

# Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee Meeting 10 Notes

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Wednesday 11 December 2019, 9:15am-4:00pm  
Silverstream Retreat, Upper Hutt

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## Attendees

### Committee members:

Louise Askin, Roger Blakeley, Ros Connelly, Quentin Duthie, Wayne Guppy (morning session), Tui Lewis (morning session), Peter Matcham, Zoe Ogilvie, Jonny Osborne, Anya Pollock, Hikitia Ropata (morning session), Naomi Solomon (morning session), Gabriel Tupou, Pat van Berkel  
Apologies: Kara Puketapu-Dentice, Sean Rush

### Project Team:

Tim Sharp, Phill Barker, Matt Hickman, Anna Martin, Richard Sheild, Emily Osborne, Mark Heath, Brent King, (GWRC), Onur Oktem, (WCC), David Burt (HCC), Rhiannon Barbour (UHCC), Grace Katene, Ashleigh Sagar (Ngāti Toa), Aaria Dobson-Waitere (Taranaki Whānui)  
Apologies: Kat Banyard, Denise Young, Sharyn Westlake, Helen Bolton (WCC), Angela Penfold (WWL)

### Other attendees:

Jamie Peryer, Jimmy Young, Wayne Boness (GWRC), Catherine Knight (KHM Consulting), Bob Anker, Pam Guest (lifestyle block owners), Stephen Pattinson, Alex Ross (Save Our Hills (Upper Hutt) Inc.)

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## Action points

### Project Team:

- Provide a paper on peatlands.
- Provide update on water bottling situation.
- Find out if golf courses and parks use nutrient management plans.
- Follow up on summary of the Waitangi tribunal report.
- Share Aaria's presentation on freshwater sponges.
- Find out what investment is already included in the Councils' LTPs.
- Emily to send link to the [SharePoint photo library](#).
- Add key dates and milestones to the 2020 plan.
- Draft the scope for the facilitator role for the co-chairs to review, confirm and appoint.
- Provide a paper on water allocation for discussion at the first Committee meeting in 2020.
- Draft query on GW's involvement in forestry and farming for the co-chairs to send to GWRC Chief Executive.
- Send the Committee a summer engagement pack by the end of this year.
- Consolidate the list of issues from the "Understanding the Whaitua" phase into a readable, numbered list.

### Committee members:

- Committee and Project Team members to send updated bios and photos to Emily by 18 December.
- Follow up on opportunity to meet with the GW Biodiversity Framework Working Group.
- Review issues list from the "Understanding the Whaitua" phase and add any missing and rank top 10 issues to bring to a facilitated workshop in early 2020.
- Provide feedback on draft Neighbourly profiles by 18 December.
- Enter your names in the stakeholder spreadsheet next to community groups you are willing to take ownership of (i.e., being the conduit for outreach but not being solely responsible for engagement with them) and add any groups that might be missing.
- Sign up for list of summer events that you are interested in and available to attend.

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## Decisions reached

- Agreed that a facilitator is to be employed for meetings in 2020 provided that the Committee sets its own agenda.
- Agreed that the Committee will have 30 minutes of closed Committee time to start each meeting.

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## Meeting notes

### Session 1: Open meeting

*Louise Askin (co-chair)*

Roger and Aaria led the group in karakia to open. Louise introduced the speakers and sessions for the day. Farewell to Anna from the Project Team and welcome to Ashleigh from Ngāti Toa.

**Review of actions:**

- Following the wetlands policy paper, the Project Team is to provide a paper on peatlands in this whaitua in 2020.
- Committee and Project Team members to send updated bios and photos to Emily by 18 December.
- Request for the Project Team to find out if there is a nutrient management plan for golf courses and parks to provide for the Committee.
- Request to follow up on summary of the Waitangi tribunal report.

Session 2: Subgroup updates

**Policy:**

*Roger Blakeley (subgroup lead)*

- Discussed the central government’s freshwater package consultation timeline and agreed that the Whaitua Committee will go forward as planned regardless of the outcome.
- Project Team to consolidate the list of issues from the “Understanding the Whaitua” phase into a readable, numbered list. Committee members to consider issues that are not included in the list and rank their top 10 issues to bring to a facilitated workshop in early 2020 to determine the Committee’s top 10 issues. These will help set the agenda for Committee meetings in 2020.
- Issues are to be evaluated against criteria such as whether they are aligned with the kawa statement and principles, relevant to the whaitua programme and feasible.
- Issues that do not make it into the top 10 list are to be picked up by the Project Team to provide follow up information.

**Communications and Engagement:**

*Zoe Ogilvie (subgroup lead)*

- GW Customer Engagement has allocated resources to support the Whaitua programme.
- Comms people from the TA’s and Wellington Water are also on board to provide support.
- Subgroup update during Committee meetings in 2020 to be use for Committee members to report back on their engagement from the past month.
- Pat – provided update to Forest & Bird and will type up the issues raised relating to cyanobacteria and swimmable days in the Hutt River. He received citizen science water sampling kits, which can tell the invertebrate species and bacteria upstream of the sample.
- Quentin – elected as co-chair of the GW Biodiversity Collaborative Framework Working Group and there is interest between the two groups given the links between biodiversity and water quality outcomes. He provides an update to the Belmont Resident’s Association each month and they have mostly expressed interest in issues regarding dogs swimming in the Hutt River and rain tanks.
- Gabriel – Wellington Water and HCC released a flood mapping report the week prior the heavy rainfall event on 7 December and the community corroborated anecdotal evidence with Wellington Water. Potential to link up with Predator Free Wainuiomata. Concerns raised regarding Kainga housing development and its proximity to the river.
- Jonny – attended the Sanctuary to Sea meeting on 3 December along with Anya, Louise, Kara, and Ros. They split into small groups to discuss three engagement questions, which

reinforced issues that the Committee has discussed such as the community's lost connection to water and the lack of awareness that what happens in their backyards ends up in waterways. Aaria presented on freshwater sponges; presentation to be shared with the Committee. Project Team to create a template based on the meeting format for future engagement events.

- Anya – Karori Resident's Association is advocating for better signage about the poor water quality of Karori Stream, which has triggered feedback in the community that this isn't a long-term solution as water quality needs to be improved.
- Emily to send link to the [SharePoint photo library](#).

#### Science:

*Anya Pollock (subgroup lead)*

- Anya was elected to be the subgroup lead.
- Recent meeting focussed on water allocation scenarios and the [paper is available on SharePoint](#).
- Tim and Aaria are working on the contract scope for a Mātauranga Māori advisor with a technical science background for next year. Discussed the importance of weaving Mātauranga Māori throughout the process and work streams.

#### Session 3: Pinehaven catchment

*Stephen Pattinson and Alex Ross (Save Our Hills Incorporated Pinehaven)*

- Presented to the Committee on a report prepared by Bob Hall, which states that GW's flood modelling does not accurately reflect the catchment. Mr Pattinson and Mr Ross believe that GW's flood maps are overly conservative with regards to infiltration.
- They raised concerns that they believe errors in the baseline model could lead to consent applications for new developments being assessed as having little or no impact on infiltration compared to current bush cover regardless of the amount of impervious site cover proposed. Mr Pattinson and Mr Ross asked the Committee to make a recommendation to GW to correct what they consider to be errors in the baseline model and to avoid over engineering and wasting ratepayers' money.

#### Session 4: 2020 meeting plan

*Tim Sharp (GW Whaitua Programme Manager) and Phill Barker (GW Senior Policy Advisor) – [see slides](#)*

#### Overview:

- Presented the overall process phases, which showed that the establishment and understanding the whaitua phases are complete at the end of 2019.
- 2020 will move into deliberation and prioritisation, integration and decision making, and development of the WIP.
- 2020 meetings to allow more time for Committee discussion. Addressed the need to gather values from the community and discuss mana whenua values.
- Need to agree process for prioritising issues and decision-making. Options to address them one at a time or have smaller groups take issues away for discussion and then bring them back to the full Committee. Acknowledged that the issues can't be discussed in isolation as they will impact each other.

- Key dates and milestones to be added to the 2020 plan.

**Water allocation:**

- Need to have discussion about water allocation before the Committee can prioritise the policy issues. Kat will provide a background paper on water allocation as part of the summer reading pack, which will include a list of the issues, the policy context, current consent situation, hydrological information, and terminology. Cultural flows also need to be built into meeting discussions on water allocation.
- The science subgroup will be working through the water allocation scenarios. Raised the point that water quality and allocation need to be discussed together to understand the full picture.
- Committee members also interested in discharges, and examples of how water metering has worked in other areas.

**Engagement:**

- Recommendations will need to be tested with key stakeholders who will be affected by the Committee's decisions, which will require rigorous engagement.
- Importance of engaging with Councils when discussing investment needs and ensure they attend the WIP launch. Need to consider LTP timelines for Committee to provide input for funding the 3 waters network. Project Team to find out what investment is already included in the LTPs.
- Need to engage with central government as well since the TA's won't have money for infrastructure upgrades.
- Engagement will be needed after the WIP is published.

**Facilitator:**

- Revisiting whether a facilitator is needed now that the Committee is entering the deliberation phase.
- Facilitator support will be helpful in meeting design, including all voices, confirming key actions and decisions, and enabling the co-chairs to participate in the conversation.
- Committee supportive of using a facilitator as long as the Committee sets the agenda. They should attend all meetings next year even if they are not facilitating so they are aware of the process. Recommended a facilitator with cultural knowledge and expertise; a Māori facilitator to be considered.
- Agreed that the Committee needs 30 minutes for their closed session, which can be a time to check in on how the facilitation is working.
- Project Team to draft the scope for the facilitator role and the co-chairs are to review and confirm. They will be needed for some but not all sessions, and have an understanding of the kawa framework and the Committee's vision beyond the NPSFM requirements.

## Session 5: Plantation forestry and GW Parks

**Plantation forestry:**

*Jimmy Young (GW Principal Ranger Eastern Sector) – [see slides](#)*

- GW owns 3,000ha of plantation forest. Forestry was done by GW until 2014 when the cutting rights were sold to RMS for a 60-year lease.
- Introduced environmental standards in 2017. Previously planted trees right up to stream banks but the new NRP requires 10-20m setbacks.

- Could trees alongside streams be left for erosion control rather than being harvested? If only part of a stand of trees is harvested the remaining trees become exposed and are likely to fall into the stream anyway.
- Could GW move away from clear felling and toward selective cutting? It would be a change in NZ practice and less economical.
- Does the Whaitua Committee have the opportunity to influence the 5-year RMS plan? They can make recommendations to be included in the NRP.

*Anna Martin (GW Policy Advisor) – [see slides](#)*

- Sediment is the biggest risk in the rural catchment, especially during forestry harvest, which is problematic for mahinga kai.
- GW is responsible for enforcement on forestry sites but some users take advantage of GW's limited resourcing to continue uncompliant practices. GW needs to be doing better monitoring but forestry sites are often remote and difficult to access without drones. The best way to make change is to work with the operators.
- How many of these issues are being addressed in the NPS?
- Opportunity for change since GW is both the landowner and the police, and an opportunity to demonstrate best practices for other regions of NZ.
- Why is GW involved in forestry and farming besides making a return on the land? Could GW be the regulator rather than the owner? Question to advance to the CE.
- What is the analysis around NES for plantation forestry? Need an impact assessment from MPI if all regulations were complied with. Difficult to gauge in Porirua and modelling was unable to come up with sediment reductions.

#### **GW Parks:**

*Wayne Boness (Principal Ranger Western Sector) – [see slides](#)*

- Farm management in Belmont is historical and has been going on for 100 years or more, supported through park management plans. Moving away from this legacy to do things more sustainably.
- In the pre-consultation period for the parks networks plan and the direction from GW is that there will be a reduction in farming over time. There has been a lot of effort put into retiring grazing areas but progress is slow due to limited resources.
- There is stock access to streams but fencing is being put in around Speedy's, although it is challenging in steep hill country.
- Parks create opportunity to offset mitigation with tree planting and for large scale restoration/retirement.
- Important to consider where trails cross sites of significance and funding for kaitiaki with mana whenua.

## Session 6: Lifestyle blocks

#### **Intro to lifestyle blocks:**

*Richard Sheild (GW Policy Advisor) – [see slides](#)*

- There's not a lot of info available on the types of activities on lifestyle blocks but there's an opportunity to engage with landowners and their network groups.
- Lifestyle blocks have a high turnover rate, average ownership in Upper Hutt is 2 years.
- Upper Hutt is approaching capacity for development without encroaching on lifestyle block land.

- There are small streams with high ecological value as they have good habitat for fish, hydrological function, and riparian zones.
- Septic tanks may be poorly maintained and leeching contaminants.

*Bob Anker (Upper Hutt lifestyle block owner)*

- Moved to property in 1983 and was first to build in his development.
- The first thing a lifestyle block owner will do is plant trees but at first they planted too many, too close together, and the wrong variety.
- They had a greenhouse for growing flowers commercially in fertile peatland.
- The land was originally part of a dairy farm where stock could walk across the stream. Now there is fencing and a bridge for stock to cross, and the pond is used for irrigation.

*Pam Guest (Upper Hutt lifestyle block owner and GW staff)*

- Lives on a 2ha property with 2 sheep, 2 horses, 1 dog and 1 cat. It's a hobby farm and she's passionate about conservation.
- They have a modern septic tank and irrigation system using the spring for drinking water.
- Korokoro stream runs through the property, which they have fenced and planted native grasses, although stream bank erosion is still a challenge. Received fence funding from GW and land management advice.
- There is little evidence of environmental improvement on small blocks of land. There needs to be more strategic planning higher up in the catchment.

**Q&A:**

- Do you grow enough on property to feed your stock year round? No, Bob gets approximately 80 bales of hay out of 50m<sup>2</sup> but also uses some from the block next to his.
- Issue of scale with landowners that are new to land. Stock become pests, some suffer from poor management.
- Huge effort required to fence streams that flow through many properties, and fencing is expensive.
- Poorly maintained septic tanks cause raw sewage to run into streams which has a huge impact on small streams. Landowners may not be aware of septic tank maintenance and septic tanks need to be dug up to be improved. Allowing stock to roam on fields with septic tanks can have a negative impact but owners will let stock graze there if low of feed
- With the high turnover rate, property knowledge is lost and owners don't know where their septic fields are or how to maintain them. Need for an education campaign or manual to help landowners understand how they work.

[Session 7: Engagement activity](#)

*Phill Barker and Emily Osborne (GW Project Team)*

**GW Customer Engagement update:**

- There will be an increased marketing push in early 2020 including posters on trains, radio spots, co-chair videos.
- The graphics team will develop flyers, brochures, business cards, and other collateral.
- Emily will send a summer engagement pack before the end of the year, including the Whaitua powerpoint, business cards, engagement feedback form, key messages, and the calendar of summer events.

- Need to consider how we engage with key stakeholders in person and online, and also how we reach out to different demographics.

**Committee actions:**

- CE has suggested using Neighbourly as a platform to introduce Committee members to the communities in this Whaitua. Individual Committee members will not be responsible for specific neighbourhoods, but the profiles will turn people to Facebook, Have Your Say, and the Whaitua email address. Emily to share draft Neighbourly profiles for feedback by 18 December.
- Stakeholder mapping work is underway with CE advisor. Committee members to enter their names next to community groups they are willing to take ownership of (i.e., being the conduit for outreach but not being solely responsible for engagement with them) and add any groups that might be missing.
- Committee members sign up for list of summer events that they are interested in and available to attend. Members of the Project Team will provide support in advance and on the day, as well as the kit of equipment and collateral.

**Session 8: Wrap up**

*Louise Askin (co-chair)*

Tim led a Whaitua quiz recapping learning from the past year followed by closing comments from each Committee member in response to the following questions:

1. What input or perspective from another member were you affected or changed by?
  2. What is a topic, challenge or opportunity that most resonates with you that will carry into 2020?
- Learning about the cost of getting it right for future generations. It's going to take time and it's easy to get bogged down but we need to carry on. Learning from Project Team and their knowledge, how they communicate important issues to lay people.
  - Value Morrie's contribution and his cultural values report. The importance of connecting people to their water so they know what shouldn't be happening and understand that people do have an effect.
  - We have been put to the challenge of running a co-designed process with mana whenua and our kawa framework. Important to understand the legacy we have inherited and the legacy we want to leave behind.
  - With flood management in the Hutt Valley, maybe we need to change the paradigm from managing flood waters to living with them. We want to identify solutions that aren't just focussed on water but benefit other environmental challenges we face.
  - Morrie reinforced the importance of social equity. We have allowed infrastructure to deteriorate over many years and we are faced with the challenge of behavioural change. We can't rely on clean drinking water unless we're prepared to pay for it.
  - Learning about Mātauranga Māori and we need a path forward that fully integrates with the biophysical science approach. We need to integrate climate change into our decision-making.
  - Learning about kawa and the foundational principles, the tension between tino rangatiratanga and consensus. The challenge with illegal connections between the wastewater and stormwater systems.

- The biggest challenge is infrastructure but many residents struggle to pay rates and rates can't increase indefinitely; we need other ways to raise money. Wetlands are a win in the climate change space. The community wants action and we need better messaging to bring them along with us.
- An eye-opening journey that connects kaupapa of other work with community members. Helpful to look at things in a realistic and positive way. Matiu/Somes Island was a grounding experience and it would be good to do something similar next year.
- Learning about politics in working with Councillors and the money required for investment. How the freshwater package plays out in the rural sector, which is a big thing on peoples' minds.
- Learning about things that hadn't consider before and sharing them with networks. We're not going to be able to fix everything in the timeframes we generally think about things but need to think inter-generationally about solutions.

Anya closed with meeting with a karakia.

**Next meeting: TBD.**

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