Meeting: Tauranga Moana Advisory Group

Meeting Date: 22 November 2024

Presentations

Agenda Item 10.1 Tauranga System Management Plan Update

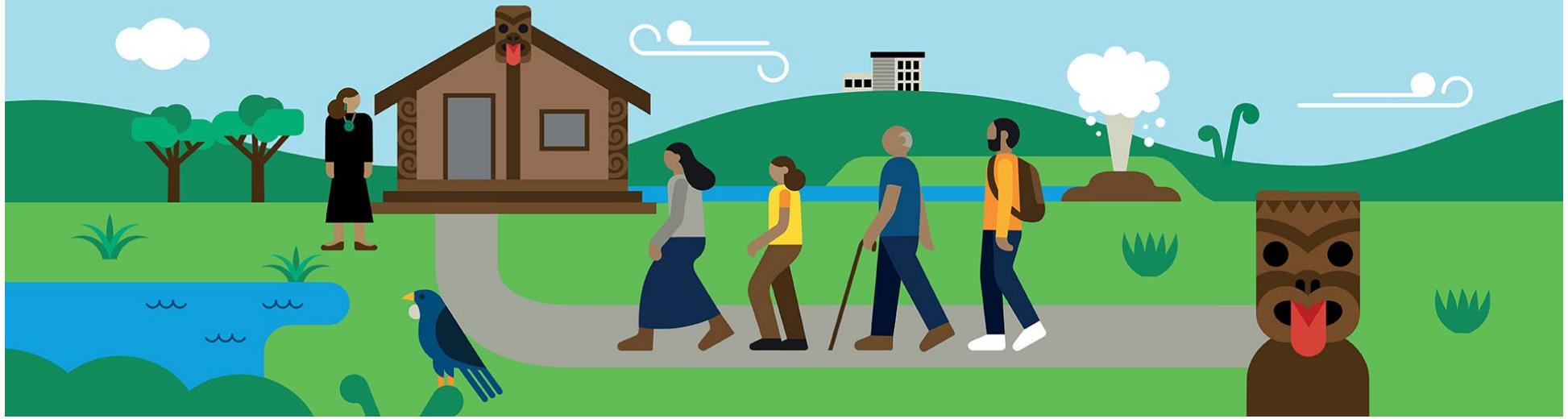
Agenda Item 9.6 Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana Update

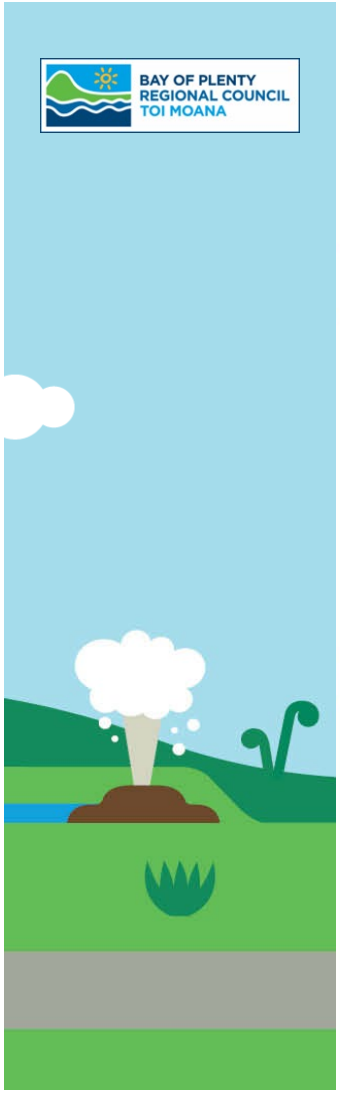
Tauranga Moana Geothermal System

System Management Plan (SMP) Update

Tauranga Moana Advisory Group Meeting | 22 November 2024

BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL TOI MOANA





Ngā Wai Ariki o Tauranga Moana

Tauranga geothermal water is **groundwater heated by warm rocks** from ancient volcanism

Temperature of the geothermal water in the system ranges from **30˚C - 77˚C**

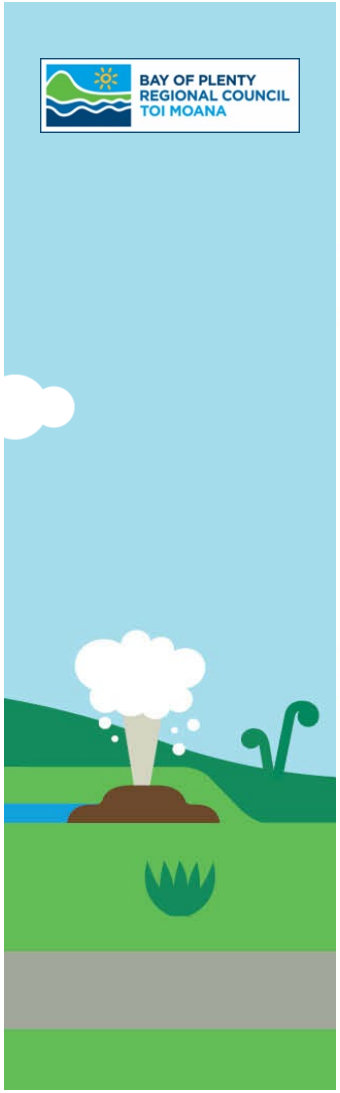
There are **few geothermal surface features**, but there are a small number of warm seeps and geothermal springs.

Geothermal water chemistry is similar to non-geothermal groundwater.

Geothermal takes:

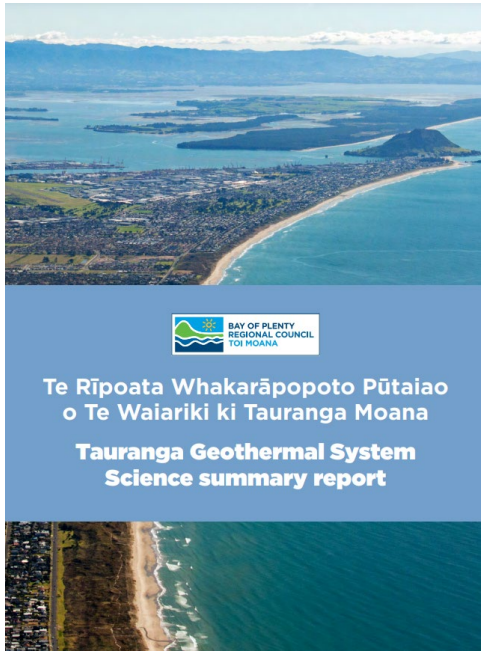
76% use the geothermal heat.
24% are for non-geothermal uses.

There are about **130 resource consents to take geothermal water, heat and energy from the geothermal system,** with 9.5 million cm^3 of geothermal water consented to be taken.

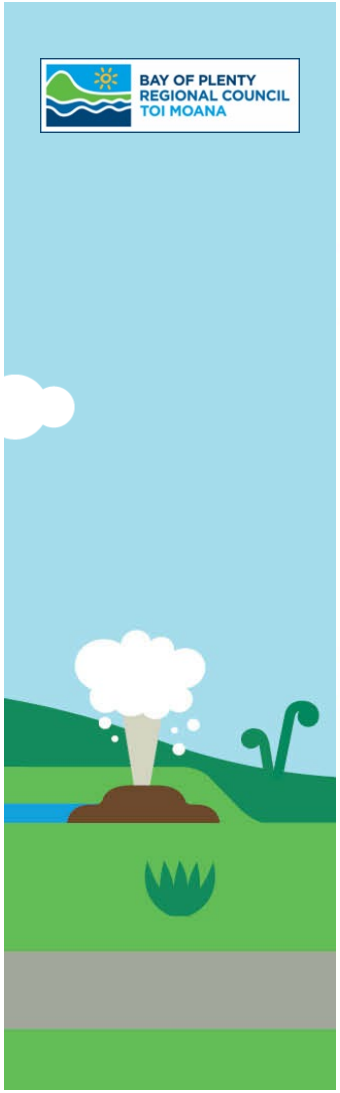


Key issues in this system

- Groundwater allocation to avoid/mitigate impacts on heat values (i.e. avoid local cooling)
- Groundwater allocation to protect high value geothermal (e.g. Maketū)
- Efficient use of heat
- Managing discharges
- Enabling use (e.g. GeoHeat Study)

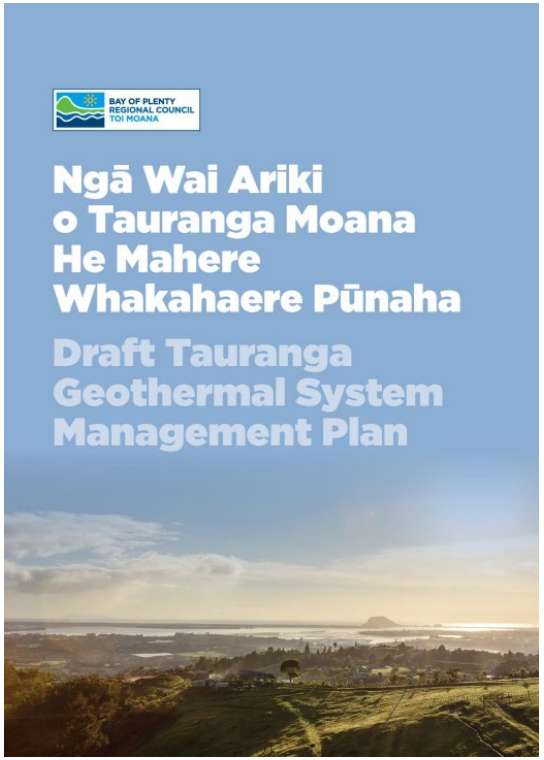


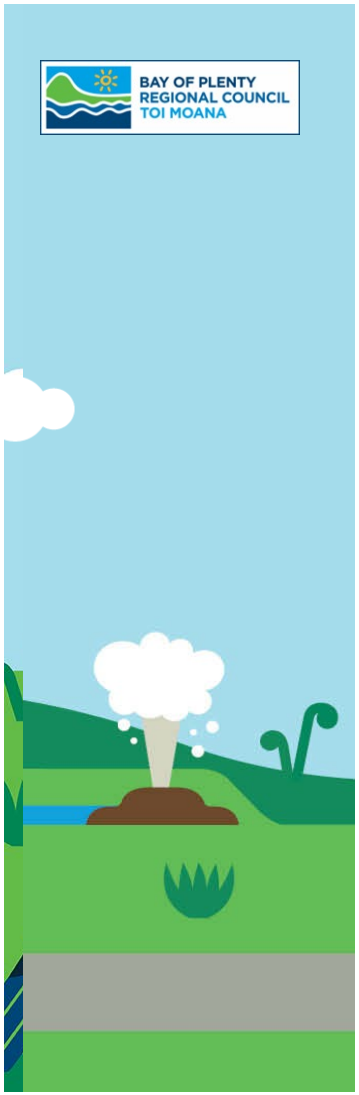
What is a System Management Plan?



The Draft Tauranga SMP

- Draws on Iwi and Hapū Management Plans, science, and initial engagement
- Contains principles, vision, and broad management approach
- Will be supported by action plan and guidelines
- Will inform Plan Change 11 (Geothermal)
- Used in decision-making (consents)

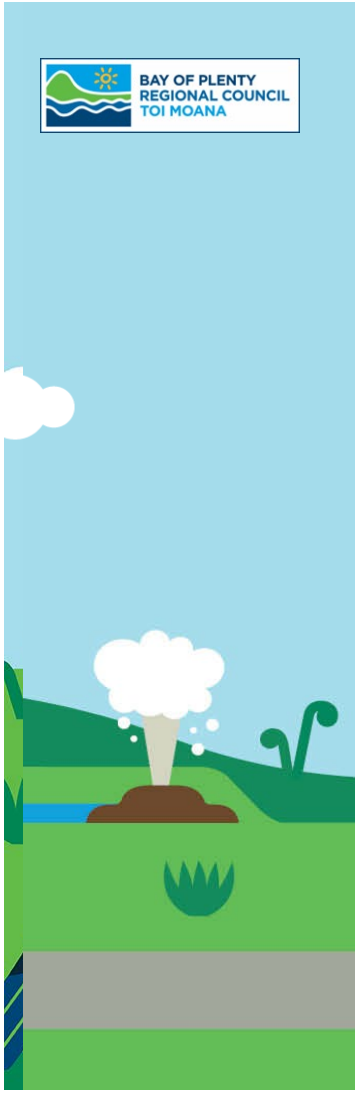




Vision

Long term sustainable use of the low temperature geothermal system for both geothermal and non-geothermal uses, while:

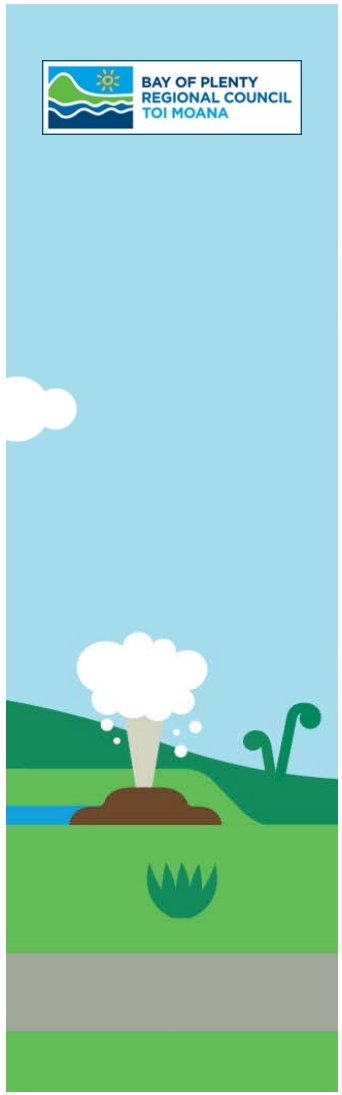
- *Staying within sustainable groundwater allocation limits;*
- *Avoiding local or system-wide cooling; and*
- *Carefully managing the effects of this use on the receiving environment.*



Management approach

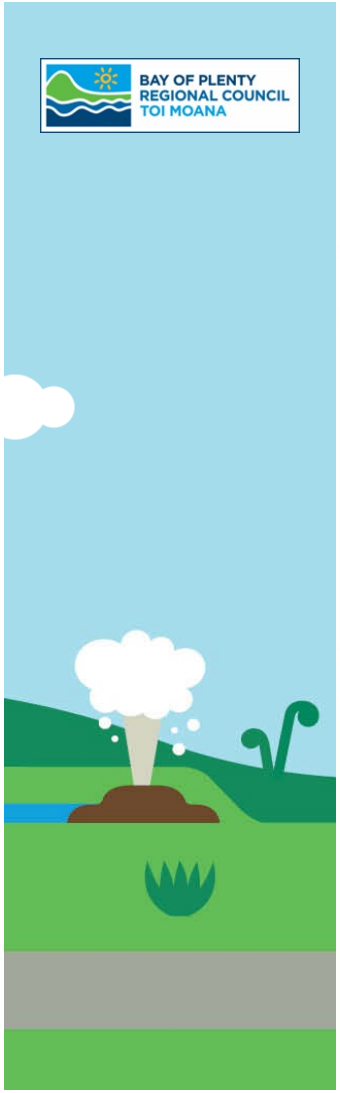
Example:

Our Approach	How we will do it
Avoiding system wide cooling	• Geothermal takes to stay within sustainable groundwater allocation limits within the Regional Natural Resources Plan (under development) • Reservoir modelling at least every 5 years to predict system wide impacts of groundwater takes on the geothermal heat resource. • Application of **Discharge Guidelines**
The heat value of the resource is retained and protected in areas where is it currently most valued	• Enable and protect/enhance customary practices of geothermally influenced springs. • Identify areas where geothermal heat is most valued or has future potential and protection for these uses from unsustainable or competing use. • Sustain the aquifer levels in areas of high heat value (e.g., greater consideration of impacts of heat through the consent process, limiting groundwater takes, and requiring setbacks, and managing rate of take and method of discharge. • Ensure that new takes (warm and cold water takes) consider the impact on existing takes and the heat resource.
Enabling use	• Enabling policies and rules for sustainable use of geoheat in the Regional Natural Resources Plan. • Education, information about the Tauranga Geothermal System and low temperature geoheat applications and technology.



Some questions

- How does geothermal use affect mauri/wairua?
- What treatment is needed for discharges (e.g. bathed in water)?
- Should we identify high value areas in the SMP? e.g. Maketū?
- Should we require efficient use? When? What is reasonable?
- How permissive should we be? (e.g. a Permitted Activity status for small takes in a future plan change?)
- What monitoring should Council be doing? What Mātauranga Māori monitoring is needed? What monitoring should be done by consent holders?



Process and next steps

- Draft out for feedback now!
- Feedback online via our Participate web portal: **participate.boprc.govt.nz/draft-tauranga-geo-SMP**
- Staff available for hui, attending community markets including Tauranga on 30th November

Feedback closes 31 January 2025

2025

- Feedback considered by BOPRC Councillors
- SMP adopted by BOPRC in 2025

Tauranga Moana Advisory Group

BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL TOI MOANA

Toi Moana update 22 November 2024

Aspects to cover

- Integrated Catchments Operations update
- Stella Passage update
- Freshwater planning update
- Navigation Safety Bylaw update

Environmental Programme delivery

Metres of protection fencing built	Number of plants in the ground	Hectares of land area retired	Metres of waterway margin protected	New detainment bunds constructed
15,456m	139, 565 plants	65.36 ha	14,320m	2

Koromiko wetland fish passage improvement

- Ngāi Tamarawaho, Ngā Matarae Trust (Port of Tauranga), Tauranga City Council, and Toi Moana collaboration
- To improve connectivity between the Koromiko wetland and the Kopurererua Stream (near Judea)
- Bridge works completed May 20254
- Wetland restoration works ongoing

Other things

- Hot Springs Road – future regional park
- 38 Community Care Groups
- Western BOP annual care group celebration event

Stella Passage

Freshwater update

Navigation Safety Bylaw update