



ROWAN SAPSFORD

Rowan is an experienced resource management expert. He uses his skills to deliver a wide range of resource management, strategic, recreation and conservation planning projects for clients throughout Aotearoa.

With over twenty seven years of experience, Rowan advises and supports his clients to create great outcomes for their projects. He believes relationships are key to creating positive outcomes for all.

SPECIALTIES

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Resource management, tourism and strategic planning

Feasibility and business case development

Stakeholder and community consultation and engagement processes

Project management and project planning

Destination, recreation and conservation strategies

Sustainable Trails and Regenerative Experiences

EXPERIENCE

Bachelor of Resource and
Environmental Planning
Massey University

Postgraduate Diploma in Rural
Studies
Massey University

Making Good Decisions
Certification
Ministry for the Environment

Director - Roam Consulting Limited (2018 – present)

Senior Planner - Perception Planning (2015 – 2018)

Bike Taupō - Chairperson (2012 to 2016), Committee (2008 - present)

Strategic Project Manager and Senior Partnerships Ranger - Department of
Conservation (2011 - 2015)

Team Leader Environmental Policy and Senior Planner - Taupō District Council
(2004 - 2011)

Planner and Policy Planner - London Borough of Hillingdon and London Borough
of Camden (respectively), London, United Kingdom (2001 - 2004)

Policy Planner - Gisborne District Council (1998 - 2000)



PROJECTS

- Developing a Destination Management Plan for Taupō destination (2022 – March 2023)
- Business case for a proposed multi day iwi driven regenerative tourism experience near Rotorua January – June 2025)
- Development of a strategic trails plan for Whakarewarewa Forest (January 2025 to present)
- Development of a new Māori Purpose Zone within the Taupō District Plan (April 2023 to present)
- Feasibility and business case of a new cultural based tourism attraction at a key tourism site in Rotorua (March 2025 – June 2025)
- Ngā Kete o Tāpoi – supporting the development of a Tūwharetoa tourism mentoring initiative (2024)
- Feasibility of the use of bikes at Eastwood Hill – National Arboretum (2024)
- Design and feasibility of a Community Bike Park in Ruatoria (March 2024 – November 2024).
- Development of a recreation management plan for Whakarewarewa Forest (May 2023 to Present).
- Project managing and developing the consents and permissions for a shared use trail on the southern slopes of Ruapehu Maunga (April 2024 to present)
- Feasibility assessment and Due Diligence for new Great Ride from Arthurs Pass to Te Waihora (November 2023 to December 2024)
- Technical support for the Tauhara Ngahau project with the Tauhara collective (2023 to present)
- Resource consents to enable the development of a Sculpture Park at the Tongariro Domain in Taupō (2023 – 2024)
- Design and permissions (resource consents and permissions) for the proposed Te Hangaruru extension to the Mountains to Sea Great Ride (2022 – present).
- Technical support for the initiation of the Te Ara Mangawhero Trail on Ruapehu (March 2023 – present).
- Options assessment and business case for future tourism uses of the Te Kohea site in Rotorua (April – May 2023 to November 2024).
- Design and feasibility of cultural based recreation park near Gisborne (December 2022 – March 2023).
- Preparing a range of resource consent applications for clients throughout Aotearoa.
- Trail audit and trail management recommendations for Te Mata Park, Hawkes Bay (2022).
- Developing a Taiao plan for Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki iwi (2021 – Jan 2023).

- Feasibility assessment and audit of trail upgrades and development on Tauhara Maunga (2021).
- Destination Management Plan for Rotorua destination (2020 to 2021)
- Facilitating Iwi and stakeholder engagement for proposed Solar Farm east of Taupō (2022 – Feb 2023).
- Feasibility assessment for proposed walking and biking trail between Featherston and Wairarapa (2021 – March 2022).
- Developed an Asset Management Plan and Asset Management System for the Twin Coast Trail (2021).
- Assisting Rotorua District Council in growth planning and community engagement for the Eastside of Rotorua (2020 to present).
- Assisting Taupō District Council in the review of the Natural Values provisions in the Taupō District Plan (2020 to present).
- Assisting Ngāti Kea Ngāti Tuara in their funding application for ecological enhancement and trail development at maunga Horohoro (2021).
- Developing an economic case for the development of a 120km shared use trail within the Central North Island (2020) for Ruapehu District Council. Developing a business case and associated funding applications for the development of a new shared use trail from Tūroa (Ruapehu Maunga) to Ohakune and National Park which was successfully funded (2019-2020).
- Working with the Gisborne Cycling and Walking Trust and local whānau to undertake a feasibility assessment of the Uawa Trail, a proposed walking and cycling trail at Tolaga Bay (2020).
- Working with Martin Jenkins, developing a business case for a new shared trail between Picton and Kaikoura (The Whale Trail) which was successfully funded (2020).
- Working with Martin Jenkins, developing a business case for an extension to the Alps 2 Ocean Great Ride from Oamaru to Dunedin (2020).
- Undertaking an assessment of the use and design of a lakefront path in Taupō and securing district and regional consents for its development (2020).
- Development of a scoping report for the Department of Conservation for a landscape level restoration project for the Pureora Ranges (2019).
- Development of a business case and associated Provincial Growth Fund application for the development of a new gondola at Tūroa Ski Area (2019).
- Preparing a resource consent for a small weir and associated hydroelectric power station for a Māori trust near Lake Taupō (2019).

- Working with Taupō District Council and Ngāti Te Rangiita hapū to identify an agreed pathway for the management of Motutere Recreation Reserve (2017).
- Preparing district and regional resource consents for the Otumuheke development at Spa Park, Taupō (2018).
- Led the development of a Biodiversity Strategy for the Ngāti Pāhauwera Core area with Ngāti Pāhauwera iwi and the Department of Conservation (2018).
- Project managing and developing the Nga Motu Marine Protected Area Conservation Management Plan review process (2016).
- Project managing and developing the Reid's Farm Reserve Management Plan Review process (2016) and subsequent action plan for infrastructure development at the reserve (2018-2019).
- Project managed and developed 'Taiao, Taiora', an Iwi Environmental Plan for Te Kahui o Taranaki Iwi (2018).
- Project manager and principal drafter of Reserves Management Plan for co-managed Taia Reserve, Rekehou Chatham Islands, Department of Conservation and Hokotehi Moriori Trust, (2016).
- Lead development of a Joint Management Agreement between Taupō District Council and Ngāti Tuwharetoa. This was the first such agreement in New Zealand and was awarded the Nancy Northcroft Planning Practice Award 2009 and the IPANZ Te Puni Kōkiri Award for Crown – Māori Relationships 2010.
- Developed a feasibility assessment, associated business case and funding documents for the Otaketake extension of the Great Lake Trail (2018).
- Project manager for the development of a 70km multi use trail along the western shores of Lake Taupō. Drafted district and regional resource consents, cultural impact assessments, worked with landowners and local iwi.
- Development of 'Trail Manager' cloud based asset and contact management system for trail systems.
- Biking Assessment of the Chatham Islands for the Department of Conservation that assessed the suitability of the islands for bike tourism, and recommended actions for the key parties to better position the islands for bike tourism.
- Undertook feasibility work and developed business case and funding documents for the extension of the Motu Trails from Opotiki to Whākatane (2018).
- Project managed and developed a feasibility and market assessment of three new mountain biking trails in Wairarapa (2017 - 2018).

- Project managed and assisted in the development of the Taranaki, Pureora and Taupō/Tongariro Destination Plans for the Department of Conservation (2012 - 2015).
- Project managed and developed a feasibility assessment and market assessment for a shared use trail between Turangi and Taupō (2015 - 2016).
- Feasibility Assessment for the Department of Conservation for a proposed shared use trail on the slopes of Mount Ruapehu between Tūroa and Ohakune. The assessment included a review of trail design and location, trail construction and management, an impact (environmental, cultural, historic, market and tourism) assessment and statutory (National Park, Conservation and Resource management legislation and subsidiary documents) assessment.
- Pureora Destination Management Hui. Designed and facilitated a stakeholder hui to identify priority actions for the Pureora Destination to grow visitor numbers and experiences.
- Project Mouna - Developed a project plan for a landscape level restoration project for Taranaki Mouna.
- Developed the Taranaki Mouna Storytelling Strategy in collaboration with key partners and stakeholders. This strategy identified priorities and actions to more effectively tell the stories for Taranaki Mouna.
- Designed and carried out a comprehensive stakeholder and iwi consultation process for the Tongariro National Park Works Approval process.
- Project manager and drafter of multiple plan changes to the Taupō District Plan relating to growth management, zone changes, notable trees, natural and landscape values. This work included including pre-consultation, technical assessment, Section 32 report development, provision drafting, submission and hearing management, Section 42A reporting and appeal management and resolution.
- Writing and presenting planning evidence for the Environment Court in relation to changes to the Taupō District Plan relating to natural values, landscape values and residential zoning.
- Development of the Manawatu District Natural Hazards Foundation Report that presented base case data and analysis of natural hazards and natural hazard management (statutory and non-statutory) for the Manawatu District, to inform the development of the revised Manawatu District Plan (2015).
- Developed Section 32 Document and associated Section 42A Report and presented at public hearings for Palmerston North City Council on Plan Change 22F and 22G Natural Hazards (2016 - 2018).