

Ngaruroro River and Estuary

Summary of Values

**For Proposed Plan Change 7: Hawke's Bay Regional
Resource Management Plan**

(Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change)

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Ngaruroro River and Estuary - Summary of Values

**For Proposed Plan Change 7: Hawke's Bay Regional Resource Management Plan
(Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change)**

HBRC Publication Number: 5497

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Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| Purpose of Report | 4 |
| Plan Change 7 Overview | 4 |
| Phase's One & Two: High Level Review & Summary of Values | 5 |
| Phase Three: Refine List & Secondary Assessments | 5 |
| Phase Four: Engagement & Local Expert Panel Process | 5 |
| Phase Five: Final Evaluation | 6 |

APPENDICES

| | |
|------------|---|
| Appendix 1 | Tables C1 and R2 - Ngaruroro River |
| Appendix 2 | Secondary Assessment - Ngaruroro River |
| Appendix 3 | Expert Panel Findings - Ngaruroro River |
| Appendix 4 | Final Evaluation - Ngaruroro River |

Purpose of Report

1. This report is a compilation of information previously documented on the values associated with the Ngaruroro River during preparation of Proposed Plan Change 7 prior to its notification on 31 August 2019. It is one of a series of similar reports compiled for each of the respective proposed outstanding water bodies (OWB) identified in Plan Change 7.
2. The approach used by Hawke's Bay Regional Council to identify OWB in Hawke's Bay followed a process that began with a high level review documenting the values associated with 130 water bodies across the region. A short explanation is provided at the beginning of each section which discusses the relevant phase and whether the Ngaruroro River was considered during that part of the process.
3. Not all OWB identified in Proposed Plan Change 7 were considered during each phase of the process. For clarity, an index table (Table 1) has been included in this report which sets out the relevant phases, report names, values and page numbers for the Ngaruroro River.
4. No new research or further information was commissioned for the purposes of compiling this report.
5. For further information on the Outstanding Water Body Identification Methodology and each of these phases, see the Plan Change 7 Section 32 Evaluation Report¹.
6. **Table 1: Ngaruroro River index**

| Phase | Included (yes/no) | Report name /date | Page numbers in associated report |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| High Level Review (Phase 1 & Phase 2) | Yes | Summary of Cultural Values Associated with Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay (March 2018) | 10 -13 |
| | | Summary of the Recreation, Landscape and Ecology Values Associated with Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay (March 2018) | 9 |
| Secondary Assessments (Phase 3) | Yes | Secondary assessment - Ngaruroro River | All of report |
| Local Expert Panel (Phase 4) | Yes | Outstanding Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay - Report of the Expert Panel (April 2019) | 36 - 41 |
| Final Evaluation (Phase 5) | Yes | Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change - selecting a list of outstanding water bodies in Hawke's Bay (May 2019) | 19, 25, 26, 31, 36, 45, 46, 49, 50, 54, 58, 59, 66, 72, 75, 76, 90, 109 |

Plan Change 7 Overview

7. Hawke's Bay Regional Council has prepared an amendment to the Hawke's Bay Regional Resource Management Plan (RRMP) to include a list of the region's outstanding water bodies, together with a framework which prescribes a high level of protection for these water bodies in future plan making. That change to the RRMP is referred to as 'Proposed Plan Change 7' or the 'Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change.'
8. The water bodies identified in the Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change have been proposed as the 'best of the best' within the region, featuring an exceptional cultural, spiritual, recreation, natural character, landscape, geology, or ecology value which is remarkable in Hawke's Bay.
9. Since commencing this OWB plan change project in early 2017, a significant amount of work has been undertaken to build a clearer picture of water bodies within the region and their potential for being classed as outstanding.
10. The Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change amends the RPS to reflect NPSFM provisions which require the protection of the significant values of outstanding water bodies. This special protection does not lessen the importance of, or value associated with other water bodies, which are managed through other parts of the Regional Resource Management Plan or Council work programme.
11. Further information about the background and purpose of proposed Plan Change 7 is online at www.hbrc.govt.nz (search #owb).

¹ <https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Outstanding-Water-Bodies/1.-Other-supporting-information/Section-32-Evaluation-Report.pdf>

Phase's One & Two: High Level Review & Summary of Values

12. In June 2017, the Council embarked on a high level review documenting the cultural, spiritual, recreation, landscape, geological, natural character and ecology values associated with 130 water bodies across the region.
13. Phase 1 involved a thorough review of over ninety documents being completed. Those documents included Deeds of Treaty Settlements, statutory acknowledgements for Treaty settlements, customary uses reports, Waitangi Tribunal reports, and other documents produced in a national and regional context between 1979 and 2018.
14. This work built a clear picture of values associated with a wide range of water bodies across the region and their potential for being classified as outstanding, prior to short listing. This work culminated in a literature review with the following two tables summarising key values associated with 130 of the region's water bodies:
 - Table C1: Cultural Values Table – Summary of Cultural Values Associated with Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay.
 - Table R2: Recreation, landscape, Ecology Values Table – Summary of the Recreation, Landscape and Ecology Values Associated with Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay
15. Table C1 included all water bodies identified by name in reviewed documents, with a high level summary of the associated 'cultural and spiritual values'. This work was sent out to all Treaty settlement entities in Hawke's Bay in December 2017 for input prior to completion.
16. Table R2 included all water bodies identified by name in reviewed documents, with a high level summary of the associated recreation, landscape, geology and ecology values, and ratings assigned in this document.
17. Appendix 1 sets out the relevant extracts from Tables C1 and R2 for the Ngaruroro River.

Phase Three: Refine List & Secondary Assessments

18. In 2018, the high level review findings for 130 water bodies, and their associated values, were reported to the Council's Regional Planning Committee (RPC). The RPC selected a list of 22 candidate OWB to proceed forward a more detailed secondary assessment to see if any contained values that were clearly superior to other water bodies in Hawke's Bay.
19. The secondary assessments for the upper and lower Ngaruroro River are contained in Appendix 2.

Phase Four: Engagement & Local Expert Panel Process

20. Phase 4 involved wider input from the public, iwi authorities, key stakeholders and territorial local authorities. Feedback from this process featured requests for an additional 20 water bodies to be identified as OWB.
21. In December 2018, Council staff contracted a local expert panel to evaluate, categorise and identify outstanding characteristics, for all value sets, from the list of 22 candidate OWB and the additional 20 water bodies put forward during engagement.
22. The local expert panel was appointed via nominations by key stakeholders, iwi authorities and city and district councils, and comprised six members² with good knowledge of the Hawke's Bay region.
23. The recommendations made by the panel were based on existing information, their local knowledge, and a set of assessment criteria they developed at their first meeting. The assessment criteria used by the panel to identify outstanding features is set out at the beginning of each subsection for each value set.
24. The expert panel found the Ngaruroro River to have outstanding ecology, landscape, natural character, amenity and recreation, and cultural and spiritual values. Their findings are set out in Appendix 3.

² Morry Black (Mauri Protection Agency), Matt Brady (DOC), John Cheyne (Te Taiao Environment), Andrew Curtis (Water Strategies Limited), Bernie Kelly (kayaking rep), Tom Winlove (Fish & Game Hawke's Bay)

Phase Five: Final Evaluation

25. Phase Five saw a final evaluation carried out to assist the Council's Regional Planning Committee to select a list of outstanding water bodies in Hawke's Bay, for inclusion in Proposed Plan Change 7.
26. This work summarised the key values of 42 water bodies nominated during Phases 3 and 4, and informed by
 - The secondary assessments
 - local expert panel findings
 - the values summary reports, and
 - stakeholder engagement.
27. The summary was presented by value-type, based on the work to date and in a format consistent with the direction given by Council.
28. Appendix 4 sets out the relevant extracts from the final evaluation for the Ngaruroro River.

Appendix 1: Tables C1 and R2 - Ngaruroro River

Note: Appendix 1 contains extracts only - for further information please refer to the full reports.



Summary of cultural values associated with water bodies in Hawke's Bay

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Belinda Harper, Senior Planner

Referencing

When referencing in another report any of the values contained in this document, the author of that report must include the following text as a footnote to the referenced material:

“There are numerous water bodies in the Hawke’s Bay region where two or more iwi groups have agreed, shared interests and/or contested overlapping claims. By referring to these values it is not intended to imply any exclusive rights over a particular water body for one or more iwi group, nor does it confirm the validity of the claims of any group(s) over that water body. This information is being referred to solely for the purpose of identifying the important cultural and spiritual values identified by iwi groups in the region”.

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| Waterbody / Region / Catchment | Treaty settlement entity | Commentary | | Key values |
|--|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| | | <p><u>Key</u> DOS = Deed of settlements, SA = statutory acknowledgements, TSL = Treaty settlement legislation, CUR = customary usage reports, WTR = Waitangi tribunal reports, OTHER = any other relevant documents</p> <p>No = waterbody not referred in document N/A = No such document exists.</p> <p>NOTE 1: The 'Key Values' column sets out a pool of eight key values, identified by the tāngata whenua representatives on the Council's Regional Planning Committee, which broadly reflect the most significant cultural values associated with water bodies. The relevant key values for each water body is listed in this column.</p> <p>See commentary column for further explanation about the identified key value for each waterbody.</p> <p>NOTE 2: The HBRC is aware there are numerous areas, including waterbodies, where two or more iwi groups have agreed, shared interests and/or contested overlapping claims within the HBRC region. The information presented in The Table is not intended to imply any exclusive rights over particular waterbodies for one or more iwi groups, nor does it confirm the validity of the claims of any group over that waterbody. The information is solely for the purpose of recording important cultural</p> | | <p>Note: key values as follows:</p> <p>Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi taonga Wai Tapu Acknowledged in korero tuku iho, pepeha, whakatauki, waiata Mahinga kai, Pa tuna Pa, kāinga Tauranga waka Rohe Boundary Battle site</p> |
| <p>Ngaruroro River</p> <p>Hawke's Bay</p> <p>Ngaruroro</p> <p>TANK</p> | <p>Heretaunga Tamatea</p> | <p>DOS</p> <p>SA</p> <p>TSL</p> <p>CUS</p> <p>WTR</p> <p>OTHER</p> <p>OTHER</p> | <p>The Ngaruroro River is one of the four main waterbodies in Te Matau a Māui-Tikiti-a-Taranga, Hawkes Bay. The full name of this river is Nga-ngaru-o-nga-upokororo-mai-i-mokotuararo-ki-Rangatira, with the river taking its name from an incident in which a dog belonging to the ancient deity Mahu startled some small fish known as upokororo. As the shoal of fish dashed away they caused ngaru or ripples in the water.</p> <p>The Ngaruroro has always been a significant waterway for the people of Heretaunga Tamatea, it was used as a natural highway from the coast to the mountains and is at the heart of their spiritual and cultural wellbeing.</p> <p>The River was a significant food source central to the well-being of Heretaunga Tamatea. It used extensively by riverside and surrounding pā, known for kahawai, kanae, inanga, ngāore, pātiki, and tuna, karinga aruhe, wai tahere, rākau tutu, hīnaki and rauwiri.</p> <p>There are a number of well-known sites along the river, such as Te Awapuni and Pokonao Kāinga (where Te Moananui and Karaitiana Takamoana lived), Pukerau the kāinga of Noa Huke, Tanenuiarangi the central gathering place of chiefs around the time of Pakeha contact, and Hautapu and Hautu and a river crossing known as Te Arawhata-a-Tikumu. A pou once stood at Whanawhana which represents an important political demarcation between hapu which remains significant.</p> <p>There were a numerous pā situated along the riverbanks. Particularly notable, is the ancient pā of Pakowhai which was settled by Karaitiana Takamoana. The Repudiation Movement housed its printing press there for their newspaper, <i>Te Wananga</i> which was published from 1874 to 1878.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Submission from Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga on Proposed Plan Change 5 to the RPS (2012) Identify and provide for the Ngaruroro River as an outstanding water body of national significance due to cultural association, taonga, trout fishery and ararau.</p> <p>NKII vs HBRC, Environment Court Decision, 2015 Ngāti Kahungunu and their hapu have a particular cultural connection with the Ngaruroro River. The Ngaruroro River was named by an ancestor Mahu Tapoanui, who witnessed schools of</p> | <p>Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi taonga Acknowledged in korero tuku iho, pepeha, whakatauki, waiata Pa, kāinga Mahinga kai, Pa tuna</p> |

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| | | Upokororo (grayling) creating a wave-like action on the water (<i>Ngaru</i> - wave, <i>roro</i> - an abbreviated form of <i>Upokororo</i> , which were abundant at that time. |
| OTHER | | Hapu Management Plan - Mana Ake - Nga Hapu o Heretaunga, 2015 Tane-nui-a-Rangi Marae in lower Ngaruroro (1800). Ohiti pā, showing a redoubt within the pre-European pā, Ngaruroro River |
| OTHER | | WCO application on the Ngaruroro River and Clive River (2015) The Ngaruroro River is significant to Ngāti Kahungunu due to its mahinga kai, the presence of nohoanga (settlements), urupā (burial places), wāhi tapu (sites and places sacred to Māori people), traditional trails and other taonga. The importance of the Ngaruroro River to Ngāti Hori is reflected in the location of Kohupatiki marae on the true left bank of the former Ngaruroro River (now Clive River). Kohupatiki marae was established directly across the river from Tanenuiarangi pā during the 1860s by Te Waka Kawatini. The Tanenuiarangi pā was established sometime during the 1700s. The name of the meeting house on kohupatiki marae is Tanenuiarangi. Ngāti Hori recently celebrated the 100 year anniversary of the whare nui. The Ngaruroro River owes its name to the tidal influx of fish which penetrate well into the interior of the catchment. On one occasion explorer Mahu Tapoanui's dog disturbed a shoal of upukororo (the now extinct grayling) while crossing the river. The fish took fright and fled up the river creating waves as they went. The river has been known as Ngaruroro ever since. The name kohupatiki is believed to be a descriptive one. When patiki (flounder) in the river were disturbed they sent up a cloud or koku (mud), leading to the name kohupatiki. Mahinga kai species of significance in the Ngaruroro catchment include tuna (eel), patiki (black flounder), inanga (whitebait), and marine wanderers (e.g. mullet and kahawai). Ngāti Hori and kohupatiki marae are still deeply spiritually and culturally connected to the Ngaruroro River, despite the River having been shifted. |
| OTHER | | Ngaruroro Values and Attributes Report (2016) The waters of the Ngaruroro River are considered to be of outstanding significance for cultural and spiritual purposes in accordance with the kawa and tikanga of Ngāti Kahungunu. The Ngaruroro River has important associations within Ngāti Kahungunu culture and traditions because of its mahinga kai (food sources), the presence of nohoanga (settlements), urupā (burial places), waahi tapu, traditional trails and other taonga. The association with mahinga kai is particularly relevant. Mahinga kai species of significance in the Ngaruroro catchment include tuna (eel), pātiki (black flounder), inanga, koaro (whitebait), koura, kakahi and marine wanderers (e.g. mullet, herrings and kahawai). The Ngaruroro Awa was so vital to the existence of the Ngāti Rahunga-i-te-Rangi and Ngāti Poporo hapū that they called it Te Awa o te Atua. The river no longer flows over their lands as it once did, however, the Ngaruroro continues to recharge groundwater which still flows beneath their whenua. The physical connections between the Ngaruroro and the hapū who hold mana whenua over that resource have altered, but pepeha, whakatauki, oral traditions and waahi taonga preserve their spiritual associations and relationships with ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and associated taonga. The Clive, Lower Karamu or Ngaruroro Waimate River currently runs past Kohupatiki Marae and is the former pathway of the Ngaruroro that used to flow into the Waipureku and Te Awapuni (Estuary areas) and historically discharged into Te Whanganui-ā-Orotu (lagoon). These reaches were permanently diverted for flood control purposes. The people of Kohupatiki still recognise the pathway of the Ngaruroro River as running past their marae. Their mana resides where the Ngaruroro once flowed. The river has many names. Ngā Ngaru o ngā Upokororo is just one and refers to the waves made by the startled whitebait as they |

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| | | | <p>were pursued up the lower reaches of the river by predatory species like the kahawai.</p> <p>The ancestors of Ngāti Rahunga-i-te-rangi and Ngāti Poporo hapū held the river in such high esteem that they called it Te Awa o Te Atua- reflecting the importance of this taonga tuku iho (God-given treasure/gift), its spiritual whakapapa and origins</p> <p>Another name is Ngaru Roromoko Tuararo ki Rangatira, again giving the river eminence and association with the status of our Rangatira (leaders/chiefs). The following meaning is provided within the Heretaunga Tamatea Deed of Settlement: <i>“the river takes its name from an incident in which a dog belonging to the ancient deity Māhu startled some small fish known as upokororo. As the shoal of fish dashed away they caused ngaru or ripples in the water...”</i></p> <p>Ngāti Upokoiri pā is located on a hill alongside the Ngaruroro near Lake Runanga. The area is associated with Tamatea who trapped eels⁷⁵ there and kept a pet koura in the spring nearby while staying at Ohiti and whose kuri rushed across the river ahead of him. Buchanan notes a neighbouring spring as a nursery for a particular type of eel.</p> <p>The NZAA note that the pa was later reworked as a redoubt and towards the bottom of the hill are terraces and a pit, nearby over the Ohiti Road is an urupā, and across the river is another pa, kumara pits and house floor.</p> <p>Waahi taonga, history of residence / pāhī/ nohoanga, mahinga kai and cultural practices.1) Ngāti Upokoiri, 2) Tamatea 3) Eels including a ‘particular type’, koura and kuri. Waahi tapu and another Pā nearby.</p> <p>the following Wāriu (values) and attributes being specifically identified as Mauri – “the life force” (Ecosystem health, Indigenous riparian margin, Natural character), Uu - the milk of Papatuanuku (Uu (immersion, swimming, cleansing), Waimāori – water in its natural state (Mauri; Ki Uta ... Ki Tai ..., Natural water quality, Natural character), Wairua – spiritualvalue and energy that pervades all existence (Karakia, Mana Atua), Kaitiakitanga – roles and responsibilities of the kaitiaki (Ahumoana / Ahuwhenua / Mahinga kai (species), Ahumoana / Ahuwhenua / Mahinga kai (practice), Te hāpai ō ... Te Tūturutanga mahi pono ..., Access, Whakapapa / Ki Uta ... Ki Tai ... (Fish passage, He ara haere (navigability), Whakapapa ki te wai (connectivity, Aquifer recharge), Kaitiakitanga (Indigenous Taonga/Tohu specieshabitat and spawning, Waahi Taonga (Waahi tapu, Ahumoana, Ahuwhenua, Mahinga kai, Pāhī (Nohoanga), Cultural practices, Tauranga waka, Heritage and History.</p> <p>The report refers to priority tangata whenua values from Plan Change 5 for the Ngaruroro catchment including: 1) Ki Uta ... ki Tai ... 2) Mahinga kai, 3) Nohoanga, 4) Taonga raranga (traditional weaving), 5) Taonga rongoā (traditional use of plants for healing).</p> | |
| <p>Ngaruroro River</p> <p>Hawke’s Bay</p> <p>Ngaruroro</p> <p>TANK</p> | <p>Mana Ahuriri</p> | <p>DOS</p> <p>SA</p> <p>TSL</p> <p>CUS</p> | <p>Ahuriri Hapū states a particular cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association with Ngaruroro River.</p> <p>Ahuriri Hapū states a particular cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association with Ngaruroro River</p> <p>The Ngaruroro River was named in ancient times. When the deity tipuna Māhu Tapaonui was travelling up the river, his dog disturbed a shoal of upokororo. Māhu named the river after the disturbed ripples caused as the fish darted away. This incident occurred at Whakamarumarū.</p> <p>The Ngaruroro River was a key transport route inland and to the west coast.</p> <p>The Ngaruroro River has been a significant marker of land interests from ancient times.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Te Whanganui-a-Orotu, Traditional Use and Environmental Change, customary usage report, Wai 55 (1992)</p> <p>In 1844 William Colenso he set up his mission station at Waitangi which was situated at the Ngaruroro River mouth. The principal Maori settlement Te Awapuni was located to the north of Waitangi.</p> | <p>Acknowledged in korero tuku iho, pepeha, whakatauki, waiata</p> <p>Pa, kāinga</p> <p>Rohe Boundary</p> |

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| | | | across a stretch of water. Pareihe had established it on his return from Mahia. | |
| | | WTR | | |
| | | OTHER | <p>Waiohiki Land Claim (Wai 168), Roy Casey Pewhairangi (1996)</p> <p>The Ngaruroro River is located a few miles south, and it links Waiohiki with Pā Kowhai located approximately 2 miles south of Waiohiki. The tangata whenua of this district are the Ngāti Hawea who are the closest relatives to the people of Waiohiki. In ancient times these hapu were one family and they controlled and defended the land & the waterways.</p> | |
| <p>Ngaruroro River</p> <p>Hawke's Bay</p> <p>Ngaruroro</p> <p>TANK</p> | <p>Ngāti Tūwharetoa</p> | DOS | No | <p>Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi taonga</p> |
| | | SA | No | |
| | | TSL | No | |
| | | CUS | | |
| | | WTR | | |
| | | OTHER | <p>WCO application on the Ngaruroro River and Clive River (2015)</p> <p>The headwaters of the Ngaruroro River have cultural, spiritual, and historic significance to Ngāti Tūwharetoa.</p> <p>This area is largely in its natural state, and is commonly expressed as being the heart of the Kaimanawa Ranges.</p> | |

Summary of recreation, landscape and ecology values associated with water bodies in Hawke's Bay

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| Waterbody / Region / Catchment | Treaty settlement entity group(s) with linkages back to waterbody | Commentary | | Key values |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | <p>Key 64NZR = 64 New Zealand Rivers – A Scenic Evaluation RRS = New Zealand Recreational River Survey MAF & F = Submission on the Draft Inventory of Wild and Scenic Rivers of National Importance by MAFF W&SR = National Inventory of Wild and Scenic Rivers RIVAS = River Values Assessment System LOR & L = A List of Rivers and Lakes Deserving Inclusion in a Schedule of Protected Waters HTF = Headwater Trout Fisheries in New Zealand WONI = Potential Waterbodies of National Importance RAMSAR = Wetlands in NZ which meet the Ramsar criteria W&WH = Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat of Hawke's Bay Rivers</p> | | |
| Ngaruroro River Hawke's Bay Ngaruroro TANK | Heretaunga Tamatea Mana Ahuriri Ngāti Tūwharetoa | 64NZR | <p>Gorge = Impressive (scored 15) Note: impressively pure and sparkling water quality, and impressive water movement (e.g. rapids) Whanawhana – Sea = ordinary (scored 6) Assessment took into account vegetation, banks & riverbed, landscape, wilderness quality, water quality, water movement and other qualities. Scoring = Dull (0 -3), Ordinary (4 – 6), Interesting (7-9), Impressive (10 – 15), Exceptional (over 16)</p> | Recreation (trout fishing, rafting, kayaking/canoeing) Ecology (aquatic biodiversity values, native fish) Natural character |
| | | RRS | <p>Upper Ngaruroro catchment (Category C) Scenic value = impressive Recreational value = high</p> <p>Taruarau River Scenic value = impressive Recreational value = low</p> <p>Ngaruroro Gorge (Category B) Scenic value = impressive Recreational value = exceptional</p> <p>Lower Ngaruroro Scenic value = moderate Recreational value = intermediate</p> <p>Scenic values graded on a six point scale: dull, uninspiring, moderate, picturesque, impressive, exceptional. Recreational values graded on a five point scale: insignificant, low, intermediate, high, exceptional.</p> | |
| | | MAF&F | River of national importance (gorge and upper reaches) | |
| | | W&SR | No | |
| | | LOR&L | <p>Group two: (Ngaruroro & Taruarau Rivers) Wild, scenic, high recreational use (canoeing, rafting, tramping, hunting, jetboating). Important trout fisheries in upper reaches. Headwaters are in tussock grasslands in the Kaimanawa Range. NOTE: A highly valued river on</p> | |

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| | | | excluded from group one because of its proximity to the Mohaka River. |
| | | HTF | Ngaruroro River (upper) List A (all season) headwater trout river Rainbow and brown trout (rainbow dominate) Identified as 'Trophy' and a "Headwater River" in the national angling survey |
| | | WONI | Potential water body of national importance for aquatic biodiversity values (biodiversity dimension of natural heritage). Type: 2 (contains sections or sites of national importance for biodiversity) Potential water body of national importance for recreation |
| | | RAMSAR | No |
| | | W&WH | <u>Ngaruroro River</u> The Ngaruroro River was rated as being of high value to wildlife. A total of 43 species, including 19 wetland species, were recorded. It is the only river in the North Island with breeding South Island pied oystercatcher, and it contained the greatest number of banded dotterel per km of the rivers surveyed, and a high number of southern black-backed gulls. <u>Waitangi Estuary</u> The combined Ngaruroro/Tutaekuri river mouth (Waitangi Estuary) was rated moderate-high for wildlife. Forty-two wetland species of birds have been recorded there over a number of years. Most are migratory birds; there are generally low numbers of individuals of each species. |
| | | RiVAS | Nationally significant for native fishery value Regionally significant for native birdlife Nationally significant for Salmonid Angling (above Taruarau confluence) Nationally significant and regionally significant for kayaking Nationally significant (upper for natural character, regionally significant (middle) for natural character, locally significant (lower) for natural character |
| | | OTHER | 2015 – water conservation order application for cultural and spiritual value in accordance with tikanga Maori, landscape, native birds, native fish, angling, trout fishery, jet boating, rafting, kayaking and natural state. |
| | | OTHER | Geo preservation inventory Ngaruroro gorge. One of the two best gorges in Hawkes Bay. Steep sided convoluted river meanders about 400 m deep through greywacke mountains. Classification: Regionally significant Ngaruroro River braid channel. A 500 m wide gravel river bed with up to six separate channels with a distinctive braid pattern. This river has the best examples in the region. Classification: Regionally significant |

Appendix 2: Secondary Assessments:

- Upper Ngaruroro River (above Whanawhana)
- Lower Ngaruroro River (below Whanawhana)



Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change

Candidate List of Outstanding Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay – Secondary Assessments for:

Heretaunga Aquifer, Karamu Stream, Lake Whakakī, Lake Whatumā, Lake Waikaremoana, Lake Tūtira (including Aropaoanui River + Papakiri Stream), Lake Waikareiti, Lower Ngaruroro River (below Whanawhana), Mangahauanga Stream, Makirikiri River, Porangahau River, Ruakituri River, Ruataniwha Aquifer, Taruarau River, Te Whanganui a Orotū (Ahuriri Estuary), Tukituki River, Tutaekuri River, Upper Mohaka River, Upper Ngaruroro River (above Whanawhana), Waipawa River, Waipunga River, Wairoa River.

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Lower Ngaruroro River (below Whanawhana)



Key Cultural Values

Spiritual values

Wāhi Tapu, wāhi taonga, wai tapu

Mahinga kai, Pā tuna

Pā, Kāinga

Rohe boundary

Table 1: List of documents reviewed

| Year | Name | Author |
|------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 2004 | Wai 201: The Mohaka ki Ahuriri Report | The Waitangi Tribunal |
| 2009/ 2012 | Ngāti Hori Freshwater Resources Management Plan: Operation Patiki | Ngāti Hori |
| 2012 | Submission from Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga on Proposed Plan Change 5 to the RPS | Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga |
| 2014 | Whakatu Arterial Link, Hawke's Bay: Archaeological Assessment | Simon Bickler and Rod Clough |
| 2015 | An Application to the Minister for the Environment for a Water Conservation Order on the Ngaruroro River and Clive River | Catalyst Group |
| 2015 | Environment Court Decision: NKII vs HBRC | Environment Court |
| 2015 | Mana Ake - Nga Hapu o Heretaunga – An Expression of Kaitiakitanga | Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga |
| 2016 | Heretaunga Tamatea Deed of Settlement documents | Heretaunga Tamatea and the Crown |
| 2016 | Ahuriri Hapū Deed of Settlement | Ahuriri Hapū and the Crown |
| 2016 | Ngaruroro Values and Attributes Report | |
| 2018 | Cultural Values Table | Hawke's Bay Regional Council |

Discussion

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to assist the RPC members to determine whether any of the cultural values associated with the lower Ngaruroro River are outstanding for the purposes of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM).
2. This report presents the summarised findings of the cultural values attributed to the lower Ngaruroro River in those documents referred to in Table 1, above. For clarification, the lower Ngaruroro River has been identified as potentially outstanding for the cultural value set only. In accordance with decisions made by the RPC in May 2018, this report does not discuss the recreation, landscape and ecology values associated with the lower Ngaruroro River.
3. The report summarises the values into a series of categories. It is recognised that isolating the values into categories can be problematic from a Māori worldview and many of the values are part of a narrative that doesn't fit neatly into categories. However, the intention is not to take a reductionist or isolated approach to cultural values but to try and gain an appreciation of their significance and the level of detail available to progress a plan change. In preparing the reports, it became obvious that all of the waterways are part of a wider cultural landscape that weaves people and the environment into a rich history of cultural and spiritual association.
4. Ultimately, the Regional Planning Committee will need to decide what the appropriate threshold is for outstanding cultural values. Any objectives, policies or rules that are proposed to support outstanding waterbodies will be subject to scrutiny and potential challenges by those who may be affected by a plan change.

Overview

5. The lower Ngaruroro River is culturally significant for the people of Heretaunga Tamatea.
6. The full name of the river is Nga-ngaru-o-nga-upokororo-mai-i-mokotuararo-ki-Rangatira after an incident in which a dog belonging to the ancient deity Mahu startled some small fish known as upokororo. As the shoal of fish dashed away they caused ngaru, or ripples in the water.
7. The lower Ngaruroro River was traditionally used as a natural highway from the coast to the mountains. There are many registered waahi tapu and archaeological sites along the river, including numerous pā and kāinga. Mahinga kai species of significance in the Ngaruroro catchment include tuna, pātiki, inanga, koaro, koura, kakahi and marine wanderers (e.g. mullet, herrings and kahawai).
8. The TANK group has been progressing a cultural values framework, identifying values and attributes to characterise water quality.
9. Ahuriri Hapū also state a cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association with the Ngaruroro River.

Location

10. The Ngaruroro River runs for a total of 160 kilometres southeast from the Kaweka Range, Kaimanawa Range and Ruahine Range and then east before emptying into Hawke Bay roughly halfway between the cities of Napier and Hastings, near the town of Clive.
11. The lower Ngaruroro River is from Whanawhana downstream. From here, the river opens to wide braided channels and is joined by the Maraekakaho River. The Ngaruroro River shares a river mouth with the Tutaekuri, Clive River and Muddy Creek. The meeting of these rivers forms the Waitangi Estuary. The Ngaruroro River is one of several rivers that helped form the alluvial Heretaunga Plains.
12. The course of the Ngaruroro River has changed several times, originally flowing down what is now the Clive River. It changed to its present course in 1867 during a major flood. In 1969, the bottom 4 km of river was diverted more directly to the coast in an effort to reduce flooding.
13. The extent of the lower Ngaruroro River and its catchment area can be seen in Figures 1 and 2.



Figure 1: Extent of lower Ngaruroro River



Figure 2: Ngaruroro catchment

Cultural values *

Importance

14. The lower Ngaruroro River is significant for the people of Heretaunga Tamatea - one of six large natural groups negotiating the settlement of Ngāti Kahungunu Treaty of Waitangi claims.
15. The full name of the river is Nga-ngaru-o-nga-upokororo-mai-i-mokotuararo-ki-Rangatira after an incident in which a dog belonging to the ancient deity Mahu startled some small fish known as upokororo. As the shoal of fish dashed away they caused ngaru, or ripples in the water (Deed of Settlement).
16. Another name is Ngaru Roromoko Tuararo ki Rangatira giving the river eminence and association with the status of Rangatira (leaders/chiefs) (Ngaruroro Values and Attributes Report).
17. The waters of the Ngaruroro River are considered to be of outstanding cultural and spiritual significance by tāngata whenua. Mahinga kai (food sources), the presence of nohoanga (settlements), urupā (burial places), waahi tapu, traditional trails and other taonga are all important aspects of this (Ngaruroro Values and Attributes Report).
18. Ngāti Hori marae, Kohupatiki is located on the banks of the Clive River and is significant due to its connection to the Ngaruroro River. The river no longer flows over their lands as it once did but the people of Kohupatiki still recognise the pathway of the Ngaruroro River as running past their marae. Their mana resides where the Ngaruroro River once flowed (Ngaruroro Values and Attributes Report).
19. Ahuriri Hapū also state a cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association with the Ngaruroro River. It was a key transport route inland and to the west coast. It has also been a significant marker of land interests from ancient times (Deed of Settlement).

TANK Group

20. The TANK group has been working since 2012 on land and water management issues for the Tutaekurī, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro and Karamū catchments. Its purpose is to recommend limits and measures for a workable plan change. TANK's collaborative membership includes more than 30 groups, representing Tāngata Whenua, primary sector, councils and environmentalists.
21. The TANK group has been progressing a cultural values framework, identifying values and attributes to characterise water quality.

Spiritual Values

22. The ancestors of Ngāti Rahunga-i-te-rangi and Ngāti Poporo hapū held the river in such high esteem that they called it Te Awa o Te Atua- reflecting the importance of this taonga tuku iho (God-given treasure/gift), its spiritual whakapapa and origins.
23. The physical connections between the Ngaruroro River and the hapū who hold mana whenua over that resource have altered, but pepeha, whakatauki, oral traditions and waahi taonga preserve their spiritual associations and relationships with ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and associated taonga.

* The HBRC and authors of this report are aware there are numerous areas, including waterbodies, where two or more iwi groups have agreed, shared interests and/or contested overlapping claims within the Hawke's Bay region. The information presented in this report is not intended to imply any exclusive rights over particular waterbodies for one or more iwi groups, nor does it confirm the validity of the claims of any group(s) over that waterbody. The information is solely for the purpose of recording important cultural and spiritual values identified by iwi groups in the region as sourced from existing published documents.

Wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga

24. The following waahi tapu sites are identified in Hastings District Plan:

- W12 - Urupā
- W13 - Battlefield – Urupā
- W56 - Lake Omahu and Edges
- W57 - Puketapu - Battlefields, Old Pā, Sites, Burial Caves
- W58 - Lake, Swamp and Edges
- W59 - Urupā
- W66 - Lake and Edges, Burial Sites
- W67 - Lake and Edges, Burial Sites
- W110 – Pā Site

25. The location of these sites can be seen in Figure 3, below.



Figure 3: Waahi Tapu Sites in Hastings District Plan

Mahinga kai

26. The River was a significant food source, central to the well-being of Heretaunga Tamatea. Mahinga kai species of significance in the Ngaruroro catchment include tuna (eel), pātiki (black flounder), īnanga, koaro (whitebait), koura, kakahi and marine wanderers (e.g. mullet, herrings and kahawai).

27. Ngāti Upokoiri pā, located on a hill alongside the Ngaruroro River near Lake Runanga, is associated with Tamatea who trapped eels there and kept a pet koura in the spring nearby. A neighbouring spring is noted as a nursery for a particular type of eel.

Pā, Kāinga, ara

28. The lower Ngaruroro River was used as a natural highway from the coast to the mountains. There are a number of well-known sites along the river, such as Te Awapuni and Pokonao Kāinga (where Te Moananui and Karaitiana Takamoana lived), Pukerau the kāinga of Noa Huke, Tanenuiarangi the central gathering place of chiefs around the time of Pakeha contact, and Hautapu and Hautu and a river crossing known as Te Arawhata-a-Tikumū.

29. There were a numerous pā situated along the riverbanks. Particularly notable, is the ancient pā of Pākōwhai which was settled by Karaitiana Takamoana. The Repudiation Movement housed its printing press there for their newspaper, *Te Wananga* which was published from 1874 to 1878 (Deed of Settlement).

30. Ngāti Upokoiri pā is located on a hill alongside the Ngaruroro River near Lake Runanga. The pā was later reworked as a redoubt and towards the bottom of the hill are terraces and a pit. Nearby is an urupā, and across the river is another pā, kumara pits and house floor (Ngaruroro Values and Attributes Report).

31. Kohupatiki marae was established directly across the river from Tanenuiarangi pā during the 1860s by Te Waka Kawatini. The Tanenuiarangi pā was established sometime during the 1700s. The name of the meeting house on Kohupatiki marae is Tanenuiarangi. Ngāti Hori recently celebrated the 100 year anniversary of the whare nui.
32. In 1844 William Colenso set up his mission station at Waitangi which was situated at the Ngaruroro River mouth. The principal Māori settlement Te Awapuni was located to the north of Waitangi, across a stretch of water. Pareihe had established it on his return from Mahia (Wai 55 Report).

Rohe boundary

33. The Ngaruroro River has been a significant marker of land interests from ancient times. A pou once stood at Whanawhana which represents an important political demarcation between hapū, which remains significant (Deed of Settlement).

Archaeology

34. The archaeological sites located in close proximity to the lower Ngaruroro River are shown in Figures 4, 5 and 6, below.



Figure 4: Archaeological Sites on the lower Ngaruroro River – lower section



Figure 5: Archaeological Sites on the lower Ngaruroro River – upper section



Figure 6: Archaeological Sites on the lower Ngaruroro River – middle section

Statutory Acknowledgement Area of Interest

35. Figure 7 details the Heretaunga Tamatea Area of Interest.



Figure 7: Heretaunga Tamatea Area of Interest

Resource Management Plans

36. The following tables list any relevant resource management plans developed by iwi/hapū, the regional council or territorial authorities. The tables include any specific provisions that apply to the lower Ngaruroro River. They do not include all of the general policies or rules that may apply. Water quality and water quantity provisions have been included as it is recognised that these aspects can significantly impact on cultural values.

Iwi and Hapū Resource Management Plans

Kahungunu ki Uta, Kahungunu ki Tai: Marine & Freshwater Fisheries Strategic Plan

Mana Ake - An Expression of Kaitiakitanga, Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga

Regional Resource Management Plan

Specific water quality standards apply to Ngaruroro River between Fernhill Bridge and Expressway Bridge

- 100 Faecal Coliforms (cfu/100ml)
- 25 Suspended Solids (mg/l)

Specific water quality standards apply to Ngaruroro River downstream of Expressway Bridge

- 150 Faecal Coliforms (cfu/100ml)
- 25 Suspended Solids (mg/l)

Minimum Flow and Allocatable Volumes for Specified Rivers

- 2,400L/s at Fernhill Bridge

Heretaunga Plains unconfined aquifer (Schedule 5a)

Catchments Sensitive to Animal Effluent Discharges (Schedule 6b)

Minimum Flow Rivers (Schedule 7)

Rivers Considered for Riparian Protection (Schedule 8)

Regional Coastal Environment Plan

Specific water quality standards apply to Ngaruroro River downstream of Expressway Bridge

- 150 Faecal Coliforms (cfu/100ml)
- 25 Suspended Solids (mg/l)

Upper Ngaruroro River (above Whanawhana)



Key Values

Cultural

Recreation (angling, rafting, kayaking)

Ecology (wildlife, fisheries)

Natural Character

Landscape

Table 1: List of documents reviewed

| Year | Name | Author |
|------|---|--|
| 1966 | An Encyclopaedia of New Zealand | T.L Grant-Taylor |
| 1979 | 64 New Zealand Rivers | Egarr, Egarr & Mackay |
| 1981 | New Zealand Recreational River Survey | G & J Egarr |
| 1982 | Submission of the draft Inventory of Wild and Scenic Rivers of National Importance | Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries |
| 1984 | The Relative Value of Hawke's Bay Rivers to New Zealand Anglers | Fisheries Research Division - N.Z. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries |
| 1986 | A List of Rivers and Lakes Deserving Inclusion in A Schedule of Protected Waters | Grindell & Guest |
| 1988 | Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat of Hawke's Bay Rivers | Department of Conservation |
| 1994 | Headwater Trout Fisheries in New Zealand | NIWA |
| 1994 | Hawke's Bay Conservancy – Conservation Management Strategy | Department of Conservation |
| 1998 | Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat of Hawke's Bay Rivers | Department of Conservation |
| 2004 | Potential Water Bodies of National Importance | Ministry for the Environment |
| 2009 | Angler Usage of Lake and River Fisheries Managed by Fish & Game New Zealand: Results from the 2007/08 National Angling Survey- NIWA | Martin Unwin |

| | | |
|------|---|---|
| 2009 | The 21 best fly fishing spots | Stuff.co.nz |
| 2010 | Recreational Use of Hawke's Bay Rivers – Results of the Recreational Usage Survey 2010 | Hawke's Bay Regional Council |
| 2011 | Ngaruroro River Flood Protection and Drainage Scheme – Ecological Management and Enhancement Plan | MWH consultants |
| 2012 | River Values Assessment System (RiVAS) | Lindis Consulting |
| 2013 | New Zealand Birds Online – The Digital Encyclopaedia of New Zealand Birds | Department of Conservation, Birds New Zealand, Te Papa Museum |
| 2014 | Jet Boating New Zealand – Rivers Information | Jet Boating New Zealand |
| 2015 | An Application to the Minister for the Environment for a Water Conservation Order on the Ngaruroro River and Clive River | Ngāti Hori ki Kohupatiki; Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand; New Zealand Fish and Game Council, Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council, Jet Boating New Zealand, Whitewater NZ Incorporated |
| 2015 | Copy Supporting an Application for Water Conservation Order on the Ngaruroro River | Whitewater NZ |
| 2015 | The Ngaruroro, The forgotten river | River Valley |
| 2016 | New Zealand Geo-preservation Inventory | Geological Society of New Zealand |
| 2016 | Ngaruroro, Tutaekuri, Karamu River and Ahuriri Estuary Catchment – State and Trends of River Water Quality and Ecology | Hawke's Bay Regional Council |
| 2017 | Modelling Effects of Increased Groundwater Allocation on Stream Flows in the Heretaunga Plains | Hawke's Bay Regional Council |
| 2017 | Summary and Rebuttal Statement of Evidence of Dr Rachel McClellan - An Application for a Water Conservation Order for the Ngaruroro River and Clive River | Dr Rachel McClellan |
| 2017 | Pucker-up for New Zealand's native blue duck | Department of Conservation |
| 2018 | Ngaruroro River Trout and Fly Fishing | NZ fishing website |
| 2018 | Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA) | Hawke's Bay Regional Council |
| 2018 | Cultural Values Table | Hawke's Bay Regional Council |

Discussion

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to assist the RPC members to determine whether any of the values of the upper Ngaruroro River are outstanding for the purposes of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM).
2. This report presents the summarised findings of the values attributed to the upper Ngaruroro River (above Whanawhana) in those documents referred to in Table 1, above. As such, any values associated with the Ngaruroro River below Whanawhana are not discussed in detail in this report.

Overview

3. The Ngaruroro River is the largest river flowing across the Heretaunga Plains, rising on slopes of the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Ranges and flowing into the sea 160 km later near the town of Clive, where it shares a common river mouth with the Tutaekuri and Clive Rivers.
4. The upper reaches of the Ngaruroro River are surrounded predominately by native vegetation and are highly valued for their scenic, cultural, and recreational qualities. The upper river runs clean and clear and is particularly renowned for its salmonid angling, whitewater boating opportunities and its impressive scenery.
5. The full name of this river is Nga-ngaru-o-nga-upokororo-mai-i-mokotuararo-ki-Rangatira, with the river taking its name from an incident in which a dog belonging to the ancient deity Mahu startled some small fish known as upokororo. As the shoal of fish dashed away they caused ngaru or ripples in the water.

6. The lower section of the Ngaruroro River (below Whanawhana) has a strong hydraulic connection with the Heretaunga aquifer system which is a significant resource for Hawke's Bay. This area has significant cultural values which are discussed in a separate report relating to the cultural values of the lower Ngaruroro River.
7. In 2015, an application was made to the Minister for the Environment for a Water Conservation Order on the Ngaruroro and Clive Rivers. This application is currently being heard by a Special Tribunal with stage two hearings due to commence late 2018.

Location

8. The upper reaches of the Ngaruroro River are located approximately 80 km northwest of Napier on the east coast of the North Island. The Taruarau River is its main tributary.
9. The location and extent of the Ngaruroro River can be seen in Figures 1 and 2, below.



Figure 1: Location of the Ngaruroro River

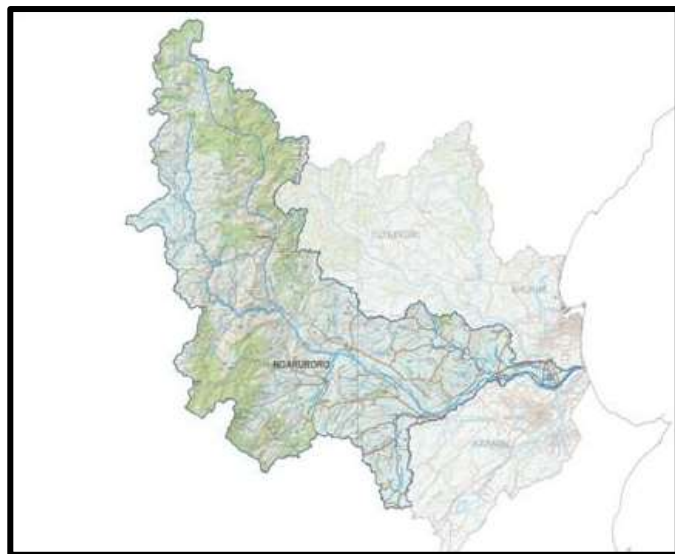


Figure 2: Extent of Ngaruroro River

Cultural values *

10. The upper Ngaruroro is significant for the people of Heretaunga Tamatea. The waters are considered to be of outstanding cultural and spiritual significance. Mahinga kai (food sources), the presence of nohoanga (settlements), urupā (burial places), waahi tapu, traditional trails and other taonga are all important aspects of this.
11. The traditions of Ngāti Whitikaupeka, Ngāti Hauiti and Ngāti Apa tell how Tamatea (one of the great early explorers) went up the Ngaruroro River and across the upper Rangitīkei River into the Waiōuru and Taihape districts, where he stocked the Moawhango River with freshwater kōura (crayfish).
12. For Ahuriri Hapū, the upper Ngaruroro was a key transport route inland and it has been a significant marker of land interests from ancient times
13. The headwaters of the Ngaruroro River also have cultural, spiritual, and historic significance to Ngāti Tūwharetoa. This area is largely in its natural state, and is commonly expressed as being the heart of the Kaimanawa Ranges.
14. Attachment 1 contains a more detailed explanation of the cultural values associated with the upper Ngaruroro River, above Whanawhana.

Recreation values

15. The upper reaches of the Ngaruroro River are highly valued for angling and white water boating activities with several rafting companies operating in the area. Between Whanawhana and the Taruarau confluence the river is used by jet boats.

* The HBRC and authors of this report are aware there are numerous areas, including waterbodies, where two or more iwi groups have agreed, shared interests and/or contested overlapping claims within the Hawke's Bay region. The information presented in this report is not intended to imply any exclusive rights over particular waterbodies for one or more iwi groups, nor does it confirm the validity of the claims of any group(s) over that waterbody. The information is solely for the purpose of recording important cultural and spiritual values identified by iwi groups in the region as sourced from existing published documents.

16. The recreational activities associated with the Ngaruroro River have been discussed in a number of nationally published documents over the last 40 years and are generally described as being of exceptional value, nationally important and outstanding.
17. The recreational activities which take place on the Ngaruroro River are discussed in more detail below.

Angling

18. The headwaters of the Ngaruroro River are classed as a wilderness trout fishery, particularly valued for its impressive scenery and large trout. The upper reaches are dominated by rainbow trout, with a smaller number of brown trout present in this part of the river. The average weight of trout is around 1.5 kg, with many in excess of 4 kg.
19. The Ngaruroro headwaters are renowned amongst the fishing community for the chance to catch trophy size fish in a near natural environment. This area is difficult to access and anglers need to spend several days walking in along tracks or via helicopter.
20. Drift diving undertaken over the years, indicates that the density of large trout in the upper Ngaruroro River is somewhere between 10 and 14.5 large rainbow trout per km. In 1990 as part of a national trout assessment, the upper Ngaruroro River was recorded as containing the 8th equal highest trout density out of the 57 reaches assessed over 24 rivers.
21. In 1982, The Ngaruroro River (above Whanawhana) was identified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as being a nationally important wilderness river fishery.
22. In 1984, the Fisheries Research Division classified the Ngaruroro headwaters as a nationally important wilderness river fishery, noting its outstanding characteristics as scenic beauty, solitude, large area of fishable water and large trout.
23. In 1986, the Government released a finalised list of rivers and lakes with outstanding wild, scenic, recreational or other natural characteristics that should be protected. The Ngaruroro River (above Whanawhana) was placed in 'Group Two'¹ for its scenic and recreation qualities specifically noting the important trout fisheries contained in its upper reaches. The Ngaruroro River was only excluded from Group 1 due to its close proximity to the Mohaka River.
24. In 1994, The Ngaruroro River was identified by NIWA as a Category A headwater trout fishery which contains trophy trout and fishes well all season. There are a total of eighteen Category A headwater fisheries in the North Island with eighty one in New Zealand overall.
25. In 2004, The Ngaruroro River was recognised as a Potential Water Body of National Importance for recreation by the Ministry for the Environment.
26. In 2012, the Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments for salmonid angling concluded the Ngaruroro River (above Taruarau River confluence) was nationally significant, and the Ngaruroro River (below Taruarau River confluence) was regionally significant, for salmonid angling.

Boating

27. The upper Ngaruroro River is high valued for its impressive wilderness scenery and its wide range of white water boating opportunities, with several commercial rafting and canoeing organisations operating in this area. During summer, parts of the river are subject to low flows and are not suitable for rafting.
28. The upper Ngaruroro River provides for a range of whitewater experiences, from multi day rafting/kayaking trips through remote backcountry to single day trips through spectacular gorge scenery. The Ngaruroro River has predominately Class 2 and 3 rapids with several Class 4 rapids.
29. Access to the most upper parts of the river (in the Kaweka Ranges above the Napier–Taihape Road) is difficult and requires helicopter access. This section has impressive wilderness scenery flowing through

¹ Group One = Excellent rivers or lakes containing an outstanding cultural, fisheries, wild flora, location, recreation, scenic, scientific, tourism, wildlife habitat, value(s). Group One contains the very best examples of these values. Group Two = Contains examples of water bodies whose values better represented by the rivers or lakes in group one. Group Three = those water bodies who may deserve to be in first or second group, but there was inadequate information.

consistently Grade 2 and 3 rapids making its way through mixed Beech and Kanuka forest. This section of river is described as an excellent wilderness trip for experienced canoeists.

30. The section below this reach includes the Ngaruroro Gorge, running from the Napier-Taihape Road for around 50 km. The Ngaruroro Gorge is described as an exciting Grade 3 and 4 challenge requiring experienced canoeists and skilled rafters. It is considered to be one of the top 8 whitewater kayaking runs in the North Island. From the bottom of the Ngaruroro Gorge to Whanawhana the river eases to Class 2 and then Class 1 water.
31. The section between the Taruarau River confluence and Whanawhana is navigable by jet boats, providing a 19 km stretch of water which is best boated during high flows. This section contains some difficult boating water which requires more advanced boating skills around boulders and through rapids.
32. In 1981, The New Zealand Recreational River Survey assigned the recreational and scenic values of the upper Ngaruroro catchment 'high'² and 'impressive'³ rating, respectively; with the recreational and scenic values of the Ngaruroro Gorge rated 'exceptional' and 'impressive', respectively.
33. In 1986, The Ngaruroro River was placed in 'Group two'⁴ in the Government's list of rivers and lakes deserving protection for its scenic and recreation qualities, with specific note given to its rafting and canoeing values. The Ngaruroro River was only excluded from Group 1 due to its close proximity to the Mohaka River.
34. In 1991 a River Use Survey was conducted by the NZ Canoeing Association to determine the relative values of the top 200 kayaking runs in New Zealand. The survey found the section of river above Kuripapango was ranked as the 16th most important run in New Zealand (8th in the North Island), and the lower gorge from Kuripapango to Whanawhana was ranked 30th in New Zealand (13th in the North Island).
35. In 2004, The Ngaruroro River was recognised as a Potential Water Body of National Importance for recreation by the Ministry for the Environment. The report noting the canoeing and rafting activities which take place on the river.
36. In 2012, Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments for whitewater kayaking concluded the upper Ngaruroro River was nationally significant for whitewater kayaking.
37. In 2014, Jet boating New Zealand classified the section of the Ngaruroro River between the Taruarau River confluence and Whanawhana, as a 'Class 2' jetboating trip, on a shingle river with boulders and rapids, requiring more advanced boating skills.

Ecology values

38. The upper Ngaruroro River above Whanawhana is recognised as having important ecological values with the upper waters in a near natural state.
39. In 2004, the Ngaruroro River was identified as a Potential Water Body of National Importance for aquatic biodiversity values by the Ministry for the Environment.

Fish

40. Three species of native fish are present in the upper Ngaruroro River, being the longfin eel, torrentfish and, koaro all of which are classified as being 'at risk and declining in this river or in general'. Koura (freshwater crayfish), brown trout and rainbow trout are also present in this section of river.
41. The upper Ngaruroro River provides a highly valued habitat for both native and introduced fish species. In particular, the habitat is largely natural with near pristine water quality. The upper river supports good populations of torrentfish, longfin eel and rainbow trout.
42. Trout populations in the upper Ngaruroro River are self-sustaining, with trout spawning occurring in the Ngaruroro River and a number of its tributaries.

² Recreational values graded on a five point scale: insignificant, low, intermediate, high, exceptional

³ Scenic values graded on a six point scale: dull, uninspiring, moderate, picturesque, impressive, exceptional.

⁴ Group One = Excellent rivers or lakes containing an outstanding cultural, fisheries, wild flora, location, recreation, scenic, scientific, tourism, wildlife habitat, value(s). Group One contains the very best examples of these values.

43. In 2012, the River Values Assessment System (RiVAS) was used to assess the significance of rivers in Hawke’s Bay for native fish. The RiVAS assessment determined the Ngaruroro catchment was nationally significant for native fish. The RiVAS assessment was not limited solely to the Ngaruroro River and included the greater catchment area.

Wildlife

44. Three species of endemic birds are present along the upper Ngaruroro River being the globally endangered blue duck (whio) and the New Zealand Fernbird and Pipit, both of which are classified as ‘at risk and declining’. Whio are extremely rare, more so than the kiwi with around 23 kiwi for every whio.
45. The upper Ngaruroro River is recognised as being a significant wildlife habitat for the blue duck, supporting almost 2% of the national population. In 2017, the estimated blue duck population of the upper Ngaruroro River was agreed to be around 50 birds.
46. In 2010, the total national population of Whio was around 2,500-3,000 individuals with a maximum of 1,200 pairs. In 2011, the breeding population estimates were revised to less than 1000 pairs.
47. The nationally critical grey duck may also be present in the upper Ngaruroro reaches. In 1967, a wildlife survey recorded grey ducks as being present on the river, however no recent surveys have been undertaken to confirm whether pure bred grey ducks are in fact present in the upper reaches, and further investigations are needed.
48. In 2012, the Ngaruroro River was identified as regionally significant in the Hawke’s Bay RiVAS assessments for native birdlife.

Macroinvertebrates

49. Hawke’s Bay Regional Council and NIWA regularly monitor the freshwater ecology of the upper Ngaruroro River at the following sites (see Table 2). The macroinvertebrate measures in Table 2 are an indicator of stream health where generally, the higher the Macroinvertebrate Community Index, taxa richness and percent EPT, the better the health of the stream.
50. The monitoring site at Kuripapango (NIWA) is upstream of the Whanawhana site (HBRC). The Kuripapango monitoring site is surrounded predominately by forest areas. Between Kuripapango and Whanawhana is the confluence with the Taruarau River, the Omahaki Stream and the Mangarakau stream. Farming occurs in the Ngaruroro catchment between the two monitoring sites.
51. The monitoring results show there is a slight difference in water quality and MCI between Kuripapango and Whanawhana, with the ecological health of the Ngaruroro River at Kuripapango in excellent condition. While the monitoring site at Whanawhana has a slightly lower MIC than Kuripapango, the ecological health of the Ngaruroro River at this location is still good, but not quite as pristine.

Table 2: Macroinvertebrate sampling results – upper Ngaruroro River (2011 - 2016)

| Monitoring site | Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI) | Classification | Taxonomic richness | Percent EPT ⁵ richness |
|-----------------|---|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kuripapango | MCI > 120 | EXCELLENT | - | 56.7% |
| Whanawhana | MCI between 116 and 121 | GOOD | 22 | 54.2% |

Note: Regional Councils use a classification from Stark & Maxted (2007) for MCI sampling, assigning a rating of either excellent, good, fair or poor for ecological health and/or habitat condition.

Landscape /scenic values

52. The scenic values of the Ngaruroro River have been discussed in a number of nationally published documents over the last 40 years, with the upper reaches described as stunning wilderness scenery.
53. The upper Ngaruroro River flows through a variety of landscapes with the headwaters running through a vast area of tussock and scrubland. The river is initially relatively small as it flows over a shallow shingle bed

⁵ EPT stands for Ephemeroptera (mayfly), Plecoptera (stonefly) and Trichoptera (caddisfly), and are macroinvertebrates which are sensitive to water pollution.

before passing through narrow valleys and smaller gorge areas covered in tussock, scrub and native bush vegetation. The river slowly increases in size as more and more streams join its flow.

54. From Kuripapango, the river flows into a narrow rocky gorge which is enclosed in parts by vertical schist walls on both sides, and contains numerous rapids. The landscape surrounding the gorge is native bush and scrub land. The river flows in and out of confined gorges until it meets the Tararua River, its main tributary. Below the Tararua River confluence, the river flows more quietly over a shingle bed until it reaches Whanawhana.
55. In 1979, the upper sections of the Ngaruroro River were given an 'impressive'⁶ scenic rating in "64 New Zealand Rivers" which contains an in-depth scenic evaluation of sixty four of New Zealand's major Rivers.
56. In 1981, The New Zealand Recreational River Survey assigned the scenic values of upper sections of the Ngaruroro River an "impressive"⁷ rating.
57. In 1986, The Ngaruroro River was placed in 'Group two'⁸ in the Government's list of rivers and lakes deserving protection, for its wild, scenic and recreation qualities. The Ngaruroro River was only excluded from Group 1 due to its close proximity to the Mohaka River.
58. Photographs of the upper Ngaruroro River above Whanawhana are contained in Attachment 2.

Geological features

59. The Ngaruroro Gorge is steep sided, deeply incised gorge, which contains a convoluted river that meanders at a depth of around 400 m through greywacke mountains.
60. The National Geo-preservation Inventory, which identifies and ranks geological features according to their relative significance, classifies the Ngaruroro Gorge as regionally significant, specifically recognising the gorge as being one of the two best gorges in Hawke's Bay.

Naturalness/intactness of waterbody

61. The Ngaruroro River is widely recognised as being in a near natural state upstream of Kuripapango. There are very few development influences in surrounding area, with the exception of forestry, which when harvested may impact on the river's water quality.
62. In 2012, the Ngaruroro River was identified as nationally significant in the Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments for natural character.

Water Quality

63. Hawke's Bay Regional Council and NIWA regularly sample the water quality of the upper Ngaruroro River at the following locations (see Table 3). The nitrate and ammonia attribute bands provide an indication of the chronic toxicity risk to aquatic animals.
64. The monitoring results show that the upper Ngaruroro River has excellent water quality which is in a near pristine condition. All sites have an extremely low level risk of nitrate and ammonia toxicity for aquatic species.
65. Of particular note is water quality in the Ngaruroro River at Kuripapango. At this site, water quality regionally ranks 1st for nutrient concentrations, 2nd for water clarity, and is in the top 5 for low faecal indicator bacteria, overall suitability for contact recreation and biological health⁹.

⁶ Scenic values graded on a five point scale: dull, ordinary, interesting, impressive, exceptional.

⁷ Scenic values graded on a six point scale: dull, uninspiring, moderate, picturesque, impressive, exceptional.

⁸ Group One = Excellent rivers or lakes containing an outstanding cultural, fisheries, wild flora, location, recreation, scenic, scientific, tourism, wildlife habitat, value(s). Group One contains the very best examples of these values.

⁹ A total of 77 sites (over 35 rivers) are monitored across New Zealand as part of the National Rivers Water Quality Network (NRWQN) measured by NIWA.

Table 3: Water quality – Ngaruroro River (2016)

| Monitoring site | Water clarity | Nitrogen | Phosphorus | Microbiological Indicator (<i>E. coli</i>) |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|
| Kuripapango | Turbidity = 0.97 NTU; Black disk = 5.7 metres. Both within the best 25% of like sites within New Zealand. | NOF BAND A Total Nitrogen = 0.045 g/m3; Total Oxidised Nitrogen = 0.006 g/m3 (Annual median) and 0.0275 g/m3 (95 th percentile); Ammoniacal Nitrogen = 0.002 g/m3 (Annual median), 0.0047 g.m3 (annual maximum) All in the best 25% of like sites within New Zealand. | Dissolved Phosphorus, and Total Phosphorus are within the best 25% of 'like' sites within New Zealand. Dissolved Phosphorus = 0.002 g/m3, Total Phosphorus = 0.004 g/m3. | NOF Band A E. coli = 3 n/100ml (annual median) In the best 25% of like sites in New Zealand |
| Whanawhana | Turbidity = 2.55 NTU; Black disk = 2.57 metres. Black disk in the best 50% of like sites within New Zealand. Turbidity in the worst 50% of like sites within New Zealand. | NOF BAND A Total Nitrogen, and Total Oxidised Nitrogen are within the best 25% of like sites within New Zealand. Total Nitrogen = 0.055 g/m3; Total Oxidised Nitrogen = 0.016 g/m3 (Annual median) and 0.11 g/m3 (95 th percentile); Ammoniacal Nitrogen is In the best 25% of like sites in New Zealand Ammoniacal Nitrogen = 0.0047 g/m3 (Annual median), 0.0156 g/m3 (annual maximum) | Dissolved Phosphorus, and Total Phosphorus are within the best 25% of 'like' sites within New Zealand. Dissolved Phosphorus = < 0.004 g/m3, Total Phosphorus = < 0.004 g/m3. | NOF Band A E. coli = 3 n/100ml (annual median) In the best 25% of like sites in New Zealand |

Note 1: NOF BAND A for E.coli = water suitable for designed use with les 1% risk of infection from contact with water during activities with occasional immersion (such as wading and boating). Band A is suitable for swimming.

Note 2: NOF BAND A for Nitrogen = unlikely to be effects even on sensitive species.

Values Summary

| Overarching Value | Sub-value | Description | Outstanding Yes/no | Comments |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Cultural | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| Recreational | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| Ecological | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| Landscape | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| Natural Character | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |

Attachment 1

Upper Ngaruroro River – Cultural Values Report



Key Values

Spiritual values

Wāhi Tapu, wāhi taonga, wai tapu

Mahinga kai, Pā tuna

Pā, Kāinga

Rohe boundary

Table 1: List of documents reviewed

| Year | Name | Author |
|------|--|----------------------------------|
| 2004 | Wai 201: The Mohaka ki Ahuriri report | The Waitangi Tribunal |
| 2012 | Submission from Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga on Proposed Plan Change 5 to the RPS | Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga |
| 2015 | WCO application on the Ngaruroro River and Clive River | Catalyst Group |
| 2015 | Environment Court Decision: NKII vs HBRC | Environment Court |
| 2015 | Mana Ake - Nga Hapu o Heretaunga – An Expression of Kaitiakitanga | Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga |
| 2016 | Heretaunga Tamatea Deed of Settlement documents | Heretaunga Tamatea and the Crown |
| 2016 | Ahuriri Hapū Deed of Settlement documents | Ahuriri Hapū and the Crown |
| 2016 | Inventory of Values in the TANK Catchments of Hawke's Bay | Cawthron Institute |
| 2016 | Ngaruroro Values and Attributes Report | |
| 2018 | Cultural Values Table | Hawke's Bay Regional Council |

1. Introduction *

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to assist the RPC members to determine whether any of the cultural values associated with the upper Ngaruroro River are outstanding for the purposes of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM).

This report presents the summarised findings of the cultural values attributed to the upper Ngaruroro River in those documents referred to in Table 1, above.

The report summarises the cultural values associated with the upper Ngaruroro River into a series of categories. It is recognised that isolating the values into categories can be problematic from a Māori worldview and many of the values are part of a narrative that doesn't fit neatly into categories. However, the intention is not to take a reductionist or isolated approach to cultural values but to try and gain an appreciation of their significance and the level of detail available to progress a plan change. In preparing the reports, it became obvious that all waterways are part of a wider cultural landscape that weaves people and the environment into a rich history of cultural and spiritual association.

Ultimately, the Regional Planning Committee will need to decide what the appropriate threshold is for outstanding cultural values. Any objectives, policies or rules that are proposed to support outstanding waterbodies will be subject to scrutiny and potential challenges by those who may be affected by a plan change.

Importance

The upper Ngaruroro River is significant for the people of Heretaunga Tamatea - one of six large natural groups negotiating the settlement of Ngāti Kahungunu Treaty of Waitangi claims.

The full name of the river is Nga-ngaru-o-nga-upokororo-mai-i-mokotuararo-ki-Rangatira after an incident in which a dog belonging to the ancient deity Mahu startled some small fish known as upokororo. As the shoal of fish dashed away they caused ngaru, or ripples in the water (Deed of Settlement).

Another name is Ngaru Roromoko Tuararo ki Rangatira giving the river eminence and association with the status of Rangatira (leaders/chiefs) (Ngaruroro Values and Attributes Report).

The waters of the Ngaruroro River are considered to be of outstanding cultural and spiritual significance by tāngata whenua. Mahinga kai (food sources), the presence of nohoanga (settlements), urupā (burial places), waahi tapu, traditional trails and other taonga are all important aspects of this (Ngaruroro Values and Attributes Report).

The traditions of Ngāti Whitikaupeka, Ngāti Hauiti and Ngāti Apa tell how Tamatea (one of the great early explorers) went up the Ngaruroro River and across the upper Rangitikei River into the Waiōuru and Taihape districts, where he stocked the Moawhango River with freshwater kōura (crayfish).

Most of the named cultural sites identified in the documents in Table 1 are located in the Lower Ngaruroro. This is also reflected in the density of registered archaeological sites and waahi tapu sites.

Ahuriri Hapū also state a cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association with the Ngaruroro River. For them, it was a key transport route inland and it has been a significant marker of land interests from ancient times (Deed of Settlement).

The headwaters of the Ngaruroro River have cultural, spiritual, and historic significance to Ngāti Tūwharetoa. This area is largely in its natural state, and is commonly expressed as being the heart of the Kaimanawa Ranges.

TANK Group

The TANK Collaborative Stakeholder Group has been working since 2012 on land and water management issues for the Tutaekurī, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro and Karamū catchments. Its purpose is to recommend limits and measures for a workable plan change. TANK's collaborative membership includes more than 30 groups, representing tāngata whenua, primary sector, councils and environmentalists.

The TANK Group has been progressing a cultural values framework, identifying values and attributes to characterise water quality.

* The HBRC and authors of this report are aware there are numerous areas, including waterbodies, where two or more iwi groups have agreed, shared interests and/or contested overlapping claims within the Hawke's Bay region. The information presented in this report is not intended to imply any exclusive rights over particular waterbodies for one or more iwi groups, nor does it confirm the validity of the claims of any group(s) over that waterbody. The information is solely for the purpose of recording important cultural and spiritual values identified by iwi groups in the region as sourced from existing published documents.

2. *Rohe boundary*

The Ngaruroro has been a significant marker of land interests from ancient times. A pou once stood at Whanawhana which represents an important political demarcation between hapū, which remains significant (Deed of Settlement).

3. *Archaeology*



Figure 1: Archaeological Sites in close proximity to the upper Ngaruroro River

4. *Statutory Acknowledgement Area of Interest*



Figure 2: Heretaunga Tamatea Area of Interest



Figure 3: Ahuriri Hapū Area of Interest

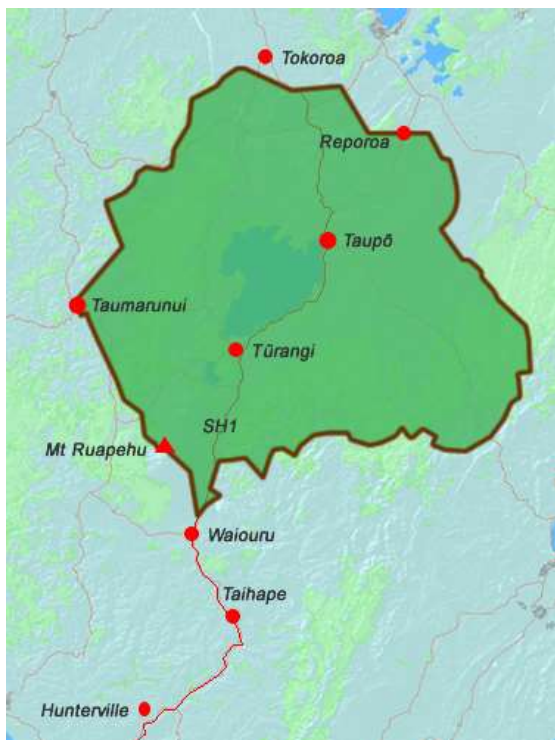


Figure 4: Ngāti Tūwharetoa Area of Interest

5. Resource Management Plans

The following tables list any relevant resource management plans developed by iwi/hapū, the regional council or territorial authorities. The tables include any specific provisions that apply to the upper Ngaruroro River. They do not include all of the general policies or rules that may apply. Water quality and water quantity provisions have been included as it is recognised that these aspects can significantly impact on cultural values.

Iwi and Hapū Resource Management Plans

Kahungunu ki Uta, Kahungunu ki Tai: Marine & Freshwater Fisheries Strategic Plan

Mana Ake - An Expression of Kaitiakitanga, Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga

Regional Resource Management Plan

Specific water quality standards apply to Ngaruroro River upstream of Fernhill Bridge

- 50 Faecal Coliforms (cfu/100ml)
- 10 Suspended Solids (mg/l)

Minimum Flow and Allocatable Volumes for Specified Rivers

- 2,400L/s at Fernhill Bridge

Catchments Sensitive to Animal Effluent Discharges (Schedule 6b)

Minimum Flow Rivers (Schedule 7)

Rivers Considered for Riparian Protection (Schedule 8)

Regional Coastal Environment Plan

Specific water quality standards apply to Ngaruroro River downstream of Expressway Bridge

- 150 Faecal Coliforms (cfu/100ml)
 - 25 Suspended Solids (mg/l)
-

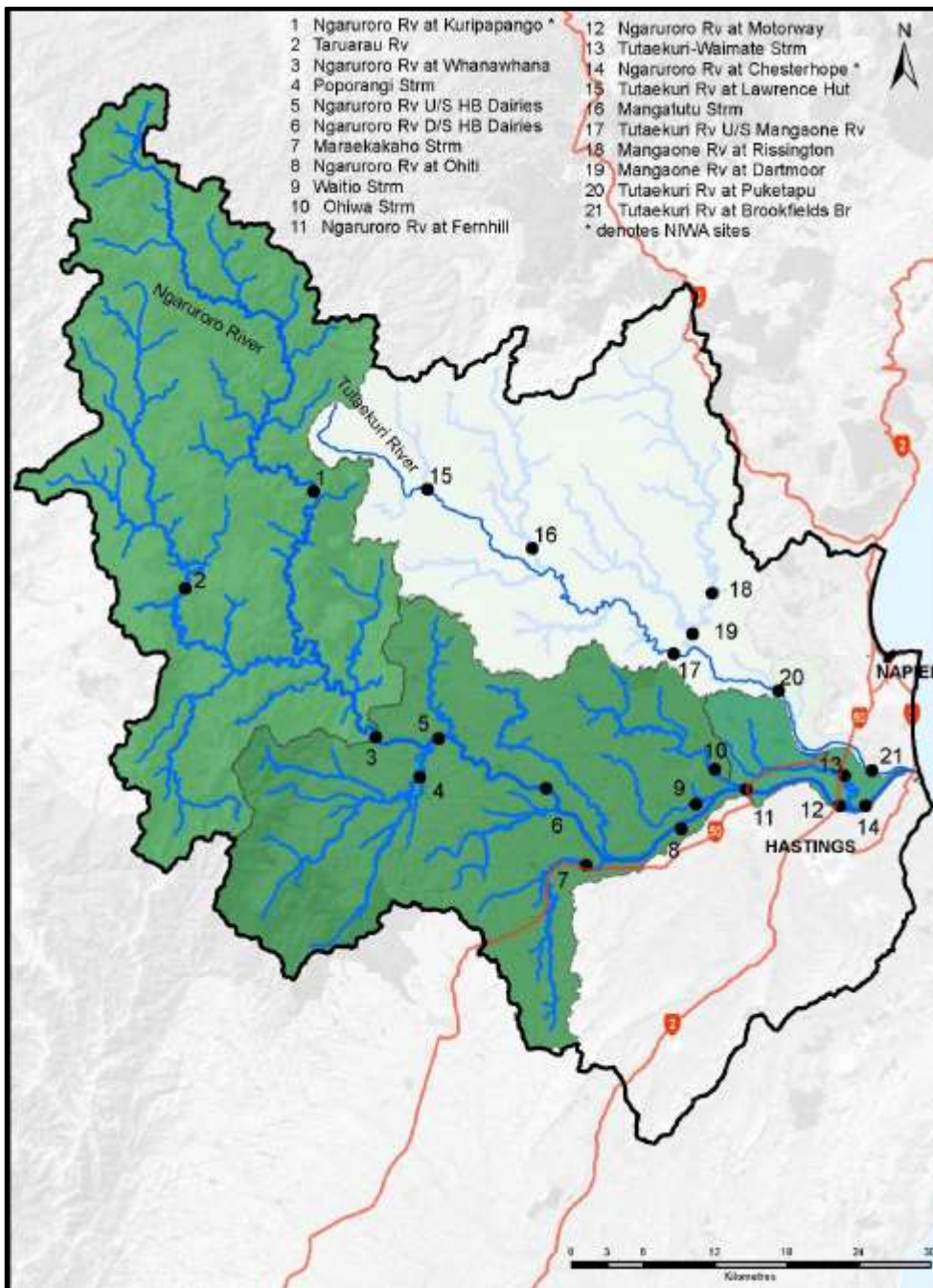
Attachment 2: Photographs – Upper Ngaruroro River



Upper Ngaruroro River



Upper Ngaruroro River

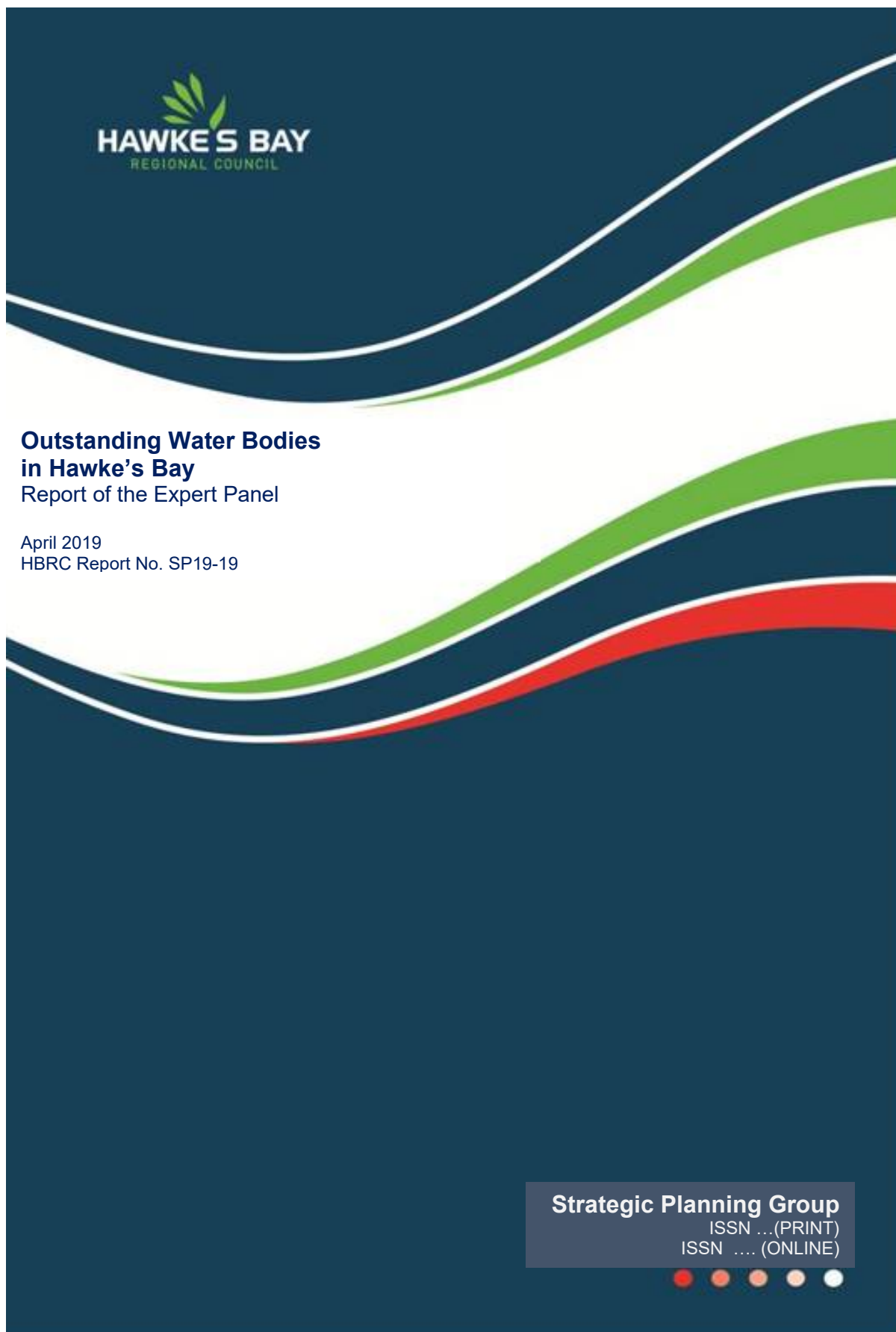


Ngaruroro River and tributaries

Appendix 3: Expert Panel Findings - Ngaruroro River

Note: Appendix 3 contains extracts only - for further information please refer to the full report of the expert panel.

Outstanding Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay: Report of the Expert Panel





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Outstanding Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay Report of the Expert Panel

April 2019
HBRC Report No. SP19-19



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Outcome 2: OWB Assessment Criteria

The Panel considered the criteria for what makes the selected values regionally ‘Outstanding’. The Gisborne District Council OWB criteria provided a useful framework but needed both simplification and some additional criteria.

Both quantitative and qualitative (descriptive) measures were selected and are set out below in Table 4. ‘Outstanding’ values could also be variable, for example, customary values can be dependent on the season or time of year.

TABLE 4: CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING ‘OUTSTANDING’ VALUES

| ‘OUTSTANDING’ VALUE | CRITERIA | INDICATOR |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Ecology | Threatened Species | 4 or more threatened species |
| | % of Population | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >2% of a national population of a native species • >15% of a regional population of a native species |
| | Ecological Distinctiveness | Presence of a unique or distinctive characteristic/ habitat or species at the regional level |
| | Ecological Function | Presence of a critical or outstanding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breeding site • Ecosystem component • Assemblage • Kohanga ika/ nursery • Fish passage/ fish spawning |
| Landscape | A water body that contains a unique hydrological, geological or culturally significant feature A water body that is widely recognised at the regional level for its scenic values | |
| Natural Character | A water body that is highly natural with little or no human modification, including to the flow, bed and riparian margins, water quality, flora and fauna, within a largely indigenous landscape | |
| Amenity/ Recreation | A recreational experience that is exceptional in or on the water An exceptional location for angling or customary food gathering A unique historical or heritage site | |
| Cultural & Spiritual | Preliminary and high level comments only are provided using the following framework: For understanding and assessing the outstanding values, attributes and uses of water bodies from a cultural and spiritual perspective, the following concepts have been applied: | |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p><i>Wairuatanga</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mauri Mana Tapu Taonga tuku iho <p><i>Rangatiratanga</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mana whenua – mana moana Kaitiakitanga Mahinga kai (as a place, action or practice) <p><i>Whakapapa</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> O te whenua O te wai O te tangata Ki uta ki tai <p><i>Matauranga Maori</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tikanga Maori knowledge systems Traditional uses and values Origins of cultural knowledge <p><i>Cultural Natural Character</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual condition Mana o te wai Connectivity between ground and surface water Cleansing properties as water passes through the whenua Spring / aquifer sources – water recharge systems <p>SPECIAL NOTE:</p> <p>Tangata whenua will provide locally relevant assessments through separate input to the process (Refer to Appendix 4: Maori cultural and spiritual values, and see Diagram 1).</p> |
|--|---|

Ngaruroro River

Including Taruarau River & Waitangi Estuary



Upper Ngaruroro River





Lower Ngaruroro River



NGARURORO RIVER: DESCRIPTION OF OUTSTANDING VALUES

SUMMARY

| TYPE | NAME | OUTSTANDING VALUE | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | ECOLOGY | LANDSCAPE | NATURAL CHARACTER | AMENITY & RECREATION | CULTURAL & SPIRITUAL |
| River, Estuary | NGARURORO RIVER | | | | | |

ECOLOGY

| Description | Notes | Reference |
|---|-------|---|
| <p><i>Threatened Species:</i></p> <p>8 bird species - Blue duck, grey duck, black-billed gull, banded dotterel, white heron, black fronted tern, bittern, Caspian tern</p> <p>1 fish species - lamprey</p> | | <p>Bird list in Appendix 2</p> <p>Fish list in Appendix 3</p> <p>HBRC 2018</p> <p>Bird NZ Hawke’s Bay bird census</p> |
| <p><i>% of Population</i></p> <p>Whio (blue duck) –</p> <p>25% of regional population</p> <p>1.1 – 5.6% of national population</p> <p>Banded dotterel –</p> <p>37% of regional population</p> <p>6-10% of national population</p> | | <p>Bird list in Appendix 2</p> |
| <p><i>Ecological Function:</i></p> <p>Provides a range of diverse habitats for fish and bird species from the mountainous upper river, braided lower section, to the Waitangi Estuary</p> <p>The lower Ngaruroro is the second largest braided river in the North Island, a historically rare ecosystem in New Zealand, and rare internationally</p> <p>Regionally significant for native birds</p> | | <p>McLellan, WCO application 2019</p> <p>HBRC TANK Estuary reports</p> <p>HBRC 2018</p> |

Outstanding Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay: Report of the Expert Panel

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Regionally significant for native fish | | Native birds RiVAS 2012 Native fish RiVAS 2012 |
|--|--|---|

LANDSCAPE

| Description | Notes | Reference |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ngaruroro gorge is one of the two best gorges in the region (regionally important) | Ngaruroro Gorge | NZ Geopres. Inventory |
| Taruarau gorge is one of the two best gorges in the region (regionally important) | Taruarau Gorge | NZ Geopres. Inventory |
| Best example of a braided river channel in the region (regionally important) | Whanawhana to Fernhill bridge | NZ Geopres. Inventory |
| Landscape features including karst formations | | Rangitikei District Plan ONFL report |

NATURAL CHARACTER

| Description | Notes | Reference |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Widely recognised as being in a near natural state. There are very few development influences in surrounding area, with the exception of forestry, which when harvested may impact on the river's water quality | Ngaruroro upstream of Kuripapango | HBRC 2018 |
| Nationally significant and in near pristine condition | Ngaruroro upstream of Kuripapango | Natural character RiVAS 2012 |
| Highly impressive scenic values as in near natural state | Taruarau River | HBRC 2018 |

AMENITY & RECREATION

| Description | Notes | Reference |
|--|---|---|
| <i>Trout Fishery:</i> Outstanding back country/wilderness trout fishery A nationally important wilderness river fishery, ... outstanding characteristics ... scenic beauty, solitude, large area of fishable water and large | Above Whanawhana including Taruarau River | HBRC 2018 Fish & Game Salmonid Angling RiVAS 2012 |

Outstanding Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay: Report of the Expert Panel

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| trout Ranked 3rd for Salmonid Angling in Hawkes Bay | | WCO application |
| Whitebaiting Flounder Mullet | Waitangi Estuary | Local knowledge |
| <i>Kayaking:</i> Multi-day back country kayaking available to a high number of medium level kayakers Ranked 3 rd in Hawke's Bay for whitewater kayaking, technically challenging | Above Whanawhana | WCO application Whitewater Kayaking RiVAS 2012 HBRC 2018 |
| <i>Jet Boating:</i> Nationally highly valued braided section with a high level of use, not just locally, but from people who reside throughout both the North and South Islands. | Lower Ngaruroro below Taruarau confluence | Eccles 2018 HBRC 2018 |

CULTURAL & SPIRITUAL

| Description | Notes | Reference |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| Highly impressive scenic values as in near natural state | Taruarau River | HBRC 2018 |
| Waters considered to be of outstanding cultural and spiritual significance by tāngata whenua - mahinga kai, nohoanga, urupā, waahi tapu, traditional trails and other taonga are all important aspects | Upper Ngaruroro | HBRC 2018 He Toa Takitini DoS 2015 |
| Significant to Heretaunga Tamatea - Te Awa o Te Atua - important for food gathering. Many sacred sites and settlements beside it. | Lower Ngaruroro River | HBRC 2018 Te Hira Huata – Wai claim |
| <i>Wairuatanga:</i> Mauri, Mana, Tapu, Taonga tuku iho (God-given treasure/gift) <i>Nohoanga:</i> Traditional sites for accessing resources and cultural practices | Ngaruroro River | He Toa Takitini DoS 2015 |
| <i>Wairuatanga:</i> Mauri, Mana, Tapu, Taonga tuku iho <i>Whakapapa:</i> | Taruarau River | He Toa Takitini DoS 2015 |

Outstanding Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay: Report of the Expert Panel

| | | |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|
| o te whenua, o te wai, o te tangata | | |
| <p><i>Rangatiratanga:</i> Mana Whenua - Mana Moana, Kaitiakitanga, <i>Mahinga kai:</i> (place/action/practice) <i>Whakapapa:</i> o te whenua, o te wai, o te tangata, ki uta ki tai <i>Ki Uta ki Tai:</i> Fish passage</p> | Waitangi Estuary | He Toa Takitini DoS 2015 |

Appendix 4: Final Evaluation - Ngaruroro River

Note: Appendix 4 contains extracts only - for further information please refer to the full report.



Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change Selecting a list of outstanding water bodies in Hawke's Bay

HBRC Report Number: SD19-18
Publication Number: 5400

Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change

Selecting a list of outstanding water bodies in Hawke's Bay

HBRC Report Number: SD19-18
Publication Number: 5400



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Dale Meredith: Senior Planner

Tom Skerman: Group Manager Strategic Planning

Ecology values

Wildlife

Upper Ngaruroro River (above Whanawhana)

Three species of endemic birds are present along the upper Ngaruroro River, being the blue duck (whio), New Zealand fernbird and pipit. In particular, the upper Ngaruroro River is identified as a breeding site for blue duck with nearly 5% of the region's blue duck population (12 Whio) present at the river.

In 1967, the nationally critical grey duck was found in the upper reaches, however it is not known if any pure bred grey duck are still present in this area and further investigations are needed.

In 2012, the upper Ngaruroro River was one of 16 river segments in Hawke's Bay identified as regionally significant in the Hawke's Bay RiVAS for native birdlife.

The local expert panel found the upper Ngaruroro River to have outstanding wildlife values and outstanding ecological function, specifically noting the high numbers of blue duck in the greater catchment area. The local expert panel's report is attached in Appendix 6.

Lower Ngaruroro River (below Whanawhana)

The Lower Ngaruroro River is a 50 km braided river system which has been significantly modified in parts for flood control works. The river flows into the sea through the Waitangi Estuary, which is listed as a Significant Conversation Area in the Regional Coastal Environment Plan as containing an important wildlife habitat.

The braided river habitat of the lower Ngaruroro River is a rare habitat type internationally, more common nationally, with around 85 braided rivers across New Zealand, and 4 braided rivers in Hawke's Bay. The lower river and estuary area support around 43 species of birds, including 5 threatened species, being the black-billed gull, black fronted tern, Australasian bittern, banded dotterel and Caspian tern.

Surveys undertaken in the 1980s by the Department of Conservation rated the Ngaruroro River as being of high value to wildlife, noting it contained the greatest number of banded dotterel per km of the rivers surveyed in Hawkes Bay. It also contained the only breeding population of the South Island pied oystercatcher in Hawke's Bay, a species which is classified as 'least concern' on the IUCN red list.

The Waitangi Estuary was rated moderate-high for wildlife in the 1980s wildlife surveys, despite a total of 42 wetland species of birds recorded there over a number of years. This was due to most being migratory birds, with generally low numbers of individuals of each species.

In 2012, the lower Ngaruroro River was one of 16 river segments in Hawke's Bay identified as regionally significant in the Hawke's Bay RiVAS for native birdlife.

In 2018, the Department of Conservation (DOC), estimated the lower Ngaruroro River to support around 37% of regions population of banded dotterel, and 30% of the region's population of pied stilt. These estimates are based on published and unpublished field data held by DOC.

The local expert panel found the lower Ngaruroro River to have outstanding wildlife values, specifically noting the threatened species present, and the high numbers of banded dotterel (37% of the regional population). The local expert panel's report is attached in Appendix 6.

Native fish

Upper Ngaruroro River (above Whanawhana)

The upper Ngaruroro River contains a high quality habitat for native fish being largely natural with good water quality. The river supports three species of native fish, being the longfin eel, torrentfish and Kōaro, which are classified 'at risk and declining'.

In 2012, the Ngaruroro Catchment was one of four major catchments³ in Hawke's Bay to be identified as nationally important in the Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments for native fish, however, the assessments provided limited information specifically in regard to the upper section of river.

³ Tutaekuri, Mohaka, Ngaruroro, Tukituki Catchments.

The local expert panel found the whole of the Ngaruroro River to have an outstanding ecological function, specifically noting its range of diverse habitats for fish species from the mountainous upper river, to the braided lower section and estuary area. Appendix 6 sets out the full findings of the local expert panel.

Lower Ngaruroro River (below Whanawhana)

The Lower Ngaruroro, including the Waitangi Estuary, supports 22 species of fish including, a number of which are classified as at risk or declining. Due to high nutrient concentration, the Waitangi Estuary can have seasonal algae blooms which can affect its water quality and fish habitat.

The Waitangi Estuary, including Clive River, is listed as a Significant Conservation Area in the Hawke's Bay Regional Coastal Environment Plan, where it is recognised as containing a nationally significant fisheries habitat.

In 1987, the Waitangi Estuary was assigned a Category A (outstanding) rating by MAFFish, in their publication "wetlands of national importance to fisheries". In 2012, the Ngaruroro Catchment was one of four major catchments⁴ in Hawke's Bay to be identified as nationally important in the Hawke's Bay RIVAS assessments for native fish.

The local expert panel found the whole of the Ngaruroro River to have an outstanding ecological function, specifically noting its range of diverse habitats for fish species. Appendix 6 sets out the full findings of the local expert panel.

Natural character

Upper Ngaruroro River (above Whanawhana)

The Ngaruroro River is in a highly natural state upstream of Kuripapango, with the highest MCI score in Hawke's Bay at 130, indicating its ecological condition is excellent and its water quality is pristine.

The upper River flows through a variety of landscapes running through a vast area of tussock and scrubland, and through narrow rocky gorges which contain numerous rapids. The landscape surrounding the gorge is native bush and scrub land with some forestry.

In 2012, the upper Ngaruroro River was identified as nationally significant in the Hawke's Bay RIVAS assessments for natural character, along with 14 other reaches of river in Hawke's Bay.

The local expert panel found the Ngaruroro River upstream of Kuripapango to have outstanding natural character, noting the river is widely recognised as being in a near natural state, with few development influences in the surrounding area, except forestry. Appendix 6 sets out the full findings of the local expert panel.

Lower Ngaruroro River (below Whanawhana)

The braided river channel of the lower Ngaruroro River has been significantly modified for flood control works, with the lower parts of the river from Fernhill being diverted down its current path in 1935.

In 2012, the Hawke's Bay RIVAS assessments found the Ngaruroro River between Whanawhana and Maraekakaho to have 'moderate' natural character, with the remaining parts of the Ngaruroro River (below Maraekakaho) to have low natural character.

The MCI scores in the lower Ngaruroro River indicate its water quality is fair to good quality, with mild/ moderate pollution. Specifically, MCI scores are 107 at Ohiti, 103 at Chesterhope and 95 at Fernhill.

The local expert panel's report does not discuss the natural character values associated with lower Ngaruroro River. Appendix 6 sets out the full findings of the local expert panel.

Landscape / geological features

Upper Ngaruroro River

The upper Ngaruroro River flows through a variety of landscapes with the upper waters running through a vast areas of tussock and scrubland and through deep rocky gorges with vertical schist walls.

The Ngaruroro River is consistently given impressive scenic ratings in the publications. In 1979 and 1981, the upper river was given 'impressive'⁵ scenic ratings in 64 New Zealand Rivers, and New Zealand Recreational River Survey.

In 1986, the Ngaruroro River was placed in 'Group Two' of the Governments list of rivers and lakes deserving protection, for its wild and scenic qualities. It was only excluded from Group One due to its close proximity to the Mohaka River.

In 2012, the upper Ngaruroro River was identified as nationally significant in the Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments for natural character, along with 14 other reaches of river in Hawke's Bay.

Ngaruroro gorge is identified on the Geopreservation Inventory as being Class C (regionally important), along with 89 other features in Hawke's Bay. The Inventory cites the Ngaruroro gorge as being "one of the best two gorges in Hawke's Bay".

The local expert panel found the Ngaruroro River to have outstanding landscape values, making special note of the Ngaruroro gorge. Appendix 6 sets out the full findings of the local expert panel.

Lower Ngaruroro River (below Whanawhana)

From Whanawhana, the Ngaruroro River opens to wide braided channel for around 40 km until it forms a single channel until it flows into the sea through the Waitangi Estuary.

The course of the Ngaruroro River has changed several times, originally flowing down what is now the Clive River. Notably in 1935, the Ngaruroro River was significantly modified for flood control works with stop banks constructed between Fernhill to Pakowhai and the main channel diverted down its current path.

In 2012, the Ngaruroro River was assessed as having 'moderate' and 'low' natural character values in the Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments.

The braided river channel of the Ngaruroro River is identified on the Geopreservation Inventory as being Class C (regionally important), along with 89 other features in Hawke's Bay. The Inventory cites the braided channel of the Ngaruroro River as '*the best example in the region*".

The local expert panel found the lower Ngaruroro River to have outstanding landscape values, specifically noting its braided river channel. Appendix 6 sets out the full findings of the local expert panel.

Recreation

Upper Ngaruroro River (above Whanawhana)

The upper reaches of the Ngaruroro River are highly valued for angling and white water boating activities with several rafting companies operating in the area. Between Whanawhana and the Taruarau confluence the river is used by jet boats.

The upper Ngaruroro River is in a near natural state with impressive scenery. It offers a range of angling and boating experiences, however summer low flows can restrict recreational opportunities in the area.

The Ngaruroro headwaters fish well all season and provide a chance to catch trophy size fish in a near natural environment. In 1994, The Ngaruroro River was identified by NIWA as a Category A headwater trout fishery.

The upper Ngaruroro River is best known for its spectacular gorge scenery. It contains Grade 3 and 4 rapids and is considered to be one of the top 8 whitewater kayaking runs in the North Island.

The recreational activities associated with the Ngaruroro River have been discussed in a high number of published documents, where they are generally described as outstanding, nationally important and exceptional. The exception to this is in 1986, where the Ngaruroro River was excluded from the top list due to its close proximity to the Mohaka River.

The local expert panel found the upper Ngaruroro River to have outstanding recreation values, specifically noting its trout fishery and kayaking opportunities. Appendix 6 sets out the full findings of the local expert panel.

Lower Ngaruroro River (below Whanawhana)

The braids of Ngaruroro River are highly valued for jet boating, and parts of the river near and around Waitangi Estuary are popular for whitebaiting.

In 2014, Jet Boating New Zealand (JBNZ) classified the Ngaruroro River as an easy 'Class 1' jet boating trip, suitable for beginners and family boating.

Jet Boating New Zealand has advised the braided reach of the Ngaruroro River is highly used, and is outstanding for its jet boating experience, particularly for its extensive braiding not seen anywhere else in the North Island.

In 2004, the Ngaruroro River was recognised as a Potential Water Body of National Importance for its recreation and whitebaiting values.

The local expert panel found the lower Ngaruroro River to have outstanding jet boating features between Whanawhana and the Fernhill Bridge, and outstanding fishing values in the Waitangi Estuary. Appendix 6 sets out the full findings of the local expert panel.

Feedback received from Jet Boating New Zealand on Plan Change 7, supports the lower Ngaruroro River being identified as an outstanding water body for its jet boating values. Appendix 5, contains a summary of the feedback received on Plan Change 7.

Cultural and Spiritual values

The Ngaruroro River is one of the four main waterbodies in Te Matau a Māui-Tikitiki-a-Taranga (Hawke's Bay), and is significant to Heretaunga Tamatea, Mana Ahuriri, and Ngāti Tūwharetoa.

The river takes its name from an incident in which a dog belonging to the ancient deity Mahu startled some small fish, known as upokororo (the now extinct grayling). As the shoal of fish dashed away, they caused ngauru (small ripples) in the water.

The headwaters are largely in their natural state, and are commonly expressed as being at the heart of the Kaimanawa Ranges. The river is an important source of recharge for the Heretaunga Aquifer.

The river forms a natural highway from coast to mountains and there are many settlements and sites of significance along its banks. It provides significant food resources, including kahawai, kanae, inanga (whitebait), ngāore (smelt), pātiki (black flounder), tuna (eel), karinga aruhe (edible fern roots), wai tahere, rākau tutu, hīnaki and rauwiri. The Waitangi Estuary is considered to have a significant cultural fishery by Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc.

Information reviewed indicates the water body contains the following key values:

- Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi taonga
- Rohe Boundary
- Pa, kāinga
- Mahinga kai, Pa tuna
- Acknowledged in korero tuku iho, pepeha, whakatauki, walata.

The local expert panel found that the water body contained known outstanding cultural and spiritual values, specifically noting wairuatanga, whakapapa, rangatiratanga and ki uta ki tai.

At the time of writing, iwi authorities had not provided any comment specific to the Ngaruroro River or Waitangi Estuary.