

Item 9 –

# Co-Management in the Waikato and Waipa River Catchment Areas

An executive summary  
of the co-management  
relationship between  
Council and Iwi

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# Co-management in the Waikato and Waipa river catchments

## 1. Context

The Healthy Rivers Plan for Change/Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai is a co-management project that will undertake a collaborative approach to develop changes to the Waikato Regional Plan with the intention to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipa Rivers. The co-management partners are:

- Waikato-Tainui
- Raukawa
- Te Arawa River Iwi
- Ngati T wharetoa
- Ngati Maniapoto

Co-management arrangements are integrative ways of ensuring Iwi are fully participating and engaged and able to make well informed decisions on the project.

## 2. Treaty Settlement Legislation

The Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi settlement legislations are:

- Waikato Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act
- Ngati T wharetoa, Raukawa, Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act
- Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012

## 3. Principles of Co-Management

Co-management was established to acknowledge the relationship each party (Crown and Iwi) have with the river, and for those parties to work together to ensure their respective relationships are maintained, restored and protected. This requires parties to act in the highest level of good faith engagement and to perform consensus decision-making, while respecting that in most instances, the management of natural resource are undertaken in statutory frameworks.

## 4. Joint Management Agreements

The Waikato Regional Council has Joint Management Agreements with the five Iwi identified in treaty settlement legislation. These agreements capture and outline the details of the relationship between each Iwi and the Regional Council, and importantly, the co-management responsibilities in sharing the duty, function and exercise of power in certain processes, of which, the preparation, review, variation or change to RMA Planning Documents is one. The Joint Management Agreements in the Waikato and Waipa Catchment are:

- Te Poari Matua O Raukawa (Raukawa Settlement Trust) and Waikato Regional Council
- Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Waikato Regional Council

- Maniapoto M ōri Trust Board and Otorohanga District Council, Waikato District Council, Waikato Regional Council, Waipa District Council and Waitomo District Council
- Waikato Raupatu River Trust and Waikato Regional Council - 18 June 2013 (Joint Management Agreement)

These documents are publically available and accessible on the Waikato Regional Council website [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/Community/Your-community/Iwi/Waikato-River-co-management/](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/Community/Your-community/Iwi/Waikato-River-co-management/)

## 5. Healthy Rivers - Wai Ora Committee

The Healthy Rivers - Wai Ora committee is a committee comprising of the Councillors and Iwi governors. This committee provides an arrangement by which the Council and the five Iwi implement Section 46 of the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010, Section 48 of the Ngati T wharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010, Section 22 of the Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012.

The Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora committee will make the recommendations to Council.

## 6. Te R p Haut

The Joint Steering Group or Te R p Haut was formerly known as the Joint Working Party.

The scope of activity for this group includes:

- Providing overall guidance and direction to the project manager, ensuring the project remains viable and within any specified constraints
- Ensuring risks are being tracked and managed as effectively as possible
- Making decisions on escalated issues
- Approving acceptance of deliverables

In acknowledgement of their role and responsibility to promote and monitor the implementation, effectiveness and achievement of the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River/Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato, the Waikato River Authority is represented on Te R p Haut as a non-voting member. Their membership on Te R p Haut is to ensure that the Waikato Regional Plan gives effect to the Vision and Strategy, the project partners are working closely with the Waikato River Authority.

## 7. The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River/Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato

The Vision and Strategy is intended by Parliament to be the primary direction-setting document for the Waikato River and activities within its catchment affecting the Waikato River. This is formalised in the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 (the Settlement Act). The area that the Vision and Strategy applies to is the Waikato River from Huka Falls to Port Waikato and the entire length of the Waipa River, from its headwaters to its junction with the Waikato River in Ngaruawahia.

The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River focuses on sustaining abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for future generations.

The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River is found in Schedule 2 of the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims Settlement Act 2010. This act requires local authorities to ensure their RMA Planning documents give effect to the Vision and Strategy. In line with legal obligations, the Waikato Regional Council inserted the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River into the Proposed Regional Policy Statement. As a duty of Council, we must give effect to the Regional Policy Statement in our Regional Plan. However, it is recognised by Council that giving effect to the Vision and Strategy is broader than the RMA context, and where relevant and in the catchment, will work to give effect to the Vision and Strategy in other programmes of the Waikato Regional Council.

The Vision and Strategy is one of the reasons that the Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai is being undertaken. In its capacity, the Healthy Rivers plan change will give effect, in part, to the Vision and Strategy.

## **8. The Waikato River Authority**

The Waikato River Authority is a statutory body formed under the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010, the Ngati T wharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010 and the Ng Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012. The Waikato River Authority has the important role as custodians of the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River/Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato. The authority sets the primary direction to achieve the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for its present and future generations. It is acknowledged by Council and Iwi that the authority have the responsibility to engage and advise the Regional Council to make RMA planning documents give effect to the Vision and Strategy, also, to monitor the implementation, effectiveness and achievement of the Vision and Strategy.