

Future Proof

North Waipā/ South Hamilton Spatial Study

Vision and Outcome Statements for the Study Area (2055)

The vision and outcome statements below are based on the 7 Key Transformational Moves from the Future Proof Strategy (2024) (<https://www.futureproof.org.nz/our-strategic-direction>, section B1, pp40-41).

VISION:

The North Waipā / South Hamilton area will be a focus for industrial activity, leveraging off proximity to the Southern Links expressway, the North Island Main Trunk Rail, and Hamilton Airport, to support the economic growth of the Hamilton metro area and the Upper North Island, while enhancing the airport's role as an economic anchor.

New areas of residential development will include seamless extensions to the existing Hamilton urban area and/or carefully planned growth in North Waipā villages such as Rukuhia and Ōhaupō. Both patterns will offer high amenity communities with diverse housing options, stronger public transport connections, walking and cycling links, and proximity to new employment opportunities.

Development will respect the area's varied existing environmental and cultural values, and contribute to the restoration and protection of the Waikato River catchment.

OUTCOME STATEMENTS: “WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE”

The following outcome statements build on the Vision above, linking to the Future Proof Strategy’s key transformational moves in relation to the study, and provide potential metrics against which success can be measured.

Theme	Description	Relevant Key Transformational Move from Future Proof Strategy (see below table for more info)	Potential Metrics (measurements of success)
Jobs and Opportunity	The area around Hamilton Airport has grown in a smart and coordinated way, complementary with the wider metro area and comparable in scale to Ruakura, making the most of new transport links like Southern Links and rail, and creating more local job and business opportunities. Nearby villages such as Rukuhia and Ōhaupō also benefit from small-scale local services that support the daily needs of residents and workers.	<i>Transformational Move Five: Strong & Productive Economic Corridors</i>	• Number of jobs created • Quality of jobs (e.g. hourly rate) • Visitor numbers • Retail spend • GDP per capita • Value add • Clustering • GDP per capita • Support for Future Proof retail hierarchy

Theme	Description	Relevant Key Transformational Move from Future Proof Strategy (see below table for more info)	Potential Metrics (measurements of success)
Great Places to Live	Local neighbourhoods—city, village and rural—offer a range of good-quality, affordable homes, with the right services and green spaces to support healthy, connected communities that live well with nature. Rukuhia and Ōhaupō have grown into large villages that have retained their rural character and identity through implementation of village concept plans.	<i>Transformational Move Six: Thriving Communities & Neighbourhoods</i> and <i>Transformational Move Four: A Vibrant Metro Core & Lively Metropolitan & Town Centres</i>	• Number of new residential units • Diversity of housing supply • Density levels / compactness • Ratio of price / rent to income (affordability)
Easy to Get Around	People can easily travel in and out of the area using a mix of affordable transport options—like walking, biking, buses, trains, and cars—with strong links to Hamilton and nearby towns and villages.	<i>Transformational Move Three: A Comprehensive & Fundamental Evolution of Our Transport System</i> and <i>Transformational Move Four: A Vibrant Metro Core & Lively Metropolitan & Town Centres</i>	• Frequency, availability and patronage of public transport in the area • Accessibility / Travel times between home and work and/or home and services / “20-minute neighbourhoods” • Mode share targets / multimodal opportunities

Theme	Description	Relevant Key Transformational Move from Future Proof Strategy (see below table for more info)	Potential Metrics (measurements of success)
Supporting Iwi Aspirations	Development in the area advances iwi goals for the environment, culture, jobs, and wellbeing, and reflects their leadership and values. This includes identifying and protecting any heritage values in the study area, including archaeology, recorded and unrecorded and sites and areas of significance to Māori.	<i>Transformational Move One: Iwi Aspirations</i>	• Papakāinga enabled and built • Significant cultural places protected including wāhi tapū and māhinga kai • Increased cultural diversity via affordable housing • Taonga species #s increase (see Outcome Statement #5) • Peat lake protection (see Outcome Statement #5) • Te Awa water quality (see Outcome Statement #5)

Theme	Description	Relevant Key Transformational Move from Future Proof Strategy (see below table for more info)	Potential Metrics (measurements of success)
Caring for the Waikato River and Environment	Growth in the area helps care for the Waikato River and gives effect to <i>Te Ture Whaimana</i> , by supporting indigenous biodiversity, eco-friendly development incorporating nature-based solutions, preserving some productive soils for agricultural uses, creating blue-green spaces, enhancement of peat lakes such as Lake Kareatohi, and protecting water in a way that respects <i>Te Mana o Te Wai</i> .	<i>Transformational Move Two: Waikato River</i> and <i>Transformational Move Seven: Water Wise & Water Sensitive Communities</i>	• Local water quality • Water quantity / sufficiency • Increased #s of rare flora and fauna • Increased species diversity • Tree canopy • Protection / enhancement of long-tailed bat (peka peka) habitat • Protection of peat lakes • Green infrastructure (swales and greenspace) • Cool urban temperatures and fire / drought resilience • Protection of highly productive land

Theme	Description	Relevant Key Transformational Move from Future Proof Strategy (see below table for more info)	Potential Metrics (measurements of success)
Value for Money: Strategic Infrastructure Alignment	Existing infrastructure is used efficiently, the most ‘bang for buck’ is obtained from new infrastructure, and growth pays for growth in terms of network infrastructure development and operation. Land use planning anticipates and supports the delivery of regionally significant infrastructure including Hamilton Airport, the Southern Links transport corridor, and the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant to enable efficient, co-ordinated growth over time.	<i>Transformational Move Six: Thriving Communities & Neighbourhoods</i>	• % of project costs required from local rates? • Cost of developing / servicing • Degree of leveraging existing or planned infrastructure (efficient use of infrastructure) • Avoidance of inefficient ‘leapfrogging’ • Resilience of roading and waters networks and infrastructure to large events (e.g. weather / seismic) • Infrastructure sustainability / resilience (green infrastructure)
Additional / General			• Check Future Proof targets / measures / KPIs • Good for sub-region as a whole (boundaryless lens) • Feasibility / constructability

Future Proof Strategy's Key Transformational Moves (for further reference)

Transformational Move One: Iwi Aspirations

“Enhancing environmental health and wellbeing while supporting iwi and mana whenua in embracing social and economic opportunities within the sub-region. This includes a focus on the Waikato River and its catchment, in accordance with Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato - Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River, and the Piako, Waitoa and Waihou Rivers. For Waikato Tainui this is a specific emphasis on Hopuhopu and Ruakura, and Meremere in the longer term after Ruakura, for other mana whenua groups within the sub-region this will include land use aspirations to build papakaainga housing or horticulture / agriculture farming transformations to name a few. Other iwi and mana whenua groups have large populations of their people living within the subregion and may also wish to pursue social, economic and other opportunities within the sub-region.”

Transformational Move Two: Waikato River

“Give effect to Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato - the Vision and Strategy – including by celebrating the Waikato River as the defining ecological feature connecting the metro area to the heart of a blue-green network supporting environmental and recreational use and creating a sense of place. While our current focus is on the Waikato River catchment and Te Ture Whaimana, our approach also highlights the importance of other river catchments in the subregion such as the Piako, Waitoa and Waihou.”

Transformational Move Three: A Comprehensive & Fundamental Evolution of Our Transport System

“A comprehensive and fundamental evolution of our transport system – transform our transport system to a resilient multi-modal transport network, that connects the metro area and supports our rural communities through a transformational shift to using public transport, active travel modes and inter-regional rail where possible. This will be achieved through interventions such as, the

establishment of a rapid and frequent public transport network, efficient freight networks and comprehensive walking and cycling networks shaped around where and how our communities will grow.”

Transformational Move Four: A Vibrant Metro Core & Lively Metropolitan & Town Centres

“Growing Hamilton central city as our civic, administrative, cultural and commercial metro core, alongside lively metropolitan and town centres, well connected by public transport and safe walking and cycling networks, where people can afford to live, work and play.”

Transformational Move Five: Strong & Productive Economic Corridors

“Establishing economic corridors that connect our centres of production to our metro areas of employment and our ports and airports with a particular emphasis on access to the highly productive employment areas between Hautapu, Ruakura, Hamilton central city and north to Horotiu and Ngaaruawaahia.”

Transformational Move Six: Thriving Communities & Neighbourhoods

“Enabling quality denser housing options supported by employment with a focus on increasing housing affordability and choice and improving access. Our communities are supported by facilities and infrastructure that meet the needs of growing and changing communities and allow our natural and built environments to coexist in harmony.”

Transformational Move Seven: Water Wise & Water Sensitive Communities

“Grow and foster waterwise communities through a fundamental shift and approach that places sustainability, resilience and environmental protection at the heart of our urban water planning and ensuring that urban water management is sensitive to natural hydrological and ecological processes.”