



TAIRĀWHITI

REGIONAL FRESHWATER PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP

Hui agenda, minutes, and actions

Hui #4

Held at Waikanae Surf Club on 11 October 2023 at 09:00am

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

Agenda

Session 1 - Context	
Karakia and whakawhanaungatanga	09:00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Housekeeping Minutes and actions from hui #3 	
Recap	09:10
Session 2 – Regional Freshwater Plan	
Introduction of content, review, issues & options	09:25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality and discharges to land and water Diffuse discharges and fertiliser and solid discharges 	
Leg stretch and cuppa tea	09:45
Group exercise and discussion	10:00
Wrap-up and next steps	11:00
Check-in on process	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
T16	Provide opportunity for members to actively participate in the information analysis processes as we progress through plan development	Freshwater team	Ongoing
T17	Develop an infographic representation of the freshwater process to illustrate how everything fits into the bigger picture	Freshwater team	13/12/23
T18	Review the feedback received on how to improve meetings and feedback to the groups on actions to be taken	Freshwater team	13/12/23

Minutes

Session 1

1. Karakia and whakawhanaungatanga - welcome & housekeeping

- 1.1. The hui commenced with an opening karakia and extended a welcome to new members.
- 1.2. Minutes and actions from the hui held on 13 September 2023 were taken as read and accepted as a true reflection.
- 1.3. Council staff proposed a separate workshop to be held on 15 November to deal with two actions on the 'Parking List'. The two topics, the Regional Policy Statement and its position in freshwater planning, and forestry, were identified earlier for more in-depth discussion and to understand what drives the freshwater planning processes. It was further recommended that the Regional Freshwater Planning Advisory Group and the Waipaoa Catchment Planning Advisory Group, combine into one group and have a full-day workshop session at Ohako Marae. It was also confirmed that there's no intention at this stage to have the forestry sector present at the workshop.
- 1.4. A reminder was given to members that assistance with accessing the portal can be obtained by contacting Oliver Vetter. Hard copies can be provided for pick up from Council reception upon request.
- 1.5. Council staff were acknowledged for ensuring that all contributions workshopped at the hui were captured correctly.

Session 2 – Regional Freshwater Plan

2. Recap of previous hui

- 2.1. An overview of the planned series of meetings was provided to demonstrate how information is being collected and fed into the development of the Regional Freshwater Plan. The focus of this hui remained on water quality and discharges, marking the second consecutive month with this theme.
- 2.2. The Group was informed that Council staff are currently in the process of reviewing the existing work programme and time schedules, with the potential of pushing out the first hui of 2024 from February to March.
- 2.3. It was noted that the advisory groups are not the only forum for Council's engagement discussions. We are advocating for separate sub-projects to feed into the plans, such as Te Maungarongo wetlands and Te Arai te Uru. Subsequently, we will consolidate all the information gathered from these various engagements and move forward to develop a draft Freshwater Plan.
- 2.4. A recap was provided of the five key issues that were discussed in the previous hui, which focused on point source discharges and discharges to groundwater and bedrock. Each issue was presented, and potential directions and options for addressing them were summarised and shared with the Group.

3. Introduction to Report 1: Diffuse discharges / Fertilisers and solid discharges

- 3.1. Staff provided an overview of each discharge and highlighted the associated issues that could impact freshwater quality and other freshwater values. They also discussed the indicative conclusions from Council's current State of the Environment monitoring. This was followed by a discussion about the effectiveness of the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP) in monitoring and managing these discharges.
- 3.2. A key issue discussed pertained to how the Regional Freshwater Plan will align with national legislative requirements. The Group engaged in a discussion whether these existing requirements were adequate and whether additional, more stringent requirements would be necessary. Several questions were raised concerning this matter.

4. Group exercise

- 4.1. The Group split into smaller groups to consider a range of different management approaches and options for managing these discharges and in what circumstances. These questions were circulated prior to the hui.
- 4.2. The topics were:
 - 4.2.1. Freshwater Farm Plans / Farm Environment Plans
 - 4.2.2. Stock access/exclusion
 - 4.2.3. Nutrient management
 - 4.2.4. Iwi management plans.
- 4.3. All information was collected, and verbatim feedback is attached to these minutes (Appendix 1).

5. Wrap-up and next steps in the process

- 5.1. The Group was invited to provide feedback on all hui to date. They indicated aspects that are functioning well, improvement areas, and suggestions for enhancing the quality of our discussions. All responses were collected and feedback is attached to these minutes (Appendix 2). The Freshwater team will take this feedback and consider what can be done differently to address the identified improvement areas.
- 5.2. The Group's input was acknowledged with appreciation. Members were encouraged to check the outcomes of all discussions to ensure that their voices have been heard.
- 5.3. The December hui will continue with the discharges theme and focus on hazardous substances/contaminated land and on-site wastewater treatment and disposal.

6. Closing karakia

- 6.1. The hui closed at 11:30 with a karakia and the Group enjoyed a shared lunch.
- 6.2. The next monthly hui will take place on 13 December 2023, as the 15 November hui is earmarked for the combined workshop on the RPS and forestry at Ohako Marae.

7. Tasks to be actioned

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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			
Ref	Item/Action	Date raised	Date addressed
T9	Establish a future focus group to discuss forestry land-use	16/8/23	Workshop on 15/11
T11	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
T14	Links to previously recorded T9: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potentially broaden the scope of the future Forestry workshop to include general land-use activities inclusive of farming (dairy, horticulture etc) 	13/9/23	Workshop on 15/11
T15	Workshop the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and its position in freshwater planning schedule	13/9/23	Workshop on 15/11
T16	Provide opportunity for members to actively participate in the information analysis processes as we progress through plan development		Ongoing
T17	Develop an infographic representation of the freshwater process to illustrate how everything fits into the bigger picture	11/10/23	13/12/23
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Appendix 1 – Written feedback on discharges group exercise: captured at hui #4

Note: Nowhere on the photos were there indication that they were answering a specific question from the handout. No report back in this hui.

Topic 1: Stock access and exclusion

Contact person (if clarification is need) – Lois Easton

Stock access & exclusion

- Focus on areas above recreational sites
- Are issues with fencing on riverbanks when the fence gets destroyed by forestry slash
- One size does not fit all
- Catchment/local approach that takes into account specifics
- Low slope land is the most vulnerable to slash
 - Fencing is expensive -cost is approx. \$ 28-\$33 / metre for fences
- Rule should be exclusion – not fences specifically
- Trials with cattle with electronic collars
- Need reticulation to have stock exclusion
 - Doubles the price of fencing
- Can't do stock exclusion until deal with slash in rivers and across flats
- On land >5° erosion rates means the fences fall into the river
- Stock exclusion on steeper land needs to be supported by riparian planting / land retirement.

Setbacks

- Setbacks unlikely to be being observed
 - no compliance or monitoring
- Hort setbacks aren't being used
 - people aren't even aware of them
- What's in the plan already needs to be implemented + monitored
 - before adding new rules
- Use Internet of Things
 - smart technology
 - (e.g. sensor to check continuity of the top wire)
- Use drones / satellites/ LIDAR as part of monitoring system rather their poorly trained students + staff
- Riparian also expensive – in addition to other exclusion costs and needs to be done comprehensively (ie by neighbours)

Sediment

- Sediment is not riverbank erosion
 - Landscape scale
- Need to start at the top of the catchment
- Forestry slash is causing riverbank + bed erosion
- Need to stabilise land to reduce sediment
- Recognise climate change impacts
- Bring back funded erosion control trees and funded native regeneration

- Wetland restoration is key
 - Improve hydrology, need to target an increase in wetland % across each catchment (e.g. 10%/catchment)
- Pest control – deer goats and pigs – browsing and rooting leads to sediment/erosion

E.coli

- Do we know what are the faecal sources?
 - e.g. how much in the Waimata is from human/wastewater?
- Our farms are mixed sheep + beef
 - Dairy farm approaches don't work
 - Need 7 wire fence to exclude sheep
 - Should target cattle first
 - Cheaper to exclude + like to stand in rivers
- Management of critical sources for E.coli
 - Turn into wetlands

How do we reduce sediment/E.coli?

- Continuous cover of native forestry/alternative species like redwoods
- Start at the headwaters
 - Improve small streams as a priority
- Riparian corridors
 - Integrated management
- Catchment approach
- Pace of change is important
 - Don't want to make farming uneconomic so targeted approach at a catchment level better than 1 size fits all rules

Topic 2: Nutrient management

Contact person (if clarification is needed) – Shanna Cairns

Farming

- Farming only uses nitrogen – not synthetics
 - Because we grow grass well
 - Application is managed spatially within a farm – variable rate application
 - Move towards clover – fixes nitrogen
 - National rules likely to be adequate
- In farming, nitrogen not a big issue but phosphorus might be. Phosphorus attaches to sediment
 - Sediment traps – to settle sediment
 - Poles + other erosion control
- Phosphorus primarily linked to sediment, so controls on superphosphate unlikely to make any difference – focus needs to be on sediment
- Farm environment plans
- Nutrient management plans
- Guidance available (<https://www.fertiliser.org.nz/Site/resources/booklets.aspx>)

Cropping + Permanent hort are quite different

- Serious intellectual property – fertiliser use – Official Information Act

- Some form of Best Practice + Monitoring
- Fertiliser use very high for annual crops
- Farming uses only a fraction
- Nutrient use is very dependent on crop type – perhaps more so that changing land use from farming to horticulture

Impact of nutrients

- Linked to sunlight & temperature
 - Shading – solution
 - Planting Northern side currently
 - Lose land
 - Needs clearing out periodically – 5-10 years
 - Private land VS Council owned – some landowners lose out
- Nutrient caps ok if fit for purpose
- Blanket rules they affect everyone are not fair
 - Some use 800kg/yr, some use 50kg/year
 - Fertigation could be the answer
- Taruheru small catchment
 - Highly degraded
 - Look at what is happening there
- Obvious contributors
 - FEP's need capacity & capabilities within GDC
 - Taruheru needs its own catchment plan/group like Te Arai/Waikanae
 - Flooding
 - What makes the biggest difference in short time – Inputs or treatment?
 - Requirements to not leave any paddocks fallow
 - Look to IWG rules
 - Animals vs Tractor damage similar
 - Setbacks where gravity is a contributor

Nutrient Management Plans

- Measuring and restricting the application of nutrients is definitely the easiest way to regulate, but there are a range of variables, include climate, soil type etc.
- Nutrient Management Plans could be used to optimize fertiliser use, but require soil nutrient testing which is expensive

Topic 3: Freshwater Farm Plans

Contact person (if clarification is needed) – Janic Slupski

Experiences

Bella

- Need funding
 - MPI (Private landowners)
 - Te Puni Kōkiri (Māori land)
 - Beef & Land + Federated Farmers; Rural women's group
- Workshop
 - Provide resources to development farm plan
- A tool to improve your appreciation of land – motivation

- Important – Best practice management
 - Raises awareness/education
 - L/S mapping -> Id. LUC's

Taylor

- AgFirst involved in a lot
- No FEPs for orchards yet – GAP approved
- Misses landuse component
- Need to start with 80% industry

Widespread application

Bella

- Already submitted to MFE agencies + GDC, not coordinated – duplication
- Different expectations depending on location + land use
- Need to incentivise
 - e.g. rates, native plants
- Need to support this

Dave

- Has to be part of overall freshwater plan

Seanne

- Lifestyle blocks should be included

Stan

- Iwi groups, farm groups + GDC need to work together
- Capacity issue
- Need to abide by requirements
- Won't be one size fits all
- Sharing information
- Don't have to reinvent wheel

Taylor

- Try + support catchment groups
- Freshwater farm plans only as good as collective buy-in

Colin

- Scale locally – what we do impacts our neighbours. The result is wider
- Freshwater farm plans – not in this alone
 - Whenua + water is bigger than all of us
- Values + principles fundamental to Māori land + freshwater planning process
- Needs a shift in mindset
 - Need to move beyond the mindset of the status quo
 - Work to do
- Need to break the cycle - uncertainty

Dave

- Better to have our local, Tairāwhiti specific approach to freshwater farm plans

Solutions

- Beef & Lamb – providing wrap-around support
- Coordinate with farmers in same catchment
- Competition for land with international market
 - Need to build capacity
 - Facilitated by GDC, Beef & Lamb etc
 - Small farms can't do it

Topic 4: Iwi management plans

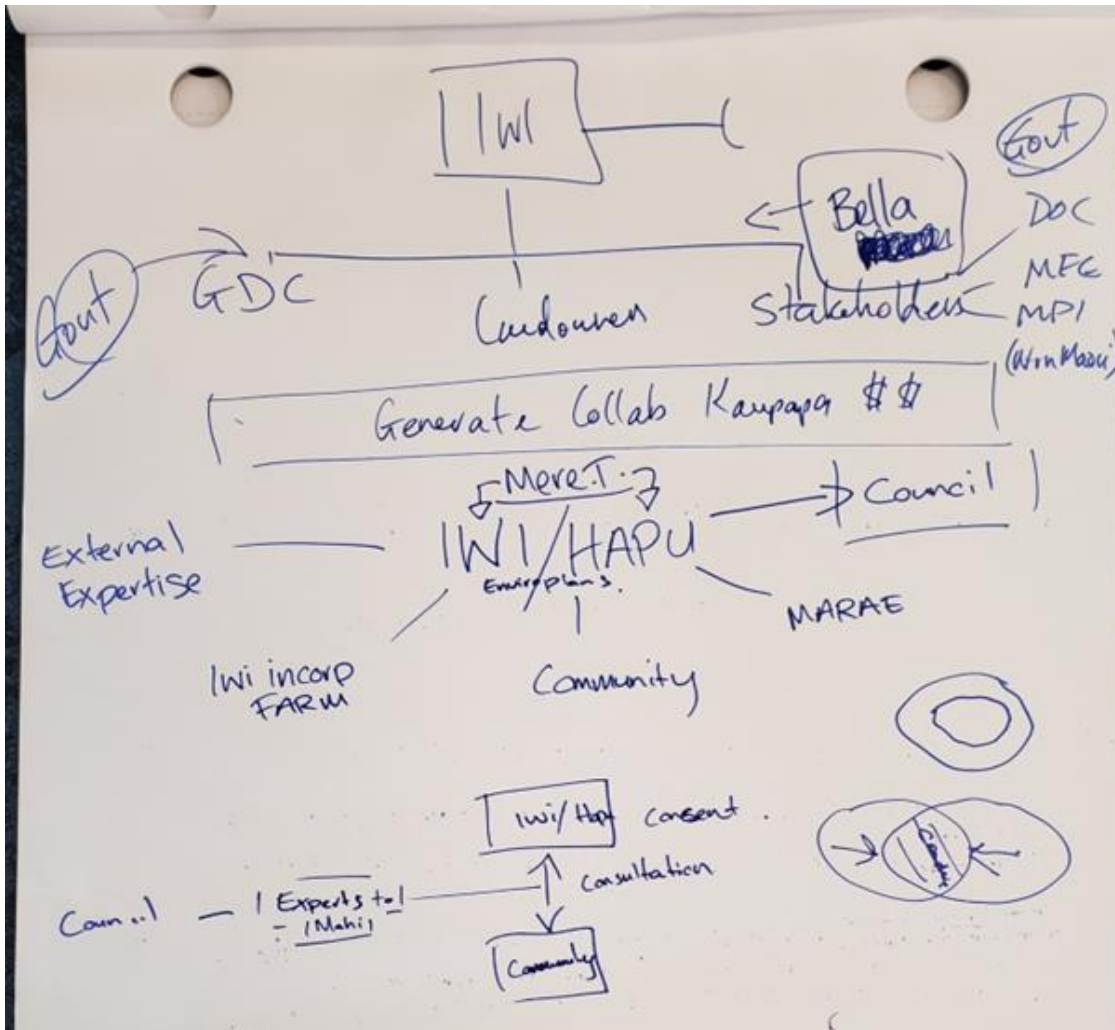
Hapu & Iwi Management Plans

- Need to be accessible & reported on
 - Measures (within Council)
 - Tell the story
- Whakapapa – whakapapa Taiao – cultural indicators
 - Wahi tapu, geographical distribution, where we have historically culturally practiced. Land story – Incorporate to farm plans
- Monitoring
 - to before local capacity growth (supports under human resourced regional management)
 - compliance officers
 - education
 - practice
 - every action has a reaction – cost analysis benefit
- Iwi relations
- Informed information to whanau
 - Passion, experience – right person in right place like the right tree in the right place
- Opportunity for hapu and iwi MPs to be incorporated into catchment plans and catchment context
 - these will help inform freshwater farm plans and actions under these for all landowners
 - resourcing and capacity and other priorities continue to be a key issue

Diagram 1:



Diagram 2:



Appendix 2 – Written feedback on process and hui effectiveness: captured at hui #4

Note: Some answers refer to what's not working well – legislative-wise. The intention of requesting feedback was how the members viewed the current operation of the Regional Freshwater Advisory Group. This includes, for example, the scheduling of how a session is run, the location of the reports (Is it easier on portal? Or should Council prepare hard copies?) to if the reports have been too general and should include additional resources (e.g. Council guides etc)

Question 1: What is working well?

- Interaction
- Attendance
- Willingness to contribute
- Discussion groups – with subject matters in groups adding value
- Diverse group, members are starting to work together well, putting aside agendas
 - Finding about what else is happening elsewhere
- Facilitation
 - Time keeping
 - Comms
 - Engagement
- Chair/facilitator
- Listening & being heard (i.e. acting on forestry meeting)
- Pre-reading
- Reasonably good spread of “voice”/iwi
- Ohako visit will be good for regional setting
- Included in this Kaupapa
- Sharing/conversations from all
- Breakaway groups working well, chance to discuss in more detail

Two people just said “No” to this question in their post-its

Question 2: What is not working well?

- Government and regional councils have taken control (incorrectly) & are not going to let go. Big minus – Don't recognise Treaty – giving lip service
- Understanding whether we need to provide more/less info
- Hard to know what to focus on scale
 - It's complex, takes time, we're on it
- RM policy is hard, technical boring + often disconnected from real world
- Too little time – a bit rushed, can't participate in full range of topics. Sometimes not being able to discuss enough.
- Portal (not user-friendly)
- Not enough focus on Te Mana o te Wai
- Feels rushed, need more time
- Pre-reading not always what we discussed
- Seeking clarity of is this consultation
 - Plan
 - Timeline
 - Implementation

- Yes! Seems to me we are going round & round the same circle
- Values – tangata whenua – value of water equal to human – not economic
- GDC strategy not aligning with tangata whenua

Dianne noted that she sent email to Jo on the above two points

Question 3: Any suggestions for improvement?

- Feel comfortable talking from iwi/tangata whenua space
- Broader range of representation
- Use Ka Hao Kupenga to guide answers questions in groups activities... and ...
- Interweave matauranga maori into all conversations, not separated
- Feedback box
- Solidify “the vision” so we know what we’re aiming for
- More time, discussion, & reflection
- Understanding how the info/collaboration has been used
- Less background and focus on principles, questions, values
- More open-ended hui – just talk about topics
- Bring other perspectives & experiences to the table
- Have a topic and talk it through until we arrive at a satisfactory answer and agreement
- Let tangata whenua & kaitiaki claim back their methods
- I’d like to see more “vision” what we would like/believe our freshwater systems to be
- Would like to understand what ideas/strategies Council has in improving water ways?
 - What work streams are currently ongoing?
- Where does Council believe our current plan falls short?
 - What are the rules that could/should change to drive positive change?

Additional post-its

Person A

- Situation
- Mission
- Execution
- Administration
- Communication
- Less complicated
- Shorter time to complete
- Work finished