



**South
Waikato
District
Council**

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Tokoroa ...

It's all here



Chainsaw Man

**Draft Tokoroa
Concept
Plan
SUMMARY
August 2008**

Overview

Since early 2008, Tokoroa community members have been developing a shared vision for the town. The starting point was to look through past consultation. A survey was then undertaken, through which more than 200 residents and visitors offered their vision for the town's future. The resulting draft direction is summarised in this document. This Concept Plan is a guide, in the hope that individuals and community groups will take leadership around specific initiatives. It reinforces existing plans to promote the town for its central location, community spirit, clean green environment and recreational opportunities. Priorities include beautifying the town and increasing business and employment opportunities.

This Draft is open for public feedback during August/September 2008.



State Highway 1 Tokoroa

Imagine Tokoroa in ten years' time....



Each year local school children participate in Arbor Day by planting trees

- Travellers along State Highway One are impressed by the tidy entranceways, welcoming shops and easy access to Tokoroa's CBD.
- Tokoroa's suburban areas are clean and tidy thanks to widespread participation in adopt-a-street programmes.
- Treaty settlement has transformed Raukawa hapū and whānau in terms of social and economic development. Te Reo Māori is used for everyday conversations and there is widespread understanding and respect for what it means to be Raukawa and a Tokoroa resident.
- Tokoroa's population is on the increase, with new investment in subdivisions and an influx of families seeking a more relaxed lifestyle.
- New businesses and jobs are created through local innovation and investment.
- The town is known throughout New Zealand for its iconic events and facilities, including the successful South Waikato Events Centre.
- Residents celebrate Tokoroa's heritage and unique mix of cultural diversity including Māori, Pacific Islands, European immigrants and other ethnicities.
- Tokoroa is renowned for its diverse range of artistic, sporting and recreation opportunities.
- Tokoroa's schools have strong community support and high levels of student engagement and achievement.
- Residents and visitors enjoy the attractive trees and native plants throughout Tokoroa's township, neighbourhoods and gullies

Top 10 Actions for Tokoroa's future

The following proposed actions are described along with other action plans in the FULL Tokoroa Concept Plan, available on www.communityconnect.org.nz or from the Council's Community Development Unit.

The following actions are based on community priorities. YOUR feedback is invited by Friday 26 September 2008.

Action 1: Leith Place redesign options

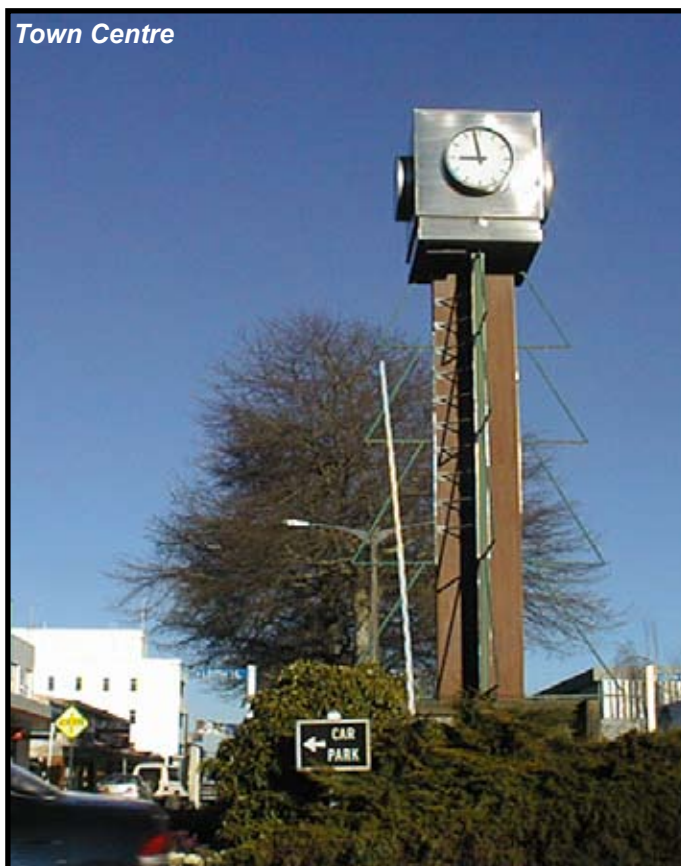
The main impression that many visitors have of Tokoroa is the Visitor Centre, public toilets and general environment in Leith Place. The Concept Plan steering group feels that a redesign of Leith Place could make it more appealing, for example:

- Blocking off vehicle access between Logan Street and Leith Place.
- Creating a Village Green around the Blue Building.
- Establishing additional greenery, picnic-style seating and possibly a play area for children.
- Establishing a stronger theme for the area, based around Talking Poles and timber.
- Relocating the Visitor Information Centre and combining it with upgraded 'superloo' type public toilets.

Over the medium to longer term, Council will consider options for redesigning Leith Place.

How to make Leith Place more appealing – Do YOU have any ideas?

These are just some of the ideas that have been floated to date. Your feedback is invited.



Action 2: Adopt-a-street and CBD beautification

In some suburban parts of the South Waikato, neighbourhood groups help beautify their local area. Council is keen to promote more of this type of activity to help foster community pride and raise the attractiveness of urban areas. The aim is to foster increased levels of neighbourhood responsibility for keeping suburban areas clean and tidy. Council will also seek similar commitments from CBD retailers. In addition, Council's litter collection services will be reviewed to ensure bins are properly maintained and emptied.

Proposed Tokoroa Events Centre



Action 3: Transport Corridor (SH1) Strategy

During 2008, Council and Transit New Zealand are undertaking research and planning to improve urban design along State Highway One including signage options. The Transport Corridor (SH1) Strategy will take a long-term view. Any major changes to the current design of State Highway One or CBD entranceways will be undertaken only following opportunities for public input.



State Highway 1 runs through Tokoroa

Action 4: South Waikato Events Centre

Tokoroa hosts a number of sporting, recreation and arts events each year. Developing South Waikato's tourism sector is seen as a key step in overall economic development. The District has yet to realise the economic potential from visitors. In early 2008, Council allocated \$2.3 million toward the development of an Events Centre for Tokoroa. The proposed facility has strong community support and will potentially have a huge impact on the future of the town. During community consultation in 2008, Council received 341 submissions in support of the proposed Events Centre and 31 in opposition.

Action 5: 'What's In Tokoroa' sign

A 2007 survey found that 72% of Tokoroa businesses felt the CBD entrances are not adequately signposted for passing traffic and more than 90% would like to see improved signage. Council raises issues of signposting with Transit as opportunities arise. There is a specific proposal to develop a 'What's In Tokoroa' sign in a prominent location for the benefit of both visitors and residents.



Talking Pole: Life Force

Action 6: Tokoroa Talking Poles

Talking Poles were first suggested as part of concept designs for the CBD upgrade and are now iconic to Tokoroa. The project included Pole Art of the World (PAWS) Symposia in 2004, 2006 and most recently during February/March 2008. A charitable trust has been formed to carry on the Talking Poles initiative including planning and implementation of future Talking Poles Symposia. There is discussion around a Talking Poles trail throughout the CBD, reflecting the cultural diversity of the community and offering a leisurely stroll for visitors. Over time the promotion and development of Tokoroa as the centre of a Tall Sculpture trail is expected to have substantial tourism benefits.

Action 7: Raukawa – Kia Kaha!

Many local residents have ancestral ties to Raukawa, as well as to other iwi throughout New Zealand. Tokoroa is the administrative centre for Raukawa Trust Board. Initiatives to enhance Māori tradition and culture in Tokoroa and surrounding areas include the Raukawa Reo Strategy and a proposed Raukawa Iwi Cultural Centre. The recent Treaty settlement for forestry will transform Raukawa's asset base and ability to engage in community and economic development, with far-reaching effects for Tokoroa's economy and population. It is important for Tokoroa to work together as a community to fulfill the aspirations of hapū and whānau.





South Waikato Precision Engineering



Action 8: Fulfilling the Economic Spirit

The South Waikato Economic Strategy contains a range of initiatives to promote a thriving District. Current projects include 'Dairy Push', trades training, tourism and investment promotion. However not all projects in the Economic Strategy can be achieved over the coming years due to limited funding and other resources. One of Council's mechanisms for supporting economic development is the South Waikato Economic Development Trust (SWEDT). While SWEDT is not currently trading on a day-to-day basis, it is expected to be rejuvenated in several years once its capacity has been redeveloped. Council will continue to prioritise specific projects each year.

Action 9: Walkways and Cycleways

Council has been working on a design for a walkway and cycleway following Whakauru Stream. Council is also undertaking major developments at Lake Moana-nui including construction of an all-weather walkway.

Council is open to looking at options for the development of other walkways and cycleways throughout Tokoroa, for example along streams and close to bush areas. Suggestions are welcome through this Tokoroa Concept Plan Consultation. Community involvement will be encouraged in planning and developing new walkways and cycleways.

Action 10: Creating a Good First Impression

The issue of unattractive and derelict buildings is often raised by residents – in particular, that various properties around the town entranceways create a poor first impression. Keeping Tokoroa neat and tidy is primarily the responsibility of private property owners. Council will continue to liaise with specific owners regarding community concerns about Tokoroa's image.



Other Proposed Actions

No. Description

- 11 Maintain and further develop anti-graffiti initiatives
- 12 Replant CBD gardens
- 13 Implement Tokoroa Airport Strategic Plan (including water supply and power connection)
- 14 Improve student engagement and achievement
- 15 Ensure local organisations that address community safety are sufficiently supported to address domestic violence, youth offending and other concerns
- 16 Investigate the potential to establish a South Waikato Community Foundation, to encourage local giving for local purposes
- 17 CBD market days, competitions, awards, events and street entertainment
- 18 Implement South Waikato Local Action Plan for Climate Protection
- 19 Urban tree beautification programme
- 20 Investigate options for a more co-ordinated approach and incentives toward community environmental initiatives (eg, 'Adopt-a-Gully')
- 21 Develop and enhance Lake Moana-nui
- 22 Maintain and develop Youth Council and implement other aspects of the South Waikato Youth Strategy
- 23 Investigate establishment of an Events Manager role for the District
- 24 Pacific Arts Tourism Initiative

These are just some of the ideas that have been floated to date. Your feedback is invited by Friday 26 September 2008.



Have your say...

The Draft Tokoroa Concept Plan is open for public feedback throughout August/September 2008. The deadline is 4:00pm on Friday 26 September 2008. To have your say, fill in the Feedback Form and return it as follows:

- Post: Tokoroa Concept Plan, South Waikato District Council, Private Bag 7, TOKOROA 3444.
- In-person: Council Office, Torphin Crescent, Tokoroa.
- Website survey: www.communityconnect.org.nz.

Additional copies are available at:

- Council's website (www.southwaikato.govt.nz).
- Tokoroa Visitor Information Centre.
- Tokoroa Public Library.
- Council Office in Tokoroa.

For further information contact Amanda Scott, Community Development Manager, South Waikato District Council, phone 0-7-885 0340 or e-mail info@southwaikato.govt.nz.



*Tokoroa young person
having his say!*

Draft Tokoroa Concept Plan

Feedback Form

Note: Copies of the Draft Concept Plan are available on Council's website (www.southwaikato.govt.nz) and at Tokoroa Public Library or Council Office.

Title (tick): Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other (state)

First name or initials: Surname:

Address:

Daytime Phone No: Email:

Organisation (if applicable):

Do you wish to receive a copy of the final Tokoroa Concept Plan? No Yes

Q1. What do YOU feel are the top priorities for Tokoroa (rank from highest to lowest: 1, 2, 3... 10)?

Action No.	Description	Example score	YOUR scores
1	Leith Place redesign		
2	Adopt-a-street and CBD beautification	2	
3	Transport Corridor (SH1) Strategy	3	
4	South Waikato Events Centre		
5	What's In Tokoroa' sign		
6	Tokoroa Talking Poles	1	
7	Raukawa – Kia Kaha!		
8	Fulfilling the Economic Spirit		
9	Walkways and Cycleways		
10	Creating a Good First Impression		
11	Other (specify)		
12	Other (specify)		

Q2. What other comments would you like to make about this Draft Concept Plan?

Send your comments to: Draft Tokoroa Concept Plan, Private Bag 7, TOKOROA 3444

Feedback closes Friday 26 September 2008 at 4pm

