



Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Manawa
Tu! Oho! Rere!

To	Whakatāne District Council
From	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa
Re	Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan Submission
Date	27 th November 2024

Introduction:

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa is the mandated iwi authority representing Ngāti Manawa, an iwi with deep ancestral connections to the Kaingaroa, Rangitāiki, and Whirinaki regions in the central North Island of Aotearoa. Rooted in a rich history and cultural heritage, Ngāti Manawa maintains strong kaitiakitanga responsibilities over its rohe, which encompasses significant forestry, freshwater, and biodiversity resources.

Established to serve the needs of its people, the Rūnanga provides leadership and advocacy on a range of kaupapa, including environmental management, cultural preservation, education, economic development, and social wellbeing. With a focus on sustainability and intergenerational equity, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa actively engages in partnerships and collaborative initiatives with government, local councils, and other iwi to achieve outcomes that reflect the aspirations of the iwi and honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Guided by tikanga and mātauranga Māori, the Rūnanga ensures that the voices of its members—both urban and rural—are represented and that iwi priorities remain at the forefront of decision-making processes. Through their collective efforts, Ngāti Manawa strives to protect and enhance their resources while fostering a thriving, connected community for current and future generations.

Our Overarching Position:

Engagement/Consultation

1. The engagement process for the Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan from October 14th to November 17th is inadequate for such an extensive plan that will guide council actions for the next 30 years. While this is the case, we appreciate the adjacent process provided through Te Au o Te Awa Punga and would like to have this confirmed in the immediate future.
2. The consultation documentation included a “preferred scenario” stamp on the preferred scenario. Such inclusion must adhere to specific consultation principles to ensure fairness and transparency. Section 82 of the Local Government Act emphasises that councils must:
 - a. Make available the proposal and its reasons, along with an analysis of the reasonably practicable options, including the preferred option. Without the technical support of Te Au o Te Awa Punga, Ngāti Manawa would not have been able to access and analyse this information.
 - b. Actively encourage those who may be affected by, or have an interest in, the decision or matter to present their views. The process to ensure this has been poor.
 - c. Clearly communicate how and within what timeframe individuals can present their views, ensuring the consultation process is accessible and understandable.
3. Te Au o Te Awa Punga has enabled us to provide this submission by providing critical context on the scenarios and the Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan. Without their support, Ngāti Manawa would be excluded from critical Spatial Plan processes due to poor engagement.
4. Ngāti Manawa must be actively included as a critical decision-maker in all development and implementation processes concerning our rohe, including our awa and moana, to uphold our rights and ensure outcomes reflect the aspirations of our iwi.
5. Ngāti Manawa has specific strategic plans – Manawa Oho and Manawa Kāinga which must be provided for, engaged on and included in development plans across the district.

6. Development must provide Ngāti Manawa access to essential services such as water reticulation, wastewater systems, and sustainable water allocations.
7. Future growth must balance environmental integrity, cultural preservation, and community well-being with support for papakāinga housing, sustainable energy solutions, and self-sufficiency projects.
8. The planning process must foster trust, inclusivity, and transparency, ensuring that Ngāti Manawa's voice is central and that historical grievances are acknowledged and addressed.
9. The Spatial Plan must provide pathways for hapū-led housing and infrastructure projects, including papakāinga developments and sustainable energy solutions, to enhance Ngāti Manawa's capacity to support its people.

Critical Key Positions:

1. Whakatāne District Council must provide clear definitions and planning intentions regarding the role of the Ngāti Manawa rohe in the district's anticipated development.
2. The proposed scenarios are remiss of the master planning efforts currently underway for Murupara. Any future development must integrate and respect this comprehensive planning to ensure cohesive and community-aligned outcomes.
3. Murupara's strategic location positions it as a key service hub for the surrounding regions, including Whirinaki and Te Urewera. Investment in infrastructure and resources must reflect this role to enhance accessibility and support.
4. With its unique geographic positioning, Murupara has the potential to become a thoroughfare town that actively attracts visitors. Development should prioritise creating a vibrant, road-facing townscape to encourage engagement from those passing through.
5. The existing town pool, a vital resource for both local and regional whānau, lacks disability access and requires substantial upgrades to meet community needs. Enhancements must prioritise inclusivity and ensure it continues to serve a wider user base effectively.
6. To protect our rights and aspirations, Ngāti Manawa must be recognised and included as a critical decision maker in all development and implementation processes concerning our rohe.
7. Development plans must resolve historical inequities by ensuring Ngāti Manawa has access to essential services, including:
 - a. Water reticulation
 - b. Wastewater systems
 - c. Sustainable water allocations
8. Future growth must balance environmental integrity, cultural preservation, and community well-being, with a specific focus on supporting:
 - a. Papakāinga housing.
 - b. Sustainable energy solutions to enhance iwi self-sufficiency.
 - c. Business Venture Opportunities.
9. Ngāti Manawa advocates for a rates policy that upholds equity and protects the rights of mana whenua. Rates on whānau owned land within our rohe must reflect historical, cultural, and social contexts, ensuring affordability for our people.
10. Water management strategies must include provisions for cultural flows, ensuring sufficient water remains in waterways to sustain the mauri and cultural practices of Ngāti Manawa.

Scenario Submission Points:

Scenario One: Residential Greenfields

Ngāti Manawa recognises that Scenario One emphasises greenfield developments in locations such as Matatā, Awakeri, and Hukutaia. However, any growth in Murupara must:

- Prioritise infrastructure upgrades to address systemic inequities.
 - Ensure papakāinga housing and Māori-led initiatives are central to the development framework.
 - Be conducted with meaningful engagement and direct iwi involvement in planning and implementation.
1. By 2055, Murupara is anticipated to grow by 300 dwellings. Development projections must align with Ngāti Manawa's aspirations and take a holistic approach to growth. The impact of these scenarios on Murupara's infrastructure, housing, and community well-being must be explicitly addressed.
 2. Evan's Park in Murupara represents a critical opportunity for housing development, currently underutilized as grazing land. Recognising it is designated as Highly Productive Land (HPL), a clear pathway for its potential transition to support housing aligned with Ngāti Manawa's vision must be incorporated into the Spatial Plan. Ngāti Manawa would like to progress conversations for the return of this whenua and pathways for its development following the progression of current housing on Miro Drive.
 3. Ngāti Manawa holds a vested interest in leading all housing initiatives within Murupara. Housing development must prioritise iwi-led projects and papakāinga, ensuring these align with cultural, environmental, and community values.

Scenario Two: Un-Serviced Rural Residential Focus

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa does not think this scenario will be progressed or even considered at length. We believe Whakatāne District Council has a preconceived objective and that the consultation is purely out of obligation. We however, provide the following positions:

While Scenario Two avoids significant greenfield development, reliance on un-serviced rural residential areas raises concerns:

- Scenario 2 avoids significant new greenfield development and overlooks Murupara and the wider Ngāti Manawa rohe for any growth.
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa actively seeks growth and development to provide more housing for whānau and create better economic opportunities, not only for the iwi but also for the EBOP region. This needs to be developed in a sustainable way that meets the needs of the environment and whānau living in within our rohe including Kaingaroa, Murupara and Galatea.
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa has business venture ideas that require placeholding, particularly considering the return of Forestry Lands currently managed and operated by Timberlands that will be returned in the current Spatial Planning Period.
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa strongly supports the growth of papakāinga and Māori-led housing within Scenario 2. However, this must be backed by equitable access to services and infrastructure, enabling sustainable and culturally aligned development on our whenua. The plan must include pathways for hapū-led housing and infrastructure projects.
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa strongly opposes the reduced regulatory requirements proposed in Scenario 2.

Scenario Three: Focus on Western Bay of Plenty and Rotorua

Ngāti Manawa opposes Scenario Three's shift in focus to the Western Bay of Plenty, as it overlooks the needs of rural communities in our rohe. Instead, development must be prioritised to:

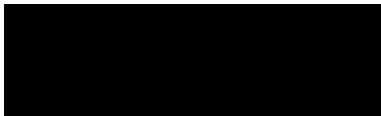
- Address long-standing infrastructure deficits.
- Support sustainable, iwi and community-led growth initiatives.

Closing Comments:

Ngāti Manawa appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission on the Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan. As mana whenua, we assert our commitment to ensuring that development within our rohe aligns with our cultural values, environmental stewardship, and aspirations for sustainable growth.

While recognising the potential benefits of development, these must not come at the expense of environmental integrity, community well-being, or the displacement of whānau. Our submission outlines clear expectations for equitable and meaningful engagement, infrastructure upgrades, and prioritisation of Māori-led housing and papakāinga developments.

Ngāti Manawa looks forward to continued dialogue and collaboration with Whakatāne District Council and other stakeholders to ensure that the outcomes of the Spatial Plan reflect shared goals while safeguarding our iwi's rights, interests, and aspirations.



Maramena Vercoe
CEO
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa