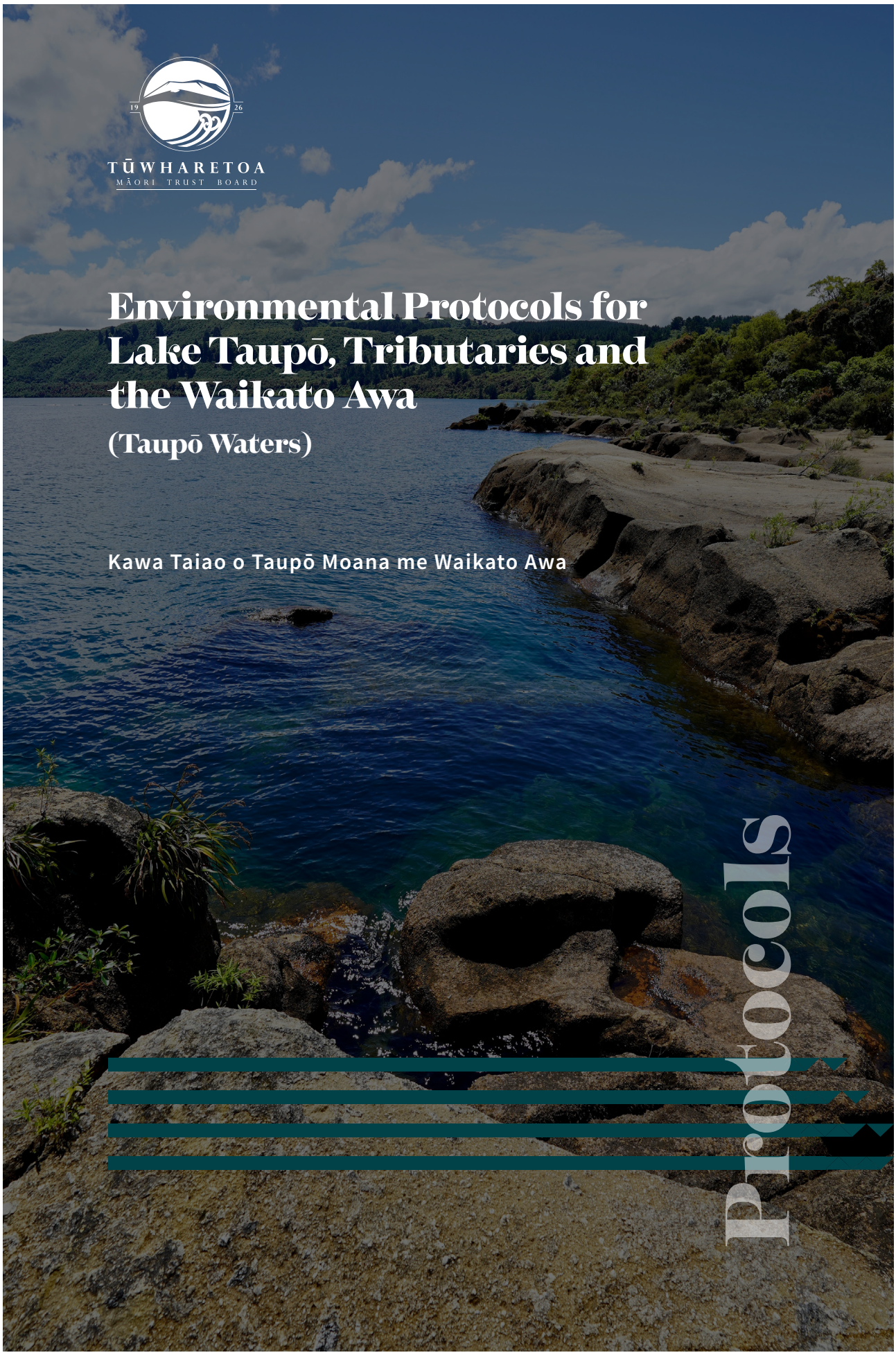
TŪWHARETOA
MĀORI TRUST BOARD
Environmental Protocols for Lake Taupō, Tributaries and the Waikato Awa
(Taupō Waters)
Kawa Taiao o Taupō Moana me Waikato Awa
Protocols

# Introduction and Scope

**This protocol applies to all persons that have a current Licence Agreement with the Trust Board, being:**

**a)** Tourism operators;

**b)** Event operators; and

**c)** Film and production operators.

**Collectively referred to as 'Commercial Operators' for the purposes of this protocol.**

This protocol provides Commercial Operators on Taupō Waters clarity on the taiao protocols relevant to their operations.

All Commercial Operators (which includes any employees and/or contractors) are to comply with the terms and conditions set out in this protocol and are to ensure that customers and/or clients comply with and are made aware of the relevant parts of this protocol.

For the avoidance of doubt, Commercial Operators are also required to comply with other protocols including the Cultural Protocol and Events, Filming and Photography Protocol.

# The cultural significance of Taupō Waters to Nga Hapū o Tūwharetoa

Nga Hapū o Tūwharetoa are the descendants of Tūwharetoa and Tia and other tūpuna who have occupied the Taupō Region continuously since the arrival of the Te Arawa waka. Ngāti Tūwharetoa are linked by whakapapa to their lands, freshwater and taonga. This connection establishes their mana whenua, kaitiakitanga and rangatiratanga, including their right to establish and maintain a meaningful and sustainable relationship between hapū, whānau and their taonga.

Taupō Waters, inclusive of Taupō nui-a-Tia and all the streams and tributaries that feed into, and flow out of, Lake Taupō, is a taonga tuku iho and of paramount importance to Ngāti Tūwharetoa. The people of Ngāti Tūwharetoa enjoy a special relationship with Taupō Waters and have an inherent obligation to ensure that the mauri, and the physical and spiritual health of their environment, inclusive of Taupō Waters and the Waikato River, is maintained, protected and enhanced.

Ngati Tūwharetoa value land, water and other natural resources for their innate ability to provide for the physical and economic needs of marae and hapū both now and for the future. As such, Ngati Tūwharetoa asserts its right as kaitiaki in the following manner:

- Carrying out their responsibilities as kaitiaki over all taonga.
- Ensuring that the particular hapū associated with Taupō Moana retain their relationship with their taonga.
- Protecting the taonga tuku iho for present and future generations whilst being mindful of the need for enabling sustainable development.
- Respecting, sustaining, restoring and protecting the mauri of taonga along with wāhi tapu and other sites of significance.
- Recognising the fundamental connection of hapū and iwi with Taupō Moana which comes from mythology, tradition and whakapapa.
- Ensuring that the natural environment is not altered without the appropriate ritual and sustaining the ecological integrity and diversity of the land, the water and all taonga.

For Ngāti Tūwharetoa, the health and wellbeing of Taupō Waters is inseparable from the health and wellbeing of the people.





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# Compliance

**All Commercial Operators are required to comply with all 'Authorisations'.**

For the purposes of this protocol, Authorisations means any consent, authorisation, registration, filing, lodgement, agreement, notarisation, certificate, permission, licence, approval, authority or exemption from, by or with a Government Agency or required by any law (including any consent under the Resource Management Act 1991).

# Refuelling

**Prohibited Activities:**

- The refueling of any motorised vessel in locations where the appropriate level of spill response equipment is NOT available is strictly prohibited.
- Except as approved by the Harbourmaster, the manual transfer (decanting) of any synthetic or petrochemical, lubricant, grease oil, antifreeze, petrol, diesel, solvents or degreasers outside of a refueling location is strictly prohibited.

**General refueling conditions**

- The use of any hazardous substance must be in accordance with the requirements of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. For the avoidance of doubt the term "Hazardous substance" has the same meaning as set out in Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996.
- The refueling of any motorised vessel can only be undertaken in a location nominated by the Harbourmaster and using the refueling process determined by the fuel provider. For the avoidance of doubt, the term "refueling" means the use of any synthetic or petrochemical, lubricant, grease oil, antifreeze, petrol, diesel, solvents or degreasers.
- To the extent practicable, the location for refueling should be bunded or contained to prevent the discharge/ spill of any hazardous substance to any area outside of that location.

**The Operator will be responsible for:**

- Ensuring all necessary safety precautions are undertaken during refueling operations.
- Ensuring the appropriate level of spill response equipment is available when refueling, and the availability of adequately trained staff capable of deploying spill response equipment.
- Reporting any incidents, hazardous substance spills or near misses to the Harbourmaster within a reasonable timeframe.
- Clean-up of any hazardous substance spill into any water body, or onto land adjacent to any water body.

**Notice to license holders**

- The Trust Board intends to work with the Harbourmaster and license holders in 2025 to introduce a requirement for the operators of commercial vessels to hold a current "Spills Response Plan" for refueling.





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# Noise

**Prohibited Activities**

- Marine PA Systems and Shipboard Public Address System are generally NOT permitted for use in undertaking activities, except for their use as General Alarm & PA System (GAPA) during emergencies.

**General noise conditions**

- Commercial operators must ensure compliance with noise requirements for activities located on the surface of water in the Taupō District Plan, including maximum noise, duration and hours of operation.

# Speed and Wake

- To minimise the risk of damage to structures and the shoreline, Commercial Operators are to operate vessels in accordance with bylaw 2.11 and 2.14 of the Lake Taupō Navigational Safety Bylaws 2017 (as amended 2020).

# Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Effects

- Fireworks and pyrotechnic effects on, over, or in close proximity to Taupō Waters are not an approved activity and will not be authorised by the Trust Board.

- This position reflects the environmental impacts associated with fireworks, including debris, waste, and contaminants entering Taupō Waters and surrounding environments. Event organisers are encouraged to consider environmentally sustainable alternatives.

# Simulated Fire/Smoke Effects

The use of simulated fire or smoke effects must be notified to the Trust Board, at least 30 Working Days prior to use, and further information may be requested by the Trust Board.

- Commercial Operators must ensure that all appropriate Authorisations and permits are held, and if requested, provided a copy of those to the Trust Board.
- Commercial Operators must ensure all relevant laws, regulations, Authorisations and permits are complied with at all times.
- For the avoidance of doubt, the Trust Board assumes no responsibility or liability in relation to the use of simulated or smoke effects.





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# Specialised rigging/wire work

- This is a specialised requirement and is dependent on the particular location involved. Sometimes in film making the need arises for the Special Effects, Safety, Stunt, Camera, Art, or Lighting Departments, to “Rig” or attach equipment in difficult locations, requiring the need to temporarily fix to some part of the natural environment.
- When this is necessary at times, it is important to meet with all involved and explore the alternatives and determine if the requirement can be fulfilled with another method. If it is decided that the fixing has to take place it should be done with consultation of the Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board, keeping the impact on the environment to a minimum.

# Clay (Skeet) shooting and paintball

**Prohibited Activities**

- Paintball activities are NOT permitted.

**Clay (Skeet) Shooting location conditions**

- Clay shooting is only permitted in the designated area identified in licences.
- Clay shooting activities can only be undertaken at a minimum distance of 5 km offshore.
- Clay shooting is NOT to be undertaken within 1km of any vessel, whether moored or in operation.

**Clay (Skeet) Shooting environmental conditions**

- Clay shooting activities must use lead-free ammunition to prevent contamination.
- Clay targets allowable for use in Taupō Waters include:
  - SOFIC “ecological” clay targets
  - CORSIVIA “Green Dream” clay targets
  - WHITEFLYER “Eco Flyer AA” clay targets
  - Any other clay targets approved in licenses that are made from 100% natural, non-toxic materials and resins and that comply with ISO 14021:2016 for package labeling.
- Spent cartridges and any floating clay fragments must be collected and disposed of on land to minimize environmental impact. For the avoidance of doubt “disposal to land” means collected spent cartridges and floating target fragments are then separted into re-usable or landfill components and disposed of responsibly.

**Clay (Skeet) Shooting noise conditions**

- Shooting activities must comply with noise requirements for activities located on the surface of water in the Taupō District Plan, including maximum noise, duration and hours of operation.

**Clay (Skeet) Shooting reporting conditions**

- Commercial Operators are required to record the number of clay targets fired annually and report this number to the Trust Board within 6-weeks of the end of each calendar year

**General compliance with regulations**

- Commercial Operators must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, authorisations, and permits, including the Arms Act 1983 and Arms Regulations 1992.





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# Solid waste/rubbish

**Prohibited Activities**

- The discharge of any solid waste/rubbish into Taupo Waters is NOT permitted.

**The following applies to Commercial Operators in relation to any waste/rubbish:**

- All waste/rubbish must be collected and disposed of to land to minimize environmental impact. For the avoidance of doubt "disposal to land" means collected waste/rubbish is separated into recyclable, compostable (if available) and landfill components and disposed of responsibly.

# Wastewater disposal

**Prohibited Activities**

- The discharge of any waste water, including sewage and greywater, into Taupo Waters is striclty prohibited.
- It is an offence under the Resource Management Act 1991 to discharge treated or untreated sewage into Taupō Waters unless the discharge is specifically authorised by a resource consent.

**The following applies to Commercial Operators in relation to wastewater:**

- Toilet pump out facilities are available for any vessel fitted with sewage holding tanks or portable toilets at the Taupō Landing Reserve main wharf, Tokaanu wharf, Motuoapa and Kinloch marinas.
- For the avoidance of doubt, the Resource Management (Marine Pollution) Regulations 1998 apply to all Commercial Operators, as if they apply to Taupō Waters.
- For the avoidance of doubt, greywater must not be discharged into Taupō Waters. Greywater includes all wastewater from non-toilet plumbing systems such as hand basins, washing machines, showers and baths.

# Biosecurity

**Prohibited activities**

- The introduction of noxious flora, fauna or any or new organisms into Taupo Waters is NOT permitted.

**General compliance with regulations**

- Commercial Operators must comply with all guidelines and notices issued by Biosecurity New Zealand to prevent and avoid the spread of any noxious flora, fauna or new organism that could pose a risk to Taupō Waters.

https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity/

# Vegetation/landscape Management

**Prohibited activities**

- The cutting or removal of vegetation, undertaking of unauthorised earthworks or removal/alteration of rocks and rock features is NOT permitted.

**The following applies to Commercial Operators in relation to vegetation and landscape features**

- Tying-back of vegetation and other non-destructive practices is generally acceptable.





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# Preventing pests and cleaning boats

Commercial Operators will comply with best practice in relation to the prevention of pests and the cleaning of boats. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes compliance with the following advice from the Ministry for Primary Industries:

**https://www.mpi.govt.nz/**

Protocols



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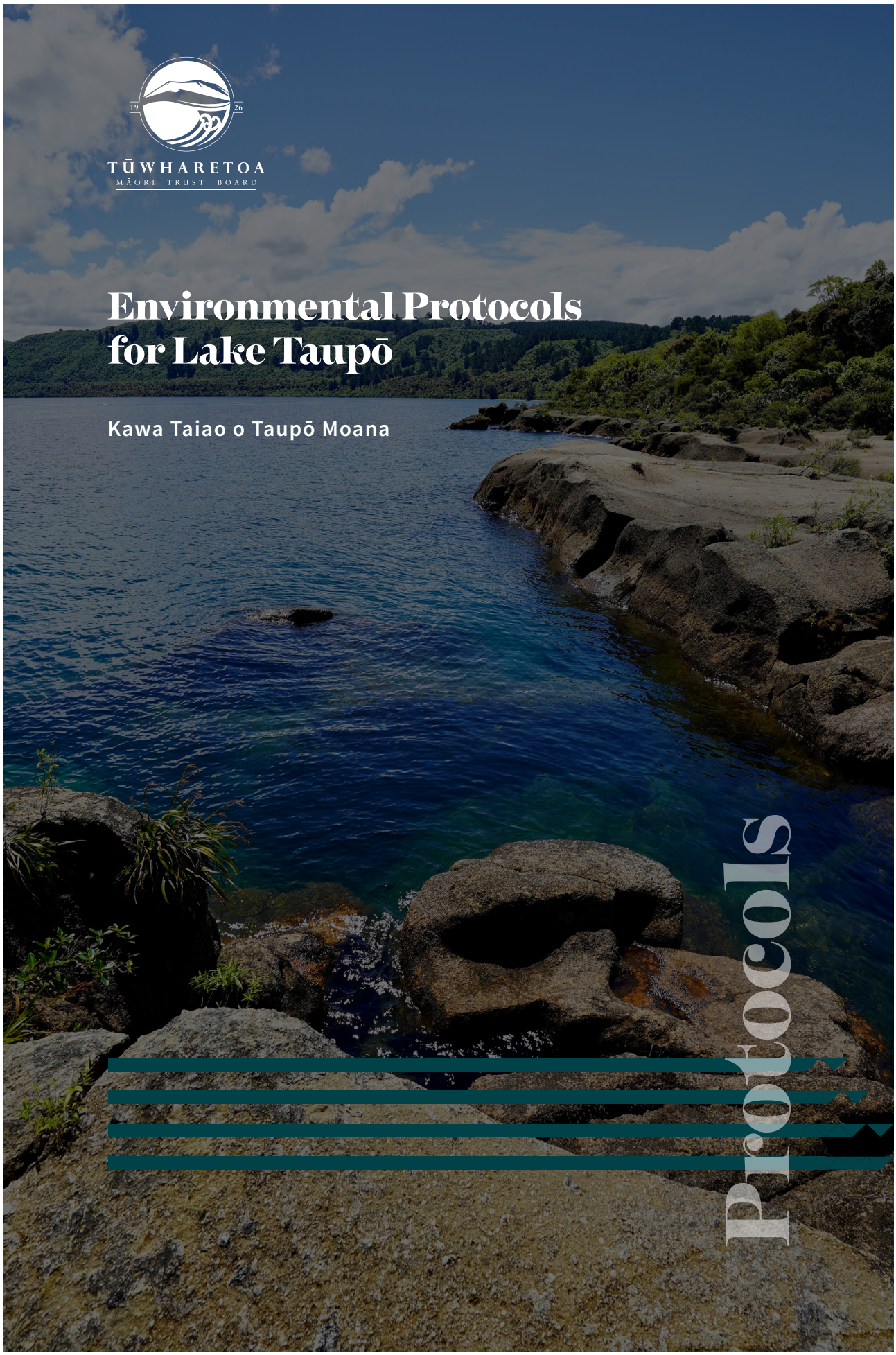
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