



HUNTLY DOMAIN AND LAKE HAKANOA RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared for Waikato District Council by Boffa Miskell Ltd
Approved by Council on 28 August 2012



Contents

Introduction	1
Purpose of the Reserve Management Plan	1
Reserve Management Plan Procedure	4
Strategic Context	1
How to Use this Reserve Management Plan	6
Context.....	7
Location	7
Natural Physical Features	10
Historical Context	10
Community Consultation	13
Issues and Opportunities	13
Core Community Values	13
Vision and Objectives for Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa	20
Development of the Vision	20
The Vision	20
Objectives	20
Reserve Management	21
Objective 1 – To maintain existing facilities and resources for active recreation	21
Objective 2 – To provide for a range of passive recreational activities and for community events	23
Objective 3 – To manage and enhance safe access for pedestrians and vehicles	26
Objective 4 – To progressively improve Lake Hakanoa’s water quality	27
Objective 5 – To actively manage and enhance lakeside and lake margin vegetation and wetland areas	30
Objective 6 – To manage and enhance passive recreation opportunities at Lake Hakanoa	32
Objective 7 – To provide integrated management of the Reserve.	35
Landscape Concept Plan	38
Landscape Concept Statement	38

Introduction

Purpose of the Reserve Management Plan

Huntly Domain and the Lake Hakanoa Reserve (referred to as “the Domain” and “Lake Hakanoa” respectively, and “the Reserve” collectively) is an important area of open space for Huntly and the surrounding communities. The Domain provides green space and passive and active recreational facilities, while Lake Hakanoa provides for passive and active recreation in a lakeside setting.

Under four titles, The Domain is classified as Recreation Reserve with Lake Hakanoa, and its surrounding wetland, under 14 titles comprising dual classification as Government Purpose Reserve or Local Purpose Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 and as a Wildlife Refuge under the Wildlife Act 1953.

This Reserve Management Plan has been prepared under the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977. Section 41 of the Act states:

“The Management Plan shall provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation, as the case may require, and, to the extent that the administering body’s resources permit, the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for which it is classified...”

Section 22 of the Reserves Act states that Government Purpose Reserves are areas provided for:

“...the purpose of providing and retaining areas for such Government purpose or purposes as are specified in any classification of the reserve.

- (2) *For the avoidance of doubt, and without limiting the purposes for which a Government purpose reserve may be classified, it is hereby declared that a reserve may be classified as a Government purpose reserve for wildlife management or for other specified wildlife purposes.*
- (3) *It is hereby further declared that, having regard to the general purpose specified in subsection (1) of this section, every Government purpose reserve shall be so administered and maintained under the appropriate provisions of this Act that—*

- (a) *Where scenic, historic, archaeological, biological, cultural, scientific, or natural features or wildlife are present on the reserve, those features or wildlife shall be managed and protected to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve:*

Provided that nothing in this paragraph shall authorise the doing of anything with respect to fauna that would contravene any provision of the Wildlife Act 1953 or any regulations or Proclamation or notification under that Act, or the doing of anything with respect to archaeological features in any reserve that would contravene any provision of the Historic Places Act 1993.

- (b) *To the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve, its value as a soil, water and forest conservation area shall be maintained.*

Section 23 of the Reserves Act states that Recreation Reserves are areas provided for:

- (1) *“..... recreation reserves, for the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.*
- (2) *It is hereby further declared that, having regard to the general purposes specified in subsection (1) of this section, every recreation reserve shall be so administered under the appropriate provisions of this Act that—*
 - (a) *The public shall have freedom of entry and access to the reserve, subject to the specific powers conferred on the administering body by sections 53 and 54 of this Act, to any bylaws under this Act applying to the reserve, and to such conditions and restrictions as the*

administering body considers to be necessary for the protection and general well-being of the reserve and for the protection and control of the public using it:

- (b) *Where scenic, historic, archaeological, biological, geological, or other scientific features or indigenous flora or fauna or wildlife are present on the reserve, those features or that flora or fauna or wildlife shall be managed and protected to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve:.....*
- (c) *Those qualities of the reserve which contribute to the pleasantness, harmony, and cohesion of the natural environment and to the better use and enjoyment of the reserve shall be conserved:*
- (d) *To the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve, its value as a soil, water, and forest conservation area shall be maintained."*

Section 23 of the Reserves Act states that Local Purpose Reserves are areas provided for:

"...the purpose of providing and retaining areas for such local purpose or purposes as are specified in any classification of the reserve.

- (2) *It is hereby further declared that, having regard to the specific local purpose for which the reserve has been classified, every local purpose reserve shall be so administered and maintained under the appropriate provisions of this Act that—*

- (a) *Where scenic, historic, archaeological, biological, or natural features are present on the reserve, those features shall be managed and protected to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the reserve..."*

Section 40A and 40B of the Reserves Act outlines the preparation of conservation management strategies and plans. Section 40B outlines that nothing in Section 41 of the Act shall apply in respect of any conservation management plan under this section. Therefore all objectives, policies and actions must be consistent with the Conservation Management Strategy applicable to Lake Hakanoa only. It is

noted there is not separate Conversation Management Plan for Lake Hakanoa. The Huntly Domain is not applicable to this section of the Act. The Act states:

40A Conservation management strategies

- (1) *Every conservation management strategy shall implement statements of general policy and establish objectives for the management of reserves administered by the Department under this Act.*
- (2) *Nothing in any conservation management strategy shall derogate from the relevant provisions of this Act or the purpose for which a reserve is held.*
- (3) *The Department shall manage such reserves in accordance with conservation management strategies.*
- (4) *While any conservation management strategy affecting a reserve administered by the Department is in force, conservation management plans in respect of that reserve—*
 - (a) *Shall not be required to be reviewed:*
 - (b) *May be revoked by the Director-General, after giving notice in accordance with section 119 of this Act; and section 120 of this Act shall, with any necessary modifications, apply with respect to every such notice.*

40B Conservation management plans in respect of reserves administered by Department

- (1) *The purpose of a conservation management plan under this section is to implement conservation management strategies and to establish objectives for the management of a reserve or reserves administered by the Department, according to the purpose or purposes for which that reserve is classified or those reserves are classified.*
- (2) *Nothing in section 41 of this Act shall apply in respect of any conservation management plan under this section.*
- (3) *Any such plan may relate to any reserve or reserves of any classification.*
- (4) *The Department shall manage such reserves in accordance with conservation management plans.*
- (5) *Nothing in any conservation management plan shall derogate from any provision in—*
 - (a) *This Act or any other Act; or*
 - (b) *Any general policy approved under section 15A of this Act; or*
 - (c) *Any conservation management strategy.*

- (6) *Every management plan in force at the commencement of this section, that has been approved under section 41 of this Act in respect of a reserve administered by the Department, is hereby deemed to be approved as a conservation management plan under this section, and shall have effect accordingly.*
- (7) *Every draft management plan that, at the commencement of this section, is proposed to be approved under section 41 of this Act in respect of a reserve administered by the Department, is hereby deemed to be a draft conservation management plan prepared under this section, and may be approved accordingly.*
- (8) *For the purposes of this section, sections 17E (except subsections (1), (4), and (6)), 17G, 17H, 17I, and 17N of the Conservation Act 1987 shall, with any necessary modifications, apply with respect to management plans under this section.*

Section 14 of the Wildlife Act states that Wildlife Refuges are provided for the purposes of the Act. The purpose of the Act is to absolutely protect the wildlife of New Zealand except where wildlife is classified as game, partially protected, subject to hunting under certain conditions, not protected, or noxious. Wildlife classified as game are protected in wildlife refuges. Section 14 (3) states:

“...it shall not be lawful for any person... to hunt or kill for any purpose, or molest, capture, disturb, harass, or worry any wildlife in the wildlife refuge, or to take, destroy, or disturb the nests, eggs, or spawn of any such wildlife, or for any person to bring onto the wildlife refuge or have in his possession or discharge in the wildlife refuge any firearm or explosive, or have in his possession or control in the wildlife refuge any dog or cat, or to do anything likely to cause any wildlife to leave the wildlife refuge.”

Section 54 of the Wildlife Act states that animals can be hunted or destroyed on wildlife refuges where they are known to be causing damage to land, stock, crops, other chattels or other wildlife. The Fish and Game Council may be given authority in respect of game animals.

The Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010

In August 2008 Waikato-Tainui and the Crown signed a Deed of Settlement for the Waikato River, which sought to address Crown confiscation of land (Raupatu) during the 1860s, which denied Waikato-Tainui of their rights and interests in the Waikato River. Waikato-Tainui's definition of the Waikato River applies to Lake Hakanoa, being that the Waikato River extends from the Huka Falls to the mouth, and includes its waters, banks and beds (and all minerals under them) and its streams, waterways, tributaries, lakes, aquatic fisheries, vegetation, floodplains, and wetlands, as well as its metaphysical being.

The Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act was passed in 2010. The Act provides for the overarching purpose of the settlement which is "to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for future generations." It enables the vision and strategy, jointly developed by the Guardians of the River, to be deemed as part of the Regional Policy Statement of Waikato Regional Council. The members of the Guardians of the River included the five iwi along the length of the river and relevant territorial authorities.

Each territorial authority is required to enter into a Joint Management Agreement with Waikato-Tainui. This allows for co-management of the river by Waikato-Tainui and the territorial authority.

Waikato District Council and Waikato-Tainui entered into a Joint Management Agreement on 23 March 2010. As the real beneficiary of the settlement is the river, the legislation provides financial redress "the clean-up fund" to achieve the restoration of the health and wellbeing of the river.

Reserve Management Plan Procedure

The procedure for preparing the Reserve Management Plan is set out in the Reserves Act 1977. This procedure is summarised in the table below.

This Reserve Management Plan can be continuously reviewed so that it can adapt to changing circumstances. This review process will be in accordance with the Reserves Act (1977) and the Ten Year Plan - Long Term Community Council Plan (LTCCP). The Reserve Management Plan will then provide the vision and direction for the development of the Domain and Lake Hakanoa, and the ongoing day-to-day use and management.

Procedure for Developing a Reserve Management Plan

Notification of Intent to Prepare a Reserve Management Plan	Waikato District Council notifies the community of its intention to undertake preparation of a Reserve Management Plan and calls for written suggestions from the community.
Receipt of Suggestions and Key Stakeholder Consultation	Council receives the written suggestions and consults with identified key stakeholders. The suggestions from both parties are taken into consideration in the preparation of a draft Reserve Management Plan.
Preparation of the Draft Reserve Management Plan	Council prepares the Reserve Management Plan for adoption as a Draft. The adopted draft Reserve Management Plan is released for public submissions (for a minimum of 2 months).
Public Submissions	Written submissions on the draft Reserve Management Plan are received from the community. Submitters will indicate whether they would like to verbally present their submissions at a Council hearing.
Council Hearing	Council holds a hearing for verbal submissions to be made. Council then considers each submission (verbal and written), deliberates and makes a decision.
Amendments and Adoption of Reserve Management Plan	Council prepares the amended Reserve Management Plan as a result of submissions made. Council then adopts the final Reserve Management Plan.
Implementation of Reserve Management Plan	Council implements the Reserve Management Plan through the LTCCP. This includes the day to day management of the Domain and Lake Hakanoa and the development of the vision for the Reserve.

Strategic Context

Alongside the Management Plan provisions, development and activities within The Domain and Lake Hakanoa remain subject to Council's Strategies, Policies, the Waikato District Plan, Waikato District Council bylaws and other legislation, notably the Wildlife Act 1953. The Reserve Management Plan should not be inconsistent with the Resource Management Act and/or District Plan provisions.

The Reserve Management Plan has been developed considering the following key documents:

Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato (2010)



Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato is the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River which forms Schedule 2 of the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010. It provides the primary policy-setting framework within which management of the

Waikato River and its associated catchments will be managed. Lake Hakanoa is included in the area covered by Te Ture Whaimana. Waikato District Council and Waikato-Tainui have signed a Joint Management Agreement recognising that undertakes to recognise and give effect to Te Ture Whaimana. Therefore the Reserve Management Plan must recognise and provide for the Vision and Strategy.

The purpose of this Reserve Management Plan is to provide a vision for the future management of the Reserve. There has been no previous management plan prepared for Huntly Domain or the Reserve generally. The Lake Hakanoa Wildlife Refuge Draft Management Plan was prepared in 1987 by the then Wildlife Department (a predecessor of the Department of Conservation), but never became operative. Waikato District Council (WDC) has informally administered Lake Hakanoa in association with the Domain for many years. A draft Hakanoa Lake Management Plan has been prepared by WDC but also has not been made operative. The need to prepare a Reserve Management Plan is not only driven by the Reserves Act 1977, but is also in response to the changing needs of the wider community and staff operational needs.

The reserve management plan will be reviewed on a ten yearly basis.

Future Proof (2009)



It is a non statutory growth strategy specific to the Hamilton, Waipa, and Waikato sub-region and has been developed jointly by Hamilton City Council, Waikato Regional Council, and Waipa and Waikato District Councils. The Future Proof growth strategy aims to manage

growth in a collaborative way for the benefit of the Future Proof sub-region both from a community and a physical perspective. The growth strategy provides a framework for ongoing co-operation and implementation. This will ensure the costs and resources required to fund and manage infrastructure such as transport, wastewater, stormwater, recreation and cultural facilities are provided for.

Waikato District Growth Strategy (2009)



This non-statutory document seeks to guide investment and development decisions across the district in response to the principles and patterns of future growth identified in the Future Proof strategy. The Strategy applies the principles at a district level

to accommodate the scale of growth anticipated. In doing so it provides a vision for long term development, recognising the District's diversity, and the effects and development pressures that arise from having strong economic drivers located to the north (south Auckland) and south (Hamilton City).

Ten Year Plan - Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) (2009 – 2019)

The Ten Year Plan - Long Term Council Community Plan, is a Plan that sets out Council's planning, priorities and finances for the next 10 years. Included within the LTCCP are Activity Plans, which set out what the activity is, its Objectives and the actions it will take to achieve its Objectives. The actions of this Reserve

Management Plan link directly to the Ten Year Plan and associated Activity Plans.

Waikato District Council District Plan (1995, 2004)

The District Plan is prepared under the provision of the Resource Management Act 1991. The District Plan is a key component of the Waikato District Council's Strategy for the environment. It sets out the regulatory controls and guidelines for management of the District, including the management of activities in and affecting reserves and designations, and establishes controls for areas at risk of flooding.

Draft Waikato Conservation Management Strategy (2008-2018)



Prepared by the Department of Conservation (Waikato Conservancy), the purpose of a conservation management strategy is to establish objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources, recreation,

tourism, and other conservation purposes. It is a key conservation management tool, a conduit through which the department implements legal, policy and strategic goals. The management objectives and policies apply to all wildlife refuges.

Waikato District Conservation Strategy (2004)



The Waikato District Conservation Strategy presents the way in which this Council will undertake its responsibilities for managing biodiversity. This non-statutory document describes how the Council will work towards achieving the national and regional targets that have been

defined through the National Biodiversity Strategy and the Waikato Regional Policy Statement. The strategy sets out what Council is doing to protect the district's natural heritage and biodiversity.

Waikato District Reserves and Recreation Policy



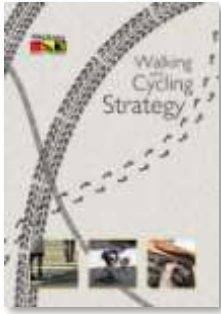
The Reserves and Recreation Policy identifies Waikato District Council's role relating to reserves and recreation within Waikato District including reserve development. It sets out the policy context, objectives and policies to

guide council decision-making regarding the provision of reserves and recreation resources, and how development will be included in council's planning frameworks. Future works identified in the Policy will be incorporated into the LTCCP and annual plans.

Parks and Reserves Asset Management Plan (2009 – 2019)

The Parks and Reserves Asset Management Plan provides a framework for the development and maintenance of Council-owned parks and reserves assets. The key objectives relate to appropriate levels of services provided at facilities, protection and maintenance of significant environmental assets, and contribution to the District's community outcomes.

Waikato District Walking and Cycling Strategy (2008)



The purpose of the District Walking and Cycling Strategy is to promote the health and fitness benefits of walking and cycling and reduce the negative impacts of motor vehicles on short trips. It also seeks to make cycling and walking more viable forms of transport with emphasis

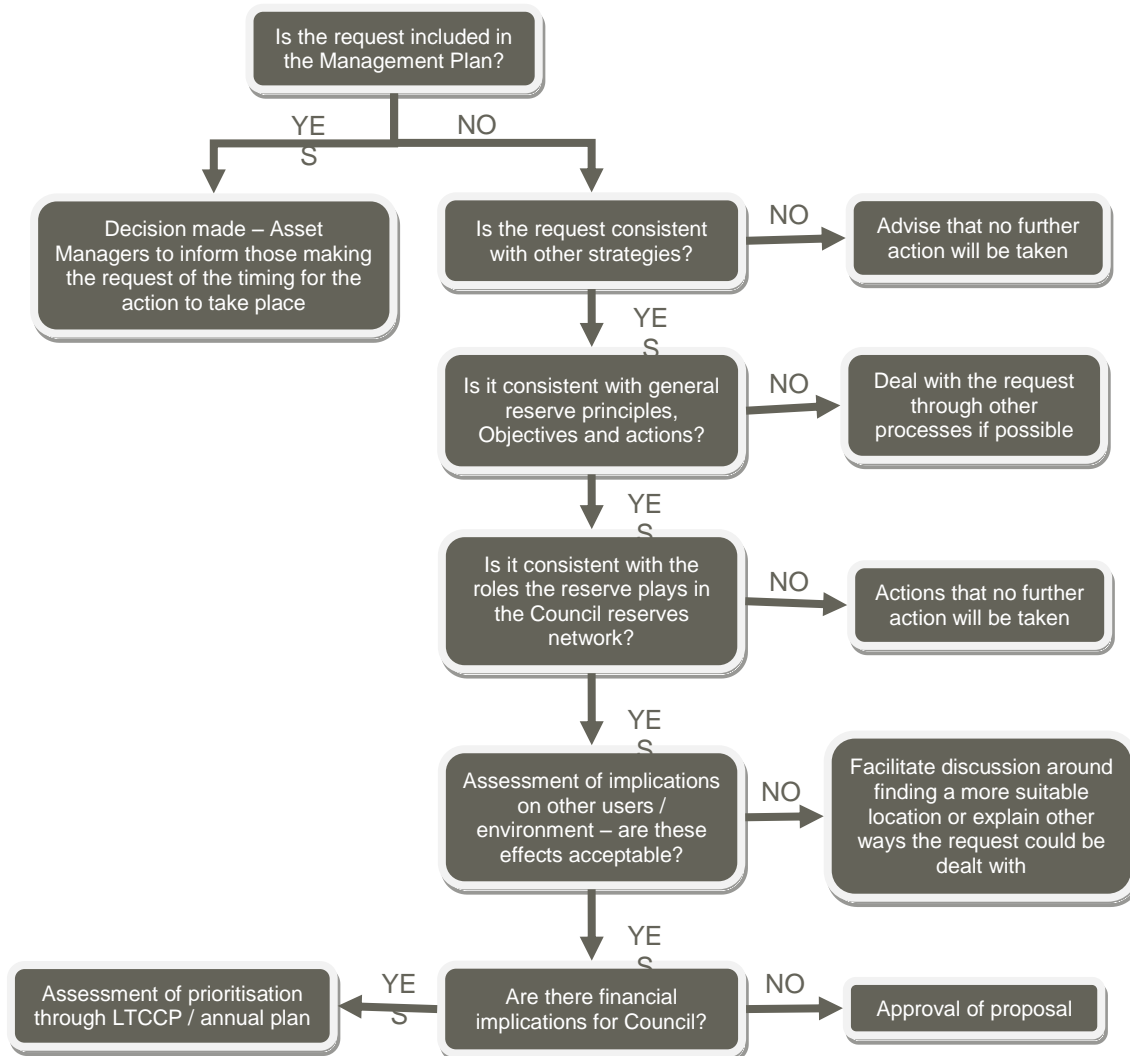
on urban centres, by promoting a walkway/cycleway network that achieves the objectives set out in the Strategy.

Huntly Community Plan (2004 – 2010)

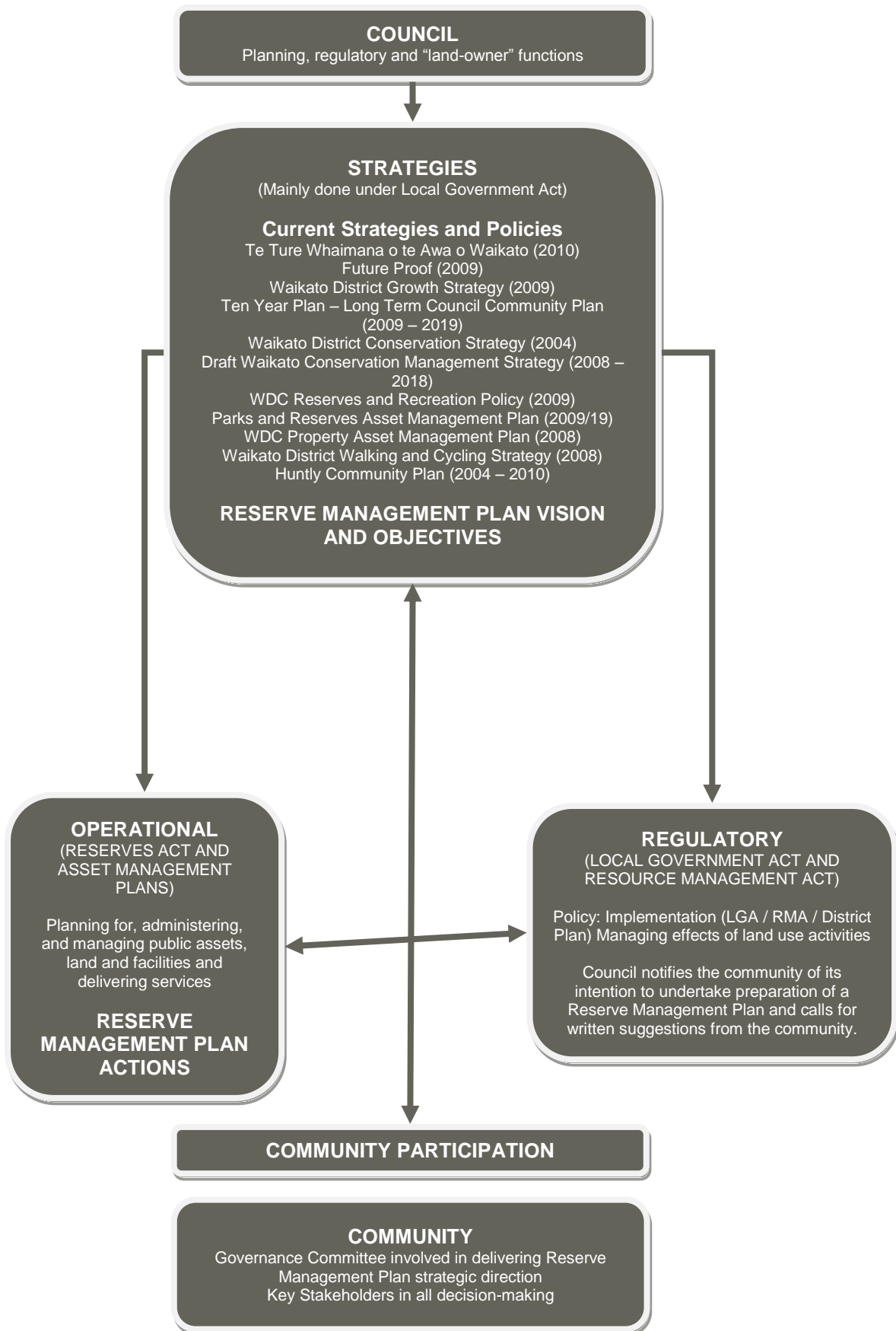
The Huntly Community Plan is a non-statutory document prepared by Waikato District Council and the Huntly Community Board. This plan captures the shared vision of the community, and outlines the key issues and projects facing Huntly over a 6-10 year period. The plan represents a consensus view of Huntly's future direction and how it will be achieved.

Decision Making Process for Requests Not Specifically Included within this Reserve Management Plan

The Reserve Management Plan has been developed for a 10 year period and there are likely to be proposals made within this period that are not specifically included as specific actions. The following process will be used to decide whether or not to proceed with these proposals.



How the Reserve Management Plan Fits with Other Council Documents and Legislation



How to Use this Reserve Management Plan

The Reserve Management Plan applies the strategic direction provided through documents such as Future Proof, Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato, the Reserves and Recreation Policy, the Walking and Cycling Strategy and the Conservation Strategy to the future management and development of the Domain and Lake Hakanoa. There are several key areas of the management plan which are explained below.

Vision

The Vision details the key themes and goals, and will guide the development and management of the Domain and Lake Hakanoa to ensure the overall character of the Reserve is maintained in the long term.

Issues and Opportunities

Key Issues and Opportunities have been identified to determine a path for the development and management of the Domain and Lake Hakanoa. Some of the Issues and Opportunities identified have been incorporated into the Objectives, Policies and Actions of this Reserve Management Plan.

Objectives

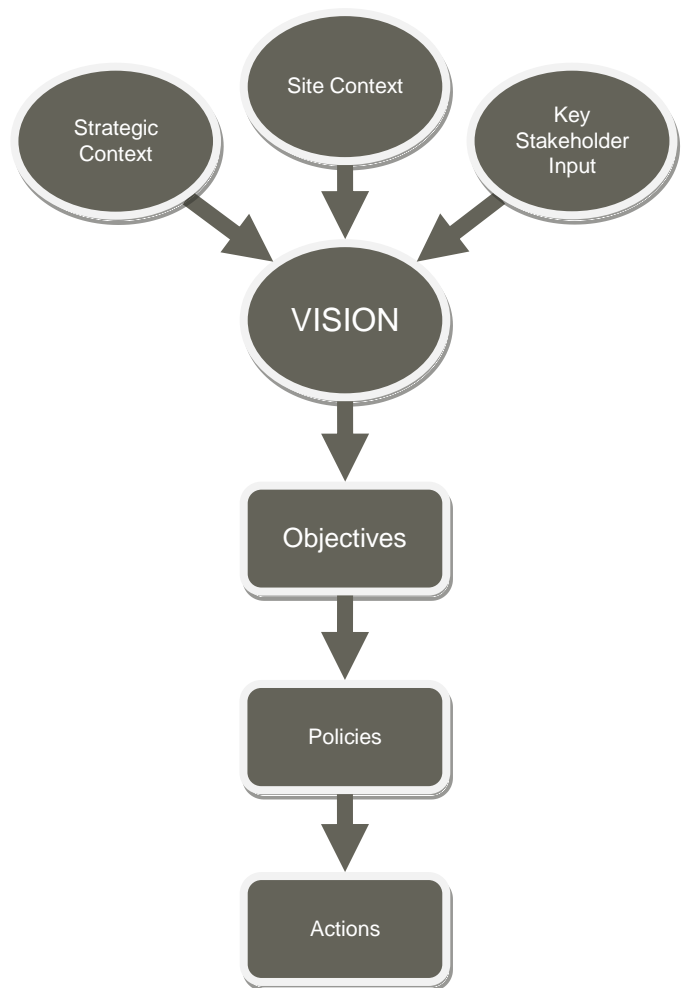
Seven key objectives have been developed to summarise the Vision, Issues and Opportunities identified. The objectives provide key focus points for the development and management of the Domain and Lake Hakanoa.

Policies

The policies provide further guidance on what can be undertaken in the reserves of the Domain and Lake Hakanoa.

Actions

The Actions will implement the vision and objectives for the Reserve. An Implementation Plan included within this Reserve Management Plan details the timeframe for undertaking the actions and the links to Council Strategies, policies, and the LTCCP.



Context

Location

Huntly Domain is owned and administered by Waikato District Council and lies within Waikato District. Entrance to the Domain is from Taihua Road, Wight Street, Park Avenue, and Onslow Street. The Domain is bordered on the western and southern sides by residential and commercial properties, small areas of industrial land, and Huntly Primary School. On the northern and eastern sides of the Domain is Lake Hakanoa.



Huntly Domain - Legal Description and Classification (Reserves Act 1977)

The **Domain** is mainly classified as Recreation Reserve and is legally described as follows:

- A Lot 3 DP 23824, SAC/1022, Fee Simple, 0.3731 ha
- B Allotment 776, Taupiri Parish, 3.7440 ha
- C Pt Allotment 540, Taupiri Parish, 0.7337 ha
- D Pt Allotment 50, Taupiri Parish, 4.6662 ha

Total Land Area = 9.5170 ha

The land parcels comprising the Domain are connected with and form a focal point for the Lake Hakanoa reserve network. **Lake Hakanoa** is a shallow riverine lake covering about 57ha located on the eastern edge of Huntly. The main access for recreational use of the lake is from Huntly Domain, but there is also pedestrian access to the lake from Lakeview Terrace, Onslow Street and Arohanui Street. Lake Hakanoa itself is owned by the Department of Conservation as a Wildlife Refuge, but day-to-day management and administration was transferred to Waikato District Council in 2004. There are also a number of reserves adjacent to the lake margins that are owned and administered by Waikato District Council.



Lake Hakanoa - Legal Description and Classification

(Reserves Act 1977)

The **Lake** and its surrounding reserves are legally described as follows (from the Domain, clockwise around the Lake):

- E Lot 14 DP 28935, SA1D/178 SA722/254, Fee Simple, 0.3541 ha (no reserve classification)
- F Lot 1 DPS 9833, SA5D/1375, Fee Simple, 0.2251 ha (no reserve classification)
- G Lot 1 DPS 88393, SA69A/712, Fee Simple, 1.0572 ha (Camping Ground)
- H Lot 1 DPS 4738, SA1447/14, Fee Simple, 0.9333 ha (no reserve classification)
- I Lot 30 DPS 22337, SA21D/104, Fee Simple, 0.0664 ha (Local Purpose Reserve – Utility)
- J Lot 5 DPS 26700, 0.2441 ha (Recreation Reserve)
- K Lot 5 DPS 60305, 0.9310 ha (Local Purpose Reserve – Wildlife Refuge/Conservation)
- L Lot 4 DPS 60305, 0.7430 ha (Local Purpose Reserve – Wildlife Refuge/Conservation)
- M Lot 26 DPS 31988, 0.1687 ha (Recreation Reserve)
- N Lot 8 DPS 34401, 0.1427 ha (Recreation Reserve)
- O Section 1 SO 372300, 307897, Fee Simple, 0.2350 ha (Amenity Purposes)
- P Lot 13 DP 385730, 343369, Fee Simple, 5.5617 ha (Local Purpose Reserve)
- Q Allotment 541 Taupiri Parish, 5.3621 ha (Government Purpose Reserve – Wildlife Refuge)
- R Allotment 850 Taupiri Parish, 67.6450 ha (Government Purpose Reserve – Wildlife Refuge)

Total Land Area = 83.6694 ha





Leases:

Lessee	Leased Area	Expiry of Lease	Terms of Lease	Lease ID
Huntly Bridge Club Inc.	N/A	01/02/2012	Occupy Council building. Recreational use only. Right of renewal of 3 years.	1444
Huntly Bowling Club	N/A	01/04/2039	Building owned by Club. Written consent from Minister of Conservation and WDC needed for any new buildings or alterations. No right of renewal.	522
Huntly Boating Club	N/A	01/11/2035	Building owned by Club. Written consent from Minister of Conservation and WDC needed for any new buildings or alterations. No right of renewal.	523
Huntly Thistle Football Club	N/A	Expired 01/06/2001	Building owned by Club. Perpetual right of renewal.	542
Huntly Gymnastic Club Inc.	N/A	Expired 01/04/1994	Building vested in WDC for lease to Club. Perpetual right of renewal.	559



Natural Physical Features

The reserves network encompassing Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa ('The Reserve') covers an area of some 93 hectares including the Domain, the entire lake, its margins and large areas of adjacent wetland. The Reserve's landform is dominated by the lake and is largely flat. In the north is an elevated area of terrace located between the lake edge and Kimihia Road/Lakeview Terrace. To the east is rolling to steep pastoral farmland. Because much of the reserve is low-lying, it generally has damp or waterlogged soils for much of the year but the recreational areas benefit from the temperate riverside climate of Huntly.

The Reserve has a number of attributes which provide for a diverse range of visitor experiences – the expanse of the lake, the open space and sports fields at the Domain, and the amenity gardens and willow wetlands associated with the Lake Hakanoa walkway.

Lake Hakanoa is a riverine lake located alongside the Waikato River. It is located to the east of the township of Huntly, and sits in a natural basin surrounded on the northern, eastern and southern sides by historic river terraces. The water level of the Lake is controlled by a weir structure at the outlet to the Waikato River on the Hakanoa Stream. The lake has extensive areas of riparian wetlands, and those located on the farmland to the east would originally have covered all of the low-lying areas to the west of James Road.

Historical Context

There is limited information regarding the historical context of Lake Hakanoa and the Domain. The cultural heritage and history to the area and Lake Hakanoa is provided below:

A Kaumaatua from Waahi Paa once said when asked about the significance of the Huntly Lakes:

"Hakanoa was where they did the haka, Waahi was the place to be and Kimihia was where they went in search."

Lake Hakanoa is a riverine lake located to the east of the Waikato River and east of the Huntly Township. To the west of the Waikato River is Lake Waahi and further north on the eastern side is Lake Kimihia. Lake Hakanoa is central to the history and origins of the Maaori name for Huntly. Raahui Pookeka is Huntly's original Maaori name.

There are many versions of history and many versions of how certain place names came about. This is a small collection of some of them in relation to Lake Hakanoa and the Raahui Pookeka area.

When Maaori settlers first came to the area in the 14th century, tuna (eels) were plentiful in all the local lakes.

One version of history states that in time, the growing Maaori population on the east and west sides of the Waikato River began to overfish the tuna resource. Disputes arose over the size of respective catches, friction was increasing and the threat of bloodshed was imminent.

Legend has it, that the local chief at that time intervened, defused the situation, declared peace and to ensure the tuna fishery recovered, implemented a raahui.

A raahui is a traditional kaitiaki practise that prohibits, bans or places a restriction on the use of a resource or area. Through appropriate ceremony that resource or area becomes culturally tapu or sacred whilst it "recovers".

In the Huntly case, the fishing ban was marked by driving a pou raahui (flax stake) into the ground.

Another version of history states that a "Pookeka" (type of flax cloak or cape) was used to cover and hang from the pou raahui providing a clear indication to all that a raahui was in force, hence the origin of the name Raahui Pookeka.

The chief indicated the end of the raahui by lowering the pou raahui to the ground and to commemorate the event a haka was performed to lift the tapu (act of “noa”) hence the name of Lake Hakanoa.

The chief also decreed that eels taken from both lakes would be divided evenly between east and west settlements and to mark this event he proclaimed the western lake “be called Waahi”. Yet another version of history suggests Waahi is where the catch was taken to be divided up amongst the people of Raahui Pookeka.

A brief timeline of the Reserve’s history follows:

1880s – 1920s

Lake Hakanoa was more commonly referred to as a swamp. Mine workings surrounded the Lake with drives extending towards the lake and river. The entire area beside the lake “was taken up by the mine buildings and much of the open space was used as a slack heap”¹. The piles of slack around the lake, and especially at the current location of the Domain, were put to various uses. One pile was used as a military rifle range; the soccer club levelled one area for a playing field. The main use of the lake was for duck shooting.

1885

The Thames Valley Gazette reported a proposal to pump Lake Hakanoa dry in order to exploit the coal seams thought to extend beneath the lake.

1911, 1926

Lake Hakanoa becomes a government reserve for the purposes of preserving wildlife.



1929

Part of the Domain area is classified as a recreation reserve.

1930

Huntly Domain is established as the Huntly Athletic Park Domain to be managed, administered and dealt with as a public domain by the Huntly Athletic Park Domain Board, with control appointed in the Huntly Town Board.

¹ DME Clark, County Engineer, for Huntly Cultural and Mining Museum. 1982. Brief history of Lake Hakanoa and its environs.



1932

High unemployment in Huntly led to work schemes to clear away the slack heaps around Lake Hakanoa. As a result, the Domain was formed and the Huntly School grounds were cleared.

Late 1940’s

The Huntly swimming pools were built beside the Domain and recently enclosed.

1954

Permission granted by the Wildlife Department for Huntly Yacht Club to use Lake Hakanoa.



1958

Lake Hakanoa gazetted as a Wildlife Refuge which meant that hunting of waterfowl was officially prohibited.

1950s, 1960s and 1970s

Volunteers construct sections of walkway at Lake Hakanoa.

1960

The municipal landfill south of the school was closed and the land “reclaimed”.



1970 onwards

Commercial eeling commenced using the large eel resource from Lake Hakanoa.

1973

Through the 1950s and 1960s, the lake experienced increasingly dense aquatic plant growth which interfered with Yacht Club boating activities. After petitioning council, Lake Hakanoa was sprayed with 2,4,5-T (Paraquat) to remove the submerged weed. This was highly effective but killed adjacent orchards and badly affected the eel population.

1987

The Wildlife Service (a predecessor of the Department of Conservation) prepared a draft management plan for the Lake Hakanoa Wildlife Refuge. It specified, among other things, that use of powerboats and firearms, horse riding, dog exercising, model planes, model boats, bikes and motorbikes, camping, lighting fires and game bird hunting were all expressly prohibited. Small populations of the endangered native birds, bittern and spotless crane, were noted as using wetlands around the lake.



1997

Friends of Lake Hakanoa complete the walkway around the lake. In 1997 Ngaire Rogers formed a committee and passionately focused on creating a walkway around this lake. Her objective was successfully achieved by 2001. That same year Brian Curle became chairman and the committee's vision was the enhancement of the circuit. The walkway was divided into 13 zones. Funding was vigorously sought and by 2010 some \$800,000 had been raised from funding sources. Council funding was over and above that figure.



2001

Band rotunda constructed at the northern end of the Domain by Huntly Lions.

2004

Management of day-to-day activities on Lake Hakanoa was informally transferred from the Department of Conservation to Waikato District Council.

Community Consultation

Community Consultation for Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa was held in the form of a key stakeholder workshop and individual meetings. Key stakeholders for the reserve were identified as:

- Department of Conservation
- Waikato Regional Council
- Fish and Game NZ
- Friends of Lake Hakanoa
- Huntly Boating Club
- Huntly Bowling Club
- Huntly Bridge Club
- Huntly Community Board
- Huntly Gymnastics Club
- Huntly Thistle AFC



Key Stakeholders Workshop – 31st July 2010

The workshop explored and discussed the issues and opportunities the community could see within the Reserve in its entirety.

Issues and Opportunities

The following issues and opportunities arose from investigations into the activities and use of the reserve, as detailed above. Some ideas generated through community consultation have not been included further within the Reserve Management Plan as they were not consistent with the general vision, objectives and purpose of the Reserve.

Core Community Values

The core community values and their relationship to the reserve are described as:

- The importance of the lake and wetland environments and the enjoyment of them.
- Passive recreation within the reserve through walking, picnicking and lakeside activities.
- Safe access to and use of active recreation facilities in the Domain.

Boffa Mitchell
Minutes of Meeting of Stakeholder Workshop
Lake Hakanoa & Huntly Domain RMP

1000 Huntly Rd, Huntly, Waikato
1000 Huntly Rd, Huntly, Waikato
1000 Huntly Rd, Huntly, Waikato
1000 Huntly Rd, Huntly, Waikato

SUGGESTION FORM
WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL
Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa
RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

To: Resource Officer
Dale Wilson
Level 2, 104 Cameron Rd,
PO Box 11879
Tauranga
Phone: 07 8712222

PLEASE USE 4 SEPARATE FORMS FOR EACH SUGGESTION

I would like to make the following suggestions to Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa

1. My main comments to staff:

(Comments should be clear, concise and to the point. Please do not exceed 500 words.)

Name: _____
Name of Organisation (if applicable): _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Date: _____

Postal Address/Address for Service: _____
Phone No: _____
Date: _____

SUGGESTIONS CLOSE 14TH AUGUST 2010

Please don't panic! This suggestion box is made available to the general public. Please note that you have the right to access personal information you have provided.

Organization	Contact Name	Phone	Email
Department of Conservation	Michael	07 8712222	Michael@dc.govt.nz
Waikato Regional Council	Michael	07 8712222	Michael@waikato.govt.nz
Fish and Game NZ	Michael	07 8712222	Michael@fishandgame.govt.nz
Friends of Lake Hakanoa	Michael	07 8712222	Michael@folh.org.nz
Huntly Boating Club	Michael	07 8712222	Michael@hbc.org.nz
Huntly Bowling Club	Michael	07 8712222	Michael@hbc.org.nz
Huntly Bridge Club	Michael	07 8712222	Michael@hbc.org.nz
Huntly Community Board	Michael	07 8712222	Michael@hbc.org.nz
Huntly Gymnastics Club	Michael	07 8712222	Michael@hbc.org.nz
Huntly Thistle AFC	Michael	07 8712222	Michael@hbc.org.nz

Issues	Opportunities
Lake Hakanoa	Lake Hakanoa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lake use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motorised craft (model boats) on lake - Conflict with wildlife refuge status - Demand for mini yacht use ▪ Poor lake water quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Algal blooms causing odour - Sprayed lake vegetation is decomposing - Not suitable for swimming - Water not clear - Need for bird control, e.g. Canadian geese - Need for control of koi carp - Poor water quality in inflowing drains - Treatment of stormwater discharges from Kimihia Road - Progress and outcomes of studies not known ▪ Lake water levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of year-round access on lake walkway - Poorly managed summer water levels - Weir maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lake use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retain the peaceful setting - Manage use by organised groups, including model boat clubs - Communicate wildlife refuge status and intent - Continue to limit motor boat use - Maintain wildlife values of lake reserve - Raise campground jetty ▪ Improve lake water quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dredging lake sediment and degraded plant matter - Cull waterfowl, especially Canadian geese - Use ongoing bird control measures - Provide treatment for lake inflows - Pipe or fill in drains - Use hay - Install a fountain to improve circulation/aeration - Pump water from Huntly Power Station - Use wetlands on private farmland - Remove carp - Provide more lake and lake margin native plantings ▪ Manage lake water levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise the walkway low-lying areas for year-round access e.g. boardwalk to protect wetland values - Change the management of the outlet weir for lake levels - Undertake maintenance and repair of the weir

-
- Lake walkway
 - Some works still to be completed
 - Some maintenance not happening when needed
 - Vegetation management of lake edge needed
 - Specific control of noxious weeds needed
 - Security issues for residents and walkway users, especially where trees create dark areas
 - Safety issues from dead trees
 - Conflicts with motorbikes and small cars
 - Not completely wheelchair accessible
 - Need for a community garden including feijoa hedge
 - Lack of timely input from Council on development needs
 - Additional resourcing needed for maintenance
 - Dog faeces on the walkway
 - Lack of toilets around the lake
 - Erosion of the lake foreshore
 - Reserve Management
 - Reserve encroachment
 - Confusion regarding Lake Hakanoa ownership, administration, reserve status and prohibited activities (e.g. dog walking, pest control) among users, community groups, and administering organisations (DOC, WDC, Fish & Game)
 - Community use does not match wildlife refuge requirements
 - Poor coordination of promotion of reserve and development of events
- Lake walkway
 - Continued support for Friends of Lake Hakanoa to complete works
 - Provide resourcing for improved walkway maintenance
 - Spray noxious weeds
 - Signage to indicate prohibited activities on walkway (e.g. motorbikes/vehicles)
 - Improve accessibility for wheelchairs
 - Measures to discourage motorbike access
 - Thin vegetation to provide views, remove dead wood, and open up densely planted areas adjacent to residential properties (especially Kimihia Road)
 - Provide receptacles for dog faeces
 - Provide toilets at convenient locations e.g. 'Green Cathedral', Palm Beach
 - Manage lake edge erosion with erosion protection measures, including planting.
 - Reserve Management
 - Address reserve encroachment with property owners
 - Provide clear guidance on reserve status, permitted activities and administering agencies
 - Consider changing the lake reserve status from Wildlife Refuge to "Closed Game Area" to better reflect current use while preventing waterfowl hunting.
 - Coordinated promotion of the reserve to attract more events and activities to the Domain, e.g. lakeside concerts
-

Further Issues Identified through Research

- Poor lake water and sediment quality
 - Lack of baseline information on quality of lake inflows
 - Poor public understanding of lake water quality issues
 - Influence of discharges (stormwater/wastewater/sports fields) from the entire lake catchment
 - Possibility of closed landfill leachate
 - Possibility of 2,4,5-T or paraquat residues
 - Possibility of coal slack residues
 - Influence of coarse fish foraging
 - Influence of waterfowl faeces
 - Vegetation management – past and current control of submerged aquatic, emergent aquatic and marginal plants, amenity plantings, mown areas, and vegetation disposal
 - Influence of adjacent privately owned wetlands

Further Opportunities Identified through Research

- Improve lake water quality
 - Complete investigations to confirm most effective actions needed
 - Undertake water quality sampling to identify and address problem discharges
 - Undertake sediment sampling to identify residual contaminants of concern
 - Improve potential nutrient stripping through wetland enhancement
 - Improve management of vegetation to reduce impacts on lake water quality
 - Provide treatment of stormwater discharges
 - Provide treatment for sportsfields runoff (both Domain and Rugby club)
 - Information boards explaining lake water quality issues

- Lake walkway
 - Connectivity of walkways and maintenance of connections

- Lake walkway
 - Improve walkways connections, accessibility and maintenance

Huntly Domain

- Vehicles
 - Access of vehicles onto grass
 - Lack of parking for sportsfields
 - Access by motorbikes to Domain
 - Lack of parking for playgrounds
 - Access by cars to carpark at night for burnouts

Huntly Domain

- Vehicles
 - Create one-way internal roading to increase space for parking
 - Bollards to limit vehicular access
-

- Facilities
 - Problems with turf maintenance
 - Problems with geese faeces on sportsfields
 - Problems with dog faeces in the Domain
 - Problems with vandalism of netball and tennis court equipment
 - Lack of consultation on location of skatepark
 - Locked toilets
 - Poor promotion of recreational facilities e.g. swimming pool
- Lack of park furniture and facilities
 - Rubbish bins
 - Toilets with safe access
 - Picnic tables
 - Seats
- Security
 - Vandalism, increased crime and perceived poor security especially at night
 - Vandalism, abusive behaviour and crime associated with skatepark

Reserve Management

- Poor signage and publicity for the reserve
- Poor communication with residents
- Levels of service on sports ground maintenance
- Maintenance of leased facilities and buildings on reserve

- Facilities
 - Improve turf with quality soil and grass, maintained appropriately
 - Cull geese to reduce health risks
 - New location for the skatepark
 - Signage to promote recreational facilities, especially swimming pool
 - Maintain, enhance and use existing facilities for new activities e.g. tennis court surfaces, planned extensions to gymnasium building, a café at the lakefront
 - Tidy up the area around the gymnasium building
- Provide additional park furniture and facilities
- Security
 - Improve reserve lighting and surveillance e.g. CPTED principles
 - Install vandal-proof security lights/night lighting
 - Install security cameras or monitoring system
 - Open up sightlines in crime spots
 - Install gates on the park and restrict/prohibit night access to Domain
 - Consider improved policing of vehicles rather than limiting access

Reserve Management

- Additional signage throughout the reserve
- Improve levels of service of sports ground maintenance
- Actively involve community and Tangata Whenua in management of the Reserve.
- Improve communication with community through a Governance Committee
- Promote high maintenance of private and public facilities

Further Issues Identified Through Research

- Low profile entrances to the Domain
- Poor connectivity with Huntly Town Centre
- Treatment of and access to lake edge
- Safety and vandalism around buildings
- Connections with cultural identity of Huntly

Further Opportunities Identified Through Research

- Upgrade Domain entrances
 - Improve pedestrian linkages between reserve and town centre/residential areas
 - Formalise lake edge treatments at the Domain to maximise public enjoyment
 - Remove brick wall around playground and toilets and redesign space.
 - Improve parking for sporting facilities around Domain.
 - Improve identity with history of the Park and Huntly Community.
 - Recognise cultural identity with the Lake and the Domain and Tangata Whenua
-

Tangata Whenua Consultation

Separate consultation was undertaken with Tangata Whenua through a meeting and following workshop with Waahi Whaanui Trust and their representatives. Issues and opportunities were identified and these comprised:

Issues

- Mauri of the Lake
- Water Quality
- Lake Levels
- Algal Bloom
- Lack of ability to swim in the lake
- Operation of the weir
- Koi Carp infestation
- Model Motor Boats
- Weed / Vegetation Management
- CPTED Security / Crime / Graffiti
- Management of iwi with manawhenua working with appropriate agencies such as DOC, WDC and Friends of Lake Hakanoa.
- The management plan must be consistent with the Vision and Strategy under the Waikato River Settlement and the regional policy statement.
- Knowledge of history.

Opportunities

- Improve the water quality considering the mauri of the lake and river in accordance with the principles Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato (2010)
- Weed and vegetation management
- Work with adjoining landowners, including farmers to modify practices to improve water quality of runoff.
- CPTED security matters including Crime / Graffiti should be addressed.
- Create a fisheries habitat.
- Lake health should always take precedence over recreational benefits.
- Develop a planting program for the lake and its margins.
- Promote active co-management of the Reserve between key agencies and groups.
- History of the people and their relationship with the Lakes and River needs to be recorded.



Vision and Objectives for Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa

Development of the Vision

Development of the Vision has been based on the direction provided from existing information regarding the Reserve, and Community and Key Stakeholder input. At a wider strategic level the Huntly Community Plan, Reserves and Recreation Policy, Walking and Cycling Strategy, Conservation Strategy, and Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato (2010) have also provided a foundation for the Vision.

Lake Hakanoa is described in the Huntly Community Plan as a 'Jewel in the Crown' for Huntly residents. The Lake and Domain provide a significant recreational resource for the residents of Huntly and outlying rural communities. However, the activities permitted in the recreation reserve of the Domain are quite different from the activities permitted in the wildlife refuge of Lake Hakanoa. A combined vision is needed to integrate the needs of both with the desires of the community.

The Vision

Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa together form a high quality reserve that showcases an important part of Huntly's cultural and natural heritage.

To continue recognise and provide for kaitiakitanga and maatauranga Maaori for for Lake Hakanoa.

The reserve will be promoted to the public for a wide range of recreational and community activities and the Lakes natural environment progressively improved.

Objectives

Derived from the Vision the following Objectives have been developed:

Huntly Domain

- Objective 1 To maintain existing facilities and resources for active recreation.
- Objective 2 To provide for a range of passive recreational activities and for community events.
- Objective 3 To manage and enhance safe access for pedestrians and vehicles.

Lake Hakanoa

- Objective 4 To progressively improve Lake Hakanoa's water quality and health.
- Objective 5 To actively manage and enhance lakeside and lake margin vegetation and wetland areas.
- Objective 6 To manage and enhance passive recreation opportunities around the Lake.

Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa Reserve

- Objective 7 To provide integrated management of the Reserve.

Reserve Management

Objective 1 – To maintain existing facilities and resources for active recreation

The variety of active recreation options within Huntly Domain ensures that a wide range of user groups will continue to use and enjoy the Reserve and its facilities. Enhancing the recognition and quality of those facilities is a key focus of this Objective while ensuring that reserve use does not conflict with the status and use of Lake Hakanoa.

Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa are interconnected and therefore this Objective requires a fine balance between exercising the purpose of a Recreation Reserve, exercising the purpose of a Wildlife Refuge, and recognising the community's desire to maintain Lake Hakanoa's peaceful setting and enhance its water quality.



Policies

- a) Promote active recreational activities on the Domain providing for optimal use of the recreational facilities.
- b) Provide for management and maintenance of sports fields consistent with Waikato District Council's level of service.
- c) Maintain and enhance public facilities, providing safe access to them, by applying for CPTED² principles.
- d) Dog walking upon the sports grounds is prohibited.
- e) Maintain existing sports facilities for active recreational use, including hard courts.
- f) Restrict further built development within the Domain that compromises the open space qualities of the Domain.
- g) Consider new proposals, for active recreation within the reserve, on a case by case basis at the discretion of WDC.
- h) All buildings and facilities held under lease will be maintained to an appropriate level of presentation. This will be undertaken by the lessee's, in accordance with the formal lease agreements. Assets not actively utilised for their intended purpose will be considered for removal or decommission.

² CPTED = Crime Through Environmental Design – Refer to National Guidelines for Crime Prevention Through environmental Design in New Zealand, Ministry of Justice (November 2005).

Objective 1: Actions

Action #	Detail	By Whom	Strategy Link	Priority	Year
1a	Investigate the design of the skate park and review against CPTED principles. Consider design measures to reduce conflicts with the Park users	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Reserves and Recreation Policy	Short Term	Year 3 2014
1b	Undertake installation of park furniture for sports field users including seating and rubbish bins in conjunction with Action 2a.	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Reserves and Recreation Policy		
1c	Progressively upgrade reserve and facility signage with space for promotion of new activities and upcoming events.	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Reserves and Recreation Policy	Short – Long Term	Year 1 – Year 8
1d	Investigate options for discouraging waterfowl from using the Domain, with a particular emphasis on reducing fouling of sports fields. Options may include modification of lake margin vegetation opposite the sports fields to discourage waterfowl passage, visual barriers/deterrents, or bird-scarers. Select an option for trial, implement and monitor outcomes.	Fish & Game/DOC WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Reserves and Recreation Policy	Short Term	Year 1 2012
1e	Continue the existing turf management programme in order to maintain an appropriate level of service for the turf. Communicate outcomes to user groups/lessees.	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Reserves and Recreation Policy	Ongoing	-
1f	Continually review use of hard courts and determine appropriate use of surface, ensuring the surface is maintained.	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Reserves and Recreation Policy	Annual	
1g	Review lease agreements and determine an appropriate level of service for all building assets within the Reserve. Work actively with lessee's to address maintenance and CPTED issues.	WDC		Short Term	Year 1 2012

Objective 2 – To provide for a range of passive recreational activities and for community events

There is community recognition that the reserve network incorporating Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa has the potential to be used more extensively than it currently is, particularly for community and sporting events. However, increasing the use of the Reserve must be supported by appropriate reserve infrastructure, connections with Huntly town centre, and guidance around the types of activities/events that will be promoted.



Policies

- a) Encourage passive recreation throughout the Reserve for walking, cycling, picnicking and other passive recreational activities.
- b) Provide for improved management of the Domain/Lake interface to manage and treat stormwater runoff, erosion, improve lake edge amenity, discourage waterfowl passage and enhance public access.
- c) Manage, activities which provide supplementary and complementary services or benefits to users of the reserve but require the exclusive use of reserve resources without alienating the area from public use.
- d) Encourage activities within the Domain, including events, which meet the provisions of this Plan, the District Plan and the policies and legislation application to the Lake Hakanoa Reserves.
- e) Manage the number of annual events within the Domain to enhance the exposure of the Domain whilst minimising the impact upon general use.
- f) Ensure all signs are located within the comprehensive signs to avoid ad hoc installation of signs.
- g) Promote and encourage interpretative signage detailing the cultural heritage of the Domain and Lake Hakanoa.
- h) Continue to provide for camping within the reserve's leased camping ground area.

Objective 2: Actions

Action #	Detail	By Whom	Strategy Link	Priority	Year
2a	<p>Prepare a detailed design in general accordance with the RMP Concept Plan detailing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Park furniture for reserve users including seating, picnic tables and rubbish bins, integrated with Lake Hakanoa walkway furniture. ▪ Playground extension and alterations ▪ Integrated lake edge treatments incorporating stormwater treatment, public access, viewing structures, vegetation management, and waterfowl management. Including land base areas where high ground water levels result in surface water. ▪ Walkway connections and signage throughout the reserve and between the Reserve and Huntly town centre. ▪ Location of interpretative panels throughout the Reserve. ▪ New public toilet location, considering CPTED Principles. 	Consultant/ WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Parks and Reserves Policy	Short Term	Year 2 2013
2b	Undertake research on Maaori and European cultural historical of the Domain and Lake Hakanoa. Design and install interpretation panels throughout the Reserve.	WDC / DOC / Consultant / Tangata Whenua / Governance Committee	Parks and Reserves Policy	Short Term	
2c	Install new toilet facilities and pedestrian connections to them.	Contractor WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Parks and Reserves Policy	Short Term	
2d	Install new lake edge walkway and viewing structures, including amenity planting, between the pedestrian bridge and start of Lake Hakanoa Walkway.	Contractor WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Parks and Reserves Policy	Short - Long Term	
2e	Install new park furniture throughout the Domain providing seating, picnic tables, interpretation panels and bike stands.	Contractor WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Parks and Reserves Policy	Medium Term	
2f	Install playground extension	Contractor/ WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Parks and Reserves Policy	Medium Term	

Action #	Detail	By Whom	Strategy Link	Priority	Year
2g	Install formalised walkway connections from township to the Domain	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Walking and Cycling Strategy	Long Term	
2h	Decommission and demolish the existing toilet facilities and associated brick wall structure around existing playground.	Contractor WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Parks and Reserves Policy	Short Term	

Objective 3 – To manage and enhance safe access for pedestrians and vehicles

The Reserve provides linkages for pedestrians and vehicles to, from and around the Domain and Lake Hakanoa. The focus of the objective is to improve the quality and recognition of those linkages while providing a safe environment for users. Increasing the useable space for car parking close to the sports fields is a key area for improvement.



Policies

- a) Enhance the physical and visual connections between the Domain and Huntly Town Centre for pedestrians, and between the Domain and SH1 for motorists.
- b) Promote and enhance the main entrances to the Domain to emphasise the status of the Reserve.
- c) Manage vehicle and pedestrian circulation patterns around the Domain and Lake Hakanoa.
- d) Implement Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles along all access ways and destination points within the Domain.

Action #	What will be done	By Whom	Strategy Link	Priority	Year
3a	Design and install upgrade to the Domain entrances to emphasise the status of the reserve.	Consultant/ WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Parks and Reserves Policy	Short Term	Year 2 – 3 2013- 2014
3b	Design and install a revised vehicle circulation patterns to reduce conflicts with pedestrians and improve vehicle flow, in consideration of Action 2a. Provide for additional parking space close to playgrounds and sports fields.	Consultant/ WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Parks and Reserves Policy	Short Term	Year 2 – 3 2013- 2014
3c	Design and install vehicle barriers onto open space including bollards, fencing and planting.	Consultant/ WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Parks and Reserves Policy	Short Term	Year 2 – 3 2013- 2014
3d	Monitor and investigate the option for limiting access into the Domain in the evenings, including restricting access to limited hours.	Consultant/ WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Parks and Reserves Policy	Short Term	Year 2 – 3 2013- 2014

Objective 4 – To progressively improve Lake Hakanoa’s water quality

Lake Hakanoa’s water quality is widely acknowledged to be poor with frequent algal blooms, poor water clarity, occasional odour, and almost no aquatic plants. In technical terms, the lake is considered to be “hypertrophic” which means that it is “enriched” with nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, and has poor clarity due to the high production of algae. This enrichment is not the normal state of lowland riverine lakes, but is a result of land uses and activities in the lake catchments. On the basis of a “condition index” known as LakeSPI (which is an indication of the health of lakes), Lake Hakanoa is considered to be in poor condition due to the lack of native aquatic plants.

Lake dynamics are highly complex and there is much community discussion about the causes of and possible remedies for poor lake water quality, and a strong desire to take action to solve the problem. However, until research into the drivers behind Lake Hakanoa’s water quality is completed, it is inadvisable to commence complex and large-scale actions such as dredging, flushing, aeration, chemical application, coarse fish control/eradication or use of structures. These activities are not considered appropriate for inclusion in the management plan until research indicates conclusively that such actions will be effective and would justify the costs involved.

There are, however, a range of targeted, simple and small-scale actions that have the potential to have a positive influence on lake water quality and appearance, while minimising the risk that these actions may be counterproductive. These tasks are fundamental to the long-term vision of restoring the lake and are preparatory to larger-scale actions that may result from the research being undertaken.

Lake levels are managed through high flows through a pump system which is operated for short periods of time due to the operational running costs of the pump. Options into additional flood management options should be considered.

Policies

- a) Manage a comprehensive programme of investigation into water quality and remedy of poor quality surface water inflows.
- b) Develop a programme for the restoration of wetlands and waterways on adjoining land.
- c) Manage and protect the lake edge from erosion through appropriate vegetation management and erosion protection measures.
- d) Manage the lake level within a normal operating range.
- e) Work collaboratively with Tangata Whenua in establishing water quality improvement actions.
- f) Continue to maintain the existing outlet structures within the lake.
- g) Monitor and manage native and coarse fishery within the Lake, managing pest species where possible.



Objective 4: Actions

Action #	What will be done	By Whom	Strategy Link	Priority	Year
4a	Map all surface inflows into the lake including inflows at the upper end of the wetlands. Locate all Waikato Regional Council stormwater consent discharge points. Locate land uses in the lake catchment with high fertiliser or chemical use including sports fields.	WDC/ Waikato Regional Council / Tangata Whenua	Conservation Strategy	Short Term	Year 1 2012
4b	Investigate, design and undertake repairs to the existing weir structure, including reviewing options for water release during high lake levels.	WDC / Tangata Whenua / DOC / Consultant / Contractor		Short Term	Year 1 2012
4c	Undertake water quality and/or sediment monitoring of inflows with advice from a suitably qualified professional on the analytes to be tested. Record the location of every monitoring point for future reference. Compare the results with relevant guidelines. On the basis of results, prioritise the inflows for action.	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua /Consultant	Conservation Strategy	Short Term	Year 1 2012
4d	Develop a programme (including plans, costings and staging) for implementation of remedial works to treat, divert, or remove prioritised inflows. Such works may include revegetating drains, creating shallow vegetated wetlands upstream of discharge points, and diversion of flows to existing wetlands. Document all actions taken and conduct follow up monitoring at appropriate intervals to determine effectiveness.	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua/ DOC / Waikato Regional Council	Conservation Strategy	Short – Medium Term	Year 1 – 5 2012– 2016
4e	In coordination with Waikato Regional Council, identify and work towards the remedy of point sources of nutrients and sediment including discharges from industrial properties and sewer cross-connections.	WDC / Waikato Regional Council	Conservation Strategy	Short Term	Year 1 – 2 2012 – 2013
4f	Establish partnerships with adjoining landowners regarding restoration of their wetlands and waterways. Assist with the retirement and restoration activities by coordinating and publicising planting days, and coordinating working parties for fencing and weed control.	Waikato Regional Council / WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Conservation Strategy	Short – Medium Term	Year 1 – 5 2012 – 2016
4g	Undertake a review of the native and coarse fishery within Lake Hakanoa and investigate the opportunities to eradicate Koi Carp.	Waikato Regional Council/ WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua / Fish and Game	Conservation Strategy	Short – Medium Term	Year 1 – 5 2012 – 2016

Action #	What will be done	By Whom	Strategy Link	Priority	Year
4h	Map all areas of lake shore erosion and prioritise the areas for action. Identify appropriate options for remedying erosion including vegetation management, bioengineered structures and hard structures. Identify inappropriate erosion control measures for replacement. Identify costs and implementation programme.	WDC/Waikato Regional Council/ Governance Committee	Conservation Strategy	Short – Medium Term	Year 1 – 5 2012 – 2016

Objective 5 – To actively manage and enhance lakeside and lake margin vegetation and wetland areas

There are five main vegetation types around Lake Hakanoa, each of which serves a different purpose as shown in the Concept Plan. Friends of Lake Hakanoa have created themed amenity gardens that provide interest around the Lake Hakanoa walkway. The ongoing development and maintenance of these gardens is an important feature of the walkway.

The lake has extensive areas of riparian (lake margin) wetlands mainly located to the south and east of the lake. Wetlands are vital for management of stormwater flows, filtering of contaminants, and providing habitat for native plants and animals. Lake Hakanoa's wetlands are currently dominated by willows but have the potential for restoration into wetlands of significant ecological value.

There are three vegetation zones found around lakes, based mainly on the dampness of the soils. Emergent lake vegetation is found in shallow parts of the lake and includes Lake Hakanoa's areas of raupo. Riparian (Lake Margin) vegetation is found around the waterline where soils are occasionally submerged and often saturated. Dryland lake vegetation is found further back where soils are damp to dry. These zones should form a continuous gradient of vegetation that stabilises the lake edge, reduces erosion, filters contaminants (like nutrients, sediment, and bacteria), and provides habitat for native species. Currently this vegetation has limited values or is absent but is an ideal target for restoration while providing for views of the lake for recreational users at appropriate locations.

Historically there was a sixth vegetation type, submerged aquatic vegetation, which is now almost entirely absent. Submerged vegetation serves vital roles in stabilising bed sediment to keep water clear and providing habitat for desirable fish and aquatic insect species. While re-establishment of native submerged vegetation may be a long-term aim, it is not considered appropriate for inclusion in the management plan until research indicates that it will be effective.

Some vegetation management activities currently occurring are detrimental to lake water quality and ecological values, and contrary to the

purpose of a Wildlife Refuge. Guidance is needed so vegetation management has beneficial outcomes.

Policies

- a) Provide for an effective programme of vegetation management that incorporates continued restoration of lake vegetation and wetlands (to support Objective 4), integration of different vegetation types, and control of pest plants to enhance the recreational, ecological and natural character values of the lake margins.
- b) Continue the development of the Friends of Lake Hakanoa Vision through completion of planted garden areas.
- c) Provide and allow for traditional harvesting by Tangata Whenua of native plants in a sustainable manner.



Objective 5: Actions

Action #	What will be done	By Whom	Strategy Link	Priority	Year
5a	<p>Prepare a Landscape Development Plan for the entire perimeter of Lake Hakanoa. This will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify vegetation areas and zones including existing amenity gardens. ▪ Specify the types of plants to be planted in each area. ▪ Identify the remaining tasks needed for existing gardens from the Friends of Lake Hakanoa projects. ▪ Specify the planting needed to integrate one area with another. ▪ Identify areas for native rehabilitation planting. ▪ Specify ongoing maintenance requirements including mowing, mulching, thinning, pest plant control, and plant replacement. <p>Identify funding and resourcing for major projects and develop a programme for implementation.</p> <p>Undertake installation of the works on a staged basis.</p>	Consultant/ WDC/ Governance Committee/ Tangata Whenua	Conservation Strategy	Short Term	Year 1- Year 2 2012 - 2013
5b	<p>Develop a protocol for management of lake margins to guide all future activities involving vegetation control around the lake edges. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Locations for storage and disposal of waste. ▪ Appropriate vegetation control methods for different areas. ▪ 'No-go zones' where vegetation control is not appropriate. ▪ Resourcing for transport and removal of waste vegetation. ▪ Provision of appropriate storage/depot facilities for equipment. 	WDC / Governance Committee/ Tangata Whenua	Conservation Strategy	Short Term	Year 1 2012

Objective 6 – To manage and enhance passive recreation opportunities at Lake Hakanoa

The Lake Hakanoa walkway provides good access for pedestrians around the lake. The focus is to improve the quality of that access and improve linkages whilst providing a safe environment for the users. The addition of further amenities and facilities will provide the finishing touches to an excellent recreational resource.

Activities on the lake currently provide for non motorised craft that do not disrupt the wildlife within the Lake. An agreement exists for the Huntly Boating Club, for model powerboat activities once a month.

Policies

- a) Enhance the accessibility and safety of the walking track and management of inappropriate use.
- b) Enhance the connections between the Lake Hakanoa walkway and adjacent residential areas through visual and physical connections.
- c) Promote passive recreation along the walkway through provision of viewing points and resting areas, whilst ensuring these activities do not compromise the ecological, natural or historic values of the Lake.
- d) Maintain and enhance existing vehicle access and carparks to the Lake edge.
- e) Maintain and enhance the walkway and its facilities to accepted levels of service for maintenance and resourcing.
- e) Promote and encourage the development of new walkways and facilities for different recreational groups e.g. bird watchers
- f) Promote and develop educational opportunities along the walkway through interpretation panels and outdoor teaching classrooms.
- g) Allow motorised craft for monitoring, rescue and lake management purposes only.
- h) Continue to provide for the existing restricted access for model motorised boats. No further motorised craft access upon the Lake will be provided for.
- i) Provide for model power boating upon the Lake for no more than one day per month with an allowance of a two day weekend event four times a year. The two day event must coincide with the 'once a month' booking. One event is permitted per booking. Bookings are at the discretion of the Waikato District Council Facilities Manager and are subject to statutory authorisations. The requirements for the event will be determined at the time of the booking.
- j) Continue to support the completion of the Friends of Lake Hakanoa theme projects.
- k) Restrict dog walking within the Reserve to be by leash only, in accordance with the Dog Control Bylaw, excluding the dedicated Dog Walking Area.

Objective 6: Actions

Action #	What will be done	By Whom	Strategy Link	Priority	Year
6a	Design and install walkway upgrades to allow all-weather access with a preference for installing boardwalks across wetland areas. Providing 'barrier free' access and avoiding motorbike use. Include installation of signage and/or barriers to discourage inappropriate use from motorbikes and vehicles.	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua			
6b	Design and install upgrade of existing connections with residential areas and development of new connections.	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua			
6c	Design and install upgrades and extensions to existing viewing platforms to account for restoration of lake vegetation.	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua			
6d	Undertaken ongoing vegetation management to manage sightlines, promote Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), provide views, and remove unsafe vegetation (dead trees). Investigate lighting of the walkway considering CPTED principles.	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua			
6e	Conduct a visitor/user survey to determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What proportion of users walk dogs on the walkway. ▪ What proportion of dog walkers would use "doggie doo' bins. ▪ Preferred locations for "doggie doo' bins. 	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Reserves and Recreation Policy Walking and Cycling Strategy	Short Term	Year 1 2012
6f	Develop concepts for development of new boardwalks through restored wetlands including features such as bird hides where appropriate. Develop a programme (including plans, costings and staging) for implementation and seek funding.	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Reserves and Recreation Policy Walking and Cycling Strategy	Medium - Long Term	Year 5 - 10 2017 – 2022
6g	Design and install, in general accordance with the Concept Plan, a new shelter structure adjacent to the McMillan walkway.	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua			
6h	Design and install amenity lawn areas around the Green Cathedral, Maaori Garden and Rose Garden area to minimise surface water in open lawn areas.	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua			
6i	Design and install sealed carpark adjacent to Maaori Garden area.	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua			

Action #	What will be done	By Whom	Strategy Link	Priority	Year
6j	<p>Investigate the potential to highlight and promote additional features of the reserve including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Historic features including mining heritage and artefacts and locations of historic interest, both within the reserve and via a walking trail connection with local sites of interest. This could include excavation/restoration/re-creation of heritage sites. ▪ Ecological features including vegetation and birds both within the reserve and via pedestrian connections with local ecological sites. This could include promotion of bird watching through creation of hides and installation of nesting boxes. 	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Parks and Reserves Policy	Medium Term	Year 3 – 5 2014 – 2016



Objective 7 – To provide integrated management of the Reserve.

Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa are interconnected reserves providing for a broad range of active and passive recreational activities, ecological values, wildlife values, scenic and landscape values, and amenity values for Huntly and the wider community. Ownership rests with Waikato District Council and the Crown, but different aspects of reserve management are undertaken by a range of organisations from DOC and Fish & Game to Councils and community groups. Achieving the Vision for the Reserve will require integrated management and a team approach to ensure that the outcomes benefit current and future users while meeting the various legal requirements of the reserve and wildlife refuge status.

Policies

- a) Waikato District Council will continue to control, manage and administer the Lake on behalf of the Department of Conservation.
- b) Promote and establish a Governance Committee to implement this reserve management plan.
- c) Provide coordinated promotion of the reserve across relevant agencies with a focus on small to medium events. Manage the number of events to enhance the exposure of the reserve while minimising impacts on general use. Events may include (but are not limited to) sports events (marathons, fun runs, triathlons etc.), concerts, community events and private function hire of open spaces (e.g. weddings, corporate functions). Events shall not include any activity that will contravene the legal requirements associated with recreation reserves or wildlife refuges. Permits will be issued by Waikato District Council.
- d) Provide ongoing communication with residents and interest groups regarding reserve activities, events and progress on implementation of actions.

Objective 7: Actions

Action #	What will be done	By Whom	Strategy Link	Priority	Year
7a	<p>Establish the Huntly Domain and Lake Hakanoa Governance Committee. The Committee shall include representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Waikato District Council ▪ Waikato Regional Council ▪ Department of Conservation ▪ Fish & Game ▪ Waikato-Tainui ▪ Waahi Whaanui Trust ▪ Huntly Community Board ▪ And other interest groups or stakeholders that are considered appropriate to support the integrated and effective management of reserve activities. <p>Execute a heads of agreement with Waikato District Council regarding the role and function of the Committee in supporting WDC's reserve management functions.</p>	WDC/Waikato Regional Council /DOC/ Waikato-Tainui / Waahi Whaanui Trust/ Fish and Game/Huntly Community Board	Parks and Reserves Policy	Short Term	Year 1 2012
7b	<p>Establish regular modes of communication with local residents and the wider community via newsletter, website and/or newspaper features. Report upcoming events, progress with Management Plan action items and opportunities for community involvement.</p>	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Parks and Reserves Policy	Short Term	Year 1 2012
7c	<p>Prepare marketing information for the reserve for visitor information including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotional pamphlets; ▪ A detailed information guide to the parts of the reserve including the amenity gardens; ▪ National publications for destination guides etc; ▪ Inclusion into a variety of marketing mediums (e.g. websites, magazines, booklets etc). 	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Walking and Cycling Strategy Parks and Reserves Policy	Short Term	Year 2 2013
7d	<p>Undertake ongoing coordinated promotion across relevant agencies and organisations for use of the reserve for small to medium events.</p>	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Walking and Cycling Strategy Parks and Reserves Policy	Ongoing	N/A
7e	<p>Investigate the potential for changing the status of the Wildlife Refuge to an alternative status to better represent current and future uses and community aspirations for the lake.</p>	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua / Fish and Game	Parks and Reserves Policy Conservation Strategy	Short Term	Year 1 – 2 2012 – 2013

Action #	What will be done	By Whom	Strategy Link	Priority	Year
7f	Investigate the ability to undertake formal transfer of administration to 'control and manage' the DOC reserve to Waikato District Council. This will be undertaken in consultation with DOC and Waikato-Tainui. Following transfer to WDC to 'control and manage' Lake Hakanoa Reserve, the Reserve Management Plan will be sent to the Waikato Conservancy for formal approval.	WDC / Tangata Whenua	Parks and Reserves Policy	Short Term	Year 1 – 2 2012 – 2013
7h	Permits for water fowl and pest management.	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua / DOC / Fish and Game	Wildlife Act Parks and Reserves Policy	Annual	Annual
7i	Existing permits on lake for Model Boat Club to be reviewed annually	WDC / Governance Committee / Tangata Whenua	Parks and Reserves Policy	Annual	Annual

Landscape Concept Plan

Landscape Concept Statement

The Landscape Concept Plan builds upon the Objectives, Policies and Actions and incorporates the recently identified current needs and desires of the key stakeholders and Waikato District Council.

The Reserve currently provides a successful framework whereby this concept aims to make minor adjustments to assist the continuation of the Reserve's success. The description divides the Park into following key development zones:

- Huntly Domain
- Huntly Domain Waterfront
- MacMillan Walkway
- Lake Edge
- Wetland
- Raahui Pookeka Gardens / Rose Gardens
- Green Cathedral
- Entrance

Huntly Domain

The Domain has an existing layout which services the many active recreational activities. Key proposals within the Domain include:

- Development of the main playground as a destination playground for the Huntly Community. Removing the brick wall and old toilets between the playground and Huntly Gymnastics Club, to open views around the building and playground, addressing CPTED issues. The playground development can integrate the existing playground and extend it to incorporate the skate park. Different age groups can be considered to provide a variety of activities for all ages of children.
- Installation of new park furniture to service the active recreation around the Park, including seating, rubbish bins and picnic tables.



- Inclusion of an additional parking area adjacent to the playground and band rotunda.
- Create a lake edge platform adjacent to the band rotunda and connect walkway.
- Retention of the existing hard courts to provide for future use of sports, such as netball, basketball, hockey or the like.



- Reconfiguration of existing carparks to increase the efficiency and pedestrian movement patterns.
- Inclusion of a future carpark adjacent to the bowling club, servicing the sporting activities held within the Park.
- Provision of bollards around the sports fields to restrict vehicle access to the sports grounds and grass areas.



Huntly Domain Waterfront

The Lake Hakanoa waterfront along Huntly Domain is in a poor state in some areas. Waterfowl access along the lake front is prevalent and a conflict resides with the Waterfowl and the users of the sports fields. The following proposals are recommended:

- Inclusion of a new public toilet facility that is visible from the playground and sports fields.
- Reconfiguration of the main access road at the northern end of the Domain to a one way system between the playground and Huntly Boating Club. The remainder of the access road width will be utilised for angle parking.
- Reintegration of low lying grass lake margins into riparian planting, to discourage waterfowl loafing and access
- Inclusion of a 2.5m wide waterfront boardwalk / walkway connecting the existing and proposed viewing platforms.
- Upgrade to the hard lake edge along the Huntly Boating Club frontage, to provide direct water access to the Lake. Include a 2.5m wide walkway extension immediately along the Lake edge.
- Provision of seating, rubbish bins and picnic tables in key locations.
- Include interpretative signage along walkway, providing information on walkway, heritage and environmental initiatives.
- Include bollards along the lake frontage to restrict parking on grass lake frontage areas.



MacMillan Walkway

Due to the low lying nature of the walkway, access through the winter months is difficult due to flooding across the walkway. The development of this area is proposed to include:

- Raising the existing walkway and the creation of boardwalk both along the existing alignment and new areas within the wetland.
- Provision of native planting enhancement and bioengineering enhancement to inlets through the wetland, to treat the water quality entering the lake. In some instances the waterways may require diversion away from the lake to separate treatment areas, dependant on recommendations from technical experts.
- Installation of a new shelter at the western end of the walkway.
- Comprehensive native wetland rehabilitation planting with the gradual removal of the canopy willow trees.



Lake Edge

In many places the lake margin has a small margin of planting, comparative to the historical native vegetation cover, with significant issues with erosion.

Dumping of green waste alongside the lake margin is also occurring which contributes to the nutrient levels in the lake. The lake edge and its treatment is a critical component that can be enhanced to improve the environmental quality of the lake.

From a recreational perspective the lake edge varies from a lake margin experience, to exposed beach areas, retaining walls and viewing platforms. Integration of environmental enhancements is recommended with modification to some recreational activities along the lake margin.

Further inland around the lake margin are a number of themed areas, which are a result of the extensive work undertaken by the Friends of Lake Hakanoa. Minimal disruption is proposed to the remaining projects with the integration of these projects into the management plan. These include:

- Further planting at the WEL Energy Trust Global Gardens
- Erosion control at the Palm Beach area
- Further native planting at the Kahikatea Walk

Further recommendations to include:

- Installation of riparian planting following the recommendations of the technical investigations to the lake health. This may include more extensive riparian planting into the lake.
- Extension of the viewing platforms beyond the required depth of riparian planting.
- Installation of lake erosion control measures where riparian planting is not present. Integrate with accessible structures for access to the water's edge.
- Planting of all ephemeral waterways leading to the lake, avoiding mowing or clearing of drains.



Wetland

The adjoining wetland is a small extension of the lake itself. The landowner, during key stakeholder consultation, expressed a desire to improve the quality and health of the water runoff into the lake. Utilising the wetland to treat runoff is a recommended project worth undertaking in collaboration with the landowner.



Genesis Energy Gardens

Already developed some minor additional planting works has been identified by the Friends of Lake Hakanoa. Further works recommended include improving the walkway connections to the lake walkway and addressing drainage along the walkway and wetter areas. Planting of wetter areas may be required.



Raahui Pookeka Gardens

Currently partly complete these gardens are themed around Maaori culture. This project has been developed by the Friends of Lake Hakanoa and Waahi Whaanui Trust. Additional recommended projects include;

- Sealing of the adjoining carpark;
- Provision of a new toilet facility adjoining the carpark.
- Further planting to support the concept of the gardens.



Green Cathedral

As a completed project of the Friends of Lake Hakanoa, this area requires some maintenance and protection of views to the Lake. A popular wedding and function venue, the provision of the above stated toilets will assist these activities. Views to the lake walkway require improvement to improve pedestrian safety along the walkway.



Entrances

There are two main entrance points to Huntly Domain, off Wight Street. Recognition of the Reserve entrance through a dominant entry feature is recommended to include the following:

- Minor upgrade of existing southern Wight Street Entrance to include new gates, signage and pedestrian walkways.



- Installation of a new gate entrance at the northern Wight Street entrance, which is larger in scale than the southern, but in keeping with the design. This will include pedestrian access and lockable vehicular gates.

The existing weir structure is noted to require maintenance. Flood levels on the lake result in the closure of parts of the Domain and walkway. Pumps are operated on a case by case basis to assist in lowering the levels.