



Appendix 10: Waikato River Corridor and Gully Systems

10-1 Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River

10-1.1 Waikato Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act¹

The Waikato Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 (the Act) gave effect to the 2009 deed of settlement in respect of the **raupatu** claims of Waikato-Tainui over the Waikato River. The overarching purpose of the settlement is to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the river for future generations.

The purpose of the Act, as set out in Section 4 is to:

- a. *Give effect to the settlement of raupatu claims under the 2009 deed.*
- b. *Recognise the significance of the Waikato River to Waikato-Tainui.*
- c. *Recognise the vision and strategy for the Waikato River.*
- d. *Establish and grant functions and powers to the Waikato River Authority.*
- e. *Establish the Waikato River Clean-up Trust.*
- f. *Recognise certain customary activities of Waikato-Tainui.*
- g. *Provide co-management arrangements for the Waikato River.*
- h. *Provide redress to Waikato-Tainui relating to certain assets.*
- i. *Recognise redress to Waikato-Tainui of the Kiingitanga Accord and other accords provided for in the schedule of the Kiingitanga Accord.*

10-1.2 The Vision and Strategy and the Hamilton District Plan

Schedule 2 of the Act contains Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato – the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River. The Vision and Strategy is the primary direction-setting document for the Waikato River and its catchments. The Act must be interpreted in a manner that best furthers the Vision and Strategy.

Under Section 11 of the Act, the Vision and Strategy is deemed in its entirety to be part of the Regional Policy Statement without the need for public consultation. The Regional Policy Statement cannot be inconsistent with the Vision and Strategy. If there is any inconsistency, the Vision and Strategy prevails over that part of the Regional Policy Statement. This also applies to any future reviews of the Vision and Strategy.

The District Plan must give effect to the Regional Policy Statement.

10-1.3 Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River

10-1.3.1 Vision for the Waikato River

Tooku awa koiora me oona pikonga he kura tangihia o te maataamuri

“The river of life, each curve more beautiful than the last”

Our vision is for a future where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, and all it embraces, for generations to come.

10-1.3.2 Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River

10-1.3.2.1 Objectives for the Waikato River

In order to realise the vision, the following objectives will be pursued.

- a) The restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- b) The restoration and protection of the relationships of Waikato-Tainui with the Waikato River, including their economic, social, cultural, and spiritual relationships.
- c) The restoration and protection of the relationships of Waikato River Iwi according to their tikanga and kawa with the Waikato River, including their economic, social, cultural and spiritual relationships.
- d) The restoration and protection of the relationships of the Waikato Region's communities, with the Waikato River, including their economic, social, cultural and spiritual relationships.
- e) The integrated, holistic and co-ordinated approach to management of the natural, physical, cultural, and historic resources of the Waikato River.
- f) The adoption of a precautionary approach towards decisions that may result in significant adverse effects on the Waikato River, and in particular, those effects that threaten serious or irreversible damage to the Waikato River.
- g) The recognition and avoidance of adverse cumulative effects, and potential cumulative effects, of activities undertaken both on the Waikato River and within the catchment on the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- h) The recognition that the Waikato River is degraded and should not be required to absorb further degradation as a result of human activities.
- i) The protection and enhancement of significant sites, fisheries, flora and fauna.
- j) The recognition that the strategic importance of the Waikato River to New Zealand's social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing, requires the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- k) The restoration of water quality within the Waikato River so that it is safe for people to swim in and take food from over its entire length.
- l) The promotion of improved access to the Waikato River to better enable sporting, recreational, and cultural opportunities.
- m) The application to the above of both maatauranga Maaori and the latest available scientific methods.

10-1.3.3 Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River

10-1.3.3.1 Strategies for the Waikato River

To achieve the vision, the following strategies will be followed.

- a) Ensure that the highest level of recognition is given to the restoration and protection of the Waikato River.
- b) Establish what the current health status of the Waikato River is by utilising maatauranga Maaori and latest available scientific methods.
- c) Develop targets for improving the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River by utilising maatauranga Maaori and latest available scientific methods.
- d) Develop and implement a programme of action to achieve the targets for improving the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- e) Develop and share local, national and international expertise, including indigenous expertise, on rivers and activities within their catchments that may be applied to the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- f) Recognise and protect waahi tapu and sites of significance to Waikato-Tainui and other Waikato River iwi (where they do decide) to promote their cultural, spiritual and historic relationship with the Waikato River.
- g) Recognise and protect appropriate sites associated with the Waikato River that are of significance to the Waikato regional community.
- h) Actively promote and foster public knowledge and understanding of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River among all sectors of the Waikato community.
- i) Encourage and foster a 'whole of river' approach to the restoration and protection of the Waikato River, including the development, recognition and promotion of best practice methods for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- j) Establish new, and enhance existing, relationships between Waikato-Tainui, other Waikato River iwi (where they so decide), and stakeholders with an interest in advancing, restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- k) Ensure that cumulative adverse effects of activities on the Waikato River are appropriately managed in statutory planning documents at the time of their review.
- l) Ensure appropriate public access to the Waikato River while protecting and enhancing health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

Note

1. The Vision and Strategy is recognised by the Resource Management Act and by a number of other statutes, refer to sections 12, 15, 16 and 17 of the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010.