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In the words of the people of the valley....

“Beautiful sanctuary area of peace and quiet in an increasingly complicated world”.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Part 1 of the Plan outlines the context to the Pourewa Valley Integrated Plan, and the process used to develop the plan.

The context to the Pourewa Valley Integrated Plan includes a description of the valley's:

- ecology (habitats, geology),
- land use history (from pre-european settlement to land development from the mid-twentieth century),
- current land use (public reserves and other land parcels, recreation use, transport links), and
- volunteer groups undertaking restoration including pest control.

The plan describes the main phases for the Pourewa Valley Integrated Plan Process. These include:

- scoping/evidence base
- stakeholder interviews
- community meeting
- draft Plan preparation
- final Plan preparation

Part 2 of the Plan outlines the key outputs (deliverables) of the Plan. These include:

- vision
- key aims
- action plan

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This plan was developed by a core community-led advocacy group of individuals representing groups involved in the restoration and enhancement of the Pourewa Valley. The degree of input and volunteer time by different groups has varied, and all are acknowledged here:

- Forest & Bird “Wednesday Group” - Martina Bohm, Roger Johnson, Derek Ashcroft
- Pourewa Restoration Group “Sunday Group” - Martin Heffer, Roy Clements, Turfa Chowdhury, Sel Arbuckle, Pat Northy, Peter McLaughlan
- Friends of Kepa Bush – John La Roche
- Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei - Tom Irvine
- Eastern Bays Songbird Project – John Laurence, John Reeves, John Wilkinson
- Friends of Pourewa Valley - Carmel Claridge
- Hapua Thrive – John Ecroyd, Robyn Simcock
- Meadowbank and St Johns Residents Association - Charmaine Vaughan, Tim Duguid
- Auckland Waterski Club – Paul Murray
- Ōrākei Community Association Inc - David Everard
- Ōrākei Local Board
- Ōrākei Local Board Advisors - Suzanne Weld, Ollin Perez Raynaud
- Recreation Solutions – Ben Sheeran, Matt Woodside
- Community Waitakere – Mark Allen

# PART 1: PLAN CONTEXT & PROCESS

## INTRODUCTION

The Pourewa Valley is located in the suburbs of Ōrākei and Meadowbank 6km south-east of Auckland's CBD. The project area has been defined as the natural drainage catchments feeding into the Pourewa Creek. The project area includes residential, green and open space on the south-facing slopes between Kepa Road and Pourewa Creek, as well as some residential land to the north of Kepa and Ngapipi Roads.

To the south of Pourewa Creek, the project area takes in residential, green and open space on the north-facing slopes between St Johns Road and Pourewa Creek. Waterbodies within the project area include the Pourewa Creek, as far downstream as Hobson Point and Tamaki Drive, but does not include the Ōrākei Basin. The project area is outlined in Figure 1 below.



Looking south-east up the valley towards St Johns Bush



Looking south-west down the valley towards CBD



Looking west across the city from the pony club

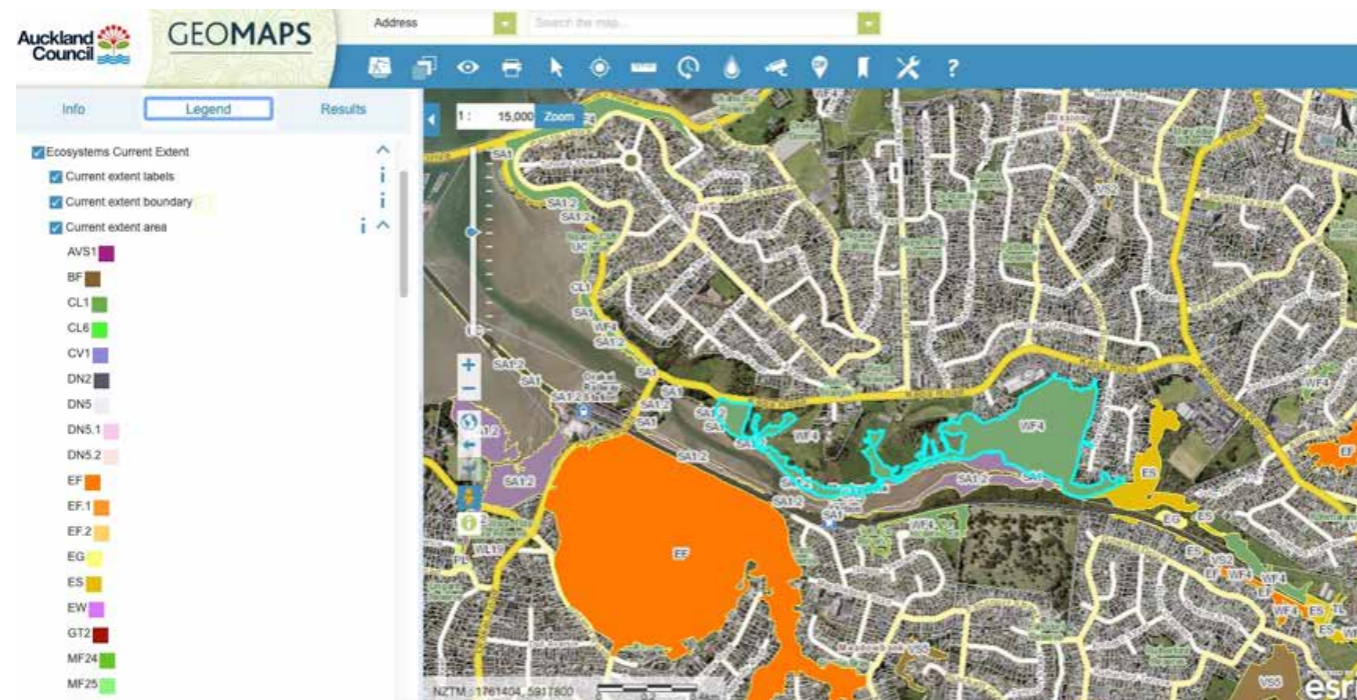


## ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Technical Reports provide a useful summary of the ecological context of the project area<sup>1</sup>. The valley is located on the Auckland Isthmus within the Tamaki Ecological District, one of 8 ecological districts in the Auckland Ecological Region.

The geology of the area is characterised mostly by sandstones. Soils are mainly nutrient poor clays on ridges, with richer soils in gullies due to deposition by broadleaved species.

The main indigenous ecosystem types present within the project area include 'WF4' (pohutukawa, puriri, podocarp forest), 'CL1' (pohutukawa treeland/flaxland/rockland), 'SA1' (mangrove scrub and forest), and 'VS5' (broadleaved species scrub forest). The degree of incursion by pest plants varies across the project area.



Auckland Council Geomaps Database - Ecological Areas

The Pourewa Creek estuary contains mangrove forest and shrubland and is part of a sequence from coastal forest to estuarine vegetation. This habitat is recognised as a Significant Ecological Area (SEA) and a 'Tranche 2 Biodiversity Focus Area'.

For a more comprehensive overview of the ecological context of the project area, refer to Wildlands Contract Report No.4751 as outlined in the references section to this plan.

## LAND USE HISTORY

While the Tamaki Ecological District would have been mostly forested prior to human settlement, by the time of European settlement land clearance had been extensive. Much of pre-European land in Auckland was believed to be covered by manuka scrubland and bracken, where-as parts of the Pourewa Valley were still forested at the time of European settlement.

The Pourewa Valley was part of a parcel of land known as the Kohimarama Block that was sold by Ngāti Pāoa in 1841 to European Settlers. Bishop Selwyn began buying farmland in the Pourewa Valley from the mid 1840's, including portions of the Kohimarama Block.



Sketch of the Pourewa valley by John Kinder in 1878

By the mid-twentieth century, earthworks were well underway to convert what was pasture land to roading, housing (and further infill housing), and the construction of schools including Selwyn College. This development is considered to have significantly changed the hydrology of the Pourewa valley and the headwaters of the Pourewa Creek tributary<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Cusens J, Goldwater N. 2018: Ecological Input for the Kēpa Bush Integrated Plan: Contract Report No. 4751. Wildlands Consultants Ltd

<sup>2</sup> Marler M. Restoration Plan for Selwyn Bush March 2014

## CURRENT LAND USE

Within the Pourewa Valley, there are 56 public reserves of varying size and nature. These reserves include Ngapipi and Ngapipi Cliff Reserves, Kepa Bush Reserve, St Johns Bush, Rutherford Reserve and Tahapa and Tahapa Reserve East. Kepa Bush Reserve is the largest remnant of indigenous forest on the Auckland Isthmus.

Other major open and/or green spaces include the Pourewa Creek Recreation Reserve. This reserve is Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei land co-managed by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and Auckland Council. Adjacent to this reserve is St Josephs School. Two parcels of Ministry of Education land adjacent to Selwyn College, known as “Selwyn Park” and “Selwyn Bush” contain indigenous vegetation and are under the active management of restoration groups. Selwyn Bush is also a Significant Ecological Area (SEA).

Also with SEA status and adjacent to Selwyn Bush and Kepa Bush, is a railway network corridor of land owned by the New Zealand Transport Agency. This includes land leased by the Meadowbank Pony Club.

To the south of Pourewa Creek, other major land parcels include the Pourewa Cemetery and St Johns School.

The valley’s reserves and open and green spaces provide opportunities for recreation. An existing track network in Kepa Bush, Pourewa Creek Recreation Reserve, Selwyn Park and Selwyn Bush allow visitors to access Pourewa Creek from Kepa Road. On-the-water recreation occurs in the Pourewa Creek, Hobson Bay and the adjacent Ōrākei Basin and out to the coast to Okahu Bay.

The valley also provides an important transport link, with vehicle traffic moving along the north and south of the valley via Kepa Road and St Johns Road. The Eastern train line also passes through the valley, with the Meadowbank and Ōrākei Railway stations located to the south of Pourewa Creek.

A snapshot of existing recreation and transport infrastructure is outlined in figure 2 below.

A conceptualisation of future potential transport and pathway network options are outlined in figure 3 below:



Pourewa Creek looking towards Ōrākei Basin



Selwyn Bush track



Track on NZTA land looking towards Kepa Bush



Track signage



Kindergarten students enjoy a walk in Selwyn Park



The Pony Club at the eastern end of the valley

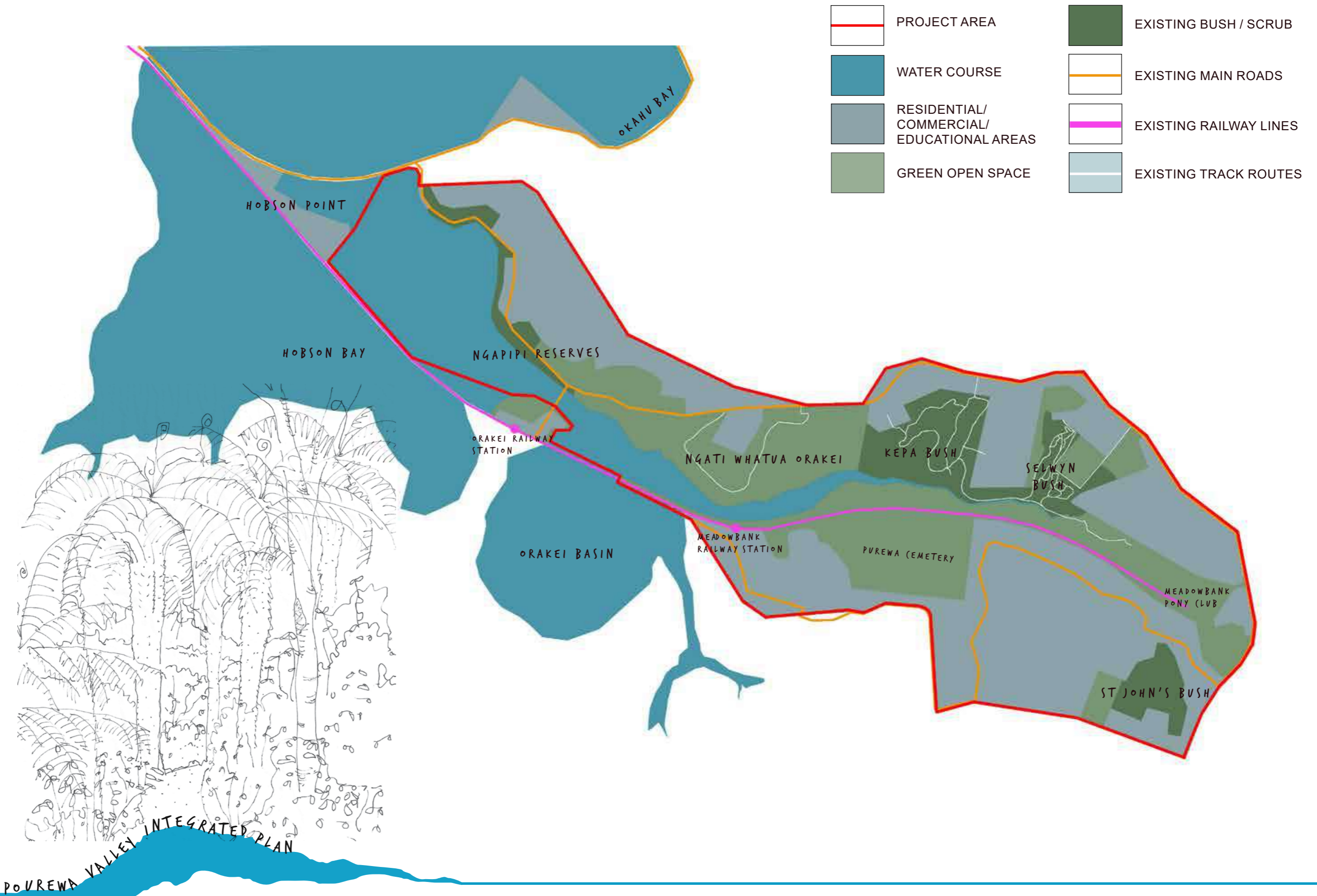


FIGURE 2: EXISTING TRACK NETWORK



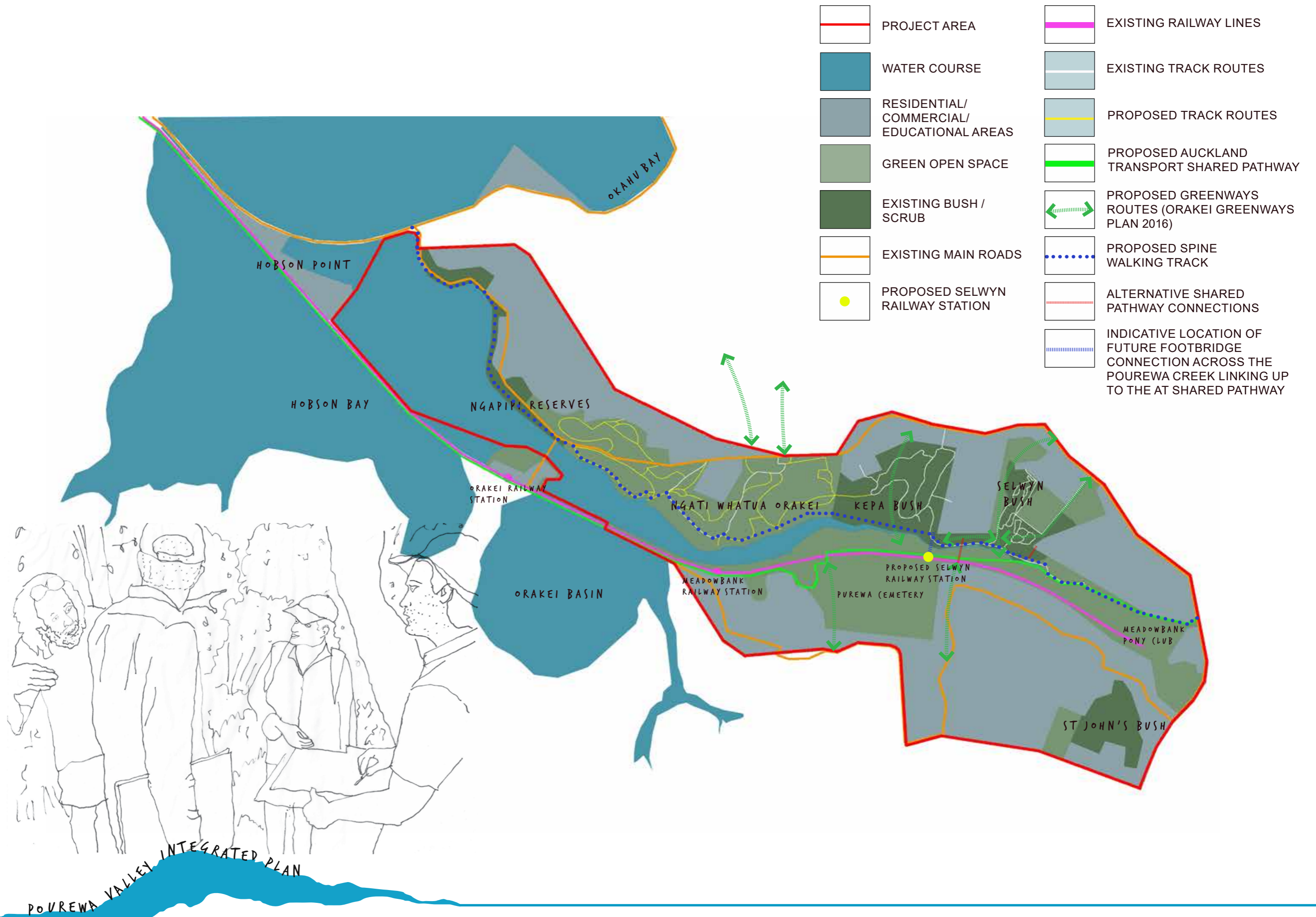


FIGURE 3: PATHWAY NETWORK OPTIONS

## PESTS

Animal pest species<sup>3</sup> that are currently being controlled in the Pourewa Valley include rats, possums and mustelids including stoats. Pest animal species prey on invertebrates, native birds and their eggs, and destroy native vegetation. Animal pest control is a critical aspect in the restoration of the Pourewa valley. Effective pest control will ensure the survival of native animal species, protect their nesting and food resources, and protect native plant species, in particular for newly planted areas.

Pest plants are exotic plants that have the potential to threaten the ecological integrity of plant communities in the estuary margins, stream sides and areas of native bush. The main reasons for this is that pest plants climb up trees and shrubs and smother them, and also form a dense ground cover which stops the regeneration of native plants. Controlling weeds has been a major component of the restoration of native plants in the reserves and other green spaces in the Pourewa Valley.

A summary of priority sites for animal and plant pest control are outlined in figures 4 & 5 below:



Regenerating native understory in Selwyn Bush, with exotic canopy

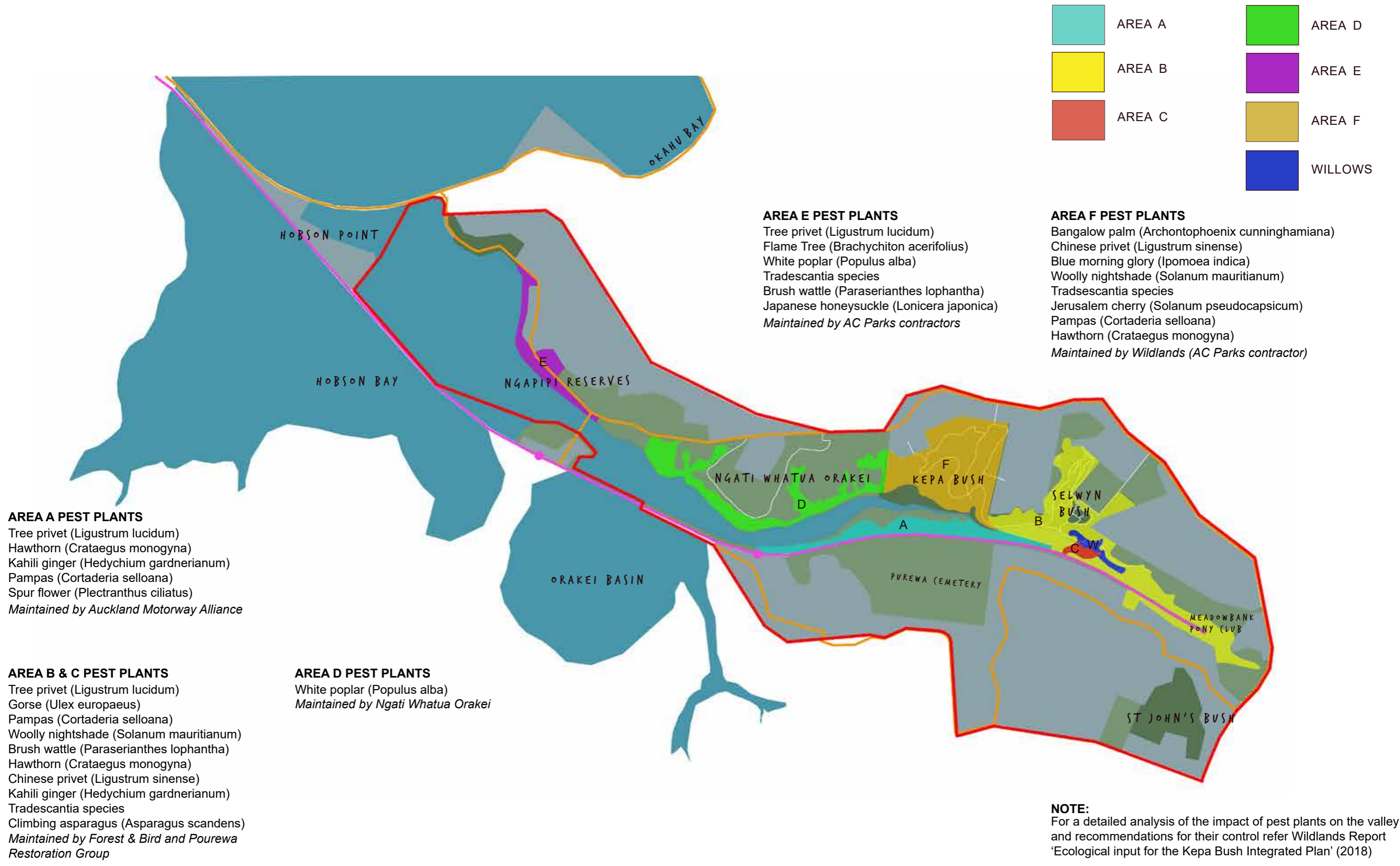


Ginger root drying out in the sun



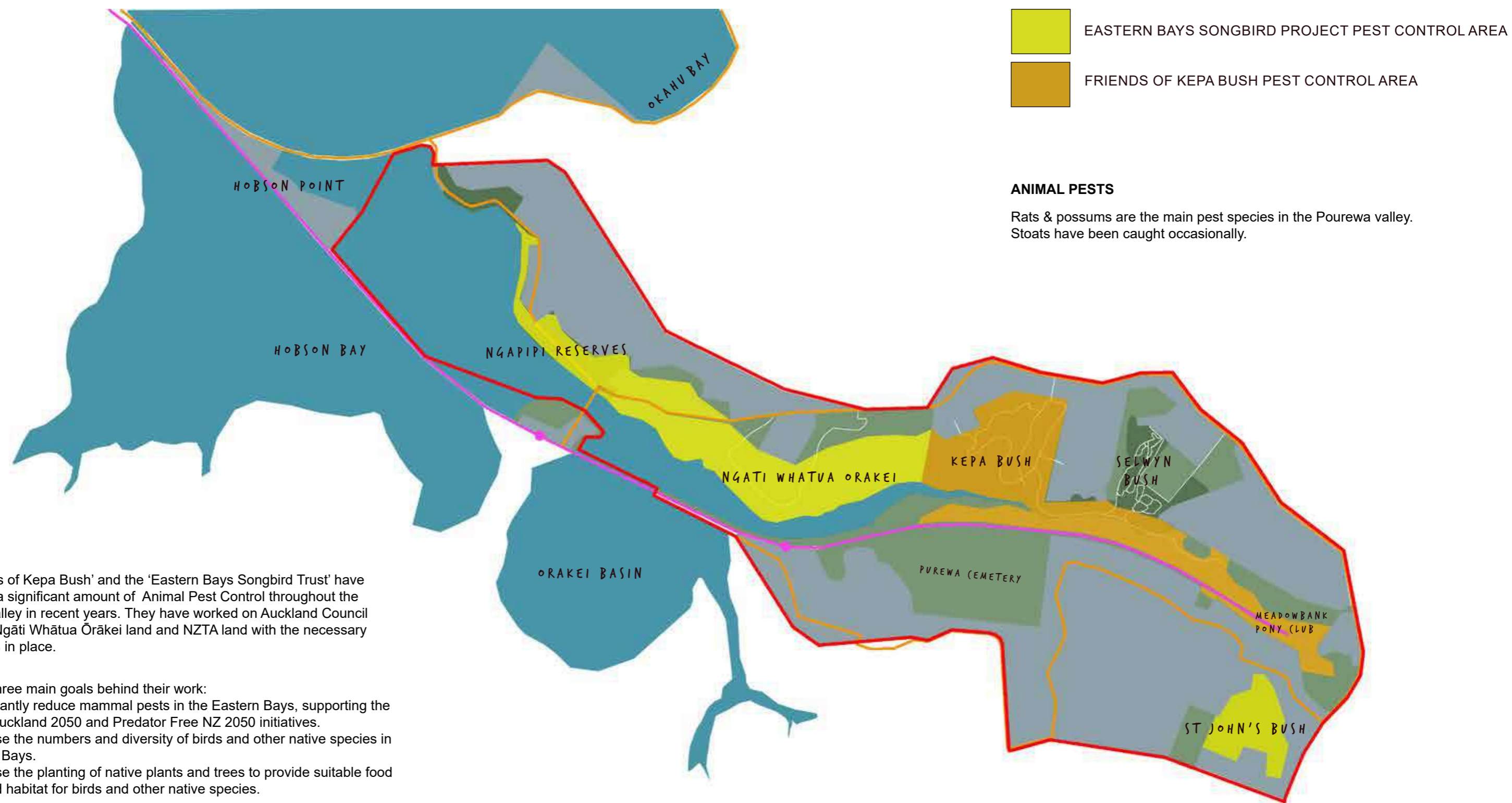
Composting barrels for ginger plant

<sup>3</sup> that are declared pests in the Auckland Regional Pest Management Strategy



POUREWA VALLEY INTEGRATED PLAN

FIGURE 4: PLANT PEST CONTROL - PRIORITY SITES



The 'Friends of Kepa Bush' and the 'Eastern Bays Songbird Trust' have carried out a significant amount of Animal Pest Control throughout the Pourewa Valley in recent years. They have worked on Auckland Council Reserves, Ngāti Whātua Ōrakei land and NZTA land with the necessary permissions in place.

- There are three main goals behind their work:
1. to significantly reduce mammal pests in the Eastern Bays, supporting the Pest Free Auckland 2050 and Predator Free NZ 2050 initiatives.
  2. to increase the numbers and diversity of birds and other native species in the Eastern Bays.
  3. to increase the planting of native plants and trees to provide suitable food sources and habitat for birds and other native species.

The Friends of Kepa Bush have collected data showing a steady decrease in animal pest numbers since 2017. Discussions with groups working in the Selwyn Bush area supports this. Refer to John La Roche's 'Report on Trapping Activities on NZTA Land in Pourewa Valley between July and November 2018' for more detailed information.

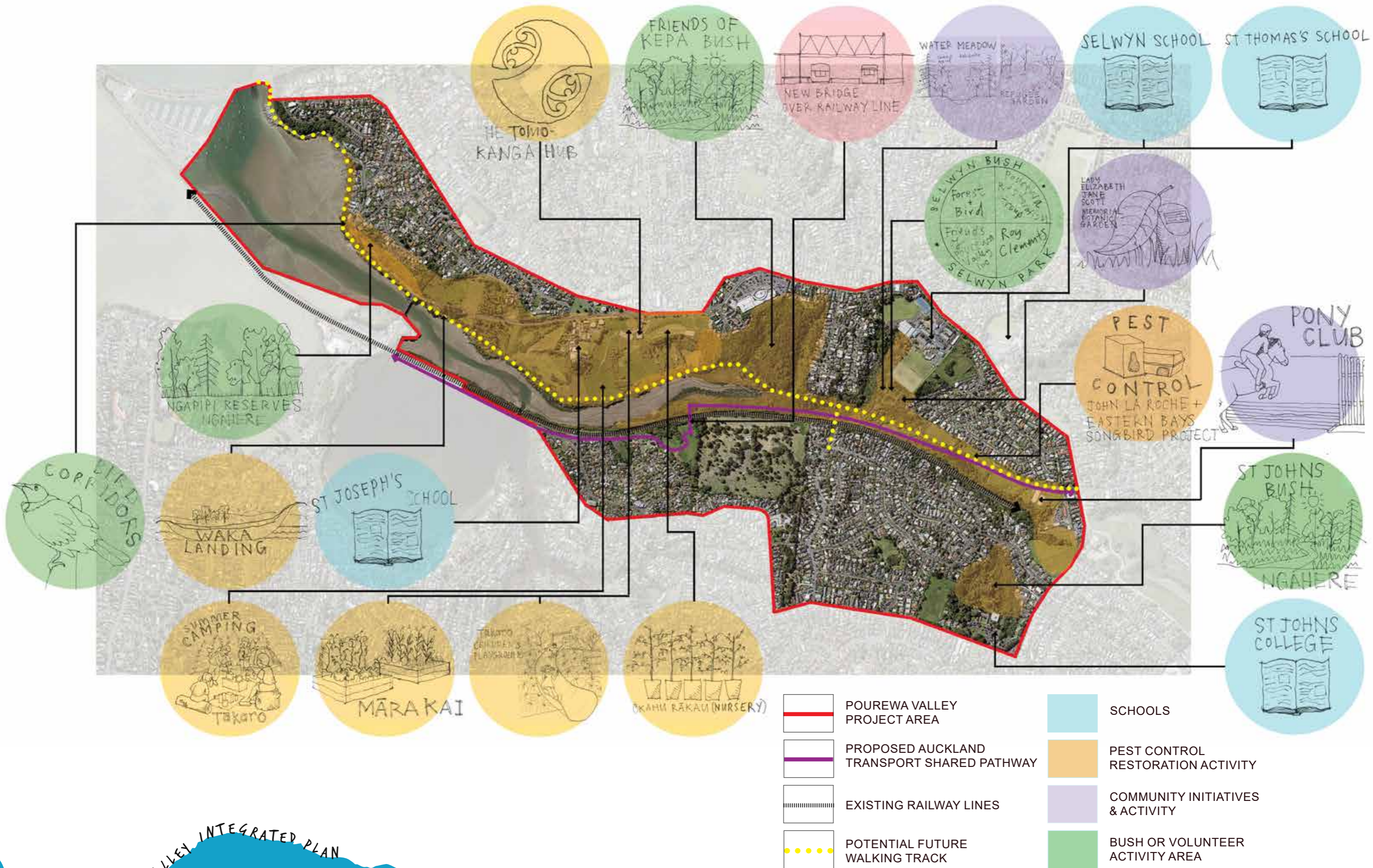
Information from this map was sourced from discussions with John La Roche and the representatives from the Eastern Bays Songbird Trust. Additional information came from the 'Report on Trapping Activities on NZTA Land in Pourewa Valley between July and November 2018' by John La Roche.

## VOLUNTEERS

There are a number of volunteer groups actively working on this land outlined above. This includes on-the-ground restoration activities (plant/animal pest control, replanting), monitoring, as well as advocacy for ecological outcomes and access improvement. They include:

- Forest & Bird “Wednesday Group” (Selwyn Bush)
- Pourewa Restoration Group “Sunday Group” (Selwyn Bush)
- Roy Clements Group (Selwyn Park)
- Friends of Kepa Bush (Kepa Bush, NZTA land)
- Volunteers from Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei (Pourewa Creek Recreation Reserve)
- Eastern Bays Songbird Project (Ngapipi Reserves, Pourewa Creek Recreation Reserve, St Johns Bush)
- Friends of Pourewa Valley (catchment-wide)
- Hapua Thrive (catchment-wide)

A summary of the land parcels and how people are using the Pourewa Valley is outlined in figure 6 below:





An assessment of information relating to the Pourewa catchment was undertaken, including review of existing reports, analysis of maps, land boundaries/reserve status/administering bodies, Te Aranga (design) principles, likely impacted natural and cultural heritage/archaeological sites, stakeholder groups, and visitor types & usage.



Nine targeted interviews were completed, most included a site visit. Feedback was sought through the use of a series of maps to understand what these groups "do", "see" and how they "connect" with the Pourewa Valley. These maps were also used to gain feedback from a wider list of project stakeholders identified by Auckland Council.



A facilitated workshop of Pourewa stakeholders was used to develop a draft vision and aims for Pourewa Valley, as well as to create a core community-led advocacy group and identify an ongoing process for information sharing between all interested parties.



A final plan will be developed and adopted on the basis of workshops with the Ōrākei Local Board and feedback from the community-led advocacy group.



A draft plan is being developed, that includes a vision, aims, an action plan, areas for pest and weed removal, and an appendix of relevant reference documents.

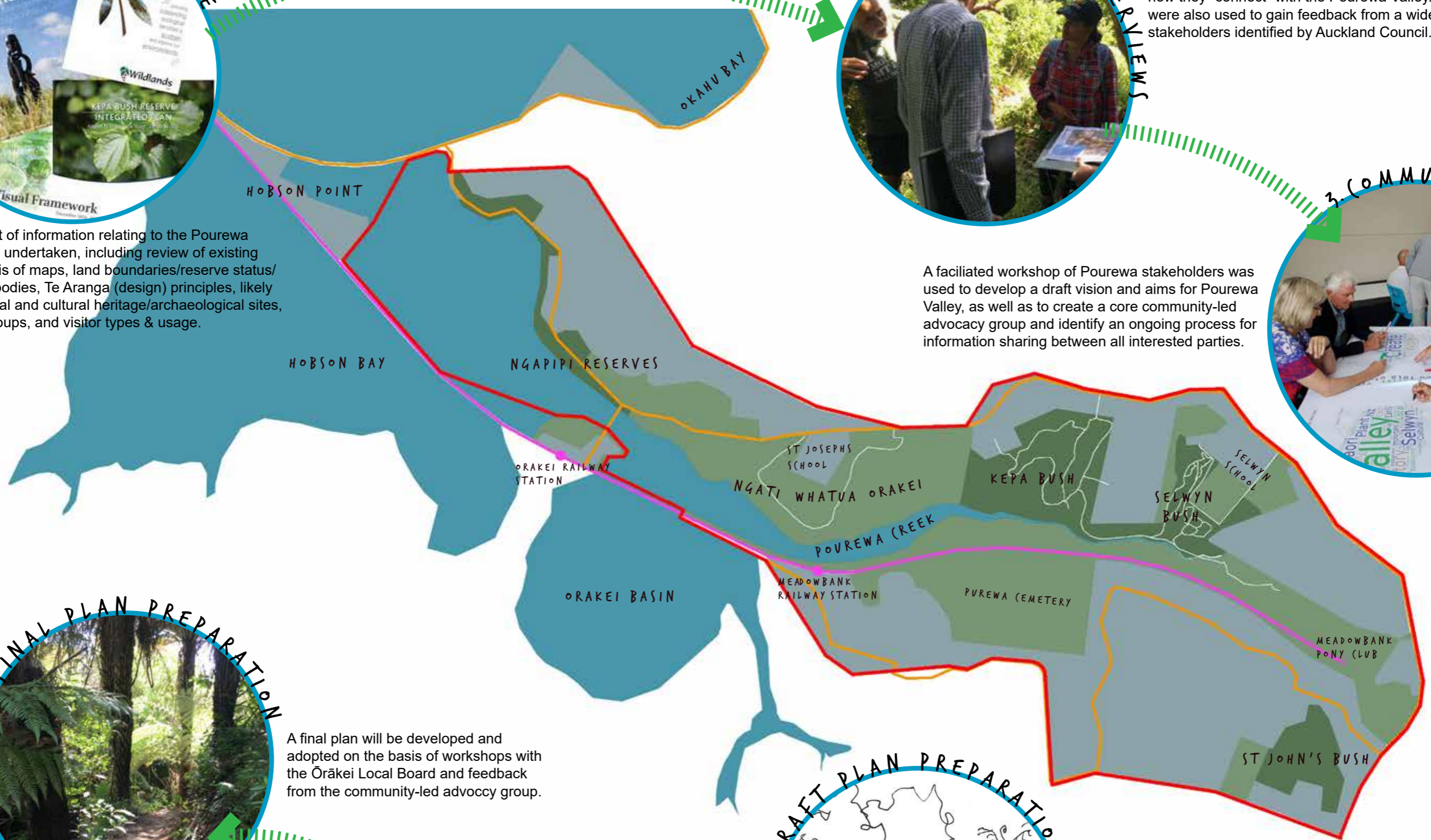


FIGURE 7: OVERVIEW OF THE POUREWA VALLEY INTEGRATED PLAN PROCESS

## PROJECT SCOPE

Given the ecological significance and recreation value of the project area, the purpose of this Plan is to create and document a community-led vision for the Pourewa Valley.

The plan will be developed in collaboration with mana whenua, the community and identified stakeholder groups. The plan is defined in the scope as being an “A3 public facing document”, that outlines:

- Agreed vision, aims and area
- Development plan and action plan
- Areas for pest and weed removal
- Appendix of relevant reference documents

## THE PROCESS

A key deliverable for the Pourewa Valley Integrated Plan process involves providing “dynamic, interactive, targeted, community engagement (including stakeholder interviews and workshops)”.

In consultation with Ōrākei Local Board Advisors and Auckland Council Parks and Places, an agreed Pourewa Valley Integrated Plan Process was developed. The main phases of this process are summarised in figure 7 on the previous page and will be outlined in the following section of this plan.

### 1. SCOPING/EVIDENCE BASE

An assessment of information relating to the Pourewa catchment was undertaken, including analysing maps, land boundaries/reserve status/administering bodies, Te Aranga (design) principles, likely impacted natural and cultural heritage/archaeological sites, stakeholder groups, and visitor types and usage.

This information was used to develop “Section 1 Plan Context & Process” of this Plan. The information reviewed is also summarised in the references section of this Plan.

## 2. STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

A database of stakeholders for the Pourewa Valley was compiled by Auckland Council Parks and Places. Nine groups with an active role in the Pourewa Valley were identified in consultation with Auckland Council Parks and Places to be interviewed. These nine groups were invited to take part in an interview.

Feedback was sought through the use of a series of maps to understand what these groups “do”, “see” and how they “connect” with the Pourewa Valley. These maps were also used to gain feedback from the wider list of project stakeholders identified by Auckland Council.



Most of these interviews took place within the Pourewa Valley itself, in places where the groups undertake their core work. These interviews were valuable in getting an understanding of the state of the environment, the successes and challenges faced by groups working to improve the Pourewa Valley, as well as the opportunities for enhancement.



Meeting with the Forest & Bird “Wednesday Group” in Selwyn Park



Meeting with Roy Clements in Selwyn Park



Meeting with the Pourewa Restoration “Sunday Group” in Selwyn Bush

A summary of the interviews and detailed meeting notes will be included in the references section to this Plan.



### 3. COMMUNITY MEETING

A facilitated workshop of Pourewa stakeholders was held on Saturday 14th December 2019, at the Ōrākei Community Centre. Invitations were extended to all groups identified in the stakeholder database developed prior to the stakeholder interviews. Participants included individuals from stakeholder groups who had completed stakeholder interviews, representatives from Community and Residents associations, Ōrākei Local Board members and support staff.

The workshop allowed participants to introduce themselves, the organization they align with, and the area of the valley they have an interest in. It also allowed people to learn about what others were doing in the Pourewa Valley.

The aim of the workshop was to develop a draft vision and aims for Pourewa Valley, as well as to create a core community-led advocacy group and identify an ongoing process for information sharing between all interested parties.

Material from the scoping/evidence base phase of the project and stakeholder interview material had been refined and summarised prior to the workshop so that it could be used as part of facilitated group activities. This information was then used to provide context to workshop participants in developing and refining an agreed vision and aims for the Pourewa Valley.

In addition to the visioning process, workshop participants from all the organisations represented agreed to participate in a core community-led advocacy group for the Pourewa Valley. A ongoing process for information sharing between all interested parties was also discussed and articulated.

Next steps for the project were then outlined, including key milestone dates in the drafting and development of the Pourewa Plan. Ōrākei Local Board staff also advised how this process would fit within the Ōrākei Local Board (3 Year) Plan.

A summary of the Pourewa Valley Integrated Plan Community Meeting was circulated to all workshop participants in December 2019 and the summary will be included in the references section to this Plan.



Whakatauki led by Tom Irvine (GM Transformation, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei)



Participants reviewing display board of the Pourewa Valley developed for the workshop



"Bus stop" activity used by workshop participants to develop an agreed vision for the Pourewa Valley



Group workshoping around some of the themes that came out of the earlier stakeholder meetings



#### 4. DRAFT PLAN PREPARATION

This draft plan is being developed to include a vision, aims, an action plan, areas for pest and weed removal, and an appendix of relevant reference documents.

To date, the vision and some of the aims have been circulated via email for review and approval by the core community-led advocacy group for the Pourewa Valley.

These major outputs of the draft plan are outlined in “Part 2 - Outputs” of this Plan in the section below.

#### 5. FINAL PLAN PREPARATION

A final plan will be developed and adopted on the basis of workshops with the Ōrākei Local Board and feedback from the community-led advocacy group.

# PART 2: PLAN OUTPUTS

## VISION

This community-led vision is the overarching desire for what the Pourewa Valley will be like by 2040.

A draft vision was first conceptualised by the project planning group in July 2019. Elements of this vision, along with feedback from stakeholder meetings and stakeholder consultation in November 2019 was used to further develop this vision at the Community Meeting in December 2019.

This draft vision was then further refined with feedback from the community-led advocacy group via email, to produce the vision outlined in figure 8 below.

## KEY AIMS

A set of aims to support the vision for the Pourewa Valley were also developed and refined by the core community-led advocacy group. This was based on the outcomes from stakeholder meetings and consultation in November 2019, and the facilitated group work at the Community Meeting in December 2019. Key aims are outlined in figure 9 below: