

Recovered Water Management Solution Working Group

10 March 2026



Welcome

Tēnā koutou katoa
Karakia

Agenda

- Welcome / Opening
- Apologies
- Agenda
- Confirmation of Previous Minutes
- Actions from Previous Meeting
- Presentation - Mātauranga Māori Specialist Te Rerekohu Tuterangiwhiu
- Application of Stage 1 Pass/Fail Criteria to Previously Explored Solutions
- Update on Submissions Received So Far
- Questions / Pātai

Confirmation of Minutes and Update on Action Points

Does the Working Group accept the previous minutes of the Working Group meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd February 2026, to be a true and accurate record?

Action Point	Responsible	Status
Prepare updated Terms of Reference for Council approval, with the Working Group to be notified of progress	Stefanie Barker	COMPLETE Updated Terms of Reference Approved by Council
A report with updated small streams and nutrient discharges, clarifying nutrient limits and known loads encompassing around 10 years of data, with the inclusion of historical data as comparison	Bay of Plenty Regional Council Presenters	COMPLETE Reports Distributed
For engagement plan to consider the feedback, of clarifying the role of Mana whenua, and if two plans are necessary to engagement with Iwi.	RLC Project Team	PENDING Update Required
For RLC to further investigate the previous solutions and put it towards the current MCA process and guidelines for the Working Group.	RLC Project Team	COMPLETE On Today's Agenda

Te Ao Tūroa

Nā Te Rerekohu Tuterangiwhiu









Decolonise te reo to decolonizing the view

Te Ao Turoa

- Sir James Henare - Ko te Reo Te kākahu ō te whakaaro...
- Māori 'epistemology' and 'ontology': Ao Māori Lens
- It is here where we anchor our korero for this Kaupapa of "Kaitiakitanga"
- No Ngati-Hine, No Ngati-Rangi, No Ngati-Waiharo, No Te Tai Tokerau ēnei korero



Activity: Build the lens of “Kaitiaki”



“Kā”

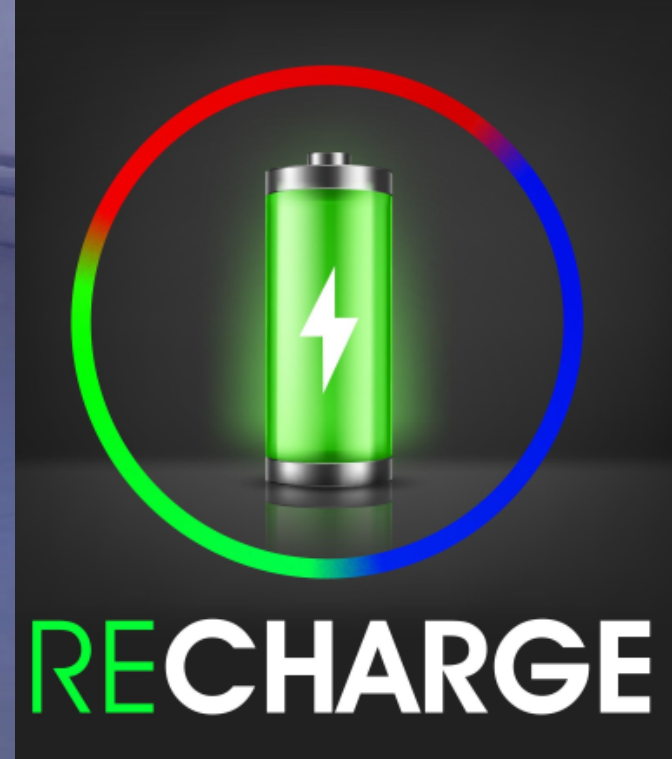
“Ka-i”

“I-ka”





“AKI”







He Tauira ano...

Te Ao Tūroa = Environment

Whēnua = Land

Mokopuna = grandchild

Decolonising Climate Adaptation?

Whakapapa in depth
& at scale is
sustainability

We need to
understand climate
structure and stability

Restoring the
Rangatiratanga of the
Climate – This requires
the restoration of
whakapapa at scale



Whakapapa of the wao atua

Wao atua holds the source points of life, and according to our belief system, represents the realm of the divine and houses the elemental forces that shape our environment. These elements of atua are manifested in soil, water, air, sun, flora and fauna, all contributing to the maintenance of ecological balance, trophic cascades and ecosystem health. This scale of whakapapa tells us what is required to sustain ecosystems, the symbiotic relationships between both the biotic and abiotic parts of our environment.



Whakapapa of the taonga

This scale of whakapapa looks to taonga species, such as tuna (eel), piharau (lamprey), or īnanga (whitebait), and focuses on their evolution and life cycle. This lineage reveals knowledge about the species' inherent resilience, adaptations, behaviours, and characteristics. It further encompasses understanding of their habitats and life cycles, providing insights into their inter and intra-species relationships. These insights provide a blueprint for the preservation and nurturing of these species, underlining their role within the wider ecosystem.



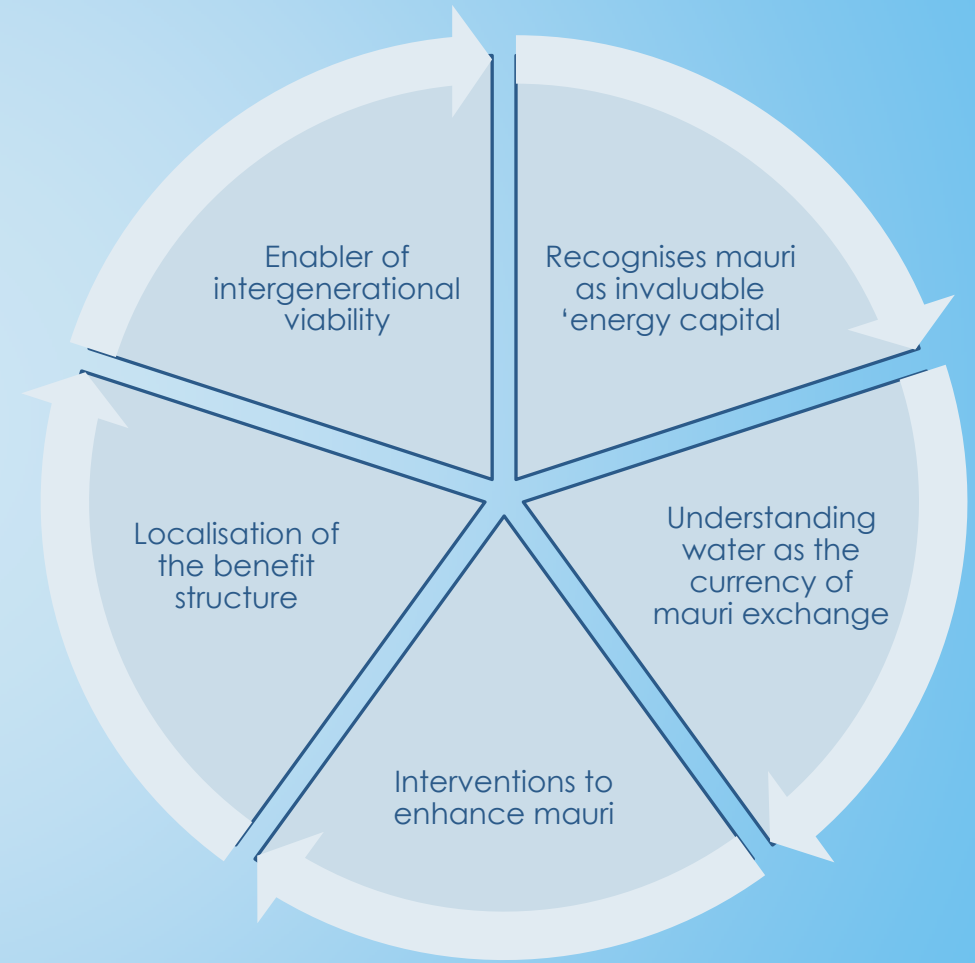
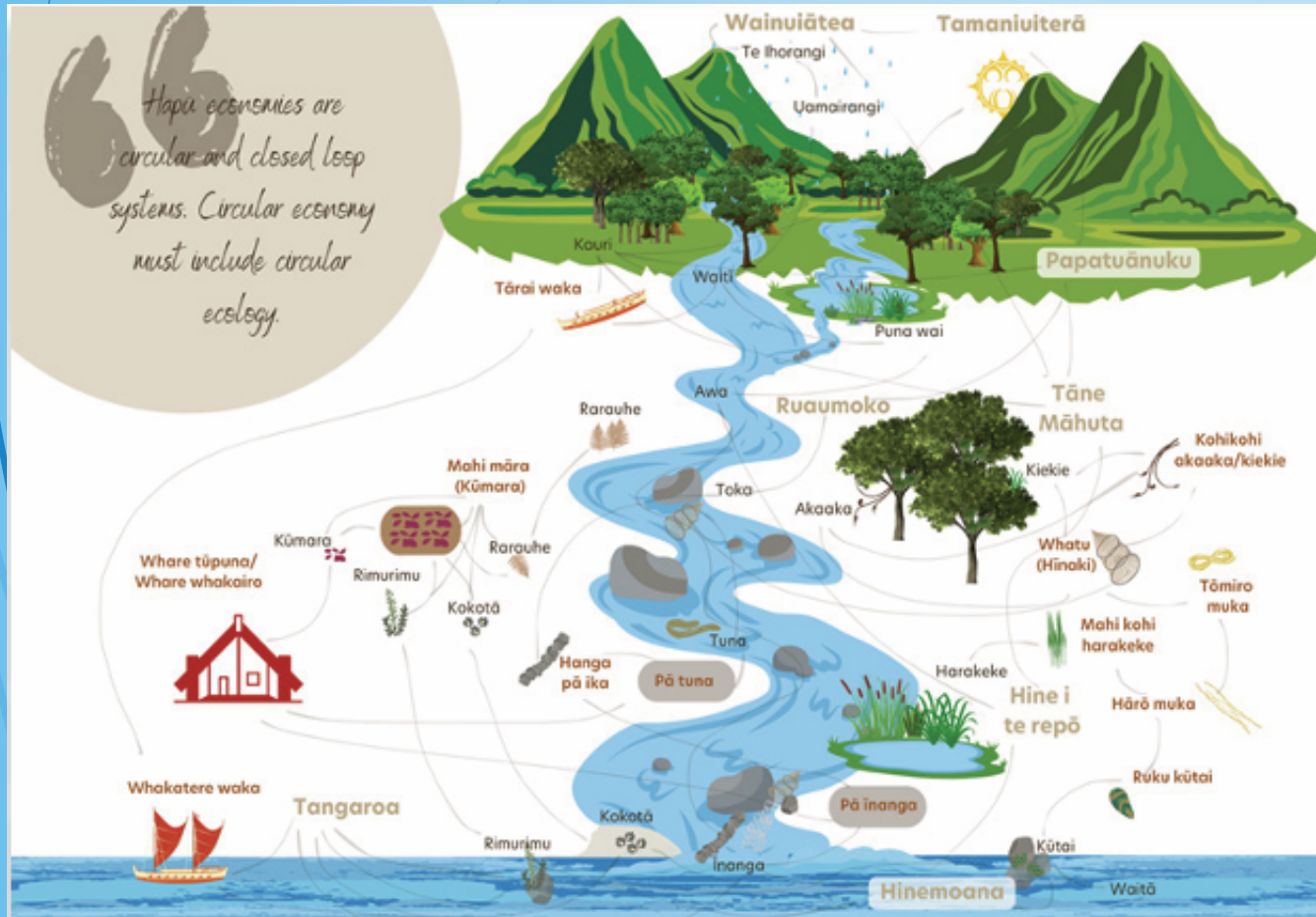
Whakapapa of the tāngata tiaki

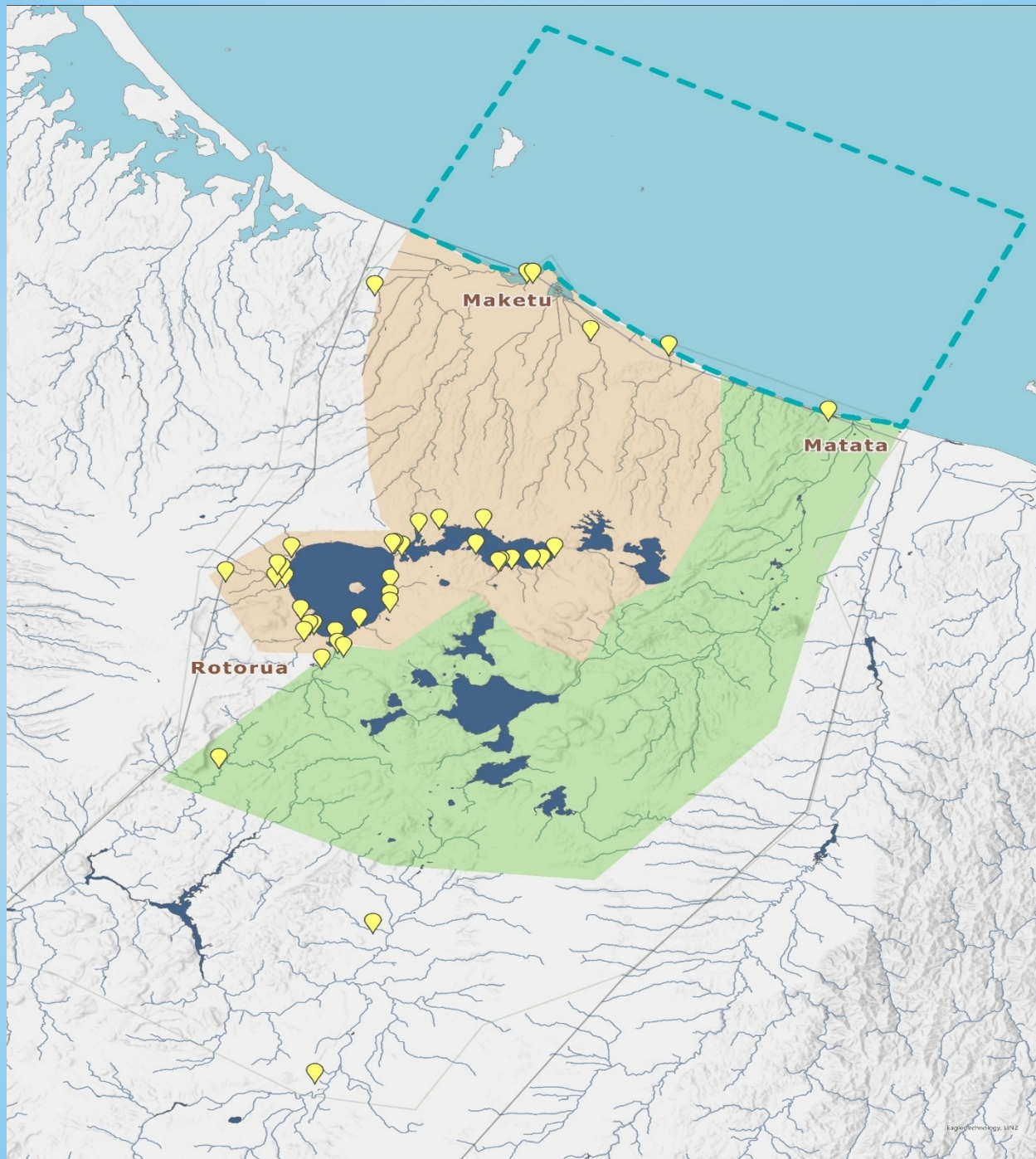
This scale of whakapapa speaks to the genealogy of the people charged with the legacy and responsibility of maintaining the dynamic relationships between the atua, taonga and practice of cultivating and harvesting kai (nourishment). This is referred to as ahikā and considered a sacred duty handed down through generations. It's their responsibility to ensure that the knowledge and practices of sustainable use and respect for these resources are passed on to future generations. This unbroken line of succession is crucial for the sustainability of these practices.

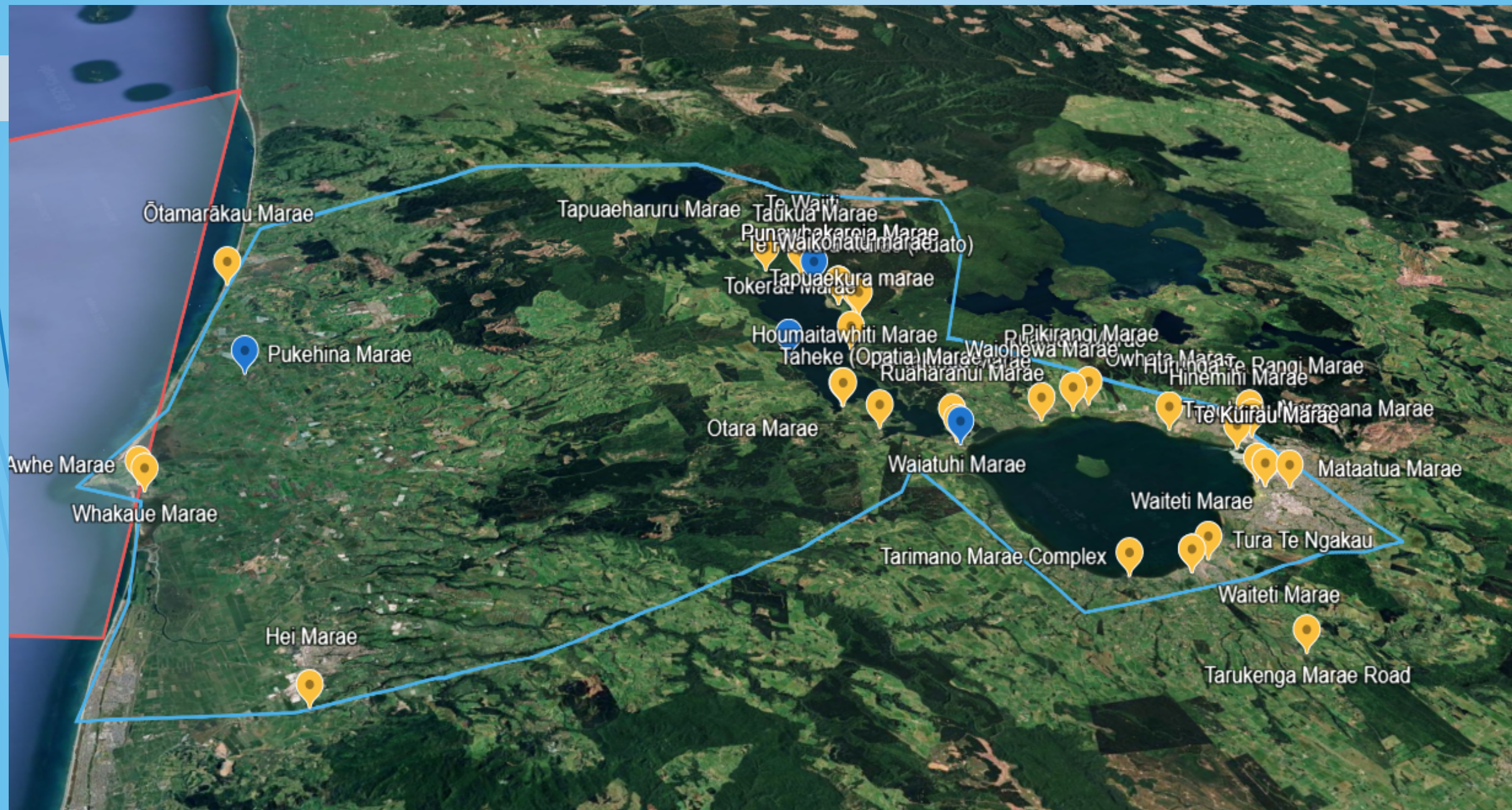
Growing potential...



The Economy of Te Ao Tūroa









Te Pakira Marae

Apumoana Marae

Rongomaipāpā Marae

Rangitihī Kohanga REO

Stage 1 Assessment

Providing an intentionally high-level indicative assessment.

Intended to support the Working Group in its task of considering a large number of potential discharge options and aligned sites.

Draws on internal technical knowledge, broad costing assumptions, interpretation of regulatory requirements, and expert advice provided to the Working Group.

Stage 1 does not include site-specific investigations, landowner engagement, detailed engineering design, or detailed cost estimation.



Stage 1 Assessment

Screening Criteria

- **Technical feasibility:** Is this option physically and operationally achievable?
- **Legal/regulatory compliance:** Is the option reasonably capable of meeting current and anticipated regulatory and consenting requirements?
- **Budget alignment:** Is the option reasonable capable of being delivered within Council's Long Term Plan budget allocation (nominally \$30 million capital cost)?

Technical Feasibility

Sites of 1–20 hectares could manage the same daily discharge volume as slow-rate irrigation (150–600 hectares), but within a smaller area and at a faster rate of movement. The key requirement is that water can pass through the system and be managed onward without causing off-site or environmental effects.

Land Area	Discharge Arrangement	Residence Time	Operational Context
	Direct Discharge	0	Piped outfall to lake or stream
	Gabions	0	Erosion control and aeration at entry
1 ha	Land Contact Bed	~5 hours	Rapid through-flow
5-8 ha	Constructed Wetland / Horizontal flow treatment bed	~1.6 days	High hydraulic loading
20 ha	Constructed or enhanced natural wetland	~4.0 days	Conventional wetland loading
150 ha	Moderate-rate Irrigation (20 mm/d)	N/A	Requires crop tolerant of 'wet feet'
500–600 ha	Slow-rate Irrigation (5 mm/day)	N/A	Conventional irrigation loading

Regulatory Feasibility

Based on current understanding:

- RLCs upgraded WWTP will meet the standards for discharge to the chosen receiving environment
- Discharge to natural wetland is less likely to receive consent due to ecological protection considerations,
- Direct discharge to streams or the lake (via pipe or gabions) may face significant consenting challenges, given iwi, community and stakeholder positions expressed through the consenting and regulatory processes.

Financial

Highly simplified, indicative capital costs - to allow relative comparisons between options.
Eg We have not taken into account the different pipe sizes, pressure ratings, difficulty of install, additional pumping, or a myriad of other aspects that will actually affect each individual proposal in due course. Under our scenario, and this is in addition to the cost of the discharge arrangement.

Infrastructure Type	Indicative Capital Cost
Main pipe from WWTP to site	\$ 5000 per lineal meter
Land Contact Bed, treatment bed, wetland, (1-20 ha)	\$ 6 M
Moderate-rate irrigation (150 ha)	\$ 80 M
Slow-rate irrigation (500-600ha)	\$ 142 M

- Costs are indicative only
- Exclude land acquisition or access costs
- Exclude operational costs
- Exclude detailed design, consenting, and construction complexity factors
- Assume construction 70%, other costs 30%. If construction is \$21m, other costs approx \$9m then total cost approx. \$30M
- Other costs include items such as investigations, design phases, consenting, professional fees, targeted contingency.

Next Steps

Working Group

- consider this information, use your judgement and expertise – your assessment lens
- Identify any sites you believe are unlikely to meet the Stage 1 criteria.
- Identify and shortlist options and potential sites to take to Council for approval to move into Stage 2
- Identify where clarification or additional information is required

Project Team

- Prepare report for Council's June meeting
- Recommend the shortlist of options and potential sites and seek Council approval to investigate further (Stage 2)

Stage 2

- Engage with landowners and mana whenua to determine whether to eliminate, or to proceed evaluating potential sites
- Further investigations – technical, geotechnical, engineering, refined cost estimates, implementation considerations etc
- Evaluate options
- Outcome of Stage 2 - fully evaluated preferred option(s) for Council to consider for implementation, subject to funding and consenting

Submission Platform Overview

- Four submissions have been received in this period*
- Full report has been provided
- These have been included in the assessment document
- Open until 16 March

* Up to 2nd March 2026

Pātai / Questions

Kōrero

Wrap up and Karakia

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 7th April 2026, at
1:30pm – 4:30pm

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou

Thank you for your time

