

PART 2 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

THE DISTRICT, INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Papakura District covers an area of 12,000 hectares comprising suburban development and extensive rural areas. It is bounded to the north by the Papakura Stream and the low, folded hills of the Brookby-Whitford area. To the east, the District takes in the western portion of the Clevedon Valley as well as encompassing the western foothills of the Hunua Ranges. In the south, the District is generally defined by the Maketu, Hingaia and Oira Streams with part of the administrative boundary of the District formed by the alignment of the North Island Main Trunk railway. In the west, the boundary of the District is the upper reaches of the Pahurehure and Drury Creek inlets of the Manukau Harbour.

Politically, Papakura is bounded in the north and east by Manukau City and in the west, south and east by Franklin District. Papakura District forms part of the Auckland Regional Council area and is a focus of the region's rural/urban interface.

The District contains centres of commercial activity at Takanini, Papakura Central, Pahurehure and Drury, along with a number of local centres. Specialised activity nodes include Ardmore Aerodrome and two quarries situated at Hunua and Drury.

The District of Papakura extends over a much greater area than previously and encompasses rural and urban areas formerly under different territorial control. This amalgamation has brought with it a need to consider broad issues over a broad area. The social and economic links between rural and urban need to be made clear and precise strategies need to be developed to unify, within a resource management framework, a District which has already been unified in an administrative framework following local government re-organisation.

2.2 INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Papakura District comprises two identifiable parts. It has a large rural area which is characterised by activities such as pastoral farming, horticulture and the breeding and training of horses interspersed with countryside living. The area is becoming home to a wider range of activities such as home enterprises, and small scale tourist accommodation. While the rural area still retains many of the visual and amenity values of a traditional rural area, it faces threats from inappropriate land use and subdivision. There are opportunities to enhance the amenity values of the rural area, particularly by protecting and enhancing the margins of waterways and coastal areas, as well as protecting and enhancing areas of vegetation within the rural parts of the district.

Parts of the rural areas of the District have been identified as future growth areas by the Auckland Regional Growth Strategy. These areas are on the Hingaia Peninsula and in the area around Takanini. The future development of these areas extends beyond the life of this District Plan and it is vital that these areas are adequately identified and managed through the provisions of the Plan to ensure that their future development in a comprehensive, strategic manner is not adversely affected or compromised by inappropriate land use or development.

Complementing the rural parts of the District are a number of urban areas which also have clearly identifiable characteristics. Central Papakura is characterised by its expansive suburbs surrounding a strong commercial heart. Drury continues to develop as a village centre within a distinctive rural locality. The urban area in the north centred on Takanini comprises urban development of higher intensity and higher densities with commercial and industrial development along the Great South Road forming a strong counterpoint to the residential areas of Conifer Grove.

The Council is determined to integrate the management of these resources. Further, this management will be of a conservative nature so as not to degrade the value of the resources and the theme-setting qualities they achieve for Papakura. The Resource Management Strategy for the District will ensure that those particular characteristics which identify and define Papakura are not lost or compromised. The approach embodied in the District Plan will be one of integrating the characteristics and strengths of the District into a coherent entity.

In social and economic terms, the District is at a critical stage of its evolution. The present wealth of Papakura has been founded on a strong rural sector which has permitted the simultaneous development of a robust urban sector. Yet both parts of the District have experienced significant change over the recent past. The rural economy has changed as more intensive uses of land, such as horticulture, animal husbandry and equine activities, have evolved. The commercial and industrial parts of Papakura continue to grow. However, many of the industrial areas remain undeveloped.

Further, Papakura has evolved as a result of the complementary social and economic growth of the adjoining urban and rural localities. The District forms an integral part of the South Auckland sub-region and the future of Papakura, as its past, is linked with the development of such neighbouring centres as Manurewa, Pukekohe and Manukau. Urban and rural elements of the surrounding districts will continue to be interrelated with the urban and rural parts of Papakura and this will identify a number of cross-boundary issues to be dealt with in an integrated way.

Accordingly, and in conjunction with the provisions of Section Two, Rural Papakura, and Section Three, Urban Papakura, the District Plan strategy set out in the document is to use, develop and protect the natural and physical resources of the District by

- retaining and enhancing the quality of the rural parts of the District
- retaining and enhancing the quality of the urban parts of the District
- enabling the establishment of activities where this does not compromise environmental quality.