

# Waihua 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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## **Waihua 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 Waihua 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 Waihua 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 Waihua 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 Report<sup>1</sup>.
6. **Table 1: Waihua 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)	41
		Summary of the Recreation, Landscape and Ecology Values Associated with Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay (March 2018)	21
Secondary Assessments (Phase 3)	No	N/A	N/A
Local Expert Panel (Phase 4)	Yes	Outstanding Water Bodies in Hawke's Bay - Report of the Expert Panel (April 2019)	67
Final Evaluation (Phase 5)	Yes	Outstanding Water Bodies Plan Change - selecting a list of outstanding water bodies in Hawke's Bay (May 2019)	33, 37, 95, 103

## 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](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz) (search #owb).

<sup>1</sup> <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 Waihua 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 Waihua River was not selected as a candidate OWB as such, a secondary assessment was not carried out for this water body.

## 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 members<sup>2</sup> 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 recommended iwi be engaged to provide a cultural assessment of the Waihua River to better understand the associated cultural and spiritual values.

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<sup>2</sup> 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 2 sets out the relevant extracts from the final evaluation for the Waihua River.

# Appendix 1: Tables C1 and R2 - Waihua 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

HBRC Report No. SD18-01  
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14 March 2018

Prepared By:  
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### 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".

## Strategic Development Group

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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><b>NOTE 1:</b> 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><b>NOTE 2:</b> 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>
Waihua River  Hawke's Bay <b>Waihua</b>	Ngāti Pāhauwera	DOS	The Waihua River is a traditional boundary of Ngāti Pāhauwera. It is significant to Ngāti Pāhauwera as taonga and the mauri of their spiritual and material wellbeing. It was important as a highway, provider of mahinga kai and other resources important to Ngāti Pāhauwera for cultural and commercial reasons.	Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi taonga Mahinga kai, Pa tuna Rohe Boundary
SA	No			
TSL	Yes			
CUS				
WTR				
OTHER	<p><b>Affidavits provided as part of Ngati Pāhauwera's MACA (2013/2014)</b></p> <p>Affidavits discuss the significance of the Waihua River mouth and surrounding coastal area to Ngāti Pāhauwera. Specifically, the affidavits contain testimonials and evidence which demonstrate the area is important as a mahinga kai, with knowledge of particular fishing spots, shellfish beds and eeling spots. Waihua river mouth has hosted long term fishing competitions attracting people from around New Zealand.</p> <p>There is an urupā at Waihua which overlooks the ocean, and a coastal pā, on the area known today as the Island, at the mouth of the River.</p> <p>Ureiro is a pā built by Mamangu on the north side of Waihua River.</p>			



## 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
Waihua River  Hawke's Bay <b>Waihua</b>	Ngāti Pāhauwera	<u>Key</u> 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		
		64NZR	No	Ecology
		RRS	<b>Scenic value = uninspiring</b> <b>Recreational value = insignificant</b> 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	No	
		W&SR	No	
		LOR&L	No	
		HTF	No	
		WONI	No	
		RAMSAR	No	
W&WH	N/A			
RiVAS	Regionally significant for native fishery value			



# Appendix 2: Final Evaluation - Waihua River

*Note: Appendix 2 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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## Ecology values

### **Native fish**

The Waihua River drains a small catchment of 160 km<sup>2</sup> near Wairoa that includes pasture and exotic forest. The river is popular for fishing, particularly white bait and kakahi. It is also open to commercial eeling.

The local expert panel's report does not discuss the native fish values associated with the Waihua River. Appendix 6 sets out the full findings of the local expert panel.

## Cultural and Spiritual values

The Waihua River is significant to Ngāti Pāhauwera as taonga and the mauri of their spiritual and material wellbeing and as a traditional boundary.

The river is important, both culturally and commercially, including for mahinga kai, with important fishing and eeling spots, as well as shellfish beds.

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

- Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi taonga
- Rohe Boundary
- Mahinga kai, Pa tuna.

The local expert panel found that the Waihua River needed further cultural assessment.

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