



Te Kawa o Te Urewera

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Questions and Answers

Where will this Te Kawa apply?

This Te Kawa formally applies to the previous Te Urewera National Park territory now vested in Te Urewera. It also includes Lake Waikaremoana, whose lakebed is owned by the Tūhoe Charitable Trust and the Wairoa Waikaremoana Trust Board, and has been leased to the Crown and managed by the Department of Conservation. The Department of Conservation on behalf of the Crown endorses the consistent application of Te Kawa to both Te Urewera and Lake Waikaremoana.

What is the role of Te Urewera Board?

Te Urewera Board is the body that represents Te Urewera and is responsible for acting for it under Te Urewera Act. Te Urewera Board currently has eight members, four appointed by Tūhoe and four appointed by the Crown, and makes decisions by consensus. The Board is responsible for preparing Te Kawa o Te Urewera in order to give effect to the purpose of Te Urewera Act.

The current board members are: Tāmati Kruger (Chairman), Dave Bamford, Rt Hon Jim Bolger, Jo Breese, Martin Rakuraku Te Pou, Lorna Taylor, Te Tokawhakāea Tēmara and Dr John Wood.

Has Te Kawa been finalised?

Te Urewera Board has released its draft of Te Kawa o Te Urewera. Public submissions are open until 5pm 20 July 2017. The Board will consider submissions and submit the final plan to the Minister of Conservation and the trustees of Tūhoe Te Uru Taumatua, who will decide together whether to recommend it is adopted by the Board.



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How does Te Kawa o Te Urewera fit in with Te Urewera Act?

Te Urewera Act established and preserves in perpetuity a legal identity and protected status for Te Urewera for its intrinsic worth, its distinctive natural and cultural values, the integrity of those values, and for its national importance. In particular the Act is intended:

- to strengthen and maintain the connection between Tūhoe and Te Urewera;
- to preserve as far as possible the natural features and beauty of Te Urewera, the integrity of its indigenous ecological systems and biodiversity, and its historical and cultural heritage; and
- to provide for Te Urewera as a place for public use and enjoyment, for recreation, learning, and spiritual reflection, and as an inspiration for all.

Te Urewera Act requires that Te Kawa sets objectives and policies for Te Urewera necessary to achieve these purposes. Te Kawa o Te Urewera does that by describing the living system of Te Urewera, establishing clear and connected principles and inviting tanata whenua and manuhiri, acting in unity to manage our impact on Te Urewera with the sense of responsibility it is due. Te Kawa will guide the Board and be given effect to through the operational plans, annual priorities and allowed activities and use terms, among others, described in Te Urewera Act.

Does Te Kawa affect public access?

No. Public access for recreation, education and cultural purposes is guaranteed in Te Urewera Act, and love of manuhiri (visitors) is an intrinsic part of Te Urewera expressed in Te Kawa. Te Kawa encourages providing for those who want to have a deeper relationship with Te Urewera. It guides the board to open dialogue looking at ways to provide more information about Tūhoe practices and culture for those who wish to educate themselves, opportunities for visitors to introduce themselves to Tūhoe, and to work together on restorative projects.

Te Urewera Board will consider the purpose of Te Kawa when authorising commercial activity or other activity that could impact the living system of Te Urewera.

How does Te Kawa affect rules for licenced recreational activities in Te Urewera?

Te Kawa does not set out rules. It sets out principles for Te Urewera, with a focus on bringing people closer to Te Urewera. In developing how those principles are applied through the Te Urewera Board's decision making, priority statements and operational management plans, the Board will seek the views of the many groups and individuals who have history and connections with Te Urewera, including recreational groups.



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How will Te Kawa affect concessions in Te Urewera?

The existing concessions regime, for commercial and large scale activities within Te Urewera was previously administered by the Department of Conservation, and was transferred to Te Urewera Board in 2014. The associated processes under Te Kawa for approving, monitoring and adapting concessions will have similarities to the existing regime and designed to meet new standards for impact on Te Urewera.

Concessions such as leases, licences, permits and easements will be known as “Friendship Agreements” to reflect the fact the wellbeing of Te Urewera as a living system is at the heart of these relationships. These agreements will bring opportunities for those seeking a livelihood or undertaking an activity with a non-trivial impact on the environment, and will have to be consistent with Te Kawa in demonstrating an understanding of how activities affect Te Urewera, and providing means of remedying, avoiding or mitigating adverse effects on Te Urewera.