

WEAVING THE
FUTURE, TOGETHER
KOTAHITANGA
ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

RURAL ŌTOROHANGA CONCEPT PLAN

JUNE 2024 - FINAL

PREPARED BY



PREPARED FOR



Revision History

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Document Acceptance

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on behalf of Beca Ltd.

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Figure 1. View of Waipapa Dam

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Tēnā koutou katoa - Greetings

Ōtorohanga District continues to grow and our community has told us they want to see more vibrancy and investment, to make the District an even better place to live, work and play. We need to plan for this growth and invest in the future, ensuring our community has access to good quality facilities and that our public spaces are more attractive and functional. We also need to plan for the impacts of climate change and, together with our partners, stakeholders and communities, work on increasing resilience so that we are all better placed to adapt and respond to those impacts.

Planning for the future means understanding the past and present. Our heritage is unique, and we want to acknowledge and celebrate that - now and into the future.

We also want to acknowledge that, while Ōtorohanga District has generally prospered through development, some historical decisions/events have had a detrimental impact on mana whenua, resulting in loss of whenua (land) and displacement of hapū and whānau (families).

As part of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan (LTP), Council committed to working with our communities, and partnering with mana whenua, to develop three concept plans (blueprints for the future). These will cover the entire Ōtorohanga district – Ōtorohanga urban, Kāwhia/Aotea/Ōpārau area, and our rural areas.

The Ōtorohanga Town Concept Plan was adopted in October 2022 and we're now progressing with its implementation. The adoption of Kāwhia/Aotea/Ōpārau and Rural Ōtorohanga Concept Plans in June 2024 means we can focus on their implementation.

The draft Kāwhia/Aotea/Ōpārau and draft Rural Ōtorohanga Concept Plans were presented for public feedback in April 2024 and reflected the ideas and views we'd heard from our community during the course of their development. We've been pleased with the engagement from residents, business owners, community groups and other stakeholders throughout the project. We're particularly grateful for the support and input from our mana whenua partners. The feedback we received on these draft Plans reflected deeper consideration of the issues, opportunities and proposed actions. The submissions received have been given full consideration, and the Concept Plans have been amended having regard to the feedback.

This Plan signals a bold direction for the future development of our District, and an action plan to keep us on course. This is a community plan, so Council, residents, businesses, community groups, partners and other stakeholders all need to do their bit to bring the Plan to life. Some of the key actions set out a pathway, meaning more analysis, assessment, investigation and community discussion is required. Some of the likely changes are significant, so we want to make sure these are right for the future of our community.

In developing the 2024-34 LTP, Council wanted to maintain some of the momentum established since the adoption of the 2021 LTP and provide a focus on People, Place and Partnerships, while acknowledging that the challenging economic times means a restriction on funding. Council has acknowledged the importance of having some funding available to support the implementation of the Concept Plans, but limitations on that funding mean projects will need to be prioritised. Where possible, external funding will be sought to support project delivery.

We look forward to continuing engagement with local residents, business and property owners, community groups, mana whenua partners and other stakeholders as we move to implementing these Concept Plans.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this Plan and engaged in its development. It's a better Plan because of your input.

Together we can make Ōtorohanga District THE place to live, work and play.

Ngā mihi/Thank you

Max Baxter

Mayor, Ōtorohanga District Council

1 Introduction

Ōtorohanga District Council have developed the Rural Ōtorohanga Concept Plan to provide direction for the next 30 years across the rural areas of the district. This document is part of a suite of concept plan documents that will provide a framework for investment across the district over the short, medium and long term. The documents include:

- The Ōtorohanga Town Concept Plan
- The Rural Ōtorohanga Concept Plan
- The Kāwhia, Aotea & Ōpārau Concept Plan

By having a long term view for investment, it allows Ōtorohanga District Council to begin to plan and budget for investment that will improve the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of the district's residents. These documents will inform the Long Term Plan (LTP) which is the document that plans Council's projects and spending over the next 10 years, with a 3-yearly review. By planning for the long term, it allows Council to position itself for a range of funding and investment opportunities and set a clear direction for the future.

A Concept Plan is a spatial plan, meaning it is about location (or place). It is a blueprint or framework to help guide the way in which a place or area could develop and grow. These plans usually focus on public places, spaces and facilities. The plan will help provide direction to Ōtorohanga District Council and our partners to help guide when and how to invest in these places/facilities, as well as signaling to the community, businesses and other organisations how they can align with and support the delivery of the plan. This is not a statutory document, and it will be used to consider and inform future processes that may need to be undertaken to implement any changes.

This Concept Plan relates to the rural Ōtorohanga district. Ultimately, this plan is about improving the wellbeing of the rural Ōtorohanga communities and making the best use of available resources.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to identify spatial outcomes and opportunities for investment in rural Ōtorohanga that can help improve the liveability of our rural communities. This means identifying how Ōtorohanga District Council can support connected communities, recreation opportunities and the celebration of the district's important history and heritage.

This document presents a high level framework of opportunities for the Ōtorohanga District Council, the community and other stakeholders to plan, over the short, medium and long term, investment into the community.

It is intended that this document is a "living document" that is regularly reviewed, to allow Council and the community to identify opportunities as they arise. Some of the opportunities identified will require partnership and collaboration with other entities to be delivered successfully. Some will be completed by others, and Council will provide a supportive and enabling role, when appropriate.

Mana Whenua as partners

Mana Whenua are partners with Ōtorohanga District Council and have been involved in the creation of this plan, providing input across the development of the document through a number of hui at each stage of the project.

Representation from a range of hapū and iwi have attended these meetings, providing valuable guidance, feedback and direction to the project. It is anticipated that the relationships that are being established between Council and Mana Whenua will continue to grow and the projects identified as part of this process will continue to have Mana Whenua input and guidance as they are developed further.

Approach

The creation of this Concept Plan has been undertaken by Ōtorohanga District Council with the community over 2023 and 2024. The plan is the culmination of what we have heard from the community, Mana Whenua and representative groups over the life of the project.

We have taken the feedback, ideas for investment and opportunities that the community have provided through community open days and online surveys and brought these together to identify a range of investments and outcomes that can be implemented over the short, medium and long term.

The projects and investments identified by this Concept Plan will need to be costed, funded and programmed into Council's Long Term Plan. In some cases, projects will require further technical work to fully understand their feasibility and associated costs. There will also be opportunities for other stakeholders to have input and provide guidance as projects are developed/progressed.

As the document provides a long term, 30+ year vision for the rural areas, this Concept Plan is to be a 'living document' and it is anticipated that Council will revisit the document from time to time to check back in with the community to allow the responses identified to evolve and be adapted to changes in the community, environment and legislative requirements. This will also allow the document to remain relevant to the other decision making, regulatory and investment documents managed by Ōtorohanga District Council.

Implementation

The projects included in the Concept Plan reflect an intention rather than an absolute commitment to action. In most cases further work to determine scope, cost and priority will be required before any final decision to proceed can be made. In some cases further engagement with the community and stakeholders will also be required.



Figure 2. View at Arohena

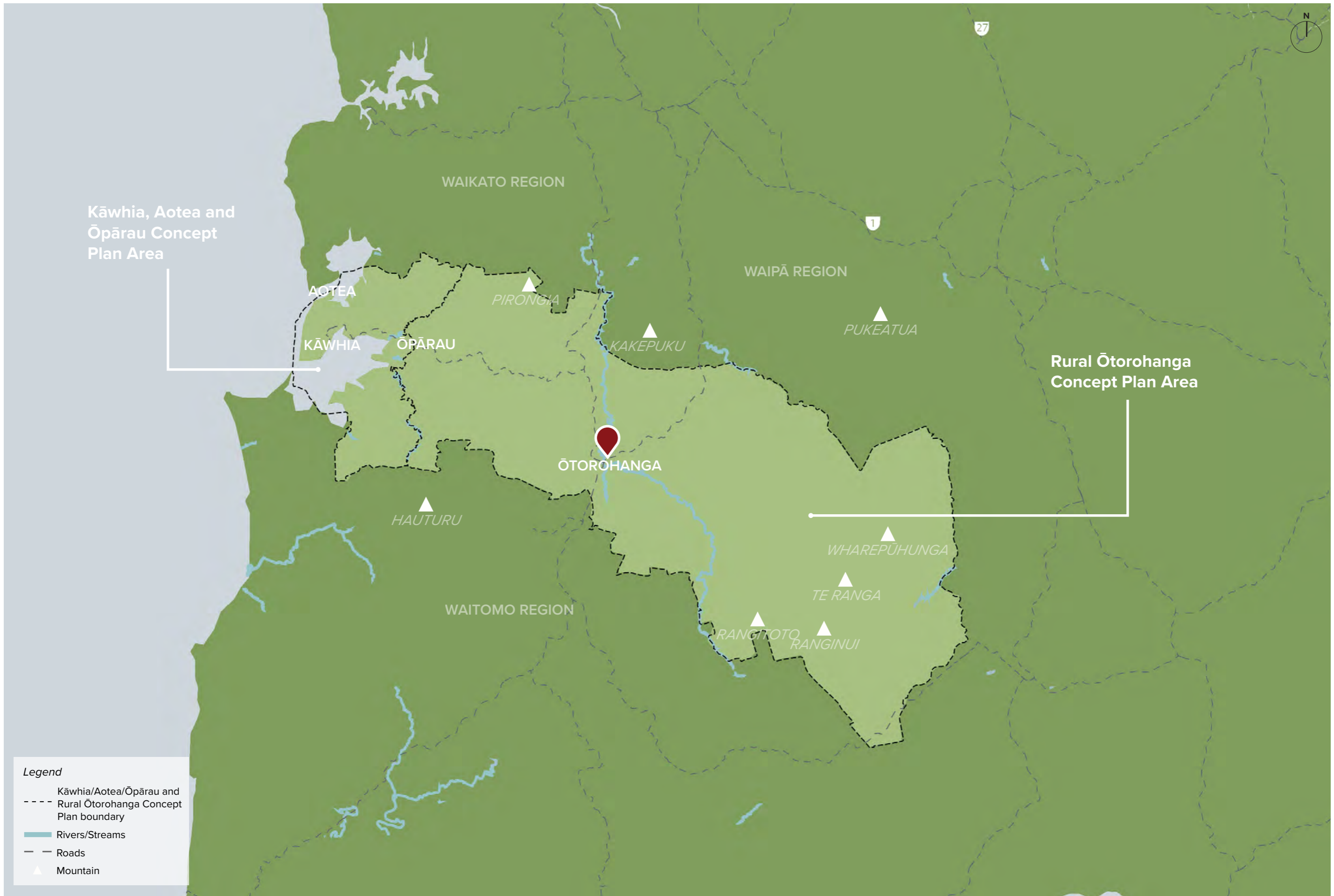


Figure 3. District map

1.1 Ōtorohanga District – Past and present

Ōtorohanga is a district rich in people, events and fascinating stories. From the geological origins millions of years ago that saw the volcanic, alluvial and coastal processes that have shaped the landscape, through to the legacies and explorations led by descendants of Tainui and Aotea waka, the district is steeped in history. The naming of the mountains, waterways, coastal areas and forests speak to these rich histories that involved those who first established thriving settlements around the Kāwhia and Aotea harbours and later around the many bends of the fertile Waipā and Waikato rivers.

The arrival of settlers and missionaries wove together new relationships and futures. Some of these eventuated into early entrepreneurial businesses, including the renowned Aotea and Mohoaonui flour mills and the many flax and timber mills which saw goods traded as far as Auckland and further across the Tasman Sea. As highly productive land was developed for agriculture, the district's reputation for farming grew.

The New Zealand Land Wars led to major changes that shaped the future of the district alongside other significant events such as the world wars and the devastating floods of 1958.

On a more playful note, Ōtorohanga as a district has not been afraid of poking fun to support the 'little guy' as shown by the Harrodsville re-naming escapade and being recognised as the 'home' of 'Kiwiana'. The district has enjoyed many years of carnivals, parades and sporting events, that at one stage were the largest in Australasia, with famed cattle attracting the patronage of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

As with any story, many elements wait to be revealed when the time is right. The concept plan process has opened up a unique opportunity for kōrero to be shared, providing an exciting moment for the district to explore who we are. By taking time to understand where the district has come from, these concept plans seek to identify opportunities to build on our histories, and to inform the future in a way that is meaningful, authentic and true to its spirit.

1.2 History



1885 - 'First sod' for the main trunk railway in Ngāti Maniapoto territory



1900 - Waipā River



1918 - Road between Ōpārau and Te Rauamo



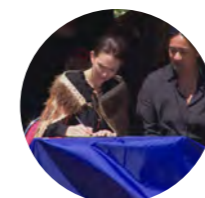
1923 - Waikeria Prison (Est. 1911)



1968 - Waipapa Dam (Est. 1961)



2013 - Honikiwi Hall (Est. 1951)



2022 - Ngāti Maniapoto Treaty Settlement signing



2023 - Arohena toilet (Est. 2018)



2024 - Waikeria prison redevelopment

950- 1820s

1840 - 1896

1900-1976

2000s

950 Kupe visits Kāwhia in waka "Matahorua".

C. 1350 First people migrated to New Zealand from eastern Polynesia arriving through several waves of waka voyages: Tainui, Te Arawa, Mātaatua, Kurahaupō, Tokomaru, Aotea, Tākitimu and others.

C. 1400 Rangitoto erupts. Abel Tasman anchors in Golden Bay. First Māori and European contact.

1500s Brothers Tūrongo and Whatihua (descendants of Hoturoa, leader of the Tainui waka) divide Tainui lands between them.

1800 Ngāti Whakarete occupied the Kio Kio area.

1800s Significant battle near Te Kawa ('Three Sisters' – Pukerimu, Tokanui and Whetū-te-Mārama) between a Ngāti Maniapoto war party and pa defended by Ngāti Raukawa/Ngāti Whakarete.

1820s Ngāti Toa, led by Te Rauparaha, expelled from Kāwhia area.

1840s Signing of Treaty of Waitangi. Not all iwi sign.

The Government establishes military bases.

Early Christian Mission Station set up at Te Kōpua.

Europeans Robert Ormsby, Louis Hetet and William Searancke settle in the district and marry into Ngāti Maniapoto families.

1850 Mohoaonui grain mill established by Mana Whenua on Waipā river.

1858 Pōtatou Te Wherowhero proclaimed first King of Kīngitanga movement.

King Tāwhiao defines boundaries of the district as Te Rohe Potae (Land of the Hat, later 'King Country'), aukati line established to resist loss of land and maintain tribal authority.

1863 Waikato Land Wars commence.

1864 Massacre of Mana Whenua at Rangiaowhia.

Battle of Ō-Rākau involving Rewi Maniapoto and General Cameron.

Region was closed to Europeans.

1865 Native Lands Act passed and Native Land Court established.

1878 Governor George Grey meets King Tāwhiao at Hikurangi pā.

1880s Ōtewā area was surveyed for the railway line.

1883 Maniapoto Rangatira start discussions to open the area for the development of the main trunk railway.

1885 Lifting of aukati line allowing Europeans back into King Country area.

Poukai institution established.

Chief Wahanui Huatare instigates connection of the national railway and The Sacred Pact (district wide alcohol prohibition held till 1950s).

1896 European settlement in the Wharepūhunga area.

1887 Main Trunk Line is open to Ōtorohanga.

1890 European settlement at Kio Kio underway.

Te Rau-a moa district settled, with the first school opening in 1897 with dairy factory operating in 1900.

1896 European settlement in the Wharepūhunga area.

1903 Kāwhia and Ōtorohanga designated native townships.

First creamery in district opened at Kio Kio.

Ngutunui area opened up in 1903 with a Government ballot (school opens 1914).

1905 Kio Kio school opens.

'Native School' was opened at Maihihi but closed in 1916 due to problems maintaining satisfactory attendance. Maihihi school opened in 1917.

1908 Main Trunk Line complete.

Honikiwi School opens.

1909 Korakonui Community hall built.

1910s European settlement underway in the Arohena and Ngaroma districts.

Ōtewā hosting one of the biggest sports meetings of the region on New Years Day.

Te Kawa West school opens.

1911 Waikeria Prison established.

1914 Kio Kio hall opens.

1916 Maihihi Hall opens.

The Ōtewā School and Hall opened.

1917 Whawharua School opened.

1928 Te Kawa Crossroads Hall opens with a spring floor, the first of its kind in Waikato.

1934 Ngutunui Hall built.

1944 Population Ōtorohanga district 5,880.

1951 Honikiwi Hall opens.

1953 Tihiroa Hall opens.

1956 Ōtorohanga County joined with northern half of Kāwhia County.

1961 Waipapa Dam completed.

1969 McDonald Lime Limited begins production.

1971 Ōtorohanga County and Ōtorohanga Borough merged (subsequently becoming Ōtorohanga District).

1976 Ngaroma Mill closes.

2010 Ngāti Maniapoto sign deed to co-govern the Waipā River with the Crown.

2014 Ngāti Raukawa Treaty Settlement.


2018 Arohena toilet opens.

2020 Outbreak of Coronavirus.

2022 Ngāti Maniapoto Treaty Settlement signing.

2025 Waikeria prison redevelopment.

1.3 Overarching Vision



Ōtorohanga – Te torohanga o ngā ringa
[the place] of stretching [the hands] in greeting [with
the provision of food/resources]

1.4 Principles & Outcomes

Resilient and connected communities

Provide and maintain access to our communities that is safe, reliable and accessible for all.



Clear and safe connections to destinations in Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau from the wider district.



Infrastructure is resilient and provides for the needs of the district.

Cultural values & identity

Strengthen and highlight the rich history and identity of Mana Whenua.



Acknowledge the rich history of Mana Whenua and provide for sharing and telling the stories of Mana Whenua.



Respect culturally significant sites and landscapes.



Restore the footprint of Mana Whenua cultural identity, economic and social well-being.

Environmental health & climate change

Promoting connection to nature and proactive climate action for a sustainable future.



Protect, celebrate and enhance our natural environment.



Support ecological areas and biodiversity.



Acknowledge and plan for the effects of climate change.

Economic prosperity & growth

Support economic growth in the community.



Enable services that provide for the needs of a diverse community.



Facilitate and enable commercial development.

Social wellbeing

Support the community to strengthen social wellbeing.



Diversity of services for a diverse community.



Provide places for people to gather, meet and grow their community.



2 Context

Plan context

This Concept Plan covers those areas that are outside of the Ōtorohanga Township and the area surrounding Kāwhia and Aotea Moana. These are covered by the Ōtorohanga Town Concept Plan and Kāwhia, Aotea & Ōpārau Concept Plan respectively. Together these plans cover the whole district.

Due to the large rural areas within the district, the document focuses on those areas in the rural parts of the district that serve as places for the community to gather, such as the community halls, schools and sports clubs, and the recreation and reserve areas, including opportunities along the Waipā River corridor.

Regional context

The rural area covers the majority of the district which spans more than 90km from the Waikato River in the east to the Kāwhia Harbour. The majority of the area is occupied by farming activity, however there are a number of smaller rural lifestyle sections in closer proximity to the Ōtorohanga township.

The main transport corridors through the district are State Highway 3, and State Highway 39 which provide access north and south. State Highway 31 connects the Kāwhia area. Beyond the state highways an extensive network of local roads connect the district. Due to the spread out nature of the district, these roads are the life blood of the rural communities, providing essential connections to services, towns and people to connect/socialise and getting produce to market. Maintaining the resilience of these roads is an important outcome to be achieved as part of these plans.

The district includes the Waipā River and the western edge of the Waikato River. These are significant rivers to Mana Whenua and are managed under Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waipā (The Waipā River Vision and Strategy), which seeks to enhance and protect the quality of these rivers. Enhancement of riparian margins and improvements of water quality in these rivers and their tributaries is a challenge, however it provides a significant opportunity to enhance the natural character and health of the district.

To make this Concept Plan easier to read, the rural area has been divided into three segments: western, central and eastern. Opportunities and nodes of activity are focused on further in each of these areas.

This Concept Plan responds to the issues, opportunities and constraints identified during the course of its development so it reflects a point in time. As the local social, cultural, environmental and economic context changes future reviews of this Concept Plan must have regard to these changes.



Figure 4. View of Wharepūhanga

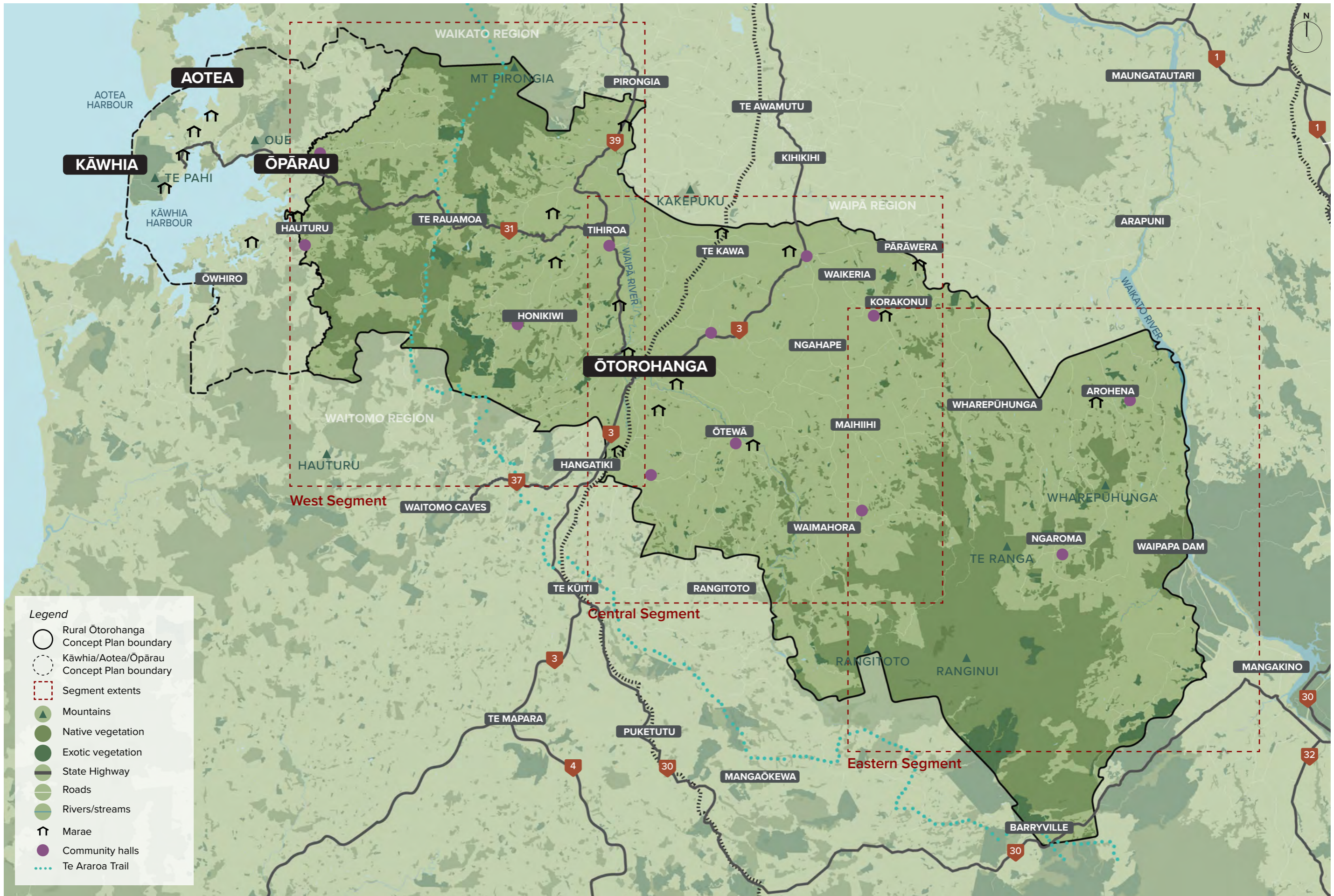


Figure 5. Concept Plan boundary and segment extent map. Source: Waikato Regional Council

2.1 Local Context

Western Segment

The Western Rural area is generally located between Hauturu on the western side, and the Waipā on the east. It includes a number of schools, halls and marae, which are community focal points. These include:

- Mokoroa Marae.
- Hiiona Marae.
- Turitea Marae.
- Kahotea Marae.
- Taarewaanga Marae.
- Hauturu Hall.
- Hauturu School.
- Ngutunui School.

There are a number of pā and historic and cultural sites in this area of the district.

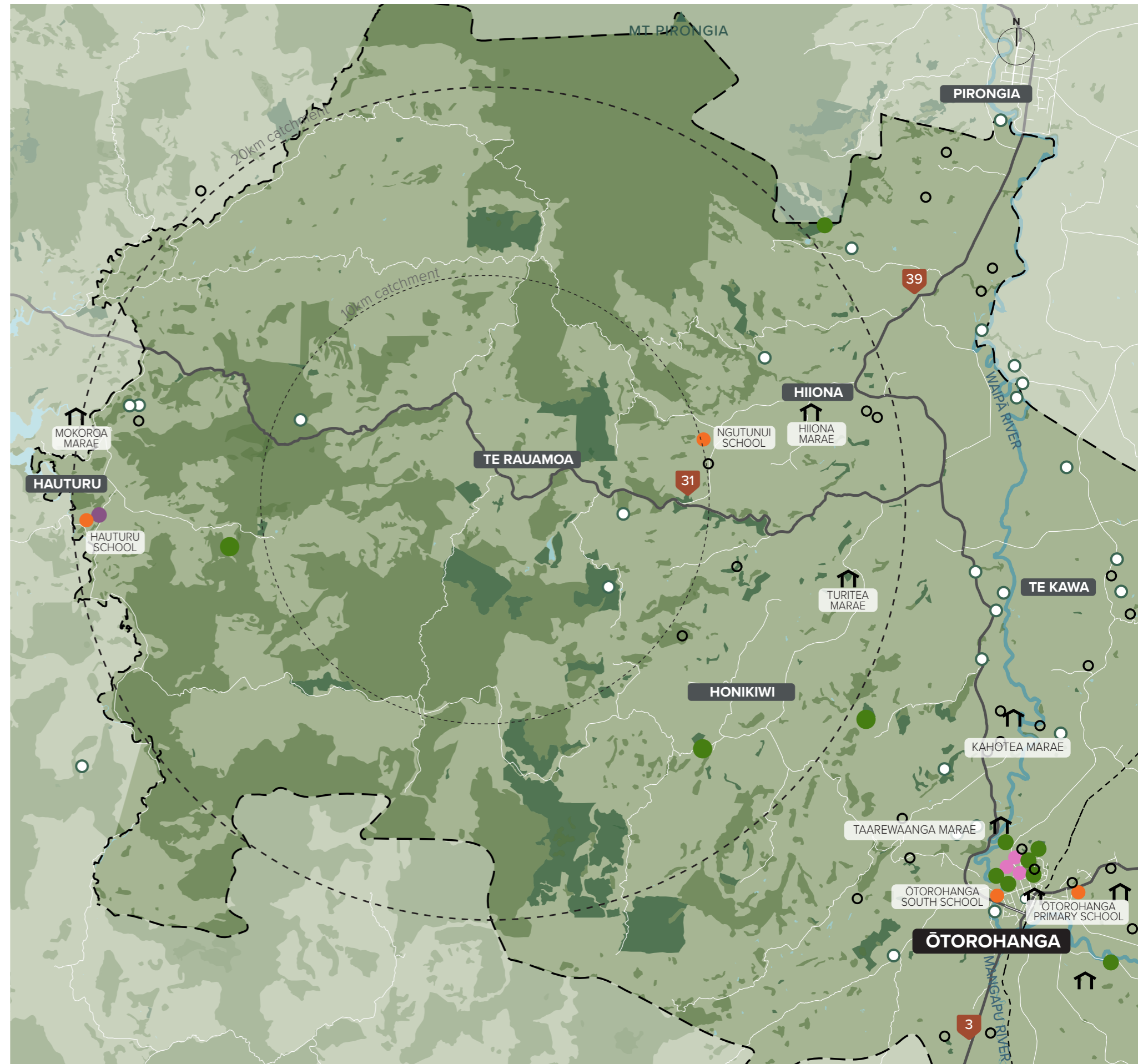
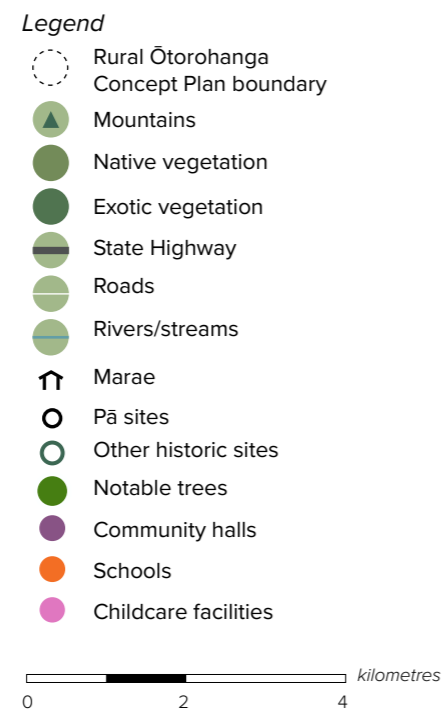


Figure 6. Local Content - Western segment. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Central Segment

The Central Rural area is generally located between the Waipā River to the west and Wharepūhanga Road, includes a large number of marae, multiple schools, community halls and the Kio Kio United Sports Club. These include:

- Te Keeti Marae.
- Te Kotahitanga Marae.
- Rereāmanu Marae.
- Ōtewā Marae.
- Whakamārama Marae.
- Pārāwera Marae.
- Kio Kio Hall.
- Puketawai Hall (unused).
- Kio Kio School.
- Korakonui School.
- Maihihi School.

Legend

- Rural Ōtorohanga Concept Plan boundary
- ▲ Mountains
- Native vegetation
- Exotic vegetation
- State Highway
- Roads
- Rivers/streams
- ↑ Marae
- Pā sites
- Other historic sites
- Notable trees
- Community halls
- Schools
- Childcare facilities

0 2 4 kilometres

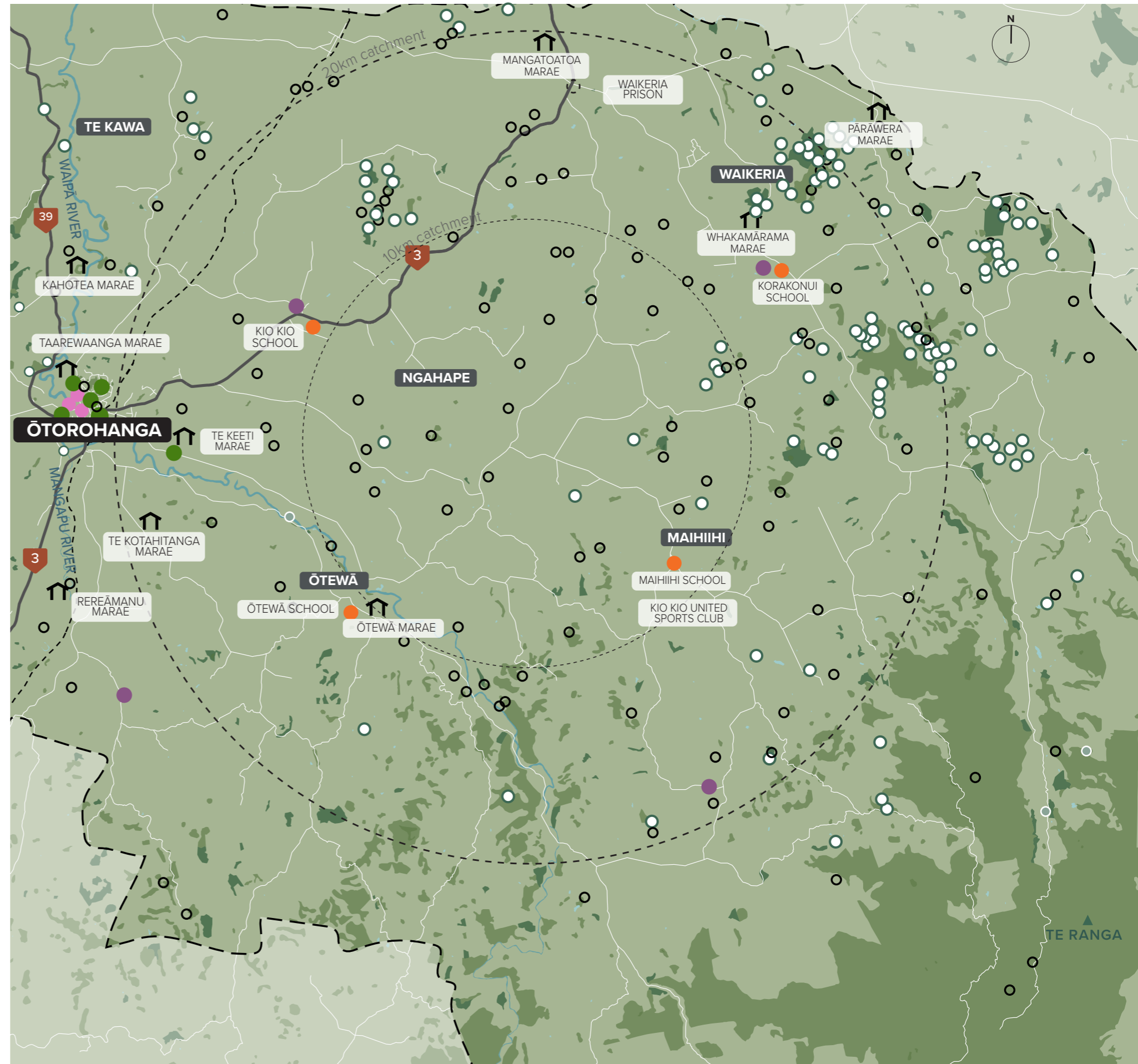


Figure 7. Local Content - Central segment. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Eastern Segment

The eastern area extends east of Wharepūhunga Road to the Waikato River. It includes Wharepūhunga, Arohena, the Waipapa Dam and Ngaroma.

The following locations are included in the east:

- Aotearoa Marae.
- Arohena School.
- Arohena Hall.
- Ngaroma Hall.

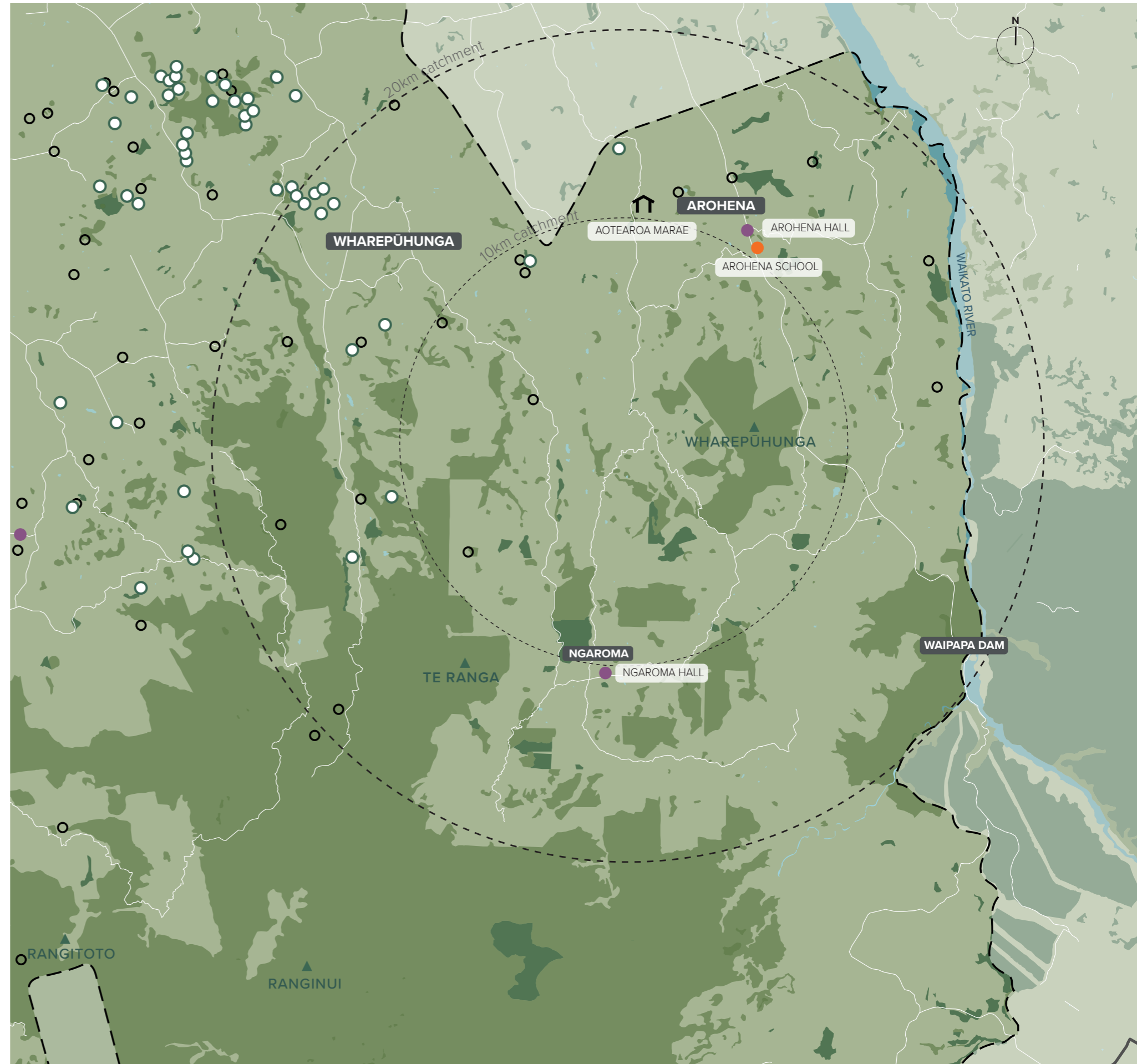
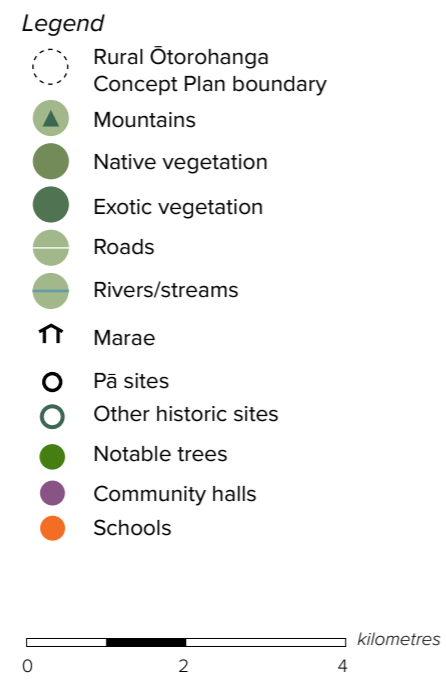


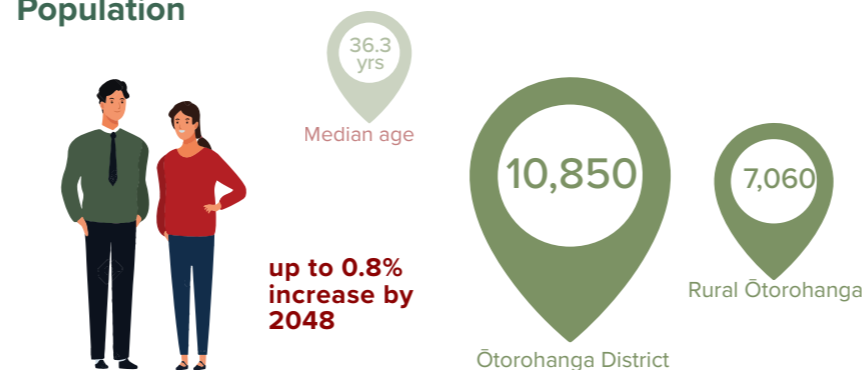
Figure 8. Local Content - Eastern segment. Source: Waikato Regional Council

2.2 Who we are?

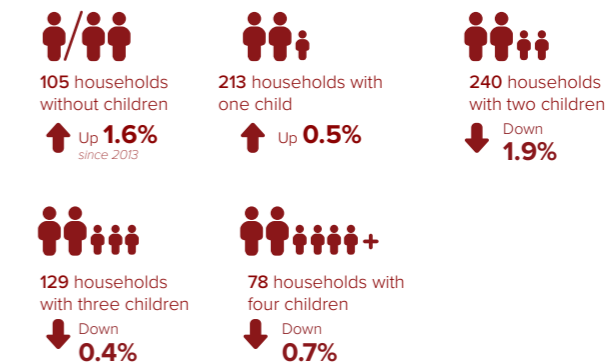
The rural population makes up the majority of the district's population, with approximately 7,000 people residing in the rural parts of the district. This is projected to remain relatively stable over the next 25 years, reflective of the minimal growth enabled in rural parts of the district. Most households in the rural area have families, with only 105 households without children.

The importance of private vehicles to access school and work is apparent, with limited options for people in these areas.

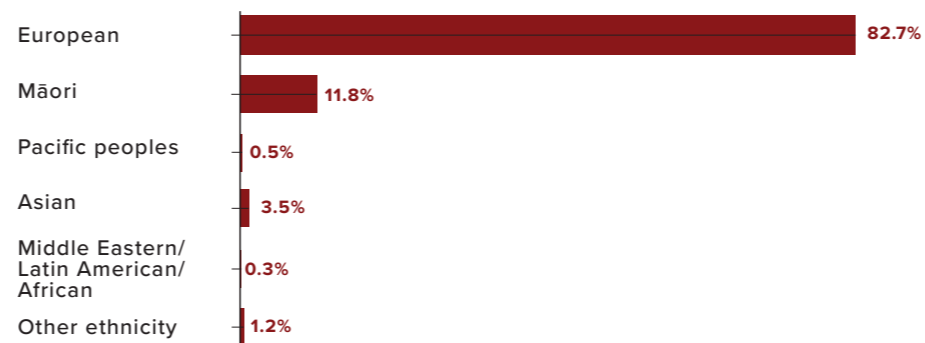
Population



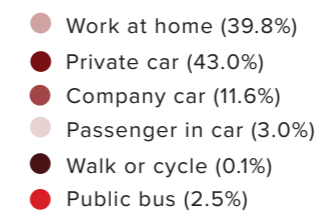
Households



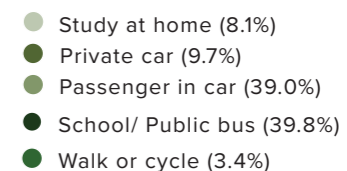
Ethnicity



Getting to work



Getting to education



Dwelling occupancy

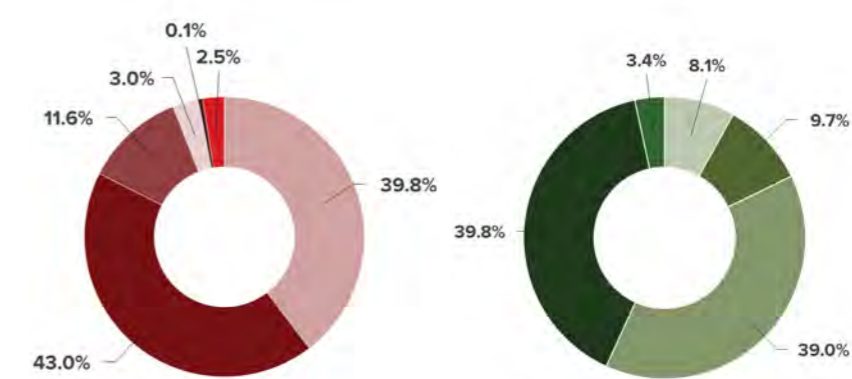
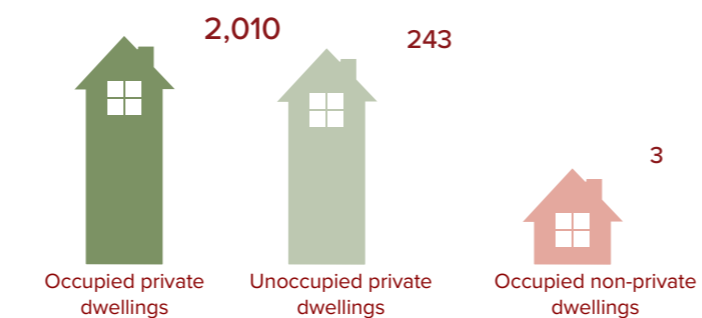


Figure 9. View at Maihihi School

All data is based on the 2018 Census data

2.3 Mana Whenua Engagement

Mana Whenua have had direct involvement in the development of this Concept Plan. Mana Whenua representatives from hapū, iwi and marae across the district were invited to join the Mana Whenua Advisory Group, providing input and advice for the development of this Concept Plan document.

Hui were held for each stage of the project, including a workshop to introduce and commence the development of this Concept Plan. The hui provided Mana Whenua the opportunity to review documentation and information of each project stage and provide feedback, advice and direction on the development of this Concept Plan.

Ōtorohanga District Council will continue to work with Mana Whenua in the implementation of this Concept Plan.

Engagement Timeline



Figure 10. View of Maihihi School

2.4 Community Engagement

The development of this Concept Plan has taken place over a period of 15 months, beginning in March 2023.

This Concept Plan has been informed by the Rural Advisory Group made up of representatives from these communities, the Mana Whenua Advisory Group and public engagement and consultation undertaken online and across a series of open days held in Arohena and Ōtorohanga in June and September of 2023.

The first round of consultation occurred in June 2023, with Open Days held in Arohena and Ōtorohanga. The open day sought input from the community to help identify issues, opportunities and constraints, as well as thoughts and suggestions on ideas for the future of rural Ōtorohanga. This was captured on large maps through post-it notes and collection of hard copies of a survey asking questions around key themes related to liveability of the rural area, and how the community could be supported. It was supplemented by an online interactive map, which provided the community the ability to record their input into the process and respond to the survey. The feedback was used to inform a list of key outcomes and possible projects for the towns that would improve the liveability of these places.

The second round of open days was held in September 2023, this was used to share the collated feedback from the previous consultation and the potential projects, investments and key moves that were developed from this feedback. This gave the opportunity for the community to share their thoughts and support for the potential investments and highlight any areas that may have been missed. The information was also made available online through Connecting Ōtorohanga. This provided the community with an opportunity to give feedback at the open day.

The feedback from the second series of consultation formed the basis of the implementation framework. Working closely with Council, each of the projects were categorised and tagged with level of complexity, time frames for implementation and a potential delivery lead.

The final round of engagement focused on seeking feedback on the draft Concept Plan. This was supported through community open days and online feedback options.

In May 2024 a hearings panel comprising Council and Mana Whenua representatives heard from submitters and considered all feedback/submissions received. The Panel recommended a number of changes to the Draft Concept Plan.

In June 2024 the Council adopted this Rural Ōtorohanga Concept Plan.

Engagement Timeline



WEAVING THE FUTURE, TOGETHER KOTAHITANGA
HŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

WEAVING THE FUTURE, TOGETHER KOTAHITANGA
HAVE YOUR SAY!

Council is committed to a transparent and collaborative process in shaping the future of our district. Your feedback will help us to create plans that nurture our people, our places and our partnerships.

From 5 April to 6 May, we will be asking our communities for feedback on what we have proposed. You can have your say online, drop in to one of our sites to get a submission form or attend one of our whānau/family friendly open days below.

SAT 13 APRIL | Ōtorohanga Village Green, Maniapoto Street, Ōtorohanga | 11am-2pm
THU 18 APRIL | Arohena Hall, 18 Pukewhau Road, Wharepapa South | 10.30am-12.30pm
SAT 20 APRIL | Kāwhia Hall, 141 Jervois St, Kāwhia | 11am-2pm

YOU CAN FIND FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE PLANS WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON BELOW

- LONG TERM PLAN 2024-34
- RURAL CONCEPT PLAN
- KĀWHIA/AOTEA/ŌPĀRAU CONCEPT PLAN

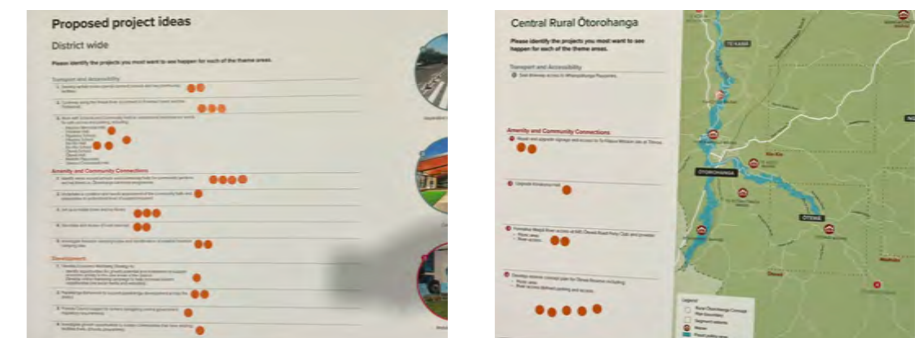






Figure 11. Open day feedback received


2.5 Opportunities Analysis

- 
Support for rural enterprise
 The rural economy is the backbone of the district's economy and its importance is acknowledged. There are opportunities to support the continuation of this economy through policy and planning documents and maintaining resilient connections and access to rural areas.

- 
Support for rural communities
 Community halls and schools are the social focal points of the rural community. These present the opportunity to strengthen community ties and relationships, providing for social wellbeing and resilience throughout the community.

- 
Increasing tourism in the District
 The Ōtorohanga District is located close to, and on the way to a number of well known tourism destinations including the Timber Trail and the Waitomo Caves. These attractions in the wider area provide the opportunity to build on the visitors that are heading to these areas, and create outcomes that enhance the experience for residents and visitors alike.

- 
Cultural significance
 Ōtorohanga District has a rich cultural history, including the landing place of the Tainui Waka in Kāwhia. There is a real opportunity to celebrate and share this important part of Aotearoa New Zealand's history across the district at important locations.

- 
Waipā and Waikato Rivers
 The Waipā and Waikato Rivers are significant waterways through the district and has importance to Mana Whenua and the wider community. The river brings economic, cultural and recreational opportunities to connect people to the natural environment which could include recreation reserves and cycle paths.

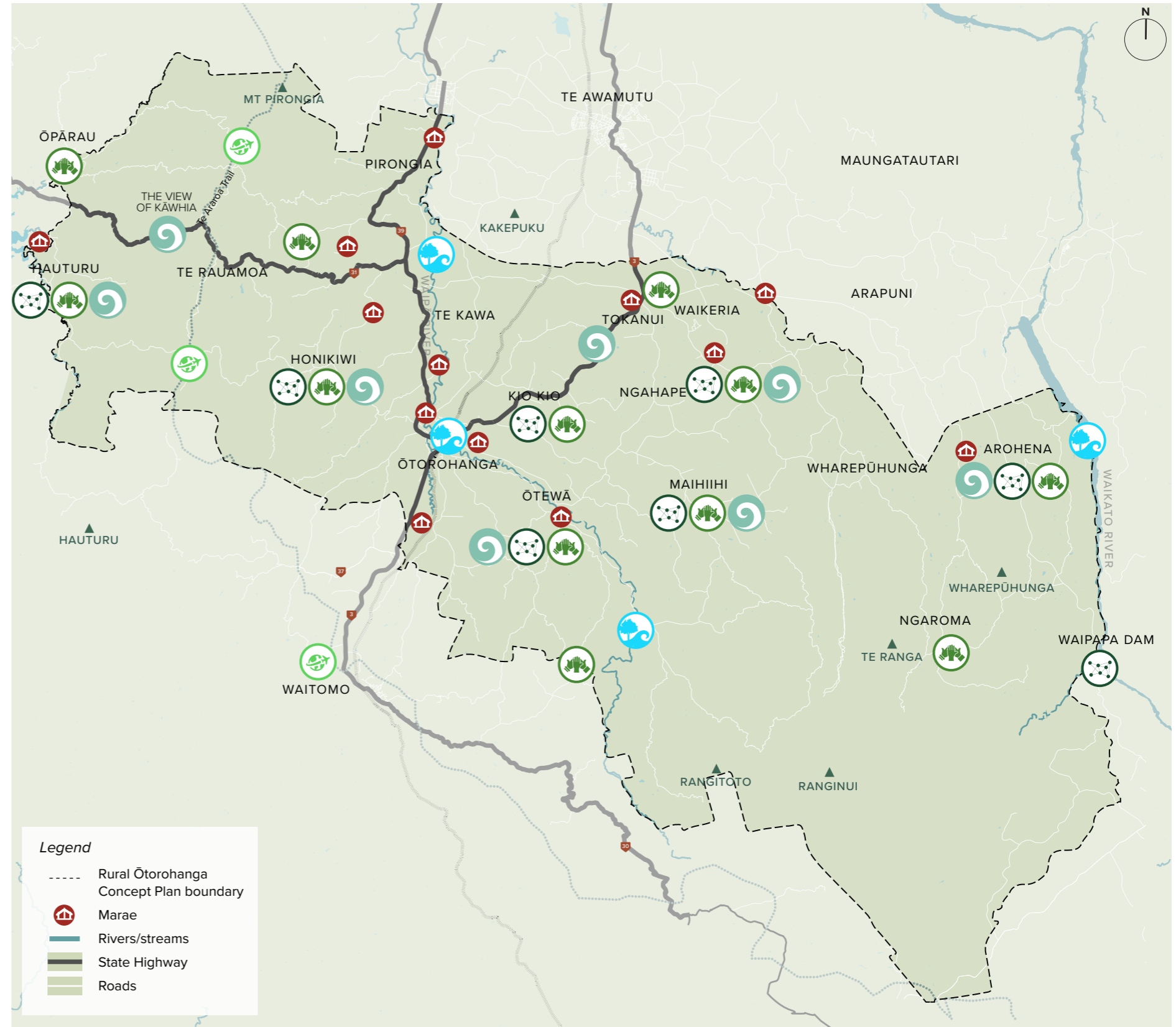


Figure 12. Opportunities Analysis

2.6 Constraints Analysis



Sites of cultural significance

The Ōtorohanga District has a high number of known cultural and archaeological sites of significance. These should be considered for any future development, and Mana Whenua engaged and consulted with as part of any future process to identify, mark, acknowledge or protect these sites.



Access and utilities resilience

The Ōtorohanga District is large and is reliant on the wider road network for connectivity. This provides for economic activity and access to community facilities. It is important that resilience is built into the network and key routes are identified that connect the community with the rest of New Zealand.



Natural hazards

Any consideration of growth, or enabling further rural development will need to recognise natural hazards including flooding and steeper topography. While this is less of an issue in the rural area due to development typically being sparse and of low intensity, any changes to the land use pattern will need to consider to these constraints and take them into account.

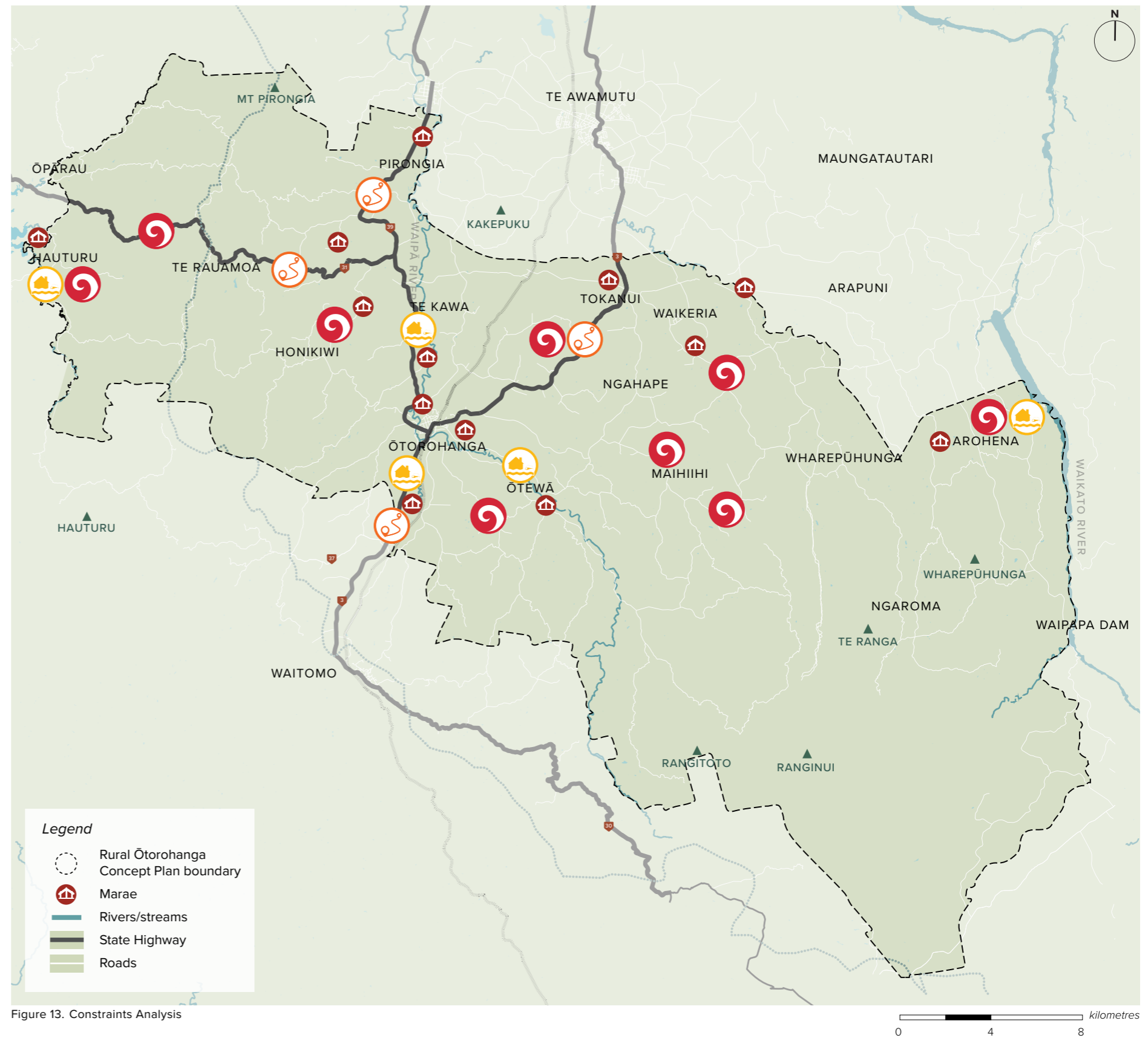


Figure 13. Constraints Analysis

3 Identified Opportunities

Opportunities have been identified for the entire rural area as well as rural segments of the District (Western, Central, Eastern) through a multi-staged approach. They are a combination of:

- The contextual analysis.
- A spatial analysis undertaken through a desktop assessment.
- Site visits.
- Feedback received from the community via online engagement and community open days held in Arohena and Ōtorohanga. These sought to understand the issues experienced by the community, and opportunities seen by those that live, work and play in the rural areas to improve the liveability of these places.

The opportunities for investment have been grouped under the headings of the design principles, noting that some opportunities will align with multiple design principles.

The opportunities and outcomes were grouped into themes relating to:

- **Resilient and connected communities**

Opportunities relating to infrastructure and transport and accessing the places people want to get to; the resilience of these networks and connections in the face of a changing climate.

- **Cultural values and identity**

Opportunities related to telling the history, and highlighting the identity, of Rural Ōtorohanga.

- **Environmental health and climate change**

Opportunities related to improving access to, and the quality of the natural environment and responding to climate change.

- **Economic prosperity and growth**

Opportunities related to enhancing commercial activity and supporting future growth.

- **Social wellbeing**

Opportunities relating to improving the health and well-being of those that live and reside in Rural Ōtorohanga.

The following pages provide a summary of the opportunities identified through this process. Some of the opportunities sit outside of the remit of Ōtorohanga District Council, however were recorded to fully understand the issues and opportunities seen by the community and may be advocated for on behalf of the community. For example, opportunities such as those that relate to the state highways and management plans for weed and pest controls. Some are part of 'business as usual' for Council. These have been recorded here, however will be managed through the usual programs and work of Council.

All opportunities have been assessed and considered by Council as part of this process and have informed the key moves and outcomes. Not all opportunities identified in this section have been progressed.



Figure 14. View of Kio Kio United Sports Club

3.1 District wide

Resilient and connected communities

- Implement speed management and appropriate signage for:
 - bus routes
 - cycling routes
 - school and playcentre areas
- Undertake an assessment of key roads across the district for repair or upgrade.
- Active modes network plan to connect schools and key community facilities.
- Set up local community civil defence response groups and support the development of their emergency response plan.
- Identify and reconsider speed limits on roads that transition from 50km/h to 80-100km/h.
- Assess crash data and identify and mitigate high accident areas such as intersections, narrow roads, conflict between modes and blind corners.

Cultural values and identity

- Celebrate sites of cultural significance and wāhi tapu through a strategy of bilingual signage, art work trails, as well as education and storytelling opportunities.
- Establish policy for restricted access to wāhi tapu sites.
- Create a suite of bilingual wayfinding and signage in partnership with Mana Whenua for;
 - key sites of interest
 - community facilities
 - parks and reserves
 - river access
 - DOC camping sites
- Support relationship building between marae and halls, schools and playcentres.

Environmental health and climate change

- Review flood risk assessment of the:
 - Waikato River
 - Waipā River
 - Awaroa River
- Recycling
 - Identify recycling facilities including green waste across the district.
 - Undertake a recycling campaign/initiative/incentive to encourage rural recycling.
- Pest control and weed management plan.
- Native tree restoration and planting plan and community planting days.

Amenity

- Create a rubbish and litter collection and management plan.
 - Provision of recycling bins for rural households.
 - Provide larger bins.
 - Increase frequency of collection.
- Undertake a condition and needs assessment of the community halls and playcentres to understand level of support required.
- Set up a mobile book and toy library.
- Develop recreational driving routes with points of interest identified.

Economic prosperity and growth

- Economics assessment to identify growth potential.
- Papakāinga framework to support papakāinga development across the district.
- Freedom camping bylaw and identification of suitable freedom camping sites.
- Provide Council support to farmers navigating central government regulatory requirements.
- Online marketing campaign to help increase tourism opportunities (via social media and websites).
- Investigate growth opportunities to sustain communities that have existing facilities (halls, schools, playcentres).

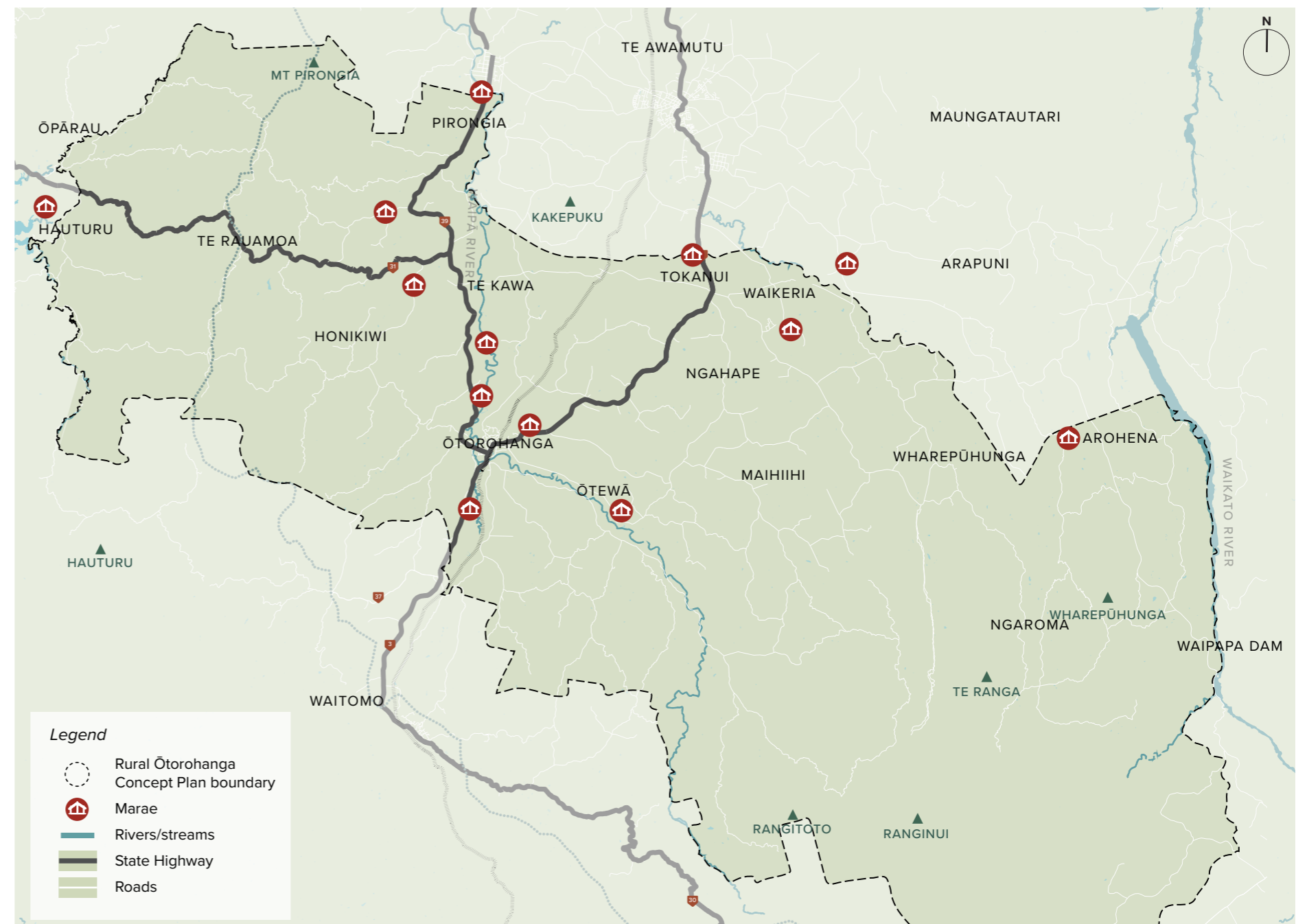


Figure 15. Regional map

3.2 Western Rural Ōtorohanga

Resilient and connected communities

- 1 Define parking and access to:
 - Hauturu Memorial Hall.
 - Honikiwi Hall.
- 2 Upgrade driveway access to Hauturu School.
- 3 Reseal and upgrade key roads as part of the reseal programme:
 - Honikiwi Road.
 - Turitea Road.
 - Kaimango Road.
 - Harbour Road.
 - Ngutunui Road.
 - Mangati Road.
- 4 Define drop off, parking and access for Ngutunui School.
- 5 Repair potholes on Honikiwi Road.
- 6 Safety upgrade to the intersection of Ormsby Road and Mangati Road.

Cultural values and identity

- 1 Celebrate sites of cultural significance and wāhi tapu through a strategy of bilingual signage, art work trails, as well as education and storytelling opportunities.
- 2 Support the development of the Turitea Marae Development Plan.

Environmental health and climate change

- 1 Improve the resilience to localised flooding of the Awaroa River (Kāwhia Harbour tributary) through:
 - Riverbank riparian planting.
 - River edge terracing to protect recreation areas next to the river.
 - Wetlands and stormwater treatment ponds to support water quality into the river.
 - Stopbanks.
- 2 Undertake resilience assessment of Kāwhia Harbour Road Bridge.
- 3 Investigate the relocation and consolidation of community facilities outside of the inundation zone including halls, schools and the Awaroa Sports ground.
- 4 Kauri Dieback project for Te Kauri Park Scenic Reserve.
- 5 Climate risk assessment including sea level rise of the Hauturu area.

Amenity

- 1 Provision of bilingual signage and wayfinding for reserves and tracks in the district
 - Te Kauri Park Scenic Reserve.
 - Walter Scott Reserve.
 - Pirongia summit via Hihikiwi Track.
- 2 Provision of signage and wayfinding to:
 - Hauturu Memorial Hall.
 - Hauturu School.
 - Honikiwi Hall.
 - Ngutunui School and Community Hall.

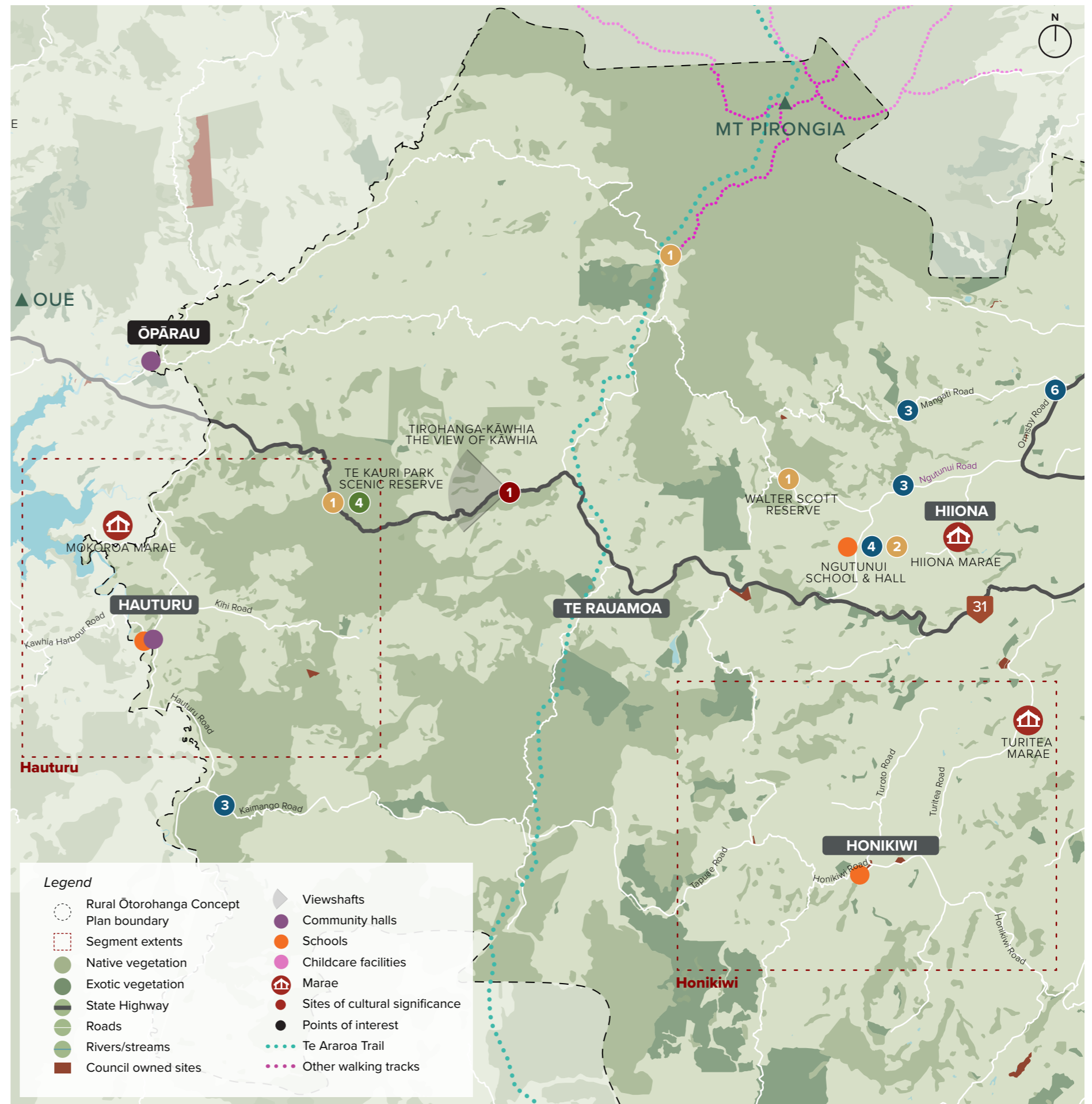


Figure 16. Identified opportunities - Western Rural Ōtorohanga. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Hauturu

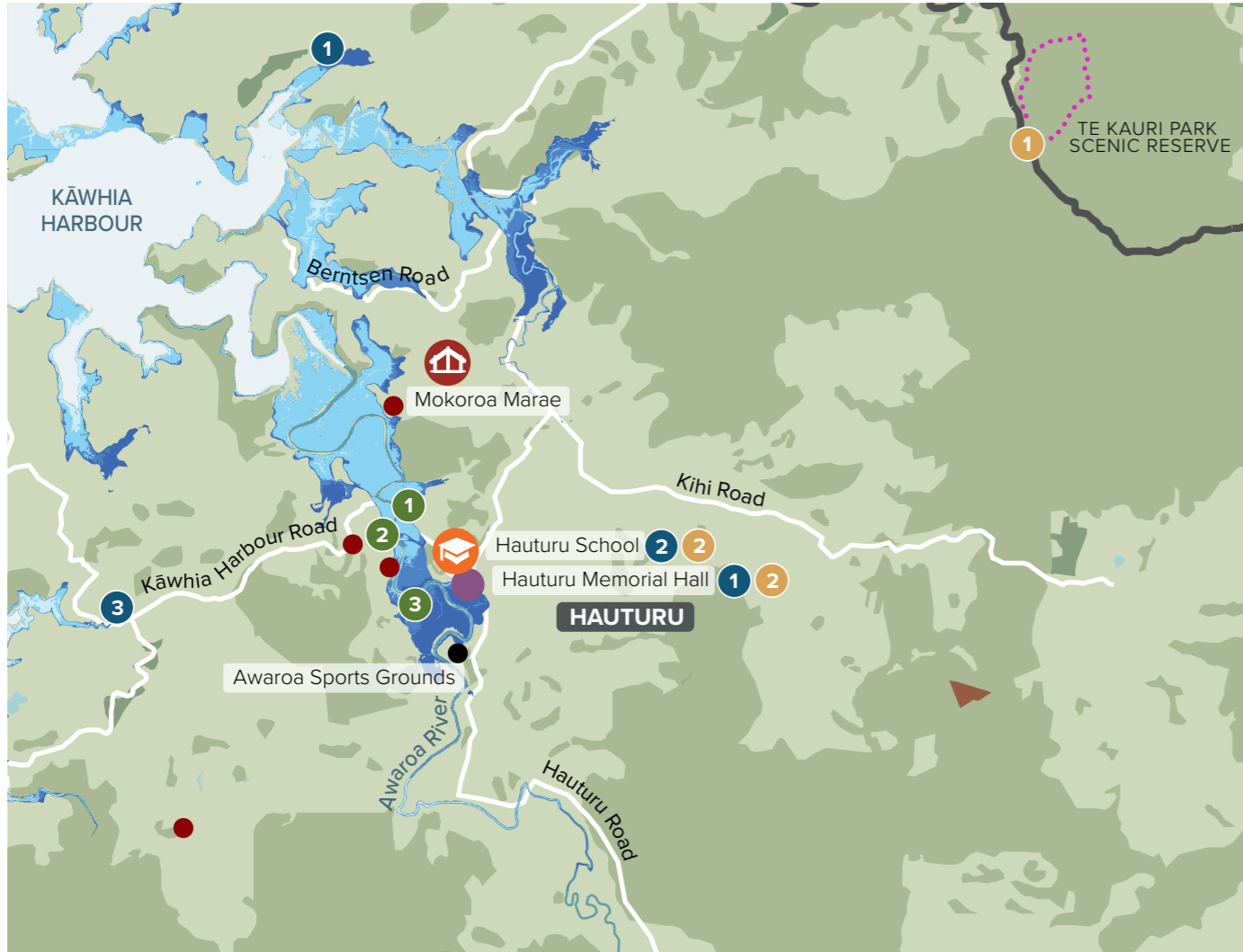


Figure 17. Identified opportunities - Western Rural Ōtorohanga - Hauturu. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Honikiwi



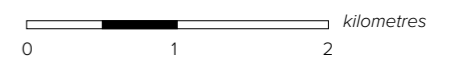
Figure 18. Identified opportunities - Western Rural Ōtorohanga - Honikiwi. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Legend

- Rural Ōtorohanga Concept Plan boundary
- Native vegetation
- Exotic vegetation
- State Highway
- Roads
- Rivers/streams
- Council owned sites
- Community halls
- Schools
- Marae
- Sites of cultural significance
- Points of interest
- Other walking tracks

Constraints

- Projected coastal inundation
- Present day high-tide
- Present day extreme storm tide
- Future extreme storm tide (50-years)
- Future extreme storm tide (100-years)



3.3 Central Rural Ōtorohanga

Resilient and connected communities

- 1 Improve the safety and legibility of intersections:
 - Otoru Road and Lurman Road.
- 2 Kio Kio United Sports Club.
 - Speed management and signage on Paewhenua Road.
 - Define driveway access and parking arrangement.
- 3 Reseal and upgrade key roads as part of the reseal programme:
 - Old Te Kūiti Road.
 - Waitomo Valley Road.
 - Mangawhero Road.
 - Rangiatea Road.
 - Ōtewā Road.
 - Tahaia Road.
 - Maihihi Road.
 - Paewhenua Road.
 - Wharepūhanga Road.
- 4 Repair carpark surface at Kio Kio School.
- 5 Define access and parking arrangement to minimise pedestrian and vehicular conflict at:
 - Kio Kio Hall.
 - Ōtewā School.
 - Ōtewā Hall.
 - Maihihi Playcentre.
 - Tokanui Crossroads Hall.
- 6 Seal driveway access to Wharepūhanga Playcentre.
- 7 Cycleway along Waipā River up to Pureora.

Cultural values and identity

- 1 Identify areas for Pā harakeke to support local weaving groups.
- 2 Identify areas around schools and community halls for community gardens and kai forest e.g. Ōtorohanga kai forest programme.
- 3 Repair and upgrade signage and access to Te Kōpua Mission site at Tihiroa.

Environmental health and climate change

- 1 Improve the resilience to the flooding of the Waipā River through:
 - Te Ara a Waiwaiā i Ōrahiri - Riverbank riparian planting project.
 - River edge terracing to protect recreation areas next to the river.
 - Wetlands and stormwater treatment ponds to support water quality into the river.
 - Stopbanks.

Amenity

- 1 Provision of bilingual signage and wayfinding to:
 - Ōtewā School and Ōtewā Hall.
 - Kio Kio School and Hall.
 - Kio Kio United Sports Club.
 - Maihihi School.
 - Tokanui Crossroads Hall.
 - Korakonui School and Wharepūhanga Playcentre.
- 2 Formalise Waipā River access at 645 Ōtewā Road Pony Club and provide:
 - Picnic area.
 - River access.
 - Defined parking and access.
- 3 Formalise Waipā River access at 1400 - 1600 Ōtewā Road (toru Reserve) and provide:
 - Picnic area.
 - River access.
 - Defined parking and access.
- 4 Upgrade Korakonui Hall.
- 5 Develop a community facility providing for Riding for the Disabled.

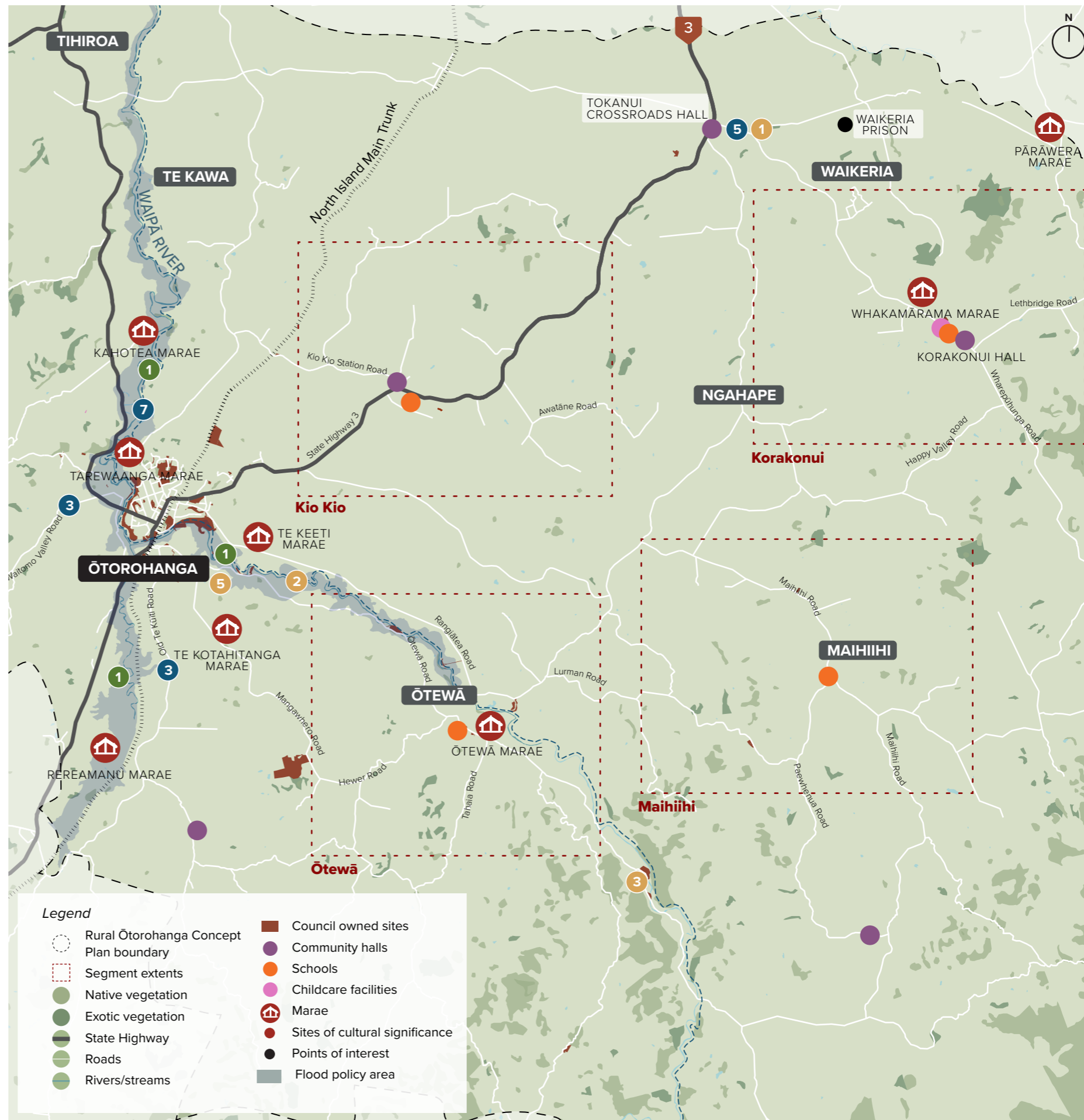
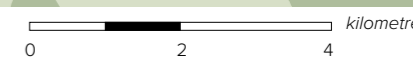


Figure 19. Identified opportunities - Central Rural Ōtorohanga. Source: Waikato Regional Council



Kio Kio



Figure 20. Identified opportunities - Central Rural Ōtorohanga - Kio Kio. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Korakonui



Figure 21. Identified opportunities - Central Rural Ōtorohanga - Korakonui. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Ōtewā



Figure 22. Identified opportunities - Central Rural Ōtorohanga - Ōtewā. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Maihihi



Figure 23. Identified opportunities - Central Rural Ōtorohanga - Maihihi. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Legend

- Rural Ōtorohanga Concept Plan boundary
- Native vegetation
- Exotic vegetation
- State Highway
- Roads
- Rivers/streams
- Council owned sites
- Community halls
- Schools
- Childcare facilities
- Marae
- Sites of cultural significance
- Points of interest
- Flood policy area



3.4 Eastern Rural Ōtorohanga

Resilient and connected communities

- 1 Upgrade driveway access at entrance of:
 - Arohena Community Hall and Playcentre.
 - Arohena School.
- 2 Speed management to minimise conflict between vehicles and cyclists.
- 3 Reseal and upgrade key roads as part of the reseal programme:
 - Waipapa Road.
 - Pukewhau Road.
 - Ngaroma Road.
 - Wairehi Road.
- 4 Repair pot holes on Aotearoa Road.
- 5 Improve signage "4WD only" on unsealed portion of Aotearoa Road.

Cultural values and identity

- 1 Investigate opportunities to support community relationships between Aotearoa Marae, Arohena School and Community Hall.

Environmental health and climate change

- 1 Assess the resilience to localised flooding of the Waikato River.

Amenity

- 1 Arohena Campsite - work with Department of Conservation to:
 - Upgrade campsite facilities.
 - Provide better road access.
 - Establish a maintenance agreement with Council.
- 2 Provision of bilingual signage and wayfinding to:
 - Arohena Campsite at the intersection of Landing Road and Mangare Road.
 - Arohena Hall.
 - Arohena School and Playcentre.
 - Waipapa Dam lookout.
 - Waikato River trail at Waipapa Dam.
 - Ngaroma Hall.
- 3 Upgrade public toilet facilities at Waipapa Dam.
- 4 Formalise rest area and river look out on Waipapa Road.
- 5 Formalise rest area and upgrade public toilet facilities on Waipapa Road.
- 6 Funding support for upkeep of Arohena Hall.
- 7 Provision of information signage at Mangawhero Bridge.
- 8 Upgrade access to Mangatutu 'Reserve'.

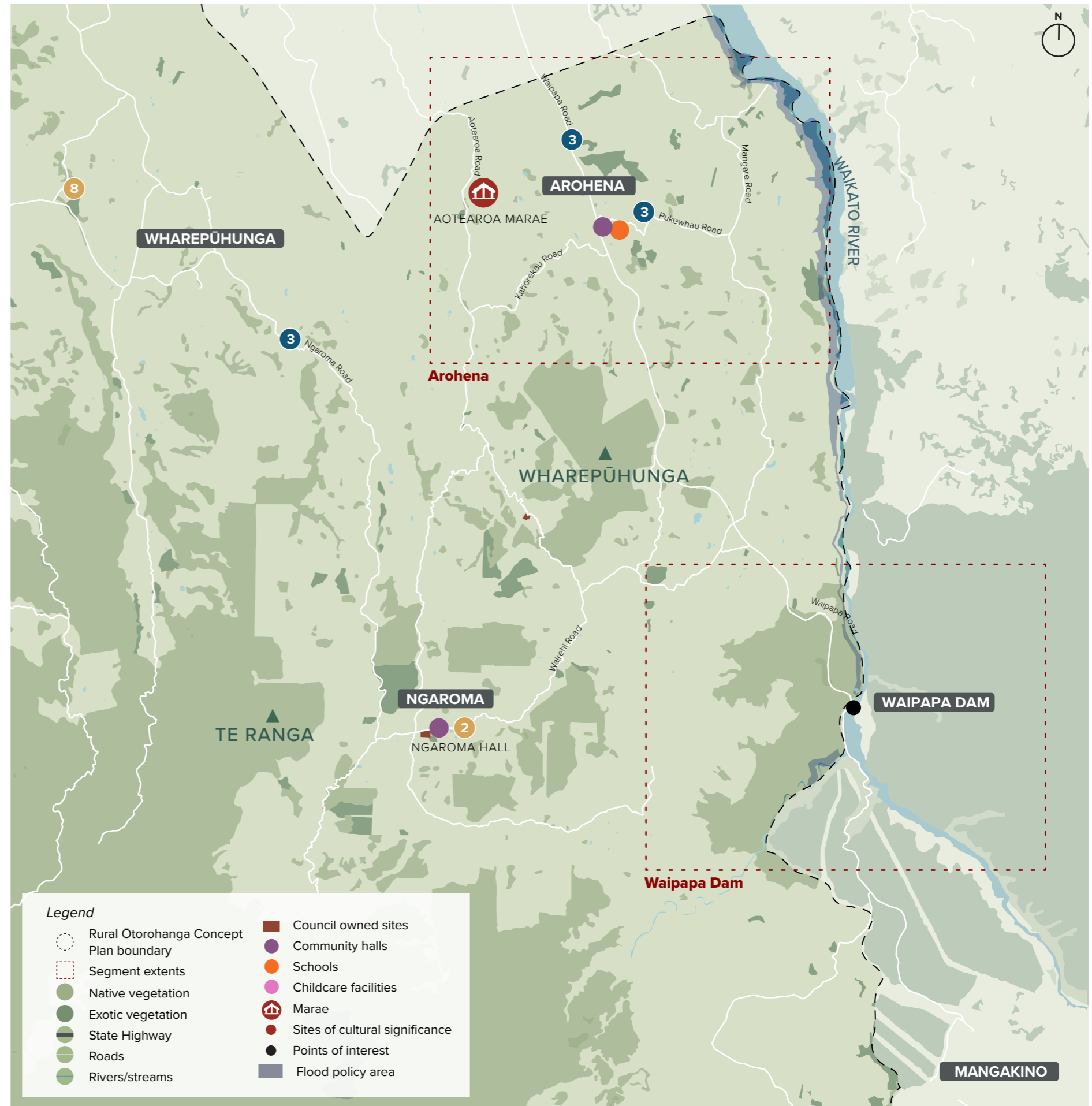


Figure 24. Identified opportunities - Eastern Rural Ōtorohanga. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Arohena

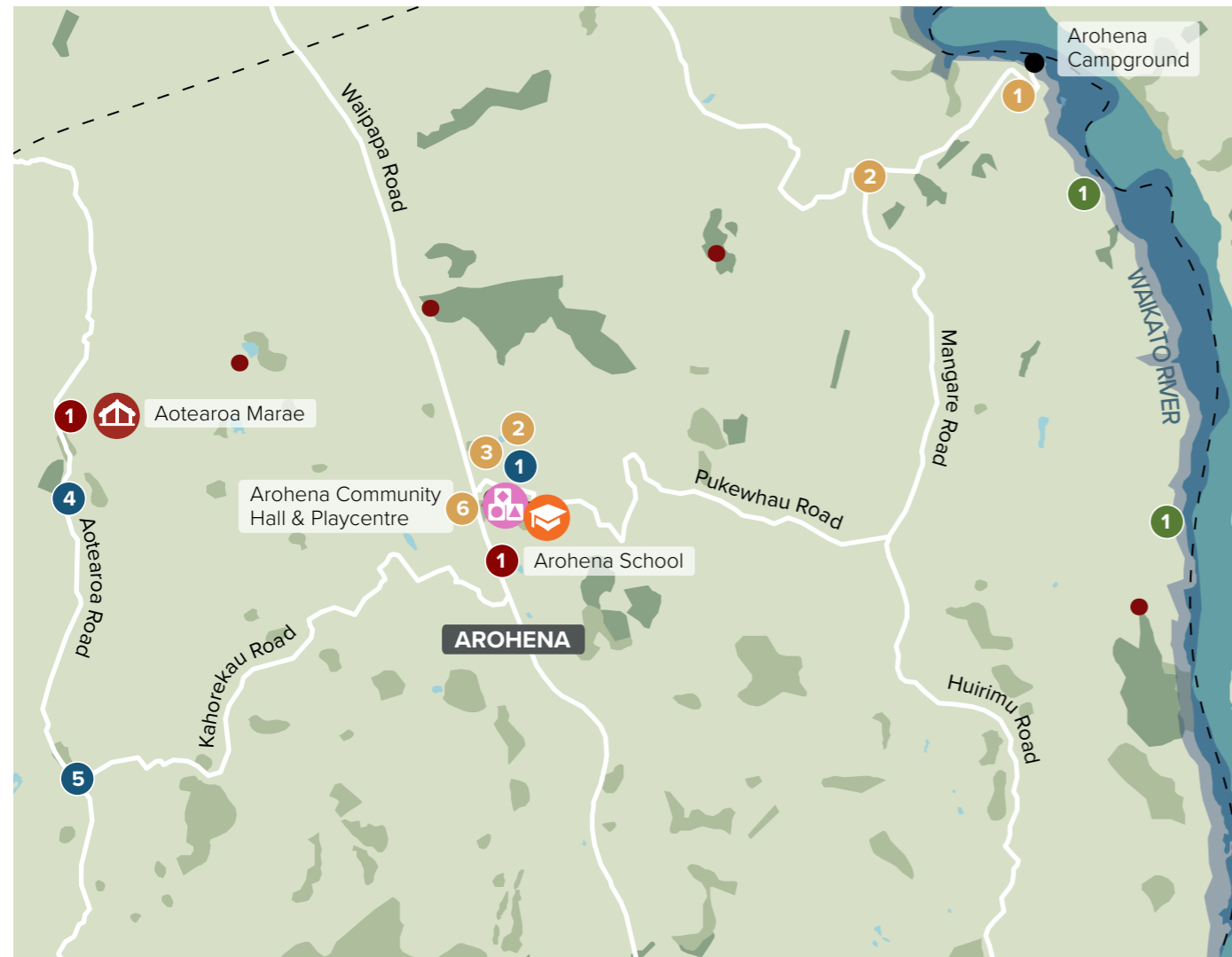


Figure 25. Identified opportunities - Eastern Rural Ōtorohanga - Arohena. Source: Waikato Regional Council

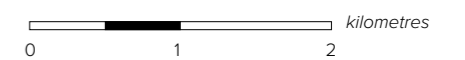
Waipapa Dam



Figure 26. Identified opportunities - Eastern Rural Ōtorohanga - Waipapa Dam. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Legend

- Rural Ōtorohanga Concept Plan boundary
- Native vegetation
- Exotic vegetation
- State Highway
- Roads
- Rivers/streams
- Schools
- Childcare facilities
- Marae
- Sites of cultural significance
- Points of interest
- Flood policy area



4 Key Moves & Outcomes

Growth and Land Use

The current population of the district is approximately 10,850 people. The district is experiencing some growth and current population projections range from a low growth scenario of -0.2% resulting in a shrinking population over the next 20 years, to a high growth scenario of 0.8% over the next 20 years to 2044. This means the future population could range from 9,990 to 12,800 people.

Approximately 7,060 people currently live in the rural areas outside the townships of Ōtorohanga and Kāwhia. The rural population is estimated to have grown by approximately 160 people over the last five years.

Challenges have been highlighted by the community in retaining people in rural areas, and of having sufficient population to support attendance at rural schools and use of the community halls and other facilities.

There is also a large amount of Māori owned land in the district, presenting owners with opportunities for a range of uses, including papakāinga, which could support population retention in rural areas.

Opportunities have been raised, relating to enabling additional residential development around identified nodes centred on schools and halls, with the purpose of enabling more people to live close to these assets, supporting their continued existence and the rural economy.

There are a number of challenges related to enabling development in rural areas, with strong national direction on maintaining productive rural land and challenges relating to access to everyday services that are located in Ōtorohanga, or outside of the district in places like Te Awamutu and Te Kūiti.

Currently, the District Plan enables residential lifestyle development along identified roads in the district, radiating out from Ōtorohanga, Kāwhia and Pirongia township.

As part of the review of changes to the District Plan, the management of rural-residential development in the district could consider a more targeted approach to enabling more rural-residential development in existing rural nodes/hamlets that would benefit from more concentrated activity. In determining which nodes that may be appropriate to enable additional growth to occur around, the following considerations should be included:

- Productive capacity of soil.
- Access to school, hall, community assets.
- Distance to a town for servicing.
- Ecological effects.
- Environmental hazards.
- Reverse sensitivity effects.



Figure 27. View of Waipapa Dam

4.1 District wide

Transport and accessibility

- 1 Develop active modes plan to connect schools and key community facilities.
- 2 Cycleway along the Waipā River to connect to Pureroa Forest and the Timber Trail.
- 3 Work with Schools and Community Halls to understand maintenance needs for safe access and parking, including:
 - Hauturu Memorial Hall.
 - Honikiwi Hall.
 - Ngutunui School.
 - Hauturu School.
 - Kio Kio Hall.
 - Kio Kio School
 - Ōtewā School.
 - Ōtewā Hall.
 - Maihihi Playcentre.
 - Tokanui Crossroads Hall.

Amenity and community connections

- 1 Identify areas around schools and community halls for community gardens and kai forest i.e. Ōtorohanga kai forest programme.
- 2 Undertake a condition and needs assessment of the community halls and playcentres to understand level of support required.
- 3 Set up a mobile book and toy library.
- 4 Stocktake and review of rural reserves.
- 5 Investigate freedom camping bylaw and identification of suitable freedom camping sites.

Arts, culture and heritage

- 1 Develop an Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy that considers:
 - How to celebrate sites of cultural significance.
 - Bilingual signage, way-finding, storytelling trails and education opportunities.
 - How to manage and collate information of culturally significant sites.
 - Access to wāhi tapu sites policy.
 - Street trees and planting programme through Rural Ōtorohanga. Opportunities include:
 - Key sites of interest.
 - Community facilities such as schools and halls.
 - Parks and reserves.
 - River access.
 - DOC camping sites.
 - Tirohanga.
 - Te Kauri Park Scenic Reserve.
 - Walter Scott Reserve.
 - Pirongia Summit via Hihikiwi Track.
 - Identifying areas for Pā Harakeke to support local weaving groups.
 - Waipapa Dam look out and Waikato River Trail.
 - Mangawhero Bridge.

Climate change and resilience

- 1 Develop Climate Change Response plan to address climate risk assessment including:
 - Flooding resilience of bridges.
 - Riverbank riparian planting for the Waipā, Waikato and Awaroa.
 - Wetlands and stormwater management.
 - Any need for any relocation and consolidation of community assets (halls, schools/clubs) outside of flooding and inundation zones.
 - Sea level rise risk in the Hauturu area.
 - Te Ara a Waiwaiā i Ōrāhiri.
 - Riverbank riparian planting project.
 - River edge terracing to protect recreation areas next to the river.
 - Wetlands and stormwater treatment ponds to support water quality into the river.
 - Stop banks.
- 2 Review flood risk assessment of the:
 - Waipā River.
 - Waikato River.
 - Awaroa River.
- 3 Establish local community civil defence response groups and support the development of their emergency response plan.
- 4 Pest control and weed management plan for Council administered/owned land.
- 5 Develop Waste Management and Minimisation Plan for the District to consider:
 - Needs of rural community including access to recycling, bin size and frequency of collection.

Development

- 1 Develop Economic Wellbeing Strategy to:
 - Identify opportunities for growth potential and investment to support economic activity in the rural areas of the District.
 - Develop online marketing campaign to help increase tourism opportunities (via social media and websites).
- 2 Papakāinga framework to support papakāinga development across the district.
- 3 Provide Council support to farmers navigating central government regulatory requirements.
- 4 Investigate growth opportunities to sustain communities that have existing facilities (halls, schools, playcentres).



Separated on road cycleway



Mobile book and toy library



Stopbanks



Community Hall



Reserve entry signage



Bilingual signage

4.2 Western Rural Ōtorohanga

Transport and accessibility

- 1 Work with schools and community halls to understand maintenance needs for safe access and parking, including:
 - Hauturu Memorial Hall.
 - Honikiwi Hall.
 - Ngutunui School.
 - Hauturu School.

Climate change and resilience

- 1 Kauri Dieback project for Te Kauri Park Scenic Reserve.

Development

- 1 Support the development of the Turitea Marae Development Plan.



Figure 28. Key Moves & Outcomes - Western Rural Ōtorohanga. Source: Waikato Regional Council



Hauturu

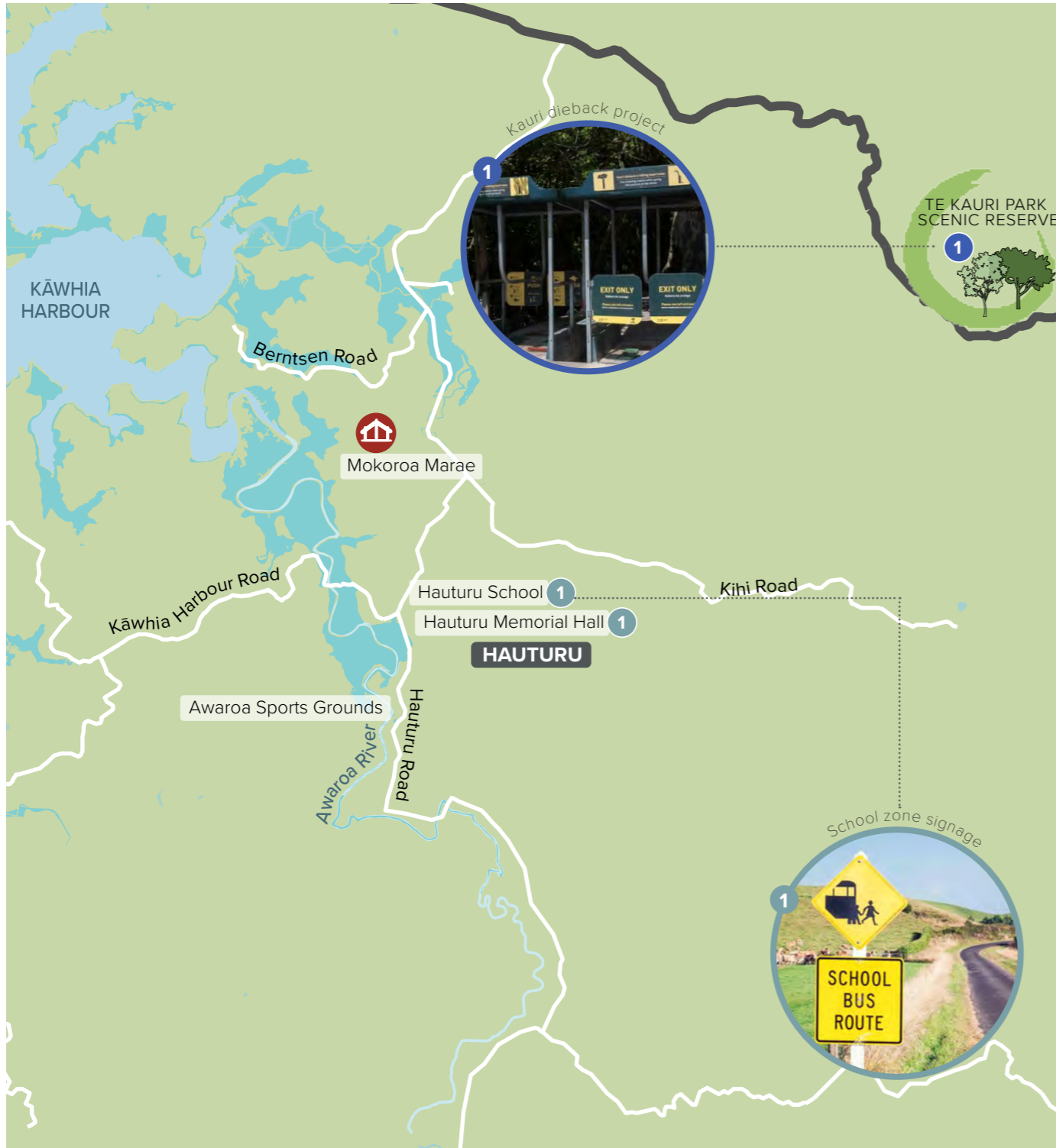


Figure 29. Key Moves & Outcomes - Western Rural Ōtorohanga - Hauturu. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Honikiwi

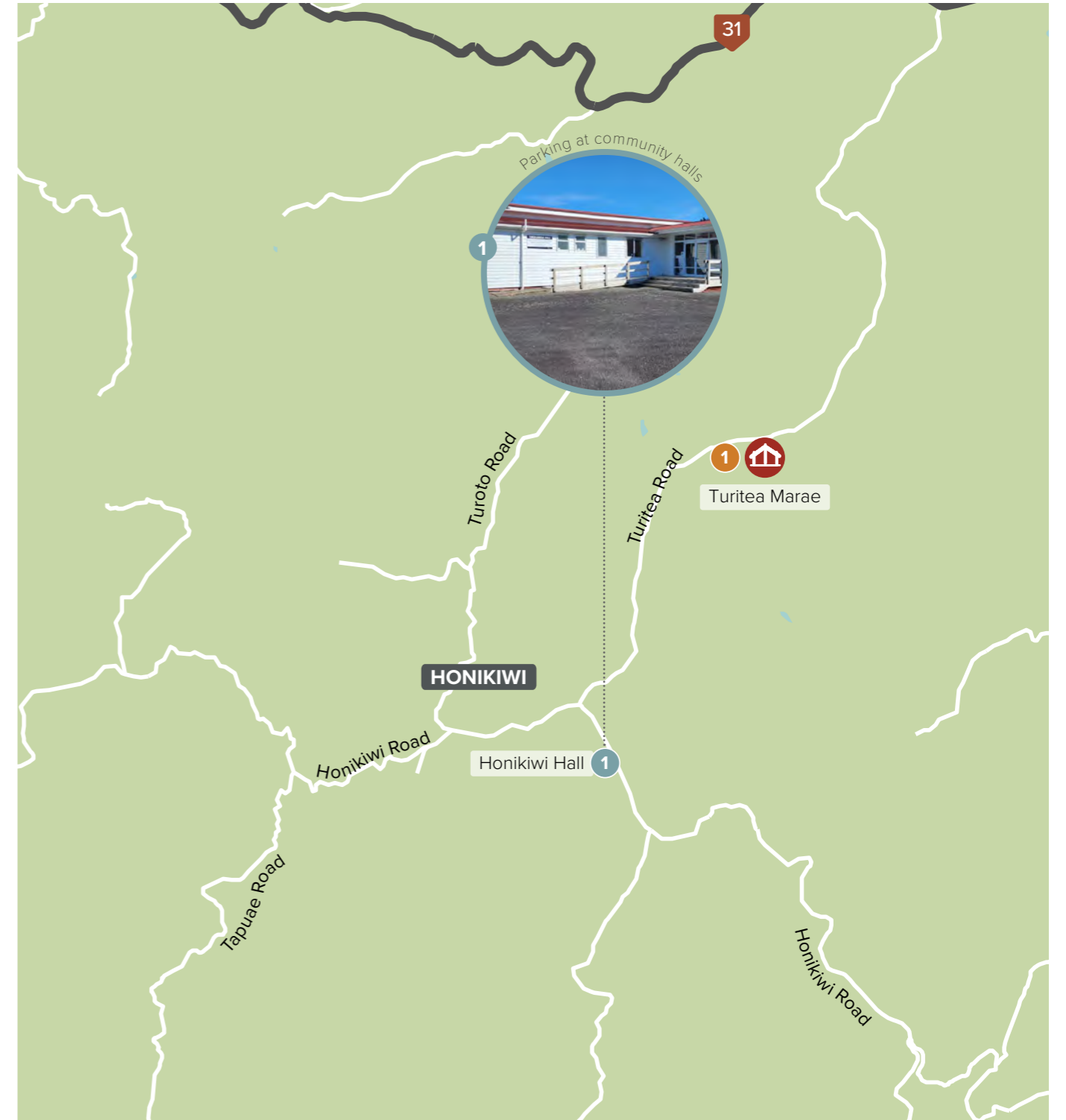


Figure 30. Key Moves & Outcomes - Western Rural Ōtorohanga - Honikiwi. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Legend

- State Highway
- Roads
- Viewshafts
- Marae
- Projected coastal inundation
- Harbour

0 1 2 kilometres

4.3 Central Rural Ōtorohanga

Transport and accessibility

- 1 Seal driveway access to Wharepūhanga Playcentre.

Amenity and community connections

- 1 Repair and upgrade signage and access to Te Kōpua Mission site at Tihiroa.
- 2 Upgrade Korakonui Hall.
- 3 Formalise Waipā River access at 645 Ōtewā Road Pony Club and provide:
 - Picnic area.
 - River access.
- 4 Develop reserve concept plan for Ōtewa Reserve including:
 - Picnic area.
 - River access defined parking and access.
- 5 Develop a community facility providing for Riding for the Disabled.

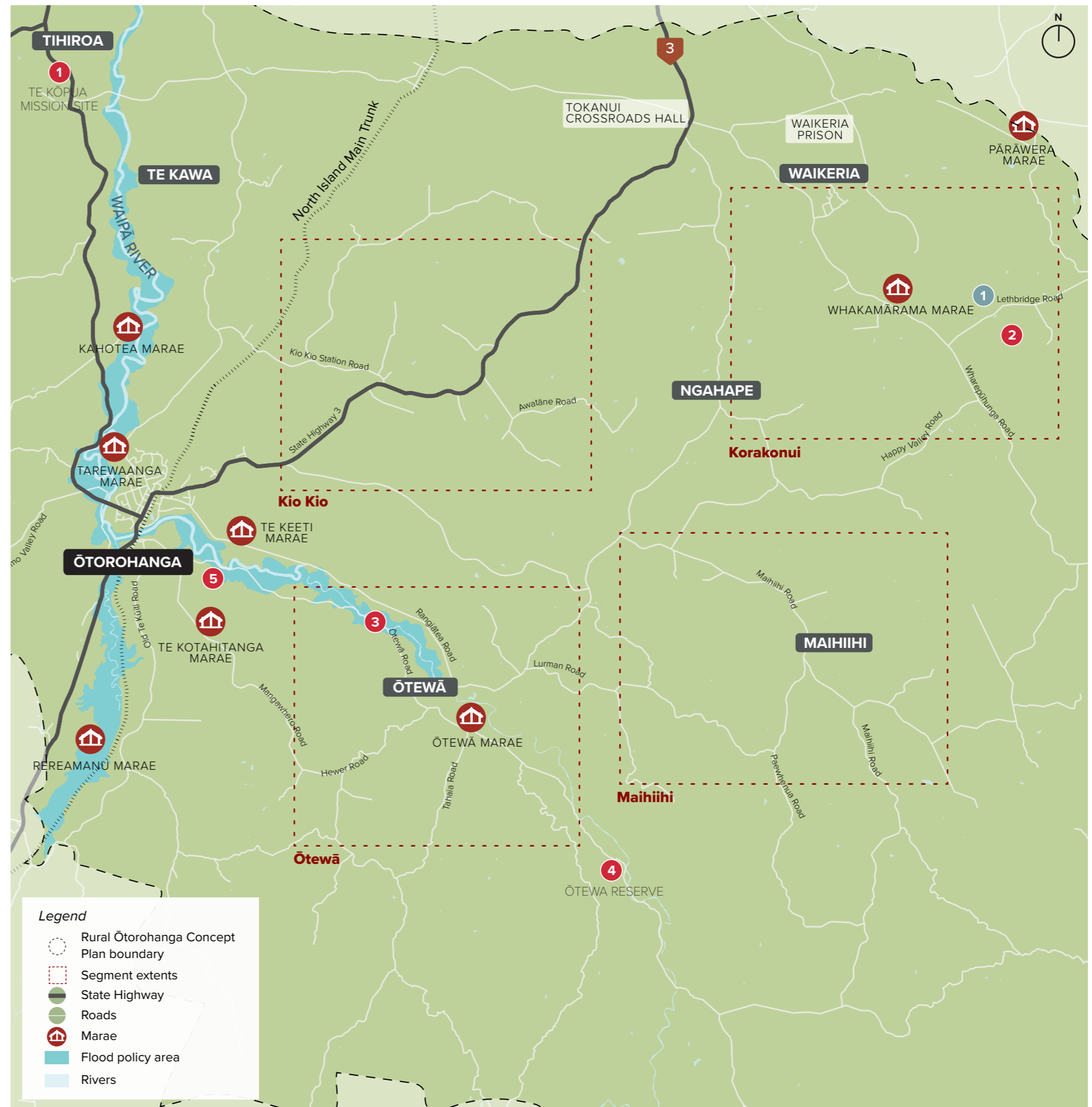


Figure 31. Key Moves & Outcomes - Central Rural Ōtorohanga. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Kio Kio

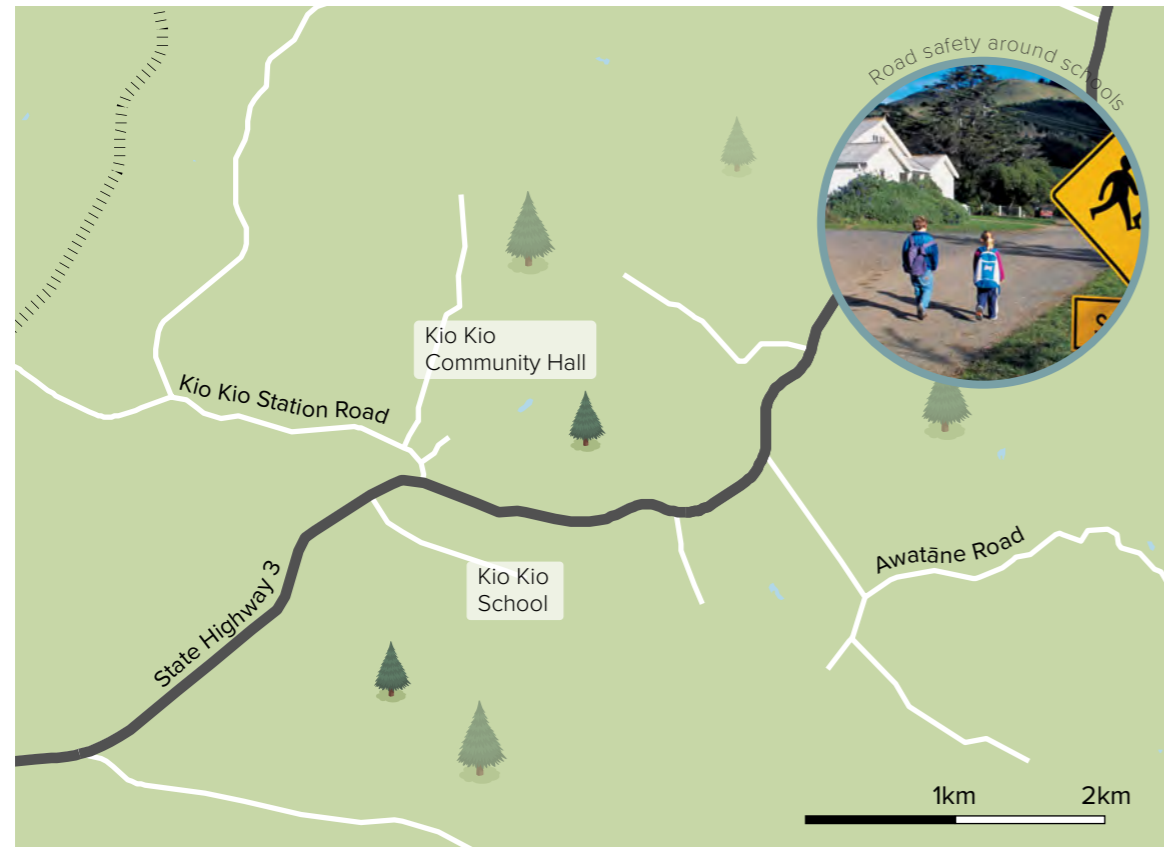


Figure 34. Key Moves & Outcomes - Central Rural Ōtorohanga - Kio Kio. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Korakonui



Figure 35. Key Moves & Outcomes - Central Rural Ōtorohanga - Korakonui. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Ōtewā



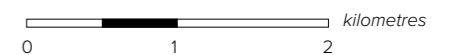
Figure 32. Key Moves & Outcomes - Central Rural Ōtorohanga - Ōtewā. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Maihihi



Figure 33. Key Moves & Outcomes - Central Rural Ōtorohanga - Maihihi. Source: Waikato Regional Council

- Legend**
- State highway
 - Roads
 - Marae
 - Flood policy area
 - River



4.4 Eastern Rural Ōtorohanga

Transport and accessibility

- 1 Upgrade driveway access/entrance - Arohena Community Hall and Playcentre.
- 2 In areas seeing increased cycling activity undertake assessment of safety requirements to minimise conflict between vehicles and cyclists.

Amenity and community connections

- 1 Investigate opportunities to support community relationships between Aotearoa Marae, Arohena School and Community Hall.
- 2 Arohena Campsite - work with Department of Conservation to:
 - Upgrade campsite facilities.
 - Provide better road access.
 - Establish a maintenance agreement with Council.
- 3 Upgrade public toilet facilities at Waipapa Dam.
- 4 Formalise rest area and river look out on Waipapa Road.
- 5 Funding support for upkeep of Arohena Hall.
- 6 Upgrade access to Mangatutu 'Reserve'.

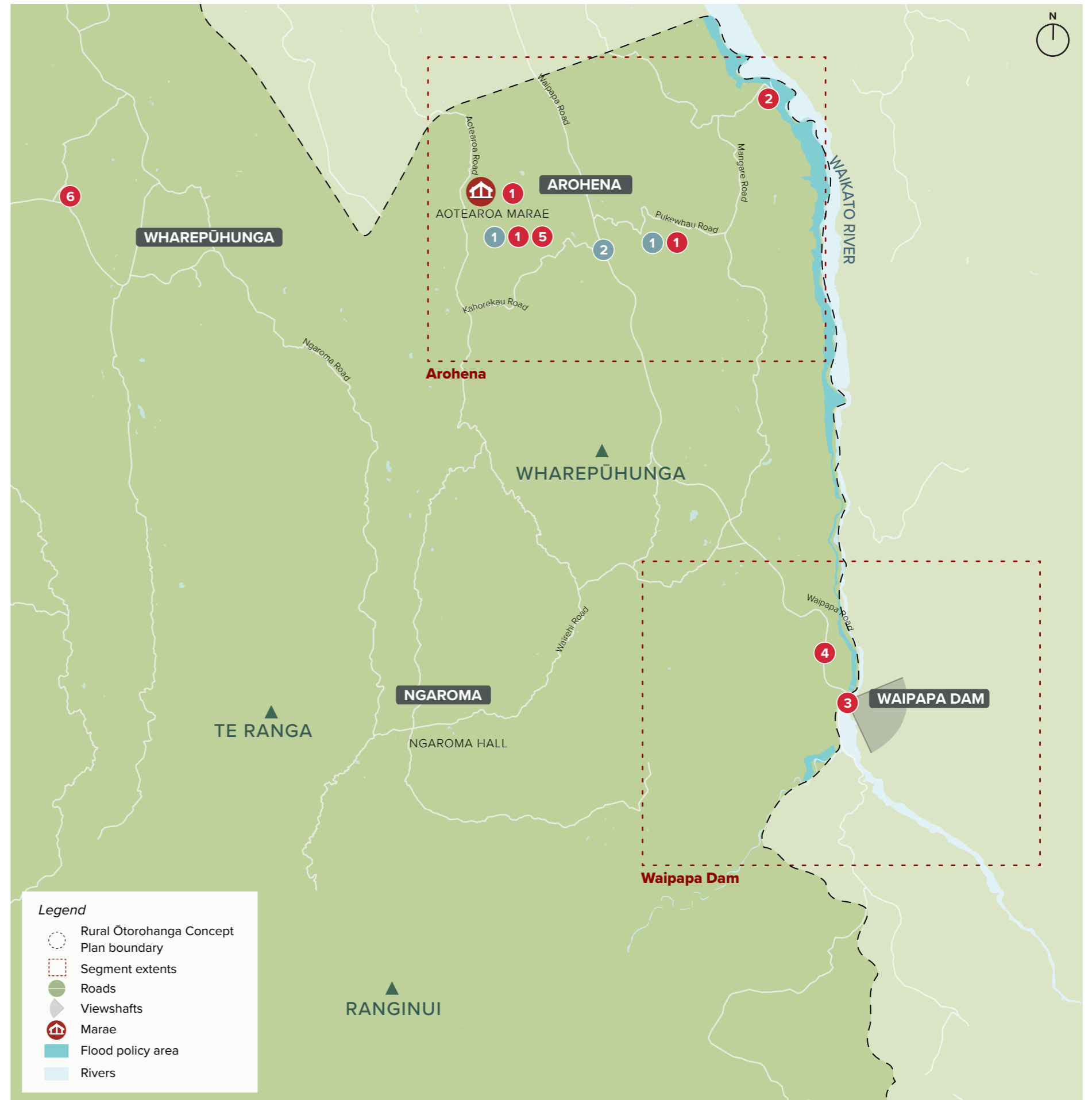


Figure 36. Key Moves & Outcomes - Eastern Rural Ōtorohanga. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Arohena





Figure 37. Key Moves & Outcomes - Eastern Rural Ōtorohanga - Arohena. Source: Waikato Regional Council

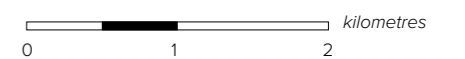
Waipapa Dam



Figure 38. Key Moves & Outcomes - Eastern Rural Ōtorohanga - Waipapa Dam. Source: Waikato Regional Council

Legend

-  Roads
-  Viewshafts
-  Marae
-  Flood policy area
-  River



4.5 Artists Impressions

Amenity upgrades to Otoru Reserve - Indicative only



Figure 39. Artist Impression - Otoru Reserve

5 Implementation Approach

How this plan is to be implemented

This Concept Plan identifies a series of proposed projects and initiatives to support place shaping and improved liveability across rural Ōtorohanga. The projects and initiatives are intended to be progressed across short, medium and long term time frames with a range of stakeholders and partners as outlined below.

The key moves and outcomes identified will move from being aspirational opportunities and key moves, to being funded and delivered, when funding and partners have been identified. This will involve partnering and engaging further with key stakeholders, including Mana Whenua, the community, local community organisations and businesses and key landowners within rural Ōtorohanga.

Ōtorohanga District Council consider that it is important to continue to work in collaboration with community partners in all significant Council projects. To support the implementation of this Concept Plan, it is recommended that a detailed implementation plan for each of the opportunities is developed, identifying key outcomes to be achieved, those responsible for delivery, project costs, and timeframes.

Role of Ōtorohanga District Council

Ōtorohanga District Council plays a key role in realising the future vision for rural Ōtorohanga, as depicted in this document. This role may range from direct investment in public works to advocating for positive changes to encourage investment (such as with the NZ Transport Agency/Waka Kotahi, local businesses and investors).

The Council will also need to engage with Mana Whenua, community and key stakeholders to advocate for public and private initiatives that assist to achieve the outcomes and projects identified across the rural area.

Funding implications

The Long Term Plan (LTP) sets out the Council's work programmes, key services and significant projects and the associated budgets over a 10-year period. This Concept Plan provides a longer term view of community aspirations and thereby informs the LTP, which is reviewed every three years.

Some of the actions are already budgeted for in the LTP, or are business as usual for Council. Actions that need new funding will require advocacy to become new LTP initiatives. It is important to note that the availability of funding from the Council for proposed projects is not guaranteed. Funding and prioritisation will be determined as part of the LTP and Annual Plan process. This plan and the incorporated prioritisation table represent the current thinking, based off the information known at this time. It is important to note that these timeframes and prioritisations may change in the future depending on demand and needs arising from other Council funding requirements.

This plan can be used as a tool to assist in decision making on funding priorities. There are multiple ways that the projects and initiatives identified in this document can be achieved, other than the LTP. These include:

- Community led actions.
- Fundraising.
- Funding/grants.
- Private investment and development.

Monitoring and review

The Council will undertake periodic reviews of this Concept Plan in line with LTP processes. Keeping the document 'live' and up to date will help achieve the outcomes desired by the stakeholders, or will identify if projects should be reconsidered in relation to new information and/or changed circumstances.

Projects and initiatives have been grouped as short term, medium and long term projects. Implementation of the projects will be managed through the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan process.

For projects that require substantial investment, these have been identified as long term projects, and including these in the document allows for investigation and initial steps to be undertaken, with the long term in mind. It also provides the opportunity to seek funding, should this become available.

Implementation table

The following table identifies the Key Moves and Outcomes that have been identified through this document. It considers the alignment with the outcome principles, the project complexity and likely cost and timeframe required to implement the projects.

The table provides a tool for future identification and prioritisation of investment across the three rural areas (western, central and western) across the short, medium and long term.

Indicative cost assumptions have been made by Council and at a high level to provide a comparison between projects. No detailed costing has been undertaken for these projects and are subject to change. Prior to the commencement of any project, a more detailed costing should be undertaken to confirm the likely budgetary requirements. The indicative costings should not be relied upon for any decision making purposes.

Business as usual

Throughout the consultation period, a number of issues and opportunities were identified by the community and stakeholders that form part of ŌDCs "business as usual" activities. These have been recorded in this document, acknowledging that they have been identified by the community. These will be actioned and prioritised by ŌDC through existing processes and programs.



Figure 40. View at Tauraroa Valley Road

5.1 Implementation Framework

District wide

- Strong alignment with principles
- Partial alignment with principles

Project Objectives					Project	Project stages	Delivery Lead	Project Partners and Stakeholders	Prioritisation and Timeframe			Indicative Cost		
Cultural Values and Identity	Resilient and Connected Communities	Environmental Health and Climate Change	Economic Prosperity	Social Wellbeing					Short term (1-3 years)	Medium term (3-10 years)	Long term (10+ years)	Low	Medium	High
TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY														
	●	○			1. Develop active modes plan to connect schools and key community facilities.	Determine the scope of the plan	ŌDC		✓	✓			✓	
						Undertake engagement								
						Develop the plan								
	○	○	○	●	2. Cycleway along the Waipā River to connect to Pureroa Forest and the Timbertrail.	Identify support for the project	Community led				✓			✓
						Establish funding partners and strategy								
						Design and implementation								
	●			○	3. Work with Schools and Community Halls to understand maintenance needs for safe access and parking, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hauturu Memorial Hall. • Honikiwi Hall. • Ngutunui School. • Hauturu School. • Kio Kio Hall. • Kio Kio School • Ōtewā School. • Ōtewā Hall. • Maihihi Playcentre. • Te Kawa Crossroads Hall. 	Undertake needs assessment and scoping of requirements	Schools and Hall Committees	ŌDC	✓	✓		✓		
						Develop solutions and confirm funding								
						Design and implementation								
AMENITY AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS														
●			●		1. Identify areas around schools and community halls for community gardens and kai forest e.g. Ōtorohanga kai forest programme.	Identify potential locations and areas	Community led		✓			✓		
						Create implementation plan and implement								
				●	2. Undertake a condition and needs assessment of the community halls and playcentres to understand level of support required.	Scope needs assessment and establish committee to undertake work	Community led co-ordinated by ŌDC		✓	✓		✓		
						Undertake engagement with community and assessment								
				○	3. Set up a mobile book and toy library.		ŌDC for books Community led for toys		✓	✓			✓	
				●	4. Stocktake and review of rural reserves		ŌDC		✓			✓		
			○	●	5. Investigate freedom camping bylaw and identification of suitable freedom camping sites.	Develop scope for policy framework	ŌDC		✓			✓		
						Undertake engagement								
						Draft Policy								

- Strong alignment with principles
- Partial alignment with principles

Project Objectives					Project	Project stages	Delivery Lead	Project Partners and Stakeholders	Prioritisation and Timeframe			Indicative Cost			
Cultural Values and Identity	Resilient and Connected Communities	Environmental Health and Climate Change	Economic Prosperity	Social Wellbeing					Short term (1-3 years)	Medium term (3-10 years)	Long term (10+ years)	Low	Medium	High	
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE															
●				●	<p>1. Develop an Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy that considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to celebrate sites of cultural significance. Bilingual signage, way-finding, storytelling trails and education opportunities. How to manage and collate information of culturally significant sites. Access to wāhi tapu sites policy. Street trees and planting programme through Rural Ōtorohanga. <p>Opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key sites of interest. Community facilities such as schools and halls. Parks and reserves. River access. DOC camping sites. Tirohanga. Te Kauri Park Scenic Reserve. Walter Scott Reserve. Pirongia Summit via Hihikiwi Track. Identifying areas for Pā Harakeke to support local weaving groups. Waipapa Dam look out and Waikato River Trail. Mangawhero Bridge. 	Develop scope for strategy and establish partnership with stakeholders	Mana Whenua led	Mana Whenua + ŌDC	✓	✓			✓		
					Undertake Public Engagement										
					Develop Policy										
CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE															
	●	●		●	<p>1. Develop Climate Change Response plan to address climate risk assessment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooding resilience of bridges. Riverbank riparian planting for the Waipā, Waikato and Awaroa. Wetlands and stormwater management. Any need for any relocation and consolidation of community assets (halls, schools/clubs) outside of flooding and inundation zones. Sea level rise risk in the Hauturu area. Te Ara a Waiwaiā i Ōrāhiri. Riverbank riparian planting project. River edge terracing to protect recreation areas next to the river. Wetlands and stormwater treatment ponds to support water quality in to the river. Stop banks. 		ŌDC	Mana Whenua for Te Ara a Waiwaiā i Ōrāhiri	✓	✓			✓	✓	
	○	●			<p>2. Review flood risk assessment of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waipā River. Waikato River. Awaroa River. 	To be coordinated with the assessment of the Ōtorohanga stop banks	ŌDC		✓				✓		
●	○	●	○	○	<p>3. Establish local community civil defence response groups and support the development of their emergency response plan.</p>	Develop scope and purpose of groups and Civil Defence Plan	ŌDC		✓				✓		
					Undertake engagement										
		●			<p>4. Pest control and weed management plan for Council administered/owned land.</p>		ŌDC		✓	✓		✓			
	○	○		●	<p>5. Develop Waste Management and Minimisation Plan for the District to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs of rural community including access to recycling, bin size and frequency of collection. 	Develop scope for waste management plan	ŌDC		✓	✓		✓	✓		
					Undertake engagement										
						Draft Plan and implement									

- Strong alignment with principles
- Partial alignment with principles

Project Objectives					Project	Project stages	Delivery Lead	Project Partners and Stakeholders	Prioritisation and Timeframe			Indicative Cost								
Cultural Values and Identity	Resilient and Connected Communities	Environmental Health and Climate Change	Economic Prosperity	Social Wellbeing					Short term (1-3 years)	Medium term (3-10 years)	Long term (10+ years)	Low	Medium	High						
DEVELOPMENT																				
			●	●	1. Develop Economic Development Strategy to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities for growth potential and investment to support economic activity in the rural areas of the District. Develop online marketing campaign to help increase tourism opportunities (via social media and websites). 	Develop scope for policy framework	ŌDC													
					Undertake engagement	✓											✓			
					Draft strategy															
●			●	●	2. Papakāinga framework to support papakāinga development across the district.	Develop scope for policy framework	ŌDC	In partnership with Mana Whenua												
					Undertake engagement	✓											✓			
					Draft Policy															
			●	○	3. Provide Council support to farmers navigating central government regulatory requirements.		ŌDC				✓									
	●		●	●	4. Investigate growth opportunities to sustain communities that have existing facilities (halls, schools, playcentres).	Identify need and opportunities for growth in rural areas.	ŌDC													
					Undertake any necessary changes to regulatory documents to implement.	✓									✓		✓			

Western Rural Ōtorohanga

- Strong alignment with principles
- Partial alignment with principles

Project Objectives					Project	Project stages	Delivery Lead	Project Partners and Stakeholders	Prioritisation and Timeframe			Indicative Cost		
Cultural Values and Identity	Resilient and Connected Communities	Environmental Health and Climate Change	Economic Prosperity	Social Wellbeing					Short term (1-3 years)	Medium term (3-10 years)	Long term (10+ years)	Low	Medium	High
CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE														
		●			1. Kauri Dieback project for Te Kauri Park Scenic Reserve.		Community/DoC		✓	✓		✓		
DEVELOPMENT														
●				●	1. Support the development of the Turitea Marae Development Plan.	Identify ways Council can support the Marae development plan.	Turitea Marae led			✓		✓	✓	✓

Central Rural Ōtorohanga

- Strong alignment with principles
- Partial alignment with principles

Project Objectives					Project	Project stages	Delivery Lead	Project Partners and Stakeholders	Prioritisation and Timeframe			Indicative Cost		
Cultural Values and Identity	Resilient and Connected Communities	Environmental Health and Climate Change	Economic Prosperity	Social Wellbeing					Short term (1-3 years)	Medium term (3-10 years)	Long term (10+ years)	Low	Medium	High
TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY														
	○				1. Seal driveway access to Wharepūhanga Playcentre.		ŌDC			✓	✓		✓	
AMENITY AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS														
●					1. Repair and upgrade signage and access to Te Kōpua Mission site at Tihiroa.	Scope work and determine need Design and implement as needed	Community led			✓	✓		✓	
				●	2. Upgrade Korakonui Hall.		Community led				✓	✓		✓
	●			●	3. Formalise Waipā River access at 645 Ōtewā Road Tippings Reserve and provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic area. River access. 		ŌDC	Ōtorohanga Pony Club			✓		✓	
	●			●	4. Develop reserve concept plan for Otoru Reserve including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic area. River access defined parking and access. 	Develop concept plan Undertake engagement Design and implement	ŌDC	DOC			✓	✓		✓
				●	5. Develop community facility on Ōtewa Road providing for Riding for the Disabled.		Community led			✓	✓			✓

Eastern Rural Ōtorohanga

- Strong alignment with principles
- Partial alignment with principles

Project Objectives					Project	Project stages	Delivery Lead	Project Partners and Stakeholders	Prioritisation and Timeframe			Indicative Cost		
Cultural Values and Identity	Resilient and Connected Communities	Environmental Health and Climate Change	Economic Prosperity	Social Wellbeing					Short term (1-3 years)	Medium term (3-10 years)	Long term (10+ years)	Low	Medium	High
TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY														
	○				1. Upgrade driveway access/entrance - Arohena Community Hall and Playcentre.		Community led			✓		✓		
	○				2. In areas seeing increased cycling activity undertake assessment of safety requirements to minimise conflict between vehicles and cyclists.	Undertake needs assessment and identify safety hotspots Develop program and implement outcomes.	ŌDC			✓	✓		✓	✓
AMENITY AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS														
●				○	1. Investigate opportunities to support community relationships between Aotearoa Marae, Arohena School and Community Hall.		Community led			✓			✓	
	●	○		●	2. Arohena Campsite - work with Department of Conservation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade campsite facilities. • Provide better road access. • Establish a maintenance agreement with Council. 		DOC	ŌDC			✓	✓		✓
				○	3. Upgrade public toilet facilities at Waipapa Dam.	Scope work and determine need Design and implement as needed	ŌDC				✓	✓		✓
				○	4. Formalise rest area and river look out on Waipapa Road.	Scope work and determine need Design and implement as needed	ŌDC				✓	✓		✓
				○	5. Funding support for upkeep of Arohena Hall.		Community led			✓			✓	
				○	6. Upgrade access to Mangatutu 'Reserve'.		ŌDC			✓			✓	

Appendix - Business as usual projects

Matters raised during Concept Plan development that will be considered as part of Council's roading programme.

District wide

1. Implement speed management and appropriate signage for:
 - Bus routes.
 - Cycling routes.
 - School and playcentre areas.
2. Undertake an assessment of key roads across the district for repair or upgrade.
3. Identify and reconsider speed limits on roads that transition from 50km/h to 80-100km/h.
4. Assess crash data and identify and mitigate high accident areas such as intersections, narrow roads, conflict between modes and blind corners.

Western Rural Ōtorohanga

1. Reseal and upgrade key roads as part of the reseal programme.
2. Repair potholes on Honikiwi Road.
3. Safety upgrade to the intersection of Ormsby Road and Mangati Road.

Central Rural Ōtorohanga

1. Improve the safety and legibility of intersections:
 - Otoru Road and Lurman Road.
2. Kio Kio United Sports Club
 - Speed management and signage on Paewhenua Road.
 - Define driveway access and parking arrangement.
3. Reseal and upgrade key roads as part of the reseal programme.

Eastern Rural Ōtorohanga

1. Reseal and upgrade key roads as part of the reseal programme.
2. Repair pot holes on Aotearoa Road.
3. Improve signage "4WD only" on unsealed portion of Aotearoa Road.



 **Beca**


Ōtorohanga