



Waipaoa Catchment Planning Advisory Group – Hui 5

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Title of report: Introducing outstanding waterbodies, scheduled waterbodies and wetlands

Report no: **2**

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Purpose of this report

This report is largely for information purposes. It outlines the purpose, number and extent of the current:

- regionally outstanding waterbodies
- regionally significant wetlands
- aquatic ecosystem waterbodies

in the Waipaoa Catchment.

Outcomes sought

Members of the Advisory Group:

- are informed about the current extent of important and specifically identified waterbodies in the catchment
 - have the opportunity to identify and discuss any gaps in the schedules within the Waipaoa Catchment Plan/Regional Freshwater Plan.
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1. Introduction

The Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP) includes a range of waterbodies that are 'scheduled' for particular values. Scheduled waterbodies have rules that require a more careful approach to activities around these waterbodies, where activities might impact on their values.

Currently the TRMP includes the following schedules:

- Regionally outstanding waterbodies
- Regionally significant wetlands
- Aquatic ecosystem waterbodies
 - those with significant native freshwater fish values
 - Habitats of threatened indigenous species
 - Whitebait/inanga spawning sites
 - Important habitats of trout
 - Watercourses in land drainage schemes with ecological values,
- Significant swimming sites.

2. Regionally outstanding waterbodies within the Waipaoa Catchment

During the development of the 2015 Regional Freshwater Plan, a process of identification and evaluation of 'Regionally Outstanding Waterbodies' in the Waipaoa Catchment was undertaken. The following schedule, known as G18 Outstanding Waterbodies, was created.

The sites currently identified as Outstanding Waterbodies within Schedule G18 are:

- Te Arai River (upstream of water supply intake)
- Lake Repongaere
- Urukokomuka Stream.

The TRMP description of these waterbodies is set out below:

Catchment	Outstanding Waterbody	Key Values
Waipaoa	Te Arai River Headwaters – main channel and all tributary streams above the water intake at Waingake	A highly natural waterbody, largely unmodified flow except for some historical weirs, has high scenic and aesthetic value, a rare landscape type within the Waipaoa Catchment, exceptional natural science values, presence of threatened plant species, Heart-Leaved Kohuhu (<i>Pittosporum Obcordatum</i>), High water quality, high ecosystem health, regionally significant presence of a range of indigenous fish species, no known pest species, presence of rare microinvertebrate populations, Waahi Tapu to Rongowhakaata Iwi, key component of the wider cultural landscape valued for cultural purposes.
	Urukokomuka Stream – entire length of the main channel from confluence with the Mangatu River to the headwaters	A waterbody of high cultural and ecological significance with an unmodified flow from the headwaters in the foothills of Maungamaui Mountain. Home to Blue Duck in its headwaters with a healthy and diverse range of indigenous aquatic life for the length of the waterway. Represents a range of ecosystem types from minor tributaries to a large stream at its confluence with the Mangatu River. Significant cultural values and Wahi Tapu to Te Aitanga A Maki Iwi, key component of the wider cultural landscape. A popular amenity and recreational swimming area. Distinctive for its braided qualities and presence of fast flowing water and rapid systems in places. High water quality.
	Lake Repongarae – including its littoral wetland and 5m RMA	Largest natural lake in the region, highly significant customary Eel fishery for Te Whanau A Kai and Te Aitanga A Maki. Repongarae Lakes PMA in the Turanga Ecological District, important waterfowl habitat including Bittern. Spring fed with good water quality. Significant cultural sites around the lake, important part of tribal identity and key component of the wider cultural landscape. A rare regional landscape with distinctive visual amenity values.

3. Regionally significant wetlands within the Waipaoa Catchment

A similar process of identification and evaluation was taken to identify 'regionally significant wetlands', listed in Schedule G17.

There is one regionally significant wetland identified within the Waipaoa Catchment - Te Maungarongo o Te Kooti. The TRMP description of this wetland is set out below:

Waipaoa	Te Maungarongo o te Kooti	Old Waipaoa Riverbed. Formerly known as Matawhero Loop. Kahikatea forest, open water, raupo reedland, sedge and carex. Habitat for bittern, NZ dabchick, grey teal, grey duck pied stilt. Important as one of the largest wetlands remaining on the Poverty Bay Flats.
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4. Aquatic ecosystem waterbodies within the Waipaoa Catchment

Schedule G15 of the TRMP contains a list of Aquatic Ecosystem Waterbodies. There are five parts to the Schedule. A wide range of waterways within the Waipaoa Catchment are recognised as being very important for aquatic ecosystem values.

Schedule G15A contains the nationally and regionally significant habitats and migratory habits of native fish. The schedule identifies:

- the catchment the waterbody is within
- the name of the river/stream or lake and/or stream tributary schedule
- a list of the native fish that are known to use the waterbodies for habitat and migration.

The schedule was developed based on the work undertaken under the RIVAS studies identifying nationally and regionally significant native fish habitat.

G15A. Habitats and Migratory Pathways of Indigenous Fish Species

Waipaoa	Te Arai River	Te Arai River	Common Bully, Crans Bully, Upland Bully, Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel, Inanga, Torrentfish, Koaro
	Whatatuna Stream	Whatatuna Stream	Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel, Inanga
	Mangatu River	Urukokomuka Stream	Bluegill Bully, Common Bully, Longfin Eel, Torrentfish
	Waikohu River	Rangiriri Stream	Redfin Bully, Longfin Eel
	Karua Stream	Karua Stream	Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel, Inanga, Banded Kokopu
	Wherowhero Stream	Wherowhero Stream	Redfin Bully, Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel, Inanga, Banded Kokopu
	Pakowhai Stream	Pakowhai Stream	
Taruheru	Taruheru River	Taruheru River	Redfin Bully, Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel, Inanga, Banded Kokopu
	Waihire Stream	Waihire Stream	

The Waipaoa Catchment is also recognised as a national stronghold for the nationally threatened native Longfinned Eel. Certain waterbodies within the catchment are scheduled to protect and preserve the values associated with this taonga species.

G15B. Additional Key Habitats for Longfin Eel

Waipaoa	Mangatu River	Mangatu River
		Mangapapa Stream
		Urukokomuka Stream
	Lower Waipaoa River	Lower Waipaoa River
		Mangaoai Stream
		Whatatuna Stream
		Whaeo Stream
	Upper Waipaoa River	Upper Waipaoa River
		Waimatau Stream
	Waingaromia River	Waingaromia River
		Tarekepokia Stream
		Parariki Stream
	Waikohu River	Waikohu River
	Whakaahu Stream	Whakaahu Stream
Wharekopae River	Wharekopae River	

Schedule G15C contains the freshwater habitats of threatened indigenous flora and fauna. The following waterbodies within the catchment have been identified as important habitats of these threatened species.

G15C. Habitats of Threatened Indigenous Flora and Fauna

Waipaoa	Rangiriri Stream (Headwaters)		Blue Duck
	Waikohu River (Headwaters)		
	Wharekopae River (Headwaters)		
	Urukokomuka Stream (Headwaters)		
		Lake Repongaere	Bittern, New Zealand Dabchick
		Dod Pond	Bittern, New Zealand Dabchick, New Zealand Shoveler
	Wherowhero Stream		Banded Dotterel, Royal Spoonbill, Caspian Tern, Wyrbill
		Te Maungarongo o Te Kooti Rikirangi Reserve (Formerly known as Matawhero Loop)	Bittern, New Zealand Dabchick

Schedule G15D contains the known whitebait spawning sites in the region. The schedule contains the catchment, river or stream and location of the spawning site.

G15D Whitebait spawning sites

Waipaoa	Whatatuna Stream	Salt Wedge
Waipaoa	Te Arai River	From water Supply pipe bridge to 1.2km upstream
Waipaoa	Karaua Stream	Salt wedge at Sadler Road/Taurau Valley Road intersection
Taruheru	Matokitoki Stream	Salt wedge at Parkview Place

Schedule G15E contains the important habitats of trout. The schedule contains the catchment, river or stream. It also outlines whether the stream is a nationally, regionally or locally significant habitat.

G15E Important habitats of trout

Waipaoa	Wharekopae River and tributaries	Locally significant fishery value. Trout spawning habitat in upper reaches and tributaries
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The final schedule that relates to Aquatic Ecosystem Waterbodies within the Waipaoa Catchment is G20 Watercourses in Land Drainage Areas with Ecological Values. These are waterbodies on the Turanga Flats that have been modified but have been specifically scheduled for their ecological values.

G20 Watercourses in land drainage areas with ecological values

Catchment	Location	Fish Species Resident	Spawning areas
Waipaoa	Awapuni Stream (Main Drain)	Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel	Potential Inanga
	Sisterson's Lagoon	Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel	
	Awapuni Stream Main Tributary (Internal Drain)	Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel	
	Karaua Stream	Inanga	Inanga
	Pipiwahakao Stream (Menzie/Webster, Grettins and Pipiwahakao Drains)	Common Bully, Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel, Inanga	Inanga
	Coops Lagoon Drain (link between Wherowhero Lagoon and Orongo Wetland)	Inanga	Potential Inanga
	Te Wherowhero Creek	Common Bully, Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel, Inanga	
Waikanae	Waikanae Creek (Headwaters)	Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel	

5. Significant swimming and recreation areas within the Waipaoa Catchment

As well as important ecological values, the schedules also identify significant swimming and recreation areas in the catchment.

G19 Significant Swimming and Recreation Areas

Catchment	River	Location
Waipaoa	Wharekopae River	Rere Rockslide
		Rere Falls
		Champagne Pools
	Pakowhai Stream	Wherowhero Lagoon
Taruheru	Taruheru River	The length of the river between the Wi Pere Bridge and the confluence with the Waimata River
	Pohatuhahinui Stream	Waihire Waterfall

6. Features required to be identified and protected by the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) requires Council to include a range of requirements around the identification and protection of wetlands, mahinga kai and wāhi tapu sites in our reviewed freshwater planning provisions.

The first requirement is for all wetlands in the region to be identified and mapped. Council has started this process by undertaking a desk-top study using LiDAR¹ data to identify potential and likely wetlands across the region.

The next step will be to undertake more detailed surveys and confirm the size, extent and type of each wetland. The map below shows the results of the desk-top study and where wetlands are potentially located in the catchment.

¹ LiDAR is an acronym for Light Detection and Ranging. LiDAR is fundamentally a distance technology. From an airplane or helicopter, LiDAR systems actively sends light energy to the ground.



Based on the work done to date in addition to identifying and protecting wetlands, it appears valuable to specifically pinpoint mahinga kai (food gathering) and wāhi tapu (sacred) sites in the new Waipaoa Catchment Plan. This is important because there are specific environmental outcomes sought for these.

The heritage provisions of the TRMP already identify the Waikanae Stream (from Lytton Road to the stream mouth) and Taruheru River (from Bright Street to the Turanganui River) as wāhi tapu. Additionally, many wāhi tapu sites are identified across the Turanga Flats near to waterbodies, but these are not linked to the freshwater provisions or placed within any specific catchment or waterbody context.

Currently, there are no mahinga kai sites identified in either the TRMP or the Waipaoa Catchment Plan.

7. Next steps

The Group is tasked with reviewing the scheduled areas outlined in this report and reflecting on:

- Are there any areas not mentioned from the schedules that should be assessed for potential inclusion?
- Should there be specific scheduling for other types of areas connected to freshwater values?

This information will be collated and shared with the wider plan development team who are reviewing the Schedules at the Regional Plan level.