

Appendix 27: Engagement

1. Introduction

During the Waikato River Independent Scoping Study issues were raised about the current policy setting and decision-making processes related to the Waikato River, its lakes, tributaries and wetlands. A lack of effective and/or meaningful engagement, poor community relationships, ineffective communication and unsuccessful conflict resolution procedures were all identified as impacting on the community's ability to be involved in decision-making processes and implementation of actions to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

This sense of disengagement of communities from the Waikato River is the result of a number of different factors. For Waikato-Tainui, land confiscation in the 1860s severely reduced their association with the land and the *awa* (river), and breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi by the Crown denied their rights and interests in, and *Mana Whakahaere* (authority) over the Waikato River, compromising their ability to ensure the river's wellbeing (New Zealand Government 2010, Waikato-Tainui Deed of Settlement). The movement of people from rural to urban areas has also reduced regular contact with natural waterways and rural life. The history of pollution due to poorly managed sewage and other point sources (from at least 1903 until the 1970-80s (More, 1976)) also contributed to urban dwellers and others "*turning their backs on the river*" (Gibbons, 1977). The perception that the river is unsafe to swim appears to have persisted with many people long after severe microbial pollution problems were resolved. The development of hydro lakes flooded many sites of cultural significance for Maaori and affected their ability to carry out traditional cultural activities associated with the river (O'Sullivan and Te Hiko, 2010).

Restoring the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River requires increased engagement as well as changes in many people's understanding, perceptions and the social norms that drive improved behaviours (e.g., Rhodes et al., 2002; Parminter et al., 2006; Ison and Watson, 2007). Achieving this will require an integrated approach to engage different audiences (e.g., youth, urban dwellers, farmers, industries, managers and different ethnicities). There is clear evidence that attitudinal and behavioural change requires education and support. For example, a recent Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry study has found good returns from farm advisory services (Dr Phil Journeaux, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, pers. comm.). There is also evidence (including from the adjacent Whaingaroa catchment¹) that engagement in restoration activities has a positive influence on mental health and wellbeing (Buchan 2007).

¹ <http://www.harbourcare.co.nz/>

There is, however, emerging evidence of increased involvement of the community in aquatic restoration and, although patchy, it is important to build on, and learn from, these 'green shoots'. Urban examples include many Hamilton City residents engaged in gully restoration (over 500 contacts on Hamilton City Council's database) (Clarkson and McQueen, 2004), Mangakotukutuku Streamcare², riparian plantings and fish access enhancement within establish reserves such as Donny Park, and riparian plantings and landscaping in new subdivisions.

Rural examples are stream fencing and planting that has occurred on farms under Environment Waikato's Clean Streams Project (Environment Waikato 2007) and Project Watershed³ to meet the requirements of the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord^{4 5}, and other voluntary actions by individual landowners (e.g., Neems, 2010; see Appendix 11: Riparian aesthetics for details of existing fencing and riparian vegetation) and care groups (e.g., over 80 biodiversity restoration projects many of which involve fencing and planting riparian wetlands⁶). Examples of larger organisations' involvement include: Lower Waikato River Enhancement Society Incorporated⁷; Fish and Game NZ's Eastern Whangamarino Restoration Project (Fish and Game NZ, 2008); Department of Conservation's Arawai Kākāriki Wetland Restoration project at Whangamarino and Biodiversity Fund projects; NZ Landcare Trust's support of landcare groups involved in stream, lake and wetland restoration⁸; Ministry for the Environment's support for Waikato Rivercare through the Sustainable Management Fund, and projects funded by the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust⁹.

New educational/engagement initiatives should also be linked to and they should build on existing programmes being run in primary schools (e.g., there are over 100 Waikato schools involved in the Enviroschools¹⁰), and resources should be provided by local government (e.g., Environment Waikato's 2002 Clean Streams Guide), Hamilton City Council's Gully Restoration Guide (Wall and Clarkson, 2002)), industries (e.g., DairyNZ Farm Enviro Walk), Non-Governmental Organisations (e.g., NZ Landcare Trust's guide for silt traps on peat lake tributaries (Berry and Dresser,

² <http://www.streamcare.org.nz/>

³ <http://www.ew.govt.nz/News-and-events/Media-releases-archived/Project-Watershed-Works-Identified-For-Whakamaru-Zone/>

⁴ <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/land/rural/dairying-accord-may03.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/press/2010/180310-dairy-clean-streams.htm>

⁶ http://www.waikatobiodiversity.org.nz/community_group_restoration_proj/

⁷ "Waikato Rivercare" that focuses on riparian revegetation of the 120 km of river between Hamilton and Port Waikato <http://www.genesisenergy.co.nz/genesis/index.cfm?12D2B5D5-EC25-58FB-B634-0FC54B26C164>

⁸ <http://www.landcare.org.nz/user-content/2300-silt-trap-fact-sheet.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.wceet.org.nz/funding/>

¹⁰ <http://www.ew.govt.nz/for-schools/Waikato-Enviroschools-newsletters>

2010))¹¹ and Crown Research Institutes (e.g., NIWA's guide on wetland treatment of tile drainage (Tanner et al., 2010)).

It is clear that farmer cooperation will be essential to restoring the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. A priority action is therefore to improve engagement with farmers on restoration by building significantly on current efforts (e.g., through Dairy NZ, Environment Waikato, Federated Farmers, the Farm Environment Awards Trust and Landcare Trust). The analysis of actions in Section 5 (and associated appendices) has shown that some restoration actions associated with better nutrient management will be win-win – i.e., both reduce pollutant run-off and increase farm profits – so it would seem to have low barriers to widespread uptake, other than raising awareness. Other actions involve considerable change to current farm practice. Previous studies of waterway restoration in farming systems (e.g., Wilcock, et al., 2009; Quinn et al., 2010; Dodd et al., 2008) have shown that in-depth engagement with farmers is required to understand all the implementation issues from their perspective and to derive variants of the actions that work on a farm-by-farm basis. Monitoring and regular reporting on restoration progress has been shown to be integral to achieving engagement – farmers need to see the improvements that result from the actions they are taking and to receive acknowledgement for taking these actions.

Furthermore, hapuu (sub-tribe) and local community knowledge about how their restoration initiatives are progressing provides essential feedback for others to learn from and to guide the Waikato River Authority in its future decision-making. Such adaptive management (sometimes called 'learning by doing') is well-recognised as a key element in restoration. Without community engagement, the physical actions to restore the Waikato River are unlikely to be wholly implemented and, where implemented, not sustained in the long-term.

Linking to Te Ture Whaimana – the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River

Te Ture Whaimana – the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River includes the implementation of Strategies 8 and 10, which are to:

- Actively promote and foster public knowledge and understanding of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River among all sectors of the Waikato regional community.
- Establish new, and enhance existing, relationships between Waikato-Tainui, other river iwi (where they so decide) and stakeholders with an interest in advancing, restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

¹¹ <http://www.landcare.org.nz/user-content/2300-silt-trap-fact-sheet.pdf>

The methods listed in Te Ture Whaimana to implement Strategies 8 and 10, within a three year timeframe include (but are not limited to):

- The development of curricula for schools in the Waikato region focusing on the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- The development and delivery of postgraduate scholarship programmes focused on the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- The development of a public education programme focused on the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- Promote greater public knowledge and understanding of river iwi relationships with the Waikato River.
- Promote greater public understanding of the relationship of the wider community with the Waikato River.
- Facilitate and encourage participation to enable sharing between national and international river enhancement experiences that will foster and assist in the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

Many community members made a number of positive suggestions about how these issues might be addressed and also indicated a willingness to be involved in the implementation of actions to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. Feedback gathered in the Study indicates that 'hands on' involvement in the restoration and protection of the Waikato River will help improve community wellbeing through re-engagement.

Feedback also suggested that in order to effectively participate in the restoration of the river, a number of capacity-building education and training programmes need to be implemented and that these programmes needed to target a variety of age groups, audiences and a range of learning preferences. In addition, inadequate access to information and funding, were also highlighted as barriers to contributing to decisions and policy development on the current management of the river.

These suggestions are supported by research showing that environmental education plays a major role in encouraging the responsible behaviour needed for sustainable resource management and environmental protection, while also enabling people to participate effectively (Bay of Plenty Regional Council, 1999; Environment Waikato, 1996; Hamilton City Council, 1998; Matamata-Piako District Council, 1999; Ministry for the Environment, 1995; Ministry for the Environment, 1998; Ministry for the Environment, 1999; Northland Regional Council, 1998; Parminter et al., 2006; Tasman District Council, 2000; Wellington Regional Council, 1998).

Targeting school curricula to enhance student knowledge and developing positive attitudes towards the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River is promoted in association with the existing Enviroschools/Kura Taiao programme and the EMAP (Environmental Monitoring and Action Programme) waterways programme (www.emap.rsnz.org). These aim to influence student's awareness, knowledge, attitudes and skills and to build a network of kura (schools) committed to environmental learning, action and creating sustainable communities. Furthermore, research shows that educating children also educates their parents (Connor et al., 2006).

2. A description of the prioritised action(s)

A wide variety of actions were proposed and incorporated into this Study to increase the awareness, knowledge, capacity, and involvement of all stakeholders within the catchment in the restoration of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. The actions listed below target a variety of age groups, audiences, and a range of learning preferences and can be broadly grouped under the following:

- Education, training and research.
- Communication and publicity.
- Partnerships and coordination.

Environmental education in schools

The development of a cross-curriculum resource (both primary and secondary levels), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, will engage school children, parents and teachers throughout the catchment, to promote greater public knowledge and understanding of the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

In addition to the involvement of the Ministry of Education, collaboration with existing environmental education initiatives, including Enviroschools¹², the Royal Society Environmental Monitoring and Action Project (EMAP)¹³, the Royal Society Teachers Fellowship Scheme¹⁴, Learning Media¹⁵ and Environment Waikato's Environmental Education for schools¹⁶ will greatly benefit the development of this cross-curriculum resource. The Environmental Education Directory of New Zealand¹⁷

¹² <http://www.enviroschools.org.nz>

¹³ <http://www.emap.rsnz.org.nz>

¹⁴ <http://www.royalsociety.org.nz>

¹⁵ <http://www.learningmedia.co.nz>

¹⁶ <http://www.ew.govt.nz/For-schools>

¹⁷ <http://www/eednz.org.nz>

provides further links to environmental education resources that have been developed around New Zealand.

Actions designed to provide Waikato River focused cross-curriculum materials as well as professional development and support for primary and secondary teachers include:

ACTION A:
<p>Provide Waikato River focused cross-curriculum materials and professional development and support for primary and secondary teachers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare Waikato River focused cross-curriculum resources for primary and secondary schools (Te Reo Maaori, preparation, publishing and distribution).• Develop supplementary activities (primary and secondary) to add to Waikato River cross-curriculum resource pack every year.• Develop associated professional development workshops for school teachers.

Marae-based training courses

The hui (meeting) with the five river iwi confirmed that successive generations have utilised the Waikato River, extensively drawing upon its resources to sustain themselves. In doing so they have acquired in-depth knowledge of species, their relationships, ecosystem functions and learnt how to modify their practices to accommodate changing ecological conditions. Whaanau (family) and hapuu at all the hui stated their commitment to restoring the health and wellbeing of the river and their landscapes. The participation of tangata whenua (locals) in 'on-the-ground' restoration and monitoring projects is an ideal opportunity for helping to re-connect whaanau and hapuu (especially tamariki (children) and rangatahi (youth)) with the river, which will aid the restoration of wellbeing in these communities.

Implementation of the following actions would see environmental restoration activities combined with cultural affirmation, knowledge transmission and te reo Maaori (the Maaori language) revitalisation. The aspirations of the five river iwi include:

- Revegetation, protection or re-introduction of culturally-important species.
- Conservation of valued landscapes including re-establishing connections.

- Where supported by whaanau, hapuu and iwi, promoting greater understanding of historical associations with the Waikato River.

The development and delivery of a series of marae-based (sacred meeting place) training courses are proposed as a means of providing access to the knowledge, skills and opportunities for tangata whenua to actively participate in the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. Ideally these waananga (fora), coordinated by the Waikato Regional Authority and the five river iwi, would occur alongside new and existing restoration initiatives (e.g., Te Kanae Kakariki Trust) so that the ‘hands on’ component of the training workshops can be undertaken as part of the overall restoration programme. The types of training courses to be delivered include, but are not limited to: traditional fishing methods, riparian planting, fencing and management (including culturally purposeful planting), project management and coordination, monitoring and evaluation, the Resource Management Act, tuna and whitebait biology, and pest species management (e.g., willow and koi carp eradication).

The development of enterprises associated with the restoration of the Waikato River, (e.g., native plant nurseries that are managed by iwi and supply riparian planting programmes throughout the catchment) will also provide capacity building and employment opportunities for the five river iwi. Ideally, these will be organised in partnership with education providers, such as the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA), so that participants receive a formal qualification upon completion of these training initiatives.

ACTION B:

Provide access to the knowledge, skills and development opportunities for five river iwi to actively participate in the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River:

- Provide marae-based waananga/training courses.
- Establish iwi-based restoration training and employment development enterprises, e.g., native plant nurseries, koi carp removal programme.

Research capacity and coordination

Te Ture Whaimana outlines objectives to increase research capacity and the coordination of the delivery of appropriate research initiatives to increase current knowledge and understanding of the health and wellbeing of Waikato River. Such research may include the application of maatauranga Maaori (Maaori knowledge) in

the development of tools to restore the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and the restoration of taonga (treasured) species, particularly those where key information gaps have been identified (e.g., kaaeo/kaakahi (freshwater mussels), kooura (freshwater crayfish), piiharau (lamprey)).

The new *Waters of the Waikato* book (Collier et al., 2010) is to be launched at Turangawaewae Marae in 2010 as part of the Koroneihana celebrations (Friday 20 August 2010). This book provides a rich resource of information regarding the biophysical and management issues facing the Waikato River. Therefore, this resource could provide a valuable contribution to the content of a series of 'fact-sheets' for distribution to the general public.

The coordination of research (including undergraduate and postgraduate studies) can be assisted by establishing an academic chair focused on the restoration of the Waikato River (similar to role of Professor David Hamilton and the Te Arawa Lakes). This role would help facilitate and coordinate research targeted on the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River amongst tertiary institutions such as the Waikato-Tainui College for Research and Development and the University of Waikato. This role would also assist in the development and maintenance of local, national and international research networks (including indigenous expertise) that can be applied to the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

ACTION C:

Increase Waikato River-related research capacity, and coordinate the delivery of appropriate research initiatives to increase current knowledge and understanding of the health and wellbeing Waikato River:

- Support tertiary student scholarships (masters, PhD, and/or postgraduate) undertaking targeted Waikato River-related research.
- Establish an academic Chair to facilitate and coordinate research relevant to the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and to foster local, national and international research networks.

Communication and publicity

Based on the information collected during the Study, it was identified that the Waikato River Authority will need to coordinate opportunities to communicate and engage with stakeholders in order to change behaviours where necessary. This process will involve identifying and addressing barriers to change, whilst simultaneously promoting the benefits of new behaviours to stakeholders in the

Waikato River catchment. The overarching aim of these communication and publicity initiatives is to keep the community informed so they can make sound judgements and implement new improved behaviours from their own learned perspective. Topics for discussion could include:

- **Iwi relationships with the Waikato River** – including the economic, social, cultural and spiritual relationships of river iwi in accordance to their tikanga and kawa.
- **Community relationships with the Waikato River** – including the economic, social, cultural and spiritual relationships of the many communities along the Waikato River.
- **Increasing awareness of rubbish reduction and pollution management initiatives** – (a) to assist point source management by informing stakeholders of the issues and how they can contribute to solutions and (b) finding ways to consult, engage, include and motivate communities in order to ensure their help in reducing pollution and rubbish.
- **Protection and conservation** – helping to improve the community's knowledge of healthy waterways, native fisheries, flora and fauna and enlisting the community's support and participation to protect these taonga.
- **Significant sites** – including waahi tapu (sanctuary) (where the five river iwi so decide) as well as significant and historic sites of the wider Waikato community – expanding awareness of the presence of these significant sites by developing and improving understanding, appreciation and recognition.

In order to provide more permanent opportunities to promote greater public knowledge and understanding of Waikato River amongst all stakeholders in the community, it is proposed that Waikato River-focused public education centres (one in Scenario 2, five in Scenario 3) are implemented. It is recommended that consideration be given to having one of these as a mobile centre that can move around the region and visit schools and events. These centres will provide both schools and the general public with Waikato River and five river iwi relevant services which include, but are not limited to:

- Information and education facilities.
- Exhibitions (e.g., that have been developed to portray the significance of the Waikato River to the five river iwi).
- Guided field trips.

At present communication with stakeholders throughout the Waikato River catchment is maintained through a variety of newsletters, press releases and

websites. However, the next level of information available tends to be too detailed and/or too hard to get hold of (e.g., technical and legal documents). To bridge this gap the Study team recommends that 'issues and options' articles be written by an experienced journalist to be published in a wide variety of media, including newspapers and magazines.

Appropriately written 'how to' handbooks on activities that enhance Te Ture Whaimana, such as riparian management, wetland restoration, contaminant source management on farms, and monitoring and assessment methods would also be beneficial if they were made freely available to the public. These will build on existing resources, such as those mentioned earlier. More extensive communication and publicity measures include the production of a Waikato River restoration and protection-focused magazine that is widely distributed throughout the catchment and/or the production of a Waikato River restoration and protection-focused series of 30 minute long documentaries appropriate for distribution via DVD and/or television.

ACTION D:

Improve and increase communication and publicity focused on the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River:

- Provide Waikato River public education centre(s) (one in Scenario 2 and five in Scenario 3).
- Commission a professional journalist to develop 'issues and options' articles on key aspects of the restoration of the Waikato River and publish in a variety of media (including newspapers and magazines).
- Collaborate with existing agencies to adapt and extend existing 'how to' handbooks on activities that enhance Te Ture Whaimana (e.g., riparian management, wetland restoration, contaminant source management on farms, and monitoring and assessment methods).
- Develop a Waikato River-focused magazine, distributed throughout the catchment.
- Commission the delivery of Waikato River-focused documentaries suitable for television and/or DVD release.
- Develop a Biannual Waikato River Festival – with a programme that includes an international river symposium, cultural activities, water sports and other activities.

It is proposed that a Waikato River Festival is held biannually (alternately hosted by each region within the catchment, i.e., Waipa, Lower Waikato, Middle Waikato and Upper Waikato). The programme for this two to three day event would include an international river symposium (involving local, regional, national and international restoration initiatives) and includes cultural activities (where the five river iwi so decide) such as Kapa Haka, as well as water sports, entertainment and other activities.

Partnerships and coordination

Some local authorities have non-statutory processes on restoration that include grants or funding to help meet the costs of remedial actions. For example, the Environment Waikato Clean Streams initiative has made funding available to farmers to exclude cattle from streams and reforest riparian areas. The Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust (WCEET) assists organisations, agencies and individuals with projects that foster and enhance the sustainable management of ecological resources in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments. In addition, a number of national and regional government, iwi authority, industry and voluntary strategies, action plans, projects and awards (e.g., National Wetland Trust, Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust, Waikato Biodiversity Forum, Hakarimata Restoration Trust, and Ecosourced Waikato) currently exist within the Waikato River catchment. The Waikato River Authority will need to coordinate and administer grants to community groups, iwi and industry for restoration and monitoring and link its activities with existing funding agencies.

The actions proposed here aim to complement existing initiatives, by:

- Developing and strengthening partnerships between stakeholders.
- Improving the coordination of restoration activities undertaken throughout the catchment.
- Improving access to funding for restoration activities.
- Providing more awards for stakeholders undertaking river, lake, riparian and wetlands activities that improve the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

Actions designed to strengthen and increase partnerships and coordination of activities that improve the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River include:

ACTION E:

Increase partnerships and coordination of activities that improve the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River:

- Improve coordination of community groups focused on Waikato River restoration and protection by supporting a coordinator.
- Support annual community meetings/mini fora in support of joint restoration initiatives.
- Build partnerships with industry located within the Waikato River catchment (e.g., DairyNZ, MeatNZ, Fonterra, Federated farmers, AFFCO, Kinleith) to coordinate activities that enhance Te Ture Whaimana through the development of an industry-lead joint accord.
- Provide seed funding to support collaborative industry-led and community-led projects.
- Sponsor new awards for river, lake, riparian and wetland restoration projects that improve health and wellbeing of the Waikato River to complement existing awards.

3. How will the action(s) be accomplished?

The diversity of actions outlined here require input from the five river iwi, local authorities, education providers, research organisations, industry, community groups and government, coordinated by the Waikato River Authority.

4. Where in the Waikato River catchment should the actions occur?

Engagement was an issue expressed throughout the entire Waikato River catchment and the actions presented here require a whole-of-catchment approach. However, it is acknowledged that each region within the catchment, (i.e., Waipa, Lower Waikato, Middle Waikato and Upper Waikato) may request specific services or activities to be tailored to meet their priority needs.

5. What is the cost of the action(s)?

Table 1: The estimated cost ranges (scenario 2-3) of the proposed engagement actions.

Action	Description	Costs (\$M)
A	Waikato River focused cross-curriculum materials for primary and secondary schools, updates and professional development to support long-term implementation.	\$5-6
B	Marae-based training workshops.	\$6-20
	Iwi-based restoration training and employment development initiatives, e.g., native plant nurseries, koi carp eradication programmes.	\$5-15
C	Provide scholarships (postgraduate and undergraduate) for students undertaking Waikato River-related research restoration.	\$10-30
	Academic chair to coordinate research undertaken on the Waikato River and foster national and international networks.	
D	Five Waikato River public education centres.	\$3.5-17
	'Issues and options' articles on key aspects of the restoration of the Waikato River and publish in a variety of media (including newspapers, magazines).	\$4.5-11
	'How to' handbooks on activities that enhance Te Ture Whaimana (e.g., riparian management, wetland restoration, contaminant source management on farms, monitoring and assessment methods).	
	Waikato River focused magazine, distributed throughout the catchment.	
	Waikato River focused documentaries suitable for television and/or DVD release.	
	Biannual Waikato River festival.	\$4.5
E	Improve coordination of community groups focused on Waikato River restoration and protection by supporting coordinator to achieve better integration of efforts across catchment	\$5-10
	Support annual community meetings/mini fora in support of joint restoration initiatives	
	Build partnerships with industry to coordinate activities that enhance Te Ture Whaimana through the development of an industry-lead joint accord	\$0.4-4
	Facilitate collaborative industry-led and community-led restoration projects	
	Biannual Te Ture Whaimana restoration awards for industry-led and community-led projects	\$1-5

6. Who could do it and how long will it take?

The Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 and the Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Bill establishes and grants functions and powers to the Waikato River Authority. The purpose of this authority is to:

- Through Te Ture Whaimana, set the primary direction to achieve the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for future generations.
- Promote an integrated, holistic and co-ordinated approach to the implementation of Te Ture Whaimana and the management of the Waikato River.
- Fund rehabilitation initiatives for the Waikato River in its role as trustee for the Waikato River Clean-up Trust.

The targets listed in Te Ture Whaimana in regards to the timeframe for the completion of these initiatives include:

- Within three years: The curricula for schools in the Waikato Region include a focus on the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- Within three years: Public education programmes focused on the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River are implemented. The programme will include updates on the state of the health of the Waikato River, and actions that residents can take to positively influence the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- Within three years: Postgraduate scholarships are developed.
- Within three years of the postgraduate scholarship being established: At least two postgraduate degrees have been successfully completed. Appropriate undergraduate programmes will include within their courses a focus on the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- Within five years: One international river symposium has been held in the Waikato Region with a focus on the restoration and protection of the Waikato River.
- Within six months, and thereafter at least every six months: Mini fora are held locally.

7. What are the interactions with other activities (co-benefits and drawbacks)?

The actions proposed here will increase the involvement and participation of five river iwi and the wider Waikato community in restoring the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. In particular these outcomes will contribute to the restoration of Aspiration 1 – *“That the management of the Waikato River and its lakes, wetlands and tributaries to protect their health and wellbeing is conducted in a holistic, integrated way”* and Aspiration 2 – *“That people feel engaged with the Waikato River*

and its lakes, wetlands and tributaries, and processes, initiatives or actions to restore and protect their health and wellbeing.”

8. An analysis of uncertainties and information gaps

It is crucial that the Waikato River Authority facilitate opportunities to communicate and educate stakeholders in order to change behaviours where necessary. This process will involve identifying and addressing barriers to change, whilst simultaneously promoting the benefits of new behaviours to stakeholders in the Waikato River catchment. The role of the Waikato River Authority will be pivotal to creating and maintaining long-term collective stakeholder ‘buy in’ (i.e., acceptance, recognition of importance, understanding and participation) regarding the final actions selected.

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