

CE Message

Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato (the Vision & Strategy) is the primary direction setting document for activities within the Waikato and Waipā River catchments that affect our waterways, lakes, wetlands and springs. It prevails over National Policy Statements that are not consistent with it. As a document, it has unparalleled statutory weight in matters that concern the health and wellbeing of our water and waterways. The document was developed by the co-governed (Crown and River Iwi) Waikato River Guardians Establishment Committee in 2008, and incorporated into Waikato River legislation in 2010, and in 2012 into Waipā River legislation. It is therefore some 13 years since the initial work was completed in developing the Vision & Strategy. The recent call for expressions of interest (EOI) to support the review and potential amendment of the Vision & Strategy is therefore significant. The board of the Authority wish to ensure through this review that the Vision & Strategy is relevant, effective and that its position as the primary direction setting document for the catchment is reinforced. There will be opportunity to have your say on what changes, if any, are desirable to the Vision & Strategy in the coming months.



Bob Penter
Chief Executive

Waikato River Authority welcomes Minister

The Minister for the Environment Hon. David Parker held talks with the Waikato River Authority this month. It was a first for the Authority to be able to host a Minister at its Hamilton offices.

The morning's discussions included a presentation by the Co-Chairs on recent highlights for the Authority, while Minister Parker gave a high level outline of Resource Management Act reform and the Government's continuing focus on fresh water.

The Minister gave special tribute to the work of the Authority's previous board and to the on-going commitment of the current Waikato River Authority.



Waikato River Authority board members with Hon. David Parker, Minister for the Environment.

Applicants urged to be bold and make an impact

The Waikato River Authority has opened applications for its 11th funding round for river clean-up projects, urging applicants to be bold and to make an impact.

Co-Chairs Tipa Mahuta and Paula Southgate say after ten years of funding, the Authority recognises there is still much to be done to achieve the Vision & Strategy for the Waikato and Waipā Rivers. "As we start the next decade of funding, we want to be bolder and ensure we are achieving maximum impact with the funding resources we have available. We would like to see project applications this year that reflect these sentiments," they say.

"This year, an important focus is working with iwi to achieve the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment as detailed in the Restoration Strategy. These funding partnerships are essential to achieving Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato. The Waikato River Authority will continue

investing in iwi capacity building through its funding, to help ensure that wherever possible, iwi projects are delivered by iwi," says Paula Southgate.

"We are conscious that although a lot has been achieved in the last ten years we need to continue to push harder. We have talked about an 80-year time frame to see significant improvements in the rivers and catchment. Even this period is too long to wait for some and so we can't afford to be complacent. That's why we are urging people to be bold and to make an impact," says Tipa Mahuta.

Applications to the Waikato River Authority are open until mid-August and should be made on-line at www.waikatoriver.org.nz.



Shovel ready

Waikato River Authority board member Dylan Tahau directs proceedings at the launch of four 'shovel ready' environmental projects as part of the Government's COVID-19 economic response plan. The launch was held at the Taniwha Marae near Tahuna.

The launched projects are being funded by the government and other parties including the Waikato River Authority. Speakers at the launch included Linda Te Aho (Waikato-Tainui), Tipa Mahuta (Co-Chair Waikato River Authority) and Hamilton East MP Jamie Strange on behalf of the Government.

The launch was originally scheduled to take place in February this year but was delayed and held on 17 May 2021.



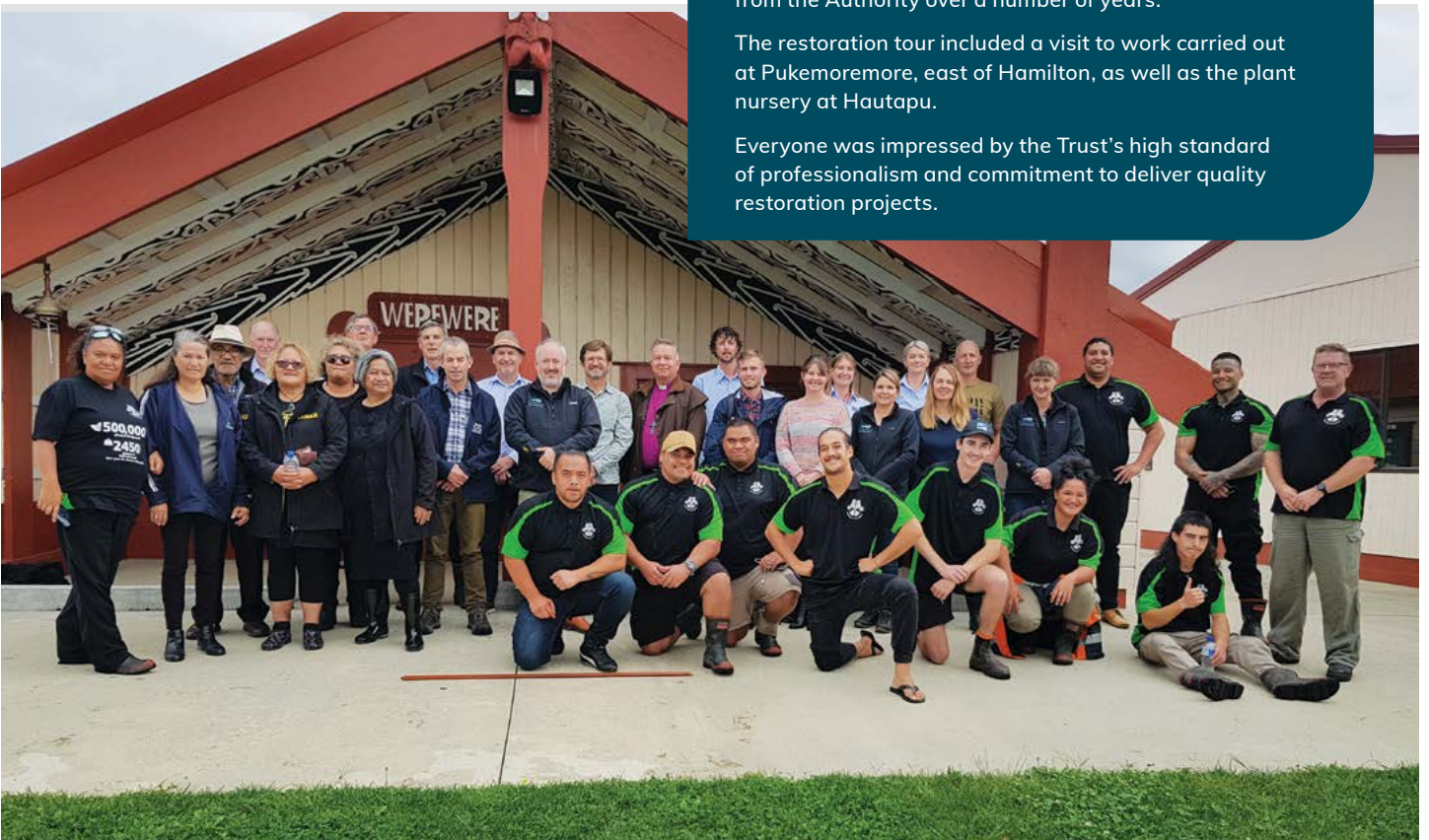
Ngāti Hauā Mahi Trust showcases work

Long-time Waikato River Authority project partner Ngāti Hauā Mahi Trust recently held an environmental restoration tour for key stakeholders.

The Trust has received funding for restoration projects from the Authority over a number of years.

The restoration tour included a visit to work carried out at Pukemoremore, east of Hamilton, as well as the plant nursery at Hautapu.

Everyone was impressed by the Trust's high standard of professionalism and commitment to deliver quality restoration projects.



June meeting hosted by Raukawa

The Waikato River Authority held its June board meeting at Pikitū Marae (Ngāti Huri of Raukawa) carrying on its intention to have meetings in different locations.

Authority board members and staff were welcomed with a pōwhiri onto the marae and into the whareniui by the hau kāinga. Prior to the meeting getting underway, Anaru Begbie gave a presentation on the cultural mapping mahi that has been achieved by Ngāti Huri, with a blend of Maatauranga Māori and cutting edge western science.

At the end of the Authority hui everyone attending was gifted a taonga of Kōkōwai (red ochre), which is highly prized and very much appreciated. The photo shows the Kōkōwai being blessed before the taonga was gifted.

He mihi tino nui ki a koutou te whānau o Ngāti Huri.



A leader's water forum – Te Ture Whaimana in action

A forum to discuss the future challenges for water in the Waikato was held in Hamilton last month under the umbrella of Te Ture Whaimana (Vision & Strategy).

The forum was hosted by Waikato-Tainui, Waikato Regional Council, DairyNZ, Mercury and the Waikato River Authority. About 80 people attended from across community, local government, industry and iwi.

Waikato River Authority Co-Chair Paula Southgate had the role of summarising and picking some key points of each of the five speakers. All expressed their commitment to work in support of Te Ture Whaimana.

Tracey May – Waikato Regional Council
Urged that the investment that goes into the Waikato River is done collectively to ensure greater impact through collaboration.

Jim van der Poel – DairyNZ

Noted that we all want the same thing of healthy water and thriving communities. He said that farmers are definitely up for the challenge of playing their part.

Vince Hawksworth – Mercury

Acknowledged the decline of the awa but said Mercury shared the aspirations for the restored wellbeing of the river.

Linda Te Aho – Waikato-Tainui

Reinforced the loss Waikato-Tainui suffered with its forced disconnection from the river. She says it is important that a holistic and multi-generational approach is taken to restoring the awa

that aligns with Te Ao Maaori. Water allocation is a key goal for iwi.

Tipa Mahuta – Waikato River Authority

Encouraged everyone to work together under Te Ture Whaimana and think differently. And that whatever was being done for the river should be giving effect to the Vision & Strategy.

Paula Southgate –
Waikato River Authority

summarised by saying the Waikato River has borne a burden of use and at times mis-use over many decades, and that we must make progress on the journey for the wellbeing of the river.



Speakers from the Leaders' Water Forum held in Hamilton at the end of May.

(left to right) Tipa Mahuta (Waikato River Authority), Vince Hawksworth (Mercury), Jim van der Poel (DairyNZ), Paula Southgate (Waikato River Authority), Linda Te Aho (Waikato-Tainui), Tracey May (Waikato Regional Council), Prue Flacks (Mercury).



John Luxton with his tokotoko

Authority recognises Hon. John Luxton

Past Crown Co-Chair Hon. John Luxton was recently presented with a tokotoko (carved walking stick) as a recognition of his contribution to the Waikato River Authority.

Mr Luxton was part of the Waikato River Authority board for more than ten years as the inaugural Crown Appointed Co-Chair. The presentation was made at his home in Wellington by current River Iwi Co-Chair Tipa Mahuta.

The tokotoko is a symbol of a leader, a chief. Someone to be revered and respected for the knowledge they hold and share with their people.

This tokotoko was carved by Wikuki Kiingi who was trained by his Uncle Inia Te Wiata, who was in turn trained by his father Inia Te Wiata (Snr), all master carvers for the Kiingitanga.



Board of Inquiry

The Waikato River Authority has submitted its evidence to the Board of Inquiry which will hear the application by Auckland's Watercare to take an additional 150 million litres of water a day from the Waikato River.

There have been 55 submissions to the Board of Inquiry which was established by the Minister for the Environment. Thirty-nine submissions are against the water take, which if approved would allow 350 million litres a day to be taken from the river for Auckland.

No date or venue has been decided for the Board of Inquiry hearing, however it is expected to take place later this year in the Waikato.

