



Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Advisory Group

Hui #6 agenda, minutes, and actions

Held at Kahungunu Marae (Nūhaka) on Wednesday 15 October 2025 at 10am

Advisory Group members present	Marlene Skeet, Charlie Baty, Topsy Steele, Bryan McCavana, Jess Kawenga, Kerry Proctor, Bella Hawkins, Soraya Pohatu-Stone, Tangiwai Wilson, Samuel Lewis
Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa/Ngāti Rakaipaaka	Liz Paama, Jane, Katarena Smith, Leana Barriball, Sonya Smith, Eva Jones
Hawke's Bay Regional Council	Saul Gudsell, Nathan Heath
Wairoa District Council/Wairoa Māori Standing Committee	Duane Culshaw, Henare Mita
Gisborne District Council/Consultant	Sarah Thompson, Ariel Yann le Chew, Katrina Ungco, Katerina Maka, Charlotte Knight, Wolfgang Kanz
Apologies	Mayana Daniels, Jazmine Burgess, Wings Waihi, Arna Galvan, Phillip Beattie, Alex Parkinson

Agenda

1. Karakia and Whakawhanaungatanga
2. Housekeeping
3. Draft Hui 5 minutes
4. Catchment planning process - recap
5. Draft catchment plan - overview
6. Introduction to Action Planning
7. Wrap up, Close
8. Lunch

Supporting documents

- Draft Hui 5 minutes
- Draft Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Plan – v5

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-T07	Staff to investigate how Council could redirect monitoring efforts to where there's need for data	GDC	Ongoing



ST-T08	Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa kāhui and Nūhaka to have their internal discussions on how to best input into the Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Advisory Group. Options include: • Appointing reps onto the Advisory Group, with separate “catch up” hui for the new reps before the next Advisory Group hui in 2026 • Several hui with a condensed version of the catchment planning process for Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa kāhui reps, Ngāti Rakaipaaka and other mana whenua of the relevant river catchments – with permission, extending invite to HBRC's policy planner(s) to sit in these hui to ensure mana whenua aspirations for the river(s) have been heard and addressed by both councils, not just GDC	Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa kāhui, Ngāti Rakaipaaka, GDC to respond and support following internal discussions	Before 31 December 2025
ST-T09	Staff to share GDC website that hosts past hui minutes and briefing papers with Advisory Group members and guests.	GDC	Actioned 21/10/2025

Minutes

1. Mihi Whakatau, Draft Hui 5 minutes

- 1.1. Staff and the Group were welcomed onto Kahungunu Marae with mihi whakatau, including whakawhanaungatanga. Staff took the opportunity to thank the hosts for extending hospitality to the Group for this kaupapa.
- 1.2. Following morning tea, the host set out housekeeping matters. Staff then outlined the agenda for the day.
- 1.3. Staff sought feedback on the draft Hui 5 minutes. Hui 5 minutes were finalised with no further amendments needed.
- 1.4. While there were only 6 hui scheduled for the Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Advisory Group, staff sought the Advisory Group's thoughts on having an additional hui in 2026. Having the hui in 2026 will allow staff sufficient time to familiarise the workings of the new resource management framework (expected November/December 2025) and completing remaining technical work that informs the catchment planning process.
 - 1.4.1. The Group agreed to an additional hui in 2026. Staff will provide at least a month's notice to a proposed hui date.

2. Session 1: Catchment planning process - recap

- 2.1. Staff recapped the catchment planning process that the Group embarked on to date, starting from setting the Long Term Vision. Then identifying Values and their corresponding Environmental Outcomes. From aspirations and objectives, the process then looks at the technical aspects – the current state of the environment, the targets for improvement and limits. The process wraps up with identifying action plans and timeframes.

3. Session 2: Draft catchment plan



- 3.1. Staff introduced the draft Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Plan, the document that captures the discussions had over the past 5 hui. The draft catchment plan is the first attempt for feedback and refinement. Staff notes that there are gaps in the draft catchment plan, due to technical work (e.g. river flow levels in summer) are still in progress and discussions yet to have with mana whenua of the downstream river catchments from those in Southern Tairāwhiti river catchments.
- 3.2. Two Management Areas have been proposed for the Southern Tairāwhiti Freshwater Management Unit (i.e. the Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Plan area):
 - 3.2.1. **Wharerata South MA** – consists of river catchments that flow into the Hawke's Bay/Wairoa district area. These rivers are hard-bottom rivers. Land use is either forestry or farming, no cropping. Because these rivers traverse the regional council boundary, the management approach for these rivers will require collaboration of parties across the boundary. Parties include councils, catchment groups, mana whenua, taiao roopu, landowners and communities.
 - 3.2.2. **Wharerata North MA** – consists of river catchments that flow into Tairāwhiti coastal waters. The riverbeds of these catchments are soft bottom. Land use is farming or cropping in these catchments. Because these rivers are within the Tairāwhiti regional boundary, the management approach for these rivers do not require parties from Hawke's Bay/Wairoa.
- 3.3. The following discussion points have been raised:
 - 3.3.1. Is there time for additional discussion, particularly for Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa and Nūhaka to provide input into the development of the Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Plan?
 - 3.3.2. How will GDC ensure that there's alignment between the catchment plan and what's already been done by mana whenua (e.g. monitoring program, whanau-led identification of culturally significant sites on or close to their awa)? How will GDC integrate mātauranga Māori into the catchment plan? Is it through collaborating with iwi/mana whenua, or iwi/mana whenua to just provide the information to GDC?
- 3.4. Staff responded to the above two points that with Plan Stop notification in place¹, there is still time for additional hui with Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa and Nūhaka groups. Staff and several members of the Advisory Group expressed support of bringing Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa and Nūhaka groups up to speed with the catchment planning process to date. One suggestion is for Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa and Nūhaka groups to nominate representatives to join the Southern Tairāwhiti Advisory Group. This conversation has been recorded as **Action ST-T08**.
- 3.5. Attendees also discussed the two Management Areas, with focus on the names for the Management Areas and how the Management Areas were developed.
 - 3.5.1. Staff explained that the names of the Management Areas can be changed. Staff also explained that the purpose of Management Areas are to fulfil Council's legislative requirement to monitor and report on state of the environment post-notification of the catchment plan.
- 3.6. Several attendees have discovered inconsistent spelling and usage of kupu Māori in the draft catchment plan. For some words, an attendee have advised that staff should

¹ [Understanding Plan Stop | Ministry for the Environment](#)



include in the footnotes or the definition that explains the meaning of these words only apply in the context of the catchment plan.

3.6.1. Staff thanked the attendees for the discovery and will correct the mistakes in the draft catchment plan.

3.7. Staff asked the Group to review the draft catchment plan, particularly the draft vision and the description of each catchments, and that the Group sends through their feedback to staff.

4. Session 3: Introduction to Action Planning

4.1. Staff introduced the requirements for action plans as set out in the NPS-FM 2020. Action plans may describe both regulatory and non-regulatory approach. While the NPS-FM 2020 requires councils to consult communities and tangata whenua in the development of action plans, Gisborne District Council is committed to engage communities and tangata whenua.

4.2. Staff explained to the guests that Council does have a protocol on dealing with sensitive information. For example, instead of pinpointing the location where tuna is found, instead Council will apply a buffer and ensure that there is regulatory protection for a stretch of river or stream – which will include the location of tuna.

4.3. Staff asked the Advisory Group and guests to review and provide feedback on the list of draft action plans.

5. Wrap up and close

5.1. Staff thanked members and guests for their contributions.

5.2. Staff will reach out, with advance notice, on potential 2026 dates for the next Advisory Group hui. This will provide staff sufficient time to familiarise the implication of the new Resource Management framework, which is estimated to be released in November/December 2025.

5.3. For Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa kāhui rep and Nūhaka reps, staff are keen for further conversations on the catchment planning process once the attendees have internal discussions with the kāhui/roopu on how best to provide input into the process.

5.4. The hui closed with a karakia at 1:05PM.