



# TAIRĀWHITI

## WAIMATĀ-PAKARAE CATCHMENT ADVISORY GROUP

**Hui agenda, minutes, and actions**

**Hui #2**

**Held in Mahutonga Room, Gisborne Public Library, on Wednesday 10 April 2024 at 9:30am**

<b>Advisory Group members present</b>	Laura Watson, Sarah Williams, Dianne Irwin, Stephanie Gardner, Stan Pardoe, Colin Kerslake, Jennie Hindmarsh, Tania Swift
<b>Council</b>	Janic Slupski, Ariel Yann le Chew, Abi Wiseman, Katrina Ungco Wolfgang Kanz
<b>Apologies</b>	Mere Pohatu (withdrawn from group), Maraea Hinemoa Aupouri, Ranell Nikora

### Agenda

<b>Karakia</b>	<b>9:30am</b>
<b>Housekeeping, previous hui minutes and actions</b>	<b>9:35</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on Woody Debris Taskforce on Waimatā River</li> </ul>	
<b>Freshwater values</b>	<b>9:50</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the catchment values, where are they found?</li> </ul>	
<b>Freshwater Management Units (FMUs)</b>	<b>10:20</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How should we organise the catchment area spatially?</li> </ul>	
<b>Introducing environmental outcomes</b>	<b>10:50</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop</li> </ul>	
<b>Stakeholder survey</b>	<b>11:20</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quick discussion</li> </ul>	
<b>Closing Karakia</b>	<b>11:25</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>11:30 - 12:00pm</b>

## Summary of actions



Future Action \*Refer to Parked List for summary



Current task

<b>Notes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each task is allocated a unique identifier e.g. T2 for ease of reference</li> <li>The numbering continues from previous hui minutes</li> </ul>			
Task ID	Actions	Responsible	Due
WP-T8	Support internal alignment between Recovery team and Freshwater Improvement Fund team	Freshwater team	ASAP
WP-T9	Circulate stakeholder survey to stakeholders	Freshwater team	TBC

## Minutes

### 1. Karakia, welcome and housekeeping

- 1.1. The hui commenced with an opening karakia.
- 1.2. Staff briefly outlined the agenda, noting the relationship between the topics. Staff suggested that the team start to co-develop the Draft Waimatā-Pakarae Catchment Plan, so we can envision how all the components will fit together.
- 1.3. Staff noted Mere Pohatu has withdrawn from the group due to conflicting employment.

### 2. Update on Woody Debris Taskforce on Waimatā River

- 2.1. Staff provided an update on the Woody Debris Taskforce, including progress to date and focus areas. Confirmation of Dave Hadfield (GDC Journeys Infrastructure Manager) as contact point for any operational questions regarding the Woody Debris Taskforce.
- 2.2. Members discussed concerns about the short-term focus of the Taskforce, noting the need for a longer-term strategic plan to avoid activities that may exacerbate flood risk and the flow of woody debris.
- 2.3. Members discussed the need for cohesive communications both within GDC (to avoid counterproductive activities) and with communities (to leverage local knowledge and resource). Members noted positive examples of collaborative work underway in the Te Arai catchment as well as in the Freshwater Improvement Fund (FIF) programme. An opportunity was identified for greater internal collaboration between the Recovery team and the Freshwater Improvement Fund team.
- 2.4. Staff noted work underway on a future-focused, integrated approach to land-use change, with broad support from key players. New tools to map erosion susceptibility will help to identify vulnerable land to transition to permanent forest (indigenous, exotic, or a mix).

### 3. **Freshwater values – Group Exercise**

- 3.1. Staff presented an overview of the role of freshwater values in the catchment planning process, and set out the compulsory values, values that must be considered and other values that the Waimatā/Pakarae community have previously raised.
- 3.2. The group split into two groups to identify important values, what they look like, where they are located and why they are important. Transcribed feedback is included at **Appendix 1.**
- 3.3. The following themes were reported back to the wider group:
  - 3.3.1. Group 1: All of the compulsory values are relevant to the entire catchment; Ecosystem health applies to all natural sites including modified watercourses, and all other values are linked in some way to ecosystem health; We know there are threatened species; We need to connect people to waterways; One approach may be to share a range of nature-based measures at a catchment scale for landowners to consider implementing.
  - 3.3.2. Group 2: Swimming, fishing, waka ama in the Waimatā; Ecosystem health in the Marine Reserve; Swimming in awa and in coastal environments; Mahinga kai (including eeling) and hunting; Inanga spawning; Threatened species, Important infrastructure (William Pettie Bridge).
- 3.4. One member also noted the importance of drinking water for stock in the Pakarae catchment.

### 4. **Freshwater Management Units (FMUs) discussion**

- 4.1. Staff presented the technical requirements for FMUs within the NPS-FM and examples of FMUs in the Waipaoa and Mōtū catchment areas.
- 4.2. FMUs are a pragmatic approach to grouping together and managing water bodies in a similar way where appropriate – for example, grouping areas of common values and land-use.
- 4.3. Staff proposed two FMUs to reflect two distinct landscapes – urban and rural. It will be important to account for the relationship between these environments.
- 4.4. Members raised a case for including a third FMU to capture coastal catchments, which do not neatly fall within 'rural' or 'urban' (e.g., Wainui settlement). Similar issues are being faced by coastal communities (receiving environments) such as Wainui, Tatapouri, Whangara, and others.
- 4.5. Staff noted that the Wainui Stream has a very large urban influence compared to other parts of the coastal environment, so we would need to think about how that's managed.
- 4.6. One member raised the importance of whakapapa in considering how areas are connected – for example, the Wainui and Hamanatua Streams are linked to Kopuawhakapata through whakapapa.
- 4.7. Another member noted that tangata whenua focus on the coastline because (a) most people lived along the coast, and (b) historic change in inland land-use/ownership in the 1880s resulted in the loss of stories about inland sites and environments.
- 4.8. One member noted that many small streams historically drained from the hills of Wainui towards the beach until a major diversion with the development of SH35. There's an opportunity to discuss whether historic stream flows should be reinstated.
- 4.9. Another member noted the significance of landsites in the Wainui Beach area as a burial place for tipuna.

- 4.10. Staff noted that when determining FMUs, there is limited monitoring across the catchment to make decisions about targets – a coastal FMU would need to use inland proxies (e.g. for water quality) due to limited data.
- 4.11. Members raised the significant impact of human actions across all of the values discussed, as well as the need to reflect Te Mana o Te Wai.
- 4.12. Staff clarified that it is possible to establish management zones within FMUs to recognise unique aspects of an area, though this is unlikely to make sense in this catchment area. Staff also noted that through the development of FMU-level action plans, targeted actions can be included e.g. focused on farming or forestry activities.
- 4.13. One member noted the relevant concept of rohinga, which encompasses the whole environment (coastal, freshwater, etc.), and the need to work with (not against) nature.
- 4.14. Staff noted that the focus of catchment-level planning should be what makes the Waimatā-Pakarae area unique (e.g. values of swimming, surfing, waka ama) – the factors that will not be captured in the regional-level plan.

## **5. Introducing environmental outcomes**

- 5.1. Staff briefly described environmental outcomes – i.e., what we would like to see in the values we identify within FMUs, to achieve the long-term vision for the catchment. There was not enough time to workshop this – staff noted environmental outcomes will be covered in the next hui.
- 5.2. The example of setting environmental outcomes for swimming was briefly explored, with members noting that swimming attributes are not in an acceptable state. We want swimmable rivers, scours to no longer need to be opened during downpours (affects rural, urban and coastal), and infrastructure to be upgraded.
- 5.3. One member raised the concept of recloaking papatūānuku. Brief discussion that this could be part of the long-term vision, if it applies to the whole catchment.
- 5.4. One member raised the importance of aligning with the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (noting GDC's Coastal Plan review has yet to kick off).

## **6. Stakeholder survey – Quick discussion**

- 6.1. Staff welcomed feedback on the stakeholder survey that was circulated to the group. Staff clarified that the survey is focused on industry and other stakeholder groups. Engagement with mana whenua is a separate focus area.
- 6.2. Members broadly supported the need to engage with industry and other groups. One member suggested a survey for the broader community – to be discussed at the next hui.

## **7. Close and next steps**

- 7.1. Staff outlined next steps:
  - 7.1.1. Team to begin developing Draft Waimatā-Pakarae Catchment Plan, to start to see how all the components fit together.
  - 7.1.2. Confirm values, FMUs and draft environmental outcomes for each value.
  - 7.1.3. Sector engagement – stakeholder survey to be circulated.
- 7.2. The hui closed at 11:45am with a karakia followed by lunch.

## **8. Tasks to be actioned**

Task ID	Actions	Responsible	Due
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<b>WP-T8</b>	Support internal alignment between Recovery team and Freshwater Improvement Fund team	Freshwater team	ASAP
<b>WP-T9</b>	Circulate stakeholder survey to stakeholders	Freshwater team	TBC

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## 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
<b>WP-T5</b>	Provide map with the 3B Layer.	27/02/2024	In progress

## APPENDIX 1: FEEDBACK FROM GROUP EXERCISE ON FRESHWATER VALUES

**Group Exercise:** In two groups, consider the following:

- Thinking about the catchment now, describe the important values.
- What do they look like?
- Are they associated with a location or catchment wide?
- What are their qualities?
- What makes them special/important/unique? What are some of the pressures/impacts on them?

### GROUP 1

#### General Values:

- Ecosystem Health
  - o Includes human behaviour / actions
  - o Applies to all natural areas + modified sites
  - o Impacts Mahinga kai
  - o Customary location of place are enhanced
  - o Threat species
  - o Modified water course are managed to maintain Ecosystem Health
  - o People are connected (Human Contact)
- Supported
  - o A series of solutions – nature based in and around the catchment – Wetlands, lagoons, bush blocks, Tributaries
  - o Understanding Geomorphology & where water wants to go hydrology

All of these are under:

- NPS-FM (Have regards)
- Coastal Environment
- Shellfish, Koura, Aquatic Life

FMU – Potential 3<sup>rd</sup> FMU (Coastal Catchment)

## Area specific values:



## Sticky notes:

- Irrigation – Lofflers water take
  - Tatapouri Spring
- Coastal lagoons, all rivers along the coast
  - Ecosystem
  - Human



**General Values:**

- Bridges > Infrastructure – Particularly William Pettie
- Swimming – all waterways
- Eeling – everywhere
- Threatened species
- 1870's > Crown > Land settlement
  - People used to be coastal





- Swimming, fishing, waka ama, William Pettie
- Mahinga, Kai, Hunting
- Beaches, camping
- Swimming in awa
- Marine reserve
- Healthy freshwater, ecosystem, all species
- Marine reserve, ecosystem health
- Threatened species (so many lost)
- Inanga Spawning
- Swimming, Coastal Environments, Marine reserves
- Kaimoana along the coast