



WORKSHOP AGENDA

Date: Monday, 11 May 2026

Time: 9.30am

Location: Council Chambers
Waikato Regional Council
Level 1, 160 Ward Street, Hamilton

Workshop Details: Council Workshop

- 9.30am – Te Ture Whaimana
- 10.30am – Flood Management and Drainage Services Review
- 12.30pm – LUNCH
- 1.00pm – ICM Induction – Infrastructure
- 3.30pm – Workshop Concludes

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1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Whakataka te hau ki te uru

Cease o winds from the west

Whakataka te hau ki te tonga

Cease o winds from the south

Kia mākinakina ki uta

Bring calm breezes over the land

Kia mātaratara ki tai

Bring calm breezes over the sea

E hī ake ana te atakura

And let the red-tipped dawn come

He tio

With a touch of frost

He Huka

A sharpened air

He hau hū

And promise of a glorious day

Tīhei mauri ora!

Behold we live

2 WORKSHOP PAPER(S)

2.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE REVIEW OF TE TURE WHAIMANA O TE AWA, THE VISION AND STRATEGY FOR THE WAIKATO AND WAIPA RIVER

Rā | Date: 28 April 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Jo Bromley, Principal Advisor - Science, Policy and Information

Kaituku | Authoriser: Tracey May, Director, Science, Policy and Information

Executive summary

1. The Waikato River Authority Chief Executive (Antoine Coffin) and the Te Ture Whaimana Review Project Director (Gavin Donald) have requested time with Waikato Regional Councillors to introduce the review of Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato and in particular:
 - Provide clarity on the history of Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato and the purpose of its review.
 - Share the high-level process of the review.
 - Articulate the next steps in terms of engagement and timeframes for key milestones
 - Outline emerging directions of the work undertaken so far.
2. A short presentation on the review will be provided and there will be an opportunity for Councillors to ask questions and discuss the review with the presenters.
3. This report introduces the review of Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato, the Vision and Strategy that guides the management and restoration of the Waikato and Waipā Rivers. It outlines the purpose and statutory basis for the review, the role of the Waikato River Authority in leading the process, and the high-level approach being taken. The report also signals upcoming engagement with local authorities, including Waikato Regional Council, and the next key steps and timeframes for the review process

Introduction to Te Ture Whaimana

4. Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato – Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River (Te Ture Whaimana) is the primary direction-setting document for the Waikato and Waipā Rivers and their catchments. It was established through Treaty settlement legislation with Waikato-Tainui and subsequently recognised through the settlements with Raukawa, Tūwharetoa, Te Arawa River Iwi Trust, and Te Nehenehenui in 2010 to 2012. It sets out a vision for a future where the rivers sustain abundant life and prosperous communities.
5. The overarching vision of Te Ture Whaimana is:

“Tooku awa koiora me oona pikonga he kura tangihia o te maataamuri.

The river of life, each curve more beautiful than the last.

“Our vision is for a future where a healthy river sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, and all it embraces, for generations to come.”

6. Te Ture Whaimana shapes environmental policy and decision-making at both a regional and national level and requires local authorities to give effect to it in their planning documents. It sets out a list of Objectives and Strategies to achieve not only the physical restoration and protection of the Waikato and Waipā Rivers, but the interconnected relationship between iwi, the community and industry resource users who all depend on the health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipā Rivers.
7. The development, review and implementation of Te Ture Whaimana is overseen by the Waikato River Authority (WRA) who have a role a role of promoting an integrated, holistic, and co-ordinated approach to the implementation of the vision and strategy and the management of the Waikato River.

Overview of the review

8. Under the settlement acts, the Waikato River Authority (WRA) is required to review Te Ture Whaimana no earlier than five years, and no later than ten years, after the previous review.
9. Te Ture Whaimana was last reviewed in 2012, and the current review was commenced in 2022 with the appointment of a consultant team. The team has been engaging with River Iwi and carried out desktop analyses, in order to prepare for the review and finalise its scope before commencing broader engagement this year.

Who is responsible for the review

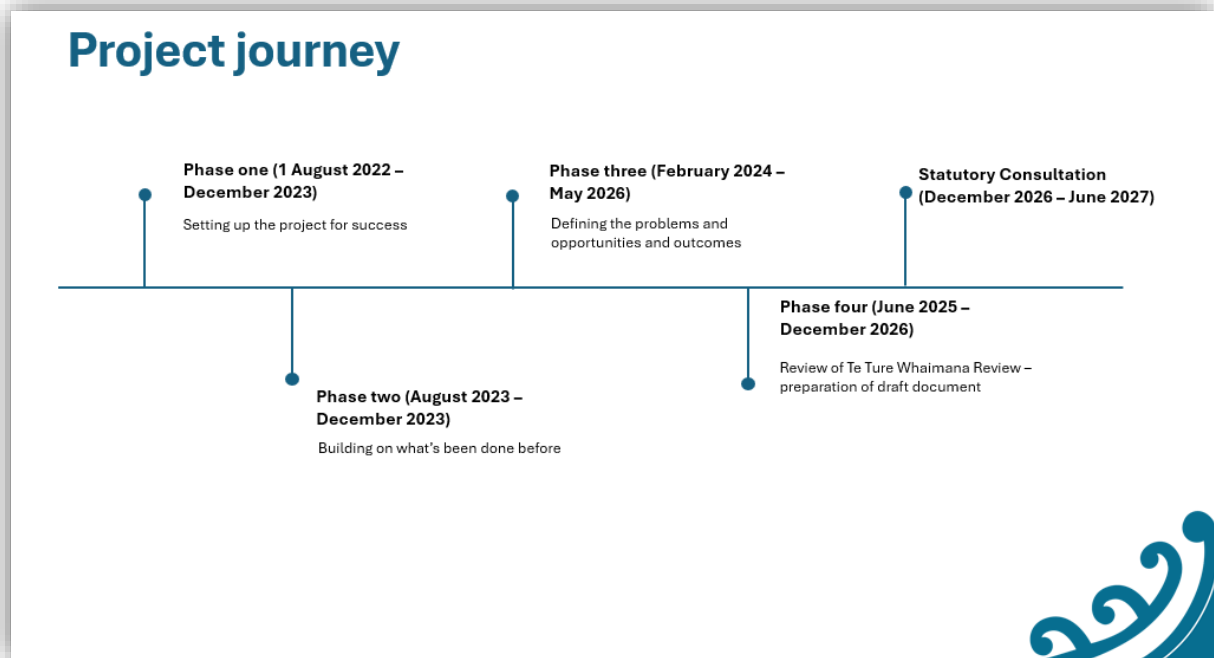
10. The review has been initiated by the WRA. The WRA is a statutory body formed under the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010, the Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010, and with additional responsibilities arising from the Ngā Wai o Maniapoto (Waipā River) Act 2012.
11. The WRA has ten Board Members who are appointed by River Settlement Iwi (1 representative each) and Ministers of the Crown (there are 5 Crown appointees). The WRA are the projects governors who ultimately commission the project and take stewardship of the document's implementation.

Waikato Regional Council Involvement

12. Waikato Regional Council plays a key role in implementing Te Ture Whaimana and have a particular role in the review as a local authority that the WRA is required to consult with during the preparation of a draft Vision and Strategy. Waikato Regional Council has statutory obligations in regard to considering and implementing the direction of Te Ture Whaimana within its planning documents.
13. This phase of engagement with Council will be with council staff who have technical expertise that will feed into and inform the review.

What can you expect going forward

14. In May a workshop will be held with staff from local authorities, selected central government agencies and the relevant water services organisations. This workshop will bring together central and local government policy leads and senior staff to discuss policy direction and next steps.



15. As well as input into the review process Waikato Regional Council will have the opportunity to participate in the statutorily required consultation process - anticipated for early 2027.

ĀPITI HANGA | ATTACHMENTS

Nil

2.2 REVIEW OF FUNDING FOR FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND DRAINAGE SERVICES

Rā | Date: 1 May 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Blair Keenan, Principal Economist

Kaituku | Authoriser: Janine Becker, Director, Customer and Corporate Services

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss the draft report on the funding review for flood management and drainage, following the orientation presentation on Wednesday 22nd April 2026. The workshop is an opportunity to ask questions of the project team and explore the matter in more depth.

KŌRERO WHAKATAKI | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Waikato Regional Council is undertaking a review of the funding approaches and the targeted and general rating systems used to support capital and operational investment in flood management and drainage infrastructure. The last in-depth systemic review of the funding system was Project Watershed, which was completed nearly 20 years ago.
3. The purpose of the review is to ensure the funding mechanisms for essential infrastructure are equitable and effective, and that other sources of funding outside general and targeted rates are understood and utilised where possible.
4. This is the first stage of funding review, and no changes are proposed to the rating system in this year's Long Term Plan. Further phases of analysis will be required to propose, consult on, and then implement changes to targeted and general rates.
5. The purpose of this workshop is to:
 - Discuss in more detail the funding review, the scope of this phase of the analysis, and the next steps required to review the funding of flood management and drainage
 - Demonstrate how the review aligns with other WRC and national programmes focused on the funding challenges for flood risk resilience
 - Discuss the methodology and approach used to assess how and where and to whom the benefits of flood management and drainage occur, including how monetary values are assigned
 - Discuss the full range of funding mechanisms available to ensure costs and benefits are equitably and sustainably shared across different communities and sectors
 - Confirm the principles that will inform the next phases of the review, which may lead to proposed changes to the funding and rating systems to be consulted on with the community and other stakeholders.

CONTEXT AND ALIGNMENT

6. This draft report the first step in the review of how flood management and land drainage services in the Waikato can be funded sustainably over the long term. It responds to rising

asset values, increasing climate-related risk, and pressure on rates. The purpose of the overall review is to test whether current funding settings continue to deliver effective risk reduction, fair cost allocation, and value for money for landowners and ratepayers. In doing so, it recognises that historic land and river management decisions, land tenure patterns, and statutory obligations, including Treaty settlements, shape current funding pressures and future intergenerational outcomes.

7. This review does not reconsider the need for these services. Its purpose is to assess whether existing funding arrangements remain efficient, equitable, and affordable as asset costs, climate pressures, and land use patterns change.
8. This work is aligned with other key WRC flood modelling and flood prevention programmes, including its contribution to the Hauraki Plains adaptation plan (HPAP). Work is progressing to align and integrate the two initiatives so that the HPAP work can begin to trial the valuation and funding mechanisms described in the funding review project.
9. The work is also aligned with national strategies being pursued by Te Uru Kahika to achieve ongoing central government co-investment in flood risk resilience, with the methodologies used in this report being utilised more widely in the sector in support of long-term funding certainty. This work directly supports the next iteration of the business case for national flood management, which is expected to be tabled with the Crown around the beginning of FY26/27.
10. The work is further aligned with coastal inundation and flood management planning in Tairua. The TCDC-led project is using the methodologies developed in this project to evaluate the impacts of a specific scheme on a specific community in order to arrive at an equitable and sustainable funding approach for the coastal protection infrastructure. In turn, the findings from the TCDC project will inform and validate regional valuation models for WRC.

WORKSHOP FORMAT AND FACILITATION

11. This workshop follows on from the introductory session on 22nd April 2026, and builds on the questions asked during and subsequent to that discussion.
12. The workshop approach is:
 - Overview of the purpose, scope and context for the work, including strategic and programme alignment – pause for questions and comment
 - A short walkthrough of the asset, economic and social valuation approaches for flood impacts, using the draft document as a framework
 - A discussion of how the costs and benefits of flood management are assigned to different communities, groups, and sectors – interactive session
 - A walkthrough of the different traditional and non-traditional funding models that can or could be utilised by WRC to finance flood management and drainage infrastructure – interactive session
 - A summary of the session and the tabling of the draft principles for the next stages of the funding review for elected members to consider.
13. Elected members have been provided with a copy of the draft document at the April 22nd session, and the walkthrough will follow its structure. Questions and comments will be taken throughout the session, and will inform the final version of the report.

14. The workshop is intended to be highly interactive and will be professionally facilitated by Kent Duston from Habilis NZ.

POST-WORKSHOP ACTIVITY

15. Project team members are actively seeking perspectives from elected members as the document is finalised. Input can be provided at the workshop, through document review or by email, prior to the document being completed by the end of May 2026.
16. Elected members will be asked to consider and ratify the principles at the meeting on 25 June 2026.

ĀPITIHANGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. **Funding review principles (draft)** [↓](#)

Principles for the review of funding for flood management and drainage – draft v2

- Principle 1:** The allocation of contributions to funding flood management and drainage activities in the Waikato region needs to be equitable and sustainable to ensure the long-term viability of flood management and drainage schemes.
- Principle 2:** The council will use its existing and future flood modelling to establish the hazard and exposure of communities and businesses in the Waikato, and the degree to which the risks are being exacerbated, and by whom.
- Principle 3:** In order to establish the equitable basis for contributions, the council will use cost-benefit analysis and social return on investment analysis to assess who bears the financial and social impacts of flooding and the benefits of protection.
- Principle 4:** The council will use the frameworks described in the [final name of the report] to conduct the assessments, in order to inform options for the future financial contributions to flood management and drainage.
- Principle 5:** The council will pilot and test the implementation of the frameworks as part of the Hauraki Our Plains Our Future project, prior to the approach being tested across the rest of the Waikato region in order to inform options for changes to general and targeted rates.
- Principle 6:** The council will continue to work with Te Uru Kahika to advance discussions with the Crown on co-investment in flood management, with a view to achieving a long-term co-funding agreement.
- Principle 7:** The council will investigate the use of additional investment and revenue options as outlined in the [final name of the report] to widen the base of financial contributors to flood management and drainage.

2.3 ICMC INDUCTION - INFRASTRUCTURE

Rā | Date: 4 May 2026

Kaituhi | Author: Steve Fabish, Manager - Infastructure

Kaituku | Authoriser: Greg Ryan, Director, Integrated Catchment Management

TE ARONGA | PURPOSE

1. A presentation will be provided on the nature of Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) Infrastructure Section, as preliminary induction material for our new Councillors who may not be familiar with this work. The presentation format will provide ample time for questions from Councillors. Staff will cover details on the Schemes, Land Drainage, Assets and Engineering Services.

KŌRERO WHAKATAKI | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. A presentation will be provided on the nature of ICM's Infrastructure Section, including a summary of key information;
 - (a) Overview of the Infrastructure Section. Team Structure, Core work areas and responsibilities.
 - (b) Governance structures, History, Assets, 2025/26 Operational and Capital Budgets, Successes, Challenges and Future Focus.

ĀPITI HANGA | ATTACHMENTS

Nil

3 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Unuhia, unuhia

Unuhia mai te uru tapu nui

kia wātea, kia māmā,

te ngākau, te tinana, te hinengaro,

i te ara takatū

Koia rā e Rongo

e whakairia ake ki runga

kia tina! TINA!

Haumi ē, hui ē, TĀIKI ē!

Draw on, draw on,

Draw on to the supreme sacredness

To clear, to free

our heart, body and soul

Our pathway prepared

Lo, there is peace

suspended high above

manifest!

draw together!

Affirm!