

Vibrant Safe
WAITOMO
STRATEGY 2019-2024





**NĀU TE TOKANGA,
NĀKU TE TOKANGA KA NGATA
A HIAHIA**

WITH YOUR BASKET AND MY BASKET
ONE'S DESIRES SHALL BE FULFILLED

*A newly created Maniapoto proverb that alludes to 'te tokanga nui'
and a recital of words from one of Maniapoto iwi's revered koroua.*

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Foreword from the Mayor | He Kupu nā Te Koromatua

Tena Koutou

We have many communities in Waitomo. We live here because we love the place. It is Waitomo, with its towns and villages, its staggering landscapes and its rich history. We are in the heart of the King Country.

Yet while we love the place, we strive to make it better. We want:

- a safe place for our tamariki to be nurtured, our rangatahi to grow and our whanau to thrive.
- a place where business prospers, and enterprise is encouraged.
- a place where social, cultural and recreational opportunities abound.

We know that through inspired local leadership and well-constructed local, regional and national service delivery partnerships, our community “wants” will most effectively and efficiently be met. To bring this together, we have developed our framework - Vibrant Safe Waitomo.

In the 1860’s, in our region, King Tawhiao placed his hat on the map to claim the area of his sovereignty – “Te Rohe Potae”.

Vibrant Safe Waitomo is like a hat, but with its underside facing up. The hat contains the coalition of groups that endeavour every day to make our communities better. It captures energy and focus, collaboration and direction.

Vibrant Safe Waitomo has begun its journey.

Let’s make it a journey of great outcomes.



JOHN ROBERTSON

WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL MAYOR

VIBRANT SAFE WAITOMO REGIONAL COALITION CHAIR

DECEMBER 2019

Introduction | He kupu whakataki

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. This strategy has been developed by the Vibrant Safe Waitomo Regional Coalition Group, with input from community stakeholder groups and service providers. It is also informed by existing international, national and local strategies and the results of research into the specific needs of this community.

The strategy will provide a road map to collectively address community safety issues in the Waitomo District, in order to work towards Vibrant Safe Waitomo's vision to create safe and vibrant communities where people want to live and do business. It covers all people, all ages, and all ethnicities living, visiting or passing through our District. Most importantly, this strategy aims to add value to all the work that is already happening in our neighbourhoods and communities.

Governance: The Regional Coalition

The Vibrant Safe Waitomo Regional Coalition has been in place since October 2018. The Coalition's main purpose is enablement, providing influence and support at a governance level. The Regional Coalition Group is the owner of this strategy and supports the activities and projects that will form the yearly VSW action plans.

Through the Coalition's kotahitanga/collaborative leadership approach, obstacles for stakeholders and local contractors can be worked on and removed to enable successful delivery of community safety programmes through Vibrant Safe Waitomo.

The Regional Coalition operates under an overarching Terms of Reference This ensures a full understanding of Vibrant Safe Waitomo's mandate and scope.

The Regional Coalition group comprises of, but is not limited to:

- Maniapoto Māori Trust Board
- Waikato District Health Board
- Accident Compensation Corporation
- New Zealand Police
- Ministry of Education
- Fire and Emergency New Zealand
- Ministry of Social Development
- Oranga Tamariki Ministry for Children
- Integrated Safety Response
- Representative for MP for Taranaki – King Country
- Waitomo District Council

In addition to the Collaborative Leadership framework (the regional coalition and stakeholder groups) an advisory council is appointed to support the action plans of VSW year to year. This Advisory council consists of:

- Number 12 Manager
- Tuia representative
- Alcohol and Other Drug Team Lead for Maniapoto Whanau Ora Centre

Strategic Context | He horopaki rautaki

The Safe Communities Model

A safe community is one where people want to live, work, visit and interact with one another, it is where homes, workplaces, public transport, community spaces and neighbourhoods are welcoming and where people feel safe and free from harm. Community safety is therefore more than policing and crime reduction or preventing injuries, it involves building vibrant, cohesive, and participating communities.

A safe community is also one in which all sectors of the community work together to form meaningful partnerships. Together, these partnerships work to educate and inform the community, as well as manage risks and increase overall safety, especially for the most vulnerable. The Safe Communities model can help to achieve this.

The Safe Communities model is not a programme to be replicated and rolled out; nor is it a mechanism for assessing if a community is safe or if there are potential risks. Rather, it is a framework to enable community members, community organisations, businesses, local government, government agencies and others with an interest in and concern about community safety issues to work together in a coordinated and collaborative way. It enables community safety to be prioritised and regularly examined so that joint activities and projects can be put in place, and local issues can be addressed at a local level.

The Safe Communities model was developed and established in Sweden in the 1990s. Since then it has expanded worldwide to more than 270 designated Safe Countries. The Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ) is part of the Pan Pacific Safe Communities Network, which also includes Australia, the United States of America and Canada.

Accreditation

The Waitomo community told Waitomo District Council through the development of the 2018-28 Waitomo Long Term Plan that the creation of prosperous and safe communities was important. A focus was placed on forming partnerships for the implementation for the Safe Communities model, which is an internationally recognised model for communities. The Vibrant Safe Waitomo regional coalition group was formed, and work began on the accreditation application.

As part of the accreditation process, a comprehensive report was prepared, highlighting the community safety challenges and opportunities particular to the Waitomo District, and the commitment from all regional coalition members to work together collaboratively to address these. In 2019, the Vibrant Safe Waitomo accreditation application was successful, and Waitomo District is now one of 22 districts in New Zealand to have been accredited as a Safe Community.

Strategic Links

This strategy has links to, and is informed by, many international, national, regional and local strategies, plans and networks. VSW is a contributing member of the New Zealand Safe Community Network.

In May 2019, the Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Act 2019 was passed, reinstating the emphasis on the four well-beings in the Local Government Act. The purpose of local government now includes "to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future".

Waitomo District Council is now broadening its focus of work towards supporting a District that nurtures communities towards becoming thriving, positive and sustainable for the future. This focus has been incorporated into WDC's Long Term Plan 2018-2028 and is directly relevant to the work being undertaken by Vibrant Safe Waitomo.



Background to Strategic Plan | Te Takenga mai

In order to put a strategy in place around community safety and wellbeing, it is important to understand the demographic and socioeconomic makeup of the Waitomo District. It is worth noting that with 44.8% of people in the district identifying as Māori, Waitomo District has a much greater representation of Māori than many other areas of New Zealand (with the national average being 16.5%).

There are fewer people of working age in the district than in younger and older age groups. The decrease in population between the ages of 20 to 50 indicates migration out of the district by people of tertiary education and working age.

Statistics Snapshot

KEY DISTRICT STATISTICS

total population **9,303**
*2018 Census

maori population **44.8%**
*NZ 16.5%

school leavers 17 or over **61.3%**
*2018 MoE figures

non-fatal injuries by hospital discharge **148**
*2017 figures

crime victimisations **20-24 years**
*peak age group

hazardous drinking in maori populations **32%**
*national figures

2018 Census Data

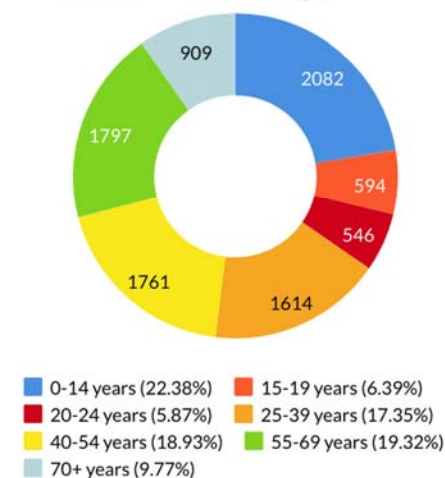
Population by gender

female 49.5% ♀
male 50.5% ♂

Population by ethnicity

european 5907
maori 4170
pacific 345
asian 348
other 117

Population by age



Waitomo District has been classed as a decile 10 (most deprived area). Evidence from various sources including health surveys and Census data relate lower socioeconomic status to poorer outcomes in life. This is heightened if a person's childhood has been affected by poor emotional, social and educational growth in which their needs are not adequately met.

Addressing this imbalance in life equity outcomes for Māori has been a focus throughout the research and development of this strategy. Equity means that people's needs rather than their social privileges guide the distribution of opportunities for wellbeing¹.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, people have differences in health that are not only avoidable but unfair and unjust. Equity recognises different people with different levels of advantage require different approaches and resources to get equitable health outcomes.

This definition of equity is used by the Ministry of Health and was signed-off by Director-General of Health, Dr Ashley Bloomfield, in March 2019.

Supporting all people in the Waitomo District to achieve the vision of creating safe and vibrant

communities where people want to live and do business is the top priority for Vibrant Safe Waitomo. Through the SCFNZ accreditation process, VSW conducted a stocktake of issues around safety and harm in order to identify strategic themes to direct our focus.

Through analysing data sets, gathering information and cross referencing we have been able to determine the main issues that affect our communities, and which populations are most at risk. An illustration of these findings can be found in The Course of Life Safety Matrix on pages 23 – 25 of the Vibrant Safe Waitomo Report².

The findings have been filtered down to identify three primary strategic themes most suited to promoting better safety outcomes:

- Whānau/Families
- Mahi/Workplaces
- Hākinakina/Recreation

Underpinning all three of these is a fourth theme of **Kotahitanga/Connected Leadership**, which is a hugely important aspect for all the work Vibrant Safe Waitomo and our community partners endeavour to undertake.



The Course of Life Safety Matrix shows that youth are vulnerable to many of the areas of harm that exist in society. In particular, the 20-24 year old age group has the greatest number of red indicators (i.e. of high or extreme concern) compared to all other age groups, followed closely by 15-19 year olds and 25-29 year olds.

¹ Braveman P, Tarimo E, Creese A. et al. 1996. Equity in Health and Health Care: A WHO/SIDA initiative. Geneva: World Health Organization.

² An electronic copy of the Vibrant Safe Waitomo Report (the accreditation application) can be found here: <https://www.safecommunities.org.nz/safe-community-networks/waitomo-district>

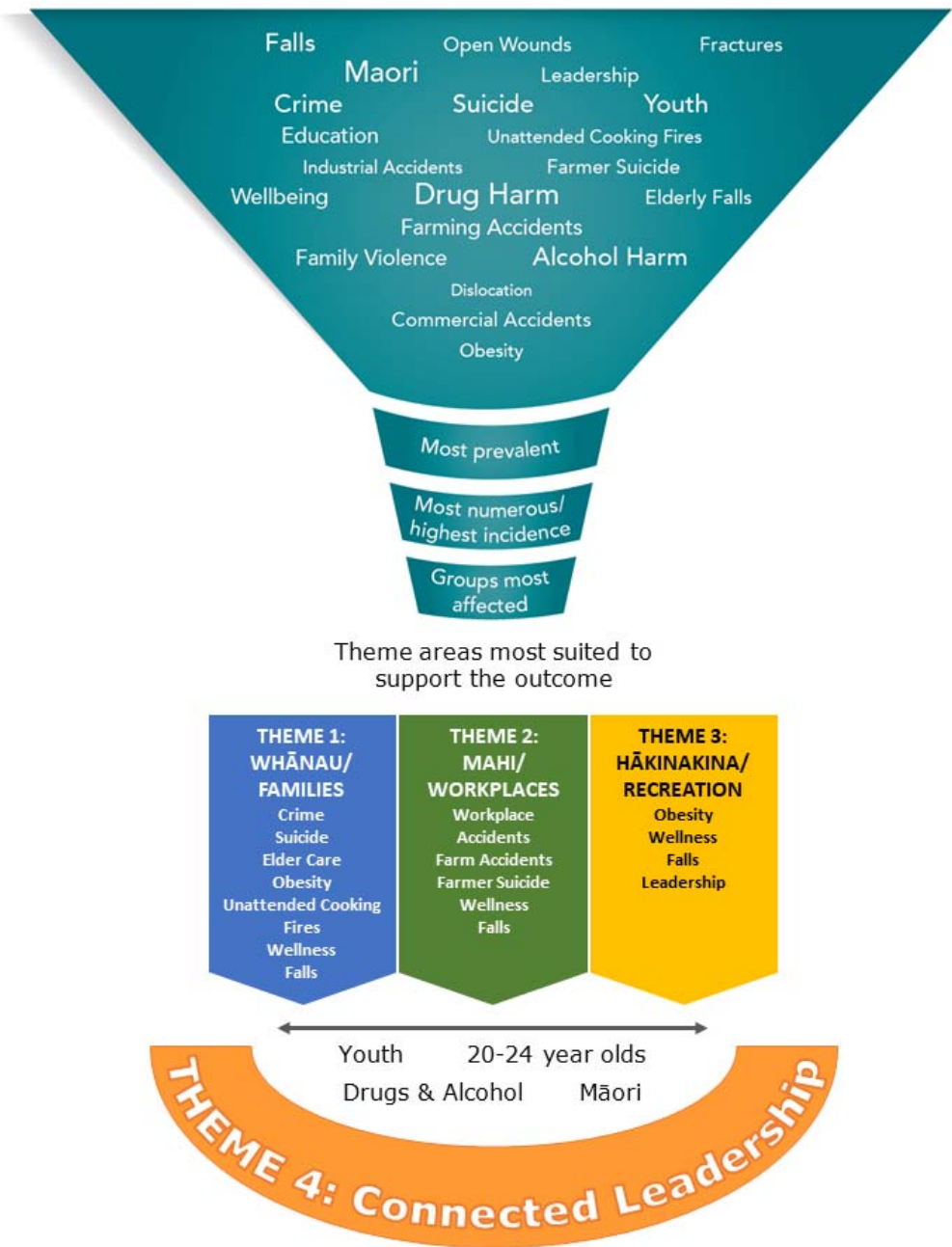
Drug and alcohol harm has been identified as a key issue that needs to be addressed across all three primary theme areas. Alcohol harm is a national problem. Relating national information and evidence to a local level is important as the demographics of the district put Waitomo potentially at a higher risk for alcohol and drug harm, with a focus on males, youth and Māori. While local data specific to Waitomo has been difficult to obtain, the Waitomo District Youth Council conducted a survey of high school students in 2018, in which survey respondents highlighted drugs and alcohol as two of their top four concerns of 15 issues young people might address in their area.

Throughout the research associated with the Course of Life Safety Matrix and this strategy document, Māori have been identified as experiencing poor economic, health and education outcomes which impact negatively on their overall wellbeing. A unilateral approach of targeted support across all theme areas is needed if life equity for all Māori is to be obtained.

The diagram below shows the range of safety issues affecting people in the Waitomo District, filtered to show which primary theme area is most suited to where the issue or outcome can be addressed. There is certainly crossover between the themes and priorities, so a kotahitanga/connected leadership approach is shown as the fourth theme underpinning the other three.



Priority Areas and Themes for Vibrant Safe Waitomo





OUR VISION | NGĀ MOEMOEĀ

TO CREATE SAFE AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES
WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE AND DO BUSINESS



Strategic Framework | He pou tarāwaho rautaki

VISION: To create safe and vibrant communities where people want to live and do business.

MISSION: To initiate valued and meaningful partnerships with those that have a vested interest in our communities and increase positive outcomes for those that live and work within its bounds.

THEME 1: WHĀNAU/FAMILIES

Goal 1:
To support and foster a caring and safe place to live for every resident.

THEME 2: MAHI/WORKPLACES

Goal 2:
To support and enable economic development with a clear agenda on health and safety.

THEME 3: HĀKINAKINA/ RECREATION

Goal 3:
To foster community connections through providing safe and stimulating environments.

THEME 4: KOTA HITANGA/ CONNECTED LEADERSHIP

Goal 4:
To provide stewardship to manage meaningful partnerships within the community.

PRIORITIES

1. Safe and healthy homes

- To promote the benefits of increased safety in residents' homes.
- To connect whānau and families with services that are culturally appropriate and support healthier and safer homes and environments.

2. Confident and capable carers

- To support our parents, grandparents and wider whānau to be confident and capable.

3. Reduce alcohol and drug-related harm

- To prevent and reduce the rate of alcohol and other drug related harm experienced in homes.

4. Safety of young children and elderly

- To specifically support young people aged 0-5 and elderly people to be safer in their homes.

5: Health, safety and wellbeing in workplaces

- To promote employment programmes to support health, wellbeing and safety in the workplace.

6: Reduce self-harm in farming communities

- To educate and build resilience in farming communities and mitigate self-harm risks.

7: Economic development and education

- To promote economic development within the district and prioritise young people as a target group to work with.
- To educate the community.
- To support young people to have the tools, opportunity and ability to achieve their success.

8: Safety in public and recreational spaces.

- To promote safer public places and sports and recreation spaces for the community to access.

9: Partnerships to inform decision making

- Partnerships are developed and priority groups are consulted to inform decision making processes, in particular Māori youth under 25yrs and youth with disabilities.

10: Collaboration across service providers

- To take a joined up approach with service providers and other agencies to better support the community to access services.

11: Civil Defence emergency preparedness

- To have a strategy and mechanisms in place to respond to Civil Defence emergencies.

Theme 1: Whānau/Families

Goal 1: To support and foster a caring and safe place to live for every resident.

How we will address this | Our priorities

1. Safe and healthy homes

- To promote the benefits of increased safety in residents' homes.
- To connect whānau and families with services that are culturally appropriate and support healthier and safer homes and environments.

2. Confident and capable carers

- To support our parents, grandparents and wider whānau to be confident and capable.

3. Reduce alcohol and drug-related harm

- To prevent and reduce the rate of alcohol and other drug related harm experienced in homes.

4. Safety of young children and elderly

- To specifically support young people aged 0-5 and elderly people to be safer in their homes.

What we will do | Our actions

- Educate and raise awareness of the impact of family violence and support available.
- Educate whānau living within the Waitomo District on alcohol and other drug related harm in homes.
- Educate elderly community members and carers of young children on health and safety issues specific to them in their homes.

**Specific actions are detailed in VSW's yearly action plan.*



What we are trying to achieve | Community Outcomes

- Multicultural values of all our people and, in particular, Māori culture is recognised and valued.

(Vibrant Communities, Outcome 1)

- A place that attracts more people who want to live, work, play and raise a family.

(Thriving Business, Outcome 6)

Who will be involved | Lead and key partners

- Maniapoto Family Violence Intervention Network (Lead)
- Maniapoto Whānau Ora Centre (Lead)
- Te Kuiti Community House Trust (Lead)
- Ministry of Social Development
- Health Promotion Agency
- Waikato DHB
- NZ Police
- Waitomo District Council
- ACC
- Sport Waikato

How we will know we are having an impact | Our measures of success

- People in the community understand how to identify abusive behaviour, how to access family violence support services and how to support one another.
- Support is available to whānau to reduce alcohol and other drug related harm, and reduce the desire to use alcohol and other drugs.
- The number and severity of hospitalisations of the very young and the elderly are reduced.

Theme 2: Mahi/Workplaces

Goal 2: To support and enable economic development with a clear agenda on health and safety.

How we will address this | Our priorities

5. Health, safety and wellbeing in workplaces

- To promote employment programmes to support health, wellbeing and safety in the workplace.

6. Reduce self-harm in farming communities

- To educate and build resilience in farming communities and mitigate self-harm risks.

7. Economic development and education

- To promote economic development within the district and prioritise young people as a target group to work with.
- To educate the community.
- To support young people to have the tools, opportunity and ability to achieve their success.

What we will do | Our actions

- Raise awareness of family violence as a whole-of-community issue including workplace support.
- Facilitate community connectedness and education through social and technical support initiatives.
- Seek opportunities to enable young people to influence decisions which affect them and the community.

**Specific actions are detailed in VSW's yearly action plan.*



What we are trying to achieve | Community Outcomes

- A place where young people have access to education, training and work opportunities.

(Vibrant Communities, Outcome 3)

- A place where wealth and employment are created through business and tourism opportunities and facilities being facilitated and encouraged.

(Thriving Business, Outcome 7)

Who will be involved | Lead and key partners

- Maniapoto Family Violence Intervention Network (Lead)
- Te Kuiti Community House Trust (Lead)
- Aotahi (Lead)
- Club Champs
- Number 12 Youth Hub
- Waitomo District Council
- Ministry of Education
- Youth Council

How we will know we are having an impact | Our measures of success

- Workplace culture change nurtures an environment which values employee's wellbeing at work and at home.
- Increased proportion of school leavers moving on to tertiary education.
- More people in farming communities access support services.

Theme 3: Hākinakina/Recreation

Goal 3: To foster community connections through providing safe and stimulating environments.

How we will address this | Our priorities

8. Safety in public and recreational spaces.

- To promote safer public places and sports and recreation spaces for the community to access.

What we will do | Our actions

- Educate licensed premises on legal obligations under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.
- Encourage Waitomo District residents to become more active.
- Promote Smokefree events in the District.

**Specific actions are detailed in VSW's yearly action plan.*



What we are trying to achieve | Community Outcomes

- A Place where all age groups have the opportunity to enjoy social, cultural and sporting activities within our district.
(Vibrant Communities, Outcome 2)
- A place where we preserve the natural environment for future generations ensuring that the natural resources are used in a sustainable manner.
(Vibrant Communities, Outcome 5)
- A place that provides safe, reliable and well managed infrastructure which meets the District community needs and supports maintenance of public health, provision of good connectivity and development of the District.

(Sustainable Infrastructure, Outcome 10)

Who will be involved | Lead and key partners

- Club Champs (Lead)
- NZ Police (Lead)
- Sport Waikato (Lead)
- Maniapoto Family Violence Intervention Network
- Waitomo District Council
- Te Kuiti Community House Trust
- Waikato DHB
- Population Health
- Health Promotion Agency – Community Action
- Fire and Emergency NZ

How we will know we are having an impact | Our measures of success

- Licensed premises fully understand and operate responsibly within the law.
- There is an increase in safe recreational opportunities available.
- Waitomo residents are actively involved in recreational opportunities around the District.
- Public places in the District are smokefree.

Theme 4: Kotahitanga/Connected Leadership

Goal 4: To provide stewardship to manage meaningful partnerships within the community.

How we will address this | Our priorities

9. Partnerships to inform decision making

- Partnerships are developed and priority groups are consulted to inform decision making processes, in particular Māori youth under 25yrs and youth with disabilities.

10. Collaboration across service providers

- To take a joined up approach with service providers and other agencies to better support the community to access services.

11. Civil Defence emergency preparedness

- To have a strategy and mechanisms in place to respond to Civil Defence emergencies.

What we will do | Our actions

- Establish and maintain partnerships with key service providers in the district to ensure they are consulted on relevant initiatives.
- Align the Vibrant Safe Waitomo Strategy and future Action Plans with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Increase community emergency readiness, resilience and recovery.

**Specific actions are detailed in VSW's yearly action plan.*



What we are trying to achieve | Community Outcomes

- Young people are valued and have opportunities for input into the decisions for their district.

(Vibrant Communities, Outcome 4)

- The development of partnerships for the delivery of programmes and services is encouraged and prioritised.

(Effective Leadership, Outcome 8)

- Where governance actively seeks to participate and take a leadership role in regional and national initiatives aimed at the development of the District.

(Effective Leadership, Outcome 9)

Who will be involved | Lead and key partners

- Vibrant Safe Waitomo Regional Coalition (Lead)
- Waitomo District Council (Lead)
- Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

How we will know we are having an impact | Our measures of success

- The Vibrant Safe Waitomo Stakeholders Group is instrumental in assisting and securing local partnerships to support the positive implementation of Vibrant Safe Waitomo and advise on project progress.

Monitoring and Reporting | Te aroturuki me te arotake

This strategy is a roadmap broadly covering Vibrant Safe Waitomo's plans and priorities over the five-year period from 2019 to 2024. It will inform a detailed yearly action plan which will lay out the specific and enabler actions to be taken by Coalition members, as well as other stakeholders and service providers as necessary to achieve VSW's goals and work towards the Vision.

The action plan will contain details of how we will measure success for each specific action so that progress can be evaluated and reported on each year. These success measures will be different depending on the type of action but will generally be non-financial in nature and some will rely on longer term data gathering on a national or regional level to establish trends.

Review period

This strategy is a living document and will be revisited yearly before the development of each action plan. As the Vibrant Safe Waitomo programme progresses, this strategy may be reviewed by the Coalition before the five-yearly timeframe as required. The action plan will be reviewed yearly and progress will be reported for the previous year alongside the refreshed action plan.

Appendices | He tāpiritanga

I. Glossary

Actions are things happening or that will happen within the community (programs, projects, etc) which work towards achieving the priorities. These actions may have input from various service providers such as community groups, iwi, businesses, councils, and/or central government agencies.

Coalition is the Vibrant Safe Waitomo Regional Coalition group which jointly supports the strategy.

Equity is the absence of avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people (as defined by the World Health Organisation).

Goals are high level objectives the strategy works towards, a way of grouping key priorities and actions.

Priority is something very important which must be dealt with before other things. These priorities were set in response to data and information collected and analysed during 2018/2019.

VSW means Vibrant Safe Waitomo – the name of the local initiative formed under the umbrella of the Safe Communities New Zealand model of a collaborative approach to addressing local issues in community safety and harm.



www.waitomo.govt.nz