



## Waiapu Catchment Technical Advisory Group

# Hui 2 – Report 3: Outstanding and scheduled waterbodies

### Summary of questions for the Advisory Group

*This report provides information to support discussion on the following questions:*

- *Are there any potential 'outstanding waterbodies' within the Waiapu catchment area that should be evaluated? What makes them outstanding?*
- *Are there any other potential Regionally Significant Wetlands in the Waiapu catchment area that should be evaluated?*
- *Are the important swimming sites correctly identified? Are there particular sites of greater importance for swimming?*
- *Are there other recreation sites that should be identified – e.g. for waka ama or other boating uses?*

## 1. Introduction

The current Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP) identifies a number of waterbodies that are 'scheduled' for their particular values. These scheduled waterbodies are subject to stricter rules to ensure any activities in and around them protect their important values.

Currently, the TRMP includes the relevant schedules listed below. Their contents reflect the information available to Council at the time of developing the 2015 Regional Freshwater Plan.

- [Outstanding waterbodies \(Schedule G18\)](#)
- [Regionally significant waterbodies \(wetlands\) \(Schedule G17\)](#)
- [Aquatic ecosystem waterbodies \(Schedule G15\)](#), which includes:
  - nationally and regionally significant habitats and migratory habits of native fish
  - additional key habitats for Long Finned Eel
  - freshwater habitats of threatened indigenous flora and fauna
  - known whitebait/inanga spawning sites
  - important habitats of trout

- [Significant recreation and swimming areas \(Schedule G19\)](#)
- [Watercourses in land drainage areas with ecological values \(Schedule G20\)](#)

This report seeks input from the Advisory Group to inform the review of Outstanding Waterbodies and other scheduled waterbodies. The feedback will be collated and shared with the wider freshwater planning team involved in reviewing these Schedules at the regional level.

## 2. Outstanding Waterbodies

### What do we mean by Outstanding Waterbodies?

In a resource management context, Outstanding Waterbodies are freshwater bodies with especially significant values that warrant a higher level of protection. Identifying these waterbodies allows Council to apply specific rules to safeguard their outstanding characteristics. Under the current TRMP, additional restrictions apply to Outstanding Waterbodies, including limits on discharges, water takes, and activities within riverbeds and riparian margins.

The NPS-FM defines an 'outstanding freshwater body' as:

“a water body, or part of a water body, identified in a regional policy statement, a regional plan, or a water conservation order **as having one or more outstanding value**”.

Council is required under the NPS-FM to identify outstanding waterbodies and protect their significant values – but it is open to Council to decide how to do so.

### Which Outstanding Waterbodies are identified in the current TRMP, and how were they selected?

Schedule G18 of the operative TRMP identifies five Outstanding Waterbodies<sup>1</sup> located within the Waipaoa, Motu and Southern catchment areas.

This Schedule was developed as part of the development of the 2015 Freshwater Plan. The selection process began with the development of a long list of potential Outstanding Waterbodies, informed by input from the Freshwater Advisory Group (FWAG) and the wider public. These waterbodies were then evaluated against six value-based criteria:

- |                               |                                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Water quality               | • Natural character                 |
| • Ecology and natural science | • Landscape                         |
| • Cultural and spiritual      | • Amenity, recreation and education |

Each waterbody from the long list was assessed using a simple numerical scoring method. Combined scores were used to determine whether a waterbody met the threshold for inclusion as 'outstanding' in Schedule G18.

### Council is reviewing Schedule G18: Outstanding Waterbodies

Council is currently reviewing its approach to identifying and protecting Outstanding Waterbodies across the region. A working draft of proposed values and attributes for

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<sup>1</sup> The Outstanding Waterbodies in the current operative TRMP are: Te Arai Headwaters (Waipaoa Catchment); Urukokomuka Stream (Waipaoa Catchment); Lake Repongaere (Waipaoa Catchment); Mōtū River (Mōtū Catchment); Ruakituri River (Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment).

assessing Outstanding Waterbodies is included at **Appendix 1**. These draft criteria will be tested and refined with mana whenua and subject matter experts.

As part of this process, we are also seeking input from the Advisory Group on waterbodies within the Waipapu catchment area that may warrant evaluation for Outstanding status. When thinking about potentially outstanding waterbodies, the following best-practice principles should be considered:

- One outstanding value can make a waterbody outstanding.
- Outstanding and significant values are not the same – outstanding values have a higher threshold. It describes the “best of the best”.
- Outstanding is at a regional scale.
- Outstanding Waterbodies do not have to be pristine.
- A waterbody can only be assessed in the context of its present condition, not its past or potential future condition.
- The Outstanding Waterbody can be part of waterbody, such as section of river or tributary.
- **Where there is insufficient information to determine if a particular value is outstanding, the value cannot be considered outstanding until the appropriate evidence is provided.**

**Question: Are there any potential outstanding waterbodies within the Waipapu catchment area that should be evaluated? What makes them outstanding?**

Feedback will inform the initial ‘long-list’ of potential waterbodies to be evaluated. These will then be scored against criteria by Council staff, with additional technical input where required. The refined list will be tested with catchment advisory groups. Feedback and consultation will guide the final schedule of outstanding waterbodies, along with supporting provisions to protect their significant values.

### 3. Regionally significant wetlands

#### What do we mean by Regionally Significant Wetlands?

While all wetlands are significant, Regionally Significant Wetlands are those which have been assessed as having particularly high values. Similarly to Outstanding Waterbodies, Regionally Significant Wetlands have additional protections in the TRMP to protect their significant values.

#### Regionally Significant Wetlands are identified in the current TRMP

There are 22 regionally significant wetlands identified in Schedule G17 of the current TRMP. These wetlands reflect the information available to Council during the development of the 2015 Regional Freshwater Plan. The process of identification and evaluation of scheduled wetlands drew on findings from reports assessing freshwater values and ecological significance of sites throughout the region<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> G. Rasch. 1989. Wildlife and Wildlife Habitats in the East Cape region. Department of Conservation, New Zealand; Froude. V. 2003. Freshwater Biodiversity in the Hawke's Bay East Coast Conservancy Department of Conservation Department of Conservation, New Zealand; and the Department of Conservation Freshwater Ecosystems of New Zealand (FENZ) geodatabase 2010 - a set of spatial data layers and supporting information providing a national representation of the biodiversity values and pressures on New Zealand's rivers, lakes and wetlands.

Criteria for identifying Regionally Significant Wetlands in the 2015 schedule were linked to ecological values (things like critical habitat for indigenous species, diversity of indigenous species or habitat types, ecological connections and viability), as well as degree of naturalness, hydrological values and cultural values.

There are four Regionally Significant Wetlands identified within the Waiapu catchment area in the current TRMP Schedule G17:

Waiapu	Wairoa River Swamp	WR10	Two Raupo-Rush wetlands. Spotless Crake, other Waders. Good water quality
	Mahora Swamp	WR11	Diverse Raupo-Rush sedgeland with Willow. Diversity of wetland vegetation is of high significance. Spotless Crake, other Waders, Waterfowl, and Field Birds
	Poroporo Road Swamp	WR4	Raupo Wetland with some Willow. 20% open water. Bittern, Pied Stilts (Nesting), other Waders present
Whareponga	Mataahu Wetland	WR16	Two unmodified wetlands on the Mataahu Plateau dominated by <i>Baumea</i> , <i>Elocharis</i> , Raupo, and <i>Sphagnum</i> . High water quality. High significance natural wetlands

### Council is reviewing the Schedule of Regionally Significant Wetlands

We still have a limited understanding of the extent and state of our wetlands in the region, especially wetlands that are on private land. We are developing refined mapping of wetlands using oblique aerial imagery. The resulting inventory of wetlands, as required under the current NPS-FM, will provide an opportunity to reassess those that are Regionally Significant for Tairāwhiti.

**Question: Are there any other potential Regionally Significant Wetlands in the Waiapu catchment area that should be evaluated?**

## 4. Significant Recreation and Swimming Areas

Ensuring that swimming areas have safe water quality is a key part of developing the catchment plan, so it is important to know where significant recreation and swimming areas are located. The current Schedule G19 identifies the following locations as important recreation areas in the Waiapu catchment area:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waipiro Stream by Iritekura Marae</li> <li>• Whareponga Stream by Whareponga Marae</li> <li>• Waiapu River at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SH35 Bridge</li> <li>○ Ruatoria (Sandy Bay)</li> <li>○ By Tikapa Marae</li> <li>○ By Rauru Marae</li> <li>○ By Hinepare Marae</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Kopuaroa Stream by Kiekie Marae</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makarika Stream by Rongohaere Marae</li> <li>• Makatote Stream by Rongo I te Kai (Penu) Marae</li> <li>• Mangaoporo River by Tinatoka Marae</li> <li>• Maraehara Stream by Te Kura Kaupapa o Taperenui a Whatonga</li> <li>• Poroporo River by Kaiwaka Marae</li> <li>• Waitakaro Stream by Hiruharama Marae</li> <li>• Reporua Stream by Reporua Marae</li> <li>• Waitekaha Stream at Rivermouth</li> <li>• Waikawa Stream at Rivermouth</li> </ul>
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### Questions

- Are the important swimming sites correctly identified?
- Are there particular sites of greater importance for swimming?
- Are there other recreation sites that should be identified – e.g. for waka ama or other boating uses?

## 5. Aquatic Ecosystem Waterbodies

Schedule G15 – Aquatic Ecosystem Waterbodies identifies waterbodies with significant freshwater species, based on the known information about fish presence in 2014. The aquatic ecosystem waterbodies schedule is currently made up of five parts:

- nationally and regionally significant habitats and migratory habits of native fish
- additional key habitats for Long Finned Eel – a nationally threatened native species which the Gisborne region is recognised as providing a national stronghold for populations.
- freshwater habitats of threatened indigenous flora and fauna
- known whitebait/inanga spawning sites
- important habitats of trout

The current aquatic ecosystem waterbodies identified in the Waiapu catchment area are included in **Appendix 2**. Particular rules apply to these waterbodies to protect their aquatic ecosystems.

Council will review Schedule G15 based on more recent data.

## 6. Other features required by the NPS-FM

In addition to the scheduled waterbodies set out in this report, the NPS-FM requires Council to identify and protect natural inland wetlands, mahinga kai sites and wāhi tapu sites in our reviewed freshwater planning provisions. This is important because there are specific environmental outcomes sought for these.

- Council has started a process to map all natural inland wetlands in the region using oblique aerial imagery, which will be reviewed by a wetland ecologist.
- Mahinga kai and wāhi tapu sites – we are seeking to engage with hapu to identify mahinga kai sites, wāhi tapu sites and other sites of cultural significance to ensure appropriate protections.

## 7. Next Steps

Feedback on the questions in this report will be collated and shared with the wider freshwater planning team, who are reviewing the Schedules at the Regional Plan level.

## Appendices

**Appendix 1:** Proposed Values and Attributes to identify Outstanding Waterbodies

**Appendix 2:** Schedule G15 Aquatic Ecosystem Waterbodies in the Waiapu Catchment Area

## Appendix 1: Proposed Values and Attributes to identify Outstanding Waterbodies

At this stage, these values and attributes are in a working draft and will be tested with mana whenua partners and subject-matter experts.

Table 1: Proposed Values and Attributes to identify OWB	
Waterbody values	Attributes
Water Quality	Contact recreation
	Ecosystem health
Ecology	Quantitative measure of ecological value
	Presence of rare or threatened species
	Absence of invasive species
	Functioning component of a wider ecosystem
Cultural and spiritual	Presence of waahi tapu
	Coherent part of wider cultural landscape
	Contemporary significance
Natural character	Modification to bed and riparian margin
	Modification to flow
	Modification to catchment
Landscape	Scenic / aesthetic importance
	Rarity
	Natural science and legibility value
Amenity, recreation and education	Recreation (contact, secondary contact and terrestrial value -such as visual)
	Fishing, kai gathering, customary resource gathering (e.g. hangi stones)
	Education and historic heritage
	Access and amenity potential
Physical	Geomorphological, geological or hydrological features

**Appendix 2: Aquatic Ecosystem Waterbodies (Schedule G15) – Waiapu catchment area**  
G15A. Habitats and Migratory Pathways of Indigenous Fish Species (Waiapu Area)

Catchment	River, Stream Or Lake	Tributary	Fish Species Present
Waione	Waione Stream	Waione Stream	Common Bully, Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel, Inanga, Koaro, Banded Kokopu
		Te Kanapa Stream	
		Te Awha Stream	
		Waikaka Stream	
		Totara Stream	
		Makowhai Stream	
		Mangapapa Stream	
Waiapu	Waiapu River	Waiapu River	Longfin Eel, Inanga, Smelt, Redfin Bully, Torrentfish, Shortfin Eel
		Tapuaeroa River	Longfin Eel, Redfin Bully, Common Bully, Torrentfish, Inanga, Smelt, Koaro
		Whakatu Stream	Common Bully, Longfin Eel, Smelt, Torrentfish
		Ihungia River	Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel, Torrentfish, Inanga, Koaro, Common Bully, Redfin Bully, Smelt
		Poroporo River	
		Wairongomai River	
		Raparapaririki Stream	
		Mangaraukokore Stream	
		Huitatariki Stream	
		Kopuaroa Stream	
		Mokoiwi Stream	
		Oronui Stream	
		Mangaiwi Stream	Common Bully, Longfin Bully, Shortfin Bully
		Mangaoporo River	Longfin Eel, Common Bully, Torrentfish, Redfin Bully, Koaro
		Mangareia Stream	Common Bully, Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel
		Mangakinonui Stream	Longfin Eel, Torrentfish
		Mangaharei Stream	Inanga, Common Smelt, Shortfin Eel, Longfin Eel
	Mata River	Mata River	Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel, Giant Kokopu, Shortjaw Kokopu, Torrentfish
		Mangapekapeka Stream	Longfin Eel, Giant Kokopu
		Makokomuka Stream	
		Mangamaunu Stream	
		Waingakia Stream	Koaro, Torrentfish, Redfin Bully, Common Bully, Inanga, Smelt
		Waitahaia Stream	
	Maraehara River	Maraehara River	Common Bully, Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel, Torrentfish
		Houpatete Stream	
		Houpatero Stream	
		Kirikohe Stream	
		Mangarangiora Stream	
		Makawakawa Stream	
		Ngararapapa Stream	
		Mangahoanga Stream	
		Tihi Stream	
		Waitaiko Stream	
		Mangaotawhito Stream	
		Haupouri Stream	
		Mangawhero Stream	
Whareponga	Whareponga Stream	Whareponga Stream	Common Bully, Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel, Inanga, Smelt
		Wharekaha Stream	
Otamarauiri Point	Te Maire Stream	Te Maire Stream	Common Bully, Longfin Eel, Shortfin Eel, Inanga, Smelt
		Houhoupounamu Stream	



### G15B: Additional key habitats for longfin eel (Waiapu Area)

Catchment	River or Stream	Tributary
Waiapu	Mata River	Waingata Stream
		Ruatahunga Stream
		Whakoau Stream
		Mangamatukutuku Stream
		Mangamaunu Stream
		Hauptua Stream
		Makatote Stream
Waipiro	Waipiro Stream	Waipiro Stream
Waikaka	Waikaka Stream	Waikaka Stream
Tunanui	Tunanui Stream	Tunanui Stream
Waiapu	Ihungia River	Waipapa Stream

### G15C: Habitats of Threatened Indigenous Flora and Fauna (Waiapu Area)

Catchment	River or Stream	Lake, Wetland or River Mouth	Species Present
Waiapu	Waiapu River		Banded Dotterel
	Mata River – From Waiapu River Confluence to 2058002/5787012		Blue Duck, Hochstetter's Frog
	Tapuaeroa River – From confluence with Waiapu River to 2053027/5797712		
	Mangamauku Stream		
	Oronui Stream		
	Waingakia Stream		
	Poroporo River – Old Oxbow (2075473/5803806) to Wetland Area up Poroporo Road (2068658/5803733)		
		Te Puia Lake (Ratahi Lagoon)	New Zealand Dabchick, Grey Duck, New Zealand Shoveler, Pied Stilt, Teal
Waipiro		Waipiro Swamp	Spotless Crake
Te Puia		Rotonui Ponds	New Zealand Dabchick, Grey Duck, New Zealand Shoveler, Pied Stilt, Teal

### G15D: Whitebait Spawning Sites (Waiapu Area)

There are currently no scheduled whitebait spawning sites in the Waiapu catchment area.

### G15E: Important Habitats for Trout (Waiapu Area)

Catchment	River or Stream	Comments
Mata	Waitahaia River and tributaries	Regionally significant trout habitat and fishery value. Trout spawning habitat in upper reaches and tributaries
	Waingakia Stream and tributaries	Regionally significant trout habitat and fishery value. Trout spawning habitat in upper reaches and tributaries
Waiapu	Raparapaririki Stream and tributaries	Trout habitat and fishery value. Trout spawning habitat in upper reaches and tributaries