

# THE WAIKATO PLAN – Building champion communities, together

The Waikato Plan is an overarching strategic plan that contributes to the Waikato’s social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing. It provides an action plan to support the integrated future development of the region for the next 30 years.

The Plan enables the region to speak with ‘one voice’ on agreed priorities to ensure that the Waikato’s future potential is met through consistency, collaboration and coordination. Implementing the Plan is about partnering with local government, central government, iwi, business and community.



## Our Aspirations

- ✓ We want a stronger, resilient Waikato region which is responsive to the changing needs of our people and our communities.
  - ✓ We want a region with the right infrastructure in the right place, at the right time, to enable us to succeed and prosper.
    - ✓ We want iwi to have a powerful voice so that Māori aspirations are expressed and integrated through successful joint initiatives.
      - ✓ We want our land, water and natural environment and heritage places to be recognised as precious and finite.
        - ✓ We want the Waikato to be nationally and internationally connected so we can continue to contribute to New Zealand and the world.

## Regional focus areas

### People

- ❖ **Priority 1 - Planning for population change**
- ❖ Strengthening communities to deal with change
- ❖ Building regional and local identity
- ❖ Enabling housing choice
- ❖ Providing for sports, recreation, arts & cultural activities
- ❖ Ensuring health needs are met
- ❖ Ensuring education needs are met

### Connections

- ❖ **Priority 2 - Connecting our region through targeted investment**
- ❖ Leveraging value from our location
- ❖ Connecting through collaboration

### Iwi

- ❖ **Priority 3 - Partnering with iwi/Māori**
- ❖ Supporting staying in the rohe

### Environment

- ❖ **Priority 4 - Addressing water allocation and quality**
- ❖ Valuing physical and natural resources
- ❖ Protecting ecosystems and promotion of biodiversity
- ❖ Responding to climate change and natural hazards

### Economy – Waikato Means Business

- ❖ **Priority 5 - Advancing regional economic development**
- ❖ Building a business friendly region
- ❖ Growing the number of visitors to the region

## Top priority actions

### People

- ✓ Produce a regional development strategy – across the four wellbeings
- ✓ Regional priorities for service and technical infrastructure
- ✓ Community needs in low growth areas and government services

### Connections

- ✓ Commuter rail – Hamilton to Auckland
- ✓ Waikato Expressway to Piarere
- ✓ Link to BOP
- ✓ Southern links roading network
- ✓ Nationally significant cycling and walking experience

### Iwi

- ✓ Collaboration
- ✓ Partnering

### Environment

- ✓ Develop the Waikato as a Waters Centre of Excellence

### Economy – Waikato Means Business

- ✓ Advancing regional economic development - Regional economic development agency

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Waikato : he reo kotahi  
Waikato : one voice