



Waiapu Catchment Technical Advisory Group

DRAFT Minutes – Hui 2

Held at the Uepohatu Marae, Ruatorea - Wednesday 9 July 2025 at 9:30am

Attendees

Advisory Group members	Agnes Walker, Ario Rewi, Donnette Kupenga, Pia Pohatu, Renee Raroa, Graeme Atkins, Lilian Baldwin, Hilton Collier, Horiata Raihania (arrived at lunchtime)
Project team	Kate Walker, Keriana Wilcox-Taylor, Abi Wiseman, Oliver Vetter, Lois Easton
Apologies	Warwick Olsen

Agenda

1. Welcome & recap
2. Water quality presentation: Current, baseline states & targets
3. Water quality discussion: Priority actions and areas
4. Management areas: Introduction and discussion (not covered due to time)
<i>Lunch</i>
5. Outstanding and scheduled waterbodies - seeking input
6. Values and Environmental Outcomes
7. Next steps

Pre-reading

- **Report 1:** Values and Environmental Outcomes
- **Report 2:** Management Areas
- **Report 3:** State of Environment, Baseline and Target Attributes
- **Report 4:** Outstanding and scheduled waterbodies

Supporting hyperlinks

- Current [Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan](#)

Summary of actions

Notes:

- *Each task is allocated a unique identifier e.g. T2 for ease of reference*

Task ID	Actions	Responsible	Due
WC-T4	Provide recommendations for representative monitoring sites in the Catchment Plan area.	Project team	23 October 2025
WC-T5	Provide more information on the pros/cons of scheduling waterbodies.	Project team	23 October 2025
WC-T6	Ensure appropriate consultation with affected parties regarding scheduling waterbodies.	Project team	TBC
WC-T7	Progress engagement hui with landowners / community.	Project team	TBC

Minutes

1. Welcome & recap

- 1.1. The hui commenced at 9.40am with a karakia. The facilitator outlined housekeeping matters and the agenda for the day.
- 1.2. Members discussed the limitations of the planning system in achieving outcomes, and the role of kaitiaki, mātauranga and education to improve outcomes.
- 1.3. Facilitator presented a recap of feedback from Hui 1. Members discussed freshwater values, noting the need for an interconnected approach that recognises a te ao māori world view and the specific context for māori landowners.

2. State of the Environment Presentation – water quality *[Refer Hui 2 Report 3: State of Environment, Baseline and Target Attributes]*

- 2.1. Consultant provided an overview of the current state of water quality and monitoring gaps across the Waipapu Catchment Area based on Council's monitoring programme *[Refer Report 3]*.
- 2.2. In response to a member's question, the Consultant clarified that 2017 'baseline' data is modelled from multiple years of data.
- 2.3. There was discussion around monitoring sites and results, with key points noted below:
 - the value of indicator species to inform the state of water quality
 - aspirations for locally-led monitoring and capacity building
 - examples of improvements in ecological health given the right conditions
 - objective to restore mauri and tools to support this
 - the need to understand the mechanisms to improve water quality.

3. Breakout Session – monitoring sites

- 3.1. In two groups, members were asked to discuss: Where should we monitor for water quality, and why?

3.2. Key points reported back to the group are summarized below:

- aspiration for education and capacity building for monitoring, with a focus on protecting mātauranga and learning from others
- focus on celebrating success and learning from positive case studies
- restoring connection and inspiring action through positive framing.

4. **Outstanding and Scheduled Waterbodies** [*Refer Report 4: Outstanding and scheduled waterbodies*]

4.1. GDC staff introduced the concept of Outstanding Waterbodies in an RMA context, and key considerations for selecting Outstanding Waterbodies as set out in *Report 4*. Staff invited members to consider potential Outstanding Waterbodies in the catchment area to be evaluated for 'Outstanding' status as part of the wider review of Scheduled waterbodies.

4.2. Members requested further information about the costs and benefits of Outstanding status on different types of land tenure classifications, to inform nominations.

4.3. Staff introduced the concept of Regionally Significant Wetlands, and clarified that reinstated wetlands are not eligible for inclusion as regionally significant wetlands.

4.4. The Group discussed the need to incentivize and recognize past and future wetland preservation and restoration.

4.5. Staff provided an overview of Scheduled Recreational and Swimming Areas, noting the need to update the scheduled sites for the Waiapu Catchment Area. Council will consult with mana whenua on updating the Schedules.

5. **Values and environmental outcomes** [*Refer Report 1: Values and Environmental Outcomes*]

5.1. The Facilitator invited feedback on the draft values and environmental outcomes presented in *Report 1*.

5.2. Members discussed the need to balance environmental outcomes with economic outcomes, and to consider the specific context for whenua māori.

5.3. The Group discussed the need to improve gravel management practices in order to achieve outcomes.

6. **Next steps and close**

6.1. The next steps will include wider engagement with landowners and community, and the team will follow up with members and report back to the Group on timing for Hui.

6.2. The next Waiapu Catchment Technical Advisory Group hui is scheduled for Thursday 21 August 2025.