



BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY ACTION PLANS

Biodiversity Mahere Tupu Ora



Our Biodiversity Strategy is supported by these action plans, spanning over the short, medium and long term.

The overarching intent of these action plans and the wider strategy is **Hauraki ki uta Hauraki ki tai** – recognition of the interconnectedness of the whole environment, from the maunga to the awa to the moana. Hauraki Iwi have indicated their priority is restoring whole ecosystems, and not viewing the environment as separate. While the actions coming out of this Biodiversity Strategy will target specific areas and ecosystems, it will recognise that the environment is interconnected and our actions have a flow on effect.

We have included a series of success indicators, and how we'll measure these, so we know if the actions are working. There are three success indicators for each strand, and we will report on one indicator from the Kaitiakitanga strand every year – so a three-yearly cycle for each indicator. We'll report on the Whakawhanaungatanga indicators every year. We'll then report on all the indicators together in 10 years time.

To achieve all of these actions, a collaborative effort is needed between Hauraki District Council, Hauraki Iwi, community groups working in the biodiversity space, and the wider community. By working together, we will achieve better outcomes.

Actions are woven into two strands, kaitiakitanga and whakawhanaungatanga



VISION



GOALS
Objectives



ACTIONS

- Kaitiakitanga
- Whakawhanaungatanga

This strategy's actions do not go so far as to provide operational guidance on what species to plant where and how. The following guides should be referred to when carrying out the actions in this document:

- **What to plant in the Coromandel ecological region** – Waikato Regional Council.¹
The focus of this guide is on forest species, and includes the Waihi and Karangahake areas of the Hauraki District.
- **Wetland planting guide** – Waikato Regional Council.²
This guide provides guidance for wetland restoration and management, and a list of suitable species for the different kinds of wetland environments in the Waikato.
- **Placemaking Plans for Paeroa, Kerepēhi and Ngātea** – Hauraki District Council.³
The Placemaking Plans contain a planting guide for each town, highlighting which indigenous species would suit where – these guides can also be used to inform planting in the three towns as a result of Biodiversity Strategy actions.
- **Reserve Management Plan** – Hauraki District Council.⁴
This plan contains biodiversity policies for reserves managed by Hauraki District Council.
- **2022-2032 Regional Pest Management Plan** – Waikato Regional Council.⁵
This plan identifies harmful organisms considered to be pests in the Waikato Region, and states the management programmes and rules for pest plants and animals.

1 [What to plant in the Coromandel ecological region | Waikato Regional Council](#)

2 [Wetland planting guide | Waikato Regional Council](#)

3 [Community Placemaking Plans | Hauraki District Council](#)

4 [Reserve Management Plan version 2.0 \(hauraki-dc.govt.nz\)](#)

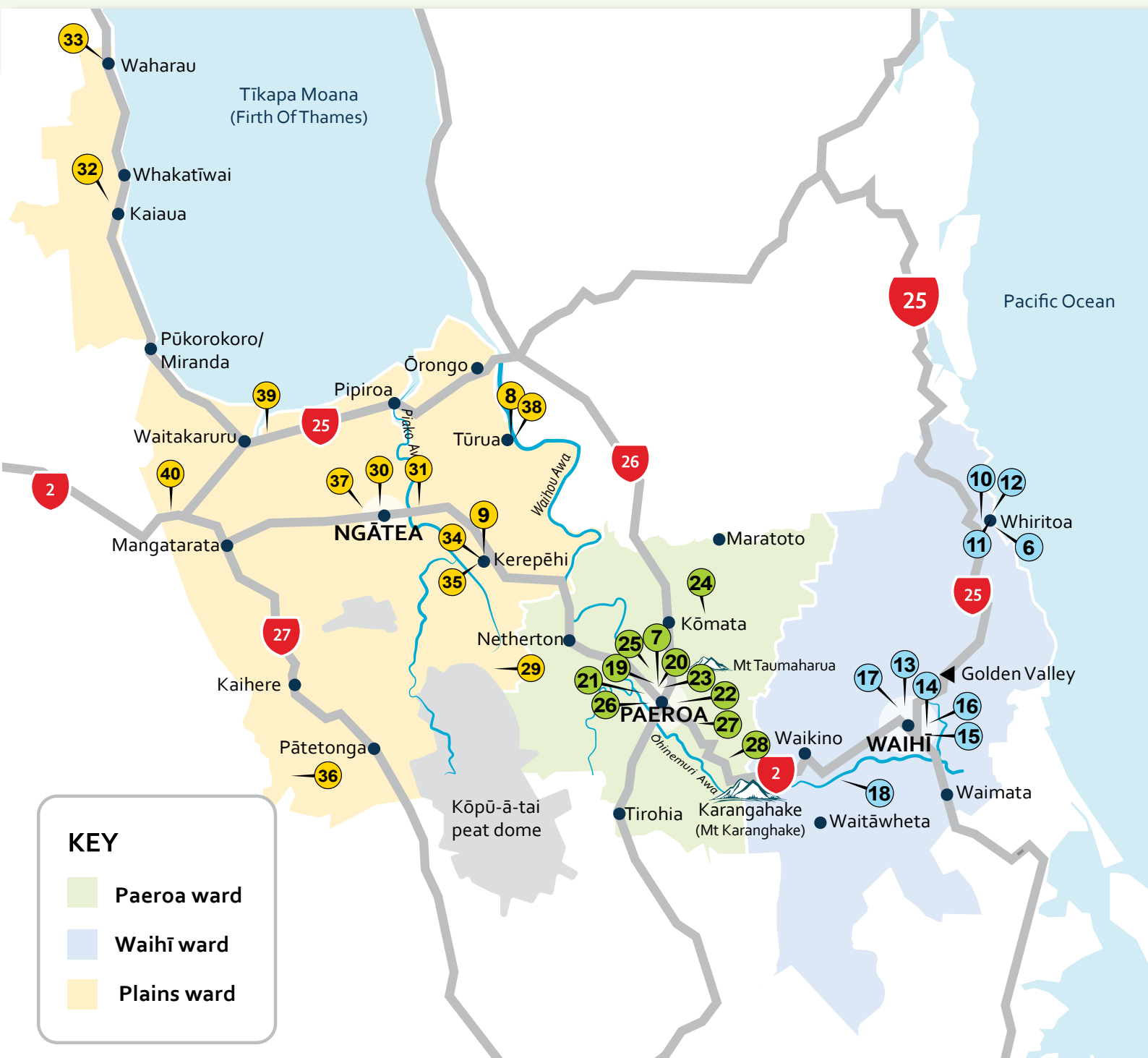
5 [2022-2032 Regional Pest Management Plan | Tūtohu Mahere Whakahaere Ā-Roheo Waikato Mō Ngā Kīrearea | Waikato Regional Council](#)



Map of actions

This map illustrates the locations of these actions in the Hauraki District.

Further information about our reserves can be found in the [Reserve Management Plan](#) – Hauraki District Council.



Kaitiakitanga

Kaitiakitanga is the Māori concept referring to guardianship and protection of Te Taiao. This is the heart of the Biodiversity Strategy, and actions included as part of the kaitiakitanga strand will seek to act on the goals of this strategy – to protect, enhance, and enable resilient biodiversity in the Hauraki district.

Overarching vision:

That Council, community groups and other relevant organisations, are guardians of our rivers, forests, and land. Iwi are kaitiaki of our river, forests and land, and we support them in their role. We view the environment as a whole – a connected ecosystem where all aspects are interrelated.

In our new Environmental Initiatives activity in our 2024-34 Long Term Plan, we've said we will undertake 250m² of riparian planting on Council owned or controlled land each year.



Action	Who	When	
DISTRICT WIDE			
1. Work with Hauraki Iwi to identify priority biodiversity sites for iwi, and to understand the historical context of the site (What was it called? What did it previously look like? What do we want it to look like today?) and integrate this into the strategy over time.	Hauraki Iwi Hauraki District Council	OG	
2. Implement Placemaking Plans actions – Paeroa, Ngātea, Kerepēhi.	Hauraki District Council Hauraki iwi Community groups	OG	<i>One of the principles of the Placemaking Toolkit is placemaking with plants, which focuses on regenerative planting in public spaces.</i>
3. Work with local community groups and Hauraki Iwi to ecosource native plants, and support the work being done at local plant nurseries within the district (by purchasing plants for Council plantings from these groups wherever possible).	Hauraki District Council Local plant nurseries Hauraki iwi Community groups	OG	<i>Ecosourcing is collecting seeds close to where they are to be planted, which means the plants are suited to local conditions and more likely to survive. Ecosourced native plants also help maintain an area's unique local characteristics.</i>
4. The research into and collection of data on the state of biodiversity in the district is carried out and improved. <i>This will help us understand the current state of biodiversity in the district, and identify any new management approaches required as the climate changes.</i>	Hauraki District Council Hauraki Iwi Waikato Regional Council	OG	<i>A measure of success for this goal is increased education and knowledge around biodiversity. Council will have increased its own knowledge, through research and working with Hauraki Iwi, around what biodiversity is present where in the district and how best to support it, and communicate this knowledge to the community.</i>
5. Creation of ecological stepping stones through urban towns. <i>Street trees, street gardens, green walls/roofs, anchored by the larger green areas present in our reserves and other green spaces.</i>	Hauraki District Council	OG	<i>The concept of 'sponge cities' is growing around the world. Sponge cities are part of a new flood management model, where emphasis is placed on strengthening green infrastructure. This is done via installation of additional green areas and by replacing concrete with permeable surfaces. These surfaces absorb water during times of rainfall. Then, in times of hot weather, the water evaporates and cools the city down.</i>
6. Work with Waikato Regional Council to identify and consider climate change vulnerable species in the district.	Hauraki District Council Waikato Regional Council	OG	

KEY


Short term
(1-3 years)

Medium term
(3-10 years)

Long term
(10+ years)

Ongoing (Actions that run for the entire life of the strategy)

Action	Who	When
WAIHĪ WARD		
7. Continue to support Whiritoa Coastcare. <i>\$10,000 a year for dune planting and weed control.</i>	Hauraki District Council Community groups participating in planting bees WRC Coast care	OG
PAEROA WARD		
8. Leach's Field. <i>Realign the current drainage channel to allow the development of a more natural watercourse/wetland.</i>	Hauraki District Council	MT 2030-31
PLAINS WARD		
9. Build a footpath and undertake planting at Te Angi Street Tūrua. <i>Council will install a footpath along the drain here for community access and recreational purposes, and then plant indigenous species along the drain and footpath.</i>	Hauraki District Council Local plant nurseries	ST
10. Increase biodiversity in the Kerepēhi Domain. Council, in consultation with the Kerepēhi community, will investigate options for increasing biodiversity in the Domain through appropriate planting.	Hauraki District Council Kerepēhi community members Kerepēhi School Kerepēhi Marae	MT 2030-31

KEY


Short term
(1-3 years)

Medium term
(3-10 years)

Long term
(10+ years)

Ongoing (Actions that run for the entire life of the strategy)

Action					Who	When
WAIHĪ WARD						
Undertake planting and weed control at the following reserves.	Planting	Weed control	Tree planting	Ecological corridor		
11. Whiritoa Highway Recreation Reserve	★		★		Hauraki District Council	 2028
12. Whiritoa Ramarama Recreation and Esplanade Reserves	★	★		★	Hauraki District Council Local community groups – Council will engage with local groups around restoration of the reserve	 2032
13. Whiritoa Estuary		★		★	Hauraki District Council Waikato Regional Council	 2034
14. Mangatoetoe Stream Reserve	★		★		Hauraki District Council Local community groups	 2029
15. Gilmour Reserve wetland upgrades	★	★	★	★	Hauraki District Council	
16. Tauranga Road Recreation Reserve	★	★	★	★	Hauraki District Council Local community groups	 2035
17. Union Hill and Morgan Park linkages	★	★	★	★	Hauraki District Council to engage with OceanaGold	 2035
18. Thorn Road			★	★	Hauraki District Council Local community groups	 2035
19. Tramline Reserve (Hauraki Rail Trail)	★		★	★	Hauraki District Council Hauraki Rail Trail	 2030

KEY

Short term
(1-3 years)Medium term
(3-10 years)Long term
(10+ years)Ongoing (Actions that run for
the entire life of the strategy)

Action					Who	When
PAEROA WARD						
Undertake planting and weed control at the following reserves.	Planting	Weed control	Tree planting	Ecological corridor		
20. Aorangi Stream - Hape Stream - Ōhinemuri River linkages.	★	★	★	★	Hauraki District Council Local community groups Schools	OG
21. Leach's Field rewilding	★		★	★	Hauraki District Council	OG
22. Shoalhaven Street Recreation Reserve			★	★	Hauraki District Council	ST 2029
23. Taylor's Hill Reserve		★	★	★	Hauraki District Council	MT 2028
24. Washington Square Recreation Reserve	★		★		Hauraki District Council Local community groups Schools	MT 2027
25. Goble Road pine plantation			★	★	Hauraki District Council	MT 2029
26. Irwin Road wastewater plant	★				Hauraki District Council	LT 2030
27. Junction Road Paeroa	★				Hauraki District Council	MT 2030
28. Pukerimu Cemetery planting	★			★	Hauraki District Council	MT 2028
29. Rahu Road	★			★	Hauraki District Council	MT 2033

The Hape Stream has been identified as a priority area to target in this strategy. Council, in conjunction with iwi, and community groups will work in partnership to undertake extensive planting and water quality management, and create an ecological corridor through the centre of Paeroa

This reserve is a designated flood ponding area, and so development is limited. Council will re-wild the area by ceasing mowing other than walkways, and undertake riparian planting along the waterway.

This reserve is currently an open grassed area, and has been identified in the Reserve Management Plan as a Council priority area for tree planting. Council will work with local schools and community groups to plant ecosourced indigenous species here.

The pine has now been cleared from this area, and Council will replant the cleared area with indigenous forest.

KEY

**Short term**
(1-3 years)**Medium term**
(3-10 years)**Long term**
(10+ years)**Ongoing** (Actions that run for
the entire life of the strategy)

Action					Who	When
PLAINS WARD						
Undertake planting and weed control at the following reserves.	Planting	Weed control	Tree planting	Ecological corridor		
30. Wani Road	★		★	★	Hauraki District Council	MT 2026
31. McDuffs Lane Reserve	★				Hauraki District Council Schools	ST 2026
32. Speedy's Reserve	★	★		★		ST 2026
33. Haurahi Stream Reserve	★			★	Hauraki District Council Waikato Regional Council Hauraki Iwi Community groups Western Firth Catchment Group	ST 2026
34. Waharau Reserve and coastline	★		★	★	Hauraki District Council Iwi	MT 2029
35. Kerepēhi Domain	★	★	★		Hauraki District Council Community groups Iwi	MT
36. Kerepēhi stormwater entrance	★				Hauraki District Council	MT 2027
37. Mangawara Road pine plantation	★		★		Hauraki District Council	LT 2035
38. Ngātea stormwater riparian planting	★			★	Hauraki District Council	MT 2029
39. Tūrua Domain	★			★	Hauraki District Council	LT 2030
40. Waitakaruru wastewater plant	★			★	Hauraki District Council	LT 2035
41. Waitakaruru pine plantation planting			★	★	Hauraki District Council	MT 2035

This plantation is still six years away from harvest. Upon completion of harvesting, Council will plant the area with indigenous forest species.

This plantation is due for harvest in 2025, and will be replanted with indigenous forest species

What our future looks like after we have achieved these goals:

Planting done in the early stages of implementing the strategy is thriving, and planted species have been mindfully selected so that when birds disperse seeds, they are dispersing seeds of species we want to increase the presence of. Taonga species are thriving and present in large numbers in Hauraki.

We are actively creating ecological corridors throughout the district, through effective planting and management of existing biodiversity, with attention given to our town centres as well as rural areas and following the awa. These corridors are ensuring safe fish and bird passage, and contributing to connected ecosystems. Our communities understand that investing in connected, integrated ecosystems and making space for nature in our towns is an effective climate change mitigation and adaptation action.

We support our wetlands through the planting of appropriate species to expand them, and by actively identifying any opportunities to 're-wet' areas of drained land where appropriate.

The awa that flow through the Hauraki District, viewed as the lifeblood of the area by Hauraki iwi, are vitally important. Te Mana o te Wai ensures the health and well being of the water is protected, and it is through this lens that the Ohinemuri, Waihou and Piako awa are managed. In the longer term, these rivers are safe for swimming and other recreational activities, and are valued and cared for by the wider community. Riparian planting has occurred along the river banks, improving water quality and enhancing the appeal of the awa.

Mahinga kai is a key success indicator. Due to increased biodiversity and improved habitats, species such as **koroī** are now so healthy, they can be a food source again, as they were for Hauraki Iwi in the past.

We see and acknowledge that restoring nature takes time. We are patient, confident that through ongoing work and engagement as part of this Biodiversity Strategy, we are taking the right action and building the right relationships to ensure biodiversity thrives in Hauraki.

In 10 years time, key indicators of the success of these actions are:

Success indicator	How we will measure our success?
1. The overall condition and area of indigenous vegetation in the district has improved.	Measure annual restoration planting area established, alongside number of plants put into the ground. Indicator species* records/surveys as measured by community groups. Measure (no or little) indigenous vegetation clearance through consents. Land cover database (GIS layer), updated 5 yearly.
2. Water quality of our awa has improved.	Land Air Water Aotearoa measure water quality at several sites along the key awa in our district, and we will use this data to measure improvements. HDC will also carry out benchmarking work on the waterways in our towns that we have direct influence over, and the level of contaminants going forward should be a downward trend from this.
3. There are functioning, biodiversity-friendly ecological stepping stones through our town centres that allow safe species passage and create spongier, greener towns.	There is a clear visual increase of green space in our town centres and connectivity to indigenous habitat, measured through aerial imagery. Measure annual restoration planting area established, alongside number of plants put into the ground. Indicator species records/surveys as measured by community groups.

* To be determined by the biodiversity action group.

Koroī are the berries of the kāhikatea trees, and were a staple in the Māori diet, harvested from the tops of large kāhikatea trees. However, the kāhikatea stands we have now don't produce the sweet berries as the trees are not tall enough.



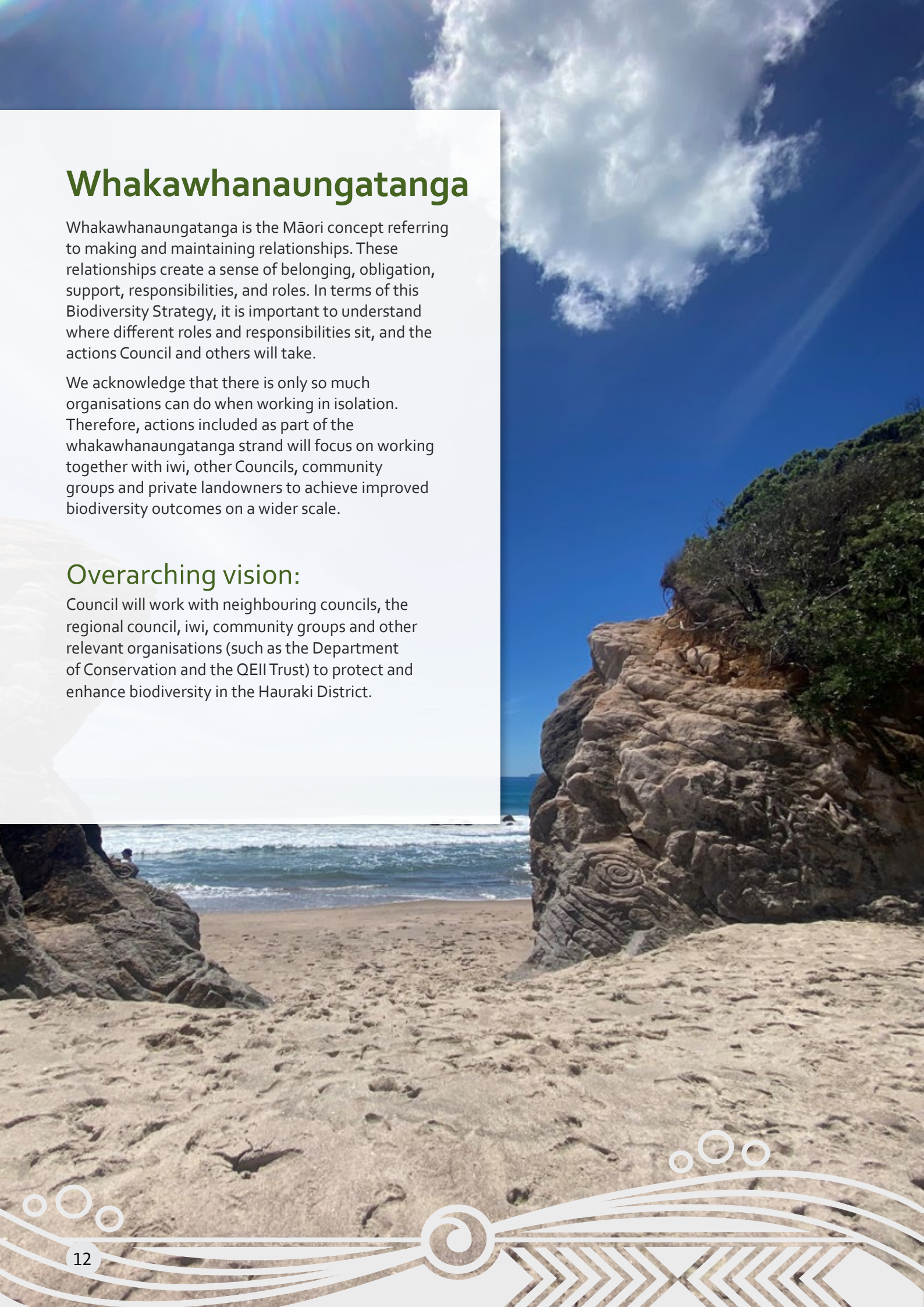
Whakawhanaungatanga

Whakawhanaungatanga is the Māori concept referring to making and maintaining relationships. These relationships create a sense of belonging, obligation, support, responsibilities, and roles. In terms of this Biodiversity Strategy, it is important to understand where different roles and responsibilities sit, and the actions Council and others will take.

We acknowledge that there is only so much organisations can do when working in isolation. Therefore, actions included as part of the whakawhanaungatanga strand will focus on working together with iwi, other Councils, community groups and private landowners to achieve improved biodiversity outcomes on a wider scale.

Overarching vision:

Council will work with neighbouring councils, the regional council, iwi, community groups and other relevant organisations (such as the Department of Conservation and the QEII Trust) to protect and enhance biodiversity in the Hauraki District.



Action	Who	When
DISTRICT WIDE		
1. Establish a biodiversity action group	Council elected members Hauraki Iwi Community groups e.g. Landcare, Predator Free Hauraki, HELP Key stakeholders e.g. DOC, Waikato Regional Council	6-monthly meetings
2. Knowledge sharing and alignment of biodiversity projects across the Hauraki District.	Biodiversity action group	6-monthly meetings
3. Report on progress with the biodiversity actions.	Biodiversity action group	6-monthly
4. Update the Biodiversity Strategy, including a thorough review and update of the action plans.	Council and Hauraki Iwi	5 yearly (first review due 2030)
5. Work on the Regional Biodiversity Strategy, being developed by the Waikato Regional Council.	Council Waikato Regional Council	2024 - 2027
6. Sign up to the Waikato Biodiversity Accord. <i>The Accord is being prepared by the regional council, and signatories will include territorial authorities within the Waikato, iwi within the Waikato, and key environmental organisations. Becoming a signatory of the Accord indicates a willingness to work together on key biodiversity issues and outcomes.</i>	Council Waikato Regional Council	Ongoing
7. Actively encourage eligible private landowners to apply to Council's Conservation and Heritage Fund to support conservation efforts on their land, and support them with these efforts where feasible. We will also investigate collaborative funding for larger biodiversity restoration projects. <i>Council's Conservation and Heritage Fund provides a minimum of \$17,000 per annum (find out more https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding)</i>	Council Private landowners	2024-34 There are two funding rounds per year, opening in February and August.
8. Develop working relationships and consider funding with the private landowners whose land could play a role in the development of ecological corridors. <i>Working together, we will be able to achieve better biodiversity outcomes.</i>	Council Private landowners	Ongoing
9. Council projects to consider and give effect to the Biodiversity Strategy where appropriate, and integrate the strategy into Council's operations.	Council	Ongoing

What our future looks like once we have achieved these goals:

Council has strong, effective relationships with mana whenua, neighbouring district councils, the regional council, and organisations and community groups involved in biodiversity restoration. The strength of these relationships is based on a shared vision of protecting and enhancing Hauraki's biodiversity, and the many benefits it brings to our communities and ecosystems.

These relationships enable ongoing knowledge sharing, which helps us to grow our ability to care for biodiversity and nature as a whole. Mātauranga Māori, the extensive knowledge of community groups working on the ground, and technical expertise sit alongside each other as valid ways of understanding and caring for biodiversity.

Mana whenua are respected in their role as kaitiaki and are supported by the community in this role. The Māori worldview is embedded in biodiversity actions in Hauraki, and as a result people have a strong understanding of nature, their connection to it and their role in caring for it. This will deepen our sense of connection with Te Taiao, the whenua of Hauraki, and the unique landscape of Aotearoa.

People are connected to each other through the shared goal of enhancing biodiversity in their backyards and wider communities, and know what groups they can reach out to for support and knowledge. Our communities are engaged in biodiversity restoration across the District.

In 10 years time, key indicators of the success of these actions are:

Success indicator	How we will measure our success
1. Working relationships between Council, Iwi, and key stakeholders have been developed and are effective, reciprocal, and ongoing.	The biodiversity action group meets two times a year, sharing knowledge and resources. The number of community groups that Council is working with on biodiversity has increased. Annual survey of the biodiversity action group. 50% of plants purchased and planted by Council are ecosourced plants from local nurseries.
2. The Māori worldview has been woven through all actions taken as part of this strategy.	Iwi representatives are on the biodiversity action group. Iwi have provided guidance to Council on their priority biodiversity sites.
3. Our communities are connected to nature, biodiversity and each other, through a raft of planting programmes, education initiatives, and biodiversity restoration initiatives stemming from this strategy, led by Council, iwi and community groups.	Five Council supported community events per year, aimed at increasing community participation and education in the biodiversity space.



