

## **Policy and Planning Committee**

Tuesday 28 August 2018

10.30am

Taranaki Regional Council, Stratford



**Agenda for the meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee to be held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 28 August 2018 commencing at 10.30am.**

<b>Members</b>	Councillor N W Walker	(Committee Chairperson)
	Councillor M P Joyce	
	Councillor C L Littlewood	
	Councillor D H McIntyre	
	Councillor B K Raine	
	Councillor C S Williamson	
	Councillor D L Lean	(ex officio)
	Councillor D N MacLeod	(ex officio)
<b>Representative Members</b>	Ms E Bailey	(Iwi Representative)
	Councillor G Boyde	(Stratford District Council)
	Mr J Hooker	(Iwi Representative)
	Councillor R Jordan	(New Plymouth District Council)
	Mr P Muir	(Taranaki Federated Farmers)
	Councillor P Nixon	(South Taranaki District Council)
	Mr M Ritai	(Iwi Representative)

**Apologies**

**Notification of Late Items**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Item 1	4	<a href="#">Confirmation of Minutes</a>
Item 2	12	<a href="#">Good Farming Practice: Action Plan for Water Quality</a>
Item 3	36	<a href="#">Beef and Lamb New Zealand: Environment Strategy and Implementation Plan 2018-22</a>
Item 4	77	<a href="#">Soil quality in the Taranaki region - 5 yearly survey results</a>
Item 5	89	<a href="#">Taiao Taiora Taranaki Iwi Management Plan</a>
Item 6	125	<a href="#">Submission on Draft National Planning Standards</a>

Item 7      137      [Update on further submissions to the Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki](#)

[Closing Karakia and Karakia for kai](#)

## Agenda Memorandum

**Date** 28 August 2018

**Memorandum to  
Chairperson and Members  
Policy and Planning Committee**



**Subject: Confirmation of Minutes – 17 July 2018**

**Approved by:** A D McLay, Director-Resource Management

B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 2110165

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### Resolve

That the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. takes as read and confirms the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 17 July 2018 at 10.45am
2. notes the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on 7 August 2018.

### Matters arising

#### Appendices

Document #2088054 – Minutes Policy and Planning Committee

**Minutes of the Policy and Planning  
Committee Meeting of the Taranaki  
Regional Council, held in the Taranaki  
Regional Council Chambers, 47 Cloten  
Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 17 July 2018  
at 10.45am.**



<b>Members</b>	Councillors	M P Joyce	
		C L Littlewood	(via <i>Zoom</i> audio/visual)
		B K Raine	
		C S Williamson	(Committee Meeting Chairperson)
		D L Lean	(ex officio)
<b>Representative</b>	Ms	E Bailey	(Iwi Representative) (via <i>Zoom</i> audio/visual)
<b>Members</b>	Mr	J Hooker	(Iwi Representative)
	Mr	P Muir	(Taranaki Federated Farmers)
	Councillor	C Coxhead	(South Taranaki District Council)
	Mr	M Ritai	(Iwi Representative)
<b>Attending</b>	Messrs	A D McLay	(Director-Resource Management)
		G K Bedford	(Director-Environment Quality)
		C L Spurdle	(Planning Manager)
		P Ledingham	(Communications Officer)
		R Ritchie	(Communications Manager)
		S Tamarapa	(Iwi Communications Officer)
		M Addison	(Investigating Officer)
	R Phipps	(Science Manager)	
	Mrs	V MacKay	(Science Manager)
	Mrs	H Gerrard	(Science Manager)
	Mrs	K van Gameren	(Committee Administrator)
	Mr	K Holswich	(Iwi Representative)
	Mr	H Eriwata	(Iwi Representative)
Mr	J Clough	(Wrightson Consulting)	

One Member of the media.

**Apologies** The apologies from Councillor D H McIntyre, Councillor D N MacLeod, Councillor N W Walker, Councillor Richard Jordan (New Plymouth District Council), Councillor P Nixon (South Taranaki District Council) and Councillor G Boyde (Stratford District Council) were received and sustained.

**Notification of Late Items** There were no late items of business.

**Election of  
Chairperson**

Mr A D McLay, Director-Resource Management, opened the Policy and Planning Committee meeting. Due to the absence of the Committee Chairperson and Committee Deputy Chairperson, in accordance with section 13.2 of the *Taranaki Regional Council Model Standing Orders*, the Committee was required to elect a Member (who is present) to act as Chairperson for the meeting.

Councillor C S Williamson was elected Committee Chairperson for the duration of the meeting.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes - 5 June 2018**

**Resolved**

THAT the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council

1. takes as read and confirms the minutes and confidential minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 5 June 2018 at 10.30am
2. notes that the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on 26 June 2018.

Raine/Lean

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**2. Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki: Summary of decisions requested**

- 2.1 Mr C L Spurdle, Planning Manager, spoke to the memorandum presenting the Committee with the summary of decisions sought for the *Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki* and the process from here.

**Recommended**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum on the summary of submissions to the *Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki*
2. notes that 61 submissions have been received on the Proposed Plan
3. agrees that the *Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki - Summary of Decisions Requested* document be publicly notified
4. agrees that the Council invite further submissions in support or opposition to submissions made on the Proposed Plan.

Raine/Muir

### **3. Review of minimum flows and water allocation in Taranaki – consultant report**

- 3.1 Mr R Phipps, Science Manager, spoke to the memorandum introducing a report produced by Mr Ian Jowett entitled *Review of Minimum flows and water allocation in Taranaki* prepared to support community discussion and consideration of minimum flow and allocation limits for Taranaki rivers within the regional *Freshwater and Land Management Plan*.
- 3.2 Mr Phipps provided a presentation *Review of Minimum Flows and Water Allocation in Taranaki (Jowett Consulting Limited)* to the Committee in support of the item that will help inform the Council's *Regional Freshwater and Land Management Plan*.
- 3.3 Mr M Ritai, Iwi Representative, noted that the Jowett Report did not directly reference Mātauranga Māori or any assessment of cultural values. While it was noted that iwi will be provided the opportunity to have a workshop session with Dr Jowett to share expertise as part of the process to engage and consult with iwi/hapu, Mr Ritai noted that a discussion on Mātauranga Māori should have occurred first.

#### **Recommended**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the report *Review of minimum flows and water allocation in Taranaki*
2. notes that the report will inform technical discussions and the wider consultation of water allocation policy options to be incorporated in a proposed *Freshwater and Land Management Plan*
3. notes the Council intends to circulate the report and a factsheet and convene a series of workshops with key water stakeholders, including major water users, iwi, Department of Conservation and Fish and Game Council to further discuss and potentially resolve issues with water allocation policy in the region.

Ritai/Raine

### **4. Regional freshwater ecological quality: 2016-2017 results from state of the environment monitoring**

- 4.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director-Environmental Quality, spoke to the memorandum updating the Committee on the latest annual results of the Council's state of environment monitoring programme for fresh water ecological health (macroinvertebrate monitoring).
- 4.2 Mr Bedford provided a presentation *Ecological measures of stream health and freshwater quality 1995-2017* to the Committee in support of the item to outline the state of and both long-term and recent trends in freshwater quality as assessed by ecological measures (macroinvertebrate index) in the Council's programme determining the state of the region's surface fresh water environment.

**Recommended**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives this memorandum noting the preparation of a report into the state of and trends in regional in-stream macroinvertebrate community health data for Taranaki, for 2016-2017 and over the period 1995-2017
2. notes the findings of the SEM programme
3. adopts the specific recommendations therein.

Williamson/Joyce

**5. SEM Periphyton Monitoring Programme Report for 2016-2018**

- 5.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director-Environment Quality, spoke to the memorandum presenting the Committee with the latest report on the ecological health and state of streams and rivers in the Taranaki region as measured by assessing periphyton during the 2016-2018 years.
- 5.2 Mr Bedford provided a presentation *Ecological measures of stream health and freshwater quality 1995-2017* to the Committee in support of the item to outline the state of and both long-term and recent trends in freshwater quality as assessed by ecological measures (Periphyton measures) in the Council's programme determining the state of the region's surface fresh water environment.

**Recommended**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives this memorandum on the results of the Council's SEM programme monitoring periphyton, and the accompanying report *Freshwater Periphyton Monitoring Programme (Periphyton monitoring in relation to amenity values) State of Environment Monitoring Report 2016-2018 Technical Report 2018-7*
2. adopts the specific report recommendations contained therein.

Williamson/Joyce

Councillor C L Littlewood and Mr K Holswich (Iwi Representative) left the Policy and Planning Committee meeting at 12.15pm.

**6. National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry in Taranaki**

- 6.1 Mr A D McLay, Director-Resource Management, spoke to the memorandum advising the Committee of the monitoring and enforcement work to be undertaken of forestry activities by the Council in relation to the National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF).



- 6.2 Mr M Addison, Investigating Officer Forestry, provided a presentation *NES-PF Taranaki Regional Council* to the Committee in support of the item to outline the Council's on-line notification of permitted activities and inspection regime for consented and permitted activities.

**Recommended**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum
2. notes the Council has employed a staff member to monitor the forestry industry and will recover the reasonable cost of this from the sector using the user pays provisions of the Long Term Plan
3. notes the Council will monitor and where necessary enforce the provisions of the National Environmental Standard for Production Forestry and the Resource Management Act using its Enforcement Policy(2017)
4. notes, given the differences in catchment characteristics, forestry cover, harvesting methods and regulation, the issues with slash management experienced in Gisborne are unlikely to occur in Taranaki.

Raine/Joyce

**7. Submission on Zero Carbon Bill**

- 7.1 Mr A D McLay, Director-Resource Management, spoke to the memorandum introducing a draft submission on the Zero Carbon Bill. Submissions close on 19 July 2018.

**Recommended**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *Submission on Zero Carbon Bill*
2. adopts the submission.

Williamson/Lean

**8. Mana Whakahono a Rohe (Iwi relationship agreements) MFE guidance and update on relationship discussions**

- 8.1 Mr S Tamarapa, Iwi Communications Officer, spoke to the memorandum introducing a recent report by the Ministry for the Environment (MFE) and Pou Taiao- Iwi leaders group on the development of Mana Whakahono a Rohe (iwi relationship agreements) under the Resource Management Act (RMA) and to update the Committee about work undertaken to date on developing such agreements.

**Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum on the Mana Whakahono a Rohe (Iwi relationships) Guide
2. notes the Guide and the MFE workshop provided some useful material to assist the Council and Iwi in the development of a successful relationship agreement
3. notes the Council along with the other councils, within the region and beyond, have begun informal discussions with Te Kaahui o Rauru representatives and also with Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust representatives on developing a Mana Whakahono a Rohe agreement
4. notes the discussions with the two iwi have been reasonably positive and constructive in terms of identifying issues that can be addressed and seeking possible solutions for these issues
5. notes the Taranaki iwi chairs forum is also engaging with the Mayoral Forum on possible pan council/iwi approaches.

Ritai/Hooker

## **9. Key Native Ecosystems programme mid-year update 2018**

- 9.1 Mr C L Spurdle, Planning Manager, spoke to the memorandum presenting to the Committee an update on the identification of thirteen new Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) sites.

### **Recommended**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives this memorandum and the attached inventory sheets for Chris Jury Forest & Wetlands; Pirinoa; Hall's Bush; Lowe East Block; Lowe North Block; Sextus Family Reserve; Swanepoel KNE; Donald QEII; The Totaras; Todd Energy - Tikorangi Road East Farm; Peter and Margaret Atkinson; David and Raewyn Lusk and Paritutu / Centennial Park.
2. notes that the aforementioned sites have indigenous biodiversity values of regional significance and should be identified as Key Native Ecosystems.

Raine/Muir

**Closing Karakia** Mr M Ritai (Iwi Representative) gave the closing Karakia to the Policy and Planning Committee and Karakia for kai (lunch).

There being no further business, the Committee Chairperson Councillor C S Williamson, declared the open meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting closed at 12.55pm.

**Confirmed**

**Chairperson**

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**N W Walker**

**Date**

**28 August 2018**

## Agenda Memorandum

**Date** 28 August 2018



**Memorandum to  
Chairperson and Members  
Policy and Planning Committee**

**Subject: Good Farming Practice: Action Plan for  
Water Quality**

**Approved by:** A D McLay, Director – Resource Management  
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 2082294

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce the '*Good Farming Practice Action Plan for Water Quality 2018*' and to note the Council's role in promoting the Action Plan throughout Taranaki.

A copy of the Action Plan is attached to this memorandum for Members' information.

### **Executive summary**

The concept of documenting good farming practices to achieve improvements in water quality has been around for several years now and has grown in recent times in response to calls for greater regulation to achieve water quality outcomes.

The Action Plan was developed by a Governance Group made up of senior representatives of the primary sectors, regional councils and the Water Directorate (Ministries for the Environment and Primary Industries). It is a voluntary commitment, whose purpose is to accelerate the uptake of good farming practices for water quality (primarily), to measure and demonstrate this uptake, to assess the impact of those farming practices and to communicate progress to the wider public.

The Action Plan builds on the 21 Agreed National Good Farming Practice Principles set out in the '*Industry Agreed Good Management Practices for Water Quality*' adopted in 2015. They were first applied in Canterbury, but developed to be applicable across all regions in New Zealand.

The Council is currently looking at the best way to support farmers in the application of good farm management practices in the Taranaki context, although Taranaki is well placed to implement the Action Plan having had property-based plans in place for many years now. Close monitoring of our riparian management programme and our hill country farm plans will provide valuable and up to date information for the Governance Group in their national monitoring and reporting of progress with the Action Plan.

## Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum '*Good Farming Practice: Action Plan for Water Quality 2018*'; and
2. notes that the Council is well placed to implement the Action Plan.

## Background

The concept of documenting good farming practices to achieve improvements in water quality has been around for several years now and has grown in recent times in response to calls for greater regulation to achieve water quality outcomes.

The widespread adoption of good farming practices and greater collaboration between sectors, regional and central government, which their successful uptake requires, will allow improved water quality to be achieved faster.

The attached Action Plan was developed by a Governance Group made up of senior representatives of the primary sectors, regional councils and the Water Directorate (Ministries for the Environment and Primary Industries). It is a voluntary commitment, whose purpose is to accelerate the uptake of good farming practices for water quality (primarily), to measure and demonstrate this uptake, to assess the impact of those farming practices and to communicate progress to the wider public.

To achieve these objectives, the Action Plan sets out a number of actions to be undertaken by the Governance Group over the next two to three years and beyond. Included are actions to revise good management practices, develop systems and tools for monitoring and reporting on good farming practice uptake, support farmers to develop farm plans and communicate progress on farming practice to communities, councils and central government (see page 2 of the attached Action Plan).

The Action Plan builds on the 21 Agreed National Good Farming Practice Principles set out in the '*Industry Agreed Good Management Practices for Water Quality*' adopted in 2015. They cover nutrients, waterways, land and soil, effluent and water and irrigation as well as general principles that apply across all farming systems. These principles were developed with input from farmers to ensure they are practical and achievable. While first applied in Canterbury, they were developed to be applicable across all regions in New Zealand.

The Governance Group envisages actions will be taken at different levels – national, regional/catchment and on-farm – to ensure consistent messages are being delivered.

For each region, the set of principles are narrowed down to those that are a priority in that particular region. These will be decided based on the most pressing water quality issues in the region, the range of solutions and the likely impacts of practice change. It is envisaged good farming practice principles for a region will be identified with leadership from both regional councils and the farming sectors, with opportunity for input from other interested parties.

At the farm or property level, risks to water will then be identified based on the nature of the business and the priorities for the catchment. A farm plan will then be developed to identify practical, targeted actions to deliver on the relevant priority principles.

In some regions there will be regulatory requirements regarding farm plans which will need to be aligned with these requirements. Where farm plans are not a regulatory requirement, the form of the document can be shaped to meet the needs of the farm to support good farming practice.

The Action Plan envisages some training and extension support will be needed at national, regional and farm levels to increase capability and ensure consistency.

The Governance Group intends to report on progress in implementing the Action Plan each year. The Governance Group expects that developing systems and tools for monitoring and reporting on good farming practice uptake will be a significant focus for the Group over the next two years. To make the process as easy as possible and to report quickly on progress, the Governance Group will build on existing monitoring and reporting systems wherever possible.

### **Application of Action Plan to Taranaki**

The Council is currently looking at the best way to support farmers in the application of good farm management practices in the Taranaki context, although Taranaki is well placed to implement the Action Plan having had property-based plans in place for many years now.

Currently, soil erosion and sediment generation in the hill country is well covered through our farm plans, which recommend the appropriate good farm practices for different land use types. Farm plans now cover over 67% of the hill country in private ownership and some 90% of plans are at various stages of implementation (see also item elsewhere in this Agenda on Beef and Lamb New Zealand's Environment Strategy and Implementation Plan).

On the ring plain, the water quality issues are predominantly to do with nutrients, periphyton, *E.coli*, streambank erosion and associated sedimentation of waterways and these issues are being successfully addressed through our riparian management programme. Almost all dairy farmers (99.5%) on the ring plain now have riparian management plans in place for their properties. Region-wide the uptake of the recommendations in the plans has been excellent with over 85% of riparian plan streams now protected by fencing and over 70% by planting where recommended.

Sediment and other contaminants from critical source areas are also addressed through rules in our Regional Fresh Water and Soil Plans.

Our close monitoring of implementation of our various farm plans together with compliance monitoring of resource consents will provide the Governance Group with up to date information for the Taranaki region on progress in implementing the Good Farming Practice Action Plan.

### **Decision-making considerations**

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **Policy considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

### **Iwi considerations**

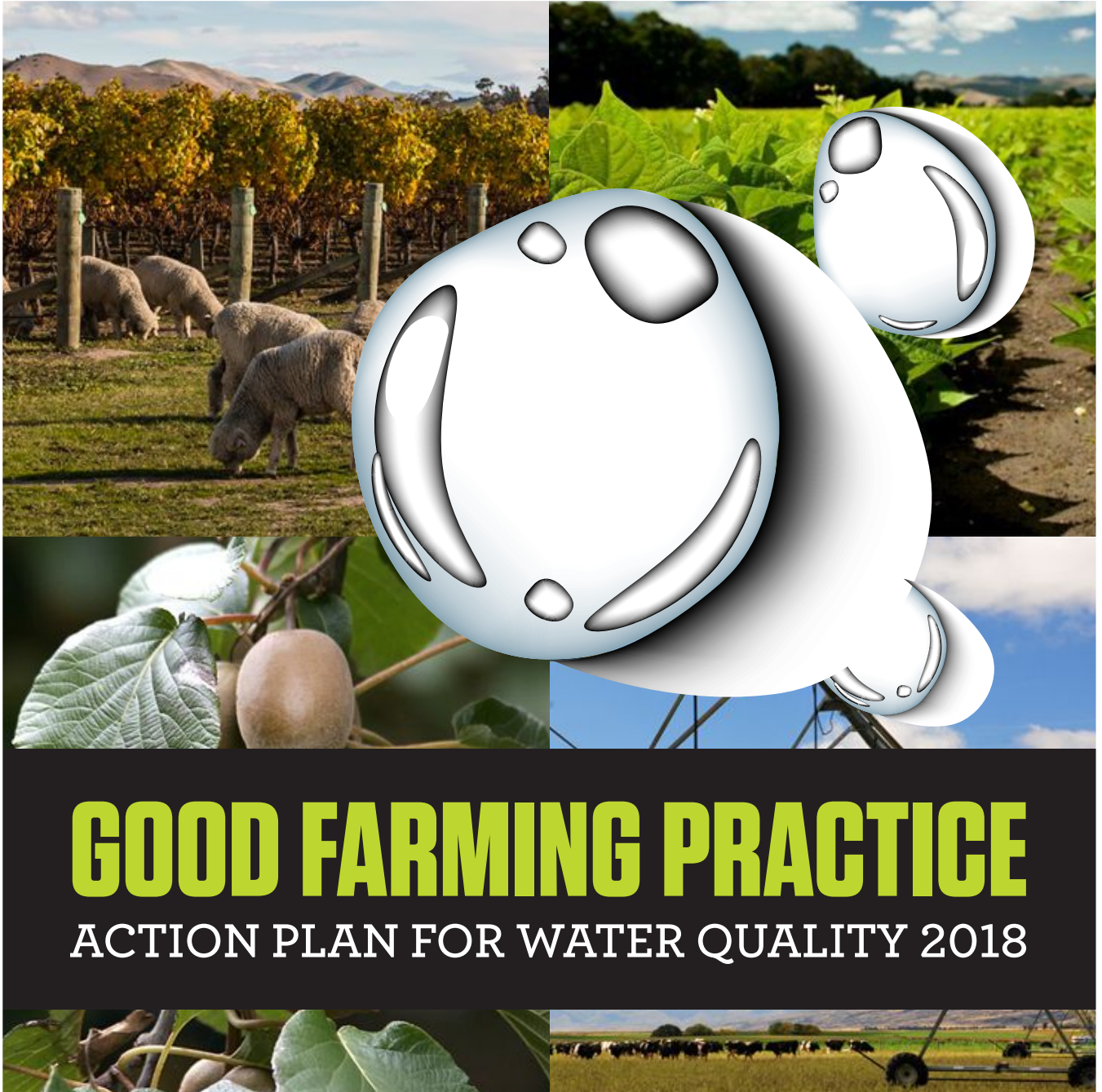
This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

### **Legal considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

### **Attachment**

Document 2083099: Good Farming Practice Action Plan for Water Quality 2018



# GOOD FARMING PRACTICE

## ACTION PLAN FOR WATER QUALITY 2018





## The Action Plan

The agricultural and horticultural sectors are committed to swimmable rivers and improving the ecological health of our waterways. The widespread adoption of Good Farming Practice alongside greater collaboration between sectors, Regional Councils and central government, will allow improved water quality to be achieved faster.



**Good Farming Practice Governance Group members:**

- Chris Allen—*Federated Farmers*
- Sam McIvor—*Beef + Lamb New Zealand (B+LNZ)*
- Nigel Corry—*Greater Wellington Regional Council*
- Tim Mackle, Rick Pridmore and David Burger—*DairyNZ*
- Chris McLay—*Waikato Regional Council*
- Mike Chapman—*Horticulture New Zealand*
- Roger Bannister—*Water Directorate, Ministry for the Environment*
- Andrew Curtis—*Irrigation New Zealand*
- Martin Workman—*Water Directorate, Ministry for the Environment*
- Nadeine Dommissie—*ECan*

This Action Plan was developed by a Governance Group composed of senior representatives of the primary sectors, regional councils and the Water Directorate (Ministries for the Environment and Primary Industries).

The Action Plan is a voluntary commitment, whose purpose is to accelerate the uptake of good farming practices for water quality (primarily) and quantity outcomes, to measure and demonstrate this uptake, to assess the impact and benefit of those farming practices, and to communicate progress to the wider public. The Governance Group is committed to supporting positive behaviour change and adopting an approach of continual improvement in these critical areas.



**Regional Councils, as members of the Governance Group, and supported by the Regional Council sector, are committed to working with Industry to deliver the Action Plan.**

To achieve this we commit to the following actions and time-frames:

Action	Time-frame	Who will be involved?
Refresh the Industry Agreed Good Management Practices for Water Quality and revise to National Good Farming Practice Principles	Complete	Governance Group with support from the Land and Water Partnership <sup>1</sup> and Regional Council Land Management Officers
Develop systems and tools for monitoring and reporting on Good Farming Practice uptake	2018-2020	Sectors, councils, Water Directorate, and other interested parties
Identifying priority principles to apply for a region, catchment and/or sector to support the uptake of targeted Good Farming Practice	2018-2020	Sectors, councils and other interested parties e.g. community-based, commercial agribusiness, rural professionals
Supporting every farm and horticultural property to have assessed risks against priority principles for catchment/sector and developed their response actions (farm plan)	Milestones to be developed, with priority catchments and sectors completed first 2018-2030	Sectors, councils and rural professionals
Accelerating uptake through sector and council extension programmes and share learnings	2018-2020	Sectors, councils, Water Directorate, and other interested parties
Communicate progress on farming practice to communities, councils, central government	Ongoing	Sectors
Strengthen and validate support systems and tools to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve and expand training and certification for consultants, council Land Management Officers, auditors</li> <li>• Ensure a database for monitoring and reporting</li> <li>• Promote harmonisation of approaches across New Zealand</li> </ul>	2018-2020	Councils, sectors, Water Directorate, other government agencies e.g. Tertiary Education Commission
Update the Good Farming Practices Action Plan	2020	Sectors, councils, central government, ENGO's, iwi organisations and other interested parties

<sup>1</sup>A pan-sector primary industry group

GOOD FARMING PRACTICE ACTION PLAN FOR WATER QUALITY

Through these actions, the Action Plan will deliver the following outcomes:

- Well-informed and competent land users using Good Farming Practices successfully to improve rural water outcomes at the farm level arising from their activities
- Sectors able to articulate and demonstrate their water stewardship story
- Councils and communities confident that land users are using Good Farming Practices to improve water outcomes.

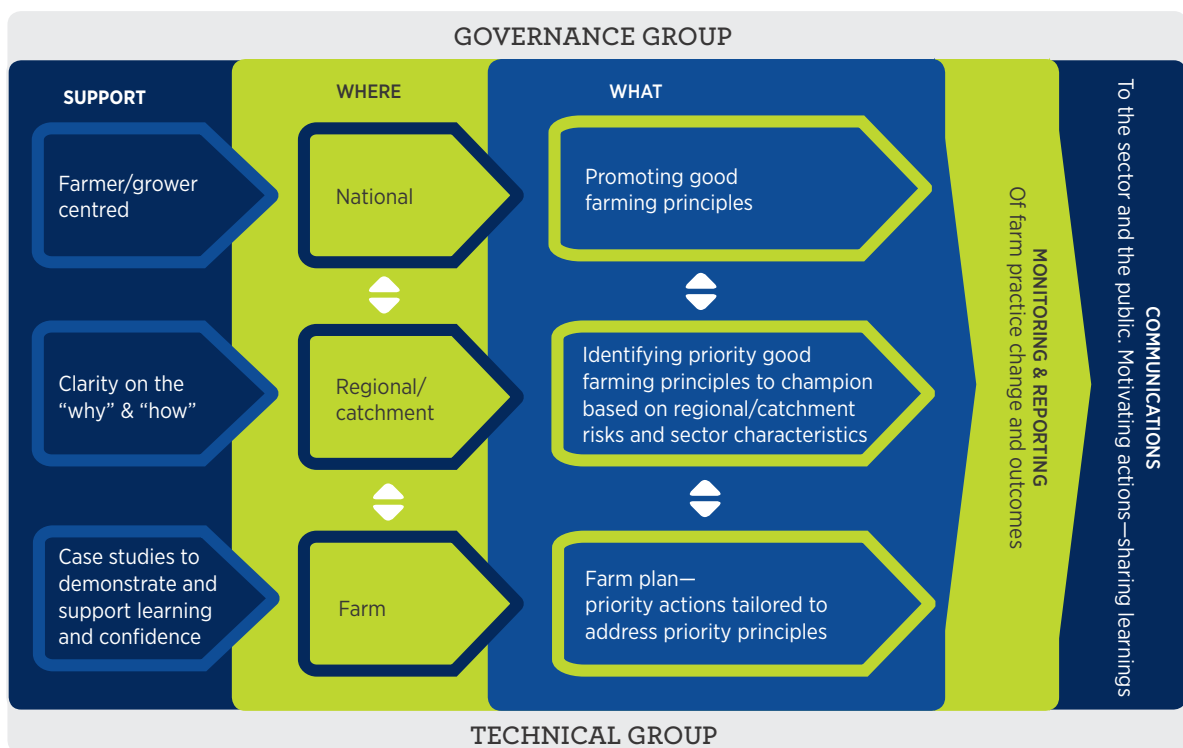
Good Farming Practices are an evolving suite of practical measures that can be put in place at a land user, sector and industry level to assist in achieving community agreed outcomes.

The Action Plan envisages a system that responds rapidly to feedback, new insights and understanding, incorporating learnings as programmes develop over time.

The Action Plan Approach detailed below, builds on the 2015 Industry Agreed Good Management Practices for Water Quality.

These 21 Agreed National Good Farming Practice Principles (detailed on page 4) were developed with input from farmers to ensure they are practical and achievable.

While the Action Plan is focussed primarily on water quality, promoting efficient water use (e.g. through initiatives like Dairy NZ's Smart Water Use on Farms to reduce water use) is also important.



## Promoting good farming practices

At the national level, the Governance Group will promote the Good Farming Practice Principles outlined below.

### AGREED NATIONAL GOOD FARMING PRACTICE PRINCIPLES

#### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Identify the physical and biophysical characteristics of the farm system, assess the risk factors to water quality associated with the farm system, and manage appropriately.
2. Maintain accurate and auditable records of annual farm inputs, outputs and management practices.
3. Manage farming operations to minimise direct and indirect losses of sediment and nutrients to water, and maintain or enhance soil structure, where agronomically appropriate.

#### NUTRIENTS

4. Monitor soil phosphorus levels and maintain them at or below the agronomic optimum for the farm system
5. Manage the amount and timing of fertiliser inputs, taking account of all sources of nutrients, to match plant requirements and minimise risk of losses.
6. Store and load fertiliser to minimise risk of spillage, leaching and loss into water bodies
7. Ensure equipment for spreading fertilisers is well maintained and calibrated.
8. Store, transport and distribute feed to minimise wastage, leachate and soil damage.

#### WATERWAYS

9. Identify risk of overland flow of sediment and faecal bacteria on the property and implement measures to minimise transport of these to water bodies.
10. Locate and manage farm tracks, gateways, water troughs, self-feeding areas, stock camps, wallows and other sources of run-off to minimise risks to water quality.
11. Exclude stock from water bodies to the extent that is compatible with land form, stock class and stock intensity. Where exclusion is not possible, mitigate impacts on waterways.

#### LAND AND SOIL

12. Manage periods of exposed soil between crops/pasture to reduce risk of erosion, overland flow and leaching.
13. Manage or retire erosion prone land to minimise soil losses through appropriate measures and practices\*
14. Select appropriate paddocks for intensive grazing, recognising and mitigating possible nutrient and sediment loss from critical source areas
15. Manage grazing to minimise losses from critical source areas.

#### EFFLUENT

16. Ensure the effluent system meets industry specific Code of Practice or equivalent standard.
17. Have sufficient, suitable storage available for farm effluent and wastewater.
18. Ensure equipment for spreading effluent and other organic manures is well maintained and calibrated.
19. Apply effluent to pasture and crops at depths, rates and times to match plant requirements and minimise risk to water bodies.

#### WATER AND IRRIGATION

20. Manage the amount and timing of irrigation inputs to meet plant demands and minimise risk of leaching and runoff.
21. Design, check and operate irrigation systems to minimise the amount of water needed to meet production objectives.

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*\*Implementing this principle may mean that Class 8 land is not actively farmed for arable, pastoral or commercial forestry uses as this land is generally unsuitable for these activities as described in the Land Use Capability Handbook.*

The list of principles on the previous page is based on the 2015 Industry-Agreed Good Management Practices Relating to Water Quality (developed with farmer-driven involvement from Dairy NZ, Deer Industry New Zealand, NZ Pork, B+LNZ, Horticulture NZ and the Foundation for Arable Research, with funding also provided by central government and a number of regional councils). While first applied in Canterbury, they were developed to be applicable across all regions of New Zealand. Some minor updates were included following input from the Land and Water Partnership, and the Regional Council Land Managers' Group.



## Identifying priority principles for regions/catchments

For each region, the set of principles are narrowed to those that are a priority in that region. Identifying the priority good farming practice principles to champion in a region is a critical step. Where significant regional variation exists, priority principles will be identified at a catchment or sub-catchment level.

The priority principles will be decided based on the most pressing water quality issues in the region/catchment and considering their causes, the range of solutions and likely impacts of practice change.

Some principles may only be considered as potential priorities for some sectors e.g. the effluent principles are largely relevant only for the dairy sector

The priority good farming practice principles for a region will be identified in a co-created way with leadership from both regional councils and the farming sectors, and opportunity for input from other interested parties. Sectors may lead the identification of priority principles for their sector in each region but will work with the relevant regional council to make sure that there is agreement that the right principles are being identified. It will be important to give confidence to both the regional council and the wider community that the approach being taken will help address the priority water quality issues.

The Governance Group's intention is that this process will be done without delay, with a focus on getting practice change actions in place quickly. The approach will need to be reviewed and adapted over time **to ensure the desired** improvements are being delivered.

## Identifying actions in a farm plan

At the farm/property level, risks to water will then be identified based on the nature of the business and the priorities for the catchment. A farm plan will be developed to identify practical, targeted actions to deliver on the relevant priority principles. These actions will be monitored and reported on.

Where the regional regulatory framework requires a farm plan, the documented risks and actions will need to align with regulatory requirements such as approved farm plan templates. In areas where farm plans are not required, the form of the document can be shaped to meet the needs of the farm, farmer or sector, to support good farming practice implementation.

The process of discussing and identifying priority principles will include identifying the tools and solutions available in the local area to support farmers and growers to improve water quality outcomes through farmer-driven actions. This includes existing programmes and extension support.

Training and extension support will be needed at national, regional and farm levels to increase capability and to ensure consistency. Ongoing communication will be required within the primary sectors and to the wider public, to demonstrate and verify good water stewardship. Case studies will provide grounded demonstrations.



## Scenario: applying the approach

Below is a high-level, hypothetical example of how a farm plan might look for two different farm enterprises using the process to identify priority principles for a catchment (for illustration only).



### **SHEEP AND BEEF FARM— EAST COAST OF NORTH ISLAND**

#### **Critical water quality issues for the catchment.**

Erosion—sediment, phosphorous, *E. coli*.

#### **Does the regional council require a Farm Environment Plan (or equivalent)?**

No (note that some East Coast North Island catchments require a farm plan).

#### **Priority principles identified from page 4, led by Regional Council and the sectors.**

Selected principles from the “waterways” (#9-11), “land and soil” (#12-15) and “nutrient” (#4-8) subcategories likely to be prominent. “Effluent” (#16-19) and “irrigation” (#20-21) principles unlikely to be a priority.

*Discussion of locally available tools, resources and support to help farmers and growers improve practices*

#### **Actions included in a farm plan.**

Sheep and beef farmer assisted to prepare farm plan that includes 3-5 priority actions targeted to meet an identified subset of those principles. For example, one action could be targeted to principle #13, with the farmer setting out steps he/she will take to retire and actively manage their erosion prone land.

*Monitoring and reporting of implementation of farm plan actions*



### **DAIRY FARM— EAST COAST OF SOUTH ISLAND**

#### **Critical water quality issues for the catchment.**

Nitrates, *E. coli*.

#### **Does the regional council require a Farm Environment Plan (or equivalent)?**

Yes.

#### **Priority principles identified from page 4, led by Regional Council and the sectors.**

Selected principles from “nutrients” (#4-8), “waterways” (#9-11), and “irrigation” (#20-21) categories likely to be prominent. “Effluent” (#16-19)—these principles may be lower priority if they are already being addressed by existing programmes.

*Discussion of locally available tools, resources and support to help farmers and growers improve practices*

#### **Actions included in a farm plan.**

Dairy farmer assisted to prepare a farm plan that includes 3-5 priority actions targeted to meet an identified subset of those principles, as well as meeting any industry or council requirements, including compliance, with any agreed templates. For example, the farmer could identify irrigation principles (#20-21) as critical to focus on and be assisted to identify an action/s to improve performance.

*Monitoring and reporting of implementation of farm plan actions*

## Building on successful initiatives

The Action Plan's approach is founded on existing successful initiatives that can be built on to achieve greater uptake and reporting of good practice, as set out below, with further details in the examples (see page 12).

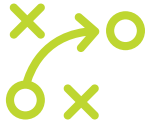
 <p>Farm Plans to target farm-specific sources of contaminants. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Horizons Regional Council's Sustainable Land Use Initiative</li> <li>- DairyNZ's Sustainable Milk Plans</li> <li>- B+LNZ's Land and Environment Plans</li> </ul>	 <p>Support for practice change. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dairy sector's <i>Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord</i></li> <li>- <i>Pathway for the Pomahaka</i> catchment initiative</li> <li>- Wharekopae Water Quality Improvement Project</li> <li>- Irrigation NZ's SMART irrigation initiative</li> </ul>	 <p>Accreditation, monitoring and reporting. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Horticulture sector's Good Agricultural Practice programmes</li> <li>- Processor programmes, e.g. Fonterra's <i>Tiaki</i>, Synlait's <i>Lead with Pride</i>, Miraka's <i>Te Ara Miraka</i>, Alliance Group's environmental activities</li> </ul>
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## Monitoring and reporting

The Governance Group intends to report on progress in implementing the Action Plan each year.

Leading work on developing systems and tools for monitoring and reporting on good farming practice uptake will be a significant focus for the Governance Group over the next two years (2018-2020). This will include identifying the nature of data that needs to be collected and ways to report progress at catchment, regional and national levels.

The monitoring and reporting system needs to be credible. To avoid unnecessary costs, duplication and bureaucracy, it will be important to building on existing systems where possible.



## Our approach

- We are building on the Land and Water Forum's recommended approach to good management practice, including use of the Industry Agreed Good Management Practices for Water, use of farm plans, and taking a risk-based approach that targets actions at a local level to address priority water quality issues.
- We recognise and want to build on the many existing initiatives already contributing to improving water quality and quantity management (e.g. see page 9).
- Where gaps are identified, we will work collectively to address these, including through collaboration with respect to research and development.
- We support farmer-driven catchment-based approaches that seek to engage and work with communities, iwi, and a wide range of interested parties.
- We will use adaptive methods, by testing what we are doing, sharing what we are learning and improving as we go.
- We will respond rapidly to what we learn and implement these learnings to improve outcomes.
- We will report to Ministers and the public on progress annually.
- We are taking a practical approach, focusing on what works for achieving practice change on the ground to deliver outcomes quickly.
- We are drawing on the best information as to what motivates good farming practice uptake.
- We will look for opportunities to take a holistic approach that also considers the influence of other drivers such as greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, and business outcomes.
- We will work with partners to implement the Action Plan, for example, environmental non-government organisations, the Federation of Maori Authorities, processors, marketers and the banking sector.
- We will work with like-minded groups to support a coordinated national approach to improving water quality.

## Good farming project part of the solution

We recognise that in some catchments, measures beyond good farming practice will be required, e.g. catchment scale mitigations or large-scale land use change. These measures are not the focus of this Action Plan, and the Action Plan does not cover all the land-based primary sectors. We are committed to working with communities to improve water quality.



There is complementary work underway to identify and increase uptake of urban good practice for water quality and quantity management.

## Examples of successful practice change, monitoring and reporting initiatives

### Sustainable land use initiative

This farm plan-based programme was initiated by Horizons Regional Council in 2005/6 in response to serious erosion and flooding in a 2004 storm. It targets highly erodible land for afforestation or space planting with poplar poles. Farm plans are in place on 669 farms in the target areas, covering 500,942 ha. Over 13.7 million trees have been planted as forests and 165,900 poles planted to reduce the risk of erosion and downstream flooding, along with 850 km of new fencing.

Landcare Research SedNetNZ modelling indicates that around 12% less sediment is generated on works completed to date, with over 27% reduction when work is complete. In target catchments, the model indicates up to 60% sediment reduction. Evaluation of the initiative has indicated a strong perception from farmers that the scheme has had a major impact on environmental and economic sustainability (AgResearch 2016 report to Horizons Regional Council).

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### Pathway for the Pomahaka farmer-led catchment initiative

The Pomahaka catchment in South & West Otago is one of a growing number of successful farmer-led catchment initiatives. The catchment was identified by the Otago Regional Council as one with poor water quality. Initiated by the NZ Landcare Trust in 2013 and with support from the Sustainable Farming Fund, work began to bring together farmers and stakeholders to scope out a catchment plan. The Pomahaka Farmers Water Care Group was formed as they saw a need for farmers to lead and engage other farmers on good management practices to improve water quality. The success of this initial work led to a further three year Sustainable Farming Fund project 'Pathway for the Pomahaka' with wider involvement from the Pomahaka stakeholders group, Rabobank, ORC, DOC, Ravensdown, Ernslaw 1, Fish and Game, Dairy NZ and Beef + Lamb NZ, and continued support from the NZ Landcare Trust.

The work is using and showcasing industry tools to help farmers to improve farm practices that reduce nutrient loss and improve water quality. Farmers are now working to eliminate stock from waterways and manage river bank erosion along with establishing riparian planting areas. There has also been a noticeable change in the management of winter crops in the catchment, which should result in improved phosphate and other mineral levels in the summer. On-farm water testing has been instrumental in motivating action though helping farmers understand how their actions impact on water quality and why they need to make changes.

A mini-documentary focussing on management practices in the Pomahaka catchment can be accessed here:

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

[www.landcare.org.nz/Regional-Focus/Gore-Office/Pomahaka-Project](http://www.landcare.org.nz/Regional-Focus/Gore-Office/Pomahaka-Project)

### B+LNZ Environment Plan

B+LNZ's Environment Plan guides farmers through a recorded assessment of their farm's environmental risks as well as land management opportunities. It involves a stock-take of land, soil and water resources, and results in the development of a personalised written plan identifying potential actions to be undertaken, where they might be targeted, and when they will be implemented.

A well prepared Environment Plan captures stewardship and sustainability as a record showing that measurable actions are being taken to address environmental concerns and to

demonstrate good practice. It also helps farmers understand the natural resources on their farm, and allows all those involved in the farm business to understand the plan to manage them for the long-term.

B+LNZ run regular Environment Plan workshops around the country with small groups of farmers.

[www.beeflambnz.com/compliance/environment/environment-plans](http://www.beeflambnz.com/compliance/environment/environment-plans)

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### Dairying and Clean Streams Accord

The *Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord* was launched in July 2013 setting out the dairy industry's commitment to improving water quality in New Zealand. It built on the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord agreement first signed in 2003. The Water Accord includes commitments to targeted riparian planting plans, effluent management, comprehensive standards for new dairy farms and measures to improve the efficiency of water and nutrient use on farms. The most

recent annual progress report on the Sustainable Dairying Water Accord was released in May 2017, indicating significant progress towards the targets e.g. 83% have nutrient management plans, up from 56% in 2013; with close to 100% uptake of riparian stock exclusion and bridging/culverting of regular stock crossings.

[www.dairynz.co.nz/environment/in-your-region/sustainable-dairying-water-accord](http://www.dairynz.co.nz/environment/in-your-region/sustainable-dairying-water-accord)

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### Sustainable Milk Plans

DairyNZ works with farmers to develop Sustainable Milk Plans to help dairy farmers focus on environmentally sustainable farming practices. In the Upper Waikato pilot, 642 plans were developed, with a total of 5921 individual actions recorded (average of 9.2 actions per farm across the five management target areas of effluent, waterways, nutrients, land and water use). Most of the actions were either underway or complete

in 2015. Current modelling estimates that potential reductions in farm nutrient losses following the successful completion of 70% of all intended sustainable milk plan actions across all farms are estimated to be 5% for N and 12% for P, increasing to 8% for N and 21% for P once all actions are complete.

[www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/assets](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/assets)

### Ngāi Tahu Farming Case Study

Ngāi Tahu believe their whakapapa (genealogy) binds them to the mountains, land, forests and waters. In this way, all things are considered to have a mauri (life force), and shared whakapapa, reinforcing the tribal philosophy that all things are from the same origin and the welfare of the environment determines the welfare of the people. This is best defined by the whakataukī (proverb):

*Toitū te Marae o Tane, Toitū te Marae o Tangaroa, Toitū te Iwi*  
*When land and water are sustained, the people will prosper*

Ngāi Tahu Farming is committed to best-practice farming, aiming to continuously improve the environmental, social, cultural, and economic outcomes associated with their operations. A current focus is Te Whenua Hou a former forestry block northwest of Christchurch. It is being developed into 6,700 hectares of new farmland (including the planting of 150 hectares of native bush). When complete, there will be 20 farms operating under gravity-flow pivot irrigation, sourcing water from the Waimakariri Irrigation Scheme.

Ngāi Tahu have high expectations around what happens on their land. All of the processes and systems on the farms have been well-researched and well thought-out so that they can deliver on Ngāi Tahu's core values, including kaitiakitanga (stewardship), tohungatanga (expertise), tikanga (appropriate action) and rangatiratanga (leadership). Significant investment in research, modelling, data and technology has been made. For example, managers get daily information gathered from soil moisture strips under every pivot irrigator, mini weather stations which tie into the MetService five-day forecast, and fertiliser application is tracked using GPS. In addition, Ngāi Tahu Farming has a three-year research project with Lincoln University to monitor nitrate leaching through the soil profile, with 40 lysimeters (measuring devices) installed on Paritea (one of the eight dairy farms at Te Whenua Hou).

[www.ngaitahufarming.co.nz](http://www.ngaitahufarming.co.nz)

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### The SMART Irrigation initiative

The SMART Irrigation initiative was launched in 2014. Its purpose is to provide all irrigators with the knowledge and skills to use water efficiently. The goals are for all irrigation systems to be designed and installed in-line with industry codes of practice; checked they are in working order at least annually; all irrigation applied accounts for crop requirements, soil water holding and weather forecasts; and all operators of irrigation systems are trained.

Progress to date includes 24 irrigation designers now holding a National Certificate in Irrigation Design and all large irrigation companies being accredited for their irrigation design work. An irrigation installation apprenticeship launches in 2018. The 'Bucket Test' app for assessing irrigation system performance was released in early 2017 and now has over 500 active users. Over 1,600 irrigators have undertaken irrigation manager training over the last 3 years.

The SMART initiative is transforming irrigation in NZ introducing an increased level of professionalism, knowledge and above all understanding of how to use water efficiently.

### Wharekopae Water Quality Improvement (Rere Falls) project

In 2015 Gisborne District Council and Beef and Lamb New Zealand began collaborating with Rere farmers to raise water quality in the Wharekopae River to a swimmable standard. The Rere Falls and Rockslide on the Wharekopae River are popular swimming and rocksliding destinations, despite signage warning people about swimming health risks due to *E. coli* contamination from sheep and cattle.

Tangible on-farm impacts of the project to date include 4.2km of new fencing, increased stock exclusion from waterways, increased numbers of applications to the Rere

Fund, improved water quality monitoring and the Farm Environment Planning process positively influencing thinking and action on-farm.

Farmer interest and participation in the project has been high. A report has been completed telling the story of the project to date, including lessons, next steps and strategic implications. It is available here:

[www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/fresh-water/engaging-farmers-improving-water-quality-rere-story](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/fresh-water/engaging-farmers-improving-water-quality-rere-story)

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### Good agricultural practice for horticulture

Horticulture's Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) schemes promote the safe and sustainable production of fruit and vegetables in New Zealand. Certification to one of the schemes is necessary for supplying many local and overseas markets. Just under 90 percent of New Zealand's commercial scale growers are certified to one of the three GAP schemes operational in New Zealand. The three schemes are operated by and under GLOBALG.A.P. and achieve consistency through the NZ Technical Working Group

NZGAP (one of the three schemes) offers an environmental risk assessment add-on to manage natural resources, including:

- Protection and sustainable use of land and water
- Responsible use of agrichemicals and fertilisers
- Waste management
- Biodiversity
- Waste, emissions and energy.

The NZGAP Environmental Management System (EMS) encompasses a number of elements including EMS guidelines, property maps, the farm environment plans, environmental risk assessments, guidelines for good and best management practises, compliance criteria, and the grower/third-party auditor checklist. This add-on is at present being offered to growers in Canterbury with plans to progressively offer it to all growers in New Zealand.

[www.newzealandgap.co.nz](http://www.newzealandgap.co.nz)



### Tiaki Sustainable Dairying Programme

Through its Tiaki Sustainable Dairying Programme, Fonterra supports its farmers to meet all regulatory requirements, including Farm Environment Plans. Fonterra offers this service to its farmer shareholders with no additional cost through a team of Sustainable Dairying Advisors, who tailor products and services to regional requirements and each individual farm.

Additionally, all farmers must meet minimum standards set out in the Fonterra Farmers' Handbook. Environmental requirements cover effluent management, stock exclusion

from waterways, bridging or culverting stock crossings, and the supply of information to enable Fonterra to model nitrogen loss. Farmers who do not meet these requirements must work with Fonterra to develop and implement an Environmental Improvement Plan within specified timeframes. Under the terms of the supply agreement, Fonterra may suspend collection of milk if requirements are not met.

### Synlait's Lead with Pride™

Canterbury-based dairy processor Synlait encourages best practice dairy farming with its Lead With Pride™ certification, which recognises and financially rewards certified suppliers. Certification requires farmers achieve best practice standards across the four pillars of milk quality, environment, animal health and welfare, and social responsibility. Included in the environment pillar are water and irrigation management, effluent management, waste initiatives, improved biodiversity,

soil quality and energy management. All suppliers must meet minimum standards and certified suppliers (ISO/IEC 17065) meeting higher standards and are paid a premium.

[www.synlait.com/about/supplying-synlait/lead-with-pride](http://www.synlait.com/about/supplying-synlait/lead-with-pride)

### Alliance Group's environmental activities

Alliance Group is a food company headquartered in Invercargill. Alliance is ISO 14001 certified and has robust procedures and programmes in place which target areas to achieve specific environmental outcomes. Its environmental policy is based on a commitment to improve its performance across the business for the long term benefit of the environment. The company optimises its use of all resource including energy, water and chemicals and embraces the use of technology. In implementing its policy, Alliance integrates environmental management into its daily business activities. Its achievements include a greater than 20% reduction in processing energy

use since 2000 and greater than 20% reduction in water use since 2007/8 per unit of production across the co-operative. It has achieved a 98% reduction in discharged phosphorus from the Mataura Plant. A new rendering facility at Lorneville has reduced Alliance's electricity use by approximately 1.5 million kilowatt hours. The Mataura Plant generates almost 20% of the electricity it needs from its own hydroelectric plant. Alliance has also committed to a multi-million dollar wastewater treatment upgrade at its Lorneville plant that will deliver a 75% reduction in nitrogen and a 45% reduction in phosphorus in the generated wastewater and disinfection before it is discharged.

### **Kaitiakitanga—Te Ara Miraka**

The Miraka vision—nurturing our world—reflects the company’s commitment to sustainable business practice and production of top quality products for the world market. As Kaitiaki (guardians) of the land and the environment Miraka believes it is fundamental to the sustainability of continued milk supply and the prosperity of its farmers, their future generations and therefore of the company itself.

In 2016, to ensure the value of Kaitiaki was in action from the farm to consumers, the company introduced a sophisticated farm excellence programme—Te Ara Miraka (The Miraka Way). The standards for Te Ara Miraka are founded on five Pou or pillars: People, Environment, Cows (Animal Care), Milk Quality and Prosperity. The programme gives farmers the potential to earn an extra 20 cents/kg/MS premium on top of the milk price by meeting 30 standards, including 13 mandatory ones. Farmers are provided with additional tools, resources and access to experts to help them achieve the standards so they are not “going it alone”.

Since the 2016 season, farms in Te Ara Miraka have been independently audited by a third party accredited under the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) to International Standards ISO/IEC Guide 65—the international standard for ensuring competence in those organisations performing product certifications.

The company also encourages all its farmers to be proactive in the management of their farm environment and has provided an Environment Management Plan, detailing all identified risks, on-farm policies to avoid these risks, and actions to mitigate milk production impacts. Again, farmers are supported to reach the standards set.

Of the 106 farmers who supply Miraka, 103 are now actively engaged in Te Ara Miraka and are all striving to achieve standards of excellence. Feedback from suppliers indicates they welcome the opportunity to supply a company that shares their values, has invested interest in all aspects of their business success, and is prepared to offer financial incentives to support the regulatory requirements being placed on dairy farmers.

They also recognise that Te Ara Miraka is as much about production efficiency on farm and putting structures in place to mitigate their risks by maximising the quality and integrity of their products and insulating their revenue from the volatility of dairy commodity prices.

Te Ara Miraka underpins the quality assurance demanded by its customers as Miraka has moved from WMP and UHT products to value added consumer brands Taupo Pure and Whaiora.



## Agenda Memorandum

**Date** 28 August 2018



**Memorandum to  
Chairperson and Members  
Policy and Planning Committee**

**Subject: Beef and Lamb New Zealand:  
Environment Strategy and  
Implementation Plan 2018-22**

**Approved by:** A D McLay, Director, Resource Management  
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 2074177

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### Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce Beef and Lamb New Zealand's recently released '*Environment Strategy and Implementation Plan 2018-22*.'

The Environment Strategy and Implementation Plan is attached to this memorandum for Members' information along with media releases coinciding with the launch of the strategy.

### Executive summary

On 15 May 2018, Beef and Lamb New Zealand released its *Environment Strategy and Implementation Plan 2018-22*.

The strategy was developed in partnership with farmers, but has also involved central and regional government, NGO's, academics, and other industry organisations. The new strategy reflects a number of emerging challenges, opportunities and aspirations within the sheep and beef farming sector on environmental issues.

The Strategy is based on four high level goals dealing with clean water, carbon neutrality, thriving biodiversity and healthy productive soils.

Underpinning these four broad goals are nine foundations, which comprise the implementation plan. These include having an active environmental plan on every farm, working together in catchment communities, supporting farmer action through extension programmes and partnership arrangements, research to support evidence-based policy and action and the development of SMART goals against which Beef and Lamb NZ will be held accountable for implementing its environment strategy.

There are a number of areas within Beef and Lambs NZ's environment strategy that complement the work programmes of this Council.

## Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum '*Beef and Lamb New Zealand: Environment Strategy and Implementation Plan 2018-22*';
2. notes the strategy is a positive first step for this important sector of the economy; and
3. notes that a number of aspects of the environment strategy complement the work programmes of this Council.

## Background

On 15 May 2018, Beef and Lamb New Zealand released its *Environment Strategy and Implementation Plan 2018-22* (the strategy).

The strategy was developed in partnership with farmers, but has also involved central and regional government, NGO's, academics, and other industry organisations.

The new strategy reflects a number of emerging challenges, opportunities and aspirations within the sheep and beef farming sector on environmental issues. The various media releases, which accompanied the launch of the strategy, emphasise that farmers recognise that there is unprecedented public concern for the natural environment. They acknowledge that while sheep and beef farmers have made meaningful improvements to their environmental performance over the years, there is also a recognition that more needs to be done – and not just in areas where work is already underway but in new areas and using different approaches.

In some respects, the preparation and adoption of this environment strategy and implementation plan for sheep and beef farmers can be seen as part of the process of catching up with the dairy sector, which has responded to the considerable public scrutiny of the sector in recent years.

According to the Strategy, sheep numbers have declined from 57.9 million to 27.6 million and beef cattle numbers have declined by 23% since 1990. Absolute greenhouse gas emissions from sheep and beef farms are 30% below 1990 levels while the sector's contribution to national GDP has doubled to \$5 billion.

The Strategy identifies two key goals for the future: every sheep and beef farm having a tailored and active land environment plan by the end of 2021, and the sheep and beef sector as a whole moving towards carbon neutrality by 2050.

Members will note that the strategy also contains a three-year implementation plan that sets out actions towards achieving the strategy's goals in the short to medium term. Further updates of the strategy and implementation plan will follow.

## The strategy

The Strategy vision is '*World-leading stewards of the natural environment and sustainable communities*'.

Underneath this vision are four high level goals or pillars that the sector wants to achieve:

- **clean water** – that New Zealanders can gather food from and swim in;
- **carbon neutral** – that farmers continue to reduce carbon emissions, moving towards carbon neutrality by 2050;
- **thriving biodiversity** – that sheep and beef farms provide habitats that support biodiversity and protect our native species; and
- **healthy productive soils** – that farmers work towards improving soil health, carbon content and productivity while minimising soil loss.

Underpinning these four broad goals are nine foundations, which comprise the implementation plan:

1. An active plan on every farm.
2. Work together in catchment communities.
3. Support farmer action.
4. Research to support evidence-based action and policy.
5. Active engagement in policy discussions.
6. Enable farmer leadership.
7. Tell farmers' stories.
8. Be held accountable.
9. Represent our industry globally.

There are a large number of projects and actions proposed over the three-year implementation plan but as noted by the Chairman of Beef and Lamb NZ in his media release, a number of these are already underway and some are nearing completion.

One of the major actions proposed in the plan is that all sheep and beef farmers will have and be implementing a tailored land environment plan by 2021. Currently it is estimated that 40% of sheep and beef farmers have such a plan but these are of varying quality. Developing and designing a new programme will be the focus for 2018 with delivery and implementation to follow over the next three years. Updating the land environment plan template will be the first priority and will include carbon, soil and biodiversity aspects within it.

There will be an active programme of support to ensure farmer uptake and action.

The Council's sustainable non regulatory land management programme, which offers four property-based planning options for hill country farmers, as well as our biodiversity plans, will provide a solid foundation for farmers to build on. Some 67% of privately owned land in the Taranaki hill country is now covered by sustainable land management plans prepared by this Council and 90% of those are being implemented in whole or in part. Environment plans prepared under Beef and Lamb NZ's strategy will complement this work.

Another positive outcome from the strategy is a commitment to work together in catchment communities. This will encourage farmers at a local level to work together and to focus on particular catchment issues of concern.

Beef and Lamb NZ is proposing a number of support and extension programmes that would be a good fit with what the Council is doing for example, in areas related to protecting biodiversity on farms and soil erosion and soil health, as well as climate change and the opportunities and risks associated with carbon farming. In relation to climate change issues the Council has applied to the Provincial Growth Fund for financial support for the

development of a business guide to tree planting on Taranaki hill country farms. We are seeking an easy to understand digital portal that will present complex information spread over a number of sites, in an easily accessible format that will lead to greater uptake of the investment opportunities for planting more trees on hill country farms. The portal may have application to other parts of New Zealand.

Beef and Lamb NZ are looking to partner with a number of different agencies in delivering these programmes.

Also of interest is a number of actions in the research area designed to support evidence-based policy and action. Several of these areas of research are related to greenhouse-gas management practices as well as research into better understanding of sheep and beef farming's contribution to water quality, biodiversity and erosion and sediment loss.

Other foundation action areas include support for farmer leadership and demonstration of best practice, telling farmers' stories and being held accountable for performance.

As to being held accountable, the implementation plan commits Beef and Lamb NZ to develop SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time bound) goals for water quality, carbon and greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, and soil health, erosion and sediment loss. The proposal is that during 2018, Beef and Lamb NZ will develop measurable goals under each of the four pillars so that New Zealand will be able to see how the sector is progressing. These will be delivered and implemented in the subsequent three years.

Beef and Lamb NZ will be in a good position here in Taranaki, building on what we have already done in the environmental area. We have good relationships with farmers and we engage closely with them on a daily basis on a wide range of environmental issues to do with sustainable land management. Land Environment Plans prepared under Beef and Lamb NZ's Environment Strategy will complement the work undertaken by this Council.

Improved environmental management on farms should result in improved environmental quality and improved land stewardship.

The Council looks forward to seeing this work brought to fruition and to subsequent reports on progress.

### **Decision-making considerations**

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **Policy considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

### **Iwi considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Iwi, hapu and whanau own land that will be captured by the strategy and implementation plan. Improved environmental management and stewardship on farms should result in improved environmental outcomes.

### **Legal considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

### **Attachments**

Document 2078506: Beef and Lamb NZ: Environment Strategy

Document 2078844: Media release: Beef and Lamb NZ unveil new environmental strategy

Document 2078534: Media release: CEO Beef and Lamb NZ

Document 2078520: Media release: Chairman beef and Lamb NZ





# ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2018-22



OUR VISION

*World-leading stewards of the natural environment and sustainable communities*

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*He kaitiakitanga mo te tai ao*



### Why develop a strategy?

New Zealanders are concerned about the declining natural environment and our climate is changing. Consumers are also expecting more, and disruptive technologies are challenging our existing systems and processes. But sheep and beef farmers are up to the challenge.

Every challenge brings an opportunity, and our Environment Strategy aims to turn today's pressures into tomorrow's opportunities.

Agriculture is inextricably linked to the natural environment, which means how we farm today will directly affect what's left for tomorrow. Farmers have two choices about how they farm - be part of the problem, or be part of the solution. Our sheep and beef farmers are determined to be part of the solution, and this document outlines how.

The following pages set out:

- where the sector is now
- where the sector wants to go
- the steps needed to bridge the gap

### Who is the strategy for?

**For farmers** - this document outlines how farmers can connect their individual actions to the wider context. Not all parts of this strategy will be relevant to all farmers - but each farmer should be able to find sections that they can incorporate into their own farm management. Many hands make light work after all.

**For government** - the sheep and beef sector is committed to working with government to achieve our environmental objectives.

**For New Zealanders** - the sheep and beef sector recognises it has a role to play both now and for future generations.

**For partners** - B+LNZ will partner with others, including the dairy sector, scientists, environmental NGOs, and Tangata Whenua to support farmers and bring about change.



### **The key components to how we will work**

The natural environment is a complex system. So too are people and communities. To be part of the solution, the sector plans to take a 'whole of system' approach, by optimising each farm to function within the rhythms of the land, within the taiao (environment).

There are two key components of the Environment Strategy that will enable this whole of system approach. These are:

- A new generation of tailored and farm specific plans to prioritise and target actions; and
- Connected people working together to prioritise and target collective actions at the catchment scale.

We can't do this alone - partnerships are key to our success. B+LNZ and farmers will collaborate with partners from a range of backgrounds. We will also prioritise our actions to match regional and practical priorities.

### **What comes next?**

This document is just the start to our journey. The strategy outlines our longer term vision and the implementation plan lays out our immediate next steps through to 2022. But there is so much more that the sector wants and plans to do.

While consulting on this document, many great ideas for partnerships and projects were identified. B+LNZ will work with people from all backgrounds to turn these ideas and others into future iterations of the environment strategy and implementation plan, both before and after 2022.



# Where we are

Since the 1990s, the sheep and beef sector has made major productivity and eco-efficiency gains and is producing more from less.<sup>1,2</sup>

Sheep numbers have dropped from 57.9 million to 27.6 million (-52%); resulting in significant reductions in GHG emissions; but lamb export volumes have only declined 8%.

Compared to 1990:

Land under sheep and beef farming <b>↓ 28%</b>	Beef cattle numbers <b>↓ 23%</b>	Sector contribution to GDP has doubled <b>↑ \$5 billion</b>
Absolute greenhouse gas emissions from sheep and beef farms <b>↓ 30%</b> <small>Exceeding New Zealand's international commitment of 11% below 1990 levels by 2030.</small>	GHG emissions per kilogram of saleable product <b>↓ 40%</b>	Nitrate leaching per kilogram of saleable product <b>↓ 21%</b>

But sheep and beef farmers recognise that there is still work to be done, especially around erosion, sediment loss and climate change.



# now...

## Water

- The key potential water contaminants for the sheep and beef sector are sediment, phosphorus (P) and faecal microorganisms.<sup>3</sup>
- By comparison, nitrogen (N) losses from sheep and beef farm systems are generally lower than other agricultural sectors – mostly due to lower N fertiliser use and lower stocking rates.<sup>3</sup> However, N still needs to be understood and managed.
- Contaminant losses on sheep and beef farms often occur over short timeframes and/or from small areas of the farm, particularly when areas of high contaminant concentration and overland water flow coincide.<sup>4</sup> These parts of the farm are called Critical Source Areas.
- Critical Source Areas can be identified through farm planning and then targeted with appropriate and considered mitigation strategies to prevent contaminant loss.
- Targeted approaches can be more cost effective at decreasing contaminant loss than blanket mitigation strategies applied at the catchment scale or broader.<sup>5,6,7</sup>

## Carbon emissions

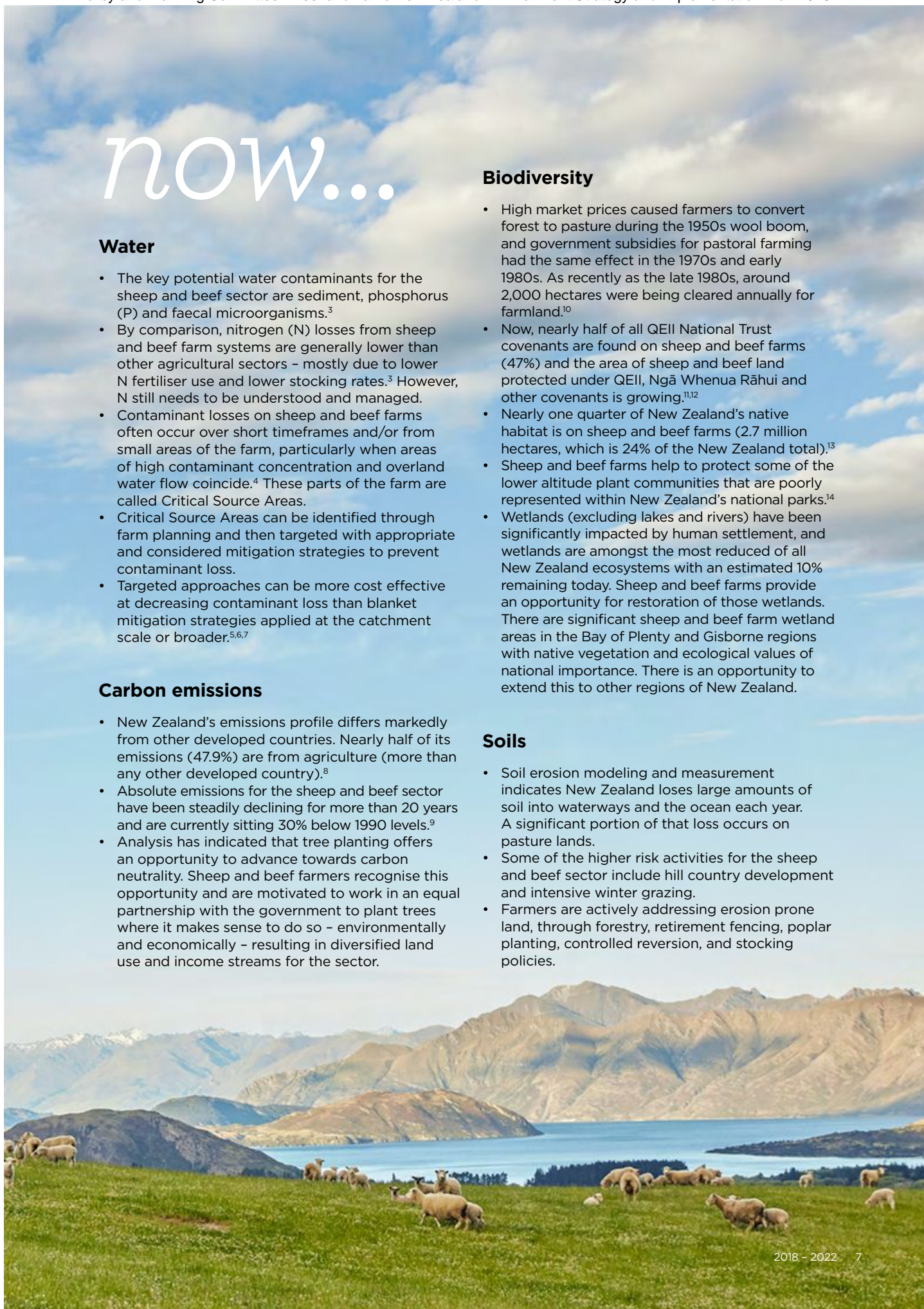
- New Zealand's emissions profile differs markedly from other developed countries. Nearly half of its emissions (47.9%) are from agriculture (more than any other developed country).<sup>8</sup>
- Absolute emissions for the sheep and beef sector have been steadily declining for more than 20 years and are currently sitting 30% below 1990 levels.<sup>9</sup>
- Analysis has indicated that tree planting offers an opportunity to advance towards carbon neutrality. Sheep and beef farmers recognise this opportunity and are motivated to work in an equal partnership with the government to plant trees where it makes sense to do so – environmentally and economically – resulting in diversified land use and income streams for the sector.

## Biodiversity

- High market prices caused farmers to convert forest to pasture during the 1950s wool boom, and government subsidies for pastoral farming had the same effect in the 1970s and early 1980s. As recently as the late 1980s, around 2,000 hectares were being cleared annually for farmland.<sup>10</sup>
- Now, nearly half of all QEII National Trust covenants are found on sheep and beef farms (47%) and the area of sheep and beef land protected under QEII, Ngā Whenua Rāhui and other covenants is growing.<sup>11,12</sup>
- Nearly one quarter of New Zealand's native habitat is on sheep and beef farms (2.7 million hectares, which is 24% of the New Zealand total).<sup>13</sup>
- Sheep and beef farms help to protect some of the lower altitude plant communities that are poorly represented within New Zealand's national parks.<sup>14</sup>
- Wetlands (excluding lakes and rivers) have been significantly impacted by human settlement, and wetlands are amongst the most reduced of all New Zealand ecosystems with an estimated 10% remaining today. Sheep and beef farms provide an opportunity for restoration of those wetlands. There are significant sheep and beef farm wetland areas in the Bay of Plenty and Gisborne regions with native vegetation and ecological values of national importance. There is an opportunity to extend this to other regions of New Zealand.

## Soils

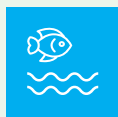
- Soil erosion modeling and measurement indicates New Zealand loses large amounts of soil into waterways and the ocean each year. A significant portion of that loss occurs on pasture lands.
- Some of the higher risk activities for the sheep and beef sector include hill country development and intensive winter grazing.
- Farmers are actively addressing erosion prone land, through forestry, retirement fencing, poplar planting, controlled reversion, and stocking policies.



# Environment Strategy 2018-22

## OUR VISION:

*World-leading stewards of the natural environment and sustainable communities*



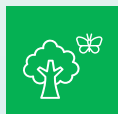
### CLEANER WATER

**Goal:** Sheep and beef farmers actively manage their properties to improve freshwater. New Zealanders can gather food from and swim in freshwater surrounding our farms.



### CARBON NEUTRAL

**Goal:** Farmers continue reducing carbon emissions, moving towards a carbon neutral sheep and beef sector by 2050.



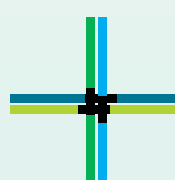
### THRIVING BIODIVERSITY

**Goal:** Sheep and beef farms provide habitats that support biodiversity and protect our native species.



### HEALTHY PRODUCTIVE SOILS

**Goal:** Land use is closely matched to soil potential and capability. Farmers are working to improve soil health, carbon content and productivity while minimising soil loss.







## *He kaitiakitanga mo te tai ao*

### HOW WE WILL WORK:

**It starts with the individual farmer**—our starting point is to equip our farmers with the knowledge, tools, and incentives to best manage their resources and make change if that is required.



**Catchment programmes are a critical tool for scaling up impact**—farmers working together with a wider community of stakeholders and with expert support is a proven method to make change at greater scale.



**All of us are stakeholders**—we will involve the wider NZ community and our customers in our programmes to share the problems, identify opportunities, work together to implement solutions, and take pride in our success.

### WE WILL HAVE SUCCEEDED WHEN:



- NZ farmers optimise the natural resources of their farms to profitably produce high quality food and fibre.
- Every farmer has a plan for managing the environmental risks and opportunities on their farm.
- The sector is open about our challenges and talks about how we are addressing them.
- Farming landscapes are biologically diverse, freshwater quality is protected, our soils are healthy, and the sector has a carbon footprint that is sustainable in the long term.
- NZ farmers have the confidence and ability to demonstrate their contribution to the environment.



**BY FARMERS.  
FOR FARMERS**

# The Implementation Plan

Achieving our vision will take many years. We will focus on the following projects from 2018-22. The Implementation Plan is built on nine foundations. These foundations are woven together to deliver the Environment Strategy.

<i>Foundations</i>	 <b>CLEANER WATER</b>	 <b>CARBON NEUTRAL</b>	
<b>1. An active plan on every farm</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updating the LEP template</li> <li>Actively supporting farmer uptake and action - all sheep and beef farmers to have a plan by 2021</li> <li>Integrating the B+LNZ LEP and New Zealand Farm Assurance Programmes</li> <li>Providing follow up support</li> </ul>		
<b>2. Work together in Catchment Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a Collaborative Catchment Communities programme to help communities work together to target water quality, greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, and soil health issues.</li> </ul>		
<b>3. Support farmer action</b>	3.1 Develop extension programmes to support farmer knowledge and capability in water, carbon, biodiversity and soils. 3.2 Provide access to farmer decision support tools, such as LUCI and MitAgator.		
	3.3 Deliver Freshwater Improvement Fund. 3.4 Deliver Working for the Waikato project.	3.5 Develop greenhouse gas calculator. +	
<b>4. Research to support evidence-based action and policy</b>	4.1 Apply OVERSEER® to Sheep and Beef Farms. 4.2 Confirm sheep and beef farm eco-efficiency measures. 4.3 Identify sheep and beef farm ecosystem services. 4.4 Support ongoing development of Land Use Classification (LUC).		
	4.5 Understand sector contribution to water quality. +	4.6 Measure carbon sink in vegetation on sheep and beef farms. 4.7 Develop long-term mitigation options through the Pastoral Greenhouse Gas Research Consortium. 4.8 Study on-farm greenhouse-gas management practices.	
<b>5. Active engagement in policy discussions</b>	5.1 Contribute to regional planning. 5.2 Contribute to national policy and legislation development.		
<b>6. Enable farmer leadership</b>	6.1 Support Farmer Reference Group to drive change across the sheep and beef sector. 6.2 Apply environmental best practice via the B+LNZ Future Farm.		
<b>7. Tell farmers' stories</b>	7.1 Interactive map of farmer stories covering action on water, carbon, biodiversity and soils. 7.2 Use evidence and facts to support farmer experiences and equip farmers to tell their own stories.		
<b>8. Be held accountable</b>	8.1 Develop SMART goals for water quality, carbon and GHG emissions, biodiversity, and soil health, erosion and sediment loss.		
<b>9. Represent our industry globally</b>	9.1 Board member for Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef 9.2 Supporting NZ's commitment to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) 9.3 Affiliate member of Sustainable Agricultural Initiative Platform 9.4 Representation on the International Meat Board Secretariat (IMS)		



*Our Implementation Plan is like a Kakahu (cloak). Each element intertwines and communities are the thread that run right through and bind it together.*



**THRIVING BIODIVERSITY**



**HEALTHY PRODUCTIVE SOILS**

	 <b>THRIVING BIODIVERSITY</b>	 <b>HEALTHY PRODUCTIVE SOILS</b>
		3.6 Deliver hill country sustainability project. + 3.7 Deliver Canterbury hill country development project. ++
	4.9 Understand native vegetation on farms and identify biodiversity priorities.	4.10 Complete stocktake of soil health and structure. 4.11 Understand sector contribution to erosion and sediment loss, and identify hotspot catchments. + 4.12 Partner to support water contaminant research. +

## CLEANER WATER

*Goal: Sheep and beef farmers actively manage their properties to improve freshwater. New Zealanders can gather food from and swim in freshwater surrounding our farms.*



## PROFITABLE FARMS

Our Implementation Plan is like a Kakahu (cloak). Each element intertwines. Communities are the thread that binds it together.

## CARBON NEUTRAL

*Goal: Farmers continue reducing carbon emissions, moving towards a carbon neutral sheep and beef sector by 2050.*



## THRIVING BIODIVERSITY

*Goal: Sheep and beef farms provide habitats that support biodiversity and protect our native species.*



## HEALTHY PRODUCTIVE SOILS

*Goal: Land use is closely matched to soil potential and capability. Farmers are working to improve soil health, carbon content and productivity while minimising soil loss.*



## COMMUNITY

partnerships are fundamental to achieving positive environmental outcomes at scale across New Zealand.

# THRIVING FARMING COMMUNITIES

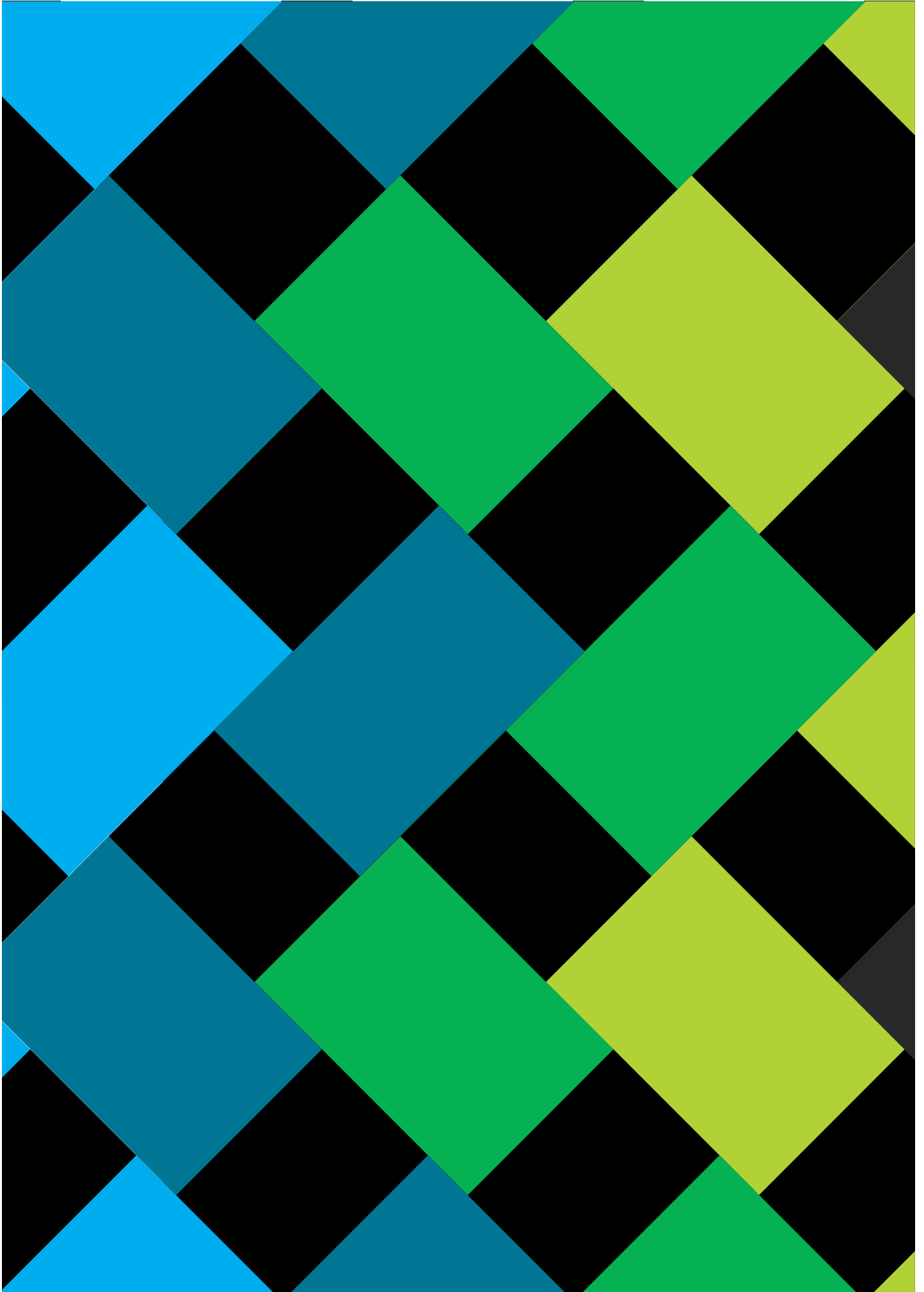
B+LNZ's strategy will  
**EQUIP FARMERS**  
with the knowledge,  
tools and support  
to best manage  
their resources  
and make  
change.

## COLLABORATION

will weave individual efforts  
together across communities,  
targeting catchment scale  
environmental objectives.



BY FARMERS.  
FOR FARMERS





# *The Implementation Plan*

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2018-22

## Foundation 1

### 1. An active plan on every farm



Tailored and farm specific management plans are a key tool to deliver on the Environment Strategy. B+LNZ is significantly revising its farm planning<sup>15</sup> programme with key activities, including:

- **Updating the LEP template** - to include carbon, soil and biodiversity. Focus on-farm management actions to address critical source areas (CSA) and critical flow pathways.
- **Actively supporting farmer uptake and action** - The goal is for all sheep and beef farmers to have and be implementing an LEP by the end of 2021;
- **Integrating the B+LNZ LEP and New Zealand Farm Assurance Programmes** - less paperwork, streamlined processes, and financial reward for those farmers working above compliance requirements.
- **Providing follow up support** - At least 75% of famers<sup>16</sup> have said they want additional support after attending a B+LNZ farm planning workshop. The Red Meat Profit Partnership (RMPP) Action Network will play a key role in this.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Develop/ co-design new programme	Deliver/ implement		

## Foundation 2

### 2. Work together in catchment communities



Collaborative catchment communities and partnerships are fundamental to achieving positive environmental outcomes at scale across New Zealand. With this strategy, B+LNZ will help communities weave their individual efforts together to target catchment scale environmental objectives.

In partnership with government, other industries (e.g. dairy), and environmental groups, B+LNZ intends to develop and launch a programme that will:

- Connect communities with the natural resources and limitations of their catchment;
- Help farmers identify on farm actions to achieve catchment scale priorities;
- Connect catchment communities with partnership and funding opportunities; and
- Collect and share information and ideas across New Zealand.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Develop/ co-design new programme	Deliver/ implement		



16 B+LNZ Environment Strategy



### Foundation 3

## 3. Support farmer action

### 3.1 Extension to support farmer knowledge and capability



B+LNZ's extension programmes- coupled with partnerships, new tools and services – will support farmers to work towards the sector's vision of success. B+LNZ is working to integrate environmental considerations into every aspect of research and extension.

Extension programmes will be designed to include:

- Understanding on-farm terrestrial and freshwater environments, soil health, and greenhouse gas emissions profile;
- Understanding the opportunities and risks associated with carbon farming;
- Protecting and enhancing terrestrial biodiversity on farms;
- Adapting to a changing climate;
- Winter grazing management; and
- Hill country development.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Develop/ co-design new programme	Deliver/ implement		

### 3.2 Farmer decision support tools



B+LNZ has formed strategic partnerships to provide farmers with access to state-of-the-art decision support tools, such as Land Utilisation Capability Indicator (LUCI) and MitAgator. These types of tools will help farmers to incorporate catchment scale environmental objectives into their individual farm plans.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Deliver/ implement			

### 3.3 Freshwater Improvement Fund



B+LNZ is developing a Fresh Water Improvement Fund project that will be delivered in partnership with the Ministry for the Environment. The project will demonstrate how farmers can improve water quality within four priority catchments (Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa, Otago and Southland). Running until 2021, the project will also focus on building environmental leadership across the sheep and beef sector.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Deliver/ implement			

### 3.4 Working for the Waikato



This demonstration project, delivered in partnership with the Waikato River Authority<sup>17</sup>, was started in 2016 and aims to improve water quality within the Waikato region. It is also designed to raise farmer awareness about the environmental pressures within the region and provide tools, advice and support to address these issues.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Deliver/ implement			

### 3.5 Greenhouse gas calculator



In partnership with key stakeholders, B+LNZ is developing a greenhouse gas calculator to help farmers calculate their emissions, and identify options to adjust their profile (such as through production changes).

2018	2019	2020	2021
Develop/ co-design	Deliver/ implement		

### 3.6 Hill country sustainability project



B+LNZ has entered into a five-year partnership agreement with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to deliver a targeted programme to support smart use of hill country. Cofounded by PGG Wrightson and Seed Force New Zealand, the programme is focussed on developing vibrant rural communities by giving insight into the value and smart use of physical resources on farm. The programme will also demonstrate profitability aspects from productivity through adoption of innovative socioeconomic and environmental management on hill country farms.

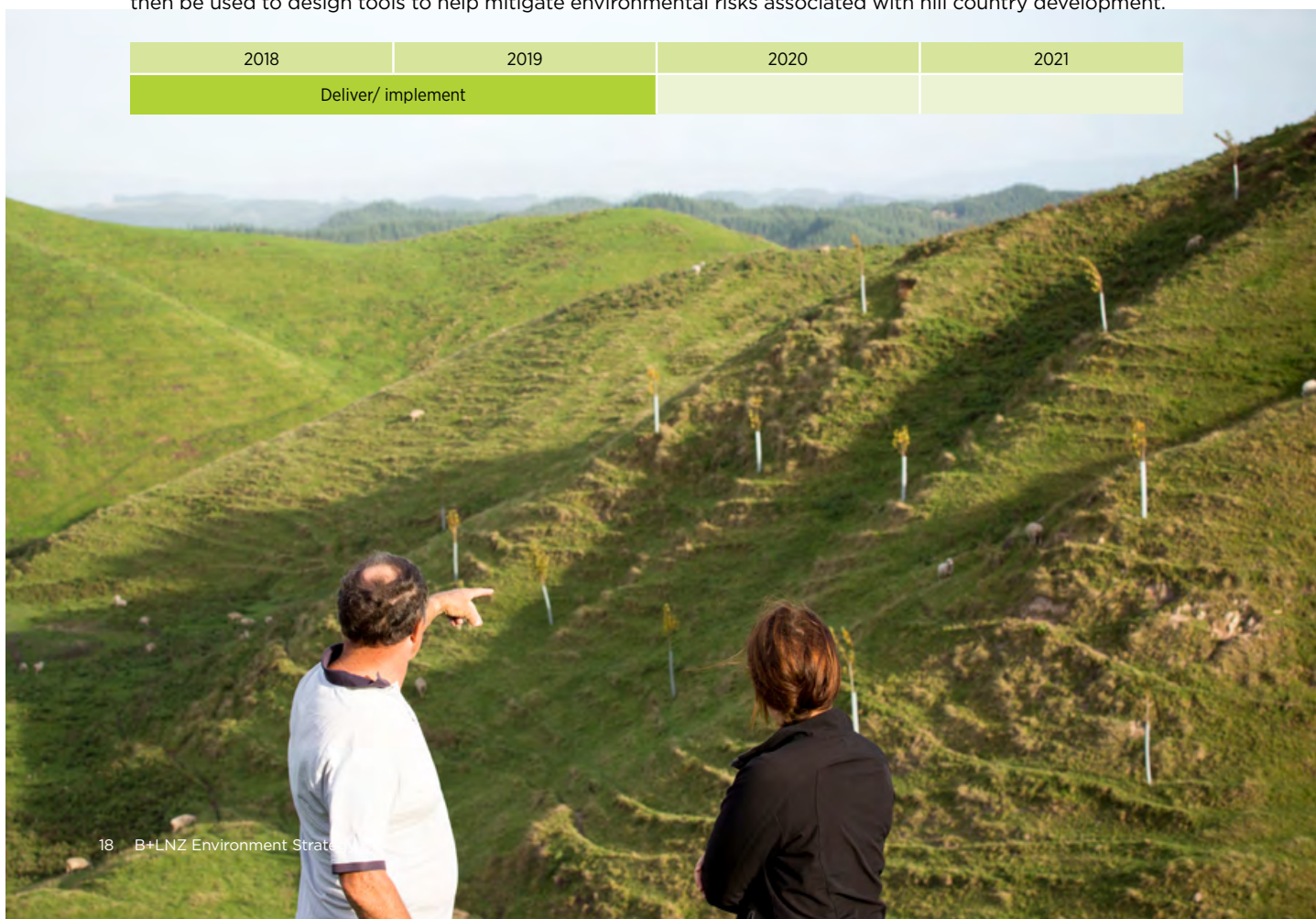
2018	2019	2020	2021
Develop/ co-design new programme	Deliver/ implement		

### 3.7 Canterbury hill country development project



B+LNZ has partnered with Environment Canterbury and the Ministry for the Environment to investigate farmer decisions - i.e. why they choose specific hill country development techniques. This information will then be used to design tools to help mitigate environmental risks associated with hill country development.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Deliver/ implement			



*Foundation 4*

## 4. Research to support evidence-based action and policy

Good quality evidence is essential to inform effective on-farm action, as well as policy design.

### 4.1 Apply OVERSEER® to Sheep and Beef Farms



B+LNZ is developing OVERSEER® nutrient budgets on a representative sample of farms, to better understand the contaminant discharge profile (greenhouse gases, nitrogen and phosphorous) at a farm level. The information will sit alongside farm production data to help inform how financial and environmental profiles align across B+LNZ's eight farm classes<sup>18</sup>.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Ongoing			

### 4.2 Confirm eco-efficiency measures



In 2012, AgResearch published work about the increasing eco-efficiency of the sheep and beef sector. B+LNZ has commissioned an update of this work, so it remains relevant for regional and central government policy.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Deliver/ implement			

### 4.3 Identify ecosystem services



Ecosystem services are the many and varied benefits that humans gain from the natural environment. B+LNZ has commissioned Landcare Research to quantify the ecosystem services associated with New Zealand's sheep and beef farms.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Deliver/ implement			

### 4.4 Support ongoing development of Land Use Classification (LUC)



LUC is an existing New Zealand land use classification system that can support decisions around land use change. B+LNZ supports the use of a natural capital basis for allocating nutrient discharge, and LUC lends itself to being used as a proxy for natural capital. B+LNZ will engage with scientists as they work to continually improve LUC.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Ongoing			

#### 4.5 Understand sector contribution to water quality



B+LNZ will commission research to better understand the sector’s contribution to water quality. This research will help B+LNZ work with regional councils and the Government to develop appropriate guidelines and regulation (where necessary) to achieve desired environmental outcomes.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Deliver/ implement			

#### 4.6 Measure carbon sink in vegetation on sheep and beef farms



Sheep and beef farms cover diverse landscapes, with numerous trees scattered across them. Many of these trees – whether they are shelterbelts, riparian plantings, erosion management plantings or blocks of native vegetation – are not counted in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).<sup>19</sup> B+LNZ will work with others to quantify the total carbon sink on sheep and beef farms (both inside and out of the ETS) to help inform government policy decisions.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Deliver/ implement			

#### 4.7 Pastoral Greenhouse Gas Research Consortium



As one of eight partners in the Pastoral Greenhouse Gas Research Consortium (PGgRc), B+LNZ will continue to invest in developing long-term mitigation options for farmers. PGgRc spends about \$5m annually on its programme of methane-reducing technologies and practices. PGgRc is specifically focusing on low-methane producing animals, low-methane feeds, a methane vaccine and methane inhibitors. PGgRc is also a member of the MPI-funded New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre (NZAGRC).



2018	2019	2020	2021
Ongoing			

#### 4.8 Study on-farm greenhouse-gas management practices



A partnership project with AgResearch, funded through the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre (NZAGRC), to examine current on-farm practices and the effect these have on a farm’s GHG emissions profile.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Ongoing			

#### 4.9 Understand vegetation on farms and identify biodiversity priorities



B+LNZ has undertaken a high-level analysis of native vegetation on sheep and beef farms to help understand the sector’s threats and opportunities around native vegetation management. The next step is to then understand habitat quality. With both quality and geographical distribution understood, B+LNZ can begin to identify biodiversity hotspots and investment priorities. Both sets of information will support extension and policy activities.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Deliver/ implement			

#### 4.10 Stocktake of soil health and structure



Soil health is fundamental to a profitable and resilient sheep and beef sector, yet we have very little information about soil health across the sector. This research will inform evidence-based policy, shape future extension programmes and help B+LNZ to target resources.

2018	2019	2020	2021
	Deliver/ implement		

#### 4.11 Understand sector contribution to erosion and sediment loss and identify hotspot catchments



Focusing efforts on reducing erosion and sediment loss is a high payoff activity for the red meat sector. However, no one has quantified different sectors’ contribution to erosion and sediment loss at the national scale. B+LNZ will work with leading experts to understand the sector’s contributions and hotspot catchments to help inform evidence-based policy and prioritise B+LNZ extension activities to address these issues.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Deliver/ implement			

#### 4.12 Partner to support water contaminant research



Leading scientists and scientific research institutes are developing new thinking and research around Critical Source Areas, critical flow pathways and attenuation. Given how important this information is to the sheep and beef sector, B+LNZ plans to form strategic partnerships with researchers to inform B+LNZ extension activities and policy development.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Deliver/ implement			

*Foundation 5*

## 5. Active engagement in policy discussions

Achieving improved environmental outcomes is a multi-pronged approach, of which regulation is an integral part. Well-designed policy creates incentives and results in actions that improve environmental outcomes across all four pillars.

B+LNZ will continue to:

- Build relationships with key stakeholders and partners;
- Work closely with central and local government to help co-design effective policy and methods; and
- Use evidence collected under foundation four to support robust policy outcomes.

### 5.1 Contribute to regional planning



B+LNZ will continue to build cases that provide for land use flexibility, profitability, and encourages farmer innovation, adaptability and resilience, while achieving the environmental outcomes sought by decision makers, regulators and communities.

B+LNZ will also continue to support farmers through regional planning processes, via workshops, online resources and access to its team of experts.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Ongoing			

### 5.2 Contribute to national policy and legislation



B+LNZ will continue to work with central Government to achieve policy and legislation that results in improved environmental outcomes.

Working in partnership with other key stakeholders, B+LNZ's 2018 /2019 focus will be contributing towards policy development and discussions around:

- Freshwater;
- Indigenous biodiversity;
- Greenhouse gas emissions;
- Hill country development; and
- Intensive winter grazing.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Ongoing			

*Foundation 6*

## 6. Enable farmer leadership

B+LNZ will support farmer leadership and demonstration of best practice. Activities will include:

### 6.1 Support Environment Farmer Reference Group to drive change



The Environment Farmer Reference Group, comprising farmer leaders from across New Zealand, help to guide B+LNZ environment activities and extend B+LNZ's environment programme to the farming community.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Ongoing			

### 6.2 Apply environmental best practice via the B+LNZ Future Farm



B+LNZ is leasing a hill country sheep and beef property as a Future Farm. Its purpose is to apply new technologies and systems, and to show how these impact on performance, while achieving the highest profit and environmental best practice. Resulting information will be freely available to support farmer decision making. This will speed up knowledge transfer between farmers and support honest reporting on the sector's environmental performance.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Ongoing			

### Case Study

#### PASSION AND INNOVATION PROTECTING TREASURED LAND

Southland sheep farmers Gay and Ron Munro have two QEII-covenanted areas - a peatbog with regenerating forest (64ha) on their farm and the other a nearby wetland area (89ha), adjoining a Department of Conservation reserve.

The Munros registered the first covenant on their farm in 1990, making open water areas, which have become home to eels and a stronghold for the giant kokopu - a rare native New Zealand fish.

Southland QEII rep at the time, Roger Sutton, said: "If you create habitat, the wildlife will come." He was right.

These days, Gay and Ron are passing on their love of nature to their family. "It's not just a farm, it's a way of life, and very special to us."

Photo and story (abridged) courtesy of QEII National Trust Open Spaces magazine, Nov 2017



2018 - 2022 23

Foundation 7

## 7. Tell farmers' stories

### 7.1 Interactive map of farmer stories covering action on water, carbon, biodiversity and soils



B+LNZ will develop an interactive, map-based platform to share farmers' stories and knowledge around improving outcomes for their farms and the environment. The map will capture and share on-the-ground progress towards environmental goals. Initially, the map will be relatively simple, but refined and added to over time.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Develop/ co-design	Deliver/ implement/ iterate		

### 7.2 Using evidence to support farmer experiences



B+LNZ will share the sector's stories using evidence collected to inform policy development and extension programmes. These stories will be shared via multiple channels including social media, factsheets, news articles, videos etc. B+LNZ also wants to work with farmers to help them tell their story themselves.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Ongoing			

### Case Study

#### FARM ENVIRONMENT PLANS PRACTICAL AND CRITICAL

Through Farm Environment Plans, B+LNZ provides practical guidance to address environmental issues at a farm level.

The High Country Lake Catchments Environment Project began in 2014 and worked with three Otago stations - Mt Aspiring, Mt Burke and Rees Valley - with the aim of advancing environmental sustainability in challenging conditions.

The two-year project aimed to add value to runholders' farm systems and environmental management, while also raising wider farmer awareness around regional council-set nutrient loss limits.

Year one of the project focused on building an advanced Level 3 Farm Environment Plan and nutrient management plan (using OVERSEER®) for each station.

Year two identified key mitigation strategies on-farm, then testing the predictions from OVERSEER® and modelling farm financial performance, in light of the council-set limits.

#### Key findings

- Meeting blunt rules focused on whole-farm contaminant losses can have dire effects on farm profitability.
- In some cases, the costs associated with improving farm environmental management can be mitigated by farm system changes to increase the economic farm surplus.
- A range of simple, tailored environmental mitigations can be identified by Farm Environment Planning and adopted to improve water quality at little cost the farm business.
- Opportunities that complement farming - such as eco-tourism - are worth exploring to add resilience to farming systems that face nutrient limits.
- Ultimately, environmental improvements can only be made by the people on farm. Farm Environment Plans are a critical tool.





## Foundation 8

# 8. Be held accountable

Accountability and performance measurement drive improvement.

## 8.1 Develop SMART<sup>20</sup> goals for water quality, carbon and GHG emissions, biodiversity, and soil health, erosion and sediment loss.



Transparency is central to the sheep and beef sector’s ethos. In consultation with farmers, government and other partners, B+LNZ will develop measurable goals to sit under each of the four pillars so New Zealand can see how the sector is progressing. Outcomes – not outputs – will be measured, and aggregated farm planning data will be one of the methods used to collect data. This work will also link to B+LNZ’s commitments under the “Good Farming Practice – Action Plan for Water”.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Develop/ co-design	Deliver/ implement/ iterate		

### Case Study

## ENGAGED FARMERS: A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

The iconic Rere Falls and Rockslide near Gisborne is a popular recreational spot on the Wharekopae River. However, E coli contamination compromises water quality to the extent that permanent signage warns people of the health risks and not to swim there.

Three years ago, B+LNZ, the Gisborne District Council, Ministry for the Environment and Rere farmers formed a collaboration to bring water quality up to a swimmable standard. The project is in its early stages and there are still further on farm practice improvements to be made but over time it is hoped that e-coli levels will improve. The importance of this project is, that virtually all farmers in the catchment came together to develop a plan to improve the water quality situation.

### Farmers taking action

Farmers Mark and Annie Gemmell own Mokonui Station, which borders the Wharekopae River 4km upstream from the rockslide. The 980ha property includes many creeks that feed into the river and 220ha of native bush. It runs 7500 stock units with a 50/50 mix of sheep and beef.



The couple and their son Sam – the third generation to run the farm – were involved in the Rere project from the outset.

Gemmells now regularly refer to their Farm Environment Plan to guide how they can lessen environmental risks to the river.

“Our involvement in this project and developing a farm plan has made us aware of what we need to keep monitoring and look out for to try and improve water quality.”

### Make clear gains and measure progress

When it comes to improving water quality, AgResearch Environmental Scientist Dr Richard Muirhead has three key messages:

1. Work as a catchment.
2. Find a catchment that has successfully addressed the issues you are facing.
3. Involve local iwi and the wider community

## Foundation 9

### 9. Represent our industry globally



International leadership ensures New Zealand farmers have a global voice and presence, can influence global rules around sustainability, and understand international developments that may be relevant domestically.

B+LNZ experts will continue to represent New Zealand at the:

#### 9.1 Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef

B+LNZ is a board member of the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef. The roundtable focuses on continuous improvement across all aspects of sustainability, including environmental, economic, social and cultural. B+LNZ is working with others to establish a New Zealand-specific Roundtable.

#### 9.2 Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)

New Zealand has responsibilities as an international good citizen. The FAO is the United Nations' specialised agency that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. New Zealand is one of its 194 member states. FAO's goal is to achieve food security for all and ensure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

Through the International Meat Secretariat (IMS), B+LNZ has helped fund the LEAP (Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance) Partnership that sits within FAO. It focuses on improving the environmental performance of livestock supply chains, while ensuring economic and social viability.

#### 9.3 Sustainable Agricultural Initiative Platform

B+LNZ is an affiliate member of the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform – an international non-profit organisation that facilitates sharing knowledge and best practice across stakeholders involved in the primary food value chain. B+LNZ contributes New Zealand's experience on sustainable agriculture and ensures our farm systems are recognised for the role they play in managing global environmental issues.

#### 9.4 International Meat Secretariat

The IMS is a non-profit organisation that represents the global meat and livestock sector at international level. It promotes:

- the sustainable supply of safe, healthy, high-quality and nutritious animal protein; and
- animal protein's place in a healthy, sustainable diet.

B+LNZ represents the sector and New Zealand's interests, and sits on the IMS Sustainable Meat Committee.

2018	2019	2020	2021
Ongoing			

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- <sup>16</sup>UMR Research, December 2017: Evaluation of the LEP/FEP workshops
- <sup>17</sup>The Waikato River Authority is a statutory body formed under the *Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010*, the *Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010*, and with additional responsibilities arising from the *Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012*, and He Mahere Taiao – The Maniapoto Iwi Environmental Management Plan.
- <sup>18</sup>B+LNZ categorises survey farms into one of eight farm classes. Farm classes are defined on the B+LNZ website at <https://beeflambnz.com/data-tools/farm-classes>
- <sup>19</sup>At least 1ha of trees in any individual area (can include woodlots). Comprises a forest species capable of reaching 5m in height at maturity in the place they are growing. Is planted at or at a stocking density that has the ability to exceed a tree crown cover of more than 30% on each hectare.
- <sup>20</sup>SMART goals are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time bound.



**beef+lamb**  
new zealand

**BY FARMERS.  
FOR FARMERS**

## Beef + Lamb New Zealand unveil new Environmental Strategy

A new blueprint to lift the environmental performance of New Zealand's sheep and beef sector has been unveiled by Beef + Lamb New Zealand (B+LNZ).  
Tuesday, 15 May 2018



- [Download \*\*ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2018-22\*\*](#) (PDF, 4.69 MB)
- [Download \*\*FAQs\*\*](#) (PDF, 235.51 KB)
- [Download \*\*Andrew Morrison's Environment Strategy launch speech\*\*](#) (PDF, 208.88 KB)
- [Download \*\*Sam McIvor's Environment Strategy launch speech\*\*](#) (PDF, 188.23 KB)

The Environment Strategy lays out a progressive long-term vision for the sector based around four priority areas – healthy productive soils, thriving biodiversity, reducing carbon emissions and cleaner water.

As part of the plan, B+LNZ has identified two key goals – every sheep and beef farm having a tailored and active environment plan by the end of 2021, and the sheep and beef sector as a whole moving towards carbon neutrality by 2050.

Over the next three years, B+LNZ will roll out a range of environmental initiatives to support sheep and beef farmers. This includes establishing a Collaborative Catchment Communities programme to help communities work together to target water quality, greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, and soil health issues.

The organisation will also invest in developing a new generation farm plan that encapsulates these four priorities, develop new tools and technology, provide support and advice and undertake research.

“As a sector we have an opportunity for our sheep and beef farmers to be world-leading stewards of the natural environment and sustainable communities,” says Sam McIvor, chief executive of B+LNZ.

“Sheep and beef farmers have made meaningful improvements to their environmental performance and lowering emissions and they deserve credit for these gains.

“However, farmers know there is more to be done – not just extending the good work already underway – but also taking new and different approaches.

“This includes adopting new management techniques that better connect actions to the environmental outcomes and more on-farm monitoring and measuring that gives farmers confidence their actions are reaping benefits.

We also need to allow the wider community to better understand the contributions farmers are making.”

“This strategy has been developed in partnership with sheep and beef farmers.

“This blueprint is about supporting sheep and beef farmers to manage their properties to improve freshwater, helping them to continue to reduce emissions and provide habitats that support biodiversity and protect our native species.

“We will also be working hard to ensure land use is closely matched to soil potential and capability. That will mean soil health, carbon content and productivity will improve while minimising soil erosion and loss to water ways.

“We will equip our farmers with the knowledge, and tools to best manage their resources and make changes as required.”

B+L NZ will also use funding from the Ministry for the Environment’s Freshwater Improvement Fund to work with farmers in four priority catchments to scale up individual actions.

Andrew Morrison, chair of B+L NZ, says since the 1990s, the sheep and beef sector has made major productivity and eco-efficiency gains and is now producing more from less.

“We’ve reduced Sheep numbers from 57.9 million to 27.6 million and beef cattle numbers have declined 23%.

“Absolute greenhouse gas emissions from sheep and beef farms are 30% below 1990 levels while the sector’s contribution to GDP has doubled to \$5 billion. GHG emissions per kilogram of saleable product have dropped by 40% and nitrate leaching per kilogram of saleable product has declined by 21%.

“New Zealanders are concerned about the declining natural environment and there is no question our climate is changing.

“It’s a concern shared by farmers.

“Consumers are expecting more, and disruptive technologies are challenging our existing systems and processes.

“But every challenge brings an opportunity and this Environment Strategy aims to turn today’s challenges into tomorrow’s opportunities.

“Agriculture is inextricably linked to the natural environment, which means how we farm today will directly affect what’s left for tomorrow.

“Our sheep and beef farmers fully understand this and are determined to be part of the solution.”

## **Find out more**

For more information, please contact Beef + Lamb New Zealand General Manager of Communications and Engagement, Rowena Hume, on 027 224 4535

## Beef + Lamb NZ Environment Strategy Launch



### Speech by Sam McIvor, CEO Beef + Lamb NZ

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and distinguished guests.

Two years ago, we embarked on a refresh of our organisational strategy. B+LNZ's strategy, built with farmers is a reflection of their emerging needs and aspirations.

It points to both the challenges and opportunities, both domestically and globally that farmers see.

Farmers told us they wanted bold leadership in a range of areas, that we needed to tell their story, and create a better understanding of our sector with urban audiences and our global customers.

It was clear there was, and still is, an ambition for the sector to be valued by all New Zealanders, a return to the once shared pride in our industry.

Profitability was core and success would be reflected in thriving farming communities. There was also a significant pivot to the customer – to tell the NZ red meat story underpinned by evidence particularly our environmental credentials.

The environment was elevated to one of our top priorities.

And the environment now underpins much of what we do at Beef + Lamb NZ.

That's reflected in the fact that nearly every member of the Beef + Lamb NZ is now working on something related to the environment. Practically every project we do now has an environmental lens applied to it

We have been supporting farmers in the environmental area for some time. Facilitating farmer groups to develop land and environmental plans. Working with them in the regional planning processes for water quality, helping them prepare and present their submissions in the hearings.

But we're facing a new dawn.

Climate Change and the need to transition the world to a low carbon future is increasingly in the news and we need to respond. Closer to home, the Government is introducing their Carbon Zero Bill and we need to be part of that conversation. Biodiversity is also becoming front and centre.

When we set out on this process, we wanted the Strategy to be bold enough to take sheep and beef farmers through to 2040, making them sustainable environmentally, economically, socially and culturally.

We wanted to ensure farmers have access to the right tools and that the right policies are in place.

We also recognised we needed to do better in engaging our urban counterparts too, ensuring they have a better understanding of how we farm, the positive contributions we are making to the environment, but at the same hearing their viewpoint and them

## Beef + Lamb NZ Environment Strategy Launch



contributing to a blueprint to improve our environmental performance further to allay their concerns.

We also wanted this to be a mechanism for farmers to rebuild their pride. They care deeply about the environment and we wanted to find a way of demonstrating their commitment in a meaningful way.

For me personally, this environment strategy achieves all these things.

It sets a vision for us to be world-leading stewards of the natural environment and communities, but it's also more than just words and green landscapes.

The strategy shows where we want to go, but crucially, it shows farmers, the government, our partners and wider New Zealand the steps we need to take to get there. We have focused on the next three years in our implementation plan, but make no mistake, the environment will remain a top priority for our organisation beyond that timeframe.

I would like to thank all the people and organisations that we worked with in the creation of this strategy.

Our farmers actively engaged in its development and we received very helpful feedback from government, NGOs, academics, and other industry organisations.

As stewards of the land, the environment is at the heart of everything we do.

It's also a vital component of the Red Meat Story and our Taste Pure Nature origin brand launched earlier this month.

We believe that we have the most authentic story to tell in terms of our unique temperate climate – that allows us to have a less intensive approach to farming. These combine to create a unique and natural flavour experience.

New Zealand is one of the most environmentally efficient farming systems in the world. Page 6 of the strategy details some of that journey. However, we recognise that agriculture has an impact on the environment and that work must continue to understand, and address these impacts. In this way, our industry and country are safeguarded for future generations.

Good environmental management is a key selling point for New Zealand primary sector products, internationally. New Zealand has a unique brand – one that we want to protect and to continue building on.

We are targeting the premium customers and these consumers care about the provenance of their food, environment is a key component of that provenance.

Our environmental journey started some time ago but this is a significant ramp up in terms of organisational focus, investment, resourcing, and accountable action.

This vision has stretch and in some cases is a step into the unknown, but we are absolutely committed to it as an organisation and as a sector. The action plan shows the steps we've committed to.



## Beef + Lamb NZ Environment Strategy Launch



It also recognises that we're all in this together whether you're central or regional government, NGO's, the wider community, agri services companies, iwi or science you have a part to play in helping our sector succeed which in turn feeds thriving rural communities, and ultimately a sustainably vibrant economy.

I trust we can rely on your support and commitment to this vision too.

Thankyou

# Beef + Lamb NZ Environment Strategy Launch



## Speech by Andrew Morrison, Chairman Beef + Lamb NZ

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Andrew Morrison. I'm the chair of Beef + Lamb New Zealand.

I'm excited to be here tonight because like most of you and many farmers in our beautiful country, I'm intensely passionate about what I/we do as a sector.

I introduce myself as Chairman of Beef and Lamb New Zealand, but foremost I am a farmer from Southland.

Some might say in my case that it is kind of a wet and cold environment in Southland, but hey it is an environment in a rural community with rural people that I love.

Personally this is an environment that for six generations we have farmed our livestock; our families and our communities all along the way have respected it, nurtured it, taken a couple of beatings from it, but valued the environment as the source and enabler of all that we do.

That's why this Environment Strategy Vision coupled with the Implementation Plan is important to us at Beef and Lamb as it is to you all here tonight.

The Environment strategy that Beef + Lamb New Zealand is launching is about building on and supporting our passion as farmers. Building and supporting people and communities.

Farmers recognise there is unprecedented public concern for the natural environment.

We recognise as a sector that agricultural production has an impact on the environment.

As outlined in our strategy, and as you will all be aware, some of our sector's main environmental challenges are erosion, sediment, e-coli and carbon emissions.

While some good progress has been made, we also recognise that more needs to be done and we want to acknowledge that here tonight.

This strategy has been developed to help sheep and beef farmers set out their vision of success, and map out how the sector can get there.

We at Beef and Lamb NZ are a solutions based organisation and tonight we want to map out our action plan to addressing our issues. Julia Beijeman, our Environment Strategy manager will quickly run through the implementation plan after my talk.

Farmers fundamentally want to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

The strategy sets out high level goals we want to achieve as a sector including:

- healthy productive soils;
- clean water that NZers can gather food and swim in;
- carbon neutrality; and
- thriving biodiversity.

## Beef + Lamb NZ Environment Strategy Launch



Underpinning the strategy is a three-year implementation plan aimed at driving the sector forward towards meeting those goals.

The number of projects looks very ambitious, but a number of them are already underway and some are nearing completion.

As we get things underway we expect that these projects will develop and grow.

At the heart of the strategy is for every farmer to have a tailored land environment plan by 2021.

Currently we estimate about 40 percent of sheep and beef farmers have one, but they are of varying quality as the science has evolved over the last couple of years.

We also know that the greatest environmental improvements come when farmers in a catchment work together and that is why we are intending to significantly lift our support for catchment work and to collaborate with other industries like dairy and horticulture.

One of the main things we hear from farmers is that they don't know exactly what their impacts are. The science is complex.

The projects outlined in this strategy will help develop and provide access to the most cutting edge tools to help farmers understand where they are at, and identify the activities that will have the greatest impact. This is important when you have a finite budget.

As a farmer I am personally excited about having access to these tools. As a farmer I can say there are two things that farmers love:

- Farmers like tools,
- Farmers like physically doing stuff. Link the tool with the action and let them loose.

This strategy also takes into account all the main elements of the environment and how they intersect and interact.

We believe that this will be of great assistance in working with national and local government to develop sound policies going forward.

There have been a lot of reports released recently that just look at one environmental issue in isolation, when they are often inter-related.

We want to ensure that new rules going forward recognise a one-sized fits all approach does not make sense. Each farm is different and has different environmental impacts. On one farm it may be e-coli and on another erosion.

Our sector has already significantly reduced its carbon emissions, and though it will be a stretch, we are keen to target being carbon neutral by 2050.

We have already reduced our absolute emissions by 30 percent since 1990 as our sheep flock has reduced by 50 percent and beef cattle by 23 percent.

In conjunction we have significantly lifted our productivity and are producing nearly the same amount of sheepmeat due to improved lambing percentages and larger lambs. All of this achieved while reducing our land footprint by a quarter.

## Beef + Lamb NZ Environment Strategy Launch



These figures demonstrate that we are an industry that responds and adapts to challenges, and we can do it.

Building on this we are currently undertaking work to understand how much carbon is being sequestered by the significant tracts of native forestry and forestry blocks on sheep and beef properties, but we think that would take us a considerable way to being carbon neutral.

For example, about quarter of all native vegetation in New Zealand and nearly half of all QEII covenants occur on sheep and beef farms.

As part of our goal to move towards carbon neutrality, we want to work with the government and the 1 billion trees policy. Our overriding principle is right tree, right place, and right time.

Some of our farmers are interested in planting pines, but in many areas this is either not economically feasible (as the land is too remote from ports) or desirable (as the land may be highly erodible and the impact of harvesting trees worse than the current situation).

We do see scope, however, for broader environmental wins if we were able to work with the government to encourage the planting of trees suitable for preventing erosion, riparian planting, or shade – particularly through the planting of natives.

I do feel that there is a fundamental change under way in the way we approach our job as stewards.

This strategy is about building and supporting the true essence of stewardship that many farmers already hold.

Like Sam, I would also like to acknowledge that the input we received along the way from a wide range of partners. We are committed to continuing working with you on these projects and on developing new ones. I hope you feel this strategy is just as much your Strategy as it is Ours.

This is where the rubber hits the road. This is the stuff you can hold us to account on. And that's the way we want it

This strategy is about supporting every farmer to develop and most importantly put a plan into action that will help us achieve our vision.

But our real power is where we as an agricultural sector are working together with a common goal.

Connect these farm based actions to the priorities that communities have for where we live work and play.

This is how our communities and our land will thrive.

## Agenda Memorandum

**Date** 28 August 2018



**Memorandum to  
Chairperson and Members  
Policy and Planning Committee**

**Subject: Soil quality in the Taranaki region – 5  
yearly survey results**

**Approved by:** G K Bedford, Director - Environment Quality  
BG Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 2059827

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### Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise the Committee that the Council has completed another 5-yearly survey of regional soil quality as per its on-going State of the Environment programme, and to provide a summary of the reported findings (presented in full in 'Soil quality in the Taranaki Region 2017: current status and comparison with previous samplings', Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, May 2018).

The summary of the report is attached to this memorandum, and the full report is both linked within councillors' agendas and also publicly available on the Council's website at [www.trc.govt.nz/land-and-agriculture/](http://www.trc.govt.nz/land-and-agriculture/).

### Executive summary

The Council undertakes regular soil analysis at regionally representative sites of a number of differing land uses, as part of its suite of 'state of the environment' monitoring programmes. The soil quality survey recognizes the importance of soil as a regional resource and reflects concerns over the sustainability of some uses of soil, as described in the Council's 'Regional Soil Plan for Taranaki' (October 2001). The Plan further notes that '*The soil resources of Taranaki are an important part of Māori culture and traditions.... The spiritual beliefs held by Māori link the Tangata Whenua to their original parents Papa-tū-a-nuku (Earth Mother) and Ranginui (Sky Father) as part of a complete living system... The Taranaki Regional Council recognises that to Māori, the soil resources of the region have the qualities of mauri. If the mauri of the land is not respected, then it will not flourish and it will lose its vitality and fruitfulness. A healthy and proper state of balance must therefore be maintained.*' The Council is committed to maintaining soil quality, particularly its structural integrity, nutrient levels, and soil health.

The Council has now completed its fourth survey of soils in the region, following on from an extended 1996-2001 survey conducted as part of the national '500 soils' programme and subsequent samplings in 2007-2008 and 2012. The continual sampling allows the Council to determine not only the state of soils in the region, but also any indication of trends in quality and hence to evaluate the effectiveness of the Council's policies and interventions and regional land management practices.

The report notes that the general patterns in soil quality are similar to those found in other regions. Soils across all land uses are within current target ranges for most parameters: pH, total carbon, carbon:nitrogen ratio, nitrate, mineralisable nitrogen, bulk density, particle density, cadmium, and total porosity. Metrics of potential concern are total nitrogen, Olsen phosphate (both higher than current target values), and macroporosity (lower than target value). These latter results indicate the potential for enhanced loss of nutrients from pasture i.e. economic loss for farmers (less efficient use of inputs, reduced productivity) and effects upon waterways (nutrient enrichment). However, officer note that monitoring and trend analysis of nutrient levels in the region's waterways shows that if anything nutrient concentrations are actually steady if not reducing. Under land used for plantation forestry, there were reductions in microbial mass and mineralisable nitrogen. This is consistent with forests reaching the end of their growth cycle.

While more measures across all sites are outside target values for optimal soil productivity than in previous surveys, the authors note that this is due in large part to new guidelines for Olsen phosphate, rather than an actual deterioration in soil quality.

Ecological diversity in most soils was consistent across the region, with evidence of decreased ecology only in soils used for cropping.

Overall, the study showed few significant trends in soil quality, but the authors noted some indications of directions of travel. While the percentage of both organic carbon and organic nitrogen are increasing in dairy pasture (that is, soils under dairying land use are sequestering both carbon and nitrogen), nitrogen is increasing at a faster rate. This might suggest a tendency toward eventual nitrogen saturation and potential consequent nitrogen loss.

Notably in the light of various statements made publicly by a few parties over the risk of supposed increasing levels of cadmium in pastoral soils in NZ, it can be noted that concentrations of cadmium have remained stable, and if anything are showing slight reductions on a regional basis eg. 11 sites showing reduction against 5 showing an increase; more dairy sites showing a reduction than an increase; the averaged changes showing a reduction in concentration.

The key regional issues to emerge from the survey are compaction of soils subject to animal grazing, higher than target (excess) nitrogen levels in dairy soils, and low nutrient levels (low fertility) in hill country and forestry soils. These aspects of soil quality can generally be reversed by appropriate soil and land use management. While this falls primarily to the responsibility of the farming sector, the Council can consider further opportunities for the promotion of appropriate interventions through its current review of the *Regional Water and Land Plan*, together with other interventions.

## **Recommendations**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum noting the preparation of a report *Soil quality in the Taranaki region 2017: current status and comparison with previous samplings* (Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, May 2018)
2. notes the findings of the report, that the general patterns in Taranaki's soil quality are similar to those in other regions; that the primary concerns that emerge from this survey relate to compaction of soils in pasture, elevated nitrogen levels in dairy and drystock

soils, and low nutrient levels in hill-country and forestry soils; and that generally, aspects of poor soil quality can be reversed by appropriate management

3. notes that the findings of the study will be considered during the preparation of the *Regional Water and Land Plan*
4. distributes the report to the landowners concerned, and to other interested parties.

## Background

The *Regional Soil Plan for Taranaki 2001 (RSP)* has as one of its objectives, 'to maintain and enhance the soil resources of the Taranaki region by avoiding, remedying or mitigating the degradation of soil health as a result of inappropriate land management practices'. The policies that implement this objective are:-

'The Taranaki Regional Council will encourage land management practices and techniques that avoid, remedy or mitigate soil structural degradation and compaction, particularly of those soils which have moderate and high to very high structural vulnerability;

The Taranaki Regional Council will encourage land management practices that avoid, remedy or mitigate depletion of nutrient levels of soils in the Taranaki region;

The Taranaki Regional Council will encourage land management practices that avoid an adverse increase in residual soil contaminant levels in the Taranaki region, by promoting

(a) the careful consideration of the appropriateness of types of agrichemicals and fertilisers and quantities to be applied, and

(b) the careful use of other agricultural compounds that may also give rise to soil health issues;

The Taranaki Regional Council will monitor soil health, and gather and provide information on soil health issues in the Taranaki region'.

The RSP includes a discussion of the significance of soil for the relationship of Māori with the soil resources of Taranaki. It notes '*The soil resources of Taranaki are an important part of Māori culture and traditions..... The spiritual beliefs held by Māori link the Tangata Whenua to their original parents Papa-tū-a-nuku (Earth Mother) and Ranginui (Sky Father) as part of a complete living system. The soil is part of that living system. Māori cherish the soil as the mantle of Papa-tū-anuku, the Earth Mother, who is ultimately responsible for sustaining people by nurturing the growth of crops, forests and other plants and animals.*

*The Māori see land as having the qualities of mauri (life force). If the mauri of the land is not respected, then it will not flourish and it will lose its vitality and fruitfulness. A healthy and proper state of balance must therefore be maintained. The Taranaki Regional Council recognises that to Māori, the soil resources of the region have the qualities of mauri. The Council further recognises that if soils are eroded or degraded through inappropriate use then the soil will lose its mauri.'*(pg17, RSP)

In 1996-2001, this Council participated in a soil quality assessment programme conducted nation-wide, referred to as the '500 soils' programme. Some 46 representative sites were used to characterise the state of soils in the region. The programme was delivered and reported on by Landcare Research.

The 1996-2001 study found that the soils of the region had generally good structure, but there was some evidence of soil compaction at 16 of the 32 dairy farm sites studied. The structural degradation was evidenced by a reduction in macroporosity, which in turn leads to reduced aeration, a tendency for soils to turn 'sour', decreased water infiltration and retention capacity, and accelerated run-off. The most likely cause was identified as the 'pugging' of soil by cattle during wet weather (when the soil is saturated), with paddocks either intensively stocked or left stocked for extended periods under those conditions. The report noted compaction is generally reversible, depending on pasture and stock management.

The 1996-2001 study found no evidence that nutrient depletion was either a significant or an immediate issue in the region. The study found also that residual pasture contamination by cadmium and pesticides was not an issue, these contaminants being present only at concentrations well below investigation trigger levels.

The Committee on 1 May 2003 confirmed that the study should be repeated at appropriate intervals, not just for state of the environment reporting but also in assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the *Regional Soil Plan for Taranaki* in relation to its methods addressing soil health issues.

In anticipation of the preparation of a 2008 State of the Environment report, Landcare was commissioned in 2007 to work with the Council in a repeat of the 1996-2001 survey, as had been flagged in the 2003 memo. The work was subsequently completed and reported to Council. While overall fewer sites were sampled, a couple of additional sites were included to obtain better coverage of areas of the region where there had been less human intervention in the landscape.

Testing for zinc and cadmium, two trace elements potentially of concern, found no issues. Crucially, bio-available forms were orders of magnitude below 'total' concentrations, which were themselves well below guideline values used to indicate a potential issue.

The next survey was conducted in 2012, and found the picture generally unchanged.

## **Discussion**

For the current study, 20 locations were selected for sampling. The sites are shown on the attached map. At each site multiple samples were collected along a 50-metre transect to composite as a representative sample. The sites were those that had already been characterised in the previous (2012) study. That is, while the 1996-2001 study focused on pasture used for dairying and hill country farming, the more recent studies have also covered 'undisturbed' soils beneath native bush (to indicate a baseline), and soils used for cropping/market gardening (these typically show accelerated degradation, and with increasing emphasis upon fodder cropping to increase dairy stocking intensity it is important to quantify these effects within the Taranaki region).

Sites were sampled in October-November 2017, in spring. This correlated with the sampling period for the 2012 survey.

Analyses included an assessment of nutrients, structural integrity, and organic content (to provide data relevant to concerns over 'soil harvesting'). The Council also again commissioned studies relating to soil microbial health. This is a relatively new field of study in New Zealand. It reflects a growing awareness of the need to safeguard ecological diversity within soil communities, and that soil health has a biological as well as a physicochemical component. The full report carries details of the particular parameters and their significance.



The report includes a review of any indications of trends in soil quality between sampling surveys.

The report provides a brief description of the methods of analysis, and their purpose.

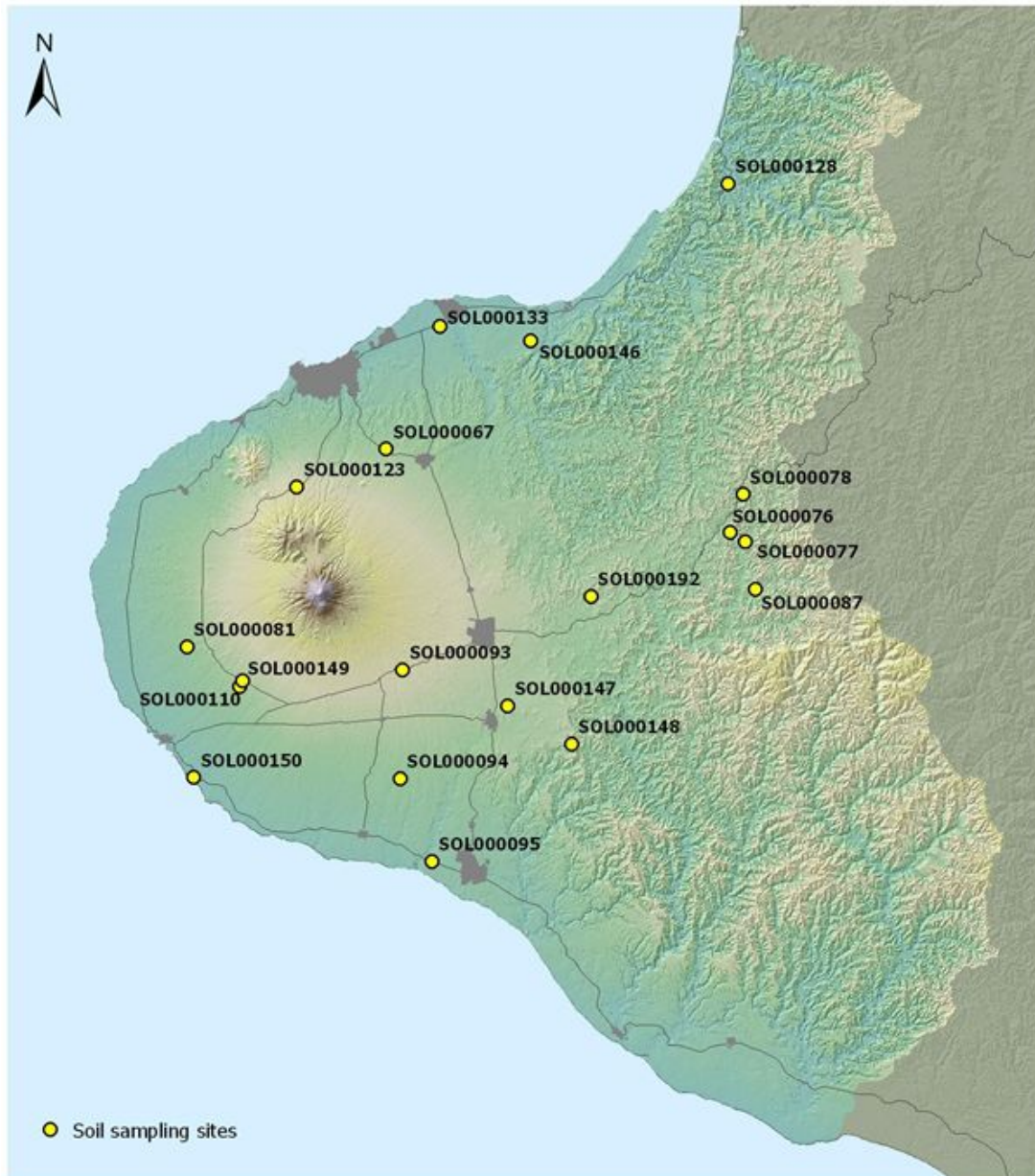


Figure 1: soil sampling sites 2017

Soil sampling sites and associated land use

Plantation	Dairy	Drystock	Market/crop	Native bush
SOL000076	SOL000081	SOL000067	SOL000133	SOL000148
SOL000077	SOL000093	SOL000087	SOL000146	SOL000149
SOL000078	SOL000094	SOL000123		

	SOL000095	SOL000128		
	SOL000110	SOL000191		
	SOL000147	SOL000192		
	SOL000150			

### **Cropping sites (market garden and maize)**

The two sites studied included one market garden site and one maize site. With only two sites, caution should be exercised when generalising to a regional perspective. The report noted that the chemical and physical characteristics of the two sites were generally satisfactory. However, both sites were also among those with the lowest quantity of microbial mass and high (and increasing) Olsen phosphate concentrations, as also found in previous surveys. The report notes that cropping sites frequently have lower microbial mass than pastures, because of repeated soil disturbance and reduced returns to soil.

While the two sites each showed variation from 5 years ago, there were no overall trends common to both sites other than the common increase in phosphate.

### **Drystock pastures**

Six sites were surveyed. Five of the six sites showed a high level of compaction and loss of macroporosity, to the same extent as the dairy pastures. Microbial mass, abundance, diversity, and composition at the drystock sites were similar to or higher than those generally found across all sites. Chemical and biochemical parameters were generally satisfactory although only one of the six sites had all chemical/biochemical indicators within target ranges.

Taking all drystock sites together, there have been no apparent shifts in quality, with very small overall changes being much smaller than between-site variability. Drystock sites were characterised by high Olsen phosphate, high topsoil compaction, and low macroporosity.

For the 2 drystock sites sampled in all 4 studies, macroporosity has actually improved in the latest survey, having been deteriorating in the 3 previous surveys; there has also been a jump in phosphate concentrations, which were previously below the target range. It remains to be seen whether these changes were an artefact of the current sampling regime or reflect a real and recent change.

### **Dairy pastures**

Seven sites were surveyed. Most dairy farms were showing excess nitrogen and phosphate (noting that new target values for phosphate are lower than previously promulgated). A small reduction in mineralisable nitrogen was apparent in dairy pastures on a regional scale.

A majority of the dairying soils showed evidence of compaction. On four of seven sites, macroporosity was below the target value. This percentage is smaller than in previous surveys. Taken across all sites for each land use, macroporosity is actually lower on average of drystock land than for dairying pasture.

Ecological diversity and microbial biomass were as rich in the dairy pasture soils as they were in soils associated with other land uses, such as plantation or indigenous forestry.

For the 4 dairy pasture sites sampled in all 4 studies, it is noted that 3 sites show reductions in macroporosity from two decades ago, although improving at all sites over the last sampling survey in 2012.

### **Plantation forestry**

The soil characteristics for plantation forest sites were similar to soils associated with other land uses. All three sites were the lowest in the region in phosphate (below target ranges), but otherwise had all indicators within the ranges expected for land use and soil type. Total carbon, total nitrogen, and mineralisable nitrogen are generally reducing (to be expected as plantations approach maturity).

Bulk densities were marginally low, and were lower than for other land uses. This is typical of plantation forestry on young soils. It would be an issue only if converted to pasture, as very low densities carry a slightly elevated risk of erosion.

### **Indigenous bush**

Two sites were surveyed. The soils were amongst the most acidic of land uses, and with low phosphorus levels and low density. Basal respiration and microbial mass results were similar to those of other land uses also.

### **Cadmium**

There is considerable interest in the question of whether cadmium (a contaminant naturally present in phosphate rock) is accumulating in pasture soils through the application of superphosphate fertiliser, to an extent that poses an environmental risk. To this end the Council requested analyses for this element again be included in the survey. Both total and bio-available forms were determined. The latter is a measure of how much cadmium might become soluble (and hence be absorbed instead of simply passing through) within the digestive system of a ruminant.

Previously cadmium levels in soil have been referenced to a national guide for application of biosolids to land. This guideline figure was 1.0 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup>. Conceptually, this represented a concentration of cadmium within material being applied to land that could be continued indefinitely and without restriction upon loading rates, without compromising the concentration of cadmium in the soil itself. It was not based on any concept of adverse effects either to the soil or to any produce gathered from the soil.

This figure has more recently been superseded by criteria set out in the Tiered Fertiliser Management System (TFMS), prepared and released by the national Cadmium Working Group (2011). The former figure is now effectively redundant for the purpose of managing productive land. The TFMS has 4 tiered criteria. Below 0.6 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup>, no measures to manage cadmium need be considered. Above 0.6 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup> and below 1.0 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup>, there should be occasional testing and landowner awareness that cadmium may be increasing unless management is applied. Above 1.0 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup> and below 1.4 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup>, landowners are expected to actively manage (through monitoring and if needs be control of applications of fertilisers containing Cd) land so that cadmium does not exceed 1.8 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup> and should not exceed 1.4 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup> within a 100 year timeframe. The 1.8 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup> is a figure derived from best international studies, to provide protection to the most sensitive of food crops (market gardens) and soil ecology.

No site was found to be above 1.4 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, and only one site was found to be above 1.0 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup>, the same result as in 2007 and 2012. Generally cadmium levels were highest on actively managed land (there was little distinction between dairy soils and drystock, market gardening, and cropping soils) and lowest within plantation forestry and indigenous forestry soils.

Importantly, the number of sites in the lowest tier increased by 4 between 2007 and 2012-2017, from 11 (55%) to 15 (75%); the number of dairy farms showing a further reduction in cadmium (4) since 2012 out-numbered the number of dairy farms showing an increase in cadmium (3); and the number of sites showing a reduction of more than 0.01 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup> out-numbered the number of sites showing an increase, by 11: 5.

Modelling work done elsewhere in NZ in 2005 had suggested that dairy farms in Taranaki would on average be increasing their soil cadmium concentration by 0.006 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup> per year, or 0.03 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup> in 5 years; with the highest users of superphosphate increasing by 0.013 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup> per year, or 0.06 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup> in 5 years. The overall average regional change found in this survey between 2012 and 2017 was a **reduction** of 0.04 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup> in 5 years, which in turn follows on an overall **reduction** of 0.06 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup> in the 5 years from 2007 to 2012. However, very wide variations in the extent of change over 5 years were found at each individual site, ranging from an apparent increase of 0.27 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup>, to an apparent decrease of 0.43 mg Cd kg<sup>-1</sup>. This suggests in turn wide variability in soil concentrations across paddocks and/or significantly varying outcomes for soil cadmium levels depending on individual on-farm soil and fertiliser management.

### **Overall state of and trends in soil quality in Taranaki**

The report notes that the general patterns in soil quality are similar to those found in other regions. Soils across all land uses are within current target ranges for most parameters: pH, total carbon, carbon:nitrogen ratio, nitrate, mineralisable nitrogen, bulk density, particle density, cadmium, and total porosity.

Metrics of potential concern are total nitrogen, Olsen phosphate (both of which are higher than current target values), and macroporosity (lower than target value). These particular results indicate the potential for enhanced loss of nutrients from pasture ie economic loss for farmers (less efficient use of inputs, reduced productivity) and effects upon waterways (nutrient enrichment). However, officers note that monitoring and trend analysis of nutrient levels in the region's waterways show that if anything in-stream nutrient concentrations are actually steady, if not reducing.

Under forestry land use, there were reductions in microbial mass and mineralisable nitrogen. This is consistent with forests reaching maturity on soils that do not receive regular inputs.

While more measures across all sites are outside target values for optimal soil productivity than in previous surveys, the authors note that this is due in large part to the promulgation of new guidelines for Olsen phosphate, rather than an actual deterioration in soil quality.

Ecological diversity in most soils was consistent across the region, with evidence of decreased ecology only in soils used for cropping.

Overall, the study showed few significant trends in soil quality, but the authors noted some indications of directions of travel. While the percentage of both organic carbon and organic nitrogen are increasing in dairy pasture (that is, soils under dairying land use are sequestering carbon), nitrogen is increasing at a faster rate. This might suggest a tendency toward eventual nitrogen saturation and potential consequent nitrogen loss. Macroporosity is reducing at a number of sites.

### **Conclusions**

The main conclusions of the report are that the general patterns in soil quality are similar to those in other regions; and that the primary concerns that emerge from this survey relate to

compaction of soils in pasture, high nitrogen and phosphate levels in some dairy and drystock soils, and low nutrient levels in some hill-country and forestry soils. The report notes that generally, aspects of poor soil quality can be reversed by appropriate management.

The report includes some recommendations/suggestions for addressing these issues. It can be noted that the Council is reviewing its *Regional Water and Land Plan*, through which these suggestions can be considered. Other recommendations relate to technical aspects of the continuation of this work.

### **Decision-making considerations**

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **Policy considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

### **Iwi considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

### **Legal considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

### **Appendices/Attachments**

Document 2057562 (excerpt): Summary from *Soil Quality in the Taranaki Region 2017: current status and comparison with previous samplings*, May 2018, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research

## Summary

### Project and Client

Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) has been monitoring soil quality on different soils and land uses in the Taranaki Region since 1995. The council participated in the 500 Soils Project soil quality assessment programme 1996–2001, and some 46 sites were characterised. To determine whether soil quality was changing, it was intended that the sites should be resampled at a future date, typically, 3–10 years later depending on the land use. The council decided to resample some sites in 2007–2008, and also to include new sites with ‘low intervention’. These sites have been resampled in 2012 and 2017. Taranaki Regional Council land resources staff collected the soil samples. Landcare Research was contracted to supply sampling equipment, complete soil analyses, and provide an interpretive report.

### Objectives

- Provide equipment to TRC staff for soil samples to be taken in October–November 2017.
- Complete analyses on soil samples including seven key soil quality indicators following protocols established in the 500 Soils Project.
- Report on biological activity (i.e. microbial biomass C and respiration).
- Relate soil quality status to land use, and identify extent and direction of any changes compared with samples previously analysed from these sites in 2012 (and 1998–2007) where applicable.

### Methods

- Sites were pre-selected and sampled by Taranaki Regional Council staff and soil samples provided to Landcare Research.
- Soil quality was assessed using the seven key soil quality indicators: total C and N content, anaerobically mineralisable N, pH, Olsen P, bulk density, and macroporosity.
- The values were compared against recommended target ranges for those soils and land uses. Updated target ranges (Mackay et al., 2013) were used to be consistent with national reporting (e.g. MfE Our Land 2018).
- Biological functioning was assessed using microbial biomass by the fumigation-extraction and activity from soil respiration.
- Soil cadmium (Cd) was analysed for total (nitric/hydrochloric acid extractable) Cd and bioavailable (calcium nitrate extractable) Cd.
- Data from the current sampling were compared against any archive data for the same sites, to assess what changes had occurred.

### Results

- Twenty sites were sampled including two indigenous sites. Target value statistics for chemical/biochemical indicators refer to gravimetric reporting except where noted for comparison to previous reports. The 18 managed sites were tested for seven primary indicators giving a total of 126 soil quality characteristics, 90 (71%) of which were within target ranges. On a site basis, only one site (5.5% of sites) met all targets, three

sites (17%) did not meet the target range for one characteristic, 10 sites (56%) did not meet the target ranges for two characteristics, and four sites (22 %) did not meet target ranges for three or more characteristics.

- For comparison with previous sampling using volumetric target values, two sites (11%) met all targets, seven sites (39%) did not meet targets for one indicator, seven (39%) sites did not meet targets for two indicators, and two sites (11%) did not meet targets for three or more indicators. This is in comparison with 11% of sites meeting all targets, 50% of sites not meeting the target range for one characteristic, 33% of sites not meet the target ranges for two characteristics, and 6% of sites not meet target ranges for three or more characteristics in the 2012 sampling.
- Compared with the previous sampling (on a volumetric basis), there is a decline in soil quality statistics, but this is partly due to the decreased Olsen P target values now in use.
- Nine of the thirteen dairy and drystock sites monitored (69%) were below target values for macroporosity.
- On a gravimetric basis, total N was over target limits on six of the seven dairy sites and two of the six drystock sites. On a volumetric basis three of the seven dairy sites and none of the six drystock sites were over target value limits.
- Olsen P was below target limits on 2 forestry sites and above target values on nine pastoral sites (5 dairy and 4 drystock) and 1 crop/hort site. The new Olsen P target values are more restrictive than the previous targets, but also more in line with current fertiliser recommendations.
- In direct comparison with samples from the previous sampling, only a few significant changes occurred. Most notably for dairy, there was a significant decrease in the soil C:N ratio. For forestry, there were decreases in AMN and MBC, which would be consistent with maturing exotic forests.
- Although there was some variation among individual samples for soil Cd, there was no overall significant change in soil Cd concentrations.
- Respiration and microbial biomass provided some indications of biological health and activity of the below-ground soil system, but in the absence of defined target ranges for these soil attributes we are only able to supply general comments. Cropping sites generally had the lowest microbial biomass and the lowest measured anaerobically mineralisable N, indications of low functioning and a poor habitat for microorganisms, while indigenous sites generally had the highest microbial biomass.

## Conclusions

- Overall there has been a decrease in soil quality statistics of sites monitored, but this is related to the more realistic Olsen P target range values (i.e. more sites are outside the new ranges than the old) rather than a trend in indicator values themselves. It is important to note, however, that Olsen P levels at several sites were still exceptionally high (in excess of 100  $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ ).
- The general patterns in soil quality are similar to those found in other regions. Primary concerns are (1) compaction of soils on dairy and drystock sites; (2) and generally high Olsen P and/or N levels on dairy and flatland drystock sites (where intensity of grazing often approaches that of dairy farms).
- Although target value statistics for total N were similar to the last reporting period when considered on a volumetric basis (and total sites meeting the mineralisable N targets improved), the downward movement of the C:N ratio for dairy does suggest these soils may be nearing N saturation.

- The low macroporosity values on dairy and drystock sites mirror results from other regions of the country where land use has intensified and soil compaction from intensive grazing remains a concern. The Allophanic Soils of the Taranaki region are generally more resilient than non-Allophanic Soils; however, even the Allophanic Soils are showing evidence of adverse compaction, indicated by low air capacity values. High N and/or Olsen P values on dairy sites are also of concern because of the risk to water quality.
- There was no overall significant change in Cd concentrations from the previous sampling, which suggests soil Cd levels may be plateauing, but further monitoring is required to confirm this trend. One site, however, has consistently been over the 1 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> level.
- The lack of a distinct trend in Cd values between the current and previous sampling also suggests that the change in the analytical methodology for Cd analysis did not adversely affect the results.
- The majority of instances of poor soil quality could be reversed by appropriate management.
- Although the microbial health analyses (basal respiration, microbial biomass), showed differences between sites, due to the difficulty in defining target ranges it is not possible to provide a clear statement on functional and biodiversity status of Taranaki soils. However, comparison of these parameters over time may still provide useful indicators of microbial functioning.

## Recommendations

- A soil-quality monitoring programme of resampling existing sites continues in order to determine the extent and direction of any changes since originally sampled.
- With the advent of national reporting (e.g. the recent MfE Land 2018 report), sampling protocols, indicators, and target values are currently being reviewed by the Environmental Monitoring and Reporting (EMaR) group with the aim of achieving a more unified sampling and reporting regime across regions. There are likely to be further changes in soil quality monitoring, and it is recommended that TRC have a voice in these changes through the Land Management Forum.
- Since the change in method for Cd analysis did not adversely affect results, we would recommend that TRC continue to use the US EPA nitric/hydrochloric acid digest. There was some variation in individual site Cd values, and while it may be worthwhile to consider having some of those samples rerun in the future, we do not consider that to be a pressing need at present.
- Taranaki Regional Council considers activities to educate land managers on strategies to protect the environment while achieving an economic return from the land. In particular, awareness of the current recommendations on Olsen P levels and the general benefits of nutrient budgeting are recommended.
- After the next sampling, a number of sites will have been sampled five times. Although the number of sites is relatively small (on a statistical basis), TRC should consider formal statistical analysis of temporal trends for the next report



## Agenda Memorandum

**Date** 28 August 2018



**Memorandum to  
Chairperson and Members  
Consents and Regulatory Committee  
Policy and Planning Committee**

**Subject: Taiao Taiora Taranaki Iwi Management Plan**

**Approved by:** A D McLay, Director-Resource Management

B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 2109939

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### Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is present for the Members information, an Iwi management plan recently produced by the Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust entitled *Taiao, Taiora an Iwi Environmental Management Plan for the Taranaki iwi Rohe* (the Plan). Attached separate to this agenda is a copy of the Plan.

This item will be presented to both the Consents and Policy and Planning committees given the iwi management plan applies to policy matters that, following a statutory process, will eventually be reflected in resource consents.

### Executive summary

There are three iwi management plans that have been completed by iwi over the last ten years. Five iwi have not completed iwi management plans, although Te Runanga o Ngāti Mutunga is close to a final document.

On 17 July 2018 Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust released Taiao, Taiora Iwi Environmental Management Plan. The Plan is an empowering and guiding document that identifies the expectations and environmental outcomes for Taranaki Iwi, hapū, marae, pā and whānau.

The Plan is formally recognised under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and must be taken into account when reviewing Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) policy and planning documents. The Plan is also intended for use by those individuals or organisations that want to develop and use the natural resources in the Taranaki Iwi rohe (area).

The Council welcomes the release of the Plan as a positive step forward in clarifying the policy position of Taranaki Iwi on a range of environmental and other matters. As new environmental and resource management issues emerge Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust will remain flexible and update and review the Plan as appropriate.

## Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum and the Taiao, Taiora an Iwi Environmental Management Plan for the Taranaki iwi Rohe (2018)
2. notes that the Plan outlines the expectations and the position of Taranaki Iwi on matters relating to the environment in their rohe
3. notes that the Plan will be taken into account during the review of the Council's Resource Management Act policy documents concerning air, freshwater, soil and coastal resources
4. recognises that the Plan is a positive step forward in clarifying the policy position of Taranaki Iwi on environmental matters.

## Background

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) requires regional councils to take into account any relevant planning document recognised by an Iwi Authority when developing or amending policy statements and plans (Sections 64 and 66). These documents are commonly referred to as Iwi Management Plans.

Part 2 of the RMA requires the interests of tangata whenua to be considered in achieving the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. In particular, Section 6(e) recognises Māori interests as a matter of national importance to be recognised and provided for, while Section 7(a) requires the Council to have particular regard to kaitiakitanga, and Section 8 allows for the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi to be considered in the Council's exercise of functions and powers in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources.

Of the eight Iwi of Taranaki, three have produced and released Iwi Management Plans. Te Runanga o Ngāti Ruanui released their plan in December 2012, Ngaa Rauru Kiiitahi released a revised version of their 2009 plan on the 11 September 2013, and Te Kāhui o Taranaki Iwi Trust (to which this memorandum relates) have just released their plan. Te Runanga o Ngāti Mutunga is in the process of finalising the last sections of their plan with a view to a release later this year.

All the Iwi Management Plans are presented to the Council. Senior Council officers provided feedback on a draft *Taiao, Taiora an Iwi Environmental Management Plan for the Taranaki iwi Rohe* and this and others contributions were acknowledged at the launch.

## The Iwi Management Plan

On the 17<sup>th</sup> July at the Pou o Okurukuru, Te Kāhui o Taranaki released the Plan *Taiao Taiora*. The release of the Plan was attended by Senior Council staff members.

The Plan is a guide for Taranaki Iwi and the wider community, including local and central government, and people or groups who want to undertake activities in their rohe that may have an impact on the environment. The plan presentation, structure and objectives/policies are quite innovative and integrated. There is more than just RMA matters considered (e.g. transport, marae waste management, green technologies and sustainable living, and greenhouse gas management).

The purpose of the Plan is to set out a broad overview and understanding of the environmental position of Taranaki Iwi in their role as tangata kaitiaki (guardians) and provides a framework to work effectively with the Council, in guiding changes, reviews and development of regional plans. It is made clear that the Plan is not a replacement for face-to-face dialogue with Taranaki Iwi hapū, marae and pā.

The Plan seeks to complement the environmental protection and development offered through the RMA and reflects the need to balance and better understand the cultural, social and commercial values of Taranaki Iwi with environmental imperatives.

The key components of the Plan are:

1. Te Iho / Vision            Taiao, Taiora – the health of the environment is the health of the people.
2. Aronga / Approach      Ko te oranga o te whenua ko te oranga o te tangata the health of the land is the health of the people.
3. Nga Take Matua        Identifies the expectations, issues, objectives and policies associated with each atua (the mouna, whenua, plants, air, freshwater and coastal water), which are interconnected by natural processes, therefore all of the Take Matua sections must be considered together when assessing an activity.
4. Actions                    Describes the actions and activities needed to meet vision and the objectives of the Plan.
5. Appendices                Provides a guide to how Taranaki Iwi will process applications and enquiries and gives an estimate of costs that may be involved.  
List of Statutory Acknowledgements.  
Glossary of kupu (words).

The Plan takes a holistic atua view and should help iwi and other organisations consider all of the effects (both positive and negative) associated with activities, and to understand how iwi views the inseparable parts of the environment.

The first two sections describe the values and aspirations of Taranaki Iwi, thus setting the context of the Plan. The following sections outline the overarching framework for achieving the aspiration and addressing the concern of Taranaki Iwi. The Plan also provides a guide to process resource consent applications and enquiries, and an estimate of costs that may be involved.

Members will be aware of the Mana Whakahono a Rohe (iwi relationship agreements) discussions that are currently underway between iwi and regional and district councils ‘

senior staff. These agreements will address iwi input to resource consents and policy, and provide appropriate resourcing. Discussions on this are ongoing.

The Plan notes what Taranaki Iwi can achieve will be limited by the resources available within the organisation and that a strategic approach will be required to maximize the benefits from available resources.

### **Implications for the Council**

The Council supports the release of the Plan and its future use by Council staff and members of the public as a starting point for discussions with Taranaki Iwi regarding the use of resources in their rohe.

The Plan will be used to inform future discussions with Taranaki Iwi regarding resource management matters including the review of the freshwater and land plans. The Plan will also inform discussions on the review of the regional policy statement and air quality policy documents.

The goals and values reflected in the Plan largely complement what the Council is trying to achieve in respect of the environment for Taranaki. Operational type policies provided in the Plan set out detailed guidance that will be taken into account in the review of the freshwater and land plans and ultimately when making decisions on resource consent applications once the plan review process is completed.

The non-RMA components of the Plan will be of interest to the Council but will not be considered as part of taking into account the plan provisions when reviewing RMA policy.

### **Decision-making considerations**

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **Policy considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

### **Iwi considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan

and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

The iwi management plans are key strategic policy documents for iwi that the Council must take into account when reviewing RMA policy documents. The Plans also provide some guidance around the resource consent process that could be considered in negotiating Mana Whakahono a Rohe (iwi relationship agreements) between Council's and iwi. Input at a strategic plan level is more efficient for all concerned than at the individual consent level.

### **Legal considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

### **Appendices/Attachments**

Document 2109972: Taiao, Taiora – Taranaki Iwi Environmental Management Plan

# Taiao, Taiora

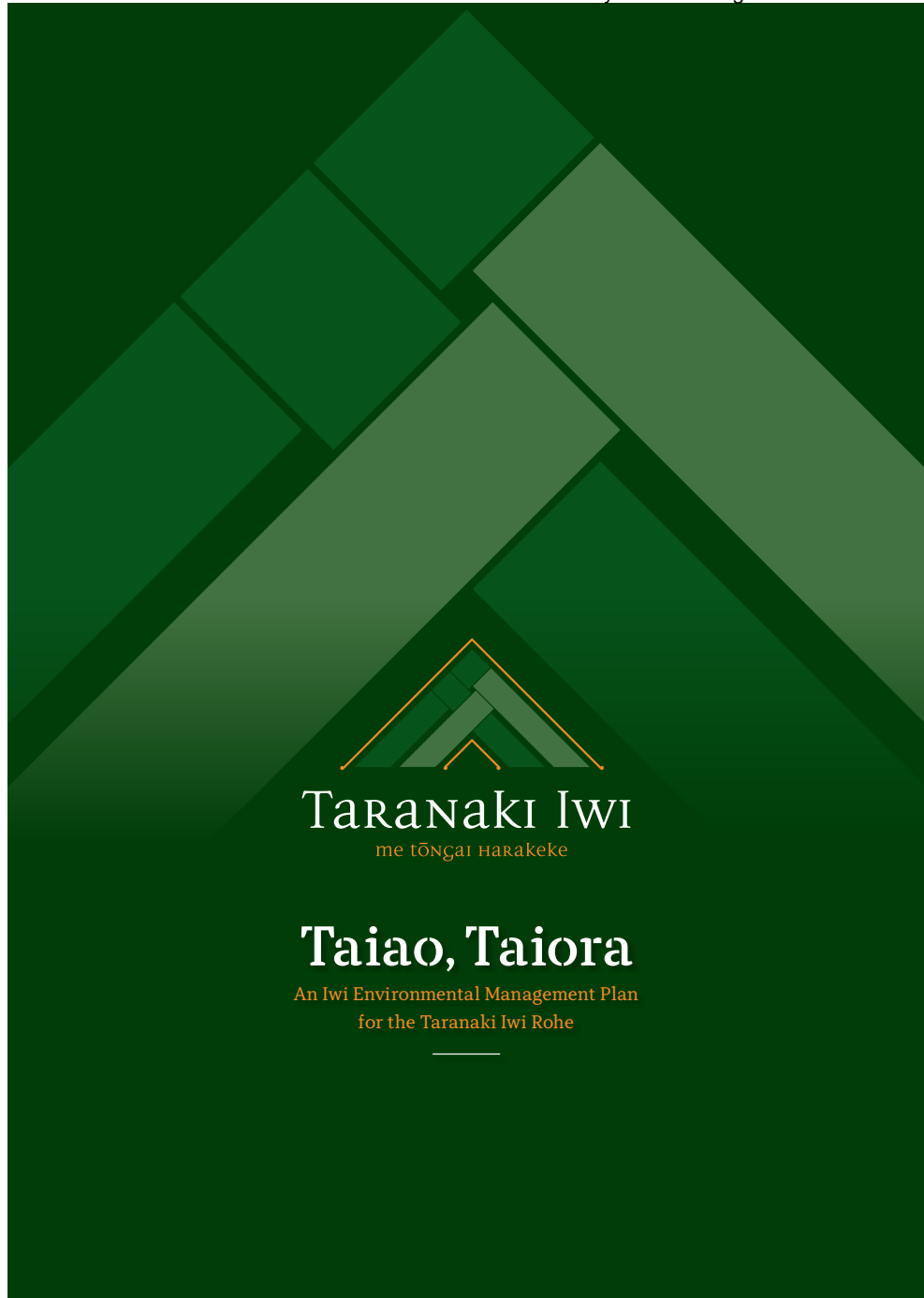
An Iwi Environmental Management Plan  
for the Taranaki Iwi Rohe

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TARANAKI IWI

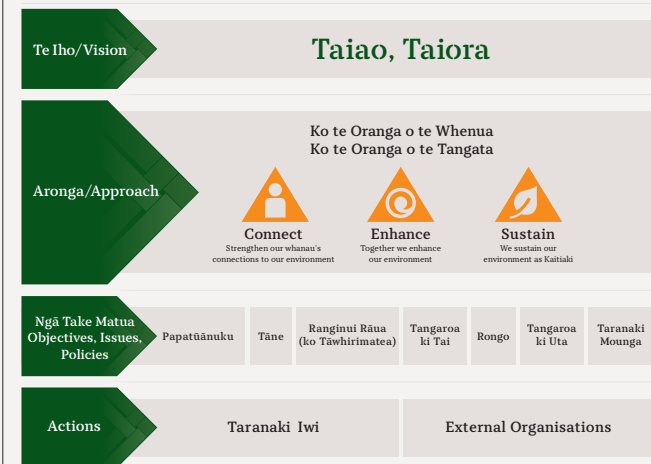
me tōnŋai hārakeke



## Using this Document

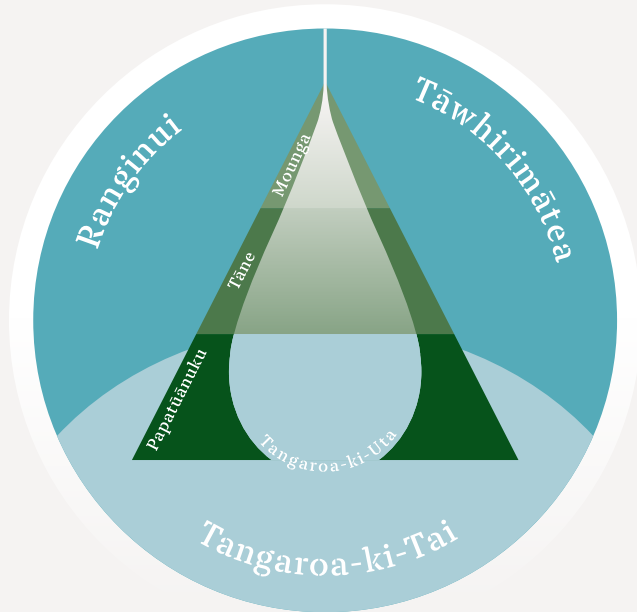
*Taiao, Taiora* is an Environmental Management Plan for Taranaki Iwi, hapū, marae/pā and whānau. *Taiao, Taiora* is a guide for Taranaki Iwi and the wider community, including local and central government, and people or groups who want to undertake activities in the rohe that may have an impact on the environment.

*Taiao, Taiora* sets out expectations of Taranaki Iwi about enhancing the quality of the environment in our rohe. The key components of the plan are:



The 'Take Matua' section of the plan contains the Objectives, Issues and Policies associated with each atua in our rohe and anyone planning activities in the area needs to comply with those provisions. Because all atua (the mounga, whenua, plants, air, freshwater, and coastal water) are interconnected by natural processes, all of the Take Matua sections must be considered together when assessing an activity.

Taking a holistic atua view helps iwi and other organisations consider all of the effects (both positive and negative) associated with activities, and to understand how our Iwi views the inseparable parts of our environment.



*Taiao, Taioara* was developed by Te Kāhui o Taranaki (the Taranaki Iwi Trust) with hapū, marae/pā and whānau of Taranaki Iwi. It is not a replacement for face to face dialogue with Taranaki Iwi hapū, marae and pā. Local and central government, developers and other resource consent applicants are encouraged to use this document to inform their project discussions with Taranaki Iwi. Engagement with Taranaki Iwi should start with the Trust. Kōrero with representatives of local hapū or marae will also need to occur for activities that will take place in or affect specific parts of the rohe.

## He Mihi / Foreword

*Taiao Taioara* ko tōna mutunga he kaitiaki te mahi a te iwi ki ōna whenua, ōna awa, ōna takutai, tōna maunga koirā tēnei rautaki kua whakaritehia e Taranaki Iwi. Ko te kaitiaki i te wā o ngā tupuna he tipua he taniwha he rite tonu i ēnei rā. Engari i tēnei ao hurihuri he kaitiaki hoki tēnei rautaki kia whāki ake ki te hāpori whānui anei ō mātou whakaaro motuhake o Taranaki Iwi mō te taiao. *Taiao Taioara* - ka ora te taiao ka ora te iwi.

First and foremost, *Taiao, Taioara* is an empowering document which supports the vision of Taranaki Iwi to guide and inform decision making by empowering marae/pā, hapū and whānau as kaitiaki of their rohe. *Taiao, Taioara* has been endorsed by Te Kāhui o Taranaki.

As Taranaki Iwi enters a post-settlement era we have better relationships with local councils and work effectively in guiding changes, reviews and development of district and regional plans and statements so Taranaki Iwi values can be properly recognised, provided for and honoured. We are hopeful that *Taiao Taioara* continues to build on these strong relationships into the future.

When developing *Taiao, Taioara* we adopted a wānanga-based approach to engage with whānau, marae and pā, hapū and key stakeholders. As new kaupapa taiao and resource management issues emerge we will remain flexible and update or review the Plan as appropriate.

As stressed in the plan consultation with Taranaki Iwi, hapū, marae/pā and whānau is still required for any type of impact on our natural world. *Taiao, Taioara* is not a replacement for face to face dialogue between applicants and the Iwi. We look forward to working with the community, authorities and agencies on the proper management, utilisation and protection of our taiao.

***Ko te oranga o te whenua ko te oranga o te tangata***  
***The health of the land is the health of the people.***

Tihei mouri ora ki te whaiao ki te ao mārama.

Wharehoka Wano  
Tumu Whakarito / CEO  
Te Kāhui o Taranaki



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## 1. Introduction

Taranaki Iwi marae/pā, hapū and whānau exercise mana whenua and mana moana within the Taranaki rohe (area of interest) and have been kaitiaki (guardians) of the whenua (land) and moana (ocean) within the Taranaki rohe for generations. As kaitiaki we have inherent responsibilities to preserve and protect our whenua, moana and taonga. This relationship continues to this day and will continue for generations to come. The Taranaki Iwi Environmental Plan – *Taiao, Taioara*, was prepared by Te Kāhui o Taranaki with tangata whenua of Taranaki Iwi to assist us in our collective role as kaitiaki. The role of Te Kāhui o Taranaki is to support the autonomous, independent and self-governing role of marae/pā and hapū. For the purpose of this plan reference to Taranaki Iwi having mana whenua and kaitiaki status, will not exclude or diminish the historical, traditional practises, rights and responsibilities of marae/pā and hapū.

*Taiao, Taioara* establishes a road map for Taranaki Iwi to follow as kaitiaki of our rohe. The Plan is led by the vision of *Taiao, Taioara*. The issues describe the challenges to achieve this vision, and the policies and actions guide Taranaki Iwi and others to connect with, enhance and sustain our environment.

*Taiao, Taioara* will help Taranaki Iwi understand our kaitiaki role and how best to achieve it. *Taiao, Taioara* has statutory weight and the Crown will need to take into account the policies contained within it. Under the Resource Management Act Councils must also take into account iwi environmental management plans when developing policy. The Actions listed in *Taiao, Taioara* are for Taranaki Iwi to carry out and administer, and they set out what Iwi, whānau, and individuals need to do to achieve the Plan's overarching vision, and those visions associated with each of the atua described in the document.



## 2. Our connection to the environment

Before embarking on the description of the contemporary issues and policies, and how these might be addressed, it is critical to understand the views and histories of Taranaki Iwi and our connection with the environment Taranaki rohe. Through a greater awareness and a greater understanding of the connection that Taranaki Iwi has to our place, a greater appreciation can be gained as to why it is so important for Taranaki Iwi to fulfil and progress their role as kaitiaki.

Taranaki Iwi have always been a part of the environment. This relationship, evolved over many generations of occupation, was and is expressed through a range of social, cultural and economic practices.

The massive loss of Taranaki Iwi lands arising from various Crown actions and omissions during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries impacted on all aspects of Taranaki Iwi life. Taranaki Iwi have been unable to exercise mana and kaitiakitanga over an environment we no longer own or control. Our greatly reduced access to traditional waterbodies, to food gathering areas, and to sites of significance for ceremonial purposes or for the collection of rongoā damaged the social, cultural, economic and political fabric of Taranaki Iwi society.

Together, the degradation of the environment through deforestation, the drainage of significant swamps and wetland areas, intensive agriculture, mineral extraction, and the introduction of exotic plant, animal and fish species has contributed to the loss or displacement of ngāi tipu me ngāi kīrehe, along with the knowledge systems of institutions such as rongoā, raranga/whatu, mahinga kai, kōkōwai, whakairo and the rituals and art forms associated with their growth, maintenance and application.

The degradation of our environment can be described as a degradation of our relationship, the connection of Taranaki Iwi, with the environment. This is a concept that relates to the cultural expression of mouri. A widely held view is that everything has mouri whether it be living or non-living, naturally occurring or introduced, detrimental in impact or beneficial. Mouri itself is not diminished, as such, but is altered or influenced in a way that changes how we recognise or interact with it. For example, a river possesses its own mouri, made up of the water that flows in it, the rocks and soil that form its banks, obstacles and riverbed. It includes the aquatic life that occupies its habitat, the microclimate surrounding it and even the sounds, smells and sensations received when coming into contact with it. A specific relationship is formed with the mouri of a river, where it may be recognised and respected with ritual, with karakia and communicated with in personified form. The personal connection with its mouri becomes part of a shared whakapapa and is a living elder or the potential of a young whānau member. For those connected with the mouri of a river it is considered to be a living, breathing, feeling, caring iwi ancestor. A decision to gather food or take resources, such as rocks or water, from it has the potential to change the river's mouri and therefore change the relationship we have with it. The needs and value of the river should be given due regard. Natural disasters such as floods, slips or contamination affect our whakapapa and so too do decisions to extract, modify, or use the river in a new or serious way. Mouri therefore cannot be destroyed but it can become lost and disconnected with our whakapapa. Mouri can become less valued in our lives and be disfigured beyond recognition in a way that it is lost from our identity and relationship with our rohe.

### 3. Taranaki Iwi Histories

The earliest accounts of Taranaki Iwi ancestors precede the coming of Taranaki to the western seaboard. They were known as the Kāhui Ao, Kāhui Rangī, Kāhui Pō and Kāhui Atua, and collectively called Te Kāhui Mounga. They occupied Mimi Mounganui (the mountain preceding Taranaki), Ruatupua (Pouākai), and the Ruatawhito (Kaitake) ranges. Their principal village was Karakatonga, situated high up in the heart of the Waiwhakaiho river valley. When the new mountain surfaced, the people temporarily evacuated the site, though many perished.

The journey of Taranaki from the central plateau has been recounted for centuries, and describes an episode of cataclysmic volcanic activity.

Taranaki was formerly known as Pukeōnaki and Pukehaupapa and stood in the area around Lake Rotoaira near Tūrangi, along with Ruapehu, Tongariro, and Pihanga. Pukeōnaki and Tongariro both loved Pihanga and fought over her. Following the conflict, Pukeōnaki, bearing the scars of battle, withdrew underground and down the Whanganui River valley. Led by his companions Te Ra-uhuihi, Wheoi and the guide stone Rauhoto, they entered the sea. When Taranaki surfaced he saw Pouākai Mountain standing inland. Pukeōnaki then followed Rauhoto up the Hangatahū River and resurfaced beside Pouākai. Rauhoto fled up the North-eastern side of Pouākai where she turned westward at the gap between Pouākai and Kaitake. Her flight path went through the sweeping saddle between Kaitake and Pouākai and ended near the mouth of the Hangatahū River by the sea. Pukeōnaki remained there with Pouākai, and their offspring became the trees, plants, birds and rivers that flow from their slopes.

From this story arises the Taranaki saying:

*'Tū kē Tongariro  
Motu kē a Taranaki  
He riri ki a Pihanga  
Waiho i muri nei  
Te Uri ko au ee!'*

The name of the mountain is memorialised by the deeds of Taranaki Iwi ancestors Maruwakatare, Ruataranaki and Tahurangi. As soon as the mountain became a permanent part of the geography, Ruataranaki travelled high up to the source of the Hangatahū River and ceremonially anchored the mountain so his name would be placed on its slopes. He descended to the base of the mountain and dug a rua where he settled for a period of time. When the time came for the mountain's naming ceremony, his father in law, Maruwakatare, consecrated the ceremony by karakia. Later, Tahurangi climbed the peak and lit a ceremonial fire to fix the name of Ruataranaki on it and to place his authority over the whole mountain. The rua (cave) that Ruataranaki had excavated became a famous burial cave named 'Te Ana a Tahatiti' that was used up until the end of the 19th century for the interment of bones. It is near the source of the Hangatahū River where it flows from the Ahukawakawa swamp and over Te Rere a Tahurangi (Bells Falls) into the Hangatahū River course.



Photo: Rob Tucker

The lighting of the fire by Tahurangi is commemorated in the following statements:

*'ko te ahi a Tahurangi mō te pukeāo  
ka tū tonu te pukeāo kia tiketike  
ka whakahinga te pukeāo i ngā awatea, i ngā ahiahi'*

*'the fire of Tahurangi is like an alpine cloud  
that ascends [the peak] and remains suspended,  
it then falls during the day and in the evening'*

The proverb of Tahurangi for the peak of Taranaki is:

*'ka puta ki waho ko Puketoretore  
i whakakaitoa ana mai ki taku taiaha  
takahia atu au ko raro ki te whenua  
hāpai atu ai au i taku taiaha  
me he kakau toki'*

*'Puketoretore (the water soaked peak) has emerged  
my taiaha expresses satisfaction  
I tread the land there below  
bearing my taiaha like  
the kakau toki'*

These expressions are still used today in varying forms. Taranaki people remark on the smoke from the fire of Tahurangi when morning and evening cloud forms near the mountain peak.

Upon Tahurangi's descent from the peak he stood on Panitahi (Fanthoms Peak) and declared:

*'koia tēnei te mihi nui kei runga o kōpūtauki,  
me he tangata pea koe e whai muri i a au  
ka noho a Tahurangi i runga o Taranaki  
kai atu he pikopiko mouku, he pikopiko mamaku  
he pikopiko pānako'*

*'this is the greeting placed upon kōpūtauki  
(the exposed belly of the earth)  
if you are a person who perhaps would want to find me  
Tahurangi remains upon Taranaki  
eating shoots of mouku fern, shoots of mamaku fern  
and shoots of the pānako fern'*

Panitahi is the lower peak on the southern side of Taranaki. Accounts about Panitahi describe the peak as being orphaned. The western edge of Panitahi is named Rangitoto where the rock has a red, blood-like hue.

The arrival of the Kurahaupō kin from Hawaiki brought a new period of occupation and interaction between the Kāhui Mounga and Hawaiki people. This era was known as 'ngā uruwaka'. When the Kurahaupō people arrived bearing the sacred kura, marriages soon produced a mix of Kāhui and Kurahaupō cousins. The influx of new migrants also created tension, and the Kāhui people were forced to relocate to various places along the western seaboard.

Taranaki are the descendants of Kāhui and Kurahaupō kin groups and ever since have occupied the lands which extend along the coastal and mountain area between Ōuri and the Rāwa o Turi streams in the south and Ōnukutaipari in the north.

## 4. Te Kāhui o Taranaki

Te Kāhui o Taranaki, the Taranaki Iwi Trust, administer the Plan. The Taranaki Iwi Trust (the Trust) was established by a Deed of Trust that was adopted on 3 September 2006 by Ngā Uri o Taranaki Iwi. Since 2006, the Trust has been mandated to speak on matters affecting the collective interest of Ngā Uri o Taranaki Iwi. The Trust has certain political, social, cultural and economic responsibilities in addition to the asset management and distribution responsibilities brought about by the Fisheries settlement. Ngā Uri o Taranaki Iwi are registered with the Trust, and they hold annual elections to ensure there are always seven Trustees, who each serve for a term of 3 years.

In late 2009, the Trust sought a mandate from Ngā Uri o Taranaki Iwi to enter settlement negotiations with the Crown for historical Treaty of Waitangi claims. This mandate was received and the Trust's Deed of Mandate was formally recognised in February 2010. On 17 March 2010, the Trust signed Terms of Negotiation with the Crown at Puniho Pā and signed a Letter of Agreement with the Crown on 22 December 2012.

The Trust continues to develop its capability to provide support to Ngā Uri o Taranaki Iwi on political, social, cultural, economic and environmental kaupapa – specifically as Taranaki Iwi enters a new phase of development post-Treaty Settlement.



Photo: Daniel Harrison

## 5. Ngā Marae/Pā and Hapū o Taranaki Iwi

In the past, and in some cases to the present day, Taranaki Iwi has been defined as an autonomous, independent and self-governing confederation of hapū. Some of these hapū included:

Ngāti Tairi,  
Potikitauā,  
Ngā Māhanga,  
Ngā Māhanga ā Tairi,  
Patukai,  
Ūpokomutu,  
Waiotama,  
Puketoretore,  
Ngāti Tūhekerangi,  
Ngāti Tara,  
Ngāti Rongo,

Ngāti Haumia,  
Titahi,  
Ngāti Tamaahuroa,  
Ngāti Tamakumu,  
Ngāti Haupoto,  
Ngāti Rangikōtuku,  
Ngāti Moeahu,  
Ngāti Kahumate,  
Ngāti Atua,  
Ngāti Tamarongo,  
Ngai Wetenga.

As Taranaki Iwi we have exercised tino rangatiratanga over our traditional rohe through many of these hapū. Many of these hapū still form distinct functioning communities and largely maintain their identity within certain families and Marae/Pā. Taranaki Iwi have seven marae distributed around coastal Taranaki (See page 15) which are:

Oākura Pā / Okorotua.  
Puniho Pā / Tarawainuku.  
Te Niho o Te Ātiawa / Paraahuka.  
Te Paepae o Te Raukura / Takitūtū.  
Toroanui  
Te Pōtaka  
Orimupiko

The Plan relates equally to all marae/pā and hapū within the rohe. Those wishing to engage with Taranaki Iwi should be prepared to do so at an iwi level and/or a local (marae/pā and hapū) level. This will depend on the nature of the matter to be discussed and Te Kāhui o Taranaki will be able to provide the necessary direction on such matters.

## 6. Taranaki Iwi Rohe

Geographically, the Plan covers the Taranaki Iwi rohe. The extent of Taranaki Iwi interests also spread inland to Te Whakangerengere on the north-eastern flank of Taranaki Mounga, up the Waipuku stream to Te Tāhuna o Tūtawa (Warwicks Castle), over to Panitahi (Fanthams Peak) and down to Mangoraukawa (Lake dive) and the source of the Ōuri stream. Following the Ōuri stream water course down, a deviation is then made to the headwaters of the Rāwa o Turi stream to the boundary stone of Matirawhati at its mouth, an agreement forged between Ngāti Haua, Ngāti Atua, Ngāti Tamaahuroa and Tītahi.

These pou (boundary markers) are captured in the Taranaki Iwi expression:

*'Ko Onukutaipari te pikitanga ki te pou o Ōkurukuru  
Ōkurukuru ki Te Whakangerengere  
Te Whakangerengere ki Te Tāhuna o Tūtawa  
Te Tāhuna o Tūtawa ki Panitahi  
Panitahi ki Ōuri  
Ōuri ki Rāwa o Turi  
ki te pou o Matirawhati'*

*'Onukutaipari is the ascent to the pole of Ōkurukuru  
from Ōkurukuru to Te Whakangerengere  
from Te Whakangerengere to Te Tāhuna o Tūtawa  
from Te Tāhuna o Tūtawa to Panitahi  
from Panitahi to the waters of Ōuri  
from Ōuri to Rāwa o Turi  
to the pillar of Matirawhati'*

Taranaki Iwi territory thus formed the segment of a circle dominated by the mountain from which the tribe takes its name. It is more mountainous than any other part of the Taranaki coast, for within it is Mount Taranaki, 8,260 feet, the Pouākai Ranges, 4,590 feet, and the Patuha Ranges, 2,240 feet.

For the purposes of this Plan the geographic extent of the Plan is the area shown on Figure 1 as the Taranaki Iwi Rohe. For activities adjacent to this area it is also advised to contact the Trust as some hapu of Taranaki iwi have interests outside of that area. It should also be noted that some activities and issues, such as climate change, have a much wider extent than the Taranaki Iwi rohe and from time to time Taranaki Iwi may get involved in matters, such as national policy, which have implications for our environment in Taranaki.

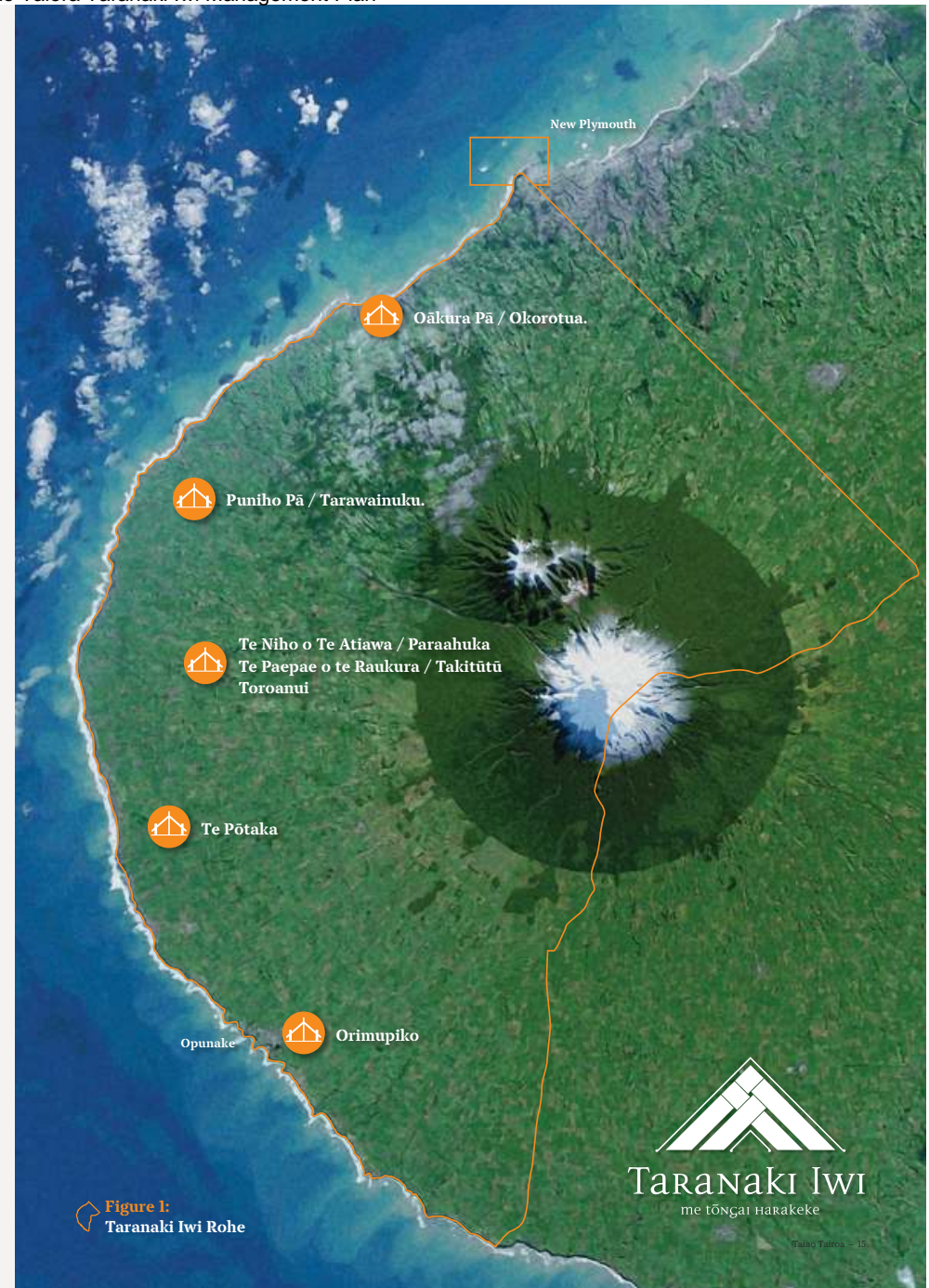


Figure 1:  
Taranaki Iwi Rohe

## 7. Document Preparation

Taiao, Taiora was developed with whānau of Taranaki Iwi. At key parts of this journey we talked to our whānau to see what was important to them, what their vision was for the future of our rohe and what issues and opportunities they wanted to be explored and challenged through this document. We also looked back over our shoulders to look at what our whenua looked like in the past and how we, as an Iwi, lived as part of the environment. We considered our recent settlement and the new roles and responsibilities that not only fall on our shoulders as tangata whenua, as a Trust but also those which lie with the Crown and their agents such as local Councils.

In developing this document, it was important to ensure that it reflected the voice of our Iwi. This process started with an online survey for members of the Iwi to comment and identify environmental issues and expectations. This information was used to develop a structure for the plan before being further developed at a wānanga held on 17 June 2017 at Puniho Pā. This wānanga allowed us to confirm the vision of the plan, it gave us more detail on what matters are of greater importance to Taranaki Iwi and what outcomes for our environment we should be working towards. At this wānanga we heard about the importance of this mahi being iwi-led and for Taranaki Iwi to be at the forefront of protecting and enhancing our lands, waters and air for our benefit and for the benefit of future generations.

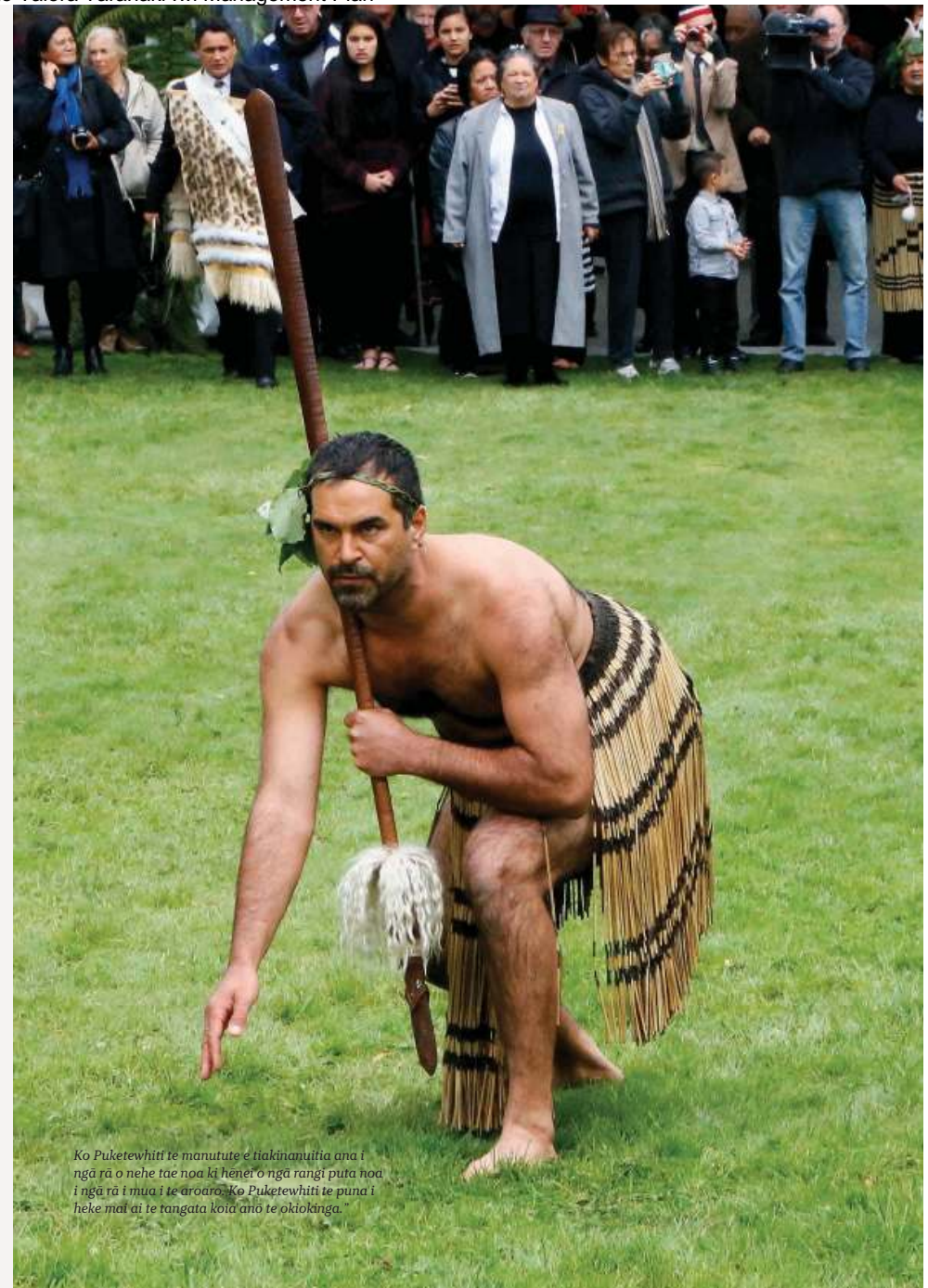
In developing these messages further, we received additional views and feedback that allowed us to develop a plan which reflected the vision, values and views of Taranaki Iwi. The Trust endorsed Taiao Taiora in February 2018.

## 8. Scope, Structure & Purpose of the Plan

Over time the quality of the environment within the rohe of Taranaki Iwi has declined. Together, the degradation of the environment through deforestation, the siltation of rivers, the drainage of significant swamps and wetland areas, intensive agriculture, mineral extraction, and the introduction of exotic plant, animal and fish species has contributed to the loss or displacement of ngāi tipu me ngāi kīrehe, along with the knowledge systems such as rongoā, raranga and whatu, kōkōwai, mahinga kai as well as the rituals and art forms associated with their growth, maintenance and application.

The purpose of this management plan is to provide clarity and structure for Taranaki Iwi environmental management to work towards restoring the mouri of the Taranaki rohe. Ultimately it provides a framework so Taranaki Iwi can actively fulfil our role as tangata tiaki. This plan is a living document; adaptable to the changing conditions of the environmental management sector while remaining consistent to our principles of care, connectedness and responsibility. It is our roadmap for continued participation in resource consent processes and involvement in the wider environmental policy and planning arena.

The purpose of this plan is to describe and detail some of Taranaki Iwi whakaaro and approaches to caring for our environment, so they can be properly taken into account, recognised and provided for during decision-making processes including, but not limited to, resource consent applications and concession applications. It also provides direction for Taranaki Iwi for improving our practices around environmental management.



*Ko Puketewhiti te manutute e tiakinauitia ana i ngā rā o nehe tae noa ki hēnei o ngā rangi puta noa i ngā rā i mua i te aroaro. Ko Puketewhiti te puna i heke mai ai te tangata kōia anō te okiokinga.*

## 9. Status and Use

*Taiao, Taiora* is an iwi environmental management plan that represents the views of Taranaki Iwi with regards to environmental resource management. First and foremost, *Taiao, Taiora* is a document for Taranaki Iwi to guide and inform decision making by the iwi, marae/pā, hapū and whānau as kaitiaki of the Taranaki Iwi rohe. This could relate to environmental initiatives, advocacy, investment decisions etc.

Under the Resource Management Act (sections 61, 66, and 74) local authorities must take into account iwi planning documents that are endorsed by iwi authorities when preparing or altering regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans. *Taiao, Taiora* is the Iwi environmental management plan of Taranaki Iwi. It has been endorsed by Te Kāhui o Taranaki (our iwi authority).

As well as providing clarity and structure for our iwi, local councils can use the plan to guide their changes, reviews and development of district and regional plans and statements so Taranaki Iwi values can be properly recognised, provided for and honoured.

Developing *Taiao, Taiora* involved engaging with Taranaki Iwi whānau, marae and pā, and key stakeholders. Whilst every effort has been made to react and respond to all environmental matters concerning Taranaki Iwi, Te Kāhui o Taranaki accepts that occasionally amendments and changes may be required during the lifetime of the Plan. As new resource management issues emerge it may be prudent to update or review the Plan as appropriate.

This is an iwi environmental management plan based on the values and principles of Taranaki Iwi. It is a collection of thoughts and perspectives that are a living embodiment of the connections that exist between Taranaki Iwi and the natural world. Consultation with Taranaki Iwi is still required for any type of impact on our natural world. *Taiao, Taiora* is not a replacement for face to face dialogue between applicants and the Iwi.

Early and full consultation with Taranaki Iwi on activities relating to any proposed use of our environment is an essential element of our environmental management. We welcome positive early engagement with applicants to ensure all matters concerning actual and potential environmental and cultural impacts are resolved prior to a consent application being lodged. Working collaboratively and in partnership through early and timely discussions can save time and resources for both parties. Early consultation will allow consent holders and Taranaki Iwi to work together through consent processes for the best outcomes desired by both parties.

The issues, objectives and policies contained in the Plan outline what is important to Taranaki Iwi and will guide the decisions we make when responding to plans and applications that affect our rohe. Such decisions will be considered in a pragmatic manner and balanced against the Trust's cultural, social and commercial objectives. The Trust will also over time develop specific Taiao related policies, guidelines and plans which will align with this Plan, be recognised by Taranaki Iwi and should be applied within the context of this Plan. The government, their agents the local Council, and consent, concession and licence applicants etc. should consider and take into account our issues, objectives and policies in these documents, at the earliest possible opportunities.

## 10. Vision

**The vision for the Taranaki Iwi Environmental Management Plan:**

*Taiao, Taiora*

*Ko te oranga o te whenua*

*Ko te oranga o te tangata*

***The Health of the Environment is the Health of the People***

This vision connects the people of Taranaki Iwi with our rohe and identifies the important intrinsic and symbiotic relationship between tangata and whenua. “Taiao” refers to the importance of a healthy environment, which in the context of this kaupapa is the land, air, water and mouna that make up the Taranaki Iwi rohe. This environment has been degraded over time due to the impact of human development, that includes building settlements, infrastructure and industry, clearing forests, introduction of pests, prospecting for finite resources and farming the land. This development affects the environment and also the people who live on the land and connect with it physically and spiritually.

There is substantial global evidence that environmental degradation has a direct bearing on human health leading to increased mortality, morbidity, mental illness and general ill-health. This disproportionately impacts on women and children and at-risk communities. Current global environmental trends risk reversing decades of progress in health and development through the combined effects of climate change, biodiversity loss and the degradation of the earth's natural systems that support human health. To meet this challenge, actions that address critical environment and health linkages are key, and to do this effectively, communities need to be more proactive about effecting positive environmental change.

Taranaki Iwi holds the view that improving the environment will have a positive impact on whānau health and restored wellbeing. Our iwi has a leadership role as kaitiaki of our

rohe, requiring us to lead by example for the betterment of iwi, the wider community and the environment itself. *Taiao, Taiora* is an expression of our leadership role in our rohe.

In addition to being tangata whenua, Taranaki Iwi hold several roles. We are landowners, business owners, and we have seven marae/pā that are the centre for our local communities. As an iwi, we have a role in statutory processes under the Resource Management Act, the Local Government Act and the Conservation Act.

Achieving the Plan's vision will require an inclusive approach to kaitiakitanga of the Taranaki environment and should consider the needs of the land and the waters within the same structure of priority as the needs of our future generations.

What we do today shapes the environment that future generations inherit. While Taranaki Iwi will always assert kaitiakitanga, it is important to recognise our role as kaitiaki in building a better environment for the future. Our tamariki should grow up in an environment that has been improved by the previous generation. They should grow into a world where active consideration and protection of the environment is a natural part of daily life.

This statement is a positive counter response to the well-known statement made by our tupuna in their time:

***Ko te mate o te whenua***

***Ko te mate o te tangata***

The history of muru and raupatu in the rohe of Taranaki Iwi left a dark mark on our landscape physically, culturally and spiritually. While we bring that history to the forefront of our minds we seek new ways of identifying how we can restore our role as kaitiaki in direct contrast with the repression of that role through the act of confiscation of our lands. In this Plan the use of 'oranga' replaces the notion of 'mate', reflecting the positive nature of the mahi required to look after our environment and the positive results it will have for us as an Iwi. This approach is one about being forward-focussed, pro-active and making a commitment to care for and sustain the environment for the healthy future of Taranaki Iwi.

To do this we need to strengthen our connections with our environment, enhance it so that it reflects its past splendour, and sustain it for the benefit of future generations. The principles of Connect, Protect and Sustain underpin this plan and can be found throughout the Ngā Take Matua identified in section 3, and the Actions in section 4 of this Plan.

## 11. Ngā Take Matua

The following sections identify Taranaki Iwi expectations around environmental management in their rohe and set out issues, objectives and policies to deliver on these expectations.

The section has been structured with reference to atua Māori along with specific objectives and policies for each of the Take Matua that interconnect and, in places, overlap with each other. Natural systems in the rohe are interrelated (as shown on the following image). This is reflected in the Plan where all sections should be considered as parts of a whole. Repetition between these sections indicates that some issues/matters remain important across multiple domains of the environment.



### 11.1 Ngā Hononga

There are many principles that underpin Taranaki Iwi (hapū, marae/pā) expectations for environmental management within our rohe. These principles apply to all atua, and should therefore be considered in all places and situations where we engage with the environment, or engage with other entities who are working with the environment.

#### Principles of Environmental Management

- i. Taranaki rohe will be a place that supports and sustains the needs of ngā uri o Taranaki culturally, spiritually, and economically. A place for the people of Taranaki Iwi to live, grow, and thrive together like our ancestors before us;
- ii. Taranaki Iwi are kaitiaki of the Taranaki rohe. Current and future generations of Taranaki Iwi will actively work to improve the land that they own and assert Mana Whenua. Taranaki Iwi will walk the talk with leadership by action and advocate for enhancing the environment in our rohe. In some cases, this may mean getting involved in matters outside of our rohe where those matters will have an effect on the environment within it.
- iii. The people of Taranaki Iwi will seek to live in a manner that sustains and is in harmony with the environment and its mouri for the wellbeing of the people.
- iv. Taranaki Iwi acknowledges that achieving environmental outcomes from current activities will not always be immediate. Taranaki Iwi do expect that all activities be actively managed with the goal of reducing and where possible, avoiding any adverse environmental effects associated with those activities.
- v. Taranaki Iwi will oppose actions that clearly lead to adverse, irreversible and unacceptable impacts on the environment and its mouri.



### 11.2 Papatūānuku (Whenua)

The health of Papatūānuku is central to the health and vitality of all humanity and other living beings. She is the ultimate provider; we depend on her fertility and her gifts for survival. Taranaki Iwi is concerned about unsustainable use and exploitation of Papatūānuku and her gifts.

As kaitiaki we are duty bound to ensure care and reciprocity is actioned.

This section covers how we as whānau will live in a way that cares for and enhances Papatūānuku. Taranaki Iwi should be leaders in how we live and work with the land to ensure that the ongoing health of Papatūānuku is maintained and enhanced. This section also covers issues such as mining, subdivision, road works, soil contamination, erosion, sedimentation, land use, and waste management.

#### Rohe lands

The lands that make up the rohe include Taranaki mounga, the Kaitake and Pouākai ranges, and the ring plain. The rohe of Taranaki Iwi is covered by ngahere and farms, and includes marae/pā, papakāinga, townships, community settlements and infrastructure upon it. Some of the whenua is owned by private individuals, Māori Trusts or central or local government. There are areas of interface between Tangaroa-kī-Tai and Tangaroa-kī-Uta. The soils beneath the surface are fertile and as prominent as the minerals, oils and gasses found further down. The whenua provides a habitat for a rich ecosystem and important resources.

#### Coastal land

The coastal lands adjacent to the sea are of high importance to Taranaki Iwi and contain kāinga, pūkawa (reefs) for the gathering of mātaitai, wāhi tapu, tauranga waka, tauranga ika and kōhatu. These areas define part of the Taranaki Iwi tribal identity and provide a continuous connection between us and our ancestors who occupied and utilised these areas.

Although access to many areas along the Coastal Marine Area was discontinued because of confiscation, Taranaki Iwi have continued to exercise custodianship over the areas we can still access and to do all we can to advocate for the health of the remainder.

#### Para Kore

Para Kore means Zero Waste. A para kore marae/pā or papakāinga etc. is one which is 'managed' to increase the reuse, recycling and composting of materials, thereby helping to reduce the extraction of natural resources and raw materials from Papatūānuku.



### 11.2.1 Ngā Take – Issues

#### The current Papatūānuku issues within the Taranaki rohe are:

1. Human actions have and are degrading the mouri of Papatūānuku in the Taranaki Iwi rohe;
2. Contamination of whenua is occurring due to industrial operations, cropping, intensive farming, household discharges, solid waste plants, agricultural chemicals, fertilisers, and sewage disposal. Contamination of soil poses a threat to the health of Taranaki Iwi and local community, to soil structure, productivity, and sustainability, and to the natural balance of endemic land-based ecosystems;
3. Oil and gas exploration and extraction removes finite resources from the whenua. These activities pose significant risk of pollution of the land and groundwater. The intended use of these resources directly leads to increased greenhouse gas emissions and climate change;
4. Intensive farming practices lead to soil and water (fresh and marine) contamination and degradation, as well as climate change;
5. Land management practices with the use of sprays and chemicals in areas where whānau potentially gather kai impacts on community health, particularly for the elderly who may be unable to walk longer distances to safer locations. Gathering of food includes watercress, pūhā, poroporo, huainanga from roadside verges, drains, wetlands, hedgerows and cultivations;
6. The loss of wetlands and the important habitat that they form for a wide range of important plant and animal species such as harakeke, tuna, kōura, birdlife and raupō, etc. Fewer wetlands reduce the capacity of the land to find balance with the levels of nitrates and contaminants arising from farming;
7. Poorly managed freedom camping can lead to increased littering, poor rubbish disposal, contamination through lack of toilet and waste management facilities and damage to important sites within the rohe. It can also cause reduced access to the coast and other important historical areas and cultural sites. It can also result in inappropriate behaviour at places of importance and can reduce cultural integrity;
8. Coastal subdivision has led to a reduction in access to the coast, to food gathering areas, to wāhi tapu, can impact on important coastal plant and animal species and has resulted in degradation of the natural character of areas of important historical and cultural importance to Taranaki Iwi;
9. Poorly designed subdivision and development can lead to unsustainable and inefficient land use, destruction of wāhi tapu and other important sites, loss of access to areas, an increase in pests, and more pressure on water resources through abstraction and direct and indirect discharges;

10. Landfills and solid waste management practices can lead to the irreversible degradation of our environment;

11. Unsustainable land use practices can lead to soil erosion which results in important soil resources being washed into wai polluting it and depleting the health of the whenua;

12. Cultural values are often considered as separate to the physical elements of landscapes.

### 11.2.2 Objectives

#### The following statements describe Taranaki Iwi Objectives for Papatūānuku:

1. The mouri of Papatūānuku in the Taranaki Iwi rohe will be protected, cared for and restored;
2. Papatūānuku will be lush, healthy and sustaining for all. Her native forest cover will be thriving and free of pests;
3. Wetlands and the surrounding lands of rivers will be restored with a natural diversity of ngāi tipu me ngāi kirehe Wetlands will be restored and expanded;
4. Habitat for important plant and animal species will be restored so that culturally appropriate harvests of manu and rongoā can occur when sustainable. Plants and rākau will be available for activities such as weaving and carving and for other needs such as housing construction using natural materials;
5. The whenua will be cared for by Taranaki Iwi and others for mutual, reciprocal benefit for the whole community. Taranaki Iwi are seen as leaders in sustainable living and sustainable land management on our whenua;
6. Traditional practices of māra kai, food gathering, and harvesting rongoā will be common practice. Resources such as harakeke, akeake and karaka will be growing in abundance throughout the community, on marae/pā, kura and community centres;
7. Free and unfettered access to important taonga, wāhi tapu and resources (coast) will be restored and protected for future generations;
8. The natural character of the coastal margins will be protected from inappropriate use and development;
9. All marae/pā within the Taranaki Iwi are para kore by 2023;
10. Freedom camping only occurs at sites where there will be no impact on cultural or environmental values, is actively managed to ensure that adverse impacts don't occur and that manuhiri leave with an understanding of cultural and environmental importance of the areas which they stay.

### 11.2.3 Policies

1. Marae, pā, papakāinga, businesses, kura/kopae and events of Taranaki Iwi will work to become para kore by 2023;

2. Whenua owned by Taranaki Iwi will be managed so it does not adversely affect Ranginui, Papatūānuku, Taranaki Mouna, Tāne, Tangaroa-ki-Uta and Tangaroa-ki-Tai;

3. Whenua owned by Taranaki Iwi will be, where possible, actively managed to enhance its environmental value, including (but not limited to) the following:

i. Fencing and planting native species for waterbodies;

ii. Retiring areas of land being subjected to serious erosion and return it to areas of native vegetation;

iii. Pest control to prioritise invasive pest species having a serious negative impact on the whenua, reducing to levels where endemic ecosystems become resilient and re-established in our rohe;

iv. Restoring and re-establishing wetland environments with resilient habitats where they have previously been degraded, destroyed or removed;

v. Minimising unnecessary soil disturbance so that soil quality is maintained and any soil erosion into waterbodies is restricted;

vi. All existing forest remnants are protected from browsing animals, other pests and built development with active management and plans for enhancement and extension of these remnants where possible;

vii. Land management techniques which reduce the impacts of that particular land use on the environment;

4. Where possible, Taranaki Iwi will advocate that other landowners in the rohe manage their land as per Policy 3.2.3.3;

5. Decision-makers should consider the effects of an activity on the mouri of Papatūānuku when making decisions on applications and developing management and planning documents;

6. New papakāinga and other housing developments will promote sustainable living and, where possible, be characterised by the following attributes:

i. Be para kore;

ii. Be self and community sufficient;

iii. Be built using low impact and passive design methods;

iv. Generate their own power using green technologies;

v. Have low to nil environmental impacts;

7. Taranaki Iwi will actively advocate for, and build, practical understanding of the benefits of papakāinga and sustainable living practices that promote healthy, self-determining whānau;

8. Taranaki Iwi will support the development of papakāinga for their whānau;

9. Taranaki Iwi will work to educate current and future generations on the vision, the practical implications and intended benefits of *Taiao, Taiora* to build wider awareness and a body of knowledge that will support greatly enhanced practice in the future;

10. Taranaki Iwi will work to connect current and future generations in the recognition, use, protection and development of their whenua to strengthen greater engagement and resilience as active kaitiaki of Taranaki Iwi rohe;

11. New urban development will be designed in a manner which reflects the environmental and cultural values of the site, including:

i. Protecting sensitive areas;

ii. The creation of wetlands on land-based systems for stormwater management;

iii. In consultation with tangata whenua, incorporating the cultural values and histories into the names and design of the development;

iv. Ensuring that the development does not result in increased levels of pests and predation in the area, including the consideration for excluding cats and other domestic pets with the potential for harm;

v. Utilising low impact design techniques;

vi. Creating walkable settlements that have provision for bikes and public transport;

vii. Ensuring that if earth is brought into a site that it is free of weeds and other pests;

viii. The design and nature of the development will reflect and respect the natural landforms and natural processes of the site.

12. Any landscape assessments undertaken will consider the underlying cultural values as an important and inseparable element of that landscape;

13. Taranaki Iwi does not support new subdivision and development within the Coastal Environment outside the current boundaries of established settlements that:

i. restricts whānau access to the coast and important sites;

ii. puts more people at risk from natural hazards;

iii. is inconsistent with the design and development principles in Policy 11 above;

iv. will lead to a degradation of the important cultural and environmental values associated with the coast and the location of the proposed development; and

### 11.3 Ranginui rāua ko Tāwhirimātea

v. requires coastal protection works, such as sea walls, that will impact on the natural coastal processes.

14. Taranaki Iwi will not support:

- i. Any action or activities that will result in the degradation of the mouri of Papatūānuku;
- ii. New structures being built in undeveloped areas of the coastal margin;
- iii. Subdivision and associated land uses that cannot demonstrate that they will not adversely affect Ranginui, Papatūānuku, Taranaki Mounga, Tāne, Tangaroa-ki-Tai and Tangaroa-ki-Uta;
- iv. Intensive farming that is not being managed to reduce contamination of the land, air or water resulting from that land use;
- v. Activities and land use changes that restrict access to the coast, fresh waterbodies and sites of importance to Taranaki Iwi;
- vi. Any new prospecting, exploration and extraction of minerals, coal, gas or petroleum within its rohe that is likely to lead to the degradation of the environment;
- vii. Any subdivision or land use that will result in the loss or restriction of access to sites of significance (including wāhi tapu), on Taranaki Iwi;
- viii. Any subdivision and development that adversely impacts the important cultural values associated with landscapes of importance to Taranaki Iwi (hapū, marae/pā);
- ix. Freedom camping in locations that are of cultural and or environmental significance to Taranaki Iwi; and
- x. Unmanaged freedom camping which results in the environment being damaged or despoiled.



The relationship between Taranaki Iwi and the sky and air is derived from our whakapapa connection with Ranginui, the primordial father of our environment. We acknowledge air and air quality, light, wind, and sky as taonga and the maintenance of their mana and mouri are an integral part of our kaitiaki and manaaki roles and responsibilities. The realm of Tāwhirimātea is part of the Plan residing alongside Ranginui in the space above Papatūānuku.

The overall air quality in Taranaki is excellent, due in part to its windy and exposed environment, the small and dispersed population, relatively light industry and low vehicle numbers. We do, however, have a rohe with long established and intensive dairy farming practice along with pasture environments with limited biodiversity. This activity contributes to greenhouse gas emissions in the form of methane, and pasture has little capacity for carbon sequestration from the atmosphere into the land.

Taranaki is one of only two New Zealand regions that have never breached national air quality standards. The region has never been required to create a 'gazetted airshed' in response to air quality issues. Because the Taranaki Regional Council has continued to demonstrate that the region does not generally experience issues with air quality, Ministry for the Environment monitoring is not required in Taranaki.

The weather has a significant impact on the rohe of Taranaki Iwi. With Taranaki Mounga rising steeply from the coast, the natural flow of air and weather systems are well established. However, based on global evidence, it has been predicted that climate change is leading to more extreme weather patterns including storm events, droughts, changed levels of rainfall and increased temperature in the atmosphere.

As an iwi we cannot prevent climate change on our own, but we can work towards living in a way that does not contribute to it and advocate against practices that make it worse. The effects of climate change will affect our resources and our whenua, with predictions of an increased prevalence of dramatic weather events, sea level rises, flooding and erosion.

#### 11.3.1 Ngā Take – Issues

The current Ranginui and Tāwhirimātea issues in the Taranaki rohe are:

1. Human actions have and are continuing to degrade the mouri of Ranginui in the Taranaki Iwi rohe;
2. Climate change presents a very real danger to Taranaki Iwi and the environment in our rohe. The effects of climate change include increased temperature, sea level rise, climate variation, higher rainfall and weather events with greater intensity and unpredictability. This increases pressure on our people, our established practices and our lived environment;
3. The poor risk management associated with the control of odour, noise and other discharges to air can lead to adverse effects on Ranginui;
4. There is a lack of clear policy and a recognised position of Taranaki Iwi in ownership and equitable access to airwaves and telecommunications;
5. Light pollution has an impact in the night sky obscuring our view of the stars;
6. Some industries and land uses involve the discharge of contaminants to air. This can adversely impact on air quality and individual and whānau health and well-being. These include the use of agrichemicals, domestic and farming fires (including backyard burning) and point source discharges from oil and gas plants, etc.;
7. Intensive farming is a key cause of climate change in New Zealand as it is responsible for increasing greenhouse gas emissions including rising methane and nitrous oxide emissions, deforestation and intensive uses of fertilisers;
8. Reliance on fossil fuel powered vehicles and energy generation contributes to increased air pollution;
9. Aircraft and drones can impact on people's privacy, cultural sites and also on important hui;
10. Natural hazards such as flooding and coastal erosion are increasing because of climate change. These hazards impact on property and the health and wellbeing of our whānau;
11. Our whānau and marae could be better informed and equipped, and more resilient to deal with the changing weather patterns and be prepared for the future impacts.

#### 11.3.2 Objectives

The following statements describe Taranaki Iwi Objectives for Ranginui and Tāwhirimātea:

1. Taranaki Iwi becomes a more resilient and self-sufficient iwi in the face of climate change and its effects. Our iwi undertakes not to contribute to climate change and air pollution, and does not support activities that do;
2. The mouri of Ranginui in the Taranaki Iwi rohe will be protected, cared for and restored;
3. Ranginui will be in a healthy and natural state, free from pollutants, with balanced levels of life-supporting elements in the air we breathe. The night sky will not be unnecessarily obscured by light;
4. All marae within the Taranaki Iwi are para kore by 2023;
5. Taranaki Iwi are leaders on the uptake and use of sustainable and green technologies in their business, marae and at home;
6. The air quality in our rohe will no longer be unnecessarily affected in an adverse way by the consumption of fossil fuels, the use of inefficient wood burners or other sources of air pollution including intensive farming;
7. Industrial discharges that reduce the quality of the air will be reduced, so that all air sheds have acceptable levels of pollutants which are able to sustain the health and wellbeing of people in our rohe.

#### 11.3.3 Policies

1. Marae in Taranaki Iwi will prioritise, where possible, the use of clean technology in all areas including electricity supply and transportation.
2. Papakāinga will be developed to be community-sufficient and resilient using sustainable design and planting, and utilising practices of whakaparapara, hangarua, rongoā and communal gardens etc. aligned with approaches such as para kore.
3. Decision makers should consider the effects of an activity on the mouri of Ranginui when making decisions on applications and developing management and planning documents.
4. Taranaki Iwi supports, and will advocate for, clean technology initiatives and activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
5. Taranaki Iwi will organise and support events within the iwi and the wider community to support clean air strategies.
6. Any upgrades or work done to marae and pā will consider the impacts of and to climate change in their design.
7. Taranaki Iwi will support effective public transport systems, walking and cycling initiatives and the development of associated infrastructure.

## 11.4 Tangaroa-ki-Tai

8. Taranaki Iwi will educate current and future generations in the benefits of green technologies and sustainable living practices.

9. Taranaki Iwi will support socially and environmentally sustainable initiatives by primary industry and other industries, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon.

10. Taranaki Iwi will advocate against the extraction and use of fossil fuels.

11. Taranaki Iwi will advocate to central and local government to ensure that there is no degradation of the air quality within the rohe, including opposing activities which lead to a reduction in air quality in that area.

12. Taranaki Iwi do not support development that will result in people and structures unnecessarily put at risk from natural hazards in areas susceptible to natural hazards, especially coastal areas and flood prone areas.

13. Taranaki Iwi do not support any action or activities that will result in the degradation of the mouri of Ranginui.

14. Taranaki Iwi will advocate for the reforestation and active reestablishment of habitats that support endemic species that limit soil erosion.

15. Marae and pā will be aware of natural hazards in their area and will be prepared as a place of refuge to provide shelter, kai, rongō and aroha for whānau and wider communities in the event of a disaster.



**The seas that bind the Coastal Marine Area are known by Taranaki Iwi as Ngā Tai a Kupe (the shores and tides of Kupe). Tangaroa ki Tai also includes the domain and seas out to the exclusive economic zone and to Hawaiki.**

Prior to the proclamation and enforcement of the confiscation of lands within the Taranaki Iwi rohe, Taranaki Iwi hapū occupied and cultivated lands adjacent to the shore. They fished, harvested and managed mahinga kai in the coastal marine environment. The entire shoreline from Paritutu to the Rawa o Turi was critical to daily life relying on these food sources and established ritual and ceremonies in connection with them. The sea and coastal reefs provided a stable and enduring food source over the changing of seasons, while the fertile volcanic soils providing excellent growing conditions for large community cultivations and for inland mahinga kai. Food preparation and harvesting depended on the lunar calendar that controlled tides and other environmental conditions. The most important times for mahinga mātaimai were known by Taranaki Iwi as Ngā Tai a Mākiri, generally occurring in March and September. Large kāinga like Parihaka aligned their important occasions with these times of the year to have the capacity to cater for their large gatherings.

The small boulder reefs are possibly one of the most unique features of the Taranaki Iwi coastline, providing special habitat for many varieties of marine life. The entire coastline of Ngā Tai a Kupe has provided Taranaki Iwi with a constant supply of food. The reefs contain pāua, kina, kōura, kuku, pūpū, ngākihi, pāpaka, kōtoretore and many other reef species. Tāmure, kahawai, pātiki, mangō and other fish are caught along the coastline in nets and on fishing lines.

The reefs also contain the ancient tauranga waka or awa waka, where large boulders were moved aside by hand to create channels in the reef. This provided access to offshore fishing grounds and prevented boats from being smashed on rocks by the heavy surf. Large kāinga were also built around the tauranga waka providing hapū and the wider Taranaki Iwi with the infrastructure for efficient fishing operations. Whenever possible, fishing nets were set in the tauranga waka to make use of the outgoing tide. Fishing also took place in separate, smaller pool-like structures, or tauranga ika. They were baited and had a small opening on the seaward end of the structure to attract fish. On an incoming tide fish would enter the pools to feed and would then be chased out to be caught by a net placed over the small entranceway.

### 11.4.1 Ngā Take – Issues

**Current issues for Tangaroa ki-tai within the Taranaki rohe are:**

1. There is a risk associated with environmental degradation to taonga species and mahinga kai from activities such as seabed mining, bottom trawling, drilling and discharge as those activities can pollute and destroy the habitats and food resources of those species;
2. The lack of petroleum and mineral ownership rights for tangata whenua within the rohe of Taranaki Iwi and provision for involvement of tangata whenua in current and future petroleum and mineral activities.
3. Human actions have and are degrading the mouri of Tangaroa-ki-Tai in the Taranaki Iwi rohe;
4. Activities on the land, such as discharge of pollutants, soil erosion, dumping of rubbish and damming of waterbodies have a detrimental effect on Tangaroa-ki-tai;
5. There is a fragmented approach taken to managing customary, non-commercial and commercial fishing practices, which is not helped by a lack of good information and monitoring mechanisms required to track what state the fisheries are in. This can lead to the localised depletion of inshore fisheries, in particular those species that are most favoured by many, such as pāua and kōura;
6. A key concern for the state of non-commercial fisheries is the lack of good information. This is critical to assessing the state of our fisheries and the environment.
7. An additional concern is the introduction of nationally significant surf breaks which focus on recreational use and increased human traffic in and around the reserves and lands adjacent to the breaks.

### 11.4.2 Objectives

**The following statements describe Taranaki Iwi Objectives for Tangaroa-ki-tai:**

1. "Mai i te Kāhui Mounga ki Tangaroa" – the capacity and integrity of the aquatic environment, habitats and species are sustained and enhanced at levels that provide for current and future use;
2. The mouri of Tangaroa-ki-tai in the Taranaki Iwi rohe will be protected, cared for and restored;
3. That all coastal waters are clean enough for swimming and kai gathering;
4. Coastal habitats are protected from adverse development and introduced species;
5. Taranaki Iwi has a good understanding of the state of health of our coastal ecosystems to support active protection and enhancement of these ecosystems; and
6. Kaimoana is healthy and plentiful and cultural harvests and non-commercial takes are prioritised over commercial takes.

### 11.4.3 Policies

1. The health of known marine habitats is protected, regularly monitored, and is stable or improving.
2. A holistic approach will be taken to activities in the coastal area considering the impacts on the wider environment which may arise.
3. Taranaki Iwi will oppose any activity which degrades the natural balance present in the living ecosystem and environment of Tangaroa-i-te-tai, including:
  - a. Mining and prospecting of any kind in the marine area.
  - b. Activities which degrade or restrict access to mātaimai areas.
  - c. The direct discharge of contaminants, especially wastewater to coastal waters.
  - d. Building and development within the coastal marine area.
  - e. Sonic surveys and seismic blasting and/or surveys.
4. Iwi fishers use traditional and contemporary mātauranga in iwi, hapū, and marae/pā management strategies;
5. Consideration of activities in the realm of Tangaroa-ki-tai will include a requirement to assess the activity against the following cultural values:
  - a. Te huanga o Tangaroa - degradation of the environment necessary for the wellbeing of a broad diversity of interconnected marine life, those being marine mammals, fish and the diversity of coastal inshore and deep sea offshore species;
  - b. Ngā tai o te moana (coastal and offshore waters) - the degradation of the balance in delicate marine ecosystems and environmental features;
  - c. Te takapou o Tangaroa (seabed) - the degradation of the mouri of this element;
  - d. Ngā taonga tuku iho (traditional Māori values and practices) - the degradation of the cultural relationships with our customary fishing rights, tauranga ika and mahinga mātaimai, and the cumulative impact associated with ongoing invasive activities such as leaving structures on the seabed; and
  - e. Economic development and sustainability - the degradation of the marine environment impacting on the potential for the development of our fishing rights, and our ongoing capacity and ability to be economically sustainable where proposed activities and the cumulative impact associated with those activities may limit aspirations for self-sufficiency;
  - f. Consideration should also be given to ownership and Treaty rights in respect to activities in the Tangaroa-ki-tai, including:

## 11.5 Tangaroa-ki-Uta

- i. recognition of tangata whenua ownership rights of petroleum and mineral resources.
- ii. Requirement that royalties or financial contributions are paid to tangata whenua for all revenue generated from the development of petroleum and mineral resources within the rohe of Taranaki Iwi.
- iii. Recognition of Customary Marine Title and ownership of petroleum and mineral resources under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011.
- iv. Requirement that central government agencies and departments involved as regulators, decision makers and/or administrators of New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals programmes recognise of Treaty requirements under all relevant legislation such as the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

- 6. Recognise the importance of iwi waka hourua;
- 7. Decision makers should consider the effects of an activity on the essential nature of mouri expressed within Tangaroa-ki-tai when making decisions on applications and developing management and planning documents;
- 8. Pathways for our tamariki to practise kaitiakitanga over the marine and coastal environment are developed;
- 9. The role of kaitiaki, whānau and hapū, marae/pā to responsibly manage fisheries and takutai is well understood and upheld;
- 10. Traditional knowledge systems are recognised and enhanced to help contribute to decision-making about fisheries and their habitats;
- 11. Taranaki Iwi are able to utilise our own tikanga in the management of our fisheries; and
- 12. Iwi, hapū and whānau of Taranaki can gather kaimoana for their customary non-commercial purposes.



**Freshwater is a fundamental element of all facets of life and is essential to our health and wellbeing. However, there are huge concerns over the state of our freshwater and the impact of its mouri on our wellbeing as Taranaki Iwi.**

The traditions of Taranaki Iwi confirm the ancestral, cultural, historical and spiritual importance of the waterbodies in the Taranaki Iwi rohe. The rivers and tributaries that bound and flow through the Taranaki Iwi rohe are of high importance to Taranaki Iwi, especially as many of them flow directly from Taranaki Mouna. These waterbodies contain associated kāinga, pā, important sites for the gathering of kai, tauranga ika and specialised zones for various activities of high cultural value such as cleansing, iriiringa, food preparation and bathing. The importance of these waterbodies reinforces our tribal identity and provides a continuous connection between us and our ancestors who also occupied these areas.

Rivers and streams within the Taranaki Iwi rohe continue to be vital to the well-being, livelihood and lifestyle of our communities today. Our tūpuna had a living relationship with their waterbodies; they were acutely aware of changes affecting those waters, and of the need to care for the water, the mouri and all that depended on it for sustenance. A diverse range of food sources, such as piharau, tuna, kōkopu, inanga, kōaro and kōura were harvested regularly, and large numbers of kahawai and pātiki were caught at coastal river mouths. Although access to many of the historic piharau fishing spots has become a challenge, many are still caught in the months of June, July and August by Taranaki Iwi families. Communities have also continued to use waterbodies for food preparation such as the soaking of kāngawai, of karaka, and some forms of mātaītai such as kōtoretore.

Relatively high rainfall on the mountain quickly drains through these river systems, resulting in high flows and swift clearance of excessive sediment. This has resulted in clean, clear water in many streams and rivers that have been accessible to generations of Taranaki Iwi. The river courses, waterfalls and pools were also ceremonial sites used for iriiringa and other forms of consecration such as the removal of tapu, tohi, pure and hahunga. The practice of hahunga involved scraping and cleansing bones after they were laid on a whata or suspended from trees to allow the flesh to decompose. The bones were then gathered and cleaned, then painted with kōkōwai, wrapped and interred in caves. Some of the caves were on river banks on the plains, while others were high up on the mountain. The removal of tapu from taonga often utilised waterbodies similarly the process of whakanoa after visiting urupā or in times of illness or spiritual ill-health often involved ehuehu, karakia or full submersion in the waters.

The natural resources along the edges of the rivers and large swamp systems commonly provided materials for everyday community life, waka (boats), housing construction, medicine, food and clothing. Large deposits of kōkōwai were also abundant in some river beds higher up on the mountain.

Te Ahititi was a famous kōkōwai deposit located along the banks of the Hangatāhua River with other known sites on the Kaitake range and Waiwhakaiho River source above Karakatonga Pā. These sites were fiercely guarded by Taranaki Iwi.

The waterbodies within the Taranaki Iwi rohe traditionally provided the best access routes to inland cultivations and village sites further up on the mountain and in the ranges. Some of these routes became celebrated and were given names that reflected the importance of the places they led to. Te Arakaipaka was a route that followed the Pitoone, Timaru and Waiorehu streams up to various sites on the Kaitake and Pouākai ranges. Tararua followed the Whenuariki Stream to Te Iringa, Pirongia, Pukeiti and Te Kōhatu on the Kaitake range. The Hangatāhua River was a key route up onto the Ahukawakawa swamp basin. The Kapoiaia River also provided a pathway for Taranaki Iwi hapū Ngāti Haupoto that began at Pukehamaoamo (close to the Cape Lighthouse on the sea coast) and went to Te Umupua, Orokotehe, Te Ahitahutahu, Ongaonga and on to a whare at the Ahukawakawa basin. The Okahu River was another well-known route to Te Āpiti and onto Te Maru, a fortified pā high up on Taranaki Maunga. Te Maru Pā had extensive cultivations and satellite kāinga before it was attacked by Ngāpūhi and Waikato war parties in the early 1800s.

Taniwha also protected many of the rivers and waterbodies along the Taranaki Iwi coast. Te Rongorangiataiki was resident along the Oakura River along with the famed taniwha Tuiiau of Matanehunehu. Te Haiata was a taniwha who resided at Ngauhe, and Kaiaho on the Pungaereere and Oaoiti streams. He would move from these two places from time to time to protect the people and the rivers. Taniwha are still revered by many Taranaki Iwi families and form the basis of tikanga (practices) for which the sustainable harvesting and gathering of food for Taranaki Iwi continues today.

### 11.5.1 Ngā Take – Issues

**The current Tangaroa-ki-Uta issues within the Taranaki rohe are:**

- 1. Human activity, including point and nonpoint source discharges of pollutants to our waterbodies has and will continue to degrade the balance of lifecosystems and water quality within our waterbodies;
- 2. The removal, realignment and obstruction of waterbodies through the development of dams, weirs and culverts, 'drain' making, infilling of watercourses and natural flood zones has adversely affected the important natural values and functions of our waterbodies;
- 3. The ongoing pollution of our waterbodies from rubbish, chemicals and run-off etc.;

4. Deforestation in our rohe causes increased soil erosion and deposition and the destruction of habitat for flora and fauna. The loss of riparian cover contributes greatly to increased temperatures and loss of shaded habitat causing heightened levels of algal growth that suffocates native fauna and congests waterflow;

- 5. There is a loss of access to and along important waterbodies as they are often surrounded by private land, making the waterbodies inaccessible to our people;
- 6. The inadvertent and deliberate introduction of freshwater pests, such as didymo, trout, oxygen weed etc. represent serious harm to waterbodies and the ngāi tipu me ngāi kirehe within them;
- 7. Excessive water takes and over allocation of water resources can adversely affect the habitat and functioning of waterbodies; and
- 8. As with much of New Zealand, many historic Taranaki Iwi wetlands have been drained to make way for farmland, taking with them the many resources, for example the many endemic species that lived and bred there, the plant resources for weaving and housing, the paru deposits for dyeing and protecting timber and the function they had for our waterbodies by retaining waterflow to limit flooding and sustain continued waterflow on the land.

### 11.5.2 Objectives

**The following statements describe Taranaki Iwi Objectives for wai:**

- 1. The mouri of Wai Māori in the Taranaki Iwi rohe will be protected, cared for and restored;
- 2. All freshwater in the rohe is fishable and swimmable by 2040. All significant waterbodies are drinkable and are of a quality appropriate for use in customary cleansing practices by 2060;
- 3. The relationship of Taranaki Iwi, hapū, marae/pā and whānau with wai is respected, enhanced and supported;
- 4. The health and well-being of wai is protected for present and future generations, including access, fisheries, food gathering and preparation, rongōā, and important cultural practices;
- 5. There will be no discharges (either point source or non-point source) that may adversely impact on water quality by 2040;
- 6. Stormwater is captured and treated, and where possible utilised as a resource. When released to streams, it is released in a manner aligned with natural flow regimes (i.e. in a manner that avoids excessive peaks) so that it avoids damage to ecosystems and increased erosion;

7. Waterways and wetlands are identified, and management responses, including exclusion of stock and planting of riparian margins, appropriate to the topography, vulnerability and environmental value of those water ways and wetlands, are put in place;
8. Water takes are managed in a way that allows our rivers and streams to be sustainable, healthy and life enhancing;
9. Water is not diverted out of its natural catchments. This includes the unnecessary extraction of water for use outside of its catchment;
10. Fish passage and habitat in our waterbodies is not unnaturally constrained. Modified waterbodies culverts, weirs and dams allow for native fish migration; and
11. No waterbodies and wetlands are exposed to the threat of excavation, quarrying and diversions.

### 11.5.3 Policies

1. Taranaki Iwi will seek strong and enforceable measures to achieve the environmental and cultural outcomes identified in its objectives.
2. Local and Central government will:
  - a. include and provide for Taranaki Iwi cultural values in decision making around freshwater management;
  - b. recognise and provide for the interconnectedness of wai, from the mountains to the sea;
  - c. manage land use and waterbodies in an integrated manner and on a catchment basis; and
  - d. make decisions on the management of waterbodies to enhance their quality to fishable standards.
3. Decision makers should consider the effects of an activity on the mouri of Tangaroa-ki-Uta when making decisions on applications and developing management and planning documents;
4. Promote and support access to water for the social, cultural, environmental and economic values of Taranaki Iwi;
5. Access to fresh water bodies to undertake customary activities and uses is enabled, protected and enhanced; and
6. Taranaki Iwi will oppose:
  - a. any action or activities that will result in the degradation of the mouri of Tangaroa-ki-Uta;

- b. discharges to water which do not pass through land or a wetland prior to release to water and are poor quality, contain contaminants and/or will contribute to adverse effects on the quality of the receiving water body;
  - c. water takes where the water is taken outside of the catchment or will result in the degradation of the life-supporting capacity of the waterway and/or its mouri;
  - d. The allocation of water take consents at unsustainable levels and any privatisation of waterbodies;
  - e. the creation of barriers to native fish passage along waterbodies;
  - f. drainage of any part of a wetland;
  - g. human activity adjacent to waterbodies which will result in sediment or waste discharge entering the waterbodies;
  - h. activities that result in the loss of riparian vegetation;
  - i. allowing stock to have access to waterbodies;
  - j. dams over a metre high unless they allow for ease of fish passage, address sediment effects (such as downstream bed armouring) and do not alter the natural flows of the waterway to the detriment of endemic species present; and
  - k. any culverts, weirs, floodgates, intake structures or other artificial structures that do allow for ease of fish passage.
7. Water allocation is equitable and moved to a priority user-based framework which is environmentally and not economically driven;
  8. In addition to regulation, Taranaki Iwi will support non-regulatory methods including education, advocacy and environmental best practice as a way of enhancing water quality;
  9. Taranaki Iwi will promote and protect the intrinsic ecological and biodiversity values of waterbodies and set limits and targets that will ensure health and wellbeing of waterbodies;
  10. Taranaki Iwi will support proposals and activities that will result in an enhancement of water quality and biodiversity within the rohe;
  11. Use of cultural health monitoring tools alongside scientific measurement tools to monitor and report on activities that affect waterbodies and bodies of water within Taranaki Iwi rohe and matters of significance to Taranaki.

## 11.6 Tāne

The rohe is characterised by areas of indigenous vegetation and habitat for indigenous species including tall woody vegetation, shrubland (Haumia-Tiketike), wetlands and coastal vegetation etc. The environment on the slopes of Kaitake, Pouākai and Taranaki mounga is fertile, and near the coast there is a wide stretch of nearly level land. This flat area was historically covered with dense forest and wetlands, and the Taranaki territory was celebrated for its immense quantities of ngāi tipu me ngāi kirehe (such as prized varieties of harakeke). Taranaki was renowned as an Iwi with superior knowledge in cultivating, processing and utilising harakeke in a wide range of products. So much so that obtaining this resource became the focus of a large number of raids and warlike expeditions made into the region by Northern tribes.

Taranaki's endemic vegetation ranged across diverse environments from alpine herb fields to temperate rainforests, to coastal turf and dune vegetation. Like most of New Zealand, Taranaki was once covered in thick and diverse forest and shrubland, with large areas of wetland vegetation and cultivated open areas.

Throughout New Zealand, much of the land cleared for development was in low-lying and coastal areas. Such is the case in Taranaki where approximately 60% of the pre-human native forest and wetlands has been cleared. The remnants of vegetation on the ring plain and marine terraces are fragments of what they once were. They remain highly valued for what they provide in the form of biodiversity. The largest concentrations of native forest remaining in the region are confined to Egmont National Park, the steeper parts of north Taranaki and the eastern hill country.

Between 2008 and 2012, Taranaki saw a net loss of around 3,700 hectares of native forest and shrubland, despite around 430 hectares of new shrubland being regenerated. Most of the lost vegetation area was converted to grassland. By comparison, between 2001 and 2008 a total of 2,370 hectares of forest and shrub was lost in the region.

Just over half of Taranaki's land area has less than 20% of its original native vegetation remaining. The native habitats that remain in these areas are considered acutely or chronically threatened.<sup>1</sup>

The coastal area of Taranaki is also home to many important native species. Their habitat is often under threat from a range of natural and human-based threats. The species under threat include penguin and seal colonies at Ngā Motu and the dotterel colonies at Kōmene and Kāhui Roads etc. While some of these areas are actively managed by the Department of Conservation, they will still benefit from input from local communities, including whānau, hapū and marae/pā who are able to more effectively monitor the wellbeing of the wildlife in these areas.

<sup>1</sup>Taranaki as One – Taranaki Tāngata Tū Tahī

### 11.6.1 Ngā Take – Issues

The current Tāne issues within the Taranaki rohe are:

1. Human actions have and continue to degrade the mouri of Tāne in the Taranaki Iwi rohe;
2. Native plant and animal species are in decline due to the removal of native bush, invasive plant and animal pests, land use changes and modification of landscape and freshwater systems;
3. Translocation of native species, if not undertaken appropriately, can impact on the local populations of those species and harm the species being translocated;
4. Administrative barriers can limit and constrain Taranaki Iwi in our continued use of native plants and animals for customary purposes;
5. The potential for negative and unforeseen outcomes resulting from the introduction of genetically engineered plants, animals and organisms is a strong concern for Taranaki Iwi;
6. Changing lifestyles means that whānau are having less contact with our local environment and natural resources which means there is a reduction in the level of appreciation and value placed in them by our people; and
7. Climate change is causing temperature rise pushing species further inland and increasing exposure to disease, pest species and greater stress on plants and animals. In some cases this can lead to the extinction of vulnerable alpine plant species.

### 11.6.2 Objectives

The following statements describe Taranaki Iwi Objectives for Tāne:

1. The mouri of Tāne in the Taranaki Iwi rohe will be protected, cared for and restored;
2. All waterbodies in the rohe will be planted with native species at least 5-20 m wide on either side and fenced to exclude livestock by 2030, with a focus on providing natural corridors of vegetation for extending habitat territory for fauna and enhancing biodiversity;
3. Remnant forest patches within the rohe will be protected from serious threats, and their value will be recognised and enhanced so that they thrive and flourish;
4. A network of native vegetation zones will form corridors radiating out from Taranaki mounga to Ngā Tai a Kupe, re-establishing connections and cultural relationships with thriving ecosystems of Tāne;
5. Important habitats for wildlife will be protected from external threats so they are sustained and are able to flourish;

6. The Taranaki Iwi rohe will remain GE organism free; and
7. Within the limits of what the forest is able to provide sustainably, Taranaki Iwi uri and descendants will have uninhibited access to traditional plant and animal species for cultural purposes. This could include, but is not limited to, the following:
  - i. unearthing of native timber for cultural purposes;
  - ii. sourcing natural materials for weaving, structures and cultural items;
  - iii. access to plants as wai rākau and for the purposes of rongōā; and
  - iv. access to plants and animals for cultural purposes.



### 11.6.3 Policies

1. Taranaki Iwi will oppose:
  - a. Any action or activities that will result in the degradation of the mouri of Tāne;
  - b. The clearance of native vegetation within the rohe unless it is for defined cultural purposes;
  - c. Animal and plant gene manipulation, gene banking or appropriation;
  - d. Any GE field trials;
  - e. Activities that will result in increased threats to habitat of indigenous species; and
  - f. A reduction in the protection or active management of important areas of biodiversity on Crown land.
2. Taranaki Iwi will support initiatives that will lead to greater protection, enhancement and expansion of indigenous biodiversity within the Taranaki rohe;
3. Decision makers should consider the effects of an activity on the mouri of Tāne when making decisions on applications and developing management and planning documents;
4. Taranaki Iwi will progressively assemble a biodiversity information resource for marae and whānau to access for research and practical application purposes;
5. Taranaki Iwi will support and facilitate marae and papakāinga to develop eco-nurseries and biodiversity restoration projects within the rohe;
6. Taranaki Iwi will actively promote species restoration that provides for sustainable cultural harvest when appropriate levels are reached;
7. Taranaki Iwi will play an active role in managing and protecting habitat for important wildlife; and
8. Translocation of native species from within our rohe should not take place without express permission from, and engagement with, Taranaki Iwi.

### 11.7 Rongo

The active cultivation of vegetables, beneficial plants, herbs and medicines is a form of practising the role of kaitiakitanga on our whenua. It is a way of taking care of whānau and hosting manuhiri by preparing, providing and eating healthy kai, locally sourced and free of pesticides, toxins and genetic manipulation, which all contributes to the principles and practice of Whānau Ora. As kaitiaki on our whenua we are guided by tikanga tuku iho and mātauranga to maintain our practices and activities associated with māra kai.

Rongo is an important part of the identity of Taranaki Iwi and played an important part of key events in our history. Cultivation of land for food production was used as a means to show ownership of land by demonstrating continued occupation. Cultivations and ploughing, in particular, were used in strategies seeking to stop the legislative and creeping confiscation of Taranaki Iwi lands by the Crown.

The development of māra kai at marae/pā, kura and in the back yards of our homes helps promote sustainability, self-sufficiency, wellbeing, healthy nutrition and physical activity. Mārakai help grow and strengthen our community connections with, and understanding of, the environment as we derive our sustenance directly from our whenua. A communal approach to gardening also helps promote the sharing and growth of contemporary and customary gardening knowledge. It will also foster stronger whānau, hapū marae/pā and iwi links as we come together to create and tend to our gardens.



Photo – Angie Walters

### 11.7.1 Ngā Take – Issues

The current issues associated with Rongo in the Taranaki rohe are:

1. Healthy food is becoming more expensive and harder for people to access;
2. More and more fruit and vegetables are the product of genetic modification or are grown using harmful chemicals or unsustainable farming practices;
3. Tikanga associated with traditional cultivation techniques could be lost; and
4. Rates of diabetes and obesity are growing which is, in part, due to poor diet.

### 11.7.2 Objectives

The following statements describe Taranaki Iwi Objectives for Rongo:

1. All marae/pā, kura and kōhanga reo will have functioning māra kai by 2020. These mārakai will be maintained through the application of traditional knowledge and shared community engagement;
2. All marae/pā will have a māra rongōā on site;
3. Homes within Taranaki Iwi rohe will be supported to have māra kai as a way to feed whānau and encourage healthy lifestyles and diet;
4. Taranaki Iwi whānau, hapū and marae/pā will become less reliant on processed kai and kai from outside of the rohe, instead relying on locally sourced and locally grown organic kai from marae and homes where at all possible; and
5. Traditional kai cultivation techniques will be actively promoted and used throughout the Taranaki Iwi rohe with our own networks of seed banks with a full range of strong local seedstock openly available for community use and retained for future generations.

### 11.7.3 Policies

1. Taranaki Iwi will support and facilitate the development of māra kai and māra rongōā, and organic practices with recycling and waste reducing and environmental protection associated with the kaupapa of Para Kore at marae/pā, kura, kōhanga/kōpae, community spaces, papakāinga and homes within the Taranaki Iwi rohe.
2. Taranaki Iwi recognises the economic and health benefits associated with māra kai and locally sourced, locally grown organic kai.

## 11.8 Taranaki Mounga

Taranaki Mounga is the much-revered peak at the heart of the Taranaki Rohe. His rich korowai of native vegetation spreads in all directions from his steep volcanic cone and across the adjacent ranges of Pouākai and Kaitake to the north west. The mounga's forests are thick with kahikatea, tawa, tōtara, kāmahi and rātā that give way to mountain cedar and red tussocks in the alpine zone. Rare native birds such as the North Island brown kiwi, whio, toutouwai and pāteke have been protected, monitored and reintroduced, and can still be seen occasionally on his slopes. However, the mounga have been devastated by introduced predators and feral pests such as wild goats, weasels, stoats, possums, cats and rats.

The mounga are not limited to the national park boundaries; the environment extends to the coast and out to sea from Taranaki, Pouākai, Kaitake, Paritutu, and the off-shore islands of Ngā Motu, which form the large part of our rohe. Taranaki Mounga is considered a younger ancestor in contrast to the other mounga of Ngā Motu, Kaitake and Pouākai, who were formed through the same process that brought Taranaki mounga into being. This narrative varies slightly from the Taranaki mounga narratives previous described above in this documentary, while at the same time there are a great many points that well aligned and remain recognised today by Taranaki Iwi.

Taranaki Mounga is deeply important to the region, an inimitable presence in the region, a source of identity for Taranaki Iwi. whānau, hapū, marae/pā: a mountain of tapu and mouri. Most streams and rivers within the rohe start on the slopes of Taranaki and he is responsible for the region's weather system. He provides habitat and haven for numerous species historically found throughout the rohe.

The mounga is also focal point for Taranaki Iwi whānau, hapū, marae/pā and the wider Taranaki community. The ambitious goals of the Taranaki Mounga restoration project reflect the importance of the mounga to the local communities, with an objective of 'restoring the ecological vitality of Taranaki for him, for us'. The kaupapa for the Taranaki Mounga project resonates with Taiao, Taioira as it is based on the concept of the betterment of the environment for the betterment of the community. From a tangata whenua perspective, as kaitiaki of the mounga, it is imperative we embrace this concept as tangata whenua while also recognising the broader aspiration of conservation for the mounga.

### 11.8.1 Ngā Take – Issues

The current Mounga issues within the Taranaki rohe are:

1. Human actions have and continue to degrade the mouri of Taranaki Mounga in the Taranaki Iwi rohe.
2. Invasive plant and animal pests continue to have a very harmful impact on the natural environment that remains on Taranaki Mounga. This native ecosystem is unlikely to be able to resist the predation and damage done by such pests without well managed intervention.
3. Taranaki Iwi whānau, hapū, marae/pā assert our role as mana whenua to be actively engaged at all levels of conservation. In the past we have been excluded from the management role, which was held by the Crown. Our direct involvement will build skills and experience to enhance traditional practice of kaitiakitanga on the Mounga.
4. The impact of growing numbers of park users and the infrastructure put in place to service these users is of concern to Taranaki Iwi. The natural ecosystems that draw people to Taranaki Mounga are the remnant of what historically cloaked his slopes down to the coast and must be given priority for active protection over the needs of park users. The impacts can include habitat destruction, imbalance to ecosystems, introduction of pest species and culturally inappropriate activity on the mounga.
5. New developments from human activity on and around the mounga can impact on the natural environment and the important cultural value our iwi associates with Taranaki Mounga.
6. Hazards and risks on Taranaki Mounga have detrimental effects on the important natural environment, the cultural value and landscape of the mounga.
7. Taranaki Mounga is the source of many of the waterbodies of our rohe. Activities that occur on the mounga have the potential to impact on the wider rohe from the peak of the mounga to the sea.



### 11.8.2 Objectives

The following statements describe Taranaki Iwi Objectives for Taranaki Mounga:

1. The mouri of Taranaki Mounga in the Taranaki Iwi rohe will be protected, cared for and restored;
2. Taranaki Mounga will be given comprehensive protection; risks of damage from invasive weeds and pests will be removed in order for native flora and fauna to flourish in abundance;
3. The korowai of native habitat will proliferate and flow down the sides of the mounga towards the sea;
4. All water that flows from the mounga will be given active protection from the detrimental impacts of human activity, wider environmental degradation and invasive species to ensure waterbodies are maintained in a pristine state;
5. All waterbodies that start on the mounga, flowing to the sea, will be given riparian shelter and protection from erosion and contamination from land use by native vegetation as an extension of the ngahere on Taranaki Mounga;
6. All people involved in activity on the mounga will be aware of the environmental and cultural values associated with Taranaki Mounga and will be required to treat these values with respect and care;
7. Taranaki Iwi are fully engaged in all levels of management and operations linked with the mounga and are active kaitiaki of the mounga; and
8. Wider Taranaki communities will understand key elements of the value placed on the mounga by Taranaki Iwi and share in the task of active protection and respect in line with these views.

### 11.8.3 Policies

1. Taranaki Iwi will be consulted with at the earliest possible stage of any intended concession or works approval application within the National Park. No decisions should be made by the Crown on such concessions or activity until Taranaki Iwi has been able to formally respond to the applications;
2. Ensure there is no disturbance to unmodified areas of the national park, unless evidence can be shown to prove that it will lead to protection and enhancement of natural and cultural values at that location;
3. Taranaki Iwi will take a lead role in habitat restoration and enhancement work on the mounga, with appropriate resourcing from the Crown;

4. Taranaki Iwi supports Project Mounga and will be prominently involved in that project at governance and operations levels;
5. Decision-makers must consider the impacts of an activity on the essential character of Taranaki Mounga when deliberating on applications and in developing and implementing management plans in the National Park and its connected ecosystems, such as habitat corridors along waterbodies and remnant forest blocks located outside the park;
6. Taranaki Iwi will not support activities that have the potential to result in the degradation of the natural ecosystem and endemic habitat of Taranaki Mounga;
7. Taranaki Iwi will not support any residential subdivision and development within 5 km of the National Park boundaries;
8. Taranaki Iwi will work to better connect whānau to the mounga so we can more effectively fulfil our role as kaitiaki of Taranaki Mounga;
9. Taranaki Iwi will work with the Crown and other entities to raise wider awareness of the importance of the mounga to our iwi and the need to respect the important cultural and environmental values we associate with him;
10. Taranaki Iwi will support activities which extend the endemic habitat of the national park, that assist in its proliferation and enhance the natural values we associate with the mounga; and
11. Within the limits of what the mounga is sustainably able to provide, Taranaki Iwi have uninhibited access to traditional resources including plant and animal species for cultural purposes. This could include, but is not limited to, the following:
  - i. sourcing plant material for weaving, construction and art forms;
  - ii. access to plants as wai rākau and for the purposes of rongōā; and
  - iii. access to plants and animals for cultural purposes such as feathers from birds found dead in the park or cultural live harvest if it were sustainable and young plants for re-establishing vegetation on cultural sites outside the national park.
  - iv. access to minerals and deposits on the mounga such as kōkōwai and rock.



## 12. Implementation

This section will ensure there is a practical pathway to achieving the vision of Taranaki Iwi across their interests represented in the atua identified in this plan. The planned actions will reflect a combined and strategic approach. Activity that arises from the strategic framework for each of the atua will be developed in an interconnected and interdependent approach where it is more likely to achieve significant outcomes across multiple Taranaki interests. We recognise there are finite resources available to enact this plan and therefore need to carefully prioritise activity in areas where success is most needed and also most likely to be achieved to meet the vision and objectives described in the plan. The following actions address a wide range of issues and take a strategic and holistic approach to implement the plan.

### Implementation is divided into two parts:

**Section One** focuses on actions that are to be led and undertaken by Taranaki Iwi.

**Section Two** focuses on external organisations (councils, industry, external stakeholders and central government) and identifies actions expected of those organisations to more effectively fulfil their role in actively protecting and enhancing our environment, in conjunction with Taranaki Iwi.

## Section One: Taranaki Iwi Implementation Focus

The following actions are the responsibility of Taranaki Iwi to initiate and implement. The actions have been prioritised as follows:

These actions are focused on providing capacity and resources for Taranaki Iwi to connect with, protect and sustain our environment. There is no one action which will achieve the identified objectives. The plan is a combination of actions to be undertaken by Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust to empower, inform and provide resources to Iwi members to be more enabled as active kaitiaki in the Taranaki Iwi rohe.

### Priority 1

Actions that have a role of establishing systems and capacity within Taranaki Iwi and are to be undertaken as soon as possible.

### Priority 2

Actions that build on Priority 1 and utilise the established capacity of systems and resources for a set of initial projects from the plan to be undertaken to become case studies and founding initiatives that exemplify the intent of this plan.

### Priority 3

Actions that have long-term objectives enabling the iwi to take a proactive and informed role as kaitiaki within the rohe.



Policy and Planning Committee - Taiao Taiora Taranaki Iwi Management Plan

Section One:  
Taranaki Iwi Implementation Focus

Action	The planting of rākau with strong cultural significance
Description	<p>Plant specimen trees at significant locations around the rohe. These trees will be selected based on their value for ceremonial purposes, cultural reference points and to demonstrate the introduction of this plan. The establishment of new vegetation zones at key sites (identified by hapū) will be an important first step to mark the beginning of the journey which <i>Taiao, Taiora</i> represents.</p> <p>These groves of trees will be actively managed to expand over time to include new sites linked through the rohe as corridors for native species to become re-established over time.</p> <p>The plantings at each site will mark the start of a new journey of each marae/pā, hapū or whānau to become actively engaged in the role of kaitiaki.</p> <p><b>To be undertaken at the adoption of the Plan.</b></p>
Responsible Organisation	Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust, Marae/Pā, Hapū, Kāinga
Anticipated Outcomes	Physical, and historically relevant symbols of the initiation of <i>Taiao, Taiora</i> and the journey which it represents.
Action	Tikanga Taiao
Description	<p>Developing capability at Taranaki Iwi level to organise, coordinate, facilitate and administer the implementation of the first stages identified in the Plan.</p> <p>A coordinator role within Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust will provide a level of operational capacity and administrative support for Iwi to be engaged in active management and implementation of projects identified in this Plan.</p> <p>The coordinator will manage the applications for funding to enable Taranaki Iwi to operationalise initiatives described in the Plan.</p> <p><b>Engage within 6 months of the adoption of the Plan.</b></p>
Responsible Organisation	Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust
Anticipated Outcomes	A more capable and resourced iwi better positioned to implement <i>Taiao, Taiora</i> .

Section One:  
Taranaki Iwi Implementation Focus

Action	Establish marae or hapū based kaitiaki
Description	<p>Each marae/pā will identify at least one kaitiaki in the role of providing environmental leadership for their communities. The kaitiaki role will be to coordinate environment-based activities, to disseminate information, to provide information and local perspectives based on their community conditions and environment, and to be involved with Tikanga Taiao.</p> <p>Kaitiaki will be supported by Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust to ensure they are resourced and supported to fulfil their role effectively.</p> <p><b>Initiate within 6 months of the adoption of the Plan.</b></p>
Responsible Organisation	Marae/Pā, Taranaki Iwi, Tikanga Taiao
Anticipated Outcomes	Each marae / pa is better informed and positioned to implement <i>Taiao, Taiora</i> , including through engaging with the wider community and assisting whanau to implement environmental initiatives.
Action	Marae/ā kaitiaki plans
Description	<p>Each marae/pā or hapū develops a strategy to implement the Plan at the local level. This can be restricted to their immediate marae/pā land area or wider to include waterbodies, ngahere, takutai, mahinga kai, wāhi tapu and other places of importance to that community.</p> <p>Kaitiaki will lead this activity, facilitated by Tikanga Taiao. Support and resourcing may be shared between communities and supported by Te Kāhui o Taranaki.</p> <p><b>Initiate within 18 months of the adoption of the Plan.</b></p>
Responsible Organisation	Marae/pā, hapū and Taranaki Iwi, Tikanga Taiao
Anticipated Outcomes	Marae / Pā / Hapū have a plan that enables better understanding of their environment and assists them in identifying their environment project priorities. These strategies will help to access funds and other resources to progress their local initiatives. The plans will also help in creating opportunities for the wider whānau to become more involved in these environmental initiatives.
Action	Active engagement in Taranaki Mouna governance and project implementation
Description	<p>Continue build on the involvement of Taranaki Iwi in Project Mouna at the governance, management and operational levels.</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b></p>
Responsible Organisation	Taranaki Iwi
Anticipated Outcomes	Taranaki Iwi maintain our role as active kaitiaki of the mouna and are better positioned to ensure our priorities for the mouna are recognised.

Policy and Planning Committee - Taiao Taioara Taranaki Iwi Management Plan

Section One:  
Taranaki Iwi Implementation Focus

Action	Establish a Kaitiaki Hub to assist in the implementation of the Environmental Management Plan
Description	Establish a forum for kaitiaki and others interested in this area to access, and provide information and ideas in hui and online that continues to improve and assess the effectiveness of this Plan. <b>Within 12 months of the adoption of the Plan.</b>
Responsible Organisation	Taranaki Iwi and marae /pā, Tikanga Taiao, Kaitiaki
Anticipated Outcomes	Provides an opportunity for the marae / pā kaitiaki to work collaboratively to plan and implement sustainable management practices and initiatives throughout the rohe.
Action	Taiao, Taioara Communications Plan
Description	Develop a communications plan to ensure that key messages and information from the Plan are communicated to the range of identified audiences (i.e. Taranaki Iwi, Kaitiaki, Councils, applicants, etc). This plan could include establishing an online knowledge resource and written and electronic information for dissemination. <b>Within 6 months of the adoption of the Plan.</b>
Responsible Organisation	Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust, Tikanga Taiao
Anticipated Outcomes	Supports and facilitates the implementation of <i>Taiao, Taioara</i> , including processes for enhanced advocacy.
Action	Advocacy
Description	Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust, hapū and marae/pā will work with local and central government and applicants to disseminate the vision, objectives and policies in this Plan. This will include the use of education programmes and resources, media, pre-application meetings, forums, making submissions and putting in appeals, where required. Taranaki Iwi expects to be involved in matters under the Resource Management Act, Conservation Act, National Parks Act, Reserves Act and Local Government Act, and to be involved in other environmental and land management based statutory processes that impact within the rohe. <b>As soon as possible</b>
Responsible Organisation	Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust, Taranaki Iwi, Kaitiaki
Anticipated Outcomes	Assist Taranaki iwi in influencing the actions of other entities and stakeholders through statutory and nonstatutory processes, to meet the objectives of the <i>Taiao, Taioara</i> Plan.

Section One:  
Taranaki Iwi Implementation Focus

Action	Rāhui
Description	Taranaki Iwi (including marae and hapū) will use rāhui to restrict people and uses of specific areas where they have been degraded or depleted, e.g. fishing grounds. This will be done with the use of pānui and the practice of kaitiaki on site etc. Taranaki Iwi will facilitate the development of a protocol to be used by marae and hapū when applying rāhui. Taranaki Iwi will work with key agencies and stakeholders to facilitate the implementation and recognition of rāhui. <b>As soon as possible</b>
Responsible Organisation	Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust, marae and hapū
Anticipated Outcomes	The use of rāhui will assist in the protection and remediation of areas which are degraded, depleted or have suffered from an event or injury which has had an impact on the moui of the area.
Action	Mana Whakahono a Rohe
Description	Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust will invite Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council to enter into Iwi participation arrangements as per Sections 58O to 58U of the RMA. Note that any Mana Whakahono ā-Rohe arrangements made will not replace the Regional Council Representation arrangements identified in the Deed of Settlement. <b>Within 12 months of the adoption of the Plan.</b>
Responsible Organisation	Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust
Anticipated Outcomes	Enable Taranaki Iwi to have a greater involvement in the planning process to better to influence local government policy to align with <i>Taiao, Taioara</i> .

Policy and Planning Committee - Taiao Taiora Taranaki Iwi Management Plan

**Section One:**  
Taranaki Iwi Implementation Focus

<b>Action</b>	<b>Build relationships with Statutory Government Bodies, Non- Industry and Research Institutes</b>
<b>Description</b>	The Trust will explore partnership opportunities with Crown Research Institutes, tertiary education providers and NGO's regarding information gaps in environmental health or development opportunities within the rohe. The use of scientific and Māori based knowledge to guide restoration projects will also be explored.
<b>Responsible Organisation</b>	Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	Provide more information on the state of Taranaki's environment to better inform environmental priorities, restoration projects and advocacy roles for Iwi.
<b>Action</b>	<b>Sustainable Marae/Pā</b>
<b>Description</b>	Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust will promote sustainable marae and pā through the following actions: The development and dissemination of information on sustainable living, green technologies, water conservation, energy efficiency, permaculture, etc. Assisting marae to implement para kore based practices. Seeking funds for sustainable initiatives including solar and wind power projects. Rongo and Rongoā - Developing communal gardens and orchards, etc. Holding wānanga on sustainable living. Facilitating marae and pā to develop sustainability plans.
<b>Responsible Organisation</b>	Taranaki Iwi, Tikanga Taiao Kaitiaki, marae/pā
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	Build capability and knowledge resources to enable Hapū, Marae and Pā to better achieve the objectives of Taiao, Taiora.
<b>Action</b>	<b>Monitor the Plan</b>
<b>Description</b>	Tikanga Taiao will report back to the Trust on an annual basis on the implementation of the Plan. This will also include a review of actions taken, their resourcing and effectiveness. Recommendations will be made in the report to review or change any aspect of the Plan ensuring that it continues to reflect the issues and practices of the Rohe. <b>Undertaken Annually</b>
<b>Responsible Organisation</b>	Taranaki Iwi, Tikanga Taiao
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	Monitoring the plan will assist in ensuring the Plan is being implemented appropriately and will provide valuable information on those parts of the plan which are providing new and innovative insights

**Section One:**  
Taranaki Iwi Implementation Focus

<b>Action</b>	<b>Cultural Monitoring plan</b>
<b>Description</b>	Develop a cultural monitoring plan to set out how Taranaki Iwi will undertake environmental monitoring in our Rohe. This plan will include research and development of cultural indicators, monitoring sites and priorities and monitoring expectations for specific activities. <b>Initiated within 18 to 24 months</b>
<b>Responsible Organisation</b>	Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	The cultural monitoring plan will enable Taranaki iwi to better understand the state of the rohe using measures that reflect matauranga maori.
<b>Action</b>	<b>In conjunction with Research Institutes, Central Government and Councils, develop a natural resources inventory and enhancement strategy for the Taranaki Iwi rohe</b>
<b>Description</b>	Develop a database / inventory of key sites throughout the rohe. This will include areas of terrestrial biodiversity, awa, wetlands, fishing grounds, mātaītai beds, etc. The inventory will be held and maintained by the Iwi and should include information on the current state of the area, key management priorities, affiliated parties, etc. <b>Initiated within 18 to 24 months – can be ongoing.</b>
<b>Responsible Organisation</b>	Tikanga Taiao, marae/pā, Research Institutes, Central Government and Councils
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	The inventory will enable the prioritisation of areas for environmental protection, enhancement and Iwi advocacy. It will also assist marae and pā in developing their environmental plans, etc.
<b>Action</b>	<b>Taranaki Iwi, marae/pā will progressively assemble a biodiversity information resource for marae and whānau to access for research and practical application purposes</b>
<b>Description</b>	This biodiversity information resource can be made available as an online resource which brings research, guidance documents and examples of successful initiatives together in one place. Kaitiaki and whānau will be able access this information and apply it at a local level. This will include the development of cultural health indicators to better monitor the state of the Taranaki Rohe. Ongoing
<b>Responsible Organisation</b>	Tikanga Taiao, marae and pā, Research Institutes
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	Provide for a more coordinated approach to this mahi and limit the potential for individuals to learn and work in isolation.

Policy and Planning Committee - Taiao Taiora Taranaki Iwi Management Plan

Section One:  
Taranaki Iwi Implementation Focus

Action	Hikoi Pouwhenua- Annual Source to Sea Hikoi with Rangatahi
<b>Description</b>	<p>Each marae/pā will be supported to undertake a hikoi from the source of a local stream or river to the sea. The object of these hikoi will be to reconnect communities with the waterbodies, the surrounding lands and important places. Places and features will be able to be named, the quality of the water, the ecosystem of the waterway and the surrounding environment will be assessed with a view for improvement where possible.</p> <p>Led by kaitiaki, these hikoi will reconnect the whānau physically and culturally to these important natural places.</p> <p>These hikoi may take place over many days and can possibly occur every two years or more as determined by marae/pā and Kaitiaki plans.</p>
<b>Responsible Organisation</b>	Taranaki Iwi, Hapū, Pā, Marae, Kaitiaki
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	Grow and strengthen the connection with, and knowledge of, the environment. Assist in identifying priority areas to assist advocacy and local restoration projects.
Action	Develop a Taranaki Iwi cultural education programme
<b>Description</b>	<p>Develop a mātauranga Māori-based environment education programme to raise awareness of environmental issues and actions for the iwi. This will include matters such as developing locally-based curriculum, holding wānanga on specific issues and upskilling whānau, including tamariki, on what they can do to protect and enhance the environment.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to collaborate with external entities such as Crown Research Institutes, Statutory Government Bodies (such as Ngā Kaihautū Tikanga Taiao), Taranaki Regional Council, Department of Conservation and Project Maunga in developing this project.</p> <p>Local focus groups and wānanga to strengthen pā and taiao connections.</p> <p>This development should be led and facilitated by the Trust.</p>
<b>Responsible Organisation</b>	Taranaki Iwi, marae/pā, kura, kōhanga reo, Tikanga Taiao
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	This will assist in growing the capability of Taranaki iwi in our role as kaitiaki.

Section One:  
Taranaki Iwi Implementation Focus

Action	Develop best practice farming initiatives in the Taranaki rohe.
<b>Description</b>	<p>Farming is a dominant land use within the rohe and can lead to detrimental impacts on the environment. Taranaki Iwi are landowners and farm managers, as well as kaitiaki, and this action seeks to link the two roles more closely and place Taranaki Iwi in a leadership role for sustainable farm management and practice.</p> <p>This action will involve the development of a pathway (action Plan) for Taranaki Iwi to be leaders in sustainable farm management. The action plan should include the following:</p> <p>The development of a Māori farming working group comprising of Māori landowners, farm managers and experts to look at ways to practically improve the sustainability of farms in the rohe.</p> <p>The Māori farming working group undertake hikoi to other areas to look at other sustainable Māori farming models in New Zealand.</p> <p>The design and adoption of Taranaki specific sustainable farm management plans on all Taranaki Iwi farms.</p> <p>Facilitating and assisting Taranaki Regional Council to develop education initiatives for all landowners to incorporate more environmentally sensitive management techniques on their farms.</p> <p>Requiring all Taranaki Iwi farms to report back annually on key atua-based environmental indicators.</p> <p>Investigate establishing a demonstration farm to show the benefits of a land managed in an environmentally sensitive manner, how it can be done practically and the opportunity to incorporate elements of local knowledge into the management of the farm.</p>
<b>Responsible Organisation</b>	Taranaki Iwi, Taranaki farm owners/managers, Taranaki Regional Council, Kaitiaki, research agencies Tikanga Taiao
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	Assist our landowners and others to manage their whenua in a way which has less serious environmental effects and to be leaders in sustainable land management.



Photo - Rob Tucker

## Section Two: External Organisation Implementation

<b>Action</b>	Regional and District Councils will take into account the Plan when developing Regional and District planning documents developed under the Resource Management Act and when making decisions on Resource Consents.
<b>Description</b>	Under the Resource Management Act (sections 61, 66, and 74) Regional and District Councils are statutorily obliged to take into account the contents of this Plan. The Vision, Issues, Objectives, Policies and Methods within the plan should be incorporated into the relevant plan as a way to achieve positive environmental outcomes consistent with the values of Taranaki Iwi.  As well as taking into account the provisions of the plan it is expected that the local authorities will engage with Taranaki Iwi at the earliest possible time for plan change and review processes.  <b>Immediately</b>
<b>Responsible Organisation</b>	Taranaki Regional Council New Plymouth District Council Stratford District Council South Taranaki District Council.
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	All Atua
<b>Action</b>	The Department of Conservation will give effect to the Plan.
<b>Description</b>	The Department of Conservation will give effect to this Plan as part of their statutory responsibilities under Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987. This will include their capacity as land managers and also in developing management plans and strategies under the Conservation Act and also the National Parks Act 1980.  <b>Immediately</b>
<b>Responsible Organisation</b>	Department of Conservation
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	All Atua

Policy and Planning Committee - Taiao Taioara Taranaki Iwi Management Plan

Section Two:  
External Organisation Implementation

<b>Action</b>	Government will encourage applicants to read the Plan early in their application process and discuss their proposals with Taranaki Iwi at the earliest possible time.
<b>Description</b>	Applicants seeking private plan changes, resource consents, concessions and licenses from central and local government should be encouraged to consider the contents of this Plan and engage with Taranaki Iwi early in the process. This will allow an opportunity for the proposed development or activity to better reflect policies in the Plan. Applicants should not restrict their engagement to reading the plan but should also meet with Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust and relevant marae/pā or hapū to discuss their proposed development/activity. Forms in Appendix 1 of the Plan are to be used by applicants when approaching Taranaki Iwi for comment. <b>Immediately</b>
<b>Responsible Organisation</b>	Central Government and Regional and District Councils, Industry and Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	All Atua
<b>Action</b>	External organisations to upskill on Taranaki Iwi cultural values
<b>Description</b>	To assist in the implementation of this Plan, and the enhancement of important environmental values within the rohe, external organisations should be familiar with this Plan. This will assist them in understanding the history, role and environmental aspirations and expectations of Taranaki Iwi. A greater understanding will enable a more effective working partnership to better achieve positive environmental outcomes for the rohe. <b>Immediately</b>
<b>Responsible Organisation</b>	Regional and District Councils, Industry and Central Government
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	All Atua
<b>Action</b>	Mana Whakahono a Rohe
<b>Description</b>	Regional Councils and District Councils will be expected to engage with Taranaki Iwi on the development of a Mana Whakahono a Rohe. This engagement should be with Taranaki iwi and other Iwi Authorities within the Council's jurisdiction if considered appropriate by the Iwi Authorities involved. A coordinated pan iwi process will support a more consistent approach to the development of a positive working relationship between councils and iwi. Within six months of the plan being adopted.
<b>Responsible Organisation</b>	Regional and District Councils and other Iwi Authorities within the Taranaki Region.
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	All Atua

Section Two:  
External Organisation Implementation

<b>Action</b>	Councils and Central Government agencies to develop an integrated plan across their functions to give effect to this plan.
<b>Description</b>	Councils and Department of Conservation will meet with Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust to discuss how they can effectively work with us and each other to give effect to this plan. This initial meeting will include Governance level representation from the respective parties and will consider, but not be limited to, the following matters: · Implementation of the Plan · Ongoing and regular engagement · Education and information sharing initiatives · Environmental management and respective priorities <b>Within six months of the plan being adopted</b>
<b>Responsible Organisation</b>	Regional and District Councils, Industry and Central Government
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	All Atua
<b>Action</b>	Regional Council Representation
<b>Description</b>	The Taranaki Regional Council will give effect to those parts of the Deed of Settlement relating to Regional Council Representation. This should also include appropriate resourcing and recognition to ensure that this representation is effective. <b>Immediately</b>
<b>Responsible Organisation</b>	Taranaki Regional Council
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	All Atua
<b>Action</b>	Develop Joint Management Agreements with Taranaki Iwi
<b>Description</b>	Regional Councils and District Councils with Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust will initiate the development of Joint Management Agreements under Section 36B of the Resource Management Act. The nature and scope of these agreements will be determined between the parties. The Department of Conservation with Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust will initiate the development of management plans for all areas of conservation land identified in settlement documents to be jointly managed by the Crown and tangata whenua <b>Within 18 months of the plan being adopted</b>
<b>Responsible Organisation</b>	Councils and Department of Conservation
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	All Atua

Appendices



Photo - Peter Florence

## Appendix 1 Engaging with Taranaki Iwi

The following provides a guide to how Taranaki Iwi will process applications and enquiries and gives an estimate of costs that may be involved.

Taranaki Iwi hapū and marae/pā are the tāngata whenua of this region and are kaitiaki of the natural world present in the rohe. Our involvement is required on the following activities:

### Plan reviews and changes

- All changes and reviews (including private) to Regional Policy Statements and Plans
- All review and changes (including private) to District Plans
- All reviews and changes to Conservation Management Strategies, and management plans under either the Conservation Act or the Reserves Act.

### Resource Consent Applications

- All coastal permits
- All discharge permits
- All water permits
- Any subdivision consent applied for within the Coastal Environment, within 5 km of the National Park Boundaries, within 500 m of a waterway or wetland, or that is within or includes an area or site of high landscape, ecological or cultural value.
- Any land use consent within the Coastal Environment, within 5 km of the National Park Boundaries, within 500 m of a waterway or wetland, or that is within or includes an area or site of high landscape, ecological or cultural value.

### Others

- Any concessions applied for under the Conservation Act
- Drilling and prospecting licences
- Non-statutory plans

In all cases, we expect early and honest engagement with applicants to ensure meaningful collaboration on towards a common goal. The level of Taranaki Iwi's involvement in applications is heavily dependent on the nature of the proposed activity, its complexity, and the potential effects on the environment and Taranaki Iwi itself.

### Consultation Process

Resource Consents and concession applications will be processed as they arise. The initial point of contact for any applicant should be with Te Kāhui o Taranaki Iwi Trust who will ensure that the relevant marae/pā or hapū are involved. In some cases the applicant will be directed to engage with them directly.

Taranaki Iwi welcomes direct discussions between the applicant and ourselves prior to the lodging of an application with the relevant authority. Early engagement will allow both parties to work through the application in a collaborative and constructive way. Taranaki Iwi, hapū, marae/pā as an affected party, welcomes consultation with applicants even after their resource consent or concession application has been lodged with local authorities and DoC,



but we note that this places time pressures on the process that often result in a less than satisfactory outcome for everyone. If the applicant is engaging with Taranaki Iwi prior to the lodging of their consent, the information we may require is provided in the consultation form.

In all cases, we expect the applicant to have read this plan prior to contacting the Trust so they are aware of the position of Taranaki Iwi on specific matters.

As part of the consultation process, Taranaki Iwi operates a cost recovery mechanism on all resource consent applications, private plan changes and concessions we receive. This reflects the time and resources involved in processing resource consent applications and concessions.

### Costs

In order to adequately recover the costs of processing all applications, Taranaki Iwi requires a processing fee be paid for each application we process. Please enquire with Te Kāhui o Taranaki Iwi Trust as to current charges. The fee is payable by the applicant to the Trust prior to receiving the iwi's formal response. This fee is non-refundable and does not guarantee an approved application. Once the Trust has received payment from the applicant, we can go through the application to begin processing it.

Applicants may apply for a reduced processing fee if they are small community organisations, student researchers, or where research can contribute to the knowledge base of Taranaki Iwi and/or the wider community. The applicant must apply in writing to the Trust detailing the need for this waiver.

Taranaki Iwi may decline to process an application where the payment of this processing fee has not been agreed to. The Trust will follow this up with the consenting authority.

**The cost outlined above will cover the standard procedures undertaken as part of our processing requirements:**

- A meeting with Te Kāhui o Taranaki Iwi Trust and or representatives of the relevant marae/pā or hapū;
- Assessing the application;
- Site visits;
- Wider iwi consultation;
- Discussions with the consenting authority regarding the application; and
- Responding with a formal letter.

The applicant needs to be aware of potential extra costs that may occur, depending on the nature of the application. If more time is required to process and/or respond to an application than that stated above (e.g. the application is large and requires a large amount of input, requires a Cultural Impact Assessment, or the attention of multiple staff members) the applicant will be charged at an hourly rate. Te Kāhui o Taranaki Iwi Trust will inform the applicant of any such costs before incurring them. The Trust will inform the applicant if there is a requirement for a Cultural and Environmental Monitor. This will require a separate payment to the Cultural and Environmental Monitor, and may include travel costs.

### Timeframes

For adequate review of an application and consideration for a formal response, Te Kāhui o Taranaki Iwi Trust should be given appropriate time to process an application. An additional fee may be paid if an applicant wishes for their request to be processed urgently.



### Taranaki Iwi: Consultation Form

Resource consent, private plan change or concession applications

#### Applicant Details

Organisation .....

Address .....

Applicant .....

Point of contact .....

Phone .....

Mobile .....

Email .....

Date .....

#### Proposed Activity

Where (exactly) will the activity be taking place  
(please attach a map or draw in area provided)

What will be involved

.....

.....

.....

.....

Who will be involved

.....

.....

.....

.....

Duration of the activity – start and finish date required

.....

.....

Is this a new application, or a renewal of an existing consent?

.....

#### Potential Environmental Effects

In detail, describe the actual and potential environmental effects resulting from this activity.

Will it be taking place near a waterway or the coast etc.? If so where?

.....

.....

.....

How will it impact on water bodies, aquatic life?

.....

.....

.....

Will there be earthworks? If so how much?

.....

.....

.....

Will this activity impact on native flora and fauna?

If so, please describe.

.....

.....

.....

Will this activity involve discharges to the land, water or air?

.....

.....

.....

It is our principle to leave the environment in a better state than we found it in. How do you propose to do this in the context of your project?

.....

.....

.....

#### Taranaki Iwi Environmental Management Plan

Please review *Taiao, Taiora* and consider your application against the relevant objectives and policies contained within that document.

#### Mitigation Measures

Please describe in detail the proposed measures that will be taken to mitigate, avoid or remedy the impact of the actual and potential impacts of the proposed activity.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

#### Declaration

I have read and understand the Taiao Taiora Taranaki Iwi Environmental Management Plan

(please tick) Yes  No

If my application is within the coastal environment I have read and understand Tiaki Tangaroa ki Uta Tangaroa ki Tai - Coastal Development Guidelines

(please tick) Yes  No

#### Signature

Signing this document indicates to Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust that the information you have provided is true and accurate.

Applicant's name: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

## Appendix 2 Statutory Acknowledgements

### Statutory Acknowledgements

A statutory acknowledgement provides the Crown's acknowledgement of the statements by Taranaki Iwi of their particular cultural, spiritual, historical and traditional association with the areas involved.

Statutory acknowledgements may apply to land, rivers, lakes, wetlands, landscape features, or a particular part of the coastal marine area. Where a statutory acknowledgement relates to a river, lake, wetland, or coastal area, the acknowledgement only applies to that part of the bed in Crown Ownership or control.

### Purpose of statutory acknowledgements

The purpose of statutory acknowledgements are to:

- Require consent authorities, the Environment Court, and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga to have regard to the statutory acknowledgements.
- Require consent authorities to forward summaries of resource consent applications for activities within, adjacent to or directly affecting the statutory area and a copy of a notice of a resource consent application served on the consent authority under section 145(10) of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- Require relevant consent authorities to record the statutory acknowledgements on statutory planning documents under the Resource Management Act 1991 that relate to the statutory area.
- Enable iwi authorities and members to cite a statutory acknowledgement as evidence of the association of the iwi with the areas to which the statutory acknowledgement relates.

### Having regard to Taranaki Iwi Associations within Statutory Areas

Local authorities must attach information recording statutory acknowledgements to all statutory plans that wholly or partly cover the area. The attachment of information to any plan is for the purposes of information only and is not subject to the provisions of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Consent authorities must have regard to a statutory acknowledgement relating to a statutory area in forming an opinion, in accordance with 95 to 95G of Resource Management Act, as to whether the governance entity may be adversely affected by the granting of a resource consent for activities within, adjacent to, or impacting directly on the statutory area.

### Guidance to Local Authorities in the development of planning documents

When referencing the Statutory Acknowledgements of Taranaki Iwi in local authority RMA planning documents Taranaki Iwi request that the following information is included:

- Purpose of Statutory Acknowledgements.
- Having regard to Taranaki Iwi Associations within the Statutory Areas.
- Statutory Areas within the local authority jurisdiction are presented in a table with Map Reference.

### Statutory areas within the Taranaki Iwi Rohe

The following table shows the areas to which the statutory acknowledgement relates within the Taranaki Iwi rohe.

- Heimama Stream Gravel Local Purpose Reserve (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-46);
- Kapoiaia Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-32);
- Mangahume Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-33);
- Mangahume Stream Conservation Area (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-47);
- Mangawarawara Stream Marginal Strip (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-48);
- Ngatoronui Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-34);
- Oakura River and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-35);
- Oeo Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-36);
- Otahi Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-37);
- Otahi Stream No. 1 Marginal Strip (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-49);
- Otahi Stream No. 2 Marginal Strip (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-50);
- Ouri Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-38);
- Ouri Stream Marginal Strip (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-51);
- Punehu Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-39);
- Pungaereere Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-40);

- Pungarehu Marginal Strip (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-52);
- Ratapihipihi Scenic Reserve (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-53);
- Tapuae Stream Marginal Strip (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-54);
- Taranaki Iwi Coastal Marine Area (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-55);
- Taungatara Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-41);
- Waiaua River and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-42);
- (Waiongana Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-43);
- Waiteika Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-44);
- Waiweranui Stream Marginal Strip (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-56); and
- Warea River (Teikaparua) and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-45);

### Deed of Recognition

Each area that a deed of recognition relates to includes only those parts of the area owned and managed by the Crown.

**A deed of recognition will provide that the Minister of Conservation and the Director-General of Conservation, or the Commissioner of Crown Lands, as the case may be, must, if undertaking certain activities within an area that the deed relates to:**

- consult Te Kāhui o Taranaki; and
- have regard to its views concerning the association of Taranaki Iwi with the area as described in a statement of association.

**A deed of recognition has been signed by the Commissioner of Crown Lands in relation to the following areas:**

- Kapoiaia Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-32);
- Mangahume Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-33);
- Ngatoronui Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-34);
- Oakura River and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-35);
- Oeo Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-36);
- Otahi Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-37);

- Ouri Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-38);
- Punehu Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-39);
- Pungaereere Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-40);
- Taungatara Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-41);
- Waiaua River and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-42);
- Waiongana Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-43);
- Waiteika Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-44); and
- Warea River (Teikaparua) and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-45).

**A deed of recognition has been signed by the Minister of Conservation and the Director General of Conservation in relation to the following areas:**

- Kapoiaia Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-32);
- Mangahume Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-33);
- Ngatoronui Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-34);
- Oakura River and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-35);
- Oeo Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-36);
- Otahi Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-37);
- Ouri Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-38);
- Punehu Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-39);
- Pungaereere Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-40);
- Taungatara Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-41);
- Waiaua River and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-42);
- Waiongana Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-43);
- Waiteika Stream and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-44); and
- Warea River (Teikaparua) and its tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-053-45).

## Appendix 3 Glossary

**Atua** – Traditional domains of personified influence

**Hawaiki** – Ancient homeland - the places from which Māori migrated to Aotearoa/New Zealand. According to some traditions it was Io, the supreme being, who created Hawaiki-nui, Hawaiki-roa, Hawaiki-pāmamao and Hawaiki-tapu, places inhabited by atua. It is believed that the wairua returns to these places after death

**Kāinga** – Settlement

**Kaitiaki** – Guardians

**Kaitiakitanga** – Guardianship

**Mahinga kai** – Food gathering, preparation and preservation locations

**Mana whenua** – Authority / jurisdiction of customary rights associated with a tribal region or traditionally recognised area of land

**Mana Moana** – Authority / jurisdiction of customary rights associated with a tribal region or traditionally recognised section of coastline or marine area

**Mātaitai** – Seafood

**Moana** – Ocean

**Mounga** – Taranaki Mounga is the much-revered peak at the heart of the Taranaki Rohe. See page 34-35 for further narrative

**Mouri** – Essential character or shared relationship with community

**Mouri kōhatu** – Stones with cultural significance representing a community's relationship with the environment

**Ngā Tai o Mākiri** – Spring tides or king tides

**Ngā Uri o Taranaki Iwi** – Taranaki Iwi descendants

**Ngāi tipu me ngāi kirehe** – indigenous flora and fauna

**Ora** – Active, healthy or alive

**Pā / Papakāinga** – A shared communal living area

**Papatūānuku** – Atua of the earth, earth mother and wife of Ranginui – all living things originate from them

**Ranginui** – Atua of the sky and air husband of Papatūānuku, from which union originate all living things

**Raranga** – Traditional weaving using long strips of leaves

**Rongo** – Atua of the kūmara, cultivated food and peace

**Rua** – Cave

**Rongoā** – Traditional Māori Medicine

**Tāne** – Atua of the forests and all taonga and birds within

**Tangaroa ki Tai** – Atua of the ocean and all taonga within. Coastal Marine Area and out to the Exclusive Economic Zone and to Hawaiki

**Tangaroa ki Uta** – Atua of waterbodies and all taonga within. Including the waterbodies flowing from Mounga Taranaki

**Taonga** – Treasure, anything prized - applied to anything considered to be of value including socially or culturally valuable objects, resources, phenomenon, ideas and techniques

**Taranaki Iwi** – The tribal grouping of Taranaki Iwi

**Tauranga ika** – Fishing grounds

**Tauranga waka** – Boat channels for launching and landing

**Tāwhirimātea** – Atua of air, light, wind, sky, cloud, rain, hail, snow and storms

**Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust** – The current authority of Taranaki Iwi

**Tikanga** – Recognised community practice

**Whakapaparapa** – Natural composting and material used for fertilising

**Whānau** – Extended family grouping

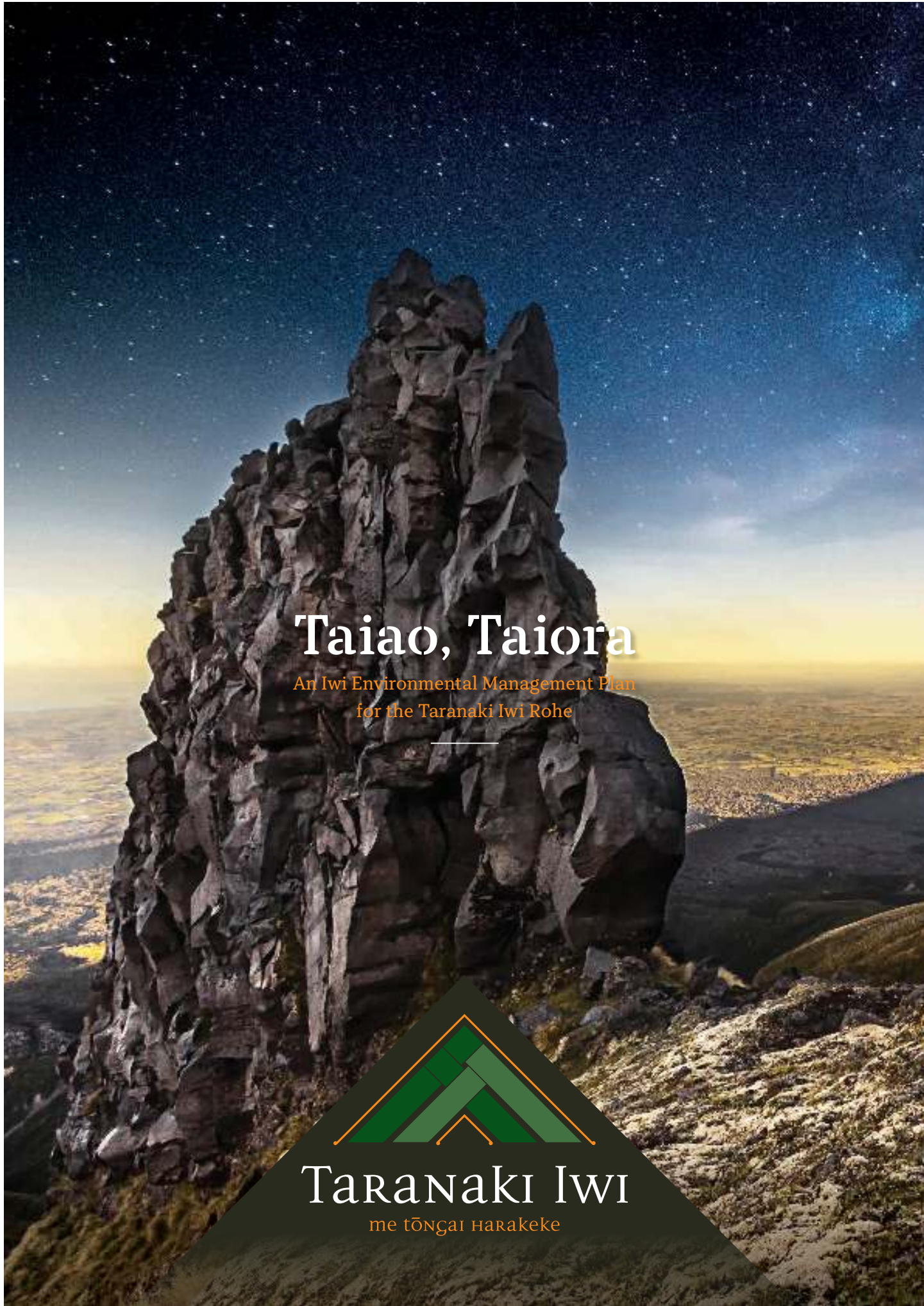
**Whatu** – Traditional weaving of cloth

**Whenua** – Land



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# Taiao, Taiora

An Iwi Environmental Management Plan  
for the Taranaki Iwi Rohe



TARANAKI IWI

me tōnāi hāakeke

## Agenda Memorandum

**Date** 28 August 2018



**Memorandum to  
Chairperson and Members  
Policy and Planning Committee**

**Subject: Submission on Draft National Planning Standards**

**Approved by:** A D McLay, Director – Resource Management  
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 2104975

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce a submission made to the Ministry for the Environment on the Draft National Planning Standards and to recommend the submission be endorsed by the Council.

Submissions on the Draft National Planning Standards closed on 17 August 2018. A draft submission was circulated to Members for feedback prior to the closing date.

A copy of the submission is attached to this memorandum for Members' information.

### **Executive summary**

The Ministry for the Environment has released the first set of draft national planning standards for public consultation. National planning standards set out requirements relating to the structure, format or content of regional policy statements and regional and district plans to address any matter that the Minister for the Environment considers requires national consistency.

The first set of national planning standards that are currently being consulted on contain 18 individual standards dealing with the overall structure of policy statements and plans, the form of plans (including electronic functionality and accessibility, mapping and spatial planning tools among others), and content standards such as definitions of terms that must be included in policy statements and plans.

The submission raises a number of concerns with the planning standards relating to poor problem definition and the likely costs to communities of implementing what will be potentially wide ranging structural changes and legal challenges to policies and plans.

The overall effect of the planning standards will see all councils putting considerable time and resources into making changes to plans (a number of which will require full Schedule 1 processes) that will take them away from improving environmental quality.

The submission then comments on matters of interest or concern to the Council with some of the specific details contained in the planning standards.

## Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *Submission on Draft National Planning Standards*; and
2. endorses the submission.

## Background

The Ministry for the Environment released the first set of draft national planning standards for public consultation on 6 June 2018. Public submissions were invited by 17 August 2018.

The ability to make national planning standards are contained in sections 58B to 58K of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). They were introduced by amendments to the RMA in 2017. Essentially, national planning standards set out requirements relating to the structure, format or content of regional policy statements and regional and district plans to address any matter that the Minister for the Environment considers requires national consistency or is otherwise required to support the implementation of national policy or procedures.

At the time they were proposed in the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill, the Council opposed the very wide powers given to the Minister to direct changes be made to plans for national consistency reasons. The Council also raised concerns regarding the significant cost implications to the Council on implementing the national planning template (as they were then called).

The Minister has retained very wide powers under the Act when it comes to deciding what national planning standards to produce, how they are to be implemented and where they are to apply. For example, national planning standards may direct local authorities to use a particular structure and form for regional policy statements and plans, include specific provisions in policy statements and plans (including specific objectives, policies and rules), or to choose from a number of specific provisions to be included in policy statements and plans (section 58C RMA).

National planning standards may also specify whether the standard applies generally or to specific regions or districts or to other parts of New Zealand. They may also include timeframes for local authorities to give effect to all or part of a national planning standard and include requirements that relate to the electronic accessibility and functionality of policy statements and plans (section 58C RMA).

Furthermore, the RMA sets out requirements for the first set of national planning standards that must be approved no later than 2 years after enactment of the legislation (section 58G RMA). These are the national planning standards that are currently being consulted on. They must include minimum requirements on the structure and form for policy statements and plans; definitions; and requirements for the electronic functionality and accessibility of policy statements and plans (see section 58G (2) RMA).

The first set of national planning standards contain 18 individual standards under the following three areas:

- **Structure standards:** these deal with standards for the overall structure of regional policy statements, regional plans, district plans and combined plans together with standards that apply to individual chapters that must be included;
- **Form standards:** these deal with the form of policy statements and plans including electronic functionality and accessibility, mapping, spatial planning tools, chapter form and status of rules and numbering format; and
- **Content and metric standards:** these contain definitions of terms that must be included in policy statements and plans and noise and vibration metrics.

The 18 standards contain a mix of mandatory and discretionary standards, although most are mandatory. All mandatory changes to policy statements and plans are to be made without using any of the processes set out in Schedule 1 of the RMA (which generally include consultation, public submissions, hearings and appeal rights). If consequential amendments go beyond the scope of amendments authorised by section 58I (3)(d) of the RMA a Schedule 1 process will need to be used.

Where the national planning standards are discretionary i.e. they direct a local authority to choose from a number of specific provisions, Schedule 1 applies.

All planning standards that relate to regional policy statements and regional plans are mandatory.

Much of the content of the first set of national planning standards applies to district plans but there are also important and significant changes proposed to regional policy statements and regional plans.

## **The submission**

The submission raises a number of concerns with the planning standards.

The first issue relates to poor problem definition and the likely costs to communities of implementing what will be wide ranging structural changes and potential legal challenges to policies and plans that have been settled or are near settlement after close consultation with local communities and local and national stakeholders.

The submission maintains that the first national planning standards, which are to be applied across the whole country, have not clearly defined the scale or nature the problem to be addressed. Some benefits may accrue to some participants under the RMA, for example, large infrastructure providers that work across New Zealand, but in most cases local businesses, landowners or resource users know their local district and regional planning documents and are not assisted by the need for standardisation.

There are also very real costs to local communities from standardisation of planning provisions. The submission argues that the planning standards are likely to trigger a re-write of our statutory policy documents involving lengthy and costly Schedule 1 processes as the changes required are likely go beyond consequential amendments. The submission considers that the national planning standards have not been adequately costed and are likely to have been significantly underestimated.

For example, we have identified some 37 definitions taken from the planning standards that are used in our regional policy statement and regional plans and which could prove problematic for the Council owing to their prescriptiveness.

The overall effect of the planning standards will see all councils putting considerable time and resources into making changes to plans (a number of which will require full Schedule 1 processes) that will take them away from improving environmental quality.

The submission calls for an amendment to the RMA to remove the requirement for mandatory national planning standards and that a thorough analysis take place of the need for the proposed national planning standards and their benefits and costs and alternatives, before any national planning standards are promulgated.

The submission then comments on matters of interest or concern to the Council with some of the specific details contained in the planning standards. These concern the 'structure standards' proposed for regional policy statements and regional plans, the timeframes for implementing the planning standards, electronic accessibility and functionality, spatial planning tools and definitions.

We have highlighted some gaps and uncertainties in the structure standards for regional policy statements and plans. As far as implementation goes, we have suggested this be aligned with the normal plan review cycle to ensure all changes are considered in an integrated way. We cannot see the urgency in having specific (and arbitrary) timeframes put on implementation of the standards.

With respect to electronic accessibility, the submission calls for a more coordinated national approach with the Ministry taking a national leadership role to facilitate the adoption of a standard set of specifications that would be common for all councils. The planning standards list a set of spatial planning tools (e.g. zones, overlays, precincts etc.) that must be used but the submission considers this is an area that should be left to councils and the community themselves to decide as part of good planning practice.

Finally, the submission comments on the extensive list of definitions contained in the planning standards and points to the likely wide-ranging implications for plan objectives, policies and rules that include them.

Similar concerns are being expressed about the standards by other regional, district and unitary authorities and by Local Government New Zealand.

### **Next steps**

Following the analysis of submissions, the Ministry will make recommendations in a further evaluation report before final decisions are made by the Minister. The Ministry has indicated that it may convene additional workshops with submitters to discuss possible changes to the draft national planning standards. This will extend over the next six months from August 2018 to February 2019.

Gazettal of the first set of national planning standards is set down for 18 April at the latest.



### **Decision-making considerations**

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **Policy considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

### **Iwi considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

### **Legal considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

### **Attachment**

Document 2095747: Submission on Draft National Planning Standards

15 August 2018  
Document: 2095747

Ministry for the Environment  
PO Box 10362  
Wellington 6143

Attention: Draft National Planning Standards Team

## **Submission on Draft National Planning Standards**

### **Introduction**

The Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) thanks the Ministry for the Environment for the opportunity to make a submission on the Draft National Planning Standards.

The Council makes this submission in recognition of the purpose of local government set out in the Local Government Act 2002, and the role, status, powers and principles under that Act relating to local authorities. In particular, the Council's comments are made in recognition of its:

- functions and responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA); and
- its regional advocacy responsibilities whereby the Council represents the Taranaki region on matters of regional significance or concern.

The Council has also been guided by its Mission Statement *'To work for a thriving and prosperous Taranaki'* across all of its various functions, roles and responsibilities, in making this submission.

The submission comments firstly on issues of poor problem definition and the likely costs to communities of implementing mandatory national planning standards. It recommends the RMA be amended to remove the requirement for mandatory national planning standards and that a thorough section 32 analysis of benefits, costs and alternatives be undertaken prior to any national planning standards being drafted. The submission then comments on those aspects of the national standards that are of particular interest or concern to the Council.

The Council has not followed a detailed clause by clause analysis of the planning standards but rather its comments are limited to major issues of concern that the Ministry for the Environment can consider and then make recommendations regarding changes to the RMA or to the planning standards.

## Poor problem definition and costs to the community

While the Council understands the motivations of some participants under the RMA for promulgating national planning standards, there are, nonetheless, very real risks and costs to local communities of requiring the implementation of mandatory national standards that must be applied at the local level. Great care is needed, together with strong evidence-based justification, if plans are to be changed mandatorily without further consultation with local communities.

The Council considers that the national planning standards as drafted do not adequately define the problem to be addressed to the extent that justifies overriding local decision-making on issues affecting local communities.

The Council emphasises that it is the role of democratically elected members of local councils to formulate local plans designed to deal with local issues. If there is little or no flexibility to enable this to happen, many local communities will come to see national planning standards as an unwarranted imposition on their council's statutory duty to their communities.

Given this and other issues raised in this submission, the Council considers that the RMA should be amended to remove the requirement for mandatory national planning standards.

The Council also raises the issue of whether in this particular case, the benefits of having nationally defined planning standards, outweigh the costs of implementing those standards. Benefits may accrue to some users (e.g. large businesses and infrastructure providers who work across New Zealand) but there will be significant costs to councils and local communities of doing so. Local RMA professionals know their local and regional planning documents so are not assisted by the need for standardisation. Indeed, within Taranaki, some of these professionals, groups or organisations helped formulate the plans through informal and formal planning processes to suit Taranaki conditions.

The Council is concerned that the planning standards as currently designed will not achieve the stated outcome of 'less time and fewer resources required to prepare and use plans' (*National Planning Standards Consultation Document*, page 11). On the contrary, in our case, the planning standards will likely result in significant planning costs associated with detailed analysis of the Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki and the four operative regional plans to ensure there are no gaps and especially, no unintended consequences of implementing the standards. Given the significance of some of the required changes, particularly around some definitions, the Council believes that this will ultimately lead to a Schedule 1 process being followed. This is essentially requiring a re-write of our resource management planning documents.

The Council considers the issues being addressed in the national planning standards have not been adequately costed and are likely to have been significantly underestimated.

Furthermore, regional council's as a sector, will be faced with a choice of whether to invest in either complying with the national standards or continuing our efforts to improve resource management outcomes, particularly in land and water management. Councils cannot do both at the same time. The Council considers that further progress on achieving environmental outcomes is paramount and is a much superior use of resources than diverting those resources into revising provisions that have already been or will be

substantially agreed with the community. The Council notes that the Ministry's own analysis confirms that there will be no benefit to the natural environment with these changes.

Other options such as investing in the development of e-plans and promoting and encouraging more combined plans could well have been looked at or looked at more closely as part of a rigorous section 32 analysis. These could well have been adopted at lower cost with less disruption (and with a greater likelihood of achieving the desired results) in areas of the country where they were most needed. Instead, a blunt national instrument will see every local authority, (which includes all regional, district and city councils and unitary authorities), caught up in revising or changing their plans and assessing what those changes might mean for other parts of their plans, and for the future development of their districts or regions.

The Council again submits that the RMA be amended to remove the requirement for mandatory national planning standards and that a thorough analysis take place of the need for national planning standards and their benefits, costs and alternatives, prior to any national planning standards being promulgated.

The remaining parts of this submission address more specific matters of interest or concern with the draft national planning standards.

## **Structure standards**

The Council has no great issue with the current structure standards proposed for regional policy statements and regional plans but notes that other councils may have very good reasons for adopting a different structure or adopting a different structure in future.

The Council notes that generally the structure outlined in the draft standards follows the theme-based approach used by this Council in its current regional policy statement and regional plans.

However, the Council queries several aspects of the structure standards.

### **Part 1 Introduction and general provisions**

The Council notes that under section 59 of the RMA the main statutory purpose of regional policy statements is to state policies and methods to achieve integrated management of the resources of the region. This is the only statutory document under the RMA charged with this important role. This purpose should be given explicit recognition under Part 1 Introduction and General Provisions. The Council suggests the heading 'Integrated management' be added to the section 'How the policy statement works'.

### **Part 2 Tangata whenua**

It is not obvious where the significant resource management issues of iwi are dealt with. Part 2 of the national planning standards deal with tangata whenua/local authority relationships and iwi and hapu planning documents etc. but it is not clear where the section 62(1)(b) obligation for a regional policy statement to state the significant resource management issues of iwi authorities, is given effect to. The Taranaki Regional Council has importantly agreed with tangata whenua to include tangata whenua issues throughout its plans in future rather than have these sitting in a separate chapter. It may be that tangata

whenua issues are dealt with in Part 4 under 'Themes' but if this is the case, it is not obvious. The national planning standards need to make this clear.

#### **Part 4 Themes**

The Council queries the scope of the 'Environmental risk' section in the structure standards for both regional policy statements and regional plans. Does this cover natural hazards or is it intended to address environmental risk issues over all themes, for example, risks to water quality from water allocation policy or the risk to indigenous biodiversity from animal and plant pests? Section 6(h) of the RMA states that the management of significant risks from natural hazards is a matter of national importance and the Council would have expected that natural hazards would have been explicitly mentioned in the national planning standards.

In addition, dealing with the effects of climate change does not appear to be explicitly mentioned, despite its inclusion in section 7(i) of the RMA. This may also be covered by the 'environmental risk' section but it is not obvious and the Council would again have expected this matter to be explicitly recognised and provided for in the national planning standards.

The Council notes that some topics included in its regional policy statement are not provided for in Part 4 of the draft national standards. Examples include the built environment, amenity values and minerals. It is not clear why some topics or issues have been left out and others included. The Council notes that the planning standards provide that other sections can be included if these are required.

The Council submits that the structure or form of regional policy statements and regional plans should follow their function. This should provide flexibility to allow these important instruments to respond to changes in the policy landscape rather than be locked into a particular structure with potential for unintended consequences.

#### **Implementation timeframes**

The planning standards propose that local authorities must amend their planning documents within 5 years of gazettal of the planning standard or within 7 years for those councils who have recently completed a plan review.

The Council considers that the national planning standards impose greater risks for regional councils if changes are made outside of the normal planning cycle. There is an enhanced litigation risk from two aspects:

- the risk of litigation from choosing to not follow the Schedule 1 process for plan restructuring and insertion of definitions; and
- the risk of required hearing time and appeals to redraft and notify planning documents using a Schedule 1 process.

In their current form, the draft standards will increase litigation risks and costs, not reduce them.

The Council submits that rather than impose an arbitrary time period (5 or 7 years) within which plans must be amended, any changes required to plans to implement national planning standards should apply at the next full review of the plan. This will ensure that the

planning standards can be adopted or considered in the context of other policy changes in a fully integrated way. The Council has not seen any evidence of the urgency for the national planning standards that suggests a specific date is needed for implementing the standards. In the Council's view it is much less risky and makes more economic sense to introduce the changes in conjunction with a full review of all provisions of a plan the provisions for which will already be factored into councils' Long Term Plans.

This will also be more cost-effective for councils as it will provide councils with more time and resources to commit to existing priorities rather than diverting resources away from more urgent policy work. In this Council's case, we are in the middle of a coastal plan review with ongoing work on the fresh water and land plans occurring with notification of a reviewed plan expected in the near future.

Any requirement to implement the standards outside of a scheduled plan review process will incur significant additional costs for councils in just having to reformat plans and these costs will be even more significant if the changes trigger the RMA schedule 1 process.

There is statutory precedent for this approach in the *National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water* where regional councils are not required to amend regional plans that do not comply with Regulation 10, until the next scheduled review of the plan (or a relevant plan change or variation).

The Council requests that more work be done to test implementation risks of the national planning standards and that implementation be aligned with the normal plan review cycle. This would be more efficient, reduce costs to ratepayers and allow important policy and plan making work to be delivered within existing timeframes and budgets.

### **Electronic accessibility and functionality (e-plans)**

The national planning standards will require all councils to transition to e-plans. We understand that there is considerable variation around the country in what councils are doing in developing e-plans. Most councils have some form of web-based RMA plans but few have fully geo-spatial enabled and searchable on-line e-plans. Furthermore, councils have different software platforms to enable e-plans and there are variable costs in transitioning.

The Taranaki Regional Council is in the early stages of looking into options for a fully functional e-plan.

All councils have been left to deal with this issue themselves, which is inefficient as it involves each council separately going through the same process of assessing platform suitability, finding and procurement.

This is an area that would benefit from a more coordinated national approach and the Council submits that the Ministry take a national leadership role to facilitate the adoption of a standard set of specifications that would be common for all councils. The cost of transitioning to an e-plan platform is also potentially high and the Council strongly recommends that the Ministry create a fund to assist councils in the transition.

## Spatial planning tools

The planning standards prescribe a specific set of spatial planning tools and how they must be used.

District plans must use the spatial planning tools listed in the planning standard whereas regional plans can use other types of spatial planning tools – provided they do not overlap or conflict with the spatial planning tools listed in the national planning standard.

The Council considers that in principle, listing a set of spatial planning tools that must be used and how they are to be used unnecessarily constrains councils in the range of techniques they may want to use to manage local environmental effects. They create yet another opportunity for legal challenge, added cost and further delay to the process of getting an operative plan in place. They may also discourage fresh approaches and new ideas in managing environmental effects that may hold back proposals to use, develop or protect resources.

This is an area that the Council considers should be left to councils and the community themselves as part of good planning practice in deciding what type of spatial planning tools to apply to particular issues or areas. The Council submits that spatial planning tools be removed from the national planning standards.

If this recommendation is not adopted, the Council considers that a change to the proposed planning standard for zones (with respect to regional spatial planning tools) be made. This standard limits the use of zones to within the coastal marine area (CMA). The Council cannot see why zones in regional plans must be limited to the CMA when they are a well understood spatial planning tool within some regional plans. Given the complexity of the matters that are addressed in regional plans, it seems appropriate to this Council, for this spatial tool to also be available outside of the CMA.

## Definitions

The Council's preliminary estimate is that at least 37 terms in the Definitions Table of the national planning standards, are used in the Council's regional policy statement and regional plans (this excludes definitions of terms defined by the RMA which are also included in the Council's planning documents).

The mandatory definitions are potentially problematic for the Council given their prescriptiveness. The Council has not undertaken an exhaustive analysis but a number of the definitions are likely to have wide-ranging implications for objectives, policies and rules that include them. If this results in changes to plan coverage, or meaning or plan outcomes, then a Schedule 1 process will be required to 'fix' the issue.

Definitions that will require much closer scrutiny and testing for their potential legal effect on all affected plan provisions include the following:

abrasive blasting	accessory building	aquifer	bore
boundary	building	cleanfill	community facility
drain	drinking water	dry abrasive blasting	
dust	earthworks	educational facility	
fertiliser	functional need	greywater	groundwater
height	industrial activity	intensive primary production	

landfill	land disturbance	primary production
quarry	reclamation	residential activity
reverse sensitivity	rural industry	sewage sign
site	small scale renewable	electricity generation
stormwater	swale	wastewater wet abrasive blasting

Even a preliminary analysis has identified significant concerns relating to the proposed definitions. By way of example, concerns have been identified for the following two definitions, (and there will be others):

1. **Site:** The definition of site is used purely in a legal sense around land tenure, titles and lots. Site in a regional plan sometimes refers to an area where an activity is occurring and in that sense is not incongruent with the definition as proposed. However, site is also commonly used to define areas which have a common value, for example, 'sites of significance' and where the property boundary is only relevant for a resource consent application. If the current definition is retained, regional plans would have to use some other term to refer to these areas, as 'overlay' does not suit.
2. **Stormwater:** The definition of stormwater captures all precipitation, i.e. water, not just precipitation or runoff which has been concentrated in some form. As written the definition would exclude rain and stormwater which enters common stormwater management devices such as a soakage pit, or stormwater retention areas which are not necessarily a waterbody.

The Council submits that more work is required on all definitions before a decision is made to include any definitions in the national planning standards.

## Conclusions

The Council again thanks the Ministry for the Environment for the opportunity to submit on the draft national planning standards.

The Council considers that the RMA should be amended to remove the requirement for mandatory national planning standards.

The Council considers that a more rigorous analysis takes place which looks critically at problem definition and the need for national consistency, prior to any national planning standards being promulgated. This should include identifying and costing all unintended, expensive and unproductive consequences that are likely to occur and that take the Council away from improving environmental quality.

Yours faithfully



BG Chamberlain  
Chief Executive



## Agenda Memorandum

**Date** 28 August 2018



**Memorandum to  
Chairperson and Members  
Policy and Planning Committee**

**Subject: Update on further submissions to the  
Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki**

**Approved by:** A D McLay, Director-Resource Management  
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 2091774

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### Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to present Members with an update on further submissions received in support or opposition to initial submissions made on the *Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki* (the Proposed Plan).

A copy of the further submissions received has been appended to this item for Members' information. The full copies of the further submissions are also available on the Councils' website:

[www.trc.govt.nz/coastal-plan-review-2/](http://www.trc.govt.nz/coastal-plan-review-2/)

### Executive summary

- Pursuant to the *Resource Management Act 1991* (RMA) the Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) has commenced the formal review process involving the release of the Proposed Coastal Plan.
- The Proposed Plan was the culmination of a comprehensive pre-plan notification engagement process, involving early engagement, consultation on position papers and technical reports and the earlier release of a Draft Plan and call for submissions.
- The Proposed Plan was publicly notified for submissions on 24 February 2018. The deadline for submissions was 27 April 2018 and 61 submissions were received.
- Further submissions, in support of opposition to the original submissions made in the Proposed Plan, were publicly notified on 21 July 2018. The deadline for further submissions was 4 August 2018 and 25 further submissions were received.

### Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives this memorandum entitled *Update on further submissions to the Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki* and attached further submissions.

## **Background**

As Members are aware, the Council has commenced a review on the *Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki*. The Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki (the Proposed Plan) was publicly notified for submissions on 24 February 2018, with submissions closing on 27 April 2018. A total of 61 initial submissions and were received.

Pursuant to the First Schedule of the *Resource Management Act 1991* (the RMA), at the Policy and Planning Committee meeting on 17 July 2018, Members agreed to publicly notified the availability of the *Summary of decisions requested* document and call for further submissions in support or opposition to the initial submissions. The public notice was made on 21 July with the deadline for further submissions closing on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August. The timeframe is in accordance with requirements set out in Clause 7 (1)(c) of Schedule 1 of the RMA and allows for certain persons to make further submissions in response to submission points already raised through the initial submission process.

Of note, further submissions may only be made in support of or opposition to the submissions already made. A further submission cannot extend the scope of the original submission and can only seek allowance or disallowance (in whole or in part) of the original submission.

To assist those participating in the further submission process, Council provided two on-line tools for submitters:

1. an online form on the Council website for submitters who had few (up to five) submission points to make. This required the submitter to fill in the appropriate fields and indicate preferences and answer simple questions using tick boxes that was then submitted directly to the Council; and
2. online access to a downloadable table prescribing the recommended formatting for creating a further submission where many (more than five) submission points were being raised.

Both of these tools were utilized, however, the table format was used more regularly as many submitters raised over five submission points. Further submitters are required to serve a copy of their submission to those whose submissions they have expressed support or opposition for. The Council provided further submitters with a list of submitters and the email addresses of original submitters to assist with serving a copy of the further submission on those who submitted the original submission point.

## **Further submissions**

In total, the Council received 25 further submissions (refer Table 1). All further submissions came from those who had already submitted on the Proposed Plan. Further submitters included four local iwi, three government agencies, ten local and national businesses, seven non-government groups and one member of the public.

Table 1: List of further submitters

Further Submitters			
1	Federated Farmers	14	Ministry for Primary Industries
2	Radio New Zealand	15	Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust
3	Project Life Reef & Taranaki Underwater Club	16	New Zealand Defence Force
4	Transpower NZ	17	Royal Forest and Bird
5	Trans-Tasman Resources	18	Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa Trust
6	Meridian Energy	19	Karen Pratt
7	Powerco	20	Port Taranaki Limited
8	The Oil Companies (BP	21	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga
9	Taranaki Underwater Club	22	Taranaki Energy Watch
10	Minister of conservation	23	Petroleum Exploration and Production Association
11	Kiwis Against Seabed Mining	24	Nga Motu Marine Reserve Society
12	Fonterra	25	Te Runanga o Ngati Ruanui Trusts
13	Climate Justice Taranaki		

Officers are now reviewing the further submissions and will incorporate these into an officers report (the 'Recommendations on decisions requested' document) that is currently in progress. The further submission points encompassed a wide range of views and concerns and generally reflect the scope of the submissions raise through the initial submission process. A copy of the further submissions is appended to this item.

### Further submissions in support or opposition to the Council's submission

As part of the further submission process, Royal Forest and Bird, Powerco and the Oil Companies (Z Energy Ltd, BP Oil Ltd and Mobil Oil Ltd) submitted on submission points made by the Taranaki Regional Council on the Coastal Plan.

The further submission from Royal Forest and Bird opposes the submission by the Council to amend the extent of the site at Waitotara identified as being of Outstanding Natural Character ( ONC8) so as to align with the mapped extents of sites mapped by the South Taranaki Regional Council. Royal Forest and Bird recognise that consistency between plans is desirable, however, have reservations about the methods used to map the areas by the South Taranaki District Council.

Powerco, however, has expressed support for the amendment sought by the Council and supports alignment between the Regional Council and the District Council plans.

The Oil Companies (Z Energy Ltd BP Oil Ltd and Mobil Oil NZ Ltd) submitted their support in part for the Councils recommended amendment to Rule 1 [Stormwater discharges] of the Coastal Plan. As it stands, the rule excludes all premises that use or store hazardous substances, and requires such premises to be treated as discretionary activities with regards to stormwater discharges under Rule 2. However, the definition of hazardous substances is very broad and includes many day-to-day products like detergents and household cleaners. In the original submission, the Council suggested to amend the rule to refer to threshold values that trigger controls under *Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996* in order to avoid unnecessarily excluding all industrial or trade premises that use or store hazardous

substances from Rule 1. Therefore, premises that do not exceed the threshold can be treated under Rule 1 as a permitted activity while those that do exceed the thresholds will be required to seek approval through a resource consent as directed in Rule 2.

The Oil Companies support this notion. However, they suggest that an exclusion for high risk industrial or trade premises may be a more appropriate means of capturing premises that have potential to adversely affect water quality. An appropriate definition would recognise that mitigation, for instance containment and treatment in accordance with established industry good practice guidance (for instance the *Environmental Guidelines for Water Discharges from Petroleum Industry Sites in New Zealand 1989*) would exclude a premise from being high risk. The further submitters note that a similar approach is adopted in the Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki.

Officers will be further reviewing these and other further submissions and suggesting recommendations as appropriate. These recommendations will be included in the officers report. In addition, officers will arrange to consult with submitters to discuss their submission requests, officer responses and other aspects of the Proposed Coastal Plan as part of a pre-hearing engagement process. This process is an opportunity to further discuss and resolve issues prior to a formal hearing.

### **Decision-making considerations**

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **Policy considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

### **Iwi considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Consultation with all iwi was undertaken on the Plan, as required by the RMA and as a matter of good practice, with valuable feedback received. Input at the Plan level is more strategic than at the consent level, because plans set the framework for consents.

**Legal considerations**

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

**Appendices – one separate report**

Document number 2102344: *Further Submissions on the Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki.*

### **Whakataka te hau**

#### ***Karakia to open and close meetings***

Whakataka te hau ki te uru	Cease the winds from the west
Whakataka te hau ki tonga	Cease the winds from the south
Kia mākinakina ki uta	Let the breeze blow over the land
Kia mātaratara ki tai	Let the breeze blow over the ocean
Kia hī ake ana te atakura	Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air
He tio, he huka, he hauhu	A touch of frost, a promise of glorious day
Tūturu o whiti whakamaua kia tina.	Let there be certainty
Tina!	Secure it!
Hui ē! Tāiki ē!	Draw together! Affirm!

### **Nau mai e ngā hua**

#### ***Karakia for kai***

Nau mai e ngā hua	Welcome the gifts of food
o te wao	from the sacred forests
o te ngakina	from the cultivated gardens
o te wai tai	from the sea
o te wai Māori	from the fresh waters
Nā Tāne	The food of Tāne
Nā Rongo	of Rongo
Nā Tangaroa	of Tangaroa
Nā Maru	of Maru
Ko Ranginui e tū iho nei	I acknowledge Ranginui above and
Ko Papatūānuku e takoto ake nei	Papatūānuku below
Tūturu o whiti whakamaua kia	Let there be certainty
tina	Secure it!
Tina! Hui e! Taiki e!	Draw together! Affirm!