

Kaitake Community Board Plan 2020-2023

Oākura, Okato and Ōmata

October 2017
Reviewed 2020

Te Mahere o Te Rūnanga Hapori o Kaitake 2020 -2023

The Kaitake Community Board Plan sets out the visions and aspirations of three distinct yet connected communities: Ōmata, Oākura, and Okato. The Plan has been developed by the communities for the communities. The Plan provides the New Plymouth District Council with an insight about the matters that are important to the Kaitake Community Board area, and where investment and action are needed. The Plan provides a thirty-year blueprint for the communities to lead and shape the future development and growth.

Kaitake Community Plan: a thirty year vision



PREAMBLE

Ōmata was established during the early years of Pākehā settlement of the New Plymouth area. In 1860 the Ōmata stockade (fort) was built on a local Māori pā site near the township as a response to protect Pākehā settlers.

The Oākura River (and therefore Oākura township itself) was named after the female ancestor Akura-matapū of the Kurahaupō waka. Oākura-matapu was the original name of the river and it literally means 'Belonging to Akura-matapū'

Okato is said to mean 'sweeping of the waves,' and it is stated that the name was given to the place in consequence of a tidal wave reaching the foot of a neighbouring hill. Each community has played a pivotal role in the shape and identity of the New Plymouth community.

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WELCOME

The development of the first Kaitake Community Board Plan has been long in gestation and is not the first time that the community has presented its Blueprint to Council. The challenges and opportunities facing the community have previously been raised in the Coastal Strategy (2004) and the Oākura Structure Plan (2006). Since the development of these plans the rate of growth and interest in our main townships has continued and the challenges remain.

This Plan has been developed by representatives across each of the townships who recognise and see the opportunities and risks of unrestrained population growth and development. Our communities want to grow and develop – but at a rate and in a manner that is sustainable and respectful of the unique rural nature of the Kaitake Community Board area. The power of this Community Board Plan, as with the Plans from the other board areas is that it has been developed by the community, for the community. The issues and aspirations are informed by people who live and work in the area and want the opportunity for their children, parents and future generations to enjoy all that these special places have to offer. We in the Kaitake Community Board area do not want to halt progress, we want to enable and encourage progress, progress that makes sense for current and future generations and progress that is enabled with us and by us, and not just done to us.

The Kaitake Community Engagement Project operated in Ōmata, Oākura, and Okato over 36 months. During that time over 70 meetings took place and over 300 people contributed to the conversations. Our purpose was to hear the voices of our community and to be heard by our Council. We talked and debated, agreed and disagreed and arrived at a number of common aspirations and strategic challenges. To achieve a positive outcome, we expended a huge amount of energy working alongside our community ensuring that their voices have been heard. Since the development of the initial Plan we have completed a first review (2020) to ensure the plan includes the communities' current issues and aspirations. This wide-ranging review involved 3 stakeholder focus groups and a community-wide survey. The survey was completed by 309 respondents who provided 1748 pieces of information to consider.

The Community Plan is a small step but we believe a vital one. What has been documented for our three communities to date will be challenged and will change over time, as it should, but for now this document and the individual underpinning Community Engagement Reports and surveys provide Council with a basis to understand who we are and to respond meaningfully, through policy and investment to the opportunities and challenges as they arrive.

Doug Hislop, Chair Kaitake Community Board

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ōmata

Located at the fringes of central New Plymouth, Ōmata is the gateway to the rural area, Back Beach and the Sugar Loaf Islands. Ōmata is nestled in a stunning physical environment and is home to a rich heritage due to its role in the Taranaki wars. The close proximity to New Plymouth and Oākura makes Ōmata a perfectly placed community that offers it all – ease of access to New Plymouth's community services and supports, and a quick getaway to the beach. Whilst this is its strength, it is also its vulnerability and the risk of overdevelopment could result in the loss of this rural township and the blending of the community into the city. Protecting the rural character of Ōmata is the message the community brings to the Council.

Oākura

There is a strong sense of growing Oākura in a sustainable way, through improving linkages between the beach, urban and rural areas and to the National Park, and by retaining the unique character and pristine environment of Oākura, its beaches and the Kaitake Range that are so well enjoyed by residents, visitors and tourists alike. The central message to the Council is that the village requires managed, staged and targeted growth. Rapid and widespread expansion would negatively affect the special character of Oākura and adversely impact on the education services, traffic and parking, access to affordable homes, and recreation and environmental assets.

Okato

Okato has its own unique characteristics and potential for development, including natural and cultural resources as well as the skills, knowledge and experience of local people. Understanding how the Okato community operates not only within its urban boundaries, but also over the wider rural area that the town serves is a fundamental cornerstone of Council planning processes. Water security, responsible water and waste management, safe roads and controlled and managed growth are essential to ensuring that character, and social amenity of the township are maintained.

Tangata whenua: Ngāti Tairi and Ngā Māhanga

The tribes of Ngā Māhanga and Ngāti Tairi maintain mana whenua and tribal rights over rohe which fall within the Kaitake Community Board area that includes part of New Plymouth, the Ōmata, Oakura and Okato areas. With the completion of the Taranaki Iwi Treaty claim the New Plymouth District Council has a responsibility in its processes and plans to uphold the mana of the Treaty of Waitangi and engage in meaningful consultation and engagement with Ngā Māhanga and Ngāti Tairi. As tangata whenua and kaitiaki of their respective rohe both Ngāti Tairi and Ngā Māhanga continue to work alongside local groups and the wider New Plymouth District community to enhance better understanding of the issues that impact on the environment, and cultural values of Ngāti Tairi and Ngā Māhanga. With increasing growth and development within the area of the Kaitake Community Board, it is important that the historic heritage and cultural integrity of Ngā Māhanga and Ngāti Tairi are protected for current and future generations.



OUR PRIORITIES

The priorities that the Community Board would like to see expedited as part of the Long Term Plan commitments are detailed in the table below. The aspirations do not represent all of the aspirations reflected by the communities; only those matters within the direct sphere of Council influence and control. Areas of common aspiration across the board townships are detailed first and these represent the Community Board’s focus for the Long Term Plan. The areas of common aspiration are underpinned by the specific concerns and interests in each of the township areas, thus conversations with each community of interest are essential. As the Council attends to the nine priority areas listed below many of the individual township priorities will be met, however not all, and it is essential that the Council maintain the dialogue with the Oākura, Okato and Ōmata communities about how their wider aspirations can be responded to and met. More specific detail is provided in the Point of Entry (POE) submissions to the 2021/31 Long Term Plan at the end of the plan and the other supporting documents (available on request).

Strategic Fit	Priority Aspiration	Time Frame
Kaitake Community Board Area		
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Maintain rural character and feel of the townships. ◆ Protect view-shafts. ◆ Zoning allows for staged, controlled development and growth. ◆ Restrict large scale industrial activity and support small scale ‘cottage’ industry developments. ◆ Support low rise development. ◆ Provide for mixed housing development opportunities appropriate to location (rural to higher density) and community demographics. ◆ Limit the range of permitted and controlled activities permitted in zoned areas. ◆ Sites of cultural significance and historical heritage are recognised, protected and their stories told. ◆ Recognise that Taranaki mouna, the Kaitake and Pouākai ranges, the ring plain, and the coastal lands adjacent to the sea are of high importance to tangata whenua and define part of their Taranaki Iwi tribal identity. ◆ Encourage ongoing community stewardship of the local environment and its biodiversity in partnership with mana whenua and territorial authorities to restore and maintain natural habitats, ecosystems and viable populations of native species. ◆ Kerbside waste collection services are expanded, re-use and locally based transfer stations are provided, and re-cycling receptacles are provided in CBD areas and public places at key locations. ◆ Remove freedom camping opportunities away from all coastal reserves to alleviate mana whenua concerns, avoid pollution issues and other biodiversity impacts. 	Refer POE KCB-5
	Refer POE KCB-3	
	Refer POE KCB-6	
	Refer POE KCB-4	

Traffic and Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review speed limits and implement traffic calming measures, enhance parking, and expand and upgrade footpaths for increased pedestrianisation. 	Refer POE KCB-1
Destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A network of pathways, cycle-ways and bridle paths is developed. Beach access is reviewed and the public right to use and access beaches is appropriate for the protection of the environments and respectful of mana whenua. 	Refer POE KCB-2 Refer POE KCB-3
Communities and Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of CBD / township plans that programme township upgrades and enhancements that maintain social amenity and rural character. Recognise and contribute to the vision of Te Ara Taiao as a collaborative community effort to uplift the mauri and natural ecology of the Kaitake. Upgrade and enhance the community halls and the Okato swimming pool, and provide for enhanced recreational assets (parks, mountain bike and pump tracks, and other sports facilities). 	Refer POE KCB-5 Refer POE KCB-10
Growth, Industry and Talent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and enhance a network of quality, environmentally sustainable Three Waters infrastructure (water supply, waste, wastewater and stormwater) to meet current community demands and future anticipated growth. 	Refer POE KCB-6, KCB-9 and KCB-12



Oākura

Note – items denoted with an asterisk are linked to the Kaitake Community Board area priorities above. They provide more detail about the issues within each township.

Strategic Fit	Priority Aspiration	Time Frame
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ More comprehensive regulation of building design on and near the beachfront to preserve village character and view shafts. * ◆ Protection of the special character of the Beachfront Precinct (Holiday Park, Shearer Reserve, Oākura Boardriders, NPOB Surf Club) and consolidation of the visual, social, and recreational amenity values in this area. * ◆ Protection of existing character on the beachfront. commercial activity on the beachfront remains planned small scale and appropriate to the location. * ◆ Provide building set back from Oākura River. * 	1-3 Years
Destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provision of a safe walkway/cycle-way from Oākura to New Plymouth and link to the Pukeiti Trail and the Pouākai Crossing. * ◆ Enhance Koru Pā as a visitor destination. * ◆ Development of pathways and physical links that facilitate connectivity throughout the village to the sea and between community facilities. * ◆ Improve beach access and provide access for those with disabilities. * 	1-3 Years 1-3 Years 1-3 Years 1-3 Years
Growth, Industry and Talent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Limited commercial development on the beachfront. * ◆ Staged rezoning of rural land to support sequential village growth and provision of variable housing choices. * ◆ Mixed use, home businesses and offices on seaward side of Highway 45 in the CBD. * ◆ Increased density, small lot sizes and higher site coverage rules targeted in appropriate areas of new residential developments and/or the CBD off-set by provision of public spaces, public reserves, pathways and improved access opportunities. * ◆ Rural lifestyle 1 to 5 Ha lots provided in appropriate locations whilst retaining low building density and open character. * ◆ Land development opportunities for local economic growth. * Controlled expansion of the CBD. * ◆ Restrict large scale or industrial type activities. * 	
Communities and Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Plan, design and manage public spaces that maintain village identity and character. * ◆ Ensure Shearer Reserve is a neighbourhood playground space and public area that meets the needs of all age groups. ◆ Enhance the current CBD with the development of a multi-service community hub within or adjacent to the CBD (e.g. close location of hall and library, school, medical services, shop and leisure). 	Years 1-3

Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provision of additional and restricted car parking to serve increased commercial activity and key destination points. * ◆ Planning regulations and design standards retain small scale, cottage industry and convenience retail in low rise buildings in the CBD. * 	
Traffic and movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Implementation of traffic calming on northern approach to village at Victoria Rd and Corbett Park, Oākura River bridge, Oākura Pā, Dixon Street, Donnelly Street, and Wairau Road intersection. * ◆ Provide for enhanced pedestrian movement opportunities that incorporate wide footpaths, reduced lane widths, along with landscaping to enhance the sense of place, calm the traffic and create an environment where people want to spend time. * 	<p>Years 1-3</p> <p>Years 1-3</p>



Okato

Note – items denoted with an asterisk are linked to the Kaitake Community Board area priorities above. They provide more detail about the issues within each township.

Strategic Fit	Priority Aspiration	Time Frame
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Review the access-ways to beaches. * ◆ Provide an enabling regulatory environment that enables the development and installation of sustainable energy systems. * ◆ Protection of the area's historical heritage. * ◆ A spray free community in public spaces. ◆ Waste management and minimization - Provision of community recycling bins in public places, expansion of the Council rubbish roadside collection in rural areas to cater for growth in lifestyle blocks and development of a re-use facility at the Transfer Station. * 	<p>Years 1-3</p> <p>Years 1-3</p>
Destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Upgrade and extend existing walkways and cycleways and provide for future walkway and cycleway development including access to Egmont National Park and reinstate the Stony River walkway and track. * ◆ Provide better parking facilities at destination points. * ◆ Remove freedom camping opportunities away from all coastal reserves to alleviate mana whenua concerns, avoid pollution issues and other biodiversity impacts. * ◆ Enable the development of camping site or a motorhome park. ◆ Provide protection for the area's historic heritage and recognise its significance through education, and representations of local Māori history signage. * 	<p>Years 1-3</p> <p>Years 1-3</p> <p>Years 1-3</p>
Growth, Industry and Talent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Infrastructure enhancement – Future proof sewage treatment and disposal and water supply systems that are sustainable, safe for public health, ecologically and environmentally responsible and responsive to current and future population needs. * ◆ Future population growth in the township and surrounding rural community informed by a sustainable planning vision. ◆ A range of socially responsible and affordable residential development considering the carrying capacity of the environment. ◆ Restrict land use consents for oil or gas exploration, mining and associated activities. 	<p>Years 1-3</p>
Community and Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Upgrade the community hall. * ◆ Expand and maintain the community orchard. 	<p>Years 1-3</p>

Strategic Fit	Priority Aspiration	Time Frame
Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Develop a streetscape design in Carthew Street to enhance special character of the village centre area and reflect the social and utilitarian roles of the township. * ◆ Invest in township upgrade and development. * ◆ Install an electric vehicle charging station in Carthew Street. 	
Traffic and Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Develop traffic calming initiatives to make the township centre safer. * ◆ Provide safer pedestrian movement opportunities and upgrade and extend the footpath network. * ◆ Improving the safety and access of the Tataraimaka, Kaihihi and Hangatahua bridges (for pedestrians, cyclists and horses). * ◆ Providing a safe solution for the junction of Cumming Street and Oxford, and Old South Roads. * 	<p>Years 1-3</p> <p>Years 1-3</p> <p>Years 1-3</p> <p>Years 1-3</p>



Ōmata

Note – items denoted with an asterisk are linked to the Kaitake Community Board area priorities above. They provide more detail about the issues within each township.

Strategic Fit	Priority Aspiration	Time Frame
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Encourage and inspire the community towards zero waste, and install a recycling station and refuse disposal station at Hurford Road. * ◆ Retain Ōmata’s rural character with tighter restrictions on subdivision and the retention of ‘lifestyle’ living with lifestyle properties. ◆ District Plan restricts development and maintains rural feel and character (Green Belt principles). ◆ Retain the green field space between Ōmata and Spotswood. Protection of view shafts. ◆ Subdivision rules allow the flat land around Ōmata to be broken up for horticultural use such as orchards and market gardens. 	Years 1-3
Destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Recognition and protection of historical sites with appropriate signage, information and access for all. * ◆ Walkways and pathways - Develop paper roads as tracks / bridle paths to provide easy access for walkers, bikers, horse riders, a walkway from New Plymouth to Oakura (with access to Back Beach) and provision of carparking (including horse floats) and footpath on SH45 between Beach, Waireka East and Holloway Roads. * 	Years 1-3 Years 1-3
Growth, Industry and Talent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Infrastructure development that responds to gradual growth. * ◆ No further expansion of the tank farm in the industrial zoned area. 	
Communities and Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Expand and upgrade Ōmata Hall including a bar/function facility. * ◆ Support the enhancement of a community orchard and develop the community green space / domain (at the school site). ◆ Provide a bike park and track for local school children. 	
Traffic and movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improve safety on all entries and exits to SH45 from Waireka Road, Hurford Road, Sealy Road and Wairau Road East and make Waireka Road East an exit only onto Highway 45, review current speed zones and provide for traffic calming measures. * ◆ Explore the possibility of realigning Highway 45 so it does not intersect Ōmata village. 	Years 1-3 Years 4-10

KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD QUICK STATS

(Source: StatsNZ (Census 2018))

In order to understand the Kaitake Community Board area, a brief demographic snapshot is provided. Compared to the district overall the Kaitake Community Board area has a younger over-65 cohort. Couples with children is higher than the district average, while single parent families in private dwellings is lower. Access to internet in private dwellings is higher than the district average and the community has a smaller population who identify as Māori.

Population	Total	Female	Male
Kaitake Ward	5397	50%	50%
New Plymouth District	80679	51%	49%

Age	Median Age	Over 65s	Under 15s
Kaitake Ward	37 years	12%	24%
New Plymouth District	38 years	18%	20%

Ethnic Group	NZ European	Māori	Other
Kaitake Ward	95%	11%	4%
New Plymouth District	85%	18%	10%

Families in Occupied Private Dwellings	Couple without children	Couple with child(ren)	One parent with child(ren)
Kaitake Ward	43%	47%	10%
New Plymouth District	44%	40%	16%

Internet Access in Occupied Private Dwellings	Internet	No Internet
Kaitake Ward	87%	13%
New Plymouth District	79%	21%

Top Three Industries	Kaitake Ward	New Plymouth District
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health Care and Social Assistance 2. Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing 3. Construction 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manufacturing 2. Health Care and Social Assistance 3. Construction

KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD

The Kaitake Community Board helps make our community a better place to live by advocating on key issues on behalf of the community. The board area extends from Okato to Ōmata at the edge of the New Plymouth city boundary including the Oākura urban area and surrounding rural and semi-rural areas. The Eastern Boundary is on Atkinson Road and Upper Carrington Road.

The Kaitake Community Board, supported by three focus group of local representatives from the Oākura, Okato and Ōmata communities have developed this Plan to set a future direction (a 30-year vision) for the communities within the ward. Setting a long term direction will help ensure that assets and resources are made available in the area of greatest need and want.

The Kaitake Community Plan sits alongside the Inglewood, Clifton and Waitara Community Board Plans that set out the vision, issues and aspirations of each community. This is the first time that the New Plymouth District Community Boards have been afforded the opportunity to set out our vision for the future.



The Plan is a plan for the whole community – young and old, Māori and Pākehā, men and women, businesses and employees, families and more, and it is a plan that responds to needs, opportunities and challenges.

The hope of the Kaitake Community Board is that the issues and aspirations of the community, as set out in this Plan will be translated into action and investment by the New Plymouth District Council. This is a 30-year plan and the community know that it will take this length of time for the investments into the community to be made. The Board recognise that the community cannot expect to get everything that is identified in the short term. However, it is important that the Council consider the views of the community and invest in the areas that have been identified as of consequence.

CONNECTING TO THE NPDC BLUEPRINT AND THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The New Plymouth District Council Blueprint is reflected by eight key directions that will be the Council's focus for planning during the next 30 years. To aid the Council with its decision-making role the Kaitake Community Board priorities have been organised, to align with the eight areas and the Sustainable Lifestyle Capital Mission.

Shaping our Future Together Strategy

1. Environment – Enhance the natural environment with biodiversity links and clean waterways.
2. Communities – Strengthen and connect local communities.
3. Citizens – Enable engaged and resilient citizens.
4. Growth – Direct a cohesive growth strategy that strengthens the city and townships.
5. Industry – Strengthen and manage rural economy, industry, the port and the airport.
6. Talent – Grow and diversify new economies that attract and retain entrepreneurs, talented workers and visitors.
7. Central City – Champion a thriving central city for all.
8. Destination – Become a world-class destination.



Sustainable Lifestyle Capital Vision

1. Partnerships - strengthening partnerships.
2. Delivery - Understanding and balancing requirements.
3. Community - Achieving wellbeing and enhancing Te Ao Māori.
4. Sustainability - Nurturing our environment.
5. Prosperity – Growing a resilient economy.

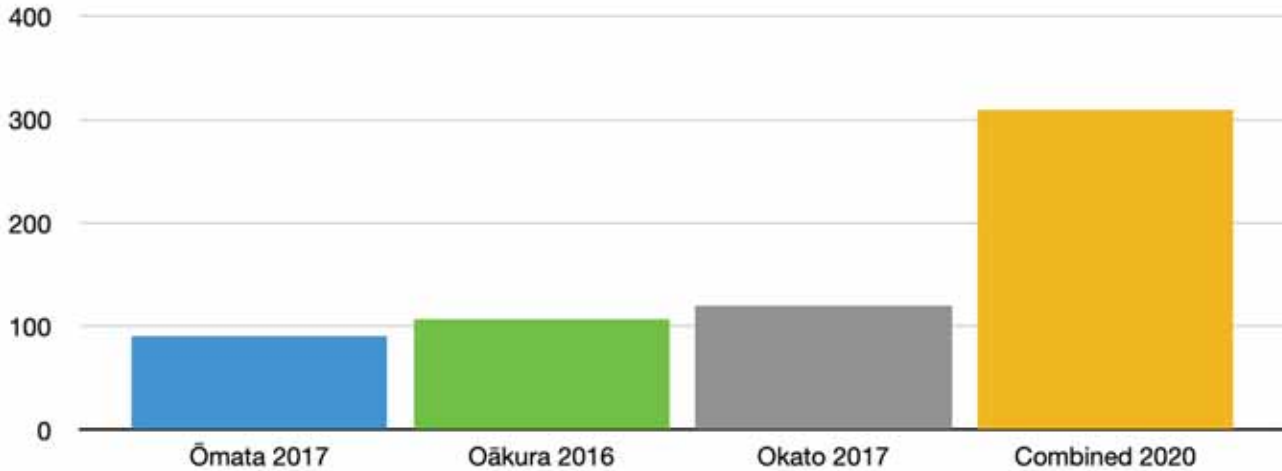


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

Recognising the unique nature of the three main townships influenced the decision to develop three community surveys in 2016 and 2017. The community responses were considered alongside the focus group deliberations in each of the township areas. A further survey was completed in 2020 that collected 309 responses and providing 1748 pieces of information for consideration in the Community Plan review.

Community Surveys

COMMUNITY	SURVEYS RETURNED
2017 Ōmata survey	90
2016 Oākura survey	107
2017 Okato survey	119
2020 Ōmata, Oākura, Okato survey	309



2020 Combined Survey Results

	COUNT	%
Core Infrastructure & Services	109	6.2356
Future Growth	153	8.7528
Community Facilities	191	10.9267
Walking & Cycling Connectivity	232	13.2723
Walking & Cycling Safety	264	15.1029
Where do you live in the Kaitake area	356	20.3361
Road Safety	443	25.3432
	1748	100



ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND ASPIRATIONS

Oākura – A growing community

Oākura's natural features - its rivers, parks, coast, and the Kaitake ranges make the area a unique and special place to live and visit. Having a clear strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity at the same time as providing for development will provide clarity to the community and protect the environment. We asked the community:

Environment

- ◆ What is the priority for biodiversity access and enhancement?
- ◆ Where do you want development on the coast and how do you want it to look?
- ◆ What parts of the coastal area would you like to protect from further development?
- ◆ Are there views to the ranges that should be identified and protected?
- ◆ How can we provide for low impact design to sustainably manage our natural resources?



Focus Group Deliberations

- ◆ Work with landowners, other agencies, and Iwi to incentivise biodiversity maintenance and enhancement.
- ◆ Look for opportunities to enhance access to biodiversity for cultural and recreational purposes.
- ◆ Explore opportunities to maintain or create coastal access activities.
- ◆ Monitor those activities that may impact on the coastal environment, particularly from high numbers of day visitors.
- ◆ Look for opportunities to provide convenient physical links.
- ◆ Protect the natural character of views.
- ◆ Retain a low built density environment.
- ◆ Review the width and associated regulation of the Coastal Policy Area.

Public Submissions

- ◆ Identification and facilitation of key connectivity between Oākura's rural fringe, future residential development and the beach.
- ◆ Development of a network of shared village pathways between significant activity nodes, development areas, and the coastal edge.
- ◆ Protect the special character of the Beachfront Precinct (Holiday Park, Shearer Reserve, Oākura Boardriders, NPOB Surf Club) and consolidate of the visual and recreational amenity values in this area.
- ◆ Improve beach access along Messenger Terrace, including access for the disabled.
- ◆ Protect the amenity value and special character of Matekai Park and its wetlands.
- ◆ Protect and maintain water quality in the Oākura River and streams that exit onto Oākura Beach.
- ◆ Implement soft armoring solutions for shoreline stabilisation and erosion control.

- ◆ Encouraging ongoing community stewardship of the local environment and its biodiversity to restore and maintain natural habitats, ecosystems and viable populations of native species.

Destination

We asked the community

- ◆ What role does the Oakura community want to play to help make the most of the natural assets that make the village a unique and special place to visit.

Focus Group Deliberations

- ◆ Balancing the lifestyle needs of the residents with attracting visitors to our community requires careful consideration.
- ◆ Look for opportunities to link to the Taranaki Traverse.
- ◆ Provision of a safe walkway/cycleway from Oakura to New Plymouth.



Public Submissions

- ◆ Upgrading and promoting the tracks on the Kaitake Ranges.
- ◆ Enhancing Koru Pa as a visitor destination.
- ◆ Ensuring Oakura is well placed to take advantage of any developments that proceed in relation to outdoor recreational opportunities currently being investigated in the Pouākai, Pukeiti area.
- ◆ Development of cycle tourism in the area.
- ◆ Maintaining the current public amenity as the most appropriate way to attract visitors.
- ◆ Limit commercial development on the beachfront.

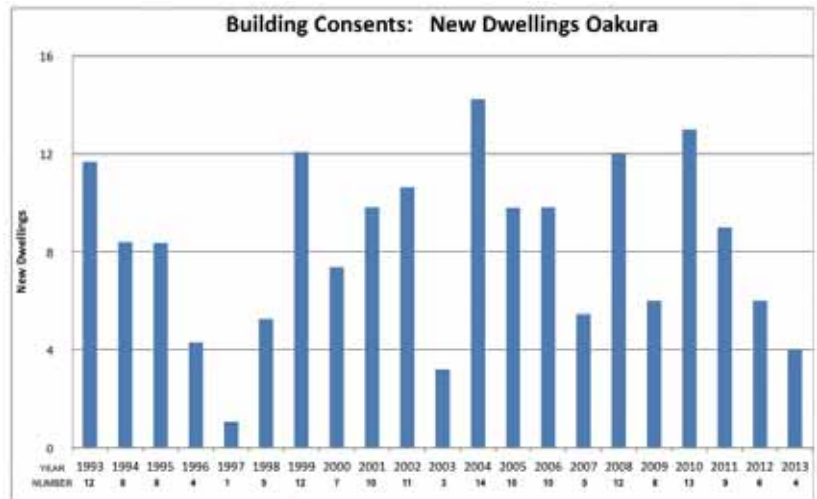
Growth, Industry and Talent

A cohesive and planned approach to Oākura's anticipated growth is needed because of the constraint of existing infrastructure and to limit the environmental impact of growth. Changes to the existing residential zoned land could lead to an increase in the range of housing types possible and there is a need to make sure that housing types are all age-friendly. Development must be managed to retain the rural character and important values of the area. We asked the community:

- ◆ Are the locations for residential growth in the right location to provide for the next 10 years of growth? What density controls should new housing areas have?
- ◆ Where are the key locations we should focus commercial growth? Is there a demand for office space? Are home businesses encouraged?
- ◆ Would a rural lifestyle zone with design guides that reflect the existing character provide for appropriate lifestyle opportunities?
- ◆ Is lifestyle development a suitable alternative to farming activity?
- ◆ Is there a need for an increased range of housing choices in appropriate areas to provide for the Oakura community at all ages?

Focus Group Deliberations

- ◆ Further investigation is required to determine long term potential and constraints for residential growth.
- ◆ Staged rezoning of rural land identified in Oakura Structure Plan to support sequential village growth and provision of variable housing choices, rather than large scale tract housing development of uniform housing types.
- ◆ Commercial activity demand and location to be further investigated.
- ◆ Mixed use, home businesses and offices on seaward side of Highway 45 in the CBD.
- ◆ Increased density, small lot sizes and higher site coverage rules targeted in appropriate areas of new residential developments and/or the CBD.
- ◆ Rural lifestyle 1 to 5 Ha lots provided in appropriate locations but retaining low building density and open character.
- ◆ Protect existing character on beachfront and in CBD.
- ◆ Ensure all commercial activity on the beachfront remains planned, small scale and appropriate to the location.
- ◆ Provide building set back from Oakura River.



Public Submissions

- ◆ All future residential and commercial development to be guided by locally driven sustainable planning and management vision and prescription.
- ◆ Socially responsible multi-unit residential development to encourage a range of housing choices.
- ◆ Higher density development in appropriate locations, off-set by provision of public spaces, public reserves, pathways and improved access opportunities.
- ◆ Multi-generational residential complexes designed so that young families and elderly people live in close proximity and naturally come into close contact.

- ◆ Enhanced access in established and new residential areas, i.e. bridle, cycle, pedestrian dedicated and shared pathways.
- ◆ Identification and protection of view-shafts where required to preserve the unique visual character of the village and the ranges.
- ◆ Equestrian lifestyle blocks.
- ◆ Under-grounding all services.
- ◆ Permeable surfaces wherever possible.
- ◆ Investigating and encouraging alternative power supply initiatives.
- ◆ More comprehensive regulation of building design on and near the beachfront to preserve village character and view shafts.
- ◆ Land development opportunities for local economic growth, and increased local employment subject to other key concepts being achieved first.
- ◆ A more efficient public/school transport hub that facilitates travel to New Plymouth and has the capacity to grow as demand increases.
- ◆ No support for high rise and 'out of scale' development.
- ◆ No support for in-fill housing in proximity to the village centre.



Communities and Citizens

Oākura is made up of many attributes that contribute to a strong local community. Strengthening and connecting local communities ensures they become successful, safe and liveable environments for residents. The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy (2010) identifies the need for a multi-sport facility in Oakura. We asked the community:

- ◆ What sort of multi-sport facility is required? Is indoor space required? What is the spectator requirement? Should there be a health and well-being hub as part of this facility?
- ◆ What process is required for the site selection?
- ◆ How can public places be made more accessible, safe and welcoming to all?
- ◆ Have the correct shared pathways been identified?



Focus Group Deliberations

- ◆ A fundamental cornerstone for Oakura is to maintain its village identity and character.
- ◆ Use a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of public spaces.
- ◆ Ensure all design enables a friendly, safe, connected, liveable community environment.
- ◆ Ensure Shearer Reserve is a neighbourhood playground space and public area that is suitable for all ages.
- ◆ Continue to develop a walkable neighbourhood.
- ◆ Look for opportunities to locate future community hub development within or adjacent to the CBD.
- ◆ Apply a classification and standard to the existing network of trails and pathways throughout the community. Identify and mandate appropriate options for future trails and pathways for recreation pursuits and key connectivity between community facilities.

Public Submissions

Trails

- ◆ Bridle paths, cycleways and walkways.
- ◆ Continued beach access by horse riders.
- ◆ Completing the beach cycle/walkway to Fort St George.



Community Hub

- ◆ Oakura Hall and site redevelopment.
- ◆ Community garden spaces in future urban developments.
- ◆ Further developing local health services.
- ◆ Welcoming public spaces to encourage a safe community.

- ◆ Further developing Okorotua Marae and community links.

Multi Sports Hub

- ◆ The pony club to remain in its present location.
- ◆ Any future swimming pool development to be in proximity of the school.
- ◆ Further developing the amenity value of Corbett Park.
- ◆ Divergent responses about the need for a multi-sports hub, for and against.
- ◆ Do not support a sportsville development as most sports bodies are already well located.



School

- ◆ Improved cycle and pedestrian access for children to and from school.
- ◆ The school to remain as a full primary school (Years 1 to 8).
- ◆ Limiting future urban development to the finite capacity of the school's roll.
- ◆ Donnelly Street to be extended to Upper Wairau Road.
- ◆ Alleviating traffic congestion outside the school during drop off and pick up times.



Centres

- ◆ Local service centres like the Oakura 'CBD' serve an important function to the community, providing essential services and functioning as transport hubs and community meeting points. The centres can be the ideal place for a wider variety of housing choices and business activities. We asked the community:
- ◆ Should the district plan include policies and rules for small areas around the CBD in addition to design guides to encourage a mix of uses?
- ◆ What is required to provide a safe and attractive centre for current and future residents?
- ◆ Is there a need to look at the extent of commercial area so that it reflects the existing situation and provides for appropriate future growth?

Focus Group Deliberations

- ◆ Encourage the CBD and other areas to be a less vehicle dominated environment.
- ◆ The highway through the CBD should not be just a line that connects two points. It needs to be developed as a road that invites travellers to stop.
- ◆ Provide better planned car-parking opportunities in and around the CBD and at other key amenities.
- ◆ Provide better pedestrian movement opportunities.
- ◆ Use wide footpaths, reduced lane widths, along with landscaping to enhance the sense of place, calm the traffic and create an environment where people want to spend time. The role of streets has to be social as well as utilitarian.
- ◆ Extend the CBD to encourage home businesses and offices.
- ◆ Provide a public toilet in the village centre, subject to design and development of surrounding streetscape to provide appropriate degree of privacy and visual amenity.

Public Submissions

- ◆ The CBD to remain in its present location but allowing controlled expansion over time in the area bounded by Highway 45, Donnelly Street, Hussy Street and Butlers Lane.
- ◆ Small scale, cottage industry and convenience retail in low rise buildings as the appropriate commercial activity in this space.
- ◆ More intensive residential development (but not traditional infill housing) in the area immediately adjacent to the CBD within easy walking distance of commercial and community services to allow for housing types that suit, among others, the elderly.
- ◆ Increased flexibility in the planning system to accommodate innovative approaches that enhance 'village appeal'.
- ◆ Greater commitment to amenity values when high density developments are allowed.
- ◆ The planned provision of a public toilet in the village centre.
- ◆ No support for large scale or industrial type activities.
- ◆ No support for large scale residential in-fill housing in CBD or within proximity of village centre that is in conflict with development types described above.
- ◆ No support for the development of a second and competing CBD centre.

Movement

In 2001 it was identified the wide carriageway, angled parking and narrow footpaths created a vehicle dominated environment that didn't cater for the people using the CBD. In 2015 it was identified that wide footpaths, reduced lane widths and median strips along with the landscaping enhance the sense of place, calm the traffic and create a place people want to spend time. There is a demand for more improvements to provide for future growth.

- ◆ Is there potential to create a stronger access into the village?
- ◆ How can we calm traffic in the main street?

Traffic

- ◆ SH45 speed reduction on northern approach to village at Oakura River Bridge or further east.
- ◆ Improved safety measures for traffic entering or exiting at Victoria Rd, Corbett Park and Oakura Pa.
- ◆ Strengthening of village "gateways" (east and west) to further enhance traffic calming.
- ◆ Improved safety measures prior to, and at the Dixon St intersection.
- ◆ Reconfiguration of the Wairau Rd intersection.
- ◆ Exploration of mechanisms to provide additional car parking to serve increased commercial activity.
- ◆ Reconfiguration of road reserves to achieve greater number of parking spaces.
- ◆ Traffic calming initiatives from Oakura River to Wairau Rd that denote special character of the village centre area.
- ◆ Better streetscape design in new urban developments.
- ◆ Better parking facilities at destination points in the community.
- ◆ Further entrances and exits to future urban development areas onto State Highway 45 to take traffic volume away from the Wairau Road intersection.



Okato – A Connected Community

The Okato Engagement Project was an eight-month-long study within the community to establish Okato issues and aspirations. The process was undertaken by a community focus group. The group considered matters relating to: coastal development, growth areas, the coastal natural and built environment and adjacent lands. The overriding objective of the project was for the community to determine the community issues rather than to provide solutions for them, as many are complex and challenging.

Okato Community Survey

A community survey was developed by the focus group, mailed to all residents and made available online. The survey was available for a twelve week period and attracted one hundred and twenty three responses.

Key Results

- ◆ 109 respondents named the sense of community as important to them.
- ◆ 100 respondents named the lifestyle.
- ◆ 90 replies indicated the clean, green environment.
- ◆ 84 said the people living there was important.



What Okato Means to the Respondents

- ◆ The village atmosphere.
- ◆ The sense of peace you get.
- ◆ The potential for walking tracks.
- ◆ The old trees and walkways around the swing bridge.
- ◆ The Okato pool is a little gem, often bringing in people from outside of town.
- ◆ Lots of fields and domains.
- ◆ Community services and resources: school, veterinary, garage/petrol station, sports clubs, library, church, quality cafes and skatepark.
- ◆ The rivers, the playground, the shops, the vets, the community hall, the domain and the pool.
- ◆ Young families wanting to contribute to the lifestyle.
- ◆ The proximity to schools, mountain, river, surf and New Plymouth.
- ◆ The availability of both primary and secondary education.
- ◆ Coastal areas and the easy access to beaches and rivers.
- ◆ Surfing and the ability to surf freely at any location along our coast.
- ◆ Safety for residents and children, friendliness, community engagement.
- ◆ The location between mountain and beach yet close enough to town.
- ◆ Ko te rerenga tamariki.

Throughout the focus group discussions, a range of issues and aspirations emerged from the participants. These ideas formed the basis of the conversation with the community.



Environment

Focus Group Deliberations

- ◆ Provide the community with the tools and ability to care for, and improve its local environments.
- ◆ Review the access-ways to beaches.
- ◆ Encourage further appropriate coastal plantings.
- ◆ Improve protection of natural waterways.
- ◆ Ensure a sustainable clean, green environment.
- ◆ Develop sustainable energy systems, using environmentally sound practices.
- ◆ Ensure adequate sewerage disposal, that is sustainable, safe for public health and ecologically and environmentally responsible.
- ◆ Ensure an adequate water supply, with consideration of rainwater capture, and encourage responsible water usage.
- ◆ Deliver and maintain good public education processes on sound environmental stewardship.
- ◆ Support environmentally friendly business innovations.
- ◆ Support agricultural diversity.
- ◆ Provide protection for the area's historical heritage.

Public Submissions

- ◆ Beach nesting areas and penguins must be protected. Uncontrolled dogs on beaches are a serious and ongoing problem.
- ◆ Encourage renewable energy.
- ◆ Encourage tree planting, particularly riparian planting.

- ◆ Eradication of noxious plants and invasive plant species, especially along waterways.
- ◆ More self-sufficient requirements for future residential development.
- ◆ Initiating and continuing meaningful community engagement and consultation regarding the future management of the coast and its surf breaks.
- ◆ Dotterel breeding ground - Komene Beach.
- ◆ Encouraging householders to install rainwater tanks to save water for toilets, gardens and even laundry use.
- ◆ Much greater focus on restoring/improving water quality of streams and rivers, including large wildlife corridors from the Egmont National Park to the sea.
- ◆ A spray free community in public spaces.



Destination

Focus Group Deliberations

- ◆ Plan the upgrade of, and safe extension of existing walkways and cycleways.
- ◆ Assess and look for opportunities to develop future walkways and cycleways.
- ◆ Maintain the current public amenity as the most appropriate way to attract visitors.
- ◆ Develop a meaningful management strategy for local surf breaks, which are a major destination attraction.
- ◆ Reinstate the Stony walkway bridge and track - a major regional drawcard.
- ◆ Provide better parking facilities at destination points in the community.
- ◆ Assess opportunities and develop management tools for freedom camping.

Public Submissions

- ◆ Development of camping site or a motorhome park - support business and remove freedom camping pressure.
- ◆ Township investment.
- ◆ Reinstating the Stony walkway bridge and track.
- ◆ Infrastructure matched to the needs of Okato's new growing community.
- ◆ More and better walking access to the Egmont National Park.
- ◆ An electric 'fast charge' station in Carthew Street.
- ◆ Upgrading Okato's cell phone coverage.
- ◆ Initiating and continuing long term, ongoing, meaningful, grass roots community engagement and consultation regarding the future sustainable management of the coast and surf breaks.

Growth, Industry and Talent

Focus Group Development

- ◆ Develop a cohesive plan for future population growth in the township and surrounding rural community by a locally driven, sustainable planning vision.
- ◆ Enable opportunities for socially responsible and affordable residential development considering the carrying capacity of the environment.
- ◆ Forward plan a sustainable water supply and environmentally responsible sewage disposal network.
- ◆ Develop more recreational activities for local youth.
- ◆ Ensure ongoing support for the long term viability of Coastal Taranaki School.
- ◆ Provide for a variety of housing types - apartments, houses, lifestyle blocks.
- ◆ Opposition towards oil or gas exploration, mining and associated activities and sea bed mining.

Public Submissions

- ◆ More land for residential development.
- ◆ Building a BMX track on the closed primary school site.
- ◆ A community hall/venue for the younger generation to go to, and be involved in events or different sports.
- ◆ Promotion and encouragement for community vegetable gardens. Development of a local artist's gallery on Carthew Street.
- ◆ 'Transition town' concept.
- ◆ Developing a solar power or wind turbine car charging station, plus charging phones and laptops etc. and getting an all- electric powered bus.
- ◆ Recognising the recent past of the area relevant to land confiscation from Māori, through local Māori history signage.
- ◆ Joint venture funding for jobs and the environment. Encouraging more street design, art design and water features in the township.
- ◆ More promotion of Okato as a thriving family-oriented residential community.
- ◆ Ensuring Okato development encompasses not just the township, as over the years many of the community groups or projects have been heavily funded and supported by the farmers of the surrounding district.

Community and Citizens

Public Submissions

- ◆ A safe environment for residents and children.
- ◆ Building community friendliness and engagement.
- ◆ A re-use facility at the Transfer station.
- ◆ A local cinema for alternative films and documentaries.
- ◆ A sustainable farmers market for local, organic growers and craft makers.
- ◆ Expanding the community orchard for future generations to enjoy.
- ◆ Consideration of metered water so that people would use a lot less. No fluoride in the Okato water supply.
- ◆ Demolishing the buildings on the closed primary school site.
- ◆ Covering the drain next to the school field on Oxford Road.
- ◆ A footpath is needed on the south side of Oxford Road extending from the vet clinic to the pedestrian crossing by the main entrance to the school.
- ◆ Improved emergency/accident/road closure plan other than the one we have going along Carrington Road.
- ◆ Upgrade the rubbish bins around the township, in particular those around the Okato Neighbourhood Park.
- ◆ Expansion of the Council rubbish roadside collection in rural areas to cater for growth in lifestyle blocks.
- ◆ A day-care centre for 0-2 year olds.
- ◆ Residents need far better access to medical services.

- ◆ Making the three dangerous bridges of Tataraimaka, Kaihihi and Hangatahua wider and safer for pedestrians, cyclists and horses.
- ◆ Providing a safe solution for the junction of Cumming Street and Oxford and Old South Roads.
- ◆ A useful community notice board for local groups with contact details.
- ◆ Diverse community adult education classes at the school.

Centres

Focus Group Deliberations

- ◆ Stimulate fresh initiatives to encourage the commercial area to develop and enhance a unique and special character.
- ◆ Encourage small scale, cottage industry and craft businesses.
- ◆ Develop traffic calming initiatives to make the township centre safer.
- ◆ Encourage the township to be a less vehicle dominated environment.
- ◆ Develop a better streetscape design in Carthew Street to enhance special character of the village centre area.
- ◆ Develop a plan to enable Carthew Street and Old South Road to have a social role as well as a utilitarian one.
- ◆ Provide safer pedestrian movement opportunities.

Public Submissions

- ◆ Attracting new businesses.
- ◆ Provide an ATM machine for cash withdrawals.
- ◆ Developing the Okato centre to attract more visitors.
- ◆ Maintaining the village atmosphere.
- ◆ Encouraging employment opportunities.
- ◆ Attracting young people and new talents.



Ōmata – In the rural landscape

Community Survey

The focus group developed a community survey that was available online, with paper copies available from two community locations. It was available for six weeks and attracted 81 responses.

Connection to Ōmata

The survey asked respondents to identify what their connection to Ōmata was, with the opportunity to mark all that applied. They responded as follows:

- ◆ 66 respondents said 'I live in Ōmata'.
- ◆ 23 respondents said 'My children go to school in Ōmata'.
- ◆ 18 respondents said 'I have family who live in Ōmata'.
- ◆ 17 respondents said 'I work in Ōmata'.
- ◆ 8 respondents said 'I used to live in Ōmata'.
- ◆ 5 respondents made a comment under 'Other'.

What is important about Ōmata

One of the survey questions was, 'What is important to you about Ōmata?' followed with tick boxes labelled, 'the clean, green environment, the rural character, the sense of community, the lifestyle, Ōmata's history, and the people living there.'

- ◆ 72 respondents said 'the rural character'.
- ◆ 61 respondents said 'the lifestyle'.
- ◆ 61 replies said 'the clean, green environment'.
- ◆ 51 said 'the sense of community'.
- ◆ 40 said 'the people living there'.
- ◆ 48 said 'Ōmata's history'.

Other Comments

- ◆ Beautiful little settlement.
- ◆ Love it! Please support and protect it.
- ◆ It's a great place to live and raise a family.
- ◆ I have lived here for 71 years so it must be a good place to live.



Environment

Focus Group Deliberations

- ◆ Provide ongoing protection for the coast.
- ◆ Extend full coast reserves from New Plymouth to Okato.
- ◆ Retain Ōmata's rural character.
- ◆ Make Ōmata a 'Green Belt' with tighter restrictions on subdivision.
- ◆ Reserve Ōmata area for 'lifestyle' living with lifestyle properties.
- ◆ Recognise and protect all historical and cultural sites.
- ◆ Encourage and inspire the community towards zero waste.
- ◆ Protect and enhance community waterways and wetlands.
- ◆ Protection and enhancement of Back Beach environment and Tapuae Beach reserve.
- ◆ Become an environmental centre - looking at sustainability, community green spaces, education centre, permaculture principles.

Public Submissions

- ◆ Riparian planning of stream banks and pond margins with fencing to exclude stock from streams.
- ◆ Access to Ngahoro wetlands.
- ◆ Designating the Herekawe Stream as a protection zone for eels.
- ◆ Retain the green field space between Ōmata and Spotswood Sunday.
- ◆ Put in a recycling station at the end of Hurford Road.
- ◆ A dump station for rubbish to minimise the amount of rubbish dumped on Beach Road, Te Ngahoro Road and Centennial Drive.
- ◆ A pest control initiative for the whole Ōmata area where we all get on board as a community.
- ◆ Planting of all remaining wetlands and waterways. These areas need protecting.



Destination

Focus Group Deliberations

- ◆ Development of the Waireka paper road, encompassing Waireka battle information and sites as historic venues that are accessible to all.
- ◆ All historical sites to be protected and recognised with appropriate signage.
- ◆ Allow no freedom camping unless a designated area is established to channel them with the facilities, which could be associated with a reserve area.
- ◆ Develop a bridle path and mountain bike track from Ōmata to Oakura with a parking area for floats.
- ◆ Promotion of the marine reserve as a tourist destination.

Public Submissions

- ◆ Developing paper roads as tracks to provide easy access for walkers, bikers, horse riders.
- ◆ Developing a walkway from New Plymouth to Oakura placing New Plymouth on the map as a destination for day hikes.
- ◆ Developing an information site with the history of Ōmata.
- ◆ Protection of Ōmata's historical sites.
- ◆ Maintain the paper road between Waireka East and West. Open paper road at end of West Waireka down past DOW AgroSciences to the beach.
- ◆ Don't develop anything for tourists - leave it as it is unspoilt.

Growth, Industry and Talent

Focus Group Deliberations

- ◆ No more urban creep towards Ōmata - Green Belt principles.
- ◆ Keep the rural feel of the area - no small section subdivisions like Bell Block.
- ◆ When new infrastructure is taken past Ōmata to Oakura, include the Ōmata area in the planning to future proof the community - i.e. sewer, fibre.
- ◆ Support and encourage food production in Ōmata/Oakura area.
- ◆ Support cottage industries, artist studios, natural health, boutique accommodation, garden centres, and market gardens.
- ◆ No further expansion of the tank farm in the industrial zoned area.
- ◆ Compulsory green belts, green space and native plantings for significant developments.
- ◆ Ultra-fast broadband to be available in all of the Ōmata area.



Public Submissions

- ◆ Controlled development of industry along main road (e.g. design and location of buildings, type of industry).
- ◆ All Ōmata residents having access to high speed internet to lessen impacts on the access to technological devices and the use of technology.
- ◆ Better cell phone coverage for all Ōmata residents.
- ◆ Only allow subdivision that does not greatly affect views or view shafts.
- ◆ Subdivision laws to allow the flat land around Ōmata to be broken up for horticultural use such as orchards and market gardens.
- ◆ Maintaining rural character.

Community and Citizens

Focus Group Deliberations

- ◆ Upgrade Ōmata Hall including a bar/function facility.
- ◆ Improve safety on all entries and exits to SH45 from Waireka Road, Hurford Road, Sealy Road and Waireka Road East. Provide footpaths on Highway 45 between Beach Road, Waireka Road East and Holloway Road
- ◆ Reduce the speed limit in the current zone on SH45 to provide better egress, reduce noise for residents, and encourage a safer community.
- ◆ Provide a walk and cycle trail from Ōmata to Back Beach.
- ◆ Don't encourage freedom camping.
- ◆ Make Waireka Road West an exit only onto Highway 45.



Public Submissions

- ◆ Footpaths for safe walking in Ōmata township between Beach Road and Waireka Road East intersection.
- ◆ Improved traffic flow on Holloway Road during peak school traffic.
- ◆ Improved safety of the exits and entries on SH45.
- ◆ Review of the current Ōmata speed zones.
- ◆ Providing a community orchard and a community green space or domain.
- ◆ Expanding the Ōmata Community Hall.
- ◆ Providing a community noticeboard.
- ◆ A bike park and track for local school children.
- ◆ Removal of the high voltage pylons and powerlines.
- ◆ Providing safer walking areas from Ōmata to Back Beach down Beach Road.

- ◆ Provide better visibility at the intersection of Beach Road and Te Ngahoro Road.
- ◆ Lower the speed limit on Beach Road.
- ◆ Improve traffic calming processes on Hurford Road.
- ◆ Improve traffic safety processes on Sealy Road and Hurford Road intersections with Highway 45.
- ◆ Lower the speed limit on Hurford Road.

Key Issues

Public Issues

- ◆ Providing footpaths for safe walking in Ōmata township between Beach Road and Waireka Road East intersection (82% support, 14% neutral).
- ◆ Maintaining the paper road on Waireka Road, for walking, biking or horse riding (77% support, 21% neutral).
- ◆ Improved safety of the exits and entries on SH45 within the Ōmata community (84% support, 14% neutral).
- ◆ Keeping the rural character of the land (84% support, 9% neutral).
- ◆ Restoring the natural coastal vegetation known as the 'herbfield strip' (74% support, 24% neutral).
- ◆ Restoring the native ecosystem with native plants and trees (79% support, 19% neutral).
- ◆ Improved facilities for freedom campers (28% support, 25% neutral, 47% opposed).
- ◆ Improved school bus services (63% support, 33% neutral).
- ◆ Protection of Ōmata's historical sites (90%, 9%).

Focus Group Issues

- ◆ Provide ongoing enhancement and protection for the coastal strip.
- ◆ No encouragement for freedom camping.
- ◆ Ongoing retention of rural character.
- ◆ No urban creep between New Plymouth and Oakura.
- ◆ No industrial areas.
- ◆ Recognise and protect historical and cultural sites.
- ◆ Enhanced development of basic services in Ōmata area - sewerage reticulation, footpaths, street lighting.
- ◆ Ultra-fast broadband access to all parts of Ōmata.
- ◆ A better public bus service.
- ◆ No further expansion of the tank farm.
- ◆ No LPG storage at the tank farm.
- ◆ Remove Power Pylons running through Ōmata - Paritutu lands.
- ◆ Provide better traffic calming and signage solutions to the Ōmata section of Highway 45 and the rural road network.
- ◆ Better pedestrian access within the 80km speed zone.

- ◆ Protection and enhancement of local waterways and wetlands.
- ◆ Upgrade Ōmata Community hall.

Focus Group Aspirations

- ◆ Development of local pedestrian, cycle and bridle tracks and trails linking the community to the beach and New Plymouth and along the coast to Oakura.
- ◆ Make provision for suitable horticultural land around Ōmata and encourage small cottage industries.
- ◆ Development of the Waireka track encompassing Waireka battle information and sites as historic venues accessible to all.

Public Aspirations

- ◆ A cycle and walkway from Oakura to New Plymouth (85% support, 10% neutral).
- ◆ A cycle and walkway between Ōmata and Back Beach (91% support, (9% neutral).
- ◆ Maintaining the paper road on Waireka Road, for walking, biking or horse riding (77% support, 21% neutral).
- ◆ Promotion of the Tapuae Marine Reserve as a tourist destination (46% support, 31% neutral, 23% opposed).
- ◆ Provision of a community orchard (48% support, 32% neutral, 20% opposed).
- ◆ Provision of a community green space or domain (54% support, 31% neutral, 15% opposed).
- ◆ Expanding the Ōmata Community Hall (46% support, 41% neutral, 13% opposed).
- ◆ Developing a community swimming pool (50% support, 28% neutral, 22% opposed).



CONCLUDING REMARKS

From the considerable amount of feedback received it is clear that residents of the Kaitake Community Board area choose to live here because of the lifestyle they have, value and wish to retain. Residents want to stay connected to each other and be engaged as builders of our future community rather than just consumers and critics. Residents have a clear understanding of the bigger picture and recognise growth as inevitable, it will happen whether we are ready or not but it won't necessarily lead to satisfactory sustainable community outcomes if the community are not engaged in meaningful processes about how that growth is managed.

The outlined issues are issues right now, not 'could be' issues that may present over time. Therefore development that is not guided by appropriate, concise and well-informed decision makers will exacerbate the problems that are emerging in the community and we will miss the opportunities that are already in front of us. The issues and opportunities for our Board area extend beyond the scope of district council operations and as a Community Board we must work closely with the Taranaki Regional Council, Venture Taranaki Trust, the Department of Conservation, the Taranaki District Health Board, the South Taranaki District Council and a range of other community partners. A cohesive, collaborative, planned approach to Kaitake's development is required and an approach that puts local community values first must be embedded in the district and regional Councils' policy planning processes and investment decisions.

A strong and sustainable community is one that grows at a rate that is appropriate and practicable; it must improve the quality of life for all within the carrying capacity of our community and environment. This is the future that we want for the Kaitake Community Board area.

Whakapūpūtia mai ō mānuka, kia kore ai e whati.
Cluster the branches of the mānuka,
so they will not break.

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We recognise a large part of the Okato community is situated in the South Taranaki District Council's area and we are also grateful for the very positive support we have received from the South Taranaki District Council, allowing us to operate in their rohe.

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Thanks are also given to Juliet Johnson, Martha Dravitski, Jo Eager, Jayne Beer and Julie Straka from NPDC for their support and guidance throughout this journey and to Dr Louise Tester of Guild Research who coordinated the development of the final plan.



Version	Action	Prepared by	Approval Authority	Date
1.0	Kaitake Community Board Plan 2016-2019. Document drafted following extensive community engagement.	Dr Louise Tester, Guild Research Consultancy	Approved by Kaitake Community Board; Adopted by Council	30 June 2017
2.0	Kaitake Community Board Plan Review 2020-2023 Community Board Plan 2016-2019 reviewed. Key focus areas updated following community survey.	Doug Hislop, Kaitake Community Board Chair	Approved by Kaitake Community Board; Adopted by Council	

Project	Significant Activity	Why it is needed	The benefits	Risk Analysis
KCB - 1				
<p>Address traffic safety issues within the Ōmata, Oākura and Okato communities, in partnership with the New Zealand Transport Authority, by implementing interventions that make the highway and adjacent streets safer by reducing opportunities for speeding, aggressive driving and enhancing pedestrian and cyclist safety, comfort and flow.</p>	<p>Traffic and Movement</p>	<p>Many dangerous hotspots exist for pedestrians, bikers and drivers within our three communities that aren't being addressed.</p> <p>Ōmata The speed of traffic on the highway through Ōmata is a major concern. Turning into or out of side roads (Waireka East, Hollaway, Phenev, Hurford and Waireka East) is particularly difficult and dangerous. Review speed limits and implement traffic calming measures, enhance parking, and upgrade and extend footpaths and cycleways for increased</p> <p>Oākura There are many areas of concern, due in main to population and destination growth and the increasing numbers of through traffic. Review speed limits and extra calming measures in Oākura. Shift the Oākura eastern 50kph restriction sign to the other side of the Corbett Park entrance. Upgrade and extend footpaths in Wairau Road. Ensure safe pedestrian and cyclist passage to Oākura School from all parts of the village. Address the lack of parking in the Oākura CBD. Address traffic congestion in Donnelley Street. Review the limited parking on the Oākura beachfront and plan for extension. Shift the Tasman Parade through road to behind the OBC and away from the OBC, surf shop and NPOB surf club.</p> <p>Okato Addressing traffic safety has been identified as a key issue for Okato residents for years. The risks are heightening, with new housing development and the impending establishment of a new Farmsource store. Identify and plan strategic measures to reduce vehicle speeds through and around Okato. Upgrade and extend footpaths in Carthew Street to the Hampton Road intersection. Extend and connect footpaths to the pedestrian crossing in Oxford Road adjacent to the Coastal Taranaki School entrance to allow students to travel safely to and from school on foot. Shift the western highway 50kph restriction sign to the other side of the Kaihihi Stream bridge and implement a further 70km restriction to the Hangatāhua River bridge. This information demonstrates there is a long history of ongoing issues that have attracted little action from NPDC.</p> <p>For the past ten years, the KCB has been submitting to the LTP's and subsequent AP's to get NPDC to address various safety issues. These include: 2010 Address the limited main street parking in the Oākura commercial area. 2012 Finish the footpath construction in Oākura on the eastern side of upper Wairau Road adjacent to Highway 45. Finish the footpath construction in Oākura on the western side of lower Wairau Road. Construct a footpath in Okato between the corner of Hickford Place and the pedestrian crossing opposite the school on Oxford Road. Initiate an Oākura traffic study to identify future highway, road and street network issues. 2013 Initiate an Oākura traffic study to identify future highway, road and street network issues. 2015 Construction of a footpath in Okato between the corner of Hickford Place and the pedestrian crossing opposite the school on Oxford Road. 2016 Develop Local Area CBD Blueprints for Okato and Oākura. 2017 Further Oākura footpath construction required. 2018 Address Oākura footpath construction and traffic safety issues within the Okato community.</p> <p>The 2017 Kaitake Community Plan - a thirty year vision states under Community and Citizens: Review speed limits and implement traffic calming measures, enhance parking, and expand and upgrade footpaths for increased pedestrianisation. Timeframe 1 - 3 years.</p>	<p>Providing interventions that make the highway and adjacent streets in our three communities safer by reducing opportunities for speeding and aggressive driving will enhance pedestrian and cyclist comfort and flow. Changes to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists are effective at slowing traffic to a people-friendly speed. Our residents are avid walkers and cyclists and know cycling and walking facilities provide a wide range of benefits to them, their community, and the surrounding environment. Most are keen for their children to travel that way to school rather than by vehicle but they require safe passage for them to do so. This project would link with the development of the Oakura CBD Master Plan project (see below).</p>	<p>Part of this project will require strong working relationships between Council and the NZ Transport Agency. However, without concerted action the situation can only get worse, giving rise to an increase in accidents and fatalities.</p>

Project	Significant Activity	Why it is needed	The benefits	Risk Analysis
<p>KCB - 2</p> <p>Address the need for better trail, pathway and cycleway connectivity throughout the Kaitake Ward. A network of pathways, cycleways and bridle paths is planned and developed. Significant non-vehicular connections north New Plymouth, south to Okato and to Mounga Taranaki are essential.</p>	<p>Community and Citizens Parks and Open Spaces Destination</p>	<p>Ōmata Expand and upgrade footpaths and cycleways for increased pedestrianisation, especially to and from the Ōmata School. Beach access is reviewed and improved and the public right to use and access beaches is appropriate for the protection of the environments and respectful of mana whenua. (see The Ōmata Community Engagement Project Report - 2017).</p> <p>Oākura Complete the linking of footpaths (submitted a number of times since the 2012/22 LTP). Design and complete the walkway/cycleway access connection between the Whenuariki Stream and Timaru Stream footbridges. (submitted a number of times since the 2010/11 AP). Complete the Pukeiti to Oākura trail with emphasis on parking provision for visitors. Undertake a feasibility study to provide a safe walkway/cycleway from Oākura to New Plymouth and link to the Kaitake Trail. (see The Oākura Community Engagement Project Report - 2014/16, and the KCB 2018/28 LTP submission). Provide an all-weather hard surface walkway/cycleway through Matekai Park. Maintain and upgrade the beach trail between Oākura Holiday Park and the footbridge over the Whenuariki Stream. Complete the coastal trail from the Timaru Stream to Fort St George. Complete the mountain bike and pump track in Shearer Reserve. Review and improve disabled beach access. Ensure the public right to use and access beaches is appropriate for the protection of the environments and respectful of mana whenua.</p> <p>Okato Completion of linking footpaths (submitted a number of times since the 2012/22 LTP). Investigation of more trails re: paper roads on Hampton and Leith Roads. Carry out a feasibility study to re-establish the Stony River walkway loop track and upper bridge. Beach access is reviewed and improved and the public right to use and access beaches is appropriate for the protection of the environments and respectful of mana whenua. Ensure sensitive beach breeding areas and species (e.g. NZ dotterel/tūturiwhatu) that are under threat due to uncontrolled beach access, quad bikes and dogs are fully protected. (see The Okato Community Engagement Project Report - 2016/17).</p> <p>The 2017 Kaitake Community Plan - a thirty year vision states under Destination: A network of pathways, cycleways and bridle paths is developed. Timeline 1 - 3 years.</p>	<p>Well-designed pathways, cycleways and bridle paths are an important part of a community. Homes, parks, beaches, shops and schools can be connected by safe walking and biking routes. Such trails allow all members of the community a chance to enjoy the outdoors and get physical and mental health benefits. They also provide 'bump' spots where people meet and interact with each other. The need for optimisation of existing open space areas and walking tracks was identified in the Oākura Sport and Recreation study (May 2011) and the Kaitake Community Plan (October 2017) as was the potential for additional loop tracks and walkways, and to facilitate options for key connectivity between community centres. It was also recommended that development of a track classification and standard for application to existing pathways and tracks to assist improving quality and consistency throughout the existing network with these classifications and standards to be included in operational maintenance plans.</p>	<p>Increased public access to sensitive natural areas (including native forests and beaches) pose threats to ecosystems and threatened species through disturbance/harrasment by human activity, as well as invasive weeds notably spread by horses. These maybe minimised through thoughtful planning with the precautionary principle, risk assessment, signage, education and monitoring.</p>

Project	Significant Activity	Why it is needed	The benefits	Risk Analysis
KCB - 3				
<p>Better protection of significant cultural and heritage sites should be addressed throughout the Kaitake Ward. Engage with mana whenua to ensure appropriate pathways to such sites and signs with relevant heritage information are provided, along with realistic protection measures.</p>	<p>Community and Citizens Parks and Open Spaces Destination</p>	<p>As our population and tourist numbers increase and public interest grows all known sites of cultural significance and historical heritage need to be recognised, protected, and their stories told.</p> <p>The 2017 Kaitake Community Plan - a thirty year vision states under Environment: Sites of cultural significance and historical heritage are recognised, protected and their stories told. Timeline 1 - 3 years.</p>	<p>The place of Te Ao Māori within the community will be strengthened.</p>	<p>Any misinterpretation of cultural or historic significance runs the risk of alienating tangata whenua. Giving key Māori figures or scholars the lead roles and actively involving tangata whenua would minimise such risks while building strong partnerships.</p>

Project	Significant Activity	Why it is needed	The benefits	Risk Analysis
KCB - 4				
<p>Better management of freedom camping across the Kaitake area is necessary. Address Freedom Camping for New Plymouth District, which will subsequently address the Kaitake community's concerns specifically but not exclusively: meaningful and resourced enforcement/compliance, setting up of suitable and community approved freedom camping areas.</p>	<p>Parks and Open Spaces Destination</p>	<p>Access to Tataraimaka Pā should be limited, with freedom camping prohibited. Protection of urupa at AhuAhu Road is necessary. A review of freedom camping at Corbett Park is required. Better management and facilities at the Okato Domain for overnight camping is needed.</p>	<p>Respecting our iwi and hapu concerns and mana whenua aspirations for the integrity of its significant sites will be maintained by limiting overnight camping at them. Better facilities where freedom camping is allowed will help ensure that rubbish and hygiene issues are minimised.</p>	<p>The relationship between mana whenua and territorial authorities may suffer. The protection of natural habitats, and native species populations can decline. Community social amenity values may be compromised.</p>

Project	Significant Activity	Why it is needed	The benefits	Risk Analysis
KCB - 5				
Develop an Oākura CBD Master Plan	Community and Citizens Growth, Industry and Talent Environment	<p>A cornerstone message in the Oākura Community Engagement Report 2014/16, 'Oākura - A Growing Community' was for Oākura to maintain its village identity and character. Many residents stated this during the KCB's extensive consultation processes.</p> <p>For the past decade as Oākura has grown as a destination there has been progressively limited parking in the CBD.</p> <p>There have been new premises erected and others redeveloped, but there is no coherent plan.</p> <p>The KCB has submitted on getting such a CBD master plan done in 2016 and 2018.</p> <p>Shortly a new 10 shop centre will open in the CBD. The new development has made provision for only 6 off-street parking spaces. Shoppers who want to conveniently park close to the shops will not be able to find one on-site. Consequently they will have to take up one of the already limited available spaces on the highway. There is no data showing peak demand times for CBD highway parking, or what the stresses on parking availability will be within certain walking distances of the new development. We are certain there will be significant downstream issues with vehicles parking in Donnelley Street, Hussy Street, The Outlook, and at Oākura Hall. This will have major amenity consequences throughout the village and there is a local view that NPDC does not have a clear comprehension of the existing situation.</p> <p>A feasibility study is needed to look at the future hall/community centre needs of the community as the social hub of the community.</p> <p>Oakura Hall seismic strengthening is required.</p>	<p>The Oākura community has always acknowledged that future growth is required and will occur. Through the KCB and the Oākura Focus Group the community has set out to address this in a way that provides for the social, cultural and environmental well-being of Oākura.</p> <p>The types of actions provided to Council through this list of POE's all add to the community's vision to retain its unique values.</p> <p>To appropriately address and manage these challenges, the KCB considers it essential to take a long-term view and ensure that development is undertaken in a smart and sustainable manner that responds to both the issues and aspirations of the community, now and in the future. At this point the development of a CBD Master Plan is timely.</p> <p>The 2017 Kaitake Community Plan - a thirty year vision states under Community and Citizens: Development of CBD/ township plans that programme township upgrades and enhancements to maintain amenity and rural character. Timeframe 1 - 3 years. And under Environment: Maintain rural character and feel of the townships. Timeframe 1 - 3 years.</p>	<p>Without an understanding of how the Oākura community acts as a unit, current infrastructural planning delivers a disjointed piecemeal approach that erodes the social amenity value of Oākura. The pressures resulting from a growing population and increasing tourism demand, have the potential to put the Oākura community and its coastal environment at significant risk.</p>

Project	Significant Activity	Why it is needed	The benefits	Risk Analysis
KCB - 6				
Develop an Oākura stormwater network management plan	Community and Citizens Growth, Industry and Talent Environment Stormwater drainage	<p>There is no stormwater catchment management plan for Oākura.</p> <p>There is insufficient information to manage the results of stormwater through future urban development. The community already experiences flooding issues from urban development of upstream areas.</p> <p>Poor stormwater management leads to environmental degradation of the three water courses that are used for drainage (Matekai, Wairau, and Waimoku Streams). There is a lack of engagement with mana whenua regarding the environmental impacts of stormwater on what native species (fish, bird species, insects with aquatic larval stages) are established and depend on these streams for feeding, dispersal, breeding, or over-wintering to complete important parts of their life history.</p>	<p>With a robust stormwater management plan there will be more surety for the community regarding the effects of future staged urban growth. The biodiversity impacts can be assessed and managed in a more realistic manner.</p>	<p>Urban growth and climate change may bring much greater flood risk and water contaminant issues to our three water courses and to Oākura Beach unless a plan is developed.</p>

Project	Significant Activity	Why it is needed	The benefits	Risk Analysis
KCB - 7				
<p>Enhance Kaitake-wide waste management and minimisation processes.</p>	<p>Community and Citizens Growth, Industry and Talent Waste Management Resource Recovery</p>	<p>A comprehensive review of the current waste management programme, including organic wastes from households, commercial/industrial premises and public lands, recyclables, hazardous wastes and others is required. Based on the review, develop local and environmentally friendly organic waste management systems, possibly involving community composting initiatives and/or biogas generation. Review the rural Okato transfer station service in terms of accessibility and customer experience. Improve services for diverting waste back to the New Plymouth base through a rural recovery plan. Engage with the Kaitake rural community to identify where rural waste services can be expanded. Develop an illegal dumping strategy to more effectively address this growing issue. Put in place regular inspections of the Oākura closed landfill site. Develop programmes to substantially reduce plastic packaging including single-use drink bottles, and promote zero packaging.</p>	<p>There is a great deal to gain by improving our waste management system, notably through avoiding wastes and turning the rest into resources. Local solutions support local jobs and foster community ownerships while substantially reducing the environmental and economic costs of long distance trucking. Waste minimisation at the root eases demand on natural resources, reduces pollution problems and helps to address health issues associated with sugar drinks and processed foods.</p>	<p>Collaboration with the Taranaki Regional Council is needed in some areas of this project. There will likely be resistance from some businesses.</p>

Project	Significant Activity	Why it is needed	The benefits	Risk Analysis
KCB - 8				
Develop a Kaitake-wide distributed renewable energy system.	Community and Citizens Growth, Industry and Talent Energy	<p>Just transition to a zero carbon economy has become a central and regional government policy. Renewable energy generation and distribution at household and community levels can play a key role, especially when smart grids, battery storage and electric vehicles are incorporated into the system. We seek Council support in:</p> <p>Review of rules and regulations to create an enabling regulatory environment.</p> <p>Technical advice to households and communities.</p> <p>Financial incentives to remove financial barriers.</p>	This project would demonstrate NPDC's commitment and leadership in just transition. It will build community resilience in terms of energy security.	It will require collaboration with central government agencies, power companies, new tech companies and community organisations.
KCB - 9				
Carry out an Okato water conservation and supply review, using community engagement processes.	Community and Citizens Water Supply	<p>Water shortage has escalated in recent years, due to inefficient water use, increased housing development, agriculture demands and climate change. Residents must use our water resource more smartly than flushing our toilets with reticulated, drinking water. We request:</p> <p>Council support for rainwater tank and greywater reuse systems for existing households.</p> <p>New district plan rules to mandate such systems for new houses and development.</p>	This will enhance community resilience, provide jobs to tradesmen and reduce the burden on Council in securing a new water source and the costs associated with its treatment and delivery. This can be a natural expansion of the useful Ngā Whare Ora Taiao o Ngāmotu.	Water shortage issues continue. There is a risk that at the height of summer Okato may not have a potable water supply.

Project	Significant Activity	Why it is needed	The benefits	Risk Analysis
KCB - 10				
Carry out an Okato Pool Accessibility upgrade.	Community and Citizens Venue and Events	This seasonal pool is not compliant to the required accessibility standard. It is the only public swimming pool between Opunake and New Plymouth and is 28km distant from the NP Aquatic Centre.	The Pool has a large user base and acts as the school pool for Coastal Taranaki students.	It is difficult for physically impaired students and others to enjoy full access to the pool and its facilities.

KCB - 11

Develop an Okato Community Emergency Response Plan.	Community and Citizens Emergency Management NPDC Civil Defence Centre Resilience Project	With increasing risks from natural disasters, pandemic and growing population, it is critical that Okato has its own emergency response plan. The Okato community has requested this and the KCB made submissions (2012/22 LTP and 2016/17 AP). It remains a priority for the community.	A local emergency response plan would empower the Okato community and responsible agencies and groups, so that we are better able to respond to and manage emergencies collectively and quickly. It would help to reduce the burden on Council.	Successful management of any public emergency begins at the local level. When a community is prepared to quickly deal with a local emergency the impact can be minimised. An emergency response plan makes our community, safer, more resilient, and better prepared. Failing to engage with the Okato community in developing a Community Emergency Response would leave the community unprepared and agencies unable to deal with potentially dangerous emergencies.
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Project	Significant Activity	Why it is needed	The benefits	Risk Analysis
KCB - 12				
Carry out an Okato wastewater management review and feasibility study.	Community and Citizens Growth, Industry and Talent Wastewater Management	<p>The Okato residential area is in a high water table environment. Many of the household septic tanks are old and compromised, threatening the environment and human health. Such threats are growing over time and with population growth. We request:</p> <p>A review of the current wastewater situation.</p> <p>A comparative study on alternatives that are local and environmentally responsible, with discussions on potential Council support and investment.</p>	It is prudent to look into and invest in environmentally responsible options now. Delaying action will only increase the financial and environmental costs to the community.	Failing to deal with our wastewater issues will jeopardise both the environment and human health.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Available on request

The following documents have informed the development of the Kaitake Community Plan.

Coastal Strategy - 2006

Mana Whenua Mana Moana Position Paper - 2006

Oakura Structure Plan – 2006

Oakura - A Growing Community Report – 2017

Okato - A Connected Community Report – 2017

Omata - In The Rural Landscape Report – 2017

Kaitake Community Board Community Plan Review Survey documents - 2020