YOUR THAMES, TOMORROW

Maiea ake ~ Mai i te hiku ki te kauae,
tō pito whenua, tō āpōpō

THAMES AND SURROUNDS SPATIAL PLAN

OCTOBER 2022

FOREWORD

Thames and its surrounding areas are poised for growth. Together, they are the economic engine of our beautiful Coromandel, and a vibrant, positive place to live and work.

Our proximity to Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga, our enviable lifestyle due to the natural environment and climate, and our access to the stunning coastlines of our Coromandel create significant opportunities for Thames' communities and economy.

But at the same time, we know that aspects of the area are under performing. It's hard for families to buy or rent houses here, businesses that want to grow are struggling to find staff, and our infrastructure needs better planning and investment if it is to support our aspirations. Our coastal geography requires us to pay careful attention to the potential hazards from sea level rise as our climate changes.

Our Spatial Plan is a strategic response to these issues. It sets a direction and a vision that will guide us in years to come. It will help us realise our growth opportunity in a sustainable and effective way.

The Plan brings together thinking from our Thames and Surrounds communities, landowners, stakeholders and partners to offer a vision for our area. It acknowledges our constraints and helps mitigate the risks we are facing in a responsible and collaborative way. It celebrates local knowledge and expertise. It reflects the ideas, wishes and dreams of the people who will be central to its success – the residents of our communities.

We'll align the Spatial Plan with our Council's Long Term Plan to ensure our decisions and direction reflect what's happening on the ground. We'll use the Plan as our long-term blueprint as we make the hundreds of smaller day-to-day decisions that make up our future success and prosperity.

I'm immensely proud of the work that has gone into the Thames Spatial Plan and know that it will help retain and expand what makes our area special for years to come.

- Sandra Goudie Thames - Coromandel District Mayor

Nei rā ngā kupu

maioha a ngā mātua tupuna e mihi atu ana i roto i ngā āhuatanga o te wā nei o ō tātou Ao Hurihuri.

Ngā tini Whetū ki te rangi, Ngāti Maru ki te whenua.

Ngāti Maru have committed to working collaboratively with the Thames Coromandel District Council to develop sustainable strategic solutions for the forward planning of Thames township and its environs.

With the complex issues facing our town and area mana whenua participation has been a collaborative exercise encompassing the mitigation of the effects of the rising sea levels, the increased frequency of tidal inundation and flooding and, population growth and distribution as these concepts relate to the modelling that has been presented across the spectrum covered in the spatial planning for the future of Thames town and its environment.

We are committed to bring a mana whenua focus to the Thames Spatial Plan with the incorporation of our cultural, historical and anecdotal knowledge to our involvement in any forward planning for our area.

Wati Ngamane - Chairman, Ngāti Maru Runanga

CONTENTS

WHAT IS A SPATIAL PLAN?

WHAT IS A SPATIAL PLAN?

A Spatial Plan is a high-level blueprint for the future, showing what should go where in our built environment, and how each part should interact with the others. The Thames Spatial Plan will chart the future of Thames, ensuring growth can occur in a positive, sustainable way.

WHAT IS THE SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN?

Community-led Coastal Panels have developed coastal adaptation plans that will help us mitigate and adapt to the coastal erosion and flooding risks to our people, property and assets. This important work has made recommendations for which sustainable flood and coastal defence measures are appropriate for different parts of Thames. The considered options range from soft solutions such as wetland regeneration, to hard solutions such as stop banks, rock walls or partial managed retreat. The key moves identified in the Spatial Plan are informed by the recommendations set out in the Shoreline Management Plan.

For more information visit www.tcdc.govt.nz/smp

The Spatial Plan has been developed using a process that puts the community at its heart, ensuring it reflects the ideas, wishes and aspirations of the people who have a connection with Thames. The Thames Spatial Plan will ensure the town and its surrounds can grow in a sustainable way, while protecting what makes it special for years to come.

HOW WILL THE SPATIAL PLAN BE USED?

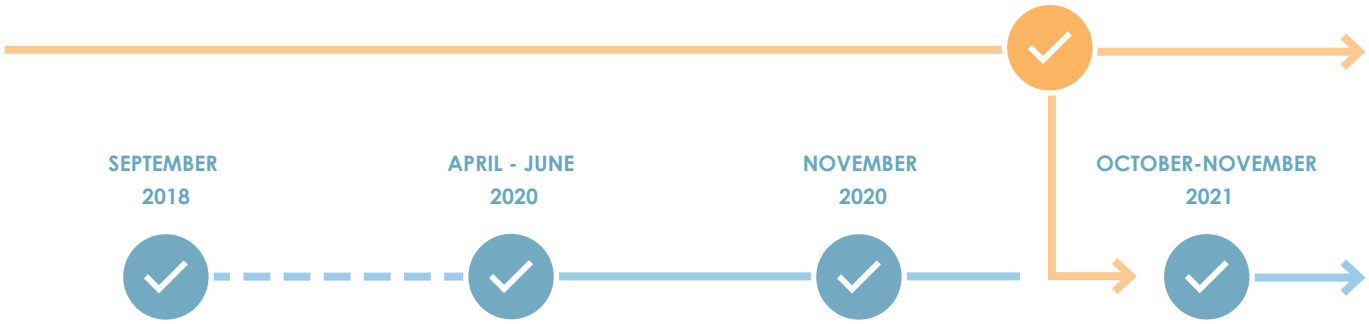
The Spatial Planning process has integrated a considerable amount of thinking across a range of workstreams (i.e. infrastructure studies, shoreline management plan, growth projections) – offering a compelling case for change that brings our community, mana whenua, landowners, stakeholders and partners together. It creates a shared vision, setting expectations for the future of Thames that will help central government prioritize and plan investment.

The Spatial Plan will inform changes to the District Plan, infrastructure planning and investment decisions made by our Council and signal to landowners, developers and investors growth intentions for the area. Importantly, the needs and aspirations of the community will be captured through this document into future regional spatial plans as proposed under the incoming Spatial Planning Act.

PROCESS

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Draft adaptive pathways



SEPTEMBER 2018

APRIL - JUNE 2020

NOVEMBER 2020

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2021

COUNCIL IDENTIFIED NEED

As part of a Council commissioned report (Productivity Plan) for the Thames-Coromandel District it was identified that the Thames township, despite a range of positive features, was constrained in terms of future growth, including housing shortages and imbalances and a lack of corporate investment in the town. An increase in natural hazard risk to Thames, particularly from coastal inundation, was also identified as a key issue that would need to be addressed moving forward.

UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM

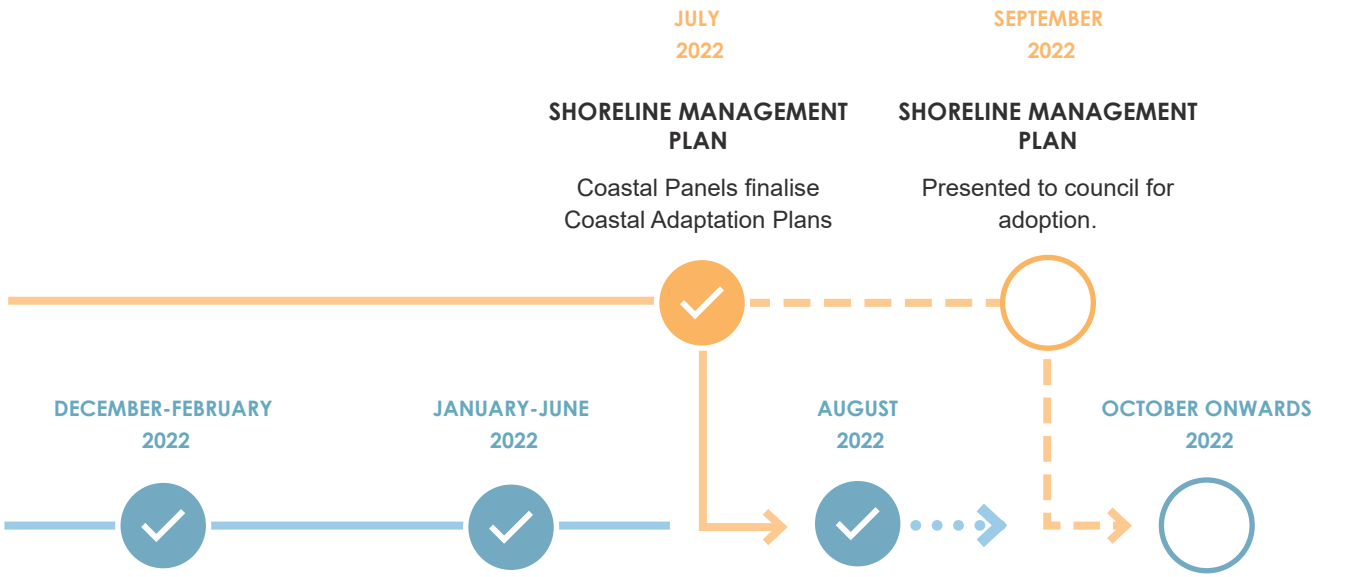
To help understand the problems in Thames, and the benefits that could be achieved by addressing the problems identified, the Spatial Planning team used a process called Investment Logic Mapping (ILM). This involved a workshop with relevant stakeholders to ensure the Spatial Plan optioneering process was focused on the issues faced by the community and created investment objectives (or ILM benefits) that were used to measure the Spatial Plan options developed through the process.

SPATIAL PLANNING OPTIONEERING

With the benefit of the ILM process several Spatial Plan options were developed, each of which provided for a range of future growth scenarios in Thames – from a 'do nothing' scenario through to low, medium and high growth scenarios – all of which were measured through a multi criteria analysis (MCA) process.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION

This stage of the Spatial Planning process has involved further investigation by the Spatial Planning team; with a particular focus on the key resource management issues facing Thames township and preliminary discussion in relation to future growth scenarios.



ENGAGE COMMUNITY

The Spatial Plan engagement document was presented at community meetings at the Thames Golf Club, Civic Centre and the Kauaeranga Hall, as well as online. More than 180 people took part in the process and shared their views.

REFINE PLAN

We collected feedback through a survey and direct meetings with the community. Ngāti Maru continued to provide valuable guidance throughout the project. Agencies including Waikato Regional Council, NZTA/ Waka Kotahi and Kāinga Ora also provided their views.

SPATIAL PLAN

Final Draft Spatial Plan for consultation with the community.

SPATIAL PLAN ADOPTED

Spatial Plan adopted by the new council.

MANA WHENUA

Ngā puke ki Hauraki ka tārehua
E mihi ana ki te whenua, e tangi ana ki te tāngata
Ko Moehau ki waho, ko Te Aroha ki uta
Ko Tīkapa te moana, ko Hauraki te whenua

The peaks of Hauraki lie shrouded in mist
We revere the land and lament the people
Moehau stands afar while Te Aroha stands within
Tīkapa is the sea and Hauraki the land

Haere mai ki Hauraki he aute te awhea[1]

The spiritually and culturally symbiotic relationship between the people of Pare Hauraki and our world, mai Matakana ki Matakana, is founded on whakapapa links between the cosmos, gods, nature and people. Our world is a holistic unified whole consisting of spiritual and physical interrelated realities.

Our relationships are first and foremost genealogical. All things, animate and inanimate, have a whakapapa derived from Papatūānuku and her children. The works of nature – mountains, seas, rivers, wetlands, animals and plants – are either kin, ancestors, or founding parents. From our cosmogony, all things have their own mauri and personality requiring respect and protection.

Whanaungatanga lies at the core of our relationships. Te taura tāngata is the cord of kinship that binds us together through whakapapa. It is a braid that is tightly woven, tying in all its strands. It is unbroken and infinite.

Our traditional imagery holds that the Coromandel Peninsula is the jagged barb of the great fish of Māui (Te Tara o te Ika a Māui), while the peaks of Te Aroha and Moehau form the prow and stern of the waka.

Important tribal taniwha and tupua dwell in the ancestral seas and rivers which are also the location of continued spiritual and cultural traditions and practices maintained over the many centuries.

The extensive coastline, mountainous backbone, rivers and wetlands make for a resource rich and environmentally diverse rohe, desired by many over the centuries. The taonga tuku iho bestowed upon us include taonga species, fertile soils, hua whenua, hua rākau, kai moana, kai awa, kai ngahere, timber, textile flora and minerals.

[1] "Come to Hauraki, where the aute is not disturbed."

The aute plant (paper mulberry), brought to Hauraki from Hawaiiki, is an iconic symbol representing the fertility and mana of Hauraki, and this pepeha is a metaphor of peace and endurance.

The seas and foreshores of Tīkapa Moana to Mahurangi and Te Tai Tamahine / Te Tai Tamawahine to Ngā Kuri a Whārei provide nourishment and spiritual sustenance as well as the maritime pathways to settlements throughout our rohe. The maunga of Hauraki are uplifted places of revered events in time and space. There, resides the tangible history of Pare Hauraki. Many rivers flow from the maunga into the plains and sea and provide sustenance and inland pathways. To the west includes the Waihou, Ōhinemuri and Piako, and to the east Whitianga and Tairua. The flood plain of the Piako and Waihou rivers was an inland sprawling sea and wetland rich with flora and fauna.

These places are revered in tribal histories and mōteatea.

Our traditions hold that our people have dwelt in Hauraki for over a millennium.

Our tūpuna inhabited a rohe temperate and generally frost free which enabled the cultivation of kūmara, taro and yam from Polynesia. The broadleaf and podocarp forests include miro, hinau, tawa and karaka whose fruit were harvested. The rohe abounds in bird life with many wetland species and thousands of migratory waders, which congregate on the coastal mudflats in season. The seas and foreshores teem with marine mammals, fish and shellfish, the wetlands and rivers with birds, tuna and fish, as well as berries and medicinal and textile flora. Much of the rohe was thickly forested, with the rivers and water bodies giving access to great stands of kahikātea and kauri.

These resources were subject to access and use rights as an essential part of kaitiakitanga. Some species would be generally available, while other species would be regulated by rangatira in order to ensure sustenance and sustainability for the tribe.

The richness and diversity of this natural world is reflected by the many peoples who have belonged to the land and seas of Hauraki over the centuries. Thus, there are some 6,000 recorded historical sites, 700 of which are pā. It is generally accepted that there are more than double that number. More numerous again are the wāhi tapu cared for by Pare Hauraki as kaitiaki of these revered places.

The traditions of Pare Hauraki are of a highly mobile and maritime nation. Movement throughout tribal areas was influenced by areas of occupation and the location and availability of natural resources. Seasonal harvesting, especially kai moana, involved travel and occupation over very wide areas of Tīkapa Moana – Te Tai Tamahine / Te Tai Tamawahine and their motu. Preservation of birds and fish was an important activity, together with tending of extensive cultivations.

The mana and wellbeing of Pare Hauraki was displayed in many ways - the quantity and quality of kai; waka and whare; tools/ weaponry personal ornaments (including tahanga, tōhora, and huruhuru); and korowai and whāriki etc.

Many whānau, hapū and iwi have dwelled in Hauraki over the centuries. The complexity and diversity of Pare Hauraki is reflected in the separate waves of tribal migration - various waka, tōhora and taniwha traditions, together with histories of conflict, intermarriage and tuku whenua. Tribal entities have come and gone, with the 12 Iwi of Hauraki now comprising:

- Ngāti Maru;
- Hako;
- Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki;
- Ngāti Hei;
- Ngāti Paoa;
- Ngāti Porou ki Hauraki;
- Ngāti Pūkenga;
- Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu;
- Ngāti Tamaterā;
- Ngāti Tara Tokanui;
- Ngaati Whanaunga; and
- Te Patukirikiri

WHAT IS DRIVING THE SPATIAL PLAN?

1. IMPACT ON ECONOMY

Thames is the economic powerhouse of the Coromandel. Our economy is growing, but our population is stagnant, and the workforce is shrinking. Businesses can't recruit workers due to a lack of housing so well-paying jobs are going unfilled.

46%

OF OUR DISTRICT'S JOBS ARE IN THAMES, BUT ONLY

36%

OF THE POPULATION

OUR AGING POPULATION WORSENS OUR SHORTAGE OF WORKING-AGE PEOPLE

AGED 65+

35% TCDC

15% NZ

THIS HAS A UNIQUE IMPACT ON THE COMPOSITION OF OUR LOCAL WORKFORCE:

36%
Employed full time

15%
Employed part time

3%
Unemployed - lower unemployment than national average

46%
Are not in the labour force

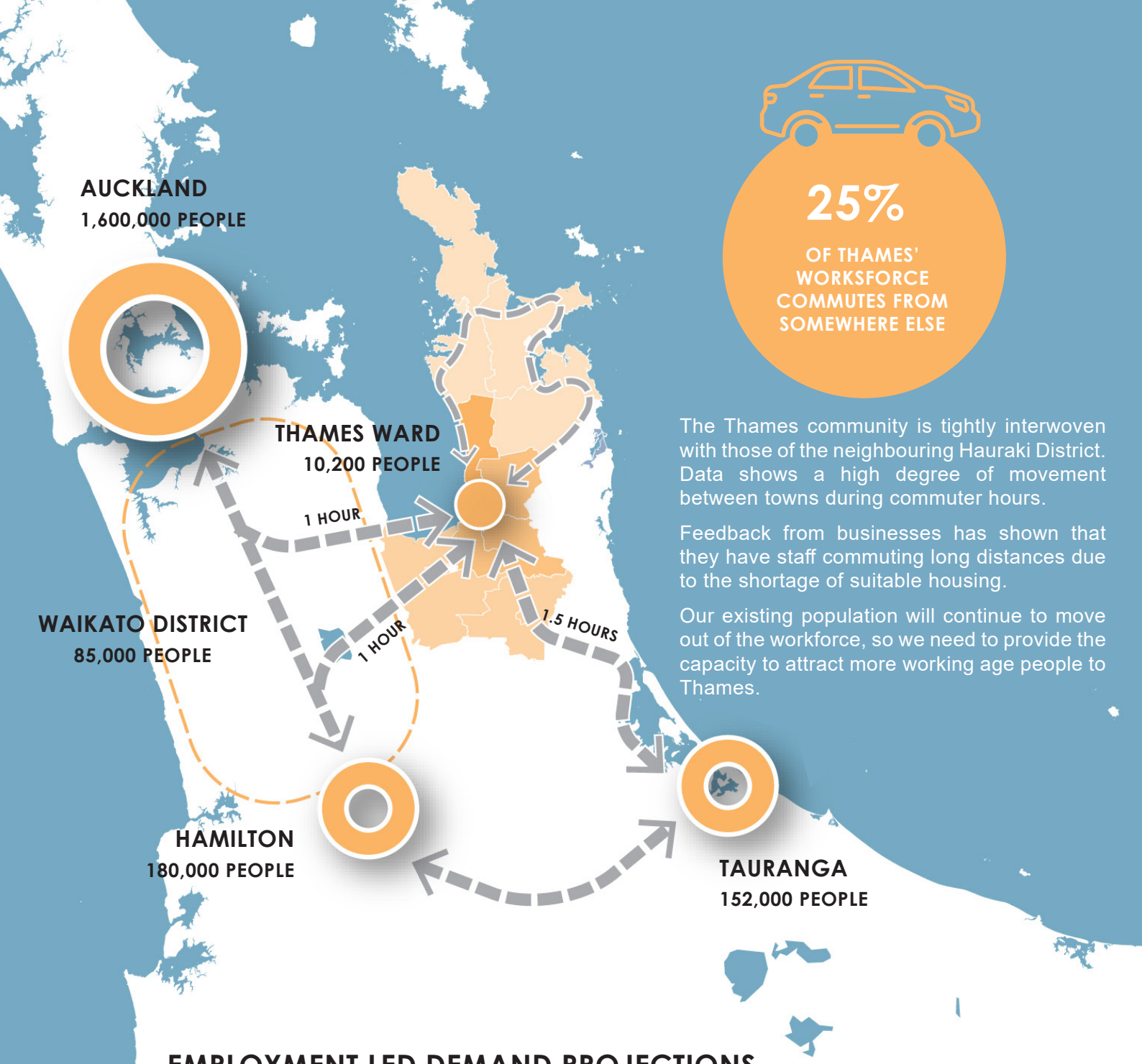
During engagement with the community, many businesses expressed the desperate need for staff, and the shortage of rental and market housing available as the single largest contributor to their ongoing viability.

Thames Business Association survey results:

"Nearly 80% of businesses know of workers outside the District who are looking for housing in the Thames area; and nearly 50% say that lack of housing is impacting their business."

Comments from Long-Term Plan consultation:

"We are unable to recruit talent... simply because there is no available housing"



25%

OF THAMES' WORKSFORCE COMMUTES FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE

The Thames community is tightly interwoven with those of the neighbouring Hauraki District. Data shows a high degree of movement between towns during commuter hours.

Feedback from businesses has shown that they have staff commuting long distances due to the shortage of suitable housing.

Our existing population will continue to move out of the workforce, so we need to provide the capacity to attract more working age people to Thames.

EMPLOYMENT LED DEMAND PROJECTIONS

Thames need to build at least 70 homes a year to service existing demand, however over the last ten years there has been an average of only 16 homes built a year.

	OPTION 1 No Job Growth	**OPTION 2** Low Projection	**OPTION 3** Medium Projection	**OPTION 4** High Projection
Dwellings @2020	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200
Dwellings @2070	5,000	7,600	9,400	10,600
New Dwellings	900	3,400	5,200	6,500
Annual Growth	20	70	100	130
Annual Growth %	0.4%	1.2%	1.6%	1.9%

WHAT IS DRIVING THE SPATIAL PLAN?

2. THE NEED FOR NEW HOUSING

The Thames community has experienced a chronic, long term under supply of infrastructure enabled, commercially viable land. The high cost to access infrastructure as well as a high cost to access developable land has inhibited development.

17%
THAMES WARD HOMES UNOCCUPIED

55
AVERAGE AGE OF HOUSE IN THAMES (YEARS)

RENT

VERY LOW PROPORTION OF LONG-TERM RENTALS TO HOUSING STOCK

RENTALS

13% TCDC

41% NZ

WE ARE ONE OF MOST UNAFFORDABLE DISTRICTS IN NEW ZEALAND.

We need to create capacity for affordable homes in Thames, the primary employment area.

RENTALS

90

5500

POPULATION

In the last 10 years, the number of properties available to rent in TCDC has declined by 90 properties. During this time the population has increased by 5500 people.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY INDEX

17.2 TCDC

14 QUEENSTOWN LAKES

8.8 NEW ZEALAND AVERAGE

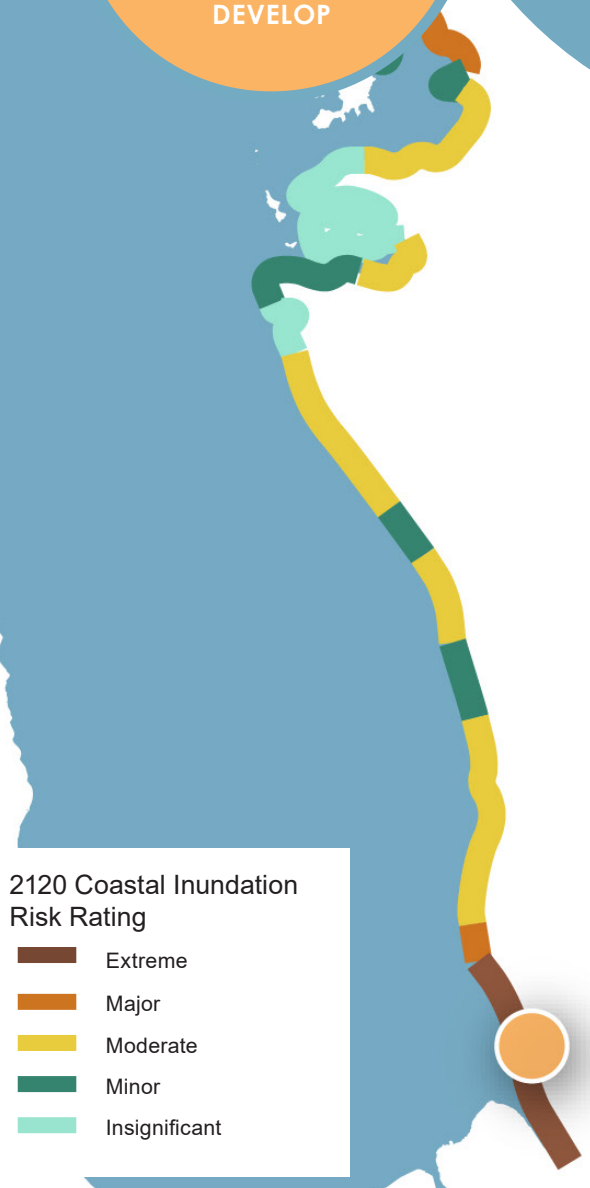
3. CLIMATE CHANGE

Low lying coastal areas of the Thames coast and the greater Thames area are at risk of coastal inundation and erosion. When planning for the future it's important to think about how climate change and rising seas will affect our communities, assets and infrastructure. By addressing Climate and Flooding risk we can improve investor confidence to develop.

FAILURE TO ADDRESS FLOODING AND INUNDATION HAZARDS DIMINISHES INVESTOR CONFIDENCE TO DEVELOP

$1B
WORTH OF ASSETS ARE AT RISK LONG TERM

$408M
WORTH OF ASSETS ARE CURRENTLY AT RISK



INUNDATION RISK IN THAMES

	% at risk in 2020 1% AEP	% at risk 0.5 SLR	% at risk 1.0 SLR
Commercial Zone	42%	77%	84%
Light Industrial Zone	45%	54%	83%
Industrial Zone	0%	0%	53%
Extra Density Residential Zone	37%	58%	71%
Residential Zone	7%	12%	22%

1% AEP = 1 in 100 year storm event
SLR = Sea level rise

KEY SPATIAL MOVES

GROWTH AREAS

A. INTENSIFY, CONSOLIDATE & UPGRADE EXISTING TOWN CENTRE - Generate investor confidence and community pride in the central business district, provide a planning framework that anticipates typical town centre commercial activity (including short term accommodation) and medium rise development (3 – 6 levels), protect heritage.

B. DEVELOP ALONG NORTHERN SIDE OF KAUAERANGA RIVER - Look to extend rural residential and lifestyle living choices further into the valley.

C. DEVELOP TOTARA VALLEY - Standard density to rest of the valley in line with the direction set in the Kōpū to Thames structure plan. Retain natural gully system.

D. DEVELOP SOUTHWARD - Additional residential growth cells worth investigating on hanging terrace above SH 25.

E. DEVELOP SOUTHWARD - Large land parcel suitable for mixed density residential and commercial development.

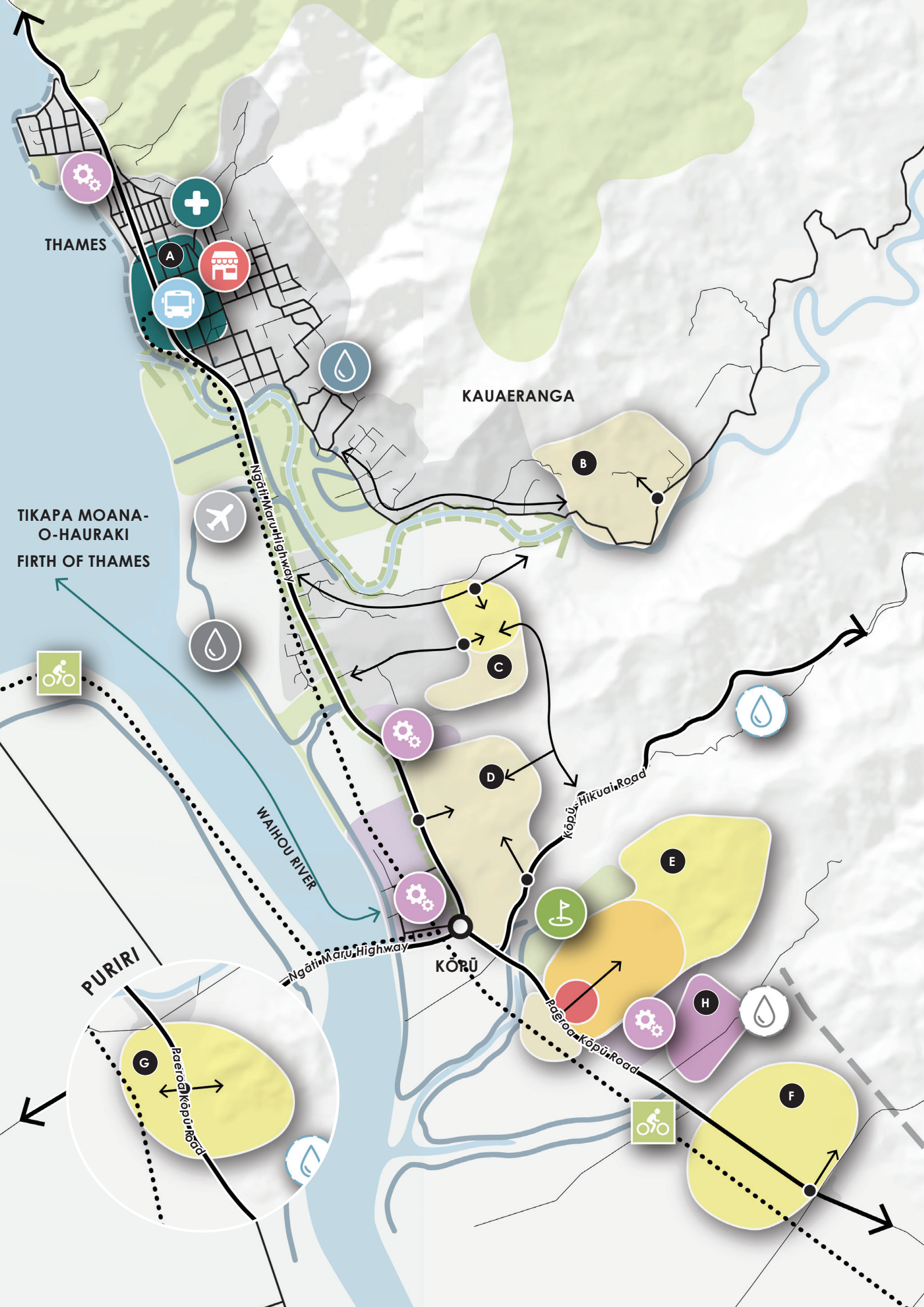
F. FUTURE GROWTH CELL AT MATATOKI - Medium to long term housing land option.

G. FUTURE GROWTH CELL AT PURIRI - Medium to long term housing land option.

H. Build on existing industrial node by creating new land for employment up Warahoe Road.

LEGEND

- Existing Thames Township
- Convenience Commercial
- Medium Density Housing
- Low Density Residential
- Large Lot / Rural Residential
- Industrial Land
- Existing Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Existing Water Treatment Plant
- Potential Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Potential Water Treatment Plant
- Industrial jobs
- Hospital
- Shops and Town Centre
- Thames Golf Club
- Rail Trail
- Public Transport Hub
- Sea freight and Marine Servicing connection
- National Grid


THAMES
A
KAUAERANGA
B
TIKAPA MOANA-
O-HAURAKI
FIRTH OF THAMES
Ngāti Maru Highway
C
D
Kōpū-Hīkuai Road
WAIHOU RIVER
E
Ngāti Maru Highway
KŌRŪ
PURIRI
G
Paeroa-Kōpū Road
H
Paeroa-Kōpū Road
F

HOUSING TYPOLOGIES

MIXED DENSITY TOWN CENTRE

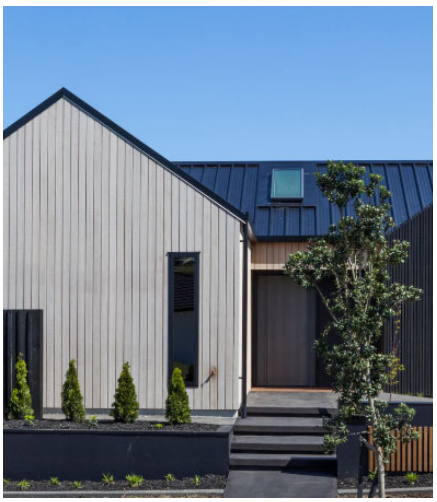
TYPICAL HOUSING TYPES	Low rise apartments
TYPICAL HOUSING HEIGHTS	3-6 storeys

MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL

DENSITY	30 DW / HA
TYPICAL HOUSING TYPES	Semi attached terraced houses, attached terraced houses, low rise apartments
TYPICAL HOUSING HEIGHTS	2 - 3 storeys
TYPICAL SECTION SIZES	200 - 350 sqm

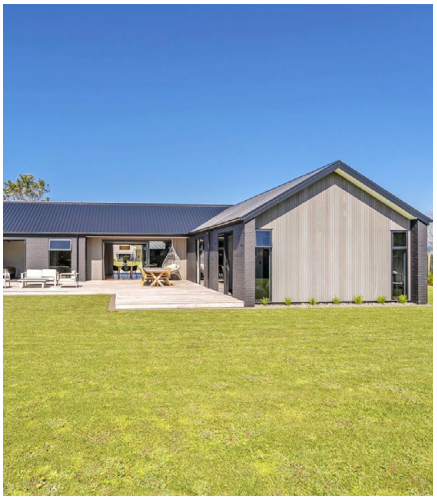
LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL

DENSITY	15-20 DW / HA
TYPICAL HOUSING TYPES	Detached houses Villa units
TYPICAL HOUSING HEIGHTS	1 - 2 storeys
TYPICAL SECTION SIZES	400-600 sqm



LARGE LOT RESIDENTIAL

DENSITY	3-5 DW / HA
TYPICAL HOUSING TYPES	Detached houses on a large section
TYPICAL HOUSING HEIGHTS	1-2 storeys Predominately single storey houses
TYPICAL SECTION SIZES	2,500 - 4,000 sqm



RURAL RESIDENTIAL

DENSITY	1 DW / HA
TYPICAL HOUSING TYPES	Detached houses on a large section
TYPICAL HOUSING HEIGHTS	1-2 storeys Predominately single storey houses
TYPICAL SECTION SIZES	10,000 sqm

CHALLENGES

Thames' unique environment creates constraints and challenges to meeting the growth needs of our district. Understanding these constraints helps identify the areas most suitable for greenfield development.

CONSTRAINTS

Highly Constrained Land

This land is highly constrained meaning that development is limited.

Constraints within this land include hazards such as flooding and coastal inundation, land that has a slope greater than 15 degrees, covenants, public conservation areas, and landscape features such as outstanding natural landscapes and features, significant natural areas, high natural character within coastal environments, significant indigenous forest areas and high voltage power lines.

Moderately Constrained Land (Developable with Mitigation)

This land is moderately constrained, meaning that development is possible with mitigation.

Constraints within this land include land that has a slope between 7 and 15 degrees and landscape features such as coastal environments and amenity landscapes.

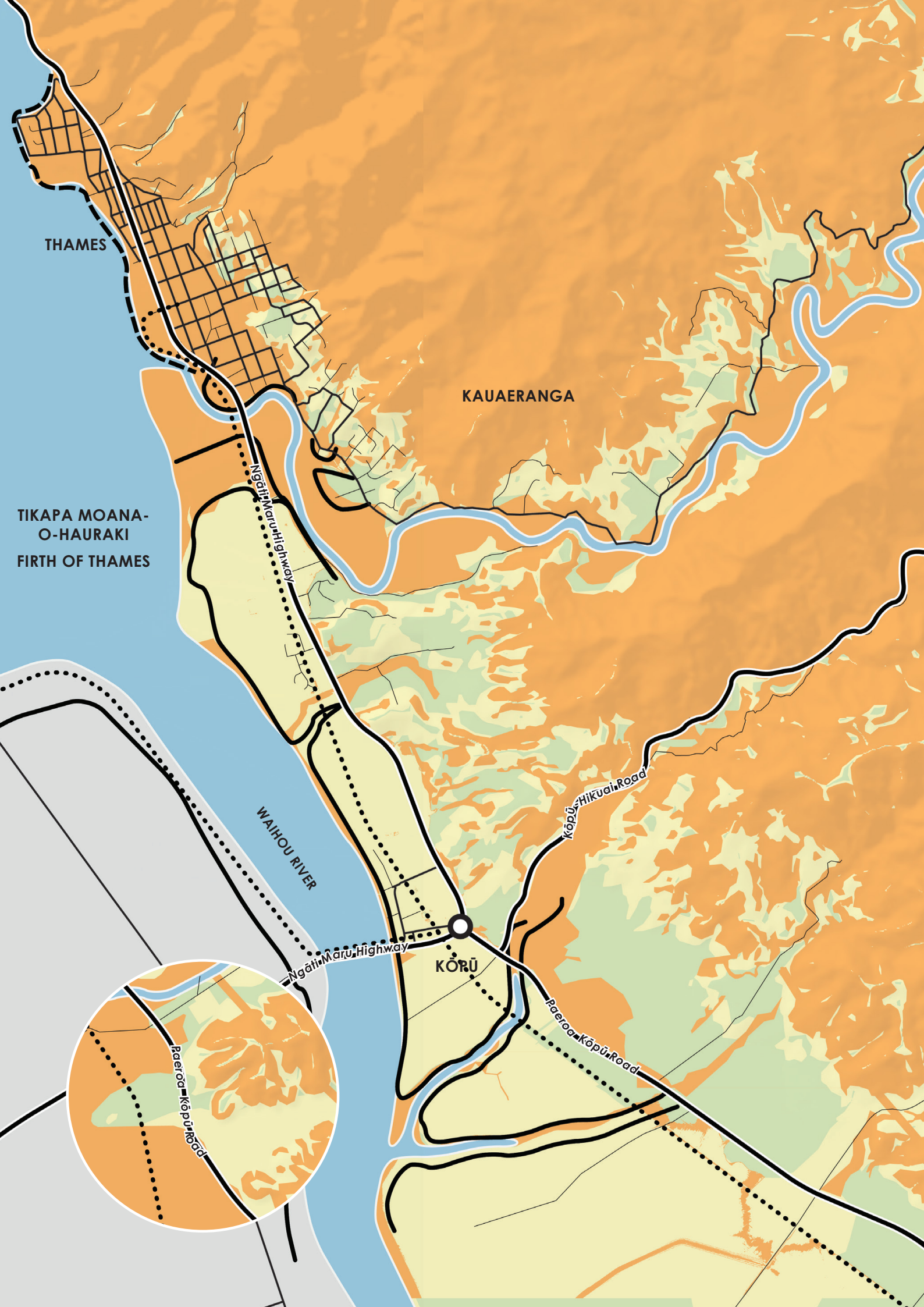
Un-Constrained Land (Developable)

This land is un-constrained, and has the most development potential. The Spatial Plan should locate growth areas within these areas.

Land outside study area

Existing WRC Stop Banks

Improve Coastal Protection


THAMES
KAUAERANGA
TIKAPA MOANA-
O-HAURAKI
FIRTH OF THAMES
Ngāti Maru Highway
WAIHOU RIVER
Kōpū-Hikuai Road
Ngāti Maru Highway
KŌRŪ
Raeroa Kōpū Road
Raeroa Kōpū Road

CHALLENGES

CONSTRAINTS

Highly Constrained Land

This land is highly constrained meaning that development is limited.

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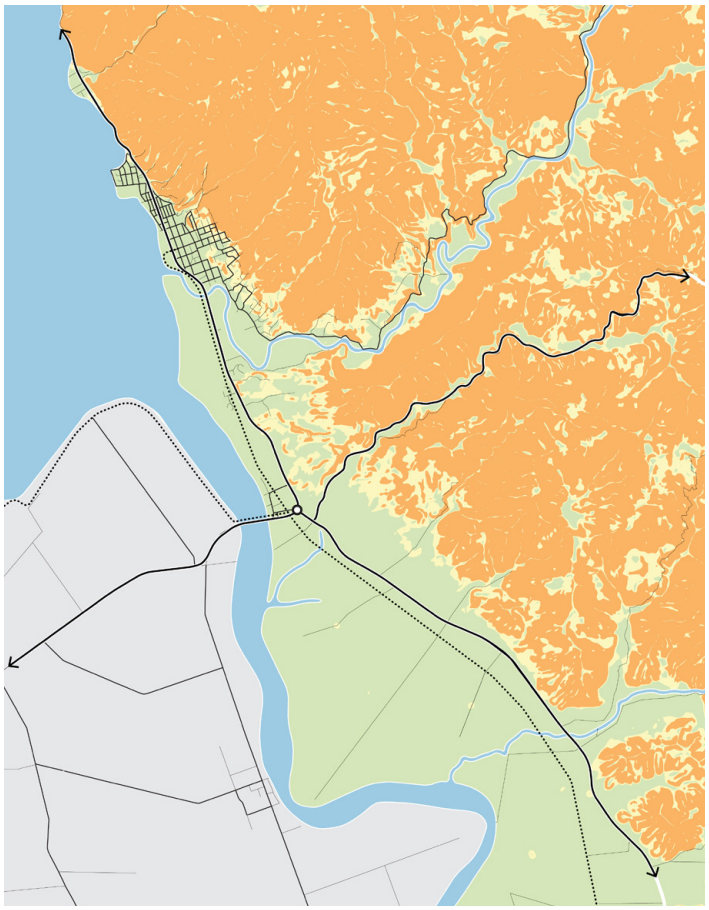
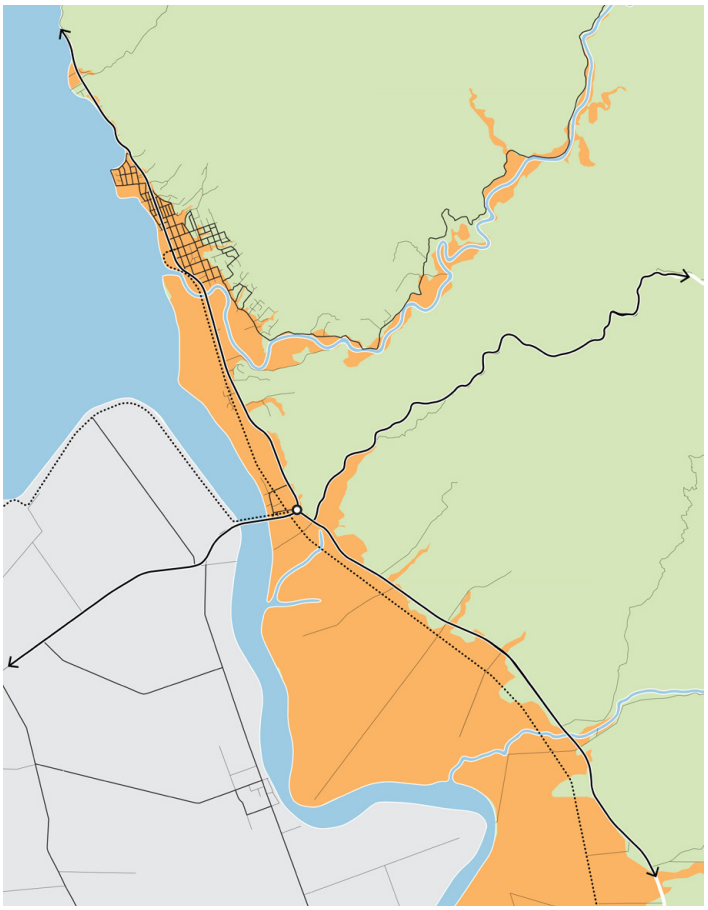
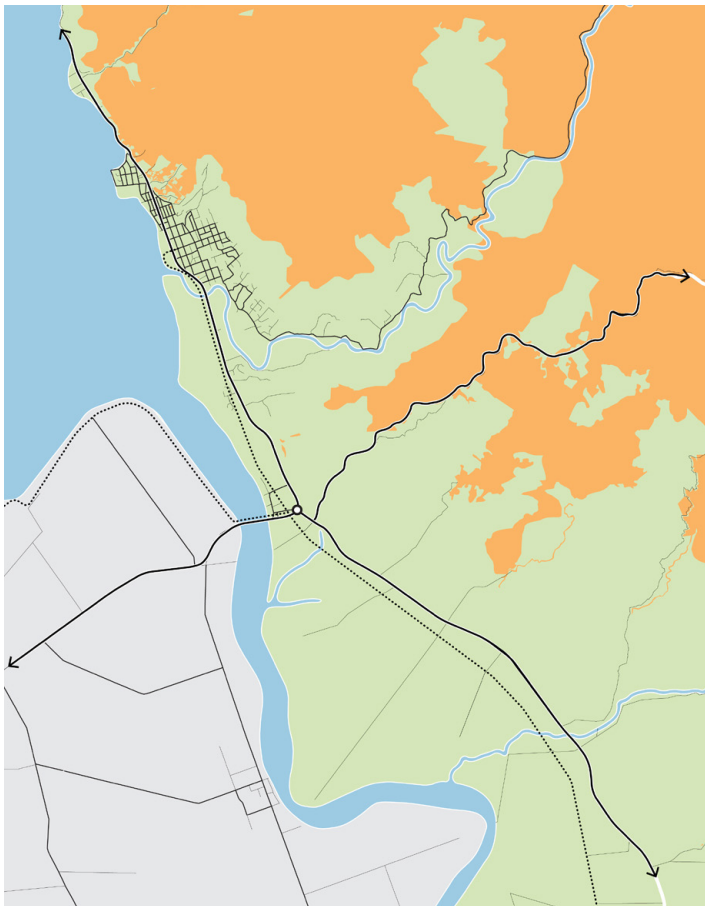
SLOPE



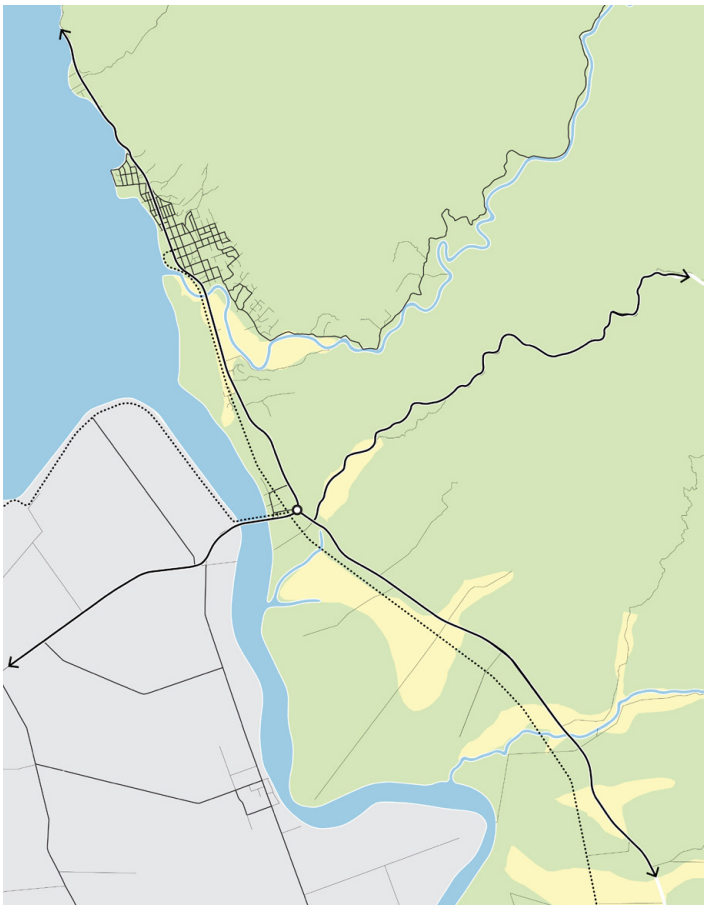
FLOODING



LANDSCAPE CONSTRAINTS



PRODUCTIVE LAND



SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Shoreline Management Plan has investigated the present and future risk of coastal inundation for the 400km of coastline of the district and considered how that risk could be managed for our communities. The considered options range from soft solutions such as wetland regeneration, to hard solutions such as stop banks, rock walls or partial managed retreat.

How do you manage the risk with uncertainty?

Community-led coastal panels have used dynamic adaptive planning pathways as a way of helping make decisions as conditions change. We have a pretty good idea of the impacts on our coastlines in the near term, but there is uncertainty on the rate of sea level rise in the medium and long term. The adaptive planning pathways in the coastal adaptation plans use sea level rise as the trigger to inform what decisions and actions are necessary.

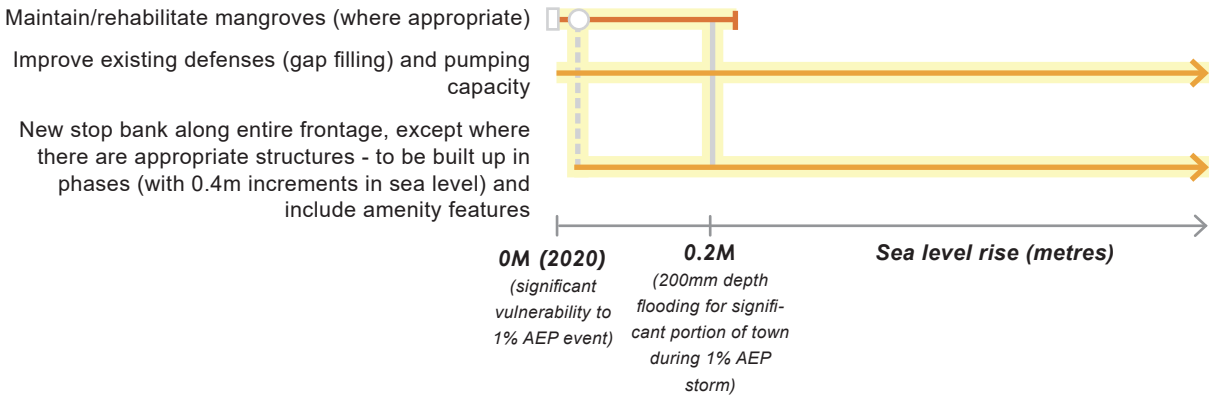
Influence on future land use planning

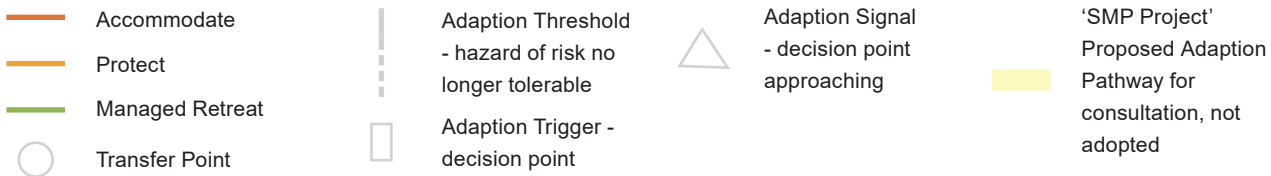
The Thames and surrounds Spatial Plan takes a balanced approach to managing risk from climate change by planning future greenfield residential and industrial growth outside of 100+ year hazard areas while protecting and enhancing Thames' vibrant town centre and existing employment areas.

The following summaries are taken from Coastal Adaptation Plans adopted by Council in September 2022. The plan will be reviewed every 10 years and may be assessed on a site specific basis as required. For the latest information on the Shoreline Management Plan visit www.tcdc.govt.nz/smp

Thames Main

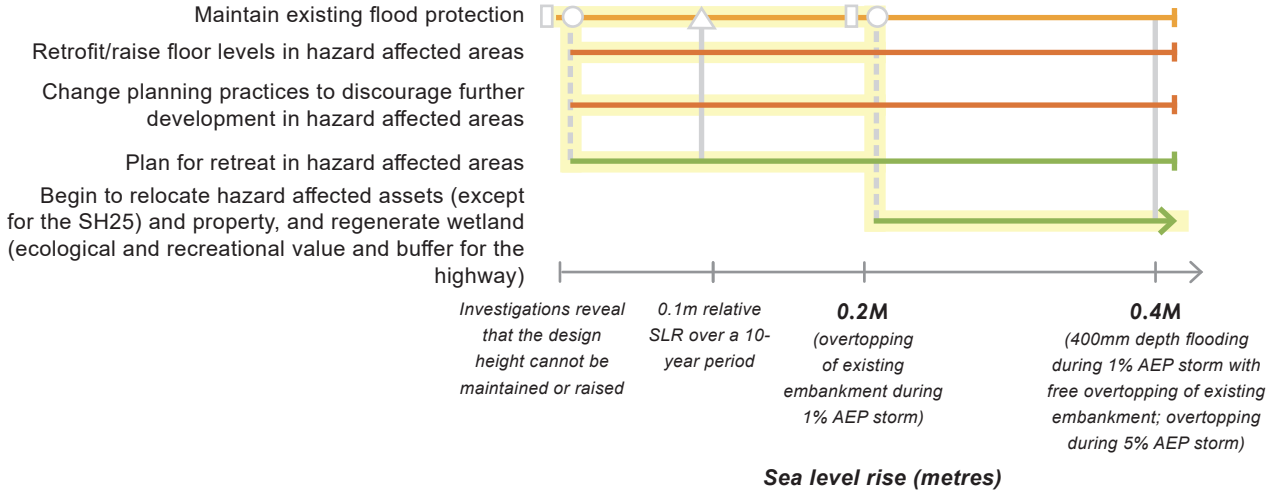
The strategy advocated for Thames over the 100-year time frame of the project is to 'Protect' the estimated near $1 billion of assets at risk. The hazard exposure mapping indicates that parts of Thames are vulnerable to inundation in a 1 in 20-year event. Given this, the trigger for adaptation is considered to have been met already. The action proposed is to improve the existing defences and plan to construct a new stop bank along the entire coastal frontage in the short term. This can be built up in phases but should be designed from the outset to provide protection against 1.2m of relative sea level rise and a 1% AEP event. Retain and enhance thriving town centre.





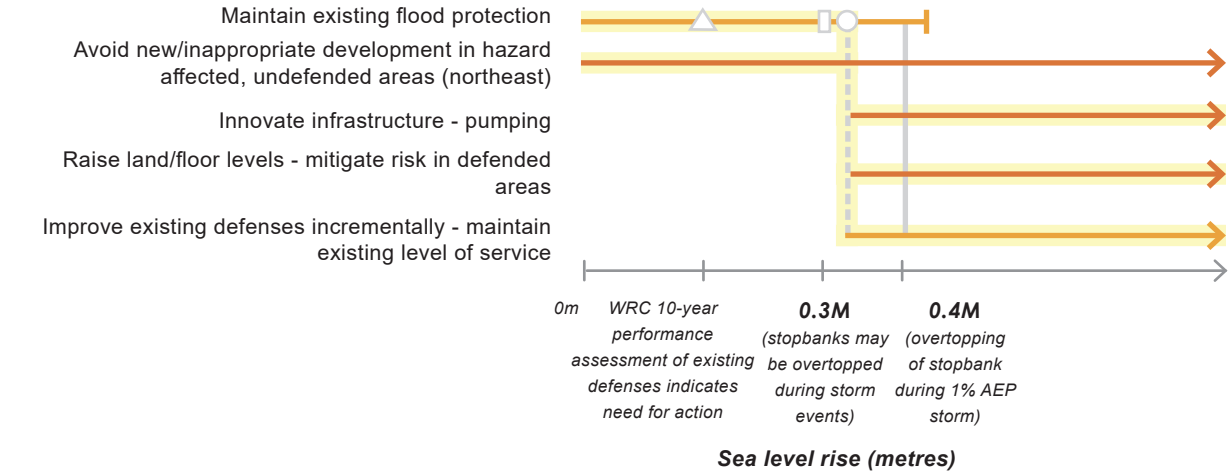
Moanataiari

Sea level rise, subsidence, rising groundwater, and contamination create an environment where the residual risk/risk to life associated with the existing (or enhanced) defences being overtopped in a storm event will be significant. Vulnerability is high and adaptive capacity is low. Consequently, 'managed retreat' is advocated as the appropriate adaptation strategy in the medium to long term (and potentially sooner for those properties closest to the sea). In the short term, the existing flood protection and pumping capacity should be maintained and possibly improved to "buy time". Infill discouraged.



Totora to Kōpū

The recommended strategy for this area is to maintain the existing flood protection to Waikato Regional Council's existing level of service. This means the height of the existing defences will need to be raised in advance of sea level rise. Improvements to stormwater management and pumping may be required to manage future flood hazards. Industrial infill encouraged.



Thames Coast

The adaptation strategy advocated for Tapu, as for Tararū, Te Puru and Waiomu, is to maintain the current level of service of SH25. In the short term, the maintenance of the natural defences is advocated alongside a planning policy that restricts inappropriate development in the hazard zone. Once the natural protection has been lost to erosion, further intervention is advocated to "buy time", through beach push-ups. However, in time, this is unlikely to provide sufficient defence and, with 0.8m of sea level rise, assets in the hazard zone could be affected by over 0.3m of water during 5% AEP, and larger, storm events. Therefore .7m of SLR has been selected as the trigger for retreat for parts Moanataiari, Tararū, Te Puru, Waiomu, Tapu, Te Mata, Waikawau. Limited growth potential.

INFRASTRUCTURE

WASTEWATER

Wastewater processing capacity is the most critical constraint to be addressed to ensure additional capacity is provided for growth. Upgrades to the existing WWTP will be required to enable growth in the short-term until a new WWTP and disposal site can be implemented. There is uncertainty around the oxidation pond's ability to operate within total nitrogen and total phosphorous consent limit constraints, but the latest information suggests that there may be capacity for around 450 additional dwellings.

With increasing risk from sea-level rise, difficult site conditions and trends toward land disposal, this means that long-term the current WWTP site is unlikely to be retained. It is therefore proposed that any new WWTP should be consented and designed to potentially cater for all wastewater from in and around Thames.

WATER SUPPLY

By adding storage to the Thames WTP, to deal with peak demands, there is estimated capacity for around 1,400 additional dwellings. A further 1,000+ additional dwellings will be available from the new Thames South Water Supply upgrade. Connecting the Thames water supply to the improved Thames South Supply will deliver infrastructure through the growth corridor and improve network resilience.

However, long-term it is expected that future water takes will be reduced, by the consenting authority, meaning that an additional water source will be required. It is therefore proposed that in the future the two existing water sources from the Kauaeranga River catchment and the Thames South water takes (Matatoki, Apakura and Omahu catchments) are supplemented by a third water source. A possible location for this third water source is from the Kirikiri Stream catchment.

TRANSPORTATION

To support growth public transport services will be improved within Thames, between the Coromandel and Hauraki, and connecting to Auckland and Hamilton. New intersections and significant road improvements will be required to provide access into the growth areas of Matatoki North, Totara Valley, Kauaeranga Valley and Kopu. TCDC will need to work with developers and Waka Kotahi to plan, fund and construct these improvements. Most of the internal roads will be provided by developers but a new collector road linking Kopu and Totara Valley, as proposed in the 2010 Thames to Kopu Structure Plan, that will also require TCDC investment. New shared walking and cycling paths will connect growth nodes to employment, education and the town centre along the Hauraki Rail Trail.

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Council will work with Iwi, the Ministry of Education, Health New Zealand, the Maori Health Authority and the local community and social sectors to ensure the wellbeing needs of a growing community are met. There is existing capacity in the education sector for short term growth, however in the medium to long term a new primary school may be required at Matatoki North.

KEY INFRASTRUCTURE MOVES:

SHORT TERM

- Add water supply storage to the Thames WTP
- Increase wastewater processing capacity at the Thames WWTP
- Extensions into:
  – Matatoki North
  – Totara Valley
- New daily public bus connection to Hamilton.

MEDIUM TERM

- New WWTP (South of Kopu-Hikuai Road)
- New water source and WTP (Potentially from Kirikiri Catchment)
- Extensions into:
  – Kopu
- Connect Thames water supply through Matatoki to Thames South supply.
- Sub regional public transport hub

LONG TERM

- Possibly decommission existing Thames WWTP

STAGING AND SEQUENCING

With limited additional capacity in existing water and wastewater treatment plants the staging and sequencing will be dependent on the implementation of the following key infrastructure moves. Depending on the speed of development there may need to be short-term servicing options put in place before a more sustainable long-term solution becomes available. For example, immediate connections to the Thames water supply may be supplied in the future from the new Thames South water supply or the proposed Kirikiri water supply.

STAGING

SHORT TERM
0-10 years

MEDIUM TERM
10-20 years

Industrial growth

LONG TERM
20-50 years

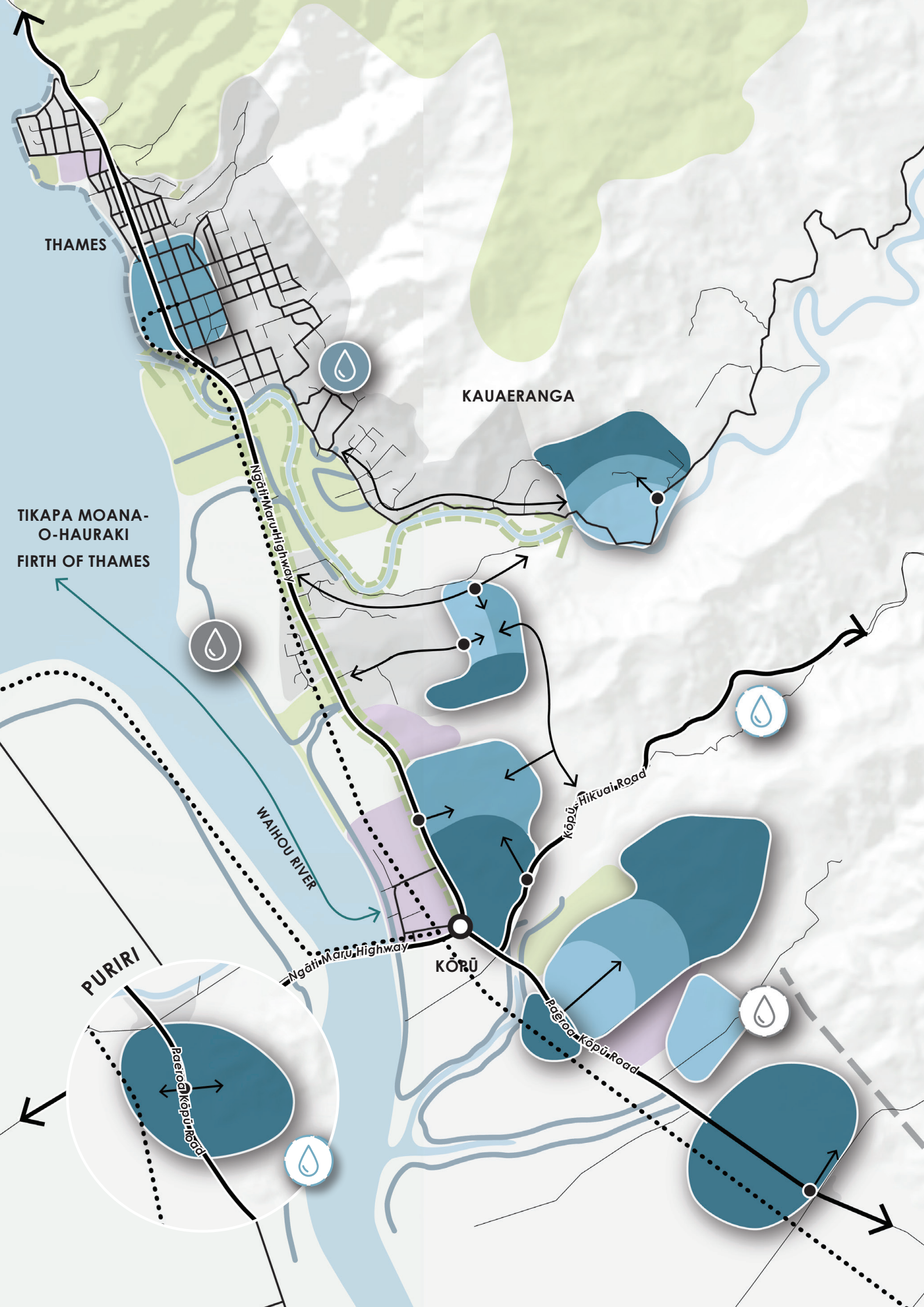
Existing wastewater treatment plant

Existing Water Treatment Plant

Potential wastewater treatment plant

Potential water treatment plant

National Grid


THAMES
KAUAERANGA
TIKAPA MOANA-
O-HAURAKI
FIRTH OF THAMES
Ngāti Maru Highway
WAIHOU RIVER
Kōpū-Hikuai Road
Ngāti Maru Highway
KŌRŪ
PURIRI
Paeroa Kōpū Road
Paeroa-Kōpū Road

NEXT STEPS

1. Co-develop an implementation program in partnership with Iwi, Waikato Regional Council, Waka Kotahi, Kainga Ora, Transpower and other key partners so that it is clear what role each stakeholder plays over time.

2. Plan, fund and implement required changes to the District Plan.

3. Conduct a detailed infrastructure needs assessment so decisions can be made on how those projects are prioritized and funded.

To learn more about the Thames and Surrounds Spatial Plan visit: https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/yourthamestomorrow