in regards to the tributaries of the Wairoa River.

What is the Wairoa River Valley Strategy? ...It is a 'framework for managing the river valley now and into the future.

The communities with interest in the Wairoa River Valley have identified in the past that there is a need for integrated management of the Wairoa River Valley and for clear future plans for protection, use and development in this area. The WRVS is an initiative of the Tauranga City Council (TCC), the Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC) and has been prepared by Beca Planning. This strategy is a process for Councils to identify with the community, some of the issues and objectives outlined in their statutory and strategic documents and to integrate the management of this significant natural environment and open space in the Bay of Plenty Region. To this extent, it is important to recognise that there are other strategic documents and processes that will also assist in achieving the vision and goals of the Wairoa River Valley Strategy, such as the Natural Environment Strategy of Western Bay of Plenty District Council, and the environmental programmes that are implemented by Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

The TCC, WBOPDC, other statutory agencies (including Bay of Plenty Regional Council), Tangata Whenua, key stakeholders, landowners, users, and the wider community have the opportunity to set the scene, through a long-term vision and strategy, towards a sustainable future for the Wairoa River. This vision will seek to protect the unique values and sense of place inherent to the Wairoa River Valley, whilst accommodating the long-term community benefits that derive from the natural environment and its resources.

In recognising the complexity of the river valley environment and resulting challenges for good management, it is considered essential that the Wairoa River Valley Strategy is holistic, incorporating infrastructure planning, asset management, landscape, heritage and environmental assessments and rural and community planning.

The WRVS is intended to reflect a balance of the wishes of the community of the Wairoa River Valley, as a result of extensive consultation with the communities along the river. Key stakeholders, including Tangata Whenua, landowners, the wider community and organisations with responsibilities for the river valley, were consulted throughout the process. The views and perspectives of these diverse groups must be weighed up with statutory obligations, existing strategic direction and national policies that apply to management of the river valley.

History to the WRVS

A number of processes have occurred in the past that consider the Wairoa River Valley and associated issues with the current use and development of the area. These processes have also considered the potential of the area as a significant cultural and recreational asset. There have been many people involved in these processes, including landowners, Tangata Whenua, key stakeholders along

the river, the community and users of the river environment. Examples include the preparation of reserve management plans for some of the Council owned areas along the river and community consultation meetings facilitated by NZ Landcare Trust to discuss concerns on the recreational use of the river. It was recognised that there is a need to bring together some of the outcomes of these processes to provide a basis for the development of an integrated strategy for the Wairoa River Valley.

Submissions have been made to Council's Annual Plan processes over the years requesting funding for investigations into developing an overall strategy for the area. In 2002/2003 these submissions were diverted to the Regional Parks Working Group (joint TCC/WBOPDC/BOPRC) for consideration. The Regional Parks Working Group recognised that the Wairoa River and its margins are an important ecological and cultural landscape and significant recreational asset for both TCC and WBOPDC, however it was outside the scope of this working group as its focus is on regional and sub-regional parks. A recommendation was made to TCC and WBOPDC to pursue investigations into the potential for a Wairoa River Valley Strategy. In 2003 Beca was commissioned to prepare a Scoping Study for the project and in mid-2004 were commissioned to prepare the full strategy to involve significant consultation with the community.

In 2013 the Wairoa River Valley Strategy was updated to recognise what had been achieved since the strategy was first adopted in 2005 and reflect any changes required to delivery of the actions. Note that this did not change the intent of the strategy which is identified in the vision, goals and themes.

There is a wealth of existing information available on the Wairoa River and environs and these have been reviewed during the background research stage of the WRVS development. A list of these references is provided at the back of this document.

What does the Wairoa River Valley Strategy mean to you?

The Wairoa River Valley Strategy seeks to provide a balance between protecting and recognising the isolated wilderness values in the Wairoa River's upstream reaches and the enjoyment of passive and active recreation in the lower reaches. The Wairoa River Valley Strategy has been developed recognising that land within the Wairoa River Valley is in various forms of ownership. The actions in the strategy are intended to provide a framework for ensuring that the key values of this environment including landscape qualities, sustainable land use and water quality are preserved for the enjoyment of both current and future generations.

Where any future development has been proposed it is recognised that this will occur either on land currently in public ownership or land that may be identified in the Councils District Plans as future esplanade reserve. Land in private ownership will not be developed with walkways or any form of public access unless this is agreed to through negotiation between the Councils and the landowners. Any development is likely to occur in a staged process recognising that this is a long term strategy for the Wairoa River Valley.



2 The Vision – Where We Want To Be in 2055

A key to the preparation of the WRVS has been the development of an overall **Vision** or a picture of how the Wairoa River Valley environment could be in future. The Vision is a story of where we are headed and identifies **Where We Want to Be** by providing a common direction for the future of the Wairoa River Valley environment.

“The Wairoa River Valley forms a green corridor that runs through farmland and bush, parks and reserves and the urban landscape. Within the green corridor the river and its surrounds create tranquil settings, places for relaxation, recreation, working and living. The iconic landscape that is the Wairoa River Valley can be viewed from vantage points that allow this peaceful natural and cultural landscape to be appreciated by all.”

This Vision means that by 2055....

The valley will be a sustainable environment through cooperative council and community practice of kaitiakitanga or stewardship. It will be a place that offers a range of experiences, balancing the isolated wilderness values in the Wairoa River's upstream reaches and the enjoyment of passive and active recreation in the lower reaches. This Vision seeks to protect the unique values and sense of place inherent to the Wairoa River Valley whilst accommodating the long term community benefits that derive from the natural environment and its resources.

This Vision guides the future of the Wairoa River Valley environment. It defines what is important to the community and therefore how the environment is to be protected, used and managed to retain and enhance the unique 'sense of place' that exists. In this regard, protection and enhancement of the valued natural, cultural and heritage environment, preserving and enhancing recreational opportunities to experience wilderness and solitude within the Wairoa River Valley environment all contribute to interpreting the WRVS Vision. Important linkages identified in the Strategy are not always intended to be solely adjacent to the river.

3 Background

3.1. The Legislative Context

The strategy itself is a non-statutory document and is therefore flexible to address a wide range of TCC, WBOPDC and community functions, including under the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).¹ As a strategic document, the Wairoa River Valley Strategy feeds in to many of the TCC and WBOPDC functions and other management documents (such as the District Plan, Annual Plans, Long-term Council Community Plans {LTCCP}, reserve management plans, financial planning and Bylaws). It is also important to recognise the influence that national and regional legislation, strategic and policy documents have, such as the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement and the Reserves Act 1977, and to recognise that such strategies and legislation may continually evolve and change.

The LGA is an important step towards the implementation of sustainable development at a district level. The LGA goes beyond the regulatory focus of the RMA and focuses on local community outcomes and promoting all aspects of community wellbeing. This provides Councils with an opportunity to prepare strategic planning documents under the LGA that identifies critical issues facing a district.

Tauranga Tomorrow, the Western Bay of Plenty District's LTCCP and SmartGrowth provide the high level strategic direction for planning in the Western Bay of Plenty sub-region. The WRVS provides a greater degree of definition on what, how and when to get things done in the Wairoa River Valley within this context and the tools we should be using to do this. The WRVS is therefore 'action-orientated' specifically to the Wairoa River Valley.

The WBOPDC Community Outcomes set a strategic direction for the next 20 years that *'the environment is valued and cared for*.

Community Outcomes, the Western Bay of Plenty District's LTP and SmartGrowth provide the high level strategic direction for planning in the Western Bay of Plenty sub-region. The WRVS provides a greater degree of definition on what, how and when to get things done in the Wairoa River Valley within this context and the tools we should be using to do this.

The WRVS is therefore 'action-orientated' specifically to the Wairoa River Valley.

¹ The Resource Management Act 1991 requires the consideration of the effects of activities when making decision on the management of natural and physical resources.

The WRVS will need to recognise these outcomes and set in place goals and actions that help to achieve these visions for the people of the Western Bay of Plenty sub-region in regards to the future use, management and development of the Wairoa River Valley.

3.2. Consultation Process

In 2004/2005 the development of the Wairoa River Valley Strategy occurred in two stages. **Stage One** involved the preparation of a Scoping Study that set the direction for the Strategy. **Stage Two** of the process has been the development of the strategy itself. Consultation on the strategy has been undertaken with the following main groups:

- Tangata Whenua (through the Tangata Whenua Liaison Group)
- Key stakeholders (through the Stakeholders Liaison Group)
- Adjacent landowners
- The general public

The general process used for consultation throughout both stages of the project is as follows:

- A Community Engagement and Consultation Plan was prepared in August 2003 as the first stage of the Scoping Study and then updated for the development of the strategy. This Plan identified the process for engaging and consulting with the community and their potential involvement.
- Open Days – September 2003
- Landowner Activity Area Workshops – September 2004
- Drop in centres and consultation document distributed – November 2004
- Submissions on Draft Wairoa River Valley Strategy – July 2005

Throughout this time there were regular staff project team meetings, flyers and media communication through Councils normal media channels. A number of hui were also held with Tangata Whenua and with the Tangata Whenua liaison group made up of representatives from each of the relevant hapu groups. The stakeholder liaison group forming a core of statutory agency representatives, user groups and key stakeholders also met a number of times throughout the two year project.

3.3. Lay out of the WRVS

The WRVS is a document that reflects how the community and Councils wish to see the river valley environment protected, used and managed in the future.

- Section Two of this document identifies the **Vision (Where We Want to Be)** for the protection, use and management of the Wairoa River Valley environment over the next 50 years. This is a story of where we are headed.
- Section Three provides the background to the WRVS.
- Section Four of the strategy addresses **Management Themes** – which highlight a number of key ‘bigger picture’ issues facing the whole of the river valley environment. For each theme we have discussed **Where We Are Now (Position)**, **What We Want to Achieve (Goals)** and **What We Will Do (Actions)** – these are a guide for the community and Councils when making decisions about the Wairoa River Valley. Prioritised Actions are identified for each theme on how to achieve the Vision.
- Section Five looks at the local interpretation of the Vision; this includes **Local Management Area Visions** – which are statements for key ‘hot spots’ of localised activity along the Wairoa River. Actions have also been prepared for each Local Management Area – again these identify how to achieve the Vision. Visual interpretation of planning for the future in these areas has been provided by Action Plan Maps for each Local Management Area.

3.4. Partnership

The WRVS is a **Partnership** between TCC, WBOPDC, Tangata Whenua and the communities within the strategy area. All partners have a responsibility for different levels of investment, management and action along the river. Tangata Whenua are sometimes referred to separately to recognise particular aspirations and responsibilities as outlined in the Treaty of Waitangi /*Tiriti o Waitangi*. Anyone who reads this document will have an interest in the Wairoa River and its surrounds and will therefore be included in the definition of partnership. The strategy gives an integrated approach to the management of resources now, and in the future. The successful implementation of the WRVS will rely not only on TCC and WBOPDC initiatives but also on a strong sense of ownership and commitment from the community based on the philosophy of this document. The river valley strategy is only a first step towards better environmental management.

3.5. The Community

The concept of the **Community** for the purposes of the WRVS applies to all groups with an interest in the river valley environment. It includes such groups as Tangata Whenua, Environment Bay of Plenty (BOPRC), landowners, farmers, residents, visitors and developers, as well as those who visit the river to enjoy its recreational activities.

3.6. Implementing the WRVS

There are a number of methods used to implement and deliver the WRVS. These generally fall into the four categories identified below:

- *Voluntary* – This is about the community working together and is supported by the concept of partnership.
- *Research* – Generally this will be undertaken by organisations with responsibility in the river valley environment in association with the local community.
- *Education* – This is about improving the information and knowledge available to the wider community.
- *Statutory* – This includes specific recommendations for changes to statutory planning documents, such as Plan Changes to the District Plans, Structure Plans, Regional Plans, the TCC and WBOPDC Long-Term Council Community Plans, Asset Management Plans and changes to By-Laws and other agencies statutory documents. This also includes physical works funded by Councils.

A number of actions to achieve the Vision of the WRVS have been developed, and priorities have been identified as to the timeframe in which these should be completed:

- *Short Term Actions (2006/07 – 2008/09)*
- *Medium Term Actions (2009/10 – 2012/13)*
- *Long Term Actions (2013/14 – 2015/16 and beyond)*
- Ongoing Actions
- Completed Actions

The organisation/group that will be responsible for 'leading' the action has been identified for each of the Goals and Actions. This doesn't necessarily mean they will be responsible for all of the planning, financial and physical work but more that they will facilitate and monitor the action to completion. The actions identified have priorities nominated related to the potential significant impacts on the environment and the ability of the actions to achieve the Vision of the WRVS. A separate implementation plan provides detail on costings and timeframes for action.

3.7. Delivering the WRVS

The implementation of all the strategy outcomes cannot happen immediately, it is a 10-year programme of on-going work. It is important to remember the WRVS describes a partnership between the TCC, WBOPDC and the community and the implementation is the responsibility of all partners. It is intended that the management of the Wairoa River Valley will be able to be undertaken in a more co-ordinated manner by Councils and other relevant agencies following the guidance of the WRVS. It is important that regular monitoring of the recommendations is undertaken and reviewed. It is suggested that the following is put in place to guide the implementation of the strategy to make sure its full potential is realised:

- ✓ Assign a Council staff member at TCC and WBOPDC to guide the implementation of the WRVS. This could be an Environmental Officer, Reserves Officer or Policy Planner. They should meet regularly with relevant Council departments (such as reserves, asset management and engineering).
- ✓ The responsible Council staff member should meet regularly (at least yearly) with the representative Council staff, Tangata Whenua and community groups and representatives who were involved in the preparation of the strategy. This will provide assistance to those groups with identifying gaps in the actions and addressing concerns they may have.

- ✓ The responsible Council staff member should also provide assistance to community groups to prepare a step-by-step plan of all the Voluntary actions identified in the WRVS of concern to each specific group with timeframes for achieving the actions. This should also include the identification of any training requirements.
- ✓ Monitor the implementation of actions. This should be undertaken through the activity planning process and reported as part of the monitoring cycle for activity planning. The Joint Governance Committee has the responsibility for monitoring the strategy implementation. (Note that the approach of Councils is to not duplicate any existing committee structures therefore involvement of Tangata Whenua or any other interested parties would be through either the existing Maori Forum/Collective or through the approaches outlined above).
- ✓ The TCC and WBOPDC should sponsor a series of community workshops to actively promote the adoption and implementation of the WRVS by private organisations and groups, landowners and visitors over the next 10 years.
- ✓ A review of the actions of the WRVS should be undertaken no later than 10 years following adoption of the strategy. This would involve making sure updates to LTCCPs, reserve management plans, District Plans and Regional Plans are checked against WRVS. This will provide the opportunity for new information to be weighed against the Vision and Goals of the WRVS and any amendments undertaken to reflect this new information. The review should be initiated jointly by TCC and WBOPDC.
- ✓ Each Council continues development, management and operations within their area with the approaches being aligned with the Wairoa River Valley Strategy.
- ✓ Where it is considered there is mutual benefit and opportunities or efficiencies through adopting a joint approach to actions in the Strategy then this should be considered by the Joint Governance Committee as part of the ongoing monitoring of the Strategy.

4 Management Themes

What are the Management Themes?

Following background research and information reviews undertaken, discussions with Tangata Whenua, key stakeholders, statutory agencies, landowners, the local community and the general public, a number of **Management Themes** for the Wairoa River Valley were identified. These are considered to be key areas that require work throughout the entire Wairoa River Valley. Each Management Theme discusses **Where We Are Now** and highlights some of the key issues that require attention and in response Goals (**What We Want to Achieve**) and Actions (**What We Will Do**) have been prepared for these Management Themes. The Actions have been prioritised for implementation. These Goals and Actions are important to help Councils and communities make decisions on the best way to manage the river valley environment in a manner that achieves the Vision of the WRVS.

This section of the WRVS provides details on the Management Themes, which are:

- Sustainable Land Use and Development
- Quality of the River Environment
- Landscape
- Cultural Values
- Social, Heritage and Community Values
- Recreation and Access

Management Theme 1: Sustainable Land Use and Development

Sustainable development can be defined as “*Development, which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs*”.² This definition then directs us towards thinking about the implications of our actions, both now and in the future, by focussing on the interplay between people and the environment. It requires us to “take a long-term perspective in decision-making processes and to have regard to the social, economic, environmental and cultural dimensions of our decisions”.² The LGA and thus the strategies that are developed under the LGA, including Tauranga Tomorrow, SmartGrowth and the WRVS represent an important step towards the implementation of sustainable development.

There are many different elements that relate to rural and urban land use and development, including highly versatile land, land for business and employment, open spaces, commercial and tourism activities and residential development. The land uses surrounding the Wairoa River are predominantly rural, mainly horticulture and agriculture in the upper reaches, with growing residential development on the city side at the lower end of the Wairoa River and specific areas for residential pockets and lifestyle blocks. Included within this Management Theme is the recognition of the economic importance of the rural sector and commercial activities within the Wairoa River Valley Future to the wider community.

Where We Are Now

The majority of the land in the upper reaches of the river is zoned ‘Rural’ in the Western Bay of Plenty District Plan and one of the key objectives of the Rural G zone under the Western Bay of Plenty District Plan is the “protection and enhancement of the amenity provided by the low density character of the rural environment”. The Western Bay of Plenty District Plan in S2.2.1 also refers to sustainable management for a wide range of activities especially primary production and the minimisation of constraints and the potential for conflicts. The river plains, slopes and escarpments of Bethlehem are zoned ‘Rural’ and ‘Rural-Residential’ in the Tauranga District Plan, with limitations on the type, scale and location of activities and buildings, particularly dwellings. In the Western Bay of Plenty sub-region areas of rural land previously used for agriculture or horticulture, such as Bethlehem, have been converted into Residential and Rural-Residential uses.³ This has the effect of reducing the area of large-lot productive land along the Wairoa River Valley.

The Tauranga Urban Growth Strategy (1991) identified areas suitable for additional greenfield residential development, including the Bethlehem area. Expansion of the Bethlehem Urban Growth Area into former rural land north of State Highway 2 and east of Bethlehem Road has occurred through the Bethlehem Planning Study (1997). This growth area is developing at a steady rate. There is

also residential growth occurring through new allotments in the Rural-Residential zone west of Moffat Road/Cambridge Road. These allotments are not required to connect to wastewater or stormwater reticulation, but to design and construct on-site disposal systems in accordance with TCC's Code of Practice or the Regional On-Site Effluent Treatment Plan.

The Western Bay of Plenty District Plan recognises the wider effects that subdivision can have on the environment. Issue 15.1.3 states: "Subdivision of land to provide for a greater intensity of development may also have the potential to adversely affect the environment, particularly water and soil values or features recognised as having ecological or other significance to the wider community".

What does the future look like?

There are a number of landowners with significant land holdings adjacent to the Wairoa River. For example Bethlehem College owns a significant land area and has recently prepared a Concept Plan, in conjunction with Keni Piahana, for the future development of this area (this is discussed further in Local Management Area 4: Bethlehem). Ngati Kahu Hapu has prepared a Concept Plan for the development and future use of their lands bordering the river and a Private Plan Change to the Tauranga District Plan is currently in progress as Part B of Plan Change 15⁴.

SmartGrowth (2004) has been adopted by all three local authorities (TCC, WBOPDC and BOPRC) and provides high-level strategic direction with respect to future land use and development within the Western Bay of Plenty sub-region, specifically for the next 20 years and generally for the next 50 years⁵. Some indicative land use and development outcomes have been identified in SmartGrowth. It reveals that the choice of a compact urban form is driven partly by a community-desired outcome that land with high versatility for production should be retained. According to research and community consultation undertaken during preparation of the SmartGrowth Strategy, the Western Bay of Plenty sub-region has a shortage of business land. The strategy identified that new business land is to be progressively developed at each of the identified growth areas to provide local support services and opportunities for employment to promote the 'live, work, play' outcome of SmartGrowth. A sub-regional employment centre may be developed at eastern Tauriko from 2006. Bethlehem has been identified as an area for commercial retail development, in association with its relatively recent residential expansion. Bethlehem will continue to develop in line with new zoned land (North West Bethlehem), existing zoned areas and structure planning. SmartGrowth forecasts that Bethlehem will reach its capacity by 2016. This may have implications on the Wairoa River Valley because there may be land use conflicts in the future; as land zoned for residential use becomes pressured and further development becomes more difficult. This may have implications on the land use and development within the Wairoa River Valley area in the future. The Wairoa River Valley is likely to remain as a rural zoned area as it is a significant district landscape feature that is to be protected into the future.

One of the key issues identified by SmartGrowth is the lack of energy to sustain the anticipated growth in the Western Bay of Plenty sub-region. SmartGrowth has identified that there is not enough information to provide a definitive answer to this problem at present. A report is currently being undertaken into an assessment of alternative energy sources for this area. The Wairoa River is included in this assessment.

Key issues and opportunities identified through research and consultation

The research and consultation undertaken both prior to and during the development of this strategy has identified that the community has expressed concerns over land uses adjacent to the tributaries and the effect of this on the quality of the Wairoa River downstream. Some landowners consider that there are commercial opportunities on land within the Wairoa River Valley and on the water and that it is important these are facilitated in a sustainable manner. They consider these can be assessed on a case-by-case basis through the Resource Management Act process. The community has signalled its desire to retain the 'peace and quiet', low-density characteristics of the Wairoa River Valley, by restricting residential sprawl (such as through the conversion of rural land into more intensive land uses such as greenfield subdivision).

Community consultation also revealed that there is an opportunity to work together and collectively care for the river by undertaking activities on land responsibly. Examples given were stock fencing, effluent treatment, and more environmentally friendly stormwater discharges.

Vision for Sustainable Land Use and Development – Where We Want To Be in 2055

“Fostering sustainable land use and development that nurtures the ‘green corridor’ and water values in the Wairoa River Valley”

Opportunities for land use and development that enhances the ‘green corridor’ and water values should be promoted and supported by the Councils and wider community. To provide for urban and rural development that is consistent with SmartGrowth principles, particularly in relation to the protection of highly productive land from more intensive forms of development, and in accordance with Regional and District Plans that give effect to this vision.

Management Theme 1: Sustainable Land Use and Development – Action Plan

What We Want To Achieve - Goals	What We Will Do - Actions	How We Will Do It	Priority	Who Will Lead It
G1. Increase community awareness that activities undertaken on land directly affect the ecological and amenity values of the river valley environment.	A1. Education Foster Land Care and education programmes in the rural parts of the river valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Utilise existing and planned environmental programmes and workshops set up by New Zealand Landcare Trust and BOPRC - Respond to requests by community for establishment of landcare groups - Include education on sustainable land use practices 	Ongoing	WBOPDC/TCC BOPRC NZ Landcare Trust
G2. Support sustainable farm management techniques.	A2. Voluntary Work with the local community to support sustainable farm management practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding has been provided through the BOPRC Ten Year Plan to target the Wairoa River Valley as part of the Tauranga Harbour Catchment Management Plan - The focus is on sustainable land management and biodiversity enhancement and protection works - A sub catchment action plan is to be completed by December 2011 	Ongoing	WBOPDC/TCC BOPRC NZ Landcare Trust
G3. Recognise that there is potential in the future for impacts on the Wairoa River in from land use for recreational activities (both commercial and non-commercial)	A3. Statutory Investigate options for a consistent approach to concessions for the recreational use (commercial and non-commercial) of the water and adjoining reserves.	Develop a policy on the concession approach to be taken. <i>To be a joint approach with TCC, WBOPDC & BOPRC based on any transfer of power that exists, etc.</i>	Short	WBOPDC (lead) and TCC (within existing policy development budgets)

Management Theme 2: Quality of the River Environment

The Wairoa River Valley has a dominant rural character, which retains elements and features of ecological significance, of which the Wairoa River itself forms an important ecological corridor between the Tauranga Harbour, its upstream environs and the Kaimai Ranges.¹ The Wairoa River contributes about 50% of the total inflow of freshwater to the Tauranga Harbour. There are a number of tributaries flowing into the Wairoa River. The Wairoa River Valley environment provides a valuable habitat for fish, insects, birds and a range of other animals and plants endemic to New Zealand. There is a range of physical factors operating where the Wairoa River meets the Tauranga harbour, in particular high tides, strong offshore winds and the potential for storm surge at the river mouth.

For the purposes of the WRVS, the 'quality of the river environment' relates to the quality of the water and the quality of the land adjacent to the river as it relates to biodiversity, and this includes vegetation. In this definition it is recognised that the quality of the water is reliant on a healthy river margin.

Where We Are Now

The 2004 Tauranga State of the Environment Report by TCC notes that only about 3% of stream margins (14.48km) in Tauranga are of Category 1 ecological significance (these are the most significant ecological sites) and the Wairoa River is one of these sites.³ Approximately two-thirds of stream margins are in a degraded state requiring restoration and there is potential for considerable restoration of riparian areas. Healthy stream margins protect fish life by providing shade, filtering runoff and reducing human access, and often provided valuable links between one habitat and another.

Flora and Fauna

The Wairoa River catchment is the southern most extent of the natural range of Kauri. Vegetation along most of the length of the river valley is in the form of small pockets of native river and estuarine plants. The lower banks tend to be rural grassland to the bank edge. The river and its estuary contain sites of district and regional significance (in terms of botanical conservation) and important habitats for wildlife and all of these sites have been given recognition in regional and district planning documents to afford some degree of protection.

A pristine condition marshland and other quality habitat exist at the northern harbour reaches of the river. These have been identified in the Department of Conservation report 'Protection and Restoration of Marshbird Habitat in the Tauranga Harbour, 1993'. Estuarine

wetlands form an important component of the ecology of the lower Wairoa River Valley and the estuarine wetlands are known for their vegetation and bird life. The Wairoa estuary supports not only the more common species of marsh bird but also those that are at considerable risk from extinction (e.g. bittern). Freshwater streams and rivers (including their mouths) have been identified as being 'Highly Significant' for Protection.⁶ Using a comprehensive evaluation technique, the condition of each of Tauranga's most significant ecological sites (Category 1 sites) has been assessed and this is documented in the 2004 Tauranga State of the Environment Report. The Wairoa River is identified as having Category 1 ecological significance, though its condition is considered to be declining.

The Wairoa River and its tributaries are home to significant freshwater fish habitats including the short-jawed kokopu and the giant kokopu. Whitebait spawning grounds have been identified along the Wairoa River by Department of Conservation as well as a number of other significant habitats for native species that are endemic to New Zealand. Parts of some of the tributaries remain relatively unmodified, including the Ohourere and Ngamuwahine streams. A NIWA report was prepared in February 2000, which compiled an inventory of wetland plants and birds in the lower reaches of the Wairoa River. The report noted that Tauranga Harbour is an area of international significance for at least seven species of shorebirds. Within the lower reaches of the Wairoa River the bird community is dominated by species, which are widespread in modified shrubland throughout New Zealand, though there are two wetland birds of conservation concern, being the Australasian Bittern and Fernbird.

Sediment

The Wairoa River intermittently carries very high volumes of floodwater, sediment and debris of numerous forms, and as a consequence the low-lying floodplains downstream are susceptible to flooding.⁷ BOPRC has undertaken assessments of the sources of sediment in the Wairoa River. BOPRC considers that because the Wairoa River is almost completely diverted through the Ruahihi power scheme, under normal flow conditions, sediments in the water are low at the Ruahihi site because of settling in the hydro-lakes.⁸ From the Ruahihi site to the harbour the Wairoa River has a small gradient and is relatively wide, hence little riverbank erosion is caused by the slow flow. This alters dramatically at times of high flood and when agitation is increased by wind action of speeding powerboats. The bulk of sediments in the river are thought to originate through some of the main tributaries. Although it is not indicated whether these are the tributaries entering the Wairoa River below the Ruahihi Power Station. NIWA prepared a report in 2000 that addressed the sediments in the lower Wairoa River and identified that "none of the cores contained any evidence of a layer of Ruahihi mud. We might have expected such a layer to be deposited in the estuary channel following the collapse of the headrace channel of the Ruahihi Power Station in 1981. The lack of a mud layer and the generally low mud content of surficial sediments suggest that



tidal currents and waves have the ability to rework and transport mud away from the embayment".⁹

BOPRC has estimated works required for the Wairoa River from Ruahihi to the river mouth for "ideal" catchment management includes planting and fencing of 6km length total and some occasional vegetation clearance. In the lower reaches of the river, BOPRC suggests that the erosion of the riverbanks is to some extent from watercraft speeding.

Water Quality

BOPRC currently measures the water quality of the Wairoa River at three sampling stations, these are McLaren Falls, State Highway 29 bridge (Ruahihi Power Station) and at State Highway 2 bridge (Wairoa).

A report completed in 2004 by BOPRC contains information on bathing beach grading.¹⁰ The objective of the report was to provide an interim grade based on the 'Microbiological Water Quality Guidelines for Marine and Freshwaters, 2003' for many of the Bay of Plenty's most popular and higher risk recreational waters. Beach grades are designed to gauge the general health of beaches (marine or freshwater). There were two points in the Wairoa River where water quality was tested for the purpose of the beach grading report, being downstream of McLaren Falls in the WBOP District, and Bethlehem in Tauranga City. The water quality below McLaren Falls dam was rated 'poor' which means that the site receives run-off from one or more sources containing animal or human faecal material. Water with 'poor' quality is generally not suitable for swimming. According to the report swimming should be avoided. Permanent warning signs may be erected at these sites, although BOPRC may monitor these sites weekly and post temporary warnings. The water quality at the Bethlehem monitoring site was rated 'very poor' and it is recommended that "swimming should be avoided as there are direct discharges of faecal material and permanent signage should be erected".¹⁰ This kind of site receives run-off from one or more of the following sources and may contain animal or human faecal material:

- Untreated/primary/secondary treated wastewater
- On-site waste treatment systems
- Urban stormwater, intensive agriculture, unrestricted stock access, dense bird populations
- River discharges containing untreated/primary/secondary treated wastewater or on-site waste treatment systems.

An important point to note is that the water quality grades presented in the report are interim, as macrobiological data has not reached an optimum level to be statistically robust according to the 2003 guidelines.² BOPRC have not identified when this

² The Ministry for the Environment together with the Ministry of Health released a guideline for monitoring recreational water quality in 1999. These guidelines have been subsequently been developed further with input from Regional Councils, territorial local authorities and public health agencies. The latest guideline, 'Microbiological Water

information will be confirmed. However, most of the data does provide useful information to allow an assessment of perceived risk to users of recreational waters.

In summary, there is evidence to suggest that the quality of the Wairoa River environment is particularly unstable and of a poor quality. There are activities occurring on land and discharges to the river that are contaminating the river for swimming, particularly in the lower reaches. This is an opinion that was shared by many landowners and members of the community during consultation for the WRVS. The particular issues and opportunities raised with respect to water quality are listed below.

Key issues and opportunities identified through research and consultation

Background research and consultation undertaken with the community both previously and during this project has identified that the key concern over the quality of the environment is the quality of the water of Wairoa River at present. There was agreement by the community that steps need to be taken to make sure that a baseline water quality is established and also that any improvements in water quality are maintained. There are suggestions from some members of the community that esplanade reserves should be fenced from stock grazing but then weed control issues would need addressing. The community would like to see any future riverside walkways appropriately planted to protect riparian margins and thus the quality of the water.

Vision for Quality of the River Environment - Where We Want To Be in 2055

“The Wairoa River Valley environment is symbolised by the river and its surrounds that are maintained and enhanced for future generations by sustainable land use”.

The community considers that there is a need to improve the quality of the Wairoa River. The vision for the Quality of the Wairoa River Environment will include improving the water quality, improving riparian margins and improving the biodiversity of native flora and fauna. The responsibility for this lies with a number of groups, including (but not limited to) landowners and river users, along with assistance from various councils and other agencies.

Quality Guidelines for Marine Freshwaters, 2003' aims to establish national consistency in recreational water quality and to protect the public when there is a health risk concerning microbiological contamination.

Management Theme 2: Quality of the River Environment – Action Plan

<i>What We Want To Achieve - Goals</i>	<i>What We Will Do - Actions</i>	<i>How We Will Do It</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Who Will Lead It</i>
G1. Enhance the water quality of the Wairoa River through improved riparian margins.	A1. Statutory As a condition of subdivision consent for all land adjacent to the Wairoa River require riparian margin planting to assist in the buffering of the river from point and diffuse discharges as well as buffering of riverbank erosion.	- City Plan and District Plan have provisions relating to earthworks, height of native vegetation, building height, building setback, earthworks and reflectively. - reserve management plans to address riparian planting on public land - landcare and environmental programmes	Ongoing	TCC, WBOPDC, BOPRC, NZLT
	A2. Statutory Undertake rubbish debris clearance of the river mouth.	- If this is a navigational hazard, this will occur as part of the responsibilities of BOPRC Maritime.	Ongoing	BOPRC
	A3. Voluntary Look at ways to decrease sedimentation of this area.	- Work with the community to identify how this can be achieved and/or consider as part of work undertaken in the area	Ongoing	TCC, WBOPDC, BOPRC
G2. Manage land use and subdivision surrounding the Wairoa River to reduce the level of contaminants entering the river.	A4. Statutory Review criteria for the quality of stormwater discharge into the Wairoa River and through to the Tauranga Harbour to determine if there are issues with application of this.	- If required - Plan Changes to Regional Plans to rules for discharges adjacent to the Wairoa River.	Short	BOPRC
G3. Improve knowledge of, and appreciation of ecological values important to the Wairoa River Valley.	A5. Research Support ongoing research and monitoring of ecological values within the Wairoa River Valley.	- Identify timing and funding for ongoing research and monitoring.	Medium	WBOPDC
G4. Improve the public knowledge of the water quality within the Wairoa River.	A6. Research To continue the ongoing monitoring of the water quality in the Wairoa River (and the impacts on the Tauranga Harbour), review this information and provide feedback to the community.	- Review the effectiveness of indicators for water quality for the Wairoa River eg bathing statistics report - Present the updated information to the community as appropriate.	Ongoing	BOPRC
	A7. Education Work closely with landowners to mitigate effects of inappropriate septic tank use.	Note that BOPRC assistance could be provided in terms of information and pollution prevention.	Ongoing	TCC/WBOPDC
G5. Recognise the importance of biodiversity to retain and enhance the 'green corridor' and Wairoa River.	A8. Research To recognise the importance of the Wairoa River Valley in the development of strategies for biodiversity.	- Include the Wairoa River Valley in the Operational Management Strategy for Biodiversity. - Approach BOPRC if required to consider this request.	Short - Medium	TCC/WBOPDC

Management Theme 3: Landscape

Tangata Whenua has provided the following perspective of the landscape of the Wairoa River Valley. "The Wairoa River is approximately 14 kilometres in length and the largest freshwater tributary to Tauranga harbour. The Wairoa River is a broad river, with rapids at its source that traverse the incline of the Kaimais, generally known as the Upper Wairoa River. The lower Wairoa meanders through alluvial plains forming estuarine flat plains of low elevation. The river flows in a northeasterly direction from the water catchment of the Kaimai to the harbour between Te Puna and Bethlehem. The main tributaries of the Wairoa include Mangakarengorengo, Opuaki, Maungapapa, Omanawa below Rūhihi, and Ruanganrara (Ohourere). The streams are deeply incised into the plateau and are characterised by easy gradients and numerous waterfalls. Base flows are higher because of the spring-fed nature of the streams."

The landscape character of the Wairoa River Valley includes both the natural values and the values associated with the human interaction with the river and its environment. The landscape is dominated by the Mamaku plateau with its gently sloping top and steep, deeply incised stream channels. Below the Mamaku plateau the countryside grades down to a sequence of broken and isolated terraces and eventually to the flats and rushlands of the estuarine environment.¹¹ When approaching the city from State highway 2 the Wairoa River Valley is considered to be one of the 'gateways' to Tauranga city. An important component of the landscape character of the Wairoa River Valley is also the human landscape that includes the large farm blocks, residential settlements, infrastructure and other built structures. The Wairoa River Valley is identified as a significant district landscape feature in the Tauranga District plan (Chapter 4).

The Tauranga SOE 2004 identifies the Wairoa River as an important natural landscape of Tauranga and the whole of the Wairoa River as having high visual amenity. The report indicates that landscape value benchmarked in 1999 in regards to general views and our harbour has declined slightly, while bush and trees has improved slightly.

Where We Are Now

Cultural Landscape

The Wairoa River and its landscape/visual context are of particular significance to Tangata Whenua. Maori names have been attached to all the main landscape features and in the more closely settled areas, every small turn of the river and the hills¹². The close association Tangata Whenua has with the Wairoa River Valley has resulted in certain features having particular symbolic meaning and

sacredness associated with events in the past history of the tribes. The Wairoa River is a substantial part of the ancestral landscape and the preservation of the natural and physical character of the area is crucial in sustaining district natural character, cultural and spiritual links and aesthetics (among other factors).¹¹ This is discussed further in Management Theme 3: Cultural Values.

Landscape Assessments

A landscape study has divided Tauranga City into a number of landscape types and character areas. The Wairoa River was identified as an 'Outstanding Natural Feature and Landscape Feature' and this became the statutory basis for the landscape values in the Tauranga District Plan and the Western Bay of Plenty District Plan for the Wairoa River. This classification is based on the landscape, hydrological, botanical and habitat values that make the Wairoa River Valley a special place for the communities of the Western Bay of Plenty.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Coastal Environment Plan identifies the whole of the Tauranga Harbour, including its estuarine fringe as an 'Outstanding Natural Feature and Landscape' and this includes the mouth of the Wairoa River. The protection of these landscapes and natural features is a shared responsibility between BOPRC and the district and city councils.

A landscape and ecological assessment undertaken of the Bethlehem/Wairoa area in 1997 as a background for the Proposed Tauranga District Plan identifies the lower reaches of the Wairoa River as contained within a well-defined channel, with a river bank of some few metres in height above the surface of the water.¹³ The assessment defines the valley as formed by river flats and harbour plains (0-3° slope) that consist of poorly drained flats with a moderately high water table, subject to run-off from the adjacent higher areas. The slopes of the valley margin are described as rolling to strongly rolling with free-draining soils (8-20° slope) mainly in pasture and horticulture and with escarpments generally managed as woodlots running up to the plateau. This plateau of the valley is identified as containing mainly shelterbelts and used for a range of horticultural activities and urban land use. The upper reaches of the Wairoa River from McLaren Falls flows through a mixture of pastoral and forested lands characterised by steep gorges in places. The margins of the upper reaches are characterised by steep rock drop offs and bush covered plateau.



Today's Landscape

The open river valley, slopes and escarpments visible from the river itself provide a visual transition between the intensively developed urban environment of Tauranga and the rural environment of the Western Bay of Plenty District.⁴ This is recognised by the 'Rural'

zoning in the Tauranga District Plan along Tauriko/Cambridge Road and Moffat Road and in the rural zoning in the Western Bay of Plenty District Plan. Wairoa River Valley is likely to continue to be considered as one of the 'gateways' to the city once the Transit New Zealand proposed Northern Arterial State highway is constructed. The Northern Arterial has been designated in the District Plans and will replace the existing State Highway from Takitimu Drive to Te Puna in the western side of Tauranga City.

The Wairoa River Valley has special landscape provisions (building setbacks) to help maintain their natural landscape values. The landscape to the east of the river has undergone significant change in recent years as a result of residential subdivisions.

Tomorrow's Landscape

Our natural landscapes are impacted upon incrementally by land use changes and uses and the Tauranga SOE 2004 uses the example of subdivision of rural land to lifestyle blocks can mean that landscapes are altered by more buildings (houses), thereby altering their naturalness. The Wairoa River Valley has been identified by SmartGrowth as being an area with high visual amenity values. The valley is considered by SmartGrowth to be a 'High Constraint' for future urban residential development based on its landscape and natural features.¹⁴

This has the potential to provide added protection for this environment in the future. Of relevance to the Wairoa River Valley Strategy is the action in SmartGrowth to develop non-regulatory landscape protection guidelines and other measures to promote reduction of adverse visual effects of development, particularly in the foothills of the Kaimai Ranges and harbour.

Tauranga Tomorrow recognises that the future development of Tauranga must fit sensitively within its unique landscape and that there is the need for more effective landscape protection at the neighbourhood and site level. This strategy also recognises where neighbourhoods need to be defined by open space 'green corridors'.

Key issues and opportunities identified through research and consultation

The research and consultation undertaken both prior to and during the development of this strategy has identified that the community consider there are many unique and special landscape places along the Wairoa River Valley. Some specific locations were identified and these are considered further in the Local Management Areas. The community were concerned that some land use activities can have negative effects on the landscape character of this environment. In general there is a concern voiced by the community that there is a lack of riparian margin (planted areas – not necessarily in public ownership) along much of the lower valley and this has



negative impacts on the visual enjoyment of this part of the river. The ongoing construction of hard structures along the riverbanks (such as jetties and retaining walls) was a concern to the community in regards to the cumulative impact on landscape values.

It was felt by the community that the landscape values, including visual corridors, should be preserved for public amenity benefit. This is supported by the general agreement among the different communities that the special 'peace and quiet' values of the river should be protected throughout. The consultation identified that much of this could be achieved through strengthening rules on development in highly sensitive landscape areas as well as conservation and enhancement of the river margin through riparian plantings.

Vision for Landscape – Where We Want To Be in 2055

“The iconic landscape that is the Wairoa River Valley can be viewed from vantage points along the ‘green corridor’ so it is appreciated by all”

The ‘green corridor’ that runs through rural communities, farmland, bush, parks and reserves and the urban landscapes supports the ‘peace and quiet’ values we pride ourselves on within the Wairoa River Valley. This Vision will include locating development in a visually discreet manner to protect the aesthetic appeal of ridgelines, promoting native planting to nurture the ‘green corridor’ and identifying and protecting areas of significant sub-region landscape value.

Management Theme 3: Landscape – Action Plan

Update 2012/13 – The 2005 Wairoa River Valley Strategy included actions relating to the protection of view shafts from future development, and putting in place appropriate rules for the protection of these, and protection of ridgelines and lowlands from visual impacts as a result of residential development. Specific provisions are in place in the TCC City Plan and WBOPDC District Plan for the protection of landscape areas along the Wairoa River from residential development however no provision has been made for the protection of view shafts.

What We Want To Achieve - Goals	What We Will Do - Actions	How We Will Do It	Priority	Who Will Lead It
G1. Recognise importance of the Wairoa River Valley landform to the urban form of Tauranga and the rural character of the Kaimai Ward area. That contribution being one of natural vegetation flanking the river with minimal structures and public utilities within the areas below the escarpments.	A1. Statutory To identify and protect (or acquire) open space 'green corridors' to both connect and define the visual and recreational space within the Wairoa River Valley. <i>This includes esplanade reserves</i>	- Provision of esplanade reserves through subdivision consent process - Additional land acquisition to be considered through each Council's land acquisition plans	Ongoing	TCC & WBOPDC
	A2. Statutory Give priority to the protection of the cultural landscape sites of significance.	- See Cultural Values G1 and A1. - Achieve through each Councils' City and District Plans	Ongoing	TCC & WBOPDC

Management Theme 4: Cultural Values

In recognition of the cultural significance of the Wairoa River Valley to the Tangata Whenua this is the story of the Wairoa River Valley as told by the Elders of the Wairoa hapu. The teachings and traditions are passed down with the love of the Elders.

Nga Korero Tuku Iho – Aroha o Nga Kaumatua

“Our food was then tuna, (eel) snapper, and towards the mouth of the river, herrings and mullet. We used to see the mullet jumping but not now since the dam collapsed. The river bed has been altered. People came to fish and there were plenty of people on both sides of the river. Today it has all changed, there’s hardly anybody now”.

Kaumatua Henare Rahiri. Waitangi Tribunal Hearing Wairoa Marae 1998.

“We are the caretakers of our sacred Awa Te Wairoa. The passage way, carriage way, and spiritual source of our people past present, and future”.

Te Ruruanga Te Keeti Waitangi Tribunal Hearing Wairoa Marae 1998.

“Ngati Pango live on the West side of the Wairoa River with Ngati Rangī, but all are intermingled with Ngati Kahu now.”

Ngati Pango Kaumatua: Matua Kore Macmillan Koperu: Waitangi Tribunal Hearing 1998.

Nga Kuia Morehu o Ngati Kahu.

“Ko te Awa tonu, te whakamaurutanga o katoa” “The river is forever, the absolute life giver and life force for us all, everyone!”

Kuia Te Ruia Knap Waitangi Tribunal Hearing Wairoa Marae 1998.

“I te paparutanga mai a te Ruahihi. Ka Haere maua ko taku tane ki te awa ka kitea mauai te tere o te paru I roto I te awa, tino kino taku pouri, na te mea ka kino to matou awa. Ka mate o matou oranga. Kei te tino mamae tonu te ngakau ki tenei mahi o tauwiwi. Ko mimiti haere te awa me nga kai, I roto me nga taha paripari, kua ngaro hoki nga harakeke a kui ma”.

“At the time of the Ruahihi Dam Collapse, we went, my husband and I to the River, we saw the fast flowing floodwater, dirty, the silt and mud, the pollution in the river. My heart was heavy, great was my pain, overcome with the sadness, because of the appearance

of the River, it wasn't good, it was bad, all I could think was, our river, that provides and sustains us is will die, sick; is dying, our livelihood has gone. The gnawing hurt of my heart continued at this handiwork of the European people. Damaged forever, the river, bed and banks had changed destroyed bringing absolute destruction. The food source lost to us, places for fish to spawn, gone. The flax bushes that were used by our Kuia since I can remember, have all gone, there was nothing remaining."

Kuia Minnie Gotz: Waitangi Tribunal Hearing, 1998.

"My mother married Te Whana Maihi from that union came eight children. He died. She mourned deeply his passing. Her sister Mereuaki with compassion aided her by taking her to the Awa (river) to be healed. Washing her she repeated these words, 'You must stop mourning, your children need you. They have got to be taken care of'. My mother became the sole provider for our whanau. She had a great love of fishing which was an all night vigil to her ... much of her catch were parore, herrings kopururu and eel ... knowing the exact turn of the tides and if the tides were right, the following night she would go again with her cousins who knew all the favourite spots"

Kuia Neri Ngawharau Ormsby Waitangi Tribunal Hearing Wairoa Marae 1998.

"In other ways I listened and watched for the signs of propitious days for fishing (being right next door to the awa) days for planting kai which I still do, and the movement of manu (pipiwharuroa) and the spawning time of our fish on the river (mullet). The River ... It was our playground, we enjoyed at the river. Once at dusk I saw all these eels swimming around the piles, one with a white belly amongst them... I learned to accept the tribal belief. It could have been our Katitiaki of the Awa.

Kuia Hinemoa Reweti. Waitangi Tribunal Hearing 1998.

"She also talked about the fish from the river that could not be sold, ... she also taught me that the river was the roadway to the bush and our wellbeing. The highlight of her twilight years was spending time at the river".

Kuia Waereti Poki; - as related by her daughter Kawainga Tata: Waitangi Tribunal Hearing Wairoa Marae 1998.

Rangatahi View

"At an early age I learnt the ways of our elders, who we are, where to gather seafood, the stories of our taniwha, respect for the river and their lands. I still collect pipi, titiko and tuangi from the harbour I fish, from our river I still swim in our river, but I am the exception".
Charles Rahiri Waitangi Tribunal hearing 1998.

"Our tupuna came over the hills from Ngati Raukawa along the river track on their way to the Moana." Robyn Douglas (Ngati Pango).

Tauranga Moana/Tauranga Tangata – All Tauranga Hapu and Iwi

All hapu and Iwi of Tauranga Moana, view Te Awa o Wairoa with Aroha, Respect and Mana.

“Tangata Whenua attach special significance to the traditional teachings that speak of our Kaitiaki of the river, and we remember those tupuna (Ancestors) who inhabited these places of occupation along the river who watched over its glistening waters from surrounding Maunga (hill pa sites). The river continues to be our cultural and spiritual pathway, a timeline from our remembered past to the future as yet uncertain.”

Traditional Rohe (boundaries)

“The mana of Ngati Kahu extends from the Eastern side of the river at its mouth along the entire length of the river back to the Kaimai watershed shifting to both sides of the awa while Ngati Pango and Ngati Rangi held mana of the western side of the river also running up to the Kaimai ridge through Poripori”. “Thus in times prior to the arrival of British rule and the military, these three hapu commanded the entire Wairoa River Valley from the mountain to the sea. They had access to the riches of Tauranga Moana during the summer months, and the Kaimai Bush during the winter months. They had extensive cultivations in the lower valley and controlled extensive swamplands from which food and resources could be procured” Antoine Coffin Waitangi Tribunal hearing Wairoa Marae 1998.

“Ngati Kahu have great antiquity of occupation of their ancestral lands. There have been Ngati Kahu ancestors by the river for perhaps 800 years. They were once amongst the most affluent people in this country.” Professor Ann Salmond. Planning Tribunal Wairoa Marae 1994.

Nga Taonga o Te Awa (Sacred Gifts of the River)

“The Awa provides kai for the people, healing for the sick, rongoa along its banks, shelter for wildlife, a passageway from the ngahere (Bushland) to the Moana (Sea) and a passive recreational haven for those who seek to enliven their physical, mental, and spiritual nature as whanau, Hapu, Iwi as community collectively or individually”. “The river valley environment is a vital Taonga for Tangata Whenua, both as significant traditional areas and cultural/spiritual resources”.

Ngaronoa Rewiti-Ngata

Wairoa River Hapu

“The Wairoa River is sacred to the river Hapu of Ngati Kahu, Ngati Pango and Ngati Rangī, a metaphysical symbol of ancestral occupation, spiritual connection and realised strength, and power of those who have lived alongside its banks since times immemorial”.

“The lands of Ngati Rangī and Ngati Pango are on the Western side of the Wairoa River, Ngati Kahu followed east on the Wairoa River up to Ruahihi where the lands of the three hapu are located on both sides of the river. Their mana is signified by pa located along the river to Ruahihi and Mangakarengorengo and Opuiaki and inland at the Bush edge at Te Irihanga, Poripori, and Kaimai and importantly the Awa itself. There are urupa and Pa at Poripori and likewise for Ngati Rangī at Irihanga”. Des Kahotea, Waitangi Tribunal Hearing 1998.



Ancestral Landscapes (relationships)

“The Wairoa River is a dominant part of our ancestral landscape, from its beginnings within the Kaimai watershed to the mouth of the river and out into the sea”.

Pirirakau Hapu

The following describes the interests of Pirirakau in regard to the Wairoa River Valley.

“When the Takitimu waka came from Hawaiki it landed at the base of Mauao. The captain Tamatea Arikinui and his crew climbed to the summit and through prayer and incantations, they implanted the Mauri or the spirit into this new land for their descendants, and all others who would follow. The Pirirakau hapu whakapapa descends from the Takitimu Waka, down to Ranginui the eponymous ancestor of the Ngati Ranginui Iwi and from him, through his eldest son Tutereinga.

Ranginui was a traveller and lived in other parts of the country but on his return to Tauranga, it was his close relationship to Waitaha a Hei that enabled him and his people to conquer Ngamarama whose main settlement was at Pukewhanake near the mouth of the Wairoa River.

Whakapapa Ki Te Whenua

Whakapapa is an important aspect of tikanga maori. It provides a link with our past and confirms relationships with other people. Whakapapa also provides a link with the land and comes about through occupation, ahi kaa and historical traditions and associations. In traditions of whakapapa some ancestors are associated with a certain area or rohe in general terms. Pirirakau is unique in that whakapapa from Ranginui associates the first six generations with an exact location in the rohe. Those ancestors and their places of occupation form a barrier extending from the Ruanganara Stream, down the Wairoa River to its mouth, then follows the coastline, west to the mouth of the Te Puna River.

TUPUNA

Ranginui

Tutereinga

Rangiwhakakaha

Taka

Korotehapu

Takurua

PA

Pukewhanake

Tahataharoa

Oikimoke

Te Irihanga

Poututerangi

Raropua

Pirirakau 's interests in the Wairoa River are not exclusive nor do they extend over the course of the river but are confined to the lower reaches on the west bank from the Ruanganara Stream to and including the estuary. Pirirakau's interests within that area are dominated by the Ruanganara Stream, the eastern side of the Minden Range, the Pukewhanake – Pa O Rangī Ridge, and the former estuarine area of Tahataharoa – Te Hakao – Te Tawa. Hapu associations with the River are environmental, historic and cultural.

Te Tii – Turihaka

There are Tahuna (sandbanks or mudflats) located at the northern extremes of the Wairoa River estuary. Turihaka is nearest the shore and extends from Oikimoke Point in an easterly direction. Te Tii is part of the same area to the south of Turihaka in the direction of the river mouth. These areas continue to be used for fishing, setting nets and gathering shellfish.

Tokapapa

This was a large rock located below low tide, north of Turihaka. The rock was exposed during spring low tides and was a sign for the gathering of shellfish.

Te Awa Wairoa

The Wairoa River is regarded as sacred by Tangata Whenua. There are a number of hapu that have historic associations with the river. Each of the hapu have traditions and stories about fishing, the gathering of natural resources. Pirirakau people traditionally fished the lower reaches up to Pukewhanake. Boundaries and areas as such were not clearly defined and interests and traditions overlap as all hapu had access to the sea.

Pukewhanake

Pukewhanake Pa is the original home in Tauranga of Ranginui, the eponymous ancestor of the Ngati Ranginui iwi. Pukewhanake is situated on the West Bank of the Wairoa River, a short distance from the mouth of river. Pukewhanake was the home of the Ngamarama people until they were defeated by Ranginui. Ngamarama was forced into the forests behind Te Rangituanehu (Minden) and through subsequent marriages with Ngati Ranginui people; they were subsumed under the mana of Ranginui and lost their independent identity.

Te Hakao

The extensive low lying wetland that extends from the mouth of the Wairoa River, past Pukewhanake to the foot of Te Rangituanehu is generally known as Te Hakao. The name Te Hakao was probably attributed to the whole area from the name for a tributary of the river near its mouth. Whilst parts of this landscape are tapu, in certain places food and eel fishery which was in use until at least the 1960's. It is not fished these days but it is still considered to be important as a nursery.

Waiorooro

This is the mouth of the Hakao Stream. The length of Te Hakao was tapu, but fishing could take place at two places; at the mouth, Waiorooro, and at its confluence with the Wairoa River. At Waiorooro, nets were set across the stream to catch fish on the outgoing tide. Nets were not generally set at the river end, but line fishing for Kahawai was a normal activity.

Te Tawa

Te Tawa is the name of the western point at the mouth of the Wairoa River. In traditional times the river could be forded there at low times. Until recent times Te Tawa was a traditional waahi nohoanga used by Ngati Hangarau and Pirirakau people whilst fishing.

According to a Pirirakau Pakeke, the name Te Tawa came from the colour of the water at certain times of the year. The apparent colouration came from a type of seaweed.

Tahataharoa

Tahataharoa generally refers to the flat semi tidal area adjacent to Pukewhanake and Oikimoke and extends across the Kahao to incorporate Te Tawa. There is a Pa site on the escarpment above the flats a short distance from Pukewhanake and a waahi nohoanga on the slopes of the escarpment near the Pa site. The waahi nohoanga was where people waited to cross the river from the west and a rest area for people crossing from the east.

Tahataharoa contains the remains to Tutereinga, the eldest son of Ranginui and ancestor of the Pirirakau hapu. Tahataharoa is the most important waahi tapu in Pirirakau traditions. Traditions tell us that when Tutereinga was near death he was asked by his people whether they should bury him on Mauao. His answer was "Bury me at Tahataharoa where I can hear the sound of the sea".

Oikimoke

The name generally refers to the escarpment and ridge extending north from Tahataharoa and takes its name from the pa located on its northern point. It was the home of Rangiwhakawhaka, the eldest son of Tutereinga. The centre of the pa is in current use as an urupa.

Te Irihanga Pa

Te Irihanga is located close to Ruangangara (Ohourere) Stream and was originally constructed by Ngamarama. In Pirirakau traditions it was the home of Taka. During the Tauranga Bush Campaign in 1867, the Pa was occupied by Pirirakau, Ngati Pango and Ngati Rangi. The Pa was attacked by the militia on two occasions in January 1867.

"My Father grew up at Oikimoke, my Grandmother and her brothers were born there. Her mother was born there as was her father and his mother. I also grew up at Oikimoke and together with my father; brothers, cousins and uncles, we all took part in harvesting of the natural resources from around our kainga. My father's mentors and teacher's were his Mother and Uncles with whom he had been raised. As children we were fortunate to have one of those Kaumatua living next door.

My knowledge and understanding of our heritage and environment came principally from him and my father. We as children were their kaimahi in the setting of nets, fishing, the harvesting of shellfish and the gathering of harakeke and rongoa Maori from areas in and around Tahataharoa. It was they who showed us how to create warm sleeping places in the sand at Oikimoke and Te Tawa for when we fished overnight. We learnt how to seek Parore in the oioi (sea rush) fringes of Te Tawa and how to attract them and Patiki to those areas.

In those days large schools of Mullet and Kahawai would run through the Hakao stream from the river to the estuary and continue their run close inshore before dispersing off Oikimoke point. We would also snag Mullet with three-pronged hooks from the riverbank or from the Rail Bridge. We would set and attend nets stretched across the Hakao and at other times we would catch eels by hand in the mud of the stream. One of the tikanga was to not take kete or bags. We used harakeke from the fringes of Te Tawa to thread our catch on to and hung them about our waists. This was a way of preventing over fishing. We knew of the Tikanga and Korero about Tutereinga and Tahataharoa from a very early age, I cannot remember a specific time when either my father or Grand Uncle or anyone else told us about it. That is the nature of the passing of knowledge, simply by living it and acquiring it as a matter of course, and the acceptance and reinforcement of those values by long-term interaction with our environment. We always knew that the area was a Waahi tapu. Kaitiakitanga in this instance is an active relationship it has deep importance and relevance. In the case of the Wairoa River, Te Tawa and Tahataharoa it was the inherited intimate and discreet knowledge that allowed us access to certain parts of that landscape

. "Te Hiringa Harold Rawson Pirirakau Waitangi Tribunal Hearing 1998

Hangarau Hapu

"Whatungarongaro te tangata Toitu te whenua" Man will go missing but the land will always remain

Ngati Hangarau hapu extends from the primary settlement at Peterehema along the eastern side of the Wairoa River, along the entire length of the River back to the Kaimai watershed and extending eastward from that point to the rohe of Ngai Tamarawaho. Ngati Hangarau is bounded on the west by Ngati Kahu, Ngati Rangī and Ngati Pango whose interests are to be found on the east and west banks of the Wairoa River. The kainga of Paengaroa, Te Kaki and Kaimai were kainga of Ngati Hangarau (Minhinnick, WAI 215 D5, pg 7).

Historically there are a number of significant matters pertaining to Wairoa River with which we as a hapu have been involved with or have connections with. These include Paeroa Native School, Ngamanawa Incorporation, Omanawa Ruahihi Dam/Hydro-Electricity Generation Scheme, Mangapapa, Poripori Trust, Korokoro and other wahi tapu.

The Tauranga Moana and the rivers, streams, waterfalls and lakes within the rohe of Ngati Hangarau are taonga which have carried the blood, tears and fortune of the Hapu. These waterways provided Ngati Hangarau with the various foods found within, they were an essential part of the trade industry, a means of communication and were used for healing purposes, sport and play. They are sources of mana and identity to Ngati Hangarau, inseparable. *(this is demonstrated in two waiata particular to Ngati Hangarau, "Takiri Ko Te Ata" and "He Tangi Na Te Pakaru).*

The destruction of wahi tapu and the deprivation of the use of waterways resulting from the Tauranga Joint Generation Committee actions in the late 1960's led to Ngati Hangarau kaumatua Kaikohe Roretana stating: "Omanawa and Te Korokoro falls were used to prophesy good luck and ill fortune and death. When Korokoro sounded, it was a sign of bad luck and sometimes death, while Omanawa Falls were a sign of good luck. We are proud of our Fortune tellers which foretold the luck of the Tribe. When you go into this land and treat it as common earth, you make yourselves vandals in our eyes" (pg 8 Ngati Hangarau Raupatu Report 1999). Thus the waterways were part of the people, a part of Ngati Hangarau history retold when expressed in traditional waiata. Traditional ties of Ngati Hangarau also amounted to shared guardianship, authority and control. Some areas within our rohe were managed by whanau on behalf of the Hapu (such as the Ngamanawa area and surrounding waterways), shared between hapu on behalf of the Iwi (such as the Wairoa River) or defended by Hapu of each Iwi over the whole of Tauranga Moana. Ngati Hangarau hapu has protected and developed the waters in conjunction with the need to preserve them for future generations since the arrival of the waka Takitimu.

In accordance with the guarantee of tino rangatiratanga, Ngati Hangarau hapu assert unrelinquished rights to all taonga within their rohe. Ngati Hangarau claim manawhenua over land stretching from the Tauranga Harbour to the Kaimai ranges. This land was bounded by traditional lines which joined land occupied by Ngai Tamarawaho on the east and Ngati Kahu and Ngati Pango on the west. The Tauranga Harbour, Wairoa River, lakes, waterfalls, streams, Pa, urupa and other taonga within the rohe of Ngati Hangarau are places of special significance to our Hapu. These are not just place names inscribed on maps but are living sources of identity and mana.

Prepared by Tatai Allen: Ngati Hangarau.

The Wairoa River and environs are part of the heritage landscape, which is of great cultural significance to the Tangata Whenua.¹ The Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty Districts were among the first areas of New Zealand to be settled by Polynesian immigrants.¹² Although the date of the first arrival is not known, it is clear that the land has been occupied continuously by many generations of Maori iwi and hapu. Tangata Whenua have occupied the Wairoa River Valley and nearby reaches for over 800 years.¹¹ The Wairoa hapu are descendants from Ngamarama and inter-marriage with Ranginui and Ngaiterangi hapu. The earliest record places the arrival of the first canoes with immigrants from Hawaiki (approximately AD 1290).

Ngati Kahu is recognised in Tauranga Moana as being kaitiaki of the Wairoa River and maintains significant cultural and spiritual relationships with the river and its environs. Ngati Pango shares this role on their side of the river. Other hapu that have occupied or are associated with the Wairoa River Valley, are Pirirakau and Ngati Hangarau.

Ngati Kahu are descendents of the Ancestors Kahu and Kahu Tapu.¹¹ Ngati Kahu, by ancient tradition, belong beside the Wairoa River and nowhere else. This rohe forms part of what is known as the ancestral landscape, which includes the continuous natural and cultural landscape. Areas that are of particular regard to Ngati Kahu as places of occupation include the eastern side of the Wairoa River from the river mouth (Whakaheke



Pa) to the Ruahihi Pa and Ongaonga in the Kaimai. The pa of Papa o Wharia located near the home of the taniwha or river spirit proves as testimony to the relationship Wairoa hapu have with the river.

The Wairoa River is tapu to the river people whose settlements have consistently been located along the margins of the river and valley. The Wairoa River is recognised as a traditional mahinga kai (food gathering place), providing resources such as eel, fish, watercress, freshwater mussels and koura, a source of healing and power and a place of cultural and spiritual significance.¹¹

Key issues and opportunities identified through research and consultation

The research and consultation undertaken both prior to and during the development of this strategy has identified that Tangata Whenua have specific concerns in regard to retaining their kaitiaki status of the Wairoa River and that they are not marginalised from their lands and resources. The Tangata Whenua have identified a wish to be able to manage the resources of the river in a traditional manner. This is related to a concern over the damage to significant cultural sites and sites of importance to each hapu along the margins of the Wairoa River and that these need to be recognised and protected. The Tangata Whenua wish it to be recognised that there are current Raupatu (land claims) under the Waitangi Tribunal (as yet resolved) for significant tracts of land within the Wairoa River Valley and this has the potential to have an important role in the future management of this whole area. In general there was much concern voiced with regard to the adverse effects from land use activities on both the water quality and the visual quality of the river and its landscape.

Tangata Whenua has identified that they would need to be involved at a governance level in the ongoing implementation and monitoring of the WRVS.

Vision for Cultural Values - Where We Want To Be in 2055

“Recognise, restore and protect the kaitiaki role of Tangata Whenua in matters relating to the use of the Wairoa River Valley”

There is a need to recognise the longstanding cultural and spiritual association of tangata whenua with the Wairoa River Valley environment, and how this is reflected in the cultural landscape. Examples are significant pa sites and taonga. There is a lot to be learnt from the environmental management principles and traditional values of Tangata Whenua in caring for the Wairoa River Valley environment.

Management Theme 4: Cultural Values – Action Plan

What We Want To Achieve - Goals	What We Will Do - Actions	How We Will Do It	Priority	Who Will Lead It
G1. Protection of indigenous ecological and cultural landscape values of significance to Tangata Whenua.	A1. Statutory Prepare Iwi/Hapu Management Plans (HMP) for the Wairoa River Valley, (as defined by the Strategy) which in particular defines the ecological and cultural landscape values of the valley.	- Each hapu will write their own I/HMP. <i>Limited funding from BOPRC is available for the development of I/HMP's.</i>	Short (source funding, people & resources)	Each hapu (in conjunction with BOPRC)
G2. Promote the ability for Tangata Whenua to preserve and foster their traditional values (including the use of traditional and contemporary management of the river valley environment).	A2. Research Identify and protect significant cultural sites within the Wairoa River Valley, excluding the areas already identified within Bethlehem. This is to build on existing information to fill the information gaps on significant heritage sites.	- Prepare I/HMP (including identifying broad band of whenua, identification & protection mechanisms are to be undertaken by hapu). - Give effect to I/HMP in District Plans and other territorial plans.	Short Medium	Each hapu (in conjunction with BOPRC) TCC, WBOPDC & BOPRC (a request to be made to BOPRC)
	A3. Statutory and Voluntary Protect and maintain Maori reserves within the Wairoa River Valley environment.	- Identify protection mechanisms through I/HMP (and District Plan). - Identify in any future relevant strategic/statutory plans.	Medium	Each hapu
	A4. Statutory Identify options for the return of ownership of key cultural sites within the Wairoa River Valley to hapu.	- Develop and prioritise list of pa sites (with reference to Raupatu o Tauranga Moana Settlement) - Partnership negotiations with crown and local authorities.	Medium	Each hapu
G3. Protect and restore the Wairoa River Valley margins in traditional local species.	A5. Voluntary Replant public river margins with nominated eco-sourced species. (Utilising the key delivery mechanism of BOPRC Environmental Programmes recognising that these programs form part of a work program that has its own set of priorities and allocative procedures). Refer also to Quality of the River Environment Goals and Actions	- Identify appropriate species and management regime. - Identify and prioritise list of areas of to be replanted. - Work in partnership with local landowners and tangata whenua - Work with the Landcare groups established (assisted by the NZ Landcare Trust)	Short	, BOPRC, in conjunction with TCC, WBOPDC NZ Landcare Trust, hapu and local community
G4. Improve public awareness of the cultural landscape and values.	A6. Education Hold wananga/workshops/tours where people would come to learn about the traditional values and environmental management.	- Include in I/HMP. - Promote linkages with Parau Farms and other cultural areas.	Medium	Ngati Kahu

Management Theme 5: Social, Heritage and Community Values

The Wairoa River Valley has a rich history of Maori and European settlement. Following on from the Maori occupation discussed in the Cultural Values section, the 1800s saw the arrival of the Europeans to the Bay of Plenty. Samuel Marsden was the first European visitor to describe the Tauranga district in 1820, followed in 1826 by the arrival of the C.M.S mission schooner Herald, probably the first European vessel to enter the Tauranga Harbour.¹² A number of Europeans settled around the mouth of the Wairoa River. In the late 1940s the indigenous forests of the Kaimai-Mamaku were still being milled. By the early 1970s increasing areas of the Kaimai Ranges were being planted in pine trees. In early 1977 the Kaimai-Mamaku State Forest Park Advisory Committee released a provisional plan for recreational development of the forests, also during 1977 Ngamanawa Incorporation signed an agreement with NZ Forest Products to plant pine trees on a large area of their land.¹² There were many opponents to the Ngamanawa agreement who wanted to see the indigenous cover preserved and were worried about loss of public access to the Wairoa headwaters.

Historic Heritage

Both physical and cultural heritage contribute to our understanding of the past. The physical heritage includes buildings and remains of middens. This is a non-renewable resource. The cultural heritage is the stories, mythology and interpretation of our past as discussed in the section on Cultural Values. If we lose our historic heritage it is gone forever. Historic heritage has recently been made a matter of national importance in the RMA. There are a number of archaeological sites throughout the Wairoa River Valley that are protected under the District Plans and the NZ Historic Places Act, including middens, terraces and pits (some are existing and some have been destroyed in the past). Section 10 of the Historic Places Act provides blanket protection for all archaeological sites. It is illegal to damage, modify or destroy an archaeological site (whether registered or not) without an Authority from the NZ Historic Places Trust.

The WBOPDP identifies significant issues with regard to heritage, including that there is very little quality information documenting heritage items and that this hinders their protection. This is particularly applicable to archaeological sites.

Hydropower on the Wairoa River

The water resources of the Kaimai hill country were first used for hydroelectric power generation when the Omanawa Falls and McLaren Falls Power Stations were built in the early 1900s. In 1915 a powerhouse was completed on the Omanawa River, to supply electricity to Tauranga City. The McLaren Falls Power Station was commissioned in 1925 by the Tauranga Borough Council and was one of the primary sources of power for the Tauranga area until 1965.¹⁵ Lake McLaren was formed by the construction of a 26m high concrete arch dam across the lower Mangapapa River to supply water to the McLaren Falls Power Station. Three power

stations were completed in the 1970s, which included one at Ruahihi that would re-use the water for power generation before it flows into the Wairoa River. The Ruahihi Power Station is situated on the Wairoa River adjacent to SH29 and was commissioned in 1981. People still recall the failure in the feed canal resulted in a collapse of the canal and a major rebuilding project. The collapse released a significant amount of sediment into the Wairoa River and the Tauranga Harbour. Much of the farmed land in the lower reaches was flooded, resulting in 0.5cm of very fine sediment deposition. The station was re-commissioned in 1983.

TrustPower now operates the Kaimai Hydroelectric Power Scheme (HEPS) on the Wairoa River. The Scheme has been in operation, in its present form, since the early 1980's and comprises a number of dams and diversions. TrustPower is the second largest independent generator of electricity in New Zealand and the fourth largest electricity retailer. TrustPower operates the Kaimai Hydroelectric Power Scheme (HEPS) which has been operated in its present form, since the early 1980s, and comprises a number of dams and diversions. The dams and diversions convey water from throughout the upper Wairoa River catchment into a series of man made lakes. The impounded water is then passed through a series of power stations and canals before being discharged into the Wairoa River at the Ruahihi Power Station. The Kaimai HEPS supplied 20% of the electricity demanded in Western Bay of Plenty in 2002. TrustPower holds resource consents for the HEPS to allow for the take, use and discharge of water, as well as for the damming and diversion of specific waterbodies. These consent conditions provide opportunities for canoeing through a river release installed at Lake McLaren to allow the continued release of recreational flows into the Wairoa River on 26 days each year. The resource consents for the Kaimai HEPS are due for renewal in 2026.

Both the Omanawa Falls and the McLaren Falls Power Stations are now decommissioned and reflect a very important historical record of the early Kaimai power scheme.

The Wairoa River Community Today

The Wairoa River Valley community is characterised by rural communities and developing residential settlements. The Western Bay of Plenty sub-region is characterised by considerable economic growth and development, with potential for continued growth.¹² Tauranga District's population of 90,900 in 2001 has grown by 13,130 (17%) since 1996 – the largest intercensal increase in population for any District (or City) in New Zealand.¹⁶ Western Bay of Plenty District's population of 38,230 in 2001 had grown by 3,260 (9%) since 1996 – about half of the percentage of the previous five year period (17%) but still larger than that in either Hamilton or Auckland.¹⁶

As discussed previously the Tauranga city side of the Wairoa River Valley has undergone significant changes recently from residential



subdivision and urban expansion. The majority of the properties in the Tauranga City area within the Wairoa River Valley are on town water supply and sewage. The main centre of population being Bethlehem. The majority of the properties in the Western Bay of Plenty District within the Wairoa River Valley are on tank water and septic tanks.

The 'Bethlehem Planning Study: Social Impact Assessment' undertaken in 1997 identified that throughout the community there was recognition of the rural attributes of the Bethlehem area and the desire to retain the characteristics of space, greenness and tranquillity. While difficult to do in every urban subdivision, there are key physical areas of locations where these characteristics can be maintained; neighbourhood reserves, the Parau Farms reserve, various esplanade reserves along the river and the lower grounds of Bethlehem College.

The Wairoa River Community in the Future

The population projections developed as part of the SmartGrowth project are that the total population of Western Bay of Plenty District and Tauranga City will be 218,500 by 2021, and between 273,000 and 316,600 by 2050.

One of Tauranga Tomorrow's Outcomes is 'vibrant, healthy and diverse communities' and a priority way to achieve this is by looking at ways to tell the history of Tauranga Moana as recognition that our history is an important part of who we are, our identity.

The Wairoa River forms the northwestern boundary for the Tauranga City Urban Limit identified in SmartGrowth. Within these areas it is recognised that special consideration of harbour impacts from development is important. The Bethlehem area is identified as continuing to develop within existing zoned areas and structure planning and it is likely to reach capacity for residential development by 2016. The Bethlehem North area is proposed as a new urban growth area. SmartGrowth identifies the Tauriko area as a sub-regional employment centre. This will have an impact on the community make up in these areas. SmartGrowth has an Action to develop a regional heritage place strategy as heritage places are under threat from growth and development and this threat is increased by a lack of awareness and understanding of heritage values.

Key Issues Identified through Research and Consultation

The research and consultation undertaken both prior to and during the development of this strategy has identified the importance of heritage values throughout the Wairoa River Valley environment and that these are to be protected. The community in the Wairoa River Valley are concerned that residential ribbon development along the river margins has the potential to negatively impact on the special character of the Valley and the subsequent effects of this on the future communities. With the growing Tauranga urban area there are increasing pressures and demand for rural-residential developments or 'lifestyle blocks', as well as urban-type activities near

to the Wairoa River. There have also been ongoing concerns voiced by landowners over the negative social impacts resulting from uncontrolled public access both from and to the river. The feedback from consultation with local communities in the McLaren Falls area is that the community has strong wishes to see improved management of the historic power stations at both McLaren Falls and Omanawa Falls.

Vision for Social, Heritage and Community – Where We Want To Be in 2055

“Communities nestled within the ‘green corridor’ of the Wairoa River Valley that appreciate the value of the iconic landscape, tranquil settings and heritage values”

There are a number of special features of the communities within the Wairoa River Valley environment that need to be protected in the future and balanced with the growth and development of this area. Over the next 50 years land uses and development will continue to evolve, but activities must be conscious of the need to protect important social, heritage and community values.

Management Theme 5: Social, Heritage and Community – Action Plan

<i>What We Want To Achieve - Goals</i>	<i>What We Will Do - Actions</i>	<i>How We Will Do It</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Who Will Lead It</i>
G1. Protect important community heritage sites within the Wairoa River Valley.	A1. Statutory Undertake archaeological assessments as required when development occurs, and information on heritage sites in accordance with statutory requirements	- Consider through statutory processes for development along the Wairoa River Valley area.	Ongoing	TCC and WBOPDC
	A2. Education Support community involvement in the appreciation and understanding of heritage sites within the river valley.	- Prepare educational information on the important heritage sites along the Wairoa River Valley	Long	TCC and WBOPDC
G2. Promote opportunities for recreation within the 'green corridor'.	A3. Research Improve walkway/cycleway linkages in the lower reaches to and along the Wairoa River so people can walk and cycle near to the river and enjoy the tranquil setting	- in accordance with each Council's walking and cycling strategies and reserve management plans	Ongoing	TCC and WBOPDC
G3. Empower community stewardship of resources that contribute to the 'sense of place'.	A4. Voluntary and Education Encourage and support community participation in planning of local built environments, open space and social infrastructure to achieve a sense of community belonging.	- Provide educational information on open space planning and the Open Space Strategy - Provide an inclusive consultative process when undertaking structure planning work in areas surrounding the Wairoa River Valley (i.e. Tauriko) and have particular regard to the values of importance to the communities adjoining the river.	Ongoing	All organisations

Management Theme 6: Recreation and Access

The Wairoa River Valley has a long history of being a significant recreational asset to the Western Bay of Plenty community. There are a range of land and water-based activities provided for on the Wairoa River including walking, tramping, running, picnicking, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, rowing and rafting.

Where We Are Now

The Wairoa River is navigable from the Ruahihi Power Station to the river mouth at the Tauranga Harbour. There is a small number of both formal and informal publicly accessible boat launching locations along the banks of the Wairoa River. McLaren Falls Park is located just upstream of the McLaren Falls Bridge and is a regional recreational asset. The Kaimai Canoe Club is located adjacent to the Wairoa River between the McLaren Falls Bridge and the Ruahihi Bridge. The Bay of Plenty Coast Rowing Club is situated adjacent to the river at the end of Wairoa Road, opposite Miles Lane. People are free to use motorised vessels on the river provided they observe the five-knot speed restriction.

Canoeing on the Wairoa downstream of the McLaren Falls Bridge has occurred for decades and rafting has become a popular commercial activity since the 1980s. The recreational use of the Upper Wairoa River is permitted by the release of recreational water from Lake McLaren by TrustPower and enforced by BOPRC specifically for canoeists. The Wairoa River is hydro-controlled with water releases for rafting on 26 days per year when it is opened to commercial and non-commercial rafters and canoeists. This is discussed further in Local Management Area 1: McLaren Falls Bridge to Ruahihi Power Station. The Wairoa River is the location for the annual Wairoa Whitewater Extreme Race, beginning at McLaren Falls, an event that caters for up to 80 participants. Apart from the canoeists there are a number of rafting companies who cater for the 'wilderness adventure' tourism market by providing white water rafting activities on the Wairoa River. The commercial rafting company Raftabout describes the Wairoa River as "The Ultimate in Rafting in NZ...the scenery along the rock and tree lined gorge is as much a part of the trip as the exciting waterfalls and rapids". The Wairoa River is a Grade 5 "Extreme White Water" experience.

Most fishing takes place in the middle reaches of the Wairoa River where there is an adequate flow of water. Lake McLaren and the Ruahihi Canal are popular trout fisheries within the Western Bay of Plenty District and are regularly frequented by anglers to fish the 'stocked' waters. The Wairoa River is highly valued for its recreational fishing opportunities due to its close proximity to the population centres and for its easy access.¹⁷

Public Recreation Reserves

There are a number of public reserves adjacent to the Wairoa River that are owned and managed by TCC and WBOPDC. There are also a number of reserves owned and managed by the Department of Conservation, known as Conservation Strips, adjacent to the river. These reserves provide for public access to the Wairoa River and along its margins. The rules in the district plans regulate the activities that can be undertaken within these reserves as well as any management plans prepared under the Reserves Act 1977 that set the site-specific direction for the future development of each of the reserves, and generic objectives and policies.

After extensive public consultation, WBOPDC adopted a Recreation and Leisure Strategy (2002) and a Recreation Action Plan (2002), which comprehensively documents future requirements for recreation reserves in the District. The Kaimai Ward Reserves Management Plan 2003 contains a number of management plans for reserves along the Wairoa River Valley, including the Wairoa River (SH2), Te Puna Station Road and Walkway Reserve (including a Concept Development Plan), Wairoa River and Mangakarengorengo River Walkways and the Upper Wairoa River Walkway Project – Feasibility Study. A key aspect of the vision for the Kaimai reserves is to improve linkages and to improve access to the Wairoa River whilst recognising that the creation of a full walkway linking reserves along the river from the Harbour to McLaren Falls had some issues. The Upper Wairoa River Management Agreement and Development Proposals (1994) attempted to address traffic congestion issues on and near the McLaren Falls Bridge.

TCC does not currently have a strategic reserve planning document but of relevance to the Wairoa River is the Best Practice Guide for Neighbourhood Reserves (2004) and the McLaren Falls Park Management Plan (1995). TCC has adopted an Active Reserves Management Plan that outlines the general vision, goals and actions for development and management of active reserves (such as Parau Farms).³

Tauranga Tomorrow sees Tauranga as a place where healthy active people are involved in their communities. It has been identified that the existing needs of sports users are not being met and growth within the city will create even more demand for facilities. Tauranga City Council has resolved to investigate the need for and plan new sports and recreation facilities within our city.

SmartGrowth identified that the availability of high-quality open space and leisure opportunities are key indicators of the quality of life that a community enjoys. Planning for future recreation and open space provision is identified under a number of themes, including 'Active Communities', 'Water Recreation', 'Open Space' and 'Mountains to the Sea'. SmartGrowth notes a number of implementation methods in relation to planning for future recreation and open space provision, including clarifying the recreation use

³ Passive reserves provide space for casual play, relaxation, family activities and other forms of 'informal' leisure. Active reserves provide space for organised sport and associated facilities, such as playing fields, modified surfaces like tennis courts and club buildings. An active reserve can also fulfill a passive reserve function, but its primary purpose is not to provide for passive leisure opportunities.

of Tauranga waterways and this will include the Wairoa River Valley. Other methods include providing appropriate opportunities for public access to rural and natural areas.

Plan Change 33 to the Tauranga District Plan rezones a number of rural land parcels, known as Parau Farms, to a combination of Recreation A and Recreation B zones to recognise its intended use as public reserve. This is a significant block of land that will form an important link in the recreational areas adjacent to the Wairoa River. No appeals have been received.

Esplanade Reserves

Esplanade Reserves are in place along the majority of the lower Wairoa River on the Tauranga City side. Along the Western Bay of Plenty District boundary with the Wairoa River there are a number of existing and proposed esplanade reserves. Public access to the river is also afforded via a number of public recreation reserves (discussed previously), including Miles Lane and the Lower Wairoa River Reserve. The Tauranga District Plan notes that with further intensification of Bethlehem it is proposed that a 20m-wide esplanade linkage be completed along the eastern bank of the Wairoa River and Taniwha Place. Plan Change 33 also proposes a pedestrian linkage up to the Parau Farms reserve located at the end of Taniwha Place from the river valley area to provide walking and cycling connections into the large sports ground reserve to be developed on that land. Western Bay of Plenty District Council intends to secure at subdivision from lots that are less than four hectares those esplanades that are predominantly in natural vegetation. For other sites (i.e. lots of four hectares or greater) other techniques are more cost effective than purchase by Council, for example through Regional Council Farm and Environment Plans, and Department of Conservation acquisition and protection.

In recent years there has been discussion about establishing a low-key public walkway together with suitable native planting and stock fencing to provide an important passive recreation facility to serve both the local and District population and implement some of the SmartGrowth and Tauranga Tomorrow goals. The Bethlehem Planning Study Social Impact Assessment states that special consideration is to be given to the creation, location and ownership of public reserves to meet needs identified.

Key Issues Identified through Research and Consultation

The research and consultation undertaken both prior to and during the development of this strategy has identified the key issue with regard to recreation and access conflicts between users. These are generally conflicts between those enjoying the 'peace and quiet' values of the river and those who chose to use motorised vessels on the river as well as conflicts between public access and landowner rights/safety and security issues. A number of private landowners have identified opportunities for recreation/tourism ventures on properties adjacent to the Wairoa River. There was much discussion around the intensive use of the river and its margins in

the upper reaches on “ flow days “ and the ongoing impacts this is having particularly around the McLaren Falls Bridge. The consultation also identified the issue of potential risks to the public during ‘flow days’ when significant amounts of water are being released and the lack of signage/information about when this would be happening.

In general the community agreed that the Wairoa River Valley boasts some unique features and special values and that there is a desire to maintain ‘peace and quiet’ values balanced with recreational opportunities in this environment.

Vision for Recreation and Access – Where We Want To Be in 2055

“A diversity of recreational opportunities on the river and within the ‘green corridor’ with tranquil places for relaxation for the whole community”

There is a need to balance the community values in relation to recreation and access within the Wairoa River Valley. This means finding a balance between the use of the river for motorised watercraft and the effect this may have on amenity values and health of the riverbank, while also enhancing opportunities for passive recreation. This means the Wairoa River Valley will be a place that offers a range of recreation experiences, balancing the isolated wilderness values in the Wairoa River’s upstream reaches and the enjoyment of passive and active recreation on the lower reaches.

Management Theme 6: Recreation and Access – Action Plan

Update 2012/13 – The Wairoa River Valley Strategy 2005 included an action to “Promote the upper reaches (refer to Local Management Area 1) for its ‘isolated wilderness’ values and the lower reaches (refer to Local Management Areas 2, 3 and 4) for its passive and active recreational opportunities.”. This action has been removed but is now used as a policy statement to guide a range of actions included in the Strategy.

<i>What We Want To Achieve - Goals</i>	<i>What We Will Do - Actions</i>	<i>How We Will Do It</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Who Will Lead It</i>
G1. Make sure that the recreational use of and access to, the Wairoa River Valley does not compromise the social and community values (including cultural and spiritual values).	A1. Voluntary Recruitment of Wairoa River Harbour Warden/s and/or Honorary Ranger	-Harbour warden position in place	Complete	BOPRC
	A2. Education Improve information of motorised vessel use on the Wairoa River.	- Provide innovative signage - Provide information/host open day	Complete	BOPRC
	A3. Research Ensure stringent requirements are in place for motorised vehicle access and use, and monitor and enforce the speed of all motorised craft on any part of the river to maintain low noise levels.	- Enforcement approach is adequate to achieve this action	Ongoing	BOPRC
G2. Have in place the ‘green corridor’ that provides for places for relaxation and recreation.	A4. Voluntary Support Councils’ and community initiatives for protecting and enhancing esplanade and recreation reserves adjacent to the river as community places.	- See Landscape Action Plan G1, A1, A2 & A3.	Ongoing	All organisations
	A5. Statutory Promote enhanced pedestrian linkages between public reserves.	- Achieve through each Council’s walking and cycling strategies	Ongoing	TCC & WBOPDC
	A6. Statutory Where the provision of additional land meets the vision of the WRVS Councils may require esplanade	- Ensure a minimum width of 20 metres is taken for esplanade reserve adjacent to the river at the time of subdivision or through any other negotiated agreement	Ongoing	TCC & WBOPDC

<i>What We Want To Achieve - Goals</i>	<i>What We Will Do - Actions</i>	<i>How We Will Do It</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Who Will Lead It</i>
	reserves for the purpose of both providing public access and protecting ecological values.	between Councils and landowners.		
G3. Improve opportunities for viewing the Wairoa River Valley from key vantage points. Refer also to Landscape Goals and Actions.	A7. Statutory Identify and prioritise areas that provide key vantage points of the river to focus public access to these areas. This is to be in recognition of the WRVS Local Management Area Goals & Actions.	- Achieve through each Council's land acquisition programmes	Ongoing	TCC & WBOPDC (in consultation with landowners)
G4. Recognise that there is a maximum "carrying capacity" of the river environment in regard to recreational activities.	A8. Research Monitor a range of recreation activities along the Wairoa River Valley and the residents' and visitors' issues in regard to the scale of recreational activities.	- Consider through process to develop joint concessions policy - Recognise that there may be a need to place limitations on reserve areas where values are under threat.	Short	TCC & WBOPDC (in conjunction with the local community)

5 Local Management Areas

A number of individual areas within the Wairoa River Valley have been identified as being distinctive in terms of the communities of interest, opportunities for recreation and access or ecological and landscape values. These areas may also be 'hotspots' where conflicts between users may exist. The identification of these Local Management Areas (LMA) provides the opportunity to implement the WRVS at a local level, resolve some of the existing issues and set a direction for the way forward for these specific areas and also to meet the strategy goals. The identification of each of these areas were discussed at the early stages of consultation with the key stakeholders, Tangata Whenua and the wider community and confirmed through the process of developing the WRVS.

This part of the document outlines the strategy for the future use and management of these LMAs. It describes **Where We Are Now** (the current position and issues) and **What We Want to Achieve** (the Goals) particular to that settlement/area. This is achieved through identifying **What We Will Do** (the Actions) with priorities for implementing these. Each action is consistent with the Vision of the WRVS and the Visions, Goals and Actions of each of the Management Themes.

These LMAs are:

- McLaren Falls Bridge to Ruahihi Power Station
- Redwood Lane
- Miles Lane/End of Wairoa Road
- Bethlehem



Local Management Area 1: McLaren Falls Bridge to Ruahihi Power Station

The McLaren Falls Bridge to Ruahihi Power Station LMA covers the portion of the Wairoa River Valley from McLaren Falls Bridge past the Ruahihi Bridge and finishes at the Ruahihi Power Station. It also includes the Ruahihi Canal. The LMA 1: Action Map following the Action Plan for this area identifies the general area that is covered.

McLaren Falls at the bridge lies within green pastoral hills at the head of the Wairoa River in an area rich in both Maori and European pioneer history. The surrounding land uses in this area are predominantly rural, and the area is zoned 'Rural G' in the Western Bay of Plenty District Plan. The distance of McLaren Falls Bridge from Tauranga City (approximately 20km) contributes to the relatively isolated nature of this environment.



The WBOPDC and TCC have a number of recreation and esplanade reserves within this Local Management Area. There is also a conservation strip, owned and managed by the Department of Conservation, in place adjacent to the true right hand side of the Wairoa River just below the McLaren Falls Bridge.

McLaren Falls Park is a significant 170 hectare park in TCC ownership and administration, within the Western Bay of Plenty District. McLaren Falls Park is accessed from McLaren Falls Road, off State Highway 29. The park provides mainly for passive recreation activities and features a man-made lake. The McLaren Falls Park is upstream of the boundary of the WRVS and this LMA.

This area is a popular recreational destination, particularly with McLaren Falls Park upstream, the falls themselves, this area of river being promoted by the NZ Rafting Adventures as the "ultimate Grade 4 & 5 whitewater playground in the Southern Hemisphere" and the Kaimai Canoe Club (located on the true left bank of the river). The river near the Kaimai Canoe Club (KCC) has a slalom course available for competitions.

Fishing is also popular in this area of the Wairoa River and Fish and Game NZ note that the Ruahihi Canal holds medium-sized stocked rainbow trout and the Wairoa River below McLaren Falls Bridge has both brown and rainbow trout. Spinning (casting a lure and then reeling in) is considered by Fish and Game NZ to be the most productive way to fish in this area. Permits are required for this activity.

Where We Are Now

River Flows

The resource consents for TrustPower's Kaimai HEPS, which operates on the Wairoa River, allow for the take, use and discharge of water, as well as for the damming and diversion of specific waterbodies. The resource consent conditions for the scheme require TrustPower to release a flow of between 14 and 25 cumecs downstream of McLaren Falls Bridge for a period of 6 hours, up to a maximum of 26 days per annum. For these 26 days of the year known as 'flow days', commercial and non-commercial rafters and canoeists can enjoy the white water in the upper reaches of the Wairoa River. TrustPower, the KCC and all of the commercial rafting operators agreed to a draft management plan in 1994 for the continued safe use of the river during these flow days. At the time TCC was preparing a Management Plan for McLaren Falls Park, WBOPDC went through a process of developing the Upper Wairoa River Draft Management Agreement and Development Proposals. In July 1995 WBOPDC adopted parts of the Agreement and Development Proposals. The photograph on the right depicts the current congestion on the McLaren Falls Bridge on flow days.



Kaimai Canoe Club

Located 200 metres upstream of the Poripori Road intersection with State Highway SH29 is the Kaimai Canoe Club (KCC) building, located on WBOPDC esplanade reserve land. The KCC building is accessed from SH29, via a WBOPDC walkway. The KCC building is generally used only twice per year, during national and international slalom competitions. Outside of these times the building is used to store slalom equipment. This river access point is also used for swimming and fishing, but the peak use is on flow days. Parking for this river access point was previously accommodated by the rest area located off SH 29 downstream of the KCC building by the Ruahihi Bridge. Access to the rest area for parking was stopped when Transit New Zealand considered it unsafe. Parking is now limited to the narrow grass verge alongside SH29.

Public Reserves

The most significant public reserve in the vicinity of this Local Management Area is the McLaren Falls Park. Whilst it is outside of study area the use and management of this reserve has impacts on the Local Management Area. The McLaren Falls Power Station is located on the eastern side of the Wairoa River adjacent to the McLaren Falls Bridge. The power station was commissioned in 1925 by the Tauranga Borough Council and was one of the primary sources of power for the Tauranga area until 1965.

WBOPDC owns and manages a number of esplanade reserves, or has other access agreements in place, along the margins of this section of the river. Most of these have not been formed in any manner with the only 'established' walking route being in the vicinity of the Kaimai Canoe Club. Most of the esplanade reserves in this area are therefore essentially acting as esplanade reserve for maintaining or enhancing aquatic habitats rather than facilitating public access. WBOPDC's desire to extend the current McLaren Falls Park walkways through to the Ruahihi Power Station has been recognised in its adopted Kaimai Ward Reserve Management Plan. To assist the Management Plan, a Walkway Feasibility Study for the Upper Wairoa River, Mangakarengorengo Stream and the Lower Kaimai Reserve was carried out by Harrison Grierson Consultants in 2003. The report describes most of the land as difficult walking terrain going through a mix of scrub and pines. Track formation is noted as possible however the report acknowledges that river experiences are restricted. The option of a walkway link in this area is further hindered by the lack of car parking options at the Ruahihi Bridge end. WBOPDC resolved that when funds become available, walkway concept plans would be prepared in consultation with the community. TCC also owns and manages a number of blocks of land as reserves within this Local Management Area.

Within this LMA the esplanade reserve network is not complete and/or not sufficiently wide enough in places along the margins of the Wairoa River to provide the access needed to develop a walkway link. There has been strong opposition from local landowners to any walking links in this area due to concerns such as security and practicality. Local landowners opposed the esplanade reserve provisions by WBOPDC through the Proposed Western Bay of Plenty District Plan at the Environment Court (Hearing Number RMA 1312/95). The Environment Court Decision (Number A7C/01) upheld the provisions of the Proposed District Plan to create the esplanade reserves along the Upper Wairoa River upon subdivision of the land.

Key Issues Identified through Research and Consultation

The research and consultation undertaken both prior to and during the development of this strategy has identified a strong theme to both maintain and protect the status quo of the McLaren Falls Bridge to Ruahihi Power Station River Valley environment. The community enjoys the isolation and rugged wilderness values of the area and wish to see these values protected in the future. In particular there was concern voiced by local landowners over the issue of safety for local landowners as public access is further encouraged.

There are two public access points to the Wairoa River between the Ruahihi Bridge and McLaren Falls Park (being the Esplanade Reserve on which the KCC building is located and the McLaren Falls Bridge), and it has been identified that there is a desire to maintain this into the future. There is also a lack of vantage points from which to view the river from in this area. There have been ongoing concerns identified to both Councils by TrustPower and adjoining landowners regarding pedestrian safety (on McLaren Falls Bridge) and user conflicts on the flow days. Some members of the community feel frustration at what they consider is a lack of action to resolve these issues. There is inadequate parking, manoeuvring, toilets, and pedestrian access in the vicinity of McLaren Falls Bridge

and there is significant traffic congestion on flow days. The McLaren Falls Bridge area is also a popular picnic and river viewing area, which can further congest the bridge and parking areas.

The community consider the decommissioned McLaren Falls Power Station is not used to its full potential, particularly given its historic status and that there are areas of land in the vicinity of the power station that could potentially provide good car parking areas.

In general there is some conflict in this area in relation to the future direction of management and use. There is a desire by the wider community to improve Council access, reserves and facilities for recreation and a desire by the local residents to protect the status quo in terms of the access to the river and river margins in the future. The residents are concerned that improving access to the Wairoa River in this area will generate additional problems and are interested to know how the cost of any proposed maintenance to walkways will be funded.

Vision for McLaren Falls Bridge to Ruahihi Power Station – Where We Want To Be in 2055

“The upper reaches of the Wairoa River are supported by a ‘green corridor’ that recognises recreational opportunities focused on ‘wilderness’ values whilst protecting rural communities & infrastructure.”

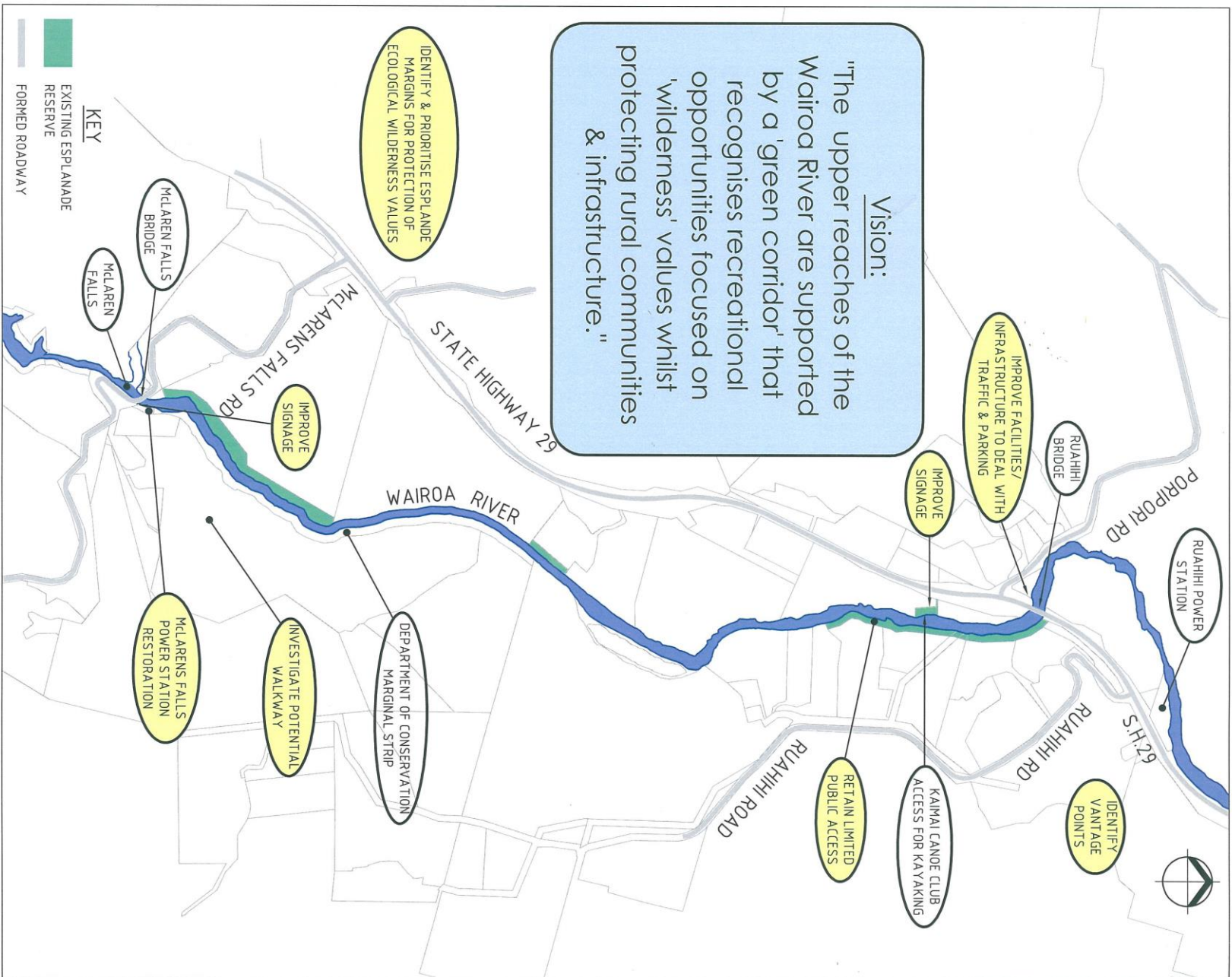
The community values the rugged wilderness values associated with this relatively isolated part of the river, and this is reflected in the community’s desire to maintain limited pedestrian access to the river but also to provide vantage points for viewing the river. A desire to limit public access must be balanced with accommodating existing peak use recreation activities, particularly where traffic and pedestrian safety is an issue.

Local Management Area 1: McLaren Falls to Ruahihi Power Station – Action Plan

What We Want To Achieve - Goals	What We Will Do - Actions	How We Will Do It	Priority	Who Will Lead It
G1. Retain the wilderness values experienced on the river through esplanade reserves that will protect ecological and wilderness values.	A1. Statutory Continue to gain esplanade reserves on both sides of the river for protection of ecological and wilderness values. <i>This is not to promote public access immediately adjacent to the Wairoa River. See A4 below.</i>	- Identify and prioritise esplanade margin. - Maintain status quo for public access.	Ongoing	WBOPDC

What We Want To Achieve - Goals	What We Will Do - Actions	How We Will Do It	Priority	Who Will Lead It
G2. Improve the safety and efficiency of the use of the road reserve and additional land surrounding the McLaren Falls Bridge and in the vicinity of the Ruahihi Bridge for the purposes of parking, manoeuvring, and associated water sports assembly and departure.	A2. Statutory Improve facilities/infrastructure to deal with traffic and parking at key river access points (at McLaren Falls Bridge and Ruahihi Bridge vicinity). <i>This is to focus on providing infrastructure and facilities to accommodate levels peak periods during flow days.</i>	- One off projects have addressed some of the issues and a project to consider congestion issues is being considered in the 2012-2022 TYP	Short	WBOPDC
G3. Nurture the history of hydroelectric power generation in the Bay of Plenty.	A3. Research Maintain and enhance the former McLaren Falls Power Station for historical recognition.	- Investigate funding options in partnership with commercial operators and/or historical societies/museums and as per action in McLaren Falls Management Plan	Medium	TCC

McLaren Falls to Ruahihi Power Station - Action Map



Local Management Area 2: Redwood Lane

Redwood Lane is accessed off State Highway 29 downstream of the Wairoa River/Omanawa River confluence. The land surrounding Redwood Lane is zoned Rural G in the Western Bay of Plenty District Plan. An extensive area to the north east of the LMA is identified as Floodable Area in the District Plan. There are existing esplanade reserves along the margins of the river. The State highway runs very close to the Wairoa River where it meets the Omanawa River. Redwood Lane provides access to the river from a road reserve. The LMA 2: Action Map following the Action Plan for this area identifies the general area that is covered.

Where We Are Now

The extent to which the public currently uses this access point to the river is not well documented. It is noted that use of the Redwood Lane access point for walking along the esplanade reserves downstream from Redwood Lane is not currently possible as these areas are fenced off right down to the river. Public use of the esplanade reserves and strips has not been promoted in the past and private landowners have tended to fence them off.

The Omanawa River/Wairoa River confluence area upstream of the Redwood Lane LMA is known as an informal access point for fishing. Transit NZ does not encourage vehicle access directly from state highways when formal access is available elsewhere.



Key Issues Identified through Research and Consultation

The research and consultation undertaken both prior to and during the development of this strategy has identified that the community within this LMA consider Redwood Lane as a discreet and peaceful environment and that there is a desire to maintain these characteristics and protect these values in the future.

Concerns identified by the community included those specifically related to the future land use changes in the Wairoa River Valley area, particularly the potential effects of industrial and commercial land uses and development. There is a public perception that water quality of the Wairoa River in this area is poor and that there needs to be an increase in water quality monitoring and the frequency of reporting on water quality. The community also identified concern over erosion of the river bank as a result of stormwater runoff from the state highway. Private landowners felt that there is a lack of clarity regarding the recreational use of the river and its environs, particularly in relation to access that can be provided by esplanade reserves.

The public was interested to know whether there would be additional opportunities for recreation as a result of any future State Highway 29 realignment. Many reserve development opportunities are dependant on the support of Transit for recognising the community value of increased traffic movements.

Vision for Redwood Lane – Where We Want To Be in 2055

“A peaceful, natural environment with a ‘green corridor’ and river that is appreciated by the wider community through the provision of passive recreational opportunities and river vantage points.”

Facilitating public access to the river via Redwood Lane whilst maintaining and protecting the ‘peace and quiet’ that is a feature of the area. This LMA provides a transition from the wilderness to the higher used areas. It is recommended that passive recreation, including walking and kayaking is encouraged in preference to motorised watercraft. Maintaining the peace and quiet values of this LMA will also involve the Councils taking steps to avoid urbanisation and maintain the rural-residential character of the area.

Local Management Area 2: Redwood Lane – Action Plan

What We Want To Achieve - Goals	What We Will Do - Actions	How We Will Do It	Priority	Who Will Lead It
<p>G1. In conjunction with attempts to improve Redwood Lane access from the State Highway, provide a public access point to the Wairoa River utilising Redwood Lane (or other opportunities) for the purpose of passive recreation.</p>	<p>A1. Education Investigate Redwood Lane as a pedestrian access point to the Wairoa River, primarily downstream of Redwood Lane to connect to Miles Lane. Facilitate pedestrian access along the river margin to Wairoa Road.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare and implement a Reserve Concept Plan for land at Redwood Lane. <i>To include linkages along the esplanade reserve.</i> - Improve signage to reserve area. - Work with the landowners to open the esplanade reserves in a manner that protects their safety using tools such as fencing and planting. - Require esplanade reserve on right/left bank to connect Miles Lane/Wairoa Road. - The development of public reserves will be undertaken in consultation with adjoining landowners and in accordance with relevant Council Policy - Consider the impacts of any potential increased traffic generation and balance with the wider public good 	Medium	WBOPDC
	<p>A2. Education Restrict the use of Redwood Lane for boat-launching motorised craft.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use signage to restrict motorised boat launching. - Make sure that any future developments for boating access support non-motorised boats only. 	Medium	WBOPDC
	<p>A3: Research Include consideration of the provision of a river regional park in the review of the Joint TCC/WBOPDC Subregional Parks Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consider possible sites for inclusion in the Joint TCC/WBOPDC Subregional Parks Policy as a river regional park to provide passive recreation opportunities and access to the Wairoa River. 	To occur as part of review process	TCC & WBOPDC
<p>G2. Recognise the regionally significant visual and aesthetic contribution that the Wairoa River Valley landform brings to the Redwood Lane LMA by maintaining the rural character.</p>	<p>A4. Voluntary Promote native planting of river margin to enhance landscape amenity values.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - achieve through Biodiversity and Riparian Management Programmes 	Ongoing	BOPRC & WBOPDC
	<p>A5. Statutory Identify and protect vantage points and view corridors of the Wairoa River from public roads and reserves.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare a Concept Plan for Redwood Land, include a landscape assessment and identification of key river margins to restore landscape values. - Restrict structures and public utilities within the areas below the escarpments. - The development of public reserves will be undertaken in consultation with adjoining landowners and in accordance with relevant Council Policy - Consider the impacts of any potential increased traffic generation and balance with the wider public good. 	Medium to Long term	WBOPDC

Local Management Area 3: Miles Lane/End of Wairoa Road

The Miles Land/End of Wairoa Road LMA encompasses the area of the Wairoa River Valley where river access points are provided from both Wairoa Road and Miles Lane. The land on the western banks of the river is zoned Rural G under the Western Bay of Plenty District Plan. The land uses on this side of the river are predominantly rural and less urbanised than the eastern banks, particularly in comparison to Miles Lane and River Oaks Drive (which is to the north-east of the LMA). On the eastern side of the Wairoa River (within TCC's jurisdiction) the zoning is predominantly rural beside the river and Rural-Residential closer towards the ridges (closer to Moffat/Cambridge Roads). Lifestyle development has taken place in recent years on the eastern escarpments of the river. There are a significant number of houses visible from the Miles Lane Reserve and river on this eastern escarpment, which provides a much urbanised character in comparison to upstream locations. Miles Lane is sealed and provides good quality access to the river through a TCC reserve adjacent to the river. On the western side of the river (left bank) the Bay of Plenty Coast Rowing Club building is located adjacent to Wairoa Road on private land owned by the Rowing Club. The LMA 3: Action Map identifies the general area that is covered.



Where We Are Now

Miles Lane Reserve is relatively large in comparison to many of the other public access points along the river in both directions. It is largely undeveloped but well maintained. The size of the reserve provides good flexibility in terms of facilitating additional public access to the Wairoa River at this point as well as a range of other passive recreation activities. Miles Lane Reserve is categorised in the TCC Neighbourhood Reserves Management Plan (2002) as a "Greenspace Reserve". The 2002 Plan's policy is to maintain Miles Lane Reserve as a Greenspace Reserve and give consideration to the future development of the reserve as a family reserve. A preliminary concept plan for Miles Lane Reserve accompanies the Neighbourhood Reserves Management Plan and includes provision for a possible jetty for water access (small non-powered craft only), along with car parking, picnic areas, seating, rubbish bins and a playground.

The BOP Coast Rowing Club is utilised most days during the summer months, with the peak use times being mornings and afternoons. The club is used by club and school rowers, being Katikati College and Bethlehem College. The Rowing Club's present entrance track is on legal road which continues due north along the river. It is proposed to change the status of this portion of legal road to local purpose esplanade reserve. The rowing skiffs are launched directly outside the club buildings. There is a large area for parking via a gravel driveway. The Rowing Club supports public access to the riverside walkways.

Key Issues Identified through Research and Consultation

The research and consultation undertaken both prior to and during the development of the WRVS has identified that the community within the rural-residential area of this LMA value the perceived isolation and open space whilst being close to Tauranga City. These

communities have a desire to spread public access to the Wairoa River over an increased number of sites to reduce pressure on the existing access points. The community identified options for this area including creating more esplanade reserves to assist with distributing visitor and reduce car parking conflicts. Retaining view of the river for visitors was also identified as important to this community. Concern over the issue of erosion of riverbank has also been raised, particularly in relation to the eastern side of the river. The community consider that the main cause of this erosion is speeding motor boats. Any future development of the Miles Lane/Wairoa Road Local Management Area will need to be supported by improvements in bank stability at these points. There were suggestions from the public that improving vegetation margins will help to reduce the impact of erosion. The public voiced concerns over who is responsible for maintaining any vegetation margins. Safety and security for private landowners were key issues. The community consider that any future reserve areas will need to be fenced off from private properties and if access to the river via Miles Lane is encouraged there will be additional impacts on landowners from increasing vehicle and pedestrian traffic and other factors (such as noise). Public concern was voiced over leaking septic tanks and contaminants from road runoff and the effects of this on the water quality of the Wairoa River. There were suggestions that maintaining vegetated esplanade reserves would assist with reducing contamination caused by stormwater run-off.

Vision for Miles Lane/End of Wairoa Road – Where We Want To Be in 2055

“Connected recreational opportunities via a ‘green corridor’ that runs through farmland, parks and reserves and residences that are nestled into the landscapes”

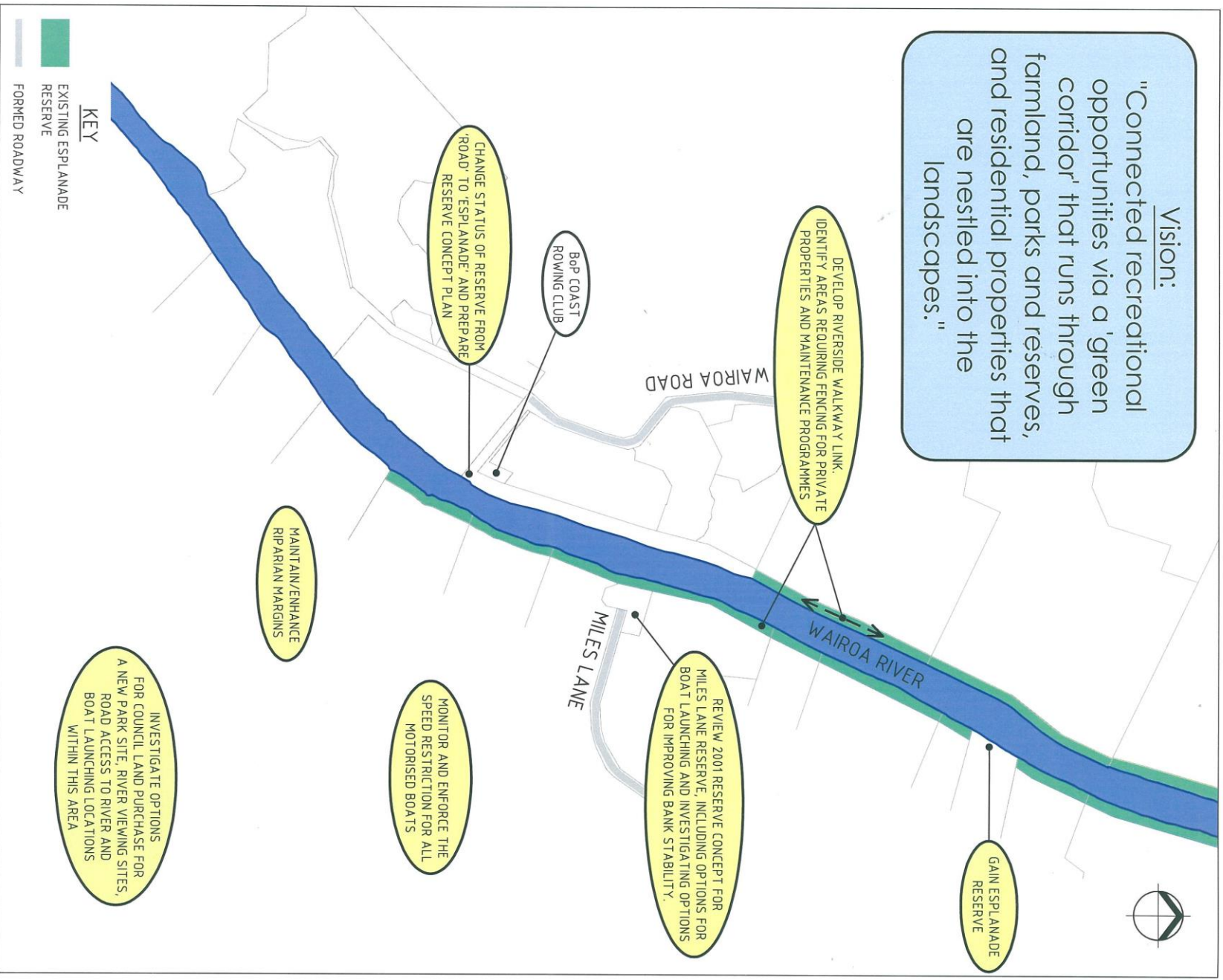
There is a desire to maintain the unique landscape and identity provided by the river, while also making provision for future recreation demands. Improving existing river access points and establishing a network of walkways in between those access points may alleviate any actual and potential effects of the increased use of the river in the future.

Local Management Area 3: Miles Lane/End of Wairoa Road – Action Plan

What We Want To Achieve - Goals	What We Will Do - Actions	How We Will Do It	Priority	Who Will Lead It
G1. Enhance the Miles Lane Reserve for both passive and active recreational use.	A1. Research Investigate the feasibility of providing for watercraft launching at this location. <i>This includes a review the Preliminary Concept Plan for Miles Lane Reserve.</i>	- Consider project through Ten Year Plan process and reserve management plan review	Medium to Long term	TCC
G2. Connect both Miles Lane Reserve and Wairoa Road, downstream to the Bethlehem Local Management Area through walkway linkages.	A2. Statutory Provide an esplanade reserve walkway linking the end of Miles Lane to State Highway 2. <i>This will be to the potential walkway links at both Parau Farms and Taniwha Place identified in the Bethlehem LMA.</i>	- Gain remaining esplanade reserves either at subdivision - Negotiation with landowners to create the walkway link. -The development of public reserves will be undertaken in consultation with adjoining landowners and in accordance with relevant Council Policy	Ongoing	TCC
	A3. Statutory Provide an esplanade reserve walkway linking the end of Wairoa Road to State Highway 2.	- Gain remaining esplanade reserves either at subdivision or by negotiation with landowners to create the link. -The development of public reserves will be undertaken in consultation with adjoining landowners and in accordance with relevant Council Policy	Ongoing	WBOPDC
G3. Facilitate the end of Wairoa Road as a pedestrian access point, primarily downstream of Bay of Plenty Coast Rowing Club along the esplanade reserve.	A4. Education and Statutory Formalise use of reserve, delineating vehicle parking/ manoeuvring and pedestrian areas.	- Transfer Wairoa Road reserve (beside Bay of Plenty Coast Rowing Club) to Esplanade Reserve. - Develop a Reserve Concept Plan - The development of public reserves will be undertaken in consultation with adjoining landowners and in accordance with relevant Council Policy - Consider the impacts of any potential increased traffic generation and balance with the wider public good	Medium	WBOPDC (in association with the BOPRC)
G4. Provide park site that offers good opportunities for viewing the river and passive recreation on both sides.	A5. Research Explore the opportunity for road access to the Wairoa River and/or a suitable park/reserve site.	- Investigate options for park/reserve and road access. <i>This should include options for access off River Oaks Drive.</i>	Ongoing	TCC

Miles Lane/End of Wairoa Road - Action Map

Vision:
 "Connected recreational opportunities via a 'green corridor' that runs through farmland, parks and reserves, and residential properties that are nestled into the landscapes."



SCALE 1:10 000



Local Management Area 4: Bethlehem

This area extends from the Harrison Road vicinity to the Wairoa River SH2 Bridge upstream of the Wairoa Marae and includes the Wairoa River Reserve on the western bank. The LMA also considers the area from the Wairoa River SH2 Bridge through to Tauranga Harbour and covers both sides of the Wairoa River. On the eastern side of the river from Harrison Road downstream, the area is zoned Rural and Conservation under the Tauranga District Plan. On this side of the river is Bethlehem College, which has access from Elder Lane to the river edge, and the Waimarino Adventure Park (a water-based recreation commercial facility). On the western banks of the Wairoa River, the area is zoned Rural G under the Western Bay of Plenty District Plan, and the land is also noted as a 'floodable area'.



A recent Plan Change (No.13) to the Tauranga District Plan identifies 'Flood Hazard Policy Areas' on the district planning maps and this include the eastern banks of the Wairoa River, the rules for these areas require any new structure or building to have a resource consent. This LMA includes the designation for the proposed Northern Arterial route across the Wairoa River in the vicinity of Harrison Road. Harrison Road is currently a paper road. The Bethlehem LMA is of particular significance to Ngati Kahu and there are a number of culturally significant sites associated with this area of the Wairoa River Valley.

Another goal of Tauranga Tomorrow is to promote walking and cycling within Tauranga and develop support systems to make this easy for people to participate in. This is an action to be lead by Sport Bay of Plenty. This action may have implications in terms of the potential recreation linkages in the Wairoa River Valley environment.

On the western side of the Wairoa River a series of reserve areas extending up and downstream of SH2 bridge provides a boat ramp for access to the water, a toilet block and picnic areas with picnic tables and seating. Motor homes are permitted to stay overnight within the formed car park area. The Road Reserve is maintained as open space but is also used as the 'rat run' for traffic between

Wairoa Road and Te Puna Station Road (avoiding SH2 intersection). A concept plan for the future development of Wairoa River Reserve forms part of the Kaimai Ward Reserves Management Plan 2003.

Wairoa Road and Te Puna Station Road (avoiding SH2 intersection). A concept plan for the future development of Wairoa River Reserve forms part of the Kaimai Ward Reserves Management Plan 2003.

Where We Are Now

Public Recreation and Esplanade Reserves

On the eastern bank of the Wairoa River there is an almost complete linkage of esplanade reserves in place, with the exception of a small portion near to Harrison Road. On the western bank the esplanade reserve is almost complete with the exception of the northern portion near to SH2.

Parau Farms is a 22 hectare block of land that was secured in 2000 by TCC, for future development as a sports and recreation reserve. An additional area was purchased in 2002 to create an access to the Wairoa River. The future management of this reserve is currently addressed under the Active Reserve Management Plan (2004). However, a detailed management plan for Parau Farms is still required. Parau Farms is on a flat plateau overlooking the Wairoa River. It is currently a kiwifruit orchard and there is a lease in place. There are several significant cultural sites on the land, including Poteriwhi Pa. Due to the size of Parau Farms and its strategic location, its intended that the reserve will be developed as a premier sports park. It is envisaged that all the required infrastructure can be provided on the park whilst maintaining the cultural significance of the site. Ngati Kahu and Bethlehem College will be actively involved in the development of the reserve. The reserve can be used to create linkage to the riverbank esplanade walkway.

Wairoa River Reserve is a recreation reserve that runs along some of the lower margins on the western bank of the river. There is an existing road reserve on the corner of Wairoa Road and SH2 that is used for recreation and as a river access point. In May 2002 Boffa Miskell undertook consultation with Tangata Whenua and key stakeholders to identify issues and opportunities for the development of the Wairoa Road Reserve (corner Wairoa Road and SH2). Particular issues and opportunities include (but not limited to) improving toilet facility surroundings and amenity, improving access road surfacing, promoting views to the river, removing vehicles from river edge parking, providing controlled areas for fishing and white baiting, and eliminating vehicle access to open space (at Wairoa Road corner). The consultation with affected parties outlined the main focus of the development of the Wairoa Reserve is to protect and enhance the river margins. A Concept Plan has been prepared for the reserve, taking in to account the key issues and opportunities.

Bethlehem College

Bethlehem College has developed a Concept Plan for the river flats adjacent to the river. The main concept is to protect visual and amenity values and promote low impact aquatic activities associated with the Wairoa River and its margins. The management of the area adjacent to the river would be based on conservation principles with enhanced ecological linkages.

Key Issues Identified through Research and Consultation

The research and consultation undertaken both prior to and during the development of the WRVS has identified that there are some significant conflicts existing in regards to use of the Wairoa River and its margins and public access to and along the riverbank. Tangata Whenua are concerned about the protection of significant cultural sites in this area and whilst they are reluctant to identify specific sites for protection they understand this may be necessary. The use of motorised boats is a concern due to the impact on noise levels, safety of people swimming and the impacts on the stability of the riverbanks. There was concern voiced about the quality of the water and the community generally consider this is a result of land use and discharges from the upper catchment but also from leaking septic tanks.

The issue of public access attracted significant debate. This included concerns that existing vehicle access points are already dangerous (e.g. Taniwha Place and SH2) and that if public access to the river is increased this will impact on the safety and security of private landowners.

Vision for Bethlehem – Where We Want To Be in 2055

“The urban gateway for the Wairoa River Valley from the sea forming part of the ‘green corridor’ of the Wairoa River Valley. This connection is through recreation spaces balancing active and passive opportunities for all to appreciate the ‘blue waters’.”

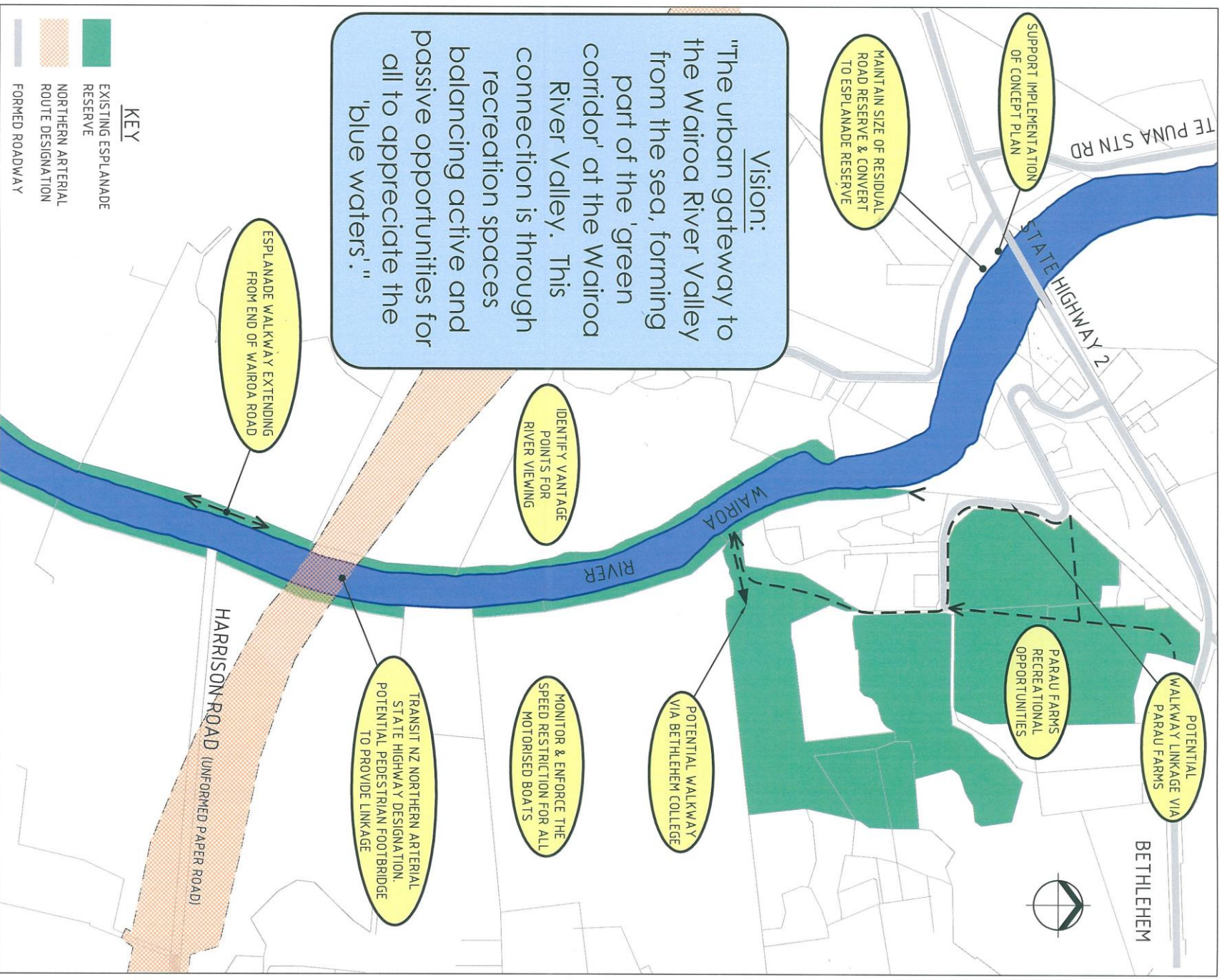
This area of the Wairoa River Valley has a high public profile, as the current SH2 Bridge provides a clear view of the river both upstream as well as downstream towards the river mouth and Mauao. There are opportunities to maintain and enhance recreation opportunities, while also paying particular attention to the cultural values that are a key feature of the area. In the longer-term the Northern Arterial Bridge will fulfil the urban ‘gateway’ function currently provided by the SH2 Bridge.

Local Management Area 4: Bethlehem – Action Plan

What We Want To Achieve - Goals	What We Will Do - Actions	How We Will Do It	Priority	Who Will Lead It
G1. Enhance the character of the riverbank road reserve by SH2 at the Wairoa Bridge.	A1. Support implementation of the Wairoa River Reserve Development Draft Concept Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek funding to progress implementation of the Wairoa River Reserve Development Draft Concept Plan. - Consider the impacts of any potential increased traffic generation and balance with the wider public good - The development of public reserves will be undertaken in consultation with adjoining landowners and in accordance with relevant Council Policy. 	Complete	WBOPDC
	A2. Provide an esplanade reserve walkway linking the end of Wairoa Road to SH2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gain remaining esplanade reserves at subdivision or development or by negotiation with the landowner. - The development of public reserves will be undertaken in consultation with adjoining landowners and in accordance with relevant Council Policy - Consider the impacts of any potential increased traffic generation and balance with the wider public good. 	Ongoing	WBOPDC
G2. Develop connected walkways, which provide opportunities for access to, and vantage of, the Wairoa River.	A3. Investigate the feasibility of using the proposed Northern Arterial Bridge to provide a pedestrian loop. <i>This is to include investigating the addition of a footbridge under/adjacent to the bridge.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussions with New Zealand Transport Agency to include incorporating pedestrian footbridge into designs for Northern Arterial. 	Short-Medium	TCC
	A4. Develop additional linkages from the Wairoa River into Bethlehem township through Bethlehem College and Parau Farms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include in Management Plan for Parau Farms the walkway link to Wairoa River from Bethlehem township. - Work closely with Bethlehem College to provide public walking access for a link to Bethlehem township. 	Ongoing	TCC
G3. Recognise in decision-making the home or kainga of Ngati Kahu and Ngati Pango including the Pa, cultural and spiritual sites within the LMA.	A5. Explore the opportunities for securing protection of identified cultural sites from development that destroys the mana, cultural and spiritual values of such sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refer Cultural Values G1, G2, A1 & A2 - Prepare a schedule of significant cultural sites requiring protection and how this is to be done from Tangata Whenua and prepare an Action Plan prioritising work to be undertaken. <i>This must include facilitated meetings between landowners and Tangata Whenua and should be part of the Iwi/Hapu Management Plan.</i> Refer also to Cultural Values Goals and Actions 	Medium	Iwi/Hapu

What We Want To Achieve - Goals	What We Will Do - Actions	How We Will Do It	Priority	Who Will Lead It
G4. Coordinate the vegetation management of both sides of the river to develop and maintain the 'green corridor' within this LMA.	A6. Develop a Vegetation Management Plan for LMA. This is to include riparian management that facilitates public walkways, whilst enhancing the ecological values of the Bethlehem LMA and buffers the river banks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify appropriate vegetation management techniques and prioritise reserves for management (both recreation and esplanade) and timetable actions. - Include the outcomes in the management plan for public reserves in this area 	Ongoing	TCC & WBOPDC (in conjunction with landowners)

Bethlehem - Action Map



Vision:
 "The urban gateway to the Wairoa River Valley from the sea, forming part of the 'green corridor' at the Wairoa River Valley. This connection is through recreation spaces balancing active and passive opportunities for all to appreciate the 'blue waters'."

- KEY**
- EXISTING ESPLANADE RESERVE
 - NORTHERN ARTERIAL ROUTE DESIGNATION
 - FORMED ROADWAY

ESPLANADE WALKWAY EXTENDING FROM END OF WAIROA ROAD

IDENTIFY VANTAGE POINTS FOR RIVER VIEWING

MONITOR & ENFORCE THE SPEED RESTRICTION FOR ALL MOTORISED BOATS

TRANSIT NZ NORTHERN ARTERIAL STATE HIGHWAY DESIGNATION, POTENTIAL PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE TO PROVIDE LINKAGE

POTENTIAL WALKWAY VIA BETHLEHEM COLLEGE

PARAU FARMS RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

POTENTIAL WALKWAY LINKAGE VIA PARAU FARMS

MAINTAIN SIZE OF RESIDUAL ROAD RESERVE & CONVERT TO ESPLANADE RESERVE

SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF CONCEPT PLAN



SCALE 1:10 000

Na to rourou me taku rourou

Ka ora ai to tatou Awa

Ka ora ai tatou katoa

“With your support and mine

Our River will flourish and thrive”



Glossary

Infrastructure	The means for delivering physical services to communities, including roads, septic tanks, power lines and stormwater pipes.
Issue	A specific concern regarding both cause and effect.
Natural Character	The degree of naturalness of an area. Natural character depends on the extent of modification of landforms, ecosystems and natural process and the presence of structures and buildings. A landform having a low level of human modification is considered as having a proportionally higher natural character.
Riparian Management	Management of the margins of rivers and streams to protect water quality and in-stream habitats.
SmartGrowth	The SmartGrowth Strategy was initiated in 2001 arising from community concerns about continued rapid population growth, and the lack of leadership and coordinated arrangements to manage that growth. The Strategy developed by SmartGrowth strengthens the sub-regional response to growth management. It brings together TCC, WBOPDC, and BOPRC with Tangata Whenua and other key organisations within the community.
Statutory	Key statutory resource management instruments are the Local Government Act 2002, the Resource Management Act 1991, the Reserves Act 1977, the Historic Places Trust Act 1993, the Conservation Act 1987 and the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi 1840. These define the roles and responsibilities of the TCC and WBOPDC, as well as other statutory organisations.
Strategy	Direction or course of action to achieve a defined vision.
Stewardship	The ethic of guardianship or caring for the Wairoa River Valley environment. It includes the concept of <i>kaitiakitanga</i> .
Tauranga Tomorrow	Tauranga Tomorrow is a result of the changes to legislation guiding how Councils work through the Local Government Amendment Act 2002. Councils are now asked to think of themselves as community leaders and facilitators rather than just rule makers and providers of services. Councils must work with their communities to identify community outcomes and priorities, a process that TCC (in conjunction with BOPRC) has branded Tauranga Tomorrow.
Vision	A desired destiny.

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