PART A

TE WĀHANGA A

1 Issues

The Resource Management Act requires regional policy statements to state both the regionally significant resource management issues and issues of significance to **iwi** authorities of the region. This section fulfils both requirements.

Issue 1.1 State of resources

Declining quality and quantity of **natural and physical resources** impacts their life-supporting capacity, reduces **intrinsic values** and **ecosystem services** and in general reduces our ability to provide for our wellbeing.

While addressing this issue generally, specific focus should be directed to addressing the following matters:

a) restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipa Rivers;

b) unacceptable risk to human health from poor air quality caused by fine particulate matter;

c) effects of intensive land based activities by the accumulation of **contaminants** from point and non-point sources in soils and the effects on water quality;

d) efficient allocation and efficient use of freshwater resources;

e) effects of sedimentation and nutrients in estuaries and harbours that is not derived from natural processes;

f) **indigenous biodiversity** decline;

g) increasing potential for conflicts between activities in the **coastal marine area**;

h) increasing demand and competition for **fresh water** and the need for management responses to address conflicting demands, existing over-allocation at a **catchment** level, and to avoid any further over allocation;

i) the interrelationship between the volume of water abstracted and the quality of the water remaining in the **water body**;

j) the availability of water to enable people and communities to provide for their existing and future social, economic and cultural wellbeing;

k) better integration of land use and water resource planning;

l) riparian margins and the interrelationship between the land and water interface, and impact on freshwater quality and quantity; and

m) loss of outstanding natural landscapes and features and the **natural character** of the **coastal environment** and **wetlands**, and lakes, and rivers and their margins.

Issue 1.1 is addressed by the following objectives:

3.1	*Integrated management*	*3.14*	*Mauri and values of fresh water bodies*
3.2	*Resource use and development*	*3.15*	*Allocation and use of fresh water*
3.3	*Decision making*	*3.16*	*Riparian areas and wetlands*
3.4	*Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River*	*3.17*	*Geothermal*
3.5	*Energy*	*3.18*	*Historic and cultural heritage*
3.6	*Adapting to climate change*	*3.19*	*Ecological integrity and indigenous biodiversity*
3.7	*Coastal environment*	*3.20*	*Outstanding natural features and landscapes*
3.8	*Ecosystem services*	*3.21*	*Amenity*
3.9	*Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment*	*3.22*	*Natural character*
3.10	*Sustainable and efficient use of resources*	*3.23*	*Public access*
3.11	*Air quality*	*3.24*	*Natural hazards*
3.12	*Built environment*	*3.25*	*Values of soil*
3.13	*Marine water quality*	*3.26*	*High class soils*

Explanation

Natural and physical resources include air, water, energy, **minerals**, soil, plants, animals and the things we build such as **infrastructure**. We rely on natural and physical resources for our social, cultural and economic wellbeing, as will future generations. Natural resources also have intrinsic value, or a value beyond their usefulness to us.

Through the use of natural and physical resources we provide for the necessities of life as well as the comforts and pleasures that come with prosperity. In order to remain prosperous and healthy, we need continued access to a healthy environment. We need to ensure ecosystems can continue to provide us with the services we rely on such as healthy soils to grow food, clean water for drinking and to service our farms and industries, wetlands to provide flood protection and water purification, clean air to breathe, and so on.

A healthy environment not only provides for our physical needs, but also influences our sense of wellbeing. People derive satisfaction from having access to natural areas and living in healthy and attractive surroundings. The health and **mauri** of the environment is important to the tāngata whenua of the region who view much of the degradation that occurs as unacceptable. Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of the environment is consistent with the holistic and inter-connected view **tāngata whenua** have of the environment, and their role as **kaitiaki**.

In many ways, our use of natural and physical resources is resulting in their declining quality and quantity or availability. Use of resources by one party can conflict with the way others want to use a resource. The matters of particular concern in the Waikato region are as follows:

- There are areas where poor air quality is resulting in unacceptable health risks. This mainly occurs in certain **urban** areas due to fine particulate matter.
- Some intensive land use practices are causing a reduction in **soil quality** including damage to soil structure, fertility and porosity, and a build-up of contaminants such as cadmium, zinc and fluorine. Some land uses are also resulting in reduced water quality in some areas, such as by causing an increase in nutrients, sediment, pathogens and algal growth in water bodies.
- There is an increase in demand and competition for fresh water, with some catchments that are already over allocated.
- Indigenous biodiversity, including fisheries, is continuing to decline, mainly due to reducing health and extent of natural ecosystems.
- Increasing pressure for development in the coastal marine area is likely to lead to increasing tensions between uses such as aquaculture, recreation, tourism, energy developments and sea floor mining.
- Increasing pressure on outstanding natural landscapes and features and the natural character of the coastal environment and inland water bodies from development.

Issue 1.2 Effects of climate change

The effects of climate change (including climate variability) may impact our ability to provide for our wellbeing, including health and safety.

While addressing this issue generally, specific focus should be directed to the following matters:

a) increased potential for storm damage and weather-related **natural hazards**; and

b) long-term risks of sea level rise to settlements and infrastructure such as through increased coastal flooding and erosion.

Issue 1.2 is addressed by the following objectives:			
3.1	*Integrated management*	*3.8*	*Ecosystem services*
3.2	*Resource use and development*	*3.12*	*Built environment*
3.3	*Decision making*	*3.15*	*Allocation and use of fresh water*
3.6	*Adapting to climate change*	*3.19*	*Ecological integrity and indigenous biodiversity*
3.7	*Coastal environment*	*3.24*	*Natural hazards*

Explanation

Under the Resource Management Act, Waikato Regional Council is required to have particular regard to the effects of climate change. The council should ensure that we prepare for and adapt to these changes so that their impacts on us and on resources is minimised. New Zealand's response in terms of actions to reduce climate change is primarily a central government rather than a local government role.

As a result of climate change, the Waikato region is at risk from increasing sea levels and greater climate variability, including changing temperature and rainfall patterns, and increasing storm intensities.

In terms of resource management, the main immediate threats that need to be responded to are the effects from higher storm intensities and potential for weather-related natural hazards such as floods, slips and drought. In some cases, these pose significant risks to life and property.

Over the longer term, climate change and sea level rise is likely to increase risks to coastal properties due to increased coastal flooding and erosion. Although sea level rise will happen gradually, we need to make responsible decisions today about the nature of development in coastal areas if we are to minimise risks to our communities.

The changing climate will also lead to changes in the habitat range of plant and animal species, including pest and domestic species. We can therefore expect to face challenges in managing indigenous biodiversity and biosecurity including the increased incursions of pest species that may have previously been unable to survive in our climate. We can also expect there to be implications for **primary production** industries, such as:

- changes to the region's suitability for different types of farming; and
- water storage.

Issue 1.3 Providing for energy demand

With increasing demand for energy coupled with Government objectives and targets regarding renewable electricity generation, there is an increasing need for improvements in the way we use energy, and for new energy projects and associated **infrastructure**, and increasing need to manage potential adverse effects on natural and physical resources.

While addressing this issue generally, specific focus should be directed to addressing the following matters:

a) how the increasing demand for energy is to be met;

b) potential for conflicts between activities to meet energy demand and other land or water uses including natural values;

c) the need to locate renewable energy generation infrastructure where the resource exists;

d) the need to maintain the efficiency of, and production from, existing **renewable electricity generation** activities;

e) the need for the continued existence, and operation of the Waikato Hydro-scheme as significant national infrastructure; and

f) security of supply.

Issue 1.3 is addressed by the following objectives:			
3.1	*Integrated management*	*3.8*	*Ecosystem services*
3.2	*Resource use and development*	*3.10*	*Sustainable and efficient use of resources*
3.3	*Decision making*	*3.12*	*Built environment*
3.5	*Energy*	*3.15*	*Allocation and use of fresh water*
3.7	*Coastal environment*	*3.17*	*Geothermal*

Explanation

Demand for energy is increasing in order to service our growing population, economic development, expanding urban areas and more technological lifestyles. We are travelling more and freighting more product, which is adding further to energy demand. On the supply side, we are facing a decline in availability of oil and an increase in its cost.

The Waikato region is rich in energy resources including geothermal, water (for hydro), coal, marine and wind. It is also a region crossed by important energy transmission lines that take gas and electricity from energy sources in the south to the Auckland region in the north. Historically the Waikato Region has been substantially shaped by the development of the Waikato Hydro Scheme which is a contributor to New Zealand's energy needs. Electricity generation and transmission activities in the Waikato Region make a contribution to national electricity generation capacity and supply. There is likely to be increasing demand for new electricity generation and transmission infrastructure through the region.

To provide for our increasing energy demands, there will be further pressure for development of the region's energy resources. We will need to find new ways of meeting energy demands into the future including the ability to apply local solutions in rural and remote areas. Central government has objectives and targets for renewable electricity generation recognising the need to focus on development of those sources. This will create a greater need to manage impacts on existing renewable electricity generation activities and promote new electricity generations from energy sources such as geothermal, wind, hydro, tides, wave energy and possibly biofuels. Development of renewable energy resources results in a range of local and national benefits including those associated with increased security of supply and reduced greenhouse emissions.

The development of new energy sources and related infrastructure poses potential for greater effects on resources such as water bodies, landscapes and biodiversity. It will also mean greater potential for conflicts with existing land and water uses. These matters need to be carefully managed into the future, to ensure that appropriate environmental outcomes are maintained while meeting renewable energy generation needs.

Issue 1.4 Managing the built environment

Development of the **built environment** including infrastructure has the potential to positively or negatively impact on our ability to sustainably manage natural and physical resources and provide for our wellbeing.

While addressing this issue generally, specific focus should be directed to the following matters:

a) high pressure for development in Hamilton City, Waipa District, Waikato District, around Lake Taupō, along the Waikato River and in the coastal environment;

b) increasing potential for natural hazards;

c) increasing conflict with, and demands for, new infrastructure;

d) the need to use existing infrastructure efficiently and to maintain and enhance that infrastructure;

e) protecting domestic and municipal water supply sources from the adverse effects of land use;

f) the effect of development on access to mineral resources (particularly aggregates), high class soils, and future energy development sites;

g) increasing impacts on and conflicts with existing resource users;

h) the underperformance of some elements of Hamilton's central business district and consequential effects on its function, amenity and vitality as a result of unplanned dispersal of retail and office development;

i) the integrated relationship between land use and development, and the transport infrastructure network;

j) the contribution of **regionally significant industry** and primary production to economic, social and cultural wellbeing, and the need for those industries to access natural and physical resources, having regard to catchment specific situations;

k) increased need for the future provision of infrastructure to respond to resource demands from within and outside the region and the need to enable efficient installation of that infrastructure; and

l) the availability of water to meet existing, and reasonably justifiable and foreseeable **domestic or municipal supply** requirements to support planned urban growth, including promoting the integration of land use and water planning.

Issue 1.4 is addressed by the following objectives:

3.1	*Integrated management*	*3.11*	*Air quality*
3.2	*Resource use and development*	*3.12*	*Built environment*
3.3	*Decision making*	*3.17*	*Geothermal*
3.5	*Energy*	*3.18*	*Historic and cultural heritage*
3.6	*Adapting to climate change*	*3.21*	*Amenity*
3.7	*Coastal environment*	*3.22*	*Natural character*
3.10	*Sustainable and efficient use of resources*	*3.24*	*Natural hazards*

Explanation

Under the Resource Management Act, physical resources must be sustainably managed. The built environment includes physical resources such as buildings and infrastructure, which are important for our social, economic and cultural wellbeing.

The Resource Management Act requires the strategic integration of infrastructure with land use. Efficient and effective infrastructure is crucial for our economic progress and social and physical wellbeing. However, land use change can adversely affect this, for example ribbon development along arterial roads can result in the slowing of traffic and may consequentially affect the efficiency of transport along these routes.

Development can also lead to a range of other undesirable and unsustainable outcomes if not appropriately managed. For example:

- **reverse sensitivity** issues;
- natural hazards are increasing due to ongoing development in hazard prone areas;
- The region supports a range of primary production activities, which require a range of attributes, such as soil, climate, water, access to transportation and labour. Inappropriate subdivision, use and development may limit access to such resources and hence the ability for primary production activities to be undertaken;
- minerals are sometimes made inaccessible by urban and rural-residential development. Such development can be very important to the region, but requires careful management to avoid these kinds of outcomes; and
- land use development that adversely affects municipal water supplies.

The benefits and positive effects of the use and development of resources also need to be recognised in order to achieve balance when assessing the potential effects of activities.

Hamilton's central business district's continued viability, vibrancy and accessibility is significant to the entire region. The previous planning framework has enabled an unplanned dispersal of retail and office development which has contributed to the underperformance of some elements of the central business district with consequential effects on its function, amenity and vitality.

Regionally significant industry and primary production play an important role in providing for the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of people and communities. The sustainable management of natural and physical resources needs to consider the ability and need for regionally significant industry and primary production to have appropriate access to resources in order for them to continue to successfully operate and develop, having regard to catchment specific situations.

Territorial authorities manage land use change through district plans. Increasingly, tools such as structure plans and growth strategies are important in high growth areas. In areas of the region that are not experiencing the pressure of high growth, planning principles that prevent unsustainable outcomes should still be the foundation of district plans. There is a need to keep improving strategic planning for development in order to ensure ongoing development is sustainable.

Issue 1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)

The relationship tāngata whenua have with the domains of **Ranginui** and **Papatūānuku** is of paramount importance and this relationship is being damaged through:

a) activities which degrade the mauri of the environment, including through cumulative effects;

b) loss of access to, and use and enjoyment of, resources and places;

c) loss or diminishment of the ability of **tāngata whenua** to be involved in or influence management decisions; and

d) loss of ability to exercise and provide for **kaitiakitanga**.

Issue 1.5 is addressed by the following objectives:

3.1	*Integrated management*	*3.14*	*Mauri and values of fresh water bodies*
3.2	*Resource use and development*	*3.15*	*Allocation and use of fresh water*
3.3	*Decision making*	*3.16*	*Riparian areas and wetlands*
3.4	*Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River*	*3.18*	*Historic and cultural heritage*
3.7	*Coastal environment*	*3.19*	*Ecological integrity and indigenous biodiversity*
3.8	*Ecosystem services*	*3.20*	*Outstanding natural features and landscapes*
3.9	*Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment*	*3.21*	*Amenity*
3.10	*Sustainable and efficient use of resources*	*3.22*	*Natural character*
3.12	*Built environment*	*3.23*	*Public access*
3.13	*Mauri and health of marine waters*	*3.25*	*Values of soil*

Explanation

Māori see the natural world holistically – being wholly inter-connected and complementary. According to this concept Ranginui (sky), Papatūānuku (Earth), the mountains, open lands, rivers and the sea and the life therein exist seamlessly together and not as individual resources in isolation from one another. Māori believe that humans, too, form part of the natural world. An interdependent relationship exists between humans and the natural world. This allows people to live off the environment and use resources but at the same time requires them to ensure that they are cared for and protected. This relationship extends from ancestral beginnings and carries with it resource management knowledge (a component of **mātauranga Māori**) and responsibilities that are shared by successive generations. The nature of this relationship is recognised and provided for in Part II of the Resource Management Act.

Mātauranga Māori informs **tikanga** and **kawa** which guide resource management practices used by tāngata whenua. An example of such a practice is the imposition of **rāhui** to enable regeneration of stocks, to preserve and protect species, or to minimise any adverse effects of resource use. The relationship with **te taiao** suffers when tāngata whenua cannot fulfil their responsibilities, including managing resources to ensure mauri is preserved and that they are not depleted beyond their ability to replenish. These management responsibilities are embodied in the concept of **kaitiakitanga**. Kaitiakitanga extends beyond purely protection or preservation of resources to use and enjoyment, and includes for economic purposes.

An inability to influence decision making has been a long-standing and common concern of tāngata whenua within the region. One of the impacts of this is on the ability of tāngata whenua to effectively carry out their **kaitiaki** duties. While there has been improvement in recent years, including through the settlement of Treaty of Waitangi claims, this remains an issue for tāngata whenua.

A lack of understanding, awareness and recognition of the nature and existence of cultural heritage and its importance to tāngata whenua has frequently led to the destruction of areas, sites, places, landscapes or resources of significance, or the destruction of their values and/or of the relationship of tāngata whenua with them.

Issue 1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

The health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, its major tributary the Waipa River, and their catchments has been and continues to be degraded. Of particular concern is:

a) adverse effects on the mauri of the Waikato and Waipa Rivers;
b) the ability of the Waikato and Waipa Rivers to sustainably and safely provide food and cultural, economic and recreation opportunities;
c) the effect this has on the relationship of Waikato-Tainui, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Te Arawa River Iwi, Maniapoto and Raukawa and the regional community with the rivers; and
d) the need to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River while providing for the existence and continued operation and output of the Waikato hydro scheme.

Issue 1.6 is addressed by the following objectives:

3.1	*Integrated management*	*3.15*	*Allocation and use of fresh water*
3.2	*Resource use and development*	*3.16*	*Riparian areas and wetlands*
3.3	*Decision making*	*3.17*	*Geothermal*
3.4	*Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River*	*3.18*	*Historic and cultural heritage*
3.5	*Energy*	*3.19*	*Ecological integrity and indigenous biodiversity*
3.8	*Ecosystem services*	*3.20*	*Outstanding natural features and landscapes*
3.9	*Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment*	*3.21*	*Amenity*
3.10	*Sustainable and efficient use of resources*	*3.22*	*Natural character*
3.12	*Built environment*	*3.23*	*Public access*
3.14	*Mauri and values of fresh water bodies*		

Explanation

The relationship of the River Iwi with the Waikato River, and its major tributary the Waipa River, lies at the heart of their spiritual, cultural, historic and physical wellbeing and their identity.

To Waikato-Tainui the Waikato River is a **tūpuna** which has **mana** and in turn represents the mana and **mauri** of the tribe. Ngāti Tūwharetoa have a direct interest in, and special relationship with, the Waikato River. This includes the rights and responsibilities associated with kaitiakitanga. The people of Raukawa have their own unique and ancient relationship with the Waikato River. Prominent in their beliefs is the hereditary right and responsibility to protect the river. Te Arawa River Iwi comprise

Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa, Ngāti Kearoa-Ngāti Tuarā and Tūhourangi-Ngāti Wahiao. Te Arawa River Iwi exercise mana whakahaere in accordance with their long-established tikanga to ensure the wellbeing of the Waikato River. The Waipa River forms part of the catchment of the Waikato River. It flows within the **rohe** of Ngāti Maniapoto and is integral to their spiritual, cultural, historic and physical wellbeing and their identity.

Deeds and settlements between the Crown and the respective Waikato River Iwi acknowledge that the deterioration of the health of the Waikato River while the Crown had authority over the river has been a source of distress. They set in place a framework with the overarching purpose of restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for current and future generations.

The Waikato River is at the heart of the social and economic development of the Waikato region. It supports the domestic and municipal needs of the region and is important for many reasons, including for primary production, powering the Waikato Hydro Scheme, providing drinking water and for cultural and recreational activity. This, along with the intensification of land use throughout the catchment, has caused the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and its major tributary, the Waipa River, to be degraded.

This Regional Policy Statement recognises that the Waikato and Waipa Rivers are degraded and an important resource that requires balanced management and planning. It contains provisions aimed at restoring the rivers' health as a regional priority while continuing to provide for the communities they support.

2 Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato – Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River

2.1 Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010

The Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 (the Waikato-Tainui 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 Waikato-Tainui 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.

2.2 Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010

The Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010 gives effect to the co-management deeds entered into between the Crown and Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi. The Crown and each iwi have agreed to the establishment and participation of each iwi in a co-governance framework. The overarching purpose of the Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010 is to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for present and future generations.

The purpose of the Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010 as set out in Section 4 is to:

a) recognise the significance of the Waikato River to Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi:
b) recognise the vision and strategy for the Waikato River:
c) establish and grants functions and powers to the Waikato River Authority:
d) establish the Waikato River Clean-up Trust:
e) acknowledge and provides a process that may recognise certain customary activities of Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi:
f) provide co-management arrangements for the Waikato River.

2.3 Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012

The Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012 gives effect to the co-management deeds entered into between the Crown and Ngāti Maniapoto. The overarching purpose of the Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012 is to restore and maintain the quality and integrity of the waters that flow into and form part of the Waipa River for present and future generations and the care and protection of the mana tuku iho o Waiwaia.

2.4 Waikato Regional Policy Statement

Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato – the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River is set out in schedules to the above Acts. The Vision and Strategy is the primary direction-setting document for the Waikato and Waipa Rivers and their catchments which include the lower reaches of the Waipa River (for the area covered refer to Map 2-1 at the end of this chapter).

Under the Acts, the Vision and Strategy is deemed, in its entirety, to be part of the Regional Policy Statement. 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.

Objectives, policies and methods in Chapters 3-14 of this Regional Policy Statement assist in achieving the purpose of the Vision and Strategy, however, should be read in conjunction with the Vision and Strategy in its entirety (section 2.4 below).

2.5 Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River

2.5.1 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.

2.5.2 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.

2.5.3 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.

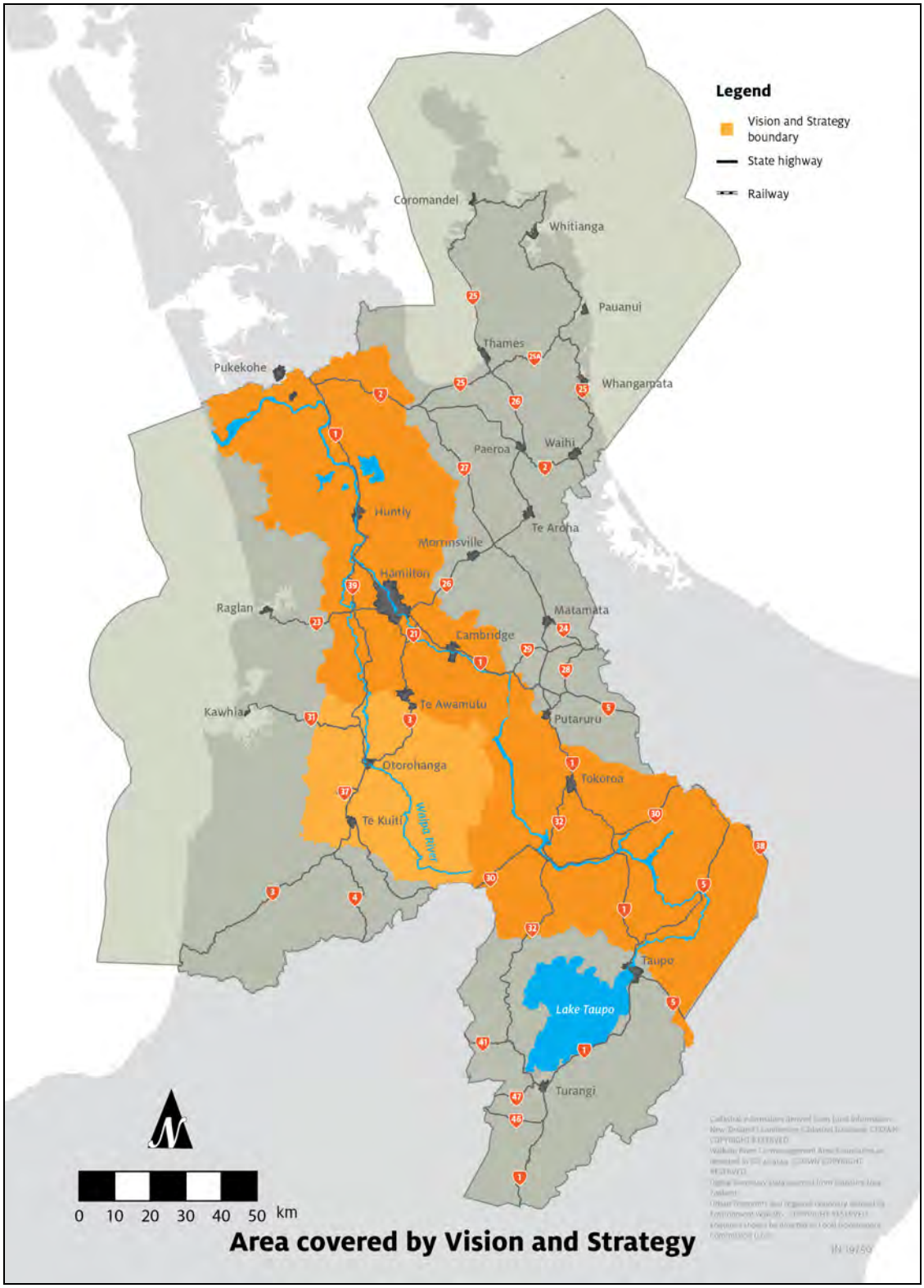
h) Actively promote and foster public knowledge and understanding of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River among all sectors of the Waikato community.

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 on the Waikato River of activities 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.



Map 2-1: Area covered by the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato and Waipa Rivers

3 Objectives

This chapter describes the outcomes that Waikato Regional Council seeks to achieve with the Regional Policy Statement, as required by the Resource Management Act. The objectives address the issues contained in Chapter 1 and will be achieved through implementation of the policies and methods in Part B.

3.1 Integrated management

Natural and physical resources are managed in a way that recognises:

a) the inter-relationships within and values of **water body catchments**, **riparian areas** and **wetlands**, the coastal environment, the Hauraki Gulf and the Waikato River;

b) natural processes that inherently occur without human management or interference;

c) the complex interactions between air, water, land and all living things;

d) the needs of current and future generations;

e) the relationships between environmental, social, economic and cultural wellbeing;

f) the need to work with agencies, landowners, resource users and communities; and

g) the interrelationship of natural resources with the built environment.

Objective 3.1 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.2 Effects of climate change
1.3 Providing for energy demand
1.4 Managing the built environment
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

Objective 3.1 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*8.2*	*Outstanding fresh water bodies and significant values of wetlands*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*8.3*	*All fresh water bodies*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*8.4*	*Catchment-based intervention*
4.4	*Regionally significant industry and primary production*	*8.5*	*Waikato River catchment*
6.1	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development*	*8.6*	*Allocating fresh water*
6.2	*Planning for development in the coastal environment*	*8.7*	*Efficient use of fresh water*
6.10	*Implementing the Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint*	*9.1*	*Sustainable management of the Regional Geothermal Resource*
6.11	*Implementing Taupo District 2050*	*9.3*	*Development Geothermal Systems*
6.12	*Implementing Franklin District Growth Strategy*	*11.1*	*Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity*
6.13	*Governance collaboration in the Future Proof area*	*11.2*	*Protect significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna*
7.1	*Interests in the coastal marine area*	*11.4*	*Safeguard coastal/marine ecosystems*
7.2	*Marine water quality*	*13.1*	*Natural hazard risk management approach*
8.1	*Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies*		

3.2 Resource use and development

Recognise and provide for the role of sustainable resource use and development and its benefits in enabling people and communities to provide for their economic, social and cultural wellbeing, including by maintaining and where appropriate enhancing:

a) access to natural and physical resources to provide for **regionally significant industry** and **primary production** activities that support such industry;

b) the life supporting capacity of soils, water and ecosystems to support primary production activities;

c) the availability of energy resources for electricity generation and for **electricity generation activities** to locate where the energy resource exists;
d) access to the **significant mineral resources** of the region; and
e) the availability of water for municipal and domestic supply to people and communities.

Objective 3.2 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.2 Effects of climate change
1.3 Providing for energy demand
1.4 Managing the built environment
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

Objective 3.2 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*8.4*	*Catchment-based intervention*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*8.5*	*Waikato River catchment*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*8.6*	*Allocating fresh water*
4.4	*Regionally significant industry and primary production*	*8.7*	*Efficient use of fresh water*
5.2	*Manage discharges to air*	*9.1*	*Sustainable management of the Regional Geothermal Resource*
5.3	*Manage adverse effects on amenity*	*9.2*	*Significant Geothermal Features*
6.1	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development*	*9.3*	*Development Geothermal Systems*
6.2	*Planning for development in the coastal environment*	*9.4*	*Limited Development Geothermal Systems*
6.3	*Co-ordinating growth and infrastructure*	*9.6*	*Research Geothermal Systems*
6.4	*Marae and papakāinga*	*9.7*	*Small Geothermal Systems*
6.5	*Energy demand management*	*9.8*	*Geothermal characteristics valued by tāngata whenua*
6.6	*Significant infrastructure and energy resources*	*10.1*	*Managing historic and cultural heritage*
6.8	*Access to minerals*	*10.2*	*Relationship of Māori to taonga*
6.10	*Implementing the Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint*	*10.3*	*Effects of development on historic and cultural heritage*
6.11	*Implementing Taupo District 2050*	*11.1*	*Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity*
6.12	*Implementing Franklin District Growth Strategy*	*11.3*	*Collaborative management*
6.13	*Governance collaboration in the Future Proof area*	*12.1*	*Outstanding natural features and landscapes*
6.14	*Adopting Future Proof land use pattern*	*12.2*	*Preserve natural character*
6.15	*Density targets for Future Proof area*	*12.3*	*Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value*
6.16	*Commercial development in the Future Proof area*	*12.4*	*Maintain and enhance public access*
6.17	*Rural-residential development in Future Proof area*	*12.5*	*Appropriate restrictions on public access*
6.19	*Review of Future Proof map and tables*	*13.1*	*Natural hazard risk management approach*
7.1	*Interests in the coastal marine area*	*13.2*	*Manage activities to reduce the risks from natural hazards*
7.2	*Marine water quality*	*14.1*	*Maintain or enhance the life supporting capacity of the soil resource*
8.1	*Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies*	*14.2*	*High class soils*
8.2	*Outstanding fresh water bodies and significant values of wetlands*	*14.5*	*Peat soils*
8.3	*All fresh water bodies*		

3.3 Decision making

Resource management decision making is holistic and consistent and:
a) is aligned across legislation and national and regional strategies;
b) takes an integrated approach to managing resources that cross regional and functional boundaries;
c) adopts an appropriate planning timeframe;

d) adopts a precautionary approach, including the use of adaptive management, where appropriate, towards any proposed activity whose effects may be significant or irreversible but are as yet uncertain, unknown or little understood;
e) is transparent;
f) has regard to the potential for cumulative effects from activities;
g) is based on the best available information, including **mātauranga Māori**;
h) allows for flexible solutions for local variations;
i) recognises that time may be needed for change to occur;
j) includes working with **tāngata whenua**;
k) includes working with key stakeholders;
l) considers a mix of methods to achieve objectives; and
m) results in solutions which include processes to minimise conflicts.

Objective 3.3 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.2 Effects of climate change
1.3 Providing for energy demand
1.4 Managing the built environment
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

Objective 3.3 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1 Integrated approach
4.2 Collaborative approach
4.3 Tāngata whenua
4.4 Regionally significant industry and primary production
5.1 Improve degraded air quality
5.2 Manage discharges to air
5.3 Manage adverse effects on amenity
6.1 Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development
6.2 Planning for development in the coastal environment
6.3 Co-ordinating growth and infrastructure
6.6 Significant infrastructure and energy resources
6.8 Access to minerals
6.9 Information collection
6.10 Implementing the Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint
6.11 Implementing Taupo District 2050
6.12 Implementing Franklin District Growth Strategy
6.13 Governance collaboration in the Future Proof area
6.14 Adopting Future Proof land use pattern
6.15 Density targets for Future Proof area
6.16 Commercial development in the Future Proof area
6.17 Rural-residential development in Future Proof area
6.18 Monitoring development in Future Proof area
6.19 Review of Future Proof map and tables
7.1 Interests in the coastal marine area
7.2 Marine water quality
8.1 Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies
8.2 Outstanding fresh water bodies an significant values of wetlands
8.3 All fresh water bodies
8.4 Catchment-based intervention
8.5 Waikato River catchment
8.6 Allocating fresh water
8.7 Efficient use of fresh water
9.1 Sustainable management of the Regional Geothermal Resource
9.2 Significant Geothermal Features
9.3 Development Geothermal Systems
9.4 Limited Development Geothermal Systems
9.5 Protected Geothermal Systems
9.6 Research Geothermal Systems
9.7 Small Geothermal Systems
9.8 Geothermal characteristics valued by tāngata whenua
10.1 Managing historic and cultural heritage
10.2 Relationship of Māori to taonga
10.3 Effects of development on historic and cultural heritage
11.1 Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity
11.2 Protect significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna
11.3 Collaborative management
11.4 Safeguard coastal/marine ecosystems
12.1 Outstanding natural features and landscapes
12.2 Preserve natural character
12.3 Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value
13.1 Natural hazard risk management approach
13.2 Manage activities to reduce the risks from natural hazards
14.2 High class soils
14.4 Contaminated land

3.4 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River

The health and wellbeing of the Waikato River is restored and protected and Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato (the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River) is achieved.

Objective 3.4 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

Objective 3.4 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*9.4*	*Limited Development Geothermal Systems*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*9.5*	*Protected Geothermal Systems*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*9.6*	*Research Geothermal Systems*
6.1	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development*	*9.7*	*Small Geothermal Systems*
8.1	*Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies*	*10.1*	*Managing historic and cultural heritage*
8.2	*Outstanding fresh water bodies and significant values of wetlands*	*10.2*	*Relationship of Māori to taonga*
8.3	*All fresh water bodies*	*11.1*	*Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity*
8.4	*Catchment-based intervention*	*11.3*	*Collaborative management*
8.5	*Waikato River catchment*	*12.2*	*Preserve natural character*
8.6	*Allocating fresh water*	*12.3*	*Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value*
8.7	*Efficient use of fresh water*	*12.4*	*Maintain and enhance public access*
9.3	*Development Geothermal Systems*		

3.5 Energy

Energy use is managed, and electricity generation and transmission is operated, maintained, developed and upgraded, in a way that:

a) increases efficiency;

b) recognises any increasing demand for energy;

c) seeks opportunities to minimise demand for energy;

d) recognises and provides for the national significance of **electricity transmission** and **renewable electricity generation** activities;

e) recognises and provides for the national, regional and local benefits of electricity transmission and renewable electricity generation;

f) reduces reliance on fossil fuels over time;

g) addresses adverse effects on natural and physical resources;

h) recognises the technical and operational constraints of the electricity transmission network and electricity generation activities; and

i) recognises the contribution of existing and future electricity transmission and electricity generation activities to regional and national energy needs and security of supply.

Objective 3.5 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.3 Providing for energy demand
1.4 Managing the built environment
1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

Objective 3.5 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*7.1*	*Interests in the coastal marine area*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*8.1*	*Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*8.3*	*All fresh water bodies*
4.4	*Regionally significant industry and primary production*	*8.6*	*Allocating fresh water*
5.1	*Improve degraded air quality*	*8.7*	*Efficient use of fresh water*
6.1	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development*	*9.1*	*Sustainable management of the Regional Geothermal Resource*
6.2	*Planning for development in the coastal environment*	*9.3*	*Development Geothermal Systems*

6.3	*Co-ordinating growth and infrastructure*	*9.4*	*Limited Development Geothermal Systems*
6.5	*Energy demand management*	*9.5*	*Protected Geothermal Systems*
6.6	*Significant infrastructure and energy resources*	*9.6*	*Research Geothermal Systems*
6.8	*Access to minerals*	*9.7*	*Small Geothermal Systems*

3.6 Adapting to climate change

Land use is managed to avoid the potential adverse effects of climate change induced weather variability and sea level rise on:

a) amenity;

b) the built environment, including **infrastructure**;

c) **indigenous biodiversity**;

d) **natural character**;

e) public health and safety; and

f) public access.

Objective 3.6 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.2 Effects of climate change
1.4 Managing the built environment

Objective 3.6 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*7.1*	*Interests in the coastal marine area*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*8.6*	*Allocating fresh water*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*8.7*	*Efficient use of fresh water*
6.1	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development*	*12.4*	*Maintain and enhance public access*
6.2	*Planning for development in the coastal environment*	*13.1*	*Natural hazard risk management approach*
6.10	*Implementing the Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint*	*13.2*	*Manage activities to reduce the risks from natural hazards*

3.7 Coastal environment

The **coastal environment** is managed in an integrated way that:

a) preserves **natural character** and protects natural features and landscape values of the coastal environment;

b) avoids conflicts between uses and values;

c) recognises the interconnections between marine-based and land-based activities; and

d) recognises the dynamic, complex and interdependent nature of natural biological and physical processes in the coastal environment.

Objective 3.7 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.2 Effects of climate change
1.3 Providing for energy demand
1.4 Managing the built environment
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)

Objective 3.7 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*7.2*	*Marine water quality*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*11.4*	*Safeguard coastal/marine ecosystems*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*12.1*	*Outstanding natural features and landscapes*
4.4	*Regionally significant industry and primary production*	*12.2*	*Preserve natural character*
6.2	*Planning for development in the coastal environment*	*12.3*	*Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value*
6.3	*Co-ordinating growth and infrastructure*	*12.4*	*Maintain and enhance public access*
6.10	*Implementing the Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint*	*12.5*	*Appropriate restrictions on public access*
7.1	*Interests in the coastal marine area*		

3.8 Ecosystem services

The range of **ecosystem services** associated with natural resources are recognised and maintained or enhanced to enable their ongoing contribution to regional wellbeing.

Objective 3.8 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.2 Effects of climate change
1.3 Providing for energy demand
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

Objective 3.8 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1 Integrated approach
4.2 Collaborative approach
4.3 Tāngata whenua
4.4 Regionally significant industry and primary production
5.1 Improve degraded air quality
5.2 Manage discharges to air
6.1 Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development
6.2 Planning for development in the coastal environment
7.1 Interests in the coastal marine area
7.2 Marine water quality
8.1 Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies
8.2 Outstanding fresh water bodies and significant values of wetlands
8.3 All fresh water bodies
8.4 Catchment-based intervention
8.5 Waikato River catchment
8.6 Allocating fresh water
8.7 Efficient use of fresh water
9.3 Development Geothermal Systems
9.4 Limited Development Geothermal Systems
9.5 Protected Geothermal Systems
9.6 Research Geothermal Systems
9.7 Small Geothermal Systems
11.1 Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity
11.4 Safeguard coastal/marine ecosystems
14.1 Maintain or enhance the life supporting capacity of the soil resource
14.2 High class soils
14.3 Soil contaminants
14.4 Contaminated land
14.5 Peat soils

3.9 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment

The relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment is recognised and provided for, including:

a) the use and enjoyment of natural and physical resources in accordance with **tikanga** Māori, including mātauranga Māori; and

b) the role of tāngata whenua as **kaitiaki**.

Objective 3.9 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

Objective 3.9 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1 Integrated approach
4.2 Collaborative approach
4.3 Tāngata whenua
4.4 Regionally significant industry and primary production
6.1 Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development
6.4 Marae and papakāinga
6.8 Access to minerals
7.1 Interests in the coastal marine area
7.2 Marine water quality
8.1 Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies
8.2 Outstanding fresh water bodies and significant values of wetlands
8.3 All fresh water bodies
8.4 Catchment-based intervention
8.6 Allocating fresh water
8.7 Efficient use of fresh water
9.8 Geothermal characteristics valued by tāngata whenua
10.1 Managing historic and cultural heritage
10.2 Relationship of Māori to taonga
11.1 Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity
11.3 Collaborative management
12.1 Outstanding natural features and landscapes
12.2 Preserve natural character
12.3 Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value
12.4 Maintain and enhance public access
12.5 Appropriate restrictions on public access
14.1 Maintain or enhance the life supporting capacity of the soil resource

8.5 Waikato River catchment

3.10 Sustainable and efficient use of resources

Use and development of natural and physical resources, excluding **minerals**, occurs in a way and at a rate that is sustainable, and where the use and development of all natural and physical resources is efficient and minimises the generation of waste.

Objective 3.10 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.3 Providing for energy demand
1.4 Managing the built environment
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

Objective 3.10 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*7.1*	*Interests in the coastal marine area*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*8.1*	*Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*8.6*	*Allocating fresh water*
4.4	*Regionally significant industry and primary production*	*8.7*	*Efficient use of fresh water*
5.1	*Improve degraded air quality*	*9.1*	*Sustainable management of the Regional Geothermal Resource*
5.2	*Manage discharges to air*	*9.3*	*Development Geothermal Systems*
6.1	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development*	*9.4*	*Limited Development Geothermal Systems*
6.3	*Co-ordinating growth and infrastructure*	*9.5*	*Protected Geothermal Systems*
6.5	*Energy demand management*	*9.6*	*Research Geothermal Systems*
6.6	*Significant infrastructure and energy resources*	*9.7*	*Small Geothermal Systems*
6.8	*Access to minerals*	*14.2*	*High class soils*
6.11	*Implementing Taupo District 2050*	*14.3*	*Soil contaminants*
6.15	*Density targets for Future Proof area*	*14.4*	*Contaminated land*
6.16	*Commercial development in the Future Proof area*	*14.5*	*Peat soils*

3.11 Air quality

Air quality is managed in a way that:

a) ensures that where air quality is better than national environmental standards and guidelines for ambient air, any degradation is as low as reasonably achievable;

b) avoids unacceptable risks to human health and ecosystems, with high priority placed on achieving compliance with national environmental standards and guidelines for ambient air; and

c) avoids, where practicable, adverse effects on local **amenity values** and people's wellbeing including from discharges of particulate matter, smoke, odour, dust and agrichemicals, recognising that it is appropriate that some areas will have a different amenity level to others.

Objective 3.11 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.4 Managing the built environment

Objective 3.11 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*5.2*	*Manage discharges to air*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*5.3*	*Manage adverse effects on amenity*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*6.1*	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development*
5.1	*Improve degraded air quality*	*14.4*	*Contaminated land*

3.12 Built environment

Development of the **built environment** (including transport and other infrastructure) and associated land use occurs in an integrated, sustainable and planned manner

which enables positive environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes, including by:

a) promoting positive indigenous biodiversity outcomes;

b) preserving and protecting natural character, and protecting outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development;

c) integrating land use and infrastructure planning, including by ensuring that development of the built environment does not compromise the safe, efficient and effective operation of infrastructure corridors;

d) integrating land use and water planning, including to ensure that sufficient water is available to support future planned growth;

e) recognising and protecting the value and long-term benefits of **regionally significant infrastructure**;

f) protecting access to identified significant mineral resources;

g) minimising land use conflicts, including minimising potential for reverse sensitivity;

h) anticipating and responding to changing land use pressures outside the Waikato region which may impact on the built environment within the region;

i) providing for the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of new and existing electricity transmission and renewable electricity generation activities including small and community scale generation;

j) promoting a viable and vibrant central business district in Hamilton city, with a supporting network of sub-regional and town centres; and

k) providing for a range of **commercial development** to support the social and economic wellbeing of the region.

Objective 3.12 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.2 Effects of climate change
1.3 Providing for energy demand
1.4 Managing the built environment
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

Objective 3.12 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*6.14*	*Adopting Future Proof land use pattern*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*6.15*	*Density targets for Future Proof area*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*6.16*	*Commercial development in the Future Proof area*
4.4	*Regionally significant industry and primary production*	*6.17*	*Rural-residential development in Future Proof area*
6.1	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development*	*6.18*	*Monitoring development in Future Proof area*
6.2	*Planning for development in the coastal environment*	*6.19*	*Review of Future Proof map and tables*
6.3	*Co-ordinating growth and infrastructure*	*7.1*	*Interests in the coastal marine area*
6.4	*Marae and papakāinga*	*9.1*	*Sustainable management of the Regional Geothermal Resource*
6.5	*Energy demand management*	*9.3*	*Development Geothermal Systems*
6.6	*Significant infrastructure and energy resources*	*9.4*	*Limited Development Geothermal Systems*
6.8	*Access to minerals*	*11.1*	*Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity*
6.9	*Information collection*	*12.1*	*Outstanding natural features and landscapes*
6.10	*Implementing the Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint*	*12.2*	*Preserve natural character*
6.11	*Implementing Taupo District 2050*	*12.3*	*Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value*
6.12	*Implementing Franklin District Growth Strategy*	*13.1*	*Natural hazard risk management approach*
6.13	*Governance collaboration in the Future Proof area*	*14.5*	*Peat soils*

3.13 Mauri and health of marine waters

Recognise and provide for the **mauri** and health of marine waters by:

a) maintaining the following:
   i) natural character and natural function;
   ii) health and functioning of indigenous biodiversity, ecosystems and habitats;
   iii) human relationships with marine water including:
      i. the cultural and traditional relationship of tāngata whenua with marine waters;
      ii. harvesting of aquatic food species and **mahinga kai** that is safe to eat; and
      iii. recreation values including swimming;
b) improving the life-supporting capacity of marine waters where they have been degraded as a result of human activities;
c) to enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety; and
d) managing adverse cumulative effects of land use activities on water in the **coastal marine area**.

Objective 3.13 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)

Objective 3.13 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*7.2*	*Marine water quality*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*8.1*	*Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*8.3*	*All fresh water bodies*
4.4	*Regionally significant industry and primary production*	*8.4*	*Catchment-based intervention*
6.2	*Planning for development in the coastal environment*	*8.5*	*Waikato River catchment*
7.1	*Interests in the coastal marine area*	*8.6*	*Allocating fresh water*

3.14 Mauri and values of fresh water bodies

Maintain or enhance the mauri and identified values of **fresh water bodies** including by:

a) maintaining or enhancing the overall quality of freshwater within the region;
b) safeguarding ecosystem processes and indigenous species habitats;
c) safeguarding the outstanding values of identified outstanding freshwater bodies and the significant values of wetlands;
d) safeguarding and improving the life supporting capacity of freshwater bodies where they have been degraded as a result of human activities, with demonstrable progress made by 2030;
e) establishing objectives, limits and targets, for freshwater bodies that will determine how they will be managed;
f) enabling people to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety;
g) recognising that there will be variable management responses required for different catchments of the region; and

recognising the interrelationship between land use, water quality and water quantity.***Objective 3.14 addresses the following issues:***

1.1 State of resources
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

Objective 3.14 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*8.4*	*Catchment-based intervention*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*8.5*	*Waikato River catchment*

4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*8.6*	*Allocating fresh water*
4.4	*Regionally significant industry and primary production*	*9.3*	*Development of geothermal systems*
6.1	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development*	*9.4*	*Limited development geothermal systems*
6.6	*Significant infrastructure and energy resources*	*11.1*	*Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity*
8.1	*Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies*	*13.1*	*Natural hazard risk management approach*
8.2	*Outstanding fresh water bodies an significant values of wetlands*	*14.3*	*Soil contaminants*
8.3	*All fresh water bodies*	*14.4*	*Contaminated land*

3.15 Allocation and use of fresh water

The allocation and use of fresh water is managed to achieve freshwater objectives (derived from identified values) by:

a) avoiding any new over-allocation of ground and surface waters;

b) seeking to phase out any existing over-allocation of ground and surface water bodies by 31 December 2030;

c) increasing efficiency in the allocation and use of water; and

d) recognising the social, economic and cultural benefits of water takes and uses.

Objective 3.15 addresses the following issues:

1.1 *State of resources*
1.2 *Effects of climate change*
1.3 *Providing for energy demand*
1.5 *Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)*
1.6 *Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment*

Objective 3.15 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*8.2*	*Outstanding fresh water bodies and significant values of wetlands*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*8.3*	*All fresh water bodies*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*8.4*	*Catchment-based intervention*
4.4	*Regionally significant industry and primary production*	*8.5*	*Waikato River catchment*
6.5	*Energy demand management*	*8.6*	*Allocating fresh water*
6.6	*Significant infrastructure and energy resources*	*8.7*	*Efficient use of fresh water*
8.1	*Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies*		

3.16 Riparian areas and wetlands

Riparian areas (including coastal dunes) and wetlands are managed to:

a) maintain and enhance:
   i) public access; and
   ii) amenity values.

b) maintain or enhance:
   i) water quality;
   ii) indigenous biodiversity;
   iii) **natural hazard risk** reduction;
   iv) cultural values;
   v) riparian habitat quality and extent; and
   vi) wetland quality and extent.

Objective 3.16 addresses the following issues:

1.1 *State of resources*
1.5 *Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)*
1.6 *Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment*

Objective 3.16 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*8.4*	*Catchment-based intervention*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*8.5*	*Waikato River catchment*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*8.6*	*Allocating fresh water*
6.1	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development*	*11.1*	*Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity*
6.2	*Planning for development in the coastal environment*	*11.4*	*Safeguard coastal/marine ecosystems*
8.1	*Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies*	*12.4*	*Maintain and enhance public access*
8.2	*Outstanding fresh water bodies and significant values of wetlands*	*13.1*	*Natural hazard risk management approach*
8.3	*All fresh water bodies*	*14.5*	*Peat soils*

3.17 Geothermal

Sustainable management of the **Regional Geothermal Resource** is promoted by:

a) ensuring integrated management of **geothermal systems**;

b) allocating some of the geothermal resource for take, use and discharge in a way that enables current energy needs and the reasonably foreseeable energy needs of future generations to be met, while avoiding, remedying or mitigating significant adverse effects on the Regional Geothermal Resource; and

c) protecting some characteristics of the Regional Geothermal Resource from significant adverse effects.

Objective 3.17 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.3 Providing for energy demand
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

Objective 3.17 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*9.3*	*Development Geothermal Systems*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*9.4*	*Limited Development Geothermal Systems*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*9.5*	*Protected Geothermal Systems*
4.4	*Regionally significant industry and primary production*		
6.6	*Significant infrastructure and energy resources*	*9.6*	*Research Geothermal Systems*
9.1	*Sustainable management of the Regional Geothermal Resource*	*9.7*	*Small Geothermal Systems*
9.2	*Significant Geothermal Features*	*9.8*	*Geothermal characteristics valued by tāngata Whenua*

3.18 Historic and cultural heritage

Sites, **structures**, landscapes, areas or places of **historic and cultural heritage** are protected, maintained or enhanced in order to retain the identity and integrity of the Waikato region's and New Zealand's history and culture.

Objective 3.18 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.4 Managing the built environment
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

Objective 3.18 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*9.8*	*Geothermal characteristics valued by tāngata whenua*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*10.1*	*Managing historic and cultural heritage*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*10.2*	*Relationship of Māori to taonga*
6.1	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development*	*10.3*	*Effects of development on historic and cultural heritage*
6.10	*Implementing the Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint*	*12.3*	*Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value*
9.2	*Significant Geothermal Features*		

3.19 Ecological integrity and indigenous biodiversity

The **full range of ecosystem types**, their extent and the indigenous biodiversity that those ecosystems can support exist in a healthy and functional state.

Objective 3.19 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

Objective 3.19 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*9.2*	*Significant Geothermal Features*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*9.3*	*Development Geothermal Systems*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*9.4*	*Limited Development Geothermal Systems*
6.1	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development*	*9.5*	*Protected Geothermal Systems*
6.2	*Planning for development in the coastal environment*	*9.6*	*Research Geothermal Systems*
6.10	*Implementing the Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint*	*11.1*	*Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity*
7.2	*Marine water quality*	*11.2*	*Protect significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna*
8.1	*Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies*	*11.3*	*Collaborative management*
8.2	*Outstanding fresh water bodies an significant values of wetlands*	*11.4*	*Safeguard coastal/marine ecosystems*
8.3	*All fresh water bodies*	*12.1*	*Outstanding natural features and landscapes*
8.4	*Catchment-based intervention*	*12.2*	*Preserve natural character*
8.5	*Waikato River catchment*	*12.3*	*Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value*
8.6	*Allocating fresh water*	*12.5*	*Appropriate restrictions on public access*

3.20 Outstanding natural features and landscapes

The values of outstanding natural features and landscapes are identified and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

Objective 3.20 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

Objective 3.20 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*9.4*	*Limited Development Geothermal Systems*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*9.5*	*Protected Geothermal Systems*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*9.6*	*Research Geothermal Systems*
9.2	*Significant Geothermal Features*	*12.1*	*Outstanding natural features and landscapes*
		12.3	*Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value*

3.21 Amenity

The qualities and characteristics of areas and features, valued for their contribution to amenity, are maintained or enhanced.

Objective 3.21 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.4 Managing the built environment
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

Objective 3.21 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*8.6*	*Allocating fresh water*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*9.1*	*Sustainable management of the Regional Geothermal Resource*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*9.2*	*Significant Geothermal Features*
5.1	*Improve degraded air quality*	*9.3*	*Development geothermal systems*
5.2	*Manage discharges to air*	*9.4*	*Limited Development Geothermal Systems*
5.3	*Manage adverse effects on amenity*	*9.5*	*Protected Geothermal Systems*
6.1	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision,*	*9.6*	*Research Geothermal Systems*

	use and development		
6.2	*Planning for development in the coastal environment*	*9.7*	*Small geothermal systems*
6.10	*Implementing Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint*	*10.1*	*Managing historic and cultural heritage*
7.1	*Interests in the coastal marine area*	*11.1*	*Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity*
7.2	*Marine water quality*	*11.4*	*Safeguard coastal/marine ecosystems*
8.1	*Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies*	*12.1*	*Outstanding natural features and landscapes*
8.2	*Outstanding fresh water bodies an significant values of wetlands*	*12.3*	*Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value*
8.3	*All fresh water bodies*	*12.4*	*Maintain and enhance public access*
8.4	*Catchment-based intervention*	*13.1*	*Natural hazard risk management approach*
8.5	*Waikato River catchment*		

3.22 Natural character

The natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins are protected from the adverse effects of inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

Objective 3.22 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.4 Managing the built environment
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

Objective 3.22 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*8.4*	*Catchment-based intervention*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*8.5*	*Waikato River catchment*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*8.6*	*Allocating fresh water*
6.1	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development*	*9.2*	*Significant Geothermal Features*
6.2	*Planning for development in the coastal environment*	*9.4*	*Limited Development Geothermal Systems*
6.10	*Implementing the Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint*	*9.5*	*Protected Geothermal Systems*
7.1	*Interests in the coastal marine area*	*9.6*	*Research Geothermal Systems*
7.2	*Marine water quality*	*11.1*	*Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity*
8.1	*Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies*	*11.4*	*Safeguard coastal/marine ecosystems*
8.2	*Outstanding fresh water bodies an significant values of wetlands*	*12.2*	*Preserve natural character*
8.3	*All fresh water bodies*	*13.1*	*Natural hazard risk management approach*

3.23 Public access

Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers is maintained and enhanced.

Objective 3.23 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
1.6 Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

Objective 3.23 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*8.2*	*Outstanding fresh water bodies and significar values of wetlands*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*8.3*	*All fresh water bodies*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*8.4*	*Catchment-based intervention*
6.1	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development*	*8.5*	*Waikato River catchment*
6.2	*Planning for development in the coastal environment*	*12.3*	*Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value*
7.1	*Interests in the coastal marine area*	*12.4*	*Maintain and enhance public access*
8.1	*Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies*	*12.5*	*Appropriate restrictions on public access*

3.24 Natural hazards

The effects of **natural hazards** on people, property and the environment are managed by:

a) increasing community resilience to hazard risks;

b) reducing the risks from hazards to acceptable or tolerable levels; and

c) enabling the effective and efficient response and recovery from natural hazard events.

Objective 3.24 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.2 Effects of climate change
1.4 Managing the built environment

Objective 3.24 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*7.1*	*Interests in the coastal marine area*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*9.3*	*Development Geothermal Systems*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*9.4*	*Limited Development Geothermal Systems*
6.1	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development*	*13.1*	*Natural hazard risk management approach*
6.2	*Planning for development in the coastal environment*	*13.2*	*Manage activities to reduce the risks from natural hazards*
6.10	*Implementing the Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint*	*13.3*	*High impact, low probability natural hazard events*

3.25 Values of soil

The soil resource is managed to safeguard its life supporting capacity, for the existing and foreseeable range of uses.

Objective 3.25 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources
1.5 Relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao)

Objective 3.25 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*14.1*	*Maintain or enhance the life supporting capacity of the soil resource*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*14.2*	*High class soils*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*14.3*	*Soil contaminants*
4.4	*Regionally significant industry and primary production*	*14.4*	*Contaminated land*
6.1	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development*	*14.5*	*Peat soils*
6.2	*Planning for development in the coastal environment*		

3.26 High class soils

The value of **high class soils** for primary production is recognised and high class soils are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use or development.

Objective 3.26 addresses the following issues:

1.1 State of resources

Objective 3.26 is achieved by the following policies:

4.1	*Integrated approach*	*6.1*	*Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development*
4.2	*Collaborative approach*	*14.1*	*Maintain or enhance the life supporting capacity of the soil resource*
4.3	*Tāngata whenua*	*14.2*	*High class soils*
4.4	*Regionally significant industry and primary production*	*14.3*	*Soil contaminants*

3.27 Housing bottom lines for Future Proof area[1]

The housing bottom lines for feasible, reasonably expected to be realised development capacity for housing in the Future Proof area are met, in accordance with the requirements of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS UD) 2020.

Area	Housing bottom lines (number of dwellings)		
	Short to Medium term 2020-2030	Long term 2031-2050	30 Year Total
Hamilton City	14,300	28,800	43,100
Waipa District	4,100	6,800	10,900
Waikato District	6,900	11,200	18,100
Future Proof Sub-Region	**25,300**	**46,800**	**72,100**

[1] Objective 3.27 amended on 23 March 2022 as directed by NPS UD 2020