



Combined hui - Tairāwhiti Freshwater Planning & Waipaoa Catchment Plan

ADVISORY GROUPS

Joint hui agenda, minutes, and actions

Hui #4.5

Held at Lawson Field, Rose Room 15 November 2023 at 09:00am

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

Agenda

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| Session 1 - Context 1.1 Karakia and whakawhanaungatanga <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Housekeeping Minutes and actions from hui #4 | 09:00 |
| Session 2 – Ka Hao Kupenga <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview | 09:10 |
| 1.3 Groupwork – how to set the net, and how to know when we have caught the fish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider how to make KHK a more explicit part of the Freshwater Planning advisory groups and freshwater planning process Consider ways to achieve the principles and objectives of the framework – how to we measure/evaluate our application of KHK? | 09:20 |
| 1.4 Report back | 09:50 |
| Cuppa tea | 10:15 |
| Session 3: Regional Policy Statement (RPS) 1.5 Scene setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of RPS How the RPS connects to Regional Freshwater Plan Regionally significant issues | 10:30 |

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| 1.6 Brainstorm the significant freshwater issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five issues identified by members • Rank issues on spectrum of impact | 10:45 |
| 1.7 Brainstorm what can be done about the key freshwater issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the outcomes we should be aiming for? • What are the key aspects we need to address or manage to get there? • What are the implications of this? • Report back | 11:15 |
| 1.8 How will this be feed back into <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RPS • Regional Freshwater Planning provisions • Catchment plans | 12:20 |
| Lunch | 12:30 |
| Session 4: Forestry | 13:00 |
| 2.1 Scene setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues and options report • What are we trying to achieve through the advisory groups? • Identify areas unsuitable for forestry • Risk matrix – informed rule framework • Maps | |
| 2.2 Forestry Plan change discussion | 13:30 |
| 2.3 Four wellbeing economic model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to purpose of model • Q&A | 14:00 |
| 2.4 Feedback on forestry proposal in groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk matrix • Areas where forestry will continue • Questions – are there any gaps? What are the consequences? | 14:30 |
| Wrap-up and summary of action steps | 15:00 |
| Closing karakia | 15:15 |

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 |
|------|--|-----------------|-----|
| T19 | Invitation extended to identify any emerging topics that can be explored in more detail within a smaller group. The goal is to share the findings more broadly afterward | Freshwater team | |

Minutes

Session 1

1. Karakia and whakawhanaungatanga - context

- 1.1. The hui commenced with an opening karakia.
- 1.2. Minutes and actions from the hui held on 11 October 2023 will be tabled at the 13 December 2023 hui.

Session 2

2. Recap of Ka Hao Kupenga Framework

- 2.1. The Ka Hao Kupenga Framework was reintroduced to the Group. This clarified where the framework sits within the Group and in the freshwater space (net-setting) and secondly how success could be measured (catching something) (*refer to **Appendix 1** for group discussion outcomes*).
- 2.2. Key themes are summarised in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.3. Success could be measured by setting a vision with clear pathways, implementation of Te Mana o Te Wai, following Māori practices, and a concentrated effort on practical implementation while actively monitoring resource consents.
- 2.4. Succession planning and capacity building also need to be in place.
- 2.5. Council staff highlighted the opportunity for additional 'wānanga' outside of the FWAG hui for interested members to delve deeper into the concept of Ka Hao Kupenga and its application to freshwater planning. The work could be brought back to the table and to shared for the benefit of the whole Group. If anyone is interested, please reach out to the Freshwater team.
- 2.6. Next steps will be to take the feedback and compile a document with everyone's comments and bring it back to a future session.

3. Session 3 – Regional Policy Statement (RPS)

- 3.1. The RPS was introduced to the group at the first Advisory Group hui in July 2023. An overview of the RPS was again provided in this hui, focusing on its potential to set an overarching strategic direction for freshwater in Tairāwhiti.
- 3.2. Group discussions resulted in **six** significant freshwater issues being identified for inclusion in the RPS:
 - water quality
 - land-use impacts
 - water availability and allocation
 - implementing Te Mana o Te Wai
 - loss of habitat
 - transformative change.
- 3.3. The causes and solutions for the six issues are attached (*refer to **Appendix 2***).

3.4. The next steps include processing feedback, and formulating issue statements, objectives and policies to include in the RPS. Catchment visions will be developed in all catchment plans and integrated at the RPS level.

4. Session 4: Forestry

4.1. The purpose of this forestry session was to provide a historical context of forestry practices in Tairāwhiti and outline the key proposals Council is currently developing to address better management of forestry environmental impacts on freshwater. In response to a question about past submissions on forestry, Council staff confirmed submitting multiple times, and emphasised its strong advocacy for effective management.

4.2. The current regulatory framework under the National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry (NES-CF; formerly known as NES for Plantation Forestry) was presented. Council faces limitations in imposing more stringent rules than those outlined in the NES–CF. The broader impacts of earthworks and forestry harvest on coastal environments, damage to community infrastructure and amenities and impacts on neighbouring properties were listed. Additionally, the causes of slash events and landslide risks were also discussed.

4.3. The main proposed regulatory changes for the Forestry Plan Change were outlined, along with the introduction of a risk matrix to determine the likelihood and consequences of landslides and the impact they might have downstream.

4.4. There was no groupwork on this Forestry Plan Change.

5. Four-wellbeing economic model

5.1. To evaluate the trade-offs of the four values (social, cultural, economic and environmental) in the forestry plan change, Council contracted consultant Habilis to undertake a four-wellbeing's assessment. The purpose of the model is to allow a like-for-like basis comparison by assigning proxy dollar values to non-economic values.

5.2. Members had the opportunity to voice their concerns with the future of forestry in the region, given the devastation caused by a series of poor weather events earlier this year.

6. Wrap-up and next steps in the process

6.1. No group discussions followed the introduction of the model.

7. Closing karakia

7.1. The hui closed at 15:00 with a karakia.

7.2. The next monthly hui for both advisory groups will take place on 13 December 2023.

8. Tasks to be actioned

| Task | Actions | Responsible | Due |
|------|--|-----------------|---------|
| T19 | Invitation extended to identify any emerging topics that can be explored in more detail within a smaller | Freshwater team | Ongoing |

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| | group. The goal is to share the findings more broadly afterward | | |
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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 |
| T18 | Review the feedback received on how to improve meetings and feedback to the groups on actions to be taken | 11/10/23 | 13/12/23 |
| T19 | Invitation extended to identify any emerging topics that can be explored in more detail within a smaller group. The goal is to share the findings more broadly afterward | 15/11/23 | Ongoing |

Appendix 1 – Written Ka Hao Kupenga feedback: captured at combined hui #4.5

15 November 2023

Ka Hao Kupenga Framework discussion

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| <p>Table one</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a problem applying the principles? • Whatever happened to the water happened to us • Ensuring there is trust, there is a desire to work together but it comes down to trust • Water is life giving but it is turned into a resource • Tangata whenua has a right to water without having to pay for it • Treaty principles must apply – must be put into practice • Improve our collective understanding of how to apply the principles • Tangata whenua already use their principles • Government policy • What is the net traying to catch? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the objective for the finer mesh? ○ What is the being let through? • TMOTW principles must apply and respect them • It's a fight for water • Agencies can't apply what we don't understand • Training on Tiriti principles for agencies | <p>Table one</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mana whenua have different measures • Success is - stop slash into water ways • Telling pourakau about mahinga kai being healthy, birds returning, swimming values • Nature tells us if we are successful • Maramataka guides what happens when • Accessing freshwater i.e. fencing - making it inaccessible for areas of value • Consents monitoring |
| <p>Table two</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good planning • Common goals – know what we are aiming for • Respect different views, be able to share and discuss • Clear pathways forward • Learning from the past and each other | <p>Table two</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A plan we were proud of ○ Goes to statutory process with support of advisory group ○ Measurable goals/ steps • Long term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measurable improvements – key measures |
| <p>Table three</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to question ourselves about whether we have considered all parties in the net | <p>Table three</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have we considered / put the awa first? |

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| <p>when considering key outcomes and questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise that our current system has failed the Taiao – can't harvest kaimoana from East Cape to Hawkes Bay due to pollution from Gabrielle • Need to acknowledge systematic linages – mountains to coast/ moana • Understand who you represent – be candid – recognise other people's views • Create a variety of opportunities for different parties to be able to contribute effectively • Encourage discourse with people who have different views • Need long term thinking – consider cross generations impacts • Need to create a driver for innovation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That we can see a pathway that takes us forward + will deliver environmental improvements • The outputs from this process are practical and able to be implemented • Consensus would be the ultimate – but at least a strong degree of agreement across different sectors/ interests • Recognise that healthy land and water creates healthy people • Individual interests not over-riding community interests • Recognise it's a journey – with waypoints and success markers • Present / communicate in a way that wider community can understand |
| <p>Table four</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree on the vision • What does the fish represent? • Be realistic • Buy-in from all communities • Wellness of the water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eels are apex • Wetland percentage (restoration) goals 60 – 80% • Working together collectively • Outcome is beyond water – holistic, every part of society, how you work with it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prosperous communities (vibrant communities as an outcome) ○ Too siloed • Water is life • Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Who determines where the net goes? ○ What is the picture? ○ How do you protect it? ○ Interpret | <p>Table four</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eels, wetlands, buy-in from the people, rubbish clean up / what is clean (forestry), catchment management • How to manage trade-offs between self-suffering and a healthy wai • How much pollution can we accept • Articulate and refine the outcomes we want to have a sustainable environment • Timeframe • Good information is essential |
| <p>Table five</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wananga is so important – critical for Te Tiriti, TMOTW • Need deeper fundamental understanding of values to relationships and different components | <p>Table five</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He manawa Ora to Whenua, he manawa ora nga tangata <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If culture is well, the land is well, our waters are well ○ Freshwater fundamentals minimise / eliminate risks creating awareness which is key to prevention for health |

- Could this framework be simplified for a joint relationship – diverse audience with limited timeframes
- Consider freshwater when making decisions

15 November 2023

Regional Policy Statement – Significant issues discussion

Issue one: Water quality

Initial brainstorm

- Sewage disposal / overflow into water
- Water quality - urban and rural
- Sediment -erosion – natural and land use
 - E.coli
 - Discharge
 - Slash/ algae – sediment impacts
- Discharges to water – stormwater, fertiliser, chemicals, wastewater
- Sediment – sustain life of awa

Detailed discussion

Causes

- Sewage overflow – pollution, infrastructure, land use
- Sediment – erosion, stock access, land use, slash
- Bacteria – stock, sewage, natural
- Nutrients

Solutions/ Approaches

- Sediment
 - Land use
 - Retire / protect most erodible soils – back to what it was
 - Exclude stock
 - Regenerative farming/ best practice
 - Forestry management / slash
- Bacteria
 - Infrastructure – fit for purpose/ in place for growth
 - Update sewage systems
 - Stock exclusion
 - Stormwater
- Chemical
 - Fertiliser management

Issue two: Land-use impacts

Initial brainstorm

- Land use impacts – bad choices of the past, takes a long time to reverse
- Still making some bad decisions in all industries – we do want we know
- Water way and land use management now and in the future

- Land use – strategy moving forward
- Land use – EIA and COA attached – compulsory. Permitted activities – to be reviewed
- Forestry slash
 - poor freshwater outcomes
 - land use impacts – farming, organic, regenerative, sustainable land use
 - need to build a resilience region
- Forestry – right tree right place

Detailed discussion

Solutions / Outcomes

- Local solutions to local issues e.g. how to manage highly sedimented waters
- Current legislation creates issues to the community – not fit to local context
- Local standards, specific to:
 - Steep land/ highly erodible
 - Flat land
- Funding issues to allow change
- Use standards to guide what is appropriate
- Role of the farm environment plans
 - Current buy-in by NZ
 - Reaudited
 - Farm environment plans are an insurance
 - Enforcement if not compliant with farm environmental plans
 - FEP linked to title and lease agreements

Issue three: Water availability and allocation

Initial brainstorm

- Water availability and allocation – sustainability
- Hydrology alteration – exacerbated by climate change – causes flood/ drought and unavailability of water – exacerbates erosion
- Water quantity – water allocation and availability – bottom lines to be reviewed
- Fair and equitable access to water – priority for drinking
- Water allocation – drinking water – fair, accessible and sustainable

Detailed discussion

- Drop 1st in 1st served
- Minimum flow to sustain ecosystem health
- Tuna are hardy – maybe don't use them as your indicator
- People are able to use water – residual water is available for use
- Drinking water is a priority
- Re-naturalising flows – how?
- Retire and retreat? Accept effects?
- Stay out of flood plains
- “More naturalised flows” – outcomes

Issue four: Implementing Te Mana o Te Wai

Initial brainstorm

- Te Mana o te Wai and economic 'trade offs' to pay for it
- "If you want to be green you can't be in the red"
- Cultural indicators
 - Te Tiriti o Waitangi
 - Te Mana o Te Wai
 - Partnerships at management level and not just operations

Detailed discussion

- Te Tiriti is understood and applied
- Partnerships enacted – recognition of mana to tangata whenua and local communities
- Recognition of what is needed at local level – support of needs
- Relationship to water – recognise we are all reliant on the water. Holistic management of land use at ta catchment level
- Headwaters approach to land use management and catchment restoration
- Cultural indicators – development of new cultural indicators to support the understanding of freshwater and progress in achieving TMOTW

Issue five: Loss of habitat

Initial brainstorm

- Loss of habitat and species – mahinga kai (riparian areas – connected wetlands as well stream straightening)
- Biosecurity and pest management

Detailed discussion

- Learn history – setbacks from landuse that recognise future flooding (e.g forestry/ horticulture)
- No more loss of wetlands
- More focused and targeted planning – get biggest bang for dollars rather than scatter gun approach
- Increase the mana of awa so that they can be a source of kai again
- Maintenance of riparian areas from the big post Gabriel clean up -don't use let the willows regrow into the channel
- Enable the return of freshwater species such as kanae / herons / koura to their original range – and support their ongoing future use of those habitat
- Landowners encouraged / supported to understand important riparian areas/ species
- People want to do restoration work (not just feel that have to do it against their will) – programmes are targeted towards landowners / community
- Support mana whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga over their wai and mahinga kai – improve access, understanding by landowners
- Restore urban waterways – Waikanae
- Water quality needs to improve
- Enable community connection to waterways to support restoration
- Environmental education – involve the next generation in restoration
- Management of the browsing that munch the habitat e.g deer and goats

Issue six: Transformative change

Initial brainstorm

- Transformative change at a high level i.e RMA needs implementation – there is an urgency

Detailed discussion

- To reflect section 33 of RMA tino rangatiratanga
- Self sovereignty / self management
- Education / capacity – western underpinned and centralised by mātauranga Māori – to give effect to TMOTW and Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Land and place based Tairāwhiti

Other issues identified

- Monitoring and enforcement and regulation to support
- Riparian management/ implementation – fence off plant proactive, main waters and tribes
- Ki uta ki tai – impacts on coastal ecosystems of freshwater management
- Connect land use – integrated management source to sink
- Climate resilience – flooding/ land instability/ saltwater intrusion
- Capacity growth/ education succession
- Committee to support, foster and implement education capacity/ capabilities within Tairāwhiti
- Multiple significant established taiao sites as potential wananga for Tairāwhiti workforce
- Commit to working with hapu and iwi taiao work management to promote Tairāwhiti, taiao work sites as credible recognised student work placement
- Development growth and production