



Tūrangi Reserves Context Summary Document

September 2025



Document Updates

Date	Description
3/9/25	Section 10.1 added Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 to relevant legislation
5/9/25	Section 6.8 description of Water Supply Reserve updated text to include the existing area of commercial forestry operations. Section 4, 10.3 inclusion of reference to McLaren Park Management Plan 1994 and Waipapa Reserve Management Plan 1994.

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1. Introduction

This context document sets out the key relevant information that has informed the Tūrangi Reserves Management Plan. While it is not possible to cover every detail of relevant information in this summary, this context document provides a reference to help direct where to find more information. References to the relevant information are included, and this document will be updated as required.

The context summary document covers:

- Ngāti Tūrangitukua values
- Historical information
- Purpose of a reserve management plan
- Legal requirements
- Reserve descriptions and features
- Summary of community engagement and feedback
- Reserve issues and opportunities
- Relevant documents.

This context summary and the Tūrangi reserves management plan have been co-drafted between Ngāti Tūrangitukua representatives and Taupō District Council. The Tūrangi reserves management plan relates to the reserves in the Tūrangi township that are in Ngāti Tūrangitukua ownership, along with the reserves that are under Taupō District Council administration.

This document and the accompanying reserves management plan have been prepared under the guidance of the Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe agreement between Ngāti Tūrangitukua and Taupō District Council established in 2022. This agreement outlines the partnership commitments made by both parties and how the partnership of the reserves management will be achieved.

The Tūrangi reserves have deep cultural heritage and significance to Ngāti Tūrangitukua. The reserves (and the wider Tūrangi township) are cultural landscapes. Along with the cultural significance of the lands and their reserves; there are the historical grievances that were suffered by Ngāti Tūrangitukua during compulsory land acquisitions of the government of the time. A summary of these events is outlined in this document.

Considering the high cultural significance of the Tūrangi reserves and the status of Ngāti Tūrangitukua hapū as mana whenua; this context document and the reserve management plan are drafted with Ngāti Tūrangitukua values at the forefront.

2. Ngāti Tūrangitukua

THE NGĀTI TŪRANGITUKUA VISION:

Tūrangitukua standing tall within the kawa and tikanga of Pihanga

Ngāti Tūrangitukua is [mana whenua](#) of Tūrangi and maintains [kaitiakitanga](#) over their [rohe](#) and area of interest. Ngāti Tūrangitukua claim the [kaitiakitanga](#) and [rangatiratanga](#) over all properties and assets within its immediate area of influence and in accordance with its own [tikanga](#) and [whakapapa](#).¹

Ngāti Tūrangitukua is a [hapū](#) of Ngāti Tūwharetoa [iwi](#), descended from their ancestor; Tūrangitukua. At the time that Ngāti Tūwharetoa established themselves in the inland parts of the central North Island; their ancestor Tūrangitukua was [Ariki](#). His parents were Ariki Tunono and Te Rangihuruao.

Te Rangihuruao (Tūrangitukua's mother) had influence over the length of Kaimanawa and from Ngaruroro in Kaweka to Tongariro. Eventually; homesteads were established on both sides of the Tongariro River and its tributaries.

Settlement was also established along what is now known as Hīrangi Road. Hīrangi is the name of the marae on Ngāti Tūrangitukua whenua situated at the foot of Pihanga [maunga](#). Its full name "Te Hī o te Rangi" refers to the heat shimmer rising from the [onepū](#) along the Tongariro River. Hīrangi marae was established around 1910.

2.1 Tūrangitukua Values

Reference to Ngāti Tūrangitukua values and principles are more appropriately outlined within [hapū](#) cultural assessments and documents by representative hapū members. The values and principles that are outlined in this document are the key ones that have informed the reserves management plan but are not the only ones to consider.

A cultural values and impact assessment was prepared in 2017 by Tihia Ltd for the development of the reserves management plan. A hapū [wānanga](#) was held in July 2025 to discuss the wider reserve values and guiding principles. These were aligned with the Tūrangi Co-Governance Committee Partnership Plan 2024. A broader assessment of the township is proposed to be undertaken in 2025/2026. An update of that assessment will be added to this document.

The following values and principles are taken from the Tihia cultural values and impact assessment, Tūrangi Co-Governance Committee Partnership Plan and hapū wānanga. The values and aspirations of the Tūrangi Co-Governance Committee help to provide a guide to the development of Council's key policies, plans, strategies and bylaws that are within the Mana Whakahono boundary area.

Of relevance these include:

Pihanga Manaakitanga and Aroha

Embodying the nurturing care and protection of Pihanga, inspired by the sustaining spirit of a mother, emphasising decisive determined actions rooted in [aroha](#) and [manaakitanga](#) to ensure the well-being of the Tūrangi community. Pihanga teaches us to care deeply and act decisively for our community's well-being.

Tū Hikitia

Gather, support and uplift our heritage, culture and collective aspirations. Tying [hapū](#) and [whānau](#) within the region with deep ancestral connections to the land and its [pūrākau](#). Tū Hikitia is at the heart of our efforts to preserve and celebrate our cultural heritage, informing programmes that connect us with our roots and shared aspirations.

¹ Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe between Ngāti Tūrangitukua and Taupō District Council.

Kaitiakitanga of Te Taiao

Commits us to environmental stewardship leading to sustainable practices that protect and restore our natural surroundings.

Rangatiratanga

Weave together diverse contributions of our community with integrity, diligence and deep respect for self-determination. To bind together a group. Rangatiratanga emphasises collaboration – pivotal in our approach to governance and community engagement.

These values steer our community aspirations, mapping a path toward a united, prosperous and resilient future for Tūrangi.

2.2 Tūrangitukua Principles

Along with these key values, key principles are applied to enhance cultural values within the reserves.

Mana and Ahi Kā

[Hapū](#) have a living and enduring presence and are valued within our rohe. Ngāti Tūrangitukua hold [ahi kā](#) and [mana whenua](#) around the southern end of Lake Taupō moana with Tūrangi township forming the homelands.

Tohu

Significant sites are identified, managed, protected, and enhanced. There are many [tohu](#) within the Tūrangi reserves, and there are two specific reserves identified as [wāhi tapu](#).

Whakapapa and Mahi Toi

Hapū names and narratives are celebrated, captured, and expressed creatively and appropriately. The names of the reserves are important to Ngāti Tūrangitukua as they reflect Tūrangitukua [whakapapa](#) and connection to our [whenua](#).

Taiao and Mauri Tū

The natural environment and its health is protected, restored, and/or enhanced. Use of the reserves must ensure that recreational activities are compatible with the te [taiao](#) and ensure ongoing [mauri tū](#). This may include appropriate restoration to the mauri of the environment and a community approach to ongoing care and maintenance.



Hirangi Marae photo source Ngāti Tūrangitukua Charitable Trust

3. Reserves History

The history of the reserves in Tūrangi and the wider whenua cannot be adequately summarised into one page. This is a brief overview taken from previous cultural assessments of the area. In instances where further work or specific projects are proposed for the Tūrangi reserves, it is recommended that more extensive research be undertaken relating to those reserves.

As mentioned in the previous section; Tūrangi comprises the ancestral lands of Ngāti Tūrangitukua hapū and the area was owned and farmed by whānau of the hapū. All of the lands that were taken for the Tūrangi town including the reserves were once under the ownership of Ngāti Tūrangitukua.

When European settlement reached the Tūrangi area in the 1880s the population increased with the introduction of the trout fishery. By 1960 the settlement reached a population of around 500, centred on the river corridor. This was known as the Taupahi area.



Aerial photo of the Taupahi area 1958 and surrounding farms in the Tūrangi area, source Retrolens.co.nz

During the 1960's; the government created the Tongariro power development scheme. It chose the Tūrangi area for a new township that would service the large workforce needed to construct the project. Between 1962 and 1964 the government acquired a significant portion of Ngāti Tūrangitukua ancestral land to construct the town. This land was taken under the Public Works Act 1928 and the Tūrangi Township Act 1964.



Aerial photo of the start of construction for the Tūrangi township 1964, source Retrolens.co.nz

At the height of the construction projects during the 1970s, the Tūrangi population peaked at around 9,000. At this time, several parks and reserves were set aside for public use. Significant historical grievances were suffered by Ngāti Tūrangitukua at this time. A Treaty of Waitangi claim was lodged in 1989 and considered by the

Waitangi Tribunal in 1994. The basis of the claim was the taking of extensive areas of ancestral land owned by Ngāti Tūrangitukua whānau.



Aerial photo showing the construction of the Tūrangi township 1967, source Retrolens.co.nz

After negotiations in 1999, the [Ngāti Tūrangitukua Claims Settlement Act](#) was passed. The Treaty of Waitangi tribunal found that the Crown had breached the Treaty principles and adversely impacted Ngāti Tūrangitukua hapū.

The Crown apology noted that it failed to consult fully or adequately with Ngāti Tūrangitukua throughout the process of construction of the Tūrangi township and did not give due respect to Ngāti Tūrangitukua; in particular their kaumātua and their mana as tāngata whenua.

Part of the settlement redress led to the return of confiscated Tūrangitukua land including what is now more commonly known as the reserve lands within the Tūrangi township. These reserves were returned to Ngāti Tūrangitukua by vesting

them with the [Ngāti Tūrangitukua Charitable Trust](#). They include Te Kapua Park, Tūrangitukua Park, Te Rangikahekeiwaho, Taupahi, Water Supply and the reserves surrounding Hangarito Stream.

Ngāti Tūrangitukua hapū has post treaty settlement governance status through the Ngāti Tūrangitukua Charitable Trust. This is the entity that manages the Ngāti Tūrangitukua owned reserves on behalf of the hapū.

Along with the return of these reserve lands to the hapū there was an agreement for Taupō District Council to continue to maintain and manage them for the benefit of the wider Tūrangi community. In general, these reserves are to continue to be managed consistent with their reserve purpose. There are some exceptions such as the Kutai Street reserves and Kohineheke reserve.

In 2012 around 20 reserve names and local roads in Tūrangi that were previously misspelled or inappropriately named were corrected or changed to reflect their Ngāti Tūrangitukua whakapapa and history. Some examples of these were McLaren Park to Te Kapua Reserve, Cherry Tree Reserve to Koko Reserve, Kaheke Place to Te Rangikahekeiwaho Place, Tautahanga Road to Te Rangitautahanga Road, and Tod Close to Wharepapa Close.



Aerial photo showing the current Tūrangi township, source Taupō District Council

4. Purpose of Reserve Management Plans

Reserve management plans are a requirement under the Reserves Act 1977. The Tūrangi reserves management plan sets out how reserves in Tūrangi will be used, managed, and protected. It reflects the community's vision while safeguarding the values and purposes of each reserve.

Most reserves within the reserves management plan are for recreation, however some also support essential services, such as water supply or utility access. These reserves still contribute to recreation and connectivity across Tūrangi.

Previously there were two reserve management plans for the Tūrangi reserves. A plan for Te Kapua Park was developed under the name [McLaren Park Management Plan](#) when the reserve held that name in 1994, and a plan for [Waipapa Reserve Management Plan](#) in the same year.

This reserve management plan replaces the previous plan and applies to the key recreation and community reserves in Tūrangi. It will help guide future decision-making and can support funding applications through Council's Long-term Plan and other grants.

4.1 Recreation Reserves Purpose

Recreation reserves are for the purpose of providing recreation and sporting activities. They are for the welfare and enjoyment of the public and must also provide for protection of the natural environment and the beauty of the countryside.

Recreation reserves typically include playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields, neighbourhood parks and outdoor activity areas. These reserves can be leased for community activities, however there are specific requirements to ensure that leasing is done in a way that gives effect to the purpose of the reserve. In Tūrangi these reserves the bowling, squash and golf clubs and clubrooms in Te Rangikahekeiwaho reserve.

4.2 Local Purpose Reserves

Local purpose reserves are not usually included in reserve management plans because they tend to have a specific utility use or service. These reserves often have limited opportunities for the community to input due to their primary purpose – for example they might hold underground services for the local community or hold the town water supply.

Some local purpose reserves are included in this management plan; being Water Supply reserve, the connector reserves and a portion of Te Kapua Park (at the Senior Citizen's Hall). Water Supply reserve is included because it has important cultural values and specific access management considerations. The connector reserves are included because they have an element of recreation use to them. The local purpose community buildings area of Te Kapua is included as it is for the purpose of providing facilities for the community. These reserves are described further in reserve descriptions in the reserves management plan.

5. Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe Agreement

The Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe is the partnership agreement between Ngāti Tūrangitukua and Taupō District Council. It has specific matters to consider when developing the reserves management plan for Tūrangi.

A shared te matawhānui of the Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe is;

NGĀTI TŪRANGITUKUA

Nā te mahi tahi tātou e auaha ai te taurikura mō Ngāti Tūrangitukua. By working together, we will create a future for Ngāti Tūrangitukua.

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Council's aspirations are to work in partnership with Ngāti Tūrangitukua reflecting their status as mana whenua by working together.

This agreement amongst many things provides for a partnership approach between Ngāti Tūrangitukua and Taupō District Council to develop and co-manage the reserves in Tūrangi. The reserves that it covers are provided in an appendix to the agreement.

This partnership approach is achieved through the Tūrangi Co-Governance committee made up of equal representation of Council governance and Ngāti Tūrangitukua hapū members. In doing so, the Co-Governance committee directly engages with the Ngāti Tūrangitukua Charitable Trust.

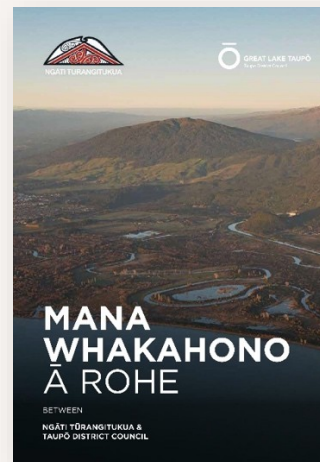
The relevant parts of the Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe are:

- The reserve management plan will provide the strategic direction for the future management and other activities in relation to the reserves.

- The Co-Governance committee has the discretion to exclude any local purpose reserve from the management plan if it thinks appropriate to do so.
- The Council can include the Tūrangi reserves management plan as a chapter of a broader reserve management plan for the wider Taupō district.

The relevant operations matters are:

- The council will continue to undertake the operational management of the reserves.
- The Committee will work through a process with the Ngāti Tūrangitukua Charitable Trust to identify and facilitate opportunities for Ngāti Tūrangitukua to be involved in the management of the reserves.



6. Description of the Tūrangi Reserves

Tūrangi town is the northern gateway to the Tongariro National Park. It is popular for its connections to the national park along with recreational fly fishing of trout on the Tongariro River.

The reserves are mostly located within the urban area of Tūrangi, providing recreation, sports parks, playgrounds, and pedestrian access between streets and connections to the river.

The reserves covered in the management plan include;

- Tūrangitukua Sports Park
- Te Kapua Park
- Te Rangikahekeiwaho Reserve
- Waipapa Reserve
- Taupahi, Firebreak, Te Koko Reserves
- Reserves A-E and Part Tūrangi Park Reserve (Hangarito Stream)
- Water Supply reserve
- Tūrangi Golf Course and Squash Club
- Connector reserves.

The main reserves are Ngāti Tūrangitukua reserves with the exception of the Tūrangi Golf Course, Squash Club and residential connector reserves.

Local purpose plantation, utility and car parking reserves are not included in the reserves management plan. This is because their functional requirements are infrastructure and services and there is little ability for the community to have input on these reserves. Road corridor and Crown reserves are not included as these are either covered by other legislation or they are managed by other agencies.

The local purpose connector reserves are included in the Tūrangi reserves management plan because of their open space recreational use. Similarly, the local purpose Water Supply reserve is included to address sensitivities around public access. This is explained further in the following sections.

6.1 Tūrangitukua Park

Tūrangitukua Park is a recreation reserve and the largest of the Tūrangi reserves being open grass fields and located just out of the main town area. It is mostly used for field sports like rugby, league, and football with two of the fields having lighting for evening use. The fields are also used for marae sports, Matariki celebrations, horse events, grazing, and for music events. Equestrian wooden pens were established in 2010 by the Tūwharetoa Polocrosse club. These require maintenance. Community horse events are still held at the park.

Tūrangitukua Park is also home to the recently established Te Mataapuna sports club rooms. Along with servicing sporting clubs, Te Mataapuna also acts as a community facility for rent with a main hall and kitchen.

6.2 Te Kapua Park

Te Kapua Park is partially recreation reserve and partially local purpose – community. It is centrally located to the Tūrangi township and is home to the key community facilities in Tūrangi including; the public swimming pools, new award winning papa tākaro, Senior Citizens Hall, skate park, gym, netball, tennis and basketball courts. Its location makes the reserve an ideal hub for community activities.

Te Kapua papa tākaro was a partnership project between Ngāti Tūrangitukua and Taupō District Council. The playground integrates local history, storytelling and cultural narrative into its signage and play spaces. It is valued and enjoyed by young families and children.

6.3 Te Rangikahekeiwaho Reserve and Bowling Club

Te Rangikahekeiwaho Reserve is a recreation reserve and contains an access road, car parking and four buildings for community use, currently housing Manaaki Fitness, Artworks Studio, and Whanau Ora ki Tūwharetoa. One building is currently

disused. [Pā harakeke](#) was planted in the reserve by the Scouts club around 1983. There has been lack of maintenance over the years. Ngāti Tūrangitukua Charitable Trust has developed a guide called “Care and Maintenance of a Pā Harakeke.” Adjacent to this reserve is the Tūrangi Bowling Club. Both are Ngāti Tūrangitukua reserves.

6.4 Waipapa Reserve

Waipapa Reserve is a Tūrangitukua reserve on the northern entrance to Tūrangi beside State Highway 1. It is a recreation reserve with a carpark that provides a rest stop for travellers and stopping point for truck drivers. The car park is used by locals and visitors to park, cross the highway and access the Tongariro River Trail for walking and biking.

Waipapa reserve features a scenic nature walkway with mosaic artworks created by local community members. This walkway leads directly into town and Council customer service centre. Waipapa Reserve also features a disc golf course, and off-leash dog exercise area.

The legal boundary of Waipapa Reserve is smaller than the physical grass area utilised as reserve. The remaining part of the reserve is within the State Highway 1 corridor and therefore under the administration New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi.

6.5 Taupahi, Firebreak, Te Koko Reserves

These are Tūrangitukua reserves and are recreation reserves located adjacent to the Tongariro River Trail off Taupahi Road.

Taupahi reserve has a carpark and is often used as a pick-up point for white-water rafting trips on the Tongariro. The reserve directly connects to the Tongariro River Trail for walking, biking and fishing. The grassed area of the reserve offers facilities including public toilets, a children's play area, and an off-leash dog exercise area. The portion of the river here is often used for swimming.

Firebreak and Te Koko reserves provide pedestrian access and linkage from the road frontage to the Tongariro River trail.

6.6 Hangarito Stream (A, B, C, D, E Reserves)

The Hangarito Stream has been identified by Ngāti Tūrangitukua as a place of special significance. It is a combination of recreation reserve and local purpose – drainage reserve.

As the only relatively natural waterway still running through the township, it is an important location for biodiversity and water quality improvements.

The area is officially identified by the nondescript identifiers of Reserves A,B,C,D,E and Part Tūrangitukua Park Reserve. This is not an appropriate reflection of the reserve or its importance.

6.7 Part Tūrangitukua Park

This recreation reserve connects the lower stream corridor from A, B, C, D, E reserves (Hangarito Stream) to Tūrangitukua Park. Pedestrian recreation access extends through the reserve with a small bridge crossing the stream corridor. The wider reserve forms an important ecological connection and corridor along Hangarito Stream. Not currently appropriately named.

6.8 Water Supply Reserve

The reserve known as the Water Supply Reserve is a Ngāti Tūrangitukua reserve. It is set aside as local purpose – water supply. The area has been identified by Ngāti Tūrangitukua as a place of special significance. The area is mostly vegetated in regenerating native bush. A draft significant natural area is identified over the regenerating bush in the [2019 Wildlands assessment](#), there are wildling pines within this area. The reserve has commercial plantation forestry along the eastern boundary. This is due for harvesting around 2028 to 2030.

The current name reference of the reserve as a water supply reserve is not an appropriate reflection of the reserve or its importance.

6.9 Tūrangi Golf Course and Squash Club

Tūrangi Golf Course is on the southern entrance to Tūrangi on State Highway 1. The golf course operates on council administered land. The Tūrangi Golf Club was established in 1967, initially without a golf course. Two years later, members formed nine temporary greens and in 1971 the full 18 holes were opened. The golf course is surrounded by pockets of deciduous trees and foliage, featuring a showy autumn display.

An ecological assessment by [Singers Ecological 2025](#) identifies three wetland areas that qualify as significant natural areas. Wetland 1 is 0.49 hectares. Areas of native secondary forest adjacent to wetland 1 are also included as significant. Wetland 2 is 2.1 hectares Wetland 3 is 0.673 hectares. Wetlands are nationally threatened, and these wetlands have moderate to high representation of wetland habitat. Long-tailed bats (pekapeka-tou-roa) are present. The ecological assessment by Singers

2025 includes management recommendations. A cultural values assessment for the golf course is to be undertaken.

Adjacent to the golf course reserve is the Tūrangi squash club. This reserve includes the squash club building and shares a portion of the car park with the golf club.

6.10 Residential Connector Reserves

The Connector Reserves are local purpose – utility Council administered reserves. They are medium sized green spaces that serve as accessways between streets. They tend to be the width of a standard residential section and around five sections deep. They provide a non-motorised access link between the meandering streets and cul-de-sac roads in Tūrangi.

While most of the connector reserves are classified as local purpose utility reserves due to their primary purpose of access, around half feature playground equipment such as swings and seesaws.

7. Significant Values within the Reserves

The reserves within Tūrangi have areas of significant value. These are areas that are considered to be matters of national importance under the Resource Management Act 1991 and require protection. At the time of creating this document this Act is the key environmental legislation implemented through national policy statements, regional and district plans (amongst others). The Taupō District Plan has specific provisions relating to these matters to consider.

Areas of significant value may be more wide reaching; however, this section provides a summary of the recorded areas of significant value. This is based on technical studies; cultural values and impact assessment, recorded archaeological sites, ecological and landscape assessments and definition of natural character areas.

7.1 Cultural Sites / Wāhi Tapu

Areas of wāhi tapu within the Tūrangi reserves include Hangarito Stream and the Water Supply Reserve. The specific reasons for their wāhi tapu status are sensitive to Ngāti Tūrangitukua and not for publication. However, cultural assessments identify these sites as having significant cultural value. These assessments recommend that public access to these areas remain restricted and that this be clearly stated in the reserve management plan.

The Tūrangi Golf Course also has sites of cultural significance being located on the lower slopes of Pihanga. Findings of the cultural assessment will be added here.

7.2 Archaeology

Recorded archaeological sites are located throughout the foothills of Pihanga to Tihia, Kakarama and through Tokaanu.

Archaeological sites near the Tūrangi Golf Course and Water Supply reserve provide evidence of early habitation in the area. They include; a homestead, pā, and pits. These are recorded as archaeological sites T19/259, 260, 261, 262.

7.3 Ecological and Landscape Values

The Tūrangi reserves that are located along the streams and rivers and along the base of Pihanga have remnant and regenerating ecological and landscape values. The recorded sites are within Water Supply reserve and Tūrangi Golf Course. All of the riverside and stream connector reserves have the potential to be ecologically restored and provide a connection to these recorded sites. These are explained further by location:

Water Supply Reserve

A portion of Water Supply reserve includes Significant Natural Area (SNA) 070 Te Ponganga Saddle Road Forest. Here the vegetation is noted as whauwhaupaku-kānuka/rāhau, kamahi-rewarewa, kōhūhū-māhoe forest.

The Significant Natural Area criteria met are 9 and 11. It is noted as a healthy representative of indigenous vegetation and part of an ecological corridor extending from Tongariro National Park to the Otorohonga district. It provides an ecological buffer to the north-eastern boundary of the Tongariro National Park.

Part of Water Supply reserve includes Amenity Landscape Area (ALA) 33 – Pihanga Base North in the Taupō District plan. The important landscape values here are noted as; “a continuous visual open space backdrop to the Tūrangi and Tokaanu townships, high amenity value, not as prominent as the mountain.” Upper Pihanga is identified as an Outstanding Natural Landscape.

Tūrangi Golf Course

The Tūrangi Golf Course contains three wetland areas. Under the Waikato Regional Council significance criteria, all wetlands have significant value due to their threatened status. The small wetland areas are located within the vegetated areas between the grassed fairways and are in good condition. The golf course also contains a significant area of regenerating kānuka forest within an adjoining

vegetated area. The wetland vegetation type is noted as dominantly wetland plants; harakeke, raupō, kiokio fern and sedge grasses. Toetoe and mānuka are also present. Indigenous Long-tailed bats were detected within the significant natural areas.

7.4 Natural Character Values

Natural Character in the Taupō District Plan is addressed through the Foreshore Protection Area. This is a 20m natural character corridor alongside defined lakes and rivers including the Tongariro River. The district plan requires a 5m building setback

from this corridor. None of the reserves the Tūrangi reserves management plan are located within the Foreshore Protection Area, however one reserve – Taupahi is within the 5m building setback.

Natural character is also addressed in the district plan through identifying all wetlands in the district in the Natural Values section. Tūrangi Golf Course wetlands that have high natural character and are subject to these provisions.

8. Recreation Values

Tūrangi's reserves are highly valued by its community and by visitors, particularly for their diversity. They are what gives Tūrangi its feeling of being nestled in the trees in a river and mountain setting.

The key values through community feedback is that reserves are valued for community events and for whānau and hapū cultural and sporting events. Of particular note was; Waitangi day celebrations, pā wars, Christmas in the park, Matariki celebrations, field sports games and horse events.

The Taupō District Council Recreation and Sport Strategy 2023 has specific principles for providing and improving the reserves in the district. These are also outlined below.

8.1 Open Space Values

The combination of river corridor, strong visual connection to Pihanga, parkland reserves and abundance of trees provide the town with an open space and natural character unique to the Taupō district. Tūrangi (and Mangakino) are not as densely vegetated settlements. Deciduous trees and seasonal autumn colour are important to the open space values of Tūrangi both for visitors and locals. This colour is striking when viewed within the evergreen native vegetation setting of the Tongariro River corridor.

The combination of low-density housing and vegetated network add to the open space feel of Tūrangi as the northern gateway to the Tongariro National Park. This is highly valued by the community and visitors, particularly those who come to Tūrangi for fishing and connections to the mountains. The reserves play an important role in providing these values.

8.2 Sportsgrounds and Facilities

The Council's Recreation and Sports Strategy notes that sportsgrounds and facilities like pools are important for promoting social connections to the community and venues for events and competitions. Tūrangi's sportsgrounds and facilities provide for

a wide range of activities for a small population. Te Mataapuna in particular is identified in community feedback as being highly valued.

Council's principle on sports grounds and facilities is that it acknowledges the role and benefit these provide to the community, but with restricted budgets and limited resources this needs to be done in a measured way.

8.3 Signage, Wayfinding, Cultural Narrative

Signage and story boards are a way to communicate the important cultural narrative and information about the reserves. Early community engagement noted signage is highly valued but there is a lack of appropriate history in the reserves. The community feedback noted support for further information on Ngāti Tūrangitukua history, where hapū see this as being appropriate.

8.4 Infrastructure and Services

Recreation and open space reserves are not ideal locations for utilities and infrastructure services. However, at times they are the only practical location available. From time to time some services are required to be located within recreation and open space reserves. This needs to be balanced against the open space and recreation values of the reserves and particular consideration is needed on the design, colours, and location within a reserve. The Taupō District plan has specific provisions on this type of development in reserves.

8.5 Public Access

Most of the reserves within the Tūrangi reserves management plan are publicly accessible. There are some where public access is not desirable due to cultural reasons or specific management requirements. Hangarito Stream reserves (A, B, C, D, E) and Water Supply reserves are examples of these.

9 Reserve Issues and Opportunities

9.1 Community Engagement

Community engagement on the Tūrangi Reserves Management Plan began in 2016 with 17 responses from the community received. The project was then put on hold while the Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe was being established.

Community engagement began again in February 2025. This included online feedback forms, community engagement sessions at the weekend Tūrangi market and an engagement session with the Tūrangi Rangatahi Hub. During the 2025 engagement, 33 responses were received, and the feedback was collated with the 2016 responses. In total 50 responses from the community were received.

In addition, submissions from the 2024 Long-term Plan were collated from Ngāti Tūrangitukua hui-a-hapū, and from Ngāti Tūrangitukua Charitable Trust submissions. Specifically, responses and submissions as they related to the reserves in Tūrangi. These were added to the overall feedback responses.

The Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe Committee Partnership Plan was prepared in 2024. This presents the committee's vision and plans for Tūrangi and is relevant to the reserves and their management. These aspirations are considered in the reserves management plan.

A hapū wānanga with Ngāti Tūrangitukua was held on Saturday 5th July to discuss hapū aspirations and desired outcomes for the reserves. This reinforced matters raised in previous engagement. Also, the importance of the relationship of Ngāti Tūrangitukua with Pihanga, and the need to incorporate her into the values of the reserves management plan.

9.2 Key Topics

The key themes from the overall feedback are:

- Cultural values
- Natural values
- Public Access and Safety
- Recreation Values
- Events and Licences
- Art, Commemorative features and Remembrance in reserves

9.3 Summary of Issues

The key issues from feedback are:

- **Cultural values** – The need to protect and respect areas of wāhi tapu, and acknowledge the reserves owned by Ngāti Tūrangitukua.
- Not appropriate for public to access culturally sensitive reserves.
- History/stories are not captured and displayed on reserves.
- Concern that historical leases are automatically renewed rather than going through an appropriate process.
- Some reserves still not appropriately named.
- **Natural values** – Fly-tipping in reserves a concern, some feel it is because of high rubbish tip dumping fees.
- Some reserves are overgrown, invasive weeds, gully and stream area in need of restoration. Improvements to stormwater needed.
- **Recreation values** – Concern over vandalism and need to minimise anti-social and illegal behaviour. Particularly in the connector reserves.

- Lack of park furniture and public toilets at key reserves.
- Concerns for mosaic art (at Waipapa reserve) being vandalised
- Lack of facilities, e.g. toilets, BBQ, picnic tables, some need removing and no longer fit for purpose.
- Replace old facilities with a new indoor multipurpose facility for sports and community centre.
- Not enough for rangatahi to do.
- Signage needs improving.
- **Events, Commercial Activities** – Lack of process to assess commercial and non-commercial activities and use of reserves.
- Uncertainty of what the process is for events and who to contact in council.

9.4 Summary of Opportunities

- **Cultural values** – Opportunity to better express Ngāti Tūrangitukua cultural narrative and art. Particularly by rangatahi.
- Opportunity to provide cultural education and artwork lead by Ngāti Tūrangitukua.
- Opportunity to develop an appropriate process for considering renewal of leases.
- Planting opportunities for kai and [rongoā](#).
- **Natural values** – Ecological restoration of the waterways.
- Adopt a plot scheme – gather interested groups to help look after the gullies and ecological areas.
- Maintain relationship with Tongariro Plant Nursery to provide native seedlings.

- Establish a botanical garden of native plants.
- Opportunity to utilise pūrākau to inform Mātauranga Māori approaches to environmental enhancement.
- **Recreation values** – Overall like for the number of reserves and their range of different uses.
- Connector reserves provide good connections between streets.
- Want for community gardens, outdoor gym equipment, better sporting requirements – painted lines on sports fields.
- Opportunities to better support the growing population and surrounding growing settlements – e.g. Pukawa, Omori, Kuratau, Motuoapa.
- Replace / renew facilities for rangatahi, e.g. pump track.
- **Events, Commercial Activities** – Lots of specific requests for activities and facilities in reserves – opportunity to establish a clear process for the community on how to make requests and for a decision to be made.
- This could lead to a new diversity of events.

9.5 Link to the Vision and Objectives

The summary of issues and opportunities relates to the desired outcomes of the reserves management plan. From there an objective is developed for each group of outcomes, and a vision statement is developed that summarises all of the objectives. The vision, objectives and outcomes will guide the on-going management of the reserves, along with a set of actions.

10 Summary of Relevant References and Legislation

This section provides a summary of relevant references and legislation, in particular the key parts of those references. They are not limited to this summary and in all instances the full sections and context should be referred to.

10.1 National Statutory Context and Legislation

Ngāti Tūrangitukua Claims Settlement Act 1999	<u>Section 28(1)</u> : Direction for the reserves to be managed by Council as if they were classified as local purpose or recreation. The management by council is subject to terms set out in <u>schedule 2</u> of the deed of settlement (see below).
Ngāti Tūrangitukua Deed of Settlement 1998	<u>Schedule 2</u> : Council may delegate all powers of control and management to a committee, council to obtain consent of Ngāti Tūrangitukua Charitable Trust for particular activities listed in schedule 2.
Reserves Act 1977	In particular <u>section 38</u> . Management of a reserve of land that is not a reserve and <u>section 41</u> direction for management plans. Specified purposes of reserves in sections <u>17 to 23</u>
Department of Conservation Reserves Act Guide 2006, and Principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi	<u>Chapter 6</u> – The Treaty of Waitangi as it applies to Reserve Administration: In performing functions and duties under the Reserves Act, the administering body has a duty like the Crown’s to administer the Reserves Act to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. The document sets out the principles that the Courts and Waitangi Tribunal have identified. The principles are best applied where they are relevant to a particular situation. For this reason, the <u>Treaty Principles as they relate to Department of Conservation</u> are applied in the reserves management plan.
Resource Management Act 1991	In the context of sustainable management, the part two matters (<u>section 6</u> national importance, <u>section 7</u> other matters, and <u>section 8</u> Treaty of Waitangi) are to be considered. In the Taupō context these are mostly done by way of the District Plan (see below).
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014	<u>Section 5</u> ; the act purpose includes; prohibiting the modification or destruction of archaeological sites without a permit from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. It also provides the <u>New Zealand Heritage List / Rārangi Kōrero</u> outlining historic places, areas, wāhi tapu and the National Historic Landmarks / Ngā Manawhenua o Aotearoa me ōna Kōrero Tūturu
Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012	Outlines requirements for the sale and supply of alcohol and requirements for <u>club</u> and <u>special</u> licences.
Land Transport Management Act 2003	<u>Section 3</u> , purpose is to provided planning and management for the state highway network. This act is of particular relevance to Waipapa Reserve where large portions of the reserve are within the State Highway 1 corridor.

Fencing Act 1978

This sets out council's obligations as they relate to fencing of property – particularly where council administered land adjoins private property. [Section 3](#): application of the act notes that the Fencing Act does not apply to roads with the definition of roads including accessways. This is relevant to the connector reserves within Tūrangi where they adjoin private property.

10.2 Iwi Management Plans

Ngāti Tūrangitukua Website

The Ngāti Tūrangitukua [website](#) outlines the purpose of the Ngāti Tūrangitukua Charitable Trust as the post Treaty of Waitangi settlement entity that is responsible for managing the assets the Ngāti Tūrangitukua received under the Tūrangi Township settlement. It provides a reference to their goal, vision and commitment.

Ngāti Tūwharetoa Environmental Iwi Management Plan, prepared by

Relevant to the reserves management the [Management Plan for Taupō Waters](#) provides tools and direction to help achieve protection and sustainable management of their natural resources / taonga including (but not limited to) water, land, sacred places, flora and fauna.

Management Plan for Taupō Waters, prepared by Taupō-nui-a-Tia Management Board, 2021

Ngāti Tūwharetoa Environmental Iwi Management Plan 2003, prepared by Ngāti Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board 2002

Relevant to the reserves management plan the Lake Taupō tributaries are a taonga of paramount importance to the people of Ngāti Tūwharetoa. The [Iwi Management Plan](#) sets out a process for the management board to consider and decide applications for (amongst other things) recreational use activities that may include the public's use of parts of Taupō waters.

Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki Taupō Catchment Plan

Te matawhānui; the vision of the [plan](#) is:
A healthy Taupō catchment that is capable of sustaining the whole community and that is managed in a manner that reflects Ngā Tūwharetoa tikanga.
The plan will be integrated into local government plans, strategies and activities.

10.3 Council Documents

Taupō District Plan	The relevant parts of the <u>District Plan</u> include specific provisions for Significant Natural Areas, Outstanding and Amenity Landscapes, Foreshore Protection Area, and (as at 2025) the Residential Chapter. Of relevance in this chapter are the residential building setbacks from boundaries. A plan change is proposed to introduce an Open Spaces chapter that will improve building setbacks in reserves to open space and reserve needs.
Waikato Regional Plan	Relevant for vegetation removal or management around streams and waterways, particularly around Hangarito Stream.
Waikato Regional Pest management plan	The <u>plan</u> provides management to minimise the impacts of pests in the region.
Long-term Plan	Council's <u>Long-term Plan</u> is the guiding document for council's plans and priorities over 10 years. It covers the budgets required to deliver them. Where physical works are identified within the reserves management plan that are above typical operational works; they will be required to go through a Long-term plan funding process. .
Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe Agreement – Taupō District Council and Ngāti Tūrangitukua	Partnership agreement of relevance Part D that outlines the commitments to administration and management of Tūrangi reserves, developing the reserves management, co-governance and co-management between Ngāti Tūrangitukua and Council, and subject to matters set out in the Ngāti Tūrangitukua Claims Settlement Act 1999, principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, the Reserves Act 1977 and the Local Government Act.
Mana Whakahono Committee Partnership Plan 2024-2027	Provides the committee's vision and plans for Tūrangi to help guide the development of Council's key policies, plans, strategies and bylaws for the Tūrangi area. Contains values of nurturing, support, uplifting culture, weaving the diverse community. Strategic pou of the environment, people, the community assets. Particular aspirations relevant to the reserves include bilingual signage, story boards, environmental enhancement, rubbish management, playground, entrance ways, and reserves upgrades, linkages.
Recreation and Sport Strategy	The <u>strategy</u> has a set of guiding principles for providing and improving reserves and parks including; providing a network, enhancement of the local environment, inclusive and accessible, working with iwi and hapū to enable cultural narrative and story sharing where deemed appropriate.
Bylaws	Relevant <u>bylaws</u> include Freedom Camping, Public Places, Reserves, Litter, Animal.
Events and Venues	Council <u>webpage</u> provides information on the community halls, licences and permits, and planning an event.
McLaren Park Management Plan 1994	Previous reserve management plan for Te Kapua Park sets out the historical background and matters of consideration at that time along with historical management provisions for the reserve.
Waipapa Reserve Management Plan 1994	Same as above for Waipapa Reserve.

10.4 Technical Reports

Cultural Impact Assessment for the Tūrangi Reserves Management Plan Committee, prepared by Tihia Ltd, 2017

Specific cultural assessment on the Tūrangi reserves for the draft reserves management plan developed in 2017. Identifies specific sites of cultural significance to Ngāti Tūrangitukua and recommended methods for specific management of particular reserves and activities.

Ngāti Tūrangitukua Cultural Impact Assessment of the Tūrangi Wastewater Treatment Plant, prepared by Poipoia 2019

While the report is not specifically prepared as part of the reserves management plan this document provides context to relevant Ngāti Tūrangitukua cultural history.

Ngāti Tūrangitukua Introductory Te Mana o te Wai Statement – Te Rerenga o ngā Wai – prepared by Ngāti Tūrangitukua (2023?)

While the report is not specifically prepared as part of the reserves management plan this document provides context to relevant Ngāti Tūrangitukua cultural values and principles.

Tūrangi Golf Course Wetland – Significant Natural Area Assessment, prepared by Nicholas Singers Ecological Solutions Ltd. Report 5:2025/26, April 2025

Identifies three wetlands on the Tūrangi Golf course that qualify as Significant Natural Areas, principally because wetlands are nationally threatened and uncommon habitat types. An area of native secondary forest adjacent to Wetland 1 is also identified.

Includes recommended conservation management methods for the areas and lists plant species.

Significant Natural Areas of the Taupō District 2019, prepared by Wildland Consultants Ltd, Contract Report No. 4881a Vol.1

Assessment of all of the Significant Natural Areas in the Taupō District, includes draft updates to the mapping of sites. The assessments are a desk top study only, subject to on ground assessment. Draft SNAs were identified over the golf course and Water Supply reserve. On ground site visits have been undertaken where considered necessary to public use of the reserve, being the golf course assessment undertaken by Nicholas Singers Ecological Solutions.

Tūrangitukua Park Needs Assessment v.1.3 prepared by Xyst Ltd 2019

Assessment of the facilities in the Tūrangi area and needs for Tūrangitukua Park. This has been achieved since the development of this document, however it may still be useful and relevant for the Tūrangi Masterplan project to consider the needs for facilities for the township.

11 Glossary

This section covers words and terms used both within this document and the Reserve Management Plan. Definitions are partly from existing council documents for context in our organisation, and from Te Aka Māori dictionary.

Ahi kā	Burning fires of occupation, continuous occupation by a group, for a lengthy period of time.
Ariki	Paramount chief, first-born in a high-ranking family.
Aroha	Love, compassion, care
Hapū	Kinship group, subtribe – iwi descended from a common ancestor.
Iwi	Large kinship group of people descended from a common ancestor and connected through whakapapa to a distinct area.
Kaitiaki	A guardian or trustee
Kaitiakitanga	The act of guardianship
Kanohi ki te kanohi	Face to face
Kaumātua	Elder or group of elders, person with status within the whānau.
Kawa	Customs, procedures, protocol, particularly those related to formal activities such as welcoming and speeches.
Mahi	Work, vocation
Mahi toi	Art, craft
Mana	Authority or influence, prestige
Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe	An iwi participation arrangement under subpart 2 of the Resource Management Act, and in this instance refers to the Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe agreement between Ngāti Tūrangitukua and Taupō District Council 2022. Among many things this sets out specific agreements for the development of the reserves management plan.
Mana whenua	People of the land that hold authority over a particular area through whakapapa (their ancestral connection to the whenua). In the context of this document mana whenua is Ngāti Tūrangitukua hapū.
Manaakitanga	Hospitality, kindness, and care for others

Matariki	A large cluster of stars
Maunga	Mountain
Mauri	Life force, essence
Mauri tū	Environmental health and wellbeing.
Moana	Entity of water
Onepū	Sandy/sand
Pā	Fortified village, stockade
Pā harakeke	Flax plantation using sustainable harvesting and maintenance techniques to allow flax to continually grow and be harvested for traditional uses.
Papa tākaro	Playground, play area
Pūrākau	Stories, traditions, myths, and legends
Rangatahi	Youth, younger generation
Rangatiratanga	Chieftainship, right to exercise authority
Raranga	Weaving (of flax)
Rohe	Territory or boundaries of tribes
Rongoā	Plants with health or medicinal benefits and traditional use.
Taiao	Environment
Tāngata whenua	Indigenous people, born of the whenua
Taonga	A highly treasured object
Tapu	Sacred, spiritual restrictions

Taupō-nui-a-Tia Management Board	Represents iwi and community interests to manage the Taupō waters as if they are a reserve for recreation purposes.
Te Matawhānui	The vision
Te Tiriti o Waitangi	Te Reo Māori version of the Treaty of Waitangi
Tikanga	Customs, protocols, and behaviour guidance.
Tohu	Sites of significance to iwi and hapu, cultural landmarks
Tū Hikitia	Uplifting or elevating in the context of well-being, to improve or enhance
Turangawaewae	Place where one has the right to stand - place where one has rights of residence and belonging through kinship and <i>whakapapa</i> .
Uri	Descendant, relative, kin
Waharoa	Main entranceway, threshold gateway
Wāhi tapu	Sacred place, sacred site
Wānanga	To meet, consider and discuss
Whānau	Family
Whakapapa	Ancestral connections defining identity and place
Whenua	Land, placenta

