

Tukituki River and Estuary

Summary of Values

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

(Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change)

Tukituki 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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Author:
Belinda Harper, Senior Planner

Reviewed by:
Gavin Ide, Principal Advisor Strategic Planning

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Purpose of Report

1. This report is a compilation of information previously documented on the values associated with the Tukituki 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 Tukituki 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 Tukituki 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: Tukituki 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)	4
		Summary of the Recreation, Landscape and Ecology Values Associated with Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay (March 2018)	4
Secondary Assessments (Phase 3)	Yes	Secondary assessment - Tukituki River	All of report
Local Expert Panel (Phase 4)	Yes	Outstanding Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay - Report of the Expert Panel (April 2019)	45 - 49
Final Evaluation (Phase 5)	Yes	Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change - selecting a list of outstanding water bodies in Hawke's Bay (May 2019)	18, 25, 32, 35, 46, 50, 53, 59, 64, 72, 77, 91, 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 Tukituki River and Estuary.

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 Tukituki River is set out 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 Tukituki River to have outstanding ecology, landscape, 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 Tukituki River and Estuary.

Appendix 1: Tables C1 and R2 - Tukituki River and Estuary

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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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>
Tukituki River Hawke's Bay Tukituki	Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated	DOS	N/A	Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi taonga Pa, kāinga
		SA	N/A	
		TSL	N/A	
		WTR		
		OTHER	<p>Initial comments on HBRC's Draft Change 5, NKII (2012)</p> <p>The Tukituki headwaters are significant and should be identified as outstanding freshwater body. The River is an important water way to many Ngāti Kahungunu marae and hapu who have extensive interests and are strategically located along the water course.</p> <p>In Maori culture, the headwaters of rivers are attributed significant value due to them including the springs where our rivers originate from within Papatuanuku.</p> <p>The Tukituki Estuary is significant. It is outstanding in the regional and national sense, with high conservation and cultural values.</p>	
OTHER	<p>NKII vs HBRC, Environment Court Decision, 2015</p> <p>The Tukituki River is a tupuna awa (ancestral river). The river was traditionally the highway that connected whanau: to other whanau, to their gardens, to trade links, to their pā sites, to their waahi tapu and to their waahi tupuna.</p>			
Tukituki River Hawke's Bay Tukituki	Heretaunga Tamatea	DOS	<p>The Tukituki River is one of the four main waterbodies in Te Matau a Māui-Tikitiki-a-Taranga, Hawkes Bay. It is a significant waterway for Heretaunga Tamatea which lies at the heart of their spiritual and physical wellbeing. It was used extensively for mahinga kai, and for transporting people and goods.</p> <p>A narrative exists on the way in which the Tukituki River came into existence. A large lake was located in what is now the Ruataniwha Plains. Two taniwha lived in this lake. On one occasion a boy fell into the lake and the two taniwha fought over their prey. The resulting destruction on the landscape created breaks in the hills through which the lake drained away. One of the channels was the Tukituki River.</p> <p>There are numerous pā located alongside the Tukituki River and a number important sites that record key events in tribal history. There are a number of sites that relate to the actions of the ancient tipuna, Mahu. Kahuranaki maunga, a site upstream of Kaiwaka on the rivers eastern bank, is of special significance to all hapu of Heretaunga Tamatea. It is said that as he lay dying Te Hapuku</p>	Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi taonga Acknowledged in korero tuku iho, pepeha, whakatauki, waiata Pa, kāinga Mahinga kai, Pa tuna Rohe Boundary Battle site

			<p>asked to be placed at Kaiwaka so that Kahuranaki would be the last thing he saw.</p> <p>The Tukituki River was a significant food source central to the well-being of Heretaunga Tamatea. In particular, the river mouth was renowned for the abundance of fish species that were taken there, which included kahawai, patiki, kanae, kataha, kokopu, inanga and tuna.</p>	
		SA	N/A	
		TSL	N/A	
		CUS	<p>Te Whanganui-a-Orotu, Traditional Use and Environmental Change, customary usage report Wai 55, Patrick Parsons (1992)</p> <p>Tareha, chief of Ngāti Parau, abandoned Te Pakake and Pukemokimoki establishing his people briefly at Awatoto, a little north of Te Awapuni. Ngāti Hawea under their chief Te Moananui established themselves at Waipureku a few hundred yards south of Colenso's mission station, on the Tukituki River.</p>	
		WTR		
		OTHER	<p>Areas of Significant Conservation Values: HB Coastal Marine Area (Draft), 2006 (areas are identified in RCEP as 'SCA')</p> <p>Three pā sites, Waipukureku, Matahiwi and Te Kauhanga are situated near the Tukituki River Mouth. The estuary and offshore area continue to support important traditional fisheries for kahawai (<i>Arripus trutta</i>), flatfish, whitebait (predominantly <i>Galaxias maculatus</i>) and smelt (<i>Retropinna retropinna</i>).</p>	
		OTHER	<p>Tukituki River Catchment Cultural Values and Uses, Te Taiwhenua O Tamatea / Te Taiwhenua O Heretaunga for Hawkes Bay Regional Council (June 2012)</p> <p>Historically, the Tukituki catchment had an abundance of mahinga kai and natural resources</p> <p>Much of the Tukituki River was navigable for canoes in the winter time and was the main transport route through Heretaunga for much of the nineteenth century.</p> <p>The Waipawa and Tukituki Rivers were created after a fierce fight took place between two taniwha draining the large lake which had previously covered the plains</p> <p>There is evidence of a rich Māori heritage of at least 7 – 8 centuries of occupation, one of the earliest periods of settlement in Aotearoa Māori history .There are a number of registered archaeological sites (i.e. pā sites, urupā, wāhi tapu and other significant areas of cultural importance) showing a heavy concentration of settlement along the coast and mouth of the Tukituki River.</p> <p>The significance of the river is referred to in whare kōrero.</p> <p>The Tukituki River mouth is a significant mahinga kai, with many whānau coming annually to do their fishing from the mouth of the Tukituki awa at Haumoana through to an area off Tenants Rd referred to as Te Ahikoura (the place to fire and cook crayfish).</p> <p>Hapū used whānau land and traditional 'possies' to have seasonal camps on the river. These nohoanga were a tradition</p> <p>The abundance of freshwater fish species able to be taken from the river mouth at the lagoon known as Waipureku to Te Ahikoura, some 4 -5 kilometres in this area is renowned. The fish species are predominantly, Kahawai, Tuna, Inanga, Kōkopu, Pātiki, Kanae, Kātaha, Koura and Shrimps.</p> <p>The Tukituki River is a tipuna The Tukituki awa was once a 'river of villages' and a 'highway' connecting whānau to their mahinga kai, to other whānau, to trade and to prosperity.</p>	
		OTHER	<p>Comments received on Draft Plan Change 5, Te Taiwhenua O Heretaunga (2012)</p> <p>Tukituki Awa is an obvious candidate as an outstanding freshwater body particularly as certain parts of the river are considered to be 'a 'taonga'.</p>	

			<p>The Tukituki River is a tipuna (ancestor). It is integral to, and provides the compelling background to, the web of whakapapa connections shared by the different hapu along its banks. It provides the hapu with a sense of identity and interconnectedness as it runs through their lives. The whakapapa within the river and its many tributaries is reflected in the whakapapa and whanaungatanga of the people it provided for.</p> <p>The Tukituki awa was once a 'river of villages' and a 'highway' connecting whanau to their mahinga kai, to other whanau, and to trade and prosperity.</p>	
		OTHER	<p>Submission from Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga on Proposed Plan Change 5 to the RPS (2012)</p> <p>Identify and provide for the Tukituki River as an outstanding water body of national significance for cultural association, taonga value, trout fishery and ararau.</p>	
		OTHER	<p>Outstanding Natural Landscapes - A Māori cultural review Bayden Barber, Ipurangi Developments Limited (2012)</p> <p>Tukituki River is recognised as a Special Landscape Area.</p> <p>The Tukituki River was a significant waterway for ngā hapū o Heretaunga. It significant as a mahinga kai, transport and as a boundary area when Ngāti Kahugnunu occupied Heretaunga and the land was apportioned out between Taraia (north of the Tukituki) and Te Aomatarahi (south of the Tukituki).</p> <p>The Tukituki River was also used when Pareihe, Tiakitai and Te Wera Hauraki rowed their waka taua upstream and then dragged them across to Roto a Tara to attack and defeat Ngāti Raukawa and Ngāti Tūwharetoa in 1824.</p>	

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

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Belinda Harper, Senior Planner

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Waterbody / Region / Catchment	Treaty settlement entity group(s) with linkages back to waterbody	Commentary		Key values
		<p><u>Key</u></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>		
Tukituki River Hawke's Bay Tukituki	Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated Heretaunga Tamatea	64NZR	Waipawa River – Sea = interesting = (scored 7) 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)	Recreation (angling) Ecology (native fishery, native birdlife) Natural character
		RRS	(Category D) Scenic value = picturesque Recreational value = intermediate 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.	
		MAF&F	River may be nationally important (middle and lower reaches)	
		W&SR	No	
		LOR&L	Group two: For scenic, recreation (fishing, rafting, canoeing, picnicking) River Terrence is a Scenic Reserve.	
		HTF	No	
		WONI	Potential waterbody of national importance for recreation.	
		RAMSAR	No	
		W&WH	<u>Tukituki River</u> The Tukituki River was rated of high value to wildlife. A total of 51 bird species was recorded, 23 of which were wetland species. It also had the highest number of waders of those rivers surveyed. And high numbers of Black-billed gulls and Waterfowl. The long-tailed bat (<i>Chalinolobus tuberculatus</i>) is found in bush alongside the river. Sites were ranked using criteria and classed as outstanding, high, moderate-high, moderate and potential.	

		RiVAS	Nationally significant for native fishery value Nationally significant for native birdlife (lower river, including Maharakeke Stream and Porangahau Stream) Nationally significant for Salmonid Angling Nationally significant (upper) for natural character, regionally significant (middle) for natural character, locally significant (lower) for natural character.	
Tukituki River Mouth Hawke's Bay Tukituki	Heretaunga Tamatea	64NZR	N/A	Ecology (wildlife, fisheries)
		RRS	N/A	
	Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated	MAF&F	N/A	
		W&SR	N/A	
		LOR&L	N/A	
		HTF	No	
		WONI	No	
		RAMSAR	No	
		W&WH	<u>Tukituki River Mouth</u> The Tukituki river mouth was rated moderate-high value to wildlife. A total of 43 bird species has been recorded including 31 wetland species. There are large numbers of shags, gulls and terns; low numbers of waders. White heron and black-fronted tern are regular winter visitors.	
		RiVAS	No	
OTHER	Areas of Significant Conservation Values: HB Coastal Marine Area (Draft), 2006 (areas are identified in RCEP as 'SCA') <u>Wildlife</u> This is a small estuary has high wildlife values containing large numbers of black backed gulls, terns and little black shags, a smaller number of wading birds, the bar-tailed godwit, spotless crane, black-fronted dotterel and threatened Australasian Bittern. <u>Fisheries</u> The area is an important inanga spawning site. The river mouth and estuary are vital for the passage of native diadromous fish between the sea and freshwater habitats higher in the catchment. It supports an important traditional Maori fishery.			



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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Prepared by:
Belinda Harper, Senior Planner
Kurt Ridling, Senior Planner (Untracked Limited)

Reviewed by:
Gavin Ide: Manager Policy and Planning
Ceri Edmonds: Senior Planner

Tukituki River



Key Values

Cultural

Recreation (angling, boating)

Ecology (wildlife, fisheries)

Natural Character

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 on 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	G.R. Parrish
1994	Conservation Management Strategy (volume II) for Hawke's Bay Conservancy 1994 – 2004.	Department of Conservation
2003	Hastings District Plan	Hastings District Council
2004	Potential Water Bodies of National Importance	Ministry for the Environment
2004	Potential Water Bodies of National Importance for Recreation Value	Ministry for the Environment
2006	Areas of Significant Conservation Values: HB Coastal Marine Area (HBRC Report Number 4203 - Draft)	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
2008	Wetland Review Monitoring	Hawke's Bay Regional Council

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
2010	Recreational Use of Hawke's Bay Rivers – Results of the Recreational Usage Survey 2010	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
2011	Tukituki Catchment Terrestrial Ecology Characterisation	MWH Global
2012	River Values Assessment System (RiVAS)	Lindis Consulting
2012	Tukituki River Catchment Cultural Values and Uses	Te Taiwhenua O Tamatea & Te Taiwhenua O Heretaunga
2014	Jet Boating New Zealand – Rivers Information	Jet Boating New Zealand
2015	Report to Decision Maker, Dispensation and Approval under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983	Department of Conservation
2016	Heretaunga Tamatea deed of settlement + documents schedule	Heretaunga Tamatea and the Crown
2016	Values and Management of Lowland Braided Rivers for Birds	C. O'Donnell
2016	Tukituki River Catchment. State and Trends of River Water Quality and Ecology 2004 – 2013	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
2017	Upper Tukituki Flood Control Scheme – Asset Management Plan	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
2018	Tukituki River Trout and Fly Fishing	NZ fishing website
2018	Cultural Values Table	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
2018	Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA)	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
2018	Huge colony of rare tarāpuka discovered at Tukituki River, Hawke's Bay	Stuff.co.nz
2018	Contamination of Tukituki River and Maraetotara Lagoon prompts warnings from Hawke's Bay District Health Board	Hawke's Bay Today
2018	Toxic algae found in Hawke's Bay's Tukituki River	Stuff.co.nz
2018	Tukituki Catchment – Healthier Water in the Tukituki Catchment	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
2018	Tukituki in New Zealand	Protected Planet
2018	The world's most threatened gull calls New Zealand home, but most kiwis don't know it	Stuff.co.nz
2018	Black billed gull/tarāpuka	Department of Conservation

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 Tukituki 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 Tukituki River in those documents referred to in Table 1, above. In accordance with decisions made by the RPC in June 2017, economic and consumptive use values have not been discussed in detail in this report.

Overview

3. The Tukituki River is a large gravel braided river system which rises in the Ruahine Ranges flowing into the sea 117 km later at Haumoana. It is one of two major rivers flowing across the Ruataniwha Plains and has a total catchment area of approximately 2,500 km². The river is highly valued for salmonid angling.
4. The Tukituki River is made up of a number of separate rivers which flow across the Ruataniwha Plains, including the Makaretu, Tukipo, and Waipawa Rivers. These rivers and streams all merge into the Tukituki River east of Waipukurau. The Tukituki River has a high degree of interaction with the Ruataniwha aquifer.
5. The Tukituki River is a tupuna awa (ancestral river) and has significant cultural values. Legend tells of how the Tukituki River came into existence. Two taniwha lived in a large lake situated on what is now the Ruataniwha Plains. They fought for possession of a boy who accidentally fell into the lake and their struggles formed the Waipawa and Tukituki Rivers which drained the lake.

6. The River is highly valued for productive uses, providing water for farms and orchards from Central Hawke's Bay through to the eastern corner of the Heretaunga Plains. It is partially enclosed by stop banks in parts to prevent flooding of the surrounding land. During the 1880's when farming was developing, barges used to travel down the river carrying wool from Waipawa to deliver to freighters off the coast of Haumoana.
7. Despite significant modifications, the Tukituki Estuary has high fisheries and wildlife values, and is listed as a Significant Conversation Area in the Hawke's Bay Regional Coastal Environment Plan. The Tukituki catchment has been identified as one of the six 'environmental hotspots' by Hawke's Bay Regional Council, and funding has been allocated towards improving the area.
8. During summer, when water levels are low, parts of the Tukituki River are subject to potentially toxic cyanobacteria blooms, which can be a health risk for people and animals.

Location

9. The Tukituki River rises in the Ruahine Ranges, flowing north from southern Central Hawke's Bay and into the Pacific Ocean approximately 9 km south of Napier.
10. The location and extent of the Tukituki River can be seen in Figures 1 and 2, below.



Figure 1: Location of Tukituki River

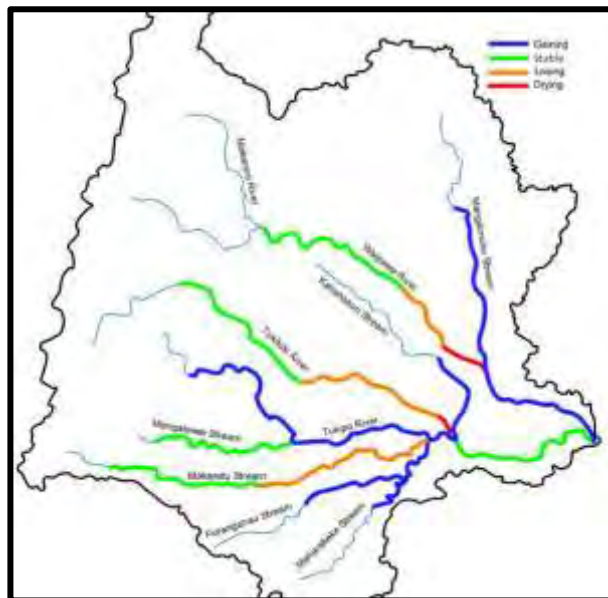


Figure 2: Rivers and Streams - Ruataniwha Plains

Cultural values*

11. The Tukituki River is a significant waterway for Heretaunga Tamatea. The river is a tīpuna (ancestor). It is integral to the web of whakapapa connections shared by the different hapū along its banks. It provides hapū with a sense of identity and interconnectedness as it runs through their lives.
12. A narrative exists on the way in which the Tukituki River came into existence. A large lake was located in what is now the Ruataniwha Plains. Two taniwha lived in this lake. On one occasion a boy fell into the lake and the two taniwha fought over their prey. The resulting destruction on the landscape created breaks in the hills through which the lake drained away. One of the channels was the Tukituki River.
13. After the arrival of the Ngāti Kahungunu tīpuna to Heretaunga, the Tukituki River was established as the first boundary between Taraia, who took the land to the west of this river, and Te Aomatarahi who took the land to east and south of the river.
14. Historically, the Tukituki catchment had an abundance of mahinga kai and natural resources. The river was a significant food source central to the well-being of Heretaunga Tamatea. In particular, the river mouth and estuary was renowned for the abundance of fish species that were taken there, which included kahawai, pātiki, kanae, kataha, kokopu, inanga and tuna. The estuary area continues to support important traditional fisheries for kahawai, flatfish, whitebait and smelt. Many whānau come annually to do their fishing from the

* 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.

mouth of the Tukituki awa at Haumoana through to an area off Tenants Rd referred to as Te Ahikoura (the place to fire and cook crayfish).

15. The river was traditionally the highway that connected whānau to other whānau, to their gardens, to trade links, to their pā sites, to their waahi tapu and to their waahi tupuna. Much of the Tukituki River was navigable by canoe in the winter time and was the main transport route through Heretaunga for much of the nineteenth century.
16. Attachment 1 contains a more detailed explanation of the cultural values associated with the Tukituki River.

Recreation values

17. The Tukituki River is popular for a range of recreational activities such as fishing, swimming, boating, whitebaiting and bird watching. The recreational activities associated with the Tukituki River have been discussed in a number of nationally published documents over the last 40 years.
18. During the warm summer months, slime and algae builds up in the Tukituki River making the river unsightly, and sometimes unsafe, which severely impacts the recreational values of the river.
19. In 2004, the Tukituki River was recognised as a Potential Water Body of National Importance for recreation, for whitebaiting and angling, by the Ministry for the Environment.
20. The main recreational activities which take place on the Tukituki River are discussed in more detail below.

Angling

21. The Tukituki River is predominately a rainbow trout fishery with some larger brown trout present in the lower reaches. The average weight of trout is around 1.5 kg however, during the whitebait season larger trout up to 4 kg in size can be found in the lower river. The trout population is self-sustaining.
22. The Tukituki River trout fishery is highly valued, attracting a high number of anglers from within Hawke's Bay each year. In the 1980s it was the most highly fished river in the region. However, in recent years usage has significantly declined, with the results of the national angling survey showing a decline of 50% between the early and late 2000s.
23. Over its 117 km length, the Tukituki River provides a variety of fishing experiences which are easy to access. The river starts off relatively small in it's the upper reaches, slowing gaining momentum as it moves downstream and a number of tributaries join its flow. The middle reaches are the most popular area for angling. The lower Tukituki River become much larger as it meets the sea.
24. During the summer months, slime and algae increases and river flows reduce, occasionally drying up in parts. This makes angling difficult by reducing the fishable areas and fouling fishing lures, which severely impact on angling values.
25. In 1982, the Tukituki River was identified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as being a river which is of at least regional importance for angling, and may qualify as a river of national importance for angling subject to more information being gathered.
26. In 1984, a report by the Fisheries Research Division identified the Tukituki River as a 'recreational' fishery which has high use and is of at least regional importance. Specifically, the Tukituki River was identified as having exceptional overall importance for its access, large area of fishable water and being close to home.
27. 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 Tukituki River was placed in 'Group Two'¹ for its scenic and recreation qualities. The report specifically refers to the Tukituki River's value for fishing.
28. In 2012, the Tukituki River was identified as nationally significant in the Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments for salmonid angling.

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.

Boating

29. The Tukituki River provides a 77 km stretch of easy jet boating water, which is suitable for beginners and family boating. During high flows the river is boatable from the sea to the Highway 50 Bridge or beyond, under normal flows the river is boatable to the Waipawa Confluence.
30. The Tukituki River is frequently used for canoeing, with the most popular trip from the Hylton Burn Stream down to the Highway 50 Bridge, and occasionally through to Havelock North. During late summer the river flows are too low to canoe from the Hylton Burn Stream confluence. The river is not used for rafting and is considered to be too shallow and of little interest.
31. In 1986, the Tukituki River was placed in 'Group Two' in the Government's list of rivers and lakes deserving protection, for its scenic and recreation qualities, which specifically noted its canoeing values.
32. In 1981, the Recreational River Survey assigned the recreational and scenic values of the Tukituki River an 'intermediate'² and 'picturesque'³ rating, respectively.
33. In 2014, Jet boating New Zealand classified the Tukituki River as an easy 'Class 1' jetboating trip on a shingle, braided river, suitable for family boating.
34. The Tukituki River did not feature in the 2012 RiVAS assessment undertaken in Hawke's Bay for whitewater kayaking.

Ecology values

35. The Tukituki River has high wildlife and native fish values and is identified as a Significant Conservation Area (SCA) in the Regional Coastal Plan. It has a braided river habitat which is a rare habitat type internationally, and is home to high numbers of waders. Part of the river is located within a wildlife refuge which was created to allow a safe haven for waterfowl during the shooting season.
36. The Tukituki River is highly connected to the Ruataniwha Aquifer, which influences both the hydrology and the water quality of the middle and lower reaches of the Tukituki River.
37. During the warm summer months when water flows are low, cyanobacteria mats can build up in parts of the Tukituki River. Excessive periphyton growth creates an unhealthy environment for fish, river bugs and insects and can have detrimental effects on a rivers ecology.
38. The ecological values associated with the Tukituki River are discussed in more detail below.

Fish

39. The Tukituki Catchment contains a high diversity of native fish, with a total of 21 species (18 native) of fish recorded in the catchment between 1964 and 2011. The Tukituki Estuary is recognised as an important spawning ground for the native galaxiid species.
40. Of the 18 native species recorded in the catchment, 8 have a declining threat classification and include the longfin eel, inanga, redfin bully, bluegill bully, lamprey, torrentfish, koaro and dwarf galaxiid.
41. Trout populations in the Tukituki River are self-sustaining with trout spawning occurring in the Tukituki River and in a number of its tributaries.
42. The Tukituki River mouth is identified as a Significant Conservation Area (SCA) in The Hawke's Bay Regional Coastal Environment Plan. The river mouth is identified as being an important inanga spawning site and vital for the passage of native diadromous fish between the sea and freshwater habitats higher in the catchment.
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 Tukituki catchment was nationally significant for native fish, concluding the average number of native fish in the Tukituki catchment is 198,740.
44. In 2015, the Department of Conservation advised that the high diversity of native fish in the Tukituki catchment is similar to other catchments draining to the East Coast of the North Island.

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.

45. Note: The information in this section relates to fisheries in the greater Tukituki catchment (i.e. it is not limited to the Tukituki River).

Wildlife

46. The Tukituki River is recognised as an important wildlife habitat due to its high diversity of birds, some of which are endangered, and its large waterfowl population.
47. A total of 51 species of birds have been recorded on the river, including the endangered black billed gull and a number of threatened species such as white heron, royal spoonbill, grey duck, Caspian tern, white fronted tern, South Island oystercatcher and the New Zealand pipit. The long-tailed bat is present in bush alongside the river.
48. Four riverbed bird surveys occurred on the Tukituki River between 1967 and 1986⁴. These surveys confirm the river supports the largest population of waders when compared to all other Hawke's Bay Rivers, with particularly large populations of banded dotterel and pied stilt residing at the river. Black billed gulls were also found to be more common on the Tukituki River than elsewhere in Hawke's Bay.
49. In total, 43 bird species were recorded around the river mouth. Waterfowl were noted as being more common than on the other rivers, particularly on the lower half of the river, and white-faced heron and black-fronted tern were identified as being regular winter visitors.
50. The Tukituki River is thought to hold around 5% of the national population of banded dotterel (around 55% of the regional population) and 3-4% of the national population for pied stilt (around 50% of the regional population). Both birds are noted as having a very large range and are recorded as 'least concern' on the IUCN⁵ red list.
51. The Tukituki River mouth is identified as a Significant Conservation Area (SCA) in The Hawke's Bay Regional Coastal Environment Plan, due to its high wildlife values, particularly the large number of black billed gulls, terns and little black shags. Recent observations have found black billed gulls to be the most common on the Tukituki River when compared to other rivers in Hawke's Bay.
52. In 2017, a black-billed gull colony of more than 300 nests was found at the Tukituki River mouth. The black-billed gull is New Zealand's only endemic gull and is referred to as the "most threatened gull in the world". In 2013, its threat status was upgraded from 'Nationally Endangered' to 'Nationally Critical' with its population having declined by 80%.
53. In 1967, a large section of the Tukituki River (located upstream of the Tukituki Bridge) was designed as a wildlife refuge, due to the high waterfowl numbers and in order to provide a safe area for these birds during the duck shooting season. This area is managed by Department of Conservation and is a Closed Game Area.
54. In 1984, the New Zealand Wildlife Service⁶ listed the Tukituki River as having high⁷ importance for wildlife due to its high numbers of waders and black backed gulls. The river mouth was listed as having medium-high importance, due to the low numbers of waders recorded on this section of river.
55. In 1992, the Department of Conservation designated most of the Tukituki River bed as a Recommended Area for Protection (RAP) as part of its Protected Natural Areas Programme (PNAP) surveys⁸, citing "*its valuable riverbed habitat which supports high numbers of waders and wetland birds*".
56. In 2012, Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments for native birdlife concluded the upper Tukituki River (above SH50) was locally significant, the middle Tukituki River (between SH2 and SH50) was of regional importance, and the lower Tukituki River was nationally significant, for native birdlife.

⁴ 1967, 1972, 1984 and 1986

⁵ International Union for Conservation of Nature red list of threatened species.

⁶ 1984, the Fauna Survey Unit (FSU) of the New Zealand Wildlife Service, Department of Internal Affairs, carried out a survey of wildlife and wildlife habitats (Sites of Special Wildlife Interest – SSWI) of the Hawke's Bay Region as part of a national habitat inventory.

⁷ Sites were ranked using criteria and classed as outstanding, high, moderate-high, moderate and potential.

⁸ The RAP extends from the confluence of the Makaroro and Waipawa Rivers, and the Tukituki River near the top of Tukituki Road, right down to the river mouth.

Macroinvertebrates

57. Hawke’s Bay Regional Council regularly monitors the freshwater ecology of the Tukituki 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.
58. The monitoring results show at SH50 and Tamumu Bridge the Tukituki River has median MCI scores indicative of “good” water quality with mild pollution. The sites at Black Bridge and Red Bridge have much lower MCI scores which suggest poor water quality, with moderate pollution.
59. Notwithstanding, the Black Bridge monitoring site is known to be influenced by saline water intrusion which may have a significant influence on macroinvertebrate composition. This means the MCI scores at Black Bridge may not be a robust indicator of ecological health at that site.

Table 2: Macroinvertebrate sampling results – Tukituki River (median 2011 - 2016)

Monitoring site	Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI)	Classification	Taxonomic richness	Percent EPT ⁹ richness
Black Bridge (Haumoana)	MCI between 80 and 99	FAIR	16	27.8.1%
Red Bridge (Tukituki Valley)	MCI between 80 and 99	FAIR	15	35.2%
SH50	MCI between 100 and 119	GOOD	14	72.1%
Tamumu Bridge	MCI between 100 and 119	GOOD	13	44.4%

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

60. The Tukituki River is relatively small in its upper reaches, flowing through native bush and a narrow, scrub lined gorge before forming a braided river system that runs across the Ruataniwha Plains. The Tukituki River gradually increases in size as a number of tributaries join its flow.
61. In 1979, the Tukituki River was given an ‘interesting’¹⁰ scenic rating in “64 New Zealand Rivers” which contains an indepth scenic evaluation of sixty four of New Zealand’s major Rivers.
62. In 1981, The New Zealand Recreational River Survey assigned the scenic values of the Tukituki River a ‘picturesque’¹¹ rating.
63. 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 Tukituki River was placed in ‘Group Two’¹² for its scenic and recreation qualities.
64. Photographs of the Tukituki River are contained in Attachment 2.

Naturalness/intactness of waterbody

65. The Tukituki River is largely unmodified in its upper reaches, with river control works beginning at Waipukarau and below Havelock North. To assist with flood control long stretches the Tukituki River have been converted from a braided river to a meandering river flow.

⁹ EPT stands for Ephemeroptera (mayfly), Plecoptera (stonefly) and Trichoptera (caddisfly). These are macroinvertebrates which are sensitive to water pollution.

¹⁰ Scenic values graded on a five point scale: dull, ordinary, interesting, impressive, exceptional.

¹¹ Scenic values graded on a six point scale: dull, uninspiring, moderate, picturesque, impressive, exceptional.

¹² 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.

66. The Tukituki Estuary has undergone considerable works to control flood waters which has had a significant effect on the ecology of the estuary.
67. In 2012, Hawke’s Bay RiVAS assessments for natural character concluded the upper Tukituki River (above SH50) was nationally significant, the middle Tukituki River (between SH50 and Waipukurau) was of regional importance, and the lower Tukituki River was locally significant, for natural character.

Water Quality

68. Hawke’s Bay Regional Council regularly monitors the quality of water in the Tukituki River for both recreational and ecosystem purposes.
69. The water quality of the Tukituki River with regard to ‘recreation’ and ‘ecosystem health’ is discussed below.

Water quality – recreation

70. Hawke’s Bay Regional Council regularly samples the water quality of the Tukituki River for *E.coli* at the following locations (see Table 3). *E.coli* concentrations are measured at these sites to determine whether a site is suitable for full immersion activities such as swimming. An overall bacterial risk rating is assigned based on three years of data.
71. During the summer months these sites are also monitored for toxic algal blooms. In April 2018, the water quality at Black Bridge was unsuitable for swimming due to the presence of a toxic algal bloom which is thought to have washed in from the sea.

Table 3: Recreational water quality – Tukituki River (2016 – 2018)

Monitoring site	Microbiological Indicator (<i>E. coli</i>)	Overall bacterial risk rating	Toxic algae rating
Black Bridge (Haumoana)	<i>E. coli</i> level significantly vary, in the last three years lowest reading = 1 cfu/100ml and highest reading = 1,220 cfu/100ml.	LOW Risk - this site is generally suitable for swimming	No recent data - Potentially toxic algal blooms occur at times
Walker Road (Waipawa)	<i>E. coli</i> level significantly vary, in the last three years lowest reading = 1 cfu/100ml and highest reading = 812 cfu/100ml.	MEDIUM risk - caution advised – usually suitable for swimming but younger children and older people may be at increased risk at times.	No recent data - Potentially toxic algal blooms occur at times
SH2 Bridge	<i>E. coli</i> level significantly vary, in the last three years lowest reading = 1 cfu/100ml and highest reading = 870 cfu/100ml.	MEDIUM risk - caution advised – usually suitable for swimming but younger children and older people may be at increased risk at times.	No recent data - Potentially toxic algal blooms occur at times

Water quality – ecosystem health

72. Hawke’s Bay Regional Council regularly samples the water quality of the Tukituki River at the following locations (see Table 4). The nitrate and ammonia attribute bands provide an indication of the chronic toxicity risk to aquatic animals.

Table 4: Water quality – Tukituki River (2016)

Monitoring site	Water clarity	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Microbiological Indicator (<i>E. coli</i>)
Black Bridge (Haumoana)	Turbidity = 2.4 NTU; Black disk = 2.1 metres. The black desk test, is in the best 50% of like sites within New Zealand. Turbidity state is in the worst 50% of like sites within New Zealand.	NOF BAND A Total Nitrogen, and Total Oxidised Nitrogen are within the worst 50% of like sites within New Zealand. Total Nitrogen = 0.67 g/m ³ ; Total Oxidised Nitrogen = 0.5 g/m ³ (Annual median) and 1.22 g/m ³ (95 th percentile); Ammoniacal Nitrogen is in the best 25% of like sites in New Zealand Ammoniacal Nitrogen = 0.0102 g/m ³ (Annual median), 0.0393 g.m ³ (annual maximum)	Dissolved Phosphorus, and Reactive Phosphorus are within the best 50% of ‘like’ sites within New Zealand. Dissolved Phosphorus = 0.009 g/m ³ , Total Phosphorus =0.016 g/m ³ .	NOF Band A E. coli = 32 n/100ml (annual median) In the best 25% of like sites in New Zealand
Red Bridge (Tukituki Valley)	Turbidity = 3.13 NTU; Black disk = 1.9 metres. The black desk test, is in the best 50% of like sites within New Zealand. Turbidity state is in the worst 50% of like sites within New Zealand.	NOF BAND A Total Nitrogen, and Total Oxidised Nitrogen are within the worst 50% of like sites within New Zealand. Total Nitrogen = 0.75 g/m ³ ; Total Oxidised Nitrogen = 0.565 g/m ³ (Annual median) and 1.254 g/m ³ (95 th percentile); Ammoniacal Nitrogen is in the best 25% of like sites in New Zealand Ammoniacal Nitrogen = 0.0093 g/m ³ (Annual median), 0.0329 g.m ³ (annual maximum)	Dissolved Phosphorus = 0.011 g/m ³ . Dissolved Reactive Phosphorus, is within the worst 50% of ‘like’ sites within New Zealand. Total Phosphorus =0.018 g/m ³ . Total Phosphorus is within the best 50% of ‘like’ sites within New Zealand.	NOF Band A E. coli = 30 n/100ml (annual median) In the best 25% of like sites in New Zealand
SH50	Turbidity = 4.29 NTU; Black disk = 1.28 metres. Turbidity state and black disk are in the worst 50% of like sites within New Zealand.	NOF BAND A Total Nitrogen = 0.14 g/m ³ ; Total Oxidised Nitrogen = 0.064 g/m ³ (Annual median) and 0.26 g/m ³ (95 th percentile) Ammoniacal Nitrogen = 0.0028 g/m ³ (Annual median), 0.0153 g/m ³ (annual maximum) All are in the best 25% of like sites in New Zealand	Dissolved Phosphorus = 0.0046 g/m ³ , Total Phosphorus =0.008 g/m ³ . Both are in the best 25% of like sites in New Zealand	NOF Band A E. coli = 13 n/100ml (annual median) In the best 25% of like sites in New Zealand
Tamumu Bridge	Turbidity = 3.29 NTU; Black disk = 1.8 metres. Turbidity state and black disk are in the worst 50% of like sites within New Zealand.	NOF BAND A and NOF BAND B Total Nitrogen = 0.894 g/m ³ ; Total Oxidised Nitrogen = 0.73 g/m ³ (Annual median) and 1.549 g/m ³ (95 th percentile) Ammoniacal Nitrogen = 0.0098 g/m ³ (Annual median), 0.034 g/m ³ (annual maximum) All are in the worst 50% of like sites within New Zealand.	Dissolved Phosphorus = 0.016 g/m ³ , Total Phosphorus =0.022 g/m ³ . Both are in the worst 50% of like sites within New Zealand.	NOF Band A E. coli = 26 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

Tukituki 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	Potential Water Bodies of National Importance	Ministry for the Environment
2006	Areas of Significant Conservation Values: HB Coastal Marine Area (HBRC Report Number 4203 - Draft)	Hawke's Bay Regional Council
2012	River Values Assessment System (RiVAS)	Lindis Consulting
2012	Tukituki River Catchment Cultural Values and Uses	Te Taiwhenua O Tamatea & Te Taiwhenua O Heretaunga for HBRC
2016	Heretaunga Tamatea deed of settlement + documents schedule (specifically statements of association)	Heretaunga Tamatea and the Crown
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 Tukituki 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 Tukituki River in those documents referred to in Table 1, above.

The report summarises the cultural values associated with the Tukituki 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 Tukituki River is a significant waterway for Heretaunga Tamatea, one of six large natural groups negotiating the settlement of Ngāti Kahungunu Treaty of Waitangi claims. It lies at the heart of their spiritual and physical wellbeing. The Tukituki River is a tīpuna (ancestor). It is integral to the web of whakapapa connections shared by the different hapū along its banks. It provides the hapū with a sense of identity and interconnectedness as it runs through their lives.

The Tukituki awa was used extensively for mahinga kai, and for transporting people and goods. It was once a 'river of villages' and a 'highway' connecting whānau to their mahinga kai, to other whānau, and to trade and prosperity. All along the Tukituki River are signs of occupation and sites that record key events in tribal history.

The Tukituki Estuary is also significant with high conservation and cultural values.

The name Tukituki refers to both a paddle rhythm and the beating of water to make a splashing noise to herd fish into backwater or channels.

2. Spiritual Values

A narrative exists on the way in which the Tukituki River came into existence. A large lake was located in what is now the Ruataniwha Plains. Two taniwha lived in this lake. On one occasion a boy fell into the lake and the two taniwha fought over their prey. The resulting destruction on the landscape created breaks in the hills through which the lake drained away. One of the channels was the Tukituki River.

On the lower section of river, there are a number of sites that relate to the actions of the ancient tīpuna, Māhu. On the north bank is a white rock, Papaotihi. It is said the rock was once a man who was fishing in the river, but he was turned to stone by Māhu. A little further on is another rock, Tauhou, where Māhu turned another man to stone. Down river near Te Kauhanga pā is another spot touched by Māhu. Here he put a curse on the paepae and people died.

Kahuranaki maunga, a site upstream of Kaiwaka on the rivers eastern bank, is of special significance to all hapū of Heretaunga Tamatea. It is said that as he lay dying, Te Hapuku (nineteenth century Ngāti Te Whatu-i-apiti leader sometimes known as Te Ika-nui-o-te-moana) asked to be placed at Kaiwaka so that Kahuranaki would be the last thing he saw.

3. Wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga

The lower pā site at the base of the Pukeora Hill was a site of a significant battle and those interred on the site in burial caves make this location a wāhi tapu.

* 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.

Several waahi tapu sites are identified in Appendix 50 of the Hastings District Plan:

- W6 – Mahinga kai
- W7 - Rangatira – Special, Island
- W8 – Old Pā Site
- W9 – Pā Site – Kauhanga
- W10 – Mahinga kai
- W11 - Urupā



Figure 1: Registered waahi tapu sites in the Hastings District Plan

4. Mahinga kai

Historically, the Tukituki catchment had an abundance of mahinga kai and natural resources. The river was a significant food source central to the well-being of Heretaunga Tamatea. In particular, the river mouth and estuary was renowned for the abundance of fish species that were taken there, which included kahawai, pātiki, kanae, kataha, kokopu, inanga and tuna. The estuary area continues to support important traditional fisheries for kahawai, flatfish, whitebait and smelt. Many whānau come annually to do their fishing from the mouth of the Tukituki awa at Haumoana through to an area off Tenants Rd referred to as Te Ahikoura (the place to fire and cook crayfish).

Special mahinga kai areas recognised in the Heretaunga Deed of Settlement include the following:

Te Aute Conservation Area

The Te Aute Conservation Area is riverbed land that lies along the western bank of the Tukituki River. Key tīpuna for this area are Tapuhara and his wife Te Whangaoterangi as well as Te Manawaakawa. Hapū of Ngāi Te Whatuiāpiti also have ancestral links to this area.

The conservation area includes Papanui Stream which was formerly the outlet that linked Te Roto-a-Tara wetlands area with the Tukituki River. This was a rich source for tuna and the surrounding area was known for its bush food resources. The bush standing in the vicinity of the Te Aute Conservation Area was known as Purapurahikitia.

Inglis Bush Scenic Reserve

Inglis Bush Scenic Reserve is located along the southern bank of the Tukituki River as it flows out over the Ruataniwha Plains. The reserve is a remnant of the forest that covered the foothills of the Ruahine Range and spread onto the western parts of the Ruataniwha Plains.

These foothills were used as a travel corridor by Ngāti Mārau, Ngāti Te Rangitotohu, Ngāti Pouwharekura, Ngāti Kūhā, Ngāti Honomōkai, Ngāti Te Upokoiri and Ngāti Te Ao, who travelled regularly from north to south and vice versa. Pā and mahinga kai such as pua tāhere, wai tāhere, ara kiore were located here. The hapū also gathered food such as hīnau, miro and other fruit and berries. The bush area was a pua tāhere for the hapū of Ngāti Tūrāhui and Ngāti Pouwharekura.

5. *Pā, Kāinga, ara*

The river was traditionally the highway that connected whānau to other whānau, to their gardens, to trade links, to their pā sites, to their waahi tapu and to their waahi tupuna. Much of the Tukituki River was navigable for canoes in the winter time and was the main transport route through Heretaunga for much of the nineteenth century.

There is evidence of a rich Māori heritage for at least 7 – 8 centuries of occupation, one of the earliest periods of settlement in Māori history. There are numerous pā located alongside the Tukituki River and a number important sites that record key events in tribal history.

Three pā sites, Waipukureku, Matahiwi and Te Kauhanga are situated near the Tukituki River Mouth. Te Kauhanga which was occupied first by Taraia I and then Te Whatuiapiti.

Whakamarino is also near the river mouth where a battle took place at which another iwi was defeated by Tamaiahitia. The kāinga of Haumoana is also located here.

Further up the river there is a large cliff, Pariwaiehu. Here Te Waka's pā was located, later taken by Hawea.

To the east of Havelock North, the pā Te Korokoro sits on a western bank. From here the river runs below Parikārangaranga, Te Mata-o-Rongokako, and the smaller peak of Te Hau. Below both these peaks there are pits, terraces and other indications that people once lived here. From the river a track led to the summit of the range.

Some distance upstream an old pā called Ngawhakatātara was located on an island while opposite was a kāinga and pā named Kuriwaharoa. Other more recently built pā on the Tukituki include Pātangata and Tāmumu.

Hapū used whānau land and traditional 'possies' to have seasonal camps on the river. These nohoanga were a tradition.

Special areas recognised in the Heretaunga Tamatea Deed of Settlement include the following:

Kahika Conservation Area

The Kahika Conservation Area is primarily located in the riverbed of the Tukituki River. The tīpuna and hapū associated with the Kahika Conservation Area were Te Rehunga and his Ngāti Mihiroa descendants. Other tīpuna associated with this area included Ketekai and Te Whareupoko and their descendants.

Pukeora Forest

The Pukeora Forest is located a few kilometres to the immediate northwest of Waipukurau township and is situated over a former pā site. An upper pā site named Kaimanawa was located on the ridge of Pukeora Hill (where subsequently a tuberculosis sanatorium was established). The lower pā site was situated at the base of the Pukeora Hill where evidence of terraces has been recorded.

The hapū of Tamatea who are associated with Pukeora Forest and Kaimanawa are Ngāi Toroiwaho, Ngāi Tahu ki Takapau, Ngāi Te Kīkiri o te Rangi and Ngāti Mārau. The maunga Wairākai and significant Ngāi Toroiwaho pā, Moana-i-rokia, are situated to the immediate south of Pukeora Forest.

6. *Conflict*

The Tukituki River was used when Pareihe, Tiakitai and Te Wera Hauraki rowed their waka taua upstream and then dragged them across to Roto a Tara to attack and defeat Ngāti Raukawa and Ngāti Tūwharetoa in 1824.

The lower pā site at the base of the Pukeora Hill was a site of a significant battle and those interred on the site in burial caves make this location a wāhi tapu.

Whakamarino is near the river mouth where a battle took place at which another iwi was defeated by Tamaiahitia.

7. Rohe boundary

After the arrival of the Ngāti Kahungunu tīpuna to Heretaunga, the Tukituki River was established as the first boundary between Taraia, who took the land to the west of this river, and Te Aomatarahi who took the land to east and south of the river.

8. Archaeology



Figure 2: Archaeological Sites on the Tukituki – near the mouth



Figure 3: Archaeological Sites on the Tukituki – Tukituki to Kahuranaki



Figure 4: Archaeological Sites on the Tukituki – Kahuranaki to junction with Waipawa



Figure 5: Archaeological Sites on the Tukituki – around the junction with Waipawa River

9. Statutory Acknowledgement Area of Interest



Figure 6: Heretaunga Tamatea Area of Interest

10. 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 Tukituki 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

Section 5.9 (Tukituki River Catchment) – various objectives, policies, limits and targets apply to water quantity and water quality

Catchments Sensitive to Animal Effluent Discharges (Schedule 6b)

Minimum Flow Rivers (Schedule 7)

Rivers Considered for Riparian Protection (Schedule 8)

Schedule 14c – Tukituki River Sub-catchments

Schedule 15 – Tukituki Plan Change 6 – Water Management Zones

Cont'd overpage...

Regional Coastal Environment Plan

Specific water quality standards apply to Tukituki River downstream of Tamumu bridge

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

Schedule R - Stock Management Areas - Tukituki River mouth

Hastings District Plan

Appendix 50 - Waahi Tapu Sites

Central Hawke's Bay District Plan

Appendix C – Schedule of sites of cultural significance to tangata whenua – contains archaeological sites

Appendix H – Schedule of identified community facilities includes several marae – for information purposes only (no rules).

Attachment 2: Photographs - Tukituki River



Lower Tukituki River



Tukituki River (Walker Road)

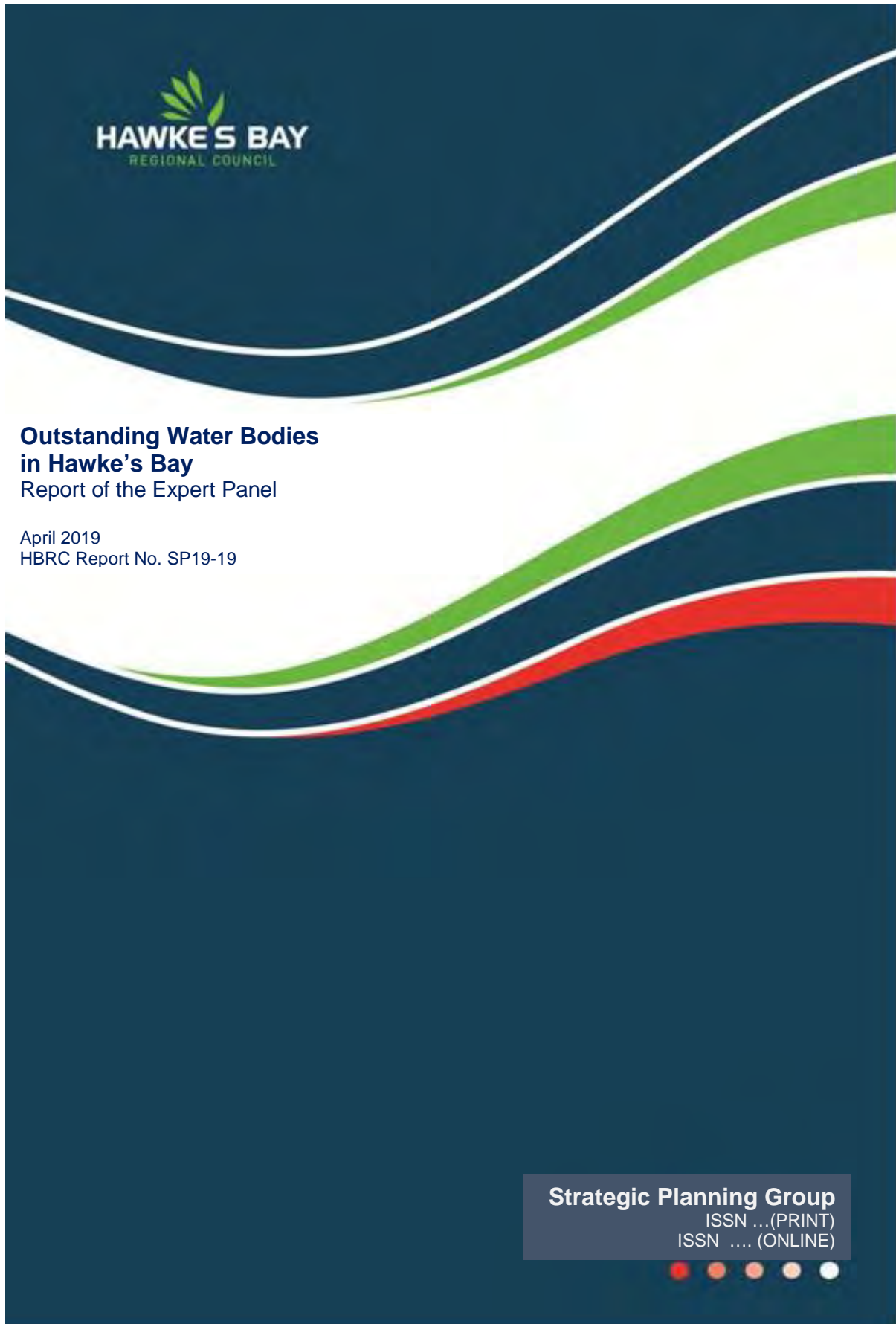


Tukituki River

Appendix 3: Expert Panel Findings - Tukituki River and Estuary

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



April 2019



159 Dalton Street - Napier 4110
Private Bag 6005 Napier 4142
Telephone (06) 835 9200
Fax (06) 835 3601
Regional Freephone (06) 0800 108 838

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

April 2019
HBRC Report No. SP19-19



Prepared by:

Morry Black, Mauri Protection Agency
Matthew Brady, Department of Conservation
John Cheyne, Wetland Works
Andrew Curtis, Water Strategies Ltd
Bernie Kelly, Hawke's Bay Canoe Club
Tom Winlove, Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council

For Strategic Planning Group
Hawke's Bay Regional Council

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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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Tukituki River

Including Waipawa River, Ruataniwha Aquifer & Estuary



Lower Tukituki near Black Bridge



TUKITUKI RIVER: DESCRIPTION OF OUTSTANDING VALUES

SUMMARY

TYPE	NAME	OUTSTANDING VALUE				
		ECOLOGY	LANDSCAPE	NATURAL CHARACTER	AMENITY & RECREATION	CULTURAL & SPIRITUAL
River, Aquifer, Estuary	TUKITUKI RIVER					

ECOLOGY

Description	Notes	Reference
<p><i>Threatened Species:</i></p> <p>9 bird species - Grey duck, white heron, bittern, black-billed gull, black-fronted tern, reef heron, blue duck, banded dotterel, Caspian tern</p> <p>1 native fish species: lamprey</p>		<p>Bird list in Appendix 2</p> <p>Fish list in Appendix 3</p> <p>HBRC 2018</p>
<p><i>% of Population:</i></p>		Bird list in

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Banded dotterel - 35% regional population 6-10% national population		Appendix 2 HBRC 2018 BirdsNZ 1986 Census
<i>Ecological Function:</i> Provides a range of diverse habitats for fish & bird species from the upper river in the Ruahines, the braided lower section and the estuary Braided river habitat is a rare habitat type internationally Fish passage Nationally significant for native birds Nationally significant for native fish		Birds NZ Winter & Summer Wader Census HBRC 2018 Parrish G, 1988 Native birds RiVAS 2012 Native fish RiVAS 2012

LANDSCAPE

Description	Notes	Reference
Waipawa river alluvial terraces - one of the best examples in the region (regionally important)	Waipawa River alluvial terrace	NZ Geopres. Inventory
Ruataniwha Aquifer – distinctive hydrological feature that is integral to the Tukituki river system	Ruataniwha Aquifer	HBRC 2018
Te Mata Peak limestone ridge - iconic Hawke's Bay river landscape (regionally important)	Vicinity of Te Mata peak ridge	NZ Geopres. Inventory

AMENITY & RECREATION

Description	Notes	Reference
<i>Trout Fishery:</i> Nationally significant trout fishery Ranked 3 rd for Salmonid Angling in Hawkes Bay RiVAS report The most used trout fishery in the Hawkes Bay Region receiving 9,650 angler days in the 2015-16 season The Tukituki River was identified as having exceptional overall importance for its access, large	Includes Waipawa River	Fish & Game HBRC 2018 Salmonid Angling RiVAS 2012

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area of fishable water and being close to home		
Whitebait & smelt: Important fishery Inanga spawning areas	Lower Tukituki River	Fish & Game HBRC 2018 Native Fish RiVAS 2012 Brown J. Rook H 2017

CULTURAL & SPIRITUAL

Description	Notes	Reference
The Tukituki awa was used extensively for mahinga kai, and for transporting people and goods. It was once a 'river of villages' and a 'highway' connecting whānau to their mahinga kai, to other whānau, and to trade and prosperity All along the Tukituki River are signs of occupation and sites that record key events in tribal history. Wahi tapu (Specific sites)		HBRC 2018
Significant for Heretaunga Tamatea – natural resources and inland access - Wahi tapu (Specific sites)	Waipawa River	HBRC 2018
<i>Wairuatanga:</i> Mauri, Mana, Tapu, Taonga tuku iho <i>Rangatiratanga:</i> Mana Whenua - Mana Moana, Kaitiakitanga, Mahinga kai (place/action/practice) <i>Matauranga Maori:</i> Tikanga Maori, knowledge systems and origins	Ruataniwha Aquifer	BOI 2013
<i>Wairuatanga:</i> Mauri, Mana, Wahi Tapu, Taonga tuku iho <i>Whakapapa:</i> o te whenua, o te wai, o te tangata, ki uta ki tai, Kohanga ika <i>Matauranga Maori:</i> Tikanga Maori, knowledge systems and origins	Tukituki River	He Toa Takitini DoS 2015
<i>Matauranga Maori:</i> Tikanga Maori, knowledge systems and origins	Waipawa River	He Toa Takitini DoS

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(Kōhanga ika/Kōhanga manu)		2015
<i>Spiritual condition:</i> Connectivity, cleansing properties, spring source Aquifer recharge and springflows		BOI 2013
<i>Cultural Ecology:</i> Supported by intact/healthy mauri of the water Braided river, water quality, fish and bird habitat	Tukituki River	TToH Values and Uses Report 2012

Appendix 4: Final Evaluation - Tukituki River and Estuary

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



Prepared by:

Belinda Harper, Senior Planner

Dale Meredith, Senior Planner

Reviewed by:

Ceri Edmonds: Policy and Planning

Dale Meredith: Senior Planner

Tom Skerman: Group Manager Strategic Planning

Ecology values

Wildlife

The Tukituki River is a large, 145 km long braided river system which has significant wildlife values despite being significantly modified in parts for flood control works and suffering from algae blooms during the summer months. Notably, the Tukituki River contains the largest population of wading birds in Hawke's Bay.

The braided river habitat of the Tukituki 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.

Part of the Tukituki River is located within a wildlife refuge which runs for approximately 342 hectares upstream of the Tukituki Bridge. The Estuary is listed as a Significant Conversation Area in the Regional Coastal Environment Plan, where it is identified as containing high wildlife values.

In total, the Tukituki River supports around 51 species of waterbirds (43 recorded at the river mouth), including the black billed gull, Australasian bittern, royal spoonbill, Caspian tern, reef heron, black-fronted tern, and large populations of banded dotterel and pied stilt. Around 2% of the regions' blue duck population exist its upper reaches.

In the 1980s, riverbed surveys found around 50% and 55% of the regional population of pied stilt and banded dotterel, located at the river, respectively. Both species are recorded as 'least concern' on the IUCN red list, with the banded dotterel classified as nationally vulnerable on the NZTCS.

In 2017, a black-billed gull colony of more than 300 nests was found at the Tukituki River mouth. The black billed gull is endemic to New Zealand and regarded as 'the most threatened gull species in the world' and classified as endangered on the IUCN red list and nationally critical on the NZTCS (See Table 6 for descriptions).

In 2012, Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments for native birdlife concluded the lower Tukituki River was nationally significant for native birdlife. Out of the 38 river segments assessed for native birdlife, the lower Tukituki River was the only river segment within the region to be classed as nationally significant.

The local expert panel found the Tukituki River to have outstanding wildlife values and an outstanding ecological function, specifically noting the threatened species present and the high numbers of banded dotterel. The local expert panel's report is attached in Appendix 6.

Native fish

The Tukituki River is a large gravel braided river system which has been significantly modified in parts for flood control. Potentially toxic cyanobacteria mats occur during the summer months, which affect water quality and fish habitat.

The Tukituki Catchment contains a high diversity of native fish with a total of 18 native species of fish recorded between 1964 and 2011. Species include longfin eel, īnanga, redfin bully, bluegill bully, lamprey, torrentfish, Kōaro and dwarf galaxiid, three of which are classed as being 'at risk and declining'.

The Tukituki Estuary is vital for fish passage between the sea and freshwater and is recognised as an important spawning ground for the native galaxid species. The area is listed as a Significant Conservation Area in the Hawke's Bay Regional Coastal Environment Plan.

In 2012, the Tukituki 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.

In 2015, DOC advised that the diversity of native fish in the Tukituki River is similar to other catchments draining the east coast of the North Island.

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

The local expert panel's report does not discuss the native plant values associated with Whakakī Lake. Appendix 6 sets out the full findings of the local expert panel.

³ Tutaekuri, Mohaka, Ngaruroro, Tukituki Catchments.

Natural character

The Tukituki River is largely unmodified in its upper reaches, with significant river control works occurring above Waipukarau and below Havelock North to assist with flood control.

The MCI scores for the Tukituki River indicate its water quality is 'fair' and 'good' in places, with mild and moderate pollution. Specifically, the MCI scores are: 108 (State Highway 50), 101 (State Highway 2), 98 (Tamumu Bridge) and 84 (Red Bridge).

In 2012, the Tukituki River (above State Highway 50) 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 assessment found the middle reaches to have moderate natural character, and the lower reaches to have low natural character.

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

Landscape / geological features

The Tukituki River is a large braided river system that runs across the Ruataniwha Plains. Long lengths of the Tukituki River have been modified for flood control works.

The scenic values of the Tukituki River have been assessed in the past on several occasions. In 1979, it was assigned an interesting⁴ rating in 64 New Zealand Rivers, and in 1981 it was assigned a picturesque⁵ rating for its scenic values in the New Zealand Recreational River Study.

In 1986, the Tukituki River was placed on 'Group Two' on the Governments list of rivers and lakes deserving protection, for its scenic and recreation qualities. In 2012, the Tukituki 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 Te Mata Peak Hog back, specifically its impressive limestone ridge, is identified on the Geopreservation Inventory, as being Class C (regionally important), along with 89 other features in Hawke's Bay. For clarification, the Tukituki River itself does not feature on the Geopreservation Inventory.

The local expert panel found the Tukituki River to have outstanding landscape values, specifically noting the Tukituki River is an iconic Hawke's Bay river landscape. Appendix 6 sets out the full findings of the local expert panel.

Recreation values

The Tukituki River is highly valued locally for its trout fishing, jet boating and canoeing values. However, these recreation values can be impacted during the warm summer months from the build-up of slime and algae.

The Tukituki River provides a 77 km stretch of easy jet boating water between the sea and the Highway 50 Bridge. In 2014, Jet boating New Zealand classified the Tukituki River as an easy 'Class 1' jetboating trip on a shingle, braided river, which is suitable for family boating.

Historically, the Tukituki was the most highly fished river in Hawke's Bay. However, in recent years usage has significantly declined, with the results of the national angling survey showing a decline of up to 50%. The angling values associated with the Tukituki River were described as being of regional importance in the 1980s.

In 2004, the Tukituki River was recognised as a Potential Water Body of National Importance for general recreation, whitebaiting and angling, and in 2012, the Hawke's Bay RiVAS assessments identified the Tukituki River as being nationally significant for salmonid angling.

In 1981, the Tukituki River was assigned an 'intermediate'⁶ rating for its canoeing and jet boating values and in 1986 it was placed in the 'Group Two'⁷ category in the Governments Rivers and Lakes deserving protection, for its scenic and recreation values.

The local expert panel found the Tukituki River to have outstanding angling and fishing values. Appendix 6 sets out the full findings of the local expert panel

⁴ Scenic values graded on a five point scale: dull, ordinary, interesting, impressive, exceptional.

Cultural and Spiritual values

The Tukituki River is significant for Heretaunga Tamatea, lying at the heart of their spiritual and physical wellbeing. It is also significant to Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated. It is a tupuna awa (ancestral river), integral to the web of whakapapa connections shared by the different hapu along its banks.

The story telling of the river's creation begins with two taniwha living in a lake on the Ruataniwha Plains. When a boy fell into the lake, the two taniwha fought for the prey, in the process destroying the landscape and creating breaks in the hills which resulted in channels draining the lake away, one of which was the Tukituki River, the other being the Waipawa.

There is evidence of at least 7-8 centuries of occupation by Maori, making this area one of the earliest settled. The river was traditionally used as a highway connecting whanau to their whanau, to their gardens, to trade links, to their pā sites, to wāhi tapu and to their wāhi tupuna. Much of the river was navigable for canoes over winter, and it was the main transport route through Heretaunga. The river mouth was renowned for the abundance of fish species, including kahawai, patiki, kanae, kataha, kokopu, inanga and tuna.

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

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

The local expert panel found that the Tukituki River contained known outstanding cultural and spiritual values, specifically noting Wairuatanga, Rangatiratanga, Mātaurangi Māori, Whakapapa and ecology from a cultural perspective.

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

⁵ Scenic values graded on a six point scale: dull, uninspiring, moderate, picturesque, impressive, exceptional.

⁶ Recreational values graded on a five point scale: insignificant, low, intermediate, high, exceptional

⁷ Group One = Excellent rivers or lakes containing an outstanding values and the very best examples. Group Two = Contains examples of water bodies whose values better represented by the rivers or lakes in group one.