



TAIRĀWHITI

WAIMATĀ-PAKARAE CATCHMENT ADVISORY GROUP

Hui #5 agenda, minutes, and actions

Held at Council Chambers, Gisborne District Council on Tuesday 13 August 2024 at 9:30am

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

Agenda

1. Karakia
2. Housekeeping
3. Previous hui minutes and actions
4. Confirm: Values, Environmental Outcomes
5. Baseline Attribute States, Target Attribute States – Introduction a. Relationship to Environmental Outcomes
6. Explore State of the Environment (SOE) data
7. Wrap up, Close
8. Lunch

Supporting documents

- Memo: Environmental Outcomes and BAS
- Draft minutes from hui 4

Summary of actions

Future Action *Refer to Parked List for summary

Current task

Notes:

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-T19	Provide an update on the development of Land Overlay 3B and the Forestry Plan Change work.	Freshwater team	TBC
WP-T20	Provide an update on Council's plans to manage increasing urban flood risk from rising bed levels in the lower Waimatā.	Freshwater team	24 September 2024
WP-T21	Further discussions with mana whenua to decide on Māori freshwater values and environmental outcomes.	Janic and Ranell	TBC

Minutes

1. Karakia, housekeeping and confirmation of previous minutes

- 1.1. The hui commenced at 9.35am 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.
- 1.3. Members who attended the recent Wainui Community Hui (convened by GDC) provided their reflections. The hui updated residents on key GDC projects that impact on the community. It was well attended, and community feedback includes the need to follow up about next steps and suggestions to enable parents to participate.
- 1.4. Staff outlined the agenda for the session and reminded the group of the National Objectives Framework elements to be covered through this process.
- 1.5. Staff presented high-level diagrams setting out how freshwater Catchment Plans fit within the broader resource management system (refer action WP-T13).
- 1.6. A member who is also on the Transition Working Group raised the link between this catchment planning process and the development of Land Overlay 3B (LO3B).
 - 1.6.1. Staff reminded members of the LO3B work underway (presented at Hui 4), which may require the transition of 16 to 20 per cent of the forestry estate to permanent native forest. There is a regulatory component as well as a non-regulatory component, requiring wide commitment to enable the transition.
 - 1.6.2. Members raised the integral connection between the success of this process and achieving freshwater outcomes.
 - 1.6.3. A member questioned why the Waimatā-Pakarae catchment planning process does not also cover forestry planning, like in the Ūawa catchment. Staff confirmed that the Ūawa catchment planning process is a pilot for exploring both forestry and freshwater, and learnings will be applied to other catchments.

- 1.7. In response to a member's question, staff noted that consultation on the draft Regional Policy Statement (RPS) is expected towards the end of 2024, and the long-term visions developed through catchment planning will be reflected in the RPS.

2. Session 1: Values and Environmental Outcomes

- 2.1. Staff outlined the focus of this session on confirming values and environmental outcomes. It will be an iterative process to evolve these components into the Catchment Plan by the end of the year.
- 2.2. A member noted the commonality between the environmental outcomes for the Urban and Rural FMUs – the distinctions are around the drivers of degradation and tools to achieve outcomes.
- 2.3. Members split into three groups to discuss the Rural FMU, the Urban FMU and Māori freshwater values. Groups reviewed and amended the draft values and environmental outcomes, with feedback collated by staff. These are recorded in **Appendix 1**.

3. Session 2: Baseline Attribute States, Target Attribute States – Introduction and Relationship to Environmental Outcomes

- 3.1. Staff reminded the group of the NPS requirements for setting Baseline Attribute States (BAS) and attribute bands, and recapped the attribute states for this catchment as discussed in Hui 4. The catchment has issues with deposited fine sediment contributing to poor macroinvertebrate states, and with E.coli. Due to discrepancies between pre- and post-2015 data, 2017 has been identified as the BAS date – this has been assessed by a specialist third party.
- 3.2. A member raised a question regarding monitoring systems and cycles, suggesting a maramataka approach be considered taking into account times when activity is higher or lower. Staff encouraged the opportunity to build this into the catchment plan.
- 3.3. Staff noted further work is needed to fully embed mātauranga in this process, noting the role of mana whenua to decide how that should be expressed through values, environmental outcomes and throughout the plan.
- 3.4. Staff reminded members of the NPS-FM requirements for Target Attribute States (TAS).

4. Exploring State of the Environment (SOE) data for Sediment and E.Coli

- 4.1. Staff acknowledged more time is required to discuss baseline and target states for sediment and E.coli. These attributes are proposed as the initial focus as the major issues in this catchment.
- 4.2. Staff outlined the attribute bands and new reference states. Reference states assume a pre-human state, and calibrate expectations about what can be achieved by way of targets. Members raised following points:
 - 4.2.1. From a mana whenua perspective, the target for E.Coli should be the A band.
 - 4.2.2. The effects of mud volcanoes on attribute states should be factored in for Waimatā River and Wainui Stream.
 - 4.2.3. Poor infrastructure is understood to be a driver of poor water quality in this catchment. Staff confirmed the data shows livestock is the source of e.coli in the Hamanatua stream.
- 4.3. Staff will bring updated information on this topic to the next hui for discussion.

5. Wrap up and close

- 5.1. A member requested an update on Council's plans to manage the increasing urban flood risk from rising bed levels in the lower Waimatā.

- 5.2. Staff thanked members for their contributions and noted that the next hui will focus on TAS and moving into action planning, as well as an update on Council's flood mitigation plans and the forestry plan change.
- 5.3. A member noted that further work is required between mana whenua representatives to develop Māori freshwater values and outcomes for the catchment.

Tasks to be actioned

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WP-T19	Provide an update on the development of Land Overlay 3B and the Forestry Plan Change work.	Freshwater team	TBC
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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-T9	Circulate stakeholder survey	10/04/2024	In progress – Team considering a cross-catchment approach to stakeholder surveys
WP-T18	Discuss eDNA results in a future hui.	02/07/2024	TBC
WP-T19	Provide an update on the development of Land Overlay 3B and the Forestry Plan Change work.	13/08/2024	TBC
WP-T21	Further discussions with mana whenua to decide on Māori freshwater values and environmental outcomes.	13/08/2024	TBC

APPENDIX 1: FEEDBACK FROM GROUP EXERCISE ON FRESHWATER VALUES

Rural FMU

General

- Sediment a key challenge in the rural FMU. Nothing holding banks together, limited riparian vege to provide shade and refuge. Riparian component really important.
- Woody debris from forestry activity also a big issue
- E. coli is important. Water needs to be safe so people don't get sick from contact.
- Focus should be on improving sediment and e. coli levels
- There should also be a focus on restoring and improving wetlands to support outcomes

Ecosystem health

- Diverse and abundant = diverse range and abundant populations?
- Riparian margin important part of waterways too.
- Wetlands – need to restore and enhance (policies?)
- Estuaries – more info around Pouawa would be good. sediment effects on the coastal receiving environ means we need to regard that better

Threatened species

- Water quality, flows... – make the same as ecosystem health.
- Recognize the need to provide for bat nesting sites and habitat
- Suggested: “Water quality, quantity, and habitat ~~are suitable for support~~ taonga threatened species and they are able to flourish. Waterways and their riparian margins provide nesting sites and habitat for pekapeka (long-tailed bats).”

Natural form and character

- Willows have a place – focus on Waimata?
- River has to have enough space to move. Expression of natural processes.
- Riparian environment is supported and enhanced where practical

Urban FMU

(Comments also captured in the Excel spreadsheet)

- Wainui Stream mouth has been the subject of many archaeological finds, e.g. obsidian tools

- There are 2 urupa in close proximity to the Wainui Stream mouth
- Proposing additional freshwater value – Natural flows
 - o The unnatural flows in urban streams have been identified as an issue
- Action plan needed for:
 - o Whitebait spawning, migration and habitat
 - o Tuna habitat
 - o Hamanatua waterway
 - o Wainui Stream
 - o GDC-owned reserve at the mouth of Wainui Stream – eroding unnaturally due to the Murphy Road culverts being too small, leading to water backing up into the banks of Wainui upstream of the culverts

Māori Freshwater Values

Note: the breakout session at day of hui had led to a workshop between consultant and mana whenua representatives on the Advisory Group post-Hui 5. Notes from the breakout session and the workshop post-Hui 5 have been recorded below. A second workshop is planned to categorise the values.

Potential Māori Freshwater Value	Aligning National Freshwater Values identified under the National Objectives Framework (NOF)
Navigation	Transport and tauranga waka
Pā/Kainga	
Coastline stabilisation and river mouth dynamics	
Mahi tuawhenua	Mahinga kai – kai is safe to harvest and eat
River fisheries	Taonga species
Kāpata Kai	Fishing
Wai Tai	
Whakapapa/Hononga/Whan aungatanga	
Taonga Tuku Iho	Mahinga kai – Kei te ora te mauri (the mauri of the place is intact)
Water quality	Ecosystem health
Flood mitigation	Flood mitigation / Resilience
Health	Kaitiekitanga
Wellbeing	Wai tapu

Hydrological cycle	Natural form and character
Salinity and salt water intrusion	
Sediment and suspended matter	

Further values identified post-Hui 5

He Taonga Te Wai – He Mana To Te Awa

- Treating wai as a taonga as opposed to a resource
- Legislating around urban streams to ensure they are kept clean
- Making our awa visible (urban and rural)

Whanaungatanga/Whakapapa

- Whanaungatanga to each other
- Whanaungatanga to our taonga species
- Whanaungatanga to our Atua

Utu – Natural consequences

- Premise is the idea of natural consequence for breaking tikanga/kawa within the taiao

Kaitiakitanga

- Responsibility and obligation
- Karakia and reciprocity

Mana Motuhake

- The independence to make long term decisions for the betterment of the awa, its inhabitants, and those who are dependent on its health and wealth both now and well into the future

Wai Tapu

- Spiritual safety when operating in wai tapu
- Awareness of the type of tapu, and consideration for how these places should be treated

Taiao / Maramataka

- Our relationship with our taiao has been monitored, adapted and surveyed for close to a millennium

Karakia – Kawa

- Aligning karakia – kawa with interaction with wai