



# Te Muriwai o Te Whanga The Plan

2024 | Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga



# Mihi

## Acknowledgements

"It is the vision of hapū that when they look over Te Pamū (the farm) and the wider Ahuriri Estuary that their eyes meet the sight of blooming kōwhai lining the main channel, and the streams, and waterways that flow into it.

This will be a sign that the mauri of Te Whanganui-a-Orotu is restored."

Tēnā koutou e ngā kaitiaki o Te Whanganui-a-Orotu.

Ko koutou e pupuri tonu nei ki te mauri ora o ngā uri e noho kāinga ana ki Ahuriri nei. Tēnei te tuku mihi ki a koutou.

Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga has committed to upholding the mana of Te Whanganui-a-Orotu through the development of this plan. What is evident is the depth of this commitment across our many partners and stakeholders in the Hawke's Bay region in ensuring Te Whanganui-a-Orotu is treated, managed and cared for beyond the present day needs towards a thriving natural environment for many generations to come.

*This kaupapa has been shared with whānau and partners from the Te-Mataua-a-Māui region and we wish to acknowledge their time and energy towards this mahi. We would like to acknowledge in particular, the following organisations that participated in wānanga and hui towards the development of this plan.*

### Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga Members

- Mana Ahuriri Trust (MAT)
- Department of Conservation (DOC)
- Napier City Council (NCC)
- Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC)
- Hastings District Council (HDC)

### Wider Interested Entities

- Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society (AEPS)
- Ahuriri Regional Park
- Ahuriri Tributaries Catchment Group (ATCG)
- Ahuriri Catchment Group
- Forest and Bird
- Hōhepa
- Pāmu
- Tai Whenua o Te Whanganui ā Orotu
- Maungaharuru-Tangitu Trust
- Ngāti Pārau Hapū Trust
- Ngāti Hinepare
- Ngāti Maahu
- Ngāti Matepū
- Ngāti Pārau
- Ngāti Tawhao
- Ngāti Tū
- Ngāti Te Ruruku



“This plan reflects our collective commitment to being kaitiaki and safeguarding the environmental, cultural and historical values of this wāhi taonga”



**Te Kaha Hawaikirangi**

Chair

Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga

# He Kōrero Matua

## Foreword

Tēnā tātou katoa

On behalf of Te Komiti Muriwai (Te Komiti) and Mana Ahuriri Trust, Te Komiti presents the Te Muriwai o Te Whanga Plan, a legislative masterplan born from the Ahuriri Hapū Claims Settlement Act 2021.

Te Whanganui-a-Orotu is a wāhi taonga in Mana Ahuriri's Takiwā which represents the important history of our tūpuna/ancestors. Te Whanganui-a-Orotu the "great harbour of Orotu" is a site of profound cultural and historical importance. Named after Te Orotu, a descendant of Māhu Tapoanui, it once thrived with abundant resources. However mid-19th-century land sales and the 1931 earthquake led to its degradation.

The Waitangi Tribunal Claim in 1988 initiated our journey to restore the estuary's mana. In 2016 Mana Ahuriri Trust was established culminating in the 2021 settlement. This settlement recognised the estuary's significance and established Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga for its management and protection.

As we embark on this journey to provide for our mokopuna/future generations we acknowledge the invaluable contributions of local authorities and community stakeholders and the 7 Ahuriri Hapū included in the redress; Ngāti Hinepare Ngāti Māhu Ngāti Matepū Ngāti Pārau (which includes Ngāi Tahu Ahi) Ngāi Tāwhao Ngāti Tū and Ngāi Te Ruruku. Part B of the cultural redress acknowledged that the Crown recognised the role of the Hapū as the Kaitiaki of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga.

Our aspiration for this plan is to encourage a thriving healthy estuary that supports diverse ecosystems, whakapapa/lineage and community well-being. Mana Ahuriri prioritises te taiao and the wellbeing of our wai/waters and biodiversity, as we know that it will have significant and long-lasting benefits for our mokopuna. We want to see Te Whanga live up to the whakatauki:

*Ko rua te paia ko Te Whanga. He kainga tō te ata. He kainga ka awatea. He kainga ka ahiahi. The Whanga is the storehouse that never closes. A meal in the morning. A meal at noon. A meal in the evening.*

While we acknowledge that in the past this meant the abundance of kai, for our whānau today it represents sustenance for our people in terms of kai, environmental, economic, social, spiritual, historical and cultural wellbeing.

We urge all stakeholders and partners – government bodies, private sector entities, communities and individuals—to join us in implementing this master plan. The collective responsibility and commitment of all parties are crucial to achieving our shared objectives. We are confident that together we can overcome the challenges we face and enhance the well-being and sustainability of Te Whanganui-a-Orotu.

In conclusion, the Te Muriwai o Te Whanga Plan is a transformative blueprint for the future. Its successful implementation will shape a positive legacy fostering environmental health, cultural integrity and community resilience. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in the planning process and look forward to the collaborative efforts ahead.

# He Whakarāpopototanga

## Summary

### Te Horopaki (Context)

- Ahuriri Hapū has **profound whakapapa connections to Te Whanganui-a-Orotu, the Ahuriri Estuary**. For Ahuriri Hapū, this estuary is culturally and spiritually significant, representing a crucial aspect of their identity.
- As Pākeha began to colonise Te Matau-a-Māui, much of the land surrounding Te Whanga was unfairly sold, or stolen. **In 1860, the Crown developed the estuary for a harbour, disturbing wildlife and exploiting resources**, diminishing the overall health of the estuary.
- The processes of drainage and reclamation after the 1931 Earthquake, combined with the diversion of the Tūtaekuri River outlet to the sea, reduced Te Whanganui-a-Orotu to a narrow tidal channel.
- In March of 2022 Ahuriri Hapū settled their Treaty of Waitangi Claim. The settlement legislation established a permanent estuary co-governance committee, Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga (Te Komiti), **to safeguard and enrich Te Muriwai o Te Whanga (Ahuriri Estuary and its catchment areas) for present and future generations**.
- Te Komiti is chaired by Mana Ahuriri Trust and comprises representatives from the DOC, HBRC, NCC, and HDC. Te Komiti oversees and coordinates management efforts for the estuary, providing guidance to local authorities and Crown agencies. Additionally, it has developed and will endorse a comprehensive management plan (this document) known as **Te Muriwai o Te Whanga Plan**.

### Rautaki (Strategy)

- The vision for Te Muriwai o Te Whanga is *'The health of Te Whanganui-a-Orotu supports environmental, economic, social, spiritual, historical, and cultural value for present and future generations.'* This Rautaki is guided by the whakatauki:

*Ko rua te paia ko Te Whanga.  
He kainga tō te ata. He kainga ka awatea. He kainga ka ahiahi.*

*The Whanga is the storehouse that never closes.  
A meal in the morning. A meal at noon. A meal in the evening.*

- Te Komiti has core values for itself and all who give regard to the plan. These values are:
  - Whanaungatanga (Relationships)*
  - Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship)*
  - Pono (Integrity)*
  - Whakapakari (Enhancement)*
  - Kotahitanga (Unity)*
- Te Komiti has agreed that six pou will be the pillars of this Rautaki and it's subsequent action plan. The base pou that are foundational to all other Te Whanga outcomes, objectives, and initiatives are the pou associated with the taiao: Te Ora o te Wai (Water Health) and Te Mauri o te Taiao (Biodiversity).
- Through achieving the outcomes of these Pou, objectives for Aroā o Te Whanga (Historical / Educational) and Ahurea o te Whenua (Cultural / Spiritual) pou can be achieved. Following these is the achievement of Te Mahi Ohāoha (Economic) and Te Mahi Tūhono a Roopu (Social) pou.
- This Rautaki will support action by Te Komiti partners through the legislated 'levers'. This will be for both regulatory functions through the Resource Management Act and subsequent resource planning documents, and non-regulatory functions through the Local Government Act and subsequent investment planning documents.

# He Whakarāpopototanga

## Summary

### Mahi Tukanga (Process)

- Te Komiti partners have committed to a series of initiatives in line with the Rautaki of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga. These initiatives sit under each Pou in 'focus areas'. Each focus area has a long-term indicator of success. These indicators provide a reference check to ensure current and future mahi continues to achieve the outcomes and overall vision outlined in the Rautaki.
- This initial action plan has 62 initiatives across the six pou.
- Te Komiti also wants to acknowledge the role of interested groups in forming this Plan. These groups have contributed 21 initiatives and will be part of ongoing coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of the Plan through a working group.

### Te Anga Whakamua (Moving Forward)

- Te Komiti will publish the Plan and share this within partner organisations, and wider with interested parties. Te Komiti will promote the plan, ensuring resource-management decision makers, potential funding partners, and others as required can give regard to the plan's Rautaki. Te Komiti will also submit on consultations when this has not been the case.
- Te Komiti will work with a technical advisory group and working group to understand how initiatives are contributing to the indicators and outcomes outlined in this Rautaki and Action Plan. These groups will support development of future initiatives required and together with the working group and Te Komiti support monitoring, evaluation, and reviews as appropriate of this plan.



# Ngā kupu matua

## Key terms

**Mahinga Kai (Customary food gathering):** Mahinga kai refers to the values and protection of natural resources specific to iwi and their rohe. It means 'to work the food,' encompassing not just gathering but also the ecosystems and habitats involved, along with intergenerational practices and tikanga for production, harvesting, and protection.

**Give regard to:** The legislative requirement is that the drafting of Regional Plans and District Plans must 'have regard to' the Plan. Therefore, all relevant factors or information must be thoroughly evaluated, though this doesn't necessarily require that they be the deciding factors in the final decisions.

**The Plan:** Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga Plan is referred to as 'the Plan' throughout this document. This collective document must be given regard to by all decision-makers, including councils when preparing RMA planning documents and assessing resource consent applications, as well as when making decisions under the LGA, in accordance with section 95 and section 96 of the Settlement Act. DoC must have taken it into account when preparing their Conservation Plans and when issuing permits. This document should also guide members of Te Komiti in their decision-making processes.

**Te Muriwai o Te Whanga:** As defined in the settlement, encompasses both the Ahuriri estuary and its catchment areas. The term "Muriwai" translates directly to "end of water," reflecting the significance and geographical features of the area.

**Ahuriri Hapū:** The Mana Ahuriri Trust serves as the post settlement governing body for Ahuriri Hapū, which comprises seven hapū based in and around Napier, Hawke's Bay. These hapū include Ngāti Hinepare, Ngāti Māhu, Ngāti Matepū, Ngāti Pārau (including Ngāi Tahu Ahi), Ngāi Tāwhao, Ngāti Tū, and Ngāi Te Ruruku.

**Te Whanganui-a-Orotu:** Known as the Ahuriri Estuary, holds significant cultural importance to Ahuriri Hapū. In the Deed of Settlement, the Crown acknowledges that Te Whanganui-a-Orotu and its surrounding islands have been cherished taonga of Ahuriri Hapū and continue to be highly valued today. Moreover, the Crown acknowledges Ahuriri Hapū's role as Kaitiaki, or guardians, of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga, encompassing the Ahuriri Estuary and its catchment areas.

**Pou:** Pillars.

**Te Mahi Tūhono a Roopu:** Connections to and relationships between partners / friends of Te Whanga. Used in this plan to articulate the Social pou of the Rautaki.

**Te Mahi Ohaoaha:** Work pertaining to growth with an economic focus. Used in this plan to articulate the Economic pou of the Rautaki.

**Aroā o Te Whanga:** To comprehend or deeply understand Te Whanga. Used in this plan to articulate the Historical / Educational pou of the Rautaki.

**Ahurea o te Whenua:** Culture that comes from this particular place (Ahuriri). Used in this plan to articulate the Cultural / Spiritual pou of the Rautaki.

**Te Mauri o te Taiao:** The life force / essence of the environment. Used in this plan to articulate the Biodiverse Ecosystem pou in the Rautaki.

**Te Ora o te Wai:** The health of the water of Te Whanga. Used in this plan to articulate the Water Health pou of the Rautaki.

# Rārangi Take

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# 1



## Te Horopaki Context

# Map of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga

The map below shows the current impact / value of a range of activities occurring across the different areas of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga

## Key:

High: OOO

Medium: OO

Low: O

None: -

Land-based: 🍷

Water-based: 🏊

## Upper Estuary

Recreation: O (Eastern 🍷 + 🏊)

Ecological Value: OOO

Stormwater Management: -

Farming: OO

## Lower Estuary

Recreation: OOO (🏊 + 🍷)

Ecological Value: OO

Stormwater Management:  
OOO

Farming: -

## Inner Harbour Area

Recreation: OO (🍷 🏊)

Ecological Value: O

Stormwater Management:  
O

Farming: -

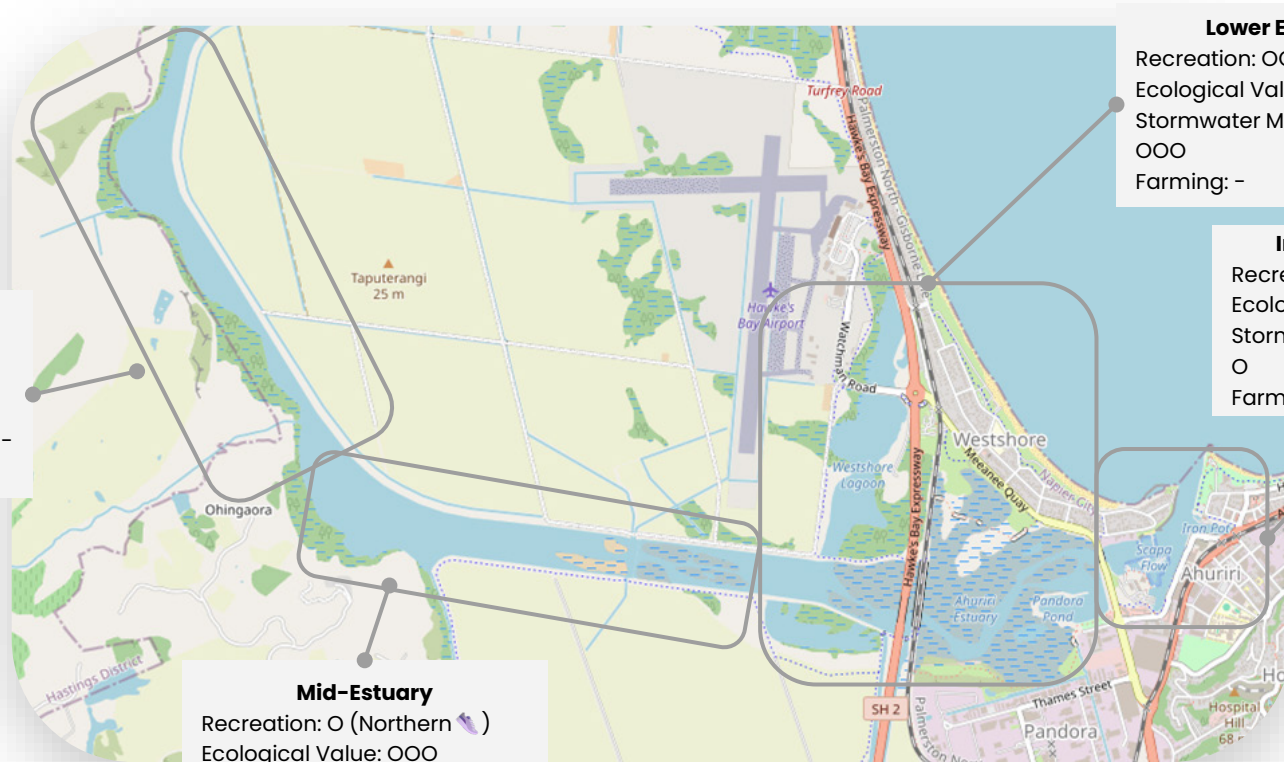
## Mid-Estuary

Recreation: O (Northern 🍷)

Ecological Value: OOO

Stormwater Management: OO

Farming: OO



# Te Muriwai o Te Whanga

## Defining the original landscape

Pre 1840's

### Te Whanganui-a-Orotu

- Te Whanganui-a-Orotu, was once a flourishing body of water, supporting an extensive ecosystem. It was protected with mana by the people of the area. Te Whanganui-a-Orotu translates to the 'great harbour of Orotu', symbolising the immense value of mahinga kai.
- It was abundant with shellfish beds and fishing spots, while the rivers and streams teemed with eels and freshwater fish. Recognised as a place of plenty for freshwater fish, shellfish, and birds, it was highly valued as a vital food source in the morning, at noon and in the evening.
- It is named after the ancestor Te Orotu, who was a descendant of the great explorer and ancestor Māhu Tapoanui, who is the very beginning of the Ahuriri Hapū. Te Whanganui-a-Orotu contained islands where Hapū lived and camped while on fishing expeditions, as well as wāhi tapu and urupā.
- The Tūtaekurī River was the most significant source of freshwater into Te Whanga, originating in the Kaweka Ranges and flowing southeast towards the coast. Named after an event 400 years ago, when Ngāti Kahungunu, led by Hikawera, faced starvation in the hills between Waiōhiki and Omāhu. Desperate, Hikawera ordered 70 kurī (dogs) to be sacrificed at Te Umukuri. The river got its name, Tūtaekurī, from the offal (tūtae) thrown into it during this event. This offal or (Tutae) was good for the eco-system ie: eels.

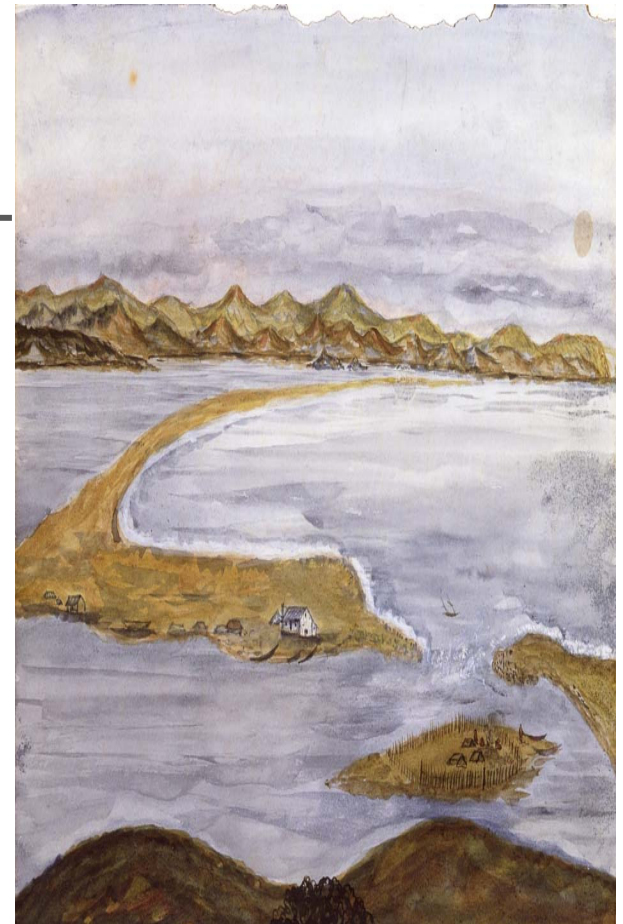


Figure 2: Ahuriri harbour and roadstead in the 1850s. Shows a pā and small Pākehā settlement.

# Whakapapa o Te Muriwai o Te Whanga

## The significance of Te Whanga and impact of colonisation

Pre 1840+

### Cultural Significance

- Ahuriri Hapū has profound connections to Te Whanganui-a-Orotu, the Ahuriri Estuary. For Ahuriri Hapū, Te Muriwai o Te Whanga is culturally and spiritually significant, representing a crucial aspect of their identity.
- Te Whanga was a source of nourishment for the tangata whenua and embodies the ancestral beginnings of Ahuriri people. The whakapapa of the Ahuriri hapū settlements is woven into their cultural narrative.
- Various hapū, including Ngāti Hinepare, Ngāti Māhu, Ngāti Matepū, Ngāti Pārau (including Ngāi Tahu Ahi), Ngāi Tāwhao, Ngāti Tū, and Ngāi Te Ruruku, have contributed to the historical, cultural, and archaeological significance of Te Whanganui-a-Orotu.

1840

### Iwi Settlement of Ahuriri

- Ahuriri hapū lived in settlements around Te Whanganui-a-Orotu and surrounding areas.
- The environment was utilised as a productive natural resource, from farming to horticulture practices. There was enough to share amongst everyone.
- Some Ahuriri Rangatira began to consider the advantages that might arise from the promotion of Pākehā settlement in the Ahuriri district and offered land to the crown for Pākehā settlement. This was the beginning of a catastrophic series of events at the expense of the natural state of the environment.

1850 – 1930

### European Settlers

- In the **1850s**, the Crown negotiated with Ahuriri Māori to buy their land at a low price, promising benefits. They purchased the land in **1851**. This caused tensions among Hawke's Bay Māori, but negotiations continued. In **1860**, the Crown developed the estuary for a harbour, disturbing wildlife and exploiting resources, diminishing the overall health of the estuary.
- Five years later, new land laws allowed individual owners to sell their shares without consent, leading to settlers acquiring a significant amount of Ahuriri hapū land. By **1870** the Crown and private parties had acquired approximately 51,000 acres of approximately 54,000 acres awarded to Ahuriri hapū individuals under the 10-owner rule. The Napier Harbour Board was established in **1874** with no role for Ahuriri hapū. This further impacted the environment by using claimed land for urban and industrial development.



# Whakapapa o Te Muriwai o Te Whanga

## Impacts of te taiao on Te Whanga

1931

### Earthquake

- Until the 1931 Hawke's Bay Earthquake, most of the area was an inland sea from Pandora to Bayview. The earthquake lifted the area 1-2 metres, draining most of the water. This prompted legal complexities and land leasing for drainage and reclamation. This resulted in further residential, industrial, and recreational developments.
- The processes of drainage and reclamation, combined with the diversion of the Tūtaekurī River outlet to the sea, reduced Te Whanganui-a-Orotu (originally approximately 9,500 acres in area) to a narrow tidal channel.



*Above: Te Muriwai o Te Whanga before (left) and after (right) the earthquake*

1945

### WWII

- Ahuriri Māori turned to waged employment, prompting a significant migration to urban areas that gradually eroded the foundations of traditional kāinga and pā communities. Unfortunately, these changes, coupled with the mounting pressures of modern society, led to a decline in the care and preservation of the estuary and its surrounding areas.
- The devastating impacts of the earthquake served as a catalyst, exacerbating the already dire environmental state of the estuary. In particular, the pollution from stormwater and sewage reached its peak during this period.

# Whakapapa o Te Muriwai o Te Whanga

## Significant events leading towards today

1988 – 2016

### Settlement & Mana Restoration

- In **1988** the Waitangi Tribunal Claim was initiated in order to justify breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi that the Crown has made and shown Māori to have suffered prejudices as a result.
- In **2009** Mana Ahuriri Incorporated gained the mandated support of the hapū to negotiate a claim.
- In **2010**, the Crown acknowledged the Mana Ahuriri Incorporated mandate for negotiating comprehensive settlement of all Ahuriri hapū historical claims. This recognition led to the signing of an agreement in principle in **2013**, which formed the foundation of the settlement, addressing all historical claims of the seven hapū predating **1992**. The agreement acknowledges Crown breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, resulting in hapū land loss and intergenerational distress. Redress includes a historical account, Crown apology, acknowledgment, and financial, commercial, and cultural redress.

2016 – 2022

### Establishment of Te Komiti

- In **2016**, the establishment of the Mana Ahuriri Trust and the initialing of the Ahuriri Hapū Deed of Settlement provided Ahuriri Hapū with mana and control over estuary management and protection.
- In **2019** the Ahuriri hapū claims settlement bill was introduced. The settlement includes \$19.5 million worth of financial, commercial, and cultural restitution.
- 3 March **2021** was the official settlement date. The settlement legislation established a permanent estuary committee, Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga, to safeguard and enrich the environmental, economic, social, spiritual, historical, and cultural values of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga (Ahuriri Estuary) for present and future generations.
- The committee is chaired by Mana Ahuriri Trust and comprises representatives from DOC, HBRC, NCC, and HDC. Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga oversees and coordinates management efforts for the estuary, providing guidance to local authorities and Crown agencies. Additionally, it will develop and endorse a comprehensive management plan (this document) known as Te Muriwai o Te Whanga Plan.

2023

### Cyclone Gabrielle

- On 13 and 14 February, 2023 Cyclone Gabrielle caused extensive flooding and damage across Hawke's Bay. This event resulted in a period of extreme vulnerability and damage to Ahuriri and the wider area. Te Muriwai o Te Whanga faced consequential change, from sewage contamination, considerable overflow of silt and devastating loss to the ecosystem. The local councils involved in the rehabilitation aimed to focus on reinstatement as opposed to development.

# Ngā kaitiaki o Te Whanga

## The functions of Te Komiti

The Ahuriri Hapū Claims Settlement Act, section 85 (subsection 1), outlines the functions of the Komiti. These are to provide guidance and co-ordination in the management of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga to local authorities and Crown agencies that perform functions in relation to Te Muriwai o Te Whanga by;

- A. reviewing and updating the Te Muriwai o Te Whanga Plan as required to ensure its relevance, responsiveness, and alignment with the values and priorities; and
- B. implementing the Te Muriwai o Te Whanga Plan through coordinated action and partnerships across agencies and communities; and
- C. creating and implementing an Annual Priorities Plan to guide the strategic focus and work programme of the Komiti each year; and
- D. promoting a greater understanding of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga and the issues relating to its health and well-being; and
- E. advocating on behalf of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga; and
- F. providing a forum for the community to express its views on Te Muriwai o Te Whanga and its health and well-being; and
- G. identifying the values, vision, objectives, and desired outcomes and any other matters relevant to Te Muriwai o Te Whanga; and
- H. working with stakeholders to gather and collate all data and information relevant to the functions of the Komiti; and
- I. monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on matters affecting the ongoing health and well-being of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga; and
- J. advising the local authorities and the Director-General on matters pertaining to Te Muriwai o Te Whanga; and
- K. communicating to stakeholders matters pertaining to Te Muriwai o Te Whanga; and
- L. promoting and seeking opportunities to raise funds and support for the ongoing health and well-being of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga; and
- M. making recommendations on the integration and co-ordination of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga management; and
- N. preparing and approving the Te Muriwai o Te Whanga Plan; and
- O. taking any other action that is considered by Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga to be appropriate to achieve its purpose.
- P. To be notified of relevant consents and planned changes that may have impact on waterways leading in to Te Muriwai o Te Whanga – Consulting and notifying of entity's of relevant consents

Te Komiti is tasked with several crucial responsibilities aimed at ensuring the health and wellbeing of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga. These functions collectively reflect a comprehensive approach to the sustainable management and protection of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga, involving collaboration with various stakeholders and a focus on community engagement and well-being. In this section, stakeholders means;

- residents of the Hawke's Bay region, Crown agencies, interested parties and businesses with an interest in Te Muriwai o Te Whanga; and
- the local authorities; and
- the Director-General of the Department of Conservation.

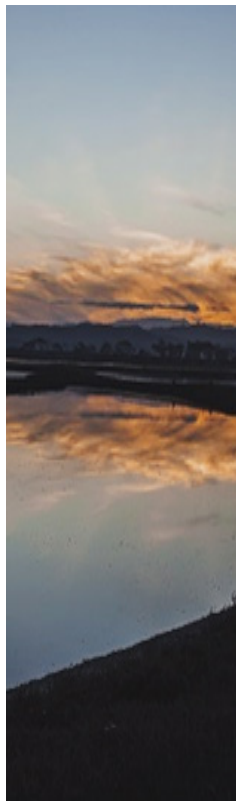
Te Komiti is supported by Napier City Council as per Schedule 4 of the Ahuriri Hapū Claims Settlement Act 2021 who undertake their secretariat and technical support functions.

Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga



# Te Muriwai o Te Whanga Plan

## The role of Te Komiti and the Plan



### What is a plan?

A plan is used to record and share a collective vision. It articulates a series of steps to deliver this vision. The Te Muriwai o Te Whanga Plan (the Plan) outlines values, objectives, outcomes, indicators, and initiatives required to achieve the desired vision.

### What is the purpose of the plan?

This is an overall coordinating plan for the Ahuriri and catchment areas – Te Muriwai o Te Whanga Plan. The scope of the area within the statutory mandate of the plan is outlined in Appendix B.

The purpose of the Plan is to acknowledge the whakapapa and current state of Te Whanga and, with integrated management, propose future initiatives and changes that protect and enhance the environmental, economic, social, spiritual, historical and cultural values of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga for present and future generations.

This initial Plan is a starting point for Te Komiti and other stakeholders to restore the health of Te Whanga as the “storehouse” it once was. The Plan provides both a strategy and associated action plan to guide, promote, and fulfill legislated mechanisms and other activities. The Plan aims to create short, medium and long term change through coordination of activities, associated investment, planning changes, and a comprehensive monitoring, evaluation, and review approach.

### How was it developed?

The Plan was developed through collaboration of interested individuals and organisations, while also ensuring compliance with relevant requirements specified in Te Komiti terms of reference for the Plan’s development.

### How will the plan be achieved?

All partners of Te Komiti are accountable as kaitiaki of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga. How this accountability works in relation to other plans is outlined on the following page in more detail.

All individuals and entities are required to consider, in particular, the values and objectives outlined in the Plan when preparing, reviewing, or approving a conservation management strategy or plan related to Te Muriwai o Te Whanga, or when making decisions under any conservation legislation pertaining to the area.





# How will the plan achieve its vision?

## Influence on Resource Management and Local Government Decision-Making

The Plan will be a document that the territorial local authorities (TLA) (HBRC, NCC, and HDC) must give regard to in both their planning instruments, as well as their investment mechanisms (see Appendix A for further detail of how this works). This means, the Te Muriwai o Te Whanga Plan needs to be considered in decision making, consent granting, and policy forming for the relevant TLA depending on the location of the matter.

### Regulatory

The Te Muriwai o Te Whanga Plan significantly influences Resource Management Act 1991 planning documents and resource consent decisions. Local authorities must give regard to the plan when preparing or amending regional policy statements, regional plans, or district plans if its contents pertain to resource management issues and if it is the most appropriate means to achieve the Act's purpose.

Any required reports or decisions must explicitly state compliance with the plan. Additionally, when evaluating resource consent applications for activities within Te Muriwai o Te Whanga, authorities must consider the Plan's relevance and necessity in determining the application. Definitions for terms like "policy statement" and "plan" are provided for clarity in the glossary on page 4.

### Non-Regulatory

The Plan's relevance extends to local government matters under the Local Government Act 2002, where any local authority making a non-regulatory decision (including funding decisions) under The Act pertaining to Te Muriwai o Te Whanga, needs to have regard to this Plan. This can apply to decision making related (but not limited) to local Asset Management Plans, Ahuriri Catchment Plans, Annual and Long Term Plans.

### Other | Conservation

The Plan's influence also extends to conservation matters. Any person or entity must take into account the values and objectives set out here, when preparing conservation management strategies / plans or making decisions under conservation legislation related to Te Muriwai o Te Whanga. The values and objectives are further articulated in the rautaki of this plan.

# Current State of Te Taiao o Te Whanga

## Understanding where this plan is starting from

To ensure effective planning, it is crucial to have a solid grasp of the current state of the estuary. We have included a high-level overview here. Additionally, the action plan provides a list of current and ongoing initiatives from partners and interested parties, offering insight into the extensive work in place prior to this plan becoming 'live'.



### Whenua / Land



- Once a larger lagoon, Te Whanganui-a-Orotu uplifted by over 1.5 metres after an earthquake, and subsequent land reclamation and drainage reduced its size to around 470 hectares. Now a microtidal, well-mixed lagoon amidst Napier City's urban, industrial, and agricultural zones, it spans 4.7 square kilometres, featuring shallow expanses, extensive intertidal areas, and a maximum depth of 2.6 metres in the main tidal channel. Categorised into three sub-estuaries, with the boat harbor near the coast, the western boundary is marked by the Pandora Bridge.
- The Ahuriri Catchment is a landscape shaped by urban, industrial, and agricultural influences. It hosts significant rivers like the Tūtaekuri and Te Waoihinanga which flow along with smaller watercourses like the Taipo Stream. These water sources collectively impact the quantity and quality of water entering the Ahuriri Estuary, underscoring the necessity of understanding the Ahuriri Catchment for effective environmental management and sustainable development in the broader Hawke's Bay area.

### Wai / Water



- Elevated sediment levels in Ahuriri and Waitangi Estuaries, with a shift from sandy to muddy sediments due to terrestrial contributions, pose challenges such as reduced light for plants, altered habitats, and potential harm to animals. The Lower Ahuriri comprises predominantly medium sands, while high mud levels in Upper Ahuriri and Waitangi impact sensitive organisms, exacerbated by land claim activities binding contaminants to fine sediments. Deforestation, urbanisation, and industrialisation expedite sedimentation, leading to elevated heavy metals in sediments.
- The estuary, characterised by shallow, microtidal conditions, relies on semi-diurnal tides for effective hydrodynamics. Despite minimal freshwater inflows primarily from the Taipo Stream and a 10:1 saltwater to freshwater ratio, over 70% of Napier's stormwater runoff enters the estuary, compromising water quality with untreated sediment and contaminants, including excessive phosphorus and nitrogen levels. The presence of fan worms further exacerbates challenges.


### Mauri / Biodiversity



- The Ahuriri Estuary is a vital wetland supporting 29 fish species and over 70 water bird species of particular significance are the critically endangered Bittern and the flounder and cockle species, with the lower estuary serving as a known nursery for yellow belly flounder. Recognised nationally for its wildlife and fisheries habitat, it showcases the region's unique geological processes. Despite human modifications, it maintains diverse habitats and ecological communities.
- Five smaller wetlands within the complex further enhance its ecological value. The estuary serves as a crucial refuge for a wide array of species. Additionally, hosting thirty-three recorded invertebrate species, the estuary biodiversity underscores its significance as a habitat for various regional species.

# Future Impacts

Climate change and human impact will further affect Te Taiao

Future drivers	Expected implications	
<b>Rise in sea level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Inundation:</b> Rising sea and ground water levels can lead to the inundation of estuarine habitats, submerging wetlands, marshes, and tidal flats. Existing stop banks along the outfall channel have been built to protect the adjacent land areas.</li><li>• <b>Erosion:</b> Increased water levels can accelerate coastal erosion, reshaping the estuary and potentially leading to the loss of land.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Salinity changes:</b> Higher sea levels can push saltwater further upstream into estuaries, altering the salinity balance and affecting the freshwater and it's species.</li><li>• <b>Loss of wetland:</b> Rising sea levels and increased rainfall/storm surges can cause the loss of vital wetland habitats affecting many species.</li></ul>
<b>Temperature increases</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Water Temperature:</b> Increased sea level temperatures can affect the water temperature within estuaries, influencing the metabolism, reproduction, and distribution of aquatic species.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Air Temperature:</b> Increased air temperatures can alter the estuarine environment and contribute to heat stress on local flora and fauna.</li></ul>
<b>Change in rainfall patterns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Increased rainfall:</b> More intense and frequent storms can lead to greater runoff and flooding, increasing sediment and pollutant loads in estuaries, putting added pressure on stormwater catchments.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Drought:</b> Reduced freshwater input during droughts can increase estuarine salinity and alter the species habitats.</li></ul>
<b>Biodiversity shifts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Species Migration:</b> Changes in temperature and salinity can cause shifts in species distributions, with some species moving to more suitable habitats and others potentially facing local extinction.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Invasive Species:</b> Altered conditions can make estuaries more susceptible to invasive species, which can outcompete native species and disrupt ecosystems.</li></ul>
<b>Increased urban pressure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Coastal development:</b> Infrastructure development can further stress estuarine environments leading to habitat loss and increased pollution.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>More visitors:</b> An increase in foot traffic to the estuary can expect to have various impacts including; economic benefits from an increase tourism revenue, education opportunities from greater public awareness, more pollution from littering and wildlife disturbance.</li></ul>

# 2



## He Rautaki Strategy



# Where has this Plan Rautaki come from?

The Ahuriri Claims Settlement Act outlines a set of functions of Te Komiti, and includes their role in **identifying the values, vision, objectives, and desired outcomes, and any other matters relevant to Te Muriwai o Te Whanga**.

This first section of the Plan, the strategy, accomplishes this through acknowledging past mahi for Te Whanga while understanding this is a new opportunity to achieve intergenerational outcomes for Te Taiao, our seven Hapū and other Hapū interests.

The following nine elements of the strategy rely on each other. The **vision** is the guiding aspiration of Te Komiti for Te Whanga. The **values** are how Te Komiti and its partners will be guided through the decisions they have to make for Te Whanga. The **whakataukī** shares wisdom of the past and future for Te Whanga.

Then the action part of the strategy outlines six **Pou** which together support the vision for Te Whanga. Each Pou has a desired **outcome** – an aspiration for that element of Te Whanga. Each Pou also has an **objective**, which outlines how the objective will be achieved and is supported by a series of **indicators** and **initiatives** that articulate distinct actions to be undertaken.

## Vision

Following an initial wānanga, members of Te Komiti agreed upon a vision that successfully encapsulated the motive behind this Plan. This vision serves as a guiding statement that outlines the long-term aspirations and desired future statement of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga.

## Values

Partners within Te Komiti collaborated to create a collection of values that effectively illustrate the ways of working for Te Whanga. These values were built from the individual values of each partner of Te Komiti and refined through a series of wānanga. These values will be used to guide Te Komiti and partners in their work for Te Whanga.

## Whakataukī

A whakataukī shares a concept that is used to inspire, guide, and share wisdom. In this context, the whakataukī acknowledges the aspirations for Te Muriwai o Te Whanga and the wisdom passed down from whakapapa that protected the area.

## Pou

Through research to development of the Plan, Te Komiti identified six key areas of focus. These areas, known as the Pou of the Plan, serve as pillars of our work. While each Pou provides individual focus, their collective strength is essential to realise the vision for Te Whanga.

## Outcomes

The desired outcomes outline the aspiration for each Pou in line with the overall vision for Te Whanga. They define the measure of success and what will be considered positive outcomes as we achieve the objectives and initiatives of each Pou. These outcomes were developed through wānanga.

## Objectives

The objectives are aligned to each Pou and outcome. They outline the specific way in which the outcome for each Pou will be achieved. These objectives were developed via wānanga.

## Focus Areas and Indicators

Within each Pou sits a number of focus areas that indicate commonality between initiatives. Each focus area has a related long-term indicator which shows the desired level of achievement for initiatives collectively in that focus area.

## Initiatives

The initiatives are key actions that are already or will be undertaken to achieve the desired outcome and meet the objectives under each Pou. Initiatives were developed through background research, understanding of partners work programmes, and engagement with involved and affected parties.

*Further detail on each Pou, its outcomes, objectives, focus areas, indicators, and initiatives is outlined in Section Three (Action Plan) of this Plan.*

# Te Muriwai o Te Whanga Strategy | Rautaki on a Page

## Whāinga | Vision

The health of Te Whanganui-a-Orotu supports environmental, economic, social, spiritual, historical, and cultural value for present and future generations.

## Whakataukī

**Ko rua te paia ko Te Whanga. He kainga tō te ata. He kainga ka awatea. He kainga ka ahiahi.**

The Whanga is the storehouse that never closes. A meal in the morning. A meal at noon. A meal in the evening

## Mātāpono | Values

### Whanaungatanga

Relationships



### Whakapakari

Enhancement



### Kaitiakitanga

Guardianship



### Kotahitanga

Unity



### Pono

Integrity



Detailed articulation of what Te Komiti means by each of the values is included on the following page.

## Pou | Pillars

*'Our priority for Te Whanga is its mauri through our wai and taiao pou, all other pou are enabled by this'*

**Te Ora o te Wai**  
Water Health

**Te Mauri o te Taiao**  
Biodiversity

**Aroā o Te Whanga**  
Historical /  
Education

**Ahura o te Whenua**  
Cultural /  
Spiritual

**Te Mahi Tūhono a Roopu**  
Social






**Te Mahi Ohaoha**  
Economic

Detailed articulation of what each of the Pou means, the hierarchy Te Komiti intends for them, and their outcomes and objectives within the Plan is included on Page 23.

# Te Muriwai o Te Whanga Strategy

## Ngā Mātāpono | Values

This plan is values-driven and values based, ensuring that any work undertaken relative to Te Whanganui-a-Orotu is an embodiment of these values. The values and how they are enacted, are articulated below.

<b>Whanaungatanga</b> 	Grounded in whakapapa, whanaungatanga fosters enduring intergenerational relationships and partnerships by connecting people, whenua, water, and wildlife, ensuring an understood and shared heritage to effectively inform aspirations for the future of Te Whanganui-a-Orotu.
<b>Kaitiakitanga</b> 	Kaitiakitanga embodies an inherent obligation of guardianship, care, and respect, promoting enduring commitment to protect and enhance our environment, empowering communities through active participation and the application and appropriate use of mātauranga Māori for future generations.
<b>Pono</b> 	Pono embodies integrity and the commitment to do it right, do it right now, and do it with consistency, ensuring that decisions align with hapū values and are informed to achieve meaningful outcomes throughout the journey.
<b>Whakapakari</b> 	Whakapakari emphasises the enhancement, nurturing, and growth of our environment and communities. Respecting and restoring what is given, ensuring no further harm to the environment is undertaken, and making decisions that create a better future for our mokopuna.
<b>Kotahitanga</b> 	Kotahitanga embodies unity and collective action, driven by a shared vision and shared outcomes, where responsibility and ownership are embraced together with purpose, fostering positive progress while upholding the mana motuhake of Mana Whenua.



# Te Muriwai o Te Whanga Strategy | Ngā Pou o te Rautaki

## 5. Te Mahi Tūhono a Roopu

Social

**All stakeholders unite to improve Te Whanga, making it a hub for community betterment through activities like kai, exercise and recreation.**

Kotahitanga. Ensure alignment and collaboration between all stakeholders, fostering strategic partnerships aimed at enhancing and improving the well-being of Te Whanga.

## 6. Te Mahi Ohaoaha

Economic

**Receive value through sustainable practices and use of the estuary to promote further growth for whānau, hāpu, and wider community**

All stakeholders engage in sustainable practices and responsible use of the estuary. Mana Ahuriri is a leader in eco tourism/sustainable land use practices and development.

## 3. Aroā o Te Whanga

Historical / Educational

**Our taonga is acknowledged, promoted and understanding of it shared with the Ahuriri people.**

To promote a greater understanding of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga and the issues relating to its health and well-being, and archaeological sites.

## 4. Ahurea o te Whenua

Cultural / Spiritual

**The cultural and spiritual identity of Te Whanga and the wider catchment are enhanced in order to support the connection between people and land.**

Enhance a community that recognises the cultural significance of the estuary through prioritising tikanga and mātauranga Māori which includes upholding the mana of local sites of significance / wāhi tapu.

## 1. Te Ora o te Wai

Water Health

**The water in the estuary is in optimal health.**

To give effect to Te Ora o te Wai to improve water quality through management of stormwater and other sources of pollution.

## Taiao / Environmental

## 2. Te Mauri o te Taiao

Biodiversity

**The estuary is a flourishing ecosystem that supports resilient biodiversity.**

Tautoko development of current and reintroduced species in Te Whanga by restoring their habitats and eradicating competing and introduced pests, weeds, and disease.

*The taiao is the base of the mana of Te Whanga, emphasising a priority within the Plan.  
The te taiao pou underpin all other pou, for without the mauri of our Whanga taiao, no other pou can be achieved.*

Definitions for each Pou Name are provided in the Key Terms on Page 4



# 3



## Mahi Tukanga Action Plan

# How to read this Action Plan and who contributed

## Unlocking the key components of the Plan

Based on the values and vision of Te Komiti, this section summarises what organisations have already committed to or anticipate doing under the Plan. This Action Plan will evolve over time as initiatives are completed, evaluated, evolved, or added. The action Plan is structure by the six Pou of the Rautaki and aims to meet the objective and outcome articulated for each one. It will do this by:

- **Focus Area:** These are the key areas of mahi identified under each pou that the initiatives will focus around.
- **Indicators:** Each focus area has a related long-term indicator which shows the desired level of achievement for initiatives collectively in that focus area.
- **Initiatives:** These are the detailed actions that are recommended to take place to advance estuary restoration within each of these focussed outcomes and Pou. Following the action lists: who is involved, timeframe, associated interdependencies, funding, and regulation requirements.

*Please note: All initiatives are subject to change by the individual organisation in line with their planning processes and operating environment. This Action Plan is a snapshot at this point in time (June 2024).*

The structure of how the Action Plan is laid out is presented below with definitions to support understanding of how to read the following pages.

### The following partners and interested groups contributed initiatives to the Plan:

- Mana Ahuriri Trust (MAT);
- Department of Conservation (DOC);
- Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC);
- Napier City Council (NCC);
- Pāmu;
- Ahuriri Tributaries Catchment Group Trust (ATCGT);
- Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society (AEPS);
- and Forest and Bird.

Hastings District Council did not have relevant initiatives at the time this was initially formed, however, conveyed their full commitment and participation in the plan. Other Crown entities (eg MHUD, MBIE, TPK) will be engaged as part of the implementation of the plan.

### Summary Dashboards are provided on pages 26 and 27

1. Te Ora o te Wai is on pages 28 to 33
2. Te Mauri o te Taiao is on pages 34 to 36
3. Aroā o Te Whanga is on pages 37 to 39
4. Te Mahi Ohaoha is on pages 40 to 41
5. Te Mahi Tūhono a Roopu is on pages 42 to 43
6. Ahurea o te Whenua is on pages 44 to 45

Pou Objective / Pou Outcome							
Indicator	Focus Area	Initiative	Status	Start Date	End date	Lead	Partners
Long-term indicator of success	Area of focus within the Pou (linked to the long-term indicator)	Name and description of the initiative: what it is and what will be delivered	What is the current status; not yet started, ongoing (BAU – business as usual), underway, or complete.	Anticipated start date	Anticipated end date	Who is responsible for leading the initiative	Who is partnering with the lead on the initiative

# Overview of Pou and Initiatives by Lead

Across the six Pou, lead organisations have focused on areas within their mandates.

	MAT	NCC	HBRC	DOC	Interested Parties	
Total number:	64	14	13	9	7	21
Te Ora o te Wai	1	10	7		6	
Te Mauri o te Taiao	3		2	4	3	
Aroā o Te Whanga	3			1	7	
Te Mahi Ohaoaha	3				1	
Te Mahi Tūhono a Roopu	2	2		1	1	
Ahurea o te Whenua	2	1		1	3	

*Note: The total number of initiatives in this dashboard exceeds the overall count of 62 because two initiatives have co-leads.*

# Overview of High-Level Sequencing of Initiatives

Across the six Pou there are 62 initiatives

While the majority of initiatives are underway, a number are yet to commence, or are yet to be confirmed. The following table shows the high-level sequencing of initiatives within each Pou as of 30 June 2024.

	Total	Are underway	Are completed	Are ongoing	Not yet started	Are to be confirmed
Total number:	62	32	2	19	8	1
Te Ora o te Wai	23	18	2	3		
Te Mauri o te Taiao	12	7		3	2	
Aroā o Te Whanga	11	1		8	2	
Te Mahi Ohaoha	4	2		1		1
Te Mahi Tūhono a Roopu	5	1		3	1	
Ahurea o te Whenua	7	3		1	3	

# 1. Te Ora o te Wai – Water Health

## Summary

**Pou Outcome:** The water in the estuary is in optimal health.

**Pou Objective:** To give effect to Te Ora o te Wai to improve water quality through management of stormwater and other sources of pollution.

### Indicators of success

There are six indicators within this Pou linked to eight focus areas.

Indicators	Relevant focus areas
Stormwater, including potential contaminants such as wastewater from network overflows or other sources, is either diverted or treated to ensure it does not negatively impact the water health of Te Whanga	1.1 Stormwater diversion and treatment
There is a strong understanding of potential pollutants in the stormwater going into the estuary at all times	1.2 Stormwater quality monitoring
Tributaries in the catchment have plans in place to manage the risks of negatively impacting Te Whanga	1.3 Catchment management
A baseline of water and related environment quantity and quality is collectively formed	1.4 Water and related environment quality monitoring and testing
Water quality is improved through fit for purpose solutions in the catchment	1.5 Water quality enforcement and compliance 1.6 Water quality environmental health and restoration 1.7 Water quality planning
Environmental restoration is routinely undertaken with the support of the community	1.8 Community engagement and cleanup

Te Ora o te Wai reflects a deep understanding of the interconnectedness between the well-being of water and the vitality of life. Water holds great significance, not only as a physical resource but also as a spiritual and cultural entity. The concept emphasises the importance of restoring and maintaining the health and purity of water sources, recognising that the wellbeing of water directly influences the wellbeing of all living things that depend on it. It encapsulates a holistic approach to kaitiakitanga, promoting the sustainable use and protection of water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

**This pou focuses on all the aspects that relate to water quality, including the impact of historic land use changes, sediment transport, urban stormwater management and the aspect of kai and nourishment from Te Whanga.**

### Initiatives

Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga There are 23 initiatives from three lead organisations and eight partners.



# 1. Te Ora o te Wai – Water Health

## Action Plan

**Pou Outcome:** The water in the estuary is in optimal health.

**Pou Objective:** To give effect to Te Ora o te Wai to improve water quality through management of stormwater and other sources of pollution.

Indicator	Focus area	Initiative	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
<b>Stormwater is either diverted or treated so that it does not negatively impact the water health of Te Whanga</b>	1.1 Stormwater diversion and treatment	<b>1.1a Lagoon farm stormwater project.</b> Stormwater treatment and flood storage diversion.	Underway	2024	2030+	NCC	HBRC, MAT
		<b>1.1b Thames/Tyne stormwater consent implementation and working group.</b> Stormwater Working Group meetings are intended to have representation from those interacting with and contributing to stormwater quality affecting Thames-Tyne waterways and the Ahuriri Estuary. NCC's stormwater resource consent expires next year. A programme is needed to continue monitoring to capture long-term trends and look towards further optioneering and implementation of treatment options.	Underway	Ongoing	Ongoing	NCC	HBRC, MAT, Te Taiwhenua ō Te Whanganui-a-Orotu, Te Komiti, Catchment Collectives, Stormwater working group, industry owners, residential groups, stakeholder groups.
		<b>1.1c Stormwater reserve property encroachment.</b> Removing property encroachment within storm water reserves,	Underway	2024	Ongoing	NCC	
<b>There is a strong understanding of potential pollutants in the stormwater going into the estuary at all times</b>	1.2 Stormwater quality monitoring	<b>1.2a Water quality stations.</b> Permanent water quality stations at strategic locations throughout stormwater network. Automating spill gate operations (to prevent contamination into the estuary) are being investigated.	Underway	2024	Ongoing	NCC	HBRC, storm- water working group
		<b>1.2b Cultural monitoring.</b> Annual Purimu, Onehunga, and lagoon farm stormwater discharge cultural monitoring.	Underway	2024	2025	MAT	NCC
		<b>1.2c Westshore tidal gates.</b> Continuation of the 3-year joint monitoring program with HBRC on waterways feeding the discharge to inform budget priorities, identify contaminant sources, and meet resource consent requirements under Westshore tidal gates consent conditions. Additionally, consider end-of-line treatment solutions, stormwater education requirements, and establish a Collaborative Stormwater Working Group that serves beyond compliance purposes.	Underway	Ongoing	Ongoing	NCC	HBRC, MAT, Te Taiwhenua ō Te Whanganui-a-Orotu, Te Komiti, Catchment Collectives, Stormwater working group, industry owners, residential groups, stakeholder groups.

# 1. Te Ora o te Wai – Water Health

## Action Plan

**Pou Outcome:** The water in the estuary is in optimal health.

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Indicator	Focus area	Initiative	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
Tributaries in the catchment have plans in place to manage the risks of negatively impacting Te Whanga	1.3 Catchment management	<b>1.3a Freshwater farm plans.</b> The Plan is relevant to landholders of the 1,000 small blocks that surround the estuary. We anticipate that the landowners commit to activities such as excluding stock from waterways, riparian planting, planting steep slopes, establishing small wetlands. This will help to reduce sediment runoff and support resilience of the catchment in future storm events.	Underway	Ongoing	Ongoing	ATCGT	HBRC and NZ Landcare Trust A2E.
		<b>1.3b Ahuriri catchment/Flood control scheme.</b> Improved flood resilience for Napier residential areas through design of ARP. Particularly with regard to management of the Taipo stream.	Underway	2024	2030+	NCC (Submitted by HBRC)	HBRC, MAT, wider community
		<b>1.3c Proposed Plan Change 9 – TANK.</b> The Tūtaekurī, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro and Karamū (TANK) Plan change introduces new provisions to manage the land and waterways of the Tūtaekurī, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro and Karamū (TANK) catchments. The Plan includes objectives for how to manage the water bodies in the catchments and the policies and rules needed to achieve the objectives.	Underway	2020	Ongoing	HBRC	NCC, HBRC, Te Komiti, Catchment Group, landowners, industry and stakeholders
		<b>1.3D Erosion Control Scheme.</b> Hawke's Bay Regional Councils Erosion Control Scheme is there to help landowners across the region tackle erosion issues by using tools such as fencing, land retirement and non-commercial tree planting to help keep soil on hillslopes and out of water ways.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	2028	HBRC & landowners	

# 1. Te Ora o te Wai – Water Health

## Action Plan

**Pou Outcome:** The water in the estuary is in optimal health.

**Pou Objective:** To give effect to Te Ora o te Wai to improve water quality through management of stormwater and other sources of pollution.

Indicator	Focus area	Initiative	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
<b>A baseline of water and related environment quantity and quality is collectively formed.</b>	1.4 Water and related environment quality monitoring and testing	<b>1.4a eDNA testing of water ways.</b> Form an analysis of the progress from testing (part of the sustainable centre in Hawke's Bay/Hastings). AEPS wants to find where species are spawning to then create protection for the species. The outcome is to create a protection programme, based on where they are spawning, and build fencing / planting.	Underway	2024	2024	AEPS and Wai Connection, Farmer, ATCGT	DOC
		<b>1.4b Rainfall water monitoring.</b> Rainfall event monitoring linked with Ahuriri Farm Pump Discharge Consent, will be conducted four times a year within the first two years of the consent commencement, along with bi-monthly water monitoring upstream of the pump at the discharge point when the pump is operational. A baseline monitoring report will be submitted on the Council at the end of the two-year period.	Not yet Started	2025	2035 (or as long as consent is granted)	Pāmu (occupier of Ahuriri farm)	
		<b>1.4c Reducing sediment in the streams.</b> We have commissioned PDP consultancy to carry out a range of tests to establish the current condition of the streams around the estuary. This will form a baseline to measure the impact of our activities. We have also carried out an eDNA testing programme supported by the Environmental Protection Agency "Wai Tuwhera o te Taiao" and are working with Wai Connection to continue this testing programme.	Underway	2024	TBC	ATCGT	PDP consulting and the Environmental Protection Agency
		<b>1.4d Reporting of any environmental hazards/concerns.</b> Take photos of any notable occurrences in the environment, such as slips, and send them to NCC Environmental Solutions team.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	AEPS	NCC, HBRC
		<b>1.4d State of the environment monitoring.</b> Monitoring of estuary ecology (infauna, fish, habitat, eDNA), estuary sediment quality (nutrients, metals, grain size, accumulation rate), stream water quality (nutrients, suspended sediment, E.coli), stream ecology (habitat, macroinvertebrates, fish, eDNA).	Underway	Ongoing	Ongoing	HBRC	

# 1. Te Ora o te Wai – Water Health

## Action Plan

**Pou Outcome:** The water in the estuary is in optimal health.

**Pou Objective:** To give effect to Te Ora o te Wai to improve water quality through management of stormwater and other sources of pollution.

Indicator	Focus area	Initiative	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
continued: <b>A baseline of water and related environment quantity and quality is collectively formed.</b>	Continued: 1.4 Water and related environment quality monitoring and testing	<b>1.4h Ecological health assessments.</b> Multiple different methods to assess estuary health (Bayesian Network model, different health indices, susceptibility to eutrophication).	Complete			HBRC	
		<b>1.4i Hydrodynamic model of estuary.</b> Creation of a hydrological and constituent model of the Ahuriri Estuary to facilitate the understanding and management of environmental flows within the catchment. This model will also help to improve the water quality and ecological functions of both the catchment and the estuary.	Complete			HBRC	
		<b>1.4j Baseline water and Environment.</b> Creation of a comprehensive Catchment baseline monitoring project across all the tributaries in the Ahuriri Catchment. This analysis was completed by PDP environmental consultants. This project monitored 13 sites across the Ahuriri catchment, dry weather and first flush sediment and water testing including Rapid Habitat Assessments.	Complete			Ahuriri tributaries catchment group trust.	

# 1. Te Ora o te Wai – Water Health

## Action Plan

**Pou Outcome:** The water in the estuary is in optimal health.

**Pou Objective:** To give effect to Te Ora o te Wai to improve water quality through management of stormwater and other sources of pollution.

Indicator	Focus area	Initiative	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
<b>Water quality is improved through fit for purpose solutions in the catchment</b>	1.5 Water quality enforcement and compliance	<b>1.5a Stormwater Bylaw enforcement.</b> NCC are able to follow up on any breaches of the stormwater bylaw to ensure only rain is discharged to the stormwater network. If non-complying discharges are found, NCC is going to provide enforcement to ensure this doesn't happen again as well as improving the quality of the discharge.	Underway	2024	Ongoing	NCC	
	1.6 Water quality environmental health and restoration	<b>1.6a Post-Cyclone Environmental Health Inter-agency Working Group.</b> Have worked on silt management, air quality, fresh water quality, shell fish etc.	Underway	2024	Ongoing	NCC and joint initiative	MAT, NCC, HBRC, HDC, CHBDC, Te Whatu Ora, FENZ, NIWA , MPI, MfE etc
		<b>1.6b Seagrass Initiative.</b> Investigate and implement methods of restoring seagrass beds in Te Whanga. This involves sourcing seagrass from other parts of Hawke's Bay to restore habitat in parts of the estuary where it's been lost.	Underway	Ongoing	Ongoing	NCC and MAT joint initiative	MAT, HBRC, DOC, biodiversity HB, EIT, National Aquarium, Sustainable HB
	1.7 Water quality planning	<b>1.7a Water quality masterplan – Estuary and tributaries.</b>	Underway	2024	2025	NCC	MAT, HBRC, DOC
<b>Environmental restoration is routinely undertaken with the support of the community</b>	1.8 Community engagement and cleanup	<b>1.8a Monthly litter clean up.</b> Start at Pandora pond and work around the estuary. A couple of hours on the second Sunday of every month. NCC collects big black rubbish sacks and provides all other resources in support of the clean up.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	AEPS	NCC



# 2. Te Mauri o te Taiao – Biodiversity

## Summary

**Pou Outcome:** The estuary is a flourishing ecosystem that supports resilient biodiversity.

**Pou Objective:** Tautoko development of current and reintroduced species in the Whanga by restoring their habitats and eradicating competing and introduced pests, weeds, and disease.

### Indicators of success

There are two indicators within this Pou linked to three focus areas:

Indicators	Relevant focus areas
Invasive species, pests and diseases have been addressed or are actively managed	2.1 Managing pests and invasive species
Habitats supporting biodiversity have been restored to an acceptable level	2.2 Kaitiaki 2.3 Restoration and planting

### Initiatives

There are 12 initiatives from four lead organisations and five partners.

The estuary faces health and biodiversity degradation, requiring urgent conservation, habitat protection, and climate change mitigation. However, challenges such as development constraints, natural hazards, and climate change effects complicate these efforts. Ecology and biodiversity are important for estuaries as they provide essential ecosystem services, support species interactions, enhance resilience to environmental stressors, and serve as indicators of environmental health, cultural value, and recreational opportunities for communities.

**This pou focusses on two large components of biodiversity at the Ahuriri Estuary including: Eradication of invasive species, and restoration of habitats to support existing species.**

*The action plan for this Pou is outlined in detail on the following page.*

# 2. Te Mauri o te Taiao – Biodiversity

## Summary

**Pou Outcome:** The estuary is a flourishing ecosystem that supports resilient biodiversity.

**Pou Objective:** Tautoko development of current and reintroduced species in the Whanga by restoring their habitats and eradicating competing and introduced pests, weeds, and disease.

Indicator	Focus area	Initiative	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
Invasive species, pests and diseases have been addressed or are actively managed	2.1 Managing pests and invasive species	<b>2.1a Predator Control.</b> Predator control to suppress introduced species that impact on threatened wildlife.	Underway	2024	Ongoing	DOC for Public Conservation Land	Volunteers, community groups, MAT
		<b>2.1b Servicing and maintaining traps, bait stations etc.</b> Support the community in delivering animal pest control to areas of high biodiversity value.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	HBRC	Te Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui a Orotu and other members of the public
		<b>2.1c Pest control activities.</b> Monitoring and analysing primary data collection or tag along with NCC.	Onoging (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	MAT	NCC
		<b>2.1d Tubeworms.</b> Tubeworm is an invasive species that blocks waterways, it is manually removed to maintain waterways, eradication is highly unlikely.	Underway	2024	Ongoing	DOC	HBRC
		<b>2.1e Weeds.</b> Terrestrial and aquatic weed management.	Underway	2024	Ongoing	DOC for Public Conservation Land	Volunteers and community groups
		<b>2.1f Staff led surveillance and Service Delivery.</b> Apple of Sodom, White Edged Nightshade, Chilean Needle Grass.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	HBRC	Relevant landowners, relevant landowners, affected landowners

## 2. Te Mauri o te Taiao – Biodiversity

### Summary

**Pou Outcome:** The estuary is a flourishing ecosystem that supports resilient biodiversity.

**Pou Objective:** Tautoko development of current and reintroduced species in the Whanga by restoring their habitats and eradicating competing and introduced pests, weeds, and disease.

Indicator	Focus area	Initiative	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
Habitats supporting biodiversity have been restored to an acceptable level	2.2 Kaitiaki	<b>2.2a Research of at risk indigenous species- Māori musk (Thyridia repens).</b> A subgroup of AEPS is organising the work to protect the plant. Aiming to create a display area.	Underway	Ongoing	2026	AEPS	DOC, HBRC
		<b>2.2b Taonga species.</b> Creating a habitat to reintroduce and protect taonga species i.e inanga spawning. ATCGT are working with APS and a local landowner to identify a salt water “wedge” in the Ahuriri lagoon where inanga breeding has historically been found. The intention is to protect this area.	Underway	Ongoing	2026	MAT	ATCGT & AEPS
		<b>2.2c Kaitiaki rangers.</b> Whānau task with specific kaitiakitanga functions.	Underway	Ongoing	Ongoing	MAT	
	2.3 Restoration and planting	<b>2.3a Landscape planting plan.</b> (Linked with Ahuriri Farm Pump Discharge consent) Planting for the water channels in Ahuriri Farm.	Not yet started	2025	2035+	Pāmu	Input from Maungaharuru-Tangitu, MAT, Ngati Parau and DOC.
		<b>2.3b Planting of Kākābeak.</b> We will encourage the planting of Kakabeak varieties native to Hawke's Bay in partnership with 'The Urban Kakabeak Project'.	Not yet started	2024	TBC	ATCGT	The Urban Kākābeak Project
		<b>2.3c Environmental maintenance.</b> General track and site maintenance, including cutting and spraying grass, and removing fallen dead trees.	Underway	Ongoing	Ongoing	DOC	

# 3. Aroā o Te Whanga – Historical & Education Summary

**Pou Outcome:** Our taonga is acknowledged, promoted and understanding of it is shared with the Ahuriri people.

**Pou Objective:** To promote a greater understanding of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga and the issues relating to its health and well-being, and archaeological sites.

## Indicators of success

There are 2 indicators within this Pou linked to 3 Focus areas:

Indicators	Relevant focus areas
Public knowledge on the environment, human impact, and conservation efforts is increased.	3.1 Public engagement and education 3.2 Community outreach and events
The Whakapapa and history of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga is widely understood	3.3 Sharing our connection to Te Muriwai o Te Whanga

## Initiatives

There are 11 initiatives from 2 lead organisations and 2 partners.

Te Whanganui-a-Orotu is a significant identifier of Ahuriri. Many people connect and identify with this body of water. It must be recognised that those who had initial and enduring contact and interaction with Te Whanganui-a-Orotu over many generations, are the primary kaitiaki. There is a depth and breadth generational mātauranga that ought to be adhered to and upheld alongside western scientific models of understanding and care of the estuary. Our taonga needs to be acknowledged, promoted and understanding of it shared with Ahuriri people

**This pou focuses on enhancing Te Komiti’s profile towards being a world leading example of partnership that emphasises Mātaraunga Māori in its’ inherent ability to uplift the quality of our local ecosystems. It aims to foster education and connection of whānau to the land with Mātauranga Māori being key to resource use in conflict contexts.**

*The action plan for this Pou is outlined in detail on the following page.*

# 3. Aroā o Te Whanga – Historical & Education

## Action Plan

**Pou Outcome:** Our taonga is acknowledged, promoted and understanding of it is shared with the Ahuriri people.  
**Pou Objective:** To promote a greater understanding of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga and the issues relating to its health and well-being, and archaeological sites.

Indicator	Focus area	Initiative	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
Public knowledge on the environment, human impact, and conservation efforts is increased.	3.1 Public engagement and education	<b>3.1a Protection of endangered birds through engagement and signage.</b> Talk to people and explain that the birds are present. We hope to put signs up soon to protect the area.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	AEPS	DOC, Forest and Bird, Police
		<b>3.1b Twice yearly public viewing and talk of Godwit Migration.</b> Opportunity to go on a guided walk with an expert to view the Godwits during spring and Autumn (all equipment provided).	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	AEPS and BirdsNZ	Forest and Bird, Save the Doterels
		<b>3.1c Take schools groups twice a year to the estuary.</b> Working alongside schools to educate students about the wildlife and ecosystem within and around the estuary.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	AEPS	Local schools
		<b>3.1d Spread awareness about the estuary as a wildlife refuge.</b> Focus on youth and incorporate appropriate signage.	Not yet started	2024	Ongoing	Forest and Bird	
	3.2 Community outreach and events	<b>3.2a Speakers/picnic to inform the public about the estuary.</b> Picnic in summer and indoors event in winter.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	AEPS	.
		<b>3.2b Running community seminars.</b> Six community seminars have been held on a range of topics, including cyclone recovery and resilience, eDNA testing and findings, history of Te Whanganui a Orotu both pre and post-Earthquake. Additionally, there was a field visit to the Holts family farm to showcase a QE2 covenant example of excellence in native planting, and 'Right Plant, Right Place' field event with Plant Hawke's Bay. Over 40 residents and partners attended each event, including local experts from Councils, Mana Ahuriri, Farmer support, Future Farming Trust, Environmental Protection Authority and Ministry of Primary Industries.	Ongoing (BAU)	2024	Ongoing	ATCGT	
		<b>3.2c Compliance.</b> Presence to educate public about the rare birds and designated areas: non-dog areas and dog-on-lead areas.	Underway	Ongoing	Ongoing	DOC	NCC



# 3. Aroā o Te Whanga – Historical & Education

## Action Plan

**Pou Outcome:** Our taonga is acknowledged, promoted and understanding of it is shared with the Ahuriri people.  
**Pou Objective:** To promote a greater understanding of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga and the issues relating to its health and well-being, and archaeological sites.

Indicator	Focus area	Initiative	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
The Whakapapa and history of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga is widely understood	3.3 Sharing our connection to Te Muriwai o Te Whanga	<b>3.3a Hāpu wānanga.</b> Series of wānanga to inform whānau on environmental matters and seek input for future direction.	Ongoing (BAU)	2024	Ongoing	MAT	All
		<b>3.3b Whakapapa.</b> Our connection to te taiao.	Ongoing (BAU)	2024	Ongoing	MAT	All
		<b>3.3c Storytelling.</b> Sharing stories on te taiao.	Ongoing (BAU)	2024	Ongoing	MAT	All
		<b>3.3d Mapping.</b> We will map remaining examples of native forest and bushland in the catchment to research and record the historical uses. Where possible, we will re-establish these trees and plants for future generations.	Not yet started	TBC	TBC	ATCGT	All

# 4. Te Mahi Ohaoha – Economic Summary

**Pou Outcome:** Receive value through sustainable practices and use of the estuary to promote further growth for whānau, hāpu, and the wider community.

**Pou Objective:** All stakeholders engage in sustainable practices and responsible use of the estuary. Mana Ahuriri is a leader in eco tourism.

## Indicators of success

There are 2 indicators (TBC) within this Pou linked to 2 Focus areas:

Indicators	Relevant focus areas
Infrastructure is enabled and developed to support the implementation of Mana Ahuriri master plan development of Ahuriri Station.	4.1 Infrastructure investment
Long term sustainable land uses and development, that will include the development of industrial/ commercial, sustainable energy solutions (solar farm), intensive agri/ processing, community recreation and sports, cultural reserves and new housing developments (kainga); to enable further growth for whānau, hāpu, and the wider community	4.2 Economic development

## Initiatives

There are 4 initiatives from 2 lead organisations and 3+ partners.

Te Whanga is a ‘crown jewel’ that is a natural resource with the ability to provide an interconnected future. Restoring the health of Te Whanga can create opportunities for economic growth, education, cultural connection and recreational use.

Ko rua te paia ko Te Whanga, He kainga tō te ata, He kainga ka awatea, He kainga ka ahiahi.

Te Whanga is the storehouse that never closes, A meal in the morning, A meal at noon. A meal in the evening

This pou ensures that through sustainable development Te Whanga can be a source of not only kai, but economic prosperity, commercial/ industrial housing, intensive agri/ processing, sports, recreation and more.

*The action plan for this Pou is outlined in detail on the following page.*

## 4. Te Mahi Ohaoha – Economic Action Plan

**Pou Outcome:** Receive value through sustainable practices and use of the estuary to promote further growth for whānau, hāpu, and the wider community.

**Pou Objective:** All stakeholders engage in sustainable practices and responsible use of the estuary. Mana Ahuriri is a leader in eco tourism and sustainable landuse and development.

Indicator	Focus area	Initiative	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
TBC	4.1 Infrastructure investment	<b>4.1a Airport.</b> Invest in the HB airport to grow economic base.	Underway	2025	TBC	MAT	
		<b>4.1b State Highway.</b> Highway upgrades to provide resilience and infrastructure to support the development of Ahuriri Station.	Ongoing (BAU)	TBC	TBC	Waka Kotahi	Kiwi Rail, stakeholders, contractors
		<b>4.1c Infrastructure Development.</b> The development of infrastructure to support the implementation of Mana Ahuriri proposed master plan development.	Ongoing	TBC	TBC	MAT	RIF/ NCC/ KiwiRail/ Transpower/ MHUD
TBC	4.2 Economic development	<b>4.1a Eco Tourism.</b> Te Komiti envisions that sustainable economic use of the estuary for tourism could be an option in the future	TBC	TBC	TBC	MAT	
		<b>4.1b Future Development Strategy/ Proposed District Plan.</b> Planning settings are enabling to support Mana Ahuriri master plan aspirations for Ahuriri Station and enhancement of Te Whanga.	Underway	Current	2025	MAT/ NCC	NCC, HBRC, HDC and Crown
		<b>4.1c Ahuriri Master Plan.</b> The Mana Ahuriri master plan will guide the activation of Ahuriri Station, enabling the development of a range of commercial, industrial, sustainable energy generation (solar), agri processing, recreation/ sport and housing development on Ahuriri Station. These landuses will support social, cultural and economic growth for whānau, hāpu, and the wider community.	Underway	Current	Ongoing	MAT/ Other	Crown, NCC, HBRC/ Other

# 5. Te Mahi Tūhono a Roopu – Social Summary

**Pou Outcome:** All stakeholders unite to improve Te Whanga, making it a hub for community betterment through activities like kai, exercise and recreation.

**Pou Objective:** He waka eke noa. Ensure alignment and collaboration between all stakeholders, fostering strategic partnerships aimed at enhancing and improving the well-being of Te Whanga.

## Indicators of success

There are 2 indicators within this Pou linked to 3 Focus areas:

Indicators	Relevant focus areas
The estuary supports a range of recreational options for the community in a sustainable way	5.1 Recreational activities
	5.2 Infrastructure
People in the catchment are connected and collaborate with programmes and plans	5.3 Community engagement and support

## Initiatives

There are 5 initiatives from 4 lead organisations and 6+ partners.

Our partners play a vital role in supporting us to achieve our vision. This pou ensures we focus on growing genuine partnership with all of our key stakeholders, including ngā hapū o Ahuriri, Napier City Council, Hawke’s Bay Regional Council, Hastings District Council, Te Papa Atawhai (Department of Conservation), the wider Ahuriri community, and other key partners. Mana whenua and local government are aligned and working in partnership for the betterment of Te Whanga.

He waka eke noa

This pou is to ensure alignment and collaboration between mana whenua and local government, fostering a strategic partnership aimed at enhancing and improving the well-being of Te Whanga.

*The action plan for this Pou is outlined in detail on the following page.*

# 5. Te Mahi Tūhono a Roopu – Social

## Action Plan

**Pou Outcome:** All stakeholders unite to improve Te Whanga, making it a hub for community betterment through activities like kai, exercise and recreation.

**Pou Objective:** He waka eke noa. Ensure alignment and collaboration between all stakeholders, fostering strategic partnerships aimed at enhancing and improving the well-being of the Whanga.

Indicator	Focus area	Initiatives	Status	Start date	End Date	Lead	Partners
The estuary supports a range of recreational options for the community in a sustainable way	5.1 Recreational activities	<b>5.1a Water sports hub (waka ama, Napier sailing club, fishing club).</b> Relocate waka ama into pandora pond, waka ama to continue to grow at estuary. Includes infrastructure changes and information centre/signs.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	NCC and MAT	Community groups
		<b>5.1b Triathlon events (iron Māori and world triathlon series).</b> Aim to have the swim located at pandora pond again.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	MAT	Community groups and organisers of the event
	5.2 Infrastructure	<b>5.2a Ahuriri Regional Park</b>	Underway	2024	2030+	NCC	HBRC, MAT, HB airport, DOC, wider community
		<b>5.2b Boardwalk review.</b> Review structural integrity and need for boardwalks, consider removal or replacements.	Not yet started	2024	2027	DOC	TBC
People in the catchment are connected and collaborate with programmes and plans	5.3 Community engagement and support	<b>5.3a Ongoing community engagement/ support.</b> Work to engage our community and promote interest and excitement in the potential of the Ahuriri environment. In due course, community members will be able to share their knowledge and enthusiasm amongst their neighbours and build on the positive community spirit.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	ATCGT	All



# 6. Ahurea o te Whenua – Cultural & Spiritual

## Summary

**Pou Outcome:** The cultural and spiritual identity of Te Whanga and the wider catchment are enhanced in order to support the connection between people and land.

**Pou Objective:** Enhance a community that recognises the cultural significance of the estuary through prioritising tikanga and mātauranga Māori which includes upholding the mana of local sites of significance / wāhi tapu.

### Indicators of success

There are 3 indicators within this Pou linked to 3 Focus areas:

Indicators	Relevant focus areas
There are designated areas for cultural practice and preservation (including mātauranga Māori informed practices relative to Te Whanga)	6.1 Cultural practices
Māori have visible representation in relevant locations and forums for the benefit of Te Whanga	6.2 Cultural representation
Monitoring of items of cultural importance is occurring	6.3 Cultural monitoring

### Initiatives

There are 7 initiatives from 7 lead organisations and 7 partners.

Developing the cultural and spiritual identity of Te Whanga and its catchment is pivotal for fostering a strong bond between the community and the land. By embracing and preserving traditional practices, stories, and rituals, this initiative not only deepens a sense of belonging but also instills a collective commitment to sustainable stewardship, aligning with principles of kaitiakitanga and promoting a resilient and culturally rich community.

The purpose of this pou is to enhance a community that recognises the cultural significance of the estuary through prioritising tikanga and upholding matauranga Māori.

*The action plan for this Pou is outlined in detail on the following page.*

# 6. Ahurea o te Whenua – Cultural & Spiritual

## Action Plan

**Pou Outcome:** The cultural and spiritual identity of Te Whanga and the wider catchment are enhanced in order to support the connection between people and land.

**Pou Objective:** Enhance a community that recognises the cultural significance of the estuary through prioritising tikanga and mātauranga Māori which includes upholding the mana of local sites of significance / wāhi tapu.

Indicator	Focus area	Initiatives	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
There are designated areas for cultural practice and preservation (including mātauranga Māori informed practices relative to Te Whanga)	6.1 Cultural practices	<b>6.1a Koura trapping.</b> Mana Ahuriri has expressed an interest to demonstrate traditional Koura trapping practices in the Wharerangi stream. This will particularly be targeted at local tamariki.	Not yet started	TBC	TBC	ATCGT	MAT
		<b>6.1b Māori historical use of plants.</b> Provide information leaflets to our residents who take up our Mini Freshwater Environment Plan Initiative on the Māori medicinal or cultural uses of plants found in Hawke’s Bay.	Not yet started	TBC	TBC	ATCGT	MAT
		<b>6.1c Create a place to participate in tikanga.</b> Baptism, tangihanga, pūre, karakia, etc	Not yet started	TBC	TBC	MAT	
		<b>6.1d. Rāhui.</b> Under guidance of Kahui Kaumātua, place a Rāhui when water quality poses a threat to human health or the health of the ecosystem, including instances where human activities or invasive species are harming water quality. A Rāhui may also be placed following a tangihanga (funeral) or for other cultural reasons, to protect the Wairua of the environment.	underway	ongoing	ongoing	MAT	NCC
Māori have visible representation in relevant locations and forums for the benefit of Te Whanga	6.2 Cultural representation	<b>6.2a Estuary Pou replacement.</b> Replacement of six pou in the estuary with new pou in improved locations.	Underway	2024	2025	DOC (Submitted by MAT)	NCC, MAT
		<b>6.2b National iwi chairs.</b> Pou taiao – iwi response to environmental matters.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	MAT	

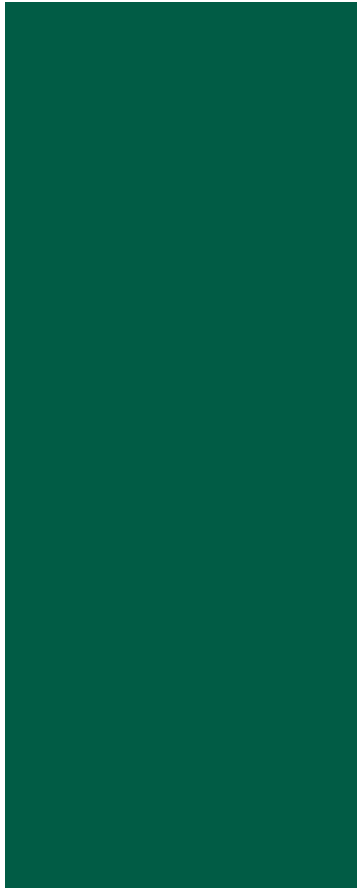
# 6. Ahurea o te Whenua – Cultural & Spiritual

## Action Plan

**Pou Outcome:** The cultural and spiritual identity of Te Whanga and the wider catchment are enhanced in order to support the connection between people and land.

**Pou Objective:** Enhance a community that recognises the cultural significance of the estuary through prioritising tikanga and mātauranga Māori which includes upholding the mana of local sites of significance / wāhi tapu.

Indicator	Focus area	Initiatives	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
Monitoring of items of cultural importance is occurring	6.3 Cultural monitoring	<b>6.3a Cultural monitoring programme.</b> Under consent conditions, four cultural monitoring programmes are underway to ensure health and wellbeing of taiao and māhinga kai are protected.	Underway	2024	Ongoing	NCC	HBRC, MAT
		<b>6.3b Mahinga Kai cultural monitoring program.</b> (Linked with Ahuriri Farm Pump Discharge consent) Focus on shellfish – monitoring to start within 3 months of the commencement, annual report prepared and submitted to councils.	Not Yet Started	2025	2035+	Pāmu	Hapu



# Appendices

- A: Regulatory / Non-Regulatory Levers
- B: Summary of Pou Indicators
- C: SO Plan
- D: Broader Initiatives



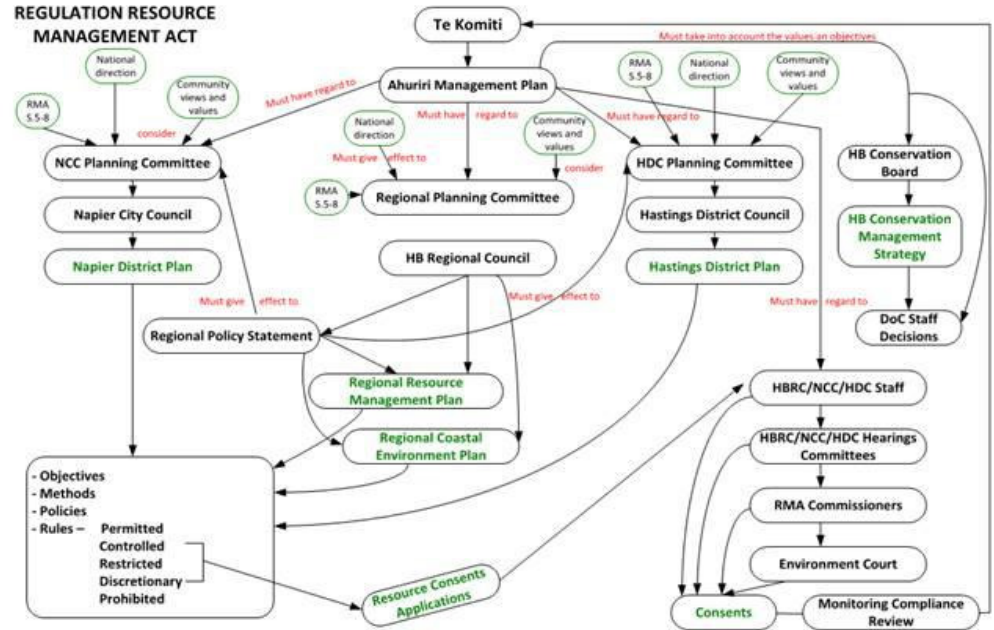
## A: Regulatory / Non-Regulatory Levers

# Regulatory Levers

## Regulation Resource Management Act

The planning committees of NCC, HBRC, and HDC and their staff must have regard to the Plan.

The HB Conservation board must take into account the objectives and values of the plan as they develop, deliver and make decisions on the HB Conservation Management strategy.



Note: This diagram is indicative only for illustrative purposes.



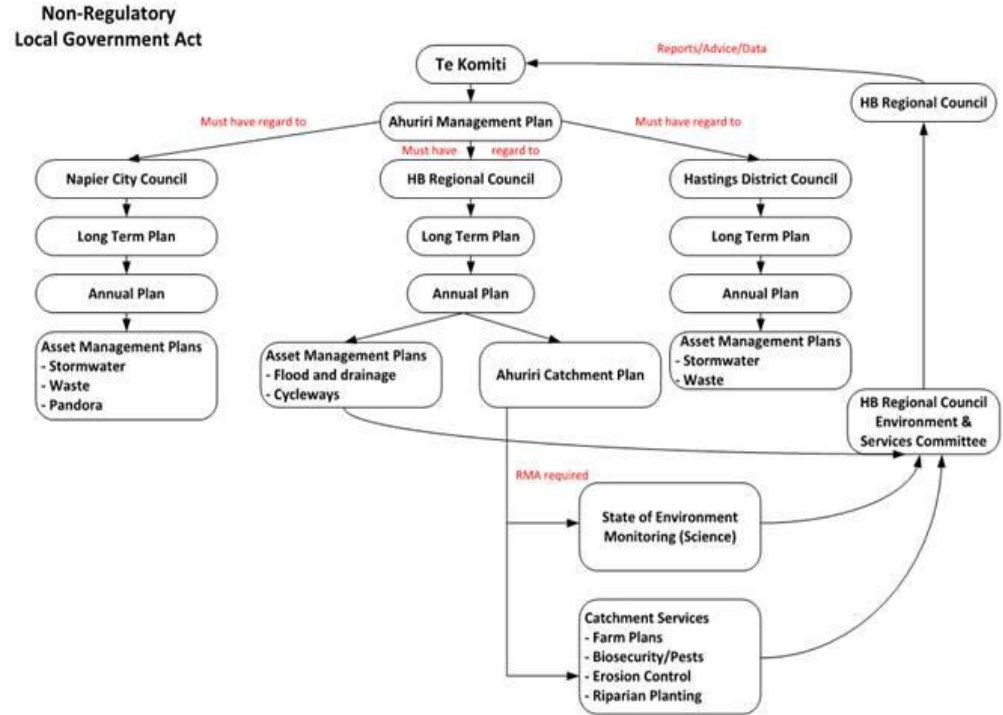
# Investment (Non-Regulatory) Levers

## Non-Regulatory Local Government Act

The involved councils; Napier City Council (NCC), Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC), and Hastings District Council (HDC) must all have regard to the Plan.

This requirement extends to their Long Term Plans (LTPs), annual plans, and asset management plans, all of which must have regard to the Plan. This will influence decision-making in the respective areas.

Te Komiti will a) ensure each organisation understands how they can have regard to the Plan in their own planning processes and will b) submit on consultations and in hearings if consultations are not aligned to this Rautaki.



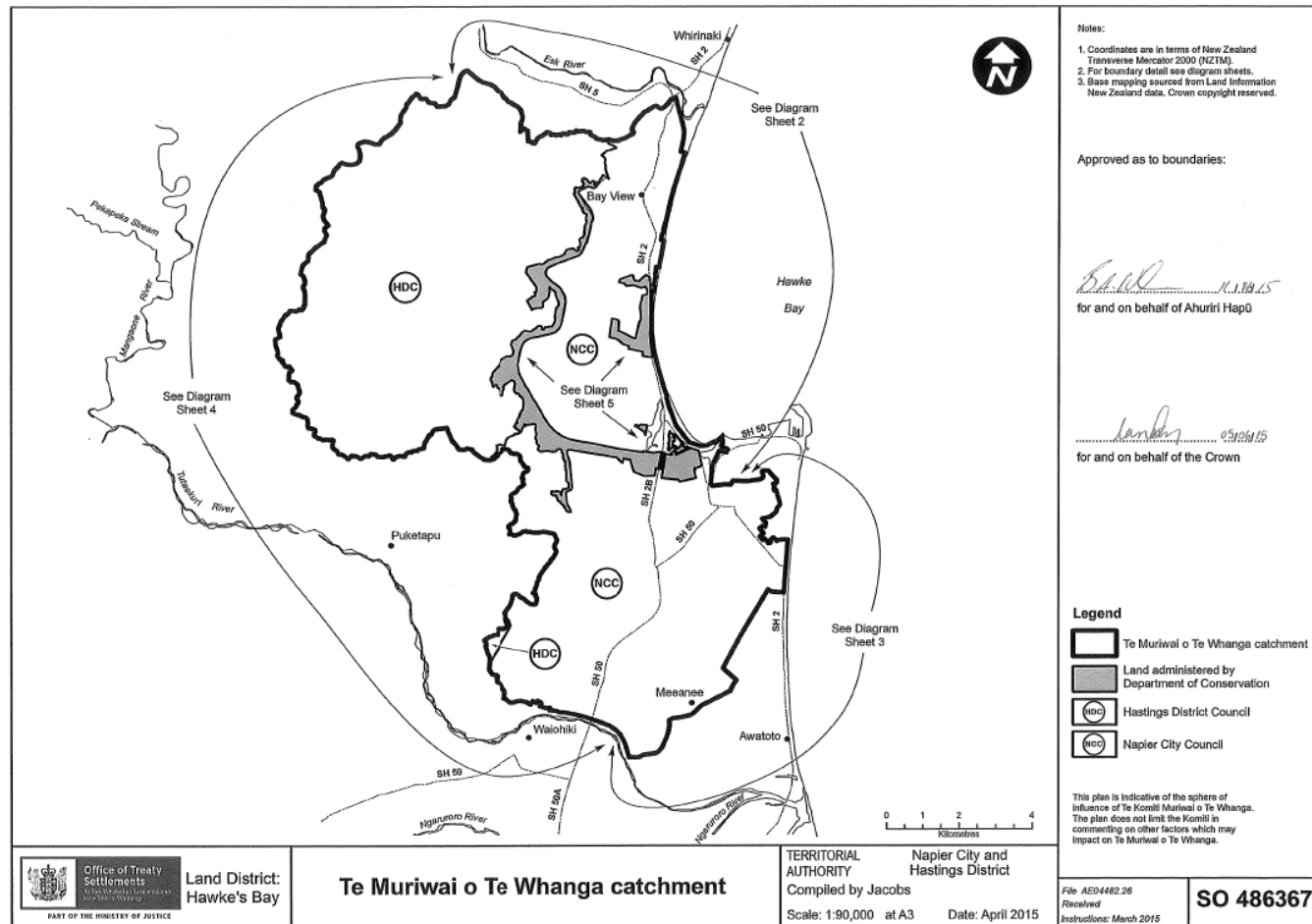


## B: SO Plan

# Te Muriwai o Te Whanga

Catchment SO  
486367

Statutory Definition of Te  
Muriwai o Te Whanga:  
Ahuriri Estuary and  
catchment areas



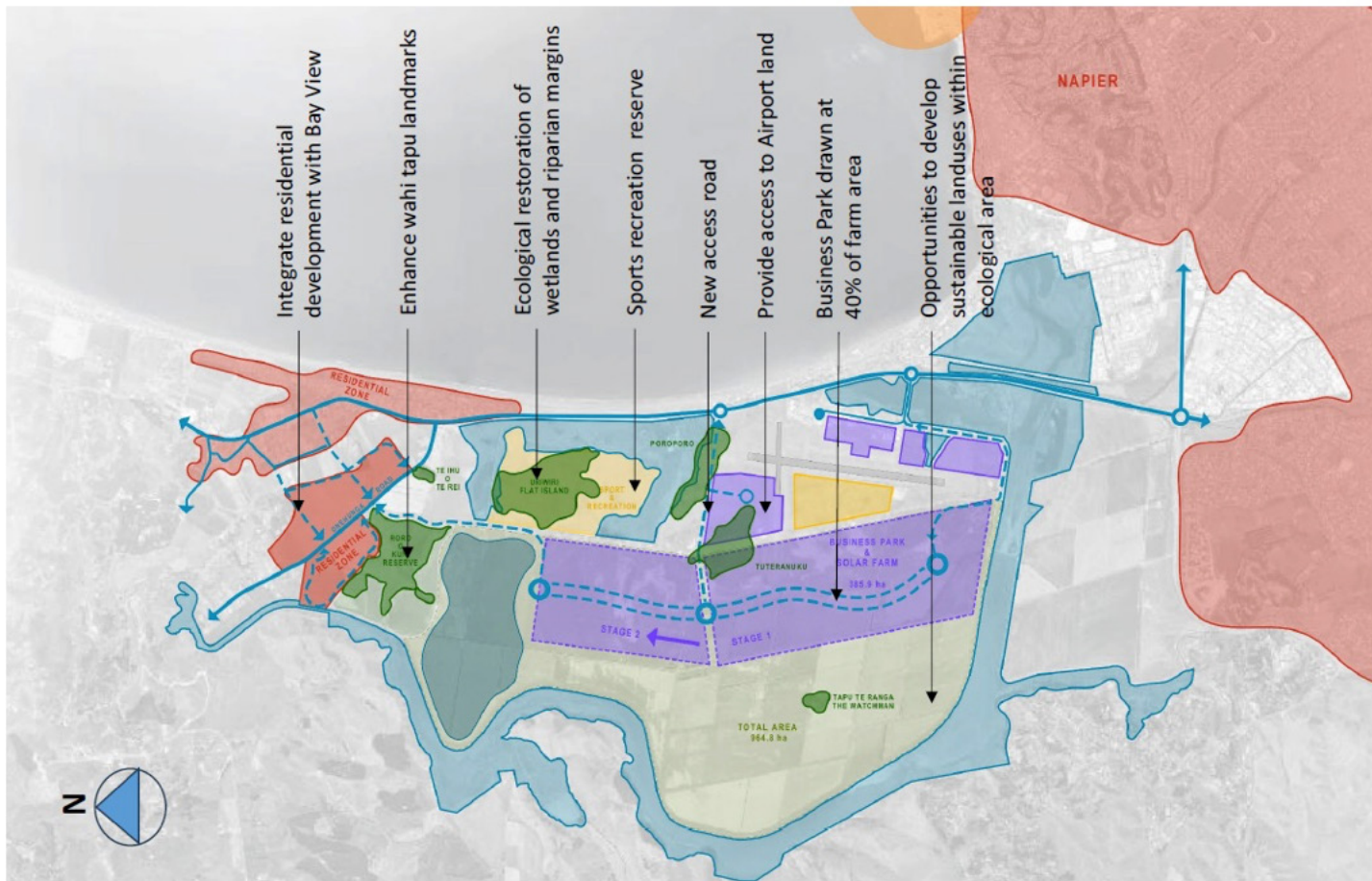


# C: Ahuriri Station Master Plan

# Te Muriwai o Te Whanga

## Ahuriri Station Structure Plan (DRAFT)

*Note the Ahuriri Station structure plan is subject to further concept design works and hui a hapu waanga.*



# Summary of Indicators 1/2

Pou	Indicators
Te Ora o te Wai	Stormwater is either diverted or treated so that it does not negatively impact the water health of Te Whanga
	There is a strong understanding of potential pollutants in the stormwater going into the estuary at all times
	Tributaries in the catchment have plans in place to manage the risks of negatively impacting Te Whanga
	A baseline of water and related environment quantity and quality is collectively formed
	Water quality is improved through fit for purpose solutions in the catchment
	Environmental restoration is routinely undertaken with the support of the community
Te Mauri o te Taiao	Invasive species, pests and diseases have been addressed or are actively managed
	Habitats supporting biodiversity have been restored to an acceptable level
Aroā o Te Whanga	Public knowledge on the environment, human impact, and conservation efforts is increased.
	The Whakapapa and history of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga is widely understood



# Summary of Indicators 2/2

Pou	Indicators
Te Mahi Ohaoaha	The FDS/ PDP planning settings and infrastrucute investment by NCC, HDC and HBRC are enabling to support the development of Ahuriri Station
	Ahuriri Station is fully activated to realisation for Mana Ahuriri to achieve the full commercial, social, cultural and environmental objectives and outcomes identified within the Ahuriri Station Master Plan
Te Mahi Tūhono a Roopu	The estuary supports a range of recreational options for the community in a sustainable way
	People in the catchment are connected and collaborate with programmes and plans
Ahurea o te Whenua	There are designated areas for cultural practice and preservation (including mātauranga Māori informed practices relative to Te Whanga)
	Māori have visible representation in relevant locations and forums for the benefit of Te Whanga
	Monitoring of items of cultural importance is occurring



## D: Broader initiatives plan

Includes initiative submitted that were not intended for the Plan.

# Te Ora o te Wai – Water Health

## Broader Plan

Focus area	Initiatives	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
Storm water	<b>Bay View Ocean Outfall.</b> A pump station and ocean outfall will direct stormwater from Esk Hills and Bay View directly to the ocean, instead of routing it through the Onehunga Pump Station, which typically charges to the estuary.	Not yet started	2030+	2030+	NCC	HBRC
	<b>Guppy Road and Harold Holt stormwater pump station upgrades.</b> Pump station and pipe upgrades to remove bottlenecks in the network to prevent wet weather overflows into the stormwater network.	Underway	2024	2029	NCC	HBRC
	<b>3 Waters Masterplan.</b> Revisiting each of the 3 waters masterplans, along with the overarching masterplan (Proposed Ahuriri Station Master Plan), to ensure the strategic management, planning of networks, and modelling are up to date to support the Master Plan development of Ahuriri Station.	Underway	2024	2026	NCC	
	<b>Statutory acknowledgment.</b> CIA on stormwater and discharge into stormwater.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	MAT	NCC, HBRC, Developers
	<b>Drainage and Flood Management Scheme (Heretaunga Plains Flood Control Scheme).</b> Management of Stormwater: Area 1: Meeanee/Napier/Puketapu Drainage area.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	HBRC	NCC
	<b>Reducing erosion in upper catchments to avoid sediment in lower catchments.</b> Reducing erosion in upper catchments to avoid sediment in lower catchments.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	HBRC	HDC, DOC, private land owners/managers, ATCGT
	<b>Northern Ahuriri Estuary Stopbank Maintenance.</b>	Underway	Ongoing	Ongoing	HBRC	

# Te Ora o te Wai – Water Health

## Broader Plan

Focus area	Initiatives	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
Storm water	<b>Environmental Management Plan for high risk sites.</b> Identifying high risk industries to see if they pose a risk to waterways. Helping them create an environmental management plan, and enforce their implementation. Ahuriri is next to be investigated and Pandora to be revisited.	Underway	Ongoing	Ongoing	HBRC, NCC	Pollutant Response
	<b>Royal society catalyst.</b> Novel biological and chemical methods to identify stormwater pollutants.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	2025	Royal catalyst	MAT, NCC
	<b>MAT taiao plan.</b> Strategic plan to support operations in the taiao for Mana Ahuriri.	Underway	2024	2024	MAT	Poipoia
	<b>Proposed District Plan.</b> Introduction of new provisions in the PDP that require on-site treatment on large car parks and state highways.	Underway	2025	2027	NCC	
Water quality	<b>Shellfish quality relating to Ocean Outfall.</b> Research programme looking into the effect of the ocean outfall on toxin levels in shellfish.	Underway	2024	2028	NCC	HBRC, MAT, DOC
	<b>Stormwater By-law review.</b>	Underway	2024	2025	NCC	
	<b>Sediment and erosion programme.</b> Monitoring and enforcement of all development sites across Napier. Conditions relating to earthworks require enforcement.	Underway	2024	Ongoing	NCC	MAT, HBRC

# Te Ora o te Wai – Water Health

## Broader Plan

Focus area	Initiatives	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
Water quality	<b>Sustainable seas.</b> Initiative to identify models and methodologies to better inform coastal monitoring and management across aotearoa. Ahuriri estuary as a selected case study.	Underway	Ongoing	2025	MFE	MAT
	<b>Water Supply Master Plan.</b> Supply of freshwater to homes and businesses.	Underway	Ongoing	2025	NCC	
Other	<b>Taiao and tikanga committees.</b> MAT board oversight on taiao and tikanga.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	MAT	
	<b>Farm environment plan.</b> Linked with Ahuriri Farm Pump Discharge consent	Underway	2024	2035	Pāmu	
	<b>Landscape planting plan.</b> Planting for the water channels in Ahuriri Farm as part of the integrated redevelopment of the Ahuriri Station master plan.	Not yet started	2024	2034	Pāmu	Input from Maungaharuru-Tangitū, Mana Ahuriri Trust, Ngati Pārau and DOC.
	<b>Kotahi plan.</b> Collaborate on the Kotahi plan to ensure better outcomes for Taiao.				HBRC	MAT, other PSGE's

# Te Mauri o te Taiao – Biodiversity

## Broader Plan

Focus area	Initiatives	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
Restore Habitats	<b>Fish passage.</b> Passages on pump stations and tidal gates.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	NCC	MAT, HBRC
	<b>Protection and Enhancement Programme.</b> This fund aims to deliver high-value environmental outcomes on a catchment/sub-catchment scale, such as improved water quality, riparian protection, biodiversity enhancement, and wetland development.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	HBRC	Landholders, Iwi, QEII, Nga Whenua Rahui, DOC, Catchment and Community Groups, Biodiversity Hawke's Bay.
	<b>Priority Ecosystem Programme.</b> This programme was initiated in the 2018-2028 LTP and is focused on preventing the extinction of the remaining high biodiversity remnants in Hawke's Bay.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	HBRC	Landholders, Iwi, QEII, Nga Whenua Rahui, DOC, Catchment and Community Groups, Biodiversity Hawke's Bay.
	<b>Retiring grazing leases.</b> We are reviewing current lease agreements with DOC to transition these into regenerative wetland.	Underway	2024	2025	DOC	MAT, Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui o Orotu, lessee
	<b>Taonga species.</b> Identify taonga species and give detail to quality, quantity etc.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	MAT	NCC



# Aroā o Te Whanga – Historical & Education

## Broader Plan

Focus area	Initiatives	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
Increase awareness of history, environment, and conservation to the public	<b>Dual language signage.</b> Appropriate Māori names of our sites, roads, waters, whenua and maunga.	Not yet started	2024	Ongoing	NCC, DOC,	MAT
	<b>Sites of significance.</b> Recording of sites of significance in council plans.	Ongoing (BAU)	2024	2024	TLA's	MAT, Crown
	<b>Curriculum.</b> Local stories incorporated in local curriculum.	Not yet started	2025	Ongoing	Ministry of Education	MAT
	<b>Update Estuary Signage.</b> Update names on current signage on the estuary. Also review design and concept.	Not Yet started	2024	2024	DOCs	MAT, Te Komiti, NCC, HB tourism, HBRC
	<b>Bridge wrapping.</b> To raise the awareness of the connection between what goes down the drain enters our river, estuaries and oceans.	Complete	2024	2024	NCC	Te Komiti

# Te Mahi Ohaoha – Economic

## Broader Plan

Focus area	Initiatives	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
Transport infrastructure to support access	<b>Northern Ahuriri Estuary Stopbank Maintenance.</b> Mana Ahuriri, HB Airport, Pāmu, NCC, HBRC discussion on Stopbank Maintenance and inclusion into HBRC run scheme.	Underway	Ongoing	Ongoing	HBRC	MAT, HB Airport, Pāmu, NCC, HBRC
	<b>Maintaining critical Infrastructure.</b> Provision of strategic life line resilience.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	NZTA	HBRC Regional transport Plan

# Te Mahi Tūhono a Roopu – Social

## Broader Plan

Focus area	Initiatives	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
Recreational facilities and infrastructure	<b>Ahuriri rock pools.</b> Community initiative to build rock pool down Hardinge road. Provide coastal protection.	Underway	Ongoing	Ongoing	NCC	MAT, Ahuriri Rock Pool Development
	<b>Hawke's Bay Cycle Trails including Great Rides (Water Ride).</b> Ongoing development & maintenance of Hawke's Bay Cycle Trails including Great Rides (Water Ride).	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	HBRC	NCC
	<b>Iway cycle trail network.</b> Ongoing development and maintenance of Iway cycle network.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	NCC, HDC	HBRC, cycling advocacy groups, wider public
	<b>Bird watching.</b> 2-3 bird watching platforms beside Water Ride cycle trail in Ahuriri Regional Park.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	Asset Ownership TBC	HBRC, DOC
	<b>Sports field irrigation project.</b> Currently an approach to irrigation of sportsfield, with reliance on water from network. Limits on how much water can be taken.	Not yet started	2024	2025	NCC	
Other	<b>Tourism opportunities.</b> World class environmental eco-tourism attraction.	Not yet started	2024	Ongoing	MAT	NCC, HBRC

# Ahurea o te Whenua – Cultural & Spiritual

## Broader Plan

Focus area	Initiatives	Status	Start date	End date	Lead	Partners
Cultural preservation and practice (including mātauranga Māori informed practices relative to Te Whanga	<b>Waka Ama Hub.</b> Provision of purpose-built facilities for waka storage at Humber St. Reserve.	Underway	2024	Ongoing	NCC	MAT
	<b>Whakapapa research.</b> Identify sites of significance, ancestral stories, etc.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	MAT	NCC
Partnering with mana whenua on initiatives	<b>Taiao unit.</b> PSGE collaboration in RMA matters.	Ongoing (BAU)	Ongoing	Ongoing	MAT	Te Kahui Ohanga









## TE WHANGANUI-A-OROTU AHURIRI ESTUARY

### Te Pepeha O Tamatea Pokaiwhenua

Te karoro kōwhiri kōwhiri māi a ranga o Tūpua-te-Ranga  
The gentle kōwhiri kōwhiri māi a ranga o Tūpua-te-Ranga

Te Pātiki Tahurangi o Uire  
The Pātiki Tahurangi o Uire

Te Māui pātiki māi a ranga o Tahurangi  
The Māui pātiki māi a ranga o Tahurangi

Te Tūpua kōwhiri māi a ranga o Mātāwhiriwhiri  
The Tūpua kōwhiri māi a ranga o Mātāwhiriwhiri

Te kōwhiri pātiki o Rūmānui  
The kōwhiri pātiki o Rūmānui

Te arāke Māmanuwhiri o Pātikiwhiri  
The arāke Māmanuwhiri o Pātikiwhiri

haere mai welcome



WHERE CITY & ESTUARY MEET

The Ahuriri Estuary is a unique environment where the city of Napier meets the sea. It is a place of natural beauty and cultural significance. The estuary is home to a variety of wildlife, including birds, fish, and marine mammals. It is also a popular destination for recreation and tourism.



What is a wetland?



### the people of AHURIRI

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# Ngā mihi nui

2024 | Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga