

Summary of the Rangitāiki River Document

Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki Pathways of the Rangitāiki

*A healthy Rangitāiki River, valued by the community, protected for future generations.
Tihei Mauri Ora.*

He aha ngā raruraru? – What are the issues?

The Forum is concerned that:

- the Rangitāiki River is no longer providing an abundance of food
- water quality is not always good enough for swimming or drinking
- the river is losing its special qualities and liveliness, becoming unfit for holding rituals and ceremonies
- young people no longer have strong ties with the river
- the river has not been looked after and its water is unsatisfactory to those who hold mana whenua (authority over the land).

He kaupapa whakahirahira – What is this about?

For generations the Rangitāiki River and its tributaries, have sustained those living within its embrace. The health and wellbeing of the river and its resources is intimately connected with the health and wellbeing of the people. It is an ancestral river of great importance to past, present and future generations alike.

Today the Rangitāiki and its tributaries play an important role in terms of environmental, cultural, social and economic wellbeing. The river supports the local economy through hydro-electricity generation, agriculture, fisheries, horticulture, forestry and tourism. Balancing multiple demands on the river continues to be a challenge.

The health and wellbeing of the Rangitāiki River and its resources was an important matter to both Ngāti Whare and Ngāti Manawa in the negotiation of their Treaty settlements with the Crown. This saw the establishment of the Rangitāiki River Forum. The Forum is made up of Iwi and Council representatives and exists to protect and enhance the environmental, cultural and spiritual health and wellbeing of the Rangitāiki River and its resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Forum has prepared *Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki – Pathways of the Rangitāiki* to guide the management of the river into the future. This is the summary highlighting the vision, desired outcomes and objectives. Balancing competing interests (social, cultural, recreational, and economic), while ensuring the mauri (life force) of the river improves, requires collective support.



Wawata – Vision

A healthy Rangitāiki River, valued by the community, protected for future generations. Tihei Mauri Ora.

He taonga tuku iho – Desired outcomes

What do we want for the Rangitāiki River for our mokopuna (future generations)?

Mauri: Mauri of the water is protected.

He Taiao: We want bountiful rivers that people cherish, where native habitats and customary harvesting practices sustain people, and where whitebait and tuna (eels) abound.

He Tangata: We want a balanced, connected and respectful relationship with the rivers and resources, which will be the foundation for resilient, sustainable and thriving communities in the Rangitāiki.

He Awa: We want a clean and healthy environment, characterised by clean water, healthy ecosystems and the return of some threatened species. We want to see people use and enjoy this environment for their spiritual, cultural and recreational needs and to celebrate its heritage with pride.

Te Huarahi – Objectives



- Tuna within the Rangitāiki catchment are protected, through measures including enhancement and restoration of their habitat and migration paths
- The habitats that support indigenous species and linkages between ecosystems within the Rangitāiki River catchment are created, protected and enhanced

...so the tuna (eels) are fat and plentiful in the Rangitāiki River waterways.



- Water quality is restored in the Rangitāiki catchment
- Prosperity in the Rangitāiki catchment is enabled within the sustainable limits of the rivers and receiving environment

...so it is safe for people to swim in, take food from, and find drinking water in as many places as possible.



- The relationship between communities and the Rangitāiki catchment is recognised and encouraged
- The practice of kaitiakitanga in decision-making for managing the resources of the Rangitāiki catchment is recognised and provided for
- Naturalness of the river and the landscape of the Rangitāiki catchment is respected
- Access to the Rangitāiki River and its tributaries is maintained and enhanced

...so the Rangitāiki River and its waterways stay special.

For more information visit www.rangitaiki.org.nz