



**greater WELLINGTON**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Te Pane Matua Taiao

If calling please ask for: Democratic Services

5 December 2018

## **Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resources Plan Committee**

Order Paper for meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington on

**Tuesday, 11 December 2018 at 9.30am**

### **Membership of Committee**

Cr Ponter (Co Chair)

Cr Donaldson  
Cr Laidlaw  
Cr Swain

Cr Gaylor  
Cr Staples

Bill Carter  
Hikitia Ropata  
Reuben Raihania Tipoki

Morris Te Whiti Love  
Rawiri Smith

***Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council  
policy until adopted by Council***

## Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resources Plan Committee

Order Paper for the meeting to be held on Tuesday, 11 December 2018 in the Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 9.30am

### Public Business

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**Please note that these minutes remain unconfirmed until the meeting of the Te Upoko Taiao –Natural Resources Plan Committee on 11 December 2018.**

**Report 18.404**

13/09/2018

File: CCAB-11-225

**Minutes of Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Plan Committee meeting held on Thursday, 13 September 2018 in the Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 09:34am**

**Present**

Councillors Ponter (Co-Chair), Donaldson (from 09:52am) Laidlaw, Staples (from 09:54am) and Swain; and William Carter, Morris Te Whiti Love, Hikitia Ropata (Co-Chair), Rawiri Smith (from 09:45am) and Reuben Raihania Tipoki.

Cr Ponter chaired the meeting.

Reuben Raihania Tipoki opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

**Public Business**

**1 Apologies**

*Moved*

*(Cr Laidlaw/Morris Te Whiti Love)*

*That the Committee accepts apology for absence from Councillor Gaylor, and the apologies for lateness from Councillors Donaldson and Staples, and Rawiri Smith.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

2 **Conflict of interest declarations**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3 **Public participation**

There was no public participation.

4 **Confirmation of the minutes of 7 December 2017**

*Moved*

*(Cr Laidlaw/ Mr Love)*

*That the Committee noted the failure to achieve a quorum at the meeting scheduled for 7 December 2017, Report 17.504*

*That the Committee confirms the minutes of 15 June 2017, Report 17.217; these were circulated in hard-copy at the meeting. These could not be confirmed on 7 December 2017 as a quorum was not achieved at that meeting.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

5 **Incorporating whitua implementation programmes (WIPs) into the proposed Natural Resources Plan**

Miranda Cross, Team Leader, Policy Development, and Kat Banyard, Policy Advisor, Whitua, spoke to the report.

**Report 18.380**

File: CCAB-11-215

*Moved*

*(Mr Ropata/ Mr Smith)*

*That the Committee:*

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

*Moved as an amendment*

*(Cr Ponter/ Cr Swain)*

*That new recommendations 3 and 4 be inserted:*

- 3. Agrees that Officers report back to the next Committee meeting on the ways that the Section 32 process can be streamlined.*
- 4. Agrees that officers report back to the Committee on the time frames for the next steps required to achieve the Section 32 process.*

The amendment was **CARRIED**.

The substantive motion was put:

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Agrees that Officers report back to the next Committee meeting on the ways that the Section 32 process can be streamlined.*
4. *Agrees that officers report back to the Committee on the time frames for the next steps required to achieve the Section 32 process.*

The substantive motion **CARRIED**.

## 6 **Proposed Natural Resources Plan (pNRP) Current Implementation Challenges**

Miranda Cross Team Leader, Policy Development, and Pam Guest, Senior Policy Advisor, spoke to the report.

**Report 18.394**

File: CCAB-11-218

*Moved*

*(Mr Smith/ Cr Donaldson)*

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

## 7 **Update on Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley Whaitua**

Tim Sharpe, Whaitua Programme Manager – Whaitua, spoke to the report.

**Report 18.381**

File: CCAB-11-216

*Moved*

*(Mr Ropata/ Cr Staples)*

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

3. *Determines that Rawiri Smith is the Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resources Plan Committee appointed member to sit on the panel assessing applications for community appointments to the Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley Whaitua Committee.*

*Moved as an amendment*

*(Cr Staples/ Mr Smith)*

*That new recommendations 4 be inserted:*

4. *That the Committee agrees there should be no alternate members on the Wellington Harbour Hutt Valley Whaitua.*

The amendment was **CARRIED**.

The substantive motion was put:

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Determines that Rawiri Smith is the Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resources Plan Committee appointed member to sit on the panel assessing applications for community appointments to the Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley Whaitua Committee.*
4. *That the Committee agrees there should be no alternate members on the Wellington Harbour Hutt Valley Whaitua.*

The substantive motion was **CARRIED**.

**Noted:** The Committee noted that the appointment of community members to the Wellington Harbour Hutt Valley Whaitua Committee will be made by Council at its meeting scheduled for 31 October 2018.

Reuben Raihania Tipoki closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The meeting closed at 11:50am

Cr D Ponter  
Co-Chair

.....  
Co-Chair

Date:

CCAB-11-225

H Ropata  
Co-Chair

.....  
Co-Chair

Date:



**Report** 18.559  
**Date** 4 December 2018  
**File** CCAB-11-249

**Committee** Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resource Management Committee  
**Author** Miranda Cross, Team Leader, Environmental Policy & Paul Denton, Senior Policy Advisor, Environmental Policy

## **Update on Variation/Plan Change 1 to the proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation Programme**

### **1. Purpose**

To update Te Upoko Taiao - the Natural Resources Plan Committee (Te Upoko Taiao) of Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) activities relating to Variation/Plan Change 1 to the proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation Programme.

### **2. Background**

The proposed Natural Resources Plan was publicly notified on 31 July 2015 and the hearing of submissions by an independent hearing panel, scheduled by topics over six hearing streams from 22 May 2017 to 12 June 2018.

Delegation has been granted to the hearing panel to provide its report and decisions on the submissions, to Council such that the decisions are publicly notified by 31 July 2019, with any appeals to be lodged with the Environment Court by 25 September 2019.

A regional plan becomes operative when all submissions and any appeals have been resolved and when the Regional Council publicly notifies the date on which it will become operative (Schedule 1, clause 20, RMA).

In August 2018, the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation Programme was completed. Development of the approved recommendations from the WIP are to be incorporated into the proposed Plan through a Variation/Plan Change (Schedule 1) process. The role of Te Upoko Taiao is to oversee the development of the Variation/ Plan change having regard to s32 of the RMA.

### **3. Comment**

There are two parts to this report. The first part sets out broadly the work programme and indicative timing of the variation/plan change process. The second part gives an overview of the first step in the process; which is drafting of objectives for the Ruamāhanga Whaitua chapter of the proposed Natural Resources Plan.

### **4. Work programme for developing 'Variation 1'**

The overall indicative schedule associated with the development of Whaitua Implementation Programmes and associated Plan changes/variations is shown in Appendix 1. This timing relates to that set out in the Council's 'Programme of time-limited stages for implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 (amended 2017) (NPS-FM) and progress to March 2018 (Council Report 2018.97). Policy E1 of the NPS-FM requires the policy to be fully implemented by 31 December 2025.

#### **4.1 Factors influencing timing of Variation 1**

##### **Decisions on the pNRP**

The proposed Natural Resources Plan independent Hearing Panel is currently deliberating and drafting its decisions on submissions. There will be a significant volume of staff time required to assist the Hearing Panel in the administrative components of preparing the decisions version of the pNRP and preparing for notification generally. This stage we anticipate the bulk of this work will occur between March and July 2019 – the decisions must be notified no later than 31 July 2019.

##### **Appeals**

Once the decisions are notified any submitter has 30 working days to appeal the decision (within the scope of their original submission) to the Environment Court. It is not uncommon for appeals to take up to 2 years to resolve. The initial phases of mediation will likely commence around October 2019. Appeals will involve significant staff time.

##### **National direction**

The Environment Minister has announced pending amendments to the NPS-FM, and additional associated national direction related to the management of diffuse nutrient discharges, stock access and farm plans. It is likely these will take the form of National Environmental Standards. We are anticipating drafts of these in around April next year. Any NES will override any related WIP recommendations and any existing pNRP provisions. Whilst new national direction is seemingly constant, it would seem prudent to consider the likely implications for our process.

##### **Te Awarua-o-Porirua & Te Whanganui-a-Tara WIPs**

The current timing of completion of Te Awarua-o-Porirua WIP is March 2019. At its last meeting, Te Upoko Taiao identified the need for efficiencies in the plan change/variation process. One option for achieving this may be to incorporate the rural element of Te Awarua-o-Porirua WIP into 'Variation 1' – where this would align with the key issues in the Ruamāhanga WIP. Consequently the urban elements could be incorporated into 'Variation 2' with

Te Whanganui-a-Tara; where the key issues of urban development, storm and wastewater discharges are common. There will be other mechanisms for gaining efficiencies, and these will come to the fore as we progress through each of these respective processes.

#### **National Planning Standards**

The national planning standards are due to come into effect in April 2019. We are likely to have until 2024 to fully implement them, however some elements may require implementation as early as April 2020. It would be prudent to begin this process and move toward implementation in a staged way, beginning with Variation 1. There is a real risk that the standards will have significant implications for large parts of the pNRP; effectively 'breaking' parts of the plan that we will need to rectify as a priority before we move forward with notification of the first Variation.

#### **4.2 Te Upoko Taiao meeting schedule and possible work programme**

The meeting schedule for Te Upoko Taiao for 2019 is as follows:

- 26 March
- 11 June
- 17 September.

As set out below, the first phase of development of Variation 1 is the drafting and initial evaluation of objectives. This will be an obvious focus for the 26 March Committee meeting.

Following this will be the development and evaluation of policy and method options; using the policy packages identified in the Ruamāhanga WIP as one option. Section 32 of the Act requires options to be identified and evaluated, and the most efficient and effective of these options to be selected for inclusion in the variation. We will bring these options to Te Upoko Taiao on a topic basis; and will likely use the following topic groupings:

#### **Managing contaminants – Discharges & Land use**

- Policies and methods for achieving objectives for the following:
  - Periphyton
  - MCI
  - E.coli
  - Ammonia, N & P
  - Sediment.
- The role of farm plans & good management practice (GMP)
- Wastewater treatment plant discharges to freshwater
- Other point source discharges

- Review of the existing pNRP rules for cultivation, break feeding & stock access
- Managing land use change/intensification
- Riparian management.

#### **Rivers & lakes**

- Review of pNRP rules
- Sediment & riparian management
- Management of the health of waterbodies
- Natural character
- Restoration, including of Wairarapa Moana.

#### **Flows & allocation**

- Water use efficiency, metering, transfers
- Attenuation
- Resilience & reliability of supply
- Harvesting
- Good management practice
- Non-consumptive use
- Flow restrictions & cease takes; including for Category A groundwater
- Interim minimum flows & allocation amounts
- Precautionary approach
- Consent review
- Reducing/reviewing permitted takes
- Water races
- Industry use.

In addition there are a number of matters which have arisen during the course of the pNRP hearings that require review (which apply regionally):

- Drinking water supply protection areas

- Sites with significant biodiversity values
- Outstanding & high natural character
- Outstanding wetlands
- Identification of sites with Outstanding values not already in the pNRP i.e., outstanding cultural values.

#### **4.3 Communication and engagement plan**

Throughout the development of the provisions (objectives, policies and methods; including rules) for Variation 1 is communication and engagement with the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee (Council extended the committees terms of reference to provide oversight of the variation process to ensure the intent of the WIP is upheld), iwi authorities (both pre and post settlement entities of Kahungunu and Rangitāne), key stakeholder and community groups such as Federated Farmers, Dairy NZ, Beef & Lamb, Fish & Game, DoC, Wairarapa Water Users Group, Sustainable Wairarapa, Forest & Bird and Horticulture NZ.

A communication and engagement plan will be developed and brought to the 26 March 2019 meeting along with draft objectives and evaluation.

### **5. Section 32 - Objectives setting process**

The overall plan for the objectives making process is to:

Follow the section 32 planning process in the formulation of plan provisions, the parts of this process for the objectives framework are to:

- Understand and examine the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation Plan (RWIP) objectives
- Assess the proposed National Regional Plan (pNRP) objectives
- Work out what new objectives for the Ruamāhanga Whaitua chapter in the pNRP are required to be added
- Assess the new proposed objectives for the Ruamāhanga Whaitua chapter in the pNRP as recommended by the Ministry for the Environment
- During the assessment process review the objectives in light of the proposed policy approach of the RWIP and decide whether the RWIP objectives are fit for purpose in the overall policy framework of the pNRP
- Present the new proposed objectives to the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee, Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Wairarapa and other interest/stakeholder groups recommended by the Committee

- Work on the next stage of the RWIP development – the policy approach and options for achieving the objectives (methods including rules)
- Re-examine the objectives in light of the policy options.

(a) Understanding the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation Plan (RWIP)

There is on-going work to understand the Ruamāhanga WIP - that is the processes and information that have led to the decisions made in the WIP; from the values setting process and the underlying themes running through the WIP for the WIP objectives.

This is being achieved through workshops and meetings with key staff and consultants who have advised the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee. An introductory meeting between officers drafting the plan change/variation and the Ruamāhanga Whaitua committee was held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

(b) Assess the Proposed National Regional Plan (pNRP) objectives

The next stage is to re-examine the pNRP planning objectives in light of the RWIP objectives. There is a degree of overlap between the two sets of objectives and this overlap requires a level of assessment if the RWIP objectives are to be added into the pNRP. The differences lie in the wording of the respective objectives and whether the pNRP gives effect to the values of the RWIP, or whether an additional objective is required for the Ruamāhanga Whaitua chapter. Key considerations in this process are efficiency (as required by s32 of the RMA) and risk – where an objective already exists in the pNRP there is risk in repeating this in the Ruamāhanga Whaitua chapter as this opens the objective up to litigation through the subsequent submissions and hearing process.

(c) Work out what new objectives for the Ruamāhanga Whaitua chapter in the pNRP are required to be added

The next step is a final draft of the new-set of proposed objectives<sup>1</sup> for the Ruamāhanga Whaitua chapter in the pNRP. They should be written in the language of the pNRP, using similar terminology and phraseology where relevant. New (defined) terms may be required to be added to the pNRP if there are new terms specific the Ruamāhanga Whaitua.

(d) Assess the new proposed objectives for the Ruamāhanga Whaitua chapter in the pNRP as recommended by the Ministry for the Environment

The Ministry for the Environment in its guide to section 32 assessments recommends that new objectives are assessed under the following criteria:

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<sup>1</sup> The RWIP will have two sets of objectives – narrative objectives describe the outcomes and numeric show what limits and targets the Variation is working towards.

Category	Criteria	Comments
Relevance	Directed to addressing the resource management issue	
	Focused on achieving the purpose of the RMA	This could be identified as one overall assessment, or separated out into each relevant RMA, Part 2 matter.
	Assist Council to carry out its statutory function	RMA, Section 30
	Within scope of the higher level documents	That is, objectives of national policy statements and the regional policy statement
Feasibility	Acceptable level of uncertainty and risk	This will not be known until after the provisions (including policies and methods) have been identified and assessed
	Realistically able to be achieved within Council's powers, skills and resources	
Acceptability	Consistent with identified iwi/Maori and community outcomes	This should be informed by earlier community outcomes processes, or further consultation
	Will not result in unjustifiably high costs on the community or parts of the economy	This will not be known until after the provisions (including policies and methods) have been identified and assessed

The 'relevance' criterion is an assessment of s32(1)(a) of the RMA which is to examine the extent to which the objectives of the proposal being evaluated are the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the Act. This is relatively straight forward and is a desk assessment of whether the proposed objective gives effect to Part 2 of the RMA. This type of relevance assessment is made for all objectives and during the s42A reports for the plan hearings.

The 'feasibility' criterion requires further option development to be fully assessed. The feasibility will require further assessment at a later time in the process. However, given the RWIP is a full document of proposals – the feasibility of some of these proposals has been thought out by RWIP committee members in the deliberations that have led to the position today. Therefore, the feasibility is more-or-less planned out for the next planning time horizon in the RWIP of 2080.

The 'acceptability' criterion, like the feasibility criterion can only be properly assessed once the policy options have been identified and costs and benefits attributed to those options. However, as said above, the RWIP does have the policy approach within it, and has been costed to that level of option. When the

provisions have been formulated there will be another level of costings before the final recommendations can be made.

- (e) Present the new proposed objectives to the Ruamāhanga Whaitua committee, iwi authorities and other interest/stakeholder groups recommended by the Whaitua Committee.

Finally, this part of the section 32 process of developing the draft objectives is to present the draft objectives to the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee, iwi authorities and other groups directed by the Whaitua Committee. This is an important part of the process where the draft objectives set the scene for the later parts of the section 32 process of policy development. There is one caveat however, and that is the draft objectives cannot be fully completed unless the policy options have been developed and agreed. As other parts of Variation 1 are developed, draft objectives may be further amended.

## 6. Communication

No communication is necessary as Te Upoko Taiao is not making a decision to which the decision-making requirements of the LGA apply. This report is for receiving and noting.

## 7. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report. This report sets out the process for developing Variation 1 to the proposed Natural Resources Plan. Te Upoko Taiao will be making decisions at subsequent meetings on each phase of the development process.

### 7.1 Engagement

A full consultation and engagement plan associated with the development of Variation 1 will be developed; this will take into consideration consultation and engagement already undertaken as part of the WIP development process and the requirements of the RMA.

## 8. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:  
**Paul Denton**  
Senior Policy Advisor

Report prepared by:  
**Miranda Cross**  
Team Leader Environmental  
Policy

Report approved by:  
**Matt Hickman**  
General Manager  
Environment Group (Acting)

**Indicative timing of WIP and Plan change/variation processes**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
pNRP hearings									
pNRP appeals									
Whaitua committees	Ruamāhanga, Porirua, Whanganui-a-Tara	Porirua, Whanganui-a-Tara	Whanganui-a-Tara, Kāpiti	Whanganui-a-Tara, Kāpiti	Kāpiti	Kāpiti, Eastern Wairarapa	Eastern Wairarapa		
WIPs	Ruamāhanga	Porirua		Whanganui-a-Tara		Kāpiti	Eastern Wairarapa		
Plan changes/variations		Variation 1			PC/ Variation 2		PC/ Variation 3		
PC/variation hearings									
PC/variation appeals									
Planning standards									

NPS-FM amendments & NES stock and nutrient allocation									
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**Report** 18.576  
**Date** 3 December 2018  
**File** CCAB-11-245

**Committee** Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resources Plan Committee  
**Authors** David Boone, Manager, Land Management  
Mike Grace, Senior Policy Advisor, Environment Policy

## Ruamāhanga whitua non-regulatory implementation

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to inform the Committee of non-regulatory work being undertaken to support communities to implement the Proposed Natural Resources Plan and the Whitua Implementation Programme in the Ruamāhanga.

### 2. Background

Councils are now required to manage water within Freshwater Management Unit's (FMUs). An FMU is a spatial area made up of a catchment or catchments for the management of discharges of contaminants and taking of water. FMUs have limits for contaminants, nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), pathogens and sediment. These are implemented as rules in the PNRP. There are timeframes set for each FMU to meet these limits.

There are 21 FMUs in the Ruamāhanga whitua including the Ruamāhanga main stem itself. Water take FMUs are very similar but only apply to water allocation rules (minimum flows and allocation limits).

The Committee will recall that the Ruamāhanga Whitua Committee has recommended a largely non-regulatory approach to achievement of improved water quality within the Ruamāhanga whitua. Activities such as stock exclusion, break feeding and works in river beds are still regulated through rules in the PNRP. The non-allocation of contaminant discharge limits to individual properties requires all people living within or working in catchments to collectively manage their activities to achieve total discharge limits for their catchment. This is the only option for most discharges such as non-point source sediment and pathogens. Point source discharges will continue to be regulated.

Catchment collective responsibility for water quality is essentially a non-regulatory approach to achieving a regulatory outcome. Whilst individuals remain accountable for their activities, the focus is now on the collaborative

actions of community in making changes and improvements to land management to achieve improved water quality.

### **3. Enabling communities with non-regulatory actions and methods**

Achieving discharge limits in the Ruamāhanga whaitua will be challenging for some FMUs, requiring a commitment to change over many decades. Significant land use change is required to meet limits; this includes retirement, new management regimens, and changes of stock or crop type. Additional mitigations e.g. hill country and riparian planting, water attenuation, and sediment traps will also need to be agreed and implemented over time to achieve limits.

The importance of community-led innovation in meeting limits cannot be overestimated. Local relationships, knowledge and creativity are the essential prerequisites for achievement of local limits and community objectives.

An enabling approach recognises that catchment communities are leading their own change. Non-regulatory methods developed through the PNRP and whaitua processes are designed to assist communities to achieve limits through provision of resources and development of structures and processes. These must meet their catchment specific needs and promote innovation and local knowledge as the basis for sustained change.

Council is working to enable catchment communities, urban and rural, within Ruamāhanga FMUs to meet their limits and objectives in a manner that supports community resilience and wellbeing across the four capitals - human, social, economic, natural. This is important to ensure that communities can maximise innovation and connectivity within their communities, remain economically viable and respond to the effects of climate change and shifts in social demographics.

### **4. Non-regulatory work streams**

Council has a number of work streams that are developing non-regulatory methods supporting catchment communities in the Ruamāhanga. These are outlined below.

#### **4.1 Wairarapa Pukaha to Palliser**

Wairarapa Pukaha to Palliser is a developing community owned alliance that aims to “make it easier” for communities to achieve their own priorities through co-ordination of resources and facilitated support.

The Pukaha to Palliser Alliance is a collaborative network of Wairarapa communities and organisations, including local and national agencies. It covers the whole landscape from north to south and from east to west, ki uta ki tai. Its vision is for thriving biodiversity and connected communities where land, water and people flourish. It addresses environmental, economic, cultural and social challenges.

The Wairarapa Pukaha to Palliser Alliance:

- Maps the projects underway in the region and our current ideas to expand them. It will track our work as it develops.
- It is a network where participants support each other and learn from each other and access new information.
- It partners with local delivery agencies to ensure that their delivery mechanisms and resources align with the diverse needs of Wairarapa communities.
- It partners with government to ensure that government's joined-up policies align with the needs and wants of the region - including as these develop and change.
- It partners with mana whenua as kaitiaki in support of the implementation of their Treaty Settlements.
- It makes connections and promotes actions to help the community build its assets, prosperity and resilience.

## 4.2 Mana whenua management

Recommendation one of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation Programme (accessible: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Ruamahanga-Whaitua/Final-Ruamahanga-WIP-August-2018-Pdf-version.pdf>) asks that mana whenua are supported as active partners in the management of the Ruamāhanga whaitua. Specific objectives include development of a management structure that includes a permanent role for hapū/marae at FMU level and a kaitiaki support structure that enables their active participation.

FMUs will include mana whenua objectives and measures and will be informed by mātauranga Māori. It is proposed that these elements will be overseen by kaitiaki who will have an ongoing role in whaitua management.

This development is critical to the achievement of National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM), supports recent Treaty settlements of Rangitāne and Kahungunu and implements the long standing planning relationship between Council and Wairarapa iwi.

Mana whenua management within FMUs will also achieve method 2 of the PNRP which identifies mana whenua monitoring priorities and methodologies.

Council are working with mana whenua to resource hapū/marae kaitiaki wānanga as the primary step to establish an approach that enables mana whenua participation in the development of FMU/catchment communities.

## 4.3 Farm planning

Farm planning has historically delivered very well for on-farm environmental improvement opportunities. Treating erosion prone land, riparian enhancements, or farm system improvements have been coordinated by farm planning services for decades.

However, farm plans need to be more influenced by catchment priorities and better tailored to farmer needs to enable easy access to a range of GW services. For example, in addition to traditional biophysical programme delivery (e.g. hill country erosion or riparian planting programmes) farm plans

offer avenues for delivering land use good management practice advocacy and innovation, environmental monitoring linkages from on-farm to FMU catchment scale, and an effective balance between regulatory and non-regulatory methods of catchment management.

The Whitua Implementation Programme promotes a non-regulatory approach to farm planning that directly connects on farm practice with property and catchment scale water quality. This situation may change if Government policy directs compulsory farm plans in which case Council will be required to manage effects to water quality at a property scale.

There is also a need to improve coverage of farm planning across the region. Only a portion of our region is currently active in the farm environment planning space. We're looking at industry alignment, and avoiding repetition as the key to success with assisting all landowners with having, and using, a farm environment plan in line with their farm business. GWRC's farm planning services need to support, and be supported by the dairy sector, red meat sector, croppers and growers, and market led initiatives which are all active in the farm environment planning space.

#### **4.4 Priority Catchments and Catchment Planning**

Where are the priority catchments to focus landscape restoration effort? What are the restoration needs in those catchments? These are key questions that should inform farm planning focus and link them to community owned catchment plans. We are expanding our thinking around this with the development of a Priority Catchment Action Plan.

Catchment planning recognises catchments as the critical spatial scale for improvement to water quality. Freshwater Management Units will encompass one or more catchments, monitoring and measuring the total effects of catchment scale activity on water quality.

Catchments are social, economic, cultural and environmental areas where the interaction and effects of people and their activities on place are intertwined, complex and set within a cultural and historical landscape. Catchment plans can include farm plans, catchment schemes, biodiversity plans, social and cultural health plans, disaster management plans, economic development plans etc.

Development of tools, roles and technologies that enable communities to undertake and maintain an integrated planning approach to their catchment is fundamental to building knowledge and agreement required to set management priorities and select the mitigations required to meet water outcomes. Council is working with partner agencies, Wairarapa Pukaha to Palliser, iwi and communities to co-design and develop catchment planning resources and processes.

GWRC is developing our own role in assisting communities with catchment planning. Our role in catchment planning may differ depending on the catchments we're working in, the community skills and leadership base, and the biophysical challenges present in each catchment. This will all require a

level of agility for GWRC to respond on an as-needed basis determined by the needs in particular catchments.

#### **4.5 Afforestation, riparian management and 1 Billion Trees**

Many methods of farm environment management, whitua implementation and landscape restoration point to afforestation as an essential ingredient to success. GWRC's hill country erosion control programme – which uses a variety of willow/poplar, radiata and other exotics, native, and reversion planting methods - is already growing significantly with additional funding from Government's 1 Billion Trees programme. In 2018/19 and 2019/20 we expect to see our hill country erosion control programme double, at least, and future growth is expected beyond 2021.

We are also underway with an investigation looking into region-wide 1 Billion trees opportunities, in addition to our hill country erosion control work. This is being done in coordination with iwi and the six territorial authorities of our region. This work is informing our Regional Investment Plan and the Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy.

### **5. Conclusion**

The Ruamāhanga is the largest river system in the region, sitting within a Wairarapa land mass that makes up 70% of the region. Water quality and attendant landscape improvements required of community at all scales are considerable and are unlikely to improve without long range investment and intergeneration commitment by local communities. With an inversely proportionate population of some 40,000 people and an even smaller proportion of those being working age adults, the Ruamāhanga whitua has a significant challenge in finding the capacity and resources capable of achieving new water quality limits whilst maintaining a viable and resilient community.

The role of Council is to partner and support communities alongside mana whenua, industry and other agencies to ensure that catchment communities are able to make the best use of their own knowledge, skills and innovation and the resources that agencies can provide to them.

Development of enabling non-regulatory processes, structures and resources by, with and for communities signals a new commitment to partnership and the priorities of our ratepayers.

### **6. Communication**

No external communication is proposed as an outcome of the consideration of this report. The report is for information purposes only.

### **7. Consideration of climate change**

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in the GWRC Climate Change Consideration Guide.

## 7.1 Mitigation assessment

*Mitigation assessments are concerned with the effect of the matter on the climate (i.e. the greenhouse gas emissions generated or removed from the atmosphere as a consequence of the matter) and the actions taken to reduce, neutralise or enhance that effect.*

Officers have considered the effect of the matter on the climate.

In achieving the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee's recommendations through these non-regulatory programmes, there is the potential to provide a co-benefit of mitigating climate change e.g. through additional riparian planting, alongside the potential improvements to water quality.

## 7.2 Adaptation assessment

*Adaptation assessments relate to the impacts of climate change (e.g. sea level rise or an increase in extreme weather events), and the actions taken to address or avoid those impacts.*

An assessment of the impacts of climate change on rainfall and catchment hydrology was undertaken as part of the technical work that fed into the analysis informing the WIP recommendations. Many of the WIP recommendations focus on resilience, part of which is driven by the impacts of climate change. These non-regulatory programmes aim to help achieve the WIP recommendations.

## 8. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

### 8.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

## 9. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

**Mike Grace**  
Senior Policy Advisor

Report prepared by:

**David Boone**  
Manager, Land  
Management

Report approved by:

**Matt Hickman**  
General Manager –  
Environment Management  
(Acting)



**Report** 2018.584  
**Date** 11 December 2018  
**File** CCAB-11-246

**Committee** Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Plan Committee  
**Author** Tim Sharp, Programme Manager - Whaitua

## Update on Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resources Plan Committee on progress with the Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee for the Wellington and Hutt Valley whaitua.

### 2. Background

The whaitua process is a community-led, collaborative planning process to address a number of land and water management issues and carry out Greater Wellington Regional Council's (GWRC's) obligations under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM). The programme aims to improve the integration of activities and achieve better resource management practices that reflect local aspirations.

The Wellington Region has been divided into five whaitua or catchments. Whaitua committees, consisting of community members, iwi representatives, partner representatives, and GWRC representatives, make recommendations to the Council through a Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) report. A WIP contains strategies and actions that will form a programme of work for the management of land and water in that catchment.

There are currently three whaitua committees at different stages of the process. The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee delivered their WIP to Council in August 2018 and is in various stages of implementation, including a plan variation (subject of a companion paper at this meeting). Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee is in the final stages of completing its WIP, and the Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee has been established.

This update is in relation to Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara as a workshop on Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua is scheduled for the afternoon after this Committee meeting.

### 3. **Changes to Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley Whaitua Committee terms of reference**

On 17 September 2018, Council made three changes to the terms of reference for the Wellington Harbour and Hutt Whaitua Committee:

- a) The whaitua committee name has changed to Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee as recommended by Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and Ngāti Toa Iwi Inc.
- b) There has been an increase in the remuneration payable to non-Councillor members of the Whaitua Committee as per the following:
  - i. Appointed members (excluding the Chairperson): increase from \$7,500 to \$10,000 per annum each
  - ii. Chairperson: increase from \$12,000 to \$15,000 per annum. This will only be paid in the event that the Chairperson is a non-Councillor member of the Committee.
- c) The provision for a representative of Wellington Water Limited to be a member of the Whaitua Committee has been removed.

### 4. **Progress with the Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee**

The following summarises progress with the new whaitua committee:

- Council appointed the Committee on 31 October 2018. The Committee membership and brief biographies are provided in [Appendix 1](#).
- Council released a media statement detailing the appointment of the Committee on 3 December 2018: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/new-committee-will-work-with-communities-towards-improving-the-health-of-waterways-and-harbour/>
- The Committee will hold its first meeting on Matiu Island on 8 February 2019.
- The Committee will meet once a month for a full day (9:30-4:30).
- The aim is for the process to be completed by December 2020.
- Officers are preparing an information / welcome pack to be provided to Committee members prior to Christmas which will include:
  - Process and consensus decision making
  - Deliverables
  - Role and expectations
  - National direction (an overview of the NPSFM)

- Catchment information
- Mana whenua information
- Communities (demographics, landuse)
- Snapshot of the four councils and their respective roles, priorities, key issues, and policy timeframes.

## 5. Communication

No external communication is proposed as an outcome of the consideration of this report.

## 6. Consideration of climate change

The matters addressed in this report are of a procedural nature, and there is no need to conduct a climate change assessment.

## 7. The decision-making process and significance

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance and engagement policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

### 7.1 Engagement

In accordance with the significance and engagement policy, no engagement on the matters for decision is required.

## 8. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

**Tim Sharp**  
Programme Manager -  
Whaitua

Report approved by:

**Matt Hickman**  
General Manager Environment  
Group (Acting)

**Attachment 1:** Whaitua te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee membership – brief biographies

## **Whaitua te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee membership – brief biographies**

**Jonny Osborne** has a diverse background of working in legal and media industries and academia and is an analyst in the Water Directorate of the Ministry for the Environment, where he is a member of the Freshwater Policy Team, primarily focused on the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.

**Quentin Duthie** has a Master of New Zealand Studies from Victoria University of Wellington and has worked in environmental policy since 2005 as an assistant, researcher and adviser to Green Party Members of Parliament, a conservation advocate for Forest and Bird, and a director of Policy and Research with the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.

**Zoe Ogilvie** is a communications and engagement professional who, since 2014, has been delivering various work programmes in the field of biosecurity, flood protection, environment and strategy for Greater Wellington Regional Council and the Ministry for Primary Industries.

**Louise Askin**, a resident of Makara Beach, works with the primary sector to support their sustainable use of natural resources, co-managing a \$34 million funding scheme at the Ministry for Primary Industries.

**Anya Pollock** is an experienced policy advisor who has enjoyed a varied career in the public sector, with over twelve years spent at the Ministry for the Environment. For much of this time she worked in freshwater policy, including leading advice on the national framework for freshwater objective setting developed with a collaborative group of iwi, councils, scientists, economists and stakeholders.

**Pete Matcham** is passionate about ecology and the analysis of complex 'messy' problems. He provides pro bono services to various NGOs, including policy analysis, advocacy at all levels, and project evaluation using qualitative as well as quantitative evaluation criteria. He has a wide community involvement, locally and at national level. A Board member of the Grey Power Federation for six years, he was elected National Vice-President in 2016.

**Gabriel Tupou**, an active community member serving both as a volunteer and at a governance level, is an outstanding representative of our Māori and Pasifika communities, where he leads through inclusion and respect for others.

**Pat van Berkel** focusses his energies on the environment and conservation in New Zealand, following a career with land administration systems in New Zealand and overseas. He is active in the committee of Forest & Bird Upper Hutt where he advocates for the green belt, the Hutt River, and local wetlands.

**Paul Swain** is a councillor for Greater Wellington Regional Council who represents the Upper Hutt constituency. He is Chair of the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee and sits on the Environment and Sustainable Transport Committees, the Hutt Valley Flood Management subcommittee as well as Te Upoko Taiao (Natural Resources Management Committee).

**Morris Te Whiti Love** is a trustee of Wellington Tenth's Trust, a hearings commissioner under the RMA and a self-employed resource management and fisheries consultant for Raukura Consultants. He was also formerly chairman of Te Wai Maori Trust and has extensive experience as an advisor on infrastructure and primary industry projects.

**Ta Matiu Rei** (an interim appointment) has served the Māori community in health, education, economic development, culture and Treaty of Waitangi Resolution. Since 1989 Ta Matiu has been pivotal in the growth of Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira, the development organisation for the Ngāti Toa Rangatira people, of which he is Executive Director. Rei is the Chair of Te Wananga o Raukawa Foundation, a Director and member of Te Purutanga Mauri and the Māori University, Te Wānanga O Raukawa.

**Dr. Peter Gilbert** is a Wellington City Councillor who holds the Natural Environment and City Science portfolios. He trained as a scientist, has a research and teaching background in physics, and has worked in research funding with the Royal Society Te Apārangi.

**Tui Lewis**, a Hutt City Councillor, is a long-time resident of Petone who has always been active in the community. In her second term as a councillor, she sits on several Council Committees, the Eastbourne and Petone Community Boards, is Deputy Chair Arts and Culture subcommittee, Chair of the Spatial Plan Committee for Petone 2040 and also sits on the Waste Forum Group.

**Kara Puketapu-Dentice** has a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters in Resource Management from the University of Otago and is employed by Wellington Water Ltd. as Senior Advisor Whaitua Relationships. He formerly worked at Horizons Regional Council as a Policy Analyst, supporting iwi in their freshwater projects and Treaty Settlement processes, including the Whanganui River Settlement. Kara also participated in the Asia Pacific Leadership Programme, at the East West Centre in Hawaii.

**Hikitia Ropata** has ties to Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngati Raukawa ki e Tonga, Te Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai. She represents Greater Wellington's Te Upoko Taiao (Natural Resources Management Committee) on the Whaitua Committee and has also done so for Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua. Hikitia has a background in public policy across a range of social, economic and sustainable development areas, including a role for Auckland Council managing the Parks and Open Space Policy team.

**Roger Blakeley** is a councillor for Greater Wellington Regional Council and a member of Capital and Coast District Health Board. He was Chief Planning Officer, Auckland Council, Chief Executive, Porirua City Council, Chief Executive, Department of Internal Affairs, and Chief Executive, Ministry for the Environment from 1986 to 1995. He is a past chair of the Paris-based OECD Environment Committee. He has served on numerous boards in the government, local government and not-for-profit sectors.

**Wayne Guppy** has been Mayor of Upper Hutt since 2001. A Doctor of Pharmacy, he was a lecturer in clinical pharmacy at Hutt Hospital and group chairman of the pharmacy practice department at Upper Hutt's Central Institute of Technology. His is also a Justice of the Peace.