



# Working towards an Ecologically Flourishing Waitākere Ranges

**5-Year Plan: April 2023**

*to be reviewed in 2027/2028*



***WRPS acknowledges the particular historical, traditional, cultural and spiritual relationship of mana whenua of the area, namely, Ngati Whatua and Te Kawerau Ā Maki.***

# Vision 2050

## Ecologically Flourishing Waitākere Ranges

A Taonga of Tāmaki Makaurau

The natural ecology of the Waitākere Ranges is respected and managed in perpetuity as a genuine taonga for Aucklanders, and for all New Zealanders

## Vision 2028

There will be a significant increase in awareness, particularly among residents of the WRHA, of the importance and value of the Waitākere Ranges and its preservation and wellbeing, to New Zealand's environmental heritage.

### **WRPS Role:**

WRPS is a leading proponent of an ecologically flourishing Waitākere Ranges, identifying emerging threats and taking action to deliver on the 2050 Vision.

### **Unique Qualities to preserve and build upon:**

- Access to quality pro bono legal, planning and RMA advice
- Respected and listened to by partners and the relevant bodies when we need it
- Our deep connections and resources
- Our role as facilitators and enablers
- Our reputation as credible and dependable

# Key Focus Areas

- 1. Terrestrial Ecological Health**
- 2. Coastal and Marine Health**
- 3. Waterways Health**
- 4. Key Relationships**
- 5. Positive Investment**
- 6. Visitor Management**
- 7. Effective Governance**

# 1 Terrestrial Ecological Health

**Desired Outcome:** Significant threats to the terrestrial ecological health of the Ranges adequately and promptly addressed. The Ranges are ecologically flourishing, safe habitats and provide connectivity for wildlife.

5-Year Objectives	2023/2024 Tasks
To support education and awareness raising of known terrestrial ecological threats to the Ranges; support pest-free and weed control initiatives.	Identify, liaise with and support key groups engaged in addressing threats from weeds and animal pests to biodiversity.
To work directly with Council & Govt to meaningfully progress research and action toward this Objective.	Actively reach out and build strong relationships across various levels within Council, the Biodiversity team, and the WR Local Board to support their efforts in this area.

# 2 Coastal and Marine Health

**Desired Outcome:** The native species and ecosystems of the coastal and marine areas adjacent to the Waitākere Ranges are thriving and protected in perpetuity.

5-Year Objectives	2023/2024 Tasks
To advocate as required for the protection of the ecosystems and wildlife in the coastal and marine areas.	Liaise with WR Local Board to understand their plans and how we can support them.  Carry out advocacy on live issues as they are likely to emerge e.g. marine protected areas, offshore mining and maui dolphins.

# 3 Waterways Health

**Desired Outcome:** Wetlands, lagoons and rivers are restored, protected and swimmable.

5-Year Objectives	2023/2024 Tasks
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<p>To advocate for improvements in the sewerage systems in communities in the Ranges, and reduction of sediment runoff into waterways.</p>	<p>Liaise with WRLB to understand the status and prioritisation of the water-ways in the Ranges and determine how we can best make an impact.</p> <p>Advocate to Council and government to improve and enforce waste water standards and performance.</p> <p>Advocate for, support and encourage the responsible management of public and private water resources and wastewater infrastructure.</p>
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## 4 Key relationships

**Desired Outcome:** Foster a network of key relationships among all potential partners, with the objective of working together to protect the values of the WRHA.

### 4A Engagement with Mana Whenua

**Desired Outcome:** Enhance and maintain the Society’s relationship with mana whenua and respect its guardianship over the Ranges.

5-Year Objectives	2023/2024 Tasks
<p>Where relevant, to support and work with mana whenua to work on shared objectives to preserve and protect the values of the Waitākere Ranges.</p>	<p>Engage with mana whenua, in order to further an ongoing working relationship based on mutual respect and understanding.</p>

### 4B Engagement with local and central government and their agents

**Desired Outcome:** Enhance the Society’s relationship with statutory bodies responsible for the WRHA, working with them, and holding them to account for protecting the WRHA from adverse environmental effects.

5-Year Objectives	2023/2024 Tasks
<p>To work directly with Council &amp; Government to meaningfully progress research and action to further this Objective.</p>	<p>Advocate to support or challenge decisions and policies where necessary and appropriate.</p> <p>Work to investigate and further the means by which this can be achieved, including investigating the establishment of a formal network of relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Strengthen WRPS advocacy role in our response to new or amended plans or policies.</p> <p>Form or strengthen relationships with relevant elected representatives.</p>

## 4C Engagement with volunteer sector organisations

**Desired Outcome:** WRPS works together synergistically with relevant environmental organisations and groups toward the common objective of promoting and protecting the values of the Ranges.

5-Year Objectives	2023/2024 Tasks
To strengthen WRPS relationships with environmental organisations with the common agenda of protection of the values of the WRHA.	Identify the relevant environmental organisations and groups, build key relationships, establish networks, and identify feedback channels.  Liaise with the Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance to understand who the pest control and restoration groups are and how we can support them.  Attend the Combined Residents and Ratepayers group meetings.

## 4D Engagement with Community

**Desired Outcome** Residents and visitors understand, respect and take steps to safeguard the values of the WRHA.

5-Year Objectives	2023/2024 Tasks
To support initiatives aimed at engaging the wider community public about the values of the WRHA.	Promote increased Waitākere Ranges signage, and the provision of better public information about the area.

## 5 Positive Investment

**Desired Outcome:** All development, infrastructure and investment in the Ranges complies with the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008, and aligns with its spirit and intent.

5-Year Objectives	2023/2024 Tasks
To understand the range of local, national and international instruments available to recognise and preserve the values of the Ranges.	Keep abreast of the legislative context.

<p>To be a lead stakeholder for the Ranges in all material development matters relevant to the Ranges.</p> <p>To take a lead role in assessing and supporting or opposing as appropriate all significant or detrimental development proposals in the Ranges.</p>	<p>Liaise with relevant organisations and networks and the Local Board to (i) stay on top of key activities that may not comply with the spirit and intent of the Act, and (ii) to provide representation and advocacy for the Ranges.</p>
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## 6 Visitor Management

**Desired Outcome** Visitors to the Ranges are managed effectively for the long-term health of the Ranges.

5-Year Objectives	2023/2024 Tasks
<p>Promote a quality community-led visitor management strategy for the Ranges.</p>	<p>Work with relevant stakeholders to further the development and adoption of an effective visitor management plan.</p>
<p>Endeavour to ensure that parks management and infrastructure are adequate to manage the effects of visitors to the Ranges.</p>	<p>Maintain a watching brief, and where required, advocate on issues of concern relating to parks management.</p>

## 7 Effective Governance

### Desired Outcome

WRPS upholds principles of good governance, achieves its stated objectives and ensures that governance and operational risks are managed.

<b>5-Year Objectives</b>	<b>2023/2024 Tasks</b>
<p>To ensure we have the people, skills and resources to achieve our tasks as well as probity and governance requirements in working towards our Vision 2050.</p>	<p>Identify any skills or resources that WRPS needs in order to carry out the work it undertakes and take action to address any shortfalls.</p> <p>Establish, and regularly review and update, a set of committee priorities.</p> <p>Review the WRPS performance indicators as reported to Charities Services.</p> <p>Review and revise WRPS Rules to ensure compliance with the new Incorporated Societies Act, and that the Rules support WRPS operations effectively.</p>