



Waimatā - Pakarae Catchment Plan

ADVISORY GROUP

DRAFT Hui #9 agenda, minutes, and actions

Held at Mahutonga Room, Gisborne Public Library, on Monday 17 March 2025 at 9:30am

Advisory Group members present	Stan Pardoe, Colin Kerlake, Jennie Hindmarsh, Sarah Williams, Laura Watson, Tania Swift, Stephanie Gardner, Tash Irwin (arrived 9.45am)
Council	Ariel Yann le Chew, Abi Wiseman, Summer Agnew, Oliver Vetter Wolfgang Kanz
Apologies	Janic Slupski, Ranell Nikora, Matire Kupenga-Wanoa, Maraea Hinemoa Aupouri

Agenda

1. Karakia, housekeeping	9:30AM
2. Previous hui minutes and actions	
3. Recap	
4. Large Woody Debris Programme	9:40
5. Forestry Plan change	
6. Nature-based solution in the Waimatā	
7. Draft Catchment Plan	10:00
8. Wrap up, Close	11:25
Lunch	11:30AM

Supporting documents

- Draft Waimatā - Pakarae catchment plan

Supporting hyperlinks

- [Essential Freshwater: Te Mana o te Wai factsheet](#)
- Current [Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan](#)
- Portal [Waimatā-Pakarae Catchment Group | Participate \(gdc.govt.nz\)](#)

- o Check your email for password

Summary of actions

Future Action *Refer to Parked List for summary	Current task		
<p>Notes:</p> <p>Each task is allocated a unique identifier e.g. T2 for ease of reference</p> <p>The numbering continues from previous hui minutes</p>			
Task ID	Actions	Responsible	Due
WP-T29	Report back on issue of removal of woody debris at the Murphy Road culvert	Freshwater team	21 March 2025
WP-T30	Clarify application and enforcement of minimum setback rules for forestry	Freshwater team	End of March
WP-T31	Provide update on the ICMP	Freshwater team	End of March
WP-T32	Share Word version of the draft Waimatā-Pakarae Catchment Plan, the vision, the scoring matrix Excel spreadsheet, and the action prioritization diagrams	Freshwater team	21 March 2025
WP-T33	Review and provide feedback on the draft Waimatā-Pakarae Catchment Plan through 'comments' in the Word document	Members	End of April 2025
WP-T34	Share Expert Panel membership and purpose	Freshwater team	21 March 2025
WP-T35	Seek further clarification of appropriate name change for King's Farm Wetland.	Freshwater team	End of March

Minutes

1. Karakia and housekeeping

- 1.1. The hui commenced at 9.30am with an opening karakia.
- 1.2. Council staff outlined the agenda for the hui and housekeeping matters.

2. Large Woody Debris Programme

- 2.1. Staff updated the group on the scope and status of the Large Woody Debris (LWD) Programme. The programme is currently working to obtain funding from MPI for the second phase of programme – the Woody Debris Treatment Plan.
- 2.2. A member sought clarification on consent processes for removal of LWD particularly with regard to LWD removal at the Murphy St culvert. The freshwater team will report back to the group on this issue.

3. Forestry Harvest Plan change

- 3.1. Staff outlined the scope of the proposed Forestry Harvest Plan change covering earthworks, harvesting and structures in beds of rivers. The Forestry Plan Change is

occurring within the context of the wider TRMP review, which will address issues such as setbacks.

- 3.2. Staff outlined the supporting technical work underway, which includes economic modelling and a community survey focused on the Uawa catchment area. Outputs are expected mid-year and will be communicated to the group and the wider community.
- 3.3. There was discussion around the application and enforcement of setback rules for forestry. Members noted that setback rules should represent a minimum (not maximum), and the expectation for setbacks to provide space for native riparian and habitat restoration to occur. The freshwater team will report back to the group to clarify the application of setback rules.
- 3.4. Staff noted the National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry (NES-CF) are being reviewed. The forestry harvest plan change is on hold as GDC awaits confirmation from MPI to understand what are the expected amendments to the NES-CF.
- 3.5. Members expressed community expectations that the LWD issue be addressed, and the need to clearly articulate the group's aspirations. It was noted that there are multiple workstreams underway alongside the Forestry Plan Change, including the Citizens Assembly project and Transition Advisory Group.

4. Nature-based solutions in the Waimatā

- 4.1. Staff updated the group on the Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Feasibility Study for the Waimatā. The project consists of three key activities around (1) data analysis and consolidation, (2) technical analysis and spatial tool, and (3) Waimatā Historical Context research. Staff indicated the intended output is an evidence base that will identify *what* and *where*. The project is expected to be completed in June 2025, and outputs will be presented to the group.
- 4.2. Members were supportive of enabling community solutions that can be shared across the region. The following points were raised by members:
 - 4.3. the model can show where water wants to be, increasing resilience
 - 4.4. the tool may reduce uncertainty where tangata whenua and landowner approaches to land management differ

5. Draft Catchment Plan

- 5.1. Staff introduced the Draft Catchment Plan and welcomed members to review the content and provide feedback. Staff presented the draft vision and outlined a range of potential attributes, noting it is unlikely all will apply.
- 5.2. Members provided the following feedback:
 - 5.3. include a brief historical overview of the catchment area
 - 5.4. "where possible" is too vague
 - 5.5. there is ambiguity around the plan's reference to steep land i.e. forestry or all land
 - 5.6. to enable behaviour change across the community, create a communications tool to share catchment data annually (e.g. water quality) aimed at 10–12-year-old readers.

- 5.7. consider monitoring puna (springs) as well as wetlands. It was discussed that monitoring would be difficult – the first step would be mapping. Community-led mapping could be done with Council guidance on requirements.
- 5.8. suggested Pouawa should be monitored (no current monitoring)
- 5.9. Staff provided a broad overview of plan components, noting:
 - 5.9.1. the Catchment area will be considered one Freshwater Management Unit (FMU), with two connected management zones (Urban and Rural) within it.
 - 5.9.2. one additional monitoring site has been proposed at Whangara school, to be discussed – staff welcomed member suggestions for other sites that warrant monitoring
- 5.10. Baseline and Target Attribute States will be informed by expert panel process; they will look at some measures, assessing what is implementable.
- 5.11. setting Environmental Flows and Take Limits will be informed by science underway on optimal flows
 - 5.11.1. the freshwater team will look across all draft catchment plans and draft regional provisions once complete to determine which policies/rules are catchment-specific (and therefore sit in the catchment plan) or region-wide (and should therefore sit in the region-wide provisions)
 - 5.11.2. welcomed members views on if there are any water sources / springs that serve a wider community (more than one landowner) - noting the aquifer under Whangara has been identified.
 - 5.11.3. the freshwater schedules in the TRMP are being reviewed, and proposed the addition of a new schedule identifying culturally significant waterbodies.

6. Regionally significant wetlands

- 6.1. Staff acknowledged member suggestions for wetlands that should be considered for regionally significant status as part of the review of the freshwater schedules. They are:
 - Kopuawhakatapa Headlands (at the top of the Rifle Range)
 - Rarohou (Historic Pā site near the confluence of Kopakiraho Stream and Waimatā Rver)
 - Tamarau (Heath Johnson Park)
 - Papawhariki (Sponge Bay).
- 6.2. A member also indicated the presence of wetland vegetation at the Wainui Road end of the Rifle Range. Staff discussed the provisional wetlands (the Morphem Layer 2022), reiterating that not all sites will be natural inland wetlands.
- 6.3. Staff indicated that the majority of suggested sites are heavily modified and or degraded; some are not identified as Provisional Natural Inland Wetlands and do not meet legislative definitions (for example, if they have been re-instated and are therefore considered constructed). However, staff acknowledged their importance for ecological and/or water management values and that these sites will be considered, with other regional wetlands, as part of the schedule review and wetland mapping process.

6.4. Staff sought clarification on the member-suggested renaming of King's Farm wetland. A member confirmed that the group of wetlands were historically known as Rototahi and provided an avenue for staff to seek further clarification of the appropriate naming convention for these wetlands.

7. Action plans

7.1. Staff presented a matrix identifying possible actions and assessing their ease of delivery and transformative effect. Staff noted that actions to address sediment, e.coli and ecosystem health should be progressed as a priority, and the focus should be on actions that score highly both for impact and ease of delivery. Staff welcomed members views on the action matrix.

8. Wrap up and close

8.1. Staff thanked members for their contributions and noted next steps:

8.1.1. members to send through feedback on plan and actions for staff to consider as the plan is further developed and refined.

8.1.2. Community engagement on the freshwater plan and catchment plans is being planned for June 2025 and may be arranged to coincide with a community planting event.

8.1.3. Staff suggested another hui for later in the year to report back on plan development, present the Nature-based Solutions tool and update on the Expert Panel process (scheduling to be confirmed via email).

8.2. The hui closed at 11.30am with a shared lunch.

PARKING LIST

The following matters have been captured from discussions of the **TAIRĀWHITI WAIMATA-PAKARAE ADVISORY GROUP** hui. They are captured here to be incorporated as supplementary recommendations in the Group's final report and/or responded to directly.

Ref	Item/Action	Date raised	Status
WP-T9	Circulate stakeholder survey	10/04/2024	Team considering a cross-catchment approach to stakeholder surveys for 2025
WP-T21	Further discussions with mana whenua to decide on Māori freshwater values and environmental outcomes.	13/08/2024	TBC - ongoing