



TAIRĀWHITI

WAIMATĀ-PAKARAE CATCHMENT ADVISORY GROUP

Hui agenda, minutes, and actions

Hui #3


Held in Mahutonga Room, Gisborne Public Library, on Tuesday 21 May 2024 at 9:30am

Advisory Group members present	Stephanie Gardner, Stan Pardoe, Colin Kerlake, Jennie Hindmarsh, Tania Swift, Maraea Hinemoa Aupouri, Laura Watson
Council	Janic Slupski, Ariel Yann le Chew, Abi Wiseman, Katrina Ungco Wolfgang Kanz, Ranell Nikora
Apologies	Dianne Irwin, Sarah Williams

Agenda

1. Karakia
2. Housekeeping, previous hui minutes and actions
3. Discuss subsequent hui dates, stakeholder survey
4. Report back to Group <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Freshwater values• Environmental Outcomes• Freshwater Management Units (FMUs) options
5. Long Term Vision <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshop
6. Wrap up, Close
7. Lunch

Summary of actions

 Future Action *Refer to Parked List for summary

 Current task

Notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each task is allocated a unique identifier e.g. T2 for ease of reference• The numbering continues from previous hui minutes			
Task ID	Actions	Responsible	Due
WP-T10	Staff to confirm subsequent hui dates via email	Freshwater team	ASAP
WP-T11	Collating Māori freshwater values and consideration of whakapapa	Freshwater team / Ranell	TBC

Minutes

1. Karakia, housekeeping and confirmation of previous minutes

- 1.1. The hui commenced at 9.45am with an opening karakia.
- 1.2. Staff set out housekeeping matters and noted apologies. Members were reminded to submit invoices for attendance, and to access meeting materials via the portal. Hard copies will be made available for pick up from customer services or at the venue on the day of the hui.
- 1.3. Staff sought feedback on subsequent hui dates, with the aim to enable full or most attendance. An updated schedule will be circulated via email.
- 1.4. In response to the action from the previous hui for the freshwater team to support internal alignment between the Recovery team and the Freshwater Improvement Fund team, staff updated that there is work underway to develop a more structured way of communicating recovery work across the region, and the concerns raised by the group will inform that work. Nicki Davies, GDC Freshwater and Biodiversity implementation lead, is the contact point.
- 1.5. The concerns raised about the woody debris programme, and in particular vegetation clearance, will also be investigated in a review to ensure that the objectives are being met.
- 1.6. Staff are considering a more joined-up approach to surveying stakeholders across catchments, so have not yet circulated the survey. Staff will report back on this in due course following amendments made to the survey.
- 1.7. In response to a member's question about the communications plan for this catchment, staff clarified that the approach taken to date has been to put out initial broad communication about the project and advertise for advisory group members, who then represent the community in the development of the plan. During the plan development phase, in parallel with the scheduled advisory group hui, where the need arises staff may arrange for a community hui by way of updating the community on progress or for consultation on matters agreed by this advisory group. Staff noted a meeting being planned with the Wainui community and Council representatives to discuss a range of Council workstreams affecting that community.

- 1.8. A member noted the lack of historical stories about the area north of Pouawa due to historical loss of land, and identified the sacred Kohurau cave at Wainui as an area of significance for hapū.

2. Report back to Group on Freshwater values, Environmental Outcomes and Freshwater Management Units (FMU) options

Freshwater values

- 2.1. Staff recapped the consolidated freshwater values as discussed at the previous hui.
- 2.2. Staff sought input on what the 'transport and tauranga waka' value means to members. Members discussed that waka ama should be considered within the 'Tauranga waka' value (as well as the 'Recreation' value), and raised the importance of hapū and whanau accounts of historic awa transport routes (e.g., Kopuwhakapata stream out towards Wainui, and Waimatā river upwards towards Ūawa).
- 2.3. Members raised the importance of whakapapa, and the need to consider how this relates to freshwater values in this catchment. Further work is required to consider this and pull together any other Māori freshwater values to be included.
- 2.4. One member questioned if dealing with woody debris should be included within the 'Flood mitigation' value. Staff clarified that this would be considered in the context of how we protect other values – i.e. through setting targets and actions that would focus on land-use issues.
- 2.5. Staff noted pilots are underway to bring together freshwater planning and land-use transition - such as the forestry-freshwater catchment planning in the Ūawa catchment.
- 2.6. There was some discussion around the links between values – in particular, the relationship between flood mitigation and ecosystem health.
- 2.7. Members discussed the need to adjust business models to work with nature, rather than adjust nature to serve economic activities. In this catchment, there is a generational divide between the narrow focus on land-use for economic returns vs. a broader view of sustainable management. One member noted that there are areas in the catchment where the value of economic activity is likely to outweigh biodiversity and other factors (for example, farmlands in the Whangarā catchment are unlikely to be reverted to wetlands).
- 2.8. One member spoke to the Group on the potential of the nature-based solution research project for the Waimatā river to inform farmers about potential nature-based solutions and what they can do. The member mentioned that another region has implemented a mapping system to show where water pools and overland flow paths are and if Council could do the same for the region. Staff noted that the foundational GIS architecture exists to roll out something similar.
- 2.9. Action will be required at all levels – for example, Government needs to address emissions trading scheme settings to recognise on-farm planting.
- 2.10. A member noted that while we do need to change our practices, we need to pay for measures to protect biodiversity and ecosystem health. Farmers need to make a living, noting whenua Māori owners face particular challenges. Cost is a challenge for farmers to transition into a reduced economic activity while implementing measures to protect biodiversity and ecosystem health. The trade-offs need to be funded somehow – either by Council or central government.
- 2.11. Members acknowledged that the group is on the same page in terms of values, the conversation is evolving into actions, timing and next steps (the focus of future hui).
- 2.12. Staff noted that solving the woody debris and sediment issues will achieve much of the aspirations. There is a need to focus on what we can control within the context of this catchment's geology.

- 2.13. One member questioned how wetlands relate to values. Staff noted that management of wetlands is largely dealt with in the regional freshwater plan (less so in catchment plans). Staff will report back with wetland mapping for the catchment area.
- 2.14. A member raised the need to consider traditional locations of cultural burial practices in this process.

Environmental outcomes

- 2.15. Staff briefly presented the proposed Environmental Outcomes associated with identified values.

Freshwater Management Units (FMUs)

- 2.16. Staff clarified the purpose of Freshwater Management Units (FMUs) is to enable different management approaches to reflect different values. Staff confirmed that Council has fine resolution GIS data across the entire region to inform management approach.
- 2.17. There was discussion around whether there should be a third FMU for coastal sub-catchments, with one member noting the distinctive issues, functions and values of the Wainui catchment area. Staff view is that, while the character of coastal settlements is distinct, in practice we expect the freshwater management approach would be the same as for either the urban or rural FMU, and therefore coastal catchment areas could be included within one of these two FMUs. Staff noted that we currently use proxy data for a number of locations.
- 2.18. It was agreed that as we work through the plan development process, it will become clearer whether a third FMU for coastal catchment areas is required.
- 2.19. It was noted that some issues particular to coastal settlements will be addressed through the development of the Coastal planning provisions. The coastal planning provisions are outside the scope of the freshwater planning process, however these sets of provisions will be connected in the overall Plan.
- 2.20. One member noted that members of the Whāngārā community have raised concerns about being captured within a larger FMU, as it risks issues specific to that community being overshadowed by the wider community following the merge. Council will need to provide space for discussion of location-specific issues.

3. Long Term Vision

- 3.1. Staff briefly outlined proposed outcome statements for identified values that would achieve the Long-Term Vision, noting that the Vision will be elevated into the Regional Policy Statement.
- 3.2. While there was insufficient time to workshop the long-term vision, staff sought input on aspirations for the catchment area. Members raised the following points:
 - Return of species if their absence is a result of land-use e.g. historical presence of whales was well known.
 - Acknowledge the time it will take us to achieve change: Long-term should be 150+ years, with interim measures / plan for 30 years.
 - Restoration of marine reserves (Turihaua, Pouawa, Hamanatua)
 - Genuine connection with Waimoko/Pakarae rivers, ability to swim in them, drink from them, go eeling.
 - Aspire to Whanganui approach of giving awa their own identity.

4. Close and next steps

- 4.1. Staff invited members to provide further thoughts via email on environmental outcomes and the long-term vision.
- 4.2. The hui closed at 11:45am with a karakia followed by lunch.

5. Tasks to be actioned

Task ID	Actions	Responsible	Due
WP-T10	Staff to confirm subsequent hui dates	Freshwater team	ASAP
WP-T11	Collating Māori freshwater values and consideration of whakapapa	Freshwater team / Ranell	TBC

PARKING LIST

The following matters have been captured from discussions of the **TAIRĀWHITI WAIMATA-PAKARAE ADVISORY GROUP** hui. They are captured here to be incorporated as supplementary recommendations in the Group's final report and/or responded to directly.

Ref	Item/Action	Date raised	Status
WP-T3	Prepare map of wetlands in the catchment (may be a series of maps because of scale).	27/02/2024	Staff will report back with maps in July Hui
WP-T5	Provide map with the 3B Layer.	27/02/2024	In progress
WP-T9	Circulate stakeholder survey	10/04/2024	In progress – Team considering a cross-catchment approach to stakeholder surveys