

## 10.7. DECISION Reports Planning and Development/Support Services



21-108

**Title:** 21-108 Disbanding the Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Scientific Trial Sub-Committee

**Section:** Strategy

**Prepared by:** Ben Bunting - Strategic Planning Manager

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday 26 May 2021

---

Legal: No

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

---

### Report to OPERATIONS Committee for decision

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to disband the Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Trial Sub-Committee.

#### SUMMARY

The Council-led MAR scientific trial is completed. Consequently, the MAR Trial Sub-Committee can be disbanded, subject to the decision of the Operations Committee.

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

**That the Operations Committee:**

- 1. Confirms the disbanding of the Managed Aquifer Recharge Trial Sub-Committee.**

*Authorised by:*

**Joanna Noble - Chief of Strategy & Science**

---

**Keywords:** MAR, managed aquifer recharge, Makauri Aquifer

## BACKGROUND

1. The Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Trial Sub-Committee was established in February 2020 by decision of Operations Committee ([Report 20-20](#)) to act in an advisory capacity in relation to the MAR Scientific Trial, a Council-led Major Project at that time.
2. The MAR Sub-Committee comprises four councillors, Council project staff, Trust Tairāwhiti, selected stakeholders and iwi representatives.
3. The MAR Sub-Committee convened once, on 1 October 2020, following completion of the aquifer recharge period run over the winter of 2020. The minutes of that meeting reflect it being an information session with no decisions sought. Minutes were circulated on 23 October 2020 and subsequent actions to distribute information (such as water quality reports) have been completed. The minutes do not indicate scheduling of a further meeting.
4. The MAR Scientific Trial was completed in February 2021 with the receipt of a Council-commissioned independent report which assessed the overall trial.
5. The independent report was distributed to Councillors, the sub-committee, stakeholders and iwi and is published on the MAR-dedicated page on Council's website at: [GDC-MAR-Independent-Review-2021-.pdf](#)
6. The MAR Scientific Trial findings will be used by Council to inform its groundwater modelling, water security and catchment planning work.

## DISCUSSION and OPTIONS

7. With the MAR scientific trial completed, the MAR Trial Sub-Committee can be disbanded. The sub-committee has no outstanding actions.
8. Disbanding the MAR Trial Sub-Committee requires a decision from the Operations Committee as it established the sub-committee.
9. Communications have already been sent to the MAR Trial Sub-Committee advising that a decision to disband was imminent. Following the decision, follow-up communications will be sent to the MAR Trial Sub-Committee, iwi and to those wider stakeholders identified and engaged through the scientific trial project.
10. Water security and resilience is fundamental to the economic future and productivity of the Poverty Bay Flats and will be a focus area for Council over the next two years – particularly as staff continue to progress implementing the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM). This includes reviewing and updating the Waipaoa Catchment Plan and our regional freshwater planning provisions for notification by the end of 2024.
11. A strategic work programme around water security and resilience is currently being developed for Council to consider in September 2021 to ensure Council has a current and informed understanding in relation to the managed recharge of the Makauri Aquifer, the NPS-FM and other freshwater matters.

## ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts on Council's delivery of its Financial Strategy and Long Term Plan

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

The effects on all or a large part of the Gisborne district

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

The level or history of public interest in the matter or issue

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

12. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

## TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT

13. No tangata whenua/Māori engagement or consultation is required when deciding on sub-committee disbanding. Iwi involved in the sub-committee have been informed of this decision paper as part of communications to the wider sub-committee.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

14. No community engagement is required when deciding on sub-committee disbanding.

## CLIMATE CHANGE – Impacts / Implications

15. Nil.

## CONSIDERATIONS

### Financial/Budget

16. Nil. Disbanding the sub-committee will result in no further cost implications for Democracy Services.

### Legal

17. Nil.

## POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

18. Nil.

## RISKS

19. There are no major risks associated with the decisions or matters.

## NEXT STEPS

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
Following decision	1. Send out communications to MAR stakeholders. 2. Update text on Council webpage.	
30 September 2021	Report to Council on water security and resilience, including positioning the managed recharge of the Makauri Aquifer and other freshwater matters.	