



Hamilton City Council – Staff Submission

**Ahu Ake – Waipā Community Spatial
Plan**

Waipā District Council

11 November 2024



**Hamilton
City Council**
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

Improving the Wellbeing of Hamiltonians

Hamilton City Council is focused on improving the wellbeing of Hamiltonians through delivering to our five priorities of shaping:

- **A city that's easy to live in**
- **A city where our people thrive**
- **A central city where our people love to be**
- **A fun city with lots to do**
- **A green city**

The topic of this staff submission is aligned to all of Hamilton City Council's five priorities.

Council Approval and Reference

This staff submission was approved by Hamilton City Council's Chief Executive on 11 November 2024.

Submission # 778

It should be noted that the following submission is from staff at Hamilton City Council and does not therefore necessarily represent the views of the Council itself.

Introduction

1. Hamilton City Council staff welcome the opportunity to make a submission to Waipā District Council on **Ahu Ake – Waipā Community Spatial Plan**.
2. We support the direction of Ahu Ake – Waipā Community Spatial Plan.
3. We are keen to continue to work closely together with Waipā District Council, to support and collaborate wherever we can.

Key Messages and Recommendations

4. The feedback in this submission is of a high-level nature. We will take the opportunity to discuss more detailed feedback in future meetings with key staff from Waipā District Council.
5. **Opportunities for Collaboration and Working Together**
6. Through the Future Proof collaboration there are many opportunities for all councils across the Waikato to work together. However, it is also important to acknowledge and identify how cross-boundary councils can work more closely together for those more localised issues and opportunities that cross boundaries e.g., boundary changes, land use development, and other shared services.
7. We support a “boundaryless approach” to working together with our neighbouring councils and will be working hard to continue to build relationships and find ways where we can work better together. Our sub-regional communities often live and work across administrative boundaries, and our planning for the future should take this into account. Ahu Ake - Part D Implementation, references “Better together – Partners and stakeholders have a key role to play” where this approach could be highlighted.
8. Noting the significant funding challenges that local government is facing, Hamilton City Council seeks to continue to work closely with neighbouring councils on opportunities for shared services and agreements that deliver on community outcomes and may provide cost savings for ratepayers.
9. **Spatial Plan Development**
10. The Executive Summary is an excellent document and is useful for understanding the key components of Ahu Ake. It will be particularly useful for the community to gain an understanding of the plan.
11. Although the draft Ahu Ake document is large, the Executive Summary and the five Packages make the information easier to digest and understand. Perhaps a ‘plan on a page’ would be useful for capturing and highlighting the strategic direction of the plan and identifying the key moves that will be applied across the different spatial areas.
12. Monitoring and updating the plan regularly will be a significant undertaking as it is a large document. Perhaps consider breaking the document down into volumes, or under the monitoring section, identify monitoring and reporting requirements by each section, and what type of micro or macro changes will or may require a full document review.
13. Look for ways to depoliticise the document so that the plan can remain enduring and not have to be updated every time there is a new government or a change in direction by an existing government e.g., three waters, four well-beings. Once some of these aspects become out of date, the feeling is that the whole document is then out of date.

14. Some of the points outlined above could, in part, be addressed if parts of the document were made available online and were also interactive. A good example is the Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan – [refer here](#)
15. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the thorough consultation process that Waipā District Council has followed in the development of this plan. We would also be keen to understand more and look for ways to incorporate some of the approaches used by Waipā District Council in some of our future consultations with the community.
16. **Future Work Identified (Packages)**
17. The five Packages are useful for identifying key projects that are planned to be completed over the next 10 years.
18. However, the pieces of work in the five Packages are significant and delivery over a 10-year timeframe may require significant resources to achieve, especially in these times of fiscal constraint. Perhaps there are opportunities for more collaboration between councils who already have similar strategies, to share information and knowledge with each other. There may be opportunities to look to adopt parts of strategies that can apply more widely across the region (boundaryless strategies) but that also include a local flavour to each one. For example, Climate Change and the Economic Wellbeing Strategy.
19. **Three Waters**
20. We support a Three Waters Master Plan that is serviced by Waipā District Council and seeks to avoid, remedy, and mitigate the adverse effects of development. This includes the application of best practice wastewater management, stormwater management, and water demand management for long-term sustainability.
21. When the Growth Strategy is reviewed, it works to give effect to Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato and support the Future Proof Strategy, including its associated three Waters Strategy. Supporting a “best for river” approach through collaborative arrangements could assist with meeting the objectives of those strategies.
22. Currently, Ahu Ake appears light on details about how infrastructure needs will be met. The Growth Strategy (or master plan) needs to carry some level of detailed information on the necessary infrastructure and its associated cost, or precursors that will be required to support a growth location.
23. We also note that the ‘what we will work towards’ section does not currently make reference to three waters sustainability or resilience, and that this needs to be built in early to any future development and housing package.
24. **Acknowledgement of Ahu Ake**
25. We commend Waipā District Council for taking the initiative to develop an overarching Spatial Plan that will ensure the future of the district is clearly articulated, well-planned and has community buy-in.

Further Information and Hearings

26. Should Waipā District Council require clarification of the submission from Hamilton City Council staff, or additional information, please contact **Clare Thorne** (Special Projects Advisor – Strategic Planning and Advocacy Unit) on **07 838 6826**, or email clare.thorne1@hcc.govt.nz in the first instance.
27. We **do not wish to speak** at the hearings scheduled for Wednesday 27 November 2024.
28. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss the content of our submission with Waipā District Council representatives on an informal basis when this is suitable.

Yours faithfully



Lance Vervoort
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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