

# Response ID ANON-URZ4-5FXX-Z

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications  
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## Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2A

### 1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:  
New Plymouth District Council (NPDC)

### 2 Contact person

Contact person name:  
Lucy Rock

### 3 What is your job title

Job title:  
Three Waters Planning Lead

### 4 What is your contact email address?

Email:  
lucy.rock@npdc.govt.nz

### 5 What is your phone number?

Phone number:  
067596060

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Postal address:  
  
New Plymouth District Council  
Private Bag 2025,  
New Plymouth 4342  
New Zealand

### 7 Is your address for service different from your postal address?

No

Organisation:

Contact person:

Phone number:

Email address:

Job title:

Please enter your service address:

## Section 1: Project location

Site address or location

Add the address or describe the location:

944 Main North Road Onaero, is the proposed site for the treatment plant and irrigation. Wastewater will be collected from four areas, Urenui and Onaero townships and domains (campgrounds and holiday homes), piped along local roads and State Highway 3 to the treatment plant and irrigation site.

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Do you have a current copy of the relevant Record(s) of Title?

Yes

upload file:

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Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

NPDC owns 944 Main North Road (proposed treatment plant and irrigation site) and manages local roads where pipelines and pump stations will be located. NZ Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi) manages State Highway 3 where a pipeline and a pump station will be located.

Detail the nature of the applicant's legal interest (if any) in the land on which the project will occur

Please write your answer here:

NPDC is the owner of 944 Main North Road (proposed treatment plant and irrigation site) and manages local Roads. Discussions have commenced with NZ Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi) on locating a pipeline and a pump station on State Highway 3.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXX

x

## Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:  
Urenui and Onaero Wastewater Project

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

A partnership project between NPDC and Ngāti Mutunga (mana whenua) to address significant environmental contamination of the Urenui and Onaero townships and Urenui River due to faecal contamination from the vast majority of septic tank systems failing. The Project involves collecting and piping wastewater from the Urenui and Onaero towns and domains (campsites and holiday homes) to a new local treatment plant where the treated water will be irrigated to land on site.

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

The Purpose of the Project is to address:

- public health and environmental issues, including contamination of the Urenui River, associated with failing septic tank systems in the Urenui and Onaero townships, and
- the environmental, cultural and erosion issues related to the Urenui and Onaero domains (campground and holiday homes) wastewater leachfields that are currently under abatement notice due to wastewater flows exceeding those allowed in the resource consents, the imminent risk of coastal erosion of the Onaero leachfield and the cultural offence cause by the Urenui leachfield currently being located on a cultural site of significance.

Properties in the Urenui and Onaero towns currently rely on septic tank systems for management of wastewater. Wastewater from the Urenui domain campground and holiday homes is collected, passes through a settling tank and is discharged to land via leachfields. Wastewater from the Onaero domain campground and holiday homes passes through individual septic tanks prior to collection and discharge to leachfields.

Water quality testing of the Urenui River has shown issues with the performance of private septic tank systems, which are contaminating the surrounding environment and stormwater systems. Due to health concerns, Health New Zealand (Te Whatu Ora) has advised (since November 2019) recreational users of Urenui River to stay off the mud flats, avoid collecting kai mātaītai/shellfish from the river and avoid swimming in the river for 72 hours after heavy rain. Ngāti Mutunga put a rāhui on the Urenui River, in the vicinity of the township, in October 2020, this has recently been reviewed to align with Health New Zealand advice.

Since 2019, NPDC has been working with Taranaki Regional Council, Ngāti Mutunga and Health New Zealand to help residents fix and maintain their septic tank systems. Unfortunately, this repair and maintenance work hasn't resolved the contamination issue as the towns' septic tank systems are too close together (due to property size) and the soil isn't suitable for septic tank systems.

In addition to the water quality concerns, the wastewater flows from the Urenui and Onaero Domains (campgrounds and holiday homes) are currently greater than Council's resource consents allow, resulting in the Taranaki Regional Council issuing abatement notices for these discharges. The Onaero wastewater irrigation site is at risk of coastal erosion and the Urenui wastewater irrigation site is on culturally important land.

#### Project Details

- collecting wastewater from Urenui and Onaero townships via a new reticulation system (low pressure sewer),
- connecting existing reticulation at the Urenui and Onaero domains campgrounds and holiday homes, from the current leachfield discharge into the new reticulated system,
- conveying the wastewater through pipes and pump stations to 944 Main North Road via local roads and State Highway 3,
- constructing a new wastewater treatment plant using an in vessel suspended growth or submerged fixed growth biological process and UV treatment, and
- irrigating the treated water to land on site.

#### Project Objectives

In the spirit of partnership, NPDC will work with Ngāti Mutunga to provide a sustainable and resilient long-term solution for the management of wastewater for the Urenui and Onaero communities that:

1. Protects public health and the mauri of the awa (water) and whenua (land), so the community can be healthy;
2. Recognises and provides for the relationship of Ngāti Mutunga with their culture, traditions, ancestral lands, water, wāhi tapu cultural and spiritual values and other taonga;
3. Achieves local centralised treatment and land-based discharge in a way that minimises adverse environmental effects and respects Ngāti Mutunga cultural values and community aspirations;
4. Has capacity to accommodate population growth in Urenui and Onaero Low Density Residential

Zones, Local Centre Zone and Special Purpose – Māori Purpose Zone, as allowed for in the Proposed District Plan 2023 and subsequent iterations of this Plan;

5. Supports an efficient wastewater network that maximises value for the community, is cost effective and safe;
6. Significantly improves the environmental and cultural impacts currently associated with existing on-site septic tanks and disposal fields, restoring Mana, Wairua and Mauri;
7. Minimises the production of greenhouse gases and is adaptive and resilient to the effects of climate change;
8. Manages the use of resources in a sustainable way, minimising waste and seeking opportunities to use waste as a resource; and
9. Can be constructed, operated and maintained in a manner which provides certainty for the community, Ngāti Mutunga and the requiring authority.

Activities Involved

Following granting of resource consents, designations and archaeological authority the next steps are:

1. Detailed design and Procurement (1.5 years)
2. Construction (2 years)
3. Commissioning and Connect properties (2 years)

Describe the staging of the project, including the nature and timing of the staging

Please write your answer here:

Activities Involved

Following granting of resource consents, designations and archaeological authority the next steps are:

1. Detailed design and Procurement (1.5 years)
2. Construction (2 years)
3. Commissioning and Connect properties (2 years)

What are the details of the regime under which approval is being sought?

Please write your answer here:

Resource Management Act 1991

- resource consent
- notice of requirement

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

- archaeological authority

If you seeking approval under the Resource Management Act, who are the relevant local authorities?

Please write your answer here:

Taranaki Regional Council  
New Plymouth District Council

What applications have you already made for approvals on the same or a similar project?

Please write your answer here:

No applications have already been made for this project.

Is approval required for the project by someone other than the applicant?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

NZ Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi) approval is required for piping along the State Highway 3 and location of a pump station in road reserve. Discussions are underway.

An archaeological authority is needed from Heritage New Zealand for the HNZPT authority required for the entirety of the project (due to the elevated archaeological risk of the project).

Taranaki Regional Council for resource consents.

If the approval(s) are granted, when do you anticipate construction activities will begin, and be completed?

Please write your answer here:

Activities Involved

Following granting of resource consents, designations and archaeological authority the next steps are:

1. Detailed design and Procurement (1.5 years)
2. Construction (2 years)
3. Commissioning and Connect properties (2 years)

Funding of this project was approved by Council in the 2021/31 Long Term Plan (LTP). The draft 2024/34 LTP again includes funding for the project (\$36.98 million). Funding for construction is currently included from years 2027/28. Should approvals be granted earlier, funding will be brought forward to ensure that resource consents and designations have been given effect prior to the 2 year maximum lapse date requirement within the draft Bill.

Project planning commenced early in 2022 following budget approval in the 2021/31 LTP. Land for the project was purchased in June 2023 at a cost of \$5.5 million, 84 Ha at 944 Main North Road. Project spend to the end of the 2023/24 year is anticipated to be approximately \$8 million.

24/34 Draft Long Term Plan

Year 1 2024/25 \$ 1,281,250  
Year 2 2025/26 \$ 2,889,150  
Year 3 2026/27 \$ 2,961,475  
Year 4 2027/28 \$ 11,038,000  
Year 5 2028/29 \$ 11,325,000  
Year 6 2029/30 \$ 3,692,843  
Year 7 2030/31 \$ 3,792,538  
TOTAL \$ 36,980,255

### Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

There are many persons who will be positively affected by this Project. Removal of human faecal contamination from the Urenui River and the associated public health risk will positively affect all users of the river. The river will again be safe for recreation and collection of kai mātaītai/shellfish and can be enjoyed by the community, those who visit the area and campers at the Urenui Beach Motor Camp.

Removing the Urenui wastewater leachfield from a Site of Significance to Ngāti Mutunga will help restore the mauri to the site and address the cultural offence caused to the people of Ngāti Mutunga.

Adverse effects on the environment will be appropriately managed through the design of the wastewater treatment plant, irrigation system and pump stations, and through appropriate resource consent conditions to ensure effects on the environment and neighbours are less than minor.

The following external Project stakeholders have been identified:

Ngāti Mutunga/Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga  
- Partner in the project, high interest as manawhenui for the rohe

Boundary neighbours of 944 Main North Road  
- High interest as located closest to the treatment plant and irrigation

Pump station neighbours  
- High interest as located closest to the pump stations

Residential property owners Urenui and Onaero  
- High interest as each property will be connected to the new scheme

Urenui Domain Bach Owners & Bach Holders association, Onaero Bach Owners  
- Will be connected to the system, high interest dependent on whether there are collection changes in the domains

Urenui and Onaero businesses located within the townships, fire station, Health Group, Plunket, Urenui School / Ministry of Education  
- High interest as properties will be connected to the scheme.

#### Taranaki Regional Council

- Consenting authority, monitors the Urenui River water quality, working with NPDC to address issues, high interest

#### NZ Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi)

- Manage State Highway 3, high interest as pipeline and pumps station to be installed along the State Highway.

#### Urenui and Onaero Domain Campground manager / lessee

- Campground will be connected to the scheme, medium interest depending on with there are collection changes for the campgrounds

#### Health New Zealand (Te Whatu Ora)

- Public health interest, have been working with Council to address the contamination, medium interest.

#### Fish and Game, Department of Conservation and Forest and Bird

- Interested in environmental impacts, medium to low interest, dependent on whether infrastructure passes close to conservation land and the health of the Urenui River

#### Developers

- Interest in developing sections, low interest until the scheme is in place.

#### Fonterra

- Collecting milk from neighbouring properties, low interest, initial contact indicated not concerned

#### Zespri

- Potential neighbour growing kiwifruit, low interest, initial contact indicated not concerned

Detail all consultation undertaken with the persons referred to above. Include a statement explaining how engagement has informed the project.

Please write your answer here:

Engagement to date and anticipated engagement is summarised in the attached Engagement Plan for the Project. This plan is a working document which is regularly updated to ensure engagement is undertaken as needed and in a way that meets the needs of stakeholders. Further information on each interaction and the feedback provided is available on request.

#### Ngāti Mutunga

NPDC is working with Te Runanga O Ngāti Mutunga (Ngāti Mutunga) on this project in the spirit of partnership and collaboration, under a Terms of Reference (TOR). The TOR ensures that issues and opportunities that are of interest to Ngāti Mutunga are appropriately incorporated into the Project. It allows cultural issues arising in the context of the proposed development to incorporate cultural components and protections into the proposed design and resource consent process.

Council and Ngāti Mutunga collaborate at both the Working Group and Steering Group levels of the project with representation on these groups from both organisations. The working group considers technical advice on the options for the various parts of the project with the aim of reaching agreement on which options are preferred and the best way forward for both parties. The working group is in regular communication via meetings and workshops with NPDC also providing written reports on project progress.

#### Boundary neighbours to 944 Main North Road (treatment plant and irrigation site)

Boundary neighbours are regularly updated on Project progress and consultation is undertaken on significant decisions so that feedback can be heard and incorporated into project design. One on one discussions or group meetings are the preferred methods of consultation to ensure there is an opportunity to record all feedback. Neighbours are encouraged to contact Council if they have any questions or concerns.

Engagement to date has been via one on one discussions, group meetings, phone calls and written responses to questions. A quarterly update on any project progress relating to the proposed treatment plant and irrigating site is also provided to neighbours.

#### Urenui and Onaero community, businesses, other organisations

Engagement with the community to date has been via regular open days, project update mailouts, presentations to representatives of the community (Clifton Community Board and Council), the webpage (sign up to receive regular updates) and Long Term Plan consultation. Feedback is recorded and incorporated into project design.

Taranaki Regional Council and Health New Zealand

Since 2019, NPDC has been working with Taranaki Regional Council, Ngāti Mutunga and Health New Zealand to help residents fix and maintain their septic tanks and manage wastewater issues at both the Onaero and Urenui campgrounds. Unfortunately, the septic tank system issues were unable to be resolved through repairs and maintenance as the towns' septic tanks are too close together (due to property size) and the soil isn't suitable for septic tanks.

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2024\_5\_3 Fast-track Engagement Plan Urenui Onaero Wastewater Project - Combined.pdf was uploaded

Describe any processes already undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the land or any part of the land on which the project will occur:

Please write your answer here:

No processes have been undertaken under the Public Work Act 1981.

#### Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

What treaty settlements apply to the geographical location of the project?

Please write your answer here:

Mana whenua for the Urenui and Onaero area is Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Mutunga Claims Settlement Act 2006. NPDC is working in partnership with Ngāti Mutunga on this project.

The Urenui and Onaero Domain Recreation Reserves were returned to Ngāti Mutunga as part of their settlement and are administered by NPDC. The new wastewater scheme will collect wastewater from the domains and allow the existing Urenui leachfield to be removed from Ngāti Mutunga land.

The Urenui River which is being contaminated by failing septic tank systems is a statutory acknowledgement area, as is the Onaero River.

Are there any Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 principles or provisions that are relevant to the project?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Are there any identified parcels of Māori land within the project area, marae, and identified wāhi tapu?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Is the project proposed on any land returned under a Treaty settlement or any identified Māori land described in the ineligibility criteria?

No

Has the applicant has secured the relevant landowners' consent?

Yes

Is the project proposed in any customary marine title area, protected customary rights area, or aquaculture settlement area declared under s 12 of the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 or identified within an individual iwi settlement?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Has there been an assessment of any effects of the activity on the exercise of a protected customary right?

No

If yes, please explain:

Upload your assessment if necessary:

No file uploaded

#### Section 5: Adverse effects

What are the anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment?

Please describe:



## Positive Effects

The positive effects of the Project on both the environment and public health are considered significant. Positive effects include the removal of existing on-site wastewater discharge discharges at Urenui and Onaero (thus removing the adverse effects of those discharges), and the ability to provide for current and future wastewater volumes from Urenui and Onaero communities, including seasonal fluctuations. By treating municipal wastewater to a high-quality and discharging to land in a controlled manner the Project will avoid any direct discharge to the local waterways and improve environmental impacts within the region.

A robust site selection process was undertaken which involved a detailed analysis and assessment of alternatives to ensure the proposed site avoided all potential adverse effects. The proposed location includes favourable characteristics which include its large size, flat topography ideal for irrigation, appropriate buffer areas from adjoining neighbours, area for land discharge infrastructure, lack of waterways, no archaeological features on the site, and it is supported by Ngāti Mutunga.

The proposed centralised WWTP and irrigation will operate in a highly controlled manner that will protect the environment from uncontrolled discharges and will have a significant positive effect on a wide range of receiving environments currently impacted by septic tank discharges. The potential benefits in a reduction of diffuse discharge to surface water are an improvement in water quality and habitat value, improvements in the cultural health of the waterways and the community relationships (cultural, amenity and recreational) with local waterways.

Public human health risk from microbial contaminants in surface water paths and groundwater will be significantly reduced. The wastewater treatment and discharge system will provide for the health and wellbeing of the Urenui and Onaero communities; and without it there is evident localised effects from poorly functioning onsite wastewater facilities leading to adverse public health effects.

## Air quality

The potential effects on air quality will be managed to ensure there are no objectionable odours beyond the boundary of the site, as well as reducing emissions and achieving energy efficiencies. Design parameters will include, but not be limited to, sufficient distances to boundaries, managed odour treatment processes as well as the managed removal of the residual wastes (biosolids).

The main discharges to air from the Project will be odour from the treatment processes. The WWTP will be designed and operated to minimise the risk of any adverse odour being experienced outside the site boundary. Odour mitigation will include the following:

- Providing sufficient separation distances between the treatment plant and the spray irrigation system, and the site boundary
- Positioning odorous processes away from sensitive receptors
- Minimise emissions through the implementation of appropriate odour controls and management procedures
- Minimising the risk for the occurrence of adverse odour events through plant design and process monitoring
- Selection of the irrigation system to limit spray drift

Process units and equipment will be specified and configured to minimise the release of fugitive greenhouse gas emissions. For example, providing for very stable nitrogen removal processes that release a minimum of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) and avoiding processes where methane may be produced by anaerobic processes. In all process plant development, life cycle emissions will be given due consideration and it is anticipated that NPDC will adopt the zero carbon act aspirations and optimization of life cycle emissions generally. These will be drivers towards energy and efficiency and emission reduction. Overall, any potential adverse effects on air quality will be appropriately mitigated.

## Archaeological

An Archaeological Assessment has been undertaken by Geometria dated 25 May 2023 which addresses the potential archaeological effects of the proposed WWTP and recommends measures which will mitigate the potential for adverse archaeological effects.

The assessment identifies that Onaero was an important location for early Māori settlement, however settlement was primarily focused on the Onaero River mouth and the coastal margins. Although there are no archaeological sites recorded within the project area, archaeological sites are abundant in the wider landscape. The types of archaeological sites recorded within 3km of the project are largely indicative of the general archaeological landscape of Onaero, of which is dominated by military sites, largely due to their prominent visibility, and settlements that they protected. The report has identified the following sites as having the potential of being impacted by the proposed works:

- Two possible kainga at the northern end of the property.
- An extensive wetland complex linked to Te Rau o te Huia Pā.
- A high-risk natural terrace linked to Te Rau o te Huia Pā.

The assessment concludes that development of the project site for WWTP purposes presents a general archaeological risk due to the relatively high pre-contact Māori settlement of the area. Te Rau o te Huia Pā lies immediately north of the project site and was spatially linked to the project locality prior to the establishment of SH3. A pre-1900 settlement is indicated on survey plan SO 359, which shows the location of 'whare' on the northern part of the site, as well as pā and whare elsewhere in the immediate locality. Early settlement is also indicative from PDP archaeological site #528, which is a fire feature located on an adjoining property. The interfluvium on which that site is located extends through the northern end of the proposed WWTP site, thereby indicating that any settlement associated with that feature could have extended into the application site. To mitigate any potential archaeological effects, recommendations have been included which will be adhered to throughout the life of the project.

## Cultural

A Cultural Values Statement (CVS) (Jan 2024) has been provided by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga for the NPDC for the Urenui/Onaero wastewater project (CVS attached).

The CVS sets out the Ngāti Mutunga Cultural Values as identified in its Iwi Environmental Management Plan and how these are to be applied to the Project. This document has been compiled by Ngāti Mutunga to inform NPDC on its cultural values so that they can be considered through the planning, design and implementation of the Wastewater Project. Ngāti Mutunga will use these cultural values to assess the impact of the various aspects of the project and will refer to the CVS when undertaking the Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) for the project.

The key cultural values that Ngāti Mutunga have identified and want to see as key outcomes for the Urenui /Onaero Wastewater project are summarised as follows:

**Rangatiratanga** – that a Ngāti Mutunga voice is strong and is heard. This is achieved by ensuring that Ngāti Mutunga is able to work as a valued and impacted partner and most importantly is resourced to do so. The opportunity to build Ngāti Mutunga capacity for this project and for future projects and beyond supports the on-going resurgence of Ngāti Mutungatanga.

**Kaitiakitanga** – demonstrate Ngāti Mutungatanga through our role as kaitiaki. This is achieved by working in partnership to improve the environmental condition of the awa and whenua. Environmental improvements implemented by this project need to reflect Tikanga and traditional concepts. Environmental Enhancements will enable kaitiakitanga practises to return.

**Ara Whakamua** – to look forward to the future. Ngāti Mutunga supports looking forward to progress solutions. Ngāti Mutunga recognise the concepts of Hauora Taiao, Hauora Tangata and Hauora Mahinga kai that will underpin any future direction. Ngāti Mutunga recognises the need to apply traditional knowledge and how this can assist innovation and progress. Long term intergenerational outcomes are essential to the project's success and will also work to ensure enduring benefits for Ngāti Mutunga.

The project provides Ngāti Mutunga an opportunity to be delivered in accordance with Ngāti Mutunga cultural values, to build and strengthen Ngāti Mutungatanga and also strengthen its relationship with the council and the community. It is considered that potential adverse effects on cultural aspects can be suitably mitigated through ongoing partnership and recognition of the cultural values identified by Ngāti Mutunga.

## Landscape and Visual

Visual assessments from potentially affected properties and surrounding landscapes, as well as a landscape assessment are being prepared to ensure specific visual effects and targeted mitigation can be recommended.

The topography of the area is flat to gently rolling and slopes to the north, toward the coastline. The site sits just inside the broad landscape type of the Taranaki volcanic ring plain bordering the inland hill country and coastal marine terraces to the north and east.

Land use is generally associated with rural activities including dairy and pastoral farming and associated residential uses. As a result, the landscape generally comprises areas of pasture, segmented by access tracks, roads and fencing.

Shelterbelts are common features bordering paddocks and fence lines and vegetation is largely exotic particularly around residential properties. As pastoral farming continues to be the dominant land use of the ring plain and marine terraces, indigenous vegetation is generally only found within the riparian margins of waterways. Waterways with steep sided gullies are common and meander across the landscape, generally flowing in a north to northeast direction towards the coast.

Having regard to associative attributes, there are no Outstanding Natural Landscapes or Outstanding Natural Features identified in the broader landscape, however the Onaero and Urenui River mouths are identified as 'significant coastal areas' and as 'regionally significant landscapes' within the Taranaki Regional Coastal Plan.

Mount Taranaki is a unique distinctive landform which dominates the region through the height and slope of its volcanic cone, and the extent of its indigenous vegetation. Special scenic, recreational, scientific and Māori cultural and spiritual values are associated with Mount Taranaki.

With respect to existing physical attributes on the subject site, the predominant feature is highly productive grazing pasture, with exotic shelter belts and large exotic trees in proximity to main buildings. Two Motukara tributaries have varying amounts of riparian planting along their lengths (2-5m) with native species on the steep sides of the gullies.

Recommendations from the landscape and visual impact assessment will determine the appropriate level of avoidance, remedy or mitigation to ensure that unique landscape of the WWTP is maintained.

## Ecological

While the project has the potential to create adverse effects on the ecology of the area, in particular, terrestrial and aquatic effects resulting from the works within the vicinity of the wetlands, measures will be put in place to ensure these are suitably mitigated. Investigations undertaken in June 2023 confirmed that the site contains 13 natural inland wetlands. The concept design of the indicative WWTP operational zone (including process area and area for treated wastewater storage) has been designed to be outside a buffer distance (no less than 50m) from any natural wetland on site. An ecological assessment will be undertaken to address the hydrological connection between the function of the wetland and the discharge of water for the purposes of constructing the specified infrastructure, and to ensure overall consistency with the National Environmental Standard for Freshwater Management 2020 (NES-FW).

Potential impacts on surface water quality derive from the potential for irrigated wastewater to enter the Motukara Stream either directly via runoff, potentially in association with rainfall, or indirectly by combining with groundwater and emerging from seepages or springs where this groundwater naturally enters surface water. Municipal wastewater typically includes elevated concentrations of alkalinity, suspended solids, biological oxygen demand, bacteria, nitrogen and phosphorus. Following treatment and application to land, these concentrations, while reduced, can still cause deterioration in surface water quality if it were to enter either directly or by flowing through permeable soil.

In order to mitigate potential effects on surface water quality, water quality baseline sampling has been undertaken upstream and downstream of the application area. Appropriate sampling will show whether there is any change in the concentrations of selected parameters as the stream flows through the application area. An initial monthly sampling regime for 12 months has been completed to capture the baseline seasonal changes in water quality (in-line with the frequency of groundwater quality sampling). Overall, it is considered with sufficient sampling procedures in place, the quality of the surface water will be managed to ensure the effects are appropriate.

A desktop assessment of ecological effects was undertaken in accordance with Ecological Impact Assessment (EiA) EIANZ guidelines for use in New Zealand: terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems (Roper-Lindsay et al., 2018). These guidelines are consistent with significance assessment criteria set out in the Proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (2019) Appendix 1: Criteria for identifying significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitat of indigenous fauna. This baseline assessment will assist in identifying potential changes from baseline ecological values likely to occur as a result of the Project and recommendations can be implemented to ensure ecological values of the area are maintained.

Monitoring of macroinvertebrates, fish, and macrophytes has been undertaken to ensure the potential ecological effects can be appropriately measured and addressed. Such sampling will also provide an indication of whether there is a change in community health as the streams flow through the irrigation area. EDNA sampling has provided an indication of the species present. A rapid assessment of macrophyte growth looking at submerged and emergent macrophytes within the stream channel has also been completed (based on Waikato Regional Council guidelines).

The monitoring methods will be used to complement the Mauri Compass assessment which will be undertaken by representatives of Ngati Mutunga. Water quality and flow inform the catchment health aspect, while fish, macroinvertebrates and macrophytes provide information on taonga species health and abundance, mahinga kai, habitat and biodiversity. Some of the methodologies may need to be varied slightly or expanded upon to enable it to fit in with the structure of the mauri compass.

Overall, appropriate measures will ensure there are no adverse effects on the ecology of the site and surrounding environment as a result of the proposed activity.

#### Groundwater Quality

Groundwater quality will be monitored to ensure that effects are appropriately remedied or mitigated. A 12-month survey of baseline groundwater quality is being undertaken through the establishment of on-site groundwater monitoring boreholes. The Concept Design of the treated wastewater irrigation system will be designed to ensure that the treated wastewater application rates match the physical and chemical properties of the soil to maximise nutrient uptake and minimise nutrient losses to groundwater. The overall aim of the system is to reduce nutrient losses to groundwater when compared to the historic dairy farming land use of the site.

#### Transportation Network

The activity has the potential to create adverse effects on the road network however mitigation measures will ensure these are managed appropriately. An assessment of traffic-related effects will be provided however the known effects are detailed below. Potential effects relate to both construction and operation of the WWTP including the ability to enter and exit the site safely.

Main North Road / State Highway 3 (SH3) has a One Network Road Classification as a Regional State Highway. Regional State Highways make a major contribution to the social and economic wellbeing of a region and connect to regionally significant places, industries, ports or airports. SH3 in this location has a traffic volume of 4100 vehicles per day (vpd) of which approximately 13% are heavy commercial vehicles.

Due to the relatively low traffic volumes on the surrounding network and having regard to the associated crash history, traffic volumes generated by construction activity would not increase risk to the safe operation of the surrounding network. Whilst the increase in traffic volumes may require upgrades on local roads, if used, any associated inconvenience would be temporary in nature but would result in longer-term safety improvements which extend well beyond the construction phase of the project. A Construction Management Plan is proposed to mitigate associated effects, including that associated with construction-related traffic.

Traffic associated with day-to-day operation of the WWTP is assumed to travel from New Plymouth, and is dictated in part, by the finalised choice of treatment plant. However, day-to-day operational traffic is less than that associated with existing on-site activity and does not pose any additional risk to the safe operation of the surrounding transport network. As the volume of operational traffic is significantly lower than construction traffic, no further improvements to roads and intersections will be necessary beyond the construction phase of the project.

#### Contaminated Land

A Preliminary Site Investigation has been carried out to determine the potential contaminants present at the site to ensure these are appropriately managed. The findings conclude that the site was historically and is currently being utilised as a dairy farm. As the paddocks have been utilised for agricultural activities for several decades, it is possible that the site has received regular fertiliser application for many years and that there is potential for elevated cadmium concentrations in topsoil. However, no HAIL activities have been identified at the site therefore the NESCS is not considered to apply. In the event that any soil is being removed from the site, sufficient soil management and disposal processes will be established. Overall it is considered that potential effects relating to soil contamination will be acceptable.

## Stormwater

The impermeable areas are likely to be very small and largely suitable for on-site soakage systems. Stormwater swales may be considered alongside access tracks during detailed design, however, the operational stormwater generated from impermeable areas will be negligible. The stormwater system will be designed to ensure that freshwater is maintained and there are no changes to the quality of the water. Overall, potential effects on stormwater are considered negligible.

## Construction effects

Potential adverse effects relating to construction will be temporary in nature and will be appropriately managed. Noise and vibration will be managed through a Construction Management Plan to ensure that effects are localised and are not extending beyond the site boundaries. Traffic effects will be managed through a Traffic Management Plan which will be implemented throughout the construction period and will be consistent with Waka Kotahi and NPDC guidelines. Erosion and Sediment Control methodology will be developed through a certified Erosion and Sediment Control Plan. Overall, opportunities exist to ensure that any potential adverse effects resulting from the construction of the proposed activity will be avoided, remedied, or mitigated.

## Noise

Operational noise would be managed via a Management Plan to ensure compliance with relevant standards for the life of the activity. No adverse effects are anticipated.

## Natural Hazards

The WWTP has been designed to provide for adaptive, resilient and recovery outcomes, and as such, has been located to avoid natural hazards. A natural hazards assessment report (Urenui and Onaero Wastewater Treatment Plant – Natural Hazard Assessment Beca) has been undertaken as part of the proposed works. The following is a summary of the existing environment in the context of natural hazards.

Natural hazards that may impact the proposed Urenui and Onaero WWTP site were assessed from the New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) hazard overlays, StoryMap, aerial imagery, and publicly available assessments and reports. The review focused on hazards listed in the RMA and known to impact the Taranaki region, and the locality that the proposed site is situated within. The natural hazards which were assessed include Flooding, Coastal risks, Tsunami, Landslides, Fault lines, Liquefaction, Volcanic, and Atmospheric related hazards.

The proposed WWTP site is not identified as being susceptible to flooding and the inland nature of the site renders it less likely to be affected by coastal risks (such as erosion or tsunami) compared with other more coastal locations. Published information does not identify the site as being affected by slope instability or fault lines and the site is located approximately 7.5km east of the nearest Volcanic Hazard Area, which is located at Waitara. The nearest fault line (the Inglewood Fault) is located approximately 10km southwest of the site. Due to the limitations of published information, this report is unable to quantify liquefaction risk for the proposed WWTP site, although liquefaction damage is recorded as 'being possible' approximately 1km due east of the site. This may (or may not) need to be investigated further during the detailed design stage of the project. The site is not identified as being affected by overland flow paths or flood zones and based on topography and proximity to headwaters, natural flooding is not considered to be a critical hazard. Any risks associated with surface flooding can be addressed at the detailed design stage by ensuring appropriate ground levels for physical infrastructure, and by grading to achieve appropriate drainage.

Overall, and based on the limitations of published material, no natural hazard risks have been identified that would render the proposed WWTP at 'significant risk' for the purposes of s6 of the RMA. In light of this, and through identification of the coastal erosion risks as per the existing situation, the project supports adaptation, resilience, and recovery from natural hazards.

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## Section 6: National policy statements and national environmental standards

What is the general assessment of the project in relation to any relevant national policy statement (including the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement) and national environmental standard?

Please write your answer here:

### New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) is a national policy statement under the Resource Management Act 1991 ('the Act'). The purpose of the NZCPS is to state policies in order to achieve the purpose of the Act in relation to the coastal environment of New Zealand. There is clear direction within the NZCPS around avoiding the discharge of human sewage to water in the coastal environment unless (i) there has been adequate consideration of alternative methods, sites and routes for undertaking the discharge; and (ii) informed by an understanding of tangata whenua values and the effects on them (Policy 23). The proposed WWTP and associated infrastructure/system will provide for enhanced water quality of the coastal environment by removing the discharge of contaminants to the coast providing for a wastewater system that discharges treated municipal wastewater to land. Further, coastal hazards will be avoided through the relocation of a new wastewater network away from the coast and areas subject to coastal erosion and other hazards. The Project will be a major shift from the status quo to be consistent with the NZCPS and will achieve sustainable management in relation to the coastal environment.

## National Environmental Standard for Sources of Human Drinking Water

The National Environmental Standard for Sources of Human Drinking Water 2007 (NES-DW) sets requirements for protecting sources of human drinking water from becoming contaminated. Contaminants such as microorganisms can pose a risk to human health when they enter drinking water supplies, and that water is then consumed. The NES-DW requires regional councils to ensure that effects of activities on drinking water sources are considered in decisions on resource consents and regional plans.

The proposed works are subject to the provisions NES-DW as the nature of the discharge (being treated wastewater) has the potential to contaminate registered sources of drinking water to greater than 501 people. Regulations 7, 8 and 10 of the NES-DW apply to activities specifically upstream of an abstraction point. The Hydrogeological Assessment will ensure that the Project is consistent with the NES-DW, and where mitigation measures are required, these will be implemented.

Regulation 12 of the NES-DW sets out that when considering a resource consent application, a consent authority must consider whether the activity may lead to an event occurring that may have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the water at any abstraction point; or as a consequence of an event (for example, an unusually heavy rainfall) have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the water at any abstraction point. There are numerous mitigation measures that will be imposed as conditions of consent that will address Regulation 12 of the NES-DW.

## National Policy Statement – Fresh Water Management (NPS-FM)

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) supports improved freshwater management in New Zealand by directing Regional Councils to establish objectives and set limits for fresh water in their regional plans.

The intent of the NPS-FM includes prioritisation of the management of the natural and physical resources and has a particular focus on the concept of Te Mana o Te Wai. Te Mana o Te Wai refers to the fundamental importance of water and recognises that protecting the health of freshwater protects the health and wellbeing of the wider environment.

An assessment against the objective and policies of the NPS-FM relevant to this Project is included below.

Objective 1: The objective of this National Policy Statement is to ensure that natural and physical resources are managed in a way that prioritises:

- a) first, the health and well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems
- b) second, the health needs of people (such as drinking water)
- c) third, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being, now and in the future.

The Project represents an approach to improving and preserving the surface water quality of waterbodies around Urenui and Onaero communities by transferring the management of wastewater from septic tanks to a centralised treatment facility with controlled discharge of treated wastewater flows to land irrigation (Objective 1(a)). The Groundwater Assessment will ensure that infiltrated wastewater does not migrate towards the public/ individual water supply bores and overall consistency with this objective will be achieved (Objective 1(b)).

This Project also forms part of and provides for a lifeline utility (WWTP) for the communities of Urenui and Onaero. The Project is a long-term solution that will provide for the social and cultural wellbeing of the communities into the future through improved wastewater treatment and management providing for the health and needs of the Urenui and Onaero communities (Objective 1 (c)).

The Project represents a managed approach to improving and preserving the surface water quality of the waterbodies around the communities of Urenui and Onaero by replacing treated wastewater flows from septic tanks (uncontrolled) to a centralised WWTP facility to land irrigation. The physical structures and the irrigation field have avoided the wetland areas so that there is no loss of extent to the wetlands and their values will be protected. The Project does not adversely impact habitats of indigenous freshwater species or the habitat of trout and salmon (Motukara Stream ecology) consistent with Policy 9 and 10. The Project will contribute towards achieving freshwater water quality improvement (i.e. wastewater discharge being transferred from the septic tanks to land irrigation) by providing a long-term solution for the community through improved wastewater treatment and management.

Overall, it is considered that consistency with the NPS-FM will be achieved as part of the project and future recommendations to mitigate potential adverse effects.

## National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020 (NES-F)

The NES-F regulates the undertaking of activities that pose risks to freshwater and freshwater ecosystems and rules specifically relate to works in, or adjacent to, wetlands, structures in waterbodies that may impact on fish passage and the diversion or reclamation of water bodies.

The proposed works meet the definition of specified infrastructure in the NPS-FM (Subpart 3 Section 3.21(1)) as the WWTP is a lifeline utility (as defined in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002). NES-F regulations 45, 46 and 47 apply to the construction, maintenance and operation of specified infrastructure within specified distances of a natural wetland. The Ecology report will identify whether there is a hydrological connection between the project and the adjoining wetlands, and recommendations are expected to ensure that the overall intent of the NES-F will be achieved.

## National Policy Statement for Urban Development Capacity 2020

The purpose of National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity 2020 (NPS-UDC) is to ensure local authorities enable development capacity for housing and business – through their land-use planning and infrastructure – so that urban areas can grow and change in response to the needs of their communities.

The NPS-UD outlines the requirements for what an FDS must show and be informed by. Both TRC and NPDC have a statutory responsibility as Tier 2 local authorities to develop and implement an Future Development Strategy for the New Plymouth District.

In response to this, NPDC and TRC have released a draft Future Development Strategy (FDS) for Ngāmotu New Plymouth in April 2024. Its purpose is to promote long term strategic planning by setting out the region will achieve well-functioning urban environments and how it will provide sufficient housing and business development capacity over the next 30 years. The FDS also assists in the integration of planning decisions with infrastructure planning and funding decisions.

The development of the WWTP has the potential to provide for increased growth opportunities within Urenui and Onaero through the provision of resilient infrastructure, consistent with the policy direction to deliver a well-functioning urban environment.

#### National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2023

The new National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL) seeks to ensure the availability of New Zealand's most favourable soils for food and fibre production, now and for future generations. The policy provides direction to improve the way highly productive land is managed. The NPS-HPL exempts activities which address a high risk to public safety, as well as activities where there is a functional or operational need for the use or development to be on the highly productive land, such as the maintenance, operation, upgrade, or expansion of specified infrastructure. As the proposed activity would fit within the above definitions, the activity would be exempt and the policy statement is not applicable.

#### National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health 2011

The Preliminary Site Investigation has determined that as no HAIL activities have been identified at the site, the NESCS is not considered to apply. Therefore the project is consistent with the objectives and policies of the NESCS.

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### Section 7: Eligibility

Will access to the fast-track process enable the project to be processed in a more timely and cost-efficient way than under normal processes?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The fast-track process will enable the full suite of approvals to be considered through a single process, which will result in a significantly more timely and cost-efficient approval process than under normal processes.

The project requires a suite of district and regional consents as well as designations, and an archaeological authority from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.

Under the normal process, the consents and notice of requirement for a designation would be applied at the same or a similar time and would be considered together by independent commissioners. The applications would likely be notified and a public hearing would be held. We estimate that process would take at least a year but more likely 18 months. The commissioners' decision could be appealed to the Environment Court, which would add a further 18 months to get a hearing and a decision (if that process went smoothly). Further High Court appeals (and beyond) are then possible.

An archaeological authority would need to be obtained separately. That decision could also be challenged in the courts.

It is the Council's recent experience that a single, determined, appellant can hold up a major project for many years. The Mt Messenger Bypass project has been subject to considerable delays. It was granted consents and alteration to a designation in 2017 and the litigation is still live in 2024.

Any delays are likely to cause significant increases in costs through both the direct costs of defending court proceedings, but more significantly, construction cost escalation. Delays also mean a longer period whereby the discharges from the existing septic tank systems continue to occur causing public health risks.

The Fast-track approval system would see the full suite of consents, designation, and archaeological authority processes together through a single, efficient hearing and decision-making process. That would significantly reduce the length of time taken to obtain the necessary approvals by several years, if not longer if there are multiple appeals.

What is the impact referring this project will have on the efficient operation of the fast-track process?

Please write your answer here:

The project will not have an adverse impact on the operation of the fast-track process. The reasons for this are:

- The project is at an advanced state of preparation. The suite of applications for the approvals are on track to be ready to be submitted at the same time the Bill is anticipated to be passed into law (ie September/October 2024). Consequently, the project would be able to be referred to an expert panel very shortly after the Bill is passed.

· The project is a 'good news story' which has been developed in partnership with Ngati Mutunga and its purpose is to clean-up contamination to freshwater caused by failing septic tanks. It is a necessary and large-scale infrastructure project that needs to be completed as soon as possible.

· The potential effects of the project are well understood and capable of management through orthodox conditions for wastewater infrastructure. We anticipate that an expert panel will have little difficulty understanding and then making recommendations about the project.

· In summary, the project is an ideal candidate to be one of the first projects to be processed under the fast-track process.

Has the project been identified as a priority project in a:

Local government plan or strategy

Please explain your answer here:

The Urenui and Onaero Wastewater Project has been identified as a priority project in Council's Draft 24/34 Long Term Plan as well as in the 21/31 Long Term Plan when funding was first approved for the Project.

This project is a significant financial commitment by Council being the highest cost individual capital project in the 24/34 Plan, \$36.98 million over the next 7 years. Anticipated \$8 million spend to the end of 23/24 financial year, including \$5.5 million land purchase. Total \$44.98 million.

Looking at the draft 24/34 Long Term Plans for other Council's in the Taranaki region, (South Taranaki District Council (STDC), Stratford District Council (SDC) and Taranaki Regional Council (TRC)) this project is also the highest cost individual capital project in the region.

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

Regional significant infrastructure

Please explain your answer here:

The Urenui and Onaero Wastewater Project is the highest cost individual capital Council project planned in the Taranaki region for the next 10 years (draft LTP's for NPDC, STDC, SDC, TRC) as discussed in the previous question and is therefore regionally significant infrastructure in terms of financial investment.

The scheme will involve construction of a new state of the art treatment plant with UV disinfection, centre pivot and fixed spray irrigation infrastructure, several pumps stations and a significant pipe network, along with low pressure sewer infrastructure for each residential and commercial property. A multifaceted wastewater scheme of this extent within Taranaki is considered to be a significant infrastructure undertaking.

The scheme provides wastewater infrastructure to four areas, two coastal towns and two domains with campgrounds and holiday homes. The area is a popular holiday spot that has and will continue to accommodate regional, national and international holiday makers.

This project is a first for the region, it's the first time any Taranaki Council has discharged municipal wastewater via irrigation to land, which aligns to national policy to move toward discharge of highly treated wastewater to land rather than to the coast. It is also the first time that low pressure sewer has been utilised in Taranaki for whole townships, which allows major pump stations to be located outside of the Coastal Hazard Zone. This will be a best practice regional example of what can be achieved for future wastewater projects.

In their recent submission on the draft Long Term Plan 2024/34 Ngati Mutunga identified this project as the priority project for its rohe. Ngāti Mutunga are committed to working in partnership with Council towards the improvement of the environmental condition of the awa and whenua in their Rohe. Because this project is considered a priority project for Ngāti Mutunga Council considered it regionally significant.

Will the project:

increase the supply of housing, address housing needs, contribute to a well-functioning urban environment

Please explain your answer here:

Currently the lack of a reticulated wastewater system in Urenui and Onaero is restricting the ability for growth via infill housing with smaller section sizes. Reliance on septic tank systems requires larger property sizes with very limited ability to subdivide. This limits the ability to increase the supply of housing and provide a range of types of housing and business sites needed for a well-functioning urban environment.

Once the area has wastewater reticulation it will be possible to provide a range of types of housing and business sites and plan for growth. Council's experience with reticulating wastewater in other towns within the district is that growth accelerates once wastewater reticulation is operating.

Providing more residential development in rural settlements like Urenui aligns with Council's Draft Future Development Strategy outcome of providing a variety of housing types, sizes and tenures, including papakāinga, across the district and helps to meet the community's diverse cultural, social, and economic housing and wellbeing needs.

Recent submissions on Council's Draft Future Development Strategy have requested that land within Urenui be rezoned to residential for housing

development, however, these submissions were not supported by Council planners due to infrastructure constraints. If wastewater infrastructure was in place Council planners advised that it would be appropriate to reconsider the zoning of Urenui and Onaero through a district plan change.

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

There are two significant campsites and growing visitor opportunities in North Taranaki, however these are currently hampered by warning notice signs regarding the public health risks associated with using the Urenui River. This is an issue not only for our local people, but also for promotion and growth of visitors to this part of our region. Our region promotes and prides itself on its environment and biodiversity as a point of visitation, and this area is unable to gain the visitor/promotion currently due to the environmental impact of failing septic tank systems and lack of a reticulated wastewater system, particularly in Urenui.

North Taranaki has significantly highly productive land, in particular for horticulture. The region is undertaking a significant land diversification program which includes new growing trials in North Taranaki. Having fit for purpose infrastructure to enable growth and attraction of new business ventures is crucial for economic growth. Venture Taranaki is actively working with producers in Taranaki through their Branching Out Land Diversification project and aim to create 50 new jobs and \$8m of investment to the region.

Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture?

No

Please explain your answer here:

n/a

Will the project support development of natural resources, including minerals and petroleum?

No

Please explain your answer here:

n/a

Will the project support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The Project supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and opportunities are being explored for further climate change mitigation. Beca have been engaged by NPDC to provide a Capital and Operational Carbon Baseline assessment for the proposed Urenui and Onaero wastewater scheme. The development of a baseline for the Urenui and Onaero wastewater scheme will facilitate a sustainable design by providing insight into potential opportunities to increase energy efficiency during operation and reduce carbon-release during operations and construction. The reduction of carbon emissions was a factor contributing to the proposed treatment and location. This included the differences in whole of life greenhouse gas emissions generated from the construction of the conveyance infrastructure. Opportunities exist to explore the use of low-carbon concrete options or alternate materials such as Glass-Reinforced Plastic (GRP) as concrete substitutes and reduce the use of stainless steel required where possible. Similarly, operational carbon emissions may be reduced through a Build Clever mentality that maximises efficiency and resource recovery onsite. Based on the results of the assessment, opportunities will be considered for the next stage of design.

Overall, the project seeks to support climate change mitigation through exploring opportunities throughout further design stages to understand areas for potential carbon reduction and enable a comparison of improvements to the existing baseline assessment.

Will the project support adaptation, resilience, and recovery from natural hazards?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The WWTP has been designed to provide for adaptive, resilient and recovery outcomes, and as such, has been located to avoid natural hazards.

The current locations of the leach fields both within decommissioned and Onaero, are subject to coastal erosion. As a result, the proposed WWTP and associated infrastructure has been located to be outside of areas susceptible to coastal erosion and flooding associated with climate change. This will avoid potential adverse effects of climate change whilst facilitating sustainable development of the regionally significant infrastructure.

The current discharge field in the Onaero Domain is within an area predicted to be lost to coastal erosion and therefore further development of a septic discharge would not be considered appropriate in that area from the perspective of long-term resilience planning. The Urenui leachfield area is also located within the Coastal Hazard and Flooding Area. These leachfields will be decommissioned as part of the project.



A natural hazards assessment report (Urenui and Onaero Wastewater Treatment Plant - Natural Hazard Assessment Beca) has been undertaken as part of the proposed works. The following is a summary of the existing environment in the context of natural hazards.

Natural hazards that may impact the proposed Urenui and Onaero WWTP site were assessed from the New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) hazard overlays, StoryMap, aerial imagery, and publicly available assessments and reports. The review focused on hazards listed in the RMA and known to impact the Taranaki region, and the locality that the proposed site is situated within. The natural hazards which were assessed include Flooding, Coastal risks, Tsunami, Landslides, Fault lines, Liquefaction, Volcanic, and Atmospheric related hazards.

The proposed WWTP site is not identified as being susceptible to flooding and the inland nature of the site renders it less likely to be affected by coastal risks (such as erosion or tsunami) compared with other more coastal locations. Published information does not identify the site as being affected by slope instability or fault lines and the site is located approximately 7.5km east of the nearest Volcanic Hazard Area, which is located at Waitara. The nearest fault line (the Inglewood Fault) is located approximately 10km southwest of the site. Due to the limitations of published information, this report is unable to quantify liquefaction risk for the proposed WWTP site, although liquefaction damage is recorded as 'being possible' approximately 1km due east of the site. This may (or may not) need to be investigated further during the detailed design stage of the project. The site is not identified as being affected by overland flow paths or flood zones and based on topography and proximity to headwaters, natural flooding is not considered to be a critical hazard. Any risks associated with surface flooding can be addressed at the detailed design stage by ensuring appropriate ground levels for physical infrastructure, and by grading to achieve appropriate drainage.

Overall, and based on the limitations of published material, no natural hazard risks have been identified that would render the proposed WWTP at 'significant risk' for the purposes of s6 of the RMA. In light of this, and through identification of the coastal erosion risks as per the existing situation, the project supports adaptation, resilience, and recovery from natural hazards.

Will the project address significant environmental issues?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The new wastewater scheme will address significant environmental contamination issues including contamination of the Urenui River which is a treasured taonga and resource of Ngāti Mutunga iwi and the wider community, as well as being a statutory acknowledgement area.

The existing contamination of waterways is a significant environmental issue, given the needs of the local communities with the waterways and surrounding landscapes. Protection of the natural character, amenity, cultural and recreational values all contribute to the need for the establishment of a future wastewater solution. The on-site wastewater systems (septic tanks) and onsite wastewater discharge (soakage trench systems) are creating significant adverse environmental and public health effects, in terms of water quality and public health. The future of the coastal environments is therefore heavily reliant on the sustainable management of a reticulated wastewater network and related infrastructure.

In August 2019, sewage contamination was found in two waterways (the modified stream and the Ngakoti Street stormwater network), in the lower Urenui Township, discharging into the Urenui Estuary. Further investigations found four significant contamination sources, including discharges into the Ngatoki Street stormwater network and the Whakapaki Street modified stream. Despite efforts to eliminate identified sources, further investigations in 2022 detected ongoing contamination of the affected waterways. The presence of faecal matter is considered most likely due to cumulative effects of septic tank discharges infiltrating underground drainage pipes and adjacent surface water bodies, potentially via shallow groundwater in some areas. It has been considered that wastewater contamination in Urenui would not be eliminated without fundamental changes to the treatment and disposal of wastewater.

A public health risk assessment carried out by Te Whatu Ora, recommended the avoidance of consumption of shellfish collected from within the Urenui estuary and recreational activities in the mudflat area (adjacent to lower township). More recently, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga reviewed its rāhui on the Urenui river and aligned it with the latest public health advice from Te Whatu Ora.

Recent bacteriological sampling of the Urenui and Onaero Domains indicated E.coli concentrations, with the Urenui levels being higher than historical medians, and Onaero levels being similar to historical medians. The E.coli concentrations at Onaero upstream and downstream sites were above the MfE 'Alert' level and the MfE 'Action' level for freshwater, respectively.

Furthermore, NPDC is currently under Abatement Notices EAC-23206 and EAC-23207 due to exceedances of wastewater volumes discharged to the soakage trenches at Onaero and Urenui Domains. As a result, occupancy rates have been reduced in attempt to comply with consent conditions.

The current situation presents issues for growth in relation to the townships of both Urenui and Onaero. While not the only factor determining the density of growth, the provision of reticulated wastewater would theoretically allow for increased density due to increased capacity as well as providing for increased infill development where onsite soakage is not required.

Overall, environmental issues include the degradation of water quality, public health, natural character, amenity, cultural and recreational values pertaining to the existing wastewater system. The project seeks to resolve these issues through the sustainable development of a long-term wastewater solution.

Is the project consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

## New Plymouth District Plan

The New Plymouth Proposed District Plan Appeals Version (PDP) was released on 14 September 2023. Some provisions of the Plan are subject to an appeal. For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that the timing of this application will align with all appeals being resolved. Therefore, no assessment has been made against the Operative District Plan.

With regards to the PDP, the project has been assessed in relation to relevant objectives and policies. In particular, the relevant Strategic Objectives, which address key strategic matters for the district are identified as historic and cultural, infrastructure and energy, natural environment, rural environment, tangata whenua and urban form and development. The project will recognise and protect the heritage and cultural values whilst providing for a well-functioning and resilient natural environment which provides for the social, economic and cultural well-being of communities and for the needs of future generations. Tangata whenua are partners of the project and their participation will be ongoing throughout the project. The new infrastructure will provide for community needs whilst minimising environmental impacts. Overall, it is considered that the project will be consistent with the strategic objectives, and their corresponding policies within the PDP.

## Taranaki Spatial Strategy

Despite the Spatial Planning Act (2023) being repealed, the Taranaki region is exploring opportunities to develop a Regional Spatial Plan to provide a consistent and coherent plan for future development and environmental protection. A spatial plan has the potential to identify growth areas, infrastructure corridors, environmentally significant areas to protect and areas at risk from natural hazards and climate change. With regards to the WWTP, a spatial plan can provide for coordinated growth and planning around upgraded infrastructure to deliver sustainable outcomes. NPDC have been preparing a Future Development Strategy for their district. This is required as part of the National Policy Statement for Urban Development (2020) and identifies locations for urban growth and critical infrastructure. This strategy has not yet been adopted, but it is understood Council officers have recommended the inclusion of this project within the FDS, given it will enable urban growth in the townships.

## Taranaki Regional Policy Statement

The operative Regional Policy Statement (RPS) for Taranaki became operative on 1 January 2010. The objectives and policies within the Taranaki Operative Regional Policy Statement that relate to this Project relate to the Use and Development of Resources, Healthy Soils, Hazardous Substances, Surface Water Quality, Groundwater, Wetlands, Air Quality, Treaty of Waitangi, Kaitiakitanga and Recognising and Providing for the Relationship of Māori with Ancestral Lands, Water, Sites, Wāhi Tapu and other Taonga.

Overall, the Project will be consistent with the relevant RPS objectives and policies. Where there are potential inconsistencies, mitigation will be recommended to ensure consistency is achieved.

## Taranaki Regional Freshwater Plan

The purpose of the Taranaki Regional Freshwater Plan is to promote the sustainable management of the freshwater resources of the Taranaki region. The Plan identifies how the freshwater resources of the region (both surface water and groundwater) are to be managed. The Project will enable the establishment and operation of a long-term, resilient wastewater treatment system for the growing Urenui and Onaero communities. Providing for the reliable and effective management and treatment of wastewater will subsequently protect the amenity and ecological values of freshwater in the district by avoiding the discharge of contaminants into these ecosystems. The ongoing operation and maintenance of the proposed system will ensure potential adverse effects are avoided or mitigated.

Overall, the Project will be consistent with the relevant RFP objectives and policies including the protection and enhancement of natural, ecological and amenity values, recognising and providing for iwi and hapu of Taranaki and their culture, tapu and other taonga, transitional policies – NPS on Freshwater Management, Water Quality and Natural Inland Wetlands. Consistent with the NPS-FM, the project will also contribute towards the achievement of swimmable rivers and lakes for the Taranaki region. Taranaki Regional Air Quality Plan.

The purpose of the Taranaki Regional Air Quality Plan is to promote the sustainable management of the air resource of the Taranaki region. As a “waste management process”, the activity will be assessed in relation to contaminants and effects, the protection of the air resource (taonga) and wāhi tapu from the intrusion of odour or visual, discharge of contaminants to air from waste management processes and the discharge of contaminants to air from site development, earthworks or the application of soil conditioners.

Overall, the Project will be consistent with the relevant RQAP objectives and policies. Where there are potential inconsistencies, mitigation will be recommended to ensure consistency is achieved.

## Taranaki Regional Soil Plan

The Regional Soil Plan for Taranaki seeks to manage effects of soil and vegetation disturbance, as well as soil health as a result of inappropriate land management practices. The project will ensure that sustainable land management practices which control the adverse effects of soil and vegetation disturbance, and the use of the soil for disposal and treatment will be subject to robust land management conditions to ensure the purpose of the RSP is achieved.

## The Proposed Natural Resources Plan for Taranaki

The proposed Natural Resources Plan for Taranaki will replace and integrate the Regional Policy Statement and three regional plans for managing soil, discharges to land, freshwater and air. The Council is currently in the early engagement and drafting stages of the Plan.

## Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki

The Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki sets out the rules around using and protecting Taranaki's coastal marine area, setting legally enforceable rules for structures, disturbances, discharges, and the taking of natural resources and the protections for surf breaks, native marine biodiversity, taonga species, archaeological sites, sites of historic significance to Taranaki iwi, areas with outstanding natural character and areas popular for fishing, bird watching, swimming and walking.

Given the proposed WWTP and associated infrastructure/system will provide for enhanced water quality of the coastal environment by removing the discharge of contaminants to the coast and implementing a wastewater system that discharges treated municipal wastewater to land. This aligns with the clear policy direction within the Regional Coastal Plan that aims to eliminate untreated human sewage discharges to coastal waters. Further, coastal hazards will be avoided through the relocation of a new wastewater network away from the coast and areas subject to coastal erosion and other hazards. Overall, it is considered that the Project will be consistent with the NZCPS and any potential adverse effects can be appropriately avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

The project is a 'good news story' which has been developed in partnership with Ngāti Mutunga and its purpose is to clean-up contamination to freshwater caused by failing septic tanks. It is a necessary and large-scale infrastructure project that needs to be completed as soon as possible..

Does the project includes an activity which would make it ineligible?

No

If yes, please explain:

## Section 8: Climate change and natural hazards

Will the project be affected by climate change and natural hazards?

No

If yes, please explain:

## Section 9: Track record

Please add a summary of all compliance and/or enforcement actions taken against the applicant by any entity with enforcement powers under the Acts referred to in the Bill, and the outcome of those actions.

Please write your answer here:

NPDC is itself a regulatory body with compliance and enforcement obligations under the Resource Management Act 1991 and a range of other legislation. The Council is responsible (and accountable) to its community and ratepayers in all of its functions.

NPDC is a highly responsible operator. It is also the sole body responsible for the provision of wastewater services under the Local Government Act 2002 in New Plymouth District.

However, as explained above, the genesis of this project relates to non-compliance with the Coastal Plan for Taranaki 2023 of the Council's discharge of stormwater at Urenui. The source of non-compliance is failed septic tank systems within the Urenui catchment. Whilst not known at the time of installation, the soil and property size are not suitable for septic tank systems used in the communities of Urenui and Onaero.

The septic tank systems are not owned by the Council. However, the discharges from the septic tank systems are contaminating the Council's stormwater. In September 2019, Te Whatu Ora advised the Council that the stormwater contamination in Urenui township is causing a public health risk. Council has been working with TRC, Ngāti Mutunga, and Te Whatu Ora to address this risk.

In addition, the leachfields that take the wastewater from the Urenui and Onaero domains and campgrounds have flows that exceed consent limits. Abatement notices have been issued by Taranaki Regional Council in relation to these discharges.

The project would remedy the non-compliances and public health risk by creating a reticulated wastewater system for Urenui and Onaero communities.

Load your file here:

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## Declaration

Do you acknowledge your submission will be published on environment.govt.nz if required

Yes

By typing your name in the field below you are electronically signing this application form and certifying the information given in this application is true and correct.

Please write your name here:

Lucy Rock

Important notes



**RECORD OF TITLE  
UNDER LAND TRANSFER ACT 2017  
FREEHOLD  
Historical Search Copy**



  
R.W. Muir  
Registrar-General  
of Land

Constituted as a Record of Title pursuant to Sections 7 and 12 of the Land Transfer Act 2017 - 12 November 2018

**Identifier** TNE1/1266  
**Land Registration District** Taranaki  
**Date Issued** 23 August 1977

**Prior References**  
TN163/102

---

**Estate** Fee Simple  
**Area** 84.0410 hectares more or less  
**Legal Description** Section 140 Block VII Waitara Survey  
District

**Original Registered Owners**  
Denis Fortescue Balfour Mabin

---

**Interests**

Subject to Section 59 Land Act 1948

5649552.1 Transfer to Charles Beswick Wilkinson, Gary Cleland and Joanne Elizabeth Robson - 9.7.2003 at 9:00 am

12731226.1 Transfer to New Plymouth District Council - 1.6.2023 at 3:19 pm

Reference:

Certificate No. 242756.2

Vol. 163 Folio 102

Transfer No.



REGISTER

No. E1/1266

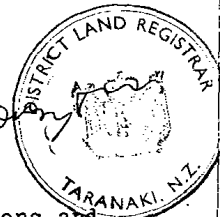
CERTIFICATE OF TITLE UNDER LAND TRANSFER ACT

This Certificate dated the 23rd day of August one thousand nine hundred and seventy-seven under the seal of the District Land Registrar of the Land Registration District of TARANAKI being a Certificate in lieu of Grant, WITNESSETH that DENIS FORTESCUE BALFOUR MABIN of Onaero Farmer

is seized of an estate in fee simple (subject to such reservations, restrictions, encumbrances, liens, and interests as are notified by memorial underwritten or endorsed hereon) in the land hereinafter described, delineated with bold black lines on the plan hereon, be the several admeasurements a little more or less, which said land was originally acquired by the abovenamed

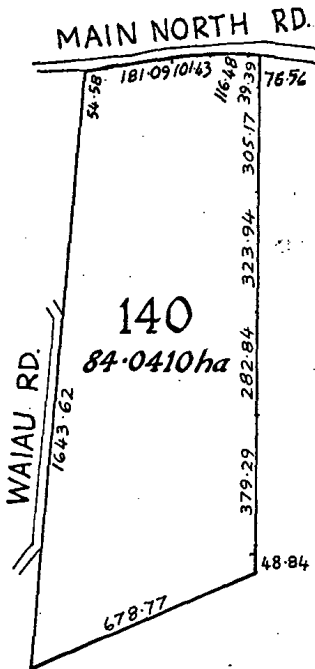
as from the 1st day of November one thousand nine hundred and seventy-six under Section 122 Land Act 1948

that is to say: All that parcel of land containing 84.0410 hectares more or less being Section 140 Block VII Waitara Survey District



Assistant Land Registrar

Subject to the reservations and conditions imposed by Section 59 of the Land Act 1948



Mortgage 135999 to Edith Vera Balfour Gates, Shirley Miriam Picken and Audrey Josephine Irvine in share

4.8.1964 at 1.58 o/c 243164.3 A.L.R.

243164.1 Discharge of Mortgage 135999 as to the interest of Edith Vera Balfour Gates - 7.9.1977 at 2.12 o/c A.L.R.

243164.2 Discharge of Mortgage 135999 as to the interest of Shirley Miriam Picken - 7.9.1977 at 2.12 o/c A.L.R.

Mortgage 243164.4 to The Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Company Limited - 7.9.1977 at 2.12 o/c 338893.1 A.L.R.

288377 Variation of Mortgage 243164.4 - 23.4.1982 at 2.35 o/c A.L.R.

No. E1/1266

Measurements are Metric

S.O. 11094

OVER....

E1/1266

Mortgage 338893.2 to The New Zealand Insurance Life Limited - 11/12/1987 at 9.10 o'c  
367722

DISCHARGED  
23/1/1990  
1990  
D.L.R.

of a one half share A.L.R..  
Transfer 367214/to Maizie Elizabeth Mabin of Onaero married woman - 19.12.1989 at 9.00 o'c

A.L.R..  
A.L.R..

446064.1 Transmission of the 1/2 share of Maizie Elizabeth Mabin to The Public Trustee

446064.2 Transfer of the 1/2 share of The Public Trustee to Denis Fortescue Balfour Mabin all 13.11.1997 at 11.58

Brookline  
for DLR





Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

# New Plymouth District Council



## Engagement Plan Urenui and Onaero Wastewater Project

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### WORKING DOCUMENT

Initiated May 2022

Report prepared by:	Denise Rowland (Engagement advisor)
Consultation with:	Nicolette West (Project Manager)
Peer reviewed by:	Lucy Rock (Lead Three Waters Planning)







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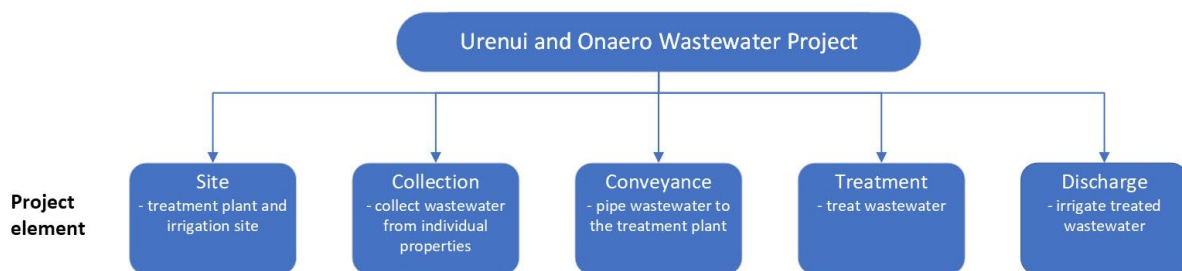
# 1 Introduction

The purpose of this plan is to outline the engagement approach for the Urenui Onaero Wastewater Project. New Plymouth District Council and Ngāti Mutunga have partnered in this project.

This project is to collect and pipe wastewater from the Urenui and Onaero towns and domains to a new local treatment plant and then irrigate the treated water to land.



There are five key elements to the project which are identified in the diagram below. Those are site, Collection, Conveyance, Treatment and Discharge.





## 1.1 Background

Water quality testing of the Urenui River has shown there are issues with the performance of some private septic tanks, which are contaminating the surrounding environment and stormwater systems.

In addition to the water quality concerns, the wastewater flows from the domains are currently greater than our resource consent allows, the Onaero wastewater irrigation site is at risk of coastal erosion, and the Urenui wastewater site is on culturally important land.

Due to health concerns, Te Whatu Ora (Health New Zealand) has advised recreational users of Urenui River to stay off the mud flats, avoid collecting kai mātaītai/shellfish from the river and avoid swimming in the river for 72 hours after heavy rain. Ngāti Mutunga has also placed a rāhui on Urenui River which aligns with this advice.

Since 2019, NPDC has been working with Taranaki Regional Council, Ngāti Mutunga and Te Whatu Ora to help residents fix and maintain their septic tanks and managing wastewater issues at both the Onaero and Urenui campgrounds. Unfortunately, this work is unlikely to resolve the contamination issues as the towns' septic tanks are too close together (due to property size) and the soil isn't suitable for septic tanks.

During NPDC's community consultation on the 2021-31 Ten-Year Plan, Ngāti Mutunga and locals made it clear that they wanted a long-term solution to the contamination of the Urenui River, which has led to NPDC approving the construction of a new wastewater treatment system.

### LTP scan 21/31 Long Term Plan

River water quality testing in Urenui has shown there are issues with the performance of private septic tanks contaminating the surrounding environment and stormwater systems. In addition, the communal septic tanks servicing the Urenui Domain and Onaero campground baches are underperforming and the disposal fields are also at risk of coastal erosion. We propose to reticulate the Urenui and Onaero settlements with a small satellite land based wastewater treatment plant. The estimated completion of construction for the land based wastewater treatment plant is year 5 with reticulation being completed in year 10. At this stage, there is only one option available to address this issue:

1. Spend up to \$29.2m to reticulate the Urenui and Onaero settlements with a small satellite land based wastewater treatment plant.

Only one option available - spend up to \$29.2m to reticulate the Urenui and Onaero settlements with a small satellite land-based wastewater treatment plant.



## 2 Scope

### 2.1 Negotiables and Non-negotiables

#### Non-negotiables

Key Project Stage	Non-negotiable
General	Need to provide a new solution for wastewater treatment and discharge.
	Partnership with Ngāti Mutunga.
	Timeframe, project to progress as quickly as possible.
	Must adhere to NPDC <a href="#">Significance and Engagement Policy (2017)</a>
	Local Government Act 2002
	Resource Management Act 1991
	New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010
	Coastal Plan for Taranaki 2023
	Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki 2001
Site	Local treatment and discharge
Treatment	Disposal of screenings to landfill
	Disinfection with UV, to be suitable for irrigation
Discharge	Discharge of treated wastewater to land

#### Negotiables

Project element	Negotiable
General	Type of wastewater management system – one local treatment plant, multiple local treatment plants.
	Allowance for growth - does the community want to see growth in the area?
Site	Site Selection
Collection	Type of collection system
	Area where collection system is provided
	Connection, compulsory or non-compulsory Under current bylaw connection can only be enforced where there is environmental or public health risk. Rules around connection.
	Payment for connection. Infrastructure ownership and maintenance model
Conveyance	Pump station locations
	Route of conveyance network
	Location of river crossings
Treatment	Disposal of biosolids
	Biotransformation – the conversion of treated wastewater from tapu to noa Is this something that Ngāti Mutunga are interested in considering
	Level of treatment required – links with discharge method
	Location of treatment plant on site.
Discharge	Crop



Project element	Negotiable
	Discharge method
	Location of discharge field on site
	Use of the buffer zone. Planting, grazing, other options

## 2.2 Scoping statement

NPDC and Ngāti Mutunga will work together in the spirit of partnership to design, plan and construct infrastructure for the collection, conveyance, treatment and discharge of treated wastewater from the Urenui and Onaero townships and domains.

NPDC will continue to communicate with stakeholders to keep them informed of project progress, key project milestones and consider concerns and feedback throughout the duration of the project.

### 3 Step 3 Understanding people

#### 3.1 Partnership with Ngāti Mutunga

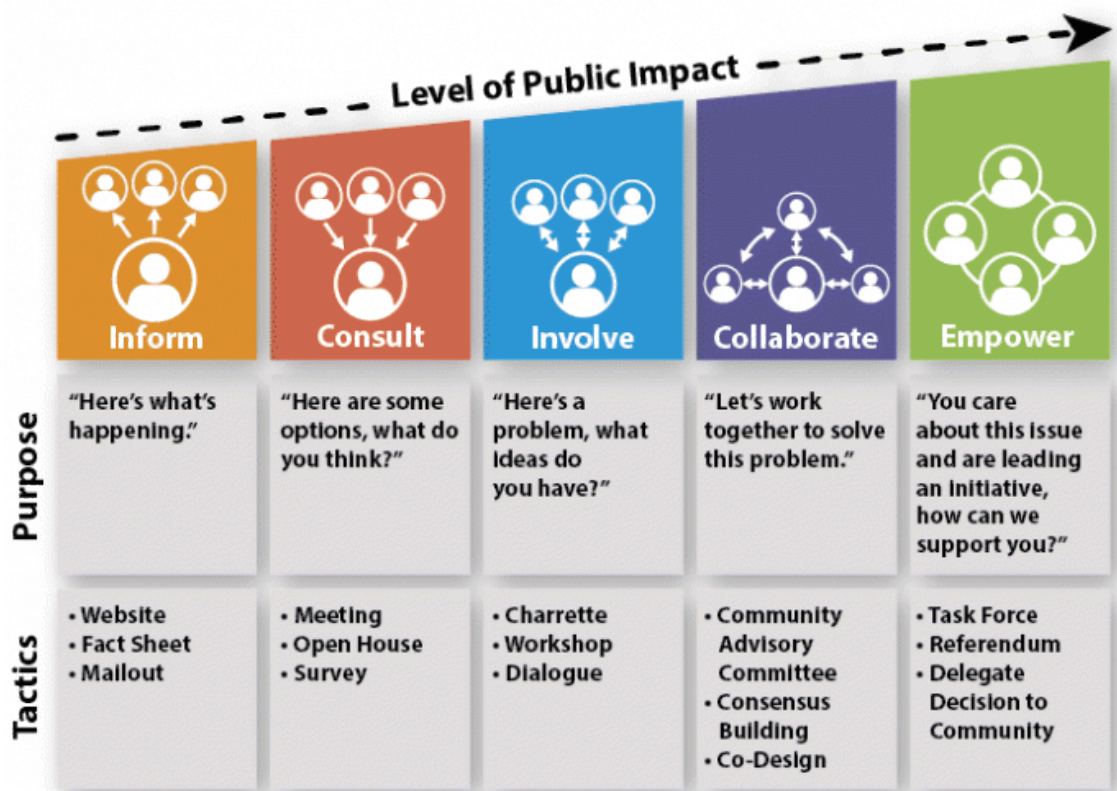
NPDC is working with Te Runanga O Ngāti Mutunga (Ngāti Mutunga) on this project in the spirit of partnership and collaboration, under a Terms of Reference (TOR). This agreement ensures that issues and opportunities that are of interest to Ngāti Mutunga are appropriately incorporated into the project. It allows cultural issues arising in the context of the proposed development to incorporate cultural components and protections into the proposed design and resource consent process.

Council and Ngāti Mutunga collaborate at both the Working Group and Steering Group levels of the project with representation on these groups from both organisations. The working group considers technical advice on the options for the various parts of the project with the aim of reaching agreement on which options are preferred and the best way forward.

The working group is in regular communication via meetings and workshops with NPDC also providing written reports on project progress. Working Group decisions are taken to the Steering Group for approval and recommendations are made to Council.

#### 3.2 Stakeholder, Community and the IAP2 Spectrum:

The IAP2 spectrum of public participation will be used to guide the engagement approach with each stakeholder group. At a general level, this project seeks to ‘inform’, ‘consult’ and ‘involve’ levels of the participation spectrum with the neighbours.







### 3.3 External Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Role/connection	Benefit of involvement	Level of interest (reason for the assessment in brackets)	Likely impact (reason for the assessment in brackets)	Level of engagement
Ngāti Mutunga/Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga	Partner in the project	Provide a cultural lens to the project, own the Urenui and Onaero Domain (administered by NPDC)	High (mana whenua for the rohe)	High	Collaborate
Boundary neighbours of 944 Main North Road (as identified in Appendix 2)	NPDC identified Boundary neighbours	NPDC understanding issues concerns and being able to incorporate those into the design. Being able to answer questions and provide information.	High (located closest to treatment plant and irrigation)	Low (no adverse effects allowed across the boundary)	Inform, consult,
Residential property owners Urenui and Onaero, Onaero Bach Owners	Decommissioning of septic tanks, connection to new wastewater system	Seek feedback around how costs will be covered, communications and information required during collection phase of the project	High (Each property will need to be communicated with regarding connection)	Med- high (during the connection and collection stage at each property)	Inform, consult
Urenui Domain Bach Owners & Bach Holders association	Will be connected to wastewater system (not necessarily changes for individual properties)	Aware of the project, Input into collection changes if there are any	High (Dependant on collection changes in the domain)	High (Dependant on collection changes in the domain)	Consult, inform
Urenui and Onaero businesses located within the townships, fire station, Health Group, Plunket, Urenui School / Ministry of Education	Low pressure sewer connection	Consulting on connection cost and project funding	High (tank and pump installed on their property and potential associated cost being passed on)	High	Consult, inform
Taranaki Regional Council	Consenting authority, Freshwater & Coastal Team Leader	Regulator, increased awareness prior to processing consents, Support community events regarding education about septic tanks and river quality	High (Consenting authority, Urenui river water quality monitoring)	High	Inform
NZ Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi)	Manage State Highway 3	Pipe route and pumpstation location potentially on their road	High (pipes installed on State Highway 3)	High	Consult, inform
Urenui and Onaero Domain Campground manager / lessee	Campground will be connected to the wastewater system	Informed about project and progress	Med (Dependant on any collection changes in the domain)	Low	Inform
Health New Zealand (Te Whatu Ora)	Public Health Interest	Awareness of the project which should lead to improved water quality in Urenui River	Med (health warnings associated with Urenui River)	Low (revise health warnings in the future)	Inform
Fish and Game, Department of Conservation and Forest and Bird	Interested in environmental impacts	Awareness of the project and potential supporters	Med -low (dependant on infrastructure near conservation land, health of the Urenui river)	Low	Inform
Developers	Interest to develop sections	Awareness that the area is being reticulated for wastewater	Low	Low	Inform
Fonterra	Collecting Milk from neighbouring properties	Awareness of the project	Low (initial contact indicated not concerned)	Low	Inform

Zespri	Potential neighbour growing kiwifruit in the area	Awareness of the project	Low (initial contact indicated not concerned)	Low	Inform

### 3.4 Internal Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Role/connection	Benefit of involvement	Level of interest	Level of impact	Level of engagement
Elected Members Mayor, Councillors,	Budget approvers and decision makers. To be kept informed of the overall progress of this project	To assist with community connections, support for the project.	High (decision making-funding,)	High	Consult, inform
Clifton Community Board	To be kept informed of the overall progress of this project	To assist with community connections, support for the project.	High (represent the Urenui and Onaero community and feed back to councillors)	Med	Consult, inform
Consenting team	Designation processing,	Regulatory authority, Awareness of the project prior to consent processing	High (assessing the notice of requirement for designation)	High	Consult, inform
Planning team	Discussion around population growth and section sizes following wastewater reticulation	Aware of the project and the changes being made, potential implications for growth	Med (implications for growth and property size in Urenui and Onaero)	Med	Consult, inform
Parks and property	manage campgrounds, lease, control allowable number of campsites	Aware of the project and the changes being made	Med (	Med	Consult, inform
Building team	Low pressure sewer building consents	Aware of the project and the changes being made	Med (building consents in low pressure sewer)	High	Consult, inform
Trade waste	Monitoring wastewater discharges from business and consenting trade waste discharges	Aware of the project and the changes being made	Med (monitoring of trade discharges)	High	Consult, inform
Three waters operations team	Operating parts of the system pumpstation, reticulation network and treatment plant.	Feedback on the system,	Med (operating the system)	High	Consult, inform
Three waters instrumentation team	Will look after the SCADA system for the weather station and control of the treatment plant and irrigation	Feedback on the system	Low (BAU for the team)	High	Consult, Inform

## 4 Engagement Methods

The following table outlines engagement methods that could be implemented for neighbours and key stakeholders.

Project element	Engagement purpose	Engagement method	Target group	IAP2 level of participation	Reasons for method	Timeline/date	Outcome/Expected outcome	Appendix number
General	Inform community of Urenui river water quality and management of septic tanks	Community open day October 2021 Letters to home owners	Wider community	Inform	Face to face discussion. Make various parties available to the community, NPDC, TRC, Te Whatu Ora, Ngāti Mutunga Letters sent out to home owners from Property Team at NPDC	28 October 2021	Community aware of the issue and how to maintain their septic tanks	1
	Type of wastewater management system	workshops	Ngāti Mutunga	Collaborate	Discussion the options, face to face	Early 2022	Decided on a single local treatment plant as the wastewater management system.	
	To decide on the discharge of treated water	workshops	Ngāti Mutunga	Collaborate	Discussion the options, face to face	Early 2022	Decided on discharge of treated water to land	
	Identify wāhi tapu sites in the Ngāti Mutunga rohe	workshop	Ngāti Mutunga	Collaborate	Face to face conversation with Ngāti Mutunga about their rohe	29 April 2022	Confirmed location of wāhi tapu sites in Ngāti Mutunga rohe	
	Update community on Urenui River water quality and the Urenui and Onaero Wastewater Project	Community open day October 2022	Wider community	Inform	Face to face discussion. Make various parties available to the community, NPDC, TRC, Te Whatu Ora, Ngāti Mutunga	26 October 2022	Community aware of the issues and progress on the project	
	Update Clifton Community Board on the project	Present at meeting	Clifton Community Board	Inform	Official way to update the Community Board	23 June 2023	Community Board aware of the project progress	
	Inform the wider Urenui Onaero Community about the project, timeline, and promoting the Community open day.	Mail out information flyer and website address	Wider community	Inform	Guarantee members of the wider community receive the letter and information about the project pop up event and providing a link to further information on the website	29 September 2023	People are informed about the project and the timeline have the website information and are invited to the pop up event.	
	Update community on Urenui River water quality and the Urenui and Onaero Wastewater Project	Community event pop up	Wider community	Inform	Face to face discussion with the wider community able to answer questions and provide information	15 October and 19 November 2023	Community are informed and updated, opportunity to answer questions	2
	Strategic Projects Committee Meeting 'deep dive'	Deep dive presentation to the Strategic Projects Committee	Strategic Projects Committee and other Councillors that attend	Inform	Required method for engagement with Councillors	6 March 2024	Councillors informed about the project.	
Site	Working group to decide on the preferred site for the project	workshop	Ngāti Mutunga	Collaborate	Discussion the options, face to face	July 2022 to December 2022	Decide on preferred site for the project	
	Get approval from Council to purchase 944 Main North Road	Report to Council Attend meeting to answer questions.	Full Council	Consult	Standard method for decision from Council	20 Dec 2022	Approval from Council to purchase 944 Main North Road	

Project element	Engagement purpose	Engagement method	Target group	IAP2 level of participation	Reasons for method	Timeline/date	Outcome/Expected outcome	Appendix number
	Inform neighbours of the site purchased for the project - 944 Main North Road	Phone call	Immediate neighbours	Inform	A contact the neighbours to quickly advise of the land purchase before it became public.	16 February 2023	Informing that the property had been purchased for the project.	
		Individual meeting	Immediate Neighbours	Inform	Allow face to face discussion	March/ April/ May 2023	Sharing information on why the property was purchased, general information about the project and providing contact details. List of neighbours concerns.	
		Neighbours group meeting at NPDC, and later follow up email/ letters	Immediate Neighbours	Inform	Allow group discussion	10 July 2023	Allow neighbours to listen to feedback from other neighbours, Sharing information on why the property was purchased, general information about the project and providing contact details. List of neighbours concerns.	3a, 3b, 3c
	Inform neighbours of the progress of the project related to the site	Emailing and mailing out project updates quarterly – Quarterly Site Progress Updates	Immediate Neighbours	Inform	Providing the neighbours regular updates about the project and information such as reports as it becomes available.	Quarterly	Neighbours are informed and updated with progress and have opportunity to feedback with any concerns.	
	Working group to decide on preferred layout on site							
	Engage with site neighbours on layout of site and measures to mitigate effects on neighbours							
<b>Collection</b>	Working group to decide on preferred option for collection system in townships of Urenui and Onaero	workshop	Ngāti Mutunga	Collaborate	Discussion the options, face to face	18 August 2022	Decided on preferred method of collecting wastewater from Urenui and Onaero townships	
	Low pressure sewer site visit	Field Trip	Ngāti Mutunga, Councillors, Community Board Members	Knowledge building	Personal experience- to see hear smell a similar site	20 February 2024	Build knowledge around existing similar systems	Handouts
	Consult with Councillors on preferred collection option, ownership, maintenance, financing							
	Consult with Urenui Onaero community on preferred collection option, ownership, maintenance, financing							

Project element	Engagement purpose	Engagement method	Target group	IAP2 level of participation	Reasons for method	Timeline/date	Outcome/Expected outcome	Appendix number
<b>Conveyance</b>	Working group to decide on preferred option for conveyance							
	Consult with NZ Land Transport on pump station location and piping on state highway.							
	Engage with pump station neighbours on layout of site and measures to mitigate effects on neighbours							
<b>Treatment</b>	Working group to decide on preferred option for use of surplus micro-organisms from treatment process	workshop	Ngāti Mutunga	Collaborate	Discussion the options, face to face	29 March 2023	Decided on the preferred method for use of surplus micro-organisms from the treatment process	
	Field trip tour to Acia Bay Sequence Batch Reactor Treatment Plant.	Field Trip	Ngāti Mutunga, Councillors, Community Board Members	Knowledge Building	Personal experience- to see hear smell a similar site	8 February 2024	Build knowledge around existing similar systems	
	Working group to decide on preferred option for biological treatment at the treatment plant	workshop	Ngāti Mutunga	Collaborate	Discussion the options, face to face	27 April 2023	Narrowed down to two options, Stage 2 report to follow	
<b>Discharge</b>	Working group to decide on preferred crop and irrigation options	workshops	Ngāti Mutunga	Collaborate	Discussion the options, face to face	25 May 2023 – decide on decision making process and work through initial stages 6 July 2023 – review MCA assessment and identify options to move forward 4 September 2023 – provide further information on the short listed options	Decide on preferred crop and irrigation options	
	Rakaunui Road and View Road Taupo land discharge site visit	Site visit	Ngāti Mutunga, Councillors, Community Board Members	Knowledge		8 Feb		



## 4.1 Documents

The below table identifies where any documents are stored from the Engagement methods.

Engagement ID	Brief Description	ECM number
1	Event Plan Community open day 2023	9129374
3a	Event Plan, Urenui Onaero Wastewater Project Neighbours Meeting 10/07/2024	9194581
3b	Urenui Onaero Wastewater Project- Neighbours meeting follow-up email and presentation and concerns attached 31/07/2023	9193943
3c	Follow up letter to those that attended the neighbours meeting 26/07/2023	8807794

### Relevant document

NPDC Significance of Engagement Policy



## **Appendix 1: Communications Plan and FAQ**





# MCD Plan For Urenui/Onaero WWTP *(Treasure Our Water)*

***31 August 2022***  
***Updated: May 2024***

***Working Document***

# Index - Hyperlinked

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[Key Messages](#)

[Media Release & Fast Facts](#)

[Q & A](#)

[Marketing Schedule & Costs](#)

[Assets Required](#)

[Post Analysis](#)



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth  
District Council**

# Background Information

Project lead: Mark Hall/Nicolette West/Lucy Rock

## **1 May 2024**

NPDC has applied to the Government for this project to be included in its list for consideration under the Fast-track Approvals Act (currently a Bill), as a project of regional significance.

## **23 January 2024**

An update on this project is going to the Strategic Projects meeting on 6 March, which will include information on potential low-pressure reticulation systems for the two north Taranaki towns.

The agenda release is 28 February, but some elected members will get it on 5 February.

It will be the first time in public we will be talking about investigating the potential of a low-pressure reticulation system for the towns.

While low-pressure systems exist for small pockets of houses in some parts of the district, and commonly used elsewhere in the country, this is the first time we would use it for an entire community.

It's important to note that we've not landed on a preferred option yet and the investigation will determine if such a system is feasible and preferable.

Benefits of a low-pressure system for resident:

- It's a lot cheaper than for our usual gravity reticulation.
- Includes a pump and tank on residents' property.
- Questions around ownership of infrastructure on private property, who pays for installation and maintenance, connection requirements, etc are till to be discussed.



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth  
District Council**

# Background Information

7 Elected members have been invited on tours to see systems in practice on 8 Feb (Taupo irrigation site) and 20 Feb (low-pressure sewer system in Highlands Park).

**Tactics to inform community about report:** Update the webpage with link to meeting agenda and presentation, produce poster for the community to encourage them to check the webpage for updates and to sign up to receive these electronically. Denise to update the Urenui and Onaero FB page. Letter to the property owners using ratepayers' address list via GIS.

## February 2023

About to buy a different block of land – 944 Main North Road. At 84ha it is larger, flatter and closer to Onaero/Urenui than the first property on Waiau Road. Price being negotiated. Access off two sides (Main North Road and SH3), and is just west of Onaero township.

Go unconditional on the sale contract; then contact neighbours (including Ngati Rahiri), community board and councillors, Wairau Road neighbours; then go public.

Timeframe: could be as early as next week (week starting 13 Feb) or could take a few weeks more (depends on going unconditional on the purchase).

We'll retain the Waiau Road property until we get a resource consent for the Main North Road property, after which Waiau Road will likely be sold. (Waiau Road is our alternative site if we don't get resource consent.)

The consenting process for the Main North Road site would take a few years.

## August 2020

The current septic tank systems for these settlements are aged and no longer meet the required standards. Also, expectations have increased around protection of the environment and human health since these towns were established. As a result, the current situation is unacceptable to many parties including iwi, NPDC, Taranaki Regional Council, the Ministry of Health, and beach and river users.



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth  
District Council**

# Background Information

In June 2021, NPDC approved exploring options for building a local land-based wastewater treatment plant to serve the Urenui and Onaero townships and domains.

An important part of this wastewater scheme is the location of a site for the treatment plant. We have undertaken a comprehensive review of all properties within the Urenui and Onaero area to identify all potentially suitable sites.

A number of criteria have been used to identify potential sites including the size of the property, the distance from the Urenui and Onaero townships, the soil type, the amount of flat land, whether there are sites of significance to Māori present, and the number and location of watercourses on-site.

Part-way through this process, 319 Waiau Road came on the market and NPDC purchased it. However, the assessment of other potentially suitable sites continues so that we can be sure the best location is ultimately chosen, to achieve the best outcomes for the project and the community.



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth  
District Council**

# Lessons From Previous Campaigns



- Any project to do with wastewater needs to keep potentially affected residents informed so that there are no surprises or room for worries.
- The Urenui and Onaero communities are worried about the effect of septic tanks on their rivers.
- Neighbours need to know about the purchase before this goes public. (Natalie Wiseman is organising the comms with neighbours, iwi and community board members.)



Te Kaunihera-a-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth  
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# MAY 2024 COMMS

Key messages, news story, Q&A

# FAQs – MAY 2024

## **Why has NPDC lodged an application for this project to be considered as part of the Government’s fast-track process?**

*The Urenui and Onaero communities, as well as NPDC, want a solution to their wastewater troubles as soon as possible, and this fast-track process would help meet that goal. Also, the consenting costs would probably be lower than our current budget of about \$2m.*

## **Is NPDC trying to avoid public consultation on this project?**

*Absolutely not. We’ve undergone extensive public consultation to date and more would still be required, even under a fast-track process. Public input has been a critical part of the planning for this project.*

## **What happens if the application isn’t approved?**

*Then we will continue with the current resource consent process.*

## **Why do Urenui and Onaero need a treatment plant?**

*During the public roadshow on the previous 10-Year budget (2021-31), mana whenua and locals made it clear that they wanted a long-term solution to the problem of wastewater from old and private septic tanks seeping into the Urenui River.*

*There is persistent human contamination of Urenui River which is likely coming from under-performing septic tanks. The septic tank systems at both localities are old, and our expectations around environmental and human health have changed over the years. The most effective way to fix the problem is to shift to a land-based treatment plant.*

## **How long will it take to get a resource consent for building the treatment plant?**

*That depends on whether or not our application for fast-tracking is approved. If it isn’t, the process is likely to take a few years. Given the variability in how resource consent processes play out, we can’t be more specific than that.*

## **How long will it be until the wastewater treatment plant is operational?**

*That depends on how soon a resource consent is granted.*

## **What is the budget for building the treatment plant?**

*The Urenui/Onaero wastewater project has \$31m set aside for this project in NPDC’s **current 10-Year Plan**. The final cost will be known after detailed design of the facility is completed.*



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# JANUARY 2024 COMMS

Key messages, news story, Q&A

# Key Messages – January 2024

- NPDC is making good progress on planning a reticulated sewerage system and treatment plant for the towns of Urenui and Onaero.
- We're investigating a low-pressure system than uses a pump on each property.
- This system is cheaper to install than our usual gravity reticulation.
- It's still early days in this project. While we're investigating the feasibility of this system, we haven't yet selected a preferred reticulation system for the towns.
- NPDC has spent more than three years *(as at January 2024)* helping residents fix and maintain their septic tanks and working on wastewater issues at both the Onaero and Urenui campgrounds.
- A rāhui on swimming and gathering fish and shellfish has been in place on the lower reaches of the Urenui River since November 2020.



# Letter to ratepayers – January 2024

## **RE: UPDATE ON URENUI/ONAERO WASTEWATER PROJECT**

Dear Sir/Madam

As a resident of Urenui or Onaero, you may be aware that NPDC has been working on a wastewater treatment project to resolve the issue of human sewage flowing into and contaminating Urenui and Onaero rivers. A key part of the project is the type of reticulation, e.g. pipes and pumps stations, we will install to connect private properties to the new wastewater treatment plant.

We are presenting an update to elected members at NPDC's Strategic Projects Committee meeting on 6 March 2024. The update will include reference low-pressure reticulation systems, which we are investigating to see if it is feasible for Urenui and Onaero.

This letter is to give you a heads up about the upcoming meeting and that you are likely to hear more about this low-pressure system in the coming days. However, it's important to understand that we're still in the early days of information-gathering and there are a lot of matters still to explore, including connection requirements, pricing, and ownership of infrastructure on private property. We haven't made any decisions on whether this system will be our preferred option.

Please note that budget information in the update to elected members is indicative only and is subject change.

The committee meeting is open to the public, so you are welcome to attend. It will also be livestreamed, and a recording loaded to the NPDC website a few days later. The agenda for the meeting will be available around a week before, along with a link for the livestream on our website [npdc.govt.nz/council/council-meetings](http://npdc.govt.nz/council/council-meetings). The meeting starts at 9am on Wednesday 6 March 2024.

If you would like to be kept up to date on this project, please email [enquiries@npdc.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@npdc.govt.nz) and ask for your email address to be added to our newsletter list. You can also view the latest information, including the update that is going to elected members, on our webpage at [npdc.govt.nz/UrenuiOnaeroWTP](http://npdc.govt.nz/UrenuiOnaeroWTP).

Yours faithfully,

**Mark Hall**  
**NPDC THREE WATERS MANAGER**



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**New Plymouth**  
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# Poster – January 2024

## What's up with the Urenui/Onaero Wastewater Project?

Get the latest info at [npdc.govt.nz/UrenuiOnaeroWTP](https://npdc.govt.nz/UrenuiOnaeroWTP)

*[NPDC logo] [QR code]*



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

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# Facebook post (Urenui community page) – January 2024

NPDC is updating elected members on 6 March about the Urenui/Onaero wastewater project. Find out more in the project updates section of our website, including links to the meeting agenda and supporting information – and sign up to get updates straight to your inbox!

[www.npdc.govt.nz/UrenuiOnaeroWTP](http://www.npdc.govt.nz/UrenuiOnaeroWTP)



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

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# FAQs – January 2024

## **Why do Urenui and Onaero need a treatment plant?**

*During the public roadshow on the 10-Year budget, mana whenua and locals made it clear that they wanted a long-term solution to the problem of wastewater from old and private septic tanks seeping into the Urenui River.*

*There is persistent human contamination of Urenui River which is likely coming from under-performing septic tanks. The septic tank systems at both localities are old, and our expectations around environmental and human health have changed over the years. The most effective way to fix the problem is to shift to a land-based treatment plant.*

## **When will NPDC make a decision on which reticulation system it will choose?**

*We're in the early days of this research so have not made a decision on a preferred option. The final decision will be made by our Mayor and Councillors.*

## **How much would a property owner have to pay for installing and maintaining a low-pressure system?**

*We won't have that information until we complete the investigation.*

## **How much would a low-pressure reticulation system cost?**

*We have an indicative cost of just over \$9m for a low-pressure system compared to \$17m for gravity reticulation; however, these costs are subject to change.*

## **How long will it take to get a resource consent for building the treatment plant?**

*It is likely to take a few years. Given the variability in how resource consent processes play out, we can't be more specific than that.*

## **How long will it be until the wastewater treatment plant is operational?**

*That depends on how soon a resource consent is granted.*

## **What is the budget for building the treatment plant?**

*The Urenui/Onaero wastewater project has \$36m set aside for this project in NPDC's current Long-Term Plan. The final cost will be known after detailed design of the facility is completed.*

## **What effect will the new Government have on the planning for this project?**

*The Government has yet to announce its plans for three waters' management. In the meantime, we will continue to keep working on improving our water networks as we are responsible for looking after the health of our residents and the environment.*



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

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# FEBRUARY 2023 COMMS

Key messages, news story, Q&A

# FORMER Key Messages – February 2023

- The septic tank systems at Urenui and Onaero are no longer fit for purpose.
- There are higher expectations around the impacts on environmental and human health than when these towns were established.
- NPDC has bought an 84ha block of land just west of Onaero township on Main North Road for a wastewater treatment plant to service both towns.
- We also purchased a site in Waiau Rd when it came on to the market in 2022 but the Main North Road land is larger, flatter and closer to the towns.
- NPDC has advised adjacent landowners, iwi and hapū.
- We'll hold onto the Waiau Road property while a resource consent is sought for the Main North Road property.
- NPDC has spent more than two years (*as at February 2023*) helping residents fix and maintain their septic tanks and working on wastewater issues at both the Onaero and Urenui campgrounds.
- A rāhui on swimming and gathering fish and shellfish has been in place on the Urenui River, from Okoki Pa to the river mouth, since November 2020.



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth  
District Council**





## **Land purchase for North Taranaki wastewater treatment plant**

NPDC has bought an 84ha block of land near Onaero for the Urenui/Onaero wastewater project.

The \$5.6 million property off Main North Road is closer to Onaero and Urenui than the 41ha site on Waiau Road that was bought last year. This proximity as well as its larger size will simplify and reduce the cost of construction and operation, and also allow for possible future population growth.

The purchase follows an extensive investigation of properties in the area by projects partners NPDC and Ngāti Mutunga.

“Our next step is to begin preparing a resource consent application to use the land, which will include working closely with neighbours during the process,” says NPDC Three Waters Manager Mark Hall.

“It may take a few years to process the resource consents before the new wastewater treatment plant construction will begin. In the meantime, we’ll be reminding homeowners in Urenui and Onaero to continue maintaining their private septic tanks.”

Connecting Urenui and Onaero properties to a sewer pipe system and building a wastewater treatment plant will fix the ongoing problem of wastewater from ageing septic tanks seeping into waterways around the North Taranaki towns.

Says Ngāti Mutunga Trustee Brent Matuku, “We’re pleased with the progress of this important project for Urenui and Onaero. Our involvement in the investigation of properties identified that part of the new site is in the proximity of a wāhi tapu; however, the site is large enough to avoid the wāhi tapu and any impact on waterways.”

NPDC bought the Waiau Road site last year when it came on the market unexpectedly, to ensure it would be available for use for the wastewater project if required. “It’s still a suitable alternative site for the project so we’ll hold on to it for now while we apply for resource consent for the new site,” says Mark.

The Urenui/Onaero wastewater project has \$31m set aside for this project in NPDC’s Long-Term Plan. The final cost will be known after detailed design of the facility is completed.

*Continued...*



# FORMER Media Release – February 2023 2/2



During the public roadshow on the 10-Year Plan (2021-2031), Ngāti Mutunga and locals made it clear they wanted a long-term solution to the problem of wastewater seeping into the Urenui River. A rāhui on swimming and gathering fish and shellfish has been in place on the Urenui River, from Okoki Pa to the river mouth, since November 2020.

## **Fast Facts**

- NPDC has spent the last two years helping residents fix and maintain their septic tanks and working on wastewater issues at both the Onaero and Urenui campgrounds.
- NPDC cleans an average of 25 million litres of wastewater each day and looks after more than 25,850 properties in the district, including 34 pump stations and 631km sewer network.



Te Kaunihera-a-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth  
District Council**

# FORMER Q & A February 2023 1/3

## **Where is the property?**

*It's south-west of Onaero township at 944 Main North Road, with access off the state highway and Waiau Road.*

## **Why did you buy the Main North Road property?**

*It's important that we get the right type of land for what is a critical public facility for residents and visitors at Onaero and Urenui. We evaluated all sites within the area and this property was found to be the most suitable site for the project.*

## **Did proposed legal action from some Waiau Road neighbours play into your decision to look for an alternative site?**

*No. When we bought the Waiau Road property we were at the beginning of investigating potentially suitable sites and stated that this work would continue, to make sure we selected the most suitable site for this project.*

## **Why did you buy 319 Waiau Road last year?**

*The property unexpectedly came on the market when we had only just started evaluating potentially suitable sites for the project. There aren't many suitable blocks of land for this type of facility near Urenui and Onaero so we acted quickly to secure it so that we could keep our options open.*

## **Why are you holding onto it?**

*Waiau Road is still a suitable site for this facility. We will retain ownership of the Waiau Road site as a back-up location for the project, until resource consents are granted.*

## **What will you do with it in the interim?**

*The Waiau Road site is currently leased for grazing.*

## **Has NPDC wasted ratepayers' money by buying two blocks of land?**

*No. The Waiau Road property came onto the market unexpectedly and by securing it, we haven't missed out on a potential opportunity for a critical public facility. As it turns out, the Main North Road property is even better, as it's larger and nearer to Onaero and Urenui. The Waiau Road property will be retained as a back-up location until resource consents are granted for the Main North Road site.*

## **Why is the Main Road North property better than the Waiau Road property?**

*It's larger and closer to Onaero and Urenui than the Waiau Road property. This simplifies and likely to reduce the cost of construction and operations as well as making it easier to avoid having any effect on neighbours.*



Te Kaunihera-a-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth  
District Council**

# FORMER Q & A February 2023 2/3

## **How long will it take to get a resource consent?**

*It is likely to take a few years. Given the variability in how resource consent processes play out, we can't be more specific than that.*

## **How long will it be until the wastewater treatment plan is operational?**

*That depends on how soon a resource consent is granted.*

## **Why do Urenui and Onaero need a treatment plant?**

*During the public roadshow on the 10-Year budget, mana whenua and locals made it clear that they wanted a long-term solution to the problem of wastewater from old and private septic tanks seeping into the Urenui River.*

*There is persistent human contamination of Urenui River which is likely coming from under-performing septic tanks. The septic tank systems at both localities are old, and our expectations around environmental and human health have changed over the years. The most effective way to fix the problem is to shift to a land-based treatment plant.*

## **What happens to 319 Waiau Road if you get a resource consent for Main North Road?**

*We'll probably sell the property.*

## **How much did you buy 319 Waiau Road for?**

*\$3.3 million.*

## **How much did you buy 944 Main North Road for?**

*\$5.6 million.*

## **What is the budget for building the WWTP?**

*The Urenui/Onaero wastewater project has \$31m set aside for this project in NPDC's Long-Term Plan. The final cost will be known after detailed design of the facility is completed.*

## **How would a land-based treatment plant affect neighbours?**

*One of the requirements of a suitable property is that we could operate it without affecting any neighbouring properties. That comes down to using modern technology and design, and selecting the right block of land.*



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth  
District Council**

# FORMER Q & A February 2023 3/3

**Will there be human waste disposed of on-site?**

*No, there will not.*

**Do we just have to accept that Urenui River will be contaminated until the new treatment plant opens?**

*We will continue to remind residents to maintain their private septic systems.*

**What effect will the additional nutrients (from the cleaned water dispersal) have on the land?**

*We'll be capturing the additional nutrients in the plants grown on-site.*

**How big will the plant be?**

*The treatment plant's design isn't confirmed yet but the buildings and tanks are likely to take up less than a hectare.*

**What about the Three Waters changes that are coming?**

*The Three Waters Reforms are still more than a year away. We will continue to keep working on improving our water networks as we are responsible for looking after the health of our residents and the environment.*



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth  
District Council**



# AUGUST 2022 COMMS

Key messages, news story, Q&A

# FORMER Key Messages – August 2022

- The septic tank systems at Urenui and Onaero are no longer fit for purpose.
- There are higher expectations around environmental and human health than when these towns were established.
- NPDC is currently evaluating a shortlist of potential locations for a wastewater treatment plant to service the two localities.
- NPDC has bought one property that came on the market, to ensure it's available as a potential location.
- NPDC will continue to talk with landowners and nearby residents, as well as iwi and hapū, as we continue this process.
- NPDC has spent the last two years *(as at August 2022)* helping residents fix and maintain their septic tanks and working on wastewater issues at both the Onaero and Urenui campgrounds.
- A rāhui on swimming and gathering fish and shellfish has been in place on the Urenui River, from Okoki Pa to the river mouth, since November 2020.



# FORMER Media Release & Fast Facts – 19 May 2022



## Land purchase for new wastewater treatment plant to fix North Taranaki's water woes

Ageing and private septic tanks seeping into waterways around Urenui and Onaero could be fixed sooner than expected after NPDC agreed to buy 41 hectares of land in the area to build a wastewater treatment plant.

During the public roadshow on the 10-Year Plan (2021-2031), mana whenua and locals made it clear they wanted a long-term solution to the problem of wastewater seeping into the Urenui River.

At an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday, Councillors approved purchase of the two parcels inland from Onaero on Inland Road, at a cost of \$3.3m for a treatment plant and land-based disposal of cleaned water from these communities.

“This land came unexpectedly onto the market and it is rare to have something of this size available in the right location so we acted quickly,” says NPDC 3 Waters Manager Mark Hall.

“The \$31m Urenui / Onaero wastewater project is in the budget and its pleasing after much hard work, we can begin this important piece of mahi to get rid of pollution in this important awa, a couple of years earlier than scheduled.”

A rāhui on swimming and gathering fish and shellfish has been in place on the Urenui River, from Okoki Pa to the river mouth, since November 2020.

NPDC has spent the last two years helping residents fix and maintain their septic tanks and working on wastewater issues at both the Onaero and Urenui campgrounds.

Rungana o Ngati Mutunga CEO Mitchell Ritai says it's great that a site's been identified in an appropriate spot for this project.

“This allows the planning to get underway for reticulating Onaero and Urenui, which means we'll be able to manage the current issues we're experiencing with our awa,” says Mitchell.

The next step is talking further with mana whenua, locals and direct neighbours as part of the consenting process though it's too early to say what the design features will include.

NPDC cleans an average of 25 million litres of wastewater each day and looks after more than 25,850 properties in the district, including 34 pump stations and 631km sewer network.



Te Kaunihera-a-Rohe o Ngāmotu

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# FORMER Q & A - August 2022 1/2

## **Why do Urenui and Onaero need a treatment plant?**

*During the public roadshow on the 10-Year budget, mana whenua and locals made it clear that they wanted a long-term solution to the problem of wastewater from old and private septic tanks seeping into the Urenui River.*

*There is persistent human contamination of Urenui River which is likely coming from under-performing septic tanks. The septic tank systems at both localities are old, and our expectations around environmental and human health have changed over the years. The most effective way to fix the problem is to shift to a land-based treatment plant.*

## **Why did you buy 319 Waiau Road?**

*The property unexpectedly came on the market while we were evaluating it as a potential location for the treatment plant. There aren't many suitable blocks of land for this type of facility near Urenui and Onaero so we took the opportunity to secure it.*

## **Why are you continuing to look at other potential locations?**

*The purchase took place during our evaluation of several potential sites. We want to finish that process so that we can be sure we select the most suitable location for this crucial public facility.*

## **What happens to 319 Waiau Road if you choose a different location for the wastewater treatment plant?**

*We'll sell the property on the open market.*

## **How much did you buy 319 Waiau Road for?**

*\$3.3 million.*

## **What is the budget for building the WWTP?**

*The total budget, which includes connecting all urban properties to the new system, is \$31m. This budget is already in NPDC's 10-Year Plan.*

## **When do you expect the treatment plant to open?**

*???*



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth  
District Council**

# FORMER Q & A - August 2022 2/2

## **How would a land-based treatment plant affect neighbours?**

*One of the requirements of a suitable property is that we could operate it without affecting any neighbouring properties. That comes down to using modern technology and design, and selecting the right block of land.*

## **Will there be human waste disposed of on-site?**

*The only disposal on-site would be cleaned water, through a dispersal field. Any solids – such as wet-wipes and other rubbish that is flushed down the toilet – would be trucked away to a landfill. Excess sludge – which is essentially dead bugs which eat the waste – will be either taken to the New Plymouth plant to be dried into the fertiliser Bioboost or landfilled. This has yet to be decided.*

## **Do we just have to accept that Urenui River will be contaminated until the new treatment plant opens?**

*NPDC continues to work with property owners in Urenui and Onaero on identifying any issues that need fixing, and how to operate and maintain their septic systems well. We also work with Ngati Mutunga and Taranaki Regional Council to keep track of any contamination in the river and how we can reduce the effect on public health.*

## **What effect will the additional nitrogen (from the cleaned water dispersal) have on the land?**

*We'll be trapping the additional nitrogen in green growth – either grass, trees or another crop. This will be confirmed as work continues on the project.*

## **How big will the plant be?**

*The treatment plant's design isn't confirmed yet but the buildings and tanks are likely to take up less than a hectare.*

## **When will construction start?**

*It's too early to say but it's still a couple of years away.*

## **What about the Three Waters changes that are coming?**

*We need to keep working on our water networks as any 3 Waters change is still a few years away.*



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

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District Council**

# FORMER Open day – Thursday 27 October 2022

## Purpose:

- Provide a link between the septic tank issues and the proposed new wastewater treatment plant – why we're doing it.
- We're at the very start of the project but this is what it might look like.
- Show progress to date (septic tank repairs) and reinforce that it's important to keep maintaining tanks in the meantime. (Provide rough timeline for the WWTP project.)
- Have an online open day element.

Hold it during the week of Thursday 27 October, 1pm-7pm, Urenui Community Centre.

Poster, flyers, school newsletter, Facebook (Urenui community, Ngati Mutunga), Onearo Residents Association, Bach Owners Association.

New treatment plant, looking after your septic tank, timeline, recruiting for the focus group.



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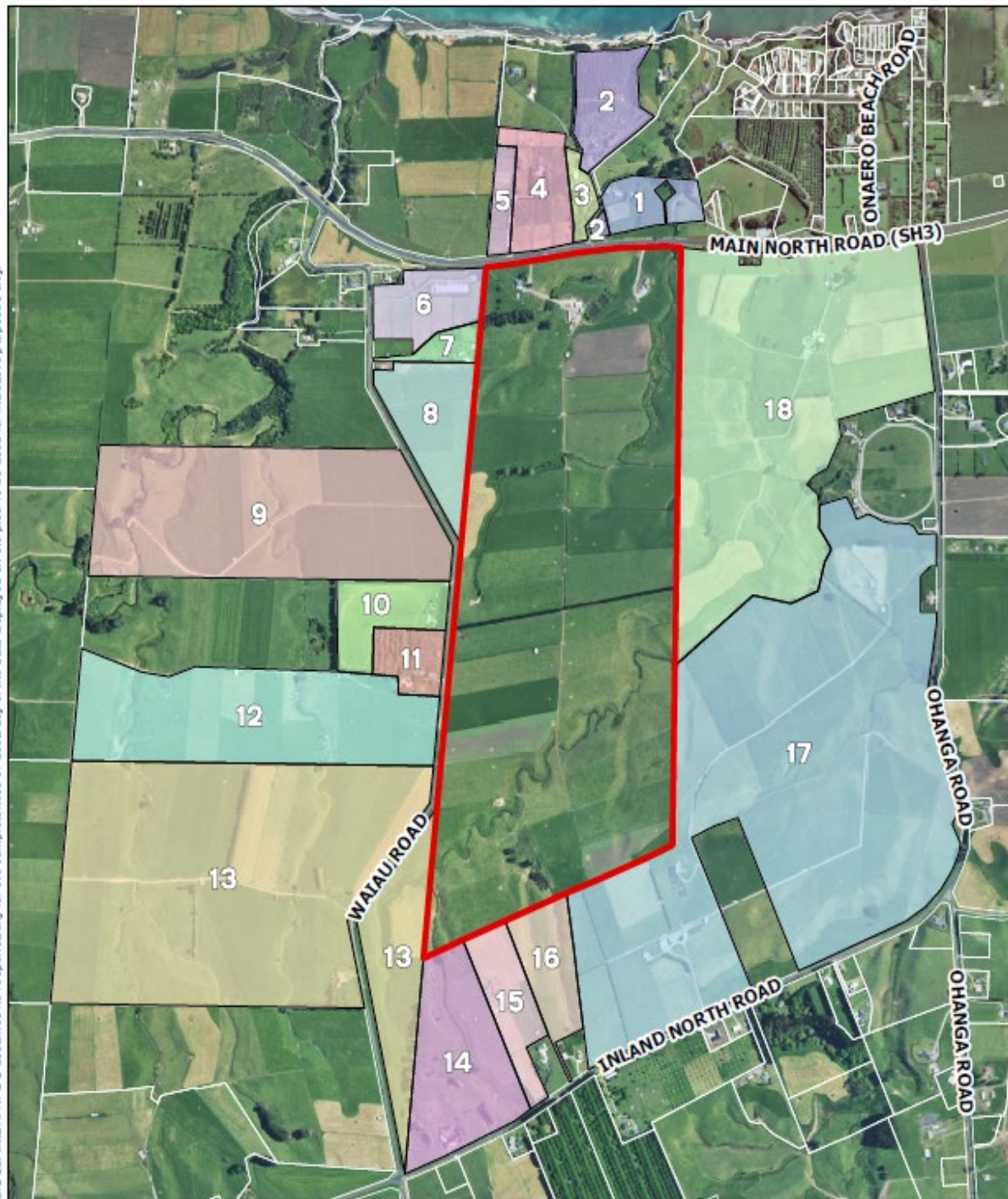
# Assets Required

CHANNEL	EXECUTIONS							DESCRIPTION / SIZE
Social Media Post	Hello NP FB & Insta.	NPDC - FB	Puke Ariki - FB	GBAG - Instagram	Other?			
Social media Advertising	Facebook Ad	Facebook Ad	TVNZ On Demand	Spotify	Youtube	Stuff	Other?	
Website Update	NPDC	Puke Ariki	GBAG	I-site	NPEV	Ticketek	Other?	
POS	Posters	Leaflets	Stickers	Corflute Signs	Window Graphics	Other?		
Digi Screens	Puke Ariki	I-site	Gym Screens	TSB Stadium	Other?			
Print Advertising	TDN	Midweek	Live	Mood	Rates Flyer	Moa Mail/ Oakura Post	Other?	
Radio Advertising	NZME	Mediaworks	Other?					
Billboards	Mad media	BSeen	Other?					
EDM	Other?							
Other								





## Appendix 2: Immediate neighbours of 944 Main North Road



## Cultural Values Statement Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga - January 2024

### For New Plymouth District Council for the Urenui/Onaero Wastewater Project

#### He Kupu Whakataki/introduction

The purpose of this Cultural Values Statement is to document Ngāti Mutunga Cultural Values as identified in its Iwi Environmental Management Plan and how these are to be applied to the Urenui/Onaero Wastewater project ('the Project'). This document has been compiled by Ngāti Mutunga to inform the New Plymouth District Council ('Council') on its cultural values so that they can be considered through the planning, design and implementation of the Wastewater Project. Ngāti Mutunga will use these Cultural Values to assess the impact of the various aspects of the project.

Ngāti Mutunga are committed to working in partnership with Council towards the improvement of the environmental condition of the awa and whenua in their Rohe, and the ongoing resurgence of Ngāti Mutungatanga across our tākiwa. Ngāti Mutunga appreciates the opportunity to collaborate and work in partnership with the Council to assess cultural impact in the various working hui that are held with Council. The advice on cultural values provided prior to the compilation of this Cultural Values Statement is included in this document to provide a clear record from Ngāti Mutunga.

Ngāti Mutunga will refer to this Cultural Values Statement when undertaking the Cultural Impact Assessments for the project. Ngāti Mutunga consider that a Cultural Impact Assessment is an effective tool to facilitate meaningful and effective participation in the proposal and expect that the cultural advice provided will inform the inputs into the designation and other consents prior to its lodgement.

#### Mauri and Wairua Mana and Tapu

Ngāti Mutunga recognises that everything has a mauri, or life force, and all elements of our environment are interconnected. Mauri is inherent within and integrated across all cultural values. This means that no element or factor can be considered in isolation. For our people to be healthy, everything around them needs to be healthy too. This means that the well-being of our awa impacts the well-being of our tangata. This concept is broad and is not limited to a particular domain.



Mauri, in any form, no matter how weak it may appear, can be nurtured, and restored. The Mauri Compass allows Ngāti Mutunga to understand the state of the Mauri so that it can actively monitor restoration of its cultural values and the Mauri and Wairua of the taiao and awa.

Ngāti Mutunga recognises the wairua (spirit of the environment). These are the non-physical aspects that are distinct from the physical aspects. The traditions of Ngāti Mutunga describe the cultural, historical, and spiritual association of Ngāti Mutunga and the waterways in our rohe. For Ngāti Mutunga, these areas represent the links between our tupuna and present and future generations. This history and relationship reinforce tribal identity, connections between generations, and confirms the importance of freshwater to Ngāti Mutunga.

Ngāti Mutunga recognise the mana of the environment and sites of significance to Ngāti Mutunga. Mana represents the spiritual power and status of these important areas. Mana goes hand in hand with tapu, which is to be sacred. In accordance with tikanga it is common for restrictions of use to be placed on areas that are tapu to protect the area and te tangata.

### **Ngāti Mutunga's expectations**

Ngāti Mutunga have documented their expectations and cultural values through various documents. Most notably these are:

- Ngāti Mutunga Iwi Environmental Management Plan 2019
- Ngāti Mutunga Claims Settlement Act 2006
- Ko Te Anga Putake Ora O Ngāti Mutunga 2019-2024 Strategic Plan
- Cultural Impact Assessment Urenui and Onaero Campground and Mauri Compass Assessment

The Ngāti Mutunga Iwi Environmental Management Plan is the key document outlining Ngāti Mutunga's position on environmental cultural values and is assessed in detail below.

The Claims Settlement Act not only sets out Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga's treaty redress but also provides clear statements on Statutory Acknowledgement around awa, the coast and significant areas.

The Strategic Plan developed in 2019-2024 guides Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga's areas of focus for a 5-year period. Ko Te Anga Pūtake ora o Ngāti Mutunga, considers five Pou Tangata; Tikanga; Turangawaewae, Taiao and Putea.

Ngāti Mutunga have now developed several Cultural Impact Assessments. Directly relevant to this project is the Cultural Impact Assessment – Onaero and Urenui Wastewater Systems (09/02/2021). This clearly articulates the impact of the current wastewater systems on the awa.

Ngāti Mutunga have also developed the Mauri Compass tool. This is completely independent from any cultural assessment tool. This is Mātauranga monitoring tool that is used to measure environmental condition and progress and against an establish base line monitoring of health and well-being.



## **Ngāti Mutunga Iwi Environmental Management Plan (IEMP)**

The Ngāti Mutunga Iwi Environmental Management Plan (2019 update and revision) (IEMP) forms the basis for the identification of the cultural values for this project.

The mission of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga is –

- *Promoting an understanding of Ngāti Mutunga values & responsibilities in our rohe.*
- *Protecting the environment for future generations; and*
- *Demonstrating Ngāti Mutungatanga through our role as kaitiaki.*

There are three high-level outcomes that we want to achieve through the implementation of our IEMP, as follows:

### *Kaitiakitanga, Tino Rangatiratanga and Treaty of Waitangi*

- Ngāti Mutunga is effectively involved in the management and protection of natural resources.
- Agencies responsible for environmental management understand and respect the role, value, and responsibilities of Ngāti Mutunga
- Partnerships between Ngāti Mutunga and agencies responsible for environmental management are developed and enhanced.
- Agencies foster the capacity of Ngāti Mutunga to engage in environmental management, particularly decision-making processes and planning
- Ngāti Mutunga values become embedded in the planning documents and management practices of relevant agencies.

### *Environment*

- Natural and physical resources are managed in a holistic and integrated way.
- The state of the natural environment is restored to a state which supports the values and customs of Ngāti Mutunga.
- The life-supporting capacity of the environment is protected and supported.
- Ngāti Mutunga is actively involved in the day-to-day management of the environment.
- Ngāti Mutunga capacity to engage on environmental issues and participate in activities such as environmental monitoring is enhanced.

### *Social, Economic, Health and Well-being*

- All plans, policies, strategies, regulations, laws and other methods of environmental regulation or planning identify and avoid negative effects on the health and wellbeing of the Ngāti Mutunga community.
- Establish a sense of belonging and Kaitiakitanga amongst the whole community.

- The Kaitiakitanga tradition of Ngāti Mutunga is continued through the generations.

The IEMP is comprehensive and integrated with related objectives and associated policies.

### **Wastewater project and Cultural Values**

Ngāti Mutunga has themed the cultural values relevant to this project under the following headings.

- *Rangatiratanga – that a Ngāti Mutunga voice is strong and is heard.*
- *Kaitiakitanga - demonstrate Ngāti Mutungatanga through our role as kaitiaki.*
- *Ara Whakamua – to look forward to the future.*

The tables below highlight each value, provides a description and the expectations from Ngāti Mutunga around how this value will be applied. IEMP linkages are also identified.

#### **1. *Rangatiratanga – that a Ngāti Mutunga voice is strong and is heard.***

Ngāti Mutunga is mana whenua and provides for the protection, management and advocacy of spiritual, cultural, and historical associations, interests and aspirations within our Rohe. It is important that agencies and the community recognise the right for Ngāti Mutunga to exercise authority and understand and respect our role, value, and responsibilities.

Prior to the arrival of tauīwi in Aotearoa, the Ngāti Mutunga iwi was an autonomous, independent, and self-governing confederation of hapū, who exercised Tino Rangatiratanga over its traditional rohe. From the nineteenth century the various hapū groups dispersed through dislocation, raupatu (confiscation) and then eventually mass urbanisation. The traditional hapū no longer form distinct communities within the iwi. In more recent times, Ngāti Mutunga has interacted as a single tribal grouping which is today known as Ngāti Mutunga.

However, Ngāti Mutunga acknowledge the whanau who have lived on the whenua and their cultural values. The hapu are Ngāti Okiokinga (descendants of Okiokinga) who occupied the Waiiti area, Te Kekerewai (who occupied the wider Mimitangiatua area), Ngāti Aurutu (descendants of Te Aurutu) who occupied Ōkoki area), Ngāti Hinetuhi (descendants of Te Hihiotū) who occupied the wider Urenui area, The following occupied the wider Onaero area - Kaitangata (descendants of Tukaweriri, Hineweo and Te Ito), Ngāti Kura (descendants of Hinenō), Ngāti Uenuku (descendants of Uenuku son of Ruawahia) and Ngāti Tupawhenua or Ngāti Tū,(descendants of Uenuku son of Ruawahia).

The dislocation of Ngāti Mutunga people from their whenua following raupatu and rapid, mass urbanisation events has challenged our ability to practise Ngāti Mutungatanga and which is now a key strategic focus for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga.

The table below outlines elements of Rangatiratanga, and how these apply in the context of the Project:

Description	Expectations/Implementation	IEMP link
<b>Act with urgency but not with haste</b>		
<p>The Mauri and Wairua of the awa and whenua have degraded to such an extent that Ngāti Mutunga can no longer practise traditional use and tikanga. There is a need to stop this degradation with urgency, however this needs to be balanced with ensuring that we do the right thing and that there are not any unintended consequences from our actions.</p>	<p>Ngāti Mutunga support working with urgency so that the awa can restore as quickly as possible but also recognise that the right decisions for the project and community need to be made.</p> <p>The need to act with urgency needs to be balanced with doing the right thing and ensuring that there are not unintended consequences of our actions.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga will be involved at all stages of the project from initiation, feasibility, options assessment, detailed design and implementation/operation. Ngāti Mutunga will have a voice in decision-making at all stages of the project so that the cultural values are represented clearly in the project.</p> <p>Plan for the future now so that we can adapt to changes (ie: Climate Change) and deliver a project that is effective and resilient and lasts the test of time.</p>	<p><b>Implementation</b></p>
<b>Working as a valued and impactful partner</b>		
<p>Ngāti Mutunga will act as a respected partner in accordance with Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This partnership approach represents how Ngāti Mutunga wants to work with the Council over other Kaupapa and projects in its rohe.</p>	<p>Ngāti Mutunga will work in accordance with the principles and values of the Terms of Reference.</p> <p>That there is mutual respect for the mana of Ngāti Mutunga iwi and the Council as the District Council. It is acknowledged that the partners have different roles and responsibilities that need to be acknowledged and recognised.</p> <p>Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga is accountable back to its people and requires reasonable information and time to be part of collaborative decision-making. There is a need for a forward project plan so resourcing can be allocated.</p> <p>Although working in the spirit of collaboration and partnership there are statutory roles that need to be acknowledged and respected.</p>	<p><b>Implementation</b></p>

	<p>The Council needs to recognise the visions, aspirations, knowledge, and expertise of Ngāti Mutunga iwi and listen openly and actively to the cultural advice provided. Only Ngāti Mutunga can provide comment on the impact on their cultural values and these values will stand independently from the application process to ensure that Ngāti Mutunga has a voice.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga will work with the Council to find solutions to issues with goodwill, and a sense of shared purpose. It is essential that Ngāti Mutunga are resourced to be able to actively participate in finding solutions.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga commits to open, honest, and transparent communication and expects that sensitive information remains confidential. All cultural information remains the property of Ngāti Mutunga.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga agree to publicly recognise the project partnership and support Council regarding jointly made project decisions and the project in general. Ngāti Mutunga reserves the right to speak independently regarding the impact on their cultural values and will do so with respect and in communication with the Council.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga acknowledge that this is a complex and challenging project and will work in the spirit of partnership, identify issues early and look towards finding solutions at the outset.</p>	
<p><b>Build Ngāti Mutunga capacity within our Rohe</b></p>		
<p>The dislocation of Ngāti Mutunga people from their whenua following raupatu and rapid, mass urbanisation events has impacted growth in the iwi. With at least 73%of Ngāti Mutunga descendants living outside Taranaki there is a</p>	<p>Acknowledge that Ngāti Mutunga have strategic aspirations to grow our presence in the community and work in the spirit of partnership and collaboration with other agencies and the community to achieve growth outcomes for the iwi.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga need to be appropriately resourced to effectively participate in this project. Building capacity for Ngāti Mutunga will ensure enduring participation as an active partner in all stages.</p>	<p><b>Subdivision, Development and Changing Land-use Implementation</b></p>

<p>significant opportunity to increase capacity.</p> <p>This project can be a catalyst for this growth and help build capacity for Ngāti Mutunga to participate as Rangatira.</p>	<p>This project is a springboard for building capacity for Ngāti Mutunga to ensure a defined and clear role for future projects in the Ngāti Mutunga rohe.</p> <p>As a key partner Ngāti Mutunga will work with the council to bring the community along and actively participate in the project.</p> <p>Acknowledge the strategic growth aspirations of Ngāti Mutunga to bring uri back to our rohe by providing for housing and employment opportunities.</p> <p>Acknowledge Urenui Pā as the cultural heart and the key gathering place of Ngāti Mutunga and provide capacity within the new Wastewater project for Papakāinga housing that will occur within the next 10 years.</p> <p>Connect Urenui Pā with the Urenui urban community through physical connections (such as walkways), planting and signage.</p> <p>Undertake feasibility assessments of the aspirations for growth of Ngāti Mutunga on other areas of Māori land to provide the opportunity for Papakāinga housing in the medium to long term (10 -30 years), by ensuring appropriate capacity in the Wastewater system.</p>	
<b>Exercise Ngāti Mutungatanga</b>		
<p>Ngāti Mutungatanga is about bringing back traditional tikanga that reflects a Ngāti Mutunga way of life.</p> <p>The fundamental concepts of wairua, mauri, mana and tapu are integrated into these traditional practises.</p>	<p>Ngāti Mutunga will develop a Cultural Education Plan that will also instil a deeper understanding in the iwi of how our Ngāti Mutunga values will be impacted by the project.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga will develop a Monitoring and Reporting Plan to ensure the sustained application of Kaitiakitanga principles over time. This will provide a clear benchmark for the performance of the project against Ngāti Mutunga values.</p>	<p><b>Te Puna Waiora / Freshwater</b>  Rivers and Streams  Water Quality  Riparian Zones  Access to Waterways  Mahinga Kai  <b>Implementation</b></p>

<p>Ngāti Mutungatanga will strengthen the identify of Ngāti Mutunga and reflect this through the landscape so it becomes part of our everyday lives and can be shared with the community.</p> <p>Our Tupuna wisdom informs our kaitiaki role.</p>	<p>Ngāti Mutunga traditional practises and Mātauranga need to be embedded into the project design and the execution of it. It is essential that tupuna wisdom informs Ngāti Mutunga decision making as kaitiaki to ensure an enduring and long-term solution.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga will strengthen identity and see Ngāti Mutungatanga in the landscape. The use of signage on site to recognise cultural values (ie: protection of the Puna (freshwater spring) on the Main North Road site and plantings); linking the site to other cultural landscapes and providing the opportunity for a Ngāti Mutunga presence to its development are critical to ensuring Ngāti Mutungatanga and reinstatement of cultural identity.</p>	
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## 2. Kaitiakitanga – demonstrate Ngāti Mutungatanga through our role as kaitiaki.

Ngāti Mutunga as kaitiaki (guardians) in their rohe are responsible for the management of resources and interests in accordance with customary preferences. For Ngāti Mutunga, the principal of Kaitiakitanga is an obligation and responsibility of the Iwi to act as custodians, guardians and protectors of the tikanga and resources of the Iwi. The role of Ngāti Mutunga as kaitiaki has been undermined over time by the loss of ownership and resulting loss of relationship between Ngāti Mutunga and the whenua. Environmental degradation has removed the resources our tūpuna relied on to survive, and we are losing our knowledge of mahinga kai and skills associated with living from the land. The degradation of resources has diminished the effectiveness of Ngāti Mutunga as kaitiaki.

It is a key mission of Ngāti Mutunga to demonstrate Ngāti Mutungatanga through our role as kaitiaki. It is our responsibility, as Kaitiaki, to ensure that these values and tikanga, as well as the water itself, endures and is passed on to future generations. It is important that the kaitiaki role is re-established so that the Kaitiakitanga tradition of Ngāti Mutunga is continued through the generations.

The table below outlines elements of Kaitiakitanga and how these apply in the context of the Project:

Description	Expectations/Implementation	IEMP link
<b>Be an effective Kaitiaki</b>		
The ability of Ngāti Mutunga to be an effective kaitiaki has diminished following raupatu and displacement from the whenua. To	That there are enhanced opportunities for Ngāti Mutunga to practise Kaitiakitanga through project planning, delivery, and implementation.	<b>Te Puna Waiora / Freshwater</b> Rivers and Streams Water Quality Riparian Zones

<p>be an effective kaitiaki requires significant improvements in the environment and restoration of wairua and mauri.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga does not support further degradation to the environment.</p> <p>In its Kaitiaki role Ngāti Mutunga protects important features and areas and wāhi tapu and manages them in accordance with tikanga.</p>	<p>Ngāti Mutunga are able to exercise their kaitiaki role through on-going information gathering through the Mauri compass in accordance with mātauranga.</p> <p>The ultimate outcome is for the iwi to be able to practise kaitiakitanga over Mahinga Kai sites and pass on the traditions to future generations.</p> <p>The Main North Road site includes wetlands and a sensitive puna (freshwater spring) that is of significance to Ngāti Mutunga. This spring and the resulting water course need to be protected and enhanced and not degraded or impacted by the wastewater project.</p> <p>The puna is not identified in the District Plan as a Site of Significance to Māori. A plan change should be initiated to include this site in the District Plan and in the interim it needs to be provided with the same protection as if it was a listed site. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga is the legitimate authority in all matters of protection of wāhi tapu and urupā within the rohe of Ngāti Mutunga. Only Ngāti Mutunga has the skills, expertise, and knowledge necessary to ensure the continued protection of their wāhi tapu.</p>	<p>Access to Waterways Mahinga Kai</p> <p><b>Plains</b> Mahinga Kai Earthworks</p> <p><b>Implementation</b></p>
<p><b>Ngāti Mutungatanga as Kaitiaki</b></p> <p>Tikanga will be reflected in cultural advice provided by Ngāti Mutunga.</p> <p>It is Ngāti Mutunga's responsibility as Kaitiaki, to ensure that Ngāti Mutunga tikanga, is practised and passed on to future generations.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutungatanga will drive Ngāti Mutunga's role as Kaitiaki.</p>	<p>Tikanga identifies the concepts of tapu and noa and the need to keep these separate. The human body particularly the head is tapu (scared). It is important that it is kept free from things that are noa, which is why it is important to separate human waste streams from anything that enters the food chain. On this basis Ngāti Mutunga supports land-based disposal of waste providing it does not enter the food chain.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga do not support human waste being piped across water courses or significant features due to the impact on the mauri. Alternatives and mitigations need to be investigated so any impact is minimised.</p>	<p><b>Te Puna Waiora / Freshwater</b> Rivers and Streams Water Quality Riparian Zones Access to Waterways Mahinga Kai</p> <p><b>Implementation</b></p>

	Ngāti Mutunga work collaboratively with Ngā Iwi o Taranaki. In accordance with Ngāti Mutunga tikanga waste that is generated in an area should be disposed in that area, so it does not become a problem for neighbouring iwi. This must be the decision of the iwi and hapū that have mana whenua status of these areas.	
<b>Enhancement opportunities</b>		
<p>There are significant enhancement opportunities for the Awa (Onaero and Urenui) and their tributaries.</p> <p>There are significant enhancement opportunities on the disposal site for recreation and biodiversity connections.</p> <p>There are opportunities for appropriate parts of the disposal site to be accessed and enjoyed by the community to raise awareness of Ngāti Mutungatanga.</p>	<p>As the health of the awa improves through the project's delivery Ngāti Mutunga will be able to exercise their Kaitiaki role.</p> <p>The whenua at the disposal site is currently used for farming. The whenua can be restored, particularly through the planting of native species that will not enter the food chain.</p> <p>The disposal site can be an exemplar of regeneration and provide a connection point for Ngāti Mutunga as Kaitiaki and the wider community. As a large area of land this can also be a great community resource., Parts of the site can be used by the public. Defined walking/cycling tracks should be encouraged to grow public knowledge around tikanga and the impacts of waste management.</p>	<p><b>Te Puna Waiora / Freshwater</b> Rivers and Streams Water Quality Riparian Zones Access to Waterways Mahinga Kai</p> <p><b>Plains</b> Mahinga Kai Biodiversity Natural and Amenity Features Earthworks Cultural landscape and wāhi tapu</p> <p><b>Implementation</b></p>

### 3. Ara Whakamua – to look forward to the future.

It is an ethos of Ngāti Mutunga to look to the future and support positive progress. Ngāti Mutunga supports this project as it will restore the awa and restore mauri and wairua for future generations. Being forward looking ensures resilient and sustainable outcomes.

- This cultural value is informed by three outcomes that Ngāti Mutunga want to see for the project:*Hauora Taiao* – The environment is restored and mauri, wairua and mana are reinstated.
- *Hauora Tangata* – The environment can sustain the health and well-being of the people.
- *Hauora Mahinga kai* – The people can use the natural resources and reinstate their traditional uses.



The table below outlines the elements of Ara Whakamau and how these apply in the context of the Project

Description	Expectations/Implementation	IEMP link
<p><b>Mātauranga informs solutions (look back to look forward)</b></p>		
<p>Ngāti Mutunga values knowledge and research. Ngāti Mutunga holds Mātauranga (traditional knowledge) that is holistic and is informed by cultural and traditions – such as whakapapa, whanaungatanga, oral histories (Karakia and waiata).</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga supports innovative thinking and the use of new technologies to find solutions, alongside research in Mātauranga.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga also acknowledge the need to learn from others (the good and the bad) to achieve hauora outcomes and to share our learnings with others.</p>	<p>That Ngāti Mutunga are the cultural experts in Mātauranga and only they can speak to cultural impacts pertaining to their rohe.</p> <p>That Mātauranga is a key informant of technical research and assessments.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga shares its knowledge in Mātauranga and uses this to educate the community on the impacts of wastewater.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga is appropriately resourced to be able to understand and respond to technical information provided for the project.</p> <p>The Mauri compass is an independent baseline monitoring tool to continue to monitor the cultural health of the awa and whenua.</p> <p>Ensure the intergenerational transfer of knowledge Ngāti Mutunga cultural values and traditions are preserved and passed down to future generations. This will ensure the on-going outcomes and learnings of the project are understood and overseen by Ngāti Mutunga over time.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga are active participants in study tours and research to existing Wastewater Treatment Systems to gather understanding and learnings.</p> <p>Encourage collaborative research initiatives between Ngāti Mutunga and external stakeholders to broaden the understanding of cultural values and environmental impacts related to the wastewater project. Ensure mātauranga māori is valued, used and respected in equal standing to Western Science.</p>	<p><b>Te Puna Waiora / Freshwater</b>  Rivers and Streams  Water Quality  Riparian Zones  Access to Waterways  Mahinga Kai</p> <p><b>Plains</b>  Mahinga Kai  Biodiversity  Natural and Amenity Features  Earthworks  Cultural landscape and wāhi tapu</p>

	Relationships developed with other iwi/hapū holding kaitiaki over Wastewater projects are supported so there can be shared learnings and increased understanding.	
<b>Long-term and intergenerational thinking</b>		
The traditions of Ngāti Mutunga illustrate the cultural, historical, and spiritual association of Ngāti Mutunga to the taiao. These traditions represent the links between our tūpuna and present and future generations reinforcing tribal identity. Connections between generations make it critical that we consider the long-term implications of solutions.	<p>That the solution to treat wastewater in the Urenui/Onaero area is sustainable, resilient and enduring in the long term. Consideration of how the project evolves and adapts to the impacts of Climate Change is essential</p> <p>The project prioritises the long-term outcomes and looks for solutions that minimise the impact on the environment and reduce emissions.</p> <p>There is a strong focus on community-wide education and awareness programs to instil a deeper understanding of the cultural values of Ngāti Mutunga, promoting a broader sense of responsibility among all stakeholders for the outcomes of the project..</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga will provide education and training on waste management in accordance with its Education Plan incorporating tikanga.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga is able to continue to grow its kaitiaki responsibilities and be the best kaitiaki it can be into the future. That the long-term implications of Climate Change are considered so that any system is resilient and reduces any impacts on Climate Change.</p> <p>That sustainable development practices go beyond immediate project outcomes, ensuring long-term benefits for both the environment and the community.</p>	<p><b>Air and Atmosphere</b> Climate Change</p> <p><b>Te Puna Waiora / Freshwater</b> Rivers and Streams Water Quality Riparian Zones Access to Waterways Mahinga Kai</p> <p><b>Plains</b> Mahinga Kai Biodiversity Natural Hazards Natural and Amenity Features Earthworks Cultural landscape and wāhi tapu</p>
<b>Enduring benefits for Ngāti Mutunga</b>		
Ngāti Mutunga has been significantly impacted by raupatu and rapid urbanisation. Ngāti	Ngāti Mutunga is a prompt and valued partner at the table through all stages from project inception to design, implementation. This way	<b>Te Puna Waiora / Freshwater</b> Rivers and Streams Water Quality

<p>Mutunga want to grow capacity so that our uri can come home and restore their relationship with their Ngāti Mutungatanga. This requires tangible benefits for Ngāti Mutunga and its people to improve, social, cultural, economic, and environmental well-being.</p>	<p>of working in partnership with Ngāti Mutunga becomes the normal way of working with Councils and agencies.          The incorporation of Ngāti Mutunga values and the incorporation of tikanga and practices is enduring and will go beyond the immediate project outcomes. Ngāti Mutunga always consider the long-term benefits for our environment and community.</p> <p>The tangible benefits to Ngāti Mutunga are assessed and given appropriate priority through all stages of the project - site design, outcomes, and decisions.</p> <p><i>Example benefits include:</i></p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga to develop and run a nursery site (on disposal land) and increase native planting in their rohe (potential funding through Te Korowai o Tāne)</p> <p>Connect important places for Ngāti Mutunga with the existing community and recognise the importance of signage and pathways.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga are active partners and participants in the on-going maintenance of the WWTP ensuring appropriate tikanga is in place through all stages.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga are active partners and participants in collaborative research allowing Ngāti Mutunga to better understand cultural values and the impact of the project.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga will provide cultural education and information on tikanga to the community and neighbours directly impacted by the Wastewater project to increase awareness and understanding of our Ngāti Mutunga values in accordance with the Cultural Education Plan.</p>	<p>Riparian Zones          Access to Waterways          Mahinga Kai</p> <p><b>Plains</b>          Mahinga Kai          Biodiversity          Natural and Amenity Features          Earthworks          Cultural landscape and wāhi tapu</p>
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	<p>Ngāti Mutunga uri are trained to deliver an education programme to the community on the impacts of wastewater, water conservation and tikanga.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga deliver a monitoring programme over the life of the project in accordance with the Monitoring and Reporting Plan.</p> <p>Ngāti Mutunga are appropriately resourced and trained to implement the monitoring plan. (n.b., this is separate from Mauri Compass which is a state of the environment tool not project focused).</p>	
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### He Kupu Whakakapi / Summary

The statement has been developed by Ngāti Mutunga representatives on the Urenui / Onaero Waste Water Working Group and applies the Iwi Environmental Management Plan to this project. This statement is the foundation document that will inform the Cultural Impact Assessments for the project.

Ngāti Mutunga are committed to improving the environmental condition of the awa and whenua and provides cultural advice aligned to its Iwi Environmental Management Plan. Ngāti Mutunga values working in partnership with key agencies but also wants to ensure that it is able to progress the on-going resurgence of Ngāti Mutungatanga.

The key cultural values that Ngāti Mutunga want to see as key outcomes for the Urenui /Onaero Wastewater project (the project) are summarised as follows:

**-Rangatiratanga** -that a Ngāti Mutunga voice is strong and is heard. This is achieved by ensuring that Ngāti Mutunga is able to work as a valued and impacted partner and most importantly is resourced to do so. The opportunity to build Ngāti Mutunga capacity for this project and for future projects and beyond supports the on-going resurgence of Ngāti Mutungatanga.

**-Kaitiakitanga** - demonstrate Ngāti Mutungatanga through our role as kaitiaki. This is achieved by working in partnership to improve the environmental condition of the awa and whenua. Environmental improvements implemented by this project need to reflect Tikanga and traditional concepts. Environmental Enhancements will enable kaitiakitanga practises to return.

**-Ara Whakamua** – *to look forward to the future.* Ngāti Mutunga supports looking forward to progress solutions. Ngāti Mutunga recognise the concepts of Hauora Taiao, Hauora Tangata and Hauora Mahinga kai that will underpin any future direction. Ngāti Mutunga recognises the need to apply traditional knowledge and how this can assist innovation and progress. Long term intergenerational outcomes are essential to the projects success and will also work to ensure enduring benefits for Ngāti Mutunga.

Ngāti Mutunga looks forward to working on this project so that is delivered in accordance with Ngāti Mutunga cultural values. Ngāti Mutunga wants to leverage on the opportunities that this project provides to build and strengthen Ngāti Mutungatanga and also strengthen its relationship with the Council and the Community.