



Ūawa Catchment Working Group

Meeting notes and actions

Hui 7 – 11 December 2024

Held at Tolaga Bay Fire Station at 09:30 AM

Chair	Pat Seymour
Working Group members present	Kel Blackman, Richard Powell, Andre Van Haandel, Phil Hope, Desmond McGrannachan, Horiata Raihania, Mere Tamanui
GDC Staff and consultants	Janic Slupski, Ariel Yann le Chew Lois Easton
Apologies	Victor Walker, Shaun Mitchel, Tim Jefferd, Karauria Ratapu, Tiahn Hooper

Agenda

1. Karakia and housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apologies, housekeeping Previous minutes and actions 	9:30AM
2. Runsheet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Quantity Action Planning Updated vision, values and attributes 	9:40AM
3. Wrap up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of session Next steps Thoughts, questions 	11:50AM
Lunch	12:00PM

Supporting documentation

- Draft Hui 6 Official minutes
- Briefing Paper:** Updated Vision, Values, Environmental Outcomes and Attributes
- Briefing Paper:** NES FW and the Ūawa catchment
- Briefing Paper:** Draft Actions for Action Plan
- Briefing Paper:** Water Quantity Issues in the Ūawa Catchment

Summary of actions

Future Action *Refer to Parked List for summary	Current task
---	--------------

Tasks to be actioned

Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

U-T11	Provide briefing paper on the scope of works and progress of the Large Woody Debris Programme	GDC	To be addressed on 27 February 2025
U-T12	Provide briefing paper on how emergency works, though governed by the CDEM Act, could/should align with the intent of the TRMP and the RMA.	GDC	To be addressed on 27 February 2025
U-T13	Provide briefing paper on legislative changes (relevant to freshwater and forestry) to this Group following this hui.	GDC	To be addressed on 27 February 2025

Minutes

Welcome and housekeeping

1. The hui commenced with a karakia at 9:35 AM. The Chair welcomed the Group and noted apologies.
2. The Chair led the discussion on the draft Hui 6 minutes. The Group requested for the following changes to be made:
 - 2.1. **Appendix 1: Outstanding and Scheduled Waterbodies** – correction of spelling errors: Te Rawheoro Marae (not Te Rawheora), Kaiaua Stream (not Kaiu Stream), Waitakeo Stream (not Waitateo Stream)
 - 2.2. **Remove Appendix 2 and corresponding item 15** – the raw information in Appendix 2 have been processed and noted in the briefing paper 'Draft Actions for Action Plan'.
3. The Group accepted the changes to the draft Hui 6 minutes for finalisation.

Session

Recap

4. Staff recapped the Group's progress through the National Objectives Framework (NOF) process.
5. Staff provided an update on next steps in the forestry conversation since the last forestry hui session on 18 September 2024. Staff informed that 2025 will look to focus on implementation of Land Overlay 3B and the Transition Guide developed by the Transition Advisory Group (TAG), with pilots for implementation in catchments like the Ūawa catchment. Staff highlighted that both forestry and farmlands are on the radar for implementation in 2025.
6. Members raised their concerns around the scope of works of the Large Woody Debris (LWD) programme, particularly the work done to date and the level of communications between the programme team and the affected parties (iwi, forestry industry, farmers, landowners). The Group expressed their keenness for open conversations and working collaboratively – which is not the current process undertaken by the programme team.
 - 6.1. Staff responded that they would bring a briefing paper with information at the next hui.
7. A member shared their concerns with emergency works not compliant with the direction set out in the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP) nor the Resource Management Act (RMA).

- 7.1. Staff explained that emergency works are undertaken under the Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Act – which overrides the RMA when there is an emergency. Staff responded that they would bring a briefing paper to the next hui, addressing how certain activities under emergency works should be managed in compliance with the purposes of the RMA and the TRMP.
8. Staff asked the Group to email through their feedback on the briefing paper ***'Updated Vision, Values, Environmental Outcomes and Attributes'***.

Water Quantity

9. Staff noted that the current largest water uses in the Ūawa catchment are for: stock drinking water, residential use, and irrigation (only 1 consent). Based on staff knowledge, the Mangaheia River is fully allocated and may be overallocated. There is some water available in the Hikuwai River, noting that the river is tidal until as upstream as the Mangatokerau River. Across the catchment there are other small springs. There is a small freshwater aquifer (around Tolaga Bay township) and a larger saline aquifer (not suitable for drinking or irrigation).
10. The current methodology of setting the appropriate minimum/environmental flow is based on hydrology. There is an opportunity to identify the species to be used to set the minimum flow. Tuna (specifically longfin eel) was suggested for the species to be used to set the minimum flows in the Ūawa catchment.
11. The Group discussed what should be the priorities for freshwater use in the Ūawa catchment. In summary, in no particular order, the Group suggested:
 - 11.1. Stock water reticulation
 - 11.2. Allocation to include consideration of self-sufficiency (e.g. water storage tank on-site)
 - 11.3. That the small freshwater aquifer should be prioritised for domestic use
 - 11.4. Firefighting water
 - 11.5. Road works (e.g. tar seal the roads)
 - 11.6. Implementing principle of reciprocity – financial/environmental contribution in exchange for water takes
 - 11.7. Designated and known sites for drinking water takes (if not reticulated)
 - 11.8. Commercial uses (e.g. laundromat).

Action plans

12. The Group discussed the draft actions in the briefing paper 'Draft Actions for Action Plan'. Staff explained the columns in the table, where the actions have been grouped into four headings:
 - 12.1. Cross catchment
 - 12.2. Farming areas and rural communities
 - 12.3. Forestry areas
 - 12.4. Settlement areas.
13. Initial roundtable identification of actions that members supported were raised. Staff asked the Group to email their feedback to form the draft catchment plan.

Closing, next steps

14. For the next hui, staff will provide briefing papers identified in Tasks U-T11 to U-T13. Other items on the agenda include a report back on the findings of the economic model, and discussion on the draft catchment plan.
15. The hui closed at 12:33 PM with a karakia and a shared lunch. Hui 8 is scheduled for 27 February 2025.