



Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Advisory Group

Hui #8 agenda, minutes, and actions

Held at Iwitea Marae on Wednesday 24 June 2026 at 9am

Advisory Group members present	Kerry Proctor, Soraya Pohatu-Stone, Charlie Baty
Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa/Te Wairoa iwi and hapū reps	Liz Palmer, Katarina Kawana, Mere Whaanga, Joan Ropiha
Hawke's Bay Regional Council	Nathan Heath
Gisborne District Council/Consultant	Sarah Thompson, Ariel Yann le Chew, Charlotte Knight, Wolfgang Kanz, Katrina Ungco, Katerina Maka
Apologies	Wings Waihi, Marlene Skeet, Bella Hawkins, Tangiwai Wilson, Samuel Lewis, Mayana Daniels, Jazmine Burgess, Topsy Steele, Bryan McCavana, Jess Kawenga, Sonya Smith, Arna Galvan, Darden King, Christina Marshall, Stephanie Tibble, Desna Whaanga-Schollum

Agenda

1. Karakia and Whakawhanaungatanga
2. Housekeeping
3. Report back – cross-boundary tangata whenua wānanga at Iwitea Marae
4. Review of available cultural information for catchments flowing to Wairoa
5. Updates to the draft catchment plan
6. Next steps – Pressing pause
7. Lunch

Supporting documents

- Review of available cultural information for catchments flowing to Wairoa
- Draft Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Plan v2
- Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Summary Document

Summary of actions

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
ST-T12	Discuss ways for tangata whenua o Te Wairoa to share their mātauranga and ensure Council plans include them	GDC to organise	As soon as possible

Minutes



1. Welcome, housekeeping

- 1.1. Attendees were welcomed onto Iwitea Marae at 9:20AM, followed by an opening karakia and whakawhanaungatanga to start the hui. The host set out housekeeping matters.
- 1.2. Staff outlined the agenda of the day, starting with a report-back from the cross-boundary tangata whenua wānanga at Iwitea marae, an overview of updates to the draft catchment plan, and next steps on pausing the advisory group process considering resource management reforms.

2. Session 1: Report back on cross-boundary tangata whenua wānanga

- 2.1. Soraya Pohatu-Stone reported back a summary of the cross-boundary tangata whenua wānanga held on 28 May and 11 June. The intent of the wānanga was for tangata whenua (as hapū, iwi, landowners) on both sides of the Council jurisdictional boundary to discuss how conversations can continue around the catchment work outside of the advisory group/Council process. The wānanga also included sharing information to others not previously involved in the catchment planning process, and discussions on identifying support for tangata whenua, such as Leading by the Land able to provide funding for planning.
- 2.2. Recognising resourcing (funding, capacity) constraints on Council and tangata whenua, Soraya noted that for Ngai Tāmanuhiri, the focus is on 3 priority catchments: Pakowhai, Te Wherowhero and Maraetaha.
- 2.3. Soraya concluded that attendees should view the catchment planning process as an opportunity to work together and draw on different skills and knowledge for the betterment of Te Taiao and future generations.

3. Session 2: Review of cultural information (Wairoa), Updates to draft catchment plan

- 3.1. Staff reviewed 7 documents shared that covered cultural information relating to Te Wairoa. The review led to the report 'Review of available cultural information for catchments flowing to Wairoa', which summarises the relevant information such as cultural concerns and issues, freshwater values, and actions outlined in each of the 7 documents.
- 3.2. Staff updated the draft Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Plan with feedback from Advisory Group and information identified through the review of the 7 documents. Staff acknowledged that the draft Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Plan is still a draft and will remain as a draft as the freshwater catchment planning process is on hiatus.
- 3.3. Once freshwater catchment planning resumes, staff anticipates further discussion required (including with Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa kāhui) to refine the draft catchment plan.

4. Next steps: Pressing pause

- 4.1. Staff recapped the Resource Management reforms, beginning with the freshwater plan stop in 2024 and wider Plan Stop announcement in 2025, to the anticipated replacement of the Resource Management Act 1991 with the dual resource management system – Natural Environment and Planning bills. Royal assent is estimated around August 2026.
- 4.2. Council, like other councils across the country, continues to prepare for the reforms by completing as much technical work as possible and continuing engagement with Treaty partners.



- 4.3. Attendees asked how tangata whenua can provide feedback on work that has been developed, and if a process can be in place where Council recognise the time and effort that tangata whenua spends on sharing mātauranga Māori. While there is space in the draft catchment plan for mātauranga Māori, attendees would like to see stronger provisions that incorporate mātauranga Māori and can withstand legal scrutiny if challenged at court.
 - 4.3.1. Staff acknowledged these points. Next step is GDC will look to hold separate discussions with Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa, including HBRC's Nathan Heath, on an agreed approach in ensuring Council plans and policies recognise and incorporate mātauranga Māori, while recognising the time and effort spent by tangata whenua.
- 4.4. The hui closed with a karakia at 11:30AM.