WEAVING THE FUTURE, TOGETHER
KOTAHITANGA
ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

KĀWHIA | AOTEA | ŌPĀRAU
CONCEPT PLAN

WORKING DRAFT

MARCH 2024

Revision History

Project Number: 4671724

Document Acceptance

Action	Name	Signed	Date
Prepared by	Elaine Chen Emily Zheng Sam Foster		XX
Reviewed by	Annette Jones		XX
Approved by	Annette Jones		XX

on behalf of Beca Ltd.

This document should be printed double sided at A3.

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Contents

1 Introduction

Ōtorohanga District Council have developed the Kāwhia, Aotea & Ōpārau Concept Plan to provide direction for the next 30 years in these towns and villages. This document is part of a suite of concept plan documents that will provide a framework for investment across the district over the short, medium and long term. The documents include:

- The Ōtorohanga Town Concept Plan
- The Rural Ōtorohanga Concept Plan
- The Kāwhia, Aotea & Ōpārau Concept Plan

By having a long term view for investment, it allows Ōtorohanga District Council to begin to plan and budget for investment that will improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the districts residents. These documents will inform the Long Term Plan (LTP) which is the document that plans council's projects and spending over the next 10 years, with a 3-yearly review. By planning for the long term, it allows council to position itself for a range of funding and investment opportunities and set a clear direction for the future.

A concept plan is a spatial plan, meaning it is about location (or place). It is a blueprint or framework to help guide the way in which a place or area could develop and grow. These plans usually focus on public places, spaces and facilities. The plan will help provide direction to Ōtorohanga District Council and our partners to guide when and how to invest in these places/facilities, as well as signaling to the community, businesses and other organisations how they can align with and support the delivery of the plan. This is not a statutory document, and it will be used to consider and inform future processes that may need to be undertaken to implement any changes.

This Draft Concept Plan relates to the villages of Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau and the areas around Kāwhia and Aotea Moana (Kāwhia and Aotea harbours). The document focuses on the urban areas, however does includes the rural, coastal and natural environments in this location.

Ultimately, this plan is about improving the wellbeing of the Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau communities and making the best use of available resources.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to identify spatial outcomes and opportunities for investment in Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau that can help improve the liveability of these communities. This means identifying how Ōtorohanga District Council can support connected communities, recreation opportunities and the celebration of the district's important history and heritage.

This document presents a high level framework of opportunities for the Ōtorohanga District Council, the community and other stakeholders to plan, over the short, medium and long term, investment into the community.

It is intended that this document is a "living document" that is regularly reviewed, to allow Council and the community to identify opportunities as they arise. Some of the opportunities identified will require partnership and collaboration with other entities to be delivered successfully. Some will be completed by others, and Council will provide a supportive and enabling role, when appropriate.

Mana Whenua as partners

Mana Whenua are partners with Ōtorohanga District Council and have been involved in the creation of this plan, providing input across the development of the document across a number of hui at each stage of the project.

Representation from a range of iwi, hapū and marae have attended these meetings, providing valuable guidance, feedback and direction to the project. It is anticipated that the relationships that are being established between council and Mana Whenua will continue to grow and the projects identified as part of this process will continue to have Mana Whenua, stakeholders and wider community input and guidance as they are developed further.

Approach

This Draft Concept Plan has been undertaken by Ōtorohanga District Council with the community over 2023 and 2024. The plan is the culmination of what we have heard from the community, Mana Whenua and representative groups over the life of the project.

We have taken the feedback, ideas for investment and opportunities that the community have provided through community open days & online surveys and brought these together to identify a range of investments and outcomes that can be implemented over the short, medium and long term.

The projects and investments identified by this Draft Concept Plan will need to be costed, funded and programmed into Council's Long Term Plan. In some cases, projects will require further technical work to fully understand their feasibility and associated costs.

As the document provides a long term, 30+ year vision for the rural areas, this Draft Concept Plan is to be a 'living document' and it is anticipated that Council will revisit the document from time to time to check back in with the community to allow the responses identified to evolve and to be adapted to changes in the community, environment and legislative requirements. This will also allow the document to remain relevant to the other decision making, regulatory and investment documents managed by Ōtorohanga District Council.

Figure 1. View of Aotea Harbour

MATAMATA

CAMBRIDGE

WAIKATO REGION

WAIPĀ REGION

Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau
Concept Plan Area

MT PIRONGIA

TE AWAMUTU

PUKEATUA

AOTEA

KĀWHIA

ŌPĀRAU

Rural Ōtorohanga
Concept Plan Area

ŌTOROHANGA

TE RANGA

WAITOMO REGION

RANGITOTO

RANGINUI

Legend

- - - - Kāwhia/Aotea/ Ōpārau and
Rural Ōtorohanga Concept
Plan boundary

──── Rivers

- - - Roads

▲ Mountain

kilometres

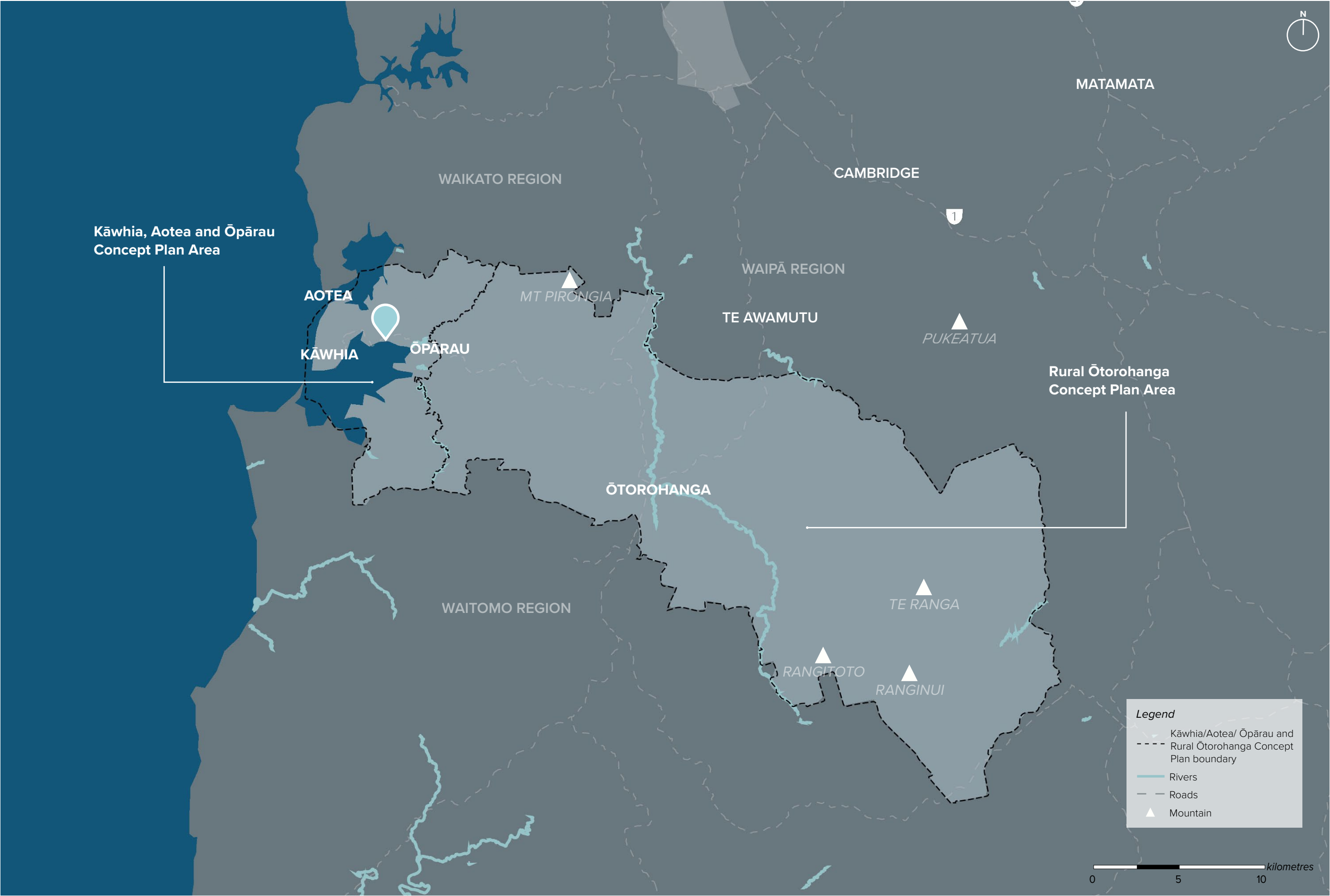0   5   10

Figure 2. District map

1.1   History

[TO BE UPDATED]

[TO BE UPDATED]

1.2 Overarching Vision

**Ōtorohanga – Te torohanga o ngā ringa
[the place] of stretching [the hands] in greeting [with
the provision of food/resources]**

*This space is reserved for a
Whakataukī that Mana Whenua
will provide*

1.3   Principles & Outcomes

Resilient and Connected communities

Provide and maintain access to our communities that is safe, reliable and accessible for all.

Clear and safe connections to destinations in Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau from the wider district.

Infrastructure is resilient and provides for the needs of the district.

Cultural values & identity

Strengthen and highlight the rich history and identity of Mana Whenua.

Acknowledge the rich history of Mana Whenua and provide for sharing and telling the stories of Mana Whenua.

Respect culturally significant sites and landscapes.

Restore the footprint of Mana Whenua cultural identity, economic and social well-being.

Environmental health & climate change

Promoting connection to nature and proactive climate action for a sustainable future.

Protect celebrate and enhance our natural environment.

Support ecological areas and biodiversity.

Acknowledge and plan for the effects of climate change.

Economic prosperity & growth

Support economic growth in the community.

Enable services that provide for the needs of a diverse community.

Facilitate and enable commercial development.

Social Wellbeing

Support the community to strengthen social wellbeing.

Diversity of services for a diverse community

Provide places for people to gather, meet and grow their community

2 Context

This Draft Concept Plan covers those areas that relate to and associate with Kāwhia and Aotea Moana (the Kāwhia and Aotea Harbours). It focuses on the settlements of Kāwhia, Aotea & Ōpārau, the surrounding areas and the connections and relationships between these towns and villages. This document is part of a suite of concept plans that cover the Ōtorohanga District (the others being the Draft Rural Ōtorohanga Concept Plan, and the Ōtorohanga Town Concept Plan).

The area is located in the western portion of the Ōtorohanga District, on the Kāwhia and Aotea Harbours, approximately 50min from the town of Ōtorohanga. The area has a small resident population of approximately 500 people, however this grows considerably over the summer months to up to 3000 people. Kāwhia is the largest settlement of the three and includes employment through local businesses.

Aotea is 10 minutes to the north of Kāwhia, and is predominantly a residential village situated on the Aotea Harbour. Ōpārau and the well known 'roadhouse' and it's fence of bicycles is the gateway to the area, making the transition from Rural Ōtorohanga into the area covered by this Draft Concept Plan.

The fishing and marine industry is important to the economy of these towns and villages with marine farms in the Kāwhia and Aotea harbours and fishing boats operating out of the Kāwhia harbour.

Figure 3. View of Aotea Harbour

Legend

○ Kāwhia/Aotea/Ōpārau Concept Plan boundary

⬭ Rural Ōtorohanga Concept Plan boundary

▲ Mountain

■ Native Vegetation

■ Exotic Vegetation

═ State Highway

─ Road

─ Rivers / Streams

⛩ Marae

● Community Hall

Figure 4.   Concept Plan boundary

Scale 1:200,000 @A3
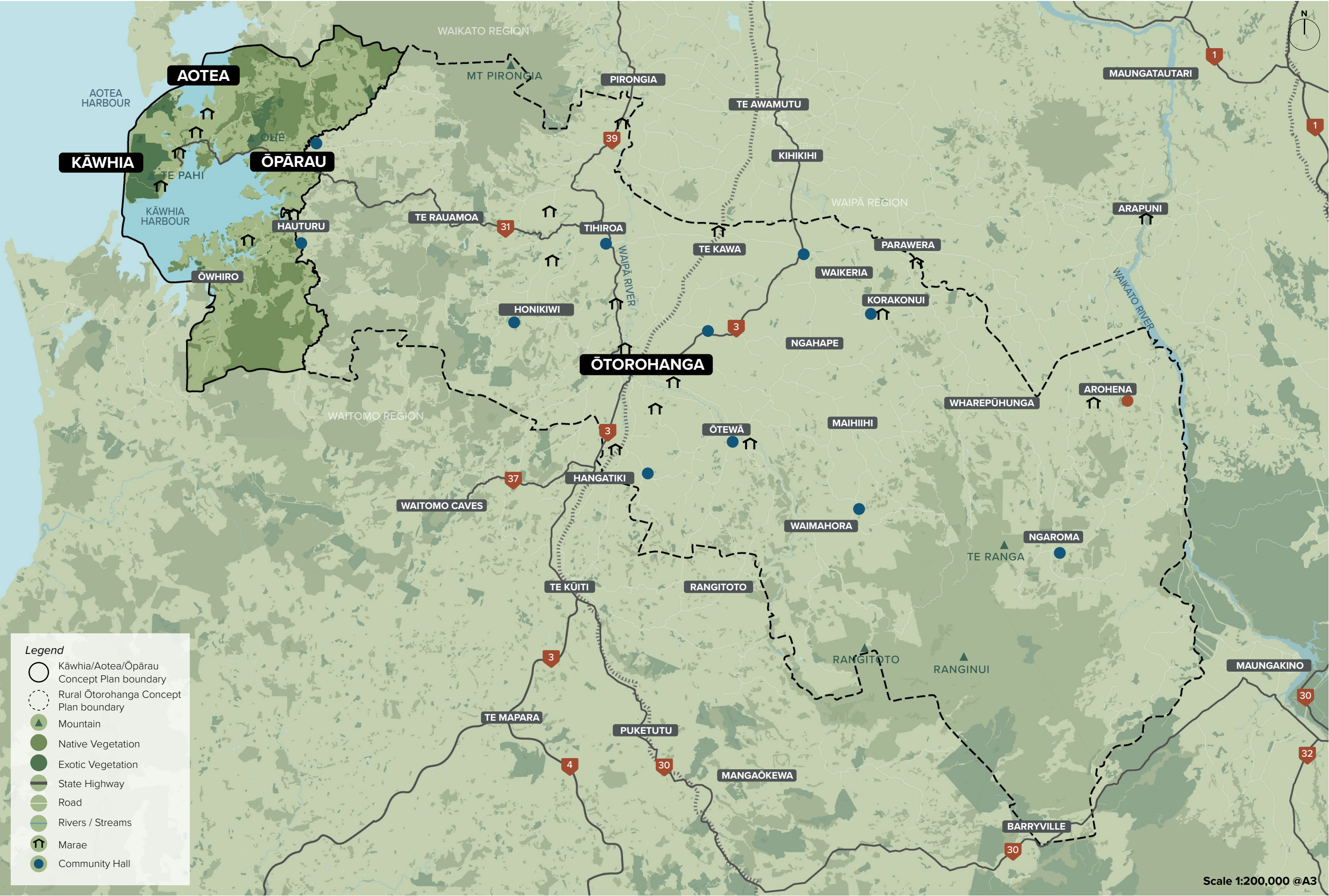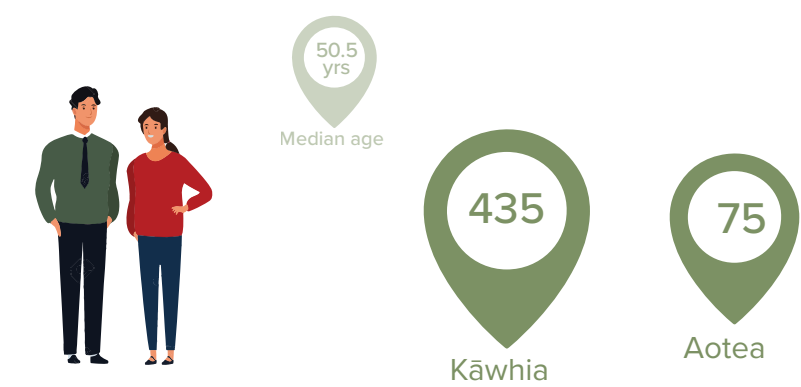
2.1   Who we are?

Kāwhia, Aotea & Ōpārau has a relatively stable population, with over 500 permanent residents, with minimal population growth signaled in the long term. The area experiences a high amount of temporary growth in the summer months, where the population is estimated to swell to up to approximately 3000 people who come to enjoy the west coast experience. There is a strong Māori population, reflecting the areas important cultural history.

The majority of households do not have children, and the local primary school has a roll of about 50 children.

Unsurprisingly, there is a strong reliance on private vehicles to get to work and school, reflective of the location of Kāwhia, Aotea & Ōpārau.

Households

288 households without children
Up **2.1%** since 2013

30 households with one child
— unchanged

21 households with two children
Up **0.2%**

12 households with three children
Down **2.2%**

12 households with four children
Down **1.4%**

Population

50.5 yrs
Median age

435
Kāwhia

75
Aotea

Ethnicity

European — 64.3%
Māori — 46.9%
Pacific peoples — 3.1%
Asian — 1.6%
Middle Eastern/ Latin American/ African — 0%
Other ethnicity — 1.2%

Getting to work

- Work at home (35.7%)
- Private car (43.8%)
- Company car (10.7%)
- Passenger in car (4.9%)
- Walk or cycle (4.9%)
- Public bus (0%)

4.9%
4.9%
10.7%
35.7%
43.8%
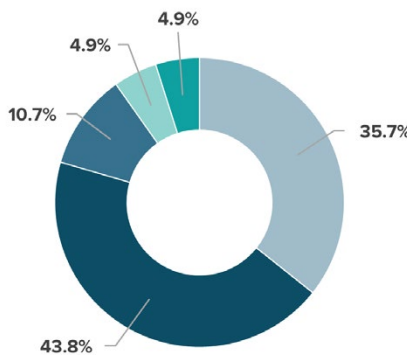
Getting to education

- Study at home (3.1%)
- Private car (9.4%)
- Passenger in car (42.2%)
- School/ Public bus (32.8%)
- Walk or cycle (12.5%)

12.5%
3.1%
9.4%
32.8%
42.2%

All data is based on the 2018 Census data.
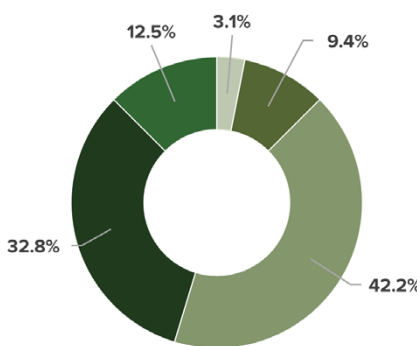
Figure 5. View of Aotea Harbour

2.2 Regional Context

The area is located on the west coast of the Ōtorohanga District and is of high significance to Mana Whenua, being the resting place of the Tainui Waka. Primary road access to the area is via State Highway 31, with secondary access provided by a small number of lower order roads that provide varying levels of service. There are commercial fishing, oyster and mussel operations in the two harbours. Tainui Kāwhia Incorporated own large areas of forestry and land in the area.

State Highway 31 is already at heightened risk of flooding, slips and sea inundation and this is expected to increase in frequency and severity over the long term due to climate change/sea level rise. Resilience of access for the community is an important focus, and there is a need to take a long term 50-100 year view on investments and adaptation in the area, including minimising the risk associated with sea-level rise.

A marine farm is located in each of the two harbours. The Aotea Harbour has a mussel spat farm, and the Kāwhia Harbour, an oyster farm.
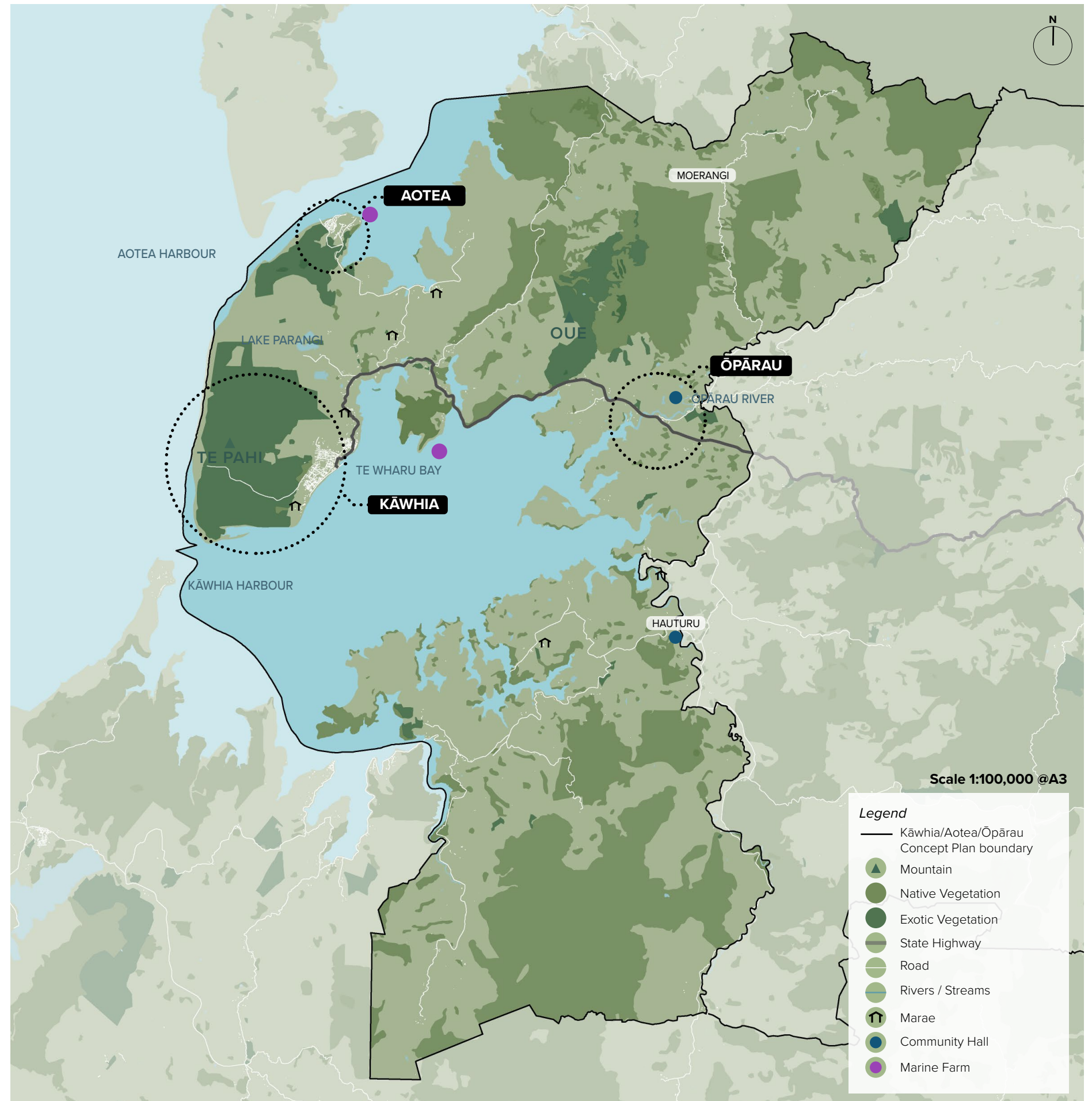
Figure 6. Regional context - Kāwhia/Aotea/Ōpārau boundary

Legend

- —— Kāwhia/Aotea/Ōpārau Concept Plan boundary
- ▲ Mountain
- ● Native Vegetation
- ● Exotic Vegetation
- — State Highway
- — Road
- — Rivers / Streams
- ⛩ Marae
- ● Community Hall
- ● Marine Farm

Scale 1:100,000 @A3

2.3 Local Site Analysis

Kāwhia

Kāwhia is the largest of the three townships covered by this Draft Concept Plan. It is the second largest settlement in the district, after Ōtorohanga Township with a strong identity, and significant Mana Whenua history and presence.

Waipapa Marae and Maketū Marae are in close proximity to Kāwhia and Aotea townships. ŌkapuMarae and the Mōkai Kainga are located between Kāwhia and Aotea. Te Puia Hot Water Beach, which is an important recreational and historic site for Kāwhia is less than 5km from the township.

The township has a small number of permanent residents, estimated to be about 350, which grows significantly over the summer holiday period, swelling up to 2000 people. There is limited water supply and no community wastewater system, which brings challenges related to managing the high fluctuation in the population.

Prided on its picturesque and small town feel, there is a strong feeling among the local community about retaining the identity of Kāwhia and what makes it great. There is a desire to ensure that this is not diluted in the future.

The harbour is a significant asset for the town and the community, providing kai moana, and recreation for the community and those that visit. Fishing and the use of the boat ramps to access the harbour is important and the Kāwhia Rowing Regatta Club, established in 1910, remains a vibrant club, with the annual New Year's regatta a highlight on the calendar.

Community facilities include a community hall, the museum, the community sports club and a number of other community organisations with their own facilities are in Kāwhia.

There is a concentrated area of local shops and services along Jervois Street, providing services to locals and visitors alike.

Parts of the town are subject to risk from sea-level rise and coastal inundation, and this needs to be considered as part of any investment identified in the town.

Scale 1:2,000 @A3

Legend

⬚ Site analysis extent

Figure 7.   Local Site Analysis - Kāwhia

Figure 8. Kāwhia - Natural features
Spatial data extracted from Ōtorohanga map portal

Figure 9. Kāwhia - Land use, amenity and historic areas

Natural features

One of Kāwhia's most apparent features is the beautiful environment, landscapes and vistas over the harbour. There are multiple locations where there are key viewpoints to be enjoyed from the township and the surrounding area. These are generally located in public areas for all to enjoy.

Legend

- ● Points of Interest
- ▇ Harbour
- ▇ Park
- ● Historic Pōhutukawa
- ◣ Key viewpoints
- — Wetland setback

Land use, amenity and historic areas

In the Ōtorohanga District Plan, the majority of Kāwhia is zoned "Urban Limited Service Zone". which provides for urban development. The Pedestrian Precinct area is focused on Jervois Street, and identifies those locations where the built form is anticipated to create a more pleasant pedestrian environment, through the provision of shelter and buildings close to the street.

Countryside Living (Rural Residential) enabled around the township has however seen limited uptake.

There are large number of identified historical and archaeological sites in and around Kāwhia, highlighting its historic significance.

Legend

- ● Points of Interest
- ● Non council owned community facilities
- ● Council owned community facilities
- ● Picnic tables
- ● NZAA Pā site
- ○ NZAA Other sites
- ○ Ōtorohanga historic
- ○ Ōtorohanga wahi tapu
- ▭ Pedestrian precinct

Land use

- ▇ Urban Limited Service Zone
- ▇ Urban Unserviced
- ▇ Rural Zone
- ▇ Business Areas
- ▇ Park
- ▇ Country Style Living Area

Road classification

- — Secondary Collector
- — Access
- — Low volume

Kāwhia township character

Figure 10. Kāwhia site photos

Aotea

Aotea is a small residential settlement on the entrance to the Aotea Harbour. It is characterised by older development in the less elevated portion of the village, and newer development on the higher areas, that has occurred more recently.

Horoure Pā is a significant site in the area, and provides sweeping views across the harbour entrance to the northern side.

Scale 1:4,200 @A3

Figure 11. Local Site Analysis - Aotea
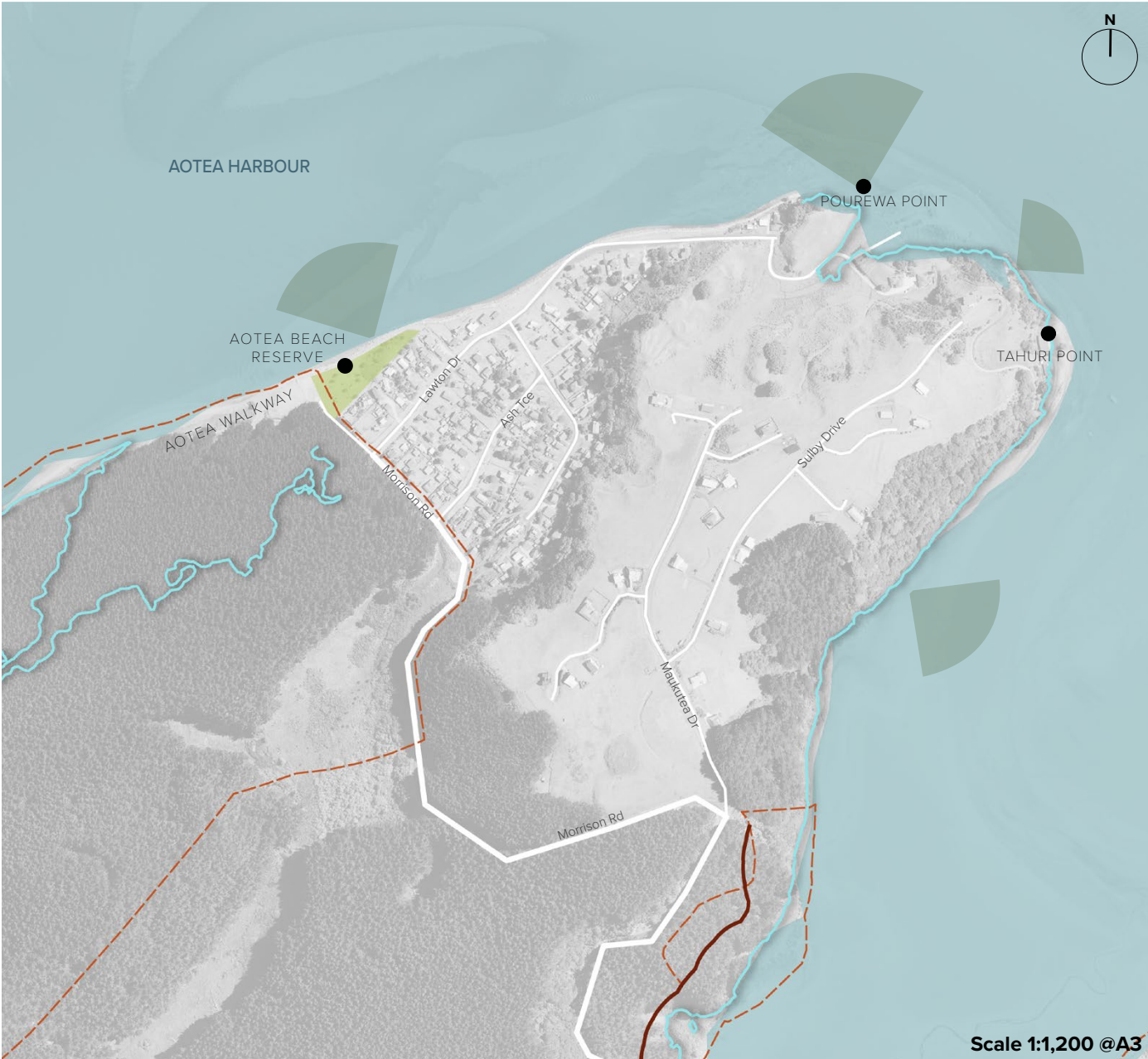
Figure 12. Aotea - Natural features
Spatial data extracted from Ōtorohanga map portal

Figure 13. Aotea - Land use, amenity and historic areas

Natural features

Located at the Aotea Harbour entrance, Aotea looks across the harbour and beyond to the dunes on the northern side. Aotea is split across the main residential area, located on the lower ground adjacent to the harbour, more recent development is seen on the upper escarpment, above the town.

Legend

- ● Points of Interest
- Harbour
- Park
- Key viewpoints
- Hardshore setback
- Coastal policy
- Wetland setback

Land use, amenity and historic areas

Aotea is a small residential settlement to the north of Kāwhia, located at the mouth of the Aotea Harbour. The older area of town is situated on the lower areas adjacent to the coastline. A newer subdivision has been established on the higher ground on Maukutea Drive.

Aotea includes the Horoure Pā Historic Reserve and there are multiple heritage-listed (NZAA) sites throughout the settlement.

Legend

- ● Points of Interest
- ● NZAA Pā site
- ○ NZAA Other sites
- ● Picnic tables

Land use
- Urban Limited Service Zone
- Urban Unserviced
- Rural Zone
- Country Style Living Area

Road classification
- Secondary Collector
- Access
- Low volume

Aotea township character

Figure 14. Aotea site photos

Ōpārau

Ōpārau is the gateway to the area, located on SH31 and Okupata Road. The Ōpārau Roadhouse and its fence lined with bicycles provides a memorable site of the journey towards the harbour. The Roadhouse provides access to conveniences for the local community and caters to visitors at the campsite. The small settlement and community hall are located next to the Ōpārau River.

HISTORIC ŌPĀRAU DAIRY FACTORY AND HYDRO-ELECTRIC SITE

COMMUNITY HALL

ROTOITI ROAD

OKUPATA ROAD

RESERVE & SITE OF HISTORIC WHARF

ŌPĀRAU ROADHOUSE

ŌPĀRAU RIVER

KĀWHIA ROAD

Scale 1:7,200 @A3

Legend

- - - - Kāwhia/Aotea/Ōpārau Concept Plan boundary

Figure 15. Local Site Analysis - Ōpārau
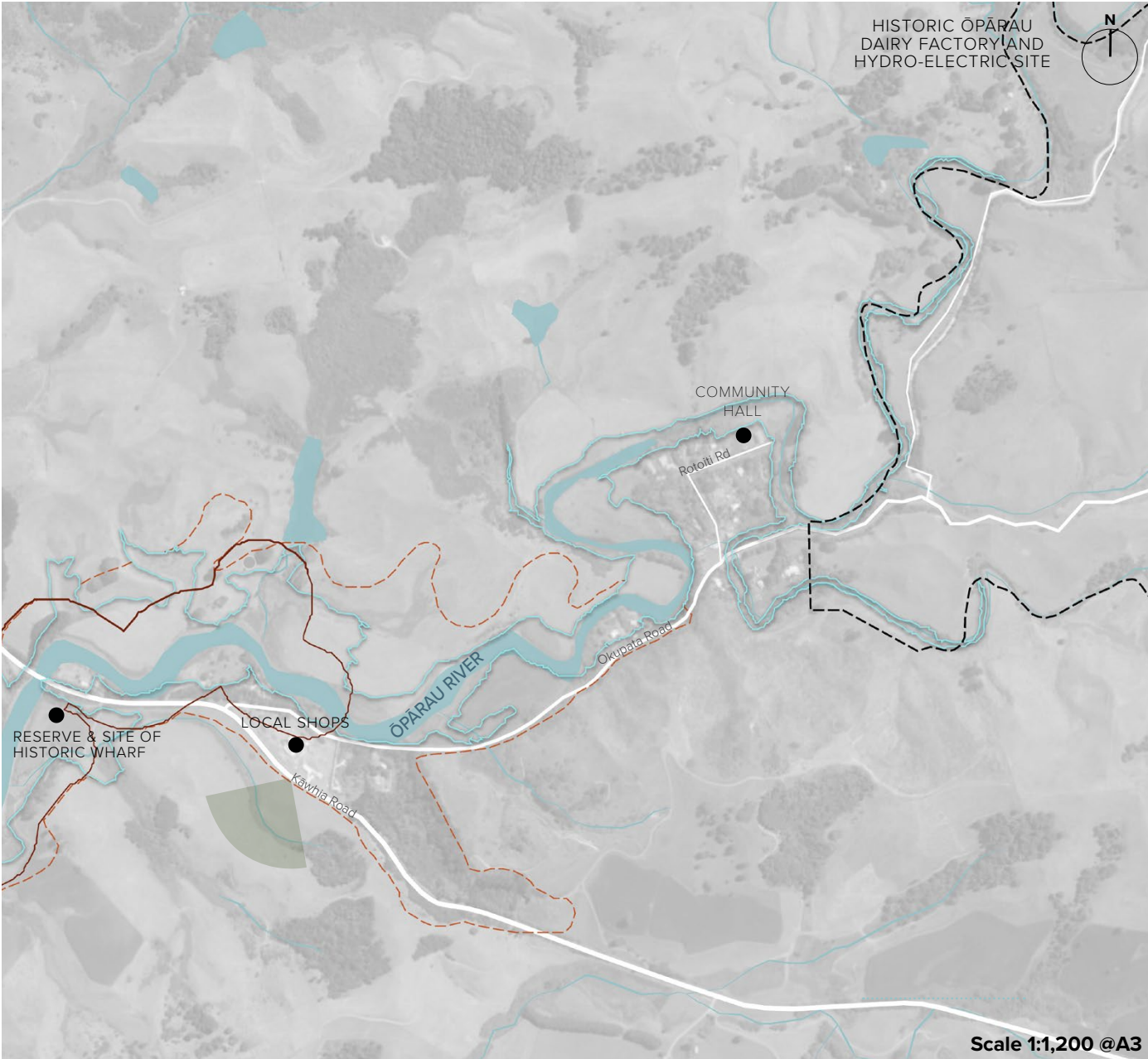
Figure 16. Ōpārau - Natural features
Spatial data extracted from Ōtorohanga map portal

Figure 17. Ōpārau - Land use and cultural/ historic areas

Natural features

Ōpārau is located along the Ōpārau River. To the south the landscape is characterised by a steep hill 95 metres above sea level. Flooding has been an issue in the area during high rainfall events with water flowing towards the Ōpārau River.

Legend

- - - Kāwhia/Aotea/Ōpārau Concept Plan boundary
● Points of Interest
▬ River
▬ Key viewpoints
▬ Hardshore setback
--- Coastal policy
▬ Wetland setback

Land use and cultural/ historic areas

Ōpārau includes a small residential settlement of approximately 17 properties, the Ōpārau Community Hall and the Ōpārau Roadhouse, which provides convenience retail and includes camping/ campervan facilities. There are three NZAA sites in and around the settlement.

Legend

● Points of Interest
● NZAA Pā site
○ NZAA Other sites

Land use
▬ Urban Limited Service Zone
▬ Urban Unserviced
▬ Rural Zone

Road classification
▬ Secondary Collector
▬ Access
▬ Low volume

Ōpārau township character

Figure 18. Ōpārau site photos

2.4   Community Engagement

The development of this Draft Concept Plan has taken place over a period of 12-15 months, beginning in March 2023.

This Draft Concept Plan has been informed by the Kāwhia, Aotea & Ōpārau Advisory Group made up of representatives from these communities, the Mana Whenua Advisory Group and public engagement and consultation undertaken online and across a series of open days held in Kāwhia in June and September of 2023.

The first round of consultation occurred in June 2023, with an open day held in Kāwhia. The open day sought input from the community to help identify issues, opportunities and constraints, as well as thoughts and suggestions on ideas for the future of Kāwhia, Aotea & Ōpārau. This was captured on large maps through post-it notes and collection of hard copies of a survey asking questions around key themes related to liveability of the towns and area. This was supplemented by an online interactive map, which provided the community the ability to record their input into the process and respond to the survey. The feedback was used to inform a list of key outcomes and possible projects for the towns that would improve the liveability of these places.

The second open day, held in September 2023 was used to share the collated feedback from the previous consultation. Potential projects, investments and key moves that were developed from this feedback. This gave the opportunity for the community to share their thoughts and support for the potential investments and highlight any areas that may have been missed. The information was also made available online through Connecting Ōtorohanga. This provided the community with an opportunity to give feedback at the open day.

The feedback from the second series of consultation formed the basis of the implementation framework. Working closely with Council, each of the projects were categorised and tagged with level of complexity, time frames for implementation and a potential delivery lead.

Engagement Timeline

May 2023	**ADVISORY GROUP MEETING** *- Vision and principles*
June 2023	**CONNECTING ŌTOROHANGA LAUNCH**
	COMMUNITY OPEN DAYS *- Identify opportunities & issues*
August 2023	**YELL IT & TELL IT SURVEY** *- Rangatahi session*
September 2023	**ADVISORY GROUP MEETING** *- Opportunities list*
	COMMUNITY OPEN DAYS *- Opportunities list*
February 2024	**ADVISORY GROUP MEETING** *- Key Outcomes & Implementation*

Figure 19. Reflecting extent of online feedback received via Connecting Ōtorohanga

2.5   Mana Whenua Engagement

Mana Whenua have had direct involvement in the development of this Draft Concept Plan. Mana Whenua representatives from hapū, iwi and marae across the district were invited to join the Mana Whenua Advisory Group, providing input and advice for the development of this Draft Concept Plan document.

Hui were held for each stage of the project, including a workshop to introduce and commence the development of this Draft Concept Plan. The hui provided Mana Whenua the opportunity to review documentation and information of each project stage and provide feedback, advice and direction on the development of this Draft Concept Plan.

Ōtorohanga District Council will continue to work with Mana Whenua in the implementation of this Draft Concept Plan outcomes, and the projects are developed in more detail.

[TO BE UPDATED]

Engagement Timeline

May 2023	**WORKSHOP HUI** *- Establishing the partnership*
June 2023	**MANA WHENUA HUI NO.1** *- Vision & principles*
	MANA WHENUA HUI NO.2 *- Identify opportunities & issues*
September 2023	**MANA WHENUA HUI NO.3** *- Opportunities list*
February 2024	**MANA WHENUA HUI NO.4** *- Draft Concept Plan*
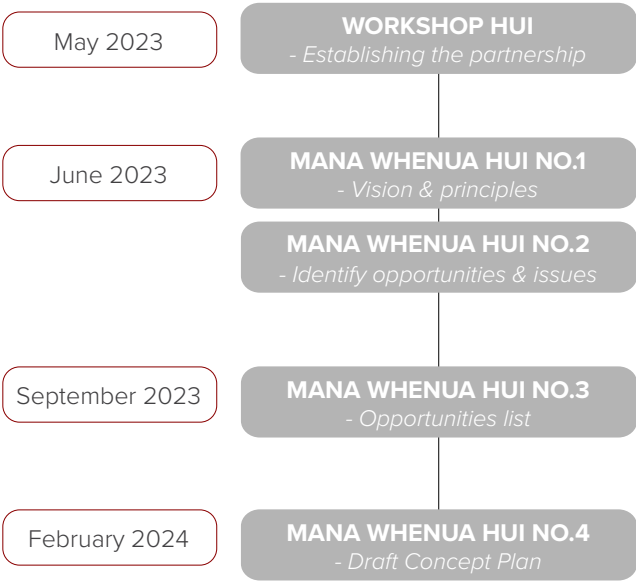
[TO BE UPDATED]

Figure 20. View of Omimiti Reserve in Kāwhia

2.6 Opportunities Analysis

Natural Environment

Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau are situated on the scenic Kāwhia and Aotea Harbours and the natural environment is a strong asset for the community. This provides the opportunity to attract visitors and tourists to the area to experience and enjoy an environment that is more natural and isolated than other comparative coastal towns.

Cultural Significance

Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau have a rich cultural history, with Kāwhia being the landing place of the Tainui Waka. There is a real opportunity to celebrate and share this important part of Aotearoa New Zealand's history with those that live in the township and visitors from further afield.

Amenity

There are opportunities to build on the natural amenity in and around the townships, focusing on improving the levels of amenity offered in the village centre, parks and reserves, and increasing recreational opportunities within the townships.

Connectivity and Safety

There are opportunities to improve connections between the townships and further afield, providing for safe and accessible communities. These could be for recreational and commuting purposes and could be in partnership with agencies such as NZ Transport Agency - Waka Kotahi.

Growth and Papakāinga

Kāwhia and Aotea have experienced minimal growth over the last few years, particularly for permanent residents.

Analysis of Kāwhia and Aotea has shown that there is current capacity for residential and lifestyle sections over the existing urbanised areas.

Kāwhia has 10 lifestyle sections and 39 residential that are vacant. Aotea has approximately 51 sections that are vacant. This is considered to provide sufficient capacity for future growth in the area for current demand.

Outside of general residential development, there are opportunities to support the development of papakāinga inside or outside of the townships. This could be through development of specific policy, or changes to the regulatory framework that manages their development.

The Operative District Plan currently identifies land enabled for Countryside Living development on the periphery of the township, which to date, has seen limited uptake. If additional urbanised land is required to accommodate future growth, the area where some development is already enabled, is likely to be the most appropriate to identify for future growth. This would need to be tested through the appropriate resource management process and identify and respond to any associated effects of rezoning including, but not limited to sites of cultural significance, three waters servicing, access and transportation and hazards.

Figure 21. Opportunities analysis - Wider Ōpārau, Kāwhia and Aotea

2.7 Constraints Analysis

Sea-level rise and inundation

A key constraint that is present in the Kāwhia, Aotea & Ōpārau area is the anticipated coastal inundation and sea-level rise. Indicative mapping provided by the Waikato Regional Council shows anticipated inundation risk over the next 100 years. This takes into account sea-level rise and increased rainfall from storm events.

This inundation risk has consequences when identifying opportunities for investments in these towns, creating the need to consider resilience, and future cost associated with inundation. This could include designing for these events, or potential risk of projects being required to be moved out of the hazard areas sometime in the future.

Sea-level rise also raises concerns with community resilience and access to lifeline infrastructure. As sea-level rises over the next century, detailed consideration of the future needs of the transport network, communications, power supply and community facilities along the shoreline is required.

Further detail on coastal inundation risk is provided in the following pages.

Sites of cultural significance

Kāwhia, Aotea & Ōpārau have a high number of known cultural and archaeological sites of significance. These should be considered for any future development of the area, and Mana Whenua engaged and consulted with as part of any future process.

Infrastructure Capacity

Kāwhia, Aotea & Ōpārau do not have a reticulated wastewater system, and residents and businesses are reliant on septic tank systems. This constrains development and can create risks to water quality and health.

Kāwhia has a reticulated water supply, however the capacity of this is limited and it is put under pressure over the summer months due to the population increase over the holiday period. Aotea and Ōpārau are reliant on private supply of potable water.

Access and utilities resilience

Kāwhia, Aotea & Ōpārau are relatively isolated and have limited options for access by road. Power are reliant on one line in and out, placing a high level of reliance on these assets. These limitations are a constraint that should be considered as part of future planning in the area.

Legend

- - - - - Kāwhia/Aotea/Ōpārau Concept Plan boundary
● Points of Interest
Marae
State Highway
Roads
Streams

Scale 1:60,000 @A3

Figure 22. Constraints analysis - Wider Ōpārau, Kāwhia and Aotea

2.8 Inundation and Coastal Constraints

Coastal Inundation Analysis

This coastal inundation mapping is not a coastal hazard assessment. It provides a reasonably accurate indication of the areas that are currently vulnerable and the areas that could potentially be exposed to risk over the next 100 years as sea-level rises. Further and more detailed assessment should be undertaken. These maps and the further supporting information and guides are available on the Waikato Regional Council online Hazards Portal[1].

Response to coastal inundation and sea-level rise

The innundation mapping shows that the wharf and main business area of Kāwhia is vulnerable. Sea-level rise will also impact local septic tanks in low-lying areas, that will become inoperable before buildings become unuseable. Consideration of existing and future hazards should be incorporated into community decision making, alongside an understanding of adaptation options over time. Siting of new development or infrastructure should consider changes to the environment and communities in the future to inform resilient decision making. We have the opportunity now to understand what the community values about assets such as the museum and community centre and to make a plan to manage the risk and retain what matters most about the museum and the community centre.

This is consistent with an adaptation planning process as indicated in the 10-step decision wheel. First we understand the hazards (e.g. coastal flooding), then what we value (the museum) and why we value the area, and then we can make a plan to adapt, whether that is finding a new location or changing the configuration of the building to make it resilient to climate change impacts.

Adaptation options across the PARA spectrum could include:
Protect - i.e impermeable seawall for storm events
Avoid - avoiding development in low lying areas
Retreat - developing a long term plan for managed retreat or community relocation
Accommodate - live with hazards ie elevation of housing and improve stormwater and pumping

Key actions

1. Understand community values to do with community assets such as the museum and community centre.
2. Assess community risk tolerance and develop adaptation plan.
3. Investigate alternative locations for community assets such as the museum and community centre.

Source: https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/services/regional-hazards-and-emergency-management/regional-hazards-portal/
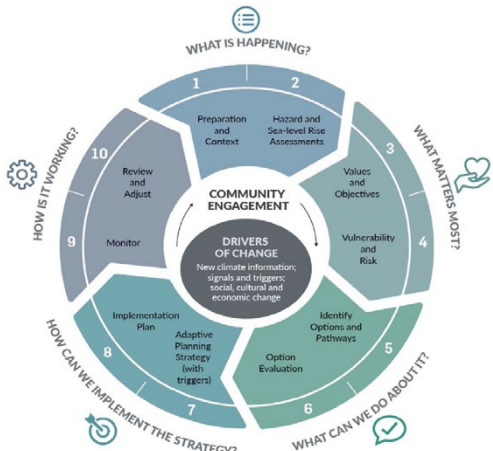
Figure 23. Coastal management matrix

Figure 24. Inundation and Coastal Constraints - Wider Ōpārau, Kāwhia and Aotea
Source: Waikato Regional Council

Scale 1:60,000 @A3

Legend

- - - - -   Kāwhia/Aotea/Ōpārau Concept Plan boundary
●   Points of Interest
   Marae
   State Highway
   Roads
   Streams

Constraints
Projected coastal inundation

Present day high-tide
Present day extreme storm tide
Future extreme storm tide (50-years)
Future extreme storm tide (100-years)

2.9 Kāwhia Coastal Analysis

In Kāwhia, some of the low lying coastal fringe is already at risk of flooding during a storm event, and the frequency of this flooding will increase as sea-level rise. The museum, community centre and reserve are some of the most at risk areas. Other community facilities and amenities that are vulnerable are also identified on the adjacent map.

Scale 1 : 8,500 @A3

Legend

- ● Sites of cultural significance
- ● Points of Interest
- ⌂ Marae
- State Highway
- Roads
- Park

Constraints

Projected coastal inundation

- Present day high-tide
- Present day extreme storm tide
- Future extreme storm tide (50-years)
- Future extreme storm tide (100-years)

Figure 25. Kāwhia Coastal Analysis

Source: Waikato Regional Council

2.10 Aotea Coastal Analysis

Aotea already has a rock revetment to protect from coastal erosion. However, the risk of coastal flooding behind the rock revetment during storms will increase over time. Sea level rise will also result in increases in groundwater levels over time which may cause "sunny day" flooding as well as impacts to vegetation from waterlogged ground and poor drainage when it rains. Ōkapu Marae is located on Aotea Road, on the coastline to the east of Aotea and may be affected by future coastal inundation risk.

Scale 1 : 5,500 @A3

Legend

● Sites of cultural significance

● Points of Interest

Roads

Park

Constraints

Projected coastal inundation

Present day high-tide

Present day extreme storm tide

Future extreme storm tide (50-years)

Future extreme storm tide (100-years)

Figure 26. Kāwhia Coastal Analysis

Source: Waikato Regional Council

3 Identified Opportunities

Opportunities have been identified for the three settlements of Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau through a multi-staged approach. They are a combination of:

· The contextual analysis.
· A spatial analysis undertaken through a desktop assessment.
· Site visits
· Feedback received from the community via online engagement and community open day event held in Kāwhia. 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 liveability 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 and outcomes were grouped into themes relating to:

• **Resilient and Connected Communities**
Opportunities relating to infrastructure and transport and accessing the places people want to get to; the resilience of these networks and connections in the face of a changing climate.

• **Cultural Values and Identity**

Opportunities related to telling the history, and highlighting the identity, of Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau

• **Environmental Health and Climate Change**
Opportunities related to improving access to, and the quality of, the natural environment and responding to climate change.

• **Economic Prosperity and Growth**
Opportunities related to enhancing commercial activity and supporting future growth.

• **Social Wellbeing**
Opportunities relating to improving the health and well-being of those that live and reside in Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau.

The following pages provide a summary of the opportunities identified through this process. Some of the opportunities sit outside of the remit of Ōtorohanga District Council, however were recorded to fully understand the issues and opportunities seen by the community and maybe advocated for on behalf of the community. For example, opportunities such as those that relate to the state highways and management plans for weed and pest controls. Some are part of 'business as usual' for council. These have been recorded here, however will be managed through the usual programs and work of council.

All opportunities have been assessed and considered by council as part of this process and have informed the key moves and outcomes. Not all opportunities identified in this section have been progressed.

Figure 27. View of Kāwhia Wharf

3.1 Wider Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau

Resilient and Connected communities

❶ Improve culverts and driveway entry at Ōkapu, tarseal and fix potholes along Aotea Road.

❷ Alternative access to Ocean beach and Te Puia Springs from Tom French Grove.

❸ Dedicated active modes (walking/cycling) path between Te Puia/ Ocean Beach, Kāwhia and Aotea.

❹ Assessment of key roads to be upgraded and sealed.
- • Including Raglan Road.

❺ Review of road speeds on key collectors and through Aotea and Kāwhia townships.
- • Reduce speeds on Aotea Road and Morrison Road.

Other projects
- • Regular public transport services or shuttles between Aotea, Kāwhia and Ōtorohanga.
- • Youth Hub van between Aotea, Kāwhia and Ōtorohanga.
- • Three waters assessment and upgrade.

Cultural values and identity

❶ Celebrate sites of cultural significance and wāhi tapu through a strategy of bi-lingual signage, art work trails, as well as education and storytelling opportunities. Opportunity for museum to share the history of the area.

Other projects
- • Create a repository of cultural sites of significance and wāhi tapu sites.
- • Establish policy for restricted access to wāhi tapu sites.

Environmental health and climate change

❶ Restore and regenerate Hawaiki Swamp area.

❷ Te Puti Reserve
- • Restoration of Pā Harakeke.
- • Kai forest.
- • Formalised parking with defined vehicular movement area.
- • Fencing off reserve area.

❸ Amend bylaw and restrict vehicular access around Kāwhia headland.

❹ Protect Ocean Beach/Te Puia Springs sand dunes with appropriate fencing and signage.

❺ Memorial tree planting at Cemetery Reserve.

Other projects
- • Provide educational resources, programs, signage to help inform visitors and locals about the unique ecosystem and natural features of the area.
- • Native tree restoration and planting plan.
- • Waste management and recycling centre.
- • Park and reserves management plan.
- • Pest control and weed management plan.
- • Climate risk assessment including sea level rise and coastal erosion.

Economic prosperity and growth

- • Papakāinga framework to support papakāinga development across the district.
- • Freedom camping bylaw and identification of suitable freedom camping sites.
- • Economics assessment to identify growth potential.
- • Online marketing campaign to help increase tourism opportunities (via social media and websites).

Amenity

❶ Upgrade public toilets at Tom French Grove.

❷ Formalised parking at Tom French Grove.
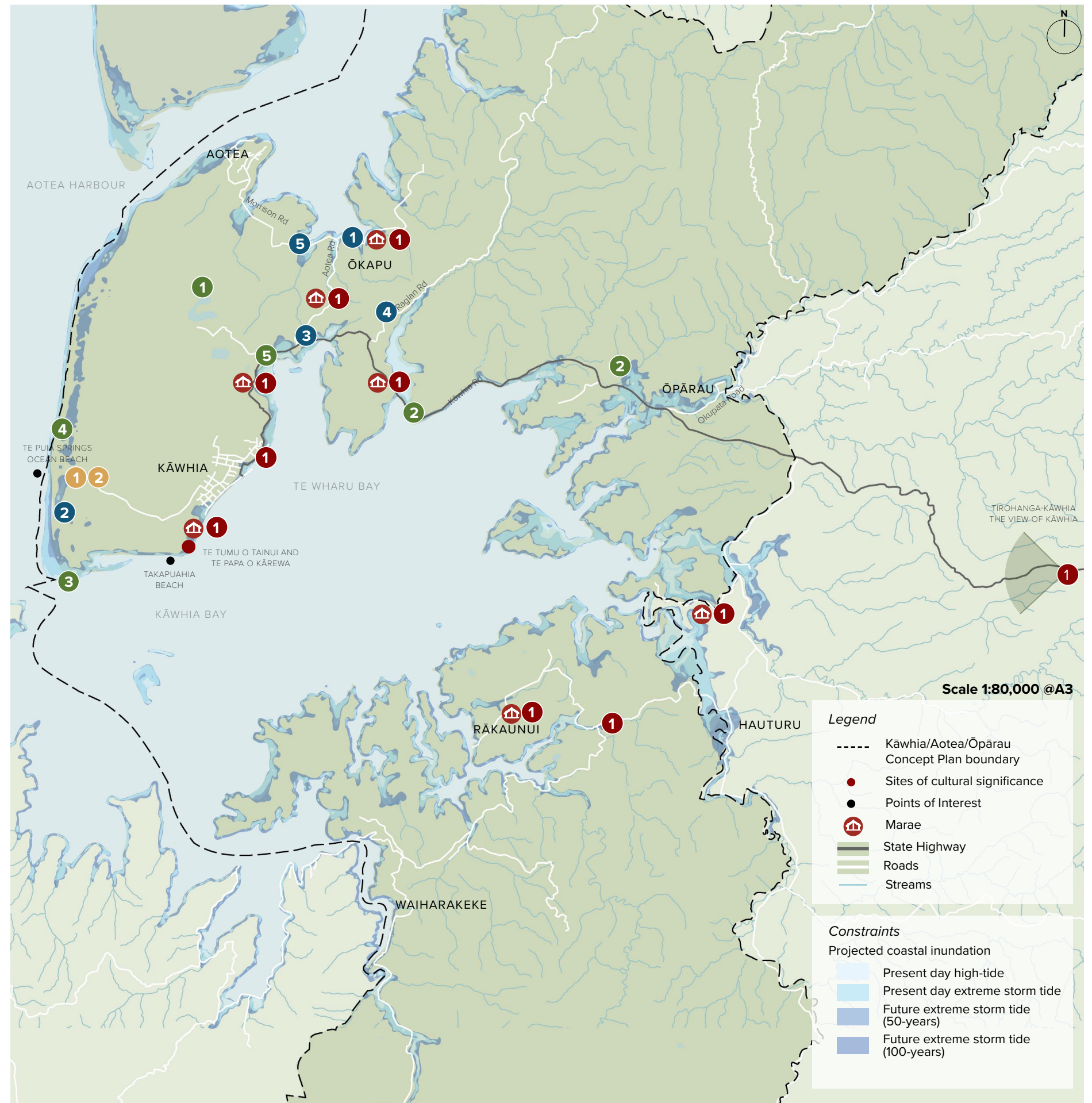
Figure 28. Identified Opportunities - Wider Ōpārau, Kāwhia and Aotea

Source: Waikato Regional Council

Legend

- Kāwhia/Aotea/Ōpārau Concept Plan boundary
- Sites of cultural significance
- Points of Interest
- Marae
- State Highway
- Roads
- Streams

Constraints

Projected coastal inundation
- Present day high-tide
- Present day extreme storm tide
- Future extreme storm tide (50-years)
- Future extreme storm tide (100-years)

Scale 1:80,000 @A3

3.2 Kāwhia

Resilient and Connected communities

❶ Traffic calming and reduced speeds along:
- Hoturoa Street
- Waiwera Street.
- Kaora Street.
- Moke Street.
- Kāwhia Street.

❷ EV charging stations.
❸ Universal E bike charging stations.
❹ Boardwalk along parts of:
- Pouewe Street.
- Kaora Track.

❺ Fitness and recreational loop.
❻ Formalise and define wharf access and parking to prioritise pedestrians and active modes and reduce modal conflict.
❼ Bus stop shelter for bus services for Ōtorohanga College.

Other projects
- Provide bus route, bus stop and shelter for local tamariki who attend Kāwhia Kura.
- Provision of footpaths and cycleways or shared path where roadway is constrained.

Cultural values and Identity

- Celebrate sites of cultural significance and wāhi tapu through a strategy of bi-lingual signage, art work trails, as well as education and storytelling opportunities.
  - Maketū Marae
  - Te Tumu o Tainui.
  - Te Papa o Kārewa.
  - Tangi Te Korowhiti.
  - The Kōwhatu Hani and Puna.
  - Whare Wānanga Te Ahurei.
  - Matatua point - one of the homes of the Maketū Marae Taniwha.
- Maintenance and repair plan for damaged carved pou and signage around town.

Environmental health and climate change

❶ Community gardens.
❷ Street planting along Jervois Street.
❸ Tree planting to provide continuous shade and amenity along recreational loop.

Other projects
- Beach access management plan (restriction of vehicular access).
- Investigate the relocation and consolidation of community facilities outside of the inundation zone.

Economic prosperity and growth

❶ Opportunity to reuse Rusty Snapper premises for local businesses or tourism information.
❷ Provide an ATM machine.
❸ Identify sites for food trucks and coffee carts.

Amenities

❶ Rebuild/ upgrade the sports club to integrate and provide for community uses.
❷ Market square with a stage to support farmers market and Kāwhia Kai Festival and other community events.
❸ Consolidate community centre hub with medical centre, supermarket, gym, information centre, wifi facilities.
❹ Omimiti Reserve upgrade to include:
- Community garden; and
- Additional picnic tables, seating and, water fountains.
- Maintenance of skatepark

❺ Upgrade and extend playground to include:
- Water play;
- Outdoor fitness equipment; and
- Basketball court.

❻ New public toilets near skate park and playground.
❼ Reassess Karewa boat ramp and provide more parking for trailers and cars.
❽ Upgrade Kāwhia Wharf with prioritised pedestrian access and jumping platform.
❾ Jervois Streetscape upgrade to include:
- Informal mid block crossing;
- Roadway art at zebra crossings;
- Suite of street furniture; and
- Low planting.

❿ Consolidate community noticeboards and information boards.

Other projects
- Investigate alternative location for museum and community centre.
- Assessment of street lighting for replacement and improvement. Consider the use of low light pollution lighting.
- Wharf management plan for commercial and non commercial activities.
- Undertake a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessment to increase safety in town, identify locations for CCTV cameras and physical improvements.
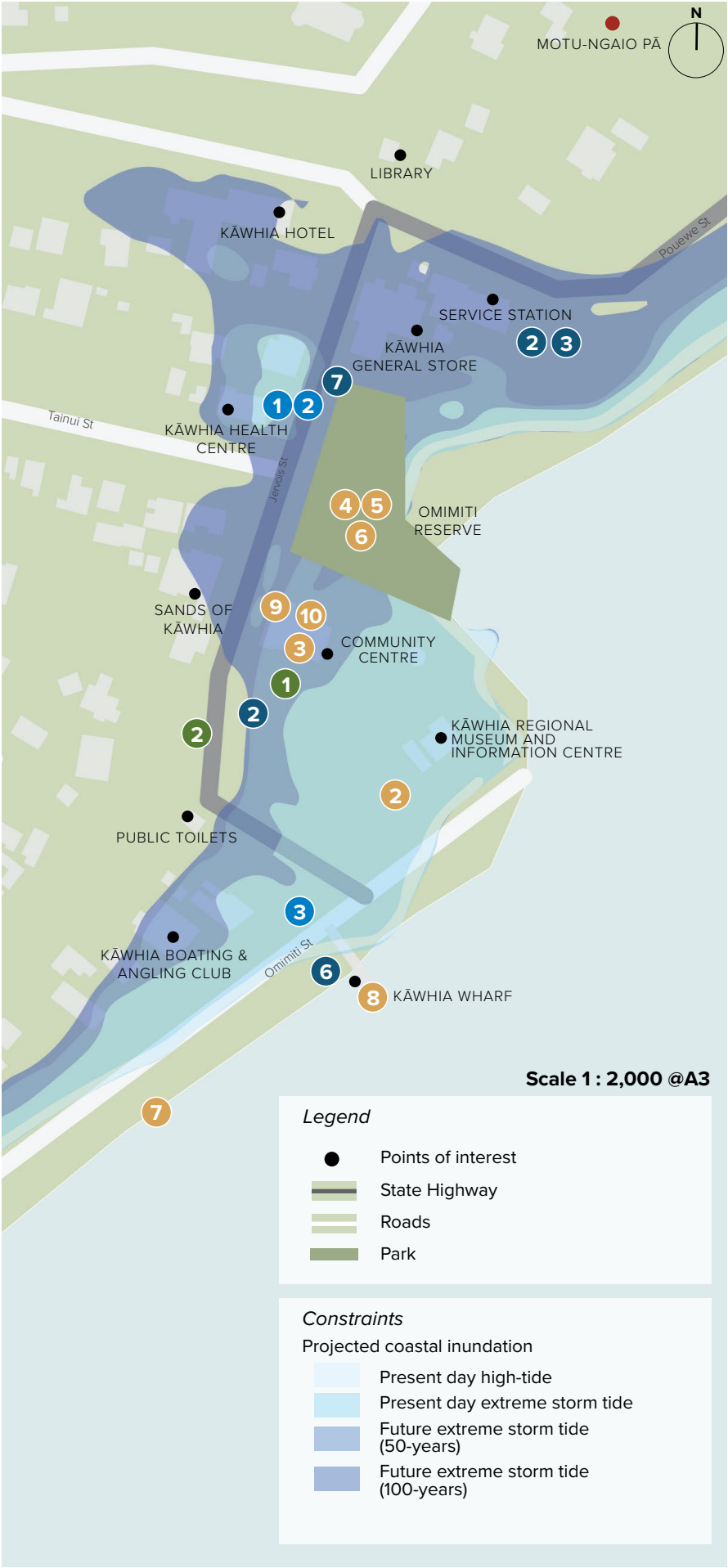
Figure 29. Identified Opportunities - Kāwhia

Source: Waikato Regional Council

Scale 1 : 2,000 @A3

Legend
- Points of interest
- State Highway
- Roads
- Park

Constraints

Projected coastal inundation
- Present day high-tide
- Present day extreme storm tide
- Future extreme storm tide (50-years)
- Future extreme storm tide (100-years)

N

KĀWHIA GOLF CLUB

KĀWHIA BEACHSIDE SCAPE

KĀWHIA DOMAIN

CHURCH

Welcome to Kāwhia sign

KĀWHIA SCHOOL

Rosamond Tce

SPORTS CLUB

Houroa St

BOWLING CLUB

Motutara St

Pouewe St

MOTU-NGAIO PĀ

TE PURU POINT

AMBULANCE & FIRE STATION

LIBRARY

TE WHARU BAY

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH

Tainui St

Pou Maumahara in Omimiti Reserve

METHODIST MEMORIAL CHURCH

KĀWHIA R2C1B TRUST

LATTER-DAY SAINTS CHURCH

KĀWHIA REGIONAL MUSEUM & INFORMATION CENTRE

Jervois St

Waiwera St

Omimiti St

KĀWHIA WHARF

Āhurei St

Te Puia Rd

Hone St

PĀ SITE

KĀWHIA HARBOUR CLIFF WALK

Tainui St

Kāhoia St

Moke St

Tainui Waka landing

Kāwhia St

Kāwhia Camping Ground

KĀWHIA BAY

Scale 1 : 7,000 @A3

Kiaora St

KĀREWA BEACH

Maketū Marae

TE PUIA SPRINGS OCEAN BEACH

Kiaora St

MAKETŪ MARAE

Legend
- Sites of cultural significance
- Points of interest
- Marae
- State Highway
- Roads
- Parks
- Views/ vistas

Constraints
Projected coastal inundation
- Present day high-tide
- Present day extreme storm tide
- Future extreme storm tide (50-years)
- Future extreme storm tide (100-years)

Figure 30. Identified Opportunities - Kāwhia
Source: Waikato Regional Council

3.3 Aotea

Resilient and Connected communities

1 Define and formalise parking along Morrison Road and Lawton Drive with road markings.
2 Provision of footpaths and active modes along Morrison Road and Lawton Drive.
3 Formalise Aotea walkway and access.
4 Define and formalise parking at Aotea Beach Reserve to minimise modal conflict

Cultural values & identity

1 Gateway signage.
Other projects
  · Create a bi-lingual wayfinding and signage strategy.
  · Storytelling trail that identifies sites of cultural significance i.e. Horoure Pā.

Environmental health and climate change

1 Formalising the main street (Lawton Drive) with native planting.
2 Kai forest / community garden at the Aotea Beach Reserve.
Other projects
  · Develop an interim seawall maintenance plan.
  · Investigate long term sea level rise and coastal erosion solution to replace sea wall.
  · Community planting day programme.

Economic prosperity and growth

1 Provide site for food or coffee carts during summer periods.

Amenity

1 Upgrade Aotea beach reserve to include better toilet facilities, water fountains, shade bbq and picnic areas.
2 New half basketball court next to existing playground.
3 Upgrade existing beach access ladders and provide larger landing boardwalk areas.
4 Formalise and upgrade existing picnic area with facilities such as water fountain and shade adjacent to Cooper Drive intersection.
Other projects
  · Identify location for a boat ramp.
  · Update community noticeboard and integrate with wayfinding and educational signage.
  · Beach access management plan.
  · Assessment of street lighting for replacement and improvement particularly on Ash Terrace and Lawton Drive. Consider the use of low light pollution lighting.

Figure 31. Identified Opportunities - Aotea
Source: Waikato Regional Council
        Horoure Pā photo credit: Urban Earthtalk

Scale 1 : 5,500 @A3

Legend

● Sites of cultural significance
● Points of interest
▬ Roads
▬ Streams
◗ Views/ vistas

Constraints

Projected coastal inundation

  Present day high-tide
  Present day extreme storm tide
  Future extreme storm tide (50-years)
  Future extreme storm tide (100-years)

3.4 Ōpārau

Resilient and Connected communities

① Traffic calming and speed reduction along Kāwhia Road approaching Ōpārau Roadhouse.
② Define road layout to minimise conflict between cars, bicycles and pedestrians
   · Kāwhia Road and Ōpārau Roadhouse entry.
   · Intersection of Okupata Road and Rotoiti Road.
   Universal bike charging station.
④ EV charging station.
⑤ Provide formalised parking spaces.

Environmental health and climate change

① Native planting along roadside to formalise rest stop and provide additional shelter.
② Support for restoration planting near Ōpārau River.

Amenity

① Upgrade and restore Community Hall.
② Provide additional street lighting.
③ Storytelling and photo opportunity at the bike fence adjacent Ōpārau Roadhouse.
④ Ōpārau rest stop gateway signage.

Figure 32. Identified Opportunities - Ōpārau
Bike fence photo credit: Tom Lee/Waikato Times

Scale 1:5,500 @A3

Legend
● Points of interest
State Highway
Roads

4 Key Moves & Outcomes

The opportunities identified through the first round of community feedback were shared with the community at an open day in Kāwhia, and through online engagement, where feedback and an understanding of the level of 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 Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau and how these are to be prioritised over the short, medium and long term. It was 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. This is discussed in more detail as part of the implementation section.

The key moves and outcomes have also been grouped into the design principles of:

- Transport and Accessibility
- Amentiy and Community Connections
- Art, Culture and Heritage
- Three Waters
- Climate change and resilience
- Development

The projected future extreme storm tide levels have been included in the outcomes maps, as there is a need to consider the risk of coastal inundation and sea-level rise when making future investments near the coast. For these projects, this should be a key design driver of any outcomes and consider the risks associated with potential inundation. Design responses could include, designing for inundation, designing to allow for future relocation, or deciding to move assets away from future risk.

Figure 33. View of Omimiti Reserve in Kāwhia

4.1 Wider Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau

Transport and Accessibility

❶ Explore alternative access to Ocean Beach and Te Puia Springs from Tom French Grove and bylaw restricting vehicle access around Kāwhia headland. Include consideration of options for protection of the beach including fencing and signage.

❷ Formalise walking connection between Te Puia/Ocean Beach, Kāwhia and Aotea.

❸ Establish public transport services or shuttles for school students, youth and residents.

Amenity and Community Connections

❶ Develop a reserves management strategy for the area that considers:
- Restoration, regeneration & planting opportunities.
- Memorial planting opportunities.
- Parking and access.
- Fencing and protection.
- Pest management.
- Recreation and amenities including public toilets, bbqs etc.
- Opportunities for community gardens.

❷ Provide educational resources, programs, signage to help inform visitors and locals about the unique ecosystem and natural features of the area.

❸ Investigate freedom camping bylaw and identification of suitable freedom camping sites.

Art, Culture and Heritage

❶ Develop an Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy that considers:
- How to celebrate sites of cultural significance.
- Bi-lingual signage, storytelling trails and education opportunities.
- How to manage and collate information of culturally significant sites.
- Access to wāhi tapu sites policy.
- Street trees and planting programme through Kāwhia and Aotea.

  Opportunities include:

  Maketū Marae, Te Tumu o Tainui, Te Papa o Kārewa, Tangi Te Korowhiti, The Kōwhatu Hani and Puna, Whare Wānanga Te Ahurei, Matatua Point, Marae Taniwha, Mōkai Kainga, maintenance and repair plan for damaged carved pou and signage around town.

Three Waters*

❶ Three waters capacity and needs assessment.

Climate Change and Resilience*

❶ Develop Climate Change Response plan to address climate risk assessment including flooding, sea level rise and coastal erosion and understand and consider the:
- Community values of existing assets.
- Community risk tolerance.
- Future development patterns outside of inundation risk area.
- Future location of community such as town hall and the museum.
- Future location of commercial activities.
- Opportunities for the creation and consolidation of community services such as medical services, gym, information centre, library, Te Toi Ora / Outreach services etc.
- Long term solutions to sea-level rise and erosion, including approach to management of sea-walls and management of three waters assets, including septic tanks.
- Long term resilience and access to Kāwhia.

❷ Develop Waste Management and Minimisation Plan for the District to consider:
- Improvements to the Kāwhia waste management and recycling centre.

Development*

❶ Papakāinga framework to support papakāinga development across the district.

❷ Develop Economic Wellbeing Strategy to:
- Identify opportunities for growth potential and investment to support economic activity in the Kāwhia area.
- Develop online marketing campaign to help increase tourism opportunities (via social media and websites).

*Not spatially mapped

Figure 34. Key Moves & Outcomes - Wider Ōpārau, Kāwhia and Aotea

Legend
- ----- Kāwhia/Aotea/Ōpārau Concept Plan boundary
- ● Sites of cultural significance
- ● Points of Interest
- Marae
- Roads
- Projected coastal inundation

Scale 1:80,000 @A3

4.2 Kāwhia

Transport and Accessibility

1 Explore opportunities for charging of EVs and e-bikes.
2 Boardwalk along parts of:
- Pouewe Street.
- Kaora Track.

3 Investigate need for additional footpaths and cycleways or shared path where roadway is constrained.

Amenity and Community Connections

1 Develop Reserve Concept Plan for Omimiti Reserve and consider:
- How to facilitate events, including creation of a stage.
- Playground facilities and opportunities.
- Seating and water fountains.
- Skatepark maintenance.
- Courts and recreation opportunities.
- Public toilets and facilities.

2 Develop Wharf Concept Plan to consider:
- Wharf access.
- Prioritisation of use between recreation and commercial activity.
- Parking management and pedestrian access/safety.

3 Jervois Streetscape Upgrade:
- Informal mid block crossing;
- Roadway art at zebra crossings;
- Suite of street furniture; and
- Street trees and planting.

4 Support redevelopment opportunities for the Kāwhia Sports Club.
5 Review Karewa boat ramp access and parking.
6 Consolidate community noticeboards and information boards.
7 Undertake a CPTED assessment to increase safety in town and identify locations for CCTV cameras.
8 Develop fitness/recreation loop around town/waterfront.

Development

1 Support and advocate for economic opportunities in the town centre, including:
- Opportunities for reuse of vacant buildings.
- Provision of ATM services in town.
- Enabling food trucks and coffee carts to operate.

Figure 35. Key Moves & Outcomes - Kāwhia

Legend
- Sites of cultural significance
- Points of interest
- Roads
- Projected coastal inundation

Scale 1 : 1,500 @A3

Figure 36. Key Moves & Outcomes - Kāwhia

Map labels:

- KĀWHIA GOLF CLUB
- KĀWHIA DOMAIN
- KĀWHIA BEACHSIDE SCAPE
- CHURCH
- KĀWHIA SCHOOL
- SPORTS CLUB
- BOWLING CLUB
- MOTU-NGAIO PĀ
- TE PURU POINT
- Rosamond Tce
- Pouewe St
- LIBRARY
- TE WHARU BAY
- Cowell St
- Tainui St
- ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
- AMBULANCE & FIRE STATION
- POLICE
- KĀWHIA R2C1B TRUST
- METHODIST MEMORIAL CHURCH
- LATTER-DAY SAINTS CHURCH
- KĀWHIA REGIONAL MUSEUM & INFORMATION CENTRE
- Waiwera St
- Jervois St
- Omihili St
- FOREST VIEW MOTOR CAMP
- KĀWHIA BOATING & ANGLING CLUB
- KĀWHIA WHARF
- Ahurei St
- Tainui St
- Hone St
- PĀ SITE
- KĀWHIA HARBOUR CLIFF WALK
- Mote St
- Kaora St
- KĀWHIA BAY
- Kāwhia St
- Kāwhia Camping Ground
- Kaora St
- KĀREWA BEACH
- Boat ramp
- Te Puia Rd
- TE PUIA SPRINGS OCEAN BEACH
- MAKETŪ MARAE
- Hoturoa St
- Motaatua St
- Recreational pathway
- Recreation equipment
- Wayfinding signage
- Storytelling signage
- Shared path
- Waterfront boardwalk
- Viewing area

Scale 1 : 7,000 @A3

Legend

- 🔴 Sites of cultural significance
- ⚫ Points of interest
- 🏠 Marae
- 🟩 Parks
- Views/ vistas
- •••• Recreational loop
- ▬ Boardwalk
- Projected coastal inundation

4.3 Aotea

Amenity and Community Connections

❶ Opportunities for community planting throughout town and surrounds.
❷ Develop Reserve Concept Plan for Aotea Beach Reserve and consider:
- Upgrades to toilet facilities.
- Provision of shade/shelter, drinking water and BBQ area.
- Opportunities for recreation such as a basketball court.
- Improvements to beach access.
- Management of parking and access.
- Community noticeboard, wayfinding and historical education opportunities.
- Enable opportunities for food trucks/coffee carts to operate.
- Planting and community garden opportunities.
❸ Identify opportunities for improved boat ramp access.
❹ Consolidate community noticeboards and information boards.
❺ Develop a beach access management plan.

Arts, Culture and Heritage

❶ Establish Gateway signage into Aotea.
- Create a bi-lingual wayfinding and signage strategy.
- Story telling trail that identifies sites of cultural significance i.e. Horoure Pā.

Boat ramp

Community gardens

Sheltered picnic areas

Beach access

AOTEA HARBOUR

POUREWA POINT

HOROURE PĀ HISTORIC RESERVE

AOTEA BEACH RESERVE

Aotea Walkway

Cooper Dr

Ash Tce

Morison Rd

Suby Drive

Mahoetea Dr

TAHURI POINT

Streetscape planting

Gateway signage

Storytelling signage

Nau Mai Ki
KAWHIA
Welcome

Scale 1 : 5,500 @A3

Legend
- 🔴 Sites of cultural significance
- ⚫ Points of interest
- Roads
- Views/ vistas
- Community heart
- Projected coastal inundation

Figure 37. Key Moves & Outcomes - Aotea

4.4   Ōpārau

Transport and Accessibility

❶ Traffic calming and speed reduction along Kāwhia Road approaching Ōpārau Roadhouse and management of road layout and intersection design to improve safety for all users.

❷ Explore opportunities to provide for charging for EVs and e-bikes and formalise parking spaces.

Amenity and Community Connections

❶ Opportunities for community planting and restoration near the Ōpārau River.

❷ Upgrade and restore Community Hall.

❸ Opportunity for storytelling and photo opportunity at the bike fence adjacent Ōpārau Roadhouse and creation of gateway signage.

Figure 38. Key Moves & Outcomes - Ōpārau

Scale 1:5,500 @A3

Legend
● Points of interest
▬ Roads

Figure 39. View of Kāwhia Regional Museum and Information Centre

4.5   Artists Impressions

Amenity upgrades to Aotea Beach Reserve- Indicative only

Figure 40. Artists Impressions - Aotea Beach Reserve

Amenity upgrades to Omimiti Reserve- Indicative only

Figure 41. Artists Impressions - Omimiti Reserve

5 Implementation Approach

How this plan is to be implemented

This Draft Concept Plan identifies a series of proposed projects and initiatives to support place shaping and improved livability across Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau. 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 move from being aspirational opportunities and key moves, 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 Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau.

Ōtorohanga District Council (ŌDC) consider that it is important to continue to work in collaboration with community partners in all significant Council projects. To support the implementation of this Draft Concept Plan, 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 Ōtorohanga District Council and Kāwhia Community Board

Ōtorohanga District Council plays a key role in realising the future vision for Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau, as depicted in this document. 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 settlements.

The Kāwhia Community Board has an advocacy and oversight role in supporting the achievement of the vision for Kāwhia and Aotea. As part of this role, the Board will represent the interests of the Kāwhia/Aotea community, including as part of the Council's annual plan and long term plan processes; consider and, where appropriate, provide funding in support of local initiatives that reflect the community vision and priorities; monitor and report progress on the implementation of the Kāwhia/Aotea/ Ōpārau Concept Plan; and support and engage in the periodic review of the Concept Plan.

Funding implications

The Long Term Plan (LTP) sets out the Council's work programmes, key services and significant projects and the associated budgets over a 10-year period. This Draft Concept Plan provides a longer term view of community aspirations and thereby informs the LTP, which is reviewed every three years.

Some of the actions are already budgeted for in the LTP, or are Business As Usual for Council. 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 and the incorporated prioritisation table represent the current thinking, based off the information known at this time. It is important to note that these timeframes and prioritisations may change in the future depending on demand and needs arising from other council funding requirements.

Where possible the Council will be looking for funding sources other than rates for progressing the proposed actions/projects. However, where rates are the only primary source of funding, the impact of that may be borne in large part by the local community. For that reason, projects requiring significant local rate funding will generally be flagged through a draft annual plan or long term plan process so that the expected impact on local rates is shared with the community before any final decisions to proceed are made.

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 Council will undertake periodic reviews of this Draft Concept Plan plan 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 and/or changed circumstances.

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.

For projects that require substantial investment, these have been identified as long term projects, and including these in the document allows for investigation and initial steps to be undertaken, with the long term in mind. It also provides the opportunity to seek funding, should this become available.

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 cost and 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.

Indicative cost assumptions have been made by Council and are at a high level to provide a comparison between projects. No detailed costing has been undertaken for these projects and are subject to change. Prior to the commencement of any project, a more detailed scoping and costing should be undertaken to confirm the likely budgetary requirements. The indicative costings should not be relied upon for any decision making purposes.

Business as Usual

Throughout the consultation period, a number of issues and opportunities were identified by the community and stakeholders that form part of ŌDCs "business as usual" activities. These have been recorded in this document, acknowledging that they have been identified by the community. These will be actioned and prioritised by ŌDC through existing processes and programs.

Figure 42. View of Aotea Harbour

5.1 Implementation Framework

Wider Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōpārau

● Strong alignment with principles
○ Partial alignment with principles

Project Objectives					Project	Project stages	Delivery Lead	Project Partners and Stakeholders	Prioritisation and Timeframe			Indicative Cost		
Cultural Values and Identity	Resilient and Connected Communities	Environmental Health and Climate Change	Economic Prosperity	Social Wellbeing					Short term (1-3 years)	Medium term (3-10 years)	Long term (10+ years)	Low	Medium	High
TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY														
○	●	●		○	1. Explore alternative access to Ocean Beach and Te Puia Springs from Tom French Grove and bylaw restricting vehicle access around Kāwhia headland. Include consideration of options for protection of the beach including fencing and signage.	Undertake scope/feasibility study	ŌDC	TKI + Te Taiao o Kāwhia Moana	✓			✓		
						Undertake community and stakeholder engagement				✓			✓	
						Design and implementation					✓			✓
●	●	○	○		2. Formalise walking connection between Te Puia/Ocean Beach, Kāwhia and Aotea.	Undertake scope/feasibility study	ŌDC	Landowners	✓			✓		
						Undertake community and stakeholder engagement				✓			✓	
						Design and implementation					✓			✓
	○			●	3. Establish public transport services or shuttles for school students, youth and residents.	Explore the provision of a shuttle service that services the communities access needs for Kāwhia, Aotea and Ōtorohanga.	Community led	Community Partners	✓	✓		✓	✓	
AMENITY AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS														
●		●		●	1. Develop a reserves management strategy for the area that considers: • Restoration, regeneration & planting opportunities. • Memorial planting opportunities. • Parking and access. • Fencing and protection. • Pest management. • Recreation and amenities including public toilets. • Opportunities for community gardens.	Develop scope for strategy and identify reserves to be included, including: • Hawaiki Swamp • Te Puti Reserve • Cemetery Reserve • Tom French Grove • Omimiti Reserve	ŌDC	Mana whenua + Ministry of Education + Waikato Regional Council + Community Partners	✓			✓		
						Undertake Public Engagement				✓			✓	✓
						Develop Reserve Strategy								
○		●		○	2. Provide educational resources, programs, signage to help inform visitors and locals about the unique ecosystem and natural features of the area.		Led by Te Taiao o Kāwhia Moana	ŌDC	✓	✓		✓		
			○	●	3. Investigate freedom camping bylaw and identification of suitable freedom camping sites.	Develop scope for policy framework	ŌDC		✓			✓		
						Undertake engagement			✓			✓		
						Policy Drafting			✓			✓		

● Strong alignment with principles
○ Partial alignment with principles

Project Objectives					Project	Project stages	Delivery Lead	Project Partners and Stakeholders	Prioritisation and Timeframe			Indicative Cost		
Cultural Values and Identity	Resilient and Connected Communities	Environmental Health and Climate Change	Economic Prosperity	Social Wellbeing					Short term (1-3 years)	Medium term (3-10 years)	Long term (10+ years)	Low	Medium	High
ART, CULTURE AND HERITAGE														
●				●	1. Develop an Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy that considers: • How to celebrate sites of cultural significance. • Bi-lingual signage, storytelling trails and education opportunities. • How to manage and collate information of culturally significant sites. • Access to wāhi tapu sites policy. • Street trees and planting programe through Kāwhia and Aotea. Opportunities include: • Maketū Marae. • Te Tumu o Tainui. • Te Papa o Kārewa. • Tangi Te Korowhiti. • The Kōwhatu Hani and Puna. • Whare Wānanga Te Ahurei. • Matatua Point. • Marae Taniwha maintenance and repair plan for damaged carved pou and signage around town. • Ōkapu Marae • Mōkai Kainga	Develop scope for strategy and establish partnership with stakeholders.	Mana Whenua led + ŌDC		✓				✓	
						Undertake Public Engagement				✓			✓	
						Develop Policy				✓			✓	
THREE WATERS														
	●	●	●		1. Three waters capacity and needs assessment.	Scope and undertake study to establish Three Waters needs for the community	ŌDC	Community Board	✓			✓		
						Undertake community engagement			✓				✓	
						Design and implementation					✓			✓
CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE														
○	●	●	●	○	1. Develop Climate Change Response plan to address climate risk assessment including flooding, sea level rise and coastal erosion and understand and consider the: • Community values of existing assets. • Community risk tolerance. • Future development patterns outside of inundation risk area. • Future location of community such as town hall and the museum. • Future location of commercial activities. • Opportunities for the creation and consolidation of community services such as medical services, gym, information centre, library, Te Toi Ora / Outreach services etc. • Long term solutions to sea-level rise and erosion, including approach to management of sea-walls and management of three waters assets, including septic tanks. • Long term resilience and access to Kāwhia.	Develop scope for response plan	ŌDC	Mana Whenua + Community	✓				✓	
						Undertake engagement				✓			✓	
						Develop plan								✓
	○	○			2. Develop Waste Management and Minimisation Plan for the District to consider: • Improvements to the Kāwhia waste management and recycling centre.	Develop scope for waste management plan	ŌDC		✓			✓		
						Undertake engagement				✓			✓	
						Draft Plan and implement				✓				✓

● Strong alignment with principles
○ Partial alignment with principles

Project Objectives					Project	Project stages	Delivery Lead	Project Partners and Stakeholders	Prioritisation and Timeframe			Indicative Cost		
Cultural Values and Identity	Resilient and Connected Communities	Environmental Health and Climate Change	Economic Prosperity	Social Wellbeing					Short term (1-3 years)	Medium term (3-10 years)	Long term (10+ years)	Low	Medium	High
DEVELOPMENT														
●		●		●	1. Papakāinga framework to support papakāinga development across the district.	Develop scope for policy framework	Mana Whenua + ŌDC		✓			✓		
						Undertake engagement			✓			✓		
						Policy Drafting			✓			✓		
			●	●	2. Develop Economic Development Strategy to: • Identify opportunities for growth potential and investment to support economic activity in the Kāwhia area. • Develop online marketing campaign to help increase tourism opportunities (via social media and websites).	Develop scope for policy framework	ŌDC		✓			✓		
						Undertake engagement			✓			✓		
						Strategy Drafting			✓			✓		
BUSINESS AS USUAL														
	●				1. Improve culverts and driveway entry at Ōkapu Marae.		ŌDC							
	●				2. Assessment of key roads to be upgraded and sealed.		ŌDC							
	●		●		3. Review of road speeds on key collectors and through Aotea and Kāwhia townships.		ŌDC							

Kāwhia

● Strong alignment with principles
○ Partial alignment with principles

Project Objectives					Project	Project stages	Delivery Lead	Project Partners and Stakeholders	Prioritisation and Timeframe			Indicative Cost		
Cultural Values and Identity	Resilient and Connected Communities	Environmental Health and Climate Change	Economic Prosperity	Social Wellbeing					Short term (1-3 years)	Medium term (3-10 years)	Long term (10+ years)	Low	Medium	High
TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY														
	○	○		○	1. Explore opportunities for charging of EVs and e-bikes.	Identify funding opportunities for EV chargers	Will require external govt funding		✓				✓	
						Design and implementation				✓	✓		✓	
	○	○		●	2. Boardwalk along parts of: • Pouewe Street. • Kaora Track.	Confirm existing design and funding	ŌDC		✓					✓
						Obtain resource consent				✓			✓	
						Implementation				✓				✓
●	○			○	3. Investigate need for additional footpaths and cycleways or shared path where roadway is constrained.	Investigate need and location with community	ŌDC		✓	✓	✓			
						Implementation								✓

Figure 43. View of Omimiti Reserve

● Strong alignment with principles
○ Partial alignment with principles

Project Objectives					Project	Project stages	Delivery Lead	Project Partners and Stakeholders	Prioritisation and Timeframe			Indicative Cost		
Cultural Values and Identity	Resilient and Connected Communities	Environmental Health and Climate Change	Economic Prosperity	Social Wellbeing					Short term (1-3 years)	Medium term (3-10 years)	Long term (10+ years)	Low	Medium	High
AMENITY AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS														
○				●	1. Develop Reserve Concept Plan for Omimiti Reserve and consider: • How to facilitate events, including creation of a stage. • Playground facilities and opportunities. • Seating and water fountains. • Skatepark maintenance. • Courts and recreation opportunities. • Public toilets and facilities.	Develop concept plan	ŌDC	ŌDC + Mana Whenua	✓	✓		✓		
						Undertake engagement				✓		✓		
						Design and implementation				✓	✓			✓
		●		●	2. Develop Wharf Concept Plan to consider: • Wharf access. • Prioritisation of use between recreation and commercial activity. • Parking and pedestrian access/safety.	Develop concept plan	ŌDC			✓			✓	
						Undertake engagement				✓			✓	
						Design and implementation					✓			✓
	●		○	●	3. Jervois Streetscape Upgrade: • Informal mid block crossing; • Roadway art at zebra crossings; • Suite of street furniture; and • Street trees and planting.	Develop concept plan	ŌDC			✓			✓	
						Undertake engagement				✓			✓	
						Design and implementation				✓				✓
	○			●	4. Support redevelopment opportunities for the Kāwhia Sports Club.	Work with sports club regarding Council lease requirements	Sports Club lead		✓	✓				✓
	○	○	●	●	5. Review Karewa boat ramp access and parking.	Develop concept plan	ŌDC	Kāwhia Community Board	✓				✓	
						Undertake engagement			✓				✓	
						Design and implementation							✓	
				●	6. Consolidate community noticeboards and information boards.		Community Board led		✓		✓			
	●		○	○	7. Undertake a CPTED assessment to increase safety in town and identify locations for CCTV cameras.		Community led			✓			✓	
○		○		○	8. Develop fitness/recreation loop around town/waterfront.	Develop concept plan	Community led with support from Community Board/ŌDC		✓	✓		✓		
						Undertake engagement				✓		✓		
						Design and implementation				✓			✓	
DEVELOPMENT														
		●		●	1. Support and advocate for economic opportunities in the town centre, including: • Opportunities for reuse of vacant buildings. • Provision of ATM services in town. • Enabling food trucks and coffee carts to operate.		Community led with support from ŌDC where appropriate		✓				✓	
BUSINESS AS USUAL														
	●				1. Traffic calming and reduced speeds in Kāwhia.									

Aotea

● Strong alignment with principles
○ Partial alignment with principles

Cultural Values and Identity	Resilient and Connected Communities	Environmental Health and Climate Change	Economic Prosperity	Social Wellbeing	Project	Project stages	Delivery Lead	Project Partners and Stakeholders	Short term (1-3 years)	Medium term (3-10 years)	Long term (10+ years)	Low	Medium	High
AMENITY AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS														
○		●			1. Opportunities for community planting throughout town and surrounds.		Community led	Community Board	✓	✓		✓		
○	●		●	●	2. Develop Reserve Concept Plan for Aotea Beach Reserve and consider: • Upgrades to toilet facilities. • Provision of shade/shelter, drinking water and BBQ area. • Opportunities for recreation such as a basketball court. • Improvements to beach access. • Management of parking and access. • Community noticeboard, wayfinding and historical education opportunities. • Enable opportunities for food trucks/coffee carts to operate. • Planting and community garden opportunities.	Develop concept plan	ŌDC	ŌDC + Waikato Regional Council + Mana Whenua		✓				✓
						Undertake engagement				✓			✓	
						Design and implementation					✓			✓
	●			○	3. Identify opportunities for improved boat ramp access.	Undertake investigation into need for boat ramp improvements	Community led		✓				✓	
						Undertake engagement				✓			✓	
						Design and implementation								✓
			●		4. Consolidate community noticeboards and information boards.		Community Board led		✓			✓		
●		●			5. Develop a beach access management plan.	Develop scope of plan			✓	✓		✓		
						Undertake engagement				✓			✓	
						Develop plan							✓	
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE														
●					1. Establish Gateway signage into Aotea. • Create a bi-lingual wayfinding and signage strategy. • Story telling trail that identifies sites of cultural significance i.e. Horoure Pā.		Community led with support of Mana Whenua			✓	✓		✓	
BUSINESS AS USUAL														
	●		●		1. Define and formalise parking.		ŌDC							
	●		●		2. Provision of footpaths and active modes.		ŌDC							
		●	●		3. Develop an interim seawall maintenance plan.		ŌDC							
	●				4. Assessment of street lighting for replacement and improvement. Consider the use of low light pollution lighting.		ŌDC							

Ōpārau

● Strong alignment with principles
○ Partial alignment with principles

Project Objectives					Project	Project stages	Delivery Lead	Project Partners and Stakeholders	Prioritisation and Timeframe			Indicative Cost		
Cultural Values and Identity	Resilient and Connected Communities	Environmental Health and Climate Change	Economic Prosperity	Social Wellbeing					Short term (1-3 years)	Medium term (3-10 years)	Long term (10+ years)	Low	Medium	High
TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY														
●					1. Traffic calming and speed reduction along Kāwhia Road approaching Ōpārau Roadhouse and management of road layout and intersection design to improve safety for all users.		NZTA/Waka Kotahi			✓			✓	
	○	○		○	2. Explore opportunities to provide for charging for EVs and e-bikes and formalise parking spaces.	Identify funding opportunities for EV chargers.	Community led	Will require external govt funding	✓				✓	
						Design and implementation				✓	✓		✓	
AMENITY AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS														
	○	●			1. Opportunities for community planting and restoration near the Ōpārau River.		Community led			✓	✓	✓		
	○			●	2. Upgrade and restore Community Hall.	Identify desired outcome and needs assessment.	Community led	ŌDC as support partner	✓			✓		
						Secure funding				✓		✓		
						Design and implementation				✓				✓
●			○		3. Opportunity for storytelling and photo opportunity at the bike fence adjacent Ōpārau Roadhouse and creation of gateway signage.		Community led			✓	✓	✓		
BUSINESS AS USUAL														
					1. Define road layout to minimise conflict between cars, bicycles and pedestrians - Intersection of Okupata Road and Rotoiti Road.		ŌDC							
●					2. Provide additional street lighting.		NZTA							