

Report of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee Workshop 3.8.17

5-9pm, Plimmerton Boating Club, 66 Moana Road, Plimmerton

Summary

Contents

Overview	1
Workshop notes	2
Session 1 - Welcome, karakia, housekeeping.....	2
Session 2 – “Urban Water Quality: A Collective Fail” video	2
Session 3 – timeline update.....	3
Session 4 – Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua policy packages	3
Session 5 – Engagement conversations.....	6
Session 6 – Any other business.....	7
Appendix.....	8

Overview

Workshop/ meeting **Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee:**
Barbara, Dale, Diane, David (6.30pm), Jennie, Larissa (6pm), John G, Sharli-Jo, Stu
Attendees (Chair), Warrick , Hikitia
Apologies: John McKoy, Richard Cook, Jennie Smeaton, Barbara Donaldson

Project Team:

Alastair (Project Manager), Grace, Brent, Murray, Jon, Keith, Nicci, Turi, Hayley, Suze

Facilitator: Isabella

Additional: Ned Norton

Members of the Public: n/a - session was a workshop

Workshop purpose The purposes of this workshop were to:

1. strengthen our understanding of how policy packages work (and don't work) delivering behaviour change that achieves water quality objectives
2. To understand the methodology that PT will use to develop up the policy package, and approve PT to do the work
3. For the regulatory elements of the urban focussed policy packages: to learn about some of the options and to articulate Committee's preferences about these
4. For the non-regulatory elements of the policy package: to hear and

understand the complexity of organisational roles & responsibilities (and T AoPWC role), and potential combinations of non-regulatory elements

By the end of the night we aimed to have:

- Identified Committee's principles to guide the next phases of policy package development
- Confirmed a process for this work by PT

The purposes were achieved except for part of 3 (articulate Committee preferences for regulating urban land use) and 4, which was partly achieved but mostly deferred to next time.

Committee Decisions and actions to do

Committee Decisions	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. T AoPWC confirmed their "principles/directions" to guide the Project Team in developing the policy packages2. T AoPWC approved the Project Team to do "offline" work developing the policy packages as per the process described
Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Project team – provide Committee with information on Porirua streams' water quality results examined in the Urban Water Quality: A Collective Fail video.2. Project team - provide Committee with Megan Oliver's presentation to Joint Harbour Committee3. Project team – provide Sharli Jo with copy of the video

Workshop notes

Session 1 - Welcome, karakia, housekeeping

The workshop started at 6.10 to wait for attendees.

Jon gave the karakia and it was agreed to shift the agenda so the video could play while people trickled in.

Session 2 – "Urban Water Quality: A Collective Fail" video

This video was shown to:

1. inform Committee about the engagement GWRC are doing with partner agencies and with their own staff
2. deepen understanding of the institutional failure dimension of the status quo

There was some brief discussion afterwards, including a request for the Porirua streams versions of some data shown in the video.

There were also requests to share the video, plus a presentation given by GWRC's Megan Oliver at the Porirua Harbour Joint committee meeting this evening.

The video will be made available to the committee members who missed this viewing. GWRC is also producing an edited highlights version of the video.

ACTION: Provide Committee with the Porirua versions of water quality data from Mark's part of the video presentation plus Megan Oliver's presentation (including speaking notes)

ACTION: Provide copy of video to Sharli

Session 3 – timeline update

Alastair Smaill, GWRC

See [Updated skeleton timeline](#)

- Alastair updated Committee on the highlights from the Project Team planning workshop held 27.7.17 at Takapūwāhia and presented an updated timeline. He thanked Committee members Sharli and Hikitia for participating and praised the richness of the Ngāti Toa session of the workshop.
- We are approaching the exit of the “identifying draft policy packages” box and moving on to what improvement we’re seeking in what waterways (draft objectives for each WMU), which will be much more fun and much more challenging. Overall the timing is fairly on track, but we now know that some of the modelling is flowing into the new year which means final work will now be in February / March.
- However there is political pressure to go no later.
- Alastair signalled that we may need a couple of extra meetings towards the end of the year to support this work.
- The CMP work is tracking so there will be an avalanche of results coming relatively soon – PT challenge is to synthesise that info so it is useful to the Committee.
- Community engagement will begin in September, or once the Committee have progressed the policy package direction
- The Chair strongly emphasised the importance of Committee members showing up and engaging at meetings, noting with disapproval the low turnout at the previous meeting and relatively low at this one.

ACTION: PT to schedule additional meetings in December and consider timing of meetings to ensure high Committee participation.

Session 4 – Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua policy packages

(Hayley Vujcich, GWRC)

See presentation [“Draft Policy Packages – 3 August 2017 meeting”](#)

The purpose of this session was to:

1. Strengthen our understanding of how policy packages work (and don’t work) delivering behaviour change that achieves water quality objectives
2. Understand the methodology that PT will use to develop up the policy package, and approve PT to do the work

Policy packages – evolving with Committee, now mostly PT

- The first part of the session was a refresher for Committee on the policy work of the last three meetings, particularly the last one where only a small number of Committee members were present.
- Draft policy packages are the “how” we will achieve our water quality objectives – the “what” we want our water quality to be like. Committee were reminded that the policy package is primarily things that GWRC can do themselves via their RMA powers. Regulatory tools held by TAs, and all aspects of integrated planning, education and investment, are beyond the

WIP's ability to directly influence.

- The policy packages have been gradually evolving since the concept's introduction at the May TAOPWC meeting.
- There is a lot of complex and very technical work to be done by policy experts. Analogous to the technical work done by the CMP, much of this needs to be done offline from the Committee. (Illustrative: ['Regulating the way urban activities affect water quality' sheet](#) –not an official handout but is a window into PT's process).
- However also like the modelling and analysis work, it needs to be true to Committee's intent and approach. Given the small number of available meetings left to us, Committee time needs to be used judiciously.

Tools for policy package development

- The rich material generated by Committee discussions (especially last meeting) is driving the latest iteration of the policy package, and it has also been distilled into a set of Committee "intentions" or "directions" for the policy packages' development.
- The evolution of the policy packages can be illustrated for Committee by "diagnosing" how strongly the available policy levers are "turned up" in the whaitua's current policy settings and which are absent, compared to the developing draft policy packages. Refer to the handout ["Comparing the policy packages – current state vs Committee's draft packages"](#)
- This diagnosis tool shows the relative strength of policy settings in the packages and the differences from the status quo.
- A second tool that will be used in developing the packages aims to distil Committee's overall intent for the policy packages, so the Project Team can use this to help technical work stay on course with this intent. This will be looked at later tonight.

Policy packages: evolution

Using the diagnosis tool, Hayley illustrated how each policy package is changing compared with the status quo.

Key points to note are:

- the 'draft' policy packages are a snapshot in time, so illustrate only the current state of Committee's packages. There is much more development to come
- these are GWRC's policy tools - the ones that Committee can directly recommend GWRC to change
- All policy tools will be used in all areas (e.g. urban, rural) but current evolution may not have the right emphasis – where do we want the big changes to happen?
- Dotted lines (c.f. continuous) indicate relatively weak connectedness and synergy between policy tools.
- "Investment" policy tool is investment as a tool in and of itself and the diagram diagnoses only that investment undertaken by GWRC. It does not include investment undertaken by another party in order to respond to a another tool (e.g. investment as a result of a new regulation, or investment in education to upskill practices)
- take limits and allocating water takes will be treated as a separate

discussion (having this because some members have said it's important) which will be informed by the significance of water takes for whaitua water quality

Developing Policy Packages: committee intent

Committee broke into two groups to look at the second tool for draft "directions" or statement of Committee's philosophical intent for policy packages' development.

Project Team has distilled this set from Committee's conversations over the last three meetings, but (especially given low attendance last time) it needs to be confirmed for PT to use in guiding their next period of policy package work.

Groups worked through three questions:

1. Do we understand what the statements mean?
2. Do we feel comfortable that they are broadly correct and complete as a statement of our current intentions and direction we would like to see policy packages' development?
3. Do we feel comfortable with how Project Team say they'll manifest our direction in the policy package work?

Note that in her absence Jennie Smeaton emailed her comments on the first five 'direction points' issued to the Committee ahead of the meeting and approve their general direction. The results are at Appendix 1.

Decision: Committee were comfortable with the combined set of directions.

Action: The updated directions will be circulated for information.

Follow-on work proposal

- In the evening's discussion there were a variety of questions that traversed many areas yet to be developed for fully-fledged policy packages
- We will also need to reassess the packages to see if they will be as effective as we thought at achieving our objectives. This will be possible once the modelling & analysis results are delivered.
- Hayley presented the proposed way forward: PT works "offline" to develop policy packages, keeping it transparent and reporting back where required. The four areas listed (see slide 8) do not require modelling inputs so can progress in parallel with this work.
- There's opportunity for Committee members to be closer to policy package development if they are interested in the nuts and bolts. Please contact Hayley if you are interested in being closer to the policy development work.

ACTION: Committee members to contact Hayley if they are interested in staying close to the policy development work

The second part of the policy package session was the presentation ["Regulating the way urban activities affect water quality"](#).

This is one of the four areas which will need further development referred to above. GWRC has the power to regulate which is currently under-cooked (see Urban Land Use, New Development and Urban infrastructure pages of diagnosis handout).

The purpose of this part of the session was to illustrate to Committee that there are different ways to use regulation to control how land-based activities affect water quality, each with pros and cons. Refer to presentation for details.

Who & how to

- Slide 3– need to target the actor with control over the discharge going into water. This can be one (many funnelled into one) or many; the control can

- regulate** pass from one to another over time
- Slide 4 - How to regulate – there are no existing use rights to discharge anything into water. GWRC must regulate under section 15 and may regulate (currently doesn't) under section 9 of the RMA
 - Slides 5-8: overlapping powers to regulate can mean over regulation but also under—regulation (latter is current situation)
 - High risk activities – principle of effective and efficient government intervention is to invest the greatest administrative input (burden) on activities that are really “worth it” – i.e. the ones with highest risk of harming water quality. Can also regulate less harmful activities but more permissively and with less regulator effort
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- How does this fit with discharge limits?** There was a good discussion about how limits interact with regulation (around slide 9-12). For example:
- How much headroom do we require for any new activity – how trusting are we of consent holders that they'll keep to their discharge limit? How do we create “headroom under the limit” by existing dischargers reducing their discharge, so new uses can come in while keeping to the limit?
 - How forgiving are we of discharges that breach limits – e.g. “excusable” due to “acts of God” or unusual events (e.g. a 1/100-year rainstorm)?
 - Would we really say No to something that was expected to breach a limit? Yes

- Enforcing**
- Effective regulation requires good design but also effective enforcement. This is where institutions' own willingness to invest effort (e.g. FTE time on enforcement & related administrative work) is determinative of effectiveness.
 - Political will is required - meaning that operational / on-the-ground officers will see things and (if the organisation lacks the will to enforce) will be effectively told to turn a blind eye.
 - Enforcement is only one tool for policy, and overuse of an enforcement tool can be detrimental – which is where use of education can be key. Coordination is really important bringing together the different teams (and different organisations' enforcement officers too).
 - In most organisations enforcement, like all operational activities, are delegated to the CEO rather than being a matter for governance (councillors) – so while enforcement is not directly political (and not in the party-political sense), an organisation's appetite for it really is.

Next steps: the Project Team will continue to work on the policy packages and present the parts of the packages back to the Committee as this work progresses.

Session 5 – Engagement conversations

- Project Team are continuing to work in the background with agency partners. One good indicator is that WCC's strategic planning timeline now includes not only Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua and Wellington-Hutt but also Ruamāhanga whaitua.
- WWL have applied for resource consent to discharge storm water to water bodies across the region. This is the first time this has happened in the Wellington region, which illustrates the historic under-utilisation of regulatory tools to manage water quality.
- Processing the consents will be a very long and formal process, likely with some public hearings.

- Issues paper - at the planning workshop there were enquiries about a single problem definition or issues statement to use in engagement with various Ngāti Toa stakeholders. (Note: Hikitia had to leave earlier due to illness). The best articulation of the problem we're all here for is in fact in the Porirua Harbour Strategy. Tonight's video includes similar messages.
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Session 6 – Any other business

(Stu Farrant, Chair)

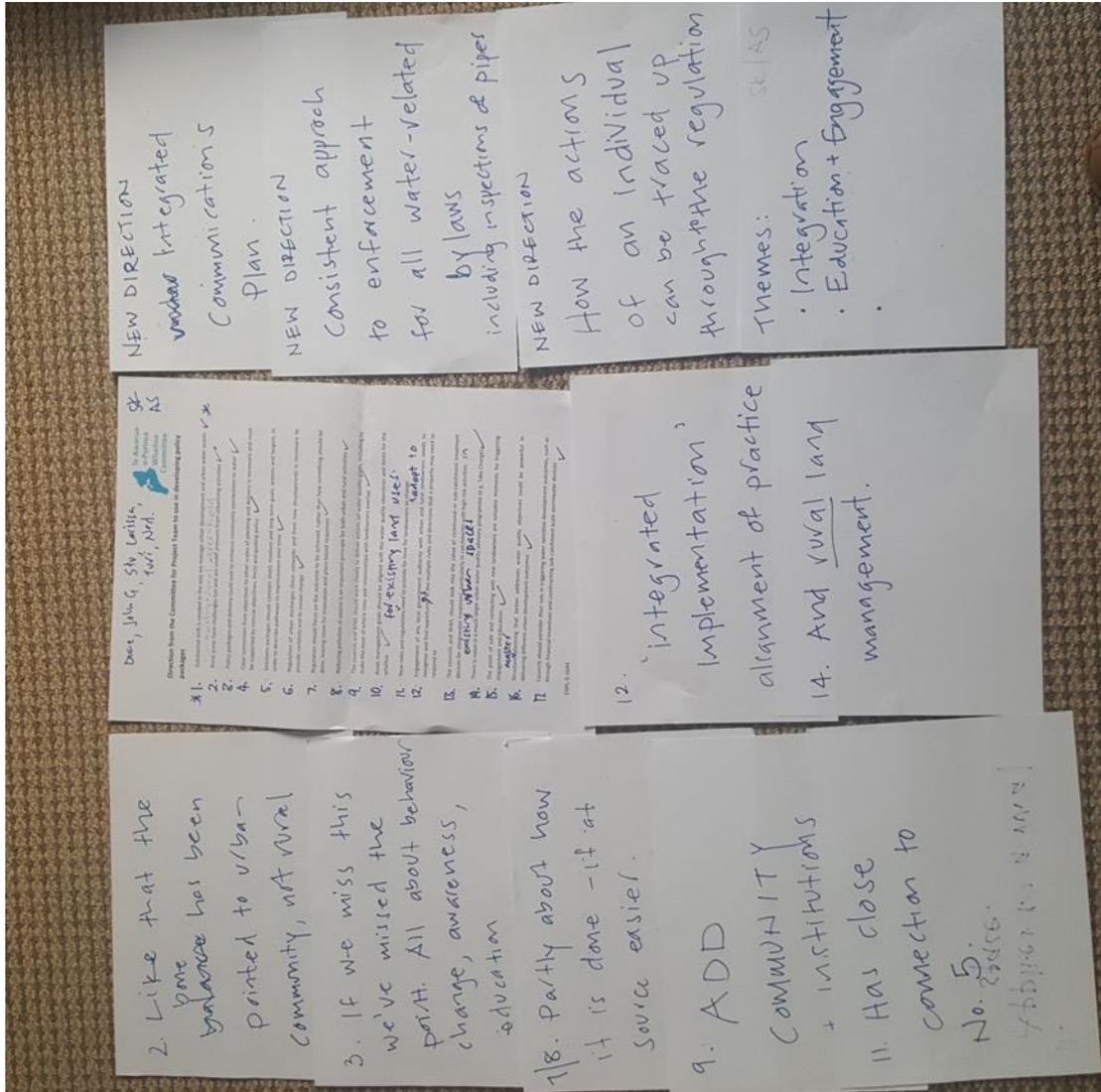
- The next Committee gathering is a workshop on 24th August, which will no longer be on policy packages but will start to look into objectives.
- The Tech Team have a meeting before then – reminders will come out
- The Chair invited Committee to make any requests or comments through any channels

The workshop closed at 9pm.

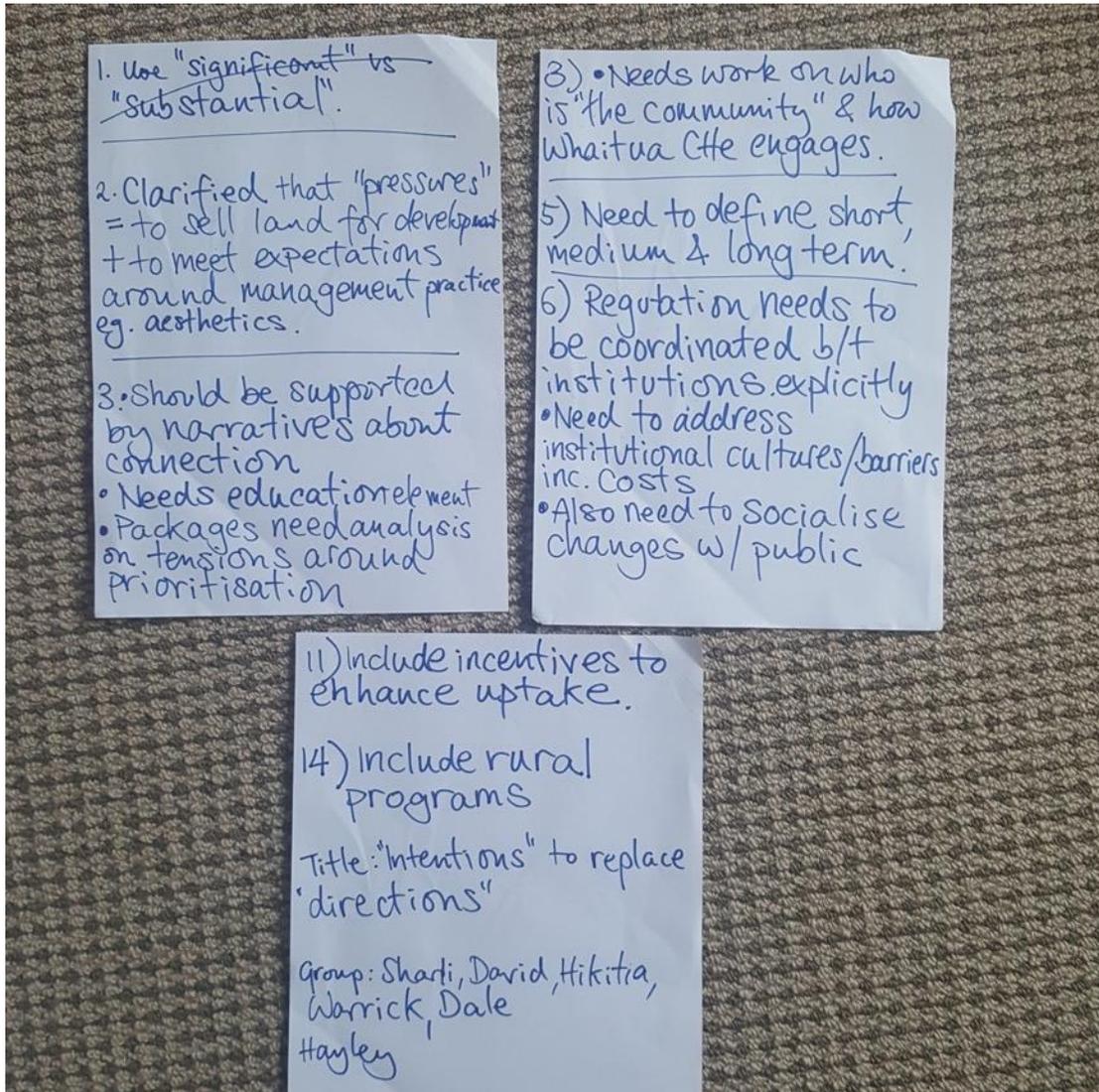
The next workshop of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee is 24th August, 5 – 9pm at Tawa Community Centre

Appendix

Amendments to TAOPWC principled directions for policy packages



First group



1. Use "significant" vs "substantial".

2. Clarified that "pressures" = to sell land for development + to meet expectations around management practice eg. aesthetics.

3. Should be supported by narratives about connection
• Needs education element
• Packages need analysis on tensions around prioritisation

3) • Needs work on who is "the community" & how Waitua Cte engages.

5) Need to define short, medium & long term.

6) Regulation needs to be coordinated b/t institutions explicitly
• Need to address institutional cultures/barriers inc. Costs
• Also need to socialise changes w/ public

11) Include incentives to enhance uptake.

14) Include rural programs

Title: "Intentions" to replace "directions"

Group: Shadi, David, Hikitia, Warrick, Dale Hayley

Additional or different changes – second group