



TAIRĀWHITI

WAIMATĀ-PAKARAE CATCHMENT ADVISORY GROUP

Hui #4 agenda, minutes, and actions

Held at Council Chambers, Gisborne District Council on Tuesday 2 July 2024 at 9:30am

Advisory Group members present	Stan Pardoe, Colin Kerslake, Jennie Hindmarsh, Tania Swift, Sarah Williams, Tash Irwin (replacing Dianne Irwin), Stephanie Gardner (arrived at 10am).
Council	Janic Slupski, Ariel Yann le Chew, Abi Wiseman, Katrina Ungco Wolfgang Kanz, Ranell Nikora
Apologies	Dianne Irwin, Laura Watson, Maraea Hinemoa Aupouri

Agenda

1. Karakia
2. Housekeeping
3. Previous hui minutes and actions
4. Freshwater Management Units (FMUs) rationale – Urban, Rural Group discussion for each FMU Freshwater values Environmental Outcomes
5. Baseline Attribute States, Target Attribute States - Introduction
6. Urban Contaminants - overview
7. Wetlands mapping – overview and update
8. eDNA – overview and results for catchment
9. Forestry planning - update
10. Wrap up, Close
11. 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-T12	Amend Draft Minutes for Hui 3 so that paragraphs 2.17- 2.19 refer to coastal catchment areas instead of coastal settlements.	Freshwater team	13 August 2024
WP-T13	Provide a diagram setting out how catchment issues may be addressed in different parts of the TRMP	Freshwater team	13 August 2024
WP-T14	Provide the draft table linking freshwater values to environmental outcomes into the SharePoint portal and in hard-copy.	Freshwater team	2 July 2024
WP-T15	Provide feedback on the contents of the 'strawman' table, and the draft environmental outcomes and freshwater values in particular.	Members	31 August 2024
WP-T16	Report back on what we know about the contribution of mud volcanoes to water quality.	Freshwater team	13 August 2024
WP-T17	Provide link to data from the Gisborne Morphometric Landslide Susceptibility and Connectivity Study.	Freshwater team	July 2024
WP-T18	Discuss eDNA results in a future hui.	Freshwater team	TBC

Minutes

1. Karakia, housekeeping and confirmation of previous minutes

- 1.1. The hui commenced at 9.40am with an opening karakia.
- 1.2. Staff set out housekeeping matters and noted apologies. Minutes were taken as read and accepted as an accurate reflection, subject to a correction to paragraphs 2.17-2.19 to refer to coastal catchment areas instead of coastal settlements.
- 1.3. Staff outlined the agenda for the session.

2. Freshwater Management Units (FMUs) rationale – Urban, Rural

- 2.1. Staff presented their assessment of appropriate FMUs, taking into account the previous whakaaro from the Group on this topic in Hui 3. Staff are proposing two FMUs (one urban, one rural) based on their assessment of options against the criteria, as set out in the report provided "**Section 32 analysis – Freshwater Management Units**".
- 2.2. Staff noted that the proposed FMUs reflect that the built environment and the rural hinterland are distinct landscapes, and allow for the recognition of distinctive values where freshwater intersects with coastal marine area.
- 2.3. There was some discussion about septic tanks, with staff noting that this is potentially a driver of degradation in coastal areas but more appropriately managed through regional freshwater provisions. A member noted prior work by Council in 2008/09 to address this issue in the Wainui/Okitu area.
- 2.4. A member raised that the increasing interaction of saltwater with freshwater is another ecosystem issue specific to coastal catchments.
- 2.5. Staff presented a 'straw man' spreadsheet table showing the link between draft freshwater values, environmental outcomes, attributes, drivers and action planning. The table demonstrates the opportunity to set different environmental outcomes, targets and management approaches for freshwater values in the urban and rural FMUs.
- 2.6. The following points were raised by members:
 - Work is underway with mana whenua to consider Māori values to be added to the table.
 - Balance and equality between urban and rural areas needs to be carefully considered.
 - Wetland restoration should be considered as a value in itself given the significance for resilience and biodiversity for this catchment in particular.
- 2.7. In response to questions from members, staff clarified that coastal and marine values may still be reflected in the FMUs, and that future changes to the catchment plan to keep it current will ideally be achieved through a five-yearly review process.

3. Baseline Attribute States, Target Attribute States – Introduction

- 3.1. Staff presented the NPS-FM requirements for Baseline Attribute States and a map of State of Environment monitoring sites in the catchment area. This NOF catchment planning process is a step change in freshwater management, by requiring targets and action plans to be developed to lift attribute states above national bottom lines.
- 3.2. Members and staff noted that action plans need to be effectively costed, resourced and implemented.
- 3.3. Staff presented data on baseline attribute states, noting we have an issue with macroinvertebrates, sediment, phosphorous and E.coli.

- There is a relationship where phosphorus binds to sediment, which explains higher DRP levels. If we can solve the sediment issue, we can reduce phosphorous levels and promote improvements in stream health.
 - E.coli is largely driven by stock access in the rural areas, and issues with wastewater infrastructure in urban areas. Staff acknowledged that stock exclusion is difficult in practice.
- 3.4. A member updated the group on the recent formation of a Wainui Catchment Kaitiaki group. The growing group of Wainui landowners will coordinate with each other and organisations to progress projects. The next step is to identify pilot sites.
- 3.5. Staff set out the requirements for Target Attribute States (TAS). There is a need to link these to environmental outcomes and recognise connections between waterbodies and the coastal receiving environment. The next step is to further develop the draft table linking values, environmental outcomes and attribute states.

4. Urban Contaminants – overview

- 4.1. Staff presented key sources of urban stormwater contaminants and water quality monitoring results.
- Phosphorous is high in Tairāwhiti, partly driven by natural processes. There is no 'national bottom line' for phosphorous because it significantly varies naturally.
 - Nitrate and ammonia do not appear to be issues in this catchment area.
 - E.coli is below national bottom lines.
 - ANZSECC levels (i.e., levels that will negatively affect ecosystem health) are exceeded for some attributes in the Kopuawhakapata, Wainui and Owen streams.
 - Regarding urban toxicants, zinc and copper levels are high, and lead is high but decreasing, consistent with patterns across the country. One member noted the significant opportunity for an action plan to reduce urban contaminants, as has been achieved elsewhere.
 - Members raised the following questions for staff to consider:
 - the relationship between temperature and E.coli.
 - the impact of mud volcanoes and weedkillers on attribute states.
- 4.2. Staff provided a brief overview of available data on water temperature and implications for different fish species. Many streams are in Band C for temperature. Temperature can be addressed by riparian shading in some areas where appropriate. Temperature spot measurements are collected as part of SoE monitoring.
- 4.3. One member raised a particular interest in addressing Gambusia infestations, questioning how we improve freshwater habitats to both support native species and control competing species. From a tangata whenua perspective, this is critical to the practice of mahinga kai and the associated korero tuku iho and Māori identity.

5. Wetlands mapping – overview and update

- 5.1. Staff outlined the NPS-FM requirements for wetlands, presented early maps of potential wetlands in the catchment area, and set out the process underway for identifying wetlands across the region:
- Council engaged Morphum to provide an initial desktop analysis of potential wetland sites on a catchment-by-catchment basis. Around 3000 sites were identified, some of which will be wetlands, others will be farm dams or other sites.

- Aerial oblique imaging will be conducted to short-list potential wetland sites, followed by on-site verification.
 - The final output will be an updated schedule in the TRMP with a list of wetlands. The current TRMP identifies 22 wetlands – staff anticipate several hundred.
 - The longer-term aim is to better manage for values associated with wetlands.
- 5.2. In response to a member's question, staff clarified that the focus is on identifying existing natural wetlands (rather than proposed sites or artificial wetlands).
- 5.3. Members raised the following points regarding wetlands:
- Encouraged staff to draw on community knowledge to streamline identification of wetlands. Staff noted the next step will involve public communication.
 - Highlighted Rototahi as a significant wetland, and shared aspirations for people to go back to catch tuna in the wetland. Rototahi is a significant name, but has been named 'King's [farm] wetland' in Council documents.
 - There is a strong case for protecting remaining wetlands in this catchment, given less than 1 per cent remain, and their role in flood mitigation.
 - Both the Waimatā and Pakarae catchment groups view wetland identification and restoration as a priority.

6. Forestry planning – update

- 6.1. Staff briefly presented new data from the Gisborne Morphometric Landslide Susceptibility and Connectivity Study to inform Land Overlay 3B (LO3B), where some of this land will likely be removed from the forestry harvest estate. Members raised the following points:
- most of the land adjacent to LO3B is productive farmland – strengthening those highly erodible areas will protect and improve profitability for our region.
 - questioned the future of land managed by companies that then exit the region. Staff noted Council has a role in conversations about the future of such land.
- 6.2. A member updated the group on the Waimatā catchment following the recent severe rain event, noting significant erosion and the need for a plan to address scouring issues. The recovery team has been responsive in improving communications with landowners regarding their work in the catchment.
- 6.3. There was some discussion on the best next step to address erosion, with the following points raised:
- staff noted that technical expertise must assess where erosion can be mitigated.
 - a member noted that Waimatā landowners have changed riparian planting plans in response to erosion risk (focusing on planting setbacks in tributaries).
 - another member noted Waikereru Ecosanctuary as an example of where land has been recloaked and water quality improved within 10 years.
 - staff acknowledged that re-balancing and regenerating the Waimatā will be an intergenerational effort.
 - a member noted the need to set realistic timeframes and expectations for attributes including sediment.

Close and next steps

- 6.4. Staff noted that eDNA results can be shared with the group and discussed in a future hui, given time constraints.

6.5. A member invited members and Council staff, on behalf of the Arai river catchment group, to attend a meeting on Monday 8 July at the Ohako marae to discuss funding obtained for Te Arai river.

6.6. The hui closed at 11:50am with a karakia followed by lunch.

7. Tasks to be actioned

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WP-T12	Amend Draft Minutes for Hui 3 so that paragraphs 2.17- 2.19 refer to coastal catchment areas instead of coastal settlements.	Freshwater team	13 August 2024
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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	Complete – Refer Hui #4 slide-pack for preliminary wetland mapping from Morphum study.
WP-T5	Provide map with the 3B Layer.	27/02/2024	Presented to the group in Hui #4
WP-T9	Circulate stakeholder survey	10/04/2024	In progress – Team considering a cross-catchment approach to stakeholder surveys