



Ūawa Catchment Working Group

Meeting notes and actions

Hui 6 – 12 November 2024

Held at Tolaga Bay Fire Station at 09:30 AM

Chair	Pat Seymour
Working Group members present	Kel Blackman, Richard Powell, Andre Van Haandel, Phil Hope, Desmond McGrannachan, Horiata Raihania
GDC Staff and consultants	Janic Slupski, Ariel Yann le Chew Lois Easton
Apologies	Victor Walker, Mere Tamanui, Shaun Mitchel, Tim Jefferd, Karauria Ratapu, Tiahn Hooper

Agenda

1. Karakia and housekeeping • Apologies, housekeeping • Previous minutes and actions	9:30AM
2. Runsheet • Legislative update – NPSFM • Transition Advisory Group (TAG) • Outstanding and Scheduled Waterbodies • Action Plans	9:40AM
3. Wrap up • Summary of session • Next steps • Thoughts, questions	11:50AM
Lunch	12:00PM

Supporting documentation

- Draft Hui 5 Official minutes
- Briefing paper: Transition Advisory Group (TAG)

Minutes

Welcome and housekeeping

1. The hui commenced with a karakia at 9:32 AM. The Chair welcomed the Group and noted apologies.
2. The Chair led the discussion on the draft Hui 5 minutes. The minutes were taken as read and accepted as true reflection.
3. The Group discussed various items in the draft Hui 5 minutes:

- 3.1. **Item 3.2: Transition Advisory Group (TAG)** – A member sought clarification on the relationship between TAG and this Group. The member was keen to know implication of how TAG's decision will affect the work done through this Group (and vice versa). Staff later addressed this member's question through the presentation and the accompanying briefing paper.
- 3.2. **Item 9.3: working with other Council teams** – This was raised in conjunction with the above item. The Chair asked the Group and staff that, as a matter to be kept in mind throughout the catchment planning process, to consider how the work done in this Group intersects with work done in other catchment or advisory groups – especially when all catchment plans ultimately feed into the overall TRMP.

Session

Legislative update – Resource Management Amendment Bill, NESCF

4. Staff updated the Group on the Government's recent change to the Resource Management Amendment Bill:
 - 4.1. The change stops councils from notifying freshwater plans until a new NPSFM is developed, or 31 December 2025 – whichever comes first.
 - 4.2. The implications for the catchment planning process are minor, as notification of freshwater provisions is planned for 2026.
 - 4.3. It is more important to continue conversations with tangata whenua about Te Mana o Te Wai and the collective commitments to the whenua, the wai and each other.
5. Staff recapped the update shared at an earlier hui on the proposed changes to be made to the NESCF. Staff noted that Council will need to work with MPI to ensure the best way forward for the region. Staff will update the Group at the next hui when the Government provides more clarity on the amendments.

Transition Advisory Group (TAG)

6. Staff recapped the role of the TAG, where the Group aims to develop a Transition Guide. The Guide includes land use scenarios on land identified as Land Overlay 3B and pathways to transition into permanent vegetation cover.
7. A subgroup of the TAG is currently exploring funding avenues and mechanisms for this transition, which includes ETS, biodiversity credits and potentially cross-sector funding initiatives.
8. Staff recapped that TAG is part of the non-regulatory pathway that Council is undertaking, alongside with the catchment planning process (i.e. the regulatory pathway) with this Group and the wider TRMP review, to achieve a better environmental outcome for the region.

Outstanding and Scheduled Waterbodies

9. Staff outlined that the current TRMP includes the following list of schedules:
 - 9.1. Regionally outstanding waterbodies
 - 9.2. Regionally significant wetlands
 - 9.3. Aquatic ecosystem waterbodies
 - 9.4. Habitats of threatened indigenous species
 - 9.5. Whitebait/Inanga spawning sites

- 9.6. Important habitats of trout
 - 9.7. Significant swimming sites.
10. Key discussion points from the Group are recorded in **Appendix 1**.
11. Staff will look to organise a sub-group hui (before Hui 7) for further discussion on outstanding and scheduled waterbodies. Additionally staff will schedule a field visit to several of the mentioned sites.

Action plans

12. Staff recapped the 3 main tools to achieve the set targets and aspirations of the catchment: region-wide rules, catchment-specific rules and action plans.
13. Staff commented that action plans can include both regulatory and non-regulatory actions, but we must be able to demonstrate that the proposed actions are likely to achieve the water quality targets.
14. The Group discussed the action plans for the following areas:
- 14.1. All areas/General.
 - 14.2. Settlements.
 - 14.3. Forestry – non-LO3B land that will continue with forestry activities.
 - 14.4. Farming and rural communities.
15. Staff asked that members working in the forestry sector to discuss actions that are more tailored to the terrain that forestry operates within the catchment.
16. Staff also asked members living in Tolaga Bay to consider actions tailored to the Tolaga Bay community.

Closing, next steps

17. For the next hui, staff will provide an updated briefing paper on **Long Term Vision, Values and Environmental Outcomes**. Staff will look to continue discussions on action plans.
18. The hui closed at 12:32 PM with a karakia and a shared lunch. Hui 7 is scheduled for 11 December 2024.

Appendix 1: Outstanding and Scheduled Waterbodies

Schedule-specific feedback

Schedules	Feedback
Regionally outstanding waterbodies	<p>Sites to be added for evaluation against criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kaitawa Estuary - Hikuwai River - Mangakuku Stream at the end of Mangaheia Road (start of Mangaheia Valley) - Mangaheia River
Whitebait spawning sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council staff need to seek consent from iwi/hapū/whanau before releasing making public potential sensitive cultural information
Important habitats of trout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not in Ūawa, but up the coast
Recreational and Significant swimming sites	<p>(full list in briefing paper ‘Outstanding and Scheduled Waterbodies’)</p> <p>Sites to be added to list post-investigation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mangahauini River at Mangahauini Dam – <i>the dam’s been backfilled, not a swimming hole at the moment</i> 2. Boat ramp at the Ūawa Parade 3. The corner around the Ūawa Parade – <i>known jet ski area</i> 4. Bridge at Mangatuna – <i>currently no access to swimming hole</i> 5. Mangatokerau Road – <i>currently no access to swimming hole</i> 6. Te Rawheoro marae 7. Kaiaua Stream 8. Kopuni Stream 9. Waiokahu Stream 10. Hikuwai River off at Hikuwai Road 11. Waima Stream 12. Waitakeo Stream – <i>currently misspelled as Waitekeo Stream in the paper</i>
Culturally significant sites	<p>Sites of cultural significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mangakino Stream along Mangatokerau Gorge – <i>where the stream comes out at Kaiaua Bay.</i> - The waterfall coming down from Cook’s Cove (looking up from the end of the walkway) - Te Raikeri tu Paia

General feedback

- There were concerns around making public the location of sensitive sites, even if making the information public is for the purpose of protecting those sites by regulating activities close to or on those sites.
 - o Staff suggested exploring the idea of silent files – where a general area is identified within which is a site noted of significance. This is the approach used for waahi tapu sites.
- There were concerns that when public access is made available to known mahinga kai sites, that these sites will be exploited (often by those not from the catchment) leading to depletion of the species