

Waipunga River



Key Cultural Values

Wāhi Tapu, wāhi taonga, wai tapu

Mahinga kai, Pā tuna

Pā, Kāinga

Rohe boundary

Table 1: List of documents reviewed

Year	Name	Author
1992	Wai 119: The Mohaka River Report	Waitangi Tribunal
1997	Fisheries Resource Inventory: The Mohaka River	Matt Hickey, Fish and Game NZ
1997	Cultural Health Assessment of the Mohaka, Waikari and Waihua Rivers	Ngāti Pāhauwera Development and Tiaki Trust
2004	Wai 201: The Mohaka ki Ahuriri Report	Waitangi Tribunal
2010	Background to Settlement Aspirations and Expectations	Ngāti Hineuru
2015	Ngāti Hineuru Deed of Settlement documents	Ngāti Hineuru and the Crown
2016	Statutory Acknowledgement Document	Hawke's Bay Regional Council

Discussion

*Purpose of report **

1. The purpose of this report is to assist the RPC members to determine whether any of the cultural values associated with the Waipunga River are outstanding for the purposes of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM).
2. This report presents the summarised findings of the cultural values attributed to the Waipunga River in those documents referred to in Table 1, above. For clarification, the Waipunga River has been identified as potentially outstanding for the cultural value set only. In accordance with decisions made by the RPC in May 2018, this report does not discuss the recreation, landscape and ecology values associated with the Waipunga River.

* 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.

3. The report summarises the values into a series of categories. It is recognised that isolating the values into categories can be problematic from a Māori worldview and many of the values are part of a narrative that doesn't fit neatly into categories. However, the intention is not to take a reductionist or isolated approach to cultural values but to try and gain an appreciation of their significance and the level of detail available to progress a plan change. In preparing the reports, it became obvious that all waterways are part of a wider cultural landscape that weaves people and the environment into a rich history of cultural and spiritual association.
4. Ultimately, the Regional Planning Committee will need to decide what the appropriate threshold is for outstanding cultural values. Any objectives, policies or rules that are proposed to support outstanding waterbodies will be subject to scrutiny and potential challenges by those who may be affected by a plan change.

Overview

5. The Waipunga River is culturally significant for the people of Ngāti Hineuru. The River is one of the iwi's most important taonga and is associated with many important mahinga kai, kāinga and pā. There are numerous settlements and sites of significance.
6. Hineuru's rohe was an important strategic position as it lay across the main access routes from Hawke's Bay to Taupō, Rotorua and the Bay of Plenty.
7. Notwithstanding the difficult location and harsh winter climate, the Tarawera area was densely settled with extensive cultivations. The forest around the Waipunga River was very dense and provided many important resources including harakeke, toitoi, birdlife and a range of plants used for medicinal purposes (rongoā). The river itself was abundant with fish species, including tuna, trout and koura. Hangi stones, graded into different types, were collected from the river bed. A range of other stones were highly prized for adzes and patu.

Location

8. The Waipunga River is a tributary of the Mohaka River, located between Taupō and Napier in New Zealand's North Island. It runs roughly 50 km from its source near the eastern edge of the Volcanic Plateau to its junction with the Mohaka, of which some 15 km follow alongside the Napier-Taupō highway (State Highway 5). It is perhaps most notable for the scenic Waipunga Falls, visible from a rest stop along the highway.
9. The Waipunga River can be seen in Figure 1.

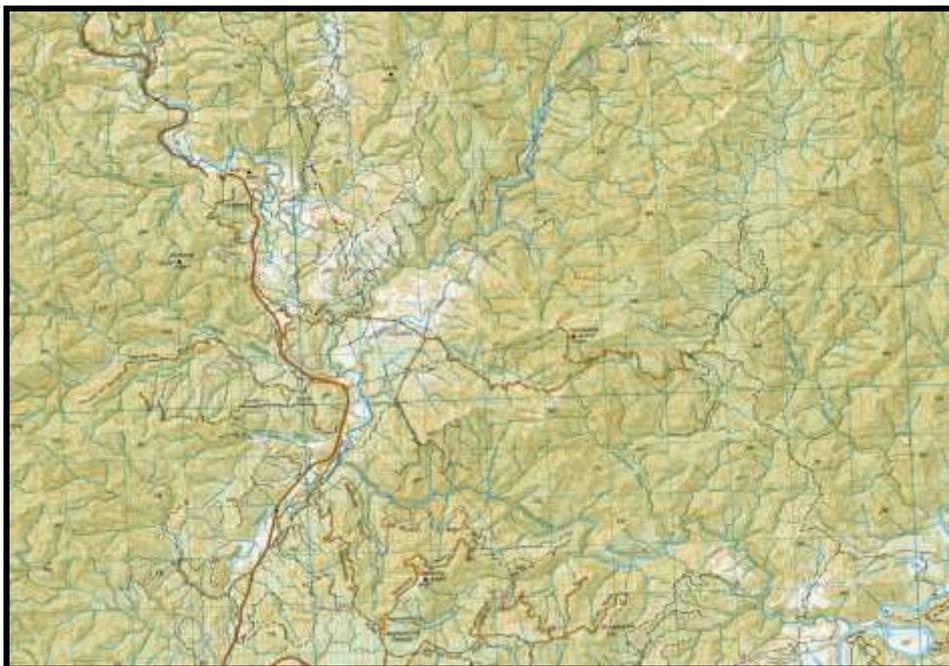


Figure 1: Waipunga River

Cultural values

Importance

10. Ngāti Hineuru has a strong cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association with the Waipunga River. The River acted as one of the iwi's most important taonga and is associated with many important mahinga kai site, kāinga and pā. There are numerous settlements and sites of significance (Deed of Settlement).
11. Ngāti Hineuru's traditional boundaries are defined by rivers and mountains: in this respect Titiokura, Maungaharuru, Mohaka, Te Hoe, and Waipunga rivers tend to be highlighted. Their main villages were at Waiparati, Te Haroto, Tarawera and Runanga.
12. Hineuru had a large zone of settlements along the Waipunga River where the Tarawera township exists today and has been permanently occupied by Hineuru since the time of their ancestress Hineuru. Resources were collected and managed, and were to that extent "owned" by whanau groups, but were swapped around and shared. The iwi was the entity within which whanau shared resources and which came together collectively in times of trouble.
13. Although in a mountainous region lying across the main divide, Hineuru's rohe was a strategic position as it lay across the main access routes from Hawke's Bay to Taupō, Rotorua and the Bay of Plenty. Prior to the confiscations in the 1860's, the District Land Purchase Commissioner noted that there was a major Māori route running inland from Hawke's Bay to Taupō. This was the Waipunga River down to Tarawera, to the Mohaka and across the Titiokura saddle to the Kaiwaka and Waiohingaanga (Esk) rivers. The route was also used frequently by early European travellers and traders.
14. Richard Moorson has coined the phrase 'Tarawera corridor' as a way of emphasise the particular importance of the Waipunga valley as a communications route between inland Hawke's Bay and the Kaingaroa plateau. There were also regional patterns of trade by which inland iwi like Ngāti Hineuru traded commodities with coastal groups, building what can be called commercial and economic relationships with their neighbours. Traces of this traditional commerce continued to function until quite recently.

Wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga, wai tapu

15. Many people who gave evidence in the various Waitangi Tribunal inquiries spoke about the sacralised qualities of this interior landscape, especially of the rivers (notably the Mohaka, Waipunga, Hauturu and Te Hoe) and the mountains (Titiokura, Maungaharuru, Pirinoa).
16. The Waipunga Falls were a landmark and taonga of great beauty, which features three parallel columns of water.
17. The Waipunga hot springs, near the Tarawera township, were used for bathing, rongoā and cooking.
18. The Waipunga River provided drinking water, was a source of spiritual cleansing, and was considered to have healing properties. It was used with the healing of women after they had given birth, used for the washing of Tupapaku and was an important part of the ta moko process.

Mahinga kai

19. Notwithstanding the difficult location and harsh winter climate, the Tarawera area was densely settled with extensive cultivations. The forest around the Waipunga River was very dense and provided many important resources including harakeke, toitoi, birdlife and a range of plants used for medicinal purposes. The river itself was abundant with fish species, including tuna, trout and koura.
20. Hangi stones, graded into different types, were collected from the river bed. A range of other stones were highly prized for adzes and patu.

Pa, Kāinga, ara

21. The Tarawera corridor was an area of especially dense settlement. European observers noted that in 1869 (after the land confiscations) that from Waiparati to the edge of the plains were deserted kāinga and deserted plantations, "showing that to within the last few months the country has been thickly populated". There had been three main villages, all abandoned at that time of the aftermath of Omaranui, Te Haroto ("which belonged to the late chief Rangihiroa"), Waiparati ("another deserted Hauhau kainga") and Tarawera ("Nikora's pā").

22. But there were many many other pā, kāinga, cultivations, mahinga kai and urupā – many listed by people in evidence in remembered history as being used since 1840. The density of reference, of place names, villages, urupā, and resource gathering places in these narratives is very striking. The landscape is a culturally dense one loaded with a wealth of place names and remembered events.

Conflict

23. Rahui and Tangataiti were appointed as guardians of the principal access route from Tarawera to the Coast. The brothers were eventually killed in defence of this route, and as a result a rahui was placed over the river.

Rohe boundary

24. Ngāti Hineuru's traditional boundaries are defined by rivers and mountains: in this respect Titiokura, Maungaharuru, Mohaka, Te Hoe, and Waipunga rivers tend to be highlighted.

Archaeology

25. Figure 2 identifies archaeological sites in close proximity to the Waipunga River.



Figure 2: Archaeological sites in close proximity to the Waipunga River

Statutory Acknowledgement Area of Interest

26. Figure 3 details the Ngāti Hineuru Area of Interest.

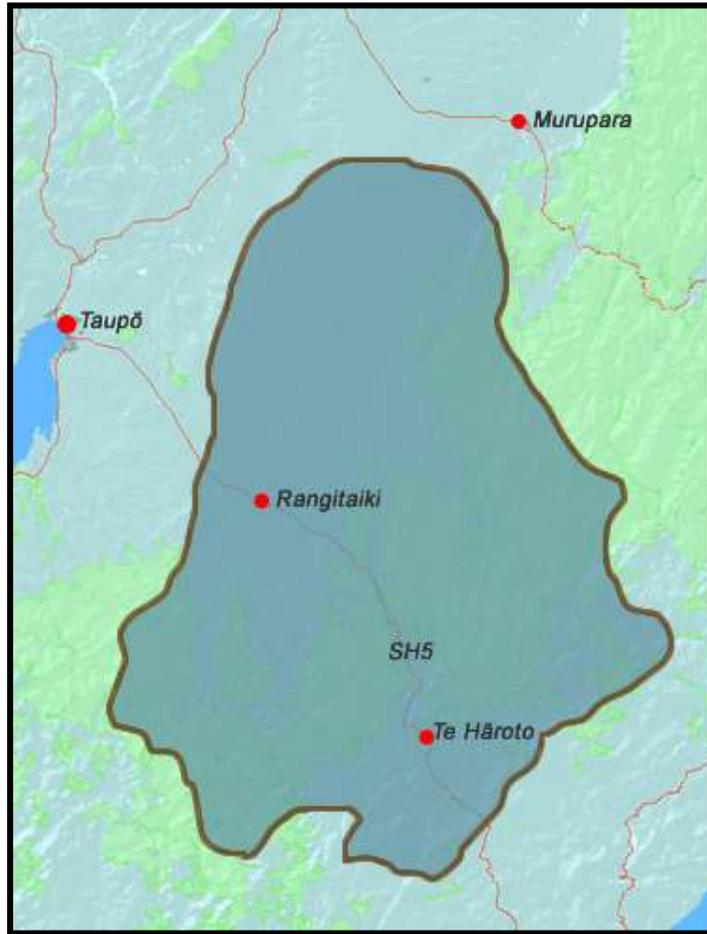


Figure 3: Ngāti Hineuru Area of Interest

Resource Management Plans

27. 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 Waipunga 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.

Regional Resource Management Plan

Catchments Sensitive to Animal Effluent Discharges (Schedule 6b)

Rivers Considered for Riparian Protection (Schedule 8)

Regional Coastal Environment Plan

Specific water quality standards apply to Mohaka River Catchment

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

Hastings District Plan

The Central Ranges Outstanding Natural Landscape Area includes the Waipunga/Tarawera Special Character Area