



TAIRĀWHITI

WAIPAOA CATCHMENT PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP

Hui #7 agenda, minutes, and actions Held at Waikanae Surf Club, Gisborne from 12:30pm

Advisory Group facilitator	Dr Jill Chrisp
Advisory Group members present	Stan Pardoe, Grant Vincent, Nick Briant, Dave Hawea, Dianne Irwin, Alan Haronga, Phil Gaukrodger, Samuel Lewis, Shanna Cairns, Murray Palmer, Owen Lloyd, Jacob Harrison, Sid (Guest), Tim Rhodes, Joss Ruifrok, Leo Kelso, Stuart Davis
Council	Janic Slupski, Katrina Ungco, Ariel Yann le Chew, Sarah Thompson, Abi Wiseman, Bridget Bosworth, Joanne Ferry Lois Easton, Wolfgang Kanz
Apologies	Matawhero Lloyd, Bella Hawkins, Tim Tietjen, Bronwyn Wilson-Hokianga (resigned)

Agenda

Session 1 – General overview	
1. Karakia and whakawhanaungatanga	12:30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Housekeeping Minutes and actions from hui #6 	
Session 2 – Water Quantity	
2. Water Quantity in Waipaoa Catchment	12:45
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current management approach New Science – Surface flows (NIWA report) Q&A 	13:10
Cuppa & leg stretch	14:00
Session 3 – Water Quantity (cont.)	
3. Water Quantity in Waipaoa Catchment	14:10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Science – Groundwater (WGA report) Q&A 	
4. Next steps, wrap up	14:50
5. Closing karakia	14:55

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
T18	Add the PowerPoint presentation to the Sharepoint folder and send it to the group via email.	Freshwater Planning Team	Completed 26 April
T19	Report back on the rationale for using RCP4.5 in the groundwater model	Freshwater Planning Team	29 May
T20	Report back on what we know about the presence of aquifers in the bay	Freshwater Planning Team	29 May
T21	Consider impacts of climate change on Waipaoa surface flows	Freshwater Planning Team	29 May
T22	Circulate 1-page report responding to the Groundwater model	Stuart Davis	Completed 26 April

Minutes

Session 1: Karakia and whakawhanaungatanga - welcome & housekeeping

1. The hui commenced at 12.30pm with an opening karakia.
2. Staff outlined housekeeping matters and reminded members of the Ka Hao Kupenga framework and principles guiding how the group operates.
3. Minutes and actions from the hui held on 13 March 2024 were taken as read and accepted as an accurate reflection.
4. Staff clarified that the Tūrangānui river will be considered as part of the Waipaoa Catchment Plan Area, and that Council is changing the reporting name of the Whakaahu stream to its actual name, Waikakariki stream – however, it is not within Council's remit to change the official name.
5. Staff noted that while we will work to progress quantity conversations through this forum, it is important that we capture all perspectives and further conversations on these issues outside of this forum are welcome.

Session 2: Water quantity in the Waipaoa catchment

6. Staff introduced the current water quantity provisions for the Waipaoa Catchment, outlining the current Water Quantity Zones, approach to water quantity management and allocation limits.
7. Staff provided an overview of current water allocation, with the Waipaoa river highlighted as the biggest single source of water use, and discussed the interaction between water quantity provisions in the Regional Plan and in the Waipaoa Catchment Plan.
8. Staff noted that water storage will be needed, with options being managed aquifer recharge (MAR), dams, or re-use of water. These options are being considered through a separate project looking at regional water security and are outside of the scope of the Freshwater Planning process. Council has recently had a workshop to consider Council's role in water storage.

New science – Surface flows: Niwa report

9. Council staff set out key hydrology terms used when discussing water quantity and presented the findings of the 2023 NIWA report *Flow requirements of Te Arai and Waipaoa Rivers*. The three options presented in the report provide a starting point for discussions, they are not the only options nor are they recommendations. The modelling by NIWA determines how variation in flow affected the availability of habitat for native fish, mayfly and periphyton.
10. A member raised that the Kanakanaia gauging point is not the appropriate location for measuring and managing Waipaoa flows. It is upstream of most irrigation takes so cease pumping rules may not impact on the flow at this point in a measurable way.
11. There was some discussion about the data and underpinning assumptions in the report. Staff clarified that data for the 2022-2023 year was not included in the NIWA report due to the timing of the report, and that the total number of days that water takes would not be available under the different options is based on historical data (it does not take into account climate change projections). Staff clarified that the NIWA report is aiming to prevent flows dipping below the environmental flow where degradation will occur.
12. Questions focused around how other values and impacts, particularly economic, will be considered. Staff noted the need to consider economic, social, cultural and other impacts as well as environmental, and that scenarios can be developed to model these. We also need to know more about the relationship between quantity and quality in order to give effect to Te Mana o Te Wai. If we do increase minimum flows, the next question is over what timeframe.

13. One member noted the need to consider a smart, nuanced solution that acknowledges the different demands of different crop types. Staff noted that the current system is simple, which makes it straightforward to administer, but it may be appropriate to consider more complex management approaches.
14. Another member recommended that water management issues should not be considered in isolation – increases in minimum flows may not be an issue if water can be stored.

Session 3: Water Quantity in Waipaoa Catchment

New Science – Groundwater (WGA report)

15. Council staff set out the drivers and scope of the Poverty Bay Flats Groundwater model, and the community questions that were explored. The current status of the different aquifers was outlined: Deep aquifers are currently declining (both in terms of quality and quantity), shallow aquifers are stable.
16. Staff presented key findings from the model in terms of:
 - Deep aquifers
 - Shallow aquifers
 - Climate change implications
 - Drought
 - Health of groundwater
 - Effects of replenishment
 - Sustainable allocation
17. Discussion focused around the feasibility of aquifer recharge, including redirecting treated wastewater for aquifer recharge. Staff noted that a MAR trial has been carried out, and MAR presents risks that would need to be managed.
18. There was also discussion around the increasing salinity of groundwater. Staff noted that the effectiveness of aquifer recharge to improve salinity would depend on where the bore is located.
19. A member distributed a 1-page report responding to the findings of the groundwater modelling report and making the case for groundwater replenishment, stating that reducing abstraction is not viable given the economic impacts.

Next steps and wrap up

20. Staff outlined topics to be discussed in the next hui on 29 May: Allocation framework, low-flow setting and allocation block setting.
21. A member noted that Horticulture NZ have made a submission on the Fast-track Approval Bill with recommendations including placing a groundwater replenishment scheme for the Tūranganui-a-Kiwa flats on the list of projects for direct referral.
22. Staff thanked members for their contributions, and clarified that minutes are agreed as a true and correct record, not agreement to specific decisions as they have not been made yet.
23. The session closed at 14:55 with a karakia.

PARKING LIST

The following matters have been captured from discussions during the **WAIPAOA CATCHMENT PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP** hui. They are captured here to be incorporated as supplementary recommendations in the Group's final report and/or responded to directly.

Parking List			
Reference	Item/Action	Date raised	Status

T5	Organise site visits to discuss topic-specific catchment issues	12/7/23	TBC
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