

3 The scope of Taupo District 2050

3.1 Who will use Taupo District 2050?

Taupo District 2050 will inform the Taupo community about the degree of change which they can expect to see over time in their particular area and within the wider district.

It will provide greater certainty to the development sector and infrastructure providers so that strategic decisions regarding the timing, funding, and provision of infrastructure can be made with confidence.

The Strategy will be used by the Taupo District Council to guide further planning to accommodate growth. That planning will involve a range of strategies, policies, and plans developed under the Local Government Act 2002, Land Transport Management Act 2003, and Resource Management Act 1991.

The Strategy will also inform Council’s partnerships with other key agencies, organisations and central government.

At a regional level the Strategy will assist the Waikato Regional Council to reflect the Taupo District perspective in future reviews of its:

- ➔ Regional Policy Statement,
- ➔ Regional Plan,

- ➔ Regional Land Transport Strategy,
- ➔ Future regional growth management strategies, and
- ➔ Regional funding from central government



3.2 How to use Taupo District 2050

Taupo District 2050 is made up of three volumes.

- ➔ Volume One contains the policies to guide the future management of growth, sets out the pattern of settlement development and outlines the implementation plan.
- ➔ Volume Two details the evaluation of the potential options for the location of future growth.
- ➔ Volume Three pulls together a compilation of background information that has helped inform the evaluation of the options and the development of the Strategy.

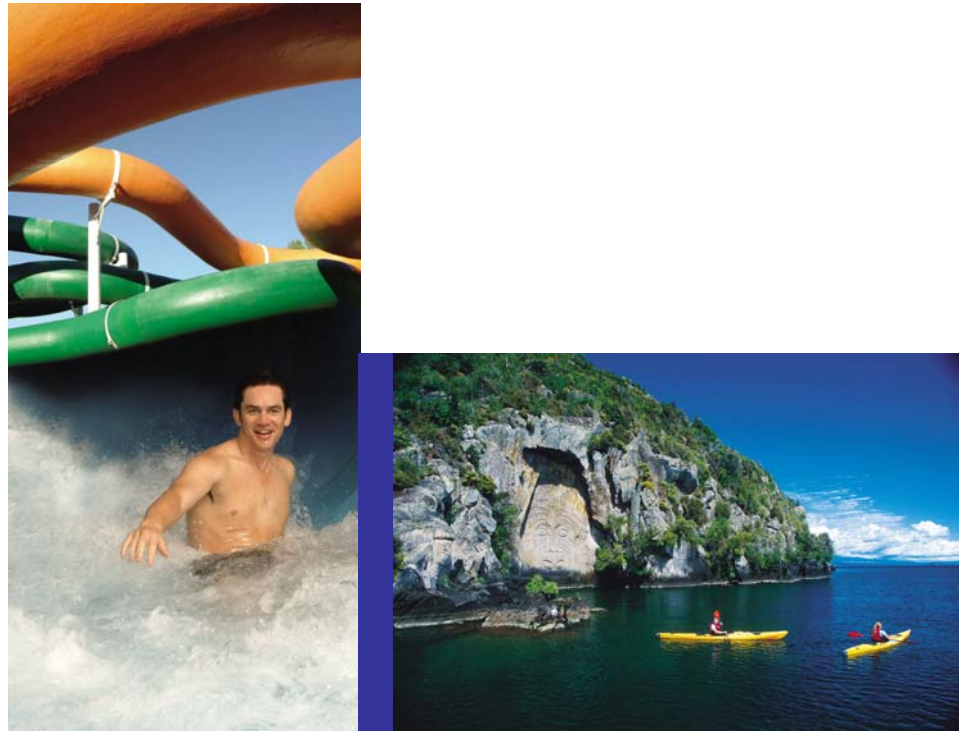


3.3 Why do we need to look ahead?

Taupo District 2050 builds on the previous planning that has been developed as the District has grown.

This strategy takes a pragmatic view of Council’s role in managing the growth of the District. This view is predicated on three assumptions:

- ➔ That growth has and will continue to occur in the District
- ➔ That Council has statutory responsibilities to take action in response to the growth
- ➔ That there is a community expectation that the Council will take an integrated and proactive approach to managing the growth



The purpose of Taupo District 2050 is to establish clear, effective policy and processes for the management of the District’s growth over time, so that:

- ➔ Council demonstrates leadership on growth management on behalf of the community
- ➔ Council makes creative and effective use of all the tools available to successfully manage growth
- ➔ There is a pattern for the development of existing and new settlements and the rural environment
- ➔ Infrastructure is provided in an efficient, affordable, and timely manner.
- ➔ The social cohesion and cultural diversity of communities are strengthened
- ➔ The quality of the natural and built environments is maintained and improved
- ➔ The economy is sustained and encouraged to thrive

Taupo District 2050 is needed to provide the overall direction and coordination so that all of these elements are considered in an integrated manner.

3.4 Council's Growth Management Role

In order to implement Taupo District 2050 successfully Council has a key role in five areas.

Leadership

The District Council will show leadership providing clear direction for future growth, greater certainty for all parts of the community, and the achievement of credible growth management outcomes.

Governance

Taupo District 2050 will provide a strategic framework, which will guide growth management decision-making in Taupo District.

It will provide the direction for all of Council's lower-level planning.

Prudent Stewardship

Council will exercise prudent stewardship over the natural and built environments, community infrastructure and related funding. There is recognition that the costs of growth should be allocated to those creating the need in an equitable manner.

Collaboration and Partnership

It is recognised that whilst Council is taking a leadership role in growth management, successful implementation relies on partnership with

Tangata Whenua, strategic partners, the regional council, and central government.

Central government engagement is critical for successful growth management.

It is about using the best of the public and private sector to implement the strategies and specified actions.

Integrated Approach

Council will take an integrated approach recognising that successful growth management does not occur in isolation. Land use, infrastructure and funding must all be dealt with in an integrated manner.



Integrated planning for sustainable growth



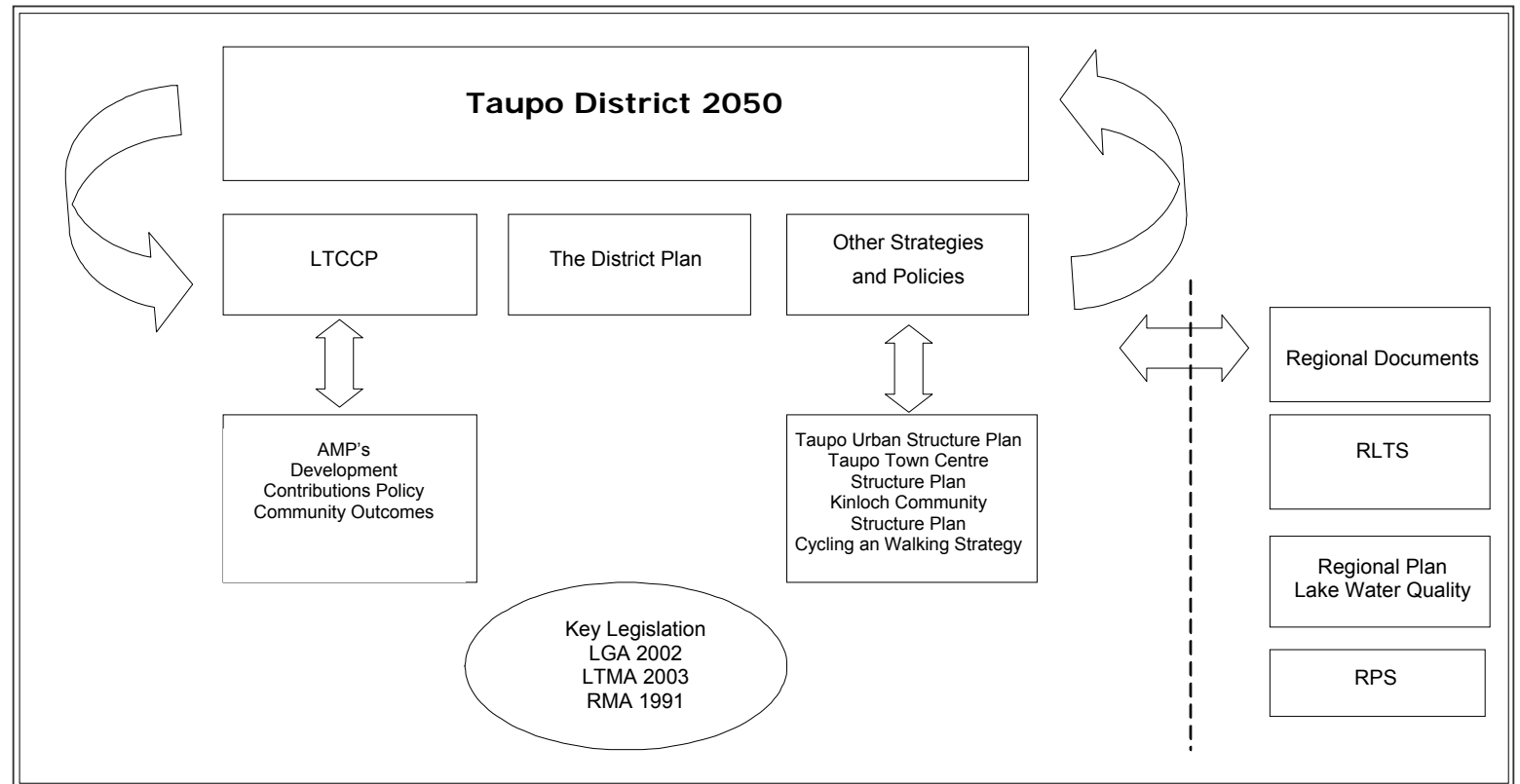
3.5 Relationship to Other Strategies and Plans

The following diagram outlines the relationships between the Taupo District 2050, other Taupo District Council and Regional Council strategies and plans, and relevant legislation.

In essence Taupo District 2050 provides strategic planning direction at the local level. In a regional and national sense Taupo District 2050 is an advocacy tool to influence planning and decision-making insofar as that relates to the District.



Figure 6 Relationship diagram



Integrated planning for sustainable growth



3.6 How was Taupo District 2050 developed?

Taupo District 2050 has been developed through a number of stages:

1. Agreeing the scope of the Strategy

An Inception Report was prepared outlining what Taupo District 2050 would cover, how it would be carried out and what would be produced.

2. Compilation of the “base case” report (Volume Three)

This involved the collection of a wide range of relevant information from various sources. This background information helped paint a picture of what the District looks like now and how it came to be that way. It informed decisions in option development and strategy development.

3. Translating Community Outcomes into a vision for the Taupo District

Taupo District’s Community Outcomes are a set of goals that the community identified. Taupo District 2050 plays a vital role in achieving many of those outcomes.

Early in the process, the Mayor and Councillors were engaged in workshops to help decide what the Community Outcomes meant to Council. This allowed them to determine what Council’s role would be, in working towards those outcomes particularly in terms of growth and development. From these workshops, and meetings with the community and stakeholders the Taupo District 2050 Vision was identified.

4. Identification of potential growth locations

Different areas of the District were identified, in Volume Two Options, as potential locations for growth, based on consultation with the community, elected members, existing plans and by applying some of the concepts from the vision.

5. Evaluation of the potential growth locations

Each potential growth area was evaluated based on a number of criteria developed from consultation with the community and elected members, and by applying some of the concepts from the vision. Some areas were eliminated as being unsuitable for development. Others emerged as being the preferred growth areas. These are identified in Volume Two “Options”.

6. Consulting the community

When the methodology for the Strategy was developed it clearly identified that the consultation would need to be targeted. This was driven by the timeframe for the Strategy which required it to be completed in time to dovetail with the Draft LTCCP process.

In response, the methodology called for the establishment of a Strategic Partners Forum. This forum involved a range of interest groups representing broader community interests such as Town Centre Taupo and Lakes and Waterways Action Group. The advantage of this forum was that it enabled information to be disseminated out to the wider membership of those interest groups. It also enabled the project team to constantly test evolving ideas against a group with a range of different perspectives.





The project team also meet with a range of key stakeholders on a number of different occasions. Meetings were held with Transit, Mighty River Power, Contact Energy, Department of Conservation, Landcorp and Environment Waikato. These meetings were an important part of the targeted consultation process as the key stakeholders have had major influences on the way that the District has developed and will continue to grow into the future.

As part of the development of the Strategy consultation was also undertaken with tangata whenua.

A meeting was called by the Mayor of the Taupo District and the Paramount Chief of Tuwharetoa on 21 December 2005. Also invited to that meeting were the representatives of many of the economic authorities of Tuwharetoa. As part of that meeting there was discussion between the parties regarding the Strategy, which was being drafted at the time, and the appropriate process for moving the Strategy forward with Tuwharetoa. It was agreed that it would not be possible to meet with all of the individual hapu and economic trusts, just as it was not possible to meet with all interested land owners or other interest groups, and that the Strategy should move forward. There was also agreement that this is to be a living document that will require regular review as circumstances change. To that end it was agreed that it was imperative that there continues to be ongoing engagement between Taupo District Council and Tuwharetoa.

Specific meetings were held with a number of different Trusts to gauge individual perspectives as the Strategy developed. On going discussions were also held with a reference group to ensure that the Strategy appropriately reflected the contribution of Ngati Tuwharetoa to the District and allowed enough flexibility to help meet their needs into the future

7. Drafting Taupo District 2050

The Strategy, implementation plan, and timelines were developed in parallel with the ongoing consultation, and the supporting information contained in Volumes Two and Three.

8. Peer Review

The methodology outlined in the Inception Report specifically identified the need for two separate consultants to be involved from the commencement of the development of the Strategy. Their primary role was to provide ongoing peer review and input as the Strategy developed, based on previous experience and knowledge gained through doing similar work.

Ken Tremaine Consulting Ltd and Wasley Knell Consultants Ltd were contracted as the consultants for the project. They were specifically chosen because of their combined experience in undertaking growth management and development strategy formulation and implementation in a range of areas including, the Western Bay of Plenty, Eastern Bay of Plenty, Rotorua, Greater Christchurch, the Far North, Papakura, Nelson, Queenstown and Wanaka. Their wide exposure to different issues and approaches to growth and development has assisted to ensure that this Strategy has not repeated the mistakes made by others, utilises successful approaches and ensuring there is a sound basis for strategy implementation.

They have both visited and undertaken assessment and research on the "South East Queensland" approach to growth management. Often many of the issues are the same it is just the scale of numbers that are different.

Another important element of the Strategy development process was the input from the Strategic Partners Forum. This forum was established to provide independent input into strategy development, which is another form of peer review. The forum purposefully consisted of a range of different interest groups like Vision 2020, the Lake Taupo Development Company and the Lakes and Waterways Action Group. These different interest groups provided their own unique perspectives and ensured that robust debate occurred and assisted in shaping the Strategy.

9. Adoption of Taupo District 2050

Taupo District 2050 was publicly notified for consultation in conjunction with the 2006-16 Long Term Council Community Plan using the special consultative procedure. Adoption of Taupo District 2050 is anticipated at the end of June 2006.

