

Kāpiti Coast Choosing Futures

Community Outcomes

Te Horo Local Outcomes

Te Horo is a peaceful rural and coastal community with a unique environment stretching from the Tararua Ranges to the sea.

Te Horo has traditionally served as a 'food basket' for harvesting and gathering from sea, river, streams, land and bush, which must be preserved for future generations.

Introduction

The *Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Future-Community Outcomes* process was initiated between 2003-04 and reviewed in 2008-09, aiming to represent community aspirations for the District. Nine other Local Outcomes Statements, similar to this Te Horo one, have been developed by and for the various communities within the District.

The *Kāpiti Choosing Futures: – Community Outcomes* provides the umbrella document which covers environment, growth management, protection of character, access, efficient use of resources, increasing local employment choices, creating a place that works for young people, and general enjoyment of what the Kāpiti Coast has to offer. This Te Horo Local Outcomes statement documents the specific issues for Te Horo that arise under the broader District outcomes.

Community Outcomes acknowledge the particular character of the Te Horo community and the vision it has and what the predominant themes and issues are. Community Outcomes researches and records the focus for Te Horo providing future guidance for what is important to the people who live and work there.

Rural Lands

From the Taranua Ranges to the sea, the Te Horo and Hautere area has a strong traditional focus on horticulture, along with dairying and pastoral farming. The high quality soils in the area offer significant potential for economic growth of the rural productive sector.

The Te Horo area is now becoming known for its market gardening, small industries such as berry, olive and lavender production as well as life-style properties.

There are around 100 to 200 people employed in the Te Horo area. There is no definitive centre or concentrated cluster of economic activity within the area; rather a small number of convenience, commercial and industrial activities spread over a wide area (*Kāpiti Employment Areas Study 2011*, p16).

Te Horo Beach

The Te Horo beach area is made up of a stone beach backed by a succession of low stone fore dunes, sand flats and back dunes, with scrubland behind.

The stone beach is unique and in contrast to the sand beaches throughout the rest of the District. The stones extend south from the Ōtaki River, forming a bank in front of the Te Horo Beach settlement.

Te Horo also has some of the best back dune wetlands in the District including the Te Hapua Wetland complex. These wetlands are recognised ecological features in the District Plan.

Te Horo Beach settlement is bounded geographically by the Mangaone Stream on its northern boundary, the coast to the west and an outstanding

dunescape in the south and east. The village is accessed by a single road running alongside the Mangaone Stream. There has been considerable development around Te Horo Beach, especially along the coast both north and south of the settlement. Access to the beach is an issue, as is harvesting of stones and driftwood from the beach.

The Te Horo Local Outcomes have been developed from existing information and documents and input from the community. This includes:

- Kapiti Coast Coastal Strategy 2006
- Greater Ōtaki Vision 2007
- Kapiti Coast Development Management Strategy 2007
- *Changing Faces of Te Horo* – a record of an exhibition at the Ōtaki Museum October 2009 published by the Ōtaki Heritage Bank Preservation Trust.
- *Te Horo School A Centennial Mosaic 1893 to 1993* commissioned by the Te Horo School Centennial Jubilee Committee
- Input from the Te Horo School, Friends of Te Horo Beach, Katihiku Marae and from the wider community (through community workshops).

This outcomes document includes the seven District wide outcomes that are relevant to the Te Horo area and additional outcomes specifically for Te Horo that have been drawn from the above information.

Districtwide Outcome 1: There are healthy natural systems which people can enjoy

This outcome contains a number of detailed outcomes relevant to Te Horo:

Key natural areas shape the fundamental form and quality of the District's settlements

The coast in its entirety is recognised as:

- a complex system that is affected by actions along its length;
- being central to the local culture and lifestyle;
- place that is valued for its natural and wild feel;
- being the marine edge, the front dunes and dune wetlands; and that is supported by:
 - retaining the wild natural character and the health of the coastal ecosystems as a first priority in any decisions;
 - retaining dune lands and wetlands in subdivision design and development;
 - avoiding any further new greenfields subdivision on the front dunes and associated wetlands.

There are three regional public open space areas along the coast at:

- Queen Elizabeth Regional Park;
- Waikanae Estuary; and
- in the vicinity of Te Horo Beach and Ōtaki Beach, which are managed in a way that:
 - recognises they are important areas for recreation; and
 - integrates the recreational use with the coastal and estuarine character and value.

The Waikanae and Ōtaki Rivers (and their associated streams) are recognised as:

- river corridors of special importance to iwi and the wider community; and this is supported by:
- ensuring use of their water and development along their edges is consistent with maintaining their health and restoring habitat; and
- restoration programmes.

The District's streams become major natural features in all settled areas.

Kāpiti Coast becomes nationally famous for an extensive walkway, cycle and bridleway system that includes the following features:

- good access to the Tararua Ranges;
- a coastal walkway and cycleway from Paekākāriki to Ōtaki and north;
- relatively easy 'middle height' access along the coastal escarpment and lower hills;
- extensive linkages through built up areas to key natural features such as the rivers and areas of bush;
- good local linkages to schools and centres;
- increased areas for dog walking.

The quality of the District's streams and rivers is improved especially:

- improving Ōtaki River water quality and habitat, in accordance with the Iwi Management Plan for the river;
- revegetating the Waikanae River corridor, and building healthier in-river, riparian edge and estuary habitats.

Further local outcomes for Te Horo

Restoration of waterways and wetlands

- Local waterways and wetlands are restored and maintained, particularly the Mangaone Stream;
- Water quality is improved by minimising the impact of cattle and other activities on the streams, in particular Mangaone Stream; this could include education of landowners to fence off and plant riparian areas and assist the community with riparian planting;
- Mary Crest native trees and forest are valued;
- Local groups undertaking environmental restoration projects will be assisted and encouraged when possible.

Flooding

- Katihiku Marae is protected from flooding from the Ōtaki River.
- Street flooding is controlled by regular maintenance of growth and clearing of culverts for areas such as Te Horo Beach Road and the Mangaone Stream around Walkers Farm and past the Flagon Bridge, Nicholas Street, Rodney Avenue, Kitchener/Gawler Streets, Sylvia Way, School Road and Station Road.

Pesticides and organics

- The use of pesticide and herbicide is reduced and organic farming methods are promoted.
- Where pesticides and herbicides are used, application through use of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques is encouraged.

Valuing the natural environment

- The Mangaone Stream is a valued feature of the area.
- The wild character and natural 'unformed' nature of the beach settlement and dunes is retained.
- Education options, including improved signage, is investigated to improve residents' and visitors' understanding of sensitive ecosystems, and to inform them of beach rules (eg in relation to fires on the beach, the removal of stones or driftwood, vehicles, camping).
- Signage is kept to a minimum, but effectively conveys the need to respect the environment.
- Council bylaws are enforced, in particular the Beach Bylaw and Freedom Camping Policy.
- Night darkness is maintained by avoiding light pollution.

Further Local Outcomes for Te Horo

Development

- The rural and the low density character of the area is retained with small settlements surrounded by rural productive land.
- Rural lifestyle development is undertaken in a way that protects and maintains natural systems and landforms.
- The cumulative impact of new development does not change the character of very low density built environment.

Heritage

Historic areas in Te Horo are recognised and protected, for example the cobble beach road along Rodney Avenue and other paths, bridges, land marks and buildings.

Transport and Access

Safe environments for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and motorists are maintained in the settlements for example by:

- lowering the speed limit to 50km from the corner of Pukenamu Road and Te Horo Beach Road;
- introducing speed calming measures coming into Te Horo Beach with an entrance way statement;
- decreasing the speed of vehicles past Te Horo School;
- introducing safety improvements at the corner of School Road, Cross Road and Blackburne Road, and Te Horo Beach Road and Rodney Avenue;
- preventing the damaging impact of vehicles on the beach and dunes;

- prohibiting driving on the beach in areas in front of houses except for emergency vehicles and authorised restoration or beach maintenance work.
- permitting four wheel vehicles driving on the foreshore between the official beach access points at the southern end of Rodney Ave down to Olliver Grove, North Waikanae.
- Investigating the extension of the roading seal out to the end of Mangaone North Road.

The rural feel of the roads is retained with no footpaths or curb and channel, and clear berms for the safety of horse riders, pedestrian and dog walkers and agricultural equipment.

Alternative emergency access is investigated for use in a civil emergency such as flooding, for example a cycle track which could be used for emergency vehicles.

Access to the beach is maintained for pedestrians and cyclists.

Districtwide Outcome 4: The community makes wise use of local resources and people have the ability to act in a sustainable way on a day to day basis

The productive potential of Kāpiti Coast rural lands for food, fibre and other agricultural products is preserved over time. Particular regard should be had for the protection of soils and potential of the Hāutere, Te Horo and Ōtaki hinterlands.

There are more opportunities for innovative design of subdivisions, building and infrastructure to reduce energy and resource use.

Infrastructure is designed and managed to meet the community's basic needs and to increase people's ability to act sustainably and take responsibility for the effects of their actions, including:

- increased exploration of local energy supply, especially wind energy and hydro-electric supply;
- increased focus on people being able to use on-site and household systems, especially via roof water tanks to conserve water;
- reticulated water and wastewater systems currently in use are efficient and do not waste water.

People have good access to information, networks and resources that enable them to:

- increase the energy and water efficiency of their homes;
- grow their own food, either on their own sections or on communally owned land.

The local resource available to people to harvest is enhanced, including:

- having land for communal gardens;
- protecting seafood and freshwater food resources;
- promoting seed saving;
- planting heritage and other trees and edible plants in public spaces.

The community fully and transparently explores the possible benefits, impacts and effects of G.E. free and/or organic production methods.

Districtwide Outcome: 5 There is increased choice to work locally

It is easy to establish value added economic activity, especially that linked with food production and local manufacturing, in the District.

The local labour force has employment opportunities in an appropriate mix of skilled and unskilled work, as much as possible within the District.

Children and young people can see their career path, and can as much as possible gain the necessary skills and employment within the District.

Further Local Outcomes for Te Horo

The full potential of the rural area to grow and promote food and other products and provide local employment is realised and the water supply is available to support this.

Rural broadband (wireless) connectivity is delivered.

Districtwide Outcome 7: The District has a strong, healthy, safe and involved community

The District's main public places, including beaches, are safe, attractive and accessible to everyone in the community, including the elderly, families and people with disabilities.

There is a greater range of housing options available in the District catering for a variety of social needs including:

- Community / social housing;
- Emergency housing; and
- Papakainga housing.

There are extensive linkages within the District in addition to State Highway 1, including:

- crossing over the Waikanae River;
- an extensive walkway, bridleway and cycleway system;
- good quality footpaths which are safe for people to use, particularly older people.

There is efficient and economical public transport for people to get to venues, services, amenities and entertainment, including:

- access out of Ōtaki at all times;
- good bus connections from the train at night;
- passenger rail services through to Ōtaki.

Further Local Outcomes for Te Horo

Te Horo Hall is improved and maintained as a community meeting place.

The Council advocates with Greater Wellington Regional Council for improved public transport services linking Te Horo to Ōtaki and Waikanae especially for the elderly e.g. access to the Community Health Shuttle.

Community connections between Te Horo Beach and Te Horo are encouraged through sharing of information, community activities.

The community is involved in civil defence planning.

Katihiku Marae

- Papakainga housing made easier to achieve on Māori land.
- Swap marginal land for productive land.
- Allow raising the height of Katihiku Marae, or move it to higher ground.
- Protect waahi tapu in the area.
- Investigate more direct access to Katihiku Marae.