



PIRONGIA VILLAGE CONCEPT PLAN REFRESH

October 2020

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PIRONGIA VILLAGE IS EVOLVING

Pirongia is expected to grow by another 230 households by 2050. Waipā District Council intends to work closely with the community to manage this change so Pirongia's great quality of life, natural assets, and significant heritage are sustained.

The Pirongia Village Concept Plan Refresh updates the original Pirongia Town Concept Plan from 2010 with a contemporary vision and priority actions. The community provided bold ideas for Pirongia's future. These ideas resulted in a long-term vision and series of actions focused on the highest priority facets of the village. Mana whenua partners worked with Council to contribute their own ideas and align the vision and resulting actions with iwi aspirations and values.

Current work programmes provide limited opportunities to deliver key actions. The 2024-2034 Long Term Plan will become the anchor for the vision and key actions, confirming funding and timing for new projects.

Waipā District Council continues to support Pirongia by focusing on those things that matter most to mana whenua and the community.

VISION



In 50 years Pirongia village is renowned for its close community ties, with a mountain and waterways that are accessible and full of vitality. It has people-friendly streets, recreational and leisure activities and strong links to its heritage.

E aro ana ki te ripa tauārai o Pūāwhē, ki te iwi e arohatia nei.

Acknowledging the ridge that leads to Pūāwhē*

* 'Pūāwhē' is an old name for Pirongia mountain and iwi have asked that what is now called 'The Cone' be recognised with that name.

PART 1

PURPOSE AND PROCESS

WHY WAS THIS PLAN CREATED?

In 2010¹ a Town Concept Plan was created for Pirongia. The village has continued to grow and evolve since then.

Services and amenities need to keep up with new demands and changing expectations as more people continue to settle in and call Pirongia home. Pirongia will grow from 1,224 people¹ in 2018 to over 1,900 inhabitants by 2050. The Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy forecasts 230 more homes in the village to accommodate the population increase². The 50%+ increase in homes³ will impact on the character of its existing community.

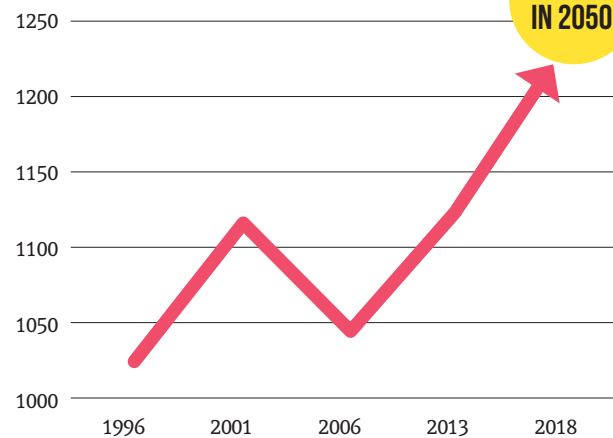
Stand-out natural assets and a welcoming rural village character make Pirongia a great place to live. These are sensitive to the pressures and impacts from growth. The Waipā River, Mangapiko Stream and the eastern town belt surround the community with open spaces. Mount Pirongia stands close by, creating a strong sense of place. The village has an important history displayed through prominent places like the Mātakitaki Pa site and Alexandra Redoubt.

State Highway 39 (SH39) intersects the village. It provides a direct connection for tourists and travellers into the village. Residents use it to reach work, education and play opportunities in the wider region. With growth in the village and more broadly, traffic levels have continued to increase on this busy road.

The Pirongia Village Concept Plan Refresh (“Pirongia Plan Refresh”) reconfirms a contemporary long-term vision and action plan for the village. With this direction Waipā District Council (Council) can focus on achieving the community’s priorities for Pirongia’s future.

POPULATION CHANGE

(Statistics NZ)



PIRONGIA IS GROWING AND CHANGING

“I SEE A GREEN, CLEAN, FRIENDLY VILLAGE NESTLED BENEATH MOUNT PIRONGIA, HUGGED BY THE WAIPĀ RIVER.”

“I SEE A BEAUTIFUL STILL NOT TOO BIG VILLAGE WITH BEAUTIFUL GREEN SPACES, EASY ACCESS TO THE RIVER, HAS BEAUTIFUL CAFES, ART PLACES BUT ALSO HISTORIC WITH HERITAGE ON SHOW.”

Description of the future Pirongia from public engagement.

¹ Statistics New Zealand, Census 2018: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/tools/2018-census-place-summaries/pirongia>

² Waipā District Council, Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy <https://www.waipadc.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:26zgz4o7s1cxbyk7hfo7/hierarchy/our-council/waipā2050/documents/Waipā%202050%20Growth%20Strategy%20-%20Final%20November%202017.pdf>

³ Compared to households in Statistics New Zealand, Census 2018: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/tools/2018-census-place-summaries/pirongia>

WHAT IS THE PIRONGIA VILLAGE CONCEPT PLAN REFRESH?

To help manage growth and change, Council asked partners and the community what they value and want to see for Pirongia's future. The Pirongia Plan Refresh outlines the ways that Council can support the community's refreshed long-term vision. Developed with a community-led process, and in partnership with mana whenua, it sets out priority actions that the community wants Council to deliver.

Council's Long Term Plan (LTP) identifies funding for Council's capital projects programme, and in time may include the actions from this plan. Actions set forward in the Pirongia Refresh Plan include Council led and funded projects focused on the public realm (like open spaces, parks, streets, and public buildings). Actions may also influence established work programmes and support applications to external funding sources.

...AND WHAT THIS PLAN IS NOT

The Pirongia Plan Refresh is a high-level strategic Council document that informs Council's LTP about what the community values, in order to inform responses to growth. It differs from a structure plan as it does not set out a framework to further develop or re-develop Pirongia and is not a statutory planning document under the Resource Management Act. It is also not an urban design analysis of the community and does not replace the Pirongia Town Concept Plan from 2010.

RELATION TO PIRONGIA TOWN CONCEPT PLAN 2010

In 2010 Council created a Town Concept Plan for Pirongia. The Pirongia Plan Refresh does not supersede the 2010 Town Concept Plan. It supplements it with an updated vision, objectives, and actions. The previous plan continues to guide planning decisions in terms of resource consents, potential future structure plans, and the management of Pirongia's ongoing growth.

TAKING A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

The ideas, knowledge, and passion of mana whenua and Pirongia's residents have driven the process for the Pirongia Plan Refresh.

Partners and stakeholders

To guide decision-making on the project, a Project Steering Group (PSG) was established. This group was instrumental in determining the vision, objectives, and key actions. The PSG included community members and representation from Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, and Waikato Regional Council. At key decision points in the project the PSG was involved to inform and shape decisions.

Building on a long-standing relationship with Council, mana whenua were partners in the process. An iwi representative from Pūrekireki marae was part of the PSG to represent Māori perspectives and values. Māori design principles formed an integral part of the evaluation process in determining key actions. A hui was held with several members of the marae to consider the vision and short list of actions.

Community engagement

Council launched the Be Bold Pirongia campaign in early 2020. The first round of engagement applied a bottom-up approach based on collaborative work with partners, stakeholders, and members of the community. People contributed their long-term vision for the village and their bold ideas to achieve it.

The project team and PSG worked from a long list of 140 ideas to a short list of ten. In the second round of engagement respondents prioritised the short list of ten ideas. This approach created the foundation for a list of bold ideas which were further developed into the recommended actions in the Pirongia Refresh Plan.

ADDRESSING COVID-19 DURING ENGAGEMENT

Engagement for the Plan was undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic. This extraordinary situation created difficulties with in-person engagement. As a result, Council extended engagement periods, and alternative platforms were created online. In the end a great response rate was received from the community in both rounds of public engagement and Council is grateful to the community for their passion and input during this challenging time.

A summary of the overall engagement and related outcomes can be found in the companion report **Pirongia Village Concept Plan Refresh – Engagement Summary** on Council's website

INFLUENCES AND INSPIRATIONS

Several objectives, principles, strategies, policies and regulations affect the way Pirongia grows and changes. The following sections highlight the most relevant ones and how they inform and provide context to the Pirongia Plan Refresh.

Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy

The Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy ensures our district remains a great place to live, work and play not only for the near-term but also for decades to come. The growth strategy provides direction as to where the projected population increase will be accommodated within the district, whilst ensuring that the unique features characteristic of Waipā District is retained.

An additional 25,000 people will reside in Waipā by 2050. Pirongia has a part to play in this growth. And although it only represents a small portion of this population growth, Pirongia's distinctive village character and urban form could become compromised without appropriate and strategic management.

WAIPĀ 2050 VISION

Te whakakotahitanga o te iwi o Waipā kia anga whakamua, kia hapai i te taiao.

Uniting the people of Waipā for progress while sustaining the environment.

Waipā District Long Term Plan (10-year plan, 2018-2028)

Council uses the Long Term Plan (LTP) to describe a programme of activities and sought-after community outcomes for a ten-year period. Council updates the LTP every three years, and the next LTP will be adopted in 2021. Council uses the LTP to show the whole picture of how activities are managed, delivered, and funded. Due to timing of the Pirongia Plan Refresh the 2024 LTP will be the next opportunity to anchor the recommended key actions.

Council is in year three of the latest 10-year plan (which covers the period 2018-2028) and is currently conducting an update. In highlighting the Council activities and their delivery packages over this 10-year period, five strategic priorities were set in this district wide plan. Three are relevant to this plan:

Place Shaping: *Planning for key focal points and facilities near our town centres to help connect our communities and enhance the character of Waipā.*

Culture and Heritage: *Together with Iwi, we can increase our community's awareness of and connection to our history and significant sites.*

District wide planning: *Managed correctly, Waipā can capitalise on growth opportunities while maintaining the character of the district and providing a range of housing options for its residents.*

Waipā District Plan 2016

The Operative Waipā District Plan (2016) sets the rules for land use, development and subdivision across Waipā District. It also protects important buildings, landscapes, and natural areas. As part of the District Plan process Council established design principals for central Pirongia to promote and maintain character guidelines within the village. Appendix DG5 - Central Pirongia Character Guidelines prompts the key historical and architectural attributes that should underpin future buildings within this precinct. It also reinforces the street tree planting as a key trait and encourages Mount Pirongia vistas to be enhanced.

Pirongia Town Concept Plan (2010)

The Pirongia Town Concept Plan was prepared in 2010 to provide a blueprint for future development and to consider the look and feel of Pirongia to 2050. It is a technical urban design framework for the village, and it documents key features of urban form.

The Pirongia Plan Refresh does not replace the 2010 Town Concept Plan, or the 2010 vision. It refreshes the 2010 vision and objectives. The Pirongia Plan Refresh identifies key actions that reflects the changes to the village since 2010 and the community's latest priorities.

ACTIONS NEED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE LONG TERM PLAN

The LTP in 2024 will need to include the key actions from the Pirongia Plan Refresh to confirm funding to advance actions towards implementation. Funds have not yet been allocated to proposed new projects. Some actions may be aligned with existing projects and funding and be able to advance sooner. Due to a variety of factors, including Covid-19, timing of the Long Term Plan and this Plan were unable to be fully aligned.

Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato - Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River

This strategy provides direction-setting for the Waikato River and activities occurring within its catchment. The vision is “...for a future where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, and all it embraces, for generations to come.”

The document lays out strategies to improve the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River; particularly in relation to the restoration, protection and holistic approach to management of the natural, physical, cultural and historic resources of the Waikato River. As a principal tributary to the Waikato River, the Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipā River) Act 2012 was enacted to extend the Vision and Strategy to include the Waipā River.

Te Ara Wai: Journeys

The Waikato region was and continues to be shaped by events that occurred during the Musket Wars and New Zealand Land Wars. The Musket Wars were a series of as many as 3,000 battles and raids fought throughout New Zealand among Māori between 1807 and 1837. The New Zealand Land Wars were when the British Crown invaded the Waikato in 1863-4 and confiscated 1.2 million acres of Māori land. Pirongia is one of six zones that form part of the Te Ara Wai Journeys. Five journeys are included in Pirongia which tell important stories linked to Pirongia’s heritage and people. These include: The Granary; King Tāwhiao and Early Settlement; Alexandra Redoubt; Alexandra East Redoubt and Mātakitaki Pā.

Speed Review Proposal – West Waikato, Waka Kotahi NZTA

Waka Kotahi developed the Safe Network Programme (SNP) in response to road safety concerns and initiated a state highway speed review across the country. One of the reviews focuses on the section of the SH39 from Te Kowhai to the junction of SH31/39, passing through Pirongia village. To match Council’s extension of the existing 50 km/h zone in their Speed Management Plan, the SNP recommends (yet to be confirmed at time of writing) further extending the SH39 50 km/h zone throughout Pirongia.

PIRONGIA TOWN CONCEPT PLAN (2010) VISION FOR A COMMUNITY:

- with a sense of identity which retains and continues to develop its rural village character and celebrates the natural beauty of its location;
- which acknowledges and celebrates the history of the area and its peoples - Māori and Tauīwi;
- which looks after its residents, by providing amenities and services which cater for all;
- which provides a range of facilities and opportunities for families and young people;
- which employs ecologically friendly, sustainable practices;
- which continues to develop in a planned way;
- which capitalises on economic opportunities consistent with the character and values of the community;
- and where residents share a strong sense of belonging, know each other and participate in local affairs.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

As the village grows and changes, so do the opportunities and challenges that Pirongia faces. Opportunities and constraints include items influencing the actions identified in the Plan. They were drawn from the values and aspirations expressed through community engagement and by mana whenua.

Grid road network

A grid road layout combined with a low scale, and low density built form in a rural setting provide Pirongia with unique village traits. Tree-lined vistas, characteristic of many of Waipā's established communities, frame Pirongia's open streetscape. The grid road network affords north-south and east-west vistas to the rural landscape and Mount Pirongia beyond the village boundary. The grid road network creates a walkable urban form that supports close social ties and a pedestrian friendly village.

Growth within limits, of a village character

The Pirongia community desires to remain a village. But with population growth the low-density residential living currently experienced by locals will expand through new developments, primarily in the southern area of the village. Maintaining the low scale and low density of residential uses (and grid road network) can help maintain the village character that is cherished by the community.

Balancing movement and place

SH39 intersects the village. It serves as an important regional connection but is also a challenge from a local amenity and safety perspective as it runs through the centre of the community. And it has become the preferred route for heavy vehicles wanting to avoid the Hamilton urban area on their journey (between Auckland and Taranaki). The growth of heavy vehicles on SH39 has been substantial. It now comprises 20% of all vehicles on this part of the corridor¹. Striking an appropriate balance between movement and place through the village is important to reinforce sense of place and local socio-economic activities.

Expressing heritage

Pirongia's turbulent history makes the village home to some nationally significant heritage sites. On the outskirts of the village lies the Mātakitaki Pā site. The Battle of Mātakitaki took place in 1822 and was part of the Musket Wars which were a series of as many as 3,000 battles and raids fought throughout New Zealand among Māori between 1807 and 1837.

The Alexandra Redoubt was built during the time of the New Zealand Land Wars, a series of armed conflicts

that took place in New Zealand from 1845 to 1872 between the Colonial government and allied Māori on one side and Māori and Māori-allied settlers on the other. Mātakitaki Pā, now part of the Te Ara Wai Journeys along with the Alexandra Redoubt and other sites, is commemorated as an intrinsic part of Pirongia's narrative.

There is an opportunity to continue to develop improved recognition and expression of the rich Māori and European heritage to enhance sense of place and community identity.

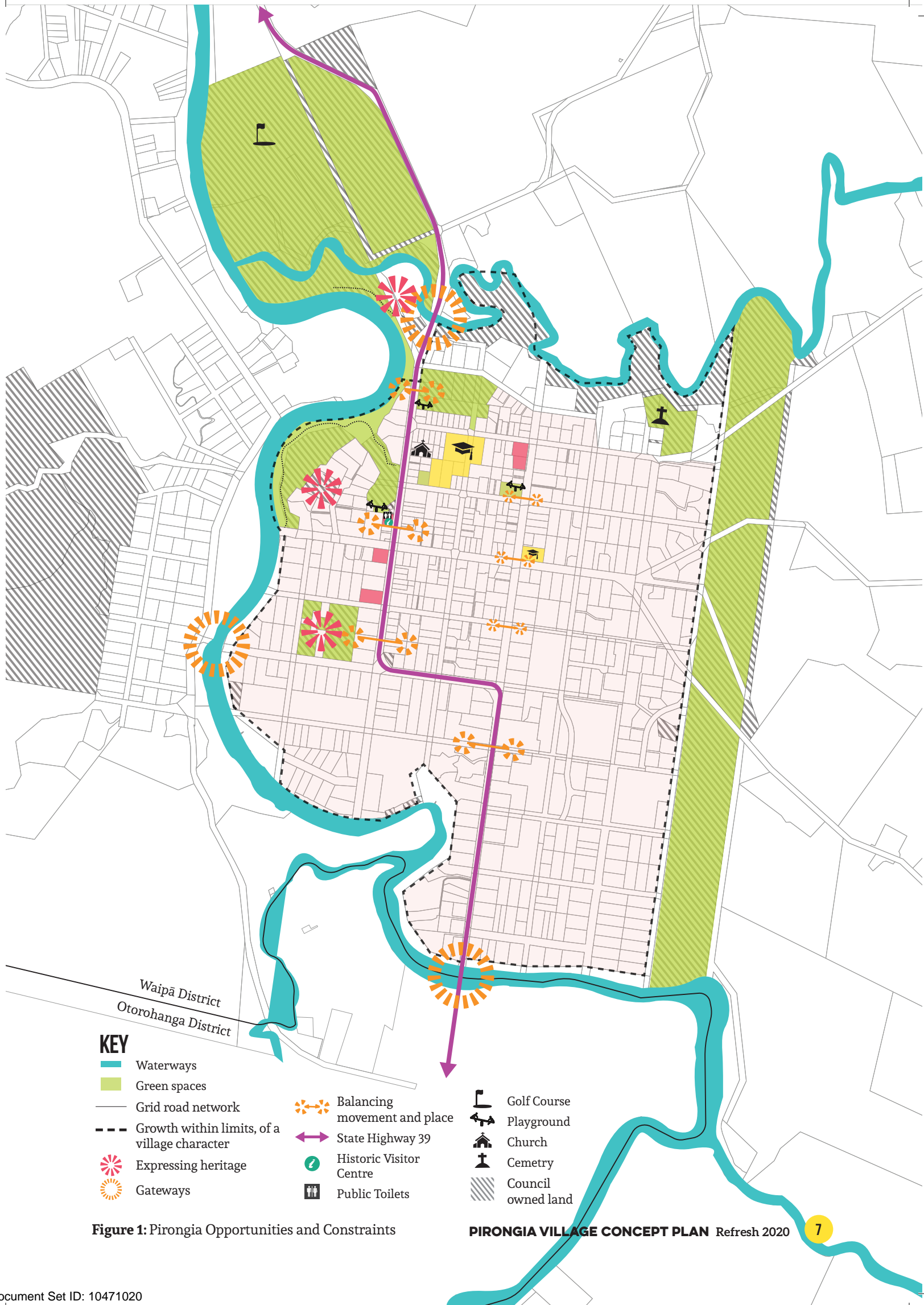
Bounded by nature

Green and blue networks embrace Pirongia. A strong sense of place and community identity develop through the high degree of legibility and rural character afforded by the Waipā River, Mount Pirongia, Mangapiko Stream and the eastern town belt. Rural aspects gained along the grid network of streets further reinforce this identity. These natural features and open spaces lend themselves to Pirongia's character.

Social hubs

People are highly invested in Pirongia's identity, heritage and lifestyle. Many people work and learn locally, while others commute for employment and schooling. Pirongia serves a local rural catchment of residents, including for schooling and sports, and is a visitor destination. There are social hubs of activity for these different users – the school, village centre, sports fields, and similar places. For those invested in Pirongia it is important to make sure these communal assets are maintained and improved over time.

¹ NZTA 2018 -2028 Raglan to Hamilton to Coromandel Corridor Management Plan.



KEY

- Waterways
- Green spaces
- Grid road network
- Growth within limits, of a village character
- Expressing heritage
- Gateways
- Balancing movement and place
- State Highway 39
- Historic Visitor Centre
- Public Toilets
- Golf Course
- Playground
- Church
- Cemetery
- Council owned land

Figure 1: Pirongia Opportunities and Constraints

VISION & OBJECTIVES

LONG-TERM VISION

In the first round of public engagement Pirongia's community reinforced aspirations to maintain a friendly village atmosphere, raise the profile for local heritage, and improve the health and accessibility of natural features.

The refreshed vision for Pirongia is a long-term statement about the community's ambitions. This Pirongia Plan Refresh and the key actions identified are a first step towards the vision.

GROWTH STRATEGY VISION

Te whakakotahitanga o te iwi o Waipā kia anga whakamua, kia hāpai i te taiao.

Uniting the people of Waipā for progress while sustaining the environment.

TE TURE WHAIMANA O TE AWA O WAIKATO – VISION & STRATEGY FOR THE WAIKATO RIVER

Tooku awa koiora me oona pikonga he kura tangihia o te maataamuri
The river of life, each curve more beautiful than the last.

VISION

In 50 years **Pirongia village is renowned for its close community ties, with a mountain and waterways that are accessible and full of vitality. It has people-friendly streets, recreational and leisure activities and strong links to its heritage.**

E aro ana ki te ripa tauārai o Pūāwhē, ki te iwi e arohatia nei.

Acknowledging the ridge that leads to Pūāwhē*

* 'Pūāwhē' is an old name for Pirongia mountain and iwi have asked that what is now called 'The Cone' be recognised with that name.

OBJECTIVES TO CAPTURE THE VISION

Objectives are statements of desired future outcomes that support the vision. The implementation actions work towards achieving one or more objectives.

OBJECTIVE 1

A people-friendly village well served by a variety of recreational and leisure facilities and commercial services for residents and visitors.

OBJECTIVE 3

A village that retains strong links to its heritage and unique culture and identity through storytelling and wayfinding.

OBJECTIVE 2

A village which makes the best of its natural assets by improving their health, access to the Waipā River and Mount Pirongia.

OBJECTIVE 4

A village with a safe, well connected walking and cycling network meaning walking and cycling is a pleasure for all ages.

DEVELOPMENT OF A VISION AND OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES - A PARALLEL PROCESS

1. PROBLEM STATEMENTS AND OBJECTIVES

- 140 responses to Round 1 public engagement.
- Feedback on the vibe preference was the starting point for the vision and key objectives.
- Problem statements were identified by rolling up individual responses into themes.
- PSG was established, including representation from Pūrekireki marae.
- Problem statements were turned into objectives. Using these and the vibe preferences, a draft vision was developed.

2. DRAFTING THE VISION

- The draft vision was workshopped with the PSG and shared with Council managers. Four objectives were confirmed based on nine problem statements.

3. FINAL VISION

- Further advice was sought from the PSG to clarify and strengthen the vision.
- Vision and objectives were presented at a hui with members of Pūrekireki marae.

4. ENDORSEMENT

- Māori vision added by iwi.
- Adopted by Council.

Figure 2: Developing the vision and objectives

PART 3

KEY ACTIONS

There was a tremendous volume of bold ideas received from mana whenua, the community, and stakeholders. This section sets out the priorities identified from these sources, as well as the key actions recommended for implementation.

PROCESS TO DEVELOP THE KEY ACTIONS

1. LONG LIST OF BOLD IDEAS

- Be Bold Pirongia - Public Engagement Round 1 resulted in a long list of 140 ideas from the public.
- 43 categories of common ideas emerged from the original 140 ideas, becoming the medium list of actions.

2. MEDIUM LIST OF ACTIONS

- The medium list of 43 ideas was evaluated using a multi-criteria assessment which scored ideas based on:
 - Uniqueness,
 - NZ Urban Design Protocol,
 - Māori design principles,
 - Vibe findings,
 - Pirongia Plan Refresh's objectives.
- The best scored ideas were workshopped with PSG to identify the strongest actions (becoming the short list of actions).

3. PRELIMINARY SHORT LIST OF ACTIONS

- A short list of ten action ideas were put forward to the community for a ranking exercise through the Be Bold Pirongia - Public Engagement Round 2 (with over 100 responses received).
- The results were tested with PSG, and presented at a hui with members of Pūrekireki marae.
- A Council managers workshop was held to present the results of engagement.

4. FINAL SHORT LIST OF ACTIONS

- Based on community priorities three main projects themes were put through a ground-truthing and prioritisation exercise with Council managers, and reported to PSG.
- Recommended actions were finalised (refer to Part 3 of the Pirongia Plan Refresh).

Figure 3: Action Plan process summary

COMMUNITY PRIORITY AREAS

Rank	Objective	Short list ideas
1	Healthy Green Networks	River Access – Create new and improved Waipā River access for recreational purposes, including amenities like picnic tables, fitness stations, lookout, and benches
2	People-Friendly Village	Youth Activities – Providing more recreational places for youth, such as a skate park.
3	Healthy Blue-Green Networks	River Walk – Create a walking trail along the town belt that includes connection to the Waipā River
4	Connecting People and Places	Walking to school – Safer ways to school, focusing on Beechey Street and other popular routes that children use to walk and cycle
5	Healthy Blue-Green Networks	River health – Improve biodiversity along the Waipā River by adding more native planting along the river corridor and working with landowners adjacent to the river.
6	People-Friendly Village	Improve Rangimarie Reserve – More amenities and options for activities. These could include more shade, drinking fountains, electric BBQs and picnic tables.
7	People-Friendly Village	Franklin Street placemaking - Make Franklin Street more pedestrian friendly near the shops, including some public arts and street furniture.
8	Connecting People and Places	SH39 crossings – Safer pedestrian crossing of State Highway 39.
9	Wayfinding and Storytelling	Wayfinding – Improve wayfinding signage for historic sites and cultural locations in the community, including entryways signage to Pirongia, to highlight the rich heritage of the village.
10	Wayfinding and Storytelling	Mātakitaki Pā – Improve the access point to Mātakitaki Pā from Franklin Street. This could include improved signage, parking, and a seating area that reflects the cultural heritage of the site.

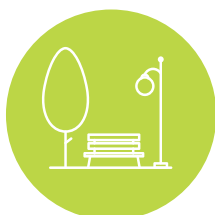
PRIORITY ACTION THEMES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

From the top ten short list of ideas, key actions have been chosen. These align with the vision and objectives and support the highest priority ideas. By grouping them into themes we can see how related actions can be delivered in ways that support each other.



WAIPĀ RIVER

River access
River walk
River health



PUBLIC ACTIVITY

Youth activities
Franklin Street
streetscape
Wayfinding



WALKING AND CYCLING

Safer ways to
get to school

Some actions are out of scope, or already underway

Some great ideas could not be delivered within the scope of the Plan, some were already underway, and others were not within the ability of the Council to influence. A few of the topics falling into this group of ideas are listed below for information and are not being taken forward through the Pirongia Plan Refresh.

- Cycle and pedestrian connections along SH39 bridges: As part of the state highway network, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency controls these bridges. While it is not something Council can act on, through this project Waka Kotahi is aware of the community's desire for active mode connections across the village gateways. At the time of this plan NZTA had not identified full bridge replacement in their renewal programmes.
- Cycleway to Te Awamutu: a regional cycle way connection is already being developed by Council.
- Memorial hall: While we know the hall is important to the community, the hall was not raised in any of the public engagement comments.
- Rangimarie Reserve amenity enhancements: While scoring highly for additional amenities, the recent investment into the park means that further investment by Council is currently unlikely.
- Mātakitaki Pā access improvements: Recent improvements to the parking at the entryway and for on-site improvements underway soon mean that this action has not been advanced.

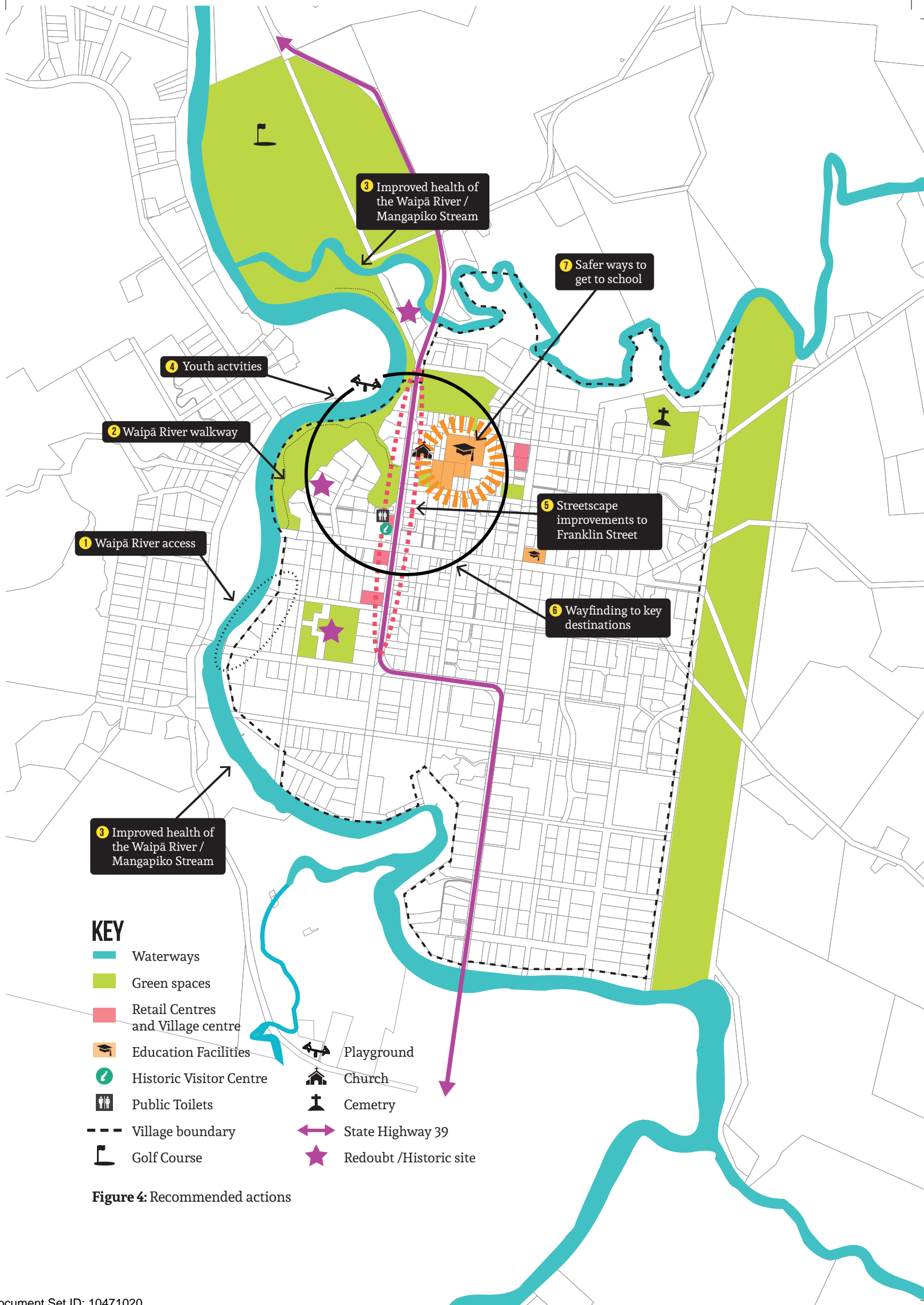


Figure 4: Recommended actions

PRIORITY ACTION THEMES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

From the top ten short list of ideas, key actions have been chosen. These align with the vision and objectives and support the highest priority ideas. By grouping them into themes we can see how related actions can be delivered in ways that support each other.

Action No.	Example Action
Description	Provides a description of the recommended project.
Desired Outcome(s)	Identifies the outcomes that the project is intended to deliver.
Timeframe	Specifies whether the project is a short, medium or long-term project. Often the timing is unknown, and this is a recommended guide. Schedules are expected to change as Council develops the scope for projects, assigns resources, and confirms versions of the Long Term Plan.
Progress Measure(s)	These are indicators for critical project milestones to demonstrate how a project is advancing.
Probable Cost	Each action is assigned an indicative cost and timing; however, these are high level estimates and need to be continually refined and reassessed as scopes are developed. As the scope of the projects is very unclear at this stage, it is expected that the costs will change as new information becomes known and details are refined. Ranges are provided to reflect this uncertainty.
Supported Objectives	This indicates which objectives/outcomes are most likely supported by the project.

WAIPĀ RIVER ACTIONS

These actions relate to the river, its banks and riparian areas, and people's connection to the river. While described separately – water access, river walkways, and health improvement – actions could happen within the scope of a single project.

Action No.1	River access
Description	<p>New and improved access point(s) to the Waipā River for recreational purposes. This project should enable better access to the river for activities like launching canoes and kayaks, experiencing and viewing the water, and enabling people to better connect with the river. There is potential to make this a feature point on a wider walking path network and to incorporate biodiversity enhancements through planting treatments.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>River access would be amazing - currently we have to beg friends to call in favours so we can get to the river.</p> <p>Anonymous, Round 1 engagement</p> </div>
Desired Outcome(s)	Jetty or small watercraft launch access(es) to Waipā River, people more easily experience the river.
Timeframe	Medium to long term

Action No.1	River access
Progress Measure(s)	<p>A. Feasibility investigation and concept design, including engagement</p> <p>B. Funding commitment</p> <p>C. Design and construction</p>
Probable Cost	Probable cost estimated to be from \$100,000 to \$300,000.
Supported Objectives	<p>1 People-friendly village</p> <p>2 Healthy blue-green networks</p> <p>4 Walking and cycling is a pleasure</p>

Action No. 2	Waipā river walkway
Description	<p>Develop a more extensive walking path network along the riverside. This could include leveraging Council owned properties and connecting to existing trails. It could apply the concept of play on the way, incorporating amenities like picnic tables, fitness/activity stations, lookouts, and benches. A first step could be to revisit the previous walkway development programme (prepared by John Greenwood in 1998) and extend on the recently complete section of the esplanade walkway. This would enable a path network to develop over time.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>An upgrade and extension of the river walkway would be a great asset for people wanting to exercise. Perhaps some workout stations along this would be a cool idea. Planting could also be developed here. Signage could also be improved here - we lived here a year before we knew this walkway existed!</p> <p>~Anonymous, Round 1 engagement</p> </div>
Desired Outcome(s)	Stronger connection to the river and more opportunities for people to appreciate and connect to the river.
Timeframe	Short to medium term
Progress Measure(s)	<p>A. Review and update of the previous walk track development programme</p> <p>B. Feasibility investigation and concept design, including engagement</p> <p>C. Funding commitment for capital costs</p> <p>D. Design and construction</p>
Probable Cost	Probable cost estimated to be from \$200,000 to \$400,000.
Supported Objectives	<p>1 People-friendly village</p> <p>2 Healthy blue-green networks</p> <p>4 Walking and cycling is a pleasure</p>

Action No. 3	Improved health of Waipā River and Mangapiko Stream	
Description	<p>Ideally all new projects, particularly those adjacent to the river or an open space should apply an objective to improve biodiversity and water quality. This action is about working with the community to improve the biodiversity of waterways. Waipā can, through partnerships, explore different sources of funding and volunteerism to leverage cost effective ways to improve the environmental health of these waterways. This could include, for example, applying to Waikato Regional Council's Environmental Initiatives Fund for a planting programme staffed by volunteers from the community and coordinated and promoted by Council.</p>	<p>Native plantings alongside river would be good. River is a key feature of Pirongia but tends to be neglected.</p> <p>~Anonymous, Round 1 engagement</p>
Desired Outcome(s)	Improved biodiversity and water quality of the Waipā River and Mangapiko Stream and riparian areas.	
Timeframe	This could be an ongoing area of work	
Progress Measure(s)	<p>A. Identify a Council resource to lead and coordinate activities</p> <p>B. Scope and agree opportunities (e.g. for plantings, or pest management) along river and stream corridors</p> <p>C. Secure funding and volunteer resources</p> <p>D. Implement biodiversity improvements</p>	
Probable Cost	Probable cost estimated to be from \$130,000 to \$260,000.	
Supported Objectives	<p>2 Healthy blue-green networks</p>	

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

Action No. 4	Youth activities	
Description	<p>Most of Pirongia's recreational facilities provide play areas for young children (like the playground in Rangimarie Reserve) or cater to structured sports (such as the Rugby fields).</p> <p>Public engagement identified a long-standing desire for an activity area where older youth could spend time in active unstructured recreational pursuits. This could be a skate park or pump track, scooter park, play on the way pathway, or some other approach or combination of facilities.</p>	<p>A skateboard park would be a fabulous asset to our community, it would keep our young people active and a place for them to hangout socially. If it is visible i.e. close to the road next to the sports complex, it would discourage any negative behaviour.</p> <p>~Anonymous, Round 1 engagement</p>
Desired Outcome(s)	A place for older youth to play and be active, focused on informal unorganised activities.	

Action No. 4	Youth activities
Timeframe	Medium term
Progress Measure(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Funding commitment B. Scope development and engagement C. Site identification D. Design and implementation
Probable Cost	Probable cost estimated to be from \$250,000 to \$500,000, excluding land costs.
Supported Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 People-friendly village 4 Walking and cycling is a pleasure

Action No. 5	Franklin Street placemaking improvements and activation
Description	<p>Franklin Street placemaking can help to strengthen the village's social hub and heart. This street is the public face of Pirongia and placemaking activities here could assist with connecting the village more strongly to its context in terms of the river and mountain. This can be done in part through physical improvements to the streetscape. Supporting activities can also be done to activate the spaces and can ideally involve or be led by the community.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>I would like to see more made of the historic aspects of the main street and surrounding areas, incorporating the Enviro Centre and the old buildings that currently house the Honey Shop and the Heritage Centre, the Alexandra Hotel and some of the older homes in the area. Pirongia is a village, not a town and any changes ought to be in keeping with its village atmosphere and celebrate its heritage.</p> <p>~Anonymous, Round 1 engagement</p> </div>
Desired Outcome(s)	Improved streetscape in a manner expressing local identity and sense of place, combined with activities that activate the place. Resulting in greater pedestrian friendliness and expression of the community's identity – and providing many more good reasons to be in the village centre for residents and visitors.
Timeframe	Short and medium term
Progress Measure(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Develop a strategy for activation and provide staff resource to coordinate and advertise community activities. This could be an ongoing workstream involving low cost interventions, driven by community interest. B. Allocate a budget for physical improvements to the streetscape. C. Prepare a concept design including a co-design approach to involve the community in determining design decisions. D. Engagement and consultation E. Implementation.

Action No. 5	Franklin Street placemaking improvements and activation
Probable Cost	Probable cost estimated to be from \$250,000 to \$500,000.
Supported Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 People-friendly village 4 Walking and cycling is a pleasure

Action No. 6	Wayfinding
Description	<p>Pedestrian oriented signage that helps residents and visitors understand the location and route to key attractions and pathways in the community. For example, a signboard with a map associated with the new toilet block and parking area north of the village centre and directional signs along the way to destinations. These wayfinding elements should be aligned with Te Ara Wai Journeys signage and wayfinding elements.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Pirongia has a lot of great things about it - our cafes, little galleries, our community groups, how quiet it is without being dead, our markets. A unified system of information boards and a village map somewhere might help people navigate to the special public spaces in our village.</p> <p>~Anonymous, Round 1 engagement</p> </div>
Desired Outcome(s)	Visitors know their way around to key attractions, spending more time enjoying Pirongia. Residents are readily able to make their way around to parks, trails, and heritage attractions.
Timeframe	Medium term
Progress Measure(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Confirm scope and funding B. Develop signage template and plan. C. Manufacture and install signage
Probable Cost	Probable cost estimated to be from \$50,000 to \$100,000.
Supported Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 People-friendly village

WALKING AND CYCLING

Action No. 7	Safer ways to get to school	
<p>Description</p>	<p>Through engagement feedback was received that there are traffic speed concerns on certain streets, safety concerns at some intersections, and there is room to improve real and perceived safety for walking and cycling to school.</p> <p>Speed management and safe crossings in vicinity of Pirongia Primary School, an off-street shared path connection running north-south through the village, and traffic speed management interventions (such as speed tables) at key crossings and in vicinity of the path and school. For example, McClure Street presents a wide road intersecting the community with space in the road corridor for a shared pathway. As the community continues to grow to the south, McClure Street may become a more prominent connection to the school for walking and cycling trips to school.</p> <p>Additionally, NZTA is currently investigating speed management of SH39 through Pirongia. Changes to the speed limit may be an outcome of this process and support safer active mode travel in the community.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #fff; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Please, PLEASE do something further about the safety for the school children crossing roads in our village with passing traffic still routinely speeding through the village. The village is teeming with young families and we want our children to be safe.</p> <p>~Anonymous, Round 1 engagement</p> </div>
<p>Desired Outcome(s)</p>	<p>More children walking and cycling to school in a safer road environment, slower speed traffic environments</p>	
<p>Timeframe</p>	<p>Medium to long term</p>	
<p>Progress Measure(s)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Working with the community and school and kids to understand safe active mode travel needs B. Scoping interventions with the public C. Funding commitment for capital works D. Design and implementation 	
<p>Probable Cost</p>	<p>Probable cost estimated to be from \$900,000 to \$1,300,000.</p>	
<p>Supported Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 People-friendly village 4 Walking and cycling is a pleasure 	

PART 4

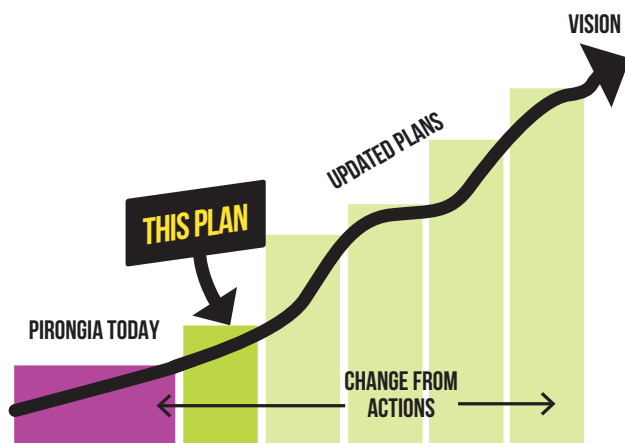
IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

A LIVING DOCUMENT: THIS PLAN REFRESH IS A FIRST STEP ON A LONG-TERM JOURNEY OF CHANGE

To remain relevant the Pirongia Village Plan Refresh should be regularly updated as actions are completed, and in connection with Long Term Plan renewal processes.

Subsequent Plan revisions can capture additional actions and help to move Pirongia closer towards the vision. The vision should remain largely consistent; however, the rest of the Pirongia Village Plan Refresh will need to be reviewed and updated to remain current. A full update of this plan is not needed until 2027.

Many good ideas have been identified through the course of this project. Not all of them were able to be included in this version of the Plan, and larger ones may need to be delivered later dependant on the resources available.



DELIVERING PROJECTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MANA WHENUA

Council recognises the significance of certain places in Pirongia for Māori. Council will continue to work with mana whenua in partnership to develop the projects set out in the Pirongia Plan Refresh.

HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER: COLLABORATION AND SUSTAINABLE APPROACHES

Forming closer relationships with partners, the community and stakeholders can turn up creative ways to deliver projects and align project outcomes with community expectations. Council will engage residents and partners at the front-end of projects to help develop approaches and concepts. Involving the partners, stakeholders and the public in design decision-making is not only best practice, but it provides people with meaningful influence of things that affect their village.
















Project implementation should take a sustainable design approach to support the vision statements from the Waipā 2050 Growth Strategy, Waikato River, and the refreshed Pirongia vision. Sustainable design can reflect the prominence the natural environment has in the community. Applying a sustainability lens to capital projects can strengthen Pirongia's identity and sense of place by drawing closer connections to the natural setting into projects outcomes and capturing outcomes around natural vitality.

TIMING OF ACTIONS

Timing of actions reflects a realistic approach to resource and funding allocation over the next 10 years. New projects need to be brought forward for funding through the Long Term Plan process. This means that new projects (and most of these actions are new) will need to wait until the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan. Council will consider how to advance activities under existing workstreams or to bring forward scoping and engagement activities to speed up delivery of projects when possible.

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Action	Short Term 0-3 years	Medium Term 4-6 years	Long Term 7-10 years
1 Waipā river access			
2 Waipā river walkway			
3 Improved health of Waipā River and Mangapiko stream			
4 Youth activities			
5 Streetscape improvements to Franklin Street			
6 Wayfinding to key destinations		 	
7 Safer ways to get to school		 	

Project Stages

-  Scope development, and engagement
-  Develop design / implementation



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