

Waikato Plan

A SUMMARY – Building champion communities, together

June 2017



THE
**WAIKATO
PLAN**

Waikato : he reo kotahi
Waikato : one voice



mahia te mahi

The mighty Waikato region is a place of powerful possibilities. Forged by a proud history and shared excitement about the future, we grow and celebrate world-changers, local innovators and inspiring champions. They embrace our guiding philosophy of **mahia te mahi** — to get the job done. In a world hungry for new technology and pure produce, we hold prime position.

Our smart, fast-growing city and vibrant rural towns are connected in a diverse landscape that is fertile and ripe for discovery. Waikato is our turangawaewae; the place where we stand. Here, family is nurtured. Friends are welcomed with open hearts, and life can be easily enjoyed to the full.

This is our place. This is your place. Welcome to Waikato, the beating heart of New Zealand.

The Waikato Story, 2016

This booklet is a summary of the Waikato Plan, a milestone document. The Plan will set our region's course for the next 30 years.

It speaks with one voice about the issues and opportunities our region faces. It will help us leverage additional resourcing because the actions we collectively take will ensure our region and our people prosper.

The Waikato Plan is based on two principles:

- That together, we are stronger and,
- That to succeed as a region, all parts of the Waikato must be as successful as they can be.

The Waikato Plan has been built on partnerships and will be successful because of those partnerships. It has support from local government, Iwi/Māori, central government, the private sector, the community sector and Waikato people.

We will implement the Waikato Plan and build champion communities, together.

The full draft Waikato Plan is available at www.waikatoplan.co.nz

Our aspirations

We want a stronger, resilient Waikato region which is responsive to the changing needs of our people and our communities.

We want a region with the right infrastructure in the right place, at the right time, to enable us to succeed and prosper.

We want Iwi to have a powerful voice so that Māori aspirations are expressed and integrated through successful joint initiatives.

We want our land, water and natural environment and heritage places to be recognised as precious and finite.

We want the Waikato to be nationally and internationally connected so we can continue to contribute to New Zealand and the world.

1 voice Kia kotahi te reo



Our place. Your place.

Nōu te ao. Nō tātou te ao

The Waikato Plan supports the integrated future development of the region.

Legend:

- Significant growth areas:**
Growing a strong city and towns with character
- Hamilton:**
Strengthening high level urban services in a central hub
- Future connections:**
Integrating safe and efficient road, rail and port networks
- Cycle paths and walkways:**
Developing a nationally significant cycling and walking experience
- Core natural areas:**
Linking our outstanding natural and cultural areas to recreation and tourism opportunities
- Rivers and lakes:**
Valuing, protecting, managing and conserving water
- Destination places:**
Enhancing our destination places



5

Core areas

Ngā wāhanga matua e rima

The Waikato Plan focuses on five core areas.



People
Tāngata



Connections
Tūhonotanga



Iwi/Māori



Economy
Ōhanga



Environment
Taiao

5

Waikato Plan priorities *Ngā kaupapa matua e rima o te mahere*

Five priorities have been identified as critically important for our region.

People

**Priority 1:
Planning for population
change**

While some parts of the Waikato are experiencing *significant* growth (particularly Hamilton, Waikato and Waipa), other areas are growing only slowly. Others are stable or experiencing population decline. The Waikato Plan will proactively manage the population changes projected for our communities so together, our region will be stronger.

Connections

**Priority 2:
Connecting our
communities through
targeted investment**

To maximise our resources and access what we need, we must be able to connect with others quickly, safely and efficiently. Whether by road, rail, air or via new technology, the Waikato Plan will ensure we have the right infrastructure in the right place, at the right time so our people and economy can succeed and prosper.

Iwi/Māori

**Priority 3:
Partnering with
Iwi/Māori**

Iwi/Māori are critical to our region – culturally, economically and by all other measures. The Waikato Plan will support and encourage Iwi/Māori to have a powerful voice in the future of our region. We will work collaboratively to develop and encourage enduring partnerships that allow Iwi/Māori aspirations to be expressed and achieved.

Environment

**Priority 4:
Addressing water
allocation and quality**

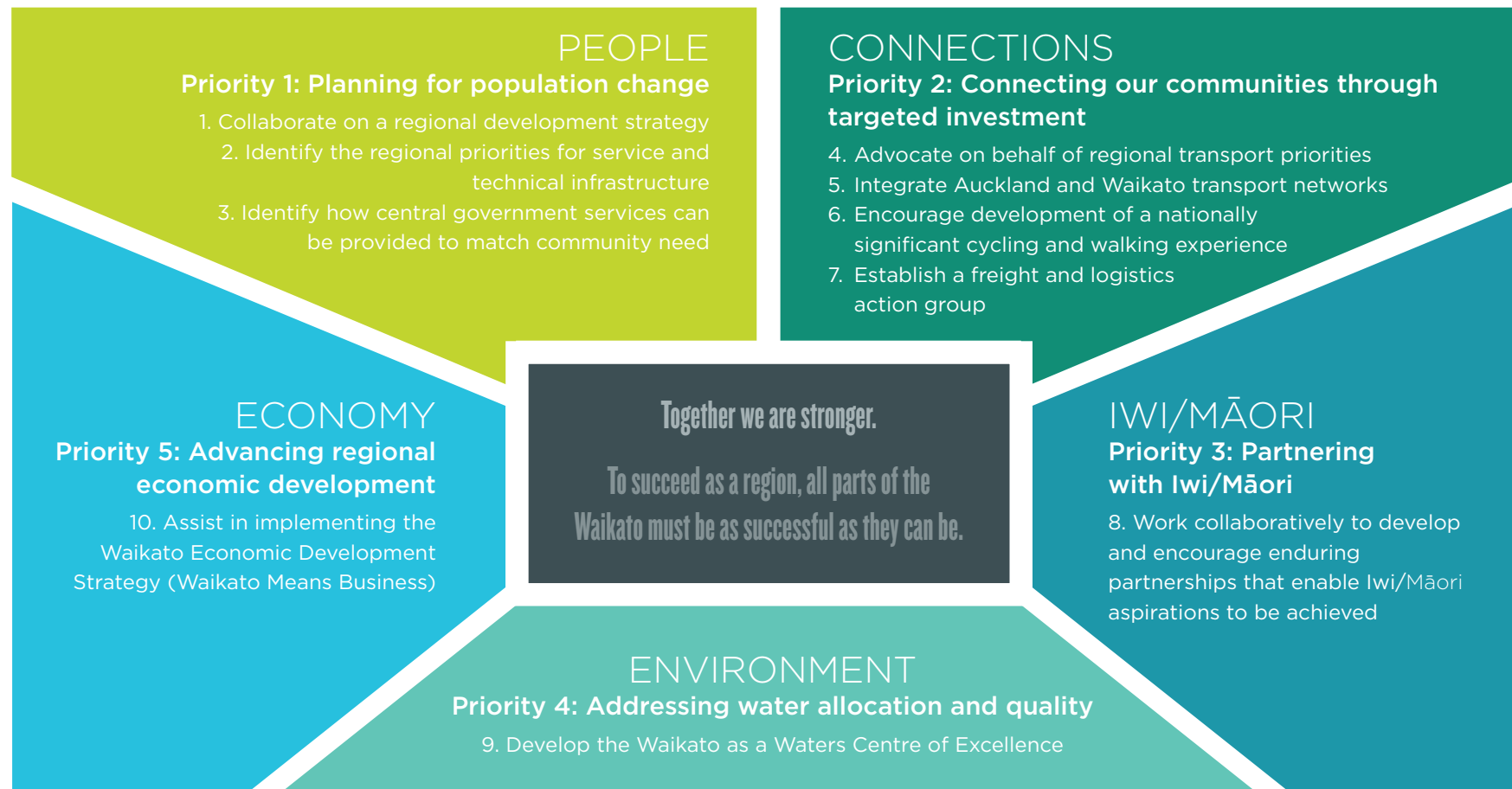
Fresh water is fundamental to the wellbeing of the Waikato. But it is a precious, finite resource. The Waikato Plan prioritises the improved management of fresh water so there is enough water, of the right quality, to support the Waikato region, and New Zealand, well into the future.

Economy

**Priority 5:
Advancing regional
economic development**

Our region is already an economic engine room, full of powerful possibilities. But our full commercial and economic potential has yet to be realised. The Waikato Plan strongly supports the regional economic strategy already in place to help our region, our people and our communities get the best possible economic and lifestyle outcomes.

FIVE CORE AREAS >> 5 Waikato Plan Priorities >> 10 key actions





10

Key Actions Ngā tukanga ngahuru

We will focus on 10 key actions to address the Waikato Plan priorities.

Other projects are also underway. But together we have agreed these are the most important actions to do first for our region and our people.

Lead agencies from local government, Iwi/Māori, central government, the private sector and the community sector have committed to ensuring these 10 actions are delivered within agreed timeframes and budgets. Those implementation details, including timing and costs, are fully outlined in the full Waikato Plan technical document at www.waikatoplan.co.nz.

mahia te mahi – to get the job done

1. Collaborate on a Regional Development Strategy

We will have a shared understanding of population drivers and trends; will understand community aspirations; will have a strategy in place to address development priorities and will have agreed how land in the region should be used. This will involve:

- Identifying development opportunities and growth areas
- Identifying future residential, employment and industrial areas as well as key infrastructure needs
- Exploring ways to better integrate land use planning and transport planning
- Identifying the top priority development actions for rural areas.



2. Identify the regional priorities for service and technical infrastructure

We will clearly understand what infrastructure assets exist, what further infrastructure will be needed in the future (and where) and what will be affordable.

This will involve:

- Assessing what infrastructure is needed to make communities successful
- Understanding communities' ability to pay
- Identifying the urgency and scale of what's needed
- Identifying the top priority infrastructure investments needed.





Our most vulnerable people should be cared for through initiatives to build local social support, cohesion and inclusion.

Waikato Plan



FACT

The Waikato economic development strategy — Waikato Means Business — is already in place and driving positive economic change.

3. Identify how central government services can be provided to match community needs

We will know exactly what government services are needed — and where — so provision is prioritised to meet the needs of our communities. This will mean:

- Undertaking a stocktake of the spatial distribution and nature of existing services (noting issues like community resilience, economic vulnerability, isolation, population change and youth issues)
- Agreeing ways to address the top priorities

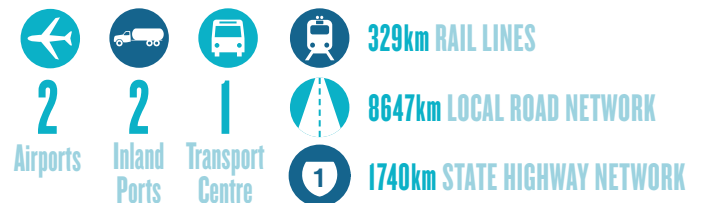
4. Advocate on behalf of regional transport priorities

Our 2018-2048 Regional Transport Plan will include agreed transport priorities for our region. This will involve:

- Working closely with the NZ Transport Agency on State Highway projects
- Investigating public transport options
- Exploring how to better integrate land use planning and transport planning
- Investigating sub-regional or inter-regional public transport services



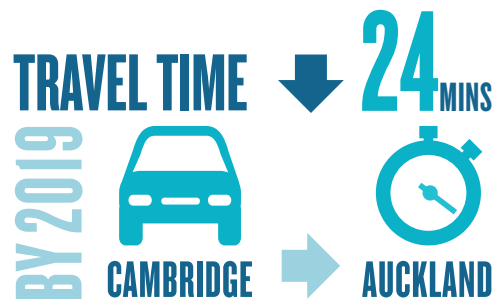
Transport Infrastructure Snapshot



5. Integrate Auckland and Waikato transport networks

Waikato and Auckland transport networks will be well planned and well integrated. We will focus on:

- Joined-up thinking on long-term infrastructure development
- Improved access from the Waikato to key Auckland facilities
- Ensuring integrated development of North Waikato and South Auckland
- Considering extending the rail network



6. Encourage development of a nationally significant cycling and walking experience

Waikato's cycleways and walkways will be integrated and there will be an agreed framework for development and funding in place. We will:

- Support the implementation of a region-wide cycling and walking framework
- Promote the creation of a network of cycling and walking trails of national significance
- Develop links with other areas beyond the region
- Promote more and safer cycling and walking infrastructure
- Consider using trails to highlight the region's cultural heritage and significant natural areas

The most popular activities are
**RECREATIONAL
IN NATURE**





To remain prosperous and healthy the Waikato needs continued access to a healthy environment.

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FACT

Waikato earns 8.1 per cent of New Zealand's total GDP. Hamilton city alone, contributes around 39 per cent of the region's earnings.

7. Establish a freight and logistics action group

A Waikato freight and logistics action group will provide cross-boundary commercial leadership and will advocate on behalf of the freight sector. The group will:

- Identify freight and logistics issues and solutions
- Carry out operational plans
- Collaborate with UNISA*, the Bay of Plenty Freight and Logistics Action Group and Bay of Connections



*Upper North Island Strategic Alliance

8. Work collaboratively to develop and encourage enduring partnerships that enable Iwi/Māori aspirations to be achieved

The Waikato has some great examples of collaboration which we will build on. We will focus on creating enduring partnerships to look at a wide variety of matters including:

- Resource management and natural resources
- Supporting cultural heritage
- Developing social initiatives
- Driving economic development

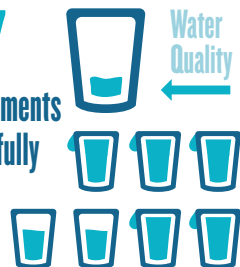


9. Develop the Waikato as a Waters Centre of Excellence

The region will be recognised as a Waters Centre of Excellence through the establishment of a Freshwater Research Initiative, as well as through addressing water issues related to population growth, rural intensification, industrial growth, community engagement, meeting cultural expectations, developing resilience and compliance management.

Waikato has more than
16,000km
of rivers and streams

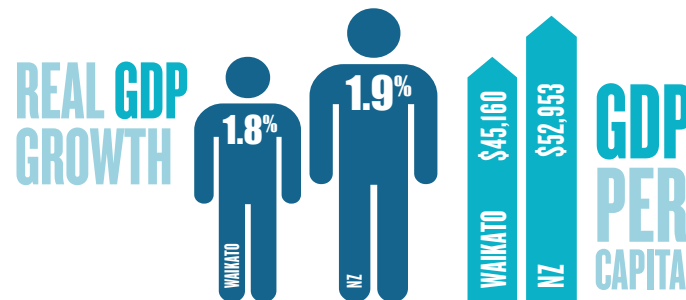
5 of the **7**
major catchments
are over or fully
allocated



10. Assist in implementing the Waikato Economic Development Strategy (Waikato Means Business)

The implementation of Waikato Means Business will be actively supported by the Waikato Plan and its partners. Specifically we will:

- Review and identify opportunities in the innovation sector
- Develop a plan for greater regional economic development capacity
- Support the Regional Labour Market Strategy
- Consider green growth initiatives
- Support the Waikato Regional Māori Economic Development Action Plan





3

Success Factors

Ngā wāhanga momoho e toru

The emphasis of the Waikato Plan is on implementation.

Action plans have been developed to ensure Waikato Plan priorities identified here are addressed. Detailed action plans are included in the full Waikato Plan at www.waikatoplan.co.nz.

Implementation and support structures have been developed so there is alignment between those who have developed the Plan, and those who will implement it.

Local government partners in the Waikato have developed implementation and funding plans and plan to gain wider support for Plan implementation in the future. Implementation details are outlined in the full document at www.waikatoplan.co.nz.

FACT

Iwi/Māori contribute \$1.4 billion to the Waikato economy and have an asset base of \$6.2 billion

1. Implementation

The Plan has been developed as a partnership between local government, Iwi/Māori, the private sector, central government agencies and the community sector. These strong partnerships will continue as the Waikato Plan is implemented.

Clear action plans have been developed, and implementation support structures and forums have been proposed to ensure action happens. Full details of these are outlined in the full plan at www.waikatoplan.co.nz.

2. Monitoring and Reporting

A monitoring framework, as well as key performance indicators, will be developed to assess progress on the Waikato Plan. This framework is outlined in the full Waikato Plan at www.waikatoplan.co.nz.

There will be annual reporting to the Waikato Plan Leadership Group on Plan implementation. The report will

advise progress on actions, related initiatives and the effectiveness of the Waikato Plan partnerships.

3. Reviewing

Every year there will be an implementation update and actions will be reprioritised as work is completed. A review of the Plan will be completed every three years in collaboration with Plan partners (to align with the long-term planning cycles of local councils).



We speak with one voice on important issues, collaborating on matters regionally and working together locally.



Waikato Plan

FACT

Freight between Waikato, Auckland and the Bay of Plenty represents more than half of New Zealand's freight movements.





For more information on the Waikato Plan

www.waikatoplan.co.nz