Waipaoa Catchment Planning Advisory Group – Hui 4

Date: 11 October 2023

Title of report: Recap and outputs from hui 3 - Values and draft environmental outcomes

Report no: 1

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Purpose of this report

This report summarises the work completed at hui 3 where the Advisory Group (the Group) began discussions around a long-term vision for the catchment. The Group also looked at the proposed boundaries of the Freshwater Management Units (FMUs) and discussed possible environmental outcomes for some of the compulsory National Policy Statement – Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) values.

This report proposes some draft wording for environmental outcome statements for feedback.

Outcomes sought

- To update members on the work completed at the last hui.
- Provide an opportunity to give further feedback on the next step in the process - drafting environmental outcome statements.

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1 Introduction

At hui 3 the Group split into smaller groups to workshop three exercises:

- **Exercise 1:** Brainstorming possible long-term visions.
- **Exercise 2:** Proposed Freshwater Management Units (FMUs) for the catchment (based on feedback from the earlier hui in August 2023).
- **Exercise 3:** National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) compulsory values that apply to each FMU and discussed what some environmental outcomes might look like for these values.

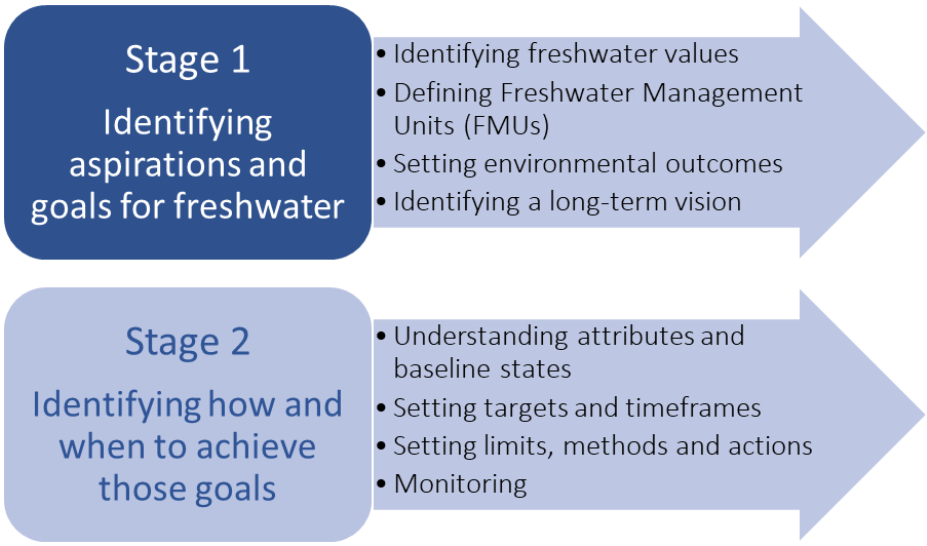
Appendix 1 of this report contains the raw output of the results of the discussions and notes from individuals completed worksheets.

Some environmental outcomes have subsequently been compiled based on the work completed at hui 3. Not all values are discussed in this report, it is planned to workshop further values and outcomes at hui 4 in October.

2 Setting the scene- the National Objectives Framework

A central part of the NPS-FM is a process called the National Objectives Framework (NOF).

We have divided the NOF process into two broad stages:



3 Key take aways from hui 3

3.1 Draft FMUs and values – proposed changes based on feedback

While most feedback was that four FMUs were appropriate, there was specific feedback on the following:

- Land use combined with sub-catchments is a reasonable basis for FMU identification.
- Ki uta ki tai – it's important that the Waipaoa catchment is considered as a whole, even when talking about FMUs.

- Te Maungarongo o Te Kooti wetland should remain within the Tūranga Flats FMU. All of the catchment area is used for horticulture.
- Gisborne Urban FMU includes some horticultural areas in the upper Waikanae catchment around the racecourse, so irrigation and food production are values that needs to be included in that FMU.
- Hydroelectric power generation only occurs on one property so shouldn't be considered a value in the Waipaoa Hill Country FMU.
- Drinking water supply is a value for the Waipaoa Hill Country FMU.
- The name Tūranga Flats FMU (previously Poverty Bay Flats FMU) is supported as it acknowledges the original name of the area. We will refer to this FMU as the Tūranga Flats FMU from now on.
- Te Arai FMU should be renamed Te Arai Te Uru FMU as this is the correct name of the awa. As with the Tūranga Flats, we will refer to it as the Te Arai Te Uru FMU from now on.
- One group considered that the main horticultural areas in Te Arai Te Uru FMU should be included within the Tūranga Flats FMU.
- There was no clear direction on which FMU the aquifers should be included in. One group felt they are best to remain within the Tūranga Flats FMU and another thought they should be in a separate FMU.

3.2 Draft environmental outcome statements

Based on the feedback we received on the early development of a vision and the environmental outcomes at hui 3, as well as previous input from Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust staff into the existing Te Arai FMU review, some potential environmental outcome statements were drafted. These are outlined in the tables below.

These are currently drafted as statements that apply to the whole Waipaoa Catchment Plan area.

NPS-FM compulsory values – all FMUs – draft environmental outcome statements	
Ecosystem health	The water quality, and river, stream and wetland flows support the naturally occurring range of native wildlife including tuaiwi - kore/invertebrates, rākau/plants, ika/fish and manu/birds. Key marker species such as kanae, kotare, koura, kākahi and tuna are abundant in their natural habitats.
Threatened species	The populations of our threatened species increase in the rivers, streams and wetlands. Habitat improvements enable threatened species to expand their range. Fish passage is uninterrupted so that threatened species can maintain all parts of their life cycle. Riparian areas are sufficient in width and in good health to support breeding populations. The freshwaters remain a national stronghold for tuna.
Mahinga kai	Mahinga kai and rongoa is accessible, safe to consume and is available for whānau and marae events all-year round, in the places where they historically occurred.
Human contact	Swimming is safe and healthy and accessible during the October to April swimming season at identified swimming spots.

Tūranga Flats specific - draft environmental outcome statements	
Irrigation and food production	The Tūranga Flats retain their high levels of food production supported by efficient use and reuse of water and water storage for irrigation. Good practice management of runoff and nutrients means the freshwater impacts of food production from horticulture are reduced.
Drinking water supply	The Waipaoa River provides an important part of a healthy drinking water supply for Gisborne City and communities across the Tūranga Flats.
Natural form and character	A high degree of flood protection is maintained within the FMU. Alongside this, the number and extent of wetlands and their connection to waterways is increased.
Te Arai Te Uru FMU specific - draft environmental outcome statements	
Transport and tauranga waka	Traditional tauranga waka[1] are identified and access to them is restored.
Drinking water supply	Te Arai Te Uru remains an important source of drinking water for people in Manutuke, Gisborne City and the people of Rongowhakaata.
Natural form and character	The natural form and character of Te Arai Te Uru is improved – targeted recovery work along the riparian margin naturalises the channel morphology, reduces streambank erosion and supports freshwater biodiversity. The connection between Te Arai Te Uru awa and the old Te Arai Loop is improved, supporting its restoration and habitat values.
Animal drinking water	Stock are able to access safe and healthy drinking water, while not impacting on the high-priority values of the river.
Fishing	Te Arai Te Uru continues to support a kanae, inanga and tuna fishery. Fish stocks increase in abundance.
Irrigation and food production	Priority is placed on irrigation to support food for local community use. Other irrigation and food production is supported where this does not impact on high-priority values of the FMU.
Mauri	Mauri of the wai in Te Arai Te Uru is maintained or improved.
Gisborne Urban FMU - draft environmental outcome statements	
Natural form and character	A high degree of flood protection is maintained within the FMU. Alongside this the number and extent of wetlands and their connection to waterways is increased.

[1] Landing places where waka/canoes were drawn up out of the water

4 Developing further environmental outcome statements

While we have made a start, there is more work to do on the environmental outcome statements. There are some values where we do not have a clear understanding of what might be appropriate environmental outcomes.

Draft environmental outcomes also need to be developed for the Waipaoa Hill Country, Tūranga Flats and Gisborne Urban FMUs for the following NPS-FM values:

Value	FMUs where environmental outcome statement needed
Natural form and character	Waipaoa Hill Country
Animal drinking water	Waipaoa Hill Country, Gisborne Urban, Tūranga Flats
Fishing	Waipaoa Hill Country, Gisborne Urban, Tūranga Flats
Drinking water supply	Waipaoa Hill Country
Transport and Tauranga waka	Gisborne Urban
Wai tapu	All FMUs
Mauri	Waipaoa Hill Country, Gisborne Urban, Tūranga Flats
Irrigation and food production	Gisborne Urban

In addition to the values above, members also need to develop environmental outcomes for the Waipaoa/Tairāwhiti specific values identified in hui 2:

Value identified	FMU identified in
Habitat restoration	Tūranga Flats Te Arai Te Uru Waipaoa Hill Country Gisborne Urban
Waka ama/rowing	Gisborne Urban Tūranga Flats
Recreation	Gisborne Urban Tūranga Flats
Ecosystem values	Shallow aquifers
Irrigation	Aquifers
Wetlands	Aquifers Gisborne Urban Tūranga Flats
Original stories/ Korero o mua	Gisborne Urban Te Arai Te Uru Tūranga Flats Waipaoa Hill Country
Horticulture	Te Arai Te Uru Deep Aquifers Tūranga Flats
Taniwha/Waahi tapu	Gisborne Urban Te Arai Te Uru Tūranga Flats
Aquifer recharge	Aquifers
Flood management/Sediment control	Te Arai Waipaoa Hill Country

5 Next steps

The Group will continue to further workshop all the environmental outcome statements and values at hui 4 in October. Report 2 on this agenda outlines the next step in the process which is determining target attribute states to meet the environmental outcomes.

6 Homework for this hui

Think about the draft environmental outcomes:

- Do these seem reasonable to you – what changes might be needed?
- Does the state of water need improving to better provide for any environmental outcomes?
- Can the current state of water remain the same to provide for any environmental outcomes?
- What actions might be needed to provide for the environmental outcomes?

7 Appendix 1: Raw data and outputs of hui 3 group discussions

7.1 Long-term vision for Waipaoa Catchment

- Waiata – Haerma a paoa - like it was when Paoa settled here
- Mauri ora - balance
- Aspirational, but yet achievable - 30yrs, 100, 500, 1000yrs
- Plentiful, bountiful, provision for community
- Ballance in forest - rivers are 'clean'
- Restoration of wetlands
    - Erosion managed, mitigated
    - Environmental / taiao
- Water supply
- Drinking/potable
- Irrigation
- Te Tipuna status has a higher need/importance
- Pest control/protection of forests/fauna
- Vision in alignment of Te mana o te wai
- Practices align with TMOTW
- Need metrics to measure
- Decision making process has reversed, what does the river need first?
- Restoration of abundance/Sustainable
- 'Mountains to the sea'
- State that provides for all values
- Sustainable land & FW management
- Improved water quality - sediment/contaminants
- Improved access to water - capacity - storage
- Discharges - restrictions on inputs that can end up in receiving waters
- Bank stability/native buffers
- Filter to horticulture/agriculture
- Biodiversity
- Swimmable rivers
- Focus on sub catchments discharging most sediment
- Environmental values in place
- People fit into that environment
- Rectify/repair waterways
- Indicator species return
- Restoration of abundance
- Start at top - treat the cause where its created
- Education + community engagement
- Shifting mindset in order to achieve goals
- People's health reflected in waterways
- Controlling invasive species
- Creating wildlife corridors
- Restoring natural ecological balance
- People collaborating with each other
- True partnership with trusting relationships to achieve this kaupapa for our environment
- Promote native vegetation in the habitats
- Wetland restoration project to improve water quality & provide nesting sites for bird species & forest conservation efforts to maintain & enhance the native cover
- Endangered species are moved out of the category as they're abundant
- Being able to drink out of rivers without getting sick
- Who pays?

    - Science
    - Land retirement
    - Pest control
- Being able to catch an eel straight after putting the line in
- Good quality groundwater for multiple uses
- Land use to match land capability
- Ample H2O quantity available for use
    - Storage
    - MAR
    - Not reliant on rivers
- Extension on "how"
    - Erosion control
    - Wetlands
- Mahinga kai – healthy
- Improve significant lakes (health)
- Revert to golden sand beaches
- Science based rules in the plan
- Staged approach to restoration
- Less silt (e.g. permanent native forest cover many places)
- Riparian planting (especially in hill country) = corridors
- Significant wetlands rehabilitated + NEW ONES
- Education for landowners on benefits of wetlands (incentives?)

7.2 Freshwater Management Units (FMUs)

- For mahinga kai, it would be important to identify where these sites are so farmers can do better to protect these sites. Same for wahi tapu sites too
- Most important is that farmers and tangata whenua have mutual respect with each other. Which is how it operates in Te Arai Te Uru, where tangata whenua can access private property with no problem
- In spirit of ki uta ki tai, debate on table around FMUs and catchments, especially Waipaoa catchment should be considered as a whole. Question around why we need large FMUs. Question on the scale or resolution used to look at these issues
- Wanted to see that we have a system of consistency in developing FMUs. So we first based on land-use, then on catchment
- Important to also understand ki uta ki tai, especially monitoring implications and what it means for FMUs and sub-catchments
- Four people agree on FMU boundaries
- General consensus of Tūranga Flat FMU as opposed to Poverty Bay Flats. Suggestion raised to start gradually changing the names of rivers back to their original names
- Ki uta ki tai & FMUs
- Understand the problem first
- FMU vs engagement
- Lower levels of NOF process
- Monitoring levels?
- TMOTW alignment
    - FMU effect
    - FMU speaking to each other
- Report at FMU or Sub-FMU?
    - What are the implications of more FMUs
- Compliance monitoring
    - Related to FMUs
- Need to map by land use & manage that way
- Watersheds as a unit?
- What would it take to change?
- Values very similar in all 4 FMUs – Lump into 1?

- Matawhero loop – land-use more similar to Tūranga flats
- Should higher density housing be separate to Awapuni lagoon?
- Prefer the old boundaries
- Urban FMU needs irrigation as a value
- Be consistent with how we define FMUs – land use vs catchment

7.3 Environmental outcomes

- Markers
- Kotare as a marker of stream health
- Kanae as indicator of Ecological health - Whatatutu + Waikanae
- Ecosystem health? - provides for other values
- Koura as indicator of stream health
- Restoration of waterways
- Landuse
- Farming + forestry practices don't affect water health
- Reducing land degradation, implementing for conservation measures
- Action - landcare shallow land sliding GIS
- Identify vulnerable areas - for management of erosion

Waipaoa Hill Country FMU	• Drinking water supply – rural & hill country • Accessible • Clarity • Safe • Tastes food (palatable) • Smells good • Spiritually safe • Sufficient volume during peak demand • Tapu a noa • Sustainable practices • Reliability • Source protection • Diverse sources • Cost effective sources • Efficient use – water is not wasted • Ecosystem Health • Increase biodiversity & ecosystem health • Waiora • Abundance of taonga species thriving • Increased & enhanced habitat in the water & on the land • Water quantity • Water quality • Mauri ora • Habitat protection • Habitat rehab • Mahinga kai • Abundance of mahinga kai species in water & on land • Access to mahinga kai sites • Practicing traditional harvest preservation & sustainable management • Preservation of sites of significance • Focus on sustainable practices and cultivating techniques that prioritise the preservation a protection of biodiversity • Restore and enhance habitats that support the local food sources

	• Implementing sustainable farming practices - good quality water supports overall health • Conservation of traditional foods • Source J. D culturally significant • Education a Community • Engagement - buy in – collaborative approaches • "Regenerative" • Ecosystem health • provides for other values • Koura as indicator of stream health • Markers • Kotare as a marker of stream health • Kanae as indicator of Eco health - Whatatutu+ Waikanae • Restoration of waterways • Landuse • Farming + forestry practices don't affect water health • Reducing land degradation, implementing for conservation measures • Action -> Landcare shallow landsliding GIS • Identify vulnerable areas – management of erosion • Markets & industry need to be involved in treated WW discussion • Trust between council, iwi & water users. No more "use it or lose it"
Tūranga Flats FMU	Irrigation & Food production • Efficient irrigation process • Efficient use & reuse of water sources • Maintaining Te Mana o te Wai • Local consumption & circular economies • Sustainable practices for run off & nutrients • Water quality is suitable • Efficient water use • Irrigation available year around without negative effects on environment • Rules that allow for innovation i.e. when are volumes of H2O needed. Tech. AI. • Water storage • Ecological niche • Other water sources • Aquifers need to be separate FMUs? • What is considered "freshwater"? Should it be split? o Rivers o Aquifers • Based on: o Land use o Catchment • Pink area for Te Arai flats (like yellow)
Te Arai Te Uru FMU	• Water storage can double as habitat for native flora & fauna • Remove current "unintended consequences" • Te Arai Te Uru is best place to start protection of threatened species • Te Arai/ Te Uru – ecological values are high in the headwaters. • So it will be easier to raise the ecological & natural values of the rest of this catchment than in other catchments? i.e. a priority?

7.4 Environmental outcomes exercise – detailed notes from those who handed their thoughts in

NPSFM Value	***Environmental Outcomes***
Waipaoa Hill Country FMU	
Ecosystem health	• Te Mana o Te Wai, people/communities need access to good quality water
Mahinga kai	• Important for all FMUS
Human contact	
Threatened species	• Inanga, tuna, weka, koura, freshwater mussels • Allow fish passage • Regenerate upper catchment where habitat remains
Natural form and character	• Sustainable communities surviving weather extremes • Wetlands, land use retirement – i.e. more appropriate use
Fishing	
Hydroelectric power generation	• Not a value • Not a value • Not practical
Animal drinking water	• All properties that farm animals need access to good water. • Only in specific places
Wai tapu	• Need to identify silent sites
Mauri	• As kaitiaki we maintain the Mauri of the wai
Te Arai FMU	
Ecosystem health	• Te Mana o Te Wai, people need access to good quality water • Has been badly compromised. Hopefully the proposed clean up may restore but it will take time
Mahinga kai	• In the 1940-50 well known mahinga kai were the Arai, Whatatuna and Pipiwhakao • Healthy ecosystesm give healthy mahinga kai
Human contact	• Lack of use and maintenance of riverbanks – now overgrown with poplars and willows, every weed imaginable
Threatened species	• Some natives are emerging! • High ecological values in upper catchment so could be a good base to improve these values downstream – return for effort expended
Natural form and character	• Sustainable communities surviving weather extremes • The clean up will make some changes?
Fishing	• Very little to date, Selling of hinaki not happening. Kanae when it runs. Patikii still caught at north of Waipaoa

Drinking water supply	• All communities need access to good water • All marae in Manutuke now connected to GDC supply. Also have 2-40 10000 tanks for this purpose
Animal drinking water	• All properties that farm animals need access to good water. • N/A
Irrigation and food production	• Very important to feed the nation cost effectively • We have no water permits, some still use bones • Runoff and nutrients
Transport and Tauranga Waka	• No waka can go west of SH2 Arai bridge
Wai tapu	• Many pa and culturally significant sites. Some on GDC silent file
Mauri	• This will rest with the kaitiaki of the river
Tūranga Flats FMU	
Ecosystem health	• Te Mana o Te Wai, people need access to good quality water • Its noted Te Arai has been compromised • Good water quality to support healthy species • Runoff and nutrients
Mahinga kai	
Human contact	• Stop banks used for walking and cycling – creating connectivity to smaller townships and from urban to rural environment • Agree with swimming holes being safe to use during the season
Threatened species	
Irrigation and food production	• Very important to feed the nation cost effectively • The rivers and aquifers are important for horticulture supporting many people through jobs and income. Access to irrigation supply should be increased through better use of our natural resources. • Runoff and nutrients
Natural form and character	• Sustainable communities surviving weather extremes • Stop banks serve as purpose build – similar to the levees on the Mississippi they contain the river most of the time
Drinking water supply	• The Waipaoa River provides an important part of the drinking water supply for Gisborne City and communities across the Tūranga Flats – agree
Animal drinking water	• All properties that farm animals need access to good water. • NB Stock on floodbank properties will access the Waipaoa River water
Mauri	

Wai tapu	
Gisborne Urban	
Ecosystem health	• Te Mana o Te Wai, people need access to good quality water • Needs ongoing overview and care. Fish species especially tuna re under threat • Reduced runoff from agricultural, horticultural and residential land. Stormwater contaminants?
Mahinga kai	• Mussels, Waikanae awa is recovering, Waikanae the kanae are returning – mauri ok
Human contact	• The years that the banks were a dumping ground for Borough then GDC has had devastating effect. The mauri is slowly recovering
Threatened species	• Tuna, inanga, kanae, manu. The weka has gone
Natural form and character	• Sustainable communities surviving weather extremes • Wetlands
Irrigation and food production	• Very important to feed the nation cost effectively
Transport and Tauranga Waka	
Animal drinking water	• All properties that farm animals need access to good water
Mauri	
Wai tapu	