



Waiapu Catchment Technical Advisory Group

DRAFT Minutes – Hui 1

Held at the Heartlands Service Centre Office (Hekiera Rd, Ruatoria) on Thursday 3 April 2025 at 9:30am

Attendees

Advisory Group members	Agnes Walker, Ario Rewi, Donnette Kupenga, Horiata Raihania, Pia Pohatu, Renee Raroa, Warwick Olsen, Graeme Atkins, Lilian Baldwin
Council / TRONP project team	Kate Walker, Keriana Wilcox-Taylor, Janic Slupski, Abi Wiseman, Oliver Vetter, Lois Easton
Apologies	Hilton Collier

Agenda

1. Whakawhanaungatanga - welcome & introductions
2. Overview of process for the advisory group <ul style="list-style-type: none">Legislative context; Topics to cover – where are we at?; Timeframes, output and outcomes; Draft Terms of Reference
3. Long Term Vision for the catchment <ul style="list-style-type: none">Discussion on the draft vision for the catchment
4. Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none">Discussion on the freshwater issues in the catchment
<i>Lunch</i>
5. Values of the catchment <ul style="list-style-type: none">Discussion of values for the catchment
6. Environmental Outcomes – workshop
7. Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">2025 ScheduleWider engagement
<i>Meeting close</i>

Pre-reading

- Draft Terms of Reference
- Report 1: Scope of Waipapu Catchment Plan
- Report 2: Draft long-term vision
- Report 3: Waipapu Catchment Values
- Waipapu Catchment Background Document (2022)

Supporting hyperlinks

- Current [Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan](#)

Summary of actions

Notes:

- *Each task is allocated a unique identifier e.g. T2 for ease of reference*

Task ID	Actions	Responsible	Due
WC-T1	Provide example of a draft Catchment Plan to see what they look like	Project team	30 April 2025
WC-T2	Consider alternative name for the “Waipapu” Catchment Plan to recognise multiple major awa. “Ngā wai o Waipapu Catchment Plan” suggested.	Members	TBC – July 2025
WC-T3	Confirm date for Hui 2 (and forward Schedule) via email poll	Project team	30 April 2025

Minutes

1. Karakia and whakawhanaungatanga - welcome & housekeeping

- 1.1. The hui commenced at 9.40am with an opening karakia and housekeeping.
- 1.2. Members and the project team introduced themselves.

2. Context, overview and Terms of Reference

- 2.1. The facilitator presented an overview of the Agenda and set out the context for the Waipapu Catchment Plan, including the Joint Management Agreement 2015 under which the Catchment Plan is being co-developed.

Draft Terms of Reference and timeframes

- 2.2. The facilitator provided an overview of the draft Terms of Reference, noting that the role of the group is to provide technical input to inform the Catchment Plan. The Plan will be jointly drafted and agreed by Council and Te Runanganui. The Advisory Group will not preclude wider hapu and community engagement.
- 2.3. The facilitator sought feedback from the group on meeting frequency and duration. There was general consensus from the group that fewer, longer sessions is preferred to more, shorter sessions. Members requested that meeting dates be confirmed as early as possible to enable participation. The facilitator asked that members familiarise themselves with pre-reading to support constructive sessions.
- 2.4. In response to members questions, the project team clarified
 - the payment process and amount in line with instructions emailed to the Group.
 - the focus of the Terms of Reference for the group being around the development of the draft plan – and intention for the group to maintain a network to support plan implementation beyond 2025.

- the draft catchment plan will be drafted by the end of 2025, with notification towards the end of 2026 alongside the wider freshwater plan package.
- 2.5. A member declared a conflict of interest regarding involvement in Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou.

Legislative and Partnership context

- 2.6. There was discussion around the history and intent of the Joint Management Agreement, with members noting the opportunity this presents as a mechanism to empower and enable partnership.
- 2.7. The Facilitator provided context regarding the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act and relationship agreements that recognise hapu as effective decision makers for their customary marine titles.
- 2.8. Staff provided context regarding the Waiapu Koka Huhua 100-year programme, established in partnership between the Crown, Council, and Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou with a focus on erosion control. The Waiapu Catchment Plan will effectively set the focus for the Waiapu Koka Huhua as the implementation arm.
- 2.9. A member updated the group on the Raukumara Pae Maunga project, including positive results of the project and intention to operate separately from DOC by 2026.
- 2.10. There was some discussion around funding for implementation for the plan, with the project team noting that on completion of the plan, funding will be sought for implementation of non-regulatory action and Waiapu Koka Huhua will be an important vehicle for this.

RMA and Freshwater Planning overview

- 2.11. The facilitator presented an overview of the Resource Management Act and the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM), including importance of Te Mana o Te Wai.
- 2.12. The facilitator noted that the Catchment Plan is being developed alongside the review of region-wide “default” freshwater planning rules, and will be integrated into a package of connected rules in an e-Plan. There was discussion around the opportunity to articulate Te Mana o Te Wai through the planning process, to withstand shifting national direction.
- 2.13. Project team clarified that the RMA plans need to be reviewed every ten years – the Waiapu Catchment Plan therefore may be in place for at least ten years.
- 2.14. The Facilitator outlined the Waiapu Catchment Plan area. There was some discussion around the appropriateness of the name of the “Waiapu Catchment Plan”, as it does not recognise other major rivers within the area.

3. Long Term Vision for the catchment

- 3.1. The Facilitator set out the NPS-FM requirements for a Long-Term vision to be ambitious but achievable, with a defined timeframe (30, 50, 100 years), and developed through engagement with tangata whenua and community. A draft Long-term Vision was presented in alignment with Waiapu Koka Huhua and previous engagement with hapu.
- 3.2. The Group separated into two break-out groups to brainstorm a 100-year vision for the catchment. The transcribed post-it notes are attached at **Appendix 1**. The following points were reported back to the plenary:

Group 1

- 3.2.1. Support for Te Mana o Te Wai, and need for a mental shift towards what does the wai need to thrive (before what the wai gives to us).

Group 2

- 3.2.2. Positive language is important – for example, instead of retiring land, reinvigorating land.
- 3.2.3. Importance of identity – we are the Waiapu.
- 3.2.4. Importance of using Ngati Porou reo – and passing on concepts, ideas and whakapapa through kura and reo.

The group shared lunch around midday.

4. Issues and solutions

- 4.1. In two break-out groups, members brainstormed freshwater issues, and then solutions. These are captured in **Appendix 1**. The following points were raised by members:
 - 4.1.1. Building huts in the Raukumaras will enable pest culling. Any economic opportunities created by pest management need to have a goal of going out of business.
 - 4.1.2. The solutions require a lot of work, for a long time – we can train intergenerationally and create a localised curriculum to support this.
 - 4.1.3. Show-casing solutions will be important – our solutions can become the template for the world. Celebrating the things we value inspires the next generation.
 - 4.1.4. Local solutions, restoration and economic value is important.

5. Environmental outcomes and values

- 5.1. In two break-out groups, members brainstormed environmental outcomes that we want to achieve and considered the draft Values. Members were asked to consider how the values identified are important to them, the outcomes they want to see for those values, and if there are any values that are missing or should not be there. Responses are captured in **Appendix 1**. The following points were raised by members:

Group 1:

- 5.1.1. Human contact / swimming / recreation is not just about connecting a person with water, but connecting people – a communal connecting place.
- 5.1.2. Access to mahinga kai is really important.
- 5.1.3. Ecosystem health – can we consider not only what is visible, but also the micro-organisms, and what's missing. We are part of the ecosystem.
- 5.1.4. Change the term 'threatened species' to 'whakapapa species' or 'taonga species'. When a species is threatened, our whakapapa is threatened.
- 5.1.5. Drinking water is important for how we view ourselves as Ngati Porou people – drinking water empowers us, surviving on the resource we have hear (vs. Disempowering mindset of dependency).
- 5.1.6. Ephemeral streams also need protection.

Group 2:

- 5.1.7. Mauri – is in everything and can be disturbed, destroyed and reinstated. It is not static – it's a symbiotic relationship.
- 5.1.8. Ahi Kaa – the provided descriptions are aspirational (wnot reflective of current state). Aspiration to foster the desire to be ahi kaa for the taiao.
- 5.1.9. Wahi Tapu – respecting tapu and noa. Holding our knowledge according to our own rangatiratanga. Acknowledge all Wahi tapu. A risk register for wahi tapu – key contacts.

- 5.1.10. Natural form and character – reinvigorate use of the names – whakapapa, stories and waiata informs the natural form and history.
- 5.1.11. Commercial and industrial use – best practice is important (who's?) and monitoring and compliance. Reciprocity is important – need to manage to limits. Match land-use (and workforce) to land type.
- 5.1.12. Mana mohutake – a right to participate in management and resources, and importance of our ability to practice our cultural beliefs.

6. Next steps and close

- 6.1. The Facilitator set out the next steps. The project team will take on board all the feedback received from the group to revise the vision, values and draft environmental outcomes. The team are planning for engagement with hapu, landowners, industry and others.
- 6.2. The Group noted that at least one member is unable to attend the proposed Hui 2 date – and will seek to arrange a date via email that enables full participation.
- 6.3. The Facilitator thanked the Group for their contributions, and the hui closed at 3.30pm with a karakia.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Transcribed post-it notes from break-out sessions

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Long-term vision

In two break-out groups, members brainstormed their long-term vision for the Waiapu catchment area.

Break-out Group 1:

- Healthy Land, Healthy Rivers, healthy people – says it all
- Healthy Land
 - Land use that recognises the capabilities of the whenua and full externalities
 - Whenua focussed not activity focussed
 - Activities work in harmony with the whenua
- Healthy Rivers
 - The journey of the wai ki uta ki tai supports the health of the moana
- Healthy People
 - People understand the effects and impacts of their actions and make good choices for the land + rivers
 - People give to the river – I am the river, the river is me. The awa is first.
- The Waiapu (Nga wai o wai apu) is protected, revered and thriving
- Its banks, waters and lands are restored and safe guarded for generations to come
- Nga ura o nga wai o Waiapu are deeply connected to their wai, proudly carrying its whakapapa in our identity and daily lives
- The Waiapu flows clean and fluidly providing life giving water to all its inhabitants and can be drunk directly from its source
- The Waiapu is a thriving biodiverse ecosystem that sustains life and reflects our ancestral whakapapa
- Our people are empowered kaitiaki, making informed decisions about what happens in, on around the river with confidence, unity and authority.
- The Waiapu is stock proof and predator free
- The banks of the Waiapu river are protected land is protected
- Nga Uri o te Awa Waiapu are connected to their wai
- That the people are proud to belong to the Waiapu, that our people know their awa and identify with it
- To Drink from the Waiapu
- The Waiapu is a thriving, healthy. Whakapapa sustains her
- That we are empowered to make decisions about what happens on, in around our awa
- The Waiapu Hapu Are connected
- Stock proof

Break-out Group 2:

- Expressing our natural talents
- Mahi is centred around Taiao
- Language is Ngati Porou
- Language is positive
- Whakapapa is restored
- All residents and decision makers share the vision
- Established blueprint. Spaces
- Uri are here
- Each rohe taking responsibility to the whole
- Thriving economy in alignment

- Eco sourced and locally growth nurseries
- Steep land reinvigorated
- Examples of what works
- Land use is matched to landscape (mosaic)
- Bio monitoring
- Rahui being used
- Rongoa Maori
- Relationship with all our taiao / native species
- Cultural resources are restocked and thriving
- Cultural practices are reinvigorated
- Collect tuna +
- Collect kaimoana (better)
- Swim in clean water
- Native species back on the menu
- Waterways are protected and legal
- Bird sanctuary restored
- Rewetted wetlands

Issues

Break-out Group 1:

- River Bank gully and slips
- Erosion and land use, land fill
- Tectonically active zone
- Biodiversity loss
- Pacific ? Plates
- Riparian degradation papa/mudstone
- Inconsistent priorities, policies reforms and statements
- Water supply river/ streams/ springs- ensure quality is good
- Climate change/pollution
- Disconnection/legislative reform operationalising plan
- Technical error
- Understory loss
- Gravel use unsustainable finding
- 170.000 rugby fields loss
- Pest plants / pests/stock/wild stock
- Soft bedrock and soils
- Geologically young.
- Our mental attitudes relationship with the awa
- Poor land use management
- Stock isn't farmed/farmable WILDSTOCK
- Research about Waipua where is it?
- Return to hapu trusts and whanau
- All informed decision making
- Disconnect and Governance
- Poor visibility of what's happening / infrastructure
- Durable, enduring infrastructure such as roads and energy

Break-out Group 2:

- Disconnect

- Apathy
- State of the Awa poor condition
- Coordination of efforts for restoration
- How do we monitor progress
- Pest Management
- Allocation of funds is piecemeal
- Limited workforce / capacity
- Isolation
- Rates
- Lack of resourcing solutions
- Access to information/analysis
- Regulatory Environment
- Capability Workforce
- Lack of Connection & Visibility to the scale
- Scale of area/size
- Lack of Coordination/measurement
- Lack of shared vision/point of reference.

Solutions

Break-out Group 1:

- Localised curriculum
- Showcasing our solutions
- Long term commitment from government
- Leverages best of both worlds
- Economic model for our solutions
- Supply chains for our solutions
- Celebrate the future kai mahi taiao
- Inspire next generation into the roles needed
- Champions
- Case studies
- Our own doing all the pest management from home
- Targeted areas for certain pest management practices
- Any economic opportunities created by pest management need to have a goal of going out of business
- Indicators:
 - Measures based on observations
 - Ecosystem recovery
- Pest management
- Influence on the curriculum for tamariki
- Build huts through the Raukumaras, encourage deer culling.

Break out Group 2

Erosion & Sedimentation

- Wool Couch grass, cover bare land with harakeke and tutu.
- Early prevention treatment
- Planting natives that aren't easily browsed.
- Planting trees is the easy part, looking after them is the hard part.
- Establishing native cover on bare land.
- Sustainable land use practices

- Incentivising this – people need to survive.
- Regenerative farming.
- 3B land use modelling- best land use
- How do we bring people from 'Wild to willing' rather than shame and blame.
- We give people the opportunity to be part of the solution.
- Riparian wetland regrowth (stock proofing, predator control)
- Information, sharing, advocacy – I'm from Urukowhai – used to be covered in Kowhai plants. Our names already tell us what the land needs.
- Mapping out that whenua, while we're using western science, we use mātauranga maori to be the hero's of our own story.
- Functional wetland systems- wetlands to act as sediment traps.
- Seed banking. Trees have whakapapa and come from different areas. There's a reason trees grow where they do.
- River health and water flow management. Water erosion management, the rivers can't sustain the amount of water coming through them.
- How do we slow down the river systems so the rivers and banks can sustain the amount coming through

Water Quality

- Stock, pest/plant predator management, septic tank, fertiliser run off, leeching, urupa, grey waste, contaminants
- Mental mind shift.
- Improved freshwater quality

Environmental outcomes

Break-out Group 1:

1. Erosion
 - Reduced soil loss and sediment loads
 - Stabilisation of vulnerable land through early intervention. Crouch grass and wool mats
 - Planting natives that aren't browsed
 - Establish native vegetation cover on bare land
2. Sustainable Land use practices / options
 - Resourced and understood and adopted
 - Promote destocking/regenerative farming
 - 3B (best land use, best practice, best outcome)
3. Collaborative local led action
 - Wild to willing landowners
 - Create a culture of support, education, information sharing and advocacy, socialising ideas whakapapa.
4. Functional riparian wetland systems, restore riparian margins/wetlands to act as natural sediment traps and buffers
 - Implement stock proofing, seedbanking, ecosourced planting
5. River health aligned with water flow management
 - Prevent infrastructure or land use that alters natural water flow without inhibiting the river itself

Water quality

- Improved water quality

- Improve septic systems – address sources of grey water. Our waterways contain formaldehyde.
- Fertilisers as well as horse and cow manure affect the river.
- A lot of this comes from the social process- how do we change the minds of people. Much will come from socialising this plan – advocating and information.
- Balancing pest management, coordinated management pest control.

Climate change.

Break-out Group 2:

- Resilience
- Resist Mining
- Nature based solutions aka wetlands etc
- Ecological connectivity
- Ngahere
- Space rubbish

How do we adapt?

Mental Models?

- Adaptation – directed or guided by our matauranga
- Fighting the tide vs working with the new
- After erosion – Climate Change, Drinking Water & Bathing/Swimming
- Climate Change – adaptation, how do we change behaviour.
- Nature based solutions
- 'A resilient river is a river which can go where she needs to go'
- Resist mining and the enablement which is happening now.

Drinking water

- Safe and healthy river, springs where we get our water.
- Water storage – built and natural
- Management of community supplies. Resource consent did not acknowledge the land use around the spring and the poor health of that spring.
- How is it going to be managed better?
- De-stocking.
- Slash and debris in the wai.
- Is there shade?

Bathing/swimming

- Whanau associated the places they bathe and swim – so access and the ability to do that is part of being reconnected with these places.
- Safe place, clean access – flow, river bank, slash etc
- Destocking
- Whanau associate places to wash, bathe swim

Values

"Break-out Group 1" was asked to consider and reflect on the following draft Values as described in *Hui 1 Report 3: Swimming/Bathing, Mahinga kai, Ecosystem health, Threatened species, Drinking water*. The post-it note responses have been transcribed below:

- Human contact is important to us because communal swimming & bathing fosters community connection to wai, one another and our whakapapa.
 - Cultural customary healing, blessing etc
- Ecosystem health
 - Considering not only what remains but what is unseen. What is missing and what is micro-nana organisms
 - We are part of the ecosystem not separate from it nor is it separate from us – we are interconnected.
 - Interconnected
 - Interdependent
- Threatened species: Whakapapa – taonga species
- Drinking Water
 - Dependency disempowering
 - Water infrastructure
 - Access drinking water
 - Whanau marae community
 - Ephemeral stream
 - Function of Community
- Mahinga Kai
 - Access fundamental to kai

“Break-out Group 2” was asked to consider and reflect on the following draft Values as described in *Hui 1 Report 3: Mauri, Ahi Kaa, Mana Motuhake, Natural form and Character, Farming and food production, Commercial / industrial use.*

The post-it note responses have been transcribed below:

- Value of Mauri
 - Everyone has their spot where everyone would jump in.
 - When you restore the mauri, you restore the people, and vice versa. We are all interconnected. It's a symbiotic relationship.
 - Shows the interconnectedness of all things
 - The ihi, the essence, a spiritual thing, a wellness
 - Mauri is in everything
 - Mauri can be disturbed, you must recalibrate
 - Mauri can be destroyed and can be reinstated
 - Mauri is not static
 - We can feel the Mauri
 - Our decisions affect Mauri
 - EG. Individual property rights has interfered with restoration and management of Mauri
 - Relationships are central
 - Mauri changes over time
 - Mauri of Taiao is reflected in the people
 - Whakato i te mauri
 - Reciprocal
 - Symbiotic relationship.
- Value of Ahi Kaa –
 - We need to encourage the people who are here. There are a lot of people here but they aren't linked to the marae.
 - We've got to teach people to be comfortable.

- We've got to be nice and care for each other and treat people with respect.
- You've got to foster the relationship with the taiao.
- We want it to look like the 'middle of a tangi' when things are pumping
- Need revitalisation and reconnection for ahi kaa to grow
- Requirements of Ahikaa take skillset education and kindness
- Foster the desire to be ahikaa through the taiao
- Value of Wahi Tapu
 - There was an area in the mata river to wash the spades that dug the graves. So, we keep them separate.
 - We want to actively practice this.
 - The first sentence is fine. A brief overview.
 - How do we protect Wahi Tapu, if no one knows where they are?
 - A generic page or point of contact for this area.
 - How do we make sure the land use doesn't affect a wahi tapu place into the future?
- Value of Natural Form & Character
 - We have a stream but it's used as a road – when we talk about values, is driving a value
 - Gravel extraction consents come out of GDC and they keep smashing the same place
 - Place names reinforce what we have lost.
- Value – Commercial and industrial use – Farming / Flood protection
 - It needs to be managed with best practice.
 - Who's cost to who's benefit?
What are the monitoring tools they use for gravel extraction?
 - This is all about collaboration and connection