

TAIRĀWHITI REGIONAL FRESHWATER PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP

Hui agenda, minutes, and actions Hui #3 Held at Rose Room, Lawson Field Theatre on 13 September 2023 at 09:00am

Advisory Group facilitator	Dr Jill Chrisp	
Advisory Group members present	Samuel Lewis, Stan Pardoe, Jacob Harrison, Laura Watson, Seanne Williams, Dave Hawea, Keith Katipa, Phil Gaukrodger, Bronwyn Wilson-Hokianga, Dianne Irwin, Leo Kelso, Joss Ruifrok, Shanna Cairns, Nicki Davies, Murray Palmer, Taylor Howatson	
Council	Janic Slupski, Oliver Vetter, Ariel Yann le Chew, Paul Murphy, Sarah Thompson, Desiré du Plooy, Charlotte Knight Lois Easton, Wolfgang Kanz, Ian Mayhew	
Apologies	Alan Haronga, Mere Tamanui, Elizabeth Kamana, Colin Kerslake, Owen Lloyd	

Agenda

Session 1	09:00
Karakia and whakawhanaungatanga	
Welcome	
 Housekeeping 	
 Minutes and actions from hui #2 	
 Adoption of revised Terms of Reference 	
Recap of hui # 1 & 2	
Leg stretch and cuppa tea	09:25
Session 2	09:35
Water quality: Discharges to land and water	
 Introduction of content, review, issues & options 	
Group exercise and discussion	10:15
• Split into groups to discuss 'Point source discharges and discharges	
to ground water and bedrock'	
Wrap-up and next steps	11:15
Closing karakia	11:25
Shared lunch with both advisory groups	11:30 – 12:30

Summary of actions

Future Action *Refer to Parked List for summary

Current task

Notes:

- Each task is allocated a unique identifier e.g. T2 for ease of reference
- The numbering continues from previous meeting minutes

Task	Actions	Responsible	Due
T13	Provide further feedback on the workshop exercise held 16 August relating to 'Activities in the beds of rivers and lakes'. Feedback to be sent to Janic Slupski	All members	22 Sept
T14	 Links to previously recorded T9: Potentially broaden the scope of the future forestry workshop to include general land-use activities inclusive of farming (dairy, horticulture etc) 	Freshwater team	11 Oct (provide date)
T15	Workshop the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and its position in freshwater planning	Freshwater team	11 Oct (provide date)

Minutes

Session 1

1. Karakia and whakawhanaungatanga - welcome & housekeeping

- 1.1. The hui commenced with an opening karakia.
- 1.2. Minutes and actions from the hui held on 16 August were taken as read and accepted.
- 1.3. The draft Terms of Reference was adopted as the final version.
- 1.4. The Group was encouraged to provide further feedback on the workshop exercise done on 16 August relating to 'Activities in the beds of rivers and lakes'. Feedback should be emailed to Janic Slupski latest by Friday, 22 September.
- 1.5. Oliver Vetter is the main Council contact for assistance in accessing the portal. Meeting documents are hosted on the portal. Hard copies can be provided or sent via email if needed.
- 1.6. Members were encouraged to prepare for the monthly meetings, and where applicable, do the homework to ensure maximum participation in the process.
- 1.7. Attendance is renumerated, and members were reminded to submit monthly invoices to Kara Moir.
- 1.8. The Group participated in a scheduled fire drill at approximately 09:45.

2. Recap of previous hui

2.1. An overview of the planned series of meetings was provided to demonstrate how Council's Freshwater team is collecting information for the Plan's development.

3. Tasks to be actioned

Task	Actions	Responsible	Due
T13	Provide further feedback on the workshop exercise	All members	22 Sept
	held 16 August relating to 'Activities in the beds of rivers		
	and lakes'. Feedback to be sent to Janic Slupski		
T14	Links to previously recorded T9:	Freshwater	11 Oct
	• Potentially broaden the scope of the future Forestry	team	(provide
	workshop to include general land-use activities		date)
	inclusive of farming (dairy, horticulture etc)		

Session 2

4. Introduction to Report 1: 'Water quality and discharges to land and water'

- 4.1. Water quality and discharges cover six sub-sections. At this hui, staff focused on two sub-sections, namely point source discharges as well as discharges to groundwater and bedrock. The remaining four discharge topics will be discussed in subsequent hui.
- 4.2. Staff explained the nature of each discharge and provided examples of activities being managed in the current Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP). General

observations on the state and trends of water quality, and key legal requirements were also shared.

5. Group exercise

- 5.1. The Group split into five smaller groups at the hui, with each group choosing at least two of the five key issues. Discussions centered on the pre-set questions circulated to all members as homework before the workshop.
- 5.2. The five key issues identified for feedback to help guide the Freshwater team towards the development of a future Plan, are:
 - 5.2.1.**Issue 1: Sediment including rural run-off** sought feedback on key sediment and rural run-off concerns, where this is experienced as an issue, as well as what activities should be managed.
 - 5.2.2.**Issue 2: Rural field and tile drainage and associated discharges** sought feedback on how extensive this issue is (e.g., localised or region-wide), key issues, and practical management measures.
 - 5.2.3. **Issue 3: Urban stormwater** sought feedback on confirmation of this as a key issue for Tairāwhiti, and whether there's agreement to take a high-risk approach from an environmental perspective.
 - 5.2.4. Issue 4: Wastewater network overflows sought feedback on future expectations, and thoughts on treated wastewater.
 - 5.2.5.**Issue 5: Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)** sought feedback on MAR's viability, the key issues and what direction should be taken with the Plan.
- 5.3. The verbatim feedback from the flipcharts was collated and is appended to these minutes as **Appendix 1**, reflecting the output from the five groups' discussions.

6. General further points raised by the Group

- 6.1. Discharges from forestry activities also need to be addressed as part of the Advisory Group's meeting schedule. Council's Freshwater team has undertaken to consider how this can be integrated into the current meeting schedule (also refer to previously recorded Task #9 at the hui held in August 2023).
- 6.2. An integrated holistic approach to freshwater discharges is needed, as opposed to focusing on one specific area i.e., restoration and abundance of the whole system, and how it can relate to freshwater ecosystems.
- 6.3. Call for developing a vision for freshwater. Staff explained, in response, the long-term vision setting steps that form part of catchment planning.
- 6.4. The Group recommended that the role of the Advisory Group be clarified in setting the overarching direction through the Regional Policy Statement.

7. Tasks to be actioned

T15	Workshop the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and its	Freshwater	11 Oct
	position in freshwater planning	team	(provide
			date)

8. Wrap-up and next steps in the process

- 8.1. The Group was thanked for their input.
- 8.2. The Freshwater team will capture all responses and collate the feedback received. The points raised will assist the Freshwater team to develop possible options for consideration in which these issues might be addressed.
- 8.3. At the October hui the discussions will continue to focus on the next two discharge topics.

9. Closing karakia

The hui closed at 11:30 with a karakia and the Group enjoyed a shared lunch with the Waipaoa Advisory Group members. The next monthly Group hui is scheduled for 11 October 2023.

PARKING LIST

The following matters have been captured from discussions of the **TAIRĀWHITI REGIONAL FRESHWATER PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP** hui. They are captured here to be incorporated as supplementary recommendations in the Group's final report and/or responded to directly.

Parking List			
Reference	Item/Action	Date raised	Date addressed
Т9	Establish a future focus group to discuss forestry land-use	16/8/23	11/10 - provide date
TII	Future discussion on stock exclusion regulations and implications	16/8/23	tbc
T12	Data and digital sovereignty: need to consider Māori Data Sovereignty framework released by StatNZ, and what that means to our process (referring to inherent rights and interests that Māori have in relation to the collection, ownership and application of Māori data)	16/8/23	tbc
т14	 Links to previously recorded T9: Potentially broaden the scope of the future Forestry workshop to include general land-use activities inclusive of farming (dairy, horticulture etc) 	13/9/23	11/10 - provide date
T15	Workshop the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and its position in freshwater planning schedule	13/9/23	11/10 - provide date

Appendix 1 – Feedback captured at hui #3

Issue 1: Sediment/rural runoff

Questions for consideration

- 1. What are the key issues or concerns relating to sediment/rural runoff?
- 2. Are these isolated to specific areas/locations or is this a region wide issue?
- 3. What activities do you think are the most important to control closely?

Questions with feedback received

1. What are the key issues or concerns relating to sediment/rural runoff?

- Sediment/rural runoff solutions need to be worked through with Maori foresters and landowners. Current solutions being drawn up by GDC now are draconian and could destroy the forestry industry on the Tairawhiti. Solutions will take time to resolve.
- Solutions are likely to be costly and will have greater impact on small Maori landowners.
- Monitoring applies more broadly, but GDC indicates on page 8 that GDC is unable to monitor everywhere. The cost of better monitoring should deal with most of the issues raised by GDC about it. The cost on Maori landowners to meet not only this consultation but other regulations outlined on page 10 will far outweigh the cost of GDC putting in place comprehensive monitoring.
- The probable costs to implement all this water quality regulation has on the region has not been done and will add to the demise of all communities but is particularly evident in the increased closed shops in Gisborne city now.
- It is landowners that have allowed activities on their lands that should be a part
 of this process, not strangers. Many of the issues will be due to legal policies in
 the past that now have unintended consequences. GDC need to work with
 landowners on a sustainable path forward, otherwise compensation needs to
 be considered to encourage appropriate behaviour.

2. Are these isolated to specific areas/locations or is this a region wide issue?

The areas are large and specific and are identified as orange, red and purple zoned land on the Tairawhiti.

3. What activities do you think are the most important to control closely?

We need to work together for the benefit of the Waipaoa Catchment and the region.

Written feedback captured on flipcharts

- What is % point-source contributing to overall problem?
- Effort should balance against scale problem
- There are natural geology issues and erosion that contributes to a baseline of sediment transfer mud volcanoes
- Pest control is a consideration around browsing animals and ground cover and stability to mitigate slips
- Rural land-use in upper-catchment where there is more rainfall is where focus needs to occur to manage these areas around sediment
 - Bring back MPI funding for erosion control poles and include native
- 'Landscape Scale' Mapping of vulnerable areas is required. Prioritisation of these is required to target high risk areas
- Forestry NES VS Regional rules
- Funding/ access to \$ to incentivise/support landowners req to undertake improvements.
 - o identify areas suitable for wetland creation and restoration
 - o support the creation of catchment groups move access to funding
- Issue is multigenerational
- Reevaluating the funding criteria i.e., credits for planting natives
- We must have a holistic /collective vision of what we want to achieve can be inspirational
- Stabilisation of erodible areas with vegetation
- How does climate change affect land-use and impact of erosion prone areas? Does this change our approach?
- Grasses and sedges research for trapping sediment

Issue 2: Rural field and tile drainage

Questions for consideration

- How extensive are rural field and tile drains in the region are they predominantly on the Poverty Bay Flats or common in other parts of the region?
- What issues are important when managing rural field and tile drainage? (e.g. water quality, flooding, effects on wetland, etc)

Questions with feedback received

1. How extensive are rural field and tile drains in the region – are they predominantly on the Poverty Bay Flats or common in other parts of the region?

Tile drains are put on the more fertile lands which are the Poverty Bay Flats. There will be a smattering of fertile rural lands with tile drains.

2. What issues are important when managing rural field and tile drainage? (e.g. water quality, flooding, effects on wetland, etc)

Excess water, flooding.

Written feedback captured on post-it notes

- Importance 10m 5m riparian margins adjacent to drains to capture sediment
- Is any maintenance done on tile drains? Floods are blocking pipes.
- Recycling of tile discharge
- Watercress- is it poisoning me?
- Big drains spraying
 - What are they spraying? A lot of watercress is sold locally. Toxic?
- Nutrient would otherwise go into groundwater so they're actually beneficial in some circumstances
- Map degradation better. Show farmers / growers to take ownership.
- Tile drainage helps aerate soil structure, aids natural soil ecosystems, organisms
 - Reduces compaction issues from machinery
- Fertilisers approach research farms for best practice
 - Challenge current practices
- Seek data from other sources councils
- Iron oake/ocre is commonly seen on the flats
 - o naturally occurring bacteria
 - not sure of WQ effect
- No tiles, no horticulture
- Build a record of locations. We must know where they are.
- Wetlands can they cope with competing contaminants? Nutrients and herbicides?
- Identify more sites where wetlands could be created
- Clay tile still functional if on grade (50 years)
 - o need velocity to clean them
- Tile drains are good because they stop excess overload run-off that would also collect other contaminants/nutrients, phosphorous, sulfites, glysophates + agricultural pesticides
- Agree with current need for consent to pump.
- Tile drains fit better as 'permitted activity'
- Farm Environment Plan problem not tile drain problem
- Cover of 1m or 1.2m (hort)
 - Seasonal cropping cover a depth of 600mm
- Drainage co-efficient reduces peak run-off attenuation
- Sprayed drains keep flood carrying capacity but lower WQ, increased temp, very poor habitat but that's the trade off for flood capacity

Verbatim feedback

- Didn't really cover the last question
- Talked about whether pumping vs gravity is preferred, is there an environmental/WQ difference? Or just flood potential
- Also discussed how temporary pumping is allowed but permanent pumping is not so people are using this as a work around, saying their pumps are temporary
- Spoke about the appropriate activity status, so while ok as permitted activity, we should add more criteria.

Issue 3: Urban stormwater

Questions for consideration

- Do you consider that urban stormwater management is a significant issue for Tairāwhiti? If so, what are the key issues that you are aware of?
- 2. Should there be greater emphasis on managing stormwater from new subdivision and development, including the use of low impact design and minimising stormwater generation at source?
- 3. Do you agree with a risk-based approach particularly activities that are generating 'higher risk' from an environmental perspective?

Questions with feedback received

- 1. Do you consider that urban stormwater management is a significant issue for Tairāwhiti? If so, what are the key issues that you are aware of?
 - Flooding. Keeping drains clear on a regular basis allows flood water to be cleared more quickly.
- 2. Should there be greater emphasis on managing stormwater from new subdivision and development, including the use of low impact design and minimising stormwater generation at source?
 - Providing it does not add too much cost to the development as Gisborne has a very high population of people who cannot afford costly homes or even renting them.
- 3. Do you agree with a risk-based approach particularly activities that are generating 'higher risk' from an environmental perspective?
 - Yes. All such businesses should have a stormwater plan that is appropriate for their business.

Written feedback

Much of this also relates to wastewater; to be considered for those discharges too

- New development is a concern lots of it and it is increasing flows (also wastewater issues). Development examples:
 - o On the skyline around Kaiti
 - o Wheatstone
 - Kainga ora (infill)

- Ngāti Porou (Tyndall)
- Rifle range
- Stormwater more flooding, resulting in indirect wastewater effects
- Water quality is a serious issue
- Polluted discharges into Taruheru, Waimata etc., Kopuawhakapata stormwater needs to be treated
- Climate change needs to be integrated into stormwater management
- Current rules are not being followed, need better compliance and enforcement by GDC
- Heavy rain warnings we need a proactive communication plan, where the community etc. can be warned of potential flooding or wastewater overflows
- Compliance & Enforcement of Stormwater Management Plans and Industrial or Trade Activity Management Plans – the rules are not being followed or enforced
- Stormwater Management Plan rules in TRMP required the above management plans to be completed by May 2020 for Industrial/Commercial Trade Activities; can't see any evidence of this
- Floodplains need to be preserved (no development in floodplains; stop allowing development in flood plains if floor levels are above flood levels)
 - Don't build in floodplains!
- DrainWise is based on reducing overflows to occur once every 2 years. What should the target be?
- Could be 1 overflow per 5 or 10 years. It will be impossible to prevent overflows in all events because when it floods past a certain level the wastewater system can't be stopped from being inundated
- Zero overflows should regardless be the target
- Wastewater discharges into freshwater DrainWise wastewater outflows; this is a great concern and is linked to stormwater management
- Roading assets are part of the stormwater network; the roads etc. also need to be managed
- Stormwater assets are upgraded as council does its renewals of pipes and so on. However, will upgrades be able to keep up with the rate of climate change? We will need properties to manage flows from their properties also in very high rainfalls or flooding.
- The network was never designed for the amount of housing now present
- Over time the level of service from existing pipes are actually reducing because of climate change and infill development
- In some areas culvert upgrades are needed under roads
- Ecological/Biodiversity effects must also be considered
- The wastewater network is 50% public and 50% private. Council is fixing its pipes over time. Private properties need to do this too
- Public wastewater pipes are much deeper than private wastewater pipes and so are less likely to have rainwater inflow or infiltration quickly during storms

- The Public Pipes on Private Property stormwater projects are aimed at reducing flooding on properties that don't have reasonable opportunities for connecting into the public network
- These can be considered Network extensions
- Operation and maintenance, clearing obstructions is important
- DrainWise better reporting is needed
- Low Impact Design (L.I.D.) / Water Sensitive Urban Design (W.S.U.D.)
 - "Work with the water"
 - Stop fighting the water to make it fit into our vision. What does the water need?
- Te Mana o Te Wai (TMOTW) need to cater for the water first, stormwater management must consider the effects on the waterway
- In the past lots of open drains were piped it was thought to be good practice. This has now reversed and channels are more important than ever.
- Overland flow paths are critical
- Maximum imperviousness per site this needs to be limited or controlled in the revised TRMP
 - Applied to both existing & new

Issue 4: Wastewater overflows

Questions for consideration

- What are your expectations for wastewater overflows over the following timeframes?
 - a. Medium term (10 years)
 - b. Long term
- 2. Is the approach one of 'keeping the foot down' to continue to drive improvement or is something else needed?
- 3. Should the Plan specifically control discharges of treated wastewater to land and water?

Submitted answers to questions are in table below

Questions with feedback received

- 1. What are your expectations for wastewater overflows over the following timeframes?
 - Medium term (10 years)
 - ✤ Long term

GDC needs to show better leadership on this issue as it is expecting the region to do likewise on water quality.

2. Is the approach one of 'keeping the foot down' to continue to drive improvement or is something else needed?

GDC needs to work with those businesses to bring their wastewater overflows under control

3. Should the Plan specifically control discharges of treated wastewater to land and water?

No. Wait until horticulture and other industries affected give the green light. The use of AUD will be decided by our overseas markets.

<u>Issues</u>

- Murray GDC non-compliant
 - <u>Climate change</u> need to fix for the future
- **Di** Big picture. We're at risk every time it floods
 - What Is GDC's treatment process? Not working
 - Solution has to be in the infrastructure
 - When will mana whenua be treated as equals? GDC has all the resourcing
 - If system is inundated there needs to be other options Need to encourage / promote
 - Kainga ora urban distribution. Interconnected w/ stormwater
- **MP** Need to make sure infrastructure has appropriate capacity
 - New growth making issue worse eg Wainui
- Keith Governance GDC, mana whenua needs to be sorted
 - <u>System issue</u> Tinkering with inadequate infrastructure. Run down system, difficult to get out of this issue
 - Principle + Value Need to change our thinking
- Phil stormwater overflow going into ww system
 - Whatatutu / TK post Gabrielle housing growth
 - how to / when to transition from septic to community infrastructure
- Nicki capacity constraints. More intense storms
 - Integrated system
- Shanna need balance between landowner / private + GDC
- Also blockages towels + wet wipes!

Top four issues

- 1. Stormwater infiltration, into wastewater system
- 2. Infrastructure (treatment plant) capacity
- 3. Governance GDC + mana whenua need to work together
- 4. Big picture holistic / systems thinking needed

<u>Solutions/Opportunities – Where do we want to get to?</u>

- Resourcing shared with mana whenua
- Matauranga Maori use / shave
- Separate waste streams from water
- Keith Mixing seweroge + water is wrong !
- **Di** no maintenance on infrastructure eg Kopuawhakapata

- Solve stormwater dischange <u>drainwise</u>
- New development avoid making problem worse
- ensure flows of stormwater are attenuated
- Divert WW to wetland treatment
- Diversion of WW to balance network another pump station
- Education to avoid inappropriate behaviour
- Ultimately transformation via wetland for polishing

Issue 5: Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)

Questions for consideration

Written answers and submitted answers to questions are in table below

- 1. Is MAR likely to be a viable option for Tairāwhiti?
 - Yes but focus on Makauri-MAR what's achievable
 - needs to be seen within a wider water resilience approach
 climate change
 - No can't fully recharge the aquifer in a short period of time (80yrs)
 - Key issues no clear way forward for actually implementing
 who is the driver of this?
 - Is complex to recharge an aquifer
 - what's the end goal?
 - Te Whanau a Kai view on aquifers destroying the wetlands was a key cause of decline
 - There is room to recharge the aquifer
 - o It's the 'how' now, not a silver bullet solution
 - o needs to be part of an integrated solution
 - including addressing the wastewater discharge into the bay/
 - Reuse of wastewater needs to be explicitly supported in policy
- 2. In light of the first question, should the Freshwater Plan include specific provisions for managing MAR?
 - Yes need Council to take the driver's seat
 - More like a water scheme e.g. Wairarapa / Tasman
 - Holistic management needs to be reflected in Policy
 o includes discharge + reuse of treated wastewater
 - Need to have a framework that allows for technique such as, baseflow enhancement (including water storage)
 - Are some big policy issues to consider
 - mixing of waters, mechanism of recharge
 - o assisted natural recharge is more in line with tangata whenua values.
 - Who benefits? Can we see water quality improvement drought resilience
 - Need collaboration for good environmental management
- 3. If so, what are some of the key issues that should be considered in managing MAR?
 - Need thorough hydrological assessment
 - water quality of water used (this is key)
 - \circ needs to be filtered/treated well

- huge sediment runoff from seasonal cropping maize
- MAR enable change to different crops
- Contamination, source water selection
- Monitoring + data collection
- Must be high quality water going into the aquifer for a MAR scheme
- How to stop saline intrusion into the western side (were lakes previously around Manutuke)
- Are a lot of unknowns
 - o relationship with natural recharge
 - o integrated with alternate use of wastewater
- Infrastructure design
- Natural type recharge (infiltration wetland treatment)
- Assisted natural recharge
 - o climate resilience
 - o community engagement
 - o user pays system

Questions for consideration

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 - Te Whanau a Kai view on aquifers destroying the wetlands was a key cause of decline
 - There is room to recharge the aquifer
 - o It's the 'how' now, not a silver bullet solution
 - o needs to be part of an integrated solution
 - including addressing the wastewater discharge into the bay/
 - Reuse of wastewater needs to be explicitly supported in policy
 - It should be. The testing says it is feasible and Gisborne needs more new water in an overallocated catchment.
- 2. In light of the first question, should the Freshwater Plan include specific provisions for managing MAR?
 - Yes need Council to take the driver's seat
 - More like a water scheme e.g. Wairarapa / Tasman
 - Holistic management needs to be reflected in Policy

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- Are a lot of unknowns
 - relationship with natural recharge
 - o integrated with alternate use of wastewater
- Infrastructure design
- Natural type recharge (infiltration wetland treatment)
- Assisted natural recharge
 - o climate resilience
 - o community engagement
 - o user pays system
- Resolve any outstanding issues.
- Support of relevant iwi.
- Apply for resource consent
- Maintaining or improving the water quality of the aquifer.
- Arresting the decline by refilling the aquifer to levels that don't cause water table problems elsewhere in the system.
- Arresting the salt intrusion by refilling the aquifer.
- An organisation to manage and build a plant.
- Times when water can be taken from the Waipaoa and how much to refill.
- Water allocation rules to be determined