

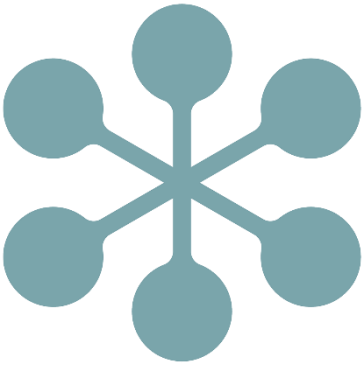
Litmus

**Have your say on the future of Kāpiti
freshwater: Freshwater values and
aspirations community research**

Prepared for the Whaitua Kāpiti Committee

April 2023





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Purpose and acknowledgements

This report presents community perspectives on restoring and protecting freshwater throughout the Kāpiti District. It summarises the input from 341 survey respondents and 80 participants in workshops and interviews.

This report outlines the 12 values communities consider important and need protecting, including the core value of a healthy freshwater system. It discusses how communities consider the rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands to have significantly degraded in their lifetimes and how this affects their lives. This report also shares people's aspirations for protecting and restoring freshwater for future generations.

We want to thank and acknowledge the people who shared their perspectives on freshwater and found time to answer our survey and attend a workshop or interview. For these people, we are eternally grateful and trust we have reflected your views and aspirations in this report.

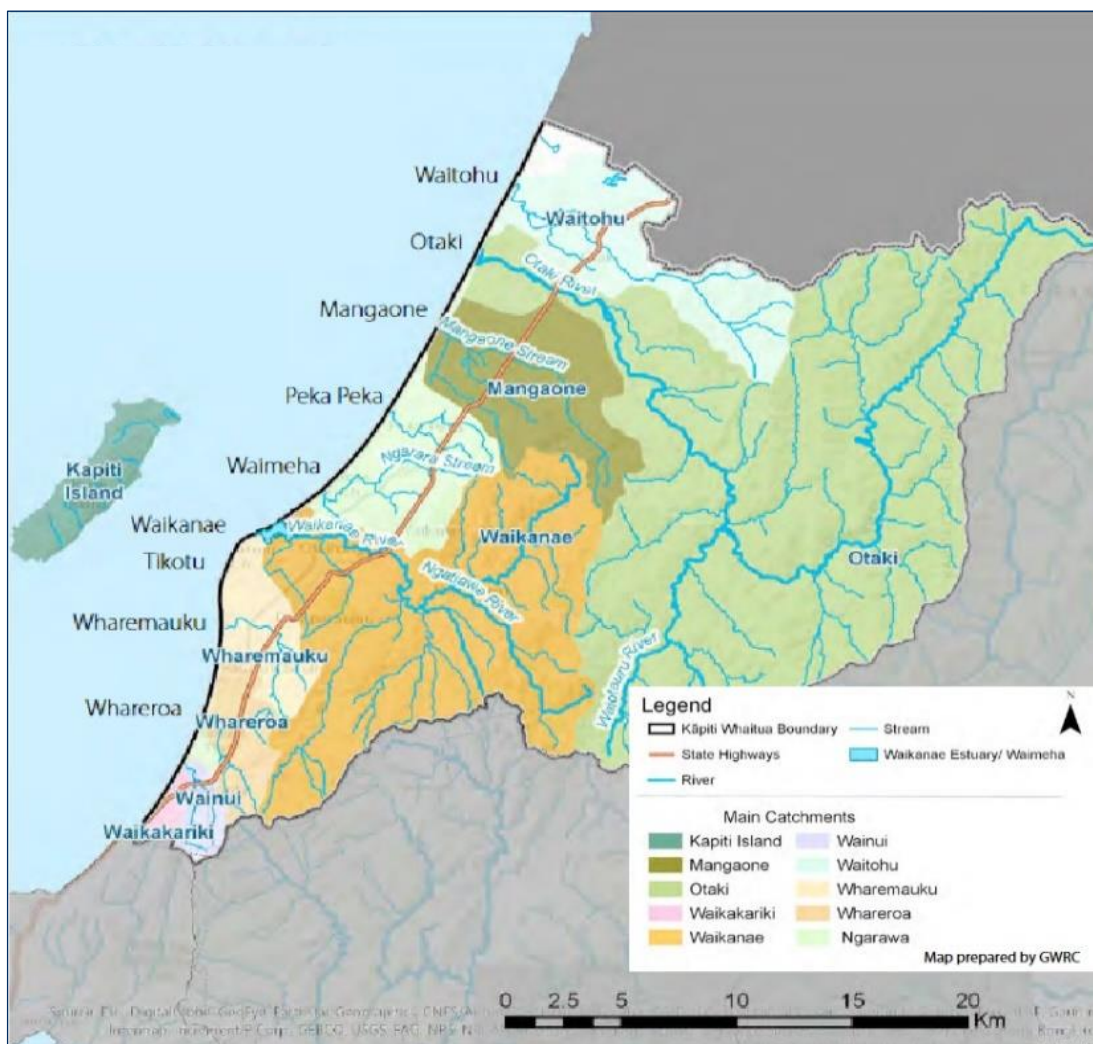
We also want to thank the Greater Wellington teams for funding and managing this work and Kāpiti Coast District Council for helping to plan this work. We particularly want to acknowledge Phill Baker and Tim Sharp for your leadership, guidance, and participation in workshops, contributing to analysis and sense-making, and drafting this report.

Whaitua Kāpiti

The land

Te Whaitua o Kāpiti includes all the freshwater waterbodies from the Waitohu catchment just north of Ōtaki through to the streams around Paekākāriki in the south. This includes right up into their headwaters in the hills and Tararua Ranges (see **Error! Reference source not found.**). Whaitua Kāpiti contains many rivers and streams, lakes and wetlands, large and small, as well as groundwater aquifers that both receive and contribute freshwater to the surface. The rivers are fed from the mountains to the sea and the management of these waterbodies must be integrated from this whole of catchment perspective.

Figure 1: Te Whaitua o Kāpiti Map¹



¹ Stevens, L. M., & Forrest, B. M. (2019). *Kāpiti Whaitua: Review of Estuary Ecological Condition and habitat vulnerability*. Greater Wellington Regional Council. <https://www.gw.govt.nz/document/1113/kpiti-whaitua-review-of-estuary-ecological-condition-and-habitat-vulnerability>

Whakapapa and historical background

The history of the Kāpiti Coast is firstly defined by Māori creation stories from first settlement to respect the indigenous system of knowledge that developed with the original peoples of the land.

Generally, there are three fundamental phases of Māori creation stories that include: Te Korekore (energy, potential, the void, nothingness), Te Pō (form, the dark, the night), Te Ao Mārama (emergence, light and reality, dwelling place of humans).² Traditionally, the atua (gods) of the natural world were also considered to be the original kaitiaki of the environment. This is demonstrated by the personification of atua through environmental elements (Tāwhirimātea – wind, Tāne Mahuta – forests, Tangaroa – ocean, etc.) alongside animals (birds, reptiles, and fish).³

By understanding Māori creation stories, we can begin to comprehend the whakapapa and longstanding relationship that mana whenua and Māori have to the environment. Various tribal groups, hapū and whānau migrated through and occupied Whaitua Kāpiti. A number of pā, urupā, wahi tapu, cultivation sites and sites of significance have been documented over time through oral storytelling, waiata, and written records. This points to the cultural context behind the values for freshwater and the land to Māori.

The natural resources that the environment provided supported extensive use by mana whenua for mahinga kai practices, rongoā (medicine), and timber for building whare (houses) and waka (boats).⁴ Māori ancestors developed the system of environmental management over centuries to ensure sustainable use of resources. Resources were governed by local kaitiaki and tohunga by means of tikanga, being subject to tapu, or implementing temporary rāhui if the resource was at risk of overharvesting or endangered in a spiritual sense.⁵ The natural resources are still utilised in our modern-day context.

Before 1822, the environment in Whaitua Kāpiti was described as rich, with plentiful marine, coastal, wetland and forest resources.⁶ Before 1840, the land between Porirua and Manawatū was predominantly forested, and wetlands made up 34% of the landscape.⁷ Additionally, the landscape comprised a diverse range of terrains, with estuarine swamplands, dense podocarp forest, and alluvial flood plains coastal sand country with dune lands, swamps, lagoons and lakes, all of which supported varied flora and fauna.⁸

Over the last 100 years, the landscape has changed dramatically. This is mainly due to extensive lowland native forest clearance on the surrounding hills and coastal plain between 1886 and the 1930s. For Waikanae, forest clearance has also been in the upper catchment. As settlement increased in the district, flood protection measures have reduced the braided extent of the Ōtaki River and the courses of the lower reaches of the Waikanae, Waimeha, Mangaone and other streams have been significantly altered.

² Moore, P., Royal, C., & Barnes, A. (2012). *A review of the district plan provisions for Māori: A vision to the future*. Kāpiti Coast District Council. https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/media/djfd0fh0/1013_kcdc_app_tehaerengawhakamua.pdf

³ Royal, T. A. C. (n.d.). *Kaitiakitanga – guardianship and conservation - Kaitiaki – guardians*. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand. <https://teara.govt.nz/en/kaitiakitanga-guardianship-and-conservation/page-4>

⁴ Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira. (2011). *Transmission Gully Cultural Impact Report*. <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/transmission-gully-application/docs/technical-report-18.pdf>

⁵ The Waitangi Tribunal. (2022). *Waikanae: Report on Te Ātiawa /Ngāti Awa Claims*, p. 82.

https://forms.justice.govt.nz/search/Documents/WT/wt_DOC_192315563/Waikanae%20W.pdf

⁶ Kāpiti Coast District Council, & Dreaver, A. (n.d.). Our District's history. <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/Our-District/The-Kapiti-Coast/District-History/>

⁷ The Waitangi Tribunal. (2022). *Waikanae- Report on Te Ātiawa /Ngāti Awa Claims*, p. 86.

⁸ The Waitangi Tribunal. (2022). *Waikanae- Report on Te Ātiawa /Ngāti Awa Claims*, p. 89.

An extensive network of drains and channels was applied throughout the district to enable pastoral and urban land use, leading to the loss of the wetland areas. Periods of rapid population growth occurred through the 1950s and 1960s as well as in the 1990s and 2000s.

The Whaitua Kāpiti Committee

The Whaitua Kāpiti Committee is responsible for recommending to Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) how to restore and protect freshwater with its communities. The Committee was established in late 2022 and is made up of community members, mana whenua, Kāpiti Coast District Council, and Greater Wellington representatives.

The Whaitua Kāpiti Committee will describe community aspirations for water and helps set a platform for a collective effort to improve the health of waterways.

The Committee will describe ways to protect and restore freshwater now and for future generations, such as managing contaminants, water allocation and flows; and setting targets for freshwater aspirations for the waterbodies throughout Kāpiti. This includes how to give effect to Te Mana o te Wai and the requirements of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020.

The Committee will put together a final report called the Whaitua Implementation Programme, or WIP. This will inform new regulations and programmes to protect and restore freshwater across Kāpiti.

The Committee has adopted a 'Treaty House' model. This model is relationship focussed and has the power for mana whenua and kāwanatanga members to protect, define and decide the discourse to bring to the Committee process.

The Treaty House model allows mana whenua and kāwanatanga members to work separately before coming to the Committee. Each House will provide a culturally safe way to discuss, prioritise issues, define freshwater solutions, and sustain relationships with communities.

Central to the Committee's work is gathering perspectives from Kāpiti communities for this to shape the values and priorities recommended for freshwater.

Community engagement

Greater Wellington and Litmus designed and undertook community engagement in Kāpiti to understand community perspectives on restoring and protecting freshwater.

We asked communities:

- What do they feel and believe about freshwater and why do they think that
- What places are special to people in Kāpiti
- What are their hopes and aspirations for freshwater in Kāpiti
- What ideas do they have for restoring and protecting freshwater.

Stakeholder mapping

With input from Kāpiti Coast District Council, Greater Wellington and Litmus began a collaborative process of listing relevant groups and people. This work included mapping groups and people with a special interest in freshwater policy and management (e.g., conservation groups, farmers, landowners) and people across life stages with a perspective on what needs to be done to restore and protect freshwater in Kāpiti. This work also determined how best to engage and involve these groups and people, e.g., through a survey, a focus group or an individual interview.

Promoting engagement

Greater Wellington promoted the project through multiple channels including in Kāpiti newspapers, a flyer to Kāpiti residential and business addresses, posters, social media and on buses over September and October 2022. This advertisement invited communities to have their say on freshwater and asked them to complete a survey on Greater Wellington's website and register for a workshop.

341 people answered a survey

The survey was open from 27 September to 22 November 2022. A total of 341 respondents completed the survey. Most respondents were over 40 years (89%). Respondents identified as New Zealand European (83%), Māori (7%) and other ethnicities (10%). Respondents resided in Waikanae (35%), Paraparaumu (27%), Ōtaki (17%), Paekākāriki/Raumati (13%), and elsewhere in New Zealand (8%). Refer Appendix for survey questions and detailed survey responses.

80 people participated in a workshop or interview

Greater Wellington, Kāpiti Coast District Council, and Litmus identified participants and invited them to participate in a workshop or interview in November and December 2022. We held workshops with tamariki (10–12 years), rangatahi (16–18 years), parents and caregivers, and older people (65 plus). Each focus group included at least eight participants. Focus group participants identified as European, Māori and Samoan.

We also held workshops and interviews with people from conservation groups (17), Reikorangi residents and other rural landowners (13), the Shed Project disability community (10), people in

sport and recreation (3), and other stakeholders, including developers, food and beverage producers, and business people (5).

Most workshops and interviews were face-to-face and lasted up to 90 minutes. Refer to Appendix 1 for information on discussion questions.

Thematic analysis of feedback

All workshops and interviews were recorded, transcribed, and thematically coded along with open-ended survey questions. Greater Wellington and Litmus participated in collaborative analysis and sense-making in preparing this report.

Figure 2: Community workshops November and December 2022



Communities' values for Kāpiti freshwater

Communities consider many things important about Kāpiti freshwater, and that it needs protection and preservation. They articulated the following 12 values that are important and should be provided for:

- Healthy freshwater system
- Natural forms and features
- Biodiversity and protection of birds, fish, plants, and other organisms
- Mahinga kai
- Healthy water for drinking, domestic, and lifestyle use
- Connection and wellbeing
- Learning, knowledge, and development
- Heritage, identity, and cultural significance
- Fun, recreation, and exercise
- Fishing and hunting
- Economy and growth
- Safety and security

These values were consistently shared in workshops and survey responses. However, different communities reflected that some values were more relevant to them than others. For example, tamariki strongly identified with waterways for providing fun, disabled people strongly connected with the waterways for connection and wellbeing, and industry connected with waterways for their economic value.



Healthy freshwater system

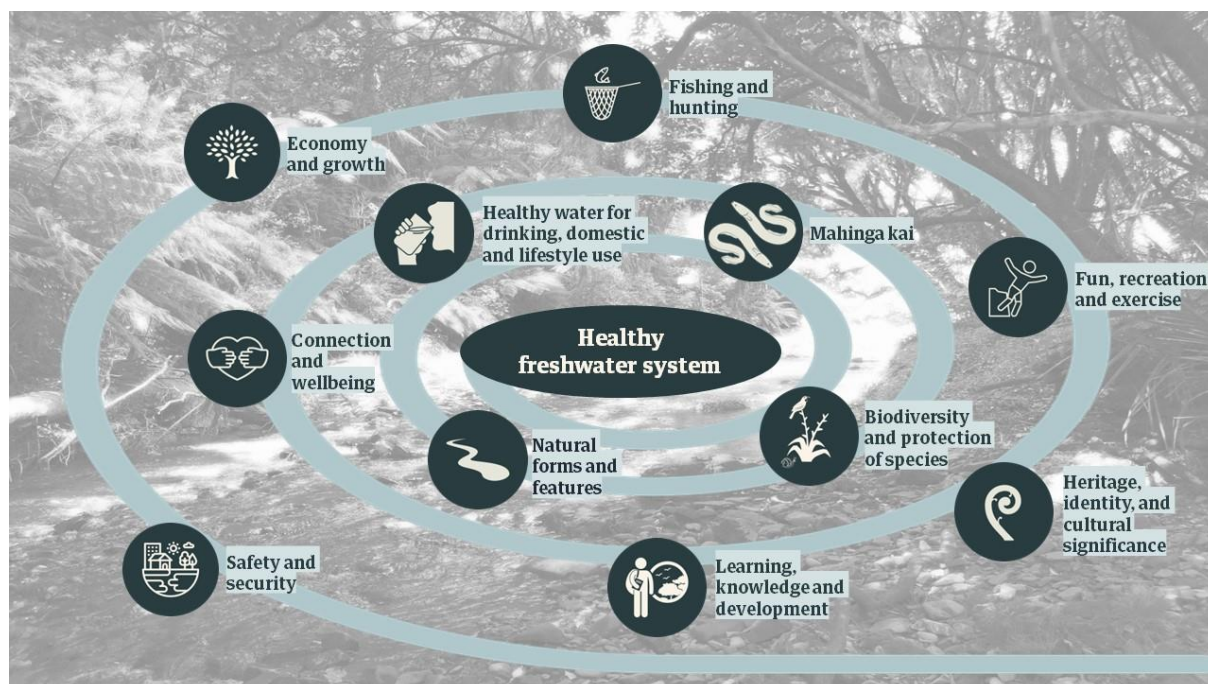
A healthy freshwater system is **the foundation value** of what communities think and feel about Kāpiti freshwater. People understand a healthy functioning freshwater system affects other aspects and relationships that are important to them, including the integrity of the waterways themselves, as well as health, social, recreational, and economic benefits.

'If we look after the environment, the river becomes a place to recreate. If people enjoy being in a place, they will support continuing to let it thrive. Once the community is invested in this space, we can provide room for flood waters to increase the resilience of flood defences. If we can provide effective flood risk management, we can support the economy and fund other values.'
(Survey respondent)

'Healthy ecosystems support healthy biodiversity. New Zealand is facing a biodiversity crisis. Healthy freshwater ecosystems are important in helping restore healthy biodiversity.'
(Survey respondent)

'I value the entire system for its ability to provide drinking water; I also value it as an economic resource.' (Survey respondent)

Figure 3: Communities' values for Kāpiti freshwater



Natural forms and features

The exceptional natural forms, features and beauty of Kāpiti waterways, including their distinctive flows, colours, curves, bends, depths, and temperatures, are important values for communities and have high significance to mana whenua. Significant native plant, bird, and fish species live in and alongside the natural forms and features of the waterways.

People reflected that Kāpiti rivers are unique, as Kāpiti is one of the few North Island regions with a braided river system. They also considered that the significant Ōtaki and Waikanae rivers, which wind from the Tararua Ranges to the sea, are strongly connected to Kāpiti brand and identity. People reflected that Waikanae used to be 'full of wetlands' and should be allowed to have these natural forms.

People valued the natural forms, features, and remoteness of many other Kāpiti rivers, streams and tributaries, including the Ngatiawa River and the Maungakōtukutuku, Reikorangi, Wainui, Mangaone, and Wharemauku streams. People also considered the natural shapes and characteristics of Kāpiti as special and worth protecting (e.g., lakes, dune lakes, the ecological importance of estuaries and wetlands in Nga Manu Nature Reserve and Whareroa Recreation Reserve).

People spoke about allowing rivers and streams to follow their natural courses. Tamariki and rangatahi affirmed the rivers' rights as living beings and having the freedom to flow through their banks. People spoke about the need for stronger regional and local government enforcement to

respect the rights of rivers. This included limiting water use, limiting dredging and gravel grabs, and ensuring responsible forestry, farming, roading, shopping malls and development.

'Tell the adults to let the river be itself. The river has rights. No one should control it.' (Tamariki)

'Water should not be moved for building projects. Keep the river paths natural.' (Rangatahi)

'It's constantly changing. The Ōtaki River is a big river, and it requires respect.' (Older people)



Biodiversity and protection of birds, fish, plants, and other organisms



This value relates to the important bird and fish life that breed, feed and live around Kāpiti rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands.

People valued the diversity and density of shore birds in Kāpiti waterways, including stilts and dotterels. They spoke of the Ōtaki River and Waikanae River being sites of value for indigenous shore birds and places of significance for native bird releases.

Waterways also provide essential nutrients for native plants and kai of cultural significance, e.g., kōwhitiwhiti (watercress). They mentioned the importance of the varied river fish, including whitebait, kōura (crayfish), tuna (eels), and brown and rainbow trout. People also mentioned the significance of the endemic giant land snail in Kāpiti.

People noted the importance of the water quantity and quality in these waterways to support the habitat of these plants, birds, and fish. They spoke of the importance of sensitive river management, flood protection, pest management and responsible pet ownership in protecting and preserving the waterways.

'Streams need to be restored with plantings, shade, re-introducing native fish.' (Conservation group)

'The ability for all forms of fish to migrate, unimpeded by humans or engineering, up into headwaters to breed so that they form part of the river's ecosystem and part of the flyway for our precious birds.'
(Conservation group)



Mahinga kai



Traditional practices of gathering food and other natural resources from Kāpiti waterways are central to tangata whenua living in Kāpiti. Tangata whenua spoke of gathering freshwater kōura (crayfish) and tuna (eels) in rivers and streams and kōwhitiwhiti (watercress) on the edge of rivers and creeks in Kāpiti. It is vital to realising this value that kai is easy to harvest and safe to eat. It also relates to where kai is found and the knowledge of the practices for gathering and preparing kai.

'We put out some stinky meat, and my dad's friend speared the eel. We took it home to eat.' (Tangata whenua)

'In our world, we had fierce aunties. They would send us out and told us where to get fresh water kōura.' (Tangata whenua)

'People in the know could go to the side streams and get watercress. Locals used to go down and get watercress for tea.' (Tangata whenua)

'In the old days, people would travel beside the rivers or in the rivers because there were no roads. They had walking tracks and rivers were landmarks.' (Tangata whenua)

'We used to get up at 5 am and train taiaha. We lit a fire and used the stream to strengthen our legs by running through it. We used the sand dunes for training and endurance.' (Tangata whenua)

I like going to the fresh water stream in Paekakariki
The fresh water stream starts somewhere on Paekakariki
hill. The water is clear, cold and seems to be perfect
for the eels. I love going to see the eels in the
stream. I put my hands in the stream and the
water is so cold and the eels are so slimy and
slippery.



Healthy water for drinking, domestic, and lifestyle use

This value relates to the importance people place on the ability to drink freshwater from rivers, streams, and lakes. People and their dogs value drinking from waterways when playing and exercising and refreshing themselves when tramping and camping. Related to this value is for freshwater to be safe and reliable across Kāpiti waterways and free from nitrate and toxic contamination.

A clean freshwater source is vital for farmers and residents in Reikorangi and other rural areas. These communities are deeply connected to freshwater and know its characteristics and trajectories. They rely on freshwater on their land for drinking and everyday domestic use, including food preparation, cooking, washing, cleaning, gardening, growing vegetables, and feeding chickens and other livestock. They also have strong and frequent connections with waterways for swimming and social gatherings.

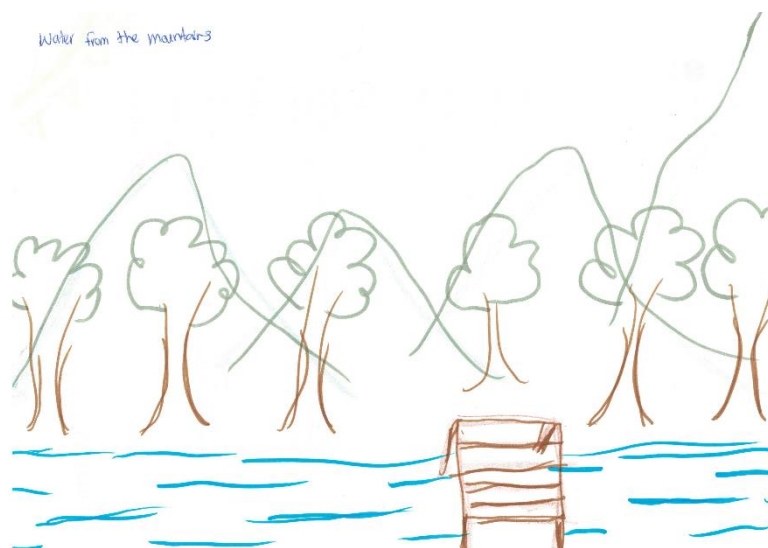
Farmers and residents with freshwater on their properties spoke of the importance of protecting habitats and being free from debris, pollution, and pests.

For landowners not connected to the council water supply, the affordability and low maintenance access to fresh water are central to this value.

'We drink the water. We get to have a stream that we drink from.'
(Tamariki)

'Farmers use the freshwater to feed their animals. Others use the water to walk their dogs. The dogs like to drink and play in the water.'
(Rangatahi)

'We use the water from the headwaters to our house for drinking, swimming, cooking, water for stock and growing our gardens with that water.'
(Reikorangi residents)





Connection and wellbeing

This value relates to how Kāpiti waterways support social connectedness and contribute to people's mental and spiritual health and wellbeing.

Rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands, and areas adjacent to waterways provide whānau, neighbours and community groups spaces to gather for picnics, socialising, exercise, and fun. The healing and soothing power of freshwater also helps people to relax, destress and recharge.

Community conservation groups, including the Friends of the Ōtaki River and the Friends of the Waikanae River, connect through their freshwater protection work, planting native trees and liaising with local government.

Recreational groups gather around their common purposes and feel a sense of belonging by walking, riding and other activities beside and through waterways.

Rangatahi shared that they gravitate to the Ōtaki River and Waikanae River to hang out with their friends, talk and share experiences, and listen to and play music. These experiences help rangatahi to be independent and feel accepted.

The Shed Project said Kāpiti waterways provide sensory experiences and foster belonging and inclusion for people with a range of disability. They reflected that their visits to the Waikanae River are therapeutic as the river and surrounding areas are leafy, tranquil, and peaceful. They also spoke of boating on waterways and described this experience as enabling and fun. The Shed Project enjoys heading to the Waikanae River weekly and on fine days to take a break from making wooden storage boxes, toys, and garden furniture for the community.

'If it's a hot day, we ring up neighbours and say, "Hey, let's go for a swim and connect." That value is a huge part of who this place is.' (Reikorangi residents)

'I like relaxing with my mates at the Ōtaki River. Everyone comes together to have a good time.' (Rangatahi)

'The river is very sensory. Many of our group find it hard to feel textures. We usually take our shoes and socks off to stand on the rocks. It's a great experience and we love it.' (The Shed Project)

'Being by the water is connected to our wellbeing. It is peaceful. It washes away our stress. It has a therapeutic effect on all of us.' (The Shed Project)



Learning, knowledge, and development

Kāpiti rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands enable children and young people to learn to swim, dive, fish, kayak, raft, tramp, etc.

Parents and caregivers believe providing these opportunities for young people enables them to learn new skills, take risks, and build confidence. The Shed Project also reflected on the importance of their Waikanae River walks to build communication skills, coordination, and confidence.

Whānau, teachers, and conservation groups passionately spoke of the importance of education for all ages to build attitudes, beliefs, and conservation-orientated behaviours to support restoring the whaitua.

Related to this value is the importance of having accessible, community-facing, timely, less wordy, and jargon-free information. This attribute was raised widely by parents and caregivers and includes safe swimming updates and educational displays in community spaces for children and young people to engage with.

Many parents and caregivers were unsure whether Kāpiti waterways were safe. Many did not trust Council-provided information and felt it was biased, outdated, too technical, and unfriendly. In contrast, Māori and some other Pākehā individuals were confident in their knowledge about the safety of the waterways due to having whānau who were kaitiaki of waterways or holding a deep understanding of when a river or stream is safe or unsafe to swim and fish in.

'An education programme for the community via schools and community groups to promote understanding and actions are necessary to protect Kāpiti freshwater.' (Survey respondent)

'We need a really good map of where water comes from and where it leads. My kids love maps and interactive things.'
(Parents and caregivers)

'I want to know if I take my kids to the water, they will not get sick. I don't have time to filter information. I need credible and accessible information.' (Parents and caregivers)



Heritage, identity, and cultural significance

People emphasised the history of the Ōtaki River and the Waikanae River. These histories gave people a sense of identity and are a part of who they are today.

Older people recalled their families' connections with the previous flax industry in Kapiti and the flax mills near the Waikanae River and the Ōtaki River. They also recalled stories of the land adjacent to rivers and streams being used for transportation tracks. Older people also spoke about Waikanae and Ōtaki townships' connection with their rivers because they provide drinking water, power, and industrial benefits.

'Waitohu's history is fascinating, significant and special.' (Older people)

'The Ōtaki River is why people settled here.' (Older people)

Conservation groups spoke about the history of the Waikanae floodplain and how it used to be a series of significant wetlands.

Mana whenua also spoke about the cultural significance of places on the whenua, and in and around the awa and roto for food gathering and sustaining spiritual and physical wellbeing.

'I live in the area where the Māori did their fishing and gathered their food. And I am right by the massive pond under the motorway, facing the whenua and the cemetery, and it's a spiritual place.' (Mana whenua)



Fun, recreation, and exercise

People value Kāpiti waterways for making fun, recreation, and exercise desirable. Tamariki love skimming stones, throwing sticks in rivers and streams to see how far they travel, and ruffling stones in waterways to watch the bugs. Hoping their plastic ducks finish in the Kāpiti Duck Race is exciting for tamariki and whānau.

Tamariki and rangatahi also love plunging into refreshing Kāpiti waterholes and splashing friends.

People of all ages and abilities value Kāpiti waterways for swimming, kayaking, rafting on the rivers and walking, running, cycling, and horse riding adjacent to waterways. They spoke of participating in Kāpiti waterways as free entertainment and therefore financially accessible to all.

Central to this value is for disabled people and parents with young children to access the rivers, streams, lakes, and areas surrounding the waterways. Access, shade, parking, toilets, and facilities are also central to this value.

'I like splashing and clowning in the river.' (Tamariki)

'I go and see the eels in the creek because they are really cute and small.' (Tamariki)

'There is a nice river walk down the Otaki River, which is quite good for those in wheelchairs.' (The Shed Project)





Fishing and hunting

People value the ability to catch whitebait and brown and rainbow trout in the Waikanae and Ōtaki rivers for both competition and family time. Keen anglers and occasional fishers consider it is important that fish species are abundant in their natural habitats, safe to harvest, and unaffected by pest eradication.

The Tararua ranges are also renowned for hunting, and Reikorangi residents spoke of the importance of hunting to protect their land and waterways from pests.

'I love Otaki River for fly-fishing (great for mental health, physical fitness and connection with nature). I love Waikanae River for fishing at river-mouth, fly-fishing on the river, swimming, floating, and having family fun.' (Survey respondent)

'I love those water bodies. You can walk them at night in the winter with the mist. It's the best time to see the native fish, which are full.' (Reikorangi residents)



Economy and growth

Freshwater is important for development, construction, manufacturing, and tourism industries. Kāpiti has been a successful food and beverage producer, fast becoming a food and innovation destination hub.

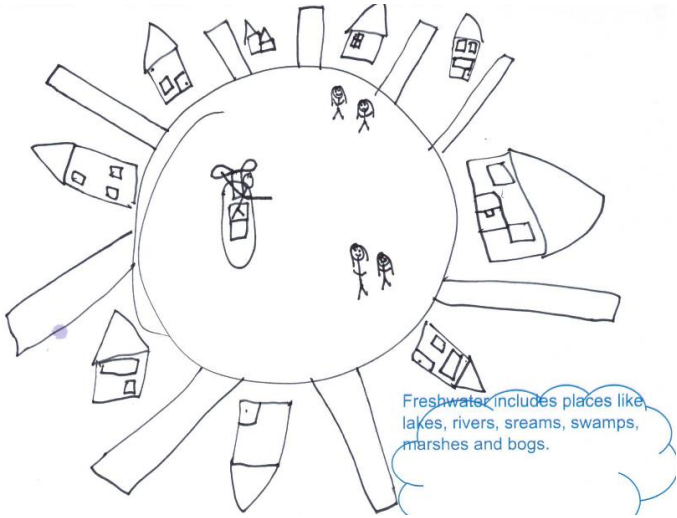
Clean and abundant freshwater is important for industry supply chains. Furthermore, innovation and being environmentally and socially responsible are important for industries' brands.

A clean and reliable water source is essential for the many food and beverage producers in Kāpiti, including olive, lavender, and berry growers, and the many market gardeners who rely on consented bore water.

Aesthetically appealing freshwater is vital for many in the construction and real estate industries, and naturally flowing, abundant, clear water is essential for rafting tourism.

'Recreation, natural beauty and environment don't just add to health and wellbeing, but also stimulate the local economy.' (Survey respondent)

'Need to support food, farm production, and the environment with clean unpolluted water.' (Survey respondent)



Safety and security

This value considers the important role of Kāpiti wetlands and surrounding areas in keeping people, property, and assets safe.

People spoke of the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfalls and the considerable cost and damage to communities from the Waikanae River floods.

They spoke of the importance of adaptive stormwater and flood management and restoring Kāpiti wetlands to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

'The environment, sustainability and wetlands can mitigate sea level rise and other climate change effects.' (Survey respondent)

'With climate change confronting us, we need to protect our waterways for the sustenance and wellbeing of future generations.' (Survey respondent)

Special places

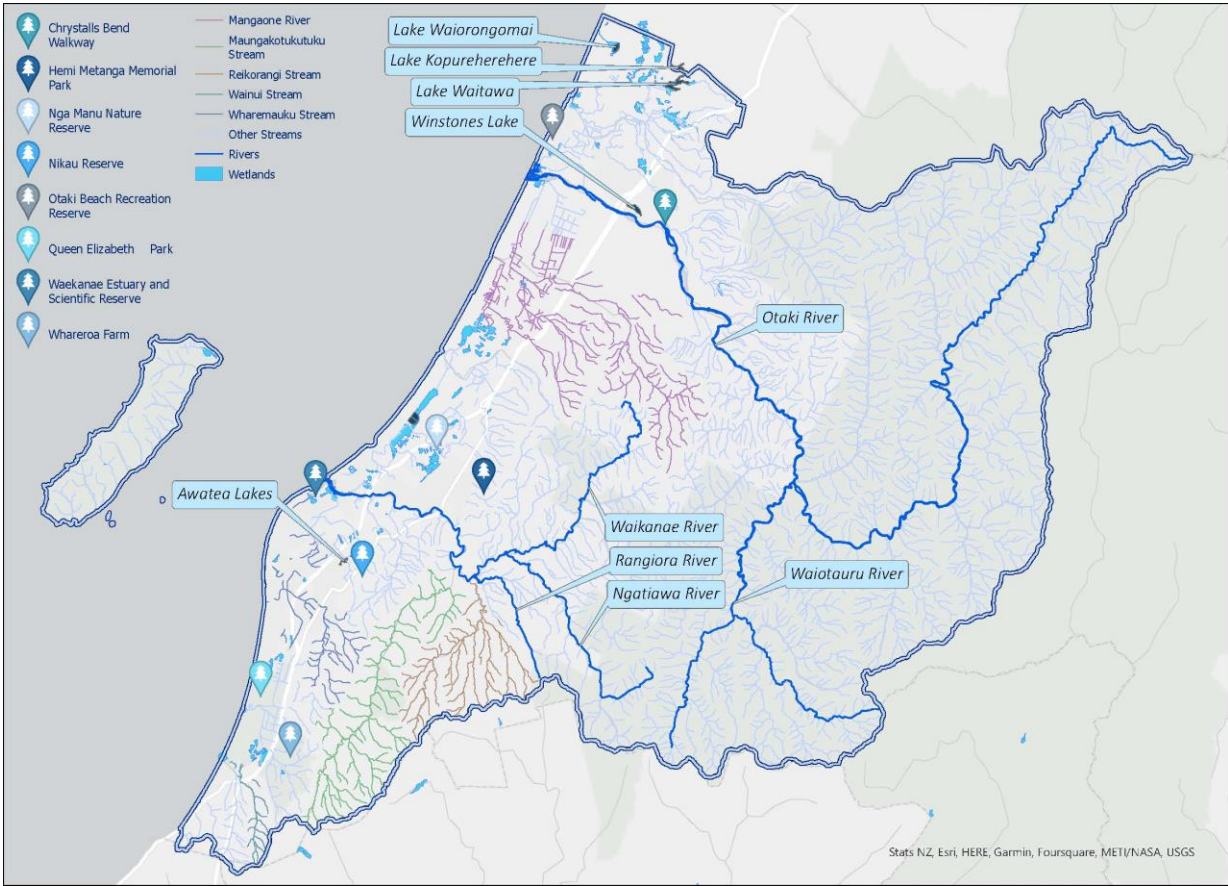
Communities highlighted all freshwater places in Kāpiti are equally special and worth protecting and preserving.

The reasons communities found these places special are intrinsically linked to their values for freshwater. For instance, communities shared freshwater places are special because they:

- support or feed the life around the waterways and protect native and introduced species in the region (healthy freshwater system; biodiversity and protection of birds, fish, plants, and other organisms)
- help maintain the natural beauty of the area, such as native forests, wetlands, and rivers (natural forms and features)
- are where communities go to enjoy nature and connect with family and friends (connection and wellbeing; fun, recreation, and exercise; fishing and hunting).

Communities were asked to share special freshwater places during workshops, interviews, and in the survey. Figure 4 shows the places communities mentioned most frequently throughout the engagement process. These places ranged from specific places like Hemi Metanga Memorial Park to more general bodies of water like the ‘wetlands’ and Ōtaki River.

Figure 4: Map of special freshwater places mentioned by people when discussing values



Communities' experiences and perceptions of freshwater degradation

This section describes communities' perceptions and concerns about freshwater quality and how this impacts them.

Communities' experiences of freshwater quality

Communities considered the rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands to have significantly degraded in their lifetimes. Māori and conservation groups mentioned the area was mainly in forest and wetlands before European occupation.

People spoke of the reduced stream and river flows, less consistency of safe freshwater, and visible signs of poor water quality, including pollution and significant occurrences of toxic algal bloom. Communities have also noticed less whitebait and fish in the waterways and less abundant birdlife.

'I was up by where the Fly by Wire in Paekākāriki, I noticed the stream looked like it had, like, oil or something in it. But the motorway has had a big impact on our streams.' (Parents and caregivers)

'If you look at the rivers, they don't seem as fresh and abundant anymore.' (Parents and caregivers)

'It doesn't seem as safe as when I was a kid and I jumped off the bridge.' (Parents and caregivers)

'Kāpiti is a great place to live, so more people are moving here. Where once there was a quiet stream, now on a summer's day, it is crowded with people who are not as respectful as you are.' (Parents and caregivers)

'I actually live in Te Awa where Māori used to do their fishing and get their food. I'm right by a massive pond connected under the motorway to the other side. When I look at the quality of water in the pond, I see changes right up the motorway, I see the changes all the time.' (Older people)

Community perceptions on the causes of water degradation

Communities shared their perceptions of why Kāpiti rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands have been degraded.

Communities spoke of Kāpiti needing to accommodate more people as the population increases and, therefore, the increased demand for the region's freshwater. They also mentioned the impact of the additional dwellings and other developments, e.g., shops and services, to support the increasing population. They also spoke of the redirecting of the waterways to accommodate development.

They mentioned people's freshwater consumption, e.g., car washing, gardening, showering and laundry, stresses available resources.

Many people were concerned about plastic and other pollution in Kāpiti waterways, including polystyrene, plastic bags, and scooters, in part due to a lack of alternatives, e.g., rubbish bins, and people not feeling connected to or respecting the waterways and using them as a rubbish dump. Some also commented on rivers and streams being used 'as a drain'.

Some people spoke about the forestry activities in Kāpiti impacting freshwater. They reflected that forestry is exposing and disturbing the soil and talked about poor management of forestry slash and its potential to cause flooding and damage to bird life and property.

While farming is a relatively small part of Kāpiti economy, a few people spoke of the perceived impact of agriculture on waterways, including runoff into freshwater.

A few people were also concerned that the Kāpiti Expressway's crossing over major rivers and streams could impact further water degradation, although others noted that wetlands had been put in as part of the expressway development.

Conservation groups spoke about the impact of climate change on water flows, water temperature, groundwater levels etc., and its impact on freshwater.

'When I walk to school, I always see bikes and scooters in the river.' (Tamariki)

'The lumberjacks are cutting down the trees, and lots of sticks and leaves fall in the river.' (Tamariki)

'Once the stream goes through the mall, it smells like KFC.'
(Parents and caregivers)

'Businesses have tucked into it as a source of income, depleting and using them for profit.' (Parents and caregivers)

'Much of the catchment's lowland rivers have been treated as little more than a drain, with a sole focus of moving water as fast as possible across the floodplain, to protect life and property with little consideration for the river environment.' (Wellington Fish and Game)

'People dump bikes, scooters, anything they can throw into a stream nowadays.' (Parents and caregivers)

'The Expressway has "changed hydrology" so ephemeral wetlands (dry in summer, under water in winter) are now permanent, with implications for some plant species.'
(Conservation group)

The impact of water degradation on communities

The impact of water degradation profoundly affects the values communities hold important about Kāpiti freshwater.

Communities spoke of the impact of water degradation on birds, fish, plants, and other organisms, including an observed lack of abundance of bird and fish life and their changing habitats.

Communities also spoke of the impact of water degradation on the consistency and quality of drinking water, its knock-on effect on mahinga kai, and their participation and enjoyment of waterways for fun, exercise, recreation, fishing, and social inclusion.

Parents and caregivers are cautious of enabling tamariki to play and swim in Kāpiti rivers and streams in case they get sick. Instead, they preferred taking their children to public swimming pools and splash pads, which they considered safer and more convenient. However, these visits do not build children's everyday experiences around freshwater.

Parents shared they receive abundant information on freshwater quality from Kāpiti District Council, community Facebook pages, and signage around waterways. However, given so much information, knowing what to believe and trust is difficult.

Parents and caregivers did not hold the same water safety concerns for their children playing and swimming in waterways outside Kāpiti, including Staglands Wildlife Reserve, Battle Hill Forrest Farm Park, the Wairarapa Region, Tāupo and Turangi. Parents and caregivers who had resources to give their children freshwater experiences outside of Kāpiti acknowledged that it didn't help their tamariki to build connections with their local environments.

For tamariki and rangatahi, the burden of freshwater degradation weighs heavily on their responsibilities.

'I don't want to go in the river because it doesn't look clean, and I could get a tummy bug.' (Tamariki)

'I feel sad about the rivers. I'm worried and disgusted, and it's a big thing for young people.' (Tamariki)

'The environment is more natural in Turangi, not as many people or as much development. The water is from places that are not affected by pollution. There is a lot more water, it moves more and there are more fish too.' (Parents and caregivers)

'We go out of the area to the Wairarapa. We stop by the road and let the kids jump out. I have never been worried.' (Parents and caregivers)

'I don't trust the rivers for children and animals to play in. You don't know what's in it anymore.' (Parents and caregivers)

'I take them to Splash Pads. They are the safest and the next best thing. There are no illnesses, and the ground is soft.' (Parents and caregivers)

For some, the degradation of Kāpiti freshwater pointed to the greater loss of biodiversity within the region and represented a dereliction of duty to the wider community.

'The [Waikanae] River mouth was cut regularly for 70 years until 2002. The development of homes took place with this regular redirecting of the river. Now the dunes at the north end of Manly Street are gone. The birds can't breed there, and it just keeps moving south, depleting dunes and risking homes. You have a historical duty to keep the river mouth cut and clear of rubbish. All the works upstream have left it silty and in poor health and it's supposedly a reserve of national significance.' (Conservation group)

Communities want to reclaim the natural order of the waterways to enjoy the natural beauty and biodiversity, gather food, and sustain the physical and therapeutic wellbeing effects they get from the waterways.

Community aspirations for Kāpiti freshwater

This section summarises communities' hopes and ambitions for Kāpiti freshwater in the future.

Urgent action to protect and restore Kāpiti freshwater

Given communities' perceptions of the significant degradation of Kāpiti waterways in their lifetimes, they want urgent action to protect and restore freshwater with a long-term investment. Communities acknowledge that many groups and individuals are working to protect and restore freshwater in Kāpiti, and therefore, we are not starting from a blank page.

Quality freshwater and consistent information

Communities want the water itself to be consistently clean, pristine and pure. They want quality freshwater to support habitats for freshwater life and enable accessible and safe waterways for people, now and for future generations. They want consistent information on Kāpiti freshwater so they know water is safe for people and animals to use.

‘Clean healthy water supply for residents. Clean clear waterways without runoff from housing and farmland so that all the wildlife and plants who need this to survive into the future can do so.’
(Survey respondent)

Habitats for freshwater life and putting nature back where it wants to go

Communities want Kāpiti freshwater to continue to support the life of the many organisms (e.g., fish, eel, birds, insects, forests) within and along the waterways. They have witnessed areas where freshwater habitats have been restored or protected and see the difference this makes for these lives along the waterways. Communities want a better balance between freshwater life and human activity (e.g., industry, farming, and urban development). They want to see more freshwater areas returned to how they used to be.

‘Freshwater populated by an abundance of native freshwater flora and fauna, with each and every freshwater resource of all sizes having healthy supporting ecosystems.’ (Survey respondent)

‘It would be good for freshwater restoration to be accompanied by strong biodiversity interventions. Returning whio to the headwaters and ensuring abundance so that mana whenua (which I am not) can enjoy their kai.’ (Survey respondent)

Accessible and safe waterways for people and more places to enjoy nature

Communities want the waterways to be accessible and safe for everyone now and in the future to enjoy and use. Communities want to continue to gather kai and sustain the physical, social and restorative wellbeing effects they get from the waterways.

‘I would love to have more places along these smaller streams for sitting, reflecting, and enjoying the natural environment (like the Kaitawa Reserve). I also hope that we will still have rivers where we can walk, swim and enjoy the natural environment.’ (Survey respondent)

Investing in mātauranga Māori to restore balance

Tangata whenua want to see the relationship between the community and freshwater ways restored. They want to see greater investment and use of mātauranga Māori for freshwater management.

‘Invest in native riparian planting, interactive and educational rongoā Māori/ native kai spaces, so we can understand how to have a reciprocal relationship with our waterways. We must intentionally honour the gifts we get from our waterways (including the ability to swim, play, drink water, water our gardens/farms, gather kai, whakanoa/remove emotional heaviness). We can do this through interactive education and investing in native flora/fauna restoration projects. Not ones that focus on physical beauty, but those which allow us to have balanced relationships with our environment/natural resources.’ (Survey respondent)

Better freshwater management

Communities want confidence the waterways in Kāpiti are being well managed. As discussed earlier, communities have concerns about how historical, current and future changes, such as climate change and urban development, will affect freshwater in Kāpiti.

Communities view freshwater water management as a collective effort and responsibility. They want everyone living, working, and visiting Kāpiti to respect, care for, and celebrate the waterways as the taonga they are.

‘Specifically, I would like to see the smaller streams from Paekākāriki up the Wharemauku better maintained and protected from urban development.’ (Survey respondent)

‘[I want to see] a collective reverence for and understanding of the importance of freshwater conservation and spaces for humans and wildlife - that everyone sees themselves as the kaitiaki of our waterways and thinks about the activities they undertake in/on and around our water.’ (Survey respondent)

More individual responses are included in Appendix 4.

Figure 5: Community workshops November and December 2022, Part 2



Appendices

Appendix 1: Participant and survey demographics

Table 1: Participant overview for people who took part in workshops and interviews

Profile	Number of people
Conservation	17
Farmers ⁹ and landowners	13
Disabled people	10
Older people (65 years and older)	8
Rangatahi (16–18 years)	8
Tamariki (10–12 years)	8
Parents and caregivers	8
Sport and recreation	3
Food and beverage producers	2
Developers	1
Business	1
Other	1
Total	80

for survey respondents

Table 2: Sample profile

Domain	Profile	Proportion
Location (n=324)	Waikanae	35%
	Paraparaumu	27%
	Ōtaki	17%
	Paekākāriki/Raumati	13%
	Elsewhere in New Zealand	8%
Age group (n=322)	18-24	1%
	25-39	9%

⁹ Farmers includes beef farmers and horticultural producers.

	40-54	24%
	55-69	40%
	70-85	25%
	85+	1%
Gender (n=318)	Male	55%
	Female	43%
	Non-binary	2%
Ethnicity (n=311)	New Zealand European/Pākehā	83%
	Māori	7%
	Other	10%

Appendix 2: Engagement tools

4.1 Have your say Questionnaire

INTRODUCTION

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the Whaitua Kāpiti survey – we'd love to hear your thoughts!

Understanding what's important to you, and what your hopes are now and intergenerationally, for Kāpiti rivers, lakes and streams, will help us protect and restore the things that are important to people about freshwater in Kāpiti. In a whaitua, freshwater is connected from the mountains to the sea and we want to know how you are connected to freshwater.

Everyone who completes this survey will go in the draw to win a day trip for two to Kāpiti Island.

Please see our privacy statement for how we will manage this information.

SECTION 1: VALUES

*Q1. We want to know what you **most value and appreciate** about freshwater in Kāpiti. The things you consider **most important**.*

We are interested in freshwater including the rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, springs, and groundwater throughout Kāpiti and their flow-on effects to estuaries and the coast.

*Which of the following things do you **most value** about freshwater in Kāpiti?*

Choose up to 3 ...

- *Socialising – connecting with whānau, friends, and community*
- *Recreation and sport – the ability to swim, paddle, boat etc.*
- *Farming/growing – supporting food production and manufacturing*
- *Economic – supporting local businesses, developers*

- *Environment – supporting clean, healthy ecosystems; healthy habitats; thriving species*
- *Kai / food source – being able to gather food or materials, that is safe to eat and use*
- *Health / medicinal – supporting rongoā māori, fitness, mental health and physical health*
- *Natural beauty and character – a beautiful place to be*
- *Cultural practices – supporting activities specific to your whanau, hapū, culture or intergenerational knowledge*
- *Spiritual, historic or traditional reasons*
- *Other [Write in]*

Q2. For each: Tell us why these are important to you.

SECTION 2: IMPORTANT PLACES

Q3. What freshwater spots in Kāpiti are most **important and special** to you? Which do you **treasure**?

Q4, 5 & 6: You can upload a photo of a place that is special to you

Q7. What are the **main reasons** these places are important to you?

- *Socialising – connecting with family, friends, community and culture*
- *Recreation and sport – the ability to swim, paddle, boat etc.*
- *Farming/growing – supporting food production and manufacturing*
- *Economic – supporting local businesses, developers*
- *Environment – supporting clean, healthy ecosystems; healthy habitats; thriving species*
- *Kai / food source – being able to gather food, that is safe to eat*
- *Health – supporting physical health, fitness, mental health*
- *Natural beauty and character – a beautiful place to be*
- *Cultural practices – supporting activities specific to your whanau, hapū, culture or intergenerational knowledge*
- *Spiritual, historic and cultural reasons*
- *Other [Write in]*

Q8. For each: Tell us why these places are treasured by you

SECTION 3: FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

We want to know your future hopes for freshwater in Kāpiti.

Q9. In the future – 5, 20 or 100 years from now, and intergenerationally – what would you **most like to see improved** for Kāpiti freshwater?

Q10. Is there anything else you would like to contribute about priority issues, solutions or what needs addressing first to restore the health and state of freshwater in Kāpiti?

SECTION 4: DEMOGRAPHICS

- *Age*
- *Location*
- *Gender*
- *Ethnicity*

4.2 Information Sheet for Workshop Participants



TO Workshop participants, Whaitua Kāpiti community consultation

FROM Litmus Ltd

DATE October 2022

Have your say restoring and protecting Kāpiti freshwater

Tukuna mai he korero mō te whakaora me te whakamaru ō te wai māori ō Kāpiti

What to expect at a workshop

Healthy water is central to our lives. Freshwater needs to be protected and restored as healthy waterbodies, and for the communities connected with it. The Whaitua Kāpiti is all the waterbodies from just north of Ōtaki through to Paekākāriki and right up into their headwaters in the Tararua Range.

The Greater Wellington and Litmus are conducting workshops in Kāpiti to get community views into what needs to be done to restore healthy freshwater in Kāpiti. We are extending a special invitation to children, young people, parents and caregivers and older people.

We would like to invite you to the following workshop:

Date	Time	Location
-------------	-------------	-----------------

Six to eight people are invited to the workshop. The workshop will be facilitated by Litmus and a representative from Greater Wellington will attend. Refreshments will be provided.

We are asking communities:

- *What does healthy water in Kāpiti mean for whānau and communities?*
- *What freshwater places in Kāpiti are special and significant and must be restored?*
- *What would help to restore freshwater quality in Kāpiti?*

Questions for children and young people will be child and youth friendly.

We will keep your information safe

We will be recording the discussion, if everyone agrees. What you say to us will be kept safe. We have our own systems to make sure all information collected is kept secure. Your name and any identifying details won't be shared with anyone.

What will happen with the information you share?

A team of community members, mana whenua, Kāpiti Coast District Council, and Greater Wellington representatives known as the Whaitua Kāpiti Committee will make recommendations how to restore freshwater in Kāpiti. They will draw on the feedback from the workshops.

Keeping you informed about the findings

When the findings are ready to be released, we will send you a link to the report. You can also join the mailing list so we can keep you up to date on restoring and protecting Kāpiti fresh water and opportunities to have a further say.

Want to know more about the Whaitua Kāpiti process?

Greater Wellington's website has more detail. Here you will find key activities and dates for the Kāpiti Whaitua process.

We look forward to meeting with you

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou

4.3 Consent form for Whaitua Kāpiti workshop

I consent to taking part in this workshop on freshwater in Kāpiti. I understand what I say will be included in the final report prepared by Litmus. However, no information will be included if it could be used to identify me or anyone else from the workshop.

YES / NO (circle one)

I consent to the workshop being recorded, and this recording will be used to help with note-taking only. I understand no one other than the people listed in the information sheet who work for Litmus will have access to this recording, and the audio recording will be deleted six months after the workshop takes place.

YES / NO (circle one)

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

4.4 Discussion guide

- 1) What are your connections with freshwater in Kāpiti?
 - How are you involved or interacting with freshwater here?
 - What is special about freshwater here?
- 2) What are your hopes and concerns for Kāpiti waterways?
 - How do we want freshwater to be now and in the future?
 - What are we seeing?
 - What is affecting the waterways and how?
- 3) How might we protect and improve Kāpiti waterways?
 - What are we currently doing?
 - What else might be needed?

Appendix 3: Survey data tables

The survey questionnaire is in Appendix 4 for reference.

Table 3: Survey responses to things most valued about freshwater in Kāpiti (Q1)

Which of the following things do you most value about freshwater in Kāpiti? Choose up to 3...	Proportion of respondents	Number of respondents
<i>Environment</i>	81%	270
<i>Natural beauty and character</i>	50%	167
<i>Recreation and sport</i>	47%	156
<i>Kai / food source</i>	30%	101
<i>Farming/growing</i>	21%	70
<i>Health / medicinal</i>	15%	51
<i>Socialising</i>	9%	31
<i>Economic</i>	8%	26
<i>Spiritual, historic or traditional reasons</i>	7%	23
<i>Cultural practices</i>	5%	17
<i>Other</i>	5%	17

Sample size = 335

Table 4: Survey respondent uploaded photos of places special to them (Q4-6)

Photo subject	Number
<i>Water bodies combined with plants/scenery</i>	23
<i>Kids/Pets/Whānau/friends</i>	22
<i>Water (river, beaches)</i>	19
<i>Landscapes and vegetation (no water)</i>	9
<i>Wildlife and invertebrates</i>	7
<i>Community activities</i>	2

Total number of photos uploads 82

Appendix 4: Collated survey responses for future aspirations for freshwater in Kāpiti

Quality freshwater (clean to drink from, swim in, for wildlife) open-ended responses

1. *A good measure of success is to restore and maintain continually swimmable freshwater*
2. *A safe and healthy freshwater supply for our citizens and a healthy natural aquatic ecosystem*
3. *Ability to drink and fish from local waterways*
4. *Ability to drink the water*
5. *Ability to swim and gather kai without fear of being poisoned*
6. *Healthy clean water for drinking, swimming, fish and other species. I would rather be poorer financially and live more simply but have healthier water*
7. *All of our waterways healthy*
8. *All rivers and streams healthy and well cared for*
9. *All rivers should be used for portability in the local areas.*
10. *All rivers to a safe clean swimmable standard with health eco systems*
11. *Better quality*
12. *CHEMICAL FREE NEW ZEALAND*
13. *Clean and toxin free water. Abundance of flora and fauna*
14. *Clean beaches free from rubbish. Clean freshwater able to be used for drinking. No additives.*
15. *Clean fresh water, free of nasty toxic algae*
16. *Clean healthy water supply for residents. Clean clear waterways without runoff from housing and farmland so that all the wildlife and plants who need this to survive into the future can do so.*
17. *Clean natural water sources free from agricultural pollutants that sustains the water needs of the community*
18. *Clean rivers*
19. *Clean streams*
20. *Clean the rivers so they are safe for swimming. No algae.*
21. *Clean water*
22. *Clean water in streams and Waikanae River*
23. *Clean water throughout the rivers journey from source to sea*
24. *Clean water, less e-coli contamination and pollution from farming.*
25. *Clean. Do not sell it to businesses.*
26. *Cleaner - safer to gather food from. Safer swimming holes.*
27. *Cleaner and less input into it like 1080*
28. *Cleanliness - sea has been very dirty brown this week.*
29. *Continue to be able to drink water straight from the tap that is healthy, safe and tastes good.*
30. *Drinkable water in every waterway*

31. *Drinkable, swimmable, native species preserved*
32. *Drinking water and streams and lakes*
33. *Ensuring Otaki headwaters are made and maintained ecoli free*
34. *Every freshwater source should be free from human and farm pollution, swimmable, and drinkable*
35. *Free from chemicals harmful to humans and animals*
36. *Clean and swim able water with thriving eco systems*
37. *Fresh water catchment with enough for everyone without damaging or affecting our natural waterways and flora and fauna*
38. *Fresh water that is safe to drink*
39. *Good clean drinking water. No reliance on water boreholes.*
40. *Healthy waterways - abundant with life, safe to swim and play in*
41. *Healthy, clean river flows and thriving populations for trout which, research shows, can happily co-exist with native fish*
42. *I hope that the river will be safe to swim in for the next 100 years and the wildlife be protected who call this area home.*
43. *I would like our drinking water to be clean without the addition of chemicals including fluoride (mass medication where doses are not individually modified is not the way to aid health) Drinking water in Kāpiti tastes terrible.*
44. *I would like to all water sources pollution free.*
45. *I would like to see a high level of water quality restored.*
46. *I would like to see freshwater quality reach safe swimmable status in the next 5 years in the whole Ōtaki River (not just upstream), and I would like it to be fully safe water for drinking and eating in the next 20*
47. *I would love our water ways to be free from pollutants so our children's children could drink the water safely*
48. *I would want our water to be as clean as possible, and valued by our community as a precious shared resource*
49. *It's cleanliness and health*
50. *Keep the rivers suitable for swimming and playing in. Keep water supply for home use.*
51. *Less pollution of waterways from unsustainable farming methods*
52. *Maintenance of clean natural water sources.*
53. *Make all freshwater swimmable and safe*
54. *Much cleaner water*
55. *Must be kept clean enough to swim in with no health risk*
56. *No pollution and clean waterways where freshwater meets the sea and no longer contaminates the seashore with green algae all over the sand and is no longer smelly at seashore where rivers, streams & drains run into ocean*
57. *No runoff water to be channelled into streams*
58. *Not having to think twice about whether steams and Rivera are safe to swim in*
59. *Plentiful, enough for all who live here to have a good, fresh water to drink and cook with*

60. *Preservation and use of natural water supplies in a sustainable way.*
61. *Protect the water quality and everyone's enjoyment of the river. Prevent farming/dumping anywhere near the rivers*
62. *Pure fresh water*
63. *Pure running water in our rivers and streams*
64. *Purity*
65. *Purity and less water redirected or taken*
66. *Purity, no contamination no hormones, chemicals, ability to drink straight from the river.*
67. *Quality of the water and the native plant species*
68. *Quality. It is important that practices are established to ensure all Kāpiti residents can enjoy the area now and into the future.*
69. *Safe rivers and wetlands*
70. *Steps taken to reduce faecal and nitrate pollution, and greater diversity of flora and fauna.*
71. *Streams running through residential and commercial areas cleared of pollution*
72. *Taking out pollutants*
73. *That all rivers, lakes, and other sources of freshwater in the area be clean enough that you could safely drink from them.*
74. *The ability for the rivers and streams to have kai again in some limited form*
75. *The environment so people can swim, and trout can grow.*
76. *The gift of safely taking a freshwater drink while enjoying our beautiful Kāpiti area*
77. *The highest drinking water standards*
78. *The quality of the water in the river and estuary.*
79. *The removal of nitrates from the Waitohu and Mangaone rivers*
80. *The river and estuary to be clean...knowing that what we see is actually clean and contains no farming pollution.*
81. *The river water remains drinkable and native flora and fauna thrive*
82. *The water to actually be fresh*
83. *Water quality*
84. *Water quality and better riparian planting*
85. *Water quality and biodiversity*
86. *Water quality of Kāpiti rivers and streams*
87. *Water quality that supports biodiversity*
88. *Water quality. Riparian planting.*
89. *The rivers and streams. Also, artesian wells for pure drinking water.*
90. *The volume of water our rivers have. Over the years our rivers seem to getting smaller and shallower.*
91. *Riparian planting. We would like to see improvement in water quality*
92. *Water quality, swimmable, drinkable, surrounding vegetation pristine*

93. *Improved water quality (particularly in the smaller catchments)*
94. *Guaranteed supply and quality*
95. *I hope that 100 years from now, we still have enough good quality freshwater to support the natural environment while also meeting our freshwater needs (i.e., drinking water)*

Thriving habitats for freshwater life (fish, birds, eels, species, plants, forests, riverbanks, etc) open-ended responses

1. *Freshwater populated by an abundance of native freshwater flora and fauna, with each and every freshwater resource of all sizes having healthy supporting ecosystems.*
2. *The whole water eco system*
3. *I would like native species and eels and whitebait to thrive and birds to have safe nesting sites*
4. *A reliable watershed sustaining freshwater ecology and habitat*
5. *A thriving river ecosystem with clean water, in which native species are prioritised and protected*
6. *Adequate supply and freshwater fish species*
7. *All waterways big and small, restored to healthy ecosystems*
8. *All waterways have thriving ecosystems which enable flora and fauna diversity, collection of food, enjoyment through recreation and this is available and accessible to all*
9. *Allow areas to regenerate into wetland*
10. *Both the Otaki and Waikanae rivers need ongoing support*
11. *Bush growing around water, shading, protecting*
12. *Bush protection, wetlands development*
13. *Clean and the eco system flourishing*
14. *Dunes along the banks*
15. *Development of increased areas of wetland*
16. *Whitebait numbers and habitat*
17. *Endemic native fish and associated freshwater flora and fauna*
18. *Environmental health*
19. *Fish and birds restored*
20. *Fish passage and healthy ecosystem*
21. *It would be good for freshwater restoration to be accompanied by strong biodiversity interventions. Returning whio to the headwaters and ensuring abundance so that mana whenua (which I am not) can enjoy their kai.*
22. *Thriving freshwater ecosystems. Thriving animal, fish and plant life. Existing reserve areas maintained and protected.*
23. *Functioning ecosystems in the face of climate change and intensification of development*
24. *Habitat*
25. *I am not sure what has been already lost, perhaps, the focus should be on preserving the current state of the rivers (Waikanae and Otaki)*

26. *Continuation of protection of the Waikanae River flood plain so that it can flow at its own pace at different seasons of the year*
27. *I can't speak to restored because I'm not au fait with what it used to be like but I'd desperately urge that it is protected - from over development and failing or inadequate infrastructure*
28. *I would like to see the river belt replanted in native species and the river flourishing with native species*
29. *I would love to see the restoration of native forest along the riverbanks. This will go a long way to improving water levels and in keeping ecosystems around our rivers healthy.*
30. *Improved habitat, thriving rivers with abundant native fish and trout*
31. *Keep Waikanae River clean and protected. Keep restoring some of the wetland areas in Queen Elizabeth Park and Pharazyn Reserve, especially on the seaside.*
32. *Maintain the ecosystem*
33. *Restore natural fauna and flora*
34. *More fish in the rivers*
35. *Thriving biodiversity*
36. *More native planting*
37. *More shading of the rivers, more planting to enhance the health of the water*
38. *More wetlands for critically endangered birds such as the Australasian bittern*
39. *More wetlands returned to original state for bitterns and other bird life. Predator control too please*
40. *Native fish including freshwater cray fish, eels and more whitebait being allowed to grow into mature fish. Also, protection of the river from farming where appropriate*
41. *Native flora and fauna*
42. *Native species - both flora and fauna*
43. *Natural native riparian margins from ocean to mountains*
44. *Natural swamp areas restored, estuaries and planting to filter runoff into rivers and streams so all waterways encourage natural environment*
45. *Natural watercourses, (not channels). Thriving communities of indigenous plants and animals*
46. *Natural wetlands well planted and restored to a natural state free of pest species. Streams planted to prevent erosion and reflect the native natural environment we have almost lost. Native species restored and properly protected in their environment.*
47. *Not restore as of today-maintain only*
48. *Protect the waterways*
49. *Quality, quantity and restored ecosystems*
50. *Restore the wetlands at Pekapeka - not the sewerage ponds - restore the land that NZTA practically stole from locals to build the expressway*
51. *Restored wetlands in QE Reserve with surrounding podocarp forests, trees next to main rivers*
52. *Rivers restored to their natural course, including wetlands, this would achieve most of my desired outcomes*
53. *Swamps - the North Beach building programme on the swamp land is heart breaking*

54. *That all waterways are clean, bio-diverse bodies without human created pollution or degradation of any kind*
55. *That the freshwater systems continue to sustain a wide range of natural flora & fauna*
56. *The ability for all forms of fish to be able to migrate, unimpeded by humans or human engineering, up into headwaters to breed so that they form part of the river's ecosystem and part of the Kāpiti flyway for our precious birds.*
57. *The aquatic life both animal and plant in the streams*
58. *The beauty of the landscape and the health of fresh fish*
59. *The edges of the rivers and streams so they are more natural and provide protection to the freshwater ecosystems*
60. *The habitat for sustainably supporting fish stocks, both native and sea going trout and other indigenous species*
61. *The habitats attached to the waterways to enhance their mutual support of their respective ecosystems*
62. *The health of the Waikanae River and make the estuary sustainable with regard to global warming*
63. *The natural habitat that rivers provide for all aquatic species is important to me, and needs to be preserved for future generations.*
64. *The rivers need to be more natural in its meander, but this is unlikely to change in the foreseeable 20 years - even with climate change and changes in rainfall intensity. I would want to see the rivers have plenty of diversity including trout, as the ecosystem should include species important to everyone. The remnant wetlands and dune lakes have been devastated by development, and these should be a focus for improvement for habitat for native fish and water birds.*
65. *The species that depend on freshwater.*
66. *Thriving biodiversity - the balance has returned, and we have abundant fish and bird life, plants and invertebrates*
67. *Thriving ecosystems, diverse species and thriving food sources*
68. *To have wetlands restored so wildlife can be nurtured back without people interfering at all*
69. *Wainui Stream, wetlands everywhere*
70. *Wetlands*
71. *Wetlands esp. swamp forest, revegetated and unstilted rivers and streams*
72. *Wetlands near QE 2 Park, Waikanae River planting, Wharemauku Stream beautification*
73. *Wetlands, they are essential for sequestering carbon*
74. *Healthy rivers that provide stable habitat for trout*
75. *Wider river areas with natural species and processes taking place*
76. *I'd like to see fish and birds thriving in the waterways, wetlands, river*
77. *Wetlands recreated*

Freshwater management (concerns, strategies and actions)

1. *More protection and riparian management in catchments*
2. *A better integrated system of wastewater catchment ponds to better under the damage our towns are doing to the wetlands. Also, full restoration of the Waikanae full restoration of estuary asap*
3. *A reservoir to see us through dry summers*
4. *Shade over the waterways. Less runoff. A stop to forestry slash washing into the waterways.*
5. *Minimise erosion and contamination*
6. *Absence of pollution- industrial waste discharging into waterways- e.g., oily slick in stream that passes under Matai Steet, Raumati*
7. *Dunes along the banks*
8. *An adequate amount of water in each part of the water system 12 months a year, not only to supply our water needs but keep a supply in the rivers etc. to keep them healthy.*
9. *Better management of storm water, e.g., Waikanae pony club paddock*
10. *Better management of the river to prevent flooding from the build-up of excessive gravel which is an issues above the Water Treatment Plant to the river's mouth. As the population continues to grow we need to store the water (Dam) when the river is flowing high so that we are dependant of the recharge of bore water that 50 plus years old and putting the natural water table at risk.*
11. *Build a dam in the hills*
12. *Queen Elizabeth Park wetlands, more wetlands in Kāpiti. The current drains that were streams, E.G Wharemakau Stream, the stream/ ditch along Guilford Ave in Paraparaumu. Any other streams that have been turned into drains. Currently they are sad reminders there was once a lovely stream here and are opportunities lost.*
13. *Build dam above Paraparaumu to provide future safe water supply*
14. *Catchments vegetated with native woody species stabilising them and minimising sedimentation and flooding extremes*
15. *Coastal skyline restored to native forest in public ownership*
16. *Developments that give practical priority to stormwater management and create places of natural beauty. Productive farmlands that thrive on well managed waterways. Reduction in pollution and from excessive draw - residential and industrial.*
17. *Enough clean water resources stored to meet future water demands. Aquifer protected from contamination*
18. *Ensure that Kāpiti are equipped with the right tools and know how in maintaining water restoration techniques*
19. *Forestry practices need to be reviewed, as they often cause unhealthy and environmentally destructive siltation of rivers and catchment areas*
20. *Drained wetlands*
21. *Restoration needs to keep pace with increasing population in the Kāpiti area, I see the buildings going up faster than the infrastructure to support the increased population, I also see permission being given to homes being built in hazardous areas, (eg in the estuary there are new homes right in the middle of the outer regions of the flood plain) With the knowledge we have now, this is irresponsible and should not have had permission given by the KCDC.*

22. *If (as is creeping up on us) Kāpiti becomes a highly populated urban sprawl we must prepare with infrastructure that can cope. Currently (and, anecdotally for at least 20 years) stormwater has been drained into streams such as the Waimea Stream. I hope this has not reached an irreversible stage. Developments such as Summerset for example, add significantly to the runoff into that stream. If you are not aware, this is a naturally spring fed stream that is crystal clear until (nowadays) a few drops of rain turn it into a grey, murky, smelly outfall. The solutions will require infrastructure change in attitude and no doubt significant expenditure by Council.*
23. *In 100 years' time managed retreat from the major river corridors is complete so that the Ōtaki and Waikanae Rivers are able to meander more naturally and the Waikanae Estuary is largely left to flow to sea naturally. In 50 years', time all stream sides are reserved or covenanted for appropriate riparian planting or regeneration. In 50 years', time all steep slopes are identified for restoration or regeneration with appropriate vegetation. In 5 years' time all landowners minimise their use of impervious surfaces and are incentivised to covenant stream sides with appropriate planting. In 5 years', time there are incentives via rates or other means for large urban businesses to retro fit best-practice stormwater management, e.g., permeable parking surfaces, ponds, tanks, swales and wetlands.*
24. *Have composting systems for farmers to zero the use of unnecessary fertilisers (overdoses our microorganisms and fungi). Accept 'weeds' and learn how to manage them NATURALLY and with patience.*
25. *Invasive species removed from all water courses.*
26. *It all seems in pretty good shape as is. I'd like to see sensible practices restored though such as dredging of Waikanae awa to mitigate flooding issues and stream pathway realignment continuing of Waimea Stream at Waikanae Beach.*
27. *It's management and purity, I don't think we have ever invested enough in our nature, resources should be directed here.*
28. *Maintain appropriate pool riffle run sequence in Waikanae and Otaki rivers so not compromised by flood protection activities. Restoration of dune lakes and wetlands is urgent- including connectivity to the sea for native fish.*
29. *Monitoring what goes into the rivers systems*
30. *Policies to protect our environment and to be proactive in enforcing it*
31. *Rangatiratanga of mana whenua*
32. *Riverbanks and flood protection*
33. *Rivers which are no longer turned into featureless canals in the mistaken belief that this somehow will solve the challenges of floods. Recognise that rivers need to have the space which they used to have to deal with the inevitable weather events climate change is bringing.*
34. *Sediment control and pollution of rivers and tributaries to ensure the eco system is healthy and thriving and can be used for recreational harvesting and enjoyment eg whitebait, fishing, swimming etc.*
35. *Sources of pollution resolved*
36. *That all farming that is detrimental to freshwater is removed. That planting is restored to help with beauty and health of rivers.*
37. *That the river and stream sources are cleaned up from all invasive plant species, and pollutants*
38. *That waterways are more protected than they are now. Stop farmers from destroying habitats - better farming practises.*

39. *The depth of the rivers are managed so they don't silt up and flood the area paths and recreation spaces are managed and improved*
40. *The habitats to support freshwater and coastal fish. The rivers are dying through lack of good management, particularly if gravel build up.*
41. *The protection of waterways from cattle and the pollutants associated with farming so that they can thrive.*
42. *The reduction of subdivisions on food bearing land. The continued practical plantings*
43. *Throughout the Kāpiti Coast I want to see every stream, river and Marine Reserve extended and protected. Urban development / planning must only be allowed when the natural environment is enhanced and protected first. Without thinking first about our ecosystems. We risk positive environment health (which is why people want to live here) will be lost.*
44. *Wildlife, health of the waterways and industry giving back resources to correct damage they have caused.*
45. *Riparian planting and other measures so that native fish return and thrive, and the beauty and peace of our rivers is restored.*
46. *Riparian planting*
47. *Riparian plantings around all drains, ditches, creeks, rivers*
48. *Rivers all cleaned out and rubbish and gravel build ups annually cleared to enable the rivers to run freely and cleanly thus providing future generations with river fun and pleasure as they should be. More planting of natives adding visual value to the rivers.*
49. *Protection and restoration of all fresh water - absolute stop to all farming and urban pollution sources, wetlands and streams are currently undervalued. Polluters and water extractors must pay the real cost to the environment of their activities.*
50. *Protection of waterways, ensuring longevity of natural environment rather than prioritising economic outcomes*
51. *Public access along the waterways upstream of the old SH1 bridge; restoration of riparian margins in Reikorangi; removal of forestry on steep hills.*

In achieving all of the above, the Regional Council in its RPS needs to encourage/support/motivate KCDC to support the biodiversity incentives to do this and support the vesting of esplanade reserves upstream of the old SH1 bridge (not just requiring esplanade strips). GWRC and this Whitua Group need to provide feedback on KCDC's draft plan change on biodiversity incentives. The PNRP needs to not just penalise landowners and developers through excessive regulation but work with landowners and developers to get great outcomes for all.

We need to also think about the quality of our drinking water - and question whether taking water from the Waikanae in its current location is the best thing for our river and our community. Would there be other water collection options that might have better outcomes. The Whitua should not be afraid to investigate those even if they are 30 - 50 years off.

Access to suitable plant species for riparian planting and for replanting of hillsides needs to be made more accessible to all people in our community who are doing this work. At the moment I am concerned that there is no accountability of transparency around allocation of funding from the Crown under the Jobs For Nature Funding and the Ki Uta Ki Tai funding (I believe \$10 million was allocated over ten years). We have been trying to access plants to revegetation our hills which we are removing pines from but have had very little success.

GWRC's own restoration and pest control programmes need to be made more available to the public and community. I work in the environmental space and know that you need to be "in the know" to find out about what funding opportunities there are. The Whitua should work closely with our community groups to get the word out about its programmes; how to access them and get ongoing support.

52. *We need to find a better way to control pest species than broadcasting toxic 1080 across the environment*
53. *Quality, quantity and restored ecosystems.*
54. *Remove stormwater connections from Kāpiti Streams*
55. *More shading of the rivers, more planting to enhance the health of the water.*
56. *Newly planted little native trees being well protected from wind and sun and dry and choking (e.g.by blackberry) for at least three years so that they become well established and thrive. At present many are dying of exposure.*
57. *Maintain more natural river flows. stricter regulation of water allocations. some rivers are reduced to a trickle when agricultural practices remove water during dry spells.*
58. *Maintaining and adding more areas to filter and catch water - swamps and planted wet areas. More Nikau stands planted in Nikau belt area and groupings/areas of vegetation sympathetic and proper to the areas and vegetation belts around water ways. I would also like to see a freshwater catchment for town water supply established separate from Waikanae River as I fear it will suffer as towns get bigger here. Possibly some kind of catchment/dam up in hills as a long-term plan. The bore water is terrible that is used when water gets low (trashes appliances!) and isn't a main water source option.*
59. *Improvements to the natural flow of the Waikanae River are always essential while restricting the worst effects of flood flows.*
60. *The restoration of wetlands is important and would help to improve water quality. Changing farming practices would no doubt help, too.*
61. *Native plantings around the river and lakes protecting the native planting corridor from sea to hills for bird species*
62. *The continuation of the Waikanae River and estuary recovery programme*
63. *I would like the Mangaone to be maintained to previous levels to control the flooding and water table levels on LUC 1-3 productive farmland by removing excess gravel from the Mangaone stream bed. So we can create more riparian planting along farm water courses to create shelter and habitat with less risk of being wiped out in floods that linger for to long and water tables that are to high to allow healthy vigorous plant growth*
64. *Increased focus on native vegetation and the elimination of non-native vermin to help the establishment a greater variety of native insects, birds and animals.*
65. *Adequate wastewater system*
66. *All the estuaries should be restored to a better condition, a control plan needs to be instituted to address siltation of rivers both in terms of preventative action and in terms of restitution and correction when parties are found to be impacting the environment negatively. I would like the water to be safe to swim and drink for most of the lengths of the rivers.*
67. *All the gorse and blackberry removed to let the natives flourish, as well as maintaining the wetlands*
68. *All the wetlands including dune wetlands. All the waterways with wide riparian margins (not the current minimalist approach), a high level of awareness and understanding of whenua care practice and joined up work between all landowners and managers*
69. *Also, we need to store fresh water better - that means dams or several smaller storage facilities. We never want to have to drink heavily treated water.*

70. *Flood prevention means that we need to extract gravel from the Waikanae, because much of the gravel in it has come from the tracks, not upstream. Stop muddy water from pouring in from the Mouapuko stream, the Eway storm water system is not working*
71. *Better protected flood communities*
72. *Specifically, I would like to see the smaller streams from Paekakariki up the Wharemauku better maintained and protected from urban development*
73. *Harmful farming practices addressed. Litter in our waterways (and in the community in general).*
74. *Reduce run off from intense agricultural farming uses including fertiliser. As well as urban development and excessive household rubbish entering into our water ways.*

Accessible and safe waterways to support human and freshwater system wellbeing

1. *Natural environment open for recreational purposes and there will be enough space for everyone so it is not crowded.*
2. *Basic free water for the regions people. Regardless of race or gender - water is not a political tool, so stop treating it as such.*
3. *Easy public access and activity programmes for young people to enjoy the areas by way of canoeing or rafting*
4. *Extended walkways along the Waikanae River heading upstream from SH59*
5. *In bush areas that it is accessible, in farmland that it is productive.*
6. *Keep developing shared trails so that we can access and be next to the rivers, while restoring the marginal planting.*
7. *Maintaining of family areas. Parks for walking, playing and picnicking. The importance of safe areas; quality time for families to gather together.*
8. *Pathways from Reikorangi along the waterways for all to share - bridleways, cycleways, walkways, connecting us to the beach. Otaki Gorge campground accessible again*
9. *Retain the natural and inclusive nature of the areas*
10. *Safe access to it and the ability to have clean drinking water as well as recreational use*
11. *The ability for all New Zealanders to be able to use it not just a few.*
12. *The lagoons along the coast. And streams which have been piped opened up so we can walk beside them. Isn't this meant to be a better way of managing water? Think I read that somewhere recently.*
13. *The right for all who live hear to use and enjoy*
14. *There are plenty of lakes around d. However, the access is limited. Also the Horowhenua lake which is a dirty pond right now*
15. *To utilise the awa before it reaches the sea*
16. *Waterways that are safe to use, full of kai safe to eat*
17. *All of the wetlands across the Kāpiti coast with walk and hides installed so we can observe native wetland species without disturbing them*
18. *Riverside bush with areas for family.*
19. *More access to rivers and wetlands for the community to value their spaces.*
20. *Places to swim*

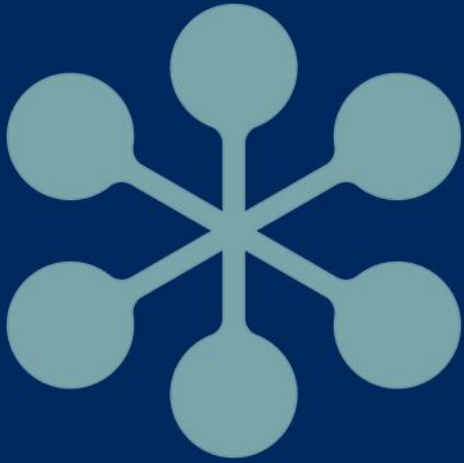
21. *Lake Horowhenua restored to the point it's safe to recreate there.*
22. *People interacting sensitively & safely with the streams & rivers*
23. *Enjoyment through recreation and this is available and accessible to all*
24. *That the freshwater systems continue to sustain a wide range of natural flora & fauna and can be accessed & enjoyed by the whole community.*
25. *I don't understand the concept of "restoring" Kāpiti freshwater as I am not fully aware of how it has been destroyed. What I would most like to see is a large reservoir to be built in the back country, which is the catchment areas from which our rivers originate. These in other areas have become beautiful lakes where people can go for recreation and enjoyment of the natural environment that can be developed.*
26. *More access to rivers and wetlands for the community to value their spaces.*
27. *People using the waters as a source of food (which will require much better stocks of fish / whitebait etc.)*
28. *That my grandchildren and future generations can have the opportunity to go trout fishing in the future*
29. *The community's life has vitality and health because the river and freshwater is clean and vibrant.*
30. *All of the wetlands across the Kāpiti coast with walk and hides installed so we can observe native wetland species without disturbing them*
31. *I want these waters maintained so future generations can enjoy them to the same extent as I do.*
32. *All water sources need to be cared and maintained so that future generations can enjoy the life-giving waters.*
33. *I would love to have more places along these smaller streams for sitting, reflecting, and enjoying the natural environment (like the Kaitawa Reserve). I also hope that we will still have rivers where we can walk, swim and enjoy the natural environment.*
34. *The sacredness of fresh water enhanced and protected for future generations*
35. *All freshwater health prioritised as though it is our sacred basis for life.*
36. *Freshwater for all to enjoy with pride*
37. *More places to enjoy - for escape from the stress of our working life*
38. *Collection of food*
39. *A balance between the river and humans*

Greater investment and focus on mātauranga Māori and Māori history

1. *Invest in native riparian planting, interactive and educational rongoa Māori/ native kai spaces, so we can understand how to have a reciprocal relationship with our waterways. We must intentionally honour the gifts we get from our waterways (including the ability to swim, play, drink water, water our gardens/farms, gather kai, whakanoa/remove emotional heaviness). We can do this through interactive education and investing in native flora/fauna restoration projects. Not ones that focus on physical beauty, but those which allow us to have balanced relationships with our environment/natural resources.'*
2. *Restore the old Māori waka pathways.*
3. *I'd like to know that the Waikanae River flows are not diminished any further in future years, and better, that flows are increased to the levels they were in past years when boats were able to navigate almost to Wi Parata's house*
4. *Mauri, mana, taonga species*

5. *Restore the balanced ecosystem we had before colonisation*
6. *A collective reverence for and understanding of the importance of freshwater conservation and spaces for humans and wildlife - that everyone sees themselves as the kaitiaki of our waterways and thinks about the activities they undertake in/on and around our water.*





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