



## Waiapu Catchment Technical Advisory Group

### DRAFT Minutes – Hui 4

**Ruatoria Firestation (190 Waiomatatini Road, Ruatoria 4032)**

**Thursday 20 November at 9:30am**

#### Attendees

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

#### Agenda

Welcome & recap

Action planning - presentation

Action planning – break out groups

*Lunch*

Monitoring

Scheduled waterbodies

Next steps

#### Pre-reading

- **Report 1:** Developing Targets and an Action Plan for Ngā Wai o Waiapu
- **Report 2:** Monitoring Sites and Attributes for Ngā Wai o Waiapu
- **Report 3:** Outstanding and Scheduled Waterbodies – Implications of Schedules

#### 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
	No actions recorded.		

## 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 in the last hui, with a focus on water and gravel allocation – and feedback from the Group on the importance of language. The focus for this hui is on action planning and monitoring progress
- 1.3. There was discussion around the role of the catchment plan and regulation, noting
  - the catchment plan is one tool to support the outcomes and vision for the river.
  - rules can stop things from getting worse, but not really better.
  - while Plan Stop is in place, this mahi will inform next steps under the new resource management regime.

### 2. Action Planning – presentation [Refer Report 1: Developing Targets and an Action Plan for Ngā Wai o Waiapu]

- 2.1. Staff introduced the topic of action planning and set out where action is required to support the outcomes developed by the Group. Members raised the following points:
  - impact of forestry harvest and infrastructure development on streams and inanga spawning areas
  - pathways to improve e.coli and examples in other catchments
  - importance of water sovereignty, particularly during summer
  - pest control – funding can be found if landowners are engaged
  - collective knowledge is more powerful than single solutions.

### 3. Action Planning – break out group sessions

- 3.1. In two groups, members were asked to consider what actions they want to see to improve the environment over the next 5 to 10 years. Members used post-it notes to rate the actions for their 'Ease of implementation' and 'Transformative effect'. Feedback from both groups is summarized in **Appendix 1**.

The group shared lunch at 12.00pm.

### 4. Action Planning (cont.)

- 4.1. The Group were asked to consider if there are areas that should be higher priority over others for action planning. Discussion points raised by members included:
  - showcase positive case study areas – across coastal, flats and hill country.
  - work with the willing and take a targeted approach.

### 5. Monitoring Sites and Attributes – Presentation [Refer Report 2: Monitoring Sites and Attributes for Ngā Wai o Waiapu]

- 5.1. Staff introduced the topic of monitoring, setting out what Council currently monitors and key gaps.

## **6. Monitoring Cultural Attributes – break out group discussions**

- 6.1. In two groups, members were asked to consider appropriate attributes for measuring river health. Members provided detailed written feedback on the draft Attributes provided. Key themes are summarized below:
  - Monitor things like access (with regards to wahi tapu and swimming), dust, transfer of knowledge, and track land reversion over time.
  - Aim for early engagement and resource participation in decision making.
  - Broaden attributes to consider questions like 'Can you see the bottom? What are you standing on? Is the water flowing or stagnant?'
  - Consider the Mauri Compass for cultural values monitoring.
  - Recognise landowners as ahi kaa.
  - Many of these values/attributes are not 'māori', they are ecosystem values/attributes.
  - Understand which species are / should be present – this varies across the area.

## **7. Scheduled waterbodies [Not covered due to time]**

## **8. Next steps and close**

- 8.1. Staff thanked members for their input and outlined next steps including technical work. The Group will reconvene in early 2026.
- 8.2. The hui closed with a karakia.

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

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### **Easier & Higher Impact**

- Riparian buffer maintenance (e.g., weed control, planting small areas).
- Stock exclusion from waterways (simple fencing in targeted spots).
- Targeted sediment traps in high-risk zones.
- Quick fixes for erosion hotspots.

### **Harder & Higher Impact**

- Large-scale interventions like riparian planting, wetland restoration, and stock exclusion fencing.
- Catchment-wide sediment control and nutrient management plans.
- Infrastructure upgrades (e.g., culverts, bridges) to improve water flow and fish passage.
- Policy changes requiring significant coordination and funding.

### **Easier & Lower Impact**

- Public awareness campaigns (signage, social media).
- Volunteer clean-up days.
- Small-scale planting projects.
- Basic water testing by community groups.

### **Harder & Lower Impact**

- Complex compliance monitoring and data collection systems.
- Long-term education programs for landowners.
- Changing land-use practices (e.g., converting pasture to forest).
- Community-wide agreements on water allocation.