

Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee Meeting 8 Notes

Monday 23 September 2019, 9:15am – 4:00pm
Lowry Bay Yacht Club, Lower Hutt

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Attendees

Committee members:

Louise Askin, Roger Blakeley, Quentin Duthie, Peter Gilberd, Wayne Guppy, Tui Lewis, Peter Matcham, Zoe Ogilvie (via Zoom), Jonny Osborne, Anya Pollock, Kara Puketapu-Dentice, Paul Swain, Pat van Berkel

Apologies: Hikitia Ropata, Naomi Solomon, Gabriel Tupou

Project Team:

Tim Sharp, Phill Barker, Matt Hickman, Anna Martin, Denise Young, Emily Osborne, Mark Heath, Brent King, Sharyn Westlake (GWRC), David Burt (HCC), Rhiannon Barbour (UHCC), Angela Penfold (WWL)

Apologies: Kat Banyard, Richard Sheild, Jon Gabites (GWRC) Onur Oktem, Helen Bolton (WCC), Grace Katene (Ngāti Toa)

Speakers and other attendees:

Ike Kleynbos, Matiu Jennings (UHCC), Gary Craig, Nathan Geard (HCC), Rob Blakemore, Steve Hutchison, Ben Fountain (WWL), Al Smaill (GWRC), James Blyth (Taylor Collaborations Ltd.), Ned Norton (Land Water People), Stu Farrant (Morphum Environmental), Catherine Knight.

Action points

Project Team:

- Post hard copies of meeting papers to Committee one week in advance. Include table of contents with hyperlinks to each paper in the PDF document.
- Provide draft plan for the deliberations phase by the 25 November meeting.
- Find out if there is a map (similar to the one we've seen for Wellington) of urban streams in the Hutt Valley, showing names (if named) and where they've been piped.
- Provide the Policy subgroup with information on WSUD for roading (e.g., from WWL's guidelines, from NZTA or in district plans).
- Send the Committee GWRC's report for the Environment Committee meeting on 19 September, which includes a summary of its submission points on the Freshwater reforms (completed 25 September 2019).
- Summarise the key submission points from all councils in this whaitua after Freshwater proposals submissions close on 31 October and discuss any differences in approach at the November meeting of the Policy Subgroup.
- Initiate an assessment of 3 waters infrastructure costs, including future and life-cycle costs (with WWL).
- Provide a more thorough session on the outcome of the Freshwater reforms next year.
- Share Waiwhetu case study, which assessed pipe leaks on public network first and then private connections.

Co-chairs:

- Kara request a meeting with developers for the Committee during the 17 October field trip.
- Co-chairs to attend the LGNZ Zone 4 meeting on 6 November to present to Mayors, CEs, and Councillors.

Committee members:

- Contact Emily if you need a hard copy of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua WIP posted to you.
- Send Emily field trip ideas.
- Contact Zoe about support and tools needed for community engagement during the summer.
- Send Emily feedback on the GWRC report to the Environment Committee (which includes a summary of its submission points on the NPS-FM) for the Policy subgroup to discuss at its meeting on 27 September.

Science subgroup:

- Complete Terms of Reference at the next subgroup meeting with regards to mana whenua representation on subgroup and the subgroup lead.
- Generate a list of questions on biophysical science at the next subgroup meeting and post on SharePoint for Committee discussion.

Communications and Engagement subgroup:

- Write explanatory piece for kawa framework to help provide context for engagement purposes.

Meeting notes

Session 1: Open meeting

Louise Askin and Kara Puketapu-Dentice (co-chairs) – [see paper](#)

- Kara opened meeting with a karakia.
- Meeting 7 notes were approved with the following change: “Minister for the Environment is making spatial planning mandatory” to “The Government is proposing to make spatial planning mandatory” on page 6.
- Request for hard copies of meeting papers to be posted to Committee members one week in advance. Include table of contents with hyperlinks to each paper in the PDF document.
- Draft plan for the deliberations phase to be provided by the 25 November meeting.
- Request for a map of urban streams in the Hutt Valley, showing names and where they’ve been piped. Community members have expressed interest in connecting with their local streams [note, this does not currently exist but the Project Team are looking into how doable it is].
- Committee members to let Emily know if they need a hard copy of the Porirua WIP and she will post it to them.
- Co-chairs to attend the LGNZ Zone 4 meeting on 6 November to present to Mayors, CEs, and Councillors.
- Kara to meet with developers and request a meeting with the Committee during the 17 October field trip.
- Request for information on WSUD for roading. Project Team to provide for the Policy subgroup.
- 20 August field trip was well run and a good opportunity for the Committee and Project Team to get to know each other. Committee members to send additional field trip ideas to Emily.
- Farewell to Paul Swain at his last Committee meeting. Appreciation for his contribution and commitment to continue being a strong supporter of the Whaitua Committee.
- James McKibbin from UHCC is no longer on the Project Team and welcome to Rhiannon Barbour who will replace him. Jon Gabites is leaving GWRC and Tim is actively seeking a replacement for his role in communications and engagement.
- Notebook review

Session 2: Subgroup updates

Policy subgroup:

Roger Blakeley (subgroup co-lead)

- The Whaitua Committee cannot submit on government planning documents and due to the tight timeframe, the Committee will not be able to influence GWRC’s submission on the NPS-FM. However, it can discuss how the proposed changes to the NPS-FM may impact the whaitua process.
- GWRC to send the Committee its report for the Environment Committee meeting on 19 September, which includes a summary of its submission points. Committee to send feedback to Emily for the Policy subgroup to discuss at its meeting on 27 September.
- After Freshwater reforms submissions close on 31 October, the Project Team will summarise the key submission points from all councils in this whaitua.

Communications and Engagement subgroup:

Zoe Ogilvie (subgroup lead)

- Back pocket messages are being formatted and will be sent to the Committee soon.
- Currently looking at the immediate resourcing needs and tools for engagement. Committee members to contact Zoe about the support they need for community engagement during the summer months.
- Subgroup to write explanatory piece for kawa framework to help provide context for engagement purposes.

Session 3: UHCC and HCC – spatial and urban growth planning

UHCC current approach in urban planning and planning for growth:

Ike Kleynbos (Senior Policy Planner) – [see slides](#)

- Why do individual cities develop their own spatial plans as opposed to having a regional spatial plan? Discussed past experience, issues with trade-offs and competition for growth.
- Technology and therefore need for floor space is changing, resulting in a decreased demand for commercial floor area.
- Requiring small infill to do WSUD is a challenge to as it is difficult to determine the cumulative effects of an additional one to two dwellings on a large lot (700-900m² site) and there may be limited space to treat stormwater on-site.
- The current district plan and Code of Practice (COP) does not require WSUD, but these are under review and Upper Hutt is looking at examples in other cities, Hamilton and Auckland who have incorporated WSUD into plans and COPs.

HCC current approach in urban planning and planning for growth:

Gary Craig (Divisional Manager City Growth) and Nathan Geard (Environmental Policy Analyst) – [see slides](#)

- How to reconcile climate change and increasing development in Petone? There is greater awareness within Council and we may start to see more constraint on future development but it takes time to make changes within existing planning environment.
- How does future greenfield development impact on current wastewater overflow issues? Significant issue to consider, will need to address feasibility of rezoning any further greenfield sites.
- How has HCC managed concerns about intensification? Need to balance demand and voices that don't want growth. Need for quality development and adequate open space.
- How does the current plan address efficient land use and the impact on 3 waters network? Plan Change 43 aims to intensify development and will require rain tanks.
- How to incentivise developers to do on-site stormwater treatment? How to cover the costs? Need to understand development contributions and funding for infrastructure, and what can be augmented by WSUD.
- Project team to initiate an assessment of 3 waters infrastructure costs, including future and life-cycle costs (with WWL).

Session 4: GW updates

Update on changes to the NPS-FM:

Matt Hickman (Environmental Policy Manager, GWRC) – [see slides](#)

- Major change reflecting central and local government failure.
- Regional councils required to have new plans operative by 2025 through a more centralised, streamlined hearing process. This means we will need to finish all whaitua processes by 2021/22. Timeframes and resourcing will be a challenge. It will put a high demand on experts in these areas, put more pressure on iwi, and impact rural communities.
- Request for a more thorough session on the freshwater reforms next year.
- Sense that the freshwater reforms are a top-down approach to change while the whaitua process is bottom-up.

GW Urban water programme:

Al Smaill (Urban Water Programme Lead, GWRC) – [see slides](#)

- Who from GWRC is doing costing of urban development? Regional councils focussed on resourcing, but nothing compared to investment in infrastructure.
- Is there an intention to make a one-stop shop to help developers implement WSUD? No, but it would be more efficient to have centralised expertise.

Session 5: Breakout groups

Phill Barker (Senior Policy Advisor, GWRC)

What are 5 big things, or ideas, that you have picked up (from presentations so far) that you think the public should know about?

Group 1:

- There is no silver bullet.
- Connect people back with the catchment, whatever is poured down the drain goes to a stream and into the harbour.
- There's an infrastructure deficit and we are over-allocated so we need to employ (and actively promote) best practices.
- Create conditions for social behaviour change; everyone has a role to play.

Group 2:

- Before learning, we need to unlearn that everything is ok.
- Understand the choices of developers, councils, individuals.
- How much does it cost to supply the 3 waters?
- How to enforce WSUD?
- Harbour is the receiving environment.
- Swimmability is hard to achieve and takes a lot of effort.

Group 3:

- 3 waters network needs to be replaced; need to catch up on poor planning of past decades and don't do it that way again.
- There are fish living in the streams that we can't see.
- It can be done: take small steps to begin with; no steps are too small.
- Anything new (Greenfield development) adds to the burden.

Group 4:

- Problem definition: We are all having an impact on our waterways, e.g. driving a car or walking a dog.
- Vision/Objective: We want change, we want everything to be good.
- Action plan: We all have a role to play, small tweaks won't cut it.
- Financial assessment: Making a change will come at a cost.

These points will be useful messaging for communications, the summary report at the end of this year, and ultimately the WIP.

Session 6: Biophysical science programme

Lessons from Porirua – scenario findings from Porirua urban modelling:

Brent King (Senior Science Coordinator, GWRC) – [see slides](#)

- Modelling could not get *E.coli* from poor to fair, what would it take to make more significant improvements? Review types of *E.coli*, some types may be less harmful than human *E.coli*.
- Copper and zinc are proxies for other urban water contaminants. Managing them through stormwater treatment manages other contaminants as well.
- Responses need to address short term and long term.
- Important to identify what we're already doing and acknowledge the uncertainty.

Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara biophysical science programme:

James Blyth (Senior Environmental Scientist, Collaborations) – [see slides](#)

- How to address community interests in their own streams when reducing the number of Freshwater Management Units (FMUs)? Option to set objectives that span multiple stream environments across different catchments within an FMU.
- How does water abstraction impact habitat and ecology? Calibrated flow spreadsheet model will assess scenarios of changing abstraction regimes and climate change, and an Expert panel will help answer impacts of these scenarios on habitat/ecology.
- Scenarios trial an increasing amount of mitigations that are assumed to be in effect, and are used to provide an indication on the relative changes that could occur. They do not represent set policy packages and are a mixture of interventions that could be applied to improve water quality. Outputs from scenarios can help to set objectives as per NPS-FM requirements (NOF attribute bands) which are linked to values, e.g. swimming, ecosystem health, mahinga kai. Discussion about Committee's role to explain these connections (from freshwater objectives to values) with the community.
- The Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee had significant input into the scenarios, however detailed breakdown of how these played out and what level of effect mitigations had was driven by technical experts. The scenarios are therefore a robust representation of committee and technical experts considerations in a mixed rural/urban environment.
- The Committee's policy recommendations are likely to be different from modelled scenarios. It's not possible to model everything and while science provides useful answers, there is always limitations in the available data and assumptions made throughout a modelling process. The Expert Panel will help by synthesising all science and modelling information and making an assessment on magnitudes of change, their effect and level of confidence around any decision relating to NOF attributes states under different scenarios.
- Science subgroup to generate a list of questions on biophysical science at the next subgroup meeting and post on SharePoint for Committee discussion.

Session 7: WWL – state of the networks and pathways to improvement

Drinking water and water supply:

Rob Blakemore (Chief Advisor – Service Planning) – [see slides](#)

- The Hutt River and Orongorongo intake systems are over-allocated.
- No data on the proportion of pipes that are leaking on private land vs. publicly owned.
- What is the cost of delivering drinking water to a house on a yearly basis?
- To protect drinking supply, we need to continue protecting water sources. The Wellington Region is in a fortunate position to own most of the surface water catchments areas (e.g. Kaitoke Regional Park).
- What are the water sensitive plumbing services available for households?
- What is reasonable wastage and reasonable use?
- Compulsory water metering helps, but there is an ongoing operational cost.

Wastewater:

Steve Hutchison (Chief Advisor – Wastewater) – [see slides](#)

- Who is responsible for illegal wastewater to stormwater connections? It's a council policy decision. Project Team to share Waiwhetu case study, which assessed pipe leaks on public network first and then private connections.
- Is it helpful to divert greywater? Not in Wellington with small section sizes and poor draining soils.
- Sludge (dried human waste solids) can be reprocessed on land for non-food use but there are mixed attitudes toward this.

Stormwater:

Ben Fountain (Chief Advisor – Stormwater) – [see slides](#)

- Are there health concerns with daylighting urban streams? Yes, it would not possible to swim in them.
- How to get people to fix leaky pipes on private land? Suggestion to make private pipes public and require a warrant of fitness.
- Not much data on landfills in Wellington and how much they are leaching.
- How to provide infrastructure for growth and promote innovative design?

Louise closed meeting with a karakia.

Next (unofficial) meeting: 17 October 2019 urban field trip.
