

Te āhua o te Rohe o Te Ika
Whenua o Waitākere 2018

State of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area 2018



The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area



He Mihi

**Ko Hikurangi te maunga
Ko Waitākere te awa.
Ko Te Au o te Whenua te tangata.
Ko Te Kawerau-a-Maki te iwi.**

Hikurangi is the mountain
Waitākere is the river
Te Au o te Whenua is the chief
Te Kawerau-a-Maki is the tribe

**Korōria ki te Atua
Maungārongo ki te whenua
Whakaaro pai ki ngā tāngata katoa**

Glory to God
Peace to the land
May good thoughts come to all

**I te tuatahi ka mihi ki a Kingi Tūheitia,
ki tōna hoa rangatira, a Atawhai me tā
rāua whānau e noho mai nei i runga i te
ahurewa o ōna mātua tūpuna, pai marire.**

Firstly, I greet King Tūheitia,
And his wife Atawhai and their family who are
descendants of royal ancestry, pai marire

**Ki ngā mate, koutou kua whetūrangitia,
kua mene ki te pō – haere, haere, haere.**

To the departed (dead), those who have
recently passed. Darkness has called upon
you. Go (once), go (twice), go (thrice)

**Mai i Te Mānukanuka o Hoturoa ki ngā wai
whakapapa pounamu o te Waitematā, he
reo mihi tānei kia koutou,**

From Te Mānukanuka o Hoturoa to the
pristine waters of the Waitematā, this greeting
to all.

**Nga Mana Whenua o tēnei takiwa, Ngati
Whatua me Te Kawerau a Maki. Ko koutou
e whakaruruhau nei i te Tāone Nui o
Tāmaki Makaurau – Ko te Te Wao-nui-a-
Tiriwa - tu te Ao, tu te Po - tu rangatira
mai.**

From the tribes of this region, Ngati Whatua,
Te Kawerau-a-Maki and Te Wao nui o Tiriwa
- stand by day, stand by night, stand proudly

**E kore e taea e te kupu te whakapuaki i te
mahana o te rā, te mākuku o te ua, me te
marietanga o te hau. Mā te kite, mā te
rongo, mā te whakaaro ka tau te kupu.**

There are no words to express the warmth of
the sun, the drizzle of the rain, and the
peaceful wind. With sight, with sound with
thoughts, words will appear.

“Ahakaoa he iti, he pounamu.”

“Though small, it is precious.”

He mihi poto engari he whakaaro nui.

Though a small greeting, many thoughts
appear

**Noho ora mai i raro i ngā manaakitanga o
te Runga Rawa**

Farewell and thanks to god almighty.

Aroha nui

(With deep affection)

Table of Contents

Foreword by Mayor Phil Goff	5
Message from Waitākere Ranges Local Board Chair Greg Presland	7
Dedication to Waitākere Ranges Local Board Member Denise Yates	8
Tangata whenua / Mana whenua.....	9
Executive summary	13
Overall conclusions.....	15
Report – detailed findings	18
1 Introduction.....	18
2 Topic: Indigenous terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems	34
3 Topic: Natural landforms, landscapes and the night sky.....	85
4 Topic: Recreational use of the heritage area	100
5 Topic: Development and consent activity	135
6 Topic: People and communities.....	148
7 Topic: Historic heritage and scheduled trees.....	174
8 Topic: Water catchment and supply.....	202
9 Abbreviations and Acronyms	221
10 References.....	222
11 Appendices	226

© 2018 Auckland Council

May 2018

Plans and Places; Planning North, West and Islands

Plans and Places would like to thank all those who have contributed to the preparation of this report. This includes Te Kawerau ā Maki, Ngāti Whātua, council departments, council-controlled organisations, Waitākere Ranges Local Board, external specialists and members of the public.

Foreword by Mayor Phil Goff



Auckland is renowned for its natural beauty and getting out into nature is part of our birth right as Aucklanders.

The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area is one of Auckland's most special places. Forged from volcanic basalt over thousands of years, the area's outstanding and distinctive heritage features are a celebrated part of Auckland's identity.

The area is home to unique ecosystems and indigenous flora and fauna, with 542 species of native plant, 50 species of native bird, five indigenous reptile species, the long-tailed bat and the Hochstetter's frog found there.

The local, regional and national significance of the Waitākere Ranges is recognised by the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Act 2008. The Act responds to concerns about the effects of development within the area and aims to preserve the unique natural character and cultural heritage of the area.

It is now a decade since the Act was enacted and this is the second time we have reported on the state of the environment of the heritage area. This report has measured changes over the last five years (2013 – 2018) in the context of unprecedented growth for Auckland.

That growth has brought huge benefits to Auckland, delivering us the talent and investment we need to compete globally and making our city a more culturally rich place to live. At the same time, growth presents real challenges, particularly for our environment.

In the context of the Waitākere Ranges, that is felt most acutely with the continued spread of kauri dieback disease. Council is working with iwi and the local community to protect our kauri by restricting movements in the ranges, but more needs to be done. Council is committed to ensuring we invest to tackle this and other issues like pest management and pollution that are having a negative impact in the area. I expect to see a significant uplift in investment to address these challenges over the coming decade.

Through this report, Auckland Council recognises the stewardship of Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua, as well as the local community who are committed to preserving our iconic Ranges and arresting the decline of our precious kauri from dieback disease.

We all recognise the importance of the Waitākere Ranges to Auckland and to New Zealand. By working together, we can ensure it is conserved and enhanced for the benefit of us, our children and our grandchildren.



Message from Waitākere Ranges Local Board Chair Greg Presland



2018 is the tenth anniversary of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 and this is the second monitoring report prepared under that Act. Ten years is a significant milestone and a good point to assess how we are doing, the progress we have made in achieving the objectives of the Act, and whether we are managing our heritage area so that the values of this special place, our taonga, remain for our children and grandchildren.

Denise Yates was chair of the local board when the first monitoring report was published, and an elected member when she passed away in early 2018. Denise's passion for the environment and communities of the heritage area were clear, and she had a keen interest in the outcomes of this report.

Denise expressed her wish that today we would find the integrity of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area protected and respected, despite the ravages of kauri dieback disease and the demands of an expanding Auckland. Pleasingly, this report shows that while the heritage area continues to face some big and important challenges, overall, the Act is making a difference.

We find that despite all efforts made so far kauri dieback disease continues to spread. This is a particularly local tragedy for a taonga of the heritage area and a national one in terms of our wider forest ecology. Auckland needs to make some tough decisions on what needs to be done to halt the further loss of kauri. The potential new threat of myrtle rust is also on our horizon.

This report gives us time to recognise the progress and achievements made towards meeting the objectives of the Act. This local board always strives to represent the values of the heritage area, and is very conscious of community action taken to hold the line against, for example, animal pests and weeds, and of council's role in empowering private landowners to do their bit. People are generally very proud to live in a heritage area, and that strength of feeling is growing.

This report underlines our collective responsibility to manage, monitor, protect and celebrate this special place. In another ten years I would like to find not only that we have added to the successes of today, but have risen to the long-term challenges that we face to ensure the vision for the heritage area is met.

Dedication to Waitākere Ranges Local Board Member Denise Yates

Waitākere Ranges Local Board Member Denise Yates



Waitākere Ranges Local Board member Denise Yates passed away in January 2018.

Denise lived in Huia, had a great love for the natural environment and communities of the heritage area, and was a passionate advocate for the Act.

Denise was the Chair of the Waitākere Ranges Local Board when the first monitoring report (Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Monitoring Report June 2013) was produced and wrote the Chairperson's message for that report. Five years on Denise, along with her fellow local board members, had a keen interest in this monitoring report and in understanding the present state of the heritage area.

Sadly Denise will not be with us to celebrate the 10-year Anniversary of the Act and the release of this report.

This report is dedicated to Denise and to working towards fulfilling her vision (as expressed by her in the 2013 report) that:

'...despite the ravages of kauri dieback disease and the demands of an expanding Auckland, the integrity of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area will be protected and respected; the taonga will remain intact as the heart and lungs and spiritual backdrop for the Aucklanders of the future.'

Tangata whenua / Mana whenua

Te Kawerau ā Maki

Te Kawerau ā Maki are tangata whenua (people of the land) of Waitākere, who hold customary authority or mana whenua within west Auckland. Te Kawerau ā Maki maintain a separate identity, mana, tikanga (customs), rights and kaitiaki (guardianship) responsibilities to the lands, forest, natural resources and taonga in the Waitākere area.

Te Kawerau ā Maki has existed as a distinct tribal entity since the early 1600s when the ancestor Maki and his brother Mataahu and their people conquered and settled 'Te Ipu Kura ā Maki' (the Tāmaki Isthmus) and the wider area. Through ancestral links, and intermarriage with those earlier peoples occupying the Auckland area, Te Kawerau ā Maki have direct ancestral connections to all of the preceding tribal groups who occupied the area since human occupation began over 800 years ago. Te Kawerau are also descended from the more ancient Turehu who once lived within the forest.

The Waitākere region, and hence the heritage area, takes its name from a very significant rock feature located in the small bay just north of Ihumoana Island, Te Henga. It is so named because of the seas that sweep relentlessly over it. From this rock came the general name for the Te Kawerau ā Maki settlement in the lower Waitākere river valley, and one of the names for the river itself. To Te Kawerau ā Maki, the traditional name for the wider west Auckland area is Hikurangi, while the name for the huge forest that once covered the area is Te Wao nui ā Tiriwa – the great forest of Tiriwa.

Te Kawerau ā Maki ancestral associations with west Auckland are expressed in many different ways including whakapapa (genealogy), pūrākau (traditions), waiata (songs), and tohu or place-names and landmarks that cover all parts of the land and surrounding seas. Te Kawerau mana whenua in west Auckland is also symbolised by the many carved pou that have been erected throughout the region from Whatipu in the south to Te Awa Kotuku (Cascade Kauri Park) in the north. The many peaks extending down the Waitākere Ranges from Muriwai to the Manukau Harbour entrance became known as 'Nga Rau Pou ā Maki', or 'the many posts of Maki'.

Throughout inter-tribal skirmishes and despite European colonisation and the associated alienation from the land, Te Kawerau ā Maki have maintained their identity and relationship to Waitākere. The Te Kawerau ā Maki Claims Settlement Act 2015 saw the Crown apologise to the iwi for breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty) and saw the return of culturally significant lands to the iwi including at Te Henga, Parihoa, Muriwai, Opareira, and Wai Whauwhaupaku. Te Kawerau also have Statutory Acknowledgements over Whatipu Scientific Reserve, Waitākere River, Swanson Conservation Area, Henderson Valley Scenic Reserve, Taumaihi (part of Te Henga Recreational Reserve), Goldies Bush Scenic Reserve, Motutara Settlement Scenic Reserve, Motutara Domain (part Muriwai Beach Domain Recreation Reserve), Te Wai-o-Pareira (Henderson Creek),

and the coastal area of our rohe. Te Kawerau also have Statutory Acknowledgement and other co-management and co-governance opportunities within the area under the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008.



Detail from carving at Arataki Visitors Centre

Ngāti Whātua

Ngāti Whātua is an Auckland, Kaipara and Northland-based iwi with close ancestral ties to Te Kawerau ā Maki. The tribe has a relationship as mana whenua with Auckland Council, and its people continue to maintain their traditions, work in and contribute to all facets of their city. Ngāti Whātua have made use of the resources of, and resided in, the Waitākere Ranges Heritage area over about 400 years, although ancestral connections go back beyond that. Three particular episodes have been noted in a recent account (Paterson, 2009).

During the period of intense warfare in the late 1600s a punitive expedition by Ngāti Whātua down the west coast against Kawerau, known as Te Raupatu Tīhore (the 'Stripping Conquest') led to the seizure by the rangatira Kāwharu's taua of Waitākere pā at Ihumoana (Te Henga), Anawhata, Whakāri (Lion Rock) and Paratutai (at Whatipu).

In the mid 1700s conflict between Kiwi Tāmaki (ariki of the Waiohua confederation of Tāmaki) and Te Tāoū o Ngāti Whātua ranged across the wider region. The Titirangi area was a focal point and a major battle took place in the area between Paruroa (Big Muddy Creek) and what is now Scenic Drive, at which Ngāti Whātua were victorious.

Subsequently, in the early 1800s Ngāti Whātua from Kaipara were in intermittent conflict with their northern neighbours, Ngāpuhi and took refuge at times in the Waitākere Ranges. During this “musket wars” era, Apihai Te Kawau (Ngāti Whātua rangatira in Tāmaki) and his followers moved to Karangahape (named for a prominent tohunga of the Tainui waka)/Cornwallis in 1835, built a fortified pā and remained there until 1838.

Ngāti Whātua continue to make use of their traditional places and resources throughout the Auckland area today.

Mana whenua response to this report

Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua are identified as the tangata whenua of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 and were integral to its creation. Their ancestral history and connections of the Waitākere area are discussed in the section above.

In response to the findings of this report, the following statement was provided by Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua. Subsequent to providing this statement in November 2017 Te Kawerau ā Maki placed a rāhui on the heritage area in response to the spread of kauri dieback disease and to protect against the further spread of this disease into the kauri forest which is taonga to Te Kawerau ā Maki.

**Statement of Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua
regarding the
State of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area 2018**

Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua are identified as the tangata whenua of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area within the Act, and were integral to its creation. Our status is explicitly noted in the Preamble and in sections 26, 29, 30 and 33 of the Act.

The purpose of the Act is primarily (in sections 3 and 8) to recognise the national significance of the heritage area, and to promote the protection and enhancement of its heritage features for present and future generations. Heritage features are identified as both natural heritage (e.g. indigenous ecosystems, natural landforms and landscapes, coastal areas, natural streams, quiet and dark skies setting, and the opportunity for wilderness experiences, recreation and relaxation) and cultural heritage (e.g. the

relationships of communities and tangata whenua to the heritage area, the archaeological and historic evidence of past human activity, and the distinctive local communities). An objective of the Act is also to recognise and avoid adverse potential or adverse cumulative effects.

Section 34 of the Act directs that the council must monitor the state of the environment, the progress made towards achieving the objectives, and funding impacts.

We note that much has been done over the past five years in pursuit of the purposes of the Act. These include: an increase in the total area of ecosystems protected in reserves; a dramatic decrease in the number of subdivisions and new development; an update survey of priority known archaeological sites; and initiating a programme to help address contamination in the west coast lagoons. However, there are many areas in need of improvement including: the spread of weeds; the alarming spread of kauri dieback; the ecological quality of lakes; a lack of funding proportionate to a nationally significant area; and the uncontrolled growth of tourism and recreational activity in sensitive areas.

From a tangata whenua perspective our key issues can be characterised broadly as:

- a lack of adequate and appropriate baseline data across a number of sectors
- inadequate measures, monitoring processes, co-ordination and implementation
- Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua not being involved in the development of information baselines, measures, monitoring, management and governance decision-making.

Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua view the 2018 review as an opportunity to identify blockages and set about planning for a programme to address these over the next five years. This is so that going forward we can better measure and drive success against the purposes of the Act.

High level recommendations Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua make to Auckland Council and its Council Controlled Organisations are to:

1. Establish a co-governance and co-management steering group for the heritage area.
2. Co-develop a Waitākere strategic plan for the heritage area to better co-ordinate activities.
3. Identify baseline gaps, and re-design the measures and monitoring processes to align with both western science and tikanga Māori.
4. Progress and complete the two Deeds of Acknowledgement with Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua.

Executive summary

This is the second five-year report prepared under section 34 of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 (the Act). This report compiles data about the heritage features within the heritage area. It goes on to determine whether there have been changes in the state of those heritage features (both improvement and decline). The report also reflects on the council's business which includes its requirements to meet the objectives of the Act.

Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei are the mana whenua in the heritage area and both iwi played key roles in establishing the Act. The iwi continue to represent their mana whenua interests and exercise their kaitiakitanga in a wide range of forums. The heritage features are of particular significance for mana whenua, and collectively they are a taonga and maintain the heritage area's mauri. The places of significance to mana whenua are integral to the wellbeing of the heritage features of the Act.

Auckland Council, the Waitākere Ranges Local Board, Auckland Transport and Watercare Services Limited hold governance and stewardship roles. They are landowners of extensive parts of the heritage area, and have significant responsibility on a daily basis for managing assets, providing operational activities and services and infrastructure development and maintenance throughout the heritage area.

Between 2013 and 2017 an additional 98 hectares has been added to 'protected' land, (either regional park land, local reserve, or as covenanted land) 87 hectares of this land is dominated by indigenous vegetation and 34 hectares contains ecologically significant habitat. The heritage area is valued and used for recreation and wilderness experiences, particularly within the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park. These values have been enhanced by new public infrastructure e.g. Piha campground / public toilets, sections of the Little Muddy Creek walkway linking Tangiwai Reserve and Grendon Road, and the walkway between Rimutaka Place and Huia Road.

Community groups and landowners undertake extensive pest and weed control programmes, are actively involved in projects to manage kauri dieback disease and continue to play a significant role in protecting and restoring the ecosystems of the heritage area.

The loss of the kauri forest ecosystem is the biggest threat presently facing the heritage area. All kauri forest within the heritage area is at very high risk of being infected by kauri dieback disease. However the proportion of threatened animal and plant species with stable or increasing population sizes is assessed as likely to have increased between 2013 to 2017. Monitoring has enabled the identification and understanding of the roosting areas used by the long-tailed bat populations living within the heritage area.

The planning provisions and resource consent processes implemented between 2013 and 2017 have maintained the rural character of the eastern foothills and the natural landscape and landform values of the heritage area by reducing subdivision and ensuring that

development is undertaken in suitable locations in a suitable manner. The majority of changes to landform and landscapes that have occurred as a result of subdivision and development are in the coastal villages. Monitoring over the next five years will be important to determine whether development under the Auckland Unitary Plan provisions continues to be effective in protecting the landscape values of the heritage area, or whether the Auckland Unitary Plan provisions need to be reviewed.

There is evidence that there has been a significant increase in the level of recreational use of the heritage area between 2013 and 2017. There is growing concern that the level of use, unless appropriately managed, may be to the detriment of other heritage features, such as ecosystems, wilderness and historic heritage values.

Data on the use of the heritage area has been collected from a range of sources and is not always robust. More accurate and integrated information gathering is needed to assess infrastructure, funding and management requirements necessary to retain the heritage features. The challenges associated with managing kauri dieback disease has highlighted the need to better understand and manage the use of the heritage area.



Looking towards Waiatarua and the Scenic Drive ridgeline.

Overall conclusions

Heritage area communities – from strength to strength

The communities living within the heritage area continue to thrive and play an important role in contributing to its management. In particular this is through their advocacy and the provision of their time and labour, especially through volunteer services (for example fire, surf lifesaving, community facility support and services) weed and pest control, land management, restoration and protection, and supporting the vibrant artistic and cultural heritage of the area.

The passion and commitment of the numerous community groups in maintaining the features of the heritage area is fundamental to achieving the Act's objectives. For example the arts are well provided for, community and service organisations, educational facilities, resident and ratepayer groups, internet and social media forums, and sports clubs all grow and prosper. These combine so that the community feels close-knit, and people encounter each other regularly in different aspects of their life. Many residents are passionate about the heritage area, the preceding generations that have helped to shape it, the lifestyle it offers to them and their families today, and the responsibilities for the future that they all hold.

Baseline data – improvement available

While council has expanded its knowledge, it still has insufficient information and data for some topics to establish the baseline state of the environment (for example built and archaeological heritage and pest plant). This means that comprehensive reporting and subsequent decision-making about council operations in the heritage area is (in some cases) not based upon factual data that supports the response taken.

For some topics there is monitoring and data collection that has been initiated but is not currently available for reporting in this five-year period (for example dune systems). The five-year monitoring period established by the Act is considered to be too short to measure significant change in many ecosystems, but any significant changes in trends will become apparent in the next reporting period.

Monitoring is undertaken by council for a variety of purposes including operational assessments for departmental reporting and business planning, and outcome analysis for state of the environment reporting. Some of the monitoring for departmental purposes may not always be useful for or contribute to the depth and breadth of knowledge about the state of the environment. As part of the preparation of the 2023 Report, independent assessment of departments, and Council Controlled Organisations performance against their operational plans should occur.

Coordination of activities – opportunity available

There is a substantial amount of programme and project based work occurring across the heritage area. The council has progressed since amalgamation in terms of aligning work programmes and achieving more integrated outcomes. However integration across council and council-controlled organisations, iwi and the community (and its many groups) still has room for improvement because of the complexity and integrated nature of activities that occur in the heritage area. This warrants further consideration about whether a different decision-making model (including who is involved in those processes) would assist council to achieve the objectives of the Act.

Visitor pressure – a mixed blessing

Visitor numbers in the regional and local parks are substantially increasing. While more and more Aucklanders are enjoying the wonders of the heritage area, there is a growing concern that the level of recreational use, unless appropriately managed, may be to the detriment of other heritage features, such as ecosystems, wilderness, and historic heritage values.

The council provides many resources to manage day to day activities across the heritage area. This is complemented by significant volunteer effort. However the scale of visitor use of the heritage area leads to greater need for parks infrastructure and services for the visitors. While that infrastructure provides for visitor needs, it imposes increasing costs associated with construction, daily operations and maintenance.

Pest plants and animals – the battle continues, but are we winning?

Pest plants and animals are a major ongoing threat to the heritage area. A significant number of pest plant and animal control programmes have been undertaken by council, community groups and landowners. These are vital to help maintain the ecological values of the heritage area.

To monitor changes and the success of control programmes, data from additional monitoring sites is needed (areas adjoining the regional park and road corridors). The control of pest plants and animals is an ongoing challenge, particularly to fund and resource programmes at a level that will improve and restore the health of ecosystems. A substantial increase in funding through a natural environment targeted rate is being sought for biosecurity management in the council's Long-term Plan 2018-2028. This will determine the extent of pest plant and animal control programmes that can be undertaken within the heritage area over the next 10 years.

Subdivision and development – reducing, and a new planning framework emerges

Subdivision in the heritage area has shown a marked decline over the last five years. While fewer new land parcels are being created, there is continued residential development throughout the heritage area, as both historically and recently subdivided land parcels are built upon. While the Auckland Unitary Plan is mostly operative, it is too early to draw conclusions about how effective the new planning provisions are in terms of managing the heritage features of the heritage area.



Whatipu.

Report – detailed findings

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008

The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 established the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area ('the heritage area') and has as its purpose (ss3(1)(a) and (b)) to:

- recognise the national, regional, and local significance of the Waitākere Ranges heritage area
- promote the protection and enhancement of its heritage features for present and future generations.

1.2 Monitoring progress in achieving the Act's objectives (s34)(1)(b))

The objectives in section 8 of the Act set out the management approach to be taken in protecting, restoring and enhancing the heritage area and its heritage features. These objectives are achieved through a range of mechanisms including Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) plans, resource consents, biosecurity and conservation management activities, and by managing the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park. The extent to which these objectives are being met is discussed in the topics that report on the state of the heritage features. Each topic includes a section on 'suggestions for the future' which identifies future actions to consider undertaking to contribute to achieving the objectives.

1.3 Funding impact from activities undertaken to give effect to the Act (s34(1)(c))

Monitoring and reporting on the funding impacts arising from activities undertaken specifically to give effect to the Act is a requirement under section 34 of the Act.

Activities within the heritage area are mainly funded from council departments and council controlled organisations, but these funding amounts are not specifically identified in this report. These activities are funded from aggregated and region wide budgets, and form part of the council's and council controlled organisation's business as usual. It is currently too difficult to disaggregate those budgets to provide an accurate indication of the total expenditure by council and the council controlled organisations in the heritage area.

Having said that, activities that contribute to achieving the objectives of the Act cover operational expenditure, capital expenditure and staff time. Activities include (but are not limited to) policy advice, regional and local parks management, parks infrastructure construction and maintenance, biosecurity and biodiversity operations, community facilities

construction and maintenance, support for community initiatives, public events, environmental monitoring, public communications, resource management and pest plant and animal pest management. Some services that are delivered within the heritage area are contracted to third parties by the council and council controlled organisations. These contracts may also cover service delivery both within and outside the heritage area.

Activities that have been directly funded by the Waitākere Ranges Local Board during the period 2013 - 2018 are listed in Appendix 1. This funding is for activities that are undertaken only in the heritage area and seek to complement business as usual activities that specifically give effect to the Act.

Future funding for the heritage area will be identified in the council's Long-term Plan 2018-2028, mainly in aggregated budgets.



Huia Dam Road.

1.4 Who manages the heritage area

1.4.1 Mana whenua

Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua are mana whenua in the heritage area. Their enduring exercise of kaitiakitanga continues to be incorporated into managing the heritage area. Since the 2013 Monitoring Report Te Kawerau ā Maki have concluded their Treaty of Waitangi settlement negotiations. That settlement was passed into legislation on 14 September 2015.

Deed of Acknowledgements between council and either Ngāti Whātua or Te Kawerau ā Maki are able to be made. The Act indicates that these acknowledge the particular historical, traditional, cultural or spiritual relationship of mana whenua with the heritage area (s29 of the Act). To date no Deed of Acknowledgement has been entered into with either iwi.

In response to this report Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua are seeking that Deeds of Acknowledgement be developed.

1.4.2 Auckland Council and Council-Controlled Organisations

Auckland Council, Watercare Services Limited and Auckland Transport are key landowners. They have significant roles in managing assets, activities and infrastructure in the heritage area, particularly within the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.

- **Auckland Council** is involved in a range of management and asset-owning roles which are discussed where appropriate in each of the topics.
- **Watercare Services Limited** has designated land, water supply and catchment functions and assets and activities. These are discussed in the Water Catchment and Supply topic.
- **Auckland Transport** activities in the road corridor are discussed where appropriate in the topics.
- **Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development** facilitates development of tourism and the economic opportunities connected to the visitor economy, including destinations within the heritage area. Data collection on visitors to the heritage area by Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development is discussed in the Recreational use of the heritage area topic.

1.4.3 Local communities and community groups

The communities living within the heritage area also play a critical role in managing it, particularly through weed and pest control, restoration and protection and supporting the vibrant artistic and cultural heritage of the area. The various community projects are discussed in both the Indigenous terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and the People and communities topics.

1.5 Legislation, statutory plans and policy documents

A range of legislation, statutory plans and policy documents apply to and guide the management of the heritage area. A summary of these, and changes that have occurred since the 2013 Monitoring Report are outlined below.

1.5.1 Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008

Heritage features and objectives

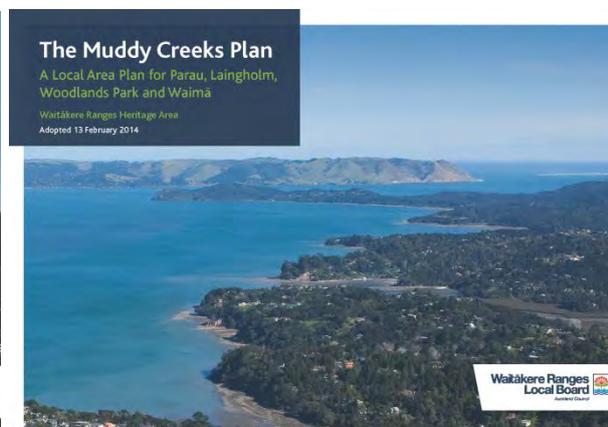
The heritage features are listed in section 7 and the objectives in section 8 of the Act. These sections of the Act are in Appendix 2.

Regional Parks Management Plan 2010

A management plan for the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park is required and must be reviewed every 10 years under sections 19 and 20 of the Act. The present Regional Parks Management Plan (RPMP) was developed within the framework of the Act and was adopted in August 2010. It includes objectives and policies relevant across all regional parks in addition to a section specifically for the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park. It is scheduled for review in 2020.

Local area plans

Local area plans (LAPs) may be prepared to promote the purpose of the Act. Local area plans for the Muddy Creeks and Te Henga / Bethells Beach and the Waitākere River Valley have been adopted since the 2013 Report.



Duty to monitor and report

Section 34(1) (a), (b) and (c) of the Act requires the Council, at five yearly intervals, to monitor and report on:

- the state of the environment of the heritage area
- the progress made towards achieving the objectives of the Act
- the funding impact arising from activities to be undertaken specifically to give effect to the Act.

This is the second five-yearly report prepared under the Act. The first report, the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Monitoring Report (the 2013 Report) was released in June 2013 and had two parts:

- Volume 1: Summary of Findings
- Volume 2: Detailed results - June 2013 (the 2013 Report).

1.5.2 National Policy Statements and Directions

New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010

This has been given effect through the Auckland Unitary Plan provisions relating to the coastal environment. The Coastal Policy Statement has particular application in the heritage area via overlays such as the Significant Ecological Area Marine, Outstanding Natural Character, High Natural Character, Outstanding Natural Landscape and Outstanding Natural Features.



Looking south towards Pararaha Bay showing dune lakes and wetlands of Whatipu. This area has a range of significant natural values and is included within the Outstanding Natural Character, Outstanding Natural Landscape, Outstanding Natural Features and Significant Ecological Areas Overlays in the Auckland Unitary Plan.

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014

This sets out the objectives and policies for freshwater management under the RMA. Freshwater is an intrinsic part of the heritage area and the monitoring of water quality and ecology is discussed in the Terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems topic and the water catchment and supply topic.

National Policy Direction of Pest Management 2015

This has required council to review its Regional Pest Management Plan 2007, to give effect to the new national policy direction. Pest plant and animal management is discussed in the Terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems topic.

1.5.3 Resource Management Act 1991

Changes to the management of trees

Section 76 of the RMA was amended in 2013 to remove district plan rules that protected categories of trees (for example native trees over a certain height/diameter) in urban areas (urban environment allotments)¹.

¹ The RMA includes a definition of 'urban areas' (urban environment allotments). See sections 76(4A) – (4D). Note the heritage area includes both urban and non-urban areas.

This means that to protect any trees in ‘urban areas’ they need to be included in a schedule or listed in a district plan. In the Auckland Unitary Plan trees are protected through various overlays including the Notable Tree Overlay (114 trees or groups of trees in the heritage area), Significant Ecological Area Overlay, Outstanding Natural Landscape Overlay, Outstanding Natural Character Overlay, or the High Natural Character Overlay. Some trees and indigenous vegetation are protected within 20 metres of Mean High Water Springs and through the Trees in open space zones and Trees in roads provisions.

As a result of the 2013 RMA changes to tree protection rules, the former Waitākere City Council initiated Plan Change 41. This preceded the Auckland Unitary Plan and resulted in an additional 62 trees (or groups of trees) being included in the Heritage Vegetation schedule of the Auckland Council District Plan – Operative Waitākere Section 2003 (Waitākere City District Plan).

Auckland Unitary Plan²

At the time the 2013 Report was prepared, the Auckland Regional Policy Statement, Auckland Regional Plans and Auckland Council District Plan – Operative Rodney Section (2011) and Waitākere City District Plan provisions applied to the heritage area. These plans have been replaced by the Auckland Unitary Plan which is required to give effect to the Act.

The Auckland Unitary Plan has introduced a new plan structure that differs from the previous district plans. The heritage area is managed by the Regional Policy Statement, zones, overlays, Auckland-wide rules and precincts.

Section B4.4 of the Auckland Unitary Plan sets out the Regional Policy Statement which contains the following Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area objectives and policies:

- provide for future use and development, including relocation of the rural urban boundary and recognise the need to protect the heritage area and its heritage features
- recognise the significance of the Waitākere Ranges to the natural character, environmental quality, economic, social and amenity values of Auckland.

The Auckland Unitary Plan also contains a number of overlays that control the use, development and protection of the natural and physical resources that cross multiple property boundaries and zones. A number of these overlays give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and other national policy statements, and to section 6 RMA matters. These are applicable where appropriate in the heritage area. Much of the heritage area has high or outstanding ecological, landscape and natural character values, with many of these values overlapping with the regional park. These are identified in overlays including:

- Significant Ecological Area – terrestrial and marine Overlay

² The Auckland Unitary Plan became ‘Operative in part’ 15 November 2016.

- Outstanding Natural Character Overlay and High Natural Character – coastal environment Overlay
- Outstanding Natural Landscape Overlay
- Outstanding Natural Features Overlay.

Other overlays that apply to the heritage area include:

- Ridgeline Protection Overlay
- Wetland Management Areas Overlay
- Notable Trees Overlay
- Historic Heritage Overlay.

In addition to overlay provisions, land within the heritage area is managed by a number of zones. The Rural – Waitākere Ranges and Rural – Waitākere Foothills Zones are specific to the heritage area. All other zones within the heritage area are the zones that are applied across Auckland.

Four precincts apply in the heritage area allowing for particular management of each precinct in addition to zone provisions. These are the Wainamu Precinct, the Te Henga Precinct, Bethells Precinct and the Oratia Village Precinct. Precincts contain plan provisions that are specifically tailored to manage the unique resources within them.

There is presently one Environment Court appeal against the council's decisions on the Auckland Unitary Plan that is unresolved. This relates to the removal of the prohibited activity status for subdivisions when the subdivision proposal exceeds the allocation available in the Auckland Unitary Plan. This appeal is expected to be resolved by June 2018. Once operative, the effectiveness of the Auckland Unitary Plan provisions will be monitored over the next five years to see how their application contributes to achieving the objectives of the Act.

Designations

There are a number of designations that apply in parts of the heritage area. The two main ones are discussed below.

A Regional Park designation (418) applies to the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park. The purpose of the designation is for recreational use, including the ongoing operation and maintenance of trails and visitor infrastructure for informal outdoor recreation activities, and for the conservation of natural and cultural values. The designation includes a condition which sets out the works, and rules that apply to those works that are permitted in the regional park without the need for an outline plan of works (which is similar to a resource consent). This is discussed further in Section 4: Recreational use of the heritage area topic and Section 7: Historic heritage and scheduled trees topic.

A number of Watercare designations apply to large parts of the heritage area. This includes land that is also within the regional park and is used for water supply purposes. In 2016 and 2017 Watercare has consulted on proposals to upgrade their water treatment plant at Huia. These matters are discussed further in Section 8: Water catchment and supply topic.



Lower Nihotupu Reservoir, Huia. This is a Watercare designation for water supply purposes.

1.5.4 Local Government (Auckland Council) Amendment Act 2009

Auckland Plan

The Auckland Plan is a requirement of the 2009 Amendment Act and it guides Auckland's future over the next 30 years. The first Auckland Plan was adopted in 2012, and it is currently undergoing a 'refresh'. A revised draft Auckland Plan was approved for consultation which is expected to be undertaken February/March 2018.

Section 18(2) of the LGAA Act requires council to ensure that the provisions of the Auckland (spatial) plan are not inconsistent with the purpose or objectives of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008.

1.5.5 Local Government Act 2002

The council's Long-term Plan and Annual Plans determine the funding for activities including those proposed by local boards, and council departments. The council will

finalise the next long-term plan in June 2018. Key matters that will require funding to give effect to the Act are highlighted in this report.

Local Board Plan

Since the 2013 report, the Waitākere Ranges Local Board approved their Local Board Plans in 2014 and 2017. The 2017 Waitākere Ranges Local Board Plan includes two outcomes relating to the heritage area:



Outcome 1: People actively protect the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area

The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area is recognised as a taonga for the people of Auckland.

Outcome 2: Our unique natural habitats are protected and enhanced

Local communities and the council work together to live sustainably and look after the environment.

1.5.6 Reserves Act 1977

The local reserves within the heritage area are subject to the Reserves Act 1977.

1.5.7 Biosecurity Act 1993

The Biosecurity Act 1993 enables the council to undertake a range of pest management programmes and to prepare a Regional Pest Management Plan. The council is reviewing its Regional Pest Management Plan 2007 to give effect to the National Policy Direction of Pest Management 2015. At the time of writing, the council has adopted a proposed Regional Pest Management Plan for public consultation. This may be adopted in late 2018, subject to the extent of changes required as a result of public submissions and budget decisions.

The proposed Regional Pest Management Plan takes an outcome-focussed approach to managing pests in the region. Of significance for management of the heritage area is the inclusion of a site-led programme for pest plants and animals on council parkland containing Significant Ecological Areas. This programme contains enforcement rules for several pest plant species in a 500m buffer around all parkland containing Significant Ecological Areas. This buffer encompasses many of the settlements in the heritage area (e.g. Huia, Piha).

An Auckland Weed Management Policy for parks and open spaces (including CCO roles) was released in August 2013. The Waitākere Ranges Strategic Weed Management Plan was released in June 2015.

Biosecurity Act 1993 – kauri dieback disease

Kauri dieback disease is an “Unwanted Organism” under the Biosecurity Act 1993 and its movement is restricted under legislation. The council has released the Kauri Dieback Report 2017: This is an investigation into the distribution of kauri dieback, and implications for its future management within the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.



Phytosanitary station at Falls Road carpark, October 2017.

1.5.8 Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

All pre-1900 archaeological sites are protected through this Act, whether they are recorded or not. An authority from Heritage New Zealand must be obtained before any pre-1900 archaeological site can be modified or destroyed.

Heritage New Zealand is also required to keep the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangi Kōrero. The purpose of this list is to provide information. It does not, in itself, place restrictions on development or use of a historic heritage place.



Colin McCahon House in Titirangi is on the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangi. (Source: DPA Architects)

1.6 Changes in Auckland's population and visitor numbers since 2012

Since 2012 there has been a significant increase in Auckland's population. At the time the 2013 report was being prepared the Statistics New Zealand website noted that ³New Zealand experienced a net outflow of 3,200 migrants during the June 2012 year, compared with a net inflow of 3,900 in 2011. This is compared to a record 72,402 net migrants arriving in New Zealand in the year to July 2017, 36,753 of which settled in Auckland meaning the city received at least 700 new migrants each week. Auckland had an estimated resident population of 1,507,600 at 30 June 2012. At 30 June 2017 (provisional) Auckland's population was estimated at 1.66 million.

Tourism has also experienced rapid growth. In 2012 there were 2,635,726⁴ visitor arrivals to New Zealand compared to 3,734,000 in 2017; a 7 per cent increase from 2016. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment forecasts 4.9 million visitor arrivals (4.8 per cent growth per annum), by 2023. China is expected to become New Zealand's largest tourism market and to contribute 37 per cent of total international visitor growth.⁵

The heritage area's close proximity to the rapidly growing city, and its popularity as a destination for 'wilderness and beach experiences' for both local and international visitors has resulted in a significant increase in the level of recreational use since 2012. The data available for this report indicates that the increased level of use is having an impact on heritage features. Robust data on the use of the heritage area is needed to measure

³ http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/population/estimates_and_projections/demographic-trends-2012/international%20travel%20and%20migration.aspx - statistics New Zealand

⁴ http://archive.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/population/Migration/international-visitor-arrivals-jun-12.aspx

⁵ Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; New Zealand Tourism Forecasts 2017-2023
<http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/sectors-industries/tourism/tourism-research-data/international-tourism-forecasts/documents-image-library/forecasts-2017-report-final.pdf>

changes and assess the impacts of activities on heritage features for the State of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area 2023 report.

1.7 Data collection and the relationship between the 2013 Monitoring Report and this report

The topics in this report are generally based on the topics in the 2013 Report (Volume 2). The topic names and content have been changed to reflect the references to heritage features and their order in section 7(2) of the Act.

New topics have been included in this report in response to issues that have emerged since 2013, namely:

- coastal lagoons and water quality (included in the Indigenous terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems topic)
- darkness of the night sky (included in the Natural landforms, landscapes and the night sky topic)
- notable trees (included in the Historic heritage and scheduled trees topic)
- water catchment and supply.

For the new topics, where past data is available, it has been included and will be used to measure changes in the future. Where there is no past data, the indicators in this report will be used to measure changes for the next five-year review.



Foster Bay.

The information and data used in this report has been drawn from a number of sources and the accuracy of data varies between topics. In particular the resource consent data used for monitoring analysis is indicative, as it is currently difficult to extract exact quantitative data. This is complicated by the planning provisions that have applied to the heritage area during this reporting period being in transition from the legacy Waitākere District Plan to the Auckland Unitary Plan Operative in Part. In addition, in respect of data relating to tree and vegetation clearance during this monitoring period, the amendment of section 76 of the Resource Management Act that removed district plan rules that protected categories of trees (for example native trees over a certain height/diameter) in urban areas (urban environment allotments), came into effect. In this context, while all attempts have been made to obtain accurate data across topics, in some cases the statistics are used to indicate a trend, rather than representing total statistical accuracy.

While particular heritage features identified in the Act are discussed within each topic, the different topics inter-relate with each other and the report needs to be read as a whole. Cross-references are made between topics to assist readers to achieve a complete understanding to the state of the heritage area.

This report includes discussion on some areas and matters that are directly adjacent to the heritage area, and where they are directly affected by the heritage area. This includes reference to the Matuku Link, a 37 hectare reserve that forms a vital connection to eco-restoration projects within the heritage area such as Ark in the Park and Habitat Te Henga, and to the water quality monitoring of beaches adjoining the heritage area.

The relationship between the topics and content of the 2013 Report and this report are shown below in Figure 1. An update on the progress towards achieving the recommendations for future monitoring from the 2013 Monitoring Report can be found in Appendix 2.

Figure 1: Relationship of 2013 Monitoring Report topics with the 2018 report topics and topic content



1.8 Public feedback for this report

The Waitākere Ranges Local Board held a public meeting on 15 June 2017 to provide the public with an opportunity to discuss progress in achieving the objectives of the Act and to raise any emerging issues needing investigation.

Most of the feedback related to specific topics e.g. kauri dieback, weeds, trees, resource consents. However, one of the main concerns raised was council's (including council-controlled organisations) management of its assets, and decisions made through the resource consenting process. For a full list of feedback received see Appendix 4. Individual topics may also discuss feedback specific to that topic.

In addition to the feedback received at the meeting, the Oratia Heritage Society also provided written feedback. The main themes of this feedback include:

- the need for better protection against inappropriate public works in the heritage area (with specific reference to the proposed Watercare water treatment plant that was initially proposed in Oratia)
- the need for a design guide for public works within the heritage area
- funding and implementation of the local area plans
- continued support for weed and pest animal management.

As part of council's 'business as usual' activities, it receives feedback and engages with communities about many of the issues and information outlined in this report. This has also informed and assisted the preparation of this report.



Looking from a prominent ridgeline in the Waitākere Ranges, across the eastern foothills towards central Auckland.