

TE UREWERA

Summary of Submissions and Statement of the Board's Response Te Kawa o Te Urewera

Foreground

On 23 September 2014 and by operation of Te Urewera Act, Te Urewera Board began life immediately as the responsible voice and servant of Te Urewera, the first of its kind representing nature and not that of humankind. As the members met each other for the first time, the Board worked to achieve a seamless transition to new foundational traditions and beliefs which it has since recorded in Te Kawa o Te Urewera. Simultaneously, through these early stages, the Board reset the environment over Te Urewera structure and infrastructure. With an obligatory Te Urewera voice, guided by Te Urewera Act, the Board sort substantive change to extant governance, management, planning and operational perspective and practice.

In early December 2015, the Board released a draft framework encouraging feedback but more importantly relationship into early themes of building collective responsibility and reconnecting Tūhoe people with their whenua. That feedback brought subtle changes to the framework which was then declared mid-April 2016. The Board, Tūhoe and DOC then encouraged input in all its forms. It encouraged Tribal-hapū expression with full Board and Tribal delegate hui to receive an on the ground appreciation by Te Urewera communities. We engaged science perspectives; 1080 proponents; planner considerations; current trapping innovators; humanists; sustainability gurus; academics; DOC staff; Conservation Boards, Territorial and District Council staff; historians; current staff working in Te Urewera; and Stakeholders – there were others. We learnt the myriad of perspectives, needs, choices, opportunities from which expression through and with Te Urewera is desired by many. Similarly, it also hinted at the compounding impact our human lifestyle needs on Te Urewera.

A year on and in May of this year the Board published its draft management plan – Te Kawa o Te Urewera. We received 35 written submissions and held 2 days of Hearings, the first in Taneatua on 25 July and the second in Poneke 27 July 2017. This report summarises the views expressed to the Board on the draft Te Kawa o Te Urewera helping to give consideration to any final changes.

Overall

There has been strong support for Te Kawa o Te Urewera, noting in particular the following:

- Strong support for the intergenerational approach of people management for the benefit of the land.
- Strong support for Te Urewera principles and values.
- Clear support for the need to take greater responsibility for our impact on nature and on resetting our place in the natural order of the world.

The Board's Summary Response

The Board has been eminently grateful to its submitters for inviting Te Kawa on to committee agenda's, dinner tables, AGM's, staff and office tables to share in a vision for the future of us through our return to living with the land, living with Te Urewera.

The Board has read all of the submissions in equal regard and on the basis of these has made changes to the current draft Te Kawa o Te Urewera. Key changes are noted in the following.

A Summary of Submission Points

Supported Areas	Submitter Comments
Acknowledges Te Kawa is a starting point and that it begins a journey of articulating the personality identity of Te Urewera.	Several submitters noted the appropriateness of beginning the journey with clear principle first, resisting prescribing isolated rules.
Strongly support the goal to inspire our (re)connection with the natural environment respecting the integrity of Papatuanuku-Te Urewera, her lands, waters and heritage.	Noted the need in areas for unlearning, changing behaviour and practice, reconsidering the appropriateness of current permitted activity.
Friendship Agreements seen as a positive approach to strengthen ties between Tūhoe, Te Urewera Board and manuhiri wanting to establish relationship with Te Urewera.	Submitters gave examples of willing contribution demonstrating support for taking collective responsibility for the lifestyle impact on Te Urewera. Examples included support with monitoring, work bees, track and hut maintenance, sharing knowledge, and supporting experience ideas.
Acknowledging the role and place of Tūhoe in the Te Urewera structure and infrastructure.	Submitters were positive about the role of Tūhoe – tanata whenua in Te Kawa; recognising Te Urewera as the home lands of Tūhoe, wanting to learn the heritage and local custom in order to deepen their respect-connection with Te Urewera and also to avoid causing offense to local traditions – wanting to give and show respect for the generosity of Tūhoe sharing their home lands with others.
Te Kawa is disrupting the norm.	There was a strong voice for the support of and need for disruption from the norm. Submitters acknowledged the Board for what was expressed as innovative, brave, fresh and bold approach – raising principle for collective responsibility and then looking to build infrastructure around those principles. Importantly resetting our place in nature, putting the health of Te Urewera first.
Te Kawa is to be read and understood in its entirety.	A submitter noted the need to understand Te Kawa in its entirety to form a “complete understanding of Te Urewera as a living entity with fundamental core values and principles that are not negotiable, and not just a management plan to be dissected and read only in its isolated parts”.
More connection points with Te Urewera.	One submitter supported having more story-telling options, historical areas – more stops throughout SPR38 to experience quiet parts of Te Urewera. Aim to better enable the connection with Te Urewera, better lake views.
Friends	A number of submitters noted their long association-contribution in Te Urewera and their wish for that contribution to be ongoing and supportive of Te Kawa.

Queries and Comments:

Focus Area	Board Response
Concern that people management for the benefit of the land meant an absence of consideration for land based conservation – restoration effort	Disagree. Land based activities necessarily continue. The reason for and approach to conservation effort now centres more on disciplining excessive lifestyles, then on the notion that increasing land management can accommodate more excess.
Whether there is a need through Te Kawa to proscribe limits on human activity – or to explain how limits will be determined.	Agree – In time. The Board sees standard and policy development as being inclusive whereby limits are determined generally by those whos’ behaviour will be affected by those limits and disciplines.
How will the Wildlife and Dog Control Act be given effect to?	Action – Te Urewera Act provides processes for these, however we have added an intention in Te Kawa to enable the Board to establish any further needful criteria.

Ss18,62,63,70m111,113,120 and Pt3 cl 24 should be considered.	Agree – Consideration of these sections have been added to Section 7. Regard to biological organism control has been added to Section 4.
Concern that unitary annual planning processes could led to narrow perspective and oversight and adhoc delivery approaches that lack a cohesive strategic approach.	Acknowledge concern – Further drafting clarity has been attempted to describe how the planned Stocktake is to establish a baseline understanding of a current state and current impact accounting to establish the foundation for forward focus enabling us to describe how we grow toward our Responsibilities through meeting annualised Prioritised Actions.
Concern for consistency in Part 3 Sch 3 cl8. Does not establish boundaries or limits or deal with the potential conflicts between planned outcomes.	Disagree – Recommend perceiving Te Kawa in its entirety, rather than in isolated parts, this whole perspective guards against operating disparate views. Especially here, principles are law, rather than decorative, they guide cogent, consistent decision making.
How will the new thinking transition while plans and policies are developed?	Acknowledge concern – A short statement has been included to explain how operational delivery is currently occurring; how the DOC – Tūhoe relationship is developing and how new development will take some time to unlearn and learn anew.
Clarity on the designation of the rohe.	Action – Amended drafting and a map of the territory has been included.
Require clarity on the role of the Crown – Crown agencies – Tūhoe hapū	Neutral – In time. The role of the Crown, Crown agencies and Tūhoe hapū are not required by Te Urewera Act to be a part of Te Kawa, nor were signalled at the draft framework stage. These discussions are useful but should occur directly between the parties to clarify and establish such roles.
Recommend clarity on what will be dealt with as operational matters – responsibilities – accountabilities.	Agree – In time.
Tūhoe should encourage itself to be open to commercial opportunity in order to sustain important conservation restoration and obtain a livelihood.	Noted
Strong principle; relevant criteria – what happens next?	Action – i) A review of the infrastructure development necessary from Te Kawa ordering a work programme for standards and policy development. ii) The development of stocktake methodology giving effect to Te Urewera principles with a focus on Responsibilities metrics – then the conduct of the Stocktake. iii) Embedding the TUT-DOC relationship for operational harmony. iv) Resetting the operations team to align with Te Kawa. v) Throughout, improving regular and meaningful involvement of Friends. vi) Locating measures of tangible improvement and developing reporting standards.
Encouraged the Board to think about documenting the harm that has occurred from state approved programmes or RMA permissioning that may have led to an overweighting of pest incursion – poor health.	Noted