



Waiapu Catchment Technical Advisory Group

DRAFT Minutes – Hui 3

Held at the Ruatoria Firestation (190 Waiomatatini Road, Ruatoria 4032) on Thursday 23 October at 9:30am

Attendees

Advisory Group members	Agnes Walker, Ario Rewi, Donnette Kupenga, Pia Pohatu, Renee Raroa, Graeme Atkins, Lilian Baldwin, Horiata Raihania
Project team	Keriana Wilcox-Taylor (Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou), Abi Wiseman (Gisborne District Council), Lois Easton (Consultant Planner), Kate Walker (Consultant Planner)
Apologies	Warwick Olsen, Hilton Collier

Agenda

1. Welcome & recap
2. Gravel Management in the Waiapu Catchment - presentation
3. Gravel Management - break out groups
<i>Lunch</i>
4. Water allocation in the Waiapu – presentation
5. Water allocation in the Waiapu – break out groups
6. Next steps

Pre-reading

- **Report 1:** Gravel Management in the Waiapu Catchment
 - Attachment: Summary of Ecological Values and Natural Character Assessment (SLR, 2015)
- **Report 2:** Water quantity management in the Waiapu Catchment
- **Hui 2 Report 2:** Management Zones

Supporting hyperlinks

- Current [Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan](#)

Summary of actions

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

Task ID	Actions	Responsible	Due
WC-T8	Send invitation and information for Waiapu Koka Huhua Field Trip to Group.	Keriana	End of October

Minutes

1. Welcome & recap

- 1.1. The hui commenced at 9.30am with a karakia. The facilitator outlined housekeeping matters and the agenda for the day.
- 1.2. Staff recapped work covered to date, and updated the group on Government's "Plan Stop" policy. Council is considering the best way forward, and will keep the Group updated on implications for this work. The input of the Advisory Group remains important and will continue to guide Council's direction.

2. Gravel management presentation and discussion [Refer Hui 3 – Report 1: Gravel Management in the Waiapu Catchment]

- 2.1. Consultant set out the context for Gravel Management in the Waiapu Catchment, and the proposed improvements to the region-wide approach as detailed in the report provided.
- 2.2. Discussion points raised by members include:
 - Monitoring and compliance – potential role of community monitoring, improvements in monitoring technology and compliance methods to better understand extracted volumes and demand.
 - Volumes – importance of understanding gravel volumes and demand.
 - Preventing aggradation at the source.
 - Royalties and levies – staff clarified that Council does not receive royalties for gravel extracted.
 - Reciprocity (restoring mana/mauri) and whakapapa as guiding principles.
 - Role of innovation in addressing challenges.
 - Language and framing – moving away from extractive language.
 - Education and knowledge sharing on best practice.
 - Support for presenting the proposed improved approach to decision makers.
- 2.3. Staff presented an overview of key findings from a recent ecological and natural character assessment, including recommendations for sites where gravel extraction should be avoided and sites that may be suitable for new extraction.
- 2.4. Consultant introduced a Cultural Values Assessment, which is being developed to inform the gravel management plan.

3. Gravel management – break out session

3.1. In two groups, members discussed the following focus questions:

- Do you have feedback on the proposed approach for gravel management?
- Are there issues/impacts from gravel management that we have missed?
- Are the draft objectives for the gravel management plan appropriate? What is missing or should be changed?

3.2. Feedback from both groups is summarized in **Appendix 1**.

The group shared lunch at 12.40pm.

4. Managing water takes in the Waiapu Catchment – presentation and discussion [Refer Hui 3 – Report 2: Water quantity management in the Waiapu Catchment]

4.1. Staff introduced the topic of managing water takes in the Waiapu catchment. The presentation provided an overview of current water use in the catchment and the proposed region-wide approach to improving management. Staff are proposing to set minimum flows based on habitat availability, and considering options to introduce a 'mana whenua allocation'.

4.2. Discussion points raised by members included support for prioritisation of community drinking water; consideration of the role of nature-based water storage solutions; and improving community access to information about water takes.

5. Water allocation – break out discussions

5.1. In two groups, members discussed the following focus questions:

- What are appropriate cultural purposes for any cultural water allocation in the Waiapu catchment?
- Are there specific taonga species we should be setting minimum flows in rivers for?
- Are there particular water uses that should be given priority from the Waiapu Aquifer?

5.2. Feedback from both groups is summarized in **Appendix 1**.

6. Next steps and close

6.1. Staff thanked members for their input and outlined next steps, including science work and a Waiapu Koka Huhua field trip scheduled for November. Members raised that it would be appropriate for Governance-level attendance.

6.2. The next Waiapu Catchment Technical Advisory Group hui is scheduled for Thursday 20 November 2025 and will focus on action planning and monitoring.

6.3. Staff proposed an additional Advisory Group to be scheduled in early 2026 to report back on technical work and next steps.

6.4. The hui closed with a karakia.

Appendix 1 – Summary of feedback from break-out group discussions

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Gravel management

Feedback on the proposed approach to Gravel Management

- Education, connection, visibility and knowledge-sharing is key – for Council planners, extractors and local communities. Requires resourcing and expertise.
- Language should be taiao/awa-centred, rather than extractive.
- Localised reciprocity, whakapapa and kaitiakitanga as guiding principles.
- Incentives to make consents easier and lower-cost in areas that makes sense.
- Balance of not making it too hard – ahi kaa must be sustained.
- Te Mana o Te Wai is a Ngati Porou / Tairāwhiti framework and should be central.
- Local narratives should shape gravel management plans and zones.
- Require demonstration of demand, and prioritise some uses over others in line with values. Ahi kaa allocation, local roads.
- Existing operators should not get priority.
- Protect important ecological areas including plants.
- Define mauri indicators through the plan e.g. return of taonga species, water clarity, riverbank stability.
- Tikanga and cultural values are central.
- Innovations to address challenges should be resourced and enabled by the framework.
- Do not divert the issues elsewhere.

Are the draft Gravel Management objectives appropriate? What's missing or should change?

- Centering gravel management around the health and well-being of rivers first, before other uses, should not be framed as a 'cultural' objective.
- First objective should focus on the awa rather than people / property.
- Include reciprocity and restoration.
- Taiao/awa-centred language (rather than extractive).
- Define "mana whenua" to include Ngati Porou landowners, hapu, marae.
- Acknowledge whakapapa and rivers as ancestral beings.

What impacts or issues from Gravel Management have we missed?

- Wider engagement is needed to understand on-the-ground impacts and issues.
- Weed and pest control.
- Air quality, health impacts.
- Loss of swimming holes.
- Changed direction of river and flow.

Water allocation

What are appropriate cultural purposes for any cultural water allocation?

- Mahinga kai
- Whenua māori development – for local / circular production
- Drinking water – within catchment, or within a rahui
- Community tap
- Storage
- Native nursery – to be planted in the catchment
- Mara kai - local kai production to support kai sovereignty
- Schools
- Marae and papakainga use
- Firefighting water
- Allocate % to tiers/categories within cultural allocation
- Cultural allocation should stay within respective takiwa
- Mana whenua / ahi kaa role in decision making
- Reciprocation % of take to the environment or community
- Koha to ahi kaa from commercial uses
- Criteria must be tight
- MALF not sufficient to provide for values. Mātauranga and Cultural Health Assessments should inform minimum flows and allocation

Are there specific taonga species that we should be setting minimum flows for?

- Both groups recommend setting minimum flows for the most flow-demanding taonga species present
- Taonga species include: Kokopu, Whio, Banded dotterels, Koura, Torea, Tuna (Eels), Inanga, Kanae, Lamprey, Karairai (at Waiapu mouth), Watercress, Wetland functions, Koaro
- Trout are undesirable

Are there particular water uses that should be given priority from the Waiapu Aquifer?

- Aquifer
 - Drinking water only – Domestic & community
 - Papakainga, marae
 - No commercial development, no roads, no water bottling
 - Commercial – drinking water only
- River
 - Maintaining river flow (ecosystem health)
 - Food production and nurseries with sustainability measures / efficiency
 - Firefighting (permitted take)
- Springs
 - Domestic use, papakainga, marae
 - Commercial – drinking water only. No roading.
- Water storage
 - Capture water in high flow rather than diverting streams
 - Extra tanks for papakainga
 - Fire dams for forestry