

Kia ora koutou

The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board (BOPCB) thanks the Te Urewera Board for the opportunity to comment on the draft Te Kawa o Te Urewera.

The BOPCB also thanks the Te Urewera Board representatives for visiting us to explain further and discuss the draft Te Kawa.

The BOPCB congratulates the Te Urewera Board on the draft Te Kawa. The Plan is an outstanding signpost for the future of Te Urewera, encapsulating fine, original thinking about the management of precious land resources.

The following are but two examples of individual responses from BOPCB members:

*What an inspiring read and, I think, a courageous document! It challenges and brings into question our existing planning approaches and way of thinking. Most of all the land manages the people, a concept we have moved away from as we have been influenced by development and economic growth factors. The flexibility that Te Kawa O Te Urewera enables, to respond to immediate needs, rather than be driven by bureaucratic processes, I view with envy! It is impressive and humbling, to see that Tuhoë have retained their confidence, trust and ambition to maintain their values.*

*[This Te Kawa] is very enlightening, inspirational and importantly very readable. The inter-generational emphasis is most welcomed, as is the emphasis on diversity. Overall this Te Kawa articulates, powerful and welcoming principles that will guide (the return of) Te Urewera health - people and nature. And at the same time, underpins these principles with pragmatic and well laid out plans and key actions that will operationalize (in time) the principles described. I especially like the section on managing human expectations, and positioning of relationships (with the context being people with nature) . Key challenges are recognized, with positioning Te Urewera at the local, national and global scale. I also liked the well laid out Table (page 25) noting key responsibilities and actions with the main elements of Te Urewera. There is much to this document and I will need to re-read several times to best appreciate!*

The BOPCB looks forward to continuing to be a good Friend of the Te Urewera Board as the Te Kawa is finalised and then implemented.

The BOPCB has no specific suggestions for change to the draft Te Kawa, and does not request to be heard during the formal Te Kawa Hearings.

Nga mihi

Ken Raureti

Bay of Plenty Conservation Board Chair