Taupō-nui-ā-Tia Management Board

Management Plan – Feedback Form

## Contact Information

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| Organisation (if applicable): |  |
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## Background

The Taupō-nui-ā-Tia Management Board (the Management Board) is commencing the development of a management plan for Taupō Waters (the Management Plan). Taupō Waters essentially comprise the beds of Lake Taupō, certain of its associated tributaries, and the Waikato River from Lake Taupō to just past the Huka Falls (refer to Map 1).

Under the provisions of a Deed between the Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board (the Trust Board) and Her Majesty the Queen (the Crown) dated 10 September 2007 (the 2007 Deed), the Trust Board and the Crown are to manage Taupō Waters in partnership through the Management Board as if a reserve for recreation purposes under section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977.

The Management Board is composed of eight members with four appointed by the Minister having regard to the interests of the Crown, conservation, recreation, tourism and freshwater sciences to represent the public interest; and four appointed by the Trust Board.

The Management Board is now seeking initial feedback on some key questions that relate to the development of the Management Plan, which will inform the draft plan that will be publicly notified later in the year.

## Management Plan

The Management Board considers the Management Plan should take a holistic approach to managing Taupō Waters. In particular, the Management Plan must explicitly provide for the people of New Zealand to have continuation of entry to, and access upon, Taupō Waters free of charge for:

* non-exclusive and non-commercial recreational use and enjoyment; and
* non-commercial research purposes.

The Management Plan should also set out a process for the Management Board to consider and decide applications for:

1. non-commercial research;
2. recreation use activities that may exclude the general public’s use of parts of Taupō Waters;
3. any increase in the area occupied by existing Crown structures; and
4. any new Crown owned structures for public good purposes

The Management Board is responsible for ensuring the matters set out in the 2007 Deed relating to the management of Taupō Waters as if it were a recreation reserve are achieved in the long-term.

## Access and use of Taupō Waters

The 2007 Deed preserves the people of New Zealand’s freedom of entry to and access upon Taupō Waters for non-exclusive, non-commercial recreation use and non-commercial research purposes free of charge. The Management Board believes that access needs to be carefully managed to cater for the needs of all people entering Taupō Waters for non-exclusive, non-commercial recreation and non-commercial research purposes.

***How do you think the Management Board should manage “access and use of Taupō Waters”?***

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## Water Quality of Taupō Waters

The water quality of Taupō Waters is highly valued by the people of New Zealand and Lake Taupō is internationally renowned for its clean water and is a drawcard for international visitors. Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Councils and Crown have previously invested considerable resources into addressing downward trends in water quality of Lake Taupō and this investment needs to be protected and safeguarded. While the Management Board does not have a lead role in managing water quality, “maintaining and improving” the water quality of Taupō Waters is nonetheless important.

***What is your view on how the Management Board should manage Taupō Waters in relation to “water quality”?***

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## Safe Recreational Environment

The people of New Zealand and international visitors should feel safe when accessing and using Taupō Waters for recreation activities. At this time, the Lake Taupō Navigation Safety Bylaw 2017 contains the maritime safety regulations that apply to Taupō Waters. The Management Board places significant emphasis on Taupō Waters being a safe environment for people to undertake a diverse range of recreation activities.

***What do you think the role of the Management Board should be to ensure Taupō Waters is a “safe recreational environment”?***

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## Mahinga Kai and the Taupō Sports Fishery

Taupō Waters is renowned as a source of sustenance for the people of Ngāti Tūwharetoa in the sense of providing an abundance of kai. The Taupō sports fishery has a reputation as one of the world’s premier wild trout fisheries and provides a unique recreation experience for the people of New Zealand and international visitors alike. At this time, Ngāti Tūwharetoa works with the Department of Conservation to support the management of the Taupō Sports Fishery to meet the foreseeable needs of future generations.

***What is your view on how the Management Board should manage Taupō Waters for “mahinga kai” and participate in the management of the “Taupō Sports Fishery”?***

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## Commercial Activities

Commercial activities can provide an alternative paid service for people to experience and interact with Taupō Waters in different and unique ways. The Management Board recognises the contribution commercial activities make to the Taupō economy and that cumulative effect of multiple commercial activities may affect the ability of people to access and use Taupō Waters. The appropriate mix of different commercial activities would provide people with the choice to:

1. access and use Taupō Waters free of charge for non-exclusive, non-commercial recreation; or
2. pay to experience and interact with Taupō Waters.

Under the 2007 Deed, the Trust Board may grant rights to third parties to use or occupy Taupō Waters for commercial activities. The Management Board has no ability to grant such rights. However, any third party that has been granted a right by the Trust Board to use or occupy the Taupō Waters for commercial activities (including the commercial use of the bed, the space that the water occupies or the airspace above) will necessarily be undertaking those activities within the area covered by the Management Plan. Therefore, the Management Board believes it has a role to ensure those commercial activities —with rights to occupy Taupō Waters— do so in a way that does not unreasonably or unintentionally exclude people from accessing and using Taupō Waters free of charge for non-commercial, non-exclusive recreation and non-commercial research purposes.

***How do you think the Management Board should manage Taupō Waters in relation to “commercial activities”?***

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## Biosecurity and Biodiversity of Taupō Waters

The Management Board considers protecting and retaining the current level of indigenous biodiversity is important for the long-term management of Taupō Waters as if it were a recreation reserve. This is because the assemblage of indigenous species, within the functioning ecosystem and the current lack of invasive pest species, contributes to the recreation experience of people using Taupō Waters. While the Management Board does not have a lead role in managing the biosecurity and biodiversity, control and eradicate invasive pest species and protection and retention (or enhancement) of biodiversity is important.

***What is your view on how the Management Board could participate in the management of “biosecurity and biodiversity of Taupō Waters”?***

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## Margins of Taupō Waters

The landward margins of Taupō Waters are a dynamic and sensitive environment that requires a careful and coordinated approach to management. The majority of people accessing and using Taupō Waters for non-exclusive, non-commercial recreation use and non-commercial research purposes will do so through the landward margins. Therefore, the appropriate and considered management of the “margins of Taupō Waters” is critical to the success of any management plan.

While the Management Board does not have a direct role in managing the landward margins, any development on these areas does not permanently or unintentionally exclude people from accessing and using Taupō Waters free of charge for non-commercial, non-exclusive recreation and non-commercial research purposes.

***What is your view on how the Management Board could participate in the management of the “landward margins” to facilitate access to Taupō Waters for non-exclusive, non-commercial recreation use and non-commercial research purposes?***

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## Existing and New Structures

The Management Board considers the scale, number and location of structures located in or on Taupō Waters requires careful management. Public-good structures (eg, navigation beacons) play an important role in keeping people accessing and using Taupō Waters safe. Other Crown owned structures (eg, boat ramps) can assist people to access and use Taupō Waters for a variety of recreation activities. Private structures can also provide exclusive access to Taupō Waters.

To manage structures, the Management Board would need to work with other agencies to ensure existing structures are fit-for-purpose, and the scale, number and location of any new structures does not permanently or unintentionally exclude people from accessing and using Taupō Waters free of charge for non-commercial, non-exclusive recreation and non-commercial research purposes.

***How do you think the Management Board should participate in the management of “existing and new structures” in relation to Taupō Waters?***

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## Other Matters

Are there other matters that the Management Board should be considering as part of the Management Plan? For example, should the Management Board, as one of its functions, identify areas of Taupō Waters that are permanently or temporarily (seasonally) closed to access?

***What other matters should the Management Board consider as part of managing Taupō Waters?***

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## Map 1 – Taupō Waters

The geographical extent of Taupō Waters is defined as:

* the bed of Lake Taupō, the bed of the Waikato River extending from Lake Taupō to and inclusive of the Huka Falls (excluding the site of the Taupō Control Gates) and the beds of certain rivers and streams flowing into Lake Taupō):
* the bed of the Tongariro River shown on Plan ML 5604 and all the various adjoining portions of land shown as A - S inclusive on Plan ML 5611;
* those portions of the beds of the Waihora, Waihaha, Whanganui, Whareroa, Kuratau, Poutu, Waimarino, Tauranga-Taupō, Waipehi, Waiotaka, Hinemaiaia and Waitahanui Rivers or Streams, and their tributaries falling within the boundaries of the lands comprised in SO Plans 61281 - 61289 (South Auckland Land District) and SO Plans 38164 – 38177 (Wellington Land District); and
* those portions of such beds as have roads crossing them that are under the control

of Transit New Zealand shown on SO Plans 61281 to 61287 inclusive (South Auckland Land District) and Sections 2, 3, 4 and 7 SO 61431 (South Auckland Land District).

The map shown below is only an approximate representation of the geographical area of

Taupō Waters.

