

# Ohiwia and Waitio

## Community Strategy and Action Plan

On February 11, members of the Ohiwia and Waitio communities came together to discuss manawaroa (resilience), priorities, the interactions of the community with Te Taiao (land, water, climate and living beings) and actions we can take individually and together.

Five priority areas were identified:

1. Ngā purākau me ngā wawata o ngā hapū
2. Lake Rūnanga-Ohiti Restoration
3. Resilience of farms
4. Infrastructure resilience and flood prevention and mitigation
5. Community cohesion

Guided by:

6. Mātauranga: knowledge, expertise, traditional and contemporary technologies

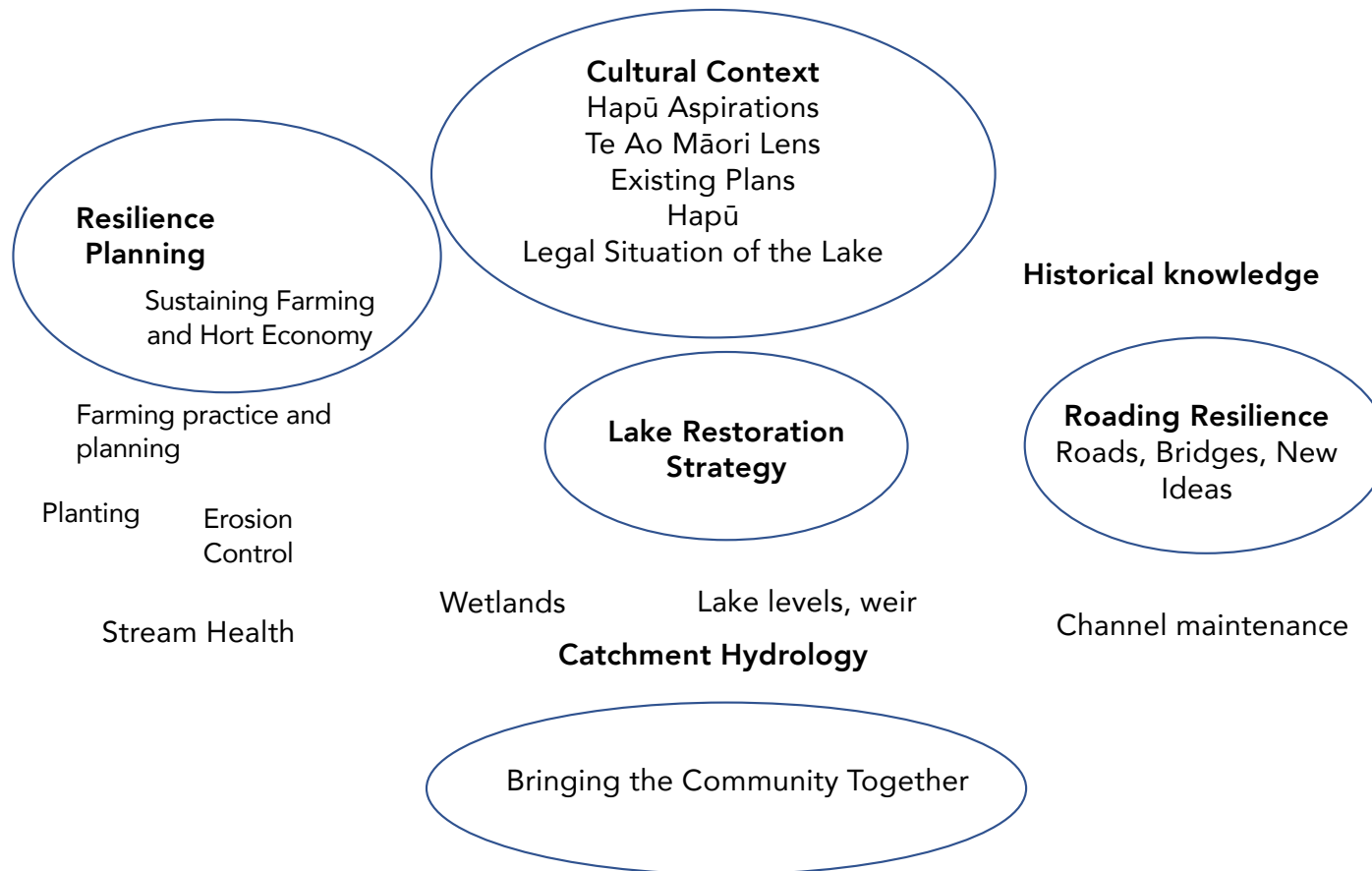
The community agreed to work on an action plan and for a small working group to advance that.

## Questions to guide this community-led action plan

1. What are the **outcomes** the community is seeking?
2. What **actions** achieve those outcomes?
3. **What things can be done immediately > in the short-term** and what actions require more time to achieve (medium to longer-term)
4. What will **help reduce anxiety and frustration** for you and the community?
5. What **information, knowledge or expertise** do you or the community need now and in the medium term?  
E.g., farming systems, housing, legal issues, roads, bridges etc
6. Who is the **source** of knowledge and expertise?
7. How do we build this strategy **with** the community?  
One-on-ones, Paddock meetings, Wānanga, Questionnaires, Seminars
8. Who else should be involved and when?
9. How do we keep the community updated on progress?

# Summary of Priorities

Whiteboard - February 11



## Ngā pūrakau me ngā wawata o ngā hapū – Aspirations of the Hapū

- Preservation of natural resources – Lake Rūnanga, tributaries; mahinga kai
- Living history of flow paths: Profile the historical pathways of lake and tributaries
- Understanding of the whenua and its history and how that history can shape/guide the future– e.g., the māra at Ohiti
- Kawera marae reinstated; Papakāinga; Rebuild a new Te Aroha whareniui at Rūnanga
- Re-establish and nurture our community connections and identity
- Whenua Māori land management and utilisation
- Hapū-led capability build
- Community engaged and participating
- Lake Rūnanga restoration strategy
  - Cultural significance of wai and taiao are acknowledged and visible in the strategy.
  - Draw upon existing work, research, and groups
- Understanding significance of all waterbodies to mana whenua, their flow diversions, changes & impacts over time e.g. Ohiwia stream and the impact of the recent flooding
- Maara - living, especially Waapu (high form of technology, living water systems); Mahinga Kai – living harmoniously with nature
- Rāhui and other forms of restoring balance to living systems, ecological and mauri

### Short-Term Actions

1. Map and identify sites and ingoa wahi of cultural significance within the catchment
2. Integrate existing management plans into catchment context (i.e. Lake Rūnanga cultural assessments)
3. Profile the historical pathways of lake and tributaries
4. Understand the Ohiwia Stream, the impacts of its flooding, and promote strategies that preserve natural resources (mahinga kai)

## 2. Lake Rūnanga-Ohiti and Wetland Restoration

- Lake health has got worse
- Lake Restoration Plan, that works with what has already been done (planning, assessments, mātauranga) and people already working on it
- The water can't get past the raupō etc to clear the lake
- Understanding original flows; historic analysis of flows
- Review waterway health and quality
- Erosion mitigation in catchment
  - Planting banks upstream
  - Erosion of Okawa stream; riparian planting
- Return of natural areas (unused land planted)
- Kautuku swamps – flats between the White Bridge and Rūnanga
- Would river health have a positive effect on the wetlands

### Short-term Actions

1. Understanding the lake, its cultural history, and current state
2. Bringing together existing information, analysis, cultural health assessments and other
3. Understanding the weir and its effects
4. Clarifying legal status (ownership) of the lake

### 3. Resilient Farming Systems

- Farm environmental plans on each farm to aggregate into catchment plans. Run seminars
- Farming practices and policies
  - Cost of conventional fencing
- 15,000 ha: 13,000 ha is sheep and beef – Government support. Keep sheep and beef sector strong.
- Planting options. Alternatives with plantings (e.g., flax)
  - HBRC subsidy on plant materials for erosion control
  - Plant availability
  - Assistance in resilience planning
  - Private advice
  - HBRC and HDC assisting
  - Holistic
- How do we slow the water down coming off the land? Flow modelling
- Review of waterway health > Action plan
  - Stock exclusion
  - Riparian planting
- Erosion mitigation in catchment
  - Planting banks upstream
  - Erosion of Okawa stream; riparian planting

#### Short-term Actions

1. Understanding options for erosion control and Increased Slope Stability Planting (Erosion Prevention)
2. Understand impacts of different farming systems and promote solutions that suit the catchment
3. Riparian Planting
4. Investigate suitable alternatives to standard 7 wire farm fencing and understand applicability
5. Stock exclusion from Waterways
6. Run Seminars on Farm Environment Plans and Freshwater Farm Plans with a focus on collaboration within catchment.

## 4. Infrastructure Resilience and Flood Protection

- Council to finish jobs they started.
  - Review lake level consent application – lake level
  - Review of the consent for the weir
  - Okawa/Shanley Road Esplanade Reserve: purpose and management
- Better bridge design, transport resilience: bridges, water. Dorward Bridge – depth-marker on side of road (short-term fix). 8 in 120-year floods; not 1 in 1000 year. Low, multi-stage culvert ford – more use
- Stock banks need to be able to overflow not blow; need to be built from better material. Line with clay from Roy's Hill down.
- Flood mitigation
  - Slow the water down coming off the land
  - Okawa used to flow into Rūnanga and flow through quickly
  - Pathway for stream water into lake
- Flooding of road –
  - learn about the flow – historic and current
  - 2011 lake wall formed first year, bank overflowed, 2023 lake wall 2.8 m about top of the wall – 15 hours to drop?
- Catchment scale hydrology: flows and peak; overland flow paths, streams, and wetlands
- Return of natural areas (unused land planted)
- Kautuku swamps – flats between the White Bridge and Rūnanga

### Short-term Actions

1. Undertake Catchment Scale Flow Modelling
2. Better comms from councils on transport
3. Install Depth Marker at Dorwards for gauging depth of road flooding
4. Investigate alternative bridge designs and costs
5. Follow up Council maintenance Programme(s) and gain certainty on contracted works
6. Understand future risks from Climate change and flood mitigation actions
7. Seminar on options for flood mitigation - reinstating wetlands, allowing room for waterways, etc

## 5. Bringing the Community Together

### Short-term Actions

1. Connections across residents, hapū and those supporting the community
2. Regular Progress Updates
3. Evolving needs of community understood
4. Water Quality monitoring outcomes and facilitating actions to improve

## 6. Mātauranga, Information, Knowledge and Expertise Needs

### Short-term Actions

1. Living, historical knowledge of the whenua
2. Living, historical knowledge of flow paths
3. Flow modelling
4. Legal status of the lake (ownership, rights and responsibilities)
5. Health of the lake and waterways
6. Erosion susceptibility and best options for how to control