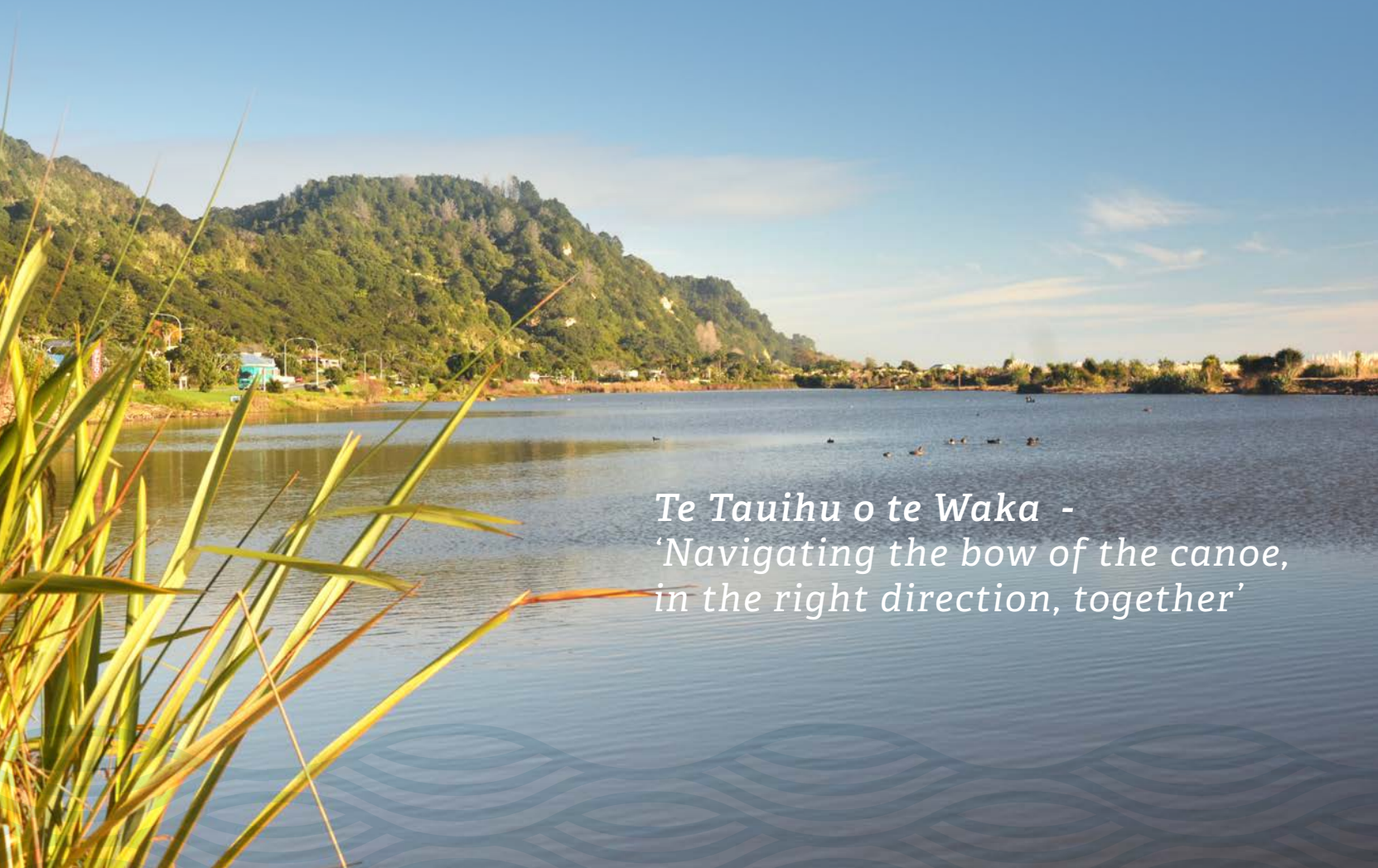




Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa
Matatā Wastewater: What's the story?



*Te Tauihu o te Waka -
'Navigating the bow of the canoe,
in the right direction, together'*

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Through kaitiakitanga practises, the iwi of Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Rangitihi, and Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau have had a long-standing connection with the Tarawera Awa, their ancestral lands, wāhi tapu (sacred areas), and locations of cultural and spiritual importance.

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The township of Matatā descends in the direction of Te Awa o Te Atua. The vast wetland that borders and surrounds Te Awa o te Atua has traditionally served as a habitat for many species, including inanga and tuna.

The Waitepuru and Te Awatarariki, two perennial streams that emerge from the hills, run from the township's relatively high-water table. A rich tapestry of important culturally significant sites and wāhi tapu adorns Matatā's larger environment.

Ngāti Rangitihi, Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau and Ngāti Awa, the tangata whenua of this rohe, have an obligation inherited from their tupuna to protect, maintain, and/or restore these sites of cultural importance to ensure that present and future activities, of any kind, do not negatively affect the mauri and mana of these important areas.



Our why



Matatā doesn't have a reticulated wastewater system, and individual properties rely on existing on-site septic tanks, which in some cases are failing.

These failures are contributing to public health risks and degradation of the environment, particularly Te Awa o Te Atua (Matatā lagoon), which is why local iwi and hapū are working together with Council to develop a fit-for-purpose Matatā wastewater system.

The what

While previous resource management attempts to improve the system have been unsuccessful, we now have a dedicated Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa Co-Design Group and Project Technical Team tasked with learning from the past and developing an effective solution through a genuine co-design approach.



Co design

Co-design entails designing with the people of Matatā, rather than for them.

The Matatā Wastewater co-design group is made up of iwi and hapū representatives from Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi Trust, Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau, and Ngāti Awa through its hapū Ngai Te Rangihouhiri, Ngāti Hikakino and Te Tawera, to work collaboratively with the Council to co-design a solution.

Community engagement has occurred to date through regular updates to the resident association as well through the Matatā Matters pānui. As the project moves more into the options phase this year, wider opportunities for community feedback and discussion will be planned.

While the co-design partners offer direction, advice and recommendations on the preferred option, the final decision on that option statutorily remains with Council.

The project

Will have significant outcomes for the Matatā community in having an efficient wastewater system. This project will provide a safe and reliable wastewater system, but it will also contribute to other key outcomes, including:

Environmental and public health outcomes

We know the environment plays a big part in people's health and wellbeing. The new system will improve water quality and ecology in local rivers, drains, Te Awa o Te Atua (Matatā lagoon) and the Tarawera Awa. It will also contribute to restoring ground and surface water impacts that have occurred as a result from people's wastewater septic tanks.

Supporting tangata whenua to improve environmental outcomes for the whenua and wai and to restore the awa.

Cultural outcomes

The restoration of the Mauri of Tarawera Awa ki Te Awa o Te Atua is at the heart of Ngāti Rangitihi's 2022 Te Tiriti o Waitangi settlement with the Crown.

The Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group, which was established as part of Ngāti Rangitihi's historical claims, is comprised of one representative from each of the four iwi with an interest in the awa (Ngāti Rangitihi, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Mākino, and Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau), and one representative from each of the three relevant local authorities, and Bay of Plenty Regional Council. They exist to support, co-ordinate and promote the integrated restoration of the mauri of the catchment. The creation and execution of the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Document (the Strategy Document) is their primary focus.



Long term growth and futureproofing

The Whakatāne District and Eastern Bay of Plenty are growing, and with an increase in residents wanting to call the district home, we must ensure we have the right infrastructure in place to support. It means Council must start laying the foundations now, but also look to the future and prepare and plan for the next 20, 50 and even 100 years, to ensure future generations have a place they're proud to call home, with appropriate infrastructure supporting them.

Sustainable and resilient

Central to managing risks, hazards and resilience is ensuring we have the right infrastructure in place, which is safe, supports community wellbeing and can respond to emerging risks such as climate change. By making sure investment is made up front with a short-medium- and long-term view in mind means we will have an asset that supports communities for the next 20, 50 and 100 years.



Te Niaotanga ō Mataatua ō Te Arawa

Matatā Wastewater

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