



Ūawa Catchment Working Group

Meeting notes and actions

Hui 8 – 27 February 2025

Held at Tolaga Bay Fire Station at 09:30 AM

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

Agenda

1. Karakia and housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none">Apologies, housekeepingPrevious minutes and actions	9:30AM
2. Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">Relationship between CDEM Act and RMALarge Woody Debris ProgrammeForestry Plan Change	9:40AM
3. Draft Ūawa Catchment Plan	10:40AM
4. Wrap up, next steps	11:55AM
Lunch	12:00PM

Supporting documentation

- Draft Hui 7 Official minutes
- Draft Ūawa Catchment Plan

Minutes

Welcome and housekeeping

- The hui commenced with a karakia at 9:41 AM. The Chair welcomed the Group and noted apologies.
- The Chair led the discussion on the draft Hui 7 minutes. The minutes were taken as read and accepted as an accurate reflection.

Session

Recap, Actions from previous Hui, Updates

3. Staff recapped the Group's progress through the National Objectives Framework (NOF) process, outlining what was covered in each of the past hui.
4. **Relationship between CDEM Act and RMA:** Responding to an action from Hui 7, staff explained that there are provisions in s330 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) that enable specific persons or bodies to undertake emergency works. The specific persons/bodies are Council, network utility operator and person having financial responsibility for a public work. When a state of emergency is enforced under the Civil Defence Emergency Act 2002 (CDEM), the specific persons/bodies then include CDEM Group and any person assigned by CDEM for the works.
5. In the case of CDEM Group, they operate under Part 5 of the CDEM Act, where the emergency power that could require emergency works include the evacuation of premises and places, closing roads and public places and the removal of aircraft or vessels or vehicles. S330A of RMA requires those carrying out emergency works to notify Council within 7 days of the work being carried out and applying for resource consent within 20 working days of notification. This process provides Council the full records of what emergency works has occurred and any adverse effects on the environment.
6. **Large Woody Debris Programme:** From April 2023 to 15 December 2024, 420,893 tonnes of Large Woody Debris (LWD) have been extracted from the high risk catchments. The high risk catchments are Te Arai, Waimatā, Waiapu, Ūawa-Hikawai, Waipaoa, Pakarae, Hangaroa and Mangapoike. As of September 2024, \$27 million have been spent through Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) Sediment and Debris funding.
7. In August 2024, the Minister for Forestry appointed the Tairāwhiti Forestry Action Group to develop a clear plan to accelerate woody debris clean up, and identify and recommend how remaining risk should be managed now and in the future. The Programme is currently working to obtain funding from Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) to develop a Woody Debris Treatment Plan. This Plan will look to treat high risk woody debris, potentially at its source, in collaboration with the forestry sector and communities.
8. **Forestry Plan Change:** The intended policy direction in the forestry plan change focuses on establishing good practice in the forestry sector, where the sector has the appropriate skills and operators undertaking the work according to the earthworks and harvest management plans. The plan change aims to enable debris catchers, and only allowing cable hauling across waterways as the last option.
9. A member of the Group asked what Council's plans were in ensuring the management plans are implemented, like establishing a good auditing system. Staff responded that it's important that Council takes a balanced approach – ensuring there's good practice in the first place (through Council's Land Management team) and having the compliance team for compliance and auditing purposes.
10. **Economic model:** Staff noted that the analysis on the survey responses has been completed. Once the technical work is completed and data incorporated into the model, staff will organise another hui to go over the findings of the economic model.
11. **Government amendments to NES-CF:** Staff are still waiting to hear back from MPI on what amendments will be made to the National Environmental Standard for Commercial Forestry (NES-CF). Government has restricted the notification of freshwater plans¹ – which won't affect the Ūawa catchment since Council has scheduled to notify the Ūawa Catchment Plan as part of the wider Freshwater Plan Change package in mid 2026.

¹ [notification-of-freshwater-planning-instruments.pdf](#)

12. **Building the bigger picture:** Conversations through this Working Group are part of a wider programme of works to holistically manage activities in the catchment (**Figure 1**).

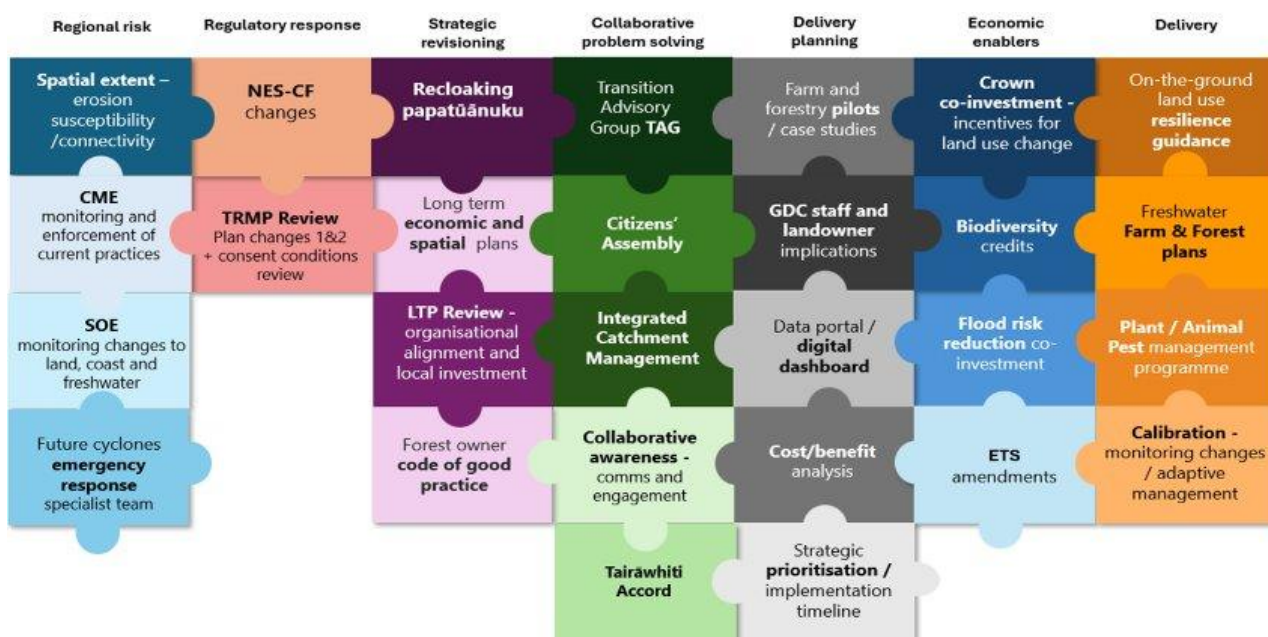


Figure 1: Jigsaw puzzle of other streams of work occurring alongside the Ūawa Working Group to achieve better land use management.

Draft Catchment Plan

13. Staff introduced the components of the first draft Ūawa Catchment Plan, noting that there are still gaps in the catchment plan – which will be filled in when technical work is completed.
14. The Group provided initial feedback on various components of the draft catchment plan:
- 14.1. **Vision:** a member of the Group will provide staff whakatauki (in English and Te Reo Māori) to accompany the vision at the start of the catchment plan. Statement from this Working Group at the start of the vision. The order of the principles should be rearranged, with people-related principles place at the start of the list of principles.
 - 14.2. **Section 1.1 Extent of Catchment Plan:** the Group supported the naming of the aquifer underneath Tolaga Bay township as 'Tatarahake aquifer'.
 - 14.3. **Section 1.2.1 Cultural and Historical Context:** remove mentions on where Hauiti's remains had been. Cyclones should be noted for their role as the cause of huge flooding in the catchment. Two other natural hazards that should be noted in the catchment are earthquakes and tsunamis.
 - 14.4. **Section 1.2.2 Ūawa sub-catchment:** add 'pastoral farming' in the land use sub-section. A member of the Group noted that citrus farming should be added in the land use sub-section. Correction to description for irrigation: no longer piped from off-site, since now mostly on-site dams. Missing rivers/streams from the description: Hawaii Stream, Anaura Stream, Waiau River (currently in Hikuwai sub-catchment, to be moved), Kaitawa Stream, Waimanu Stream, Makokomuka Stream. Musket pa at Tauwhareparae Road is a historically cultural significant site that should be recognised in the description.
 - 14.5. **Section 1.2.3 Mangahauini sub-catchment:** correction needed – it's the abutment of SH35 bridge that was washed away, not the bridge. Gravel extraction should be

highlighted in the description. Enihau supplies Tokomaru Bay community water supply.

- 14.6. **Section 1.2.4 Smaller Coastal Catchments:** correction needed – Waitakeo, not Waitekeo.
- 14.7. **Section 4.1 Water quantity and allocation:** policy need to reflect the cultural (and ecological) significance of long fin eel found in the Hikuwai River.
- 14.8. **Section 5.1 Monitoring sites:** suggested important recreational sites: Hikuwai river – at the junction of Parau Road and SH35, along Mangatuna school. Suggest renaming 'monitoring sites' to 'community monitoring sites', which will include Māori freshwater value monitoring alongside the existing monitoring attributes.
- 14.9. **Section 7.0 Ūawa Catchment Plan – Action Plan:** suggest action plan to address Titirangi spring's role as community water supply for Tolaga Bay.
- 14.10. **General comments:** suggest to list the rivers and streams starting from south to north. Suggest specific policy section and environmental outcome on Kaitawa Estuary and the provisions to manage activities in or affecting the estuary, such as managing introduced species like mangroves. Question on how to address environmental effect of speeding jet skis on the river banks.

Closing, next steps

- 15. Staff will look to organise another hui to review the updated draft catchment plan once technical work has been completed. Staff will arrange to hold a wānanga on the Mangahauini Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) at Tokomaru Bay in late March 2025.
- 16. The hui closed at 12:15 PM with a karakia and a shared lunch.