



Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Advisory Group

Hui #1 agenda, minutes, and actions

Held at Ngatapa Clubrooms on Wednesday 21 May 2025 at 9:30am

Advisory Group members present	Marlene Skeet, Kerry Proctor, Bella Hawkins (arrived 10:11AM), Jazmine Burgess, Topsy Steele, Soraya Pohatu-Stone, Tangiwai Wilson (left 10:55AM), Charlie Baty, Samuel Lewis
Council/Consultant	Sarah Thompson, Ariel Yann le Chew, Oliver Vetter Wolfgang Kanz
Apologies	Bryan McCavana, Mick Murphy, Mayana Daniels, Wings Waihi, Jess Kawenga

Agenda

1. Karakia
2. Housekeeping
3. Whakawhanaungatanga
4. Overview of process for the advisory group
5. Catchment context, Long Term Vision and Values
6. Freshwater Management Areas discussion
7. Wrap up, Close
8. Lunch

Supporting documents

- Draft Terms of Reference
- Southern Tairāwhiti Background Document

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 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	Ongoing
ST-T02	Email key payment information (forms, invoice template) to the Advisory Group	Ariel	Actioned 21 May 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	Update at Hui 2 on 18 June 2025
ST-T04	Maps to include identification of settlements and marae	Ariel	Actioned 23 May 2025
ST-T05	Sharing raw workshop notes with the Advisory Group for their verification before the notes are processed and incorporated into a briefing paper or attached to the minutes	Ariel and Oliver	No later than 30 May 2025

Minutes

1. Karakia, whakawhanaungatanga, draft Terms of Reference and payment information

- 1.1. The hui commenced at 9.46am with an opening karakia.
- 1.2. Staff outlined the agenda for the day and set out housekeeping matters.
- 1.3. Staff and Advisory Group members took turns introducing themselves, who they represent and their interests in joining the Group.
- 1.4. Hui 2 is scheduled for 18 June 2025. The Group discussed the venue for the next hui, and options for how the hui would run. Staff are open to explore options on how to best accommodate all members who live in different parts of the catchment. Alternatives include hosting the hui online, or at different parts of the catchment for each hui. Staff and the Group will revisit this conversation at the end of the hui. (see **paragraph 6.2**)
- 1.5. Staff explained the purpose of the draft Terms of Reference, which includes the list of members and payment amount. Further payment information will be emailed to the Group following the hui. The Terms of Reference also sets out how members should collaborate with each other. Staff asked the Group to review the draft Terms of Reference and provide any feedback before the next hui.
- 1.6. Staff outlined the purpose and responsibilities of the Advisory Group. The Group consists of local experts from the catchment contributing their respective expertise and

knowledge, working collaboratively with others in the Group in development of the Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Plan.

- 1.7. Staff will provide reading material(s) to the Group a week before each hui.

2. Freshwater catchment planning process

- 2.1. Staff went over the National Objective Framework (NOF), the framework set out in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) 2020 to be used for the catchment planning process.
- 2.2. The catchment planning process starts from identifying:
 - 2.2.1. **what is important** – the values.
 - 2.2.2. **the current state of the environment** – data collected to date.
 - 2.2.3. **where we want to be** – the long term vision, environmental outcomes for each value, timeframes.
 - 2.2.4. **the pathway to achieve the vision** – targets and limits, action plans.
- 2.3. Staff showed a map of the Southern Tairāwhiti catchment plan area, which includes rivers – Ruakituri, Hangaroa, Mangapoike, Nūhaka and Kopuawhara Stream – that flow into Hawke's Bay/Wairoa district area. Given the river connection across the council jurisdictional border, Gisborne District Council is committed to collaborate with Hawke's Bay Regional Council and mana whenua in Hawke's Bay.
- 2.4. Members were interested and asked if there's a possibility for collaboration between interested members on the Advisory Group (and the groups they represent, e.g. between mana whenua from both regions). Members were keen to see alignment in work programmes in the upper catchment (i.e. Tairāwhiti boundary) and lower catchment (i.e. Hawke's Bay/Wairoa boundary).
 - 2.4.1. Staff responded that they would discuss internally and revisit this conversation with the Group on how this cross-region conversation can occur.
- 2.5. Staff showed two other maps. Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Area is highly erosive. The land use is predominantly primary production, either forestry or sheep and beef farming, with the exception of the Ruakituri catchment.
 - 2.5.1. A member of the Group requested for key community/settlement areas to be identified on all future maps. Staff will action this request (and adding marae sites) on future maps going forwards.
- 2.6. Maps mentioned in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.5 can be found in **Appendix 2 of the Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment Background Document**.

3. Session 1: Issues, example of a draft catchment plan

- 3.1. Staff outlined the key issues identified in the Southern Tairāwhiti Catchment:
 - 3.1.1. **Hydrology** – rivers in the catchments are quite flashy
 - 3.1.2. **Sediment and Phosphorus** – geology in the region is highly erodible. Phosphorus is bound to sediment so with high amount of sediment in the rivers, equally high amount of phosphorus can be found in the rivers.
 - 3.1.3. **E. coli** – sourced from livestock near or entering streams.

- 3.1.4. **Water temperature** – often overlooked. High water temperatures where there's little to no riparian plants providing shades. High water temperatures also lead to low oxygen in the water.
- 3.1.5. **Habitat** – strong river currents are erosive on riverbanks and beds, which changes the suitability of existing habitats.
- 3.2. When asked if there was anything else to add, members provided the following comments:
 - 3.2.1. Riparian vegetation, particularly willows, are an issue. Willows have changed the hydrology in rivers. Water is forced into the shoots, and islands are formed in the middle of the river.
 - 3.2.2. Members are keen to understand how hydrology (and other characteristics) differ across the catchment.
- 3.3. Staff went over a draft catchment plan developed through another Advisory Group.
 - 3.3.1. *In response to a question on how the kaupapa undertaken through the Muriwai Catchment Group should be aligned with the kaupapa undertaken through this Group*, staff responded that members on this Group are important conduits between both Groups. Staff clarified that Catchment Groups (like Muriwai Catchment Group) aren't necessarily defined by rivers. The catchment planning areas are defined by river catchments.
 - 3.3.2. In response to a question on how important rivers should be managed in the Plan, such as rivers along marae that have cultural and ecological significance, staff explained that there are two possible approaches:
 - **Schedules**, provided that the river meets the required criteria; or
 - **Action plans**, for rivers that don't meet any of the criteria, but actions (such as restoration) are needed for those rivers.

4. Session 2: Long Term Vision, Values

- 4.1. Staff explained that long term vision (LTV) is the ultimate state or vision for the catchment, where the LTV must set ambitious but reasonable goals, with an identified timeframe to achieve those goals.
- 4.2. Members formed into two breakout groups to brainstorm on what should be included in the LTV for the catchment.
- 4.3. Members reported back on their discussion. The transcribed feedback from the breakout session is recorded in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.4. Staff explained that the NPS-FM 2020 identifies a list of compulsory values and values that must be considered. Additional values can be identified to suit the catchment's needs.
- 4.5. Members formed into two breakout groups to brainstorm on values. The brainstorm session occurred over lunch.
- 4.6. Members reported back on their discussion. The transcribed feedback from the breakout session is recorded in **Appendix 2**.

5. Session 3: Management Areas

- 5.1. Staff briefly introduced the concept of Management Areas. The purpose of Management Areas is to allow a pragmatic approach in managing freshwater in the

catchment plan area – for example, grouping areas of common values and land use that require the same pathway to achieve the common values.

5.2. Staff will revisit this topic at Hui 2 in more detail.

6. Wrap up and close

6.1. Staff thanked members for their contributions.

6.2. Staff and the Group revisited the conversation in **paragraph 1.4**. The Group agreed that the next hui (18 June) will be held at Tiniroto Community Hall, and the hui should be in-person, given that there were five members who were absent for this hui.

6.3. The hui closed with a karakia at 1:18PM.

APPENDIX 1: LONG TERM VISION DISCUSSION (as scribed)

Note: Additional comments have been recorded in Hui 2 report.

Group 1

Values

- Kaitiakitanga
- Healthy water = healthy people

Timeframes relevant to unique aspects of each 'catchment'

Improvement in water quality from the current state – continual improvement

- Wetlands

Maintain and protect the natural character and behaviour of rivers (flows)

Abundant and thriving natural ecosystems, ability for species such as fish to access habitat

- Natural form + character
- Fish passage
- Fish spawning

Industry Regulation (Action)

Catchments / communities / industry working together – balanced approach

- Receiving environments connects us all

Through sustainable best practice (core), enable communities to connect with the whenua

Raising healthy, engaged Tamariki who have connection to the whenua, and go on to live their lives caring for the environment – education

Recloaking for resilience – especially vulnerable areas

Appropriate land use

Use knowledge of tangata whenua / landowners / community from on the ground and let them action

Sustainable farms etc... farms are not just business, it's a lifestyle

Investment is holistic

Group 2

- Recognise + enhance restoration – framework that works towards that
- Geology + hydrology changes throughout catchment
- Education (continued)
- Supporting positive change
- private alterations impacts
- Landscape restoration
 - setbacks based on place, fragility, importance, access, ecology and geology
 - use landscape cues
- Connected + extension headwaters -> sea.
- Habitat / water / people
- Don't inhibit nature

- Impact on 'naturalness' + engagement
- restoration of hydrology at key marker points
- Natural course of flow encouraged
- Minimal erosion – forest
- Higher erosion → more exposed land areas → long time to clear up
- Engagement: iwi/hapu/whanau/communities, primary sectors
- Support thriving communities
- Queens chain extensions
- River rock extraction
 - Human + via removal of vegetation
- Past -> Future as a shift to enviro change in restorative / wai corridor
- UNIQUE – Landscape of lakes & wetlands & natural flow (free flowing)

Hydrology: Impacts/Resource extraction – taking of river stone

Tourism: enhancement

Te Reinga / Ruakituri – junction paru

Headwaters - pristine

Forest area: minimal in places

Ecology: Natural State

- River/Rock States

- Riverbed

Culturally: Traversing whenua/waterways/rivers impacting

Return to natural flora and fauna

Restoration of our Ngahere corridor

FMUs – management zones?

- Unique charm

Mauri

- Recognised – features and examples
- catchment strengths (FMU)
- conservation recognition
- production, economy

APPENDIX 2: VALUES DISCUSSION (as scribed)

Note: Additional comments have been recorded in Hui 2 report.

Group 1

Values

1. Ecosystem Health
 - Floodplain engagement (natural hazard correlation)
2. Human Contact
 - Mitigation practices
 - Forestry
 - Farming
 - Resource extraction
 - Tourism
3. Threatened species
 - Taonga Species
 - Flora – Need to explore
 - Fauna – Tuna, Freshwater mussels
 - Threats to that (biodiversity) – possum, ferret, stoat, deer, pig
4. Mahinga Kai

- Connected spaces -> Ecological corridors

5. Mātauranga Wai

- Mātauranga
- Framework for mātauranga wai
 - Maramataka
 - Matariki
 - Recreation use
 - Fish n Game?

6. People/Place/Profitability – ITO's

- Production uplift
- ETS
- Voluntary Market
- Iwi investment
- Mapping / East Coast Exchange
- LUC
- FEP/FWP's
- FAP

7. Investment

- \$\$

- Knowledge/education

Natural Form & Character

Drinking/Commercial/Industrial Supply/Community...

- Rural
- Storage systems
- Less contamination

Water Sources / Resources / Commercial Identity

Recreational appreciation

Wahi Tapu / Taonga species

Transport and Turanga Waka

- Access / entry and exit of spaces / ecology

Hydro electrical power

- Hydrological flow

Community Connectedness

- Landmark features
- Rangatahi Lens
- Restoration
- Economic Investment

Important in the context of this catchment

Economic/Cultural relevance of catchment landscape

Recognition of Taonga Species

Poutama

FMUs

- Rural/urban
- Land based
- Infrastructure/LUC
- Transition

Group 2

Ecosystem Health

Human Contact

- Recreation
- Primary and secondary contact
- Education

Threatened Species

Mahinga Kai

- Kaitiakitanga / Manaakitanga
- Guardians – everyone
- caring & supporting for all

- Tino Rangatiratanga – all have the ability to self determination
- Community Values

Natural Form & Character

Drinking Water supply

Wai Tapu

Transport & Tauranga waka

Fishing

Animal Drinking Water

Irrigation, cultivation & Production of food and beverages

- Limited

Commercial and industrial use

Community drinkable/potable water