

2006/07 Annual Report of the 2020 Taupo-nui-ā-Tia Joint Management Group on progress towards implementing the 2020 Taupo-nui-ā-Tia Action Plan



Foreword

It is with pleasure that the 2020 Taupo-nui-ā-Tia Joint Management Group presents our 2006/07 Annual Report on progress towards implementing the 2020 Taupo-nui-ā-Tia Action Plan.

The Group is a forum for organisations with responsibilities for managing the Lake Taupo-nui-ā-Tia catchment to share information about a range of actions that are being implemented to protect the values that matter most to the community. The ongoing commitment of these organisations to the actions and the values is critical to the success of the Action Plan, but more importantly, to the future of the catchment. It has been heartening, therefore, to have seen over the past year good progress being made on many of the actions and several examples of the organisations working together to protect the values. For instance, rules are now in place to cap the amount of nitrogen entering the Lake, the Lake Taupo Protection Trust has been established, and a range of entities from central and local government, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, and commercial and recreational interests are working together to protect our lakes and rivers from a potential didymo incursion. These examples reinforce the idea that it is only through the sustained efforts of everyone – agencies, Ngāti Tūwharetoa and the community – that all the values for the Lake Taupo-nui-ā-Tia catchment will be achieved.

The Joint Management Group has had some changes in its membership over the past year and I would like to acknowledge past members - Arthur Smallman, Rex Hawkins, and Topia Rameka – for their significant contribution. I would also like to thank the partners to the Action Plan, and in particular, my current Joint Management Group colleagues – representatives and Champions – for their ongoing commitment to achieving the values and the vision for Lake Taupo-nui-ā-Tia.



Ian Kusabs
Chairman
2020 Taupo-nui-ā-Tia

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Introduction

This is the second annual report of the 2020 Taupo-nui-ā-Tia Joint Management Group. It covers the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, outlining the progress that has been made on the actions in the 2020 Taupo-nui-ā-Tia Action Plan by the responsible organisations. The achievements of the organisations in implementing the actions are highlighted, as are the challenges that have emerged over the period under review. Conclusions about how these challenges can be addressed, and the implementation of the Action Plan moved forward, are drawn. Details about the status of each individual action are contained in the tables in the appendix to this report.

Progress

In the period under review, there was a slight increase from the 2005/06 financial year in the proportion of actions that are being implemented from 70 to 72 percent. Of these actions, good progress was made in a number of areas. These include:

- work to reduce manageable nitrogen inputs to the Lake
- planning initiatives to improve stormwater management
- actions to protect Ngāti Tūwharetoa values
- the review of the Regional Pest Management Strategy
- initiatives to prevent an incursion of didymo into the catchment
- development of the Foreshore Risk Management Strategy
- plan changes to protect areas of significant landscape value and indigenous vegetation and habitat
- statutory management authorities, Ngāti Tūwharetoa and the community working together
- implementing the Joint Management Group's reporting, monitoring and communication actions.

The proportion of actions that are not being implemented reduced marginally to 28 percent from 30 percent in the previous financial year. Addressing these actions represents an ongoing challenge for the Joint Management Group. Another challenge that has arisen in the period under review is the difficulty of enforcing the rules relating to boat sewage and septic tanks. These are discussed in more detail in the body of the report.

Background

The 2020 Taupo-nui-ā-Tia Action Plan (the Action Plan) is now in its fourth year of implementation, having been launched on 30 July 2004.

The Action Plan is a non-statutory sustainable development strategy for the Lake Taupo catchment. It contains 82 actions that have been designed to achieve a number of community values for the lake. These values are:

- clear water
- high quality inflowing water
- diverse plants and animals in lakes and rivers
- good trout fishing
- recreational opportunities
- foreshore reserves
- safe drinking water
- safe swimming
- weed-free lake
- wilderness area
- outstanding scenery
- geological features
- Ngāti Tūwharetoa values
- commercial opportunities.¹

The 2020 Taupo-nui-ā-Tia Joint Management Group (Joint Management Group) oversees the implementation of the Action Plan. The Joint Management Group comprises a partnership from central and local government, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, and the community. In the period under review, the organisations involved in this partnership were the

¹ The Action Plan also contains several actions that relate to the functions of the Joint Management Group and community involvement in achieving the values. See actions under 'Relationships between agencies and groups' on pages 18-20 of the Appendix.

Department of Conservation, Department of Internal Affairs (represented by the Harbour Master – Lake Taupo), Environment Waikato, Taupo District Council, Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board, Tūwharetoa economic authorities and the Lakes and Waterways Action Group.

For the most part, the responsibility for implementing the actions lies with the organisations that have statutory responsibilities for managing the Lake Taupo catchment. The Action Plan identifies which organisation(s) should lead the implementation of each action, and which organisations should play a supporting role. Many of the actions require collaboration. Integration between the organisations in implementing the actions and achieving the values is a key principle underlying the Action Plan.

At 30 June 2007, the members of the Joint Management Group were:

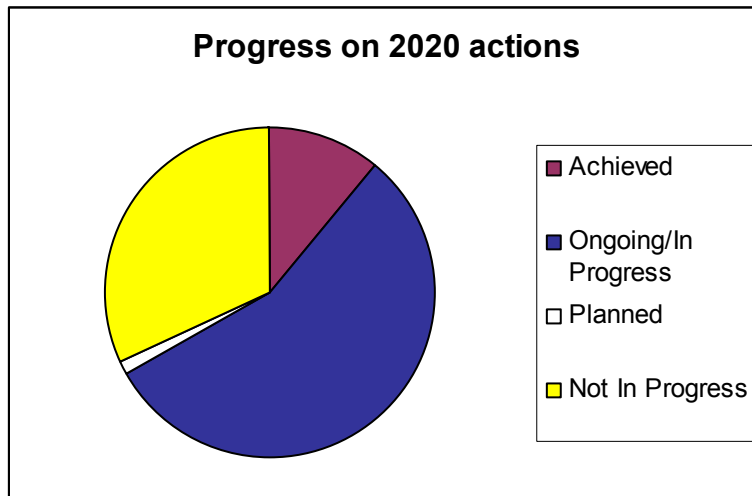
- Ian Kusabs (Chairman)
- Laurie Burdett (Environment Waikato)
- Nic Etheridge (Department of Conservation)
- Judy Harris (Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board)
- Rex Hawkins (Environment Waikato)
- Anne McLeod (Taupo District Council)
- Les Porter (Harbour Master – Lake Taupo)
- Tina Porou (Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board)
- Topia Rameka (Tūwharetoa economic authorities)
- Brian Robinson (Lakes and Waterways Action Group)
- Arthur Smallman (Taupo District Council)
- Kathryn Uvhagen (Taupo District Council)
- Andrew Williams (Taupo District Council)
- Justine Young (Environment Waikato).

The Joint Management Group is supported in an administrative capacity by a Coordinator² who is employed on a part-time basis.

Overview of progress on actions

Of the 82 actions in the Action Plan, 59 are in various stages of implementation (72 percent). The majority of these actions (50) are either ongoing or in progress. Eight actions have been completed, and one is being planned. These actions cover all of the values.

In the period under review, no progress was made on 22 of the 82 actions (28 percent). These actions are spread across all of the values, except recreational opportunities and foreshore reserves. All the actions relating to these values have either been completed, or are being implemented.



² At 30 June 2007 the Coordinator was April Bennett.

Achievements

This section of the report outlines what has gone well in the implementation of the actions in the year under review. As noted previously, the proportion of actions that are in some stage of implementation has, at 72 percent, increased slightly since the 2005/06 financial year. Many of the individual actions, especially those that involve multi-year projects and several organisations, have moved forward. These include the Variation to the Waikato Regional Plan – Lake Taupo Catchment, the review of the Regional Pest Management Strategy, and planning initiatives to improve stormwater management and protect areas of significant natural value in the catchment. Central and local government bodies, iwi and community groups are acting jointly and individually to prevent an incursion of didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) into the central North Island. Good headway continues to be made on the actions to protect Ngāti Tūwharetoa values. Much of this can be attributed to the work of the Tūwharetoa Asset Management Unit, which is driving a range of environmental initiatives on behalf of the Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board. In addition, the Joint Management is settling into its work, and making inroads into the reporting, monitoring and communication actions that it is responsible for.

Clear water and high quality inflowing water

Work to reduce manageable nitrogen inputs to the Lake

Work to reduce manageable nitrogen input to Lake Taupo continues to progress steadily. Environment Waikato adopted the decisions of the hearing committee on the Variation to the Waikato Regional Plan – Lake Taupo Catchment in March 2007. Nine appeals to the Environment Court have been lodged, and Environment Waikato is in the process of settling these. The Environment Court has set aside five weeks from April to June 2008 to hear any appeals that remain outstanding. It is anticipated that the variation will become operative in early 2009.

A team of three Environment Waikato staff has been established to implement the part of the variation that relates to pastoral land. Farming is now a controlled activity in the Lake Taupo catchment and has required resource consent since July 2007. The staff concerned have been working with rural landowners to encourage and assist them to 'benchmark' their properties (determine the average amount of nitrogen leached from their properties in the years 2001-2005), develop nitrogen management plans, and gain resource consent. They aim to have 45 large farms (over 100 hectares) benchmarked by June 2008.

The Lake Taupo Protection Trust, whose objective it is to permanently remove 20 percent of the manageable nitrogen from pastoral land in the catchment using a public fund, was formally established in February 2007. It is likely to wait for the outcome of the appeals before it begins to purchase nitrogen/land using the fund.

Planning initiatives to improve stormwater management moving forward

Planning initiatives to improve stormwater management around the Lake continue to move forward. The Taupo District Council has obtained a comprehensive stormwater consent from Environment Waikato. The conditions of the consent cover a range of matters, including avoiding, as far as practicable, direct stormwater discharges to the Lake, and the development of stormwater management plans. Environment Waikato is encouraging Taupo District Council and developers to prepare these plans, and implement stormwater improvement initiatives through them. For example, the recent stormwater management plan developed for Acacia Bay includes several measures for reducing contaminants in run-off to the Lake. The purpose of that plan is to address the cumulative stormwater impacts of increasing development around the Lake.

Diverse plants and animals in lakes and rivers and weed-free lake

A number of projects have been and are being implemented to manage threats to biodiversity in the catchment's lakes and rivers. One such project is the review of the Regional Pest Management Strategy, which is under appeal. New pests include Rum Cherry and Wild Goldfish. Wetland weeds, such as Reed Sweetgrass (*Glyceria maxima*) and Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacoras*), have been reduced to zero density and low levels, respectively.

Central and local government, iwi, and community organisations are working collaboratively to prevent didymo from entering the rivers and lakes in the catchment. A Central North Island Regional Partner Group has been formed to advocate to Biosecurity New Zealand to put measures in place to avoid the spread of didymo to high risk central North Island water bodies. The partnership comprises representatives from the Department of Conservation, Taupo District Council, Environment Waikato, the Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board, Fish and Game, Biosecurity New Zealand (who are leading the partnership), Genesis Energy, the New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association and Advocates for the Tongariro River. At a practical level, the Department of Conservation is installing wash down facilities and educating kayakers and anglers on the risks of introducing didymo and methods to stop it from spreading. Environment Waikato is working with the Hawkes Bay and Bay of Plenty regional councils to secure funding from Biosecurity New Zealand to undertake didymo advocacy work.

Recreational opportunities and foreshore reserves

All of the actions relating to maintaining recreational opportunities and foreshore reserves around the Lake are being, or have been, implemented. Progress on the Foreshore Risk Management Strategy – a strategy to address risk associated with erosion, flooding and development around the Lake – continues. The technical reports on

flooding and erosion are due to be finished by the end of 2007. It is anticipated that a draft strategy will be completed by June 2008, and a final strategy adopted by July 2009.

Wilderness areas, outstanding scenery, and geological features

Progress on planning initiatives to preserve areas of significant natural and landscape value in the catchment is ongoing. Two significant projects are Taupo District Council's Natural Heritage and Landscape Variations to the district plan. These variations will identify and map all areas of significant landscape value and indigenous vegetation and habitat in the district. The district council is currently in the process of consulting with Ngāti Tūwharetoa on the variations. In addition, the Department of Conservation is in the final stages of producing a Recreation Strategy. This will concern the provision of more recreational opportunities on public conservation land.

Ngāti Tūwharetoa values

Good progress is being made on the actions to achieve Ngāti Tūwharetoa values, with around 70 percent of these actions in various stages of implementation. Central to this has been the establishment of the Tūwharetoa Asset Management Unit (TAMU). The TAMU works on issues of advocacy, environmental management, sustainable commercial development and research, science and technology for the Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board. It has facilitated the formation of the Tūwharetoa Environmental Roopu, a group of hapū representatives that meets quarterly to discuss and disseminate information to their respective hapū on relevant environmental issues. This group now acts as a first point of contact for statutory management authorities to consult with hapū. The TAMU has also driven the development of the Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board's Research Strategy and various environmental projects within the Tūwharetoa rohe. One such

project is the Wai Ora initiative, which has provided Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kits to hapū to enable them to monitor the waterways in their rohe.

Relationships between agencies and groups

The partners to the Action Plan with statutory responsibilities for managing the Lake Taupo catchment continue to work together and with Ngati Tuwharetoa and community groups to achieve the community values. Examples of collaboration and relationship building between agencies and groups include:

- Work between the Department of Conservation, Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board, Biosecurity New Zealand, commercial operators and recreational groups to prevent an incursion of didymo into the catchment.
- Monthly meetings between staff within the Tūwharetoa Asset Management Unit, Taupo District Council, and Environment Waikato.
- Environment Waikato and the Harbourmaster have continued to support the Biofish project (through the provision of funding and a boat), which monitors water quality in Lake Taupo. Lakes and Waterways Action Group and students from the University of Waikato are carrying out the project.

The meetings of the Joint Management Group provide a regular forum for representatives from the partners to the Action Plan to discuss progress on a range of projects that aim to protect the community values. To facilitate ongoing information sharing and cooperation between the partners, the Action Plan outlines a number of reporting, monitoring, and communication actions that the Joint Management Group should undertake. In the period under review the Joint Management Group has made good progress on these actions, with the completion of its inaugural annual report, a communication strategy and a business plan for the 2007/08 financial year. The Joint Management Group has also begun to tackle the monitoring component of the Action Plan, a challenge it identified in its

2005/06 Annual Report. In June 2007, it commissioned the development of the 2020 Taupo-nui-ā-Tia Monitoring and Reporting Plan, which sets out a process for the Joint Management Group to monitor and report on progress on the community values. Monitoring and reporting to the community on the progress on the community values is a critical part of implementing the Action Plan. Without monitoring, the effectiveness of the actions in achieving the community values cannot be assessed.

Challenges

This section of the report outlines the ongoing and emergent challenges of implementing the Action Plan. These relate to enforcement of certain rules relating to water quality and the body of actions that are not being progressed.

Enforcement of rules

An issue that has arisen in the period under review has been the challenges associated with enforcing rules related to boat sewage and on-site wastewater disposal.

In April 2006, Environment Waikato ran a campaign to inform boat owners of the regulations and issues associated with discharging waste water and grey water into the Lake. The campaign raised much interest and awareness amongst these owners. However, since then, insufficient resources have been allocated to enforcing the rules, for instance, to inspecting boats for sewage holding tanks.

A similar issue has arisen in the case of on-site waste water treatment and disposal systems (septic tanks). The rules and methods in the Variation to the Waikato Regional Plan – Lake Taupo Catchment set out the regional and district council's responsibilities for managing these systems. New systems are being monitored as part of the building

consent process. However, work is still in progress to investigate ways of cost-effectively managing existing systems.

30 percent of actions not being implemented

Since last year, the percentage of actions that are not being implemented has decreased marginally to 28 percent from 30 percent. There are different reasons for actions not being implemented, including:

- actions no longer being relevant and needing to be revised
- low priority being accorded to actions
- no resources being allocated to actions
- another action needing to be completed before an action can be undertaken.

The first step in addressing the number of actions that are not in progress is reviewing the actions themselves. Some of the partners to the Action Plan have, in the process of preparing their annual reports to the Joint Management Group, already identified actions that should be reviewed. Also, the Joint Management Group has identified reviewing the Action Plan as a priority in the current financial year. To ensure the ongoing relevance of the actions and to build support for their implementation, it is critical that the Joint Management Group undertake this review.

The Joint Management Group also needs to undertake a prioritisation exercise, at the same time as or immediately after the review, to identify important actions moving forward. It then needs to advocate for the inclusion of these actions in the district and regional council Annual Plan processes.

Some of the actions that are not being implemented, such as the action relating to a litter survey, might be undertaken by community groups. The partners to the Action Plan may

wish to approach certain groups, such as Enviroschools and Youth Council, about these actions.

Concluding comments

While the overall proportion of actions being implemented has not changed much since 2005/06, the partners to the Action Plan are moving many individual actions forward. These relate to the majority of the values.

Looking forward, priorities are reviewing the Action Plan, prioritising and advocating for key actions in statutory planning processes, and implementing the 2020 Taupo-nui-ā-Tia Monitoring and Reporting Plan so that progress on the values can be fed back to the community. There are also opportunities for the partners to the Action Plan to work with community groups, and with one another, to progress certain actions.

Appendix

VALUE: RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN AGENCIES AND GROUPS			
Action	Reference	Agencies³	Status
Establish a new 2020 JMG with core representation from TDC, EW, DoC, DIA and TMTB to discuss and coordinate work priorities, budgets and opportunities for working together (such as sharing information and joint enforcement), to achieve the community values. Appoint a part-time coordinator to support the 2020 JMG and assist in coordinating the implementation of the 2020 TAP.	2020 TAP, p. 12.	TMTB/TAMU, EW, DoC, DIA, TDC	Achieved. A JMG has been established with representation from the TMTB, EW, DIA, DoC, and TDC, as well as LWAG. A part-time coordinator has been appointed.
DoC, DIA, TDC, EW and TMTB shall jointly review the actions included in this Action Plan annually in October of each year: 1) to make sure the actions remain appropriate and to identify any further actions that should be considered; 2) to identify which actions that will be undertaken in the coming year(s) and will therefore be included in their LTCCPs, annual plans or business plans; 3) to ensure monitoring expectations set out in 2020 Taupo-nui-a-Tia Monitoring Plan are included in work programmes.	p. 12	TMTB/TAMU, EW, DoC, DIA, TDC	In progress. The JMG considered a process for reviewing the 2020 TAP in November 2007. Some of the agencies/partners have already begun the process of reviewing the actions as part of preparing their 05/06 and 06/07 annual reports. The JMG will undertake a prioritisation exercise in Feb 2008 that will feed into the district council Annual Plan process.
DoC, DIA, TDC, EW and TMTB shall each provide an annual report to the new 2020 JMG (in October of each year) outlining the actions that have been carried out in the past financial year or those which are still in progress, the results of any monitoring undertaken and an assessment as to whether the implementation of the Action Plan has been effective in meeting the community values. This annual report should be available to the public.	p. 12	TMTB/TAMU, EW, DoC, DIA, TDC	Ongoing. The agencies each provided an annual report to the JMG in October 2007 outlining their progress on the actions. Based on these reports, the JMG has prepared an annual report and will make this available to the public. The JMG commissioned the development of the 2020 Taupo-nui-ā-Tia Monitoring and Reporting Plan in June 2007. One of the recommendations of that plan is that the JMG use the Taupo State of the District Report (due in early 2008) to produce a 2020 Progress Report on the results of monitoring the community values. The

³ Lead organisations, as identified in the Action Plan, are indicated in bold text.

			JMG will complete this report by June 2008.
DoC, DIA, TDC, EW and TMTB shall undertake to jointly review the research gaps identified in the 2020 Taupo-nui-a-Tia Research Plan every two to three years. EW shall co-ordinate the research priorities and make sure appropriate research providers and funding agencies are aware of these priorities when they are developing proposals or seeking national funding. A review of the research strategy and of the monitoring plan should be undertaken every three years.	p. 12.	TMTB/TAMU, EW, DoC, DIA, TDC , in association with LWAG	In progress. The JMG considered the review of the 2020 Taupo-nui-ā-Tia Research Plan in November 2007 and formed a subcommittee comprising the Chairman and representatives from DoC and LWAG to lead the review.
Publicise new information relating to the community values or to the Action Plan, including, for example, community involvement stories, progress reports on indicators or other monitoring, and regular press releases.	p. 12	JMG	In progress. The JMG made the 05/06 Annual Report available on the website. The Coordinator is in the process of developing a communication package that will be based on the 06/07 Annual Report and 2008 Progress Report on the community values. The communication package will include a newsletter, report cards, and press releases.
Retain the 2020 Taupo-nui-ā-Tia website and make sure the information is updated (including reviewing and updating the Taupo Bibliography and Information Inventory) and adding an outline of each agency's budgeting and work programming for undertaking actions identified in this Plan (this may be a link to the individual agency's website).	p. 13.	JMG	Ongoing. The non-scientific content on the website was last updated in September 2007. There are links to each agency's website, however, budget and work programme information relating to 2020 TAP is not publicly available. The Coordinator is investigating updating the scientific information (including the bibliography) on the website.
Provide a feedback form on the website for people to raise queries when they are confused about roles/responsibilities.	p. 13	JMG	Achieved. There is a link to the Coordinator's contact details on the website.
Provide for regular liaison with the community through the Lakes and Waterways Action Group, and the Taupo Eco Centre to encourage the exchange of ideas and information and allow community groups to get involved in different actions.	p. 13.	JMG	Ongoing. The Lakes and Waterways Action Group (LWAG) is represented on the JMG and is currently the main point of contact between the JMG and community groups. There may be opportunities to widen the JMG's involvement with

			community groups, and increase use of 2020 resources and community participation in planning processes by talking with organisations such as TREET (Taupo Regional Environmental Education Trust). The Taupo Eco Centre is no longer being developed by the Lake Taupo Development Company.
Lobby for a regular free 'environmental' column in the local newspaper and use it as a means for informing the public about progress being made on achieving the 2020 values.	p. 13	JMG	Ongoing. A series of articles about the 2020 TAP were published in the Taupo Times in 2006 as part of a two-page spread focused on the TDC and its activities. Future articles are planned for late 2007-early 2008, and mid 2008 to coincide with the release of the 2020 Annual and Progress reports.
Contribute to regular teacher's workshops on progress made with the 2020 community values.	p. 13	TMTB/TAMU, EW , DoC, DIA, TDC,	No progress. The Coordinator has made initial contact with the EnviroSchools Coordinator at TDC regarding this action, and will look to progress it in the first half of 2008.
Promote an environmental expo to showcase actions relating to the Lake Taupo-nui-ā-Tia Action Plan (consider an annual event or combining with other appropriate environmental events).	p. 13	JMG	No progress. The JMG considered holding an expo, but due to limited resources, decided to explore other options for communicating with key stakeholders and the community about the Action Plan and community values. These options are outlined in the 2020 Communication Strategy.
Develop an Implementation Plan for 2020 TAP covering the initial two years of operation and outlining for example, details of initial tasks to be undertaken, staff and budgets allocated, timeframes and monitoring.	p. 13	JMG	Ongoing. The JMG has developed a Business Plan for the 07/08 financial year that outlines tasks to be undertaken and timeframes.
Develop a list for public distribution of funding options that exist within and outside the domain of the statutory agencies, but which could be used to contribute to the community outcomes sought across all values.	p. 13	JMG	In progress. The Coordinator has done some initial work on this action. It is still a low priority and will be progressed further as time allows in the period to June 2008.

VALUE: NGĀTI TŪWHARETOA VALUES			
Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
<p>Improve communication between agencies, iwi and the community in general, by ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency roles and responsibilities are clearly identified on the 2020 website • A brochure is prepared which identifies roles and responsibilities and key contact points within agencies (a quick checklist of activities or key issues versus agency) • Iwi liaison representatives at agencies are clearly identified to Ngāti Tūwharetoa hapū and contacts listed on the 2020 website. 	2020 TAP, p.16.	JMG	In progress. Agency roles and responsibilities and iwi liaison representatives are identified on the 2020 website. The preparation of the brochure has been a low priority and therefore, has not been progressed. The ongoing relevance of a brochure should be discussed in the review of the 2020 TAP in 07/08.
<p>Establish a Tūwharetoa Environmental Unit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide environmental services and information to Tūwharetoa hapū • be a point of contact for agencies • assist agencies in understanding, and to facilitate better management, of cultural values. 	p. 16	TMTB/TAMU	Achieved. The TMTB has established the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Asset Management Unit (TAMU) to work on issues of advocacy, environmental management, sustainable commercial development and research, science and technology for the TMTB.
<p>Continue developing and implementing relationships, protocols and consultation procedures between NT and EW, DoC, DIA, and TDC. Note: there are a range of mechanisms for implementing this.</p>	p. 17.	TMTB/TAMU, EW, TDC, DoC, DIA	Ongoing. Monthly meetings are being held at a technical level between TAMU and EW and TDC. The establishment of the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Environmental Roopu has created a regular first point of contact for agencies with over 20 hapū being represented at the quarterly meetings. The TMTB has liaison with DoC and meets with the DIA. It has also signed a management protocol with TDC.

Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
Develop an Iwi Research Strategy to complement areas of further research identified under other values in this Plan.	p. 17.	TMTB/TAMU	Achieved. The TMTB Research Strategy has been completed. The first of the projects in the strategy are currently being carried out, including the Tuwharetoa Whenua Kaitiaki and Tau Koura Research projects.
Investigate the potential for establishing joint management bodies covering resources of significance to Ngati Tuwharetoa (such as joint management of the south Taupo wetland between Ngāti Tūwharetoa hapu and DoC).	p. 17	TMTB/TAMU	No progress. This role sits best with hapū when discussing areas of significance to them. The TAMU could facilitate relationships where appropriate.
Determine the best ways to involve Ngāti Tūwharetoa in decision-making and the management of key or significant issues (such as through joint planning for stormwater management for the Taupo-nui-ā-Tia catchment) while recognising statutory responsibilities.	p. 17	TMTB/TAMU, EW, TDC, DoC, DIA	<p>Ongoing. The establishment of TAMU has enabled more consistent discussion on issues. The establishment of tangata whenua standing committees and Māori wards has been raised with TDC staff and will also be raised at CEO level in the near future. Discussions will also be held with EW.</p> <p>TDC is working to enable Tūwharetoa to contribute to decision-making processes through: a management protocol between TDC and the TMTB; a management protocol (currently being drafted) between Mokai Marae and TDC; and enabling liaison at the TDC management level for Paenoa Te Akau and Mangakino Marae, amongst others.</p> <p>Recognising Ngāti Tūwharetoa own the lake bed, the Harbour Master has a working relationship with Tūwharetoa hapu, the Taupo-nui-ā-tia Lake Bed Management Board, and the Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board.</p>

Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
Consider RMA Hearings Commissioners who are conversant in Tikanga Maori be appointed to consider resource consents that impact on iwi values identified through the Environmental Iwi Management Plan.	p. 17.	TMTB/TAMU, EW, TDC	In progress. Two potential commissioners have been identified and are to be trained.
Ngāti Tūwharetoa to develop trigger criteria, in conjunction with EW and TDC, to identify which RMA consent applications EW and TDC should forward to Ngāti Tūwharetoa for consideration.	p. 18.	TMTB/TAMU, EW, TDC	In progress. An internal TMTB resource consent filter has been completed, but discussions between the TMTB/TAMU and agencies have yet to be formalised.
Identify the process required (with a guideline of expectations, responsibilities to be met and risks involved) to enable a RMA section 33 Transfer of Powers. This could provide hapū with the opportunity to undertake management responsibilities for a specific resource, where the resource issue would be identified on a case-by-case basis.	p. 18	TMTB/TAMU, EW, TDC	No progress. However, one hapū is investigating a section 33 transfer with the Ministry for the Environment.
Develop a Tūwharetoa Policy Statement on intellectual and cultural property rights and forward to agencies and ensure they are aware of it and consider how it might be implemented.	p. 18	TMTB/TAMU	In progress, in parallel with the TMTB Research, Science and Technology Strategy due in July 2008. This will be discussed with Tūwharetoa Environmental Roopu in November 2007, alongside bio-prospecting issues.
Ensure that RMA policy statements and plans (and encourage plans or policies of other agencies) to take account of the Tuwharetoa policy on the protection of intellectual and cultural property rights, where appropriate.	p. 18.	TMTB/TAMU, EW, TDC, DoC, DIA	In progress in parallel with the TMTB Research Science & Technology Strategy. TDC is finalising a pilot study with the Rauhoto Land Rights Committee to take account of their cultural property (specifically, waahi tapu) and has developed an accidental discovery protocol.
Regular liaison with agencies to consider resource management applications or other situations that may impact upon intellectual and cultural property rights.	p. 18	TMTB/TAMU, EW, TDC, DoC, DIA	No progress, awaiting completion of the relevant policy (above).

Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
Each Tuwharetoa hapu to establish a working environmental committee.	p. 18	TMTB/TAMU	Ongoing. Through the Tūwharetoa environmental roopu capacity is being built in 15 hapū. Two environmental roopu have been established for Tauhara hapū and the Rauhoto Land Rights Committee.
Tūwharetoa hapū establish hapū environmental management plans.	p. 18	TMTB/TAMU	Planned to begin in early 2009 as part of an iwi-wide environmental planning process facilitated by TAMU.
The ongoing consideration of applications for cultural environmental and economic projects by the Tuwharetoa Genesis Group and the Tuwharetoa Mighty River Power Group, as part of the existing mitigation agreement.	p. 19.	TMTB/TAMU Tūwharetoa Genesis Group, Tūwharetoa Mighty River Power Group	Ongoing and progressing well.
Ngāti Tūwharetoa whānau, hapū and iwi undertaking projects that enhance the mauri of taonga.	p. 19	TMTB/TAMU Tūwharetoa Genesis Group, Tūwharetoa Mighty River Power Group	Ongoing. Examples include the Tūwharetoa Whenua Kaitiaki project and the Wai Ora programme being facilitated by TAMU.
Liaison and information sharing with Ngāti Tūwharetoa (impacted hapū) on the priorities TDC has or will set for upgrading sewage and/or stormwater systems within the District.	p. 20.	TMTB/TAMU, TDC	No progress other than on a case-by-case basis.
Ensure that consultation with hapū is a prerequisite of any proposed changes to existing treatment systems and that hapū are involved in the design and monitoring regimes.	p. 20	TMTB/TAMU	No progress.

Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
Map existing direct discharges made to the Lake and monitor and report on the quality of the discharge.	p. 20	EW, TDC	Ongoing. EW maps the location of all consented discharges in the catchment and monitors these according to their priority status (ie) all priority 1 consents are monitored annually, 75% of priority 2 are monitored annually, 25% of priority 3 are monitored annually, and priority 4 are not monitored unless problems arise.
TDC in consultation with TMTB (Enviro Unit/hapū) will develop waahi tapu procedures to look at developing or improving waahi tapu policy.	p. 21.	TMTB/TAMU TDC	In progress. TDC has a process for Accidental Discovery of Archaeological Sites and is finalising a pilot study involving waahi tapu mapping with the Rauhoto Land Rights Committee.
Promote Regional Plan provisions and consent conditions to ensure waahi tapu are protected.	p. 21	TMTB/TAMU EW	Ongoing on a case by case basis. Policy to be formulated as part of 2009 Tūwharetoa Environmental Plan.
Provide administrative support to hapū to implement restoration programmes that could be funded by the Tūwharetoa Genesis Group.	p. 21	TMTB/TAMU Tūwharetoa Genesis Group	Ongoing.
Do a search of museums within the Region (and nationally if appropriate) to see what tribal/hapu taonga are held. Ensure those items are cared for appropriately and create a database of them.	p. 21	TMTB/TAMU	In progress. Visits have been made to Te Papa Tongarewa: Museum of New Zealand and the Auckland Museum.
Once Ngati Tuwharetoa policy direction is established in relation to a database and/or protection of waahi tapu, review relationships with statutory plans of the different agencies.	p. 21	TMTB/TAMU EW, TDC, DoC	No progress.

Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
Clarify and inform people of the roles and responsibilities in relation to harvesting native species, customary use and protecting mahinga kai.	p. 22.	TMTB/TAMU	No progress.
Facilitate access to baseline data and monitoring information held or gathered by other agencies.	p. 23.	TMTB/TAMU	In progress. Much information is sitting in the TMTB GIS. TAMU is looking to work with TDC to access more information in layers. Monitoring data still coming in slowly but surely.

VALUE: COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES			
Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
Assist in the review of the Economic Development Strategy (through the Lake Taupo Community Regional Economic Steering Group).	p. 26.	TDC	In progress. TDC is assisting the Taupo District Economic Development Advisory Board to review the Economic Development Strategy. This has been started and is expected to be complete by June 2008.
Encourage commercial operators on and near the Lake to adopt an environmental code of practice focused on protecting the Lake Taupo water quality, wilderness experience and scenery.	p. 26	EW, TDC, DoC, DIA, JMG	No progress by the JMG. However, the Harbourmaster tells operators about the water quality issue and their responsibility to protect water quality (for example, by not discharging into the Lake) as part of obtaining their commercial licence.
Support the establishment and further development of the Taupo Eco Centre by providing resource material, information on the 2020 TAP progress and indicator results. Eco operators could also be promoted through this centre.	p. 26	JMG	No progress. The Eco Centre is no longer being developed by the Lake Taupo Development Company.
Undertake a study to determine the carrying capacity for commercial operators and assess cumulative effects on the Lake and foreshore reserves.	p. 26	TDC	No progress on this action specifically. However, the number, location and activities provided for through concession sites in Taupo is being addressed through the Tapuaeharuru Bay Lakeshore Reserves Management Plan. The draft of this plan is currently undergoing public consultation. The Kinloch Recreation Reserves Management Plan also addresses commercial activities.

VALUE: CLEAR WATER AND HIGH QUALITY INFLOWING WATER			
Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
Reduce manageable nitrogen input into the Lake by at least 20% through the work of the Protecting Lake Taupo Strategy & through a variation to the WRP (including a new regime for controlling diffuse run-off of nutrients from all land and higher standards for wastewater disposal).	p. 30.	TMTB/TAMU, EW, TDC	<p>Ongoing, in final stages of First Schedule RMA process.</p> <p>Council adopted decisions on the proposed variation to the Waikato Regional Plan – Lake Taupo Catchment (referred to as RPV5) in March 2007. Nine appeals have been lodged, and EW is currently in the process of settling these. If there are appeals that cannot be settled, the Environment Court has five weeks set aside from April to June 2008 to hear them. It is anticipated that the variation will become operative in early 2009.</p> <p>Outside of this RMA process, but referred to in the variation, the Lake Taupo Protection Trust has a goal of permanently removing 20% of the manageable nitrogen from pastoral land. It is likely to wait for the outcome of appeals before it begins to purchase nitrogen using the public fund.</p>
Consider expanding existing services to a mobile household hazardous waste collection service (Hazmobile) for old paints, oil chemicals, batteries, etc.	p. 30	EW, TDC	<p>No progress on this action specifically. However, EW is supporting the Agrecovery programme, a national agrichemical container collection and processing scheme. There is a collection site for these containers at the Taupo landfill.</p>

Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
Minimise any direct discharges to the Lake which contain chemical or bacterial contaminants (excluding natural discharges & stormwater).	p. 30	EW, TDC	Ongoing. There is ongoing issuing of consents for direct (point source) discharges and effects on lake water quality are considered as part of the resource consent process. There is some control over non-point source discharges through land use consents (eg) to mitigate the effects of sediment from earthworks on the lake. Other methods include general education and advocacy.
Manage stormwater catchments to reduce contaminants in run-off from entering the Lake (such as increasing range/type of settling ponds, treatment of road run-off, catchment reconfiguration to divert stormwater out of the catchment, educating people on use of stormwater drains, managing industrial and subdivision sites to avoid stormwater run-off).	p. 30.	EW, TDC	Ongoing. TDC has a comprehensive stormwater consent from EW. The conditions of the consent cover a range of matters including the quality of the stormwater discharge and the development of stormwater management plans. An example is the recently developed stormwater management plan for Acacia Bay. This includes many measures for reducing contaminants in run off to the Lake.
Avoid as far as practicable any new stormwater outlets into the Lake (direct discharges) and work towards retaining storm water in catchment areas.	p. 30.	EW, TDC	Ongoing. TDC's consent covers existing and new growth areas. The consent conditions include avoiding direct discharges to the Lake as far as practicable. EW is encouraging TDC and developers to develop storm water management plans and implement storm water improvement initiatives through these plans.

Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
EW and TDC should agree on each agency's responsibilities for managing septic tanks and long drops, as a part of the Taupo variation to the Waikato Regional Plan. This includes monitoring and ensuring sub-standard septic tanks are upgraded or replaced.	p. 30	EW, TDC	Some progress. RPV5 contains a number of provisions relating to domestic on-site wastewater treatment and disposal systems (septic tanks). Method 7 and rules in section 3.10.6 of RPV5 set out some respective TDC and EW responsibilities for managing these systems in the catchment. For instance, owners of systems in the near shore zone which pose highest risk to the Lake have new reporting requirements to TDC. New systems are being monitored as part of the building consent process. However, work is still in progress to investigate ways of cost-effectively managing existing systems.
TDC and DoC to identify any long-drops (on-site sewage treatment systems) that need to be removed or upgraded to a sealed vault system to avoid impacts on groundwater.	p. 30	TDC, DoC	Ongoing. DoC has no long drops around Lake Taupo. All toilets are sealed vault units. TDC is in the process of identifying the long drops it has around the lake that need to be removed or upgraded. A programme will then be produced for replacing them, as budgets allow, over time.
Consider the need to prohibit boat scrapings and maintenance discharges from entering the Lake.	p. 30	EW, DIA	No progress on EW's part. Not an immediate priority.
As part of implementing the EW rule prohibiting sewage discharges to the Lake, require boats operating in Lake Taupo to have sewage holding tanks that can only be discharged into shore-side facilities, chemical toilets if capable of overnight stays or alternative receptacles if used as day trip boat.	p. 30	EW, TDC, DIA	No progress. There are no resources (staff or financial) dedicated to this action.

Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
Develop and implement an education promotion for boat owners to take responsibility for their boat sewage.	p. 30.	TMTB/TAMU, EW, TDC, DIA	Ongoing. EW sent letters to berth owners in April 06 and produced a flyer to raise awareness of the effects and rules associated with boat sewage. The flyer was passed on to the Harbour Master with the intention that all people who buy a ramp permit receive a copy. Flyer content sets out issue of boat sewage contaminating the Lake, and states that discharging boat sewage into the Lake is prohibited. The flyer also shows the locations of pump out and port-a-potty disposal facilities around the Lake.
Assess whether current boat sewage discharge facilities are sufficient and provide further sewage pump out facilities at key boat launching/mooring areas, if required. Clarify which agency will be responsible for maintaining the services provided.	p. 31.	TMTB/TAMU, EW, TDC, DoC, DIA	Ongoing. A new pump-out facility has been installed at the Taupo wharf, and an existing one has been made available for use at Kuratau but is not yet operational. TDC has proposed to provide a discharge facility as part of the concept plan for the improvement scheme at Pier 87/Nukuhau Boat Ramp Reserve. The Harbour Master supplies and maintains all the existing discharge facilities, except for power and water supply at Kuratau, which the Harbour Master considers should be the responsibility of the TDC.
Undertake a literature review to identify how boat sewage is managed in other Lakes (such as Lake Tahoe, Great Lakes and Scandinavia).	p. 31	EW	Completed. EW informally reviewed the literature relating to boat sewage management in other lakes in 2005. A formal literature review was not produced

Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
Develop guidelines for stormwater management in industrial areas.	p. 31	EW , TDC	No progress. Not a high priority for EW at present but might be developed in the future.
Support water quality sampling by students and interested members of the public to collect quality assured data.	p. 31	EW	Ongoing. EW has supported the BioFish project to monitor water quality in the bays of Lake Taupo. Two to three years of contributing supplementary funding so far. No long term commitment to continuing this. The project is being undertaken by LWAG and students from the University of Waikato.

VALUE: DIVERSE PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN LAKES AND RIVERS			
Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
Develop an inter-agency approach to Pest-Fish management.	p. 34.	TMTB/TAMU EW, DoC	Achieved. An inter-agency pest fish working group has been established. It is focused on co-ordinating effort between EW, EBOP, DoC – Waikato, Tongariro, BOP and Fish & Game. It has developed pest fish public awareness material and in some places has established co-ordinated approaches to pest fish incursions and management.
Undertake a feasibility trial for enhancing native fish species in selected sites, where there is no trout access, to identify the extent to which trout impact on native populations.	p. 34	TMTB/TAMU EW, DoC	No progress. DoC and EW are of the view that this action is not feasible and should be removed from the Action Plan. The JMG may wish to consider this when it reviews the Action Plan in 2008.
During the statutory review of the Regional Pest Management Strategy, revise those plants and animals that are new and potentially significant threats to Lake Taupo. Take all measures possible to minimise the risk of new infestation.	p. 34	EW, DoC,	Ongoing. The RPMS has been completed and approved at 28 June 2007, but is not operative until an appeal on the strategy is heard through Environment Court. New pests include Rum Cherry and Wild Goldfish. DoC has written a biosecurity strategy and reviewed it recently, identifying current and potential threats. DoC and EW are both part of the Central North Island Regional Partner Group that has been established to advocate to Biosecurity New Zealand to prevent didymo from entering central North Island high risk rivers and lakes. This is being led by Biosecurity New Zealand and also comprises representatives from TDC, New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association, Fish and Game, Genesis, TMTB, and Advocates for the Tongariro River.

Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
In conjunction with other agencies, promote public education on the associated risks of introducing new pest fish and aquatic weeds into the Lake.	p. 34	EW, DoC, TMTB/TAMU, Genesis Energy, DIA, TDC	Ongoing advocacy in relation to didymo. EW has applied for funding (\$20K) to Biosecurity New Zealand and if successful, plans to pool this money with Environment Bay of Plenty and Hawkes Bay Regional Council to employ staff for didymo advocacy work. DoC is undertaking very active field advocacy to educate anglers and kayakers about the risks of introducing didymo and methods to combat it.
Promote the protection of habitat and riparian margins as habitat for native fish and bird species throughout the catchment (through, for example, Environment Waikato's Clean Streams project, schools and community groups).	p. 34	EW, TDC, DoC	Ongoing. The agencies are undertaking separate initiatives to implement this action: EW - There is significant funding allocated to funding EW's Clean Streams projects. EW is still not optimistic this can be spent, however, as people are unwilling to invest money in their farms until the variation is finalised (ie, the outcome of the appeals is known) and the Lake Taupo Protection Trust begins to purchase nitrogen using the public fund. TDC - Natural Heritage Variation to the Taupo District Plan. Work on this variation is currently underway with TDC currently consulting with Tūwharetoa. The variation will identify all areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitat in the district. These will be mapped and form a schedule to the district plan. The intent of the variation is to identify which parts of these areas are

		<p>currently protected and which are not. Unprotected areas could be protected through district plan mechanisms. The council will try and focus resources such as funding, education and information on all significant natural areas in the district to provide for and promote their enhancement. This work will be done through the district plan and council's proposed Biodiversity Strategy, which will work with the plan to provide a comprehensive package for natural heritage protection in the district.</p> <p>DoC – This is part of the department's management function and advocacy role, especially where these values are prominent in sites with significant biodiversity values. DoC has supported and advised the Tongariro Advocates on the restoration of the riparian zone on the middle Tongariro River. Taupo for Tomorrow educates school children about native fish species and habitat and the general public. If a subdivision has a potential impact DoC submits against it, or requests that protection be incorporated into the consent.</p>
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VALUE: GOOD TROUT FISHING			
Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
Review the Proposed District Plan to have particular regard to the habitat of key fish spawning areas, such as riparian edges.	p. 37.	EW, TDC, DoC	Significant progress. The WRP contains a provision that states that EW will take enforcement action (ie, apply for enforcement orders, abatement notices, and use other enforcement mechanisms) where livestock access to waterbodies damages aquatic habitat (including spawning habitat) through livestock trampling. Further, EW has identified Lake Taupo and tributaries, Lake Kuratau and four wetlands (Tokaanu swamplands, Stump Bay Recreation Reserve and Stewardship Area, Waiotaka Scenic Reserve and Waimarino River Recreation Reserve) as Priority 1 water bodies for livestock exclusion, meaning livestock must be excluded from these waterbodies (see section 4.3.5.3 WRP).
Develop a series of best practice guidelines for river and stream works, such as river and stream crossings, gravel removal and general in-stream works, to minimise adverse effects on the ecology of rivers and streams.	p. 37.	EW, DoC	Completed. EW recently completed a series of best practice guidelines for waterway crossings, in-stream works, drain management and vegetation management.
Monitor the levels of biotoxins and heavy metals accumulating in trout and advise public of the results.	p. 37	DoC	No progress. DoC does not have a role in assessing toxicity in trout, other than providing support to specific research. The JMG will consider removing or changing this action when it reviews the Action Plan in 2008.

VALUE: RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND FORESHORE RESERVES			
Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
Develop a brochure which sets out parking and launching etiquette for boaties using trailers, to encourage more efficient use of the boat ramps.	p. 41.	DIA	Completed. The Harbourmaster has produced a brochure "Boating on Lake Taupo" which, among other things, outlines parking and launching etiquette for boat users.
Develop a foreshore management strategy through a partnership to manage the interface between the land and water (covering hazards, erosion, structures, currents, lake levels, weed infestations and so on).	p. 41	TMTB/TAMU, TDC, EW, DoC, DIA	In progress. A Foreshore Risk Management Strategy is being developed to address risks associated with foreshore erosion, flooding, and development around the lake. The technical reports on flooding and erosion are due for completion by the end of the year. Informal consultation on these reports will occur in early 2008. EW is aiming to have a draft strategy completed by June 2008, followed by informal and formal consultation in Jun-Jul 2008, and late 2008/early 2009 respectively. The deadline for the final strategy to be adopted and implemented is July 2009.
Identify with signposts/maps in brochures appropriate access ways to the lake for all agencies with reserve lands adjacent to the lake. Clarify (in a public document) the Queen's chain, riparian rights, esplanade areas, fishing streams and the effect of the Māori Land Amendment and Māori Land Claims Acts.	p. 41	TMTB/TAMU, TDC, DoC	Ongoing. TDC Parks and Reserves provide this information for reserves next to or allowing access to the lakeshore by signs, in management plans and other brochures as they are produced or as budgets allow. DoC is preparing a Recreation Strategy, which is currently in draft stage and going out for comment in November 07. The final strategy is expected to be completed in December 07. It identifies key sites around the lake but does not go into a great deal of detail about access; the operational plans will do that.

Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
<p>In conjunction with the TDC litter strategy, promote increased personal awareness of personal responsibility for removing rubbish with campers, fishers and boaties (in conjunction with Keep NZ Beautiful, schools and other community groups).</p>	<p>p. 41.</p>	<p>EW, TDC, DIA</p>	<p>Ongoing. TDC have employed a Litter Enforcement Officer who travels throughout the district ensuring compliance with district bylaws.</p> <p>TDC also employs a staff member who provides education on reducing solid waste, and carries out advertising campaigns throughout the holiday periods and during major events regarding a cleaner Taupo. On the lakefront and main reserves both recycling and litter bins are provided. Concession/licence and event operators are required to dispose of their rubbish appropriately.</p> <p>The Harbourmaster office staff remove rubbish from the reserve by the Taupo wharf, flotsam from the berths, and rubbish from the water around the reserve and wharf on a daily basis.</p>

VALUE: SAFE SWIMMING			
Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
In conjunction with LWAG, 2020 Forum members and schools support a regular litter survey of popular bathing beaches to identify the type and quantity of litter.	p. 46.	TDC	No progress. However, this may be a project that could be undertaken as part of EnviroSchools, or by a community group.
Promote personal responsibility for removing rubbish.	p. 46	TMTB/TAMU, TDC , EW, DoC, DIA	Ongoing. TDC promotes responsible rubbish disposal through advertising on the radio and in community newspapers. Both recycling and litter bins are provided on the lakefront and main reserves. The Harbourmaster provides two rubbish skips and 11 rubbish bins on the reserve by the Taupo wharf. Any DoC signage promotes the removal of rubbish.

VALUE: WEED FREE LAKE			
Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
Provide further information (signs, brochures) to boaties and the general public to prevent new weeds being introduced into the Lake, and consider the need for further wash-down facilities.	p.48.	EW , TDC, DoC, DIA	Ongoing. DoC is installing wash down facilities for didymo as part of departmental infrastructure. Aquatic weed information is still being distributed.
Review the Regional Pest Management Strategy and ensure that known weeds affecting the Lake waters are included and that potentially significant threats are not introduced.	p. 48	EW , DoC	Ongoing. The review of the RPMS was completed in June 2007. DoC has undertaken several initiatives in respect of this action: it has provided feedback on the RPMS; the DoC biosecurity strategy identifies current and potential threats; and the DoC didymo plan outlines operational cleaning methods and best practices for surveillance and field work. DoC and EW are also part of Central North Island regional partnership group for didymo, along with TMTB, TDC, Genesis, Fish and Game, Biosecurity New Zealand, New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association and Advocates for the Tongariro River.
Establish a surveillance/monitoring programme to monitor the occurrence, type and distribution of existing weeds and to identify the risk of potential actual new plants establishing in the Lake (including what threats exist from neighbouring lakes).	p. 48	EW , DoC	No progress but potential to action in future. The EW pest control contractor monitors weeds in the catchment as part of his job, but a surveillance programme has not been established due to a lack of staff capacity. DoC's information on weed species, distribution and abundance remains as their general baseline. DOC has indicated that it would like to work with EW (as the principal agency responsible) through the RPMS on which new weeds are of most concern and which sites are most important to protect, and undertake a joint surveillance programme accordingly.

Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
Liaise with other Regional Councils about joint awareness of new weeds and educate the public about managing these threats.	p. 48	EW	Ongoing. EW has had liaison with Horizons MW on contorta pine issues affecting the Waikato region and with EBoP over joint approaches to alligator weed management (e.g) for maize crops across both regions, but not on a regular basis. Collaboration occurring between EW, EBoP, and HBRC, and between DoC, EW, TDC and other organisations on didymo advocacy.
Support weed/algae sampling by students and interested members of the public to collect quality reliable data on algal blooms or populations of new weeds.	p. 48	EW	No progress , but potential to support relevant community-based projects in the future under the Weedbusters programme.

VALUE: WILDERNESS AREAS, OUTSTANDING SCENERY AND GEOLOGICAL FEATURES			
Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
Identify and map existing legally-protected areas in the Lake Taupo catchment to enable a strategic overview of protected areas.	p. 52.	TMTB/TAMU, EW, TDC, DoC	<p>In progress. TDC is developing a Natural Heritage Variation to the district plan that will identify all areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitat in the district. These will be mapped and will form a schedule to the district plan. The intent of the variation is to identify protected and unprotected areas. These could be protected through district plan mechanisms.</p> <p>DoC is identifying and mapping significant sites for strategic purposes.</p> <p>EW has conservation estate and QEII covenant layers.</p>
<p>Review Information held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key ecological areas • Habitat areas (including for endemic species) • Landscapes • Ridgelines • Headlands • Important vistas • Sites of heritage • Cultural landscapes • Geological • Geothermal values <p>That should be protected into the future. Ensure these areas are protected from inappropriate use and development pressures, through both the district plan and the Waikato Regional Plan.</p>	p. 52	TMTB/TAMU, EW, TDC, DoC	<p>In progress as part of the Natural Heritage and Landscape variations to the district plan. These variations will identify all areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitat and landscape value in the district. These will be mapped and will form a schedule to the district plan. Provisions will be drafted to provide for the protection of these areas as required by the RMA. It is not anticipated that this work will include the protection of vistas.</p> <p>DoC has compiled summaries on significant sites, including wetlands and geothermal areas. These summaries include key values, threats and management priorities.</p>

Action	Reference	Agencies	Status
Identify on the 2020 website what options are available for protecting land and wetlands in the catchment, who is responsible, what process is required for legally protecting areas and where funding might be sourced from.	p. 52	TMTB/ TAMU, EW, TDC, DoC	In progress. The Coordinator has done some initial work on this action. It is still a low priority and will be progressed further as time allows in the period to June 2008.
Identify the range of mechanisms for protecting land and significant resources (EW Natural Heritage Protection Fund, covenants, QE II, DoC, Ngā Whenua Rāhui Kawenata, TDC reserves, Ngāti Tūwharetoa).	p. 52	TMTB/TAMU EW, TDC, DoC	No progress. EW will ask the 0800 Biodiversity Coordinator to undertake this action.
Protect the wetlands that adjoin Lake Taupo and in particular, the South Taupo wetland. Educate and assist landowners to manage wetlands and forest remnants.	p. 52	EW, TDC, DoC	<p>Ongoing. DoC is continuing to build support for better protection of the South Taupo Wetland through formal protection, weed control trials, and seeking the assistance of statutory agencies, such as EW, landowners and the community. It is working with the Tongariro Natural History Society and Ngā Whenua Rāhui to protect the Waimarino end of the South Taupo wetland. It has secured funding from the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust to control willows and survey native flora and fauna to develop a restoration plan. Discussions are ongoing with neighbouring private landowners to include their land. DoC considers this site a high priority and will progress this project as resources allow. The department has expressed the view that an EW management plan would help work to be integrated and undertaken in the context of the community values for the river and community outcomes.</p> <p>The Waikato Regional Plan gives protection to five identified wetlands in the catchment,</p>

			with policies and rules protecting the identified and listed areas from stock access, drainage and vegetation clearance. EW has also produced factsheets to inform the public about wetland and native forest restoration. EW staff have been involved in discussions regarding the protection of the wetlands from Tokaanu to Motuoapa with DoC and private landowners.
Promote the development of national guidelines for the protection of natural landscapes.	p. 52	EW, TDC	No progress on this action specifically. Environment Waikato is reconvening the Forum for Integrated Resource Management for territorial authority planners in the region. At the next meeting in October the focus will be on landscape issues and how to address these in the review of the Regional Policy Statement.

List of Abbreviations

DIA	Department of Internal Affairs
DoC	Department of Conservation
EBoP	Environment Bay of Plenty
EW	Environment Waikato
HBRC	Hawkes Bay Regional Council
JMG	Joint Management Group
NT	Ngāti Tūwharetoa
TAMU	Tūwharetoa Asset Management Unit
TDC	Taupo District Council
TMTB	Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board
WRP	Waikato Regional Plan