

Identification of Opportunities

Opportunities have been identified for the settlement of Hopuhopu through a multi-staged approach. These have focused on how the development of Hopuhopu by Waikato-Tainui can be supported through connectivity and access. The opportunities are a combination of:

- The contextual analysis.
- A spatial analysis undertaken through a desktop assessment.
- A site visit in combination with Council staff, Elected Members and Community Board representatives.
- Input received from technical reports.
- Inputs received by Council through community surveys.
- Feedback received from the community via online engagement and community open day event held in Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri. These sought to understand the issues experienced by the community, and opportunities seen by those that live, work and play in the three towns to improve the livability of these places.

The opportunities for investment have been grouped under the headings of the design principles, noting that some opportunities will align with multiple design principles.

The opportunities were grouped into themes relating to:

- **Connected Communities**
Opportunities relating to transport and accessing the places people want to get to, such Ngaaruawaahia and Tuarangawaewae Marae, and Taupiri and the Taupiri Urupaa.
- **Identity**
Opportunities related to telling the history, and highlighting the identity, of Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri.
- **Natural Environment**
Opportunities related to improving access to, and the quality of, the natural environment.
- **Growth and Economy**
Opportunities related to enhancing commercial activity and supporting future growth.

The following pages provide a summary of the opportunities identified through this process. Some of the opportunities sit outside of the remit of Waikato District Council, however were recorded to fully understand the issues and opportunities seen by the community. These opportunities have been assessed and considered by Council as part of this process and have informed the key moves and outcomes. Not all opportunities have been progressed.



Hopuhopu Opportunities

Connected Communities

Promote safe, efficient and attractive active mode connections to encourage walkability and reduce car dominance.

1. Extend the Te Awa River Ride cycle route from Ngaaruawaahia through Hopuhopu with the inclusion of wayfinding, rest stops and improved facilities along the river.
2. Provide safe and prioritised active mode connections between Ngaaruawaahia and Taupiri that is located off the main road. Consider safety, directness and visibility.
3. Upgrade and bus shelters and improve access to bus stops on Great South Road.
4. Review bus routes and bus stops down Old Taupiri Road in response to anticipated growth of the settlement, providing residents better access to public transport.

Identity

Strengthen the existing identity and character of the place.

1. A boulevard of trees line Old Taupiri Road as you enter the Hopuhopu area from the north-east. There is opportunity for a physical marker and a similar boulevard to be planted on the west as gateways into the township.
2. Enable continued development of cultural and visitor activities in collaboration with Waikato-Tainui that reflects the heritage of the area.

Natural Environment

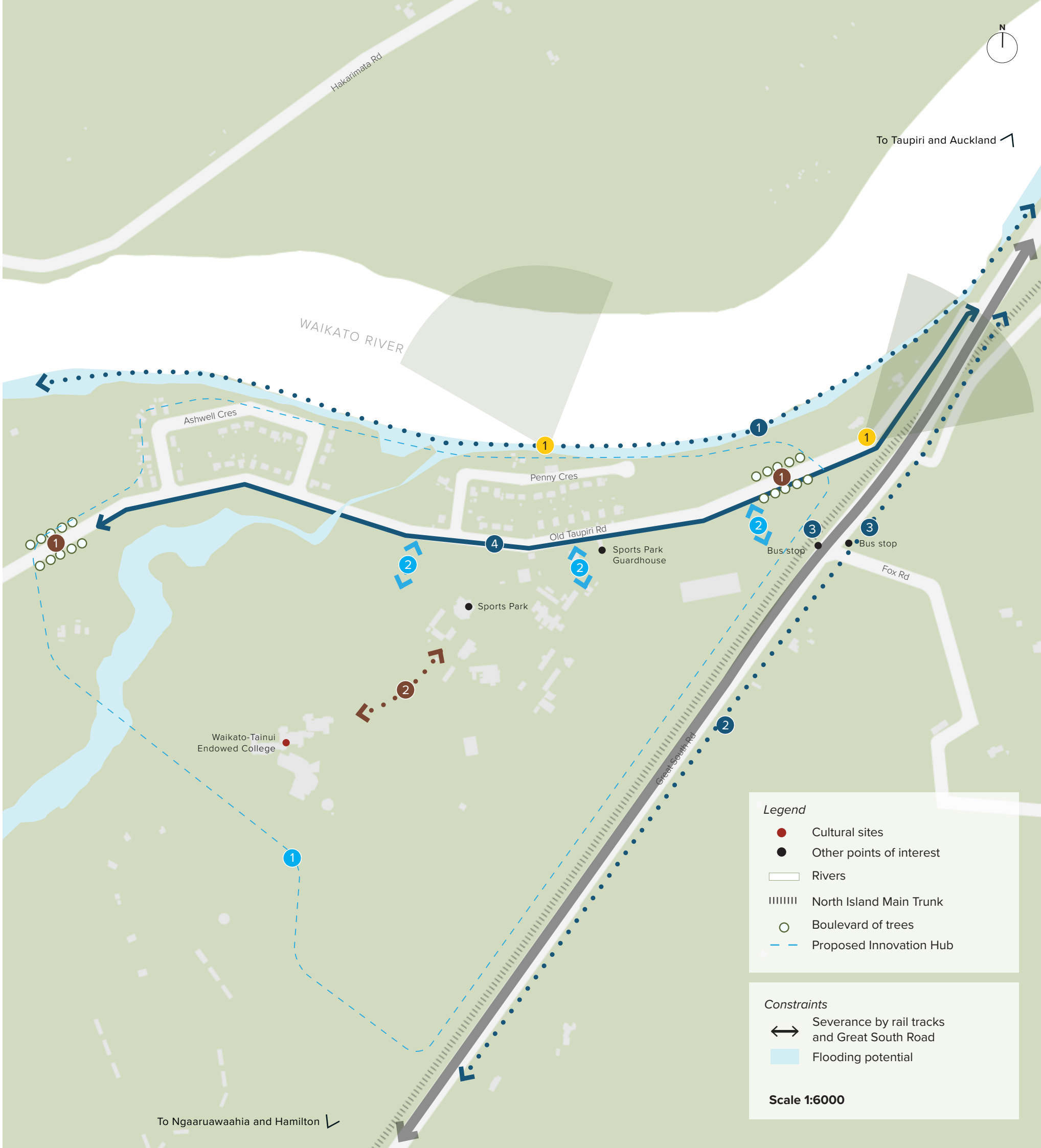
Connect communities to blue-green networks and provide recreational activities and opportunities.

1. Opportunities to open up view corridors to significant natural features such the Waikato River, Taupiri Maunga and Hakarimata Ranges.

Growth and Economy

Support projected growth with well connected services, amenities and commercial opportunities to fit the needs of the community.

1. Future Hopuhopu Innovation Hub which will include residential, commercial, education and recreational functions.
2. Proposed entry points.



Key Moves & Outcomes

The opportunities identified were shared with the community across two open days and through online engagement, where feedback and support was gathered. The opportunities were also assessed against the agreed Outcome Principles for the project, providing a basis for assessment.

The feedback received relating to the opportunities identified were considered together to confirm the key moves and outcomes for Hopuhopu and how these are to be prioritised over the short, medium and long term. It is recognised that some of the projects are highly complex, will have associated cost, and will need further detailed investigation before they are able to be confirmed in the Long Term Plan for delivery.

The key moves and outcomes have been identified on the following maps. The anticipated prioritisation of these is addressed in the Implementation Section of the document. The key moves and outcomes have also been grouped into the design principles of:

- Connected Communities
- Identity
- Natural Environments
- Growth and Economy

Walking and cycling activities have been identified separately as inputs from the Transport Workstream.

Hopuhopu

Connected Communities

Active mode opportunities

-  1. Extension of the Te Awa River Ride through Hopuhopu with the inclusion of rest stops and formal and informal viewing areas.
-  2. Create a safe and clear active mode connection between Ngaaruawaahia and Taupiri along Great South Road (separated cycleway).

Enhancing the pedestrian experience

-  3. Establish a boulevard of trees as a gateway marker into Hopuhopu.
-  4. Protect existing trees/boulevard.
-  5. Provide bus shelters and a new pedestrian crossing for existing and future bus stops. Explore the re-location of bus stops to a location within Hopuhopu that does not require users to cross Great South Road and the NIMT and provides better access to public transport for residents.

Intersection and roundabout upgrade

-  6. Improve the safety and visibility of the Old Taupiri (north)/Great South Road intersection (under investigation).

Identity

-  7. Support the development of the Waikato-Tainui Masterplan for Hopuhopu.



Rest stop and viewing area



Upgraded bus shelters



Riverside shared path



Tree boulevard



Implementation

View of Hakarimata Range walkway in Ngaaruawaahia

Implementation Approach

How this plan is to be implemented

The Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri Urban Design Assessment identifies a series of proposed projects and initiatives to support future growth and place shaping across Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri. The projects and initiatives are intended to be progressed across short, medium and long term time frames with a range of stakeholders and partners as outlined below.

The key moves and outcomes identified will go from being aspirational opportunities, to being funded and delivered when funding and partners have been identified. This will involve partnering and engaging further with key stakeholders including Mana Whenua, the community, local community organisations and businesses, and key landowners within Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri. Waikato District Council consider that it is important to continue to work in collaboration with community partners in all significant Council projects.

To support the implementation of the Urban Design Outcomes, it is recommended that a detailed implementation plan for each of the opportunities is developed, identifying key outcomes to be achieved, those responsible for delivery, project costs, and timeframes.

Role of Waikato District Council

Waikato District Council plays a key role in realising the future vision for Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu and Taupiri, as depicted in this Assessment. This role may range from direct investment in public works to advocating for positive changes to encourage investment (such as with the NZ Transport Agency/Waka Kotahi, local businesses and investors.)

The Council will also need to engage with the Mana Whenua, community and key stakeholders to advocate for public and private initiatives that assist to achieve the outcomes and projects identified across the three towns.

Funding implications

The Long Term Plan (LTP) is the Council’s main budgetary tool for the current 10-year period. This Plan provides a longer term capture of community aspirations and thereby informs the LTP.

Some of the actions are already budgeted for in the LTP, or are business as usual. Actions that need new funding will require advocacy to become new LTP initiatives. It is important to note that the availability of funding from the Council for proposed projects is not guaranteed. Funding and prioritisation will be determined as part of the LTP and Annual Plan process.

This plan can be used as a tool to assist in decision making on funding priorities. There are multiple ways that the projects and initiatives identified in this document can be achieved other than the LTP.

These include:

- Community led actions
- Fundraising
- Funding/grants
- Private investment and development

Monitoring and review

The Ngaaruawaahia, Hopuhopu, and Taupiri Urban Design Assessment is intended to be a living document responsive to changes. Similarly, flexibility is needed because some actions require further work such as additional consultation, feasibility testing, detailed design, and/or funding. The Council should undertake reviews of the plan periodically and in line with LTP processes. Keeping the document ‘live’ and up to date will help achieve the outcomes desired by the stakeholders, or will identify if projects should be reconsidered in relation to new information being available.

Projects and initiatives have been grouped as short term, medium and long term projects. Implementation of the projects will be managed through the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan process.

Implementation Table

The following table identifies the key moves and outcomes that have been identified through this document. It considers the alignment with the outcome principles, the project complexity and likely timeframe required to implement the projects.

The table provides a tool for future identification and prioritisation of investment across the three townships across the short, medium and long term.



View of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Ngaaruawaahia

Hopuhopu

Project	Prioritisation			Complexity		
	Short term 1-3 years	Medium term 3-10 years	Long term 10+ years	Low	Medium	High
CONNECTED COMMUNITIES						
1. Extension of the Te Awa River Ride cycle route through Hopuhopu with the inclusion of rest stops and formal and informal viewing areas.			✓			✓
2. Create a safe and clear active mode connection between Ngaaruawaahia and Taupiri along Great South Road (separated cycleway).			✓		✓	
3. Establish a boulevard of trees as a gateway marker into Hopuhopu.		✓			✓	
6. Improve the safety and visibility of the Old Taupiri (north)/Great South Road intersection (under investigation).		✓			✓	
BUSINESS AS USUAL						
4. Protect existing trees/boulevard.	✓			✓		
5. Provide bus shelters and a new pedestrian crossing for existing and future bus stops.	✓			✓		

