

REGENERATING TE PUHINUI: APPROACH AND OUTCOMES THAT GIVE EFFECT TO TE MANA O TE WAI

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BACKGROUND

The Manukau Framework Plan sets out the approach for how Eke Panuku Development Auckland (Auckland Council-controlled urban regeneration organisation) and its partners will transform Manukau over 20 to 25 years, including significant intensification. The 'Transform Manukau' area sits within te Puhinui catchment, with te Puhinui awa being the central feature of wai, from the hills of Tōtara Park to the Manukau harbour.

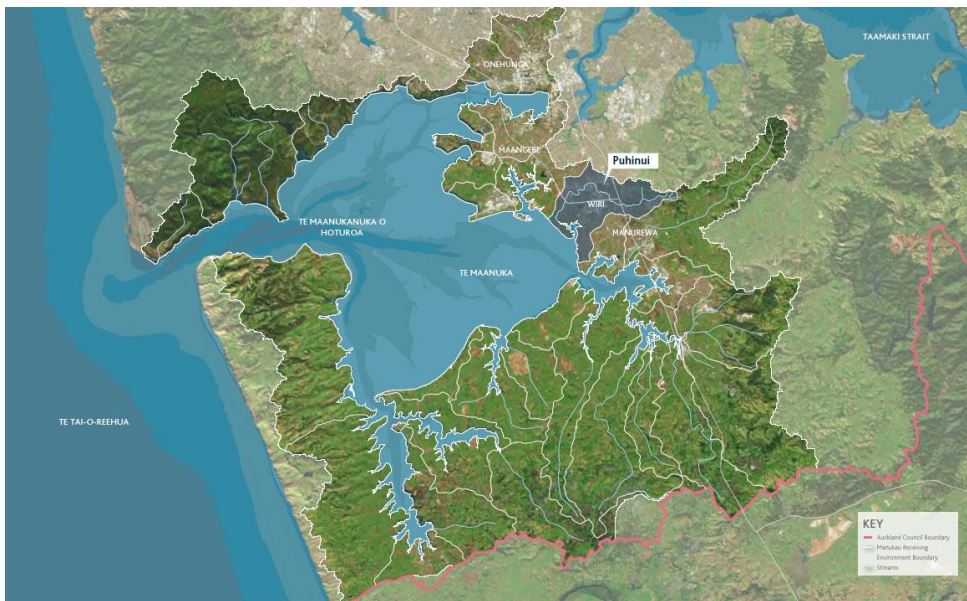


Figure 1: Te Puhinui catchment

Key move one in the Manukau Framework Plan is "realising the potential of the Puhinui Stream: enhancing the Puhinui Stream corridor and creating a source of community pride, activity, movement and interaction" with the Puhinui awa becoming a high-amenity neighbourhood link, recreational open space and a focus for social interaction, as well as an exemplar project for ecological, social, cultural and economic transformation.

Using Auckland's growth to protect and enhance the environment is a key direction in the Auckland Plan 2050. The Auckland Plan 2050 sets out reducing environmental degradation as one of Auckland's three key challenges.

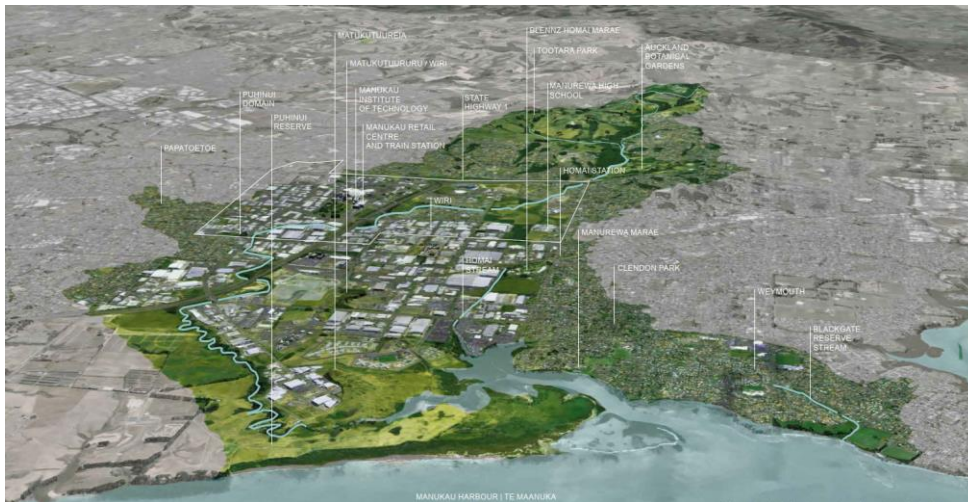


Figure 2: Key features in Te Puhinui catchment

The requirements of Te Mana/Mauri o te Wai and stronger ties with our iwi partners has necessitated a holistic view of stormwater management. Mātauranga Māori and Te Ao Māori principles require improved integration into stormwater planning and development to ensure our obligations under Essential Freshwaters and Te Mana/Mauri o te Wai are enabled – the health and wellbeing of the awa.

A close partnership with Mana Whenua was established from the outset of the project. This resulted in a broader 'mai i ngaa maunga ki te moana' (whole of catchment) approach, and a focus on the holistic 'ora' (health) of te Puhinui.

With the "health and wellbeing of freshwaters" incorporated into freshwater policy as the top priority in the hierarchy of obligations, this requires a shift in how we manage stormwater towards health, quality, sustainability, and long-term resilience of our freshwaters and receiving environments, rather than a primary focus being on conveyance of flood waters. There is an onus on the industry to provide more certainty that these outcomes will be achieved, and that promoted benefits are realised for our future generations.

When Te Mana o te Wai is given effect, te Puhinui can sustain the full range of environmental, social, cultural and economic values that can be delivered through the collaborative approach outlined here.

The large-scale regeneration across Te Puhinui catchment offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to deliver substantial stormwater related benefits to the Taiao (nature), Whenua (Place) and Tangata (People).

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APPROACH

To account for the changing landscape of stormwater management in Aotearoa necessitated by Te Mana/Mauri o te Wai, and the needs of te Puhinui awa, a new approach has been adopted for te Puhinui catchment. Key features of the approach included:

1. A multi-agency Governance approach
2. Cross-organisational and mana whenua-led planning
3. Developing and signing a charter that outlines a shared commitment by a range of partners across council, Waiohua iwi, local boards, Crown agencies and community organisations affirming the political and community commitment and will to realise the regeneration of Te Puhinui.
4. A mana whenua-gifted framework to guide planning
5. A wide-ranging, place-led te Puhinui Regeneration strategy
6. A nested Stormwater Management Guideline.

Governance

Eke Panuku recognised early both the risk and potential opportunity with the wide range of organisations and objectives in and around Te Puhinui awa.

Eke Panuku invested first and foremost in developing strong relationships and trust with the local Waiohua iwi (Ngaati Te Ata, Ngaati Tamaoho and Te Ākitai o Waiohua).

Following this they established a Programme Steering Group. Decision making within the catchment is spread across a broad range of crown, council and iwi organizations. To ensure alignment and synergy across a range of work programmes, the steering group supports collective decision making and advocacy through the project life. The group consists of council, Waiohua iwi, local boards and Crown agencies.

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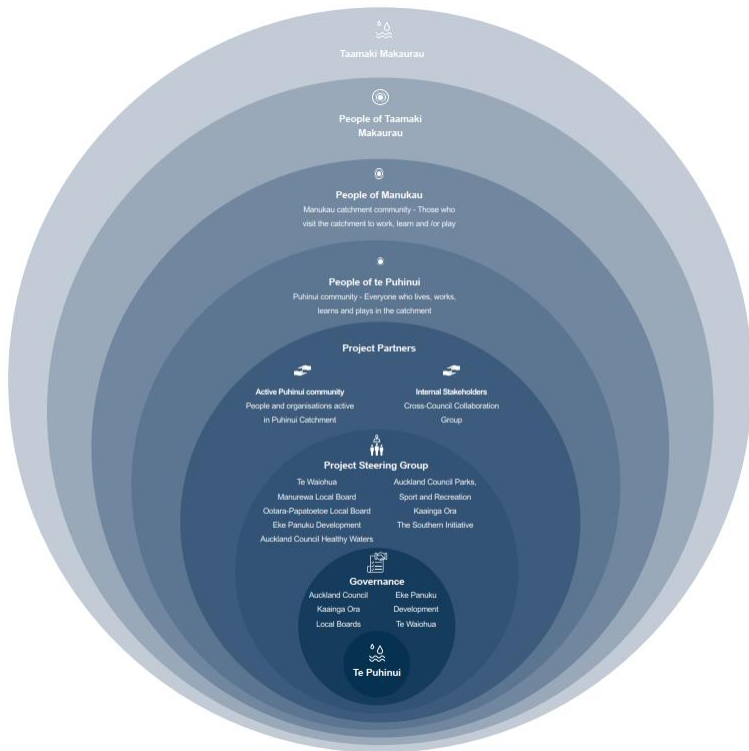


Figure 3: Role of Governance and relationship with project partners and the wider community

Cross-organisational and mana whenua-led planning

To ensure ongoing alignment through the creation and implementation of the strategy, a second tier of organisational collaboration was required. The project team meet fortnightly with a Waiohau working group and have ongoing collaboration with broader council and community entities through a cross-council collaboration and 'Empowered Communities' working group.

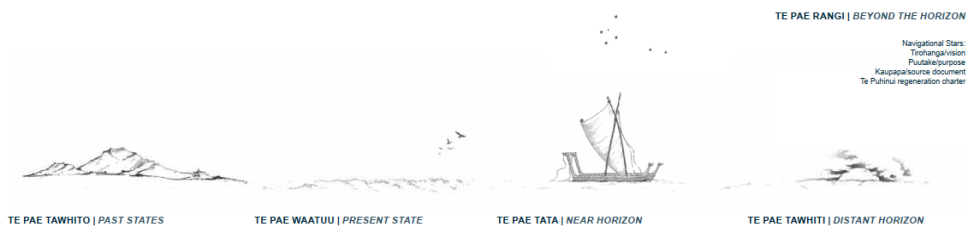
Te Whai Oranga – Whakapapa Centered Approach

Te Whai Oranga was developed with mana whenua and the project team as a way to frame the well-being of te Puhinui and support the philosophy of putting the water first. This recognises that well-being of te Puhinui is multi-dimensional and involves weaving multiple interrelated threads.

Figure 4: Te Whai Oranga



Multiple horizons were used to set vision and values – thinking seven generations ahead - informing strategic initiatives and infrastructure planning, recognising it would take time to restore te mana/mauri o te wai.



Te Puhinui Regeneration Strategy

Te Rautaki oo te Whakaoratangi i te Puhinui / Te Puhinui Regeneration Strategy sets out a clear purpose and vision as well as core values, principles and responsibilities for all future work in Te Puhinui. It also identifies strategic initiatives, design guidelines and a Stormwater Conference & Expo 2022

programme of works for future projects that contribute to Te Whakaoratanga i Te Puhinui, the regeneration of Te Puhinui. These respond directly to the unique character of Te Puhinui, its inherent challenges and opportunities, alongside current issues related to population growth, urban development, climate adaptation, and building the capacity and capability of the community.

Te Puhinui Regeneration Strategy provides frameworks and methods that aim to shift Te Puhinui from its current state to realise its full potential.

Te Whakaoranga o te Puhinui Charter/ Te Puhinui Regeneration Charter

With the direction of Waiohūa iwi, project partners captured their commitment for the collaborative way of working to inform investment in the catchment through signing Te Puhinui Regeneration Charter. The Charter captures the underpinning principles and resulting responsibilities. It also enables Te Waiohūa iwi to fulfill their role as kaitiaki for te Puhinui catchment.

Te Puhinui Stormwater Management Guideline

The Stormwater Management Guideline recognises that large-scale regeneration in the Transform Manukau Area offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to deliver substantial freshwater and stormwater related benefits.

The Stormwater Management Guideline was nested within te Puhinui Regeneration Strategy, recognising the deep-dive required into stormwater management, and the influence it has on Te Puhinui awa. It was prepared within the framework of Te Whakaoratanga Te Puhinui (Te Puhinui Regeneration Charter), as well as the national context of Te Mana o Te Wai – putting the water first.

The Stormwater Guideline captures key information including water quality modelling, water course ecological and erosion data, infrastructure and flood modelling. It integrated catchment specific technical studies on water quality device retrofitting, and stream bank erosion analysis. Guidance is provided to organisations, agencies and developers in a stormwater management framework that identifies;

- Issues/purpose (kaupapa)
- Guidance (tikanga)
- Strategic interventions and initiatives (mahi)
- Strategic alignment (rautaki)
- Measuring success (Mehua putanga)

on stormwater management requirements, and the key strategic interventions and initiatives necessary to give effect to te mana o te wai in te Puhinui, including stream and stream corridor public reserve enhancement, pond to wetland conversions and strategic new water quality devices. Guidance has also been developed with a focus on affordability of infrastructure implemented over its lifespan, and its resilience and sustainability associated with future changes in climate.

The Stormwater Guideline is presented as a web-based storymap, enhancing the accessibility and interrogation of information, and enabling it to be readily updated as improved knowledge becomes available, as outcomes deliver change, or as more detailed developmental plans are advanced. The Stormwater Management Guideline will inform

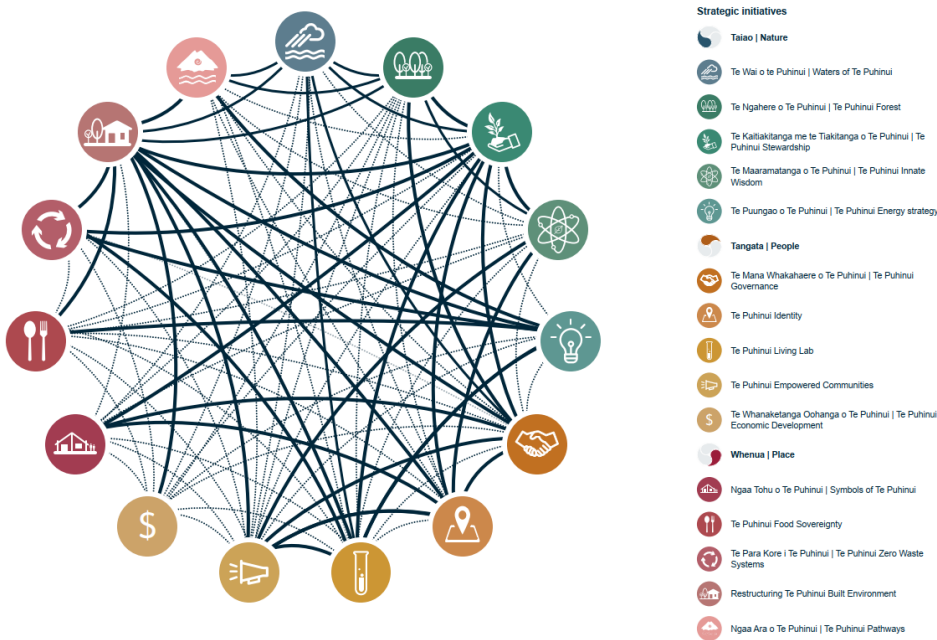
and guide the development of more detailed Stormwater Management Plans that cover each area to be redeveloped over the coming decades.

OUTCOMES

By understanding how stormwater influences te Puhinui awa, and its relationship with tangata (people), taio (nature) and whenua (place), and critically the relationship to other objectives, aspirations and projects across the catchment, strategic initiatives and interventions have been identified that support restoring Te Mana o te Wai.

The relationship between the strategic initiatives is described in Figure 5, representing the strong interconnectedness between outcomes sought by different organisations.

Figure 5: Strategic Initiative Relationships



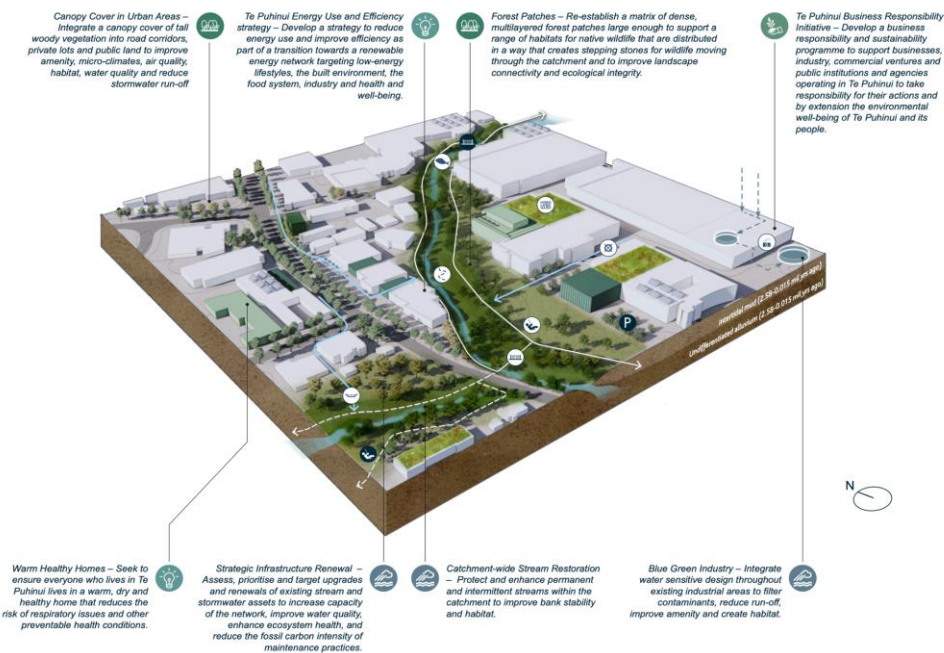
Stormwater strategic initiatives that weave through the wider regeneration strategy include:

1. Te Wai o te Puhinui – whole-of-catchment integrated design and management outlined in the Stormwater Management Guideline, including strategic interventions such as stream restoration, daylighting and naturalising overland flowpaths, restoring and enhancing floodplains, and retrofitting water quality infrastructure.
2. Te Puhinui Stewardship – support the people of Te Puhinui to play an active role in the care of the awa.

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3. Te Puhinui Living Lab – including practical on the ground monitoring and learning opportunities on water quality, informed by a monitoring and evaluation framework.
4. Te Puhinui Empowered Communities – place-based education and activation to raise awareness and empower participation in regeneration of Te Puhinui awa – both communities and businesses.
5. Restructuring Te Puhinui Built Environment – reconnecting people with water, including through water sensitive design, informed by the Stormwater Management Guideline. Enable place-making through implementation of green infrastructure and treatment train approaches to stormwater management to achieve multiple benefits.

Figure 6: Example te Puhinui strategic initiatives



This new way of working, including authentic partnership with iwi and other organisations has enabled the creation of a strategy that is truly integrated, and a stormwater management guideline that supports the realization of Te Mana o te Wai. Working in partnership to establish the underpinning charter and resulting cross-organisational work programme has resulted in cross-agency buy-in and critical funding and project alignment. This will enable the effective retrofitting of strategic green infrastructure across the catchment, with many projects already underway. This regenerative process recognises the long-term benefits provided through a close partnership with mana whenua from the outset of a project. As kaitiaki to this awa, their maatauranga will ensure that our investments today, and actions over time, will guide the return of ora (health) to the tangata, whenua and taiao of te Puhinui.

KEYWORDS

Stormwater, mātauranga, collaboration, te mana o te wai, regeneration, indigenous design