



Waimatā - Pakarae Catchment Plan

ADVISORY GROUP

Hui #8 agenda, minutes, and actions

Held at Mahutonga Room, Gisborne Public Library, on Tuesday 10 December 2024 at 9:30am

Advisory Group members present	Stan Pardoe, Colin Kerslake, Jennie Hindmarsh, Sarah Williams, Laura Watson, Tania Swift, Matire Kupenga-Wanoa, Stephanie Gardner, Tash Irwin (arrived 9.50am), Maraea Hinemoa Aupouri (arrived 10.20am)
Council	Janic Slupski, Ariel Yann le Chew, Abi Wiseman, Summer Agnew, Oliver Vetter Wolfgang Kanz, Ranell Nikora
Apologies	

Agenda

1. Karakia, housekeeping
2. Previous hui minutes and actions
3. Outstanding and scheduled waterbodies
4. Water Quantity
5. Management of outcomes and actions
6. Wrap up, Close
7. Lunch

Supporting documents

- **Memo:** Attributes and Actions
- **Hui 7 Memo:** Scheduled waterbodies
- **Hui 7 Memo:** Flow setting

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-T25	Email the Group with questions regarding scheduled waterbodies and wetlands	Freshwater team	20 December 2024
WP-T26	Report back to the group regarding scope of phase two funding for Woody Debris project	Freshwater team	25 February 2025
WP-T27	Provide feedback on the questions distributed, and on the table of attributes and actions	Members	31 January 2025
WP-T28	Confirm via email the date for the next Hui as 25 February 2025	Freshwater team	20 December 2024

Minutes

1. Karakia and housekeeping

- 1.1. The hui commenced at 9.30am with an opening karakia.
- 1.2. Council staff outlined the agenda for the hui and housekeeping matters.

2. Outstanding and scheduled waterbodies [Refer Hui 7 Memo: Scheduled waterbodies]

Outstanding waterbodies

- 2.1. Staff introduced the topic of outstanding and scheduled waterbodies.
- 2.2. Staff set out the proposed methodology for identifying outstanding waterbodies and sought input on any sites/waterbodies that should be put forward for evaluation as an outstanding waterbody. Members raised the following points:
 - 2.2.1. Interest in evaluating the Rototahi waterbody as an Outstanding Waterbody, noting its high cultural and historical significance.
 - 2.2.2. Questioned if waterbodies should be made outstanding for their impacts on the receiving environment.
 - 2.2.3. Trade-offs exist between protection of waterbodies and commercial incentives for modification.
- 2.3. Staff noted that all waterbodies must be protected and enhanced. Outstanding waterbodies are used to protect currently outstanding values, rather than restoration of waterbodies that may have previously had 'Outstanding' values.

Wetlands

- 2.4. Staff presented on the NPS-FM requirements for Wetland mapping, monitoring and response. Staff introduced Council's project underway to identify wetlands across the region in line with NPS-FM requirements.
- 2.5. In response to a member's question, staff noted work underway to clarify what is defined as "coastal" wetlands.

- 2.6. The next step through early 2025 is conducting Oblique Aerial Imagery and have a wetland ecologist assess vegetation imagery in line with guidance from Manaki Whenua Landcare Research to identify wetlands that meet the NPS-FM definition. The Waimata is the priority catchment for this work.
- 2.7. Council will undertake appropriate consultation with mana whenua and landowners before any on-the-ground assessments and before releasing a wetland inventory publicly. There is scope for mana whenua to work alongside a wetland ecologist to undertake ground-truthing. Council will communicate with the Advisory Group as this work progresses.
- 2.8. There was discussion around:
 - 2.8.1. the need for timely delivery of this work to ensure further wetlands are not lost
 - 2.8.2. the need to also focusing on restoration efforts, while acknowledging the RMA is a framework focused on protection rather than restoration.
- 2.9. Staff sought input on if there are any further wetlands not currently mentioned that should be assessed for regional significance. Feedback will be sought via email.

Aquatic Ecosystem Waterbodies

- 2.10. Staff set out current aquatic ecosystem waterbodies (Schedule G15 of the TRMP), noting Council will use eDNA data to inform an update of this Schedule.
- 2.11. There was some discussion around identification of inanga spawning sites, noting work underway to map saltwater wedges across the region.

Significant Recreation Areas

- 2.12. Staff outlined scheduled recreation areas and sought input from the group on any changes. Members raised the following points:
 - 2.12.1. Cultural sensitivities regarding Hamanatua Stream, where tangata whenua bathed the dead.
 - 2.12.2. Cultural sensitivities regarding Turihaua River.
 - 2.12.3. Multiple views and stories exist regarding cultural sensitivities associated with recreational sites.
 - 2.12.4. Focus should be on current (rather than historical) swimming places.
- 2.13. Staff clarified that scheduled waterbodies will be included in the TRMP and therefore reviewed every 5-10 years.

3. Water Quantity [Refer Hui 7 Memo: Flow setting]

- 3.1. Staff introduced the topic of Water Quantity and provided an overview of existing consents in the catchment area. The following points were raised:
 - 3.1.1. Consent planners take a conservative approach to granting water takes in river catchments where the MALF is unknown.
 - 3.1.2. Actual takes are lower than consented takes in this catchment. Water allocation is not a significant issue in this catchment.
 - 3.1.3. Early results from aquifer mapping indicate no significant underground water resource.
- 3.2. Staff set out current water quantity management provisions in the TRMP and findings from the recent Regional Water Assessment.

- 3.3. Staff welcomed thoughts regarding how freshwater should be prioritised, with the following feedback discussed:
- 3.3.1. Importance of setting environmental bottom lines, and considering how we reduce the impact of these (e.g. through harvesting water during high flows / rain).
 - 3.3.2. Importance of linking prioritisation to values discussion.
4. **Management of outcomes and actions** [Refer Hui 8 memo: Attributes and Actions]
- 4.1. Staff introduced the topic of setting attributes and actions, and overarching thoughts regarding the importance of collaboration (including formation of catchment groups), support for mana whenua and community groups including through information, and support for nature-based approaches to freshwater management.
 - 4.2. There was discussion around the distinction between the Urban and Rural FMUs, noting that the distinction will be considered and clarified as the plan develops.
 - 4.3. Staff noted the expectation that under proposed changes, there is unlikely to be a significant amount of woody debris or it will become an RMA enforcement matter.
 - 4.4. A member noted concern with the scope of funding for the Woody Debris Project not including woody debris within forest areas, noting significant and increased risk to residents of the Waimatā.
 - 4.5. Staff encouraged members to review the table provided with a particular focus on the management options / actions to achieve the values identified and identify gaps.
5. **Wrap up and close**
- 5.1. Staff thanked members for their contributions and noted that staff will develop the draft Catchment Plan for members to consider at the next hui on 25 February 2025.
 - 5.2. Minutes for Hui 7 were taken as read and accepted as an accurate reflection.
 - 5.3. The hui closed with a karakia and shared lunch at 11.50am.

Tasks to be actioned

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WP-T27	Members to provide feedback on the questions to be distributed, and the table of attributes and actions	Members	31 January 2025

WP-T28	Confirm via email the date for the next Hui as 25 February 2025	Freshwater team	19 December
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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	Team considering a cross-catchment approach to stakeholder surveys for 2025
WP-T18	Discuss eDNA results in a future hui.	02/07/2024	Actioned 10 December 2024
WP-T19	Provide an update on the development of Land Overlay 3B and the Forestry Plan Change work.	13/08/2024	To be actioned at 25 February 2025 hui
WP-T21	Further discussions with mana whenua to decide on Māori freshwater values and environmental outcomes.	13/08/2024	TBC - ongoing