

Big vision in plans for Te Urewera

THE laying down of the kawa or protocols for Te Urewera has begun with a framework launched at Taneatua.

The process has been described as the start of a two-year conversation that will give rise to a unique management plan for Te Urewera.

In launching its statement of priorities for Te Urewera, Te Urewera Board laid out the objectives and policies for the revered rainforest in a 40-page framework.

The Crown and Ngai Tuhoe welcomed the launch of Te Urewera's inaugural statement of priorities earlier this week.

Treaty Minister Chris Finlayson said the launch was significant as it demonstrated the excellent progress Te Urewera Board had made since Te Urewera was declared a legal entity last year.

The statement of priorities invites public feedback on a framework for Te Kawa O Te Urewera, a 10-year management plan.

Te Kawa O Te Urewera is due to be finalised in September 2017.

Conservation Minister Maggy Barry said the management plan would be crucial to the ongoing preservation and protection of Te Urewera's precious ecosystem and native wildlife.

"It will strengthen the connection between Tuhoe and Te Urewera, and allow all New Zealanders to continue to access and experience the region.

"Inviting public input at this first stage will greatly benefit the overall quality of the plan."

Te Urewera's Statement of Priorities and Te Kawa O Te Urewera framework is available online.

The deadline for providing feedback for Te Kawa O Te Urewera is February 26,



□ Some of the staff making the changes happen across the priority areas for Waikaremoana Tribal Authority — from left, general manager Barry Bouton, Tina Wagner, Lorna Taylor, Oriwia Taylor and Herehere Titoko.

2016.

The final framework then invites input into the plan from March 24 next year.

In 2017 the draft Te Kawa o Te Urewera will be available for viewing from April and the completion of the final Te Kawa o Te Urewera is due in September 2017.

There are many ways to give feedback, in person to the board, by written submissions or via social media.

Te Urewera Act 2014 established Te

Urewera as a legal entity, with all the rights, powers, duties and liabilities of a legal person. Te Urewera Board, appointed by Ngai Tuhoe and the Crown, acts on behalf of and is charged with governing Te Urewera.

Wide-ranging benefits

THE plans to deliver health services in the Tuhoe rohe will bring wide-ranging benefits to Waikaremoana residents.

Trustee on Te Urewera Board and one of three chair of directors Lorna Taylor said the health plans for Waikaremoana would sit under their service management plans as a priority.

There is a raft of ambitious plans inside several special priorities including the establishment of the Waikaremoana Tribal Authority office; building the Wharehou O Waikaremoana at the Waikaremoana Holiday Park, now due to open at the end of 2016; service management for housing, health, education and biodiversity.

The exciting plans for Waikaremoana cover a huge area from Tuai down to Putere, Waikaremoana, Piripaua and Kaitawa.

Mrs Taylor will oversee the business with two other directors — Te Ori Paki and Te Kewena White.

The service management plan adviser for the health spatial priority is Tina Wagner.

"In the next six months, people will see movement at the holiday park building and construction will start to take shape for the new building.

"Local people may be participating by getting involved with brick-making and jobs have been developed as we go from civil construction to building.

"Tenders for the new building have come from all over the country," she said.

Waikaremoana is one of four authorities, along with Ruatahuna, Waimana and Ruatoki.

"This is a very exciting time for Tuhoe.

"With health, people will see the establishment of a clinic under the Waikaremoana Authority, a doctor and the health service will be for anyone in the community to access the service.

"The Waikaremoana Authority is at the early stages of planning the delivery of our health service."