

Foreword

This foreword “Shaping Whakatāne” sets out the Council’s vision and aspirations for the Whakatāne District. It reflects the key themes that run through all of the Council’s Strategic documents and is designed to assist the reader to understand how the responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) align with the responsibilities the Council has under the Local Government Act 2002. The foreword is not a chapter of the Plan, has no legal standing and should be given no statutory weight.

SHAPING WHAKATĀNE

The Whakatāne District Council (**Council**) believes that economic development is a key contributor to a vital business sector and a prosperous community. The role of the District Plan is to establish **objectives, policies and rules** to enable development, while protecting the values which make the Whakatāne District (**District**) a great place to live.

We are proud of our rich history, strong cultural identity and our diverse and beautiful natural landscape. Our vision is to embrace and safeguard those qualities so that they can continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

To provide for our community’s wellbeing, we must also ensure that we make the most of the opportunities our natural and physical resources provide. Shaping the **District** of the future therefore requires us to find the right balance between protecting our heritage, maintaining quality living environments and enabling development and growth.

In preparing this Plan, hundreds of views and suggestions from the community have been carefully considered and changes incorporated to balance all of the factors illustrated below. Achieving the right balance for the **District** will allow us to meet the community’s, economic, social, environmental and cultural aspirations.

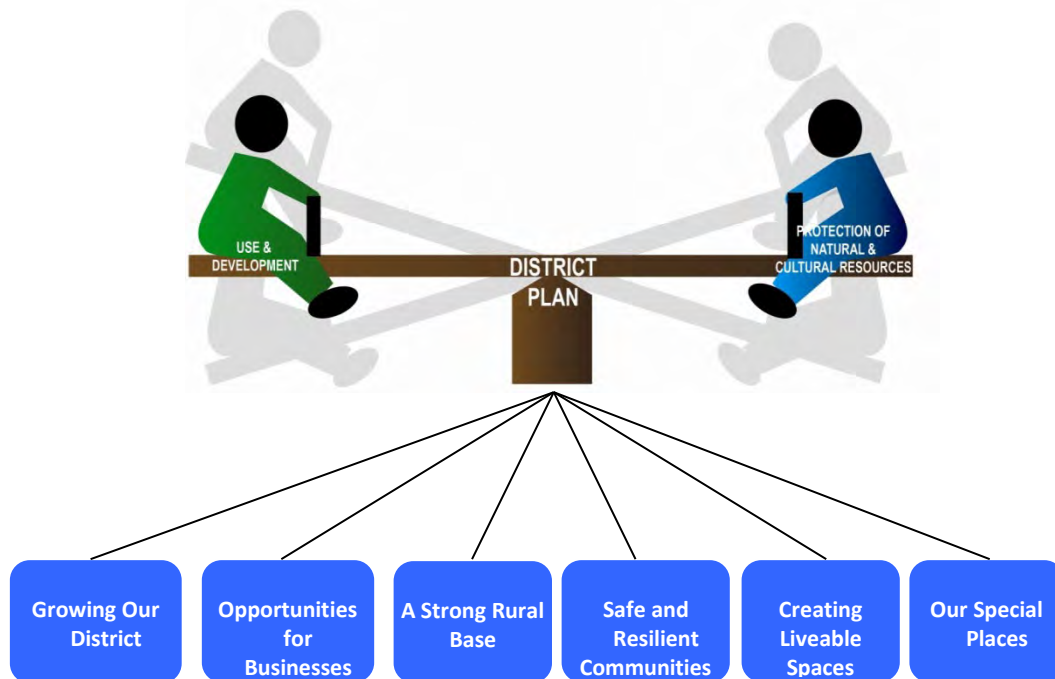


Figure 1 Balancing Use & Development and Protection of Natural & Cultural Resources

The key themes running through the District Plan are as follows:

Growing our Urban Areas: Providing for urban growth in Whakatāne and Ōhope, identifying where new residential growth can occur elsewhere in the **District** and ensuring that a range of housing choices is available. Examples include;

- a. identification of future growth areas at Shaw/Huna Road and Maraetōtara;
- b. the development of the Kōpeōpeō Urban Living Zone for more intensive housing;
- c. **Papakāinga** housing provisions;

- d. subdivision rules that allow establishment of rural lifestyle development in the Rural Foothills Zone;
- e. development plans for residential land at Piripai/Ōpihi, Shaw/Huna Road and Port Ōhope; and
- f. providing for retirement villages.

Opportunities for Businesses: Identifying areas available for commercial, retail and industrial activities. This includes protecting the vibrancy of Whakatāne's central business district and nurturing the District's smaller business centres. Examples include;

- a. enabling provisions in business zones to allow a wide range of activities (For example. apartments, retail, and commercial);
- b. a Mixed Use Zone to provide a range of residential, retail and commercial activities;
- c. a Community and Cultural Zone to allow iwi to take full advantage of Treaty of Waitangi settlements;
- d. a Large Format Retail Zone;
- e. height provisions to promote development in the Whakatāne Town Centre and in other Business Zones in the District;
- f. enabling small rural enterprises;
- g. an Education Zone to streamline future development initiatives; and
- h. Enabling provisions around renewable energy.

Retaining a Strong Rural Base: The productivity of our rural land is a core strength of our economy and the Plan aims to retain rural capacity and ensure that we continue to gain the maximum economic benefit from our agricultural sector. Examples include;

- a. permitted activity status for most primary production activities;
- b. protection of land in the Rural Plains Zone and maintenance of the productive capacity of land;
- c. managing potential for reverse sensitivity from new activities located in the Rural Zones;
- d. exclusion of horticultural structures from yard provisions; and
- e. provision for services to support rural production.

Safe and Resilient Communities: Providing for the on-going management of a range of natural hazards, such as flooding, and addressing land contamination and nuisance effects like noise and traffic. Examples include;

- a. identification of hazards (coastal and escarpments) for certainty and safety;
- b. provisions for contaminated sites and **hazardous substances**;
- c. rules on sight distances at rail crossings for safety reasons and to protect rail operations;
- d. rules to protect the roading network;
- e. rules to protect the integrity of flood protection works and avoid development of flood prone areas; and
- f. provisions that ensure a secure and resilient electricity supply.

Creating Liveable Spaces: Ensuring consideration is given to amenity values (the qualities that contribute to pleasant and attractive living and working conditions and lifestyles) in public areas and private spaces, so that existing residents enjoy our towns and villages and new residents and businesses are attracted to the District. Examples include;

- a. standards to make community events easier to authorise;
- b. reducing requirements for consents for minor works in reserves;
- c. minimum infrastructure standards for quality living environments; and
- d. urban design standards and guidelines (For example, Strand Character Guidelines) to retain high amenity standards in business areas.

Our Special Places: Protecting the natural, cultural and heritage qualities which make the District unique, including our outstanding native forests and wetlands, coastal and harbour foreshores, special landscapes and heritage sites; providing a base for tourism; and giving Whakatāne the competitive edge that attracts and retains highly-skilled people and successful businesses. Examples include;

- a. a Rural Ōhiwa Zone and Rural Coastal Zone to protect the values of the Ōhiwa Harbour and coastal character;
- b. identification of important biodiversity, landscape and heritage features and rules to make sure that any effects on these places are carefully managed;
- c. protection of identified heritage features; and

d. recognising and providing for tangata whenua and their culture and traditions.

The District Plan is a statutory document required by the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). It aims to achieve the objectives detailed above through sustainable management, with guidance drawn from Part II of the RMA, and the application of the objectives, policies, methods and rules set out in the Plan.

The District Plan necessarily involves the use of planning and legal terminology which may be unfamiliar to some readers. The following section provides guidance on how to interpret and use the Plan. If you need further assistance or advice, please contact the Council – our planning staff will be happy to help.



CHAPTER 01

INTRODUCTION

He Kupu Whakataki

1 Introduction

1.1 ORGANISATION AND FORMAT (HOW TO USE THE PLAN)

1.1.1 Content

The District Plan is made up of the following sections:

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter describes the key requirements that district plans are required to take into account or give effect to. It also sets out the format of the Plan and how to apply its provisions to particular proposals and what the various zones and policy areas mean. This chapter describes the District's environment, including people, communities, growth trends, and the District's economy.

Chapter 2: Strategic

This chapter contains the objectives and policies that provide a strategic framework for the Plan. In addition Chapter 2 also defines new urban growth areas, along with the objectives, policies and rules relating to development in growth areas.

Chapter 3: Zone Descriptions, Activity Status Information Requirements and Criteria for Resource Consents.

This chapter includes a description of all zones and policy areas. The activity status table defines the resource consent status for residential, business, community, rural and other activities for each zone in the District. It also lists the information requirements for resource consents and the criteria used for the assessment of Discretionary and Non-Complying activities.

Chapters 4 to 10: Zone Provisions

These chapters provide the issues, objectives, policies and rules for each zone in the District. These zone specific provisions apply, together with the provisions contained in the "all of Plan" Chapters 11 to 20. Assessment criteria for Controlled and Restricted Discretionary Activity resource consents are provided at the end of each section and assessment criteria for Discretionary and Non-Complying resource consents are provided for in Chapter 3 of the Plan.

Chapters 11 to 20: All of Plan Provisions

The "all of plan" provisions contain the issues, objectives, policies and rules that apply across all zones for activities such as development, subdivision, transportation and noise. In addition, they contain the rules for the protection of special landscapes, biodiversity areas, trees and heritage. The assessment criteria for Controlled and Restricted Discretionary resource consents are provided at the end of each section. Criteria for Discretionary and Non-Complying Activities are also provided in Chapter 3 of the Plan.

These chapters also contain schedules of sites which have specific plan provisions relating to them including the Development Plans for specified educational facilities, designations and a list of streams, rivers, lakes and coastline identified for esplanade reserve purposes.

Chapter 21: Definitions

The definitions chapter defines terms used throughout the Plan.

Chapter 22: Appendices

The appendices contain information that supports the provisions referred to in the Plan.

Planning Maps

The Planning Maps are contained in a separate document and show the District Plan zones as well as the various special landscapes, biodiversity areas, trees and heritage items specified for protection. Designations and other provisions such as hazard provisions are also shown.

1.1.2 Chapter Format

The format of Chapters 4 to 20 is outlined below:

Objectives: Defines the direction the **Council** has taken in response to the resource management issues identified and the outcomes it is seeking to achieve through the District Plan.

Policies: Defines the effects based course of action that the **Council** is taking to achieve the District Plan objectives.

Rules: The general and specific rules which apply to the activities listed in the activity status tables and which define acceptable degrees of environmental effect.

Assessment Criteria: When considering a resource consent application, the **Council** assesses the application, having regard to the assessment criteria. For Discretionary and Non-Complying activities, the **Council** can decide what matters it considers, but may use the standards and criteria in Chapter 3.7 as a guide in assessing applications and determining decisions. The criteria for Controlled activities and Restricted Discretionary activities are listed in the relevant plan chapters.

Other Methods: The non-regulatory and other non RMA methods that will also be used to achieve objectives.

1.1.3 How to use the Plan

The flow chart below will help you to navigate through the District Plan process and determine whether a resource consent from the **Council** is required. Staff can also provide advice on this matter.

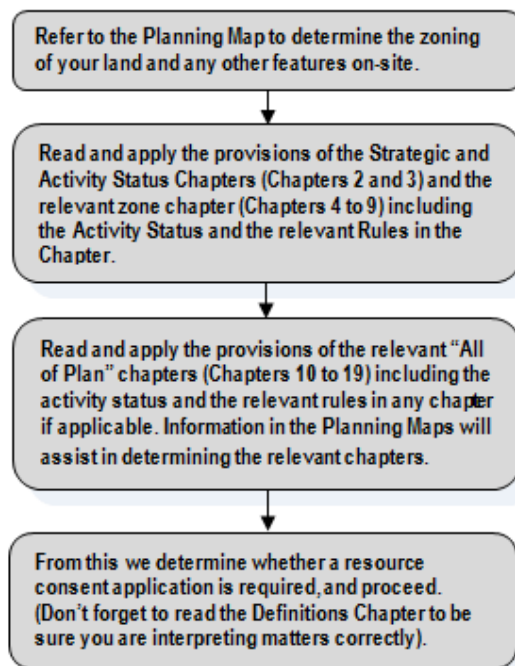


Figure 1.1 How to Use the Plan

1.1.4 Next Steps/If You Need Further Assistance

If a resource consent is required, you will need to follow the process shown in the diagram below:

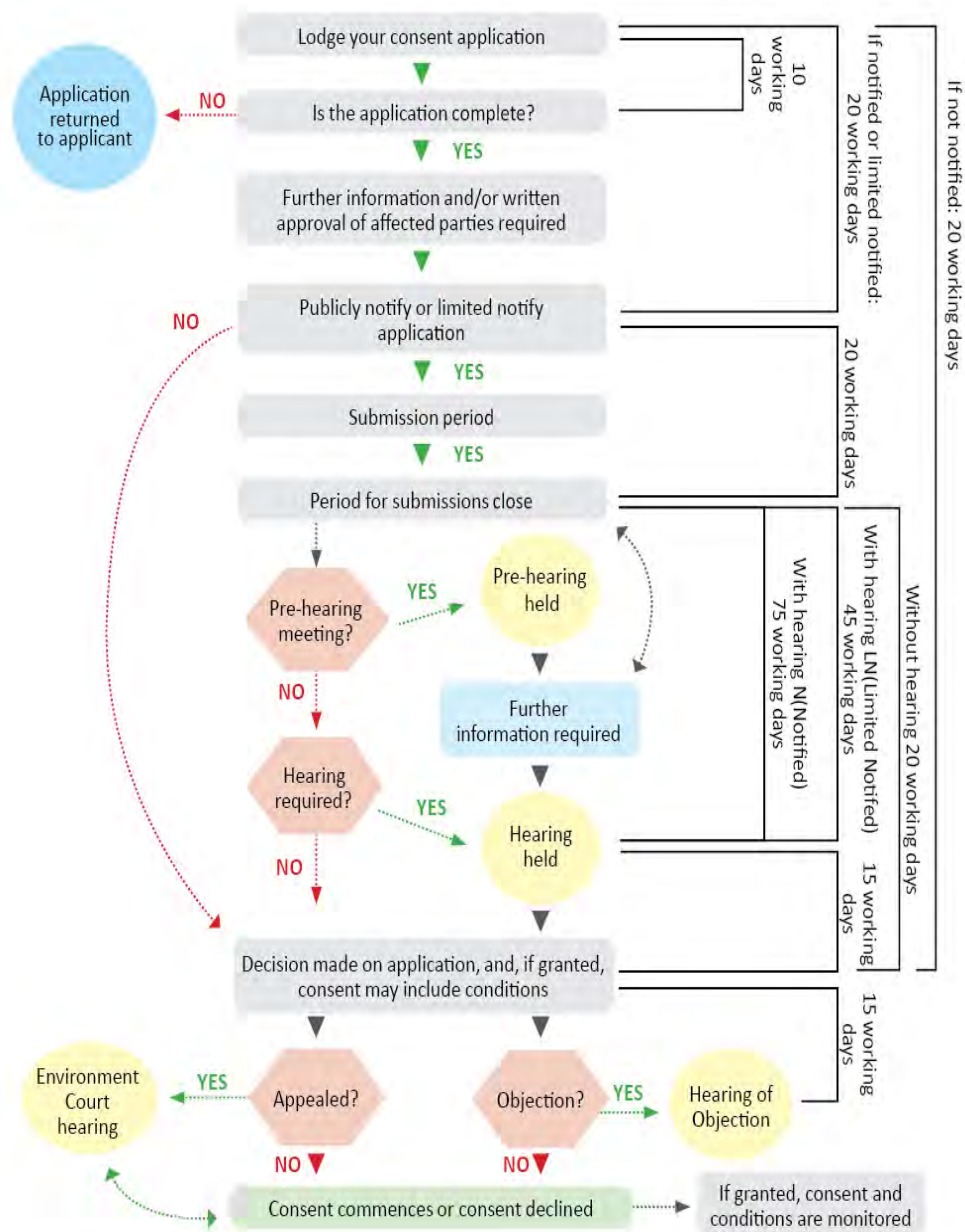


Figure 1.2 Resource Consent Process

However, there may be other matters (outside of the District Plan) which will affect your development and it is recommended that you discuss your project with a Council planner and/or engineer so that appropriate advice can be provided at the earliest opportunity.

Below are some key questions that you should consider before progressing:

- Are there sufficient services (e.g. water and wastewater) in place to cater for my development?
- Do I need a **building** consent?
- Do I need resource consent from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council?
- What information would I need to submit with a **building** consent (if required) to satisfy Council that a resource consent is not required?
- Do I need specialists to assist me – planning, traffic, ecological, etc.?

- f. Would a financial or development contribution apply to my development?
- g. Do I need to consult with my neighbours?
- h. What information do I need to submit with my resource consent application?
- i. What is the likely process for my resource consent application (non-notified, limited notified, publicly notified) and are there aspects of the proposal that should be amended to make it easier to gain approval?
- j. Are there any issues for tangata whenua that may be affected by my application?
- k. What type of costs will be incurred in getting the consents I need?

1.2 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND SECTION 32 DOCUMENTATION

The Council has prepared several reports in the process of considering the future sustainable management of the District's resources. In total, they document the Council's responsibilities under Section 32 of the RMA, to consider alternatives, benefits and costs. They also contain references to other supporting documents (e.g. relevant strategies or research reports). These documents are available from the Whakatāne District Council, 14 Commerce Street, Whakatāne or www.Whakatāne.govt.nz.

1.3 LEGISLATION AND PLANNING DOCUMENTS

1.3.1 Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

The RMA requires the Council to have a District Plan. The purpose of the district plan is to help the Council carry out its responsibilities under the RMA, including controlling of the effects of use, development and protection of land (refer Section 31 of the RMA).

The purpose of the RMA is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Anything that is done under the provisions of the RMA must advance this statutory purpose. Sustainable management is defined in Section 5(2) of the RMA but in general it means managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while;

- a. sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations;
- b. safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems; and
- c. avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.

Sections 6, 7 and 8 of the RMA contain principles which provide guidance about how the purpose of the RMA is to be achieved.

Section 6 sets out the matters of national importance that Council must recognise and provide for. Provisions include the preservation or protection of the natural character of the coast from inappropriate subdivision and development; outstanding natural features and landscapes; areas of significant indigenous vegetation; historic heritage and public access to and along the coast, rivers and lakes. It also provides for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga and the protection of recognised customary activities.

Section 7 outlines matters that Council must have particular regard to including kaitiākitanga, stewardship, the efficient use and development and finite characteristics of natural and physical resources, renewable energy and the efficient end use of energy, effects of climate change, amenity values, the habitat of trout and salmon, the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment and the intrinsic values of ecosystems.

Section 8 states that the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi should be taken into account.

The following diagram describes the position of the District Plan within the RMA planning framework.

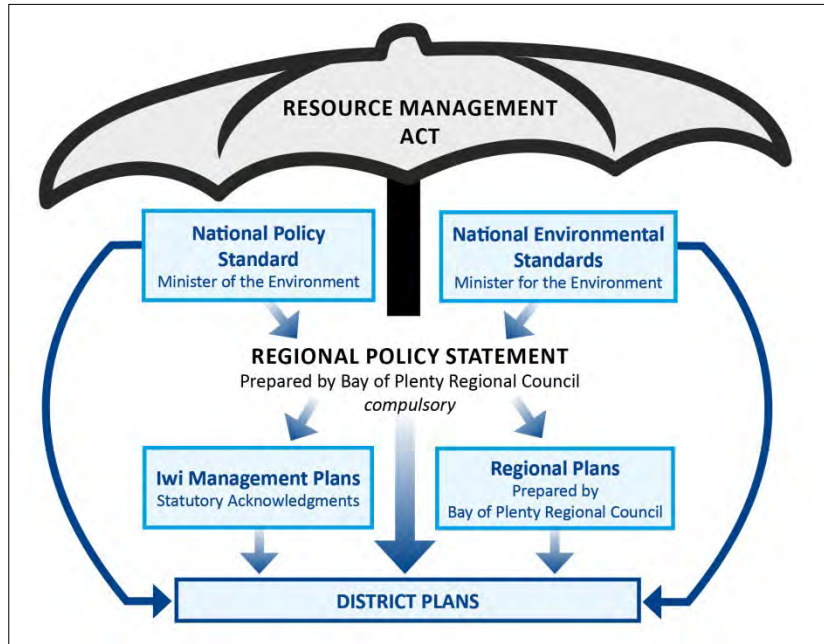


Figure 1.3 RMA Context of the District Plan

1.3.2 National Policy Statements

National policy statements are prepared by a Minister of the Crown under the RMA. They prescribe policies and objectives, methods and other requirements for environmental matters of national significance. Local authorities must give effect to national policy statements in regional and district planning documents. Examples of national policy statements include:

- New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation
- National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission
- National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

1.3.3 National Environmental Standards (NES)

National environmental standards (NES) are regulations issued under the RMA which apply nationally. They prescribe technical standards, methods and other requirements for environmental matters. Local and regional councils must enforce these standards. In some circumstances, councils can impose stricter standards. In this way, NES ensure consistent minimum standards are maintained throughout New Zealand. Examples of NES include:

- NES for Air Quality
- NES for Sources for Drinking Water
- NES for Telecommunication Facilities
- NES for Electricity Transmission Activities
- NES for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health

1.3.4 Regional Policy Statement

Under the RMA, regional council functions include integrated resource management, effects of regional significance, control of the use of land for specified purposes, managing the coastal marine area (with the Minister of Conservation) and water, and controlling discharges to land, air, and water.

The Whakatāne District falls within the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's boundaries. The District Plan must give effect to the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement and have regard to any proposed Regional Policy Statement.

1.3.5 Regional Plans

Under the RMA, regional councils must prepare regional plans, where specific issues require more detailed management than can be achieved through regional policy statements. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council has prepared a number of regional plans and the District Plan cannot be inconsistent with these. Relevant plans are referred to in Section 32 reports.

1.3.6 Treaty of Waitangi Settlement Acts and Statutory Acknowledgement Areas

The Treaty of Waitangi Settlement Acts are Acts that have been passed by the Government in recognition of settlements of historical grievances. This process is an opportunity for Māori to obtain redress for breaches by the Crown of the guarantees set out in the Treaty of Waitangi. They can include redress in the form of financial compensation, co-management agreements, use of traditional place names, consultation requirements and statutory acknowledgements.

A number of Settlement Acts relating to iwi within the Whakatāne District have been enacted, including the Ngāti Awa Settlement Act 2005, the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Settlement Act (2005), the Ngāti Manawa Claims Settlement Act (2012), the Ngāti Whare Settlement Act (2012), the Ngāti Māhino Claims Settlement Act (2012), the Tūhoe Claims Settlement Act (2014), Te Urewera Act (2014) and the Central North Island Forest Land Collective Settlement Act (2008). A list of all Treaty of Waitangi settlements and Statutory Acknowledgement areas is maintained by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. The document is called “Ngā Whakaaetanga-ā-Ture Ki Te Taiao ā Toi Statutory Acknowledgements in the Bay of Plenty” and is available on the Council’s website.

Statutory acknowledgements are statements in Treaty of Waitangi settlements between the Crown and iwi partners that are intended to recognise the mana of iwi partners in relation to identified sites and areas. Statutory acknowledgements are an acknowledgement by the Crown of the particular cultural, spiritual, historic and traditional association of an iwi partner with each statutory site and area. Consent authorities, the Environment Court and the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga are required to have regard to statutory acknowledgements when determining whether the relevant iwi may be adversely affected by the granting of a resource consent for activities within or adjacent to, or impacting directly on the statutory area. The statutory acknowledgements are shown on the Planning Maps.

As a result of settlements, a co governance forum called the Rangitāiki River Forum has been established for the protection and enhancement of the Rangitāiki River. Integrated planning protocols and memorandums of understanding also contribute to collaborative planning between Local Government and iwi and hapū.

1.3.7 Iwi and Hapū Management Plans

The RMA states that the Council must take into account any relevant planning document by an iwi authority and lodged with the Council. A number of iwi management plans have been received by Council’s Iwi Liaison Committee and the minutes acknowledged by Council.

Hapū management plans may be prepared by hapū within the District and can form part of an iwi management plan, or be standalone documents. Iwi and hapū management plans provide useful information and guidance to Council when assessing the impact of activities on the environment and also assist our consultation process. These plans provide an understanding of iwi and hapū aspirations. As iwi and hapū build capacity through Treaty settlements, the number of plans is likely to increase as iwi and hapū become more engaged in resource management issues.

1.3.8 Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011

The purpose of Marine and Coastal Area Act is to ensure the protection of all legitimate interests of all New Zealanders in the coastal marine and coastal area, including recognising the mana tuku iho of iwi, hapū and whānau as tangata whenua. Under the Act, whānau, hapū and iwi can seek recognition and protection of longstanding customary interests and these are called protected customary rights. Customary marine

title recognises the relationship that has existed and will continue to exist between iwi, hapū and whānau and the common marine and coastal area. When an application is made the iwi or hapū must be consulted where resource consents may affect the area concerned. Once granted, the holders of customary marine title have specific rights, including the right to permit (or withhold permission) activities requiring resource consent in the area covered by the title.

1.3.9 Relevant Strategies and Plans

To help shape the District's future, a number of strategies, plans and approaches have been developed by Council and other organisations. Some examples of documents that have been referred to in the development of the District Plan are listed below;

1. The Long Term Plan (2012-2022);
2. Whakatāne Integrated Urban Growth Strategy (2012, updated 2012);
3. Whakatāne Built Heritage Study (2007);
4. Bay of Connections (2011);
5. Whakatāne Walking and Cycling Strategy (2007);
6. Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy (2008);
7. Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transportation Strategy (2011-2041);
8. Whakatāne Town Vision Plan (2008);
9. The Whakatāne Airport Master Plan (2011);
10. The Whakatāne Airport Business Plan (2012);
11. Ports Operational Plan (2011);
12. Floodway and Drainage Bylaw (2008); and
13. Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan (2012-2017).

1.4 CROSS BOUNDARY ISSUES

1.4.1 Identified Cross-Boundary Issues

Cross-boundary issues which have arisen to date include;

- a. protection of Ōhiwa Harbour, particularly its natural character, recreational and cultural values;
- b. the potential adverse effects of discharges into the air and into the Tarawera River, and on amenity values for nearby residents, from industries operating in the Kawerau District. These activities, particularly noise, have the potential to cause adverse environmental effects in the District. The management of these effects is a function of the Kawerau District Council (industry), Whakatāne District Council (waste disposal), and Bay of Plenty Regional Council (discharges to land, air and water);
- c. areas of significant landscape and indigenous biological value extend into neighbouring districts. The Council will work with the adjacent councils to achieve consistency in the management of these district areas;
- d. the Kawerau Geothermal Power Station is located in the Kawerau District with some production and reinjection wells located within the Whakatāne District. The supply of electricity from the Kawerau Geothermal Power Station is both regionally and nationally significant in terms of social and economic wellbeing. The need to enable the continued operation and expansion of the Kawerau Geothermal Power Station and its associated infrastructure is recognised as a cross boundary issue;
- e. the management and protection of route security in the Eastern Bay of Plenty; and
- f. the management of contaminated sites.

1.4.2 Liaison between Agencies

The Council will maintain liaison with adjacent iwi/hapū authorities, territorial authorities (Kawerau, Ōpōtiki, Rotorua, Western Bay of Plenty, Wairoa, Gisborne and Taupo District Councils), the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, the New Zealand Transport Agency and the Department of Conservation.

As cross-boundary issues arise, the Council will encourage;

- a. regular discussion between authorities and iwi/hapū authorities;
- b. co-operation on issues of common interest to both/all authorities and iwi/hapū authorities, e.g. environment plans;
- c. joint studies; and
- d. joint hearings.

Whenever practicable, where a hearing is required for any activity which requires the consent of two or more local authorities, this shall be held jointly by a hearings panel acting under delegated authority, at a mutually agreeable time and location. Hearings may not be held jointly if all the consent authorities agree that the applications are sufficiently unrelated that a joint hearing is unnecessary and the applicant agrees that a joint hearing need not be held. Integrated planning protocols and memorandums of understanding will also contribute to collaborative planning between Local Government and iwi and hapū.

1.4.3 Integrated Management with Bay of Plenty Regional Council

The Regional Council has primary responsibility under the RMA for the management of the coastal marine area, the control of discharges to land, air and water, control of the taking, using, damming and diversion of water and structures fixed to or over river or lake beds. It also controls the use of land for specified purposes such as for soil conservation, and an overlapping responsibility with district councils for the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards, hazardous substances, for the maintenance of indigenous biodiversity and for activities within the coastal environment. The District Plan deals with some of these functions to achieve better integrated management of natural and physical resources. The Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement provides guidance where functions and responsibilities are overlapping.

1.5 WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT BACKGROUND

1.5.1 Population

There are approximately 34,700 people in the Whakatāne District¹. About 50.7% of the population are female and 49.3% male and there is a population density of 7.7 people per square km. Population growth across the District is expected to be in line with the medium population projection by Statistics New Zealand. However the Council has higher expectations and has developed an Integrated Urban Growth Strategy to identify new areas for urban growth and is actively working with businesses to stimulate economic development in the District. Economic growth in neighbouring districts is also likely to have a positive effect on the population of Whakatāne.

Māori make up approximately 42% of the District's population compared to 14% nationally. Māori culture is a strong and vibrant aspect of the Whakatāne community and apart from English, Te Reo Māori is the most common language spoken. Within the District there are 8 iwi: Ngāti Awa, Tūhoe, Ngāti Manawa, Ngāti Whare, Ngāti Rangitīhi, Ngāti Tūwharetoa (Bay of Plenty), Ūpokorehe and Ngāti Mākinō. Iwi are made up of various hapū and whānau.

1.5.2 Natural Environment

The District has a total area of 4,445km² encompassing a variety of natural characteristics and landscapes. In the north the coastline is predominantly sandy beaches including Otamarākau, Matatā, Thornton and Ōhope. Major river mouth systems along the coast are the Tarawera, Rangitāiki, and Whakatāne. Significant estuary systems are located at the Whakatāne River mouth and Ōhiwa Harbour.

The coastal lowlands centred on the Rangitāiki Plains have high quality, highly productive or versatile soils. The total area of the Rangitāiki Plains is approximately 30,000 hectares. About 45% of this area (14,000 hectares) is considered to be of sufficiently high quality soil to have potential for market gardening, cash

¹ New Zealand Census 2006. For updated census figures, please refer to Statistics NZ website – www.stats.govt.nz

cropping or fruit production. Low, rolling hill country reaches to the sea west and east of the plains. The area to the south rising into the Central Volcanic Plateau comprises the largest part of the District.

Approximately 48% of the District is covered by native forest, both within reserves and on private land. Inland, a significant proportion of the District is protected native forest within Te Urewera. Together with the adjoining Whirinaki Te-Pua-a-Tane Conservation Park, this represents the largest remaining indigenous forest tract in the North Island. Large tracts of multiple owned Māori lands within the Tūhoe rohe are adjacent to, or enclosed within the park and contain important biodiversity values. These indigenous ecosystems provide habitat for threatened flora and fauna, the latter including Kiwi, Kokako and Whio. Many landowners in the District voluntarily manage and protect natural areas on their land.

The natural environment plays an important part in the lifestyle of Whakatāne residents. The District offers many outdoor activities focused around our forests, harbours, rivers/streams and coastal environment. Whakatāne provides a tourist gateway to Whakaari (White Island) - an active volcano that can be visited by boat or helicopter. Whakatāne's premier game fishing waters extend to offshore islands, offering anglers a range of target species. The Rangitāiki, Tarawera and Whakatāne/Waimana Rivers offer recreational opportunities for rafting, canoeing, fishing and game hunting. Lake Āniwaniwa and Lake Matahina, both formed by hydroelectricity dams, are popular recreational resources but also have important wildlife values. Indigenous ecosystems also sustain a diversity of existing eco-tourism activity with potential for increasing eco-tourism to boost the opportunities and attractiveness of our District to local, national and international visitors.

1.5.3 Economy

The District has a strong rural economy based upon the primary industries of agriculture and forestry and support industries such as the processing of logs. In 2011, the District's largest contributor to the nation's Gross Domestic Product, was rural production. Dairy farming dominates the District's agricultural sector and is supported by the Edgecumbe Dairy Manufacturing Site. There is potential for expansion of agriculture support industries in Edgecumbe.

Industry in Whakatāne is focused on serving the local market and surrounding rural area, with some heavy industry such as the Whakatāne Mill located on the outskirts of Whakatāne. This pattern is likely to continue into the future, with heavy industry (e.g. pulp and paper) predominantly located in Kawerau where the road and rail links to the Port of Tauranga, geothermal energy supply, and availability of appropriately zoned land offer key benefits. The availability of a reliable renewable electricity supply within the District is a fundamental enabler of economic development. Whakatāne industrial areas provide support for local and smaller scale industry. Murupara has a large area of industrial, but low employment in this sector.

Exotic plantation forestry occupies 125,000 hectares of land in the District (29 %). The plantation forests are variously owned by Māori and local and overseas interests. A large number of people who reside in the District are employed in harvesting and forestry activities, and in wood processing both within the District and in adjacent districts.

Horticulture also makes an important contribution to the District economy, and this is expected to grow. Over 600 hectares of kiwifruit orchards are located in rural zones of the District, representing approximately \$200 million in orchard investment. As well as full time employment, seasonal employment in pack houses and orchards contributes to the District economy.

Whakatāne also has a vibrant tourism sector, based on the quality and accessibility of our natural environment. Visitor arrivals to the combined Whakatāne/Kawerau Districts staying in commercial accommodation totalled 101,383 during the September 2010 year. Domestic visitors accounted for 76% of total night-stays in commercial accommodation in the District and overseas visitors the balance of 24%.

Council and other agencies (Kawerau and Ōpōtiki District Council's and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council) promote activities aimed at increasing employment, income and investment in the District. Potential economic growth areas include but are not limited to geothermal energy, wood processing, forestry and marine resources (e.g. aquaculture). There are also considerable opportunities associated with investment by Māori in their lands and the potential for economic growth in this area, with a resulting

enhancement of cultural wellbeing noted.

1.6 MĀORI RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PERSPECTIVES

The following is a broad description of Māori perspectives on resource management. It is intended to summarise these concepts, not to define them. The interpretation of these values may differ between and within iwi.

1.6.1 Mātauranga Māori (Māori Knowledge) and Environmental Resource Management.

From a Māori environmental resource management perspective, all living things are connected. Land, people, forests, sea and sky are seen to be equal importance and have a holistic spiritual relationship with the natural world. All of these entities are deemed to have histories and therefore whakapapa (genealogical ancestry) and kinship ties with humans. Humans are bound to this natural world framework through Papatuanuku (earth mother) and Ranginui (sky father). Papatuanuku is viewed as a nurturing entity, providing the physical, intellectual, spiritual and cultural connectedness of humans with nature. The positioning of humans in the natural world is expressed through whanaungatanga (relationships), a system in which all elements of the world are related. The survival of the world is seen to depend upon those relationships.

Section 6 of the RMA requires that the relationship of Māori, their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga, treasures, property or resources which are historically and culturally significant, be recognised and provided for as a matter of national importance. In addition, Section 7 states that, when managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources, particular regard needs to be given to kaitiākitanga (guardianship).

1.6.2 Kaitiākitanga

Kaitiākitanga is a knowledge system derived from Mātauranga Māori and can be described as the effective influence over and management of the use and sustainability of natural resources. The practice of kaitiākitanga is commonly associated with actively guarding, protecting, nurturing, preserving, sheltering, conserving and/or keeping watch over the natural world and its resources. Kaitiākitanga obliges this generation to pass on, resources equal to those they have inherited, to their descendants.

Under the RMA, kaitiākitanga means the exercise of guardianship, and in relation to a resource, includes the ethic of stewardship based on the nature of the resource itself.

From an Mātauranga Māori perspective the spiritual and physical relationships between humans and the natural world are regulated by tikanga (Māori customary values and practices). Underpinning kaitiākitanga and derived from tikanga are fundamental elements which include mana, tapu, noa and mauri. These traditional concepts are relevant to the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

1.6.3 Te Tiriti o Waitangi

In carrying out its functions and powers in relation to managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources, the Council has a duty, under Section 8 of the RMA to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi). Iwi partners consider their rangatiratanga (right of self-management) over their taonga has never been extinguished and that resource management decisions should be in accordance with Treaty principles.

Recognising that there are different understandings of resource issues between iwi partners and the Council is an important first step towards achieving an approach to resource management which accommodates Māori cultural knowledge systems and values.

1.6.4 Mauri

Mauri has been described as the vital wellspring of life. If a natural resource is under stress or its environment is unhealthy, the resource will present a mauri that lacks in vitality. When mauri is **absent**, there is no life.

Tangata whenua are **kaitiaki** (guardians) of their natural and physical resources. As such they have assumed the responsibility to ensure that the mauri of natural and physical resources is safeguarded. Protecting the mauri ensures the **maintenance** of its integrity and protection of resources for future generations.

Mauri can be harmed by insensitive resource use. For example, the health and vitality of the sea, streams and rivers, and the plants and animals they support can be threatened by activities such as discharges of pollutants; stormwater and sewage; runoff of contaminants from land; excessive water use; changing the course of water bodies, or diverting the water between catchments and rivers. Māori consider that rivers are the life-blood of the land, and that the wellbeing of natural resources is reflected in the wellbeing of people. Similarly, mauri of land and air and the ecosystems they support can be harmed by practices such as clearance of vegetation, soil disturbance and waste disposal. Of all taonga, tuku iho (something handed down through the generations) mauri is one of the most precious and therefore **kaitiakitanga** as the process by which mauri is protected has deep significance in Māori environmental management. Mauri and its **maintenance** is the key to the Māori view of environmental resource management.

1.6.5 Tino Rangatiratanga

Rangatiratanga generally relates to the principle of self-management or autonomy. Te tino rangatiratanga refers to the right of iwi partners to retain control over their tribal resources and taonga. **Kāwanatanga** is the exercise of governmental authority by the Crown and its delegates – local authorities. A shared understanding of the relationship between tino rangatiratanga and kāwanatanga is necessary for the mutual recognition by the Crown and tangata whenua of each other's rights and responsibilities.

Activities involving the use, development and protection of resources should provide adequate recognition of the responsibilities which are inherent in the Treaty of Waitangi. Practices such as discharging **effluent** into water and allowing development over urupā and other waahi tapu were often undertaken because developers and authorities did not appreciate the significance of these matters to iwi partners. Multiple **Māori land** ownership and Māori consensus decision-making processes also need to be taken into account in planning and consenting procedures.