



# Ūawa Catchment Working Group

Meeting notes and actions

Hui 3 – 20 August 2024

Held at Tolaga Bay Fire Station at 09:30 AM

<b>Chair</b>	Pat Seymour
<b>Working Group members present</b>	Kel Blackman, Richard Powell, Andre Van Haandel, Phil Hope, Mere Tamanui, Horiata Raihania, Karauria Ratapu, Shaun Mitchel, Tim Jefferd, Tiahn Hooper, Desmond McGrannachan
<b>GDC Staff and consultants</b>	Janic Slupski, Ariel Yann le Chew, Dean Evans, Kerry Hudson Lois Easton, Kent Duston, Sargam Shah, Jammayca Santos
<b>Apologies</b>	Victor Walker

## Agenda

Session 1 – Freshwater	
<b>1. Karakia and housekeeping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apologies</li> <li>Previous minutes and actions – what we covered last time</li> <li>Confirming Terms of Reference</li> </ul>	9.30 – 9.45
<b>2. Recap process</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freshwater catchment plan – process and output</li> <li>Forestry plan change – process and output</li> </ul>	9.45 – 10.00
<b>3. Freshwater values, environmental outcomes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What have we come up with so far?</li> <li>Draft environmental outcomes</li> </ul>	10.00 – 11.00
<b>4. Freshwater Management Units</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief introduction</li> <li>Options</li> </ul>	11.00 – 11.30
<b>5. Wrap up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary of session</li> <li>Next steps</li> <li>Thoughts, questions</li> </ul>	11.30 – 12.00
<b>Lunch</b>	12.00 – 12.30
Session 2 – Forestry	
<b>6. Recap</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope of plan change programme</li> <li>Hui 1 and 2</li> </ul>	12.30 – 12.45
<b>7. Plan change 1 – options development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rationale</li> <li>Options discussion</li> <li>Key questions</li> <li>Costs and benefits</li> </ul>	12.45 – 14.45

8. <b>Economic model</b>	14.45 - 15.15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update</li> <li>• Alignment with plan change</li> </ul>	
9. <b>Wrap up</b>	15.15 – 15.30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of discussion</li> <li>• Next steps</li> <li>• Thoughts, questions</li> </ul>	
10. <b>Closing karakia</b>	15.30

### Supporting documentation

- Amended Terms of Reference
- Amended Hui 1 minutes (draft)
- Draft Hui 2 minutes
- Briefing paper: Values, Environmental Outcomes
- Briefing paper: FMUs discussion

## Summary of actions

Future Action *Refer to Parked List for summary	Current task
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### Tasks to be actioned

<b>Notes:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each task is allocated a unique identifier e.g. T2 for ease of reference</li> <li>• The numbering continues from previous meeting minutes</li> </ul>			
Task	Actions	Responsible	Due
U-T5	Provide case study of Hugh Smith report to Group	GDC	Actioned 18 September
U-T6	Provide hard copies of the Ūawa background document	GDC	Actioned 18 September
U-T7	Provide copy of Campbell and Visser report leading to the 15 m3 per hectare figure in the NES	GDC	Actioned 18 September

## Minutes

### Welcome and housekeeping

1. The hui commenced with a karakia at 9:33 AM. The Chair welcomed the Group and went over housekeeping. The Group and Council staff introduced themselves through whakawhanaungatanga.
2. The Chair led the discussion on the amended Hui 1 minutes. Hui 1 minutes were taken as read and accepted for finalisation.
3. The Chair led the discussion on Hui 2 minutes. Members sought amendments to items 4.1, 32, 33, 36.1, 36.2 and 36.5. The Group accepted the proposed amendments to Hui 2 minutes for finalisation.
4. The Chair sought agreement to the amended Terms of Reference. Members sought further amendments to page 1, 2 and 3. The Group accepted the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for finalisation.

## Session 1: Freshwater

5. Staff introduced the agenda for the day. Staff recapped the freshwater catchment planning process, which follows the National Objectives Framework to develop a catchment plan for the Ūawa catchment.
6. Staff recapped the forestry planning process by providing context leading up to the 2 plan changes. The first plan change focusses on harvest and the second plan change focus on the wider Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan review. The second plan change includes the Land Overlay 3B.
7. Options for the first forestry plan change were discussed in Session 2.

### Freshwater values, environmental outcomes

8. The Group was asked to discuss the values identified in Hui 2 based on the following questions:
  - 8.1. Which values are catchment values?
  - 8.2. Which values should be managed through other means?
9. Comments on the values identified in Hui 2 are recorded in **Appendix 1**.
10. The Group discussed the compulsory values – Ecosystem health, threatened species, mahinga kai and swimming.
  - 10.1. The Group collectively agreed that they are all relevant to the catchment with fairly equal relevance. Comments on the compulsory values are recorded in **Appendix 1**.
11. The Group discussed the list of national freshwater values based on the following questions:
  - 11.1. Which national values are relevant to the Ūawa catchment?
  - 11.2. What freshwater outcomes do people want to see for the identified national values?
12. Comments on the other national values are recorded in **Appendix 1**.
13. The Group collectively agreed to take page 3 on incorporating the Uawanui vision statements as environmental outcomes in the catchment plan (see briefing paper 'Values, Environmental Outcomes') as homework.
  - 13.1. Staff proposed to have a subgroup hui with interested Group members before Hui 4. The subgroup hui will look to discuss how the Uawanui vision statements are linked to freshwater values. Staff will send out proposed date for this subgroup hui.
14. Staff explained to the Group that Council intends to wānanga at Tokomaru Bay with the community there, carrying out a similar process as done through this forum, with guidance from Te Ākau o Tokomaru on the engagement approach.

### Freshwater Management Units

15. Staff introduced the concept of Freshwater Management Unit (FMU), which is the spatial framework for managing values and environmental outcomes within a catchment. FMU helps the management where different values (including Te Mana o Te Wai values) and environmental outcomes have been identified for different parts of the catchment.
16. Staff introduced the 3 options of FMUs for this catchment:
  - 16.1. **Option 1:** the entire catchment area is considered as a single FMU

- 16.2. **Option 2:** Ūawa-Hikuwai subcatchment and its coastal subcatchments as a FMU; Mangahauini and its coastal subcatchment as another FMU
- 16.3. **Option 3:** 3 FMUs, which recognises that there's a hill country, the productive flats, and then the coast. This option would align with the Uawanui Sustainability Project.
- 17. Staff also introduced the concept of zones. Council identified the entire Waiapu Catchment as a single FMU. But due to the number of hapū in that catchment with their own takiwa, zones were introduced in that catchment for consenting decision making process.
- 18. The Group discussed the FMU options and collectively agree on Option 2 because of the different landscape in the Mangahauini.
- 19. As a next steps, staff will look to pull together a strawman on values and environmental outcomes for Hui 4. FMU option 2 will be discussed further in Hui 4.
- 20. The Chair asked for any comments before closing out the freshwater session.
  - 20.1. A member noted that the NIWA seafloor mapping at Tokomaru Bay found that the source of sediment were from Ūawa, Gisborne City and Waiapu – but not from Tokomaru Bay itself. Sediment have negatively impacted on kai species at Tokomaru Bay.
- 21. The Group had a lunch break at 12:15 PM.

## **Session 2: Forestry**

- 22. The Group reconvened after lunch at 12:49 PM.
- 23. Staff recapped on the background context leading up to Council undertaking a forestry plan change. Points included:
  - 23.1. The NESCF is not tailored to the extreme erosion vulnerability of Tairāwhiti.
  - 23.2. The NESCF and the current TRMP did not provide policy direction to support the consenting process for forestry harvest activities.
  - 23.3. Council did not have the opportunity to review, influence or being more involved in the harvesting process.
  - 23.4. There is too much focus on monitoring to ensure compliance of forestry activities – instead of taking a proactive approach to managing the risks.
  - 23.5. Council's enforcement team still seeing non-compliance after Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle.
  - 23.6. Cumulative effects not well-considered in the region – it's the aggregated effect on the environment.
- 24. Comments raised on the recap points include:
  - 24.1. Council requiring forestry companies to clean up slash immediately but not considering the time taken for the clean up to occur.
  - 24.2. Need to have communications in place – between different forestry teams (e.g. harvesting team and replanting team), between Council and forestry companies.
  - 24.3. Observation that there is no clear causation/correlation between the NESCF and the outcomes seen post-storm events.

## **Plan Change 1 – Options development**

- 25. Staff introduced the 6 options for the first plan change:

- 25.1. **Option 1** – Status quo
  - 25.2. **Option 2** – Better policy guidance to support rules and regulations, aligning with the consenting conditions developed through the recent Council-EWC forestry consent conditions workshops.
  - 25.3. **Option 3** – Option 2 plus an elevated activity status to enable Council greater level of discretion to decline resource consents where there is insufficient and/or inadequate information. This option includes policy direction for slash catchers.
  - 25.4. **Option 4** – Option 3 plus a new harvest management schedule.
  - 25.5. **Option 5** – Focus on Catchment Forestry Plan, which is a holistic approach that applies to the entire life cycle of forestry management. This option will look to replace the management plans required in the NES.
  - 25.6. **Option 6** – Focus on Land Overlay 3B, which includes the LO3B mapping and supporting policy direction on management of LO3B land and its risk pre- and during transition.
26. Staff explained the activity statuses as defined in the RMA:
- 26.1. **Permitted activity** – no resource consent required.
  - 26.2. **Controlled activity** – resource consent required. Council must grant the consent.
  - 26.3. **Restricted Discretionary activity** – resource consent required. Council can only assess matters outlined in the rule. Council can decline the consent.
  - 26.4. **Discretionary activity** – resource consent required. Council has broader discretion in assessing the consent. Council can decline the consent.
  - 26.5. **Non-complying activity.**
  - 26.6. **Prohibited activity** – not allowed.
27. Comments on Option 3 are as follows:
- 27.1. Should Council not consider going through section 93 of the RMA to request more information and/or raise the matters of control, if inadequate information is used to justify need to elevate activity status?
  - 27.2. Consider the reality of forestry – can't prevent discharge and sediment but can limit and reduce.
  - 27.3. If trees aren't harvested, whole trees will fail and come down waterways.
  - 27.4. Climate change with its frequent weather events.
  - 27.5. Important to have more frequent audits and inspection to ensure harvesting team/company are aware of the impacts and effects of the activity in consideration of changing weather.
  - 27.6. Slash catcher is good idea – but need to have access to empty them.
  - 27.7. Need to consider harvest waste and historic harvest waste.
  - 27.8. Need to consider on-slope failures of mid-rotation trees.
  - 27.9. Hawke's Bay Regional Council enabled forestry companies to clean up slash/debris after weather events – Gisborne District Council did not provide the same “powers” for forestry companies in Tairāwhiti to do the same.
  - 27.10. What sediment mitigation do forestry have in place?
28. Comments on Option 5 are as follows:

- 28.1. Council will need to increase resourcing and capability to evaluate the Catchment Forestry Plan.
  - 28.2. Concerns about time taken to prepare (from forestry companies) and to evaluate (by Council) the consent application and Catchment Forestry Plan.
29. Comments made on Option 6 are as follows:
- 29.1. The morphometric landslide susceptibility to connectivity mapping will be verified through aerial photography and site visit.
  - 29.2. Council has formed a Transition Working Group. Membership is Tairāwhiti-focus, with forestry, farming, indigenous bush, carvers, riparian management, nursery. MPI is also involved.
  - 29.3. Farming sector and landowners need to be involved in the conversation on Land Overlay 3B.
  - 29.4. A couple of forestry consents have been notified using the consent condition and the morphometric landslide susceptibility to connectivity mapping outside of this plan change.
  - 29.5. There is a massive disconnect between Council teams.
  - 29.6. Need to consider ETS liabilities in decision-making – harvesting, replanting.
  - 29.7. Need to change focus on monitoring rather than on enforcement.
  - 29.8. Government, Council and industry need to work together on solution.
30. The Group discussed the questions relating to:
- 30.1. Elevating harvesting activity status
  - 30.2. Cable hauling across streams
  - 30.3. Harvest plans/annual work plans
  - 30.4. Slash catchers
  - 30.5. Limits.
31. Responses to these questions are recorded in **Appendix 2**.

### **Economic model**

32. Consultant contracted to develop the economic model for the forestry plan change started the session with a study that compared the workplace fatalities between the UK, New Zealand and Australia. While the three countries had implemented the same regulations, New Zealand had not invested as much effort into monitoring as it had done for policy planning.
33. The consultant introduced the economic model, which looks to identify the monetary and non-monetary values from the positive and negative impacts of forestry in the Ūawa catchment.
34. The model will involve a survey to communities in the Ūawa Catchment (including Hikuwai, Tokomaru Bay and those living in the coastal margins of the catchment area).
35. Questions in the survey will be developed around the [Trust Tairāwhiti Wellbeing Framework](#). The consultant will be working with a member of the Group on the survey approach over the next few weeks.
36. While the survey is underway, the consultant will work with EWC to supply the forestry sector data for the economic model through InterPine – not via Council.

37. The final output from the model will be used for discussions with the Crown on the support Tairāwhiti needs, such as funding for forestry companies/landowners/farmers to transition LO3B land into permanent vegetation as compensation for loss of productivity.

### **Closing, next steps**

38. Staff thanked the Group for their interests and contribution for the day. Next steps for the forestry session will be refining recommendations for the first plan change proposal. More opportunity to discuss Land Overlay 3B and Transition options.

39. The Chair invited the Group to share their thoughts of how the hui went.

40. The hui closed with a karakia at 3:56 PM. Staff will reach out to the Group on the dates for the sub-group hui and Hui 4.

## Appendix 1: Discussion on values (freshwater session)

### Comments on values identified from Hui 2

#### Firefighting water

- In preparation for drought – fire
- Not so much as storage but making water available and accessible when there's a fire
- Having a register of locations to top up water for firefighting purposes

#### Kaitiakitanga

- Need to know how much of water there is in order to manage water allocation
- Relates to sustainability for future generations

#### Whakapapa

- Need to ensure we treat all parts of managing freshwater the same way as we treat our ancestors
- A genealogical framework that binds people to land and awa
- It's what holds community together
- If aligning with Te Mana o Te Wai as the framework, it inherently has/is whakapapa
- Whakapapa is not just a value – it's about how to give effect to whakapapa

#### Changes to list of values

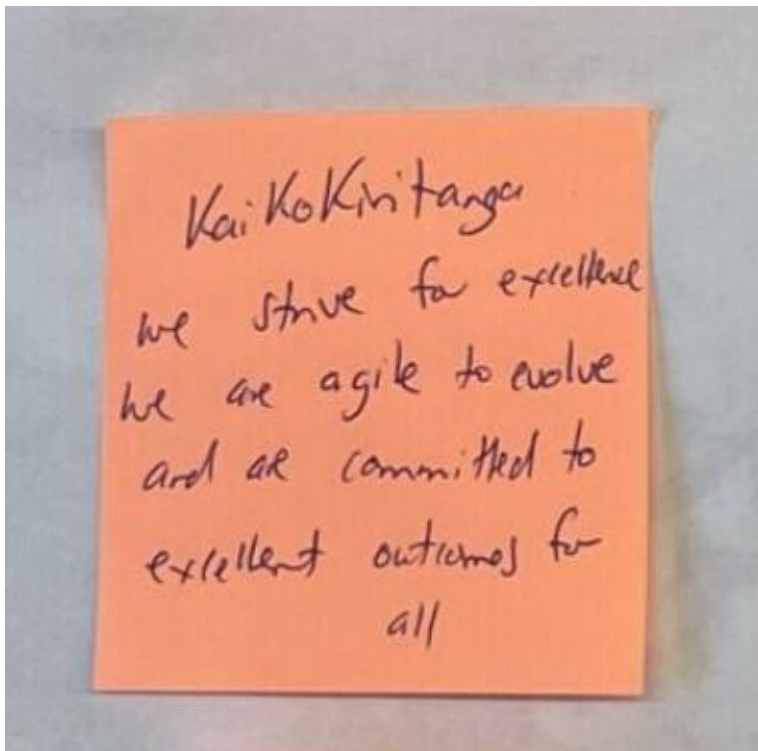
##### Add:

- wahi tapu
- Taonga tuku iho
- access to river – for swimming, gathering of kai, waka culture
- access across rivers – bridges/infrastructure
- access to water – water takes

##### Remove:

- Kaikokiritanga – see original post-it below





### Comments on compulsory values (ecosystem health, threatened species, mahinga kai, swimming)

- Sediment – driver for species unable to see (to find food to eat), but also driver for species unable to breathe
- Haven't had robust baseline monitoring data for land users to make best decision-making
- Whitebait grounds with over 2 m sediment in riverbeds – expect to be continuous, not just one-off
- Need better information on current state of the environment and capacity to address issue
- Collective agreement that the compulsory values are all relevant to the Ūawa catchment
- The compulsory values may have fairly equal relevance

### Comments on other national values

#### Irrigation

- Important as economic value of catchment could be further developed if there was access to water for irrigation

#### Commercial and Industrial Use

- Laundromat – proposal still on table; considered as commercial use
- Most water used for roadworks – would be considered commercial/industrial use

- Current takes for roadworks are from the town supply – issue when the town supply is low for drinking water purposes
- Due to clash of values between preserving water and use of water, don't see that commercial and industrial use as a value

### **Drinking water supply**

- Important as economic value of catchment could be further developed if there was access to water for irrigation

## Appendix 2: Discussion on aspects of first forestry plan change options (forestry session)

### Elevating activity status

#### Questions:

1. Should we require harvesting consent for all harvesting on high-risk land (orange and red)? (noting currently this will likely trigger consent due to residual slash limits)
2. What are the pros and cons of this in light of potential amendments to the NES-CF

#### Responses:

- May not practically make that much difference from the current activity status – Required to have consent to harvest on red land and orange land of above 25 degrees slope.
- No support for coupe harvest.
- Accept catchment constraints (maximum harvest area per catchment) is reasonable in consideration of scale of forestry blocks in the catchment.
- Need to ensure small forest block owners are still able to economically harvest.

### Cable hauling

#### Questions:

1. Is there a need for more scrutiny here? Elevating permitted status to controlled activity means Council can assess the proposed harvesting plan and manage sensitive areas/evaluate options to manage effects but knowing a consent must be granted.
2. What are the benefits / challenges of this approach?

#### Responses:

- Generally supported.
- Seen as best practice – perhaps elevating the status may be a benefit.
- Problem of existing planting close to river has created issues – pulling away from streams needs to be recognised that it could still do damage.

### Harvest plans/annual workplans

#### Questions:

1. How does this align with the current practice? How are those harvest management practices determined on site?
2. What level of scrutiny/evaluation of annual work plans should be applied – noting they would be provided after the consent is granted.

Responses:

- Clarify if the annual workplan will be in an appendix to the harvest plan – i.e. by way of update on what's different and planned for that year.
- Could happen now if done with the compliance enforcement team.
- Could be an option for changes that would've been currently dealt with through a variation of the consent (e.g. changing location of infrastructure that was originally specified in the consent).
- Could help with management of archaeological sites in large forestry blocks, where staff changeover had led to new staff unaware of procedures to notify iwi when new sites have been found.

## Slash Catchers

### Questions:

1. How should the TRMP provide for/recognise slash catchers?
2. In what circumstances are they appropriate to be used?
3. How does their use relate to the sensitivity of the receiving waterways? Is their use promoted because a waterway has higher values?

Responses:

- Generally supported.
- Large slash catchers need to address legacy issues, and smaller slash catchers should be used to manage new harvest areas.
- Ensure slash catchers are used when there is access to empty the catchers.

## Limits

### Questions:

1. Do we need to manage the scale of harvest area as the first approach to reduce risks of soil and slash mobilisation, mid-slope failure? i.e clearfell catchment limit or coupe harvesting limits.
2. Is it necessary to ensure harvest areas (cumulatively) are reduced as far as possible to avoid some of the impacts seen over recent years?
3. Should we use a blunt limit with a consent assessment pathway to demonstrate a larger area can be managed?
4. Any other alternatives?

Responses:

- Needs to be a strategic approach.
- Don't want to end up with oversized trees.
- Industry need to provide more proactive recommendations for this catchment.
- Industry need to prepare position on catchment constraints and present this to Council on what they think will best mitigate risk.

- Recognise age class, location, site specific risk assessment.
- Need to consider the viability of policies on different scale forestry blocks – coupe harvest might work for small forests but not for bigger forests, likewise some policies may work well for bigger forests but not for small forests.
- Wider catchment constraints may be ok, but will require landowner engagement.
- Need to manage mid-slope failure, soil and slash.
- More commitment to engineered structured could see an increased threshold.