

Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group Rārangi Take (Agenda)

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the next meeting of the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group will be held in the Mataatua Room, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Building, 5 Quay Street, Whakatane on:

FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2024 COMMENCING AT 09:30AM

Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group

Membership

Chairperson	Leith Comer (Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi)
Deputy Chairperson	Pouroto Ngaropo (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa)
Tangata Whenua Members	
One appointed representative each:	
Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi	Tīpene Marr (Alternate)
Ngāti Mākino Iwi Authority	Awhi Awhimate Laurance Tamati (Alternate)
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa	Manu Glen (Alternate)
Ngāti Tūwharetoa (Bay of Plenty) Settlement Trust	Jim Schuster
Council Members	
One appointed member each:	
Bay of Plenty Regional Council	Chairman Doug Leeder Cr Malcolm Campbell (Alternate)
Kawerau District Council	Mayor Faylene Tunui Deputy Mayor Aaron Rangihika (Alternate)
Rotorua Lakes Council	Cr Gregg Brown Phill Thomass - Lakes Community Board (Alternate)
Whakatāne District Council	Mayor Victor Luca Deputy Mayor Lesley Immink (Alternate)
Quorum	Five members comprising: The Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson; and two Iwi members and two Council members.
Meeting frequency	Quarterly

Purpose

To support, co-ordinate and promote the integrated restoration of the mauri of the Tarawera Awa catchment.

Scope

The Strategy Group's scope covers the geographical area of the Tarawera River catchment, including its tributaries within the catchment area, as shown further below on map OMCR-102-032.

The Strategy Group is deemed to be a co-governance joint committee of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council; and is a permanent committee and must not be discharged unless all appointing organisations agree to the discharge.

Role

The functions of the Strategy Group are to —

- (a) develop a restoration strategy for the catchment, to be known as the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Document; and
- (b) monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the Strategy Document; and
- (c) run and oversee restoration projects as required under the Strategy Document; and
- (d) seek funding for the restoration projects as required by the Strategy Document; and
- (e) communicate with stakeholders and the wider community to explain how decisions made or activities affecting the catchment align, or could be aligned, with the common vision, objectives, and desired outcomes for the catchment; and
- (f) establish 1 or more technical advisory groups as required, as outlined in section 134¹; and
- (g) seek the advice of a technical advisory group or the relevant local government in support of restoration activities; and
- (h) link stakeholders together so that activities that take place in the catchment, or that affect the mauri of the catchment, are compatible as far as possible with the common vision, objectives, and desired outcomes for the catchment; and
- (i) provide a framework to assist central government agencies and local government so that they may have regard to the common vision, objectives, and desired outcomes for the catchment: and
- (j) undertake any other function required to achieve the purpose of the Strategy Group.

Decision Making

The Strategy Group must make its decisions by vote at a meeting and strive to achieve consensus; and approach decision making in a manner that is consistent with, and reflects its purpose; and acknowledges, as appropriate, the interests of iwi in particular parts of the catchment.

The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson may vote on any matter, but do not have a casting vote.

¹ s134 Ngāti Rangitihi Claims Settlement Act 2022

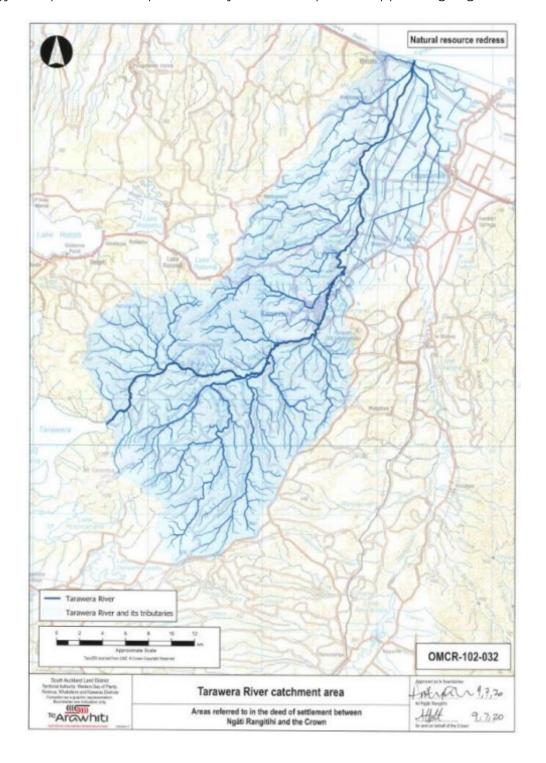
Power to Act

Except as provided for in the purpose above, the Strategy Group has discretion to determine in any particular circumstances whether to perform any function specified and how, and to what extent, any function specified is performed.

Power to Recommend

To the partner organisations on any matters within the Strategy Group's delegated role as it deems appropriate.

Strategy Group members report directly to their respective appointing organisations.



Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as policy until adopted.

Rārangi Take Agenda

- 1. Karakia Whakatuwhera Opening Prayer
- 2. Ngā Hōnea Apologies
- 3. Wāhanga Tūmatanui Public Forum
- 4. Ngā Take Tōmuri Items not on the Agenda
- 5. Raupapa o Ngā Take
 Order of Business
- 6. Whakapuakanga o Ngā Take Whai Taha-Rua Declaration of Conflicts of Interest
- 7. Ngā Meneti Minutes

Kia Whakaūngia Ngā Meneti Minutes to be Confirmed

- 7.1 Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group Minutes 7
 November 2023
- 8. Whakahoutanga Kōrero Verbal Updates
- 8.1 Gold Clam Update

Presented by: John Brightwell, Controller - Corbicula 2023 Response Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) (Via Zoom)

9. Ngā Whakamārama a Ngā Rōpū Update from Partners

This new standing item is an opportunity for partner members to provide a brief update on potential matters of interest to the Strategy Group for information only.

9.1 Ngāti Rangitihi

9

9.2	Ngāti Mākino	
9.3	Ngāti Tūwharetoa (Bay of Plenty) Settlement Trust	
9.4	Ngāti Awa	
9.4	Rotorua Lakes Council	
9.5	Kawerau District Council	
9.6	Whakatāne District Council	
9.7	Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana	
10.	Ngā Pūrongo Reports	
10.1	Chairperson's Report	16
	Attachment 1 - Whakatane Beacon Article (13 December 2023)	19
	Attachment 2 - Communications and Engagement Plan - Draft v1	20
	Attachment 3 - Tarawera Awa Newsletter - Kawerongo 1/Edition 1	28
	Note: Please refer to the Chairperson's Report for details regarding the verbal updates that will accompany this report.	
	Hei Pānui Anake Information Only	
10.2	Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Consultation	30
11.	Ngā Take Tōmuri Hei Whakaaroaro Consideration of Items not on the Agenda	
12.	Karakia Kati Closing Prayer	

Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group

Ngā Meneti Open Minutes

Commencing: Tuesday 7 November 2023, 9:30 AM

Venue: Mataatua Room, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Building,

5 Quay Street, Whakatane

Heamana

Chairperson: Leith Comer (Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi Trust)

Heamana Tuarua

Deputy Chairperson: Pouroto Ngaropo (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa)

Ngā Kopounga

Members: Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana (BOPRC):

Cr Malcolm Campbell (Alternate)

Ngāti Mākino Iwi Authority:

Awhi Awhimate, Laurance Tamati (Alternate)

Kawerau District Council (KDC):

Mayor Faylene Tunui Rotorua Lakes Council:

Cr Gregg Brown, Lakes Community Board Chair Phill

Thomass (Alternate)

Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi (TMoNRT):

Tiipene Marr (Alternate)

Whakatane District Council (WDC):

Mayor Victor Luca, Deputy Mayor Lesley Immink (Alternate)

Te Hunga i Tae Ake In Attendance:

Presenters: As listed in the minutes; BOPRC: Chris Ingle - General Manager Integrated Catchments, Kataraina O'Brien - General Manager Strategic Engagement, Stephen Lamb - Environmental Strategy Manager, Gemma Moleta - Senior Planner (Water Policy) via Zoom, Ashleigh Grant - Kaikarere (Communications Partner), Sharon Ainsworth - Project Manager, Rawiri Bhana - Senior Advisor (Treaty), Shari Kameta - Committee Advisor; TMONRT: Alana Hunter - Kaiwhakahaere Tari; KDC: Chris Marjoribanks - Interim Chief Executive Officer, Kaumātua Te Haukakawa Te Rire -

Cultural Advisor; <u>Pareārau Ltd</u>: Jane Waldon - Co-Governance Secretariat; Mereana Hona - Iramoko Marae

Ngā Hōnea Apologies:

Chairman Doug Leeder (BOPRC)

Manu Glen (Alternate, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa)
Deputy Mayor Aaron Rangihika (Alternate, KDC)

Lim Schuster (Ngāti Tūyybarates (ROD) Settlement T

Jim Schuster (Ngāti Tūwharetoa (BOP) Settlement Trust

9:30pm - The meeting **adjourned**.

9:50pm - The meeting reconvened.

1. Karakia Whakatuwhera Opening Karakia

A karakia was provided by Kaumātua Te Haukakawa Te Rire.

Deputy Chair Pouroto Ngaropo responded with a mihi of acknowledgement of the recent passing of his partner Jodi Hiroti of Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa iwi ki Kauangāroa, Whanganui, and the support that had been provided by the Chair, Tiipene Marr and members. The Chair responded noting the condolences from the Strategy Group.

Ngā Hōnea Apologies

Resolved

That the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group:

Accepts the apologies from Chairman Doug Leeder, Jim Schuster and Manu Glen for absence tendered at the meeting.

Tunui/Awhimate CARRIED

3. Ngā Take Tōmuri Items not on the Agenda

Resolved

That the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group:

- 1 Accepts the following items for consideration under Agenda Item 8.1:
 - (a) Tabled Document 1 TARSG Tohu (Logo) Draft;
 - (b) Tabled Document 2 Draft cover letter to stakeholders;

Notes the reason why the documents were late was because the information was not available at the time the agenda was published. The reason the items cannot wait until the next meeting is that they relate to Agenda Item 8.1.

2 Receives the Oji Fibre Solutions letter (refer Tabled Document 3) for information under Agenda Item 10.

Comer/Ngaropo CARRIED

4. Whakapuakanga o Ngā Take Whai Taha-Rua Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

5. Ngā Meneti Minutes

Kia Whakaungia Ngā Meneti Minutes to be Confirmed

5.1 Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group Minutes - 29 August 2023

Resolved

That the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group:

Confirms the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group Minutes - 29 August 2023 as a true and correct record.

Campbell/Tunui CARRIED

6. Ngā Pūrongo Reports

Ngā Whakatau e Hiahiatia Ana Decisions Required

6.1 Draft Tarawera Awa Aspirations Document and Strategy Group Logo

Presentation - Tarawera Awa Aspirations Document - Summary of changes: Objective ID A4530528

Tabled Document 1 - TARSG Tohu (Logo) Draft: Objective ID A4529138
Tabled Document 2 - Draft Cover Letter to Stakeholders - TARSG Aspirations
Document: Objective ID A4529153

Presented by: Dr Frances Teina-kore Curtis - Environmental Manager, Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi and Keri Topperwien - Plan Writer, Tuānuku Ltd

Key Points:

- Summarised the changes made to the Tarawera Awa Aspirations Document following feedback that had been received from members
- Aspirations were high level and had been formed by the lwi Collective
- Strategic objectives and actions were yet to come as part of the Strategy Group's development of the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Document
- Te Mana o Te Wai statements would come from lwi and hold their own mana
- Requested feedback on the Aspirations Document, use of the word 'poison' (refer second paragraph, agenda page 24) and sought approval of the draft logo (tohu) and covering letter (refer Tabled Documents 1 and 2) that would be sent out to stakeholders

- Provided explanation of the draft tohu, which a member of Ngāti Rangitihi iwi had been engaged to design
- A stakeholder list would be circulated to members for feedback following the meeting for distributing the finalised Aspirations Document.

Key Points - Members:

- Supported and agreed to receive the Aspirations Document for informing stakeholders and community about the Strategy Group. Noted that approval of the document would require the endorsement of each partner organisation
- Recognised the historical moment of the three partner iwi working together towards the restoration of the Tarawera Awa
- Agreed to the following changes being made to the Aspirations Document:
 - Agenda page 23 replace 'connect' with 'reconnect' in the section heading and body text to better reflect the aspirational intent
 - Agenda page 23 replace 'poison' with 'contaminants' for consistency and tone
 - o Agenda page 19 correction to replace 'four' with 'three' (aspirations)
- Supported an amendment to the draft logo (tohu) to replace the laurel wreath with raupō and a blend of flaxes to better reflect the environment of the kōtuku at Te Awa o te Atua
- Including iwi/hapū/marae in the stakeholder engagement list was pivotal
- The next stage of work would be the development of the Strategy Document for formal submission in accord with the settlement legislation.

Resolved

That the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group:

- 1 Receives the report, Draft Tarawera Awa Aspirations Document and Strategy Group Logo;
- 2 Receives the Tarawera Awa Aspirations Document as provided under Attachment 1;

Luca/Awhimate CARRIED

3 Delegates to the Strategy Group Chair to approve final amendments, graphics and minor grammatical/formatting changes to the Tarawera Awa Aspirations Document prior to its publication and release;

Tunui/Luca CARRIED

- 4 Approves the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group logo for use by Strategy Group members in all future correspondence (refer Tabled Document 1), subject to the amendment agreed at the meeting;
- 5 Approves the draft cover letter to stakeholders for public release of the Tarawera Awa Aspirations Document (refer Tabled Document 2).

Tunui/Brown CARRIED

10:58 am - The meeting adjourned.

11:24 am - The meeting **reconvened**.

11:24 am - Cr Malcolm Campbell withdrew from the meeting.

6.2 Legislative requirements for the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Document

Presented by: Nassah Rolleston-Steed - Principal Advisor, Policy and Planning

Key Points:

- Outlined the requirements for preparing the Strategy Document, including its effect on Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) planning documents and requirement to consult early and wide with affected stakeholders
- Recommended a structured project management approach and finding a dedicated resource to lead the process
- Noted best practice advice for members who were considering becoming a hearing panel member to complete the Ministry for the Environment's RMA Making Good Decisions course
- Considered the Aspirations document provided an initial understanding of the Strategy Group's vision and desired outcomes for the catchment to illicit discussion amongst the community
- Recommended that the Strategy Group publicly notify, as soon as possible, its intent to develop the Strategy Document and organise a central repository for receiving public enquiries and feedback.

11:46am - Cr Brown withdrew from the meeting.

11:50 am - Cr Malcolm Campbell entered the meeting.

In Response to Questions:

- Timing/wording of the public notification could align with the release of the Aspirations Document
- The legal term 'have particular regard to' was consistent with the legislation and was akin to 'give strong consideration to'.

Key Points - Members:

- Anticipated that the procurement of a project manager and development of a project plan/communication/engagement plan would be progressed in consultation with the Chair before the next meeting
- Ngāti Rangitihi's Environmental Manager Frances Teina-kore Curtis would be the contact for enquiries regarding the Aspirations Document
- Supported utilising the Aspirations Document to take the lead on publicly notifying the Strategy Document.

Resolved

That the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group:

- 1 Receives the report, Legislative requirements for the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Document;
- 2 Note that a dedicated project manager resource is needed to lead development and project management of the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Document;
- Foreshadow the project manager once appointed will prepare a project plan and communications and engagement plan setting out a proposed process and timeframes for consideration at the Group's next meeting;

4 Notes that the project manager once appointed will, in accordance with Section 140(2) of the Ngāti Rangitihi Claims Settlement Act 2022, liaise with the Chair to prepare and publicly notify the Group's intention to start preparing the Strategy Document.

Campbell/Ngaropo CARRIED

7. Whakahoutanga Kōrero Verbal Updates

7.1 Discussion on next steps for Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Document

Discussion on this item took place during the previous agenda item.

7.2 Freshwater Gold Clam Invasion

Presented by: Chris Ingle, General Manager Integrated Catchments

Key Points:

- As reported in the media, Asian gold clam was an invasive pest that had been found in the Waikato river
- At the request of Ngāti Tarāwhai, Biosecurity New Zealand (Biosecurity NZ) (business unit of Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)) had agreed to close Lake Ōkataina to boating/fishing while mitigation measures were put in place to protect the lake from potential invasion
- Indications were that the lake was due to re-open following a coordinated response to install a check/clean/dry station provided by BOPRC that would be operated by Te Arawa Lakes Trust
- MPI's current focus was to contain the pest within the Waikato river however, were looking to install a boat cleaning station at Te Ngae Road, Rotorua before boats entered the Rotorua Lakes.

Key Points - Members:

- Voluntary cleaning would not be sufficient to keep gold clam out of Rotorua Lakes, which was of serious concern to the Rotorua lake communities.
- Expressed concern that if the pest invaded Lake Tarawera it would eventually get into the Tarawera Awa
- A full strategy with stringent rules and a multi-agency approach was needed to protect the waterways
- Considered a letter from the Strategy Group to express the Group's concern and support the necessary action required.

Key Points - Staff:

- Points raised by members were being discussed by the Te Arawa Iwi Collective who were working with Te Arawa Lakes Trust to pen a letter to MPI to prevent boats from the Waikato river entering the Rotorua Lakes
- Placing a charge on boat ramps could help to pay for boat washing stations.

Resolved

That the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group:

Supports a letter to Biosecurity New Zealand regarding the issue of gold clam to be prepared by staff for approval and signed by the Strategy Group Chair.

Thomass/Ngaropo CARRIED

- 8. Ngā Take Tōmuri Hei Whakaaroaro Consideration of Items not on the Agenda
- 8.1 Oji Fibre Solutions Ltd Letter

Tabled Document 3 - Oji Fibre Solutions letter: Objective ID A4528201

The letter received from Oji Fibre Solutions was tabled for information with no further discussion raised.

9. Karakia Kati Closing Karakia

A karakia was provided by Kaumātua Te Haukakawa Te Rire.

12:30 pm - t	he meeti	na close	d.
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CONFIRMED	
	Leith Comer
	Chairperson
	Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group



Report To: Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group

Meeting Date: 16 February 2024

Report Authoriser: Leith Comer, Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group Chair

Chairperson's Report

Executive Summary

Since the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group meeting of 7 November 2023, I have attended and participated in a number of meetings and engagements as the Strategy Group Chair.

This report sets out the meetings and engagements that I have attended, outside of Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group meetings, and highlights matters of interest that I wish to bring to members' attention for information.

Recommendations

That the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group:

- 1 Receives the report, Chairperson's Report;
- 2 Approve Frances Teinakore-Curtis as the Project Manager for the TARSG development of the Tarawera Awa River Document;
- 3 Approve Tyrone Newson as external Engineer for the TARSG development of the Tarawera Awa River Document (subject to Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa Board approval).

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Strategy Group on meetings and engagements outside of Strategy Group meetings that I have attended or am aware of in my capacity as the Strategy Group Chair.

Not only does this report provide a summary of the aforementioned meetings and engagements, it will be accompanied by verbal reports delivered by the TARSG Project team which we envisage to be standing items for every TARSG forum. The

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TARSG Project team and I will provide additional information in response to any inquiries members may have during the meeting.

2. Meetings and Engagements

Stakeholder and Council Engagements began end of November 2023 to socialise the Aspirations Document and to discuss some next steps for TARSG Project team once feedback was given by relevant parties.

Date	Meeting / Engagement	Comment
28.11.23	Charles Harley, Pim de Monchy BOPRC	Old Rangitaiki River Channel Te Awa o Te Atua
01.12.23	Phil Thomass RLC Alternate Member	Lake Tarawera Wastewater Reticulation Scheme. Letter of support to be written by TARSG for Lake Tarawera Reticulation Scheme
07.12.23	Brent Mountfort Federated Farmers (BOP) President	Presentation to full committee in February/March period
07.12.23	Interview with Diane McCarthy Whakatane Beacon	Whakatane Beacon article written 'Reconnecting rivers part of Iwi aspirations' 13.12.23 (refer Attachment)
12.12.23	Matata Residents Association	Matatā Residents Association are now on the mailing list to receive 'Tarawera Awa' bi-monthly newsletter
23.01.24	Paul Scholes BOPRC Scientist	Data gathering along specific sites of Tarawera Awa ki te awa o te Atua
26.01.24	Bevan Gray/Glenn Cooper Whakatane District Council	Spatial planning, Edgecumbe Wastewater, Fonterra Wastewater Treatment Plant development
01.02.24	Tiaki Hunia (CEO), Christine Powell and Les Russell Maori Investments Ltd	Further hui to be held with MIL once TARSG Project team have further monitoring data from BOPRC. Agreement of support to be created between TARSG and MIL Board
Upcoming Hui 20.02.24 11:30am - 2:30pm	Jon Ryder and Phillip Millichamp Oji Fibre Solutions Kawerau District Council, 2 Ranfurly Court, Kawerau	TARSG members to signal interest if they would like to attend hui

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3. Matters of Interest

3.1 TARSG Project team Roles and Responsibilities

- Frances Teinakore-Curtis TARSG Project Manager
- Keri Topperwien Tarawera Awa Catchment Strategy Document Writer
- Jane Waldon TARSG Iwi Engagement and wānanga/workshops
- Tyrone Newson External Engineer Technical Expertise and work programme developer

3.2 Aspiration One: Rechannel and reconnect the course of the Tarawera, Rangitāiki and Orini Awa back through Te Awa o Te Atua and out to sea at Mihimarino

Tyrone to give an update on the technical input and expertise for the above aspiration to be put realised.

3.3 Aspiration Two: Work together to protect the Tarawera Awa by dealing with all contamination and discharges into its waters

Frances to give an update on the work being done with stakeholders across the Tarawera Awa for the above aspiration to be put realised.

3.4 Aspiration Three: Regenerate the life sustaining properties of the Tarawera and Te Awa o te Atua so that it can return to the food basket it once was

Keri will discuss how we can begin developing strategic objectives (desired outcomes), a vision and preferred outcomes moving forward.

3.5 Iwi Engagement and Communication Plan

Jane to update the TARSG on the Engagement and Communication Plan (refer Attachment) and relevant matters and how they can support the development of the Tarawera Awa Catchment Strategy document and action plan.

Tuhinga Tautoko Attachments

Attachment 1 - Whakatane Beacon Article (13 December 2023) &

Attachment 2 - Communications and Engagement Plan - Draft v1 \$\bar{1}\$

Attachment 3 - Tarawera Awa Newsletter - Kawerongo 1/Edition 1 &

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Wednesday, December 13, 2023 www.thebeacon.co.nz

Reconnecting rivers part of iwi aspirations

Diane McCarthy

Local democracy reporter

TARAWERA Awa Restoration Strategy Group chairman Leith Comer remembers that, when he was a boy, there was great excitement in Matatā when kōtuku visited the town's waterfront.

But the iconic white heron no longer visits the beachfront lagoon known as Te Awa o te Atua - the river of the gods. And the waters no longer serve as a trading port near the river entrance for the Tarawera, Rangitāiki and Orini awa, which have all been redirected. It has also been a long time since it was a food basket teeming with tuna (freshwater eels).

Despite the changes, it is still a place of significance to four iwi, explored by both Te Arawa and Mātaatua waka when they first arrived in New Zealand.

Mr Comer, formerly chief executive of Te Puni Kōkiri, heads the strategy group tasked, through legislation, to restore the mauri of the Tarawera River and Te Awa o te Atua.

'Mauri is a life force and you should treat mauri as you would treat a person, with the same respect and the same concern for maintaining the health," he said.

"We cannot live with that mission if this remains a stagnant lagoon."

Once a significant trading port with schooners coming to trade quality flax fibre produced in mills along the banks, and a food basket for the iwi that lived there, when the course of the rivers were changed, as part of the Rangitaiki Plains drainage scheme, Te Awa o te Atua quickly silted up and there was no longer any flow of water.

Along with the Tarawera River, it has become polluted from several sources.

"In 1954, when they were building the mill at Kawerau, the Government passed an enabling act to allow the mill owners to use the river as a dumping

"In a very short period of time the Tarawera Awa became the most polluted river in New Zealand," Mr Comer

At its worst, the river downstream from Kawerau was known colloquially as "the black drain". Other polluting factors come from the Edgecumbe sewerage system and seepage from septic tanks in Matatā

"As part of our settlement, we were able to get the Crown to admit that they



RESTORING THE MAURI: Tarawera Awa Restoration **Strategy Group** chairman Leith Comer and project manager Frances **Curtis want to see** kōtuku return to the wetland at Matatā. Photo Diane McCarthy E4256-01

had breached the Treaty of Waitangi in terms of what they had done to our waterways, Mr Comer said.

The strategy group was set up earlier this year as part of the Ngāti Rangitihi Treaty settlement.

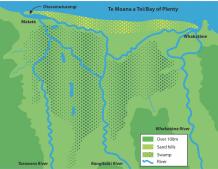
It also has membership from Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Mākino Iwi Authority, Ngāti Tūwharetoa (BOP) Settlement Trust as well as Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Rotorua Lakes, Kawerau and Whakatāne district councils.

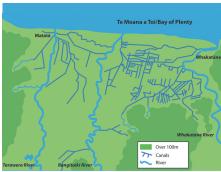
The group produced a publicly available aspirations document, which sets out three main aspirations. The first is to reconnect the course of the Tarawera and Rangitaiki rivers and the Orini stream out to sea at Mihimarino, the former river mouth, just to the west of Matatā township. Another is to deal with contamination and discharges into the water and, thirdly, to regenerate the life-sustaining properties of the Tarawera Awa and Te Awa o te Atua to return them to the food baskets they once were.

A project team is being formed, headed by Ngāti Rangitihi environmental manager Frances Curtis.

"Fundamentally, we want to be able to do some fairly simple things, like swim in it, and gather kai," Dr Curtis said.

Mr Comer and Dr Curtis have been meeting with various stakeholders such





HISTORIC RIVER PATHS: These maps provided in the restoration group's aspiration document show the historic paths of the Tarawera and Rangitaiki rivers and Orini Stream compared to how it is post drainage of the Rangitaiki Plains. Images supplied

as Federated Farmers, forestry owners, the Kawerau mills and the Matatā community to encourage them to work together with them on their vision for "a sparkling watercourse" running through

We are trying to build a coalition of the willing. People who see that the restoration of the Tarawera Awa and Te Awa o Te Atua is beneficial not only to the commercial land users but to the public and everybody.

"What's really good about it is we've got the various district councils on

"We've said to all these councils, 'If you do your bit, we'll come in behind you with a lot of support, particularly when

there's a need for funding to do this'.

"It may never be the way that it was, with big wharves," Mr Comer said. "But there needs to be a connection from the sea into here and a connection from the Tarawera Awa out to sea."

The kōtuku has been chosen to represent the strategy group on its emblem.

"We will know our job is done when the kōtuku returns to Te Awa o te Atua," Mr Comer said.



Public interest journalism is funded through NZ on Air

Logo

COMMUNCIATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN

for the development of the Tarawera Awa Strategy Document

Jane Waldon
[COMPANY NAME] [Company address]

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Whakaarapopototanga/Executive Summary

The Tarawera River Communications Strategy is set out by the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group (TARSG) as a supporting document to support the creation of a Tarawera River Strategy document. It lays out guidelines for successful engagement for the Tarawera River Strategy document project beginning in January 2024.

The purpose of the Strategy Group is to support, co-ordinate, and promote the integrated restoration of the mauri of the catchment.

Ko wai matou?

The Ngati Rangitihi Claims Settlement Act 2022 (the Settlement Act) established the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group (TARSG or Strategy Group) as a permanent co-governance partnership. This means that the Strategy Group is a permanent committee of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Our Partners

The membership of the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group is comprised of four Iwi - Ngāti Rangitihi, Ngāti Mākino, Ngāti Awa and Ngāti Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau as well as four local authorities - Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Kawerau District Council, Rotorua Lakes Council and Whakatane District Council.

Our Logo (pull this out as an insert to the cover page with the korero about the logo) Insert korero

Area of Interest

The following map shows the extent of the Tarawera Awa Catchment. While Lake Tarawera is not part of the area of interest in terms of Treaty legislation, any negative impacts that happen on the Lake can affect the quality of the Tarawera Awa as the Lake is the headwaters of the Awa. Therefore any negative impacts on the Lake, are highly likely to also impact the water quality in the Awa.

Insert map from BOPRC

Ngā whainga o te rautaki nei

Our key objective to is to connect and engage with our communities. Our mission is to restore the mauri of the Tarawera River.

Our objectives are to increase awareness, engagement and to establish transparency for the development of the Tarawera River Strategy Document.

This communication and engagement strategy defines our key objectives and provides direction on the digital channels and types of messaging that will encourage people to engage on the development of the River Strategy and to become advocates and kaitiaki of the Tarawera Awa.

Legislative Framework and Requirements Table

The following table sets out the legislative framework for the development of the document. The blue highlight shows the relevant parts of the legislation that speaks directly to the communications/engagement required under the legislation.

Table 1: Legislative Framework and Requirements

Section 122(2) - Functions of the Strategy Group	(a) to develop a restoration strategy for the catchment, to be known as the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Document in accordance with this subpart; and (b) to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the Strategy Document; and (c) to run and oversee restoration projects as required under the Strategy Document; and (d) to seek funding for the restoration projects as required by the Strategy Document; and (e) to communicate with stakeholders and the wider community to explain how decisions made or activities affecting the catchment align, or could be aligned, with the common vision, objectives, and desired outcomes for the catchment; and (f) to establish 1 or more technical advisory groups as required, as outlined in section 134; and (g) to seek the advice of a technical advisory group or the relevant local government in support of restoration activities; and (h) to link stakeholders together so that activities that take place in the catchment, or that affect the mauri of the catchment, are compatible as far as possible with the common vision, objectives, and desired outcomes for the catchment; and (i) to provide a framework to assist central government agencies and local government so that they may have regard to the common vision, objectives, and desired outcomes for the Catchment; and (j) to undertake any other function required to achieve the purpose of the Strategy Group.
Section 132(2) - Stakeholders	(a) aim to educate stakeholders to understand the common vision of the catchment; and(b) invite stakeholders to participate in relevant aspects of the Strategy Group's business as appropriate

_	-		
	(1) The Strategy Group must prepare and approve the Strategy Document in accordance with the process set out in section 141.		
	(2) The purposes of the Strategy Document are—		
	(a) to outline a common vision, objectives, and desired outcomes for the catchment; and		
	(b) to identify the areas of the catchment that need particular attention in order to meet the common vision, objectives, and desired outcomes for the catchment; and		
Section 135 -	(c) to develop a way to measure how the common vision, objectives, and desired outcomes for the catchment are being achieved; and		
Purposes of the	(d) to identify stakeholder activities that take place in or on the catchment and affect the mauri of the catchment; and		
Strategy Document	(e) to identify how the activities referred to in paragraph (d) can be aligned to achieve the common vision, objectives, and desired outcomes for the catchment; and		
	(f) to provide a framework to assist central government agencies and local government to identify how decisions or activities affecting the catchment align, or could be aligned, with the common vision, objectives, and desired outcomes for the catchment; and		
	(g) to explain to stakeholders how decisions made in relation to the catchment, or activities in or on the catchment, are compatible with the common vision, objectives, and desired outcomes for the catchment.		
Section 136 -	The Strategy Document may contain—		
Contents of	(a) a common vision for the catchment; and		
Strategy	(b) objectives for the catchment; and		
Document	(c) desired outcomes for the catchment.		
	(1) This section applies to the preparation of the first draft Strategy Document.		
	(2) The Strategy Group must commence the preparation of the draft Strategy Document not later than 3 years after the settlement date.		
Section 139 -	(3) In preparing the draft Strategy Document, the Strategy Group must—		
Preparation of the first draft	(a) have regard to any alternatives to the common vision, objectives, and desired outcomes provided for in the draft Strategy Document and the potential benefits and costs of the common vision, objectives, and desired outcomes; and		
Strategy Document	(b) give persons who may be affected by the Strategy Document the opportunity and adequate time to participate in the development of the draft; and		
	(c) have regard to the views of persons who may be affected by the Strategy Document.		
	(4) The draft Strategy Document must include a proposed name for the Strategy Document.		

On completion of the draft Strategy Document, the notification and submissions process are set out in Section 140 of the Settlement Act

Our Audience – Te Hunga Whakarongo

- Iwi/Hapū/Whānau
- Resource consent holders and applicants within the catchment
- The Tarawera River community including Lake Tarawera, Kawerau, Edgecumbe, Matata
- Stakeholders and community members, such as rivers users (kayakers, swimmers, jet boats etc)
- Local Schools
- Visitors to the Area

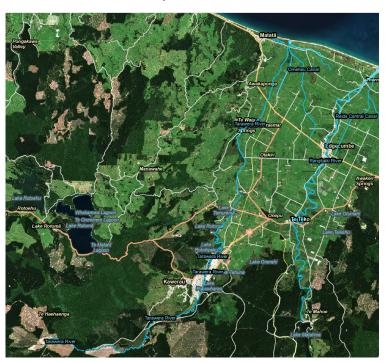
Iwi, hapu and whanau members have the deepest connection to the area, acting as Kaitiaki for generations. We embrace the wisdom of our tipuna and kaumatua and ensure their input is asked for and acknowledged

Resource consent holders and applicants

The Tarawera catchment supports a range of industries that require the use of natural resources. We want to engage with anyone who holds a water discharge or water take consent near the river to see how we can work together to restore the mauri of the awa by removing/reducing any negative impacts.

Tarawera River Catchment Community

The Tarawera River Community start at the headwater of the river – Lake Tarawera and reaches all the way to Te Awa o Te Atua at Matata. It includes all the communities within the Tarawera River catchment. The following maps shows the Tarawera River from the Tarawera Outlet to the Sea (BOPRC, can we get a better map with a riverline and polygon to show the extent of the Tarawera River and then the catchment):



Lake Tarawera Community

There is a community of homes and holiday homes located on Lake Tarawera. While the lake is not part of the Tarawera River, discharges to and water takes from the Lake have impact on the mauri of the river. Therefore it is important to understand the impact of those homes, on the mauri of the river. The following map shows the extent of Lake Tarawera and pinpoints the outlet to the Tarawera Awa (BOPRC can you provide a good map with pinpointing the outlet and a polygon for the lake)



Engagement Plan

Our Channels

Website

The website will act as an information portal where we will have relevant documents available to anyone interested in the development of the Strategy document.

Email

We have a single email address to send and receive information related to the development of the Strategy document: restoringtarawera@gmail.com.

Social Media

Public Events

Stakeholder meetings

Committee meetings

Presentations to Runanga as required

The first step in engaging our community was releasing the Tarawa Awa Aspirations Document. A copy of this document can be found on our website: www.restoringtarawera.co.nz (this doesn't exist yet)

The Aspirations Document has been produced by the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group. It is aimed at informing a wide range of stakeholders that:

- the TARSG exists,
- its membership,

 what its legislative purpose and high-level intentions for land use change necessary to restore the mauri of the catchment are

The next step involves developing the Strategy Document in line with legislative requirements. This includes outlining a common vision, objectives and desired outcomes for the catchment. The settlement legislation describes the matters to be included in the Strategy Document and the process to be followed to ensure all stakeholders are consulted and can participate in a submissions and hearings process that will lead to approval of the Strategy Document. These requirements have been included in Table 1 above

Once the Strategy Group has approved the Strategy Document, local authorities will be required to 'recognise and provide' for the common vision, objectives and desired outcomes of the Strategy Document each time changes are made to regional or district planning documents which have direct application in the Tarawera Awa catchment. In the interim period, while policy statements and plans are updated, local authorities will be required to have particular regard to the common vision, objectives and desired outcomes when considering resource consents to authorise activities within the Tarawera Awa catchment.

Timeframes

The following table sets out the intended timeframe for the development of the Strategy Document.

Table 2: Timeframes

Date	Activity
December 2022	TARSG formed and first hui held at Rangitihi Marae in Matata
January 2023 –	Development of Mauri paper and Aspirations Document
November 2023	Various meetings with Council staff regarding the appointment of
	a project manager and document writer.
	Document writer engaged to write Aspirations document as first
	task to be followed by Strategy Document
	Committee meetings held and a field trip to Essity was
	completed in October 2023?
December 2023	Project Manager and Communications/Engagement Advisor
	Stakeholder list collated and aspirations document circulated by email
January 2024	Regular project team meetings
	Newsletter sent out
	Website developer engaged
February 2024	TARSG Committee meeting to approve:
	project team
	 communications and engagement plan. Receive any changes,
	update and circulate
	Engage with Stakeholders including individual stakeholder hui
	Create and send out second newsletter
	Arrange drone footage for website
	Arrange photographer for website

Remaining timeframes need to be pulled together by the project team for inclusion above.

Tarawera Awa Newsletter



Kawerongo 1 | Edition 1

Ka ora te mauri, ka ora te awa o Tarawera, ka ora te tangata, ka mate te mauri, ka mate te awa o Tarawera, ka mate te tangata.

If the life force is well then the river Tarawera is well, and the people are well. If the mauri is compromised then the awa will die, and the people will perish.

elcome to the inaugural edition of the project newsletter from the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group (TARSG). In this first issue, we provide some contextual information on the group's origins, introduce the members, and present some overarching aspirations for the project.

The Tarawera Awa holds immense cultural and historical significance for Ngāti Rangitihi, Ngāti Awa, Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau and Ngāti Makino. It is considered an ancestor, embodying the mana of iwi who have a relationship with it. The Awa possesses a mauri (a lifeforce) and is viewed as an integral part of a holistic network of waterbodies, including Lake Tarawera and Te Awa o Te Atua.

Local communities hold a special place in their hearts for the Tarawera Awa with many having fond memories of swimming, fishing, and socialising in and along its banks. Unfortunately, alteration of its original course through the Rangitāiki Drainage Scheme, and pollution from the Kawerau Mill have significantly impacted water quality.

The TARSG emerged as a direct



outcome of Ngāti Rangitihi Te Tiriti o Waitangi Settlement. This provided a strong legislative platform to develop a restoration strategy within a co-governance framework. The TARSG is comprised of representatives from Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi Trust, Ngāti Mākino Iwi Authority, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Tūwharetoa (Bay of Plenty) Settlement Trust, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Kawerau District Council, Rotorua Lakes Council, and Whakatāne District Council

The formation of this rōpū was a critical first step in acknowledging the value of co-governance in achieving improved outcomes that

centre the river's well-being. The first task of the group was crafting a high-level Tarawera Awa Aspirations

Document 2023. To fulfil the TARSG's responsibilities, this aspirations document will help shape strategic objectives and subsequent action plans.

The TARSG identifies three essential aspirations for restoring Te Mauri o Tarawera: reconnecting the course of the Tarawera, Rangitaiki and Orini through Te Awa o te Atua and out to sea at Mihimarino (the original river mouth west of Matatā), protecting its waters from contamination, and regenerating the life-sustaining properties of the Tarawera Awa









Tarawera Awa Newsletter



Kawerongo 1 | Edition 1

and Te Awa o te Atua so that it can return to the food basket it once was.

We are fortunate to have recent examples of two highly regarded river documents -Te Maru o Kaituna He Taonga Tuku Iho - Kaituna River Document and the Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki River Document who have both achieved significant project milestones (including a river diversion) through the activation of their aspirations for their awa.

The TARSG recognises the special, environmental, social, economic, and cultural values of the Tarawera Awa, Rangitāiki, Orini, Te Awa o te Atua, and other waterways within the rohe and acknowledges the significant interest in this

project. We aim to collaborate with communities to ensure it becomes a meaningful journey that achieves improved outcomes for the Awa for future generations. A dedicated project team has been formed to gather information, develop a comprehensive project plan, and develop the strategy document based on technical, scientific, and cultural inputs. Essential to this effort is the embedding of a robust communications and engagement plan that prioritises relationships to ensure transparency and openness as the project progresses.

The TARSG looks forward to providing project updates via our bi-monthly newsletter.

Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group

Forum Dates 2024

Friday 16 February 2024 Venue BOPRC, Whakatane

Friday 31 May 2024

Friday 9 August 2024

Friday 1 November 2024

Please contact the project team at restoringtarawera@gmail.com if you have any pātai (questions) or queries.





"As a taonga tuku iho of great significance to Ngāti Rangitihi, Ngāti Awa, Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau and Ngāti Mākino, the Tarawera Awa remains the lifeblood of our people. We have an inherited responsibility to protect and advocate for our Tūpuna Awa and to ensure that our legacy of kaitiakitanga is handed down to our mokopuna in a way that celebrates the life force of the Tarawera and the wellbeing it provides for all"









Pūrongo Ki:Report To:

Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group

Rā Hui:

Meeting Date: 16 February 2024

Kaituhi Pūrongo: Merehine Waiari, Senior Advisor and Herewini Simpson,

Report Writer: Kaihautu (Te Amorangi Lead)

Kaiwhakamana Pūrongo:

Report Authoriser:

Kataraina O'Brien, General Manager, Strategic Engagement

Kaupapa: To inform the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group of

Purpose: the draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034 that Toi Moana will be

consulting on.

Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Consultation

Whakarāpopototanga Executive Summary

Toi Moana are currently working on the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP). The LTP will set the strategic direction for Toi Moana over the next ten years, including the work we deliver, and how that work will be funded.

Toi Moana are focused on working collaboratively with Māori as key contributors to strategic direction and leadership in the region. We recognise the Tarawera Restoration Group and the role we have in administering the Forum. The Tarawera Restoration Group was established via the Ngāti Rangitihi Treaty Settlement.

We will be consulting directly with tangata whenua from **Friday 8 March to Tuesday 9 April** on the draft LTP and the kaupapa Māori initiatives that have a direct impact on our partnerships with Māori. Through consultation, tangata whenua will have an opportunity to provide feedback that will help to inform the final decision-making for the LTP 2024-2034.

Ngā tūtohutanga Recommendations

That the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group:

1 Receives the report, Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Consultation.

1. He Whakamārama Background

Every three years we work with our community to create a LTP. The LTP sets the strategic direction for Toi Moana over the next ten years, including the work we deliver and how that work will be funded. Effective consultation with the community ensures that we make the right decisions for future generations. Toi Moana are also committed to ensuring we improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision making, including through the LTP.

We have developed this LTP during a period of change. We are proposing a dedicated community outcome Te Ara Poutama, which focuses on how Toi Moana will continue to work collaboratively with Māori over the next ten years. This will provide direction and identify key actions that are required across Toi Moana to enhance our partnerships with Māori.

This report provides an update on what Toi Moana will be consulting on for the LTP 2024-2034 that are most relevant to kaupapa Māori initiatives and the Tarawera Awa co-governance area.

2. LTP Consultation with Māori

2.1 Partnerships with Māori

The principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi and the partnership upon which it is founded are an established part of the local government framework. Māori hold a unique role in shaping and contributing to regional leadership and direction.

One of the proposed community outcomes, Te Ara Poutama, builds on Māori partnerships as a key priority and impact area. Through Te Ara Poutama, Toi Moana will work with tangata whenua to support enhanced Māori participation in operational activities, support Māori capacity and capability building, ensure an equitable approach to the four well-beings and delivery of community outcomes and partner with Māori to enhance delivery and share decision-making.

We welcome feedback from Māori on the proposed new community outcome Te Ara Poutama and the activities that will contribute to supporting this strategic direction. TARSG members are encouraged to provide any feedback they wish to which will inform the final LTP decision-making.

2.2 Consultation Questions

Toi Moana will be consulting with the community on three key issues in the consultation document from **Friday 8 March to Tuesday 9 April** and will be seeking feedback on the options for addressing these issues and any other matters related to our services and rates.

The consultation questions will focus on public transport, regional parks and a staged sell down in our Port of Tauranga Limited shareholding (via Quayside Holdings Limited). In December 2023, we notified iwi leaders that we would be consulting on the potential sell down in our Port of Tauranga Limited shares. We acknowledge that

there are tangata whenua interests in the Port and welcome feedback on this proposal.

The LTP consultation document will be adopted and made publicly available in March 2024.

2.3 Direct Engagement with Māori

We are inviting direct engagement with iwi authorities, co-governance entities and other Māori leaders with our Māori Councillors on the draft LTP during the consultation period.

We will also be holding online wananga in each of the three Maori constituencies on the following dates:

- Mauao: Thursday 14 March 2024 at 12.30pm (online and in person)
- Ōkurei: Monday 18 March 2024 at 12.30pm
- Kōhī: Thursday 21 March 2024 at 12.30pm

The online wānanga will primarily be focused on the kaupapa Māori initiatives within the draft LTP but will also cover the three key issues Toi Moana are consulting on. Attendees can ask our Māori Councillors questions and discuss the issues and options with other key staff to help inform any feedback.

Council staff will also be attending community events during the consultation period. Further details regarding the community events and online wānanga will be available through the <u>Participate</u> webpage and emailed to our Māori contacts list.

3. Ngā Whakaarohanga Considerations

3.1 Ngā Mōrea me Ngā Whakangāwaritanga Risks and Mitigations

There are currently high engagement demands on Māori, which may make it difficult for Toi Moana to secure Māori participation during the consultation period.

This is being mitigated through pre-engagement where possible, however the LTP consultation document is still in draft and the consultation questions may be subject to change. Any significant changes will be notified to Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group, other co-governance entities and iwi leaders Toi Moana have engaged with prior to the consultation period.

3.2 Huringa Āhuarangi Climate Change

The matters addressed in this report are of a procedural nature and there is no need to consider climate change impacts.

Climate change impacts will be considered by Toi Moana in the LTP and will be supported by Te Ara Poutama regarding how Toi Moana can partner with Māori to address the climate challenges in the future.

3.3 **Ngā Pānga ki te Māori Implications for Māori**

The LTP sets the strategic direction for Toi Moana over the next ten years, including the work we deliver and how that work will be funded. Māori hold a unique role in shaping and contributing to regional leadership and direction as a te Tiriti/Treaty partner.

Council must use the special consultative procedure in adopting the LTP under sections 93(2) and 93A of the LGA. This requires Council to clearly present the significant issues, plans and projects proposed for the LTP and provide an opportunity for the community to give feedback that will help to inform the final decision-making. Under section 81(1)(a) of the LGA, Council must also establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making.

Toi Moana are committed to providing opportunities for effective consultation with Māori on the LTP 2024-2034, so that Māori are informed and can provide feedback on the significant issues, plans and projects that are relevant for Māori over the next ten years. Toi Moana Māori Councillors and staff are also open to meeting with cogovernance entities and iwi leaders to discuss the LTP prior to the consultation period.

3.4 Whakawhitiwhiti ā-Hapori Community Engagement



CONSULT Whakauiuia

To obtain input or feedback from affected communities about our analysis, alternatives, and /or proposed decisions.

Toi Moana are inviting direct engagement with Māori during the LTP consultation period from **Friday 8 March to Tuesday 9 April.** This will involve direct engagement with Māori leaders and co-governance entities as well as online wānanga and staff presence at community events.

3.5 **Te Hāngai ki te Pou Tarāwaho Rautaki Alignment with Strategic Framework**

Many of the core functions of Toi Moana directly impact on the mauri of the Tarawera Awa catchment. The services we deliver and how they are funded that are set in the LTP, are therefore relevant to the purpose of the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group. This includes how we aim to partner with Māori in achieving shared outcomes over the next ten years.

3.6 **Ngā Pānga ā-Pūtea Financial Implications**

There are no material unbudgeted financial implications and this fits within the allocated budget.

4. Ngā Mahi Whai Ake Next Steps

Following consultation on the LTP, Toi Moana will hold hearings in May 2024. This will provide submitters with an opportunity to speak to Toi Moana Councillors about their submission.

Council will then review all feedback and formally adopt the final LTP 2024-2034 in June 2024.