



Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Advisory Group

Hui #5 agenda, minutes, and actions

Held at Pākōwhai Marae (Waituhi) on Wednesday 17 September 2025 at 9:15am

Advisory Group members present	Marlene Skeet, Charlie Baty, Topsy Steele, Bryan McCavana, Jess Kawenga, Alice Wilson (guest), Sonya Smith (guest), Michelle (guest)
Council/Consultant	Sarah Thompson, Ariel Yann le Chew, Katrina Ungco, Katerina Maka Wolfgang Kanz
Apologies	Mayana Daniels, Kerry Proctor, Jazmine Burgess, Samuel Lewis, Soraya Pohatu-Stone, Bella Hawkins, Tangiwai Wilson, Wings Waihi

Agenda

1. Karakia and Whakawhanaungatanga
2. Housekeeping
3. Draft Hui 4 minutes
4. Actions and updates
5. Water Quantity
6. Water Quality
7. Introduction to Action Planning
8. Wrap up, Close
9. Lunch

Supporting documents

- Draft Hui 4 minutes
- Draft table of values, environmental outcomes, baseline and target attributes, actions

Summary of actions

Notes:

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

The numbering continues from previous hui minutes

Task ID	Actions	Responsible	Due
ST-T01	Staff and Advisory Group to decide the meeting format for subsequent hui (e.g. in-person meetings at different venues, hybrid meetings etc)	GDC	15 October 2025
ST-T03	Discuss how to connect interested Advisory Group members and their groups with Wairoa/Hawke's Bay counterpart (e.g. Tātau Tātau, taiao roopu) to ensure alignment in work programmes in the upper catchment with the lower catchment.	GDC	15 October 2025
ST-T07	Staff to investigate how Council could redirect monitoring efforts to where there's need for data	GDC	Ongoing



Minutes

1. Mihi Whakatau, Draft Hui 4 minutes, Actions and updates

- 1.1. Staff and the Group were welcomed onto Pākōwhai Marae (Waituhi) with mihi whakatau. Staff took the opportunity to thank the hosts for extending hospitality to the Group for this kaupapa.
- 1.2. Following a morning tea, the host set out housekeeping matters. Staff then outlined the agenda for the day.
- 1.3. Staff and the Group led whakawhanaungatanga to welcome the guests, who had joined the hui as part of staff efforts on **Action ST-T03 (Connecting with Wairoa/Hawke's Bay counterpart)**:
 - 1.3.1. A Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) catchment advisor, based in Wairoa.
 - 1.3.2. Nūhaka Catchment Group coordinator. Whakapapa: Ngāti Rakaipaaka, Rongomaiwahine, and Ngāti Kahungunu.
 - 1.3.3. New member of Rangiwhao marae taiao roopu.
- 1.4. In reciprocity for the invite, the Nūhaka Catchment Group coordinator extended an invitation to staff and the Group to host the next advisory group hui at Kahungunu Marae, Nūhaka.
 - 1.4.1. Staff will email and ask the other members who were unable to attend this hui. Should there be no objections, staff will organise and then feedback to the Group once logistics have been finalised.
- 1.5. Additional updates on actions are as follows:
 - 1.5.1. **Connecting with Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa and kāhui** – Staff shared that the Policy team met with taiao manager of Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa and four kāhui representatives. The Policy team had shared Gisborne District Council's position following Plan Stop announcement, where engagement and technical work to inform the freshwater planning will continue. The kāhui shared their interests in natural hazards and forestry, and were keen to have an internal discussion first before confirming the preferred collaboration approach with Gisborne District Council going forwards.
 - 1.5.2. **HBRC's freshwater planning status** – Staff updated the Group that HBRC's current focus is on the natural hazards Plan Change. HBRC had paused their freshwater planning work programme since Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023, where their efforts were diverted to recovery and subsequently the natural hazards Plan Change.
 - 1.5.3. **Sub-advisory group: Soil Conservation** – Staff proposed to form sub-advisory groups to have in-depth conversation on topics that will complement the catchment planning process to date. The first proposed sub-advisory group topic is soil conservation.
 - 1.5.4. **Additional hui in November 2025 or February 2026** – To provide all members the opportunity to provide their input in the development of the Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Plan, staff suggested to have an additional hui on top of the original schedule of 6 hui. The additional hui is to be held in either November 2025 or February 2026. Staff will email and ask the other members who were unable to attend this hui for their thoughts.
- 1.6. Staff sought feedback on the draft Hui 4 minutes. A member raised an amendment to include (if not already) the group exercise led by another member for each member to understand their perceived and known roles in management of wai.



- 1.6.1. Staff have reflected this feedback in finalising the Hui 4 minutes.
- 1.7. Staff recapped the catchment planning process that the Group embarked on to date, starting from setting the Long Term Vision. Then identifying Values and their corresponding Environmental Outcomes. From aspirations and objectives, the process then looks at the technical aspects – the current state of the environment, the targets for improvement and limits. The process wraps up with identifying action plans and timeframes.
 - 1.7.1. A member asked what Council's process is of socialising the output from this catchment planning process with others such as HBRC and mana whenua on both sides of the boundary, and what happens if there is disagreement on parts of the Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Plan.
 - 1.7.2. Staff response is that while Council is committed to engaging HBRC and mana whenua on the Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Plan, staff cannot guarantee that everyone will agree with each other on what is the best or most appropriate management approach for Southern Tairāwhiti area. Staff will aim to find balance, but everyone who is invested in the area will have ample opportunities to share their feedback and concerns.

2. Session 1: Water Quantity

- 2.1. Staff provided an overview of the water demand situation in the Southern Tairāwhiti FMU. The three major water demands are stock drinking water, residential/domestic water, and irrigation. There is only one irrigation take, which is from the Maraetaha River to irrigate 19.8 hectares of citrus.
- 2.2. In terms of residential/domestic water, Muriwai is now connected to the municipal water supply, which draws from the Mangapoike dams (i.e. in the Southern Tairāwhiti FMU) and Te Arai and Waipaoa rivers (i.e. in the Waipaoa FMU). The municipal water supply is currently managed through the Regional Freshwater Plan regulation. For other areas, residents rely on rainwater tanks and groundwater (spring) takes.
- 2.3. Staff introduced the current TRMP approach to permitted water takes, and explained how allocation blocks work. Because there is no existing Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Plan, the rules that apply to this FMU are regional rules. The default approach applied where there is no catchment plan, which is 30% of Mean Annual Low Flow (MALF) for rivers, or 30% of average annual rainfall recharge for groundwater. For more information, refer to Hui 4 briefing paper '**Values and Outcomes, Water Quality and Quantity**'.
- 2.4. A proposed new approach to more equitable water allocation is the concept of taonga allocation, which is an allocation block for a particular purpose, rather than tied to a specific person or group. Taonga allocation is still an internal work-in-progress to refine the concept to a stage that it's ready for discussion.
- 2.5. Staff asked the Group to provide their feedback and comments according to the following questions:
 - 2.5.1. What fish species should be used as the indicator species to set minimum flows for rivers in the Southern Tairāwhiti FMU?
 - 2.5.2. Are there areas in this FMU that may be developed in the future, and so require water?
- 2.6. Staff will send a follow-up email as homework for the Group to respond to by the next hui.
- 2.7. Staff and the Group then took a brief break.



3. Session 2: Water Quality, Introduction to Action Planning

- 3.1. Staff recapped current state of the environment (i.e. Baseline), where the key issues in the Southern Tairāwhiti FMU are:
 - 3.1.1. **Sediment** – *Suspended Fine Sediment* is significant in Hangaroa, Likely significant in other waterways. *Deposited Fine Sediment* is significant in Maraetaha, Likely significant in other waterways.
 - 3.1.2. **E. coli** – Significant across all areas farmed for livestock, and at primary contact sites.
 - 3.1.3. **Periphyton** – Moderate in some waterways, Likely significant in rivers flowing to Hawke's Bay.
- 3.2. Where the term 'Likely significant' is used, staff highlighted that Council do not have data for these waterways, and so staff provided the modelled data for these waterways.
- 3.3. Staff introduced Target Attribute State, which must be set for every attribute identified for a value, with an associated timeframe. Staff provided the following suggestion:
 - 3.3.1. **Where Baseline is in Bands A or B** – Target is to maintain current state.
 - 3.3.2. **Where Baseline is in Band C** – Target is to improve, either within the current band, or to Band B or higher.
 - 3.3.3. **Where Baseline is in Bands D or E** – Target is to improve to Band C or higher.
- 3.4. Staff went over the draft table in the agenda pack for this hui, which showed the cascading relationship from the value to the draft environmental outcome, the baseline and target attributes for the value, and the possible actions to achieve the targets and subsequently the environmental outcome(s) for each value.
- 3.5. The Group raised the following points that staff should consider when compiling information for the draft catchment plan:
 - 3.5.1. Monitoring should not be placed too far downstream from where we want to know if 1) best practice has been carried out by landowner, and/or 2) the best practice is achieving the targets and environmental outcomes set.
 - 3.5.2. Best practices and restoration efforts should be recognised. If we want to change mindsets of landowners that it is worth investing in best practices and restoration efforts, recognising these good actions (ideally) will lead to a mindset change.
- 3.6. A member shared possible actions from two documents that they have previously emailed the Group: an AgFirst research report (prepared for HBRC) assessing the effectiveness of space-planted native trees species for soil conservation¹, and a research article on how kanuka trees facilitating pasture production increases in New Zealand Hill Country².
- 3.7. Staff asked the Group to review the draft table in more detail as preparation for further discussion at the next hui.

4. Wrap up and close

- 4.1. Staff thanked members for their contributions.

¹ [Assessment-of-space-planted-native-trees-species-for-soil-conservation.pdf](#)

² [Kānuka Trees Facilitate Pasture Production Increases in New Zealand Hill Country](#)



- 4.2. The next hui will cover action planning in more detail. Staff will also share the first draft Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Plan with the Group.
- 4.3. The hui closed with a karakia at 12:40PM.