

**Date:** Tuesday 25 February 2020  
**Time:** 09.30am  
**Meeting Room:** Local Board Chambers  
**Venue:** Pukekohe Service Centre  
82 Manukau Road  
Pukekohe

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## Franklin Local Board

# OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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<b>ITEM</b>	<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>8.2</b>	<b>Deputation - Te Arahikoi</b>	
A.	25 February 2020 Deputation: Te Ara Hikoi	3



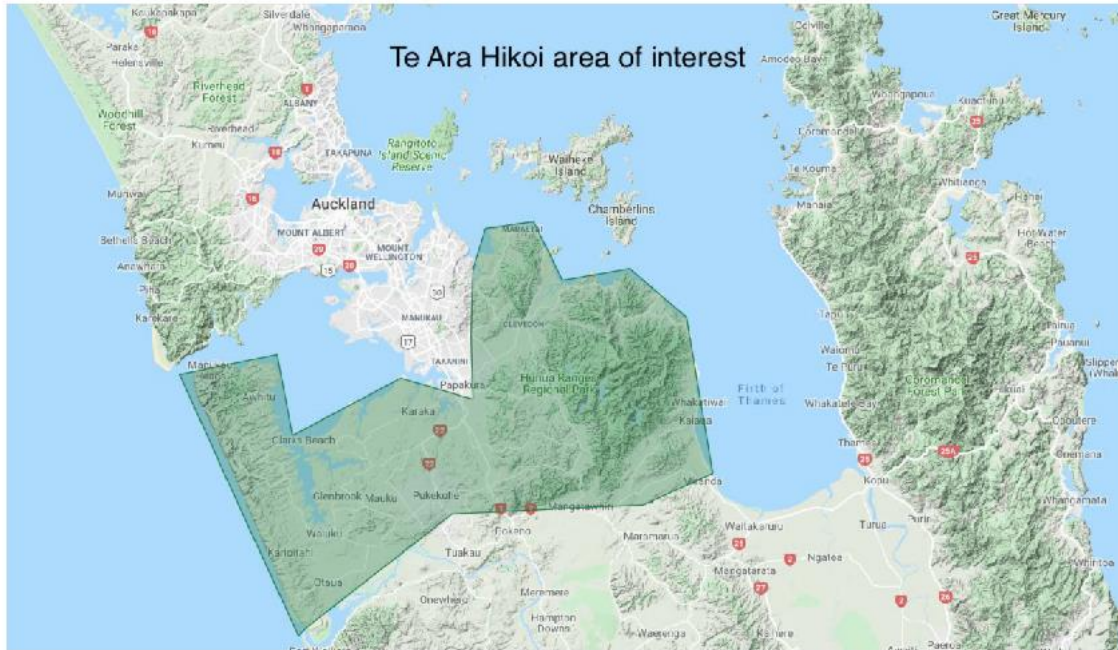
## Te Arahikoi

Te Arahikoi is a new organisation which has been established by existing landcare groups, iwi, and central and local government agencies working in the Franklin area to strengthen local community biodiversity initiatives. The major driver behind the establishment of the organisation is to coordinate community led predator control efforts in the Franklin area and parts of North Waikato. The three significant landcare groups in the area (Friends of Te Wairoa, Whakau-poko Landcare and Awhitu Landcare) have been collaborating very successfully with predator control programs over the past year, and these efforts were recognised with a recent mayoral conservation award for collaboration. The programs have grown very rapidly and there is a need for an umbrella organisation to strengthen and support all biodiversity initiatives, but especially the predator control initiatives of local community groups. Te Arahikoi has been established, with assistance from Auckland Council to fulfil that role. It is open to any local organisation sharing the same kaupapa, and is widely supported by Auckland and Waikato Regional Councils, DoC, local iwi, and numerous community groups with whom it now interacts.

Te Arahikoi has been established to generally enhance biodiversity but current efforts are focussed on predator control initiatives. A strategic plan has been developed with the help of a facilitator and the first working meeting will be in February. The aim is to grow local community predator control capability throughout the area with a particular focus on the Awhitu Peninsula and the Hunua Ranges.

The formula followed by the landcare groups involves community events (Bait and Trap days) which involve education and then supply of bait and traps to participants. Contact details are gathered of those taking supplies, and they are sent a regular electronic reminder aimed at encouraging ongoing activity. Uptake has been very strong and after a year approximately 8% of residences in the area are enrolled in the program.

The aim for the next two years is to increase the percentage of residences using predator control to between 15 and 20%, and close some of the gaps in coverage, especially around the Hunua Ranges and to improve the effectiveness of those already in the program using tools such as Trap NZ. Te Arahikoi will strengthen the role of community groups involved in predator control by playing a coordinating role and providing central resources such as education, supply of equipment, and managing ongoing regular communication with landowners. It will be working closely with AC Environmental Services and also with Waikato Regional Council and DoC to maximise the impact of all predator control programs in the area.



Properties Using the Program after hub days in Hunua, Clevedon, Orere Point and Ness Valley.

