

# WAIKATO DISTRICT HERITAGE STRATEGY



RIVER VIEW. NGARUAWAHIA. 58.



## DRAFT STRATEGY CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

JULY 2022

# AIM

Waikato District Council considers heritage to be assets and taonga (both tangible and intangible) that are received from past generations, cared for and protected by current generations, to be passed on to future generations due to their historical, cultural and/or natural significance.

Our aim is to foster collaboration and support for heritage activity so that the stories of our district – unique history of the land and our communities – are protected for the benefit of current and future generations.

This Strategy sets a vision and priorities for Council's role in heritage activity, and highlights our intention to work in partnership to achieve these objectives. Heritage is a complex issue that the Council cannot tackle alone. The best outcomes will come through working in partnership with iwi and hapū, central government, neighbouring territorial authorities, heritage groups, community organisations and residents of Waikato District.

This Strategy is intended to also provide guidance to council staff on heritage goals and objectives that should be prioritised within existing budgets and resourcing, as well as projects and activities that should be considered through the development of Council's Long Term Plans (LTPs).



*Bow St, Raglan*



*Delivering stores on the Waipa, Ngāruawāhia*



*Mangakino Bridge, Te Uku*



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# SCOPE

Heritage is often associated with built structures and objects, especially due to Council's statutory and regulatory roles. However – our definition for heritage is much wider than buildings and artefacts. It is also comprised of significant places and objects encompassing the natural environment, and living expressions of culture and identity inherited from our ancestors, including folklore, language, music, dance, histories, culinary traditions, and notions of identity.

The scope of this Strategy is intended to support all peoples and communities residing in Waikato District – from tangata whenua through to migrants and new residents.

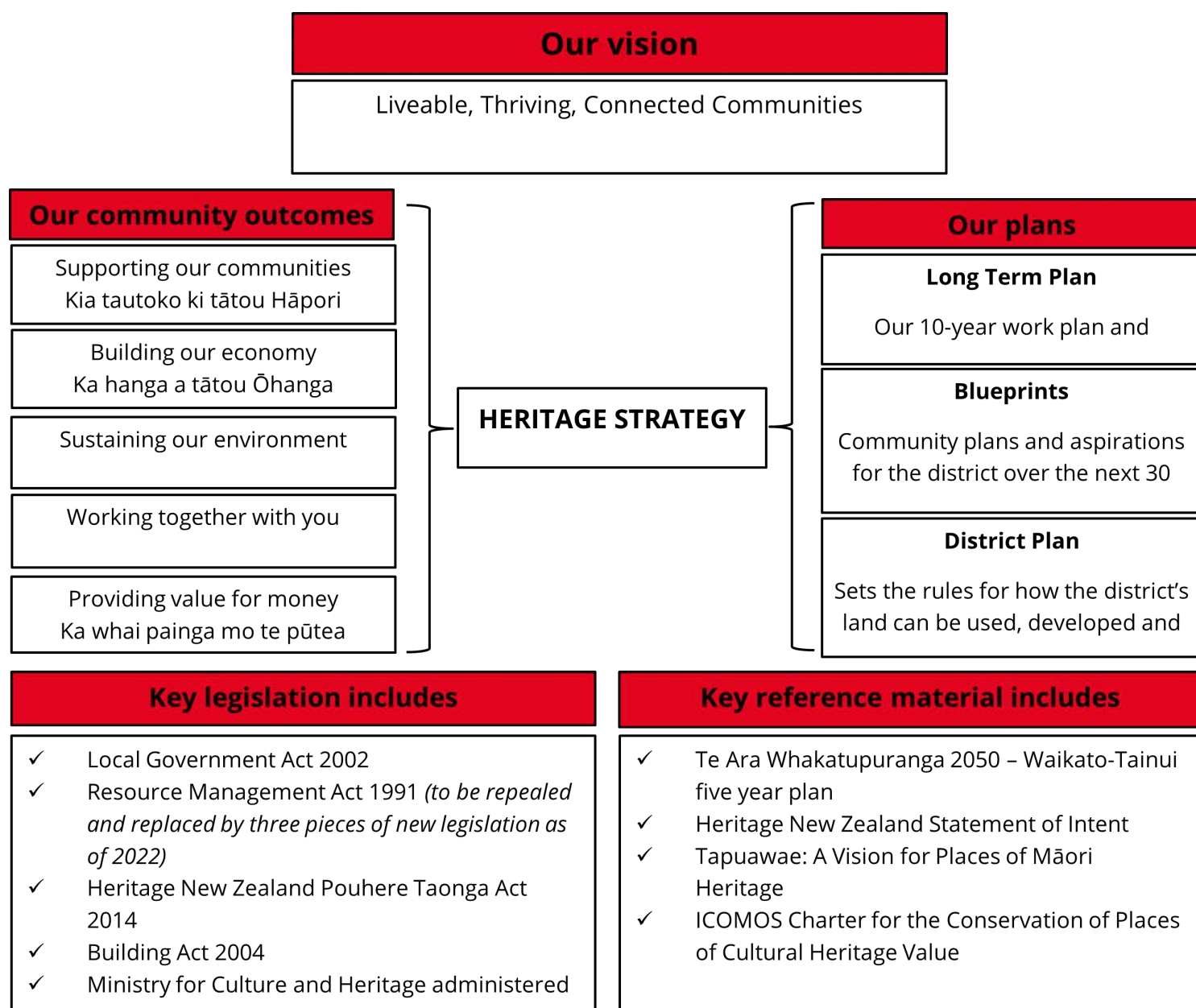
The collective heritage of Waikato District is culturally diverse, reflecting all of the cultures of our communities. Our heritage assets, whether it be buildings, artefacts, or knowledge and memories, are valued for different reasons and can be seen through different lenses by different groups within our communities.

This Strategy acknowledges that there are many different heritage values and stories residing within a single locality, and the objectives of this Strategy reflect the need to understand and respect different viewpoints.

The scope of this Strategy is also intended to cover what has been lost throughout our history – not just covering buildings, sites or artefacts that continue to exist in the present day. All that has been lost remains an important part of our history, and knowledge of these stories are integral to the story of Waikato District as a whole. Research, education and promotion will enable these stories to be rediscovered, protected and shared for the benefit of current and future generations.

For consistency with other government agencies and partner organisations, specific details on the scope of heritage activity will be consistent with central government legislation, such as the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

# STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK





*Main Street, Ngāruawāhia*



*Rangiriri*



*Meremere Hill*

# COUNCIL'S ROLE

Waikato District Council's legislative role is to ensure sustainable management of heritage assets in the district. This is achieved through the preparation of district plans, statutory processes, management of historic reserves and assets, and preservation of local history through our libraries.

In addition to the regulatory and statutory requirements, the Council is a custodian and manager of heritage assets and resources, a provider of information and resources that promote and support heritage opportunities and facilities, and a promoter of the district's heritage to our communities and visitors.

Council's role goes beyond the active management and leadership in heritage activity – the Council is also an enabler, supporter and partner of groups and individuals actively involved in the management of heritage in Waikato District.

We have a responsibility to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. The Council has legal obligations to Waikato-Tainui and the wider Māori community and we recognise that Waikato-Tainui are key partners contributing to the success of our district.



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# CONSIDERATIONS

In the development of this Strategy, we listened to feedback from heritage stakeholders on some of the major social, economic, environmental and cultural changes that have impacted heritage activity in recent years. Some key changes since our last Heritage Strategy was adopted in 2014 include:

- Development and adoption of a new District Plan, Waikato 2070 and the Waikato District Blueprints (with accompanying Local Area Blueprints for communities across the district)
- Adoption of Council's vision for Liveable, Thriving and Connected Communities – the vision statement underpinning all of Council's decision-making.
- Significant growth in Waikato District – 3% population growth year-on-year over the past decade, which presents both significant opportunities for heritage activity as well as challenges and issues to manage and overcome,
- Increased visitation in and through Waikato District, in particular domestic tourism, presenting further opportunities for engagement, education and promotion of heritage activity,
- Environmental, economic and societal changes associated with the escalation of climate change, including the impact on plants and the natural environment that are significant to cultural heritage,
- Environmental changes in some of our communities, including coastal erosion,
- COVID-19 pandemic and associated longer-term economic and societal changes, with many of the longer-term trends likely to be more evident in the coming years following adoption of this Strategy,
- Regulatory changes after 2010 and 2011 Christchurch earthquakes, with the wider impact of these changes being experienced over the following decade,
- Changes to the education curriculum, including development of the Aotearoa New Zealand histories curriculum for all schools,
- Reform of the Resource Management Act, with new legislation being developed at the time of this Strategy being reviewed,
- Role of local government in New Zealand under review, which may result in significant reform in the coming years for the purpose, roles and the configuration of councils in New Zealand,

- Concerns for operational sustainability of heritage organisations primarily supported by volunteers, and the associated risks of the loss of oral history and artefacts in rural communities without adequate resourcing.

New challenges and opportunities will arise in addition to the considerations listed above. This Strategy has been developed in a way that is agile and adaptable while also providing consistency in strategic direction as the Council and our communities navigate through the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.



*Esplanade, Ngāruawāhia*



*Pōkeno School*

# OUR VISION

**Working together in partnership to  
protect and celebrate our heritage and  
our stories.**



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# OUTCOMES

***Our heritage and stories are identified, researched, respected and valued***

- Work with tangata whenua and our communities to identify ways that Council can actively support research into the district's cultural, natural and built heritage,
- Provide opportunities to Council staff to access training on Waikato-Tainui heritage, including tikanga, Te Reo and Te Ao Māori,
- Integrate heritage planning and management into other Council functions by developing a cross-organisation approach to heritage and provision of up-skilling workshops for Council staff,
- Undertake heritage strategy workshops as part of the Long Term Plan process, identifying opportunities for Council business units to collaborate and support the implementation of this Strategy,
- Facilitate conversations with Waikato-Tainui and with heritage stakeholders for iwi-led and community-led heritage projects that should be investigated and considered through the Long Term Plan process,
- Identify tools and systems that staff can utilise to support identification, protection and promotion of heritage places, names, community character, placemaking and storytelling as part of Council projects,
- Develop and maintain strong relationships with tangata whenua, community stakeholders and national agencies to build knowledge and understanding, and to identify opportunities for collaboration,
- Undertake a staff awareness and engagement plan that supports the integration of heritage strategic objectives into Council programmes and activities, embedding heritage as a standard consideration across all council business.



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***Our heritage and stories are protected through best-practice conservation and traditional knowledge***

- Undertake a needs assessment\* for the collection and conservation of cultural heritage in Waikato District, with all recommendations from the assessment to be considered through the Long Term Plan process,  
\*Needs assessment scope to cover tangible assets such as object, artefacts and historic documentation as well as methods to preserve intangible assets such as local knowledge, stories and memories
- Work in partnership to identify ways that the Council can support tangata whenua objectives for conservation and preservation of iwi and hapū taonga,
- Develop a priority investment list for Council-owned heritage buildings and assets, covering earthquake strengthening, maintenance, repairs and if applicable, modifications that support adaptive reuse if the buildings are currently under utilised,
- Identify the impact of climate change on heritage activity to better understand and inform future investment,
- Identify privately-owned high-significance heritage buildings in poor condition and consider initiatives that could provide support, including professional conservation advice and support for fundraising,
- Engage with owners of scheduled heritage buildings to identify potential issues regarding ongoing maintenance, plans for alterations, and provide best-practice recommendations,
- Promote and support the use of voluntary protection and conservation methods.



*Waka on the Waikato River*

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*Kings Mask sculpture, Kīngitanga Reserve, Ngāruawāhia*



***Our heritage and stories are widely-known, celebrated and accessible to all***

- Highlight and promote the cultural diversity of heritage and taonga in Waikato District, and identify opportunities to integrate heritage into wider promotional campaigns for the district and the region,
- Celebrate and acknowledge businesses, organisations and individuals that provide financial and in-kind voluntary support for heritage projects and initiatives in Waikato District,
- Support and facilitate community events and activities that celebrate and raise awareness of Waikato District's diverse cultural heritage,
- Support initiatives that raise awareness for heritage and history that has been lost, including stories of places and people that are not widely-known,
- Engage with owners of significant heritage buildings on opportunities for community access, interpretation and storytelling,
- Work with our communities to ensure heritage places, spaces and stories owned by charitable trusts and incorporated societies are accessible to all.



*Huntly Mine and Rail*



## ***Our heritage and stories enable our communities to connect and thrive***

- Unlock the economic potential of our heritage places by supporting community-led, iwi-led and hapū-led heritage initiatives that enable job creation,
- Identify ways that Council can support private enterprise to revitalise underutilised heritage buildings, and consider these initiatives through the Long Term Plan process,
- Collaborate with and support community organisations undertaking heritage projects that are identified as significant by our communities in the Waikato District Blueprint and Local Area Blueprints,
- Consider initiatives that will attract and retain volunteers who support heritage activity in Waikato District.



*Mile Bush, Waingaro*



*Huntly Post Office*



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# IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING

Council will develop an implementation plan and identify initiatives that can be delivered within existing resources and budgets, while investigating projects that would require additional funding.

The implementation plan will be reviewed every three years, following the adoption of Council's Long Term Plan, and an annual progress report will be presented to Council.

Funding to support the objectives in this strategy will be decided through Council's Long Term Plan and Annual Plan processes, and we will work with our partners and communities to seek opportunities to access funding from other agencies and organisations, as well as philanthropic donors and private business support.

Council will continue to undertake actions where it has a legislative regulatory responsibility, as well as working alongside our communities, tangata whenua and our heritage stakeholders to progress projects that require collaboration and partnership.

Council will also progressively integrate objectives into internal plans, policies, strategies and regulations where appropriate, defined by the timeframes of Council's planning roadmap.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO SUBMIT FEEDBACK ON THE DRAFT HERITAGE STRATEGY CONSULTATION DOCUMENT, PLEASE CONTACT:

WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL FEEDBACK TEAM  
E: [FEEDBACK@WAIDC.GOV.T.NZ](mailto:FEEDBACK@WAIDC.GOV.T.NZ)

## HAVE YOUR SAY:

We welcome your feedback on the draft heritage strategy consultation document.

To submit feedback, please either complete the online submission form at [www.shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz](http://www.shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz) or alternatively, print and fill in these blank submission forms and post your submission to:

Waikato District Council  
Attention: Nick Johnston  
Private Bag 544. Ngaruawahia 3742  
New Zealand

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