

# Te Auaunga Awa (Oakley Creek)

He Rautaki Puna Ora o Te Auaunga

Vision and Restoration Strategy for  
the Upper Catchment



Long Term Strategy to 2040 and  
Implementation Plan 2016-2019

June 2016

**Puketāpapa  
Local Board**



Auckland Council



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*Bridge on the Oakley Creek, Mina Cox c 1883*

# 1 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

## 1.1 Introduction

Te Auaunga Awa (Oakley Creek) is the longest urban awa in the Auckland isthmus, stretching some 15 km as it flows from the north eastern slopes of the Hillsborough ridge through a series of open parks and reserves, and north into the Waitematā Harbour.

Pre-European settlement, the awa was a vibrant ecosystem encompassing wetlands, swamps and plentiful vegetation. Today, the catchment is fully urbanised, and the awa itself extensively modified, channelled and polluted leaving the ecology and water quality of the system significantly degraded with downstream effects impacting the water quality of the Waitematā Harbour.



The Auckland Council Stormwater initiative, the Te Auaunga Awa: Walmsley and Underwood Reserves Project, revealed the lack of a higher strategy covering the catchment of Te Auaunga Awa. This prompted the Puketāpapa Local Board (PLB) to initiate a strategic planning process for the upper catchment, mandated through earlier public consultation for the Local Board Plan. The resulting strategy (this document) has been developed through a series of hui during 2015-2016, in partnership with the following mana whenua from the iwi/hapu of Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau:

- Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki
- Ngāti Tamaoho
- Ngāti Te Ata-Waiohua

- Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei
- Te Akitai-Waiohua
- Te Kawerau a-Maki

As kaitiaki mana whenua, have inherent responsibilities for the guardianship of the awa, and its on-going health, mana and protection for its future.

The Puketāpapa Local Board aims to improve the environmental and recreational values of the awa. It also has landowner responsibilities for the parks and reserves, through which many sections of the upper catchment of the awa run. The Local Board acknowledges mana whenua as kaitiaki (*caretakers*) and seeks through the partnership to express the values and aspirations in the context of kaitiakitanga.

The development of this plan has been supported and facilitated by Auckland Council's Te Waka Angamua, Local Board Services and the Sustainable Catchments team of Environmental Services. The plan now represents the combined aspirations and agreed points of view of mana whenua and the Puketāpapa Local Board.

This strategy embraces, recognises and celebrates the local community and its aspirations and work for the health of the awa. As a living document, this plan is open to the engagement and ideas of the local community as critical contributors to the future of Te Auaunga Awa.

## 1.2 Role of Auckland Plan and Other Documents

There are many policies, regulations and opportunities to support action for improving water quality in awa like Te Auaunga including: the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM); the Auckland Council Unitary Plan and the Auckland Plan; planned commitments by Watercare and Auckland Council's Stormwater Unit (such as the Te Auaunga: Walmsley and Underwood Reserves Project); and the resolution and commitment of many other partner organisations.

The NPSFM sets national bottom lines to be met by 2030 for two compulsory values in fresh water systems – ecosystem health and human health for recreation – and minimum acceptable states for other national values. Therefore, Auckland Council is compelled by law to respond to fresh water quality issues where these do not meet the minimum requirements as set by the NPSFM. Where water quality is below national bottom lines, it will need to be improved to at least the minimum standards over time. The NPSFM acknowledges iwi and community values by recognising the

range of iwi and community interests in fresh water, including environmental, social, economic and cultural values.

Firmly linked to this strategy is the Puketāpapa Local Board Plan (2014) which specifically discusses Te Auaunga, describing its restoration as a high priority for attention and detailing goals and key initiatives that will achieve this. The plan describes the desire of the Board to have partnerships with mana whenua as kaitiaki to ensure the landscape is treasured and sustained, and that waterways are restored to greater health and sustainability. The plan also outlines how the Local Board wishes to work with community groups and schools in restoration projects.

This document is intended to promote all of these outcomes and objectives throughout Auckland Council across a range of departments and Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs) to advocate for the integration of planning, management and operations relating to the awa and its catchment. Any new projects and development in the catchment should be aligned with the strategy and vision developed here.

### 1.3 Role of this Document

In order to restore the upper reaches of Te Auaunga, we need a collaborative and achievable strategy – one that brings everyone together under a shared vision. This document sets out strategy and objectives to achieve this, and provides outcomes against which we can measure progress.

The plan is intended as a living and evolving document, open to change as we explore and learn about our awa. It is anticipated that the strategy may eventually be expanded to include the lower catchment in consultation with the Whau and Albert-Eden Local Boards. This would enhance the good work that has already occurred in the lower catchment.

The plan has four parts:

**Part A provides the background and context** of our work for the awa.

**Part B presents the high level vision, mission, values and core themes** of our work. These provide broad, long term guidance for our work and are unlikely to change over the next decade.

**Part C is our implementation strategy** and it describes our three-year outcomes and the strategies needed to achieve these. It is intended that Part C will be regularly reviewed and refreshed.

**Part D is our operational guidelines** which outline how we intend to work together to implement our strategy.

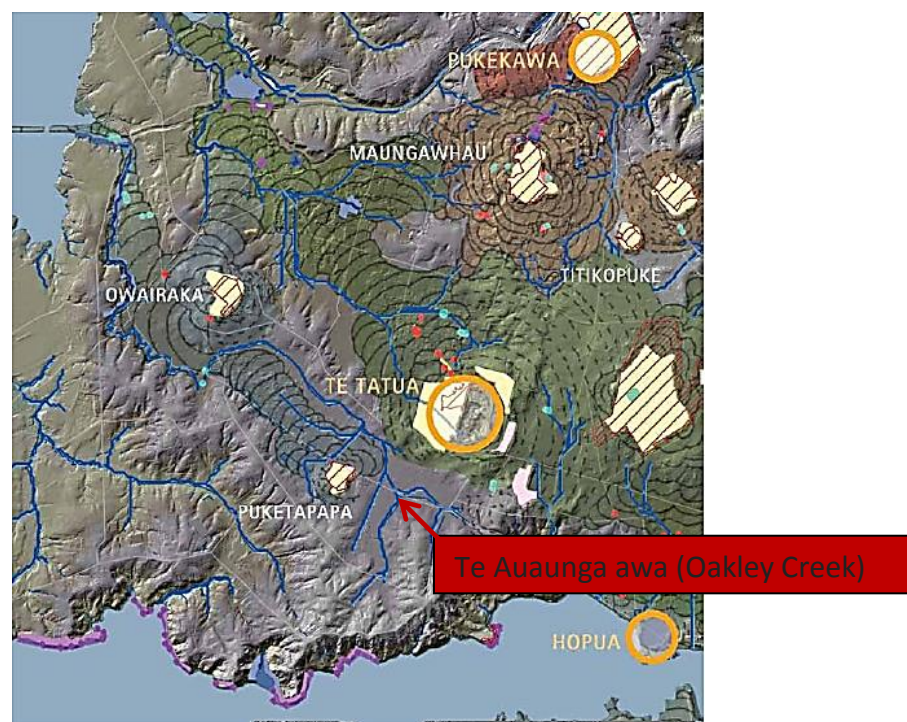
Each year we will detail priority actions for every goal in our implementation strategy. The actions will be selected for their best fit with our strategy and for their potential to achieve our goals. These actions make up our **annual work plan**.

## 1.4 Cultural Overview

### Māori cultural lens - provided by mana whenua

Tāmaki Makaurau is an ancient name for the Auckland Isthmus. The place was known well by the great Polynesian navigators who settled Aotearoa over a thousand years ago bringing new seeds, plants, animals and migrants. Later, migrants found Tāmaki Makaurau heavily populated; some stayed and married into local communities while others continued south in search of new lands. With excellent gardening soils, a wide variety of fish stocks, and natural fortifications provided by a multitude of volcanic cones, Tāmaki Makaurau could have been considered the centre of Māori civilisation in Aotearoa.

The first arrivals to Tāmaki Makaurau included Toi, the legendary Polynesian explorer. Descendants of later, multiple arrivals went on to populate the Tāmaki Makaurau area, with some moving on further afield.





Some of the earliest known tribes from this time were Ngāriki, Ngā Iwi, and Ngā Oho. Nearly all iwi of modern Auckland may claim descent from these original tribes. But while acknowledging this kinship, iwi continue to actively practice their own mana motuhake (*autonomy*) within their tribal rohe (*areas*).

Through the leadership of Hua Kaiwaka in the 16th century, the various tribes of Tāmaki Makaurau were united under the confederation known as Te Waiohua. Under his reign, Tāmaki Makaurau saw an unprecedented period of peace and prosperity that led to the saying 'Te pai me te whai rawa o Tāmaki : The wealth and prosperity of Tāmaki '.

Hua Kaiwaka's grandson Kiwi Tāmaki reigned supreme throughout Tāmaki Makaurau in the 18th century. Many forays were made by other iwi to challenge the Te Waiohua chief. One of those challenges was from Ngāti Whatua. The origins of Ngāti Whatua started in the Far North and over time migrated south towards Kaipara. Battles were fought between the two in Kaipara and Tāmaki Makaurau resulting in key strategic marriages and alliance, the evidence of which can be seen today.

## **Te Auaunga**

Te Auaunga is a significant awa in the west of the Tāmaki Isthmus, flowing from between Te Tātua a Riukiuta (*Three Kings Mountain*) and Puketāpapa (*Mount Roskill*) in the south, to Te Wai-o-te-Matā in the north west. Te Auaunga means swirling waters or whirlpool. The awa is a site of great cultural significance to Māori, who are connected to the waterway. Its waters weave together a vast cultural landscape of diverse sites including mahinga kai, pā taua, papakāinga , wāhi nohoanga and wāhi tapu.

Prior to the despoliation and urbanisation of its catchment, Te Auaunga was a very different river than it is today. Traditional kōrero recall that it was navigable for several miles inland, allowing access to the papakāinga and pā taua of the interior. It is said that Te Auaunga was also important as a food and material resource, with stocks of tuna and īnanga supplying the nearby papakāinga and further afield. Moreover, the awa provided habitat for native plants, birds and fish, building and weaving materials such as raupō and harakeke, and rongoā and dyes. The tūpuna forebears were experts at the sustainable use of the resources of this awa. There are numerous cultural heritage sites along the banks of Te Auaunga that are testament to these stories.

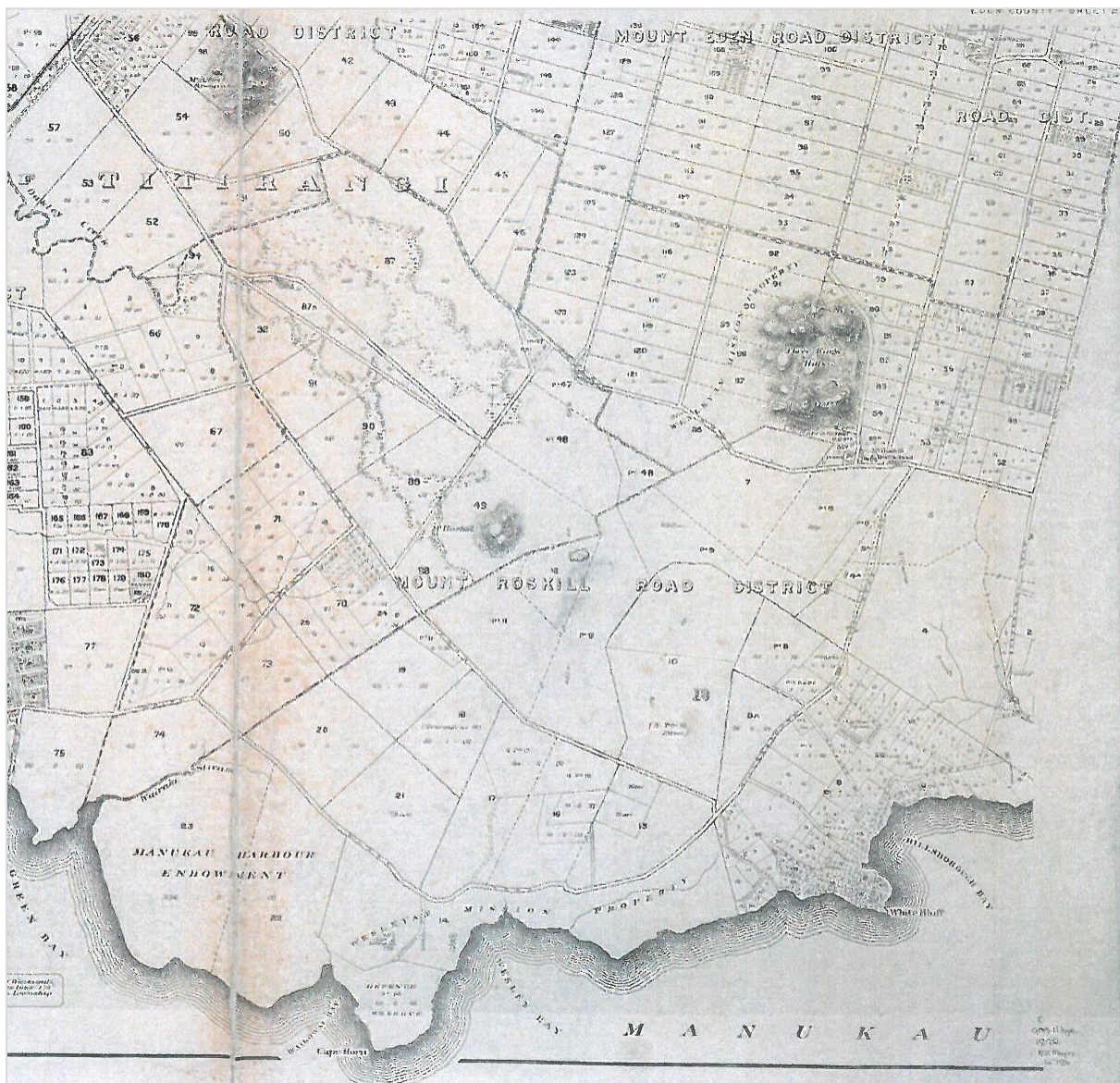
Te Wai-inu-roa-a-Rakataura (the long drink of Rakataura – Rakataura also known as Hape), (Te Puke Tāpapakanga-aHape – at Ihumātao) was a collection of wetlands that lay within the catchment of Te Auaunga. They are likely to have been prized for their fish as well as water-fowl, building materials, and rongoa and as a freshwater spring of high quality. Te Wai-inu-roa-a-Rakataura wetland was also a wāhi tapu that had several sites of spiritual significance within it.

Iwi believe that each waterway carries its own mauri. Mauri is crucial for Māori. A water body with a healthy mauri will sustain healthy ecosystems, support cultural uses and mahinga kai (*gardens*), and be a source of pride and identity to mana whenua.

The protection of natural resources remains one of the most important responsibilities of respective iwi as kaitiaki. However, modifications to waterways and their catchment areas, land confiscation, de-population, and other consequences of colonisation have severely limited the ability to exercise their kaitiakitanga over these taonga. Tūpuna were unable to reclaim their ancestral lands and waters but Māori connection with them did not cease. Māori continue as tangata whenua and kaitiaki of these places which remain an integral part of their identity and a vital part of their story as a people.



## The 1800s to today



1892

During the 1840s land in the Te Auaunga catchment was taken or acquired by early settlers to the area. Scrub and remaining forest areas were cleared to make way for farms and small holdings. These became an important source of food for the growing city of Auckland, producing milk, vegetables, meat and oats. Te Tātua-o-Riukiuta, (*Three Kings*) quarries provided a major source of roading materials, with commercial quarrying starting in the 1880s. From the 1870s, extension of roads and later tram lines enabled gradual subdivision and housing development although the first large-scale planned housing began in the 1920s and 1930s. This continued after World War Two with the completion of the government housing estates. Straightening and deepening Te Auaunga to help prevent flooding employed around 100 men during the depression of the 1930s.

From the 1950s development intensified with the new borough seeking ways of overcoming continued flooding in Te Auaunga as the Te Wai-inu-roa-a-Rakataura wetlands were built over and drained. During this time, local characters and sporting and business leaders became closely associated with the intensifying suburbs here, including Keith Hay, Bill Subritzky and Arthur Lydiard.



Today, the population and communities of Te Auaunga are richly diverse, with migrants from all parts of the world making their home here. There is a strong and growing commitment towards improving the environment, including a renewed interest in the waterways for recreation, places to reconnect with the natural world, and to provide a sense of place. Local people, including Friends of Oakley Creek - Te Auaunga are involved in restoration projects along the length of the creek.



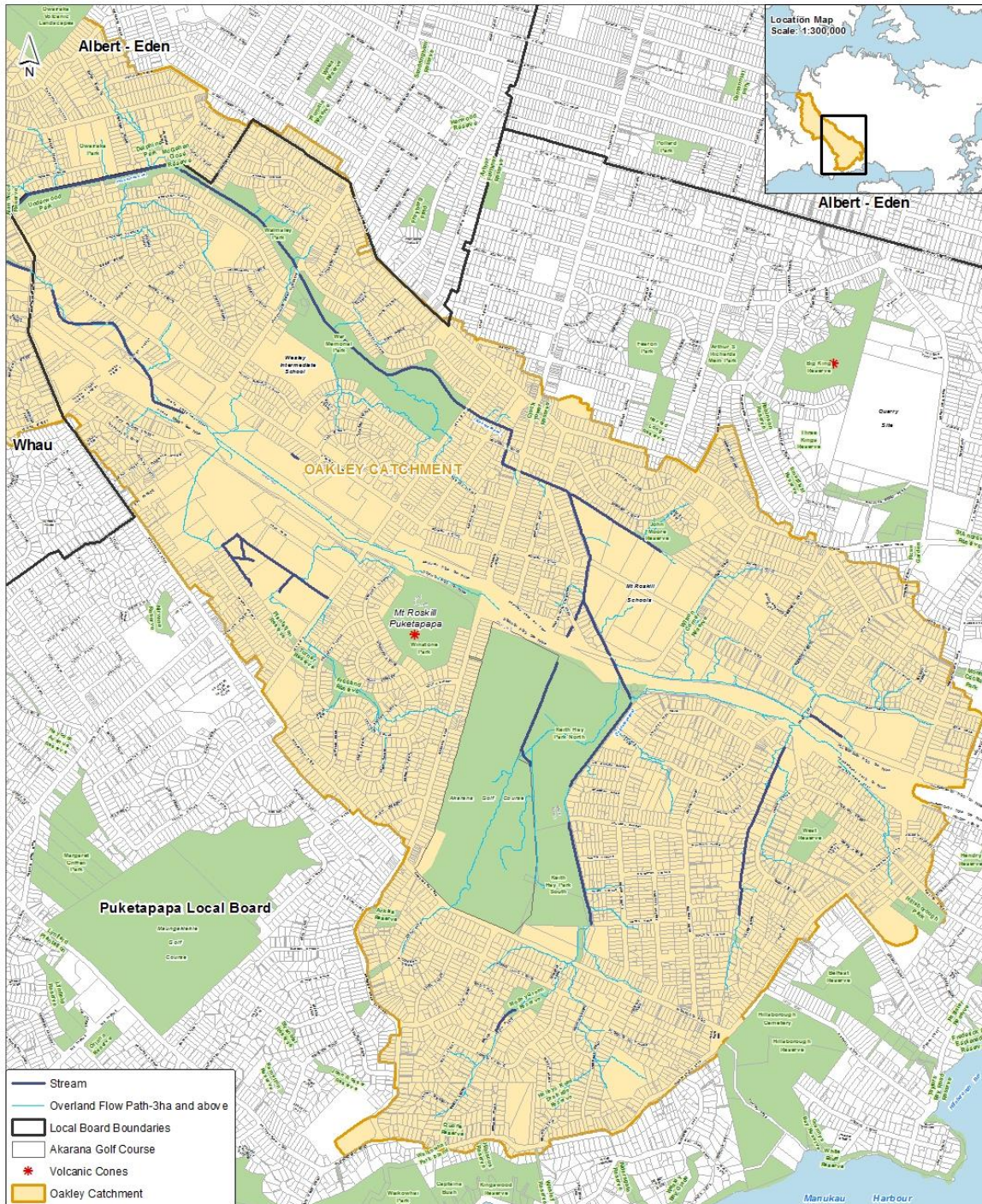
1961



1979

## 2 HIGH LEVEL VISION AND MISSION

### 2.1 Map of Te Auaunga Awa (Oakley Creek)



**DISCLAIMER:**  
 This map/plan is illustrative only and all information should be independently verified on site before taking any action. Copyright Auckland Council. Land Parcel Boundary information from LINZ (Crown Copyright Reserved). Whilst due care has been taken, Auckland Council gives no warranty as to the accuracy and completeness of any information on this map/plan and accepts no liability for any error, omission or use of the information. Height datum: Auckland 1948.

**Te Auaunga Awa (Oakley Creek) within Puketapapa Local Board Area**

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## **2.2 Ngā Moemoeā me Te Whāinga Matua / Vision and Mission**

### **2.2.1 Te Moemoeā / Vision**

We aim to integrate matauranga Māori and environmentally sustainable practices to restore the mauri of Te Auaunga so it becomes a thriving, flowing creek in a green corridor that is treasured and respected for generations to come.

### **2.2.2 Te Whāinga Matua/Mission**

Puketāpapa Local Board and Mana Whenua working in partnership and alongside the local community to actively achieve the restoration of the mauri of Te Auaunga through kaitiakitanga.

### **2.2.3 Our strength and influence**

Our partnership can bring the following strengths and influence to the implementation of this strategy:

- The mana and mandate of our Local Board-Mana Whenua partnership, of which we are proud gives us a common position, a shared passion, deep reach into various communities of interest and influence, and an enhanced understanding of each other's positions.
- The Puketāpapa Local Board responsibilities for the parks and reserves, through which over half of the awa runs provides an opportunity to restore the waterway and connect ecological green corridors, helping to restore the mauri of the waterway.
- Access to research, funding and experts through representation of Auckland Council officers, specific mana whenua funding streams through other agencies and contacts.
- Our community and their commitment, interest and skills in restoration. Together we have expanded our capacity and strengths.

Collectively we have the capacity for outreach, influence, networking and communication to restore our awa.

## 2.2.4 Key Principles

- Restoring and promoting Te Auaunga
- Puketāpapa Local Board, mana whenua and community working together
- Building a strong and healthy community through connection with the awa

## 2.3 Themes

Our vision, to restore the indicators of mauri of Te Auaunga so that it becomes an alive, flowing awa in a green corridor that is treasured and respected for generations to come, will be achieved through implementing key objectives across two themes: restoring the mauri of the waterway and empowering our people.

### 2.3.1 Theme One: Restoration of Mauri

#### THE ISSUE

Mauri is the life force of all whakapapa (*components*) connected to the waterway: the living plants and animals, the waters and rocks, and the energy which binds it all. Mauri is a symbol of vitality, life and health. The mauri of Te Auaunga is currently affected by poor water quality caused by a number of factors including sedimentation, contamination and loss of nature from this ecosystem. He matangaro tēnā mea te mauri. Ahakoa te matangaro ka rongō koe i tōna mauri.

#### GENERATIONAL OUTCOME/ASPIRATION

**Within one generation (2040) Te Auaunga will run clear, healthy and clean through a ribbon of green forest allowing swimming, wading, the collection of kai and the harvesting of natural resources by our local community as well as providing a habitat for native plants and animals.**

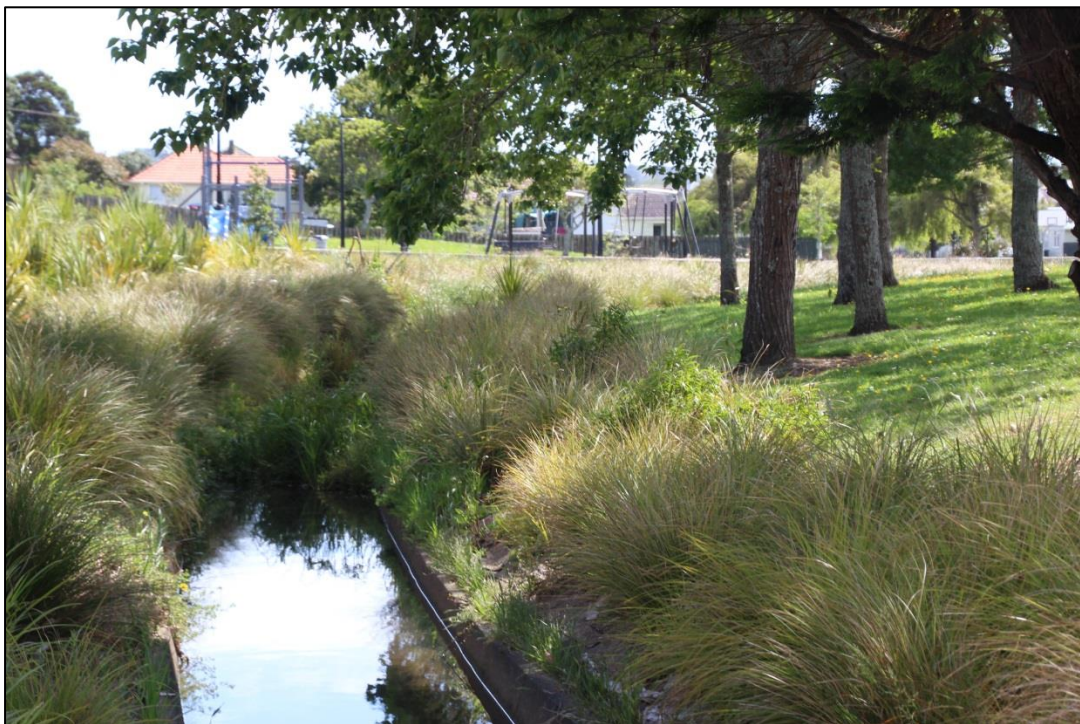
#### OBJECTIVE

Our work to restore the indicators of mauri of Te Auaunga will aim to achieve the following:

**Sediment:** An awa that runs clear after light rain.

**Contaminants:** An awa in which native aquatic life can flourish and that we can swim and wade in, collect kai and harvest natural resources from.

**Loss of nature:** A natural waterway of restored mauri indicators flowing through a corridor of shady green forest that supports native plants and animals.



### 2.3.2 Theme Two: Empowerment

#### THE ISSUE

The people who want to care for the awa – mana whenua, the local community, local businesses, policy makers and regulators – do not always have the knowledge, understanding or opportunities to make a difference.



## GENERATIONAL OUTCOME/ASPIRATION

**Within one generation (2040) Te Auaunga will be central to our sense of place because of our knowledge, our active care and kaitiakitanga, and our celebration of the awa.**

## OBJECTIVE

Our work to empower people to care for our awa will aim to achieve the following:

**Knowledge:** People know the stories, the science and the state of the awa and what actions to take to restore its mauri

**Connectedness:** People in all parts of our community, including mana whenua, local groups, residents and businesses recognise, celebrate and feel connected to the awa.





## 3 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY 2016-2019

### 3.1 Theme One: Restoration of Mauri

#### GENERATIONAL OUTCOME

**Within one generation (2040) Te Auaunga will run clear, healthy and clean through a ribbon of green forest, allowing swimming, wading, the collection of kai and the harvesting of natural resources by our local community as well as providing a habitat for native plants and animals.**

#### 3.1.1 Objective One: Sediment:

##### LONG-TERM OUTCOME:

A waterway that runs clear after light rain.

##### ISSUE

Sediment is soil that is washed from the catchment into the waterways. An awa without creek-side vegetation, that has poor land development and road construction that exposes soil to rain, all greatly increase sedimentation above natural levels. This in turn causes problems for the awa including smothering stream habitats and aquatic life, trapping contaminants, and making the awa muddy and unpleasant for us to use.

Excessive sedimentation can be controlled by:

- Planting riparian margins to trap sediment and coordinating that planting across agencies.
- Improved on-site management for construction, development and roading.
- Decreasing stream bank erosion by reducing the flow rate in rainfall events.



Sediment control through riparian planting is most effective when this is coordinated, planned and prioritised across both the whole catchment and among agencies undertaking planting (Local Board, community groups such as Friends of Oakley Creek-Te Auaunga and Stormwater Unit projects such as the Walmsley and Underwood Reserves project). Coordination and understanding is also important when new policies and procedures are being developed such as new design guideline manuals of the Stormwater Unit. It is also important to us that we follow principles of kaitiakitanga in the design and implementation of planting and restoration plans.

## STRATEGY

- We will seek to influence, lead and support relevant stakeholders including Auckland Council teams and units (consenting and enforcement teams, Parks, Environmental Services and Stormwater) Auckland Transport, developers and local residents to ensure best practice and kaitiakitanga measures for controlling sedimentation are understood, planned for and enforced.
- Where our objectives overlap, we aspire to work alongside other stakeholders including community organisations such as Friends of Oakley Creek-Te Auaungato achieve these outcomes.

- We will advocate for Stormwater Unit projects (such as the Te Auaunga: Walmsley and Underwood Reserves Project) being designed in a manner consistent with our overall strategy for Te Auaunga.

## OUTCOMES BY 2019

1. Relevant Auckland Council units and other agencies are fully aware of our concerns about sedimentation in the awa Control and enforcement of sedimentation measures for roading, development and riparian management have improved significantly.
2. In partnership with relevant stakeholders we have identified our strategic priorities and approach for riparian planting and we are jointly active in supporting their implementation.



## ACTIONS

1. Develop a planting priority plan in partnership with Council departments (Parks, Stormwater, ESU) and relevant community groups such as Friends of Oakley Creek-Te Auaunga. Ensure it aligns with this strategy and the principles of kaitiakitanga and contribute to its implementation.
2. Engage with and seek regular reports from Auckland Council Resource Consents, Compliance and Stormwater to:
  - Achieve a meeting of the minds about sedimentation concerns
  - Encourage improved control and enforcement of sediment control conditions for development in partnership with developers including engagement over TP10 and TP90

- Advocate to ensure that Stormwater projects (such as the Te Auaunga: Walmsley and Underwood Reserves Project) are designed to be consistent with this strategy.
3. Engage with Auckland Transport and NZTA to achieve mutual understanding of roading sedimentation issues, to identify key problem sites and to have underway at least one retrofit road runoff treatment for a priority site.

### 3.1.2 Objective Two: Contaminants

#### LONGTERM OUTCOME

A waterway in which native aquatic life can flourish, one that we can swim and wade in, collect kai and harvest natural resources from.

#### ISSUE

In an urban environment like the catchment of our awa, a wide variety of contaminants can enter the waterways: heavy metals and hydrocarbons (from rainwater washing over roads and buildings); faecal pollution, pharmaceuticals and hormones (from broken and leaking sewerage pipes), oils, paints, fats and other waste (from businesses and households pouring substances directly into stormwater drains). Contaminants like these can kill creek life and make swimming, wading, collecting kai and harvesting resources unsafe, which in turn alienates people from their awa.



These sources of pollutants are likely to increase with urban intensification unless steps are taken now to remedy the situation.

Contaminants can be prevented from entering waterways through, for example: the construction and maintenance of stormwater retention ponds; swales, rain-gardens and roof gardens; residents painting their roofs; and the use of sucker trucks for businesses and industry. They are also prevented by individuals committing to safeguard the purity of stormwater drains and not using them to dispose of contaminants. Sewerage pipe leakage problems can be overcome by upgrading the pipe systems.

## STRATEGY

Because we will be more effective advocates and facilitators if we are well informed, we will prioritise information gathering and analysis on contaminant issues in our waterways. We will use this knowledge to achieve behaviour change in industry, business and households for safe waste disposal and to become effective advocates on issues related to contaminants disposal and wastewater problems within Auckland Council and Watercare.

## OUTCOMES BY 2019

- 1. We have an effective understanding of core issues related to contaminants in our waterways and have used that information to positively change the contaminant disposal practices of the majority of contaminant-producing industry, businesses and households in the catchment.**
- 2. There is a joint understanding and appreciation meeting between Watercare and us about issues linked to sewerage pipes with regular productive joint meetings that lead to prioritised action.**

## ACTIONS

1. Capture existing research (for example from Stormwater and the Research and Evaluation Unit) or seek new information (a Stormwater Waterways Assessment and Management Plan) that informs us of:
  - the contaminants that are present in our awa
  - the sources of those contaminants
  - most effective approaches for changing how industry, business and households dispose of contaminants
  - best practice technology for preventing contaminants entering waterways, and
  - practical options for removing contaminated sediment from waterways

2. Support an Industry Pollution Prevention Programme that uses the above information to inform, motivate and activate industry in the Te Auaunga catchment to safely dispose of contaminants and waste.
3. Develop high impact behaviour change programmes for working with small businesses and households preventing awa contamination. These may include working with WaiCare, EnviroSchools and the Parakore Unit.
4. Promote Auckland Council's Pollution Hotline to the community.
5. Closely engage with Watercare to understand and advocate for problem pipe enhancement opportunities and with Auckland Council's Stormwater Unit to seek to align its work with our own.

### 3.1.3 Objective Three: Loss of nature

#### LONG-TERM OUTCOME:

A natural waterway of restored mauri flowing through a corridor of shady green forest and supporting native plants and animals.



#### ISSUE

Our awa has been reduced from being a vibrant ecosystem encompassing wetlands and forests, rich with fish and bird life, building materials and rongoā. Today much of



the creek is extensively modified and channelled lacking cool shady vegetation. These factors combine to heat the freshwater, in turn reducing oxygen levels leading to degradation and damage to creek life. Piped and concreted streams cause flushing problems – in heavy rain, water sluices through very quickly, flushing all life out of the system. This in turn causes flooding problems, endangering the homes and businesses of local residents.

The modified waterway has little habitat for wildlife including native fish and birds.

Daylighting and naturalising concreted streams is an expensive solution to these problems but we believe that in places these actions are important. In addition, much can be gained by shading the open areas of the awa with planting and creating native habitats. This solution in turn provides additional benefits of natural resources for the use of local people. Such restoration is achievable for Te Auaunga given that over half the awa runs through publically owned parks and reserves.

## STRATEGY

We will play a coordinating, informing and action-oriented role in restoring native habitat and resources to the awa. We will be advocates for day-lighting and naturalising streams where this is deemed valuable, and as part of this work we will advocate to ensure that Stormwater projects (such as the Te Auaunga: Walmsley and Underwood Reserves Project) are designed to be consistent with this strategy. We will also commit to using management approaches that do not compromise the mauri of the awa and that contribute to building the spiritual connection between our people and their place.



## **OUTCOME BY 2019**

**There is measureable improvement in quantity and quality of native habitat of the waterway and its surrounds, as evidenced by measurements of mauri, native plant and animal diversity and by how local people use this place and its natural resources.**

### **ACTIONS**

1. Commission a restoration plan for the awa that identifies opportunities for replanting and wildlife habitat restoration. Ensure there is a special focus on restoration that can be linked to community engagement, uses social procurement and includes principles of kaitiakitanga.
2. Implement key recommendations from the restoration plan.
3. Continue advocacy for expanding the day-lighting and naturalising of the awa and for controlling its flow in a manner that maintains water levels while protecting planting and habitat from scouring floods. This includes advocacy to ensure that Stormwater projects (such as the Te Auaunga: Walmsley and Underwood Reserves Project) are designed to be consistent with this strategy.

## **3.2 Theme Two: Empowerment**

### **GENERATIONAL OUTCOME**

**Within one generation (2040) Te Auaunga will be central to our sense of place because of our knowledge, our active care and kaitiakitanga, and our celebration of the awa.**

#### **3.2.1 Objective One: Knowledge**

##### **LONG TERM OUTCOME**

People know the stories, the science and the state of the awa and what actions to take to restore its mauri.

##### **ISSUE**

The disconnected, degraded, flood -prone and artificial nature of the awa system in the Puketāpapa area makes it difficult for community understanding, respect and appreciation of the real values of Te Auaunga Lack of understanding and recognition of our awa means we may continue to harm it.



We need to know the stories and understand the science and state of the awa and use all this information to inform our choices, change our behaviour, inspire us to act and positively influence those who affect the creek.

## STRATEGY

Building community understanding of the history, culture and ecology of the awa will become the background story to everything we do. All our work will emphasise and broadcast these stories.

## OUTCOME BY 2019

**There is measureable and widespread community understanding of the historical, cultural and ecological stories of the awa.**

## ACTIONS

1. Commission short pieces on the history, culture, ecology and place names for specific sites of Te Auaunga.
2. This information can inform a range of developments for understanding Te Auaunga, including bi-lingual signage, kōhatu markers for the length of the awa and walking trail development.
3. Development of an easily recognised tohu (*brand*) for our vision.

### 3.2.2 Objective Two: Connectedness

#### LONG-TERM OUTCOME

People in all parts of our community, including mana whenua, local groups, residents and businesses recognise, celebrate and feel connected to the awa.

#### ISSUE

Restoring the mauri indicators of Te Auaunga will link people and their communities to this place.

Mana whenua inherently have a special responsibility as kaitiaki or guardians of the awa, and its ongoing health, mana and future aspirations. They need to be empowered to exercise and uphold kaitiakitanga. In addition, many more individuals and community groups have joined the efforts to restore Te Auaunga and they too are inextricably linked to the future of our awa.

Local businesses play an important role in the restoration of Te Auaunga by ensuring their own place of work does not contribute to contamination of the awa and potentially, by sponsoring restoration activities.

We aim to provide local people with frequent and attractive access to the awa itself, and ensure that people are easily able to engage with it on a daily basis.

We also aim to enable local participation in our restoration plans and actions.

#### STRATEGY

Our work will enhance community ownership and connection to the awa through:

- Ensuring plantings and other work for the awa encourages community use and recognition of the awa as well as incorporate Te Aranga Design principles.

- Organising celebrations, events and ongoing activities that feature the awa, its ecological processes and mauri with the intent of deepening awareness of these issues.
- Providing opportunities for businesses to contribute to the restoration of the awa through supporting innovative funding approaches such as corporate social responsibility initiatives and development fund contributions.

## **OUTCOMES BY 2019**

**Te Auaunga is proudly a component of everyday life for local residents.**

### **ACTIONS**

1. Plan and implement a number of specific events linked to the restoration of the awa including the launch of this strategy and, potentially, an annual festival of the awa with a focus on family and youth.
2. Design and use the most effective ways to facilitate, empower, engage and encourage people to join in with local initiatives to restore the awa.
3. Develop a menu of opportunities that allows local businesses and developers to contribute to the restoration of Te Auaunga including corporate social responsibility initiatives and development fund contributions. In doing so, work closely with Auckland Council Consenting to draw up a prioritised list of mitigation opportunities.



### 3.3 Te Auaunga Awa Strategy Summary

<b>Vision</b> <i>Where are we going?</i>	We aim to integrate mātauranga Māori ( <i>Māori knowledge</i> ) and environmentally sustainable practices to restore Te Auaunga so that it becomes an alive, flowing waterway in a green corridor that is treasured and respected for generations to come.				
<b>Mission</b> <i>What's our role?</i>	Puketāpapa Local Board and mana whenua working in partnership and alongside the local community to actively achieve the restoration of the mauri <i>life force</i> of Te Auaunga through kaitiakitanga.				
<b>Themes</b> <i>What are the components of our vision?</i>	<b>Restoration of Mauri Indicators</b> Within one generation (2040) Te Auaunga will run clear, healthy and clean through a ribbon of green forest, supporting both native wildlife and swimming, wading and resource collection by our local community.			<b>Empowerment</b> Within one generation (2040) Te Auaunga will be central to our sense of place because of our knowledge, our active care and kaitiakitanga, and our active celebration of the awa.	
<b>Focus Areas</b> <i>What are the components of our themes?</i>	<b>Sediment</b> A waterway that runs clear even after light rain.	<b>Contaminants</b> An awa in which native aquatic life can flourish and one we can swim/wade in, harvest kai etc.	<b>Loss of nature</b> A natural awa of restored mauri in a corridor of shady green forest supporting native plants and animals.	<b>Knowledge</b> People know the stories, the science and the state of the awa and what actions to take to restore its mauri.	<b>Connectedness</b> People in all parts of our community, including mana whenua, local groups, residents and businesses recognise and celebrate the awa.
<b>Issue</b> <i>What's the problem and why?</i>	Lack of streamside vegetation and poor land development.	Pipes and diffuse run off carry contaminants, broken sewerage pipes.	Modified ecosystem, heated water, little habitat, and low use by people.	Lack of understanding and knowledge of stories and science alienates people from awa.	Communities must be connected to the place through engagement with and access to the awa.
<b>Strategy</b> <i>What can <u>we</u> do?</i>	Influence and support partners to ensure best practice.	Information and behaviour change.	Coordinate, inform and act.	Build community understanding.	Ensure work for the awa encourages community engagement, use, and celebrations.
<b>Outcome</b> <i>What will we achieve in the next 3 years?</i>	Awareness and strategic priorities for planting.	Positive behaviour change, prioritised action for pipes	Improvement in native habitat and biodiversity and use by locals.	Measureable improvement in community use of, understanding and knowledge of awa.	Awa will proudly be a component of everyday life for residents.
<b>Actions</b> <i>What tasks do <u>we</u> have to do</i>	Three actions to partner and engage.	Five actions to research, support, lead behaviour change, promote pollution hot line and engage.	Three actions to commission and implement a restoration plan and advocate for day lighting.	Four actions to commission knowledge, develop a brand, engage people and make stories tangible.	Three actions to plan and implement events and use the most effective means possible to encourage people to restore awa.

## 4 OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

### 4.1 Membership of the Partnership

The partnership for Te Auaunga Awa (Oakley Creek) Restoration Programme comprises:

- ✓ **Representatives of six mana** whenua from the iwi/haū of Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau:

Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki

Ngāti Tamaoho,

Ngāti Te Ata-Waiohua

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei

Te Akitai-Waiohua

Te Kawerau ā Maki

- ✓ **The Puketāpapa Local Board**

with Friends of Oakley Creek - Te Auaunga as a key community stakeholder.

The partnership is supported and facilitated by Auckland Council departments.

### 4.2 Terms of the Partnership

The Te Auaunga Restoration Programme Partnership is a voluntary commitment between equal partners that has minimal but important guidelines for engagement. These guidelines are as follows:

- ✓ **Members support the high level strategic aims** of the programme and work collaboratively to implement these.
- ✓ The **partnership meets** when required, but at least once a year.
- ✓ Each iwi and organisation **selects its own representative**.
- ✓ A **chair** is appointed The **Puketāpapa Local Board hosts** the partnership, meaning that, in coordination with the chair, it sets the agenda, provides a meeting space, and records and distributes the meeting minutes.
- ✓ There is **no nominated spokesperson** for the partnership itself. Instead, each partner organisation provides its own contact person and speaks for itself. No organisation can speak for any other, although particular areas of

expertise from each group are acknowledged within the partnership and general external queries are likely to be directly to the partner with expertise in that area.

- ✓ **Decision-making** is by consensus, based on the group's commitment to strategy implementation.
- ✓ The **partnership's authority** is built from the strength of its cohesion, the quality of its strategy and the degree of its influence in getting others to align their commitments to the strategy.
- ✓ Partners clarify and understand **each organisation's accountabilities**.
- ✓ Meetings are **open to the public**
- ✓ **Other community stakeholders are welcome** to participate alongside Friends of Oakley Creek-Te Auaunga
- ✓ The **Chair** of the partnership is selected by the partnership itself. The term of the chair is three years

### 4.3 Capability

The actions of this Strategy and Implementation Plan are ours to implement, even where this involves influencing others. Each member voluntarily takes responsibility for those actions they are willing to implement and are capable of implementing. The scope of this plan is therefore constrained by the time, resources and skills available to each of us. We will note where our reach and effectiveness can be enhanced through capability development (training, additional resources, external advice and support) and where possible, we will enable this.

### 4.4 Evaluation

The partnership will develop a simple, cost-effective evaluation framework once this strategy is operational.



## 5 APPENDICES

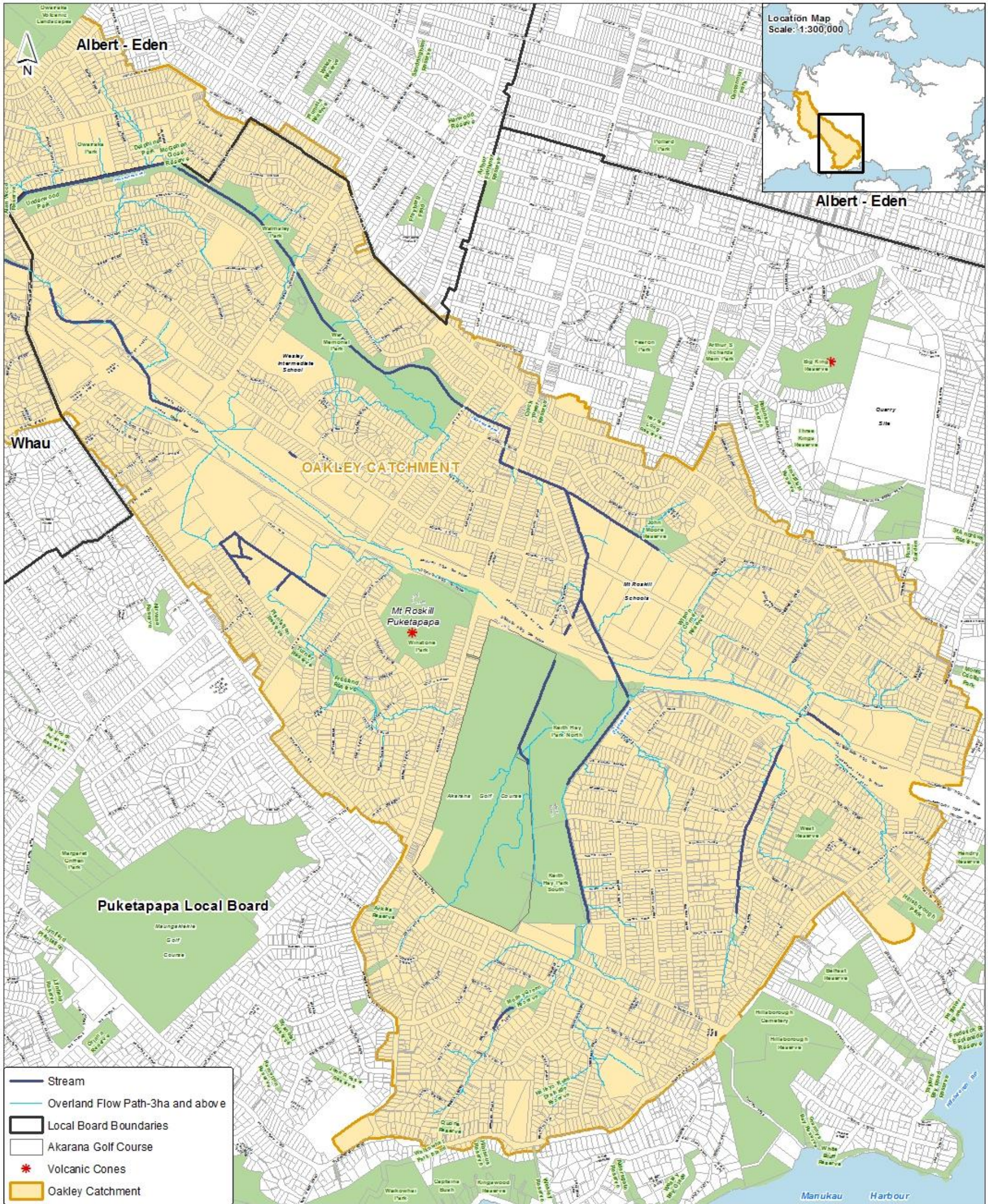
### 5.1 Glossary

	<b>Definition</b>
<b>awa</b>	waterway, river, stream or creek
<b>harakeke</b>	collective term for the many varieties of flax
<b>īnanga</b>	Whitebait
<b>kaitiakitanga</b>	human act of stewardship, an inherent obligation to manaaki and care for the wellbeing of relationships within the natural and physical environment and others
<b>kōhatu</b>	stone or rock
<b>kōrero</b>	speak or talk together
<b>mātauranga Māori</b>	Māori knowledge – the body of knowledge originating from Māori ancestors, including the Māori world view and perspectives, Māori creativity and cultural practice
<b>mauri</b>	life force or life essence
<b>papakāinga</b>	permanent home with ancestral connections to the land
<b>pā taua</b>	fighting pa as opposed to a place of protection
<b>rongoā</b>	ancient Māori medicine and healing
<b>tangata whenua</b>	first people of the land
<b>Te Aranga Design principles</b>	a Māori cultural landscape strategy developed for Territorial Authorities
<b>wharau</b>	a temporary abode
<b>wāhi tapu</b>	a place with sacred restrictions
<b>wairua</b>	spirit

## 5.2 References

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### 5.3 Map of Te Auaunga Awa (Oakley Creek)



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**Te Auaunga Awa (Oakley Creek)  
 within  
 Puketapapa Local Board Area**

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