

Chapter 2 Strategic Directions

The following chapter provides an outline of the key strategic and significant resource management matters for the Taupō district. This chapter include objectives and policy district to guide decision making at a strategic level.

The strategic objectives set the direction for the District Plan and help to implement the Council's community outcomes. They are indicative of the matters which are important to the Taupō District community and reflect the intended outcomes to be achieved through the implementation of the District Plan.

The strategic directions will be particularly relevant for any future changes to the Plan and any significant resource consent applications where there is a requirement to consider District Plan policy.

This chapter should be read as a whole and applied across the district and all zonings unless the provisions relate to a specific zoning or part of the District.

This chapter does not include rules. Relevant rules can instead be found in the chapters under the District Wide and Area Specific headings of the Plan.

The key strategic or significant resource management matters for the district, for the Taupō District are:

1. Tangata Whenua
2. Fresh water quality
3. Urban form and development
4. Climate Change
5. Strategic Infrastructure
6. Natural Values and Landscapes

2.1 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1 TANGATA WHENUA

The Council, through the District Plan, is required to take into account the Principles of the te Tiriti o Waitangi. This is to be done at all levels of planning and decision making under the Plan.

A comparatively high proportion of the district is Māori freehold or multiple-owned land. There is a strong desire for Māori to return to their ancestral land, with a range of aspirations for changed land use, land development and settlement, whilst exercising kaitiakitanga and protecting sites of cultural significance. The district plan has an important role to play in supporting mana whenua in achieving these aspirations.

The Council is also required to, in partnership with mana whenua, recognise and provide for the māori values in resource management and decision making. These include the important relationship of māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga and to have particular regard to kaitiakitanga.

This is to happen not just through recognition and incorporation of these matters into the plan but also the wider decision making and plan implementation process. These values should not be considered as a separate matter to the wider plan but are expected to be applied throughout all aspects of planning and decision making within the Taupō District.

2.1.2 Objective

1. The values, rights and interests of Taupō District mana whenua are recognised and protected.
2. Mana whenua are a partner in District Plan planning and decision making.
3. Resource management planning and decision making reflects tikanga, mana whakahaere, kaitiakitanga, manaakitanga, whakapapa, mautaranga māori and te whanake.
4. Support development on Māori land that meet the needs of those landowners and respects the exercise of kaitiakitanga, self-determination and the relationship of tangata whenua with their land, water, significant sites and Wāhi tapu.
5. Māori are supported to develop their ancestral lands for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing.
6. The principles of te tiriti o Waitangi are taken into account through District Plan planning and decision making.

2.1.3 Policy

1. Recognise and provide for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu (sacred sites), and other taonga (treasures).
2. Provide for development on Māori land that enables tāngata whenua:
 - a. to act in a way that is consistent with their culture and traditions
 - b. to fulfil cultural, economic and social aspirations of those owners
 - c. enhance their ability to exercise kaitiakitanga
 - d. strengthens their relationships with land, water, significant sites and Wāhi tapu.

3. Recognise the importance of mātauranga Māori, kaitiakitanga and tikanga Māori in landuse planning and decision making.
4. Recognise and support opportunities for tāngata whenua to exercise their customary responsibilities as mana whenua and kaitiaki.
5. Recognise the wider constraints on the utilisation and development of māori land as different from land in freehold title.
6. Enable development of Māori Land within the provisions of the plan for the purposes of fulfilling the economic and social aspirations of those owners.
7. To ensure that the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are taken into account in all aspects of resource management within the District.
8. Provide opportunities for Māori involvement in decision-making and monitoring of the District Plan, resource consents, designations and heritage orders including in relation to sites of significance to Māori and issues of cultural significance.
9. Recognise, in decision making, the importance of iwi environmental management plans in providing important guidance and direction on the positive use and development of the environment and natural resources.
10. Recognise and support the incorporation of mātauranga Māori principles into the design, development and/or operation of land use activities.

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2.2 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2 FRESHWATER QUALITY / TE MANA O TE WAI

The health and wellbeing of the lakes and rivers in the district have been degraded both directly and indirectly over recent decades. This degradation includes declining water quality, loss of indigenous biodiversity, loss of access and declining water availability and is the result of activities both on land and in the water bodies themselves. Waterways continue to face increasing demands for use, such as takes for irrigation and drinking water, hydro power generation, and assimilation of discharges from towns, agriculture and other industry; as well as pressures arising from land management practices, land use change and intensification. Holistic and integrated management of land and water resources is critical to reversing declining trends.

The Taupō District Plan has a responsibility to manage the adverse effects on the environment that may arise from subdivision and landuse in the District. Managing the adverse effects on waterways resulting from subdivision and land use forms part of that responsibility and there are clear benefits from doing this. The state of the Districts freshwater resources is of significant interest to the Taupō District community, and it is important that positive freshwater outcomes are achieved through the application of the Plan.

2.2.2 Objective

1. Water quality will be enhanced to improve the mauri, health and well-being of water bodies, freshwater ecosystems, and receiving environments within the Taupō District.

2.2.3 Policy

1. Recognise the importance of lakes and rivers to tāngata whenua and the wider community.
2. Decisions, policy and planning reflect an integrated land management or ki uta ki tai approach to resource management/landuse planning.
3. Recognise and provide for the vision, objectives, and outcomes in Te Ara Whanui o Rangitāiki (Pathways of the Rangitāiki) and Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki documents and to give effect to Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato - the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River.
4. Recognise the benefits of subdivision, landuse and development activities which will directly contribute to the enhancement of fresh water quality.
5. Manage subdivision, use and development of land in a manner that restores, protects and enhances the mana, mauri, health and wellbeing of the District's lakes, rivers and all other waterways.
6. The relationship of tāngata whenua as kaitiaki with waterbodies is respected, enhanced and supported.

2.3 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3 URBAN FORM AND DEVELOPMENT

The Taupō Districts diverse and growing population has led to increased demand for housing and demand for new commercial and industrial areas. Urban development also generates further demand for infrastructure services, particularly three waters and transportation services. The District Plan provides a framework for ensuring that urban development, subdivision and changes in land use occurs in a planned and efficient manner and is adequately serviced by infrastructure

The strategic directions for urban development establish the approach for urban development within the Plan as identified through the 2018 District wide growth management strategy, Taupō District 2050. This approach reflects the an efficient and effective urban form which will develop in a manner that is appropriately serviced by infrastructure reflects the important values and communities within the District.

As well as green field development, the plan provides important guidance about the protection of existing urban areas, including Town Centres, to enable them to continue to function effectively in a manner that best serves the wider District.

2.3.2 Objectives

1. Subdivision, use and development of land will be consistent with TD2050 2018 to maximise the efficient use of zoned and serviced urban land and is co-ordinated with the provision of cost effective infrastructure.
2. Subdivision, use and development of land which will have demonstrable social benefits to the District's community will be recognised/supported.
3. Development is serviced by an appropriate level of infrastructure that effectively meets the demands of that development.
4. The importance of the Town Centre Environment as the primary commercial, retail, recreational, cultural and entertainment centres for Taupō District are recognised in landuse planning and decision making.
5. Subdivision, use and development will not detract from the wider character and effective functioning of the environment which it is located.
6. Subdivision is designed to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the environment and occurs in a sequenced and coherent manner that protects or enhances the important natural values of the environment where it is located.

2.3.3 Policy

1. Identify and zone appropriate areas of land for urban purposes to guide the future provision of infrastructure within the Taupō District.
2. Subdivision, use and development of land will be consistent with TD2050 to maximise the efficient use of zoned and serviced urban land and is co-ordinated with the provision of effective infrastructure.

3. Avoid fragmented development that results in inefficiencies in the provision of infrastructure and landuse.
4. Require urban subdivision and land development to connect with the existing infrastructure and transportation network, according to the capacity limitations of that network where available and the potential requirements for upgrading its capacity.
5. Support subdivision, use and development of land that will lead to beneficial social and cultural outcomes for the District's community.
6. Provide for the development of Papakāinga on māori land to facilitate māori occupation on their ancestral lands.
7. Maintain strong boundaries to the town centre to consolidate and intensify retail, commercial and office activities within the city centre and protect the amenity of residential neighbourhoods.
8. Restrict the location and development of retail and commercial activities within non-commercial areas of the district to ensure that the town centre continue to be the districts pre-eminent retail and commercial centres.
9. Manage subdivision use and development of land to ensure that it will not:
 - a. have an adverse effect on the functioning of the environment where it is located,
 - b. unduly conflict with existing activities on adjoining properties,
 - c. compromise development consistent with the intent of the environment where it is located
 - d. give rise to reverse sensitivity effects from existing uses
10. Require the design and location of activities to avoid or mitigate natural hazards to an acceptable level of risk to life, property and the environment.
11. Support subdivision and development which does not inappropriately affect areas of important natural and landscape values.



2.4 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4 CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change has been identified as an issue which is important within the Taupō District. For environmental management and planning purposes there are two separate, but important aspects of climate change:

1. Effects on climate change – which refers to activities that may lead to the an increase in greenhouse gasses and those which may result in a reduction of greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere or help to facilitate efforts towards decarbonisation.
2. Effects of climate change – which are the effects caused by climate change such as more frequent flooding or intensive weather events which can endanger communities, assets and infrastructure.

It is important to consider both of these aspects of climate change to effectively enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety. Supporting positive climate change outcomes and ensuring that the effects of climate change are recognised and provided for will assist in planning for a district which does not contribute to, and is resilient to, climate change. The Strategic Directions for climate change are consistent with the Government's obligations to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, and accords with the target for 100% renewable electricity generation by 2030.

2.4.2 Objective

1. Subdivision, use and development of land in the Taupō District will result in positive climate change outcomes.
2. Subdivision, use and development of land in the Taupō District will recognise and provide for the current and future effects of climate change on the District's current and future communities, including any disproportionate effects on māori.

2.4.3 Policy

1. Land use activities which create positive climate change outcomes will be supported and encouraged.
2. Land use activities which will unduly accelerate the effects of climate change will be discouraged.
3. Subdivision use and development of land must demonstrate resilience to the effects of climate change over time.
4. Urban and built development must be designed in a manner which considers the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with that development and resulting land use.

2.5 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5 SIGNIFICANT AND LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure, as defined in the Resource Management Act generally encompasses physical services and facilities which enable society to function, such as the three waters network, transport, communications, energy generation and distribution networks, and any other network utilities undertaken by network utility operators.

Infrastructure is critical to the social and economic wellbeing of people and communities, including providing for their health and safety, and has national, regional and local benefits. However, inappropriately located or designed land use activities can adversely affect the safe and effective functioning of significant and locally important infrastructure.

The Taupō District plays an important role in the location and provision of nationally significant infrastructure. Its central location and natural resources means that Taupō is home to:

- State highways (1, 5, 32, 41 and 47).
- the national grid electricity transmission network
- renewable electricity generation facilities that connect with the national grid, accounting for up to 20% of New Zealand's total electricity demand
- Airports used for regular air transport services by aeroplanes

In addition to nationally important infrastructure, local roads and other infrastructure is vital for the ongoing functioning of urban and rural communities.

2.5.2 Objectives

1. The wider benefits and strategic importance of significant infrastructure to the District and nationally, are recognised in decision making and land use planning.
2. The sustainable development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of renewable electricity generation resources and activities are recognised and encouraged.
3. Land use in the District will not reduce the safe and effective functioning of significant and local infrastructure.
4. Local and national transport infrastructure located in the Taupō District operates in a safe and effective manner.

2.5.3 Policy

1. Enable the development, operation, use, maintenance and upgrade of renewable electricity generation and transmission developments.
2. Recognise and provide for the national, regional and local benefits of renewable energy generation activities and resources in relation to climate change, security of supply, and social, and economic wellbeing of people and communities and for their health and safety.
3. Recognise the functional and operational needs associated with the use and development of significant infrastructure.

4. Subdivision, landuse and development will not adversely affect the effective and safe functioning of infrastructure.
5. Planning and development of infrastructure will consider the needs and the wellbeing of current and future communities.

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2.6 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 6 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT VALUES

The Taupō district is characterised by important landscapes and natural areas. These areas are a strong part of the identity to the district and are valued by the local communities and also hold importance nationally. As well as being an important part of the districts identity these areas also have a range of important social, cultural and environmental (including intrinsic) values.

The effects of human activities such as built development, vegetation clearance and land development etc. can significantly alter the character of the environment resulting in the loss of these areas and their values.. While parts of the District have been significantly modified by human activity, vast areas of the natural landscape remain.

These areas are on a range of public (reserve, forest and national parks) and private tenure. There is also a high proportion of these areas on māori land throughout the District which can impact the ability of māori landowners in undertaking development on their ancestral lands.

2.6.2 Objectives

1. Recognise the importance of the districts natural values and landscapes and their significance to the Taupō Districts communities and identity.
2. The protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna from the adverse effects of inappropriate development.
3. Activities which will lead to the enhancement of indigenous biodiversity values will be recognised and provided for.
4. Recognition of the extent of indigenous vegetation and habitat under Māori land tenure, and the need to provide for the important relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands and waahi tapu.
5. The protection of outstanding landscape areas from inappropriate land use and development which may adversely affect their landscape attributes.
6. Recognition of the relationship of tāngata whenua with the natural values of their ancestral lands, waterbodies, sites, cultural landscapes, and other natural taonga of significance.
7. The natural character of riparian margins are preserved, and enhanced where appropriate, and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

2.6.3 Policy

1. Protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna from landuse and development activities that will have more than minor effects on the ecological values and processes important to those areas.
2. Support and facilitate those activities which will lead to the long term protection and or enhancement of indigenous biodiversity values.

3. Recognise and provide for tāngata whenua in their role as kaitiaki of the natural values on their lands and the wider district.
4. Development must not have any more than minor adverse effects on the attributes of identified outstanding landscape areas.
5. Encourage the protection, enhancement and restoration of indigenous biodiversity, including by supporting opportunities for tāngata whenua to exercise their customary responsibilities as mana whenua and kaitiaki in restoring, protecting and enhancing areas of indigenous biodiversity.
6. Ensure that activities within outstanding natural features and landscapes recognise and maintain their important values and characteristics.
7. Support opportunities for tāngata whenua to exercise their customary responsibilities as mana whenua and kaitiaki in respect of the features or landscapes.
8. Recognise the contribution made by landowners to the protection and enhancement of areas of natural values and landscapes.

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