



# Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy

Te Rautaki mō Ōhiwa

– Refreshed October 2014

*Ōhiwa - Together we're keeping it special  
He taonga tuku iho kē, ko tātau rā ngā uri e*

***E noho ana au i te koko ki Ōhiwa***

*As I sit at the Ōhiwa harbour*

***Whakarongo rua aku taringa ki te Tukinga Rae o Kanawa***

*I hear the tide crashing upon Te Tukinga Rae o Kanawa*

***E aki ana ki uta ra ki te whānau a Tairongo***

*The sound drifts inland to the whānau a Tairongo*

*(Tairongo was of the Hapuoneone people who were the original inhabitants of Ōhiwa, his waka was Oturereao)*

***Kei Tauwhare Rata ra te kōpua o te Ururoa***

*At Tauwhare Rata Pā is the dwelling place of Te Ururoa*

***Te kai i raria noa mai te raweketia e te ringaringa***

*The food procured easily without effort*



Ōhiwa Harbour  
Partners:



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Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy – Refreshed October 2014

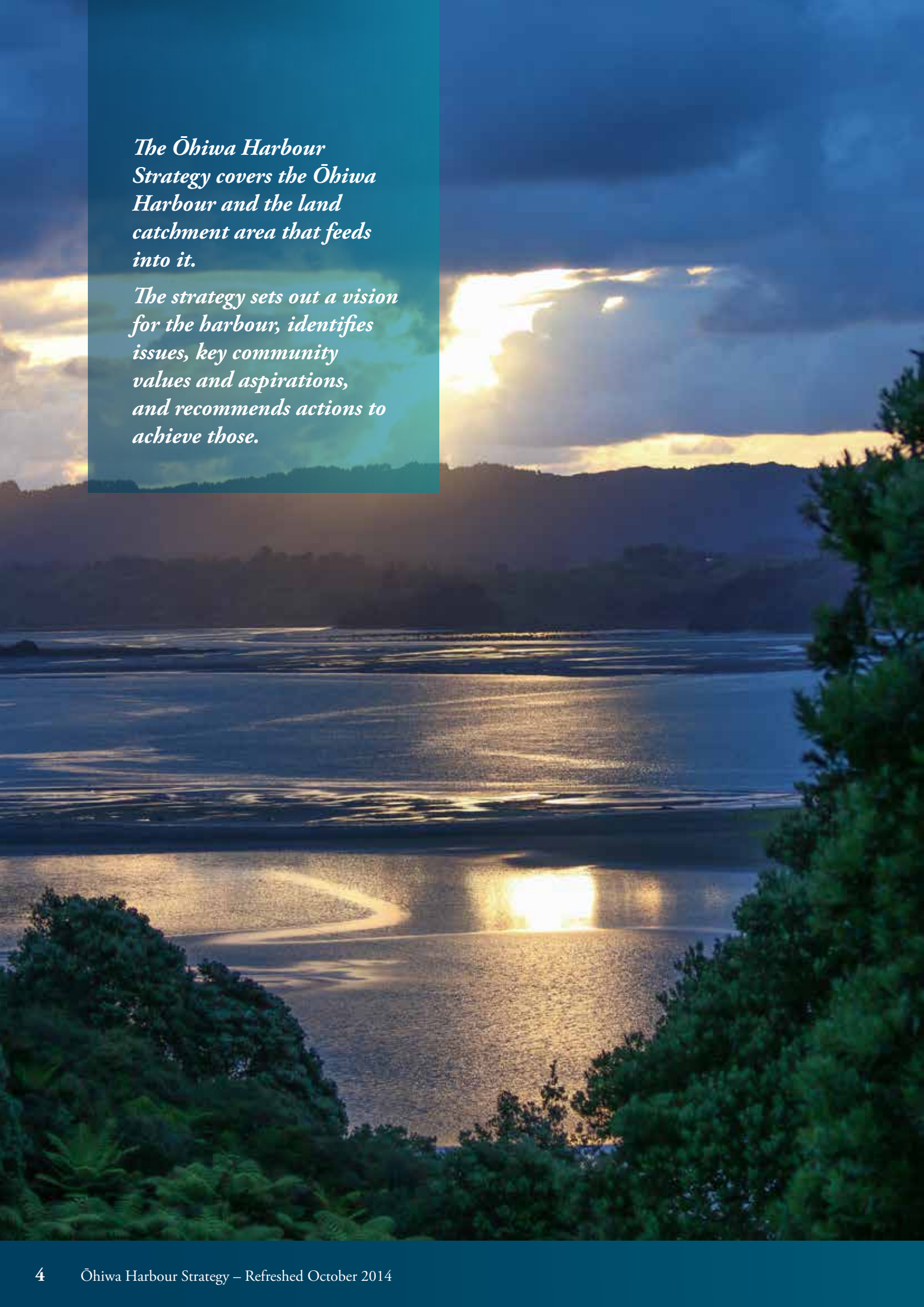
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For more information visit [www.boprc.govt.nz/environment/coast/ohiwa-harbour](http://www.boprc.govt.nz/environment/coast/ohiwa-harbour)



*The Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy covers the Ōhiwa Harbour and the land catchment area that feeds into it.*

*The strategy sets out a vision for the harbour, identifies issues, key community values and aspirations, and recommends actions to achieve those.*

# Part 1: Introduction

## 1.1 The Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy: 2007-2014

The Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy (the strategy) has been in place since 2007. The strategy was originally put together by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) on behalf of the partner organisations and as a result of extensive consultation with the local community. The strategy was approved by Whakatāne District Council (WDC), Ōpōtiki District Council (ODC) and the BOPRC. A Hearing Committee, comprising representatives of the three councils and local tangata whenua, heard submissions on the draft strategy and recommended amendments to it.

These same organisations became members of the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum (OHIF). The forum meets about twice per year to monitor and guide the implementation of the strategy for updates on the progress of the actions, and to discuss emerging issues.

The Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy Coordination Group (OHSCG) was also formed at this time. The OHSCG has members from the same organisations as OHIF, with additional members from other groups and organisations that are involved with the Ōhiwa Harbour. It carries out the implementation of the strategy actions. Further explanation of OHIF and OHSCG and their memberships and functions is provided in Appendix 1.

The Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy covers the Ōhiwa Harbour and the land catchment area that feeds into it. The strategy sets out a vision for the harbour, identifies issues, key community values and aspirations, and recommends actions to achieve those. It is designed to take the Ōhiwa Harbour and its catchment from where it is now, to where people want it to be in the future. The strategy combines a framework to assess future planning and management against, with a set of detailed actions.

It promotes *integrated* resource management by acknowledging that what happens on the land of the catchment can affect the Ōhiwa Harbour.

It promotes integration of the wide variety of plans, processes and practices used by councils, government departments, iwi, hapū and members of the community so that these are used to build on each other.

The strategy is a non-statutory document. This means it does not contain any rules and cannot require changes to other planning documents. It provides guidance for the management of the harbour and catchment. It may or may not result in changes to planning documents. This is the discretionary responsibility of each individual Council.

## 1.2 The Refresh of the Strategy: 2014

In May 2013, a report to OHIF confirmed that the actions outlined in the strategy have either been completed or are ongoing, and recommended a review of the strategy. This review was completed in early 2014 and in March 2014 OHIF agreed to refresh the strategy.

The OHSCG invited the public to several workshops and meetings during July and August 2014. The information collected during these meetings was used to update the issues and actions in the strategy to better reflect what is going on in the catchment now.

## 1.3 Financial contributions

Each agency involved with OHIF has a small budget to implement actions in the strategy. The OHSCG determines which agency will lead the implementation of each action and work is carried out when the necessary expertise, funding and staff time are available.

## 1.4 Overview of Ōhiwa Harbour and catchment

Ōhiwa Harbour is situated in the eastern Bay of Plenty in the North Island of New Zealand. The harbour itself is separated from the Pacific Ocean by a six kilometre long sand spit – Ōhope Spit - on the western side of the harbour entrance, and a much smaller spit of approximately 900 m - Ōhiwa Spit - to the east (see Map 1).

The urban settlement of Port Ōhope is on the Ōhope Spit, west of the harbour mouth, and is a popular holiday destination for people who enjoy the attractions of an open coast and harbour, within easy walking distance of each other. The western end of the Ōhope Spit is predominantly urban.

The harbour itself covers an area of approximately 26.4 km<sup>2</sup>, and is relatively shallow, exposing 80 percent of its bed at low tide. The main channels provide adequate depth for fishing and pleasure boats.

There are ten small islands in the harbour but only one, Ohākana Island, has permanent residents living on small lifestyle blocks. Four of the islands cover less than one hectare

each and their names are not widely known.

The remaining islands are Whangakopikopiko (Tern Island) (a Government Purpose Wildlife Reserve), Pātāua Island (a Scientific Reserve), Uretara Island (a Scenic Reserve), Motuotu Island (a Nature Reserve) and Hokianga Island (a Māori Reserve).

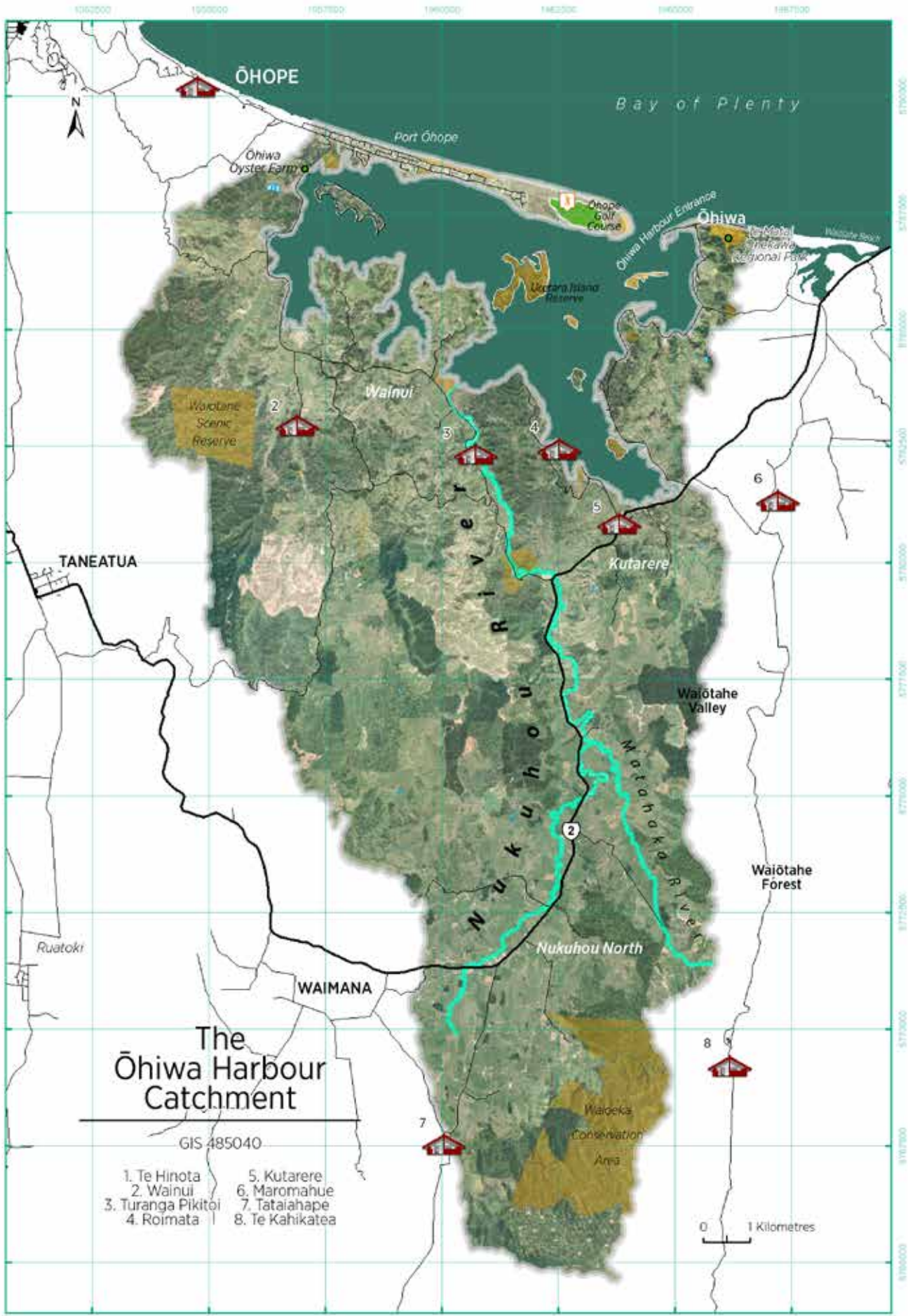
The Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment drains approximately 171 km<sup>2</sup> of small valleys, with the largest being the Nukuhou River Valley – draining 60 percent of the harbour catchment. The catchment generally faces north, and has a diversity of land uses ranging from protection and production forestry, through dry stock and dairy farming, to horticulture and lifestyle blocks.

There are twelve small streams and one small river (the Nukuhou River) feeding into the harbour from the inland hills towards Matahī, and in the Nukuhou Valley.

The Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy covers the Ōhiwa Harbour and the land catchment area that feeds into it. The Ōhiwa Harbour has many characteristics and outstanding features that are outlined in Appendix 2.

### *Ōhiwa Harbour*

- *covers an area of approximately 26.4 km<sup>2</sup>*
- *is relatively shallow*
- *exposes 80 percent of its bed at low tide*
- *10 small islands in the harbour*
- *catchment drains approximately 171 km<sup>2</sup> of small valleys*
- *Diverse land uses*
- *12 small streams and one small river feed into the harbour*



Map 1 – Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment

## 1.5 The importance of the Ōhiwa Harbour

Ōhiwa Harbour and catchment is a special place to many people for many reasons. People appreciate its landscapes, natural beauty, water quality, customary and recreational activities, heritage places and values, clear air, and productive land. It is a memorable place and widely recognised by past visitors.

People want to be there and use the resources available to them. They want to enjoy life in a place that adds quality to their lives.

Our activities always affect the places we live in or visit in some way so we must consider the impact of our activities on our environment, so that they do not diminish the quality of the place. Any development and management needs to fit in with what it is that is special about Ōhiwa and the community aspirations for it.

Ōhiwa Harbour and its catchment is a place of great significance to Māori, and has been for very many generations. Ōhiwa is an important traditional māhinga mātaītai (food gathering place) and is therefore a very significant taonga. Sustainable management and enhancement of Ōhiwa Harbour ensures the endurance of important indigenous traditions and relationships that Māori have with Ōhiwa Harbour. It is through the exercise of kaitiakitanga that tangata whenua contribute to the sustainable management of Ōhiwa Harbour and help to keep it special.

Ūpokorehe, Whakatōhea, Ngāti Awa and Tūhoe have agreed that as tangata whenua, they will work co-operatively to exercise kaitiakitanga of the Ōhiwa Harbour. They also acknowledge the relationship that distant iwi like Ngāitai, Te Whānau a Apanui, Ngāti Manawa, Ngāti Whare and others, have with Ōhiwa Harbour.

### *He Pao mō Ōhiwa, te kete kai me te umu taonoa a Tairongo*

*(A song about Ōhiwa, the food basket and generous cooking area of Tairongo)*

Koia nei ra Ko Te Kete kai A Tairongo e Rongonui e	Mai ra ano Nga tautohe A nga iwi tau Mai ki konei.	Tenei te wa E ngatahi ai A tatau u Whakaaro e	He taonga Tukuiho ke Ko tatau e Nga uri e
<i>This place is The food basket of Tairongo Of great renown</i>	<i>From time immemorial Disputes raged Amongst settlers To this place</i>	<i>But for now Some unity Amongst us And turn our thoughts</i>	<i>To this treasure Handed down For we are The inheritors thereof</i>



## 1.6 The Strategy Partners

### Tangata Whenua

Ōhiwa Harbour lies within the homelands of Ūpokorehe, Whakatōhea, Ngāti Awa and Tūhoe. For centuries they have lived in and harvested food from Ōhiwa Harbour and its environs. This is reflected in the high concentration of cultural/ archaeological sites in and around the harbour. Ōhiwa is still recognised as a food basket by Māori, many of whom continue to rely on collecting shellfish and other food to help feed their families.

Māori knowledge of the abundant food resources at Ōhiwa has endured for many centuries. The earliest names of the harbour reflected this, including 'Te Kete Kai a Tairongo' (the food basket of Tairongo) and 'Te Umu Taonoa a Tairongo' or the place where Tairongo found an abundance of food ready to eat.

In the 1860s all iwi in the eastern Bay of Plenty were dispossessed of much, if not all of their land. For Ūpokorehe, Whakatōhea, Ngāti Awa and Tūhoe this included Ōhiwa Harbour and catchment. While the Crown's confiscation adversely affected the ability of tangata whenua to use, occupy and manage Ōhiwa Harbour's resources, it did not extinguish their ancestral relationships nor eliminate evidence of their former use and occupation of Ōhiwa Harbour.

Ūpokorehe, Whakatōhea, Ngāti Awa and Tūhoe have agreed that as tangata whenua they will work co-operatively to exercise kaitiakitanga of the Ōhiwa Harbour. They also acknowledge the relationship that distant iwi like Ngaitai, Te Whānau a Apanui, Te Whānau a te Ehotu, Ngāti Manawa, Ngāti Whare and others, have with Ōhiwa Harbour.

To Māori, Ōhiwa Harbour continues to be an important taonga, a priceless treasure that must be looked after so its rich resources are there for future generations to share.

### Te Ūpokorehe

Ūpokorehe are a unique people as they can trace their origins back to Te Hapuoneone which existed at a time that predates the arrival of the Mataatua waka and other related waka of the great migration. Their history is so entwined with the Ōhiwa Harbour and the surrounding lands that it has become an integral part of their culture, their society and their very existence.

Ūpokorehe can whakapapa to the famous navigator Hape-ki-tuārangi who arrived on the Rangimātoru waka and settled at Ōhiwa. They were here when Tairongo arrived on the waka Ōtūrereao and of course by way of intermarriage, they also share kinship ties to Mataatua. Ūpokorehe have always maintained their rights as kaitiaki of Ōhiwa Harbour as they have always had a long and respectful relationship with the Ōhiwa Harbour, and their Ahi Kā Roa (long burning fires of occupation) have never been extinguished.

For many generations the Ōhiwa Harbour has paid tribute to the existence and wellbeing of local Iwi and Hapū. Te Ūpokorehe, hold mandate as rightful and legal kaitiakitanga status over these waterways and all surrounding lands, as they sit within the rohe of Te Ūpokorehe.

For generations the Ūpokorehe have managed, maintained and preserved the harbour and all its precious taonga, for it is the lifeline and identity of the local native people. Ūpokorehe have customary rights to fish and gather shellfish pertaining to tikanga.

For generations it has been passed on and understood that it is of the utmost importance we preserve this significant taonga. We are born natural conservationists and to this day we have maintained management, preserved, and replenished the kaimoana and its environment to the best of our abilities.

Te Ūpokorehe reserve all rights customary and legally to the Ōhiwa Harbour and its inhabitants as it is, and always will be, our birthright as legal kaitiaki of this resource.

It is the only part of our heritage we have left. It is the only taonga the Government did not confiscate. It is our identity, waahi tapu, and future existence.

## Whakatōhea Te Iwi

**Ka rangaranga te muri**  
**Ka rangaranga te mua**  
**Na Angaangarau na Tohearau**

*In front and from the rear we are united by the multitude of Chiefs of Whakatōhea.*

The history of Whakatōhea spans generations of intermarriage between hapū who lived side by side within the boundaries of Whakatōhea. The intermarriages not only occurred within Whakatōhea but also between neighbouring Iwi Ngāti Awa, Te Aitangi-a-Mahaki and Ngāi Tai. For those hapū who lived on the boundaries between Whakatōhea and our neighbouring Iwi, namely Te Ūpokorehe, Ngāi Tama and Ngāti Rua, shared whakapapa (genealogy) was common.

Hapū of Whakatōhea have resided here since the early 1800's and over time have retained a general understanding of each other's boundaries, as identified in the following statement made in 1920 at the Māori Land Court in Ōpōtiki, by Hoera Horokai from Ngāti Ngahere and Te Ūpokorehe: "Commencing at Pakihi, to the mouth of the Waiōtahe Stream, to Ōhiwa Harbour, to Te Horo, then turning inland southwards to Puhikoko to Pukemoremore. Then descending to Waimana Stream to Makapouriki; following the the Waimana Stream to Tautautahi along the banks to the mouth of Parau Stream; then following Parau Stream to Tangata-e-roha onto Kaharua (an old settlement); from Kaharua to Pa Harakeke, a ridge leading to Maungapōhatu to Maungatapere descending into the Mōtū River to Kaitaura Falls to Peketutu; leaving the river and up a ridge to Whakakaronga; following the hill tops until it reaches Tipi O Haumea (a peak) descending towards Makamaka until it crosses Takaputahi Stream to Ngaupoko Tangata following the ridge to Kamakama; along the ridge to Oroī the turning seawards to Te Rangi, then along the sea coast to the mouth of the Ōpape Stream to Awahou, to Tirohanga and back to Pakihi.

Whakatōhea is the only Iwi that resides within this tribal region and can trace their history back to the arrival of the Nukutere and Mataatua canoes. The Mataatua canoe, bearing our ancestor Muriwai from Hawaiki, reached Whakatāne nine generations after the Nukutere canoe. Muriwai's son Rēpanga went to Ōpōtiki where he married Ngāpoupereta. Rēpanga's

descendant, Ruatakena, became the ancestor of the Ngāti Ruatakena people (known as Ngāti Rua). Muriwai's daughter Hine-i-kauia followed her brother and married Tūtāmure, the leader of the Panenehu people. The descendants of this union became known as Whakatōhea.

Tūtāmure's counterpart in the west was Kahuki, who lived at Waiōtahe where he built a pa close to the river. Te Ūpokorehe hapū occupied lands at Waiōtahe and Ōhiwa and were under the control of Kahuki. Being on the western border, Te Ūpokorehe were subjected to a number of attacks from Tūhoe and Ngāti Awa. In times of danger, Te Ūpokorehe sought refuge at Ōpōtiki. The final battle between Whakatōhea and Ngāti Awa and their Tūhoe ally took place at Marae Tōtara, where the Whakatōhea chief Te Rupe led his people to victory with the haka 'Te kotiritiri te kotaratarā'.

Whakatōhea's territory contained rich sources of food that enabled hapū to access this on a seasonal basis. Ōhiwa Harbour, named 'the daughter of Whakatōhea', held plentiful supplies of shellfish, including cockles, mussels and sea snails. Mussels and crayfish abounded in Ōhiwa Harbour and, in the forests, it was easy to catch kererū (wood pigeons) and other native birds. Whakatōhea has exercised its mana over this stretch of coastline for generations and will do so for generations to come.

Whakatōhea land was confiscated under the New Zealand Settlements Act in 1863 and many Whakatōhea people were killed. Whakatōhea lost approximately 491,000 acres of land and were jammed into the Ōpape native reserves located at Ōpape. This injustice was partially redressed in 1952 when a Government grant was given to Whakatōhea to establish the Whakatōhea Māori Trust Board.

## Tūhoe (Te Waimana Kaaku)

### **Traditional connection with the Harbour**

Prior to the arrival of Mataatua into the Eastern Bay of Plenty area and the eventual landing at Kākahoroa, four groups formerly known as Te Hapūoneone, Ngatoropuehu-te-Wakanui, Te Tini o Toi and Ngā Pōtiki and what could only be termed as the ancient people, were already living in the area. The ancient people were time honoured with their own distinct origins, having established their own distinctive connections to the land and instilling it with the spirit of passing generations.

Te Hapūoneone was known as the “earth borne people” and were descended from Hape-ki-Tūmanui-o-te-Rangi who arrived from Hawai’iki Tawhiti on the Rangimātoru waka landing in Ōhiwa. Hape as stated by Halbert in Horouta married Hine-Rua-Rangi the daughter of Toi. His people also married into the ancient people of the area until they were eventually absorbed into the Te Hapūoneone group and they occupied all that land from Ōhiwa through to Waimana, across the Tairahia range to Rūātoki and skirting across the Rangitāiki Plains to Matatā. Te Hapūoneone consisted of related tribes which included Ngāti Raumoā (from which the Ūpokorehe hapu is descended), Ngāi Te Kapo and Ngāi Tūranga and were very active in Waimana, Te Urewera and Ōhiwa.

### **Importance of the Harbour to the people**

Tamakaimoana who descended from Ngā Pōtiki lived around Maungapōhatu with many others. A rangatira by the name of Maungaharuru suggested to the people of Tamakaimoana they should move north and occupy the lands in Waimana, Kutarere and Ōhiwa areas. Most of the people thought this would be a good idea and agreed to the suggestion which was politically and economically motivated and would ensure a corridor between Maungapōhatu and Ōhiwa remained open at all times.

Maungaharuru began the massive task of establishing a re-settlement program but he first had to build a number of pa sites and gardens before he could begin the mammoth task of moving the Tamakaimoana and Tairongo people to inhabit them. Maungaharuru passed away before the task was completed. The people of Tairongo and Tamakaimoana developed a very good relationship between them and at certain times of the year would meet at a designated area where they would exchange preserved

foods from their particular areas. At certain times one group would travel into the other group’s area to gather fresh items however they always informed the other group of their intentions. Middens of shellfish can be seen on ridges in Kererūtahi where the Tamakaimoana group would have stopped for meals on the return trip from Ōhiwa to Maungapōhatu. Small shellfish middens can also be found along the ridge from Pukenui-ō-raro, (small hillock) Taumata-ō-Hine, (taumata=resting) Pukenui-ō-Raho (bruised penis) and Nanahu (distort the features) and then dropping in to the Tauranga River at Te Kaawa and on to Maungapōhatu.

### **Current relationship with the Harbour**

The federation of twelve hapu known as Te Waimana Kaaku (who are affiliated to Tūhoe) are located some 27.5 kilometres (26 minutes) due south of Ōhiwa Harbour on State Highway 2, in Waimana and directly along the Tauranga River to Maungapōhatu Mountain. The current relationship of the people of Te Urewera with the harbour has not changed from the time of the ancient people to the present. The relationship and agreement between the people of Te Ūpokorehe Hapū and Te Waimana Kaaku is maintained.

## Ngāti Awa

***“Mā te ngaruru ō te Moana ō Ōhiwa, ka noho momoho ngā taonga tuku-iho hei oranga mō ngā whakatipuranga ō naiānei me ngā wā kei mua”***

**“As Ōhiwa flourishes, opportunities abound for present and future generations to perpetuate its uniqueness”**

Ngāti Awa’s contribution to the Strategy partnership is encapsulated in a plea by Mereaira Rangihoea the daughter of the Ngāti Awa Rangatira Te Keepa Toihau in 1847 who at that time was occupying Tauwhare Pā on the North/west shores of Ōhiwa. It was on the occasion of an anticipated attack on the Pā.

The Ngāti Awa occupants of the Pā were totally unprepared and outnumbered and Mereaira pleaded with her father Te Keepa to prevent any fighting. “We have no other choice” said Te Kepa sadly.

Overcome with love and terror Mereaira, (whose husband was Kape Tautini a young Whakatōhea chief) with her infant son, Te Pirini Tautini in her arms, rushed to the top of the southern cliffs of the Pā so that all could see, raised her son above her head and cried:

***“The child that I am holding in my hands is a symbol of our two tribes and could make for peace or war, what is the use of living together if the price is ever to be paid for in blood? Has not the sea sufficient for all? Who then can say it is theirs alone? Unless the fighting is stopped now and for all time, I shall throw my child onto the rocks below and his death will be your eternal disgrace”.***

The two warring parties were visibly and emotionally moved, they gathered together, embraced, shed tears of joy and a lasting pact of peace and harmony prevailed. Te Pirini Tautini grew up to become prominent in councils of Ngāti Awa.

Ngāti Awa, Whakatōhea, Upokorehe and Tūhoe share universal eponymous ancestors epitomized by the parable: ***“Te Tapatoru ā Paewhiti” The three sons of Paewhiti”***

Ngāti Awa will endeavour to avoid placing ownership stakes in the ground and in its stead offer our contribution as ***Kaitiaki colleagues*** to protect the sanctity of cultural traditions and values contiguous to ecological/environmental and recreation imperatives regarding Ōhiwa, ***Te Umu taunoa ā Tairongo – Te Kete kai ā Tairongo.***

The key essence of this contribution by Ngāti Awa is an extraction of the plea by Mereaira: ***“Has not the sea sufficient for all, who can say it is theirs alone”*** which is intended to invoke the dynamics of inclusivity.

***“Te Toetoe tū tōtahi, kā whati i te hau, ē ngari ano te Toetoe tū kōpuni e kore e whati”.***

***The Toetoe that stands in isolation will be destroyed by the elements with ease, however the Toetoe that grows in mass will with-stand the winds forces,***

***It is in unity that we gain strength***



## Whakatāne District Council

The Whakatāne District covers the Ōhope Spit, Ohākana Island, Uretara Island, the Paparoa and Burke Road peninsulas, and the majority of the harbour's catchment.

The Whakatāne District Council (WDC) carries out a number of functions and activities to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of its residents for the present and the future. This includes providing and maintaining community facilities and assets such as parks and gardens, recreation programmes, libraries, community halls, a museum, cemeteries, swimming pools, public conveniences and an airport. It also involves constructing, managing and maintaining local infrastructure on behalf of the community such as roads, water supply, sewage disposal, refuse collection and disposal, and stormwater drainage.

## Ōpōtiki District Council

In partnership with other agencies the Ōpōtiki District Council upholds kaitiakitanga for the eastern part of the Ōhiwa Harbour and its catchment from the Harbour entrance to the Nukuhou Saltmarsh, inland to Matekerepu and includes: Hokianga, Whangakopikopiko, Motuotu and Pataua Islands, Hiwarau and Tokitoki peninsulas, Ōhiwa Spit and Onekawa Te Mawhai Regional Park.

Up until 1989 Council delegated responsibility for management of Ōhiwa Harbour to the Ōhiwa Harbour Board. Today Council is privileged to contribute to the maintenance and promotion of the social, economic, environmental and cultural

wellbeing of the Ōhiwa harbour, whenua and tangata. This includes responsibilities for the management and ownership of land, facilities and infrastructure, planning and regulation and environmental and recreation initiatives.

Guardianship of Ōhiwa Harbour is an honour we undertake with pride on behalf of our community.

## Bay of Plenty Regional Council

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) carries out flood management, pest management (plant and animal), soil conservation, river and harbour navigation and safety, natural hazard management, coastal management (such as aquaculture permits and structures) and regional transport.

It has a number of roles under the Resource Management Act to ensure the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. These include controlling discharges to land, air and water, managing the use and development of land and water resources, protection of heritage sites/values and managing contaminated sites.

The Regional Council undertakes a number of non-regulatory functions in the Ōhiwa Harbour area. These include offering assistance with environmental management advice, the delivery of biodiversity and riparian management plans, supporting care groups and other community initiatives to enhance the harbour and catchment environment, and financial support through grants (such as the Environmental Enhancement Fund).



Map 2 – The Ōhiwa Harbour




## Our Vision:

*Ōhiwa - Together we're  
keeping it special*

*He taonga tuku iho kē,  
ko tātau rā ngā uri e*





*Ōhiwa Harbour and catchment is a special place to many people for many reasons. People appreciate its landscapes, natural beauty, water quality, customary and recreational activities, heritage places and values, clear air, and productive land.*

*It is a memorable place and widely recognised by past visitors.*



## Part 2:

# Principles and policies for the harbour

This section contains principles and policies that will be used to guide the implementation of this Strategy. The Strategy works within the framework provided by a number of other policy documents such as the Regional Policy Statement, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and the Regional Coastal Environment Plan.

The policies are designed to work together to guide activities within the Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment and are not ranked in any particular order. Specifically they will be used by WDC, ODC and BOPRC to provide guidance and direction for management and planning decisions for the Ōhiwa Harbour.

### 2.1 Principles

1	<b>Foster and maintain effective working relationships between organisations on an ongoing basis.</b>
2	<b>Statutory agencies will actively engage with the Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment community.</b>
3	<b>Ensure that planning and regulatory mechanisms for Ōhiwa Harbour and its catchment are consistent in their application, aligned in their aims and mutually supportive.</b>
4	<b>Promote the effective kaitiakitanga and stewardship of the natural resources of the Ōhiwa Harbour.</b>

### 2.2 Objective

**To maintain and enhance the health and natural qualities of Ōhiwa Harbour**

#### 1. The health of Ōhiwa Harbour and its tributaries

Policy:

- 1.1 Management of the catchment will reduce sediment and nutrients entering the harbour waters.
- 1.2 Promote ecological restoration and enhancement throughout the harbour and its catchment.
- 1.3 Actively protect the riparian margins of the harbour.

#### 2. Development within the natural context of the harbour

Policy:

- 2.1 Minimise the impact of development proposals on the wider environmental context of the harbour.
- 2.2 Limit concentrated built development to the existing urban areas and coastal settlements.
- 2.3 Achieve the best balance of development and landscape protection through concept and structure planning within the visual catchment.<sup>1</sup>
- 2.4 Minimise the effect on Ōhiwa Harbour's visual catchment by controlling development.
- 2.5 Structures for public access to the harbour, navigation and protection works that are deemed to be necessary will be supported, with a preference for location within areas of existing modification.

<sup>1</sup> Structure Plan: Means a plan for an area that includes objectives and anticipated outcomes for a defined area and may include a general land use plan, hapu or iwi management plan, an urban design plan, a utilities and a services plan.

### 3. Management of recreation

Policy:

- 3.1 Support recreation in and around the harbour where it does not significantly impinge upon the amenity, cultural and natural values.
- 3.2 Actively manage conflicts between recreational activities and/or between recreational activities and the environment.

### 4. Access

Policy:

- 4.1 Maintain and improve where possible, the level of access to and along coastal and river edges where this enhances recreation opportunities, and does not adversely affect the environment.

### 5. Tikanga and kawa for Ōhiwa Harbour

Policy:

- 5.1 Integrate kaitiakitanga into management of Ōhiwa Harbour.
- 5.2 Protect or manage sites of significance to Māori in an appropriate manner.

### 6. Education and information

Policy:

- 6.1 Increase the community's understanding of the harbour and their involvement in its care through education and information.

### 7. Ecological values

Policy:

- 7.1 Recognise and manage the land and water biodiversity of Ōhiwa Harbour and its catchment, to ensure ecological values are a respected part of the harbour's future.
- 7.2 Protect indigenous, endemic and migratory birds and their habitat, to ensure that birdlife and healthy bird populations remain an integral part of the Ōhiwa Harbour character.
- 7.3 Advocate to promote the sustainable management of the harbour's fishery resources.

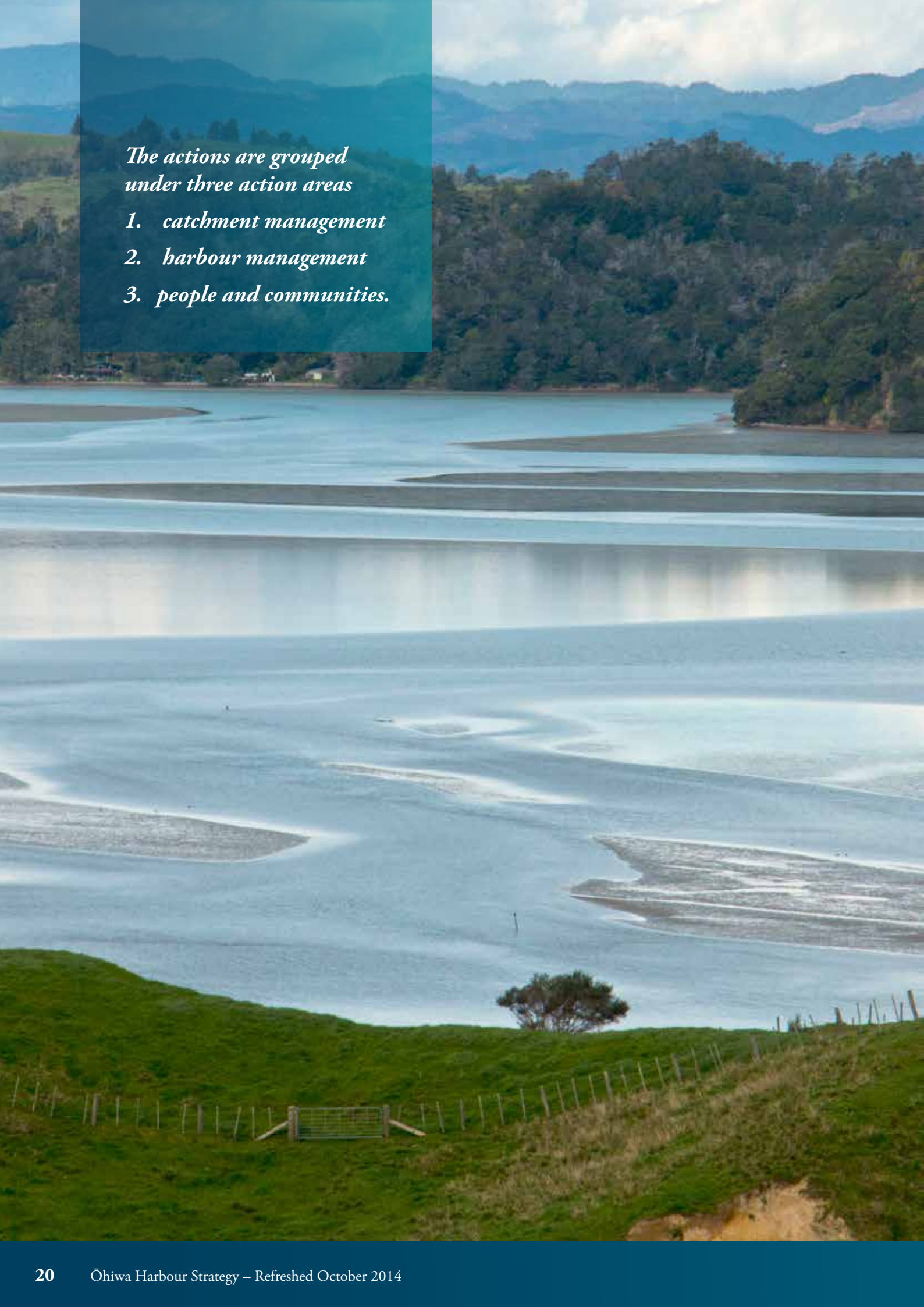


## 2.3 Action areas and themes

The actions are grouped under three action areas: catchment management, harbour management, and people and communities. These action areas were developed using the seven themes from the original strategy; health of the estuary, natural areas, plants and animals, managing development pressures, kaimoana, kaitiakitanga, recreation opportunities, a more informed harbour community, and working with communities.

The actions will be implemented under the guidance of OHIF by the OHSCG partners. Exactly which agency or group leads the implementation and when work is carried out will depend on a variety of circumstances, such as who has the necessary expertise and when funding, staff time and resources are available.





*The actions are grouped  
under three action areas*

- 1. catchment management*
- 2. harbour management*
- 3. people and communities.*

# Part 3: Strategy Actions

## Summary of Actions

Action area 1 – Catchment management	
1.1	Collaborate with landowners to investigate improving water quality in the catchment
1.2	Reduce sedimentation within the catchment
1.3	Reduce contamination from urban activities
1.4	Encourage the introduction and use of farm stewardship plans
1.5	Manage mangroves in line with the resource consent granted to Te Ūpokorehe
1.6	Investigate classifications for the Ōhiwa Harbour to reflect its special character
1.7	Protect and enhance wetlands, saltmarshes and estuarine margins and explore opportunities to construct new areas
1.8	Monitor and assess the health of Ōhiwa Harbour and its catchment
1.9	Protect and manage habitat and species
1.10	Investigate the presence of indigenous freshwater fish species and habitats and identify opportunities to manage
1.11	Investigate the potential impacts of climate change on the Ōhiwa Harbour
1.12	Support appropriate regional, district and iwi plan provisions to achieve sustainable management of the Ōhiwa Harbour and catchment
1.13	Develop data sets to augment resource management protocols
1.14	Support and implement consenting, bylaw and statutory responsibilities
Action area 2 – Harbour management	
2.1	Investigate shellfish populations and advocate for sustainable shellfish management
2.2	Investigate wetfish populations and advocate for sustainable fisheries management
2.3	Support māhinga mātaītai status for Ōhiwa Harbour
Action area 3 – People and communities	
3.1	Develop and implement a recreation strategy
3.2	Promote awareness of the cultural heritage of the Ōhiwa Harbour
3.3	Recognise and apply the principles of kaitiakitanga and stewardship in management of the harbour
3.4	Retain the Onekawa Te Mawhai Regional Park and manage according to the park management plan
3.5	Ensure information distribution (including signage around the harbour) is current, appropriate and coordinated
3.6	Continue to implement the Communication/Education Plan
3.7	Develop a coordinated approach to public reserves and implement management
3.8	Support the implementation of regulations for controlling vehicles on tidal flats and beaches
3.9	Support appropriate harbour and catchment research opportunities
3.10	Develop protocols between the Ōhiwa Strategy partners and other statutory agencies
3.11	Support the work of landowners and community groups
3.12	Support the involvement of local people in education initiatives and in the management of the Ōhiwa Harbour and its catchment
3.13	Advocate for health and safety within the harbour and its catchment

## Action Area 1 – Catchment management


Catchment management involves ensuring that land use does not adversely affect the harbour and that the biodiversity and natural qualities are protected.

The health of the Ōhiwa Harbour relies on the health of the estuary, which in turn relies on land management practices within the catchment.

Biodiversity in the harbour is highly valued, particularly the birdlife, native freshwater fish and harbour margin vegetation and habitat.

There is an acceptance by the community that development is not in itself a negative thing, in fact increased tourism and recreational opportunities are seen by many as being desirable, but poor development that is carried out insensitively or in inappropriate locations, diminishes the harbour's value. In particular, the community is concerned with the visual catchment – that area that can be viewed from the harbour and adjacent residential areas.

The challenge is to create the right balance between development and landuse, and protection of natural character, ecological and landscape values of importance to the community. The goal is that we will all be able to enjoy and appreciate the natural character and landscape values of Ōhiwa Harbour not just now, but into the future.



*The health of the Ōhiwa Harbour relies on the health of the estuary, which in turn relies on land management practices within the catchment.*

### 3.1 Community issues – catchment management

#### 1. Sedimentation, nutrients and general pollutants from land use threaten the health of the harbour

The rate of sedimentation increases when vegetation is cleared from land, particularly in riparian areas and steep slopes, and is exacerbated by storm events. The loss of freshwater wetlands exacerbates the effects of sedimentation.

Agricultural practices (particularly intensive operations like dairying) lead to increased nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) in the streams and harbour.

Urban activities increase both sedimentation and nutrient load from activities such as land clearance, stormwater discharge and septic tank use. Climate change is likely to exacerbate these effects with higher rainfall and changes in sea level. The possible impacts of climate change on the Ōhiwa Harbour are not well understood.

These have cumulative effects that lead to other issues:

- Reduced water quality and sediment build up which affect aquatic and harbour margin ecosystems, including shellfish and other traditional foods.
- Increased mangrove growth which, while the values of mangroves are accepted, also impacts on a number of other harbour values.
- Reduced recreational amenity and navigability of waterways.

#### 2. Biodiversity in the harbour is important and needs further protection and restoration

Much more needs to be done to protect and restore biodiversity values and ecosystems in and around the harbour. This includes monitoring, scientific investigation and management.

Biodiversity is threatened by:

- Pest plants and animals.
- Loss of habitat and connections between habitat.
- Inadequate understanding and protection.

#### 3. Development and use of the Ōhiwa Harbour that is not managed appropriately adversely impacts on the harbour in several ways:

- Visual effects of new structures such as houses.
- Visual and nuisance effects of temporary structures that are not removed, such as maimai and whitebait structures.
- Increased number of septic tanks polluting the harbour.
- People and domestic animals (cats and dogs) affecting the local wildlife.
- Impact on landscapes, natural character, and natural habitats.
- As these issues are the responsibility of several different councils and organisations, planning and resource management needs to be consistent.
- Future development needs to be anticipated and managed to reduce impacts.

## 3.2 Actions – catchment management

1.1 Collaborate with landowners to investigate improving water quality in the catchment	
What	BOPRC will work with the Ōhiwa and Nukuhou River catchment communities, to begin developing community values and limits for freshwater, as part of implementing the requirements of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater.
Why	<p>Most measures of water quality in the catchment are still good but several pressures within the catchment have the potential to increase contaminants in the water, reducing water quality.</p> <p>BOPRC is responsible for ensuring that all freshwater resources meet the requirements of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater. This action will start the process of developing community values for freshwater, to which we will then set limits with water quality indicators.</p>
Current State (2014)	There is a long term water quality monitoring programme in place on the Nukuhou River, which provides up to date data, to help understand the current state and trend of the water quality in the river. It shows that water quality is slowly but steadily improving. We are also modelling the value of ecosystem services in the catchment and modelling the impact of landuse and potential landuse changes, by using the CLUES model. In addition, we are modelling the impact of land use cover and change to that cover on the hydrology of the catchment at three different flood rate scenarios. Combined, all of this information will help inform the community and landowners in developing a set of values for freshwater and limits for water quality.
1.2 Reduce sedimentation within the catchment	
What	BOPRC, WDC and ODC will work with landowners to reduce the rate of sedimentation of the waterways and harbour by focusing on the development and implementation of rules and land based management practices, that manage and reduce the impact of erosion and sediment, by planting on steep, unstable land and in riparian margins, improving land management practices and managing earthworks.
Why	<p>Sedimentation can have a number of negative effects on the health of the harbour. Land management practices can exacerbate natural erosion processes. These include stock in streams and estuaries, commercial forestry, and poorly stabilised land eroding during heavy rain events.</p> <p>Some of the land bordering the river and streams has been planted. The focus is to complete planting along the waterways and then shift emphasis onto planting areas on the most unstable slopes within the catchment (LUC classes 6 and 7).</p>
Current State (2014)	<p>Regular monitoring shows that sediment is one element of water quality that is not improving but much work is underway in this area.</p> <p>The Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy Coordination Group (via BOPRC) has made a submission to the proposed Whakatāne District Plan.</p> <p>BOPRC has reviewed and updated forestry operational guidelines.</p> <p>Fencing of harbour margins to exclude stock and riparian planting almost fully completed for both the Ōhiwa Catchment streams and the Nukuhou River and its tributaries.</p> <p>Ninety hectares of steep slopes in the Waingarara Stream catchment have been replanted.</p> <p>BOPRC provides support, advice, education and enforcement to ensure land management practices comply with best practice. Enforcement is carried out where necessary.</p> <p>There is still 40 percent of the catchment in LUC Class 6/7 which needs some erosion control work or land use change. Work is progressed when possible through BOPRC programmes.</p>

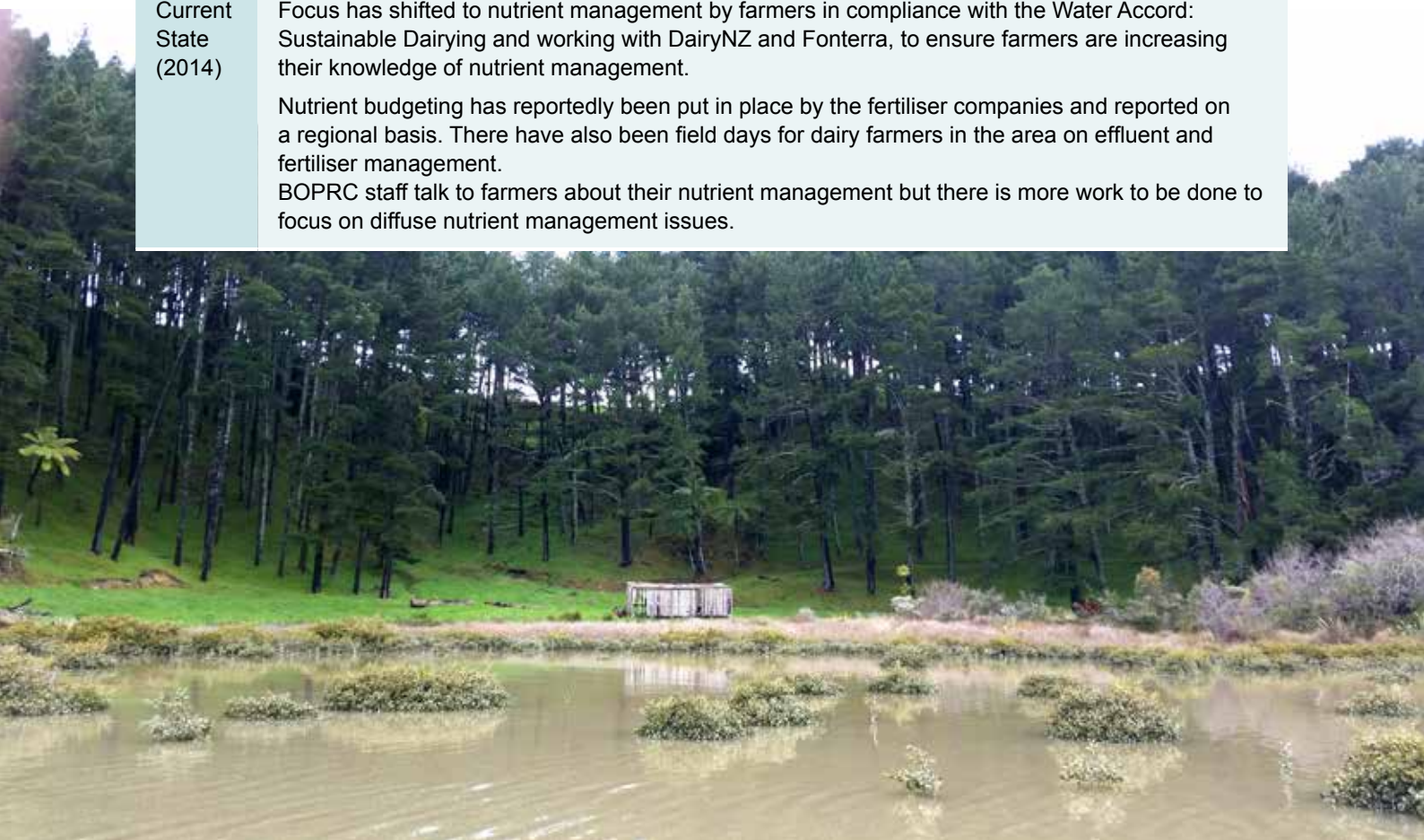


### 1.3 Reduce contamination from urban activities

What	BOPRC, WDC and ODC will raise public awareness of urban wastewater to reduce contaminants from stormwater and septic tank effluent entering the harbour.
Why	Active promotion of better practices to manage stormwater from their properties will help urban residents to avoid contamination.  Reminding septic tank users of practices such as regular maintenance will reduce the impact of the effluent on the harbour.
Current State (2014)	New building and resource consents require stormwater management as specified in an engineering code of practice.  A comprehensive stormwater consent is to be developed for all WDC catchments – Ōhiwa/Ōhope is not yet underway.  BOPRC and WDC are conducting a catchment study around Wainui Te Whara urban and upper stormwater catchment.

### 1.4 Encourage the introduction and use of farm stewardship plans

What	The Regional Council will work with farmers to develop farm stewardship plans, including nutrient budgets, to manage environmental issues on farms including nitrogen and phosphorus entering water.
Why	Nutrient run-off from farms leads to increased nitrification of the harbour which has adverse effects, such as increased mangrove growth and toxic blooms and possibly other changes in the ecological balance of the harbour.
Current State (2014)	Focus has shifted to nutrient management by farmers in compliance with the Water Accord: Sustainable Dairying and working with DairyNZ and Fonterra, to ensure farmers are increasing their knowledge of nutrient management.  Nutrient budgeting has reportedly been put in place by the fertiliser companies and reported on a regional basis. There have also been field days for dairy farmers in the area on effluent and fertiliser management.  BOPRC staff talk to farmers about their nutrient management but there is more work to be done to focus on diffuse nutrient management issues.



### 1.5 Manage mangroves in line with the resource consent held by Te Ūpokorehe

What	Management of mangroves will continue to be supported in line with the current resource consent held by Te Ūpokorehe. Initiatives to promote the understanding of mangroves and their habitat will also be supported.
Why	There is community concern that the increased spread of mangroves in recent times has been driven by human activities and is impacting on wildlife, kaimoana, hydrology and cultural and recreational values. A well researched case has been made to manage this increased spread.
Current State (2014)	<p>Mapping of mangrove extents and cover has been completed and is updated when new aerial photography becomes available.</p> <p>The Ōhiwa Harbour Sediment and Mangrove Management Plan has been completed along with a fact sheet and communications plan.</p> <p>Following the granting of resource consent to Te Ūpokorehe in 2011, community volunteers have removed mangroves from 14 ha on the eastern side of the harbour. The consent expires in 2020.</p>

### 1.6 Investigate classifications for the Ōhiwa Harbour to reflect its special character

What	Investigate classifying the Ōhiwa Harbour in a way that acknowledges its importance, particularly its native and migratory birdlife.
Why	Ōhiwa Harbour is a special place for people and an important site for estuarine habitat and native and migratory birds. There are national and international classification systems that could recognise its uniqueness.
Current State (2014)	Ramsar status for the harbour has been investigated but was not endorsed at the time. A report by Tonkin and Taylor found that Ramsar listing would not provide any greater degree of protection or management over that already provided for, in the Regional Coastal Environment Plan and the OHS.

### 1.7 Protect and enhance wetlands and saltmarshes and explore opportunities to construct new areas

What	<p>The Strategy partners will restore and protect wetlands and saltmarshes where possible, to help mitigate sediment and nutrient contamination, protect biodiversity and help with resilience to flooding of the low valley floors.</p> <p>Opportunities to construct new wetlands where they can help mitigate sediment and nutrient contamination will be explored.</p>
Why	Wetlands and saltmarshes contain sediment and treat nutrients running off the land. They also offer habitat that helps to promote increased biodiversity. Well designed and located constructed wetlands can help further with these processes.
Current State (2014)	<p>A baseline monitoring survey of harbour saltmarshes has been carried out and this will be repeated from time to time.</p> <p>The Nukuhou Saltmarsh Care Group has carried out extensive restoration of the largest saltmarsh at the mouth of the Nukuhou River.</p>

## 1.8 Monitor and assess the health of Ōhiwa Harbour

What	Monitor and assess Ōhiwa Harbour and its catchment for ecological, physical and water quality to inform management requirements.
Why	A coordinated approach to identifying ecological values and significant natural areas, is the first step to achieving appropriate management and protection of natural values. Surveys identify these values and areas and help to make informed decisions and provide useful information for reserve management purposes, pest control and other management work.
Current State (2014)	<p>A monitoring programme has been set up to systematically monitor and report on 47 ecological and physical parameters in the harbour and catchment including, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benthic macroinvertebrates and seagrass.</li> <li>• Vegetation cover.</li> <li>• Water quality and harbour sediment.</li> <li>• Wetlands and saltmarsh extents and threats.</li> <li>• Marshbirds and shore birds.</li> <li>• Rare plants.</li> </ul> <p>The first “State of the Ōhiwa Harbour and Catchment Report” was produced in 2013 and interim reports are produced annually.</p>

## 1.9 Protect and manage habitat and species

What	Develop, over time, coordinated and comprehensive pest plant and pest animal management to reduce their impact on habitat and species. Ensure appropriate and ongoing encouragement and support for landowners and community groups managing pests. Maximise opportunities to carry out ecological restoration.
Why	<p>The birds that live and breed in the harbour as well as those that use the tidal flats as a migratory stopover point, are an integral part of the harbour’s character. There are a number of pressures on the bird populations from pests, recreation, dogs, changes in the harbour conditions and changes in habitat. Protection of their habitat is critical.</p> <p>Protection of birdlife involves monitoring, identification of specific threats, and initiating a programme of action. A number of activities undertaken by local authorities, the Department of Conservation, interest groups and individuals already contribute to protection of birdlife, however, joint effort and a coordinated approach will assist.</p> <p>There are opportunities to carry out restoration planting and protection of existing biodiversity alongside walkway developments and as part of subdivision consenting.</p>
Current State (2014)	<p>Control of the full suite of predators, or sometimes selected predators, is carried out in many reserves by the owning agency and/or community groups with the support of DOC and BOPRC. Black backed gulls are culled in some areas.</p> <p>Marshbird, threatened plants and saltmarsh surveys have been completed. Wading and shore bird numbers are regularly monitored.</p> <p>This is reported on in detail in the State of the Ōhiwa Harbour Report and the annual interim reports.</p>

### 1.10 Investigate the presence of indigenous freshwater fish species and identify opportunities to manage

What	Develop a greater understanding of indigenous fish species and habitat in the streams that flow into Ōhiwa Harbour and the connectivity between those streams and the harbour. Establish a programme of action to improve fish habitat, when and where appropriate.
Why	<p>There is only limited information about fish species presence in the streams that flow into Ōhiwa Harbour. Fish habitat values and artificial barriers to fish passage are not well documented.</p> <p>All streams should be surveyed to record fish passage barriers, fish species present and existing habitat values.</p> <p>Locations where fish habitat and passage can be enhanced or recreated without compromising flood protection works should be identified.</p>
Current State (2014)	<p>A brief survey of some fish passage and barriers has been carried out. Twelve poor quality passages have been retrofitted. A more extensive survey has identified further potential barriers.</p> <p>A survey of indigenous fish in some streams in the catchment has been completed. Īnanga and whitebait assessments are awaiting completion.</p>

### 1.11 Investigate the potential impacts of climate change on the Ōhiwa Harbour

What	The Strategy partners will research the impact of climate change on the Ōhiwa Harbour.
Why	<p>Climate change will cause heavier rainfall events and changes in sea level. This is likely to cause further issues with erosion and will also impact on the land use around the harbour.</p> <p>Once the possible impacts are better understood, the community can be better prepared and the harbour managed accordingly to reduce the impacts.</p>
Current State (2014)	This is a new action and no work on climate change impacts specifically for Ōhiwa Harbour has yet been done.

### 1.12 Support appropriate regional, district and iwi plan provisions to achieve sustainable management of the Ōhiwa Harbour and catchment

What	Support provisions in all plans relating to Ōhiwa Harbour and its catchment that ensure development is managed sustainably and in a coordinated manner.
Why	Such plans provide policies and rules that can affect how an area is developed and the facilities and infrastructure that is required to service the new developments. Development can place pressure on the existing use of the harbour and its resources. Iwi management plans also inform management operations.
Current State (2014)	<p>The Whakatāne District Plan is under review and provides for an Ōhiwa Zone. ODC has begun work leading up to the 2015 review of the Ōpōtiki District Plan.</p> <p>Both councils accept that their plans regarding Ōhiwa need to be better aligned.</p> <p>The Regional Coastal Environment Plan is also being reviewed (2015).</p> <p>The Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy Coordination Group has tried to ensure that these plans contain appropriate provisions and are in line with strategy policies.</p>

### 1.13 Develop data sets to augment resource management protocols

What	Develop data sets and systems to identify consents and complaints relevant to the harbour, to allow better exchange of information between authorities and between Ōhiwa Strategy partners, according to resource management protocols.
Why	<p>Protocols are already in place to exchange information about resource management processes. However, the existing data sets can be difficult to use and require large staff resources to access and analyse.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to develop data sets and systems, to better identify Ōhiwa Harbour issues, to allow better information exchanges between authorities and a more coordinated approach.</p>
Current State (2014)	<p>A resource management review has been completed.</p> <p>ODC, WDC and Ngāti Awa have created protocols. BOPRC has protocols with the district councils.</p>

### 1.14 Support and implement consenting, bylaw and statutory responsibilities

What	Continue to support statutory agencies in their enforcement and compliance regimes to ensure that natural environments are protected from damage.
Why	<p>A number of community concerns about damage to ecological resources relate to areas where regulations are currently in place or legal sanctions available. For example, vehicles driving across estuarine areas or in sand dunes or stock in waterways. In a number of cases the problem translates to one of enforcement.</p> <p>Bylaws, district and regional plan rules, resource consent conditions and covenants/ encumbrances are all methods by which enforcement can occur.</p>
Current State (2014)	The Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy Coordination Group responds to community concerns and works with the appropriate agencies on an ongoing basis.




## Action Area 2 – Harbour management

The health and ongoing availability of kaimoana in the harbour is of utmost importance to the community, particularly tangata whenua. If the rest of the harbour is healthy and managed appropriately, kaimoana will thrive.

However, this resource needs to be protected to ensure its ongoing availability.

### 3.3 Community issues – harbour management

1. Kaimoana in the Ōhiwa Harbour is threatened by overfishing, inappropriate gathering methods, starfish predation, and changes in the harbour environment, particularly sedimentation. This has led to the disappearance of some species and is threatening those species that remain.
2. Much more needs to be done to raise awareness of the issues, protect the resource and to police the rules and regulations around fishing and shellfish gathering.
3. Ongoing research is necessary to understand the threats to the resource and this should take more of a bicultural focus.



*The health and ongoing availability of kaimoana in the harbour is of utmost importance to the community.*

### 3.4 Actions – harbour management

2.1 Investigate shellfish populations and advocate for sustainable shellfish management	
What	Work with the Ministry of Primary Industries and the local community to ensure that shellfish in the harbour are managed sustainably. Other actions in the strategy will help to mitigate more general environmental impacts on shellfish.
Why	If the shellfish species within the harbour are not monitored, collected or managed correctly, they can decline and disappear from the harbour. There is considerable community concern about this.
Current State (2014)	<p>The distribution and populations of several species of shellfish in the harbour have declined considerably in historical times. Increased sedimentation is the likely cause of this.</p> <p>Mussels on the western side of the harbour have been surveyed (at that time the mussel bed was found to be in severe decline owing to sea star predation) and planning is in progress for further regular research and survey of the eastern mussel beds.</p> <p>Te Ūpokorehe wardens monitor the eastern side of the harbour during summer to ensure shellfish gatherers follow the rules.</p> <p>The Ministry for Primary Industries estimate cockle and pipi populations every few years.</p>
2.2 Investigate wetfish populations and advocate for sustainable fishery management	
What	Work with the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) and the community to ensure that fisheries in the harbour are managed sustainably. This includes monitoring the commercial fisheries and fishing practices that may not be sustainable.
Why	There are community concerns about the level of enforcement that is provided in Ōhiwa Harbour and that more resources should be provided to assist with fishery protection. There is particular concern about the illegal setting of flounder nets.
Current State (2014)	To date, no work has been carried out under this action.
2.3 Support Māhinga Mātaimai status for Ōhiwa Harbour	
What	Support efforts by tangata whenua to establish a rohe moana and seek māhinga mātaimai status for the harbour.
Why	<p>The pressures that exist on the customary fishery at Ōhiwa Harbour, may mean that māhinga mātaimai status for the harbour could provide a useful sustainable management tool. An assessment of fisheries management initiatives will be part of determining whether a mataitai reserve is the best option for managing the customary fishery.</p> <p>Mātaimai reserves are areas where the tangata whenua manage all non-commercial fishing by making bylaws under the Fisheries Act. The bylaws must apply equally to all individuals. Mātaimai reserves may only be applied for over traditional fishing grounds and must be areas of special significance to the tangata whenua.</p> <p>The tangata whenua and MPI must consult the local community together. There are a number of criteria that must be satisfied before MPI can approve a mātaimai reserve proposal.</p>
Current State (2014)	A discussion paper has been prepared and discussions have been taking place within and between several of the local iwi.

## Action Area 3 – People and communities


This action area covers the themes of kaitiakitanga, recreation opportunities, and a more informed community. It addresses the issues associated with people and their use of harbour and catchment resources.

Kaitiakitanga is the customary practices used by tangata whenua to manage their environment and their relationships with it, based on a Māori world view. A key element of achieving integrated management for Ōhiwa Harbour is the involvement of tangata whenua in processes relating to protection, change and development. The pākehā community also sees their stewardship of the land as important.

The harbour is highly valued for the many recreational opportunities it provides, and there are perhaps more that can be developed, but care must be taken to minimise any conflict or imbalance between various uses and with other harbour values.

There is considerable appetite in the community to be more informed about, and involved with, the science and mātauranga Māori that underpins the protection of the harbour and to be more informed about the human history and natural history of the harbour and its catchment.

The Ōhiwa Harbour community is passionate about their harbour and motivated to ensure its protection and to engage in its restoration. Groups and individuals must be well supported and encouraged in the protection work they do.



*The Ōhiwa Harbour community is passionate about their harbour and motivated to ensure its protection and to engage in its restoration.*



### 3.5 Community issues – people and communities

1. There is a desire to see greater understanding and acknowledgement of cultural connections to the harbour and protection of significant sites.
2. There is a desire to utilise kaitiakitanga to assist in achieving sustainable management of Ōhiwa Harbour. This includes an acknowledgement of the non-human kaitiaki (taniwha) already in the harbour.
3. Increasing numbers of residents and visitors put pressure on the existing facilities such as jetties, boat ramps, rubbish bins and toilets. These facilities could be improved and other recreational opportunities provided but in a way that minimises conflict with other values.
4. More educational information should be provided about all aspects of the harbour and there are many interesting stories to be told. There are many ways in which this information could be provided.
5. More information, education and support is needed to improve harbour protection and management. This includes making science accessible to all. The Ōhiwa Harbour community has signalled a willingness in a number of areas to contribute to the sustainable management of the harbour and their efforts need to be well supported.
6. More effort needs to be made to involve all sectors of the community (particularly tourism, urban and farming) in looking after the harbour.
7. There are opportunities to promote and support many community groups and initiatives. These include education, research, and work opportunities.



## 3.6 Actions – people and communities

3.1 Develop and implement a recreation strategy	
What	<p>Develop a recreation strategy that guides what activities and facilities are appropriate on and around the harbour, and how they will be managed in the future taking into account cultural perspectives.</p> <p>The potential actions around recreation are many and suggestions for what the strategy could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting a recreational “tone” for the harbour ie. active but not extreme.</li> <li>• An assessment of current facilities versus demand.</li> <li>• The identification of any potential new recreational facilities, opportunities or events, with an assessment of their possible impact.</li> <li>• Designated zones for swimming, jet-ski, kaimoana collection etc.</li> <li>• Regular public surveys.</li> </ul> <p>The recreation strategy will include actions from this section of the original Ōhiwa Strategy including: 10.3.1, 10.3.4, 10.3.5, and 10.3.7. These actions are included as Appendix 3. These actions will remain included in this strategy to ensure they are progressed while the recreation strategy is developed.</p>
Why	<p>Tangata whenua have a traditional view that the harbour is a food basket - playing in it is not always appropriate. This conflicts with a traditional pākehā view that water is, amongst other things, for recreational use. It is important to ensure that recreational activities are in balance with cultural values.</p> <p>Some people would like more recreational facilities (more walkways, more water skiing lanes); others prefer a more passive appreciation of the harbour.</p> <p>It is also important to ensure that recreational activities are managed in a coordinated way to ensure maximum appreciation and enjoyment of the harbour.</p>
Current State (2014)	<p>Recreational use of the harbour was researched in early 2014. This provided very useful feedback from harbour users, residents and visitors and will help guide the development of a recreation strategy. The research will be repeated from time to time in the future. Most recreational facilities are provided and managed by individual agencies.</p> <p>Many of the recreation related actions in the original strategy were either completed or found to be unnecessary.</p>



### 3.2 Promote awareness of the cultural heritage of the Ōhiwa Harbour

What	The cultural heritage of the Ōhiwa Harbour should be recognised and understood by all as the harbour has been a significant place for Māori for many centuries.
Why	<p>Māori have a fundamental relationship with the area and there are many waahi tapu and waahi taonga in and around the Ōhiwa Harbour.</p> <p>In the past, it was suggested that these areas should be identified so that they can be protected. However, identification of these sites is often not considered appropriate by iwi and hapū. Therefore, the entire area should be recognised as having high cultural heritage.</p> <p>Visitors, residents and harbour users should have the opportunity to learn and appreciate this heritage.</p>
Current State (2014)	<p>Ngāti Awa have identified and mapped their cultural sites.</p> <p>Discussions are underway with Ūpokorehe, Ngāi Tūhoe and Whakatōhea.</p>

### 3.3 Recognise and apply the principles of kaitiakitanga and stewardship in management of the harbour

What	This action involves working with tangata whenua to recognise and promote the understanding of the kaitiaki of the harbour. It also includes managing the harbour and its catchment, according to the principles of kaitiakitanga and stewardship and promoting these to the wider community.
Why	To celebrate the kaitiaki of the harbour, those who have the deepest connection with the place, and to ensure that management of the harbour is carried out and promoted appropriately.
Current State (2014)	The Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum gave formal acknowledgement of the document drafted by Ngāti Awa, Te Kete Kai a Tairongo: Te Tohu Mohukihuki o Te Kete Kai a Tairongo (providing for kaitiakitanga for Ōhiwa).

### 3.4 Retain Onekawa Te Mawhai Regional Park and manage according to the park management plan

What	Ensure that the Regional Park at Onekawa Te Mawhai is retained and opportunities to enhance and expand this area are pursued.
Why	<p>The creation of this park has been a significant success for the local community. The management plan that's in place will be followed resulting in the development of the park for recreational purposes over time. The archaeological sites and the significance of them to tangata whenua will be recognised.</p> <p>There may be an opportunity to expand this public area by amalgamating the land with adjoining district council and Department of Conservation land and this is being investigated.</p>
Current State (2014)	Onekawa Te Mawhai Regional Park was opened to the public in September 2010. Several hui have been held to discuss future with community. A park management plan is in place. There has been an increase in operational activity at the site and visitor use. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ODC and BOPRC provides for their co-management of the park. An MOU is also in place between BOPRC and Te Ūpokorehe to ensure the latter's participation in park governance.

### 3.5 Ensure information distribution (including signage around the harbour) is current, appropriate and coordinated

What	Statutory agencies and others will continue their coordinated approach managing signage and interpretive material around the harbour.
Why	<p>A survey of the signage around the harbour revealed a number of issues. These issues can be resolved by better placement and maintenance and by coordination between agencies.</p> <p>Signs can also be used to tell the stories of the harbour, including the history from a tangata whenua perspective.</p> <p>As well as signs, there are other ways to distribute information and these will be investigated as appropriate.</p> <p>This information should promote the understanding of, and celebrate, the natural, cultural and historic heritage of the harbour.</p> <p>Research tells us that people are keen to find out more about many aspects of the harbour.</p>
Current State (2014)	<p>A signage review has been completed and presented to the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum in March 2014. A signage upgrade is now in progress which includes the development of whakaruruhau at key locations.</p> <p>Te Reo will be added when and where appropriate.</p> <p>The Heritage Trail project is underway.</p>

### 3.6 Continue to implement the Communication/Education Plan

What	Implementation of the communication plan should continue and consideration be given to updating it over time.
Why	A communications plan was developed in 2010 and is implemented on an ongoing basis. The aim of the plan is to increase community understanding and appreciation of Ōhiwa Harbour and its catchment and threats to its natural values and to ensure good communication between the Strategy partners and other agencies. Implementation of this plan will continue but will need ongoing review to ensure continued relevance.
Current State (2014)	The plan has resulted in the development of a quarterly community newsletter, a minutes summary for member agencies and groups, the development of Ōhiwa web pages on the BOPRC website and a number of hui and other events.



*Whakaruruhau with existing signage including a conceptual image of new Ōhiwa Harbour map (right).*

### 3.7 Develop a coordinated approach to, and implement management of, public reserves

What	Manage the public reserves in the Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment with a coordinated approach by the responsible agencies. Ensure that an appropriate level of management is carried out and that it is in keeping with the Strategy.
Why	New opportunities for public reserves are limited. Emphasis is now to be focused on more effectively managing the resources we have.
Current State (2014)	WDC, ODC, BOPRC, DOC and Iwi manage a variety of reserves which require various levels and types of maintenance. Visitor assets in many are being upgraded over time. Opportunities to acquire further reserves and to increase the level of service are explored as they arise.

### 3.8 Support the implementation of regulations for controlling vehicles on tidal flats and beaches

What	Support local bylaws and the development of regional rules for controlling vehicles on tidal flats and beaches around Ōhiwa Harbour.
Why	<p>Potential adverse effects from vehicles on beaches include damage to the natural environment, reduced amenity and compromised safety. Council cooperation is needed for management of vehicles, as district and regional councils have differing responsibilities above and below the Mean High Water Springs mark.</p> <p>The Ōhope Reserves Management Plan and the Regional Coastal Environment Plan have provisions that seek to restrict vehicles.</p>
Current State (2014)	<p>This policy is covered in bylaws of both district councils and signage is present at major access points. Few vehicles are seen on mudflats these days but they can still be a problem on both spits.</p> <p>Ūpokorehe kaitiaki monitor actively each summer.</p>

### 3.9 Support appropriate harbour and catchment research opportunities

What	Identify potential research projects into biodiversity and other aspects of the harbour and catchment. These projects should use a bi-cultural lens to ensure that Māori values are considered.
Why	There is plenty of scope for further research into many aspects of the harbour to add to knowledge we already have. Apart from recognised research institutes, other local education institutes (Te Wānanga o Awanuiārangi for example) may be able to have input into harbour and catchment research. All research should take into account mātauranga Māori.
Current State (2014)	Catchment research has recently been undertaken by NIWA and Scion. Te Wānanga o Awanuiārangi have not yet been formally approached.

### 3.10 Develop protocols between the Ōhiwa partners and other statutory agencies

What	Develop appropriate protocols between statutory agencies and tangata whenua, to provide for processes that integrate kaitiakitanga into Ōhiwa Harbour resource management practices.
Why	<p>Protocols between organisations can assist with integrating kaitiakitanga into resource management practices. As a first step, hui need to be held to discuss what protocols can offer to each party.</p> <p>Protocols may identify methods for recovering costs and recognising the value of work undertaken by tangata whenua engaged in consultation. A range of services and products are provided by tangata whenua in relation to consultation. Some justify full cost recovery (such as consulting work for resource consent applications), some cost sharing (such as consultation on statutory policies and plans) and some should not attract any charge (such as responses or submissions to the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan). Where no charge is warranted, contributions from issuing agencies may still be appropriate.</p>
Current State (2014)	<p>A resource management review has been completed.</p> <p>BOPRC has protocols with the district councils.</p> <p>Iwi management plans and kaitiakitanga plans contribute to kaitiaki protocols.</p> <p>Ngāti Awa have created protocols.</p>

### 3.11 Support the work of landowners and community groups

What	Statutory agencies recognise the value of, and support the work of, landowners, community groups and others, managing or restoring aspects of the harbour and its catchment. This includes promotion of the roles and responsibilities of harbour wardens, fisheries officers and tangata kaitiaki.
Why	<p>The work that landowners, community groups and others do, managing or restoring aspects of the harbour and its catchment is of huge importance.</p> <p>Experienced staff are available to landowners who may be interested in receiving specific advice and assistance in relation to biodiversity, revegetation, sediment control and land management practices.</p> <p>There are a number of community groups helping to improve harbour margins and protect ecological sites and these groups and their activities will continue to be supported – as will new groups that establish. Support includes capacity building, project facilitation, coordination of relevant agencies and funding.</p> <p>Support is not limited to physical restoration projects but is also available for education initiatives and events. Involving volunteers and schools in surveys and monitoring of natural areas, as well as management work, in the Ōhiwa Harbour and catchment provides opportunities for community education and specific learning to occur.</p> <p>Establishing links between, coordinating the efforts of, and providing expertise to, groups and individuals can be crucial to successful community projects.</p> <p>It is important that statutory authorities and organisations support the contributions made by honorary harbour wardens. It is also important that the public understands the distinctions between the roles of honorary harbour wardens, fisheries officers and tangata kaitiaki.</p>

Current State (2014)	<p>BOPRC currently provides ongoing support of the following groups in plant and animal pest management, and re-vegetation: Ōhiwa and Ōhope Coast Care Groups, Nukuhou/Uretara, Paparoa Road, Ohākana Island, Ōhiwa Reserves and Ruatuna/Pukeruru Care Groups.</p> <p>BOPRC programmes have supported landowners to complete Ōhiwa Harbour margin fencing and much of the stream margins in the catchment. Several area of significant biodiversity have been protected. The Ngāti Awa farm has also been supported.</p> <p>Links between the groups have been fostered by holding several combined events.</p> <p>Support has also been provided to several Environmental Enhancement Fund projects, events, such as the BirdsAPlenty Festival, education programmes in several schools and Te Ūpokorehe kaitiaki.</p>
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### 3.12 Support the involvement of local people in education initiatives and in the management of the Ōhiwa Harbour and its catchment

What	Encourage work and education opportunities that are relevant to the Ōhiwa Harbour.
Why	There may be opportunities for the employment of people from local iwi and hapū, to carry out work required by the strategy actions where this is possible and appropriate or to gain work experience working alongside experts. There is also an opportunity for students from Te Wānanga o Awanuiārangi or other places to carry out research of mutual to improve our knowledge of the harbour through relevant study programmes.
Current State (2014)	This is a new action and nothing has yet been done in this area.

### 3.13 Advocate for health and safety within the harbour and its catchment

What	Advocate to eastern bay road safety committee and harbourmaster to improve safety for the community using the harbour and supporting access roads.
Why	<p>There is some concern from the community about navigational issues on the harbour and speed limits on the surrounding roads.</p> <p>Advocating to the relevant organisations for increased safety helps to maximise the enjoyment of the area.</p>
Current State (2014)	This is a new action and nothing specific has yet been done in this area.





*The landscapes of Ōhiwa Harbour are widely recognised as outstanding and the Regional Policy Statement classifies the Ōhiwa Harbour as having Outstanding Natural Character.*



# Part 4: Appendices

## Appendix 1 – The Governance Structure

The Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum (OHIF) was formed in 2008. Membership is made up of one representative from each of the following organisations who were signatories of the original strategy:

- Ōpōtiki District Council.
- Whakatāne District Council.
- Bay of Plenty Regional Council.
- Whakatōhea.
- Ūpokorehe.
- Ngāti Awa.
- Ngāi Tūhoe (Te Waimana Kaaku).

The forum is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this strategy and for reporting back to the partners and community. On occasion, the forum invites guests from organisations such as the Department of Conservation, the Ministry of Primary Industries and local care groups, to attend and present at meetings. Meetings are held approximately every six months.

The Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy Coordination Group (OHSCG) was formed in 2008 as a way of coordinating the delivery of strategy actions. Its membership is made up of nominated representatives and organisational managers from each of the partners, as well as representatives from other organisations such as the Department of Conservation. Some actions in this strategy identify areas where membership of the OHSCG may be extended to include other groups such as farmers, tourism groups, recreation groups and similar.

The OHSCG works together to deliver the strategy actions and meets every quarter to discuss delivery of the actions. The members are responsible to OHIF and their individual organisations.

## Appendix 2 – Characteristics and outstanding features

### Landscapes

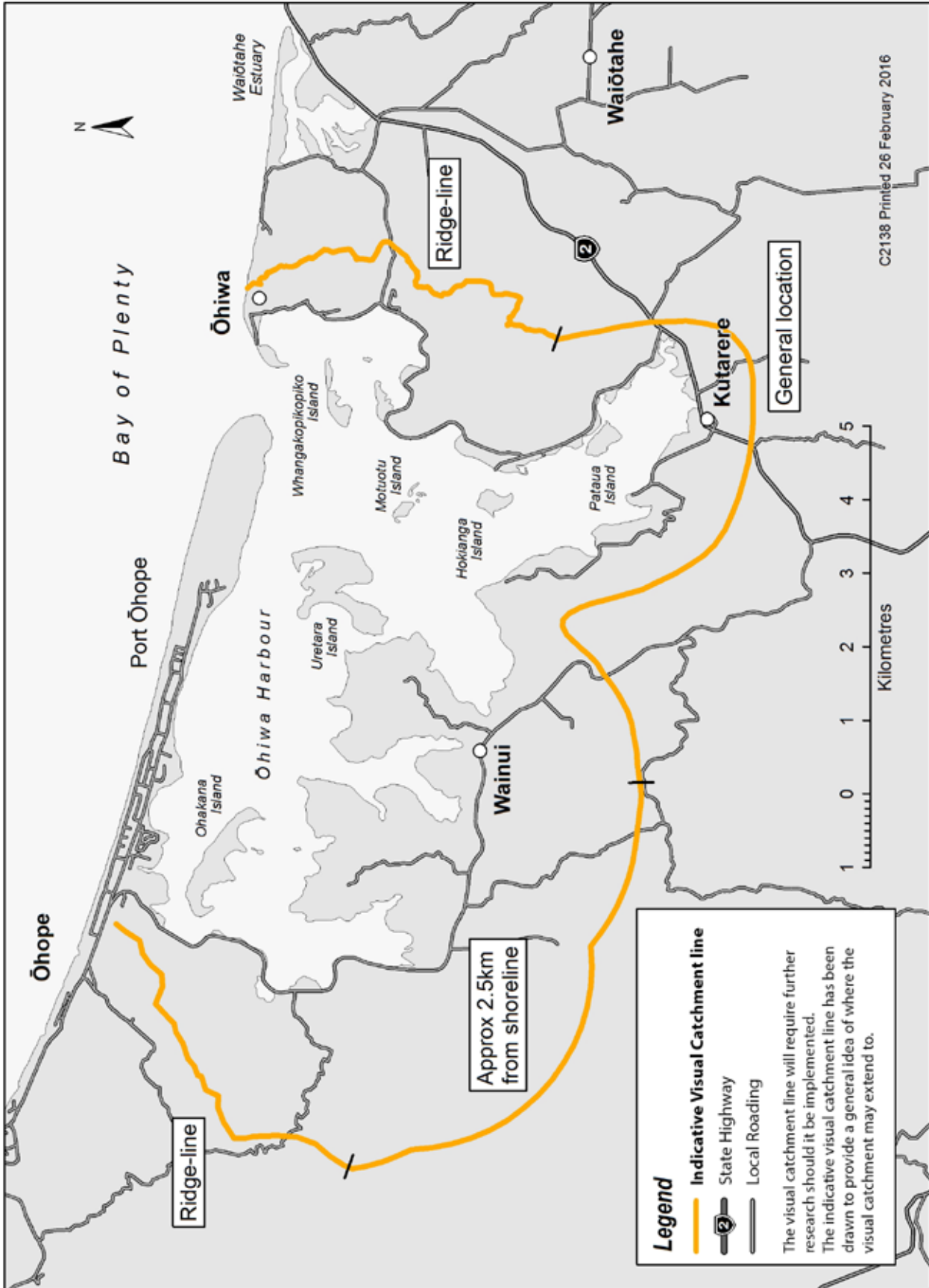
The landscapes of Ōhiwa Harbour are widely recognised as outstanding and the Regional Policy Statement classifies the Ōhiwa Harbour as having Outstanding Natural Character.

Landscape studies have identified the Ōhiwa Harbour, the far end of Ōhope Spit and the Ōhope Spit duneland hillocks as outstanding natural landscapes. There are a number of areas including the harbour, parts of the harbour foreshore, saltmarsh and wetlands that are identified as having significant biodiversity values.

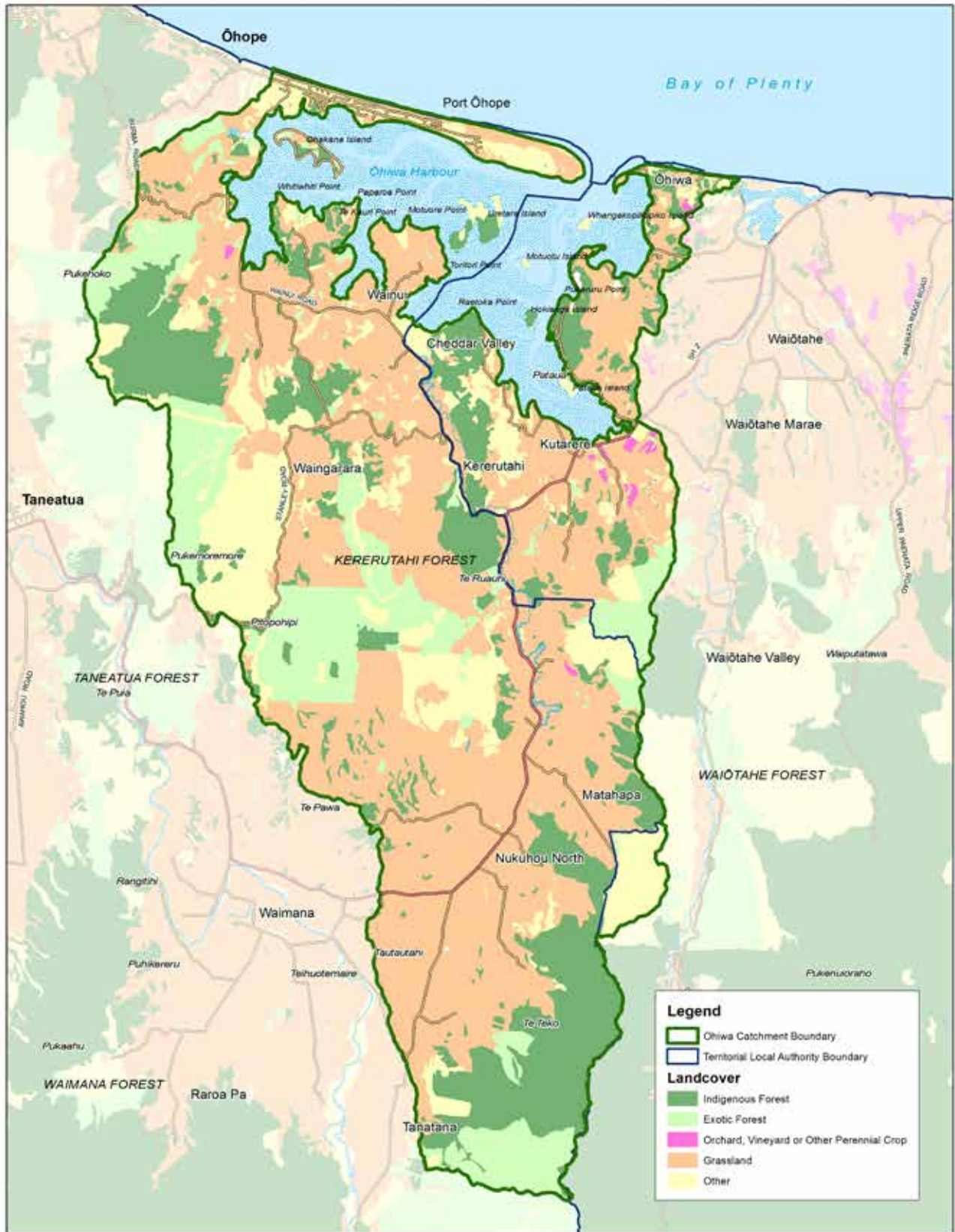
Components of the landscape that make Ōhiwa outstanding are:

- The harbour and estuarine margins (intact saltmarsh and plant communities that extend from salt water inland to terrestrial indigenous habitat).
- Headlands and peninsulas that extend into the harbour.
- Stands of remnant bush, especially in gullies.
- The Ōhope and Ōhiwa spits and dunelands.
- The absence of obtrusive or large out-of-scale structures and buildings.
- The islands and sand bars within the harbour which reflect the geology, topography and natural processes of the harbour.
- Rolling hill country and the complex hill and valley stream and river systems that provide a backdrop to the harbour.
- Cultural/archaeological features visible in the landscape.
- Changes in this landscape can have an impact on the visual catchment as illustrated in Map 3.

Map 3 – Indicative Visual Catchment Boundary

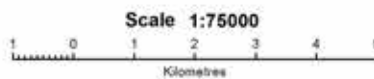


Map 4 – Land Cover of the Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment



Projection and Grid Information  
 HORIZONTAL DATUM: New Zealand Geodetic Datum 2000  
 For practical purposes, NZGD2000 equates to WGS84  
 VERTICAL DATUM: Motukahi  
 PROJECTION: New Zealand Transverse Mercator 2000  
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### Ohiwa Landuse



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OhiwaLanduse\_A3P

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## Catchment Land Use

On the river valley flats with fertile silty soils, the predominant land use is dairy farming with a few smaller areas of horticulture (mostly kiwifruit). The rolling hill country with ash and pumice soils has a mix of dairy and drystock farming with some large areas of plantation forest. Areas adjacent or closest to the harbour are commonly lifestyle blocks. Significant natural areas remain in native forest, saltmarsh, mangroves, sand dune and saltmarsh.

Land cover derived from the national land cover database:

Land cover	Area 2008 (ha)	Area 2012 (ha)	Area of Change 2008-2012 (ha)
Plantation Forest	3253.4	3531.3	+277.9
Exotic scrub	25.1	21	-4.1
Horticulture	82.8	82.5	-0.3
Indigenous Forest	4237.1	3966.4	-270.7
Indigenous scrub	1144.2	549.6	-594.6
Pasture	8077.7	7980.1	-97.6
Urban	116.6	119.9	-3.8
Other (mangrove, saltmarsh, sand dune etc)	498.5	1012.9	+514.38

## Ecology and habitats

Historical land clearance and development in the catchment means that there are few areas of forest left in the coastal zone (1–3 km inland). These include Pātāua Island, Uretara Island and Hiwarau Forest. Nevertheless, there are many areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats in the harbour and the wider catchment, and much of this is in private ownership.

Ōhiwa is regarded as one of the most natural harbours in New Zealand with high conservation values and outstanding wildlife values. The coastal margins are home to a number of threatened and migratory birds e.g. the bar-tailed godwit and the northern New Zealand dotterel. Many of the remaining natural areas are fragmented and often degraded remnants of the original ecosystems that were there prior to human settlement.

The remaining bush is generally in small fragmented pockets and these remnants require ongoing management to halt continuing ecological degradation. Many of these remnants are on private land, so landowner support and involvement is vital for their long term sustainability. Despite the change that has occurred, Ōhiwa Harbour is still recognised as being a very significant area for its ecological values and as being an important estuarine area where a myriad of natural processes take place.

The population of the North Island brown kiwi in the Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment is also significant as kiwi are surviving, despite being relatively close to urban areas.

## Wetlands

Wetlands and their margins buffer the effects of land management on the natural water resources. They filter runoff from pastoral land by screening sediment and nutrients. Bacteria in the wetlands convert nitrates to nitrogen gas, which is then safely released to the atmosphere, rather than to the harbour waters. About 97 percent of semi-coastal freshwater wetlands and about 60 percent of coastal freshwater wetlands in the Tāneatua Ecological District (of which Ōhiwa Harbour is part of) have been drained.

Much of the harbour margin area has been fenced off and protected from stock grazing or is in land use that does not involve grazing. Wetlands remain at risk from drainage, flood control and sedimentation.

From 1945 to 2011, the area of mangrove has increased by over 400 percent from 21 ha to 98 ha. Sedimentation and nitrification accelerates the spread of mangrove and sea couch (*elytorgia pycnantha*). Sediment deposited in the upper reaches of the Ōhiwa Harbour is likely to come from streams within the catchment and upper reaches of the harbour.

## Freshwater

Freshwater streams and rivers are an important component of the overall ecological context of the harbour, and provide important habitat for indigenous fish. Many of the freshwater streams (comprising over 50 kms in length) in the harbour catchment have been significantly modified. Channelisation, stopbanking, stock access and weed control along the margins of some streams has reduced their habitat values. Removal of tall vegetation from the stream margins also diminishes freshwater fish habitat. Barriers to fish passage such as culverts and floodgates prevent freshwater fish from re-entering streams, preventing the completion of their life cycle. Many streams no longer provide suitable spawning conditions for whitebait.

Of the upper Nukuhou River Catchment, 61 percent is in pasture. This means a higher peak runoff in a shorter time than was the case under the original forested catchment. Increasing stock numbers also causes soil compaction and further increases the rate of runoff. The removal of streambank vegetation and stock access to banks has aggravated streambank erosion.

The Nukuhou River drains 10,200 ha of land into the harbour. The nutrient and bacteria measurements consistently do not meet Ministry of Health freshwater bathing guidelines although this is a localised problem. The main source of nutrients and bacteria is farming activities.

### Harbour water quality

The harbour has a very low water volume with strong tidal effects, so that water does not remain in the harbour for long; most is flushed out of the estuary in just one or two tidal cycles. This has benefits for water quality. Monitoring of the harbour water shows that its quality is good.

Ōhiwa Harbour is shallow, with over 80 percent of its bed exposed at low tide. This makes it vulnerable to being infilled by sediment. While Ōhiwa Harbour will slowly infill over a long period due to natural erosion processes, human activities increase the speed of sedimentation.

Earthworks from the development of subdivisions, roading, tracking, forestry harvest operations and soil cultivation all contribute to erosion, soil instability and sediment movement. Siltation from catchment streams is the most obvious source of sedimentation of Ōhiwa Harbour. Wave lap erosion, storm surge, erosion of headlands and sediment drift along the coast also contribute to increased sediment levels in the harbour. One-off storm events such as the flood in July 2004 can deposit large quantities of silt into the harbour over short periods.

### Cultural/archaeological sites

A large number of cultural/archaeological sites have been recorded in and around Ōhiwa Harbour. For reasons that still exist today (such as the ready food source) the harbour was an attraction for early use and settlement. The harbour is known for the high concentration of recorded sites of heritage significance. There are also a number of heritage features associated with later settlement, such as the Kutarere Wharf, that play a part in describing the history of the area.

### Pests

Pest animals and plants are present throughout the catchment. Pest animals include possums, wild goats, deer, pigs, rabbits, hares, rats, mice, mustelids (stoats, weasels, ferrets), and feral cats. There has been ongoing possum control in selected parts of the catchment, local goat control, but only limited control of predators that threaten indigenous fauna.

There are many invasive pest plants (i.e. plants that will establish and spread into indigenous vegetation

if left unchecked) in the catchment, but these are, for the most part, relatively small infestations that can be controlled. Pest plants in the Ōhiwa Harbour catchment include ginger, woolly nightshade, pampas, mothplant, japanese walnut, wattles and wilding pines.

### Reserves and public land

There are a number of unformed road reserves and esplanade strips in the Ōhiwa Harbour. There are also esplanade reserves and marginal strips along rivers and streams within the catchment. Some of the unformed road and esplanade strips on the harbour and stream margins provide significant opportunities for ecological restoration and public access.

Some areas of public land are being actively managed and monitored by individuals or community groups. BOPRC, the Department of Conservation, ODC and WDC provide support for this work, although volunteers carry out most of the physical work. Some of these reserves were protected for public access and others for their conservation value, and some for both. Many of these reserves are not actively managed and many are unfenced. They were established when Crown land was disposed of (marginal strips) or where private land was subdivided (esplanade reserves). Many of these reserves are incorporated, informally, into the neighbouring property and are often grazed.

Two reserves located at the end of Te Taiawatea Drive at Ōhope Spit have been set aside under section 338 of Te Ture Whenua Māori (Māori Land Act) 1993. These reserves are set aside for the private use of the Māori landowners and their guests; however, many members of the public use this area to gain access to the foreshore and seabed of the harbour.

ODC, WDC and the Department of Conservation have limited funding for management of existing gazetted reserves within Ōhiwa Harbour and catchment.

The Port Ōhope Recreation Reserve at the end of Ōhope Spit, including the Port Ōhope Golf Club, has been vested in WDC by the Department of Conservation. One hectare of the Port Ōhope Recreation Reserve has become the Ngāti Awa nohoanga (customary camp site), with a further ten hectares to the west being returned to Ngāti Awa under settlement with the Crown. The Ōhiwa Harbour Sandspit Wildlife Refuge, covering 24 ha at the tip of the spit, has been retained by the department.

## Appendix 3 – Actions to be replaced by recreation strategy

A recreation strategy, proposed as Action 3.1 will effectively replace the actions listed below. Implementation of these actions will continue as a part of this strategy until the recreation strategy is substantially complete. They have been included here for reference.

### 10.3.1 Consider opportunities to improve harbour access

What	Consider all opportunities to improve harbour edge access, by making more effective use of the existing publicly owned margins and considering future opportunities to develop more.
Why	Assessment carried out indicates that there are many opportunities to access the harbour, therefore developing new access points is no longer necessary. However, any opportunities to improve the existing harbour access will be explored.
Current State (2014)	<p>The Ōhiwa Harbour walkway is completed from Ōhiwa to the Ōhiwa boat ramp and improves public access.</p> <p>The Whakatāne District Plan review is currently underway and includes a review of esplanade provisions. There are several potential subdivisions and WDC will work to secure esplanade reserve/strip if subdivisions proceed.</p> <p>ODC will review its planning mechanisms for public access to the harbour when its district plan is reviewed in 2015.</p> <p>The overall assessment is that there are many opportunities for harbour access.</p>

### 10.3.4 Complete the Ōhope Spit harbour edge walkway

What	Complete the enhancement of the walkway along the harbour edge of the Ōhope Spit.
Why	It is possible to have an enjoyable walk along the harbour edge of the Ōhope Spit by using existing esplanade reserves, streets and access ways. However, signposting, track development and information on tides is needed to enhance the experience, encourage good conduct and to show the access way.
Current State (2014)	<p>Whakatāne Rotary have proposed a plan to construct a walkway along the harbour edge from Waterways Drive to the wharf and eventually the boat ramp. The Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum supports this in principle.</p> <p>Upgrading the track around the spit itself is not entirely desirable because of dotterel nesting in a DoC reserve. The current Rotary proposal may provide an alternative for this action.</p>

### 10.3.5 Manage public camping facilities

What	Assess and manage the impact of camping and freedom camping around the harbour.
Why	<p>Camping remains an important recreation activity that provides people with affordable accommodation at desirable holiday destinations at Ōhiwa and Ōhope Spits.</p> <p>There are several opportunities to camp at facilities or freedom camping spots around the harbour. The impact of these sites can now be assessed to ensure there is no adverse impact on the harbour.</p>
Current State (2014)	There are two commercial camping grounds available as well as some small private camp grounds. WDC has designated freedom camping sites at Ōhope.

### 10.3.7 Monitoring recreation activities

What	Continue regular monitoring of recreation activities to assess usage and identify incompatible activities, including conflict with cultural and ecological values, and to assist demand management (such as the need for facilities).
Why	<p>Monitoring may involve complaint registers, surveys, compliance activities and community feedback. The monitoring will indicate areas and activities that may need further investigation. This may lead to separation, more stringent controls or integrated management. Regular reporting of findings should occur to the relevant local authority.</p> <p>Bylaws and reserve management plans are all reviewed on a regular basis. For each review statutory authorities will share information on known issues or conflicts.</p>
Current State (2014)	<p>Formal survey of recreational activities completed in February 2014 and reported to the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum in March 2014.</p> <p>Ūpokorehe kaitiaki have monitored harbour use as usual during summer. The major issue is biscuits and jet skis operating out of zone, otherwise behaviour seems to be improving. Few kaimoana issues.</p> <p>Water activities are monitored for the Ōhiwa Harbour by BOPRC harbourmaster and honorary wardens and Ūpokorehe kaitiaki.</p>

