



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

Introduction:

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare was established through a common law trust in 1999 by Ngāti Whare iwi to represent the iwi. They have since gone on to represent Ngāti Whare in the historic Central North Island (CNI) Forest Iwi Collective Settlement, which marks a significant milestone in our journey of reclaiming our rangatiratanga. We have also successfully represented our Iwi in our Treaty of Waitangi Settlement negotiations with the Crown. Through this Settlement, we have secured the resources, support, and partnerships necessary to advance the social, cultural, environmental, and economic aspirations of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare.

This submission reflects Ngāti Whare's enduring commitment to fostering a resilient hapū rohe that upholds the well-being of our taiao, whānau, and community. Our projective is to advocate for development pathways that balance environmental stewardship, cultural preservation, and the prosperity of our people, villages, and rohe. Through this spatial planning process, Ngāti Whare seeks meaningful inclusion, equitable outcomes, and the restoration of our mana as kaitiaki of this whenua.

Our Overarching Position:

Engagement / Consultation

1. The engagement process for this Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial is from October 14th to November 17th.
This period is inadequate for such an extensive plan that will lock in the actions of our council for the next 30 years.
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, in this instance:
 - a. Make the proposal and its reasons available, along with an analysis of the reasonably practicable options, including the preferred option. This ensures that all interested or affected persons can access comprehensive information to form an informed opinion.
Without the technical support of Te Au o Te Awa Punga, this would not have been possible. They provided a full analysis and breakdown of the scenarios to support this submission.
 - b. Actively encourage those who may be affected by, or have an interest in, the decision or matter to present their views. This involves informing the public about the purpose of the consultation and the scope of the decisions to be made.
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.
We appreciate that we have been supported through Te Au o Te Awa Punga and can make this submission. Our mana whenua interest in Minginui and Te Whaiti must have precedence in future discussions and decisions made for the development of Rohe.
3. Te Au o Te Awa Punga has enabled us to provide this submission and has given context on Scenarios and the Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan, including its opportunities and

potential impacts. Without them, Ngāti Whare would again be excluded from a council process due to poor engagement by the Whakatāne District Council.

4. Ngāti Whare must be actively included as a critical decision-maker in all development and implementation processes concerning our rohe, including our awa and ngāhere, to uphold our rights and ensure outcomes reflect the aspirations of our iwi.
5. Development must provide Ngāti Whare access to essential services such as water reticulation, wastewater systems, sustainable water allocations, and waste management.
6. Future growth must balance environmental integrity, cultural preservation, and community well-being with support for papakāinga housing, sustainable energy solutions, and self-sufficiency projects.
7. The planning process must foster trust, inclusivity, and transparency, ensuring that Ngāti Whare's voice is central and that historical grievances are acknowledged and addressed.
8. The Spatial Plan must provide pathways for iwi-led housing and infrastructure projects, including papakāinga developments and sustainable energy solutions, to enhance Ngāti Whare's capacity to support its people.

Critical Key Positions

1. Ngāti Whare seeks equitable access to water reticulation, wastewater systems, and other critical infrastructure.
2. All development undertaken by the Whakatāne District to date overlooks our role and its potential. These scenarios are no different from historical behaviour.
3. To protect our rights and aspirations, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare must be recognised and included as a critical decision-maker in all development and implementation processes concerning our rohe.
4. The iwi seeks to enhance the marae and surrounding lands as an emergency civil defence hub for our people in landslide or flooding emergencies that may block the community from nearby townships.
5. Future growth in Minginui and Te Whaiti must balance environmental integrity, cultural preservation, and community well-being, with a specific focus on supporting Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare Ngāti Whare with:
 - Restoring existing housing so they are warm, dry and liveable for whānau.
 - Support for papakāinga housing.
 - Renewable energy
 - Infrastructure solutions that align with cultural values and sustainability.
6. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare seeks meaningful inclusion in decision-making to uphold their role as kaitiaki and ensure development respects their aspirations.

7. Planning processes must foster trust, inclusivity, and transparency, ensuring that Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare's voice is central and that historical grievances are acknowledged and addressed.
8. Water management strategies must include provisions for cultural flows, ensuring sufficient water remains in waterways to sustain the mauri and cultural practices of Ngāti Whare. This consists of performing key cultural rituals, accessing clean water, and protecting Whirinaki awa spiritual and ecological integrity.
9. Future water allocation frameworks must prioritise Ngāti Whare rights and interests, ensuring equitable access for cultural, environmental, and economic purposes, including sustainable water use for papakāinga housing, restoration projects, and iwi-led developments.
10. Introduce robust monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with water use limits, prioritising the protection of cultural and environmental values over commercial and extractive uses.
11. Ngāti Whare have aspirations and priorities for their community to enhance the well-being of those living in the village—any plans for development need to work alongside this.

Scenario Submission Points

Scenarios one, two, and three

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare affirms that all three scenarios inadequately consider Minginui and the wider Ngāti Whare Rohe while adopting a blanket approach of assumed growth by around 50 + dwellings in all scenarios by 2055. We believe Whakatāne District Council has a preconceived objective and that the consultation is purely a legislative obligation rather than an integral process:

- The Whakatāne District Council has also failed to provide for the growth and aspirations of the wider Minginui community including Te Whaiti.
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare feels that Minginui and Te Whaiti has been left to the side and that the Council has not given efficient thought and aspiration for the growth and development of Minginui over the next 30-plus years.
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare also believes that Te Whaiti has been overlooked in the discussion, with no consideration given by the Council to the growth and development needs of this community.
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare, alongside the Minginui Village Incorporated Society and whānau living in Minginui, have aspirations for the development of Minginui. To see Minginui grow sustainably, providing for the needs of whānau and creating a more robust economy.

- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare prioritises rebuilding and repairing existing homes to ensure they are safe, functional, and liveable before considering the development of new housing. Reasons for this include but are not limited to:
 - Several homes are currently unoccupied, need repair, or no longer suitable for living.
 - We are concerned about the potential for gentrification in Minginui if new housing developments are built without careful consideration. This could lead to rising property values and living costs, potentially displacing whānau and undermining our village's cultural and social fabric. It is crucial to ensure that any housing initiative prioritises the needs and aspirations of our existing residents and upholds the mana of our village.
- Any development in Minginui and Te Whaiti must be managed in partnership with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare.
- The scenarios failed to consider potential opportunities and impacts the proposal may have on the Whirinaki Te Pua a Tāne and the Whirinaki River. Overlooking the need to protect and sustain this vital taonga for future generations.
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare is disappointed by the poor engagement approach from the council and the plans made for Minginui without engaging with the community and with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare.
- Additionally, housing in Minginui needs to be accompanied by investment into essential services to improve the well-being of the community, including:
 - Renewable energy.
 - Waste Management Services.
 - Water reticulation and wastewater systems.
- All three Scenarios are remiss in this work being undertaken to develop a master plan for Minginui. Engagement with our whānau to date has successfully identified Minginui as a critical papakāinga for our people. This critical papakāinga requires an effective water reticulation system, roading upgrades, streetlights, waste management and a central community gathering, as well as other critical developments and upgrades.
- All three scenarios do not adequately consider the potential for the development of lands in and around the Ngāti Whare rohe, including wider opportunities for Economic Development and sustainable employment for our people.

Closing Comments

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

While we recognise 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, existing

infrastructure assessments and upgrades, and the prioritisation of Māori-led housing and papakāinga developments.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare stands ready to partner with Whakatāne District Council and other stakeholders to ensure that the Spatial Plan reflects our shared goals while safeguarding our iwi's rights, interests, and aspirations. By embedding the principles of kaitiakitanga, partnership, and transparency, we can collectively create a future for Minginui that benefits while honouring the mana of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare and its people.

We look forward to continued dialogue and collaboration to ensure that this process's outcomes genuinely reflect the needs of the whenua, awa, and people.



Mere George
CEO
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare