

WAITOMO DISTRICT PLAY, ACTIVE RECREATION & SPORT PLAN

2021 - 2024



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Waitomo
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sportwaikato
out there and active

Executive Summary

Sport, active recreation, physical activity, and play have a crucial role in building communities that are healthy, connected, and vibrant. It provides people with opportunities to improve their physical health while also creating a sense of community and connection that helps to improve mental, social, and emotional health. As a collective, New Zealanders value the role that physical activity plays in their life. More specifically, in the Waitomo District, 80% of adults (18 years or older) feel that being physically active in the great outdoors is an important part of New Zealanders' lives (Sport New Zealand, 2017).

The Waitomo District Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan (The Plan) is designed to help guide decision making and investment in sport and recreation for Council, Sport Waikato and Sport providers in the Waitomo District. It seeks to identify opportunities for strategic growth and development for partners who provide sport and recreation services that will help to contribute to community outcomes. Guidance is based on feedback provided by Waitomo District sport and recreation providers, Secondary Schools, community members, Sport New Zealand, sector data and demographic information.

Waitomo District Council and Sport Waikato work in partnership for the delivery of programmes and services that support all age groups' access to sport, recreation and physical activity opportunities within the Waitomo District. By working together, we will deliver a coordinated and clear plan for future provision of sport and recreational opportunities for the people of the Waitomo District.

Strategic priorities and recommendations

Our People

Rangatahi, Tamariki and Tamariki Mokopuna

Rangatahi are a key priority group for Moving Waikato and Waitomo District Council. There are three high schools within the Waitomo District. To promote continued participation in sport, active recreation, physical activity and play, Sport Waikato should work with schools and other key community partners to promote quality experiences in sport and recreation settings.

Māori

The ethnic makeup of Waitomo District has some significant differences from the Waikato Region and New Zealand populations. The percentage of the Waitomo population who identify as Māori is significantly higher than regional and national figures. Future delivery of opportunities needs to consider Māori participants' wants and needs.

Women and Girls

Research shows that there are clear inequalities in participation rates in sport and active recreation for women and girls. Sport and recreation opportunities that are inclusive and accommodating of the wants and needs of women and girls are critical to increasing participation.

Building communities

Closer connections and collaboration between clubs, education, health, Sport Waikato and council

Sport Waikato has a focus on strengthening relationships between Sport Waikato, community and clubs to enable Sport Waikato to act as a conduit between community, clubs and council.

Active recreation and play settings

Nationally research shows that participation preferences are changing. A key focus must be on connecting the community with opportunities beyond sport – for play, active recreation and physical activity in natural landscapes including the development of cycling and walking trails in these settings.

Club development (capability support)

Through the community and survey consultation processes it was identified that many of the clubs, in particular, clubs with decreasing memberships, would benefit from club development or capability support.

Further detail provided in the 'Strategic priorities and recommendations' section of the plan.

Development of a sport and active recreation advisory group

To help promote a connected approach to facilities, funding applications, and sharing of knowledge the development of a Waitomo District Sport Council, advisory group or coalition would be beneficial for clubs, community organisations, providers and individuals within the community. This group would connect with the Vibrant Safe Waitomo Regional Coalition representative, providing information and ideas regarding theme 3 of Vibrant Safe Waitomo, Hakinakina (recreation).

Regional leadership

Strengthening relationships between Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council

Sport Waikato has a focus on strengthening their relationship with Waitomo District Council to achieve better outcomes for the Waitomo District communities.

Working towards a King Country collaborative approach

Based on insights gathered through the development of this plan, it was found that opportunities exist for the Waitomo District Council and Ōtorohanga District Council to provide a collaborative approach to the provision of sport, recreation and physical activity for their communities.

Connection to regional safety strategies

Through Vibrant Safe Waitomo, Waitomo District Council has outlined their commitment to making the Waitomo community a safer place to live. Opportunities exist for Waitomo District Council to connect to and leverage from regional safety strategies: The Waikato Regional Cycle Education Plan and The Waikato Regional Water Safety Strategy.

Facilities

A large number of club survey respondents (69%) reported that their facility was not currently utilised to capacity. This is despite the majority of the clubs (69%) sharing their facilities with other clubs. Focus should be given to maximising the capacity of existing facilities through the exploration of current use of facilities and investigation into additional capacity.

Further detail of facility projects provided in the 'Strategic priorities and recommendations' section of the plan.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

Sport, active recreation, physical activity, and play have a crucial role in building communities that are healthy, connected and vibrant. It provides people with opportunities to improve their physical health while also creating a sense of community and connection that helps to improve mental, social and emotional health. As a collective, New Zealanders value the role that physically activity plays in their life. More specifically, in the Waitomo District, 80% of adults (18 years or older) feel that being physically active in the great outdoors is an important part of New Zealanders' lives (Sport New Zealand, 2017).

New Zealand has an abundance of natural resources available for people to get out there and active, but we also have high rates of obesity. In 2017/18 32% of New Zealand's adult population was recorded as obese. National and international trends show that our physical activity levels have been in decline and in the 2017 Active New Zealand survey only 46% of Waitomo adults and 61% of Waitomo young people did enough physical activity each week to positively impact on their health.¹ In 2019, the Waitomo District Council, through the formation of Vibrant Safe Waitomo, also noted the need to increase the number of safe recreational (hakinakina) opportunities available to the community to enhance wellbeing outcomes and foster community connection.

The decline in participation reflects rapid changes within our societies, people are increasingly time-poor and cash-poor and the way that they want to participate is changing because of this. Future planning needs to recognise these changing needs and wants and help community providers adjust to engage with participants in a way that promotes play, physical activity and sport for life.

The Waitomo District Council's Vision for the District is:

"Waitomo – a vibrant district"

The main focus for the vision is an intent to make sure that the District is an attractive place that people would want to visit, work, and live in. All services and activities that are delivered by council should align with this vision.

The Waitomo District's economic base is largely premised on agriculture and tourism. Sheep and beef farming is the largest agricultural industry, although in the last 10 years dairy farming has been a growing industry within the district. Waitomo's tourism industry has also continued being developed over the last 20 years. Most tourists are from overseas rather than domestic and often do not stay in the area, instead choosing to visit as a day excursion.

The usual resident population for Waitomo District was 9,303 as at the 2018 Census. The median age for the Waitomo District is 38.2 years (Statistics New Zealand, 2018). This is slightly higher than the median age regionally and nationally (37.4 years). Waitomo also has a significantly higher Māori population compared to regional and national figures (discussed in greater depth later in The Plan).

1.2 Purpose of The Plan

Waitomo District Council and Sport Waikato work in partnership for the delivery of programmes and services that support all age groups' access to play, active recreation and sport opportunities within the Waitomo District. By working together, we will deliver a coordinated and clear plan for future

¹ Adults (18 years and older) need to do greater than 150 minutes of physical activity a week to positively impact their health. Young people (5-17 years of age) need to do greater than 420 minutes of exercise per week to positively impact their health.

provision of play, active recreation and sport opportunities for the people of the Waitomo District. This supports Vibrant Safe Waitomo’s framework of community led collaboration providing connected leadership and direction, with everyone working in partnership to create a safer community for all.



Figure 1: Vision of the Waitomo District Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan - excerpt from Waitomo District Sport Evenings

The Waitomo District Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan (The Plan) is designed to help guide decision making and investment in sport and recreation for Council, Sport Waikato and Sport providers in the Waitomo District. It seeks to identify opportunities for strategic growth and development for partners who provide sport and recreation services that will help to contribute to community outcomes. Guidance is based on feedback provided by Waitomo District sport and recreation providers, Secondary Schools, community members, Sport New Zealand, sector data and demographic information.

More specifically for Council, The Plan provides guidance about current facility provision and potential future needs. For both Sport Waikato and Council, The Plan provides guidance on the priorities for delivery opportunities and strategic approaches to delivery of services to improve experiences of participants and ultimately grow participation.

There is a diverse population within the Waitomo District, which are in need of a diverse range of opportunities for participation. This is reflected in the wide range of clubs currently functioning within the Waitomo District (refer to section five). Where possible The Plan supports and supplements other plans developed for the District.

The Plan offers a series of proposed projects and priorities for consideration and implementation by partners in the District.

1.3 Trends driving the development of this plan

Waitomo District (not unlike the Waikato Region and New Zealand as a whole) face a number of challenges in the future that necessitate the use of a planned and collaborative approach to sport and recreation delivery. These challenges include:

1.3.1 A stable population with significant differences from regional or national figures

For the 2018 Census the usual resident population of the Waitomo District was 9,303 people. This has remained relatively stable with a shift from a usual resident population of 8,907 in 2013 to 9,303 in 2018 (Statistics New Zealand, 2013 & 2018). Differences from regional and national populations show that the Waitomo population clusters within the older and younger age brackets with less people within working age. Another significant difference seen in the makeup of the Waitomo population is the large percentage (45%) of the Waitomo population who identify as Māori.

1.3.2 Maintaining assets, facility sustainability and service levels

In many communities in the Waitomo District (and nationally) facilities are aging and maintenance costs to keep these facilities functioning can become increasingly burdensome. The ongoing sustainability of facility and service provision is likely to become increasingly difficult in some locations, especially in locations where populations are decreasing or aging.

1.3.3 Changing sport and recreation participation preferences

Sport and recreation participation preferences are constantly changing. Sport, recreation providers and facilities need to be able to adapt to suit these changing preferences and meet the needs of the communities. Facilities should be developed with this in mind and not be reliant on use from a single activity.

1.3.4 Improving collaborative approaches

Historically decision making in the sport and recreation sector, particularly around facility development, has been made on an ad hoc basis. As discussed above it becomes increasingly burdensome to maintain aging facilities. Collaborative approaches to facility provision and combining of current clubs should be considered in future to boost participation and help relieve financial burdens. Collaboration should also be considered as an option between local authorities, communities, and schools.

1.3.5 Working with neighbouring local authorities

As the population gets increasingly mobile, community members' participation will cross district boundaries more and more. The Waitomo District neighbours Ōtorohanga, Taupo, Ruapehu and New Plymouth Districts but also has close links with Waipa District. Collaborating with other district council's will become increasingly necessary to make sure that quality facilities, experiences and services are provided for our community while reducing unnecessary duplication.

1.3.6 COVID-19

In 2020 New Zealand and the world experienced significant and unprecedented challenges in the form of a global pandemic called Covid-19. The pandemic had considerable effects on individuals and the active recreation and sport sectors, including disruption to the delivery of sport, changes in the patterns and types of participation of people, as well as increased fiscal strain at both individual and sector levels. From this major global event, there were many learnings that need to be taken forward into the future when thinking about the systems, structures and models of sport and the provision of play and active recreation opportunities for people and communities.

1.3.7 The emergence of play

2020 also saw the emergence of play² as a priority within the strategic context of the physical activity sector.

Play allows children to experience fun, joy and laughter in a way that is important to them. It is also where they develop and practice life skills. Play is a vital part of our tamariki's physical and cognitive development. It has been taken for granted that play has always been, and will always be, part of the childhoods of those growing up in Aotearoa New Zealand. However, levels of play are in decline due to shifting values, increasingly sedentary lives, and changes in urbanisation resulting in fears about the safety of our tamariki.³

Specifically, in a places and spaces context we need to consider the particular environmental⁴ impacts on play. Including;

- Design of the built environment, [e.g.] streetscapes, urban design, playgrounds & parks
- The existence and accessibility of natural environments including water, bushland and open space.⁵

1.4 Plans influencing the development of this plan

The following plans have been reviewed to ensure that the Waitomo District Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan supports and aligns with their main objectives and aims:

- Moving Waikato
- Vibrant Safe Waitomo 2019-2024
- Waikato Plan 2017
- Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan 2018
- Waitomo District Council Long Term Plan (LTP) 2018-2028
- Waitomo District Council Annual Plan 2019
- Waitomo District Council Reserve Management Plan (in REVIEW at time of writing)
- Maniapoto - Our strategic direction 2019-2024
- Waikato Regional Cycle Education Plan 2019
- Waikato Regional Water Safety Strategy (in DRAFT)

² Play is: • *intrinsically motivated – it is spontaneous and will happen anywhere* • *personally directed – it has limited or no adult involvement* • *freely chosen – it is self-determined and has no pre-determined outcome* • *fun, accessible, challenging, social and repeatable.*

³ Sport NZ Strategy 2020-24.

⁴ Recreation Aotearoa, Wild Play Series 2020.

⁵For more information refer to this key case study incorporating wild play and traditional Maaori play elements <https://nzila.co.nz/showcase/mara-hupara-playground>

1.5 Methodology

In mid-2019, a project team was established to oversee the development of a plan to grow participation in sport for the Waitomo District with representatives from Waitomo District Council and Sport Waikato.

The process of developing The Plan included three areas of focus including survey assessment, secondary data analysis (trends in sport and district demographics) and community consultation. This approach provided the best means to gather a comprehensive range of information to inform decisions made in developing The Plan. Key work components included:

1. A community consultation with sport and recreation providers, community members, Council representatives and Sport Waikato to assess potential priorities and recommendations. Two sessions were held in Te Kuiti and Piopio.
2. Survey analysis of current sport and recreation providers in the district: the survey had a low level of respondents with a response rate of 40% or 33 out of 83 clubs responding.
3. A review of participation and volunteer data, as well as a review of facility ownership and lease details, facility aspirations and a report of club perceptions of financial sustainability (Appendix B).
4. A review of the Waikato Regional Sports Facilities Plan with a specific focus on recommendations for the Waitomo District.
5. A review of regional trends in sport, recreation and physical activity through Sport Waikato's Moving Waikato 2020 Insights and Sport New Zealand's Active New Zealand survey results.
6. A review of local demographic trends and growth forecasts with a specific focus on the implications for the provision of sport through the jointly published local district demographic profiles and Statistics New Zealand Census information.
7. A review of existing plans prepared by Waitomo District Council related to community wellbeing, sport and recreation.
8. The development of a draft plan.
9. Draft plan adopted, workshoped with Councillors.
10. Draft plan distributed for public consultation.
11. Final plan completed.
12. Plan adopted by Council and Sport Waikato.
13. Recommendations of plan distributed into relevant work programmes based on priority. This includes putting forward items for consideration for funding in the next Waitomo District Council's Long-Term Plan and future annual plans.

Note: Additional methodology information and a review of survey participants are provided in Appendix A, B, C and D of the Appendices document provided to Waitomo District Council.

1.6 Limitations

The Plan has been prepared based on available data at the time of writing. Given the reliance on data from third parties and a survey response rate from sport and recreation providers of 40%, it is likely that some data emissions do exist. However, The Plan represents the most comprehensive data source currently available. The Plan does not replace the need for additional assessment and focused planning in an ongoing manner to support and connect with communities in an interactive and live setting. As sporting codes update existing national and regional facility plans, and participation trends and community demographics change, it is envisaged that this plan will require updating, with formal review every 3 years or in alignment with the 10 Year Plan.

2 Background

2.1 Moving Waikato Strategy

Moving Waikato is a unified strategy for physical activity through play, active recreation and sport for the Waikato region, and gives focus and clarity towards 2030. It seeks to build on the positive momentum of existing partnerships and to increase the provision of opportunities for both participation and quality experiences for the people of the region. A strategy in which partnerships achieve results.

The strategy has been developed in collaboration and consultation with key partners regionally and nationally, and follows on from evidence gathered to guide and inform strategic decisions.

Based on the evidence, insights and changing environment, the Moving Waikato advisory group resets the targets in each three-year horizon to meet the needs of the communities. We are now moving into horizon two.



Figure 1. Moving Waikato Strategy overview.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES HORIZON 2 (2020 TO 2025)

Horizon Two priorities have been identified as;

- **Our People** - Rangatahi (12-18 years), Tamariki (5-11 years) and Tamariki Mokopuna (0-5 years); with a focus on Maori, Disadvantaged², Women and Girls and Low-participants
- **Building Communities** - Education Settings, Active Recreation, Physical Activity and Play settings, and Sport Settings; with a focus on Locally led delivery³, Policies and Practices⁴, Facilities, Spaces and Places and Coaching
- **Regional Leadership** - Decision-maker influence, Spaces and Places and Facilities, Regional Strategies

2.2 Vibrant Safe Waitomo 2019-2024

Vibrant Safe Waitomo is a community led collaboration that provides leadership and direction with everyone working in partnership to create a safer community for all. The vision for Vibrant Safe Waitomo is 'To create safe and vibrant communities where people want to live and do business.'

Vibrant Safe Waitomo looks at harm prevention across the life span of community members, identifying instances where community members are at a higher risk of harm. Māori and young people are identified as key priority groups for the Waitomo Council in this document.

Hakinakina (recreation) is identified as a priority theme for Vibrant Safe Waitomo, including promotion of hakinakina activities that can extend your body, mind and feed your soul. It is linked to a goal to foster community connections through providing safe and stimulating environments for the Waitomo District communities. Hakinakina is linked to reducing obesity, improving wellness, reducing falls and building leadership within the community, therefore, contributing toward Vibrant Safe Waitomo's outcomes.

Other themes include:

- Whānau /families: to support and foster a caring and safe place to live for every resident.
- Mahi/workplace: to support and enable economic development with a clear agenda on health and safety.
- Kotahitanga/ connected leadership: to provide stewardship to manage meaningful partnerships within the community.

2.3 Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan

Sport Waikato and partners created the first Waikato Regional Sports Facilities Plan (WRSFP) in November 2014, the WRSFP (Jones & Cessford, 2014) was endorsed by the Waikato Mayoral Forum as a guiding document for the provision of sports facilities to grow participation in play, active recreation and sport activity across the region.

A review of this plan was undertaken in 2018 and again in 2020. The updated Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan (Sport Waikato, 2020) provides a high-level strategic framework for regional sports facilities planning and optimisation of existing facilities. It also provides direction on what should be done and crucially, what should not be done. The Plan focuses thinking at a network-wide sports, play and active recreation facilities level with emphasis on national, regional and sub-regional sport assets, while also capturing local level play, active recreation and sport facility data. The 2020 iteration of The Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan (in draft at the time of writing) has included play and active recreation definitions and recommendations, these concepts and facilities have previously not been included.

Current funding and delivery partners of The Plan include: Hamilton City Council, Hauraki District Council, Matamata-Piako District Council, Ōtorohanga District Council, South Waikato District Council, Taupō District Council, Thames Coromandel District Council, Waikato District Council, Waipa District Council, Waitomo District Council, Sport Waikato and Sport New Zealand.

The Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan consolidates the key principles that underpin facility planning and provision. This Waitomo District Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan is a local level plan sitting under The Waikato Regional Play, Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Plan.



Figure 2: Key principles of The Plan. Adapted from The New Zealand Sport Facilities Framework (Sport New Zealand, 2017).

The Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan featured this key priority project for the Waitomo District:

Table 1: Waitomo District Priority Projects from The Waikato Regional Sport Facility Plan		
Indicative Timeframe	Proposed Facility Development	Key Partners
1-3 years	2 Court Indoor Facility (two full sized netball courts)	Waitomo District Council, potentially in partnership with Ōtorohanga District Council

2.4 Waitomo District Council Community Outcomes

The Waitomo District Council’s vision guides its strategic planning. Council defines community outcomes that are areas of focus to help them achieve their vision. The community outcomes that relate to this plan are listed below.

2.4.1 Vibrant Communities

- A place where the multicultural values of all its people and, in particular, Māori heritage and culture are recognised and valued.
- A place where all age groups have the opportunity to enjoy social, cultural and sporting activities within our District.
- A place where young people feel valued and have opportunities for input into the decisions for the District.
- A place where we preserve the natural environment for future generations, ensuring that natural resources are used in a sustainable manner.

2.4.2 Effective leadership

- A place where the development of partnerships for the delivery of programmes and services is encouraged and pursued.

2.5 Maniapoto – Our strategic direction 2019-2024

The Maniapoto Māori Trust Board has created a set of documents with the purpose of supporting the new tribal entity for settlement. These documents will ensure Maniapoto Rangatiratanga will be advocated across a broad spectrum of areas.

The key aims of the strategic direction are that:

- The vision and values of Maniapoto are maintained and constant in all decisions;
- The work and experience of the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board continues to contribute to the development of strategy; and
- There is an avoidance of duplication of work, where possible and appropriate by the new entity.

In the 2013 census 35,358 people identified that they belonged to Maniapoto iwi, this makes up 5.3% of the Māori population within New Zealand. Less than 10% of these people live within the rohe (displayed in figure 4).

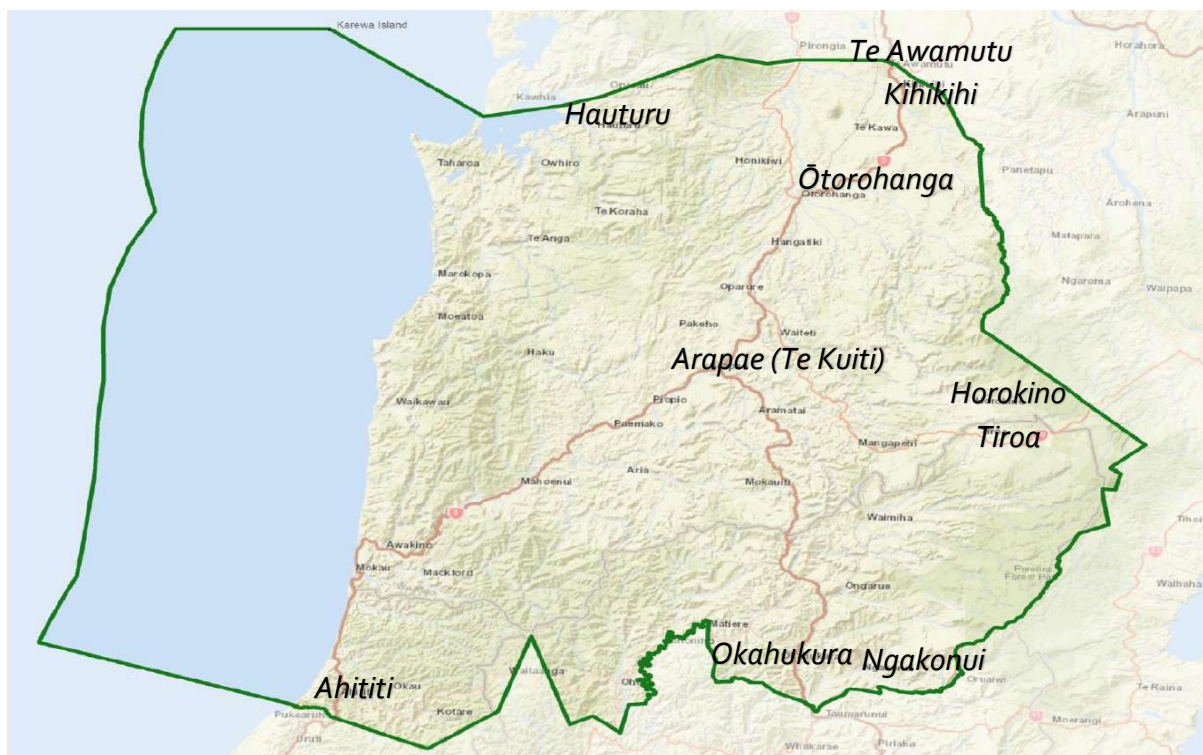


Figure 3: Maniapoto Rohe

2.6 Waikato Regional Cycling Education Plan – Finalised May 2019

The Waikato Regional Cycling Education Plan was developed through 2018 and 2019 with partners from Hamilton City, Hauraki, Matamata-Piako, Ōtorohanga, South Waikato, Taupo, Thames-Coromandel, Waikato, Waipa, and Waitomo District Councils, Waikato Regional Council, Sport Waikato, Cycling New Zealand, The Home of Cycling Trust and New Zealand Transport Agency.

The objective of the Waikato Regional Cycling Education Plan is to develop a coordinated and collaborative approach for sector stakeholders in the Waikato region to improve cycle safety, build participant confidence and create a partnered approach to the provision of Bikes in Schools and Cycling Education as part of the national BikeReady system.

The Waikato Regional Cycling Education Plan identifies operational activities for delivery, assign responsibility for leadership and co-ordination, identifying the resources required and potential funding sources. It identifies two main activity areas for cycle safety across the Waikato region:

Bikes in Schools – enabling more children across the region to regularly ride a bike within schools. Improving outcomes for health, fitness and education through opportunities to exercise and improving cycle confidence and skills.

Cycle Skills Training – a coordinated regional approach to education and training programs aimed at improving confidence, safety and skill for riders of all ages and abilities; delivery will align to the national BikeReady Guidelines.

Proposed partners in the delivery of the Waikato Regional Cycling Education Plan include: Hamilton City, Hauraki, Matamata-Piako, Ōtorohanga, South Waikato, Taupo, Thames-Coromandel, Waikato, Waipa, and Waitomo District Councils, Waikato Regional Council, Sport Waikato, Cycling New Zealand, The Home of Cycling Trust, Community and Philanthropic Funders.

2.7 Waikato Regional Water Safety Strategy – finalised December 2019

The Waikato Regional Water Safety Strategy began development in late 2018 and is estimated to be finalised in late 2019. The Waikato plan is part of Water Safety New Zealand's (WSNZ) initiative to develop Regional Water Safety Strategies in three regions across New Zealand including Bay of Plenty, Auckland and Waikato. The purpose of the Regional Strategy approach is to develop collaborative approaches with key local partners that focus on the local context and utilise local knowledge to create solutions. The Waikato plan has been developed in partnership with WSNZ and Sport Waikato.

The Waikato Regional Water Safety Strategy recommends a series of actions targeting agreed focus areas through to 2023. The desired outcome is to improve coordination of drowning prevention resource, focus and capability, and to ensure regional ownership and leadership of Water Safety in the Waikato, ultimately reducing drowning deaths, incidents and injuries in and on the water, and building a culture of safe enjoyment of the Waikato's valued water resources.

This Strategy seeks to leverage existing services in the Waikato provided by Coastguard and Surf Life Saving and funded by the collective Local Authority partnership. It has the objective of providing additional focus and emphasis on fresh waters-based incidents and drownings with a specific focus on river safety.

2.8 Active New Zealand Survey Results (2017)

2.8.1 Adults (18 years and over)

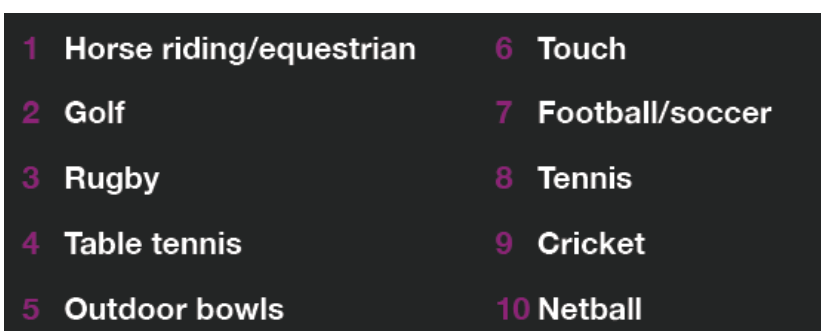
46% of Waitomo adults do more than 150 minutes of physical activity a week (enough to positively impact their health).

The most likely place where Waitomo adults are active is in private property, homes, gardens or pools (63%). Followed by on the road or footpath (43%). To a lesser extent, Waitomo adults are also active on walkways (17%), on/in/beside sea or coast (15%), and on/in/beside rivers/lakes/streams (12%).

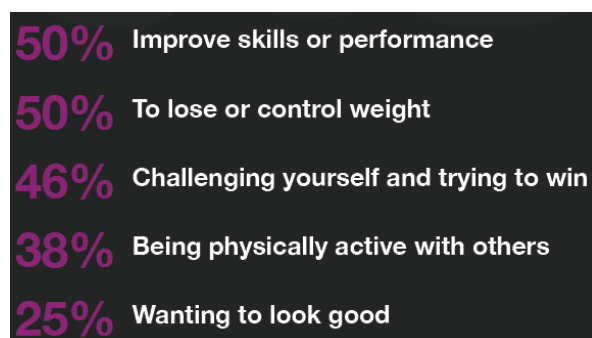
The top five activities that Waitomo adults take part in are:



Waitomo adults top 10 sports where adults are active are:



The top five motivations for Waitomo adults being active are:



The main barriers for Waitomo adults are:



2.8.2 Young people (5-17 years unless further specified)

61% of Waitomo young people do more than 420 minutes of physical activity a week (enough to positively impact their health).

The most likely place where Waitomo young people are active is at school or in the school ground (80%). This is closely followed by home (70%) and playgrounds, parks, fields, astroturfs or outdoor pools (64%). To a lesser extent, Waitomo young people are also active at the beach, lake, bush or footpath (44%), and gym, community halls, churches, marae or indoor pools (42%).

The top five activities that Waitomo young people take part in are:



Top 10 sports where Waitomo young people were active in the past 7 days:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Basketball or mini-ball | 6 Athletics or track and field |
| 2 Football, soccer or futsal | 7 Netball |
| 3 Rugby or rippa rugby | 8 Volleyball or kiwi volley |
| 4 Hockey or floorball | 9 Parkour |
| 5 Touch | 10 Tennis |

Top reasons for being active (12-17 years):



77% participate for fun
38% participate to hang out with family or friends
38% to physically challenge myself or to win
32% I have to (*my parents/caregiver or school make me*)
29% to learn or practice a new skill
23% for fitness or health
10% I'm good at it
4% to lose or maintain weight
0% to look good

Top barriers to being active (12-17 years):



3 Local Demographics

3.1 District actual and forecast resident population changes

The usual resident population for Waitomo District was 9,303 as at the 2018 Census. The median age for the Waitomo District is 38.2 years (Statistics New Zealand, 2018), this is slightly higher than the median age regionally and nationally (37.4 years).

Population projections based on the 2013 Census suggested that Waitomo District’s population would peak in 2018, then slowly decline from 2018-2043. The results of the 2018 Census show that the population has not increased as projected and instead has remained relatively stable with a shift from a usual resident population of 8,907 in 2013 and 9,303 in 2018 (Statistics New Zealand, 2013 & 2018).

3.2 Ethnic diversity

The ethnic makeup of Waitomo District has some significant differences from the Waikato Region and New Zealand populations. The percentage of the Waitomo population who identify as Māori is significantly higher than regional and national figures. Whilst the percentage of the population who identify as European, Pacific, Asian and Other are lower than regional and national figures.

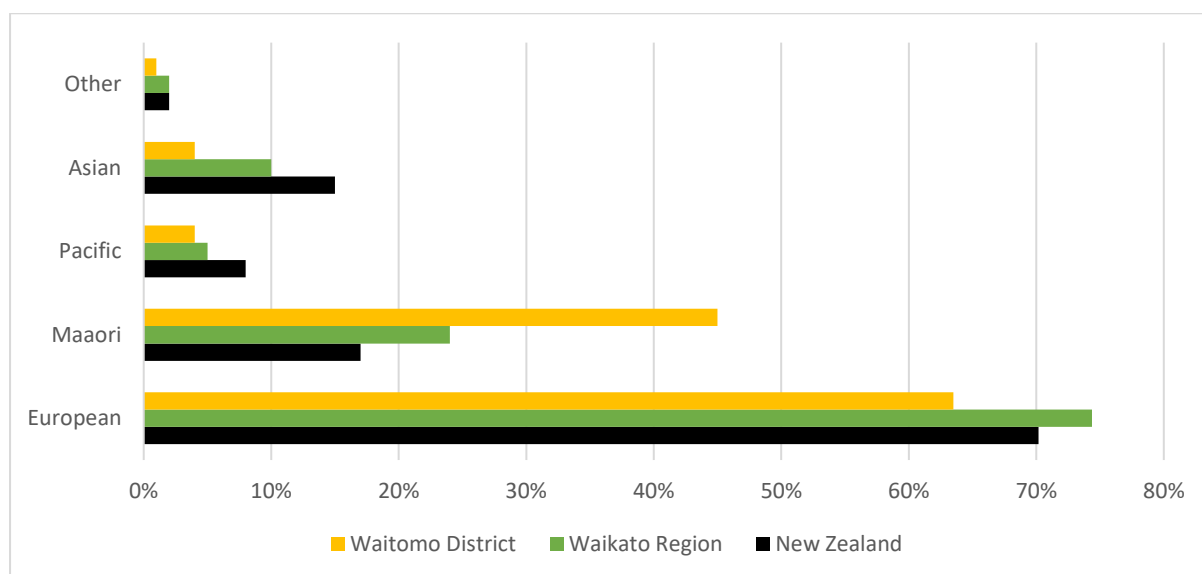


Figure 4: Identified ethnicity - District, Region and National comparisons (Statistics New Zealand, 2018)⁶

3.3 Economic Profile

The Waitomo District’s economic base is largely based on agriculture and tourism. Sheep and beef farming are the largest agricultural industry, although, in the last 10 years, dairy farming has been a growing industry within the district. Waitomo’s tourism industry has also continued being developed over the last 20 years. Most tourists are from overseas rather than domestic and often do not stay in the area, instead choosing to visit as a day excursion.

⁶ Please note that percentages do not add up to 100% as people are able to identify with more than one ethnicity.















4 Sporting trends and participation profiles

4.1 Waikato Region vs. National trends

Sport New Zealand's Active New Zealand Survey data allows us to compare Regional participation preferences in sport, physical activity and play, to preferences from other regions and national averages. Thanks to the boosted data set that Sport Waikato invested in for the 2017 survey, information is now available at a district level as shown above in section 2.8 Active New Zealand Survey Results (2017). **Error! Reference source not found.** However, the understanding of regional vs. national trends is still crucial for planning of future delivery of sport, active recreation, physical activity and play opportunities.

In the Waikato:

- 68% of young people participate in greater than 420 minutes of physical activity, the same as nationally. 420 minutes of physical activity is enough to positively impact young peoples' health
- Less adults participate in greater than 150 minutes of physical activity than nationally (57% vs. 60%). 150 minutes of physical activity is enough to positively impact adult health
- There is a higher percentage of Waikato adults that are non-participants (29% vs. 27%)
- Less young people participate in physical activity or sport for fun (70% vs. 76%)
- Less adults participate in physical activity or sport to lose weight or to look good (15% vs 17%)
- More adults participate in physical activity or sport to challenge themselves or win (13% vs 11%)

	Young people	Adults
Do more than nationally	 Rugby/Rippa  Biking (all types)	 Biking  Tramping  Fishing  Sailing  Horse riding  Hunting
Do less than nationally	 Swimming	 Walking  Snow sports  Running  Group fitness  Yoga/Pilates

4.2 The economic value of Sport and Recreation in the Waikato Region

The Economic Value of Sport and Recreation to the Waikato Region report identifies that between 2009 and 2013, the economic value of sport and recreation declined by \$98 million (Sport New Zealand, 2015). 17 industries are necessary for the sport and recreation sector to function. The valuation of these industries was the biggest contributor to this decline as these reduced by \$113 million in this same time period.

Despite the decline within the sport and recreation sector, valuation of other occupations, school's investment and Council expenditure increased their valuation by \$8.9 million and volunteer services valuation, alone, increased by \$4.9 million.

A total of 4.3 million hours were attributed to sport and recreation in 2013/2014 and the Hamilton City sport and recreation sector contributes 30.1% of regional contribution to GDP.

Regionally, since 2011, there has been a decrease in Council spending on new sport and recreation facilities from \$47.6 million (2011) to \$32.8 million in 2013. This contributed \$11.5 million to the value of the construction sector in 2013.

4.3 Waitomo Secondary Schools

Waitomo District has three secondary schools Piopio College, Te Kuiti College and Te Wharekura o Maniapoto. Two sources of information are available specifically in the Secondary School space: The New Zealand Secondary School Sport Census and a recent survey undertaken by Sport Waikato to look at facility provision and community use of Secondary Schools within the Waikato Region.

4.3.1 New Zealand Secondary School’s Census

The New Zealand Secondary School Sport Census (NZSSSC) gathers information about the participation of students and volunteering of staff within organised sports. Both Te Kuiti High School and Piopio College have been involved in the NZSSSC. Both schools have recorded higher participation than the regional average since 2012. From this survey we could also see that in 2018:

- 62% of students within Waitomo Secondary Schools meet the NZSSSC requirements for involvement in sport. This is higher than the national average (52%) and the Waikato Regional average (57%).
- 55% of female students within Waitomo Secondary Schools meet the NZSSSC requirements for involvement in sport. This is higher than both the national (49%) and regional (53%) averages.
- 59% of male students within Waitomo Secondary Schools meet the NZSSSC requirements for involvement in sport. This is higher than the national average (56%), but slightly less than the Waikato Regional average (61%).
- 33% of total staff were involved in sport. This is higher than the national and regional average (29%). Additionally, 19% of total staff were involved in coaching sport, higher than the national and regional average (16%).

4.3.2 Waikato Regional Secondary School’s Facilities Survey

Te Kuiti High School responded to the Waikato Regional Secondary Schools Facilities Survey. This table shows the type of facilities provided at the High School.

Table 2: Waitomo District Secondary School’s Sport Facilities						
School Name	Grass sports fields	Artificial sports fields	Outdoor courts	Covered courts	Indoor courts	School pool length
Te Kuiti High School	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No

There is community use of school sport facilities outside of school hours by primary school, hockey, gymnastics and bootcamp groups.

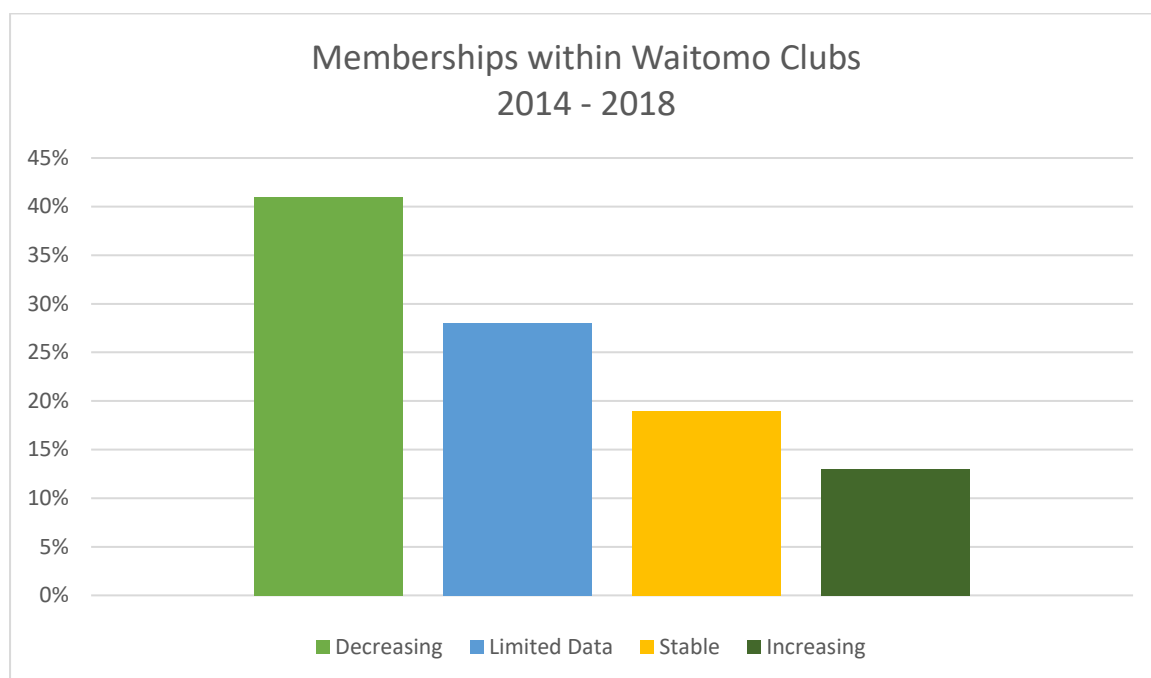
The development plans for new indoor courts/gymnasium were discussed. Plans are supported by the average state of the current indoor court, which is not a full basketball court (which is the most popular sport within Waitomo District)

The school uses community facilities yearly for cross country events at Brooke Park and squash courts at Te Kuiti Squash. The High School would like to have more use of indoor and outdoor bowls facilities.

5 Waitomo District Club participation trends and profiles from survey results

The Waitomo District Sport and Recreation survey had a response rate of 40%. The clubs were predominantly based in Te Kuiti (75%), with the remaining throughout the wider Waitomo district. A total of 32 clubs completed the survey, capturing 23 different sport and recreation activities.

26 clubs provided their membership numbers for 2018 which totalled 2413 members. Of the clubs that responded, 41% had experienced a decrease in memberships. These clubs had an average decrease of 8% since 2014. 19% reported stable⁷ membership numbers and 13% had an increase in members. The clubs that did see growth in numbers were Basketball, Shooting, Ki-O-Rahi and Croquet. The remaining 28% did not supply membership numbers.



Based on the recorded male and female membership numbers, 51% were male and 47% were female. Clubs also estimated a breakdown of their memberships into young people (0 – 18 years) and adults (19+ years). Approximately 53% were young people and 47% were adults.

15 clubs recorded casual participation⁸ at an estimated 1495 participants. However, with 89% of the casual participants linked to only four clubs, casual participation across the remaining clubs was very low.

Many of the clubs identified a collaborative approach with 18 clubs indicating they share facilities with other clubs/organisations. Another five clubs indicated that they would be open to partnering with any other user-groups to increase the use of their facilities. However, of these five, three were not open to moving to another facility. The largest local relationship from clubs was to schools with 20 clubs indicating engagement with local schools.

Clubs requested assistance with (in order of popularity): Increasing participants (19); Finances and sponsorship (10); Coach development (10); Volunteers (9); Facility development (8); Ways to target

⁷ Stable membership is defined as an increase or decrease within -5 to 5 members.

⁸ For the purpose of the survey, casual participation includes casual, drop in and pay-to-play participants.

women and girls (8); Delivery for inclusion (7); Club structure and governance (5); Community sport partnerships (4); Health and safety (4); Marketing and communications (4); Event management (4); Development of club programmes (3); Facility management (3); Delivery of cultural diversity (2); and Side-line behaviour (1).

5.1 Sport participation by activity

Basketball has the highest membership numbers, followed distantly by Netball, Combined Sports⁹, Golf and Touch Rugby.



Please note graph does not include Dog Trials and Swimming as no data was available.

Implications:

- When clubs work together growth in membership and volunteer numbers are evident. Nationally it is recognised that Community Hubs promote strength in administration, efficiencies in delivery and develop stronger community connections for sports. Future planning should emphasise the importance of this.
- Changing sport and recreation participation preferences and the introduction of new sport and recreation opportunities, including e-sports, mean as community needs change, future sports and recreation clubs will need to consider adapting their delivery of opportunities to sustain or grow membership numbers.

5.2 Workforce

5.2.1 Volunteers

26 clubs provided information about their volunteer numbers, with a total of 675 volunteers recorded.

- 33% of respondents reported that their volunteer base has increased over the past five years.

⁹ Combined sports are clubs that have listed that they are involved with more than one sport. Sports included in this category are: Rugby, Ki-O-Rahi, Volleyball, Netball, Softball, Mixed martial arts, Wood chopping, Clay target shooting, and Wananga reao/hitori.

- 42% reported a decrease in their volunteer base in the past five years.
- 25% reported their volunteer base has stayed the same.

Volunteer numbers for clubs ranged between 2 – 102¹⁰, with an average of 17 volunteers per club. Volunteers covered a wide range of roles supporting the function of clubs/providers and their events. Roles included but were not limited to:

- Committee member
- Kitchen and bar staff
- Officials
- Manager
- Groundskeeper
- Cleaner
- Administrators
- Event support
- Facebook administrator

Of those clubs that had an increase in members:

- 50% had an increase in volunteers
- 25% had a decrease in volunteers and
- 25% had the 'same' number of volunteers.

Of those clubs that saw a decrease in memberships; 55% had a decrease in volunteers, 18% had an increase and 27% had a stable volunteer base.

Multiple clubs stated that due to family and work responsibilities as well as families moving away, it is difficult to recruit and retain volunteers. One club also stated they currently cannot fill three necessary volunteer roles.

Waitomo Miniball has had 600 members consistently since 2014. Despite their 'at capacity' membership numbers, they have experienced an increase in volunteers. This is reflective of the popularity of Miniball in the Waitomo District. Waitomo Basketball is relatively new to the Waitomo community and they have also experienced growth in members and volunteers over the last three years since establishment in 2016. The pathway from Miniball to Basketball is an opportunity to encourage volunteering and build capability within Waitomo's tamariki and rangatahi.

5.2.2 Paid employees

Of the 26 respondents, 5 indicated they have paid employees to undertake specific duties. The roles identified included:

- Bar staff
- Club manager
- Greenkeeper
- Cleaner

One club has one main annual event. They did not have full-time paid employees but did contract paid staff for the duration of their event.

¹⁰ One club recorded 300 volunteers. As this was an outlier, they have been excluded.

6 Summary of community consultation

6.1 Te Kuiti Community Consultation 14 October 2019

6 individuals from 10 clubs/organisations attended, with a range of facility and support needs. Many of the people who attended the evening were associated with multiple clubs/organisations and were able to provide detail about both club and community activities.

Key themes included:

- The iwi games are a key event for the community.
- There are a number of passionate people who begin casual sport modules or clubs (for example social tennis) but often these are unsustainable due to lack of volunteers.
- Basketball is very popular for the community.
- Cost of traditional sports can be a barrier, particularly for school-aged children.

6.2 Piopio Community Consultation 15 October 2019

3 individuals from 2 clubs/organisations attended, with a range of facility and support needs. Two of the individuals who attended were rangatahi so were able to provide a youth voice to the consultations. This was invaluable due to both Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council's focus on tamariki and rangatahi.

Key themes included:

- Clubs provide a sense of connection for rural communities so play a crucial role in maintaining wellness of community members.
- Teams (both in Te Kuiti, Piopio, and Ōtorohanga) can often be built by cross boundary collaboration when there are low numbers in a grade.
- Indoor courts in the district struggle to provide spaces for basketball, the District's most popular sport.
- Access to indoor facility space outside of school hours could help promote rangatahi participation in physical activity. Currently rangatahi in the community often spend large amounts of time online gaming instead.
- Rangatahi are largely influenced by peer pressure when it comes to sport participation and often struggle to self-motivate in sport settings.

7 Strategic priorities and recommendations

Moving Waikato, the regional partner strategy to grow participation in sport, recreation and physical activity proposes three strategic priorities to grow participation in the region and a number of focus areas for each strategic priority. These focus areas set the scene for targeted delivery until 2030.

The pillars from Moving Waikato, Waitomo District Council community outcomes and priority groups within Vibrant Safe Waitomo have all helped to inform the strategic priorities and recommendations detailed in this section.

7.1 Our people

7.1.1 Rangatahi, Tamariki and Tamariki Mokopuna

Rangatahi, Tamariki and Tamariki Mokopuna are a key priority group for Moving Waikato and Rangatahi are a priority group through Waitomo District Council through Vibrant Safe Waitomo. To promote continued participation in play, active recreation, and sport, Sport Waikato should work with schools and other key community partners to promote quality experiences for rangatahi, tamariki and tamariki mokopuna through professional development for teachers in delivery of quality Health and PE curriculum experiences.

Additionally, for rangatahi there are three high schools within the Waitomo District. For rangatahi leaving school, pathways should be developed to help them transition from participation in school settings, where options are often more accessible, to options outside of school (whether this is for sport, recreation, or community opportunities).

7.1.2 Māori

Māori are identified as a priority group in Moving Waikato and by the Waitomo District Council in Vibrant Safe Waitomo and other key documents.

Future delivery of opportunities needs to consider Māori participants' wants and needs. Research shows that a *by Māori, for Māori, in Māori* settings approach enhances the quality of experiences and participation rates of Māori. Promotion and development of sports that are popular for Māori can provide opportunities for increased participation (popular sports include Basketball, Rugby, Rugby League and Netball). Basketball is the most popular sport within the Waitomo District, continued support and growth of the sport can help to promote participation for Māori within the District.

Within Waitomo District there is also growth in traditional Māori games, culminating in the display of these at the bi-annual Maniapoto Iwi games event. The Iwi games are a significant event for people within the area and also members of Maniapoto who live outside the district, attracting approximately 2000 participants. Council should provide support to Maniapoto Iwi to ensure that the event continues to provide opportunities for quality experiences for participants into the future.

There are strong Māori leaders within the community who promote participation in sport, active recreation, physical activity and play. Sport Waikato Regional Connectivity Coordinator will connect closely with these strong community leaders. They will also focus on developing their cultural capability and ensuring that delivery approaches are incorporating Māori worldviews and are applied across codes within the district.

7.1.3 Women and girls

Research shows that there are clear inequalities in participation rates in sport and active recreation among women and girls. Sport and recreation opportunities that are inclusive and accommodating of the wants and needs of women and girls are critical to increasing participation. Representation of

women in leadership roles within the sector can also provide an opportunity for women and girls to have more say in sport and active recreation design.

The Waitomo District Council and Sport Waikato should work together to increase the participation of women and girls in sport and active recreation. The Sport Waikato led programme This is ME® (Sport Waikato's women and girl's participation initiative) is a participation initiative that aims to reduce barriers to female participation in sport and active recreation. The initiative currently functions in Waitomo District in both the community and school setting (as discussed in the young people/rangatahi recommendation).

This is ME® secondary school programme promotes the development of projects and events *by* female rangatahi, *for* female rangatahi, with the aim of reducing barriers for female rangatahi to participate in physical activity. The approach aligns with Waitomo District Council's goal to promote youth leadership of projects and events to give them a sense of contributing something of value to society. Piopio College and Te Kuiti High School are both currently connected with This is ME®. Opportunities may become available in the future for expansion of this initiative and more connection between secondary school and community leaders.

7.2 Building communities

7.2.1 Closer connections and collaboration between clubs, education, health, Sport Waikato and Council

The Central government's focus on the four wellbeings has broadened the role of Sport Waikato, expanding the focus to more than just traditional forms of sport. Sport Waikato recognises the important role sport, active recreation, physical activity and play opportunities can have in improving wellbeing and building stronger and healthier communities. Essential partners to achieve this include the Waitomo District Council, sport, recreation, education and health partners.

Connections need to be strengthened between Sport Waikato, community and clubs to enable Sport Waikato to act as a conduit between community, clubs and council. The combination of decreasing membership of most clubs, low response to the survey and community sport evenings suggests that the community is disengaging with sport and more specifically with Sport Waikato. Whilst there are clubs and community groups who are engaged with Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council, significant work is needed within the community to improve and broaden community and club engagement.

7.2.2 Active recreation and play settings

Nationally, research shows that participation preferences are changing. A key focus must be on connecting the community with opportunities beyond sport – for example, play, active recreation and physical activity in natural landscapes including the development of cycling and walking trails in these settings. The focus, endorsed through Vibrant Safe Waitomo's Hakinakina (recreation) theme, should be on providing safe facilities, venues and spaces for play and active recreation participation.

7.2.2.1 Urban space planning and design

Planning and design are crucial in the development of urban spaces that enable physical activity. Footpaths, roads, town centres, reserves, and playgrounds all provide a unique low-cost and accessible opportunity for participation due to their proximity to people's homes. Specifically, in the Waitomo District, 43% of adult participation occurs on the road or footpath and 44% of young people's participation occurs on the beach, lake, bush or footpath. However, due to increasing traffic and poor development of roads and footpaths in some areas, safety concerns have limited play and active recreation opportunities. Future planning and design of urban spaces should consider how we can

connect spaces to improve accessibility, enabling our tamariki and rangatahi space to play and recreate in their neighbourhoods.

7.2.2.2 *Play spaces*

When play is discussed, often adults focus on playgrounds as the main vehicle for play. Whilst playgrounds are a great resource for tamariki and rangatahi (41% of Waitomo's young people have been active by playing on a playground in the last 7 days¹¹), there are also other spaces or facilities that could be included to encourage play. In the case of built facilities, it is suggested that the co-location of playgrounds, skateparks, pump tracks, and basketball courts can provide opportunities for a range of interests, ages and abilities to participate together. This can create a vibrant environment that promotes and attracts participation.

Due to the high Māori population within the Waitomo District, future development of playgrounds and play spaces should consider the incorporation of Maori play elements, nature play, local legends and stories. The Auckland based park Māra Hūpara¹² is an example of how Maori play elements can be incorporated. The natural elements used in these types of playgrounds are often low cost and are less structured than traditional playgrounds, providing more opportunity for imagination and unstructured play.

7.2.2.3 *Walkways and cycleways*

Nationally, we have seen an increase in the percentage of the population that participate in physical activity through walking and cycling. A significant number of Waitomo adults (77%) participate in physical activity through walking and 31% participate through running/jogging. Walkways and cycleways provide opportunities for community members to participate in these activities in nature, away from traffic. A collaborative approach between councils and Department of Conservation is necessary for future development of walkways and cycleways to create a connected network that provides quality opportunities for communities to participate in ways that are easily accessible for all.

7.2.3 Club development (capability support)

Through the community and survey consultation processes it was identified that many of the clubs, in particular, clubs with decreasing memberships, would benefit from club development or capability support.

Key areas for improvement include:

- Increasing participation:
 - Changing delivery model to meet community needs.
 - Adaptation to delivery approaches which incorporate Māori worldviews are applied across codes within the district to cater for the high percentage of the population who are Māori.
 - Clubs should partner to deliver events to maximise opportunities to fundraise and to increase membership of their club.
 - Delivery of casual or pay to play options for participants.
 - Targeting women and girls due to lower participation at secondary school and slightly lower membership in clubs.
- Volunteers:

¹¹ According to the 2017 Active New Zealand Survey.

¹²More information available at: <https://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/articles/news/2019/04/mara-hupara-ancient-innovation-in-play-learning-and-exercise/>

- Sport Waikato to work with sport sector to help ease pressure on volunteers – e.g. shorter seasons for greater opportunities to recruit and retain volunteers.
- Health and Safety:
 - Connection of clubs to providers who can ensure that they are meeting current and future health and safety standards.
- Funding and grants:
 - Assistance with funding and grants to help pay for facility needs and keep cost of membership accessible.
- Use of technology:
 - Ways of promoting events.
 - Communication to members and community.
 - Online booking systems for facilities.
- Low cost options:
 - The cost of participation in sport can act as a barrier for many people. Emphasis should be put, where possible, on development of low-cost options for sport and recreation opportunities.
- Casual participation and pay to play:
 - Casual participation is used well in golf, shearing and bowls but there is significant room for improvement in other codes.

7.2.4 Development of a sport and active recreation advisory group

To help promote a connected approach to facilities, funding applications, and sharing of knowledge the development of a Waitomo District Sport and Recreation Council, advisory group or coalition would be beneficial for clubs, community organisations, providers and individuals within the community. This would allow for enhanced sharing of knowledge and provide opportunities for collaboration and enhanced opportunities for sport and active recreation.

The development of an advisory group can be supported through existing approaches. For example, This is ME® (Sport Waikato initiative discussed in ‘Young People’ and ‘Women and Girls’ sections) identifies leadership groups both in the community and secondary school setting. Additionally, Waitomo District Council has an existing youth council and the Vibrant Safe Waitomo Regional Coalition, established in 2019. Representatives from these groups (and others) could be linked to form a Sport and Active Recreation Advisory Group to ensure that priority groups (rangatahi and women and girls) are represented and that enhanced information sharing occurs. This group would connect with the Vibrant Safe Waitomo Regional Coalition representative, providing information and ideas regarding theme 3 of Vibrant Safe Waitomo, Hakinakina (recreation).

7.3 Regional Leadership

7.3.1 Strengthening relationships between Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council

With a focus on strengthening relationships between Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council better outcomes can be achieved for the Waitomo District communities. Linking closely to the Kotahitanga theme of Vibrant Safe Waitomo, Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council will work closely, developing a partnership that helps to inform decision making and creates a collaborative approach to service delivery. Opportunities for more collaborative approaches include improvements in facility provision, and sport and recreation delivery to enhance experiences in and opportunities for sport, active recreation, physical activity and play options that are available for the community.

7.3.2 Working towards a King Country collaborative approach

Opportunities exist for the Waitomo District Council and Ōtorohanga District Council to provide a collaborative approach to the provision of sport, active recreation, physical activity and play for their communities. Collaboration across service providers is also a key outcome promoted through the Kotahitanga theme in Vibrant Safe Waitomo. Collaborative approaches already exist regionally (Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan as an example) and across other Local Authority initiatives.

Collaborative approaches, based on the insights collected to inform this plan, include increased connection and collaboration between a number of key organisations who influence play, active recreation and sport, including Territorial Local Authorities (Waitomo District Council and Ōtorohanga District Council), Sport Waikato, Community Organisations, Clubs and Recreation providers. This type of approach reduces duplication of resources, reduces barriers to cross boundary collaboration and enables the sharing of learning and connections. It also allows a broader range of support (i.e. workshops, programme delivery, events) to be available to both communities.

Joining of clubs from neighbouring areas can help to provide a stronger membership and volunteer base. This is already occurring within the districts and through the consultation it was observed that in the case of strong clubs (i.e. Basketball in Waitomo and Football in Ōtorohanga) the communities already travel between districts to participate. A joint approach to service delivery would ensure that clubs with membership from both districts are provided with support from Sport Waikato and connections to both councils.

7.3.3 Connection to regional safety strategies

Through Vibrant Safe Waitomo, Waitomo District Council has outlined their commitment to making the Waitomo community a safer place to live. Opportunities exist for Waitomo District Council to connect to and leverage from regional safety strategies: The Waikato Regional Cycle Education Plan and The Waikato Regional Water Safety Strategy.

7.3.4 Facilities

7.3.4.1 Maximising use of facilities

A large number of club survey respondents (69%) reported that their facility was not currently utilised to capacity. This is despite the majority of the clubs (69%) sharing their facilities with other clubs. Focus should be given to maximising the capacity of existing facilities through the exploration of current use and investigation into additional capacity. Due to the large number of traditional sports clubs with little casual participation, there may be opportunities to expand participation through use of facilities during what would traditionally have been the off season. Promoting opportunities for more clubs to share facilities and maximising use of facilities will help to improve the financial sustainability of current facilities.

In the case of the proposed North King Country Indoor Sport & Recreation Centre, current indoor facility use is largely at capacity. For Waitomo Miniball, a strong and growing sport in the district, the lack of facility capacity is limiting participation. The Waikato Regional Sport Facilities Plan supports the development of a new indoor facility for the Waitomo District as a priority project.

7.3.4.2 Facility projects

Table 3: Facility projects identified through the Waitomo District Sport Club Survey

Club:	Facility challenges identified in club surveys:	Action required:
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Waitomo Miniball	Proposed North King Country Indoor Sport & Recreation Centre	Sport Waikato to provide support and assistance with future funding applications, as needed.
Waitomo Basketball	Proposed North King Country Indoor Sport & Recreation Centre	Sport Waikato to provide support and assistance with future funding applications, as needed.
	<u>Current facility:</u> New goals Roof repairs	Further investigation into roof repair and clarification of support needs.
Maniapoto Netball Centre	Resurfacing of courts Addition of new lights	Sport Waikato to provide support and assistance with future funding applications, as needed.
Te Kuiti BMX Club	Facility does not meet health and safety requirements (not further defined in survey)	Clarification of needs and actions required by Sport Waikato.
Piopio Rugby Club	Roof over grandstand Request for council to mow grounds	Recommend self-funded roof over grandstand. Sport Waikato to connect club with council to facilitate discussions about mowing.

8 Action plan

Table 4: Action plan				
Strategic Priority	Focus	Actions	Responsibility	Timelines
Our people	Rangatahi, Tamariki and Tamariki Mokopuna	Transition Pathway developed with Sport Advisory Group (details below) to help young people transition from participation in school settings to options outside of school	Sport Waikato	Yr 2-3
		Sport Waikato to work with schools and early childhood education to professionally develop teachers to deliver quality Health and PE curriculum experiences	Sport Waikato	Yr 2-3
		Sport Waikato to work with other community partners/providers to ensure that young people have access to quality experiences in play, active recreation and sport.	Sport Waikato	Yr 1-3
		Support rangatahi/young people to have their say and participate in decision making through their inclusion on the District Sport Advisory Group (details below)	Sport Waikato	Yr 1
	Māori participation	Continued support and growth of Basketball	Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council	Yr 1-3
		Emphasis on building of relationship between Council, Iwi and Sport Waikato to support Māori participation in play, active recreation and sport.	Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council	Yr 1-2
		Sport Waikato Regional Connectivity Coordinator to focus on developing exceptional cultural capability and connecting clubs to development opportunities to ensure that opportunities for participation as Māori are available across codes within the district	Sport Waikato	Yr 1-3
	Women and Girls	Future expansion of This is ME®, including greater connection between secondary school and community leaders.	Sport Waikato	Yr 2
		Connection between This is ME® and community providers to provide quality opportunities for wahine from Waitomo District to access quality opportunities to move in their way	Sport Waikato	Yr 1-3
		Facilitate connection between Piopio bowling club and female Piopio College students	Sport Waikato	Yr 1
		Work with bowling clubs to take a whānau approach to delivery, connecting and involving other age groups in the club to enhance sustainability	Sport Waikato	Yr 2

Building communities	Closer connections and collaboration between Clubs, Education, Health, Sport Waikato and Council	Improve and broaden community and club engagement through provision of strategic development opportunities with specific focus on increasing participation (as highlighted in Club Development section).	Sport Waikato	Yr 1-3
		Two Community Action workshops held annually within the district to support licenced premises to better understand their legal obligations under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 (SASA).	Club Champs, New Zealand Police	Yr 1
	Active recreation and play settings	Sport Waikato to support Waitomo District Council with future planning and design of urban spaces that considers how we can connect spaces to improve accessibility to physical activity	Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council	Yr 1-3
		Sport Waikato to support Waitomo District Council roading team with future planning and design of roads and footpaths that considers play and active recreation opportunities	Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council	Yr 1-3
		Sport Waikato to support Waitomo District Council to consider play in planning and design of community spaces	Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council	Yr 1-3
		Sport Waikato to support Waitomo District Council to connect with other Councils in the Waikato Region to create a connected network of cycle and walkways	Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council	Yr 1-3
		For walkways and cycleways in the district to be inputted and regularly updated in the Walking Access Commission Online Interactive tool	Waitomo District Council	Yr 1-2
	Club development	<p>Increasing participation: Support clubs with development of Strategic plans to promote and increase participation. Considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-cost options for whanau • Whanau memberships • Pay to play and casual options (casual participation is used well in golf, shearing and bowls but there is significant room for improvement in other codes) • The use of social media • Adaption of delivery methods to incorporate Maori worldview • Delivery of events to maximise opportunities to fundraise and to increase membership of their club • Improving opportunities for women and girls due to lower participation at secondary school and slightly lower membership in clubs 	Sport Waikato	Yr 1-3

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Sports and Balance is Better philosophies to be introduced in the district to support positive sideline behaviour and opportunities that meet youth needs 		
		<p>Volunteers: Sport Waikato will work with the sport system to help ease pressure on volunteers – implementing things like shorter seasons to enable greater opportunities to recruit and retain volunteers</p>	Sport Waikato and Regional Sporting Organisations	Yr 1-3
		<p>Health and Safety: Connecting clubs with providers to make sure that they are meeting current and future health and safety standards</p>	Sport Waikato and Regional Sporting Organisations	Yr 1-3
		<p>Funding and grants: Promotion of funding and grant opportunities to sport and recreation clubs</p>	Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council	Yr 1-3
	Development of a sport and active recreation advisory group	Development of group facilitated by Sport Waikato– inviting key codes and including representation from target populations	Sport Waikato	Yr 1 -2
		Advisory group to connect with the Regional Connectivity Coordinator and Sport Waikato Vibrant Safe Waitomo Regional Coalition representative, providing information and ideas regarding theme 3 of Vibrant Safe Waitomo, Hakinakina (recreation).	Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council	Yr 2-3
		Advisory group to work together to support the development of new competition structures and participation opportunities that encourage participation from target populations	Sport Waikato	Yr 3
Regional leadership	Strengthening relationships between Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council	Strengthening relationships between Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council through the development of the Regional Connectivity Coordinator role which will be based in Waitomo District Council offices one day a week.	Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council	Yr 1
		Inclusion of Sport Waikato representatives on the Coalition and working groups for Vibrant Safe Waitomo.	Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council	Yr 1-3
	Working towards a King Country collaborative approach	Joint delivery approach with Ōtorohanga District Council to provide Strategic connections through the Regional Connectivity Coordinator role.	Sport Waikato, Waitomo District Council, Ōtorohanga District Council	Yr 1-3
	Connection to regional safety strategies	Waitomo District Council to partner with their provider of Water Safety Education, CLM Waitomo, to promote water safety, in particular, river safety.	Waitomo District Council	Yr 1

		Sport Waikato's Regional Cycling Education Advisor and Waitomo District Council to apply for 100% ACC funding available for the 20/21 year for delivery of cycle education in four Waitomo Schools – approximately 167 students.	Sport Waikato and Waitomo District Council	Yr 1
		Sport Waikato's Regional Cycling Education Advisor to work alongside Te Kuiti Primary to support them with their Bikes in Schools project.	Sport Waikato	Yr 1-2
	Facilities	Proposed North King Country Indoor Sport & Recreation Facility: Sport Waikato to provide support and assistance with future discussions as needed.	Sport Waikato	Yr 1-3
		Exploration of current use of facilities and investigation into additional capacity – where possible focus on youth led solutions.	Sport Waikato	Yr 2-3
		Investigation of facility requests by the BMX Club, Maniapoto Netball and Piopio Rugby from the Waitomo District Club Survey	Sport Waikato	Yr 1

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