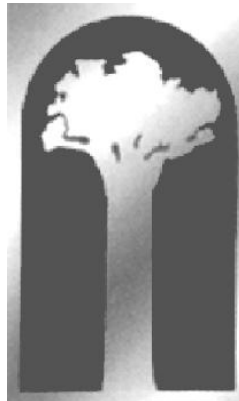


# RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN Taharoa Domain

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January 2002

Prepared for



**KAIPARA**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Prepared by



**D J Scott Associates Limited**

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In Association With

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Legal Description : Section 23 (0.880 ha), Section 63 (419.1228 ha), Section 67 (95.6576 ha)  
and Section 68 (22.3453 ha) Block 1 Kai Iwi SD.

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# INTRODUCTION

This Reserve Management Plan (referred to as the Plan) is a 'living document' setting out how the governance, operational management and future development of Taharoa Domain (or Kai Iwi Lakes as they are more commonly referred to) will be undertaken on an ongoing basis. The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977 involving an extensive public consultation exercise. Key stakeholders and tangata whenua<sup>1</sup> were involved in the process of preparing the Plan and the resulting document reflects a balance between the many varied interests with a stake in the future of the Domain.

The key points relevant to the preparation of the Plan include the following:

1. The Domain is Crown land administered by Kaipara District Council.
2. Taharoa Native Reserve (including Lake Kai Iwi) is subject to a Treaty of Waitangi Claim.
3. The Plan illustrates a partnership commitment between tangata whenua and Kaipara District Council, reflecting both the Treaty side of the partnership (statutory requirement), and willingness to work together
4. The sustainable use of the Domain is sought. This is achieved by adopting a District focus as a priority while recognising the importance of the regional setting of the Domain.



<sup>1</sup> Tangata whenua refers to Te Roroa and Te Kuihi as recognised by the Waitangi Tribunal in the Te Roroa Report on the Wai 38 Claim.

Sustainable development includes the management and enhancement of the natural environment as well as providing for the social and economic development of the Domain as a key part of the District's wider development strategies



5. In addition to satisfying the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, the Plan outlines a management structure for the Domain that enables integration with the other means of influencing the management and development of the Domain; for example the Regional Policy Statement/Regional Plan and District Plan under the Resource Management Act, Annual and Business Plans of Kaipara District Council under the Local Government Act, the Conservation Management Strategy under the Conservation Act.

The Plan sets out an overall vision for the Domain. This vision is reflected through five specific aims that enable clear objectives, policies and outcomes to be specified as a means of determining the governance, management and development actions.

The activity maps (associated with each of the five aims) illustrate the desired outcomes that the Plan will achieve.

The aims, as outlined in the Plan, are based on the results of consultation, research, analysis and field investigations. (This detailed information is documented in further detail in the Compendium Document).

## VISION

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*To protect and sustain the  
Kai Iwi Lakes (Taharoa Domain)  
as taonga of the Kaipara District  
for the benefit of all people*

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*Kaitiaki tautoko i roto o Kai Iwi  
(Te Rohe Taharoa)  
ki taonga tuku  
iho mo te takiwa o Kaipara*

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### **Governance and taonga**

Taonga refers to the distinctive qualities of the Domain that require special protection and a special process of governance as outlined within the Management Plan. This governance of the Kai Iwi Lakes (Taharoa Domain) involves a partnership approach reflected in the co-management of the resources of the reserve under the direction of a Board. This Board will administer the operation and development of the Domain in association with user and key stakeholder groups.

### **Sustainability of the Domain within the District**

Sustainability refers to the management of resources in order to provide for the future and ongoing enjoyment and use of the Domain.

The sustainable use of the Domain involves giving priority to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment, the integrated economic development of the District and the provision for recreational opportunities throughout the year.

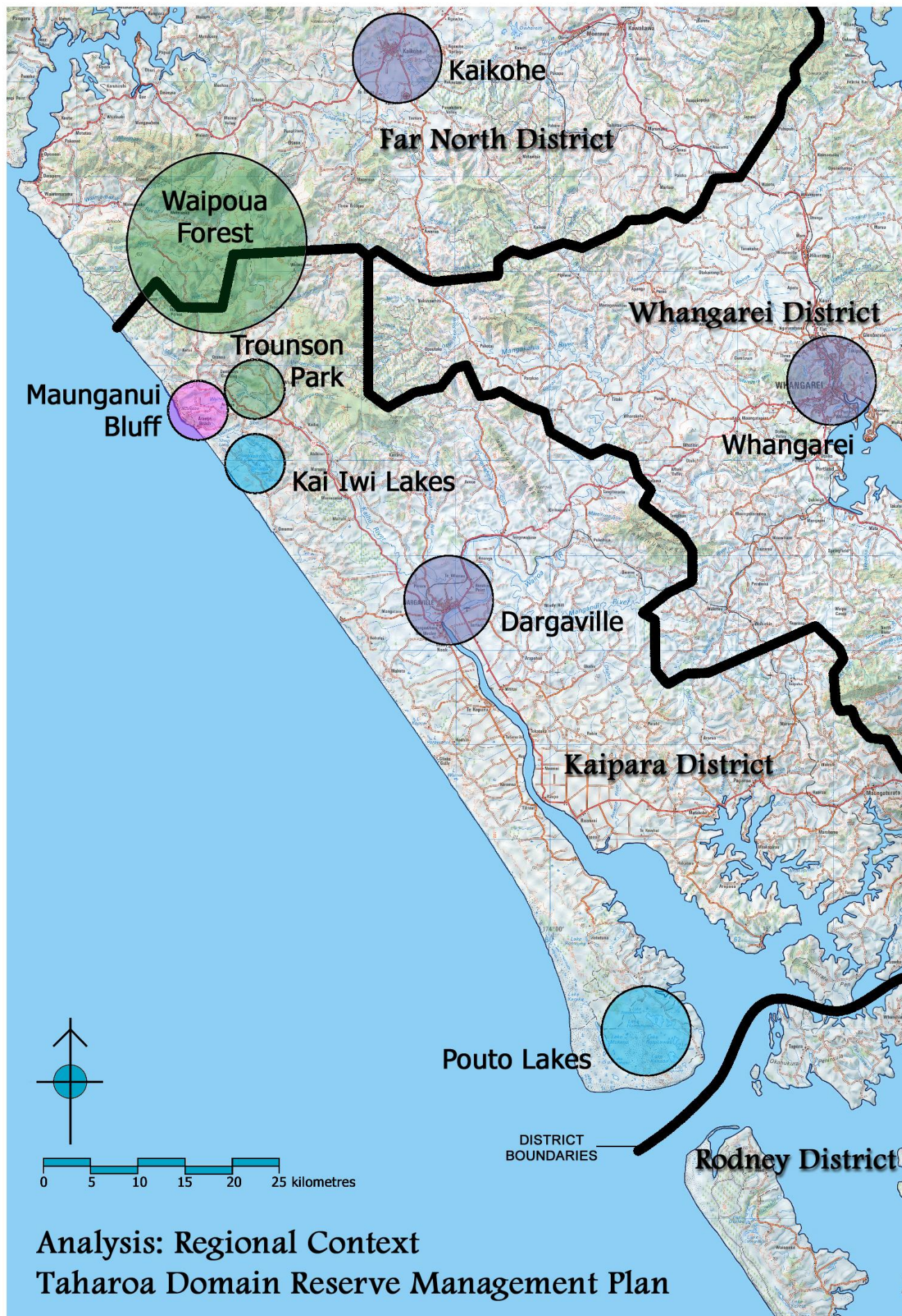


Figure 1.



The Reserve Management Plan provides an overall framework for the governance and management of the Domain, with short term outcomes.

The continuing governance through a Domain Board will establish long term outcomes and actions based on monitoring and research findings.

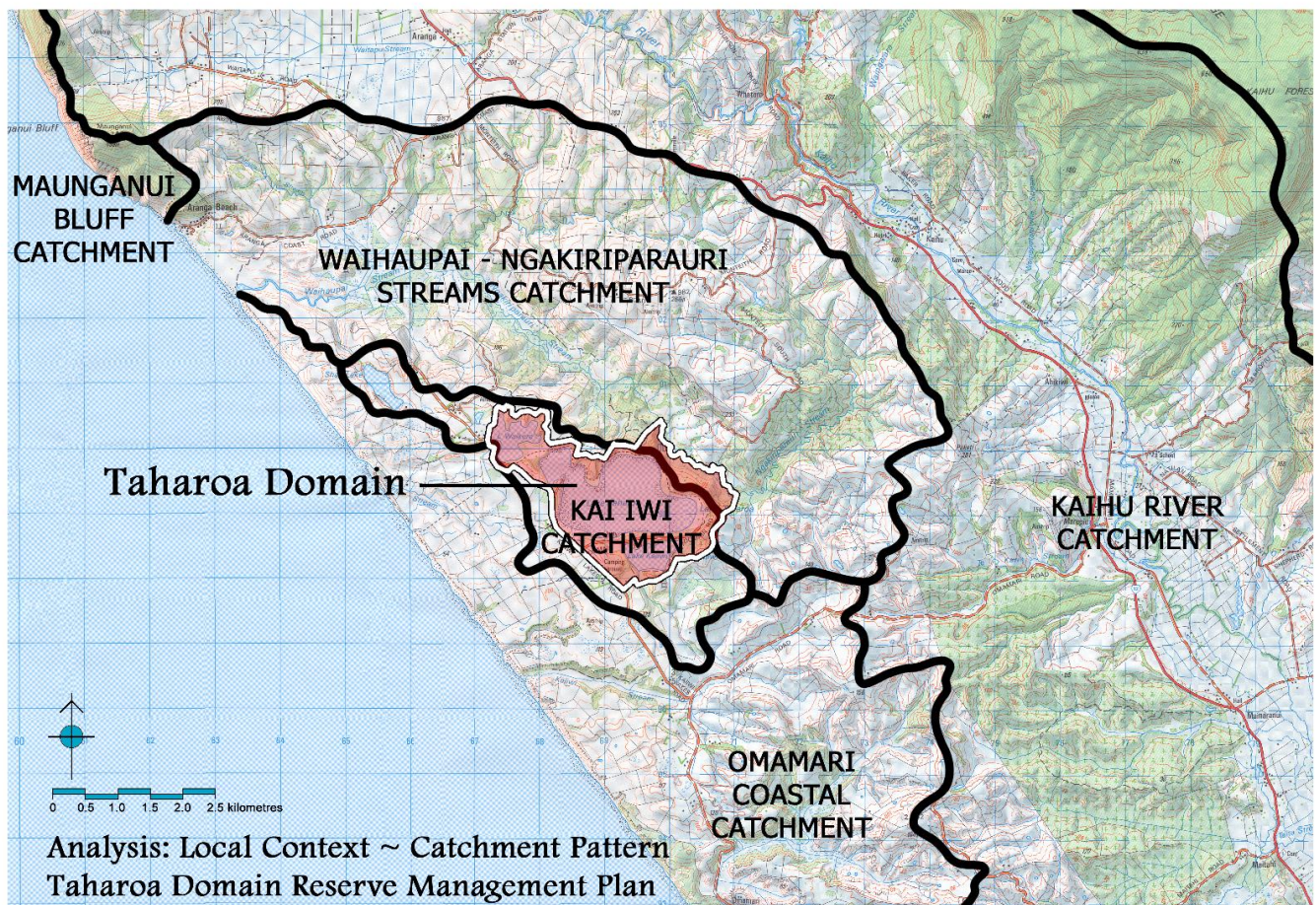
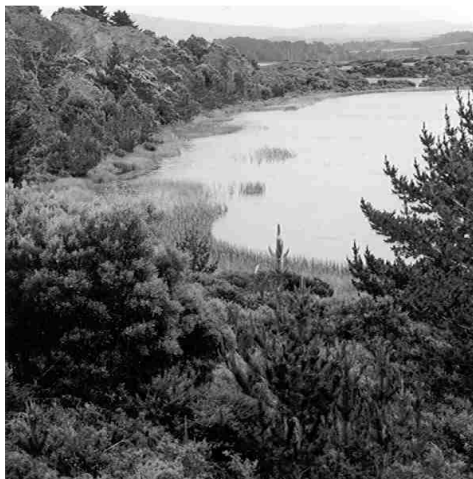


Figure 2.



## AIMS

The process of developing the Plan identified five key aims that enable the vision of the Domain to be realised.

Five aims are set out in the Plan and have implications for the development and management of the Domain (Figure 3). The following section outlines the implementation of the aims through objectives, policies, outcomes and projects shown on the Activity Maps.

## KEY AIMS FOR THE DOMAIN

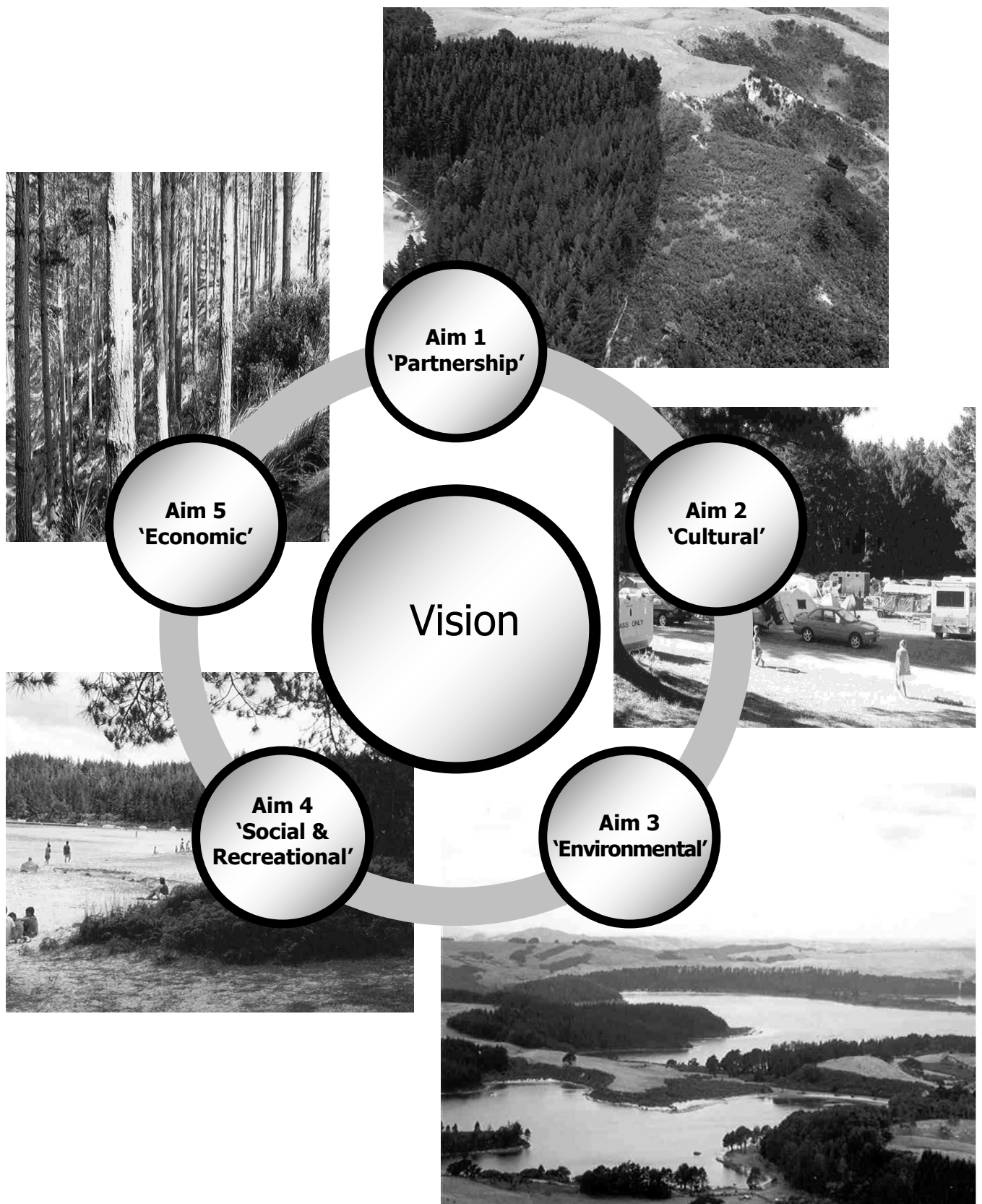


Figure 3



## AIM 1

# PARTNERSHIP

*“To establish an equal  
organisational  
partnership between  
tangata whenua and Council  
to govern the Domain”*

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## KEY PRINCIPLES

- To establish a Board
- Set up protocols and processes for co-management
- Establish a funding basis for Board
- The Board is an integral part of Council



## OBJECTIVES

- To establish a governance structure to effectively achieve the vision for the Domain
- To ensure the Domain's Management is aligned with all local, regional and national legislative requirements
- To enable the Board to achieve sustainable management of the Domain
- To establish a clear and formal process of access to the Board by the community, interest groups and others
- To integrate the business and development planning process for the Domain with Kaipara District Council's and other public agency processes to ensure the viability of the Domain

# POLICIES

- To recognise the Board as the governance and management authority for the Domain, responsible for the direction and monitoring of projects and for the management and viability of the Domain
- To align the Board's role with other public agency's administration processes
- To produce an annual plan and budget for the Domain as part of the Kaipara District Council business planning process
- To manage recreational activities and potential conflicts through the Board



# OUTCOMES

- **Terms of Reference for the Board established**
- **Appointment of a Board**
- **Preparation of a Development and Business Plan for the Domain**



# Organisational Partnership for Domain

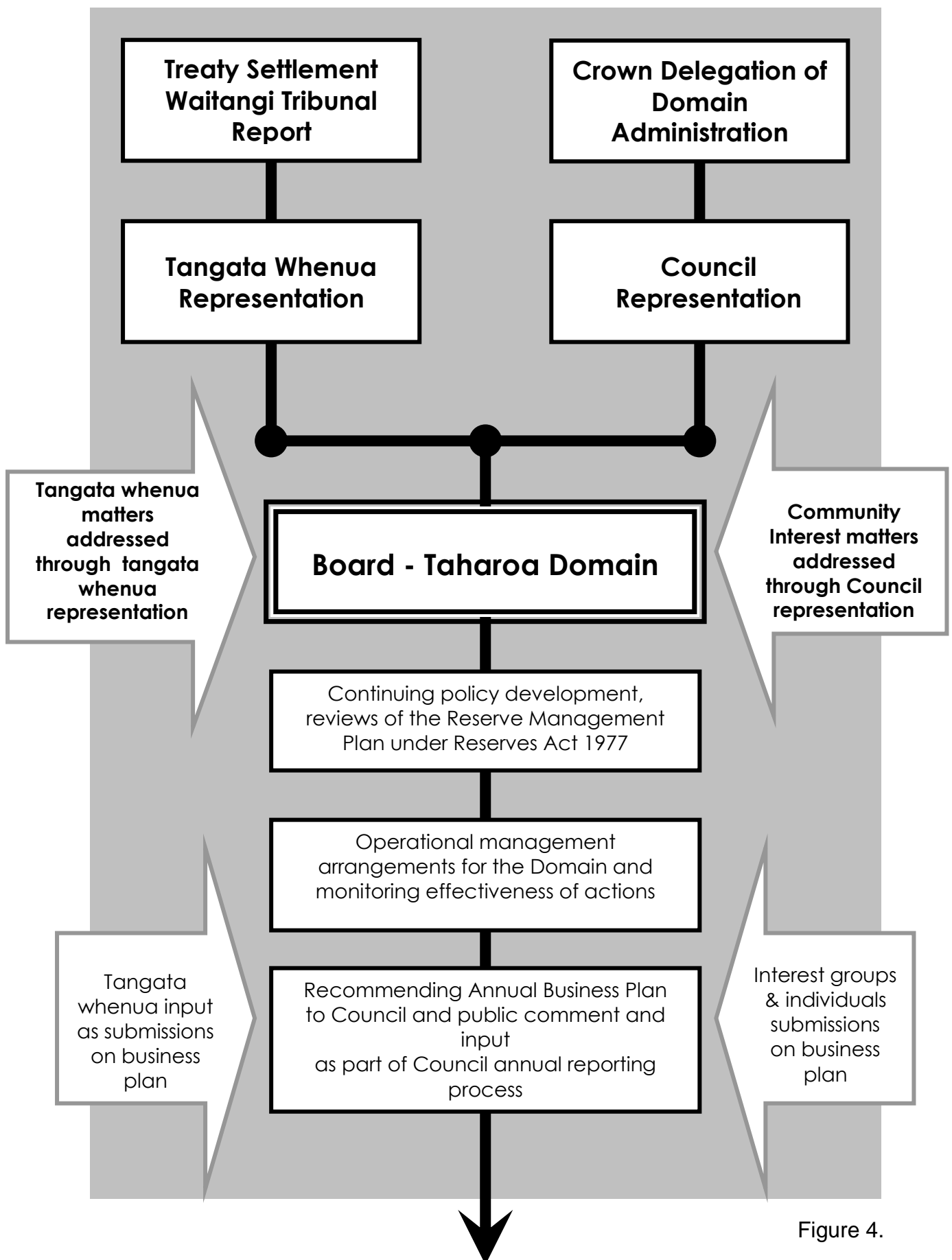


Figure 4.

## AIM 2

# CULTURAL

*“To recognise the relationships of people, their history, culture and traditions when managing the use, development and protection of the natural and physical resources of the Domain and surrounding areas”*

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## KEY PRINCIPLES

- Cultural / spiritual associations recognised
- Archaeological / wahi tapu places of value protected
- Recognising the significance of the Domain to the future development of the Kaipara District



## OBJECTIVES

- To recognise in the Plan objects and places of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua
- To educate users of the Domain of its historic and cultural significance
- To preserve and enhance the cultural and spiritual values for tangata whenua and the wider community



## POLICIES

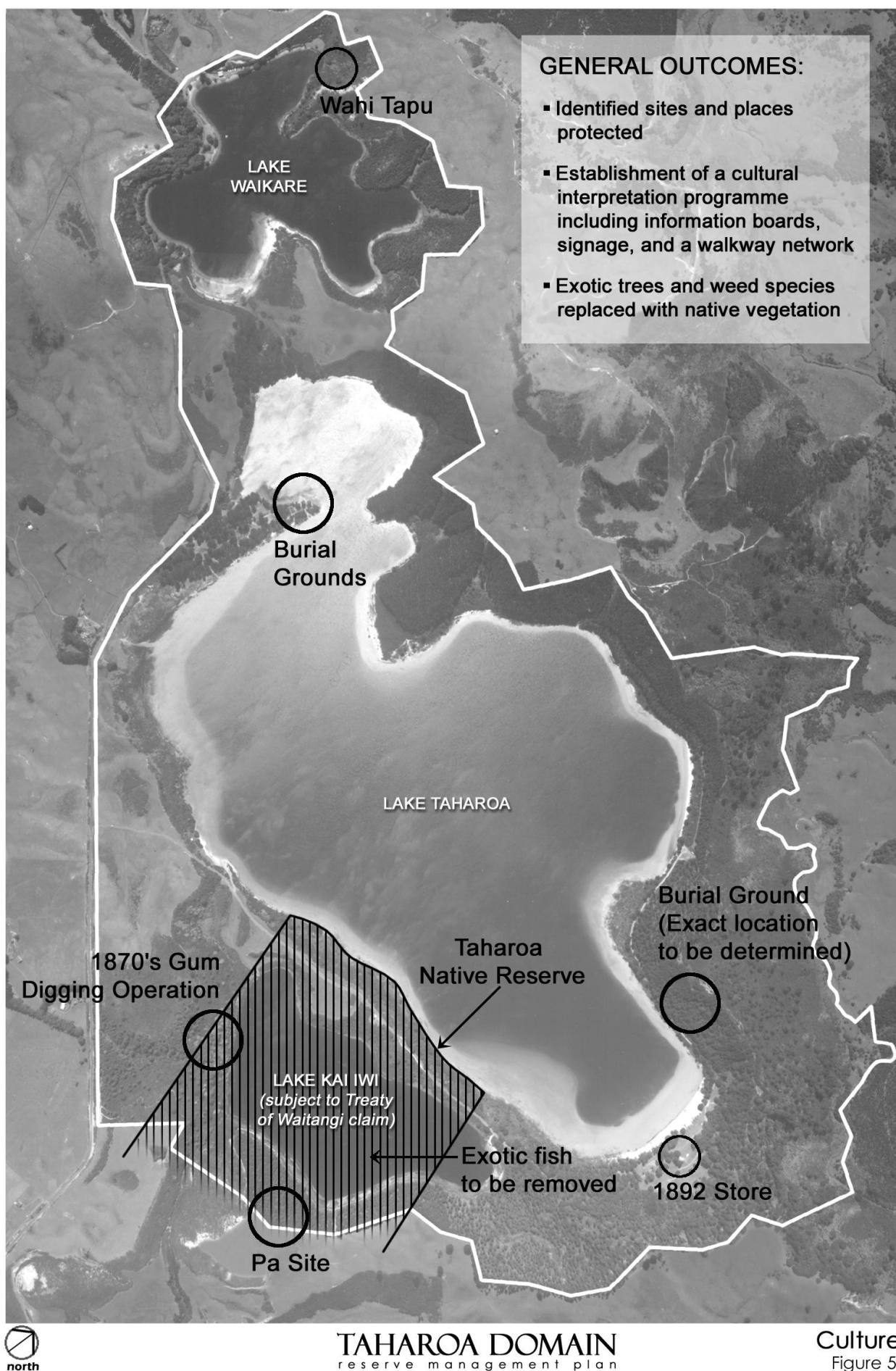
- To develop and implement projects that reinforce the cultural and spiritual values of the Domain
- To take guidance from tangata whenua as to the means to protect and name identified sites and places of cultural and spiritual significance
- To protect the special cultural values associated with Lake Kai Iwi

## OUTCOMES

- Identified sites and places protected
- Establishment of a cultural interpretation programme including information boards, signage and a walkway network etc.
- Releases of exotic fish ceased in Lake Kai Iwi
- Indigenous vegetation and Lake Kai Iwi's natural fishery restored



\*Figure 5 illustrates key elements of the Cultural areas of the Domain



Culture  
Figure 5.

### AIM 3

## ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

*“To protect and  
enhance the natural environment  
of the Domain  
for the  
benefit of all people”*

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## KEY PRINCIPLES

- Balance between protection and utilisation
- Managing the environmental quality of the catchment and, in particular, water quality
- Pine forestry and vegetation management / enhancement
- Management of the Domain within catchment context
- Integrated management of habitat and species
- Use of monitoring as a key environmental management tool



## OBJECTIVES

- To recognise through appropriate land use strategies the sensitivity, natural values and functions of the Domain and the lake systems in order to ensure the sustainable use of the reserve
- To promote and monitor investigations into the ecology, hydrology and wildlife values of the lakes
- To integrate the management of the Domain with adjacent land



## POLICIES

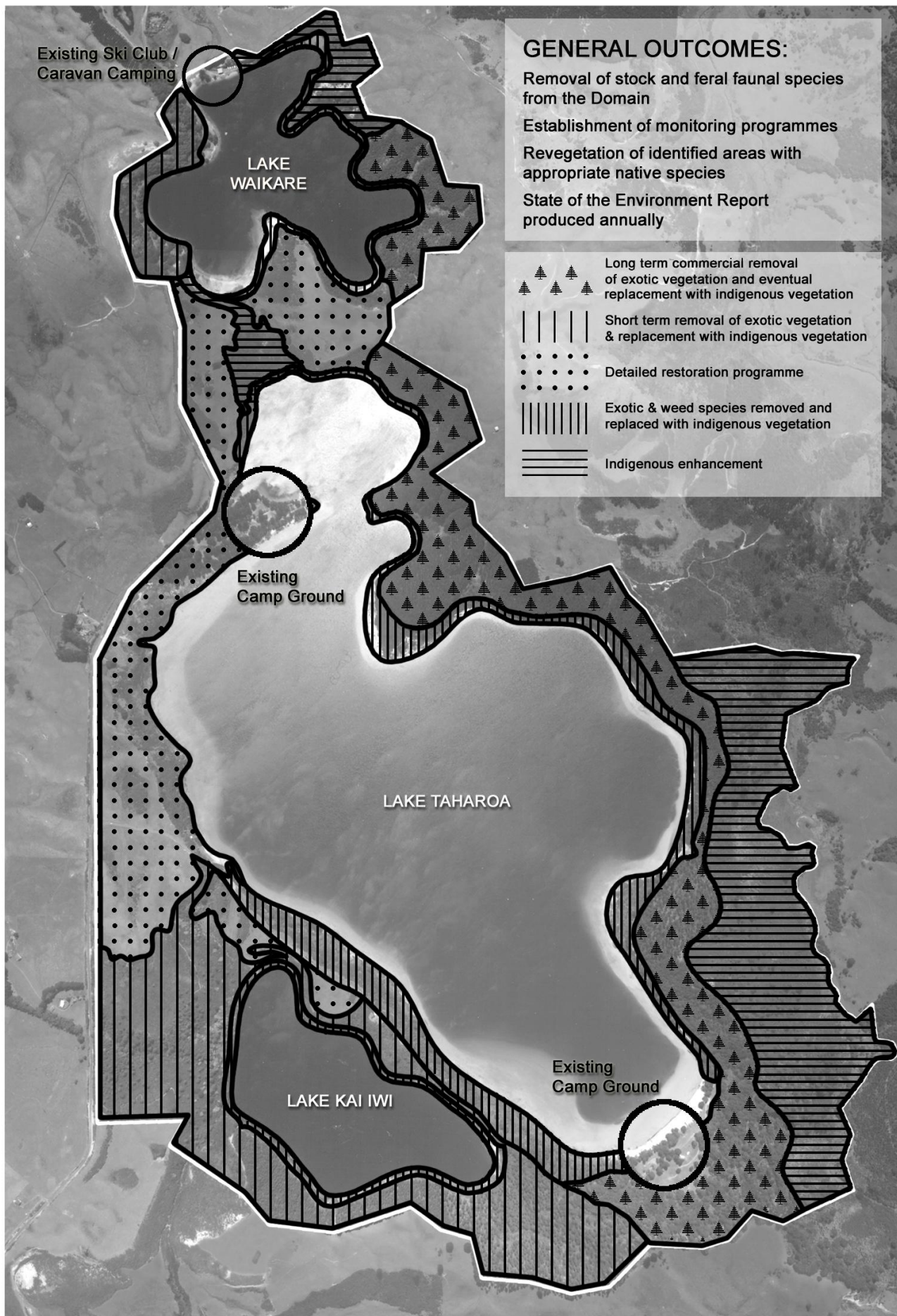
- To establish environmental buffers between sensitive areas and those subject to human activity
- To establish a long term vegetation management programme
- To identify and remedy non-sustainable activities
- To implement monitoring programmes
- To promote changes to regulatory systems to ensure integrated management of the catchment
- To develop infrastructure which is aesthetically pleasing
- To restore, over time, the indigenous ecology of Lake Kai Iwi.



## OUTCOMES

- Selective removal of exotic vegetation from identified areas including lakes
- Revegetation of identified areas with appropriate native species
- Removal of stock and feral faunal species from the Domain
- Monitoring programmes established
- State of the Environment report produced annually

Figure 6 Illustrates key elements of the Environmental and Sustainability issues of the Domain



**TAHAROA DOMAIN**  
reserve management plan

Environment  
and Sustainability  
Figure 6.

## AIM 4

# **SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL**

*“To enable a  
diverse range  
of  
sustainable  
recreational  
activities”*

## KEY PRINCIPLES

- To facilitate a range of recreational opportunities
- Minimise conflict through the allocation of use and space
- Sustainable access
- Match infrastructural capacity with the use of the Domain



## OBJECTIVES

- To provide for recreational opportunities while protecting the resource base
- To develop and maintain infrastructure that facilitates sustainable management
- To avoid conflicts between different recreational activities in the Domain
- To ensure that activities do not compete for the same space

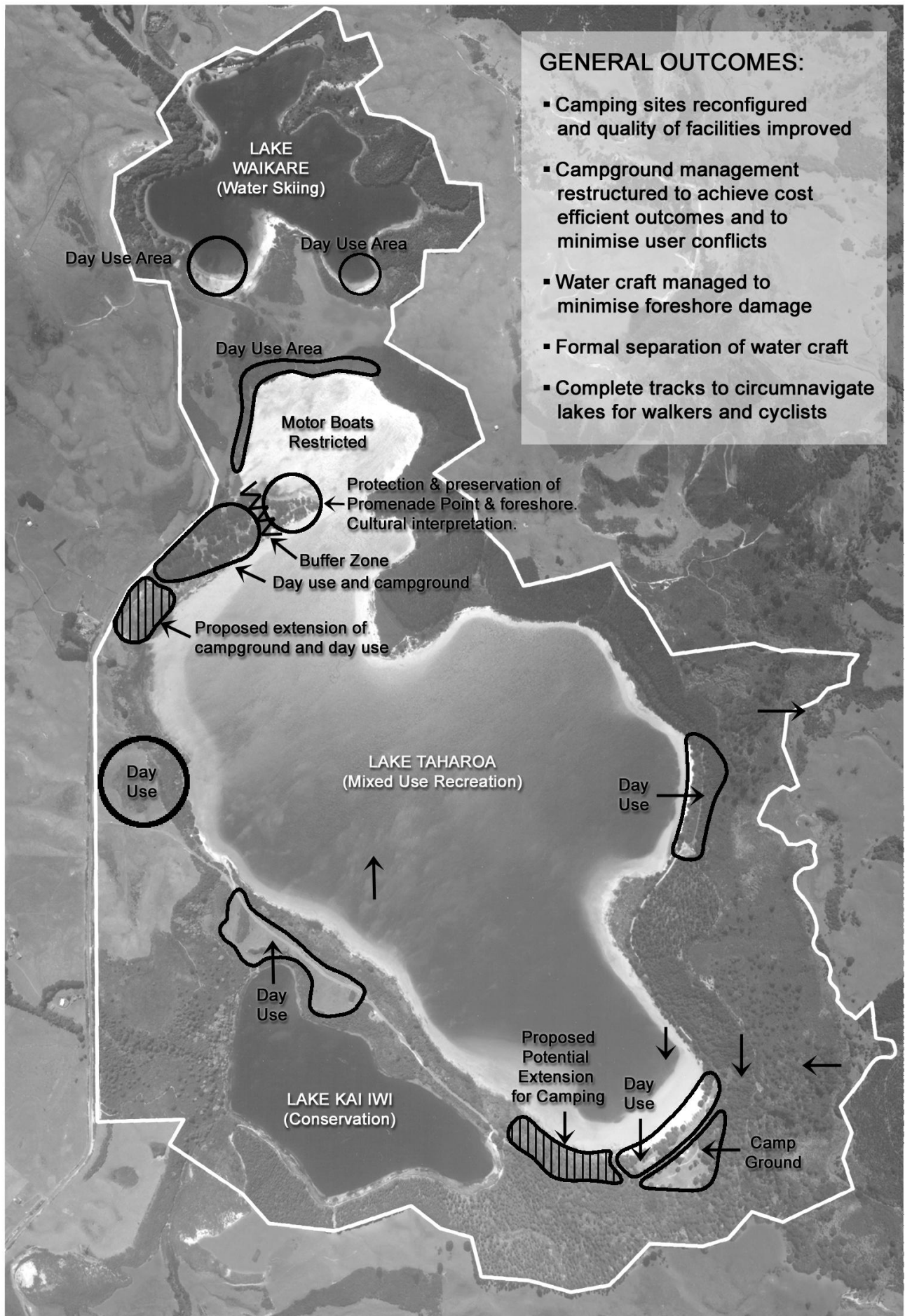
## POLICIES

- To locate camping activities in a manner that maintains and protects the natural environment
- To limit activities around Lake Kai Iwi to respect cultural and spiritual values
- To manage Lake Taharoa as the key public recreational asset
- To formalise use of Lake Waikare for water skiing activities
- To manage access points to and activities on the lakes
- To encourage complementary activities without causing conflict
- To introduce more stringent controls of motor craft on the lakes (NB This policy may result in a review of the use of the lakes by motor boats, jet skis and other motor craft)



## OUTCOMES

- Camping sites reconfigured and quality of facilities improved
- Campground management restructured to achieve cost effective outcomes and to minimise user conflicts (i.e. noise levels, camping groups)
- Formalised access points to the lakes established to prevent damage of lake edge vegetation
- Water craft managed to maximise safety and maintain water quality
- Access to lake edges formalised to minimise damage to foreshore and prevent user conflict (construction of a limited number of boat launches and jetties)
- Formal separation of passive and active water craft activity on lake surface i.e. kayaks
- Complete tracks circumnavigating the lakes for walkers and recreational cyclists
- Branding and Design Guidelines

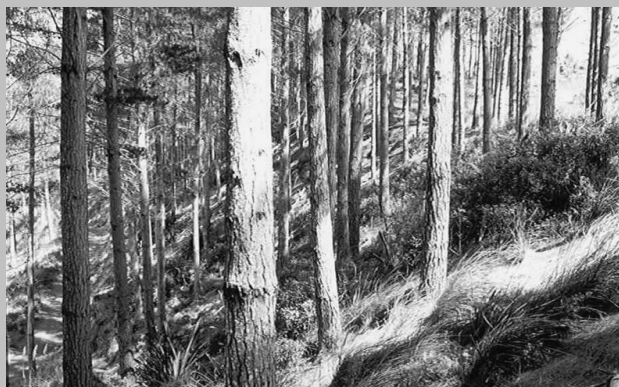


## AIM 5

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*“To promote and  
manage the Domain  
as an  
essential part  
of the economic development  
strategy  
of the District”*

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## KEY PRINCIPLES

- Promotion of the Domain an integral part of the District and economic strategy
- Linkages and connections to the wider recreational and tourism opportunities
- To realise the funds from exotic forestry
- To establish additional funding sources



## OBJECTIVES

- To establish the Domain as a year round recreation destination
- To establish a financial management system that secures the future development and maintenance of the Domain
- To establish the Domain as an integral part of the District economic strategy



## POLICIES

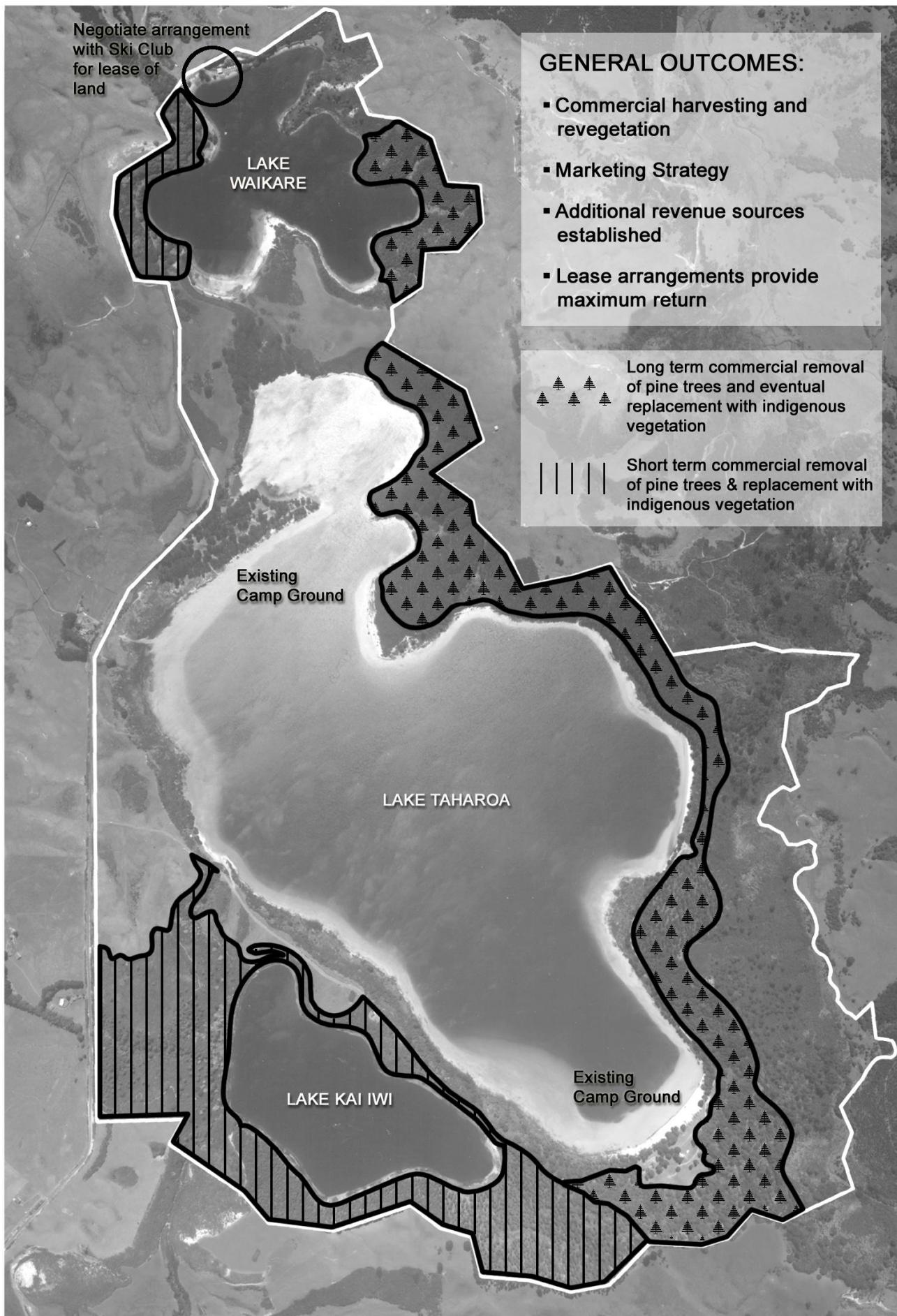
- To use the Domain to add value to the wider recreational and tourism opportunities in the District
- To secure funding of the Domain's development
- To secure positioning of the Domain in the District's economic development strategy
- To maximise revenue generated from sustainable exotic forestry
- To ensure that all lease arrangements facilitate the best return
- To incorporate a user pay approach into funding development and management of the Domain



## OUTCOMES

- Commercial harvesting plan and native revegetation plan
- Marketing strategy (to be linked with monitoring and state of the environment reporting)
- Additional revenue sources are established
- Lease arrangements provide the maximum return
- The Domain recognised as a valuable revenue source
- Lakes are considered as an 'icon' of the District's economic development

Figure 8 illustrates key elements of the Economic Development of the Domain



**TAHAROA DOMAIN**  
reserve management plan

**Economic**  
Figure 8.