



Ūawa Catchment Working Group

Meeting notes and actions

Hui 1 – 4 July 2024

Held at Tolaga Bay Fire Station at 09:30 AM

Chair	Anne McGuire (stand-in for Pat Seymour until Pat returns in August 2024)
Working Group members present	Victor Walker, Kel Blackman, Richard Powell, Andre Van Haandel, Shaun Mitchel, Tim Jefferd, Phil Hope, Mere Tamanui, Desmond McGrannachan, Tiahn Hooper, Horiata Raihania
GDC Staff and consultants	Janic Slupski, Ariel Yann le Chew, Dean Evans, Kerry Hudson Kent Duston
Apologies	Karauria Ratapu

Agenda

Session 1 – Freshwater		
1.	Karakia and whakawhanaungatanga <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Housekeeping Draft Terms of Reference 	9.30 – 10.00
2.	Overview of process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative context Topics to cover Timeframes, meeting dates Output and outcomes 	10.00 – 10.30
3.	What we know about the catchment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State of environment Issues and challenges 	10.30 – 11.15
4.	Aspirations and outcomes sought <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What's the vision for the catchment? Freshwater values discussion 	11.15 – 11.50
5.	Wrap up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of process Summary of discussion Next steps Thoughts, questions 	11.50 – 12.00
Lunch		12.00 – 12.30
Session 2 – Forestry		
6.	Objective for forestry workshops	12.30 – 12.40
7.	Scene setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic context Post-Hale and Gabrielle Scope of TRMP plan change programme 	12.40 – 13.00

8.	Issues and challenges, perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mana whenua, forestry, farming, community and GDC perspectives 	13.00 – 13.30
9.	Forestry outcomes for Ūawa catchment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion from Mana whenua, forestry, farming and community perspectives 	13.30 – 13.50
10.	Pathways and opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry plan change components <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Catchment Forestry Plan (20 min) ○ Land Overlay 3B (20 min) ○ Economic model (20 min) ○ Transition (20 min) 	13.50 – 15.20
11.	Wrap up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of process • Summary of discussion • Next steps • Thoughts, questions 	15:20 – 15.30
12.	Closing karakia	15:30

Supporting documentation

- Ūawa Catchment Background Document
- Draft Terms of Reference

Summary of actions

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

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 meeting minutes 			
Task	Actions	Responsible	Due
U-T1	Share the Uawanui Sustainability Project document with the Group (email attachment and onto portal)	GDC	Before Hui 2

Minutes

Welcome and whakawhanaungatanga

1. The hui commenced with a karakia at 9:41 AM. Attendees introduced themselves and their expertise and interests through whakawhanaungatanga. The members working in the forestry sector highlighted that they are not representatives of the forest industry, but to provide personal work experience into the group discussions.
2. Staff went over the Draft Terms of Reference and briefed the Group on the meeting schedule. Hui 1 to 4 will cover both freshwater and forestry sessions. The remaining four hui (5 – 8) will be freshwater only.
3. A member wanted more clarification around the scope of this Working Group. The member explained that the Uawanui Sustainability Project had consulted the Ūawa community and documented the community's values and aspirations within a final plan.
4. Staff responded that the planning process (for both freshwater and forestry) to be undertaken with this Group, is a regulatory process to achieve a regulatory framework that

manages activities in the catchment. However, staff viewed that the learnings from the Uawanui Sustainability Project can inform the regulatory process that this Group is undertaking.

5. The Group collectively agreed that copies of the Uawanui Sustainability Project report are to be circulated before Hui 2.

Session 1: Freshwater

6. Staff introduced the freshwater catchment planning process, outlined in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) 2020, that the Group will be undertaking throughout the series of hui. The fundamental concept in the NPS-FM 2020 is Te Mana o te Wai, where the sole objective of the policy statement requires Council to give effect Te Mana o te Wai and its hierarchy of obligations.
7. Staff explained the National Objectives Framework process, which is to first identify the current state of the catchment by revisiting data obtained through monitoring. Council currently has multiple monitoring sites across the region that measures different parameters, such as E.Coli and eDNA. A key issue identified for the region is sediment, where unsustainable land use practices have changed the hydrology of rainwater entering waterways, subsequently exacerbating erosion issues that the catchment faces.
8. The Group collectively agreed that monitoring is important. and have identified that the current monitoring framework in place is insufficient to provide an overall picture of the catchment. The current monitoring framework doesn't include cultural monitoring mechanism, of which a member highlighted the importance of understanding and being inclusive of different culture practices. This includes monitoring kai to ensure mahinga kai practices remains sustainable.
9. Staff explained that all monitoring data is publicly available, however Council does not have an interphase that acts as a one-stop shop for public to easily access all monitoring data. While industries/sectors undertake monitoring as required in their consent conditions, for reliable data Council have preference for in-house monitoring due to using a consistent methodology for collection and analysing of data.
10. The tangata whenua members raised that, before speaking to the Group, they will need to first go back to their iwi and hapū to have internal discussion before putting pen to paper on mātauranga and how to integrate Te Ao Māori framework into the policy planning framework. Iwi environmental plan and iwi environmental management plan should also inform the catchment planning framework.
11. Central and local government should also support and provide resourcing for cultural monitoring that iwi, hapū and whanau are currently doing, such as the development of freshwater mātauranga indicators or subsidising purchase of eDNA test kits as part of community monitoring. Mana whenua rights to water need to be acknowledged.
12. The Group shared concerns about the current consenting regime, where iwi or hapū often remain unaware until the activity is underway. A member suggested that, because of the geology in the catchment, the consenting regime will need site-specific assessment to determine if the activity in the consent application should be approved.
13. The Group had a lunch break at 12:01 PM.

Session 2: Forestry

14. The Group reconvened after lunch at 12:41 PM.

15. A member asked if the cost for monitoring should go to the industry where the monitoring is to understand the impact of the activity. Another member asked if the NPS-FM have funding mechanisms to capture monitoring costs. In response to these questions, staff answered that while the NPS-FM does not have the funding mechanisms to cover monitoring costs, Council can explore possible options to addressing monitoring costs.
16. Staff explained the objectives for the forestry workshop, which is to first ensure the Group is on the same page about the problems that we need to address, the future state that we want for the catchment, and components of the wider forestry plan change.
17. Staff provided an overview of the geology of the catchment, where though Tairāwhiti is 8% of the North Island, 25% of Tairāwhiti is classified severely eroding land. It was due to the unique geology that post-Cyclone Bola, forestry had been planted to deal with erosion. Now economics have become the key driver to plant and subsequently harvest the forests. This left the region with an unintended legacy, as seen through recent storm events.
18. Staff explained that Land Overlay 3A identified areas that had severe erosion, while Land Overlay 3B highlights the connectivity of landslides with waterways. As part of the Forestry Plan Change, land identified under Land Overlay 3B will be required to transition into permanent vegetation cover. More information on the Transition component will be addressed in Hui 2.
19. The Group and staff discussed possible options of way forward with Land Overlay 3B lands and what that means for current land users on or landowners of these lands. Suggestions from members included:
 - 19.1. Council allowing rates relief on Land Overlay 3B land.
 - 19.2. Central Government offering a buyout scheme to landowners of Land Overlay 3B land.
 - 19.3. Council or Central Government resurveying and placing a QEII-equivalent covenant on Land Overlay 3B land.
 - 19.4. Central Government removing any Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) liabilities tied to current forestry blocks on Land Overlay 3B land.
 - 19.5. Council removing future Resource Management Act (RMA) liabilities unrelated to forestry and farming operations – i.e. impacts of material on former forestry or farming Land Overlay 3B land migrating downstream in extreme rainfall events.
 - 19.6. Walking machines up waterways to remove woody debris from waterways that, though with substantial environmental impacts in the short term, will achieve long term benefits when Land Overlay 3B land are retired into permanent vegetation cover.
20. Staff showed the morphometric landslide susceptibility-to-stream connectivity mapping that had been made publicly available since 1st July 2024. There are 7 classes, with each class defined by high/moderate/low of the susceptibility and the connectivity layers. Staff estimated that the retirement of Classes 4 and 7 land on forestry estate is approximately 16%.
21. There were discussions on what is the objective and scope of a Catchment Forestry Plan, and if forestry companies will still be required to submit resource consent applications if they prepared a Catchment Forestry Plan. Staff responded that consent application will still be required, where each forestry block will have a Catchment Forestry Plan that manages the overall forestry lifecycle holistically as opposed to regarding parts of the lifecycle as individual activities. Site-specific risk assessment of each forestry block will be included as part of the respective Catchment Forestry Plans.

22. The Catchment Forestry Plan intends to implement a Sustainable Land Management mindset to address the cumulative effects of land use activities on the catchment. This will require an alignment of both farming and forestry to proactively achieve better environmental outcomes for the catchment. More clarity on the scope of the Catchment Forestry Plan will be covered in Hui 2.
23. A member working in the forestry sector have suggested as an agenda for Hui 2 for the Group to look at a forestry sector-initiative where parts of the forestry block under the company he works for has been transitioned out of pine forestry. The Group collectively agreed to look at this example as a case study for the next hui.

Closing, next steps

24. The Group and staff each took turns providing their feedback on the day, with a few members specially thanking staff for the opportunity to join the Group. The hui closed with a karakia at 3:47 PM.
25. Given that the proposed date for Hui 2 (**23 July 2024**) clashes with a forestry-related workshop at Council, staff will reach out to the Group (no later than the week of 8th July) with new proposed dates.