



**TE ĀPITI**  
MANAWATŪ GORGE  
NEW ZEALAND

**Whakatakotoranga Matua Ki Te Āpiti**  
**Masterplan**  
May 2022





# Te Rārangi Upoko

## Contents

Karakia, Mokotā	
Karakia, Signatures .....	1
Whakarāpopoto Matua	
Executive Summary .....	2
Kupu Whakataki	
Introduction .....	2
Matawhānui	
Vision .....	2
Tauākī Whāinga	
Purpose Statement .....	3-4
Horopaki	
Context .....	5-8
Aronga Matua	
Focus Areas .....	9-10
Anga Kaupapahere	
Policy Framework .....	12
Hinonga Mātuatua	
Key Projects .....	14
Ngā Hua E Manakohia Ana	
Desired Outcomes .....	15-16
Te Mahi Tahī	
Engagement .....	17
Te Whai Pānga ki Mahere kē	
Relationship to other plans .....	18
Whakarāpopoto	
Summary .....	19
Appendix 1 – Te Āpiti Masterplan Map – Key Projects .....	23
Appendix 2 – Action Plan .....	25
Appendix 3 – Detailed Policy Framework .....	26
Appendix 4 – Project Briefs .....	30
Appendix 5 - Engagement .....	65
Appendix 6 – Relevant Plans .....	67



# Karakia

Ko Rangī, ko Papa,  
Ko Tāne, ko Tū,  
Ko te taiao, ko tātou  
Ko tātou ko te taiao.  
Whiria ngā io o Atua  
Rauhitia ngā io o Taiao  
E rongo i ngā io o Kōrero  
Tuia ngā io o Tāngata  
E tau ai te mauri ora o raro,  
te mauri ora o runga,  
te mauri ora o  
Te Āpiti o Manawatū e!

Gratitude to the sky, to the earth  
Respect to the domains of Tāne and Tū  
The environment, the people  
The people, the environment.  
Weave together the threads of Spirit  
Give great care to the threads of Nature  
Hear the threads of Story  
Bind together the threads of People.  
Be settled the vital essence of below,  
the vital essence of above  
the vital essence of  
Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge

# Mokotā Signatures

Rachel Keedwell  
Horizons Regional Council  
Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge Governance Group Chair

# Whakarāpopoto Matua Executive Summary

*He wāhi motuhake Te Āpiti o Manawatū, kua roa e hikoitia ana, e rauhitia ana, e arohatia ana, e whakamaiohatia ana e ngā lwi mana whenua, otirā e ngā tāngata noho tata, me te hunga ka toro mai.*

Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge is a taonga that for hundreds of years has been under the kaitiaki of Rangitāne o Manawatū, Rangitāne Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua, and Ngāti Raukawa (‘lwi’). It is a hugely popular and highly valued biodiversity and recreation space that is located near the townships of Woodville and Ashhurst and the city of Palmerston North. In geographical terms, this portion of the Manawatū River (‘awa’) is the dividing line between the Ruahine and Tararua Ranges. It is also the great gateway, or connector, between the Tararua region to the east and the Manawatū region to the west.

There are many parties that have a responsibility for managing parts of its large area. They are led by the overarching governance structure known as ‘Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge Governance Group’ (‘TAMGGG’). Whakatakotoranga Matua Ki Te Āpiti (this Masterplan) provides their vision and strategic framework to protect, preserve and enhance the area so that all parties move in the same direction towards a common goal.

The foundation of the masterplan is five focus areas - Culture, Environment, Recreation, Education and Leadership. It provides firstly, a policy framework for considerations of new proposals, plans and work packages in the area, and secondly, a range of key projects for delivery over time. Implementation of both elements will provide significant benefits to Te Āpiti and thereby enhance the visitor experience and the wider appeal of the Manawatū and Tararua regions.

# Kupu Whakataki Introduction

*Rangitāmiroa ngā io katoa e renarena ai te taura here i a tātou.*

Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge extends over an area of 27 sqkm, bisected by the awa. North of the awa is the beginning of the Ruahine Ranges, and to the south, the very end of the Tararua Ranges. The stunning landscape is the broad scale visual connection that all visitors first make with the area. However, the experience is far more intimate when one moves into and through the space, particularly in the scenic reserve where the native forest surrounds the visitor.

The role of the masterplan is to capture, protect and enhance those experiences. This is done, firstly, by establishing the values that are held by people associated with the area. It then moves into setting out a policy framework, which is the platform for which all future decision making should be made. A range of projects are also included in this document, arising from stakeholder consultation to assist in bringing to life the vision of the masterplan. These are displayed in the map in Appendix 1.

# Matawhānui Vision

*Hāpaitia e tātou te rongomaiwhiti o Te Āpiti o Manawatū, tōna mana, tōna ihi, tōna mauri, āna kōrero, tōna rerehua e!*

The vision for Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge is:

*Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge is a taonga of our region, a dramatic place with unique spiritual and physical features. These create enduring experiences for all, ensuring that it is valued and protected for generations to come.*



# Tauākī Whāinga Purpose Statement

*Whakaūngia te pae tawhiti,  
kōkiritia te pae tata hei oranga  
mō ngā reanga o āpōpō mai.*

Confirm the long term vision, make progress on present endeavours to secure wellbeing for future generations.

This masterplan sets the overall direction and assessment regime for Te Āpiti Manawātū Gorge for generations to come. As opportunities arise to develop commercial interests, or advance other recreational, environmental or cultural opportunities these will need to be assessed for conformity against the vision, strategic objectives and policy framework of this document.

## Whāinga Rautaki Strategic Objectives

*Mairangatia ngā kaupapa matua  
e puāwai ai te matawhānui.*

The following strategic objectives will guide the implementation of the masterplan and projects that flow out of it. All significant decisions should be made:

- 1. To **enhance the mana** of Te Āpiti by working in partnership with

Iwi and respecting their spiritual and physical connection and kaitiaki role for this unique area which extends over hundreds of years.

- 2. To **protect and enhance biodiversity** across Te Āpiti, targeting opportunities to restore ecosystem function including the reintroduction of species where appropriate.
- 3. To **improve recreational and visitor experiences** across Te Āpiti with a focus on spreading activities so that the visitor loading is sustainably managed.
- 4. To **promote Te Āpiti as an ‘outdoor classroom’**, supporting educational initiatives that leverage off the unique cultural, historical, biodiversity and geological features of the area.

## Korahi Matawhenua Geographical Scope

*Taku whenua taurikura, taku manawa ora e!*

The masterplan applies to the area known as the Gorge, referring to the land and water within the physical boundary of the Manawātū Gorge. It then extends into a wider Te Āpiti environs area bounded by Saddle Road to the north, Ashhurst Domain and the Pohangina River to the west, private property to the south and generally Woodville township, and the Gorge Road to the east.

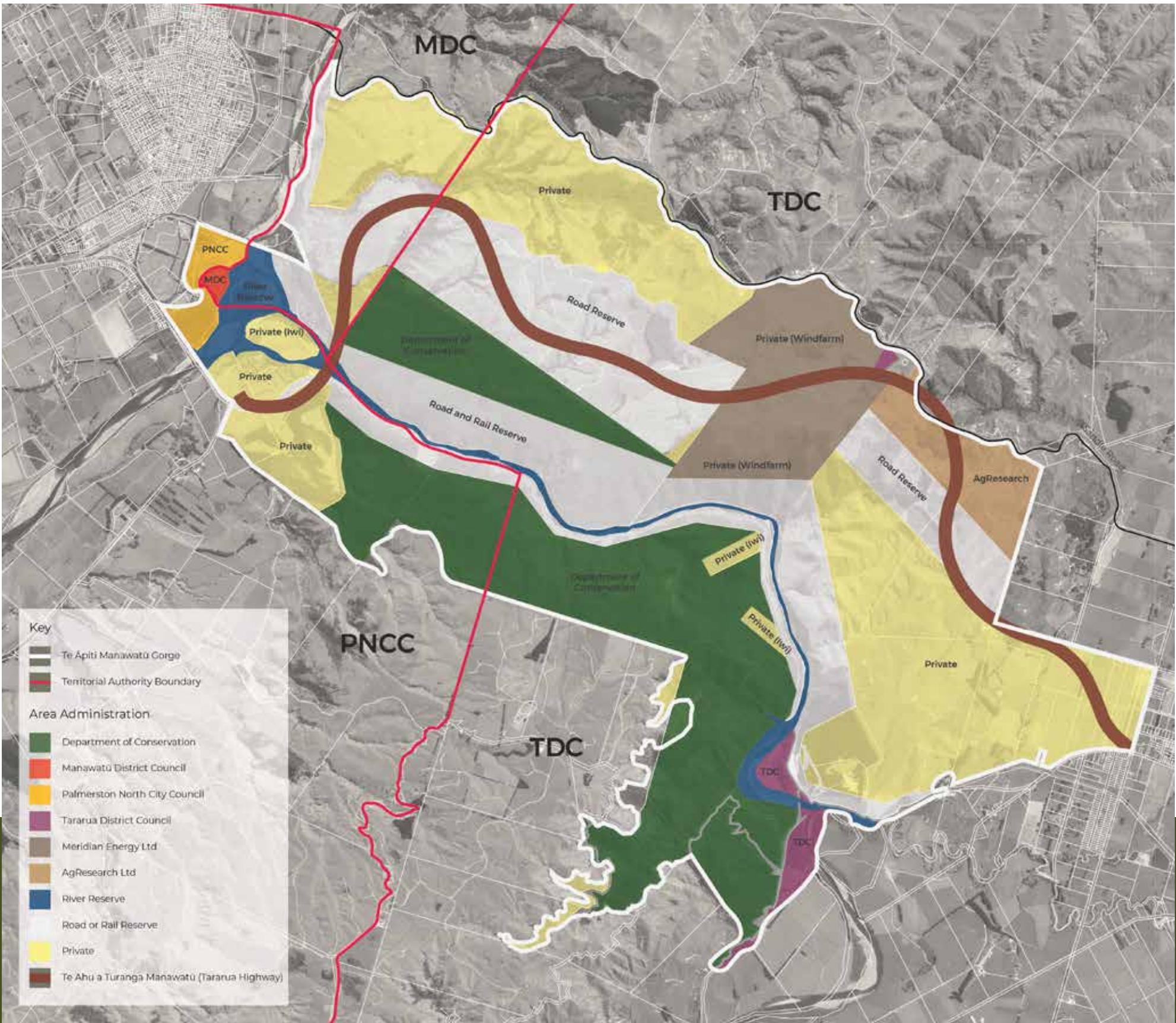
## Commercial Opportunities

The masterplan supports in principle commercial opportunities being developed in appropriate locations as these can increase the breadth of the visitor experience and provide valuable employment for local people, particularly Iwi.

As with all proposals, whether they are privately or publicly driven, these will be assessed against the vision, objectives and policy framework of this masterplan for overall conformity.

However, it is noted that all proposals will also be assessed by the statutory party(ies) responsible for management of the area of land in question. For example, the Department of Conservation (DOC) would assess proposals for leases and concessions under the Reserves Act 1977. Just as the relevant local authority will consider a proposal in its statutory function of administering the Building Act 2004 or Resource Management Act 1991.

Iwi will also have an integral role in assessing commercial opportunities in terms of cultural impacts and effects on cultural values.



Map 1: Extent of Te Āpiti Area including landownership patterns



# Horopaki Context

## Ara Tūhonohono Road Relationship

*He ara tūhonohono, he piringā tāngata.*

In recent times the catalyst for the increased profile of Te Āpiti has been the 2017 closure of a 9km portion of the Gorge Road (State Highway 3) on the left bank of the awa. Since 1872 this unpredictable road was a major focal point for the area, so challenging to drive that it had the effect of distracting people from the beauty of the Gorge. The powerful environmental influences meant it was forever subject to slips, rockfall and other hazards.

While the road provided the primary connector between western and eastern regions for vehicles, general maintenance of the road, and reinstatement work after slips has proved difficult and expensive for those responsible for it. After the major slip event in 2017, traffic has been forced to use the Saddle Road over the Ruahine Ranges, and the Pahiatua Track over the Tararua Ranges, and therefore overnight Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge was transformed. Without the constant humming of traffic, the tranquility of the place has returned, and its beauty is now much easier to behold.

## Te Mana The Power

*Whakamānawatia taku awa tipua e rere whakaharahara nei, atawhaitia taku whenua e kākahuria ana e te tini a Tāne.*

It is the constant force of water in the mighty 235km long awa fed by its huge 5898sqkm catchment beginning in the Ruahine Ranges north of Norsewood, and flowing into the Tasman Sea at the Foxton Beach Estuary, that continues to shape this steep and unique landform. The impact of the awa is evident in the name, ‘Te Au-rere-a-te-tonga’ a reference to the flowing current of the south. In particular, during heavy floods the power of the awa is evident where the relatively narrow passage both magnifies the volume and velocity of the floodwaters.



The power of the area is most easily recognised on a day-to-day basis with the strong winds funnelled through the Gorge. Fortunately, the extensive native forest canopy tends to break up the wind speed for bush walkers but at the exposed lookout points the force of the wind is a prominent feature.

# Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū-Tararua Highway Project

Following the 2017 closure of the Gorge portion of State Highway 3 Waka Kotahi investigated several options to reconnect the Manawatū and Tararua regions. This was a priority because the existing Saddle Road and Pahiatua Track connections were not designed for the volume of traffic currently passing over them and were not viewed as safe or efficient long-term options.

In June 2019 the Agency secured a designation under the Resource Management Act 1991 for a 12km long route passing over the Ruahine Ranges north of the awa. The road will feature 4 lanes, a new bridge over the awa, roundabouts at both ends, alongside a host of other features including vast areas of native planting. A separated shared path will be provided near the road to provide safe and continuous off-road walk/cycle access between Ashhurst and Woodville and a ‘clip-on’ structure is to be built on the eastern, upstream, side of the existing Ashhurst Bridge. In addition, a \$1m fund for the investigation and construction of new paths and features associated with the shared path is also available.

At the time of preparing this plan works are well underway across the huge site and project is currently on target for its opening date in late 2024.

It is noted this project is being undertaken in true partnership with Iwi of the region who are heavily participating at the governance and operational levels and is regarded as an exemplar of how roading projects of this nature will be undertaken in the future under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.



## Te Rēhia The Play

*Kia kawea tātou e te rēhia!*

For recreation enthusiasts, there are multiple options available mainly on the southern side of the Gorge. There are kilometres of tracks to walk and run, and scenic spots aplenty to take in the amazing views. Camping is also popular at Ashhurst Domain and Ferry Reserve. The area presents many opportunities, the foremost is the potential re-use of the old Gorge Road as a shared path whilst it continues its slow return to nature. Mountain biking is trending as a popular activity for locals and visitors with an increasing number of tracks being created each year beyond the Gorge. Watersport activities have been popular too with canoe trips, jetboating and recreational fishing all occurring along the awa.

This plan presents an approach to coordinate recreation opportunities. It will ensure the infrastructure that is developed and maintained into the future, in the right place at the right time. Success will see a good balance between formed and unformed wilderness space achieved. A key objective of this masterplan is to ensure that visitation across the area is sustainably managed so the benefits, and impacts, are spread evenly.

## Te Ao Tūroa The Natural Setting

*Ko Rangī, ko Papa, ko Tāne, ko tātou te tangata.*

Te Āpiti includes diverse natural environments from eroded banks and bluffs, to exposed, almost sub-alpine, ridges and warmer slopes at the edge of the plain. As noted above, it is the awa is the dominant feature in the landscape, separating the Ruahine and Tararua Ranges.

This results in a diversity of species and vegetation types. As referred to in the Manawatū Gorge Biodiversity Plan (Horizons 2017):

*‘mature hill country forest species such as tawa and podocarps are present, but also species of warmer coastal and coastal slope areas*



*such as nikau palm and ngaio. Spectacular large northern rata are also present. The Gorge is also in the ‘beech gap’ area, where beech species are not present due to past glacial destruction of the forest and low subsequent seed spread. Two ‘at risk’ native species are present in the Gorge – the giant maidenhair fern (Adiantum formosum) and the native verbena (Teucrium parvifolium)’.*

Te Āpiti is home to many native bird species and historically many more existed. For example, the now extinct huia bird was allegedly last sighted in the Gorge. Another example is in early March 2021 the remains of moa bones were found at the eastern end of the Gorge by contractors working on the Waka Kotahi Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū - Tararua Highway project.

The geological formation of the Manawatū Gorge is unique and the landscape offers insight into how it was created. It is one of the major

# Future of the old Gorge Road

At the time of preparing this masterplan Waka Kotahi is undertaking a business case to determine the future use of the 9km section of the old Road that was permanently closed in 2017. As part of this work engineering geologists have been surveying Te Āpiti and will report back on the current and future risks such as landslides and rockfalls. They will also look at infrastructure, like bridges and rockfall nets to provide the latest position.

Once this work is complete, options will be assessed as to how the old Gorge Road might be used, and if safe access can be provided (to walkers and cyclists for example) and what would need to be done to enable this. At the end of this investigation, the project team will make recommendations to the Waka Kotahi Board, Ministry of Transport and Land Information New Zealand about its future through Te Āpiti including: who will complete this work, any potential funding streams, and who will look after the road after any changes in the future.





and distinctive geomorphological features of the wider Manawatū and Tararua landscape, where the awa carves a route through the main axial divide. However, in Rangitāne kōrero it was the mighty Okatia, a gigantic Totara tree that carved its way through the Gorge thereby splitting the landmass and creating a passage for the awa. The scientific explanation refers to tectonic plate movement and the subduction zone beneath Te Āpiti.

With all these factors in mind, the area has the potential to be a significant educational playground for Manawatū and Tararua residents, and for visitors from further afield. The plan provides an opportunity to recognise, protect and enrich these features through highlighting the different ways that the natural environment interacts within Te Āpiti.

**Te Talao Hanga**  
**The Built Setting**

*Ko āku mahi hei painga mō te Iwi, hei oranga anō mō te whenua.*

More recent developments over the past 20 years have added a new dimension to the experience of Te Āpiti such as the wind turbines located on the top of the Tararua and Ruahine Ranges. As noted earlier, as part of the Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū-Tararua Highway project the temporary bridge structure to enable construction of the new bridge over the awa is well underway. In addition, a huge amount of preparatory earthworks stretching much of the 12km between Ashhurst and Woodville over the Ruahine Ranges has also taken place.

The wind turbines, the 2017 closure of one of the most challenging stretches of State Highway to ever be managed, alongside the unique cultural history provide a significant educational opportunity for visitors. However, it is important that visitor education is also built into telling the story of new infrastructure that is developed over time.

**Te Tiaki i te Whenua**  
**Land Management**

*Mā wai rā e taurima taku whenua taurikura e.*

Te Āpiti has been under the kaitiaki of Iwi for many hundreds of years and is intrinsically linked to the kōrero of the arrival of Whātonga into the area around the 12th century and his ancestors (including grandson Rangitāne who gives his name to mana whenua). They have continually resided in this area since that time and have built up a wealth of spritual and physical connection with Te Āpiti. One such example of this is kōrero around the tapu (sacred) rock (known as Wahine Pōtae to upstream Iwi, Rangitāne Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua, and Te Ahu a Tūranga, to downstream Iwi Rangitāne o Manawatū) signals the mauri (lifeforce) of the rock within the awa. The rock is said to glow red to warn tribe members of impending danger, remaining visible in even the largest of floods.

It is noted Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua identify a long connection with the area. Their kōreo explains the wider Tararua area is within their traditional rohe extending back to the 16th century when ancestors arrived from Heretaunga (Hastings district) and Tamatea (Central Hawkes Bay).

It is relevant to acknowledge the interests of Te Āpiti Ahu Whenua Trust who own the 10ha Parahaki Island at the eastern of the Gorge next to the confluence of the Manawatū and Pohangina awa. The island was a reserve excluded from the Crown’s 1864 purchase from Rangitāne and other Iwi of the vast 250,000 acre Ahuaturangi block due to it being an urupa.

Furthermore, two additional Māori land titles (previously known as ‘Native Reserves’) at the eastern end of the Gorge on the southern side of the



**Manawatū Gorge**  
**Biodiversity Group**  
**2006-2016**

The year 2006 marked a turning point for the area with the formation of the Manawatū Gorge Biodiversity Group, a group tasked with creating a more coordinated response to biodiversity enhancement of the Gorge. This was a 10-year programme and throughout the course of that programme it gained momentum achieving large gains in biodiversity enhancement with its operational focus. By year 10 the group was ready to move to the next stages of maturity, and the TAMGGG was formed in 2016.

awa, are acknowledged. These are called Te Rerenga o Whiro and Te Potae. The ownership details have not been explored as part of this process, but it is noted that Te Āpiti Ahu Whenua Trust are the administering body for the Te Rerenga o Whiro reserve.

It is noted that there a range of views on the cultural history of the area. For detailed information on Iwi interests and their kōrero the reader is advised to source that from Iwi.

In post-European times Te Āpiti now has multiple owners and statutory agencies involved in its management. This arrangement once lacked a coordinated management approach, however, a more structured arrangement began originally with the Manawatū Gorge Biodiversity Group, and later evolved into the formation of the TAMGGG in 2016.

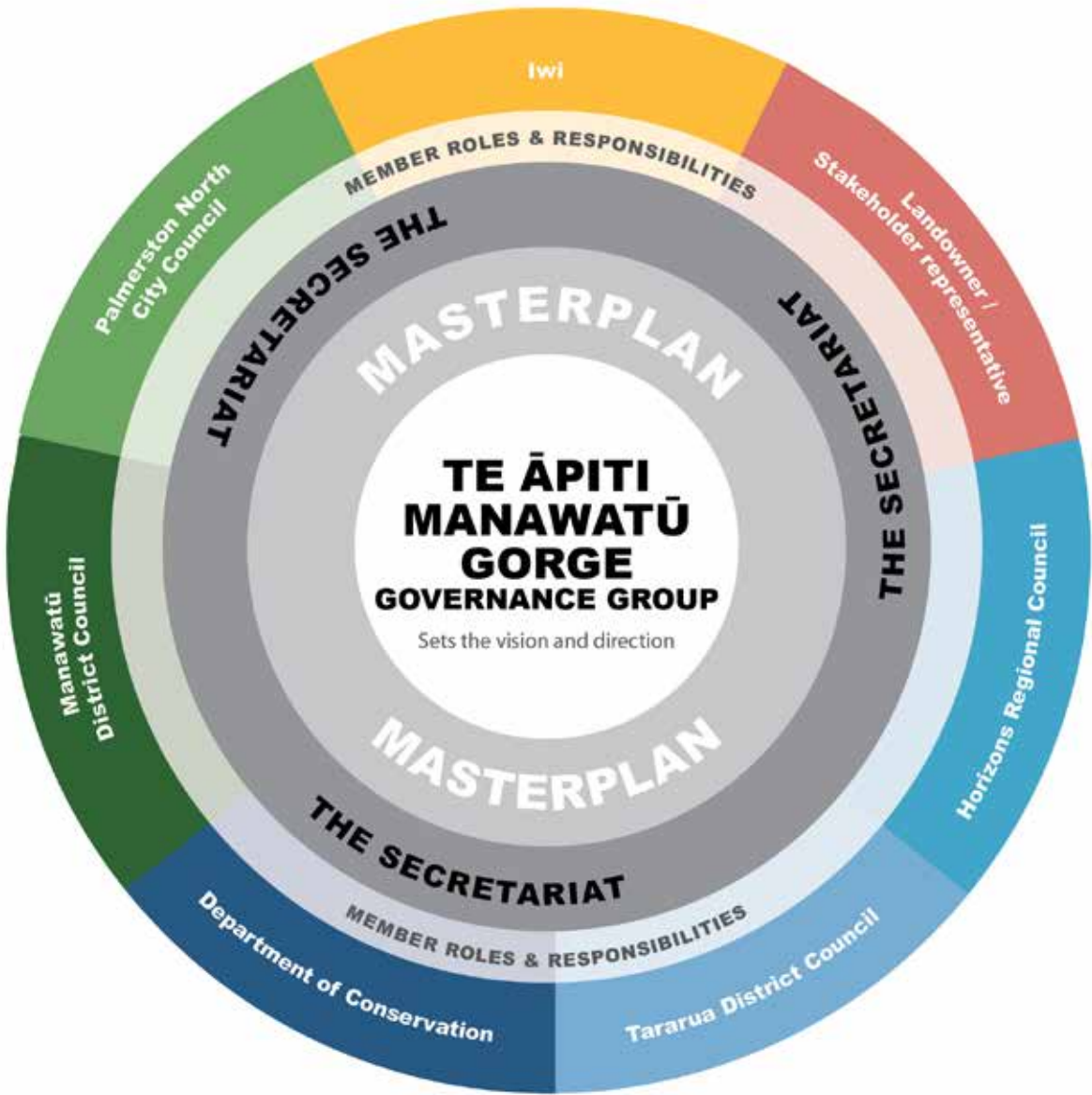
The role of TAMGGG is to guide and support the project by:

- Providing strategic vision for the project
- Oversight of the operational budgets and projects

- Securing funding and support for projects
- Ensuring the success of the project

TAMGGG meets bi-annually and these forums are run by the Chair of Horizons Regional Council in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the group. As shown in the diagram in Figure 1, current members of the group are Iwi, the Department of Conservation, Horizons Regional Council, a landowner/stakeholder representative, Palmerston North City Council, Manawatū District Council, and Tararua District Council. A Secretariat service is provided to the TAMGGG by Horizons Regional Council and Department of Conservation officers where operational matters around programme delivery and general business are dealt with.

**Figure 1 -Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge Governance Model**





# Aronga Matua

## Focus Areas

**Mā ōna pou e tū kaha ai te whare.**  
*With strong foundations the house will be firm and durable.*  
Five focus areas have been developed to ensure policy guidance is grouped to the important attributes of Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge.

### Te Ahurea Culture

**He taonga tuku iho i ngā tīpuna, he oranga wairua.**

Te Āpiti is a rich home of Iwi and will continue as a place of significant cultural use and celebration. There is plenty of opportunity for increased creative expression to weave Iwi/hapū narratives in a creative and appropriate way. There is an absolute need to respect and protect the mana whenua significant sites and cultural landmarks. Working closely with Iwi representatives will ensure this happens.

It is noted a strong desire for Iwi to be involved in the mahi of programme delivery and future private ventures in the area was expressed at a combined hui held with Rangitāne o Manawatū and Rangitāne Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua in November 2018. This approach would apply both in terms of Iwi leading mahi as well as participating in the work of others.

### Te Taiao Environment

**Ko te taiao hei oranga mōku, ko au hei oranga mō te taiao.**

Te Āpiti is a place to be preserved, protected and enhanced both spiritually and physically. It is the one of the last and most easily accessible native forest areas in the region. While there have been some modifications to the environment due to historic events, both human-made and natural, it has significantly higher biodiversity values than much of the other publicly accessible land in the surrounding area.

While there has not been a comprehensive survey of all native wildlife in Te Āpiti some recent bird monitoring has occurred and anecdotal records collated. Native bird species recorded in Te Āpiti include kārearea (bush falcon), rūrū (morepork), pipiwharau (shining cuckoo), pōpokatea (whitehead), miromiro (tomtit), tūi, korimako (bellbird) and New Zealand’s smallest bird the titipounamu (rifleman), as identified in a recent overview (Department of Conservation 2016). The Wellington green gecko and southern North Island forest gecko have also been recorded here. A survey of ground beetles has identified the presence of the quite large (30mm) megadromus turgidiceps beetle. With the rich and diverse wildlife present, there is opportunity to educate and enable wildlife experiences while ensuring species are also protected appropriately in Te Āpiti.

As referred to in the Manawatū Gorge Biodiversity Enhancement Plan (Horizons 2017), Te Āpiti provides a long ecological corridor from east to west. It also provides an opportunity to promote linked pest control and other aspects of ecological restoration across nearby private and public land to contribute to a much larger ‘landscape scale’ biodiversity restoration network. This also aligns well with the Government’s Predator Free 2050 initiative which supports coordinated predator control at this macro scale.

The impacts of climate change on how the vision for Te Āpiti will be realised, provides an interesting dichotomy. To expect the unexpected is the new norm. This will be the case for the evolution of this masterplan.

### Te Rēhia Recreation

**Tukua tō wairua ki te taiao whakaharahara, e rongō i te manahau o rēhia.**

People have been able to enjoy the Manawatū Gorge for well over 100 years. Recreation has taken various forms including waka, cycling, kayaking, jet boating and walking. The area is near Palmerston North and the townships of Ashhurst and Woodville which means it provides people a very accessible place to experience and interact with the native forest and observe the dramatic views of Te Āpiti. Being so accessible means that large numbers of people now use tracks in the area, particularly the easier Tawa Loop Walk and other tracks at the Ashhurst end of Te Āpiti. A mountain bike track from Hall Block Road was opened in 2013 and there is interest in developing an iconic track across the southern side of the Gorge.

As long as activities occur in a way that complement environmental and cultural values then there is broad support in this masterplan for them to occur. However, to ensure recreation occurs in the right place, and right time, to spread the load, a collective approach by the agencies needs to be taken to indicate the ‘go/no-go’ areas for recreation opportunities both now and into the future. The masterplan signals that level of scrutiny needs to occur in the short term.

### Te Ako Education

**Whakarongo ki ngā kōrero o te whenua.**

There are so many aspects of Te Āpiti that people can learn from. Te Āpiti has the potential to educate about the enrichment of environments for the future, but also to raise awareness of the beauty of this place. Many schools already use the area for education about native plants and other aspects of the natural environment. For example, the area has previously been a Kiwi Ranger site and the Department of Conservation has launched and is running the site as a Toyota Klwi Guardian<sup>1</sup> experience. The PNCC ‘Passport to Play’ also has a tohu in the Gorge, near Whatonga on the Tawa Loop track, as part of an initiative to get children out exploring. Such programmes provide a teaching resource and encourage children to connect with themes around biodiversity.

The Te Āpiti website and Facebook page are great online sites where visitors can learn about the flora and fauna that call this special place home and access environmental education resources. There people can also find information about the work being done to protect the Manawatū Gorge from pest plants and animals, as well as some of the area’s cultural history. At Te Āpiti, visitors will see similar information on signage at both entrances and on the recreational tracks through plant and animal identification signs.

Further, the infrastructure from the former old Gorge Road (State Highway 3) has the potential to offer interactive educational learning experiences. For example, to be able to walk up to and touch retired roading infrastructure, learn about why it is there, how it was built and its purpose now could help create an outdoor museum of State Highway infrastructure that is something particularly unique to this place.

From an Iwi perspective the education opportunity is perhaps best expressed in the concept of mātauranga Māori – that is learning from the ever-growing body of knowledge originating from Māori ancestry (whakapapa), their world view (te ao mārama), practices (tikanga) and principles (kawa).

### Te Hautūtanga Leadership

**Inā te mahi, he rangatira.**

TAMGGG have a clear leadership structure and is well placed to lead the successful implementation of the masterplan. Key areas of leadership relied upon or recommended in this masterplan are:

- A partnership arrangement with Iwi as required under Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- A communications and engagement approach with stakeholders
- Monitoring, evaluation and change process for continual improvement
- Delivery framework by the Secretariat to drive operational level progress

To provide clear direction at both the TAMGGG leadership level, and the future implementation group, an ‘Action Plan’ is included in Appendix 2. It provides short term actions that need to be undertaken to set a foundation for the betterment of the area. It is noted the masterplan should be reviewed on a five yearly basis to ensure it is fit for purpose and continues to have the full support of all TAMGGG parties.

<sup>1</sup> Toyota Klwi Guardians is a project undertaken by the Department of Conservation, encouraging children to care for the environment.







# Anga Kaupapahere Policy Framework

*Te piko o te mahuri, tērā te tipu o te rākau.*

*The way a young tree is nurtured will determine how the tree will grow and mature.*

This section discusses the policy framework for the ongoing protection, preservation and enhancement of Te Āpiti. Refer to Appendix 3 for the overall summary policy framework and the individual tables associated with each focus area.

## Uara Whakakotahi Shared Values

*He waka eke noa.*

The starting point for the policy framework is having a thorough understanding of the shared values that are held for the area. These represent the cornerstone of appreciating the space. The reason this is important is that ultimately it is changes to these values that visitors or stakeholders will appreciate as ‘cutting to the core’ of what makes the area such a special place.

Through stakeholder consultation a strong theme is the appreciation of the biodiversity, namely the abundance of native flora and fauna. There was typically a broad understanding of the geographical uniqueness of the area with the Manawatū River cutting through the axial ranges flowing in an east to west direction. Also there was general commentary on the power of mother nature, with references to flooding, slips, falls and geological processes manifesting in the ultimate demise of the old Gorge Road.

At a human scale strong values were held around the cultural significance of the area. In two ways. Firstly, lwi have a long connection to the area extending many hundreds of years and therefore it holds huge significance to them, fuelled by the mauri of the awa. Secondly, in post-European settlement efforts to construct and maintain road and rail connection through the Gorge imbue the area with a strong heritage.

Beyond these themes, stakeholders noted strong visitor experience themes arising from the easy access to

recreation in the area and the quality and diversity of these facilities. The positive mental and physical health benefits of recreating in the native bush setting were raised as well. It was also evident that the ethic of multi-party collaboration was a theme stakeholders observed, particularly the joined-up efforts on pest management in recent years.

## Kaupapahere Policies

*Tungia te ururua kia tupu whakaritorito te tupu o te harakeke.*

The policies in the first table in Appendix 3 reflect what Te Āpiti stands for and should be used for assessment of future proposals. The intent is that proposals should generally conform with the policies and that conflicts are minimised wherever possible. They are grouped in three areas – Natural Features, Built Features and Sustainability. The first two are self-explanatory but a short note on the Sustainability policies is necessary. The intention here is to a foster an ethic of kaitiakitanga (stewardship) in decision-making hence a strong focus in the wording around long-term planning and monitoring and evaluating activities across the space. The intention being to provide for continuous improvement in the space.

## Whakahāngaitanga Application

*Ki te hoe!*

At a high level the TAMGGG will be assessing the suitability of policy conformity of projects, plans or changes in activities across the area in its governance role. At the operational level, the masterplan provides for the Secretariat service as the forum where these elements are assessed. With the intention that these recommendations are then taken up to TAMGGG at the next appropriate meeting. If accepted, it follows that the advice of TAMGGG is passed onto the private or public party for consideration, noting that it will carry significant weight of the membership of TAMGGG. As noted earlier, any advice from TAMGGG does not override the usual statutory functions of the central and local agencies with a legal interest in the area.





# Hinonga Mātuatua

## Key Projects

***Mahia ngā mahi hei painga mō te Iwi.***

*Implement the projects that will benefit the people.*

The masterplan proposes 11 projects as delivery options over the short, medium and long term. The desire at the outset was to include the projects in the masterplan in order that the reader has a clear idea of the aspirations of this plan. These sit alongside two projects that are committed but not yet delivered at the time of writing this plan. In addition, there are four existing key features in the area that are identified due to their overall importance and connection with other proposals. For ease of reference all 17 projects are identified in the ‘Key Projects Map’ in Appendix 1.

As a general observation, the future opening in late 2024 of the new Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū-Tararua Highway, and the accompanying separated shared path and other features (look outs, a new gateway park, extensive native planting and interpretive signage) is the catalyst driving a lot of the projects. The new road and shared path will make it significantly easier to access Te Āpiti and it is likely it will result in many more proposals coming forward in the short to medium term. In this sense the ‘projects’ element of this plan will in effect be a ‘live process’ with the intention these are regularly updated through a dedicated page on the [teapiti.co.nz](http://teapiti.co.nz) website.

In Appendix 4 there is a summary table providing a brief description of each item alongside the project lead and project partners and a recommended timeframe for delivery. It is then followed by a brief for each project to provide a high level sense of what is proposed. It is noted that in some cases there has already been quite a bit of work undertaken by the project lead (e.g. for Project ‘P2’ this sits within the detailed plan the Shannon family already have for their property).

As the projects are aspirational they should be read as a guide only both in terms of scope and their geographical location on the map in Appendix 1. In other words they should not be read as formally approved or fully funded by the project partner(s) at the time of preparing this masterplan. For example in the case of project ‘P5’ (Re-use of the old Gorge Road) Waka Kotahi are currently investigating its future use and depending on the intervention that is ultimately arrived at this may have funding constraints within the National Land Transport Fund. Or with ‘P6’ (Barneys Point Loop Track), while DOC are supportive at a high level, the project has not entered their process for assessing the merits and for funding allocation. Similarly, for project ‘P9’ (Suspension Bridge), Tararua District Council have noted it would need to be fully funded by a separate party in order for it to be delivered.



# Ngā Hua E Manakohia Ana Desired Outcomes

*Tuia ngā hua e whāia ana e tēnā e tēnā, e puāwai ai he anamata whai ora mō te katoa.*  
*Weave together the outcomes that are being pursued by each, to ensure future wellbeing for all.*

This section sets out the desired outcomes arising from the implementation of the masterplan. In general it is anticipated that the combination of providing a clear policy framework alongside the implementation of catalyst projects will best serve to protect, preserve and enhance Te Āpiti.

The masterplan encourages a shared responsibility approach by all parties with an interest in the area. However, ultimately the degree to which these outcomes are met on a case by case basis will be up to the individual delivery agencies using their best endeavours to meet the direction of this masterplan.

AREA OF INTEREST	DESIRED OUTCOMES
<b>Hua Whānui General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greater public recognition and regional pride of the unique cultural, environmental and infrastructural elements that make this area the ‘Jewel in the Crown’ of the region.</li><li>• It will strengthen the role of Ashhurst and Woodville townships as gateways to the area by creating economic development opportunities in accommodation, food and drink, and complementary activities, for visitors from both within the region and from further afield.</li><li>• Build upon the governance role of TAMGGG providing clear leadership and decision-making for the continual improvement of the area.</li><li>• Stimulate, coordinate and provide opportunities to leverage funding, both public and private, for the improvement of the area.</li><li>• Build the local, regional and national visitor experience status of Te Āpiti.</li><li>• Increase interagency collaboration for the improvement of the area as part of a shared responsibility model.</li></ul>



AREA OF INTEREST	DESIRED OUTCOMES
<b>Kia tiakina, kia hāpaitia te mauri Protect and enhance mauri</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Iwi will consider the mauri has been enhanced by continuing to be involved over time in the ongoing strategic management of this area.</li><li>• There will be business and employment opportunities for Iwi in the protection, preservation and development of features, activities, cultural narratives where that mahi can be led, or at least participated in by Iwi.</li><li>• The health of the awa will be increased, thereby increasing its mauri.</li></ul>

AREA OF INTEREST	DESIRED OUTCOMES
<b>Kia rauhitia, kia hāpaitia te kanorau koiora Protect and enhance biodiversity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annual monitoring of native flora and fauna by Iwi, the Department of Conservation and Horizons Regional Council, shows an improvement over time.</li><li>• Reintroductions of appropriate rare and threatened species are successful.</li><li>• The area of native forest cover is extended.</li><li>• Visitors continue to appreciate the improved biodiversity at this site and have confidence that there is an organisational structure and masterplan that protects this for all.</li><li>• Increased community group participation in biodiversity enhancement.</li></ul>

AREA OF INTEREST	DESIRED OUTCOMES
<b>Kia hāpaitia ngā wheako rēhia o te hunga ka toro mai Improved recreational and visitor experiences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greater variety of activities for visitors to the area including development of potentially iconic walk/cycle tracks that showcase elevated views of both Manawatū and Tararua Regions.</li><li>• Visitors continue to enjoy well-formed tracks through the area.</li><li>• That visitors’ activities, both free and commercial, are increased across the area as part of a sustainable spread of activities.</li><li>• There are many opportunities to improve personal and mental health by using the facilities.</li></ul>

AREA OF INTEREST	DESIRED OUTCOMES
<b>Tangata i ākona ki te taiao, tau ana! Promote Te Āpiti as an ‘outdoor classroom’</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased visits by community groups, schools and other interested parties with a learning purpose.</li><li>• Increase study by tertiary institutions and government agencies.</li><li>• Increase number and diversity of interpretive signage showcasing unique cultural, biodiversity, geological, and built form history.</li><li>• Increased hits and general interaction on Te Āpiti website and increased content on the website to meet demand.</li><li>• Increased community group participation in education-based initiatives.</li></ul>



# Te Mahi Tahī Engagement

*Mā tini mā mano ka rapa te whai.*  
*Shared commitment and collaboration will ensure success.*

## Huarahi Mahi Tahī Approach

*Tomo mai ki taku whare kōrero.*

The masterplan has been developed through key stakeholder engagement through numerous small interactions and more formally at a number of larger forums held over the past three years. Representatives were generally members or regular attendees of the TAMGGG meetings which are held twice yearly. A summary of the forums and key points discussed is included in Appendix 5.

## Whakahokinga Whakaaro Feedback

*Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou ka ora te kaupapa.*

Initial discussions by TAMGGG in 2017 set out the purpose to create a masterplan with an overarching vision for Te Āpiti. Later, as stakeholder work began in 2018, the emerging framework, based around five focus areas, received the broad support by TAMGGG members. As that work evolved into this masterplan a particular feature of the process has been continued support by all parties involved.

Moving into the detail, starting with the policy framework, it is noted this has received support from all parties with only minor edits made over time to the comprehensive tables set out in Appendix 3. Turning to the vision and objectives, while the general intent of these elements has been consistently supported, at the 10 June 2021 TAMGGG meeting a more streamlined approach was adopted arising from a stakeholder workshop on 21 May 2021. This was based on a recommendation to downsize the eight proposed objectives into four, and subsequent adjustments to the vision to better emphasise the intergenerational nature of experiences in the area.

The most significant element of engagement has been through the creation of the 11 key projects. Each of these arised out of stakeholder discussions through the development of the plan, typically from one to one interactions, and the small group discussions that form the project management backdrop of the larger forums listed in Appendix 5. In the case of DOC and Waka Kotahi, while many of the proposed projects are on their land or near it, it is noted that none of them have been proposed by either government department. While both have consistently indicated broad support for the aspirational nature of the masterplan, both have made comments to qualify that individual projects will ultimately need to be assessed through their internal processes before any decision is made to proceed, or not. As also noted earlier, the same applies for Taranua District Council in relation to the Suspension Bridge proposal (P9), which they note would need to be fully funded by another party if it were to go ahead.

## Tātaritanga Kōrero Analysis

*Rukuhia te rētōtanga o ngā kōrero e pūrangiaho ai te ara whakamua.*

At a high level the broad support of the masterplan through the engagement process is seen as a reflection of the strong governance the area benefits from by TAMGGG. This is alongside the growing acknowledgement of the importance of having an overarching masterplan as many other specific plans have been developed by other parties at or around Te Āpiti. To this end a number of participants pointed to the once in a lifetime nature of the Waka Kotahi Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū - Taranua Highway project to help lever off this piece of work. On a number of occasions participants noted that it simply ‘made good sense’ to base the plan around the key focus areas which are already evident in the space.

The intent of the objectives has been readily supported by participants however the desire was to streamline them to make them shorter and more memorable. It is noted the vision was developed much later in the process; as participants became more involved in the exact text once they had built up familiarity with the ‘big picture’.

In feedback received at, and in between, the series of stakeholder workshops held in November 2021, both DOC and Waka Kotahi outlined their qualified support of the masterplan. Firstly, in the case of DOC, their officers sought assurance that the projects identified on their land were not technically required to be delivered by a given point because they have their own internal processes to follow before any capital spend can be allocated. (They were advised this is correct, as the masterplan proposes projects which should be read as an aspirational guide of TAMGGG’s position, not a strict mandate to deliver something). DOC have also continued to stress the ongoing operational costs of maintain projects that are delivered and making sure these costs are properly considered in future project development.

The same position applies with Waka Kotahi in relation to any future use of the now closed 9km section of the old Gorge Road as a shared path as shown in Project ‘P5’ in the Key Project Maps in Appendix 1 and the project brief in Appendix 4. Waka Kotahi note that there is currently a comprehensive assessment process underway to determine the best option for the future of that part of the road. In that context, they wish to be careful not to raise expectations of interested parties or the general public that their broad support of the masterplan indicates any sort of preliminary position particularly given the significant health and safety risks with that stretch of the road. Again, it is not the role of the masterplan to mandate the delivery of a particular project, however, it is noted that considerable interest has been expressed in the use of the road for a shared path, whether as a through route, or at least a ‘there and back’ experience.

# Te Whai Pānga ki Mahere kē Relationship to other plans

*Kia ngātahi te hoe i te waka.*  
*Let us paddle our canoe in unison.*

The numerous parties in Te Āpiti has meant that on one hand, the place has been fortunate to have a significant amount of interest over the years. However, on the other hand, this has meant that there are many plans with a direct or indirect relationship to the area. This masterplan sits above these documents, unifying agencies with a common vision while also remaining aligned with all the valuable work that has been already been completed for Te Āpiti. This is represented in Figure 2 below. This approach can be expressed in the concept of whakawhanaungatanga, that being the process of making connections made through recognising existing work and relationships of the past.

A full list of the reference documents consulted as part of the formation of the Masterplan is included in Appendix 5. The following documents were most regularly consulted in its preparation (in no particular order):

- Manawatū Gorge Cultural Values Assessment (Rangitāne 2015)
- Manawatū Gorge Biodiversity Plan (Horizons 2017)
- Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge Tu Au-rere-a-te-tonga – (Michele Frey, book published 2019)
- Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (Department of Conservation 2019)
- Cultural and Environmental Design Framework (NZTA Waka Kotahi 2020)

In the future it is anticipated that the guidance given through this masterplan will be carefully considered in future reviews of related plans. In the same fashion, this masterplan will, within its five yearly reviews, consider the updates of other plans. The teapiti.co.nz website will be the primary host of the plan, thereby providing for regular progress updates and the key projects component to be a live space.



**Bush Canopy Masterplan**

**Subcanopy Vision**

**Tree Fern Layer Strategies**

**Understory Layer Plans**

**Forest Floor Programmes**

Figure 2 – Masterplan relationship to other plans



# Whakarāpopoto Summary

*Kia mau ki te iho o te kaupapa.*  
*Keep the essence of the project to the fore.*

The purpose of the masterplan is to set out a clear vision and policy framework to protect, preserve and enhance the beautiful Te Āpiti area. It draws upon the strengths the area already has to offer. These are its unique cultural heritage, its abundant biodiversity, its close proximity to Woodville, Ashhurst and Palmerston North and its gateway role between the Manawātū and Taranaki regions. The variety of recreation activities available along with the collaborative management approach represented by the TAMGGG governance structure complete the picture. These all combine to provide an outstanding visitor experience.

The masterplan is pitched at a high level and designed to provide an overarching guidance for the assessment of activities and plans in the area. TAMGGG is the owner of the masterplan and thereby has responsibility for administering

it, continuing to act in an advisory and advocacy role, where necessary. Noting that as the masterplan is not a statutory document it will not override the usual statutory functions of other government agencies operating in the space. However, it will precede this work by first providing TAMGGG's policy position as to the 'big picture' fit on future activities and plans across the site.

With the new Iwi and Waka Kotahi Te Aho a Turanga Manawātū - Taranaki Highway project due to open in late 2024 acting as a catalyst, an exciting array of opportunities are proposed in this masterplan to improve visitor experience from this once in a lifetime roading project. The masterplan will guide this development, and others, seeking to leverage off the new road and shared path. This will ensure new facilities are spread across the site, thereby sustainably managing the expected increase in visitor numbers as recognition of the area continues to extend within and beyond the region.

## Prepared by:

Jeff Baker  
Palmerston North City Council  
Michele Frey  
Formerly of Xyst Ltd

## Map and diagram imagery:

Stefan Steyn  
WSP

## Photography:

David Lupton  
Alexander Robertson  
Kevin Bills Media





“

*Mā ōna pou e tū kaha ai te whare.*

*With strong foundations the house  
will be firm and durable.*



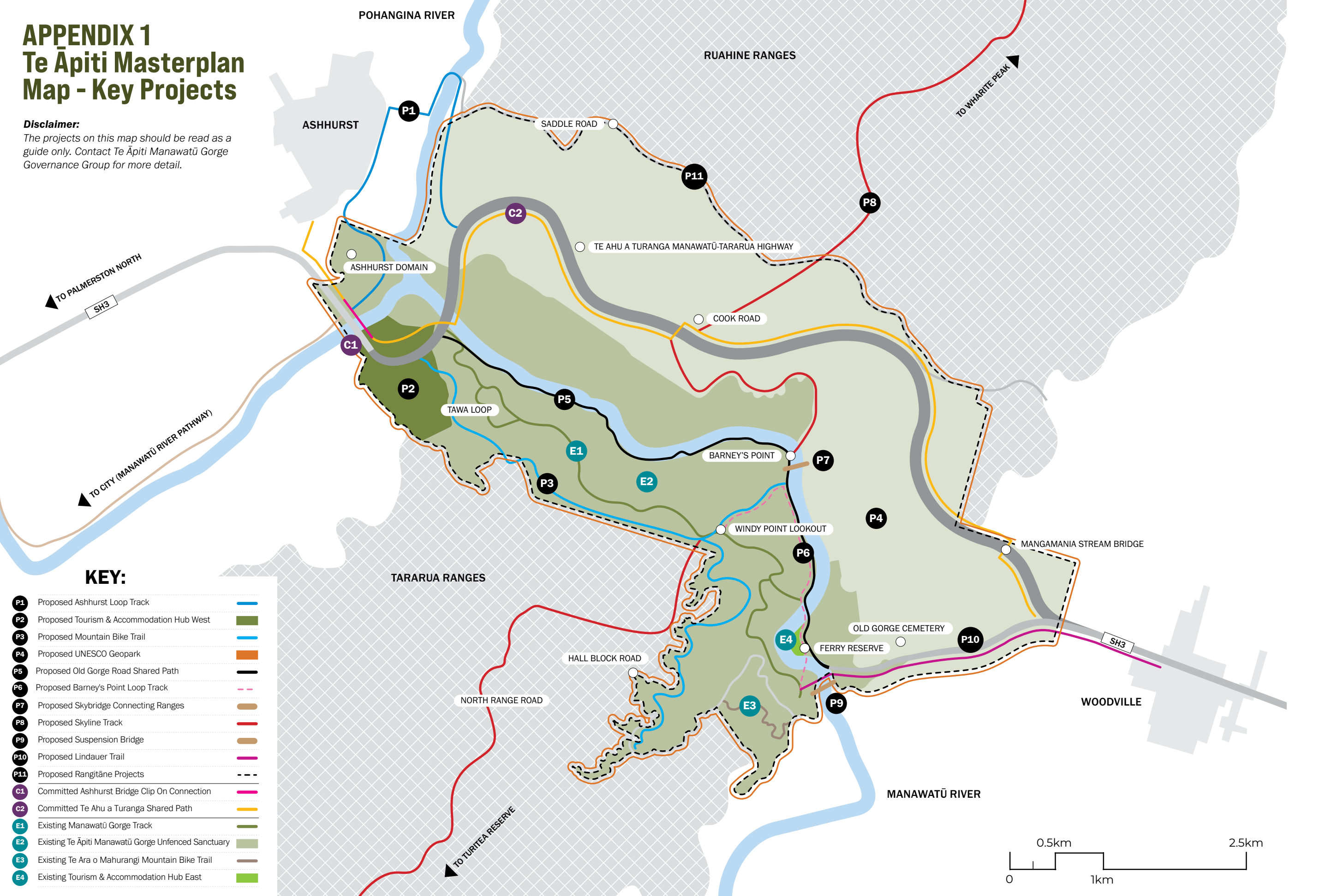


# APPENDIX 1

## Te Āpiti Masterplan

### Map - Key Projects

**Disclaimer:**  
The projects on this map should be read as a guide only. Contact Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge Governance Group for more detail.





# APPENDIX 2 - Action Plan

Year	Action
YEAR 1 (2021/22) Foundation work	<div>1. Formally adopt masterplan.</div> <div>2. Include masterplan on teapiti.co.nz website alongside introductory text on a dedicated webpage.</div> <div>3. The Secretariat to agree on its terms of reference including its coordinator, member representation, meeting regularity, reporting requirements to TAMGGG, the scale of projects/plans where guidance is warranted, role of front-end policy assessment and back-end monitoring and evaluation, and the methodology for such assessment.</div> <div>4. Prepare a high-level project management plan for key projects with partners (identifying funding opportunities and delivery target dates).</div>
YEAR 2 (2022/23) Context and community support	<div>1. Undertake high-level site-wide inventory to better understand natural and built assets (including historic and cultural features).</div> <div>2. Identify 'go/no-go areas' across the area for different activities.</div> <div>3. Set up 'Friends of Te Āpiti' group.</div>
YEAR 3 (2023/24) Implementation and Review Systems	<div>1. Develop Asset Management Plan based on high-level asset inventory from previous year.</div> <div>2. Begin or continue collaborative implementation of high-level projects.</div> <div>3. Develop and implement monitoring and improvement programme.</div> <div>4. Develop design framework for signage, track and infrastructure development.</div> <div>5. Set out a plan for the next three years of work.</div>

# APPENDIX 3 - Policy Framework

SUMMARY TABLE				
FOCUS AREA	VALUES	POLICIES		
	<b>Values</b> (what are the key values associated with each focus area that will underpin our thinking as we act on the masterplan)	<b>Natural</b> (what is the direction we will take with our natural features as they relate to each focus area)	<b>Built</b> (what is the direction we will take with our built features/ our infrastructure, as it relates to each focus area)	<b>Sustainability</b> (what are the fundamental steps/ priorities that need to be taken to ensure the focus area is enduring through to achieving its vision)
1. CULTURE FOCUS AREA	Lwi spiritual and physical connection to Te Āpiti is fundamental for this masterplan. Provision is made for cultural history and practices to be exercised in Te Āpiti and an appropriate level of care will be given to sites, whether to protect, enhance, commemorate and/or celebrate. The influence of other cultures will also be recognised, noting that this has occurred over a much shorter timeframe.	Te Āpiti’s spiritual significance will be recognised and cherished. Proactive planning will respect and protect both known and intentionally fewer known sites. Local flora and fauna significant to mana whenua are key natural landscapes. Mana whenua harvesting will be enhanced. Freshwater fisheries will be enhanced.	Built infrastructure may be provided to commemorate and celebrate values or significant cultural areas. Lwi names are celebrated, and significant sites and cultural landmarks are acknowledged with mana whenua involvement.	Site planning will acknowledge lwi perspectives. Lwi partnership arrangements will ensure traditional cultural practices continue to be used in an effective way for Te Āpiti. Significant sites will be clearly managed, monitored and evaluated. Mahi (work) opportunities will be prioritised for lwi across the site both in public and private ventures and initiatives.
2. ENVIRONMENT FOCUS AREA	The aesthetic natural quality, life-sustaining properties and symbiotic relationship the awa has with the abundance of flora in the rata, tawa, kamahi, podocarp forest and the diverse microclimates provided for different plant species. The key faunal values are the native birds, lizards, fish and invertebrates that are also a dominant feature of the site. In addition, the unique landforms, both from a geomorphological and geological perspective are a strong value.	Ensure decisions made to protect existing species and enhance Te Āpiti through re-introducing species, supporting landscape and ecological restoration and greater regional and national awareness are made in an informed way and based on good information.	Built infrastructure is required where natural features may be damaged and only for planned cultural, education or recreation activities. Design frameworks will ensure a consistent approach and sustainable building methods will be prioritised.	Built and natural features will have clear and agreed management approaches that include regular monitoring and evaluation and an open improvement forum that is supported by the leadership of the area.
3. RECREATION FOCUS AREA	Recreation has occurred in Te Āpiti for over 100 years and is an important part of the region's identity. Te Āpiti is a highly accessible recreation area and is one of only a few in a native forest setting of this large scale in the Manawatū. There are a variety of options to recreate in this native forest or river setting. Being active in the space promotes physical and mental health.	Recreation activities will be done in harmony with the environment and in appropriate places. Passive recreation activities that compliment and build knowledge and prosperity of the place is promoted. A location plan for recreation activities is crucial to provide for an appropriate spread of visitation across the area.	Built infrastructure will be installed where it complements the masterplan direction, using appropriate design framework, track standards and sustainable building methods. Recreation connectivity will be enhanced, and facilities spread evenly across the site to sustainably manage visitation.	Long term programmes will improve recreation activities. It will remain dynamic and be integrated beyond individual experiences. Track closure for one-off events is accepted only by prior agreement. Recreation activities will be clearly managed, monitored and evaluated.
4. EDUCATION FOCUS AREA	Lwi cultural narratives, European explorations and settler history is a key feature of the masterplan. Te Āpiti’s accessible location is an opportunity to enrich people's knowledge of the natural, cultural and built environment. There is a need to promote everyone's and in particular children's education and encourage education providers collaboration.	Education on Te Āpiti will encourage better environmental knowledge that can be transposed into everyday life in the 'outdoor classroom' ethos. It will encourage greater respect and promotion of Te Āpiti’s unique natural features and lwi narrative. These will be creatively re-inscribed into the design environment.	The old Gorge Road, now closed forever, was a critical piece of infrastructure where there are stories to tell of its history. The masterplan will celebrate the past and promote the opportunity to learn from and see key features. Information on built structures may be presented in an innovative way.	Education will be integrated across all sites in a planned long term and coordinated programme. These programmes will be modular experiences to ensure education is up to date and relevant as Te Āpiti evolves. Regular monitoring, evaluation and an open improvement forum will occur.
5. LEADERSHIP FOCUS AREA	Te Āpiti benefits from a strong leadership framework in the form of the TAMGGG. This promotes a collective lwi/agency/ stakeholder approach and has seen significant gains, particularly in biodiversity enhancement, through collaboration of DOC and Horizons in recent years.	Te Āpiti’s natural environment is protected and enhanced through sustainable programmes in line with the River Accord. Te Āpiti is considered for its potential to become a Regional Park and/or UNESCO Geopark.	There is a clear manager and owner of all infrastructure in Te Āpiti. Assets have Asset Management Plans in place so they can be effectively maintained, and a clear replacement and renewal plan is in place for all key assets.	A long-term leadership programme is documented and embeds ownership and commitment from key agencies. Customary cultural and commercial decisions acknowledge post Treaty of Waitangi settlement environment.



1 CULTURE FOCUS AREA			
VALUES	NATURAL FEATURE POLICIES	BUILT FEATURE POLICIES	SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES
<p>The spiritual and physical connection to Te Āpiti for Iwi is front and foremost of masterplanning.</p> <p>The appropriate level of care will be given to all spiritual and physical sites in Te Āpiti; whether protection, enhancement, commemoration, celebration.</p> <p>Exercising cultural practices has an important place in Te Āpiti and provision is made for undertaking these practices accordingly.</p>	<p>Spiritual significance of Te Āpiti is recognised and cherished as a key philosophy of the masterplan. Where possible the spiritual significance will be articulated to enable a wider understanding of its meaning.</p> <p>Te Āpiti has many specific sites of importance for cultural reasons. Some of the sites are known, understood and available for celebration and commemoration. On the other hand, others are less known, and for good reason. This masterplan seeks to respect both through engaged and proactive planning.</p> <p>A process will be supported whereby significant sites can be identified, managed, protected and enhanced.</p> <p>Local flora and fauna which are familiar and significant to mana whenua are key natural landscape elements to be protected and enhanced in Te Āpiti.</p> <p>The natural environment is protected, restored and enhanced to levels where sustainable mana whenua harvesting is possible.</p>	<p>Some culturally significant areas are for commemoration and celebration. Where appropriate to do so, and where in keeping with the surrounding environment, built infrastructure may be provided to highlight the key values associated with the place.</p> <p>Iwi names are celebrated through Te Āpiti and mana whenua significant sites and cultural landmarks are acknowledged. These are established with mana whenua involved.</p>	<p>Iwi partnership arrangement developed for the effective and continual use of Te Āpiti for traditional cultural practice.</p> <p>Clear and agreed management approach to both natural and built cultural features of the Gorge.</p> <p>Regular monitoring of progress towards implementing the masterplan and overall vision.</p> <p>Acknowledgement of the multiple Māori perspectives of Te Āpiti through site planning, management and enhancement.</p> <p>Opportunities are provided for Iwi to participate in the mahi (work) of programmes and ventures being delivered at Te Āpiti.</p>

2 ENVIRONMENT FOCUS AREA			
VALUES	NATURAL FEATURE POLICIES	BUILT FEATURE POLICIES	SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES
<p>The rata, tawa, kamahi and podocarp forest is a distinguishing feature of this place and should be maintained and enhanced.</p> <p>Recent monitoring and surveys also indicate that important native bird, lizard and invertebrate species are present.</p> <p>While the place has been significantly modified over the past 100+ years, the priority is for this place to be continually enriched by the vision of reviving the near natural setting that once existed before people.</p> <p>Protection and enrichment of the conservation values of Te Āpiti in a way that aligns with Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge Biodiversity Management Plan (Horizons 2017), 'A healthy and diverse forest ecosystem in a dramatic landscape that connects people with the environment and management of our precious biodiversity'.</p> <p>The geomorphological and geological features of the area are so significant that when combined with its unique cultural history it would justify an investigation into the potential for UNESCO Geopark Status to be obtained.</p> <p>Showcasing and celebrating the unique landscape of this place, preserving it for future generations.</p> <p>Recognition of the awa as a significant habitat for aquatic life, with protection and enhancement mechanisms in place.</p>	<p>Ensure that decision making about future protection and enhancement of Te Āpiti is undertaken in an informed way ensuring that decisions are made based on good information.</p> <p>Re-introduction of key strategic species into the place that were once abundant in the region to 1) enrich Te Āpiti and 2) contribute to reversing the overall biodiversity decline (this may include species such as the North Island Robin).</p> <p>Protect and enhance the existing native species of the area, with an emphasis on those that are in decline/ rare and of significance to mana whenua.</p> <p>Support and encourage landscape scale ecological restoration, beyond just the boundaries of Te Āpiti.</p>	<p>Built infrastructure is required where there is potential for natural features (especially those features that are rare or sensitive) to be damaged or destroyed.</p> <p>Built features are only required where education and recreation activities have been identified as appropriate for the area (and the areas have been pre-selected for use in this way).</p> <p>Design framework in place to ensure that a consistent approach is taken to the installation of all appropriate infrastructure in the area. This includes application of Te Aranga Māori Design Principles.</p> <p>The priority will be for sustainable methods for building construction wherever possible (locally sourced materials, WSUD measures).</p>	<p>Clear and agreed management approach to both natural and built features of the Gorge.</p> <p>Regular monitoring of progress towards implementing the masterplan and overall vision.</p> <p>Evaluation of monitoring and change plan for overall masterplan.</p>

3 RECREATION FOCUS AREA			
VALUES	NATURAL FEATURE POLICIES	BUILT FEATURE POLICIES	SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES
<p>The natural environment of Te Āpiti provides an important setting for recreational activity, including both regular and one-off events. It is one of the few large scale native forest locations in the Manawatū that is readily accessible for recreation, especially walking, running and mountain biking.</p> <p>Te Āpiti has the potential to achieve a Great Walk status, and improvements to the area could support the realisation of this.</p> <p>Water based activities such as kayaking, jet boating, and rafting have been undertaken through Te Āpiti for a long time and are considered an important feature.</p> <p>Recreation has occurred in Te Āpiti for over 100 years. It is seen as an important part of the fabric of the region - access to good quality facilities in Te Āpiti is important to the community.</p> <p>Recreation activities in Te Āpiti are cherished due to the way interaction can so readily occur with the natural environment. Therefore, it remains important that recreation complements rather than detracts from the natural setting experience.</p> <p>Te Āpiti will be developed for environmentally responsible recreation, in a way that enables and encourages accessibility for all (creating areas for limited mobility access).</p> <p>The Ashhurst and Woodville communities provide an important linkage for recreation. Close linkage/ strong alignment with the activities of these communities will assist with regional visitor promotion.</p> <p>Recreation in the area plays an important role in sustaining and improving both physical and mental health.</p>	<p>Recreation opportunities will be encouraged where they complement the surrounding environment and do not detrimentally affect the environmental or cultural values of the area.</p> <p>A transparent plan of where recreation is actively encouraged, is essential to the overall success of Te Āpiti. With this in mind, careful planning to ensure appropriate placement of recreation infrastructure to spread visitor loading is crucial to the ongoing enrichment of the place.</p> <p>Activities such as bird watching and other passive recreation leisure activities that compliment and build the knowledge and prosperity of the place will be actively promoted.</p> <p>Environmentally responsible water based recreation activities are acceptable provided they are not restricted by other mechanisms such as bylaws or rules in district or regional plans and provided they do not disturb the current or potential natural values of Te Āpiti (bird breeding habitat/ disturbance through noise etc.).</p>	<p>Infrastructure to sustain recreation activity will be installed where it complements the overall direction of the masterplan and is not detrimental to the environment or cultural values of the place.</p> <p>Infrastructure, where it supports the drive for Great Walk status will be a priority.</p> <p>This masterplan encourages development of infrastructure that enhances recreation connectivity between the Ashhurst and Woodville communities (such as walkways and cycleways).</p> <p>Infrastructure for limited mobility access will be considered where appropriate and able to do so.</p> <p>Design framework in place to ensure that a consistent approach is taken to the installation of all appropriate infrastructure in the area.</p> <p>Department of Conservation track standards will be achieved for all walkways.</p> <p>The priority will be for sustainable methods for building construction wherever possible (locally sourced materials, WSUD measures).</p>	<p>Clear and agreed management approach to both natural and built features of the Gorge.</p> <p>One-off events where track closure/ area restriction occurs is acceptable where necessary by DOC but if for a significant period of time the TAMGGG secretariat should be notified in advance.</p> <p>Regular monitoring of progress towards implementing the masterplan and overall vision.</p> <p>There is a long term Programme for improving the recreation experience, supported by the Leadership of the area.</p> <p>Modular experiences (ability to change and evolve readily) to ensure the approach to recreation provision is up to date and relevant as the dynamics of the place evolve over time.</p> <p>The recreation activities are integrated to provide for experiences beyond their own individual benefits.</p>

4 EDUCATION FOCUS AREA			
VALUES	NATURAL FEATURE POLICIES	BUILT FEATURE POLICIES	SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES
<p>Te Āpiti provides an opportunity for the Manawatū to enrich people's knowledge of the natural, cultural and built environment.</p> <p>The natural environment, while highly modified, provides one of the few accessible opportunities to experience and learn about nature in the Manawatū and experience some of the defining features such as the unique geological form and Māori spirit, Okatia.</p> <p>Being so readily available and accessible Te Āpiti is an ideal location for children's education.</p> <p>The built environment is a showcase of State Highway infrastructure and a unique opportunity to experience this infrastructure in a safe and meaningful way.</p> <p>Education about the Iwi/hapū cultural narratives, European exploration, European settlement history of Te Āpiti (and changes that came as a result of these phases) is a key feature of the masterplan.</p> <p>Encourage and enable collaboration amongst education providers for maximum outcomes and minimum duplication.</p>	<p>Environmental education will be encouraged in the 'outdoor classroom' ethos to enable better knowledge of the environment that can be transposed into everyday life.</p> <p>Environmental education will be encouraged to ensure respect for, and promotion of Te Āpiti for its special attributes/ defining natural features such as its geological form and Iwi narrative.</p> <p>Ancestral names, local tohu and Iwi narratives are creatively re-inscribed into the design environment.</p>	<p>The road through Te Āpiti was once a busy State Highway connecting the Manawatū region to the Taranua region and the wider east coast. Due to the terrain through Te Āpiti the infrastructure required to sustain the road was of a huge scale. The road is now closed, yet the infrastructure remains. This masterplan seeks to celebrate what was done in years past. An opportunity to learn from and see key infrastructure features firsthand.</p> <p>Some infrastructure is required to ensure a safe environment for visitors to Te Āpiti. Where this is disruptive on the landscape and overall experience, some education will be available to explain the feature.</p> <p>Education can come in many ways, however often this is in the form of display boards/ interactive structures. Innovative approaches to presenting material will be encouraged through Te Āpiti.</p>	<p>Regular monitoring of progress towards implementing the Masterplan and overall vision.</p> <p>Long Term and coordinated programme of education in place for Te Āpiti.</p> <p>Modular experiences to ensure the approach to education is up to date and relevant as the dynamics of the place evolve over time.</p> <p>The education approach is utilised across all of the site on all new proposals and upgrades of existing features.</p>



# APPENDIX 4 - Project Briefs

**Note 1** – The following table sets out the proposed, committed and existing projects in and around Te Āpiti. It is then followed by an individual brief for each project including for information purposes the two committed projects, and four existing projects.

**Note 2** – The briefs are a guide only and therefore should not be read as having been approved or funded by the identified stakeholder(s). The reader is advised to approach Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge Governance Group for the latest details.

5 LEADERSHIP FOCUS AREA			
VALUES	NATURAL FEATURE POLICIES	BUILT FEATURE POLICIES	SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES
<p>This plan has been developed to provide guidance on the direction of Te Āpiti. It needs to be supported by all agencies. Regular review at a five year interval is recommended as more information is found over time to inform decision making.</p> <p>There is a well understood and strong framework for leadership of Te Āpiti by the TAMGGG.</p> <p>The leadership framework enables stakeholders to be actively engaged as part of the process.</p> <p>The framework is underpinned by a sound financial base.</p> <p>The masterplan and Te Āpiti itself is compliant with all relevant statutory legislation.</p>	<p>Te Āpiti is subject to a sustainability programme where the protection and enhancement of the natural environment is at the forefront of thinking.</p> <p>Te Āpiti could be considered for a Regional Park.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the area on a national stage possibly culminating in UNESCO Geopark Status.</p> <p>Manawatū River Accord is a key framework through which the Manawatū Gorge (river environment) is protected and enhanced.</p>	<p>There is a clear manager and owner of all infrastructure in Te Āpiti.</p> <p>An Asset Management Plan is in place and is current for all built infrastructure.</p> <p>There is a clear replacement/ renewal plan in place for all key assets in Te Āpiti.</p>	<p>A Memorandum of Understanding (or other agreement) is established and in place between agencies in instances where it is necessary.</p> <p>Acknowledgement of the post Treaty of Waitangi settlement environment where Iwi living presence can include customary, cultural and commercial dimensions.</p> <p>A long term programme of leadership is documented with full commitment from key agencies.</p> <p>Partner agencies are fully accountable for key actions within the masterplan.</p> <p>There is embedded ownership of the masterplan and its priorities.</p>

# (In no particular order)	PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION	ASPIRATION	PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM (Short 1 - 5 years, Medium 5 - 15 years Long 15+ years)
P1	Ashhurst Loop Track	A 9km long loop walking track connecting Ashhurst township to the Manawatū Gorge.	PNCC	Iwi Ashhurst community Horizons	Short
P2	Visitor Facility & Accommodation Hub West	A hub for visitor activities with overnight accommodation	Shannon Family		Short - Medium
P3	Mountain Bike Trail	An 11km long MTB trail traversing east-west across the southern side of the Manawatū Gorge Scenic Reserve.	Manawatū Mountain Bike Club	Iwi Shannon Family DOC	Medium
P4	UNESCO Geopark	Obtain UNESCO 'Geopark' status for Te Āpiti.	Manawatū River Source to Sea	Iwi CEDA	Long
P5	Old Gorge Road Shared Path	Use of the 9km section of the old Gorge road as a shared path linking both sides of the ranges.	TBC	Iwi CEDA PNCC Taranua DC DOC Waka Kotahi	Short
P6	Barney's Point Loop Track	An 8km walking track providing access near the eastern end of the Old Gorge Road.	TBC	Iwi DOC CEDA Taranua DC	Short
P7	Skybridge connecting ranges	A suspension bridge located above the awa near Barneys Point.	CEDA	Iwi Horizons DOC KiwiRail	Long
P8	Skyline Track	A 45km walking track extending along the Ruahine and Taranua Ranges.	TBC	Iwi Horizons PNCC DOC CEDA Meridian Affected landowners KiwiRail	Medium
P9	Suspension bridge	A suspension bridge crossing over the awa east of Ferry Reserve.	Taranua DC	Iwi Horizons Woodville Domain Board	Long
P10	Lindauer Trail	A 4km long shared path connecting Woodville to the Ferry Reserve.	Taranua DC	Woodville Domain Board Waka Kotahi	Short
P11	Rangitāne Cultural Projects	A project, or series of projects, within Te Āpiti led by Rangitāne to showcase aspects of their culture.	Iwi	CEDA Horizons DOC	Short / Medium / Long

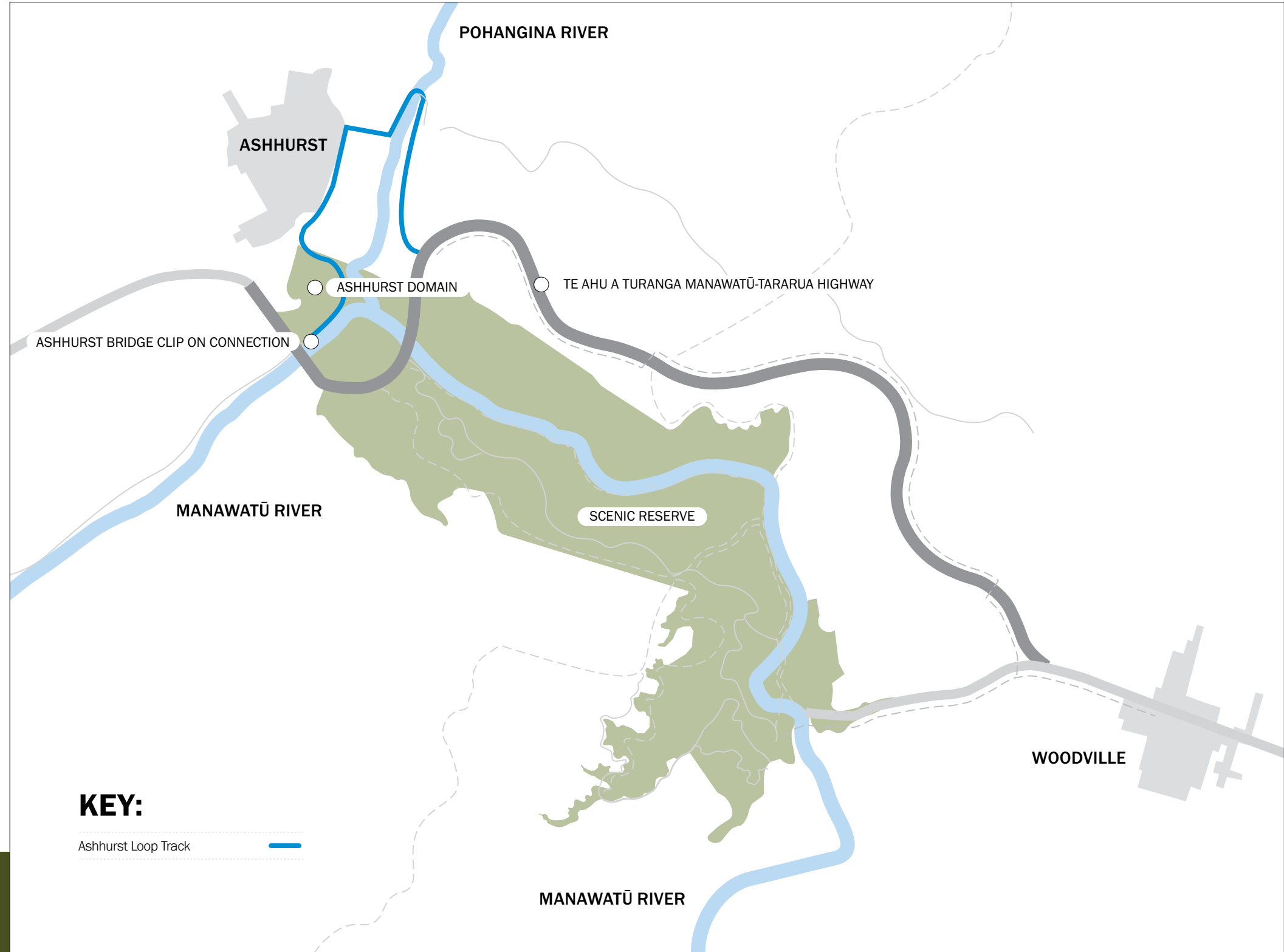


P1

# Ashhurst Loop Track

A 9km long loop walking track connecting Ashhurst township to the Manawatū Gorge and showcasing great views of two rivers and the ranges. The track passes over the Manawatū and Pohangina Rivers and will utilise the shared path to be constructed from the new Gateway Park at the western end of the gorge to the Ashhurst Domain. The eastern section of the loop track (between the new road and the Pohangina Bridge) is being provided by Waka Kotahi as part of Te Ahu Turanga Manawatū - Tararua Highway project as they will allow public use of a maintenance track in this location.

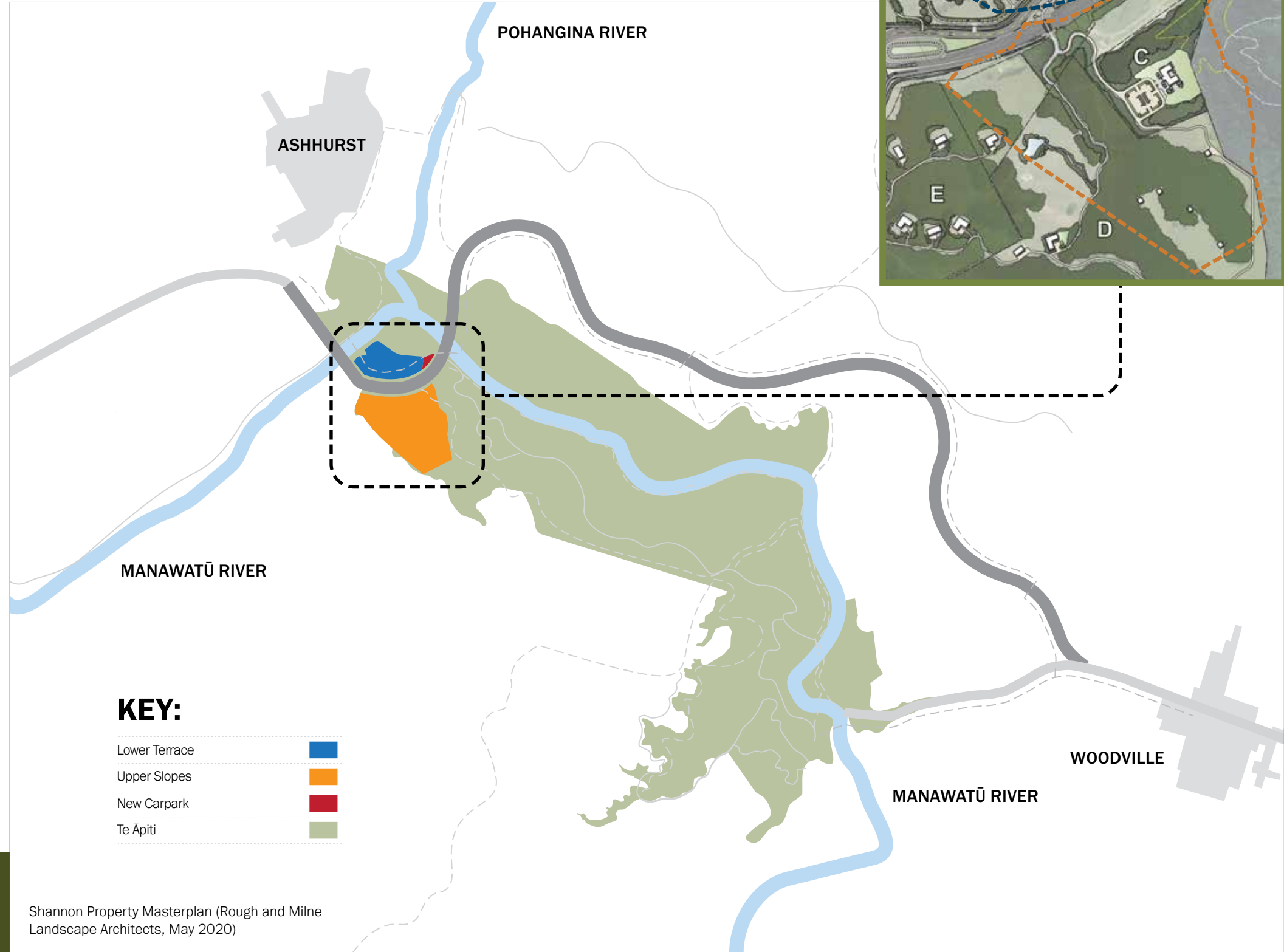
PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM
PNCC	Iwi Ashhurst Community Horizons	Short





# P2 Visitor Facility and Accommodation Hub West

In this strategic western gateway location, a hub for visitor activities with overnight accommodation is proposed to be developed in an environmentally sensitive and responsive way. On the lower terrace planned facilities will range in size with large scale event opportunities such as concerts and weddings at a purpose-built facility. At a smaller scale there is opportunity to establish recreation businesses or a coffee cart/containers adjacent to the new carpark. On the upper slopes there are intimate eco-cabins nestled in the native bush alongside an opportunity to establish a café or restaurant on an elevated north facing plateau with extensive views of the region.



PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM
Shannon Family		Short/Medium



Shannon Property Masterplan (Rough and Milne Landscape Architects, May 2020)



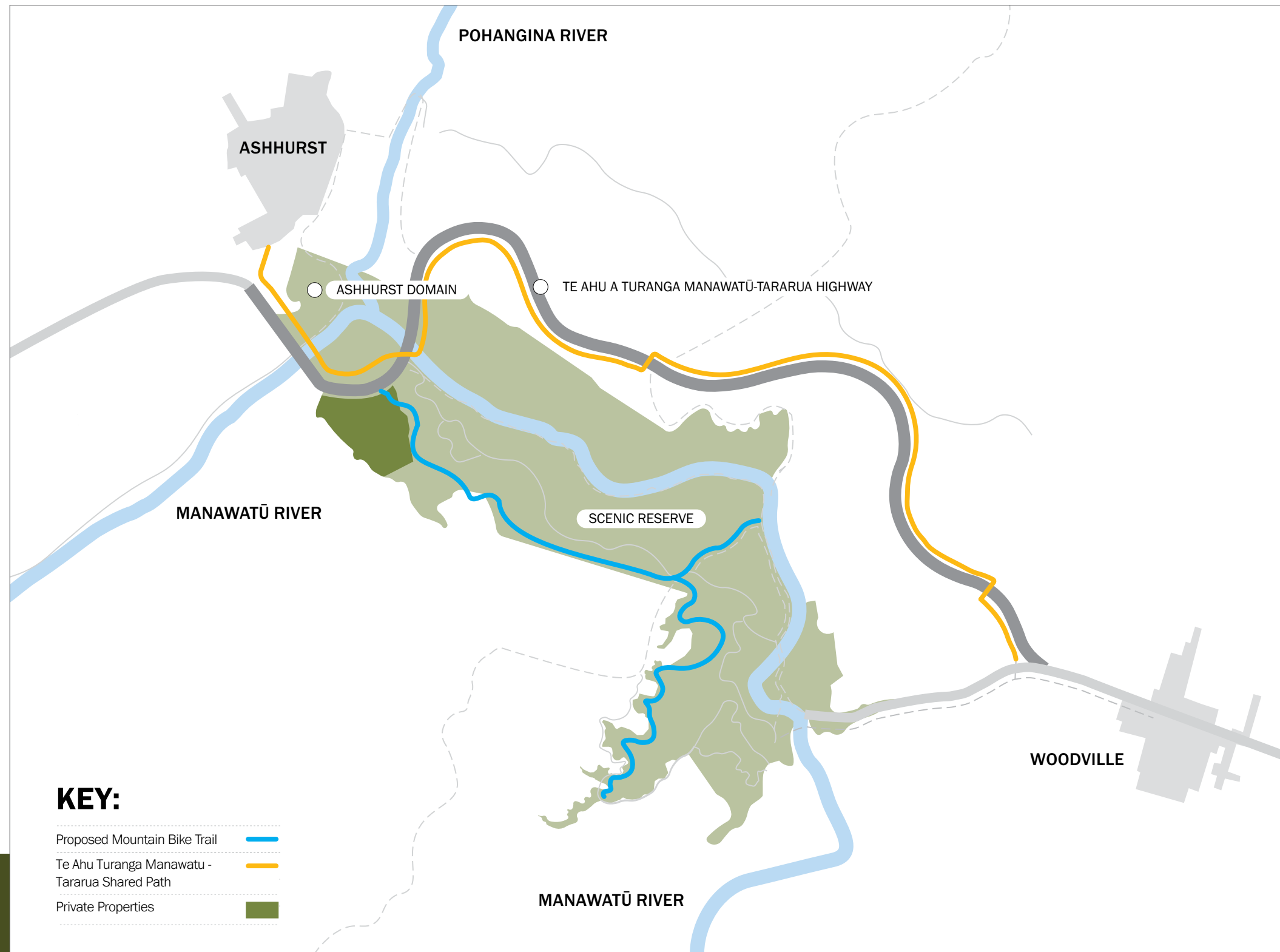
P3

Mountain Bike Trail

An iconic new 11km long dedicated mountain bike (MTB) trail traversing east-west across the southern side of the Manawatū Gorge Scenic Reserve. Offering fantastic close up views of native bush and windfarms as well as long views of the wider region. Purpose built for MTB use it will also form part of the

‘Te Apiti Loop Track’. This will extend 35km around both sides of the Manawatū Gorge when combined with the north side Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū - Tararua Shared Path that is scheduled to be completed by late 2024. The grade 3/4 MTB track is to be developed in partnership with the Manawatū Mountain Bike Club.

The track is largely contained within the reserve (8km) with two private properties involved at the western end (3km). It will diversify the MTB offering in the region as investment to date has occurred at Arapuke further south along the Tararua Ranges.



PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM
Manawatū Mountain Bike Club	Iwi Shannon Family DOC	Medium



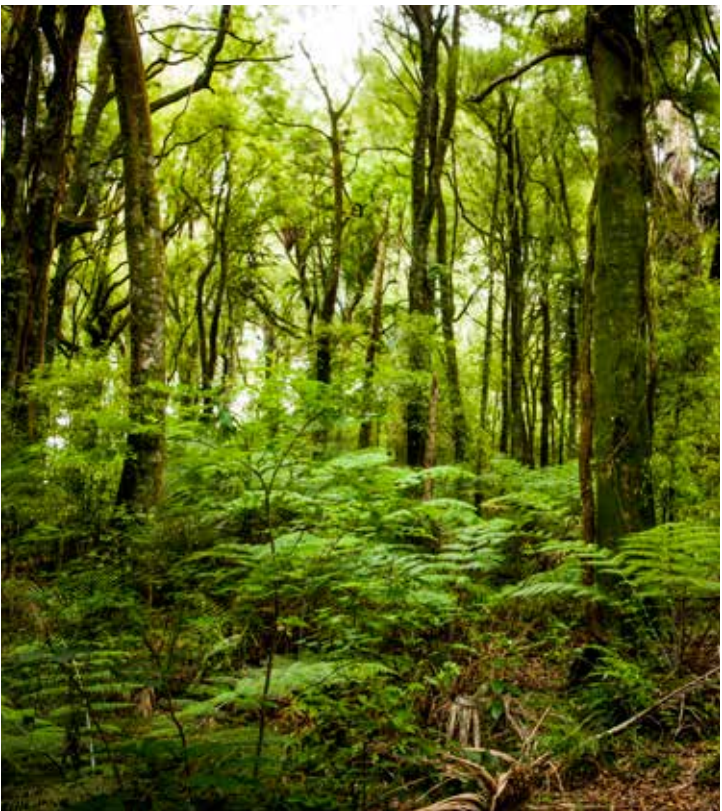
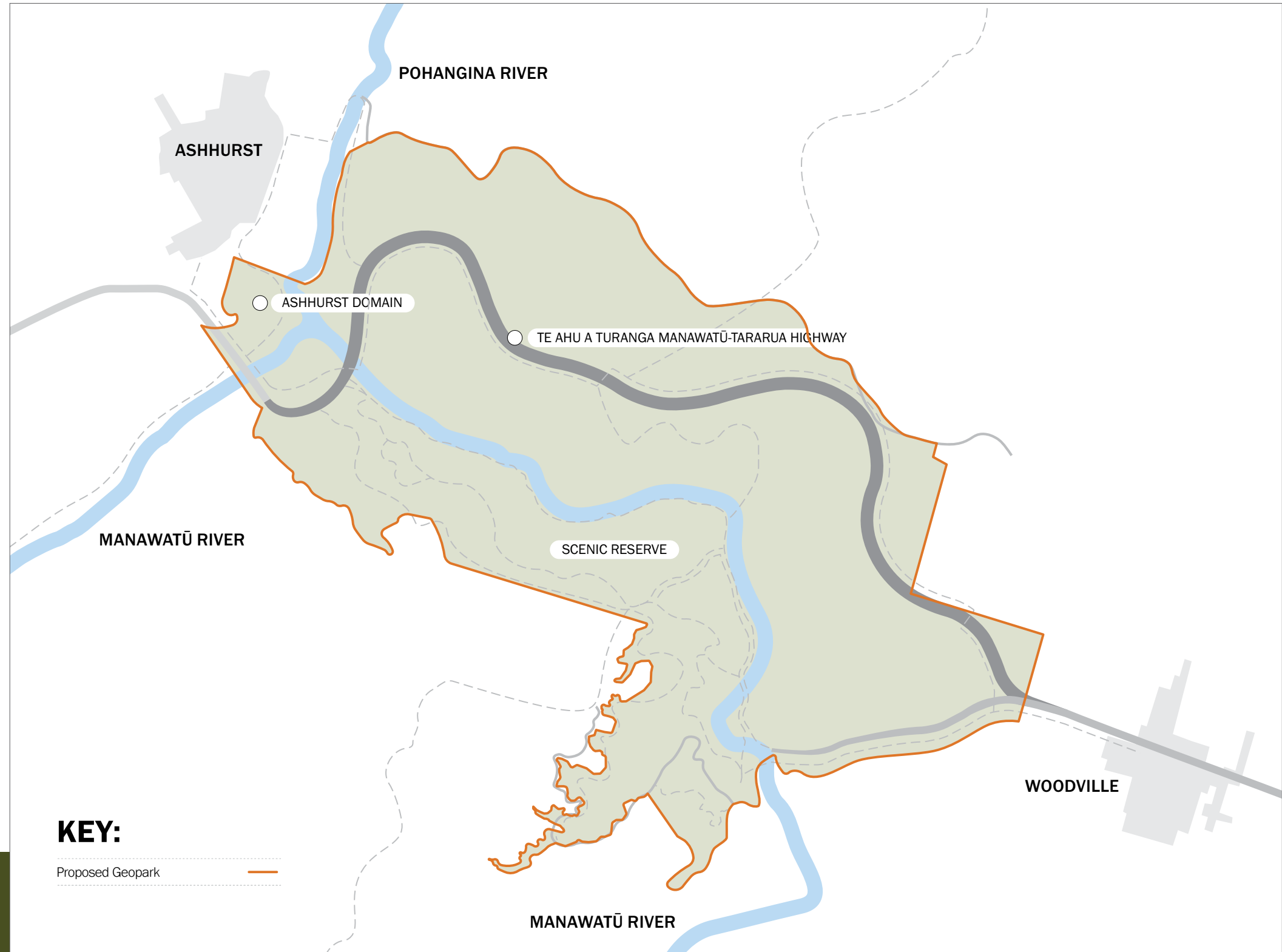


P4

# Proposed Unesco Geopark

A project raised by the Manawātū River Source to Sea group to promote and obtain UNESCO ‘Geopark’ status for Te Āpiti. If awarded the status would provide an additional layer of protection along with recognition on the international stage. This would have benefits for regional pride as well as increasing visitor numbers to the region.

PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM
Manawātū River Source to Sea	Iwi CEDA	Long



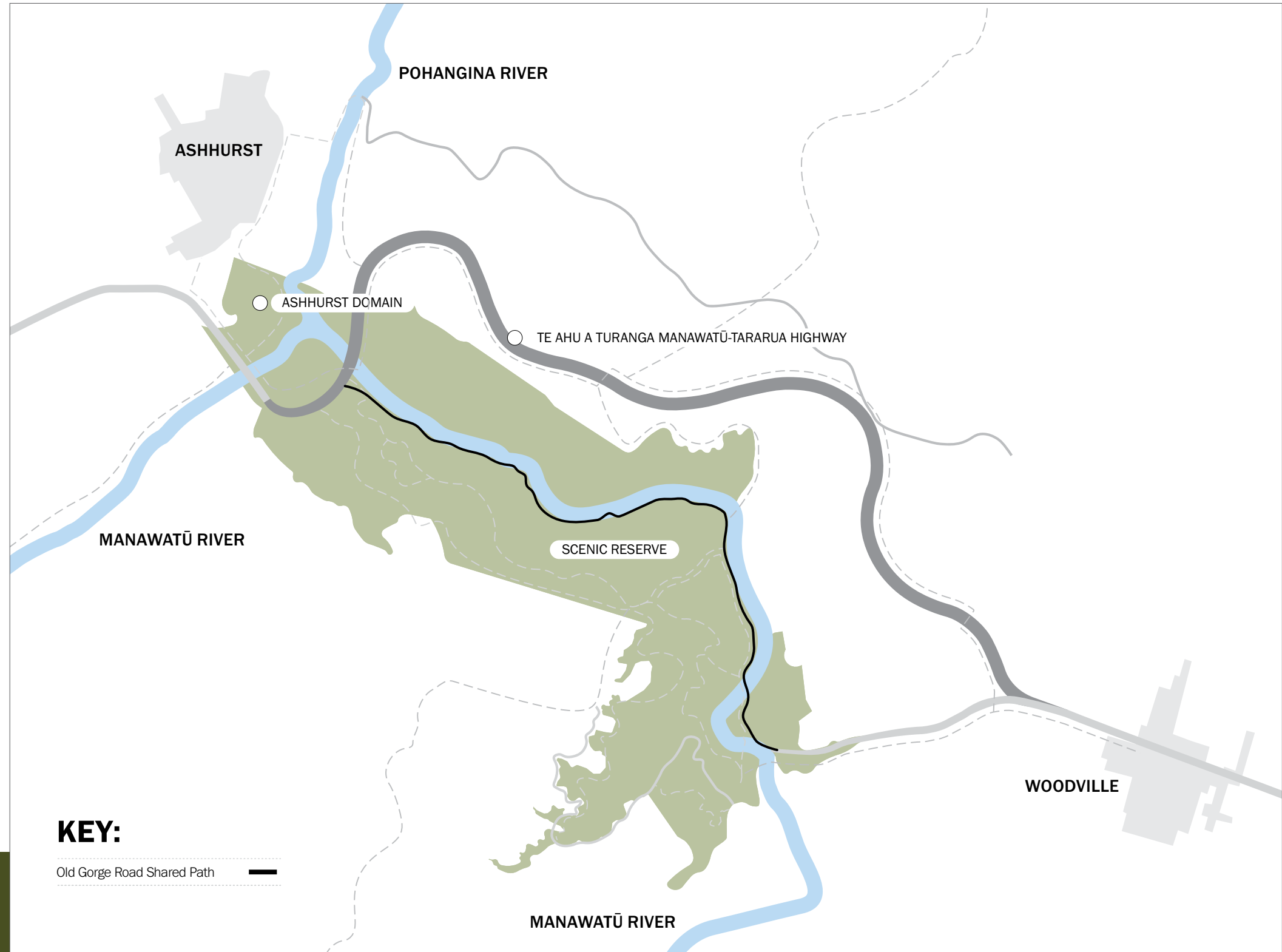


P5

Old Gorge Road Shared Path

The dedicated use of the 9km former road as a shared path linking both sides of the ranges. The project would provide flat access in an elevated position for all abilities with easy connections from the Gateway Park in the west, to the Ferry Reserve in the east. A suite of interpretive signage to showcase the unique cultural heritage – both Māori and European – would be developed and installed along the way.

PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM
TBC	Iwi CEDA PNCC Taranua DC DOC Waka Kotahi	Short



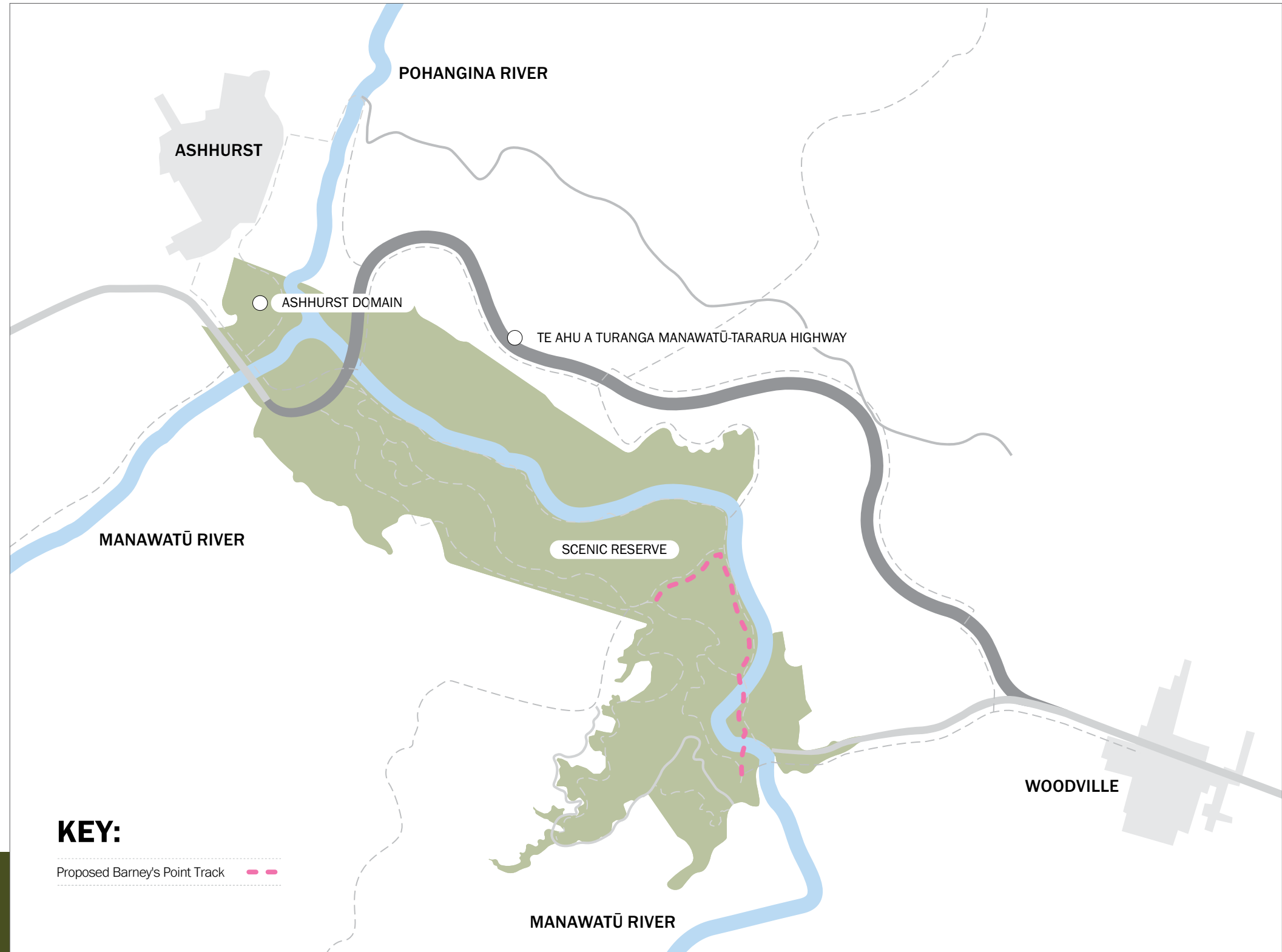


P6

Barney's Point Loop Track

This is an 8km walking track providing access near the eastern end of the old Gorge Road. The missing link in the proposal is to create, with the Department of Conservation, a new section of walking track leading down from Windy Point Look Out to Barney's Point. The track will showcase views of the gorge both from high above and at road level.

PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM
TBC	Iwi DOC CEDA Taranua DC	Short

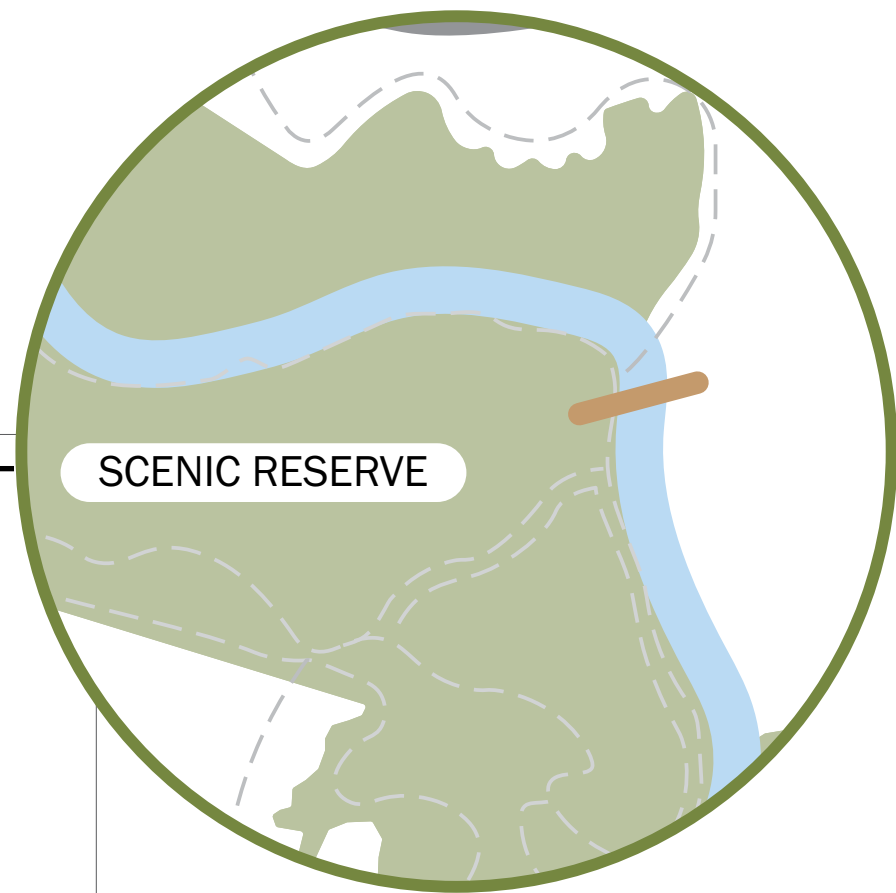
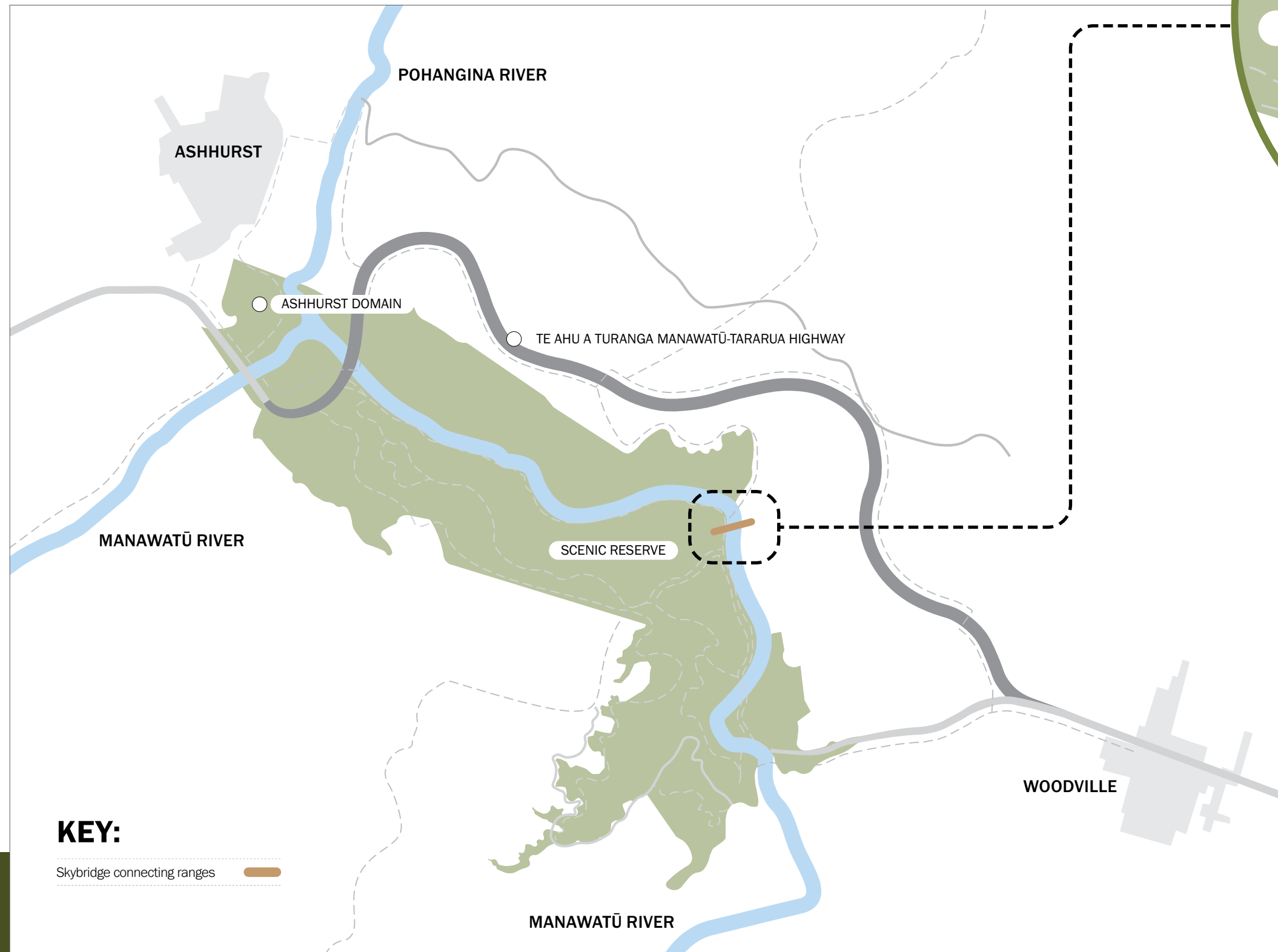




P7

Skybridge  
Connecting Ranges

A suspension bridge (around 200m long) located in an elevated position above the Manawatū River providing walking access between the Ruahine and Taranua Ranges. Sited near Barney's Point toward the eastern end of the gorge, the bridge provides a destination feature in and of itself but also provides a more direct access option through the area.



PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM
CEDA	Iwi Horizons DOC Kiwirail	Long



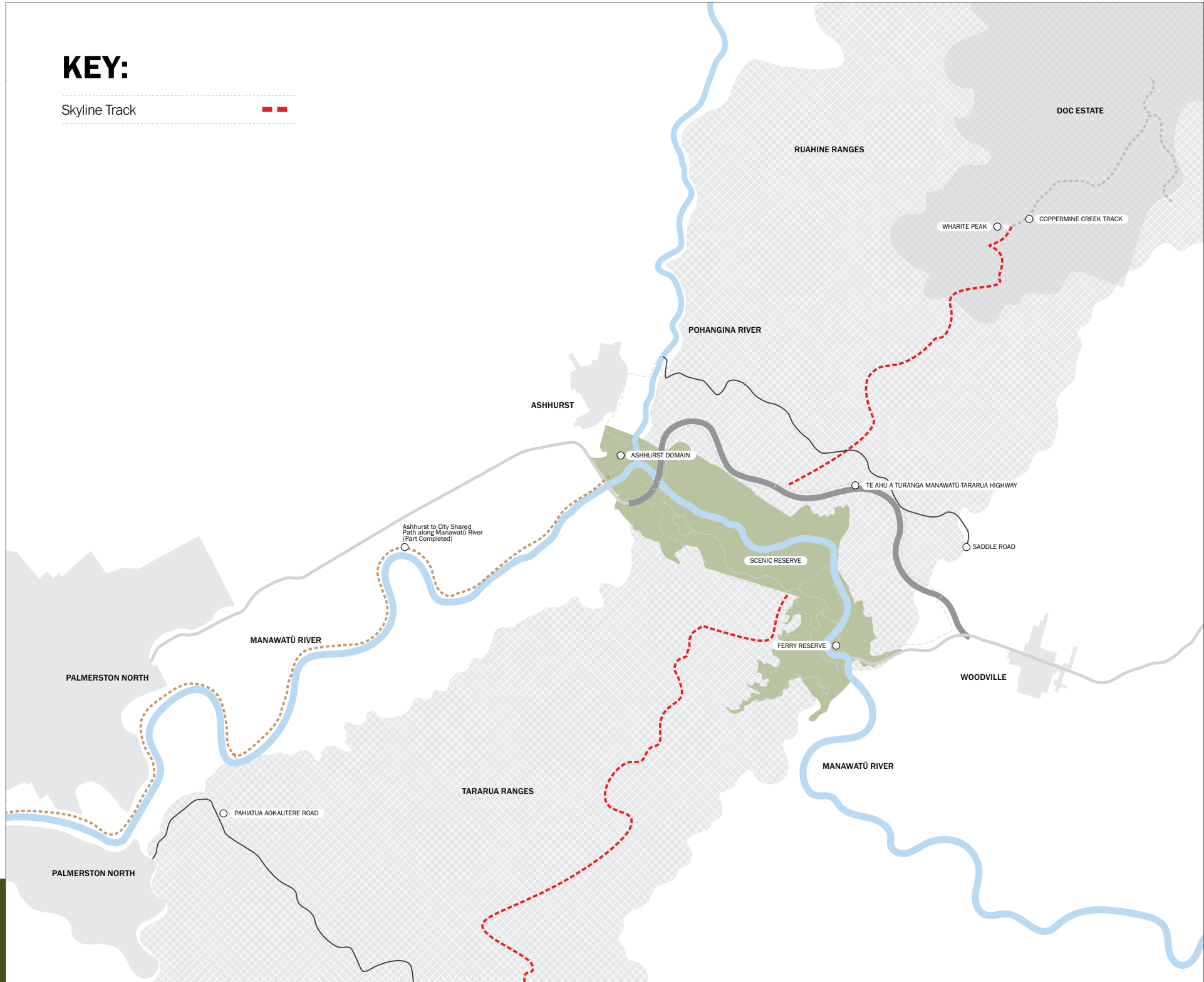


P8

Skyline  
Track

A 45km walking track extending along the Ruahine Ranges, from Wharite Peak north of Ashhurst through the Tararua Ranges to Arapuke Park south of Palmerston North. Showcasing iconic views of the region, the track will traverse a variety of landforms along the way. The track will connect into the Coppermine Creek track in the north and notably, Burttons Track in the south which is part of the Te Araroa trail leading all the way to Paraparaumu. It will use predominately existing publicly owned tracks or road reserve.

PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM
TBC	Iwi Horizons PNCC DOC CEDA Meridian Affected landowners Kiwirail	Medium

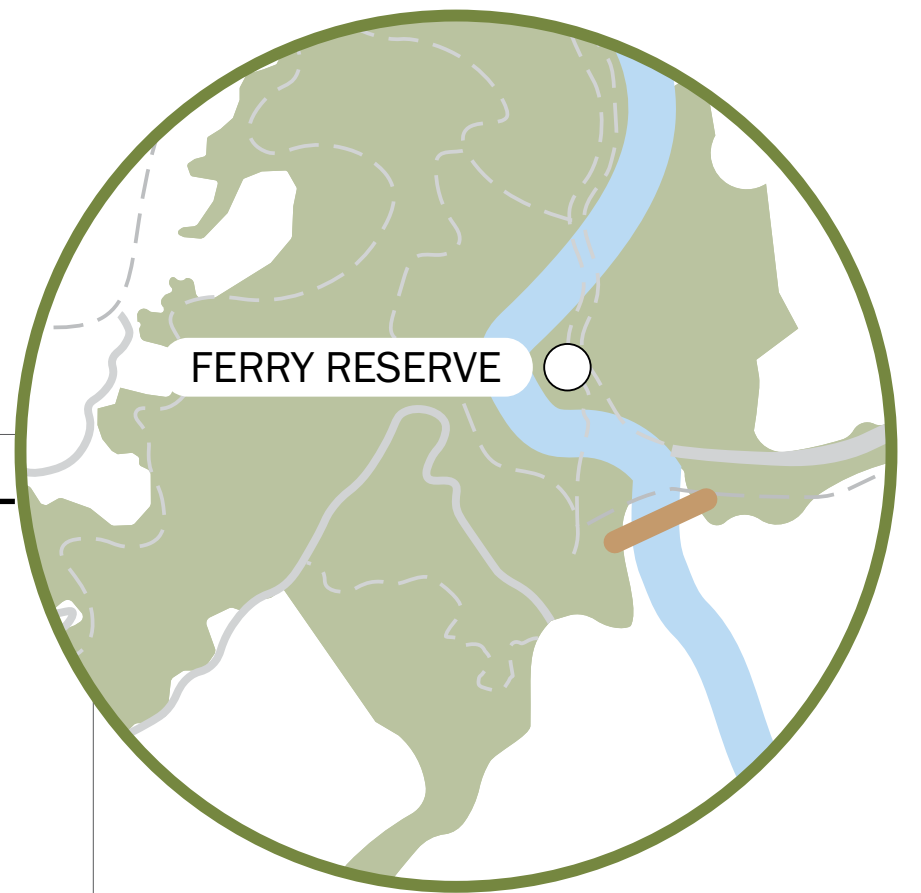
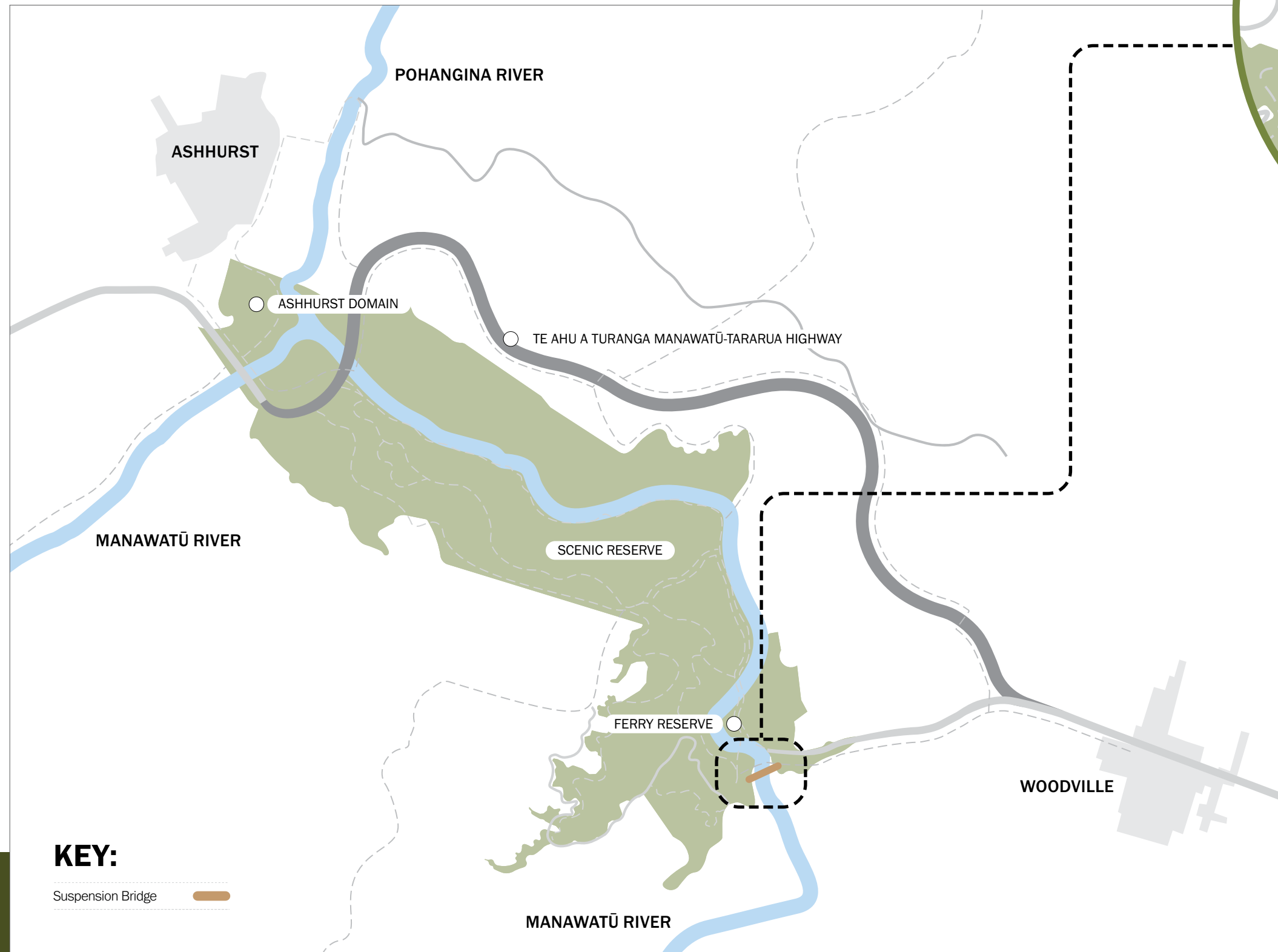




P9

Suspension Bridge

A suspension bridge (around 180m long) crossing over the Manawatū River in order to provide safe walking access to and from the Ferry Reserve as part of the Lindauer Trail. The bridge means users can avoid a particularly narrow stretch of the Napier Road which has very little shoulder width. The intention is the bridge would be a destination feature, easily accessed from the nearby scenic reserve.



PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM
Tararua DC	Iwi Horizons Woodville Doman Board	Long





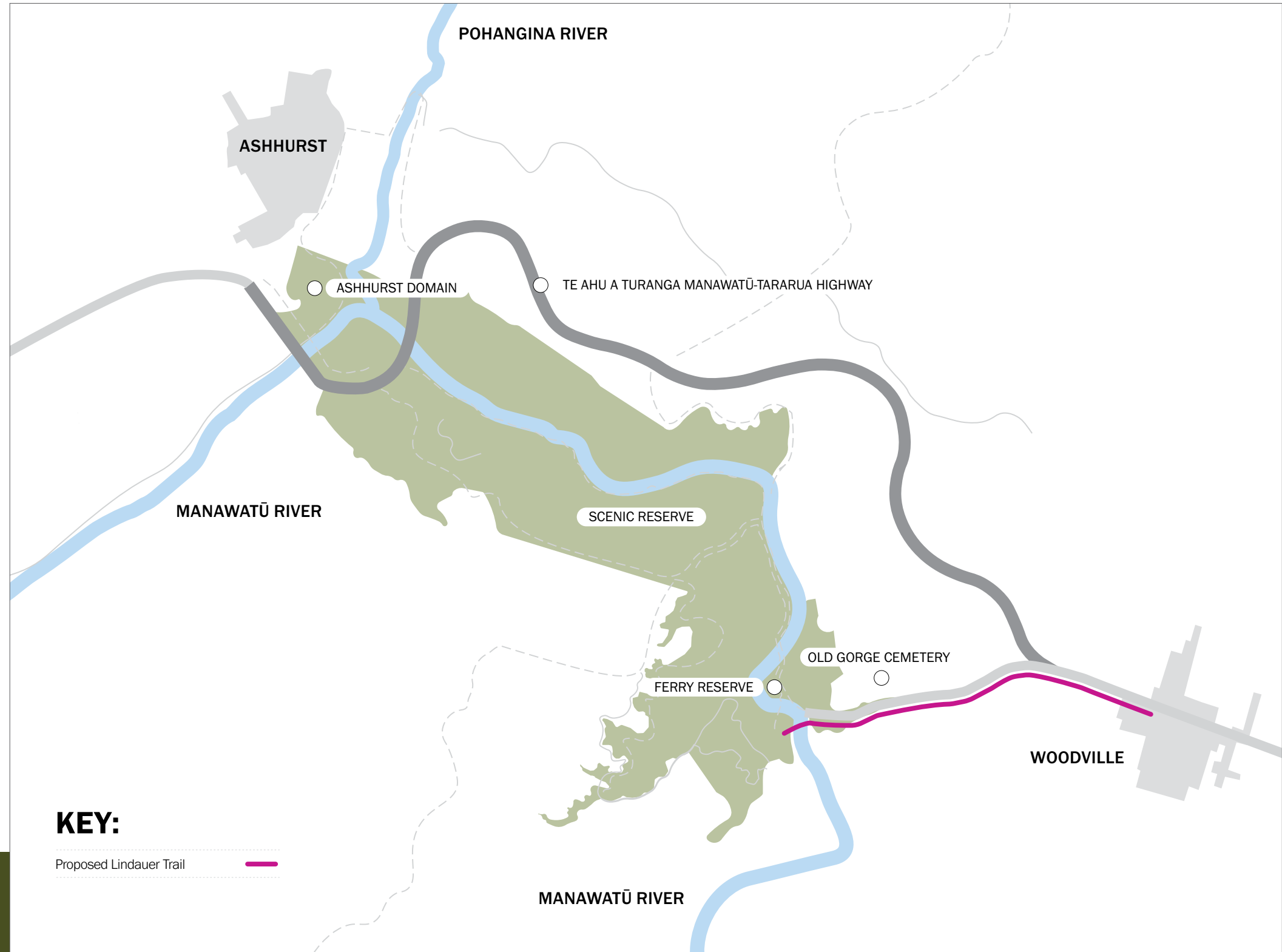
P10

Lindauer Trail

A 4km long shared path connecting Woodville to the Ferry Reserve on the eastern side of the Manawātū Gorge. The trail would also provide for a full 35km walking loop around both sides of the gorge by connecting the eastern end up. The trail is named in honour of the famous artist Gottfried

Lindauer who was buried in 1926 in the Old Gorge Cemetery which is along the route. The trail would include interpretive signage celebrating the life of Lindauer. A portion of the trail has already been constructed to Hampson Street on the western outskirts of Woodville.

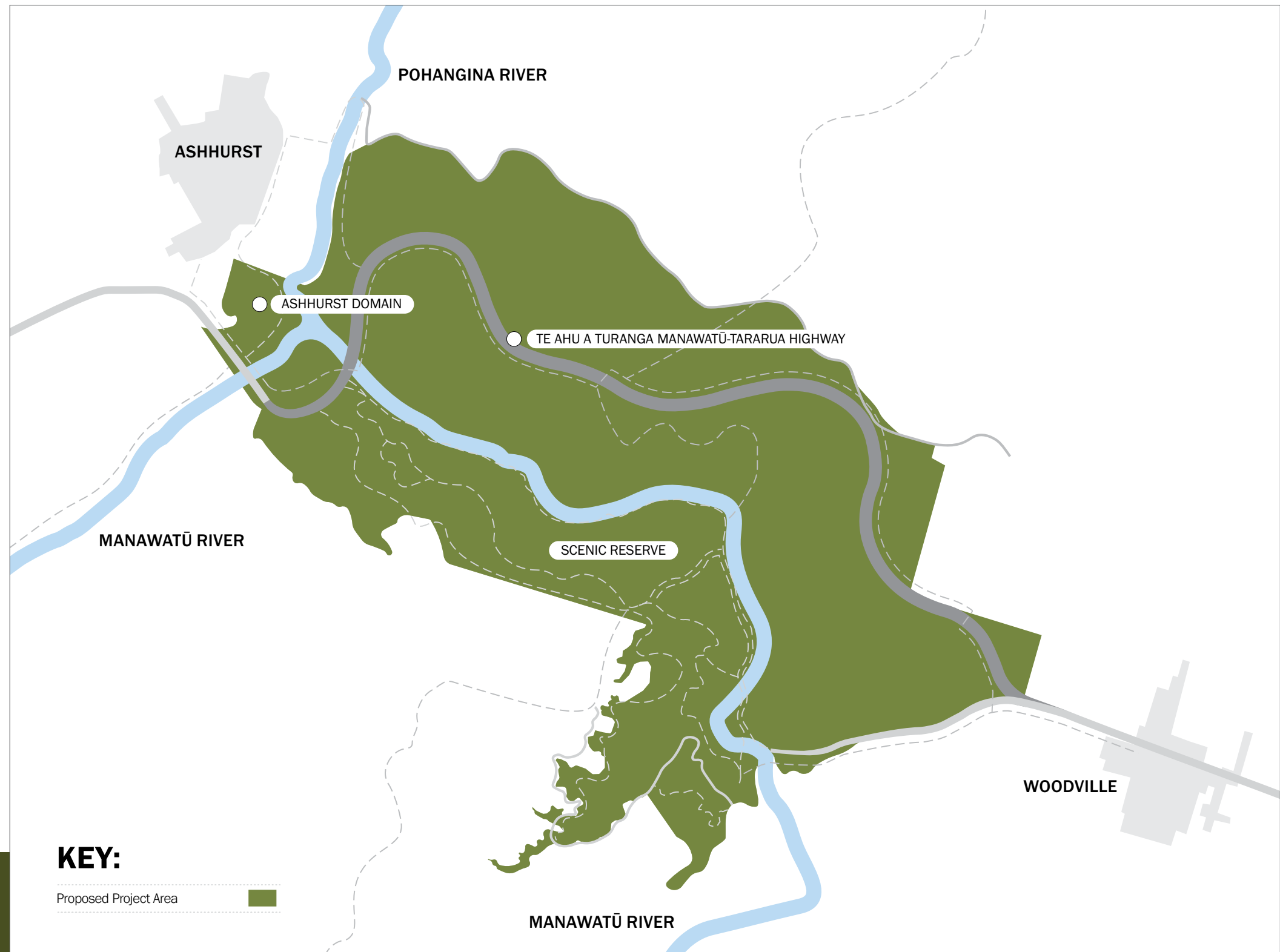
PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM
Taranua DC	Woodville Domain Board Waka Kotahi	Short





# P11 Proposed Rangitāne Projects

Rangitāne have a deep relationship with Te Āpiti extending many hundreds of years with the awa travelling through the area providing the mauri that sustains Iwi and the abundant biodiversity. They wish to develop a series of cultural projects to showcase their unique history and connection to the awa and whenua in a way that is mana enhancing and inclusive for all visitors where appropriate to do so. The projects will provide a platform for Iwi to both lead and participate in mahi, acting on opportunities that exist now, and those that arise through the delivery of the masterplan and the Waka Kotahi Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū - Tararua Highway project.



PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM
Iwi	CEDA Horizons DOC	Short / Medium / Long

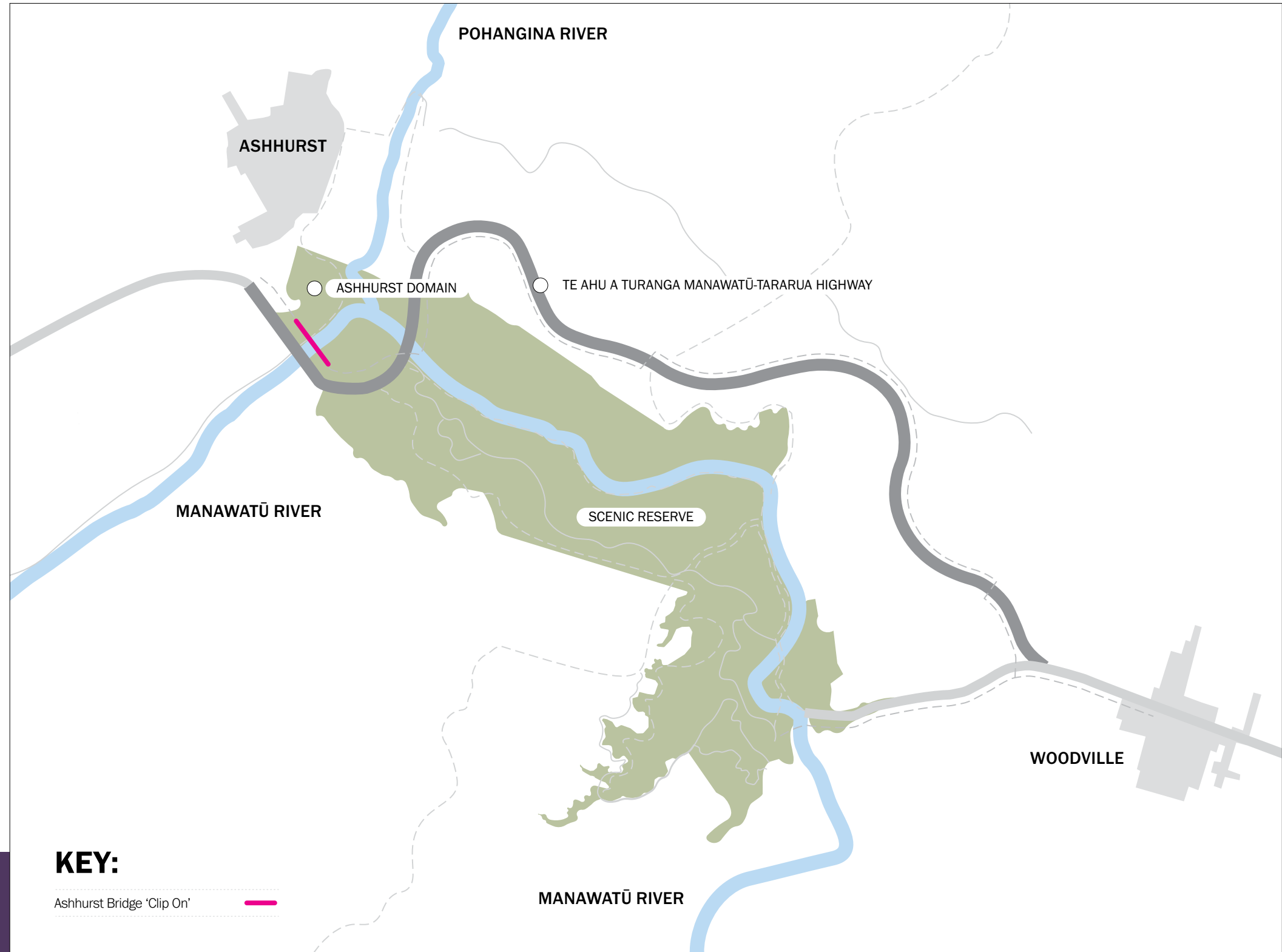




# C1 Ashhurst Bridge 'Clip On'

A 'clip on' structure attached to the northern side of the existing SH3 bridge over the Manawatū River will be constructed by Waka Kotahi. The 350m long structure will provide walkers and cyclists a safe facility to make their way between Ashhurst and the Gateway Park at the gorge. A look out area will be provided at its northern end along with a viewing platform halfway along the structure.

PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM
Waka Kotahi	Iwi PNCC Horizons TAMGGG	Short

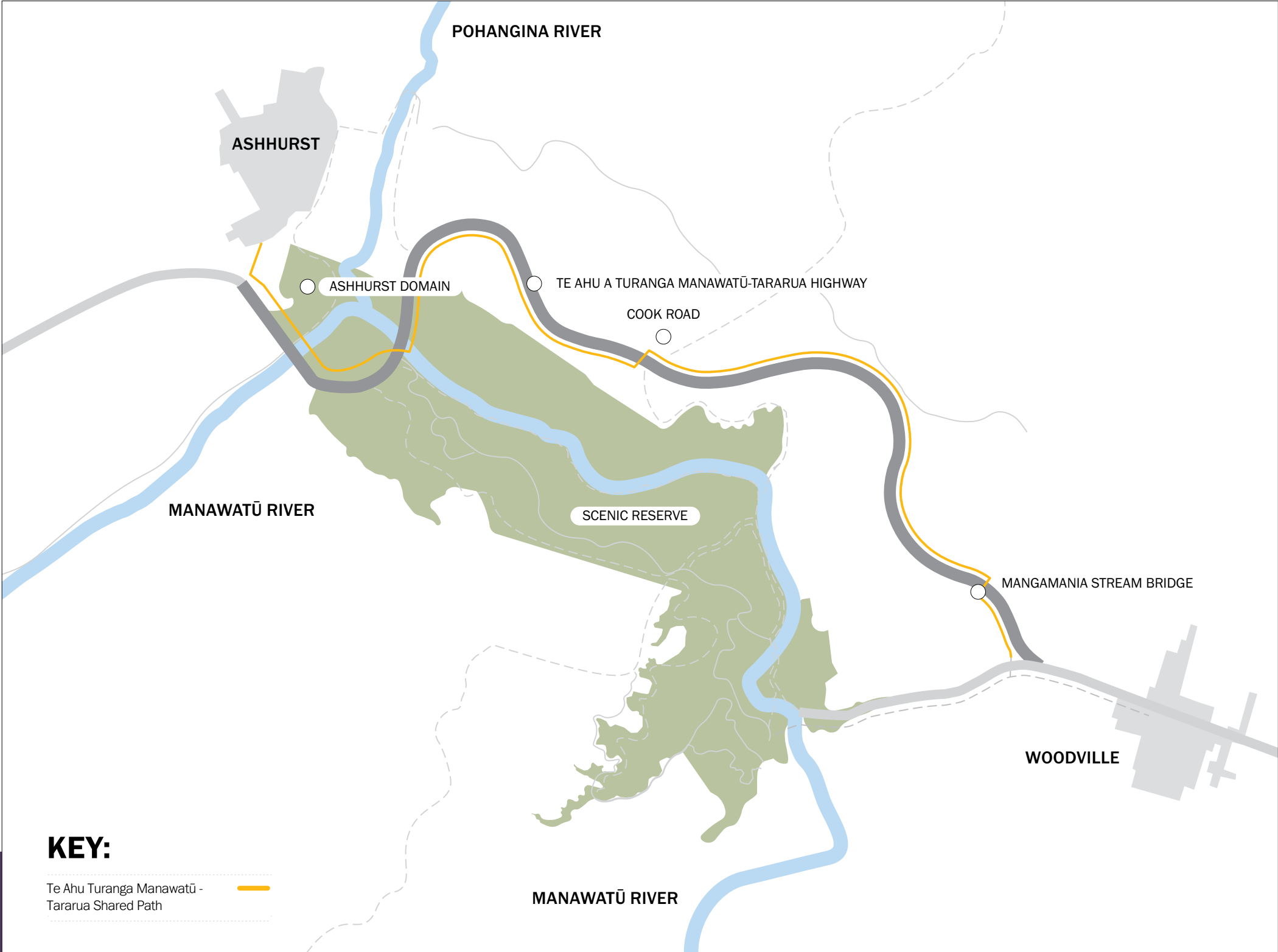




# Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū - Tararua Shared Path

A 12km separated shared path being constructed by Waka Kotahi will generally follow the alignment of the new Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū – Tararua Highway. The path will typically be 3m wide and include a sealed surface for durability and ease of use. The path will provide stunning views of both regions along with rest areas and interpretive signage installed as part of the experience. The path will act as the main spine across the Ruahine Ranges and will combine with the Manawatū Gorge Track and the future Lindauer Trail to provide a full loop around the gorge.

PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM
Waka Kotahi	Iwi PNCC Tararua DC CEDA TAMGGG	Short



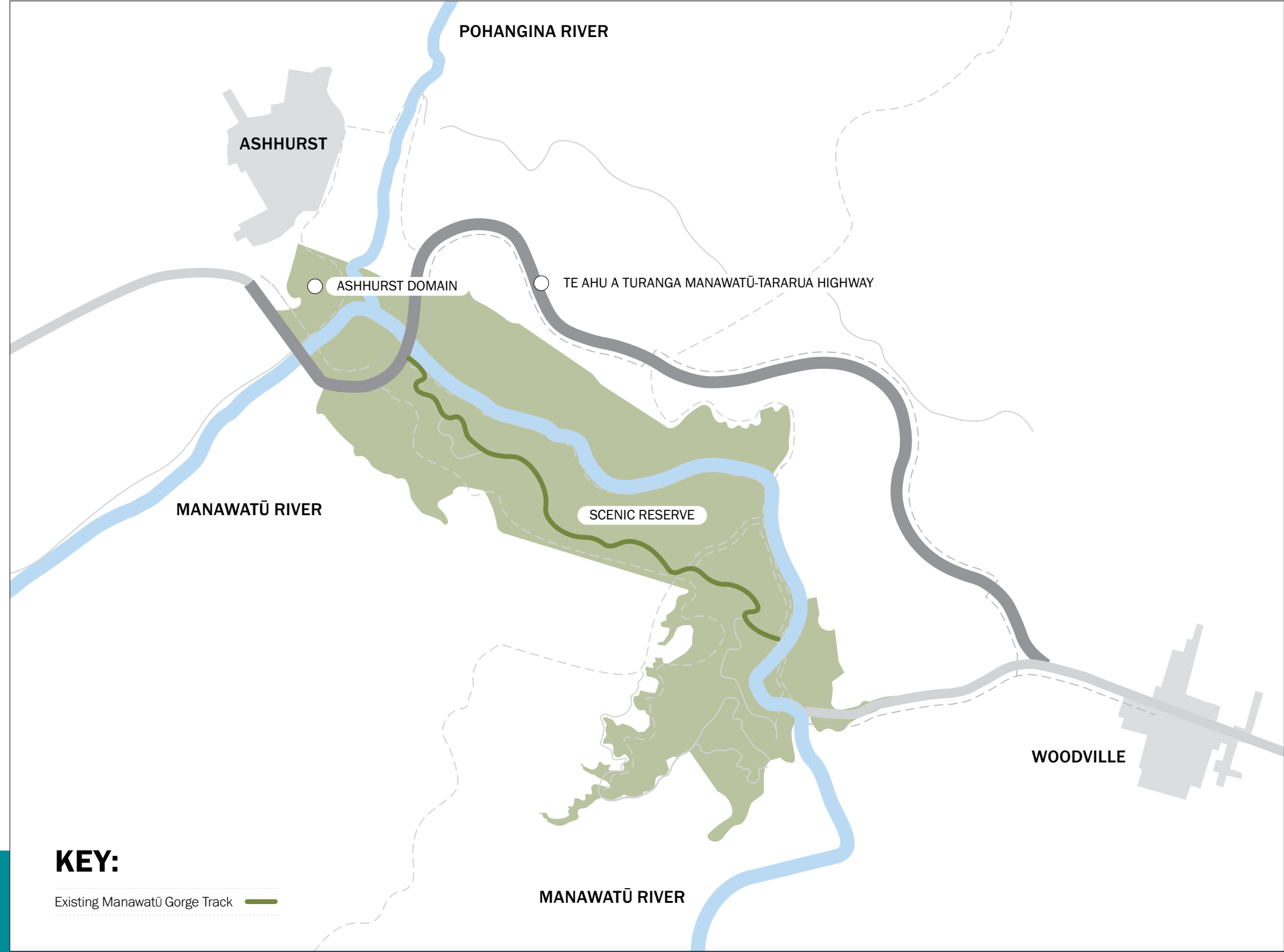


E1

Manawatū Gorge Track

The Manawatū Gorge Track is just over 11km long and spans the Tararua Ranges. It is located on the southern side of the gorge within the Department of Conservation's scenic reserve. It is a popular walking track due to its close proximity to Ashhurst and Palmerston North City and the beautiful native biodiversity on display. Stunning views of the gorge and beyond are possible along the way and while quite steep at either end, it is relatively accessible for a broad range of users.

PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM
DOC	Iwi TAMGGG	Existing

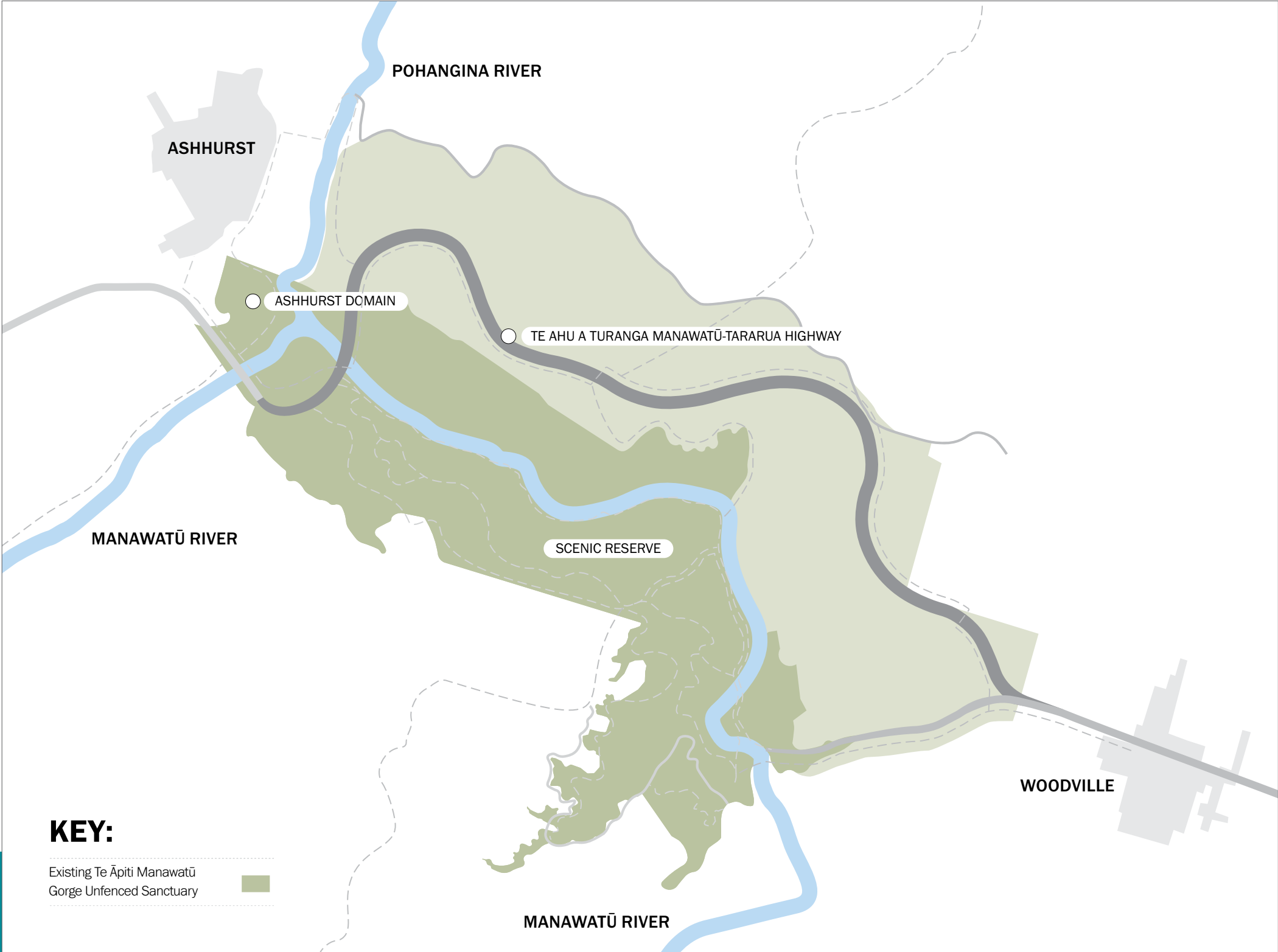




# Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge Unfenced Sanctuary

Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge is a biodiversity taonga. For many years, it has benefited from collaborative weed and pest animal control led by Horizons Regional Council and the Department of Conservation. This has occurred alongside restoration work undertaken by Iwi, community partners and other government agencies. The aspiration is to further enhance the biodiversity at this site, reducing pest numbers to a level where self-reintroductions and translocations of locally extinct species can occur.

PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM
TAMGGG	Iwi DOC Horizons	Existing (Sanctuary Component - Medium)



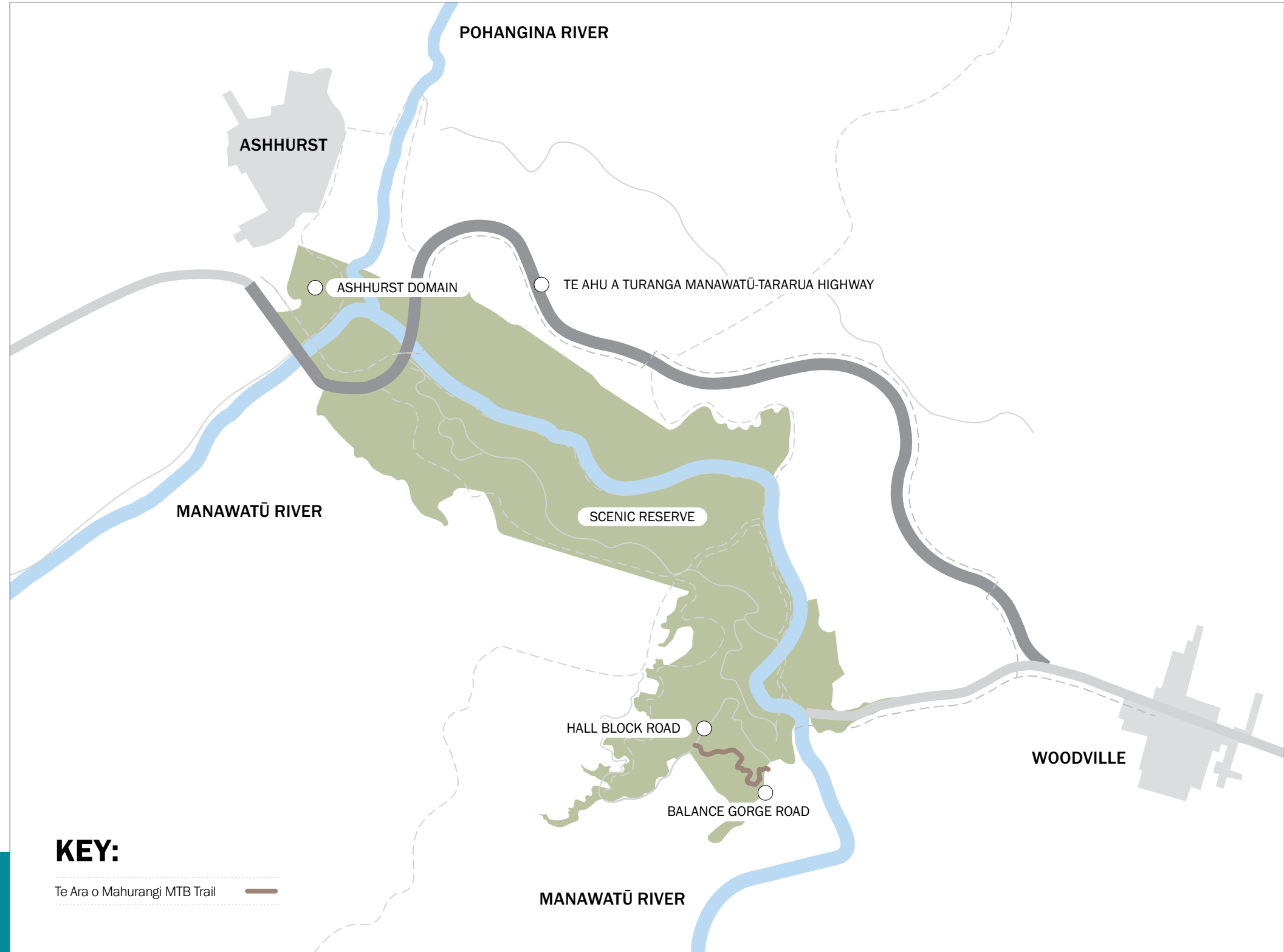


E3

Te Ara o Mahurangi  
 Mountain Bike Trail

This is a 3.6km dedicated mountain bike track with a 2km downhill section located on Hall Block Road on the eastern side of the Manawatū Gorge. It provides for intermediate to advanced riders in a native bush setting on the downhill section.

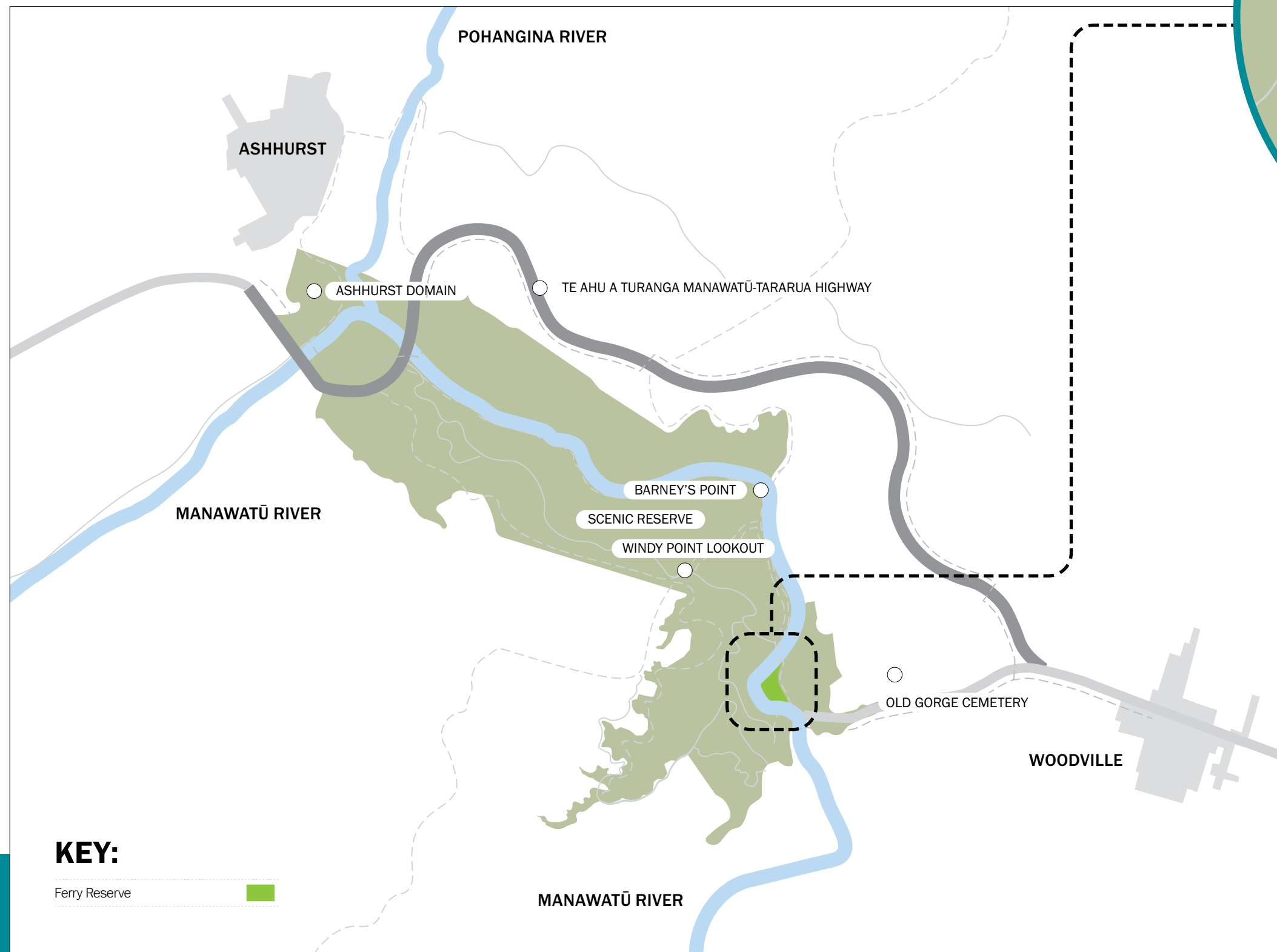
PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM
Manawatū Mountain Bike Club	TAMGGG	Existing





# E4 Visitor and Accommodation Hub East

The hub is centred at the popular Ferry Reserve located at the eastern end of the Manawatū Gorge. This beautiful 24ha reserve provides large flat areas, easy access to the Manawatū River and fantastic views of the native bush beyond. The reserve specifically allows freedom campers to stay there and has modern toilet and cooking facilities available for all users. Te Waha o te Kuri Whare (educational Kiosk) and a wetland walk are also key features at the reserve.



## KEY:

Ferry Reserve



PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT PARTNERS	DELIVERY TERM
Woodville Domain Board	Tararua DC Iwi	Existing





# APPENDIX 5 - Record of Key Engagement Forums

Date	Forum	Parties	Content
02/12/21	Virtual Meeting on Parahaki Island (MS Teams)	Rob Karaitiana (Te Ahu Whenua Chair)	Provided highlights package description of masterplan and key projects map. Rob provided background on the history of the island and vision to improve its mana. The Trust is working with Waka Kotahi on biodiversity enhancements to be delivered as part of the Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū - Tararua Highway project.
26/11/21	Key Stakeholder Workshop 2 (Virtual – MS Teams)	PNCC (1 rep), Horizons (2), DOC (1), TDC (4), MDC (1)	Full final draft document presented. Broad support of approach. Detail points around increasing prominence of the awa in body of text and possible ‘Great Walk’ status of the full 35km loop.
25/11/21	Key Stakeholder Workshop 1 (Virtual – MS Teams)	Iwi (2 reps – Ngati Kahungunu & Rangitāne Tamaki nui a rua), PNCC (4), Horizons (2), CEDA (1), Source to Sea (1), Waka Kotahi (2)	Full final document presented. Broad support of approach. Detail points around funding arrangements, boundaries of the area, avoiding ad hoc development, and speaking to Parahaki Island trustees. Waka Kotahi noted the large size of the Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū - Tararua Highway road designation corridor would be reduced to only include what they need once the road is operating. On the future of the old Gorge Road (9km section that as been permanently closed) they noted an investigation phase into options is currently taking place and will assess if safe access can be provided and what may need to be done to enable this.
03/11/21	Biodiversity Cluster meeting (hosted by Environmental Network Manawatū St Marks Church, College Street, PN)	Approx 10 representing a variety of interests	General support for project. Interest in future ownership status of Old Gorge Road and future use. Query whether the area could become a ‘Dark Sky Reserve’.
01/11/21	Stakeholder Workshop (Virtual – MS Teams)	DOC (3)	Draft Masterplan presented. Broad support of approach. Detail queries around the desired outcomes and clarification of the ‘high level’ or aspirational aspects of the plan. Discussion around whether delivery of projects would be a requirement of the plan (no). Discussion around the recreational focus of the projects (noted that biodiversity enhancement through continued roll out of existing pest management). Detail point around the extent of fencing to be used to protect sections of the reserve.
10/06/21	TAMGGG meeting (at Horizons)	16 representatives of member organisations	Summary document presented. Broad support of approach. Targeted comments around wording to do with Iwi, reshaping vision and objectives with a partnership focus and to use term ‘visitor’ instead of ‘tourism’ in document.
21/05/21	Stakeholder Workshop (at PNCC)	TDC (1), MDC (1), DOC (2), PNCC (2), Horizons (3) reps	Summary document presented. Broad support of approach. Reduced objectives from 8 to 4 total to make more concise, included updates to values to better represent mental and physical benefits of recreation.
10/12/20	TAMGGG meeting (at Horizons)	20 representatives of member organisations	Summary document presented. Broad support of approach. Dual naming of signage with Te Reo first. Need explanation of where masterplan sits in relation to commercial activities.
03/12/20	Key Stakeholder Workshop 2 (Virtual - Zoom)	TDC (1), Horizons (1), Landowner (1), CEDA (1), Rangitāne (1), PNCC (1), Xyst (1)	Summary document presented. Broad support of approach. Detail points around connection to Lindauer Trail, the area being one section of the awa and needing to fit other policy guidance, underselling area from cultural education standpoint, Te Āpiti is co-partnership model, getting Old Road online for walk/cycle should be top priority, better coordination across the parties would be useful, spread offering across the site, plenty of opportunity for external funding, area plays role attractive workers to region, set up ‘Friends of Te Āpiti’ group, love free access to nature, support outdoor classroom approach.

02/12/20	Key Stakeholder Workshop 1 (Virtual - Zoom)	TDC (1), CEDA (1), PNCC (1), DOC (1),	Summary document presented. Broad support of approach. Detailed points around having iconic feature at eastern end, strong biodiversity focus of Gorge, not set up for MTB, H&S issues with Old Gorge Road use, difficulty with predator proof fence; target audience regional/ national, exciting projects planned, achieve sustainable tourism model with Iwi.
07/10/20	Biodiversity Cluster meeting (hosted by Environmental Network Manawatū at Queen Street, PN)	Approx 15 representing variety of interests	General support for project. Interest in ongoing weed/pest control by Horizons/DOC.
23/04/20	TAMGGG meeting (via Zoom during Covid Lockdown)	20 representatives of member organisations	Brief update provided as part of meeting pack.
12/02/20	Rangitāne and PNCC Bi-monthly meeting (at PNCC)	Various attendees (approx 10)	High level update. Iwi reiterated position to be involved in mahi, noted that the awa is connecting force and noted existing plans along the awa downstream.
WEEKEND OF 22/23 OF 06/19	CEDA weekend event with tourism operators visiting Te Āpiti	Approx 15 (Independent industry experts including tour operators)	Comments on general area (some prompted informal discussion on the masterplan). Participants took train ride through Gorge, all admired beauty of it, they particularly enjoyed hosted walk up Tawa Loop by Iwi, general feeling of area being undeveloped in terms of facilities. Opportunities noted in the eco-tourism model with cultural, natural forces, environmental sustainability, multi-modal and ‘off the beaten’ track themes.
LATE 2018 THROUGH 2019	NZTA Waka Kotahi Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū-Tararua Highway Designation process	Numerous – 700 submissions, then Hearing held with representations from key local organisations. (Submissions predominately focussed on getting a shared path built as part of the project).	Draft masterplan highlights and map were included as part of recreation evidence of Jeff Baker, PNCC Senior Planner.
15/11/18	Te Āpiti Hui with Rangitāne o Manawatū and Rangitane Tamaki nui-ā-rua (at the Tū Te Manawa Whare at Ferry Reserve).	7 reps from both groups	Wide ranging kōrero on cultural significance of Te Āpiti. Opportunities for Iwi to be involved in mahi in public and private ventures, whether as leading work, or being part of it.
05/09/18	Biodiversity Cluster meeting (hosted by Environmental Network Manawatū at Queen Street, PN)	Approx 15 representing variety of interests	General support for project. Discussion around new Manawatū-Tararua Highway and future of Old Gorge Road.
18/06/18	TAMGGG meeting (at Horizons)	Approx 16 representatives of member organisations	Powerpoint presented recommending way forward. The approach received broad support. (Note: Shortly after this time work on Masterplan was scaled back to wait and see how the new NZTA Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū - Tararua Highway proposal would impact outcomes in the area).



# APPENDIX 6 - Reference Documents

Topic	Reference document	Brief
General	Manawatū River Framework (PNCC 2016)	Sets out framework for enhancement of the Manawatū River. Te Āpiti identified as 'Gateway River Environment'.
	Manawatū River Plan 2021-2031 (PNCC 2021)	Outlines the policy context and programmes proposed to enhance the river environment.
	Te Āpiti Tourism Potential (Fresh Info for CEDA 2019)	Independent report investigates the potential to transform Te Āpiti into a major tourism destination offering a cluster of high-quality visitor experiences
	Te Āpiti – Manawatū Gorge Business Case (Rob Campbell for CEDA 2020)	Report identifying key infrastructure attractions that have the potential to cement Te Āpiti both as a destination and a recreational resource.
	Cultural and Environmental Design Framework (NZTA Waka Kotahi 2020)	The design response for the Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū - Tararua Highway project built on a design philosophy of a whole-of-landscape approach and the idea of Landscape Gateways.
	Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge Tu Au-rere-a-te-tonga – (Michele Frey published 2019)	A history of Te Āpiti compiled by Michele Frey with other contributing writers.
	Manawatū Destination Management Plan 2025 (Draft document for CEDA 2022)	Sets the strategic direction for the city and regions' visitor sector, with a view to growing visitor activity and value for the benefit of our communities.
1. Culture	Manawatū Gorge - Cultural Values Assessment (Patrick Parsons for Department of Conservation 2015)	Detailed description and assessment of the cultural values in the Manawatū Gorge.
	Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016	Sets out the statutory acknowledgement and associated provisions relating to the settlement.
	Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua Claims Settlement Act 2017	Sets out the statutory acknowledgement and associated provisions relating to the settlement.
	Arts and Heritage Plan 2021-31 (PNCC 2021)	To ensure Rangitāne o Manawatū history and aspirations are expressed in the city landscape.
	Eco City Strategy 2021-31 (PNCC 2021)	Respect and enhance the mauri of the Manawatū River. Work with Iwi and community groups to re-establish bush, particularly along waterways.
	Preliminary Cultural Impact Assessment for Parahaki Island (Rob Karaitiana, Chair of Te Āpiti Ahu Whenua Trust 2020)	Prepared for Waka Kotahi Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū - Tararua Highway process the CIA sets out the Trust's background, interests and aspirations for the area.
	Ngati Kahungunu Te Ahu a Turanga Cultural Impact Assessment February 2020	Prepared for Waka Kotahi Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū - Tararua Highway process the CIA sets out their background, interests and aspirations for the area.
2. Environment	Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (Department of Conservation 2019)	Integrates national and local conservation priorities at particular places and identifies desired outcomes for places that are special to tangata whenua and communities. In particular the Manawatū Gorge Walk is identified as a 'Gateway Destination' and the landform is identified as nationally significant 'Geological feature, landform and landscape in the Wellington Region'.
	Manawatū Gorge Biodiversity Plan (Groundtruth Ltd for Horizons 2017)	Detailed assessment of the biodiversity values of the Manawatū Gorge and the setting of priorities over a five year period.
	Te Āpiti Preliminary Landscape Values Assessment (WSP for PNCC 2020)	Provides a high-level overview of the landscape values; its principal intent being to identify, assess and rank the landscape values relevant to Te Āpiti.
	Into the Gorge (Horizons & Department of Conservation 2008)	Implementation programme of the Manawatū Gorge Project.
	Environmental Sustainability Plan 2021-31 (PNCC 2021)	Broad district-wide strategy for biodiversity priorities over the 10-year period.
	Te Apiti Manawatū Translocation Plan (Parker Conservation for TAMGGG 2019)	As part of understanding what route ecological restoration should take within the area the report provides six options for pest control to facilitate the translocation of circa 30 bird, reptile, amphibian, invertebrate, plant and bat species.
3. Recreation	Active Communities Plan 2021-31 (PNCC 2021)	Sets out the policy framework and programmes for the City to be one of the most active communities in New Zealand.
	Tararua District Visitor and Walk-Cycle Strategy and Action Plan (Henley Hutchings for TDC 2019)	The independent report identifies how Tararua's destination development and management opportunities may be enhanced. Te Āpiti experiences including the development of the Lindauer Trail identified as a priority for cycle trails and walkways.
	Manawatū Gorge Mountain Bike Trails Business Case (TRC for Department of Conservation 2016)	Sets out options for developing mountain biking in Manawatū Gorge based on detailed field assessment work to explore potential trail alignments and infrastructure and support services.
4. Education	Environmental Sustainability Plan 2021-31 (PNCC 2021)	Identifies environmental education targeting schools, early childhood education and the general public as part of goal for city to become an 'Eco city'.
	Creative & Liveable City Strategy 2021-31 (PNCC 2021)	Work closely with Rangitāne o Manawatū to support it to be kaitiaki of its heritage places and to increase the wider community's understanding and appreciation of Rangitāne o Manawatū heritage.
5. Leadership	Palmerston North District Plan, Tararua District Plan, Manawatū District Plan, Horizons One Plan – including associated Long-Term Plans for each Council	All set out the resource management framework for land, air, water activities across the two regions. All set out the direction of each Council in terms of how they manage, maintain and development their natural, built and social infrastructure responsibilities.
	Manawatū River Leaders Accord (Horizons live from 2010)	Sets a collective ambition for the protection and enhancement of Manawatū River. Identifies Tū Te Manawa project aimed at reconnecting people with the awa and generating interest in citizen science and appreciation of the awa.
	Manawatū – Whanganui Growth Study (MPI & MBIE 2015)	Explores eight opportunities to achieve growth in investment, incomes and employment by sector. First one relates to tourism and visitor services. Document later references Manawatū Gorge mountain biking and walking tracks as an opportunity to promote and grow visitors.
	Manawatū – Whanganui Economic Action Plan (Accelerate25 2016)	Also identifies 'Tourism and Visitor Services' as a key opportunity. A 'Manawatū Gorge Cycle Trail' is identified as an immediate priority for a business case in 2016/17.