

TO Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee

FROM Co-Chairs

DATE 14 August 2019 for 19 August 2019 Committee Meeting 7

TOPIC Meeting 7 Co-Chairs Report

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## **General progress**

We are now well into the information gathering stage of the Whaitua Committee process. Our challenge is to balance the input of a large amount of information with the need to interrogate and understand it, and discuss community values and perspectives we receive from feedback on these topics.

Today is the first of three meetings focused on our urban water footprint and its management, in particular understanding:

1. The historical context, relationships and management approach
2. The current state of our urban water
3. The challenges that we face in improving it.

Toward our third meeting in the series, the tone will shift to look at opportunities for change.

Many of us are now wanting to increase our interaction with the speakers, the project team and each other. To facilitate this, the following channels have now been put in place:

1. Field trips – led by Committee members and the Project Team with the aim of exploring topics in more detail and providing community perspectives.
2. SharePoint Discussion Boards – theme-based forums to post thoughts and links to relevant content to enable discussion between meetings.
3. More interactive presentations at Committee meetings – now planned to include more time for questions and short “break out” sessions.
4. Questions to the Project Team – Committee members are invited to email any technical questions to the Project Team so that they can be incorporated in future presentations.

Our second field trip will be held tomorrow, where the Committee will look at water storage, water quality and local freshwater enhancement and protection initiatives in Upper Hutt. Field trips are an opportunity for the Committee members to engage with each other, the project team and to present and learn about community perspectives and initiatives in relation water stewardship in the Whaitua. Please consider when you would like to help plan a field trip – linking it to the topics of upcoming Committee meetings.

The following sections provide a summary of key activities that took place late-July to mid-August.

## **Subgroups**

- The Policy subgroup met on 9 August and focused on further refining the policy framework, drafted their Terms of Reference and developed a list of the key issues arising from the previous meeting to help inform the problem definition. These will be discussed at Meeting

7. The policy framework was updated with a Tiriti o Waitangi lens which will continue to be worked on at the next subgroup meeting.

- The Communications & Engagement subgroup did not meet this month but progressed a number of items. They finalised the Committee's logo and presentation material, initiated the Whaitua Facebook page, drafted their Terms of Reference, and prepared an engagement phase one tactical plan.
- Communications tools are now set up and available for Committee members to use to engage with our own networks.
- Options for a science/technical subgroup will be discussed at Meeting 7.

### **Co-chairs, Committee Members and Project Team**

- The Co-chairs continue to meet together monthly, plus fortnightly with Tim and Phill to check in on progress and shape the next month's agenda.
- Committee members can discuss their thoughts/concerns/etc. to the Co-chairs or else directly to the project team.
- We farewell Councillor Paul Swain from the Committee today. Paul is not standing as a Regional Councillor in the upcoming election and therefore will be stepping down from the Whaitua Committee. Today is Paul's last Committee meeting and we thank him for the insights, energy and direction that he has provided over the past eight months.
- We welcomed Denise Young to the Project Team as a GW Senior Policy Adviser.
- We welcomed Matt Hickman to our last meeting - Matt is the Environmental Policy Manager and is planning to attend Committee meetings often.

### **External Engagements**

- The Co-chairs spoke to GW's Environment Committee on 8 August. We outlined the process to date, our foundational framework, the Whaitua itself and our Committee. The presentation was received positively and councillors asked questions, including around the TWT process' impact on managing population growth and mana whenua perspectives on water allocation.