



Waimatā - Pakarae Catchment Plan

ADVISORY GROUP

Hui #7 agenda, minutes, and actions

Held at Council Chambers, Gisborne District Council on Tuesday 5 November 2024 at 9:30am

Advisory Group members present	Stan Pardoe, Colin Kerlake, Jennie Hindmarsh, Sarah Williams, Tash Irwin, Laura Watson, Maraea Hinemoa Aupouri, Tania Swift, Matire Kupenga-Wanoa
Council	Janic Slupski, Ariel Yann le Chew, Abi Wiseman, Summer Agnew, Divesh Mistry, Bridget Bosworth Wolfgang Kanz, Ranell Nikora
Apologies	Stephanie Gardner

Agenda

1. Karakia, housekeeping 2. Previous hui minutes and actions 3. Legislative update	9:30AM
4. Target Attribute States 5. Action Plans 6. Water quantity, hydrology 101 7. Outstanding and scheduled waterbodies	9:45
8. Wrap up, Close	11:25
9. Lunch	11:30AM

Supporting documents

- Memo: State of Environment – Baseline and Target Attribute States
- Memo: Flow setting
- Memo: Scheduled waterbodies
- Draft minutes from hui 6

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-T23	Provide the Group with an updated hui schedule for 2025 via email	Freshwater team	10 December 2024
WP-T24	Update the Group on Councils plans for stakeholder surveys and wider community engagement and interaction with this Group	Freshwater team	10 December 2024

Minutes

1. Karakia and housekeeping

- 1.1. The hui commenced at 9.40am with an opening karakia.
- 1.2. A member introduced Matire Kupenga-Wanoa, Co-chair of the Taiao subcommittee for Whangara Farms, who will be joining the group going forward.
- 1.3. Council staff outlined the agenda for the hui and housekeeping matters.

2. Legislative update

- 2.1. Staff updated members on Government's recent change to the Resource Management Amendment Bill:
 - The change stops Councils from notifying freshwater plans until a new National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) is developed, or 31 December 2025 – whichever comes first.
 - The implications for the catchment planning process are minor, as notification of freshwater provisions is planned for 2026.
 - It is important to continue the conversations at a local level about Te Mana o Te Wai and collective commitments to the whenua, the wai and each other.
 - Staff will keep abreast of Government updates on the next iteration of the NPS-FM, which are expected to align to earlier versions of the NPS-FM.

3. Confirmation of previous minutes

- 3.1. Minutes for Hui 6 were taken as read and accepted as an accurate reflection.

4. Target Attribute States

- 4.1. Staff presented on Target Attribute States, covering key points set out in the memo **State of Environment – Baseline and Target Attribute States** regarding:
 - key provisions for Target Attribute States (TAS) in the NPS-FM
 - proposed approach for setting Target Attribute States (TAS), and
 - a short overview of baseline and reference states and trends, noting data limitations and encouraging a focus on what we can do.
- 4.2. Members were encouraged to consider the proposed TAS set out in the memo, and to consider if the group wishes to include additional attributes for values such as natural form and character, mahinga kai and other māori freshwater values.

4.3. Staff will keep the Group informed of work underway with an Expert Panel on Water Quantity, which will inform what can be achieved in this catchment.

5. Action Plans

5.1. Staff introduced Action Plans, a non-regulatory tool to achieve targets. The presentation noted:

- Action Plans are required for Fish, Macroinvertebrates, Deposited Fine Sediment, Dissolved Oxygen, Dissolved Reactive Phosphorus, Ecosystem Metabolism and E. Coli (Primary Contact Sites).
- A variety of actions can be implemented to improve outcomes, as set out in Table 1 in *Memorandum: Assessment of potential for modelling an extended set of E.coli mitigation measures for Horizons and Taranaki regions* (NIWA, AgResearch 2024).
- The group needs to consider what actions are going to be most effective in this catchment, with a focus on pragmatic actions that can be implemented (for example, fencing is often not a practical solution).
- Examples of the issues, values and actions in the Urban and Rural Freshwater Management Units.

5.2. Staff updated the group on the Waimatā Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) Feasibility Study: Council has received tenders for the development of a spatial tool to identify potential nature-based solutions and their effects in the catchment. Ideally this will be transferable to other catchments.

5.3. Staff noted a parallel project underway to identify mana whenua sites of significance and enable appropriate protections. This will align with the NbS model to avoid solutions that may harm or degrade sites of cultural significance.

5.4. There was some discussion around nature-based solutions and land-use transition, with members raising the following points:

- Landowners and mana whenua lack the tools (business cases, models, feasibility studies) to inform appropriate land-use.
 - Landowners in the Waimatā catchment are focused on the outcome of the Transition Advisory Group, which will ideally align with the NbS model to inform land-use options at the property level.
 - Whangara Farms have identified significant sites and mitigations in a te ao māori context. Significant work is planned and signals a paradigm shift in land use.
 - Staff noted the development of a tool to identify the costs and benefits of land use interventions in the Te Arai catchment.
 - The focus should be on education/information sharing, pilots and examples through catchment groups to enable transition planning.
- The region is in transition, and cross-catchment buy-in is important to motivate action particularly given the constrained funding environment.
 - A robust action plan with buy-in from mana whenua will open funding options, including from mana whenua. Aggregating landowners plans into a cohesive catchment plan may attract investment.
- Encouraging the use of mātauranga and historical knowledge.
 - "King's Farm Wetland" should be reverted to its original name.

- Understanding the drivers of issues is important to enable targeted improvements (e.g., nutrient tracing). Determining causality can be difficult.
 - Council should focus on ensuring compliance with consent conditions.
- 5.5. Members discussed the opportunity for more integrated Council planning and consenting processes, and the need to ensure development does not occur where it should not (particularly on wetlands). Staff clarified that Council's Future Development Strategy does not identify further expansion into wetland areas.
- 5.6. In response to a member's question about stormwater works in Tamarau, staff clarified that the work aims to prevent wastewater overflows from going into Wainui Stream and will not increase volumes into that stream.
- 5.7. A member raised interest in the progress of the Fast Track Approvals Bill and how this might interact with the Public Works Act.

6. Hydrology 101

- 6.1. Council's Environmental Monitoring Team presented an introduction to Council's hydrology work, covering:
- The scope of Council's water level and flow monitoring programme and the need for ongoing regular quality assurance of data.
 - The fundamental concept of a rating curve and how these are developed, noting that rating curves shift when channel form changes.
 - The purpose and calculation of Mean Annual Low Flows (MALF), Critical Low Flows and Cease to Take Flows.
 - Council does not have the resources to monitor every river, and monitoring sites must be linked to specific objectives for data collection.
 - In response to a member's question about how rating change information is shared with communities, staff clarified that the information is available on the GDC website and flow data is continuously checked and updated.
 - Staff welcomed members to submit data requests to GDC for specific information, for example regarding rating curves and changes in channel form.

7. Outstanding and scheduled waterbodies

- 7.1. This agenda item was not discussed due to time constraints and will be covered in the next Hui.

8. Wrap up and close

- 8.1. Staff thanked members for their contributions and noted that staff will start to develop parts of the Catchment Plan for members to consider.
- 8.2. Staff will confirm forward plans for this group via email ahead of the next Hui scheduled for December, as well as next steps for stakeholder and community engagement.
- 8.3. The hui closed with a karakia and shared lunch.

Tasks to be actioned

Task ID	Actions	Responsible	Due
WP-T23	Provide the Group with an updated hui schedule for 2025 via email	Freshwater team	10 December 2024

WP-T24	Update the Group on Councils plans for stakeholder surveys and wider community engagement and interaction with this Group	Freshwater team	10 December 2024
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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