

TUPUA TE KAWA

*Nō te kawa ora a 'Tupua te Kawa' hei taura here nā Te Awa Tupua me ōna tāngata
ki te kawa nō tawhito rangi.*

Tupua te Kawa is the natural law and value system of Te Awa Tupua and the principles in which Te Kōpuka will uphold and operate within.

KO TE KAWA TUATAHI:

Ko te Awa te mātāpuna o te ora.

The River is the source of spiritual and physical sustenance.

Te Awa Tupua is a spiritual and physical entity that supports and sustains both the life and natural resources within the River and the health and wellbeing of the iwi, hapū and other communities of the River.

KO TE KAWA TUARUA:

E rere kau mai te Awa nui mai i te Kāhui Maunga ki Tangaroa.

The great River flows from the mountains to the sea.

Te Awa Tupua is an indivisible and living whole from the mountains to the sea, incorporating the River and all of its physical and metaphysical elements.

KO TE KAWA TUATORU:

Ko au te Awa, ko te Awa ko au.

I am the River and the River is me.

The Iwi and hapū of the River have an inalienable interconnection with, and responsibility to, Te Awa Tupua and its health and wellbeing.

KO TE KAWA TUAWHĀ:

Ngā manga iti, ngā manga nui e honohono kau ana, ka tupu hei Awa Tupua.

The small and large streams that flow into one another and form one River.

Te Awa Tupua is a singular entity comprised of many elements and communities, working together for the common purpose of the health and wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua.

APPLICATION OF TUPUA TE KAWA

As Tupua te Kawa are the intrinsic values that represent the essence of Te Awa Tupua. These values will logically guide all interactions in relation to the health and wellbeing of the Whanganui River and its tributaries for the future. Based on Tupua te Kawa the following considerations might therefore guide the interactions of those involved in the important work of Te Kōpuka:

- Te Awa Tupua is the sole focus of discussion and work of the Te Kōpuka.
- Participants are collectively bound by Tupua te Kawa, that is, the metaphysicality indivisibility; inalienable responsibility of hapū and iwi; and the collective responsibility of the many communities of Te Awa Tupua to the health and wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua.
- Te Awa Tupua and Te Pā Auroa nā Te Awa Tupua (Te Awa Tupua Framework) provide an inclusive framework focused on the health and wellbeing of the Awa and all of its communities, thus the procedures of the Te Kōpuka will uphold inclusivity and common focus to that end.
- While parties participating in Te Kōpuka will have different appointors the commonality of focus and interest in Te Awa Tupua is the focus of those parties in the work of Te Kōpuka.