

# The Whaingaroa Environment Catchment Plan

Caring for  
our catchment  
now and in the future



## ***Vision***

*Whaingaroa catchment will be a place where people want to live because communities are healthy, vibrant and creative, adapting to social and economic changes, while maintaining a healthy environment that provides livelihoods, sustenance and a sense of wellbeing and pride.*



# Acknowledgements

This work is the synthesis of many people's thoughts and knowledge. Our first thanks go to the residents of the Whaingaroa catchment who have participated in the discussions which shaped this plan over the last four years. Thanks for your patience as this plan has developed.

Special thanks to the people who have participated in the Whaingaroa Environment Group in the early years and lately the Whaingaroa Environment Centre who have allowed this plan to be developed 'under their wings' and have adopted its implementation as part of their objectives for incorporation.

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# Foreword

This project was undertaken to draw together information about the Whaingaroa catchment. It was funded by Environment Waikato as part of the development of a Local Area Management Strategy (LAMS) for the catchment. It draws upon published sources, records from previous community consultation events, and residents' observations and knowledge. Mana whenua, through the Tainui Awhiro Ngunguru te Po Ngunguru te Ao Environment Committee were approached at the outset of this project to see how they wished to participate. Their response is conveyed in the box below.

## **Mana Whenua Have Their Own Process**

Mana whenua have specific grievances regarding catchment resources, that have been placed before the Waitangi Tribunal. Mana whenua have rights as Treaty partners with management agencies, and aspirations for the management of the catchment which are currently being set down in more detail in hapu management plans.

The authors of this study were specifically requested by Mana whenua, represented through Tainui Awhiro Ngunguru te Po, Ngunguru te Ao Environment Committee, not to incorporate any aspirations of Mana whenua. Nor were we encouraged to attempt to express any interpretation of tikanga Maori relating to the catchment environment. This was mainly because the hapu plan process was underway. None the less Mana whenua has been noted as an interest group in the activities in this draft strategy. In the absence of their participation in this planning exercise, Mana whenua should be informed and consulted on every activity that is initiated.

The wishes of Mana whenua are respected by the authors of this report. We regret and acknowledge the large gaps in this work because we cannot relate the long human history and traditional knowledge of the catchment that is so valuable to give an understanding of our environment. Nor can we present any of the aspirations of the people who have lived so long in this place.

Urgency should be placed on resolving Treaty of Waitangi Issues, working with Mana whenua as Treaty partners as set down in legislation and in management agency policies, and supporting the hapu management planning process so that the two plans can work together to achieve better catchment management.

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# 1 Introduction to the Catchment Plan

This Plan, '**A Community Based Plan for a Sustainable Environment in the Whaingaroa Catchment**', embraces three main concepts that came through strongly from five years of community discussions and meetings. These are:

- ❖ A passionate concern for the environment and what we will leave for our children and grandchildren.
- ❖ Community involvement in actively looking after the environment and participation in environmental decision-making.
- ❖ A strong community identity with the Whaingaroa area and the catchment draining into the harbour.

The following sections provide a bit more detail on these concepts and how they relate to this plan.

## 1.1 Key Principles that Guide the Plan

A number of key principles came through from workshops, hui and discussions with local people, which are listed below. We have incorporated these principles into the vision, goals and targets of this catchment plan. The projects listed in Section 3 and Table 1 also express these principles.

### **The Whaingaroa Catchment Plan:**

- Recognises the unique status of Mana Whenua, honours and respects their knowledge and experience, and their cultural and spiritual values, in relation to the natural resources within this catchment.
- Promotes working with Mana Whenua to find mutual interests and goals.
- Promotes protection of our natural environment from further degradation and where possible enhancement of it.
- Promotes human environments that are in harmony with the natural environment.
- Promotes a strong local sense of identity, belonging and pride.
- Promotes community and individual ownership of environmental problems.
- Promotes community action and participation in solving environmental problems.
- Promotes community benefits of local participation.
- Promotes celebration and strengthening of the unique and diverse character of our communities.
- Promotes making the most of opportunities and good ideas.
- Promotes community partnerships, networking, resource and skill sharing.
- Promotes people being creative and colourful.

- Encourages people with energy, enthusiasm, community respect and flare to get active. A mediocre idea that generates enthusiasm will go further than a great idea that inspires no one.
- Promotes people getting involved in statutory decision-making processes.
- Promotes more efficient inter-agency communication, co-operation, partnerships, resource and skill sharing at least towards work in the Whaingaroa Catchment.
- Promotes improvement in communications and genuine consultation between agencies and community.
- Promotes respect for local knowledge and skills in Whaingaroa.
- Promotes involvement of local people with knowledge and skills in local projects.
- Promotes information as a key to motivating change. Information should be colourful, experiential, fun and stimulating for our community to take on board.
- Promotes people having fun whilst learning.
- Promotes practical demonstration of success and alternatives, preferably local, to show people that they can make a change.
- Promotes sharing of knowledge and understanding of the local environment
- Promotes opportunities for learning about our environment and encourage people to continue learning.
- Promotes trials and implementation of sustainable initiatives and models including sustainable lifestyles and community structures and processes.
- Promotes being responsive to changing pressures, politics and technologies.
- Promotes development of flexible project timeframes and structures to accommodate community circumstances.

## 1.2 Why the Whaingaroa Catchment?

Over the last twenty years, there has been concerns expressed by Mana Whenua, a variety of local community groups and individuals about our harbour and surrounding land. These concerns include erosion, degradation of streams, degradation of harbour and its ability to provide for the continued safe use and kaimoana needs of communities. This concern suggested that the community should look at the harbour and the land affecting it, that is the catchment, when trying to get these problems addressed.

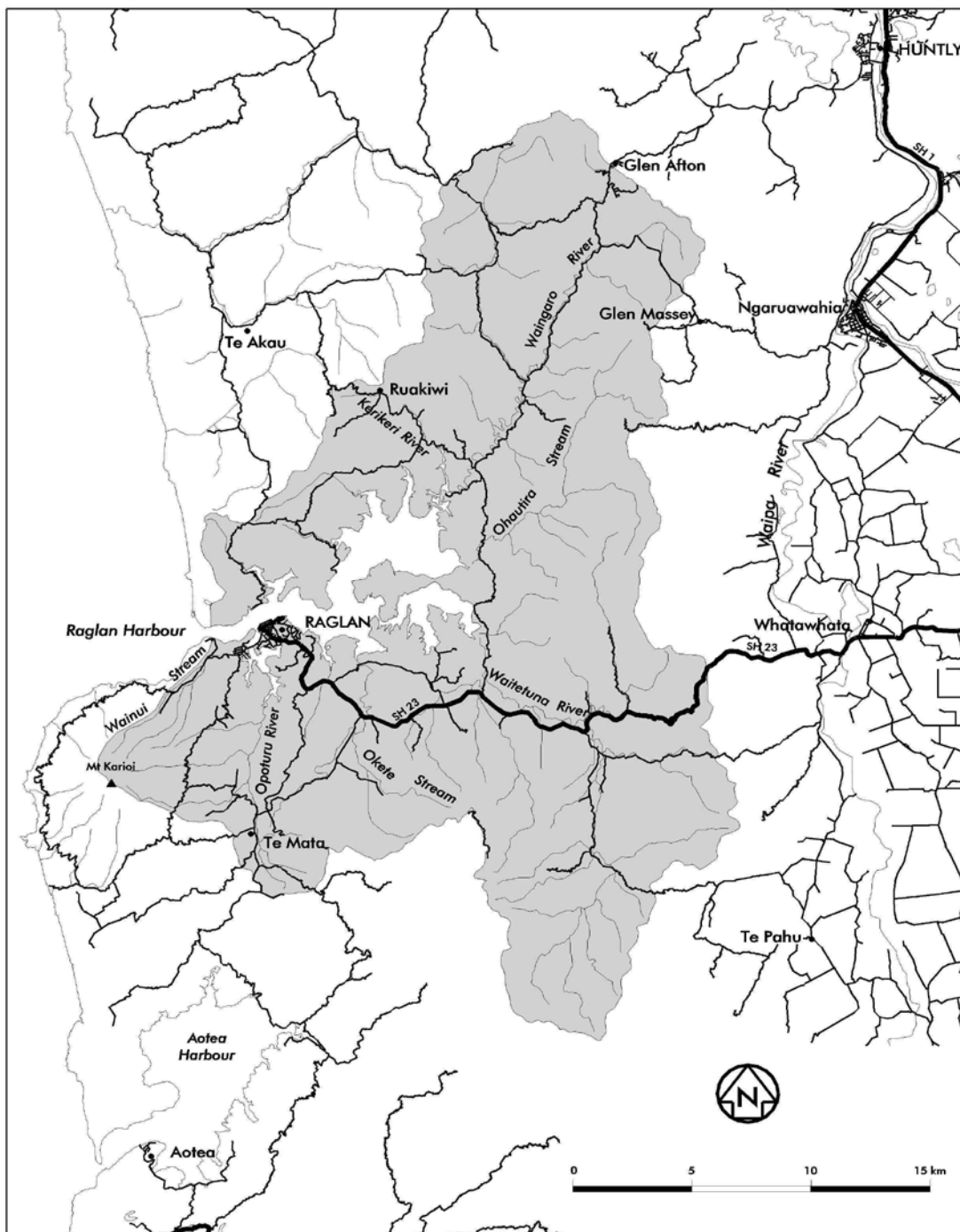
It is difficult to choose one name that covers this area that we are looking at. Most people outside of Raglan would call this 'the Raglan area' and 'the Raglan Harbour'. Local people know that Raglan is the main township and that there are more distinct areas than just Raglan such as other settlements like Te Mata, Te Uku and Waingaro. Also Raglan is only a name known in the last 150 years. Mana Whenua have many names for different parts of the harbour and the land around it. So we have adopted the name Whaingaroa for the whole of the catchment and the harbour as one of the older names associated with the area. The naming of the area covered is certainly something that can be discussed in years to come and if Whaingaroa is inappropriate then we can look at an

alternative. This discussion could be one where we could all learn a lot about the place we live.

The Whaingaroa Catchment includes all the land that drains into the harbour. It is shown on Fig 1 as a discrete catchment draining through the harbour to the ocean, flanked by ranges of hills and typified by self-reliant rural communities, Whaingaroa catchment has great potential to be managed as a unit.

Whaingaroa catchment has great potential to be managed as a unit defined by its catchment boundaries. Catchment planning is a relatively new approach in New Zealand but is gaining in acceptance. The natural physical boundaries of water flow make the catchment an ideal unit for environmental planning to protect water quality. There are also biological, social and economic connections found within catchments. Below is a map showing the Whaingaroa Catchment.

**Fig 1 – Location map of Whaingaroa Harbour and Catchment**



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## 1.3 Why Aim for A Sustainable Environment?

The Whaingaroa communities have expressed concern over a number of environmental and resource issues in the catchment, including the ongoing degradation of natural resources in the catchment. People already feel that the quality of their environment is not what they have enjoyed in the past and most people expressed a need for us to look at the quality of the environment that we will hand on to our children and grandchildren.

The preparation of this plan offers our communities the opportunity to explore the concept of sustainable management of natural resources in this catchment as a goal that we could aim for.

There is an international, national, regional and local government intent to achieve 'sustainable resource use', this is outlined below. There is a commitment in policy and legislation to aim for this goal and that there are opportunities for us to gain assistance to achieve our goal. The plan is a statement of community intent and a list of practical activities that aim towards the 'sustainable resource use' goal.

We as a nation do not know how to manage our resources sustainably yet. This is challenge for us that a lot of people are researching and trialling here in our catchment and elsewhere.

Mana Whenua as the longest residing people in our area have knowledge and experience of many generations that could help achieve sustainable management of natural resources now and in the futures. This knowledge is precious and should be respected and maintained. People who have lost so much will not randomly share this knowledge unless it is respected and protected in the appropriate manner.

### 1.3.1 The Statutory Framework for Sustainability

The need for sustainable resource use and human development has been adopted in many international declarations, the milestone being the UNCED declaration made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992). The concept of sustainable management is upheld in our national legislation, with the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) being the key statute.

In the RMA 'sustainable management' means:

'managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while:

1. Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
2. Safeguarding the life- supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems; and
3. Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.'

Land use in New Zealand in the last 150 years has resulted in significant, and sometimes severe, environmental problems. Concern about the unsustainable nature of New Zealand's agriculture and forestry practices led the government to develop a Sustainable Land Management Strategy for New Zealand (MfE 1996). This is intended to complement, assist and strengthen the sustainable land management initiatives which regional councils undertake as they exercise their responsibilities under the Resource Management Act.

The New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (2000) confirms the national goal of ‘turning the tide’ and stopping the loss of species by the year 2020. The key ideas in the national strategy include:

- the need to be strategic and pick priorities
- the need to be in for the “long haul”
- the need to work in partnerships
- the need to involve the community

Sustainability of resources and the environment are supposed to be central to the work of our local government. Waikato Regional Council’s Mission Statement in their Strategic Plan 1998-2008 (EW 1998) is:

‘To manage the environment in a sustainable way in consultation with the people of the Waikato Region for the social and cultural and economic well-being of present and future generations.’

Waikato District Council, in their Strategic Plan 2000-2010 (WDC 2000) identify a need to safeguard our environment and they say they will:

“Manage and enhance the natural and physical resources of the Waikato District in a sustainable manner”.

## 1.4 Why Community Based Management?

Both Regional and District Councils’ Strategic Plans state the need for the community to participate in planning and decision-making to tell them the community values to be sustained and the “bottom line” for resource use. This plan came about because of the level of local concerns about what was happening to the environment in the Whaingaroa Catchment and also the level of community environmental motivation and action underway to do something about those problems.

This community interest, initiative and commitment led Environment Waikato, with the support of Waikato District Council, NIWA and Mana Whenua, to support the development of community based planning approach for the whole catchment under their Local Area Management Strategy (LAMS) programme. This plan provides the opportunity for the residents in the Whaingaroa Catchment to say what values they think should be sustained in the catchment and which actions should be undertaken when.

This plan has been developed by residents in consultation with residents along the principles of Community-Based Environmental Management as defined by Landcare Research, and reported in Kilvington (1998)<sup>1</sup>. These principles are shown in the table below.

Community-based management intends to allow those who have a stake in the resource or natural system to incorporate their visions, knowledge and experience into the policy development process. Local or traditional knowledge should assist in decision-making alongside scientific data.

Getting the community to participate in all aspects of management should also allow rapid feedback about the effects of management decisions and should develop a more responsive management approach.

Increasing genuine community participation in the evolution of the plan over time will encourage individual commitment to getting things done. Time scales for expected benefits need to lengthen to acknowledge the ecological, social, political, cultural and economic conditions that exist.

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<sup>1</sup> Kilvington, M 1998: *The Whaingaroa Catchment Management Project – A multistakeholder approach to sustainable catchment management*. Landcare Research.

There are now quite a few examples of community-based catchment management world-wide. Nonetheless, community-based management cannot be applied in the same way in all situations or conditions, appropriate processes have to be developed for each situation. Nor can it be romanticised, most experiences indicate that successful community-based management depends upon commitment and hard work on the ground.

<b>Community Based Management</b>	
<b>Inclusive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allowing all people to participate</li> <li>• recognising that all contribute to environmental problems and therefore all should contribute to solutions</li> </ul>
<b>Comprehensive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reflecting the ecosystem basis</li> <li>• recognising humans as part of the ecosystem</li> </ul>
<b>Integrated</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recognising the connections between human, social, economic, and environmental interests</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• focused on sustainability in the future</li> </ul>
<b>Community Owned</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• designed by and for the community</li> <li>• reflecting common elements of community vision</li> <li>• enabled where necessary by regulatory agencies</li> </ul>

## 1.5 So Why 25 Years?

The plan proposes a timeframe of at least 25 years to try and reach the goals of this plan. This is approximately a human generation from today. The babies of today will be adult by then. What will they inherit from us?

The changes proposed in this plan involve changing people's way of thinking and doing. This will not happen overnight people will have to learn and be convinced that doing things a different way might be better for them, their kids and their community.

Many of the on the ground goals are also large such as continuing to fence and plant the riparian margins of the streams and harbour. Trying out different ways of managing our natural resources and infrastructure will also need to be long term to be able to see which ways work the best. It can also take a long time to convince local government and ratepayers that there are alternative ways of managing the environment than are practised now.

The plan also revolves around our communities getting directly involved in the work on the ground and participating more in decision making. Community processes can often take a long time to reach decisions and community groups with a high component of volunteers need flexible timeframes to cope with people's energy fluctuations and demands from families and other work.

## 2 What Does the Catchment Plan Cover?

### 2.1 The Land

The area covered in this catchment plan is the catchment of the Whaingaroa (Raglan) Harbour, that is all the land that drains into the Whaingaroa (Raglan) harbour. This is an area of 525 km<sup>2</sup> on the west coast of the North Island (Figure 1). At present the plan does not include the coastal areas that are closely associated with Raglan that is the Whaanga Coast and the Te Akau coast. There has been some



suggestions that these areas should be brought under the plan. Further consultation with the Whaanga and Te Akau communities on this matter could occur as part of the first review of the plan, if resources are available.

The catchment includes a range of land types with underlying rocks including limestone, volcanic and mudstones. The land varies from very steep and unstable to gentle fertile river valleys.

The land in the catchment has been largely cleared of forest, scrub and wetlands in the last 150 years and the land then developed for farming. The indigenous forest that remains today is mainly above 400m in the Pirongia and Te Hutewai State Forests and in eastern areas particularly the sub-catchments of the Waingaro and Ohautira rivers.

Because of inherently unstable geology and lack of forest cover, many of the steep slopes of the catchment are prone to slips, gullying and sheet erosion.

As a consequence, streams and rivers can carry high silt loads especially following the intense rainfall events experienced on the West Coast.

Most streams have little riparian vegetation to protect watercourses from the effects of erosion and farming, although many kilometres have recently been fenced and restored by landowners and local groups especially Whaingaroa Harbour Care.

Until recently, the major land use has been dry-stock farming (sheep and cattle), and this still predominates, but dairy production has increased with changing economic conditions. In recent years, some of the steeper farmland has and still is being converted to pine forestry.

## 2.2 The Water

Many small streams draining the steep catchment margins join to form larger rivers such as Waingaro, Kerikeri, Waitetuna, Wainui and others. The cumulative effects of naturally unstable soils, extensive and intensive farming results in many of our rivers being silty and with high levels of harmful bacteria in them in their lower reaches. The rivers were once bountiful of whitebait and eels but in the last 30 years these harvest have plummeted to very low levels.



The harbour is large with many arms formed where the rivers enter. Fortunately our harbour is 'strongly flushing' which means that most of the water that comes into the harbour from the rivers goes out to sea in one tidal cycle. This means that sediment and bacteria are mostly taken out to sea. None the less when sediment loads are high some of it is deposited in the harbour. The harbour would have always had some muddy areas because of the unstable soils but 150 years of farming has resulted in some very extensive and deep mudbanks.

Sometimes water entering the harbour after heavy rain carries with it high levels of harmful bacteria from cattle faeces being washed off the land. This was a concern in the Oporuru and Wainui rivers where they flow past the bathing beach at Te Kopua but this appears to be improving in recent years, this is largely a benefit from Whaingaroa Harbourcare's stream planting programme.

The harbour was once bountiful with several kinds of shellfish, flounder, mullet and other fish. These seafood resources have been depleted in about the same time period as the freshwater fish. Today the only shellfish in collectable numbers are cockles and it may take you many hours of fishing in the harbour to catch even one fish to take home for dinner.

## 2.3 The People

The people of Whaingaroa live close to the land and sea, and many derive their livelihoods directly or indirectly from their surrounding natural resources. Based on the 2001 census population figures for Raglan Ward and Whaingaroa Ward<sup>2</sup>, the population of the catchment in 2001 was approximately 5,778, of which 3,165 were resident in the principal town of Raglan. The population has increased since 1996 by approximately 5% overall. Approximately 25% of the catchment population are of Maori descent.

Raglan was formerly an important west coast port and centre for commercial marine fishing enterprises. It is now growing in popularity as a tourist centre. The population can swell by 6,000 over the summer holiday period and weekend- and day-tourist numbers are increasing. This provides jobs and a cash injection to the catchments economy but also puts considerable pressure on infrastructure and our environment.



Mana Whenua have always upheld the need to take care of the harbour, the land and the streams (that is its catchment). Mana Whenua of the Whaingaroa catchment have a long history advocating and acting for sustainable management of the harbour and the natural resources of Whaingaroa. Mana Whenua have been and are still involved in a range of environmental protection and restoration projects.

Since the 1980s there has been concern in the wider community about the state of local environment. Recently, a number of environmental interest groups have formed in the catchment to address issues. Concerns over erosion and associated sedimentation led to the formation in 1995 of Whaingaroa Harbour Care, an incorporated society that promotes fencing streams and planting native trees and shrubs along riparian margins. Harbour Care has established a nursery to provide trees, and has ongoing riparian planting projects in several river catchments. Their records show they have now planted 280,000 trees and some large areas of our streams and harbour margins have now been fenced.



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<sup>2</sup> Please note that the boundaries of the Raglan and Whaingaroa wards are not exactly the same as the catchment boundaries.

## 2.4 Special Places

Some submissions to the draft catchment plan suggested that we focus effort in on particular special areas of our catchment. This approach has several benefits:

- It can direct resources to our most precious natural assets.
- It can make best use of scarce resources and community energy
- It can develop 'showcase' type areas where people can really see the benefits of concerted work e.g. Whaingaroa Harbourcare's work on the Wainui Stream.

It should be remembered that Mana Whenua have this concept enshrined in their waahi tapu.

Whaingaroa Harbourcare have a draft strategy that provides a good description of the subcatchments of the harbour and the features of each this would be a good basis for the development of this theme.

Some of the areas suggested as 'special places' so far include:

### **Karioi**

The forest - covered mountain is the largest formally protected area in the catchment. Administered by Department of Conservation this forest has been identified as a national priority for pest control and the department has been undertaking possum, goat and cattle control on the mountain. This has kept pest numbers



at relatively low levels in recent years and the overall forest condition is improving. There is an opportunity for the community to be involved hands on with pest control, wildlife habitat and species management programmes on Karioi in the future. Funding is available to communities to undertake this kind of work. Discussions between DoC and the community are happening in 2002.

### **Ponds Rd**

This is the only freshwater wetland of any size (over 2ha) in the catchment. Some discussions are underway with one of the landowners to look at protection options.

### **Hauroto Bay**

This is the biggest area of saltmarsh on the Whaingaroa Harbour. Some whitebait habitat management work was undertaken in this area that caused considerable local controversy and anger at the resource consent process. The saltmarsh needs protection from cattle and other modification.

### **Wainui Stream**

This stream runs from the forested slopes of Karioi to the sea near Te Kopua. Once in a highly degraded state this stream has had major riparian restoration work carried out on it by Whaingaroa Harbourcare. The benefits are highly visible in the seven years since the Whaingaroa Harbourcare started planting in this area. The native fish are recovering and whitebaiting is still possible in this stream because of this excellent project.

### **Opotoru**

Another high public profile catchment. Along with Wainui Stream this catchment drains past one of Raglan's most popular inner harbour bathing beaches which has sometimes had bacterial levels above the recommended bathing standards. Whaingaroa Harbourcare is already focussing riparian planting programmes in this catchment and advocating land use management improvements including dairy effluent disposal and further habitat restoration away from streams could back this up. Once riparian margins are restored this river has got potential as a native fishery providing a whitebait harvest.

### **Waingaro River**

This is a popular whitebaiting river still being fished today, meaning there are still some whitebait to be caught, but the spawning habitat is under ongoing pressure from damaging farming practices. A suggestion has been made that one side of the intertidal section could be restored as a start which would at least give the whitebait somewhere secure to breed. Whaingaroa Harbourcare is not doing any riparian restoration in this catchment yet. This is a big river and a big job to restore.

### **Ohautira Stream**

This stream has a high potential for restoration to benefit native fish species as most of the catchment is forested and there are endangered fish species present.

### **Waitetuna**

This large river is important for whitebaiting. The catchment is large but considerable work has begun with Waitetuna Streamcare working with Whaingaroa Harbourcare restoring riparian margins in the upper reaches of this river.

# 3 Planning for the Future

## 3.1 Structure of The Plan

### **A Vision.....**

*This is what we ideally want our catchment to look like 2025 and beyond.*

*The Vision is compiled from all the forward looking comments people have made at community meetings in the last 6 years.*

### **Four Catchment focus areas.....**

*These are four main aspects of our environment that people in the community have identified that we need to do something about if we want to get to the vision. These issues come about because of pressures on the environment, these are also identified for each focus. For each of these four areas we have developed a goal from what people have said.*

### **Targets.....**

*For each Focus Area goal there are a number of component targets. These are even more specific components of the goals, they are the stepping stones for getting to the goals. They are measurable and achievable within the timeframe (2025).*

### **Indicators.....**

*Each target has a number of indicators that go with it. These are changes that are happening around us that we can measure at regular intervals to see how our progress towards obtaining our goals and vision is going.*

### **Projects....**

*There are a huge number of projects listed in this report. They range from things that are already happening, things that are almost happening to new concepts. The plan provides a rough idea of which goals each project contributes to, the priority for these projects in terms of how important they are towards achieving the goals and vision but also taking into account community support and energy already invested.*

## 3.2 How the Vision, Goals, Targets and Indicators Work

The aim is that this Plan will provide a framework on which to hang ideas, opportunities and activities, to show how different projects are linked and can work together towards goals and to help get projects support that they need, be that financial or through co-operation. This structure is a useful way of describing and organising the large amount of detail necessary in a plan for the whole Catchment.

For each goal we have included a brief summary of the pressures i.e. the reasons we are proposing action. More detail of the pressures can be found in Whaingaroa - The State of Our Environment (Whaingaroa Environment Centre 2002). The timeframe for the vision goals and targets are long term, 2025, as they require a lot of work, lots of learning and talking. The Plan also suggests ways we can measure our achievement.

We appreciate that it is not easy to compartmentalise nature or people. This structure cannot show all the complexity, links and connections between different parts of the environment, the people, regulatory agencies and community organisations. This is better described, expressed and demonstrated in the individual projects in ways other than black and white on paper.

The list of projects in the next section of the plan are a collection of things already happening and new ideas, these are the fruit on the tree, and will help to move towards the vision we have for our Catchment environment. These projects are based on opportunities and ideas that have been suggested during the compilation of this plan.

New ideas and opportunities will be suggested all the time. Regular review of the list of projects (annually) will enable support, promotion and implementation of the new ideas and opportunities as they arise. It is proposed to review the Catchment Plan Vision, Goals, Targets and Indicators every three years to see if we are still on track with the issues and community aspirations.

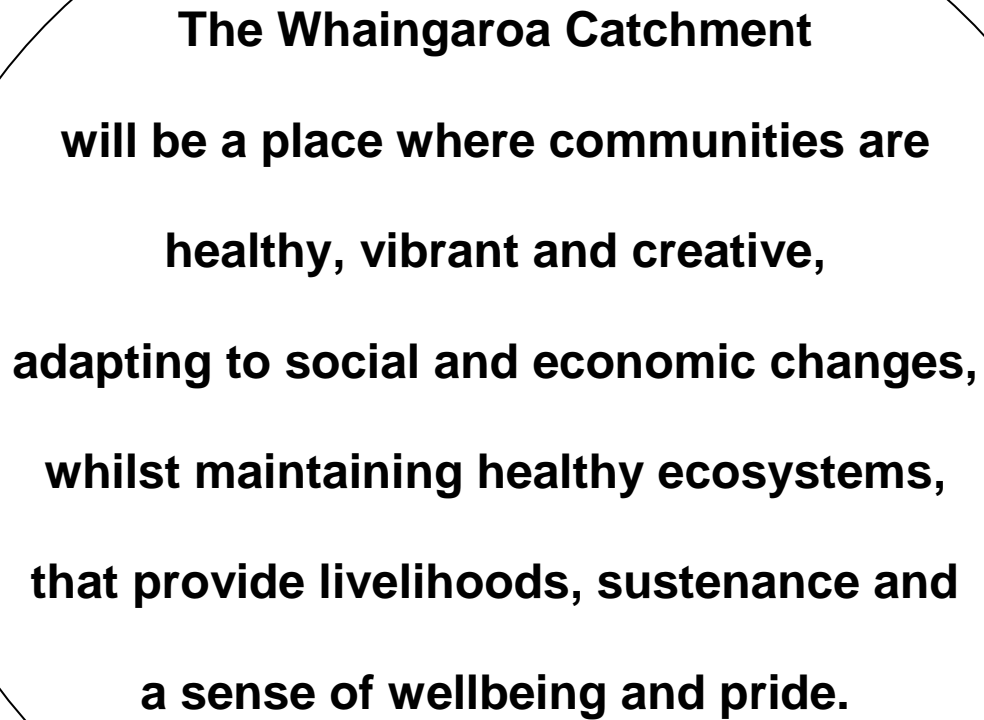
That doesn't mean that we have plenty of time of time to do things. The groundwork needs to start now in all areas if we are to achieve anything by 2025. The projects suggested in this strategy are for those that can go ahead in the next two to three years.

Figure 2 shows how the different parts of the plan fit together as a framework for organising things. It can be looked at as a tree, whereby the Vision is the roots and the base of the tree that underlie everything. The Goals are the trunk where the strength of the Plan is. The branches are the Targets and Indicators and the Projects are the fruit.

Figure 2. Structure of the Plan



## **4 The Vision**



**The Whaingaroa Catchment  
will be a place where communities are  
healthy, vibrant and creative,  
adapting to social and economic changes,  
whilst maintaining healthy ecosystems,  
that provide livelihoods, sustenance and  
a sense of wellbeing and pride.**

# 5 Catchment Focus Areas, Goals, Targets and Indicators.

In the following section the goals, targets and indicators for each catchment focus areas are identified. An outline of the current pressures for each focus is given. Also given is a summary of the sort of activities that are recommended to achieve the goals (more detail of these are in the project section 4.0). Also there is a few ideas for contributions that individuals can make towards the goals.

## 5.1 Catchment Focus One: Looking After Our Natural Areas and Wildlife

### Current Pressures on Natural Areas and Wildlife

- Plant and animal pests are severely affecting what is left of our natural areas and wildlife in the Catchment.
- Natural areas on private land are being badly affected by stock grazing.
- Natural areas are being cleared for pasture, housing and forestry.

### Our Goal: What We Want to Achieve by 2025

Wildlife and natural habitats will be maintained as of 2002 in key areas and in some areas species will be restored.

#### Overall the targets and projects in the plan aim to:

- Create a range of different ways for the community and schools to learn about our Catchment wildlife, our natural areas and their value.
- Agencies and locals work together to get the information we need to manage our natural areas and wildlife better.
- Government and locals work together to achieve local goals for natural areas and wildlife.
- Government and locals work together to protect key natural areas.
- Government and locals work together to restore some of the habitats and species that have been lost.

#### The Targets for this goal are:

- ⇒ **Target 1:** Our knowledge and understanding of wildlife and habitats in the Catchment is comprehensive.

#### The indicators for this target are:

- The amount and range of information about catchment wildlife and habitats that is held in the Catchment.
- Traditional and informal community knowledge of the Catchment environment is recorded and maintained in an appropriate manner.
- Numbers of programmes to study Catchment wildlife and habitats in Catchment schools.
- Numbers of studies of wildlife and habitats conducted by agencies, institutions and community groups.

- ⇒ **Target 2:** People are interested and care for the environment.

#### The indicators for this target are:

- Number of volunteer and paid hours spent on wildlife and habitat projects including restoration and species recording.
- Number of submissions regarding wildlife and habitat to resource consents, regional and district annual plans and non-statutory policies from Whaingaroa residents.

- Numbers of people participating in learning activities about wildlife and habitats.
- Number of hits on the Whaingaroa Environment Centre website.
- Numbers of people visiting the Whaingaroa Environment Centre.

⇒ **Target 3:** There is no further loss or degradation of key indigenous habitats and species in the Catchment.

**The indicators for this target are:**

- Number of plant and animal pest control programmes in the Catchment including individual landowners.
- Number of hectares of wildlife habitats fenced to exclude farm animals.
- Distribution, extent and/or density of pest plants and animals.
- Number of hectares of privately owned wildlife habitat that is formally protected.
- Number of threatened wildlife species surviving.

⇒ **Target 4:** Some wildlife habitats and species are restored

**The indicators for this target are:**

- Hectares of wildlife habitat restored.
- Number/extent of habitat and species management projects in the Catchment.
- Numbers of wildlife species recovering in numbers or being reintroduced.
- Extent of riparian margin fenced and planted.

⇒ **Target 5:** District, Regional and National Agencies recognise the special natural values and recreational opportunities of the Whaingaroa Catchment and support Catchment-based sustainable management initiatives.

**The indicators for this target are:**

- Number of policies developed that will encourage sustainability and enhancement of wildlife and habitats in the Whaingaroa Catchment.
- The number of scoping, research and monitoring activities supported by local government and agencies for environmentally sustainable infrastructure options with minimal impact or excellent mitigation measures for wildlife and habitats in the Catchment.
- The amount of support from these agencies for community-based initiatives involving looking after wildlife and habitats including fencing and protection costs.

**What you can do at home or on the farm to help achieve the targets for wildlife and habitats.**

- Neuter your cat (SPCA does it for free).
- Trap possums in the garden or in someone's bush area.
- Get rid of that wild ginger patch out of the garden.
- Look into covenanting that bush remnant at the back of the farm.
- Fix that fence to keep the cattle out of the bush/swamp.
- Get some neighbours together to look after a natural area in town e.g. a gully.
- Go for walks and get to know some local natural areas e.g. Karioi.
- Plant trees in your garden to provide food for birds.
- Get involved with a Care Group or one of the groups that come to Raglan to check out our environment e.g. botanical society, ornithological society.
- Find out about wildlife and natural areas in the Catchment
- Get involved in native fish surveys with DoC.
- Ask school teachers how you can help with environment studies, e.g. 'Streamcare'.
- Start a Beach Care group to look after our beautiful Ngarunui Beach.
- Come to the Environment Centre to find out what other activities you can get involved in.

## 5.2 Catchment Focus Two: Looking After Our Soils and the Water Quality of Our Rivers and Harbour

### Current Pressures On Our Soils, Water and Harbour

- Land use in some parts of the steep upper Catchment is causing soil erosion.
- Unfenced stream banks and harbour margins readily collapse into the water. This is made worse by cattle getting into streams and onto the foreshore.
- Some farming practices, e.g. heavy grazing and poor effluent management cause high levels of harmful bacteria in waterways and the harbour.

### This is Our Goal: What We Want to Achieve by 2025

Landowners in the Catchment will implement land use practices that protect soils and water.

#### Overall the targets and projects in the plan aim to:

- Raise awareness and understanding about the environmental impact of different kinds of land use.
- Support for Harbourcare and other Care groups working with farmers to fence and plant stream and harbour margins...
- Encourage members of the community to assist in monitoring regional and local regulations.
- Find out more about incentives and new management techniques that could be offered to landowners in the Whaingaroa Catchment to reduce soil erosion, protect waterways, and change some farming practices.
- Agencies and locals work together to get the information we need to manage the land more sustainably.

#### The Targets for This Goal Are:



**Target 1:** Government Agencies and landowners are aware of the impacts of different types of land management on the environment and are encouraged to consider alternative management practices.

#### The indicators for this target are:

- Number of learning experiences offered to landowners and government officers on the effects of current and alternative land management practices
- Number of landowners and government officers attending above learning experiences
- Number of incentives being offered to landowners to trial more sustainable land use practices.



**Target 2:** Government Agencies and landowners change their land management practices to those that have less detrimental impact on the soils and water in the Catchment.

#### The indicators for this target are:

- Proportion of resource consents with adequate compliance
- Area of/number of Care Groups in the Catchment
- Proportion of farmers involved in Care Groups
- Amount of support from local government and landowners for riparian protection
- Proportion of farms offering reticulated water to stock
- Proportion of dairy farmers changing to irrigated farm effluent
- Proportion of effluent systems monitored annually for compliance

- Proportion of Catchment farms participating in industry quality assurance schemes e.g. EQUAL, DEXEL
- Stream water quality, stream ecology, estuarine ecology and levels of bacteria in shellfish
- Area of seagrass beds
- Proportion of culverts allowing fish passage
- Hectares of forestry and indigenous regeneration on erosion-prone areas.
- Hectares of land in organic production or other management practices which aim to protect the soil and water.
- The proportion of erosion-prone land grazed by lighter classes of stock
- The degree of diversification of agricultural land use and rural income generation



**Target 3:** District, Regional and National Government Agencies recognise the special natural values and recreational opportunities offered by land and water in the Whaingaroa Catchment and the need to sustain rural livelihoods. They support Catchment-based sustainable management initiatives.

**The indicators for this target are:**

- Number of policies developed and implemented by local and national government that encourage landowners to change to land management with less detrimental environmental effects e.g. rate relief, targeted incentives, special funds for riparian planting etc.
- The number of community-based initiatives being fostered and supported by local and national government to achieve sustainable land use.

**What you can do at home or on the farm to help achieve the targets for looking after our soils and the water quality of our rivers and harbour:**

- Volunteer to help at the Harbourcare Nursery or help other Care groups in the Catchment.
- Make a submission to district and regional council's annual plan to support Harbourcare's work.
- Go to any field days on sustainable land management and the benefits it can have for your farm operation and the environment.
- Make sure any earth moving you do on your property is kept to a minimum and does not cause soil erosion.
- If you see soil erosion or effluent being discharged to harbour and streams from earthworks, dairy sheds etc. report it to the Environment Waikato.

## 5.3 Catchment Focus Three: Looking After Our Fresh and Saltwater Fishery

### Current Pressures On Our Fresh and Saltwater Fishery

- Fresh and saltwater fish are being over-harvested. This includes shellfish, whitebait and eels.
- Sediment from erosion, farm run off, cattle in streams, and habitat destruction contribute to the decline of our fishery. So we have to also achieve our goals for Land Use to improve our fishery.


### Our Goal: What We Want to Achieve by 2025

All plants, animals, fish and shellfish will be managed in such a way that the resource is protected for future generations to enjoy their use at least to the same levels as now (2002) and if possible restore the stocks to a better level than 2002.

### Overall the targets and projects in the plan aim to:

- Create a wide range of learning opportunities for the community on fresh and saltwater fish and their needs.
- People work together to address common concerns e.g. community to continue to develop a local management plan for the harbour fishery.
- The community collects information on how the salt and freshwater fishery used to be.
- Encourage whitebaiters to work together to restore the fishery on particular streams.
- Culverts and bridges on public and private roads are improved so native fish can travel upstream.
- Agencies and locals to work together to get the information we need to manage the fishery better.
- Continue to support the work of local and MoF fisheries officers.

### These are The Targets for this Goal:

 **Target 1:** Information about the fishery and harbour ecology is collected and shared with local people and visitors.

#### Indicators for this target are:

- Numbers of fisher people keeping records of their catches.
- Number of species for which we have ecological/management information held in the catchment.
- Number of learning experiences (talks, enforcement days, information days, Chronicle articles) offered to fishers/harvesters.
- Number of local accounts of past state of the harbour recorded.
- Number of studies of harvested species.
- Violations of existing and any new management regulations.

 **Target 2:** Harvesters and the wider community participate in management decisions

#### Indicators for this target are:

- Numbers of harvesters participating in community initiatives to establish local control/input into species management.
- Numbers of harvesters participating in management decisions.
- Diversity of interests represented in management decisions.

⇒ **Target 3:** Management methods aimed at achieving sustainable harvests are trialled.

**Indicators for this target are:**

- Numbers/extent of trial management areas/programmes
- Number of harvesters participating in management trials
- Monitoring indicates trends towards sustainability

⇒ **Target 4:** District, Regional and national Government Agencies acknowledge the special natural values, the recreational and sustenance values of the Whaingaroa harbour and streams and the pressures of commercial fishing currently happening and support local efforts to develop sustainable management guidelines and management techniques.

**Indicators for this target are:**

- Policy is developed and implemented that enables community desires for sustainable fisheries to be incorporated into statutory management guidelines.
- Number of scoping, research, trialling and monitoring activities being supported by government agencies that are responding to the community desire for sustainable fisheries

**What you can do at home or on the farm to help achieve the targets for managing our fresh and saltwater fishery**

- Get involved in the Whaingaroa Harbour Fisheries Management Planning Process and lobby for changes in local fishery management.
- Know, and stick to, the fisheries regulations.
- Only take as much as you need.
- Learn about the ecology of streams and the harbour.
- Find out how you can make the bridges and culverts on your land suitable for fish to travel upstream.
- Restore whitebait-spawning habitats on your farm. (You can find out about this from Whaingaroa Harbourcare).



## 5.4 Catchment Focus Four: Looking After the Development of Our Town and Rural Areas

### Current Pressures on the Environment from Urban and Rural Growth:

The number of residents and visitors is increasing, this puts extra demands on:

- Infrastructure and services that are part of our environment i.e. roads, sewerage system, water supply and stormwater.
- Our natural resources such as fish, shellfish, recreation facilities, beaches and natural areas.
- Land for housing development.

The increase in residents and visitors has associated social and urban and rural environmental impacts such as:

- Litter.
- Lack of parking.
- Crime.
- Changes in quality of life for residents.
- Pressures on farmers to change their existing farm practices e.g. aerial weed spraying.
- Increased agricultural weed problems from small blocks.

### Our Goal: What We Want to Achieve by 2025:

Residents of Whaingaroa will choose the kinds of development that will protect and enhance the natural environment.

#### Overall the targets and projects in the plan aim to:

- The Raglan community gets the chance to participate in the further development and implementation of the 'Raglan Naturally' Community Plan.
- The 'Raglan Naturally' Community Plan is integrated with the Catchment Plan.
- Provide the community with information about development that doesn't harm the environment.
- Tourism offered in Whaingaroa promotes care of the environment.
- Provide people with easy- to -understand information about how they can be involved in statutory decision-making processes.
- Waikato District Council trials more environmentally sustainable developments, infrastructure and services in the Catchment.

#### These are the targets for this goal:

⇒ **Target 1:** Catchment residents are aware of current pressures and trends for development in the Whaingaroa catchment and are provided with options for alternatives and are encouraged to participate in planning and decision-making.

#### The indicators for this target are:

- Number of learning opportunities/forum offered to the public that present information to them on sustainable development options.
- Number of people participating in those learning opportunities.
- Resource material made publicly available and held in the catchment on sustainable development options.

⇒ **Target 2:** Residents participate in planning and decision-making and support developments that aim to protect the environment through the rating system, personal action or enterprise.

#### The indicators for this target are:

- Proportion of residents participating in and endorsing the 'Raglan Naturally' Plan.

- The 'Raglan Naturally' plan is implemented.
- Proportion of resident participating in and endorsing the 'Whaingaroa Catchment Plan'.
- The Whaingaroa Catchment Plan' is implemented.
- The number of people standing for community board with a strong environmental protection stance.
- Numbers of members in ratepayers associations.
- Numbers of submissions to local government and other government agencies from the Whaingaroa catchment on notified resource consent applications, district plans, regional plans, non statutory policies and strategies, reserve management plan etc. supporting/suggesting options with least environmental impact.
- Number of district and regional council candidates who have an environmental protection/sustainable resource use stance.
- Number of voluntary or community initiatives to develop more sustainable resource use in the service/ infrastructure sector.
- Proportion of waste recycled.
- Proportion of waste to landfill.
- Numbers of dwellings with low energy/resource use features e.g. composting toilets, solar power.

⇒ **Target 3:** District, Regional and National agencies support the catchment plan goals through more environmentally sustainable rural and urban development and service provision that maintains and enhances the catchment environment and quality of life for residents.

**The indicators for this target are:**

- The number of scoping, research and monitoring activities supported by district and regional authorities and government agencies that responds to community desire/interest in sustainable options for land use and services
- The number of services and infrastructure designed and implemented along sustainable resource principles
- Number of policies developed and implemented that support sustainable resource use in the Whaingaroa catchment
- Number of plan changes introduced that will reduce the environmental impacts of urban and residential development
- Number of restoration projects for existing infrastructure that reduces detrimental impacts on the environment
- The number of community-based initiatives fostered and supported by local and national government that aim towards more sustainable rural and urban growth.

**What you can do at home or on the farm to help achieve the targets for how our town and rural areas are developed.**

- Recycle as much of your solid waste as possible. Set up a compost bin or a worm farm for your kitchen waste.
- Maintain your septic tank correctly.
- Don't let your stormwater go into the sewerage system
- Keep in touch with what's happening via :Environment Centre, the Raglan Chronicle, the District Council Office, the WDC newsletter and the Environment Waikato newsletter - Envirocare.
- Say what **you** want, make a submission to WDC Annual Plan, Environment Waikato Annual Plan, the Waikato District Plan Review and Changes.
- Use your Community Board and Councillors to address things that concern you.
- Report any pollution you see in waterways to Environment Waikato.

# 6 Looking After Our Catchment Environment

The community initiatives already happening and those that people aspire to get going are the true expression of the community passion for their environment and people. All community projects that aim to look after the health of our people and environment are good and worthwhile.

This plan presents a list of projects that have been endorsed through the consultation process to develop the plan. They are presented in full in **Appendix I** with notes about who could be involved and where resources and support may be available.

Some of the projects are underway and others are at conceptual stage yet. The list of projects gives an indication of which group or agency might be interested or able to carry out the projects. This is based on those groups that have expressed their interest through the consultation phases. However other groups may be interested in doing some, or part, of the projects. In this case the interested parties should get together and talk about how the project might best be done. There is a strong emphasis throughout the projects on collaboration and practical solutions.

## 6.1 Description of Projects

Following is a list of project ideas. Tables in Appendix I contain more information each one, including the Catchment Plan Goals they relate to; funding for the project, the Lead group, any existing or potential collaborators on the project; and the timeframe and priority of the project.

**NB: The order in which these projects are presented does not indicate any kind of prioritisation, they are grouped according to the goals.**

## 6.2 Catchment Focus – All

The first group of project are those that address all of the focus areas of the catchment plan. They are:

1. **Support hapu planning in the catchment**
  - Expression of Mana whenua visions and tikanga for how things should be done would help the wider catchment community to identify and achieve mutual goals for resource management. Would also be an opportunity to develop a better understanding and respect of values between Mana whenua and the rest of the community.
  - There are many links to most projects and issues as mana whenua views our environment holistically.
2. **Support implementation and review of the recommendations of the “Raglan Naturally Plan”.**
  - With the pressures for rapid growth in Raglan the community requested the development of a plan for the urban and residential area that would direct the type of development that residents would accept.
  - The plan is intended to be a community plan and is to be reviewed at intervals.
  - Our community should be encouraged to have ongoing input into the plan so it evolves to reflect community visions.
  - Raglan Naturally could dovetail with and work together with the catchment plan
  - Raglan Naturally Plan sits with the Community Board at present.

3. **Promote and support implementation, monitoring and review of the Whaingaroa Catchment Plan**
  - The plan was made to draw together community visions for the catchment environment, to identify and support outstanding local environmental initiatives, to attract and make best use of resources and facilitate key information needed.
  - Whaingaroa Environment Centre has adopted the above as one of the objects of their incorporation and will attempt to facilitate the above either by doing it themselves or with other groups.
  - A database could be made to help monitor projects and indicators of success. There would need to be some commitment and resources attracted to update their database on a regular basis.
  - The 'State of catchment environment' report could be repeated at say 5 yearly intervals. and achievements of catchment plan goals towards sustainable resource management.
  
4. **Support the Future Development of the 'Enviroschools' Programme in the Raglan Area School (and other catchment primary schools)**
  - Te Kura a Rohe o Whaingaroa/ Raglan Area School will adopt the 'Enviroschools' Programme into the junior school probably in the year 2004/5.
  - The successful implementation of this Programme will depend upon strong support and involvement of the community.
  - There are many skills and opportunities for hands on learning for the teachers and the students in the Raglan area.
  - Senior Science teacher is on study leave in 2003/4 to build school science and community links and can help build strong links for Enviroschools launch in Raglan Area School.
  
5. **Support the Development of the Envirocorp Programme for Senior Students**
  - A number of senior students have communicated a desire to specialise in environmental studies at sixth form level and gain experiential learning experience based on the environmental diversity and awesome local initiatives in the area.
  - It has been proposed that the programme initially be developed outside of the Raglan Area School under the umbrella of Te Mauri Tau but there is future potential for the school to adopt it at a later date when it is up and running should that be appropriate.
  - There are many skills and opportunities for hands on learning for students in the Raglan area.
  
6. **Make a benchmark video about our catchment environment as it is now 2002/3**
  - A video of what's happening in the environment in 2002 would serve many purposes.
  - Video is a form of monitoring that is easy for the community to understand.
  - Take visual records of key areas where change is likely to take place eg key riparian plantings. This could accompany the education package for schools as an orientation and learning tool, a resource for the Environment Centre and the wider community.
  - Whaingaroa Harbourcare already use video as a monitoring tool.
  - Te Mauri Tau is developing a video production capability with a core group of local artists who could make and contribute to the artistic content of such a video.
  
7. **Prepare and promote an information package for schools and the general public.**
  - Package could cover following key topics: wildlife and habitats; our freshwater environment, water quality and native fish; our marine environment; plant and animal pests; erosion; sustainable farming; riparian planting and Whaingaroa

Harbourcare's programme; recycling and waste minimisation and X-treme Waste's work; environmentally friendly housing and lifestyles including: minimal discharge systems for sewerage, water conservation, cleaning products, organic gardening, retro-fitting old houses to be more energy efficient; new technologies, methods and materials.

- Whaingaroa catchment is an excellent place to study the natural environment. Our local schools and an increasing number of schools from the greater Waikato, (the Environment Centre has had requests for information on the coastal environment), local people and our increasing number of visitors are often looking for information about the local environment and local initiatives.
- Whaingaroa Harbourcare has identified the need for an information pack on their riparian work.
- Links to many other projects and need for much collaboration.
- Should be a pack of resource information and suggested activities.
- Components of this package could also be available individually to the public to inform them on highly relevant issues e.g. harbour ecology.
- Could include the video.

#### **8. Further develop the links between catchment schools' science, environmental and social studies and community initiatives.**

- There is enormous potential for school science studies to be more directly linked to what is here and happening in Whaingaroa. However the workload of teachers makes it difficult to have time to develop ways of interacting.
- The senior science teacher at the Area School wants to take study leave to do this 2003/04.
- This proposed research project looks at how these links could be developed. Whaingaroa Harbourcare, Te Mauri Tau and the Whaingaroa Environment Centre and X-treme Waste have offered to spend time working with this project.

#### **9. Develop a forum for Mana whenua, local groups and initiatives concerned about environment and people's wellbeing to come together and share ideas and needs (Kotahitanga/Whaingaroa co-operative concept)**

- This concept has been floated to a number of key environmentally oriented groups in the catchment and an initial meeting has been held.
- This initiative has great potential as a forum for sharing ideas and information and to work co-operatively towards some common goals.

#### **10. Develop the concept of a Zero Waste Catchment**

- Raglan township has been designated a Zero-Waste town by Waikato District Council and X-treme Waste.
- The catchment approach to management has been established in Whaingaroa through the work of Whaingaroa Environment and the Catchment plan.
- There are several stakeholders who are interested in expanding the ZeroWaste theme across the catchment through scoping alternative methods of dealing with and minimising waste generated eg farm wastes, liquid waste, rural refuse.
- This would be a large, long term project and would best work as a collaborative approach between several groups with a strong research component.
- Many links between existing groups This large concept requires scoping funding to pull it together.

#### **11. Support Whaingaroa Environment Centre as a key agency/place for exchange of environmental information in and on the catchment.**

- To achieve a more sustainable catchment environment our community, especially school students, need to learn what they can do to contribute and how they can get involved in hands on activities and decision-making processes.
- The Environment Centre can provide a central point for community groups, agencies and researchers to disseminate and source information and to network with each other and work on specific collaborative projects.

- The Environment Centre has secured funds for a co-ordinator who can develop the centre and its links to the wider community.

**12. Develop new protocols for local, regional and national government for interaction and consultation with the Whaingaroa communities.**

- Whaingaroa has a long history of major problems arising out of unsatisfactory consultation processes and participation with community, and especially with Mana whenua. This has resulted in large amounts of public money being spent, inefficient use of community's voluntary time and energy and inefficient use of community's knowledge etc.
- Government representatives used to participate in the Whaingaroa Environment Network but both community and the government found it an unsuitable method of interacting.
- A newly proposed co-operative of local groups that may be called the Whaingaroa Co-operative has proposed that one of the goals of the group could be to develop better working processes and relationships with government agents.

**13. Collect informal information from the community on the history of change in the harbour and other fisheries (whitebait and eels)**

- There is ongoing work in the community towards developing new management guidelines for fishing in the harbour. Whaingaroa Harbourcare are restoring riparian margins with a main aim to restore the fishery. The question remains-restore the fishery to what?. What was the fishery like in the past?' There is very little formal data on the harbour fishery, most information exists in popular press, community documents, historical accounts, and in people's memories. This is also a way of engaging our community in realising how much has been lost.
- Links to development of local fishery management.

**14. Lookout information and signage on State Highway 23 entering the catchment giving geographic information, public respect of our environment and letting them know about local initiatives.**

- The gateway view of the Whaingaroa catchment is spectacular as you enter over the top of the deviation on SH23. There is a good-sized pull in where a viewing area could be developed, there is the opportunity to get some messages across to the public about looking after the environment whilst they are visiting and to let them know about local environmental initiatives.
- Should the proposed realignment of SH23 over the deviation go ahead then this idea should be one of the mitigation measures proposed.
- This concept should be moved through the Community Board and Waikato District Annual Plan process.

**15. Information/help and workshops on how to make submissions to local and regional government's Annual Plans and other statutory documents.**

- One of the key threads running through the catchment plan is to motivate people to get more involved and influence public decision making and spending in their area more.
- Making submissions on local and regional government annual plans is not as daunting as it may seem and is one step to helping initiate or gain support for local projects.
- Whaingaroa Environment Centre could facilitate this work.

**16. Develop a fun Whaingaroa Environment Awards Event to be held once every two years**

- There are so many excellent environmental projects happening in Raglan.
- This event would be an opportunity to reward/acknowledge people's energy and have a bit of fun. Many links to many projects.
- This event could be organised by the Whaingaroa Environment Group maybe in partnership with Info.Centre and Tourism Raglan.

**17. Set up a community resource mapping system on PC as a tool for data storage, maintenance and access.**

- The catchment plan identifies the need for local data storage and access, GIS is an ideal way of storing and displaying spatial information.
- Deborah Emmet put in an application for this to the Royal Society in 2001 to work with the Whaingaroa Environment Centre. She is interested in exploring this work further in a private capacity.

**18. Prepare a mini Biodiversity Strategy for the Whaingaroa catchment building upon the information from the Key Ecological Sites and Whaingaroa HarbourCare's draft Strategy.**

- We have limited resources at our disposal to protect wildlife and habitats in the Whaingaroa Catchment. We need to make sure these are directed for the most practical benefit. Whaingaroa Harbourcare already have a draft riparian strategy based on subcatchments this could be expanded or appended to a biodiversity strategy. Could also to look at scope for restoration as well as riparian protection e.g. corridors for wildlife.
- The Whaingaroa Environment Centre could hold data sets of information on wildlife and habitats in the catchment.
- A suitably skilled person could take this information and develop priorities and identify opportunities for protection and restoration.
- This strategy should be developed from existing information but to identify information needs and update as new information becomes available. This strategy should include native fish but not the marine waters.

## **6.3 Catchment Focus One: Looking After Our Natural Areas and Wildlife**

**19. Community consultation and scoping of options for management of Karioi maunga (mountain) including opportunities for community involvement.**

- Karioi is very important to Mana whenua and is sacred. Local people are concerned about the health of and public access to Karioi, DoC has identified Karioi as one of the sites that are a regional priority for pest control because of 'conservation values'.
- There has been past contention about pest control on the mountain.
- There is an opportunity for local people to become more involved in the overall management of Karioi.
- Raglan Green Party has previously put together a discussion document proposing Karioi be managed as a 'Mainland Island'.
- There are opportunities to learn more about community management of natural areas elsewhere in the North Island.
- Deferment of DoC's decision-making process towards about pest control is an opportunity for more community debate about options and assessment of community motivation and leadership to become involved in hands on management on Karioi.

**20. Control/eradicate *Spartina* from the Whaingaroa harbour:**

- *Spartina* grass was introduced to New Zealand to provide intertidal grazing for cattle and to reclaim harbour beds. Now *Spartina* is colonising areas by itself including Kawhia Harbour. *Spartina* grass forms large dense beds on sand and mudflats reducing wader bird, flounder and fish-breeding habitat and compromising shellfish beds. *Spartina* is used for reclaiming mudflats in other parts of the world and with its sediment trapping abilities it rapidly forms islands and dryland in areas that were once intertidal. There are several patches of *Spartina* grass in Raglan Harbour and the opportunity exists to remove it relatively easily and cheaply now.
- DoC and Environment Waikato have agreed to share the cost of removing *Spartina* grass using the herbicide Gallant.

- Whaingaroa Environment facilitated community discussion and research to see what non-chemical options there were. Manual options are more costly than herbicide and there is no one reliable method that does not cause massive disturbance in the saltmarsh.
- Whaingaroa Environment Centre is monitoring one of the patches to observe its rate of expansion.
- Even after the Spartina is removed there will need to be ongoing community vigilance for Spartina colonisation as it may spread again from adjacent harbours.

**21. Freshwater fish surveys(including introduced species eg koi carp, mosquito fish and trout)**

- We do not have a complete picture of our native fish populations. Introduced fish pose a threat to our native fish. We need to know if and where these above fish are to help us make management decisions about freshwater fish management.
- Make a submission to EW Annual Plan and DoC for more fish surveys.
- DoC has offered to train community in survey and identification of fish.
- In the future the community can help with monitoring these species.

**22. Surveys of harbour ecosystems (including collation and review of existing knowledge but excluding fish catch data).**

- We need a collation of existing data on our harbour to get a thorough picture of our harbour ecosystem to measure change. There is some baseline information but it is scattered between government departments and universities.
- EW already doing surveys of marine bottom fauna at five sites in the harbour and are offering to train up community members in the invertebrate monitoring and to show community how to identify and map extent and location of eelgrass in the harbour from recent aerial photography.

**23. Prepare and maintain in the catchment a map of all existing protected land (DoC, QE II, WDC), crown and WDC land in the catchment (include existing riparian protection, both formal and informal).**

- Necessary for people to know where protected land is to learn about it, enjoy it and participate in looking after it.
- Work with DoC and WDC to get mapped information preferably from GIS system.
- Could be kept up to date by the Environment Centre eg. on mini-GIS at the Environment Centre (see community GIS project concept).

**24. Public signage at wharf and information leaflet to community about appropriate human behaviour around seals**

- NZ fur seal populations on the West Coast appear to be recovering from devastating effects of culling a century ago. Consequently we are beginning to see a rise in the number and frequency of seals in the harbour. Currently DoC comes out, captures them and takes them out to sea. This activity will be unsustainable if numbers of seals increase. Educating our public about how to behave with seals would be a more sustainable option.

**25. Programme of information and activities focussing on native fish, whitebait fishing and its impacts, and stream ecology.**

- Our native fish populations are under threat from a number of pressures from impassable culverts, predation by trout, spawning ground destruction and over harvesting by whitebaiters. A range of information and activities may inform and motivate landowners, whitebait fishers and the wider community to participate more in management of habitat and harvest management.

**26. Source relevant existing biodiversity data (land, freshwater and marine) and maintain appropriate databases in the catchment (excluding marine ecosystems, but including sea birds). Also continue to promote, support and co-ordinate results of wildlife/habitat surveys by a range of organisations and individuals in the catchment**

- The community does not have easy access to ecological information about the catchment. It is generally held by various agencies and interest groups in Hamilton.
- Get the community enthused and knowledgeable about identifying and recording wildlife in the area.
- Make requests through annual plans for access to copies of databases e.g. Key Ecological Sites.
- May need assistance of research student(s).

**27. Encourage local participation in reserve management (other than Karioi)**

- DoC and WDC resources are stretched to manage local reserves. More community participation in management can lead to greater enjoyment and appreciation of local reserves plus learning opportunities.
- Existing examples are Friends of Wainui, Whaingaroa Harbourcare, Forest and Bird plantings at Motukokako.

**28. Re-establish marine mammal watch and rescue group in the catchment**

- Dead and live marine mammals occasionally strand around Raglan, orca regularly visit the harbour and are often harassed by small boats, endangered Hector's dolphin live in and around the mouth of the harbour.
- There used to be a marine mammal rescue and observation network in Raglan and could be revived.

## **6.4 Catchment Focus Two: Looking After Our Soils and the Water Quality of Our Rivers and Harbour**

**29. Support the core functions of Whaingaroa Harbourcare as the key agency for habitat restoration in the catchment.**

- Reduces agricultural run off, restores stream and harbour habitats.
- Whaingaroa Harbourcare also do photo and video monitoring of changes, and resource consent compliance observation for our community as part of their core activities and their everyday work.
- Maintain links to other projects e.g. other Streamcare groups in the catchment.
- Whaingaroa Harbourcare is looking for a sustainable future for its core activities especially running of the nursery.

**30. Support existing Care Groups in the catchment.**

- Motivated groups of landowners or residents can work together to focus on specific goals e.g. clusters of riparian plantings.
- Care groups in the catchment at present work on protecting streams in the catchment working with Whaingaroa Harbourcare as the main provider of trees and planting expertise. Another Care Group is involved in possum control at Pukemiro.
- It is up to local people to get in behind these groups either by volunteering time and by making submissions in support of funding in local and regional government Annual Planning rounds.

**31. Support the development of Kaiwhenua Organics as a learning centre for more sustainable organic and Permaculture farming methods.**

- There is a lot of interest in organic farming and Permaculture in Whaingaroa.

- There already exists an informal Permaculture Network and two Permaculture design courses have been hosted locally.
- Mana whenua are interested in returning to the land and growing more food for their whanau.
- Links to existing local Permaculture designers.

**32. Support community monitoring of changes in streams with riparian protection, especially ongoing work of Te Mata and Raglan Area School (Streamcare programme), including reporting back to the community.**

- Riparian planting improves stream habitat and fauna, this programme is largely for our community to learn first hand about streams and see improvement.
- Monitoring should be both scientific but also with lots of visual records e.g. photography and video, for reporting back to the community the benefits of riparian planting.
- Use any older information either scientific or photographic to illustrate change.
- Monitor Whaingaroa Harbourcare's plantings and possibly Waitetuna Streamcare's. Encourage involvement of more community members in monitoring to support teachers.

**33. Prepare an overview of the stream ecology in the Whaingaroa catchment from the EW ecological monitoring data. Also annual reporting from EW to the community from 2002 – data and presentation.**

- The stream ecology database held by Environment Waikato is scientific and needs interpretation into average person's language.
- Previous work needs to be summarised and ongoing interpreted results of monitoring provided annually. Whaingaroa Environment Centre to make a request for this to EW through their Annual Plan.

**34. Community survey of barriers to fish passage on private land**

- Barriers to fish passage on public roads are gradually being rectified but there are still many on private land-farm roads etc.
- Environment Waikato have a survey form to do this work.
- Start up survey programme in tandem with programme of information about native fish.
- Whaingaroa Harbourcare or Whaingaroa Environment Centre could co-ordinate this activity.

**35. Programme of field activities and information to share the work and experience of Care Groups in Whaingaroa catchment (including work on Wainui Reserve farm).**

- Three Care groups in the catchment, Whaingaroa Harbourcare, Waitetuna Streamcare and Pukemiro Possum Busters, are already tackling hands on projects. These clusters of interested individuals with shared goals are extremely effective in tackling local problems.
- Could be implemented by Environment Waikato or Whaingaroa Environment Centre

**36. Carry out a study/survey of land use, land management practices and some economic information on farms in the catchment.**

- To monitor the progress towards sustainable land use we need to be able to show that farming practices in our catchment have changed and find out why through farmer interviews.
- Could be a university student project. Update at five-yearly intervals.

**37. Maintain a register of keen volunteer treeplanters in the catchment to assist Care groups during planting time**

- More hands at planting time means more trees in the ground more quickly.
- Whaingaroa Harbourcare has also indicated they need some help in the nursery potting up young trees.

- 38. Support a number of hill country farmers interested in sustainable farming to join the “user group” attached to the Sustainable Hill Country Management research project at Whatawhata or set up a catchment discussion group bringing expertise and experience in sustainable hill country farming from other areas into the Whaingaroa catchment.**
- There is new research, experience and information on how to manage hill country farming in a more sustainable way through the MAg Sustainable Hill Country Farming research project at Whatawhata.
  - Seek approval from MAg for permission for Whaingaroa farmers to join the group.
  - Seek suitable farmer candidates.
- 39. Host a series of ongoing activities open to all catchment farmers focussing on relevant farm environment issues in the catchment eg riparian protection management of wildlife habitats (including monitoring) erosion control, farm roading etc.**
- Most of the lowland wildlife habitat remaining in the Raglan catchment is as remnants on private land.
  - Threats from farm activities, residential development and plant and animal pests are ongoing and will result in the further loss of those habitats.
  - Whaingaroa Harbourcare’s riparian planting work provides awesome examples of what can be achieved through riparian planting.
- 40. Network with sustainable farming models and research around the country and build an in-catchment reference collection of resource material (books, pamphlets, posters, videos) on sustainable farming practices.**
- Farming is the predominant land use in the catchment and has the greatest impact on our catchment environment. The catchment plan proposes long term work with landowners to promote the adoption of more sustainable land use practices.
  - The building of a network of contacts and a resource collection is the first stage of long term work on sustainable farming with catchment landowners.
  - Whaingaroa Environment Centre could work on this with NIWA assistance.
- 41. Collate and summarise existing rainfall data from the catchment.**
- Rainfall information is useful for sustainable land management. Little is known about the catchment rainfall patterns, several farmers in the catchment have long term records of rainfall on their farms.
  - Would make a good senior school student project.
- 42. Develop a model (hill country?) farm demonstrating sustainable land use practices**
- Dairy farms are required to develop a green image by their producer boards. Hill country farms are less likely to be exposed to more sustainable land management options and yet contribute substantially to environmental degradation in this catchment. Development of a voluntary but partially supported model ‘sustainable farm’ could be used to demonstrate to farmers that there are alternatives.
- 43. Add one more catchment stream in a highly farmed sub-catchment to EW water quality monitoring programme.**
- The existing stream water quality monitoring programme with EW does not sample a stream in parts of the catchment most intensively used for farming.
  - Lobby Environment Waikato through the Annual Plan to do some water quality sampling on the Okete/Te Mata stream.

**44. Study current patterns, rates, types and sources of sedimentation in the harbour (update of Nelson and Curtis (1986))**

- The last sediment survey of the harbour in 1986 is now 16 years old. It would be good to update this information (survey of harbour bed and estimated sediment patterns and loadings) after 20 years ie 2006.
- Lobby Environment Waikato to organise support for and assist a student to undertake this research.

**45. Land Use/Economic study of the farm at Wainui Reserve to show how setting aside marginal areas and focussing productivity on best land can have tangible benefits for farm operation.**

- Wainui Farm, part of Wainui Reserve, offers the opportunity for the development of a model of more sustainable farming in the catchment already underway in a highly visible location. The farm has set aside large areas of marginal agricultural land that Whaingaroa Harbourcare has restored with native trees, in addition the farm has changed its management regimes. In total this has resulted in greater productivity than previously and there are some practical on farm management advantages.

**46. Training and accreditation of heavy plant operators in the catchment**

- Not all earthmoving activities require a resource consent (e.g. some farm roading) and not all consents for earthworks are fully monitored.
- Providing training and accreditation in heavy plant operation, a qualification that is required by council and promoted in the catchment could help reduce soil erosion.
- Hamilton City Council and Environment Waikato have been involved in an accreditation scheme in Hamilton (2001).
- Need more research into implementation and costings.

## **6.5 Catchment Focus Three: Looking After Our Fresh and Saltwater Fishery**

**47. Support Development of Whaingaroa Harbour Community Fisheries Guidelines**

- Riparian planting and better management of development is improving habitat for seafood in the harbour. However there is ongoing recreational and commercial fishing pressure on the harbour seafood resources. Some shellfish populations have virtually disappeared and there is concern that other resources may be lost also.
- Whaingaroa Environment began facilitating this process and drafted early versions of guidelines. The process is now moving ahead at its own speed independent of one group and based on the voluntary energy of local individuals.
- The 'Whaingaroa co-operative' could be a vehicle for progressing this initiative.

**48. Collection of informal information from the community on the history of change in the harbour and other fisheries (whitebait and eels)**

- There is ongoing work in the community towards developing new management guidelines for fishing in the harbour. Whaingaroa Harbourcare are restoring riparian margins with a main aim to restore the fishery. The question remains-restore the fishery to what?. What was the fishery like in the past?'
- There is very little formal data on the harbour fishery, most information exists in popular press, community documents, historical accounts, and in people's memories.
- This is also a way to engage our community in realising how much has been lost. Links to development of local fishery management.
- This project could be carried out by a collaboration of local interested groups.

#### **49. Cockle bed population monitoring in the Whaingaroa harbour**

- Cockle beds at Te Kopua are heavily harvested by locals and visitors. Little is known about the impact of the current level of harvesting. Raglan Area School senior science students have undertaken some monitoring of the shellfish beds but have no opportunity to share their information with the community.
- Whaingaroa Environment Centre could help to publicise students studies.
- Whaingaroa Environment Centre could help to expand the shellfish monitoring programme to provide comprehensive data about harvesting impacts on cockle beds.
- There could be more community involvement in appropriate monitoring of shellfish populations, especially Mana whenua.

#### **50. Collate harbour fish catch data (commercial and recreational)**

- Historical catch data exists and is needed in an easy to use form to compare with future catch data.
- Mfish have indicated they may be able to get a student to do this work.
- Linked to local fishery management initiatives.

#### **51. Implementation of Fisheries Act regulations, monitoring and compliance**

- Whaingaroa Harbour is under increasing commercial and recreational fishing pressure. Existing fishing regulations are breached regularly and require constant vigilance on behalf of local people and volunteer fisheries officers. There are complaints from the community that the lack of prosecutions and infrequency of presence of Ministry of Fisheries officers in the area makes a mockery of the legislation.
- Local people can participate in watching out for offenders and lobbying Mfish for compliance with law ie prosecutions.
- Whaingaroa Environment Centre can co-ordinate getting information out to public especially our visitors.

#### **52. Collect and collate formal and informal information on the whitebait and eel harvest .**

- Whitebait harvests in the catchment have declined dramatically in the last forty years. The causes are thought to be a combination of habitat destruction and over-harvesting.
- Information on catches is held by the agencies listed above and informal information in fishers accounts, sales of whitebait and eels and past whitebait and eel catches.
- This data should be drawn together to give us a clearer picture of past health of whitebait populations and is an important link to future work on whitebait management.

6.6

## **Catchment Focus Four: Looking After the Development of Our Town and Rural Areas**

#### **53. Support the core functions of X'treme Waste community based, zero waste management initiative**

- Provides a more sustainable alternative to landfilling waste. This programme is already diverting 75% from landfill.
- Provide more buildings/facilities on site for administration and light industry based around resources recovered from the waste stream.

#### **54. Complete survey stormwater infiltration to sewerage system and ensure compliance.**

- There is an need to reduce stormwater inflow to municipal sewerage system.
- Lobby WDC to complete this work.

**55. Development of a waste water disposal system for Raglan that will cope with predicted population growth and have minimal impacts on the environment.**

- Raglan's municipal sewerage ponds will not be sufficient to take the flow of wastewater predicted for Raglan.
- WDC reviewed a number of options and proposed a preferred option for its resource consent. This was contested by a number of parties. These parties and WDC were in mediation for two years looking at other options that would remove the need for an outfall to the harbour mouth. This case will proceed to the Environment Court because of inability of parties to find resolution through mediation.
- Completion of stormwater infiltration survey and rectification will reduce pressure on the sewerage system.
- A programme promoting wastewater minimisation could help reduce pressure on the sewerage system (see later).

**56. Complete implementation of culvert upgrade on WDC maintained roads**

- Essential to enable our native fish to migrate up and downstream to fulfil their breeding cycles.
- The plan suggests a parallel programme working with landowners to also rectify barriers to fish passage on private land.

**57. Transit NZ to survey and rectify all barriers to fish passage on State Highways in the catchment**

- Poorly designed and maintained road culverts can be a barrier to the migration of native fish essential for their life cycle.
- Whaingaroa Harbourcare and WDC know which culverts and bridges are in need of fixing.

**58. Community Resource Consent monitoring and compliance**

- Environment Waikato has a number of approaches to monitoring resource consents. Major consents, eg sewerage system, may be well resourced but other areas such as dairy farm effluent disposal monitoring is not. Environment Waikato has said it welcomes the public to assist them with policing resource consents eg recent illegal activities on the harbour bed at Oporu.
- Community needs more information about resource consent locations and conditions and guidelines to assist further.
- We need to be sure that breaches are being dealt with accordingly to make community's voluntary efforts worthwhile.

**59. Establish and 'artist in residence' at X-treme Waste**

- Many local artists already source raw materials for their work from the recycle centre. This would formally acknowledge the link between art and recycling and provide a showcase of local work and interest at the recycle centre.
- Many potential links nationally and internationally.

**60. Development of X-treme Waste community recycling centre as part of the national recycling training programme**

- Recycling is a new industry there are few ventures nationally that are diverting as much waste from landfill as X-treme Waste.
- X-treme Waste can participate in apprenticeship/hands on training at a national level.

## 6.7 Timeframes and Priorities

It is very difficult to say that one project or idea is more important than another. Some projects may address the most urgent environmental issues but will not be successful in getting community support. As in the corporate world the way an idea is packaged and presented to the community will influence its ultimate success. Leadership is very important. Confident, passionate and charismatic personalities can carry ideas to success. Responsiveness, passion, energy, flexibility, staying power, sustainable organisational structures and having all the right networks in place are also most important qualities for community to get projects off the ground

Another important factor is timing, it is of the essence with community based projects. A certain event or issue may arise that suddenly focuses community energy in a certain way or funding becomes available and the time is then ripe to get something going.

It is a little different with projects to be undertaken by agencies who have set annual planning and funding rounds. Projects identified for agencies to undertake have been prioritised according to community needs and preferred start up time indicated.

It is also found to be difficult to engage the Whaingaroa community in thinking strategically about projects. There are several reasons for this:

- Community projects often do not know what their funding will be from year to year.
- Community projects often rely on considerable voluntary input. Volunteer energy and availability can fluctuate widely depending upon volunteers personal and financial circumstances.
- It takes a while for community projects to upskill and organise themselves each time a new initiative is started. Most personnel learn 'on the job'.

Sometimes a community group will have a long-term vision and goals but only a very broad idea of when they might attain it because of the variables mentioned above. Community initiatives move responsively towards their goals often on a year by year basis as that is as far as they can predict budgets. They may have lulls with no major progress and then great surges of energy and achievement at other times. This is why we have shown the projects as an expression of where our community's priorities are right now. For those projects to be lead and funded by government agencies there is an element of more certainty of a pathway to achievement.

The projects described in the previous section are listed in Appendix I and are roughly prioritised (see the explanation in the Appendix that outlines the thinking behind the prioritisation). Many projects as indicated as being 'ongoing'. Many are noted that could and should be initiated next year or two if we want to start moving towards the goals for 2025. The big question is how many projects and how much work in these areas our small community can sustain. This is currently unknown but is something we can work on in future years as we review the projects annually. With time we may get better at working out the pace and carrying capacity and putting some realistic dates on our milestones.

# 7 How Will We Know that We Are Achieving Our Catchment Goals?

The indicators help to give us the big picture. The indicators identified with each of the targets will be the way that we measure our progress towards the catchment goals. These indicators are things that need to be measured or chunks of information that have to be collected together at certain intervals

If resources are limited then Whaingaroa Environment Centre as the guardian of the catchment plan will have to decide which indicators they can practically monitor.

The Indicator tables show the indicators and how often each indicator should be monitored, also how the information could be collected and who holds the information. These tables are shown in Appendix III.

## 7.1 How Can We Implement the Plan?

So we have a Catchment Plan. What happens next and who is going to do the work?

The Plan is a bunch of ideas that will help us sustain our environment and a framework of targets and goals to aim for. These ideas and projects can be taken up by any group. People should be encouraged to use the information in the Plan to help look after our environment in their work and everyday lives.

The Plan encourages people to work together to achieve synergy and mutual goals and the successful implementation of the ideas in the Plan will be dependent on groups and people working together.

The Plan is all about making the most of opportunities that come our way and these are occurring all the time. The Plan has to be a living document that is used and referred to often. It should be widely available, actively promoted and regularly updated to keep pace with new situations and initiatives.

Whaingaroa Environment Centre Incorporated Society has opted to look after the Plan and to trial and monitor the concepts behind it. Other stakeholder groups, both local and elsewhere, should be approached again to see if they will formally endorse the Plan and its goals and vision. However the true test of adoption of the Plan is when other groups use it and participate in its regular updates over time. This is the real test of effectiveness. Similarly the Plan needs to be taken to key agencies for their endorsement. This Plan is not a statutory document under any legislation but some kind of agreement in principle from agencies could be very helpful. The Whaingaroa Environment Centre group should decide how to approach these steps towards endorsement.

Resources will be needed to continuing to promote the concept and the contents of the Plan to stakeholder groups, agencies and the wider community.

In addition progress and achievements towards the goals and targets should be regularly recorded. The intention of this plan is that community be encouraged and facilitated towards recording and measuring its own achievements and capturing lessons learnt. It encourages community to look ahead collectively, and as strategically as community can, to see how we can move ahead on the things we feel are important and that there is community motivation and energy to work on. The indicators identified in the Plan are a way of doing this. Some indicators are measured annually others less frequently.

The targets, indicators and activities should be adjusted at appropriate intervals to include new community initiatives, national policies, changes in statutory functions, new knowledge, new technology, and changes in resources available.

The plan at present is a list of goals etc. and projects on paper. For ease of information management this could be turned into a set of databases maintained on computer. One database would be for the goals, targets and indicators. The other database would be for projects. These databases will only be useful if they are kept up to date by networking with the community and actually recording the indicators.

## **7.2 Who will do This Work?**

The Whaingaroa Environment Centre (WEC) has agreed to trial the implementation of the Plan. It is written as one of their objectives in their Certificate of Incorporation.

WEC has had a long relationship with the Catchment Plan concept for Whaingaroa. WEC has evolved from the steering group set up to look at the catchment work. For five years they existed as an informal network called Whaingaroa Environment. In November 2001 Whaingaroa Environment Centre became an Incorporated Society. They have four main objectives mostly relating to information and community networking and support. One of their objectives is to adopt, promote and monitor the Whaingaroa Catchment Plan. This adoption does not imply exclusive ownership of the plan to WEC, however, the Plan belongs to the whole community and can be used by any group or individual. WEC is merely the guardian for the Plan to ensure it has a life. It does mean that there are a group of people committed to giving it a go and taking on the responsibility for keeping community informed about it and keeping it up to date.

WEC members should keep the Plan up to date through networking with local groups and agencies. New projects can be added to the list at any stage of development. WEC will need resources and dedicated person time during the year to network with local groups and agencies, promote the Plan, report back to the community, and set up and maintain databases.

## **7.3 What Are the Next Steps and How Will the Plan be Reviewed?**

Initially copies of the plan will be made freely available through the Environment Centre. A summary of the Plan will be delivered to every dwelling in the catchment. WEC will be encouraging people to look at the summary on the posters provided in the mail drop, maybe read the plan and show their support for the plan in principle by adding their names to a list of community supporters. This does not commit people to anything but will help agencies and local government to take us seriously and help our local groups to get the support they need.

During the next year the Environment Centre members should form a working group to take the final plan around local community groups and agencies to promote its use and to gauge existing levels of support. If the plan is well received by community and agencies the year WEC will propose that a number of key local and central government agencies, through their annual planning process, commit to working with the concepts in the Plan. WEC will also try to enlist the agencies formal commitment to work with the Whaingaroa community on a number of key areas of the plan.

In November 2003 the WEC should carry out the first review of local projects and look at the indicators. The results of this exercise should be reported back to the community. WEC should keep in touch with new and existing projects in the Whaingaroa catchment

and how they are progressing particularly focussing on successes and problems they are experiencing.

In three years time i.e. winter 2005, the WEC should undertake an open community review of the goals, targets and indicators in the plan. This will enable the community to adjust the plan to encompass new developments, adjust to constraints and take advantage of new opportunities.

## **7.4 Recommendations for Development and Implementation of the Plan**

It is recommended that:

- Urgency should be placed on working with Mana whenua and supporting the hapu planning process so that the two plans can work together to achieve better catchment management.
- WEC develop a programme for taking the information in the Plan back to community and agencies.
- WEC seek endorsement from the community.
- Projects are surveyed annually starting October 2003.
- Indicators are recorded starting October 2003.
- Goals, targets and indicators are reviewed every three years, next review October 2005.
- There be further development of 'The Special Places' theme as part of the Whaingaroa Catchment Plan implementation over the next three years.
- The area covered by the plan be broadened to include Whaanga Coast and Te Akau coast over the next three years.
- Information in the 'Description of the Whaingaroa Catchment and Issues' be updated every five years.

# Appendices

## Appendix I – Table of Projects

The following table shows a list of initiatives that have been endorsed through the consultation process to develop the plan. Some of them are underway but have been identified as important to ensure that support continues.

The projects in the tables are presented in groupings showing which of the catchment goals they mainly contribute to. Most projects contribute to more than one goal and these are shown for each project. The first table of projects aim to address all the catchment goals.

Based on consultation with community a suggested priority for each project is given. This is based on their potential successful because of strong community appeal or support and if they address urgent environmental issues. It is recommended that these priorities should be reviewed every year with the project list.

The order in the tables does not imply that the projects at the beginning of the list are more important than those at the end of the table.

## Priorities

### Priority One Projects

#### Priority 1a) **Support our existing community initiatives**

The community feedback to the draft catchment plan gave a clear message that local people support community initiatives that are already happening in the catchment and want them to continue. The work of Whaingaroa Harbourcare and X-treme Waste in particular are cases where local people have responded to a local issue with passion and dedication and have worked hard with limited resources to achieve goals that have many benefits for the environment and our community. The people involved provide inspiration to others of what can be done. They now have many years of experience between them operating as community organisations and can provide advice to others. In addition they are doing ground-breaking work on problems that are facing communities all over New Zealand and their experience of community organisations tackling problems that have traditionally been managed by local government is invaluable.

#### Priority 1b) **Key existing and new projects that provide information to support existing initiatives and motivate new community initiatives**

Our community needs access to information so that we are better able to understand our catchment environment and can make informed decisions about the management of our environment and become motivated to participate more in decision making and hands on management. We need to collate existing information on the catchment and we need new and ongoing data collection on our environment so that we are able to show that changes have taken place. Submissions to the draft catchment plan said that we need to direct and encourage the collection of data about our natural resources that is relevant to the issues that the community is concerned about or is already working on. In all cases information should be presented to the community in varied, colourful, interactive ways that the average person can understand and will be more likely to remember. Some of the groups already well established and successful in their work

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would like to expand their programmes into new areas trying out new approaches. These projects are included in this priority group.

**Priority 1c) Improve implementation of local, regional and central government policies and guidelines and developing more sustainable infrastructure and service options.**

Comment on the draft catchment plan identified a need to see government agencies 'walk the talk' and to be consistent and fulfil their own rules, guidelines and plans if they expect the community to respect and support their goals of sustainable resource use. In addition local government needs to show commitment to the goals of sustainable development by developing infrastructure that is based on sustainable resource use. Resources to carry out these functions are limited but effective research and forming partnerships and collaborations with community can help overcome these restraints eg X-treme Waste recycling venture.

**Priority Two Projects**

**Priority 2 New projects that support existing initiatives or address catchment environmental issues**

Almost all the projects detailed in this catchment plan are ones that are focussed around catchment issues. They would all contribute to sustainable resource management and are all feasible and able to be implemented if resources, both financial and human, became available. The submitters on the draft plan indicated that supporting existing projects should be the first priority and encouraging new initiatives should be spread out over a longer timeframe so as not to exhaust scarce resources.

**Priority Three Projects**

**Priority 3a) New ideas that compliment and expand existing projects but may not directly address catchment priority issues**

These projects include a variety of new and creative ideas that compliment and expand existing initiatives. They maybe very popular and successful when developed but they are probably not going to contribute in a major way to addressing the environmental issues directly.

**Priority 3b) Non- urgent projects that provide or update baseline information or offer opportunities for environmental education**

This section also includes a range of information and education opportunities that could be done. They maybe projects that could be done by research students, they maybe relatively expensive and not directly addressing catchment issues. The Community should take up opportunities to get this type of work done as they arise.

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## Table of Projects

### Main Catchment Focus – All

Project Title	Plan Goals	Funding	Lead group	Collaborators	Timeframe	Priority
1. Support hapu planning in the catchment	All	Te Puni Kokiri, Ministry for the Environment (SMF), Environment Waikato.	<u>Mana whenua</u>	Nga hapu, EW, WDC, DoC, MFish, National Agencies, Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Ongoing	1a)
2. Support implementation and review of the recommendations of the "Raglan Naturally Plan".	All	<u>Waikato District Council</u>	<u>Raglan Community Board</u>	Raglan Community Board, all community groups and wider community	Ongoing	1a
3. Promote and support implementation, monitoring and review of the Whaingaroa Catchment Plan	All	Ministry for the Environment(SMF), Environment Waikato,	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Environment Centre and all community groups and interested individuals	2002 and reviews at intervals	.1a)
4. Support the Future Development of the 'Enviroschools ' Programme in the Raglan Area School (and other catchment schools).	All	Waikato District Council <u>Ministry of Education</u>	Raglan Area School	Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Environment Centre and all community groups and interested individuals	2002 – ongoing	1a
5. Support development of Envirocorp programme for senior students	All	Environment Waikato, Educational Trusts	Te Mauri Tau	Whaingaroa Environment Centre, Whaingaroa Harbourcare, Kaiwhenua organics and other local groups	2002 and ongoing	1b)
6. Make a benchmark video about the catchment as of 2002/3'	All	Creative NZ, Community Board, Royal Society, MEd, WELEnergy, Trust Waikato	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Harbourcare, Te Mauri Tau (creative productions unit and Envirocorp), many other local groups, landowners and knowledgeable/ entertaining local people.	2002/03	1b)
7. Prepare and promote an information package for schools and the general public.	All	Royal Society, MEd, WELTrust, Trust Waikato, <u>MfE.</u>	<u>Whaingaroa Environment Centre</u>	Whaingaroa Harbourcare, DoC, EW, MAg, catchment schools, Universities, Ornithological Society, Botanical Society	2002 and ongoing	1b)

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Plan Goals</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Lead group</b>	<b>Collaborators</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Priority</b>
8) Further develop the links between catchment schools' science, environment and social studies and active community groups.	All	Royal Society	Individual Research project	Te Mauri Tau, Whaingaroa Harbourcare, Whaingaroa Environment Centre.	2002/3	1b
9. Develop a forum for Mana whenua, local groups and initiatives concerned about environment and people's wellbeing to come together and share ideas and needs (Kotahitanga/Whaingaroa co-operative concept)	All	Te Puni Kokiri, MfE,	Initiative proposed by Te Ngaru Roa a Maui	Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Harbourcare, Te Mauri Tau, X-treme Waste, Te Ngaru Roa a Maui, Kaiwhenua Organics and other groups.	2002	1b)
10. Develop the concept of a Zero Waste Catchment	All	MfE (SMF)	X-treme Waste	Mana whenua, Te Ngaru Roa a Maui, Whaingaroa Environment Centre, Schools.	2002	1b)
11. Support Whaingaroa Environment Centre as a key place for the exchange of environmental information in and on the catchment		<u>Ministry for the Environment,</u> WELEnergy, Environment Waikato, Trust Waikato, Lotteries	<u>Whaingaroa Environment Centre</u>	All community groups in the catchment, landowners, EW, WDC, DoC, Mfish, MAF, CRIs, Universities, Landcare Trust, SMF.	Ongoing	1b)
12. Develop new protocols for local, regional and national government for interaction and consultation with Whaingaroa communities.	All		'Whaingaroa co-operative	Mana whenua and many community groups	2003	1c)
13. Collection of informal information from the community of change in the harbour and other fisheries (whitebait and eels)	All	Lotteries, Environment Waikato, WELTrust, Te Puni Kokiri, Rainbow Warrior Fund	Harbour Fisheries Group, Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Mana whenua, Envirocorp, Raglan Area School.	2002 ongoing	2
14. Lookout information and signage on State Highway 23 entering the catchment giving geographic information plus encouraging the public to respect our environment and letting them know about local initiatives.	All	Transit NZ, WDC, Raglan Community Board, Lotteries, WELEnergy, Trust Waikato	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Harbourcare, X-treme Waste, Community Board, Tourism group and others	2003	2

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Plan Goals</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Lead group</b>	<b>Collaborators</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Priority</b>
15. Workshops on how to make submissions to local government Annual Plans and other statutory documents	All	MfE, Lotteries, WELTrust, TrustWaikato	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Environment Waikato, Waikato District Council	2003	2
16. Develop a Whaingaroa Environment Awards / celebration Event	All	EW, WELTrust, Trust Waikato, local businesses	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Mana whenua and many community organisations	2003	2
17. Set up a GIS system on PC as a tool for data storage, maintenance and access.	All	Royal Society, Lotteries, WELTrust	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Mana whenua, Deborah Emmet (GIS consultant), Whaingaroa Harbourcare, EW, DoC, WDC.	2003	3b)
18. Prepare a Wildlife Strategy for the Whaingaroa catchment building upon the information from the Key Ecological Sites and Whaingaroa Harbourcare's draft strategy.	All	National Biodiversity Strategy funding	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Harbourcare, DoC, EW, QE II Trust, Forest and Bird, Waikato Botanical Society, Ornithological Society.	2003	3b)

## Catchment Focus One: Looking After Natural Areas and Wildlife

Project Title	Plan Goals	Funding	Lead group	Collaborators	Timeframe	Priority
19. Community Consultation and Scoping of Options for Management of Karioi Including Opportunities For Community Involvement	Soils, River, Harbour ; Urban + Rural Development	DoC, Lotteries, Well Energy	DoC	DoC, Mana whenua, <u>Green Party</u> , Whaingaroa Harbourcare, Conservation Corps., Forest & Bird Soc., Ornithological Soc., many other local groups.	Ongoing	1a)
20. Control/or eradicate <i>Spartina</i> from the harbour:		Environment Waikato, DoC	DoC, Environment Waikato	Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Environment Centre,	Ongoing	1a)
21. Freshwater Fish Surveys	Harvest	Environment Waikato, DoC	Environment Waikato and DoC	Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Environment Centre	2002 ongoing	1b
22. Surveys of harbour ecosystems (including collation and review of existing knowledge).	Fishery	Environment Waikato MFish, Universities.	Environment Waikato, MFish, Universities	Environment Waikato, MFish, Universities,. community	2002 – ongoing	1b
23. Prepare and maintain, in the catchment, a map of all existing protected land (DoC, QE II, WDC) also other public lands (WDC, Crown)	Soils, River, Harbour	DoC, Environment Waikato, WDC	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Mana whenua, DoC, Environment Waikato, WDC.	2003	1b)
24. Public signage at wharf and information leaflet to community about appropriate human behaviour around seals	Urban +Rural Development	DoC		Whaingaroa Environment Centre, Fishing Clubs, Te Kopua Campground, Information Centre	2003	3b)
25. Programme of information and activities focussing on native fish, whitebait fishing and its impacts, and stream ecology.	Fishery	DoC, Environment Waikato, NIWA	DoC	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	2002	1c)
26. Source all existing wildlife data (land, freshwater and marine) and maintain appropriate databases in the catchment. Also promote, support, and co-ordinate results of, wildlife/habitat surveys by a range of reputable organisations in key areas of catchment need.	Fishery	Environment Waikato, Royal Society, WEL Energy	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Mana whenua, DoC, Environment Waikato NIWA, Universities, MFish, Ornithological Society, Botanical Society, Schools	2003 and ongoing	2
27. Encourage local participation in reserve management (other than Karioi)	Urban + Rural Development	DoC, Waikato District Council	DoC, Waikato District Council	Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Harbourcare, Whaingaroa Environment Centre	2003	2
28. Re-establish marine mammal watch/rescue group in the catchment.		Project Jonah, DoC, Lotteries, Bodyshop	Fishing Clubs	Mana whenua, DoC, Fishing clubs	2002 and ongoing	3b)

## Catchment Focus Two: Looking After Our Soils, Rivers and Harbour

Project Title	Plan Goals	Funding	Lead group	Collaborators	Timeframe	Priority
29. Support the core functions of Whaingaroa Harbour Care as the key agency for habitat restoration in the catchment	Wildlife; Soils, River, Harbour; Urban + Rural Development	<u>Environment Waikato, Waikato District Council, , Community Employment Group, WELTrust, WWF, Rainbow Warrior Fund</u>	<u>Whaingaroa Harbourcare</u>	<u>Wainui Reserve Committee, Friends of Wainui, Waitetuna Streamcare, X-treme Waste, Land Use, Biodiversity, Mana whenua, Landowners, Catchment Schools.</u>	Ongoing	1a)
30. Support Existing Care Groups in the catchment	Wildlife	<u>Environment Waikato, Landcare Trust, WELTrust,</u>	Care groups, Environment Waikato	Care groups, Environment Waikato	Ongoing	1a)
31. Support development of Kaiwhenua organics as a learning centre for sustainable organic and permaculture principles.		Community Employment Group, Te Puni Kokiri, COGS, WELTrust, Trust Waikato	Kaiwhenua Organics	Te Ngaru Roa a Maui, Te Mauri Tau, Whaingaroa Environment Centre	2002 and ongoing	1b
32. Support community monitoring of changes in streams with riparian protection, especially ongoing work of Te Mata and Raglan Area School (Streamcare programme), including reporting back to the community.	Wildlife, Urban + Rural Development	<u>Environment Waikato, Lotteries, BOC, Landcare Trust</u>	Schools with Environment Waikato	Whaingaroa Environment Centre, Whaingaroa Harbourcare	Ongoing	1a)
33. Prepare an overview of the stream ecology in the Whaingaroa catchment from EW ecological monitoring data and send annual updates/presentation from 2002 on.	Wildlife; Fishery;	Environment Waikato	Environment Waikato	Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Harbourcare, Whaingaroa Environment Centre DoC	2002-ongoing	1b)
34. Community survey of barriers to fish passage on private land.	Wildlife;	Forest and Bird Society, DoC, Environment Waikato	Whaingaroa Environment Centre,	<u>Mana whenua, Landowners, Whaingaroa Harbourcare, Environment Waikato</u>	2003 and beyond	1b
35. Programme of field activities and information to share work and experience of Care Groups in Whaingaroa catchment (incl. Wainui farm ).	Wildlife	Environment Waikato, Landcare	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Harbourcare, Care groups.	2003	1b)

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Plan Goals</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Lead group</b>	<b>Collaborators</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Priority</b>
36. Carry out a study/survey of land use, land management practices and some farm economic data in the catchment.	Wildlife; Fishery; Urban + Rural Development	MfE (SMF), Landcare Trust, Sustainable farming fund	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Universities, Landowners, MAg	2003 and every 5 years	2
37. Maintain a register of volunteer treeplanters in the catchment to assist Care groups during planting time.			Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Harbourcare, Waitetuna Streamcare	2002	1b)
38. Support a number of hill farmers interested in sustainability issues to join the 'user group' attached to the Sustainable Hill Country Management research project at Whatawhata or set up a catchment discussion group bringing expertise and experience from that project to Whaingaroa.		Environment Waikato, Land Care Trust, Sustainable Farming Fund, MfE	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Mana whenua, Ministry of Agriculture, Environment Waikato, Landcare Trust	2003 ongoing	2
39. Host series of ongoing activities open to all catchment farmers, focussing on relevant farming issues in the catchment eg riparian protection management of wildlife habitats (including monitoring), erosion control, farm roading etc.	Wildlife; Urban + Rural Development	QE II Trust, Environment Waikato, DoC, WELEnergy, Lotteries, LandCare Trust, Sustainable Farming Fund.	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Mana whenua, , Environment Waikato, DoC, QE II Trust, MAg,	2003	2
40. Network with sustainable farming models and research around the country and build an in-catchment reference collection of resource material (books, pamphlets, posters, videos) on sustainable farming practices.	Wildlife; Urban + Rural Development	Environment Waikato, LandCare Trust	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	EW, MAg, LandCare Trust, Industry groups	2002 ongoing	2
41. Collate and summarise existing rainfall data from the catchment (school project)			Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Catchment Schools, Farmers	2003	3b

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Plan Goals</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Lead group</b>	<b>Collaborators</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Priority</b>
42. Develop a model (hill country?) farm demonstrating sustainable land use practices	Wildlife; Fishery;	Sustainable Farming Fund	Whaingaroa Environment Centre,	Whaingaroa Harbourcare, MAg, Environment Waikato, QE II Trust, Landcare Trust	2003	3b
43. Add one more catchment stream in highly farmed sub-catchment to EW water quality monitoring programme.		Environment Waikato,	Environment Waikato	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	2003	3b
44. Study current patterns, rates, types and sources of sedimentation in the harbour (update of Nelson and Curtis (1986))		Universities, Science Funding	Environment Waikato	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	2004	3b
45. Land Use/Economic study of the farm at Wainui Reserve focussing productivity on best land can have real benefits for farm operation		Environment Waikato, Sustainable Farming Fund, LandCare Trust	Wainui Reserve Committee	Mana whenua, Wainui Reserve Committee, Waikato District Council Whaingaroa Harbourcare, Whaingaroa Environment Centre University, Landcare Trust, DEXCEL or other industry groups.	2004	3b
46. Training and accreditation of heavy plant operators in the catchment		Waikato District Council, Environment Waikato	Environment Waikato, WDC	Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Harbourcare Whaingaroa Environment Centre, Hamilton City Council, plant operators	2004	3b)

### Catchment Focus Three: Looking After Our Fresh and Saltwater Fishery

Project Title	Plan Goals	Funding	Lead group	Collaborators	Timeframe	Priority
47. Support Development of Whaingaroa Harbour Community Fisheries Guidelines	Urban + Rural Development	<u>Discussion process started by Whaingaroa Environment now being driven by several voluntary individuals.</u>	A dedicated working party made up of representatives from many organisations	Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Harbourcare, fishing clubs, commercial fishers, community board, Mfish, Research institutions-NIWA, Universities, <u>Whaingaroa Environment Centre</u>	Ongoing	1a)
48. Collect information from the community on the history of change in the harbour and fisheries.						
49. Cockle bed population monitoring in the Whaingaroa harbour	Wildlife; Urban + Rural Development	Mfish	Raglan Area School	Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Environment Centre, Mfish, NIWA	Ongoing	1b)
50. Collect and collate harbour fish harvest data	Wildlife	Mfish	Mfish with local management group	Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Environment Centre, Sport Fishing Clubs	2003	1b)
51. Implementation of Fisheries Act regulations, monitoring and compliance	Urban + Rural Development;	Mfish	<u>Mana whenua, Whaingaroa Harbourcare</u>	Mfish, mana whenua, the community, fisheries officers, Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Ongoing	1c)
52. Collect and collate formal and informal information on the whitebait and eel fishery.		DoC, Lotteries, WELTrust, Environment Waikato	Mana whenua, DoC, Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Mana whenua, University of Waikato (student), DoC, Ministry of Fisheries, Waikato District Council.	2003	2

## Catchment Focus Four: Looking After the Development of Our Town and Rural Areas

Project Title	Plan Goals	Funding	Lead group	Collaborators	Timeframe	Priority
53. Support the core functions of X'treme Waste community based, zero waste management initiative	Soils, River, Harbour	<u>Environment Waikato, Waikato District Council, Community Employment Group, WEL Energy.</u>	<u>X-treme Waste</u>	<u>Mana whenua, Raglan Business association, Community Board, rural and urban community, catchment schools., Kindergarten, Kohanga Reo, Horticultural and Industrial Society, Whaingaroa Harbourcare, Whaingaroa Environment Centre.</u>	Ongoing	1a)
54. Complete survey of stormwater infiltration into sewerage system and ensure compliance.	Soils, Rivers, Harbour; Wildlife;	Waikato District Council	Waikato District Council	Community	Underway	1c)
55. Development of a waste water disposal system for Raglan that will cope with predicted population growth and have minimal impacts on the environment		Ratepayers/Waikato District Council	Waikato District Council	Mana whenua, appellants to initial proposed Resource Consent, community	2002	1c)
56. Complete implementation of culvert upgrade on WDC maintained roads	Soils, Rivers, Harbour; Wildlife;	Waikato District Council	Waikato District Council	Whaingaroa Harbourcare	Underway	1c)
57. Transit NZ to survey and rectify all barriers to fish passage on State Highways in the catchment	Soils, Rivers, Harbour; Wildlife;	Transit NZ	Transit NZ	Environment Waikato, Whaingaroa Harbourcare, NIWA, DoC, WDC, (to check quality and maintenance	2002	1c)
58. Community Resource Consent Monitoring and Compliance	Soils, Rivers, Harbour Land Use	Voluntary	Mana whenua, <u>Whaingaroa Harbourcare</u>	Waikato District Council, Environment Waikato, the community	Ongoing	1c)
59. Establish and 'artist in residence' programme at X-treme Waste.		NZ Arts Council, Zero Waste Trust,	Te Mauri Tau	X-treme Waste, Mana whenua	2004	3a)
60. Development of X-treme Waste community recycling as par of national training programme for recycling in New Zealand		Zero Waste Trust, CEG.	Zero Waste Trust	X-treme Waste, Mana whenua, Dept. of Labour.	2003/4	3a)

## Appendix II – Table of Targets, Indicators and how the Plan can be monitored

### Catchment Focus One: Looking After Our Natural Areas and Wildlife

**Our Goal by 2025: Wildlife and natural habitats will be maintained as of 2002 in key areas and in some areas species will be restored.**

Target	Indicator	How Often Years	How would information be sourced	Information Source
1. Our knowledge and understanding of wildlife and habitats in the Catchment is comprehensive.	The amount and range of information about catchment wildlife and habitats held in the Catchment	3	Network with local groups	Local groups esp. Whaingaroa Environment Centre
	Traditional and informal community knowledge of the Catchment environment is recorded and maintained in an appropriate manner	3	Network with local groups	Local groups esp. Whaingaroa Environment Centre
	Numbers of programmes to study catchment wildlife and habitats in catchment schools	1	Network with catchment schools	Schools
	Numbers of studies of wildlife and habitats conducted by agencies, institutions and community groups	1	Set up reporting/info flow from agencies, institutions and interest groups	agencies, institutions and interest groups
2. People are interested and care for the environment.	Number of volunteer hours spent on wildlife and habitat projects including restoration	1	Network with local groups, DoC, EW	local groups, DoC, EW
	Number of submissions regarding wildlife and habitat to resource consents, regional and district annual plans and non-statutory policies from Whaingaroa residents	1	Set up reporting from WDC, EW	EW, WDC
	Numbers of people participating in learning activities about wildlife and habitats	1	Set up reporting from WDC, EW, DoC and network with local groups	WDC, EW, DoC and network with local groups
	Number of hits on the Whaingaroa Environment Centre website	1	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Whaingaroa Environment Centre
	Numbers of people visiting the Whaingaroa Environment Centre	1	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Whaingaroa Environment Centre
3. There is no further loss or degradation of key indigenous habitats and species in the Catchment	Number of plant and animal pest control programmes in the catchment including individual landowners	1	Network with EW, DoC, WDC, QE II, Care Groups, Harbourcare and landowners	EW, DoC, WDC, QE II, Care Groups and landowners

Target	Indicator	How Often Years	How would information be sourced	Information Source
	Number of hectares of wildlife habitats fenced to exclude farm animals	5	Set up reporting with QE II, WDC, include as part of 5 year land use study	landowners, WDC, QE II, EW, Care Groups, Harbourcare
	Distribution, extent and/or density of pest plants and animals	3	Set up reporting from EW and DoC.	EW and DoC
	Number of hectares of privately owned wildlife habitat that is formally protected	5	Set up reporting with QE II, WDC, include as part of 5 year land use study	QE II, WDC, DoC.
	Number of threatened wildlife species surviving.	3	Set up reporting with OSNZ, DoC, Botanical Society	OSNZ, DoC, Botanical Society
4. Some wildlife habitats and species are restored	Hectares of wildlife habitat restored	5	Set up reporting with QE II, WDC, DoC, include as part of 5 year land use study	QE II, WDC, DoC, include as part of 5 year land use study
	Number/extent of habitat and species management projects in the Catchment	3	Set up reporting with DoC and network with interest and local groups	DoC, interest groups, local groups
	Numbers of wildlife species recovering in numbers or being reintroduced	3	Network with DoC, interest groups, research institutions	DoC, DoC, interest groups, research institutions
	Extent of riparian margin fenced and planted	1	Network with Harbourcare and Care Groups	Harbourcare and Care Groups
5. District, Regional and National Agencies recognise the special natural values and recreational opportunities of the Whaingaroa Catchment and support Catchment-based sustainable management initiatives.	Number of policies developed that will encourage sustainability and enhancement of wildlife and habitats in the Whaingaroa Catchment	3	Set up reporting from WDC, DOC, EW, QE II.	WDC, DOC, EW, QE II..
	The number of scoping, research and monitoring activities supported by local government and agencies for environmentally sustainable infrastructure options with minimal impact or excellent mitigation measures for wildlife and habitats in the Catchment	3	Set up reporting from WDC, DOC, EW, QE II	WDC, DOC, EW, QE II.
	The amount of support from agencies for community-based initiatives involving looking after wildlife and habitats including fencing and protection costs	1	Set up reporting from WDC, DOC, EW, QE II	WDC, DOC, EW, QE II.

## Catchment Focus Two: Looking After Our Soils and the Water Quality of Our Rivers and Harbour

**Our Goal by 2025: Landowners in the Catchment will implement land use practices that protect soils and water.**

Target	Indicator	How Often Years	How would information be sourced	Information source
1. Local government and landowners are aware of the impacts of different types of land management on the environment and are encouraged to consider alternative management practices.	Number of learning experiences offered to landowners from Whaingaroa catchment and local government officers on the effects of current and alternative land management practices	1	Networking	E.W., Mag, QE II, Landcare Trust
	Number of landowners and local government officers attending above learning experiences	1	Networking	E.W., Mag, QE II
	Number of incentives being offered to landowners to trial more sustainable land use practices	3	Networking	E.W., Mag, QE II, Landcare Trust
2. Local government and landowners change their land management practices to those that have less detrimental impact on the soils and water in the Catchment.	Proportion of resource consents with adequate compliance	1	Set up reporting from EW	E.W.
	Area of/number of Care Groups in the Catchment	1	Set up reporting from EW	EW
	Proportion of catchment farmers involved in Care Groups	1	Set up reporting from EW	EW
	Diversification of agricultural land use and rural income generation	5	Major Research	Research student
	The proportion of erosion-prone land grazed by lighter classes of stock	5	Major Research	Research student
	Hectares of land in organic production or other management practices which aim to protect the soil and water.	5	Major Research	Research student
	Hectares of forestry and indigenous regeneration on erosion-prone areas.	5	Major Research	Research student
	Proportion of farms offering reticulated	5	Major Research	Research student

Target	Indicator	How Often Years	How would information be sourced	Information source
	water to stock			
	Proportion of culverts on farm land allowing fish passage	3	Minor research	Research student
	Water quality, stream ecology and levels of bacteria in shellfish improve	1	Set up reporting from EW and Min. of Health	EW, Min. of Health
	Proportion of Catchment farms participating in industry quality assurance schemes eg EQUAL, DEXEL	1	Set up reporting from industry groups	DEXEL,EQUAL etc.
	Proportion of effluent systems monitored annually for compliance	1	Set up reporting from EW	EW
	Amount of support to catchment landowners for riparian protection	1	Set up reporting from EW, WDC, QE II	EW, WDC, QE II
	Proportion of dairy farmers changing to irrigated farm effluent	1	Set up reporting from EW	EW
3. District, Regional and National Government Agencies recognise the special natural values and recreational opportunities offered by land and water in the Whaingaroa Catchment and the need to sustain rural livelihoods. They support Catchment-based sustainable management initiatives.	Number of policies developed and implemented by local and national government that encourage landowners to change to land management with less detrimental environmental effects e.g. rate relief, targeted incentives, special funds for riparian planting etc.	3	Set up reporting from EW, WDC, DoC, MfE	EW, WDC, DoC, MfE.
	The number of community-based initiatives being fostered and supported by local and national government to achieve sustainable land use in the Whaingaroa catchment.		Set up reporting from EW, WDC, DoC, MfE	EW, WDC, DoC, MfE.

## Catchment Focus Three – Looking After Our Fresh and Saltwater Fishery

**Our Goal by 2025: All plants, animals, fish and shellfish are managed in such a way that the resource is protected so future generations can enjoy their use to the same levels.**

Target	Indicator	How Often	How would information be sourced	Information source
1. Information about the fishery and harbour ecology is collected and shared with local people and visitors.	Numbers of fisher people keeping records of their catches.	1	Network with fishers and fishing clubs	Fishers and Fishing Clubs
	Number of species for which we have ecological/management information held in the catchment	1	Network with MFish, DoC, NIWA, Landcare Research, Universities	MFish, DoC, NIWA, Landcare Research, Universities
	Number of local accounts of past state of the harbour.	1	Record historical accounts from locals or ex-local fishers	Local fishers
	Number of studies of harvested species	1	Network with MFish, DoC, NIWA, Landcare Research, Universities	MFish, DoC, NIWA, Landcare Research, Universities
	Violations of existing and any new management regulations	1	Network with Fisheries Officers	Fisheries Officers
	Number of learning experiences(talks, enforcement days? ,information days, Chronicle articles) offered to fishers/harvesters	1	Network with Fishing clubs and monitoring local activities	Fishing clubs, MFish, local Fisheries Rangers
	2. Harvesters and the wider community participate in management decisions	Numbers of harvesters participating in community initiatives to establish local control/input into species management	1	Network with Fishing clubs and monitoring local activities
The diversity of interests represented in management decisions		1	Network with Fishing clubs and monitoring local activities	Fishing clubs, MFish, local Fisheries Rangers
3. Trial of management methods aimed at achieving sustainable harvests.	Numbers/extent of trial management areas/programmes	1	Network with MFish, Mana Whenua	MFish, Mana Whenua
	Proportion of harvesters participating in management trials	1	Network with Fishing clubs, MFish, Mana Whenua	Fishing clubs, MFish, Mana Whenua
	Monitoring and catch records	3	Network with whoever is monitoring- Fishing clubs, MFish, Mana whenua	Fishing clubs, MFish, Mana whenua
	Area of seagrass	3	student or local person do	EW provide aerial

Target	Indicator	How Often	How would information be sourced	Information source
			study.	photos and loan of equipment.
4. District, Regional and national government acknowledge the special natural values, the recreational and sustenance values of the Whaingaroa harbour and the current fishing pressures and support local efforts to develop sustainable management guidelines and management techniques	Policy is developed and implemented that enables community concerns and desires for sustainable fisheries to be incorporated into statutory management guidelines	1	Set up reporting from MFish, DoC, WDC	MFish DoC, WDC
	Number of scoping, research, trialling and monitoring activities being supported by government agencies that respond to the community desire for sustainable fisheries.	1	Set up reporting from MFish, TPK, MfE , DoC, WDC, local groups	MFish, TPK, MfE , DoC, WDC and local groups

## Catchment Focus Four: Looking After Development of Town and Rural Areas

**Our Goal by 2025: Residents of Whaingaroa choose the kinds of development that will protect and enhance the natural environment.**

Target	Indicator	How Often Years	How would information be sourced	Information Source
1. Catchment residents are aware of current pressures and trends for development in the Whaingaroa catchment and are provided with options for alternatives and are encouraged to participate in planning and decision-making	Number of learning opportunities/forum offered to the public that present information to them on sustainable development options	1	Report from WDC, EW, Community Board and network with local groups	WDC, EW, Community Board and local groups
	Number of people participating in those learning opportunities	1	Report from WDC and Community Board and network with local groups	WDC, EW, Community Board and local groups
	Resource material made publicly available and held in the catchment on sustainable development options		Report from WDC and Community Board and network with local groups	WDC, EW, Community Board and local groups
2. Residents participate in planning and decision-making and support developments that aim to protect the environment through the rating system, personal action or enterprise	The proportion of residents participating in and endorsing the 'Raglan Naturally' Plan	3	Set up reporting form WDC, Community Board	WDC, Community Board
	The 'Raglan Naturally' plan is being implemented	3	Set up reporting form WDC, Community Board	WDC, Community Board
	The proportion of residents participating in and endorsing the 'Whaingaroa Catchment Plan'.	3	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Whaingaroa Environment Centre
	The 'Whaingaroa Catchment Plan' is being implemented.	3	Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Whaingaroa Environment Centre
	The number of people standing for community board with an environmental protection viewpoint	3	Info. from WDC	WDC
	Number of councillors who have an environmental protection/sustainable resource use stance	3	Info. from WDC	WDC

Target	Indicator	How Often Years	How would information be sourced	Information Source
	Ratepayers associations' support of service and infrastructure that is least environmentally damaging	1	Network with Ratepayers associations	Ratepayers associations
	Numbers of submissions to local government and other government agencies from the Whaingaroa catchment on notified resource consent applications, district plans, regional plans, non statutory policies and strategies, reserve management plan etc. supporting/suggesting options with least environmental impact	1	Set up reporting from WDC, EW, DoC	WDC, EW, DoC
	Number of voluntary or community initiatives to develop more sustainable resource use in the service/ infrastructure sector.	1	Network with local groups	Local groups
	Proportion of waste recycled	1	X-treme Waste	X-treme Waste
	Proportion of waste to landfill	1	X-treme Waste	X-treme Waste
	Numbers of dwellings with low energy/resource use features eg composting toilets, solar power.	1	Survey of house owners	house owners
3. District, Regional and National agencies support the catchment plan goals through more environmentally sustainable rural and urban development and service provision that maintains and enhances the catchment environment and quality of life for residents.	The number of scoping, research and monitoring activities (undertaken by district and regional authorities and government agencies) that includes sustainable options for land use and services	1	Set up reporting from WDC, EW	EW, WDC
	The number of services and infrastructure designed and implemented along sustainable resource principles.	1	Network with EW, WDC	EW, WDC
	Number of policies developed and implemented that support sustainable infrastructure and services in the Whaingaroa catchment	3	Network with EW, WDC	EW, WDC

Target	Indicator	How Often	Years	How	would	information	be	sourced	Information	Source
	Number of plan changes introduced that will reduce the environmental impacts of urban and residential development.	5		Network	with	EW,	WDC		EW,	WDC
	Number of restoration projects for existing infrastructure that reduces detrimental impacts on the environment.	1		Network	with	EW,	WDC		EW,	WDC
	The number of community-based initiatives fostered and supported by local and national government that aim towards more sustainable rural and urban growth.	1		Network	with	EW,	WDC	and	local	groups