

WAIKATO NATURAL BODIES OF WATER

SUMMARY NETWORK PLAN | 2024





INFORMATION

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Authors	Craig Jones and Gordon Cessford
Technical Contributors	Justin Fail (Goevolve)
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INTRODUCTION

2.1 PURPOSE

Developing a Regional Natural Bodies of Water Network Plan is a key optimisation initiative highlighted in the Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan (WRASP). Enabling access to and planning for natural water resources will help ensure that community physical activity needs are met and the network remains beneficial for sports and recreation enthusiasts. These areas are key recreational and sports settings.

This summary Regional Natural Bodies of Water Network Plan will provide a high-level framework to help guide the future strategic direction for investment in spaces and places at a local community, district, sub-regional and regional level while highlighting spaces of significance.

This plan is the initial first step and is not an endpoint. Because of the unique nature of the region's water bodies and the complexity of cultural, environmental, recreational, and sporting factors, further subregional and local work will be required (see section 5.0).

2.2 SCOPE

The Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan Advisory Group established the following initial preliminary scope:

- Develop an inventory of existing facilities and ancillary infrastructure currently supporting water sport, active recreation, and play activity across three key focus areas:
 - Off Water (infrastructure and amenities on land),
 - Access to water (for all types of activity),
 - On Water (infrastructure to support sport, active recreation, and play).
- Review council plans/ strategies and policies that are relevant and support this piece of work.
- Conduct an appropriate mapping exercise of the current provision and identify gaps.
- Identify relevant trends, current capacity, and anticipated and future demands over the next ten years.
- Prepare a summary regional plan to help guide future planning.

It was initially intended that Sport Waikato and the plan partners would provide a substantial proportion of that inventory data. However, early in the process, it became apparent that significant data limitations existed. Emphasis was therefore placed on identifying as many assets as possible (rather than gaining detailed data on each asset). A range of third-party organisations, such as Mercury, also assisted in providing new data.

It was also intended to map water quality. This was changed during the development of the plan as it was considered more effective to identify locations where water quality is tested so those using the plan know where data is available so it can be used at the local level¹. This was primarily because water quality is often variable at different times. Water quality data (obtained by Waikato Regional Council and Mercury) will be available to the plan's partners (water quality monitoring sites are shown in Map 17 of the appendix).

2.3 METHODOLOGY

The development of the plan involved both primary and secondary data collection methodologies. Secondary data was reviewed to understand present planning information and approaches. Existing asset data was also collected from Sport Waikato and the plan partners. This data was added from third-party databases and extensive use of aerial photography.

The primary data collection exercises involved interviews, workshops, and a web-based survey of recreational and sports entities.

2.4 OBJECTIVES

The following objectives have guided the plan.

- Gain a greater understanding of what assets currently exist and identify potential provision gaps to assist with planning.**
- Understand more about the pressures and demands facing natural bodies of water from a recreational and sporting perspective.**
- Outline potential actions to help guide future planning and funding approaches.**

¹ See Appendix Maps 17 swimming sites / holes.

2.5 PLAN USE

The plan can be used to assist with areas such as:

Strategy / Plan Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guide planning focus, Foster sub regional planning collaboration, Improve environmental & cultural input. 	Site Optimisation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset maintenance, Asset development, Optimised functionality, Greater resilience, Improved site prioritisation.
Recreational / Sports Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve water-based sports and recreation participation, Improve water safety planning. 	Investment & Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve investment coordination, Assist in advancing projects to development.

2.6 DEFINITION

This plan uses the term 'natural bodies of water' to describe outdoor water bodies of all scales in natural outdoor settings. That is, water bodies that are not indoors, constrained within artificial materials, or dependent on artificial filtration (such as indoor and outdoor swimming pools).

It is acknowledged that many of the water bodies in the region are human constructs, such as our Waikato River hydro lakes and some smaller water bodies, such as ponds.

2.7 SPECTRUM OF OPPORTUNITIES

The region's natural bodies of water offer a spectrum of interrelated settings for recreation and sports activities, as illustrated in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Spectrum of Natural Bodies of Water

Setting	Examples	Potential Activity examples*
Sheltered Harbours	e.g., Raglan; Whitianga; Tairua; Whangamata; Coromandel (some cross-overs with River Deltas/Estuaries)	e.g., Kayaking; Rowing; Waka Sports; Fishing; Jet Skiing; Stand Up Paddle Board; Boating; Sailing, Mooring
Surf Spots/ Areas/ Beaches	e.g., Manu Bay; Indicators; Mokau Beach; Whangamata Bar; Pauanui Beach; (some cross-overs with 'Beaches-general')	e.g., Surfing; Swimming; Beach play; Surfcasting; some Sail Sports; Small craft access
Beaches (general)	e.g., Pauanui; Matarangi (some cross-overs with 'Surf Areas/Beaches')	e.g., Swimming; Surfing; Surfcasting; Beach Play; some Sail Sports; Small craft access
Narrow Hydro Flat-Water lakes	Ohakuri; Arapuni; Karapiro; Waipāpa; Maraetai (some cross-overs with Rivers)	Rowing; Kayaking; Waka Sports; Boating; Sail Sports; Fishing; beach activities. High-performance sport – i.e. rowing on Karapiro.
Small Lakes	Rotoroa/Hamilton Lake; Ngaroto; Kainui/Lake D; Whangape; Puketirini; Waahi; Rotongaro (some cross-overs with wetland lakes/waterways)	e.g., Swimming; Kayaking; SUPs; Fishing; Kayaking; Rowing; Waka Sports; some Sail Sports and Boating; some Hunting
Large Open Lakes	Lake Taupo	e.g., Swimming; Boating; Sailing; Water skiing; Kayaking; Waka Sports; Rowing; Fishing. High-performance sports events – i.e. Iron Man on Lake Taupo.
Wetland Lakes/ Waterways	Waikare; Kopuatai; Whangamarino; Piako River (some cross-overs with small lakes and rivers)	e.g., Whitebaiting; Fishing; Hunting; some Boating
River Deltas/ Estuaries	e.g., Port Waikato; Tairua, Whangamata & Whitianga Harbours; (some cross-overs with sheltered harbours)	e.g., Whitebaiting; Fishing; Hunting; Boating; SUPs; Kayaking; some Sail sports; beach activities; Mooring
Whitewater River Spots/ Reaches	e.g., Tree Trunk Gorge; Huka Falls; Poutu Falls; Blue Pool to Turangi; Waipāpa River	Kayaking; Rafting; some Boating
Rivers	Waikato River (non-dammed sections); Tongariro; Waihou; Piako; Kauaeranga; Waiwawa (some cross-overs subject to settings)	Boating; Fishing; Rowing; Waka Sports; Kayaking; beach activities

(*subject to site exposure, flow, depth, access proximity, suitable features, hygiene, management regime, etc.)

2.8 ROLE OF THE PLAN PARTNERS

The plan partners all play different roles concerning natural bodies of water. These roles are:

- Waikato Regional Council: Regional coastal and inland waterway policy and environmental planning, consents, monitoring, and enforcement/compliance, including water quality, moorings, vessel safety².
- Local Territorial Authorities: Sports and recreation planning and shoreline reserve management.
- Sport Waikato: Sports and recreation planning and advocacy.

² Note: Waikato Regional Council oversees harbour master and maritime services north of Huka Falls while the DIA provides harbour master services on Lake Taupo to Huka Falls.

KEY POINTS:

- The growth in the Region's population (and surrounding populations such as Auckland and the Bay of Plenty, whose residents can visit and holiday within the Waikato Region) will likely increase demand for recreational and sports use of natural bodies of water.
- Even though the regional population is ageing, those in the more active age cohorts are still increasing numerically. This is likely to see active water sports and activities retain a substantive participant base. Less strenuous activities that appeal to all age ranges, such as some forms of fishing, will also likely increase.
- Ethnicity projections will likely see continued growth in certain activities such as Waka ama (assuming overall capture rates are maintained).
- Unlike human-made assets (such as swimming pools), the network of natural water bodies is largely fixed. Increased demand is often harder to accommodate and requires different management and asset interventions that work with the existing outdoor environment.
- Existing water-based sports and recreation organisations indicate that challenges are emerging regarding the quality of assets (not so much wider asset gaps).
- Most use of the region's natural bodies of water will be from unstructured sports and recreation activities.
- Unlike many other land-based sports and recreational activities, using natural bodies of water carries heightened risks associated with drowning and collisions. Motorised and non-motorised activities often share the same environments, potentially leading to conflicts and a higher risk of injury.
- Sporting and recreational activities can also lead to adverse cultural, environmental, and economic risks (i.e. the spread of Golden Clams).

3.1 DEMOGRAPHIC KEY POINTS

Key summary demographic features affecting water sport and recreation participation include:

- The strongest recent and projected population growth is in Hamilton City and the Waikato and Districts.
- The main projected growth 'hotspots' are around the Hamilton green fields development areas, nearby towns, and north along the Waikato Expressway corridor.
- Population ageing trends will impact participation. Older age cohorts may favour less strenuous recreational activities (i.e. fishing, leisure swimming, and flat-water kayaking). Although younger age cohorts may reduce proportionally, they remain robust numerically, suggesting active recreation and sports will not decline (based on age patterns alone).
- The overall regional predominance of European ethnic identities (75%) varies by territorial authority (TA) from almost 90% in Thames-Coromandel and Waipā to 64% in Waitomo. Māori identities are more prominent (>30%) in South Waikato, Otorohanga, and Taupo Districts and Asian (18%) in Hamilton City.
- Ethnic identity projections suggest activities that are more attractive to non-European ethnicities will have relatively higher increases in their local participant catchments across most areas.

3.2 DEMOGRAPHIC DATA SUMMARY

CURRENT POPULATIONS & RECENT TRENDS

Table 3.1 shows that over the last 10-15 years, the population of the Waikato Region has grown strongly but unevenly. Most numeric growth has occurred in Hamilton City (31,323), representing 41% of the overall growth in the Waikato region. However, the highest relative percentage rates of growth have been in Waikato District (31%), followed by Waipā District (25%) and then Hamilton City (24%).

At a finer level, most of this growth has occurred in a smaller number of 'hotspot' areas, represented by:

- The Western Ward of Hamilton City (+21,192), representing 68% of the overall Hamilton City increase.
- Dispersed across Waikato District, but slightly higher numeric growth for Tuakau-Pokeno Ward, Whangamarino Ward, and Newcastle-Ngaruawahia Ward north around state highway 1 from Hamilton; and in the Tamahere-Woodlands Ward to Hamilton's southeast.

- In the Cambridge Ward (5,178) of Waipā District, representing 48% of the overall District growth, followed by Te Awamutu Ward (2,700, 25%).
- Almost all in Taupo-Kaingaroa Ward (4,323) of Taupo District, representing 90% of the overall District growth (predominantly around Taupo itself).
- In the Mercury Bay Ward (2,241) of the eastern Thames-Coromandel District, representing 57% of the overall District growth.
- Most other growth in the slower/lower growing Districts was in their main towns.

TABLE 3.1: POPULATION GROWTH BY TAs 2006-2018 (DESCENDING ORDER)

District/City	2006	2018	change 2006-18	% change	av %/yr
Hamilton City	129,588	160,911	31,323	24	2.0
Waikato	57,588	75,618	18,030	31	2.6
Waipā	42,501	53,241	10,740	25	2.1
Taupo	32,418	37,203	4,785	15	1.2
Thames-Coromandel	25,938	29,895	3,957	15	1.3
Matamata-Piako	30,483	34,404	3,921	13	1.1
Hauraki	17,856	20,022	2,166	12	1.0
South Waikato	22,641	24,042	1,401	6	0.5
Otorohanga	9,075	10,104	1,029	11	0.9
Waitomo	9,438	9,303	-135	-1	-0.1
Waikato Region	380823	458202	77,379	20	1.7

Source: Statistics New Zealand Census 2018

PROJECTED FUTURE POPULATIONS.

Looking forward over the next 25 years (Table 3.2), future population projections largely point to continued growth in many of the same areas.

TABLE 3.2: POPULATION GROWTH BY TAs 2023-2048 (DESCENDING ORDER)

District/City	2023	2048	Change 2023-48	% change	av %/yr
Hamilton City	183,000	236,600	53,600	29	1.2
Waikato	86,100	117,700	31,600	37	1.5
Waipā	59,300	70,700	11,400	19	0.8
Taupo	40,900	43,800	2,900	7	0.3
Matamata-Piako	37,000	39,600	2,600	7	0.3
South Waikato	25,800	27,100	1,300	5	0.2
Otorohanga	11,050	12,000	950	9	0.3
Thames-Coromandel	32,400	32,800	400	1	0.0
Hauraki	21,800	21,800	0	0	0.0
Waitomo	9,740	9,070	-670	-7	-0.3
Waikato Region	507,090	611,170	104,080	21	0.8

Source: Statistics New Zealand* projections

Overall, the Waikato Region population was projected to increase by 104,080 residents by 2048, led by Hamilton City (56,300), Waikato District (31,600) and Waipā District (11,400). At more localised 'Statistical Area 2' (SA2)³ levels, the main population growth hotspots across the Waikato Region are projected to be primarily clustered in three broad areas:

- New Greenfield Developments around Hamilton - accounted for around 35% of total Waikato population growth. These growth hotspots around Hamilton's urban fringe were led by Peacockes (13,780), Roto-Kauri-Waiwhakareke (11,810), Ruakura (6,510), Rototuna North (2,020) and Te Rapa North (1,870).
- Along the Northern Waikato Expressway Corridor - which accounted for around 12% of total Waikato population growth. These growth hotspots along the Northern corridor away from Hamilton were led more modestly by Huntly Rural (4,350), Tuakau North & South (3,000), Pokeno (2,380), Taupiri-lake Kainui (1,80) and Pokeno Rural (1,070).
- Near-Hamilton Towns - which accounted for around 8% of total Waikato population growth. These growth hotspots in areas around Hamilton were led more modestly by Tamahere North & South (3,380), Whatawhata East (1,400), Cambridge North (1,270), Te Kowhai (1,240) and Pukemoremore (1,000).

Other SA2 areas projected to increase by over 1,000 residents by 2048 were Flagstaff North (1,160) and Greensboro (1,030) inside Hamilton City and Tahuroa (1,170) outside of Morrinsville in Waipā District. The remainder of population growth was spread widely in lower numbers across the greater Waikato Region.

³ Statistics New Zealand geographical units for data collection and reporting.

Overall, this suggests greater demand potential for water-based activities in and around Hamilton City and for any water-activity locations where these residents would be prepared to travel (i.e. the beaches and harbours of Raglan). Potential growth in demand for more localised water-based activities would appear to be lower (on a population basis) across much of the rest of the region.

CURRENT/PROJECTED AGE PROFILES

Age group distributions varied across the Local Authority areas (Table 3.3). Median ages indicate the Thames-Coromandel (54 years) and Hauraki (47 years) populations were notably 'older' compared with the Waikato Region (37 years), while the Hamilton City population was notably 'younger' (36 years).

TABLE 3.3: SUMMARY AGE-GROUPS (%) – IN DECLINING MEDIAN AGE ORDER

District/City	0-14 yrs	15-39 yrs	40-64 yrs	65+ yrs	Total	Med age
Thames-Coromandel	15	20	34	31	29,895	54
Hauraki	19	24	34	24	20,022	47
Taupo	21	28	32	19	37,203	41
Matamata-Piako	20	29	31	20	34,404	41
Waipā	21	29	33	18	53,241	41
Waitomo	22	30	32	16	9,303	38
South Waikato	23	29	31	16	24,042	38
Waikato	23	29	35	13	75,618	38
Otorohanga	23	32	31	15	10,104	36
Hamilton City	21	39	27	12	160,911	32
Waikato Region	21	32	31	16	458,202	37

Source: Statistics New Zealand Census 2018

Over the next 25 years, regional trends in age groups are dominated by the relative growth in the older age groups. Table 3.4 shows the 65 years+ age group increases by 62% (56,300) while the youngest 0-14 years age group increases by only 4% (3,900). This represents an increase for the 65+ age group from 17% of the population in 2023 to 23% in 2048. At the same time, the population of those aged 0-14 years declines from 20% to 17%. Figure 3.1 illustrates this overall pattern.

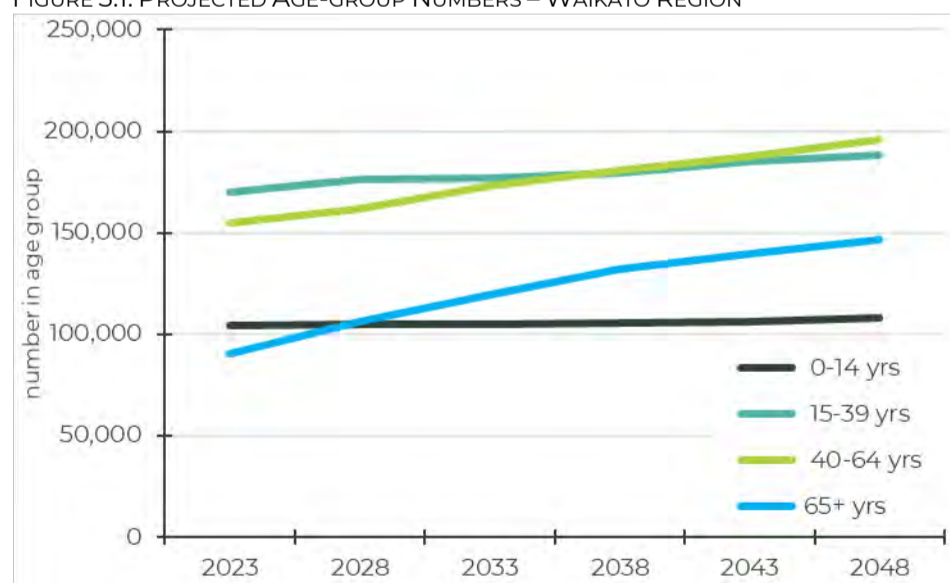
However, it should not be forgotten that numerically, the regions under 39 years old are still projected to record an increase of circa 22,000 residents by 2048, suggesting that more active water sports and activities are unlikely to see a decline based on demographics alone.

TABLE 3.4: PROJECTED AGE-GROUPS (%) – WAIKATO REGION (2023-48)

	2023	2048	change 2023-48	% change
0-14 yrs	104,300	108,200	3,900	4
15-39 yrs	170,100	188,200	18,100	11
40-64 yrs	155,100	195,900	40,800	26
65 yrs+	90,500	146,800	56,300	62
Total people	519,900	639,000	119,100	23

Source: Statistics New Zealand Projections

FIGURE 3.1: PROJECTED AGE-GROUP NUMBERS – WAIKATO REGION



A broad 'ageing' pattern is reflected across all Territorial Authority areas in the Region. However, it is most pronounced in Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki Districts, where numbers in the younger age groups are projected to decline (also the case for almost all other Districts). This 'ageing' pattern is least evident in Hamilton City and Waikato District, where younger age groups are projected to continue increasing (although at much lower rates than the older age groups).

⁴ Note that census respondents can cite multiple ethnic identities so total % figures can exceed 100%.

⁵ 'Modelled participation' in Sport New Zealand's Insights Tool uses combined data from a range of sources including the 2019 and 2020 Active NZ Surveys and Statistics NZ

CURRENT/PROJECTED ETHNICITY PROFILES

The ethnic identity profiles of populations across the region vary considerably. Table 3.5 shows the overall predominance of the European ethnic identity in all Districts, with the main exception being Waitomo, where almost half (45%) indicate a Māori ethnic identity. Other Districts with a high 'Māori' identity proportion include South Waikato (35%), Otorohanga and Taupo Districts (both 30%). Other notable variations include 18% citing 'Asian' ethnic identity in Hamilton City and 13% 'Pacific' in South Waikato.

TABLE 3.5: SUMMARY OF ETHNIC IDENTITIES (%)⁴

	European	Māori	Pacific	Asian	Other	Total people
Thames-Coromandel	89	18	2	3	1	29,895
Waipā	89	15	2	4	1	53,241
Matamata-Piako	85	17	2	6	1	34,404
Hauraki	85	23	3	4	0	20,022
Otorohanga	79	30	2	4	0	10,104
Waikato	78	26	4	6	1	75,618
Taupo	77	30	3	5	1	37,203
South Waikato	70	35	13	4	1	24,042
Hamilton City	64	24	6	18	3	160,911
Waitomo	64	45	4	4	0	9,303
Waikato Region	75	24	5	10	1	458,202

Source: Statistics New Zealand Census 2018

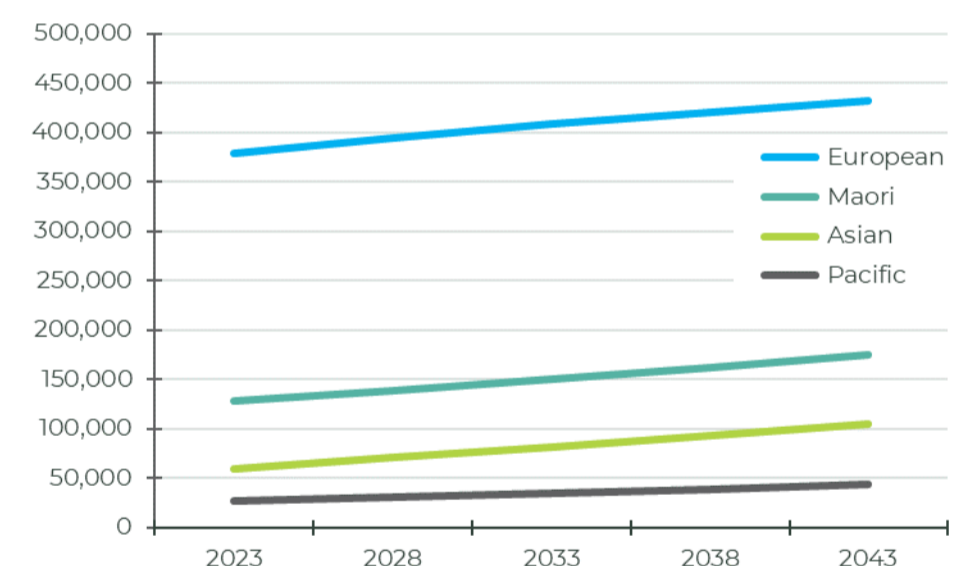
Looking forward over the next 20 years, regional trends in ethnic identity profiles are dominated by the highest numeric growth in residents citing 'European', 'Māori' and 'Asian' ethnic identities, with the highest relative growth in 'Asian' (76%) and 'Pacific' (64%). These are summarised in Table 3.6, with the overall pattern illustrated in Figure 3.2 being broadly consistent across all Territorial Authorities. Water-based activities more aligned with these ethnicities could be expected to experience increased participation.

TABLE 3.6: PROJECTED ETHNIC IDENTITIES (%) – WAIKATO REGION (2023-43)

	2023	2043	change 2023-43	% change
European	378,600	431,600	53,000	14
Māori	127,500	174,800	47,300	37
Asian	59,600	105,100	45,500	76
Pacific	26,700	43,700	17,000	64
Total people	510,800	598,100	87,300	17

Source: Statistics New Zealand Projections

FIGURE 3.2: PROJECTED ETHNIC-IDENTITY NUMBERS – WAIKATO REGION



3.3 PARTICIPATION

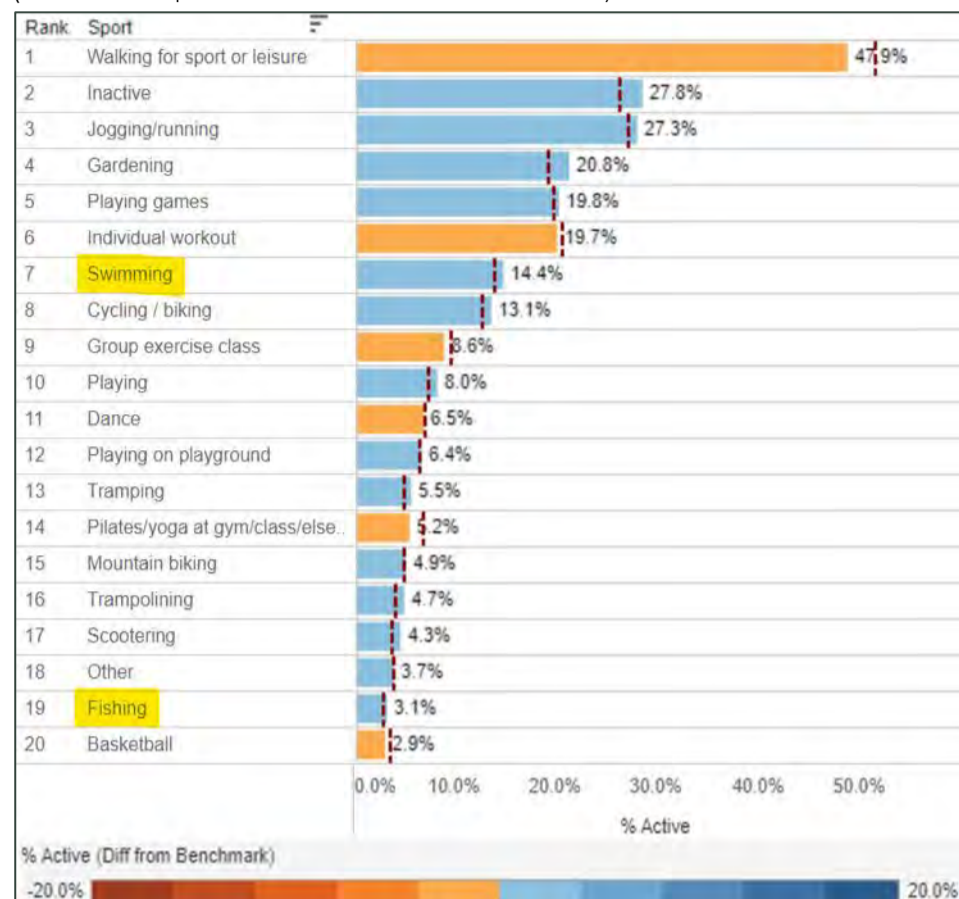
Using the Sport New Zealand Insights Tool, Figure 3.3 shows the top 20 (of 70) active sport and recreation activities⁵ in terms of expected participant levels for the Waikato Region. Key summary points for outdoor Water sports are:

- 'Swimming' had a modelled expected participant level of 14.4% of the Waikato population overall. However, this category included swimming/water play in pools and natural water bodies, so it does not accurately represent natural water body activity alone.
- 'Fishing' (3.1%) was the only outdoor water activity included in the Top 20 activities, although its definition did not distinguish the type of fishing or water setting.
- Except for 'Surfing/Body Boarding' (2.6%), virtually all other outdoor water sport activities included in the activities assessed in the Sports NZ Insights Tool were estimated as having overall participant levels of less than 1% of the Waikato Region population (or of any constituent Council population).

Census 2018. The dashed lines represent the National average participation levels. The bar colour represents the indicative degree to which Waikato participation rates are above or below the National rates.

- Table 3.7 shows estimated overall population participation levels for the different natural outdoor water-based activities at the Regional and Council levels. Table 3.8 provides estimated counts.
- Tables 3.9 and 3.10 show future interest in activities for adults and youth at a regional level. Interest levels are typically higher than the current estimated activity levels.

FIGURE 3.3: TOP 20 ACTIVITY PARTICIPANT LEVELS – WAIKATO REGION
(dotted lines represent overall NZ levels – refer footnote)



Source: Sport New Zealand Insights Tool 2023

The pattern of expected overall participant levels was broadly consistent across the Waikato Region's different Councils (Territorial Authorities). Only slight variations occurred at low levels. These appeared to primarily reflect different activity preferences across different population age profiles and the different physical settings in different areas (e.g., proximity to certain types of water bodies that were more likely to facilitate certain activities).

Looking more specifically at the total outdoor water sports activities, Table 3.7 lists the expected participant percentages (in descending order).

TABLE 3.7: EXPECTED PARTICIPANT % LEVELS (WAIKATO REGION & TAs)

Expected participants % of population - ALL	Territorial Authorities										
	Waikato Region	Hamilton City	Waikato	Waipā	Taupo	Matamata-Piako	South Waikato	Otorohanga	Thames-Coromandel	Hauraki	Waitomo
Swimming	14.4	14.3	15.4	14.4	14.3	14.1	15.1	14.8	12.7	13.7	14.9
Fishing	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.4	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.2	3
Surf/bodyboard	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.7	2.4	2.8	2.1	2.3	2.4
Canoe/kayaking	0.9	0.8	1	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7
Waka Ama	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.6	1	0.8	0.5	0.7	1
Rowing	0.8	1	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.8
Sailing/Yachting	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3
Surf Life Saving	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3
Waterskiing	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Diving/scuba	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2
Paddle Boarding	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
2018 Population.	458,202	160,911	75,618	53,241	37,203	34,404	24,042	10,104	29,895	20,022	9,303

Source: Sport New Zealand Insights Tool 2023

Based on applying these estimated participant percentages to the 2018 Census populations, Table 3.7 estimates the expected numbers of different activity participants residing in each area.

TABLE 3.8: ESTIMATED WATER ACTIVITY PARTICIPANT COUNTS (WAIKATO REGION & TAs)

Expected participant numbers	Waikato Region	Hamilton City	Waikato	Waipā	Taupo	Matamata-Piako	South Waikato	Otorohanga	Thames-Coromandel	Hauraki	Waitomo
Swimming	65,981	23,010	11,645	7,667	5,320	4,851	3,630	1,495	3,797	2,743	1,386
Fishing	14,204	4,666	2,344	1,704	1,153	1,170	697	323	987	641	279
Surf/bodyboard	11,913	4,506	2,042	1,438	893	929	577	283	628	461	223
Canoe/kayaking	4,124	1,287	756	586	335	310	168	91	269	160	65
Waka Ama	3,207	1,126	529	266	260	206	240	81	149	140	93
Rowing	3,666	1,609	681	479	260	275	192	91	179	140	74
Sailing/Yachting	2,291	1,126	302	160	112	103	72	40	60	60	28
Surf Life Saving	1,375	483	227	160	112	103	72	40	60	60	28
Water skiing	916	322	227	160	74	103	48	30	60	40	19
Diving/scuba	458	161	76	106	74	69	24	10	90	40	19
Paddle Boarding	458	161	76	53	37	34	24	10	30	20	9
2018 Population	458,202	160,911	75,618	53,241	37,203	34,404	24,042	10,104	29,895	20,022	9,303

Sources: Sport NZ Insights Tool participation modelling; Statistics NZ Census 2018

Using the regionally boosted participation data collected for Sport Waikato from the Sport NZ Active NZ Survey programme in 2021, it is possible to draw further indicative insights into potential natural water-based activity participation. These data distinguished adult and youth (aged 8-17 years) responses (in Tables 3.9 and 3.10). The survey also asked adult and youth respondents about their interest in participating in listed activities over the following 12 months. These included slightly more refined activity categories and highlighted the differences between Adult and Youth activity interest levels. Many activities had levels well below 1%.

TABLE 3.9: EXPECTED PARTICIPANT % LEVELS & FUTURE INTEREST % LEVELS - ADULT

Expected participant % of the population - ADULTS (n=5339)	Territorial Authorities											
	Waikato Region	Hamilton City	Waikato	Waipā	Taupo	Matamata-Piako	South Waikato	Otorohanga	Thames-Coromandel	Hauraki	Waitomo	Waikato Region Future Interest % Levels - Adult
Swimming	7.6	6.6	10.0	7.0	8.6	5.5	5.9	5.0	14.3	4.1	5.9	13.7
Marine Fishing	2.0	0.9	2.7	1.2	0.5	3.5	2.4	3.8	6.4	2.8	4.4	8.2
Surf body board	1.7	1.2	2.0	2.4	0.3	1.3	0.3	0.0	5.7	2.7	0.3	4.6
Canoe/kayaking	1.2	0.7	1.4	0.9	2.5	1.0	0.6	0.8	3.5	1.4	1.1	9.8
Freshwater Fishing	1.0	0.5	1.1	1.4	3.9	0.1	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.1	1.4	5.8
Rowing	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.1	0.0	2.2
Sailing/Yachting	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	1.3	0.0	3.0
Paddle Boarding	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2
Waka Ama	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.4	2.2
Wake Boarding	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.02
Surf Life Saving	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	1.1
Snorkelling	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0
Diving/scuba	0.04	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.05
Waterskiing	0.03	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.14
Fishing (unspecified)	0.03	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.16
2018 Population.	458,202	160,911	75,618	53,241	37,203	34,404	24,042	10,104	29,895	20,022	9,303	

Source: Sport Waikato Regionally Boosted Participation Data 2021

TABLE 3.10: EXPECTED PARTICIPANT % LEVELS & FUTURE INTEREST % LEVELS - YOUTH

Expected participant % of the population - YOUTH (n=986)	Territorial Authorities											
	Waikato Region	Hamilton City	Waikato	Waipā	Taupo	Matamata-Piako	South Waikato	Otorohanga	Thames-Coromandel	Hauraki	Waitomo	Waikato Region Future Interest % Levels - Youth
Swimming	31.0	25.8	28.5	56.5	29.9	33.0	16.0	33.2	41.1	33.1	27.7	35.0
Bodyboarding	3.1	0.8	5.8	3.8	0.7	1.9	0.0	0.0	15.8	10.7	0.9	9.4
Canoe/kayaking	2.7	1.4	1.5	0.6	3.7	7.7	0.3	2.3	4.9	8.4	12.3	9.7
Fishing	2.7	1.2	1.9	3.4	2.8	9.9	0.8	0.7	10.5	3.0	2.6	14.8
Surfing	2.7	1.2	5.5	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	3.0	18.1	6.1	1.3	13.6
Rowing	1.1	0.3	1.5	3.2	1.3	0.7	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.7	1.9	3.2
Waka Ama	1.0	1.0	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	2.5	5.3
Sailing/Yachting	0.8	0.0	2.0	2.3	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	2.3
Surf Life Saving	0.7	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	2.5	0.0	4.4
Paddle Boarding	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	2.9	0.0	0
Diving/scuba	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Waterskiing	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Wake Boarding	0.04	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
2018 Population.	458,202	160,911	75,618	53,241	37,203	34,404	24,042	10,104	29,895	20,022	9,303	

Source: Sport Waikato Regionally Boosted Participation Data 2021

Such indications of future potential interest do not seem to have been reflected in club membership levels. Few outdoor water sports clubs in the Sport Waikato Club Survey or the Club Survey undertaken for this project (Section 3.6) reported notably increased membership levels over recent

years. This could indicate that many participants are choosing an unstructured approach rather than participating through structured organisations.

Another indication of general participation is boat trailer registration across the Waikato region. Although these registrations have limitations because they cannot indicate the type of craft being carried (e.g., large waka, kayaks, rowing skiffs, jet skis, trailer sailers, or power boats), they indicate potential activity. Table 3.11 sets out registrations by TA across the region (in descending order) (See Appendix 2, Map 15).

TABLE 3.11: WAIKATO BOAT TRAILER REGISTRATIONS BY TA

	Count	%
Waikato District	4,696	19.9
Thames-Coromandel District	3,773	16.0
Hamilton City	3,766	16.0
Taupo District	2,943	12.5
Waipā District	2,893	12.3
Matamata-Piako District	2,033	8.6
Hauraki District	1,557	6.6
South Waikato District	932	4.0
Ōtorohanga District	549	2.3
Waitomo District	407	1.7
Total Waikato registrations		(n=23,558)

Source: NZTA Boat Trailer Registration Database

3.4 CONSTRAINTS AND RISKS

Unlike human-made assets (such as swimming pools), the Waikato network of natural water bodies is largely fixed. Accommodating increased demand is, therefore, often harder and requires different management and asset interventions that work with the constraints of the existing outdoor environment.

Environmental degradation and climate change also pose risks to the health of water bodies. Poor water quality could temporarily or permanently close areas to some or all activity.

The region's natural bodies of water will be used mainly for unstructured sports and recreation activities. Managing such use is inherently more difficult than dealing with structured use through community organisations such as sports clubs.

Unlike many other land-based sports and recreational activities, using natural bodies of water also carries with it heightened risks associated with drowning and injury (potentially associated with collisions). Motorised and non-motorised activities also often share the same environments, which can lead to conflicts and a higher risk of serious injury.

Sporting and recreational activities can also lead to unintended adverse cultural, environmental, and economic risks (i.e. the spread of Golden Clams and Didymo).

All these constraints and risks must be carefully considered when developing planning approaches.

3.5 VARIABILITY OF PLANNING APPROACHES

Another characteristic of planning for natural bodies of water from a recreational and sporting perspective is the variability of approaches adopted across the region. Territorial Authorities (TAs) tend to consider planning at multiple, more focused levels. For example, from individual reserve management plans to larger asset management plans to individual plans/reports by asset type (i.e. boat ramps). Often, this planning is done for specific defined areas (within each TA) rather than adopting a regional and subregional lens. This can run the risk of planning being more siloed and less nuanced.

Some Mana whenua representatives pointed to this 'siloed' approach and were concerned about the lack of a cultural and environmental lens applied to recreational planning and design decisions. Some stakeholders from community organisations also indicated that asset solutions were not holistic. Assets like boat ramps were provided without the necessary support infrastructure (parking, toilets, and jetties) or ongoing maintenance to make them functional. There was a general desire to see more "holistic and joined-up thinking."

3.6 PARTICIPANT VOICE

Water Sports Club Survey

A web-based survey for this project was developed and distributed through Sport Waikato and TA contact data lists. The survey targeted water sport

and recreation groups⁶. Organisations provided 42 responses. A small number of groups provided multiple responses (from two representatives). In total, 34 different groups were represented in the survey. Table 3.12 breaks down the 34 groups into activity types, while Table 3.13 outlines the specific participating groups.

TABLE 3.12: ACTIVITIES REPRESENTED (TOTAL GROUPS = 34)

Activities represented	count	%	Notes
Waka Sports	11	32	Waka Ama, Dragon Boating, Waka Hoe
Sailing	7	21	
Rowing	6	18	
Boating/Fishing	3	9	Mostly sport fishing clubs (with boating)
Surf Lifesaving	3	9	
Boating	2	5	
Water Skiing	1	3	
Canoeing	1	3	Canoe Racing NZ

TABLE 3.13: GROUPS REPRESENTED (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Group Name	Main Activity
Cambridge Yacht Club	Sailing
Canoe Racing New Zealand	Canoeing
Hamilton Rowing Club	Rowing
Hamilton Yacht Club	Sailing
Hauraki Waka Ama Club	Waka Sports
Kaiaua Boating Club	Boating
Karapiro Rowing	Rowing
Kawhia Boating & Angling club	Boating/Fishing
Mercer Rowing Club	Rowing
Mercury Bay Boating Club	Boating
Ngā Kaihoe o Te Puaha Waka Ama	Waka Sports
Nga Tai Whakarongo Whanau Hoe Waka	Waka Sports
Piarere Water Ski Club	Water Skiing
Raglan Sport Fishing Club	Boating/Fishing
Raglan Surf Lifesaving Club	Surf Lifesaving
Sailability Waikato Trust	Sailing
Sailing Club (specific name not given)	Sailing
St Paul's Collegiate Rowing	Rowing
Tairua Pauanui Sports Fishing Club	Boating/Fishing
Taupo Rowing Club	Rowing
Te Awamutu Rowing Club	Rowing
Te Toki Voyaging Trust	Waka Sports
Thames Sailing Club	Sailing
Turangawaewae Waka Sports	Waka Sports
Waikato Dragon Boating & Waka Ama Assoc	Waka Sports
Waikato Treasure Chest Dragon Boat Club	Waka Sports
Waikato Yacht Squadron	Sailing
Wairau Paddling Club	Waka Sports
Waka Ama Club (specific name not given)	Waka Sports
Whaingaroa Whanau Hoe Waka Ama Club	Waka Sports
Whangamata Sailing Club	Sailing
Whangamata Surf Club	Surf Lifesaving
Whiritoa Surf Lifesaving	Surf Lifesaving
Whitianga Waka Ama club	Waka Sports

While responses were drawn from a cross-section of groups involved in different activities, many common issues and needs emerged.

They all needed onshore access to sites adjacent to the water bodies they used, ways of achieving safe water entry and egress, and support facilities to facilitate and enhance activity experiences.

The overarching common themes that emerged from responses were related to:

- Concerns with the base condition of some facilities/assets and their ability to meet current and future environmental pressures.
- Capacity and use pressures at some times and places that reduce the effectiveness and usability of certain assets.
- Limited ability for community organisations to deal with the asset issues without broader support.
- No strong indications that more facilities are needed, but the current ones need to be better quality, more fit-for-purpose and more resilient/sustainable. This perception was supported by the inventory analysis that indicated that, at a regional level, there were no significant asset gaps (see Section 4 and Appendix 2).

information on assets that facilitate access and participation. The survey could also be completed by individuals.

⁶ The survey was designed to gather asset information and to identify issue. It was not intended to be a structured statistically significant survey. Areas addressed included

At a more refined level, the following themes were commonly noted:

- Changes in environmental conditions, such as increased storm intensities and frequencies, are presenting increasing physical challenges. These are reflected in coastal erosion/sea level rise, increased sedimentation, and variability in lake and river flows. These impacts are perceived to be placing stresses on some facilities and assets.

"The club is situated on the stop bank of the river. With changing climate conditions - specifically, the river water level being consistently higher than in the past during winter, the bank is eroding and moving closer to the Clubrooms."

"All access points listed above have been affected by storm and erosion. Our local council, hamstrung by national policies, can do nothing to protect them. They are all in disrepair, neglected and unusable."

"Coastal defences are needed at Ohuka Reserve and should include beach access for foot traffic, the many horse riders using the reserve and sailing dinghies. The neighbouring sea walls will eventually be linked to protect SH25. Do it now and save the reserve too. Taputapuatea Reserve, where our clubhouse once sat, had a ramp our junior sailors used to get the training boats to the water. We had a great relationship with Parks and Reserves who would send machines to maintain the ramp when required. The reserve provided parking and beach access for hundreds of surfers and other beach visitors every year. Its public amenity will only be restored and protected by a hard coastal defence."

- The physical stresses of such higher natural hazards are compounded where assets are poorly sited, have limited design/construction resilience and are insufficiently maintained.

"Space at the wharf is limited however improvements are already underway. Manu Bay break wall needs to be correctly surveyed and rebuilt due to it deteriorating and causing rocks to build up on the ramp."

"More than dune plantings required to keep this reserve from washing ceasing to exist. Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle pushed the shoreline back 12m forcing us to move our clubhouse on the reserve back from the tide. The building remains on the reserve on temporary footings and faces an uncertain future. Erosion at the Reserve has reached crisis point and the road will soon be threatened."

"The loading ramp at Lake Rotoroa (beside the yacht club) is extremely slippery due to the algae build up."

"At the Puke Bridge, Waihou Awa, the boat ramp and tar sealed Carpark often flood leaving lots of silt very thick which stays around for weeks. It can't wash away with rain. It makes it impossible to use boat ramp and parking area for long periods of time. There are no toilets or rubbish bins and there is always rubbish dumped around."

"The boat ramp at Grantham Street is subject to washing away leaving a significant drop where concrete ends and sand/mud begins. When launching 6 man wakas it is sometimes very difficult to pull a laden waka trolley up and over the sharp edge of the ramp. This is clearly not insurmountable but does cause problems for smaller, less "beefy" crews."

- Many recreation groups that manage facilities consider they lack the resources to be able to address the required physical protection or maintenance works without council (or other) support. This was also related to the perception that the upkeep of the public facilities themselves is generally under-resourced.

"Extra financial support from our local or regional council as the estuary needs dredging every year and the pontoon/jetty needs continual maintenance. We ask for donations for using this ramp, but we are not allowed to charge a fee for this use."

"Provision of a waka sports club for our club would be amazing with easy ramp access, storage is huge as we have suffered theft and damages constantly to our waka and equipment not having a home base. We have raised this with council and believe collaboration with the property team and WRC would help shift this to a positive outcome for our club."

"We have no storage facility. We would love a shed to store our club boats on the reserve for ease of access and so we don't need to have so many trailers"

- There were security concerns around some onshore facilities such as clubrooms and storage facilities at sites where public access and uses were unmanaged or not easily observed. These are related to occurrences of some anti-social/ behaviours (e.g. vandalism, rubbish etc).

"The lane (road) is the access to the Club. It is not owned by the Rowing Club and is on Council land. Council maintains the road and the parking area, keeping it clean, mowing the verge and blading the road and occasional metal application. The public use the road for access to the river - white baiters, motorhomes (freedom camping), swimming as well as the rowing clubs .for training and

regattas. Unfortunately, other members of the public use it for access to the clubrooms which have been burgled twice in the last two months, partying and the resultant mess, and vehicles doing burnouts and making a mess of the road and grass areas. The Council has lighting on the Clubrooms but does not light up the Parking area sufficiently to identify the offenders and the security cameras require upgrading for better identification. A solution is to put a gate across the lane that would prevent access to the public, but this penalises responsible users as well and we do not own the land the road is on."

"Having secure covered space, preferably weather-proof would make a huge difference to reducing maintenance and wear & tear on our equipment, particularly near our leased land on Lake Rotoroa near the Hamilton Yacht Club. Expensive trailers and craft are stored outside and have been vandalised in the past. At our Lake Rotoroa site, we store quite a lot of equipment and there is no covered or easily secured area. This means much of our gear needs to be brought to the lake every paddling session which is less than ideal. We have been saving funds for many years now with the hope that we would be able to build a facility at the lake to keep boats and equipment. We are discussing options with council on this front."

"The Cut. Nowhere to park when the grass area is waterlogged in winter. There are no toilets or rubbish bins and there is always rubbish dumped or broken glass."

- The lack of toilets and parking spaces at some sites were perceived to be significant constraints.

"The parking facilities get really congested with all the activities that occur during the year. Our club does not have access to any changing facilities or toilets other than the public ones which aren't ideal. Our club does not have a closed in area so do not have clubrooms, only waka shelter."

"Shortage of boat trailer parking that will only get worse once the new apartment development starts."

"Bulmers Landing, Epworth Camp, Arapuni Landing require upgrades with the lavatory systems. We would better lavatory facilities. There are some people who have damaged them in the past."

- On-water issues were commonly related to either perceived activity incompatibilities or water quality issues (often weeds).

"We would like improved weed control in zones 9 and 10 of Lake Karapiro. Also, restrictions on Personal Watercraft within the waterski course located in zone 9 between the Piarere Waterski club and the island directly in front of the club."

"Roose Commerce Park (Grantham street, Hamilton) - congestion of parking and waterways. Users not being mindful of the waterway rules, speed of boats through waka and rowers. Damage caused by other water users to the awa shore with excessive and continuous speeds (water lapping and causing erosion) Safety of new paddlers with other user's inconsiderate behaviour."

"Jet skis going too fast, too close to the waka (which usually has children in it)"

"The increasing number of event bookings on Lake Karapiro is a challenge for our club which is located in the middle of the rowing lanes. The events significantly limit access to the lake for club sailing activities."

"Not sure how practical this is, but the river seems to be silting up more than in the past during summer and resulting in logs/trees being snagged creating hazards for rowers."

"There is a lot of weed growing in the lake and it gets caught in my waka rudder and slows our 6 man waka down when we are training for our Regional and National Sprint Championship."

"We notice water quality can also stop us from being able to paddle. Lake Kainui and Lake Puketerini are ones that often are impacted due to bad water quality levels."

Sport Waikato Club/Organisation Survey

Sport Waikato conducted a wide-ranging survey of sports clubs and organisations separately in 2022. A sample of 30 survey responses from outdoor water sports clubs (using natural waters) was extracted, and responses are summarised here. Table 3.14 breaks down the 30 groups into activity types, while Table 3.15 outlines the specific groups who participated.

TABLE 3.14: ACTIVITIES REPRESENTED (TOTAL GROUPS = 30)

Activities represented	count	%	Notes
Waka Sports	10	33	Waka Ama, Dragon Boating, Waka Hoe
Rowing	6	20	
Sailing	4	13	
Boating/Fishing	2	7	Sport fishing clubs (with boating)
Canoeing	2	7	Canoe Racing and Canoe Polo
Surf Lifesaving	2	7	
Water Skiing	2	7	
Boating	1	3	
Other	1	3	A 'bombing' dive club

SOURCE: SPORT WAIKATO SPORTS CLUBS /ORGANISATIONS SURVEY, 2022.

TABLE 3.15: GROUPS REPRESENTED (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Group Name	Main Activity
Cambridge Rowing Club	Rowing
Hamilton Canoe Polo Club ⁷	Canoeing
Hamilton Rowing Club	Rowing
Hamilton Yacht Club	Sailing
Hauraki Waka Ama	Waka Sports
Kaiaua Boating Club	Boating/Fishing
Karapiro Kayak Racing Club	Canoeing
Karāpiro Waka Club	Waka Sports
Karapiro Water Ski Club	Water Skiing
K'aute Pasifika	Waka Sports
Mercer Rowing Club	Rowing
Mercury Bay Boating Club	Sailing
Nga Kaihoe o Te Puaha	Waka Sports
Nga tai Whakarongo Whanau Hoe Waka	Waka Sports
Piarere Water Ski club	Water Skiing
Port Waikato Yacht Club	Sailing
Raahui Pookeka Waka Sports	Waka Sports
Raglan Sport Fishing Club	Boating/Fishing
Raglan Surf Life Saving Club	Surf Life Saving
Sailability Waikato	Sailing
Splash Unit (was 'Waikato Bombing Club') ⁸	Other
St Paul's Collegiate Rowing Club	Rowing
Te Awamutu Rowing Club	Rowing
Te Toki Voyaging Trust	Waka Sports
Tuakau Districts Sea Scouts	Boating
Tūrangawaewae Waka Sports	Waka Sports
Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services	Surf Life Saving
Waikato Rowing Club	Rowing
Waikato Treasure Chests Dragon Boat Team	Waka Sports
Whaingaroa Whanau Hoe Waka	Waka Sports
Hamilton Yacht Club	Sailing

SOURCE: SPORT WAIKATO SPORTS CLUBS /ORGANISATIONS SURVEY, 2022.

The survey asked various questions about club types, assets, activities, membership trends, activity participation and operational challenges, management, volunteers, and future planning. Some of these questions addressed facility issues and needs.

- Overall, 21 of these 30 water sports clubs/organisations expressed key facility needs across their various responses (see Table 3.13).
- 43% indicated they had their clubroom facilities (owned or leased).
- 57% indicated their facilities (e.g. clubrooms, storage) were used to capacity.
- While 68% indicated their current facilities met their current needs, only 33% indicated those facilities would meet their expected future needs.

Table 3.16 summarises the collective facility-related needs from responses. These are the facility themes that emerged from the 21 respondent clubs that felt facilities were constraining their current activities and participation. It was perceived that the issues would limit future growth and development if unresolved.

The most prominent facility needs related to outdoor water recreation activities was storage. In particular, Waka Ama and Rowing clubs/organisations identified storage as an issue (possibly reflecting their vessel dimensions and use characteristics). Many groups also expressed needs associated with clubrooms/base facilities and toilets. Overall, the Waka Ama clubs/ organisations appeared to have few built facilities.

⁷ Included because they were seeking suitable outdoor venues on natural public waterbodies to minimise pool hire costs which was a significant barrier for them.

TABLE 3.16: WATER SPORTS CLUB/ORGANISATION FACILITY NEED THEMES

Need Themes	count	%	Summary notes
Insufficient storage capacities/ quality	16	76	Where storage is absent or limited, quality is compromised, and tenure and security are insecure.
Insufficient toilet facilities	5	24	Where toilets are absent or limited, quality is compromised
Limited (or no) clubrooms/base facilities	5	24	Where an activity base is absent or limited, often linked to storage needs
Limited parking space (vehicles/ trailers)	2	10	Where limited spaces constrained activity operations.
Funding for capital works	2	10	Where funding is needed for facility site protection works and channel dredging.
Other	2	10	Need for outdoor canoe polo site; public outdoor sites for 'bombing'
		(n=21)	

SOURCE: SPORT WAIKATO SPORTS CLUBS /ORGANISATIONS SURVEY, 2022.

These results echo this plan's 2023 survey, suggesting that onshore infrastructure (e.g., storage, clubrooms, toilets) is a priority for structured sports organisations.

Only one group identified issues related to facilities for accessing waterbodies (erosion protection for a ramp) while another mentioned a problem with facilities on the water (the need for dredging).

3.7 POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION TRENDS/FACTORS

We believe the following participation trends/influencing factors are possible based on available data.

Participation Trends

- **Increased Demand**
An overall growth in demand for recreational and sporting use of the region's natural bodies of water. This will be generated by both increased regional population growth and external population growth (primarily from Auckland and Tauranga). Accessibility advances such as the Waikato Expressway have also made it easier to access some waterbodies.
- **Growth in Less Strenuous Activities**
Although populations are ageing proportionally, we do not anticipate that older age cohorts will cease recreating. Activities such as fishing, boating, recreational swimming, geothermal bathing, yachting, and flat-water kayaking will likely remain popular or grow.
- **Growth in Active Activities**
Active sports and activities will potentially grow as the number of younger age cohorts increases numerically.
- **Technological Advances Changing Participation**
Technical advances will likely increase participation. For example, lithium battery technology has improved significantly, making powering kayaks, paddle boards, water bikes, and boats more viable. The cost of such technology is also declining. This has made more active sports increasingly accessible to all ages and fitness abilities (in the same way e-bikes have changed cycling participation).
- **Decline in Some Equipment Costs**
It is likely that the cost of entry to some sports (such as kayaking/ electric kayak motors, stand-up paddleboards and specialist personal watercraft) will decline as technology advances and second-hand equipment filters into the market. This is perhaps best illustrated in the polyethylene kayak market, where kayaks have become cheaper over time, increasing overall participation.
- **Ethnicity Changes Creating Increased Focused Demand**
The growth in Māori and Asian ethnicities will likely increase demand for the sports and activities that these ethnicities already favour, such as waka ama and fishing.

Impact On Provision

- **Greater Recognition and Pressure on Activity Hubs**
The Waikato is recognised for the diversity of natural bodies of water, from lakes, rivers, and small harbours to sheltered and rugged coastlines. Apart from periods of flooding and heavy storms, many lakes and rivers can be used in almost all weather conditions, giving them an advantage over harbours and coastal areas for on-water recreation and sport. This has given some waterbodies, such as Lake Karapiro, an advantage for flatwater activities (such as rowing and paddling). The quality of these areas attracts participants from across and from outside the region. These 'hub' areas are likely to see increasing use and demand pressure.

⁸ Included because some of their activities were undertaken on public waterbodies as well as in pool facilities.

- **Risk of Greater Conflict**

As demand increases, so does the risk of greater conflict between recreation and sporting participants (and participants and the community). These conflict risks are heightened because of the constrained nature of many of the region's waterways, especially the inland water bodies.

- **Greater Pressure on Boat Ramps**

The pressure on the Waikato boat ramp network will likely increase significantly in some key locations (such as the Lower eastern side of the Coromandel Peninsula north of Thames, Raglan, and Waikato River Delta; see Map 4.1). The objective of key ramps should be to increase throughput (vessel launching and retrieval rates). This can only be achieved at key hubs with a balanced combination of all tide ramps, jetties/pontoons, and trailer parking improvement.

The type of infrastructure needs to be balanced with the type of utilisation different waterbodies receive (e.g., the main Raglan harbour boat ramp needs to accommodate larger vessels that can go over the harbour bar game fishing, while inland lakes may need to accommodate smaller water-skiing vessels).

- **Increasing Storage Demand**

The demand for boat, waka, kayak, and equipment storage is likely to increase due to changes in residential housing typologies in urban areas (e.g., apartments, smaller sections, smaller garages, restricted outside parking, etc.), increased participation, stronger health and safety requirements (e.g., greater numbers of safety support craft), and increased competition for reserve land.



4.0 CURRENT STATE

KEY POINTS:

- Over 5,100 assets related to natural bodies of water were identified.
- The database is likely to underrepresent the assets that exist. As more assets are identified/developed they should be added to the database. Condition assessment data should also be added.
- In general, at the regional level the analysis identified very few asset gaps from a spatial or drive time perspective.
- A range of challenges and opportunities exist.

4.1 ASSETS

The Network Plan's key intention is to better understand the region's network of assets. The plan's main asset inventory phase uncovered 5,100+ assets. The asset inventory process involved:

- The baseline data collection phase incorporated material sourced from client partners (approximately n=500+ assets were provided).
- An additional data collection phase sourced data from a visual aerial imagery assessment and third-party data sources (adding approximately n=4500+ assets).
- A draft database and map overlay was created and sent to the client partners for review to improve data consistency and coverage.
- After feedback, a final master database was developed. This database is summarised in Table 4.1 and Appendix 1.

TABLE 4.1: ASSET CATEGORIES AND NUMBERS INCLUDED

Primary Category	count	Secondary Sub-Category	count
On-water assets	1,676	-	
		Hunting/Fishing Structures	1015
		Moorings	495
		LAWA Water Quality Monitoring Sites	159
		Unknown	7
Jetty/Pontoon	869	-	
		Private residential/land	658
		Public	169
		Private Commercial	34
		Unknown	8
Beach/Water Access	753	-	
		Vehicle	384
		Pedestrian (Designated path)	324
		Pedestrian (Informal path)	45
		Unknown	0
Parking (for aquatic areas)	538	no subcategories	
Boat Ramp	441	-	
		Small, private	216
		Single lane - All Water/Tide levels	91
		Single lane - Partial Water/Tide levels	89
		Multi-lane - All Water/Tide levels	38
		Multi-lane - Partial Water/Tide levels	7
		Unknown	0
On-water activities	321	-	
		Key fishing locations	202
		Swimming sites/holes	44
		Key white water reaches/sites (kayak/raft)	23
		Ski lanes	5
		Natural geothermal bathing areas	2
		Rowing/Canoe Racing/Waka Ama courses	3
		Key Surf breaks	39
		On-water Kayak facilities (slalom courses, etc)	1
		Unknown	2
Toilets (for aquatic areas)	225	no subcategories	
Clubrooms/Activity base	63	no subcategories	
Reserve (water access)	39	no subcategories	
Boat Storage	44	-	
		Boat Storage (uncovered)	30
		Boat Storage (covered)	14
		Unknown	
Wharf	27	no subcategories	
Marina-type facility	14	no subcategories	14
Unknown	7		7
TOTAL	5,015		

⁹ Demand drivers are best determined through a mix of qualitative (i.e. workshops and interviews) and quantitative (i.e. questionnaire survey) approaches.

4.2 POTENTIAL GAPS

One of the plan's key drivers was the identification of asset gaps across the region. This spatial analysis was undertaken using GIS analysis of the identified asset categories and subcategories. The outputs from this analysis are shown in Appendix 2 as a series of 26 maps.

In general, at the regional level, the analysis identified very few asset gaps from a spatial or drive time perspective. This aligns with the feedback from structured sports and recreation groups surveyed (see Section 3).

4.3 CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The main challenges and opportunities that emerged from the data-gathering process were:

CHALLENGES

- Addressing data deficiencies was a significant challenge the inventory process sought to address. Over 4,500 additional assets were identified during the inventory phase (the Council partners provided base data on an additional circa 500). The database should be considered an active document and be added to as additional assets are identified.
- Given the range of asset classes and the size of the study area, emphasis had to be placed on finding assets rather than gathering more detailed data on their condition. Asset condition needs to be addressed at a more detailed level and, when available, uploaded into the database.
- Although we now have a far more detailed understanding of the range and number of natural bodies of water-related assets in the Waikato Region, data on usage and demand is more limited. Focus needs to be placed on understanding the demand side drivers⁹.
- Generic demand for natural bodies of water (and associated assets) will likely increase, although types of use will fluctuate depending on factors such as sporting and recreational trends.
- The continued pressure on geographic hotspots is likely to increase. These hotspots can be categorised as:
 1. Locations where multiple activity types intersect when entering and egressing from the water (i.e. boat ramps, launching points).
 2. Areas close to or within urban settings that are projected to see population increases.
 3. Areas that offer water characteristics sought after by different sports /activities, especially when these areas are near improved road infrastructure (e.g., Lake Karapiro at the end of the Waikato Expressway).
 4. Constrained inland waterways that can facilitate a mix of activities and which are close to growing population centres.
 5. Areas that receive holiday visitation, which in part is attracted by the characteristics of natural water bodies (i.e. parts of the Coromandel and Lake Taupo).

Map 4.1 highlights 'hotspot' areas likely to receive more significant pressure and areas of potential increased user conflict/risk. However, this does not mean that more localised areas will not see increased pressure. Some areas, such as narrower rivers and lakes, will need only slight demand pressures to cause adverse impacts at certain times. Other areas must consider cultural and environmental factors (such as wahi tapu, deteriorating water quality and the spread of invasive pest species such as golden clam). These areas must be identified and addressed with a combination of management and asset solutions at a localised level.

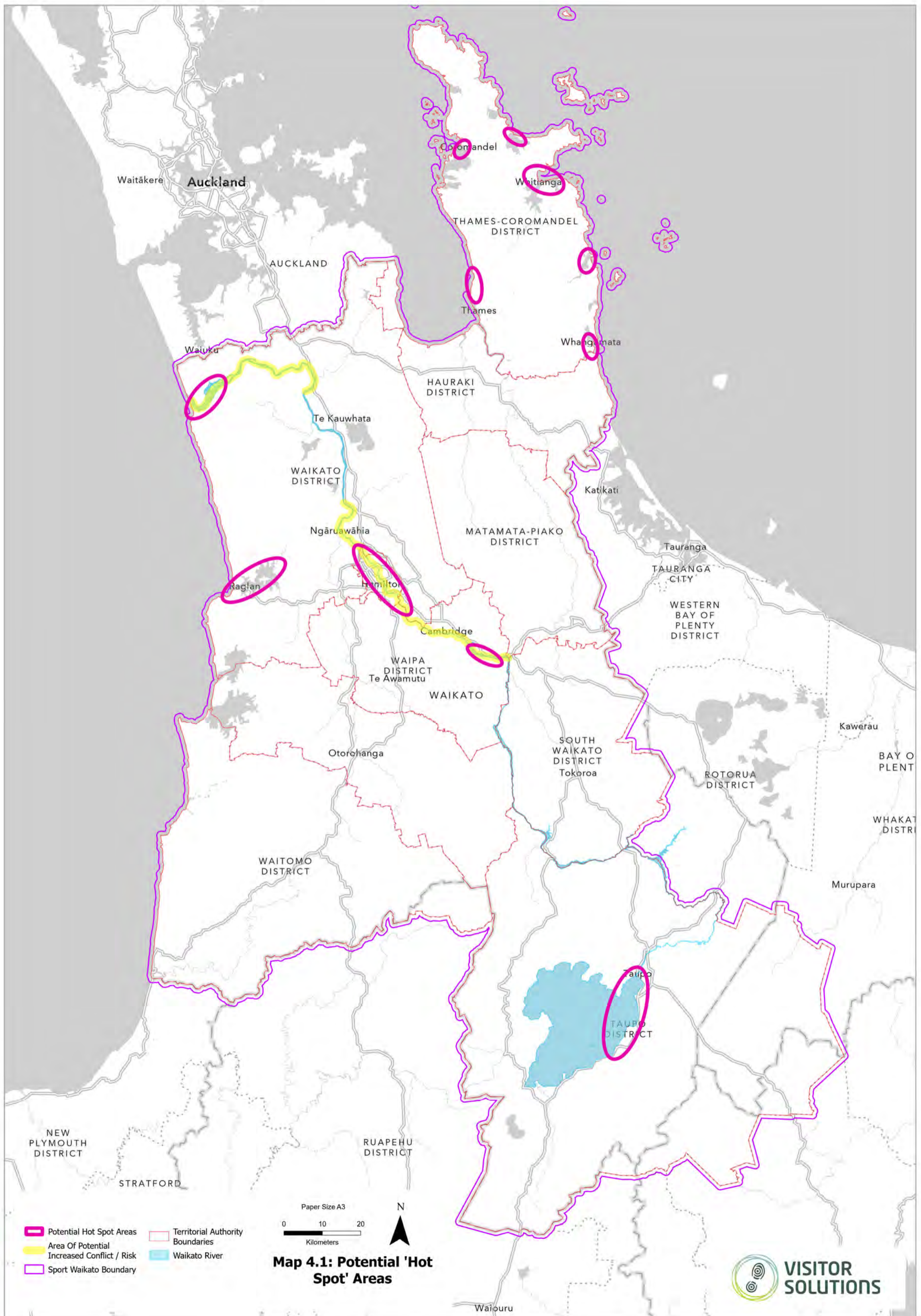
- Asset quality (i.e. functionality and resilience) will become increasingly important as demand increases and weather conditions become more challenging.
- More dispersed use of natural water bodies is likely to occur as some recreationists are displaced to less crowded areas of the network. This has both management and infrastructure implications.

OPPORTUNITIES

- No significant asset gaps were identified, although scope exists to make existing assets (and asset clusters) more functional in strategic locations.
- Boat ramps are one asset class likely to see increased use pressure (although this is unlikely to be uniform). The most functional boat ramps are multi-lane (all tide/water level), have jetties, pontoons, breakwaters (or are sheltered), sufficient parking, and toilets. These assets facilitate a greater throughput of boats.
- In many locations, greater collaboration is likely to be required to address network challenges. This includes collaboration to:
 1. Plan for recreational activities and asset development in a way that better considers cultural factors.

2. Prevent the spread of pest species (i.e. golden clams), which can be related to recreational activity.
3. Facilitate planning and development projects at a sub-regional level (as natural bodies of water attract recreationists from across and outside the Waikato Region).
4. Improve the safety of recreationists.
5. Improve asset functionality, resilience, capacity, and utilisation.
6. Overcome development and maintenance funding challenges.





The Waikato region's natural water bodies will become increasingly important as demand pressures from different sports and recreational activities grow. The time is right to adopt a more coordinated and proactive approach to planning recreation and sport in these environments. The following section sets out a series of actions that should be explored to achieve our objectives.

DATA ACTIONS

1. Maintain and grow the asset database.

The inventory database developed for this plan has substantively advanced asset knowledge (going from approximately 500 to 5,000+ assets). The database should be seen as a living document and built upon by adding assets and greater detail (such as condition data). These data should also be transferred into relevant Council databases.

*Who: Plan partners (Councils and Sport Waikato).
When: Ongoing*

2. Have one entity responsible for the database.

Sport Waikato should serve as custodians of the initial database associated with this plan's development. Plan partners will determine the entity responsible for overseeing the presentation of data and database development and maintenance.

*Who: TBC
When: online data presentation in 2024, database development ongoing.*

PLANNING ACTIONS

3. Adopt a subregional/interregional approach to natural bodies of water recreational and sports planning.

In many ways planning for recreational and sporting use of our natural bodies of water appears to operate in silos. Planning needs to be more holistic and involve a more subregional/interregional collaborative approach with a wider cross-section of stakeholders. Participants are often travelling to access natural bodies of water from outside local host territorial authorities, so it makes sense to collaborate.

Target areas include:

- Port Waikato River Delta East – Waikato District Council, Auckland Council, Waikato Regional Council, and Sport Waikato.
- Central Waikato River (Ngāruawāhia – Cambridge) - Waikato District Council, Hamilton City Council, Waipā District Council, Waikato Regional Council, and Sport Waikato.
- Lake Karapiro - Waipā District Council, Waikato Regional Council, and Sport Waikato.

*Who: Respective Councils, led by the Council the water body is located within.
When: 2024 Ongoing.*

4. Prepare Summary Subregional Plans - Focus planning.

Planning should focus on areas likely to receive the greatest recreational and sporting pressure and/or have the highest environmental, cultural, and social risks/needs. Preparing summary subregional plans will enable greater focused analysis and collaboration between central government, councils, mana whenua, and local stakeholders. Focus should be placed on key assets such as boat ramps (considering areas such as risk/mitigation – pest species introduction, vessel throughput, health and safety and design and maintenance).

Target areas include:

- Coromandel harbours – Thames Coromandel District Council, Waikato Regional Council, and Sport Waikato.
- Coastal areas from Thames north - Thames Coromandel District Council, Waikato Regional Council, and Sport Waikato.
- Urban areas of Lake Taupo – Taupo District Council, Waikato Regional Council, and Sport Waikato.
- Raglan Harbour & Coast - Waikato District Council, Waikato Regional Council, and Sport Waikato.
- Waikato River through urban Hamilton and Rotorua/Hamilton Lake – Hamilton City Council, Waikato Regional Council, and Sport Waikato.
- Other localised 'hot spot' areas identified by Councils that were too localised to detect at a regional plan level.

*Who: Respective Councils, led by the Council the water body is located within.
When: 2024 Ongoing.*

5. Prepare and prioritise action lists.

Planning must be implemented on the ground at the site-specific level. Implementation plans should be developed, prioritised, and funded to enable tangible progress.

*Who: Plan partners (Councils and Sport Waikato).
When: 2024 Ongoing.*

FUNDING ACTIONS

6. Explore a more comprehensive and collaborative approach to funding.

The existing methods of funding infrastructure are not delivering and have led to suboptimal/less functional assets, lower levels of asset/site resilience, and poor/reduced maintenance. Consideration should be given to:

- Pooling funding resources (i.e. across councils, charitable funders, community groups),
- Facilitating a user-pay approach to contribute to maintenance costs (i.e. for higher quality boat ramp access).

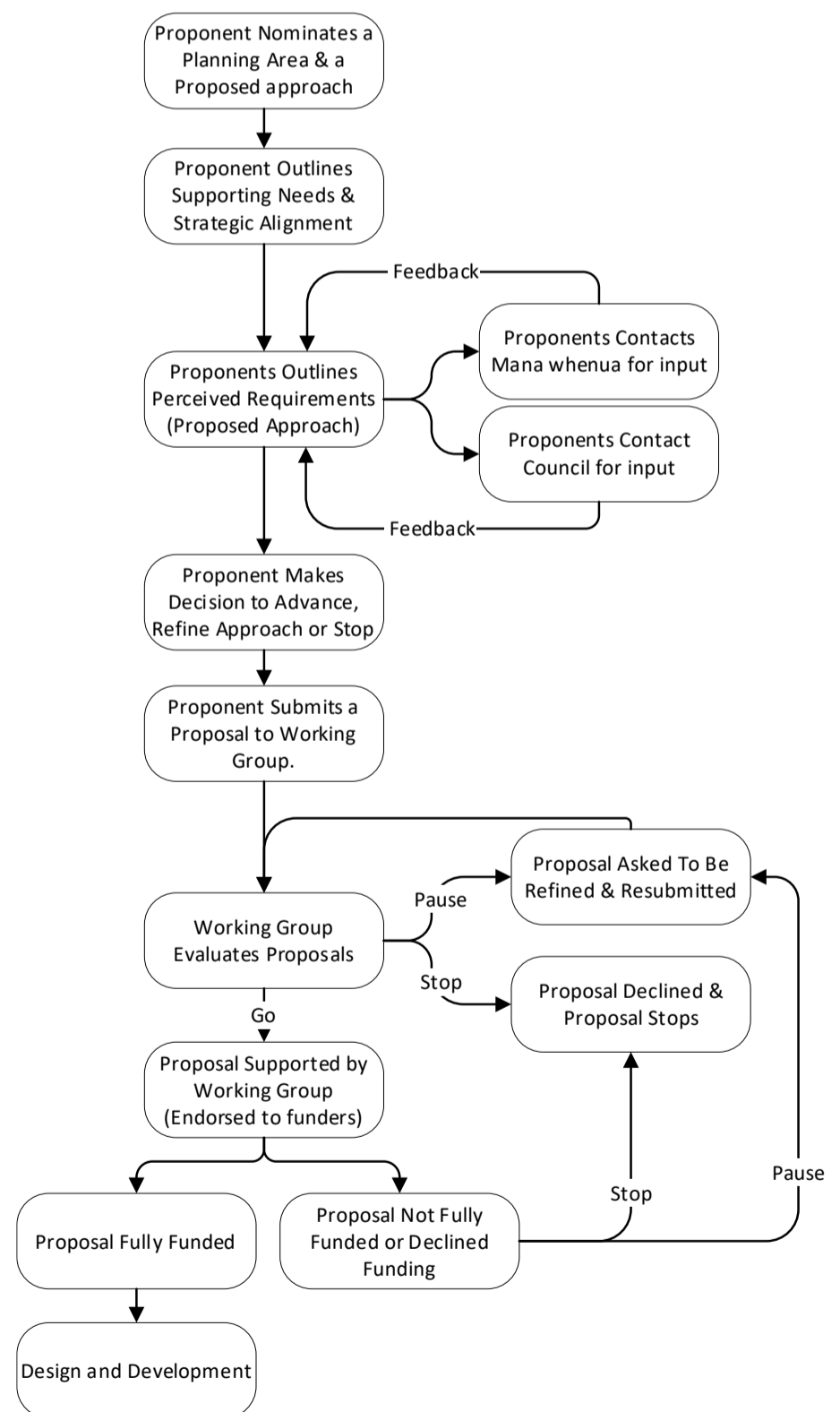
*Who: Plan partners (Councils and Sport Waikato).
When: Discussions with Councils and Funders in 2024, develop a funding approach MOU 2025.*

7. Establish an Evaluation Process

A standardised process would benefit proponents seeking to facilitate site optimisations. Proponents of proposed optimisations could be TAs, mana whenua, community organisations, or individuals. Figure 5.1 sets out a summary process for discussion. A joint working group comprised of Council representatives could evaluate proponents' proposals along with other supporting regional documentation, e.g., the Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan.

*Who: Sport Waikato with a joint Council working group.
When: Discussions with Councils and Funders in 2024, develop an agreed approach by 2025.*

Figure 5.1: Summary Evaluation Process for Proposed Optimisation Approaches (Proposed for discussion).



Note: Figure 5.1 is a preliminary outline framework designed to assist discussion between Sport Waikato and the Council partners. It should be considered against the decision-making criteria outlined in the Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan. The final process has yet to be developed.

This expands the description of asset categories summarised in Table 4.1 and adds notes explaining how the assets were sourced, assessed, and classified. Some original asset categories were reincorporated under other asset categories in reviews of the database content.

Primary Category	count	Secondary Sub-Category	count	Notes on assessment and classification
On-water assets	1,676	-		Predominantly from visual aerial image assessment, LAWA data provided.
		Hunting/Fishing Structures	1015	Mostly Maimai and Whitebait stands/sheds (often with both uses – hard to distinguish) - from visual aerial image assessment
		Moorings	495	Mix of fixed line moorings or clusters of individual mooring buoys - from visual aerial image assessment
		LAWA Water Quality Monitoring Sites	159	From LAWA Lake, River, and Estuary Water Quality Monitoring Site data
		Unknown	7	
Jetty/Pontoon	869	-		Predominantly from visual aerial images and street view assessment (a little from provided data)
		Private residential/land	658	Assessed as on private residential properties/farms (not usually any public access)
		Public	169	Assessed as open public facilities or only publicly available by permission/arrangement
		Private commercial	34	Commercial aquatic recreational or non-recreational businesses (not usual public access)
		Unknown	8	
Beach/Water Access	753	-		Predominantly from visual aerial images and street view assessment (a little from provided data)
		Vehicle	384	Road access to or passing by water bodies, where direct access to those bodies occurs (partially defined by 'Road' GIS layers)
		Pedestrian (Designated path)	324	Designated/defined paths to or passing by water bodies, where direct access to those bodies occurs (mostly defined by 'Path' and 'Reserve' GIS layers)
		Pedestrian (Informal path)	45	Where clear desire lines/clusters for accessing waterbodies from other facilities have developed (only some indicative sites - many can be assumed).
		Unknown	0	
Parking (for aquatic areas)	538	no subcategories		Predominantly from visual aerial images and street view assessment (a little from provided data)
Boat Ramp	441	-		Predominantly from visual aerial images and street view assessment (some from provided data)
		Small, private	216	Assessed as private residential properties/farms (not usually public access) – usually small-scale facilities
		Single lane - All Water/Tide levels	91	Predominantly public ramps with limited capacity but full access
		Single lane - Partial Water/Tide levels	89	Predominantly public ramps with limited capacity and limited access
		Multi-lane - All Water/Tide levels	38	Predominantly public ramps with greater capacity and full access
		Multi-lane- Partial Water/Tide levels	7	Predominantly public ramps with greater capacity but limited access
		Unknown	0	
On-water activities	321	-		Mostly from archival searching (guidebooks, websites etc), with some provided data and visual aerial image assessment.
		Key fishing locations	202	From NZWAC (NZ Walking Access Commission) data
		Swimming sites/holes	44	Defined LAWA Swimming Sites and other identified swimming sites with facilities (e.g. pontoons) or from preference information (little provided)
		Key white water reaches/sites (kayak/raft)	23	From NZ River Guide data – no other external data yet provided/found
		Ski lanes	5	From visual aerial image– no external data yet provided/found
		Natural geothermal bathing areas	2	From visual aerial image assessment and guidebook information - no external data has yet been provided/found
		Rowing/Canoe Racing/Waka Ama courses	3	From the visual aerial image assessment – no external data has yet been provided/found
		Key Surf breaks	39	Primarily from Waikato Regional Council Report 'Surf Breaks of Regional Significance in the Waikato Region'
		On-water Kayak facilities (slalom courses, etc)	1	No external data has yet been provided.
		Unknown	2	
Toilets (for aquatic areas)	225	no subcategories		From provided data and visual aerial/street view image assessment (with reference to proximity to water body/water recreation area)
Clubrooms/Activity base	63	no subcategories		Predominantly from visual aerial image and street view assessment. The 'names' field in database provides description.
Reserve (water access)	39	no subcategories		Not manually marked in point data layer - covered by GIS 'Reserves' polygon layer
Boat Storage	44	-		Predominantly from visual aerial image and street view assessment and some website checks
		Boat Storage (uncovered)	30	Often general areas near water access points and/or clubroom facilities, sometimes with multiple boat clusters and or links to parking areas
		Boat Storage (covered)	14	Often associated with clubroom-type facilities.
		Unknown	0	
Wharf	27	no subcategories		From visual aerial image and street view assessment. Subjectively defined, overlap with Jetties in some cases
Marina/Marina-type	14	no subcategories	14	From visual aerial image and street view assessment
Walkway (water access)	0	Recategorised elsewhere		Incorporated in Beach/Water Access – Pedestrian (Designated paths) - note link to GIS 'Paths' lines layer
Informal Leisure Features	0	Recategorised elsewhere		From visual aerial image assessment
Slipway	0	Recategorised elsewhere		Incorporated in Boat Ramps (very few 'slipways' - e.g. with tracks for winched cradles etc were observed)
Unknown	7		7	Structures where purpose could not be determined - most likely some management function.
TOTAL	5,015	-		

The data outlined in these appendix maps is also available in GIS format and via other infrastructure data platforms. Should the reader want further information, they should contact Sport Waikato.

Map 1: Hunting/Fishing Structures

Hunting and fishing structures are concentrated most significantly within the lower Waikato River delta, where many may support both fishing (whitebaiting) and hunting (duck) activities. Lower asset densities are found in harbours and estuaries on West Coast harbours and in the Coromandel (most likely associated with white baiting). Lower inland asset densities also appear around lakes, ponds, and rivers north of Taupo. These are likely to be associated with duck hunting.

Map 2: Moorings

The highest mooring concentrations (swing and poll) are found in the Coromandel harbours. Lower concentrations also exist along the west coast harbours and around Taupo (and, to a lesser extent, a handful of other freshwater bodies). These are generally clustered in sheltered channel areas near major boat ramps and related facilities.

Map 3: Private Jetties/Pontoons

Private jetties and pontoons are located across the Waikato region with the highest densities occurring in the more sheltered Coromandel harbours and associated with large waterside residential developments. Lower asset densities were located along many of the region's inland waterways.

Map 4: All Beach/Water Access

When considering all forms of beach/water access (vehicle, pedestrian path – formal and informal), assets were generally well distributed. The Coromandel had the highest asset densities, especially along the more urban areas of the eastern coastline. Access to the western coastline was more intermittent and focused on harbours. Most inland waterways had good coverage (especially around urban areas). Access in some areas was limited by topography and larger private land holdings.

Map 5: Beach/Water Access Vehicles

Beach/water access via vehicles is relatively well distributed across the region. Few large water bodies are without some form of access.

Map 6: Beach/Water Access Pedestrian (Designated)

Designated pathways leading to beaches and waterways tend to be more heavily concentrated in areas closer to more urban areas.

Map 7: Beach/Water Access Pedestrian (Informal)

Informal access assets tend to be located around Lake Taupo, eastern areas of the Coromandel, and west coast harbours. The lack of assets around inland waterways could be attributed to a range of factors, including areas being served by formalised access points (pedestrian and vehicle), informal pathways not being detected, and land ownership and topography making it difficult to construct access ways.

Map 8: Parking

Parking areas are located across the region along coastal areas and the major inland waterways. These parking assets are often located with boat ramps and beach/water access points. The spread of assets offers good regional coverage with greater concentrations in and around urban areas.

Map 9: All Boat Ramps (Excluding small private)

Boat ramps are concentrated along the main inland water bodies, western harbours, and the Coromandel Peninsula. There is a good distribution of boat ramps across the region. Most urban areas are within a fifteen-minute drive of some form of boat ramp. If the drive time is extended to thirty minutes, only small sections of the region are not covered (i.e., parts of Waitomo District).

Map 10: Small Private Boat Ramps

Small private boat ramps tend to be concentrated in higher densities around harbours on the Coromandel. They are more dispersed along western harbours and across inland waterways.

Map 11: Boat Ramps (Single lane – all water/tide levels)

Boat ramps can be collocated with jetties/pontoons. These types of ramps tend to be concentrated along inland water bodies. Most urban areas are within a fifteen-minute drive of these ramps. If the drive time is extended to thirty minutes, only small sections of the region are not covered (e.g., parts of Waitomo District). The region has approximately 91 such ramps.

Map 12: Boat Ramps (Single lane – partial water/tide levels)

These ramps tend to be less substantive and are operational only at certain water/tide levels, making them less functional. These assets make up a significant proportion of ramps (n= 89). It should be noted that most Waikato inland waterbodies fluctuate because of lake and river levels (due to factors such as hydro dam flows). Most urban areas are within a fifteen-minute drive time of these ramps. If the drive time is extended to thirty minutes, only small sections of the region are not covered (i.e. parts of Waitomo District).

Map 13: Boat Ramps (Multi-Lane – all water/tide levels)

These ramps are the most functional and have the potential to service a greater number of boats per day. Circa 38 such ramps were identified in the region. They are often associated with pontoons and jetties. Most urban areas are within a thirty-minute drive of such ramps. However, some areas of the region are not covered within a thirty-minute drive time (i.e. parts of Waitomo District, the very top of the Coromandel and Otorohanga).

Map 14: Boat Ramps (Multi-Lane – partial water/tide levels)

This boat ramp asset class is comparatively small (circa n=7). This is primarily because if a multi-lane ramp is created it is designed to be all tide for cost-benefit and functionality reasons. Most of these ramps are located away from larger population centres in more rural areas (Kawhia Harbour and parts of the Coromandel Coast). Drive time analysis shows that the ramps serve smaller areas of the region (including smaller towns such as Thames, Whangamata, and Otorohanga).

Map 15: Boat Trailer Registrations

Boat trailer registrations across the Waikato region indicate general participation (and higher ramp demand). Although these registrations have limitations because they cannot indicate the type of craft being carried (e.g., large waka, kayaks, rowing skiffs, jet skis, trailer sailers, or power boats), they indicate potential activity.

Boat trailer registrations tend to be concentrated in urban areas near waterways (e.g., Raglan, Kawhia, Whitianga, Taupo, and Te Awamutu). Areas with faster access to boat ramps (e.g., the Hauraki and Thames Coromandel Districts) also tend to have more trailer registrations.

It should also be recognised that trailer boats from outside the region will enter the Waikato at peak times (e.g., the summer holiday boat influx into Taupo and Coromandel), putting more pressure on infrastructure.

Map 16: Key Fishing Locations

This is **considered an incomplete data set** as it only includes data from the New Zealand Walking Access Commission. Noticeable data gaps include areas in the Taupo District (a key national trout fishing destination) and coast areas saltwater fishing areas. **The data set should be added to before being used.**

Map 17: Swimming Sites/Holes

During the inventory, 45 key sites were identified. This is an underrepresentation of key swimming sites across the region. The data set should continue to be built up over time. LAWA water quality monitoring sites are located near or upstream from some but not all key swimming sites.

Map 18: Key Whitewater Reaches/Sites

The region's key white-water sites are clustered to the south and north of Lake Taupo (Waikato and Tongariro Rivers), in the Waitomo District (Mangaotaki and Marokopa Rivers), and to a lesser extent the Ohinemuri and Waikato Rivers. Markers indicate river sections of higher activity interest.

Map 19: Ski Lanes

Five ski lane sites were identified in two locations north of Taupo with one on 'The Cut' waterbody (off the Waihou River, Hauraki District) and the rest on Lake Karapiro (south of Cambridge, Waipā District).

Map 20: Natural Geothermal Bathing Areas

Two natural geothermal bathing sites were identified. We believe that this is an underrepresentation and that other natural springs will exist but have not yet been identified.

Map 21: Rowing/Canoe Racing/Waka Ama Courses

Two locations facilitated these activities Lake Karapiro and Lake Maraetai. The most significant site is Lake Karapiro which hosts the broadest range of activities. Being centrally located, Lake Karapiro is within a thirty-minute drive of a significant portion of the region's urban population.

Map 22: Key Surf Breaks

The region's key surf breaks are located along the eastern coast of the Coromandel Peninsula and the region's western shoreline. They are defined as 'Surf Break Areas' within which particular beach profiles and rock features may create different surf quality conditions in different wind and swell conditions (i.e. the quality of breaks will fluctuate).

Map 23: Toilets

There is a good distribution of public toilets, which supports the use of natural water bodies. Toilets are positioned in most areas that receive heavier recreational use, although not necessarily by each key boat ramp facility.

Map 24: Clubroom/Activity Basis

A range of clubrooms and activity bases were identified across the region (n=63). These assets tend to be located close to the natural water bodies that facilitate core recreational and sports activities. They are often also associated with boat storage assets (n = 44) the majority of which are uncovered (n = 30). Boat ramps and jetties are also often located nearby to facilitate water access.

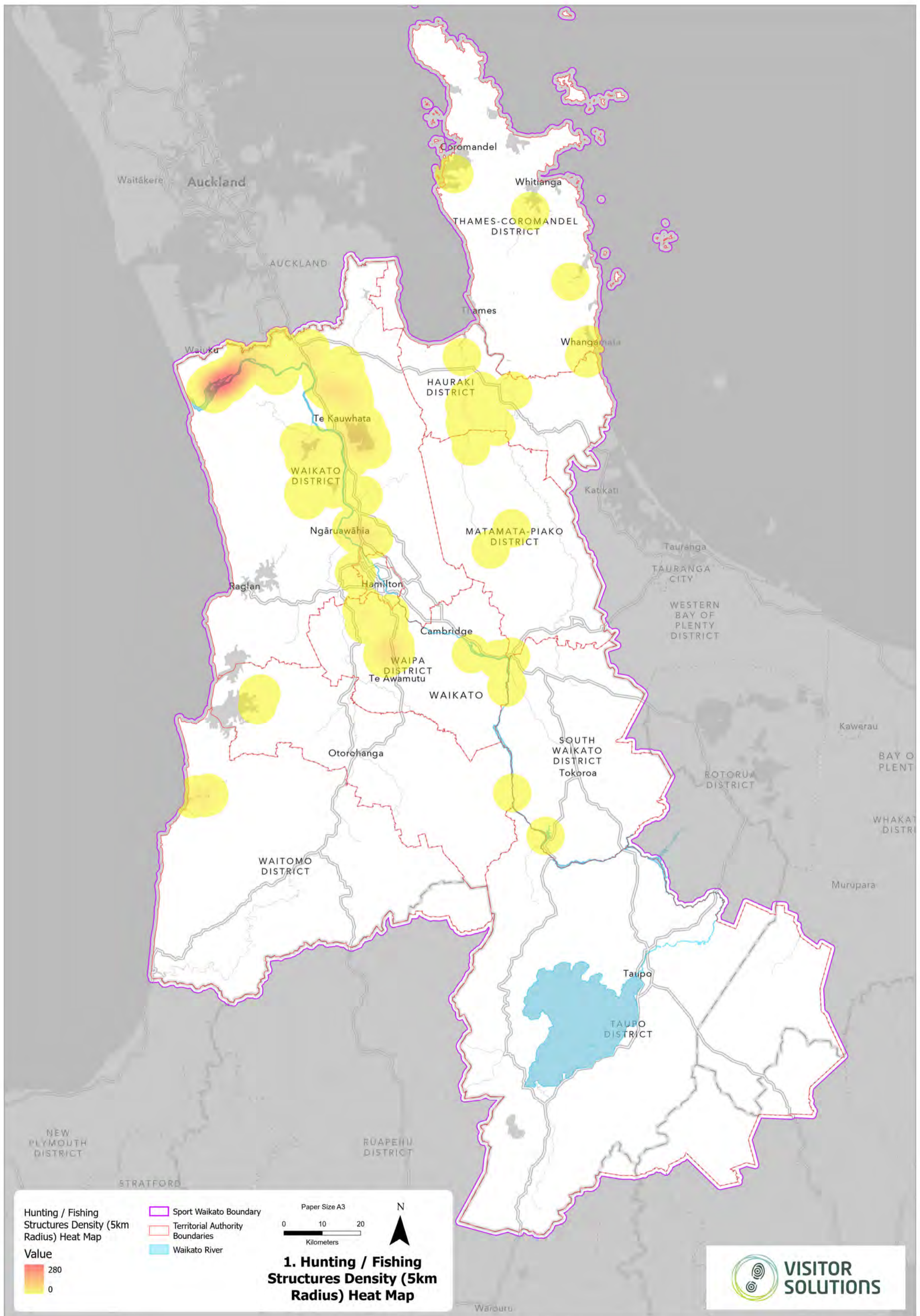
Map 25: Wharves

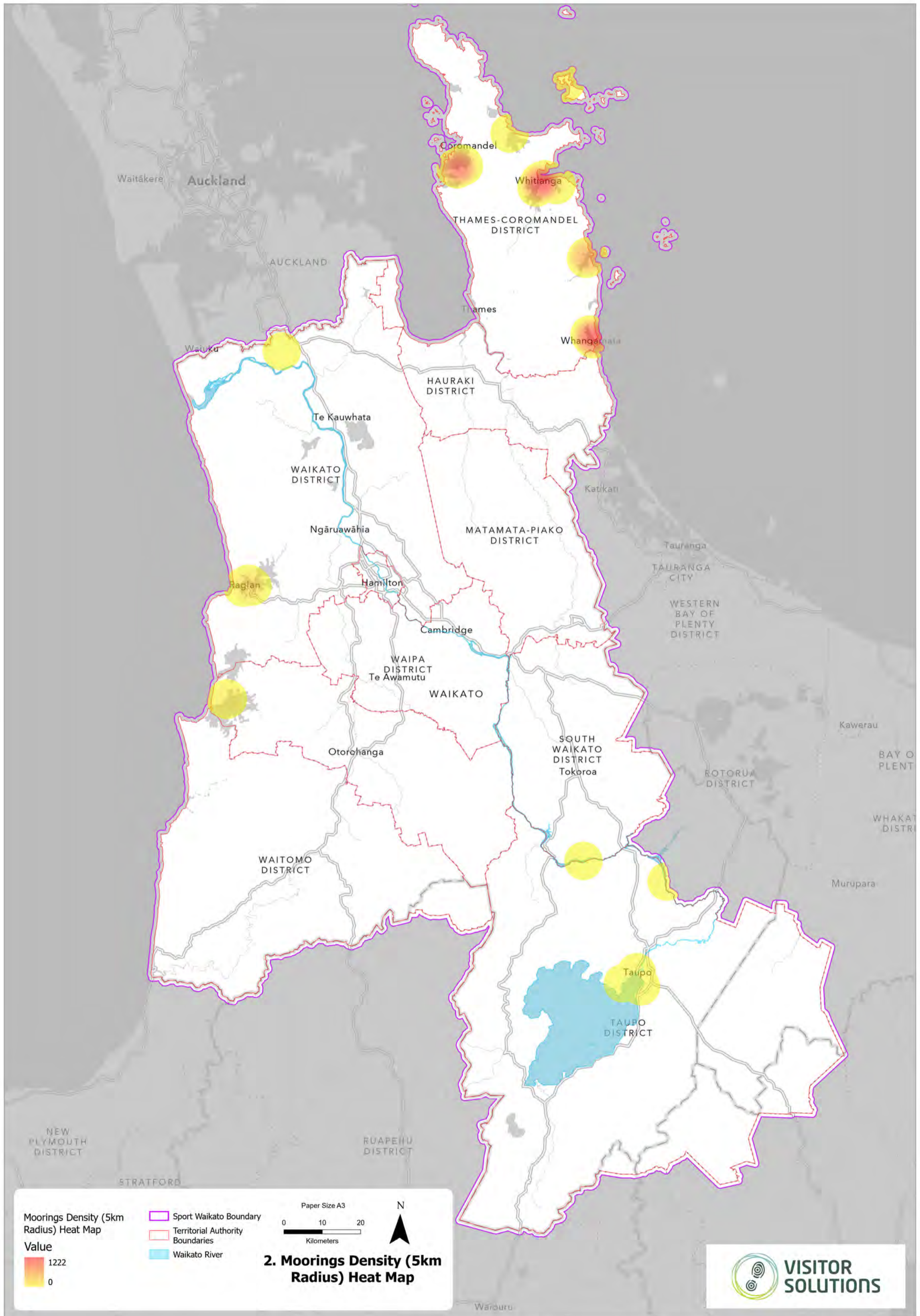
Wharves are located at key locations across the region but in far smaller numbers. They tend to be disbursed. In some cases, their definition may overlap with that of jetties.

Map 26: Marina/Marina Type Facilities

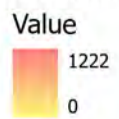
These assets catering for multiple vessel shore moorings (and support facilities) tend to be in Coastal areas around the Coromandel and Firth of Thames and Lake Taupo. The only other asset is located on Lake Karapiro.



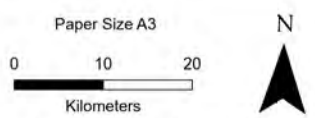




Moorings Density (5km Radius) Heat Map

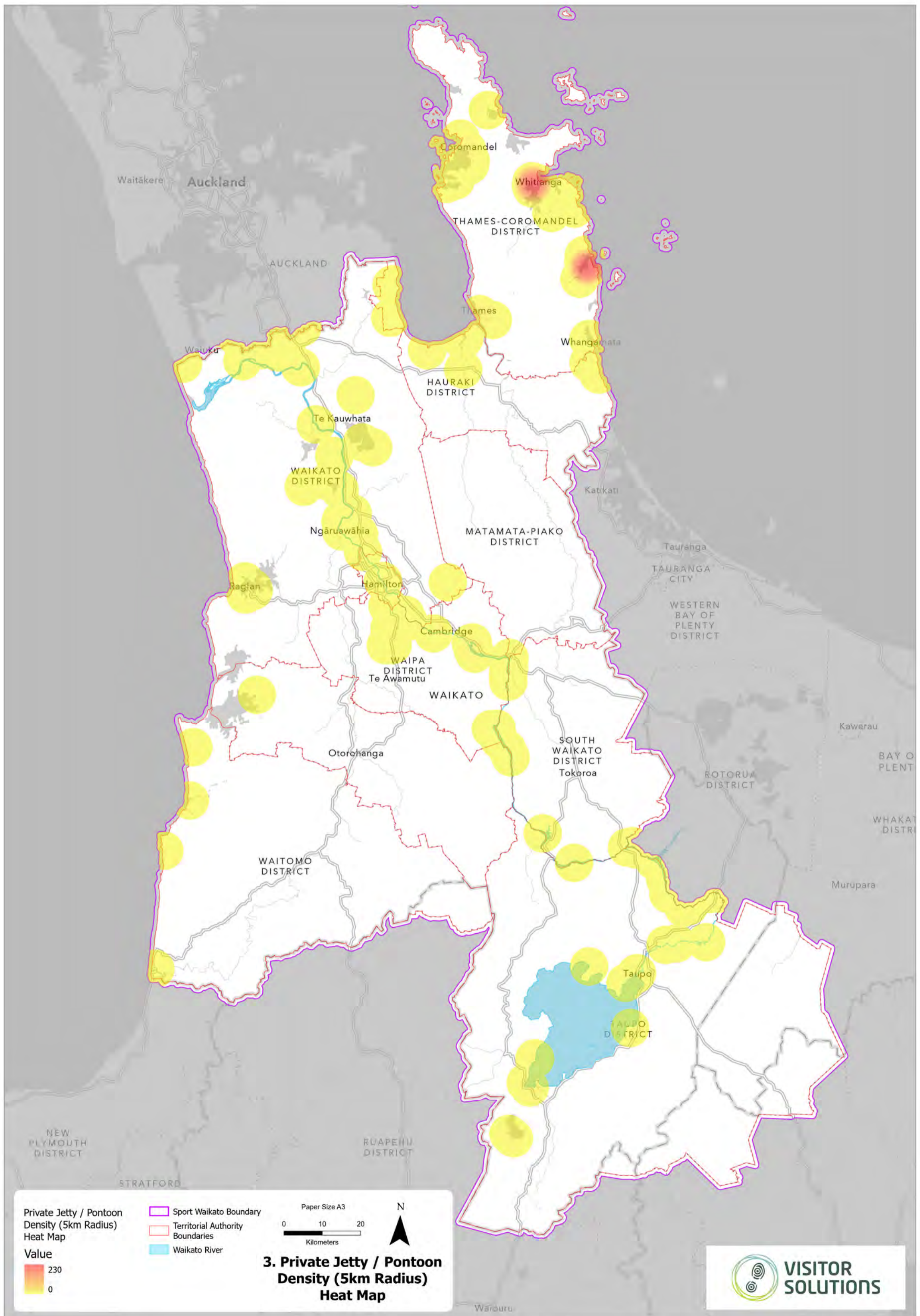


- Sport Waikato Boundary
- Territorial Authority Boundaries
- Waikato River



2. Moorings Density (5km Radius) Heat Map



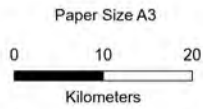


Private Jetty / Pontoon
Density (5km Radius)
Heat Map

Value

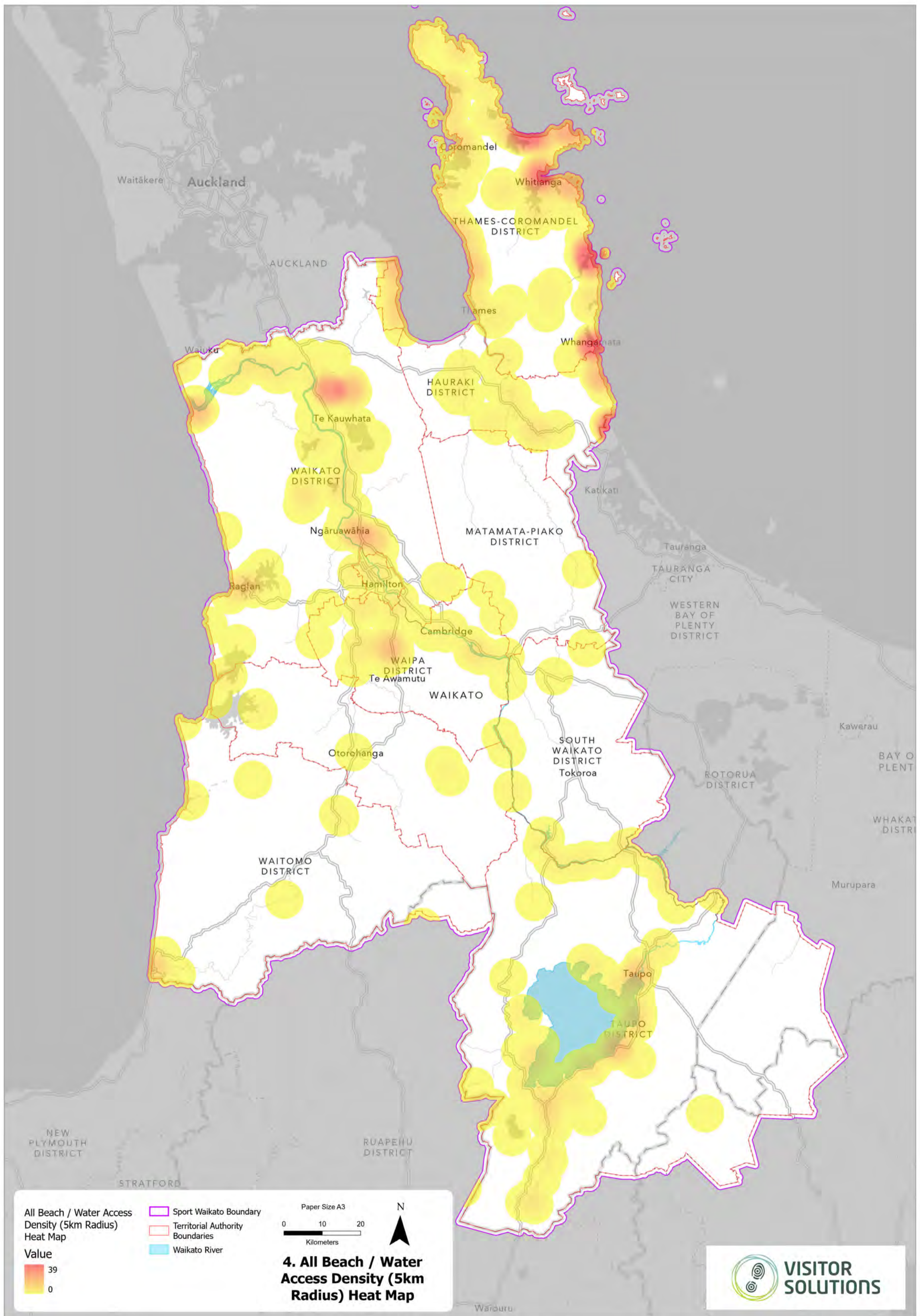


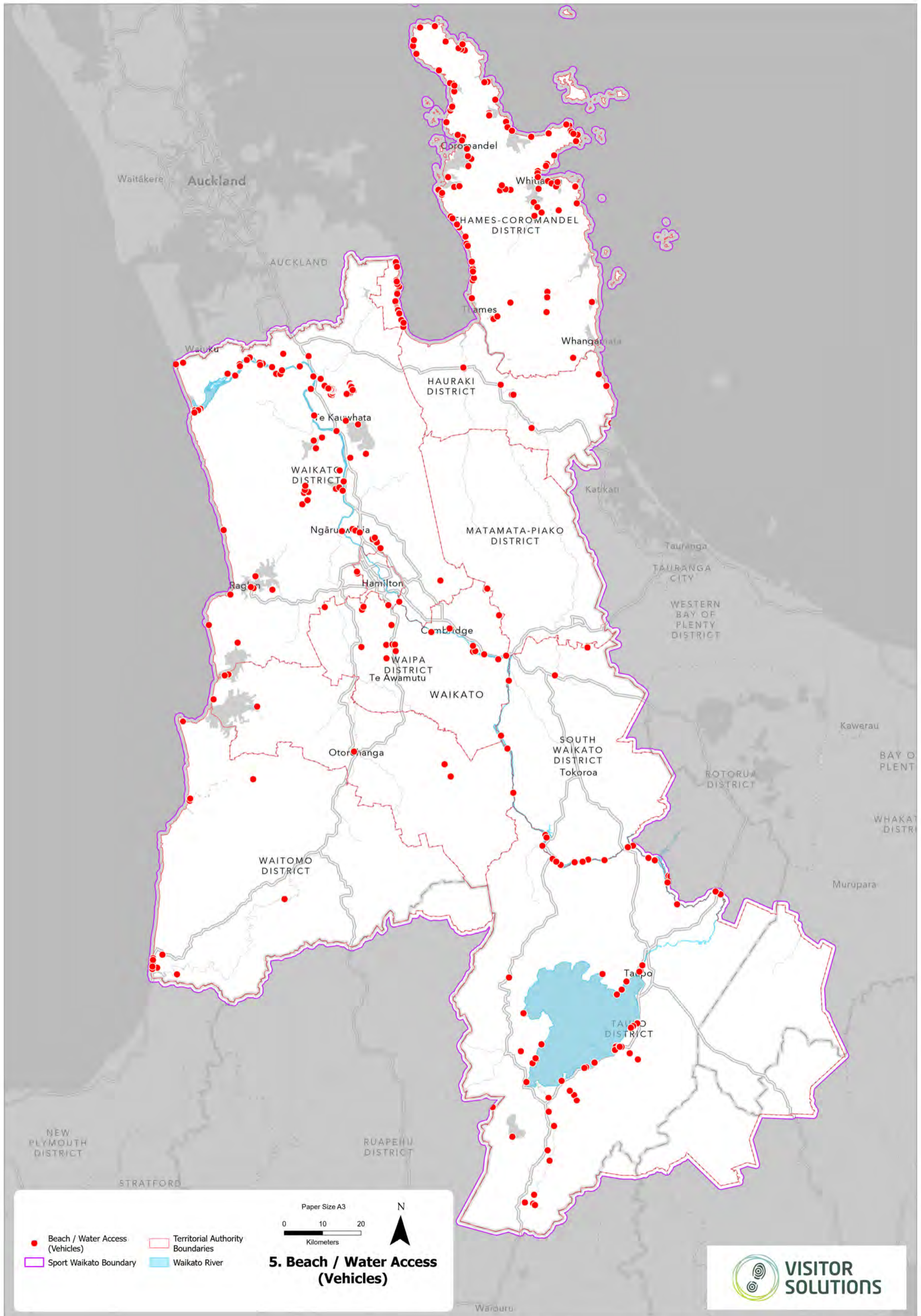
- Sport Waikato Boundary
- Territorial Authority Boundaries
- Waikato River



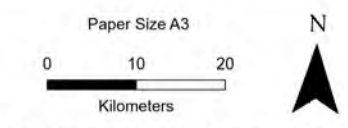
**3. Private Jetty / Pontoon
Density (5km Radius)
Heat Map**





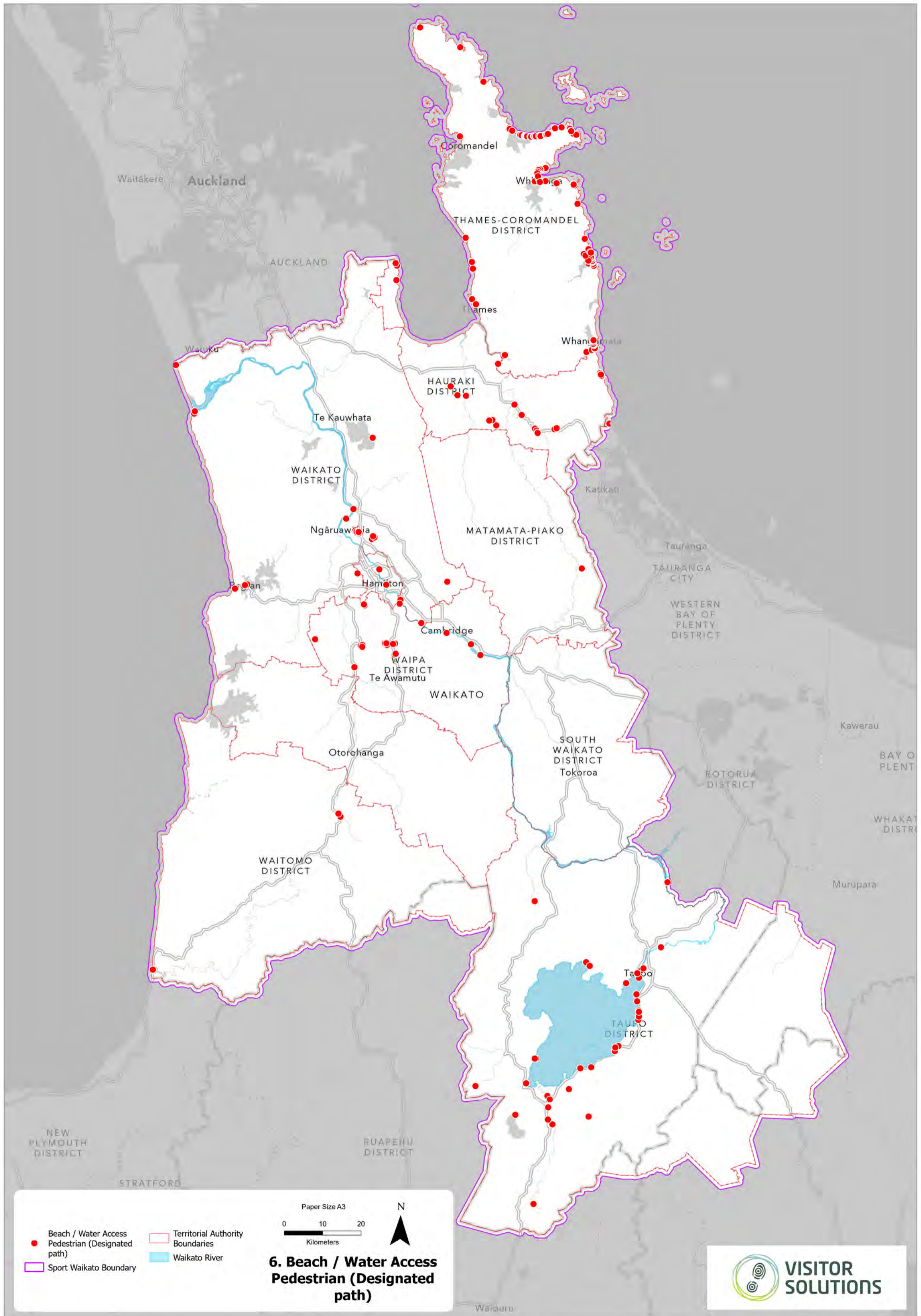


- Beach / Water Access (Vehicles)
- Territorial Authority Boundaries
- Sport Waikato Boundary
- Waikato River

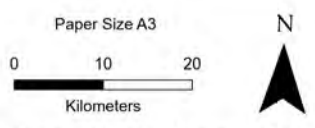


5. Beach / Water Access (Vehicles)



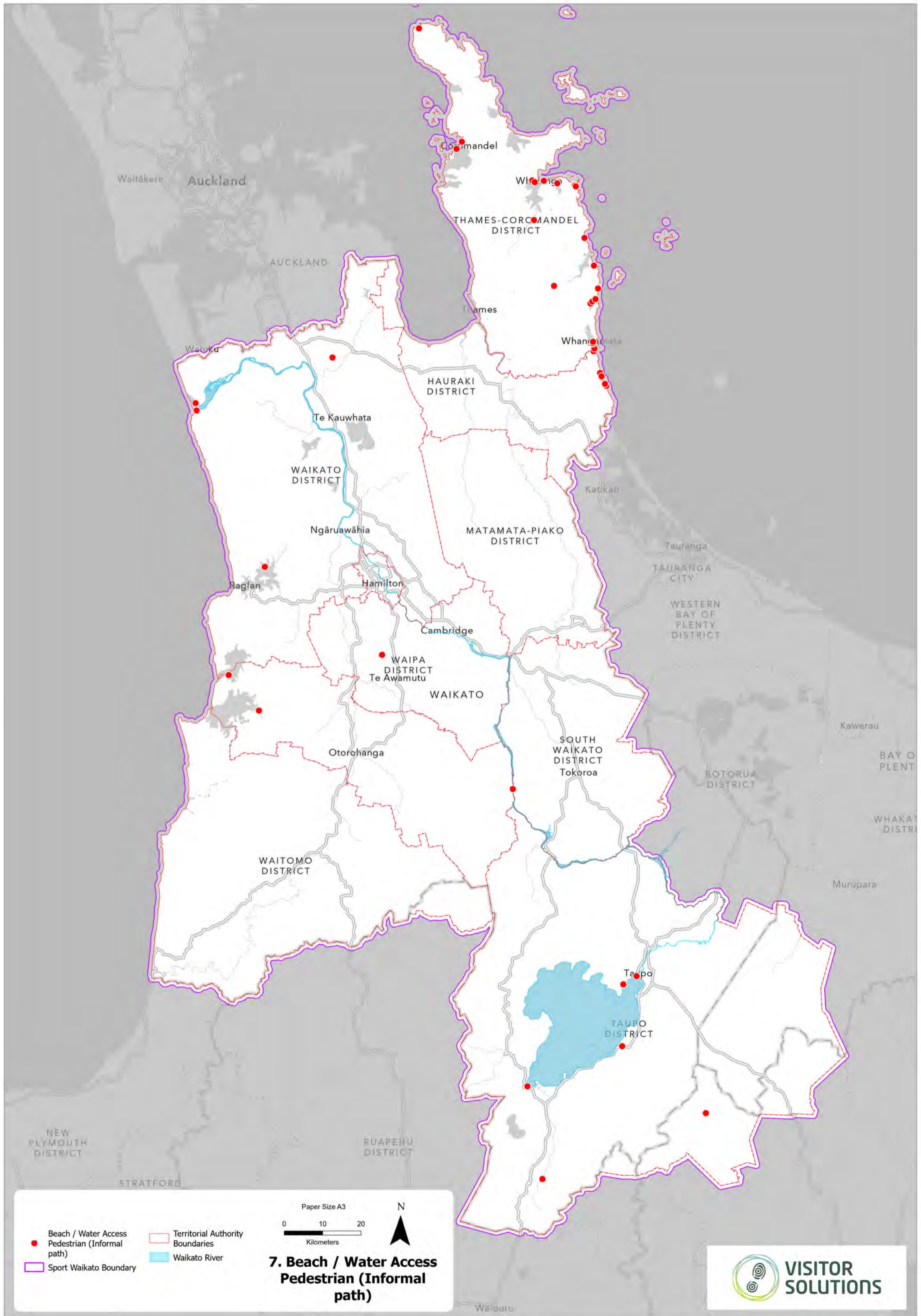


- Beach / Water Access Pedestrian (Designated path)
- Territorial Authority Boundaries
- Sport Waikato Boundary
- Waikato River

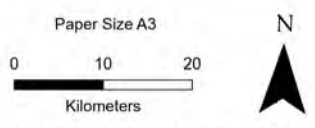


6. Beach / Water Access Pedestrian (Designated path)





- Beach / Water Access Pedestrian (Informal path)
- Territorial Authority Boundaries
- Sport Waikato Boundary
- Waikato River



7. Beach / Water Access Pedestrian (Informal path)



Waitākere Auckland

AUCKLAND

Coromandel

Whangarei

HAMES-COROMANDEL DISTRICT

HAURAKI DISTRICT

Whangāhata

Waikuku

Te Kauwhata

WAIKATO DISTRICT

Ngāruahia

MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT

Katikati

Tauranga

TAURANGA CITY

WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT

Haruru

Cambridge

WAIPA DISTRICT
Te Awamutu

WAIKATO

Otorohanga

SOUTH WAIKATO DISTRICT
Tokoroa

ROTORUA DISTRICT

Kawerau

BAY OF PLENTY

WHAKATAPU DISTRICT

WAITOMO DISTRICT

Murupara

TAUPO DISTRICT

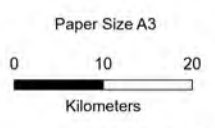
NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT

RUAPEHU DISTRICT

STRATFORD

- Parking
- Beach / Water Access (All Locations)
- Boat Ramps (All excluding Small, private)

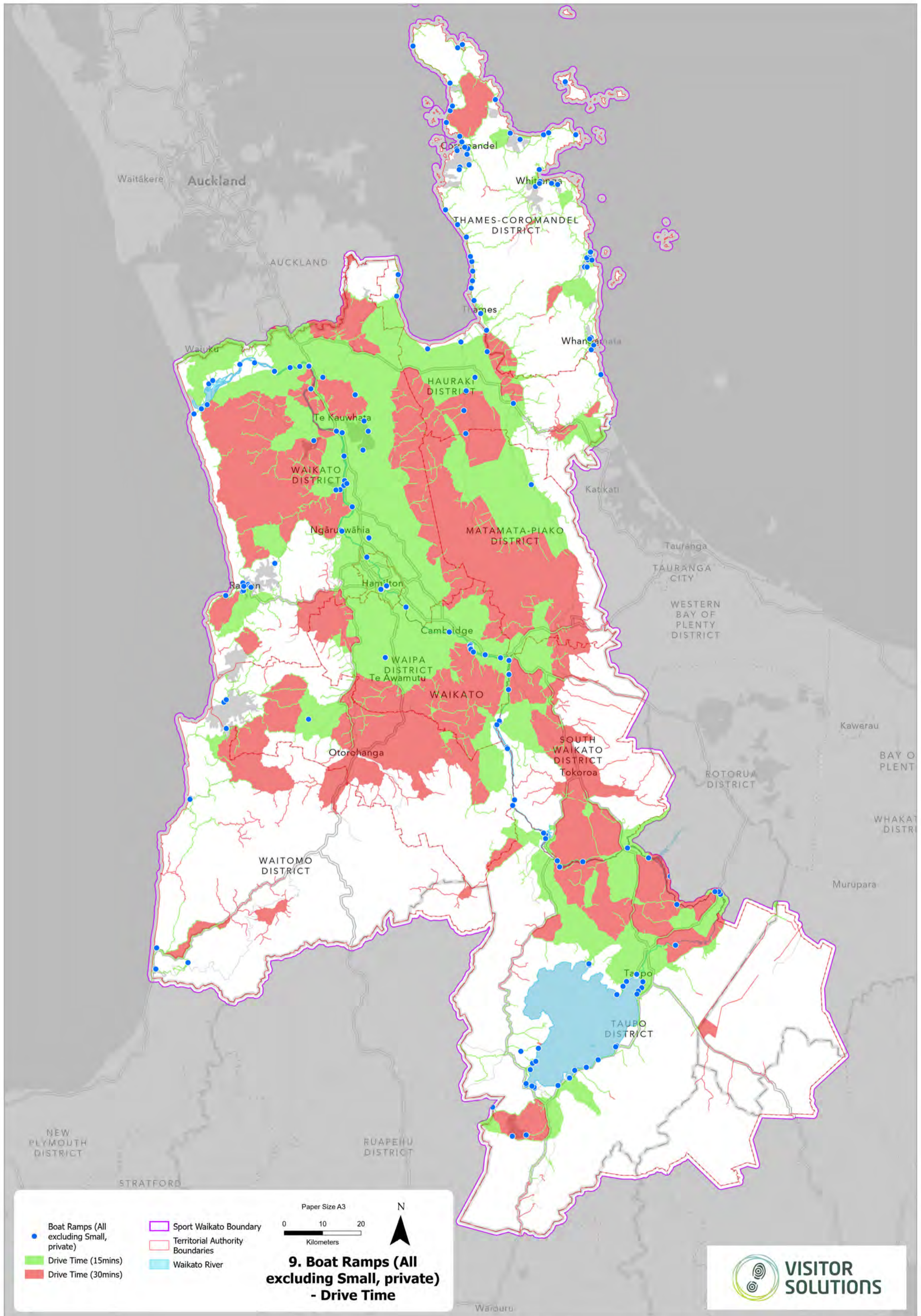
- Sport Waikato Boundary
- Territorial Authority Boundaries
- Waikato River

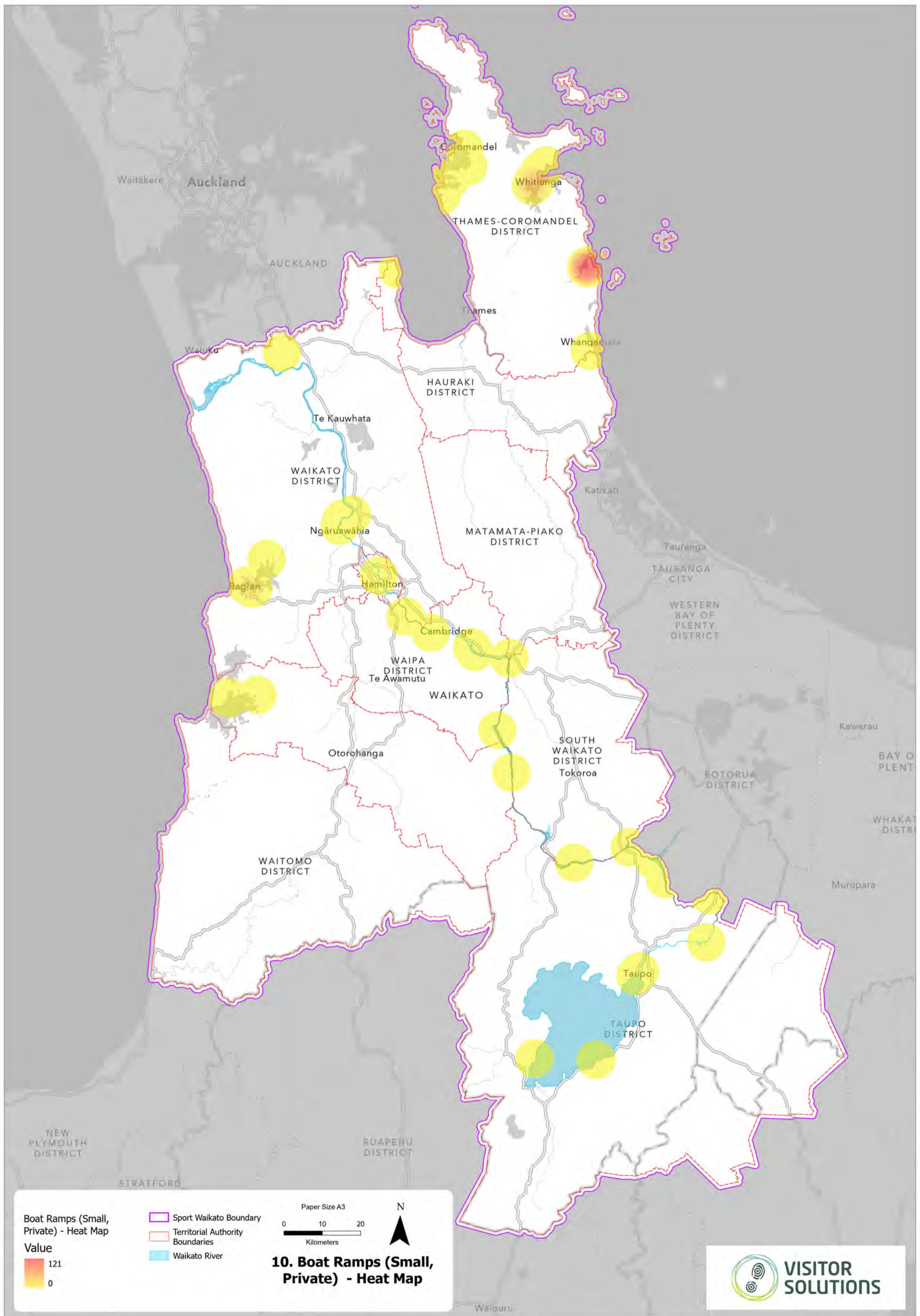


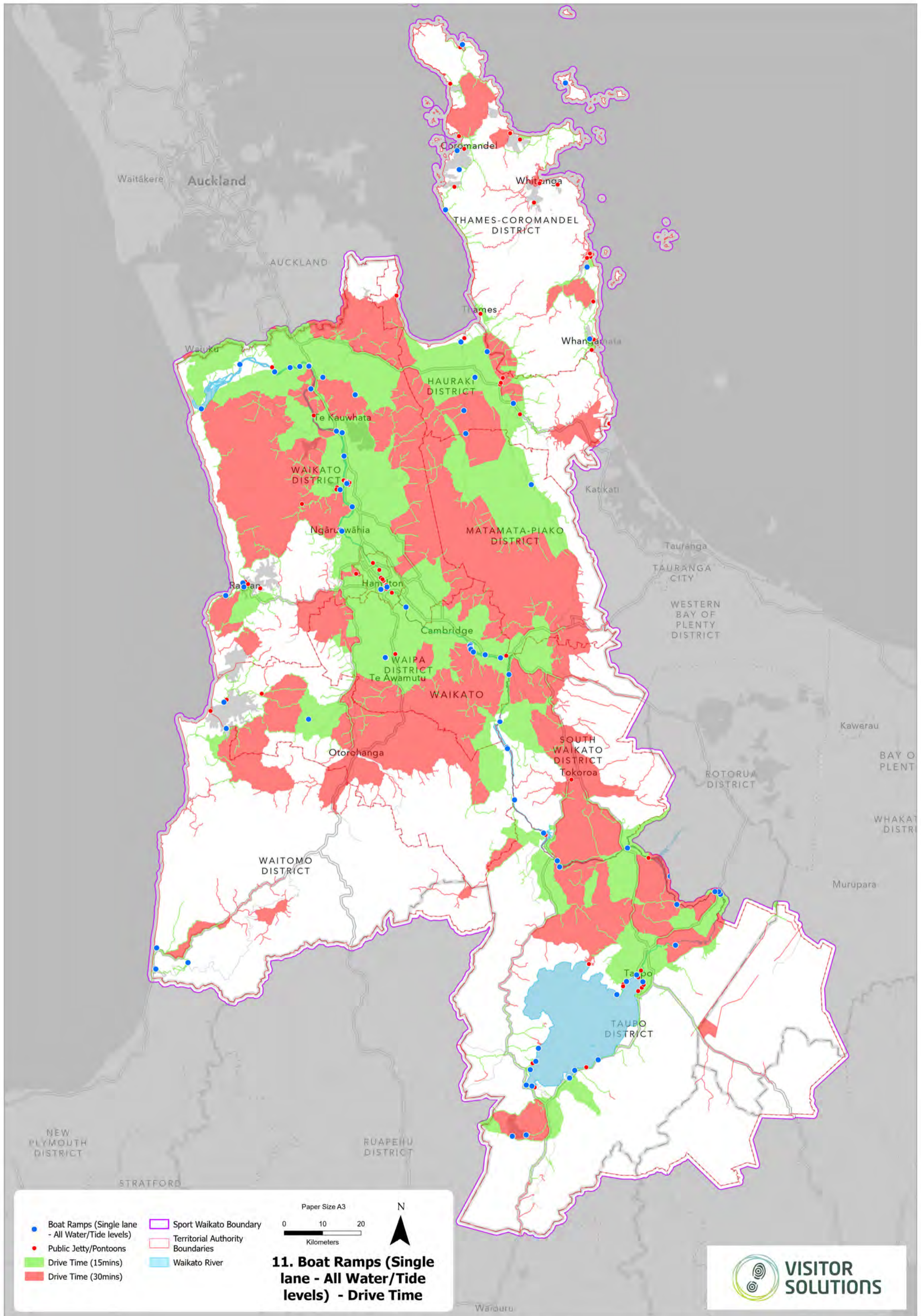
8. Parking



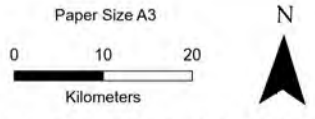
Wairouru





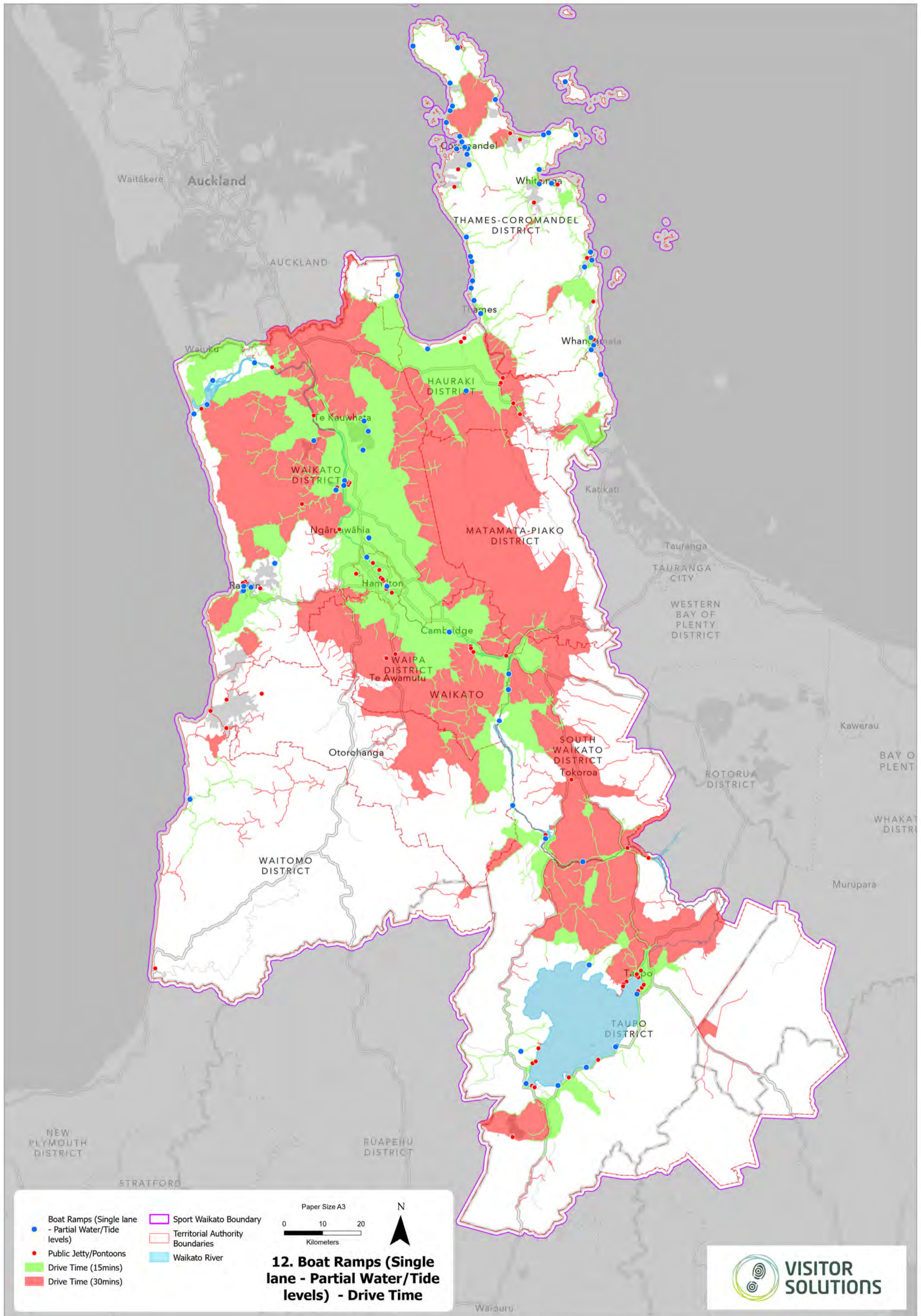


- Boat Ramps (Single lane - All Water/Tide levels)
- Public Jetty/Pontoons
- Drive Time (15mins)
- Drive Time (30mins)
- Sport Waikato Boundary
- Territorial Authority Boundaries
- Waikato River



11. Boat Ramps (Single lane - All Water/Tide levels) - Drive Time

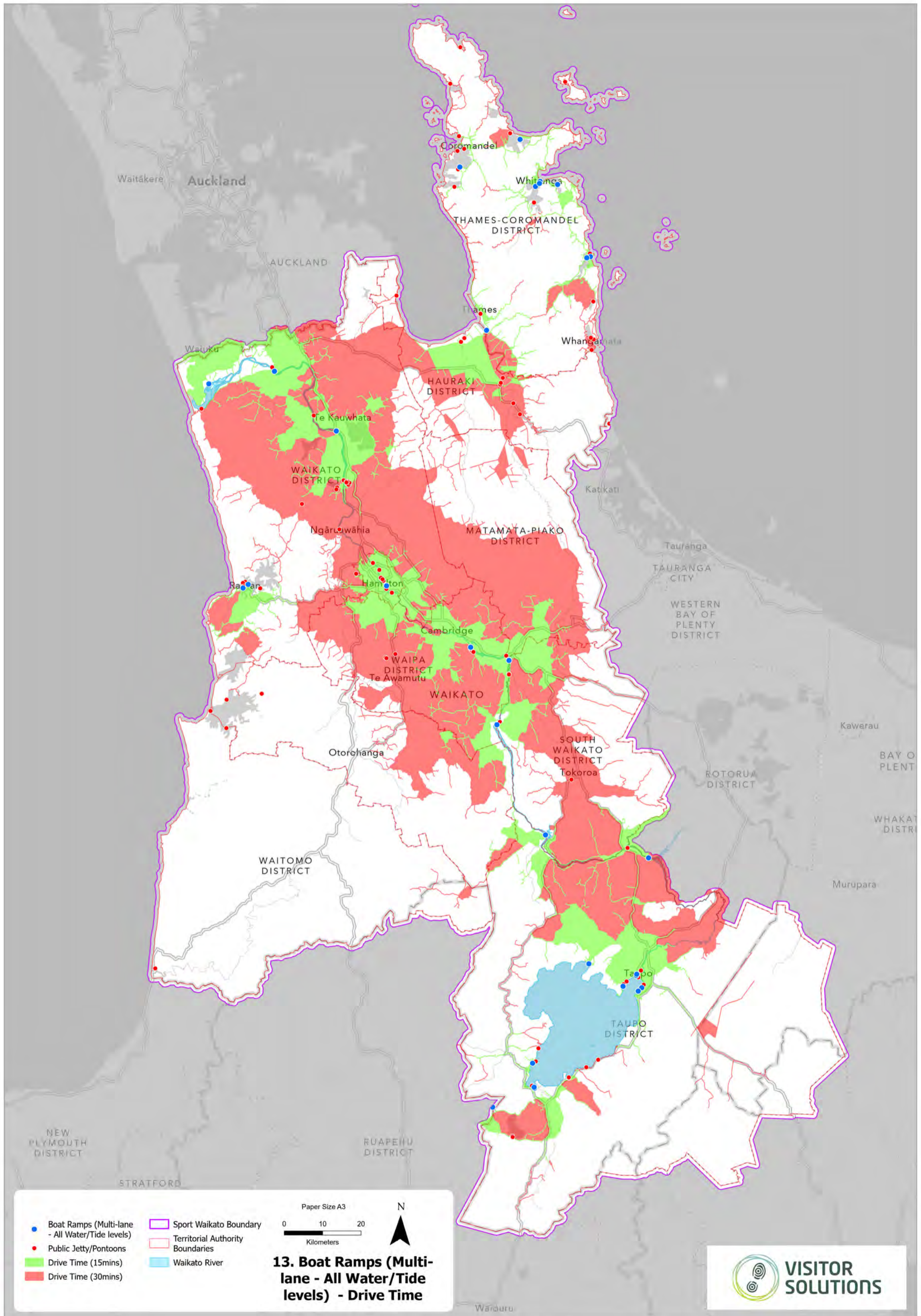




<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boat Ramps (Single lane - Partial Water/Tide levels) Public Jetty/Pontoons Drive Time (15mins) Drive Time (30mins) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport Waikato Boundary Territorial Authority Boundaries Waikato River 	<p>Paper Size A3</p> <p>0 10 20</p> <p>Kilometers</p>	<p>N</p>
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12. Boat Ramps (Single lane - Partial Water/Tide levels) - Drive Time

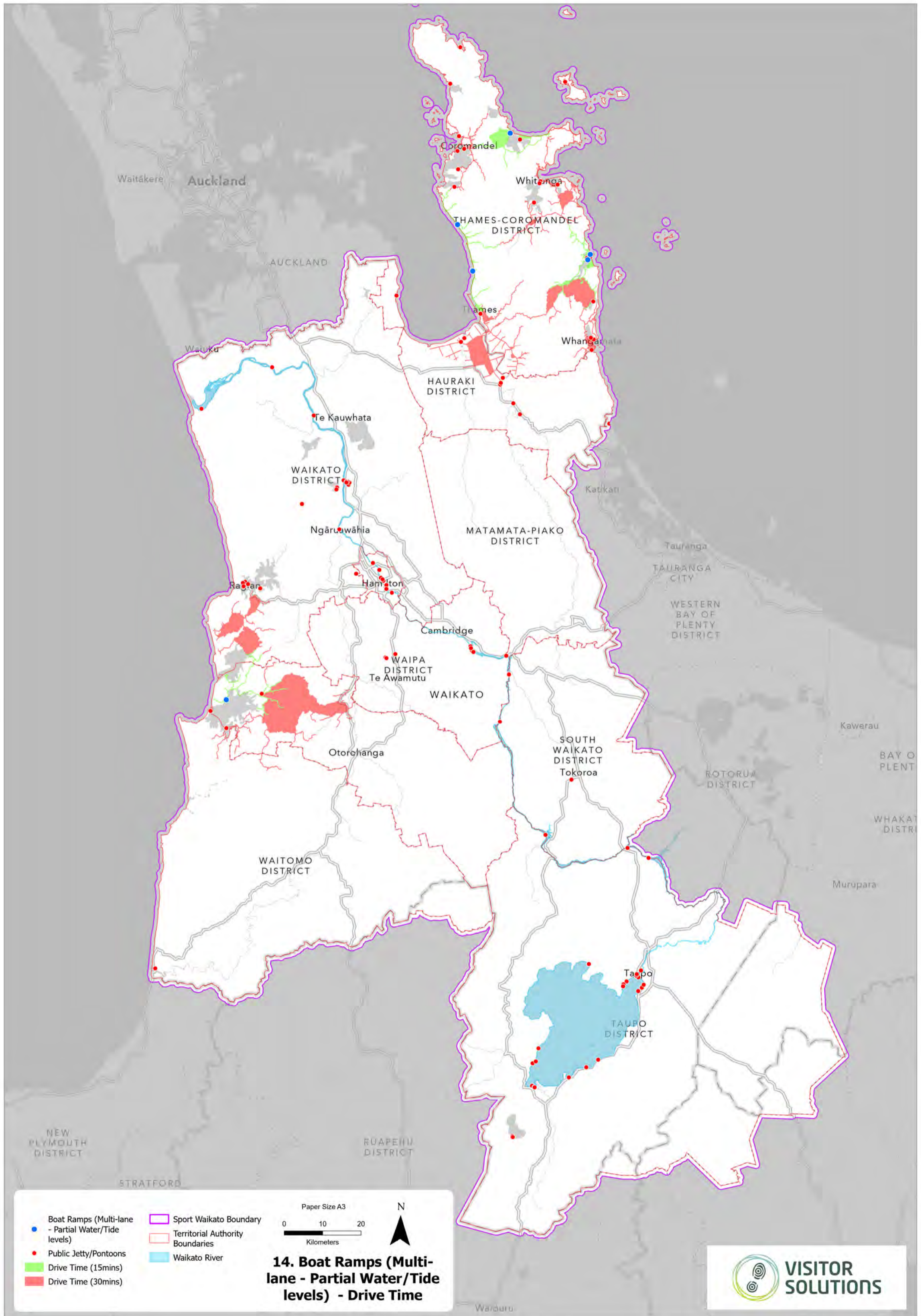




<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Boat Ramps (Multi-lane - All Water/Tide levels) ● Public Jetty/Pontoons Drive Time (15mins) Drive Time (30mins) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport Waikato Boundary Territorial Authority Boundaries Waikato River 	<p>Paper Size A3</p> <p>0 10 20</p> <p>Kilometers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <p style="text-align: center;">▲</p>
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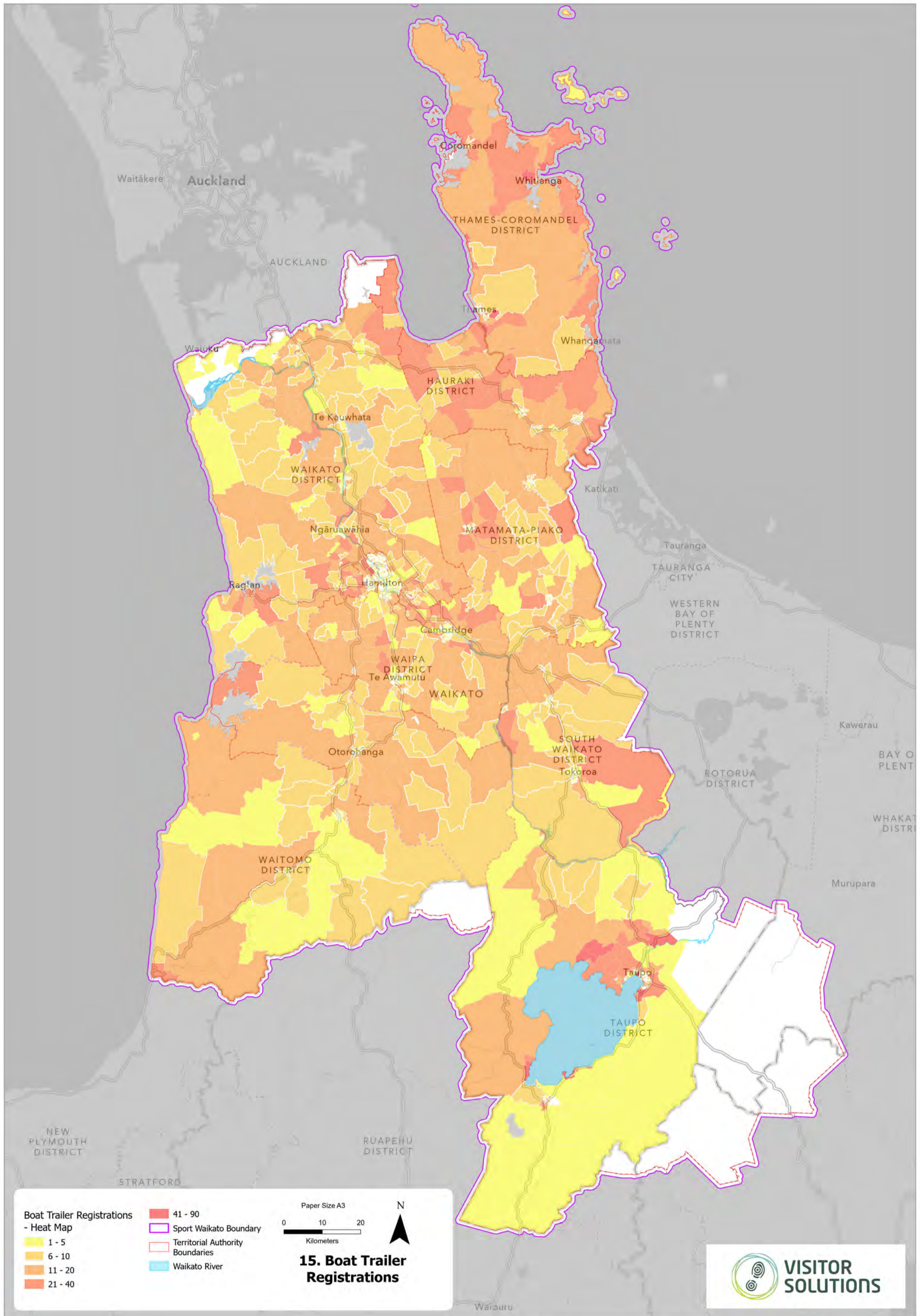
13. Boat Ramps (Multi-lane - All Water/Tide levels) - Drive Time





14. Boat Ramps (Multi-lane - Partial Water/Tide levels) - Drive Time

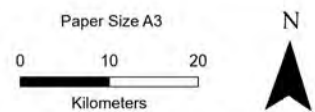




**Boat Trailer Registrations
- Heat Map**

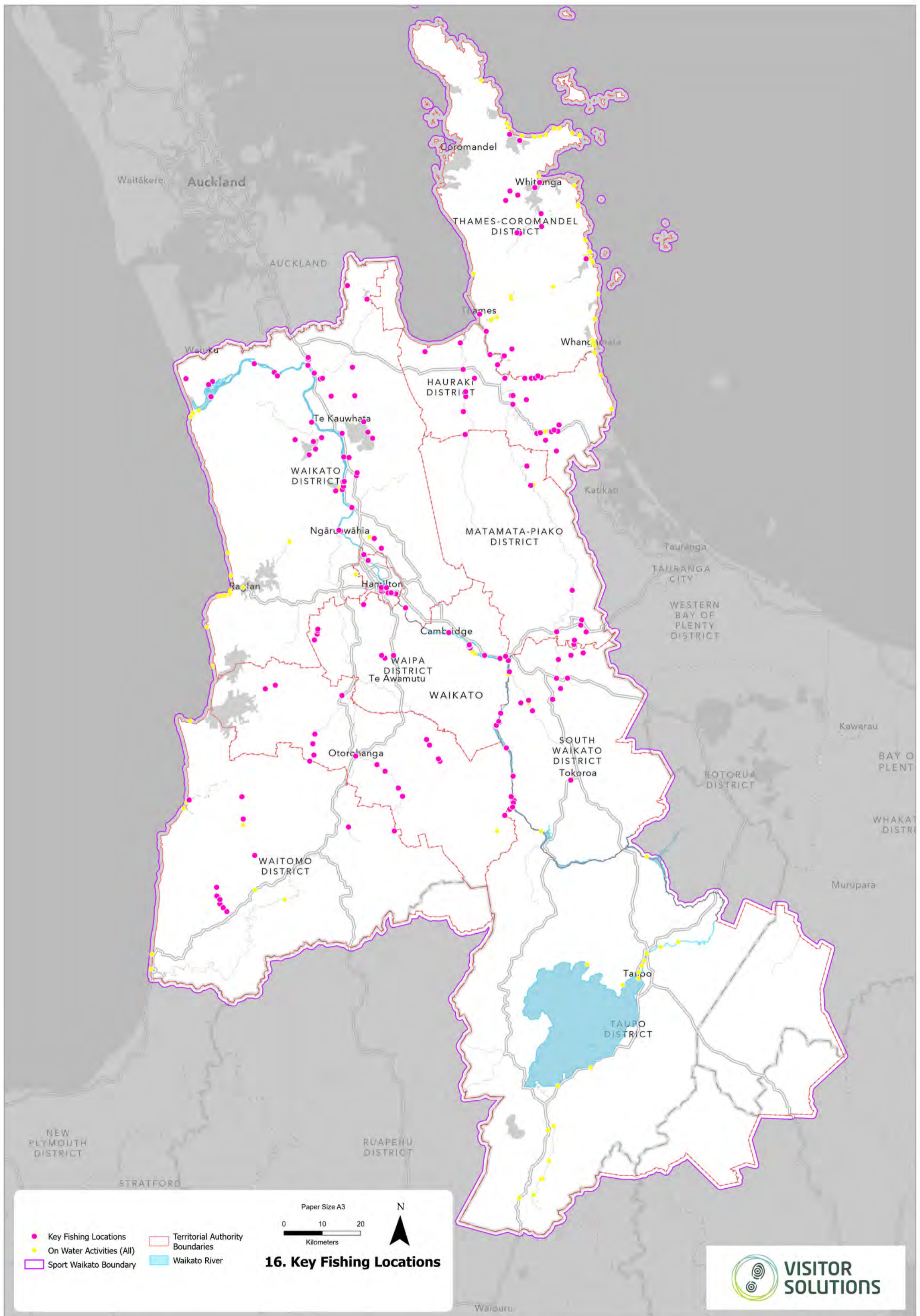
- 1 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 20
- 21 - 40

- 41 - 90
- Sport Waikato Boundary
- Territorial Authority Boundaries
- Waikato River



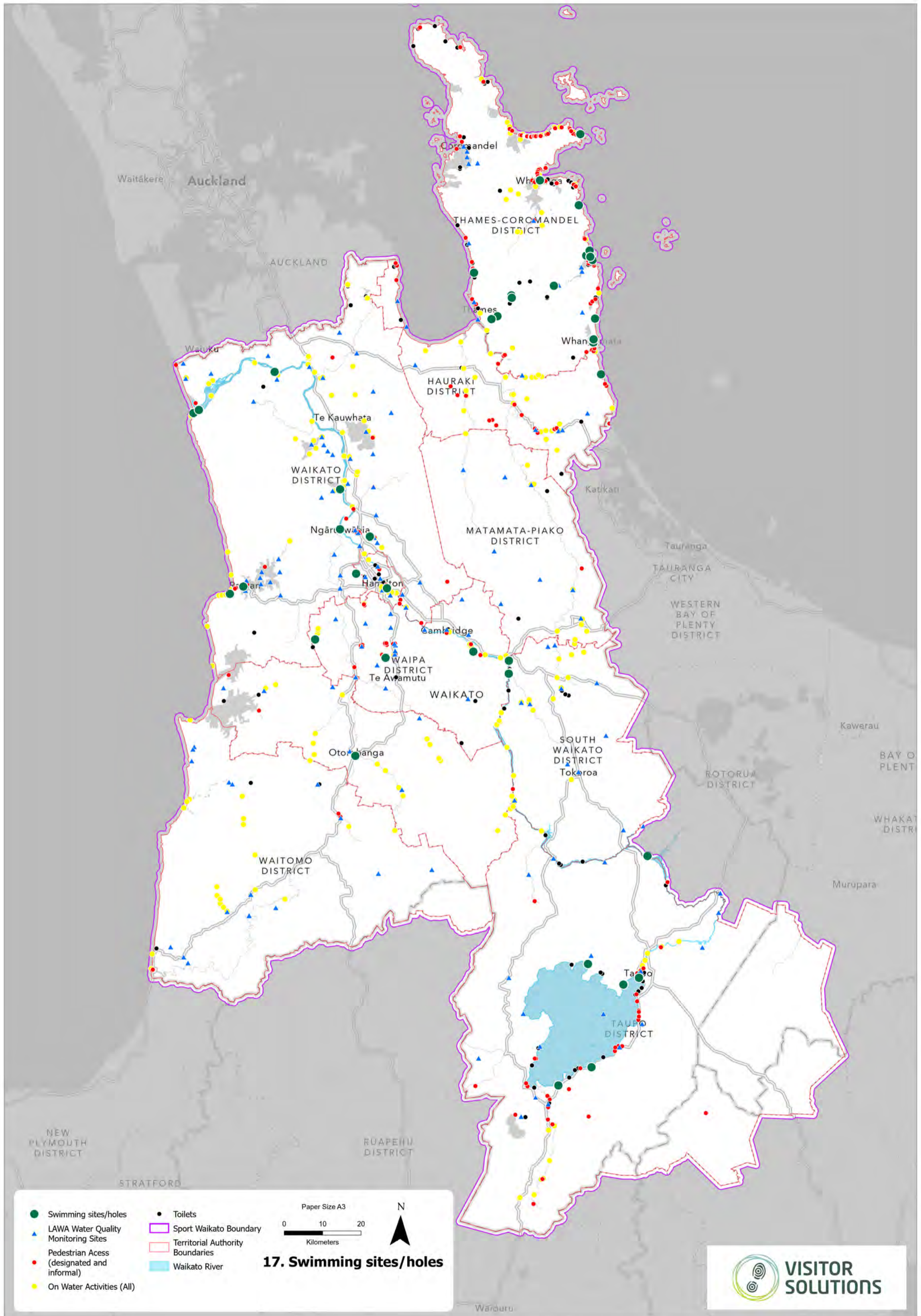
15. Boat Trailer Registrations





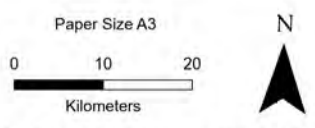
16. Key Fishing Locations





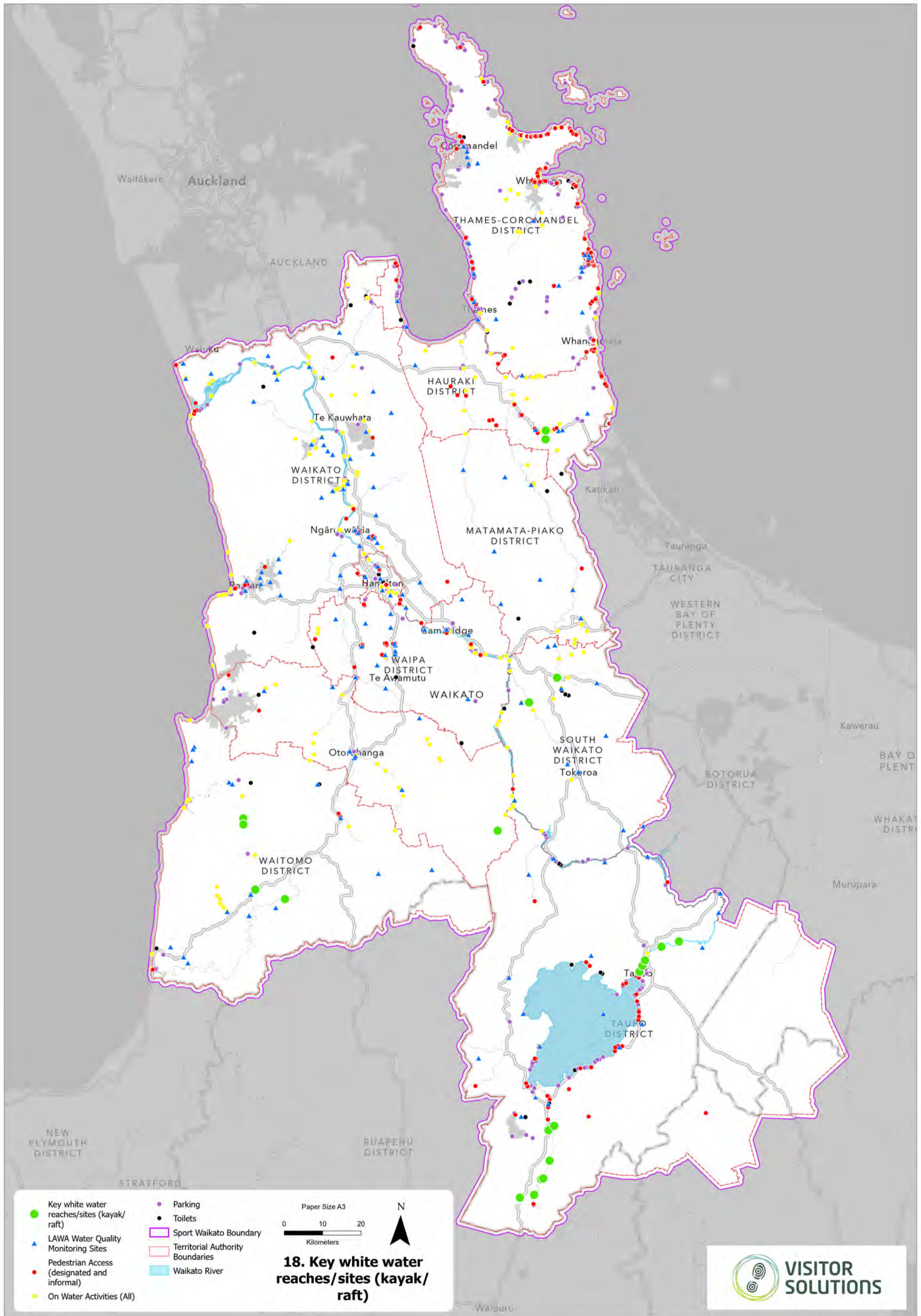
- Swimming sites/holes
- ▲ LAWA Water Quality Monitoring Sites
- Pedestrian Access (designated and informal)
- On Water Activities (All)

- Toilets
- Sport Waikato Boundary
- Territorial Authority Boundaries
- Waikato River

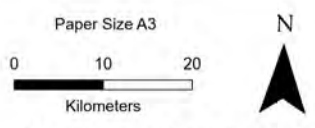


17. Swimming sites/holes



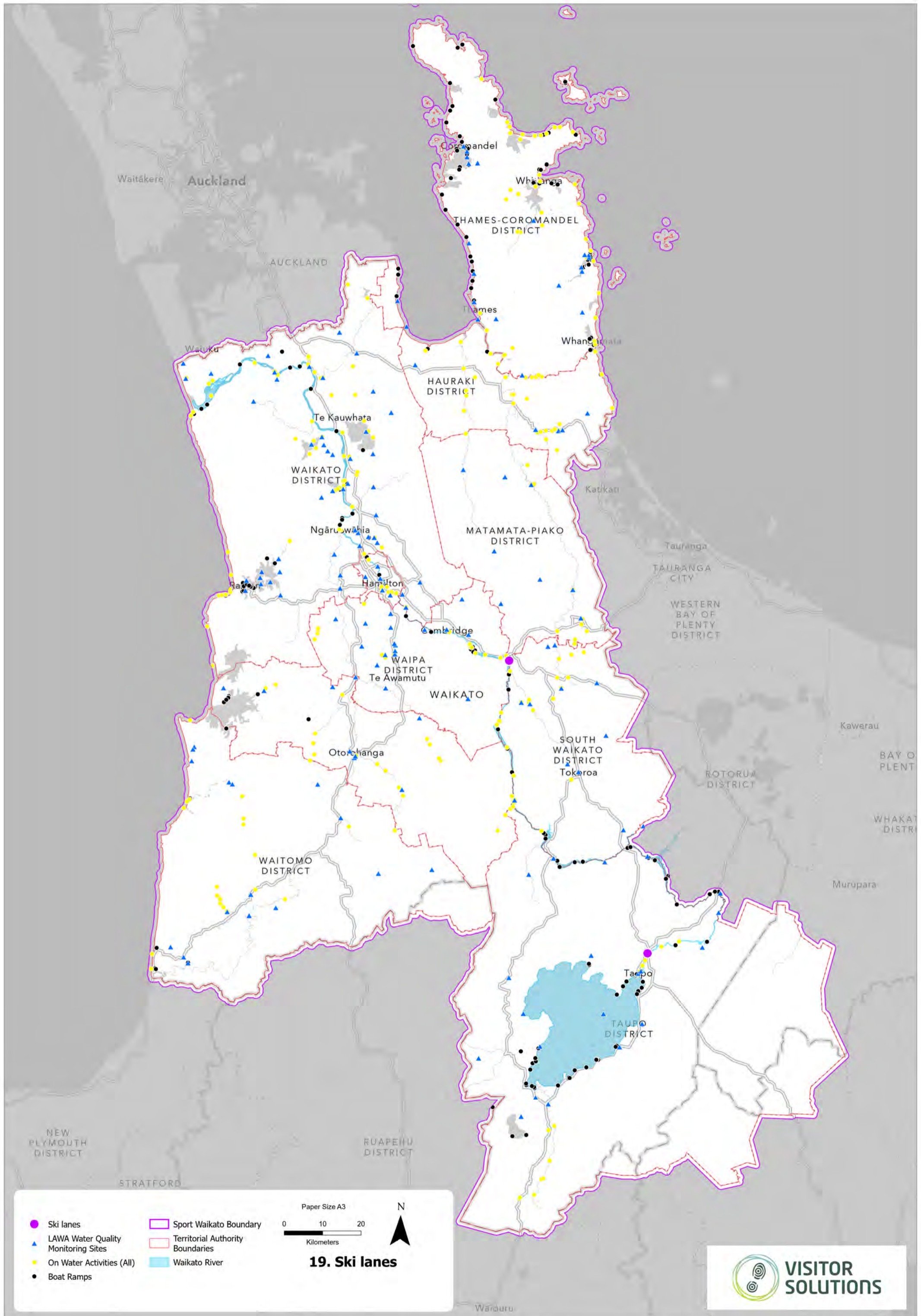


- Key white water reaches/sites (kayak/raft)
- ▲ LAWA Water Quality Monitoring Sites
- Pedestrian Access (designated and informal)
- On Water Activities (All)
- Parking
- Toilets
- Sport Waikato Boundary
- Territorial Authority Boundaries
- Waikato River



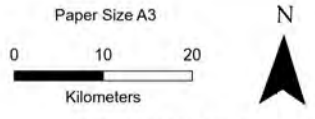
18. Key white water reaches/sites (kayak/raft)





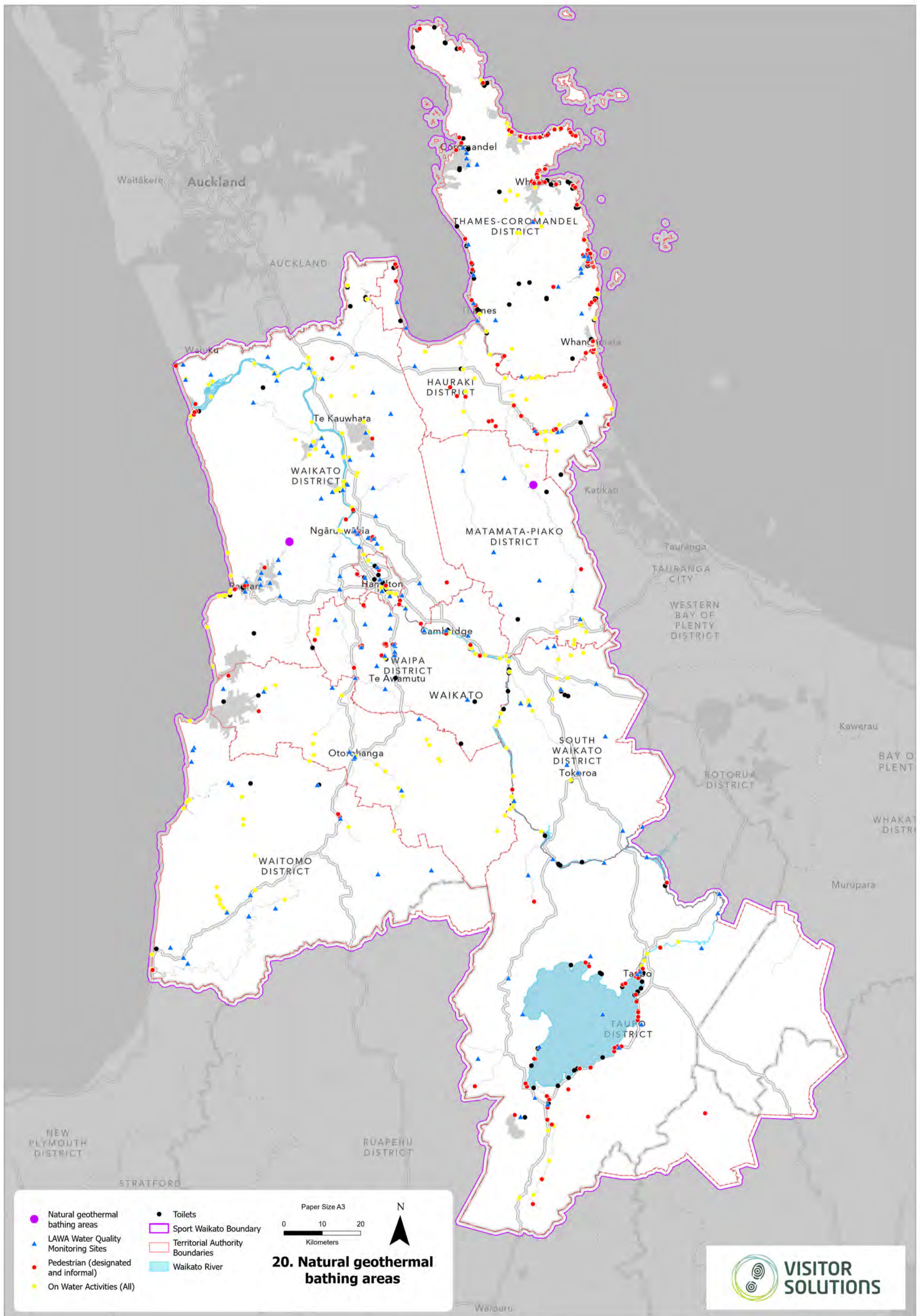
- Ski lanes
- ▲ LAWA Water Quality Monitoring Sites
- On Water Activities (All)
- Boat Ramps

- Sport Waikato Boundary
- Territorial Authority Boundaries
- Waikato River

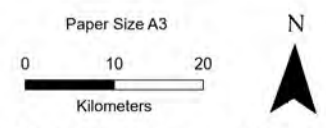


19. Ski lanes



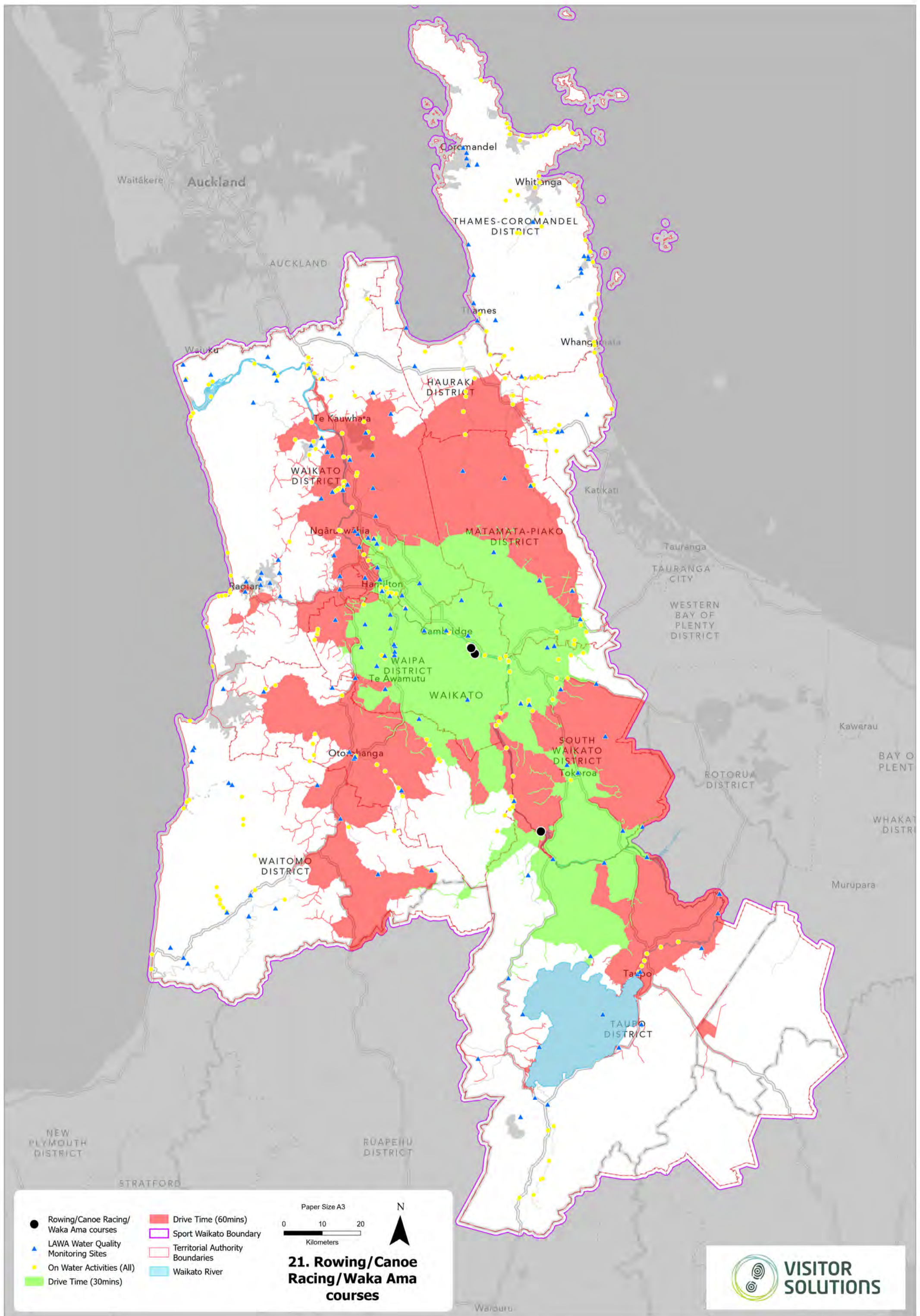


- Natural geothermal bathing areas
- ▲ LAWA Water Quality Monitoring Sites
- Pedestrian (designated and informal)
- On Water Activities (All)
- Toilets
- Sport Waikato Boundary
- Territorial Authority Boundaries
- Waikato River

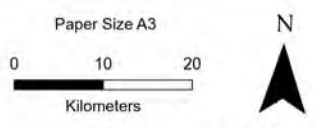


20. Natural geothermal bathing areas



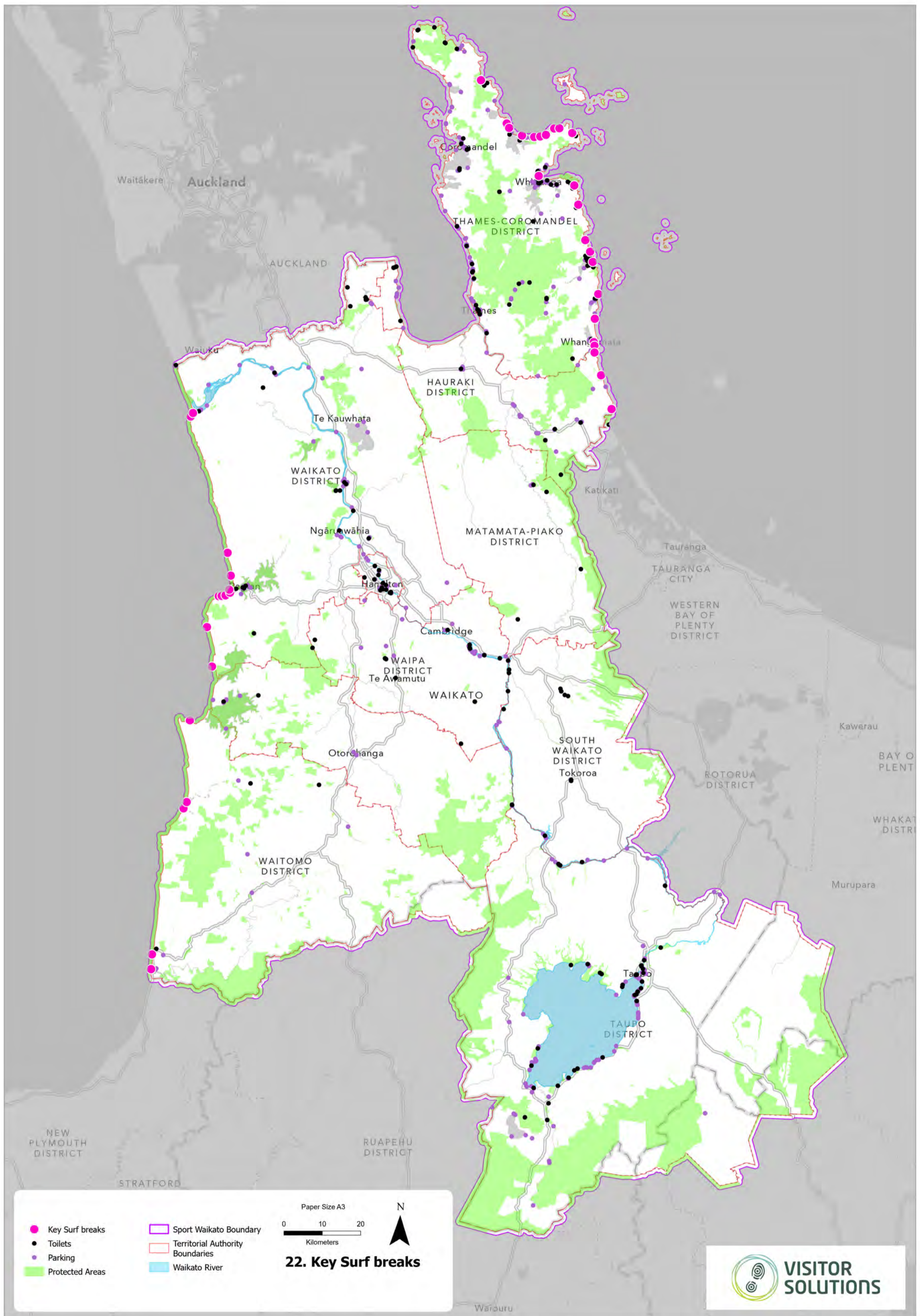


- Rowing/Canoe Racing/Waka Ama courses
- ▲ LAWA Water Quality Monitoring Sites
- On Water Activities (All)
- Drive Time (30mins)
- Drive Time (60mins)
- Sport Waikato Boundary
- Territorial Authority Boundaries
- Waikato River



21. Rowing/Canoe Racing/Waka Ama courses





Paper Size A3

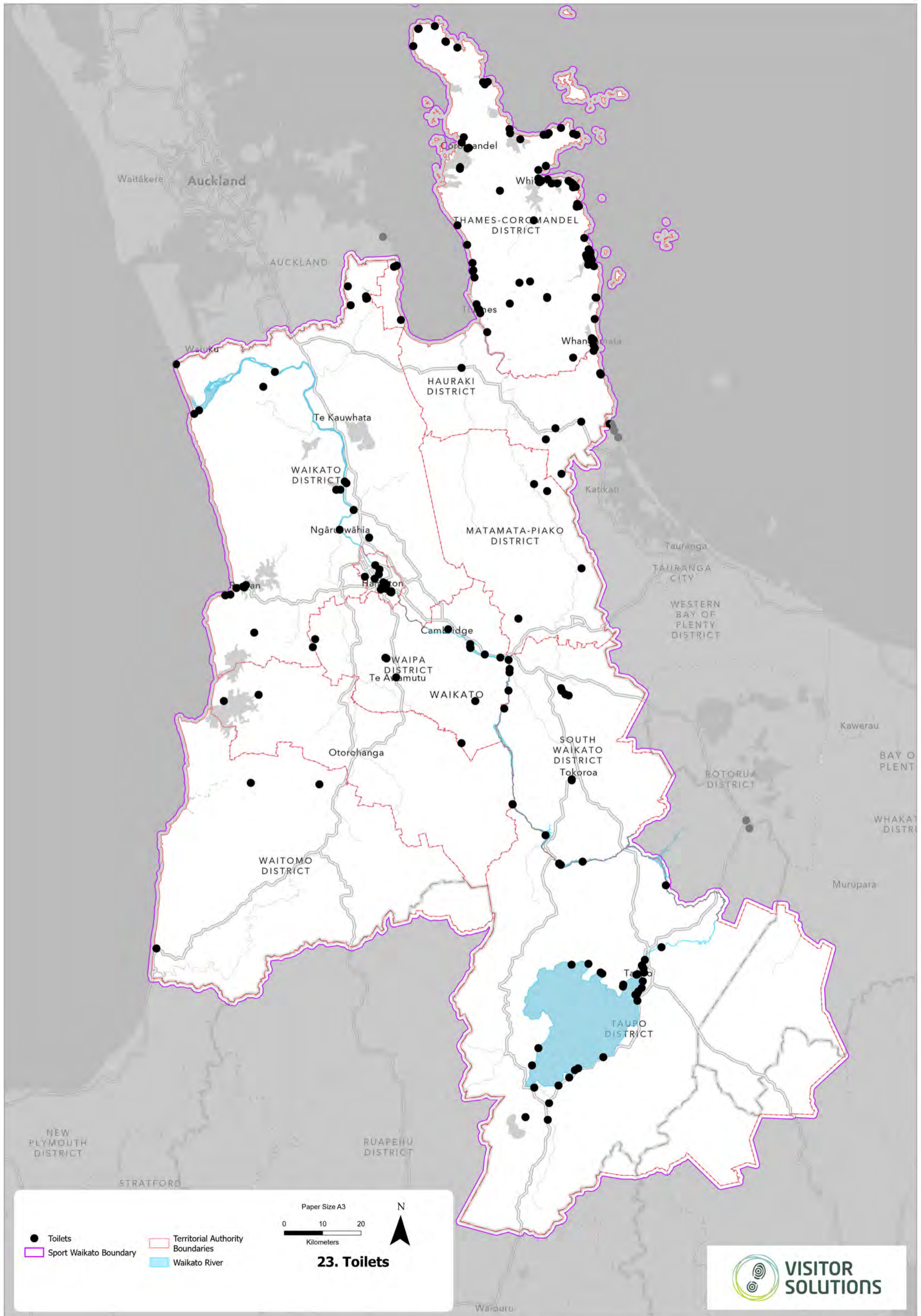
0 10 20
Kilometers

N

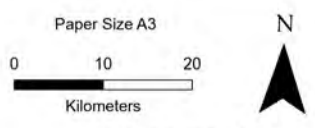
- Key Surf breaks
- Toilets
- Parking
- Protected Areas
- Sport Waikato Boundary
- Territorial Authority Boundaries
- Waikato River

22. Key Surf breaks



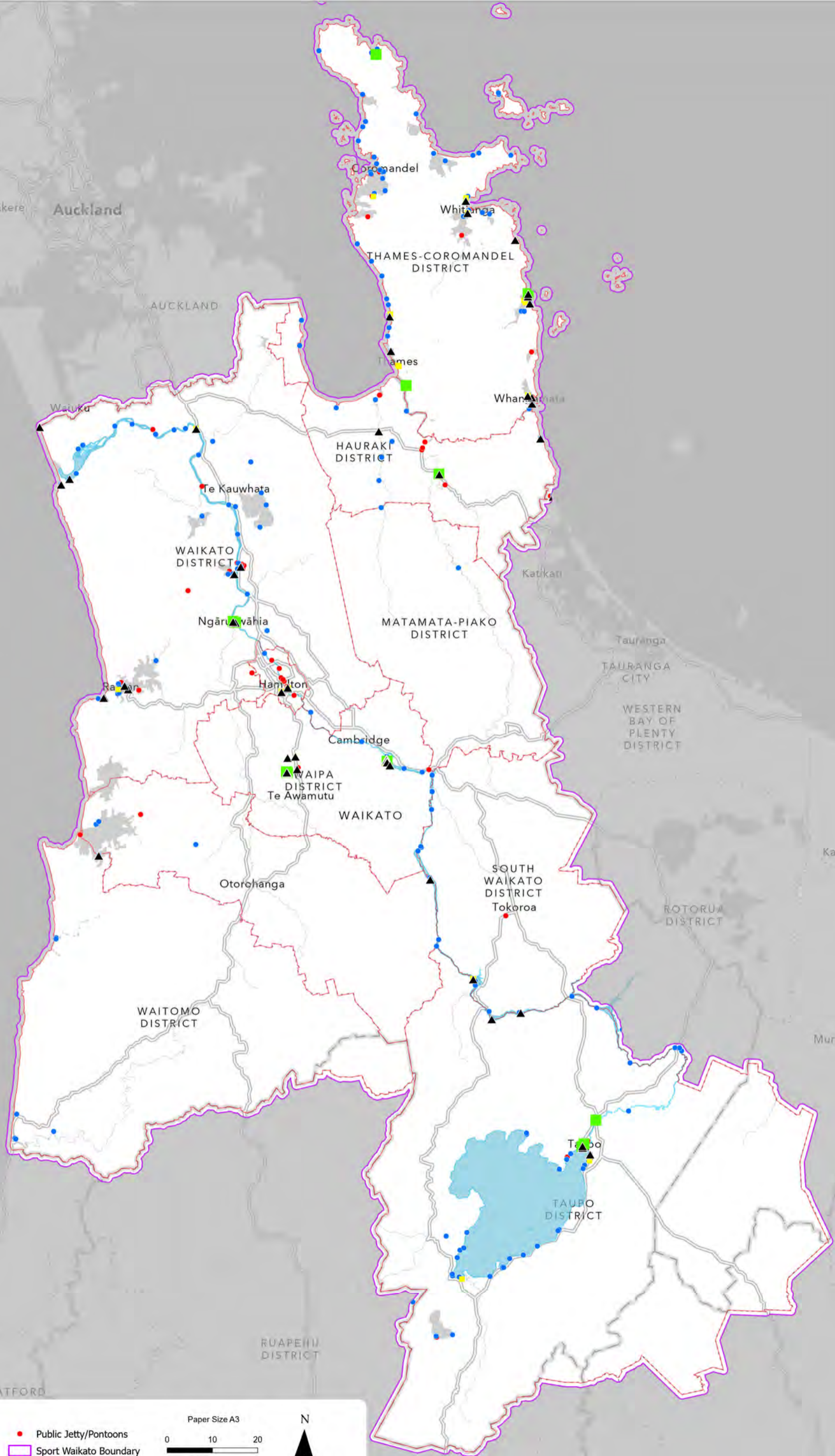


- Toilets
- Territorial Authority Boundaries
- ▭ Sport Waikato Boundary
- ▭ Waikato River

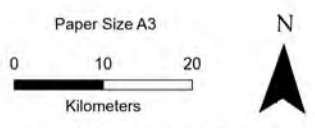


23. Toilets



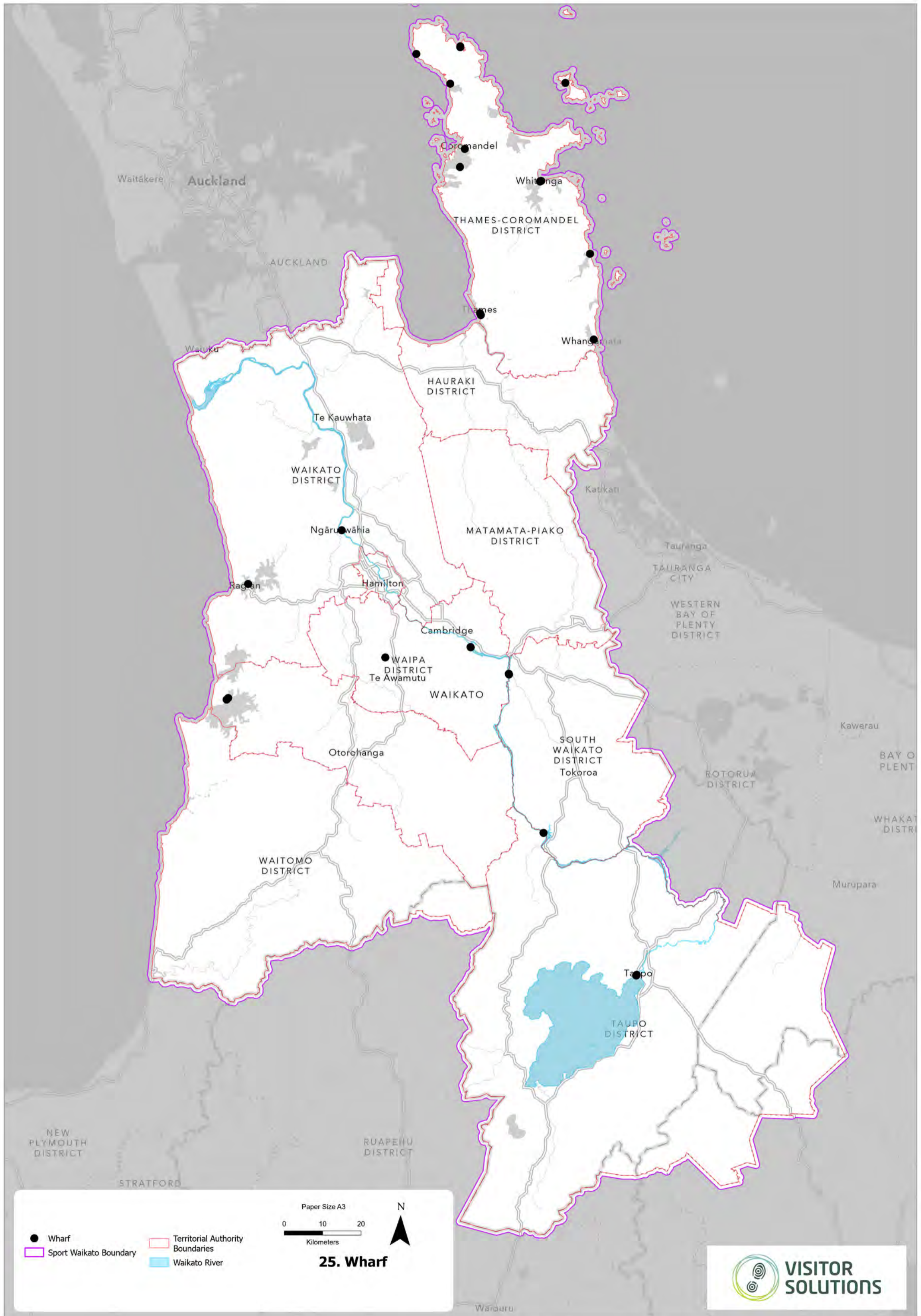


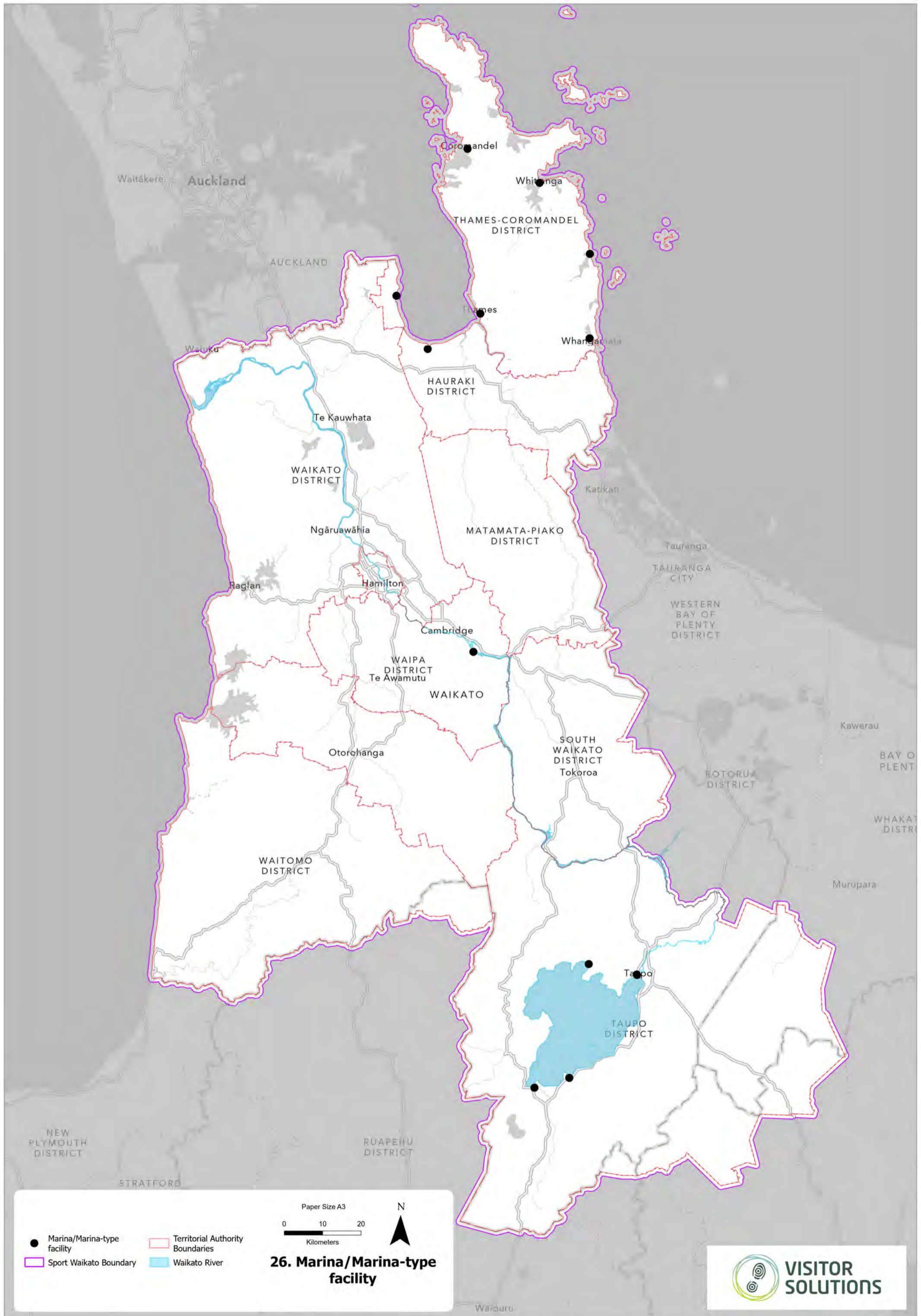
- ▲ Clubrooms/Activity base
- Boat Storage Covered
- Boat Storage Uncovered
- Boat Ramps (All excluding Small, private)
- Public Jetty/Pontoons
- Sport Waikato Boundary
- Territorial Authority Boundaries
- Waikato River



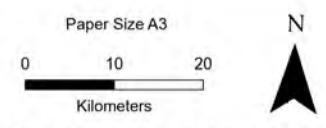
24. Clubrooms/Activity base







- Marina/Marina-type facility
- Territorial Authority Boundaries
- Sport Waikato Boundary
- Waikato River



26. Marina/Marina-type facility

