

Ruakituri River

Summary of Values

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

(Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change)

Ruakituri River - Summary of Values

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

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Purpose of Report

1. This report is a compilation of information previously documented on the values associated with the Ruakituri 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 Ruakituri 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 Ruakituri 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: Ruakituri 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)	57
		Summary of the Recreation, Landscape and Ecology Values Associated with Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay (March 2018)	22
Secondary Assessments (Phase 3)	Yes	Secondary assessment - Ruakituri River	All of report
Local Expert Panel (Phase 4)	Yes	Outstanding Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay - Report of the Expert Panel (April 2019)	42 - 44
Final Evaluation (Phase 5)	Yes	Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change - selecting a list of outstanding water bodies in Hawke's Bay (May 2019)	20, 23, 45, 46, 49, 53, 59, 65, 71, 76, 93, 102

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 One & Phase 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 Ruakituri 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 assessment for Ruakituri River is 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 Ruakituri River to have outstanding natural character and amenity and recreation 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)

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 Ruakituri River.

Appendix 1: Tables C1 and R2 - Ruakituri 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

HBRC Report No. SD18-01
Plan Number 4978

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

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14 March 2018

Prepared By:
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>
Ruakituri River Hawke's Bay/Gisborne Wairoa	Te Rohe o Te Wairoa	DOS	<p>Te Rohe o Te Wairoa has a particular cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association with the Ruakituri and Hangaroa Rivers.</p> <p>Ngāi Kohatu have a korero about the formation of these rivers. According to tradition, Ruamano and Hinekorako were kin taniwha. Atop a hill one day Ruamano and Hinekorako heard the sound of the sea. Deciding to heed its call they began to race to the sea. Ruamano came via the Ruakituri River and Hinekorako via the Hangaroa.</p> <p>This story is the source of the old people's belief that has always associated Ruamano with the Ruakituri River and Hinekorako with the Hangaroa River. In their estimation, Ruakituri was a male river and Hangaroa a female.</p> <p>Te Reinga marae is situated at the confluence of the Ruakituri and Hangaroa Rivers. The joining of these two rivers below marks the beginning of the Wairoa River. Eel weirs were located at Tauwharetoi on the Ruakituri, River and at Pohaturoa on the Hangaroa River.</p>	<p>Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi taonga Acknowledged in korero tuku iho, pepeha, whakatauki, waiata Mahinga kai, Pa tuna</p>
		SA	Yes – same as DOS	
		TSL	N/A	
		CUS		
		WTR		
		OTHER		

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

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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</p> <p>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>		
<p>Ruakituri River</p> <p>Hawke's Bay/Gisborne</p> <p>Wairoa</p>	Te Rohe o Te Wairoa	64NZR	<p>Ruakituri Branch (Gorge) = impressive (scored 15) Note: impressively pure and sparkling water quality, impressive landscape.</p> <p>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>	<p>Recreation (kayaking, canoeing, rafting, angling) Landscape Ecology (biodiversity) Natural character</p>
		RRS	<p>In the gorge (category B) scenic value = exceptional Recreational value = high</p> <p>Below gorge: 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 (upper and middle reaches)	
		W&SR	N	
		LOR&L	<p>Group One: Its scenery, fishing, recreational, wildlife and wilderness qualities make it an outstanding river.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is an outstanding trout fishery for trophy sized rainbow trout in the upper reaches and for both brown and rainbow in the middle and lower reaches. - Popular for pack floating, canoeing, rafting, tramping and tourism to the Waipunga falls. - Blue duck in sheltered parts <p>Cultural values – greater density of marae than in the Waikato heartland.</p>	
		HTF	No	
		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)	
		RAMSAR	No	
		W&WH	N/A	
		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	



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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Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change

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

Heretaunga Aquifer, Karamu River, Lake Whakakā , 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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Ruakituri River



Key Values

Cultural

Recreation (angling, rafting, kayaking)

Ecology (fisheries, wildlife)

Landscape (scenic)

Natural character

Table 1: List of documents reviewed

Year	Name	Author
1979	64 New Zealand Rivers	Egarr, Egarr & Mackay
1981	New Zealand Recreational River Survey	G & J Egarr
1982	Submission on the draft Inventory of Wild and Scenic Rivers of National Importance	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
1986	A List of Rivers and Lakes Deserving Inclusion in A Schedule of Protected Waters	Grindell & Guest
1994	Headwater Trout Fisheries in New Zealand	NIWA
1998	Conservation Management Strategy, East Coast Conservancy 1998 – 2008	Department of Conservation
2002	The Ruakituri River - A hidden gem	Whitewater New Zealand
2004	Potential Water Bodies of National Importance	Ministry for the Environment
2012	River Values Assessment System (RIVAS)	Lindis Consulting
2012	Te Urewera Act 2014 – Section 126 Ruakituri Wilderness Area	New Zealand Legislation
2013	Huiarau Range	Wilderness Magazine

2013	Te Urewera-Tūhoe Bill - Submission to the Māori Affairs Committee From the Eastern Fish and Game Council	Fish and Game Council
2014	Ruakituri River	Fish and Game New Zealand Eastern Region
2016	Iwi and Hapū of Te Rohe o Te Wairoa Deed of Settlement + Documents Schedule	Iwi and Hapū of Te Rohe o Te Wairoa and the Crown
2017	Timeline Wilderness Protection	Wildlife
2018	Cultural Values Table	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
2018	Ruakituri River Trout Fishing	NZ Fishing website
2018	Waterfalls in Hawke's Bay and East Coast	Waterfalls New Zealand Website
2018	Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA)	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
2018	Famous New Zealand Rivers	Fishing New Zealand

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 Ruakituri 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 Ruakituri River in those documents referred to in Table 1, above.

Overview

3. The Ruakituri River rises on the slopes of the Huiarau Ranges in *Te Urewera* flowing southeast until it merges with the Hangaroa River just above Te Reinga Falls, around 35 km north of Wairoa. Te Reinga Falls marks the beginning of the Wairoa River.
4. The Ruakituri River is around 70 km long and is widely regarded as a premier trout fishery known for its large trophy trout and impressive scenery. Angling on the river is restricted to fly fishing only, with the use of spinners prohibited. A number of international visitors come to the area each year.
5. The Ruakituri River traverses through vastly different landscapes over its length. The headwaters of the river is a rugged wilderness area with a number of steep limestone gorges. The Ruakituri Gorge is particularly valued by canoeists who know it as a short but challenging run. The middle and lower reaches of the river are predominately surrounded by native bush and farmland areas.
6. Above the Waitangi Falls, the Ruakituri River is located in a 23,000 hectare Wilderness Zone where only foot access is permitted. Access is difficult, with no huts or tracks in the wilderness area and helicopter landings are not permitted.

Location

7. The Ruakituri River is a major tributary for the Wairoa River, flowing southeast from *Te Urewera* towards Wairoa. The major tributaries of the Ruakituri River are the Anini Stream and the Waipaoa Stream.
8. The location and extent of the Ruakituri River can be seen in Figures 1 and 2, below.



Figure 1: Location Map – Ruakituri River

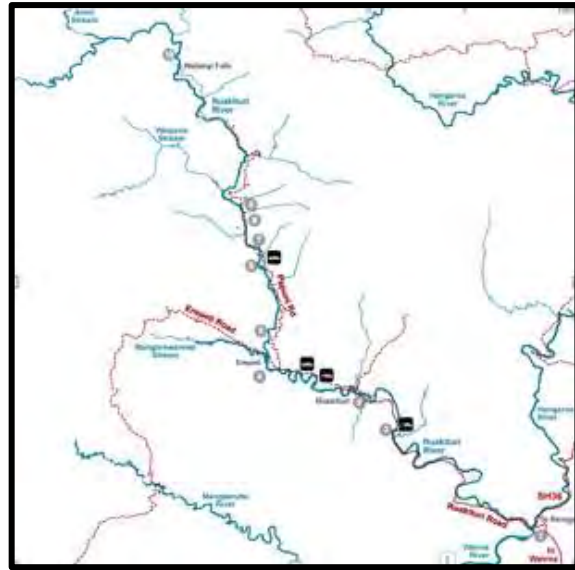


Figure 2: Ruakituri River Map

Cultural values *

9. The Ruakituri River is culturally significant for the people of Te Rohe o Te Wairoa.
10. Ngāi Kohatu have a korero about the formation of these rivers. According to tradition, Ruamano and Hinekorako were kin taniwha. Atop a hill one day Ruamano and Hinekorako heard the sound of the sea. Deciding to heed its call they began to race to the sea. Ruamano came via the Ruakituri River and Hinekorako via the Hangaroa.
11. Ruakituri River was one of several important locations for Tūhoe, Ngāti Kahungunu, and Ngāti Ruapani. From these locations, they travelled, often considerable distances, to utilise resources seasonally. Traditional settlements on the Ruakituri River included Te Reinga and Erepeti.
12. Te Kooti Arikirangi would also use this route in his escape into Tūhoe country. He built a pā at Puketapu on the Ruakituri River and was there joined by upper Wairoa chiefs Te Waru and Nama, along with some of their followers.
13. Attachment 1 contains a more detailed explanation of the cultural values associated with the Ruakituri River.

Recreation values

14. The Ruakituri River is a high valued trout fishery which supports a variety of fishing experiences along its length. The river contains both brown and rainbow trout and is one of the few rivers in North Island that is reserved for fly fishing only.
15. While angling is by far the most popular recreational activity on this river, it has been paddled by Hawke's Bay kayakers for some years who know it as a short, sharp challenging run.
16. The recreational activities associated with the Ruakituri River have been discussed in a number of nationally published documents over the last 40 years, and are consistently described as outstanding, nationally important and exceptional.
17. The recreational activities which take place on the Ruakituri River are discussed in more detail below.

Angling

18. The Ruakituri River is an internationally renowned trout fishery often described as containing some of the strongest, wildest trout in the world. It contains a large population of both brown and rainbow trout which can reach trophy size.
19. The river has a high number of international visitors each year. In 2013, the National Angling Survey results show that over 16% of the annual effort on the Ruakituri River came from international visitors.

* 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.

20. The river contains a variety of fishing opportunities from wilderness fishing in the headwaters to easily accessible river fishing in the middle and lower reaches. The upper, middle and lower reaches of the Ruakituri River are described in more detail in Table 2, below.

Table 2: Description of Ruakituri River reaches

River section	Description
Upper reaches Te Urewera National - Waitangi Falls	The headwaters of the Ruakituri are isolated, with the river flowing for many kilometres through thick bush and, rugged and remote backcountry. This part of the river is difficult to access and requires considerable walking. The waters in this section can be crystal clear. Only rainbow trout are present in this section of river. The upper river and headwaters are classed as a 'wilderness fishing' area, known for its impressive scenery and trout size. On average trout caught in this area weigh between 2- 3 kg, however many weighing 5 kg plus are caught each year.
Middle reaches Waitangi Falls - the Ruakituri Bridge	This section of river is characterised by bush and farmland, is as known as open and easy to fish. The water is a series of pools, rapids and long flat areas. The area is generally very accessible, making it the most popular section for angling on the river. There are high numbers of both brown and rainbow trout present in the middle reaches, which average around 2 kg in size.
Lower reaches Ruakituri Bridge - Erepeti road junction	This section of river is wide and slow. The surrounding landscape is mostly farmland. Both brown and rainbow trout present in this section of river, which on average are between 1 – 2 kg in size.

21. In 1982, the Ruakituri River was identified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as being a river of national importance for wilderness and scenic salmonid angling. Only one other river in New Zealand was identified as being nationally important for these attributes.
22. In 1986, the Ruakituri River was placed in 'Group one'¹ in the Government's list of rivers and lakes deserving protection, for its exceptional scenery, fishing, recreational, wildlife and wilderness qualities. The report specifically notes "*it is an outstanding trout fishery for trophy sized rainbow trout in the upper reaches and for both brown and rainbow in the middle and lower reaches*".
23. In 2013, results from the National Angling Survey show the Ruakituri River was the river most enjoyed by anglers in the north island, and the third most enjoyed river by anglers across New Zealand². The enjoyment score is considered to be a reasonable proxy for the importance of a fishery on a national scale in the survey.
24. In 2012, the Ruakituri River was identified as nationally significant salmonid angling in the Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments.

Boating

25. The Ruakituri River is locally renowned amongst Hawke's Bay paddlers for its impressive scenery and its short, sharp Grade 2 and 3 rapids. The gorge is particularly notable, with the 1981 Recreational River Survey stating the Ruakituri River has "*a short but strikingly beautiful gorge that offers some of the best rafting and canoeing in water south of Gisborne*".
26. Above the gorge, the rapids are numerous and easy and below the gorge the rapids ease and the river becomes quite flat. The river is usable at a range of flows however, during summer low flows boats need to be carried around a number of the rapids. At high flows most rapids are runnable but there are some big holes.
27. The lower Ruakituri River does not appear to be highly used for jet boating. While navigable by jet boats, the lower parts of the river have no rapids and numerous snags which need to be avoided. The Ruakituri River does not feature on the 2014 Jet Boating New Zealand rivers information document.

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.

² Fished by at least 10 survey respondents, out of a total of 431.

28. The 1981, the Recreational River Survey assigned the Ruakituri River an 'exceptional'³ scenic rating and a 'high'⁴ recreational rating within the gorge, and a 'moderate' scenic rating and a 'intermediate' recreational rating below the gorge.
29. In 1986, the Ruakituri River was placed in 'Group one'⁵ on the Government's list of rivers and lakes deserving protection, for its exceptional scenery, fishing, recreational, wildlife and wilderness qualities. The report specifically notes the river is popular for canoeing and rafting.
30. In 2002, the Ruakituri River was added to the fifth edition of New Zealand Whitewater, where Graham Charles presents information on over 180 kayaking runs in New Zealand.
31. In 2012, Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments for whitewater kayaking concluded the upper Ruakituri River was nationally significant for kayaking, with the middle and lower reaches deemed regionally significant for kayaking.

Ecology values

32. The Ruakituri River flows through large areas of native forest and isolated backcountry in its upper reaches, with hill country pasture and commercial forestry surrounding its middle and lower reaches. The surrounding landscape generally translates into higher ecological values in the upper reaches and lower ecological values in the lower reaches.
33. In 2004, the Ruakituri River was identified as a Potential Water Body of National Importance for aquatic biodiversity values by the Ministry for the Environment.

Fish

34. The Ruakituri River provides a highly valued habitat for introduced salmonid fish species (trout). In particular, the habitat is largely natural with high water quality. The river supports good populations of both rainbow and brown trout, which are self-sustaining.
35. The Ruakituri River did not specifically feature in the RiVAS assessment undertaken in Hawke's Bay for native fish.

Wildlife

36. The globally endangered blue duck (whio) are known to inhabit parts of the Ruakituri River, however the exact population estimate is uncertain. Whio are extremely rare, more so than the kiwi with around 23 kiwi for every Whio.
37. In 1985, the Ruakituri River was given a Site of Special Wildlife Interest (SSWI) rating of 'moderate' by the Fauna Survey Unit of the former New Zealand Wildlife Service.
38. In 1986 the Ruakituri River was placed in 'Group One' on the Government's list of rivers and lakes deserving protection, with its wildlife qualities specifically identified as one of the factors contributing to its outstanding classification.
39. In 2012, the Ruakituri River was identified as regionally significant by Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments for native birdlife. Grey duck were been identified as being present at the river during this assessment however, it is unclear whether the grey ducks present are pure bred grey ducks and further investigations are necessary.

Flora

40. The Ruakituri River is classified as a scenic reserve in the 1998 East Coast Conservancy Conservation Management Strategy, by the Department of Conservation. Specifically, the area is identified as having 'very high' botanical conservation value with podocarp-tawa forest on its terraces, steep bluffs alongside the Ruakituri River and the presence of kaka beak.

³ Recreational values graded on a five point scale: insignificant, low, intermediate, high, exceptional

⁴ Scenic values graded on a six point scale: dull, uninspiring, moderate, picturesque, impressive, exceptional.

⁵ 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.

Landscape /scenic values

41. The exceptional scenic values of the upper Ruakituri River have been described in a number of nationally published documents over the last 40 years. The upper reaches are recognised as being strikingly scenic, with the remaining parts of the river described as having more ‘moderate’ scenic values.
42. Over its length, the Ruakituri River traverses through vastly different landscapes. The headwaters of the river begin within the native forest areas of *Te Urewera*. This area is a rugged wilderness zone with no huts or tracks.
43. The Ruakituri River is clean and clear as in its upper reaches as it flows through a number of steep gorges, past giant limestone cliffs, and finally over the Waitangi Falls which marks the beginning of the river’s middle reaches.
44. The Waitangi Falls are 72m high and known as a spectacular scenic attraction. The walk in to see the falls takes around three hours. The falls are not identified on the NZ waterfalls website and due to their inaccessibility they are not highly visited.
45. The middle section of the Ruakituri River is narrow with the surrounding area characterised by steep hills covered with native bush and bluffs. Below the Puhoro Station Bridge the river enters the Ruakituri Gorge Scenic Reserve. In its lower reaches the river becomes wider and flatter and the surrounding landscape becomes more modified, with farmland on either side.
46. Photographs of the Ruakituri River are contained in Attachment 2.

Naturalness/intactness of waterbody

47. The headwaters of the Ruakituri flow through *Te Urewera* which is the largest untouched native forest reserve in the North Island. These waters are isolated, flowing for many kilometres through thick bush and rugged, remote backcountry. The middle and lower reaches of the river are surrounded by a more modified landscape.
48. In 2012, the Ruakituri River was identified as nationally significant in the Hawke’s Bay RiVAS assessments for natural character. The RiVAS assessment did not discuss the different sections of the river.

Water Quality

49. Hawke’s Bay Regional Council regularly monitors the water quality of the lower Ruakituri River at Doughboy Bridge which is classed as a lowland rural site (see Table 3). The nitrate and ammonia attribute bands provide an indication of the chronic toxicity risk to aquatic animals.
50. The Hawke’s Bay Regional Council does not monitor the water quality of the upper reaches of the Ruakituri River, however water quality is expected to be in a near natural state due to its surrounding environment.

Table 3: Water quality – Ruakituri River (2016)

Monitoring site	Water clarity	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Microbiological Indicator (<i>E. coli</i>)
Ruakituri Sports Ground (Doughboy Bridge)	Turbidity = 5.4 NTU NTU; Black disk = 1 metres. Both within the worst 25% of like sites within New Zealand.	NOF BAND A Total Nitrogen = 0.1875 g/m3; Total Oxidised Nitrogen = 0.0144 g/m3 (Annual median) and 0.236 g/m3 (95 th percentile); Ammoniacal Nitrogen = 0.0069 g/m3 (Annual median), 0.0219 g.m3 (95 th percentile). All are in the best 25% of like sites in New Zealand	Dissolved Phosphorus, and Total Phosphorus are within the best 50% of ‘like’ sites within New Zealand. Dissolved Phosphorus = 0.006 g/m3, Total Phosphorus =0.0135 g/m3.	NOF Band A E. coli = 60 n/100ml (annual median) In the best 50% 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 = high conservation values system. 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

Ruakituri River – Cultural Values Report



Key Values

Mahinga kai

Pā, Kāinga, ara

Rohe boundary

Table 1: List of documents reviewed

Year	Name	Author
1999	Rangahaua Whanui District 4: Te Urewera, Waitangi Tribunal Rangahaua Whanui Series	Anita Miles
2001	Lake Waikaremoana and District Scoping Report	Waitangi Tribunal
2009	Wai 894: Te Urewera Waitangi Tribunal Report	Waitangi Tribunal
2010	Wai 894: Te Urewera Pre-publication, Part 2	Waitangi Tribunal
2011	Ngai Tāmanuhiri Deed of Settlement documents	Ngai Tāmanuhiri and the Crown
2013	Tūhoe Deed of Settlement documents	Tūhoe and the Crown
2015	Wai 894: Te Urewera Pre-publication, Part 6	Waitangi Tribunal
2016	Iwi and hapū of Te Rohe o Te Wairoa Deed of settlement + documents schedule	Iwi and Hapū of Te Rohe o Te Wairoa and the Crown.

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 Ruakituri 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 Ruakituri River in those documents referred to in Table 1, above.

The report summarises the cultural values associated with the Ruakituri 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 Ruakituri River is significant to Te Rohe o Te Wairoa, one of the six large natural groups negotiating the settlement of Ngāti Kahungunu Treaty of Waitangi claims.

Te Reinga marae is situated at the confluence of the Ruakituri and Hangaroa Rivers. The joining of these two rivers below marks the beginning of the Wairoa River.

Ruakituri River was one of several important locations for Tūhoe, Ngāti Kahungunu, and Ngāti Ruapani. From these locations they travelled often considerable distances, to utilise resources seasonally (Wai 894, 2015).

2. Spiritual Values

Ngāi Kohatu have a korero about the formation of these rivers. According to tradition, Ruamano and Hinekorako were kin taniwha. Atop a hill one day Ruamano and Hinekorako heard the sound of the sea. Deciding to heed its call they began to race to the sea. Ruamano came via the Ruakituri River and Hinekorako via the Hangaroa. This story is the source of the old people's belief that has always associated Ruamano with the Ruakituri River and Hinekorako with the Hangaroa River. Ruakituri was said to be a male river and Hangaroa a female (Deed of Settlement).

3. Mahinga kai

Eel weirs were located at Tauwharetoi on the Ruakituri (Deed of Settlement).

4. Pā, Kāinga, ara

Permanent settlements included Te Reinga and Erepeti on the Ruakituri River.

Ngāti Hine-hika had interests in the Ruakituri River and resided at Te Reinga Falls.

5. Conflict

It was to Te Reinga Falls that Wairoa people fled when attacked by Te Heuheu and Te Whatanui in 1828. Some 40 years later, Te Kooti Arikirangi would also use this route in his escape into Tūhoe country.

There were further military engagements between the Government troops and Te Kooti's party at Ruakituri where Te Kooti was successful. He built a pā at Puketapu on the Ruakituri River and was there joined by upper Wairoa chiefs Te Waru and Nama, along with some of their followers (Wai 894 Report).

From there he wrote letters to both King Tawhiao and Tūhoe, seeking permission to enter their respective territories. Tawhiao, however, had declared 1867–68 as the 'Year of the Lamb' and told Te Kooti that he could expect no assistance from the Kingitanga. Te Kooti was not to fight or renew the wars and would be repelled if

* 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.

he encroached upon the Rohe Potae. Tūhoe held a hui at Ahikereru, attended by several of Te Kooti's whakarau, at which it was decided that Te Kooti could stay in the upper Wairoa and hold 'the confiscated or ceded land there' (Wai 894 Report).

6. Archaeology

A series of pā and other archaeological sites are recorded at Te Reinga Falls where the Ruakituri (at left below), Hangaroa and Wairoa rivers meet.



Figure 1: Archaeological Sites in close proximity to the Ruakituri River

7. Statutory Acknowledgement Area of Interest



Figure 2: Te Rohe o Wairoa Area of Interest

8. *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 Ruakituri 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

Wairoa District Plan

Significant Lakes and Rivers (Schedule 5)

Attachment 2: Photographs – Ruakituri River



Ruakituri River (upper reaches)



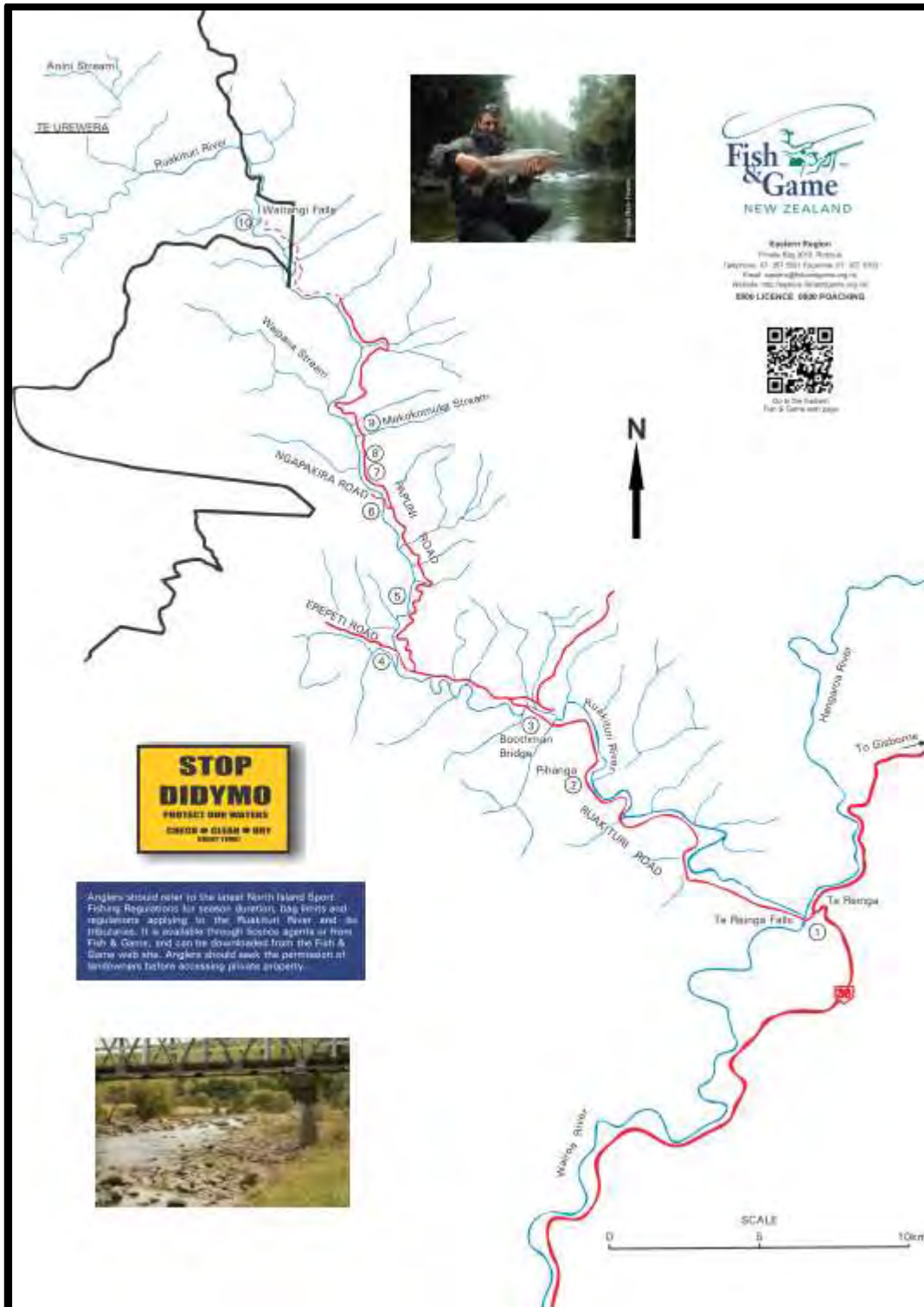
Waitangi Falls



Ruakituri River (middle reaches)



Lower Ruakituri River (at Sports Ground)

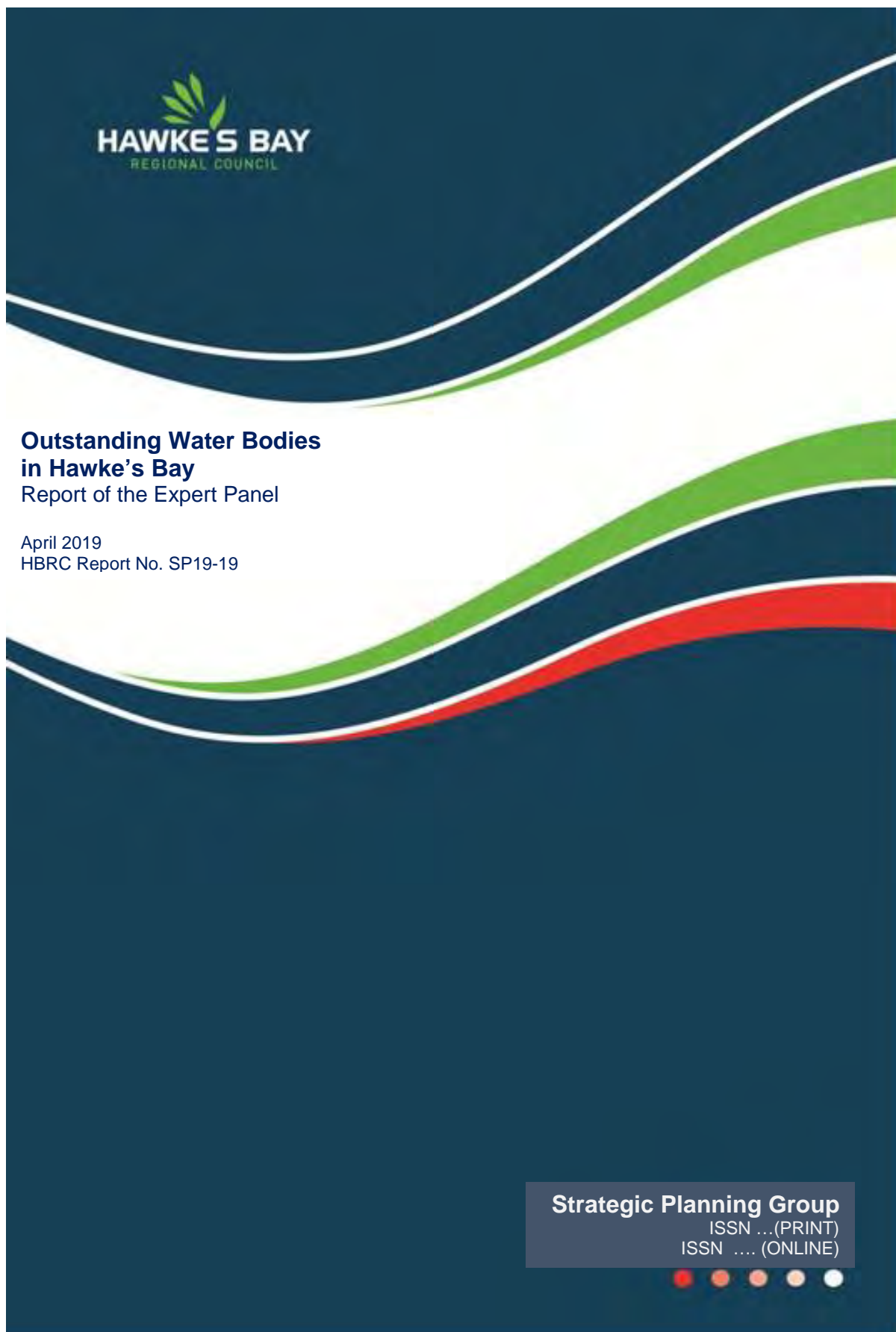


Extent of Ruakituri River

Appendix 3: Expert Panel Findings - Ruakituri 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.

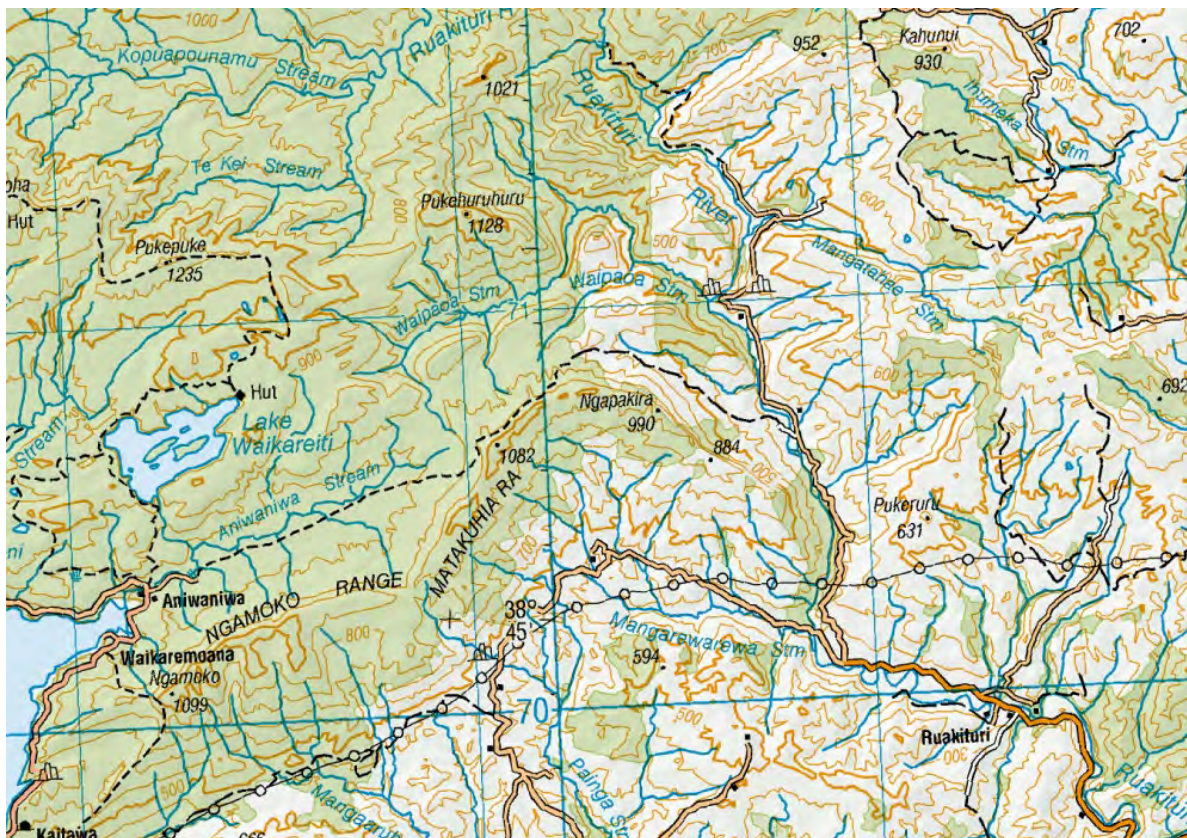
TABLE 4: CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING ‘OUTSTANDING’ VALUES

‘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>
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Ruakituri River





RUAKITURI RIVER: DESCRIPTION OF OUTSTANDING VALUES

SUMMARY

TYPE	NAME	OUTSTANDING VALUE				
		ECOLOGY	LANDSCAPE	NATURAL CHARACTER	AMENITY & RECREATION	CULTURAL & SPIRITUAL
River	RUAKITURI RIVER					

NATURAL CHARACTER

Description	Notes	Reference
Nationally recognised for exceptional scenic values	Upper Ruakituri	HBRC 2018

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

AMENITY & RECREATION

Description	Notes	Reference
<p><i>Trout Fishery:</i></p> <p>Ranked 3rd in RiVAS report and as having a High or National level of importance for Salmonid Angling in Hawkes Bay</p> <p>Internationally renowned trout fishery; regionally outstanding. High scenic and wilderness values. Known for trophy sized trout. Most enjoyed river fishery in North Island in 2013 report.</p>		<p>Fish &Game HBRC 2018</p> <p>Salmonid Angling RiVAS 2012</p>
<p><i>Kayaking:</i></p> <p>Exceptional as few examples exist of rock slide within the waterways that are unique to Hawke's Bay</p>	Rock slide	Kelly 2019

Appendix 4: Final Evaluation - Ruakituri 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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Reviewed by:

Ceri Edmonds: Policy and Planning

Dale Meredith: Senior Planner

Tom Skerman: Group Manager Strategic Planning

Ecology values

Wildlife

The NZ pipit, the black shag and the blue duck inhabit parts in and around the Ruakituri River. In particular, the Ruakituri River is identified as a breeding site for blue ducks with around 4% of the region's blue duck population (8 Whio) present at the river.

In 1985, the Ruakituri River was given a Site of Special Wildlife Interest (SSWI) rating of 'moderate', and in 1986 the Ruakituri River was placed in 'Group One' on the Government's list of rivers and lakes deserving protection, for its outstanding wildlife qualities.

In 2012, the Ruakituri River was identified as regionally significant by Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments for native birdlife. Grey duck were identified as being present at the river during this assessment, however, it is unclear whether the grey ducks present are pure bred grey ducks and further investigations are necessary to ascertain this. Grey duck were identified as being present at the river during this assessment, however, it is unclear whether the grey ducks present are pure bred grey ducks and further investigations are necessary to ascertain this.

The local expert panel did not find the Ruakituri River to contain outstanding wildlife values.

Natural character

The Ruakituri River is clean and clear as in its upper reaches and highly natural as it flows through thick bush and rugged, remote backcountry and through a number of steep gorges, past giant limestone cliffs, and finally over the 72 m Waitangi Falls, which mark the beginning of the river's middle reaches.

The upper reaches are a rugged wilderness zone, with no huts and tracks and the flow regime is highly natural with no modification to the flow pattern.

The middle section of the Ruakituri River is narrow with the surrounding area characterised by step hills covered with native bush and bluffs. In its lower reaches, the river flows through more modified landscapes, with farmland on either side.

The water quality of the Ruakituri River has been classified as of 'good quality' with an MCI score of 115.

In 2012, the Ruakituri 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 Ruakituri River to have outstanding natural character values, noting it is nationally recognised for exceptional scenic values. Appendix 6 sets out the full findings of the local expert panel.

Landscape / geological features

The Ruakituri River traverses through vastly different landscapes over its length. The Ruakituri River is clean and clear in its upper reaches as it flows through a number of steep gorges, past giant limestone cliffs, and over the Waitangi Falls which are 72m high and known as a spectacular scenic attraction.

The scenic values of the upper Ruakituri River is frequently described in literature as having exceptional scenic values, with the remaining parts of the river described as having more 'moderate' scenic values.

In 1981, the Ruakituri River (above Waitangi Falls) was given an exceptional scenic rating, and in 1986, it was placed in Group One of the Governments list of rivers and lakes deserving protection for its exceptional scenery.

In 2012, the Ruakituri 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 identifies the Ruakituri River as being nationally recognised for its exceptional scenic values. Appendix 6 sets out the full findings of the local expert panel.

Recreation

The Ruakituri River is an internationally renowned trout fishery known for its crystal clear water, spectacular scenery and large population of both brown and rainbow trout which can reach trophy size. It has a high number of national and international visitors each year.

The Ruakituri River's trout fishery has been discussed in a high number of published documents, where it is consistently described as outstanding, nationally important and exceptional. The 2012 Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments found the river to be nationally significant for salmonid angling.

Notably, in 2013 the Ruakituri River was identified in the National Angling Survey as the river most enjoyed by anglers in the North Island, and the third most enjoyed river by anglers across New Zealand. A total of 16% of the annual angling on the river came from overseas visitors.

While angling is by far the most popular recreational activity on this river, it has been paddled by Hawke's Bay kayakers for some years who know it as a short, sharp challenging run. In 2012, the Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments found the whitewater kayaking values within the gorge to be nationally significant.

The local expert panel found the Ruakituri 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.

Cultural and Spiritual values

The Ruakituri River has a particular cultural, spiritual, historical and traditional association with Te Rohe o Wairoa.

According to tradition, the Ruakituri and Hangaroa Rivers (which form the Wairoa River below their confluence) were formed when kin taniwha Ruamano and Hinekorako heard the sound of the sea, and heeding its call, they decided to race to the sea, each taking a separate route by way of the two rivers.

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

- Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi taonga
- Mahinga kai, Pa tuna
- Acknowledged in korero tuku iho, pepeha, whakatauki, waiata.

The local expert panel found that Ruakituri River did not have any known outstanding cultural and spiritual values, and needed cultural assessment.

Iwi authorities at the Wairoa sub-regional hui recommended that all waterbodies, including all tributaries, in the Wairoa catchment have outstanding cultural and spiritual values. The Te Rohe o Te Wairoa Deed of Settlement notes the above origin story of the river.