

BACKGROUND

This Freshwater Policy Statement was drafted by Te Mana o Taiao o Te Aitanga a Mahaki – the Environmental Management Group of Te Aitanga a Mahaki. It contributes to the overall vision of the iwi to ‘restore the mauri of the Waipaoa’ by articulating priorities and action points to be both a reminder and a point to measure achievements towards the vision.

This document becomes another important Chapter of the ever-evolving Te Aitanga a Mahaki Environmental Inventory. The Environmental Inventory is available to the public at www.mahaki.com. The ‘results section’, identifying milestones and achievements made towards the action points can also be found and updated regularly on the website.

We acknowledge the support that the Maruwhenua Team from the Ministry for the Environment has provided for the development of the Environmental Inventory.

1 PROTECTING SITE SPECIFIC CULTURAL HERITAGE

1.1 Scope

A series of action plans are intended to pilot a different range of models and mechanisms to support and strengthen the ability of TAAM to protect and manage cultural heritage sites in the TAAM rohe. Pilot studies will be site or issue specific and are intended to cover the range of current heritage protection issues facing TAAM.

The topics proposed include:

- a) Development of cultural heritage strategies in selected areas.
- b) The protection of a cultural heritage site impacted on by flood protection works.
- c) The protection of a cultural heritage site impacted on by public purpose designations such as recreation reserve.
- d) The protection of a cultural heritage sites in urban, rural and

Freshwater Policy Statement

Te Mana o Taiao o Te Aitanga a Mahaki
Environmental Management Planning Group

coastal environments.

- e) The preservation and restoration of a pa kāinga

1.2 Actions

- a) That Te Mana Taiao receives, analyses and provides recommendations to TAAM regarding all issues pertaining to Local Council developments and the Resource Management Act.
- b) Develop and implement management plans for the conservation, protection or restoration of selected sites and areas.
- c) Work with agencies with heritage functions to provide formal protection to selected sites and areas.

2 MANAGING & PROTECTING THE WAIPAOA CATCHMENT

2.1 Scope

Catchment based plans¹ allow TAAM to track environmental changes, undertake restoration activities, improve understandings about local conditions and the management of land use effects. They provide a holistic context for a number of specific actions that collectively contribute to the sustainability of catchment ecosystems. Restoring the natural ability of Waipaoa catchment rivers to regulate water flows and availability during times of flood and drought; re-planting a network of forests for birds and other plant and animal life are the kinds of issues that would be addressed on a catchment wide basis.

2.2 Actions

- a) To develop catchment based strategies to:
 - o Protect land and encourage well-suited land uses.
 - o Re-establish an inter-connected forest network.
 - o Sustain minimum water quantity and quality standards.

¹ Reference: Whaia Te Mahere Taiao a Hauraki

Freshwater Policy Statement

Te Mana o Taiao o Te Aitanga a Mahaki
Environmental Management Planning Group

- o Restore wetlands and riparian plantings to reduce flood damage and lessen the effect of drought.
 - o Select tributaries for restoration of habitat for fisheries and other resources.
- b) To develop a catchment monitoring programme that monitors:
- o land-use suitability
 - o recovery rates for erosion
 - o forest inter-connectedness
 - o flood reduction
 - o water quality and quantity
 - o habitat recovery | resource recovery
 - o Waahi tapu and cultural heritage protection
- c) Develop and disseminate educational materials and guidelines on the value of catchment base planning as a tool for managing local environments.

3 RESTORING RIVER & WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS

3.1 Scope

These actions are focused on the restoration of river and wetland ecosystems. Here are found the gathering places for tuna, inanga, harakeke, rongoa, watercress and many other resources essential for the cultural, social and economic lifestyle of Te Aitanga a Mahaki.

3.2 Actions

- a) Survey and select sites for wetland and river habitat restoration.
- b) Prepare manuals and educational materials
- c) Develop sites and restore habitats
- d) Select sites and plant harakeke beds
- e) Monitor habitat recovery

Freshwater Policy Statement

Te Mana o Taiao o Te Aitanga a Mahaki
Environmental Management Planning Group

4 SUSTAINING & DEVELOPING NATIVE FRESHWATER FISHERIES

4.1 Scope

Action plans should focus on the restoration of former fisheries sites or the development of new ones, ways to protect, manage and monitor these sites and their fisheries.

4.2 Actions

- a) Develop catchment-based strategies for the recovery of tuna and other fisheries.
- b) Develop a programme to monitor recovery of the tuna etc fisheries.
- c) Develop agreements with the Ministry of Fisheries to co-manage freshwater customary fisheries.
- d) Develop and implement a glass eel and elver-monitoring project on the Waipaoa River.
- e) Survey the Waipaoa River to determine the nature and extent of other fisheries and its plant habitat.
- f) Trial and develop pilot commercial tuna farms within the Waipaoa catchment.
- g) Work with the GDC and the Department of Conservation to remove barriers of access for native fisheries.

5 AUDITING GDC & RMA POLICY STATEMENTS & PLANS

5.1 Scope

Audit and make findings accessible on the extent to which RMA and GDC policy statements and plans in the TAAM rohe make provision for the interests of Te Aitanga a Mahaki.

5.2 Actions

- a) Assess whether the policy statements and plans of the GDC can/have taken into account Iwi planning documents.
- b) Develop and disseminate report findings.

6 KEY RELATIONSHIPS

