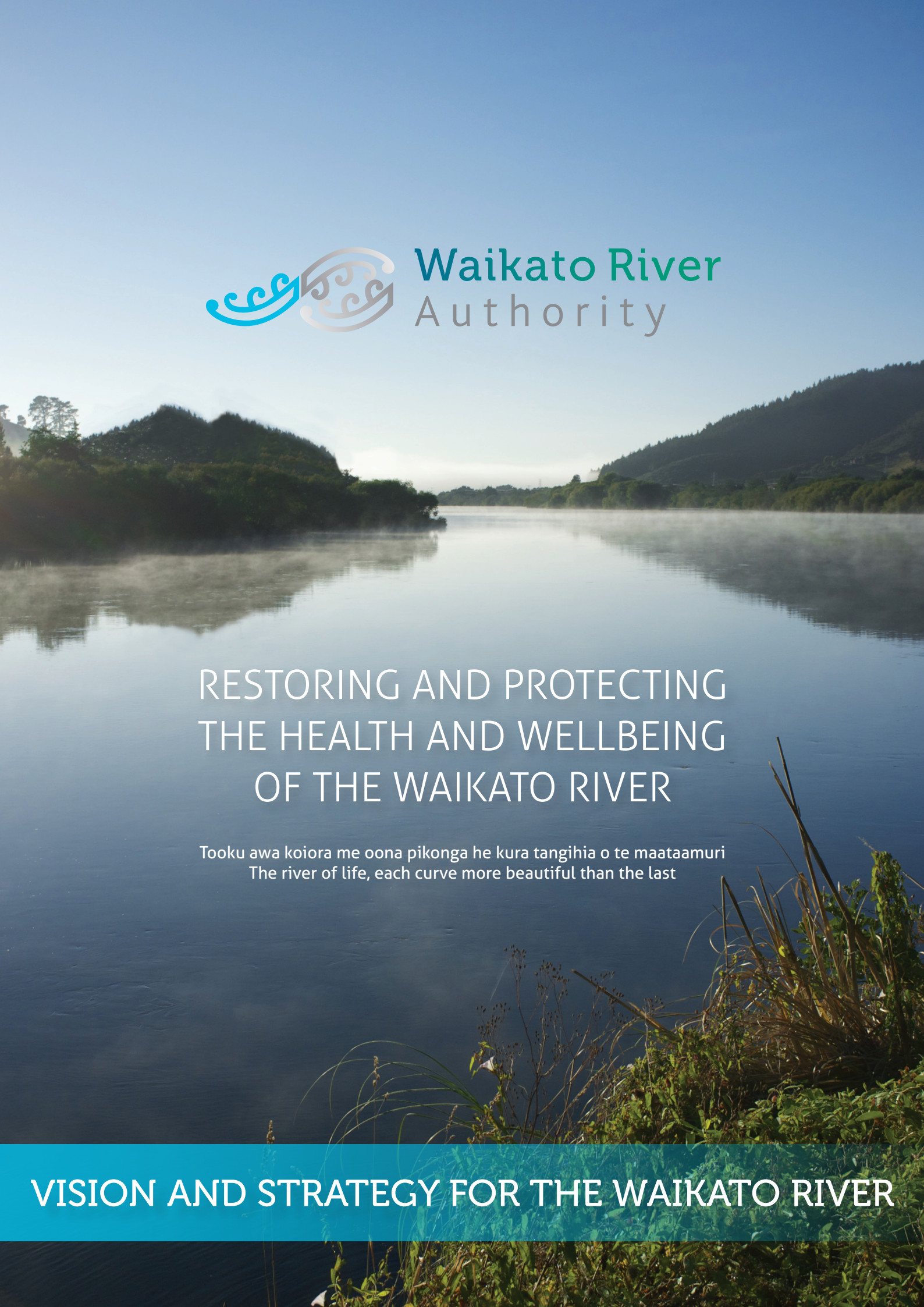


Waikato River Authority

RESTORING AND PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF 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

VISION AND STRATEGY FOR THE WAIKATO RIVER

Waikato River Authority

HE MIHI

Tiwha tiwha te poo ea te Ao
Kau ngaa tai o Reehua ki uta
He rongo i tuuria ki te matahau
No Tuu te winiwini
No Tuu te wanawana
Tihei Mauriora
Ko te wehi ki te Atua Ko ia te timatanga o te whakaaro nui
Me whakahoonoretia te Kiingi Maaori a Kiingi Tuheitia, e noho mai na i runga i te torona tapu o oona tuupuna me toona whaea.
E ngaa mana, e ngaa reo, e ngaa waka, e rau rangatira maa teenaa koutou,teenaa koutou, teenaa koutou kaatoa

Ki a ratou kua riro ki tua o Paerau, ngaa mate huhua o te waa, haere ki te kainga i tauiratia mo taatou mo te tangata, oti atu koutou ki Hawaiki nui, ki Hawaiki roa ki Hawaiki paamamao

E kore e mutu te whakamihi atu ki ngaa tuupuna na raatou te kaha, na raatou hoki i whakatoo te whakaaro kia whakamanawa maatou ki te tiaki i te mana me te mauri o te Awa o Waikato i raro i ngaa tikanga tuku iho.

Ko te taumata, ko te mahi tahi a ngaa Iwi katoa ahakoa Maaori mai Pakeha mai, mo te oranga o taa taatou tuupuna awa te kaupapa tino whakaharahara rawa atu. Kia tika ai te koorero o Kiingi Taawhiao,'Tooku awa koiora me oona pikonga he kura tangihia o te maataamuri'

No reira kia uu kia kaha kia mataara taatou ki te mahitahi mo te oranga o te awa o Waikato te take.

Foreword

The Waikato River Authority's enabling legislation has given it an important role as the custodian of the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River.

The Authority has two main aspects to its work. As the sole trustee of the Waikato River Clean-up Trust, it is able to fund projects that contribute to the health and wellbeing of the river. The Authority is also charged with safeguarding the importance of the Vision and Strategy in policy that relates to the health of the river.

The task ahead is significant with the Vision and Strategy applying to 11,000 square kilometres of Waikato River catchment and the government contributing $220 million over a 30-year period.

Because restoring and protecting the Waikato River is such a long-term undertaking, the Waikato River Authority will also work towards the creation of an endowment fund so that the river clean-up work can carry on in perpetuity.

Collaboration is crucial for a cleaner river. Waikato River iwi, industry, central and local government and of course the wider community all have a key role to play now and into the future.

Kia ora



Tukoroirangi Morgan
Co-chairperson



Hon John Luxton
Co-chairperson

BACKGROUND

The Waikato River Authority was established in 2010 as the custodian of the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River. The Authority is also the body responsible for overseeing the implementation of the clean-up of the river.

The Vision and Strategy was developed and published in 2008 under the watch and direction of the Guardians Establishment Committee. Consultative hui, public open days and meetings with stakeholders with an interest and connection with the Waikato River were held. In addition submissions were called for and received which guided the formation of the Vision and Strategy.

THE VISION AND STRATEGY RESPONDS TO FOUR FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES AS SET OUT BELOW:

1. The degradation of the Waikato River and its catchment has severely compromised Waikato River iwi in their ability to exercise mana whakahaere or conduct their tikanga and kawa;
2. Over time, human activities along the Waikato River and land uses through its catchments have degraded the Waikato River and reduced the relationships and aspirations of communities with the Waikato River;
3. The natural processes of the Waikato River have been altered over time by physical intervention, land use and subsurface hydrological changes. The cumulative effects of these uses have degraded the Waikato River; and
4. It will take commitment and time to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

The Vision is consistent with the overarching purpose of the settlement between Waikato-Tainui and the Crown to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. The Vision and Strategy incorporates the objectives provided by Waikato-Tainui as set out in the Agreement in Principle, and other objectives that reflect the interests of Waikato River iwi, and of all New Zealanders.

As the Waikato River is important to all the people of the region, the ultimate measure of this Vision and Strategy will be that the Waikato River will be safe for people to swim in and take food from over its entire length.

HISTORIC TIMELINE

1858

Establishment of the Kiingitanga to unite the tribes, to retain lands and cease tribal warfare. Kiingi Pootatau Te Wherowhero was crowned the first Maaori King.

1863

New Zealand Settlements Act passed into legislation to lawfully confiscate land (raupatu). The Act was to enable the taking of lands to provide for settlers. Waikato suffered raupatu.

1987

Waikato River Claim filed with the Waitangi Tribunal.

2007

Crown and Waikato-Tainui reach an Agreement in Principle regarding the outstanding claim to the Waikato River. This agreement included the formation of Guardians Establishment Committee to develop a Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River.

2008

Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River published.

2010

Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 and the Ngaati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010 passed into law as enabling legislation for the Waikato River Authority.

2010

Waikato River Authority and Waikato River Clean-up Trust established.

2011

First funding round for Waikato River clean-up projects announced.

Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River reviewed with no amendments made.

2012

Ngaa Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012 passed into legislation extending boundaries for the Vision and Strategy to include all of the Waipa River.

Vision and Strategy

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.

This Vision and Strategy is Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato

Tooku awa koiora me oona pikonga he kura
The river of life, each curve more
tangihia o te maataamuri
beautiful than the last

These words form part of the Vision and are taken from the maimai aroha, or lament, by Kiingi Taawhiao, the second Maaori King, in which he recorded his adoration for the Waikato River and the significance of the river as a treasure for all generations. These visionary words inspire the actions that will be necessary to restore the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.



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 relationship of Waikato-Tainui with the Waikato River, including their economic, social, cultural, and spiritual relationships.

c. The restoration and protection of the relationship 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 relationship of the Waikato region's communities with the Waikato River including their economic, social, cultural and spiritual relationships.

e. The integrated, holistic and coordinated 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 its catchments 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 latest available scientific methods.

STRATEGIES FOR THE WAIKATO RIVER

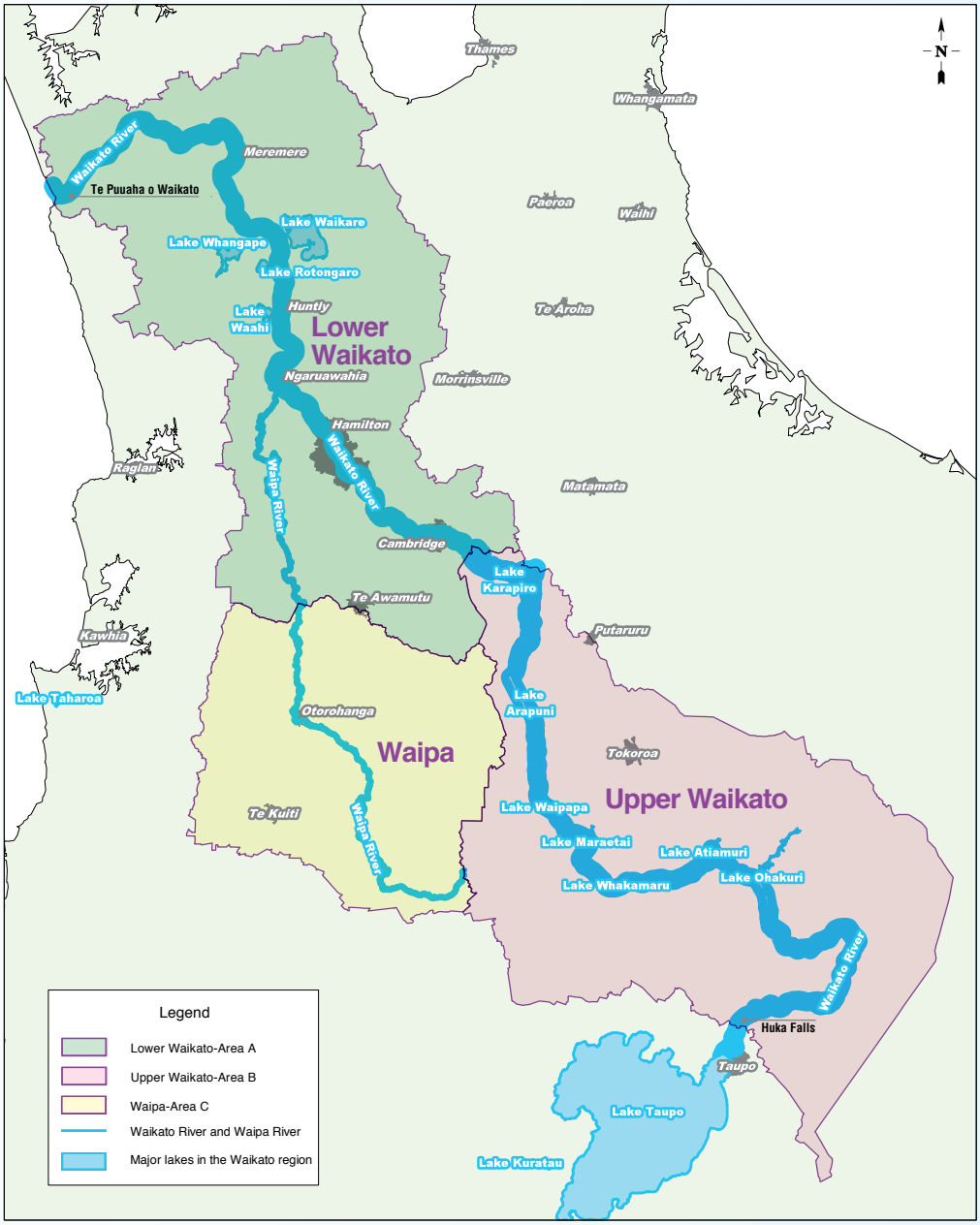
To achieve the Objectives, the following Strategies will be implemented:

1. Ensure that the highest level of recognition is given to the restoration and protection of the Waikato River.
2. Establish what the current health status of the Waikato River is by utilising maatauranga Maaori and latest available scientific methods.
3. Develop targets for improving the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River by utilising maatauranga Maaori and latest available scientific methods.
4. Develop and implement a programme of action to achieve the targets for improving the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
5. 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.
6. Recognise and protect waahi tapu and sites of significance to Waikato-Tainui and other Waikato River iwi (where they so decide) to promote their cultural, spiritual and historic relationship with the Waikato River.
7. Recognise and protect appropriate sites associated with the Waikato River that are of significance to the Waikato regional community.
8. Actively promote and foster public knowledge and understanding of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River among all sectors of the Waikato regional community.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Ensure that cumulative adverse effects on the Waikato River of activities are appropriately managed in statutory planning documents at the time of their review.
12. Ensure appropriate public access to the Waikato River while protecting and enhancing the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

THE AREA SUBJECT TO THE VISION AND STRATEGY

As the Waikato River is important to all the people of the region, the ultimate measure of this Vision and Strategy will be that the Waikato River will be safe for people to swim in and take food from over its entire length.

The area that the Vision and Strategy applies to is the Waikato River from Huka Falls to Te Puuaha o Waikato and the length of the Waipa River to its junction with the Waikato River as shown in the map below. The Vision and Strategy also applies to the activities in the catchments affecting the Waikato River.





Courtesy of the Waikato Times

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