

# Arohatia te Taiao

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*'A local perspective'*

**DISCUSSION DOCUMENT  
OF PRELIMINARY FINDINGS**

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**PRESENTED BY**

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai O Te Tai Tokerau/  
Northland Conservation Board

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MARCH 2022



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# **Kia ora rawa atu**

## **Many thanks**

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*Special thanks and acknowledgements to those who shared their whakaaro on this important kaupapa.*

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## te Taiao

“Ko au te taiao,  
ko te taiao ko au.”

I am the environment  
and the environment is I.

# Introduction

## Kia ora!

Te mea tuātahi e mihi ki te Atua ko koe te tīmatanga me te whakamutunga.

I ngā mate e hunga haere, haere, haere atu ra, moe mai.

E huri ki te hunga ora tēnā koutou tēnā koutou tēnā hoki koutou katoa.

E ngā iwi, hapū, whānau, hapori tēnei te mihi kia koutou, ki te whakaritenga mō ēnei kaupapa rangatira, Arohatia Te Taiao, tēnei te mihi kia koutou mō ngā kōrero, whakaaro me ngā mahi i roto i te Taiao.

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa.

It is a privilege to share with you the preliminary findings of stage one of Arohatia te Taiao. A community lead initiative to ascertain Northlanders' hopes and fears for the future of our Taiao/natural environment.

Our hope is these survey findings will stimulate further korero/discussion, with an aim to enhance current and future strategy within Te Tai Tokerau.

It is vitally important that more action is undertaken to not only protect but critically, reverse the current decline in the wellbeing of our backyard.

It must be emphasised that ALL is connected. Whereas Papatūānuku can survive without the people, the people cannot survive without Papatūānuku. There is much to be done.

Ngā Mihi

Tania McInnes  
Project Lead

*Note: all quotes shared within this report are from people that completed the survey.*

## Background

**This independent** initiative came about through the recognition that our community voice in Te Tai Tokerau needed to be more clearly heard, articulated and actioned upon within regional strategy.

**That local solutions,** to the very real challenge of decline in the health and wairua of our Taiao/natural environment, needs to be encouraged and empowered, working alongside a national approach.

**Arohatia te Taiao** is a pilot project, championed by Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau/Northland Conservation Board (The Board) and is led by a Project Team. Noting that the Board is not part of the Department of Conservation.

“Humankind has decimated our taiao. We need an overhaul, to reestablish living ecosystems, and reverse our impacts that are fueling climate change.

We’re in deep, and need to focus on advocacy, behaviour change, policy and policing to get us back on track.”

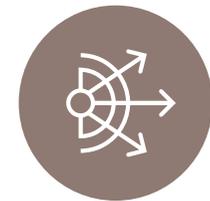
### THE PROJECT IS BEING RUN IN THREE STAGES:



**Stage One**  
online survey and  
initial Focus Groups  
(completed)



**Stage Two**  
community korero on  
preliminary findings  
(Apr – May 22)



**Stage Three**  
completion and distribution  
of report/findings  
(June 22)

*Note, although Climate Change and international challenges were noted, this survey had a particular focus on ‘local’ issues. It was recognised that there was already work been undertaken in these areas.*

## Project Aim

To identify key priorities while articulating Northlanders' aspirations for our Taiao. That information collected provides a strong foundation and community voice for Te Tai Tokerau planning, strategy and action. Goals include:

- Bringing people together to connect, learn and grow;
- Developing a vision of what the future of 'conservation' looks and feels like;
- Clarifying key priorities for our natural environment; and
- Creating a strong foundation to assist funders and policy-makers in planning and decision-making

## Overview of Findings

Survey findings and preliminary Focus Groups meetings has clearly identified some serious concerns. Of the 1,000 odd respondents, 78% indicated they are currently worried about Northland's Taiao/natural environment.

*"I fear that our people are not caring anymore with what happens to our lands, awa and ngahere."*

Top concerns at a local level are loss of ngahere. Of the 457 comments collected on people's fears, 209 individuals highlight lack of protection/care/prioritisation for the taiao, along with lack of planning and government inaction.

*"Little long-term planning for environmental health."*

Pollution (rubbish being a big one) and poisons came in second. Invasive weeds (including pine), predators/pests and overfishing (particularly during the holiday season) also get a clear mention.

*"Rubbish is a big issue. I see it everywhere. People dumping stuff around the countryside and in town. The lack of recycling done in this town... a lot of people put it all in the rubbish bags or dump it out of town side off the road. I am seeing face masks, now people flicking them out of the car windows. People dumping household rubbish in bins around the town, overflowing..."*

Being able to grow/collect kai/food featured strongly, rated as number one as 'most important' currently and number one and two for the future hopes.

*"If we lost the ability to grow our own food, gather food and do so with healthy moana and whenua, that would be my greatest anguish."*

## Target Audience

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All people living in, whakapapa to, or are connected to Te Tai Tokerau.

## Report intent

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This report intends to describe preliminary feedback received via the Arohata te Taiao online survey, which ran from Wednesday 10th of November 2021 to Sunday 6th February 2022.

For more information or to get in touch with us, please visit our website:

[www.arohatiateaiao.kiwi](http://www.arohatiateaiao.kiwi)

For a variety of reasons, access to the Taiao is another concern. There is encouragement for appropriate access as it contributes to growing knowledge, while providing opportunity for greater appreciation.

*"... access will make our communities more connected so more likely to take action to protect it."*

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Of the 354 comments around hope for our future, nearly one third highlight the need for a Te Ao Māori approach, one of respect, care and unified collaboration.

*"That we view our Taiao as an extension of ourselves, part of our whānau and respect our interdependent relationship."*

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Education is seen as key to changing people's approach. Everything from a change of messaging, better signage, running workshops and giving people hands on experience.

*"Education is key. Preferably a mix of theory and practical application of Taiao kaupapa."*

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Finally, hope that we (including government) prioritise and protect the Taiao for future generations.

*"That we are able to improve the wellbeing of our Taiao and have strategies in place to maintain its wellbeing for future generations."*

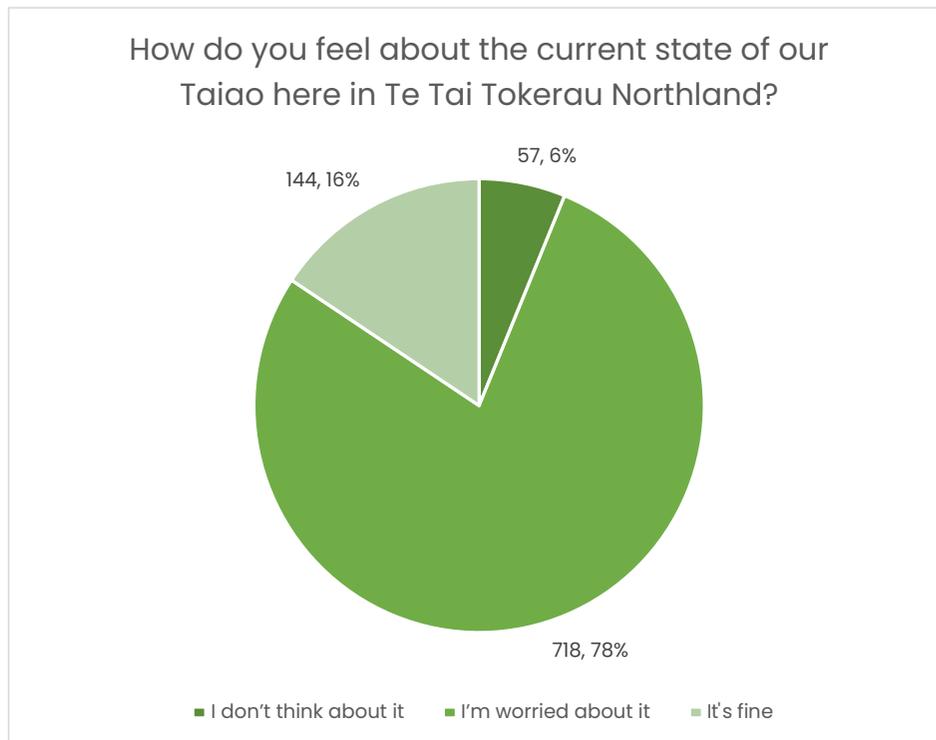
*"That our capitalist society wakes up, that our value-system adjusts and we celebrate and treasure Taiao for its inherent value."*

# Survey Responses

## Preliminary Findings

### 1. How do you feel about the current state of our Taiao here in Te Tai Tokerau Northland?

919 people responded to this question. A total of 718 (78%) respondents said that they were worried about the current state of our Taiao.



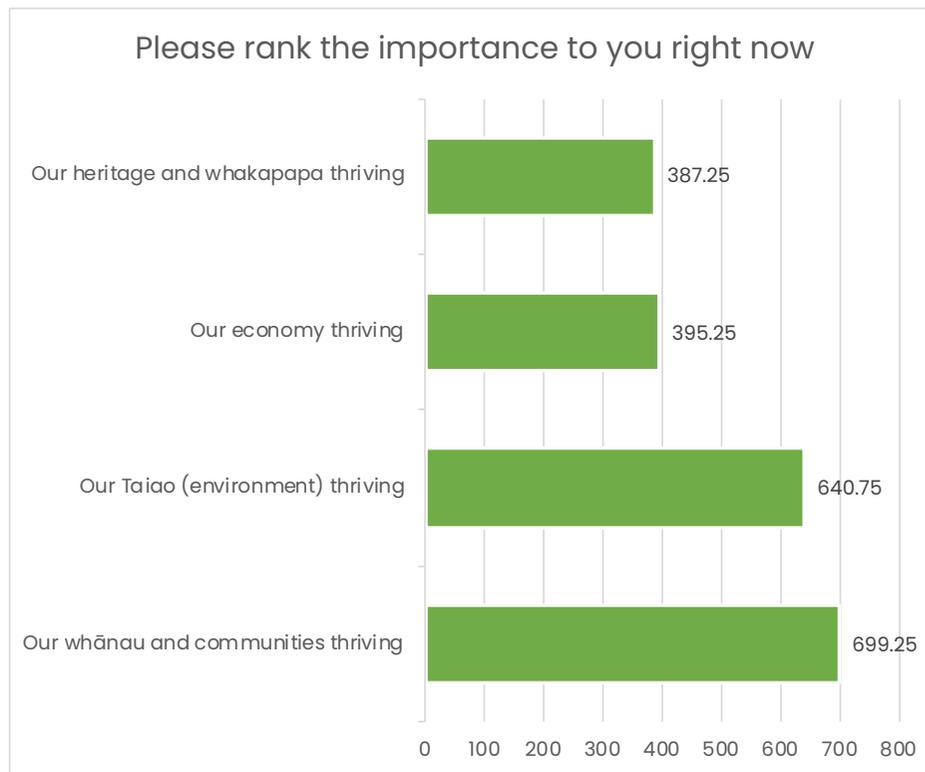
*"I am concerned about the abuse of our taiao. People think it's a 'right' when we know it is a 'privilege.' With privilege comes kaitiakitanga and with kaitiakitanga comes tears and hard work."*

*"I'm worried about what is released into our waterways ... How I see rubbish dumped in our ngahere, tracks not looked after - if people can't go to the forests and swim in the waters, how will they learn to value them?"*

*"My biggest fear is one size fits all policy and central control. We as a people at a local level need to honestly evaluate our position and collectively come to solutions..."*

## 2. Please rank the importance to you right now

850 people responded to this question. 'Our whānau and communities thriving' was ranked the most important by respondents (AVERAGE: 699.25, 33%). Followed by 'Our Taiao thriving' (AVERAGE: 640.75, 30%), 'Our economy thriving' (AVERAGE: 395.25, 17%) and 'Our Heritage and whakapapa thriving' (AVERAGE: 387.25, 18%).



*"... if we all work together more to help our environment and put more effort into saving it rather than thinking about ourselves we can achieve so much more."*

*"My concern is my moko will not have access or be able to enjoy our whenua as we were able to. Part of my whakapapa is the whenua and all that it has provided our whānau with. My hope is my moko today and future whānau will benefit or still be able to look forward to what our whenua provides. Our Tinana, wairua, hinengaro and whānau. It does not look good though and I do not hold much hope of that because of how "progress" is viewed today. In monetary terms and not richness of environmental terms."*

### 3. Please rate the importance to you right now

809 people responded to this question. Of those who responded, most indicated that all aspects of our Taiao were very important to them (AVERAGE: 721, 89%).

	Not important to me		Somewhat important to me		Very important to me	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Healthy moana and awa (waterways for drinking, seas, harbours, and rivers)</b>	7	1%	55	7%	746	92%
<b>Healthy ngahere (forests)</b>	13	2%	93	11%	702	87%
<b>Healthy takutai (beach or coast)</b>	4	0%	62	8%	742	92%
<b>Healthy whenua (land)</b>	5	1%	80	10%	723	89%
<b>Healthy hau (fresh air to breath)</b>	7	1%	61	8%	740	91%
<b>Healthy native wildlife</b>	7	1%	93	11%	708	88%
<b>Healthy oneone (soils)</b>	9	1%	112	14%	687	85%

*“Taiao ora, Tangata ora. The wellbeing of people is dependent on the wellbeing of the environment.”*

*“I believe the wellbeing of our community is linked to the wellbeing of our environment. I feel we can find solutions that supports both aspects at the same time and have a longer lasting affect.”*

*“I’ve been trapping for 37 years cause I love our ngahere. If I dont help our ngahere, it will be a deadlands. Nothing for our kids, mokomokos ... ”*

#### 4. Please rate the importance to you right now

804 people responded to this question. Of those who responded, most indicated that all aspects listed below were very important to them (AVERAGE: 530, 66%).

	Not important to me		Somewhat important to me		Very important to me	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Growing our own kai (plants and livestock)</b>	32	4%	247	31%	524	65%
<b>Catching and gathering kai (hunting, fishing, shellfish, foraging)</b>	98	12%	257	32%	448	56%
<b>Easy access to our Ngahere (forests)</b>	43	5%	266	33%	494	61%
<b>Easy access to our Takutai (beach or coast)</b>	22	3%	128	16%	653	81%

*"I fear my tamariki will suffer greatly...kai in general will diminish slowly, kaimoana will be harder to gather if we don't intervene now."*

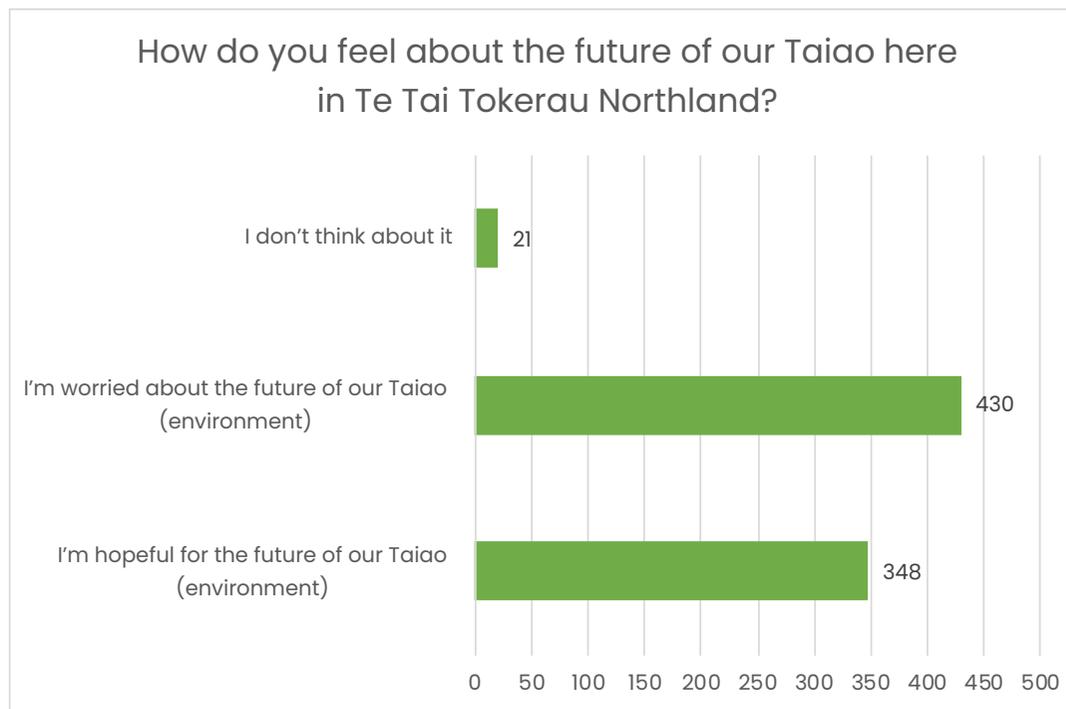
*"It is my hope we can get the people reconnected to the land and sea, becoming self sustaining, feeding themselves and getting enough from their efforts to live, while nurturing and improving the land and sea in their role as guardians."*

*"I hope to see dramatic changes in the way society views their environment, and that it must be protected not exploited. Everything is connected, ourselves and our taiao, ngahere, our manu, our moana, etc. I am hopeful we can achieve a balance between economy and environmental protection, where neither are compromised, and both are sustainable."*

*"A return to more localised, small scale farming and horticulture units providing as much quality food as possible to local markets, before exporting and not importing anything which can be produced in Aotearoa. All residents practising aroha, respect and care for themselves, their neighbours and te taiao."*

## 5. How do you feel about the future of our Taiao here in Te Tai Tokerau Northland?

A total of 799 people responded to this question. Of the 799 people that responded, 430 (54%) said that they were worried about the future of our Taiao, 348 (44%) said they were hopeful for the future of our Taiao, and 21 (3%) said that they don't think about the future of our Taiao.



*"Our uniquely New Zealand environment needs to be protected for all. We are one nation and only our people can make the changes to lead to our children and grandchildren being able to enjoy what previous generations of all races took for granted as always being available and in abundance. Sustained and careful management of our environment will reap so many rewards for all."*

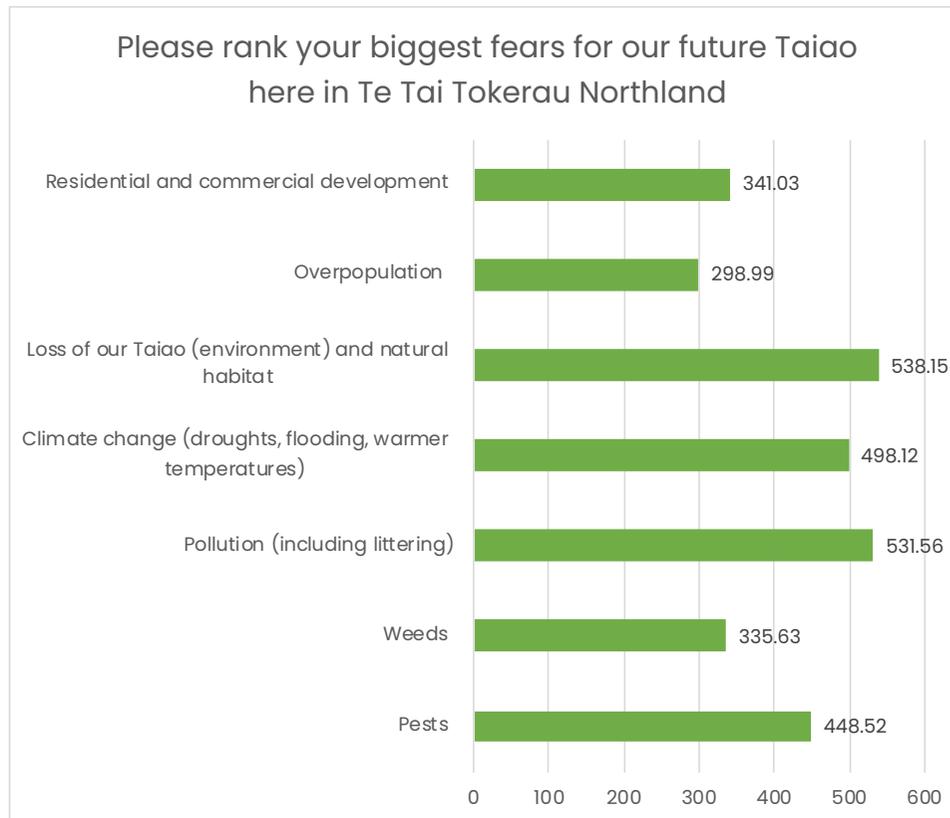
*"Unless it personally impacts on people it's out of sight out of mind."*

*"I worry for our children's future environment everyday."*

*"... that all sectors accept/awhi the relationship that Māori have with our whenua, maunga and awa, it is a part of who we are. A being. Not a thing or asset."*

## 6. Please rank your biggest fears for our future Taiao here in Te Tai Tokerau Northland

A total of 749 people responded to this question. 'Loss of our Taiao and natural habitat', 'Pollution' and 'Climate Change' were ranked the top 3 biggest fears.



*"Government over the last several decades has not thought or actioned enough about the big picture on caring for our environment or society, neglecting big infrastructure and long term goals."*

*"Greatest threat is the perpetuation of the societal operating systems based on the principle of property rights and individualism. The greatest opportunity is a societal shift to the principle of whanaungatanga; a relational respectfulness with all things."*

*"Poisoned and polluted world is the legacy we are leaving behind for our future generations....all for self, greed and prestige..."*

## 7. Please write any other comments about your fears for the future of our Taiao (environment) below

383 people responded to this question. Given the qualitative nature of this question, we will provide our thematic analysis in the final report. For the purpose of this report, we have hand-picked some whakaaro that has been shared so far...

*"I am concerned we are not looking at the wider picture of how all these systems fit together and affect each other. The ecosystem benefits and externalities of doing business are not taken into account enough. Lifestyles, livelihoods and businesses need to be thought to ensure long term positive outcomes in Northland."*

*"Unless everyone, regardless of origins, can work together, then my great-grandchildren will probably be the last generation, as Climate Change will -with droughts, storms, fires and floods - destroy the planet as we know it."*

*"Disconnect by people from the land. Not understanding that stormwater drains aren't filtered, that what they drop in the street ends up in the sea, increase in rubbish with disposable masks, etc. I am hugely concerned about the impact of climate change with a changing (drier / hotter) climate and rising sea levels."*

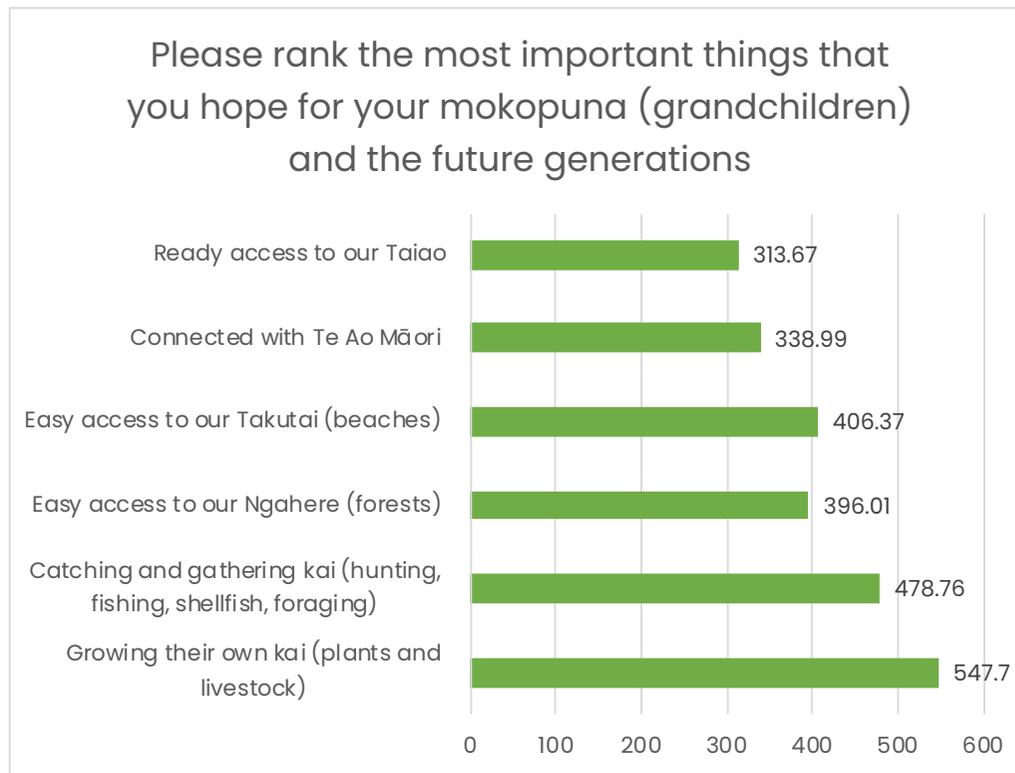
*"Lots of people moving north scares me. We don't have the infrastructure for this and we haven't got the protection on our taiao that we need. The state of our Moana scares me. It has been extremely overfished and we need more marine reserves (like the poor knights)."*

*"We need as a nation to replenish, re-establish and maintain our native plantings and forests to give diversity, native wildlife habitat. Treat water quality before entering our streams, estuaries and rivers. This will help with preventing drought conditions which cause land erosion, poor soil condition for farming and excess flooding and sediment runoff onto low lands. Fishing and boating should be licenced."*

*"It just seems everything is changing and not for the better at this time."*

## 8. Please rank the most important things that you hope for your mokopuna (grandchildren) and the future generations

710 people responded to this question. 'Growing their own kai' (AVERAGE: 547.7, 22%), 'Catching and gathering kai' (AVERAGE: 478.76, 19%) and 'Easy access to our Takutai/beaches' (AVERAGE: 406.37, 16%) were ranked as the top 3 most important things that people hope for their mokopuna and the future generations



*"He pai rawa te mauri me te wairua o te taiao, he pai rawa te mauri me te wairua o ngā tāngata e noho pātata ana ki ēnei wāhi. He ora pai mō te katoa!"*

*The mauri and wairua of the environment is very good, and the mauri and wairua of the people who live near these places is very good. A good life for everyone!*

*"I am concerned that there is very minimal public access (other than beaches) to bush and walks etc and there is not enough plans to make more. I believe this access will make our communities more connected to our environment so more likely to take action to protect it."*

## 9. Please write any other comments about your hopes for the future of our Taiao (environment) below.

304 people responded to this question. Given the qualitative nature of this question, we will provide our thematic analysis in the final report. For the purpose of this report, we have hand-picked some whakaaro that has been shared so far...

*"I would love to see many generations enjoy our stunning landscape. To live and learn in this area is a gift. I hope it continues to be this way. Access to the environment is essential to be connected and therefore care what happens next. Being able to gather kaimoana is a gift to many people around the world. So it needs to be protected so it can continue to be a gift."*

*"My hope is that our leaders will prioritise the environment when developing, knowing that a healthy environment is good for us as human beings and our community. That the sea will be treated with more respect. That commercial forestry will not be increased. That as iwi, we look to ways of increasing our income in ways that support our environment. Looking to the future, not only the present."*

*"A return to more localised, small scale farming and horticulture units providing as much quality food as possible to local markets before exporting and not importing anything which can be produced in Aotearoa. All residents practising aroha, respect and care for themselves, their neighbours and te taiao."*

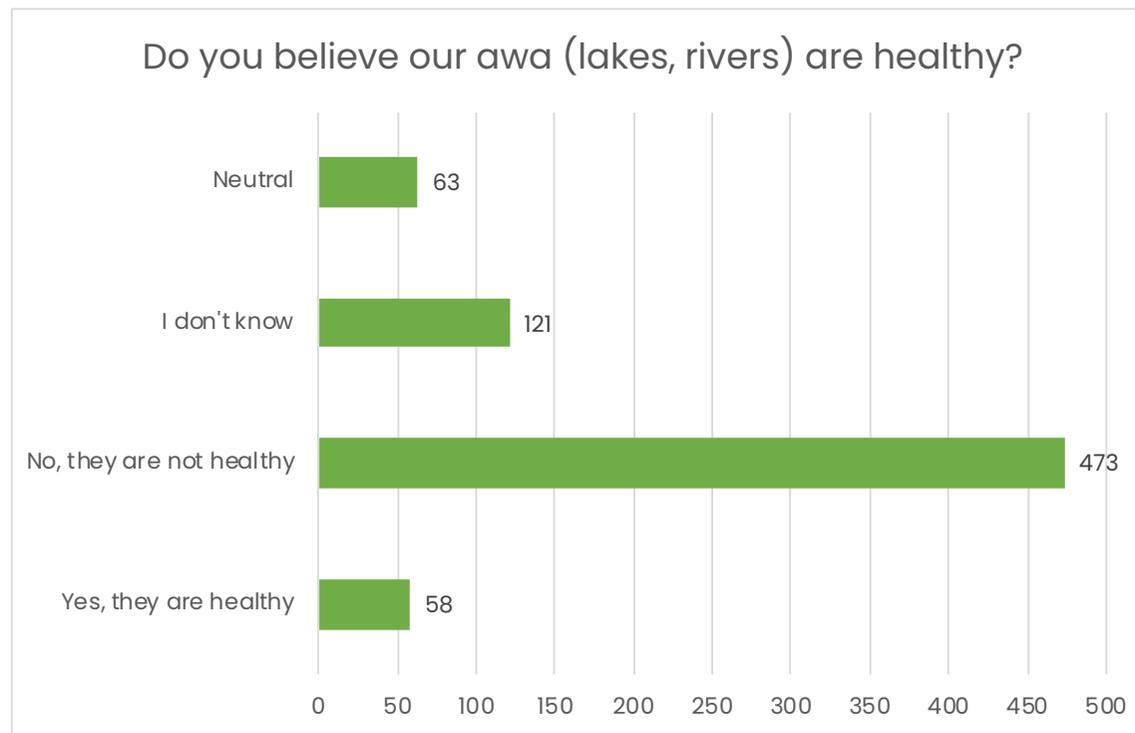
*"It would be great if the council together with environmental activists, started initiatives for people that encouraged the community as a whole to be more environmentally aware, more initiatives for clean living. Things like a green waste bin for the district would be great, or starting initiatives that encourage people to create compost and reduce food waste. More paying or penalties for disposable items to help reduce rubbish, more enforcement for littering etc."*

*"Encourage farmers to move towards regenerative agriculture, it's the only way to feed the world's growing population AND save the environment, including reverse climate change."*

*"If we all focus on solutions and we are on the same path and mind. Collected and connected to te taiao. Education and understanding our taiao. Respect and showing not saying how to protect and maintain sustainable naturally"*

## 10. Do you believe our awa (lakes, rivers) are healthy?

A total of 715 people responded to this question. Of the 715 people that responded, 473 (66%) believe that our awa are not healthy, 121 (17%) said that they don't know if our awa are healthy, 58 (8%) believe our awa are healthy and 63 (9%) are neutral.



*"I wrote I do not know about the environment because I am unsure how healthy or unhealthy our environment is. It looks healthy on the surface."*

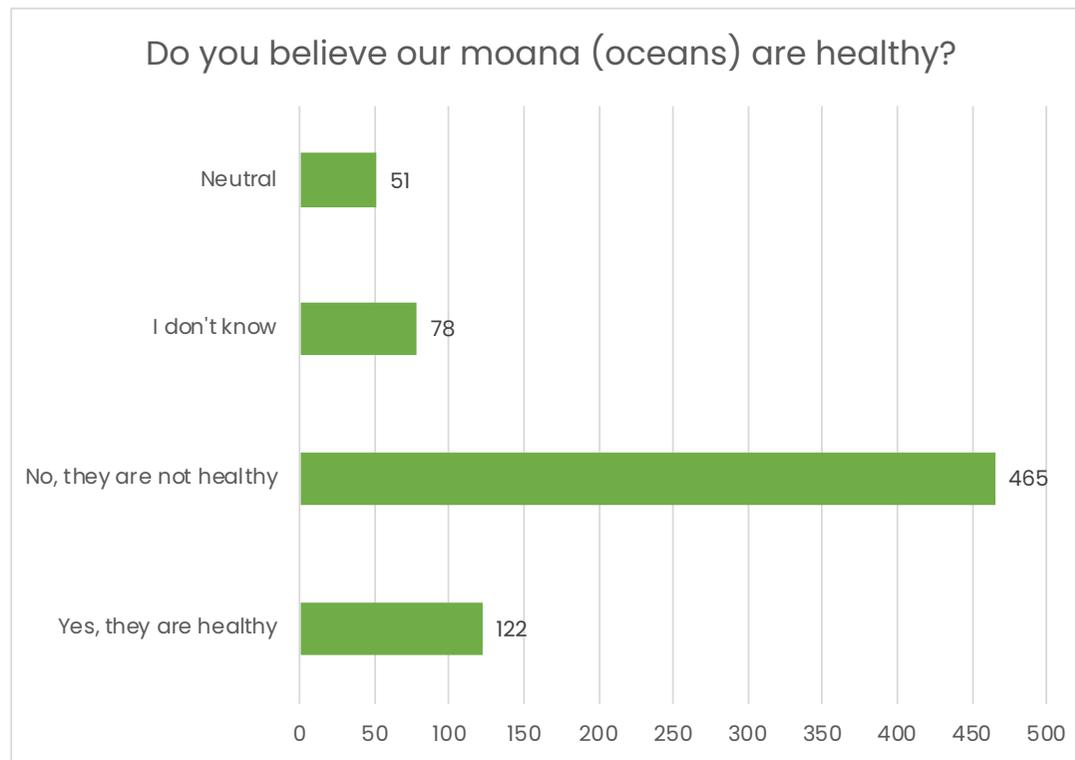
*"Ko au te Awa ko te Awa ko au."*

*"That land for growing food is preserved - and our rivers, harbours and ocean are clean and healthy environments."*

*"I hope... will allow a say in the cleanliness of our rivers, lakes and foreshore so our great grandchildren can once again use these treasures as their playground."*

## 11. Do you believe our moana (oceans) are healthy?

A total of 716 people responded to this question. Of the 716 people that responded, 465 (65%) believe that our moana **are not healthy**, 122 (17%) believe our moana is healthy, 48 (11%) said that they don't know if our moana **are healthy**, and 51 (7%) are neutral.



*"I hope our Kai moana is better protected from over fishing."*

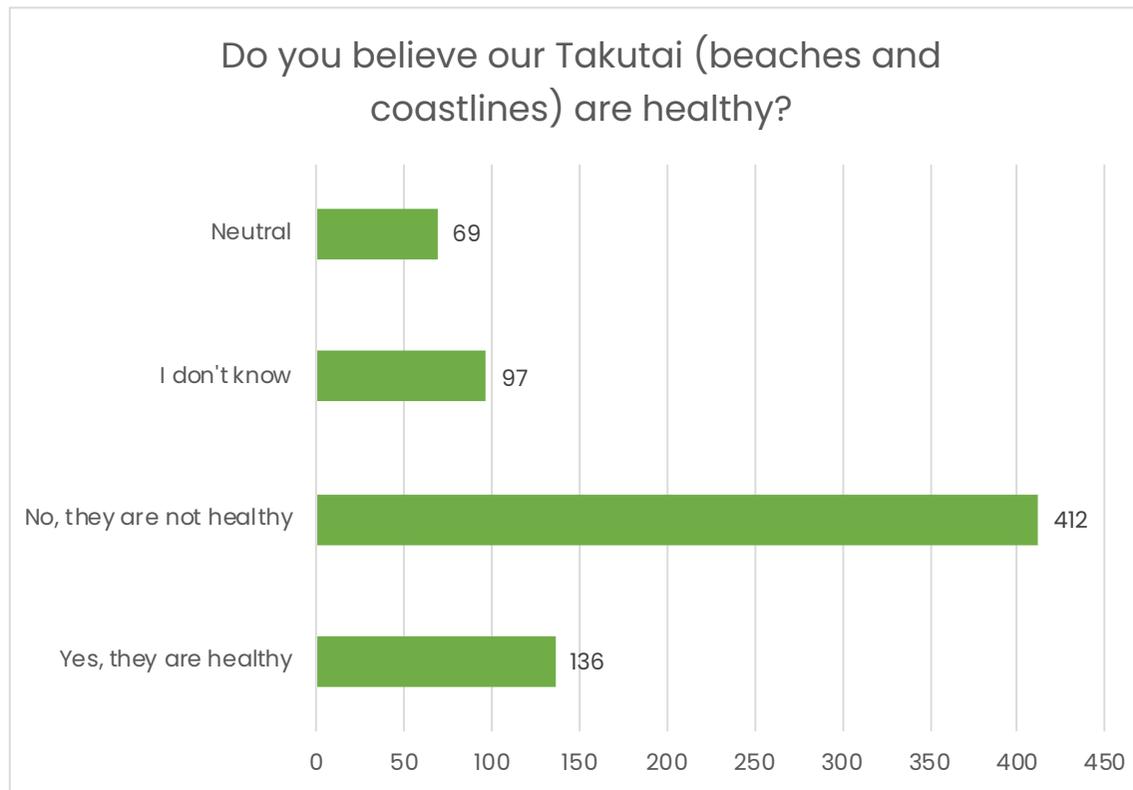
*"I wish a kilometre non commercial fishing zone put in place off our coast. A month non commercial fishing when fish are spawning."*

*"Fishing and gathering should be banned during public holidays to prevent the hordes of holidaymakers from devastating the local fisheries."*

*"I fear for my tamariki and how they will provide for themselves in they don't have the future stock sources of kai; te moana me te whenua!!!"*

## 12. Do you believe our Takutai (beaches and coastlines) are healthy?

A total of 714 people responded to this question. Of the 714 people that responded, 412 (58%) believe that our takutai **are not healthy**, 136 (19%) believe our takutai are healthy, 97 (14%) said that they don't know if our takutai **are healthy**, and 69 (7%) are neutral.

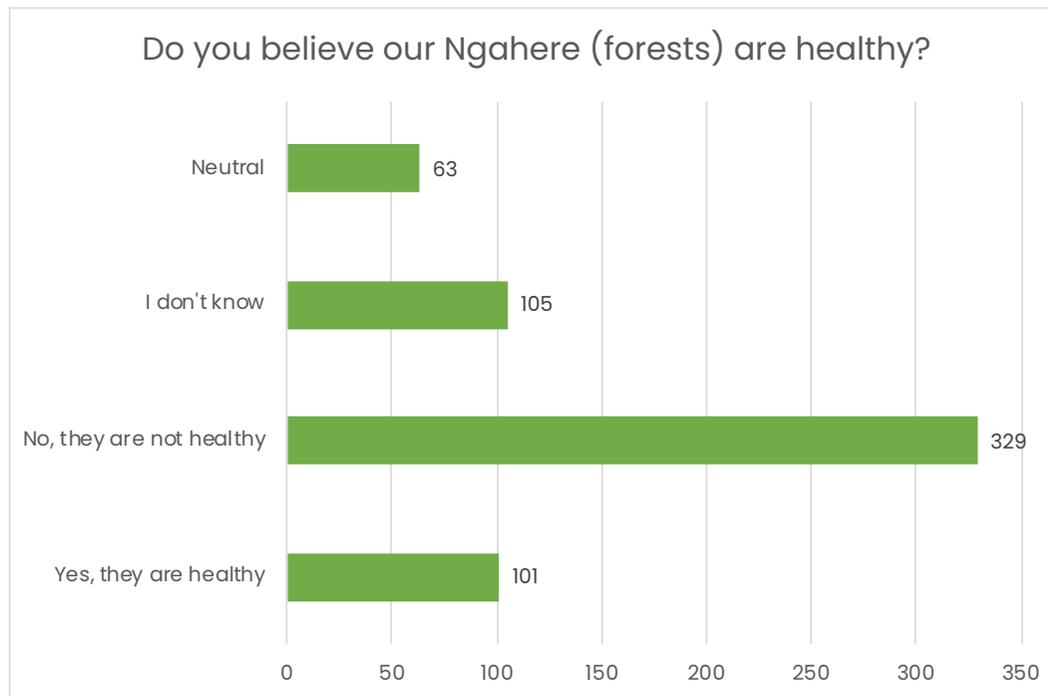


*"Taiao! I just don't know where to start ! Stop driving on the beaches! This would lessen the devastation and pollution that humans leave behind them and stop advertising driving in the beaches as a good thing!"*

*"I want my moko to grow up knowing and having access to te Ao Maori, going to the beach and gathering kai, looking out in any direction and seeing the ngahere full of natives and manu (and not houses houses houses)."*

### 13. Do you believe our Ngahere (forests) are healthy?

A total of 715 people responded to this question. Of the 715 people that responded, 387 (54%) believe that our ngahere **are not healthy**, 126 (18%) said that they don't know if our ngahere are healthy, 123 (17%) believe our ngahere **are healthy**, and 79 (11%) are neutral.

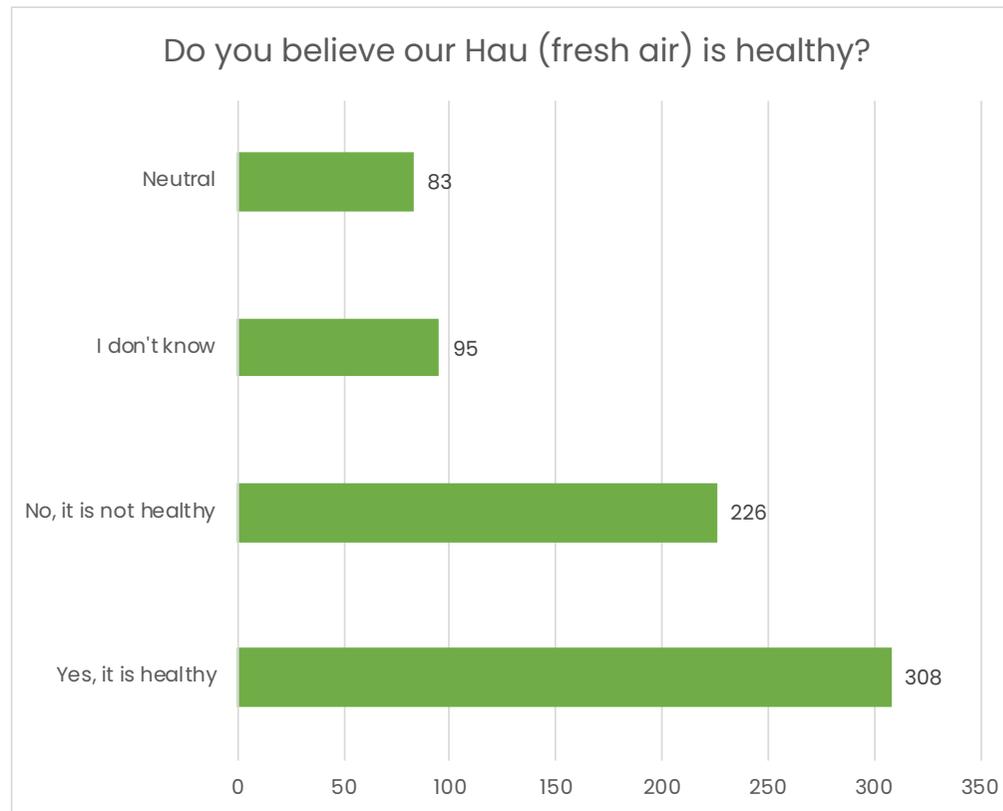


*“Twin crises of climate heating and extinction/biodiversity collapse are advanced across Taitokerau. Northern native forests collapse is caused by introduced animals. Trees store large amounts of carbon while they’re alive, but when they die, they release all that carbon back into the atmosphere.*

*The release of carbon from forests contributes to a kind of climate feedback loop: heating temperatures cause drought, which kills trees and releases carbon into the atmosphere, which contributes to greater warming, which brings about more drought — and so on. Resilience returns to native forests when introduced animals are as close to zero as possible.”*

## 14. Do you believe our Hau (fresh air) is healthy?

A total of 712 people responded to this question. Of the 712 people that responded, 308 (43%) believe that our hau **is healthy**, 226 (32%) believe our hau **is not healthy**, 95 (13%) said that they don't know if our hau is healthy, and 83 (12%) are neutral.

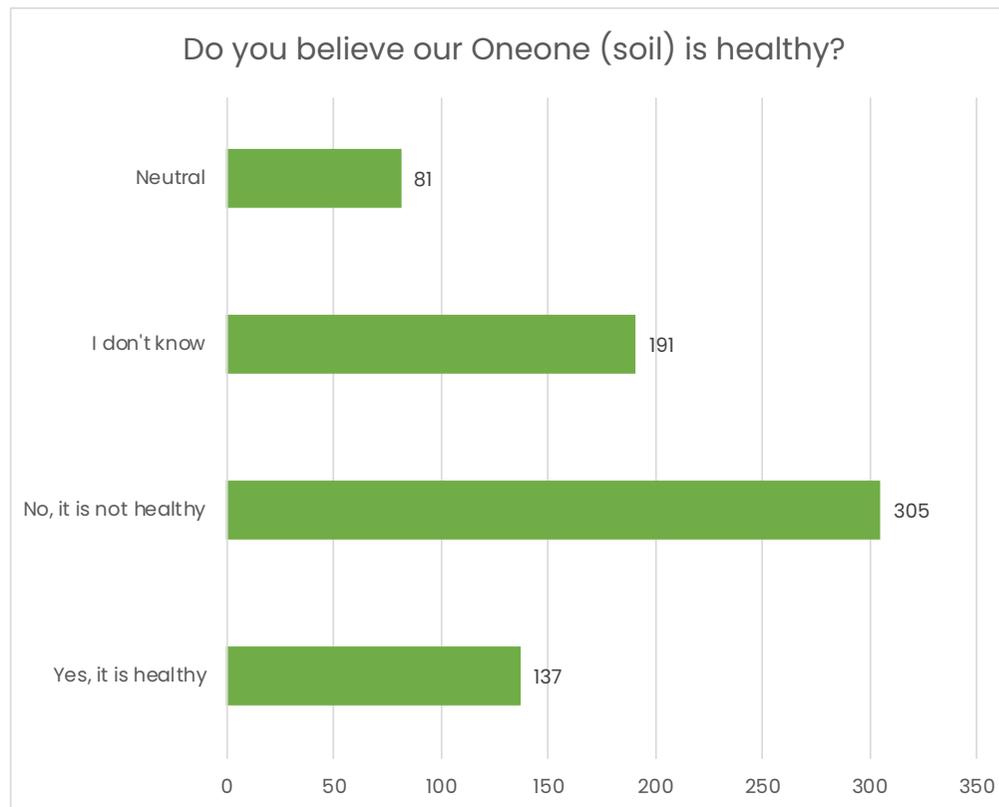


*"I hope that the air and water is clean and the whenua unpolluted."*

*"Priority number 1. NZ truly being clean and green. Ngahere regeneration, more marine sanctuaries, clean air, low carbon, clean tech, grandchildren's future secure and prosperous."*

## 15. Do you believe our Oneone (soil) is healthy?

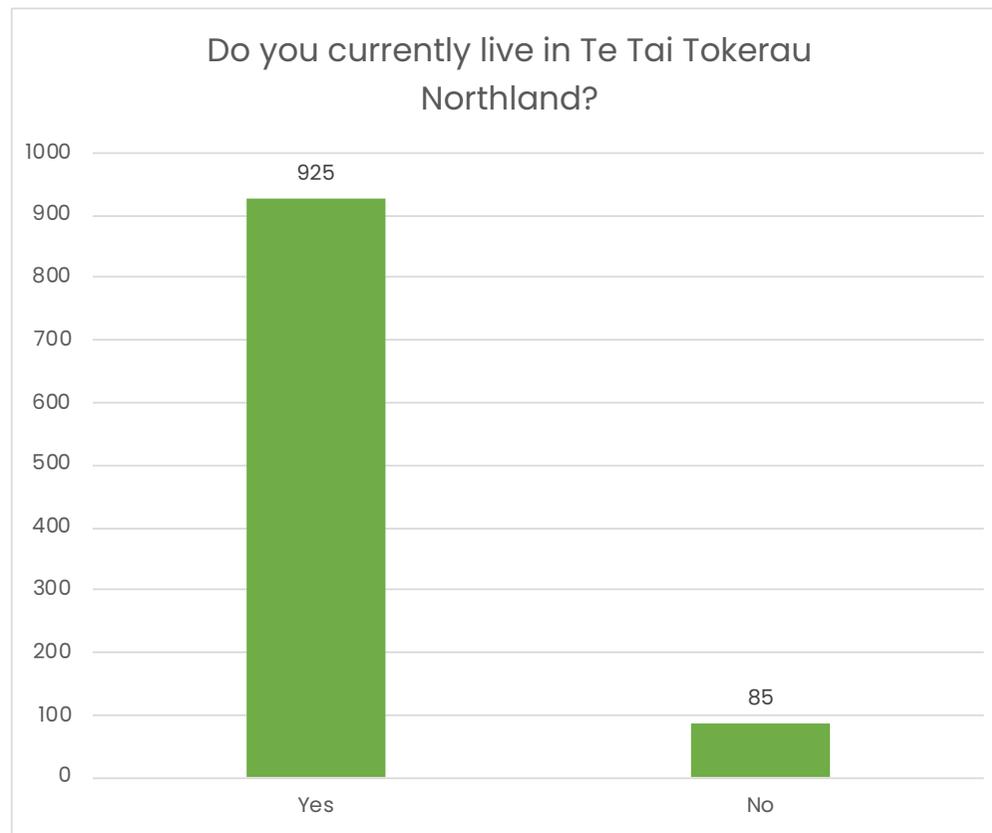
A total of 714 people responded to this question. Of the 714 people that responded, 305 (43%) believe that our oneone **is not healthy**, 191 (27%) said that they don't know if our oneone is healthy, 137 (19%) believe our oneone **is healthy**, and 81 (11%) are neutral.



*"I hope our refuse is better managed. I hope our Kai moana is better protected from over fishing. I hope our land is better used to prevent pollution and depletion of our soils. I hope organic farming is encouraged."*

## 16. Do you currently live in Te Tai Tokerau Northland?

A total of 925 people responded to this question. Of those who responded, 773 (92%) live in Te Tai Tokerau Northland, and 85 (8%) live outside of Te Tai Tokerau Northland.



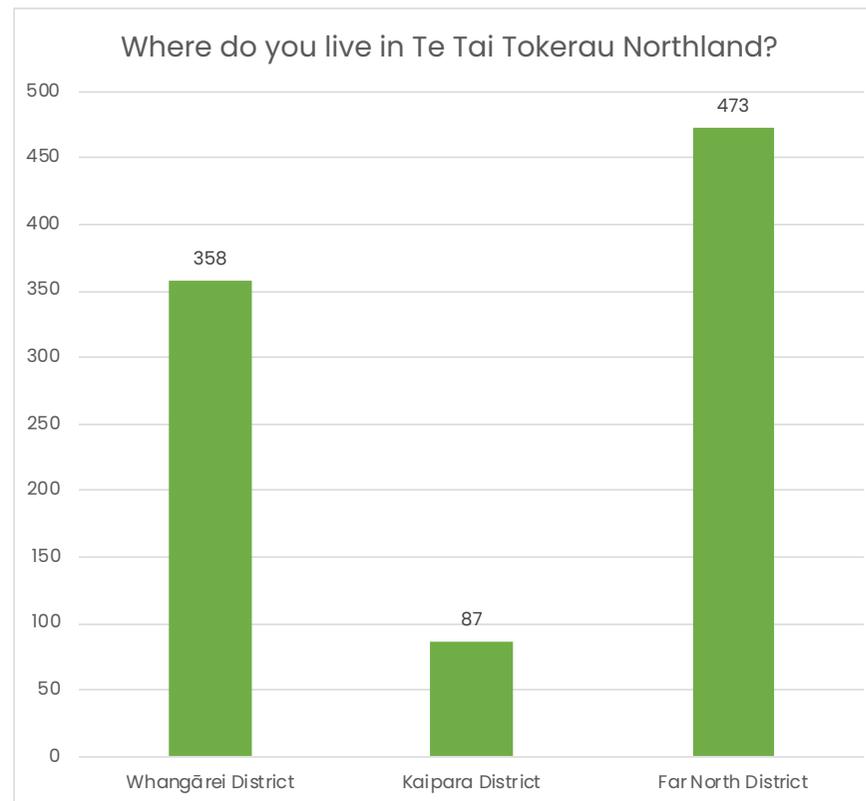
*I fear that if we do not tiaki our whenua and teach the next generation how to keep our taiao thriving then there will be no future generations.*

*Taiao ora, Tangata ora.  
The wellbeing of people is dependent on the wellbeing of the environment.*

## 17. Where do you live in Te Tai Tokerau Northland?

*Note: This question was only presented if the respondent indicated that they live in Te Tai Tokerau Northland.*

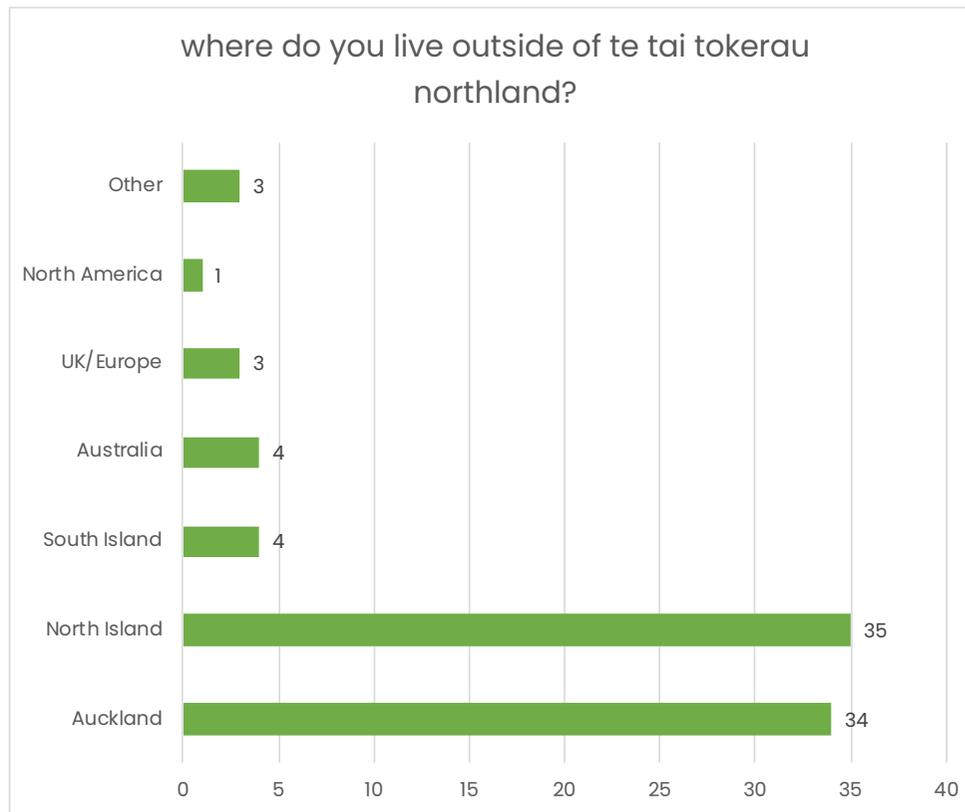
A total of 918 people responded to this question. Of those who responded, 309 (39%) said that they live in the Whangārei District, 87 (9%) said that they live in the Kaipara District, and 473 (52%) said they live in the Far North District.



## 18. Where do you live outside of Te Tai Tokerau Northland?

Note: This question was only presented if the respondent indicated that they currently live outside Te Tai Tokerau Northland.

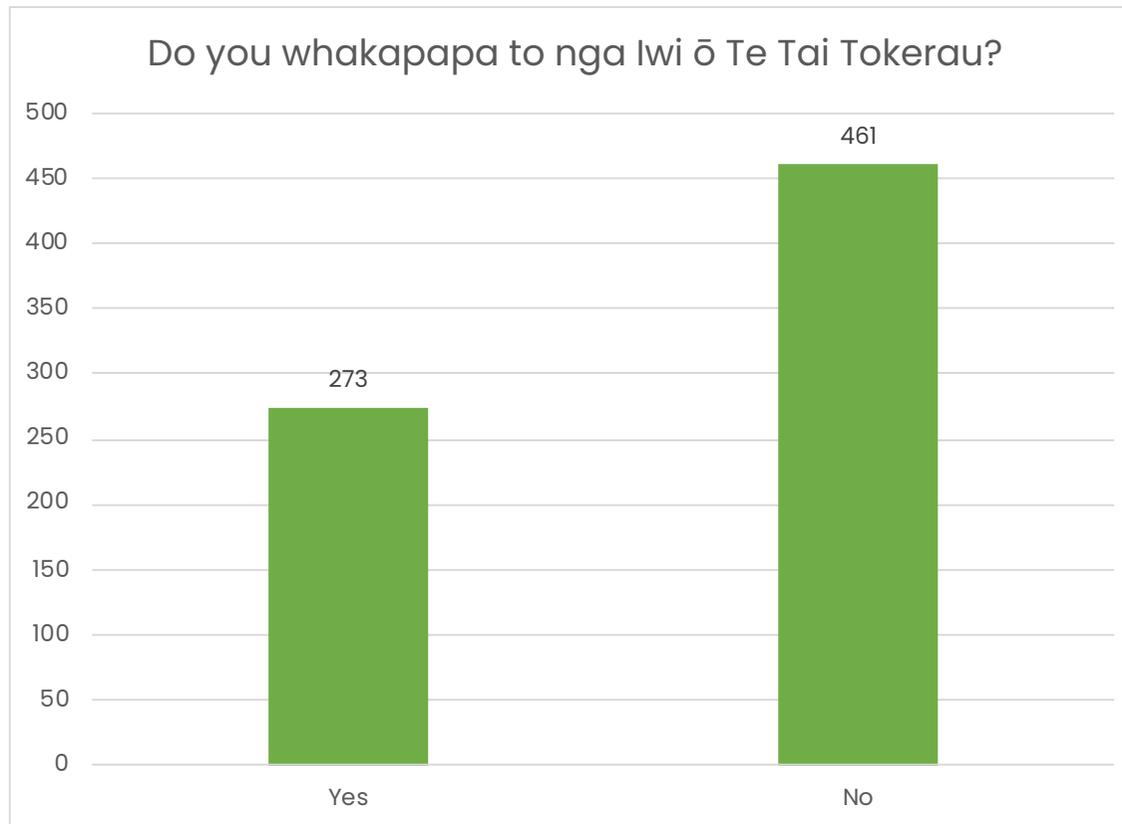
A total of 84 people responded to this question. Of those who responded, 34 (41%) said that they live in Auckland, 35 (42%) said that they live in the North Island, 4 (5%) said they live in the South Island, and 11 (13%) said they live outside of Aotearoa New Zealand.



*Ko au te whenua,  
ko te whenua ko au*

## 19. Do you whakapapa to ngā lwi o Te Tai Tokerau?

A total of 734 people responded to this question. Of those who responded, 273 (37%) said that they did whakapapa to nga lwi o Te Tai Tokerau and 461 (63%) said that they did not whakapapa to nga lwi o Te Tai Tokerau.



*We need wild places. We need places that are seed banks for Papatūānuku so if people leave this earth the earth can rejuvenate. People have taken so much, go so many places, now just by being there they upset balances no matter how careful they are. Population growth puts immense pressure on the natural resources.*

## Which Iwi do you whakapapa to? Pick up to 3

Note: This question was only shown if respondents indicated 'Yes' to Question 4

A total of 635 people responded to this question. A breakdown of whakapapa is provided below.

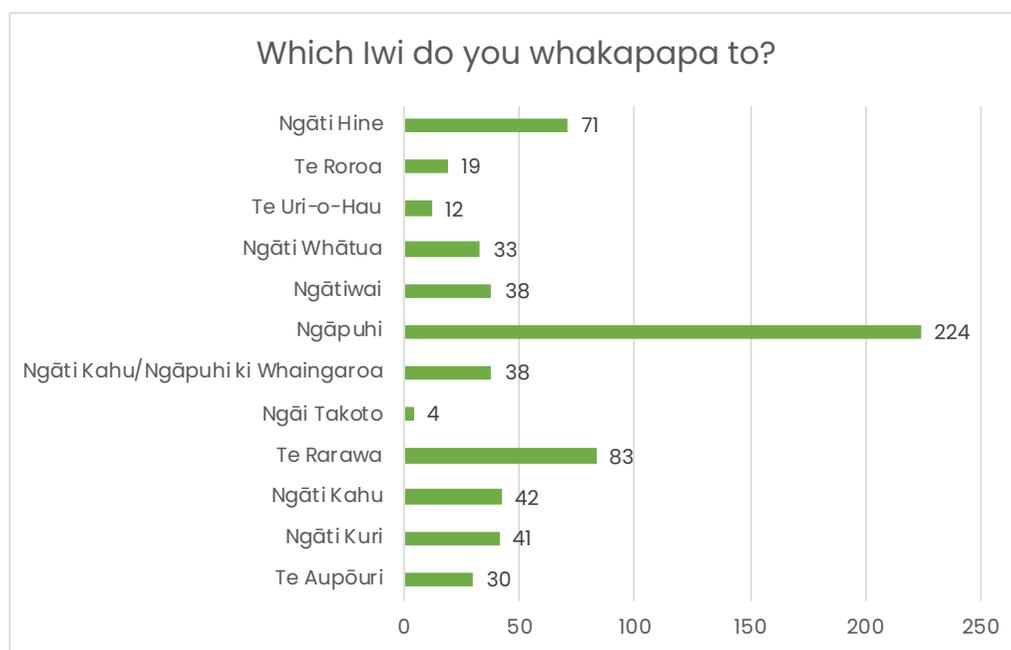
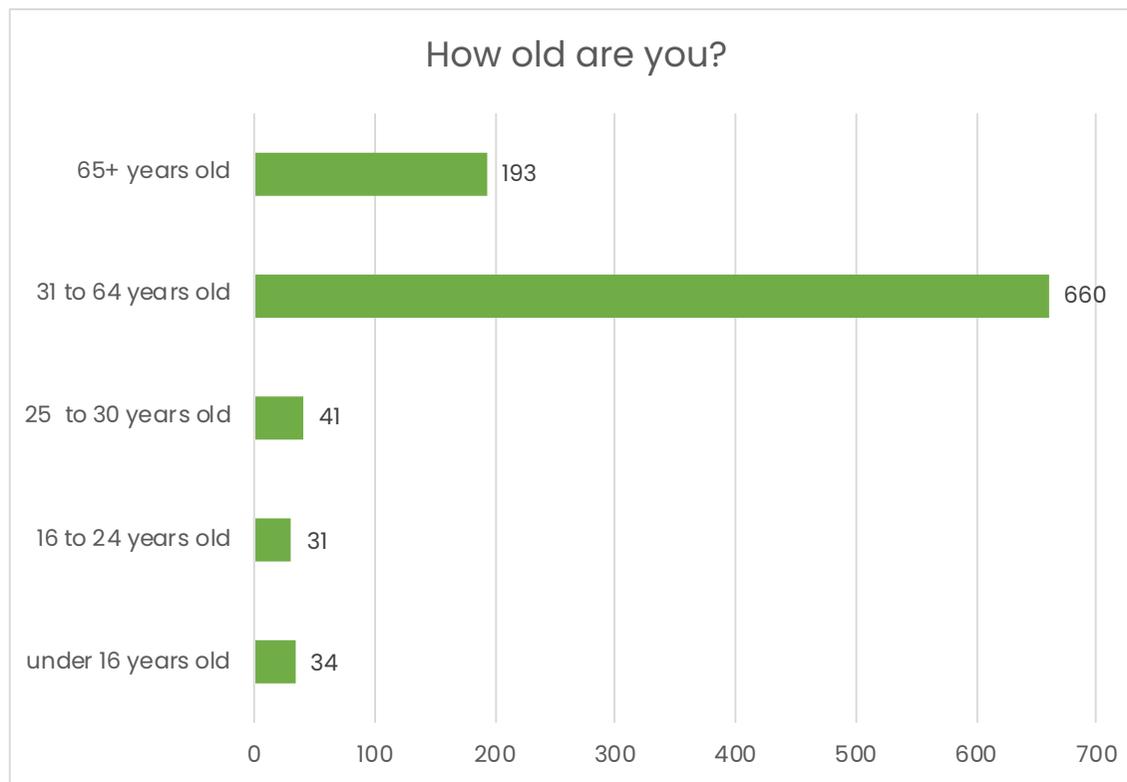


Table 1. Iwi Responses

Iwi	Responses	Percentage %
Te Aupōuri	30	4.72
Ngāti Kuri	41	6.46
Ngāti Kahu	42	6.61
Te Rarawa	83	13.07
Ngāi Takoto	4	0.63
Ngāti Kahu/Ngāpuhi ki Whaingaroa	38	5.98
Ngāpuhi	224	35.28
Ngātiwai	38	5.98
Ngāti Whātua	33	5.20
Te Uri-o-Hau	12	1.89
Te Roroa	19	2.99
Ngāti Hine	71	11.18

## 20. How old are you?

A total of 959 people responded to this question. A breakdown of age group distribution is provided below. Of those respondents who completed this question, 65 (7%) were aged under 25 years old, 701 (73%) were between 25 and 64 years, and 193 (20%) were aged 65+ years old.



*Really keen for initiatives that our people and our rangatahi get involved in, to be part of the solution. I am concerned we are not looking at the wider picture of how all these systems fit together and effect each other. The ecosystem benefits and externalities of doing business are not taken into account enough. Lifestyles, livelihoods and business need to be thought through to ensure long term positive outcomes in Northland.*

*We need to tackle poverty first. Without the ability for our communities to feed and house themselves there will be no desire to protect the environment.*



te Taiao

# Summary of initial Focus Groups Feedback

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Three online discussions were held in February 2022 to discuss the findings of the survey. Although attendance was small, thoughts shared were very informative.

*Note, these comments are 'raw' and will form part of the final analyses.*

## GENERAL COMMENTS ON SURVEY RESULTS

- Concern/surprise by number of people that responded 'I don't know'
- Do we not have enough space in our lives? We as humans want to avoid uncomfortable things
- All natural resources are under stress (pests, weeds, kauri dieback, etc)
- Environment should come first
- Pesticides and other substances – are we aware of the consequences of introducing these?
- No economic drivers in environmental protection
- The challenge of moving from hui to do-ui
- Simon Uptons' report on weeds is very good
- The correct information isn't general knowledge (media driven)
- Can't expect families to pay for mistakes of ancestors
- Treaty claim process
- Canopy collapse a real possibility
- Getting access to whenua
- General access to nature is an issue

## EDUCATION

- Children know a lot (don't underestimate them)
- Need to grow knowledge about caring for our taiao
- Biggest issue is lack of knowledge (such as recycling)

## NGAHERE

- Need protection for our trees
- Stewardship land/scenic reserves (native blocks) needs looking after (planting/pest removal), lack of attention
- Not enough kai for wildlife

# Summary of initial Focus Groups Feedback

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## WATERWAYS

- Historical damage (such as whenua poisoning from past commercial activity – Whangaroa mill an example)
- Microplastics!
- Dumped cars leaking (esp. during floods)
- Runoff from roads (car fluids etc)
- Flooding and seepage
- Sediment build up a real issue

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Illegal dumping huge issue
- Micro plastics
- Farmers not necessarily to blame
- Current approach a 'disaster' (not working)
- Lack of understanding around recycling

## PESTS

- Invasive weeds a massive issue
- Gardening outlets selling 'pest' plants
- Birds spreading seeds (ie, Tawainese Cherries)
- Weed and animal predators need to be dealt with holistically
- Funding for weed control low/not priority
- Prioritise pest control – 'the Ngahere will die without It'
- Lack of pest control
- Fanworm now in area
- Need for public access (particularly around stewardship land)

## COMMUNITY

- Why are people not more concerned?
- Desire to avoid 'uncomfortable' truths

## FISHING

- Overfishing (particularly with holidaymakers (stocking up the freezer)



te Taiao

# Summary of initial Focus Groups Feedback

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*Working to highlight that environment is number one, and economics is second. The environment can no longer come last – Environment – People – Economics.*

## DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

- Inconsistent approach
- The amount of pests/weeds in DOC land (spreads onto neighbours)
- Lack of pest control from DOC
- Lack of understanding/access to licenses to do pest control
- Budget priorities, needs more action

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- Need to be holistic and linked up – collaborative, linked up approach
- Local solutions to local problems
- Long term health plans
- Mitigation
- ETS (Emission Trading Scheme) – native ngahere (with provisos for cultural purposes, such as harvesting Rongoa, berries, herbs)
- Prevention always best approach
- Better liaison with Maori (funding to engage)
- Focus on growing/gathering our own kai
- Jobs for Nature is good
- Get people out there – listening, smelling, feeling
- Enabling our passionate and knowledgeable people to spread the word
- Funding used wisely across all areas
- To figure out HOW to make a difference
- Growing and gathering Kai (We are a unique region climate-wise)
- Look at motivators (money?)
- Another survey in 10 years to see difference?

## COMMUNITY APPROACH

- Support the local perspective
- Local solutions (with local (public) resource/funds)
- Individual actions can make a huge difference
- Local empowerment
- Huge potential for volunteers to get involved
- The more community sees improvements, more inspired
- Engaging with new arrivals to the area
- Impact of 'neighbours' pests infecting land
- Support and awahi local champions
- Pā to plate
- Community gardens



te Taiao

# Summary of initial Focus Groups Feedback

*I am wistfully hopeful. We are making progress...but those steps are minute and slow.*

*Action, action, action. Not more words.*

## EDUCATION

- A change in messaging/marketing (promoting local impacts)
- Work through the kura/more enviro schools
- Training for rangatahi
- Change of messaging
- Raising awareness – get people out into th environment (whenua/moana)
- Hands on learning – get them in the ngahere
- Better signage
- Pest control workshosps

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Up-cycling
- Recycling

## WATERWAYS

- Filters on outlet pipes (to catch rubbish)
- More rāhui
- Better monitoring
- Limited catch (particularly during holiday periods – MPI steps in place)
- Catchment areas
- Promote fish/nursery areas

## DOC

- Help communities to get their H&S/paperwork/resource sorted
- Local budget for DOC to form their own priorities (not under national policy)
- DOC liasion

*We live with an imbalance - a world where the perceived rights of the individual are more important than our place as part of the natural systems of the world. I fear that we have been on this path for too long, such that even if we change people's beliefs and adjust our way of life, the scale has tipped too far. I find it hard to think about because it makes me anxious about the future.*

## The Arohatia te Taiao Team

### Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai O Te Tai Tokerau/ Northland Conservation Board

Tania McInnes – Chair  
Lydia Draper – Deputy Chair  
Edward Ashby – Member  
Georgina Garon – Member  
Kayla Raines – Member  
Nyree Porter – Member  
Robert (Blue) Newport – Member



### Project Team

Carla Dixon-West – Administrator  
Marty Robinson – NRC Councillor  
Nyree Porter – Board Member  
Tania McInnes – Project Lead  
Taria Tane – Project Coordinator  
Lydia Draper – Advisor  
Blah Blah Marketing – Consultant

### Contact details

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*Ko Rangī – Ko Papa – Ka puta – Ko Rongo – Ko Tāne Mahuta – Ko Tangaroa – Ko Tūmatauenga – Ko Haumietikitiki  
Ko Tāwhirimātea – Tokona Te Rangī ki runga – Te Papa ki raro – Ka puta Te Ira Tangata ki Te Whai Ao Ki Te Ao Mārama  
E rongo whakairia ake ki runga – Tūturu whakamaua Kia Tina! Tina! Haumi e*

# Glossary

TE REO MĀORI TERM	ENGLISH TERMINOLOGY
TAIAO	Natural environment
KAUPAPA	Topic, purpose, proposal, agenda, subject, theme, initiative.
KŌRERO	Narrative, discussion, conversation, statement, information.
TE AO MĀORI	Māori world-view
AWA	Waterways
MOANA	Ocean/sea
WHENUA	Land
NGAHERE	Forests
ONEONE	Soils
HAU	Air
TAKUTAI	Beach/coastlines
PAPATŪĀNUKU	Earth Mother
RANGI-NUI	Sky Father
TANGATA WHENUA	Indigenous people of a particular area/the country as a whole
RONGOA	Traditional Māori medicine
WAIRUA	Spirit, soul (non-physical)

*(My hope) "Taking my mokopuna to a thriving ngahere, with bird song so loud you need to raise your voice to talk and a forest floor so dense you have to stick to the tracks. Kauri standing tall, sea birds returning to nest in the forest..."*

