

3.1 Vision & Values

University Strategic Plan

The vision for the University of Waikato as stated in its Strategic Plan 2006 – 2008, is as follows:

We will:

- deliver a world-class education and research portfolio
- provide a full and dynamic university experience which is distinctive in character
- pursue strong international linkages to advance knowledge.

The over-arching themes of this Vision are:

- excellence
- distinctiveness
- international connectedness

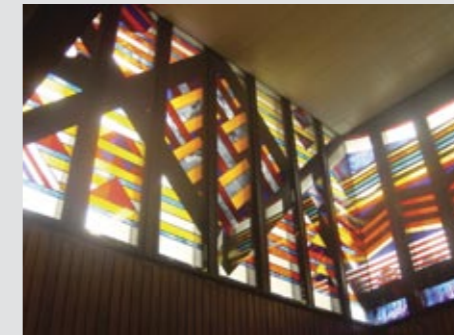
To realise this Vision, the core values of the University Strategic Plan are:

- partnership with Maori
- acting with integrity
- celebrating diversity
- enabling creativity

Campus Values

Based on the Strategic Plan vision and values, the following core values for the Campus Development Plan have been adopted:

- unique Maori experience
- sustainable environment (economic /social / cultural /ecological)
- high quality campus amenities
- well-being of staff, students and visitors
- efficiency
- multi-cultural needs
- Waikato experience
- high quality public image
- high quality teaching & research facilities
- vibrant academic, working and social environment



New Zealand Urban Design Protocol

The above core values can be further defined by reference to the following seven design qualities identified in the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol, and as interpreted for the campus:

1. **context:**
ensuring that buildings, places and spaces are integrated and that all changes to any part of the campus contribute to the “wholeness” of the campus and the wider city environment.
2. **character:**
reflecting and enhancing the distinctive character, heritage and bi-cultural identity of the campus environment and its Waikato region.
3. **choice:**
ensuring diversity and choice for students, staff and the community and flexibility of use of facilities.
4. **connections:**
linking people and activities within the campus and the wider community in a synergistic and socially active manner. Coordination of separate developments.
5. **creativity:**
encouraging innovative and imaginative solutions for campus development.
6. **custodianship:**
ensuring all built resources are environmentally sustainable, safe, healthy and adaptable.
7. **collaboration:**
ensuring that all changes to the campus environment are carried out in an inter-disciplinary and inter-departmental manner with user participation.

Hamilton Cityscope

Hamilton City Council has produced a design strategy for the city (CityScope) aimed at improving the design quality of Hamilton’s built environment, by initiating new programmes that embrace all aspects of civic leadership involving:

1. Principles
2. People
3. Place
4. Process
5. Promotion
6. Projects

The University’s vision and values are consistent with these programmes.

Hamilton Vista

Hamilton City Council has produced more recently, a Hamilton City Design Guide, outlining expectations for better designed environments.



3.2 Objectives & Policies

The following planning objectives & policies will guide the overall campus development, incorporating the above values:

Sustainable Development

Objectives

- achieve long-term sustainable development.

Policies

- ensure all development, redevelopment and alterations on the campus incorporate sustainable design principles of optimum resource use, ecological diversity, energy efficiency, maximising human contact and well-being, and minimising adverse environmental effects.
- promote environmental responsibility by facilitating programmes of resource conservation, recycling, and waste reduction on the campus.

Sense of Place

Objectives

- create a distinctively meaningful and memorable place for all members of the campus community.
- improve the public image and public use of the campus.
- create a distinct bi-cultural identity for the campus.

Policies

- promote a distinctive identity for the campus that balances both international and Waikato qualities in all future projects and site improvements.
- improve the quality and aesthetics of the campus that supports a vibrant campus and attracts and retains students, staff and the wider community.
- promote integrated planning, design and management of the campus to reinforce a sense of place and appreciation.

Built Environment

Objectives

- create high quality, humanly scaled, walkable campus and carefully designed buildings and open spaces, that promote the pursuit of academic excellence & social interaction.
- maximise building and space flexibility and long-term adaptability.
- achieve a coherent built environment with a distinctly Waikato character, appropriate for its climate, its bi-cultural identity and multi-cultural use.

Policies

- facilitate functional integration by bringing related activities into proximity.
- identify opportunities for in-fill development for future buildings to achieve compact development.
- use buildings to define and activate important external spaces.
- concentrate activities to enhance vitality along main pedestrian routes and main roads, and minimise walking distances.
- ensure a diverse mix of uses and activities that are easily accessible to all members of the university community thus creating a vibrant and safe pedestrian environment.
- provide for a formal, ceremonial heart of the campus.
- provide for utilities and services to enable multiple use of spaces and places.
- locate and design new buildings and structures to preserve and enhance key views into, within and from the campus.



Landscape Environment

Objectives

- enhance the quality and character of the distinctive natural environment of the campus.
- achieve a distinctly Waikato landscape character.
- enhance the integration of both sides of the campus across Hillcrest Road.

Policies

- enhance the natural environmental qualities of the campus and its wider Waikato planting opportunities in landscape context through ongoing site management and planting opportunities in new development.
- enhance the recognition of the campus and a distinct identity for the University through a coordinated approach to planting from public boundaries, the hierarchy of roads and pathways, to internal courtyards.
- extend the designed landscape legacy and spatial character of the campus by integrating key views, rationalising existing planting, consolidating built form and incorporating appropriate water features.
- enrich the social, educational and recreational life of the campus through the range, distribution and quality of outdoor spaces, faculty forecourts, ceremonial spaces and areas for large community events.
- reinforce the visual coherence and utility of the campus in the detailed design, material palette and furnishing of the public spaces and building settings.
- improve peoples' ease of movement and identification of places within the campus through a coordinated way-finding, public art and interpretation strategy.

Transportation & Parking

Objectives

- provide a safe, convenient and legible circulation system and universal access for pedestrians, bicycles and people with disabilities throughout the campus and linked facilities.
- provide a safe and efficient transport and service system to and through the campus.

Policies

- create a road system that allows for safe and efficient movement of pedestrians, vehicles and public transport.
- provide for safe and attractive movement of cyclists and cycle parking.
- continue the tradition of providing optimal access to people with disabilities without compromising the spatial quality of open spaces.
- provide for adequate car parking and service vehicle access without compromising the overall pedestrian focus of the campus.
- accommodate any future car parking on the edge of the campus, in parking buildings.
- improve public bus transport into the campus and in time consider a route through the campus if appropriate.



Town-Gown Integration

Objectives

- integrate the campus with the adjoining urban development and avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on or from neighbouring areas.
- promote use and appreciation of the campus by the wider community.

Policies

- a) create inviting and clearly defined edges and entrances to the campus, for pedestrian and vehicular access.
- b) link the campus with the adjacent community by open spaces, pedestrian and bicycle ways and streets.
- c) locate compatible landuses along the campus / community interface.
- d) provide opportunities for public use of the campus.
- e) integrate city and campus functions.
- f) locate facilities with significant public use near public roads.
- g) identify opportunities for campus / industry joint venture developments.

Development Process

Objectives

- ensure all development projects are adaptable to changing requirements.
- use all projects as an opportunity to improve the wider campus environment as a whole.
- take into account needs of all users of the campus.

Policies

- a) adopt both a planning and design framework approach which guides incremental adaptive development while ensuring a coherent, integrated and functional campus.
- d) establish a planning and development structure for the campus that is responsive to changing opportunities and needs.
- b) provide urban design input to all project development briefs so that the wider campus environment is considered.
- b) subject all development projects to urban design evaluation, review and approval.
- c) provide for the participation of user representation in all development projects.

