

# Mahi tahi

Councils and the Okawa, Rūnanga, Ohiti  
Community Working Together

Hui-ā-hapori  
**RŪNANGA MARAE**  
September 28 2023

**BETWEEN**  
the **TWO**  
**RIVERS**



# Kotahitanga

## Relationships and communication with council



1. A forum for **meaningful discussion and debate** between councils, agencies and the community about issues, options, tensions, trade-offs for the catchment *HBRC, HDC*
2. A **single point of contact** within each council, or a contact person for both councils *HBRC, HDC*
3. A commitment that **senior staff with knowledge and authority** will engage in a timely manner *HBRC, HDC*
4. Current pressing issues are **roading hot spots** and **flooding** *HBRC, HDC*

# Mātauranga

## Understanding our changed landscapes



1. **Meaningful conversations** between the community and councils to establish science priorities and programmes in the future *HBRC*
2. **Integrate Mātauranga Māori and intergenerational landholders' knowledge** of historic flow paths, flora & fauna, māhinga kai, taonga species to inform vision for the future. *Mana whenua, community, HBRC, HDC*
3. **Collate and disseminate information** being gathered (aerial mapping, LiDAR etc) on erosion, stream channels and floodplains, wetlands and lakes. *HBRC, HDC, CRIs*
4. **Develop functional online interfaces** and information platforms for the community. *HBRC, HDC*

# Turangawaewae

## Okawa, Rūnanga, Ohiti, Waitio



1. **Commitment to clarify the history and and resolve issues** with the Okawa and Waitio streams, Lake Rūnanga and Ohiti ecosystems, including issues such as the weir and bund *HBRC*
2. **Analysis of Lake Rūnanga** – including changes to the water health, lakebed and surrounding vegetation – to identify factors that may cause flooding and sedimentation (e.g., willows, other vegetation) *HBRC*
3. **Hui and walk-the-land** in October hosted by and with Rūnanga marae and Ohiti community to work through issues and a way forward and conduct eDNA testing of the lake *Community-led*
4. **Review and repurposing of council reserves** for flood protection and ecological restoration > *HDC*

# Te Mana o te Taiao

## Health of waterbodies and the land



### 1. Immediate action

- Engineering solutions regarding streams and flood points along Taihape Road
- Lost riparian replacement at no or minimal costs to land owners
- Removal of large, old or broken woody debris, replaced with native plants and ....

### 2. Medium - long term

- 'Greening' the streams during rehabilitation
- Within a wider flood plain the river meanders naturally, if possible using council held lands not in use
- Allocating councils held lands to be used for a nursery within the catchment area

# Turangawaewae

## Protecting roads, homes and farms from flooding



### 1. Immediate action on

- Roading hot spots (e.g., Dorward's bridge) *HDC*
- Consider inclusion of the Okawa/Ohiwia in the flood protection scheme *HBRC*
- Removal of significant debris from waterways that increases future flood risk *HBRC*
- Repair landholders' roadside fences that were damaged in order to clear roads for traffic *HDC*

# Turangawaewae

## Protecting roads, homes and farms from flooding

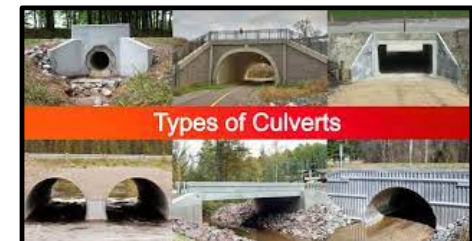
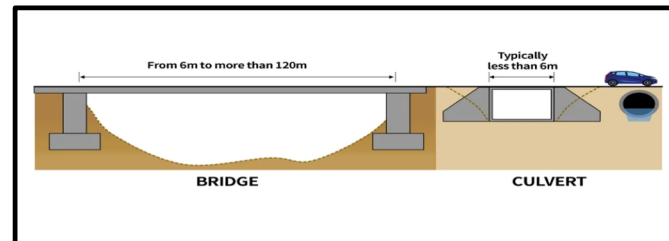


## 2. Medium term – commitment to:

- **Catchment plan** for the Okawa/Ohiwia and associated lakes & wetlands by councils *HBRC, HDC*
- **Disseminate information** on
  - historic and recent topography (floodplain, stream channel, wetland and lakes, LiDAR) – to inform actions and decisions
  - frequency and duration of road closures – **economic, social, medical** impact.
  - climate change and land-use effects on rainfall-runoff and flooding
- **Investigate:**
  - engineering interventions (spilling peak flows)
  - lake level controls, widening floodplains)
  - use of floodplains for flood storage (winter) and pasture (summer)
  - flexible lake level control *HBRC*

# Turangawaewae

## Road damage and repairs



1. **Community involvement in strategic analysis** of access vulnerabilities around Taihape Road and plan to address these *HDC*
2. **Visibility** over road damage through a community-facing, live dashboard of repairs *HDC*
3. Council staff enabled **to allow community to clear minor slips and remove debris** *HDC*



# Tangata Ora

## Emergency Response Preparedness



1. **Secure commitment for local and national communications to provide timely, relevant information to people** *HBRC, HDC*

Specifically by National Radio and/or local radio to deliver civil emergency programming prioritising the affected regions over national coverage

2. **Support the community to develop robust community hubs in the area for future civil emergencies and resource emergency preparedness** *HDC, HBRC*

# Whakarāpopoto Summary



Commitments the community is seeking

1. **Timeline** to respond and work together to resolve issues identified
2. Ongoing forum for **meaningful discussion, debate and planning**
3. A **single point of contact**
4. A commitment that **senior staff with knowledge and authority** will engage
5. **Urgent actions** on roads and stopbanks – flooding, repairs

# Whakarāpopoto Summary



7. **Science** (western and Mātauranga) to support **nature-based solutions** and long-term vision for the health of Te Taiao and community prosperity
8. **Catchment plan** for the Okawa/Ohiti/Ohiwia to clarify and resolve issues
9. **Investigate** catchment hydrology and flooding in the Okawa/Ohiti system
10. **Improve** accessibility and dissemination of information
11. **Integrate** the health of waterways and the whenua into recovery actions